

Atlanta Flames Willi Plett 1977-78 Canadien game used team signed stick.

Willi Plett was born in Paraguay but his parents moved to Canada one year later. After an impressive junior career, Plett was drafted by the Atlanta Flames as a fifth round selection, 80th overall, in the 1975 NHL Amateur Draft. Plett spent his first professional season with the Tulsa Oilers of the Central Hockey League where he scored 30 goals in 73 games, added 163 penalty minutes, and helped the Oilers win the Adams Cup as CHL champions. He spent the majority of the '76-77 season in Atlanta, appearing in 64 games with 33 goals and 23 assists, enough to win the Calder Memorial Trophy as the NHL's rookie of the year. He scored 22 goals in 1977-78 and 23 in 1978-79 and amassed nearly 400 penalty minutes over those two seasons as he established a reputation as an enforcer who could also put the puck in the net. This stick was part of a collection owned by hockey writer Karl Samuelson who had unlimited access to players and collected sticks for years. I acquired this stick from another collector, who received it directly from Samuelson's family after he passed away in 2012. Plett's number 25 is hand-written at the top of the shaft, and a photo of him using a similar stick is shown. A piece of cloth tape has been applied along one side of the shaft to facilitate the application of player autographs, which covers the English printed side seen in the photo of Plett below. Signatures include Ed Kea, Rey Comeau, Dick Redmond, Bobby Simpson, Bob MacMillan, Pat Ribble, Tom Lysiak, Bobby Lalonde, Guy Chouinard, David Shand, Ken Houston, Miles Zaharko, Richard Mulhern, Tim Eccelstone, Eric Vail, John Gould and Harold Phillipoff. This stick is from the 1977-78 season as this was the only year that Zaharko and Redmond played for Atlanta.

