PHATS/SPHEM NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

The 2026 PHATS/SPHEM Hockey Summit is heading back to the stunning JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort in beautiful Marco Island from June 16–21, 2026, where the hockey world meets a true coastal escape.

MARCO ISLAND, FL
PHATS/SPHEM HOCKEY SUMMIT 2026
30th ANNIVERSARY
PHATS/SPHEM • NHL • NHLPA • PHPO • NHLTPS/AHLTPS

REGISTER HERE

Situated along the shimmering shores of the Gulf of Mexico, this premier resort delivers incredible views of turquoise waters, powdery white sand, and unforgettable sunsets, whether you're in your room, walking through the lobby, or spending time in the exhibit hall.

At the Hockey Summit, you'll find top-tier education, meaningful networking opportunities, and the industry's largest hockey-focused exhibit space. And when the day winds down, there's no better way to recharge than with a drink in hand, ocean breeze in the air, and your feet in the sand.

Marco Island offers the perfect blend of productivity and relaxation, where work and downtime come together seamlessly in a setting that's hard to beat.

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Hotel & Location Highlights

- Gulf of Mexico & pristine beaches
- Tiki Fantasy Outdoor Pool
- Quinn's Outdoor Pool
- Spa by JW
- Paradise by Sirene Adult-Exclusive Pool
- Fitness Center
- Tennis
- The Rookery and Hammock Bay Golf Club
- International Cuisine including Ario, Tesoro, newly renovated Quinn's on the Beach, Mosaico Gourmet Market, Café San Marco, Hammock Bay Grill, 10K Alley, Maia, Korals Sushi & Cocktail Lobby Bar, Kane Tiki Bar & Grill and Rookery Grill
- 10K Alley: Gastro-Pub, state-of-the-art Gaming Emporium with Arcade, Bowling, Mini-Golf, Pool Tables and Sports Simulators
- Naples and 5th Avenue Shopping & Restaurants, 25 minute drive
- Boating, Jet Skiing, Snorkeling, Kayaking
- Sailing and Shelling Excursions
- Everglades Excursions
- Fishing Charters
- Scenic Cycling Tours
- Naples Zoo

Hotel Accommodations

JW MARRIOTT MARCO ISLAND BEACH RESORT
400 South Collier Boulevard
Marco Island, FL 34145

PHATS/SPHEM room block dates: June 16-21, 2026

RATES: $285.00 per night single or double occupancy.
The PHATS/SPHEM room block is sold out peak nights. Please continue to check for availability, add your name to the wait list and secure a room at another hotel or condo in the Marco Island area. ***(See overflow hotel and other options)***

TAX: 11% tax per night

CUT-OFF DATE: All reservations must be made by May 15th to guarantee the group rate.

RESERVATION LINK: ****New for 2026* Once your Conference registration is complete, you will receive the official room block reservation link. Reservations will only be accepted via that link and cannot be made over the phone.***

CANCELLATION POLICY: You must cancel 7 days prior to your arrival date to avoid any penalties.

CHECK-IN TIME: 4:00PM

CHECK-OUT TIME: 11:00AM

For the most up-to-date PHATS/SPHEM room block information, visit our hotel page on the Summit Registration site.

New to the Summit or just looking for a fun way to kick things off?

Join us for a relaxed and entertaining evening as members of PHATS/SPHEM, PHPO, and NHLTPS/AHLTPS come together with vendors and guests for a night of connection and fun. Enjoy a variety of activities—including arcade games, bowling, mini golf, and virtual reality, while sampling light bites and drinks in a casual, welcoming atmosphere. **Tickets are required for entry.**

Sponsored by:

When: Thursday, June 18
Where: 10K Alley
Time: 8:00-10:00pm
Fee: $75

All attendees are welcome to join us. Tickets are available during registration or by updating your existing registration by clicking the "view or modify" link on your confirmation email.

The Week at a Glance

Agenda subject to change, please visit our website for the complete up-to-date agenda.

TUESDAY, 6/16

8:00-5:00pm:	**PHATS** From Shoulder to Skate: Level 1 MSK Ultrasound Foundation for the Elite Sports Clinician
8:00-5:00pm:	**PHATS** Level 2, Precision on Ice: Advanced MSK Ultrasound for Hockey-Specific Injuries
8:00-5:00pm:	**PHATS**: "Re-balancing" After Concussion—Vestibular Assessment and Rehabilitation Following Concussion to Optimize Return to Ice Hockey – A Practical Course

WEDNESDAY, 6/17

8:00-5:00pm:	**PHATS** From Shoulder to Skate: Level 1 MSK Ultrasound Foundation for the Elite Sports Clinician
8:00-5:00pm:	**PHATS** Level 2, Precision on Ice: Advanced MSK Ultrasound for Hockey-Specific Injuries
8:00-5:00pm:	**PHATS** "Re-balancing" After Concussion—Vestibular Assessment and Rehabilitation Following Concussion to Optimize Return to Ice Hockey – A Practical Course
1:00-5:00pm:	**PHATS**/**SPHEM** Executive Committee Meeting
6:00-7:30pm:	Associate Member Reception Sponsored by AHL, ECHL & CCM
7:00-9:00pm:	NHL **PHATS**/**SPHEM**/**PHPO** Fanatics Reception

THURSDAY, 6/18

7:45am:	**PHATS**/**SPHEM** Opening General Session & Educational Meetings/NHL Committee Meetings
8:00-5:00pm:	**PHPO** Course: Training in Context: Integrating Strength and Skill for Game Performance with Javier Miller-Estrada
1:00pm:	Optional Education sessions or Free afternoon
3:00-6:00pm:	Exhibit Hall set up
6:00-8:00pm:	**PHPO** Reception Sponsored by Catapult
8:00-10:00pm:	Face-Off! After Hours Kickoff Reception sponsored by Upper Deck

FRIDAY, 6/19

8:00-12:00pm:	Exhibit Hall set up continued
8:00-12:00pm:	**PHATS**/**SPHEM**/**PHPO** Educational Meetings/NHL Committee Meetings
12:00-1:00pm:	**PHATS**/**SPHEM**/**PHPO** Exhibit Hall Open for **SPHEM** Members Only
1:00-6:00pm:	**PHATS**/**SPHEM**/**PHPO** Exhibit Hall Open for all Attendees (**PHPO** from 3:00-6:00pm)
6:00-8:00pm:	Vendor Appreciation Reception Sponsored by the NHL & NHLPA
8:00-9:00pm:	AHL **PHATS** & **AHLTPS** Reception sponsored by Collins Sports Medicine, AHL & Incrediwear

SATURDAY, 6/20

7:00-8:00am:	CPR
8:00-9:00am:	Exhibit Hall Open for **SPHEM** Associate Members, **PHPO** & Guests
9:00-12:00pm:	**PHATS**/**SPHEM**/**PHPO** Exhibit Hall Open for All Attendees (**PHPO** from 8:00-10:00am)
9:00-12:00pm:	**NHLTPS**/**AHLTPS** Business Meeting
12:00-3:00pm:	Exhibit Hall Breakdown
1:00-5:00pm:	**PHATS**/**SPHEM** & **PHPO** Educational Meetings
1:00-5:00pm:	**PHATS** NHL/AHL & **NHLTPS**/**AHLTPS** League Meeting
7:00-8:00pm:	Hall of Fame Reception
8:00-10:30pm:	Hall of Fame Dinner

SUNDAY, 6/21

8:00-12:00pm:	**PHATS** & **NHLTPS**/**AHLTPS** Educational Meetings

Exhibition Overview - Thur. June 18 - Sat. June 20, 2026

Thursday, 6/18

11:00-6:00pm:	Exhibitor Registration
3:00-6:00pm:	Exhibitor Set Up
8:00-10:00pm:	Face-Off! After Hours Kickoff Reception sponsored by Upper Deck

Friday, 6/19

8:00-12:00pm:	Exhibitor Registration & Set Up Continued
12:00-1:00pm:	Exhibit Hall Open for **SPHEM** Members (Equipment)
1:00-6:00pm:	**Exhibit Hall Open for all Attendees** (**PHPO** from **3:00-6:00pm**)
6:00-8:00pm:	**Vendor Appreciation Reception for all PHATS/SPHEM & PHPO Members and Exhibitors** immediately following the close of the exhibit hall (Guest tickets required for those without Exhibitor Name Tags)

Saturday, 6/20

8:00-9:00am:	**Exhibit Hall Open for SPHEM Associate Members, PHPO & Guests**
9:00-12:00pm:	**Exhibit Hall Open for All Attendees** (PHPO from 8:00-10:00am)
12:00-3:00pm:	Exhibit Hall Breakdown
7:00-10:30pm:	**PHATS/SPHEM Hall of Fame Reception and Dinner** (Tickets required)

For more information on the 2026 Hockey Summit
Visit our Summit Registration Site
Visit our Website
View our Meeting Brochure

Hall Of Fame Reception & Dinner

A special night celebrating deserving members and exhibitors as we recognize them for their dedication and commitment over the years in hockey.

SPHEM Hall of Fame Inductee: Steve “Seve” Latin
Steve “Seve” Latin is a veteran hockey equipment manager with 26 years in the NHL, working over 2,200 NHL games and 688 AHL games. He began his career with the Detroit Red Wings and later served with the Hartford Whalers before spending 18 seasons as Head Equipment Manager for the Pittsburgh Penguins, where he was part of two Stanley Cup Championship teams. He also served as Head Equipment Manager for the Charlotte Checkers, worked internationally with Team USA, and currently supports 3ICE while operating his own skate sharpening business.

Keynote Speaker: Wendell Young, Vice Chairman/Governor of the Chicago Wolves
Wendell Young is the only player in hockey history to have won the Memorial Cup, Calder Cup, Turner Cup, and Stanley Cup, highlighting a remarkable career that spanned 18 professional seasons, including 10 in the NHL. Inducted into the American Hockey League Hall of Fame in 2026, he has remained a cornerstone of the Wolves organization since 1994, contributing as a player, coach, executive, and general manager while helping lead multiple championship runs.

Frank & Vi Rowe Recipient: Wally Collins, Collins Sports Medicine
Under the leadership of Wally, Collins Sports Medicine, has been a valued PHATS vendor since our inception in 1996, marking 30 years of partnership. Wally’s entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to the athletic training community continue to shape our industry and Collins Sports Medicine.

When: Saturday, June 20
Where: Calusa Foyer and Terrace & Calusa Ballroom 7-12
Time: 7:00-10:30pm
Fee: $175 for Vendors and Guests

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PHATS and SPHEM Presidents' Message

Tom Mulligan
PHATS President

Dave Williams
SPHEM President

Hello everyone—it's hard to believe we are already approaching the end of the 2025–2026 hockey season. This has been another outstanding year for our game, highlighted by the Olympic Games in Milan, which showcased hockey at its very best. As we look ahead, we hope the upcoming playoffs bring excitement and memorable moments at every level of the sport.

As the season winds down, PHATS/SPHEM is hard at work preparing for our annual meeting this June in Marco Island, Florida. We are pleased to return to the JW Marriott, a venue familiar to many from our 2022 meeting. Based on past experience, we know it offers an exceptional balance for professional engagement and relaxation for members, exhibitors, and families alike.

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome colleagues and friends from across the hockey community, including representatives from PHATS, SPHEM, PHPO, team physicians, emergency trauma physicians, paramedics, and league executives from the NHL, AHL, ECHL, NHLPA, and PHPA—along with our valued vendors and sponsors. We are proud to offer an outstanding lineup of educational presentations and professional development opportunities. Sincere thanks go to the Education Committees of PHATS, SPHEM, PHPO, and the NHLTPS/AHLTPS for their dedication and hard work in making this summit so valuable to all involved.

We are extremely pleased to honor Steve Latin, aka "Seve," as this year's PHATS/SPHEM Hockey Hall of Fame inductee. Seve spent 26 years in the National Hockey League, working 6 years with the Detroit Red Wings, 2 years with the Hartford Whalers, as an assistant equipment manager, then 18 seasons as head equipment manager with the Pittsburgh Penguins, winning back-to-back Stanley Cups in 1991 & 1992. Steve also represented USA Hockey on multiple occasions including the World Championship, Canada Cup, and the 2002 Olympic Games. Finally, finishing his career working 9 seasons as the equipment manager for the Charlotte Checkers.

We are also proud to announce that the 2026 Frank and Vi Rowe Award will be presented to Wally Collins of Collins Sports Medicine. A longtime supporter of PHATS/SPHEM, Wally has positively impacted countless members on the medical side of our profession. His dedication to athletic trainers and teams at all levels of hockey has been extraordinary, and we look forward to celebrating his contributions together in Marco Island.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to both our longtime and new Hockey Summit sponsors. The remarkable growth of this meeting would not be possible without your continued support. Special appreciation is extended to the NHL and the NHLPA for their ongoing commitment to our societies. We truly believe this meeting provides a foundation that enables future members to thrive in their careers.

Finally, none of this would come together without the years of expertise and dedication from Anita Ramsay and Natalie Grant. Please be sure to thank them personally when you see them in Florida for all they do behind the scenes.

Best of luck to everyone preparing for the playoffs—we wish you a healthy and successful finish to the season.

Tom and Dave

2025-2026 Milestone Recipients

2,500 Games Worked

Mike Aldrich	Head Equipment Manager	San Jose Sharks
George Babcock	Assistant Equipment Manager	Buffalo Sabres
Paul Boyer	Head Equipment Manager	Detroit Red Wings
Tony Da Costa	Head Equipment Manager	Minnesota Wild
Darren Granger	Head Equipment Manager	Los Angeles Kings
Richard Krouse	Head Equipment Manager	Iowa Wild
Tim Leroy	Assistant Equipment Manager	San Jose Sharks
Piet VanZant	Head Athletic Trainer	Detroit Red Wings

2,000 Games Worked

George Bullock Jr	Head Athletic Trainer	Milwaukee Admirals
Jason Serbus	Director of Sports Medicine/ Head Athletic Trainer	Washington Capitals
John Worley	Head Athletic Trainer	Minnesota Wild
David Zeis	Head Athletic Trainer	Dallas Stars

1,500 Games Worked

Chris Burke	Head Equipment Manager	Cincinnati Cyclones
Jody Green	Assistant Athletic Trainer	New York Islanders
Michael Muir	Assistant Athletic Trainer	Vegas Golden Knights
Rich Stinziano	Head Athletic Trainer	Buffalo Sabres
Brent Woodside	Assistant Athletic Trainer	Colorado Avalanche

1,000 Games Worked

Chris Hamilton	Head Equipment Manager	Ottawa 67's*
Daniel Kogut	Assistant Equipment Manager	Chicago Blackhawks
Alex Menezes	Assistant Equipment Manager	Ottawa Senators
Kyle Moore	Head Athletic Trainer	Vegas Golden Knights
Steve Ruhmel	Assistant Athletic Trainer	Washington Capitals
Andrew Stegehuis	Assistant Equipment Manager	Dallas Stars
Colten Wilson	Head Equipment Manager	Tampa Bay Lightning

*achieved during the 24/25 hockey season

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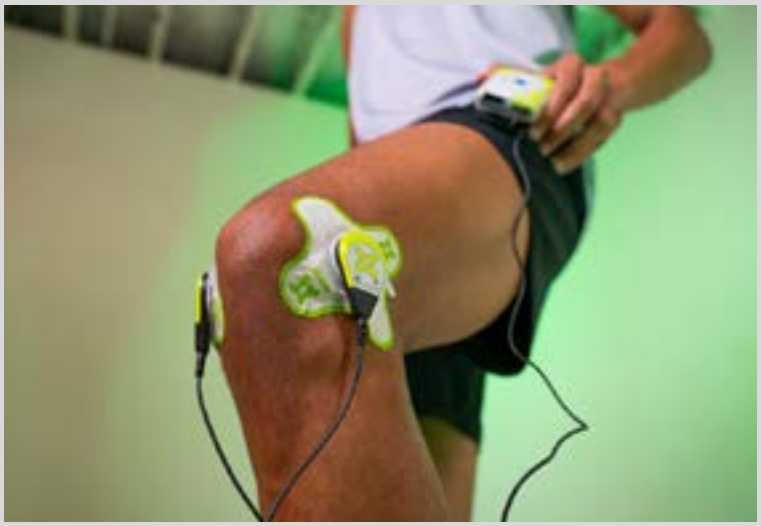

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Inside the Olympic Experience - Our PHATS/SPHEM Members Reflect

What's it really like to work the Olympics? PHATS/SPHEM sat down with a few of our members who represented their countries at the 2026 Winter Olympics to get a behind-the-scenes look at hockey on the world stage, and the moments they'll never forget.

Kevin Morley (Head Athletic Trainer, Nashville Predators), Team USA Athletic Trainer

Travis Green (Massage Therapist/Assistant Athletic Trainer, Minnesota Wild), Team USA Athletic Trainer

Darren Granger (Head Equipment Manager, Los Angeles Kings), Team Canada Equipment Manager

Teddy Richards (Head Equipment Manager, Florida Panthers), Team USA Equipment Manager

Kevin Morley, Travis Green, Brett Crompton, John Worley & Dr. Joel Boyd

When did it first truly hit you that you were at the Olympics? Was there a specific moment?

Kevin: *The first time it hit me was after we landed in Milan and went to the TUWE (Team USA Welcome Experience) that you may have seen online. There was a huge set of stairs that said "You Made It" on them. We went up the stairs as a team and heard a lot of applause as we were getting toward the top. I assumed it was just piped in from a speaker. But when we got to the top we realized it was a huge group of Team USA workers & volunteers who were there to cheer for us and for our arrival. I wasn't expecting that.*

Andy Huppi, Dom Nicoletta, Sean Young, Kent Kobelka, Darren Granger & John Forget

Teddy: *Honestly not sure it really set in yet. It's still such a fantasy I've dreamed about for many years.*

I will say that once the USA locker room was decorated and all the wall decals were added, that was a special feeling. I don't often take photos but once the game jerseys were all hung, it was a beautiful scene.

Travis: *I think the moment that it really hit me that we*

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Inside the Olympic Experience Continued

were at the Olympics is when we arrived at the Milano airport and went through the welcome experience that was set up by the USOPC and Olympic sponsors. That was when we received all our USA Olympic team gear.

How did preparing for the Olympics differ from preparing for a regular NHL season?

Teddy: *We had to prepare to get all our trunks and supplies shipped to Milan, which isn't typical compared to just throwing them on our charter plane. We had two cargo shipments go over by boat. One in November and the other in January. We had to confirm what items were to be sent over. We called these our non-perishables, meaning anything we could send early that wouldn't go bad. (hockey tape, laces, shower supplies, skate machines, all stocked trunks…)*

Team USA & Team Canada's Athletic Trainers/Therapists: Dom Nicoletta, Travis Green, Brett Crompton, Kevin Morley, John Worley & Kent Kobelka

The first 6 Olympians were announced early and we got their equipment ordered right away, but we had to anticipate the rest of the roster to get gear ordered, and once the roster was announced on January 2nd, we were full steam ahead making sure all gear and sticks were ordered and shipping so players can see and start to break in pants and gloves, same with Goalie gear.

Travis: *This was our first time at the Olympics, so there were a lot of unknowns for us as we were preparing as a medical team. Most USA Hockey medical supplies were going to be shipped from a storage facility in Germany, and we knew very little of what was in that inventory. With knowing very little of what was going to be available to us when we arrived, we had to order and ship medical supplies that we knew we needed to have on hand.*

Luckily John Worley, Kevin Morley, and I had worked together at the 4 Nations Tournament, so we had that preparation experience to help us as a medical team.

What was the biggest behind-the-scenes challenge that most people watching at home would never realize?

As it turns out, when we asked about the biggest behind-the-scenes challenge, everyone had a slightly different story, but they all pointed back to the same thing. Different roles, same reality, behind the scenes, it was all about staying organized, adapting quickly, and working together to make it seamless for the players.

Kevin: *The facility set-up was tough. We had (very small) permanent locker rooms in one building. The practice rink was a very short walk from that locker room, but the main game rink was in a separate building. Like a several minute walk. Or a golf cart ride for the goalies. You had to walk outside for a portion of the trip. Think of the old Mullett Arena in Phoenix, but the walk is 10x longer. If you, or a player, forgot something that you'd need for a game, it was a big commitment to run back and get it.*

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Inside the Olympic Experience Continued

Teddy: *We had two locker rooms; a permanent practice room and a game room we would have access to one hour before our game started. We would need to hurry and set this up and then quickly break down in the 3rd for the next game.*

This was one of the toughest pieces we had to deal with. The distance between rooms added another challenge to make sure no items were forgotten that would be needed for games.

Travis: *The practice and locker room facility was temporary and was quite a way from the game rink. The walk from the locker room/practice facility to the game rink on game day was quite a challenge and it took several games to iron out all the details. We only had access to the game locker rooms for intermissions and briefly after the game, so ALL game supplies and equipment needed to be transported and set up in a short amount of time. It meant that all our medical equipment and supplies needed to be transported over and set up during warm-ups. Everything then had to be transported back over to the locker room/practice facility immediately after the game was over.*

Darren: *Due to the distance between our dressing rooms and the game ice we had to use game rooms during the game. The players would get dressed in the main room which was a 3-minute walk to the game ice. After warmup the players would go to the game rooms for the rest of the game. It was a challenge especially at the start of the tournament, but once everyone knew what they needed it did get better.*

What part of your job becomes more intense at the Olympics and what part becomes surprisingly simpler?

Teddy: *We had to quickly learn what our players needed specifically during intermissions as we didn't have much time. They were intense. Glove drying needs, goalie gear, steel changes, no-sweat changes and still trying to find time to clean visors.*

I'm not sure I can say anything was much easier, but I will say I met some great people, and everyone was extremely friendly and helpful where they could be. It was not a competition between countries behind the scenes; we all helped each other.

Kevin Morley

Darren: *The intensity comes with the games, every game feels like a playoff elimination game. Fun!! One of the things we found surprisingly simple was the use of the neck guards. The players had no issues with them and transitioned well into wearing them.*

Was there a quiet moment during the Games where you were able to step back and take it all in?

Kevin: *A bunch of the staff and players went to the first USA vs. Canada women's game. It wasn't necessarily a quiet moment, but I didn't have any real responsibilities, and I never get to watch hockey games in that capacity,*

continued on next page

Inside the Olympic Experience Continued

so that was one time where we got to be Olympic fans. Watching that game in the athlete section, with staff and athletes from lots of different countries, was cool and really encapsulated the Olympic spirit. There were some coaches from Italy in front of us and a whole row of American figure skaters in front of them.

Teddy: *There were a few moments I was able to see my family watching the game, I was able to enjoy that a few times.*

I told myself during the Olympics, I'll reflect and enjoy on my flight home.

Travis: *Quiet moments…what are those??? Haha*

Darren: *We did have a couple days off which was nice to spend with family and explore Milan.*

What is one memory from this Olympic experience that will stay with you long after the Games?

Kevin: *The obvious answer is the memory of Jack Hughes scoring the game winning goal in the gold medal game. I would say that walking upstairs with John Worley, Travis Green, and Brett Crompton to see our families on the concourse is another one. I never thought in a million years that I'd be at the Olympics, but to have that happen, and have my family in the stands to see the gold medal winning game, is invaluable to me, and certainly something none of us will ever forget.*

Teddy: *Getting to know so many good people. Enjoying a new country with my family.*

Travis: *Obviously the moments celebrating with the team following the gold medal game will stay with me, but the moment when I met my family after that game will be the most memorable for me. The joy that was shared in that moment will never be forgotten.*

Darren: *The people. We had a great team and even better staff to work with.*

How did this experience impact your return to your NHL club this season?

Teddy: *Honestly took me a little bit to come back. I flew home and had a practice day then back-to-back home games, leaving the next day for a 4-game weeklong road trip. I felt tired and drained but having an off day on the road allowed me to sleep.*

Travis: *I actually came more energized than when I left. It was a lot of work…more than we see in our day-to-day routines in the NHL but the energy surrounding the games and athletes is palpable and invigorates you.*

Darren: *Jet lagged!! Haha, 9-hour time change after being on Italy time was not easy.*

What advice would you give to a young athletic trainer or equipment manager who dreams of working an Olympic Games?

Teddy: *It's worth the hard work. Nothing beats representing your country.*

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Inside the Olympic Experience Continued

Travis: *One thing that I STRONGLY recommend is to volunteer at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Besides working with a variety of different athletes in different settings you will also meet and work side by side with the Olympic medical team. These are the people whose careers are to prepare for and work the Olympic Games.*

Darren: *Try and get involved with your country's national programs. Start when you are young get involved with the junior teams and hopefully work your way up. If you get an opportunity do everything they ask of you. These tournaments are all about teamwork among the staff. Everyone has to do everything.*

If you had to describe this Olympic experience in one word, what would it be, and why?

Kevin: *Surreal. Theoretically, I knew it could happen. But to be a part of the team that brought the gold home for the first time since 1980 is absolutely surreal.*

Teddy: *Adaptability – we were thrown into a scenario that none of us were used to and had to make the most of it. We embraced what was given and enjoyed every day. No point to get upset, just embrace and enjoy.*

Travis: *It'sImpossibleToDoThat!! I know that isn't one word but it's true. I don't believe that it is possible to put this experience into one word because it is so much more than just one thing...or word.*

Darren: *Honored! I am very grateful that I can help represent my country on the highest international stage in our sport.*

What part of Milan whether food, culture, or sightseeing, left the biggest impression on you?

Teddy: *I really enjoyed the city. We got some time to explore and eat, and I loved both. We had some really good food (pizza and veal cutlet). It was located next to a historic church that we toured. Absolutely beautiful. I learned quickly how to use the public bus system; it turned out to be much easier than Uber's.*

Travis: *I wish we were able to explore and experience more of what Italy and Milano had to offer but in the little time we had I would say their culture was the most impactful. The people of Milano and Italy were so accommodating and proud of their heritage. The Duomo was an architectural marvel!! I went on a self-guided tour with my family, and we were able to access the terraces and rooftops. We were able to see and touch the beauty of the Duomo, and you could look out for miles across Milano to the snowcapped mountains in the distance.*

Darren: *Italian food in Italy, it doesn't get better than that. If you are ever in Milan you need to see the Duomo di Milano, the largest church in Italy and fifth largest in the world. It's amazing.*

Q&A with a Canucks Locker Room Legend Ron "Shuter" Shute

By George Babcock, Assistant Equipment Manager, Buffalo Sabres

Ron is currently on staff with the Canucks at the age of 79 since 1962! 65 Years and still going.

How did you get started?

RS: I was lucky enough to be a 13-year-old boy attending an exhibition game versus the Red Wings and get pulled from the stands to be a fill in Stick Boy! I got to meet Howe, Delvecchio, Gadsby - all legends. I had posters of them in my room, what a dream come true!

Fondest memory?

RS: Working our inaugural NHL game on the bench, October 9, 1970 at the Pacific Coliseum. What a Memory!

Greatest Honor?

RS: The Canucks asked me to come out with the first ever Captain Kurtenbach to present Henrik Sedin with his Captain's jersey for our 40th Season. Very emotional for me, I could hardly keep it together!

Any Nicknames besides Shuter?

RS: Yes. "OLD" given by Pat O'Neil ☺

What keeps you returning to the Rink each season?

RS: Working with great people who may never had a stick on the ice but contribute so much! Pat O'Neil, Larry Ashley, Darren Granger, Red Hamilton, and so many others. I am very proud to see some become Head Equipment Managers and win Stanley Cups and Gold medals.

Any words of wisdom from someone who has been around so long?

RS: In 65-years I've never had a bad day at the rink!

Great Man! We Salute you Ron and your dedication to our great game of hockey!

From the AHL to the NHL – Inside the Transition for Athletic Trainers

By Doug Bennett, Head Athletic Trainer, Carolina Hurricanes

Just like a lot of NHL Players, athletic trainers' path to the NHL often involves a stop in the American Hockey League (AHL). This summer, two athletic trainers, **Koryd Lavimoniere, Assistant Athletic Trainer, Carolina Hurricanes and Bryan Erspamer, Assistant Athletic Trainer, Dallas Stars**, made the jump from the AHL to the NHL, so we asked them about the differences they've noticed and their transition between leagues and organizations.

What are the primary differences you see between the AHL and NHL in the day-to-day medical care of athletes?

Koryd: The main day-to-day difference that I've noticed in the NHL is having a larger staff with more resources around to work with. Having a full-time physical therapist, massage therapist, nutritionist, and chef, specialties we had to outsource in the AHL, now makes care more efficient.

Bryan: The biggest difference for me is the size of the medical and performance staff. At the NHL level, having more hands allows you to spend significantly more one on one time with the athlete you're treating. In the AHL, with fewer staff members, you're often balancing individual care while also managing the needs of the group.

Koryd Lavimoniere

Both of you changed organizations, Bryan from Calgary to Dallas and Koryd from St. Louis to Carolina. What changes or differences were there in how those new organizations did things compared to your old?

Koryd: I wouldn't say there are major differences in how things are run, however just learning the logistics of who everyone is in a new organization after seven years with St. Louis was a lot to take in at first. Learning the chain of communication and the contacts for each doctor's office takes time as well as learning the tendencies and routines of the new players that I am now working with.

Bryan: From a day-to-day standpoint, there really wasn't a major change in procedures. The biggest adjustment was learning a new healthcare system and getting familiar with new facilities, physicians, specialists, coaches, management, and understanding how things are managed within the Stars organization.

The schedule in the NHL and AHL are significantly different. Can you talk about how that factors into the care of the players?

Bryan Erspamer

Koryd: This year's condensed Olympic schedule is much different than the AHL with what feels like games or travel every other day. The AHL schedule is development based with games primarily on the weekends giving the days earlier in the week for practicing and workouts. The NHL schedule this year especially is more focused on maximizing the limited recovery time we have, since games can be on any day of the week. We add workouts and practices when we can to continue to improve but also to maintain strength and speed as the season goes on without hindering recovery for games.

The road trips are also different where every game is a single game in each city before it's on to the next. The AHL has more day trips or stints with multiple games in a city to limit the travel expenses and the stress load of travel. With that said, the flights, food, and hotels on the road in the NHL is definitely a big upgrade compared to AHL travel.

Bryan: There's a lot more packing and unpacking on the road at the NHL level, along with tighter travel windows. Managing recovery and treatment time between cities becomes a major factor, and you really have to be efficient to make sure players are getting what they need to be ready to compete each night.

continued on next page

From the AHL to the NHL Continued

What resources did you not have at the AHL level that you may have now at the NHL level that you find yourself fitting into your clinical practice?

Bryan Erspamer

Koryd: During my time with St. Louis' AHL teams in both San Antonio and Springfield I was fortunate to have great resources provided and a great network of help around me. We tried to match what NHL players get the best that we could with the doctors that were affiliated with the team to the modalities and treatments provided. However now the ease of everything is improved with having a nutritionist, a chef, a physical therapist, and a massage therapist in house every day. The group of doctors around us now is also larger, adding more specialties within the same group compared to Springfield which is a smaller market area. But overall, my years with St. Louis' AHL teams were a great experience and I am very thankful for everything and everyone in the Blues, Rampage, and Thunderbirds organizations who helped me along the way.

Bryan: For me, it again comes back to staffing. That said, I was very fortunate in Calgary to work in an environment that closely mirrored the NHL club. We had access to many of the same physicians, modalities, resources, and medical specialists in the city, which helped prepare me for the transition to the NHL level and made that jump much smoother for me.

What advice would you give to AHL athletic trainers who are hoping to someday make the jump into the NHL?

Koryd: Get to know as many people as you can across different organizations and build your network, not just for job opportunities but just to have others to use as resources as needed.

Taking new courses or learning new techniques as often as you can to continue building up your resume and your options as a clinician can help separate you from others.

Have a good relationship with your coworkers and players each year because they can talk to others and give their opinions on you when asked. Keeping their trust and having a good rapport with them goes a long way.

And lastly, appreciate the journey along the way as you work in different leagues and different teams, with the people you meet and the cities you get to travel to. There are long hours put into this job during the season and making sure you take the time to enjoy it and not take it for granted makes a big difference in how you feel both mentally and physically during the season.

Bryan: Continue building your toolbox of skills, but just as importantly, invest in your professional relationships. Developing a strong network of mentors and colleagues is critical. Those connections provide guidance, perspective, and opportunities that can make a big difference in your career and even find you your next opportunity.

Koryd Lavimoniere

Choosing the right running shoe for you!

Matthew Silvis, MD, FAMSSM
Hershey Company Professor and Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine

Professor, Departments of Family and Community Medicine and Orthopaedics and Therapy Services, Penn State Health and College of Medicine

Running is experiencing a surge in popularity, with over 600 million participants globally driven by a post-pandemic fitness boom. Running club membership has increased as well as rising engagement from Gen Z and high demand for race entries, with marathons like the New York City Marathon setting records. ***One question that can be a challenge for all runners – what shoe to buy?***

The modern running shoe has slowly evolved over time. The original running shoe, the Foster Running Pump, dates to the 1890s and was essentially a leather shoe with spikes added to the forefoot. In 1917, the Keds Champion was introduced as the first sneaker after the discovery and use of vulcanized rubber. In 1925, Adi Dassler developed the first running shoe customized to different feet. Phil Knight created the Asics Onitsuka Tiger in 1963, the first shoe with a cushioned heel. Today there are myriad companies and running shoe designs on the market.

Running gait can be divided into three phases including stance, swing and float. As running speed increases, less time is spent in contact with the ground surface. In developed countries, most runners wear running shoes and heel strike. In its simplest form, running gait begins with lateral heel strike, followed by foot pronation during mid-stance and foot supination during lift-off. Proper running gait is critical for a runner to absorb the impact of foot strike as ground reaction forces can reach one and a half to three times body weight. The rear foot strike pattern of most runners is aided by the elevated and cushioned heels of modern running shoes, softening the impact of hitting the ground with each stride.

Modern running shoes are typically recommended based on arch and foot type: motion control shoes for low arches, cushioned trainers for high arches, and stability shoes for normal arches. While popular, military studies (Marine Corps, Army, Air Force) focused on assigning running shoes based on arch type have not found this approach to be successful in reducing injury rates in recruits during basic training. In fact, some reports have shown a greater injury risk with this approach!

Biomechanical research and popular books such as Born to Run have led to an interest in barefoot or minimalist running (little to no heel cushion; Vivobarefoot and Tadeevo are examples). Barefoot runners land with their forefoot or mid-foot instead of their heels resulting in smaller impact forces upon foot strike (as anybody knows, running barefoot on hard surfaces changes how your foot strikes – painful to land with your heel). The concept behind barefoot or minimalist running is to change impact forces to lessen force on the shins in particular. While this has been shown and there may in fact be a decreased risk of shin splints and tibial stress fractures with this approach, other injuries are reported to be more common: metatarsal stress injuries and calf injuries for instance.

Some runners have turned to extreme cushioning of their running shoes to reduce injury risk, again without any evidence-based data (Hoka running shoes for example). Maximalist shoe footwear is characterized by exceptionally thick midsoles (high stack height, often >30mm) designed for maximum cushioning, impact protection, and comfort. While they offer enhanced comfort, some studies suggest that the increased cushioning does not necessarily mean lower impact forces, as runners might strike the ground harder leading to more injuries.

Advanced footwear technology (AFT) or technologically advanced running shoes (TARS) are the newest running shoe style on the market (Nike Alphafly2 for example). These shoes have embedded carbon plates and proprietary foam that store energy from foot strike and act as a spring to propel motion forward. These shoes are meant to be used for performance and not everyday training (concentrate forces in the mid foot and now linked to navicular and other foot stress injuries). They are also illegal to use in competition if they have more than 40mm of foam cushion and if more than one embedded carbon plate (creates a performance advantage).

So, what should a runner do to select the right shoe for themselves given so many different options on the market? I begin by telling all runners that no one size approach fits all. The most important thing is shoe comfort. In fact, low and medium cost running shoes provide the same plantar pressure cushioning as high-cost running shoes, so cost should not be an important factor in running shoe selection. I generally recommend beginning with a neutral running shoe (no motion con-

continued on next page

Choosing the right running shoe for you Continued

trol or stability components; these components interfere with normal foot motion during weight bearing). I recommend having the foot sized every time a person buys a shoe as feet may not be or stay the same size. I recommend purchasing running shoes at the end of the day (maximally swollen). I generally recommend avoiding advice given after someone in the store has watched a person walk as gait/foot motion is very different between walking and running. Being filmed at a store also has limited value as the stance phase of running where you determine foot strike for instance is quicker than the human eye. Runners should look for shoes with a wide toebox. This allows for normal splay of the metatarsals when running with ½ inch of space between the toes and shoe. A general rule of thumb is changing running shoes every 350 miles or four to six months. However, this is based on limited science. Shoe aging should determine when to change shoes as increased stiffness with shoe aging leads to decreased energy dissipation (increased shoe stiffness is linked to stress fractures). Shoe aging is influenced by runner weight, speed, foot strike, and type of running surface. Different shoes will vary in wear depending on what they are made from and whether the shoes are used for more than running. Faster wear may occur if used during daily activities or if stored in hot or cold environments (best to keep indoors in a controlled environment versus the trunk of the car or garage). If wear patterns on shoes reveal the sole layers underneath, those running shoes should be retired!

Happy Running!!!

Matthew Silvis received his medical degree from Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. He then completed a family medicine residency and primary care sports medicine fellowship at Wake Forest University. Dr. Silvis is currently the Hershey Company Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine and Professor in the Departments of Family and Community Medicine and Orthopedics and Rehabilitation at Penn State Health and College of Medicine. He serves as medical director and head team physician for the Hershey Bears Hockey Club (19 seasons) and Hershey High School.

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Looking forward to seeing you all on Marco Island!

PHATS Member Spotlight

John Worley
Head Athletic Trainer
Minnesota Wild

John Worley is in his 17th season as an Athletic Trainer with the Minnesota Wild. Prior to joining Minnesota, he spent five years as Manager of Sports Medicine Services at Rothman Institute Orthopedics in Philadelphia and 16 years with the Philadelphia Flyers, including 10 seasons as Head Athletic Trainer. He most recently served as Athletic Trainer for the Gold Medal winning U.S. Men's National Team at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milano-Cortina and helped Team USA earn a silver medal at the 2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off tournament.

PHATS: Athletic trainers spend a lot of time solving problems on the fly. What's something the job has taught you about staying calm or adapting in high-pressure situations?

JW: I'm fortunate that this is part of my DNA and my demeanor. In this role, you need confidence, composure, and a strong support system to help guide you through the difficult decision-making process.

PHATS: Over the years, the profession has evolved quite a bit. What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in athletic training in the NHL?

JW: One of the biggest changes I've seen is how much more proactive and collaborative our approach has become within our staffs. This includes continued communication with physicians, performance staff and the coaching and management staff. Overall, the role has expanded beyond treating injuries to being an integral part of optimizing player health, performance, and longevity.

PHATS: This year, you reached the 2,000-game milestone! After being part of 2,000 NHL games, what is something about the game of hockey that you still appreciate every time you step into the rink?

JW: THE PLAYERS!!

continued on next page

Member Spotlights

SPHEM Member Spotlight

Jeff Camelio
Head Equipment Manager
Seattle Kraken

Jeff is in his 5th season as Head Equipment Manager with Seattle, after 15 seasons as an assistant in Nashville. His career began with the ECHL's South Carolina Stingrays and later the AHL's Bridgeport Sound Tigers. He reached 2,000 professional games worked last season.

SPHEM: How did you first get started working in hockey equipment, and what led you to pursue it as a career?

JC: I first started as a stick boy in Rochester in the early 1990s and loved being around the game and the people. I've been doing it now full time for 28 years.

SPHEM: You joined the Seattle Kraken for their inaugural season and stepped into the role of Head Equipment Manager after previously working as an Assistant in Nashville. What was that transition like for you?

JC: Getting to be part of the expansion process was a once in a lifetime experience. I had a great run in Nashville working with a great organization and colleagues, but the opportunity to build everything from the ground up was appealing. I found moving back into the head role after being an assistant for 15 years took some getting used to but to get this opportunity to continue to grow my career was exciting and challenging at times.

SPHEM: Joining an expansion team meant helping build the equipment operation from the ground up. What surprised you most about that experience?

JC: Having to worry about the construction and operations of two rinks (game and practice) during Covid when things were moving slowly was an interesting process. We also acquired all our players in one summer, so I had to get to know each guy's needs and preferences all at once. We had no back stock of any equipment, it was difficult to acquire certain gear when factories in China were closed or they were struggling to make stuff in our colors that had not been previously produced.

SPHEM: What part of the equipment manager's role do you think people would be most surprised to learn about?

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PHATS Member Spotlight Continued

PHATS: Looking back over your career, is there something about the profession that you appreciate more now than you did earlier on?

JW: What I appreciate most now is the relationships and the opportunity to be something bigger than oneself. Earlier in my career, the focus was on the day-to-day demands of the job, but over time I've gained a deeper appreciation for the people, the players, the staff, peers, support system, and the trust that's built over years of working together. Being a part of a team, traveling internationally, and contributing to both individual careers and collective success has been meaningful as time has gone on.

PHATS: For those just starting out as athletic trainers in professional hockey, what is the best piece of advice you were given early in your career?

JW: One of the best pieces of advice I was given early on was to be a great people person, passionate, and an advocate for your players. Build trust by being consistent, prepared and honest with players, staff and understand that relationships are as important as clinical skills.

PHATS: What year did you first attend the PHATS/SPHEM Conference? For someone attending the Hockey Summit for the first time, what would you encourage them to take advantage of?

JW: My first PHATS/SPHEM Conference was 1993. I would recommend taking advantage of all the education opportunities that are extended to you, building relationships among your peers at all levels, also engaging with the exhibitors as a way to continually advance our profession, and grow as ice hockey athletic trainers.

John and his Grandson, Kota

PHATS: The exhibit hall is always a big part of the conference. Over the years, have you discovered any products, tools, or ideas there that ended up becoming staples in your day-to-day work?

JW: Over the years, I've found the exhibit hall to be extremely impactful because it provides the opportunity to see new products, devices, and equipment that we can add to our player-care toolbox.

PHATS: Congratulations on Team USA's Gold Medal! You've spent most of your career in the NHL environment. Does working at the Olympics change the way you view the game, your profession, or high-performance sport in general?

JW: Working at the Olympics absolutely gives you a different perspective. While the foundation of it remains the same, the scale, intensity and pride associated with representing your country elevates everything. Working with world-class athletes in a condensed time frame which reinforces the importance of preparation, collaboration, and adaptability. This is a powerful reminder of why we do what we do!

PHATS: Can you describe the feeling of hearing the National Anthem and watching the American Flag raised for Team USA?

JW: SURREAL!!!

PHATS: Tell us a little about yourself outside of hockey — your family, hobbies, and what you enjoy doing when you're not at the rink.

JW: Family is everything!! My career has become part of our family, and this profession has made it work for us. Our summers together are the best!!

SPHEM Member Spotlight Continued

JC: It's not just sharpening skates or fixing gear. There is a lot of paperwork, budgeting, spreadsheets, and expenses to handle daily. Another thing people don't often realize is the time commitment that goes into these roles. Hockey has now become a year-round sport. Just because games are not being played doesn't necessarily mean the work stops.

Jeff and Pete Rogers

SPHEM: Hockey equipment has evolved quite a bit over the years. What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in gear since you started?

JC: The skate blades and how they get sharpened has drastically changed. Everything is removable and replaceable nowadays. Each guy has multiple sets of steel that we rotate in and out so there is no more rushing in between periods to sharpen skates. That means no more missed shifts for bad steel.

SPHEM: What year did you first attend the PHATS/SPHEM Conference? For someone attending the Hockey Summit for the first time, what would you encourage them to take advantage of?

JC: My first conference was in 1998. The best thing you can do at the PHATS/SPHEM conference is the put yourself out there and network – introduce yourself to members belonging to all levels and organizations. You never know when you could potentially meet your next coworker.

SPHEM: The exhibit hall is always a big part of the conference. Over the years, have you discovered any products, tools, or ideas there that ended up becoming staples in your day-to-day work?

JC: SkateScribe is a company that I first met at a conference. Now they have become an integral part of our day-to-day workflows with their automated skate sharpening machines. So be sure to stop by and check out all the vendors, they may have something that may make your job easier and more efficient.

SPHEM: You currently serve as Treasurer on the SPHEM Executive Board. What motivated you to get involved in that role?

JC: Pete Rogers, my former boss with the Predators, encouraged me to get involved. When Pete was president, I got to witness firsthand the importance of members volunteering at all levels because without the help, the Hockey Summit would not be where it is today.

Jeff and Craig Baugh from the Press

continued on next page

SPHEM Member Spotlight Continued

SPHEM: Is there a small part of your daily routine at the rink that you've always enjoyed, but most people probably wouldn't think about?

JC: One of my favorite parts of the day is every morning multiple players will come down and sit in my office with a coffee and just chat. It's a great way to build personal relationships and get to know guys on another level other than hockey. It is those types of conversations that lead to friendships that could last long after my career is done.

Jeff and his daughter Carli Camelio

Jeff and his son Anthony Camelio

SPHEM: Is there someone who helped guide you early in your career as you were learning the ropes of the profession? What is the best piece of advice they gave you.

JC: Pete Rogers, the head equipment manager in Nashville, is the reason I am where I am today. He gave me my first start as a stick boy in Rochester. He hired me in Nashville and continued to allow me to grow and develop my skillset to the point where I was able to become a head equipment manager in the NHL with the Seattle Kraken.

SPHEM: Tell us a little about yourself outside of hockey — your family, hobbies, and what you enjoy doing when you're not at the rink.

JC: I have a very understanding wife and daughter at home (Michelle and Carli), who have the patience to put up with our long hours and travel schedule. I am also fortunate enough to work with my son, Anthony, who is the Equipment Specialist for the Kraken. Outside of hockey, I enjoy golfing, paddleboarding, and keeping in touch with friends and family.

The Camelio Family

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HSM

League Updates

AHL

Spring has arrived, and with it, the final push of the 2025–26 regular season. A handful of teams are preparing for a run at the Calder Cup, while the rest of us begin the process of winding down another demanding year. I want to thank all our PHATS/SPHEM members for their continued professionalism and commitment throughout the season.

This year's AHL All-Star Classic was hosted by the Rockford IceHogs at the BMO Center on February 10-11. The event delivered a strong showcase of league talent and a smooth weekend of operations, thanks in large part to the medical and equipment staffs supporting both conferences.

The league's mentorship initiatives continued to grow this season, offering young professionals meaningful exposure to our environment during All-Star weekend and throughout the year. Their enthusiasm and willingness to learn remain a bright spot for the future of our profession.

Across the league, we also saw another successful slate of marquee events — outdoor showcases, community nights, and milestone celebrations recognizing longserving staff. These moments highlight the depth of dedication behind every team's success.

As we approach the end of the season, it's a natural time to reflect, recharge, and look ahead. I want to acknowledge the Athletic Trainers, Equipment Managers, Strength & Conditioning Coaches, Team Physicians, and countless gamenight staff whose behind the scenes efforts make our league run. Your work matters, and it does not go unnoticed.

We look forward to reconnecting, sharing stories, and continuing to elevate our craft when we gather again in Marco Island.

Brian Fairbrother
Director of Performance & Head Athletic Trainer
Hartford Wolf Pack
AHL PHATS Executive Committee President

ECHL

As the 2025–26 season quickly comes to a close, we find ourselves approaching the excitement of the Kelly Cup Playoffs. It feels like the season has just begun, yet here we are in its final stretch.

First, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Allen Americans organization for hosting this year's ECHL All-Star Game. A big thank you to everyone involved! Across the league, we all navigate the daily challenges and demands of our schedules, and it's a reflection of everyone's commitment that our standards continue to reach new heights each season.

As we look ahead to the 2026–27 season, I encourage anyone with suggestions or ideas for improvement to reach out to your divisional representative. These contributions are valuable and will be discussed at our upcoming league meetings.

We also want to acknowledge the Iowa Heartlanders, who have announced they will voluntarily suspend operations for the 2026–27 season. We wish everyone in the organization the very best in their future endeavors.

There are also exciting developments on the horizon. The Utah Grizzlies will relocate to Trenton, New Jersey, and rebrand as the Trenton Ironhawks, marking the return of professional hockey to the area for the first time since 2013. Additionally, the ECHL will welcome a new franchise, the New Mexico Goatheads, who will begin play in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. This marks the return of professional hockey to the region for the first time since 2009.

Best of luck to everyone as we finish out the regular season, and safe travels to all teams—especially those competing in the playoffs. I look forward to seeing everyone on Marco Island, Florida, for this year's Hockey Summit.

John Sellars
Head Equipment Manager
Florida Everblades

League Updates Continued

OHL

Congrats in advance to Kelowna for hosting the 2026 Memorial Cup. Congrats to all PHATS/SPHEM members who were representing their countries at the 2026 Olympics.

Good luck to all those teams who will be going on a playoff run. Don't forget to make your reservations and travel arrangements for the PHATS/SPHEM Hockey Summit in Florida from June 16 – June 21, 2026. We are hoping for an excellent representation from the Ontario Hockey League!

See you all in Marco Island!

Bryan A. Boyes
Head Equipment Manager
Oshawa Generals

WHL

The 2026 WHL Playoffs are in progress. Interesting to note: the Eastern Conference 7th and 8th spots are 9 and 10 games under 0.500! Crazyyy, eh?

The Western Hockey League Team Services Committee has updated the Trainers' Information package, which supports the Certified Athletic Trainer/Athletic Therapist, and Equipment Manager throughout the WHL season. This resource is intended to promote consistency, effective communication, and best practices across all teams, particularly for those newly employed within the WHL.

The package updates provide clear guidance on key areas, including medical documentation and charting (ARMS), injury reporting and insurance procedures, concussion management and neuropsychology reporting, and Emergency Action Plan (EAP) requirements for host and visiting teams. It also outlines league expectations related to roster moves, player trades, weekly injury reporting terminology, and medical equipment exemptions.

By standardizing procedures and clarifying league expectations, the WHL continues to enhance athlete safety, operational efficiency, and continuity of care across the league. On behalf of the Western Hockey League and the Team Services Committee.

Rich Campbell
Athletic Trainer/Strength Coach
Portland Winterhawks

QMJHL

The first round of the playoffs is on its way in the Q, best of luck to all the teams on their quest for the Gilles-Courteau trophy and the Memorial Cup.

We have an honorable mention: in his 23rd season with the Charlottetown Islanders, Andrew "Spider" MacNeil worked his 1,500th game as the team's equipment manager. Congrats Spider on a job well done and keep grinding.

We would also like to take the time to wish best of luck to Francis Denis, AT with the Blainville Armada, who after 18 seasons, is leaving the league and starting his own practice in the greater Montreal area. You will be missed, Frank, here in the Q, but your business will surely be a hit.

Wishing everyone in every league the very best in the playoffs.

Brian St-Louis
Equipment Manager
Le Drakkar de Baie-Comeau

League Updates Continued

NCAA

Things in the NCAA are moving into the postseason with the Men's side finishing conference tournaments and the Women's starting the NCAA tournament. Would like to extend a congratulations to North Dakota, Minnesota State, Michigan State, Providence, Quinnipiac, and Bentley who were all regular season champions on the men's side of the NCAA. Host locations this year for the Men's Tournament are Worcester, MA, Albany, NY, Sioux Falls, SD, and Loveland, CO with the Frozen Four this year at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. Big thanks to all these arenas and organizations hosting our NCAA teams.

The NCAA has been very competitive this year with a lot of close games and upsets. This was all because of the new rules allowing CHL players to be eligible in the NCAA. Congrats to all members that have reached milestones this year, and best of luck to everyone finishing up the season. I hope to see lots of people and vendors at the convention in June.

Nate LaPoint
Equipment Manager
University of Wisconsin

USHL

As we are winding down the regular season, everyone here in the USHL wants to wish all the playoff teams best of luck. We also are looking forward to seeing everyone at our summer meeting.

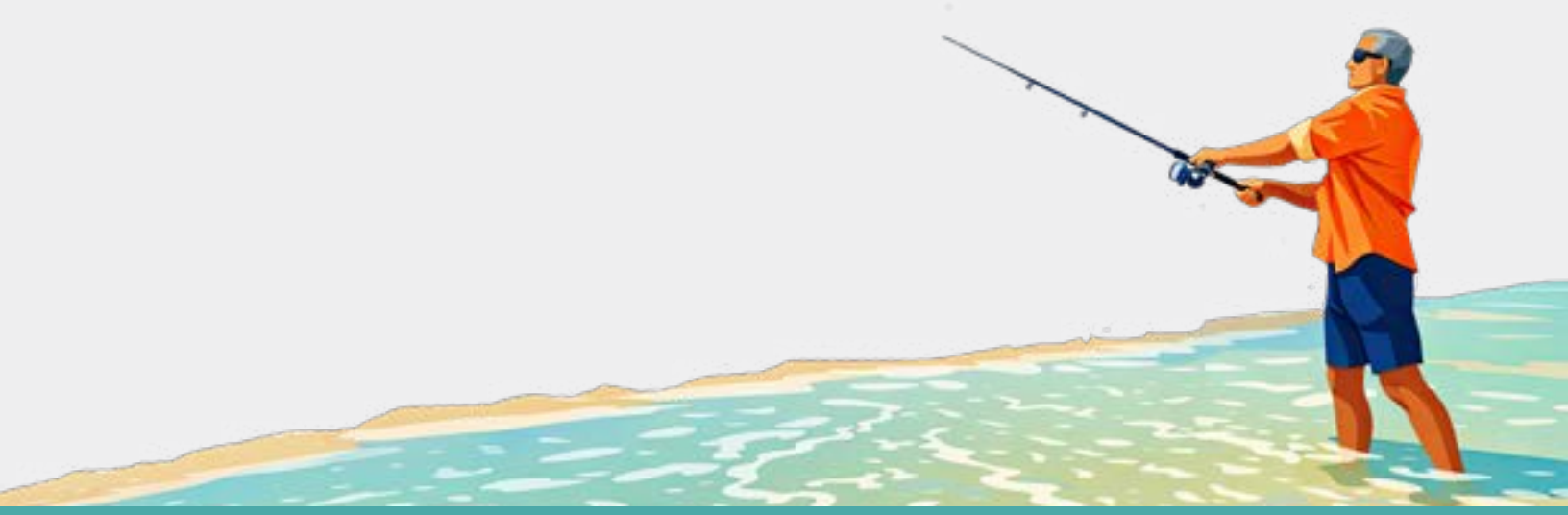
The Youngstown Phantoms and the Sioux Falls Stampede are battling for the Anderson Cup with one week to go in the season. Should be an exciting finish!

Todd Klein
ATC
Waterloo Black Hawks

SPHL

As the 2025–26 SPHL regular season concludes, Peoria finished at the top of the league standings, with Huntsville, Roanoke, Evansville, Pensacola, Birmingham, Knoxville, and Macon also securing playoff spots for the President's Cup. Best of luck to all teams as they head into the playoffs, and thank you to the athletic trainers, equipment managers, strength staff, and medical staff across the league for the work they have put in throughout the season.

Dr. Tony Carlton
Director of Performance Science/Reconditioning Coach
Fayetteville Marksmen



League Updates Continued

PWHL

As Spring arrives, the PWHL rolls into the final third of our regular season. With only 5 weeks remaining, there is a tight race at the top of the standings between Boston, Montreal, and Minnesota, with all 8 teams still mathematically in the hunt for a Walter Cup playoff spot.

In February, the PWHL took a pause from game play for the Olympics. We proudly had 30% of our league's players participating in the Olympic Games, specifically, 61 athletes across 8 national teams. Similarly, we had 20 PWHL staff and contractors at the games. PHATS, SPHEM, and PHPO members included:

- Alana Goulden, Equipment Manager - Hockey Canada & Toronto Sceptres
- Katie Homan, Athletic Trainer - USA Hockey & Minnesota Frost
- Sis Paulson, Equipment Manager - USA Hockey & Minnesota Frost
- Vicky Bendus, Strength and Conditioning Coach - Hockey Canada & Montreal Victoire

Overall, this season has been a year of continued growth for our league. We expanded to the West Coast by adding two new teams, the Vancouver Goldeneyes and the Seattle Torrent. We have hit major milestones including 2 million ticket sales, an average attendance growth of 23% over last year, and played 16 Take Over Tour games in 11 cities across North America. We continue to develop and grow our league committees which focus on safety, education, and standardization. Finally, plans for more expansion in Season 4 are underway!

Christina Neville
Assistant Athletic Trainer
Minnesota Frost

Alumni Update

By: Mark Brennan & John Doolan Alumni, Co-Chairs

To all active members and Alumni,

Welcome to spring. Some of the teams will be moving on to the greatest sports event, and that is winning a Stanley Cup. Good luck to all of you, and safe travels. Once you become an Alumni, there is no "maybe next year."

Been speaking with Dools, as I seem to do every week. We always find a way to keep the Alumni going and come up with ideas to keep it relevant. Back when we formed the Alumni in 2008, I had no idea how far it would come and how it has grown with the assistance of the co-chairmen, John Doolan, and of course, with the help of the members of the PHATS/SPHEM Board and the great assistance of Anita, Natalie, and Dom, as well as the addition of Mark O'Neill and Gaetan Lebefvre. So, there are quite a few of us working to serve and protect the Alumni Association.

The hard part always seems to be, what the heck are we going to talk about in the upcoming news article? So, with that in mind, since it always seems to be me and John writing every article, we are putting it out there. Who can step forward and contribute to the next article? We all seem to have something to add to the alumni, so why not share it in an upcoming article? It doesn't have to be long or even as boring as this article. Maybe just share a memory or accomplishment or even write about where the alumni can go from here.

So, please contact any of us, and we will be glad to take an article or two off our hands. Like Dool's says before every newsletter, "What should we talk about now?" Sometimes we have no idea and would really appreciate some inclusion from one of our over 150 members. With that in mind, we are throwing down the gauntlet and look forward to hearing from all, if not some, of our members out there.

All the best and safe travels,

Mark and Dools,
Alumni co-chairs

Newsletter Advertising Opportunities

PHATS/SPHEM is pleased to offer the opportunity to advertise in our Fall & Spring Newsletter.

Our Newsletter is sent to all PHATS/SPHEM Members, Annual Meeting Exhibitors, Directory Suppliers, League Executives, General Managers and PHATS/SPHEM Alumni bi-annually, in the Spring and Fall.

Newsletter Packages

- Full Page Advertisement: $500
- Vendor Feature Article: $500
- PHATS or SPHEM Member Spotlight (Includes ½ page ad) $400
- 1/2 page Advertisement: $250
- Logo & Website Link: $100

Ads, articles and logos have hyperlink capability.

Please e-mail Natalie Grant at ngrant@phatssphem.com to place your advertisement or should you have any questions.