

Hockey players gearing up for season

Zach Corsbie and Zach Davis are typical high school students.

Both are sophomores at Ankeny High School.

Both like to play hockey. That's where things become interesting.

Corsbie plays for the Des Moines Oak Leafs of the Iowa High School Hockey League (IHSHL).

Davis plays for the Des Moines Capitals, the Oak Leafs' archrivals.

And the two teams will meet for the first time Nov. 25 in the annual Thanksgiving Cup for state bragging rights.

The Oak Leafs have played in four preseason games so far. The final preseason contest comes this weekend in Mason City.

The Capitals begin the season Oct. 31 in Omaha, Neb., against the Omaha Junior Lancers. The Oak Leafs begin the season Nov. 1 when they travel to Waterloo.

The Capitals play their home games at the Metro Ice Sports Arena, 7201 Hickman Road in Urbandale.

The Oak Leafs' home rink is the Metro Ice Sports Facility, 5100 72nd St. in Urbandale.

Nick Wallace, Tyler Carter and Jordan Buenting, all Ankeny students, are also members of the Oak Leafs. Matt Johnson, Marc Lorence, Eric Keese and Jared Mullens, also Ankeny students, are members of the Capitals.

The IHSHL also includes Ames, Dubuque/Cedar Rapids, Quad Cities, Kansas City, Lincoln (Neb.), Omaha, Quad Cities, Sioux City and Waterloo. Teams play a varsity and junior varsity schedule from November through February. The varsity state tournament will be held Feb. 27-29 and will be hosted by the Capitals at the Metro Ice Arena.

Both the varsity all-star game and junior varsity state tournament will be held March 5-7 in Kansas City. The all-star game will be played Saturday, March 6.

Several past players in the IHSHL have gone on to play for Iowa State University, Arizona State University, University of North Dakota and teams in the United States Hockey League, such as the Des Moines Buccaneers and Waterloo Blackhawks.