

### **Macon Whoopee 1996-97 team signed goalie stick**

In 1996, I was living in Macon and was an off-ice official during the inaugural season of the Macon Whoopee. I was asked by a woman who worked for the police department if I could get her son an autographed hockey stick. I had developed a good relationship with head coach John Paris Jr. by the time the season started and had learned that the team owners had purchased a load of surplus/used hockey equipment from a team that had folded during the previous season. Many of the players were not very happy about having to play with the used sticks, so they were eager to autograph these used sticks for public relations purposes. Fast forward fifteen years. At the end of my career with the crime laboratory, I was reunited with this same woman. Her son had grown up and left home, leaving the stick behind. Since I had obtained it for her to begin with, she asked if I wanted it and I gladly accepted her offer. The stick is a VIC pro model with royal blue paddle and red/white lettering. It shows signs of previous use. The stick was signed with a black Sharpie by 15 members of the team that were on the roster during the early part of the season. The photos below depict all the signatures.



Martin Belanger #23   Pierre Gagnon #34   Craig Willard #24   Mario Therrien #94   Shamus Gregga #1



Alain Cote #16

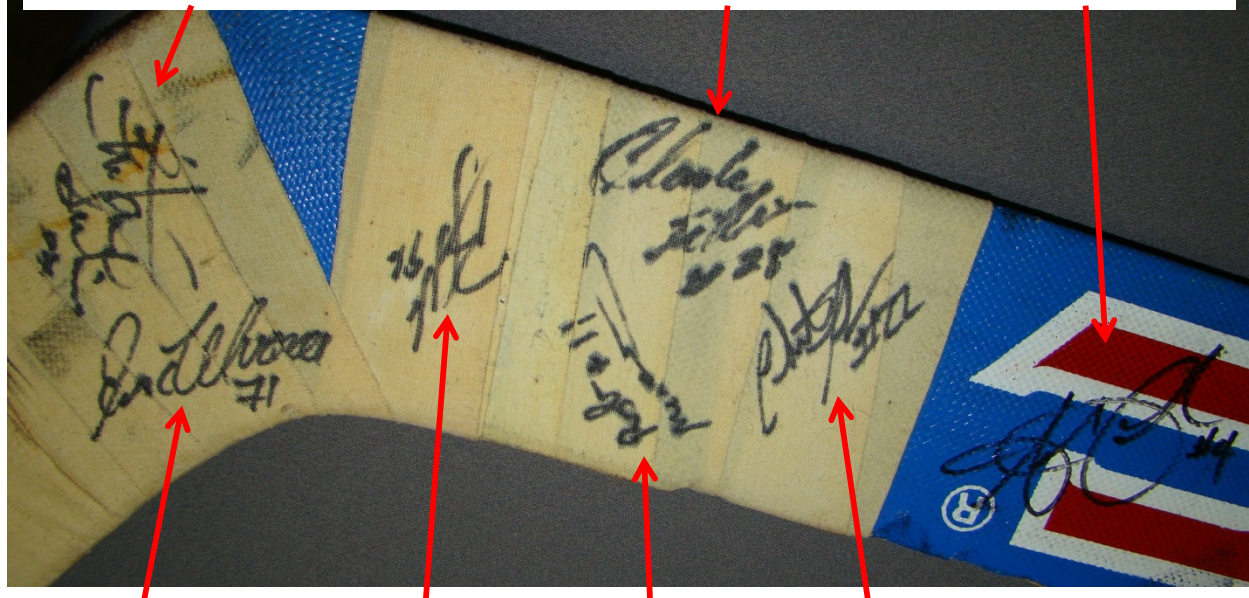
Joe Suk #77

Jean Francois Bouchard #55

Christian Gosselin #27

Claude Fillion #28

Adam French #4



Eric Moreau #71 Bruno Villeneuve #96 Rob Mencunas #11 Christian Therrien #22