

## HOCKEY

# Road-weary Blues open at home tonight

**By Craig Cooper**

QUAD-CITY TIMES

The Quad-City Blues should have the blues just from playing on the road.

The high school hockey team finally will play a home game tonight, against Dubuque, after opening the season with six road games.

Jason Mucciarone's team will be trying to improve on a 1-5 start and extend a winning streak of one. The Blues beat Kansas City 5-4 on Sunday for their first victory of the season.

Faceoff for the varsity game is set for 7:45 p.m. at the Quad-

City Sports Center. The junior varsity teams play at 6 p.m.

The Blues also host Dubuque on Friday, with the junior varsity game at 6:30 and the varsity game at 8:15.

Mucciarone said he likes the way his players have responded this season, but until last weekend they didn't have anything to show for their play.

"I think we're better than last season, when we went 9-24. Our chemistry as a team is better than last season, and I think our skill level is higher than it was last year," Mucciarone said. "I think we're coming together

as a team."

Austin Busch is the team's leading scorer with six goals and three assists. He has a pair of power-play goals.

Mike Depa, who is from Omaha, Neb., but is playing in the Quad-Cities this year, is expected to get the start at goaltender for the Blues. Dan Wolak, the other varsity goaltender, is injured.

The Blues typically attract home crowds of several hundred. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children.

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