

Juniors gain title contest

DES MOINES, Iowa — Two goals by Paul Kambach and a noteworthy team defensive performance powered the Sioux City Metro Juniors past West Des Moines Dowling 3-1 and into the tomorrow's championship game of the Iowa High School Hockey League playoffs.

Some brilliant defensive work by Metro goalkeeper Mike Bennett in the final period preserved the win for Sioux City, giving them their first ever shot at the championship trophy.

In that final frame Bennett, who turned backed a game total of 18 shots, survived three power play opportunities by the Maroons to enable the Sioux Cityans to gain revenge from two previous season setbacks to the losers.

In addition to Kambach's heroics, superskater Brian

Hartman assisted on all three Sioux City goals as the locals got off 29 goal-bound shots. Scoring goals in each period, the Junior's other lone goal came from Scott Barta in the first frame.

Now just one win away from the top, Coach Alex Shibicky's crew will face the winner of the Waterloo Columbus-West Des Moines Valley battle tomorrow at 4:30 at Hickman Arena.

Hopefully, Sioux City's chances in a final, if Columbus is the opposition, could be measured by two strong Metro Junior outings during the regular season. The Juniors scored a 5-3 victory on home ice over Columbus in early January in their first league outing under Shibicky, a former University of Denver