



SCF's Collector's Corner

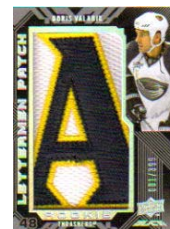
VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 2008



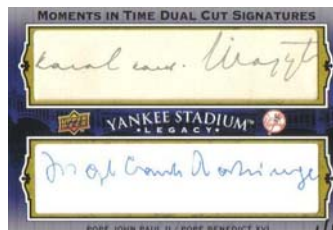
HIT OR MISS?

UPPER DECK RELEASES BLACK
ANOTHER HIGH END PRODUCT!
PAGE 7-8



EUROPE BOUND?

THE NHL, NFL, & NBA
TRY TO CHARM THE
EUROPEAN FANS
PAGE 35-37



HOLY PULL!!!

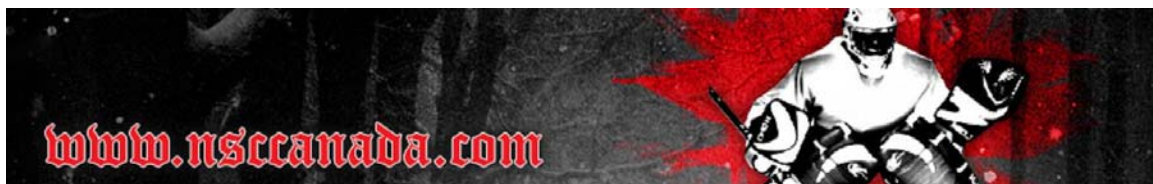
THE POPES GRACE
A BASEBALL SET
PAGE 4

SPORTSCARDFORUM.COM

TAKES THE NEXT STEP
AND LAUNCHES ITS MAGAZINE



www.sportscardforum.com



CANADA'S PREMIER SPORTS CARD WEBSITE

NSCCANADA.COM

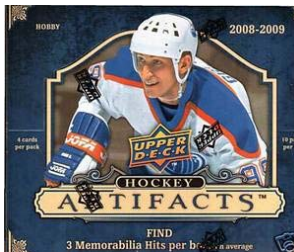
For fast and friendly service

On our website, you will find a selection of Hockey, Baseball, Basketball, and Football boxes and cases.

Take advantage of our worldwide shipping for \$9.99

GET \$5 OFF WITH THE SPECIAL SCF DISCOUNT CODE: scforum

This month's featured products (hobby boxes)

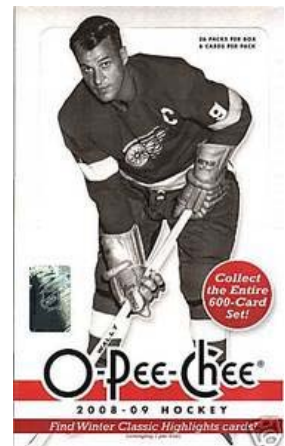


2008-2009 Upper Deck Artifacts \$107.97 CAD

- 16 boxes per case, 10 packs per box and 4 cards per pack
- Look for 3 jersey, patch or jersey-patch numbered to 199 or less (on average)
- Two numbered Legends/Stars subsets
- Features Auto-Facts signature card
- Two Artifacts rookie cards and one rookie redemption

2008-2009 O-Pee-Chee \$ 69.97 CAD

- 12 boxes per case, 36 packs per box and 6 cards per pack
- Awesome 600-card set which is ideal for collecting
- Featuring a terrific '79-'80 Retro variation of the whole regular set
- Triple memorabilia cards (averaging 4 per case) and OPC signatures (averaging 1 per case)
- Collect Winter Classic Highlights, averaging 1 per box!



2008-2009 Upper Deck Series 1 \$ 74.97 CAD

- Latest wave of Young Guns averaging 6 per box
- Get 2 UD Game Jersey cards in each box
- Collect Clear Cut Winners Die-Cut acetate cards including cool duo versions



Table of Contents

The Pre-Game

A Word from the Editor p.3

The Big Story

The Pull of a Lifetime p.4

The Best of the Pack/Box Break p.5

Release dates and reviews

Calendar of Release Dates p.6

2008-2009 Upper Deck NHL Black p.7-8

2008 Press Pass Legends Football p.9-10

2008 Topps Triple Threads Baseball p. 11-12

2008-09 Topps Treasury Box Basketball p. 13-14

2008 Wheels American Thunder Review p.15

The Core

Rookie Debut p.16

From the Mailbox p.17

Alternative Tastes p.18

Football

On the Gridiron p.19

The Team Collector Group p.20

Legends in Green: Two Quarterbacks, Two New Teams p.21

Basketball

Courtside p.22

A New Season is Upon Us p.23

Baseball

On the Diamond p.26

Hockey

Rinkside p.27

Hockey Fever Now and Then p.28

Centennial Watch p.29-30

Racing

Around the Track p.31

My Redemptions Experiences p.32

The 411

Guide for Online Box Buying p.33

Player Collecting on a Budget p.34

What is a Group Break p.35

Overtime

Splitting Hairs p.36

Europe Bound p.37-39

True Story p. 38

On Location: Lexington Armory p.39-40

Steal of the Month p.41

On the Camera p.42

Fantasy Standings p.43

Writing Contest p.44

The Collector's Corner Team

Editor-In-Chief: Karine Hains

Publisher: Brad Guyton

SCF's Writers: Linda Mankefors

Donald White

Team contacts: Stephen Duell

Scott Kozlowski

Darin Heitzer

Nathan Leowy

Jason DiOrazio

Leo Zuperku

Daniel Poor





A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Taking it up to the Next Level

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

Good things have been happening on Sports Card Forum lately, the site is growing steadily, we have a partnership with Tuff Stuff Magazine and the forums are visited by numerous new members daily. In light of all this, it felt like a good time to take yet another huge step; producing our own magazine. I'm proud to welcome you to our first issue and I hope that you will truly enjoy it.

A little over a year ago; Mike Silvia, the owner of SCF, created the writing team. Slowly but surely, the writing team grew and produced more and more quality articles. Then, this year, a deal was made with Tuff Stuff and one lucky SCF writer a month is now getting published in this esteemed magazine. However, there are many more articles being produced by our writers and members each month and they do deserve to be read.



While the article site was a good scene to display our material, we felt that an actual magazine would allow us to reach a wider audience. We aim to provide our readers with useful information such as product review, collectors tip, release dates, FAQs and even interviews. But we also want to keep you entertained and interested in the hobby so you can expect some colorful articles.

We will cover every angle of the hobby and to do so, we will have one page dedicated to each of SCF's main forums; football, baseball, basketball, hockey and racing. In those pages, you will be kept informed of the important events, contest taking place and various news from the forums.

The realization of this magazine wouldn't have been possible without the contribution of the writing team and of our guest writers. A special thank you also goes out to Brad Guyton who did amazing work on the design and the layout of the magazine.

Now, before I let you go on to browse the collection of articles prepared for you this month, please allow me to encourage you to enter The Collector's Corner caption this contest. To take part, simply email a caption for the picture below to collectorscorner@ymail.com. The five best entries will be put up to the SCF members and they will be asked to pick our winner, who will be announced in our next issue and awarded a special prize. Please include your name and your SCF user ID in your email entry.

Without further delay, I invite you to browse the articles written by SCF's collectors.

Karine Hains, Editor-In-Chief



What is Marty Turco thinking or saying here? If you know, send in your entry at collectorscorner@ymail.com. Enter by 20th November 2008.





Holy Popes : The Pull of a Lifetime

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

For collectors, there are many reasons to buy packs or boxes of cards. The main one is needless to say to improve their collection but there is also an underlying gamble related to buying them. After all, when you buy a box, you have no idea what it could yield and personally, every time I bust one I have goose bumps and I dream of an awesome pull. If you are very lucky, one day, you will be rewarded with what can only be called as a pull of a lifetime. This is exactly what happened to one of our members; Chris Myers (Myerburg311).

If you are a baseball fan, you are no doubt aware that the venerable Yankee Stadium has just hosted its last Major League Baseball season. The storied building opened in 1923 and has since been the home of the best team in baseball; the Yankees having won 26 World Series between 1923 and 2008. To mark the end of an era and to commemorate the rich history of the stadium, Upper Deck released a special product: the Yankee Stadium Legacy set. A wonderful idea considering how much has happened in the building Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio called home. Throughout the years, many events have been held in the baseball Mecca: a rally for Nelson Mandela when he was released from prison, various memorable boxing matches and masses were even celebrated in its walls by three different popes.



Taking all these facts into account Upper Deck's Yankee Legacy offering not only includes a complete chronicle of the Yankees' 85 seasons in the "House that Ruth built" but also cards showing some of the biggest sporting and non sporting events the stadium showcased. In 1979, during his first visit to the United States, John Paul II celebrated a mass at Yankee Stadium and the event was a great success, all seats being taken. Nearly 20 years later, in April 2008, John Paul II's successor Pope Benedict XVI held in turn one last mass in the Yankees ballpark. Considering the popularity of these masses; it was only fair that they should be part of the commemorative release.

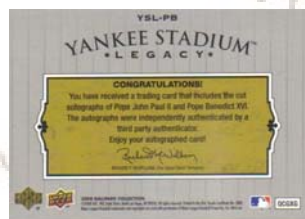
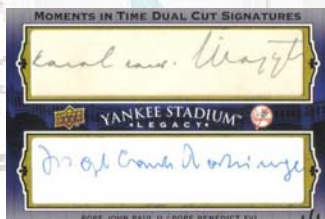
Fittingly, a legendary dual autograph from the 2 popes was added to the checklist. Of course, care was taken to give the "blessed" card the special respect it deserved by being limited to a single copy. And just like that, a very special 1 of 1 was created and carefully inserted in a pack of Upper Deck Ballpark Collection.

A few months later, on a weekend like any other weekend, Chris Myers decided to go buy some packs of baseball cards. As he has been doing since he was 5 years old, he headed to G & G Sports cards a small stand in a flea market located at 1350 State Route 33, Farmingdale in New Jersey. What keeps him going to this little store which is only opened on weekends is the owner, who he only knows as George. Chris told us: "George should write a book on how to run a card shop; he always tries to give me amazing deals on cards and even gives me free packs from time to time. Owners like him are a dying breed". On this particular visit, Chris elected to buy a single pack of Upper Deck Ballpark Collection. Upon opening it he was absolutely stunned to find the precious 1/1 card autographed by both popes. He recalls that his hands started to shake as he passed the card on to George to let him see what one of his packs had just yielded. Of course, Chris had pulled some nice cards before but they were normally from a sealed box.

Now having gotten over his initial shock and considered his options, he plans to sell this once in a lifetime pull. He explains: "It's a very nice card, but I would rather see it go to someone who would love to have it in their collection. It's out of place in mine as I collect mainly baseball and particularly cards of Scott Kazmir". Even though this type of card will be tough to top, Chris will carry on buying boxes and packs in the hope of getting more amazing hits; "I buy packs and boxes because I love the chance to pull cards like this one. Just because I got a very nice card, it does not mean I will stop buying. I love this hobby and will always continue to buy and trade baseball cards".

Out of curiosity, we also asked George if this was the best card ever pulled at his store. He candidly told us that being an 80 year old he couldn't remember for definite what the best pulled he ever witnessed was but he did mention a Wayne Gretzky 1/1 autograph as well as a Michael Jordan 1/1 autograph. Sounds like his customers have had their fair share of luck!

Congratulations to both Chris for this amazing pull and to George for having a great store which was once again blessed by the gods of hobby hits. Upper Deck also deserves some credit for coming up with a wonderful idea to turn the spotlight on one last time on what was admittedly the greatest baseball stadium in history. And a special thank you to Brad Guyton (Brads55) for bringing this worthy story to our attention. I truly hope that this amazing card finds its way to someone who will be honored to display it in their private collection where it could be their pride and joy.





The Best of the Box/Pack Breaks

By Brad Guyton aka Brads55

Some collectors are lucky enough to pull what I like to call a 'Grail'. A card so rare that you are speechless in its presence. Well I decided to spotlight some of our members' best pulls on the site. I contacted these members by PM to see if they'd be interested in being in this online magazine and if they could provide some scans of their 'Grail' along with a little Q&A about their pull....

Q&A with SCF Member : Baseballfan - Jesse Bluestein of Thousand Oaks, CA

1. What did you purchase?
"One Pack of 2008 Upper Deck Premier"
2. What was the card you pulled?
"2008 Upper Deck Premier The Premier Card #RPG Nolan Ryan / Jim Palmer / Bob Gibson 3/3"
3. How much did the purchase cost?
"\$225.00 for the Pack"
4. Where did you buy the product?
"Sportscard Outlet"
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?
"Yes. Carlton Fisk Manufactured Patch /10"
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?
"Yeah, this was my best!"



Q&A with SCF Member : Hybrid368 - Gareth Ormita of Wahiawa, HI

1. What did you purchase?
"Four packs of Absolute Memorabilia from 2 different boxes."
2. What was the card you pulled?
"2008 Playoff Absolute Memorabilia War Room Autograph Jersey #WR14 Felix Jones 5/25"
3. How much did the purchase cost?
"\$35.00 per pack."
4. Where did you buy the product?
"Double Dragon II located in Mililani, HI"
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?
"In one of the other 3 packs I pulled an Eddie Royal War Room Jumbo 3 color patch."
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?
"No, it was a 2008 Donruss Classics Brett Favre Monday Night Heroes Die-Cut Jersey 4/4"

Q&A with SCF Member : Notoriousek - Derek Delaney of Chicago, IL

1. What did you purchase?
"I bought a box....Well a couple of them!"
2. What was the card you pulled?
"2008 Topps Treasury Rookie Refractor Autograph Derrick Rose #121"
3. How much did the purchase cost?
"\$85.00 for the box, a little overpriced."
4. Where did you buy the product?
"From a local card shop I visit quite often called Galaxy (also known as Chicagocards)."
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?
"Nothing special, however the next box had a Beasley Auto and a KG 1/10 rip card!"
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?
"Yes it was, I was so pumped when I pulled the Rose. It was the main card I was going after!"



Q&A with SCF Member : Supercardlover - Joshua Basher of Houston, TX

1. What did you purchase?
"I bought a case of Upper Deck The Cup."
2. What was the card you pulled?
"2008 The Cup Dual Honorable Numbers autographed Peter and Paul Stastny 21/26"
3. How much did the purchase cost?
"I paid just under \$1,950.00"
4. Where did you buy the product?
"Online, from The Card Kid/Captain Collect"
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?
"Yes, a Martin Brodeur Signature Patches /25 and a Mario Lemieux Cup Enshrinements."
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?
"No, my best pull was a quad-patch Cup Foursomes of Gretzky, Lemieux, Crosby and Messier."



CALENDAR OF RELEASE DATES

November

(At the time of publication, all dates were accurate but as you no doubt know, product releases do tend to be pushed back from time to time.)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3  - 2008 Topps Stadium Club Baseball	4  - 2008 UD Masterpieces Football - 2008 MLB Timeline Baseball	5  - Fantastic Four Archives  - WWE Heritage IV Wrestling	6	7
10  - 2008 Predictors Basketball	11  - 2008/09 SPx Basketball	12  - Ultimate Memorabilia 8 Hockey  - 2008/09 NHL Series 1  - Rookies and Stars Football	13	14
17  - 2008 Chrome Football  - 2008 Heritage High Number Baseball - Indiana Jones Masterpieces	18  - The Tale of Despereau - Power Play Box Set Hockey	19  - 2008 Elite Extra Edition Baseball	20	21
24  - 2008 Topps Sterling Baseball	25	26  - 2008 NFL SP Rookie Edition	27	28

For all your sports cards need, make sure to visit www.cardsbythebox.com or check out the pack/box sale area on SCF.

For more information on available products, you can also send a private message to Enigma.

CardsByTheBox.com

Message from CardsByTheBox: In our continued partnership with Sports Card Forum, members can receive card cash based on their purchases with **CardsByTheBox.com**.

Starting today and ending Dec. 31, 2008, SCF members who buy a box or boxes from **CardsByTheBox.com** will receive a 5% credit to their card cash account. To receive this award, you need to do the following:

1. Be a SCF member.
 2. Buy a box from **CardsByTheBox.com**.
 3. Contact me once payment has been sent.
- Box may be purchased either through the website or in some cases, directly through SCF.
 - This applies to all box purchases, including presells and special orders.
 - Once I confirm the order and payment has been received, you will get your 5% card cash credit.
 - This does not apply to pack sales.
 - Working with the idea that 100cc=\$1, a \$100 purchase would get you 500cc.
 - S/H will not be incorporated when calculating your card cash credit.

This is a great way to reward yourself this holiday season. With numerous items in the Card Cash Store, Card Cash Auctions and even Raffles, this is a great way to pick up some worthwhile card cash on top of great boxes to bust for your pleasure.



2008 NHL Upper Deck Black

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

Description In yet another high end release, Upper Deck recently launched Black. With great designs, the cards look incredibly smooth and slick. As with any high priced product, the checklist includes plenty of memorabilia and autographs. On most cards, the dominant color is black and depending on the insert set of the cards you pull various colors complete the effect. Even the outer packaging of this release says high end; with a black box, complimented by a golden seal and two mini-boxes sealed on the inside it will take you a while to get to the actual cards.

Box details



Packs per box: 2
Cards per pack: 2
Base set: 42 cards including 4 jersey swatches each
Price: \$199.00 to \$249.00
Check out [Upper Deck's product information](#)

Checklists

[Black](#)
[Black Auto Jersey](#)
[Black Dual Player Auto Jerseys](#)
[Black Dual Player Jerseys](#)
[Black Trios Jerseys](#)
[Black Foursomes Jerseys](#)
[Black 3 on 3 Jerseys](#)
[Black 4 on 4 Jerseys](#)
[Pride of a Nation - Autographed Patches](#)
[Marks of Obsidian - Auto Patch Materials](#)
[Game Night Auto Manufactured Tickets](#)
[Dual Marks of Obsidian - Auto Patch Materials](#)
[Dual Game Night - Auto Manufactured Tickets](#)
[Lustrous Materials - Auto Dual Jersey](#)
[Trophy Cuts - Cuts with Label Autos](#)
[Past and Present Autographs - \(cuts w/ autos\)](#)
[Rookie Redemptions](#)
[Black Trios Patches Gold Parallel](#)
[Black Foursomes Patches Gold Parallel](#)
[Dual Cuts non-NHL Personalities](#)
[Cuts from the Modern Era](#)
[Rookie Letterman Redemptions](#)
[Rookie Lettermen](#)

[Quad Jersey/Patch Gold Parallel](#)
[Quad Jersey/Patch Blue Parallel](#)
[Black 3 on 3 Patches - Blue Parallel](#)
[Black 3 on 3 Jerseys - Gold Parallel](#)
[Black 4 on 4 Jerseys Gold Parallel](#)
[Black 4 on 4 Patches Blue Parallel](#)
[Pride of a Nation - Autographed Patches Gold Parallel](#)
[Pride of a Nation - Autographed Patches Blue Parallel](#)
[Marks of Obsidian - Auto Patch Materials Gold Parallel](#)
[Marks of Obsidian - Auto Patch Materials Blue Parallel](#)
[Game Night - Auto Manufactured Tickets Gold Parallel](#)
[Game Night - Auto Manufactured Tickets Blue Parallel](#)
[Dual Marks of Obsidian - Auto Patch Materials Gold Parallel](#)
[Dual Marks of Obsidian - Auto Patch Materials Blue Parallel](#)
[Lustrous Materials - Auto Jersey/Patch Gold Parallel](#)
[Lustrous Materials - Auto Dual Patch Blue Parallel](#)
[Dual Game Night - Auto Manufactured Tickets Gold Parallel](#)
[Dual Game Night - Auto Manufactured Tickets Blue Parallel](#)
[Auto Rookie Letterman Redemptions](#)
[Black Jersey/Patch Gold Parallel](#)
[Black Jersey/Patch Blue Parallel](#)



THE RUNDOWN ON...

All of the cards below were pulled during our break, which yielded one Game Night Ticket, one Mark of Obsidian and two Rookie Lettermen cards.

Rookie Lettermen

#88. Jordan Lavallee "L" 218/399

#99. Colin Stuart "N" 116/399

Marks of Obsidian Auto Patch Materials Gold Parallel

MO-MN. Markus Naslund 1/25

Game Night Auto Manufactured Tickets Gold Parallel

GN-GH. Gordie Howe 1/10



Comments

As you can see from the pictures above, the cards are extremely nice from a visual point of view. The black backgrounds coupled with the silver or gold patterns make for a slick set of cards. The break was also very entertaining as the checklist is full of huge hits to chase, so the "what if" feeling is with you every step of the way. However, in my opinion, there is one big problem with this set: the manufactured patches. In this break, both Lettermen and the Marks of Obsidian card included such patches. If you are not familiar with the term, manufactured in this context means that these were never used in any game or any event. While I understand that the supplies of game used equipment are not unlimited, it seems to me that if you are going to use manufactured patches, you can at least use a good one. For instance, Upper Deck also used manufactured patches in their O-Pee-Chee Premier release and in that case, the patches all included various designs and special patterns. But for this product, you will find very bland manufactured patches such as the one on the Naslund card above. This release is yet another high end brand and to justify the hefty price tag, it truly feels like Upper Deck should have given more to the collectors. Even the Lettermen cards include manufactured patches, so ask yourself would you rather get some of those or would you prefer a Lettermark or a By the Letter card from SP Game Used?

It appears that Upper Deck is willing to see how far they can push the collectors before they actually react and complain or blatantly stop buying certain of their products. Personally, while I do love the look of these cards and thoroughly enjoyed the break; I will never buy another box. It will be interesting to see how the product does over the coming months, will it sell well? How much will these cards go for on auction sites such as eBay? Something tells me the reaction might not be very positive...

Final Ratings

Overall Design: 5/5
Value: 2.5/5
Fun: 5/5
Rebuy: 2.5/5
Variety: 4/5

Final Grade: 76%

I must admit that I find this release hugely disappointing and I am convinced that Upper Deck could have done much better with this idea. While there are very positive aspects to this product they are overshadowed by issues which could have easily been addressed. Time will tell if most of my fellow collectors agree with me but right now, I see Upper Deck Black as a miss rather than a hit.



THE RUNDOWN ON...

2008 NFL Press Pass Legends

By Brad Guyton aka Brads55

The video of the break: Part 1 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqM9Ph5kI6U> Part 2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm7o_qxJbgA

Description The three mini boxes included in the master box were really neat as they featured three different players on each box. I was really looking forward the arrival of this box as I loved the idea of having a box composed of strictly rookies, retired veterans, and future Hall of Famers (HOF's) all in their school uniforms. Once you break through the plastic wrap around each mini box you find six packs with 5 cards in each pack. You can feel the excitement in the air as the first old school/new school pack is opened.

To be honest the cards were nice but just not super appealing. They are on a black border with silver trim around the card. The trim has a bit of a vintage feel to them. The players name is boxed by the silver trim centered at the bottom of the card and a logo of the school's team is placed in one of the upper corners.



If the player is currently playing, his photo is in color with the background in black and white. On the back of the card, you can find his school stats.

If the player is retired or a HOF his photo is in black and white as well as the background and on the back of the card there is a brief description of what the player did that was special at the school he attended as well as including the years played as a professional.

There are 4 color numbered parallels to the base set. Bronze /999, Silver /499, Gold /99 and Platinum 1/1.

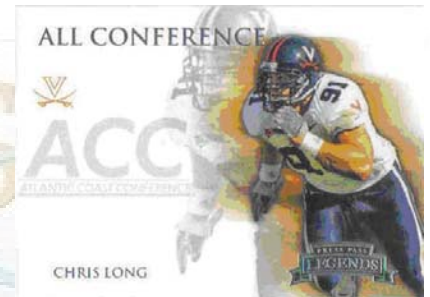
There are three different insert sets with each set randomly seeding signature parallels for every card.

The All Conference inserts show the player with their conference and school in a white background.

One of the nicer insert sets are the Alumni Association which depict two players from the same school side by side. The hit of our box was a parallel to this set. With the dual signatures on that card layout really makes the card stand out.

A real interesting looking insert set is the Legendary Legacy cards. These cards show strictly the best HOF's in the game and are picturing them in their respective school's uniform.

Probably my favorite part of this product is the Saturday Swatches. The blue to white color scheme with the team logo and a jersey swatch in the middle is very attractive. There are some real nice patch variations out there as well, which we weren't lucky enough to pull. Finally there are the Saturday Signatures. Only the best school players are featured in these cards. The autographs are signed on card under a nice gold signature script. Some players even took the time to specially sign the card (see the Brohm below).



Box details

2008 Press Pass Legends NFL Hobby Box (3 mini boxes per hobby box)

- 1 Mini Box contains 6 packs with 5 cards per pack
- 5 autos and 1 game-used jersey card in every 18-pack box
- At least 2 Legend Autos per box
- 1 of 1 Press Plates - At least 1 per case
- Alumni Association Ink - Dual autographed insert, featuring 2 players from the same school! Six levels of autographs to collect
- Three levels of game-used collegiate jersey cards, including "Platinum" and "Patch" parallels

Content Breakdown:

Base Set

Rookies (60)

Legends (40)

Parallels

Bronze - #d to 999

Silver - #d to 499

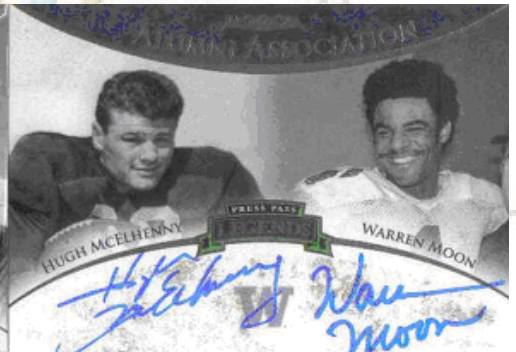
Gold - #d to 99

Emerald - #d to 25

Platinum - #d to 1

Press Plates - #d to 1

- Look for randomly inserted autographed press plates



Regular Inserts

Alumni Association (100) - Features 2 alumni from the same school. Inserted 1:14

Legendary Legacy (20) - Features some of the top players in the history of college football. Inserted 1:7

All Conference (20) - Features players who earned All Conference accolades during their collegiate careers. Inserted 1:7

Autographs

Saturday Signatures (100) - Autos from the base checklist

Alumni Association Ink (10) - Dual autos of players from the same school #d to 50 or less

Legendary Legacy Marks (20) - Auto parallel #d to 400 or less

Legendary Legacy Marks Platinum (20) - Features platinum foil #d to 25

All Conference Autos (20) - Auto parallel #d to 400 or less

All Conference Autos Platinum (20) - Features platinum foil #d to 25

Student & Teacher Dual Autos (3) - Features an auto of a coach with one of his former players

Game-Used Jersey Cards

Saturday Swatches (36) - Game-used jersey card of current player or past great

Saturday Swatches Platinum (36) - Premium swatch, platinum foil #d to 50

Saturday Swatches Patches (36) - Parallel featuring a swatch of a patch, platinum foil, and #d to 10 or less



Comments

Overall, we received the hits expected from the sated odds. The box was a lot of fun to open as it was a joy to see the old and new players together. However, it was easy to decide not to go after a second box as I had originally planned. Maybe the addition of a couple more jersey cards would have helped or perhaps even a single patch hit. I guess beggars can't be choosers as we did get what the box said it would give.

Final Ratings

Overall Design: 4/5

Value: 3/5

Fun: 4/5

Rebuy: 4/5

Variety: 4/5

Final Grade: 76%

If we wouldn't have hit that Moon dual auto and the Brohm auto this box would have been an absolute bust. But we barely broke even on this one...



THE RUNDOWN ON...

2008 MLB Topps Triple Threads

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, I'd like to thank the fine folks at Topps for providing us with the opportunity to review 1 pack of 2008 Topps Triple Threads.

The video of the break can be seen here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIdpK7cTB0o>

Description

The base card design is eye-catching with the picture and the background. The honeycomb cardboard stock adds to the look of the player's picture coming off the card. Personally, I think it could do without the stripe patterns above and below the players, especially since they are bland colors.

The back of the card shows the normal information. At the bottom, there's an area called "Triple Take" where you learn three tidbits of information about the player. There's an area underneath that where it's just a bunch of thoughts, which would be a more appropriate place for the serial number, rather than being on the front of the card.

Here are the base cards we pulled:

Johnny Podres (0787/1350)

Carlos Lee (1290/1350)

Goose Gossage (0850/1350)



Any time you pull two legendary Hall of Famers in a pack it's a good thing, especially when they are both parallels. As with the base cards, the background plays well with the player's picture on the front.



Here are the two parallels we pulled:

Ty Cobb Sepia (251/525)

Honus Wagner Sepia (441/525)

Big fan of the high sheen that glosses over the front of the cards. Always liked how the relics are showcased in a letter or number combination that is associated with the player. This helps the card stand out. Surrounding the player's picture is a hologram area that adds to the profile of the player. And next to the player on both sides is his jersey number. The back of the card also includes the previously mentioned Triple Take section.

And our "hit" card:

David Ortiz Triple Relic (Jersey/Bat/Jersey) (21/36)





THE RUNDOWN ON...

Box details

BOX BREAKDOWN

- 2 mini boxes per display box
- 1 pack per mini box
- 6 cards per pack

MSRP: \$155-\$165

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

EVERY 18-COUNT CASE CONTAINS BOTH:

- * A Triple Autographed Triple Relic Card numbered to 36 or less
- * A 1 of 1 Autographed Triple Relic Card



EVERY 2-PACK DISPLAY BOX CONTAINS:

- * An Autographed Triple Relic Card numbered to 99 or less
- * A Triple Relic Card numbered to 36 or less

EVERY PACK CONTAINS:

- * 3 Base Cards numbered to 1350
- * 2 Base Parallel Cards numbered to 525 or less
- * 1 Triple Relic Card numbered to 36 or less OR an Autographed Triple Relic numbered to 99 or less

CONTENT BREAKDOWN

For a full content breakdown, consult Topps' official product checklist

Comments

Topps Triple Threads has been a highly anticipated release over the last couple of years. Collectors love getting cards with more than one relic piece on it. Triple Threads is known for unique designs and it incorporates a thicker card stock which is appreciated as it is less likely to damage and easier to protect.

The flip side is that Triple Threads is not the best bang for your buck. Yes, you could pull some great cards, but only getting a total of 6 base, 4 parallels and 2 hits can be devastating to your wallet. Triple Thread relics have been known to "book" as low as \$20 (that includes the Auto relics as well), collectors know what this means for the resale market.

All in all, I do enjoy Triple Threads though. Between the look of the cards, the mixture of current and retired players and the excitement over that one pull in each pack makes it a great product. It gives collectors a great set to chase after as well as some nice parallels.

Final Ratings

Overall Design: 4.5/5

Value: 3/5

Fun: 5/5

Rebuy: 3.5/5

Variety: 4.5/5

Final Grade: 82%

Once again, I'd like to thank Topps for their generosity in providing us with this product to review.



THE RUNDOWN ON...

2008 NBA Topps Treasury

By Arash Kassiri aka RenegadeLonghorn

On behalf of SCF and the Basketball Team, we would like to Thank Topps for sending us this box of Treasury for us to review.

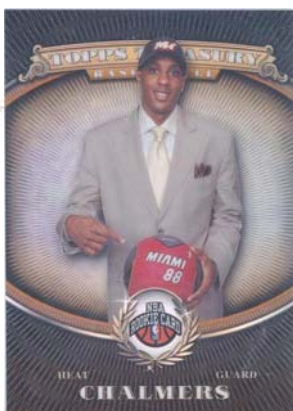
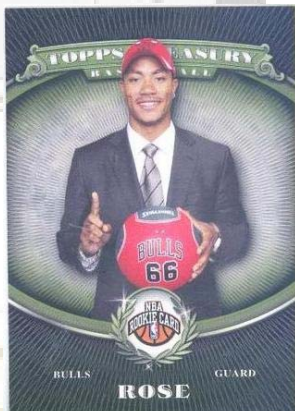
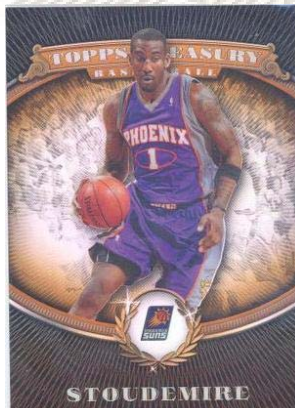
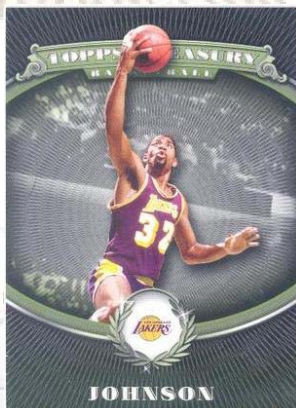
A video of the break can be seen by going to this link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgRW_Zg2DUc

Description

Topps Treasury is one of the new basketball sets that Topps is releasing this year.

I personally really like the cards; the card stock the base cards are on is thin and doesn't have a glossy feel to it. I think it's a nice change from all of the glossy cards out there today. Along with the base, you can pull refractors which are absolutely beautiful in person; the scans do not do them justice.

You also get one Rip card and one autograph in every box.



This year, Topps has introduced a "THEY'RE MONEY" Rip-Card, where there is anywhere between \$10 and \$1000 hidden inside each exterior card along with the interior card. We did not pull one of those money Rip cards in our break but here is what we pulled.

During our break I opened the hits in the first 6 packs which was kind of disappointing as I was hoping they would be at the back of the box.

The hits were great though, we got a RC Refractor of Derrick Rose the #1 pick from the 08-09 NBA Draft and then for our Rip-Card we got a Shaquille O'Neal /299. Along with those two main hits we got 7 Refractors (Brook Lopez /199, Mario Chalmers /2008, Danilo Gallinari /2008, Hedo Turkoglu /999, Amare Stoudemire /999, Al Thornton /999, Udonis Haslem /999) and 11 Rookies (Rose, Rush, Koufos, Gallinari, Beasley, Chalmers, Bayless, Westbrook, DeAndre Jordan, Robin Lopez, Brook Lopez).



THE RUNDOWN ON...

Box details

CONTENT BREAKDOWN

Veteran/Retired (100)

- Platinum - All one of one! Hobby Exclusive!
- Gold - Seq. #d to 50.
- Silver - Seq. #d to 199.
- Bronze - Seq. #d to 999.

Rookies (20)

- Platinum - All one of one! Hobby Exclusive!
- Gold - Seq. #d to 50.
- Silver - Seq. #d to 199.
- Bronze - Seq. #d to 2008.

Autographed Rookies (20)

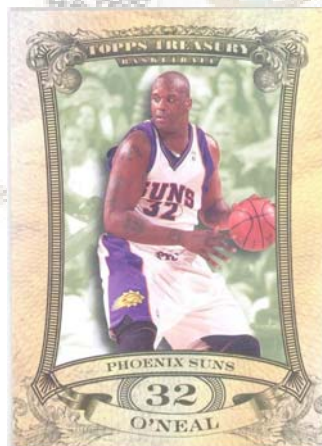
- Platinum - All one of one! Hobby Exclusive!
- Gold - Seq. #d to 10.
- Silver - Seq. #d to 25.
- Bronze - Seq. #d to 50.

RIP CARDS - INSERT 1 PER HOBBY BOX!

- Rip Card Exteriors(50) - Seq. #d.
- Rip Card Interiors(50)
- Platinum - All one of one! Hobby Exclusive!
- Gold - Seq. #d to 10.
- Silver - Seq. #d to 25.
- Bronze - Seq. #d to 99.

"THEY'RE MONEY" RIP CARDS

- Rip Card Exteriors(10) - Seq. #d.
- Parallel Version - All one of one! Hobby Exclusive!
- Rip Card Interiors(429 cards)
- \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500, and \$1000!



ALL-ROOKIE TEAM AUTOGRAPHED CARDS - HOBBY EXCLUSIVE! INSERTED 1 PER CASE!

- Magic's All-Rookie Team Dual Autographs(10) - Seq. #d to 50 or less.
- Bird's All-Rookie Team Dual Autographs(10) - Seq. #d to 50 or less.
- Magic and Bird's All-Rookie Team Triple Autographs(5) - Seq. #d to 10.

All-Rookie Team Autograph Cards Parallel - One of one! Hobby Exclusive!

Autographed Mini(20) - 2 per Hobby Case!

Logoman Mini(30) - One of one! Hobby Exclusive!

Rookie Medallions (15) - Seq. #d to 25.

- Gold - All one of one.

FRAMED PRINTING PLATES - HOBBY EXCLUSIVE! ALL ONE OF ONE!

- Veterans/Retired(70 subs/280 plates)
- Autographed Veteran/Retired(30 subs/120 plates)
- Rookie(20 subs/80 plates)
- Autograph Rookie(20 subs/80 plates)

COMBINED INSERTION RATE FOR AUTOGRAPHED/RELIC CARDS

- 1 AUTOGRAPH AND 1 RIP CARD PER BOX!

Comments

In closing, I really hope Topps decides to bring this set back next year. I had a lot of fun opening this box and marveling at the cards. Again I would like to Thank Topps for providing us with this box to review.

As always the base cards will be given away to SCF Members, the thread will be in the main trading forum. And the Inserts will be used for SCF prizes!

Final Ratings

Overall Design: 5/5

Value: 4.75/5

Fun: 5/5

Rebuy: 4.5/5

Variety: 4.75/5

Final Grade: 96%



THE RUNDOWN ON...

2008 Wheels American Thunder

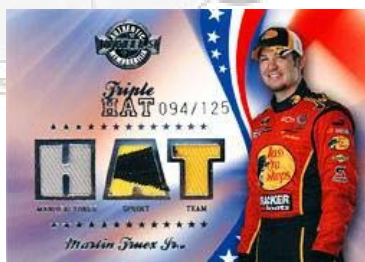
By Mike Goedel aka Skippy

So far the reviews of this past release have been nothing short of excellent. Every collector from this site has given it the highest marks of praise. The campaign design has the approval of all and the political theme of subsets-within a set has been the highlight of the set. Just a few quotes taken from the members:

Base set: "With 2008 being an election year, the political themes (candidates, running mates, oval office, etc) was a great idea to go with a set named American Thunder." – Ajwest92

Overall Design/theme: "At first I thought it was hokey but after seeing the set in full it's actually pretty darn cool, patriotic, and great tying in the election theme." – tmoneywon

Again many had high praise for the insert sets this year. Keeping with the political design had thumbs up from most.

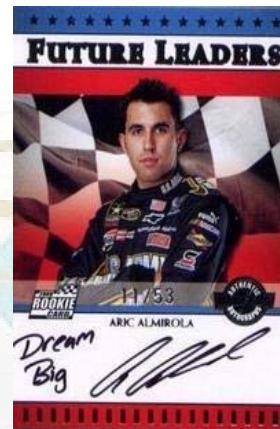
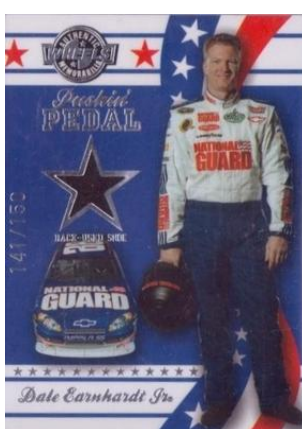


Press Pass has outdone themselves in this years release of the 4 raced used sets. The Triple Hats have really shined with the use of the logos sewn into the hats. Many of the pieces have multi color swatches that were used. This has carried over for the theme of the Head to Toe set also. There have been many cards displayed on the site and seen on eBay that have multi color Head pieces. Gone is the mundane Pushing Pedal set, now the use of different areas of the drivers shoe, has lead to some unique looking pieces. One such piece was the metallic silver piece off of Jeff Gordon's shoe. The only issue is the same theme used for the Cool Threads, many think Press Pass can do better then what looks like just the inside of the fire suits.

We had mixed reviews on the autographs. From boredom due to lack of color to high praise for the monetary design it was good to see a change. One draw back that was noted was from the drivers that sign their names with the first on top of the last names. This left the signatures looking small as stated from one member in this quote:

"Trackside Treasury autos look cool, but for the drivers who sign with one name on top of the other, like my Logano, it makes the card tough to sign."
– Ajwest92

Overall the marks for this year product average at around 4.88/5.0. All seem to think that Press Pass has returned a much thought of product. They all agree that it seems that their voices are finally being heard. Many are hoping for the same quality of design in the upcoming installment of Legends due for release on October 22. Time will tell.



Please note that the pictures of the cards on this page are examples of some of the best cards our members got from their Wheels American Thunder breaks and the point made about the Pushing Pedal and Cool Threads sets.



ROOKIE DEBUT

Welcome to the SCF Rookie Debut Section

By Leo Zuperku aka Lzuperku
New Member Manager

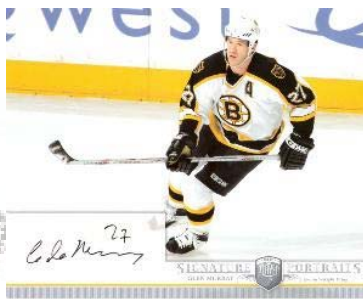
It's great to be able to write in the first issue of the SCF magazine; Collector's Corner. It's been a busy time for the New Member team with Beckett changing its policies, & the affiliation with Tuff Stuff Magazine, SCF's growth has been phenomenal. So far this month, October, we have over 1100 new members & we're only halfway done for the month. I wish I could thank every newbie individually here but there won't be enough room.

So I'll just say:

Thanks everyone for becoming a part of the best trading site in the world!!!

Here's a link to our new member contests. Check them out!!

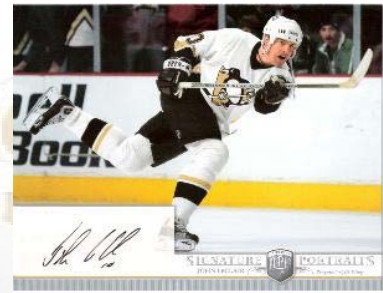
<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=498205>



SCAN FROM THE CURRENT CONTEST



SCAN FROM THE CURRENT CONTEST



SCAN FROM THE CURRENT CONTEST

Tips of the Month

Please make sure your profile is up to date. Your mail trade address line should look like this example:

"1234 Main St. Any town, Your State. 12345"

For our Canadians and foreign members, please make sure to include the country in your address.

Also...

Let us know which sports you collect. Go to edit your profile scroll down, check the boxes of the sport that apply to your interests and click "Save Changes" at the bottom of the page.

If you have any questions, don't forget to post them in the "ASK LEO" thread which you can find it in the sticky section of the Meet & Greet forum.

Special thanks to my assistant manager Nascards & my advisor Loflo8, without whom I would be in a padded room by now.

Finally, please PM me if you want to join the new member's team.



A New Use For Your Mailbox

By Daniel Poor aka Stl_Cardinals_Fan

You have to get home. You have to check the mail. You pull up in the driveway. You get out of the car and go to the mailbox. You pull the lid open slowly. You grab the stack of mail. You start to thumb through it expectantly and mentally read off what you see. "Bill, bill, letter from your Aunt, bill," then suddenly there it is. You recognize the return envelope you sent with your autograph request almost three months ago. You run back to the house, throw open the door and toss the other mail aside. You gingerly handle the envelope with the autograph. You grab the letter opener and slide it across the seal. You reach in, on tenterhooks of excitement, and pull out the photo. Sure enough, there's the autograph at the bottom of the photo. You've got a great feeling. You're first autograph request has come back successfully.



Through the mail (TTM) autograph collecting is an often overlooked aspect of the hobby, despite a growing number of people getting into the field. It can be a great way to further your player collection or just a plain and easy way to get a piece of history with the addition of that historical person's autograph. For those that don't know what TTM collecting is, it's just what it sounds like. It's collecting autographs by mailing an item to a celebrity or athlete and getting it back signed. This article will cover the basic tips on how to collect autographs through the mail. So before you say "C'est Impossible!" read over these basic tips and you too will discover how easy it is to collect autographs TTM.

The first tip that should be covered relates to the letter-writing process. When writing a letter, be sure to be as sincere to the athlete or celebrity as you would be to your teacher, family member, or friend. Simply put, be honest. Don't make up reasons as to why you wrote the person. Tell them how you love that one song they do or how you were at the game where he hit his 500th home run, etc, etc. Don't just write to someone and say "Can I get an autograph?" Write to them as you would a family member and let them know how you feel. Be honest and sincere...that's the most important thing. This is why this will be mentioned several times in this article.



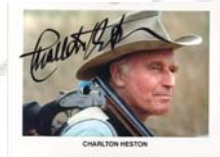
Now let's talk about how the actual letter should be structured. The letter should be short and to the point, but not short to the point of being rude. Some people will use a three paragraphs method of writing, but I personally feel that is too long. Two paragraphs really are all you need. Make the first paragraph the introduction. Tell them who you are (though don't give them your life story), and why you're a fan. Put the stuff about how you saw their amazing feet during the 7th inning of the game, or how you've been a fan of theirs ever since you were a kid in this paragraph. Make it sincere and don't make up reasons why you like them. The second paragraph is really where you should ask for the autograph. Don't just abruptly start out with the request; make your letter flow into it. This paragraph doesn't need to be a true paragraph but shouldn't be a sentence or two either. Finally, close with something along the lines of "Thanks for your time" and then sign your name at the bottom.

So now we've got our letter written. It's therefore time to determine what to send. It's always a good idea to send something to be signed with your request. Often, a star will not send you an autograph unless you send something to be signed. If you're sending to an athlete, this item can be as simple as a sports card. If you're sending to an actor, actress, musician, etc, you can send a picture to be signed. You can send whatever item you want, just make sure that you only send an item that you can afford to lose. So don't send that priceless family heirloom, 1/1 printing plate, or that photo signed by all but two of the cast of the show. If you have to get items like those signed, wait until the star makes an appearance in your area. This eliminates the risk of it being lost "en route". It also helps to send an expendable item because sometimes you won't get anything back from the celebrity. Many celebrities don't answer fan-mail, and some may even throw it away outright when they receive it, so don't send what you can't afford to lose.

Along those same lines, you have to consider how the item you're sending is supposed to get back to you. This is where the return envelope I mentioned in the first paragraph comes into play. You should always send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) with your request. A SASE is simply what it sounds like. A postage-paid envelope addressed to you that you send along with your request. This makes life much easier on the celebrity and will earn you politeness points as well. It's very rude to ask a celebrity to pay postage. Even though they may make more in an inning than you do in a year, postage adds up. So be polite and send a SASE. It should be big enough to fit whatever you want signed inside, but small enough to fit inside the envelope addressed to the celebrity. If the celebrity wants to send something bigger they'll provide a bigger envelope. If you don't have stamps for the celebrity's country (if you're sending internationally) you can purchase International Reply Coupons (IRCs) at a local post office. These coupons allow the celebrity to exchange them for their own country's stamps.



By now, you should have their address in hand (or on screen) and be ready to address your envelope. Simply address the envelope as you would any other piece of mail. Place your SASE, letter, and item(s) to be signed inside the envelope addressed to the celebrity, seal it, and drop it in the mail once you get postage for it. From there, just sit back and wait, and wait you shall. Sometimes it can take up to three months or more to get a response back (my longest wait was almost two years). Other times, it will be simply a matter of days or weeks to get a response. It varies, so just be patient.



You'll find that autograph collecting can be a very rewarding hobby. I personally have gotten successes from such stars as: Milvina Dean (last survivor of the Titanic), Vint Cerf (co-creator of the Internet), John Madden, and the late Charlton Heston. I got these autographs, in addition to the 150+ former St. Louis Cardinals autographs, by following the same tips I just outlined to you in this article. Autograph collecting is a great hobby and I recommend it to all. Simply follow these tips and you should do brilliantly.



Spare Me the Glitz and Glamor

By Andrew Harner aka Aharner55

The baseball card market has seen many revolutions throughout its recent history: company expansion in 1981, the secondary set era of the early to mid 1990s, the relic and autograph movement of the late 1990s, the legends era of the early 2000s and now the historical and celebrity card era of the late 2000s. The latter becoming a big issue (and an annoyance) to collectors.

Why is that you ask? Simply put, many of the most anticipated releases of 2008 baseball cards have included some sort of historical figures or celebrities instead of strictly baseball players. Enough inserts and subsets were produced in brands such as Topps, Upper Deck and Topps Co-Signers that some collectors feel these cards are starting to flood the market.



"I think it [has] gone way overboard to the point of vomiting," Sports Card Forum (SCF) member ZenLunatic said in the Baseball Card Talk forum on SCF. "I stay away from buying packs of certain sets because of these non-sport cards inside them."

The "overboard" description comes from the increased amount of non-baseball sets that have been produced this year. So far we've seen Topps Campaign inserts, Upper Deck Presidential Predictors, Topps Co-Signers boxing autographs, Bowman Scouts autographs, Upper Deck Spectrum Spectrum of Stars Signatures, cards of First Ladies and much more.

The whole idea of producing historical, non-baseball cards really took off in 2001 when Topps put out American Pie. The concept was a novel and intriguing idea then, but it slowly turned into what every other new card idea has become: overdone.



Following American Pie, came the Donruss Fans of the Game insert along with various sets sprouted every now and then including Topps Presidential Pastime in 2004 and Topps Co-Signers Moon Shots astronaut autographs last year. Presidential cut signatures also gained tremendous popularity as the years went by.

The presidential election this year and the success of last year's Donruss Americana has helped fuel the companies' desires to produce non-sports cards within baseball card sets. But once some of the guaranteed hits in hobby boxes became non-baseball cards, collectors took quick notice of the negative aspect the cards hold.



"I collect baseball because I like baseball," SCF member Spoodini said in the Baseball Card Talk forum on SCF. "However, when I buy a box I do not want one of my 'hits' to be an autograph of some boxer or B-List celebrity. "I want to get an autograph of a baseball player. That's why I bought of baseball cards in the first place."

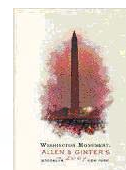
But, as the saying goes, one man's trash is another man's treasure, and that is exactly how arthur214 of SCF felt after he bought one pack of 2008 UD Piece of History.

"I hadn't been collecting for the last 14 years and for fun's sake, bought a pack of UD Piece of History. I was very fond of the Historical Moments and decided to collect the entire set," arthur214 said in the Baseball Card Talk forum on SCF. "Basically, I probably wouldn't have rediscovered my love of card collecting without the historical stuff."

Arthur also explained how that one pack also led him to restart building his Ken Griffey Jr. and Cleveland Indians collections. He also discovered that Topps Allen & Ginter and Upper Deck Goudey had similar cards to the ones he found in Piece of History and he decided to collect those sets as well.

And while Arthur was the only collector who voiced a completely positive opinion about non-sports cards in my thread, several others agreed that these cards can be alright in certain situations.

For example, many collectors feel that the non-baseball section of Topps Allen & Ginter is acceptable because it pays homage to the original Allen & Ginter cards of the 1880s which didn't just include baseball players. The presidential cards are also accepted by some collectors because they are only coming out in such drastic numbers this year because it is an election year.



I believe this will continue to be the general voice of the collectors until Allen & Ginter includes a very common, non-baseball hit like Co-Signers did this year or if the companies begin to produce mayor or city council cards when big cities have an election. The good thing is that I don't see either of these things happening any time soon.



Despite not having a baseball license, Donruss may be a big part of the solution to this problem. With products such as Donruss Americana in 2007 and Celebrity Cuts in 2008 finding huge success, Topps and Upper Deck may make a move to create similar sets (that I've already dubbed as Topps Pop Culture and History and Upper Deck Red Carpet on my blog, Cardboard Mania) which should effectively remove most of the non-sports cards from baseball products. I'm sure there would still be a couple inserts every now and then, but I don't know of too many people who were complaining when there used to be just a couple of these sets available.

Whether or not that happens or if the companies make a change anytime soon, SCF's Misc. Trade Manager Bondsaway put it best by thinking in reverse, "What in the heck would an auto of Babe Ruth be doing in my box of Iron Man cards?"



Football Happenings

By Jason DiOrazio aka jdio13

First of all, I would like to thank each and every person who reads this first article for the Football Forum in the SCF Magazine. We are happy to share all the events that are occurring on the football boards and are pleased to have you reading about them!

Since the beginning of the NFL Regular Season 9 weeks ago, the activity in the football section of SCF has increased dramatically. There are many different contests we have going on in the football forum. One of which, the eBay Steal of the Week Contest, is very popular. For this contest, all a member needs to do is show off his/her best eBay steal from the past week. After the full week is up, the members of the Football Team vote on who had the best steal in their opinion. Some of the steals we have seen are incredible. Here are a few samples of winners in past weeks:

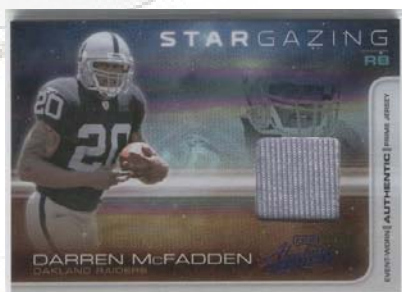


Be sure to check out the "Football Contests" forum to see some more steals and other contests going on.

The Football Team has been very fortunate to receive boxes from our great sponsors to open and review. The boxes we have received recently have been: 2008 Leaf Certified Materials, 2008 Topps Finest, 2008 Bowman Sterling. Another box that we received recently was 2008 Playoff Absolute Memorabilia. This box turned out to be a great and had some fantastic hits in it. Here are the hits the break yielded:



36/99



22/50



6/10



18/25

Be sure to check out the "SCF Sponsored Breaks" forum to see more great box breaks that are reviewed by the staff. Also, you could be getting free base/inserts/rookies from these sponsored breaks for just a self addressed stamped envelope (details on the site).

Come to the site and check out the Football Forum to see all the other activities occurring at this time. Enter the season long NFL Hi/Lo Contest for a chance to win some great free cards. Also, you should have a look the Football Team Group Case Break of 2007 Leaf Rookies & Stars. All the money raised will go towards the case of Leaf Rookies & Stars as well as a charity which the football team members will decide. For a small fee, you can enter into this group case break with the guarantee of getting a jersey or autograph and 2 or 3 inserts/rookies/parallels. This is also a great way to help out a charity.

Again, I would like to thank everyone who reads this article and those who made this SCF Magazine possible!!



AROUND THE BOARDS

The Team Collector Group

By Nate Cates aka Ryo1549

Hello, my name is Nate Cates also known as Ryo1549 and I am a "cardoholic". Ok well its not that bad but, having bought many boxes over the years I accumulated a lot of "base" or common cards. I always kept my team's cards (San Francisco's 49ers) and ended up giving away the others or even throwing them away. It was nearly impossible to trade commons and base online, because many people who frequent the internet's trading sites are only after the higher dollar cards. This gave me a great idea; starting a football team collector group (TCG).

So what is the TCG all about? Well, we are a group of die-hard football fans who collect any and all cards or memorabilia of our respective, beloved team. The collector group is open to anyone who is willing to put forth the time and effort necessary. The requirements are very easy and we aim to keep people in the group for months on end. Elan, also known as Thepistonsfan, and I came up with the requirements and started the Team Collector Group on good foundations. The main requirement was sending a team bag full of cards to each member of the group, the cards being of their chosen team of course. We didn't make any autograph or jersey cards mandatory, but we always mentioned karma. We also explained that if you sent an autograph or jersey card, you should not expect one back in return. We had to implement this because not everyone has these cards for everyone's team and to expect people to have that many different autographs and jerseys would be against what the group is all about. With such a good structure, we were ready to take the TCG forward. Unfortunately, it wasn't all peachy at first...

The process seemed pretty simple, but we have had many bumps along the road. When I first started the group we accepted anyone. Basically anybody wanting to join could. However, a few bad apples joined in. They received from all members and they did not send anything before seemingly disappearing. We had to figure out something to eradicate this problem. We came up with a rule: new joiners who did not have adequate references with people they had traded or dealt with would have to send first. This took care of the issue all together, but we encountered another one...

The postal service raised shipping rates on bubble mailers and these types of packages. At the time, we had 20-25 members and it seemed to get too expensive for what we were about. It ended up that people were spending more on the shipping then intended having to send 20-25 packages a month. The cost became steep, so what we worked out a solution: have 2 separate groups. While keeping the 1 team per person format, we figured splitting the teams in half would help. The first month we had group 1 send to everyone in group 1 and the same with group 2. The next month, we had everyone switch. Group 1 sent to Group 2 and vice versa. This alleviated the cost every month as everyone only sent half the packages they used to and it kept people interested in staying in the group.

We are always open to sign ups and new people. However this sometime attracts people with bigger eyes than their appetite. Generally, glancing at the requirements of the group, it sounds great. You get all these cards from different people of your favorite team and even may receive jersey cards and autographs? Wow, sign me up! Well, some people do not realize that this actually takes time and you have to be dedicated. A lot goes into this; you have to sort the cards. Most of us usually sort all 32 teams just to make it easier. Then, you need to have the resources and time to be able to create the packages and ship them. At first we had a lot of members below 18 years old join the group either to fail at getting packages out or just to not have the time to dedicate to the project. This discouraged us as a group... We therefore implemented another rule that you had to be aged 18 or above. I can definitely understand the reasons why they would have trouble but we had to take action to protect the group's members.

With the group going strong, it enabled me to try other things within it. Our first idea for an event came from the phrase "Christmas in July." This meant that we organized a "Secret Santa" in July. For the purpose of the exercise, the minimum gift was a \$50 book value card and a team bag full of cards. This was very well received and is now done annually. We also do a "Secret Santa" in December but for that, the gift must be a non sports card item of their team that has a value of \$50 or more. Some of the other events include doing different styles of box breaks. Basically, we pick a product and split the cost by the number of people who are willing to contribute and you get EVERYTHING from your team. We also do box breaks by the pack where you pitch in and get that pack. These things are done to keep the group interesting and fun.

The group was running very well, and we had plenty of traffic to keep new members and a great place to have it. We initially started it on the Beckett message boards and we'll never forget where we came from. However, one day, they announced that they were changing the site's format and even going to start charging for trading. When the change finally went through, it alienated most of the message board community and almost killed the traffic. This was not going to work for many of the members in our group. So we looked for bigger and better places and came across Sportscardforum.com. We have just started on there but we can tell that this is going to be a good place for us. There are lots of people on the site, a great set of rules and an outstanding feedback system in place. Our group has been cut down due to people having personal issues and not switching message boards. However we will continue to grow and always look for new people to join and share our passion!



Legends in Green : Two Quarterbacks, Two New Teams

By John DeStefano aka Deesto

Brett Favre's football heroics are well-documented, legendary, and numerous. And with the 2008 NFL season, Favre looks to relocate the ending of his storied career to a new town: by bringing Favre to New York, the Jets hope to build their own tradition to rival that of Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

In the move to New York, Favre replaces incumbent Jets' quarterback Chad Pennington, who, despite successful seasons, playoff appearances, and an all-time leading completion percentage with a mediocre team, was expected to battle Kellen Clemens once again for the Jets' starting job. In a concerted effort to prevent the repeat of a miserable 2007 performance by the offensive line, the Jets made three key signings at guard and tackle during the off-season, which would benefit any quarterback. With Favre's arrival, the Jets went immediately from a future-forward, building approach, to "the future is now" mode, and saw no need to carry two stellar quarterbacks. Pennington was cut by the Jets and immediately signed by the Miami Dolphins, who are looking to rebuild after a dismal 2007 season.

One can make a strong and almost irrefutable argument for Favre as the greatest quarterback in NFL history; he is a 13-time Pro Bowl player, three times 1st team All-Pro, and three times NFL MVP. While Favre's statistics are legendary in their own right, he may be best-known for his durability and arm strength, and possibly even more so for his performance in playoff games. Most notably in a Super Bowl win in 1997, and in a losing effort the following year against another legendary quarterback: John Elway. Favre's success and durability are currently second to none: he has started in more regular season games, and played in more playoff games, than any active player.

Favre's career passing statistics are equally amazing and not to be overlooked; he holds the career records for passing attempts, completions, yards, and touchdowns. On the flip side; he has also thrown more interceptions than anyone in history, and is first overall amongst active players in times sacked, sacked yards lost, and fumbles.

In sharp contrast to Favre's accomplishments and reputation, Pennington's down-sides are cited to be a tendency for injury and a lack of strength in his throwing arm. Compared to Favre, whose playing endurance is second to none and who has never missed an NFL start due to injury in his 18 seasons, Pennington's relatively brief record of service is pale in comparison. He has missed games due to injury in three out of his six seasons as a starter. However, this says nothing of his resolve and sheer will to compete; after two distinct surgeries on his throwing shoulder in 2005, Pennington won the AP Comeback Player of the Year award in 2006, starting all 16 games for the Jets and leading them to the playoffs for the second time in three seasons. In the Jets' opening game in 2007, two ligaments in Pennington's right ankle were torn, and yet he played through the season without missing a game due to injury.

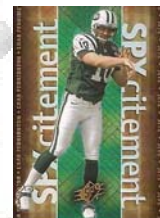
Meanwhile, the knock on Pennington's throwing arm is something of a misnomer, even after his enduring two surgical repairs on the same shoulder. On passing attempts longer than 20 yards over the past four seasons, Pennington's stats on completions, touchdown percentage, interception percentage, yards per attempt and passer rating are all better than Favre's. [1] And even in 2008, his 8.0 yards per passing attempt through Week five are fourth best in the NFL and the best average of his career to date; at 7.2 yards per attempt, Favre does not rank in the top 10 players in this category. In this same category of yards per attempt during the scope of their careers, Favre ranks 79th all-time, and Pennington ranks 54th. Of course, Pennington's passing accuracy is beyond legendary; his career 65.8% completion ratio is the best mark of any quarterback in the history of the NFL.

Ironically, the Jets and Dolphins were scheduled to face off in the first week of the 2008 season. While Pennington's numbers in the game outshone those of Favre, even withstanding two bombs by Favre for touchdowns, Favre's supporting cast outmatched that of the Dolphins, and the Jets won by a pair of field goals. Still, Favre watched helplessly from the sidelines during much of the second half, while Pennington led the Dolphins just short of a dramatic comeback victory, thwarted in the game's waning moments by a Jets' interception in the corner of the end zone.



Despite his immense success, some of Favre's rookie cards can be had quite inexpensively, including his 1991 Pacific #551 (\$6), Pro Set #762 (\$5), Score #611 (\$4), Ultra #283 (\$10), and Upper Deck #13 (\$15). That is not to say that there aren't any premium Favre rookie cards: his 1991 Ultra Update #1 (\$35) and Stadium Club #94 (\$100) are rare yet still relatively affordable. Amongst Favre's priciest cards are his certified autographs, including his 1997 Skybox Autographics Century Marks (\$400), 2005 Score Golden Anniversary Stars Autographs #ASBF (\$350), and 2006 Upper Deck Hot Prospects Endorsements Dual #EF (\$400), which is also co-signed by the above-mentioned Elway. Favre's and Elway's signatures are also featured, along with that of Dan Marino, on the 2006 Topps Triple Threads Autographed Relic Combos #8 (\$600). Packers fans and history buffs might flip for 2000 Donruss Elite Passing the Torch Autographs #PT16 (\$400), or the 2005 Leaf Limited Material Monikers #27 (\$400, serial numbered to 25), both of which feature both Favre and Green Bay legend Bart Starr.

While Pennington's career is still relatively short, and his hobby value just blossoming in comparison to Favre's, his rookie cards range quite differently in value, variety, and availability, spanning from the inexpensive 2000 Impact #142 (\$2) and Press Pass #5 (\$2), to his pricey 2000 Bowman Chrome #173 (\$250), SP Authentic #124 (\$225), UD Graded #158 (\$200), and SPX #136 (\$150), to the sublime 2000 Collector's Edge Supreme Jersey Backs insert #GG8 (\$400). Some of Pennington's certified autographed cards also demand a premium, including his 2000 Bowman Rookie Autographs #173 (\$250), 2000 Ultra Game Jersey Autographs #CP-A (\$200), and 2001 Donruss Passing the Torch Autographs #24, which also features former Jets legend Joe Namath (\$300).



Sources:

Tuff Stuff 2008 6-Sport Price Guide Annual

<http://myespn.go.com/blogs/afceast/0-2-47/Chad-better-than-Brett-on-long-balls.html>



Over on the Basketball Boards

By Nathan Loewy aka Garnett_21

Welcome to the inaugural SCF magazine basketball article! We are pleased to be able to share what is going on in the basketball forum in this magazine, and are glad to have you reading it!

The SCF basketball forums have seen a significant increase in activity over the last 6-plus months due to various contests occurring. Highlighting the list is SCF's first Theme Weeks contest. In 'Theme Weeks', the basketball staff picks out a certain theme (i.e. patches, autographs) for the week, and you can enter a card that matches that theme. The following week is reserved for voting, as well as the next theme. We have had themes such as autographed patches in which waxbuster's Michael Jordan, LeBron James and Chauncey Billups, and zonealarm's Alando Tucker, Kevin Durant and Al Thornton tied for the win, each with 21 out of 60 votes. Another week was 1/1's, highlighted by gatorboymike's Marreese Speights, Tim Duncan and Tracy McGrady, with 22 of the 47 votes. Be sure to check out the Basketball Show and Tell forum to see the awesome entries and to participate!



The SCF basketball team has been fortunate enough to receive boxes of cards from Press Pass and Topps to review for free. We've received 2008 Press Pass, in which a Class of 2008 Derrick Rose autograph #d/199 was the best pull. The 2008-09 Topps box yielded a Brandon Roy 58-59 variation GU, and the most recent box was 2008-09 Topps Treasury in which a Derrick Rose refractor autograph was pulled. All of the base cards from these box breaks have been made available to SCF's members for only a self-addressed stamped envelope!



SCF Fantasy Basketball league was set up on Yahoo! and we have 18 participants. They are competing for 5 prizes, highlighted by a 2005-06 SPX Winning Materials dual jersey LeBron James card! The draft occurred one week prior to the start of the season, and we saw LeBron James go as the first pick. Chris Paul was the 2nd selection, followed by Kobe Bryant, Amare Stoudemire and Dwyane Wade. The first rookie to be drafted was Greg Oden, and he was selected 65th overall.

Be sure to stop by the basketball forums, and enter in some of the cool season-long contests that are currently being run. The 'Top Performers' contest, where you pick who will be the player with the most points, rebounds, assists etc... and the 'Pick 'Em' contest, where you pick the winner of certain NBA games being played that day! Both contests require daily participation in order to win the prizes associated with them!

In closing, the basketball team would like to thank everyone that contributed to making this SCF Magazine a reality, and you, the reader, for reading what we have to say!

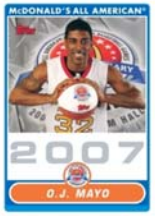


A New Season in Upon us

By Nathan Loewy aka garnett_21

It's this time of the year again, the 2008-09 season is fast approaching. Let's take a look back at the off-season and look ahead to what we should expect this year in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

In June 2008, we saw the Boston Celtics, who had acquired all-star Ray Allen and former MVP Kevin Garnett, as well as already having all-star Paul Pierce in their line-up; win their first title in 22 years. They had a tough road to the championship, playing a full seven game series against the Atlanta Hawks and the Cleveland Cavaliers, a six game series against the Detroit Pistons, and finally, a six game series against the Los Angeles Lakers to claim their 17th NBA title. As a Kevin Garnett collector, I was happy to see my collection slowly start to increase in value, but I was even happier to finally see Mr. Garnett win an NBA Championship.



Following the NBA Finals, we saw the NBA Draft, in which the Chicago Bulls, with a 1.7% chance of getting the #1 overall pick, were lucky enough to claim it. With that pick, they took Chicago native Derrick Rose. Following Chicago's pick, the Miami Heat, among lots of speculation that they would take freshman-phenomenon O.J. Mayo from USC, ended up taking Kansas State forward Michael Beasley. O.J. Mayo was selected third by the Minnesota Timberwolves, but was later traded to the Memphis Grizzlies for three-point specialist Mike Miller, and the fifth overall draft pick, Kevin Love from UCLA. In this upcoming season, we should see lots of collectors going after their cards. In my opinion, I believe O.J. Mayo will become the best player out of this draft, and as the best player, he will have the highest priced cards. The only downside to Mr. Mayo is that he will be playing on a small-market team.

Many of the rookies should have a significant impact on the teams they have been drafted by. Included in the players to contend for Rookie of the Year (ROY) is Greg Oden, the number one overall pick in the 2007 NBA Draft by the Portland Trail Blazers. Mr. Oden missed all of the 2007-08 season due to a knee injury, so this will be his first year playing in the NBA, thus making him eligible for ROY.

Derrick Rose will probably start the season coming off the bench, but I believe he will eventually be named as the starting point guard. Michael Beasley should be the starting power forward for the Miami Heat. O.J. Mayo will probably be a starting guard for the Memphis Grizzlies, but the position at which he will play has yet to be settled, as they already have Rudy Gay at shooting guard and Mike Conley at point guard. Russell Westbrook, the fourth overall pick by the Los Angeles Clippers, will probably come off the bench. The fifth pick of the NBA draft was Kevin Love, and he should be the starting power forward for the Minnesota Timberwolves. In my opinion, the only true contenders for ROY are Greg Oden of the Trail Blazers, O.J. Mayo of the Memphis Grizzlies and Kevin Love of the Minnesota Timberwolves.



Following the draft, the free agency market opened. The NBA saw many stars change teams, and many players go overseas to play in the European League. Among some of the better-known players to switch uniforms was Elton Brand moving from the Los Angeles Clippers to the Philadelphia 76ers. With the Los Angeles Clippers being second to the Lakers for years and years, Mr. Brand has never truly been considered a superstar. With his move to Philadelphia, he will immediately jump into the spotlight. We should see a significant increase in his card values this season, especially if the 76ers play very well.

In this upcoming year, we should also see multiple teams improving in overall record. Very few teams did not make a significant move, whether adding or losing a steady contributor. Some of the teams to make significant moves were the Los Angeles Clippers who lost Elton Brand, but added Baron Davis. In my opinion, this will not help, nor hurt the Clippers. The Sacramento Kings traded Ron Artest to the Houston Rockets, and with that trade, the Houston Rockets may see the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 1997, and the Sacramento Kings will once again have a long summer.

The bench loss that will probably have the biggest impact this season is James Posey leaving the Celtics and joining the Hornets. He was the "Xfactor" for the Celtics in their close, tightly contested games. Losing Mr. Posey doesn't mean that they won't reach the NBA Finals again, but they may have difficulty winning the title without him.

Even with all the improvements, I don't believe we will see any new title contenders. The main core of championship caliber teams still includes the Los Angeles Lakers and New Orleans Hornets from the west, and the Boston Celtics in the east.

This season should be a very competitive one however, with many teams in each conference having the capability to make the playoffs. Only time will tell which teams truly can be branded as elite.



The Rays Had a Devil of a Season

By Stephen Duell aka Spuds1961

Go figure, the dropping of a single word from a team's name could make that much of a difference. Now I don't know how much it really mattered but coming into this season most, if not all experts, would not have given the Rays a snowball's chance in hell, but they didn't have the devil to contend with either.

Coming into 2008, most people would have made the standard pick of the Yankees or Red Sox and if a dark horse was going to make it, most people were picking the Blue Jays. With all those losing seasons behind them something interesting happened to the Rays; all those top draft picks and trades finally paid off!

The lineup, although not feared by many, was a very cohesive unit as players like Carl Crawford, B.J. Upton, Carlos Pena and last but not least, Evan Longoria put it all together, all season long. People waited for the collapse of this up and coming young team but something heavenly happened this year in Tampa, the collapse everyone expected never came. The series with the Red Sox in late September when their lead had shrunk to one game proved pivotal in letting people know this year would be different.

The pitching staff which was built with some good drafts and even better trades came through down the stretch. Guys like Scott Kazmir, James Shields and Matt Garza led the way. When the season started, David Price was in the minors, but little did people know; he would prove to be a huge draft pick. The bullpen with guys like Balfour and Wheeler did just enough to save games and keep this team on top.



The postseason was a great ride for the Rays. Although it did not end with the culmination of a World Series win it did end with a much unexpected American League (AL) championship. After the regular season, anything was possible for these up and comers and they did not disappoint. After a fairly easy round one victory, they met their arch rival the Red Sox for the AL championship. With the Rays up three games to one and a 7-0 lead in game five, it seemed it was all but over. But you didn't expect the defending champions to go down without a fight did you? Needless to say blowing a 7 run lead tilted the series back in Boston's favor. After a lackluster 4-2 loss in Tampa Bay in game 6, nobody not even the devil would have given the Rays much of a chance in a one game take all scenario against the defending World Champions. Matt Garza would get the start and then it would be bullpen by committee if needed.

Game 7 was a very close game with Garza pitching the game of his life, the Rays managed to scrape a couple of runs together and it was still a nail biter until the end but when Akori Iwamura snagged that grounder and stepped on 2nd base, there was a new sheriff in town; your AL champions: the Rays not Devil Rays just Rays.

The World Series against the Phillies seemed anti climactic as having to play seven games series against the Red Sox seemed to leave the Rays' tank empty. The series lasted five games but game five was one of the weirdest endings to a World Series ever seen in baseball. The weather for the final game was bad all game long and after the Rays had tied the score at 2-2 in the top of the sixth inning the game was suspended. Play was resumed three days later and who really knew which team it would favor? It was like a chess match between Spasky and Fisher waiting for the move that might win the game and Series. A lot of media types will say Maddon blinked first by not pinch hitting for the pitcher but hey, his hindsight is always 20-20. After Philadelphia went ahead in the bottom of the 6th 3-2 thanks to a leadoff double by Jenkins and a run scoring single with a drawn in infield, you figured that was the death of the Rays. But these Rays would not go down easy; when Baldelli hit the game tying homerun you thought Cinderella was going to keep on dancing.

The bitter end, the Phillies managed to push home another run and with Lidge as the closer; this seemed like money in the bank. A double with one out in the ninth gave the Rays hope but after a hard liner to right that looked like it might have been the game tying hit was snagged, it came down to Lidge against Hinske. Needless to say we all know what happened as Lidge struck him out to end the series.

The future for these Rays looks bright as long as they keep the players they have now and don't pull a Florida Marlins sell off, we should be seeing these guys in the playoffs for years to come, and you can bet the devil's bottom dollar on it.

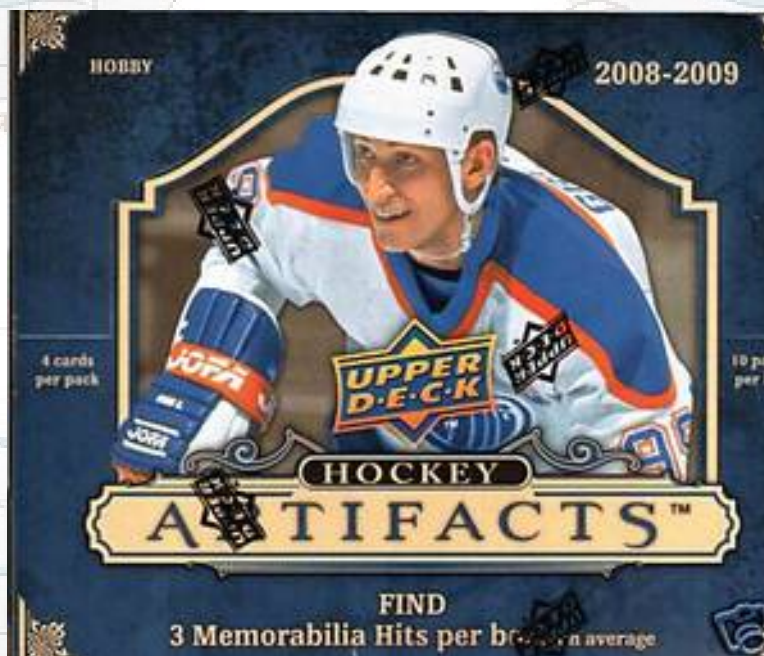


SCF On Ice : What's Happening Over on the Hockey Boards

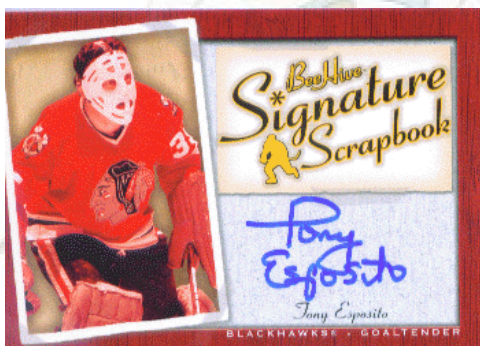
Scott Kozlowski aka ScottKoz20

The hockey team is in full speed with the beginning of the 2008-2009 hockey Season. These are some of the contests currently ongoing:

- NHL Guess the Score contest is in full swing. All you have to do is guess the final score of the NHL Game of the Night and you could win 25cc. Daily links are found in the Games and Contests forums off of the main page.
- The Ebay Steals of the week awards 50cc to the member determined to have the "best steal" from EBay. The latest steal winner was gregmal05 with a 2007-08 Sweet Shots Mike Modano Stick Auto numbered out of 25 purchased for \$13.50/dlvd because of a misspelling of Modano.
- The SCF Regular Season Hockey Pool is up and running and as of October 25th, Hockey Assistant Manager scottkoz20 has a slim 2 point lead over hossal8sens. 1st Prize for this contest is a box of 2008-2009 Artifacts Hockey box provided by the good folks at nsccanada.com.



- Quiet-things is running the Hockey Card Show and Tell contest. This contest has a number of themes throughout the course of the season. Weekly winners will get 50cc with the member then having a chance to win a 2005-2006 Bee Hive Signature Scrapbook Autograph Tony Esposito. The next few weeks of this contest will feature the following themes:
 - Week 4: Best autographed memorabilia (single player)
 - Week 5: Best retired/HOF card (any type: auto, memorabilia, parallels etc..)
 - Week 6: Best short printed card (all cards numbered to 25 and under admissible)
 - Week 7: Best plexiglass card (i.e. Glacial Graphs, Clear Cut Winners, etc)
 - Week 8: Best base card
 - Week 9: Best insert set (of any type; simple insert, auto or memorabilia)



The Hockey Team will be working to conduct a monthly case break. This month, we are breaking a case of 2008-08 Artifacts Hockey, provided by cardsbythebox.com. We will be looking at conducting more breaks in the future. Possible product breaks include 2007-08 The Cup and 2007-08 Sweet Shot.

It's almost time for the Upper Deck McDonalds Hockey card packs. These packs are only available for purchase at Canadian McDonald's Restaurants. The SCF Hockey Team is working very hard to obtain as many packs of this product as possible in order to offer these to our non-Canadian members. Details on availability and cost will soon follow.

If you have any suggestions to make or are interested in joining the hockey staff, please contact any member of the Hockey Team.



PRIZED POSSESSION

Hockey Fever : Then & Now

By Paul Yetman aka HockeyGrampy

Well, I realize that today, many of the current hockey card enthusiasts are probably youngsters! And believe me, that's a **good** thing! I know that it was when I was a youngster growing up in the Boston area! My dad, who was a hard-working laborer in those days, struggled to take care of his family. He would shop at the famous Boston "open air" discount market in the North End a couple of times each month and always looked for bargains in the local supermarkets. This is what he did to help make ends-meet.

But because dad was born in Red Bay, Labrador, he grew up watching kids skate on their homemade backyard ice patches. So when he moved to the United States in the mid 1920's, hockey was already in his blood!

After getting married and starting a family in Massachusetts, dad would "splurge" once a year and take us all to Boston Garden for the annual Bruins game on New Year's night! Of course we sat way up in the "rafters". But we all sure appreciated the special treat! This yearly event as a kid got me "hooked on hockey".

In 1965, just a few years out of high school, I got married to a gal with whom I had taken piano lessons as a kid. I quickly shared the joy of hockey with her and got her hooked, just as my dad did to me! Soon enough, we had season tickets to the Bruins.

Luckily, we did in 1966, which was the year Bobby Orr graced us of his presence in Boston! I will never forget the embarrassment that Orr showed when he jumped on the ice that memorable night to a standing ovation! His complexion turned crimson red, as he was surely not used to such a welcome coming from small-town Parry Sound, Ontario!

My season ticket buddy, Ernie Zimmerman, with whom we shared adjoining seats at the old Garden, was a strapping 6'7" guy who somehow landed the position of "equipment manager" for the Chicago Blackhawks whenever they came to Boston to play. Needless to say, he got to know all the Bruins players fairly well. He would sometimes invite me to join him for afternoon practice sessions at the Boston Garden, followed by a few "cold ones" with the players at one of the bars across the street from the "Gahden" (as pronounced by the locals). I distinctly remember meeting Bernie Parent one of those times, but that is the only depth to my blurred (and star-struck) memory. Interestingly enough, that was the only year he spent with the Bruins and went on to bigger and better things in Philadelphia. This would be an important piece of the puzzle, which will be explained later.

One day, Ernie approached me with a little item which I happily accepted at the time. But I had no idea of its worth/value in the years ahead! He presented me with a Bruins NHL puck, which was taped on one side (with white stick tape). The taped side has 13 Boston Bruins autographs clearly visible! On the "sweet spot" was the signature of rookie Bobby Orr! Can you imagine? This highly-touted rookie from Parry Sound had actually signed a puck for "little 'old me"!

Okay, long-story-short! I still have this puck! I had initially held on to it for a few years, and then handed it over to my dad for all his sacrifices when I was a kid. He was still a HUGE Bruins fan, so I thought it was fitting for him to have it! He was in awe of the puck and quickly hid it away in a bedroom top drawer!

But in later years (as he approached his 80's) during one of my visits, he handed me the old plastic bag containing the Bruins-signed puck! It had yellowed a bit as after all; it was now some 30 years old. He explained that he felt it was time for me to have it back in case something should happen to him. Sadly, a dozen years later, he passed away.



While still living in New England, I had emailed a question about my puck's estimated value to a syndicated sports columnist, "Babe Waxed" (Bill Wagner, Redding, CA). A few weeks later, I opened the Sunday sports section to a headline, "*Orr-signed puck from rookie year could fetch big bucks*"! This was back in January, 2006.

Shortly thereafter, I decided to have the puck and its signatures authenticated! Having been given this item decades before "authentication" was necessary or even a way-of-life, I wanted to be sure it had the proper documentation to prove this most-treasured item authentic.

PSA/DNA swiftly authenticated the autographs and cited the year of signing (1966/67) as the **only** time it could have happened. Strangely, it was Bernie Parent's autograph which proved the year it was signed (citing his only year he and Bobby Orr played together)! How strange that the one and only guy I remember meeting after that practice in Boston (Parent) would be the one to absolutely prove what year my puck was autographed!

Today, the puck sits enclosed in a shadowbox behind museum glass in my home office, complete with a color photograph of the 1966 Boston Bruins! It is considered very valuable by many, but is clearly "priceless" to me!

But my signed puck is also a daily reminder of one of the best times of my life! Although it happened over forty years ago, it is fresh in my memory! Honestly, it seems like yesterday! So, bring your favorite item out of the closet....display that card signed by your favorite player! Make sure you keep them in plain view to remind yourself of this time in your life. After all, these are the memories that you will have forever! And no one can take that away from you.



Habs Centennial Activities Report

By Luc Séguin aka CoolHandLuke

On Wednesday September 24th, 2008, the Montreal Canadiens unveiled the details surrounding the club's centennial program which will last until its 100th anniversary on December 4th, 2009. As well as unveiling the centennial program, they presented eight players six of which were wearing older jerseys from the past and two who were wearing the jerseys of the Western and Eastern conference which will be used at the All-Star game. The team will be wearing the six older jerseys during special "Jersey Night" matches throughout the festivities. The new high definition scoreboard was also revealed on the same day. Those invited to the launch were given a dated puck of the launch, along with a cardboard to grab signatures of the players present. My sister received both a puck and autographs of Jean Beliveau, Bob Gainey, Saku Koivu and Sergei Kostitsyn. What a nice way to start the season for a Habs collector!



Logos

Two logos were unveiled, one being the Centennial logo and the other one being the 100th logo. The Centennial logo uses the blue white and red and really looks both superb and modern. But the 100th logo is the one which will be put on the shoulder of the players' jerseys. I really prefer this one personally since it will make awesome patches for card collectors. The All-Star logo will be placed on the other shoulder of the jerseys. Will Upper Deck's next release of The Cup include the best Habs patches ever?

Jersey Nights

The history of the team will be the focus point this season and the "Jersey Nights" will not only add colours to those matches but may result down the road, in unique jersey or patches for all Habs card collectors and fans. Just like the regular jerseys, these will also feature the centennial 100th logo and the All-Stars Match patches. The All-Star weekend will take place in Montreal between January 23rd and 26th, 2009.



New high definition scoreboard

The high definition (HD) scoreboard now replaces one of many used during the 100 years. This is the fifth one and its screen is five times bigger than the previous one. The decision was made this past summer, to ensure that they had the best viewing space for their fans. The screen is a 10 mm visual board, meaning the space between each lead is ten millimetres. All cameras inside the Bell Centre have been converted to HD. They also will be converting any footage from last year and the past in HD before feeding them to the screen. A huge task considering all historical footage will also need colours correction before they feed them live in the Bell Centre. The first scoreboard had five clocks with needles. The one I remember from when I was a kid in the old forum was the second one with the Export advert. The third scoreboard appeared in the 80s. When the Canadiens left the Forum, a new building also meant a need for a fourth scoreboard. Today, the new screen is the top line and match any other one in NHL arenas. Some fans say they follow the action on the screen more than the action directly on the ice.



The next event SCF will report on will be the ceremony before the home opener at the Bell Centre. We will try to report on all activities and festivities. Collectors will also be in for a treat with a full set produced by Upper Deck and due out for January 2009. Books, DVDs relating the 100th history of this great club with footage from all the great players that were caught on film will be available to the fans. The Centennial program will offer a few activities each month, ranging from the Original Six Salute, Builders' Night (coaches), Ring of Honour, Retired Jersey Night - Patrick Roy and much more. Having always been a Habs fan, I can't wait for all these activities and I'm really looking forward to breaking open many centennial hockey boxes.



CENTENNIAL WATCH

CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

2008-2009 SEASON:

October 2008

October 20th: Centennial Jersey Night vs. Florida Panthers (1970 – 1971)
 October 28th: Builder's Night (coaches) vs. Carolina Hurricanes

November 2008

November 15th: Centennial Jersey Night vs. Phil. Flyers (1945 – 1946)
 November 22nd: Retired Jersey Night - Patrick Roy – vs. Boston Bruins

December 2008

December 4th: Opening of the Centennial Plaza
 December 4th: Original Six Salute vs. New York Rangers and
 Centennial Jersey Night (1915 – 1916)
 December 10th: Inauguration of the Community outdoor rink program
 (François-Perreault Park, St-Michel Borough)

January 2009

January 8th: Original Six Salute vs. Toronto Maple Leafs
 January 23-26th: NHL All-Star Week

February 2009

February 1st: Centennial Jersey Night vs. Boston Bruins (1912 – 1913)
 February 21st: Centennial Jersey Night vs. Ottawa Senators (1970 – 1971)

March 2009

March 14th: Centennial Jersey Night vs. New Jersey Devils (1945 – 1946)
 March 21st: Centennial Jersey Night vs. Toronto Maple Leafs (1915 – 1916)
 March 31st: Centennial Jersey Night vs. Chicago Blackhawks (1912 – 1913)

April 2009

April 2nd: Montreal Symphony Orchestra Concert at the Bell Centre
 April 2nd: Opening of the Montreal Canadiens Hall of Fame

June 2009

June 26-27: NHL Entry Draft at the Bell Centre

2009-2010 Season:

October, November, December 2009: Centennial Jersey Nights
 (1910 – 1911, 1909 – 1910)
 December 2009: Public launch of the Canadiens motion picture
 « Pour toujours, les Canadiens ! »
 December 4th: Centennial game at the Bell Centre
 December 5th: Centennial Gala

Source: canadiens.nhl.com





On the Racing Boards

By Darin Heitzer aka JKC

LESRACING – THE FIRST SCF RACING SUPER COLLECTOR

The following is a brief excerpt from Skippy's interview with SCF's first Racing Super Collector; Lesracing:

Give a brief history of when, how long and why you got into collecting. Please include whether racing was your first passion in collecting, if not, what was. What was the deciding factor that made the change to racing?

My first "collecting" passion was for baseball caps of every kind (I used to get A LOT being in the trucking industry). I sort of stopped collecting when I had nearly 3,000 caps and no room to display them. They are now packed away in my storage area but I still continue to add some from time to time. My first ever trading card set was the Topps Autos of 1977. To this day I still need 6 cards to complete it. I first started collecting racing items of Dale Earnhardt in 1986. NASCAR trading cards first came out in 1988 (Maxx), but in 1988 it was hard to find them in my area. Once I started collecting, that was it for me, I was TOTALLY hooked!!!

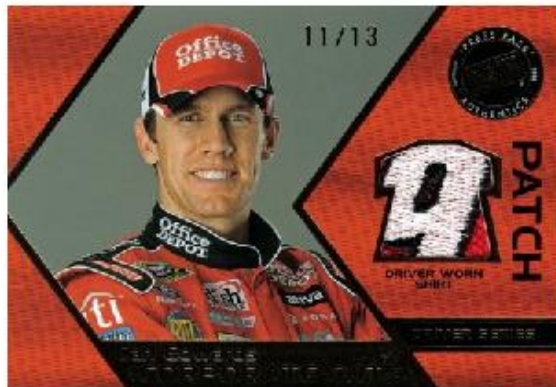
Your driver/drivers you collect that this honor is for.

I collect Dale Earnhardt Sr., Kerry Earnhardt & Kevin Harvick. I also collect at least some portion of every racing set that has ever been released whether it's from a mainstream release, obscure sets or even track specific releases. My collections are always in some stage of completion. I've always tried to locate and document any and all cards for my driver lists as well as my set collections. My website is where I enjoy sharing this info to help other collectors like myself with their lists for the same drivers I collect. I hope to someday have the most complete list of every known card ever produced of Dale Earnhardt including pictures of as many as possible to share with others.

For the complete story/interview, stop on by the SCF Racing Forum and check it out [here](#). For more interviews with other Super Collectors check out [the Racing Super Collector Hall of Fame forum](#).

TOP 5 RACING CARDS

These are the top 5 racing cards from the Racing Show and Tell forum for the month of October as voted on by the SCF racing community.



**1. 2008 Press Pass Speedway
Corporate Cuts Drivers Patches
#CD-CE Carl Edwards (11/13)**
Shown by Race Crazy



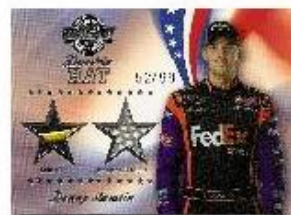
**2. 2008 Press Pass Speedway
Corporate Cuts Drivers #CD-T3
Tony Stewart (40/80 Button)**
Shown by Tony_Fan_Since_1999



**3. 2008 VIP Get A Grip
Autographs #GG-3JG
Jeff Gordon (13/24)**
Shown by lemozoid



**4. 2008 Press Pass Signings
Press Plates Magenta Auto
Patrick Carpentier (1/1)**
Shown by doGslKevinH



**5. 2008 Wheels American
Thunder Double Hat #DD4
Denny Hamlin (52/99)**
Shown by angryeagle07



My Redemption Experiences

By Jeremy Sebastian aka nadeau01_johnson48

From as long as I can remember, I've always bought Upper Deck and Topps products. My dad raised me on them. I remember helping him build the 1989 Upper Deck baseball set, with the Ken Griffey Jr. rookie. That was back when cards were simple. Now, not so much, thanks to Game Used and Autographs. (Not that I'm complaining.)

Anyways, this is about what it's like to open a pack, and see that "worst-case scenario", the hit that is actually a piece of cardboard saying "Congratulations" on it, yes, I'm talking about redemptions.

For a long time, I was lucky enough to avoid redemptions, but lately, they show up more and more. The first company I'm going to talk about is Upper Deck. Upper Deck has a solid redemption process. I'm not saying it's perfect, it's far from that, but it typically gets the job done. Upper Deck was the first company to introduce the "online redemption", which was genius. Topps has finally followed up and started using that method, implementing it this year. I've noticed that Upper Deck usually has the longest waiting time, from the moment you enter the redemption online to the day it arrives. One really nice thing with Upper Deck, is that if the card isn't in their hands within a certain time frame (usually 2 months or so), they will give you the option to receive a replacement card. I've only had that particular case happen to me once, but I've heard lots of stories. Most, if not all of them, were good. In my case, I had a common \$10 autograph that hadn't come in, so I gave them a call. When I received the package, I got roughly \$50 book value in cards. They sent three cards in replacement for it, which was very generous. I've seen this happen on quite a few occasions. With all that said, overall, Upper Deck has a solid, but at times flawed redemption process. I'd give them 3.5 on a 5 points scale.

Up next, it's time to talk about Topps redemptions. I've had very few Topps redemptions, because they seem to be a lot better at getting the correct cards into the packs before they are released (unlike Upper Deck). However, with their recent release of Topps Sterling Football, that has changed, a TON. It appears that in every pack, there's at least one redemption. Now, I don't necessarily have a problem with that, as long as it's a star player. But seeing some of these 7th round draft picks with redemptions is a little ridiculous. I've had a few Topps redemptions in the past, and they took quite a while (in one instance, it took over a year to receive a Matt Hasselbeck Autograph). But this past week really got me thinking about not buying Topps products anymore and it's all because of redemptions. I bought a pack of the aforementioned Topps Sterling, and in there was a redemption for a Mike Jenkins Autographed Rookie Card. I was able to redeem it online, so when I got home, I went onto the website and attempted to do this. After I failed at entering the code three straight times, my account got locked out. Of course, this was a Friday afternoon, so I was out of luck until Monday. I called them roughly 10 different times before I was finally able to get through. I told them about the problem, and they unlocked my account. Then, right before I hung up, the lady told me that ALL football redemption codes wouldn't be entered into their system until Friday, and that the codes wouldn't work before then. This really irritated me. So, I spend \$50 for a pack of cards, and not only am I lucky enough to pull a redemption, but I can't even redeem it for another week? That is absolutely crazy! That alone has really changed my outlook on Topps, and how they run things. I'd give them 2 out of 5 stars, due to their poor handling of the redemption process.

I've saved the best for last: Press Pass. They have, hands down, the greatest redemption process out there. The other companies aren't even close to what Press Pass can do. I mainly collect racing cards, and the only company that has a license for NASCAR cards is Press Pass. One huge upside is that redemptions are few and far between. Normally, every new release they have will only have at the most, one or two cards that are redemptions. Unlike the other sports, you actually know what the card is going to look like on the front, while the back has the form you need to fill out for your redemption. They haven't got an online redemption program yet, but I'm not complaining. I mean, if it's not broken, why fix it? Anyways, back to their actual redemption process. Typically, when I send in a redemption, the redeemed card is received at my house within a month, sometimes within two weeks! They are always on top of things. They have wonderful customer service representatives, should you ever have any questions, and they are easily the fastest company out there at redeeming cards. They pass the test with flying colors, 5 out of 5 stars!

So the next time you buy a pack of cards, and see that redemption card, remember what company you're dealing with. No matter how irritating it might be, just be patient. The card will get to you; it just might take a while.





Guide For Online Box Buying

By Linda Mankefors aka Razzamaztaz

A friend of mine decided to make a trip to Kenya very recently. Two days after her arrival, all hell broke loose. I mailed her to leave as soon as possible, but her reply was "screw this I only live once, we're going on safari to Kilimajaro now." It went fine to my knowledge.

It's a bit like this to buy boxes online today. You can say "screw this I only live once" and make your buy, make your box break, and perhaps it goes just fine. But odds are you end up disappointed, fooled, and ripped off with a sense of utter stupidity. Or perhaps you're happily unaware of this and buy another one. Sooner or later you will start wondering why you keep pulling purely crap cards, even after your 15th box buy. Don't feel bad, there are lots of collectors out there who are unaware of the traps, dishonesty, and plain fraud.

The most common dishonesty is when a seller open a case, find the best box with the case hits, keeps those wonderful cards themselves, and sell the remaining "bad" boxes to buyers. The most common fraud is resealed packs and boxes. This is a crime that should always be reported.

There are only a handful of stores and eBay sellers you can trust. Consider this a small/partial guide for the novice collector.

1. First easy trap to fall in: Do not buy so called "hot packs with guaranteed autos/rookies/game-used" on eBay. They are not hot, they are simply opened carefully, searched, good cards replaced with bad, and resealed. Do you know anyone who has pulled a good rookie or game-used out of these hot packs? Thought not.
2. Do not always trust ebay feedback. Oh I can hear a whole choir of upset people violently protesting now. Why? Because 100% positive feedback is never a guarantee. It's only an apparent safety. Some people do a crafty job of keeping their feedback in perfect shape. If you look closely you can sometimes see a perfect feedback score, but a note of dozens of "mutually withdrawn" feedbacks. That means many persons have left negative feedback, but the seller has convinced them to withdraw. How and with what means? Be suspicious. Just the same it is not a guarantee for concern that an eBay seller has for instance only a 91% score. It could mean he is brave enough to put negative feedback on bad buyers and get revenge feedback in return. This leads to number
3. Do your research well. eBay feedback is a hint, but way more important is to ask people with direct experience of the seller. Ask around, lurk about, hide in the shadows with your cloak. Alright, my imagination runs away, but you get the idea. It is really the absolute best way of learning whether an eBay seller is honest and reliable. Go to well known trading card forums (like Sports Card Forum) and ask.
4. If you're still not entirely sure or have seen one little dubious comment about a seller, don't be afraid to write that seller an e-mail. It is likely the seller will take offense, but he must be prepared for questions. If his answers makes a good explanation and gives you the right feeling, just ignore that remark someone has made. It may be a person angry cause he's had simple bad luck.
5. When you've reached this far and have narrowed down who to buy from, ask them carefully about shipping costs. Sometimes you buy an item, and you get a shock afterwards, especially if you're across the border or abroad.

Now you got everything you need: knowledge and the tools to make a good safe buy. It doesn't guarantee a good box break. You may get the worst box break of your life, but at least you know it's purely down to bad luck then rather than by a dishonest person laughing his way to the bank with your money.

Advice: When you've found a good seller, stick to him, or your top 2-3. The more you buy the more likely you are to get better deals in the future.

Overwhelmed and feels like too much work? The below are entirely reliable and trustworthy sellers from my experience:

Dacard (Dave and Adam's card world) – there is a reason they are the most popular online sellers. They are 100% safe, and they have a large good collection of boxes, packs, and other goodies. They are relatively cheap and reply to your questions within 24-48 hours. They have many different options to ship: Ground, Airmail, Express, Fedex etc. However, if you're across the border or abroad beware, the shipping costs may be the worst in the business, enough to scare you away.

eBay sellers:

queencollectibles (also under alias grossistesk) – Fast, decent shipping costs, good prices. A popular seller and often used alongside Dacard by buyers. Sell a lot of boxes, even older ones. Replies to your questions within 24-48 hours.

rmwiz (also under alias hobbyquest2000) – Fast, very good shipping costs, Replies to your questions within 24. Really good prices. Limited collection.

nolandennis – Limited collection, but also sell packs. Very fast, great shipping costs. Relatively good prices. Replies to your questions within hours! This may be the smallest seller of the ones mentioned, but personally, I must say the absolutely nicest. How you feel treated as a customer is also a big part of your decision where to buy.

There are others of course, but the above are good examples of great sellers.

Good luck!



Player Collecting on a Budget

By Tyler Glover aka Broscards

Hello, my name is Tyler, and I'm a player collector on a budget. How many of you are in my shoes? Being a player collector in today's hobby is harder than ever. Long gone are the days of three sets a year. Long gone are the days of a player having, maybe 20 rookies. Take my personal addiction for example, Robert Meachem had 1222 rookie cards produced (including printing plates) before he ever caught a pass in a game! From 1 of 1's, to autographs, to game used, to short prints it seems like my want list never ends. Being as addicted as I am, when I began this collection, I wondered when it would ever feel like I had a "respectable" collection. First, you need to know that it doesn't matter who respects your collection if you do. However, there are several ways to improve it without feeling like you keep missing those big buys.



Besides eBay, sites like sportlots.com and naxcom.com offer alternative ways to acquire cards for a considerably lesser price. You can also go the trading route on sites such as sportscardforum.com. But if you still feel like you really need a boost to your collection, stop and take inventory. Look over what you have and see how many cards you have numbered to 100 or less, or see how many autos and game used you have total. How many cards do you have that are numbered out of the player's jersey number? Keeping stats of a collection is one way to help you see constant growth. I personally have an excel spreadsheet and every time I add a card the percentage of total cards that I own goes up. Just seeing that percentage figure rise is one way to overcome the "milestone blues", as I have learned to call it. A lesson I learned early on was that a base Topps card increased the percentage I owned the same as a 1/1 patch auto.

But there are other ways in which you can get that feeling of accomplishment regarding your collection. Print off your want list and read through all of it, marking all the cards that you can get for under a certain price; then make those your priority. Recently I did this with my Robert Meachem checklist and noted that although I have over 400 different cards, there are still 27 on my want list that I could buy for less than \$10.00. With my budget of 200.00 a month, I could easily get all 27 cards in one month. If you ask me, averaging almost 1 new card a day is great!



I also try not to get sucked in to really bidding up pretty patches. Although they would be great to own, a three colors patch will generally bring 20% more than a 1 color patch. In the end, it is all about having a copy of every card. If you find a steal, you can always replace a patch card in your collection with a nicer one. Finding steals is always a great feeling, but 1 of 1's rarely sells for a low price. Although "1/1" means there is only one copy of that card, it generally does not mean that it will never be on eBay again. I have seen several copies of the same Robert Meachem 1 of 1 sell on eBay. In my experience, unless that player heats up in value, the card will not bring as much the second time. I keep a list of the 1 of 1 cards that I miss and what they sold for. I have purchased two of those cards once the original winner re-listed them and both times the price was lower than the original offering. Don't get drawn in by the description, trust me the 1 of 1 you are drooling over will show up again. Just be patient.

When all is said and done, collecting is about the love of the hobby. Adding a card to your collection is only half the fun. The other half is the search and finding that "white whale" you have been dying to get your hands on. Managing your budget correctly can be challenging, but that is what makes it fun for me. In one year I have amassed over 30% of all of Meachem's cards. Whoever said Raman Noodles and Easy Mac wasn't a healthy diet for a college kid anyway?

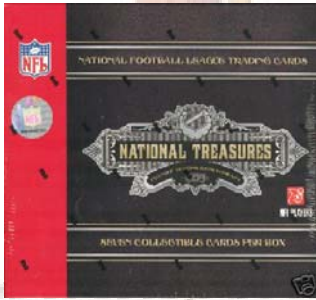
Keep Collecting (affordably)



What is a Group Break?

By Tyler Glover aka Broscards

One of the newest ways to get connected with like minded collectors is the “group break”. In group breaks, a number of collectors all put money towards a number of boxes from any given sport. The boxes are busted either live on a site like www.ustream.com, or recorded on a site like www.youtube.com. Then, all the cards are shipped out to members who participated in the break.



There are several different styles of group breaks being applied to all sports and all brands. If a group decides on a “high end” product like National Treasures for example, they may decide to do the break by hit. That means you purchase a certain pull from that break. Say for example, you pay and the host tells you that you have hit number 12 from the case. Then when the case is opened, you will get the twelfth hit that is pulled. This type of break generally awards every member with at least an autograph or a memorabilia card. Often in these breaks though, one spot is reserved for all the base cards or parallel cards that come out of the case. In that instance, although that person paid the same price for a spot as someone who will be getting a single game used or autographed card, the person that gets the base card slot will get a number of cards, all base. This style is very popular on the site www.groupcasebreaks.com.

Another style that I use in the group breaks I host is the team style. In this style, there are two major variations. Let's use football for our scenario. There are 32 teams in the NFL. Using a team style, you would need to have either 16 or 32 people involved. That way everyone either gets two teams or one team. Those teams are decided on by either a random draw or by a draft. Some groups have “owned” teams. An owned team is a team that a certain member has claim to every month. In the football break I host, we have 16 members from month to month and we do things a little differently. I noticed that in other breaks certain owned teams had a waiting list of members who wanted in the break when that owned team became available. In my break, there are 16 members, and everyone drafts two different teams from month to month. This way everyone has a fair shot at having a high draft pick and selecting the hot team, whoever that may be. In review, the team style is centered on either having one owned team and one drafted team, or two drafted teams.

When you are deciding on whether or not to join a group break, don't be surprised if the price is not the price of the box divided by the number of people involved. If my group decided to break a \$1600.00 case, the price for each of my 16 members would be around \$110.00. This is not so I or any other host can make some money off the break. You need to remember that Paypal charges 3% on all payments. Then there are supplies like top loaders, penny sleeves, and bubble mailers to buy. Then finally, there is postage. Look at the product being opened and try to get a feel for how many cards each member will receive on average. This will give you a sense of what the postage will be. If you do the math, and it looks like the host is charging too much money, ask them to break down the cost for you. The object of any group break is to allow collectors who don't necessarily have the budget to break a lot of wax to enjoy having a chance at the hits for an affordable price. Anyone who is hosting them to make money isn't doing it for the right reason. Generally, prices for group breaks are around \$20.00. The group break I host is \$15.00 a month, due on the 10th of every month. This allows us a budget of around \$200-\$210 dollars worth of product every month!



I wouldn't recommend starting a group break on your own. The best thing to do, in my opinion, is to get involved in a break and build up a reputation and friendship with other members. Get a respectable number of completed transactions also before you try and host a break of your own. Other members will be less likely to join your break if you have not built up a level of trust on the site where it is hosted. Although 99% of traders are trustworthy, most everyone has had one or two bad experiences and is now always on the lookout. Once you have built up that trust, I fully recommend starting your own. It is one of the most rewarding experiences. Not only do you get to open boxes every month, but the friendships can last a life time.

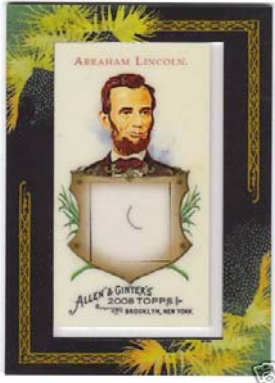
Group breaks are a phenomenon that has gained wide ranging approval throughout the hobby in the last few years. It is a simple way for a group of collectors to become friends and share each other's collecting interests. You get all kinds of collectors in these breaks. They range from team collectors to player collectors and everything in between. Meeting new people is just one rewarding aspect of our hobby. The group break is one of the easiest ways to get involved and start introducing yourself to other board members. Get out there and find some friends to start busting wax!

Keep Collecting.



Splitting Hairs – New Wonders of ‘Used’

By Linda Mankefors aka Razzamaztaz



Reading the October issue of Beckett's multisport magazine, I got two giggle moments. First one, when I noticed they actually cut up the racing shoes from race drivers to put on cards. Perhaps there's no difference from cutting up skates, but skates are very much mentally connected to their sport (hockey), while shoes don't exactly bring to mind any sort of racing. As I was thinking "what will they cut up next?" I saw the cut cards with one piece of hair from historical figures like Lincoln or Napoleon.

Strangely I've missed this new big hobby news. I know they cut up Hollywood stars' shirts, and even hand out pieces of Janis Joplin's clothes; I had to read again to see if my eyes lied. Sure enough, there's one piece of hair from former emperor Napoleon. I won't even start imagining how they got hold of that piece of hair, if they violated any laws, or at least moral laws getting hold of (have they never heard of the expression "rest in peace"?), or if it's even authentic.

Weird hobby phenomena are lurking about at the moment, Phelps (oooh his swimsuit, anybody? Bring your scissors) topping the Football card hot list, to Phaneuf's recent status upswing thanks to dating Elisha Cuthbert.

But who in their right mind wants a piece of hair from anybody? Who, in their normal right mind I should say, as they're always very strange creatures hanging around, who wants anything from Michelle Pfeiffer's underwear (if she had any), to Bobby Orr's game used socks (nice smell!).

But wait, maybe we do. Henrik Lundqvist's hair, hmmm.... I might prefer to sniff that instead of a tiny piece of supposedly game used material. I'm having difficulties mentally connecting to these game used pieces as they seem to be washed, and thus taking away the physical contact from the athlete. A piece of his hair would indeed be a nice trophy. Hair contains his DNA, I could clone him, one clone already exists in his twin, and couldn't his hair give us one more? My personal sla... oh alright let's step away from my fantasies.

They do need imagination to come up with new angles though. I wrote to Upper Deck giving them a chance to explain this "used" craziness, but they're still giving me the cold treatment (ever since I asked them about their decision to print the cardboard for hockey boxes in un-democratic China they're slightly ticked off).

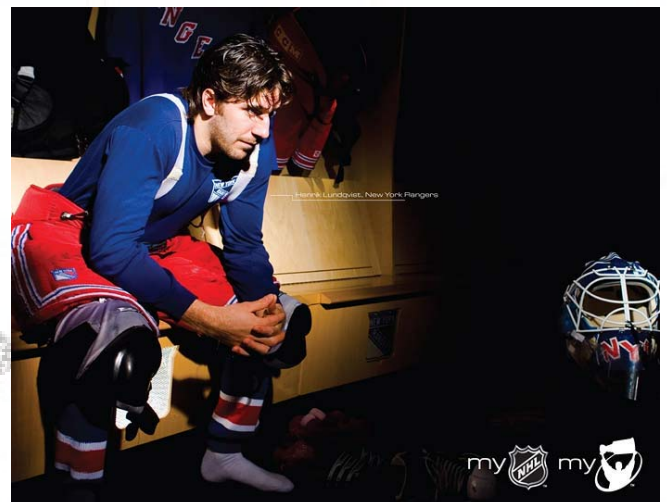
I should help them, let's see, game used pants? Anybody? Single color but could be thrilling. Game used boards... no been there, were as popular as handing out Daigle rookie cards in a prize contest today.

Maybe something from hockey player's golf club, as pretty much everyone plays it. Or the car Mr. superstar drives in. Or his vacation Hawaiian shirt would make very nice patches. No?

I'm waiting for the sequel, surely they can go further.

In the meantime I'm going to dream up a plot to get hold of Henrik's hair.

Shhh, don't tell anyone.





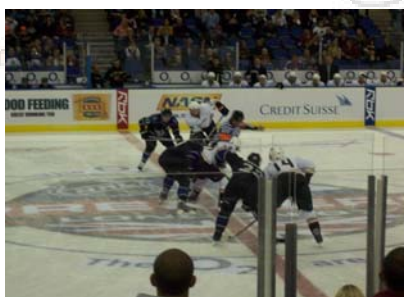
Europe Bound?

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

To many, North America is sports heaven; the NHL, the NBA, the NFL and MLB plenty of exciting sports to watch and get into. Having been born in Canada (in Québec to be exact), I got to enjoy sports heaven until I was 22, which is when I immigrated to England. Moving to another country is quite an experience, plenty of ups and downs but once you're settled, you realize what you really miss from what you could almost call your past life. For instance, getting the newspaper in the morning and starting to read it from the back as it's the sports section and it's full of hockey information, watching Hockey Night in Canada on Saturday or going to the Bell Centre for a live game. Oh how I have suffered in the six years spent in Europe... However, in the last two years, things got better. The NBA, the NFL and the NHL have all graced London with games over here and how grateful I was! In September 2007, I attended the 2 games played by the Ducks and the Kings at the O2 Arena and in October 2007 and 2008 I made the trip to Wembley Stadium to see the Giants-Dolphins and the Chargers-Saints clashes.



Things are truly looking up but there is one problem, the international ventures have not been received well by North American fans. Comments such as: "Starting the season early is stupid as the rest of the games do not start for ages", "It's not even a [insert sport here] market!" and "Why should we lose a home game so they can see it?" have been heard and read. This morning, I received my latest issue of The Hockey News and the poll inside was: "Should the NHL continue beginning the season in Europe?" The Results? Yes 34%, No 66%. I can't say I was shocked but I am hugely disappointed...



In the two NHL games held in London, the attendance was 17,551 and 17,239. If you look at arena capacity around the league, some are actually below this and attendance average for certain teams are also below this mark and the average of 17,395 would place London in 15th position in the [table of attendance](#). Of course, this is an average based on only 2 games but it still goes to show that European fans are hungry for hockey. You may not see us as a hockey market, but the packed arena and the money spent on memorabilia (programs, pucks, tops, hats etc...) speak volumes. As for the NFL if you look at the [table of attendance](#) you will see that only the Washington average is higher than the crowd pulled in at Wembley Stadium this year (a reported 83,558 fans attended). From a financial point of view, it sure sounds like a worthy endeavour as the cheapest tickets to the NFL game were £45 (around \$70) and the priciest £90 (around \$140). So a simplified average would be \$105 dollars, which is dearer than the national average in the USA by about \$30. Seems like a good bundle of money to be made in a "non-football market". Again, this is without considering the money spent on jerseys, programs, team balls, t-shirts etc... So far, I have spent £30 in programs, £20 in scarves, £12 in t-shirts, £27 in pucks and £20 in hats for a total of: £109 (\$167) in 4 games (2 NHL, 2 NFL).

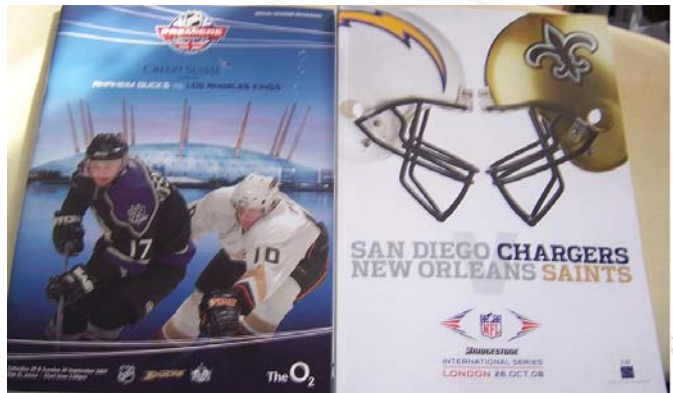


As for the early start of the season being stupid, it is the best way for the NHL to get around any jet lag issues. An early start to the season is a smart price to pay to take advantage of the European market and I am convinced that all the teams who had to start early are grateful for not having to play in the next 48 hours in America. Forcing teams to travel that far and then play within less than 5 days would be stupid. For once, the NHL got it right and thought things through before acting. Sure, a one week break before the season continues was annoying but just think that European fans have to wait a whole year to see another live NHL game (if they even come back that is). Is it that big a deal to lose a home game to allow Europeans to see one? In the NHL, each team has 41 home games for a total of 1230 home games (plus the playoffs) played on North American soil. Is losing 4 of these that much of a big deal? I can understand a concern on the football front as teams only play 8 home games for a total of 256 home games on North American ground. But even then...American fans are losing 0.004% of their home games, not that bad when put in perspective. Sure it's one of eight for each team's supporters, but if teams rotate; the teams that have been to Europe already do not have to come back for a good 10 years.



Now, in a perfect world, I would love to see the NHL expand to Europe but from a realistic point of view this might be impossible. Unless a few teams were brought in and the North American teams played all of their European games in one big trip. Yes that would mean a significant amount of time on the road but the flip side for European teams would be that they would spend even more time on the road as they would have to play all of their North American games too (there are currently 30 teams based in the USA and Canada and the number of possible European teams would be considerably smaller). This is still a highly unlikely scenario but hey, I can dream right?

So please, share with us! I'm not the only Canadian in exile on this side of the pond and each year, I look forward to announcements of games here. I can't wait to see more action and to add to my International Series memorabilia collection. Side note to the leagues/teams that come back to Europe in the next few years, please add sports cards to the inventory of souvenirs stands, it would be lovely to buy without a massive shipping charge...





My First Official NHL Game

By Rami Dawod aka LeAndre

Yes indeed, I've been waiting for this moment for 19 long years and boy it feels like the wait is almost over! Tonight is the first official NHL game in Stockholm Sweden between the Ottawa Senators and the Pittsburgh Penguins. While I support Chicago, I was still extremely excited about this game. In Europe, we watch games all winter long following the NHL as any other fan in Canada or America does. So why shouldn't we have the privilege to watch a few live games a year? It surely won't hurt anyone will it?

As soon as my brother and I got to the stadium, we were on the search for hockey cards. We thought this is an NHL game; there must be tons of merchandise for sale. We looked everywhere and we found jerseys, hats, jackets, pucks, sticks anything and everything you could think of; except of course hockey cards. We were so disappointed but it surely wasn't going to ruin our night.

There were thousands of people there all ready for the game. Only about 20 percent of the crowd had Penguins or Senators jerseys on. I spotted people mainly in Leafs, Red Wings, and Montreal jerseys! With 30 minutes to go before face-off, the atmosphere was building rapidly. You could even see the joy on my face. It felt surreal...to have Sidney Crosby, Jason Spezza, Evgeni Malkin, and Dany Heatley 25 meters away from me felt awesome. Sitting quite close to us was Mats Sundin and also not too far away the great Mario Lemieux!

The game has finished and by no means was it a great game. Nevertheless, I loved every minute of it, the occasion meant so much more to me than the actual performance of the players on the night. For the last 6 years, I've been setting my alarm to 1 am Swedish time just to wake up and watch the games. For once, I didn't need to do that as the game that I love was being played right in front of me, and guess what? As soon as I got back from the game, I bought 2 boxes of cards online. Ahh man...the things hockey does to my finances; unbelievable.

I hope that plenty more NHL games are played in Sweden, as I think it's only fair. Sweden has produced so many great players such as Salming, Sundin, Forsberg, and Lidstrom just to name a few. But please can someone let the NHL know that next time they should bring some cards. Imagine the feeling of breaking a box of Upper Deck The Cup inside the stadium, 10 minutes before the game in your seat just a few yards away from your NHL heroes. The cost of 2 tickets: 150 dollars, the cost of a puck, four cokes one beer, sweets and, a few burgers: 65 dollars. The feeling of watching a live game? Priceless!

Till Next Time, someone tell the NHL not to forget the cards at home!

LIVE NATION, IMG
STOCKHOLM GLOBEARENAS PRESENT

BRIDGESTONE NHL PREMIERE 2008
OTTAWA-PITTSBURGH
GLOBEN
LÖRDAG 4 OKT 2008 *KL 20.00

ENTRE	LÅKTARE	SEKTION	RAD	PLATS
2	B	B8	15	4

PRIS: 775,00 + SERV.AVG: 30,00
Ordinarie

STARTTIDEN KAN ÄNDRAS PGA TV
SE WWW.LIVENATION.SE / WWW.GLOBEARENAS.SE 27SEP0811:53
1113140100100520896096 13140-1 106B

GLB 081004
GLO-EEA246
Mattson Janne

My First and Last Time Stealing

By Rami Dawod aka LeAndre



It was the summer of '95 in the beautiful city of Stockholm (Sweden), I was 8 years old at the time and I was collecting hockey cards religiously. My older brother would buy tons of packs every month and I would get all of his leftovers which were mainly consisting of base cards, however I wasn't disappointed I just loved collecting, looking at and admiring the cards. Soon enough, it got to the point where I wanted to open a pack all by myself. I wanted to be the one who pulled a great hit! So being the way I am, I asked my mother if she would like to buy me a few packs or even one...She brushed me off the way mothers do when they're occupied by the television. I therefore decided to take matters into my own hands; I put on my slickest pair of jeans, my leather (Michael Jackson) jacket and last but clearly not least my Gretzky hat on...back to front! I felt like a real "bad ass", and it was time to head to the mall.

I got to the local shopping mall and headed straight towards the sports shop with fire in my belly and a Gretzky insert on my mind! By the way I had no money on me...I guess you know what I was thinking!

I entered the shop; I walked towards the packs and have a quick scan through them, while the packs were in my hands I got that exciting\tingly feeling that I still get to this day when holding cards! The Packs were shiny and had the old school candy blue color. I slowly put the packs underneath my belt and started to make my way out of the store. All kinds of thoughts were going through my head but the main one was definitely the Michael Jackson video "Bad" and of course me playing Michael (once again me as the "bad ass"). Suddenly as I strolled out, the alarm rang, with pure shock on my face I looked around the shop pretending I didn't know who the culprit was. The security guards pulled me over and I burst out crying like a baby (no longer the "bad ass").

My mother came to the shop, walked calmly towards the security guards and had a brief talk with them, and then we left the shop and headed for the car. What an unbelievable sigh of relief, I thought I was actually going to go prison for life at the age of 8 and a half! In the car my mom had a one of her most notable chats with me to date and she simply said "If we were in Saudi Arabia they would have cut off your hand (awkward silence) one for each time you steal"! Inevitably, I never stole again.

Word of advice; if anyone ever tries to rip you off in a deal make sure you warn them that you WILL cut their hands off...one for every time they rip you off. If it has the same effect as it did on me, they'll tell themselves never again.

Till Next Time Peace, Love and Hockey!





Lexington National Guard Armory Card Show

By Donald White aka Doniceage

I was looking forward to the local card show as it's always a distraction from the real world. So I headed out as usual and when I walked through the door, I saw that there was an unexpected problem. There were dealers and collectors standing around waiting for tables as it had been overbooked. It's the first time I have seen this in a long time. Unbeknownst to me a friend I call Big John, who sets up at the Gibraltar Trade Center in Michigan, had come for the show. He had never been but always heard me talk about it. He took 4 tables and another dealer from Atlanta took like 6 or 8 tables so needless to say the 30 tables were almost taken by two dealers for the first time ever. Larry Watts, the show promoter, did not have enough tables which was good for those attending, more cards to look at! Needless to say the show was hopping in dealers and foot traffic.

I must admit, you have to be a little crazy to leave all those 1 of 1 printing plates with a stranger. Also, he never puts them in a case which just blows my mind. Guess some people truly believe that nothing bad is going to happen (I don't)!!

One can look at the pictures below:

Two pictures showing the set up of the armory (dealers' set up and the crowd)



Here is a picture of a dealer table that I was asked to man while he went for a cigarette break.





ON LOCATION

I then dropped off three cards for Linda (razzmatazz) from SCF as she sent a few cards to be graded. They included two nice vintage cards one from the 30's and the other being from the 60's. Needless to say, if she gets a nice grade on the 30's it will be a great investment and a nice personal collection item. A dealer friend of mine named Don Throckmorton said he would send them in to PSA. So I should get those back next month and be able to share how her cards graded... as long as she gives me her permission to do so of course.

My pickups from the show were some vintage cards as a guy named Tony Statterly had been holding some cards for me for quite a while. I picked up this lot on an "I.O.U" and sent him a check out later in the week to his home address. Kind of nice when you can have someone give you something on trust. Here are a few pictures of the lot:

A few John Vs rookies:



A few vintage cards on which I love the look of Don Cherry as a coach. That look is so classic.



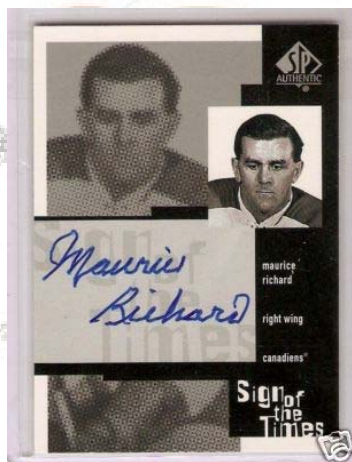
On Sunday my buddy Don Throckmorton bought a nice 1961 Mantle that we believe will grade a PSA 8 for \$400 dollars. I hardly ever see him hand out a big amount of cash for a nice card. Of course it's Mantle so what can you expect it's going to cost some big bucks. I will try to get a scan of the Mantle when I head back to the next show in October. He should have it back from PSA then along with Linda's cards.



STEALS OF THE MONTH

As you may have noticed, each week, the hockey, basketball, football and baseball teams are running a "Steal of the Week" contest. Taking part is simple; all you have to do is post your steal of the week in the appropriate thread. 50 CCs are up for grabs each week for each sport.

Here are some of the recent winners!



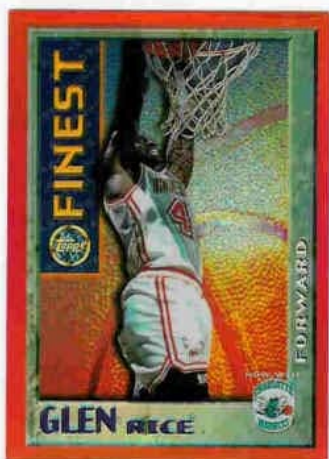
Bruhawk bought his "Rocket Richard" autograph for \$107.50 and \$6 shipping. The card books \$300.



Vangpaul got himself this Stoudemire Triple Threads Relics Emerald /18 for only \$7.50, not a third of the book.



Atrain2004 acquired this Darren McFadden Donruss Classics rookie auto for a mere \$53 while the book value is \$200.



Will22clark bought this Glen Rice Finest Refractor for \$9.99 while the book value is \$150.



Gregma105 acquired this great Modano auto for \$9.99. How? It was listed as Mike Madano and got by most collectors.



Jasonluckydog17 bought this rookie Jonathan Stewart auto for \$13.29 a few days after other copies went for \$60.



Gladdyontherise bought this awesome lot including patch cards, autos, and a card of Justin Verlander which books at \$40 on its for a grand total of \$3.01.



A Glimpse Through Our Lens

By Brad Guyton aka Brads55

Many of our members have grown accustomed to stopping by and enjoying a wide variety of videos available to be viewed on the site. There are a few of us members with a webcam and microphone setup on our computers to record and film live videos which cover many aspects in the hobby. Youtube is the video host website of choice as its free and convenient. Stop by and checkout [SportsCardForum at youtube.com](http://SportsCardForum.at.youtube.com) to see our entire video library.

Live Box & Pack Breaks

These are by far the most exciting and viewed videos. Many times our site will be donated boxes by our sponsors where we will then video tape the break live and then offer up all the cards pulled to our members in contests. We also have members who purchase boxes to record the break to show what can be pulled and sometimes even offer the cards they don't want for trade and/or sale on the site.

2008 NFL Bowman Sterling Hobby Box Break – [Click Here To View This Box Break](#) – Major Mojo!

2008 NFL SPX Hobby Box Break – [Click Here To View This Box Break](#) – Nice Assortment!

2008 NFL Press Pass Legends Hobby Box Break – [Click Here To View This Box Break](#) – Part 1

[Click Here To View This Box Break](#) – Part 2

2008-09 NBA Topps Treasury Hobby Box Break – [Click Here To View This Box Break](#) – Sick Pulls!



Live Videos of National Sports Card Conventions and Shows

Some of our members are lucky enough to go to these shows. And a hand full of them take along their trusty video camera and record some shots of the on going's of these events. Sometimes we are even lucky enough to catch a live autograph signing!

2008 Montreal Collector's International Sports Card Show – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Tables, Booths, Cards, etc.

2008 Montreal Collector's International Sports Card Show – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Guy Carbonneau Autographing!

2008 Montreal Collector's International Sports Card Show – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Carey Price and Sergei Kostytin Autographing!

Live Mail Days & Mail Weeks

One of my personal favorite videos to make are the live mail weeks and mail day videos. It's a great way to spotlight on the trades made on the site and to see some of the great cards available on the site these days. Many people make trades on the site to use their newly received cards as 'trade bait' for future trades and also spotlight them on these videos.

Brads55 11th Live Mail Week – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Ken Griffey Jr. 1/1, Davone Bess Signed Mini Football, and Many More!

Brads55 10th Live Mail Week – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Several Letterman's and Some Nice Dual Patches!

Brads55 9th Live Mail Week – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Felix Jones Letterman, Derek Hagan 1/1 Dolphin Head Team Logo Patch and More!

Live Site Tutorials

There are a couple staff members who spent the time to make some how-to videos so you can watch live the step-by-step process of how to do certain things you might not have otherwise known.

Sports Card Forum – How To Donate Card Cash – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Quick and easy way to donate, transfer, and send someone card cash on the site.

Sports Card Forum – How To Transfer Feedback – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – The tutorial on how to leave another member feedback upon completion of a trade.

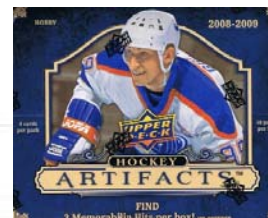


FANTASY STANDINGS

As always on SCF, plenty of things are happening and this is especially the case on the fantasy front!

The hockey team is currently running two pools, one which is based on a fantasy draft and one in which all entrants could pick any players.

Here are the standing in the pool sponsored by [Nolan's Sports Collectibles](#) who have agreed to sponsor the contest and give a box of 2008-2009 UD Artifacts.



2008/09 Regular Season

Through games of Oct 28 (Pool runs Oct 4 to Apr 30) - <http://www.officepools.com>

Team	Day	Week	Month	Total	Team	Day	Week	Month	Total
1st Hossa18sens	2	22	142	142	24th Allonblack	7	8	103	103
2nd UntDuch4bl3	4	22	135	135	24th Ccssports	3	6	103	103
3rd Darrens18	2	19	133	133	24th Fritzer213	4	6	103	103
4th Scottkoz20	3	3	125	125	27th Matssundin13...	4	6	102	102
5th Gladdyontherise	2	7	121	121	28th Digitalmonkey	7	11	100	100
6th Greek22hockey	4	5	120	120	28th Newf662001	4	6	100	100
6th Scmike001	1	6	120	120	28th Quiet-things	4	9	100	100
8th Tysonx	2	9	119	119	31st Patrickadams26	5	7	99	99
9th Rogulon	7	8	116	116	32nd Lapierrecollect	5	7	98	98
9th Tennisdevils	1	7	116	116	32nd Sk74	1	2	98	98
11th Enderwigginn69	3	5	114	114	34th Care4cards	4	10	97	97
12th Pheeb888	3	7	112	112	34th Crackapack	4	7	97	97
13th Andrewconnors9	3	4	111	111	36th Doniceage	4	7	96	96
14th Cam98	2	21	109	109	36th Leafsinn09	2	7	96	96
15th Koolkid19	4	9	107	107	36th Tobiasstephan	1	5	96	96
15th Wingsfan-13	4	8	107	107	39th Nbcollector	3	6	95	95
17th Crater_satori	2	8	106	106	40th Ja68grfan	2	4	93	93
17th Turd_ferguson	4	10	106	106	41st Canucksfan1812	3	6	92	92
19th Nathan7070	5	8	105	105	41st Malkinsearcher	5	5	92	92
19th Wolf1bh	2	8	105	105	43rd Fitchjr1	4	9	91	91
21st Gretzky99	4	6	104	104	44th Leandre	2	7	90	90
21st Pantera04	1	4	104	104	45th Nabby12	4	6	79	79
21st Tannies	2	6	104	104	46th Parco10	4	5	74	74

In the draft fantasy league, 17 members are battling it out against the hockey team for a box provided by the good folks at cardsbythebox.com. The league is divided in four divisions and here are the standings so far:

SMYTHE

- 1 SCF Hockey Staff 23-7-6
- 2 team allonblack 19-12-5 (Allonblack)
- 3 Team stead 14-14-8 (newf662001)
- 4 Vegas 420 9-20-7 (jayvegas420)
- 5 Team Andrews 9-21-6 (Rockford)

NORRIS

- 1 Team Connors 15-12-9 (Andrewconnors9)
- 2 Team Mateya 15-13-8 (EricMateya)
- 3 Montreal Jaywalkers 11-16-9 (atp0721)
- 4 Houston Crashers 11-22-3 (supercardlover)

PATRICK

- 1 Guaranteed Victory 22-6-8 (flitchjr1)
- 2 Team Weagle 19-14-3 (ja68grfan)
- 3 Team Gagne 18-14-4 (darryl87)
- 4 Team Sokol 17-15-4 (jskol1626)
- 5 Toronto Tavares 14-15-7 (matssundin13rocks)

ADAMS

- 1 Team Collins 6-3-3 (leafsfan1967)
- 2 Team gosens151911 17-15-4 (gosens151911)
- 3 Team Farina 3-6-3 (justinpogge4life)
- 4 Team Swain 5-22-9 (tysonx504)

On the basketball front, the season is only just starting by 18 members are competing for the title and the bragging rights! Some being more creative than others with their team name... Updated standings will be included in upcoming issues.

D-III -meuandthelot

- kobe080 - kobe080
trevorp121 - trevorp121
Gimme Some Mo! - nadeau01_johnson48
Anchorage Akitas - MatthewLee
Caf. Crusaders - Norball79
NBAFAN123 - nbafan123
ello's team - ellogovna*123
gladdyontherise - gladdyontherise

demonpower55 - demonpower55

- Michigan Man - DAVE30
Texas Hellbillies - RenegadeLonghorn
Molly's Ballers - molly1984
the_future - the_future
garnett_21 - garnett_21
Strange Brews - hoeseer
ChillyDoggy - ChillyDoggy
Court Vision - whalechaser



1st Place



2nd Place



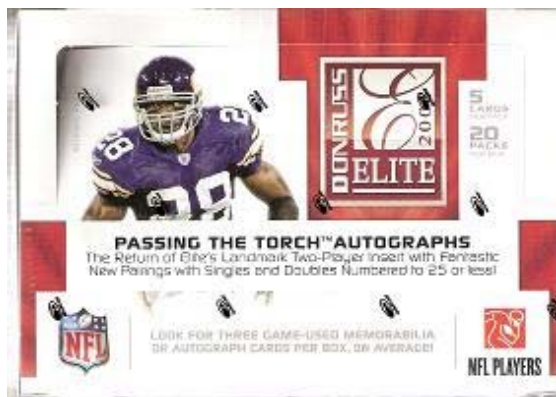
3rd Place

They are all competing for card cash prizes and for these sweet cards



SCF CONTEST

Got a Favorite Player? Win a Box of Football Cards!



Mike Silvia, the owner of the site, is offering all members the chance to win a hobby box of Donruss ELITE Football. All you have to do to be in and win a chance to take the box home is to write an article on on your favorite player!

Rules

1. Simply write a biography about your favorite player, including why is one of the best in his/her sport.
2. Provide a list of 5 of his/her best cards and what card you think has the best value today.
3. Grand prize winner will receive a hobby box of 2008 Donruss ELITE Football.
4. We must have at least 10 qualified entries for the grand prize to be awarded.
5. All qualified entries will receive 100 CC for their work.
6. All submissions must be spell checked and sent to mike@sportscardforum.com
7. Contest ends 1 December, 2008.
8. Open to ALL members to include SCF Staff.

Article Requirements

1. Player bio must be at least 3 paragraphs long. Each paragraph must consists of 3-5 sentences. Length is not a major influence, but the more detailed, the better chance you have to win.
2. You must detail your athletes athletic career from high school to college to pro and provide some details on his career so far and future prospects.
3. Provide info why he/she is one of the better athletes in his/her sport.
4. Provide at least 5 of his/her best sports cards
5. Provide the card that has the best value today

All submissions will be edited and posted into our article system and will be property of SCF. All qualified entries will receive 100 CC for their work and the winner (if at least 10 submissions) will get the 2008 Donruss ELITE Football Hobby Box. Look for selected submissions to also be featured in the upcoming issues of Collector's Corner.





Visit SCF to:

- Discuss about your favorite sports
- Trade cards with fellow collectors
- Enter in great contests to win amazing prizes
- Show off your collection to other sports cards enthusiasts
- See some awesome box breaks
- Stay informed on the latest hobby news

Coming Soon:

- SCF Storefronts
- Escrow Service

