

# State title caps long road for Brogan, Metro skaters

By Terry Hersom  
Journal sports editor

The 180-mile trek from Ames is shorter than many trips familiar to Iowa High School Hockey League skaters, but considerably farther than the journeys of most high school sports teams.

Sunday night, the trip from Ames was merely a short hop for the Sioux City Metros, reveling in the aftermath of Sioux City's first IHSHL championship.

And, for tournament MVP Jeff Brogan and most of his teammates, 180 miles was absolutely nothing compared to the thousands of miles and thousands of hours that lay behind them.

Brogan, The Journal's Metro Athlete of the Week, has devoted more time, money and energy to his favorite sport than nearly any of his peers who invest their athletic attentions in more widely publicized sports, like football or basketball.

The road to a state championship didn't start with last Thursday's trip from Sioux City to Ames. For Brogan and for most of his teammates it started at age 5.

"I guess the basic reason I picked hockey was that my mother took me down there when I was 5 years old," said the eldest of Byron and Anna Brogan's five children. "Ever since then it's been my first love."

At age 7, Brogan found his niche on the ice, volunteering his services

## Athlete of the Week

as a goaltender.

Eleven years later, Metro coaches Dave Davies and Dave Legree were never so glad the North High senior had made this choice.

Brogan, who has shared the Metro's netminding job for two seasons with Jesse Basarich, a junior at North, drew the starting nod for Sioux City's final two games, facing Valley-Dowling and Dubuque after Basarich had posted a 5-0 first-round win Thursday night over Mason City.

Valley-Dowling scored three first period goals in Saturday's semifinals, but the game was tied after that initial 15-minute (high school rules) session. From there, the Metro took over, scoring five times while Brogan blanked their IHSHL West Division arch-rivals.

"Jeff really kept us in the game in that first period," said Davies. "He gave up three goals, but there was no way he was going to stop those shots. After that, he really made some big-time saves."

In Sunday's title game, a matchup of West Division champion Sioux City against East Division champion Dubuque, Brogan surrendered an early goal and his team fell behind 1-0 after one period.

Once again, though, the opponents scored nothing in the final 30 minutes and the Metro roared to an

8-1 victory.

"I think we won it because we were really a team," said the 5-11, 155-pound Brogan, who still wears the same gothic mask he started with at age 5, but piles up large expenses for other equipment — over \$1,500, for example, for the set of pads required as a netminder.

"We really pulled together as a team. We all know each other really well. When you get to this point, you realize this is what you've been playing hockey for."

The Metro, who finished 24-4-1, landed four players on the all-tournament team in addition to Brogan. Honored were defenseman Brian Augustine along with forwards T.J. Reinsch, Chris Sorum and Daniel Davies.

Reinsch and Sorum, seniors from Heelan and South Sioux City, respectively, were the team's top scorers for the season, followed by Davies and Jesse Monell, sophomores from Heelan and East.

Brogan posted a 12-2-1 record while his alternate, Basarich, was

## SEE SUMMERTIME continued on page A12 Special mention

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Jeremy Vortherma, East... A 6-2 senior playing the center role. Vortherma posted in career-high 23 points as Black Racers lost their final regular season contest at Fort Dodge, 81-91.

### WRESTLING

Mike Graves, Heelan... Junior backed up 130-pound state champion Tony DeArdo with fourth place finish at 119 pounds, helping Heelan place 12th in the Class 3A state tournament, higher ever by a Sioux City team.



Sioux City Metro's goalie Jeff Brogan (inset) also shows the prowess around the net which earned him Most Valuable Player honors at the Iowa

High School Hockey League state tournament in Ames. The Metro's won the state championship. (Staff photos)

## Summertime calls for soccer

from page A11

11-2-0.

Not included in this mark was Brogan's sterling performance in the annual IHSHL All-Star game. Helping his West teammates post a 6-2 win in the contest at Des Moines, Brogan worked the final period and a half, blanking the East Division standouts.

Deprived of scoring opportunities in his stressful role as a hockey goalie, Brogan still finds an opportunity to go on the offensive during the summer months, playing soccer for North High.

Already a three-year varsity performer in soccer, Brogan, a midfielder, was North's leading scorer with 15 goals last summer, helping the Stars win the Siouxland Soccer Association's post-season tournament.