

The image shows the Xcel Energy Center at night, illuminated from within. A large red banner with the Xcel Energy Center logo is overlaid on the left side of the image. The building's name is also visible on the top right corner of the facade.

Xcel Energy Center™

STATE OF HOCKEY TRIBUTE

In the years leading up to the completion of the Xcel Energy Center, Vice Chairman Jac Sperling envisioned a series of exhibits in the arena dedicated to Minnesota's contributions to the sport of hockey. Below are highlights from some of the exhibits on display inside Xcel Energy Center:

High School Jerseys

The jerseys of more than 215 boys and girls high school hockey teams encircle the arena on the Executive Suite Level. These represent both Class AA and A programs in the state and are a welcome site each year to the fans that return annually for the state high school tournaments.

U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum Exhibits

Inside the Iron Range Grill at Gate 4 on the main concourse are six exhibit cases featuring artifacts from the United States Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth, Minn. The cases vary from year to year, but usually focus on Iron Range communities along with general information on the museum and its exhibits. In addition, the walls feature photomurals of past Iron Range teams from Eveleth, Grand Rapids, Hibbing, Taconite and Virginia.

College Hockey Awards

Just outside the Iron Range Grill are major exhibits for the Hobey Baker and Patty Kazmaier Memorial Awards. These awards annually honor the nation's most outstanding male and female college hockey players. The winners for 2011-12 were Andy Miele (Miami) and Meghan Duggan (Wisconsin.)

WCHA Jerseys

As the host of the WCHA's Red Baron™ Final Five Tournament since 2001, Xcel Energy Center displays the jerseys of the association's 12 member schools just inside Gate 2. The league's newest members are Bemidji State University and the University of Nebraska-Omaha who joined for the 2010-11 season. Close by, the original Zamboni from the St. Paul Auditorium (now The Legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium) has been restored and is positioned above the entrance to Gate 2.

Minnesota State High School Tournaments

As a complement to the high school hockey jersey exhibit, St. Paul Pioneer Press' headlines from 18 selected tournaments are displayed on eight support pillars around the main concourse. The exhibit begins with the very first event in 1945 and includes representations from the Class A boys' tournament as well as the girl's competition which began in 1995.

Saint Paul Hockey Champions

The RBC Wealth Management Club Level honors Saint Paul minor league (plus one major league) champions representing the seasons of 1919-20, 1939-40, 1948-49, 1959-60 and 1964-65. The exhibits include a replica jersey, St. Paul Pioneer Press' headlines and photographs and appear on six support pillars that surround the club level.

Minnesota Hockey History

Annually changing exhibits featuring various aspects of Minnesota hockey are found in the Mini-Gallery at Gate 3. Present exhibits recognize five notable United States Hockey Hall of Fame enshrines: Henry Boucha, Neal Broten, Tony Conroy, Mike Karakas and Lou Nanne and tell the story of the MN Wild's first 10 years and the first boys high school tournament. The upper concourse features, among other exhibits, a photo mural of historic arenas around the state, a tribute to the state's first major league team, the St. Paul Athletic Club and a jersey display highlighting Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Association teams.