

High School Hockey Opens 2022-23 Season

The Midwest High School Hockey League opens its 2022-2023 winter season starting Friday, October 28, and ending Sunday, February 26. Varsity and Jr. Varsity teams then meet March 3-5, 2023, for the year-end **Championship Weekend** tournament at the RecPlex in West Des Moines. The League begins its 47th season of continuous operation since 1976-1977. This season over 440 high school student athletes will participate in the 13-team League.

Friday's two opening-night games feature an intradivision matchup when the Fremont Flyers visit the Omaha Jr. Lancers and last year's regular-season champion Waterloo Warriors host the Ames Cyclones. The remainder of the League's teams play two-game sets Saturday and Sunday.

The MSHSL will once again play a 32-game schedule. The League is divided into three divisions. The West Division includes Fremont, Kansas City, Lincoln, Omaha and Sioux City; Central Division includes Ames, Des Moines Capitals, Des Moines Oak Leafs and Mason City; and teams in the East include Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Quad City and Waterloo.

The number of teams eligible for the year-end **Championship Weekend** tournament will return to pre-pandemic levels. The top-eight teams at the end of the regular season will qualify for the Varsity tournament, while the top-six Jr. Varsity teams qualify. During the covid outbreak all Varsity teams were eligible for the tournament due to teams playing an unequal number of games.

The Waterloo Warriors are the defending regular-season champion, finishing last year's campaign with 29 wins, 2 losses and 1 shootout loss. The Warriors were then upset in the semifinals of the season-ending tournament by the Des Moines Capitals, 2-0. The Capitals went on to face the Kansas City Jets in the championship game falling to the Jets 2-0.

Omaha swept last season's Jr. Varsity titles topping the regular season with 28 wins, 1 loss and 3 shootout losses, and out scoring Kansas City 7-2 in the year-end tournament championship game.

In last year's post-season play, two of the League's teams found success at the USA Hockey High School National Championships in Dallas, Texas. Waterloo and Lincoln Jr. Stars both advanced to the semifinals. Waterloo fell to Denver East (Colorado) 4-6, and Lincoln narrowly missed a trip to the championship game losing to Northport Huntington (New York) 2-3 in overtime.

Last season saw a new single season and career goaltending record when Waterloo Warriors senior 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 also set a new career-high save percentage mark of 0.952. Buenting also held that record with a save percentage of 0.951 from 2005-07.

The MSHSL is a member of the Pointstreak Scoring Network. For scores, standings and statistics go to: <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 Information Vault at <http://www.mhshl.com/>

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