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SPORTS

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CLASS 1A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MAHTEMEDI 6, WARRAOD 5 (2OT)

# Rebound goal is Zephyrs' dessert

Mahtemedi trilk by two, then topples Warraod.

By HEATHER RUE  
Special to the Star Tribune

Lava cake. A chocolate lover's dream on a dessert plate, and a state championship dream come true for Mahtemedi.

A play named after that chocolate treat was on early in the second overtime, when senior Jimmy Grove won an offensive-zone faceoff and sent the puck to Seth Nelson at the top of the circle.

"It's where he shoots it and I'm supposed to go to the net," Grove said. "And he hit the net, and the rebound there just for me. Buried it."

Grove grabbed the rebound unopposed in front, tripped over the sprawling Warraod goaltender and slid a backhanded shot into a gaping net as he dived to the ice. It was good, 4-6 into the second overtime game for the third-seeded Zephyrs — a 6-5 victory over top seed — and previously unbeaten — Warraod for the Class 1A boys hockey state championship Saturday afternoon at Xcel Energy Center.

The Zephyrs (23-8-0) won their second state title in four seasons, on a play named for senior Captain Marshall's favorite dessert, Grove said.

Mahtemedi trailed 1-1 after two periods but rallied. Senior Charlie Drage completed a third-period hat trick with 2:20 left in regulation to tie the score 5-5.

"When we scored that tying goal, I felt like the game was ours," Drage said. "We had all



Mahtemedi forward Charles Drage was all smiles after his team's double overtime victory against Warraod in the Class 1A championship game Saturday.

the momentum going into it."

The Zephyrs fought their way to the Class 1A title, never leading until the final goal that was eliminated and cutting into a two-goal deficit.

Whenever Warraod (29-3-1) scored, Mahtemedi seemed to have answers. The Zephyrs had "plenty of pushback

and plenty of firepower," said Mahtemedi coach Jeff Borchert. Mahtemedi grabbed momentum at many points, starting in the final minute of the first period when Carter Haysford tied the game 1-1. Mahtemedi was down 3-4 in the second period, but Patrick Figan's goal in the final two

minutes cut the deficit to one. Warraod's Carson Pilgrim completed the first hat trick of the game early in the third period to give his team a cushion, but Drage scored only 38 seconds later to make it 4-3. The Zephyrs thought they had scored against a few minutes later, but the no-goal call on the

ice stood after video review. So, instead, Drage made it 5-4 — making the goal-goal sign with his arm — less than two minutes later.

"We kept letting (Mahtemedi) hang around and kept letting them back into the game," Warraod coach Jeff Handwick said. "When you do that, bad things happen." The Hornets suffered their lone loss of the season but had their chances, even though they didn't play well defensively, Handwick said.

## NOTES

### Twin hat tricks just the appetizer

By JAYDIA VOZISEL  
and HEATHER RUE  
Special to the Star Tribune

For the first time in state tournament history, a player from each team scored a hat trick in a state championship game Saturday.

In Saturday's Class 1A final, Warraod top line junior center Carson Pilgrim scored the first goal of the first, second and third periods, completing his hat trick at 3:58 of the third. Mahtemedi senior Charlie Drage scored all three of his goals in the third period — at 4:56, 1:00 and 1:58 — for his own hat trick that helped the Zephyrs tie the game 5-5 and eventually send it to overtime.

Hats were picked up from the Xcel Energy Center after each track, a couple of celebrations ahead of Mahtemedi's 6-5 overtime victory.

Warraod was also involved, and on the losing end, the only other time two hat tricks were recorded in a boys hockey state championship game, but the two who did it were players for the same team. That was in 2016, when Twieth defeated Warraod 8-2.

John Marshall scored in the second period and then twice in a 2-1 second span in the third period, posting the first hat trick of the game by 7:08 of the third. His brother teammate Tony Tassoni scored the first goal of the game before adding two in the third for his hat trick.

**Chipped teeth**  
Drage scored five of his team-leading 38 goals this season in the state tournament. After all his hard work to win a championship, he'll now need a bit of dental work. During the on-ice celebration, Drage said teammate Carson Marshall "batted me into the boards," chipping his teeth.

"I tasted something weird in my mouth," said Drage, who resembled the Lloyd Christmas character played by Jim Carrey in "Dumb and



Warraod's Carson Pilgrim, right, scored his third goal early in the third period. And it won't be the tie game's only hat trick.

Dumber." "I said, 'That's not normal, and then I fell it. This can't happen. You can't replace this moment.'"

**Hardwick gets heated**  
The weight of an unfilled goal to end a previously unbeaten season got to Warraod coach Jeff Handwick on Saturday, when his Hornets fell to the Zephyrs 6-5 in overtime. Handwick also has experiences with the officials.

"I think it was on their second goal," Handwick to the assembled media. "Our defenseman's coming around the net and they're pin in an arm bar. I asked the officials, and their explanation, 'Well, we don't want to influence the game.' Well, by not calling stuff like that, they are influencing the game. Our guys are skilled players. And (Mahtemedi) allowed to clutch and grab and back and whack. That's not our game."

"I told them after the game, they should be embarrassed. Call penalties if they're penalized."

Mahtemedi was called for one penalty in the game. Warraod for two.

**Bill Rosenzweig**, coordinator of hockey officials for the Minnesota State High School League, said, "I'm not going to comment on derogatory comments made by

the losing coach of a highly emotional state tournament championship game."

**That new line feel**  
In the regular-season finale, Edina got "thumped," as coach Curt Giles put it, 7-0 by Wayzata. The Hornets were a bit flat as they headed into the section tournament, and long-time coach Giles was concerned about his team.

So he made a line change to "shake things up a little bit." He moved up **Bobby Cowan** to the line with forwards **Jackson Neves** and **Ryan Raberty**, forming an all-native line, ahead of the team's three Section 6 games.

"We had to do something to get their attention," Giles said. "Because of what happened to us, you're going to get the same result, to a certain extent."

The new goal, propelling the Hornets to the Class 2A state championship game. In the section tournament, the line combined for six goals and 16 assists in three games, including a 2-1 Edina win over Wayzata in the section final.

**Herb Brooks winners**  
Mahtemedi senior forward **David Waldick** was chosen for the Class 1A, the Class 2A Herb Brooks Award recipient for Class 1A. The Class 2A Herb Brooks winner was **heli Erikson**, Hill Murray senior goaltender.

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