

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA FLYERS LOCKER ROOM

## SETTLEMYRE A TRUE FLYER

**W**hen Derek Settlemyre graduated from Coker College in 1993, he didn't anticipate that he would eventually join his father as an equipment manager for NHL teams – he wanted to be a basketball coach. Settlemyre is going into his sixth as the head equipment manager for the Philadelphia Flyers, his 17th with the organization.

**THN:** You got your first job with the Florida Panthers. Why the Panthers, and how?

**DS:** Well my father was a trainer and equipment manager for the Flyers while I was growing up. My junior and senior year [in college] I helped him a lot and I got lucky enough that the Florida Panthers were an expansion team and [former Panthers GM Bobby] Clarke offered me a job. My dad was the head equipment manager, and I was an assistant.

**THN:** Did you imagine that you would be with the Flyers for so long?

**DS:** Well I was hoping to – you never know what's going to happen. I just can't believe that there'd be any place that's better than this. You hear the old cliché – it's like a family. But everyone's treated like family and

everyone acts as if they're family.

**THN:** You served as an equipment manager at the 2010 Olympics and at the 2006 and 2007 IIHF World Championships. How did it feel representing the US?

**DS:** It was awesome. It was one of the best things



**DEREK  
SETTLEMYRE**  
EQUIPMENT  
MANAGER



I've ever done. The World Championships were great too – it's so much fun and it's different. But man, the Olympics, I had to keep pinching myself.

**THN:** Are there any players that are particularly superstitious with their equipment?

**DS:** We're actually pretty

lucky but we do have [Jaromir] Jagr now. We've heard he's very, very particular with his skates. Not in a bad way, but we'll have to see what he likes. We had Petr Nedved a few years ago, but he was also very, very particular with his skates and changing things a lot. We haven't had too many players over the years.

**THN:** How often do you use the Blademaster, and how have you liked the machine?

**DS:** That's what we use here and we think it's the best. I've done the skates since I've started, and I've always used Blademaster. We find it works the best, and, knock on wood, it always works. The Blademaster guys are right there too – the service is excellent and they stand behind their products!

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