

Local teams open tomorrow night

Sailors, Warriors out to regain hockey title

By DOUG NEWHOFF
Courier Sports Writer

This year's Iowa High School Hockey League may be as balanced as ever, say Waterloo's two coaches, and almost every team has reason to believe it can contend for the 1987-88 championship.

"I don't think there are gonna be any pushovers," says Columbus Coach Mike Brown, whose Sailors are right near the head of the class. "It looks like it's gonna be a really good league."

Columbus debuts at McElroy Auditorium tomorrow night by hosting defending regular season and state tournament champion Mason City. The Waterloo Warriors, meanwhile, open their season at Valley-Dowling tomorrow night.

Both teams participated in the annual preseason jamboree at Mason City last weekend. Columbus posted three impressive victories — all by shutout — while the Warriors lost two one-goal games and won a shutout of their own.

OFFENSIVELY, Sailor co-captains Jeff Weidner and David Dutkowski each had three-goal games while Brian Wehr, the top returning scorer in the IHSNL (he had 23 goals and 26 assists last year),

1986-87 Standings

	W-L-T	Pts	GF	GA
Mason City	13-4-1	27	83	55
Wat. Warriors	12-6-0	24	88	59
Wat. Columbus	11-6-1	23	79	49
Sioux City	9-7-2	20	61	46
Valley-Dowling	8-9-1	17	70	77
Urbandale	5-12-1	11	69	114
Ames	2-16-0	4	57	108

poured in four goals in a win over Urbandale.

In all, Brown has 13 Sailors back from last year's 11-6-1 regular season and runner-up finish to Mason City in the state tournament. Of those, 11 played regularly.

Wehr is joined on the forward lines by Jason Bloom (28 points), Weidner (12) and Neal Lanigan (11), along with Dutkowski, Justin Smith, Andy MacLennan, Mike Sadler, Scott Jasper, Bill Fratzke, Tom Ritchie and Corey Simon returning.

The goaltenders are Jason Hedican, who turned away 91 percent of the 98 shots he faced in a backup role last year, and K.C. Doland. Both played at the Mason City Jamboree.

COACH DAVE Swick says the Warriors' prospects may depend on the development of a goalie to replace departed Scott Ames. He found three promising candidates last weekend in David Richardson, Chris Marchese and Shawn North.

Eighteen Warriors return, includ-

ing Tom Meyer, who was a teammate of Wehr's two years ago. He scored 41 points last season and is joined by veterans Brandon Bunker (13 points), Reece Bixby (12), Chad McFarland (12), Scott Smith, Rob Hall, Rob Dietz, Jeff Frazee, Scott Carnes, Chuck Connors and Troy Laughlin.

Several other players who saw limited varsity action are also back.

Elsewhere around the league, Sioux City has goaltender Scott Patrick returning after an outstanding season when he posted a 90.4 save percentage. The Metros also have a solid nucleus of forwards returning.

Mason City, which won its first state title last year, had a large squad in 1986-87 and many of those players are back. Ames didn't lose a single player, but has a new coach in Bruce Carman.

THE PAST TWO seasons mark the longest stretch the state tournament trophy has been away from one of the Waterloo teams. Columbus captured state championships in 1977, 1978, 1981 and 1982 while the Warriors were champions in 1980, 1983 and 1985.

It was Waterloo's turn to host the state tournament this season, but instead passed it on to Mason City, which will hold the three-day event March 4-6.

1987-88 Schedules

Columbus

Head coach: Mike Brown

1986-87 record: 11-6-1

RETURNING PLAYERS (13) — Brian Wehr, Jason Bloom, Neal Lanigan, David Dutkowski, Jeff Weidner, Justin Smith, Corey Simon, Andy MacLennan, Mike Sadler, Scott Jasper, Bill Fratzke, Jason Hedican, Tom Ritchie.

1987-88 SCHEDULE

Nov. 20 — at Mason City
Nov. 22 — at Ames
Dec. 4 — Ames
Dec. 5 — at Valley-Dowling
Dec. 7 — Waterloo Warriors
Dec. 12 — at Urbandale
Dec. 28-29 — at Chippewa Falls Tournament
Jan. 8 — at Mason City
Jan. 11 — at Waterloo Warriors
Jan. 15 — Sioux City
Jan. 16 — at Valley-Dowling
Jan. 20 — at IHSNL all-star game (Des Moines)
Jan. 31 — Urbandale
Feb. 12 — Valley-Dowling
Feb. 13 — at Sioux City
Feb. 14 — at Sioux City
Feb. 19 — Ames
Feb. 23 — Waterloo Warriors
Feb. 26 — Urbandale
Feb. 28 — at Mason City

Waterloo Warriors

Head coach: Dave Swick, Sr.

1986-87 record: 12-6-0

RETURNING PLAYERS (18) — Tom Meyer, Brandon Bunker, Chad McFarland, Reece Bixby, Scott Smith, Rob Hall, Rob Dietz, Jeff Frazee, Mike Geraghty, Scott Carnes, Darrin Johnson, Chuck Connors, Troy Laughlin, Rob Henn, Derrick Hileman, Bob Ames, Jon Brumer, Scott Smith.

1987-88 SCHEDULE

Nov. 20 — at Valley-Dowling
Nov. 28 — at Mason City
Dec. 2 — at Mason City
Dec. 7 — at Columbus
Dec. 11 — at Sioux City
Dec. 12 — at Sioux City
Dec. 18 — Ames
Jan. 8 — at Urbandale
Jan. 9 — Ames
Jan. 11 — Columbus
Jan. 16 — at Ames
Jan. 20 — at IHSNL all-star game (Des Moines)
Jan. 22 — Valley-Dowling
Jan. 23 — Valley-Dowling
Jan. 29 — Sioux City
Feb. 5 — Urbandale
Feb. 12 — at Urbandale
Feb. 20 — at Mason City
Feb. 23 — at Columbus



Courier photo by RICK CHASE

Columbus High hockey co-captains Neal Lanigan, Jeff Weidner and David Dutkowski (left to right) hope to lead the Sailors one step further than a year ago when Columbus finished second to Mason City in the state tournament. The Sailors and the Waterloo Warriors open Iowa High School Hockey League play tomorrow night.

Wrestling

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MARK WILL wrestle this season as a sophomore. He started his career two years ago and sat out of collegiate competition last season as a redshirt.

the University of Iowa lineup at 126 pounds by Brad Penrith.

Schwab and Regan split two matches.

Of course, Iowa was one of the