

Hockey club program improving

Photo by Anne Down

By BJS LATER

This year's Ames High School Hockey Club is young in two ways. The club itself is only in its third year, and most of the 26 players on the team are underclassmen, according to second year coach Jim Van Bergen.

The starters on the team are forwards Steve Graves, Doug Cowles, and Bruce Johnson. Defense is played by Bob Hayes and Greg Jackson with Brad Johnston at goalie. Graves and Cowles are the co-captains of the team, which stands at 1-3 record after losses (weekend games).

Because they are not funded by the school, the club members raise money by gathering donations from businesses, making fund drives and paying \$125 apiece for the season. They play their home games in the Cyclone Area Community Center, which was built on donations, and the coaches are unpaid volunteers.

The team plays in a nine team league consisting of teams from all over Iowa.

They will play 16 league and 4-6 non-league games this season. In March the nine league teams will gather in Des Moines to fight for the state championship in the Des Moines Ice Arena. The players and coaches hope to place well, if not win the tournament.

"I doubt we'll win," forecasts Cowles, "but I'd like to finish up high."

"We can play with anybody in the league," states Van Bergen. "Potentially, of the nine teams, we hope to finish in the middle of the pack."

Cowles has noted an increased interest in the team and attendance at games, and says the support is appreciated.

"The first night the crowd was fantastic," he relates. "They most definitely fired us up."

The team's next game is this Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Center against Sioux City.



No. 5, Doug Cowles of the Ames High School Hockey Club, gets into the action

in the Waterloo Columbus game last weekend.

