

The MBA Storm advanced to the quarterfinal round of the Section 6A Hockey Tournament with a convincing 6-3 over the Wadena Wolverines on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> in Wadena. The Storm led from start to finish, playing their best game of the year. They will now take on the top-seeded and state ranked Little Falls Flyers in a game played Tuesday night in Little Falls.

"The Storm came out with intensity from start to finish. The victory was led by all three seniors, Mikey Siegel, Jordan Lee, and Travis DIngmann, and the rest of the team followed in their footsteps." said Storm Head Coach Jim Kennedy. "Storm history was made by winning the first playoff game which had never been done before. Our team showed outstanding courage bouncing back from a 9-1 loss to Wadena last Tuesday night."

As coach Kennedy commented, MBA came out very strong jumping to a 4-0 lead after the first period of play. Wadena could not match the intensity of the Storm and appeared to be over-confident because of their big win earlier in the week. Peter Lindblad got the Storm on the board first with an unassisted goal at the 9:08 mark. Tyler Hansen then added to the lead with an unassisted goal of his own just 1:20 later. Lindblad scored another goal with 4:23 left in the period and then Mikey Siegel scored with an assist from Hansen just a minute later. MBA had the four goal advantage and that led to an early shower for the Wadena goalie.

In the second period Wadena came out with a lot more urgency, looking to close the gap and their leading scorer, Wyatt Pettit scored just 2:21 into the period to get some momentum back for the Wolverines. The Storm would not back down however and they score was still 4-1 with just over 2 minutes remaining in the period when a rolling puck went into the MBA end with Pettit chasing. Storm goalie Will Johnson then made a great play, diving to poke check the puck away from Pettit and out of the MBA zone. Pettit's skate unfortunately kicked Johnson in the head and this seemed to affect the junior net-minder as Wadena scored twice in the last two minutes of the period to pull to within 4-3.

With the late flurry to end the second period it seemed as though the home team had the momentum heading into the final period but again, MBA dug deep and out-played and out-hustled the favored Wolverines. Siegel led the way as he continually back-checked and cleared loose pucks from the Storm end of the ice. He also gave MBA a more comfortable lead when he scored his second goal of the game 2:11 into the period with an assist going to Lindblad for a 5-3 Storm lead. Mike Morales then stretched the lead to 6-3 with 5:40 remaining when he scored on the rebound of a Pete Berens shot. After that goal the Storm continued to attack Wadena they also and played strong defense, never letting Wadena back into the game. Johnson recovered from the earlier blow to the head to have a great third period and a great game by stopping 39 Wolverine shots. The Wadena goalies combined for 19 saves. The Storm now takes a 7-15-1 record into their game against Little Falls.