

With the holidays over and the hockey season winding down, all kinds of rumors start to fly, prompting people to panic and ask, "What's going on for next year?" Or "When are you announcing the coaches for the upcoming season?"

I just thought that I would take this opportunity to try to put everyone's mind at ease, and assure folks that "Yes, we have a plan!"

Before going any further, I want to say thank you to all our players and parents for making this one of the best years ever! Many of our teams are in the hunt for either a state seed or poised to make end of the season playoffs. Our tournament-bound girls teams are in the midst of state play-down games and we should have some qualifiers when all the dust settles.

But aside from the hockey, this year we have had some great additions to the program. Our coaching staff continues to grow, providing a staff of dedicated people that, without question, are second to none. Our video system is now installed, with live feed to the internet so games can be broadcast with HD recording capability, in their entirety in real time; this will be an amazing asset for instructional videos as well. This year's Pink the Rink Breast Cancer awareness tournament was the biggest to date and a huge success. Then, the announcement that the Lady Islanders have officially joined the Rebel's organization - we welcome you all into the Rebels Family!

... And of course the best ever Buddy Skate... Thanks John!

The Dix Hills Rink staff continues to support our program. This year they have/will have hosted not only Pink the Rink, but a AAA Super Series, the first ever Martin Luther King Squirt Tournament, as well as ALL of the LIAHL TII and TIII playoffs Squirt through Midget. This will be the first for LIAHL as all playoffs will be played in the same venue.

Hats off to Matt and the entire staff as they make sure all of our teams have a place to call HOME.

What about next year?

After this year's success in building the Squirt and PeeWee levels, the Rebels and Royals are creating a comprehensive Bantam-Midget program and will look to grow the Mites. This will include the incorporation of a developmental program into the current program that will also benefit the Lady Islanders. Coaches will be assessed and Rebels and Lady Islander coach movement will be made where needed to ensure optimum coverage at all levels. We will tap into our Junior Royals experience so older players obtain maximum exposure to colleges and prep schools... These are only some of the items we are working on and I will provide you with updates as they are finalized. In the meantime, ignore the rumors, and best of luck to our players and teams for a successful remainder of the season.