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It's almost that time again – time for Husky Hockey! As fans wait anxiously for the team to return to the ice, the Tech athletes prepare themselves for a busy season on the road and in the MacInnes Ice Arena. Apart from the hours spent on the ice, like all students, the Huskies must also dedicate copious hours to their studies.

One such individual is Tech Hockey goalie and fourth-year kinesiology and integrative physiology major Jamie Phillips. When asked about academics and hockey, Phillips said, "I take school very seriously. I take it as serious as I take hockey."

As a full-time student, Phillips juggles his time between studying, homework and hockey. Phillips said, "Outside of time spent in the classroom, on average weekly, I spend about 20 hours in the library studying and doing homework, and about 30 hours goes to hockey." With the numerous hours that need to be dedicated to academics and hockey, Phillips said that time management is essential for success.

When fellow classmate Surbhi Thakur was asked about Phillips, she said, "I see Jamie in the library all the time. He's a very motivated student and is always committed to doing well." It is clear that Phillips has made an impression upon peers and that his studies are imperative for him and his future.

Away from academics and hockey, Phillips enjoys practicing yoga, playing guitar and listening to music. "Taking time to unwind is important to me because there's never much free time, and I'm always doing something – always tired. It's hard to ever get enough sleep."

Continuously being on the go takes a toll on the Huskies, and it makes it tough to balance academics and hockey.

It is no surprise that Phillips confirmed with a smile that his favorite thing to do on the road is to sleep. But there are other reasons why Phillips enjoys being on the road: “Being on the road allows me to be around my teammates, which is nice because they’re all great guys. It’s also nice to get a chance to explore bigger cities with the possibility to eat sushi!”

With skates dangling on his feet at only 11 months, Phillips has known hockey all of his life, but he also has a passion for helping others: “My goal, outside of playing professional hockey, is to become an ER or ICU doctor.” With his love for travel and passion to help others, becoming a traveling doctor with Doctors Without Borders is not out of the question.

Phillips said that he is looking forward to the season getting started and to enjoying his last year at Tech: “Hockey season always brings a challenge for me, and I’m hopeful for what is in store.” As the countdown to the first night in the rink nears its end, the Huskies are thrilled to return to the ice.