

Griffons hockey team falls to Little Cyclones

By **BRETT MILLER**
St. Joseph News-Press

Sometimes it's difficult to get going in the morning.

Sunday, with a 7 a.m. start, the Ames (Iowa) Little Cyclones needed a period to warm up.

After falling behind by one goal early in the game, the Cyclones scored three in the second period to defeat the St. Joseph Griffons, 4-3, and take seventh place in the Iowa High School Hockey League Varsity Tournament at Bode Ice Arena.

Ames tied the game early in the second when Steve Huebsch scored the first of his two goals in the period. John O'Connell scored the third goal. Ames out-shot St. Joseph 20-2 in the second period.

"The boys played well," St. Joseph coach Richard Creal said. "Early-morning games like this, it's hard to get your feet moving."

It seemed like the Griffons got

warmed up first. Matt Mooney fed Kyle Meier for a goal less than one minute into the game to give the Griffons a 1-0 lead. But they didn't score again until the third period.

Michael Watkins assisted Mike Churchill early in the third period to close to within one, but less than a minute later, Ames scored another goal to expand its lead to 4-2.

"If we would have played the other two periods like we played the third, we probably would have come out on top," St. Joseph's Rob Lane said.

Lane scored another Griffon goal later in the third.

"Chris Buckles passed it out to me and I shot," Lane said. "The goalie was down and the net was open."

The Sioux City Metros won the tournament by defeating the Kansas City Junior Blades in double overtime.

With the game tied 2-2 late in the second overtime period,

Metro's Brant Mozak slide one in the corner of the goal for the victory and tournament title.

"It was one of those fluke shots," Mozak said. "I shot it at the corner and it hit a couple of skates and went in. Anybody could have put it in. It just happened to be me."

Sioux City jumped ahead by two goals early in the match, but the Blades took advantage of two power plays within the last ten minutes of regulation to tie the game up at two.

"We got up by two and kind of took it easy," Mozak said. "We started to play selfish, and Kansas City came back."

Kansas City's Billy Palmer was the tournament MVP. Palmer scored both of the Blades third period goals in the championship game. Blades goalie Dennis Soetaert won the Silver glove award for the top goalie in the tournament.



NAL LAWSON JR./St. Joseph News-Press

Sioux City Metros goalie Jake Hindermann moves to save a shot Sunday afternoon at the Bode Ice Arena during the championship game of the Iowa High School Hockey League Varsity Tournament.