

Metro icers debut Sunday

The Sioux City Metro high school hockey team will open its 1978-79 season Sunday with a game against non-league foe Omaha Metro. Game time is 6:45 p.m. at the Sioux City Auditorium.

The young icers open their Iowa High School Hockey League schedule against West Des Moines Valley at the Auditorium on Nov. 25. Valley's new coach is former Sioux City Musketeer Julian Nixon.

The high school league has made some changes with Ankeny moving up from Division II to join Sioux City, Waterloo Columbus, Waterloo Public, West Des Moines Dowling, Valley, Des Moines Roosevelt and Urbandale in Division I. Division II now includes Ames, Webster City, Mason City and Des Moines Lincoln.

Sioux City Metro's coach is Alex Shibicky who starts his second year at the helm. Last season Shibicky guided the Sioux Cityans to a 6-4-2 mark in the league, third place. Sioux City made it to the finals of the state tournament before losing to Waterloo Columbus.

Mitch Brandt is again the assistant coach and defensive coordinator. Tony Newman, who was instrumental in building the high school program before moving to Canada, has returned to the community and will head the junior varsity team.

Eleven lettermen return to the high school team. Nineteen players move up from the Bantam team. Most notable loss among eight graduating

seniors is Brian Hartman, who currently leads the Sioux City Musketeers in scoring.

Returnees include Paul Kambach, Brent Hartman and Mike Bennett.

The schedule:

November: 19—Omaha Metro; 25—West Des Moines Valley.

December: 9—Urbandale; 16—West Des Moines Dowling.

January: 5—at West Des Moines Valley; 6—at Des Moines Roosevelt; 26—at Ankeny; 27—at Urbandale.

February: 2—at West Des Moines Dowling; 4—Waterloo Columbus; 10—Waterloo Public; 17—at Waterloo Public; 18—at Waterloo Columbus; 24—Des Moines Roosevelt; 25—Ankeny.