

FROM THE PITTSBURGH PENGUINS LOCKER ROOM

Heinze knows old-time hockey

Growing up in Johnstown, PA. Dana Heinze has always been surrounded by the game of hockey. The town in which he was raised is steeped in a rich hockey tradition that culminated in 1977 when the hometown Johnstown Jets were put up for sale and inspired the comedy classic Slap Shot. A self-proclaimed rink rat and hockey nut, Heinze teamed with a couple lifelong friends to write a book on the history of hockey in Johnstown.

THN: How did you become an equipment manager?

DH: I called the head coach of the Johnstown Chiefs who ironically enough was Steve Carlson (one of the Hanson Brothers from the Slap Shot movie). I told him I was interested in the position and after talking for a while he hired me.

THN: As equipment manager for the Johnstown Chiefs you ended up in net during a regular season game. How did that happen?

DH: Our goalie at the time was recalled to Halifax so I had to dress as the back-up. Late in the third period there was a line brawl and after the dust settled Steve (Carlson) shouted to me "Get your mask on, you're going in." I was terrified, but I went in the game and

actually stopped a two-on-one and a breakaway.

THN: What was the atmosphere in Johnstown like when you brought the Stanley Cup back?

DH: We had a party at my moms' house. Word



DANA HEINZE
EQUIPMENT
MANAGER



of mouth in a small town travels fast, and we ended up with about 2,000 people there waiting in line to see the cup.

THN: There are a lot of superstitious players out there. What is the strangest request you've had from a player?

DH: Not necessarily strange but in my first year with Sidney Crosby, he wore the same hat every day. This thing got pretty raunchy. I asked him if he wanted me to wash it, he simply said, "Don't ever wash the hat."

THN: You've been around the business for a while now, what do you think sets Blademaster apart?

DH: I started using Blademaster in 1989 and I continue using Blademaster because it's helped me be successful. I remember driving from Tampa to Pittsburgh, I hadn't even been in the Mellon Arena yet and I was already on the phone with Blademaster telling them I needed one of their machines. Their products and their service have been second to none.

THE CHOICE OF PROFESSIONALS

BLADEMASTER

World's Most Advanced Skate Sharpening System!

