



Photo by Patricia O’Blenes

Macomb Dakota senior goalie Paul Savage makes a save during the Cougars’ 2-1 win against Anchor Bay Feb. 16 at Macomb Suburban Ice Arena. The win clinched the Cougars’ first MAC Red title.

## Red-y and willing

### Macomb Dakota boys hockey takes league title into playoffs

By Brad D. Bates  
C & G Sports Writer

The Macomb Dakota boys hockey team won’t have to wait long to defend its 2007-’08 Macomb Area Conference Red Division title.

Less than 10 days after the Cougars wrapped up the program’s first league title with a 2-1 win against Anchor Bay Feb. 16, they face Utica Eisenhower at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at Macomb Suburban Ice Arena to open their Division 1 pre-regional.

“They’re going to throw everything they can at us,” Dakota coach Dave Koons said of the prospects of opening the playoffs as league champs.

“If they have any trick plays or anything like that, they’ll use it, and all we can do is play as well as we can and hope for the best.”

The Cougars (16-3-3) skated through a nine-game league unbeaten streak, going 7-0-2 to end the Red season after suffering their lone league setback against Utica High Jan. 22.

“We didn’t change up the way we played, and we had a few things happen for us,” Koons said of his team’s 10-1-3 run through the Red.

“(The seniors) kept things in perspective. Even when we were down 5-2 to Utica, we came back and had a chance to win that game. They kept fighting all year.”

Along with keeping their team on an even keel, the seniors helped push the Cougars to be the top offensive unit in the league, scoring 110 goals. They also had the league’s second-best defense, with a goals against average of 2.18.

“Defensively, we’ve still got some things we need to work on,” Koons said.

“Offensively, our veterans were definitely our strength, with great seniors like our captains Eddie Lewis and David Demick, and our assistant captains, Josh Agrusa and Tom Beres.”

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