

# Warriors' head coach expects 'exciting' team

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## WATERLOO

Mike Brown would like to think he'll be able to put a pretty good team on the ice this Iowa High School Hockey League season.

Until he gets everyone in camp, however, there's no way to know what the Waterloo Warriors will look like this weekend when they open their season with a three-game road trip.

"We've got six kids who will be at practice this week who haven't been with us before," said Brown. "And that doesn't include Shane Metz and Michael Fritts, who are still playing football.

"I think we're going to have pretty good depth when we get everybody out. When we do get everybody together, and if we stay healthy, we should be able to send three quality lines out and five or six quality defensemen, and have excellent goaltending.

"We'll be exciting, I think."

The Warriors, coming off a 16-6 season, open Friday night at Ames before moving on to Lincoln, Neb., for games Saturday and Sunday.

One thing Brown knows for sure is that he has three of the top players in the league as a nucleus.

Ryan Shaw ranked ninth in the league in scoring last season with 14 goals and 19 assists. Andy Kutz is generally regarded as one of the top defensemen, and Goodsell ranked seventh among Iowa High School Hockey League goalies in 1999-2000 when he posted a 90.7 save percentage.

"Shaw can be as good as anybody in our league," said Brown. "He's played at the varsity level to some extent for four years. He's not the kind of guy who is going to do it all

by himself, but I think we have people who can get him the puck when we need to get it to him. He's going to have to score goals for us to be successful.

"Kutz is as good as anybody in the league, too, and Goodsell's the same way. It's just a matter of whether we can get the people around them to play up to their potential."

Other veterans who will be counted on heavily are Tony Grapp, Luke Langdale, Bryan Corwin, Jared Boller, Josh Dicken and Brian Brown. The Warriors won't have Zach Smith for the first semester because of eligibility problems.

Brown got a look at many of his younger players last weekend when Waterloo played two games against fellow IHSHL member Mason City. The Warriors lost, 3-0, at home, then won 3-1 in Mason City.

Opening with three road games at less than full strength doesn't concern the longtime coach.

"It's always tough to play on the road," he said, "but I kind of like playing on the road early. I think it definitely helps us get our focus. I like knowing where everybody will be the night before a game.

"It is a tough way to start out, but we're looking forward to it."

### WARRIORS SCHEDULE

(Varsity starting times listed)

Nov. 3 - at Ames 8 p.m.; Nov. 4 - at Lincoln, 4:15 p.m.; Nov. 5 - at Lincoln, 7:45 a.m.; Nov. 10 - at Dubuque, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 11 - Mason City, 7:45 p.m.; Nov. 18 - Kansas City, 7:45 p.m.; Nov. 19 - Kansas City, 11 a.m.; Nov. 24 - Des Moines Capitals, 7:45 p.m.; Nov. 25 - Quad Cities, 7:45 p.m.

Dec. 1 - at Mason City, 7:45 p.m.; Dec. 9 - Omaha Lancers, 7:45 p.m.; Dec. 10 - Omaha Lancers, 11 a.m.; Dec. 15 - Dubuque, 7:45 p.m.; Dec. 17 - at Quad Cities, 11:30 a.m.; Dec. 26-30 - at Chicago Tournament.

Jan. 6 - Des Moines Capitals, 2:30 p.m.; Jan. 12 - at Ames, 8 p.m.; Jan. 19 - at Des Moines Oakleafs, 8 p.m.; Jan. 20 - at Omaha Gladiators, 7 p.m.; Jan. 21 - at Omaha Gladiators, 1:15 p.m.; Jan. 26 - Quad Cities, 7:45 p.m.; Jan. 27 - at Des Moines Oakleafs, 8 p.m.

Feb. 3 - Mason City, 2:30 p.m.; Feb. 4 - at Des Moines Capitals, 12:30 p.m.; Feb. 10 - at Quad Cities, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 17 - Sioux City, 7:45 p.m.; Feb. 18 - Sioux City, 11 a.m.; Feb. 23 - Ames, 7:45 p.m.; Feb. 24 - at Dubuque, 7:30 p.m.

March 2-4 - Junior varsity state tournament at Dubuque; March 9-11 - Varsity state tournament at Mason City.