

FROM THE CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS LOCKER ROOM

Parchman says city excited for Hawks

Troy Parchman has served as the Chicago Blackhawks equipment manager since the lock-out-shortened 1994-1995 season. In that time, he has seen a lot of hockey and a lot of different editions of the Blackhawks – some more successful than others. We caught up with the veteran to chat about hockey in the Windy City.

THN: What's it like right now in Chicago? Are people turned on to the Blackhawks again?

TP: We have a lot of really good fans in the city. Some of them have been in hibernation for a while, but we've given them a reason to come out again. There's a lot of excitement around the team. I'm getting a lot more requests for tickets and you can feel a buzz about the team.

THN: How are the young Blackhawks – guys like Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane – handling the pressure of playing in the National Hockey League?

TP: They're taking everything in stride and enjoying themselves. Of course, it helps that we have some key veterans on our team, guys like Martin Lapointe, Yanic Perreault, and Robert Lang. We gone through some slumps this

year, and it's during those times that you can see the steadying influence that the veterans have on the whole team. The younger guys look to them.

THN: You guys have had a lot of injuries this year and there



**Troy
Parchman**
Equipment
Manager



have been a lot of callups from the AHL. Has that been a challenge on you?

TP: Our affiliate in Rockford – this is the first year of our partnership with the team – is only 80 miles away, and that's helped out a lot this year. The

IceHog uniform is based on ours, so that helps in terms of matching equipment like gloves and helmets. And while it's bad that we've had so many injuries, it has given a bunch of players a chance to come up and show what they can offer, so that's good.

THN: Do you have the Blademaster Ultimate skate sharpening machine?

TP: Yeah, I love the two stations on the machine. The two guys I work with – Russ Holden and Clint Reif – and myself, we all can and do sharpen skates, so it's great that two of us can work on the machine at the same time. If we have three pairs of skates to do, say, in between periods, we don't have to rush. It's amazing that they would think of creating a machine like that. It makes so much sense.

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