

FROM THE DENVER PIONEERS LOCKER ROOM

MELDRUM ENJOYING A SUCCESSFUL RUN IN DENVER

As the University of Denver's equipment manager, 27 year-old Nick Meldrum has been enjoying his time with one of the most successful programs in the history of NCAA hockey. Currently in his second full season with Denver, Meldrum also works with the US National Development Program in the summer.

THN: What drew you to this career choice?

NM: You get to be around the locker room and work with your hands, which is something I love to do. You also can be pretty creative with the job, whether it's making custom pads for guys or profiling and sharpening skates. I also enjoy trying to figure out ways to protect players better and maximize their potential on the ice while keeping them safe.

THN: Can you pinpoint some of the more stressful aspects of the job?

NM: We fly commercial everywhere we go and that can get very stressful because if a bag doesn't show up it's a real problem since the guy might not be able to skate that night. When I was with the US

National Development program we got to Slovakia for a tournament and were missing a few player bags, two stick bags and our skate sharpener was not allowed to make the flight. So I had to barter equipment with the local pro



**NICK
MELDRUM**
EQUIPMENT
MANAGER



team and thankfully a few of the bags made it but our sharpener never did.

THN: Do you ever get any bizarre requests from players?

NM: When I was in college there was a goalie that never wanted his helmet

painted and just wore it blank white with nothing on it, another guy would not go out on the ice unless I bumped knuckles with him and told him he looked good [laughs].

THN: What's the atmosphere like in a university game?

NM: One of my favourites is the University of North Dakota. They get 11 to 12 thousand people into their arena and it's loud. The facility is beautiful; it's just an awesome place to play.

THN: Anything about Blademaster that makes the job go easier?

NM: I just got the new Platinum machine and it's just fantastic. The granite top provides a smooth, true surface, but what's really special is the variable speed control so you can maintain that constant surface finish.

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