

## LSSU Recognizes Paul Boyer's Career Milestone

Sault Ste. Marie – If you have followed hockey teams of just about any age you will find that hockey players are a superstitious lot. Goal posts are referred to fictionally as a “goalie’s best friend,” their presence sometimes thwarting a shooter’s attempt with a resounding clang, reassuring a goal keeper another goal was denied.

Forwards and defensemen have their superstitious rituals too as they prepare or during the course of a game. Always tie your left skate prior to the right, stand with only your skate blade tips on the blue line during the anthems, tape your stick after warm ups, make other unique requests for their equipment and be extremely finicky about the way their skates are maintained and sharpened.

Over the past 25 years, to the Red Wing goalies and players their best friend has probably been Head Hockey Equipment Manager and LSSU Alumnus Paul Boyer ‘93. Having reached his 2,000 game in the National Hockey League, he has handled hundreds of player idiosyncrasies and solved many more serious equipment issues to keep players safe and help extend their careers.

Boyer has also been a friend to Lake Superior State University, his alma mater. Not only by establishing himself as one of the top and longest-serving equipment management professionals in the NHL, but also being a resource for the Laker Hockey team. Oftentimes, he provides advice on the latest skate sharpening technology and recommending contacts for buying equipment at levels helping to leverage the program’s equipment budget.

He was instrumental in organizing a visit that brought the Stanley Cup to LSSU’s campus in the late 1990’s following one of the Detroit Red Wings’ Championships, allowing residents of the Twin Saults to view the Cup and take photos with it. The University and Laker Athletics have benefitted from Boyer’s influence and generosity in many ways.

Following LSSU’s College Night Red Wing game on February 1, 2020 Paul Boyer was presented with a framed Laker Hockey jersey in recognition of his 2,000<sup>th</sup> NHL game. The plaque adorning the frame reads as follows:

*To Laker Alumnus  
Paul Boyer, Detroit Red Wings Head Equipment Manager  
Congratulations on your recent achievement of 2,000 NHL games.  
Please accept this framed Laker Hockey jersey in recognition and appreciation for your consistent  
support and advocacy towards the mission, vision, and goals  
of Lake Superior State University.*

*Dr. Rodney S. Hanley, LSSU President  
February 1, 2020*

“One of the best parts of our work is recognizing alumni who have reached major milestones in their careers like what Paul Boyer has achieved with 2,000 game in the NHL,” said Tom Coates, Executive Director ~ LSSU Foundation. “He has a long history with Lake State going back to learning his craft with Gil Somes as a student equipment manager in the 1990s and continues to support Laker Hockey to this day.”