Metros open season with a new attitude

By Jason Cowley Journal sports writer

Andrew Bauer and his Sioux City Metros hockey teammates are eveing a return to the Mid-

west High School Hockey League varsity state tournament.

The Metros finished just 14-17 a year ago, good for ninth in the 12team MHSHL, missing the state tournament for the first time in recent memory.

Bauer Sioux City owns a league-high six state tournament titles and five runner-up banners, all hanging at its home rink, the IBP Ice Cen-

This year's team is also christening a new leader, head coach Corey Clarks, who takes over for longtime head man Jim Peck.

The Metros open the 2007-08

season with a three-game homestand, beginning tonight when they host the Kansas City Outlaws at 8 p.m. or after a 6 p.m. junior varsity contest.

The Outlaws were the 2006-07 JV league and tournament champions.

Sioux City also plays home games Saturday and Sunday against the Des Moines Oak Leafs. the defending state varsity champions.

Peck stepped aside after 25 years of coaching in the Sioux City Youth Hockey Association.

Clarks will lean on a veteran lineup, which could include as many as 13 seniors.

A new attitude as well as a new team motto - whatever it takes - will drive this year's squad.

SEE METROS continued on page B5



from page B1

"We're as ready as we can be," said Clarks, "I believe the boys are looking forward to this whole weekend, we're ready to go."

"The schedule maker wasn't very kind to us, but we look at it as we would rather start out this way, we get the two big

"The weekend games are going to set our team as far as where we are and where we need to go."

Leading the senior crew is a trio of four-year performers in Bauer, a West High student, B.J. Jackson, a South Sioux City senior, and Jacob Wilde a North senior.

Bauer is the Metros' leading returning scorer from last year. The center scored 13 goals to go with 12 assists and 25 points. He has worked the past two seasons on the same line as Jackson (5 goals, 16 assists, 21 points) and Wilde (6-13-19) and that group will look to spark the Metros.

"I would like to see us improve as a team (as the year goes on)," said Bauer, who scored five goals with 14 points as a sophomore. "Obviously, making the state tournament would be a goal of ours."

Justin Thiele (7-6-13), Ryan Thorsland (6-5-11) and Colt Ludwig (5-2-7) are veteran forwards returning, as each played in 30 or more games a

"We have quite a few kids returning," said Bauer, "We also have some young talent to watch for."

A player Clarks has his eyes on is junior Patrick Hauswirth, who could see time at both forward and defense.

Goaltending will again be a question mark entering the season as last year's starter Donovan Convey graduated. The four returning goalies, led by North senior Josh Sachnoff, played a combined total of 470 minutes in net.

Sachnoff posted a 4-4 record with a 3.62 goals against average in 373 minutes while Lee Noel, a sophomore from Bishop Heelan, was 1-1 over 97 minutes of playing time.

Noel will get the nod tonight against Kansas City, and will be making his first career varsity start.

Noel will look to a pair of West students to anchor the blue line on defense in junior Levi Lambing and senior Zach Hagaman.

"We're trying to do a little balancing act (on the blue line)," said Clarks. "We're going to put a less experienced guy with a guy we call a stay at home defensemen.

"We've also got some guys that are offensive defensemen, who can get that shot through to the net and we have some bruisers."

The Metros play 16 of their first 23 games on the road, with just seven home games before Christmas.

Changes in the MHSHL this season include the addition of two new teams, the Kansas City Stars and the Tri-City Jr. Storm, as well as the loss of the Omaha Jr. Lancers.

A 13-team league, with each team playing the other three times, will account for a 36game schedule.

Also back in the MHSHL on the ice this season is the return of tag-up offsides. A fan familiar with watching the Sioux City Musketeers will already know tag-up offsides.

The 2008 MHSHL state tournament is February 29 through March 2 at Quad Cities.

NOX Homes, F. S.9, ToU, West, 41, Junior STML, D. SS1, 200. Sergenar Blul-Liuon; 45, Ina Ellerbeloste, D. 61, 1200. West SOPH-DMORE: 1, Les Noel, G. 5-9, 145, Bishop Healan; S. Carter Bluomeier, F. 6-0, 150, Bartop Healan; S. Alas Hindrichers, F. 5-10, 170, North 7, Wilke Symu, O. 60, 135, Diakota Valley; 21, Orns Bullock, F. 5-7, 133, North; 28, Bert Hortzonick, F. 5-8, 165, North; 21, West States, F. 6-1, 130, Bartop Healan; A. Karte Martin, F. 6-2, Gill, Bartop Healan; A. Karte Martin, G. 7-2, Gill, Bartop Healan; A. Karte Martin, G. 7-2, Gill, Gill, Bartop Healan; A. Karte Martin, G. 7-2, Gill, G. Martin, G. 7-2, Gil

96, 63, 81 (Truly, 0.3 cm.) for Sent Soc. 2016. C Outland, 54(C Outland,