

Metros roll into postseason

Weekend sweep
over Omaha gives
Metros No. 1 seed

JOURNAL STAFF

SIoux CITY — History continues to be the theme of the season for the Sioux City Metros.

Coach Dave LeGree's Metros qualified for the Midwest High School Hockey League's Year-End Tournament for the fourth straight year following a weekend sweep over the Omaha Junior Lancers at the IBP Ice Center. Chase Lewison scored a shootout goal during Saturday's 3-2 win while

goaltender Blake Beller notched his fifth shutout of the season in Sunday's 2-0 win.

The Metros, however, are going into the MHSHL Year-End Tournament for the first time as the event's top seed.

Winners of five consecutive games, LeGree's squad will take a 25-2-1 record into a 6 p.m. game this Friday against Waterloo (15-10-3) which will take place at the Ames/ISU Arena. Sioux City defeated Waterloo 7-2 on Feb. 17 at Young Arena and followed with a



Beller



Page



Werden

3-2 win the next day to conclude the weekend sweep.

The Metros, of course, hope to continue the progression that has taken place each of the last two years at the MHSHL Tournament. Several athletes on this season's squad, a group that paces the league in goals scored (120) and

goals allowed (42), played for the third-place team of 2016 and last year's tournament runner-up.

Incentive could be a factor in Friday's game. A year ago, Waterloo defeated Sioux City 2-1 in the championship game, winning its seventh overall MHSHL title and denying the Metros, who last won the tournament in 2003.

Omaha (18-9-1), the sixth-seed in the MHSHL Tournament, took a 2-1 lead on a goal from Tommy Oldenhuis with 9:59 remaining in the third period. Sioux City tied the game with 6:05 left when Kolten Kane tallied his sixth goal of the season, assisted by Drake Beller and

Walter Werden.

Werden and James Page had assisted two minutes into the contest on Drake Beller's goal that gave Sioux City a 1-0 lead. Overall, Sioux City had a 41-20 shots on goal advantage.

Blake Beller had 18 saves. He also stopped three Omaha shots during the shootout.

Blake Beller, who has played in each of the Metros' 28 games this season, improved his goals-against average to 1.45 and his save percentage to .926 following Sunday morning's win. Beller, who's 38-11-3 in his three varsity

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Metros™

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seasons, had never recorded a shutout until this season.

Page scored both of Sioux City's goals, which came 21 seconds apart in the sec-

ond period. Max Beller and Drake Beller turned in assists on Page's power play goal at the 13:52 mark while Drake Beller and de-

fenseman Grant Newman assisted on the next goal, Page's 31st of the season.

Omaha outshot the Metros, 29-28.