

FROM THE NEW YORK RANGERS LOCKER ROOM

Plum job in the Big Apple

Working in the Big Apple is an assignment most people in hockey would relish, and being on staff with the New York Rangers has to be one of the plum jobs in the business. We spoke to Acacio Marques, Head Equipment Manager, to see what life is like on Broadway.

THN: How long have you been in your position and how did you get started?

Marques: I started in 1997 as an assistant to Mike Folga, and in 2000 became Head Equipment Manager. I just got lucky.

THN: What kinds of challenges or opportunities might come from working for one of the NHL's elite franchises?

Marques: I've really only worked with the Rangers, and this is a first-class organization. Everyone here is all part of the team trying to do one job – helping the team win.

THN: The team is off to a great start this year. What's the difference, and how has that impacted your job?

Marques: It's nice to have a winning start, but there's no difference for the equipment staff. Our job is to service the players – win or lose.

THN: You started the season

in Europe. What special challenges did that present?

Marques: Actually, none. The NHL did a great job of organizing the arenas. It was like playing at home. We were a little skeptical at first, but the league has to be commended.



**ACACIO
MARQUES**
EQUIPMENT
MANAGER



Even stick boys spoke perfect English. The whole experience was flawless.

THN: The Rangers have had some great players, coaches and managers over the years. Did anyone leave a special impression on you?

Marques: This is such a great

organization to work for. It's an easy job, really, helping the players. We do whatever it takes to help the players think about nothing other than playing hockey. Obviously, we've had some great ones come through here, but in the big picture they've all been great.

THN: What tasks do you enjoy most?

Marques: I get to work my magic, whether it's stitching a button or fixing a pair of goalie pads. Skates have changed drastically, with companies like Nike Bauer doing an unbelievable job. The technology is unbelievable, with the new thermo-fitting boots. They're just so easy to work with.

THN: What skate sharpening machine are you using?

Marques: The big red Blademaster, their latest and greatest, 20th Anniversary Edition. It's awesome.

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