

## ***BIG CHANGES USHER IN NEW DECADE***

The XHL is set to begin another decade of hockey and will be undergoing some of its most radical changes in the process.

The XHL has a new home, several new rules, and some new teams and faces to go with it. Team sizes have been increased by a player and off-sides is a goner.

In addition, the league will also say goodbye to Bob Anderson as XHL President at the culmination of this season. Anderson has held the post since the league's inception in 2001. Tim Herman will soon be taking his place.

With all of those changes it may be hard to recognize this league that has become a staple of the community. But with teams like the Rogue and Colonials returning for their 11<sup>th</sup> seasons and the Maniax looking for their third straight championship, there is at least a little bit of familiarity.

The story that made the biggest headlines this year was not related in any way to personnel. Instead, the league made headlines by announcing it would be leaving the court at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Brockway to play at the Reynoldsville Rollerdrome.

The pros and cons of that move were well discussed. Nonetheless, the implications are huge. Though the league will only feature 10 teams this year instead of the 11 it saw in 2010, the actual number of players has increased to 80 since the league allowed each team to add another player to accommodate the 4 on 4 style that will be played at the Drome.

Another big difference will be the abolishment of the off-sides rule that the league always used in Brockway. This should make for some fast-paced, up and down hockey.

Despite the reduction in teams, the Taylor Memorial Cup playoffs will once again feature the top six teams.

In addition to the teams already mentioned, the other returning teams from last season are the Venom and Swashbucklers.

But once again, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Such was the case this off-season as the league saw many players doing their usual musical chairs in free agency.

The Generals will return to the league after a year hiatus, albeit, with a drastically different roster.

The league will also say hello to four brand new teams: the Iron Lions, the Voodoo, the Wolfpack, and the Warriors.

The league will once again play its games on Mondays and Wednesday and will feature four games each night. Start times have changed to the top of the hours at 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00 respectively. The road to the Taylor Memorial Cup begins May 16<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, visit the XHL's website at [www.xhlhockey.net](http://www.xhlhockey.net).