

THE CHOICE OF PROFESSIONALS

# BLADEMASTER

Advertisement

FROM THE

**DETROIT RED WINGS LOCKER ROOM**

## Boyer finds SPHEM rewarding

**P**aul Boyer, who has worked with the Red Wings since 1994-95, has also been serving as president of the Society of Professional Hockey Equipment Managers since June when he started a two-year term. The 37-year-old, who lives in the Detroit area with his wife, son and two daughters, says that he is having fun leading SPHEM and working with the four other members of the executive committee. We chatted with Paul about SPHEM and life in Hockeytown:

**THN:** What are some of the things SPHEM will be trying to accomplish?

**PB:** Our biggest goal is education. We're setting up seminars and talks for our membership. For instance, we're bringing in Ecolab to talk about washers, dryers and chemicals. We'll be bringing in Gatorade to speak to us, and we're arranging other speakers to come in for the career development of our membership.

**THN:** Anything else?

**PB:** We're also working on an alignment with the American Equipment Managers Association. Their membership mostly consists of college equipment managers for basketball, football, track and other sports. We're looking on helping them develop hockey-specific testing for AEMA qualification.

**THN:** What kind of relationship is there between SPHEM and the major equipment manufacturers?

**PB:** We have a good relationship. If we see something in terms of what players are asking for, we communicate that to them. But the truth is the manufacturers do a good job of anticipating the players' needs.

**THN:** How do you balance your SPHEM duties and your job with the Red Wings.

**PB:** Well, my work with the Wings always comes first, but when I find time, especially on the road, I handle some of my SPHEM duties. I find a good balance.

**THN:** You work for one of the flagships franchises of the NHL.

What makes the Wings special?

**PB:** It really starts with ownership: Mike and Marian Illitch. The class and professionalism flows down the whole organization.

**THN:** We understand you have one of the new Blademaster Ultimate machines. How is that working out for you?

**PB:** I love it. I think that this is the best

in the industry. I find that I have more consistency in my finish passes with the ability to adjust the speed of the wheel as its size decreases. I also find it easier to sharpen on the granite top. The air system is environmentally friendly and is also so efficient that it keeps the machine cleaner allowing for easier sharpening. I highly recommend it.



**Paul Boyer**  
Equipment Manager



# L'il RED



Patented hinge design restores the edge to all skate blades between shifts

[www.blademaster.ca](http://www.blademaster.ca)

