

'Icing' on the cake

Waterloo's Young Arena getting ice, seats



Photos by DAN NIERLING / Courier Photo Editor

Water can be seen on the floor of Young Arena as it gets a final cleaning. Ice is expected to be covering the Olympic-size skating rink Friday. The arena is scheduled to open Wednesday.

Officials: Ice to be finished by Friday

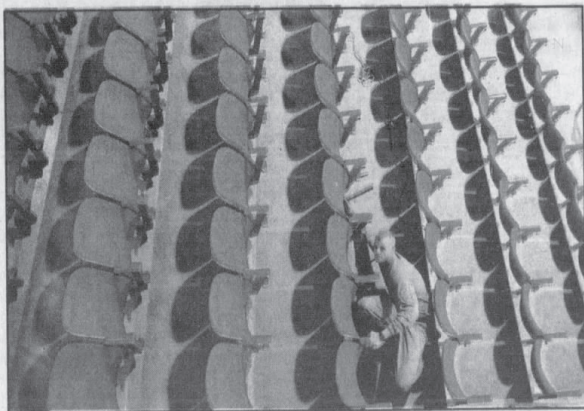
By PAT KINNEY
Courier Business Editor

The floor of the Young Arena is literally expected to be "on ice" by Friday evening.

The arena interior is taking shape and on schedule for Wednesday's opening ceremonies, Waterloo Recreation Commission & Arts Commission Director Tom Reardon said today.

Installation of the 3,000 bright red stadium seats has begun, and the dasher boards and hockey glass have been installed around the Olympic-size rink, Reardon said.

The arena floor has been cleaned and



Clint Hardman, a worker at Young Arena, stands amid a sea of red chairs as he installs arena seating.

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ARENA

Waterloo's new hockey rink nears completion

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the new, computer-controlled ice-making equipment will be put to work today as the initial layer of ice is applied.

Reardon said an initial layer of ice will be applied and painted, including the hockey face-off circles, red line and blue lines.

A Waterloo Black Hawks logo will

be painted on the surface, as well as some advertising, Reardon said. Then another layer of ice will be applied over the painted surface, giving it the familiar glazed look seen at most skating and hockey rinks.

"Things are falling together," Reardon said. "Wednesday, we should have a functional ice facility."

A new Zamboni ice-resurfacing vehicle was shipped Wednesday and is expected to arrive next Tuesday or Wednesday, Reardon said.

Floor coverings of hard, ice skate-resistant recycled plastic also will be applied on walkways to the ice sur-

face and offices will be carpeted, Reardon said. It's anticipated the Black Hawks will continue to do business out of their offices at McElroy Auditorium for now and move to Young Arena Jan. 2 or 3.

The new arena will be totally handicapped accessible, Reardon said. It has a ground floor entrance and is equipped with an elevator to take patrons to ticket offices and the main concourse above the seating area.

Crews are winding down what has been about a 14-month construction project. Ground was broken for the

arena in October 1993.

Land and the principal portion of the construction cost, now estimated at about \$5 million, has been donated by the Young family of Waterloo. Young Development Co. is the general contractor for the project.

The facility is being given to the city through the Community Foundation of Waterloo and Northeast Iowa. The city will officially receive the keys to the facility at the opening ceremonies, set for 7 p.m. Wednesday and open to the public.

