

Warriors look for better scoring

By **DOUG NEWHOFF**

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Waterloo's Warriors open Iowa High School Hockey League play this weekend counting on their miserly manner at one end of the ice to cover the costs of inexperience at the other.

Head coach Mike Brown takes his third team of Warriors to Ames Friday night to open the 1994-95 season. It's a young team that has yet to prove it can score on a consistent basis.

Waterloo was next-to-last among league teams in scoring a year ago when it went 6-16. The only double-figure scorer returning is senior Tim Markey, who led the team in goals with 14 and tied for the lead in points at 21.

"Markey will be our leader up there for sure," says Brown. "But I think we're pretty consistent after that. We're not gonna have a huge dropoff. We'll play nine or 10 forwards every game. Last year, we played six.

"If we start scoring goals, I think we can win hockey games."

Brown has 38 players on the squad with most of the experience on defense.

Goaltender Ryan Eldridge, who turned away 86.6 percent of the 528 shots he faced last season, and defensemen Brad Heggebo, Brent Westphal and

Gary Jochumsen are all veteran seniors. Neal Ticknor's return from a knee injury that kept him out last year will add defensive depth. Steve Cak, a sophomore who played in eight games last season, will share the netminding duties.

"Defensively, we should be good, but our forwards have still got to help us on defense and that is a concern because of their lack of experience," says Brown. "We should have good goaltending. Both those kids played last year."

The other letterwinners are junior forwards Ben Brown, Chad Rose and Jim Dwyer, along with sophomore forward Travis Jones.

Ames is coming off a 16-6 season, but the Little Cyclones lost a good share of their considerable scoring punch. Andrew Murdoch, a 49-point scorer who ranked third in the IHSHL at 2.23 points per game, heads the group of veterans.

Last weekend, the nine league teams got together for their annual preseason jamboree. Waterloo tied Des Moines 1-1, defeated Dubuque 3-1 and then lost to the Little Cyclones, 6-1.

Sioux City made the most impressive showing. The Metros were last year's regular-season co-champions and won the state tournament after making the

finals for the fifth straight year. They return nearly everyone. "They're real, real deep," says Brown.

The Warriors hope to build a little momentum before they run into Sioux City. "How we get started here I think will be a big key," says Brown, whose team also plays at St. Joseph, Mo., Saturday night.

Waterloo's home opener is Nov. 19 against Omaha's Junior Lancers at McElroy Auditorium. The Warriors expect to move into the new Young Arena in January and will host the 1995 state tournament in the new facility March 9-12.

Waterloo Warriors schedule

Nov. 11 — at Ames, 7:45 p.m.
Nov. 12 — at St. Joseph, 5:45 p.m.
Nov. 19 — Omaha Jr. Lancers, 7:40 p.m.
Nov. 25 — St. Joseph, 7:40 p.m.
Nov. 26 — at Dubuque, 11:30 a.m.
Nov. 27 — at Dubuque, 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 2 — Ames, 7:40 p.m.
Dec. 3 — at Des Moines, 8 p.m.
Dec. 10 — Mason City, 7:40 p.m.
Dec. 16 — Dubuque, 7:40 p.m.
Dec. 17 — Omaha Gladiators, 7:40 p.m.
Dec. 27-29 — at Chicago Tournament, TBA
Jan. 7 — Mason City, 7:40 p.m.
Jan. 13 — Dubuque, 7:40 p.m.
Jan. 14 — Sioux City, 2:10 p.m.
Jan. 27 — Des Moines, 7:40 p.m.
Feb. 3 — at Omaha Gladiators, 8:30 p.m.
Feb. 4 — at Omaha Jr. Lancers, 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 5 — at Sioux City, 3 p.m.
Feb. 10 — Ames, 7:40 p.m.
Feb. 11 — at Mason City, 1 p.m.
Feb. 17 — at Mason City, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 24 — at Ames, 7:45 p.m.
March 3-5 — at Junior Varsity State Tournament (Des Moines), TBA
March 4 — at IHSHL All-Star game (Des Moines), TBA
March 9-12 — Varsity State Tournament, TBA