

# Midwest High School Hockey League Moves Championship Tournament to West Des Moines

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa – The Midwest High School Hockey League’s Varsity and Jr. Varsity teams will gather in West Des Moines, Thursday, March 3, through Sunday, March 6, for the League’s season-ending Championship Weekend Tournament. After a 13-year stint in Ames, the event will move to the MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex, a new state-of-the-art facility that features a 1,500-seat hockey arena, within 300,000 square feet of indoor space for other sporting events. The League is excited to move its marquee event to the premier sports venue in the region.

All 13 Varsity teams qualify for the tournament with seeding determined by the final regular-season standings. The top-three teams earn a first-round bye. Varsity competition begins Thursday when the fourth through thirteenth-ranked teams play five, single elimination, qualifier games. Winners advance to Friday’s single elimination quarterfinals. Saturday, the final four will square off in two semifinal matchups with the winners moving on to the championship game, Sunday at 2:30 PM.

The top-six Junior Varsity teams qualify for their tournament. Third through sixth-ranked teams take the ice Friday for two single-elimination qualifier games. Winners advance to the semifinals against the first and second-seeded teams. The Junior Varsity championship game precedes the Varsity title game on Sunday.

The Waterloo Warriors are the number-one seed after finishing on top of the Varsity standings with a record of 29 wins, 2 losses and 1 shootout loss. The Kansas City Jets are the two-time defending tournament champion after shutting out Waterloo in last year’s title game, 4-0.

Waterloo Warriors goaltender, Caleb Raisty, finished the regular season with a 0.959 save percentage surpassing the single-season record of 0.957 held by Des Moines Oak Leafs netminder Jordan Buenting during the 2006-07 season. Raisty, a senior at Cedar Falls High School, also set a new career-high save percentage mark of 0.952. Buenting had held the previous career record of 0.951 from 2005-07. Raisty was in net for 67 games from 2020-22.

The Omaha Junior Lancers finished on top of the Junior Varsity regular-season with a record of 28 wins, 1 loss and 3 shootout losses. The hometown Des Moines Oak Leafs are the defending Junior Varsity tournament champions.

Names of the 2021-2022 Midwest High School Hockey League All-Stars, All-League and Coach-of-the-Year have been released. The All-League Team consists of All-Star defensemen, forwards and goaltenders who receive the most votes. All awards are selected by the League’s 13 head coaches.

Of the 438 players in the MHSHL, 237 will receive an Academic Award for a grade point average of 3.0 or better. Forty-six graduating seniors, with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above, will receive the President’s Senior Academic Achievement Award.

Waterloo Warriors and Lincoln Jr. Stars will represent the Midwest High School Hockey League at this year’s USA Hockey High School National Championships in Dallas, Texas, March 24-28. Waterloo and Lincoln finished highest in the regular-season standings from their respective state. MHSHL teams have

garnered two of the last three national championship titles. Last year, as host team, Omaha captured the League's second USA Hockey High School Division 2 National Championship. In 2018 the Sioux City Metros became the first MSHSL team to win the National Championship in Plymouth, Minnesota. The 2020 tournament was canceled due to Covid.

The MSHSL is a member of the Pointstreak Scoring Network. For live scoring and complete tournament coverage go to: [www.midwesthighschoolhockey.com](http://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 MSHSL Information Vault: [www.mhshl.com/](http://www.mhshl.com/)