

# Tourney opens at 1 p.m.

By Steve Allspach

Journal sports writer

The regular-season scoring champion and defending state tournament champ will be showcased today when the Waterloo Public School Warriors and Ames christen the 1987 Iowa High School Hockey League State Tournament at Sioux City Auditorium.

The seven-team state tournament is being played in Sioux City for the first time.

Ames won the 1986 title, but plunged into last place in the final regular-season standings this season with a 2-16 record.

However, Ames has shown marked improvement in the past three games since Noel Erickson returned to the coaching bench. Erickson coached the Ames team last season.

Waterloo Public is led by Marc Gillard, who scored 28 goals and collected 30 assists for 58 points in 18 regular-season games to lead the league.

Waterloo Public also boasts the prep league's third- and fourth-leading scorers in Tom Meyer (23-28-41) and Del Donaldson (14-25-39).

Another Warrior standout is defenseman Reece Bixby, the starting center last fall on Waterloo Central High School's football team.

Ames and Waterloo Public clash at 1 p.m. today.

## State hockey

Waterloo Columbus and Urbandale meet at 3:30 p.m. and the Sioux City Metros make their tourney debut at 6 o'clock against West Des Moines Valley-Dowling.

Columbus constructed an 11-6-1 record in regular-season competition.

Mason City, the regular-season league champion with a 13-4-1 record, plays at 8:30 against the loser of the afternoon game between Waterloo Public and Ames.

Troy Thelen is Mason City's scoring leader with 17 goals and 19 assists for 36 points. Teammate Chris Steward has 17 goals and 31 points.

Waterloo Public finished second in the league with a 12-6 record and lost two of three games with Mason City this season.

Waterloo Columbus is led by Brian Wehr, the second-leading scorer in the tournament with 23 goals, 26 assists and 49 points.

Mason City's Thelen ranks fifth in scoring and Pete Dale (23-13-36) and Eric Conard (13-21-34) of Urbandale sixth and seventh.

The Metros will take a 9-7-2 record into their game with Valley-Dowling.

Coach Jim Coyle's skaters are 9-1-2 excluding losses to Waterloo Public, Waterloo Columbus and Mason City.

Columbus is 11-6-1 and Valley-Dowling 8-9-1.

Urbandale sports a 5-12-1 regular-season record.

Ted Grob and Tony Dressen share the Valley-Dowling offensive leadership with 31 points each. Grob has eight goals and 23 assists, while Dressen has 18 goals and 13 assists.

Sioux City, which has allowed just 46 goals, fewest in the league, relies on defense. Goalie Scott Patrick and 6-foot-5, 250-pound Mike Scott are two of the most conspicuous Metro defenders.

Kelly Goosman and Chris Swanson each have 16 points, while Mark Graber and Brian Burke have 15 points each for the Metros.

Sean Murdoch and Jamie Watne lead Ames with 22 and 20 points, respectively, while David Cook and Wade Welta have 19 points each.

Pat Lanigan (9-5-1) is the league's top goaltender with 39 goals against, followed by Sioux City's Patrick (9-7-2), Mason City's Jeff Curtis (13-3-1) and Valley-Dowling's Eric Gibson (4-6-0). Gibson has allowed 39 goals, Patrick 46 and Curtis 51. Waterloo Public net-minder Scott Ames has fashioned a 12-6 record.

The three-day tournament resumes Saturday morning at 10:30.

The championship game in the single-elimination tournament is slated for 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

### Today's Schedule

- 1:00 — Waterloo Public vs. Ames
- 3:30 — Waterloo Columbus vs. Urbandale
- 6:00 — Sioux City vs. WDM Valley-Dowling
- 8:30 — Mason City vs. Waterloo Public-Ames loser