

Metros earn trip to nationals

Sioux City enters
state tournament
as the top seed

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The Sioux City Metros enter the Midwest High School Hockey League's postseason varsity tournament Friday as the top seed by virtue of finishing as the regular season champion.

The Metros, comprised of players from several schools in the Sioux City area, won a team-record 28 games this season, finishing with a 28-4-0-0 record, one point ahead of second-place Des Moines Oak Leafs.



Solma

As the top team in Iowa, the Metros automatically qualifies for USA Hockey National High School Division II championships, March 20-24, in West Chester, Pa. It's Sioux City's first appearance at nationals since the Metros won the tournament in 2018.

But, first, Sioux City will seek to repeat as the Midwest High School Hockey League state champions.

As the top seed, the Metros will play #8 Ames in the quarterfinals at

Please see **METROS**, Page C2



JESSE BROTHERS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Sioux City Metros' Blaze Bauer keeps the puck away from Lincoln's Cooper Grosserode during a Feb. 17 game at the IBP Ice Center. The Metros enter the Midwest High School Hockey League postseason tournament Friday as the top seed. The team also has qualified for the national tournament.

Metros

From C1

7:15 p.m. Friday at the MidAmerican Energy RecPlex in West Des Moines.

The winner will advance to a semifinal contest at 3:30 p.m. Saturday against either Kansas City or Quad City. #4 KC and #5 QC play at 1:45 p.m. Friday.

In the other half of the bracket, #2 Des Moines Oak Leafs faces #7 Dubuque in a quarterfinal at 11 a.m., while #3 Omaha meets #6 Waterloo in a quarterfinal at

4:30 p.m.

The championship game for the varsity bracket is set for noon Sunday.

The Metros junior varsity also will compete in the state tournament for the first time since 2015. The JV team has not won state since 1992.

The No. 2 seed, the Metros JV drew a bye in the first round. The team will face the winner of Waterloo vs Lincoln at 10:15 a.m. Saturday. Omaha is the No. 1 seed in the JV tournament.

It's been a record-breaking season for the varsity team. Se-

nior forward Nate Solma, who broke the Metros' career goals scored record earlier this month, finished second in the MHSHL with 37 goals this season.

Sophomore Cameron Patrick led the league in wins with 28, setting a new single season record.

Head coach Jesse Monell also set a new mark for most wins.

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