

# '86-'87 Winter Preview: High school hockey

## Several candidates for state hockey crown

The Iowa high school hockey state championship trophy sits in Ames these days, but any of several teams are strong candidates to take it away this season.

Ames avenged a loss to the Waterloo Warriors in the 1985 finals by defeating Waterloo, 7-4, last winter, for its first state tournament championship after back-to-back regular-season crowns.

But the Cyclones' graduation losses were severe and 1986-'87 may be something of a rebuilding year. Coze is league scoring champion and state tourney MVP Scott Johnson, as well as his two linemates, Bill Norris and John Newell. Doug Glick, a 21-point scorer, has also graduated and together, that's a loss of 189 points for Ames, including 86 goals.

Also gone are the top three defencemen — John Russo and Greg Sieber to graduation and Don Erbach, who is a senior this year, to the Des Moines Buccaneers of the United States Hockey League — as well as the Iowa High School Hockey League's top goaltender in Scott Jackson, who posted a 91.7 save percentage.

The new power of the IHSHL could come from several directions.

HERE IN Waterloo, both Columbus and the public school Warriors would like to bring the state title back where it has been seven times in 10 state tournaments. Columbus has won four state titles, the Warriors three.

Practice for the two local teams began Nov. 3 and they have already scrimmaged once, battling to a 3-3 tie.

The Warriors lost a number of their top players, but they also return a nucleus that includes high-scoring Marc Gillard (51 points in 18 league games), 39-point scorer Del Donaldson and Tom Meyer (17 points).

The top returning goalie for the Warriors is Scott Ames, who is 6-1 in backup duty a year ago while Tony Burch also is back.

Waterloo Columbus may bring parity back to the local hockey scene this season.

The Sailors have most of the leaders back from last year's team, including goaltender Pat Lamigan (87.1 percent), who is regaining his form after knee surgery. The Sailors' top returning scorers are Scott Jasper (18 points) and Neal Lanigan (10 points in action limited by injury) while Jeff Weidner and David Drotkowski are also back.

Columbus suffered one blow when Andy McCarvey broke his wrist in the scrimmage with the Warriors and is out six to eight weeks.

FORMER Warrior player Brian Wehr (19 points) has transferred to Columbus and should give the offense a boost while Andy MacLennan is another Warriors transfer who could be a contributor on defense once he becomes eligible sometime after Jan. 1.

Team	W-L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Ames	13-1	24	115	32	22
West Warriors	14-4	28	113	57	43
Sioux City	9-9	18	57	43	43
Wheat City	8-10	18	51	41	41
Urbandale	7-11	14	37	41	41
Valley-Dow	6-12	12	31	41	41
Columbus	2-14	4	28	34	54

Sioux City and Mason City, meanwhile, have big experienced teams that should make a run at their first-ever IHSHL titles.

At Sioux City, the Metros have the best of the experienced goaltenders returning in Scott Patrick. He posted an 89.8 save percentage a year ago while facing 597 shots, second-most in the IHSHL.

On offense, four players who finished among the league's Top 30 scorers return. They are Brian Burke (18 points), Steve Nichol (16), Chris Swanson (16) and Mark Graber (14).

Mason City also returns a strong nucleus. The Mohawks have Jeff Curtis and Doug Tarr back in the nets, as well as Chris Steward (25 points), Troy Thelen (21), Matt Pete (21), and Todd Thoreson (13).

Valley-Dowling lost an outstanding goaltender in Scott Geiger (89.8 percent) but backup Eric Gibson is back to take over.

THE TIGERS also lost their leading scorer, Tim Jones, but have Cory Anderson, Mike Stroud and Tony Dressen waiting to fill his shoes.

At Urbandale, leading scorer Steve Tunks is back after a 28-point season in 1985-86. He is joined by Pete Dale and Doug Beebe, but the Jayhawks will miss the likes of goal-

tenders Matt Haws and Scott Zwaniger along with Troy Sorenson (23 points) and Damon Punsalan (17 points).

"It could be a pretty tough situation this year," says Warriors Coach Dave Swick.

#### Columbus

Head coach: Mike Brown  
1985-86 league record: 21-8  
Nov. 2 — at Ames  
Nov. 4 — at Urbandale  
Dec. 4 — at Waterloo Warriors  
Dec. 6 — at Mason City  
Dec. 11 — Sioux City  
Dec. 12 — at Waterloo Warriors  
Dec. 15 — at Dubuque non-conference  
Dec. 16 — at Chicago Falls Area Tournament  
Jan. 7 — at Urbandale  
Jan. 11 — Waterloo Warriors  
Jan. 13 — Waterloo Warriors

#### Warriors

Head coach: Don Swick  
1985-86 league record: 14-6  
Nov. 2 — at Sioux City  
Nov. 3 — Valley-Dowling  
Nov. 4 — Columbus non-conference  
Dec. 1 — Ames  
Dec. 12 — Sioux City  
Dec. 13 — at Valley-Dowling  
Dec. 14 — at Waterloo Warriors  
Dec. 28 — Sioux City  
Feb. 27 — Valley-Dowling

#### See HOCKEY

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