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YEARBOOK CREDITS

The 2018-19 University of Nebraska Omaha Hockey Yearbook was written by Assistant Athletic Director for Communications Dave Ahlers and designed and edited by Associate Director of Communications Bonnie Ryan. Layout designed by Nate Pohlen. Additional fact checking by Frank Wilson. Photography credits and special thanks to Mark Kuhlmann, Ryan Henriksen, Richard T. Gagnon, Ricky Bassman, Shannon Valerio, Tim Fitzgerald, Brad Williams Photography and HDR Architecture, Inc.

2018-19 SEASON SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Arena	Radio	TV	Game Time/CT
Oct. 7	Manitoba (Exhib.)	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		5:07 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Union	Schenectady, N.Y.	Messa Rink	1180 AM/The Zone 2		6 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Union	Schenectady, N.Y.	Messa Rink	1180 AM/The Zone 2		6 p.m.
Oct. 19	Notre Dame	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	CBSSN	6:38 p.m.
Oct. 20	Notre Dame	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	NET	7:07 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Arizona State	Tempe, Ariz.	Oceanside Ice Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		8:05 p.m.
Oct. 27	at Arizona State	Tempe, Ariz.	Oceanside Ice Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		8:05 p.m.
Nov. 2	Miami*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	NET	7:07 p.m.
Nov. 3	Miami*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		7:07 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Western Michigan*	Kalamazoo, Mich.	Lawson Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		6:05 p.m.
Nov. 10	at Western Michigan*	Kalamazoo, Mich.	Lawson Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		6:05 p.m.
Nov. 23	Arizona State	Omaha, Neb..	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		7:07 p.m.
Nov. 24	Arizona State	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		7:07 p.m.
Nov. 30	Colorado College*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		7:07 p.m.
Dec. 1	Colorado College*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		7:07 p.m.
Dec. 7	at St. Cloud State*	St. Cloud, Minn.	Herb Brooks National Hockey Ctr.	1180 AM/The Zone2	FSN+	7:37 p.m.
Dec. 8	at St. Cloud State*	St. Cloud, Minn.	Herb Brooks National Hockey Ctr.	1180 AM/The Zone2	FSN	6:07 p.m.
Dec. 29	Alaska Anchorage	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone 2		7:07 p.m.
Dec. 31	Alaska Anchorage	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone 2		12:07 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Denver*	Denver, Colo.	Magness Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	CBSSN	8:38 p.m.
Jan. 12	at Denver*	Denver, Colo.	Magness Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		8:05 p.m.
Jan. 18	North Dakota*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	YV	7:07 p.m.
Jan. 19	North Dakota*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	YV	7:07 p.m.
Jan. 25	at Minnesota Duluth*	Duluth, Minn.	AMSOIL Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		7:07 p.m.
Jan. 26	at Minnesota Duluth*	Duluth, Minn.	AMSOIL Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	FSN+	7:07 p.m.
Feb. 1	Western Michigan*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	NET	7:07 p.m.
Feb. 2	Western Michigan*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	NET	7:07 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Miami *	Oxford, Ohio	Steve Cady Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	CBSSN	5:38 p.m.
Feb. 9	at Miami *	Oxford, Ohio	Steve Cady Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		6:05 p.m.
Feb. 22	St. Cloud State*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		7:07 p.m.
Feb. 23	St. Cloud State*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		7:07 p.m.
March 1	Denver*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		7:07 p.m.
March 2	Denver*	Omaha, Neb.	Baxter Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2		7:07 p.m.
March 8	at North Dakota*	Grand Forks, N.D.	Ralph Engelstad Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	YV	7:37 p.m.
March 9	at North Dakota*	Grand Forks, N.D.	Ralph Engelstad Arena	1180 AM/The Zone2	YV	7:07 p.m.
March 15-17	NCHC Playoffs (First Round)	Campus Sites	TBA	1180 AM/The Zone2		TBA
March 22	NCHC Playoffs (Semifinals)	St. Paul, Minn.	Xcel Energy Center		CBSSN	TBA
March 23	NCHC Playoffs (Final)	St. Paul, Minn.	Xcel Energy Center		CBSSN	TBA
March 29-30	NCAA East/West Regionals	Providence, R.I./Fargo, N.D.	Dunkin' Donuts Center/Scheels Arena		ESPN	TBA
March 30-31	NCAA Northeast/Midwest Regionals	Manchester, N.H./Allentown, Pa.	SNHU Arena/PPL Center		ESPN	TBA
April 12	NCAA Frozen Four (Semifinals)	Buffalo, N.Y.	KeyBank Center		ESPN	TBA
April 13	NCAA Frozen Four (Final)	Buffalo, N.Y.	KeyBank Center		ESPN	TBA

All times are Central and subject to change • Check OMavs.com for schedule changes • * National Collegiate Hockey Conference game •
 CBSSN - CBS Sports Network broadcast • ESPN - ESPN broadcast • FCS - Fox College Sports broadcast • NET - NET broadcast • YV - YurView broadcast

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OMAHA QUICK FACTS

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Location: Omaha, Neb.
 Founded: 1908
 Enrollment: 15,432
 Nickname: Mavericks
 Colors: Crimson and Black
 Conference: NCHC
 Athletic Dept. Phone: (402) 554-2305
 Address: 6001 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68182

ADMINISTRATION

Chancellor: Dr. Jeffrey Gold
 Vice Chancellor for Athletics: Trev Alberts
 Associate AD/SWA: Lindsey Ekwerewku
 Associate AD/Hockey: Mike Kemp
 AD Emeritus: Connie Claussen
 NCAA Faculty Rep: Dr. William Wakefield

TEAM INFORMATION

Head Coach: Mike Gabinet (2nd year)
 Alma Mater: Omaha, 2004
 Record at UNO: 17-17-2 (One year)
 Career Record: 17-17-2
 Assistant Coach: Dave Noel-Bernier (2nd year)
 Assistant Coach: Paul Jerrard (1st year)
 Hockey Operations: Brian Kaufman (1st year)
 2017-18 Overall Record: 17-17-2
 2017-18 NCHC Record (Place): 10-13-1-0/0 (5th)
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 18/8

COMMUNICATIONS

Assistant Athletic Director: Dave Ahlers
 Email: dahlers@omavs.com
 Office Phone: (402) 554-3387
 Website: OMavs.com
 Associate Director: Bonnie Ryan
 Assistant Director: Shad Beam
 Assistant Director: Zack Kirby
 Arena (Capacity): Baxter Arena (7,898)
 Dimensions: 200 x 85
 Press Box Phone: (402) 554-6225



MEDIA INFORMATION

COVERING THE MAVERICKS

The Omaha communications staff is interested in helping members of the media cover Maverick athletic programs. Photos, information, statistics and travel plans are available through the communications department.

INTERVIEWS

All interviews must be arranged through the UNO communications office at least 24 hours in advance. Generally, the best time to interview student-athletes is directly before or after afternoon practices. No player interviews are allowed before contests on game days unless arrangements are made in advance. Post game, all players and coaches will be available for interviews after a brief cooling-off period. Please contact a communications representative in the press box to arrange postgame interviews.

MEDIA ACCESS

All requests for working press credentials and photo passes for UNO athletic events should be directed to the UNO communications department.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

A phone line or Ethernet connection will be made available at UNO athletic events for visiting radio stations to broadcast UNO home games. Press box credentials for radio or television should be requested at least one week prior to each game. Anyone interested in covering a game and/or practice should contact the communications office at least 24 hours in advance.

MEDIA SERVICES

Media guides, game programs, game notes, rosters, and up-to-date results and statistics will be available at the press area to working members of the media at

each Maverick home game. Wireless internet is available throughout the UNO campus and at Baxter Arena, and wired connections can be arranged. An official NCAA box score and play-by-play will be available approximately 10 to 15 minutes following the conclusion of each game.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

The UNO communications offices are located on the second floor of the Sapp Fieldhouse in rooms 242 and 244. The Sapp Fieldhouse is located in the heart of the UNO campus adjacent to Caniglia Field and the Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) Building.

COMMUNICATIONS STAFF DIRECTORY

Assistant Athletic Director: Dave Ahlers
 Phone (402) 554-3387
 Email..... dahlers@omavs.com

Associate Director: Bonnie Ryan
 Phone (402) 554-3267
 Email..... bryan@omavs.com

Assistant Director: Shad Beam
 Phone (402) 554-2140
 Email..... sbeam@omavs.com

Assistant Director: Zack Kirby
 Phone (402) 554-2140
 Email..... zk Kirby@omavs.com

OMAHA HOCKEY SOCIAL MEDIA



In addition to OMavs.com, follow the Mavericks through their social media accounts:

Facebook: /OMavs

Twitter: @OmahaHKY

Instagram: @OMavs, @OmahaHKY

OMAHA HOCKEY MEDIA DIRECTORY

PRINT MEDIA

Omaha World-Herald
 Tony Boone
 14th and Dodge Streets
 Omaha, NE 68102
 (402) 444-1000
 Fax: (402) 344-3343

UNO Gateway

University of Nebraska Omaha
 Omaha, NE 68182
 (402) 554-2470
 Fax: (402) 554-2735

Lincoln Journal Star

926 P Street
 Lincoln, NE 68508
 (402) 473-7431
 Fax: (402) 473-7291

Bellevue Leader

604 Fort Crook Road
 Bellevue, NE 68005
 (402) 733-7300

Council Bluffs Nonpareil

117 Pearl Street
 Council Bluffs, IA 51503
 (712) 328-1811
 Fax: (712) 328-1597

WIRE SERVICES

Associated Press
 909 N. 96th St., Suite 104
 Omaha, NE 68114-2508
 (402) 391-0031
 Fax: (402) 391-1412

ESPN/SportsTicker

Harbor Financial Center
 600 Plaza Two
 Jersey City, NJ 07311
 (800) 367-8935
 Fax: (800) 336-0383

RADIO

The Zone - 1620/1180 AM
 Gary Sharp, Sports Director
 5011 Capitol
 Omaha, NE 68132
 (402) 342-2000
 Fax: (402) 342-7041

AM 590 ESPN Omaha

Nick Handley/Joe Quinn
 10714 Mockingbird Dr.
 Omaha, NE 68127
 (402) 592-5300

KOIL Radio - 1290 AM

5011 Capitol
 Omaha, NE 68132
 (402) 342-2000
 Fax: (402) 342-7041

KFAB Radio - 1110 AM

Roger Olson
 5010 Underwood Ave.
 Omaha, NE 68132
 (402) 556-5060
 Fax: (402) 556-5791

KVNO-FM Radio

CPACS 200
 UNO
 Omaha, NE 68182
 (402) 554-2716
 Fax (402) 554-2440

TELEVISION

KMTV Ch. 3 (CBS)
 Adam Kruger, Sports Director
 10714 Mockingbird Drive
 Omaha, NE 68127
 (402) 593-2705/2706
 Fax: (402) 592-4714

WOWT Ch. 6 (NBC)

Ross Jernstrom, Sports Director
 3501 Farnam Street
 Omaha, NE 68132
 (402) 233-7940
 Fax: (402) 233-7888

KETV Ch. 7 (ABC)

Andy Kendeigh, Sports Director
 27th & Douglas Streets
 Omaha, NE 68131
 (402) 978-8957
 Fax: (402) 978-8931

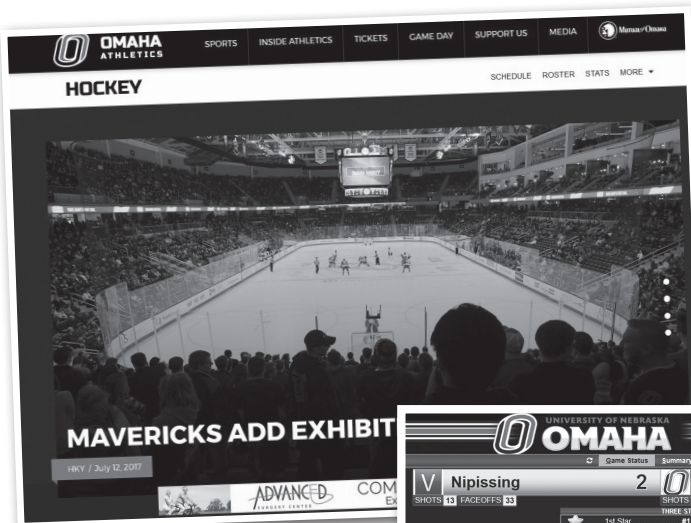
NETV

Joe Turco, Producer
 1800 N. 33rd Street
 Lincoln, NE 68588-0747
 (402) 472-3611
 Fax: (402) 472-1785

CONFERENCE

NCHC

Michael Weisman
 The Copper Building
 1631 Mesa Ave., Suite C
 Colorado Springs, CO 80906
 (719) 203-6818
 Fax: (719) 645-8206



Log on for links to...

- Game and season tickets
- Live video
- Live audio
- Live stats
- Social media

As well as...

- Complete game recaps
- Video highlights and features
- Photo galleries
- Upcoming schedules
- Updated statistics

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OMAHA									
Nipissing					Omaha				
2					5 Final				
SHOTS 13 FACEOFFS 33					SHOTS 21 FACEOFFS 24				
1st Star: #12 David Pope (OMAHA)					1st Star: #10 Tyler Vesel (OMAHA)				
2nd Star: #10 Travis McEvoy (NPS)					2nd Star: #10 Travis McEvoy (NPS)				
3rd Star: [Empty]					3rd Star: [Empty]				
SCORE BY PERIOD									
PERIOD	1	2	3	TOTAL	PERIOD	1	2	3	TOTAL
NIPISSING	0	1	1	2	OMAHA	2	1	2	5
TOTALS	0	2	2	4	5	5	2	4	11



2018-19 ROSTER

No.	Name	NHL	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Sh./C	Birthdate	Hometown	Previous Team	Pronunciation
1	Alex Blankenburg		G	5-8	164	Sr.	L	9/5/1994	Washington, Mich.	Keystone (NAHL)	
2	Jason Smallidge		D	6-2	184	Fr.	R	5/20/1998	Eagan, Minn.	Central Ill./Youngstown (USHL)	
5	John Schuldt		D	6-4	212	Fr.	L	2/10/1997	Minnetonka, Minn.	Fargo (USHL)	SHULT
6	Lukas Buchta		D	6-2	197	Sr.	R	12/5/1994	Frystak, Czech Republic	Sioux Falls (USHL)	LOO-kash BOOK-tah
7	Nate Knoepke		D	6-3	200	So.	L	4/8/1999	Farmington, Minn.	Sioux City (USHL)	kuh-NEP-kee
8	Lawson McDonald		D	5-9	170	So.	R	9/6/1997	Rosetown, Manitoba	Winkler (MJHL)	
9	Riley Alferd		F	5-11	182	Sr.	L	3/26/1995	Vancouver, Wash.	Penticton (BCHL)	AL-ferd
10	Kevin Conley		F	5-11	195	So.	L	2/17/1997	Wausau, Wis.	Sioux Falls (USHL)	
11	Mason Morelli - C		F	6-1	201	Sr.	L	2/1/1996	Minot, N.D.	Fargo (USHL)	
13	Chayse Primeau		F	6-3	184	Fr.	L	9/15/1997	Margate City, N.J.	Dubuque (USHL)	PREE-moh
14	Teemu Pulkkinen		F	5-9	192	Jr.	L	3/13/1995	Espoo, Finland	Sioux City (USHL)	TAY-moo PUHL-kin-en
15	Jalen Schulz - A		D	6-0	179	Sr.	L	4/28/1995	Cambridge, Minn.	Tri-City (USHL)	
16	Martin Sundberg		F	6-4	183	So.	L	12/4/1996	Linkoping, Sweden	Fargo (USHL)	
17	Taylor Ward		F	6-2	197	Fr.	R	3/31/1998	Kelowna, British Columbia	Penticton (BCHL)	
18	Dean Stewart	ARZ '16	D	6-2	189	Jr.	R	6/10/1998	Portage la Prairie, Manitoba	Portage (MJHL)	
19	Tristan Keck		F	5-8	166	Jr.	L	9/19/1995	Morris, Manitoba	Winkler (MJHL)	
20	Ryan Jones	PIT '16	D	6-2	197	Jr.	L	5/26/1996	Crown Point, Ind.	Lincoln (USHL)	
21	Ryan Galt - A		F	5-11	182	Sr.	R	8/15/1995	Omaha, Neb.	Bloomington (USHL)	
22	Jordan Klehr		D	5-11	195	Sr.	L	3/18/1997	Lino Lakes, Minn.	Shattuck St. Mary's (Prep)	CLAIR
23	Travis Kothenbeutel		F	5-9	165	Fr.	L	1/10/1997	Sauk Rapids, Minn.	Austin (NAHL)	KOTH-en-byoo-tuhl
24	Cole Pickup		F	6-0	184	So.	L	4/12/1996	Victoria, British Columbia	Victoria (BCHL)	
26	Steven Spinner - A	WSH '14	F	6-0	198	Sr.	R	12/15/1995	Eden Prairie, Minn.	Omaha (USHL)	
27	Zach Jordan		F	6-3	209	Jr.	R	11/12/1996	Collinsville, Ill.	Des Moines (USHL)	
28	Fredrik Olofsson - A	CHI '14	F	6-2	197	Sr.	L	5/27/1996	Broomfield, Colo.	Chicago (USHL)	
30	Matej Tomek	PHI '15	G	6-4	194	Jr.	L	5/24/1997	Bratislava, Slovakia	Waterloo (USHL)	muh-TAY TOE-mek
35	Evan Weninger		G	5-11	170	Sr.	L	8/11/1996	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	Kindersley (SJHL)	WHEN-in-guhr
40	Tyler Weiss	COL '18	F	5-10	150	Fr.	L	1/3/2000	Raleigh, N.C.	USNTDP	WEESE

Head Coach: Mike Gabinet, Second Year (Omaha 2004)

Assistant Coach: Dave Noel-Bernier, Second Year (Omaha, 2001) • **Assistant Coach:** Paul Jerrard, First Year (Lake Superior State, 1987)

Volunteer Assistant Coach: Kirk Thompson, Third Year (Omaha, 2016) • **Student Assistant Coach:** Jake McKamey, First Year (Tennessee, 2018)

Strength & Conditioning Coach: Mike Lewis, First Year (Minnesota, 2011) • **Athletic Trainer:** Josh Englebretson, Fifth Year (Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 2004)

Equipment Manager: Jason Smits, Second Year • **Director of Hockey Operations:** Brian Kaufman, First Year (Miami, 2009)

MAVERICKS BY STATE/PROVINCE/COUNTRY

United States (17)

Colorado (1): Olofsson

Illinois (1): Jordan

Indiana (1): Jones

Michigan (1): Blankenburg

Minnesota (7): Klehr, Knoepke, Kothenbeutel, Schuldt, Schulz, Smallidge, Spinner

Nebraska (1): Galt

New Jersey (1): Primeau

North Carolina (1): Weiss

North Dakota (1): Morelli

Washington (1): Alferd

Wisconsin (1): Conley

Canada (6)

British Columbia (2): Pickup, Ward

Manitoba (3): Keck, McDonald, Stewart

Saskatchewan (1): Weninger

Europe (4)

Czech Republic (1): Buchta

Finland (1): Pulkkinen

Slovakia (1): Tomek

Sweden (1): Sundberg

MAVERICKS BY CLASS

Seniors (10): Alferd, Blankenburg, Buchta, Galt, Klehr, Morelli, Olofsson, Schulz, Spinner, Weninger

Juniors (6): Jones, Jordan, Keck, Pulkkinen, Stewart, Tomek

Sophomores (5): Conley, Knoepke, McDonald, Pickup, Sundberg

Freshmen (6): Kothenbeutel, Primeau, Schuldt, Smallidge, Ward, Weiss

LETTERWINNERS RETURNING (18)

Forwards (10): Alferd, Galt, Jordan, Keck, Morelli, Olofsson, Pickup, Pulkkinen, Spinner, Sundberg

Defensemen (6): Buchta, Jones, Klehr, McDonald, Schulz, Stewart

Goaltenders (2): Blankenburg, Weninger

LETTERWINNERS LOST (8)

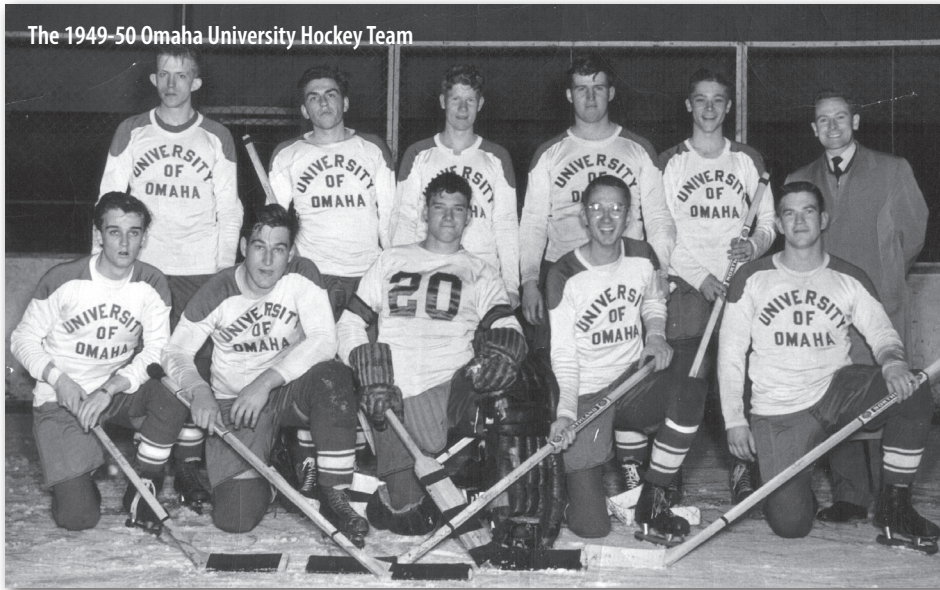
Forwards (5): Grannary, Nogard, Pope, Randolph, Vesel

Defensemen (2): Gallo, Messner

Goaltender (1): Oldham



THE MAVERICK HOCKEY STORY



The 1949-50 Omaha University Hockey Team

The 2018-19 season marks the 22nd season for the Omaha hockey team and the fourth season playing at Baxter Arena. The first on-campus home in school history debuted to rave reviews and was looked at as one of the most important steps in the remarkable journey of Maverick hockey.

Construction of Baxter Arena on property at 67th and Center Streets in Omaha was a critical piece of a puzzle that began in the mid-1990s by then-Athletic Director Don Leahy, former UNO Chancellor Del Weber and a host of community leaders who recognized that a Division I hockey team could be a real asset to UNO's then-Division II athletic department.

The road that brought NCAA Division I hockey to UNO in 1997 was a long and winding trail that actually began as early as the late 1940s when club hockey was first introduced.

Coached by Omaha Knights play-by-play broadcaster Jack Sandler and later by former Omaha Knight Fred Gibbons, the Omaha University club team competed in the Omaha Amateur Hockey League for two seasons and even toured in Colorado, losing twice to Colorado College in 1948. But the program faded away after four years without becoming a varsity sport.

Club hockey was reborn at UNO in 1974 when then-Athletic Director Don Leahy hired a young, former college defenseman from Gustavus Adolphus to direct the program with hopes that it could grow to varsity status. After two years, the club team was dropped

because of the inability to fund a Division I program at the time.

The young coach returned to his alma mater to continue his coaching career and eventually landed at Wisconsin, where he established himself as one of the top assistants in college hockey.

In June of 1995, several key people began discussions which would lead to the start of a hockey program. In August, Leahy returned as athletic director after a 10-year absence. His charge included starting hockey.

Leahy assembled a broad, influential and energetic committee of Omahans dedicated to one purpose: laying the solid foundation for college hockey. The board was chaired by Richard Jaros, president of Kiewit Diversified Group Inc., and included Dr. Rick Bruneteau, whose father, Ed, was a member of the Omaha Knights in 1939.

The mission was accomplished when, on May 1, 1996, UNO announced that it would field a team for the 1997-98 season. Fans gobbled up season ticket reservations for the first season and by May 16, sales were cut off at 6,389.

Also in May, the Omaha City Council, swayed by the outpouring of support for Maverick Hockey, voted to install ice in the Omaha Civic Auditorium, giving the Mavs an 8,200-seat home that was one of the largest in college hockey.

Re-enter the coach who had directed the club hockey program at UNO in 1975-76: Mike Kemp, who was a 14-year assistant coach at Wisconsin.



Mike Kemp coached UNO from 1997 to 2009.

On June 27, Leahy re-hired Kemp, who won over the selection committee with his enthusiasm, intensity, background and sincerity.

A month later, Kemp hired his top assistant, David Quinn, a former NHL first-round draft choice and the top recruiter at Northeastern University.

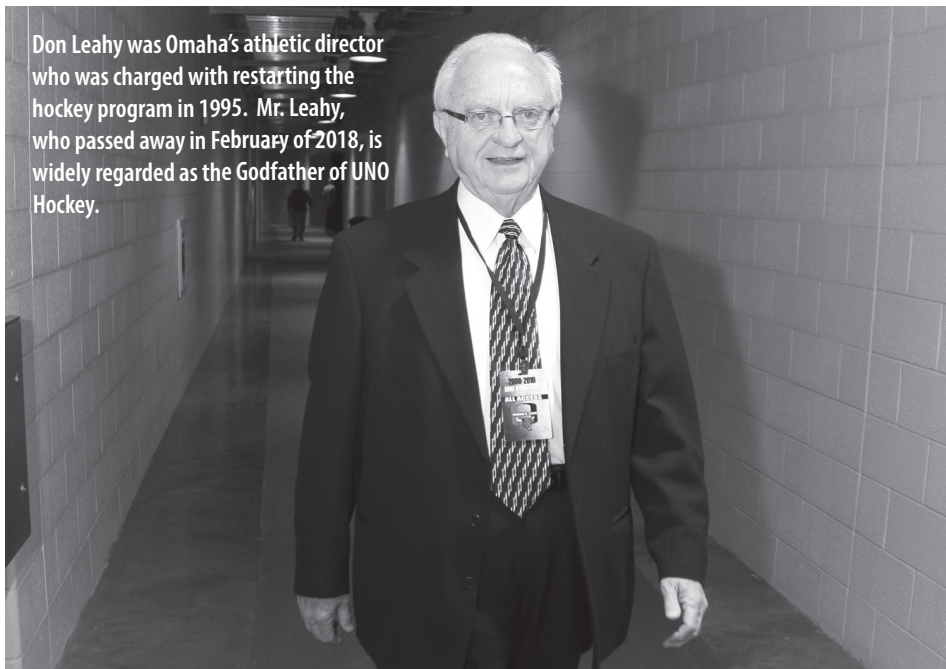
The addition of Division I hockey to UNO's then-Division II athletic program was accompanied by other changes. Women's swimming and diving was added, beginning competition in the fall of 1997. Women's soccer began play two years later, and women's tennis and golf were eventually added in 2000. When UNO joined the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association in 2008, men's tennis also was added, bringing UNO's total compliment of teams to 15 (nine for women and six for men).

A decade later, hockey was not the only Division I sport at UNO. In March of 2011, UNO announced and later earned approval from the Nebraska Board of Regents to reclassify to Division I in all sports and accept an invitation to join The Summit League. As part of the reclassification, UNO eliminated football and wrestling and added men's



THE MAVERICK HOCKEY STORY

Don Leahy was Omaha's athletic director who was charged with restarting the hockey program in 1995. Mr. Leahy, who passed away in February of 2018, is widely regarded as the Godfather of UNO Hockey.



golf and men's soccer. The future of Omaha Athletics is now focused on improving training and competition facilities and taking steps to further strengthen its academic success programs for all student-athletes.

The Mavericks' first hockey season took Omaha and college hockey by storm. Opening night, Oct. 17, 1997, was a media event of unparalleled proportions in Omaha with the first of 19 consecutive sellout crowds of 8,314 on hand at the Civic Auditorium. A 30-minute pregame ceremony honored the city's hockey roots and those who

had helped lay the foundation of the program from club hockey to the present day.

The final night of the season was almost as eventful as more than 1,500 fans took the ice to get autographs of the Mavericks following the final game of UNO's 12-18-3 inaugural season. The Mavs ranked second in the nation in total and average attendance and could count wins over established programs such as Denver, UMass-Amherst and Maine.

In June of 1998, the school applied for and was

granted admission to the Central Collegiate Hockey Association and began playing a full conference schedule in 1999-2000. Following 11 seasons in the CCHA including a trip to the championship game in its first season, UNO ended its affiliation with the league and prepared for a move to the Western Collegiate Hockey Association beginning with the 2010-11 season.

In July of 2011, UNO made a move to further strengthen its place in college hockey by joining together with five other like-minded schools to form the National Collegiate Hockey Conference. Several months later, UNO and the five other schools -- Colorado College, Denver, Miami, Minnesota Duluth and North Dakota -- agreed to admit St. Cloud State and Western Michigan. The eight schools began conference play in 2013-14.

In each of the first two seasons in the NCHC, the Mavericks exceeded expectations by finishing in third place each time after being picked to finish last and sixth in the preseason polls, respectively.

Conference postseason success has eluded the Mavericks in the NCHC, but they reached unprecedented heights in 2014-15. After being selected for the NCAA Playoffs for the third time in school history, the Mavericks earned two wins in the Midwest Regional, also their first in program history, and made their first Frozen Four appearance. UNO would go on to lose to eventual national champion Providence College in the semifinals, but that run has given Maverick fans hope that the program's very best years lie directly ahead.



The inaugural UNO hockey team in 1997-98 with former Athletic Director Don Leahy (back row center).



BAXTER ARENA: THE HOME OF MAVERICK HOCKEY



A project more than 18 years in the making, Baxter Arena is the first on-campus home in the history of Omaha hockey. The state-of-the-art facility, funded in part by individual contributors in the Omaha community, serves as the on-campus home of the Omaha hockey team as well as UNO's men's and women's basketball teams and its volleyball team.

Construction crews broke ground in April 2014, and Baxter Arena was formally dedicated on Oct. 7, 2015. It capped a feverish 18-month construction of both the arena and surrounding landscape.

The arena seats 7,898 for hockey and features both the main arena for competition and the Holland Ice community sheet that serves as both an alternate practice facility for the Mavericks as well as a venue for public skating, youth hockey, figure skating, club hockey and campus recreation.

The arena is the anchor for future development by Omaha Athletics on the former grounds of Chili Greens Golf Course located on the west side of the Pappo Creek. Future projects could include baseball and softball fields as well as track & field facilities.

Fundraising for the arena was led by Heritage Services of Omaha and the University of Nebraska Foundation.



BAXTER ARENA FACTS AND FIGURES	
Hockey Capacity	7,898
Number of Suites	17
Number of Ice Sheets	2
Size of Ice Sheets.....	200' x 85'
Parking Spaces	More than 2,000
Cost.....	\$90 million



BAXTER ARENA: A COMMUNITY ASSET

In addition to serving as the home of the UNO hockey team, Baxter Arena continues to fulfill its mission as the home for community events in Omaha including concerts, graduations, youth hockey and the Aksarben Curling Club.

The arena welcomed comedian Jim Gaffigan, classic rockers Boston and Blue Oyster Cult and President Barack Obama in its first year, and its schedule has not slowed since then. Among many large events, the arena hosted the U.S. Olympic Curling Trials in November of 2017.

Baxter Arena also is the venue to a remarkable 18 local high school and small college graduations in addition to UNO's own commencements.

Baxter Arena's Holland Ice is home to youth hockey, community outreach events and public skating. The area around the arena also has been the site for UNO's annual Claussen-Leahy Maverick Run and Omaha's Sand in the City event.

With its location in the heart of Omaha, Baxter Arena has proven to be a true community asset.

