

FROM THE ANAHEIM DUCKS LOCKER ROOM

Sluggo feeling mighty fine about move

After more than two decades with Washington, Doug "Sluggo" Shearer headed west where he's now in his first year as equipment manager for the Anaheim Ducks. We caught up with Shearer to talk about hockey in Orange County and what it's like joining the defending Stanley Cup champs:

THN: How are you finding travel now that you're in the Western Conference?

DS: It's definitely different than Washington. Here, when you're on a road trip, you're on a road trip. Of course, home stands are longer too. That can be nice in the sense of you're not going back and forth, home and road, all the time.

THN: What were your first impressions of the team when you got to Anaheim?

DS: Well, you could see why they won the Cup. Whether it's the owner, the management, the coaching staff or the players, everything is first rate.

THN: The Ducks opened the season with a two-game stand against the L.A. Kings in London, U.K. this year. How did that work out?

DS: They have a beautiful facility there (O2 Arena) and it was my first time in London, too, so

that was great. The NHL did a heck of job putting that together. In terms of equipment and other things, we brought everything along with us on the trip, because we didn't know what they would have. Then we had three more road games when we got back to North America,



Doug Shearer
Equipment Manager



before the home opener, so it was a long trip.

THN: The Ducks got off to a sluggish start this season, before finding their groove. How did the team react to the slow start?

DS: Well, I know from being in the final with the Capitals in 1998 that the playoffs are a grind. There's not a whole lot of time off in the summer. That's not an excuse, but it might explain why it took a while to get things going.

THN: After years working with the Caps in the Southeast Division, how are you finding life in the Pacific? Who are the Ducks big rivals?

DS: You know, every team is our rival. I'm serious. Especially this year, with the fact that we are the Stanley Cup champions and we play a hard-nosed style, every game is a good one with a lot of intensity and emotion.

THN: Do you use a Blademaster Ultimate machine?

DS: Yes, it really helps out. It's one of the best machines I've ever used.

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