



## NEWS RELEASE

1180 State Gym | Ames, Iowa 50011 | 515.294.3498

### Media and Public Relations Staff

Kevin Wey | Director of Communications | phone 515.779.4434 | [kwey@iastate.edu](mailto:kwey@iastate.edu)

Jack MacDonald | D3 Communications Manager | phone 630.659.5119 | [jwm95@iastate.edu](mailto:jwm95@iastate.edu)

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**Contact:** Kevin Wey ([kwey@iastate.edu](mailto:kwey@iastate.edu))

### Cyclones Prevail in 3-2 Overtime Win Over Eagles

**Feb. 25, 2017 – Bensenville, Ill.** – Having swept Central States Collegiate Hockey League rival Ohio last weekend, which included a 3-2 come-from-behind victory and a 1-0 shutout over the Bobcats, Iowa State secured the CSCHL regular season championship and entered this weekend's CSCHL Tournament as the top seed. The battle-hardened Cyclones, like last Friday against the Bobcats, had to come back from a two-goal deficit against the Eagles Saturday night and charged back with three unanswered goals to take a dramatic 3-2 overtime win over tournament host Robert Morris and advance to the championship game Sunday afternoon.

Iowa State and Robert Morris's semifinal game started an hour later than the scheduled 7:30 p.m. after the semifinal game between Ohio and Lindenwood went to double overtime, and the wait appeared to cause the Cyclones to come out flat, as the Eagles held a slight edge in momentum early. Robert Morris forward Brett Leppek side-stepped two Cyclone defenders on his way to the net for a prime opportunity, but he fired the shot over the net at the 4:45 mark and Iowa State managed to dodge that early bullet with a little luck. **Trevor Sabo (Skokie, Ill. – Rochester Ice Hawks/MnJHL)** had point-blank opportunity for Iowa State at 13:01 of the first period and fired a quality shot from the low slot, but Eagle goaltender Cole Semchak came up with a big glove save to rob the Cyclones of a 1-0 lead at that point. The Cyclones killed off a tripping penalty assessed to **Nick Sandy (Calgary, Alberta – Neepawa Natives/MJHL)** with 4:33 left in the first and then got lucky again when Eagle forward Sam Mancini exploded for a breakaway in the slot with a few seconds left in the period but narrowly missed the net on the ensuing backhand.

The Cyclones came inches away from taking the lead 5:10 into the second period when **Jake Uglem (Moorhead, Minn. – Winkler Flyers/MJHL)** rang a shot off the crossbar and the Eagles did, too, exactly 30 seconds later when Alex Anderson's hard, point-blank wrist shot just happened to deflect off the shoulder of Iowa State goaltender **Derek Moser (Tomah, Wisc. – Rochester Ice Hawks/MnJHL)** and over the net, keeping the game tied 0-0. Semchak gloved a flubbed shot by **Jackson Graalum (Fargo, N.D. – Aberdeen Wings/NAHL)** out of mid-air to prevent a garbage goal at the 6:52 mark of the second and made a far more impressive save at 8:06 to get his right arm in front of a masterful redirect by **Kody Reuter (Sioux City, Iowa – Austin Bruins/NAHL)** from the low slot, which proved important in giving Robert Morris a 1-0 lead when Nick Gnagni chipped a loose puck in the slot off an offensive-zone face-off top shelf at 13:24.

Reuter joined the forecheck off the ensuing face-off and leveled Eagle defenseman Jake Floro about three feet from the boards, which sent Floro crashing into the boards neck first and resulted in a boarding call to the Cyclone defenseman at 13:46. Floro proved to be okay, or at least well enough to continue, and the Eagle power play also proved to be okay, as Gavin Burbach circled from the right face-off circle, up to the high slot, and then toward the left hash mark and fired a wrist shot high glove side to score at 14:28 for a 2-0 Eagle lead.

Following Burbach's insurance tally, the Cyclones continued to struggle and Sandy saved Iowa State from almost certain defeat with about four minutes left in the second when he cleared out a Dan Doyle shot that was trickling toward the goal line in the crease.

The Eagles, interestingly, called a timeout at the 16:28 mark after an icing call, seemingly sensing that the tables were about to turn, and the Cyclones did score at 17:43 when an **A.J. Gullickson (Verona, Wisc. – Alexandria Blizzard/NA3HL)** pass fortuitously hit **Tony Uglem (Moorhead, Minn. – Austin Bruins/NAHL)** in the skate, Uglem struggled to control the ricocheted puck with his stick, only for it to go to **Jake Arroyo (Bolingbrook, Ill. –**

**Austin Bruins/NAHL)** in the slot for the sophomore defenseman to sweep in with a backhander past the pad of Semchak.

Down a more manageable one goal entering the second intermission, Iowa State started to control play in the third period. Tony Uglem nearly banked the puck off Semchak from beside the net at the 4:15 mark and the Cyclone power play kept the puck in the offensive zone for nearly the entire man advantage after Robert Morris's Ryan Martin went to the penalty box for tripping at 5:15. Despite superb puck movement on the power play, the Cyclones misfired on a number of shots with the man advantage and remained down one goal as the halfway point of the third period approached.

Not for long, however, as Gullickson skated the puck into the offensive zone with just over eight minutes left in the third, made a pass to Uglem in the slot, and Uglem battled to maintain possession and moved the puck across the crease to Arroyo for an easy put in at the 11:57 mark to tie the game 2-2.

The Cyclones continued to press late in the third, as the Cardinal and Gold's speed started to prove to be too much for an Eagle team that was starting to fatigue after a difficult first-round matchup against Illinois, but the game went to overtime after Semchak made a couple big saves late, including an attempted short-side goal by **Alex Grupe (Arlington Heights, Ill. – Osoyoos Coyotes/KIJHL)** with 1:28 remaining.

Just over 140 seconds into overtime, Moser left a puck behind the Cyclone net for **Eero Helanto (Turku, Finland – TPS Turku J20/Jr. A Sm-Liiga)** to start the breakout, Helanto chose to weave through Eagles in the neutral zone in an attempt to go coast-to-coast, and as he approached the bottom of the left face-off circle the senior defenseman sent a pass across to **Adam Alcott (Rochester, Minn. – Wisconsin Whalers/NA3HL)** for an easy tip into an empty net near the right post 2:38 into the extra frame to send the Cyclones to the championship game of the CSCHL Tournament for the first time since 2013.

Following the game, Cyclone Hockey Head Coach & General Manager Jason Fairman was relieved the Cyclones pulled out the victory despite a lackluster start to the contest.

"I think we were fortunate we pulled out the victory, since we were flat the beginning of the game," said Fairman. "We had a few good shifts early on, but then, the best way to describe it is that it was just 'blah."

"We didn't have a lot of energy for a while. Toward the end, I thought we played better with more energy. Anything can happen with overtime and fortunately we got that goal early and now we'll get ready for tomorrow."

Fairman indicated the team did not panic, though, after falling down 2-0 in the second period having recently picked up some significant come-from-behind victories.

"We do have the ability to come back," said Fairman. "We were hoping that them (Robert Morris) playing the night before would be a factor, too.

"The coaching staff thought, although we didn't say anything to the players, but our thought was that if we could weather any type of storm, by the end of the game the tables might turn. When they called their timeout, we seemed to be able to rally at that point and maybe there was a momentum change at that point for us."

With Iowa State's game ending just after 10:45 p.m. and the championship game against Lindenwood starting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon, the Cyclones will be looking at their quickest turnaround of the season. However, Fairman is hopeful the fact that Lindenwood's game went to double overtime, the chance to win a league tournament for the first time in a decade, and a long memory by the veteran players could pay off after the Cyclones lost the 2016 ACHA Men's Division 1 National Championship to the Lions at The Edge last March could provide an advantage.

"It's only going to be about 12 hours until we'll have to head back to the rink to play the game, so it is a quick turnaround," said Fairman. "We hope the guys are motivated by winning a championship for the first time since 2007 and there might be a little bit of a revenge factor in playing the same team in the same arena for a different championship, albeit a championship that is still important.

“I think both teams will be motivated and it should be a good contest.”

Given the competitiveness of all three games thus far at the 2017 CSCHL Tournament, Fairman can't help but think how the CSCHL regular season and tournament uniquely prepares all five teams for nationals.

“The coaches have talked many times, we have our side conversations about things, and I think we all realize the CSCHL does prepare you for the national tournament and this was a dress rehearsal, to some extent, because this is what the games are going to be like at nationals,” said Fairman. “There's no question that playing in this league and playing games like this every game in this tournament so far prepares you for nationals.”

As the first seed, Iowa State will be the home team for the championship game and second-seeded Lindenwood will be the away team. Cyclone Hockey will broadcast the championship game online live on EverSport. To watch, fans need only go to <https://eversport.tv/acha> and log in or register and pay a small fee.

Iowa State plays its final home game Saturday, March 4, against Midland, which likely secured a trip to the ACHA Men's Division 1 National Tournament this weekend with a pair of respectable showings against third-ranked Adrian. The game March 4 against the Warriors marks Senior Night, as Cyclone Hockey will be saluting seniors Drew Carlson, Alex Grupe, Eero Helanto, Dalton Kaake, and Chase Rey. Cyclone Hockey will broadcast Senior Night's game online live on EverSport at <https://eversport.tv/acha> and it will be the organization's last broadcast of the 2016-17 season. Due to Ethernet limitations at Midland's home arena, Cyclone Hockey will not be able to broadcast the March 5 game in Fremont, Nebraska. The game will be streamed online live, however, by Midland. Aside from in-person or EverSport, fans can also follow Cyclone Hockey online at [www.cyclonehockey.com](http://www.cyclonehockey.com), on Facebook at /CycloneHockey, on Twitter at @Cyclone Hockey, and on Instagram at @CycloneHockey. Cyclone Hockey...Right Now.

NOTES: With two goals on the night, Jake Arroyo now has seven goals for the season and leads all Cyclone defensemen in goal scoring. Arroyo is now ninth in team scoring with 16 points (7-9-16) in 35 games played and second in defenseman overall scoring. Tony Uglem, by picking up two assists on the night, is still second on the team in scoring with 28 points (9-19-28) in 28 games played and now leads the team in assists (19). Eero Helanto is now third on the team in assists with 18 in 36 games played and has 22 points (4-18-22) in 36 games played. A.J. Gullickson, who tallied two assists and was the true catalyst for both regulation goals, has separated himself for fifth in team scoring with 19 points (9-10-19) in 26 games played. Gullickson leads all Cyclone rookies in scoring by seven points. Adam Alcott's game-winner was his first of the season and snapped a 14-game goalless drought. He now has four goals for the season and 13 points (4-9-13) in 33 games played. Derek Moser, who saved 30 of 32 shots on the night, improved his save percentage to .917 and his goals-against average to 2.34 in 1536:47 played in 26 games. Moser now sports a record of 17-8-1-0 for the season. Iowa State's overall record stands at 22-13-1-0.

## GAME SUMMARY

GOALS BY PERIOD	1	2	3	OT	FINAL
IOWA STATE	0	1	1	1	3
ROBERT MORRIS	0	2	0	0	2

First Period – Scoring: None.

Penalties: ISU, Sandy (tripping), 15:27

Second Period – Scoring: RMU, Gnagni (Chapman), 13:24; RMU, Burbach (Mancini, Doyle), 14:28; ISU, Arroyo (T. Uglem, Gullickson), 17:43.

Penalties: ISU, Reuter (boarding), 13:46.

Third Period – Scoring: ISU, Arroyo (T. Uglem, Gullickson), 11:57.

Penalties: RMU, Martin (tripping), 5:15.

Overtime Period – Scoring: ISU, Alcott (Helanto, Moser), 2:38.

Penalties: None.

<b>SHOTS BY PERIOD</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
IOWA STATE	8	10	16	1	35
ROBERT MORRIS	6	15	9	2	32

<b>GOALTENDERS (SV/SH)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
ISU, Moser (62:38)	6/6	13/15	9/9	2/2	30/32
RMU, Semchak (62:38)	8/8	9/10	15/16	0/1	32/35

**POWER PLAY:** ISU 0-1; RMU 0-2

**PENALTIES:** ISU 2-4; RMU 1-2

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