



Wednesday, December 4, 2002

OU alum meets Red Wings at White House

Oakland University alumnus Rob Wooley says it was exciting when he saw the President of the United States last month, but it was "more exciting" meeting the entire Detroit Red Wings hockey team.

Since moving to Washington, D.C., in 2000, Wooley, a die-hard Red Wings fan, resorts to watching his favorite team on TV.

So when Wooley heard his beloved Red Wings would be at the White House Nov. 5 for a ceremony honoring the 2002 Stanley Cup champions, he knew he had to find a way to be there.

Wooley graduated from OU in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in public administration/public policy and is a research assistant and outreach coordinator at the Brookings Institution. Wooley went to his boss, who has a direct line to the White House as a senior adviser to President Bush on welfare policy, for help.

His boss came through with an invitation, and before Wooley could say "Hockey Town," he was standing in front of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. with the entire Red Wings organization, including Steve Yzerman, captain; Scotty Bowman, coach; and the Ilitch family, the team's owners.

"There I was, waiting in line at the White House for security clearance with all of my heroes," Wooley said. "It was surreal."

Wooley spent the next hour touring the East Wing with the Red Wings.

"It was intimidating, but they were all friendly," he said. "I congratulated them for winning the cup. But, they were all really interested in why I was there, and what I do at Brookings. They wanted to talk politics."

After the tour, the group moved to the East Room for the presentation, where they were joined by other Michigan politicians and news reporters. Wooley sat two rows from President Bush, but admits, "I love politics, but it was more exciting to meet the Red Wings. I was on cloud nine for days after. I still can't believe it."

SUMMARY

Oakland University alumnus Rob Wooley says it was exciting when he saw the President of the United States last month, but it was "more exciting" meeting the entire Detroit Red Wings hockey team.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, December 4, 2002

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, December 4, 2002

Article Start Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2003