

Metros debut at home



By Steven Allspach
Journal sports writer

Jim Peck hopes youth will serve his Sioux City Metros hockey team well in 1993-94.

Plus, a tried and true Metros staple, the skating skills of foreign exchange students.

The Metros make their home debut in Iowa High School Hockey League play tonight against Ames at Municipal Auditorium and there'll be just three seniors on the squad, including Sami Heino and Mikael Sundelin.

Heino, who attends Akron-Westfield High School, is from Finland, and Sundelin, who attends West High School, is from Sweden.

"Both of those guys are accomplished goal scorers and have adapted very well to our style of play," said Peck, in his first season as Metros head coach.

Peck, a Sioux City Musketeer standout in the old professional days of the United States Hockey League, playing in Sioux City from 1974-78, served as an assistant coach to Dave Davies last season.

The new coach got his team off to a flying start last weekend, winning two road games against St. Joseph, Mo.

Last season, when the Metros posted a 16-11 record and had their two-year IHSHL state championship reign ended in the state tournament title game by Des Moines, 8-4, two of top four scorers on the team were foreign exchange students.

Daniel Thonestad had 22 goals and 35 points and Kimmo Kukkonen had 17 goals and 27 points.

Heino and Sundelin are expected to help fill the skates of high scoring Daniel Davies, Eric

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Metros (clockwise from bottom right) Matt Sewalson, Mike Stoneburg, Josh Strong and Coach Jim Peck hope to return Iowa prep hockey title to Sioux City. (Staff photo by Ed Porter).

Goaltending looks to be team strength

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Rubel and Landon Blatchford, who graduated. Davies had 20 goals and 42 points last season, Rubel 16 goals and 37 points and Blatchford eight goals and 25 points.

Foreign exchange students Jesper Kilander (28 goals, 52 points) and Karri Poykio (7 goals, 26 points) were two of the leading scorers on the 1992 Metros state championship squad.

"One of the major reasons I took the job is the challenge and opportunity of working with a very young team," said Peck. "Our major weaknesses right now are defense and lack of discipline.

"But these guys are so willing to listen and learn. We've just got to go over the basic fundamentals every time we practice, but you see great strides of improvement every time we practice and that's especially gratifying."

One of the basic strengths of the 1993-94 team will be goaltending.

Veteran Matt Sewalson, an East junior, and promising newcomer Dirk Worner, a freshman at North, are vying for the No. 1 net-minding job.

"Right now, both guys have looked good and we'll probably alternate until someone steps forward," said Peck.

Sewalson was 6-7-0 last season, allowing 50 goals and making 228 saves.

Other experienced hands returning are defenseman Seth Schramm, Josh Strong Aaron Olsen and Garrett Heyns and forwards Mike Stoneburg, T.J. Juon and Mark Doren.

Defenseman Chris Hedquist suffered a knee injury in a pre-season game in Omaha and will be out of action for at least six weeks.

Among the varsity newcomers showing promise are forwards Andrew Dooley, Nate Loe, Mike

Cramer and Sam Kincaid.

Kincaid, a sophomore at Homer, Neb., High School, has shown surprising improvement according to Peck.

The Metros scored 113 goals during a 14-10 regular season in '92-93, but the graduated Davies, Rubel, Thonestad, Kukkonen and Blatchford accounted for 83 of them.

Doren is the leading returning scorer, collecting six goals and 11 points last season. Juon had two goals and 10 points, Schramm two goals and eight points and Stoneburg four goals and eight points.

Strong and Hedquist each had a goal in limited varsity action.

"Despite our inexperience, our play in the offensive zone has been very good," said Peck. "We're doing a good job in the corners and we've been patient with the puck."

After tonight's home opener (8 o'clock) the Metros return to Municipal Auditorium ice Sunday afternoon (3 o'clock) to host Waterloo.

Junior varsity games will be played at 6:15 p.m. Friday and 1:15 p.m. Sunday.

Clay Wiffen and Jeff Gray will serve as varsity assistants to Peck and Tracy Brunken will coach the junior varsity squad.

Metros Roster

Seniors: Sami Heino, Akron-Westfield, 6-1, 170; Mikael Sundelin, West, 6-6, 150; Shane Yrge, North, 6-1, 185.
Juniors: Mark Bukovich, Landon-Bronson, 5-11, 165; Zac Boland, East, 5-10, 190; Seth Schramm, East, 5-11, 160; Davy Meyers, South Sioux City, 5-6, 115; Chris Hedquist, South Sioux City, 5-8, 135; Mark Doren, West, 5-10, 145; Josh Strong, Jefferson, S.D., 5-10, 185; Aaron Olson, North, 6-0, 180; Ron Lawson, East, 6-1, 170; Nate Kelly, East, 5-7, 130; Mike Cramer, East, 6-1, 165; Nate Loe, North, 5-8, 145; Derrick Ames, West, 5-8, 145; Andrew Dooley, North, 5-7, 155; Mike Carson, East, 5-11, 175; T.J. Juon, North, 5-8, 170; Jon Burgo, North, 5-9, 175; Matt Sewalson, East, 6-1, 190; Garret Heyns, North, 5-7, 150; Robert Jaynes, North, 5-10, 160; Nick Lov, North, 5-8, 140; Chris Galvano, North, 5-0, 195.
Sophomores: Ned Kennedy, The Mars, 5-10, 150; Casey Walker, Akron-Westfield, North, 5-10, 170; Jared Berg, Akron-Westfield, 5-10, 165; Austin Bass, South Sioux City, 5-10, 145; Mike Stoneburg, North, 5-9, 150; J.J. Arthur, 5-8, 145; Sam Kincaid, Homer, Neb., 5-9, 155; Jason Jorlano, East, 5-8, 130.
Freshmen: Joel Larson, Heelan, 5-8, 150; Jason Augustine, Heelan, 5-8, 130; Mark Mungler, North, 5-7, 130; Dirk Worner, North, 6-3, 160.