

## DAN LEBOLD CHERISHES WORLD JUNIOR EXPERIENCE

**F**ew people got as up close to Canada's collapse in the 2010 IIHF World Junior Championship gold medal game than Dan Lebold. Currently in his 17th OHL season and 15th as equipment manager for the Kitchener Rangers, Lebold along with the Moncton Wildcats' Serge Leblanc oversaw the equipment needs for Team Canada, getting a front row seat during the team's campaign and their second-place finish.

**THN:** Going into the tourney, how were you able to take care of the specific equipment needs for each player?

**DL:** Once the team was set, my partner Serge and I set about calling all their teams and finding out what equipment they used. The biggest thing we needed was the radius that they got their skates sharpened at. We also made sure they brought a second pair of skates and some extra steel along with them in case the first pair broke.

**THN:** What was the atmosphere like in the locker room following the gold medal game?

**DL:** Obviously the outcome wasn't what we wanted. When you spend that much time and energy and you

know the weight of a nation is on each player, it goes without saying that the boys were devastated. The way it happened took everybody's breath away, but sometimes things like that happen and there's no stopping it. It stings and I'm sure for the



**DAN LEBOLD**  
EQUIPMENT  
MANAGER



boys it'll sting for a long time, but whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger and they'll be better players for it.

**THN:** You use the Blademaster skate sharpening system in Kitchener and

at the Juniors, is there anything about the system that makes the job go smoother?

**DL:** The Blademaster equipment is, in my mind, second to none. What I really like about it is that if there are new ideas and concepts floating around out there, they won't just stick with what they used in the past. They'll always meet the needs of the industry, particularly with the portable sharpeners that are great for junior teams that can't afford the bigger systems. Their commitment to hockey is awesome and it reflects in their products. You know you got a good thing when you're at the Juniors and all the other countries are looking on with envy at all the red that's in the hallway and in our dressing room.

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