For five decades, winning has been a way of life for one Cyclone sports program. Not for Cyclone football or men's and women's basketball or even Cyclone volleyball. Winning has been a way of life for Cyclone Hockey. This season marks the 50th anniversary of the program. Throughout those 50 years, Cyclone Hockey has consistently been one of the best programs in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA).

It has appeared in 14 ACHA Final Four, nine ACHA National Championship games and has claimed one national title. Since it has routinely been a national title contender, the motto surrounding the program is, “Where winning is a way of life.”

Before winning became a way of life for the cardinal and gold, there were multiple mountains to climb to sustain the program at a high level. From not having a proper home arena to budget restraints. Despite those challenges, Cyclone Hockey is arguably the most successful program at Iowa State, where it is today, told through the people who experienced them.

**FROM DES MOINES TO HILTON COLSEUM**

Back in the late ’60s, there wasn’t an ice-lined ice arena for Cyclone Hockey to use for practices and games. The team had to travel back and forth to Des Moines. It was a big deal for the team and fans alike. That is until Hilton Coliseum opened its doors on Dec. 2, 1971.

Known today as the home for Iowa State basketball, volleyball, wrestling and gymnastics, the arena hosted Cyclone hockey games regularly in its first decade of existence.

**Murdoch:** There was a donor, when I first came, that discovered that I was from Canada. He was knowledgeable about hockey and he thought maybe [Cyclone Hockey] should play in Hilton Coliseum and there could be ice in there too. But we needed more money.

So Murdoch set out to find more money and he found it in a donor located in Chicago. Murdoch met with the benefactor and at the end of the meeting, the supporter pledged $100,000 if there were at least 10 hockey games played in Hilton a year. And because of that donation, Cyclone Hockey finally found its home in Ames.

**HOCKEY**

To ensure the team could participate in the ACHA, the portable bleachers and the hardwood would be removed from Hilton Coliseum and the portable bleachers would be removed to build the rink. And even without the portable bleachers, Cyclone Hockey still experienced great turnouts. Game in and game out, the lower bowl in Hilton Coliseum would be filled with screaming fans along with upper deck fans. Game in and game out, the lower bowl was absolutely packed.

**Murdoch:** We played 12 to 14 seasons, our home schedule was all in Hilton Coliseum. It’s a great venue for hockey.

**THEIR OWN ICE ARENA**

Despite playing games in Hilton Coliseum, Cyclone Hockey couldn’t practice there.

**Murdoch:** We practiced on an outdoor rink north of Beyer Hall. They zipped trash cans from nearby Beyer Hall. They put trash cans and hanging light bulbs from it. They referred to it as “Al’s used car lot.”

But practicing outside had its negatives primarily, the ice would melt. So, an idea blossomed.

**Murdoch:** North of Beyer Hall is really hilly and had its share of challenges. And being outside had its negatives. It was fun though.

**HOCKEY**

**Murdoch:** It’s a great venue for hockey.

While the attendance was solid in Hilton Coliseum, Cyclone Hockey’s new home in 1971, Friday night games were a must for Iowa State students and Ames residents alike. The rowdiness could have been a factor due to the arena selling beer, but Murdoch insists that was not the case.

**Murdoch:** It was cold, it [beer] was being sold, many fans they all had a beer in each hand. I think the selling of beer had any influence on the game.

**VET MED DEAN**

Spencer Johnson, the first finalist for the position of dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine gave a forum Thursday. Read more online.

**SPRING CONCERT**

SUB announced the time, date and place of the Spring Concert via Twitter on Thursday. Read more at iowastatedaily.com
By Emma Wilson

Contributor to the Daily

From planting an extensively, beauti-
ful garden each spring, to starting her
own herd of Angus cows and calves,
ever since Lillie Beringer was able to
walk she’s spent her life outside.

When Lillie Beringer lost her hero, the
man she grew up doing everything
with, her dreams and goals became
rooted in the Beringer Farm.

In the early afternoon of July 1, 2014,
William Beringer spread his wings to
be with the Lord. A man not only a
father of eight children, a grandfather
of 27 grandchildren and a great-grand-
father of 30 great-grandchildren, but
also a bunter, horseback rider, outdoor
enthusiast and above all, an Iowa farm-
er. With a bright future and college
career ahead of her, 18-year-old Lillie
Beringer said goodbye to her whole
world.

Now, a 21-year-old senior at Iowa State,
Lillie Beringer studies her love of
animal science three hours away from
the family farm. With a vast leg-
acy behind her and vivid dreams before
her, Lillie Beringer has crafted a plan
to turn her goals into those dreams all
for a man she called grandpa.

Her grandfather, William Beringer,
was an avid coon hunter, at first taking
his children on his adventures through
the Dubuque County forests, and then
as his grandchildren grew, he showed
them the ways of hunting, too. He was
a man who spent his life outside in
any weather imaginable to care for the
cattle, his pride and joy.

However, all those titles William
Beringer held, not one of them fit for
his granddaughter. A man she admired,
adored and idolized, those titles never
seemed suitable for the man Lillie
Beringer knew as grandpa.

“We were inseparable since I was
born,” Lillie Beringer explained as she
wiped a tear reminiscing in her old
photo albums.

“I was always attached to his hip
from cattle sales, to coon hunting or
just anything on the farm,” she spoke
passionately pointing to a tattered pho-
to of a young Lillie Beringer holding
recently shot raccoons. “It was always
just grands and I together.”

A hero is how Lillie Beringer sim-
ply explains him. The man she turned
to for a simple question on the farm
to a deeper understanding of her life
and the lives around her. With his
simple smile and corny jokes, Grandpa
Beringer was the man who knew how
to take a rainy day and make it sunny.

“I spent my first two years in col-
lege at Black Hawk [College] East in
Kewanee, Illinois that was only about
two hours from home and after my
grandpa’s passing, I couldn’t get myself
to go farther,” Lillie Beringer said.

“But that was only a two-year program
and I knew I wanted a four-year degree,
so transferring to Iowa State to finish
it seemed ideal for me to do.”

As a youngster and into her high
school years, Lillie Beringer’s friends
couldn’t find her on the soccer field or
at football games, but found her in the
silent pastures with gentle Angus cattle,
alongside her Grandpa Beringer.

“She enjoyed it. She was always out
helping and still does when she
comes home.”

- John Beringer,
Lillie’s brother

Lillie’s legacy:
The story of a farming legacy left to a young woman and her dreams of fulfilling it.
Lillie Beringer got her first horse, Trigger at the age of 11. Lillie Beringer's dream of running her family farm started with Maquoketa River where Lillie's grandparents had themselves in. They were also often a part of the adventures they found of the various ways she did as a youngster. Hoffman made her a standout from her family, rebelling in one school, but my wild Lillie, and she did her fair share of her hero alive.

photo courtesy of Emma Wilson

Two-minute drive from the farm, Lillie Beringer stops in regularly to catch her grandma up on her cows and any changes with the farm, often bringing along a fresh baked pastry.

"Oh, Lillie, it's good to see you back again this weekend," Grandma Beringer said in a faint voice as she reached out her wrinkled hand to Lillie Beringer's embracing in a long hug. "You're always coming home a lot more often than your siblings aren't you?" she joked to Lillie Beringer.

The two share the pastry and an update since their last visit as they relax in her Grandma Beringer's room, decorated with love letters framed from her husband, William Beringer. Little keepsakes Lillie Beringer likes to re-read when she stops by, lightening her heart and keeping her memory of her hero alive.

"A lot of the time when I visit Grandma, we talk about memories of Grandpa and I swear I learn something new about that man every time I visit," Lillie Beringer jokes. "You could not have met a couple more in love than my grandparents."

After an afternoon spent reminiscing, Lillie Beringer heads home to present day, carrying on the legacy set before her filled not only with dreams, but also her plans.

The Dream

Lillie Beringer was never alone with her upbringing on the family farm. With two older brothers, Nicolas and Jesse, a younger brother Lee, and a younger sister Holly, Lillie Beringer is the middle child, the wild child according to Sheila Beringer, in the Beringer family of seven.

"Lillie was the drinker," Sheila Beringer said. "Nicolas never drank, Jesse never drank in high school, but my wild Lillie, and she did her fair share of drinking in high school."

Lillie Beringer's drinking was never serious, but it made her a standout from her family, rebelling in one of the various ways she did as a youngster. Hoffman was also often a part of the adventures they found themselves in.

"We'd have these wild cabin parties down by the Maquoketa River where Lillie's grandparents had a cabin and it was back in the trees away from the cops so we couldn't get caught," Hoffman said. "We'd decorate the place with Christmas lights and had music playing on the speakers and would just down there having a blast."

Hoffman also reminisced on the popular floating trips. Lillie Beringer and other friends would take down the Maquoketa River on hot summer days to cool off.

"One time after a floating trip, Lillie's dad came and picked up about 30 of us that went in the back of his stock trailer that he had just got done hauling cattle in," Hoffman said, laughing as she put her hands over her eyes. "He didn't even clean it."

With the adventures and fun came the work. Lillie Beringer and her sister Holly Beringer loved to do. However, all three of her brothers found no enjoyment at all in the farm life, attending college to pursue other passions and careers.

"I've always looked up to Lillie," said her sister Holly Beringer, a senior at Cascade High School. "I don't always tell her that, but as my older sister she was like having a mother hen. She was pretty protective of me and I guess I constantly wanted to do a lot of the things Lillie and I did because I don't think they enjoyed it, but Lillie still does so much more than me."

The older Beringer brothers work and live in Cedar Rapids. Jesse Beringer works as a caseworker, Nicolas Beringer, in operations management, and Lee Beringer attends Kirkwood Community College, all just a short one-hour drive from the family farm.

"The boys did things on the farm when they had to, but Lillie does them because she wants to," John Beringer said. "I had this old 706 Farmall tractor that didn't have a cab on it. When she was little, Lillie would sit on the fender next to me and watch me chore when it was cold out, and I mean damn cold but it never bothered her. She enjoyed it. She was always out helping and still does when she comes home."

John said it only makes sense for him to see Lillie Beringer take over the farming operation because she knows the needs of the crops, the commitment to the animals and continues to cultivate a passion for agriculture with her plans and goals for the farm.

"I guess I consider myself a little out of the norm of what a girl would usually do," Lillie Beringer said. "They're not necessarily really seen as a farmer, let alone someone who is running big equipment and doing everything that consists of being on a farm, but I can confidently say I can see myself doing this and I just want to prove everybody wrong that I can do it."

John Beringer and Sheila Beringer are excited for their daughter to return home and have an interest in taking over the operation, but they do voice their concerns to her often, allowing her to know farming isn't always easy.

"All I can tell her is that we work really hard and if she wants to work that hard that's completely fine," John Beringer said. "But I also think there's a lot easier ways to earn a living, but Lillie wants to and can work hard."

Lillie Beringer had the opportunity to purchase an acreage of her very own five miles from the farm she knows like the back of her hand. She jumped on the idea of moving back home after college, and in May, will be returning home with a full-time job as an animal nutritionist, as well as establishing a plan to take over the operation.

"I have so many goals and ideas for what I want to do with the farm and I just have to constantly remind myself that it's all going to take time and a lot of work, but it's work that I want to do. Ideally, in 5-10 years what I want out of the farm is to see more growth on the row-crop side and continue to grow my cow-calf herd."

For Grandma

Lillie Beringer walks through the pasture to greet her cattle with freshly ground corn mixture seeming as though she has a gift of corralling them to the bunk, an instant connection between each one just as she had with her grandpa.

"Everything that I do is for my grandpa," Lillie Beringer said. "Everything I work for is for my grandpa. All my goals and what I want to do with the Beringer farm is to give back to what my grandpa has started for me and I can't wait to come home and start."
POLICE BLOTTER

1:31:18

An officer assisted an individual who was experiencing medical difficulties at 138 University Village (reported at 1:57 a.m.).

An officer investigated a property damage collision at East 138 University Village (reported at 1:57 p.m.).

An officer assisted an individual who was experiencing medical difficulties at 138 University Village (reported at 1:57 a.m.).

An officer initiated a suspicious activity investigation at Lot 201N (reported at 6:37 p.m.).

An individual reported being harassed at Linden Hall (reported at 6:25 p.m.).

An officer assisted an individual who was experiencing medical difficulties at 138 University Village (reported at 1:57 a.m.).

An officer assisted an individual who was experiencing medical difficulties at 138 University Village (reported at 1:57 a.m.).

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LADIES, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EXTRA CASH FOR SPRING BREAK? Dangerous Curves is looking for dancers & 1 part time bartender FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE. Stop by 111 5th St in Ames or call 515-233-5445 for more information.

SUDOKU BY THE MEPHAM GROUP

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudokuf.co.uk

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Manganese (5,3)
2. Ixora (4)
3. Ecstasy (7)
4. Kerosene (6)
5. Felt (3)
6. Amoeba (5)
7. Mink (4)
8. Witch (4)
9. Electoral college (5)
10. Navigable (7)
11. Hailey (4)
12. Kingfisher (5)
13. C60 (6)
14. Virtual (3)
15. Billy (5)
16. Vacationer (7)
17. Roe (5)
18. Wex (4)
19. Barista (6)
20. Co-molding (5)
21. Ambulance (7)
22. Drip (5)
23. Arapaho (4)
24. Arum (4)
25. To (2)
26. Annoy (6)
27. Jh (2)
28. Unravel (7)
29. Dopey (5)
30. Chaffinch (7)
31. Hong (4)
32. Euthanasia (8)
33. She (6)
34.27 inches (7)
35. Open a bit (4)
36. 1962 (6)
37. Above (6)
38. Head (6)
39.5 over 4 (5)
40. Judy (5)
41. Aragon (6)
42. Hikers (4)
43. 0 (2)
44. 1st (5)
45. In (2)
46. Swine (5)
47. 12 inches (5)
48. Shift (6)
49. Crossword (6)
50. Like the Honda Element (6)
51. 62 from the (7)
52. 55 (5)
53. 1991 (5)
54. 42 (4)
55. Break (6)
56. 2013 (4)
57. 1983 (5)
58. 28 (5)
59. 1979 (4)
60. 63 (4)
61. 52 (3)
62. 62 (3)

DOWN

1. 1st letter in the west
10. No (4)
11. 1972 (6)
12. Horse (4)
13. Nicer (6)
14. At (2)
15. 1977 (4)
16. 1989 (5)
17. 1965 (5)
18. 1970 (5)
19. 1966 (4)
20. 1985 (4)
21. 1975 (5)
22. 1981 (6)
23. 1992 (4)
24. 1997 (5)
25. 1998 (6)
26. 2000 (7)
27. 2001 (7)
28. 2002 (7)
29. 2003 (7)
30. 2004 (7)
31. 2005 (7)
32. 2006 (7)
33. 2007 (7)
34. 2008 (7)
35. 2009 (7)
36. 2010 (7)
37. 2011 (7)
38. 2012 (7)
39. 2013 (7)
40. 2014 (7)
41. 2015 (7)
42. 2016 (7)
43. 2017 (7)
44. 2018 (7)
45. 2019 (7)
46. 2020 (7)
47. 2021 (7)
48. 2022 (7)
49. 2023 (7)
50. 2024 (7)
51. 2025 (7)
52. 2026 (7)
53. 2027 (7)
54. 2028 (7)
55. 2029 (7)
56. 2030 (7)
57. 2031 (7)
58. 2032 (7)
59. 2033 (7)
60. 2034 (7)

Corrections

The Iowa State Daily welcomes comments and suggestions or complaints about errors that warrant correction. To submit a correction, please contact our editor at 515-234-5668 or via email at editor@iowastatedaily.com.
The two don’t mix

BY TOM KELLY
@Iowastatedaily.com

Last week, columnist Frank Bruni wrote a piece in the New York Times titled, “The Existential Hell of This Year’s Super Bowl,” with the subhead, “It’s the Patriots—again—and a metaphor for Trump’s America.”

In the column, Bruni not only remarks that he is bored by and tired of the New England Patriots’ success, but also argues the Patriots—along with their Super Bowl opponent—illustrate, as he sees it, the inequity and vice rampant in “Trump’s America.” Bruni writes, “The Patriots perfectly embody our income-in-equality era, or tax reform? Ticket and merchandise sales are the result of consensual monetary transactions between fans and the Patriots organization. Television contracts and advertising revenue are, in part, the result of being popular, and popularity, at least in regards to sports, is mostly tied to a team’s on-field success, or lack thereof.

Also, while it is true that, in many endeavors, past or present success often leads to success in the future, Bruni fails to show a correlation between businesses leaving recent tax reform, and the continued success of the Patriots. He is simply reading politics into a situation which is entirely apolitical.

However, Bruni’s ire is not solely directed toward the Patriots. “These Eagles aren’t cuddly underdogs,” he writes. “They have fans so famously obnoxious that after Sunday’s rout, some of them threw beer cans at a Vikings team bus as it pulled away from the stadium. Sure winning! I wonder which of our amazing leaders taught them that.”

The suggestion that Philadelphia Eagles fans behaved inappropriately after the Eagles won the NFC Championship two weeks ago because they were mimicking Donald Trump is preposterous, if for no reason other than the fact that Trump won the state of Pennsylvania by only seven-tenths of a percentage point, and Hillary Clinton won 82 percent of the vote in Philadelphia County. Sports evoke strong emotions in fans, disruptive behavior and inter-team hostility existed long before Jan. 20, 2017.

Finally, Bruni states the defeats of two teams from lesser-known sports cities is proof of, as he sees it, the Trump administration’s bias towards so-called East Coast “elites.”

Bruni writes, “The Patriots perfectly embody our income-in-equality era, or tax reform?”

We already live in a politically polarized society. If sports continue to be unnecessarily politicized, pre-existing divisions will only be exacerbated, further fracturing the social fabric.

Democracy simply does not work without an engaged electorate. Our representative democracy requires two things from us and our fellow citizens—to be informed and to vote. The Iowa State Daily Editorial Board encourages you to do both by engaging with candidates and voting in the Iowa Caucuses on Monday.

Both the Iowa Democratic Party and the Republican Party of Iowa are holding party caucuses on Monday at 7 p.m. Across the state, voters can attend the voting location for their precinct and conduct party business. Because official party business is being conducted, caucus goers must be a registered voter with that party. However, same-day voter registration will be allowed at the caucus location if you need to change party affiliations.

Several important things happen at the caucus regardless of the political party. Each caucus will establish rules and roles according to the state party and the people in the room. Delegates are selected for county, district and state conventions which take place in the subsequent months. Additionally, caucus goers will have the opportunity to influence and change the party platform, the document that outlines what the party believes about certain issues.

Participating in a caucus is a great way to make your voice heard within the party as these are the people who go on to vote for the final party platform and the candidates who will represent the party in the general election.

Democrats have more at stake during this caucus as the field of candidates for various offices is crowded. Eight Democrats are running to replace Gov. Kim Reynolds, four are running in the 4th Congressional District (including Story County) to replace Rep. Steve King and two are running for secretary of state to replace Sec. Paul Pate.

It is important to note that both parties will also have a primary on June 5. This is a ballot vote where voters select who they want to represent the party in the general election in November.

However, if none of the candidates receive 35 percent or more of the vote, then the decision is passed on to the party delegates who were chosen during the caucuses. Moreover, party platforms and issues will only be discussed and voted on at the caucuses and following conventions.

Again, this is especially important for Democratic members as it is unlikely that any of the eight candidates will surpass the 35 percent threshold in the June primary.

Whether or not you like the two-party system, it is how our country operates. Isn’t it time for young, passionate and educated voters to mold the parts to our likeness?

Find out more about your party’s caucus, candidates and issues at iowadems.org and iowagop.org.

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Columns and letters are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Daily or organizations with which the author(s) are associated.
The basketball was flying from player to player during Iowa State's possession on Wednesday night against No. 15 West Virginia.

Whether it was a pass into the paint, a toss to the 3-point line or an alley-oop pass, the Cyclones were passing to the right player at the right time. Along with the assists, Iowa State was dominant in the paint with 32 rebounds, 10 blocks overall and 10 rebounds on the offensive end.

Those two aspects of the game allowed the Cyclones to upset the Mountain Eers at Hilton Coliseum on Wednesday with a 93-77 final score.

Iowa State will need to utilize these two parts of the game efficiently to take down the Baylor Bears in Waco, Texas, on Saturday.

“I thought our effort was good [in the West Virginia game],” said coach Steve Prohm. “We shared the ball. Twenty assists on 36 baskets. That’s terrific.”

Iowa State earned its first Big 12 win of the season against Baylor on Jan. 13 at Hilton Coliseum. During that win, the Cyclones recorded 18 assists on 26 field-goal attempts.

After the West Virginia win, Prohm talked about the team’s goal of 60 percent field goals and said the Cyclones were close to reaching that goal last game against the Bears as the Cyclones assisted on 69.2 percent.

The only problem is 10 of those 18 assists came from redshirt junior guard Nick Weiler-Babb, who will be out of this upcoming game.

Weiler-Babb was out against West Virginia and Iowa State found its way to 20 assists from a combination of four players. Sophomore forward Solomon Young thinks assists will help the Cyclones score easier and get in the rhythm of the game.

“Were a lot better team when we move the ball around,” Young said. “Then the team has to guard everyone on the floor. You can’t sag off of anyone because everyone’s a threat.”

Donovan Jackson had seven assists, Lindell Wigginton and Zoran Talley Jr. had five assists and Jakolby Long had three assists. Prohm expects the same type of passing against Baylor if the Cyclones want to come out with a win.

That passing came from key rebounders by Iowa State’s post players, specifically Cameron Lard and Young. That duo combination recorded 32 of the total rebounds last night for the Cyclones. Once the rebound was captured, it was passed to one of the guards who would lead Iowa State into a fast break.

“Those [Baylor] guys are big and physical and long,” Prohm said. “We got to do a great job on the glass… we need to be physical in the post.”

Prohm said there were possessions against West Virginia where the Iowa State post players were slamming into guys and losing out for rebounds. There were other times the Cyclone players were letting them have the rebounds.

For Prohm and his staff, it’s about consistency and making sure it’s the same mentality on every rebound and every pass throughout the entire 40 minutes.

Iowa State beat Baylor 75-65 from the help of Wigginton’s 30-point performance, but Talley Jr. knows the Bears will be looking for revenge.

Baylor is at the bottom of the Big 12 standings with a 12-10 overall record and a 2-7 Big 12 record. Iowa State is just above them with a 12-9 overall record and a 3-6 Big 12 record. It’s a battle of creating a winning streak for Iowa State and not being at the bottom of the standings for Baylor.

“We’re going to have to come out there swinging,” Talley Jr. said. “Throw the first punch.”
BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP

1. 1 package cream cheese, softened (8 oz package preferable)
2. 1/2 cup bleu cheese salad dressing
3. 1/2 cup Frank’s Redhot Original Cayenne Pepper Sauce, or any cayenne pepper sauce
4. 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded
5. 2 cans Swanson Shredded Chicken, drained
6. Combine ingredients in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for five minutes, stir after three minutes until smooth.

SPINACH ARTICHOKE DIP

1. 1/2 cup sour cream
2. 1/4 tsp ground black pepper
3. 1 tsp garlic powder
4. 1 can artichoke hearts, chopped
5. 1 package frozen chopped spinach, thawed, drained and squeezed dry
6. 1 package 1/3 less fat cream cheese, softened
7. 1 package cream cheese, softened
8. 1 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded
9. 2 tbsp parmesan cheese, grated
10. Combine ingredients in a bowl. Microwave on high for eight minutes until ingredients are melted, stirring after three minutes.

FAMOUS QUESO DIP

1. 1 lb. (16 oz) Velveeta, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
2. 1 can (10 oz) Ro-Tel diced tomatoes and green chilies, undrained
3. Combine ingredients in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for five minutes or until Velveeta is completely melted, stirring after three minutes.
the crowd. But, the students had a visit in there. So, we played in there for a good 25 years. Gradually, we played more games there because we could make more money. The students loved it.

1992

The 1992 season is undoubtedly the pinnacle season for the cardinal and gold. After sharing the first regular season CSCHL title with Michigan-Dearborn, the program bid to win its fourth-straight conference tournament came up short. But it still had its eyes set on a national championship.

Ward: We were hung up a little bit. A couple teammates didn’t even make the trip.

Murdoch: We had a pretty good team that year, but we had a few injuries prior to nationals. One guy had knee surgery. Our guy had shoulder surgery. So, I thought that wasn’t a problem. We had depth, we would work through it.

So, we go out into the first game, which I believe was against Eastern Michigan, and we come out of that game tied because back then games could end in a tie. The players went onto the bus disappointed, but I told them not to sweat it. But then the next day in the next game, we tied again.

Once again the players were down and I told them to stay positive. But I still remember guys singing get us home back then. We come out of that game tied because back then games could end in a tie.

We had a pretty good team that year, but we had a few injuries prior to nationals. One guy had knee surgery. Our guy had shoulder surgery. So, I thought that wasn’t a problem. We had depth, we would work through it.

That win over the Bison pitted the team against Eastern Michigan at that time, for a national title. However, they cruised against Michigan-Dearborn once again, this time for a national title.

Ward: This was the second time Michigan-Dearborn, the program’s bid to the ACHA.

Murdoch: Michigan-Dearborn was an NAIA school and then an NCAA D3 school. That meant that actually stayed while they transitioned over to the ACHA.

It was a closer game than the score showed. It was 5–3 with an empty net goal. So, it was a really tight game. On paper we were the underdog that game.

Even though it was a closer game than what it seemed, the program finally overcame its previous struggles in the national championship (it had lost three other times before that) to claim its first ACHA Division I national title.

Murdoch: I still remember guys singing getting on the bus to head home. And I swear, they sang for a good eight to 10 hours on the ride home.

They were setting up a parade in Ames because we won the National Championship. We got to the World’s Largest Truck Stop, pull in there and the kids and Paul Simon’s “You Can Call Me Al” would play over the sound system.

The last time Murdoch would swing his coat over his head to the beat of “You Can Call Me Al” was after Cyclone Hockey swept No. 2 Minot State in a two-game series because of the alumni together. It was a bummer because of the alumni together. It was a bummer because he played for him for four years and I coached with him.

Although Murdoch’s retirement came in like a player checking an opposing player into the boards, former players had nothing but good things to say about him.

Ward: If obviously started the program. I think he taught a lot of the guys there a lot more than just hockey. He taught them life skills.

Clark: Playing for Al, it was really interesting. He is kind of an old-school coach. He demanded a lot from his players. He was a no nonsense, no excuse person. But at the end of the day, I always knew he cared about me. He wanted me to be the best I can be, not only on the ice, but in life.

AN END OF AN ERA

Al Murdoch came to Iowa State in 1969 to work on his master’s degree. He only expected to stay in Ames for a few years before heading back home to Neepawa, Manitoba. However, those few years turned into 43 and 1,070 wins.

Murdoch: The students would love if we won Friday and Saturday. If we did, I would go right in front of the band, take off my coat and waving it over my head. Then I would high five the kids and Paul Simon’s “You Can Call Me Al” would play over the sound system.

The last time Murdoch would swing his coat over his head to the beat of “You Can Call Me Al” was after Cyclone Hockey swept No. 2 Minot State in a two-game series because of the following week on Nov. 19, 2013, he retired from coaching. Murdoch announced his retirement then because he wanted to go out on top and he wanted to make sure he had time to spend with his family when he was healthy.

Former Cyclone Hockey defensemen and assistant coach Brandon Clark: I was surprised because we use a part of the program for 40 years. He is kind of the glue of the program. He kept all of the alumni together. It was a bummer because I played for him for four years and I coached with him.

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A BEGINNING OF A NEW ONE

After Murdoch retired midway through the 2014 season, Jason Fairman was named the interim head coach and general manager of the program.

Fairman guided the team to the quarterfinals of the ACHA national tournament and a final record of 36–10–4–0 record.

Current Cyclone Hockey defensemen, Kody Reuter: He is very detail oriented. When he tells us that he wants something done a certain way, he definitely expects us to follow through with that. I think that is something we pay attention to, as players, just focus on the little things, focus on the details.

Clark: I haven’t been involved with the program for almost three years. But what I hear from the players is that there are a lot of positive changes going on. As far as on ice, he has led them to a few good years. He led them to a national championship berth. But what I hear from players, they are enjoying playing for Fairman.

Throughout Fairman’s four seasons as head coach, the program has consistently improved. And during the 2015–16 season, Cyclone Hockey made it to the national championship game, only to lose a heartbreaking at the hands of Lindenwood.

Although there is no telling when the program will appear in, or win its next national championship; one thing is for certain; players and coaches alike will strive to ensure winning stays a way of life for Cyclone Hockey.

Reuter: We have been around for 50 years now. The program has always been successful. So, we definitely try to focus on keeping that tradition going. Winning as much as we can and hopefully win some more championships.