

Metros open IHSHL title defense with home games today, Sunday

The Sioux City Metros, two-time defending Iowa High School Hockey League champions, open their 1992-93 season in the Sioux City Auditorium today against the Omaha Gladiators.

The Metros will take the ice at 3 p.m. for their first outing under the direction of co-coaches Dave Davies and Jim Peck, both former Sioux City Musketeer standouts.

This year's Metro team will have two new goalies with East sophomore Matt Sewalson getting the start today. The other netminder is Ben Hudson, who lives at Denison, Iowa, and commutes to all games and practices. He played for Worthington, Minn., last year.

Sunday the Metros host Ames at 3 p.m. Junior varsity games will be played each day at 1 p.m.

"We're trying for a 'threepeat,'" said Coach Davies, who also added that such a feat had never been accomplished in the IHSHL. Davies also said he plans to step down from

the coaching duties after this season.

Despite losing a standout veteran on virtually the eve of the season, East High School forward Jesse Monell, Davies expects his young club to again be a factor in the league race. Monell accepted an offer from the Sioux City Musketeers recently and will skate his final prep season with the United States Hockey League Musketeers.

"Despite losing some quality players last year, I feel we could be a stronger team this year because of better depth," Davies said.

"In fact, our high school program should be real strong for the next seven or eight years. We've had overwhelming success with sign-ups this year in the hockey program, some 220 this year," Davies noted. That includes grades 5 through high school.

The co-coach believes local success on the squirt, peewee, bantam and high school levels in traveling to tournaments and winning games has

made youngsters interested in sticking with hockey now instead of switching to prep basketball or wrestling.

"That winning throughout the program and an entire group effort are making it happen," said Davies.

A pair of foreign exchange students, Daniel Thonestad, going to school at Akron-Westfield, and Kimmo Kukkonen, attending Sergeant Bluff-Luton, figure to play on a line centered by Daniel Davies, son of the co-coach, who led the Metros in scoring last year with 63 points in 24 games.

A second line of wings Cory Roberts, North senior, and Mike Stoneburg, North freshman, will be centered by East senior Landon Blat-chford. A third line at present includes center Eric Rubel, a West senior, and wings Taylor Schramm, East senior, and Sergeant Bluff-Luton senior Terry Reeves.

The Metros' defense is anchored by North sophomore T.J. Juon and East sophomore Seth Schramm.