

Warriors want to improve on last year's 12-win campaign

Waterloo Warriors coach Mike Brown won't be satisfied with another 12-win season and third-place finish in the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament this season.

Last winter's IHSHL coach of the year is back for his second season with the Warriors and he's counting on a group of six seniors to set a winning example for what is otherwise a youthful varsity group.

"It's still a learning process for everybody," says Brown. "We have to take up where we left off last year and get better. There's room for improvement from where we ended up last year.

"We've got to get better."

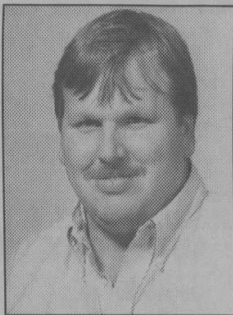
Brown will look to seniors Brian Varney, Brett Klima, Wade Eldridge, Mike Rupkey, Scott Hagley and Ryan Wirtjes to lead this year's team. Varney is the top returning scorer after tallying 26 points in 22 regular-season games as a junior. Klima added 16 points, Wade Eldridge 14 and Markey 10.

Goaltender Ryan Eldridge played every game last season and returns as a junior with plenty of experience.

"That should help us a lot," says Brown. "He saw a lot of pucks last year."

The Warriors have suffered one major injury setback. Neal Ticknor, a sophomore defenseman, will probably be lost for the season with a nagging knee injury that needs surgery.

Practice began with around 36 players. The varsity group includes seven juniors, five sophomores and two freshmen. This year's squad fea-



Mike Brown

tures players from East, West, Columbus and Cedar Falls high schools, as well as Hudson, La Porte City, Jesup and Denver.

The league season began with the annual jamboree Nov. 6-7. The Warriors opened the regular season last Friday against Mason City.

Brown said Valley-Dowling and Omaha's Gladiators appear to be the top teams in the league heading into the season. The Tigers were last year's state tournament champions while the Gladiators won the regular-season title before bowing to Waterloo in the third-place game at the state tournament.

"Those teams have a lot of people back and a lot of people to choose from," says Brown.

"I didn't see anybody we can't be competitive with on a given day," he adds. "We just have top play hard

1992-93 IHSHL Standings

	W	L	T	Pct.	GF	GA
East Division						
Ames	12	10	0	.545	80	86
Waterloo	10	12	0	.455	97	94
Mason City	9	12	1	.432	90	86
Dubuque	3	18	1	.159	51	132
West Division						
Omaha Gladiators	18	6	0	.750	127	85
Valley-Dowling	17	7	0	.708	120	72
St. Joseph	14	10	0	.583	121	98
Sioux City	14	10	0	.583	113	92
Omaha Lancers	6	18	0	.250	73	127

and see what happens."

WATERLOO WARRIORS

Head coach: Mike Brown

1992-93 record: 12-13-0

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS (8) —

Ben Brown, f; Brett Klima, f; Mike Rupkey, f; Wade Eldridge, d; Scott Hagley, d; Brian Varney, f; Tim Markey, f; Ryan Eldridge, g.

1993-94 schedule

(Times listed are for varsity games)

- Nov. 13 — Mason City, 7:40 p.m.
- Nov. 19 — at Omaha Gladiators, 8:30 p.m.
- Nov. 20 — at Omaha Jr. Lancers, 2 p.m.
- Nov. 21 — at Sioux City, 3 p.m.
- Nov. 26 — St. Joseph, 7:40 p.m.
- Nov. 27 — at Mason City, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 3 — at Ames, 8 p.m.
- Dec. 4 — at Mason City, 4 p.m.
- Dec. 17 — Ames, 7:40 p.m.
- Dec. 18 — Omaha Gladiators, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 26 — Alumni game, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 27-30 — at Windy City Christmas Tournament (Naperville, Ill.)
- Jan. 15 — Omaha Jr. Lancers, 7:40 p.m.
- Jan. 16 — at Dubuque, 11:10 a.m.
- Jan. 18 — at IHSHL All-Star game (Des Moines)
- Jan. 22 — Ames, 7:40 p.m.
- Jan. 28 — Mason City, 7:40 p.m.
- Feb. 4 — at Valley-Dowling, 8 p.m.
- Feb. 5 — at St. Joseph, 5:15 p.m.
- Feb. 11 — at Ames, 8 p.m.
- Feb. 12 — Valley-Dowling, 3 p.m.
- Feb. 18 — Dubuque, 7:40 p.m.
- Feb. 19 — Sioux City, 7:40 p.m.
- Feb. 25 — Dubuque, 7:40 p.m.
- Feb. 26 — at Dubuque, 3:40 p.m.
- March 3-6 — at IHSHL State Tournament (Dubuque)