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Sioux City's Nate Solma drives toward the goal against Lincoln in a Feb. 17 game. Solma scored three goals Friday in the Metros' 9-1 win over the Greenville (S.C.) Road Warriors in the USA Hockey Division II National Championship Tournament. The Metros advanced to the quarterfinals Saturday vs. the Omaha Jr. Lancers.

Metros reach quarterfinals

Sioux City dominates opponent at nationals for second straight day

DAVE DREESZEN
ddreeszen@siouxcityjournal.com

WEST CHESTER, Penn. — Claiming a spot in the quarterfinals of the USA Hockey Division II National Championship Tournament., the Sioux City Metros drubbed the Greenville (S.C.) Road Warriors 7-1 Friday to finish pool play unbeaten.

The Metros will face the Omaha Jr. Lancers at 9:15 a.m. Central Saturday in West Chester, Penn. With a win, Sioux City would advance to the semifinals around 5 p.m. Central.

The championship game will be Sunday.

For the second straight day, the Metros dominated their pool play opponents.

Sioux City jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead on a power play goal from Hunter Echter, assisted by Noah Dirkschneider. Grant Harder then fed Nate Solma for his first goal with 13:53 left in the



Solma

first. A tip from Karson Fitch, assisted by Dirkschneider and Ryan Hedquist, increased the lead to 3-0 with 5:42 remaining in the period. Greenville's lone goal, with 34.4 left in the first, cut the deficit to 3-1 at the first intermission.

A rocket from Hedquist from the point, assisted by Solma, put the Metros up 4-1 with 12:37 left in the second period. Solma added a back-handed goal about a minute later, assisted by Cam Patrick and Fitch.

A Jackson Pinney goal, assisted by Caiden Patrick and Tegan Doelman, gave Sioux City a 6-1 lead with 8:38 left in the second. Solma's third goal came with 4:05 left in the second, with helping hands from Hedquist.

The lead grew to 8-1 on a goal by Riley Ebner, assisted by Blake Dunagan, with 3:40 left in the third. Doelman closed out the scoring for the Metros with a goal with 2:16 remaining. Sophomore

goalie Cam Patrick picked up his third win of the tournament. Solma, who became the Metros' all-time leading goal scorer this season, has scored eight goals in the last two games, including three in Friday's win and five in Thursday's 17-1 drubbing of Wheeling (W.Va.) Central Catholic. Harder, a senior defenseman, had three goals against Wheeling, while Noah Graham, Bauer and Dirkschneider had two each, and Demetrios Tsiobanos, Fitch and Doelman had one apiece.

Sioux City won the NHL division with a 3-0 record. The Omaha Jr. Lancers finished 2-1 pool play in the Liberty division, who was won by the Gillette (Wy.) Grizzlies with a 3-0 mark.

The Metros, who won a team-record 28 games in the Midwest High School Hockey League this season, are making their first appearance at nationals since winning it all in 2018.

Dave Dreeszen is the managing editor for the Sioux City Journal. Contact him at ddreeszen@siouxcityjournal.com or 712-293-4211