State champion Metros play tonight

The Sioux City Metros high school hockey team, which won the state championship last year, opens its 1991-92 campaign tonight with an Iowa High School Hockey League game against the Omaha Gladiators in Omaha.

Paceoff time for the varsity game is 7:30 p.m. followed by a 9:45 p.m. junior varsity

contest.

The Metros will also play in Omaha on Sunday against the Omaha Lancers. Junior varsity action begins at noon with the varsity game slated for a 2 p.m. start.

Returning this season from last years state championship team are Dan Davies, Ryan Miller, Jesse Monell, goalie Jesse Basarich, Cory Roberts, Jerry Pospeshil and Landon Blatchford.

The Metros will also have two foreign exchange students on the squad. Kari Poykio is a defenseman from Finland and Jesper Kilander is a right winger from Sweden.

Kids coming up from the junior varsity team to play with the Metros are Taylor Schramm,

Terry Reeves, T.J. Juon, Shane Yingst, and backup goalies Matt Sewalson and Chad Stewart.

Chad Hine, who played hockey up until the time he was a squirt and then quit to play basketball, is returning to play with the Metros

this season.

Coach Dave Davies says the Metros have a good chance to repeat as state champions. "Last year was our first state championship," Davies said, "and it would be nice to repeat, especially since the state high school tourney will be in Sioux City."

The tournament will be held at the Sioux City Auditorium next Feb. 27, 28, 29 and

March 1.

The Metros had four of the top 10 scorers in the league last year, and had a record of 25-3-1, including tournament play.

Davies is in his fourth season as coach of the Metros, and Scott Patrick, a goalie for the Metros from 1984-88, is coach of the junior varsity team and assistant varsity coach.