

Arena ready for tourney

□ Things should go better than they did in 1983 state hockey tournament.

By CHARLES EMERICK
Of The Globe Gazette

MASON CITY — Things didn't go so well during the state tournament in 1983.

That was the first and last time the North Iowa Ice Arena hosted the Iowa High School Hockey state tournament.

The arena, which was only one month old, suffered from a few problems.

Mason City coach and arena manager John Lloyd is hoping for better luck this time around.

"We did have a problem the

last time it was here," he said. "We had a loss of freon and it ended up we had a to play a game at 1 o'clock in the morning. We had to move them back that far until we got some freon added and then the freon has to catch up.

"Hopefully we won't have any problems like that. We know we won't have the freon problem," he added.

The parking lot proved to be another headache for the arena workers and hockey fans.

"There were no roads out here and it was a quagmire," Mason City assistant coach Ron Hanna said. "We had to get pallets from the pallet company to get to the nearest road. The buses came and deposited people at the end of the pallets to be escorted at the end of the building. I was standing up to

my knees in mud, but we had a good tournament."

Things are running smoothly now with paved roads and a paved parking lot.

The only worry for arena workers was some sprinkler pipe, but that was replaced Wednesday.

As for the 1983 tournament, Waterloo Public defeated Waterloo Columbus 5-1 in the title game and Mason City placed seventh.

Mason City defeated West Des Moines Dowling 5-4 in overtime in the first round. The Mohawks dropped a 7-4 decision to Des Moines Public in the quarterfinal and then fell 7-6 to Sioux City.

But Mason City was declared the winner after Sioux City used a goalie that had previously been declared ineligible.