

FROM THE WORCESTER SHARKS LOCKER ROOM

A Shark by any other name

The San Jose Sharks are getting a lot of attention this season, as many pundits favor them to win the Stanley Cup. But there's another group of Sharks – the American Hockey League Worcester Sharks, San Jose's primary affiliate – which might have something to do with this success. We spoke to Head Equipment Manager Vincent Ferraiuolo to get his take on life on the farm.

THN: How did you get your start in the business?

Ferraiuolo: I started as a stick boy in Roanoke, VA working for the Virginia Lancers of the ECHL when I was 11. I have been head or assistant equipment manager in the ECHL, AHL and NHL for 12 years.

THN: How do you like working for the Sharks?

Ferraiuolo: I love working for Worcester and the entire Sharks organization, one of the best in the NHL. Everyone with San Jose and Worcester is like family. No matter what your responsibility, there is a genuine sense of respect.

THN: Claude Lemieux recently made his return to the NHL after a stop in Worcester. What was it like to have him on the team?

Ferraiuolo: Claude played for us for 23 games and he was great. He added so much to our dress-

ing room with his experience and desire to win and compete. He was regimented in his ways on how he liked things done with his equipment and how he liked his skates sharpened and profiled.

THN: How do call-ups like that impact your job?



**VINCENT
FERRAIUOLO**

**EQUIPMENT
MANAGER**



Ferraiuolo: San Jose believes in developing within its organization. We've had 10 recalls from our team this season. Mike Aldrich (Head Equipment Manager) in San Jose and I work to make the transition as easy as possible for players.

THN: You recently worked the AHL All-Star Game in Worcester. What was that like?

Ferraiuolo: Amazing! The week leading up to All-Star weekend was the most challenging because it's hard to prepare since you don't know who's playing until about seven days prior.

THN: Do you find much difference between the equipment tendencies of players in the AHL and the NHL?

Ferraiuolo: I really don't find much difference. Obviously, some guys expect more than others, but they are the same all over hockey.

THN: What type of Blademaster machine are you using these days?

Ferraiuolo: The Blademaster BR-903 XF triple head machine. It's a little older but it does a great job.

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