

Q & A with T. Campbell, the Wings DJ

Man who gets the spectators energized is intense fan

An intense hockey and music fan, T. Campbell has had his perfect job for the last 14 years -- the Wings DJ.

Before Game 2, News reporter Dana Wakiji sat down with the man who gets fans and players energized at Joe Louis Arena:

Q . How did you get the job?

A . I started doing music for Michigan State hockey back in '92. Ron Mason asked me to be a part of their program and then, the Wings were looking for a DJ two years later when I got a tryout here, Ted Spears asked me to come. I came here for a tryout and have been here ever since.

Q . How do you decide what music to play and when?

A . I try to be as situational as possible. If the game calls for energy, if we're down a goal or tied, that kind of thing, I try to keep the energy in the building. I feel like that's my job. Sometimes if the fans are a little bit quiet you want to pull stuff out of them so you try to do some music or organ chants that are going to try to generate a response instead of being so tense and tight, they can expel their energy somehow.

Q . What do you do in commercial breaks?

A . For commercial breaks, it's kind of our time to take a little time to relax. We may roll a video, just kind of an update on what's going on or player videos, that kind of thing. Then I'll fill with some lighthearted dance-type music, get them jumping in their seats.

Then when it comes time to get back to the game again, now all of a sudden we've got to put the focus back on the game so now we're going to roll some high-energy, techno-type stuff or sometimes they do the noise prompts on the board, get them back into the game and get the team ready to go, too.

Q . How did you choose the music for when the other team gets a penalty?

A . I guess the reason I'm here today, I've been a DJ for 26 years now and

I've been playing hockey my whole life, and titles and artists and songs that fit situations, that's my bread and butter.

That kind of stuff comes really natural. Then I start thinking about specific players and that just makes it a lot more fun, too.

Q . Do players make requests?

A . Very rare. But once in a while they'll request music for warmups. That's about it. I think they're too focused anyway.

Q . What kind of music do they like for warmups?

A . [Bruce Springsteen](#).

Q . Do you still enjoy it after all these years?

A . I love it. I'm a huge Wings fan and I love music, and I love the excitement, the feeling that you can generate in the building. I love my job.

Q . It must be even better being a fan and having the Wings go to the playoffs every year.

A . I'm so spoiled. The first year I got here we went to the Stanley Cup Finals, but we lost. But since then, it's been just a huge, huge ride. It's been great.

Q . What are your favorite memories?

A . Some of my favorite memories are songs that just generate a lot of fun. The first time we were going to win the Cup against Philadelphia, right before we won the Cup, in game, playing, "I Can Feel It Coming in the Air Tonight." That was kind of cool.

Q . Who are your favorite players?

A . I love watching [Pavel Datsyuk](#). He's a magician. He's such a great two-way player. I really enjoy his work. I love Nick Lidstrom, Steve Yzerman was awesome, too. The Russian Five. It's hard to pick one. I'd say Datsyuk.