

# Metros open tournament play

Tournament time is here for the Sioux City Metros, who face off with Ames at 10 o'clock this morning in the seventh annual state high school hockey tourney at the Des Moines Ice Arena.

The four-day, 14-game event got under way Thursday night and concludes Sunday with the championship contest at 4:30 p.m. There will be four games played today, Saturday and Sunday, with three of Sunday's games consolation bracket affairs.

"We had a couple of good games against Ames," says Metros Coach Walt Johnson, "but they seemed to squeak 'em out. We're looking forward to beating them this time and going on to meet Columbus."

Should the Metros, 2-14 during the regular season, survive their first test, they would advance against a tough customer, league champion Waterloo Columbus, at 3 p.m. today. A Metro loss in the opener would relegate them to a Saturday morning game.

Waterloo teams have dominated the state meet, winning five of six titles since the competition began in 1976. Columbus won the first three years before West Des Moines Dowling broke the string. Columbus then recaptured the title last year.

The nine-team field includes the two Waterloo teams, Columbus and Public, West Des Moines Dowling and Valley, Des Moines Hoover-Roosevelt, Mason City, and Urbandale, in addition to Sioux City and Ames.

Ames handled the Metros 4-1 and 9-5 during the regular season with Bobby Batcheller scoring twice for the Sioux Cityans in the second meeting (Feb. 14).

Batcheller, incidentally, leads the Metro team in goals (10), while Mark Adam and Brad Hanson are setting the pace in assists with eight each.

Adams is the team point leader with 15 (7-8) followed by Hanson (6-8-14), Batcheller (10-0-10), Jeff Kentner (3-7-10), Bill Emerick (4-4-8) and Mick Emerick (4-3-7).