

Hockey

Blues erase three-goal deficit to advance

DES MOINES — The Quad-City Blues scored six unanswered goals Friday in the second and third period to down the Kansas City Outlaws 7-4 in the first round of the Midwest High School Hockey League Championships.

"Kansas City had us down 4-1 midway through the second period but then had some bad penalties and we were able to rally and pick it up," said Blues coach Nick White.

The team's leading scorer Kendall Price (Riverdale High School) had a hat trick, while second-line players — Bennett Welser (Moline), Brad Teplicky (Bettendorf) and Drew Taylor (Davenport Central) — helped rally the Blues, according to White.

Welser and Taylor recently rejoined the team after being injured most of the season.

"We've gotten Welser and Taylor

back at the right time, and they've really managed to give us a spark with their play," White said.

Josh Prygon (Galesburg), Taylor, Collin DeBuysere (Geneseo) and Jeff Morris (Bettendorf) each added a goal for the Blues. Morris had three assists.

White also credited the play by the Blues goalie, Reed Festing-Smith (Bettendorf), who stopped 29 of 33 shots.

"Reed shut them down after they went up 4-1. Then our team really rallied around Reed, and I think Kansas City was shocked with our comeback and really didn't have an answer after the second period."

The Blues face Omaha in today's 2:45 p.m. contest.