

# Comeback kids: Mohawks skate to semis

## Martin's two goals help Mohawks overcome 2-0 deficit

By KIRK HARDCASTLE

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**AMES** — Will Martin said he thought something strange was going to happen in Friday's opening round of the Midwest High School Hockey League tournament.

The Mason City Hockey Club senior standout was right.

Martin lifted the Mohawks to a 4-2 victory over Sioux Falls Friday



Martin

afternoon at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena with a pair of third-period goals.

Martin scored the game-winning goal with 1 minute, 37 seconds remaining.

And the strange part was Martin's empty-net goal from deep in the Mohawks' defensive zone with 10 seconds remaining.

"Before the game, I was by myself," Martin said. "Something overtook me and I thought that something out of the ordinary was going to happen. It was weird."

Martin, the Mohawks' leading scorer, said originally he didn't think his final goal was going to find the net.

"Right when I let it go, it came off kind of wobbling," he said, "and then I saw it started to slice."

Mason City, which plays the Des Moines Capitals (a 4-0 winner Friday) in today's semifinals, outscored Sioux Falls 4-0 over the final two and a half periods.

Sioux Falls jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead in the first period with a pair of goals in the first 6 minutes, 17 seconds of the contest.

The Flyers received an unassist-

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## Hockey: Wuttke settled in after early goals

**From B1**

ed goal from Josh Bingham at 2:26 and Zac Duncan scored at the 6:17 mark.

"Sioux Falls played exactly the way we thought they'd play," Mason City coach Mark Hicks said. "We were prepared for that, but we just didn't play very well in the first six minutes.

"It took us a long time to get going. We're pretty blessed to get through this game."

Senior Andrew Burgmeier put the Mohawks with a goal at the 9:04 mark of the first period with an assist from Hunter King.

King, a junior, tied the contest with a goal at the 6:43 mark of the third period on assists from Isaac Gribben and Burgmeier.

The Mohawks then received the two straight

MASON CITY 4, SIOUX FALLS 2	
Sioux Falls	2 0 0 - 2
Mason City	1 0 3 - 4
<b>First period</b> — SF (1): Josh Bingham (unassisted), 2:26. SF (2): Zac Duncan (Sean Sendelbach, Saige Toft), 6:17. MC (1): Andrew Burgmeier (Hunter King), 9:04.	
<b>Third period</b> — MC (2): King (Isaac Gribben, Burgmeier), 6:43. MC (3): Will Martin (King, Ethan Tindall), 13:23. MC (4): Martin (Andrew Wuttke) empty net, 14:40.	
<b>Shots on goal</b> — Sioux Falls 12-13-10 — 35. Mason City 9-7-11 — 27. <b>Goalies</b> — SF Keeghan Nelson; MC: Andrew Wuttke. Penalties-minutes: Sioux Falls 1-2; Mason City 1-2.	

goals from Martin to advance to today's 2:30 p.m. semifinal.

Mason City goalie Andrew Wuttke did not allow a goal in the final two periods — stopping 13 shots in the second and 10 in the third.

Wuttke admitted he was worried after allowing the two early goals.

"I just told myself that I can't give up another one," he said, "but I said that after the first one, too.

"I just had to bounce back and keep playing."

Hicks said he still had confidence in his senior goalie after falling behind 2-0.

"He did a good job," the veteran coach said. "We didn't give him much help early on.

"They can storm the net and they have a really good team. He stood tall after allowing a couple of goals."

Now, the Mohawks are one win away from playing in Sunday's title game.

Hicks admitted that there was a little panic about dropping the tournament opener Friday afternoon.

"If you say there wasn't any panic, you're probably lying," he said. "We just had to calm down and get focused and keep telling them how good they are.

"I thought we got outworked for two periods, but then we got better."