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For Immediate Release

High School Hockey Kicks Off New Season

The Midwest High School Hockey League kicks off the 2012-2013 season with two Friday-night games, October 26. Waterloo hosts the Des Moines Oak Leafs and Sioux City visits Omaha where the Junior Lancers will inaugurate their new home rink, the Ralston Arena. The new structure is also home to USHL Omaha Lancers hockey and UNO basketball.

The 12-team League has been realigned from two divisions to three. The West Division includes Kansas City, Lincoln, Omaha and Sioux City; the Central Division is Ames, Des Moines Capitals, Des Moines Oak Leafs and Mason City; and the East Division is Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Quad City and Waterloo. Each team will play division rivals four times and teams in the other divisions twice for a 28-game schedule.

Waterloo is the defending regular-season champion, having suffered only one loss last season at the hands of Cedar Rapids. The Waterloo Warriors swept Varsity honors winning the year-end Championship Tournament with a win over Kansas City in the first-place contest. The Warriors went on to cap their memorable season with a runner-up finish at the USA Hockey High School National Championships in Salt Lake City.

The Varsity season finale will be the Championship Tournament in Ames February 22-24, 2013, and the JV tournament will follow the next weekend in Ames. Eight teams will qualify for the tournaments. The first-place team in each division will be seeded first, second and third based on points earned during regular season play; the next five teams qualify by total points regardless of division alignment.

Over 400 high school-age players compete in the Midwest High School Hockey League. This year will mark the 38th year of competition for the League.