

FROM THE SWEDISH NATIONAL TEAM LOCKER ROOM

'Pudding' a steady rock for Sweden

Equipment manager Anders Weiderstal – he's known universally by his nickname, Pudding – is a Swedish hockey legend. The 54-year-old has worked six Olympic tournaments, including in Turin in 2006 when the Swedish men captured gold, and 22 World Championships. This May, he'll be behind the bench for the Tre Kronor in Halifax and Quebec City for the 2008 World Championship, the first to be held in Canada. We chatted with Pudding about his illustrious career:

THN: How long have you worked for the Swedish national team?

Pudding: I started working with the Swedish juniors in 1980, and the Tre Kronor (the senior men's team) in 1984, while still working with my Swedish club team. In 1990, I started working with the Tre Kronor full time. Today I take care of nine different teams – five men's junior teams, two women's junior teams, and the women and men's senior teams – but I travel only with Tre Kronor.

THN: How are you able to manage so many teams?

Pudding: I work closely with equipment managers from the club teams and players are more responsible for carting some of their equipment around.

THN: Tell us about winning the gold in Turin?

Pudding: In Nagano in 2002, we were defeated by Belarus, which was a low point for us. In 2006, guys like Peter Forsberg, Nicklas Lidstrom, Daniel Alfredsson, Mats Sundin – there was a real feeling that this was the last



*Anders
Weiderstal
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Manager*

chance for this generation of guys. There was a collective 'we're going for it' attitude. You could tell they really wanted it.

THN: Do you have a favorite memory from those games?

Pudding: After we won, back

in Stockholm, we had a team-only dinner. Mats Sundin got up and gave a speech about how this would likely be the last time the whole group of us would be in the same room together, and that we should savor the moment. It was really special, a memory I'll never forget.

THN: Are you looking forward to this year's World Championship?

Pudding: Yeah, I really am. Canada is such a hockey hot-bed. Last year, we had a great time in Moscow, but if we ran out of anything, or forgot something, it was sometimes hard to find a replacement. I don't think that will be a problem this May.

THN: Do you use a Blademaster skate sharpening machine?

Pudding: Yes, I do, particularly for those Swedish players who play in the NHL, and are used to working with one.

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