

FROM THE NORFOLK ADMIRALS LOCKER ROOM

Major support in the minors

Equipment and training staff are often called the unsung heroes of a professional hockey team. Like rock band roadies, they're the first to come and the last to leave, far from the fame, glory and riches of the stars of the show. In the minors, this is doubly true. So in this installment of From the Locker Room, we profile Peter Henderson, road-worthy veteran head equipment manager for the American Hockey League's Norfolk Admirals, primary affiliate of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

THN: How did you come into your position in Norfolk?

Henderson: After graduating from the University of Prince Edward Island, I got my first job with Peoria in the International Hockey League, then the former Maine Mariners of the AHL, then to the New Jersey Devils, back to the Mariners, then the Providence Bruins and Boston Bruins, and now with the Admirals. Claude Loiselle, the assistant GM of Tampa Bay, was on the team when I was in New Jersey and he offered me the job here.

THN: Do you hope to get back to the NHL?

Henderson: After spending many years in the AHL and the NHL, I love both leagues. I'm having a great time in Norfolk.

THN: Where have you seen the most significant improvements

in equipment technology in recent years?

Henderson: Equipment is so much more protective and lighter. Skates are better, and stick technology is very impressive.

THN: How does the AHL's exclu-



**PETER
HENDERSON**

**EQUIPMENT
MANAGER**



sive supply arrangement with Reebok-CCM impact your job?

Henderson: Having Reebok as our supplier is great. I only have to deal with one guy, Chris Kelleher, our pro rep.

THN: The deal allows exceptions when it comes to sticks and

skates. How does that work?

Henderson: Three players can be exempt from using Reebok sticks. Bauer is the dominate skate in our dressing room, but Reebok is closing the gap each year.

THN: What's the most interesting part of your job?

Henderson: I like dealing with all the players. To have them ready to play each game is very satisfying.

THN: What Blademaster machine are you using these days, and how does it help you do your job?

Henderson: I was lucky to get here in Norfolk and see the brand new Blademaster in my equipment room. With the granite counter and all the updates, it takes sharpening to a new level. I would recommend their machines to anyone.

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