

# Meet Ed Schielka

## Marathon Florida Salesman

by Kelly Kitchel

*W*e are excited to welcome Edward Schielka to the Marathon family. Edward joined Marathon as the newest salesman at the Florida facility in March, and he brings more than six years of experience to the position.

Edward moved to Tampa, Florida six years ago to be near his mom and dad, grandmother, and two sisters. His father is the head of the service department at Lazy Days, a large RV dealership. Edward developed a strong interest in the business, so he joined his father to gain sales and industry experience.

Edward was born and raised in Chicago, and then moved to New England to attend prep school. While there, he traveled extensively with his hockey team. "We played throughout Canada, and when I was on the Junior USA team, we also had the opportunity to play in European tournaments. Hockey is a huge sport in Europe, and we played in Sweden, Norway, England, and Denmark."

After high school, Edward moved from Connecticut to his present home in Tampa, where he immediately began learning about RVs and coaches. "I wanted to dive into the industry and learn as much as I could. I have a great deal of knowledge about the fiberglass side of the industry, and I hope to use that knowledge to convert people over to bus conversions. Every Marathon coach is unique—no one is identical to another—and that is something customers are proud of and get very excited about."

From Chicago to Tampa, one passion that has never wavered for Edward is his love of sports. "I was born and bred in Chicago, so naturally, I'm a die-hard Cubs fan. I also closely follow the Florida Lightning and the Bucs, and I'm an advocate for regulation changes to American hockey rules. Such changes would allow the sport to focus more on skills and



less on fighting."

"I'm enjoying my work at Marathon," Edward said. "This company is at the forefront of the coach industry. I look forward to building relationships with everyone in the Marathon family, especially the customers, who I constantly hear wonderful things about. The superior quality of our product enhances our ability to provide exceptional customer service."

Edward's youthful energy is apparent, and he's optimistic about the coach industry. "The baby boomers are a huge market right now, and we are seeing a younger affluent group interested in our product. I want to be at every event possible to get exposure to the industry, meet other Marathon employees, and get to know present and future customers."

"I love the smaller size of Marathon," Edward said. "It means working more closely with everyone, from customers to employees. Everyone here has a can-do, sky's-the-limit attitude. Marathon is always pushing the envelope to be first to market with new features and technology. It is the cutting edge of this industry and I'm honored to be a part of it." •