

**Gwinnett Gladiators Joel Stepp 2006-07 game worn specialty jersey, size 56.**

Alberta Canada native Joel Stepp was selected in the third round by Anaheim in the 2001 NHL Entry Draft. The Atlanta Thrashers acquired Stepp from the Anaheim Mighty Ducks on March 1, 2006 and assigned him to Gwinnett, where he helped the team go to the Kelly Cup Finals. Stepp also scored the first hat trick in Gwinnett playoff history. In 2006-07, Stepp posted a career best 17 goals and had 15 multi-point games. This jersey, the first Gladiators specialty jersey I have owned, was designed as a tongue-in-cheek celebration of metro Atlanta's notorious reputation for traffic gridlock. It resembles vests worn by state Department of Transportation workers, adorned with traffic signs and highway markers down the sleeves. As with Gwinnett's traditional jersey, the embroidered Gladiators crest is sewn on the front of each sweater, along with two embroidered sponsor patches: the usual Kroger patch and Mall of Georgia Kia. The three color twill numbers are sewn on, as was the orange nameplate with black letters. On the back hem the SP logo is embroidered to the jersey next to the ECHL embroidered logo that is sewn on. Stepp's autograph is on the back number. These jerseys brought an average of nearly \$1,200 per jersey when auctioned off to fans after being worn for two games the last weekend in February 2007. These specialty jersey auctions have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Gladiators Foundation for Kids. I acquired it from an eBay auction.

