RoughRiders swept in USHL playoffs

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The Cedar Rapids RoughRiders failed to score on six power-play opportunities Saturday night and bowed out of the USHL playoffs before 2,164 fans at the Ice Arena.

The Dubuque Fighting Saints beat the RoughRiders, 2-1, and swept the best-of-5 series in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The RoughRiders had the best record in the USHL for much of the season, but they faltered down the stretch and lost six of their last seven games.

Dubuque grabbed a 2-0 lead early in the third period Saturday, but Joe Wegwerth got the RoughRiders on the scoreboard at the 6:48 mark with assists from Andrew Gaus and Aaron Thow.

At that point there were still 13 minutes, 12 seconds left in the game for Cedar Rapids to score again and keep its season alive, but they could not find the net despite pulling goalie Ben Blacker for an extra skater at the end.

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Blacker stopped 27 of 29 shots, but Dubuque goalie Jacob Nehama stopped 30 of 31.

Dubuque 0 1 1 - 2 RoughRiders 0 0 1 - 1

DUB - Trey Dodd (Hayden Shaw, Nate Sucese) DUB - Evan Smith (Hayden Shaw, Gordie Green) CR - Joe Wegwerth (Andrew Gaus, Aaron Thow)