March 4, 2017 – Ames, Iowa – Having won its last six games—which included a home sweep of then-ranked Utah, a road sweep of Ohio to win the Central States Collegiate Hockey League regular season championship, and a pair of victories over Robert Morris and Lindenwood to take the CSCHL Tournament championship—Iowa State entered its final home game of the 2016-17 season as arguably the hottest team in Division 1 of the American Collegiate Hockey Association, and the Cyclones continued to roll against 16th-ranked Midland and blanked the Warriors en route to a 6-0 shutout victory.

Although Midland established momentum in the first three minutes, Iowa State quickly gained control of the game and opened scoring at 5:05 of the first period when Trevor Sabo (Skokie, Ill. – Rochester Ice Hawks/MnJHL) took a breakout pass in the neutral zone from Anthony Song (Ames, Iowa – Syracuse Stars/USPHL Elite), skated the puck up the center into the slot, and made a cross-slot pass to Tony Uglem (Moorehead, Minn. – Austin Bruins/NAHL) that Uglem shot low under Warrior netminder Dakota McDonald for the 1-0 margin. Midland’s Jason Henry sent a deceptive bloop shot from beyond the blue line toward the net that floated over Derek Moser (Tomah, Wis. – Rochester Ice Hawks/MnJHL) and hit the crossbar at the 5:52 mark, leaving the Warriors inches away from tying the game, but the Cyclones continued to control play despite near miss. A holding penalty to Warriors defenseman Trevor Hillman put the Cyclones on the power play at 8:07 of the first and Drew Carlson (Livonia, Mich. – Rochester Ice Hawks/MnJHL) made a pass off the half boards to a wide-open A.J. Gullickson (Verona, Wis. – Alexandria Blizzard/NA3HL) in the slot and Gullickson lit the lamp with a shot top shelf at 9:08 to give Iowa State a 2-0 lead that the team carried into the first intermission.

A slashing penalty to Midland’s Colton Jones at 8:07 of the second period put Iowa State on its fourth power play of the night and Gullickson tallied on the power play again at 9:55 of the second when Sabo re-directed an Uglem shot from the top off the face-off circle and Gullickson buried the rebound from beside the crease. Cyclone defenseman Eero Helanto (Turku, Finland – TPS Turku J20/Jr. A Sm-Liiga) picked up a kneeling penalty at 11:22 after making leg-on-leg contact with Jake Mullendore after trying to step up at the blue line, which resulted in a small skirmish between the two teams, but the fireworks didn’t really come until after Helanto got into the box, as Trevor Hillman slashed Colton Kramer (Sioux City, Iowa – Minot Minotauros/NAHL) as both were skating to the ensuing face-off and Jake Arroyo (Bolingbrook, Ill. – Austin Bruins/NAHL) responded with a cross-check in the ribs that dropped Hillman and resulted in both Zach Voss and Arroyo getting ten-minute misconducts after all was said and done. The Cyclones killed off Helanto’s penalty and a later cross-checking infraction to Adam Alcott (Rochester, Minn. – Wisconsin Whalers/NA3HL) at 16:14 of the second to maintain the 3-0 advantage after 40 minutes of play.

A little over three minutes into the third period, Uglem intercepted a Midland pass into the neutral zone, dished the puck up the center into the slot, and made a cross-slot pass to A.J. Gullickson, who took a breakout pass in the neutral zone from Tony Uglem and opened scoring at 5:05 of the third and redirected an Alcott shot for his first goal as a Cyclone at 8:12 of the third to put Midland on its third power play of the night and Sabo proceeded to save the Cyclone’s shutout at the 8:40 mark by speeding back on the backcheck to prevent Warrior forward Ben Henry from getting a shot off on a breakaway to keep the score 4-0. VanThournout, on his next shift after exiting the penalty box, extended Iowa State’s lead to 5-0 at the 13:13 mark by redirecting an Alcott shot for his first goal as a Cyclone and Sabo capped scoring with 1:14 remaining after McDonald left the net and made a diving effort to prevent Kramer from getting off a shot at the breakaway, Sam Zweiner made a save in net by blocking an Uglem...
shot from the top of the face-off circle, and Sabo knocked in the rebound before McDonald could get back in net for the 6-0 victory.

Moser made 19 saves in the win and to pick up his fifth shutout of the season while McDonald stopped 37 of 43 Cyclones shots in the loss.

Following the game, Cyclone Hockey Head Coach and General Manager Jason Fairman was happy with the effort and the result.

“I think we played well,” Fairman said in regards to his overall thoughts. “I don’t think they had a ‘Grade A’ scoring chance all game.

“I thought we were getting sticks, finding bodies in our zone, and, for the most part, I thought we played a pretty solid game.”

Fairman was particularly pleased that the Cyclones picked up a convincing victory over a tournament-bound opponent that made Iowa State earn every goal it got.

“Tonight’s game kept us sharp and it was a competitive game,” said Fairman. “In the past we’ve played these junior teams the weekend before nationals and have picked up some bad habits because we’re superior talent-wise.

“So, we’ve got to evaluate this series. I think it’s a good thing, since we’re so close, and I think it’ll pay off that we play such competitive games before nationals.”

As the last home game of the 2016-17 season, Saturday night’s game marked Senior Night, as Cyclone Hockey saluted graduating pep band member, cheer squad members, staff members, and players, including co-captain Chase Rey (St. Peters, Mo. – Janesville Jets/NAHL), alternate captain Eero Helanto, Alex Grupe (Arlington Heights, Ill. – Osoyoos Coyotes/KIJHL), Drew Carlson, and Dalton Kaake (Maple Creek, Saskatchewan – Cypress Cyclones/PJHL). Carlson transferred to Iowa State midway through the 2014-15 season and Kaake transferred to Iowa State to start the 2015-16 season, but Rey, Helanto, and Grupe all came to Ames in August 2013, the same time Fairman came to Iowa State as an assistant coach, only to become the team’s head coach after the mid-season retirement of Dr. Alan Murdoch. For Fairman, celebrating this class of seniors had particular significance.

“This is bittersweet, because you recognize the seniors and all they’ve done,” said Fairman. “This is a special class to me because they came in at the same time I did and I think we’ve kind of grown the program together. They know where we started and the other guys don’t. I think them coming in at the same time, for me at least, has a special meaning.”

Looking forward to Sunday night’s rematch against the Warriors at Midland, Fairman hopes to extend Iowa State’s winning streak to eight games while fielding a slightly different roster. “We’re going to give some guys a rest and change the line-up a little bit, just like we did tonight, but we want to continue with what we did today in terms of being sharp and making sure nobody gets injured,” said Fairman. “Our same goal will be what it was tonight, to win and to continue to build off what we’ve been doing here the last few weeks”.

Opening face-off for Sunday’s rematch is slated for 8:00 p.m. at Sidner Ice Arena in Fremont, Nebraska. Due to Ethernet limitations at Midland’s home arena, Cyclone Hockey will not be able to broadcast the March 5 game in Fremont, Nebraska. The game will be streamed online live, however, by Midland at the following link: https://portal.stretchinternet.com/midland/portal.htm?eventId=337217&streamType=video

The Cyclones will play their first game of the 2017 ACHA Men’s Division 1 National Tournament on Saturday, March 11, at 11:15 a.m. (Eastern Time) against 12th-ranked Colorado. Iowa State’s Round of 16 game against the Buffaloes will be contested at the OhioHealth Ice Haus, which is the practice facility of the National Hockey League’s Columbus Blue Jackets and attached to Nationwide Arena, the home ice of the Blue Jackets. Should Iowa State advance to the quarterfinals, the Cyclones will play the winner of Central Oklahoma’s Round of 16 game against either Illinois or Drexel, who square off Thursday, March 9, in the Play-In Round. The Cyclones’ quarterfinal game would start at 11:00 a.m. on March 12 at the OhioHealth Ice Haus.
Aside from cheering for the team in-person or EverSport, fans can also follow Cyclone Hockey online at www.cyclonehockey.com, on Facebook at /CycloneHockey, on Twitter at @Cyclone Hockey, and on Instagram at @CycloneHockey. Cyclone Hockey…Right Now.

NOTES: With a collegiate career-high four points on the night, Tony Uglem is now Iowa State’s leader in scoring with 33 points (11-22-33) in 30 games played. Uglem also leads the team in assists (22) and power play assists (11). The sophomore winger has 13 points (3-10-13) in 7 games since re-joining the Cyclones February 11 after playing for Team USA at the 2017 Winter World University Games. Trevor Sabo’s four-point night tied his career best as a Cyclone and marked his highest one-game total of the season. Sabo is now sixth in team scoring with 21 points (11-10-21) in 34 games played and is fifth in team goal scoring. A.J. Gullickson, who tallied two power play goals on the night, is now second in team goal scoring with 13 in 28 games played. Gullickson is fourth in team scoring with 24 points (13-11-24) in 28 games played and is third in points per game at .857. On the strength of a three-point night, Gullickson has 11 points (6-5-11) in his last 7 games. Colton Kramer reached the 30-point mark with his two assists on the night and is third in team scoring with 13 in 28 games played. Video review revealed that Jake Arroyo did not assist on Uglem’s opening goal of the game and that, in fact, it was Anthony Song who made the breakout pass up to Sabo. Song, who skated at defense on a pairing with Arroyo after having played forward nearly all of second semester, has 5 points (2-3-5) in his last 6 games and has 11 points (5-6-11) in 37 games for the season. Derek Moser, with the 19-save shutout, now sports a .918 save percentage and 2.32 goals-against average in 1657:41 played over 28 games. Moser’s record stands at 19-8-1-0.

GAME SUMMARY

GOALS BY PERIOD  1  2  3  FINAL
IOWA STATE   2  1  3  6
MIDLAND   0  0  0  0

First Period – Scoring: ISU, T. Uglem (Sabo, Song), 5:05; ISU, Gullickson (Carlson, Kramer), 9:08 (pp). Penalties: MU, Hillman (holding), 8:21; MU, Sanko (cross-checking), 14:57.


SHOTS BY PERIOD  1  2  3  TOTAL
IOWA STATE   11  20  12  43
MIDLAND   5  10  4  19

GOALTENDERS (SV/SH)  1  2  3  TOTAL
ISU, Moser (60:00)   5/5  10/10  4/4  19/19
MU, McDonald (60:00)  9/11  19/20  9/12  37/43

POWER PLAY: ISU 2-5; MU 0-3
PENALTIES: ISU 4-16; MU 6-20

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