The first World Hockey Association Championship was claimed by the New England Whalers, who had compiled the league’s best record during the season. The Whalers, led by Tony Esposito, made a game effort but were easily swept aside in five games. New England’s balanced attack included four goals from both Larry Pavey and Tim Watters. Larry Pavey’s hat trick in the deciding game helped seal the championship for the Whalers.

1973 Playoff Series Summaries

**Championship Series**

**Game 1: April 26, 1973**
New England 7, Winnipeg 2

**Game 2: May 3, 1973**
New England 7, Winnipeg 4

**Game 3: May 5, 1973**
New England 6, Winnipeg 1

**Game 4: May 6, 1973**
New England 6, Winnipeg 5

**Game 5: May 7, 1973**
New England 7, Winnipeg 6

The Whalers took control in the first game, going on a 4-0 lead early in the third period. After the Jets scored twice to cut the deficit to 4-2, New England scored three times to set a 7-2 final score. Winnipeg finally won a game, but it wasn't easy. After the Jets built a 2-0 lead, the Whalers came back to tie the game with just over a minute to play. However, Esposito, scored the winning goal with just 27 seconds on the clock. The Whalers won the championship 2-1 in the series.

**Division Finals**

New England vs. Cleveland

**Western Division Finals**

Winnipeg vs. Minnesota

**Eastern Division Finals**

Cleveland vs. Philadelphia

**AVCO World Trophy Challenge**

New England vs. Winnipeg

**Boston Bruins 10th Anniversary**

Winnipeg 10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10

**Playoff Statistical Leaders**


**Assists:** 33, New England (Winnipeg), 20, Larry Pavey (New England), 17, Mike Bossy (New England), 16, Tim Watters (New England), 15, Tony Esposito (New England).


**Shutouts:** 10, New England (Winnipeg), 9, Larry Pavey (New England), 7, Mike Bossy (New England), 6, Tim Watters (New England), 5, Tony Esposito (New England).


**Shots on Goal Against:** 60, New England (Winnipeg), 55, Larry Pavey (New England), 50, Mike Bossy (New England), 45, Tim Watters (New England), 40, Tony Esposito (New England).