

Metros collect state crown

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Mikael Sundelin and Sami Heino, who shared the most valuable player award, combined for five goals and five assists Sunday to lead the Sioux City Metros to an 8-1 win over the Omaha Gladiators in the Iowa High School Hockey League's post-season tournament championship game.

The two foreign exchange students were the leading scorers on a Sioux City team that finished the season 24-6.

Sunday, Sundelin, from Sweden, had a three-goal hat trick and two assists, while Heino, from Finland, had two goals and three assists. Sundelin attends East High School and Heino is a senior at Akron-Westfield High School.

The Metros entered the Sunday title game as heavy favorites since they'd outscored the Gladiators in two recent meetings, 17-0 and 6-1.

In the 17-0 regular-season win over the Gladiators, Sundelin and Heino each had eight-point games with Sundelin getting six goals and Heino seven assists.

Sioux City's T.J. Juon opened the scoring with a first-period goal for the Metros, then Coach Jim Peck's state champions registered seven straight goals in the second period.

Sundelin, Heino and Juon, who had two goals Sunday, were named to the all-state team and teammates Mark Doren, Josh Strong, Seth Schramm and Dirk Worner were named honorable mention.

Worner and fellow goaltender, Matt Sewalson, allowed just five goals in three tournament victories.

Sundelin, Heino and Mike Stoneburg were also selected to the Iowa all-star team that will play in the Chicago Showcase Tournament later this spring.

In other games Sunday, Ames beat last year's champion, West Des Moines Valley-Dowling in the third-place contest, 5-3; the Omaha Junior Lancers beat Mason City in the fifth-place game, 6-4, and Waterloo nicked Dubuque in the seventh-place game, 5-3.

"We were hoping to play Valley-Dowling in the finals since they beat in the championship game last year," said Peck, the Metros coach, "but they got upset by the Gladiators and that took a lot of the excitement out of the finals.

"The game was over after two periods and people started leaving.

"We just had too much firepower for Omaha."

Nate Kelly also had a goal for the Metros, while Stoneburg had three assists and Mark Doren, Juon and Kelly an assist each.

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Heino

Sundelin

"I'm extremely proud of the way this team developed and improved. To be honest with you, I really didn't think we'd be all that good when the season started."

— Coach Jim Peck

this team developed and improved," said Peck. "To be honest with you, I really didn't think we'd be all that good when the season started.

"But these kids showed improvement every practice and every game. It might not have been flashy all the time, but the plain, simple fact was, they won.

"I had a great deal of fun coaching this group. It was great to see them end up with the championship."

The Metros won the IHSHL post-season tournament for the third time in four years.

Summary

First period: 1, Sioux City — T.J. Juon (Nate Kelly) 13:48. Penalties: None.

Second period: 2, Sioux City — Mikael Sundelin (Mike Stoneburg, Sami Heino) 0:51, 3, Sioux City — Kelly (Mark Doren, Juon) 6:29, 4, Sioux City — Sundelin (Heino, Stoneburg) 7:22, 5, Sioux City — Juon (unassisted) 8:20, 6, Sioux City — Heino (Sundelin) 9:42, 7, Sioux City — Heino (Stoneburg, Sundelin) 13:08. Penalties: Lacina, O, 2:22; Strong, SC, 8:50; Perell, O, 13:44.

Third period: 8, Sioux City — Sundelin (Heino) 2:44, 9, Omaha — Ryan Perell (Todd Lacina, Dave Gonnion) 6:02. Penalties: Doren, SC, 3:25; Strong, SC, 4:41; Jaynes, SC, 8:15; Gonnion, O, 13:59; Stoneburg, SC, 13:59; Omaha bench, 15:00.

Score by periods:

Sioux City	1	7	0	—	8
Omaha Gladiators	0	0	1	—	1

Shots on goal:

Sioux City	12	19	12	—	43
Omaha Gladiators	7	2	8	—	17

Goaltenders: Brian Nelson, Omaha; Dirk Worner, Sioux City, 30:00; Matt Sewalson, Sioux City, 15:00.

Referee: Ian Campbell. Linesmen: Al Stoltz, Al Donaldson.

Attendance: 300