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FROM THE
DALLAS STARS LOCKER ROOM

Sumner ready for NHL all-stars in Dallas

Steve Sumner, who has been with the Stars for seven years, is taking care of the Western Conference team at this year's All-Star Game in Dallas. Though he has worked two IHL all-star games, both when he was working for the Houston Aeros, this is his first in the NHL. We chatted with Steve as he and his staff prepared for the mid-winter classic:

THN: How are you getting all the different players' equipment to come in?

SS: Well, we're contacting all the different equipment managers telling them what stuff to send with their players. We supply the pants and shells. This year, for the first time, the players are wearing all the same gloves, but the manufacturer reps will take care of providing them. On our end, we'll have a couple of equipment trucks and guys working at the two city airports to take equipment to the rink. We'll coordinate with the league to get stuff to the arena.

THN: Sounds like it's going to be a lot of work.

SS: We have practice on the Monday, then the Young Stars and Skills competition on Tuesday, and the big game will be on Wednesday. So we have to make sure we have all the right stuff for all the players. It'll be long days I'm sure, but you might only get one chance to work a game like this.

THN: What are you looking forward to most for the All-Star Game?

SS: It'll be great to talk to some of the players. Normally, you don't

get a chance, and besides they're usually tensed up to play a game. This will be a relaxed environment for them, so it might be easier to chat.

THN: Are you interested in seeing some of the Eastern Conference stars?

SS: This will be our first time seeing Sidney Crosby and Evgeni

Malkin, so it will be interesting to see them. Crosby is just unbelievable.

THN: How are the fans in Dallas reacting to hosting the All-Star Game?

SS: They're excited. They really supported Dallas players in the voting. The fans here are loud. They like to be involved in the game.

THN: Who'll take care of skate sharp-

ening for the Western all-star team?

SS: It'll be both me and my assistant Chris Davidson-Adams. There'll be some work, but then again most other equipment managers will send their players with their skates already sharpened. The players know what they need, and they'll be pretty relaxed and having fun. Skates shouldn't be a problem.



**Steve
Sumner**
Equipment
Manager



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