

Mason City's second victory of the season over Waverly-Shell Rock was much more challenging than the first.

The Mohawks led most of the way, but had to hold off the Go-Hawks throughout before settling for a 55-49 victory in the Class 4A quarterfinals. Mason City had won the first meeting 70-43 back on November 20.

This one was tied at 34 midway through the third quarter before Mason City went on a 7-0 run to take the lead for good. Anna Lensing broke the tie with a 3-pointer and teammate Megan Meyer followed with two straight layups, the second after swatting the ball away near mid-court.

That made it 41-34 heading into the fourth quarter and the Mohawks answered every Waverly-Shell Rock score after that, finally wrapping it up by sinking seven of 11 free throws in the final 2:22.

Meyer, who'll join her sister Makenzie at Iowa next season, did not have her best shooting night -- she went 2-for-9 from 3-point range -- but had success driving to the basket and led all scorers with 21 points. Anna Deets added 12 points for the Mohawks and freshman Jada Williams gave them a nice lift off the bench with four points, seven rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Sophomore Abbie Draper led Waverly-Shell Rock with 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Britney Young scored 10 for the Go-Hawks and Laura Bates grabbed 11 rebounds.

Mason City, the 2016 state champion, stays alive in its bid for another title and takes a 16-8 record into a semifinal at 5 p.m. Thursday against top-ranked Marion. All of the Mohawks' losses have been to Class 5A schools.

Waverly-Shell Rock, a state qualifier for the fifth time in school history, finishes 20-3. With only two seniors, the Go-Hawks should contend for a state berth again next season.