

Warriors looking for a fast start

By DOUG NEUHOFF
Assistant Sports Editor

WATERLOO

Mike Brown is less concerned with where his team starts this lowa High School Hockey League season than where it finishes.

And if the Warriors make something positive of an eight-game stretch of road tests to open the 1999-2000 season, it could be a big year for prep hockey in the metro area.

"The key will be to get off to a good start on the road," says Brown, who returns 13 veterans from a 16-9-1 team. "After the first of the year, the schedule turns the other way. We should get some momentum going the second half."

Most of Waterloo's veterans have played a lot of varsity hockey the last few years.

Josh Braby scored 47 points a year ago, ranking 10th in the IHSHL. Ryan Shaw added 37 points to rank 14th. Bryce Anderson chipped in 35 and stood 15th. Jon Schell (16 points), Brandt Clark (16), Blake Knoll (12) and Chad Cutsforth (11) also scored in double digits for the 1998-99 Warriors.

Waterloo will miss the talents of 31-point forward Mike Messerer, who is playing AAA Midget hockey in Madison, Wis., and goaltender Trey Kettwick, who left for AAA Midget competition in Colorado after posting a .903 save percentage a year ago. Zach Goodsell assumes the No. 1 role in the nets after a six-shotout season at the junior varsity level.

Goodsell and many of his teammates got a jump on the season by playing an extensive Midget schedule for players 17 and under. Waterloo won 10 of 13 preseason games.

"I think that's been a help," says Brown. "It's given us a chance to play some games, and play some people who are going to be borderline for us. It's given them a chance to play at a pretty high level. Some of them aren't ready to play at that level consistently, but it showed them what it takes. It was good for Zach, too. He got his feet wet, and had some success."



Josh Braby

With the IHSHL schedule reduced from 26 to 22 games, there will be less margin for error this season. The league will again be divided into two divisions with Waterloo, Ames, Mason City, Dubuque, the Des Moines Capitals and Des Moines Oakleafs in the East. Sioux City, Kansas City, Lincoln, St. Joseph, the Omaha Lancers and Omaha Gladiators make up the West.

Each team plays 10 games within its division and 12 outside, unlike a year ago when not everyone met during the regular season.

There is plenty of firepower returning around the league. Omaha's Gladiators and the Des Moines Capitals head that list.

Omaha went 21-5 last season and welcomes back the league's top two scorers in Tony Roth (62 points with 42 assists) and Adam Collette (61 points with 25 goals). Another 13 veterans return, including goaltender Grant Teschoblick, who went 14-2 and posted a .903 save percentage.

The Capitals (22-4) lost 61-point scorer Ryan Gladson and No. 1 goalie Sean Allison, but that's about all. Heading the cast of 17 returning veterans are 51-point scorer Scott Long, 31-point scorer Drew Keller and 28-point scorer Matt Ramsey. Five other players who scored in double digits also return, as does goalie Ben Boulden, who went 11-0 with a .920 save percentage while sharing time in the nets last season.

Omaha's Lancers (15-11) lost their top three goaltenders and leading scorer Mike Kempkes. They'll try to rebuild around a nucleus of five double-digit scorers and 10 total veterans. Sioux City (21-5) lost most of its offensive arsenal (eight players who scored between 18 and 49 points) and its No. 1 goaltender. A dozen established players are back, however, including 40-point scorer Ben Deck and 32-point contributor Robby Lessard. The Metros won last year's varsity and junior varsity state tournaments, and host this year's varsity event.

Mason City has the heart of a 17-9 team returning. Goalie Ramleio Abujohar (17-9, .892, 5 shutouts) is back along with 13 other veter-

ans. Ben Klocke scored 31 points last season while Jerry Springer, Adam Clopton and Tom Harlan chipped in at least 20 apiece. Ames (8-16-2) lost its two leading scorers and top goaltender, and will count on 15 veterans to carry the load. Mike O'Connell is the returning scoring leader after a 22-point campaign.

Dubuque (4-19-3) has most of its 1998-99 squad back with 16 letterwinners. Joe Lenz (28 points), Brandon Dirksen (15), Tim Roth (11) and Chad Remakel (10) will try to carry the scoring load. Lincoln (3-22-1) has 15 veterans on hand, including Mike Todd (24 points), Griffin Gale (14) and Nick Fritje (13). St. Joseph (2-24-0), Kansas City and the Des Moines Oakleafs (2-23-1) return the fewest players.

Kansas City, in fact, was virtually wiped out following a 21-5 season. The Blades lost the league's top two goaltenders in Derek Smith and Dennis Soetaert, as well as 10 players who scored in double figures. Five of those contributed at least 20 points.

Waterloo Warriors

HEAD COACH: Mike Brown

1998-99 record: 16-9-1

(Varsity starting times listed)

Nov. 13 - at Des Moines Capitals

Nov. 19 - at Omaha Lancers, 7 p.m.

Nov. 20 - at Kansas City, 4:30 p.m.

Nov. 21 - at Kansas City, 9:15 a.m.

Dec. 4 - at Mason City, 7:45 p.m.

Dec. 10 - at Omaha Lancers, 7 p.m.

Dec. 11 - at Sioux City, 7 p.m.

Dec. 12 - at Sioux City, 1 p.m.

Dec. 17 - Omaha Gladiators, 8:15 p.m.

Dec. 18 - Omaha Gladiators, 3 p.m.

Dec. 19 - Mason City, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 27-30 - at Chicago Christmas Tournament

Jan. 7 - Ames, 8:15 p.m.

Jan. 8 - Ames, 8:15 p.m.

Jan. 14 - Dubuque, 8:15 p.m.

Jan. 21 - at Des Moines Oakleafs, 8:15 p.m.

Jan. 29 - Lincoln, 8:15 p.m.

Jan. 30 - Lincoln, 11 a.m.

Feb. 4 - Dubuque, 8:15 p.m.

Feb. 13 - at Des Moines Capitals, 8:15 p.m.

Feb. 18 - St. Joseph, 8:15 p.m.

Feb. 19 - St. Joseph, 8:15 p.m.

Feb. 26 - at Des Moines Oakleafs, 8 p.m.

March 3-5 - at JV State Tournament, Mason City

March 10-13 - at Varsity State Tournament, Sioux City

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS (13) - Chad Cutsforth, Tony Gragg, Luke Langstaff, Ryan Shaw, Josh Braby, Jason Boller, Jon Schell, Blake Knoll, Andy Kutz, Zach Smith, Brandt Clark, Bryce Anderson, Josh Dicken.

IHSHL schedule

Nov. 5 - Omaha Gladiators 9, Ames 1; Omaha Lancers 4, Mason City 0

Nov. 6 - Omaha Gladiators 5, Ames 4; Kansas City 4, Dubuque 3; Des Moines Oakleafs 2, St. Joseph 2; Mason City 3, Omaha Lancers 2; Sioux City 9, Lincoln 1

Nov. 7 - Dubuque 5, Kansas City 4; Des Moines Oakleafs 5, St. Joseph 3; Sioux City 4, Lincoln 1

Nov. 12 - Kansas City at Ames; Omaha Lancers at Des Moines Oakleafs

Nov. 13 - Kansas City at Ames; Waterloo at Des Moines Capitals; Dubuque at Sioux City; Omaha Lancers at Des Moines Oakleafs; Mason City at Lincoln; St. Joseph at Omaha Gladiators

Nov. 14 - Dubuque at Sioux City; Mason City at Lincoln; St. Joseph at Omaha Gladiators

Nov. 19 - Dubuque at Des Moines Capitals; Waterloo at Omaha Lancers; Sioux City at Mason City; Omaha Gladiators at Lincoln

Nov. 20 - Sioux City at Ames; Dubuque at Des Moines Capitals; Waterloo at Kansas City; Lincoln at St. Joseph

Nov. 21 - Sioux City at Ames; Waterloo at Kansas City; Lincoln at St. Joseph

Nov. 27-28 - Des Moines Capitals at Ames; St. Joseph at Dubuque

Dec. 3 - Mason City at Ames; Des Moines Capitals at Omaha Lancers; Des Moines Oakleafs at Dubuque; Waterloo at Mason City; Omaha Gladiators at Dubuque; Kansas City at Omaha Lancers

Dec. 4 - Des Moines Capitals at Omaha Lancers; Des Moines Oakleafs at Dubuque; Waterloo at Mason City; Omaha Gladiators at Dubuque; Kansas City at Omaha Lancers

Dec. 8 - Omaha Gladiators at Dubuque; Omaha Lancers at Lincoln; Kansas City at Sioux City

Dec. 10 - Lincoln at Des Moines Capitals; Mason City at Dubuque; Waterloo at Omaha Lancers

Dec. 11 - Ames at St. Joseph; Lincoln at Des Moines Capitals; Mason City at Des Moines Oakleafs; Des Moines Oakleafs at Omaha Gladiators; Waterloo at Sioux City; Omaha Lancers at Kansas City

Dec. 12 - Ames at St. Joseph; Des Moines Oakleafs at Gladiators; Waterloo at Sioux City; Omaha Lancers at Kansas City

Dec. 17 - Mason City at Ames; Omaha Gladiators at Waterloo; Mason City at Ames; Sioux City at Omaha Lancers

Dec. 18 - Ames at Des Moines Capitals; Lincoln at Dubuque; Kansas City at Des Moines Oakleafs; Des Moines Oakleafs at Waterloo; Sioux City at Omaha Lancers

Dec. 19 - Lincoln at Dubuque; Kansas City at Des Moines Oakleafs; Mason City at Waterloo; Kansas City at Des Moines Oakleafs; Jan. 8 - Ames at Waterloo; Sioux City at Des Moines Oakleafs; Kansas City at Mason City; Omaha Gladiators at Omaha Lancers

Jan. 9 - Sioux City at Des Moines Oakleafs; Kansas City at Mason City; Omaha Gladiators at Omaha Lancers

Jan. 13 - Des Moines Capitals at Des Moines Oakleafs

Jan. 14 - Dubuque at Waterloo; Lincoln at Omaha Gladiators

Jan. 21 - Omaha Lancers at Ames; Waterloo at Des Moines Oakleafs

Jan. 27 - Omaha Lancers at Ames; St. Joseph at Des Moines Capitals; Dubuque at Des Moines Oakleafs

Jan. 23 - St. Joseph at Des Moines Capitals

Jan. 28 - St. Joseph at Omaha Lancers

Jan. 29 - Ames at Dubuque; Des Moines Capitals at Sioux City; Des Moines Oakleafs at Mason City; Lincoln at Waterloo; Omaha Gladiators at Kansas City; Omaha Lancers at St. Joseph

Jan. 30 - Ames at Dubuque; Des Moines Capitals at Sioux City; Lincoln at Waterloo; Omaha Gladiators at Kansas City

Feb. 4 - Dubuque at Waterloo

Feb. 5 - Ames at Lincoln; Des Moines at Omaha Gladiators; Des Moines Oakleafs at Mason City; Kansas City at St. Joseph

Feb. 6 - Ames at Lincoln; Omaha Gladiators at Des Moines Capitals; Kansas City at St. Joseph

Feb. 11 - Des Moines Capitals at Des Moines Oakleafs

Feb. 12 - Waterloo at Des Moines Capitals; Des Moines Oakleafs at Lincoln; Mason City at Omaha Gladiators; St. Joseph at Sioux City

Feb. 13 - Des Moines Oakleafs at Lincoln; Mason City at Omaha Gladiators; St. Joseph at Sioux City

Feb. 18 - Des Moines Oakleafs at Ames; Des Moines Capitals at Mason City; St. Joseph at Waterloo

Feb. 19 - Des Moines Oakleafs at Ames; Des Moines Capitals at Mason City; St. Joseph at Waterloo; Sioux City at Kansas City

Feb. 20 - Omaha Lancers at Lincoln

Feb. 25 - Sioux City at Omaha Gladiators

Feb. 26 - Des Moines Capitals at Kansas City; Dubuque at Omaha Lancers; Waterloo at Des Moines Oakleafs; Mason City at St. Joseph; Sioux City at Omaha Gladiators

Feb. 27 - Des Moines Capitals at Kansas City; Dubuque at Omaha Lancers; Mason City at St. Joseph

March 1-3 - Junior Varsity state tournament at Mason City

1998-99 standings

EAST DIVISION

Division	W	L	T	Overall
D.M. Capitals	17	3	0	22 4 0
Mason City	16	4	0	17 9 0
Waterloo	13	7	0	16 9 1
Ames	9	10	2	9 16 2
D.M. Oakleafs	2	17	1	2 23 1
Dubuque	1	16	3	4 19 3

WEST DIVISION

Division	W	L	T	Overall
Omaha Gladiators	16	4	0	21 5 0
Sioux City	15	5	0	21 5 0
Kansas City	15	5	0	21 5 0
Omaha Lancers	10	10	0	15 11 0
St. Joseph	2	18	0	2 24 0
Lincoln	2	18	0	3 22 1