

Hockey

Capitals' emotional ride ends with title

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Ames, Ia. — Des Moines Capitals forward Joseph Anson's father died before the season started.

"Very emotional," Anson said after his team topped the Kansas City Junior Outlaws 3-0 in the Midwest High School Hockey League championship game Sunday. "I believe he was above watching over, not just me but all of us."

Anson scored the game's final goal, a day after making the game-winner in overtime of Saturday's semifinal. He was named tournament most valuable player.

Good fortune first appeared in the closing second of the first period when a puck slid along the goal line and through the crease.

"It was close," said Caps' goalie Derek Temple, who recorded 23 saves for his sixth shutout of the season. "It snuck under me and started rolling."

Torn ligaments in Temple's right ankle held him out of practice this week and for the first two games of the tournament. Coaches tested his range early Sunday.

"It's sore," Temple said. "It hurt getting up, but I got through it."

The Capitals opened the scoring 1:13 into the second period. Officials whistled the Outlaws for a hand pass in the defensive zone — a violation if the player closes his hand around the puck.

"I thought it was legal," said Caps head coach Andy Wade. "I thought we got lucky. Somebody was looking after us."

Off the draw, after a few passes the puck found Kyle Collins in the slot for a one-timer. Jordan Garrison-Nickerson scored the second goal 5:52 into the third period. Anson put in the final goal with 4:47 left.

The Capitals solid backline and dump-and-chase with small, fast forwards wore down the Outlaws, playing with just 12 skaters. Kansas City used the puck-possession style taught by coach Sergei Bautin — a member of the 1992 Olympic gold medalist Unified Team and the Winnipeg Jets' first round draft pick the same year.

Temple stuffed a penalty shot with 1:25 remaining. As time expired, the Capitals bench emptied. They launched gloves, sticks and helmets into the air in celebration.