

Metros open state tournament play

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SIOUX CITY — Led by one of the Midwest High School Hockey League's premier goal scorers, the Sioux City Metros will be looking to make some noise as the Varsity State Tournament gets under way today at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena.

Sioux City, seventh in the 14-team league with an 18-10-2-2 record, will face off with second-seeded the Kansas City Jr. Outlaws in a 4 p.m. contest, one of four first-round games slated for today.

Sophomore forward Colton Kramer (East High) leads the Metros with 42 goals, 26 assists and 68 points while ranking second in the MHSHL in goals and third in total points scored.

The Metros, which did not qualify for the state tournament a year ago, have posted a winning record for the first time since finishing the 2005 season at 16-11-1-2.

Senior Eric Flynn (Dakota Valley) ranks second in scoring for Coach Brant Mozak's club with 17 goals, 33 assists and 50 points while two more seniors, Adam Bornholt (Bishop Heelan) and Nate Bauer (West), have scored 10 and nine goals, respectively. Junior Desmond Harsma

(West) also has nine goals for an offense that has scored 107 goals in 32 games while giving up 109.

Senior netminders Lee Noel (Bishop Heelan) and Tyler Brinkerhoff (West) have split duties throughout the season.

Noel has played 843 minutes and sports a 9-7-2 record and a 3.68 goals against average. Brinkerhoff is 8-5 with a 2.86 goals against average in 566 minutes played.

The Junior Outlaws, sporting a 25-4-0-3 record, won all three regular season meetings with the Metros, with the last coming just last weekend, a 5-0 victory at the IBP Ice Center.

Sioux City, though, enters the state tournament winners of eight of its last 10 games.

Mason City (24-6) and Sioux Falls (23-9) open the tournament at noon. Defending state champion Waterloo (19-7-2-4) faces the Kansas City Stars (24-6-1-1) at 2 p.m. while the final game is a Des Moines showdown between the Capitals, the regular season league champs at 28-2-2, against the Oak Leafs (14-15-1-2).

The Oak Leafs won the state title in 2008 while the Capitals dropped last year's final to Waterloo, 4-0.