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FROM THE ALASKA ACES LOCKER ROOM

Kincher loving life in Alaska

Mark Kincher, 26, is in his first season as the equipment manager with the Alaska Aces, the defending Kelly Cup champions of the ECHL. The Utah native can trace his career back to a decade ago when he started out as a stick boy for the hometown Grizzlies of the IHL. Later on, he worked for the Grizzlies as the assistant equipment manager and last year he served as the head guy with the Motor City Mechanics of the UHL. We chatted with Kincher while on the road with the Aces:

THN: Did you play hockey growing up in Utah?

MK: I played high school hockey, and then with a college club team. I don't play anymore, but I will skate with the team when the opportunity comes up.

THN: What do you like about being an equipment manager?

MK: I like being part of a team, and it's a way to stay close to the game, which I love.

THN: Are you enjoying life in Anchorage?

MK: Yeah, the people and the organization have been great. They really took us in as family.

The team found my wife, Amber, a job. And the fans are great too. We're the only pro team in the state, so we're treated like kings. They know who the players are. Even I get recognized in the grocery store. It's kind of weird.

THN: Did the prospect of the travel schedule put you off going to the Aces?

MK: No. When I worked with the Grizzlies we were the furthest team out west, we had to fly everywhere. So I'm used

to it. Alaska is in the same conference as Utah, California and Idaho, so I get a chance to regularly visit family and friends on the road. And the nice thing about coming to Alaska is the chance to enjoy the outdoors.

Growing up I always loved fishing and camping and things like that.

THN: How is it working with a champion team?

MK: It's fun. Every other team in the ECHL wants to beat the Aces this season, so even otherwise ordinary games seem important.

THN: Would you eventually like to work in the NHL?

MK: I would actually. I really enjoy what I do, and I take a lot of pride in it. Just as the players are working to better themselves, I'm looking to do the same thing.

THN: We understand you have the new Blademaster BR2006VSV machine. How are you enjoying it?

MK: I love it. It's a great machine and I'm finding it very useful. It's nice to have the exhaust unit to keep the sharpening dust off.



Mark Kincher
Equipment Manager

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