

High School Hockey Teams Clash in Ames for Year-End Tournament Championship

AMES, Iowa – The Midwest High School Hockey League’s Varsity and Jr. Varsity teams will gather in Ames, Thursday, March 4, through Sunday, March 7, for the League’s season-ending championship finale. Like many sports, the pandemic has impacted the League’s regular season and will change how the League conducts the year-end tournament.

In a normal year the top-eight Varsity and Jr. Varsity teams at the end of a 32-game regular season qualify for the tournament. This year, because teams have played an unequal number of games, all 12 Varsity teams will be included in the event, plus the top six Jr. Varsity teams. Teams will be seeded using RPI (Rating Percentage Index) – a method of ranking teams based on wins and losses and strength of schedule.

Varsity teams, seeded five through 12, will play a single-elimination, qualifying round with winners advancing to the quarterfinals against the top four teams. Jr. Varsity teams, seeded three through six, will also play a single-elimination, qualifying round with winners advancing to the semifinals against the top two teams.

The tournament begins Thursday with four Varsity qualifier games, and ends Sunday with the Jr. Varsity championship game at 10:05 AM, and the Varsity championship game at 2:30 PM. The Ames/ISU Ice Arena will be enforcing a list of strict COVID-19 protocols that include masking, social distancing and a spectator limit of 80 fans per team.

Kansas City, the defending Varsity tournament champion, enters the contest as the number-one seed with a regular-season record of 24 wins, 3 losses and 2 shootout losses. Dubuque comes in at second, Waterloo at third, and Omaha is ranked fourth.

Kansas City also captured the Junior Varsity regular-season title with an identical record of 24 wins, 3 losses and 2 shootout losses, and will be the number-one seed.

Names of the 2020-2021 Midwest High School Hockey League All-Stars have been announced. Also announced was the All-League Team – the League’s top All-Star defensemen, forwards and goaltenders who receive the most votes. Des Moines Oak Leafs Head Coach Scott Long was voted Coach-of-the-Year. All awards are selected by the League’s 12 head coaches.

Omaha Jr. Lancers to host USA Hockey High School National Championships, April 15-19.

The event is sanctioned by USA Hockey, the governing body for all amateur hockey in America. As many as 32 boys and eight girls teams are expected to compete. Each state has the option of sending its top high school team to the National tournament.

The Midwest High School Hockey League is part of the Midwest Amateur Hockey League affiliate which governs hockey in Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. MSHSL teams from Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas that finish highest in the regular-season standings have the option of participating in the tournament. The Omaha Jr. Lancers and Dubuque Saints have earned spots in the event. Other at-large berths may be awarded.

MHSHL teams will compete in the Division II category that includes team rosters made up of players from multiple schools.

The MHSHL is a member of the Pointstreak Scoring Network. For live scoring and complete tournament coverage go to: www.midwesthighschoolhockey.com

For a complete history of the Iowa/Midwest High School Hockey League including year-by-year listings of past champions and statistics, go to the MHSHL Information Vault: www.mhshl.com/