

THE CHOICE OF PROFESSIONALS

BLADEMASTER

FROM THE

Advertisement

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS LOCKER ROOM

Heinze takes care of hometown Pens

Dana Heinze, 38, took over the reins as Pittsburgh's head equipment manager in August, after six seasons as the assistant with Tampa Bay, where he was part of the Bolts' 2003-04 Stanley Cup run. THN chatted with Heinze about his career:

THN: Tell us about taking over in Pittsburgh.

DH: The timing couldn't have been crazier. I drove directly from Tampa Bay to Pittsburgh, calling up suppliers to order equipment while I was on the road. We had rookie camp three weeks after I started and then training camp. But I love it here. It was a tough decision leaving Tampa, but it's a great opportunity to come home. I grew up in Johnstown, about 58 miles away, and so did my wife, Kathy. I grew up a Penguins fan.

THN: We understand you ordered a new skate sharpening machine for the Pens.

DH: I ordered the new Blademaster BR2006VSV before I even got to Pittsburgh. It has three stations: two skate sharpeners, one on both ends, and the cross grinder in the middle. I wanted the top of the line for my players. It's the best purchase I've made so far.

THN: Where did you start as an equipment manager?

DH: With the Johnstown Chiefs in 1988, when they were in the AAHL before moving to the ECHL the next season. I did it all: medical, equipment, everything. On

road games, I'd have to find a public laundromat to do all the laundry. It was an experience. You learn quickly. I stayed there until 1992.

THN: Where were you after that?

DH: I got a job as an assistant with the New Jersey Devils in 92-93, but at the end of the year, I found I needed a break. I was out of hockey for two years. I went back home, worked construction, and learned some carpentry, which has come in very handy as an equipment manager. I hooked up back with Johnstown for four seasons after that, and then one season with the IHL's



**Dana
Heinze**
Equipment
Manager



Detroit Vipers before going down to Tampa.

THN: Tell us about the Cup-winning season.

DH: Every guy liked each other and believed they could win every game. The emotions ran high and low. It was a fantastic experience.

THN: What are your thoughts on the Penguins?

DH: We have an unbelievable cast of characters. It's a young team, there's a lot of work to do, but when things start to fall in place, it's going to be exciting.

Introducing The World's Most Advanced Skate Sharpening System Ever!

