



Sioux City Metros senior players, from left, **Donovan Convey**, **Nate Rose**, **Daran Rudnick** and **Ben Schmidt** are shown Thursday at IBP Ice Arena. (Staff photo by Jerry Mennenga)

# Back on track

## Metros aim to return to winning ways, open season with defending champs

By Barry Poe  
Journal sports writer

The Sioux City Metros, trying to bounce back from an uncharacteristic losing season, will find out right away just how much they need to improve.

The Metros open the 2006-07 Midwest High School Hockey League campaign Saturday, hosting the defending league and state tournament cham-

pion Des Moines Oak Leafs at the IBP Ice Arena.

Coming off a 14-18-1 record in 2005-06, the Metros were the No. 8 seed in what was formerly known as the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament. But with an experienced line and a couple of veteran defensemen returning, Coach Jim Peck is convinced that this team will be much improved.

"I think we're going to be a lot better," said Peck, who guided the Metros to a state championship in 2003. "Goaltending will be the big thing and we have some good experience on defense and some forwards who, if

they're not scoring, can help us on defense, too."

The Iowa High School Hockey League is now the Midwest High School Hockey League, which makes sense since teams from Kansas City, Omaha and Lincoln compete in the league.

Sioux City has the luxury of three returning forwards who played not only the entire varsity season, but also in 33 junior varsity games. Juniors B.J. Jackson (South Sioux City), Andrew Bauer (West) and Jacob Wilde (North) got all kinds of ice time.

**SEE METROS**  
continued on page B6

# Metros

from page B1

"They all play the same style of hockey and seemed to gel almost all year long," said Peck. "We kept them together as a unit and they developed into a good line."

Wilde (19), Jackson (18) and Bauer (14) combined for 51 points at the varsity level. Jackson finished with 11 goals. Once the football season ends, the Metros will be bolstered by the return of senior defenseman Marshall Tuttle, who led the team in scoring with 28 points. Tuttle, who played in the IHSHL All-Star Game, is the starting full-back for East's playoff-bound football team.

Another busy performer last season was Zach Hagaman, a junior defenseman from West who played both varsity and JV. Seniors Ben Schmidt (West) and Nate Rose (South Sioux City) will be paired together while Levi Laming, a sophomore from West, will play alongside Hagaman. Dillon Smith, a sophomore from Sergeant Bluff-Luton, adds stability on defense.

The Metros were fortunate to gain the services of goalie Donovan Convey, a starter for the Omaha Junior Lancers last season. Convey, a senior who moved to Sioux City three



For additional photos go to: [www.siouxcityjournal.com](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com)

Sioux City Metros juniors playing this season, from left, **Andrew Bauer**, **B.J. Jackson** and **Jacob Wilde** are shown Wednesday at IBP Ice Center. (Staff photo by Jerry Mennenga)

weeks ago, attends East High.

"Goaltending has been a sore spot for about the last year and a half," said Peck. "We had four goaltenders coming back, but only one of them had played in a varsity game, so getting a veteran goaltender was kind of nice."

Josh Sachnoff, a junior from North, played in one varsity game last season. There's plenty of depth waiting in the wings in sophomore Justin Decker (East), freshman Tyler Brinkerhoff (West) and freshman Lee Noel (Heelan).

Along with Tuttle, the Metros will also regain the services of senior forward Jon Adam (Heelan) and junior forward Colt Ludwig (Lawton-Bronson) at the conclu-

sion of the football season. Adam scored 14 points last season.

Daran Rudnick, a senior from South Sioux City, also returns at forward. Newcomers Justin Thiele (North) and Kyle Lierman (East) will see extensive action.

"We played some pre-season games in Omaha last weekend," said Peck. "We didn't have a complete squad, but we performed alright."

"We just wanted to get some experience because you can only practice for so long."

Saturday's varsity game starts at 4 p.m., following a 2 o'clock junior varsity game. The Metros also play on Sunday, hosting Lincoln at 10:30 a.m. (JV) and 12:30 p.m.