

Confident Mohawks ready for tourney

No. 4 seed doesn't deter Mohawks from thinking about a state title

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AMES — The Mason City Hockey Club enters the state tournament as the fourth seed.

That fact doesn't matter to the Mohawks' Will Martin.

"Honestly, I think it's our tournament to lose," Martin said. "I don't think there's anybody down there that's as good as we are.

"We've beat everyone. When we're at our best, we've dominated the top teams in the league. If we play at our best, honestly, I think we can go down there and take it."
Mason City faces fifth-seeded Sioux

Today's Games
No. 3 K.C. Stars vs.
No. 6 Waterloo, 2 p.m.
No. 2 K.C. Outlaws vs.
No. 7 Sioux City, 4 p.m.
No. 4 Mason City vs.
No. 5 Sioux Falls, noon.
No. 1 DM Capitals vs.
No. 8 DM Oak Leafs, 6 p.m.

Falls at noon today in the opening round of the Midwest High School Hockey

League. The tournament is held at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena.

The winner of today's game faces either the top-seeded Des Moines Capitals or the eighth-seeded Des Moines Oak Leafs in Saturday's semifinals.

Mason City coach Mark Hicks says his team has gotten better each week during the regular season.

"We've improved," the coach said. "We wanted to be first (in

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Mohawks: Martin, Burgmeier lead team in scoring

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the regular season) but that wasn't going to happen.

"Then we started focusing on the second goal for the year was and that's the state tournament and winning that and that's where we are at right now."

Martin leads the Mohawks with 50 points (30 goals, 20 assists).

Andrew Burgmeier is next in line with 48 points (21 goals, 27 assists).

Hicks called his team a balanced one.

In fact, he called it the

most balanced he's had in his 10 years of coaching.

"There's been some good teams here in the past," the veteran coach said. "From top to bottom, this is the most balanced team.

"We've got good forwards and our defense is really playing well and we have three goalies that have done a great job for us this year."

Mason City and Sioux Falls split their two games this season in December at Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls won the

opener 3-1 and Mason City won the second game 8-2.

Senior Mitch Hain said the Mohawks know what to expect from Sioux Falls.

"They just have a lot of guys that work real hard," Hain said. "It's the state tournament. We have to show up because anybody can beat anybody."

Martin called Sioux Falls' offense "high powered."

"So they could get a couple of quick goals," he said, "and put us down early and that could be tough to come back from.

"But we're going to come out hard and take it to them."



Martin



Greater Spokane Mohawks

Mason City's Will Martin takes a shot in a game this year.