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Congratulations to the Carolina Hurricanes  
2006 Stanley Cup Champions

## FROM THE Advertisement CAROLINA HURRICANES LOCKER ROOM

### Cup memories sweet for Tatomir

**W**ith over 30 years in the business, Carolina equipment manager Wally Tatomir has spent a lifetime in hockey. That's what made his first Stanley Cup, as part of the Hurricanes' run last year, so sweet. We spoke with Tatomir about the Canes' climb to the summit:

**THN:** Did it surprise you how well Carolina did last season?

**WT:** I had a strong feeling that we were going to make a run last year. I had the same feeling in

2002, but we ran into the Red Wings in the final, and they were just a superior team. Edmonton had a very good team, too, last year, but this time we were able to do it.

**THN:** You guys lost soundly in Game 6 in Edmonton. Did you start to have doubts then about winning it all?

**WT:** Actually no.

I just thought that we hadn't lost more than two games in a row all season. And we always won our playoff series in either six or seven games. Did I know for sure we would win Game 7? No. But I thought after the kicking we took in Game 6, I knew the boys would answer the bell in Game 7. It was the same thing against the Habs in the first round. We were shel-lacked the first game, and lost in OT the second. When we got to

Montreal, the fans were all over us. People on the street razed us, talking about a sweep. But that's why they play seven games. We still believed.

**THN:** What is your key memory from the Stanley Cup run?

**WT:** It's kind of funny. The day after we won the Cup, I went down to the dressing room. The place was trashed. But I just sat there for three hours, by myself, listening to music. I started thinking about how I got to this place, all the people who helped me along the way.

I mean, I didn't make it as a player, I made it as an equipment guy. There are a lot of bends in the road, but it's all about the people who get you there.

**THN:** Any thoughts about the new season?

**WT:** I'm looking forward to getting back to work, actually. Winning the Stanley Cup, you know, it takes a lot out of you. I don't want to go to any more parties. I want to get back to work.



**Wally  
Tatomir**  
Equipment  
Manager



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