

State prep hockey tourney begins in Ames Thursday

AMES — Regular season champion Ames, playing on its home ice, rates the favorite role as the 11th annual Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament begins at the Cyclone Area Community Center Thursday evening.

The Little Cyclones also have the best defensive average and the top-scoring line in the league — two additional factors that could help them capture the title that narrowly eluded them last season.

Waterloo's Warriors held off Ames, 4-3, last March to win the state title after the Little Cyclones had grabbed the regular-season IHSHL title with a 9-2-1 record. This year, Ames was 17-1 in league play.

As regular-season champ, Ames draws a first-round bye in the tournament. The Warriors open with Columbus of Waterloo in the first game at 3 p.m. Thursday.

Semifinals are slated for 5:30 and 8 p.m. Friday night with placing games Saturday afternoon and the championship scheduled for approximately 8 p.m. Saturday evening.

The 1985-86 all-state and most valuable player awards will follow the title game.

Final IHSHL Standings

	W	L	TPts	GF	GA	Pen	PIM
Ames	17	1	0	34	115	32	44
Warriors	14	4	0	28	121	73	122
Sioux City	9	9	18	57	63	75	169
Mason City	8	10	16	67	76	110	220
Urbandale	7	11	14	57	81	104	225
Vall.-Dowl.	6	12	12	55	71	115	254
Columbus	2	16	4	28	104	78	156

The Little Cyclones appear to have all the ingredients to win the title this time around. They have IHSHL scoring champion Scot Johnston (68 points in 18 games) and his linemates of Bill Norris (51 points) and John Newell (40 points). As a team, Ames has eight players in double figure scoring.

Defensively, the Little Cyclones allowed just 32 goals all season and they feature the top two goaltenders in Scott Jackson (91.7 save percentage) and Chris Conlon (91.3).

Furthermore, Ames is a veteran team and a tournament-wise team. Seven members are seniors and 12 played in last year's championship game.

Waterloo's Warriors head into tournament play after finishing the regular season as the top-scoring team in the IHSHL with 121 goals. But their defense has been suspect and 73 goals have been scored on two

goaltenders.

The Warriors finished the regular season 14-4 and lost all three meetings with Ames — 9-3 and 6-2 at McElroy Auditorium in Waterloo and 3-1 in the closest game of the three in Ames.

Individually, Waterloo is led in scoring by junior Marc Gillard (51 points in 18 games) and linemate Erik Runge (49 points). Senior defenseman Dan Michelsen has added 39 points and the third member of the top line, Brian Carnes, has 36.

The Warriors led the league in short-handed goals with 19, but also had the most penalty minutes with 261. By contrast, Ames had just 88 minutes in penalties and scored 30 power play goals.

Should the Warriors win the tournament, it would be their fourth state championship. Only Columbus of Waterloo, with five, has more.

The Cyclone Area Community Center is located on Gateway Hills Park Drive, near the Elwood Drive exit off Highway 30. Admission to this year's tournament is \$12 for a tournament pass, \$5 for a daily pass and \$4 per individual game. Students' rates are \$6, \$3 and \$2.