

# Capitals trade hockey sticks for holiday ribbons

■ **The high school team is wrapping gifts at the mall to help pay for its expenses.**

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Geoff Seifert, a senior at Urbandale High School and a member of the Des Moines Capitals high school hockey team, had to gift-wrap two boxes to the satisfaction of a group of moms just to be able to participate in a fund-raiser.

"I guess it was a certification class," Seifert said.

He and hockey players from nine Des Moines high schools and their parents are providing a gift-wrapping service at Merle Hay Mall to raise money to help defer some of the expenses it takes to play hockey.

The gift-wrapping booth is stationed next to Josephs Jewelry Store, making sure presents are neatly wrapped every hour the mall is open until Christmas Eve.

"Prices are charged according to the size of box they wrap, from

\$1 to \$6.50, and shoppers can select the gift wrap they want from 20 different papers," said Patricia Seifert, Geoff's mother.

Shopper Derrill Smith of Des Moines said, "It's convenient and really not that expensive. And besides, I'm not that good of a wrapper."

After all the supplies and other costs are paid, Becky Muselman, who has helped run the fund-raiser for most of its nine years, said the profit is divided among the players based on how many hours they work.

+On average the players earn between \$6.35 and \$8 per hour to help defer the approximate \$1,600 it costs to play hockey for the Capitals.

"It's also a great way to get into the holiday spirit and since I don't have a job that requires me to be around from 8 to 5 p.m., I really enjoy it," Patricia Seifert said.

On a smaller scale, parents and players from the Des Moines Oakleafs high school hockey team also are participating in the fund-raiser, and Muselman said they will be incorporated more next year.