

Metros open home portion of season in IHSHL contest against Lincoln

The Sioux City Metros, who opened their 1998-99 season with a pair of victories at St. Joseph, Mo., start the home portion of their campaign today.

The Metros, who won the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament last season, play Lincoln at 5 p.m. today and at 11 a.m. Sunday. Both games, which will be followed by junior varsity games, will be at the IBP Ice Center. Sioux City, in fact, will play all its home games on the new ice sheet this season.

Sioux City remains the only Iowa team in the West Division of the-IHSHL. The Metros finished second to the Omaha Gladiators in the West last year. The Omahans were 19-7-0 in the regular season. The Metros finished 18-8-0. East Division champion Des Moines had the loop's best mark, 19-6-1.

Former Musketeer Walt Johnson is again the Metros' coach and he's looking for an improved squad.

Kyle Worner heads what Johnson refers to as the "North line." Worner, a senior at North High, led the

team in both goals and assists last season. He flashed the red light 23 times and added 24 assists for 47 points.

He's joined on that line by fellow Stars Jeff Kemper and Brent Sanders. Sanders had 14 goals and 14 assists for his 28 points and Kemper tallied 28 on 11 goals and 17 assists. They also are seniors.

Senior forward Greg Gill from Heelan had 12 goals and 22 points last season and sophomore defenseman Dustin White from East wound up with 14 points. The young Metro defense also includes sophomore Brian Swanson from North, sophomore Brandon Lake from South Sioux City and junior Travis Yingst from West.

Senior goalie Jake Hindermann was named most valuable player in the 1998 state tournament. The East High student was 14-8 last season and had a save percentage of .886.

Johnson said one of the goals for this season is to cut down on penalties. The Metros had 590 penalty minutes last season. Only St. Joseph, Mo., with 612, had more penalty minutes.