

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHICAGO WOLVES 2008 CALDER CUP CHAMPIONS

Kogut a veteran member of the pack

Chicago Wolves equipment manager Craig Kogut has been with the team since its inaugural season in 1994-95. The 46-year-old native of Maywood, Ill. grew up playing hockey and working in the sporting goods business. We chatted with Kogut as training camp was set to begin:

THN: The Wolves have never had a losing season in their history. How have they managed to be so successful all these years?

CK: I think it's really great ownership, and great management, from our GM to our scouts to our coaches.

THN: Does it cause you difficulties that the NHL parent club, Atlanta, is so far away?

CK: It's not a problem. It's just a matter of being prepared. For example, when we're on the road and lose players to the big team, we travel with extra jerseys, with extra letters and numbers and our sewing machine so we're ready for players we have called up ourselves. It happens quite often.

THN: Speaking of call-ups, long-time Wolves coach John Anderson will be behind the bench in Atlanta this year. What should we be expecting in

terms of his style?

CK: He'll be a good NHL coach. He respects players. He's very likeable, and the players will work for him.

THN: How about yourself? Would you like to make the jump to the NHL?



**CRAIG
KOGUT**

**EQUIPMENT
MANAGER**



CK: I love it here. It would take a lot for me to leave. There are only two places I would consider: Atlanta, because I have family there, or the Blackhawks. But that's only if the opportunity presented itself.

THN: The Wolves have won two Turner Cups in the IHL and

two Calder Cups in the AHL, and you've been a part of those teams. How does that feel?

CK: There are guys who go through all their careers without a championship, so to be part of all of them is special. When you get one, you want more.

THN: What was your favorite memory from last year's Calder Cup run?

CK: When there was about four minutes left in the clinching Game 6, we were up 5-2, and we knew we were going to win. All of us, we started getting excited, and the four minutes seemed like 25. It was a great feeling.

THN: Do you use a Blademaster machine for skate sharpening?

CK: I have a three-station Blademaster machine at both our rinks. I would use nothing but Blademaster. You can't beat the quality of those machines.

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