

## FROM THE TORONTO MARLIES LOCKER ROOM

# Euro experience serves Harrison well

**B**rad Harrison might be just 32 years old, but he has already had a fascinating career. The Yorkton, Sask.-native, who is in his second season with the Toronto Marlies, started out working in midget and junior loops in his home province, did a stint in the Western League, and spent seven years as the head equipment manager with the Frankfurt Lions of the German league. We caught up with Harrison, who lives in Toronto with wife, Jennifer, and two-year-old son Blake, to talk about his career and life with the Marlies:

**THN:** How did you come to work with Frankfurt?

**BH:** They were looking for a North American equipment manager. The German league, at the time, allowed 18 imports so the team had plenty of Canadians. They decided they needed a Canadian equipment manager.

**THN:** Did you enjoy your time in the German league?

**BH:** I absolutely loved working there, especially winning a league championship in 2003-04. And it was a great learning experience. For example, I had to do a lot of my own repair work. It's not like over here, where if you need a piece of equipment quickly, you can always get it.

**THN:** Did you get to work international tournaments?

**BH:** I did a lot of Team

Canada work: the Deutschland Cup, the Sweden Cup. I also worked the World Championship in 2006, when guys like Brendan Shanahan and Sidney Crosby were on



**Brad  
Harrison**  
Equipment  
Manager



the team. We had a good run but finished fourth.

**THN:** What made you decide to return to North America?

**BH:** Well, like everyone else, I'm interested in one day working in the NHL.

**THN:** How is it like to work for

an AHL team that operates in the same town as the parent club? Does it make it easier on you in terms of players being called up?

**BH:** Yeah, it does make it easier. If you forget to send along a piece of equipment, such as a helmet, all you have to do is drive it over.

**THN:** How are you enjoying working in the Maple Leafs organization?

**BH:** It's a great organization, from top down. They run everything professionally. And it's a real privilege to work for an Original Six team.

**THN:** Do you use a Blademaster machine for skate sharpening?

**BH:** Yes, I do. I just bought the new Pro lightweight portable. It's a great machine. The finish is unbelievable.

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