

FROM THE ANAHEIM DUCKS LOCKER ROOM

Shearer an Olympic veteran

Doug "Sluggo" Shearer, equipment manager for the Anaheim Ducks spends hockey season near the Pacific Ocean but spends summers fishing on Chesapeake Bay. With the Olympics approaching Shearer, Team U.S.A.'s head equipment manager during the Salt Lake City games, offers a behind the scenes snippet.

THN: How do international equipment managers get information on players they don't normally deal with?

DS: Networking. We share information on what a player is using, how he likes his skates done, the equipment he wears. Any player Team U.S.A. picked, we just called his equipment manager and we'd have him all set.

THN: So all other team allegiances are temporarily suspended for the Olympics?

DS: Right. For the upcoming Olympics, Team U.S.A. sent out a form. Bobby Ryan is going so I had to fill it out and send it back. That way when Bobby arrives he's ready to play.

THN: How did you get the nickname Sluggo?

DS: It goes back to when I was a lot younger. I had

a disagreement with one of my players, we had a little tussle and I got stuck with it.

THN: What kept you away from hockey until your teens?

DS: My parents went to Catawba College and got teaching jobs after



DOUG SHEARER
EQUIPMENT
MANAGER



graduating so I was born in Salisbury, N.C. When I was 13, we moved to Pennsylvania. I saw a Hershey Bears game, but never played hockey before in my life. I played football in college and knew Hershey G.M. Frank

Mathers. When Bryan Murray, then coach, got the job in Washington and Gary Inness, trainer and equipment manager became head coach, Mathers asked if I could fill in. I fell in love with it and have done it ever since.

THN: You're closing in on 30 years. What keeps you going?

DS: The players. They're just good people. They're down to earth. At the end of the day I still have a lot of fun at my job.

THN: How has Blademaster evolved with your needs?

DS: They introduced a system for Flat Bottom sharpening called "BFD". However it also sharpens regular radii. Muggsy (Assistant Chris Aldrich) and I really enjoy using that new piece of equipment.

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