

FROM THE WINDSOR SPITFIRES LOCKER ROOM

Tyson a chip off the Tatomir block

Tyson Tatomir had interests outside of hockey but the siren song of skate sharpening machines and industrial washers whooshing with loads of hockey gear lured him back. The 24-year-old equipment manager for the 2009 Memorial Cup champion Windsor Spitfires is no stranger to managing hockey equipment. Tatomir grew up helping his father Wally, a pioneer in the field who has four patents to his name. Prior to joining the Spitfires, Tatomir spent four years as an assistant to his father, equipment manager for the Carolina Hurricanes.

THN: You studied woodworking in college. How did you end up an equipment manager?

TT: Well, I took woodworking because I enjoy it, but halfway through my brother Shane asked me to sharpen skates for his hockey team at St. Clair College. Because of my dad, I knew that's what I wanted to do.

THN: Your father Wally was equipment manager for the Windsor Spitfires 1988 Memorial Cup win. How much of an influence on your career was your dad?

TT: He was a huge influence. I never got to play at the highest level but always wanted to do something in hockey.

THN: What level did you reach?

TT: Travel – the highest level I played at was A.

THN: You started with the Spitfires right before the OHL championship run. How tough was it to get into the swing of things?



**TYSON
TATOMIR**
EQUIPMENT
MANAGER

TT: That took a while, about three or four days but once I got into the groove it was easy to stay with it.

THN: There are some superstitious hockey players out there. Have you come across

any with unusual pre-game rituals, like having a left skate sharpened first?

TT: (laughs) No. I don't really pay attention to their routines and rituals and stay focused on mine, dealing with the equipment.

THN: What's the best part of the job?

TT: Everything. Being part of a great group, getting to sit on the bench. The best thing is the fans – they drive you to be there, especially the game day atmosphere.

THN: You've been around the business a long time. What sets Blademaster apart?

TT: It's the best machine out there, from the holders to the wheels. I've been using it since I was 12 so I'm accustomed to it.

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