

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPOKANE CHIEFS
2008 MEMORIAL CUP CHAMPIONS**

Coberly eyes bright future in Spokane

Kacee Coberly might be young, but you can't say he's wet behind the ears. The 20-year-old equipment manager for Memorial Cup-champion Spokane (WHL) took the first steps down the road of his chosen career back in Oklahoma City (CHL), working since the age of 10 as an assistant with the Blazers. Two years ago he got his first job as a head equipment manager, working for Memphis (CHL). Last year, he served in the same role for Dayton (ECHL). We caught up with Kacee to talk about his move to major junior:

THN: How did you get interest in working in hockey?

KC: One of the coaches on my baseball team worked with the Blazers. Once I got in there, I really liked the game and working with the team. I became a bit of a rink rat. The former equipment manager at Oklahoma, Brandon Rose – he taught me everything I know, and is still a mentor.

THN: How does it feel joining a championship team?

KC: It's a big honor. I'm looking forward to a new experience.

THN: Did you follow junior before being hired by Spokane?

KC: Just a little bit. Mostly I kept up with what was happening in the AHL and NHL.

THN: What are you finding to be the big differences between

junior and the low minors.

KC: The big difference I guess is that a lot of these kids will be headed up to the NHL, some are going to be



**KACEE
COBERLY**

**EQUIPMENT
MANAGER**



first round picks, stars of the future. They all have agents. If they need something in terms of equipment, they get a brand new one, top of the line. Players in the minors, they often have more limited choices.

THN: There's a lot of travel in junior, particularly in the WHL. Does that concern you?

KC: No. I saw a lot of travel in the minors too. I'm looking forward to seeing Canada actually.

THN: What do you like most about your job?

KC: There are so many parts of it I like. I take a lot of pride in keeping a good clean locker room. When the room looks good, all the jerseys hung up right and everything organized, the players take notice of that.

THN: Do the Chiefs use Blademaster skate sharpening equipment?

KC: Yes, we have a stationary machine here, plus two portables for travel. Blademaster is the only machine I've ever used. They're good quality.

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