

Todd is surprised with Showcase selection

Lincoln Southeast junior Mike Todd has played ice hockey for only four seasons, but he's already in position to extend his career awhile.

Todd, who played for the Lincoln Junior Stars the past two years, was selected to compete for Team Tri-State during the prestigious Chicago Showcase next month. The Chicago Showcase is a tournament for some of the top high-school aged players in the United States.

For Todd, an invitation to the Showcase came as a complete surprise.

"I never could have imagined being in this position," said Todd, who started to play hockey in 1996.

A solid performance at the tournament could open a lot of doors for Todd, who scored 14 goals and assisted on eight others for the Junior Stars varsity team this season. The tournament is attended by numerous scouts, from Junior ranks to college to professional, looking for good players.

Todd would like nothing more than to use it as a springboard to a

HOCKEY REPORT

By Mark Derowitsch

Junior career and then eventually to Division I college hockey.

"I know I want to play at the next level," he said.

No player from the Junior Stars has advanced to play Junior hockey. The Junior Stars are in its second season in the Iowa High School Hockey League. The varsity team went 8-14 this season.

But it was a loss in the first round of the state tournament that got Todd noticed. The Junior Stars took a 3-1 lead into the third period against the top-seeded Des Moines Capitals before losing 4-3.

"Their coach had the final say in the select team, and Mike deserved to be on it," Junior Stars Coach Chuck Haugh said. "Getting selected to the team is a big accomplishment for a kid who has played hockey for only four years. Like I tell the kids all the time, my 9-year-old has as much ice time as they do."