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2007 Frozen Four Champions

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## Magee cherishes MSU's title

**T**om Magee, equipment manager for Michigan State's hockey team, is entering his 27th season with the Spartans, who captured the Frozen Four national championship last April. We chatted with the 50-year-old native of Okemos, Michigan about his career and about last year's championship campaign:

**THN:** How did you get started into your career?

**TM:** I went to school at Michigan State and I started out as the student equipment manager for the football team before switching over to hockey.

**THN:** Did you play growing up?

**TM:** I played pond hockey, not on organized teams.

**THN:** Tell us about last season at Michigan State.

**TM:** The season started out slow, but then we won the Great Lakes tournament and had a good January and February. We dropped off a little towards the end of the season and we weren't going into the tournament too hot. We went into the national tournament as an at-large bid and ended up playing our best four games of the year.

**THN:** You trailed Boston College 1-0 going into the third period of the Frozen Four final, but ended up winning 3-1. Were the guys confident going into the third?

**TM:** We played a lot of close games during the season and tournament. We were used to tight

games and we relied on our goalie Jeff Lerg who came up with a lot of great saves. We definitely were a team; we won together and lost together.

**THN:** Last year's championship was the Spartans' first since 1986. How do you compare the 1986 title to the 2007 one?

**TM:** They were both great, of course,

and they both came in seasons where we weren't expected to do it. One difference for me is that I made sure to appreciate this one more. In 1986, I didn't think it would take another 21 years to win another. This time I soaked up the whole experience. I took both my daughter and son out onto the ice.

**THN:** At the college level, are players very particular about their equipment?

**TM:** Most are pretty easy-going. Usually after the season, the equipment reps come in and take the orders for the next season, with another visit before the start of the next season to take the freshmen's orders. Most players will stick with the same equipment they started with, unless they go into a big slump.



**Tom Magee**  
Equipment Manager



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