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2007 Memorial Cup Champions

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Memorial Cup memories sweet for McMaster

Jason McMaster may be still a relatively green 24 years old, but he can already claim a championship to his name. The native of Plenty, Sask., served as the head equipment manager of last season's Memorial Cup-champion Vancouver Giants, who beat out WHL rivals Medicine Hat in the final game. Now, McMaster is making the jump to the American League to be the head guy with the Manitoba Moose, his first job in the pros. We chatted with McMaster about his career, his time with the Giants and his expectations of life in the AHL.

THN: How long have you been an equipment manager?

JM: Six years. I started right after Grade 12 working as a second assistant with the Saskatoon Blades for two years. Then I spent two years as the head guy with the La Ronge Ice Wolves in Sask. Jr. A. Then one year as an assistant with Lethbridge and the past two seasons with Vancouver.

THN: Did you play hockey growing up?

JM: Yes, right up to midget. I was a goalie.

THN: The Giants made it all the way to the Memorial Cup in your first year with them, but weren't able to win the whole thing. How did that experience affect the team?

JM: It made us want it more and focused us. Our philosophy was to win the league first. We weren't quite able to do that. (The Giants lost to Medicine Hat in Game 7 of the WHL final.) But in the end we were able to win the Memorial Cup.

THN: How would you describe the character of the Giants last year?

JM: We had good character on

that team. The older guys were really focused on winning and they set the tone. The younger guys followed suit. I give the credit to coach Don Hay. On his team, everyone knows you have to work hard.

THN: Are you looking forward to starting with the Moose in

Winnipeg? What do you think will be the major change jumping from junior to pros?

JM: It's exciting to get a chance to work with pro players. The big adjustment is really a greater attention to detail. The other thing is travel. There will be more air travel, so we'll have to deal with the logistics of that.

THN: You worked with a Blademaster BR2006VSV skate-sharpening machine in Vancouver. Do you like working with this model?

JM: It's awesome. I like the innovative new diamond dressing system, which is very consistent. And I like the adjustable RPM, which helps me when the stone gets smaller.



**Jason
McMaster**
Equipment
Manager



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