

Metros reach state finals

MASON CITY, Iowa — Sparked by the play of its No. 3 line, the Sioux City Metros whipped Waterloo Public 4-2 here Saturday afternoon in the semifinals of the Iowa High School Hockey League tournament.

The victory puts the Metros into the title game at 3:30 p.m. Sunday against West Des Moines Dowling/Valley, a 4-2 upset winner over regular-season champion Waterloo Columbus.

Despite being outshot 20-15 and having its top line not scoring, the Metros came up with three goals from the unit of Mark Graber, Tracy Brunken and Brett Austin.

Sioux City's first score was an unassisted goal by Chris Swanson at 1:37 of the first period.

At 3:17 Graber, a senior at Sergeant Bluff-Luton High School,

scored on a power play to make it 2-0. After Waterloo's Brandon Bunker cut the lead in half at 4:32, Austin, a sophomore from East, restored the two-goal edge at 10:00.

Bunker got the only goal of the middle stanza to draw the Warriors within 3-2.

But, in the final period Graber picked up his second score at 7:33 to close out the scoring. Brunken, a freshman at East who started the year with the junior varsity team, assisted on Sioux City's last three goals.

Today's championship game will be the fourth meeting of the season between the Metros and Dowling/Valley. Sioux City won the first two games and D/V prevailed in the regular season windup Feb. 20 in Sioux City.

Late Friday night Dowling/Valley beat Mason City 5-3 and Waterloo Columbus topped Urbandale 8-1. Saturday Mason City, the defending champion, nudged Ames 2-1.

The two Waterloo schools will clash for third-place honors at 1 p.m. today.

Summary

First period: 1, Sioux City — Chris Swanson (unassisted) 1:37. 2, Sioux City — Mark Graber (Tracy Brunken, Brett Austin) 3:17. 3, Waterloo — Brandon Bunker (Jeff Frazee, Chad McFarland) 4:32. 4, Sioux City — Austin (Brunken) 10:00. *Penalties:* Bunker, W, 2:15; Frazee, W, 7:30; Swanson, SC, 11:16.

Second period: 5, Waterloo — Bunker (Robb Hall) 3:13. *Penalties:* Frerichs, SC, 4:47; McFarland, W, 14:30; Keith, SC, 14:30.

Third period: 6, Sioux City — Graber (Brunken) 7:33. *Penalties:* Conradi, W, 4:40; Bunker, W, 6:57.

Score by periods:

Waterloo.....	1	1	0	—	2
Sioux City.....	3	0	1	—	4

Shots on goal:

Waterloo.....	11	8	1	—	20
Sioux City.....	5	3	7	—	15

Goalies: David Richardson, Waterloo; Scott Patrick, Sioux City.