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LOS ANGELES KINGS LOCKER ROOM

Granger feeling like a King in L.A.

Darren Granger, 35, made the move to sunny California this season, after 13 seasons as the assistant equipment manager with the Vancouver Canucks, to take the top job with the L.A. Kings. We chatted with Granger about his new role:

THN: How are you enjoying L.A.?

DG: It's really good. There was an adjustment period, of course, but my family – I'm married with a young daughter and son – is happy, and that's the important thing. It was a tough decision to leave Vancouver, I have lots of good friends there, both in hockey and outside hockey.

THN: What is it like to switch teams after so many years with the Canucks?

DG: Well, everyone's been great in L.A. Plus, I already knew a lot of the players from my years in hockey. And, of course, I worked with coach Marc Crawford in Vancouver.

THN: What are some of your favorite moments so far in your career?

DG: Well, going to the Stanley Cup final in 1994. I worked the World Championships for Canada in 1999 and 2005, and helped out with the World Cup in 1996. I've also worked an all-star game, which was great.

THN: Where did you start out as an equipment guy?

DG: I worked in the Western League with the Brandon Wheat

Kings, which was my hometown team. From there I jumped to Vancouver.

THN: With so much travel in the West, how do you handle skate sharpening on the road?

DG: Well, we take along a machine on the road, so it's not a problem. We have three: one BR2006VSV machine for the game rink, one for the training center, and one for travel.

THN: How do you like being the head guy now?

DG: I like it a lot. It's been a bit of an adjustment, but I've done this for a long time, so I know the job. As an assistant, the job is more a

hands-on position. But as the head guy, there's more paperwork, phone calls to make, ordering with manufacturers and follow up.

THN: What's the role of equipment guys and trainers when a team is losing?

DG: Trainers have to be positive, whether the team is winning or losing. Since we're in a support role, we have to be supportive. If the team is not going well, you can't be a guy that creates negativity. Besides, there's work to do; it's the same job that has to get done.



**Darren
Granger**

**Equipment
Manager**



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