

US HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Metros go 2-1 in pool play

SC's Hedquist, Patrick
among top performers

JOURNAL STAFF

IRVINE, Calif. — After two consecutive 5-0 victories started the Sioux City Metros hockey team off on the right foot at the Class 2A US High School Hockey National Championships, the team fell in its final game of pool play on Friday.

While the two wins were enough to get Sioux City through pool play and the keep's season will continue this weekend, the Metros fell to the Pinnacle Pioneers (Ariz.), 3-1, on Friday at Great Park Ice Rink in Irvine, Calif., to conclude its three-game pool play.

Sioux City (2-1-0) took an early lead when Hunter Etcher scored the game's first goal on an assist by Brody Herman five minutes into the contest.

Pinnacle (3-0-0) evened it in the second with a Mason Knaffla goal (Cooper Omahoney assist). That came in nearly seven minutes into the second period and stood as the only score of the middle stanza as the teams went into the third period knotted at one goal apiece.

The Pioneers secured the win with two goals in the third: a short-handed, unassisted Alexander Ihling goal and Logan Chytka empty-netter on assists by Knaffla and Ihling.

The game saw five penalties called, all two-minute minors, with the Pioneers committing three of those.

Sioux City goaltender Cameron Patrick made 26 saves and allowed two goals while Pinnacle's Mark Michelson stopped 23 of 24 Sioux City shots on goal.

As the Metros finished pool play, Sioux City's Ryan Hedquist ranked first among all players in Class 2A with eight total points scored (one goal, seven assists). Tegan Doelman also ranked in the top five in player scoring as he tallied six points (three goals, three assists). Patrick's 96.4% save percentage ranked third among Class 2A goalies at the end of pool play.

Sioux City ended pool play with 11 total goals scored against three allowed. Of team's that completed all three pool play games by press time on Friday, Sioux City had the second-fewest penalty minutes (22).

The Muskies finished second behind Pinnacle in Class 2A's USA division. Matchups for this weekend weren't available at press time.

Sioux City 5, Keller 0

The Metros beat Keller (Tex.) on Thursday by the same 5-0 final they started the Class 2A US High School National Championship hockey tournament with on Wednesday in a win over Saint Joseph's (Ind.).

Sioux City's Tegan Doelman went for a hat trick as he scored three straight times between the end of the first period and start of the third.

Doelman's first came with four minutes remaining in the first period as he was assisted by Noah Dirkschneider and Ryan Hedquist.

It capped off an opening period that saw Sioux City go for 12 shots to Keller's two, and the Metros took a 2-0 lead into the second period after Noah Dirkschneider got the scoring started with a power play goal 5 1/2 minutes into the contest.

Doelman and Hedquist assisted on the Dirkschneider score.

With under 40 seconds left in the second, Doelman scored his second goal, again assisted by Dirkschneider and Hedquist.

The final goal of Doelman's hat trick occurred 5 1/2 minutes into the final frame as Hedquist.

Hockey

From C1

Karson Fitch also assisted on the third Doelman goal, then Fitch added a goal of his own with under three minutes left as Hedquist recorded his seventh assist in the two games Sioux City (2-0-0) has played at nationals.

Doelman had a busy — and active — game as he also committed two of Sioux City's six penalties, compared to the five committed by Keller (all 11 penalties were two-minute minors).

In goal, Cameron Patrick pitched his second shutout of the tournament as he was in goal all 51 minutes and stopped all 12 shots Keller (0-2-0) put on goal.

Comparatively, Sioux City put 37 shots on Keller goalie Kole Prevratil.

Sioux City 5, Saint Joseph's 0

The defending champions are back to defend the crown.

The Sioux City Metros hockey team is back at the high school Class 2A USA Hockey National Championships after winning the tournament last season in Pennsylvania.

This season's games are taking place in Irving, Calif., and got underway on Wednesday as games are split between Great Park Ice

Rink and Anaheim Ice Rink, and the Metros started the tournament off with a commanding 5-0 victory over Saint Joseph's (Ind.).

The Metros scored three times in the opening period and twice more in the second before clinching the win in the third.

Karson Fitch got the scoring started with a goal in the opening minutes of the game. He was assisted by Ryan Hedquist and Tegan Doelman.

The sides went over 10 minutes with Sioux City up 1-0 before the Metros added to it with a score by Brody Herman (assisted by Hunter Etcher).

Etcher added an unassisted power play goal to start the scoring in the second to put the Metros up 4-0 as Blake Dunagan scored a Hedquist-assisted goal in the final minute of the first.

Midway through the third, Hedquist added a goal of his own as he was assisted by Fitch and Doelman.

The Metros (1-0-0) peppered the St. Joseph's goaltender, Wyatt Amm, with 38 shots while Sioux City's Cameron Patrick posted the shutout in stopping all 17 shots he faced by the Huskies (0-1-0).

Saint Joseph's didn't do itself any favors in committing eight penalties to Sioux City's three. Those added up to 24 penalty minutes for the Huskies compared to just six for the Metros.