

METROS HOCKEY

Metros open tourney with victory over Oak Leafs

JOURNAL STAFF

AMES, Iowa — There's extra incentive for teams playing in this weekend's Midwest High School Hockey League Tournament.

Win or go home early. The only consolation game that will be played in the three-day event is Sunday's third-place game.

Friday afternoon, the Sioux City Metros rallied from a 1-0 first-period deficit to storm past the Des Moines Oak Leafs 5-1 at Ames/ISU

Arena. Drake Beller and Connor Sand each recorded two goals for a program that opened the tournament with a triumph for the second consecutive year.

Beller, sixth in the MHSHL during the regular season with 47 points (21 goals, 26 assists), tied the game at the 5:36 mark of the

second period. Two minutes and 13 seconds later, Tanner Frerichs, the MHSHL's second-leading scorer with 65 points (26, 39), snapped the deadlock.

Beller, Frerichs and James Page form the top line that combined for 74 goals. The trio took part on Beller's third-period goal while later in the final period, Sand scored two empty-net goals about a minute and a half apart.

En route to posting their second win of the season over the Oak Leafs, Sioux City (20-7-2) enjoyed a 49-20 shots-on-goal advantage. Page, fifth in the MHSHL with 54 points (27, 27) dished two assists while Logan Visser, another veteran from last year's squad that took third place in the MHSHL Tournament, assisted on Frerichs' goal.

Winning goaltender Blake Beller had 19 saves.

Sioux City will play in the MHSHL Tournament semifinals at 2 p.m. Saturday.



Beller