

# Warriors take big first step past Stars

By **ROD PAYNE**  
Courier Sports Writer

**DAVENPORT** — The Waterloo Warriors hockey team is on a mission.

The first part of their quest was to come down to the Quad City Sports Center and win game one of the Midwest High School Hockey League's state tournament, something that has evaded the program over the years.

Friday night, the third-seeded Warriors took a big step in com-

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**Shawn Weinke**  
Warriors head coach

pleting that mission with a riveting, 2-1 victory over the sixth-seeded Lincoln Junior Stars.

"We actually expected to

come in here and win this first one and get the monkey off our backs," Warriors coach Shawn Weinke said. "We did not play our best tonight, but it sure was nice getting a win in the first game."

The Warriors grabbed early momentum as special teams cashed in on a 5-on-3 power play in the first period. Cedar Falls senior Zach Hester launched a rocket that hit its mark at the four-minute, 51-second mark.

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## WARRIORS

Victory over Lincoln puts Waterloo in semifinals

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Jacob Schutte dished a pass to Hester, then camped his 6-foot-6 frame in front of Junior Stars netminder Tyler Scully and shielded Hester's goal.

Waterloo continued its assault on Scully 30 seconds into period two as Dawson Kuhlmann rattled the net off as Hester rebound.

"I saw the puck had squirted out to Zach, and he made the shot," Kuhlmann explained. "I just took the puck and put it over his (Scully's) left shoulder and it went in. It felt good watching it go in. I never thought that could be the game-winner," said the

sophomore from Sumner.

The Warriors appeared to have things going their way from that point, as they out-shot Lincoln, 19-9, and delivered some bone-crunching blows, as well.

Lincoln, however, picked itself up and, with 1:44 left in the second frame, watched as league scoring leader Jorgan Kontor picked off a pass and skated uncontested toward Brian Dobes in the Warriors' net. Kontor reached the back of the net to cut the Warriors' lead in half.

"We lost our focus a little after they scored," Weinke stated. "We wanted to keep to the outside, but we let them bring the play to us instead, and we made some sloppy passes. I expect us to play a lot better (today) and just play our game. It's playoff hockey

and, you win, you go on. If you lose, you're gone."

The Warriors once again relied heavily on their defense in the third period, as poke checks, body checks and Dobes became a factor.

With 11:31 left in the game, Lincoln made a serious charge at Dobes with a two-on-one break. Dobes rose to the occasion and smothered the Stars' attack.

"It really helps us out having our full roster right now," Kuhlmann said. "Our defense played very solid today, and they have most of the year. It felt so great getting this win, and now we get to fight for another day.

"They got a little physical with us for a while, and we will just have to work harder and work our butts off for tomorrow."

The Warriors play in the semifinals at 1:30 today against

second-seeded Quad Cities/seventh-seeded Mason City.

"Our guys will have to play better (today) and not give up the momentum like we did tonight," Weinke said. "If we just stay focused and play the way we can, we will be all right."

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|          |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lincoln  | 0 | 1 | 0 | - | 1 |
| Waterloo | 1 | 1 | 0 | - | 2 |

**FIRST PERIOD** — 1. Waterloo, Zach Hester (Jacob Schutte) 4:51 pp. Penalties — Jayson Beal, Wat. (interference) 7:45; Zach Ross, Lin. (highsticking) 6:14; Matt Roach, Lin. (slashing) 5:02.

**SECOND PERIOD** — 2. Waterloo, Dawson Kuhlmann (Zach Hester) :30; 3. Lincoln, Jorgan Kontor (unassisted) 13:16. Penalties — Jayson Beal, Wat. (tripping) 13:47; Trevor Tix, Wat. (holding) 8:23; Will Becker, Wat. (slashing) 1:24.

**THIRD PERIOD** — No scoring. Penalties — MacKenzie Cain, Wat. (crosschecking) 12:20; Tyler Mahncke, Wat. (holding) 7:41; Kontor, Lin. (roughing) 7:41.

**SHOTS ON GOAL**

|          |    |   |   |   |    |
|----------|----|---|---|---|----|
| Lincoln  | 5  | 4 | 5 | - | 14 |
| Waterloo | 12 | 9 | 7 | - | 28 |

Goalies — Waterloo, Brian Dobes (13 saves); Lincoln, Tyler Scully (26 saves) Officials — Referee, Koskovich; linesmen, Wickes and Kooley.