

Lollipop gang supports Moses' Hawks

Written by Tom Fruehling

Monday, 05 December 2011 20:46 - Last Updated Monday, 05 December 2011 22:32



First, there was the old Telly Savalas “Kojak” television detective character always sucking on a lollipop.

Now, during warm-ups before every Prairie boys basketball game, there’s the ever-dapper Coach James Moses strolling up and down the court with a Tootsie Pop planted firmly in his cheek.

“Preferably orange,” he says, to match the team’s color scheme.

In his second year at the helm of a resurgent Prairie program, the debonair coach’s pregame ritual has become such a trademark that fans are following in his suede-loafer footprints.

Prior to last week’s home game against North Scott, basketball booster club president Dave Rasmussen passed through stands with a big bag of suckers to hand out. No doubt he’ll do the same thing Tuesday tonight as well when the Hawks host Mount Pleasant.

“It kind of got started last year,” said Rasmussen, whose son Garrett is a senior forward. “It’s just a way to rally around James and the team.”

Moses is tickled about the show of school spirit. But then the affable and always-dressed-to-the-nines former Iowa Hawkeye star seems always to be in a chipper mood.

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