

Warriors ice Oak Leafs, to play for title

Warriors to play Kansas City today in championship.

AMES — Connor Hyde took his coaches' advice and it paid off as he put back a pair of rebounds to give the Waterloo Warriors their first two goals in a 3-1 win over Des Moines Oak Leafs Saturday in the Midwest High School Hockey League tournament semifinals.

The Warriors (33-1-0) will face Kansas City (26-4-0) at noon today in Ames for the MHSHL title.



Doug Dietz

After Hyde scored Waterloo's opening goal by putting back a deflection in the middle slot 5 minutes, 15 seconds into the first period, Des Moines tied the game on Mark Alexander's score 8:54 into the second period. Twenty-eight seconds later, Hyde found himself in position to put back another rebound, which gave Waterloo the lead for good.

"We talked about things all year long with kids keeping their sticks down when they get into the offensive zone and thank goodness he listens," Waterloo Warriors' coach Doug Dietz said of Hyde's go-ahead goal. "A shot came, he had his stick down and he wasted no time. The puck touched his stick and it was in the net."

After Des Moines (24-7-2) scored the equalizing goal, Dietz was pleased with the way his team responded. Chance Kremer finished with 18 saves to pick up his 33rd win over a MHSHL opponent.

Jake Lichty iced the game for the Warriors with an empty net goal with 13 seconds remaining.

"Des Moines comes in ready to play," Dietz said. "We know what's at stake just as much as everybody

Tourney glance

At Ames

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

First round

Quad Cities 5, Des Moines

Capitals 0

Des Moines Oak Leafs 2,

Cedar Rapids 1

Kansas City 6, Ames 1

Waterloo 5, Lincoln 3

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Semifinals

Kansas City 4, Quad Cities 1

Waterloo 3, Des Moines

Oak Leafs 1

CHAMPIONSHIP

TODAY

Waterloo vs. Kansas City, noon

else and we played hard. We had a little letdown in the second period. I think we were willing this thing to win instead of just playing our game.

"I take my hat off to all these kids. They didn't really face adversity ... but it was starting to show its face and we kept plugging away."

This afternoon, the Warriors will have an opportunity to add to their regular-season title, by winning their first postseason championship since 2010.

"It's an opportunity for some of these kids to have something that a lot of people don't even get to play for," Dietz said. "It doesn't matter if it's a high school sport or it's college or professional. You're playing for the big prize and that's our focus right now. That's what the kids want and what they're setting their sights on."

SCORING BY PERIODS

Waterloo 1 1 1-3

DM Oak Leafs 0 1 0-1

FIRST PERIOD — 1, Connor Hyde (Austin Jackson, Jake Lichty), 5:15. Penalties — Sean Cavanaugh, Wat. (head contact), 4:49.

SECOND PERIOD — 2, Des Moines, Mark Alexander (Dan Giles), 8:54; 1, Waterloo, Hyde (Jackson, Rhodes Dolan), 9:22. Penalties — No Penalties.

THIRD PERIOD — 4, Lichty (Tim Brown), et., 14:42.

Penalties — Hyde, Wat. (interference), 2:16; Austin Greenough, DM (too many men bench minor), 4:23; Mason McDougal, DM (boarding), 14:31.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Waterloo 25

DM Oak Leafs 19

Goalkeepers — Waterloo, Chance Kremer (18 saves); Des Moines, Thomas Doherty (12 saves).

Officials — Todd Lucina, Chad Stewart, Aaron Motron.