

FROM THE DETROIT RED WINGS LOCKER ROOM

BOYER KEEPS WINGS SHARP

Paul Boyer is one of the longest-serving equipment managers in the NHL, now heading into his 17th year behind the Red Wing bench. A graduate of Lake Superior State, Boyer got his first start with the university's hockey team before moving on to the New Jersey Devils, and then the Red Wings.

THN: Did you imagine that you would ever be an equipment manager?

PB: You never know what's going to happen but once I was there and started working with Lake Superior State and having fun, I didn't think about it until I graduated, and then the Devils came calling and it just took off from there. I worked for the Devils for a year. It was a great learning experience, and I was all set to go back to the Devils. I then got a call from the athletic trainer of the Wings the rest is history.

THN: I've noticed that you always keep a helmet handy on the bench. What sort of things have you learned to keep an eye on?

PB: Everything on the bench is just one big

variable. You've gotta be ready. I'm not the only guy – everybody in the league has their own signature thing that they like to prepare for.

THN: Do you share any secrets with other equipment managers in the league?



**PAUL
BOYER**
EQUIPMENT
MANAGER



PB: Absolutely, if we can make the job easier on each other we will. We bounce ideas off each other. 'Hey I'm running into this problem... Is this particular skate giving you a problem?' You want to hear what the other guys are saying. Nine times

out of 10, if one team is having a problem with one particular product, 29 others are experiencing the same thing, so there could be 29 other solutions out there. And some of them are looking for your solutions.

THN: How has your experience with Blademaster been?

PB: My experience with Blademaster has been fantastic. The service is top-shelf. The product is top-shelf. I highly recommend it to anybody – any of my colleagues or anyone in the retail side looking to do something with skate sharpening. They have by far the best product in the market. I've been using it since Lake Superior – I've always sharpened skates using a Blademaster machine.

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