

# Prep hockey league returns many top-notch goalies

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The Iowa High School Hockey League has a slightly different look this season, but there remains at least one constant.

Almost all of the league's 12 teams have experienced goaltenders returning, and it's no coincidence that those expected to contend for the regular-season titles in their respective divisions will build around netminders who ranked among the league's best a year ago.

Sioux City, Omaha's Lancers, Des Moines' Capitals and Waterloo return five of 1999-2000's top seven goalies. Those teams are also off to fast starts in an expanded, 28-game regular-season schedule leading up to the March 9-11 state tournament in Mason City.

"There are four or five teams that are really solid," says Waterloo coach Mike Brown. "Sioux City and the Omaha Lancers will be as good as anybody in the league. I think both Des Moines teams will be real competitive, and I think Mason City will be competitive.

"We think we'll be competitive, too."

Ryan Dohrmann and Ross Patrick handled the netminding chores for Sioux City last season, and Dohrmann finished tops in the IHSHL with a .935 save percentage and three shutouts. The Metros didn't return a lot of scoring, but they did welcome back leading scorer Ben Deck (36 points), Ricky Nearman

## IHSHL standings

East Division	W	L	T	Pct.	GF	GA
D.M. Capitals	19	3	0	.864	126	42
Mason City	18	4	0	.818	97	44
Waterloo	16	6	0	.727	92	50
Dubuque	7	15	0	.318	65	79
D.M. Oakleaves	6	16	0	.273	47	89
Ames	6	16	0	.273	38	81

West Division	W	L	T	Pct.	GF	GA
Om. Gladiators	15	7	0	.682	103	57
Om. Lancers	14	7	1	.659	80	39
Sioux City	14	7	1	.659	84	56
Kansas City	7	13	2	.364	61	66
Lincoln	8	14	0	.364	59	95
St. Joseph	0	22	0	.000	23	177

(23 points) and Corey Mozak (15 points).

The Lancers also have a strong, one-two punch in the nets with Ben Morris and Marc Rood, who ranked third and fourth, respectively, a year ago. Their numbers were nearly identical with Morris posting a .915 save percentage and Rood at .912. Both had three shutouts.

Omaha, always a strong defensive team, has plenty of offensive punch this season. Seven double-digit scorers return from a balanced and deep attack, led by Eric Johnston and Andy Davis (20 points each), Matt Hallberg (18), Blake Sanders (18) and Rick Shimonek (17).

The Capitals have regular goalie Ben Doubden back (.907, 5 shutouts), and two big scorers in Brad Ramsey (18 goals, 30 assists) and Matt Beals (34 points).

Des Moines' other team, the Oakleaves, heads into their second season with a nucleus of 18 veterans who

played at the varsity level a year ago. Goalie Matt Barth saw four varsity starts (.900), and also ranked among last year's junior varsity leaders with a .914 save percentage and three shutouts in 14 games. The Oakleaves will need to find some scoring, however, with just two double-figure contributors returning from a team that scored just 47 goals in 22 games.

Waterloo's hopes are built around standout goaltender Zach Goodsell (.907, 3 shutouts), a solid defensive corps headed by Andy Kutz and an offensive attack featuring 1999-2000 leading scorer Ryan Shaw (33 points). Josh Dicken returns after an 18-point season and Zach Smith, who won't be available until the second semester, contributed 15 last year.

Elsewhere around the league, Mason City has a big, strong team featuring 21-point scorer Andre Larivee and 20-point scorer Matt Paulsen. Lincoln returns three of its top four scorers in Mike Todd (22 points), Nick Fittie (20) and Pat Flaherty (13), and goalie Nick Matulka saw action in five varsity games a year ago.

Kansas City returns its No. 1 goalie in Stephen Reneau (.894), but lost most of its offense with the departure of four double-figure scorers. The Junior Stars picked up three players from the disbanded St. Joseph team—Kyle Meier, Mike Mathis and Cody Hayes.

Dubuque lost leading scorer Joe Lenz and his 38 points, but returned goalie Joe Steuck (.878) and high-



BRANDON POLLOCK / Courier Staff Photographer

**Waterloo Warriors coach Mike Brown, in back, is counting on solid seasons from, left to right, Ryan Shaw, Zach Goodsell and Andy Kutz. Shaw is the team's top returning scorer, Goodsell ranked among the Iowa High School Hockey League's goaltending leaders last year, and Kutz is generally regarded as one of the state's top prep defensemen.**

scoring forward Tim Roth (31 points). Chris Richman (15), Ryan Johnson (13) and Nate Gaherty (11) also showed an ability to make things happen offensively last year.

The team with the biggest losses to overcome is the Omaha Gladiators, who lost seven double-digit scorers,

including league runner-up Adam Collette (50 points), along with both varsity goalies. Andy Hutchison is the top returning scorer (28 points).

Ames has goalie Jason Huls (.869) and Travis Fetrow (.906 in five games) back, but just one double-figure scorer in Matt Swaim (13 points).

The new kids on the IHSHL block are located in the Quad Cities. Only time will tell where they fit into the mix.

"We've played them the last couple of years, and they played almost everybody in our league last year so there won't be too many surprises," says Waterloo's Brown. "My guess is they'll fall somewhere in the middle of the pack. They have a couple of really good players."

Quad Cities was placed in the league's East Division along with Waterloo, Ames, Mason City, Dubuque, and Des Moines' Capitals. The West consists of both Omaha teams, Sioux City, Kansas City, Lincoln and the Des Moines Oakleaves, who were in the East last season.

The top four teams from each division, based on points, qualify for the state tournament.

## WARRIORS SCHEDULE (Varsity starting times listed)

Nov. 3 - Warriors 5, Ames 0  
Nov. 4 - Lincoln 5, Warriors 3  
Nov. 5 - Warriors 2, Lincoln 1  
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 Oakleaves, 8 p.m.  
Jan. 20 - at Omaha Gladiators, 7:15 p.m.  
Jan. 21 - at Omaha Gladiators, 11 p.m.  
Jan. 26 - Quad Cities, 7:45 p.m.  
Jan. 27 - at Des Moines Oakleaves, 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.