

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DETROIT RED WINGS 2007-08 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

Boyer at pinnacle of his profession

It seems appropriate that the Stanley Cup Champion Detroit Red Wings should also have a leader as their head equipment manager. Paul Boyer occupies one of the very plum jobs in his profession and also is president of his fraternity, the Society of Professional Hockey Equipment Managers (SPHEM).

We spoke to Paul to get his take on the upcoming NHL season.

THN: You've been in the business a long time and enjoy a prestigious assignment with the reigning NHL champion. How did you get here?

Boyer: I started by working for five years at Lake Superior State, from 1989 to 1993, as Assistant Equipment Manager for the New Jersey Devils for 1993-94, and then from the 1994-95 season to present as Head Equipment Manager with Detroit. I'm now serving my second two-year term as President of SPHEM.

THN: How much of a role do people in your position play on Cup winning teams? It's an important contribution that might sometimes go unnoticed...

Boyer: I am no different than any of my colleagues. We all know our roles and what's expected of us, and that's why

we're fortunate to be working in the NHL. We're kind of like the team behind the team. Players count on their equipment managers and athletic trainers to help them prepare properly to play at their highest



**PAUL
BOYER**

**EQUIPMENT
MANAGER**



ability. Players and coaches notice what we do, and that's all that matters.

THN: Marian Hossa, who joins the Red Wings this season, is known for being a bit of an equipment guru, often trying new brands and gear. What do you expect working with him

to be like?

Boyer: I'm looking forward to working with Marian. Veterans like him know what they need to play. I'm never opposed to players trying new equipment, as technology is changing so rapidly that they want to see if it enhances their game. If Marian tries some different equipment or sticks, he'll know what works and what doesn't. I'm willing to get any player anything he needs to help our team win.

THN: What are some of the other challenges and rewards of working with the Red Wings?

Boyer: The Red Wings are a first class organization from top to bottom. I've been here for the last four Cups the club has won, and I'm fortunate to be a part of it for such a long time.

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