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Sports Editor



Ames may be member of Iowa prep hockey league

Hockey may be coming to Ames High School

Al Murdoch hockey coach at Iowa State has held two meetings here recently to feel out hopes of organizing a two-division prep league in Iowa. Last winter Murdoch supervised the first high school hockey tournament in Hilton Coliseum which included an Ames entry.

The proposed league is not sanctioned by the Iowa High School Athletic Association. Thus any Little Cyclone hockey team would have to be played on a club basis similar to ISU's hockey program. Officially there would be no connection with the high school, except that the players would be Ames High students.

The Iowa High School Athletic Association does not recognize hockey as a sanctioned sport. The IHSAA does not give backing to sports like boys gymnastics, which have only a limited number of schools participating.

Teams interested in forming a conference include Waterloo, Columbus, a Waterloo public team composed of players from East, West and Central West Des Moines, Dowling and Valley, Urbandale and two other combination teams from Des Moines, Hoover and Roosevelt plus a Sioux City metro squad.

Also Mason City, Des Moines, Lincoln and Webster City have expressed an interest in the proposed conference.

Ideally the league, if it comes off, would receive sanctioning by the IHSAA. IHSAA rules will be followed whenever possible and the

association's eligibility rules would also be heeded in most cases.

The IHSAA, of course, does not permit athletes from several schools to form together on one team as the Waterloo, Sioux City and Des Moines teams may do. That's a problem needed to be ironed out.

Another concern is the financial cost of running a hockey program if and when the sport is sanctioned by the IHSAA. Ames High officials have been burdened with a bigger and bigger financial bite in recent years, so much so that it's now costing more money to operate Little Cyclone athletic teams than revenue can generate.

Hockey would be an expensive sport. Currently the only feasible place for a team representing Ames to play is Hilton Coliseum, but the rent is expensive.

Used to be that only Joe Namath, the New York Jets quarterback, wore white football shoes. They became his trademark as much as his sloping shoulders and bullet-like passes.

Move over, Joe. The entire Iowa State football team will be outfitted in white shoes this fall.

Flag football isn't what it used to be at least in Ames. This former all-male domain has been infiltrated.

Eleven girls are scheduled to play in the Parks and Recreation program this fall, which includes fifth and sixth graders.

Watch out, fellas. When I was your age, the best football player in the block was a girl.

