

Tuesday, October 28  
For Immediate Release

## High School Hockey Begins New Season

The Midwest High School Hockey League launches the 2014-2015 season this Saturday, November 1, with five matchups on the schedule: Inter-division play has Omaha at Dubuque, Ames at Quad City, Lincoln at Des Moines Capitals, and Des Moines Oak Leafs at Waterloo. The only intra-division rivalry has Sioux City hosting Kansas City in the West.

Last year's Central Division champion Des Moines Oak Leafs is the defending overall regular-season Varsity champions with a record of 24 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie. The Des Moines squad also captured the 2014 Championship Tournament edging West Division leader Kansas City, 3-1, in the title game. Waterloo finished on top in the East Division.

The Des Moines Oak Leafs moved on to the 2014 USA Hockey-sponsored High School National Championships hosted by the Omaha Junior Lancers where they were edged out in the semi-finals, 3-1, by the team from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania.

The 12-team MSHSL is divided into three Divisions. Kansas City, Lincoln, Omaha and Sioux City are in the West; Ames, Des Moines Capitals, Des Moines Oak Leafs and Mason City make up the Central; and Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Quad City and Waterloo round out the East.

Each team plays division rivals four times and teams outside the division twice to make up a 28-game schedule. Each team competes at the Varsity and Jr. Varsity levels. The season ends with the Varsity Championship Tournament in Ames, February 27-March 1, 2015 and the Junior Varsity Year-End Tournament in Ames the following weekend.

The top-eight teams qualify for the year-end tournament. Each division champion is seeded 1st through 3rd based on points earned during the regular season. The next five teams, regardless of division alignment, are seeded 4th through 8th based on points earned during the regular season.

Almost 400 high school student athletes compete in the League that covers three states. This year marks the 39<sup>th</sup> year of the Midwest High School Hockey League, formerly known as the Iowa High School Hockey League.