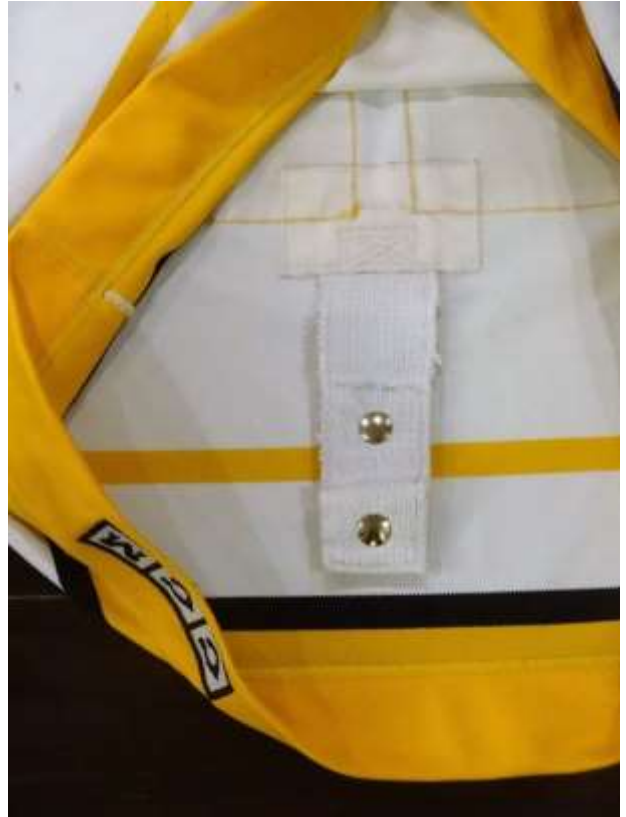


Initial Claim:

"John Cullen 1990/91 (recycled) white Penguins jersey with A" on Facebook "Game Worn Hockey Collectors Group"

Pics Provided by Seller:





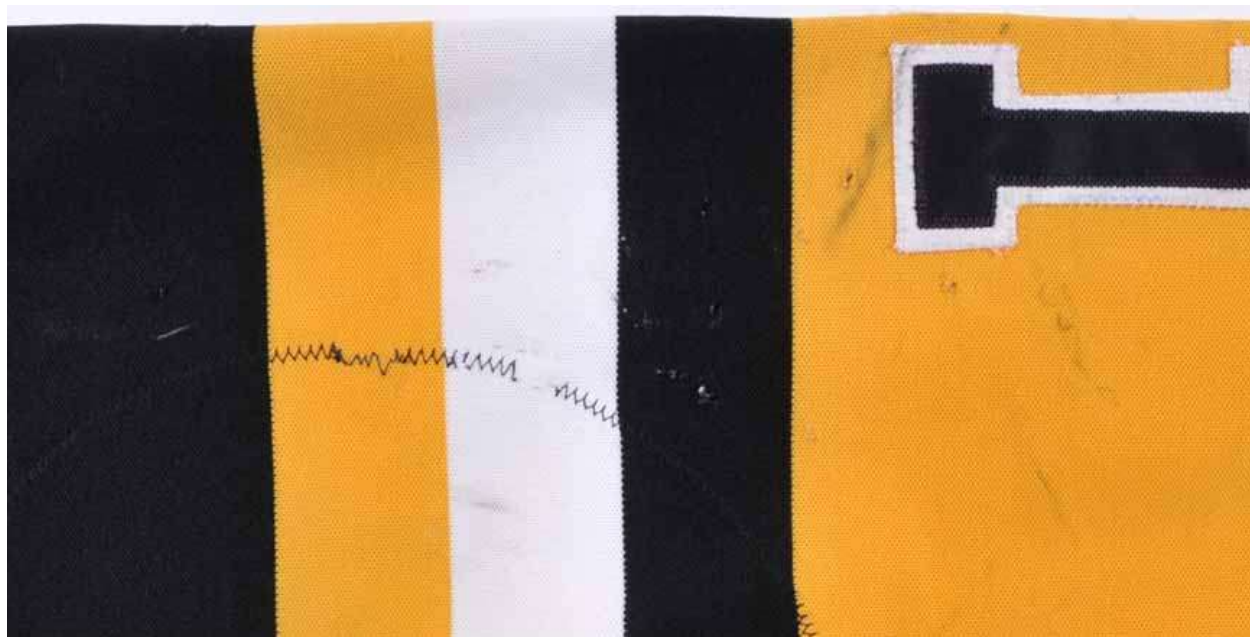




My Research:

- History in the Hobby
 - This jersey was sold on Nov 25, 2015 in GameWornAuctions.net's Fall 2015 auction (https://www.gamewornauctions.net/products/1988_89_John_Cullen_Pittsburgh_Penguins_Game_Worn_Jersey_Rookie-10188-218.html?fbclid=IwAR25czOILO5yCTeKR5MMi2fy74IA2z9ydkcUpGbddbBPzyH_fU2WM5fjC4) as a "1988-89 John Cullen Pittsburgh Penguins Game Worn Jersey – Rookie."
 - Pics from that auction:







- Comparing photos of the game wear, especially on the sleeves (repairs, popped thread on elbow reinforcement, unrepaired holes, stick marks) and rear left shoulder (repair), I concluded that this was the same jersey.
- One point of differentiation is the inscribed autograph on the rear, below the numbers. I questioned the owner about this.
 - Facebook Messenger conversation:
 - JL: "Hi Tim! I'm doing a little bit of late-night research on your Cullen gamer. Are you the guy who bought this from Game Worn Auctions? Your pics of team repairs and game wear match that jersey exactly, enough to point to it being the same one. However, it looks like you cleaned it up quite a bit! How did you get the autograph off?"
 - TW: "hi Jeff, I did not buy it from (GWA).net, I acquired the jersey from a private collector. I did send the jersey to Matt McGonnell who removed the auto for me, and did a great job; but it took him a very long time to get it done."

- Online Research
 - PenguinsChronicles.com has this jersey – with the autograph on the rear still intact – listed as a 1989-90 Set 1 game worn jersey (<https://www.penguinschronicles.com/1989-90-pittsburgh-penguins-game-worn-jerseys.html>).
 - This jersey differs from other 1989-90 Set 1 home gamers pictured on PC.com with the lack of the Century Sports wordmark on the left-rear hem and the narrower spacing between verso numbers.
 - Examples of differentiation:
 - The Cullen jersey in question:



- Bob Errey's and Jay Caufield's 1989-90 Set 1 gamers:



- Previous conversations with Casey Samuelsson, owner of PenguinsChronicles.com and premier authenticator of Penguins game-worn jerseys, have included key information:
 - “Several players wore gold toe crests in 1990-91, including Cullen and that style A is 1990-91, not 1989-90.”

- Styles and placement of the Alternate Captain’s “A” Casey is referencing:

- 1988-89 Set 2 (first set with tackle twill lettering):



- 1989-90 Set 2 (indicative of the entire year)



- 1990-91 Set 2 (indicative of the entire year)



- The Cullen jersey in question:



- “There were a lot of inconsistencies with the Penguins. Jiri Hrdina wore a small block CCM when he came to the Pens. So did several others in 1990-91.”

Conclusion drawn from information above: The “A” on the Cullen jersey in question seems to be identical to that of the 1990-91 Set 2 Paul Coffey jersey. Given that these would’ve been customized at the same time by NJK Lettering, Century Sports’ subcontractor, one can reasonably surmise that this jersey is an “old stock” jersey with the small block CCM logo that was issued for game use in 1990-91.

- 1990-91 Set 1 home jerseys featured the All-Star Game patch on the left shoulder yoke, until a complaint from the Chicago Blackhawks forced the Penguins to move to Set 2 earlier than the usual half-way point of the season, only ten games into the season (source: <http://pittsburghhockey.net/old-site/PensPages/PensJerseyHistory/PensERA/90-91Jerseys.html>).
- Video reference: Oct 7, 1990 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBU2_FoxaGc)



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- Video reference: Oct 7, 1990
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3TAmEwkyls>)



- The small-block CCM logo on the right-rear hem is predominantly white, while the big-block CCM logo (which was accompanied by a black NHL shield logo) is predominantly black. The larger, darker logo is much more discernable on low-resolution video of that era than the smaller, lighter logo.
- Video reference: Feb 14, 1991 (note visible logo on Recchi's jersey)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3mNhAOs2-Y>)



- Video reference: Jan 22, 1991 (note no visible logo on Cullen's jersey)
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bp_fvDR_aKk)



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- Video reference: Jan 22, 1991 (no note visible logo on Cullen's jersey)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEZ7AGXEWuM>)



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Conclusion drawn from information above: The lack of a visible logo on the right-rear hem of the jersey in the video references proves that Cullen wore an old-stock jersey with the small-block CCM logo in 1990-91 Set 2, likely the jersey in question. Further, since no video evidence of Cullen wearing a jersey with an Alternate Captain's "A" and the darker big-block CCM and NHL logos exists and since the Penguins wore their Set 3 jerseys for the start of the 1991 Playoffs, it's likely that the jersey in question is his last home jersey prior to his trade to Hartford on March 4, 1991. If this is true, Cullen scored a goal and two assists and was a +4 in his final game wearing this jersey, an 11-4 win over Toronto on February 21, 1991 (source: <https://www.hockey-reference.com/boxscores/199102210PIT.html>). He'd play five road games before his departure.

Further research: With Mario Lemieux being sidelined for much of the 1990-91 season, the Penguins rotated their captaincy between Coffey, Cullen, and Randy Hillier during Lemieux's absence. Cullen wore a jersey with the big-block CCM and NHL logos during Cullen's captaincy in December 1990 – likely his only home jersey with a "C." Therefore, the jersey in question is not the jersey Cullen wore during his captaincy. The Penguins issued him a new jersey during this period and did not remove/replace the "C" and the "A."

- Video reference: Dec 13, 1990
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eUS76F1IVQ>)



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- Video reference: Dec 13, 1990
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0oblFM9Wgg>)



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