

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY SIOUX CITY METROS

Sioux City Metros fall in national semifinals

JOURNAL STAFF

ANAHEIM, CALIF. — After a thrilling comeback in the quarterfinals, the Sioux City Metro's back-to-back USA Hockey national title hopes came to an end against the Rushmore Thunder (SD) in the Saturday's semifinals.

Sioux City was overpowered by the Thunder in a 3-1 loss at Great Park Ice & FivePoint Arena in Anaheim, California, to end its run for a second consecutive national title. The Muskies fell behind 2-0 in the opening 26 minutes of their semifinal matchup and got on board late in the second period with a power play score from Hunter Echter.

Following Echter's momentary surge of momentum was all the Metros could muster up, as they were held scoreless in the final period. Rushmore added a goal with five second left in Saturday's matchup and would eventually take the national 2A crown with a 6-2 win over the Warriors Hockey Club (IL).

Metro's goalie Cameron Patrick saved 35 of the 38 shots sent his way. Sioux City finished the game with just 18 shots taken, with Echter's lone goal in the second period being the only one that got past Brody Lee.

Sioux City clinched its matchup against the Thunder after a wild comeback in overtime of the national quarterfinals to defeat the Screaming Eagles (CO).

With a 4-1 deficit in the 10th minute of the third period, the Metros stared at what seemed to an unthinkable deficit to overcome. But thanks to multiple penalties called against the Screaming Eagles, Sioux City stormed back.

Kicked off by a score from Tegan Doelman, followed by back-to-back goals from Echter in the final seven minutes, the Metros took advantage of their power play opportunities to push their quarterfinal matchup into overtime.

With eight minutes left in overtime, Doelman sealed Sioux City's spot in the national semifinals. The forward slashed his second goal of Saturday morning's matchup, capping off the Metro's thrilling comeback.

Sioux City finished its season with a Midwest High School Hockey League championship and will lose 11 seniors from its national semifinalist roster.