

Prep hockey league adds Omaha squad

The Iowa High School Hockey League has expanded into Nebraska with the addition of an Omaha team for a new season that begins Friday night.

Originally, the IHSHL accepted two teams from Omaha, but league commissioner Gary Donaldson of Waterloo says the Junior Lancers have withdrawn from varsity competition, leaving the Omaha Gladiators as the ninth team in the league.

"From what I understand, the Junior Lancers couldn't get a varsity team together," said Donaldson.

Plans now call for the Lancers to play a junior varsity IHSHL schedule this season and try again to field a varsity team next year.

Meanwhile, play begins Friday night for Waterloo's two prep teams. Columbus is at Ames to kick off the season while the Warriors host defending league and state tournament champion Valley-Dowling.

The league will compete in two divisions with the two Waterloo teams, Mason City, Ames and Dubuque in the East and Sioux City, Omaha, Valley-Dowling and Urbandale in the West.

Both local teams have a good nucleus of returning players to work with.

The Warriors, coming off an 8-11-1 season, return the second-leading scorer of 1987-88 in Tracy Henn (34 points) and a solid goaltender in K.C. Doland. Nine other regulars return for Coach Dave Swick, who expects a balanced league in 1989-90.

"We'll have to play well to beat any team in the league," says Swick.

At Columbus, Mike Brown has 19 players to work with, but several haven't played hockey before, he notes. The Sailors, 11-7-2 in league play a year ago, will have new goaltenders in David Lanigan and public school transfer Chris Abbott.

Abbott backed up Doland for the Warriors last season. Ironically, Doland began his high school career at Columbus.

The leaders among the veterans are Jason Bloom and Justin Smith. Bloom is the top returning scorer in the IHSHL after a 48-point season a year ago. Smith finished right behind him with 47 points.

Brown says Bloom, who nearly didn't play hockey this season, will

1988-89 IHSHL Standings

Team	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Valley-Dowling	20	0	0	40	146	38
Dubuque	12	7	1	25	93	73
Columbus	11	7	2	24	103	83
Mason City	11	8	1	23	89	73
Sioux City	11	9	0	22	106	76
Wat. Warriors	8	11	1	17	73	84
Urbandale	4	15	1	9	59	137
Ames	0	20	0	0	36	142

1988-89 Individual Leaders

Player	SCORING			
	GP	G	A	P
Hudin, MC	20	27	27	54
B.Krueger, VD	20	23	26	49
J.Bloom, CB	20	26	22	48
Smith, Col	20	15	32	47
Straus, VD	20	15	30	45
Simon, CB	19	16	29	44
Keith, SC	20	28	12	40
Dressen, VD	20	19	20	39
Riley, Dub	20	18	21	39
Meyer, WW	19	29	3	38

GOALKEEPING

Player	GP	W-L-T	Pct.
McCalland, VD	13	13-0-0	90.7
Gieger, VD	8	7-0-0	90.2
Swanson, MC	6	4-0-1	89.9
Smith, Dub	11	6-4-1	88.8
Brogan, SC	6	3-0-0	88.5

begin as a defenseman as the Sailors try to bolster that group. Another defenseman, freshman Benji Buckley, is back after breaking his leg last season.

Columbus will have two foreign exchange players in Oscar Dios from Sweden and Mikko Weisenfelt from Finland.

"There are a lot of good hockey players this year and a lot of good teams," says Brown. "Sioux City is going to be tough. So are Valley-Dowling and Omaha. "The Warriors have good defensemen and a good goaltender. They'll be in every hockey game.

"We have to stay healthy and we've got to score some goals."

Valley-Dowling might not be as powerful as the Tigers might have been. Jon Strako, their leading

returning scorer, is playing with the Des Moines Buccaneers in the United States Hockey League.

Practice for the high school teams began in mid-October and they got their first taste of competitive action at a league Jamboree Nov. 4-5. The Warriors and Sailors tied, 1-1, in the jamboree.

Columbus and the Warriors will be trying to bring the state championship back to Waterloo after a four-year absence. The last Waterloo team to win the tournament title was the Warriors in 1985 while the last regular-season champion was Columbus in 1987-88.

This year's state tournament is in Waterloo March 1-4. The Warriors and Sailors, often bitter rivals, are hosting the event jointly.

"It's been a neat thing," says Brown. "It's been real positive and I think it's brought us together. We need each other."

Columbus Sailors

Coach — Mike Brown
 Nov. 17 — at Ames
 Nov. 19 — Mason City
 Nov. 24 — at Mason City
 Nov. 26 — at Dubuque
 Dec. 1 — Ames
 Dec. 2 — Urbandale
 Dec. 3 — Dubuque
 Dec. 7 — at Waterloo Warriors
 Dec. 9 — at Omaha
 Dec. 15 — at Urbandale
 Dec. 22 — Valley-Dowling
 Jan. 7 — Sioux City
 Jan. 14 — at Mason City
 Jan. 21 — Omaha
 Jan. 23 — All-Star game at Omaha
 Jan. 28 — at Sioux City
 Feb. 4 — Ames
 Feb. 11 — Dubuque
 Feb. 17 — Waterloo Warriors
 Feb. 18 — at Valley-Dowling
 Feb. 22 — at Waterloo Warriors

March 1-4 — State Tournament at Waterloo

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS (10) — Jason Bloom, G, Justin Smith, F, Corey Simon, F, Ben MacLennan, F, Dan Bloom, G, Jason Rose, F, Benji Buckley, G, Jeff Chamberlain, G, David Lanigan, G, Chris Abbott, G, Waterloo Warriors

Coach — Dave Swick
 Nov. 17 — Valley-Dowling
 Nov. 18 — at Mason City
 Nov. 24 — Dubuque
 Nov. 25 — at Ames
 Dec. 2 — at Omaha
 Dec. 7 — Columbus
 Dec. 9 — at Dubuque
 Dec. 16 — at Dubuque
 Dec. 22 — at Urbandale
 Dec. 23 — Mason City
 Dec. 26 — Warrior alumni game
 Jan. 6 — Sioux City
 Jan. 19 — at Ames
 Jan. 20 — Omaha
 Jan. 23 — All-Star game at Omaha
 Jan. 27 — at Sioux City
 Feb. 2 — Urbandale
 Feb. 3 — at Valley-Dowling
 Feb. 9 — Ames
 Feb. 16 — Mason City
 Feb. 17 — at Columbus
 Feb. 22 — Columbus
 March 1-4 — State Tournament at Waterloo

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS (11) — K.C. Doland, G, Larry Heggebo, Jeff Frazier, Bill Martin, Chris McFarland, Derek Hillman, Quinn Ernster, Jason Reiseck, Andy Gercke, Darrin Johnson, Tracy Henn.