

Metros open state tourney play

MASON CITY, Iowa — Wednesday was mostly one of those "bad news" days for the Sioux City Metros hockey team.

However, the Metros can turn their luck around and make today, actually tonight, a "good news" day by beating Dubuque in a first round game in the Iowa State High School Hockey Tournament.

The Metros learned Wednesday evening that the outcome of a 6-3 victory over Ames two weeks ago had been reversed by the Iowa High School Hockey League because of a fight that broke out in the final minutes of the game.

Less than five minutes remained in that contest when the referee stopped the contest and sent both teams off the ice and awarded Ames a win by forfeit.

Metros officials protested the decision and still felt earlier in the week that their victory would be upheld.

Now, the good news, so to speak.

By awarding Ames the victory, Sioux City's record fell to 7-11 and the Metros will play Dubuque in the opening round of the tourney tonight at 9 o'clock in the new North Iowa Recreational Arena.

The Metros, who finished ninth in the league last year, would have finished fifth with a 8-10 record had league officials not reversed the score of the Ames contest.

Sioux City has won five of its last seven games and Dubuque won just one of 17 regular-season games. However, that win was a 5-4 decision over the Metros Feb. 26.

"I thought maybe this whole mess would work against our kids," said Metros co-coach Barry Head Wednesday, "but after our practice Wednesday night I felt differently. The kids were fired up and I think we can turn the decision into a positive influence. The kids were really fired up Wednesday night and we had one of our better practices."

In the other first round game tonight at 6:30, Mason City meets West Des Moines Dowling.

First round action continues Friday with Waterloo Columbus and Urbandale treating the breakfast crowd in a 7:30 a.m. contest, while Ames and West Des Moines Valley play at 10 a.m. and Des Moines Roosevelt-Hoover tangles with the Mason City-Dowling winner at 9 p.m.

Should Sioux City get past Dubuque, the Metros would play Waterloo Public at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

The state tournament championship game is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday. Consolation games through ninth place will also be played. If Sioux City wins its first game it would guaranteed three more games.

The Metros must play without Brad Hanson, Doug Richou and Bill Emerick. Hanson is out with a knee injury, Richou recently underwent an appendectomy operation and Emerick has missed nearly three weeks because of injury.

Hanson was the fifth-leading scorer on the team with eight goals and 10 assists.

Ted O'Brien leads the Metros with 12 and 12 assists (24 points) and Kirk Swanson has seven goals and 14 assists (21 points). Mick Emerick and Bob Batcheller have collected 10 goals apiece and Steve Erps has rammed home 11 goals.

The Metros goalies are Juha Seipajarvi and Brett Kieler. Seipajarvi, a foreign exchange student from Finland who is attending Sioux City West, has a 5-6 record and a 4.19 goals against average. Kieler is 3-4 with a 6.00 goals against mark.

Waterloo Columbus has dominated the previous seven state tournaments. The Sailors won the first three titles, then Dowling won before Columbus returned to the throne room the past two years.

Movies

Riviera I: Tootsie — 7:15, 9:30.
Cinema II: Homework — 1:30, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40,