Kuster lifts RoughRiders in OT

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MADISON, Wis. - Clark Kuster scored at the 2:39 mark of overtime Friday night to give the Cedar Rapids RoughRiders a clutch 3-2 victory over Madison in a USHL game before 3,234 fans at the Alliant Energy Arena in Madison, Wis.

The victory kept the RoughRiders a single point behind Youngstown in the torrid race for the Eastern Conference title. Youngstown nipped Waterloo,

2-1, Friday and has a 34-13-5 record for 73 points. Cedar Rapids has a 36-16-0 mark for 72 points. Both teams have eight games left in the regular season.

Charlie Gerard gave Madison a 1-0 lead in the first period Friday night, but Ross Colton scored twice on power plays in the second frame to give the RoughRiders a 2-1 edge.

Kuster and Andrew Gaus collected assists on Colton's first goal. Mitch Reinke and Derek Daschke collected assists on Colton's second goal with a man advantage.

Miguel Fidler tied the game for Madison, 2-2, at the 17:15 mark of the third period.

Kuster scored the game-winner with an assist from Cal Burke.

Ben Blacker made 31 saves for the RoughRiders. Garrett Metcalf turned aside 45 shots for Madison.

Cedar Rapids hosts Dubuque Saturday night at 7:05.

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