

Mohawks young but talented

By Tom Thoma
Of The Globe-Gazette

MASON CITY — If John Lloyd has it figured right, his Mason City High hockey team should hit its stride at the perfect time — for the state tournament.

Until then, it will be a constant growing and learning process for the Mohawks, starting tonight when they host Waterloo at 8 p.m. at the North Iowa Arena.

This Mohawk team has plenty of talent, but is lacking depth due to the loss of 12 seniors.

"That alone is a big void to fill," said Lloyd, whose club won the Iowa High School Hockey League regular-season title last season with a 31-5-1 record before being eliminated in the second game of the state tournament.

He has some significant firepower back, starting with Jason Anderegg, one of the league's leading scorers last season.

Cory Clopton is "a really fast forward who should be able to score some goals," and centerman Jim Shovein "looks very fast and very strong," Lloyd said.

"Those three guys are going to have to do a whole lot of work,"

he said. "They know they're going to have to work because the depth of talent is not there like we had last year. We're skating some very young kids."

Lloyd looks for senior left-winger Dave Hopper and sophomore forwards Jon Anderson and Zane Kantaris to increase their contributions after seeing varsity action last year.

"They all have the talent," Lloyd said.



Lloyd

Two defensemen with varsity experience are returning, senior Ben Fistler and junior Michael Blaisdell (he is recovering from a sprained ankle suffered in football).

"They're our two oldest defensemen, so we'll look to them for some leadership out there," he said.

Goaltending appears to be a

Catch hockey action this weekend

MASON CITY — Mason City High hockey games tonight and Saturday night have been designated "Be True to Your School" nights.

Tonight is Mason City night, with faceoff against Waterloo at 8 p.m. All Mason City public students and community members will be admitted free. Tickets are available from players, cheerleaders and at the door.

A special feature between periods will be a shoot the puck competition between Mohawks Erin Richards, Dean Oliver, Sarah Niver, Teresa Oertel, Mike Peterson and Doc Detra. Mason City Youth Hockey will make contributions to the Mohawk Booster Club as part of the event.

Saturday night will be Clear Lake night with Lake residents admitted free (tickets will be available at the door). The game against St. Joseph, Mo., starts at 7.

Featured in the shoot-the-puck competition will be teachers/coaches Fred Wieck, Lisa Wieck, Gary Weber, Troy Heller, Carol Berge and Brent Holland.

The weekend concludes with a game against St. Joseph at 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

strength. Back is last year's No. 2 netminder, Isaac Sorensen, "and we think he's going to be one of the best goaltenders in the state," Lloyd said.

Pushing him will be freshman Romy Abujobarah, who will see significant varsity action.

Overall, Lloyd believes his club will be better than .500 throughout the season.

"I think the team will improve as season goes," he said, "and they probably won't even hit their peak until state tournament time."