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Congratulations to the Hershey Bears  
2006 Calder Cup Champions

## FROM THE HERSHEY BEARS LOCKER ROOM

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### Beaker savors Cup victory

**A**thletic trainer Dan Stuck, better known as Beaker, a nickname referring to the size of his nose, has been with the Hershey Bears for 28 years, starting as a stick boy in 1978. He was behind the bench last year when the Bears defeated the Milwaukee Admirals in six games to win the Calder Cup. We chatted with Beaker as another AHL season was set to begin:

**THN:** Did you get the feeling that the Bears could win it all last year?

**Beaker:** No, not at all. We didn't even win our division; other teams had bigger guns.

Everyone was picking Milwaukee. But things fell into place in the playoffs. We didn't have too many injuries and there weren't many call-ups (to Washington).

**THN:** You've won the Calder with the Bears before – 1980, 1988 and 1997. What made this win special?

**Beaker:** Having been through this before, and knowing what I had to do as far as my job, I was just more relaxed through. Plus our coach, Bruce Boudreau, just kept things fun and relaxed.

**THN:** How was the celebration on the ice?

**Beaker:** Well, again, it helps that we've been through this before. I made sure everyone – family and friends – got in for pictures, but we also made sure the players got a chance to enjoy themselves as a team first. Even in the dressing room, we closed it off for a while

so the players got to enjoy it themselves. After all, it's the players who go to war together.

**THN:** What's your role on the team?

**Beaker:** Well, I'm a trainer in the old fashioned style. We have an equipment manager, Justin Kullman, who takes care of all that side of things. I take care of the health of the players, make sure they have everything they need. I also take care of the budget, in conjunction with Justin and the Caps' guys as well, the ordering of equipment.

**THN:** Are there any special consideration around ordering skates?

**Beaker:** You got to make sure, in talking to the parent club, things aren't double ordered. Each guy generally gets 2 pairs through the year. Sometimes we have a problem with getting the skates dried out completely. After a game, you might have a long bus ride, you get in late, you hang up the skates, but you have practice the next day. If the skates don't dry out completely, it affects their lifespan. So, we end up ordering more through the year.



**Dan  
'Beaker'  
Stuck**

**Head Trainer**



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