

# CONGRATULATIONS LINCOLN STARS CLARK CUP CHAMPIONS FROM BW-3

WEDNESDAY  
50¢ LEGS

THURSDAY  
\$1 DOMESTIC PINTS  
7PM-12AM  
475-bwww



FRIDAY  
\$1.25 WELLS

SATURDAY  
\$2.25 BROWN BUFFALOS

1328 'P' St.

## LINCOLN The Staff at the Daily Nebraskan



Would Like to Salute  
the Lincoln Stars on their  
Clark Cup Victory.  
Way to Go Guys!

Not too bad of a start.  
The Lincoln Stars' first year couldn't have been much better. A United States Hockey League title, a berth in the Junior A National Hockey Tournament and a 40-win regular season — something no team has accomplished in a first-ever season.

But anyone who saw the Stars at one of the sold-out — and every home game was packed with 4,321 Silly-String, Section-K loving fans — home games at the Ice Box, watched a team transform from a group of unknowns into one of the most successful sports teams in the city of Lincoln's history.

And as the team grew together, so did its fans. Of course, success made that a little easier.

Many people didn't know icing from a two-line pass when play began in November, but at the Stars' final home game of the year — a 4-3 win over the Green Bay Gamblers in the second game of the Clark Cup finals — it was apparent how far the people's knowledge of the game has come.

And that knowledge grew in quick period of time.

"The people here are more enthusiastic than most of the USHL towns I've been," Stars Coach Steve Johnson said in January. "These have to be some of the most enthusiastic fans I have ever seen."

The merger between the team and an energetic bunch of fans was apparent everywhere. The crowds' energy was transformed on the ice and the players' tenacity gave fans a great appreciation for the game.

The players were everyday people and that's what the community loved. They worked in the community. They attended local high schools and colleges. They left their families for the chance to play in the top junior hockey league in the country and the fans appreciated the sacrifices they made.

Players like Jason Braun, Derek Reynolds, Josh Langfeld, Chad Mazurak, Louis Mass and short-but-tough Ted Suihkonen became fan favorites.

From 12 states and two provinces they became a fine-tuned skating machine, as the Stars finished the regular season 40-13-1.

In the USHL playoffs, Lincoln dismissed Rochester in five games, the big-name Omaha Lancers in five and swept Green Bay — the team with best regular-season record (41-11-2).

Now the Stars will hit the ice in Springfield, Ill., on Friday for the Junior A Tournament and the chance to surprise and win over the hearts of more people.

But next season things will be different. Age requirements and college offers will take some Stars away from the Star City. Next year's team will have some of the same faces, but a lot of the players will be new.

They will be embraced by the fans. They will be taught by one of the finest coaches in the game. They will be entrusted to carry on a new tradition in hockey excellence.

But no one will ever forget the first year the Lincoln Stars took the ice.

Big Red Keno Sports Bar & Grill is where the action is! So bring your friends out for great fun! And right now it's SAND VOLLEYBALL time! Come and play free of charge (exceptions are leagues). Must be 21 years old to play.

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Way to go,  
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