

**Atlanta Flames Dan Bouchard 1972-73 game used goalie stick.**

Quebec native Daniel Bouchard was chosen by the Boston Bruins in the 1970 NHL draft (27th overall) and was sent to play in the minors in the American Hockey League, making stops with the Hershey Bears and Boston Braves. He was 27-13-7 for the Braves in 1971-72, with a 2.51 goals-against average and was called up to the Bruins for the Stanley Cup playoffs. The Bruins already had veteran goalies Gerry Cheevers and Eddie Johnston, but Bouchard practiced with the team as they would go on to beat Toronto, St. Louis and the New York Rangers to win the Stanley Cup. Bouchard was left unprotected in the NHL expansion draft when the Flames and the New York Islanders were coming into the league. Bouchard was taken third in the draft, behind other Flames goalie Phil Myre (first pick of the draft) and Islanders keeper Gerry Desjardins. Bouchard is the only Flames player who suited up for all eight seasons that the Flames were in Atlanta. This Sher-Wood goalie stick appears to be one of the sticks that Bouchard brought with him from Boston as the player name stamp lists his sweater number as 1, which is the number Bouchard wore with the Boston Braves the previous season. The blade is cracked and may be why Bouchard gave it to a 13-year-old fan during a game in the team's inaugural season. A photo taken during the first season depicts Bouchard playing with a similar stick. I obtained it from the lucky fan who kept it in her possession for 48 years.

