

Metros face Dubuque in MHSHL Tournament opener

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SIoux CITY | Dave LeGree hopes he sees the look from his Sioux City **M e t r o s** hockey team before they take to the ice this afternoon.

He saw it two weeks ago when the **M e t r o s** skated to a crucial 4-3 win over Omaha. This was among the wins for a squad that went 5-2 in the last two weeks to grab the sixth seed in the Midwest High School Hockey League Varsity Tournament Championships.

"I could tell the players were ready to play," said LeGree, whose **Metros** will take a 14-12-1 record into a first-round game against third-seeded Dubuque (15-12-1) that will start at 2 p.m. Friday at Ames/ISU Arena.

"You could see it in their faces. They understood the situation that they couldn't afford to lose because we wanted that sixth seed. When you walk into

the room, they're dressed and ready to go 10 minutes before we hit the ice, you don't need to say anything. You know they're ready."

It's the second straight year the **Metros** have qualified for the MHSHL Tournament. LeGree has three quality lines all capable of providing offense, including the top line, consisting of left wing Skyler Beller (31 goals, 25 assists), center Tanner Frerichs (19, 29) and right wing James Page (12, 22).

Beller won All-West Division honors for the second straight season. Frerichs repeated as an All-Star selection, garnering his second consecutive 29-assist campaign.

LeGree shifted Sam Holzrichter (2, 7) from the right wing to the left wing on the second line to take advantage of his left-handed shot. Trent Harsma (20, 21) centers this line while Connor Sand (6, 5) plays the right.

Cameron Kramer (5, 1) centers the third line which features left wing Brock Glissman (1 goal) and Walter Werden (1 assist), who

impressed LeGree with his 11 points (4 goals, 7 assists) on the **Metros'** team that will play in next weekend's MHSHL Junior Varsity Year End Tournament. Another line, from left to right, includes Josh Menzenberg (2, 1), Brandon Swanson (3, 2) and Sam Chadwick (1, 4).

"On our top line, we expect two goals, maybe three," said LeGree. "When you get our bottom line to put in a goal like they did at Lincoln, that means a lot. Harsma's line can put a puck or two in the goal."

LeGree also likes the defenseman scoring his team has received. Drake Beller (2, 11), for instance, scored a shootout goal that clinched last Sunday's regular-season ending 4-3 win over Lincoln.

"We have six of the best defensemen in the league," said LeGree. "We give them leeway if they have room and want to carry the puck so our forwards can crash the net."

Listed at 6-foot-5, 210 pounds, Jarret Heyl (1, 11) won All-West honors as a defenseman. Heyl and Caleb Sneller (1, 2) will be

paired on the blue line, Drake Beller and Brady Glissman (3 assists) form another unit along with Logan Visser (2, 8) and Grant Newman (5 assists).

Central Division champion Dubuque won three of its final four games. Scoring leader Carter Grobstick (30, 18) leads the Devils with four shorthanded goals and four game-winning goals.

Grobstick had three goals and two assists in an 8-7 shootout over the **Metros** on Nov. 21, then recorded two goals the next day in a 4-0 win at Sioux City's IBP Ice Center.

LeGree said he hasn't discussed the game that much with his skaters this week.

"Too much talk about the game makes them think too much, so the less you say, they better they are," said LeGree. "They know what they need to do. Monday, we ran flow drills and then let them scrimmage for half an hour so they could have fun. When you're not having fun playing the game, it becomes a real job. You get nothing out of it. That's what I've learned with these guys."



Beller