

hospitals to let people have their moment with the trophy and help spread some of the joy.

Yesterday, for example, they took the Cup to visit wounded warriors at Walter Reed hospital. So they helped raise the spirits of men and women who've sacrificed so much on behalf of our country. Later today they're going to join Michelle in helping kids stay active by trying out some street hockey out on the South Lawn. So I want to thank them for everything they're doing to give back.

And finally, because it's almost playoff time again, I want to wish these guys the best of luck going into the postseason. I don't want to jinx anything, but after winning 8 of their last 10 games, I think it might be time for Patrick to start growing that playoff mullet again. [Laughter] I thought it was pretty sharp. Because I want to see you back here next year.

And let me, yes, just say to all the Bears fans, Bulls fans, White Sox fans, and Cubs fans—[laughter]—I want to see all of you sometime soon as well.

So congratulations, guys. Thank you.
What have you got for me here?

[At this point, the President was presented with a team jersey.]

Thank you so much. Thank you. There we go. I think we've even got some blood on here. [Laughter] It shows it's authentic. Fantastic.

Chicago Blackhawks President and Chief Executive Officer John F. McDonough. Do you want to put the ring on?

The President. Oh, absolutely. I've got to try the ring out and everything. That's what you call some bling, right there. [Laughter] All right, there you go.

Pete, you got me here?

Let's step up a little bit.

[The President posed for a photograph with members of the Chicago Blackhawks organization.]

Center Jonathan Toews. We got this for you too.

The President. What else do we got here? [Laughter]

Mr. Toews. A mini Stanley Cup, there you go.

The President. Look at this, a mini Stanley—now, can I say that when I first saw this I thought, it looks so much bigger on TV. [Laughter] But then it turned out it was just a replica. But what a wonderful, wonderful gift this is. Thank you so much, team. We are proud of you. Thank you. Appreciate you. Go, Blackhawks!

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to W. Rockwell Wirtz, chairman, Joel Quenneville, head coach, Patrick Kane, right wing, and Duncan Keith, defenseman, Chicago Blackhawks; Michael J. Jordan, former guard, National Basketball Association's Chicago Bulls; and Chief Official White House Photographer Peter Souza.

Statement on the Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan and the Tsunami Warning for the Pacific March 11, 2011

Michelle and I send our deepest condolences to the people of Japan, particularly those who have lost loved ones in the earthquake and tsunamis. The United States stands ready to help the Japanese people in this time of great trial. The friendship and alliance between our two nations is unshakeable and only strengthens our resolve to stand with the people of Ja-

pan as they overcome this tragedy. We will continue to closely monitor tsunamis around Japan and the Pacific going forward, and we are asking all our citizens in the affected region to listen to their State and local officials, as I have instructed FEMA to be ready to assist Hawaii and the rest of the U.S. States and Territories that could be affected.