

Sioux City ends years of frustration, wears first IHSHL crown

By JEFF KING
Sports Editor

Three times a bridesmaid, Sioux City finally got to walk down the aisle Sunday afternoon

Riding an explosive offense and the near flawless goaltending of Jeff Brogan, Sioux City captured its first-ever Iowa High School Hockey League championship by blasting Dubuque 8-1 at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena.

The Metros, who came into the tournament as the second seed, had finished second in the state on three previous occasions, two of them coming in the last three years.

"We told the guys at the beginning of the year that finishing second has already been done," said Sioux City assistant Coach Dave LeGree.

"Sioux City has been in the league

since it started and is the only one of the original teams that hadn't won the state tournament," LeGree added.

"This has been a long time in coming," Metro head Coach Dave Davies said. "The guys came here and got the job done."

In Sunday's championship game, the Metros spotted Dubuque, the tournament's top-seeded team, a 1-0 lead on Ben Roth's first-period goal.

But Sioux City struck back quickly in the second period, scoring three times in a span of 6:40. Jesse Monell had a hand in all three tallies, the latter of which may have been the turning point in the game.

He tied the game with a goal at the 5:18 mark, then assisted Daniel Davies' goal that put the Metros on top for

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good 3:04 later

Then, with the Metros at a two-man disadvantage, Monell stole a pass at 3:40 ice, raced towards the other end, sliced through three Devil defenders and beat goalie David March for a 3-1 Sioux City lead.

"That goal, and the fourth one, broke their backs," Coach Davies said. "Jesse's goal had them scrambling and the fourth one was the killer."

Daniel Davies picked up that fourth goal, which came just 2:19 into the third period and started a flurry of Metro scoring.

T.J. Reinsch pumped in a goal at the 6:21 mark and 15 seconds later, Chris Sorum did the same. Seventy-eight seconds later, Davies slapped in his third goal of the game. Fifty-nine seconds after that, Reinsch tallied again.

Then the Metros turned it over to Brogan, who stuffed all but one of the 19 shots Dubuque fired at him.

Brogan, who was also in goal in the Metros' 8-3 semi-final round victory over Valley/Dowling, was named the state tournament's Most Valuable Player.

"I'm speechless," Brogan said. "We've worked real hard and now that we've finally got it, it's great."

Brogan got the starting nod ahead of teammate Jesse Basarich, who pitched the tournament's only shutout in blank-

ALL-STATE HOCKEY TEAM

Forwards

Andy Byrkit, Valley/Dowling; Aaron Cigrand, Dubuque, Tom Cristofani, St. Joseph; Daniel Davies, Sioux City; Andy Gericke, Waterloo; Jerry Hill, Dubuque; Nick Krueger, Valley/Dowling; Brody Linder, Ames, Ted Lowndes, Omaha Gladiators, Ben MacLennan, Waterloo; T.J. Reinsch, Sioux City, Chris Sorum, Sioux City, Dusty Stolp, Omaha Gladiators; Matt Workman, Urbandale.

Defensemen

Brian Augustine, Sioux City; Joe Baxter, Dubuque; Jamie Hoffman, Urbandale; Doug Ivester, Omaha Gladiators; Chris Kelly, St. Joseph; Chris McFarland, Waterloo; Terry Nims, Dubuque; Richard Roche, Valley/Dowling.

Goaltenders

K.C. Doland, Waterloo; Jason Garrison,

Urbandale; Kyle Geiger, Valley/Dowling.

Honorable Mention

Forwards

Folke Anger, Dubuque; Koble Boykins, Omaha Gladiators, Josh Canterbury, St. Joseph, Quinn Ernster, Waterloo; Jason Lawson, St. Joseph, Andrew LeTourneau, Valley/Dowling, Chris Poll, Valley/Dowling; Pasi Salmela, Urbandale; Ethan Scheetz, Mason City, Jason Scheer, Dubuque; Kirk Thoreson, Mason City.

Defensemen

Ryan Creal, St. Joseph, Matt Lippman, Ames, Jason Osbahr, Sioux City; Jeff Perkins, Mason City, Todd Sannings, Omaha Gladiators.

Goaltenders

Jeff Brogan, Sioux City; David March, Dubuque; Chris Winkler, Ames.

ing Mason City 5-1 in the first round.

"He's a senior and this was his last year, so I gave him the nod," said LeGree, himself a former goalie.

"It really didn't matter who we put out there, they both would have done a fine job.

"Their job this year, we knew we could score, they just had to keep us in the game."

The Metros outscored their three tournament opponents by a combined 21-4.

"I didn't expect to blow anyone out," Brogan said, "I just expected to win it."

Davies and Reinsch each had two goals in the Metros' win over Valley/Dowling Saturday. Sorum, Brian Augustine, Monell and Tracy Brunken each had one.

Nick Krueger, Andy Byrkit and Scott Hughes had goals for Valley/Dowling while goaltender Kyle Geiger had 37 saves.

Joe Baxter and Aaron Cigrand had Dubuque's goals in the Devils' 2-1 semi-final win over Waterloo.

All three goals were scored in the third period. Dubuque scored twice, then Waterloo tallied in a goal by Benji Buckley.