

Atlanta Thrashers Ilya Kovalchuk 2006-07 game used stick.

Russian native Ilya Kovalchuk was drafted first overall by the Atlanta Thrashers in the 2001 NHL Entry Draft, the first Russian to be drafted first overall in the NHL's history. In his rookie season in 2001-02, Kovalchuk scored 29 goals and 51 points despite missing 17 games with a season-ending shoulder injury. He finished second in voting to teammate Dany Heatley as league rookie of the year. After improving to 38 goals and 67 points in his second season, Kovalchuk scored 41 goals in 2003-04, making him a co-winner of the Maurice 'Rocket' Richard Trophy after tying for the league lead in goals. After the '04-05 NHL lockout, Kovalchuk returned to the Thrashers and scored 52 goals in '05-06, for third place in the NHL. During the '06-07 season, his point production dropped for the first time in his career; he finished with 42 goals and 34 assists for 76 points. Kovalchuk succeeded Bobby Holik as team captain during the '08-09 season, then was traded on February 4, 2010 during the last season of his contract. This Warrior DOLOMITE stick is broken at the heel. The photo of Kovalchuk playing with the same style of stick was taken on October 30, 2006. It was purchased from another collector.

