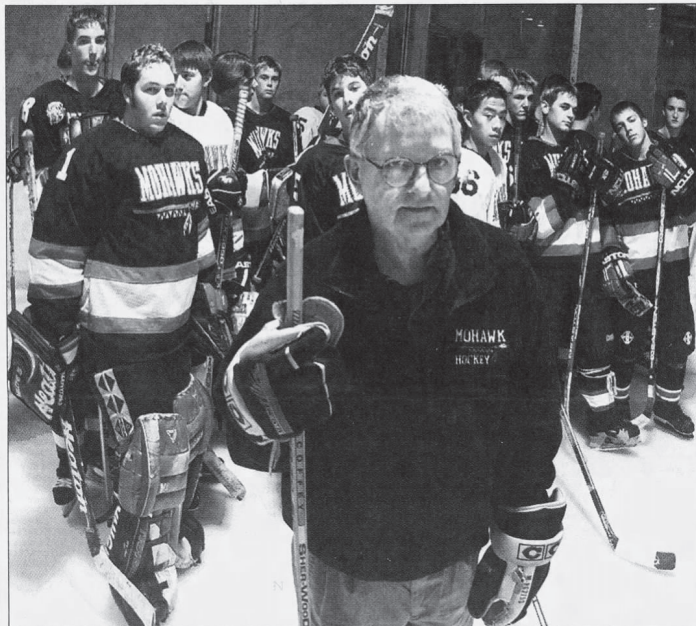


Mohawks Open Saturday



KELLY WENC/Life The Globe Gazette

Mason City Hockey Club coach John Lloyd stands in front of his team before a recent practice. Lloyd enters his 18th season as coach of the Mohawks.

One final go-round

□ Lloyd begins his final season as coach of the Mohawks, who open Saturday at Ames

By CHARLES EMERICK
Of The Globe Gazette

MASON CITY — John Lloyd feels it's just the right time.

The Mason City Hockey Club coach will stand behind the Mohawk bench for just one more season before he steps down as coach.

"It's time," Lloyd said. "I've got grandkids that are play-

ing up in Minnesota that I want to watch. I don't get much of a chance to see them. I'd also like to spend more time with my wife. Things like that."

It will be his 18th year as coach of the Mohawks and 30th year overall.

With all his time spent in the sport of hockey, Lloyd said the decision to step away from the sport was not

an easy one.

"Yeah, it was tough," he said. "I'll miss the practice sessions. It's fun. But it also takes a lot of time. The arena is getting busier and busier, and that's taking more of my time, also."

Lloyd, whose team opens Saturday at Ames, said two of his most memorable seasons were his state championship teams.

He coached the Mohawks to titles in 1987 and 1997.

"Those were two memorable teams," he said. "The first championship team was a dominating team. They intimidated everybody. The second one, they just all of a sudden played outstanding hockey at the right time of the year. And you could see it coming. It wasn't a surprise

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that we won the state tournament. You could see it coming all the way."

"I've also had a couple outstanding teams that I thought were capable of winning a state tournament," he added.

"Maybe it was one thing or another, we just didn't do it."

But it's the players that are most important to Lloyd.

Paulsen Through all the years and the faces that have come and gone, he can still remember them all.

"The thing that stands out is the boys out there on the ice over the years," he said. "It's fun to see them come back and come out and skate with us for a while."

"I can almost always remember their names. I can remember their faces when they step into the arena," he added. "When I do see them, I can think back to something they did when they played."

In his final season, his players hope to make it a memorable one.

"We're just looking to make it a good season for him," Mohawk senior forward Matt Paulsen said. "It's his last year in a long lifetime of hockey. We want to make it good one. End it on a strong note."

This season the North Iowa Ice Arena will be the site of the Iowa High School Hockey League state tournament on March 8-11.

The team is excited for the tournament and Lloyd is hoping the tournament will run more smoothly than the last time it was in town.

"It's real exciting," he said. "We're looking forward to it. It's an exciting time of year. The best part is that we don't have to travel on a bus to go some place. We can sleep in our own beds and it will be exciting."

"Last time we had a lot of problems. We suddenly had a loss of from. We had to cancel the first day. We had to play our first game at one in the morning."

Last year's state hockey tournament was held in Sioux City, where the Mohawks placed second.

A strength of this year's team are the seniors returning from last year's team.

"We've got a lot of experienced people to lead the team," senior defenseman Will Price said. "We've been playing together and we've got some good chemistry going."

The Mohawks have four seniors who went in during the top 40 scorers in the league.

Forward Andre Larive had 10 goals and 11 assists, and defenseman Jake Sorenson had seven goals and 14 assists. Paulsen had nine goals and 11 assists and Joe Andreev added nine goals and nine assists.

The Mohawks also have Kyle Huff and Erik Fox coming up from the junior variety team. Huff and Fox were the seventh and eighth-leading scorers in the junior variety

league last year. Huff scored four goals and had 22 assists while Fox had 13 goals and 12 assists.

"Jake Sorenson and Matt Paulsen will play very key roles for us this year," Lloyd said. "We've got a lot of seniors on this year's team."

"I don't think we really have any big guns that will go out there and dominate," he added. "But we've got some hard workers."

They're going to have to go out there and earn their goals. If we get the leadership out of our seniors, we can be pretty good."

Price In goal for the Mohawks, Alex Pepper, Brandon Land and Justin Servantez will bat for the playing time.

Pepper was 6-5.5 last year on the junior variety squad. He had an .872 save percentage, allowing 68 goals on 281 shots. Pepper also posted two shutouts.

"We've got three goalies and they'll be jockeying for variety time," Lloyd said. "We'll probably go with two, and then we'll have to alternate into the JV schedule."

"Alex is our senior so he's the one we'll start off with. But I'm sure he'll be pushed by one of the other goalies." (Sportswriter Charles Emerick can be reached at (641) 421-0536 or by e-mail at charles.emerick@globe-gazette.com).

2000-2001 SCHEDULE
Saturday, Nov. 4 — At Ames, JV at 8:30 p.m., varsity at 8 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 9 — At Ames, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity at 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 11 — At Waterloo, JV at 6:45 p.m., varsity at 8:15 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 18 — Onondaga Classics, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 18 — Onondaga Classics, JV at 11:15 a.m., varsity 12:45 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 24 — At Kansas City, JV at 1 p.m., varsity at 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 25 — At Kansas City, JV at 9:30 a.m., varsity 11 a.m.
Thursday, Nov. 29 — Des Moines St. Mary's, JV at 6:45 p.m., varsity at 8:15 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 1 — Waterloo, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity at 7:45 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8 — Des Moines Oakdale, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity at 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9 — At Sioux City, JV at 3 p.m., varsity at 5 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16 — At Sioux City, JV at 3 p.m., varsity at 5 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 14 — Des Moines St. Mary's, JV at 6:45 p.m., varsity at 8:15 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16 — Dubuque, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity at 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Dubuque, JV at 11:15 a.m., varsity at 12:45 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5 — Davenport, JV at 1:15 p.m., varsity at 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6 — Davenport, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity at 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6 — Varsity Invitational Tournament.
Saturday, Jan. 21 — Varsity Invitational Tournament.
Jan. 26 — At Des Moines Capital, JV at 6:30 p.m., varsity at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 17 — Lincoln, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity at 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 17 — Des Moines Capital, JV at 11:15 a.m., varsity at 12:45 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 22 — At Rockwell, JV at 6:30 p.m., varsity at 7:45 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 23 — Des Moines Capital, JV at 6:30 p.m., varsity at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Ames, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity at 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Des Moines Capital, JV at 11:15 a.m., varsity at 12:45 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — At Onondaga Classics, JV at 6:30 p.m., varsity at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Onondaga Classics, JV at 8:30 a.m., varsity at 10 a.m.