

# Metros rally, reach finals

## Sioux City, Mason City clash for title

By Terry Hersom  
Journal sports editor

It wasn't "just before the dawn." Not anywhere close.

However, midway through the afternoon Saturday, it was darkest, indeed, for the Sioux City Metros, regular-season champions of the Iowa High School Hockey League and defending champs in the IHSHL's annual post-season tournament.

On Friday, the Metros had lost two-thirds of their heavy artillery when right winger Jesper Kilander suffered a season-ending injury and center Jesse Monell drew a game misconduct penalty, disqualifying him from the rest of the tournament at Sioux City Auditorium.

On Saturday, sorely missing the offensive punch these players might have provided, the Metros trailed 3-1 with less than three minutes to play against Ames, a team they'd beaten 9-6 and 16-5 during the regular season.

Ames, a Cinderella team that escaped the opening round by a double-overtime upset win over fourth-seeded West Des Moines Valley-Dowling, was on the verge of dethroning the IHSHL tourney's defending champion.

NOT. Along came Daniel Davies, racing away from a defender for a breakaway wrist shot, cutting the Ames lead to 3-2 with just 2:18 remaining in the tournament semifinal.

Then, just seconds later, there was Davies again, sliding a perfect pass to teammate Landon Blatchford, who flipped home a tying goal with exactly 2:00 on the clock.

Finally, defenseman Karri Poykio, a Heelan High exchange student from Finland, contributed his third assist of the day, feeding West High junior Eric Rubel for the game winner at 7:22 of a sudden-death overtime.

The dramatic 4-3 triumph, Sioux City's 15th in a row, sends the Metros into today's 3 p.m. championship game against third-seeded Mason City, which improved to 18-6-0 with a 6-3 win over the second-seeded Omaha Gladiators.

The Gladiators, 19-7-0, face Ames, 12-11-1, in the third-place game at noon.

For quite some time Saturday,

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Sioux City Metros teammates congratulate Cory Roberts (18) for second-period goal to open scoring in IHSHL Tournament semifinal with

Ames. Top-seeded Sioux City trailed 3-1 before scoring twice in the final 2:18, then escaped in overtime, 4-3. (Staff photo by Gary Anderson)

# Johnson has hat trick to spark Mason City

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though, the third-place game was looking like Sioux City's destination. "These kids have played a lot of hockey in tight situations and they've faced this kind of thing before," said Metros' Coach Dave Davies, father of the Heelan junior who spearheaded the come-from-behind triumph.

"Obviously, I was getting a little concerned, yeah. But it's not over till the fat lady sings and these kids knew that."

Dan Davies, a junior who played defensive back and earned all-state laurels for Heelan's Class 4A state runner-up football team last fall, was the last remaining vestige of the high-powered line that ranked first (Monell), third (Davies) and fourth (Kilander) in IHSHL regular-season scoring.

"I probably tried to do a little bit more than I should have," said the younger Davies, who shifted to defense in the first period, when senior Jade Pospesil was helped from the ice with an injury. Davies switched to center for the second period, when Pospesil returned to action, then played anywhere and everywhere in the frantic final 15 minutes.

After a scoreless first period, Sioux City's Cory Roberts finally broke the scoring ice at 13:39 (just 1:21 left) in the second session, connecting with a slapshot from the left point.

The exhilaration was short-lived, though, as Rusty Crawford of Ames, who'd scored the overtime game-winner against Valley-Dowling, matched Roberts' goal just 15 seconds later with nearly an identical shot.

Jay Greenfield's perfect pass was flipped home for the go-ahead goal by Ames' Deron Hagerberg at 1:51 of the third period.

A.J. Sanders, a Fort Dodge High School student who commutes to Ames to play hockey, gave the Little Cyclones their 3-1 cushion at 7:21,

medial collateral ligament in his right knee, an injury that will require surgery once the hockey season ends.

## IHSHL TOURNAMENT

### AT SIOUX CITY AUDITORIUM

#### THURSDAY'S GAMES

- Game 1: Waterloo 3, Omaha Junior Lancers 2
- Game 2: Mason City 6, Dubuque 3

#### FRIDAY'S GAMES

- Game 3: Omaha Gladiators 9, St. Joseph 7
- Game 4: Ames 8, Valley-Dowling 8 (2 o.t.)
- Game 5: Sioux City 6, Waterloo 2
- Game 6: Junior Lancers 5, Valley-Dowling 3
- Game 7: Dubuque 6, St. Joseph 3

#### SATURDAY'S GAMES

- Game 8: Dubuque 4, Waterloo 1
- Game 9: Mason City 6, Omaha Gladiators 3
- Game 10: Sioux City 4, Ames 3 (ot)
- Game 11: Valley-Dowling 8, St. Joseph 9, loser eliminated

#### SUNDAY'S GAMES

- 7 a.m. (Game 12): Valley-Dowling (17-10-0) vs. Waterloo (8-19-0), 7th place
- 9:30 a.m. (Game 13): Omaha Junior Lancers (4-21-1) vs. Dubuque (10-14-1), 8th place
- Noon (Game 14): Omaha Gladiators (19-7-0) vs. Ames (12-11-1), 3rd place
- 3 p.m. (Game 15): Mason City (18-6-0) vs. Sioux City (21-6-0), championship

### Mason City 6, Gladiators 3

Scott Johnson's three-goal hat trick earned third-seeded Mason City a spot in the championship game, spelling the difference in a 6-3 semifinal win over the second-seeded Omaha Gladiators.

Casey Holck's short-handed goal lifted Mason City into a 2-2 tie at 5:00 of the second period and Jonathan Morrison's power-play tally at 7:03 gave the East Division champs a 3-2 lead.

Johnson did the rest, scoring a short-handed goal at 12:11, then connecting twice in the third period to send his teammates safely in front, 6-2.

The Gladiators, 19-7-0, outshot Mason City 43-25, but Mason City goalie Neil Gilmore, a junior, turned in a strong performance, piling up 40 saves.

Joy Perell, Dan Cohen and Todd Sanning scored the Gladiators' goals.

For Mason City, Matt Fryar contributed the opening goal of the contest and Ethan Scheetz chipped in two assists.

### Dubuque 4, Waterloo 1

Aaron Cigrand and Keith Kester scored two goals each, leading Dubuque to a 4-1 win over Waterloo and a berth in today's fifth-place game at 9:30 a.m.

Sixth-seeded Dubuque, which is 10-14-1, takes on the ninth-seeded Omaha Junior Lancers, 4-21-1.

After a scoreless first period, Cigrand scored the only goal of the middle session at 10:12. Kester's first tally came at 2:07 of the final period, giving Dubuque some breathing room.

Each scored again before Brett Klima connected for the only Waterloo goal with 14 seconds left, spoiling the shutout for Dubuque goalie David March.

Kester had a four-point game, assisting on Cigrand's two goals, and Cigrand also picked up an assist. It was the Devils' second win following an opening 9-3 loss to finalist Mason City.

Waterloo, now 6-19-0, draws the early wake-up call, playing in today's 7 a.m. seventh-place game.

### Valley-Dowling 6, St. Joseph 3

West Des Moines Valley-Dowling rallied with four goals in the third period to defeat St. Joseph and advance to the seventh-place game today.

Valley-Dowling, now 17-10, will face Waterloo for seventh-place at 7:15 morning.

Fourth-seeded Valley-Dowling opened the first and third period scoring all of its goals then while seventh-seeded St. Joseph tallied three times in the middle period to mount an upset bid.

Greg Jones scored 14 seconds into the third period to tie the game, then teammate Ant Armio followed at 1:09 with what proved to be the game-winner.

St. Joseph, as the only team unable to advance into today's placement games, wound up last in the nine-team field, suffering three losses to finish 6-20-1.

## SATURDAY'S IHSHL TOURNAMENT GAMES

### Dubuque 4, Waterloo 1

First period: No scoring. Penalties: Swartz, D. 1:13.  
Second period: 1. Dubuque — Aaron Cigrand (Keith Kester) 10:12. Ames — Rusty Crawford (Clouck Schwabert) 11:24. Penalties: Sanders, A. 6:32; Crawford, A. 11:24.  
Third period: 2. Dubuque — Kater (Cigrand) 9:07. 3. Dubuque — Cigrand (Ben Roth, Kater) 10:42. 4. Dubuque — Kater (Aaron Newson, Ben) 15:10. 5. Waterloo — Brett Klima (Jim Schaefer, David Lamb) 14:46. Penalties: Swartz, D. 5:32; Lang, W. 12:04.

Score by periods: 0 0 1-1  
Dubuque: 0 0 1-3-4  
Waterloo: 0 0 1-1-2  
Goals: Dave Langin, Waterloo; David March, Dubuque.

### Mason City 6, Omaha Gladiators 3

First period: 1. Mason City — Matt Fryar (Ethan Scheetz) 7:33. 2. Omaha — Joey Pyle (Morris Dink, Neil Lunders) 11:12. Penalties: J. Chubb, O. 13:30.  
Second period: 3. Omaha — Dan Cohen (Todd Sanning, Kasper Poykio) 2:28. 4. Mason City — Casey Holck (Schwarz) 8:07. 5. Mason City — Jonathan Morrison (unassisted) 7:20. 6. Mason City — Scott Johnson (unassisted) 12:11. Penalties: Fryar, M.C. 3:20; Robinson, O. 5:20 (injury timeout); Libby, O. 5:20; Water, M.C. 10:47.  
Third period: 7. Mason City — Johnson (Matt Wood) 0:42. 8. Mason City — Johnson (unassisted) 8:30. 9. Dubuque — Sterling Glava (Gannon, Cohen) 12:31. Penalties: Johnson, M.C. 3:33; Gannon, O. 15:00.

Score by periods: 1 3 2-6  
Gladiators: 1 1 1-3-3  
Mason City: 8 10 19-28  
Goals: Neil Gilmore, Mason City; Mark Erroy (22:00), Scott Kinard (22:37), Omaha.

### Sioux City 4, Ames 3 (ot)

First period: No scoring. Penalties: Jun, S.C. 1:16;

Miller, S.C. 6:02; Unenfield, A. 6:33; Poykio, S.C. 9:39.  
Second period: 1. Sioux City — Cory Roberts (Karri Poykio) 1:24. Ames — Rusty Crawford (Clouck Schwabert) 1:54. Penalties: Sanders, A. 6:32; Crawford, A. 11:24.  
Third period: 3. Ames — Deron Hagerberg (Jay Greenfield) 13:14. Ames — J. Sanders (Crawford) 2:27. 4. Sioux City — Dan Davies (Poykio) 12:42. 5. Sioux City — Landon Blatchford (Greenfield, 13:00). Penalties: Greenfield, A. 6:33.

Penalties by periods: 0 2 1-0-3  
Sioux City: 0 1 1-2-4  
Ames: 0 2 1-0-3  
Shots on goal: 7 5 8 5-25  
Sioux City: 10 13 14 8-45  
Goals: Chris Winkler, Ames; Jesse Beaton, Sioux City.

Penalties: None  
Penalties: None  
Penalties: None

Score by periods: 0 2 1-0-3  
Sioux City: 0 1 1-2-4  
Ames: 0 2 1-0-3  
Shots on goal: 7 5 8 5-25  
Sioux City: 10 13 14 8-45  
Goals: Chris Winkler, Ames; Jesse Beaton, Sioux City.

### Valley-Dowling 6, St. Joseph 3

First period: 1. Valley-Dowling — Chad Conrad (Steven Krommberg, Todd Johnson) 6:59. 2. Valley-Dowling — Waterloo 12:12. 3. St. Joseph — Penner (Wendover) 15:04. Penalties: Johnson, S.J. 10:42; Johnson, V.D. 10:42.  
Second period: 3. St. Joseph — Todd Jung (Ryan Crad) 12:42. 4. St. Joseph — Penner (Wendover) 15:04. Penalties: Johnson, S.J. 10:42; Johnson, V.D. 10:42.  
Third period: 5. Valley-Dowling — Greg Jones (unassisted) 0:14. Valley-Dowling — Ant Armio (Wendover) 1:09. 6. Valley-Dowling — Brian Kifle (Tim Reed) 11:33. 7. Valley-Dowling — Krommberg (unassisted) 13:54. Penalties: Krommberg, V.D. 4:52; Vandewer, S.J. 14:01; Giffey, S.J. 14:54.

Score by periods: 0 2 0-3  
St. Joseph: 0 2 0-4-8  
Valley-Dowling: 6 11 4-19  
Goals: Jeremy Hall, St. Joseph; Joe Miller, Valley-Dowling.

Score by periods: 0 2 0-3  
St. Joseph: 0 2 0-4-8  
Valley-Dowling: 6 11 4-19  
Goals: Jeremy Hall, St. Joseph; Joe Miller, Valley-Dowling.