



MARON ON THE MOVE — Urbandale's Randy Higgins (right) moves in on a Dowling player during Sunday night's game at the Ice Arena. Higgins scored twice in the J-Hawks' 5-4 overtime win.

TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY THOMAS E. HOOPER

A Sunday ice show for all the family

By Gene Raffensperger

(Assistant Sports Editor)

Bill Griffin never played hockey but he's willing to roll out of bed at 5 a.m. some mornings to give his son the chance.

Griffin's early rising time is necessary because son Dave's Urbandale Hockey Club team occasionally has a workout at 6 a.m. at the Des Moines Ice Arena.

They say hockey is a rugged sport, no place for sissies, but it would appear the parents are a hardy lot, too.

Dave Griffin, 14, a freshman, is playing what most would consider high school hockey. In fact he wears a uniform with the name "Urbandale" on the front.

But Urbandale High School did not buy the shirt, a local bank did. Bill Griffin was responsible for buying the skates, helmet, mask, shin guards and



RON NAGURSKI

They also play in what is known as a State League, which includes two Waterloo teams, Mason City, Webster City, Ames and Sioux City.

Connie Zingerman, one of the officials in the Des Moines program, says about 120 boys from ninth through twelfth grade are taking part this year.

Zingerman says the teams play on Sunday night because that is a time when the Ice Arena is available and also that night does not conflict with other local high school activities.

He says the games, usually three each Sunday night, have been drawing upwards of 1,000 persons.

"If you like getting up at 5 in the morning you'll love hockey," says Bill Griffin. Then, in a more serious vein, he says parents might invest more than \$100 in equipping a boy to take part in hockey.

"It's a good game," says Bill Griffin. "I enjoy it, although I never played it myself. I think it has taught Dave to be a little more aggressive and to take care of himself."

Hockey has picked up a reputation, at least on the professional level, as a brawling sport, where fans rain down verbal abuse on players and referees, and where players settle disputes with their fists or sticks.

Not so at the high school level, says Zingerman. "We're cracking down. We've only had one fight on the ice this year and the players were suspended for the game and the next one."

Zingerman says the fans, mostly parents and friends, are vocal but not abusive. "It's a great spectator sport," says Zingerman. "I feel it builds character and it keeps the kids off the street."

Metro Standings

	W.	L.	T.	Pts.	GF	GA
Valley	4	0	0	8	34	7
Urbandale	3	1	0	6	16	14
Roosevelt-Hoover	2	1	1	4	22	2
Dowling	1	2	1	2	17	17
Lincoln	1	2	0	2	9	34
Ankeny	0	4	0	0	7	28

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Valley 13, Lincoln 1
Urbandale 5, Dowling 4 (overtime)
Roosevelt-Hoover 9, Ankeny 2

hockey sticks. He and other parents and sponsors are responsible for paying the rent on the arena, renting ice time and even cleaning the place up.

High school hockey in Des Moines is a club sport. In short it is not sanctioned by local school boards as are the more popular and long standing sports of football, basketball, baseball and track.

Parents and others naturally hope the day will come when hockey is a sanctioned activity, but until then it would appear hockey is getting along fairly well at the high school level.

There are six teams in the Metro League — Valley, Urbandale, Dowling, Lincoln, Ankeny and Roosevelt-Hoover.