

It's two down, one to go for Davies

By Terry Hersom
Journal sports editor

Dan Davies' year won't be complete, now, until he helps the Heelan High baseball team play for a state championship this summer.

Midway through his junior year, Davies has played two sports and reached state championship games in both.

Now, having started at third base last summer for the Heelan varsity baseball team, his athletic goals are understandably lofty.

The Journal's final Metro Athlete of the Week for the winter sports season earned MVP honors Sunday as his Sioux City Metros teammates repeated as champions of the Iowa High School Hockey League Tournament.

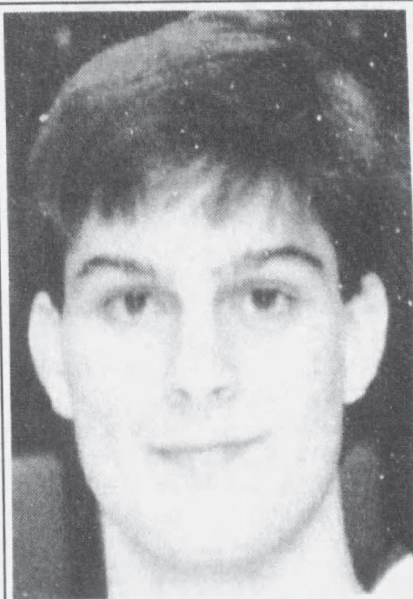
Last fall, the 6-1, 177-pounder started at cornerback and provided valuable punting and kicking contributions for a Heelan football team that lost a 6-0 cliffhanger with Bettendorf in Iowa's Class 4A state title game.

And, after garnering second-team all-state laurels as a punter, Davies appears certain to field numerous college scholarship offers next year, both as a punter and placekicker.

Hockey, meanwhile, just came naturally.

After all, Davies' dad, Dave, now the head coach of the Metros, is a

METRO ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Dan Davies
State hockey MVP

Toronto native who played collegiately at St. Louis University, then logged five seasons with the Sioux City Musketeers back in the team's semi-pro days.

Dave Davies, indeed, is destined to remain the Musketeers' all-time

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Davies dominates win over Ames in semis

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scoring leader, now that Junior A hockey limits the length of a player's stay with the United States Hockey League team.

"I'll probably never be as good as my dad in hockey, but people probably expect a lot out of me, so I have to work a little bit harder to be that much better," said Dan.

Certainly, the eldest of Dave Davies' five children worked plenty hard during the state tournament, which saw the Metros lose two of their top three scorers, Jesse Monell and Jesper Kilander, early in an opening round win over Waterloo.

"With those other guys out, I gave him an extraordinary amount of ice time — he must have been out on the ice 80- to 90-percent of the time," said Dave Davies. "I think the other players drew on that. Some of our role players really grew up almost overnight. They went from role players to all-stars."

The coach's son played left wing throughout the season, leading the Metros in total scoring, although ranking second on a points-per-game basis to Monell, who missed three games due to injuries. With linemates Monell and Kilander unavailable, though, young Davies played much of two remaining games on defense.

For all intents, he nailed down the MVP laurels in a dramatic 4-3 overtime semifinal win over upset-minded Ames, which led 3-1 with well under three minutes left to play.

Davies fired home a breakaway goal with just 2:18 left, then fed teammate Landon Blatchford for the tying score just 18 seconds later. Eric

Rubel finished off the dramatic victory, scoring the overtime game-winner.

Davies and Monell, who'll return next winter to lead the Metros' bid for an unprecedented third straight IHSHL title, may both have Division I hockey potential, according to Dave Davies.

"Dan knows what's going on, though," said the father/coach. "At this point, he realizes he's received a lot more interest (from colleges) in football than for baseball or hockey."

During Heelan's semifinal and final playoff football games, both played in the UNI-Dome at Cedar Falls, Dan Davies drew rave reviews

for booming kickoffs that pinned opposing kick returners in the end zone — an automatic touchback.

Davies was also the Sioux Interstate Conference punting leader, averaging 38.3 yards a kick, and followed up with 20 post-season punts for a 40.1-yard average.

And if the colleges didn't like all of those figures, they'll be more interested yet to learn the strong-footed youngster has never attended any kicking camps.

"He was going to attend one last summer, but it conflicted with a big weekend for the baseball team," said Dave.

Special mention

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rich Chamberlain, Heelan.... 6-3 junior forward, the SIC rebounding leader tossed in career-high 21 points, leading Heelan to title clinching win over Sioux Falls Washington.

WRESTLING

Shane Faltsys, North.... Three-time SIC champ completed 35-6 senior season with 4th-place finish at 112 pounds in state tournament, giving him 99 career wins.