

## Nick Meldrum '06



**Nick Meldrum '06**, Littleton, Col. is the director of equipment room operations for the University of Denver. Nick got to return to his alma mater during Great Lake State Weekend 2019 when D.U. took on the hockey Lakers in Taffy Abel Arena. Nick said it was really cool to be back on campus for a game – his first time back in 11 years. When Alumni Director Susan Fitzpatrick asked Nick how he wound up at the University of Denver, he told this story:

I came to Denver for the job with the hockey team. After I graduated from Lake State I wanted to pursue becoming a Hockey Equipment Manager. Coach Roque and Rick Mick helped me a ton with this. Not too long after graduation, Coach Roque called me and asked if I was still interested in becoming an equipment manager, and of course I was. It turned out that Ron Rolston (another former Laker Assistant

Coach) called him asking if he had anyone that he would recommend for an equipment job with the USA National Team Development Program (NTDP) in Ann Arbor, because one of their guys left on short notice. Well, I was the recommendation that he made. I interviewed, and I got the job there and worked for the U17 and U18 teams for 2 years where I was fortunate enough to win a U17 Silver Medal and a U18 World Championship Gold medal. We had a few Denver Commits on my U17 and U18 team, and at the U18 World Championships, Ron Rolston told me that Denver's equipment guy was leaving for another school and that I should apply, because he knew that I wanted to ultimately work in college again. I already knew the two assistant coaches a little bit from them recruiting the guys we had at the NTDP, so after a game Ron formally introduced me to them, and I expressed my interest in the job.

After we got home from the tournament, I applied for the job and went through the process of a phone interview and then was flown out to Denver for an in person interview. The rest went very quickly! I was offered the job a day or two later, which was awesome, but my wife and I were getting married in 3 weeks and had our honeymoon and everything rapidly approaching. So in less than a month, we came out to Denver and secured a place to live, planned the move, packed, finished our wedding plans, got married, went on our honeymoon, came home from our honeymoon, and moved to Denver 2-3 days later!

I just started my 11<sup>th</sup> season here at the University of Denver. I've been fortunate enough to be a part of 2 Regular Season Championships, 2 Conference Tournament Championships, a Hockey National Championship, and a Lacrosse National Championship. Denver also led me to an

opportunity to represent our country at one of the biggest international hockey tournaments outside of the Olympics and Men's World Championships. I had the opportunity to be a part of USA Hockey's World Junior Championship Equipment Staff last year that earned a Silver medal in Vancouver. It's been an amazing experience here! My family and I love it out here. I definitely miss the lakes, so it was great to be back by the water when we were up there last week, but the mountains here are awesome.

But it is safe to say it all started there at Lake State. My time as a student manager in the Soo led me into my profession, and I will be forever grateful for Jim Roque, Tim Christian, Rick Mick, Roy Forrest, Gil Somes (I earned the Gil Somes Scholarship as well during my time!), Bill Crawford and everyone else who helped me get my start. Their belief in me, and help along the way just showed what class acts they all truly are. I will never forget that!

How I got to Lake State is another Laker Hockey connection, the Angelelli Family. I worked for Ray and Danny Angelelli (part of the 1992 and 1994 National Championship teams) in the Detroit area growing up and during breaks from College. They really piqued my interest in making me want to come to school there. And I am so happy that they did!