

# New prep hockey coach is optimistic

By Jeff Tecklenburg  
Sports Editor

**MASON CITY** — It's not unusual for a coach to be optimistic heading into a new season.

But John Lloyd probably has more than the usual reasons to feel that way. The new varsity coach of the Mason City high school hockey club team, which opens its season today at Sioux City, can cite such positives as:

- A large number of seniors out, including some from Mason City's state playoff-qualifying football team.
- Prevalent player traits such as a "winning attitude" and "very hard working."
- Some promising play in a pre-season scrimmage against defending state champ Waterloo Public.
- And last, by not least, the privilege of all-season indoor ice time in the North Iowa Recreational Arena, which first opened late last season.

Lloyd is a new addition. Also the manager of the arena, he's the first certified coach to direct the Mason City team. He replaces John Pete, volunteer head for the past five seasons.

Lloyd is an experienced hockey coach, with 15 years under his belt, including one as the head man in Anchorage, Alaska.

Most recently, he spent three years as assistant varsity coach at Farmington, Minn.

"The arena is going to help a lot," he said earlier this week. "I'm a firm believer that hockey players are made on outdoor ice but here you don't usually have the weather for outdoor ice until late in the season."

"So, the arena will help our skating ability and that's the most important part of the game."

Lloyd noted that he's got a large number of seniors out, seven of which have earned varsity spots.

"At first, I thought we had a lot of experience on the team but a lot of the boys are pretty young and some are new kids out for the first time, even some seniors. But their winning attitude and hard work is carrying through the whole team."

Lloyd said Mason City recently scrimmaged Waterloo Public, which "has everybody back from their state championship team."

"We were very pleased with the way we played ... We moved the puck and put pressure on when we needed to. The mental mistakes hurt us some ... but there was only three goals difference in the end."

"The players and myself are con-



Lloyd



Beard



Pappajohn



Pete



Dana Despenas

David Despenas

fident now that we can beat them during the season. It may have to be on our home ice but we can do it."

Of the 19 varsity players, five can be considered veterans: defensemen Dave Beard (senior) and George Pappajohn (sophomore) and forwards Dana Despenas (junior) David Despenas (senior) and Jon Pete (senior).

In addition, senior John Rosenfeld shared playing time at goal tender last year, when the Mohawks were 6-16 overall and finished seventh in the nine-team state tourney.

Since the team is not school-sponsored, there are no restrictions on where players can reside.

"We've got boys from four different schools — Mason City, Newnam, Clear Lake and Forest City," said Lloyd.

As of right now, the two Despenas brothers and sophomore Steve Hansen comprise the top forward line but "we'll rotate three lines and will have a fourth line of junior varsity players ready to give them a break," said Lloyd.

The defenseman starters will be Beard and Pappajohn with freshman Matt Pete and junior Scott Swanson, from Forest City, right on their heels.

Seniors Derrick Sellsgerren and Dave Haridon "will be playing a lot, too, as soon as they get enough ice time," said Lloyd.

The backup goalie is freshman Jeff Curtis.

Minnesota is known for its strong prep hockey and has about 180 schools fielding teams, compared to 10 in Iowa.

But Lloyd said, "Iowa teams aren't that far away. It's mostly a matter of ice time and more competition. Last year's Waterloo team

could hold its own in the league Farmington is in, which is a very good conference."

Other hockey notes:

• Mason City will be host to a Christmas Holiday Tournament involving four teams. The three visitors will be La Crescent and Winona of Minnesota and West Salem, Wis.

• The Mohawks will have a "new look" with black helmets and long pants instead of the shorter version.

• Lloyd's assistant will be Larry Liszta of Hanlontown; John's son Scott will handle the junior varsity.

## Varsity schedule

Nov. 19 — Sioux City, away, varsity at 3:30 p.m.  
Nov. 25 — Waterloo Columbus, away, 7:30 p.m.  
Dec. 4 — Waseka, home, 3 p.m.  
Dec. 4 — Urbandale, home, 7:30 p.m.  
Dec. 11 — Sioux City, home, 3 p.m.  
Dec. 16 — Waterloo Public, away, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 18 — Ames, home, 1 p.m.  
Dec. 20-31 — Holiday Tournament, home  
Jan. 6 — Waseka, at Crestview, 8:30 p.m.  
Jan. 7 — Dubuque away, 4:30 p.m.  
Jan. 13 — Ames, away, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 14 — La Crosse, away, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 20 — Columbus, home, 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 22 — West Des Moines Valley, home, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 27 — Urbandale, away, 4 p.m.  
Feb. 3 — Des Moines Public, home, 7 p.m.  
Feb. 10 — W.D.M. Valley, away, 8 p.m.  
Feb. 11 — Waterloo Public, home, 7:30 p.m.  
Feb. 18 — Dubuque, home, 7:30 p.m.  
Feb. 24 — Des Moines Public, away, 8 p.m.  
March 1-2-3 — State tournament, Waterloo

## Final Iowa High School Hockey League standings

|                        | W  | L  | T | Pts. |
|------------------------|----|----|---|------|
| *Waterloo Public.....  | 17 | 1  | 0 | 34   |
| Des Moines Public..... | 14 | 3  | 1 | 29   |
| Waterloo Columbus..... | 14 | 3  | 1 | 29   |
| W.D.M. Valley.....     | 13 | 5  | 0 | 26   |
| Ames.....              | 9  | 9  | 0 | 18   |
| Urbandale.....         | 7  | 11 | 0 | 14   |
| Sioux City.....        | 7  | 11 | 0 | 14   |
| Mason City.....        | 6  | 14 | 0 | 6    |
| W.D.M. Dowsling.....   | 3  | 15 | 0 | 6    |
| Dubuque.....           | 1  | 17 | 0 | 2    |

\*State playoff champion

## 'Macho' Camacho retains WBC title

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Undeclared Hector "Macho" Camacho retained his World Boxing Council super featherweight title by knocking out Rafael Solis of Puerto Rico in the fifth round Friday night.

Camacho, the 21-year-old champion from New York, seemed to be having difficulty with the challenger during the first four rounds before he floored Solis with a lightning-right right-handed punch in the fifth.

The blow decked Solis and caused blood to ooze from his mouth in the fight scheduled to go 12 rounds. After taking an eight-count, Solis

got up and indicated he was not hurt. But the champion moved in again with another right hand that ended the fight at 2:02 of the fifth round.

Just before Camacho delivered the punishing blows, Solis, 30-3-2, had connected with a long left hand to the midsection, causing the champion to double up and hold on to the challenger.

Once referee Octavio Meyran of Mexico City pulled them apart, Camacho moved across the ring and delivered the first of two blows that ended the fight and boosted his record to 23-0.



IOWA STATE  
VS  
OKLAHOMA STATE

This Saturday