

# Sioux City Metros appear to have plenty of offense

By Dick Champ

Journal sports writer

The good news this season for the Sioux City Metro high school hockey team is that points may come in bunches.

And that other members of the Iowa High School Hockey League may have trouble pushing the puck past a goal which will have either Scott Patrick or Jeremy Lund standing in the crease.

Inevitably, though, there's some bad news to temper the optimism. In this case, it's a defense that's pretty much inexperienced.

The defense was hit hardest by graduation and speaking at the Metros media night at Sioux City Auditorium Thursday, Coach Jim Coyle said the team may have to play a different style this season — at least until the defense comes into its own.

"We have 12 good forwards," Coyle said, "and I think we'll score more this season. In fact, we may have to score more until the defense matures."

"By (state) tournament time I think we just may be the team to watch in this league."

Even though he's concerned about the defense, Coyle knows the larder isn't empty when it comes to holding another team off.

"I think we have the best goalie in the league (North High senior Patrick)," Coyle said. "And I'm not so sure Lund (an East High junior) isn't the second best."

Patrick, who had a goals-against average of 2.6 last season, is confident that he can get below 2.0 this season. "I went to three camps during the summer and I think I've improved," he said. "I still have to work hard on my skating, but it's coming," added Patrick who was named most valuable player in the state tourney last season.

As far as the offense is concerned, Coyle is working with five senior forwards including Kelly Goosman, who led the team in goals scored in 1986-87. The other seniors are Chris Swanson, Brian Burke, Todd Coyle and Mark Graber.

Coyle expects his lines in Saturday's home opener against Ames will

include Swanson, Goosman and Burke, Graber, Chad Allen and Brett Austin, Ross Van Rooyan, Todd Coyle, Burke Lake and Shane Keith. In addition, junior varsity players Tracy Brunken, Tyler Solma and T.J. Reinsch may also see extended duty with the "big" team.

Graber, a running back at Sergeant Bluff-Luton High School, just received a doctor's clearance this week to return to activity. The thin blond suffered a dislocated shoulder in the next-to-last game of the regular season and has been out of action for four weeks.

"It's still stiff," Graber said of the injured wing, "and the inactivity has left me somewhat out of shape. I'd say I'm probably about 75 to 80 percent of full speed right now, but I'm ready to give it a try."

Defensively, though, the only senior is Mark Post, a converted forward. He'll be joined by junior Dirk Richou and sophomores Dale Frerichs, Bert Post (Mark's brother) and Tim McCormick.

Coyle was pleased with the 1-1-1 record the Metros posted in an IHSHL jamboree at Mason City last weekend. "We left the five senior forwards and Patrick at home," Coyle said. "I know what they can do, I'm not sure about some of the younger players. And I thought we played pretty well."

The 16-player varsity squad includes six athletes from North (Patrick, the Posts, Goosman, Coyle and Keith), four from East (Frerichs, Austin, Van Rooyan and Lund), three from West (Swanson, Richou and Burke), two from South Sioux City (Lake and Allen) and one each from Heelan (McCormick) and Sergeant Bluff-Luton (Graber).

## The Metros Schedule

Starting times are for varsity games. Junior varsity contests precede them by two hours, except where noted. Home games are at Sioux City Auditorium.

**November:** 21 — Ames, 3 p.m.

**December:** 5 — at Ames, 8 p.m. (JV 6:30); 6 — at Urbandale, 5:45 p.m. (JV 11:30 a.m.); 11 — Waterloo Public, 8 p.m. 12 — Waterloo Public, 3 p.m. 19 — at Urbandale, 7 p.m. (JV 9:15 p.m.); 20 — at West Des Moines Valley/Dowling, 5:45 p.m. (JV, 8:15 p.m.).

**January:** 9 — Mason City, 8 p.m. 10 — Mason City, 2:15 p.m. 15 — at Waterloo Columbus, 7:30 p.m. (JV 5:45 p.m.); 16 — at Mason City, 8 p.m. (JV 6:30 p.m.); 23 — Urbandale, 8 p.m. 29 — at Waterloo Public, 7:30 p.m. (JV 5:45 p.m.); 30 — at Ames, 8 p.m. (JV 6:30 p.m.); 31 — at West Des Moines Valley/Dowling, 4:15 p.m. (JV 8:15 p.m.).

**February:** 13 — Waterloo Columbus, 3 p.m. 14 — Waterloo Columbus, 1 p.m. 20 — West Des Moines Valley/Dowling, 3 p.m.