

FROM THE MINNESOTA WILD LOCKER ROOM

DACOSTA BOASTS AN EXTENSIVE HOCKEY RESUME

Winnipeg native Tony DaCosta began his career around the Winnipeg Jets' practice facility, learning the ropes for over 19 years with the Jets/Coyotes organization. Since then DaCosta has gone on to become the head equipment manager for the Minnesota Wild, and is currently entering his 11th season on the job. He has also worked as equipment manager for the 1998 and 2004 NHL All Star Games and for Team Canada at the 2001 and 2009 World Hockey Championships.

THN: During games what is your biggest responsibility?

TD: Just being ready. You never know what's coming—you can have a broken blade or a goal glove blow-out in the pocket. Losing edges is probably the most common... you gotta sharpen skates during the game and get them back as fast as possible.

THN: If you were training someone new to your staff, what would be your biggest piece of advice?

TD: Lets work together. It's not a one man show—I'm head manager but I've done every level of work from stick boy all the way up so I know what every job is—and I wouldn't ask

someone to do a job that I haven't done. Working as a team is the most important thing.

THN: What are some of the more bizarre equipment requests you've gotten?



**TONY
DACOSTA**
EQUIPMENT
MANAGER



TD: We had one player who wore one Bauer glove and one Easton glove, and another wanted his blades most changed after warmup. It's odd, but you do it anyway.

THN: When your playing

different venues, do you make any adjustments to the skates depending on what the ice is like?

TD: Definitely. Years ago you'd go to places like Edmonton and Calgary – anywhere in Canada – and the ice is awesome. Nowadays the buildings are so busy that the ice is very questionable no matter where you are.

THN: Is there anything about the Blademaster skate system that makes things run more smoothly?

TD: It's a proven machine, very reliable. It's a machine that I've always worked on, that I'm always most comfortable with, and I've never had a reason to change it.

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