

FROM THE WINNIPEG JETS LOCKER ROOM

McMASTER GETTING THE JETS SET

Jason McMaster has worked in hockey since he started out with the Saskatoon Blades as a Grade 12 student. Since then, he's made stops in Lethbridge, Vancouver, and the Manitoba Moose of the AHL. Last year, McMaster worked as an assistant equipment manager with the LA Kings, before getting the call to return to Manitoba. Today, McMaster is the head equipment manager of the new Winnipeg Jets..

THN: You jumped to the pros from the AHL last year with the LA Kings. What was the biggest adjustment from the minors to the NHL?

JM: Well, it wasn't a huge adjustment because of the fact that with the Manitoba Moose, we ran it very, very professionally. The biggest adjustment is probably the amount of equipment that pro players go through, it definitely is way more than at the AHL level, as well as the freedom in the choice of equipment we had.

THN: How has it felt, being a part of the excitement around the Jets coming back to Canada?

JM: I don't get too caught up in that. I just come and do my job and make sure the players are taken care of, and I don't get too worried about what's going on around in

the city and media. It's exciting, and it's sure nice – in LA, they didn't even know [the Kings] were playing sometimes, but here, everywhere you see, it's Jets, Jets, Jets. I'm sure proud to be part of it, that's for sure.

THN: Every member of the Jets front office has worked



**JASON
McMASTER**
EQUIPMENT
MANAGER



for the Moose. How do you feel about True North as an organization?

JM: Everybody in some form or another on our training staff has worked for the Moose before. It's the best I've ever worked with. The staff that we have here –

we're a tight family, and to be able to come back to that same group is an honour.

THN: What's it like starting a new franchise? How have you prepared for the new season?

JM: Step one was coordinating the jerseys, working closely on what the team colours were going to be. And once that was established, working to make sure that the specs for things like pants were right, matching the colours, because something like Navy blue was not the same with every company.

THN: How long have you used Blademaster, and what do you like about it?

JM: I've used it ever since I started [10 years ago]. The newest one here that we have with the granite top is the best machine I've ever used. I like their new dressing system. Blademaster is committed to innovation.

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