



Russ L. Smith's column

Hockey next year for public schools?

THE WATERLOO public schools may join Columbus of Waterloo in a high school hockey program next year.

A committee, including school board president William Kammeyer, an enthusiastic supporter of youth hockey, was appointed at the board of education meeting Monday night to study the possibilities of moving into the field.

"Hopefully, next year," Kammeyer said when he was asked if he had any personal schedule in mind for instigating the program. However, he admitted that he had not explored the cost of the program or the availability of ice time for up to three additional teams.

"I only know what I have read about Columbus' experience," Kammeyer said. "They are talking at about \$3,000 to start so I suppose we would have to figure on that much, or less, for any of our teams.

"I feel we are obligated to offer ice hockey to all of our youngsters who want it and the committee will explore the possibilities of doing that. We expect to operate within the rules of the Iowa High School Athletic Assn."

Supt. of Schools George Diestelmeier also said that, "If at all possible some type of competitive hockey should be provided for our young people."

OTHER MEMBERS of the committee will be Finn Eriksen, the metropolitan athletic director, Darrell Grinnell and John Lesyshen, administrative assistant in the Waterloo schools who just last weekend announced his retirement after a successful career with the Waterloo Black Hawks of the United States Hockey League, a senior amateur league.

The Waterloo Education Assn. has been asked to suggest the names of other teachers with an interest in hockey who will be added to the committee.

There are no other high school hockey teams in Iowa, to date, and Columbus expects to play its entire schedule against Minnesota schools.

Waterloo high school age youngsters have had inter-city hockey experience as members of the Junior Hawks team, an off-shoot of the Waterloo Black Hawks and the Recreation Commission-sponsored hockey program.

Hockey would increase to 11 the number of competitive sports Waterloo schools offered boys, two of which are not part of the IHSAA's state tournament program. However, West Waterloo High has been the only school to field an archery team in the past. The remaining 10 programs include cross country and track as two separate sports.

So far, only eight sports are offered girls. Waterloo has not yet become involved in one of the major girls programs sponsored by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union—softball.

MEANWHILE, A SUMMER hockey camp for boys from 6 through 17 at Sioux City is being organized with Black Hawks' Coach Dave Swick and General Mgr. Jack Barzee on the staff. The camp, based at Briar Cliff College, will run from July 28 to Aug. 2.

Other instructors will include Alan Young, right wing for the Omaha Knights; Lynn Powis, center for the Kansas City Scouts; Mickey Keating, National Hockey League scout for the Atlanta Flames, and Steve Boyle, left wing for the Sioux City Musketeers.

Included in the course will be instruction in power skating by Dick Faye of Minneapolis. Faye, in his 22 years in coaching, has coached national speed skating champions.

Camp managers are John Saville, coach of the Sioux City team in the USHL, and Curt Gordon, general manager of the Omaha team of the Central Professional League.