

Powers that be, still are, in IHSHL

By DOUG NEWHOFF
Sports Editor

WATERLOO

Some of the names will change, but Waterloo Warriors coach Shawn Weiske doesn't foresee a major shift of power in the Iowa High School Hockey League this season.

What most of the contenders for the league's regular-season title have in common is numbers.

"Omaha may be down a little bit talent-wise, but they always have numbers," said Weiske.

The Lancers lost 12 seniors and will build around 58-point scorer Jacob Braun and all-star goaltender Tim Strigler (94.6 save percentage).

Des Moines, with both the defending co-champion Capitals and up-and-coming Oakleafs, will be a hockey hotbed again, said Weiske.

"Des Moines (Capitals) will be strong," he noted. "They didn't lose a whole lot, and they just kind of relaxed. They have great numbers to work with."

The Capitals did lose four of their top scorers, but no team exhibited more balance last season when six players finished with at least 25 points. Seniors Derek Elliott (37 points) and Brett Ferguson (36 points) are back, along with senior defensemen Marc Lawrence and Ryan Moe and goaltender Steven Erbstein.

"The Oakleafs, the other Des Moines team, were fifth last year (20-10) and they will compete," added Weiske.

The Leafs have their sights set on a top-three finish and will look to senior Brian Spring to lead the charge. He scored 59 points a year ago to rank fourth in the final statistics. Senior defensemen Josh Marvan and Alex Gillespie are back, as is goalie Tim Thomas, who posted a 77-30 record a year ago.

Sioux City may be the most experienced team in the league as the Metros try to mount a challenge for the championship.

Kevin Lahry, who was drafted by the United States Hockey League's Sioux City Musketeers last spring, leads the veterans. He suffered a knee injury in a soccer game and was unable to join the Musketeers. The Metros have welcomed him back to their team after his 56-point junior season.

Seven of Sioux City's other top-10 scorers return along with a solid corps of defensemen and goalies Eric Hoffmeyer and Adam Saing, who backed up Beau Erickson a year ago.

Mason City, the highest-scoring team in the league last year, lost most of that firepower. Gone are scoring champ Cole Desperaux (78 points), Carter Angell (third with 43) and Mike Martough (fifth with 38).

Returning are Alex Maginnis (32) and a number of other experienced veterans who have played their share of big games. Two veteran defensemen also return, along with goaltender Brett Priel.

"Mason City is down a little bit, but two years ago they won the JV tournament and they compete every night, too," noted Weiske. "They will be in the thick of things."

Weiske expects his team, which opened the season two weeks ago, to be somewhere in contention for one of the seven berths in the IHSHL's season-ending tournament. The host team, Kansas City, receives an automatic berth.

In other league developments, Kansas City has changed its nickname to the Junior Outlaws and Quad Cities has a new coach in Jim Thompson, a former college player at Yale.

"He knows what's going on, and he should help them," said Weiske.



Shawn Weiske
Warriors
head coach



BRANDON POLLACK • Courier Staff Photographer

Members of the Waterloo Warriors' high school hockey team race to the end of the rink during a recent practice.

Iowa High School Hockey League

2003-04 standings

	W	L	T	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Des Moines Capitals	25	5	0	0	50	158	93
Omaha	23	5	0	0	46	133	64
Mason City	22	5	1	2	47	158	55
Sioux City	20	8	1	1	43	109	73
Des Moines Oakleafs	20	10	0	0	40	121	85
Waterloo	12	15	3	1	27	114	104
Kansas City	10	15	3	0	27	95	135
Ames	10	16	1	0	24	100	125
Lincoln	9	20	0	1	19	79	95
Quad Cities	8	22	0	2	14	53	150
Quad-Cedar Rapids	8	26	0	1	1	45	224

Tournament

Quarterfinals

Mason City 4, Waterloo 2
Kansas City 2, Omaha 1-OT
D.M. Oakleafs 1, Sioux City 0
D.M. Capitals 2, Ames 1

Semifinals

D.M. Capitals 2, D.M. Oakleafs 1
Mason City 8, Kansas City 2

7th place

Waterloo 6, Ames 2

9th place

Omaha 6, Sioux City 2

3rd place

D.M. Oakleafs 4, Kansas City 2

Championship

D.M. Capitals 5, Mason City 3

Waterloo Warriors

HEAD COACH: Shawn Weiske

2003-04 record: 12-15-3

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Brian Thompson, Matt Davis, Dustin Goss, Jon Kothoff, Scott Ederer, Joe Gluchino, Justin Reed, Cory Robbins, Ryan Lumbas

Warriors schedule

Nov. 6 - at Omaha, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7 - at Sioux City, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 12 - at Des Moines Oakleafs, 7:45 p.m.
Nov. 19 - Mason City, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 26 - Quad Cities, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 27 - at Ames, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 28 - at Dubuque/Cedar Rapids (Cedar Rapids), 7 p.m.
Dec. 3 - Omaha, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4 - Omaha, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 5 - at Ames, 10:30 a.m.
Dec. 10 - Dubuque/Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 11 - at Des Moines Capitals, 8:15 p.m.
Dec. 17 - Ames, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 18 - at Mason City, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 7 - Des Moines Capitals, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10 - Sioux City, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16 - Sioux City, 11 a.m.
Jan. 21 - Des Moines Oakleafs, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28 - Mason City, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 30 - at Dubuque/Cedar Rapids (Dubuque), 11 a.m.
Feb. 4 - Lincoln, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5 - Kansas City, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 6 - Kansas City, 11 a.m.
Feb. 11 - Des Moines Capitals, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12 - at Des Moines Oakleafs, 7:45 p.m.
Feb. 18 - at Kansas City, 8:30 p.m.
Feb. 19 - at Lincoln, 7 p.m.
Feb. 20 - at Lincoln, 8:30 a.m.
Feb. 25 - at Quad Cities, 8:15 p.m.
Feb. 26 - at Quad Cities, 8:15 p.m.
March 4-6 - IHSIL, varsity tournament (Kansas City)
March 11-13 - IHSIL, junior varsity tournament (Des Moines)