



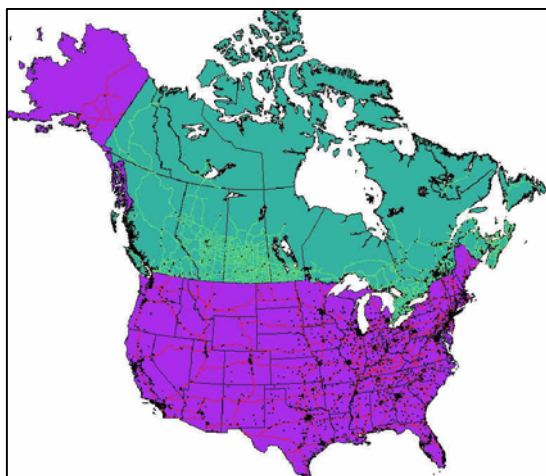
# SCF's Collector's Corner

VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2008

ON LOCATION EDITION

CARD SHOW REVIEWS SPECIAL



## ALSO INSIDE

PLAYER BIOGRAPHIES, BOX REVIEWS,  
HAPPENINGS IN ALL SPORTS



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Card  
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**We offer a selection of Hockey, Baseball, Basketball, Football and Racing boxes.**

## **This month's featured products (hobby boxes)**

### **2008-2009 Upper Deck Trilogy \$149.99 (Out December 30<sup>th</sup>)**

- Look for combos of these highly-anticipated hits!
- New for 08/09:
- Rookies broken into two levels - #'d to 499 and 999!
- Six Jersey inserts compose the memorabilia hits:
- All contain multiple swatches or an autograph!
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Star Swatches bring the best players to life on awesome signed jersey cards!
- Autographs, rookies and memorabilia cards - 3 of each per box - on average!
- Two-sided Tri-Color Tandems and Trilogy Rivals Jersey cards combine for 3 per case on avg.!
- Young Star and Superstar Scripts give collectors great autographs to chase!



### **2008 Leaf Limited Football \$129.99**

- Limited Rookie Phenoms Featuring: Darren McFadden, Matt Ryan, DeSean Jackson, Chad Henne, Limas Sweed, Malcolm Kelly
- \* Also look for limited college versions.
- Limited Legends Featuring: Bart Starr, Bo Jackson, Red Grange, Doak Walker, Jim Thorpe, Johnny Unitas, Joe Montana, Reggie White, Sammy Baugh, Walter Payton
- Limited Cuts Featuring Cut Signatures
- Limited Slideshow
- Lettermen



### **2008-2009 Upper Deck Basketball \$74.99**

- Find three memorabilia cards and one autograph per box, on average
- Look for at least 27 Star Rookies in every 16-pack box, with at least 3 of those being short-printed Rookies!



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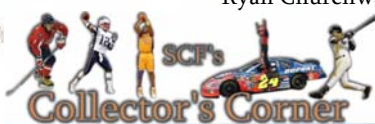
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## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

### For the Holidays

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

Time sure flies by these days, it seems like I was writing the editorial for the first issue just yesterday. Speaking of which, an error slipped into our first magazine and I would like to apologize to Trevor Picone for wrongly crediting his product review of Topps Basketball Treasury hobby box to Arash Kassiri. Aside from this slip-up, the launch went very smoothly and we are happy to be back with our second issue.

When you read this, there will be less than a month left before Christmas! Don't panic, it's a good thing! I do not buy in this idea that Christmas is incredibly stressful and makes people miserable. Relax, kick-back, make yourself a cup of hot chocolate and enjoy the festive season! It's what it's for, well that, and showing your appreciation to the ones you care for. If you feel even more generous though, you can even push the boat a little more and donate to different charities this festive season.

On SportsCardForum, we have come to consider our membership like one big family and we would like to be in a position to help the members of this family if the need arises. To do so, Tony Joyce (Enigma) has created the SCF emergency fund. In a nutshell, his idea is to get donations and trade from members to build base sets of highly sought after releases and then, sell them on and put the money in the emergency fund. If you would like to get more details on our emergency fund program, you can visit this thread:

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=579128&highlight=emergency>.



The initiative is currently in full swing and Tony is currently working towards putting the following sets together: [The Cup 07-08 base set](#), [Upper Deck NHL Ultimate 2007-2008 base set](#), [2008 Playoff Absolute Memorabilia RPM set \(football\)](#) and [2008 Yankee Stadium Legacy Set](#). Many members have donated so far and if you are willing to help out please send a PM to Enigma and let him know what you have. It is also possible to trade your cards to Tony for the SCF emergency fund. A big thank you to all of the members who have contributed so far, we are very grateful.



We have also decided to extend the deadline to enter our "Caption This" contest to the 31<sup>st</sup> December so once again here is the picture for you to caption. If you know what Marty Turco is saying/thinking please email your entry to [collectorscorner@ymail.com](mailto:collectorscorner@ymail.com) including your SCF user ID in your entry. The five best entries will be put the SCF members who will vote to pick the winner who will then be awarded a special prize.

Enter to win, email your caption to [collectorscorner@ymail.com](mailto:collectorscorner@ymail.com)!

Karine Hains, Editor-In-Chief

What is Marty Turco thinking or saying here?

If you know, send in your entry to

[collectorscorner@ymail.com](mailto:collectorscorner@ymail.com).

Enter by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

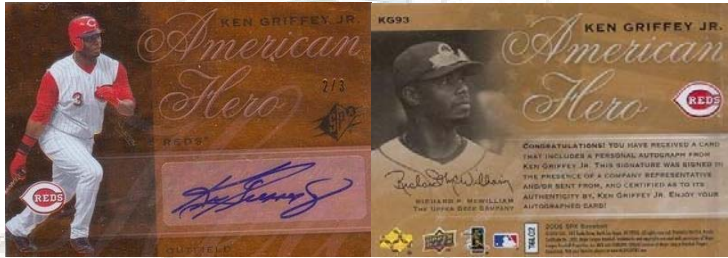




## The Best of the Box/Pack Breaks

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 : iamchrissr – Chris Reesor of Springfield, OR

1. What did you purchase?  
"Bought one pack of 08 SPX Baseball"
2. What was the card you pulled?  
"2008 SPX American Hero Ken Griffey Jr. copper AUTOGRAPH 2/3"
3. How much did the purchase cost?  
"I got the pack for \$13.00"
4. Where did you buy the product?  
"Springfield Sports Cards in Springfield, Oregon."
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?  
"Yes, I got a American Hero Ken Griffey Jr. quad gu jsy 4/25"
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?  
"By far the best hit I've ever pulled and I also collect Ken Griffey Jr."

### Q&A with SCF Member : ericsnewmsn – Eric Spiece of St. Peterborough, Ontario CANADA

1. What did you purchase?  
"I purchased one box of 2008/09 Upper Deck Series One Hockey."
2. What was the card you pulled?  
"Fab Four Fabrics Marty Turco, Dwayne Roloson, Manny Legace, and Tim Thomas (65/100)"
3. How much did the purchase cost?  
"The box cost me \$95 Canadian."
4. Where did you buy the product?  
"I bought the product at Elan Games in Peterborough, Ontario."
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?  
"I also received, in that box, a Kyle Turris and Darren Helm Young Guns."
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?  
"My best pull ever was a 2007/08 Upper Deck Ice Erik Johnson Ice Premieres RC numbered 97/99."



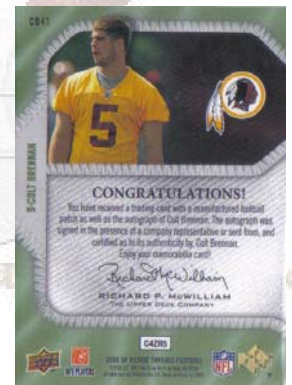
### Q&A with SCF Member : NYFanCam01 – Cameron Lunsford of Whittier, NC

1. What did you purchase?  
"It was a free box from a redemption i never recieved from Topps."
2. What was the card you pulled?  
"Al Horford 1/1 White Whale Black Printing Plate RC Patch/Ball/Patch"
3. How much did the purchase cost?  
"Free =]"
4. Where did you buy the product?  
"Free."
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?  
"Yes in my other box I pulled a 1/1 Triple GU of Shaq/David Robinson/Karl Malone"
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?  
"Derek Jeter 2008 Upper Deck Spectrum 2/2 Auto"



### Q&A with SCF Member : Brads55 – Brad Guyton of Waikoloa, HI

1. What did you purchase?  
"I bought a box of 2008 SP Rookie Threads Football."
2. What was the card you pulled?  
"Colt Brennan Rookie Letterman "I" from HAWAII (12/21) PC HIT!"
3. How much did the purchase cost?  
"Box Cost \$235 with Free Shipping."
4. Where did you buy the product?  
"eBay store of CaptainCollect"
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?  
"Yes, a Quad Rookie Jersey Matt Ryan, Joe Flacco, John David Booty, Kevin O'Connell (34/50)"
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?  
"No. I pulled a Tom Brady 2008 Bowman Sterling Gold Refractor Auto Jersey (2/20)"







### Toronto's Sports Card & Memorabilia Fall Expo 2008

By Andrew Oliver aka [flemingc04](#)

The ever-popular Sports Card & Memorabilia Fall Expo has come and gone once again. Hockey card enthusiasts gathered in Toronto, Canada to add to their hockey personal collections (PC), complete their sets, and check out the latest hockey card releases.

For me, it was my first time attending the Expo. During the days leading up to it, I didn't know what to expect other than seeing many vendors and knowing that there would be a wide variety of cards for sale. In addition, I also knew that Upper Deck would be continuing with their Priority Signings redemption program by giving away a free autographed hockey card for each select box of the latest products broken at their booth (limited to one Priority Signings per person per day).



My plan going into the event was to break a least one box of 2008-09 Upper Deck, add something to my Edmonton Oilers PC and possibly my Ed Belfour collection as well. I also brought some cards along with me as I hoped to make a few trades.

On Saturday morning, my buddy Eric Spiece ([ericsnewmsn](#) from *Sports Card Forum*) and I left early for the show as we wanted to be there when it opened. We hoped to cover the convention in one day as we had limited budgets and live a couple of hours away. As soon as we entered the room, we began looking at display cases full of newer high-end cards and within minutes we came across a booth full of graded vintage rookie cards including Gordie Howe, Howie Morenz, and a high PSA graded Maurice Richard rookie just to name a few. Knowing that there were approximately 300 booths to visit, it was hard to keep walking as I have never seen such impressive cards all together in my life.

Within an hour or so I came across a white whale - a 2007-08 SP Authentic Future Watch Sam Gagner RC auto #/999. Knowing that the book value was \$50, I showed my cards and hoped to make a trade. Unable to swing a trade, I at least managed to talk my way down to \$25. But even knowing I was offered a great price for the card, I still resisted on shelling out the cash as I wanted to see if I could find it elsewhere for less or through a trade. As we walked past many booths we noticed the variety in products and services the booths had to offer. Most booths were your typical card booths selling cards varying in value. Some specialized in selling boxes from various years, others only sold vintage cards, some were clearly looking to buy cards, and others were looking to sell cards from other popular sports.

About 45 minutes before the Upper Deck Priority Signings redemption program, we visited their booth to see which autographs everybody had a chance to pull. We found out that all cards were numbered out of 75 or less and ranged from Wayne Gretzky, Gordie Howe to guys like Brendan Bell and Daniel Paille. Just before we went in line I bought my box of 2008-09 Upper Deck for only \$65! The wait in line was roughly 45 minutes, but was well worth it. Every now and then we would hear people cheering from the Upper Deck counters as two people pulled Patrick Roy autos just in the time that we were waiting. Finally when it was my turn, I started busting my box around 5 others doing the same thing. During my break a loud cheer came from a few feet away. A guy just two spots away got a case hit: Signature Sensations - Sidney Crosby! Finally when I finished my box, an Upper Deck employee fanned a bunch of pre-packaged Priority Signings like a deck of cards. I picked a pack and slowly opened it up only to find that I pulled an Evgeni Malkin autograph #d 25/25! Just like we heard in line, the Upper Deck employees cheered and it grabbed the attention of other box breakers around the counter and people in line.





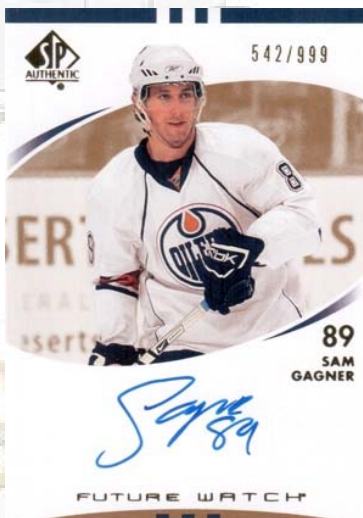
## ON LOCATION

After the break we met up with SCF member knob1212 to complete a few pre-arranged trades which Eric and I made with him. A little while later, after walking by some booths and trying to swing some trades, I managed to trade my 2007-08 UD Ice Fresh Threads Patches Black Parallel – Bryan Little #/10 for an Ultimate Signatures – Patrick Kane and an Ultimate Collection – Andrew Cogliano RC auto /399.



Throughout the day, the Expo also hosted autograph sessions from Mike Richter, Ed Giacomin, John Vanbiesbrouck, Emile "The Cat" Francis, and Gilles Villemure. The cost of each session ranged from \$20 - \$65 depending on who the player was and if the item was flat or bulky.

As it got closer to the end of the day, we realized there was no way we could finish the Expo in just one day. We checked out a few more booths and also went back to where I saw the SP Authentic Sam Gagner RC. With the expectation that it would be gone, we were surprised to see it still on display. Right away, I snapped it up and still got a great deal by paying only \$25.



Overall the Expo was an amazing show and was what I pretty much expected. With the two of us checking out the different booths, we were both able to watch for the great deals and the cards that we each wanted. One of the best deals of the day was when Eric paid only \$10 for a Borje Salming Sweet Stitches, Phil Kessel Sign of the Times, and Paul Stastny Sign of the Times. The highlight of my day was clearly pulling the Evengi Malkin Priority Signings #/25. I also got some great PC items like my Sam Gagner RC, Cogliano RC, and a Grant Fuhr Ultimate Signature. Eric also managed to add quite a few Borje Salming cards to his collection including a card from a Swedish set. With the many booths and deals to be found, I definitely recommend going with somebody who is also interested in the hobby. The show was the perfect place to find some high-end cards, set-fillers, and unique cards that you don't see everyday. While I hope to go again next fall, I may even check it out in the spring to see what else I can find.





### **Montreal Collectors' International Card Show**

Centre Paul Charbonneau, Montreal QC

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008

By Luc Séguin aka CoolHandLuke

Montreal Collectors' International Card Show is one of the only annual shows that have sport cards in the Montreal area. Since the end of the 90s, most card show disappeared from the scene. I did speak with a cards shop owner that was at every show in the 80s and 90s. I met him this summer at his shop, sitting in the middle of pile of O-Pee-Chee vintage cards listing them for his eBay store. Back then, he told me he abandoned doing shows but he was there this week-end and he was telling me it was his first one in more than 10 years. Will card shows become popular again in the Habs market? Yesterday tends to indicate that activity is definitely on the rise. The Habs centennial along with a good season could get collectors that did abandon the hobby to come back.



The new generation didn't have a big presence at the show or at least they were not buying cards much. Buyers were for the most part adults; this could be due to the diversity of card price range. For the buyers and collector, it was fun to renew with this aspect of the hobby. This was also my first show in about 15 years and I appreciated it a lot. My two days spent there cost me a bit but I got sweet autographs and cards.

Friday night I did see three Sergei Kostitsyn the Cup RC /99 (freshly released from the Upper Deck redemption program), one rainbow and one platinum. I believe they were all sold out by Sunday. Carey Price cards were hot, hot, hot... There were plenty of Habs cards, Hall of Famer players, wax box, books and old autographed items all over the place. In Montreal shows, you always see a lot of vintage cards and items. Many of those vintage sellers had left by the time the autograph session started. I guess they felt the show was over for them as the crowd became younger and more focus on the Carbonneau, Kostitsyn and Price autograph session.

I went back on Sunday, the show got more active around noon because of all the people present to buy their autograph ticket. Guy Carbonneau and Carey Price were both announced to be present at 1 PM. Andrei Kostitsyn and Sergei Kostitsyn were scheduled to arrive at 2 PM. Guy was present at 1 PM but Andrei was cancelled due to his injury and his brother Sergei with Carey Price were moved to 3 PM. This of course was not making their fans happy with the additional wait but it sure did not stop them sticking around to get the autographs. Sergei did arrive on time but Carey Price was 30 minutes late.

The fans sat down in line inside a long corridor. Most of them got to talk with the person waiting next to them and overall, it was a pleasant wait. The queue was longer than the corridor itself, and turning at the end to continue in another corridor. During the Carbonneau signing session, a TVA journalist wanted to interview Guy while he was signing and fans were waiting in line. Carbonneau refused to do the interview during the signing session as he said it would not be fair on the waiting fans. This made the journalist unhappy but it must have pleased the fans.







The autographs were not free. Guy asked for \$29 so did Sergei for an autograph on either a magazine, a card or a small/medium photo. As for Carey Price, his moniker was a hefty \$49. The price for a signature on a jersey, or a poster would reach \$75 in Price case and \$40 for the other. If you didn't have something to get autographed, you needed to buy something on site like a lot of the fans. 8 X 10 photos were sold for \$7 plus \$3 for a top loader to put the image in. They were also selling pucks and jerseys. In total, for a Carey Price 8 X 10 autographed image, you had to pay \$59. Certainly not free, but did I mention that they each signed a few free autographs coming in and going out of the show? Younger fans were waiting outside for cabs and some got the goodies free.



In the end, the real fan did not mind paying the money requested. That precious auto was planned a long time ago for certain people. Some came from far, mother and daughter, father and son; hockey is often a family love affair. Guess I fall in this category as I was there along with my sister who bought both a Carbonneau and a Price autograph. I made three short videos about the show and hosted them on the SportCardForum youtube channel.

In the first video, it's mainly a tour of the show and cards:

<http://fr.youtube.com/watch?v=FT0ZE-pLvQ&feature=channel>

The second video is Guy Carbonneau's autograph session:

<http://fr.youtube.com/watch?v=TVzGdD9b4XY>

The third is Carey Price and Sergei Kostistyn's autograph session:

[http://fr.youtube.com/watch?v=nF3mH2AEb\\_o](http://fr.youtube.com/watch?v=nF3mH2AEb_o)



### Greensboro, NC Toy, Hobby and Sports Card Show Report

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

A couple of weekends a year, the Triad area in North Carolina will have a spike in its population anywhere between 500-1000. The epicenter of the population boon is the Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, NC. The reason: the Greensboro Toy, Hobby and Sports Card Show.

Inside Pitch Promotions is the host of this event; usually three times a year in February, May and November. It's a two day show that encompasses many hobbies, including sports card. Collectors from all over North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia make the trek to Greensboro to feed their cardboard appetite. Whether it's vintage, memorabilia, autographs or wax, this show has it all.

I had the privilege to attend the show as a dealer with a business partner to represent [CardsByTheBox.com](http://CardsByTheBox.com). We were fortunate to get an ideal location in the middle of the show arena. Set up with wax products from five sports, supplies and individual cards, we began our assault on the Greensboro area. Right away, we were besieged by an onslaught of fellow collectors looking to acquire the latest hobby releases such as 2008/09 Upper Deck Series 1 Hockey, 2008 Bowman Chrome Football, 2008 Press Pass Legends Racing, 2008/09 Upper Deck SPx Basketball and 2008 Topps Stadium Club Baseball.

We were fortunate to be the only dealer set up that was there primarily to sell wax products. At times, this caused congestion around our tables, but we took it all in stride. As with any show, you get the opportunity to shoot the breeze with fellow collectors and forge future relationships in this ever-growing hobby. One conversation in particular was refreshing.



When I asked this lady why she collects cards, her answer was simple, "I love my (Carolina) Panthers", nothing wrong with that rationale. Then I asked her why the Panthers were her favorite team. Her reply, "Because I like Sir Purr (the mascot) and when he goes grrraarr (a growl)". She followed by doing hand gestures like she was clawing someone and growled. Yes, the young lady in question was a cute 7-year old girl in pigtails visiting the show with her father.

While her father was perusing our selection of baseball wax products, she stumbled upon our Nickel Bin. The Nickel Bin is a series of boxes with loose cards that are a nickel a piece, regardless of the number purchased. Not five seconds later, she had come across her first Panther, a 2008 Donruss Gridiron Gear base card of WR Steve Smith. She smiled like only a young kid can and ran over to her dad to show him. He patted her on the head and she asked if she could have it. More than willing to let her have it, I noticed her father reach into his pocket and give her a \$1 bill. He told her to go and get some more. Like a kid in a candy store, she went digging. And she struck gold. She pulled out close to 150 Panthers cards out of three boxes. Sheepishly, she handed me the \$1 and asked if that was enough. Without hesitation, I said it sure was and got her a bag for her goodies. Seriously, wouldn't you do the same thing?

In a hobby that is male dominated and oriented and priced primarily for adults, it was pleasant to see a young collector understand what collecting should really be about. It's not the money, it's not the card value predicated by sales or a magazine or someone's opinion. It's just for the love of your sport, team or player. Hopefully that card innocence remains for a long time.

Another aspect I enjoy at card shows is the ability to trade with fellow members is trading. Like logging into [SportsCardForum.com](http://SportsCardForum.com), it's always exciting to execute deals to pick up new pieces and send old ones to a new home. Unfortunately, this was not a show for that. Because of economic times, dealers weren't open to trading as much as normal and the ones that were wanted something for nothing. But that's ok, there's always the next time, which makes this hobby wonderful. Not to mention, that didn't stop me from viewing all the collections spread out throughout the arena.

Probably the greatest attribute a card show has is that it is for everyone. Young or old, male or female, monetarily with or without, there's something for all of us. So next time you have the chance to go to a card show, big or small, come on out and enjoy yourself. They are much more entertaining than a trip to the theater or a concert.

See you in Raleigh, NC, for the Supershow from December 19-21...



## Capital Trade Shows Sports Card and Comic Book Show Ottawa November 23, 2008 – Ottawa Civic Centre

By Kevin Lee aka gosens151911



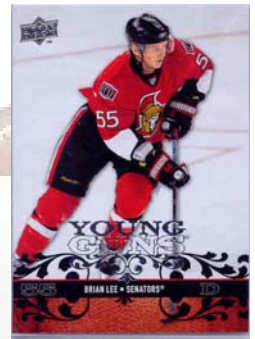
Capital Trade Shows hosts several small sports card and comic book shows a year at the Nepean Sportsplex. However, they also host an annual much larger sports card and comic book show at the Ottawa Civic Centre. This is the one I attended. I will be focusing on the card show aspect and all prices I mention are in Canadian Dollars (no tax!).

The set up for this show was pretty standard with tables just lined up in an exhibition hall. About 60% of it was dedicated to sports cards, 95% of it hockey. So if you're a hockey card collector, this is the show for you. The turnout for this event was smaller than usual, with a few of the dealers commenting that they were barely breaking even for the cost of a table, perhaps because of the economic crisis. Overall though, as a hockey card collector this was a great experience.

There were several dealers selling boxes and packs. Cheapest prices I was able to find for several boxes and packs are listed below for an idea of what you can expect to find shall you decide to attend in the future:

- OPC Premier Box - \$135
- 2008-09 UD Series One Fat Pack - \$5.75
- 2008-09 OPC Hobby Pack - \$2
- 2008-09 Artifacts Hobby Pack - \$10

There were also two dealers selling supplies (e.g. toploaders, magnetic cases) cheaper than hobby store prices. One of them also had Beckett Hockey magazines for only \$10, versus \$15+tax you would have to pay at a bookstore. There were a few people breaking boxes. I witnessed the opening of OPC Premier box, which yielded 3 patch cards, including a Triple Remnants with a very nice Hasek patch. I also noticed one person who opened two boxes of 2008-09 Artifacts. So if you enjoy watching people open boxes, just walk around and you will probably catch a few.



Now what most people are wondering, how were the dealers with singles. To obtain the higher end cards, you will likely have to pay over 50% book value (BV), as those who own them were mostly from actual card stores, not a private dealer. Nevertheless, there were a few who did have some at 50% of BV. With probably close to three-four dozen dealers, there were many goods to be found. Here are some of the average prices for cards I saw:

- Jonathan Toews YG - \$50
- Toews, Gagner, Kane, Price Rookie Headliners – All 4 for \$60
- UD Black non-autographed lettermans - \$15-\$25 for commons
- UD Black autographed lettermans - \$25-\$35 for commons



For those with a lower budget there were a few dollar boxes with autos and game used cards. You could get them for around \$3 each. A pretty good deal, as some of the boxes had a few pretty nice numbered jerseys and autographs if you looked hard enough. I also noticed for player/team collectors, quite a few dealers had the Toronto Expo priority signings cards. I was able to pick up a Brendan Bell #/75 for \$20 from a dealer who also had several other priority signings. So you can expect to pay slightly more for star players.

Additionally for those who collect memorabilia, there were probably close to a dozen dealers who focused on selling autographed pucks/pictures, tickets from older games, etc. There was also a stand for getting cards graded by KSA (the Canadian grading company) on the spot. Overall, it's a great show for any hockey fan to visit!



## THE RUNDOWN ON...

### 2008-09 NHL Upper Deck Artifacts

By Scott Kozlowski aka Scottkoz20

On November 5th, 2008, I purchased a box of 2008-2009 Artifacts hockey from a local card shop in the Buffalo, NY area.

#### **Product Description**

10 packs per box, 4 cards per pack

#### **Content Highlights:**

Each box is chock full of great hits:

(all inserts/subsets combine for 1 hit per pack)

- Three jersey, patch or jersey/patch cards numbered to 999 or less! (on average) one will be a 2- or 3-player memorabilia card!
- Two Artifacts rookie cards!
- One rookie redemption card!
- Also featuring an Auto-Facts signature card!
- Two numbered Legends/Stars subset cards!
- A terrific addition - look for great jersey/patch combo cards!
- Now up to seven levels of parallels for each insert, subset and regular cards!

#### **Product Breakdown**

##### **Memorabilia Cards**

- Treasured Swatches - #'d to 999
- Frozen Artifacts - #'d to 999
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Silver Parallels - #'d to 100
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Gold Parallels - #'d to 75
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Blue Parallels - #'d to 50
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Red Parallels - #'d to 10
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Black Parallels - #'d to 1
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Jersey/Patch Parallels - #'d to 50
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Jersey/Patch Silver Parallels - #'d to 35
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Jersey/Patch Gold Parallels - #'d to 25
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Jersey/Patch Blue Parallels - #'d to 10
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Jersey/Patch Black Parallels - #'d to 1
- Treasured Swatches/Frozen Artifacts, Jersey/ Tag Patch Black Parallels - #'d to 1
- Tundra Tandems (dual jerseys) - #'d to 100
- Tundra Tandems (dual jerseys), Bronze Parallel - #'d to 75
- Tundra Tandems (dual jerseys), Silver Parallel - #'d to 25
- Tundra Tandems (dual jerseys), Gold Parallel - #'d to 10
- Tundra Tandems (dual jerseys), Red Parallel - #'d to 1
- Tundra Tandems (dual patches), Copper Parallel - #'d to 35
- Tundra Tandems (dual patches), Silver Parallel - #'d to 10
- Tundra Tandems (dual patches), Gold Parallel - #'d to 5
- Tundra Tandems (dual tag patches), Red Parallel - #'d to 1
- Tundra Trios (triple jerseys) Gold - #'d to 75
- Tundra Trios (triple patches) Blue - #'d to 10

##### **Signature Cards**

- Auto-Facts - inserted 1:10

##### **Cost**

I paid \$93 USD plus tax. This product can be found as low as \$80 to around \$100 for a hobby box. Retail packs and boxes can be found at a significantly lesser price.

##### **Parallel Cards**

- Regular Cards - Silver parallel - #'d to 100
- Regular Cards - Gold parallel - #'d to 75
- Regular Cards - Blue parallel - #'d to 50
- Regular Cards - Regular Cards - Copper Spectrum parallel - #'d to 25
- Regular Cards - Silver Spectrum parallel - #'d to 10
- Regular Cards - Gold Spectrum parallel - #'d to 5
- Regular Cards - Black Rainbow Spectrum parallel - #'d to 1
- Regular Cards - Black Rainbow Auto parallel - #'d to 1
- Legends/Stars/Rookie Cards - Silver parallel - #'d to 100
- Legends/Stars/Rookie Cards - Gold parallel - #'d to 75
- Legends/Stars/Rookie Cards - Blue parallel - #'d to 50
- Legends/Stars/Rookie Cards - Copper Spectrum parallel - #'d to 25
- Legends/Stars/Rookie Cards - Silver Spectrum parallel - #'d to 10
- Legends/Stars/Rookie Cards - Gold Spectrum parallel - #'d to 5
- Legends/Stars/Rookie Cards - Black Rainbow Spectrum prl - #'d to 1
- Legends/Stars/Rookie Cards - Black Rainbow Auto parallel - #'d to 1

##### **Regular Cards & Subset**

- Legends/Stars - #'d to 999
- 100 Regular Cards

##### **Rookie Cards**

- Artifacts Rookies - numbered to 999
- Artifacts Rookie Redemption cards - inserted 1:10



# THE RUNDOWN ON...



## Box Summary

The following list and scans is what I obtained when opening this box.

26 base cards (no duplicates)

Rookies: Eric Ersberg and Adam Pineault

Redemption: Wild Card redemption

Autofacts: Matt Lashoff

Stars: Henrik Zetterberg

Legends: Joe Mullen

Silver parallel - #d to 100: Larry Robinson (#12/100)

Frozen Artifacts, Blue Parallels - #d to 50: Brendan Shanahan (#23/50)

Treasured Swatches - #d to 199: Paul Stastny (#144/199)

Tundra Tandems (dual jerseys), Bronze Parallel - #d to 75:

Nicklas Lidstrom and Chris Chelios (#37/75)

The results were conform to all of the odds stated on the bottom of the box.

Odds of 1:5 for a Treasured Swatch or Frozen Artifacts, Legend or Starts and Rookies.

Odds of 1:10 for a Tundra Tandem, Rookie Redemption, Base Parallel and Auto-facts.

## Ratings (Out of 5)

**Base Set** - 4.5/5

I love the look of the base cards, with the bronze on the corners of each card and the base set is fairly easy to obtain with only 100 cards. If you are looking for only the base set, then opening retail packs of this product is perfectly sufficient and a significantly less expensive option than the hobby version.

**Fun** - 4.25/5

With only 10 packs in a hobby box, opening a box goes extremely quick. The odds are that you get a "hit" on every pack is a bit misleading in my opinion as I do not believe set inserts such as Legends and Stars can be regarded as "hits". This takes a bit of the fun out of it.

**Overall Design** - 4/5

While I like the design of the base cards, the rookie cards do not blend well at all with the rest of the base set. In the past, the rookie cards have had a similar look with the style of cards in relation to the Legends and Stars; this is not the case this season.

**Value** - 5/5

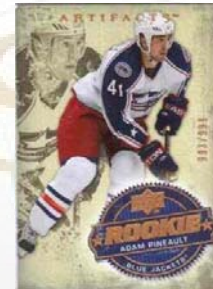
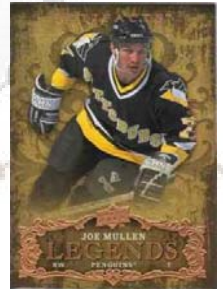
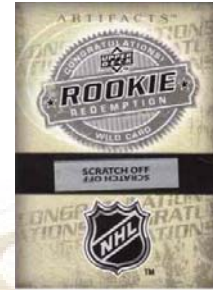
As always, value comes from your own perspective on collecting. Three of the 10 "hits" (on average) in the box are some type of memorabilia, you also get an autograph, two rookies and a rookie redemption, there is a enough variety to wet any collector's appetite.

**Rebuy** - 5/5

Personally, considering the price of Artifacts, there really is no such thing as a bad box. It is easy to see why this is one of the most popular products; there is something for every collector.

**Score:** 22.75/25 = 91%

Artifacts is going to be one of the most popular hockey products of the 2008-2009 season. This product offers a lot of variety to collectors in general.



## 2008 NFL Donruss Gridiron Gear

By Ryan Churchward aka rchurchward

I would like to thank Donruss for giving me the opportunity to open and review this wonderful box.

You can view two videos of this break at the following links: [Gridiron Gear Box Break Part 1](#) [Gridiron Gear Box Break Part 2](#)

\*Props to my wonderful fiancée, Kathryn, for doing the amazing video work!\*

Price between \$75 and \$85

Packs per box: 18

Cards per pack: 5

Check out [Donruss' Official Preview and Product Information](#)

What We Pulled:

**Base:** Numerous star players (78% Base Set Complete; 78/100 Cards)

The base set, as always with Donruss Gridiron Gear, is beautiful. Only comprising 100 cards, the set solely includes the super stars of the NFL! The picture of the player is crystal clear and always an action photo. The players name and team helmet are centered at the bottom of the card with the Donruss Gridiron Gear logo in the top right corner.



**Rookies:** (left) Andre' Woodson (949/999), Jalen Parmele (013/999), Paul Hubbard (829/999), Alex Brink (392/999), Sam Keller 'X' (78/100)

The rookie set this year is loaded with potential stars of tomorrow! With a really cool futuristic design; the rookie is normally pictured in their NFL Uniform, unless the card is a parallel (like the Sam Keller), in which case they will be pictured in college uniform. Like the base, player name and team helmet are centered at the bottom of the card. Really like the design of this set! Beautiful!



**Parallel and Inserts:** (below) Devin Hester 'O' (099/250), Jerricho Cotchery 'X' (030/100), Ryan Grant 'Next Generation' (141/250), Fred Dryer 'Performers' (242/250), Willie Davis 'Performers' (018/500), Julius Jones 'Player Timeline' (238/500)



One thing that I love about Donruss Gridiron Gear is that your parallels and inserts will almost always be numbered. Relying on their hit insert/parallel sets from previous years, Gridiron Gear promises you a great selection of parallels and inserts from stars of the NFL today as well as familiar faces from the NFL of yesterday! My personal favorite set would be the 'Next Generation' inserts set. Great looking cards!





## THE RUNDOWN ON...

And now for what you all came for...the hits! We got lucky to spring a hot box!

**Autographs:** Phillip Merling 'Rookie Autograph' (064/250), Zach Miller 'NFL Teams Autograph' (06/25)

The NFL Teams autograph insert set is an absolutely wonderful hit! With cards numbered out of 25, this set includes a rubber NFL team logo centered in the middle of the card with the players autograph underneath. Featuring some of the greatest stars in the NFL, this set promises to be a hot one for collectors. The rookie autograph set looks beautiful as well, with the same design as the base rookie card. Our only complaint here is the fact that Phillip Merling decided to autograph his stickers using a ball point pen. But then of course, there's nothing that Donruss can do about that, so it's all good.

**Base Game Used:** Willis McGahee 'X' (033/100), Frank Gore 'X' (012/100), Larry Fitzgerald 'O' (020/100)

Even the base game used cards in Donruss Gridiron Gear are beautiful. Using the same picture as the base parallel cards, the game used version offers a generous piece of the player's authentic game used jersey located near the center of the card. With a beautiful rainbow holofoil design on the rest of the card, these really pop out and give great aesthetic pleasure!



**Insert Game Used:** Early Doucet III 'Next Generation' (189/250), Jamaal Charles 'Next Generation' (181/250)

Now, on to one of their greatest inserts sets; "Next Generation". These game used cards feature a single swatch jersey piece from some of the greatest rookies in the 2008 class and some of the future stars of tomorrow. I love the design of the player in action, team logo in the top corner, and the eye-catching "Next Generation" along the bottom of the card. A generous jersey piece is located along the left side of the card.

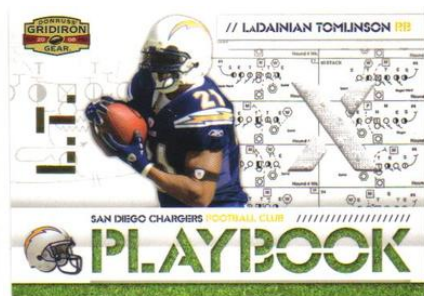
**Insert Game Used:** Ted Hendricks 'Performers' (008/100), LaDainian Tomlinson 'Playbook' (241/250)

Besides 'Next Generation', the 'Performers' is one of my favorite insert sets of Donruss Gridiron Gear. Offering a great selection of star players from the past, the game used version of 'Performers' offers a dual jersey swatch. Of course, pulling a jersey swatch from one of the greatest running backs in the game is always a plus!

And now for some nice rookie mojo! James Hardy 'Rookie Gridiron Gems' JUMBO 4 Color Jersey Patch (11/50) The mojo rookie hit of the box has a huge patch! It measures about 1.5x2 inches and contains 4 colors, most likely from the player's jersey number. Being numbered so low, this card is a must have for any collector. Stunning!



Base Set – 4.5/5



Fun – 5/5

**Final Ratings (out of 5):**

Overall Design – 5/5

Total = 23.5/25 (94%)



Value – 4.5/5

Rebuy – 4.5/5

### **Final Remarks:**

Donruss Gridiron Gear has long been my favorite football product and with another knock-out year, Gridiron Gear promises to remain at the top of the football collectors' charts! With an amazing selection of star caliber cards and an array of inserts and parallels, this product contains something for every type of collector. If I was a collector looking for a box to bust that not only promises me lots of fun but some good hits, base, inserts and parallel, my first choice would be 2008 Donruss Gridiron Gear. Pack after pack, Donruss keeps you guessing about what stars could show up in your next pack. My advice to members thinking about investing in some Gridiron Gear: stop thinking and do it!



## 2008 MLB Stadium Club

By Andrew Stein aka andrewstein

First off, I want to thank Topps for the great box.

Now, here's the video of the break: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEg7D\\_U51F0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEg7D_U51F0)

2008 Topps Stadium Club features one autograph per box.

The two case hits are the original artist's sketch card and the triple autographed relic card. Each falls one per case.

- 12 Autographed Cards Per Box
- At Least 6 Rookie Autographs Per Box
- 1 Yankee Stadium Relic Card Per Box
- 12 Rookies Numbered\* to 1499 or Less Per Box
- 12 Parallels Numbered\* to 999 or Less Per Box



### Base Cards

150 subjects; 200 cards on 20 pt. card stock.

### Veterans

100 MLB pros and retired stars.

### Rookies

50 rising stars with a variation version for each. Numbered\* to 1499. 1 PER PACK!

Available in the following parallels:

**PLATINUM PHOTOGRAPHER'S PROOF:** Hobby Exclusive! All one of one!

**GOLD PHOTOGRAPHER'S PROOF:** Numbered to 50.

**PHOTOGRAPHER'S PROOF:** Numbered to 99.

**FRAMED PRINTING PLATES:** HOBBY EXCLUSIVE! The four plates used to make each of the 41 Rookie autographed cards are framed and numbered! ONE OF ONE!

Potential Bigger Hits:

**Triumvirate Autographed Triple Relics** - HOBBY EXCLUSIVE! 33 stars appear on cards with their autographs and three relics. Numbered. 1 PER CASE!

Available in a ONE OF ONE Black Parallel version.

**Beam Team Stained Glass Autographs** - 61 players on shimmering faux stained glass cards with their signature. Also available: ONE OF ONE Platinum, ONE OF ONE Printing Plate, Gold numbered to 50 and Black and White numbered to 99.

**Sketch Cards** - 1 Per Case! HOBBY EXCLUSIVE! Original artwork featuring artwork of players, unforgettable baseball moments and Major League Baseball stadiums. Each sketch is an original one of one masterpiece and is signed by the artist!

**Yankee Stadium Relic Cards** - HOBBY EXCLUSIVE! • 1 PER BOX!

oStadium Slices 15 cards featuring Yankees and visiting players along with Yankee Stadium wall or dugout bench relics. Numbered to 299.

oCeremonial Cuts 10 cards showcasing the pieces of the famous bunting that has decorated the stadium over the years. Numbered to 299.

### Parallel Cards (12 PER BOX!)

**Veteran First Day Issue** - HOBBY EXCLUSIVE! 100 Veteran and Retired players are featured with a foil- stamped First Day Issue logo. Numbered to 999.

**Platinum Photographer's Proof** - HOBBY EXCLUSIVE! ALL ONE OF ONE!

**Gold Photographer's Proof** - Numbered to 50.

**-Photographer's Proof** - Numbered to 99.

**-Framed Printing Plates** - HOBBY EXCLUSIVE! The 4 plates used to make each one of the 200 base cards are framed and numbered. ALL ONE OF ONE!







## Base:

The base cards feature very minimal text, which only serves to further highlight the gorgeous photography on the cards. I remember when Stadium Club first came out in the mid 1990s, and the first thing I noticed then was the clear, crisp photography on the cards. The 2008 version is no different.

## 1st Day Issues #/599:

I received 10 of these, including some nice ones like Ryan Braun and Joba Chamberlain. These are strictly parallels, with a shiny foil "1st Day Issue" logo in the corner. The logo is noticeable, but does not get in the way of the card. (The sell sheet says they are #/999, but these were all #/599).

## Parallel #/999:

Again, some nice cards like World Series MVP Hamels, Verlander, and Youkilis. These weren't listed on the sheet, so I'm not sure what they're called. Always nice to get parallels though.

## Photographer's Proofs

I like the way the words are written in a manner that they resemble the sides of film. It's a nice aspect of the cards.



## Game-Used (GU)

The lone GU was a Yankee Stadium Stadium Slice Relic of Ichiro. This card features Ichiro with a piece of the Stadium Wall.

## Redemption Autographs:

I'd complain about these more, but since there were only two, and since they have the codes on the back to make online redemption a possibility,

## Rookie Autographs:

It's always a plus to find that a product includes on-card autographs!



## Beam Team Autographs:

Now we're talking. These cards feature a stained-glass background. Really nice cards and they even feature a little blurb about the player on the back, unlike most autographs nowadays.

## Hall Of Famer Autograph!

Great card. I'm a little torn here since, as a Mets fan, I would have loved to see Carter in Mets uniform, but I do love that Expos uniform. In any case, it was a nice departure from some of the rookies.

## Triumvirate Autographed Triple Relic

Yup, a case hit. #/99 and a great looking card. Very similar to the Triple Threads design that Topps has used in the past couple of years. I was pleasantly surprised to pull one of these, and it's definitely a great card.



## Autographed Printing Plate

That's right, not just a printing plate, a printing plate autograph! A Ronny Paulino Autographed Beam Team printing plate. First 1/1 Autograph or Printing Plate Autograph I've ever pulled, and it's a beauty.



## RATINGS (OUT OF 5)

Base Set - 5/5  
Fun - 5/5  
Design - 5/5  
Value - 4/5  
Rebuy - 4/5

**Total: 23/25 = 92/100.**



I love the simple design of the base. Although it's definitely not a box for set builders, the base set looks great, and would probably look even better when completed. The Beam Team autographs are really nice cards and I love that the rookie autographs are on card autographs. Really, the only complain I have is that there were a lot of no-name autographs pulled. But, I can't complain when I pulled a printing plate auto, case hit, and Hall of Famer auto. The cards are even nicer in person, as I don't think the scanner can pick up all of the colors or brightness of the individual cards. All in all, it was a very fun box to break, and the number of parallel cards makes it very trade-worthy. Thanks Topps!!



## THE RUNDOWN ON...

### 2008 NBA Upper Deck MVP

By Molly Herbstritt aka Molly1984



This year's Upper Deck MVP box is great for low end collectors. Each box is around \$40 and contains 24 packs with 8 cards in each. The base set (including rookies) is rather large at 260 cards, so you will not be able to pull a whole set from the one box. Something that I really like about this set is that the base cards are set up nicely. Some products are not really organized in any particular way but in this case, the base cards are organized by team and in alphabetical order. They also have a nice simple, but still attractive, look about them with a white/hardwood border.

There are three subsets in addition to the main base cards. One player from each team is represented in the Team MVPs 30-card subset. Rookie cards fall one per pack, but I found that a few of the packs had more than one. There are 40 rookie cards that feature the players in their college uniforms and have a hardwood background. I like how these cards look but it is preferable to have the rookies in their NBA uniforms. 20 former NBA players are also included in the MVP Legends subset. Some of the most popular retired players are featured such as Michael Jordan, Wilt Chamberlain, and Patrick Ewing.



Each pack generally included at least one insert. There is a special insert set that features 100 Kobe Bryant cards highlighting every game he played in for his 2007-2008 MVP season. These cards are very nicely designed; Kobe Bryant fans will really enjoy them. The cards feature a picture from each game on the front and have a black snake design for the border because of Kobe's nickname "Black Mamba". On the back of these cards stats from the game are included. Ultimate Victory is the other insert set. These cards have a foil look and feature both veterans and rookies. There are 90 cards in this insert set so it is also rather large.



Each box will also yield a few cards from the Silver and Gold Script parallel sets. These parallels of the base set feature a facsimile signature of the player in either silver or gold and the Gold Scripts are numbered to 100. If you are familiar with Upper Deck Pro Sigs or Upper Deck Collector's Choice Silver Signature from past years, these cards have a similar style. There is also a third parallel set called "Super Scripts" which are 1/1 parallels.



Lastly, each box contains one hit on average. Typically a memorabilia card will be pulled as these have odds of falling one in every 24 packs. There are single player and dual game used cards as well as patches in this product. Only the patches are numbered. My box yielded a dual auto of Kevin Durant and Jeff Green which I was very happy with because of the odds. In general, most other products out there will contain more GU and Auto hits per box. The one hit from this box will likely not always be worth the price of the box.





## THE RUNDOWN ON...

### Product Description and Highlights:

Release Date- September 30, 2008

8 cards per pack; 24 packs per box; 16 boxes per case (Hobby)

Approximate price- \$1.99 per pack, \$37-45 per box

- Find one memorabilia card or autograph per box, on average!

- Look for Kobe Bryant MVP insert cards!

- Look for Hobby-exclusive 1-of-1 parallels of the entire 260-card base set!

- Find one MVP Rookie card in every pack, on average!

- Look for Dual Memorabilia and Patch cards!

### Set Features:

Base Set

-260 card base set

-Subsets are: 30 Team MVPs, 40 MVP Rookies (1 per pack), 20 MVP Legends (1:2 packs)

Parallel Sets (1:4 packs)

- Silver Script parallel set, 260 cards

- Gold Script parallel set (#ed to 100), 260 cards

- Super Script parallel set (#ed 1 of 1), 260 cards

Inserts

-Kobe Bryant MVP (1:2 packs), 100 cards

-Ultimate Victory (1:2 packs), 90 cards

-Upper Deck SE (retail only), 90 cards

Memorabilia Cards (1:24 packs)

-Game Night Souvenirs (1:36 packs), 40 cards

-Star Combos Dual Memorabilia (1:84 packs), 20 cards

-Game Night Souvenirs Patch (#ed to 25), 40 cards

-Star Combos Dual Patch (#ed to 25), 20 cards

Autographed Cards

-Signatures Required (1:288 packs), 50 cards



(Note: On Upper Deck's website the [checklist for the rookies](#) is missing two, so there may only be 38 rookies actually produced. Card numbers 222 and 239 are not listed.)

### Overall Break

Base - 155/260 (60% complete) Rookies - 29/40 (72.5% Complete) Legends - 16/20 (80% Complete)

Missing/Needed - 105

Duplicates - 5

Silver Script Parallel - (6) #49, 67, 116, 187, 216 Speights (RC), 254 Maravich (Legends)

Gold Script Parallel - (1) #38 Marcus Camby (#d 029/100)

Kobe Bryant MVP - (12/100 12% complete) KB-1, KB-5, KB-16, KB-17, KB-26, KB-57, KB-59, KB-60, KB-63, KB-79, KB-90, KB91

Ultimate Victory - (12/90 13.33% complete) #1, 2, 16, 18, 30, 47, 59, 74, 76, 83, 87, 90.

Memorabilia Cards - (0) Autographed Cards - (1) #SR-DG Kevin Durant/Jeff Green Signatures Required AUTO

### Final Ratings (Out of 5)

Base Set - 4.5/5

Fun - 4/5

Overall Design - 4.5/5

Value - 4/5

Rebuy - 3/5

Final Grade: 20/25 (80%)

I would recommend this box to people who like to collect sets and rookie cards. Kobe Bryant fans in particular will also enjoy this box for his MVP insert set which is a really unique idea for an insert set. If you are mainly looking for game used and autographed cards or high valued hits then this is not a good box for you.



## THE RUNDOWN ON...

### **2008 Press Pass Legends Mini Box**

By Darin Heitzer aka JKC

Thank you to the nice folks at Press Pass for providing us with this mini box of 2008 Press Pass Legends to break and review.

Here is a video of the break: <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=BmKopCEbPOE&url=http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?p=4357234>

#### **Product Description:**

12 Master Boxes Per Case      3 Mini-Boxes per Master Box      6 Packs Per Mini-Box      5 Cards Per Pack      SRP: \$150.00 For A Master Box

This year's Press Pass Legends Racing consist of a 70 cards base set. The first 43 cards of the base set (cards 1-43) feature the Legend Racers. The next 13 cards (cards 44-56) feature the Current Stars. Then after those, there are 10 cards (cards 57-66) that feature the Icons of Racing. To end the set, there are four more cards; cards 67-69 featuring the Crossover Contenders and card 70 is a checklist for the set which shows Ralph Earnhardt on it.

There are also parallels for the base cards. There are five different levels that can be pulled from these boxes. They are:

Blue (#ed to 599)      Bronze (#ed to 299)      Gold (#ed to 99)      Holofoil (#ed to 25)      Solo (#ed to 1)

The overall odds of pulling one of these parallels are one per pack (1:1). There are also Press Plates for both the front and back of each card that are randomly inserted into the packs. While these are considered one of ones, there are four variants for each plate (black, cyan, magenta, and yellow).

Now for the inserts. There are two regular inserts sets, and each has a parallel version of it.

The first insert set is called the **500 Club**. This insert set consists of nine cards, and is inserted one in 12 packs (1:12). It is a special embossed holofoil insert that pays tribute to a select group of drivers that hold multiple victories in the Daytona 500 or Indianapolis 500. The regular version (Silver) of this insert is numbered to 560, and the parallel version (Gold) is numbered to 99.

The other insert set is called **IROC Champions**. This insert set consists of 25 cards, and is inserted one in six packs (1:6). It is a special embossed holofoil insert that helps fans and collectors to relive the 30 year history of the International Race Of Champions (IROC), and the diverse group of drivers that have won it.

Now for what are probably the best part of 2008 Press Pass Legends Racing; the autographs and race-used memorabilia cards. It is stated that you are to have six "hits" per Master Box with three of them being autographs. The sets for the autographs and race-used memorabilia cards are:

**500 Club Cuts** – These are new for this year's release, and are autographed Daytona 500 or Indianapolis 500 ticket stubs cards that are signed by some of the drivers that have found victory lane for these prestigious races.

**Legends Autographs** – Consist of both retired legends and current racers, and comes in three different versions (Blue, Black, and Nickname/Inscription). Some of the versions are not available for some of the racers in the set. Press Plates also exist for most of them, but not for all. Also, some drivers with a Nickname/Inscription version have more than one nickname or inscription.

**Legends Signature Series** – Cards featuring an autograph and three swatches of race-used memorabilia from some of the current stars of NASCAR.

**Prominent Pieces** – This is another new part for this year's release. It consist of four different levels (PP1, PP2, PP3, and PP4), and the print run varies for the versions of the different levels. Here is a breakdown:

- PP1 - race used firesuit and glove; versions: Bronze, Silver, and Gold
- PP2 - race used firesuit, glove, and seat belt; versions: Silver and Gold
- PP3 - race used tire and sheet metal; versions: Bronze, Silver, and Gold
- PP4 - race used sheet metal, tire, and window net; versions: Silver and Gold

**Racing Artifacts** – These are race-used memorabilia cards of retired racing greats. Some of the racers included are: Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt, and Mario Andretti. The memorabilia for these cards includes firesuits; event used hat, sheet metal, shirts, and tire. Some only have one version, but some of them also have different levels of parallels. Here is a breakdown:

- Firesuits (Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Patch)
- Event-Used Hat (Gold)
- Sheet Metal (Bronze, Silver, and Gold)
- Shirts (Bronze, Silver, and Gold)
- Tire (Bronze, Silver, and Gold)

While some vary in their print run, those are the known versions. There is also a dual version that features two pieces of memorabilia. Those only come in a Gold version, and have a print run of 50.

**Racing Cuts** – Rare and historic autograph cut cards depicting some legendary drivers such as Davey Allison, Alan Kulwicki, and Benny Parsons.

**Signature Series** – These are previously unreleased autographed memorabilia cards that are numbered to the driver's door number. Some of the drivers included are Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, and Carl Edwards.

**Victory Lane** – These are event specific race-used memorabilia cards focusing on some racing milestones. Some of the drivers included are Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson, and Tony Stewart. These come in three different versions (Bronze, Silver, and Gold).



## THE RUNDOWN ON...

### Overall Break:

Base (21) - Bobby Allison, Donnie Allison, Davey Allison, Buddy Baker, Ralph Earnhardt, Red Farmer, Harry Gant, Ned Jarrett, Rick Mears, Benny Parsons, Lee Petty, Louise Smith, Bobby Unser, Darrell Waltrip, Glen Wood, Cale Yarborough, Jeff Burton, Martin Truex Jr., Mario Andretti, Richard Petty, Ralph Earnhardt – Checklist



Blue (4) - Ralph Earnhardt (218/599), Benny Parsons (514/599), Richard Petty (198/599), Ralph Earnhardt - Checklist (556/599)

Bronze (1) - Ralph Earnhardt (249/299)

Gold (0)

Holofoil (1) - Mario Andretti (25/25)

Solo (0)

Press Plates (0)

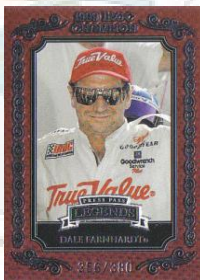
### Inserts

500 Club Gold (0)

500 Club Silver (0)

IROC Champions Gold (0)

IROC Champions Silver (1) - Dale Earnhardt (356/380)



### Race Used and Autos:

Legends Autographs (2) - Geoffrey Bodine (026/950), Jack Ingram (563/735)

Legends Signature Series (0) Prominent Pieces (0) 500 Club Cuts (0)

Racing Cuts (0) Signature Series (0) Victory Lane (0)

Racing Artifacts (1) - Dale Earnhardt firesuit (Gold; 23/25)



### Final Ratings:

Base Set - 4.5/5

Fun - 5/5

Overall Design - 4/5

Value - 5/5

Rebuy - 3.5/5

**Final Grade - 22/25 (88%)**

My overall opinion of this is mixed. To start off, I like the designs of the cards as they go great with the Legends name. However, while it is good that you get six hits per Master Box, this release probably isn't something for the casual collector or for those that are tight for money. At around \$150 per Master Box, Legends is for the more serious collector who can afford it. The Mini Box is probably the best deal for those collectors that are just curious about Legends, but don't have the \$150 for a Master Box.


On behalf of SCF, I would like to once again thank Press Pass for providing us with this mini box of 2008 Press Pass Legends to break and review.



# CALENDAR OF RELEASE DATES

## December

(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	Friday	Saturday
1	2  - MVP Hockey	3	5	6
8  - Triple Threads Football	9	10  - Sterling Baseball  - Americana Sports Legends  - SP Rookie Threads Basketball  - Legends Bowl Edition Football - Press Pass Racing	12  - TNA Cross The Line Wrestling	13
15  - Chrome Basketball	16  - Black Diamond Hockey	17  - 2008 Elite Extra Edition Baseball	19	20  - Sweet Spot Baseball
22  Home of the Rookie Card - Sterling Baseball	23  - Documentary Baseball - Ultimate Collection Football	24	26	27
29  - Hardwood Basketball	30  - Ultimate Collection Baseball - Premier Basketball - Trilogy Hockey	31		

- For all your sports cards need, make sure to visit <http://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..





## ROOKIE DEBUT

### Contests and Tips

By Leo Zuperku aka Lzuperku

First off, I'd like to wish Loflo8 all the best as he left the New Member Team. He has informed me since the last publication of his decision to step down. Good Luck Loflo8.

We currently have several members that will hopefully be joining the moderator in training (MIT) program & in time, the new member team.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to GMONEY for winning the Baseball contest. DizzyDolse took 2nd place.

We currently have our New Member Hockey Contest going on until the end of this month. Here's the link:

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=597404>

We also just started our New Member Basketball contest until the end of the Year. Here's the link for that one:

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=614917>

The First place winner will receive these 2 cards



Look for our New member Football Contest starting soon. Details to follow in the December SCF newsletter

### New member Tip of the Month

Make sure you check the feedback of anyone you're trading with. & If anyone wants to trade with you outside of the trade manager; **DONT DO IT. TRADES MADE OUTSIDE OF THE TRADE MANAGER CANNOT BE SUBJECT TO MODERATED DISPUTE IF ANYTHING SHOULD GO WRONG!!!** Be careful of your trading partner.

On behalf of the New Member Team, I'd like to wish everyone a **Happy Thanksgiving!!!**



And as always, If anyone wants to Join the New Member team, feel free to PM me.

## The Best Of The Best: The Best Looking Autographs in Today's Collections

By Daniel Poor aka Stl\_Cardinals\_Fan

Just a note to all reading: This article was based on submissions provided in the "Who Has the Best Looking Signature" thread from SCF and the items seen below are not mine. I did however, based on my preference, list them according to who I think has the nicest signature. There will be a top three and a couple of honorable mentions. Without further waiting...I give you: the best looking autographs from SCF's own.

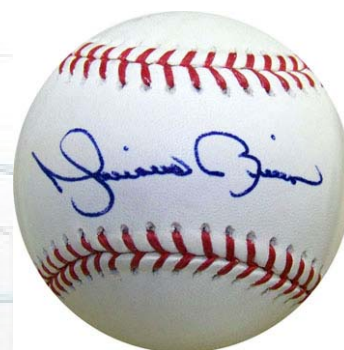
Coming in at first is none other than Ken Griffey Jr. As can be seen from the scan provided by YellowSurge, Griffey has a nice flowing and easy to read signature...a real beauty and a really nice addition to anyone's collection.



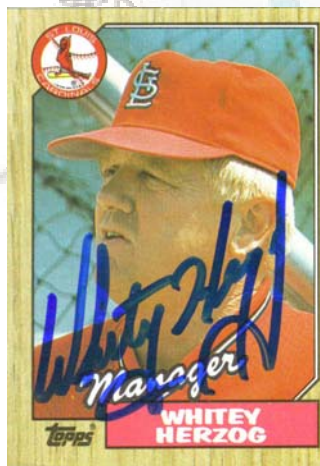
Coming in a close second is Raymond Berry. This signature, obviously is a very nice one. It is clean, neat, and legible. It has an artistic yet still refined look to it. Thanks to Hodee for the image.



Finally, rounding out the top three, is Mariano Rivera. This Yankee has an excellent signature, as can be seen in the image from Craan. Much like the others, this signature is a nice and well flowing autograph that can be read without much difficulty.

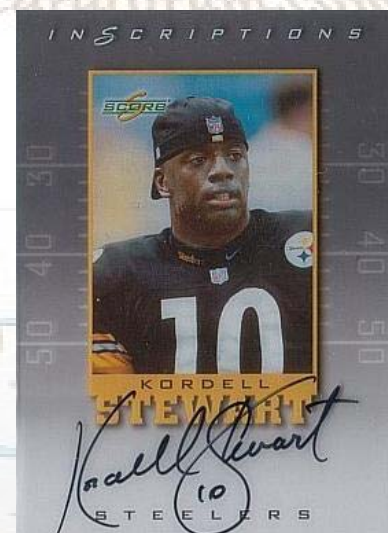


Now for the honorable mentions, these next two signatures are both very nice looking, but not quite nice enough to make it into the top three. And they are:



Whitey Herzog (Thanks to 203gunner for the image)

And our final entrant into this edition of who has the best signature is:



Kordell Stewart (Thanks to Hodee for the image)

That's all for this edition of "Who has the best signature?". This list, and the order of the signatures, are based on my personal preference and will likely differ from yours. Please feel free to submit your proposals for the next edition of Best Signature to me. Thanks!





## Through the Mail at its Best : Fan Packs

By Scott Darnley aka sdfc87

I have been collecting fan packs since I was a youngster 17 years ago. Believe it or not, I would always use to write a letter to my favourite rugby league team here in Australia requesting just a poster and a sticker. As I would take them to meet the team to get it signed. But I would always get a lot more than just a poster and a letter.

I wrote to every team in the nation just after the start of the season and about two weeks later they would all arrive in twos and threes from everywhere. I still remember to this day two of my first biggest success. The first one was a Western Suburbs Magpies pack and included a hat and a T-Shirt along with footy cards, the second from Manly a personalized signed photo from Steve Menzies. Ever since that first year I have never looked back.

The best thing about Collecting fan packs as a hobby for me is that its **free** and all it takes nowadays is just a nice email no money or cost at all unless in some cases a letter and postage is necessary. Even then, it's not a huge amount. You can reach all around the world from the desktop of your computer. I have received mail from all around the globe including South Africa, all over North-America, the Pacific and all the major European nations. Reaching to every sport even some you think won't send like F1, Cycling Arena, Football, Cricket and all the usual sports as well.

My cupboards and drawers are filled up with items from every sport. I have over 150 football programs as it is and I have never even attended a game.

Sure there are some downs; when a favourite team doesn't send, requires a letter or you get average items but I find the positives far outweigh the negatives. And receiving something is better than nothing.

Not all fan packs are the same it's the thrill of every now and again finding something unexpected whether it is a real autograph from a star player, a hat, pennant, I even received a real football twice.

I have actually sold some of my older items to collectors who loved to have a rare limited edition item, signed programs and items from teams that ceased to exist now. The upside is, they were pleased with their purchase and I actually sold the items for decent amounts of money.

Some of my best ever fan packs are:

- Salford City Reds- Included a membership card to the leagues club, a large pennant and a wallet.
- Seattle Mariners- Included a set of Topps baseball cards, Mariners cap, and mouse pad
- Bordeaux Football Club – Included a 2002 Coupe De la Ligue final Pennant (the kind that players give each other before a match)
- Western Bulldogs- Included a game day coin the for the first game of the new millennium
- Western Suburbs Magpies- Hat, T-Shirt, my first set of football cards
- Jack Daniels Racing- Hat, real signed poster, very nice key ring

This year, I created a website; Scott's Fan Pack Success, where I have added items I have received and have had over 2000 visitors in 10 months. I have received emails from fellow collectors asking the same questions. "How do you get these and how can I get them" not to mention people who have seen the site and wrote in to say: it's amazing that you can get all of that for free!

It is very simple and easy to request fan packs and it can be a lot of fun as well waiting for the mailman as he delivers four large envelopes. I am sure you might be reading this article and thinking this sound great but how do I start? No worries, here are some tips I always use.

First of all, go to all the websites of the teams you wish to contact, most of them will have a feedback or contact us page. You can go there to obtain the general email address or fill in the online form. Once you have the email address, you are ready to send or fill in the form.

If you are stuck for teams and like to get one from one that sends a lot I find that: Boston Red Sox, LA Dodgers, Buffalo Bills, Kansas City Chiefs, Montreal Canadiens and the Vancouver Canucks are pretty reliable at the moment.

Your email should be written like this:

- Start of by saying Dear Sir/Madam and briefly introduce yourself
- Say that you are a huge fan of the team
- If you have a favourite player add there names as you never know you might get a card of that player
- Add something like "I am writing this email to see if you could please send me a fan pack or a team poster, programme etc..." (Note: fan pack is only used in North America. For other nations, you would ask a team poster or a program etc)
- I always like to add "could you please email me back" this will give you an idea when one might arrive and if they have sent one
- Always thank them for their time and most important add your address

Once you have done a few, you will be able to write to every team easily. Then; you wait! If you sent in mid-season and depending where you live, it should take up to two weeks. Hopefully in a few weeks your mailboxes will be filling up with large envelopes from your favourite teams, with some great items you would never have believed you could get for free just a month ago.

Hopefully I have inspired you to take up this great hobby and feel free to check out my website: [Scott's Fan Pack Success](http://www.sportscardforum.com).



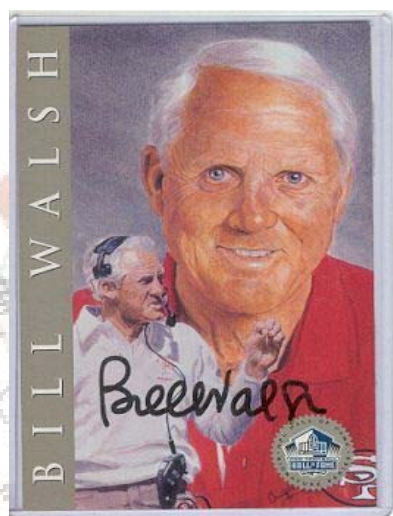
### A Popular Contest and a New Super Collector

By Ryan Churchward aka rchurchward and Jason DiOrazio aka jdio13

The football boards on Sports Card Forum have been going through a lot of exciting things in recent months. One of the most loved contests, the “eBay Steal of the Week” regularly sees 10+ members showing off some of their greatest steals from the popular auction website. From Hall of Famer autographs to show-stopping rookie patches, members in the football forum strive for the title of “Steal of the Week.” In this edition of the football newsletter, you’ll see some of the most impressive steals from previous weeks. Another exciting feature taking place all over Sports Card Forum is the Super Collector Hall of Fame. This elite group of collectors comprises some of the biggest player collectors from Sports Card Forum and allows them to show off their amazing collections. In this edition, you’ll hear about what is going on in the world of football super collecting.

#### eBay Steal of the Week Winners

Here is a snap shot of a few winners from the past weeks.



#### Football Super Collector Hall of Fame

Though this is a brand new addition to the site, each team decides when to open their sport’s application to be considered a Super Collector. As of Monday November 24, 2008, the football team began taking in such applications. We have had a few members apply and one has been inducted into the Football Super Collector Hall of Fame. That member would be JetsFan4Ever with his awesome Curtis Martin collection. Here are some numbers as to what he has in his collection:

Amount owned (2025)/amount produced (3876)= 52% owned

Amount auto/GU owned (225)/amount produced (683)= 33% owned

Amount rookies owned (17)/amount produced (18)= 94% owned

Simply incredible numbers! If you have a large collection of one player, stop over to the Football Super Collector Hall of Fame forum and apply to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The Football team would like to thank each and every one of you who reads this and we hope to see you browsing the boards of SCF soon!





## Crime Aftershock?

By Brandon Boyd aka 6boys



Hey, did you hear the news? An NFL player got arrested on a drugs charge! What? You think this sounds familiar? You mean to tell me drug charges in the NFL, which is run by strict Roger Goodell, are frequent occurrences? Get out of here! Alright, alright, so it happens all the time. The latest player to be arrested is Santonio Holmes, wide receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Now, let's be honest here, this wasn't his first brush up with the law, but I'll admit I was surprised. After his first two charges, both occurring in 2006, I thought he had wised up. Well, I'm eating a big plate of crow now.

How will this impact his cards? Steelers fans are known for their free-flowing wallets, and the amount of cash spent on Santonio Holmes cards has not decreased. A rookie autograph of his, such as his Ultimate auto, exceeds thirty dollars. Is this an exception to the rule, or do off the field arrests have no bearing on the price of football cards?

One well known criminal is Michael Vick, who was arrested and jailed for dog-related charges. At one point, his SP Authentic jersey/auto sale price approached \$2,000. However, with being out of the NFL for over a year, the price of that card has plummeted to about \$350. For a less extreme example, a 2003 SPX auto of Vick sold for a little over \$10. Vick may get another chance in the NFL one day, but I can't see his cards ever approaching anywhere near the prices that his cards used to sell for.

Adam "Don't call me Pac-Man" Jones is another player that has had run-ins with the law. Many know him for "making it rain" in strip clubs, and his cards have followed suit, plummeting to bargain basement prices. An autograph card of Adam, such as Upper Deck Rookie Foundations autograph, can be acquired for a "staggering" five dollars. Jones was recently suspended again for an alcohol-related scuffle with one of his bodyguards, and his future NFL status is up in the air. If he returns to the Dallas Cowboys, it is likely that fans of "America's Team" will buy Adam's cards about as quickly as Pac-Man eats ghosts.



Lets stay with the Cowboys, and go into their past. Michael Irvin, regarded as one of the most successful wide receivers of all time, ran into his fair share of legal troubles during and after his NFL career. In 1996, he was charged with cocaine possession. In 1998, there was an alleged assault. A year after he retired, he was charged with drug possession again. In 2005, drug paraphernalia was found in his car. Irvin has proven to be a repeat offender when it comes to crimes, but have card collectors continued buying his cards? Yes, they have. His 2007 National Treasures cut auto limited to five sold for \$120, and his average autograph goes for about thirty dollars.

Thankfully for football players, fans of the game seem to be forgiving. As demonstrated by the examples above; fans continue to buy their cards, whether it is because of potential, ability, or the team that they belong to. Santonio Holmes should learn from players such as Michael Vick and Adam Jones, avoiding major crimes, and clean up his act. Luckily, fans and card collectors forgive a few times. Just don't get charged with the ultimate crime: poor play.



### **An Obstructed View From the Top – Titans Enjoy Sole Undefeated Record**

By John DeStefano aka Deesto

When the 2008 NFL season began, fans and analysts alike speculated, as always, regarding the league's best teams: would the New York Giants repeat their championship bid? Would they go undefeated? And which teams was part of the NFL elite that would challenge them? Would the New England Patriots return to the Super Bowl? Or would San Diego or Green Bay return to the playoffs and upend the reigning conference champions, or perhaps it would be another perennial powerhouse, like the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Seattle Seahawks, or a return to the title by the Indianapolis Colts?

Nowhere in the discussions were the Tennessee Titans, who ran a 10-6 record last season and earned a Wild Card berth into the 2007 playoffs. But they did so by scoring a mere 25 touchdowns, the least of any playoff team, and scraped by with a scrawny margin of just four net points on the year. These statistics, along with an early exit in the Wild Card round via a one-sided defeat at the hand of San Diego, seemed to indicate to most of us that the Titans' presence in the post-season was a fluke and that they were unlikely to repeat the feat in consecutive seasons.

Thus far in 2008, the Titans have done everything to prove us wrong. Who would have thought that a team with such poor offensive numbers in 2007 would open the 2008 season with six wins and as the sole undefeated team in the NFL through week seven? Their offense and defense also seem greatly improved: through six games, the Titans' defense leads the league in least points against, having yielded only 66 points total (an average of just 11 points per game), and ranks third in total defense. Meanwhile, the offense is also greatly improved, amassing a differential of 83 net points on the season, which also leads the NFL, and ranking fourth in rushing with 154.5 yards per game.

What's more; the Titans have achieved success via an unlikely and largely unknown cast of players: on offense, rookie Chris Johnson leads the team in rushing yards (549) and average yards per carry (5.3), both of which are top marks among NFL rookies; tight end Bo Scaife leads in receiving yards (274); a revitalized Kerry Collins has filled in nicely at quarterback amid controversy with Vince Young for the starting job. On defense, cornerback Cortland Finnegan and safety Michael Griffin are tied for the league lead in interceptions with four each; rookie defensive end Jason Jones has contributed as a non-starter with 13 tackles.



Critics of the team's success site a soft schedule thus far for the Titans, as half of their wins have come at the expense of teams with losing records. Things could change drastically in week seven, as the Titans take on Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts, who are hungry to make amends for their 3-3 record and prove they are once again the powerhouse team that won the NFL championship just two seasons ago. The Titans may either forfeit their undefeated status or silence their critics by beating a quality team.

Meanwhile, Titans' fans and collectors may scramble for a few quality cards of Titans players, including Kerry Collins's 1995 Select Certified #134 rookie (\$10), 1996 Collector's Edge Advantage Game Ball insert #19 (\$25), and 1997 Collector's Edge Masters Playoff Game Ball insert #18 with Brett Favre (\$65).





## Offense or Defense?

By Brandon Boyd aka 6boyds

Although the expression “defense wins championships” is thrown around by football fans around the world, defense cannot seem to win the hearts of sports card collectors. While many players, such as Bob Sanders and Julius Peppers, are considered franchise players, offensive players receive the love of the majority of collectors. How many times do you see a nice sack on ESPN? How many times do you see a short touchdown by a running back? Exactly. The same goes on in collecting, as there is a certain stigma against defensive players, for whatever reason. Offensive players are glorified by both fans and the media, and receive much more attention than any defensive player.



Hector Gonzalez, known as hector234 on [SportsCardForum.com](http://SportsCardForum.com), can see why defensive players aren't collected as much as offensive players: “Offensive players get the spotlight” he says. “Collectors in general go after players that score touchdowns and are on highlights reel, but there are some collectors that appreciate the defense and the guys that do the dirty work.” Hector's personal choice of defensive player is Deangelo Hall, as Hector says he has a soft spot for cornerbacks, having played as one previously.

Mike Grosskopf, a member of [SportsCardForum.com](http://SportsCardForum.com), agrees with Gonzalez; “Defensive players aren't typically flashy,” he says. This is true, with the rare exception of players such as Deion Sanders. Had Sanders played his prime years now, he may be one of the few highly collected defensive players. Grosskopf's focuses on collecting Jon Beason, a young, talented linebacker for the Carolina Panthers. “I saw him coming out of the University of Miami (FL) and knew he was going to be a playmaker,” he says. “His speed and tenacity reminded me a lot of the legendary linebacker Sam Mills.” So far, Beason has become a leader and a ferocious tackler.

I also have experience with collecting defensive players. My favorite defensive player is Mario Williams, a freakish defensive end for the Houston Texans. His cards book pretty well, but he is an exception to the rule of defensive players due to being drafted first overall in 2006. His career will always be compared with Reggie Bush and Vince Young, who were drafted right after him, and it is likely that many analysts may say that Bush will have a better career than Williams. However, as collectors are quickly finding out, offensive and defensive players cannot be compared and considered equals. Offensive players stats quickly raise with yards and touchdowns, while defensive players work through the whole game and yet sometimes still have stats in the single digits.



While these collectors and I all have a passion for the players on the defensive side of the ball, we are in the minority of collectors. As long as offensive plays are highlighted on ESPN, as long as the larger stats belong to the offensive players, and as long as the characters of the game are dominantly offensive players, it seems as though defensive players will take a backseat to offensive players. However, defensive collectors share a special perspective on the hobby. “I give props to all my fellow defensive player collectors, we are not about the big flip or investing, we collect players that we like regardless of book value,” says Gonzalez. “Isn't that what this hobby is all about?”



## Tip-Off

By Nathan Loewy aka Garnett\_21

In the past month, the NBA season has started, and the SCF Basketball team has been running several different contests. The "Pick 'Em" contest, which requires daily participation, where you pick the winners of 3-5 games played that day. You earn a point per game you predict correctly, and whoever has the most points at the end of the year wins an awesome card prize, along with the leaders at the end of each month earning card cash! The current top 10 rankings, as of November 22nd, are:

### 1. PPPanthersGM- 73

- |                                   |  |                      |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 2. garnett_21- 69, key2win- 69    | 5. trevorp121- 65                              | 8. parep2001- 61     |
| 3. dukey4life47- 68, Showdown- 68 | 6. adam334581- 63, nbafan123- 63, vangpaul- 63 | 9. Edwards2Evans- 60 |
| 4. allstar- 67                    | 7. gladdyontherise- 62, Hoopsman- 62           | 10. deuxmachinax- 58 |

The "Top Performers" contest is also in full swing, it requires participants to pick who will lead the day with points, rebounds and assists. You earn one point per category predicted correctly, and at the end of each month, you have a chance to earn card cash, as well as a chance at winning some sweet card prizes at the end of the season! The current standings, as of November 22nd, are:

### kobe080 ~ 35

PPPanthersGM ~ 30  
key2win ~ 29  
allstar ~ 26  
Showdown ~ 26  
garnett\_21 ~ 25  
RenegadeLonghorn ~ 25  
gladdyontherise ~ 23  
jvince888 ~ 22  
jagsfan92 ~ 21

### the\_future ~ 21

deuxmachinax ~ 21  
dukey4life47 ~ 19  
tylermckinzie ~ 17  
underdawg ~ 16  
tennisdevils ~ 8  
sabresfan88 ~ 7  
demonpower55 ~ 5  
trevorp121 ~ 3  
ramenoodle ~ 1

The SCF Fantasy Basketball league on Yahoo has been quite competitive. Thus far, there has only been one trade, in which garnett\_21's team sent David Lee to gladdyontherise's team for Rajon Rondo and Chris Duhon. As of when this was written, the leader had an overall total of 144 points, with 2nd place only 13.5 points behind. Here is a look at the overall standings, as of November 22nd:

### 1 NBAFAN123, 144

- 2 Anchorage Akitas, 130.5  
3 kobe080, 127.5  
4 Caf. Crusaders, 115.5  
5 Court Vision, 115  
6 CHillyDoggy, 106

### 7 demonpower55, 102

- 8 Gimme Some MO!, 101  
9 D-III, 99.5  
10 garnett\_21, 99  
11 Texas Hellbillies, 83  
12 gladdyontherise, 78.5

### 13 trevorp121, 77.5

- 14 Strange Brews, 76.5  
15 Michigan Man, 73.5  
16 Molly's Ballers, 62.5  
17 the\_future, 60.5  
18 ello's team, 58

The SCF basketball team was fortunate enough to receive another box to review - this time it was 2008-09 Bowman Draft Picks and Stars. The best pulls from this box were a Rip Hamilton GU, a Paul Pierce GU, and a Marresse Speights autographed RC! As always, the base cards are free to members for only a self-addressed stamped envelope!

Bowman Draft Picks and Stars (\$5/pack) is just one of the many products that have hit the shelves for this season. Press Pass (\$3.99/pack), Upper Deck (\$4.99/pack), Upper Deck First Edition (\$0.99/pack), Topps (\$1.99/pack), Upper Deck MVP (\$1.99/pack), Topps Treasury (\$5/pack), Press Pass Legends (\$8.99/pack), Upper Deck Hot Prospects (\$6.99/pack), Topps Predictors (\$6/pack), and most recently SPx (\$18/pack) are all in stores now. Many of these products are available in both retail stores and hobby shops (all prices are approximate). Look for Topps Tip-Off, Topps Co-Signers, SP Rookie Threads, Topps Chrome, and Topps Hardwood to be released in stores within the next month.

**\*Extra\*Extra\*** The SCF Basketball team is looking for some help! We would like to add at least one more staff member to our team. This is not an easy job, and takes some time commitment on your part. A few requirements of the position are that you must be at least 17 years old, must have been a member on SCF for at least 6 months, and you cannot be a moderator on another sports forum. If you are interested and meet the requirements listed, please send a PM to one of the current basketball team members, and we can go from there!





## AROUND THE BOARDS

### Kevin Garnett Biography and Best Cards

By Nathan Loewy aka Garnett\_21

My favorite player is Kevin Garnett, power forward for the Boston Celtics. I first started following him when he was in Minnesota, and he has been my favorite player ever since. I believe he is one of the best players in the NBA, but many people disagree. Maybe I am a little biased, but with career numbers like his, I don't know how other people can't agree.

Mr. Garnett played high school basketball for Farragut Academy in Chicago, Illinois. He was selected fifth overall in the 1995 NBA Draft by the Minnesota Timberwolves. At the time, he was the first player in over 20 years to be drafted directly out of high school! He had been a superb athlete in high school, averaging 25.2 points per game in his senior season, leading his team to a 28-2 record. He was named "Mr. Basketball" for the state of Illinois.



In his first year in the NBA, he excelled, averaging 10.4 points per game. The following season, he led the Timberwolves to their first playoff appearance in franchise history, only to be swept 4-0 by the Rockets. That season started a streak of 7 straight playoff appearances, only to be knocked out in the first round. The 2003-04 season was a season of change for Kevin Garnett and the Timberwolves. After acquiring a few other key players, Kevin Garnett led the Wolves to a franchise record 58-24 season, and he was named the MVP for the season. The Wolves made it past the first round in the playoffs for the first time in franchise history, only to lose to the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference Finals.

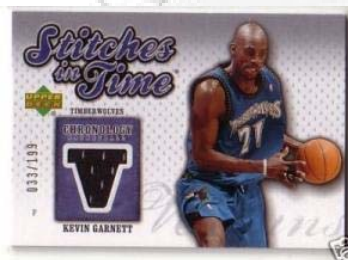
Following the 03-04 season, the Timberwolves fell into mediocrity, and Kevin Garnett seemed to get quite frustrated with long summers. He never came out and requested a trade, but just about everyone could tell that he wanted out.

In July 2007, Kevin was traded to the Boston Celtics. With his move there, and after acquiring Ray Allen, and already having Paul Pierce, they made a lethal trio, and that led to a 66 win season! Following the season, the Celtics, led by Kevin Garnett, won the NBA Title! This was Kevin Garnett's first title, and he is, in my opinion, the most deserving active player to win a title.

### Kevin Garnett Best Basketball Cards

Mr. Garnett's card prices haven't seemed to increase since his championship win, but that doesn't matter to me. I will still collect him whether his card values increase or decrease. Some of my favorite cards that I own of his are the following:

1. 2006-07 Topps Luxury Box Quad GU Josh Smith/Kevin Garnett/Paul Pierce/Yao Ming #d/49
2. 2006-07 Chronology GU #d/199
3. 2005-06 Upper Deck Performance Clause GU #d/250
4. 2004-05 Topps Chrome Chrometown Heroes GU #d/500
5. 1996-97 Fleer Gamebreakers Isaiah Rider/Kevin Garnett



### Kevin Garnett Best Value Basketball Card

I believe that the card of his that is the best value for the money is his 1995-96 Finest rookie card. It is currently worth \$70, and I believe we will see it increase over the next year, especially if the Celtics win another NBA title!



In closing, I would like to say that although I was saddened to see Kevin Garnett leave my home state, I was equally as ecstatic that he was able to win his first NBA title. I hope to see many more NBA titles for Mr. Garnett in the near future!



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

Scott Kozlowski aka ScottKoz20

There have been some recent changes to the hockey staff. Rogulon and Inferno have joined the hockey team. Rogulon is returning to the staff, while Inferno is currently in training at this point.

Promoted to Advisor were Crater\_Satori, CoolHandLuke and AlpineMedic. Finally Quiet-things and Captngetch are now Assistant Managers of the hockey team.

Congratulations to you all.

### **Show and Tell Contest update**

The Hockey Card Show and Tell contest is in full swing and there have been some amazing cards submitted for consideration. Some of the winners include...

Leevi60 with the best jersey swatch from week 3 of the contest



Todtz79 with the best retired/Hall of Fame Card from week 4 of the contest



Pmc336699 with the best autographed memorabilia from week 5 winner



Upcoming themes for the Show and Tell contest include the following

- Week 7: Best plexiglass card (i.e. Glacial Graphs, Clear Cut Winners, etc)
- Week 8: Best vintage card
- Week 9: Best insert set (of any type; simple insert, auto or memorabilia)
- Week 10: Best numbering at the player's number card
- Week 11: Best Rookie card (with memorabilia or auto)
- Week 12: Best Rookie card (without memorabilia or auto)

If you wish to enter a card into the contest, please visit <http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=600475> for rules and details on the contest.





### Monthly Case Break Report

During the month of November, the Hockey Team in conjunction with Cards by the Box held its 2<sup>nd</sup> team case break. This break was 2007-2008 Sweet Shot Hockey. The cost to the members varied by team. For example, Montreal was \$75 and Florida was \$5. The first team was selected by the member (drafted if more than 1 person was interested) and the second team was selected by random draft.

The following members participated in the break

dymmig89 - Chicago and NY Islanders  
CroMalk - Pittsburgh and Los Angeles  
Inferno - Edmonton and Tampa Bay  
scottkoz20 - Buffalo and Columbus  
Pheeb888 - Colorado and Anaheim  
Crater\_Satori - Vancouver and Phoenix  
Captngeetch - NY Rangers and Atlanta  
steen101984 - New Jersey and St. Louis  
Rookiesorbust - Detroit and Calgary  
fdp79 - Carolina and Nashville  
reoddai - Montreal and Florida  
waf - Toronto and Philadelphia  
RSmyth94 - San Jose and Dallas  
mikpaq77 - Boston and Ottawa  
mikeyu\_15 - Washington and Minnesota

Some of the best hits from this case were 2 Carey Price Puck Signings, a Nicklas Backstrom Sweet Beginnings Rookie Autograph and a Gordie Howe Puck Signings.

The Hockey Team is looking to break a case of 2008-2009 Trilogy Hockey for the month of December. Please check out the Hockey Card Pack Sales Forum for additional information.

### McDonalds Hockey Packs

The McDonald Hockey Packs are being made available by our Canadian staffers to non-Canadian members. Packs are currently available at \$7 for five packs or 1500 Card Cash.

Additionally, other members have made these cards available for purchase. If you are interested, please visit the Hockey Card Pack Sales Forum.

### Other Hockey Team contests

- The 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 member determined to have the "best steal" from eBay. The latest steal winner before publication was fisk-factor with a Joe Thornton 2003-04 UD Premier Silver Autograph /125 purchased for \$0.99 plus \$2.50 for delivery
- The SCF Regular Season Hockey Pool is up and running and as of November 22, scottkoz20 has expanded his lead to 34 points, his nearest pursuant being Tennisdevils. 1st Prize for this contest is a box of 2008-2009 Artifacts Hockey box provided by the good folks at nsccanada.com.
- A new festive contest has also just been launched, if you are good at guessing the hits of a box break and you want a chance to win 2000 CC and 2 great cards enter here: <http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?p=4376614#post4376614>

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



### **“Terrible” Ted Green**

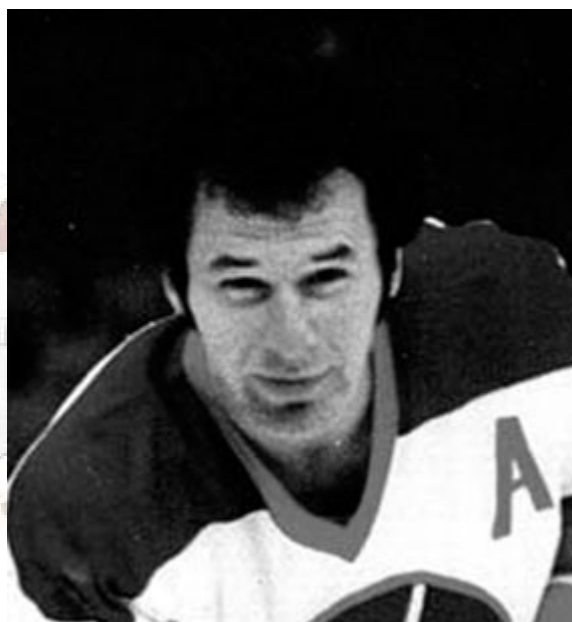
By Paul Yetman aka Hockeygrampy

It's funny how you look back at days gone by, especially when they are from so many years ago! Growing up as a kid attending various Bruins games with my family offers only small glimpses of those days. But now that I am older, some of those glimpses into the past become a bit clearer somehow.

How quickly one becomes steadfast on the memories of the greatest players you so fondly remember as a kid! Of course, Bobby Orr is the standout in my mind, often recalling the great moments so clearly imbedded in my memory. The visions of him screaming up the ice with blistering speed and oftentimes ending in a give-and-go Bruins score! It'll be something I will never forget!

Then there are the days of the “Espo Line” featuring the great Phil Esposito, along with line mates Ken Hodge and Wayne Cashman! Man, could Esposito deposit those pucks behind goalies! He “lived” out in front of the crease just waiting for the centering pass! How those days have passed! In today's game, a defenseman would be all over him!

But going **way** back, even before the great Bobby Orr's years, I have great memories of **Ted Green**! Ted was born up in Manitoba and played at an early age in the Montreal Canadiens' junior hockey system. History tells us that he led those early hockey years in penalty minutes, quickly becoming one of the meanest defenseman in the league.



But for some reason, the Canadiens didn't act on his development and they left him virtually unprotected in the draft in 1960. However, he remained in the area playing a couple of years for the WHL as the Bruins watched his development. Luckily, the Bruins paid him a visit just before the 1961-62 hockey season. It seemed that the Bruins needed some physical presence back in Boston and Ted was brought up from the minors to fill that void.

Obviously, Ted was recruited for his intimidation factor and for his physical presence. But he quickly developed into a solid defensive player and began to exercise his strength and stamina and quickly earned the name, “Terrible” Ted Green!

There was no one Ted wouldn't stand up to and no limit to the amount of pain he would endure. In his first full season with the Bruins, he once dropped his gloves with the mighty Canadiens', Frank Mahovlich and broke his hand in the battle!

But that injury was nothing compared to what was soon to come. In 1969, Ted endured one of the most horrifying injuries I had ever seen! During an exhibition game in Ottawa, he and St Louis Blues player, Wayne Maki, got into a stick-swinging incident (something you never want to see in an NHL hockey game). Of course, there was no such thing as helmets back in those days!

The fight ended when Maki slammed his stick to the side of Ted Green's head! Ted slumped to the ice like a rag doll! His skull was fractured, and there were three ensuing operations that were needed in order to save his life! This left the entire left side of his body paralyzed and it was obvious to me (and the hockey world) that we would never see him on the ice again.





## TRUE STORY

But Teddy made a miraculous recovery and after a number of years, returned to the Bruins line-up to play on the Boston Garden ice once again. The strength, stamina and courage to make such a recovery were an inspiration to everyone! Despite one side of his face still “droopy” from the paralysis, Ted was soon up to his old self, running offensive players into the boards!

Oddly enough, just a few years after this terrible life-threatening fight, Wayne Maki died of a brain tumor!

While this frightening incident in 1969 was the single most remembered and serious incident I could recall happening to Ted Green, I had a surprising *incident* sometime later on that I will remember forever.



Following a Bruins game one day, we set to return home per usual. We had stopped along the way for a bite to eat, but continued towards home shortly thereafter. We pulled off old route #1 in Saugus, MA (about 8 miles north of Boston) and came to a merge point and a “Stop” sign, pulling up behind a rather large vehicle in front of us. He began to move out into traffic and I began to do the same, but glanced to the left to make sure it was still clear. Unknowingly, the car in front of us suddenly stopped and, **bang**, I ran into his bumper!

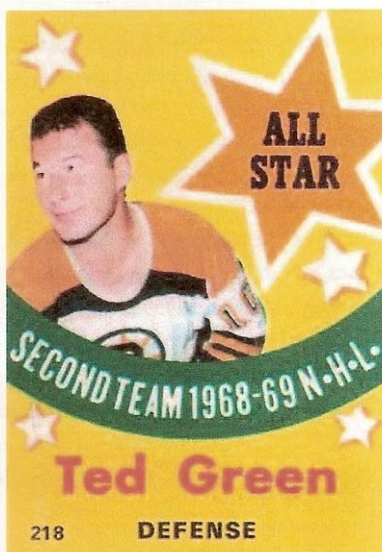
Knowing that we were okay, I jumped out of the car to see if the driver of the car in front of us was alright and to check for any damage. His front door opened and out stepped “Terrible” Ted Green! I couldn’t believe my eyes! We had just seen him play a game in Boston and now a few hours later and a few miles north of Boston, I had run into his car on the way home! I was so embarrassed! I was also just dumbfounded!

After a few moments of chit-chat and making sure we didn’t need to “exchange papers” (for insurance purposes), Ted gave me a big grin, shook my hand and drove away!

Thankfully, no one was injured and there was no damage from the minor impact! But this just added another chapter to my historic Bruins story!

In any event, Ted went on to play a couple more years of hockey with the Bruins. But he was tempted by all the money the newly-formed World Hockey Association was paying NHL players. So, after enjoying the Bruins’ 1972 Stanley Cup championship, he moved to the New England Whalers for a few years, and then ended his playing career in the mid-70s with the Winnipeg Jets.

Ted Green’s entry into the NHL was celebrated with his Topps rookie (1961-62 Topps #2). While this card is pretty rare, his best-known card might also be his most cherished after being selected as a second team all-star for the 1968-69 campaign.



“Terrible” Ted Green was certainly not a prolific scorer. In fact, he scored only 48 goals in his entire NHL career (plus another 4 goals and 8 assists in playoff games). But you’d have to dig deep in the archives to come up with a more courageous athlete, in **any** sport! He was big, he was bruising, he was feared...and yes, he was “Terrible”!



### The Celebration Goes on...

By Luc Séguin aka CoolHandLuke

#### Ring of Honor

The first activity of this season for the centennial program was scheduled for the Habs' season opener on October 15, 2008, against the Boston Bruins. On that night, they revealed the Habs' Ring of Honor. It honors 44 of their players and 10 great builders who have been inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame by including them on the team's Ring of Honor located in the Bell Centre bowl.



The fans will love this as it is located behind the last row of seats. The team's legendary players were honored because of their exploits and on-ice performances, which greatly contributed to establishing the Canadiens' supremacy and confirming the club as one of the greatest sports franchises in the world. The Ring of Honor will provide a unique display of historical tradition and complement the 24 Stanley Cup and retired number banners on display in the rafters of the Bell Center.



The Ring of Honor will forever commemorate the careers of 44 legendary players and 10 great builders and is an invaluable source of inspiration for the players as well as a source of pride for Canadiens' fans every time they walk into the Bell Centre. The order on the Ring of Honor corresponds to the players' and great builders' Hockey Hall of Fame induction year.

#### Players:

Howie Morenz (1945), Georges Vézina (1945), Aurèle Joliat (1947), Newsy Lalonde (1950), Joe Malone (1950), Sprague Cleghorn (1958), Herb Gardiner (1958), Sylvio Mantha (1960), Joe Hall (1961), George Hainsworth (1961), Maurice Richard (1961), Jack Laviolette (1962), Didier Pitre (1962), Bill Durnan (1964), Albert Siebert (1964), Hector Blake (1966), Émile Bouchard (1966), Kenny Reardon (1966), Elmer Lach (1966), Tom Johnson (1970), Doug Harvey (1973), Dickie Moore (1974), Jacques Plante (1978), Henri Richard (1979), Lorne Worsley (1980), Frank Mahovlich (1981), Yvan Cournoyer (1982), Ken Dryden (1983), Jacques Lemaire (1984), Bert Olmstead (1985), Serge Savard (1986), Jacques Laperrière (1987), Guy Lafleur (1988), Buddy O'Connor (1988), Bob Gainey (1992), Guy Lapointe (1993), Steve Shutt (1993), Larry Robinson (1995), Denis Savard (2000).

#### Builders:

William Northey (1945), Hon. Donat Raymond (1958), Frank J. Selke (1960), J. Ambrose O'Brien (1962), Léo Dandurand (1963), Tommy Gorman (1963), Hon. Hartland Molson (1973), Joe Cattarinich (1977), Sam Pollock (1978), Scotty Bowman (1991).



### Builders Row



The Canadiens launched the "Builders Row" on Dec 14, 2006 as part of the festivities leading up to the team's centennial by enshrining seven of the most renowned personalities in team history: John Ambrose O'Brien, William Northey, Léo Dandurand, Jos Cattarinich and Louis Létourneau, three men nicknamed "The Three Musketeers", as well as Donat Raymond and Senator Hartland de Montarville Molson. Then on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007, the Montreal Canadiens paid tribute to three of the most successful general managers in team history; Tommy P. Gorman (1940 to 1946), Frank J. Selke Sr. (1946 to 1964) and Sam Pollock (1964 to 1978).

On October 28, 2008, Builder's Night was back and this time to honor three of the Habs' greatest coaches; Dick Irvin Sr. (1940 to 1955), Hector "Toe" Blake (1955 to 1968) and William "Scotty" Bowman (1971 to 1979). Dick Irvin Jr., son of the late Dick Irvin Sr., Bruce Blake, son of the late Toe Blake, and Scotty Bowman were present at the ceremony before the match. The purpose of this initiative is to honor personalities, whose contribution and efforts off the ice helped the Montreal Canadiens become the greatest organization in National Hockey League history. Laid out behind the seats of sections 104 through 107 of the Bell Centre, Builders Row will immortalize all of the team's greatest contributors throughout the centennial festivities. A short biography of each one of the three coaches can be found inside the press release on the Canadiens' site:

<http://canadiens.nhl.com/team/app?articleid=389114&page=NewsPage&service=page>

### Books and Videos

On top of all the festivities surrounding the centennial events, many commemorative items can also be bought. A must from these items is a set of the 10 most memorable matches of the Canadiens on DVD. The first match included is against the Maple Leafs and it is the best way to judge what the "Rocket" and his teammates were able to do in a match from 1960 onwards. When I watched the 1960 DVD, the first thing I realised was that there was no publicity on the ice and around the boards. Then, we jump to 1975 with the Habs playing the Red Army. 1977 and 1979 are Stanley Cup Final matches against the Bruins. The locals will remember and want to see the next match; "the Good Friday 1984 match" in which the Habs played the Nordiques. Then, the fans can take a trip down memory lane to one of the Habs' latest cup conquest by watching the last match of the '86 Cup final against the Flames. This game marked the early stages of a great goaltender's career and legend; Patrick Roy. The next match brings us to the 24<sup>th</sup> and last Stanley Cup won by the Canadiens in 1993 again with Roy playing the Los Angeles Kings. In 1996, the last match in the old Montreal Forum was something we fans could not forget. The old forum had been hosting the Montreal Canadiens since what seemed like forever. Then you will be delighted to see the Habs playing the Edmonton Oilers on an outside rink as the first Heritage Classic match. The last game but by no means the least was played this year in February against the New-York Rangers. It was the team's biggest ever come back, going down 1-5 before rallying to finally win the match 6-5. I really enjoyed watching those matches. The box set of ten matches includes each of them in a separate DVD case and is sold for around \$50.



I also recommend a book called "Honored Canadiens". The book comes with a hard cover and is collector's item which fans will cherish. It is simply a biography of each of the Montreal Canadiens player who has been inducted in the Hockey Hall of Fame. The images are great and you learn a lot about all these great players. The book recommended price is \$45 but it can be found on sale for around \$30.

Source : <http://canadiens.nhl.com>

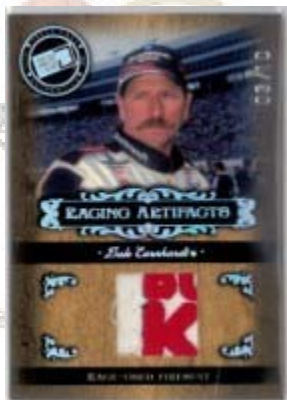


## Racing Happenings

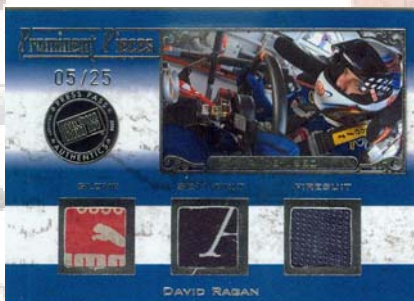
By Darin Heitzer aka JKC

### SCF Racing Cards of the Month

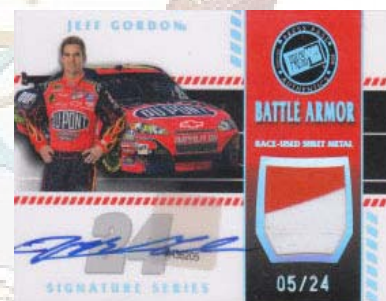
Here are this month's top racing cards from the Racing Show and Tell forum as voted on by the SCF racing community.



1. 2008 Press Pass Legends Racing Artifacts  
Firesuit Patch DE-F Dale Earnhardt (03/10)  
(outsk8u; 12 votes)



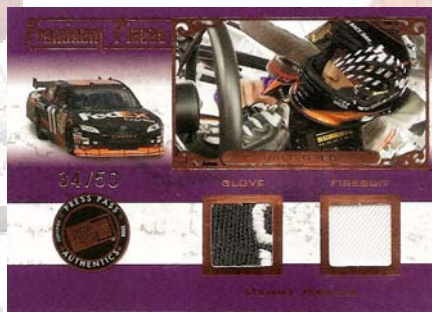
2. 2008 Press Pass Legends Prominent Pieces  
David Ragan (5/25) (munozqc886; 8 votes)



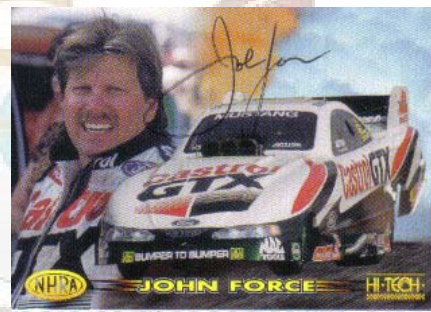
3. Jeff Gordon 2008 Battle Armor Autograph  
5/24 (cmoore83; 4 votes)



4. 2008 VIP Gear Gallery Tire Dale Jr. 3 color  
10/50 (leemozoid; 2 votes)



5. 2008 Legends Prominent Pieces PP3 Denny  
Hamlin 34/50 (angryeagle07; 2 votes)



6. 1997 Hi-Tech JohnForce autograph  
(Ripken8fan55; 2 votes)

### Racing fans: Are they like their favorite driver(s) or not?

I have found this topic somewhat interesting over the years for which I have been a race fan. Some will answer yes to it, and some will say no and that you don't know what you are talking about. However, I have noticed that most fans are similar to their favorite driver(s).

I knew this one guy when I was in school. He was a Rusty Wallace fan, and after a while, I began to see the similarities with his attitude and personality and Rusty's. Then there is someone like me. I like most of the drivers, but only a few are my top favorites. Anyone that knows me knows who my top favorites are. Anyways, I have been considered to be a true, genuine, and well liked person (with a temper at times). I have also noticed that my top favorites are like that as well.

Now I know that this isn't always true, but for the most part I believe it is! After all, they do say that people tend to go towards people that are similar to themselves. Are you one of them?

*Closing notes from the writer:*

*These are just the thought and opinions of the writer and are not intended to be taken the wrong way by the reader. So, please do not be offended.*





### Jimmie Johnson Biography and Best Cards

By Jeremy Sebastian aka nadeau01\_johnson48

My favorite athlete is Jimmie Johnson, driver of the #48 Lowe's Chevrolet Impala in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series. I've been following him since 2000, before he was on anyone's radar. Jimmie started his racing career at age five, racing motorcycles around his hometown of El Cajon, California. From there, at age eight, he advanced to off-road racing in leagues of SODA, SCORE International and MTEG. He was very successful in those circuits, where he won over 25 races, and six championships. In 1998 he went to the ASA circuit, where he finished fourth in the standings, and winning Rookie of the Year honors.

During the '98 season, Jimmie also started running NASCAR Busch (now known as Nationwide) Series races along with his ASA racing. In 2000 he made the switch to the Busch series full time, driving for a startup team known as Herzog Motorsports. In 2001 he won his first and only Busch Series race at Chicagoland Speedway, on his way to finishing 10th in the points standings. In 2000, Jimmie found himself in a tough spot, as his sponsor was leaving his team and moving to the Cup level with a much more prominent team. Jimmie was left wondering where his career would go, and asked Jeff Gordon for advice. The two stayed in touch, and Jeff offered Jimmie a developmental deal to drive for Hendrick Motorsports in 2002.

From there on, as they say, the rest is history. Now coming to the end of his seventh season in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, Jimmie is one of the best, if not THE best on the circuit. He has 39 wins (the most for any driver since 2002) and 155 top-10's in 252 career starts. He won the 2006 and 2007 NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship, and is closing in on a three-peat this season.

#### Jimmie Johnson's five best cards

As far as Jimmie's five best cards, some of them are pretty easy.

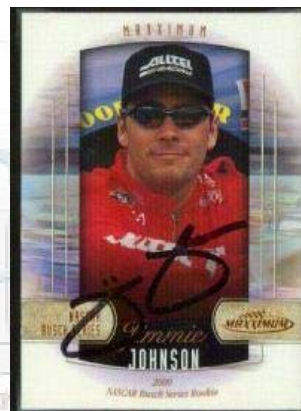
1. Number one would be the 2008 Eclipse Teammates Autograph of Jimmie, Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr., and Casey Mears. This card is arguably the most sought after racing card on the market.
2. The second best was just released in 2008 Legends Jimmie Johnson Auto. It's an SP Inscriptions Auto, where he signed it, and wrote 2006 & 2007 Champ on it as well.
3. Third would be any of the Jimmie Johnson Autographed 1/1 Press Plates out there. They are very rare, but will fetch an incredible amount.

4/5. For the last two, they would have to be his 2007 and 2008 Jimmie Johnson Legends Signature Series cards #d/25. Both years are autographed, and each have a piece of his sheetmetal, glove, and firesuit on it.



#### Jimmie Johnson's Best Value Card

For Jimmie's best valued card, I'd have to go with his **2000 Maxximum Signatures** card. Not only does it have Jimmie's "cleanest" Autograph, but it's his cheapest in book value. It only books for \$50, and is the cheapest way to pick up an auto of one of the best to ever race in NASCAR!



Jimmie Johnson is on top of his game right now, and is almost impossible to beat. It must be great to be him, because it's great to be a fan of his right now. Domination isn't so bad!



## Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed and Something Blue

By Stephen Duell aka Spuds1961

### Something Old

As a lifelong Yankees fan, I am somewhat troubled by the closing of the old stadium in the Bronx. Yes it was renovated once in the 70s but it still had that same aura as the "house that Ruth built". I remember going to the old stadium for the first time with my uncle Frank in 1972 for a doubleheader against the arch rival Red Sox. The Yankees lost both games but the memories of that day will last a lifetime. You fans will remember the old stadium metal stantions holding up the upper level and blocking some unfortunate fans' view; well it gave the stadium class. During the renovation the Yankees played across town at Shea stadium, which in this fan's eyes just never seemed right.



### Something New

I couldn't wait till the new stadium opened in 1976 with Monument Park and a bunch of great players coming in. It seems it was by no coincidence that the Yankees made it to their first World Series since 1964 although they got swept by the Reds it was a great season and way to break in the new stadium. The next two years saw the Yankees winning the World Series with a free agent by the name of Reggie Jackson leading the way. Sure those seasons had their turmoil, what with Jackson being the straw that stirred the drink and Billy Martin being the one who couldn't turn down a drink but it made for great headlines and drama in the Bronx zoo. The next year, in 1979, the Yankees faithful saw their beloved captain and gruff catcher Thurman Munson die in a tragic plane crash and the team just couldn't rebound after that devastating loss. The next game they played was truly an inspiration as Munson's closest friend on the team Bobby Murcer came through with a game winning performance that was magical. That was the something new part.

### Something Borrowed

Fast forward to 1995 an up and coming shortstop in the farm system named Derek Jeter wasn't quite ready yet but he was in sight. The season was somewhat of a success, after not making the playoffs in years we took the wildcard and it would be Don Mattingly's only playoff appearance. They took the first two games against a strong Mariners team but alas it wasn't meant to be as they lost the next three which in turn cost Buck Showalter his job. 1996 saw the hiring of a manager that was the calming influence this team needed. Joe Torre was the steady hand that guided this ship through the storm and finally got them over the hump. The heavily underdog Yankees after looking foolish to the Braves in the first 2 games came back to take the series by winning the next 4 games. Throughout Torre's tenure the Yankees would win 3 more World Series and not miss the playoffs until his departure in 2008



### Something Blue

With the opening of a new stadium springs a new hope, the bad taste left in the mouths of Yankees fans at the end of the 2008 season when they were left feeling blue by missing the playoffs should be washed away by a few major signings in the off-season. This will hopefully allow the opening season of this new stadium to be like the other Yankee stadiums opening seasons with at least a World Series appearance if not necessarily a win. Like in 1976, I can not wait to see this beautiful stadium with most likely a touch of the old with a whole lot of new, I just hope the ghosts know how to walk across the street to help usher in the beginning of a new Yankee era.





## A Guide to Collecting the Best You Can't Afford

By Linda Mankefors aka Razzamaztaz

While the words "I just wanna hear your rhythm" pump through the radio speakers I try yet again to decide exactly what to collect. For financial reasons, my collecting path has changed direction about once every month.

When I've decided for a set to go for, I've soon realize it's nearly impossible, or a ten year project. I've decided twice to go for the Cup Limited Logos insert set, simply because it's gorgeous. And while you're at it, you of course want the best patches available, which are always costly, even with a normally low-interest player.

First I tried out the 06-07 version, but quickly gave up because of the ridiculous asking prices. Then I discovered 05-06 looked even better, succumbed to the temptation and gave it a try again. Only to re-discover it's not a possible task for a low-budget collector. In fact, it's not possible for anyone below upper middleclass, unless you decide to cut down food, delay your bills, or have the patience of waiting a decade. If you do that, kudos to you for your courage, but in ten years I doubt those last missing cards you will need to obtain will still exist anywhere on the market.

So I went back to collecting a single player. Unfortunately, the ones that catch your heart are often the most brilliant ones. I say unfortunately because Ovechkin, Lundqvist, or Crosby and Price aren't cheap. How many of you have decided to go with one of these superstars only to discover even a mere auto sticker will set you back 50-100 bucks? What if your kid refuse to change his mind and simply \*must\* collect Sidney Crosby?

Well tough. But here's a little guide for you. There are ways to collect these young stars without getting moths in your wallet.



1) Decide exactly what to collect early and set up restrictions. If you know you simply can't afford fantastic patch cards just pretend they don't exist. They're out of your reach, just like those extra yummy Belgian fine chocolate at the top right shelf in the local candy store, mmmm.... ehr, never mind.

2) Aim for all base cards, even The Cup. It will be tough, a The Cup base card of Crosby doesn't come cheap, but make it a Christmas present to yourself.

3) Aim at the occasional low end insert, like O-Pee-Chee's Winter Classic or Flair Showcase. Don't go after the short prints, if you start you soon discover the oh so familiar "no I can't afford it all" feeling. There are some low end inserts that are truly nice anyway, and will only cost you a few dollars.

4) A rookie card is a must of course. Take the cheapest; Victory, MVP etc... You can always upgrade it later on. If you want to have a slightly better one Artifacts or Ultra rookies of the mentioned superstars can usually be found for around \$50. Make it a birthday gift. Forget about the real expensive ones. With time you might manage an Upper Deck Young Guns, even with Crosby. Save long and hard but don't buy until you can afford it.

5) Buy the occasional game used, but don't get tempted to buy a lot. Go with Hot Prospects or similar mid end brands, they're quite affordable. Buy two or three and be satisfied with that. Base cards and inserts are going to take all your time and money anyhow with the number of releases during a whole year.

6) An autograph is hard to resist. Aim for ONE autograph. And make it hard signed. A sticker auto is tempting as it's always cheaper, but save and save and eventually a nice hard signed auto will be yours. It'll be the crown jewel of your collection. Make it your holy grail and pick a nice one eventually.

7) Last but not least, don't be afraid to go broader then cards. There are so many nice collectibles out there that are far cheaper then expensive rookie cards or game used. Mugs, hats, coins, McFarlane figures, jerseys... You will discover it's cheaper to get a nice lot of Crosby collectibles, maybe even ten, before you can buy an amazing patch card of his.



Have FUN! Like I said, do not even think about patch cards, autographed game used cards, or expensive rookies. They don't exist in your world. The above guidelines are valid for children too; it's a wise ruler to go by. If your kid persists he wants those shiny marvelous expensive cards, try and explain it's not possible, sit with him/her and decide together what to go after. Even by following the above directions, it won't be easy. But if you can pay \$50 each month on your collecting, it should get you all of the above eventually. If you can pay \$20 each month at least you can get most base cards and lower end inserts. Good luck and do not get tempted by the impossible!



## Trading Made Easy in Four Steps

By Scott Kozlowski aka ScottKoz20

Are you someone who has given thought about trading cards online, but has fears about trading because of stories you have read and heard about? Are you a parent who does not want their son or daughter trading because of fears of getting ripped off? Are you someone who simply has not given much thought about trading cards online? If you are one of those people, this article will hopefully put some of those fears to rest.

The following are some simple steps to keep in mind when you are first starting out trading cards online. If you follow these steps, you should have no problem with trading cards online.

1) **Start with small trades** – The biggest issue that people tend to run into is trying to get that Adrian Peterson or Carey Price or Evan Longoria Patch/Autograph card as their first trade. From experience, this is really not a good idea to start with.

Most traders and trading sites will ask you, as a new trader, to send your end first. The smaller the trade, the less risk you create for yourself. Personally, I started out trading by making deals no more than \$20 in book value as a trade of \$20 is the same as a \$200 one in the eyes of most traders; and it will start you on the path of gaining credibility. As you gain credibility and more importantly, gain confidence in trading, you can start to look at making larger deals.

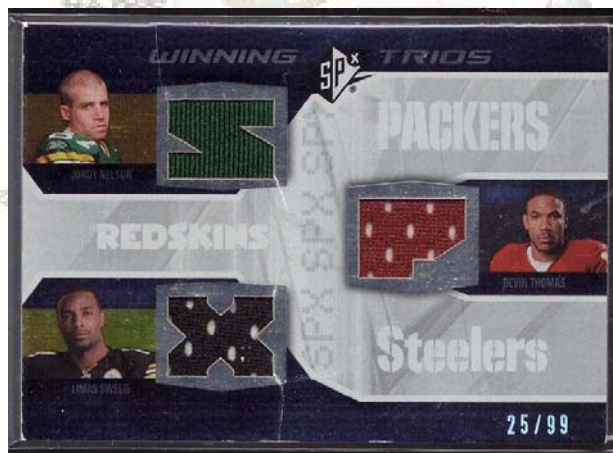
**TIP:** Always remember that it takes months to build credibility but it only takes minutes to ruin it.

2) **Do not use plain white envelopes to ship** – One of the biggest mistakes that a new trader will tend to make is shipping out using a plain white envelope (PWE). This is a practice which is severely frowned upon by traders and trading websites alike. The reason for this is that PWE's will go through the post offices automatic mail sorting machines and it creates a greater chance that the card(s) you are sending out for a trade will be damaged. It is highly recommended that you use a bubble mailer of some type for all the deals you make.

**TIP:** The use of recycled bubble mailers is fine to ship trades. It will help you save a bit of money in purchasing mailers, it is good for the environment and it is a better option than using a PWE.



**No Plain White Envelopes!**



3) **Know what your needs are** – Something that I tend to see from time to time is new traders that will trade for the sake of making a trade. While this is fine in building up your reputation, does it really accomplish what you need for your collection? It is not recommended to make trades just for trade's sake. It can become costly to you if you are making deal after deal and your collection is not building up. It is perfectly fine for you as a new trader to tell someone no if you are not comfortable with and/or willing to make a deal.

4) **Be Patient** – This is something that sometimes is forgotten by even established traders. If you are working with someone on a deal, they may not reply for a day or so. Everyone has their own life issues that may impact on them replying to you. Do not take it as them ignoring you. With this said, if it does get to 2-3 days without a reply, it is perfectly acceptable to ask that person if they are still interested in pursuing the deal. You will realize that most people get caught up with other things and let a trade slip. We are all human.

By following these steps, you will find that trading online will be a rewarding and great way to build up your personal collection. It will also increase your overall confidence in the online trading experience.





## A Big Break

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

We all know that this hobby of ours can be rather demanding from a financial standpoint. However, most of us still cannot help it and we buy boxes after boxes of wax. Why? Well, we want to improve our collections and we are also chasing after the "big pull". Some breaks go better than others and we are sometimes left disappointed by the results. How nice would it be to be able to get the cards you want from a box break? Better yet, from a case break!

Lately on Sportscardforum, this has become possible for team or player collectors. How you say? Simple, one of our staff members Enigma (who is associated with cardsbythebox.com) has started to run case breaks. Simply put, each break has a set number of slots and each slot corresponds to a team. For a set price, you can buy a slot and get all of a team's cards pulled from the case break.

He recently conducted one of these break on the newly released 2008-2009 Upper Deck Artifacts NHL. As there are 30 teams in the NHL, he decided to have 15 slots on the break with each slot claiming the cards from two teams. For a small \$90, 15 members got the opportunity to share 640 cards. Each entrant was allowed to claim one team and the second team was later allocated through a draft. Once the preparation was over, a massive live break got on its way; 16 boxes each including 10 packs which all yielded 4 cards.

The break started at 9.45 PM EST and lasted until 12.30 AM EST, that's two hours and 45 minutes of break. It was epic to say the least but the best thing was; you knew that you would be happy with your hits as you had selected your first team. The break members and team allocation were as follows:



MatsSundin13Rocks - Toronto, Vancouver  
CroMalk - Pittsburgh, Atlanta  
tmoneywon - Boston, Ottawa  
armyabn1 - Washington, NY Islanders  
LeAndre - Chicago, Calgary  
CoolHandLuke - Montreal, Minnesota  
scottkoz20 - Buffalo, Phoenix  
Captngetch - NY Rangers, Philadelphia  
Care4Card - Detroit, Columbus  
Mr. Conie - Los Angeles, Anaheim  
Enigma - New Jersey, Carolina  
quiet-things - Edmonton, Florida  
RSmyth94 - San Jose, Dallas  
Pheeb888 - Colorado, Nashville  
CoolHandLuke - Tampa Bay, St. Louis



Of course, there is no way to know how many hits you will get or how much cards there will be of a certain team. Having a look at the checklist prior to selecting a team might be a good idea however as it gives you an indication of how the odds are stacked up. Throughout the break, everyone was full of anticipation for the next hit and it was great to chat with the other participants through the highs and lows, the great hits and the not so great ones. As for the results well, here are the numbers of hits per team:

MatsSundin13Rocks - Toronto (6), Vancouver (6) total: 12  
tmoneywon - Boston (9), Ottawa (4) 13  
LeAndre - Chicago (4), Calgary (7) 11  
scottkoz20 - Buffalo (3), Phoenix (5) total: 8  
Care4Card - Detroit (8), Columbus (5) total: 13  
Enigma - New Jersey (2), Carolina (7) total: 9  
RSmyth94 - San Jose (8), Dallas (4) total: 12  
CoolHandLuke - Tampa Bay (1), St. Louis (6) total: 7



CroMalk - Pittsburgh (11), Atlanta (4) total: 15  
armyabn1 - Washington (3), NY Islanders (6) total: 9  
CoolHandLuke - Montreal (5), Minnesota (6) total: 11  
Captngetch - NY Rangers (2), Philadelphia (5) total: 7  
Mr. Conie - Los Angeles (4), Anaheim (4) total: 8  
quiet-things - Edmonton (4), Florida (3) total: 7  
Pheeb888 - Colorado (7), Nashville (1) total: 8

Overall, each participant got between 7 and 15 hits which is not a bad result. This goes to show that a team break will give more hits to certain people and less to others but if you think about it seven hits for \$90 is not a bad result. Personally, I got eight hits out of the break two of which I would have hunted on eBay or in other boxes if I didn't get them in this exercise. In other words, I spent \$90 but had the chance to get the hits I was going after in 16 boxes rather than the one my \$90 would have bought me. Fair enough it may be a bit of a gamble as you're not sure to pull what you want, but when are you ever?

So, if you're interested in getting the hits you really want, drop by SCF and check out the case break sign-ups in your chosen sport. If there are none currently open, drop Enigma a private message and ask him if any are being planned in your sport.



## AROUND THE BOARDS

### An Open Letter To...

By Scott Kozlowski aka Scottkoz20

To all sports card traders,

When you think about trading sports cards online, what is the first word or thought that comes to mind? I recently asked this question to members at sportscardforum.com. The responses received were wide ranging from the emotions of receiving a trade made in the mail, to the amount of money spent on shipping, the time spent online trading or comments regarding the hobby in general. However, there is one constant part of trading that was not mentioned very much, if at all.

Most of you reading this article may even take this for granted. This constant is you, the readers, the traders, and the people that make this hobby what it is. Think about it for a moment; when you make a trade, the card(s) that you currently own will be going to another person, while the card(s) the person you made the deal with own, comes to you. When you sell, the card(s) that you sold is going to another person.

From time to time, I find that we all tend to take the people aspect for granted. After all, if there was not another person willing to make that trade with you, you could not make any trades or purchases. This hobby is only made better, and more affordable by individuals that are willing to trade something that is needed in order to complete a set, add a piece to a team collection or help you obtain that rare card for your collection.



For those that are on a trading website, do you spend the time to recognize everyone that you have successfully made a trade with? I have to admit that I am guilty of not always acknowledging those people that have helped me with my collecting goals. However, there are a few people who will always post their "mail days" for everyone to look at and review the trades and/or purchases that have arrived. Some individuals will even take a moment or two thanking the person that helped them acquire the cards and/or memorabilia.

Additionally, there are good discussions that occur on a wide range of topics, not always relating to sports. From these conversations, people start to develop friendships with other members. Those friends from time to time will give you a lead when they find something that they know you are looking for, whether it is online or if they find it locally at a show or a card shop.

While there will always be the aspect of cost, shipping, your collecting goals and what you are willing to trade; there will always need to be someone on the other end that is willing to make a deal with you. So, with the holidays approaching, I would like to publicly thank everyone that I have ever traded with. If it was not for you all, I would be nowhere near close to completing my goals and would have spent more money buying singles or packs with the hope that I might pull a card I need.

Thanks,  
Scott





## Improving Base Cards

By Kevin Lee aka gosens151911

They're boring, you hate to see them, and for the most part they're worthless. What are they you ask? They are base cards. You enter your local store with those extra several dollars in hand and quickly buy the best card pack you can. Ripping it open, you can't wait to see what you've hit. Five seconds later, you leave the store somewhat upset. In your hands are a few worthless base cards that you just spent several dollars on. You return home and toss those base cards in your storage box, where you'll probably never see them ever again.

One of the biggest problems in this hobby is the base card. Except for the star players, the majority of base cards are worthless except for maybe the team one collects. People just don't like them. For example, it's extremely hard to sell a set after you put it together, because no one wants to buy them! Year after year, you open packs to get those plain boring old cards of players you couldn't care less for. Isn't it about time that card manufacturers do something about this problem? How about making base cards interesting and making people want to collect the whole set for kicks. Here are my top 5 ways to make base cards worth collecting.



5. This idea is already in use in the MVP set. It is the facsimile signature of the player that graces the front of the card. At least with this way, you actually look at the card, curious to see what each player's unique signature looks like. Put together, it's a fairly nice looking set with a large variety of different signature styles gracing each individual card.

4. Include the entire team roster! O-Pee-Chee is the set that does this closest, with a 600 base card set. But why is there no set that features every single player from every team? Sure it will make the base card set huge, but for team collectors, this would be a dream. Imagine when you put your team set together, it would look pretty nice. On top of this, team sets would probably have some re-sell value, as they would definitely appeal to some people not willing to put up with the effort of putting one together.

3. Why not have base cards with a nice white or clear (think Glacial Graphs from UD Ice) space for a player to sign? We all know there are many people out there who go and get autographs in person at games or special events. Many of them trade for base cards to get signed. Well if we put blank spaces on the base cards, it would make the autographs that you got in person look that much nicer. Of course they'd probably have to stay in your personal collection, as forgeries could become a problem. Still, to have this in one set (maybe BAP) would be a nice touch.

2. This idea would be the cheap man's version of the letterman. UD Black has letterman cards for rookies, where the letters spell out the last name of the player. How about doing this for base cards! It would make it a fun task to try putting together the names of all your favorite players, or even your favorite team. The best part is; it would be affordable! Kids especially would probably like this one. The big plus side with this is that it would also encourage the trading of base cards, with people trying to put together names.

1. This idea has been used in the past, and I wonder why they don't bring it back. Have "animated action" cards. These are the cards that you tilt, and there's a 3D picture that moves. Whether it's just a player's face moving from the side profile to face you (96-97 SPx Hockey) or having a short action shot of a goal being scored (96-97 McDonald's Ice Breakers), these look beautiful. Imagine pulling a card of Ovechkin's famous goal against Phoenix. I could see myself tilting that card for hours, replaying that goal without a TV or computer. This idea should definitely be used again, even if it need to be a small base set, it would be one worth collecting. Everyone would want to try putting it together!



There you have it, just a few ideas which I think could truly make base card collecting interesting again, just like when you were a kid and didn't mind getting them.



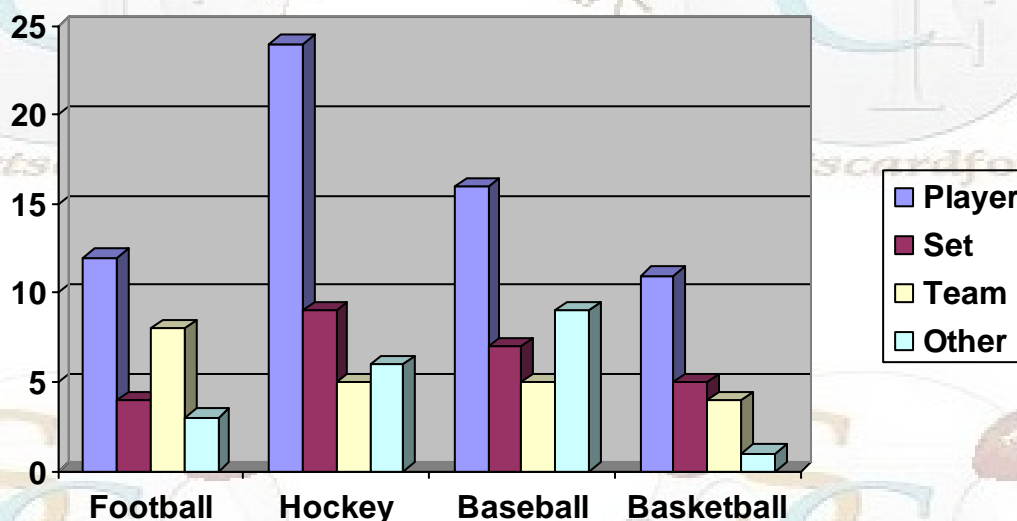
## AROUND THE BOARDS

### Collecting Trends

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

When I first started collecting at the venerable age of 6, everyone was collecting in the same way. We were all building sets because that was all there was, you opened a pack and you were over the moon to get a base card of your favorite player. Nowadays, this is just not enough anymore.

The consequence? Many inserts, a multitude of sets with numerous parallel versions and an avalanche of game used (GU) /autograph cards. How did we collector react to all these options? What do we collect now? Intrigued to find out, I made a poll in the 4 busiest forums on SCF. The diagram below indicates the results.



In total, 98 people took part in the survey entering a total of 129 votes as many members have more than one focus to their collection. Putting all sports together, player collecting came on top by a landslide, 49% of the votes going to this category. To my surprise however, set collection came second with 19% closely followed by team collection with 17%. Trailing behind at 15% is the "Other" category; this includes rookie, memorabilia and autograph collections.

The overall results were very representative of the results by sports, the only discrepancy being that the team option was more popular than the set option in the football forum. This did not come as a surprise to me though considering this area has a very organized team collector group.

I must admit that I was shocked to see the lack of popularity of the "Others" category. Most companies are pushing hard on game-used/autograph and rookie cards; it seems that on SCF at least, the collectors are not really following that trend.

Perhaps the "Other" option lacked popularity because of its expensive nature. If you look at price guides, it doesn't take a long time to realize that the priciest cards out there are the autographed, game used and the rookie ones. Although to be fair, we are now getting to the point where autographed and game used cards are so common that their value is going down, even on relatively high end product such as Upper Deck's Ultimate Collection.

Of course, we must not forget that player collections can also, and in most cases do, include what makes up the "Other" category. How many of you player collectors out there can say that your collection doesn't include memorabilia cards? I'm pretty sure the answer to this is not many. I myself actively collect Patrick Roy and have over 500 of his cards. Due to space restriction, I cannot display them all but I put my favorite ones in a display frame. Right now, there are 29 cards in my frame but a mere 8 cards are neither autographed or memorabilia. That's only 28% of the card displayed, not exactly a huge chunk. However, if I decided to only display the cards with the highest value, none of those great inserts would be there.

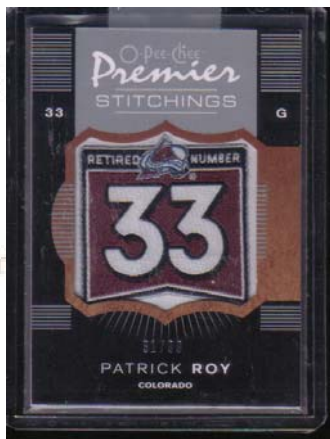
Lately, I also decided to make a top 5 of my favorite Roy cards and each and every one of them include a memorabilia piece and/or an autograph. Should I therefore define myself as a player collector or have I been sucked in by the memorabilia/autograph monster? Past experience and further introspection made me realize that even though I do love this card, that doesn't put me over to the "Other" category. Why? Well, if I was a GU or autograph collector, the Gretzky GU card I received as a Christmas present would still be in my collection, it would not have been traded away for yet more Patrick Roy cards and the same goes for the Patrick Kane autograph I had.





## AROUND THE BOARDS

A further indication of my non conversion to the GU and autograph dark side is my complete attraction for the O-Pee-Chee Premier manufactured patch cards. The release of that set created an uproar from many collector, being completely offended and even feeling cheated that the patches provided were not used in a game or in an event at the very least. Personally, I am just incredibly happy to have four cards depicting important elements of my favorite's player career. The number of Stanley Cups he won, the Vezina trophies he captured, the fact that his number was retired by the Avalanche and finally a pattern illustrating the nickname he was given, it's like a brief history of his career in four cards. In my honest opinion, those are great cards to have for a player collector. Unless of course the underlying motivation to your collection is not the player himself...



As for the rookie cards, we all know that if you want to get your favorite player's rookie card it will more than likely cost you a respectable amount. Especially if your favorite player is getting a lot of hobby love or if he is one of the new "darlings of the hobby". Through astute trading, I managed to get a lot of Carey Price's rookie cards (he is another one of the players I collect) but my priorities being what they are, I ended up trading a few of them for Patrick Roy cards. Yes, some of those got me Roy autographs but at the end of the day, this hobby seems to be mainly about the money and to get the high value cards, you have to sacrifice high value cards too. Did I make the right move there? Should I have hung on to Price's rookie cards to speculate or was improving my Roy collection the right option? Many will say time will tell depending on what value the Price cards hold once all is said and done but to me, this is not even a factor. The aim is not to get the most valuable collection; it's to get the best one.

What is the best collection though? Some will say that best and priciest are synonyms. Not me. To me, the best collection is the one that has the cards that I, as a collector, want the most. That collection will include an insert from 96-97 set Les gardiens in which Roy is picture in front of the Fleur-de-Lys and it will also include a common Pro Set card of Patrick's mask. Why? Because I collect this player and to me, most desirable doesn't necessarily mean most expensive.



What about you? Are you a player collector or a rookie collector? Did you ever wonder what your true motivation to collect was? I hope you can take the time to think about it; otherwise, you may have to seriously rack your brains if a trade offer concerning a personal collection item comes along...



### **Hobby Boxes in Retail Stores?**

By John Jimenez aka gmoney168

Wal-Mart and Target are both great stores to pick up a few packs of sports cards or a blaster box quickly and conveniently, but they could be better. Just imagine walking into retail stores and finding some brand new hobby boxes, or at least, hobby packs. The main way most collectors currently pick up these items is through either their local hobby shop or online. However, there are some problems to this method. The harsh issues that individuals face involve prices and inconvenience.

In hobby shops, the prices of most boxes are marked up way more than they should be. On the flip side, they do allow you to simply drive to the closest one and see what you want in person. However, there are less and less card shops that you can find, as the hobby has slowed down a bit. Another thing is that they might not just carry cards, but comics and action figures or other collectables as well. This tends to limit the card products and inventory that are carried. This does not help especially considering the driving time it takes to get to the closest one. An example of the bad situation you find yourself in is this: It takes 15 minutes and 20 miles to get to your closest store that carries hobby boxes and packs. When you get there, the particular product that you are looking is \$20 more than what you saw at an online store, and there happens to be none in stock. What is there to do next?

There are similar issues with online card stores even though they tend to be a cheaper option. However, you usually end up paying that difference in shipping and handling charges. There are only about 3 online stores that have exceptional reputations and prices, but even they can sometimes charge outrageous shipping prices. Even the cheapest of shipping costs can get up to around \$5-10, which is a lot considering the price of the box is already quite a bit of money. When you consider how many boxes you normally buy online and you add all the shipping totals together, could have bought you another box. Another issue with buying boxes online is that once you order it, it can usually take another day to "process the order". Since most of us don't have the money to pay for two or three day shipping, this adds to the waiting time.



Both examples are why Wal-Mart and Target should begin selling hobby boxes in their stores. As long as the prices are somewhere in the middle of the online stores and hobby shops, it would be perfect. You can cut out shipping costs, and at the same time, pay less money for gas and high hobby store prices. Almost everywhere you drive, there always seems to be a Wal-Mart or Target that is right off the road or highway. It would just be a quick stop in, and you would be right on your way with that box of hopeful MOJO!



Even with the hobby packs, most of the employees wouldn't be into sports cards that much, so you could eliminate the possibility of pack searching from the sellers. This is another slight misfortune that you could have when buying single packs online or from your local hobby store. Most of the salespeople have a decent knowledge of the hobby and might be smart enough just to do a little feel of the pack before they are sent to you. Although this may, and probably will, never become a reality; just imagine how pleasant it would be.



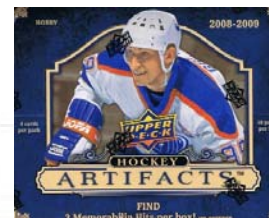


# FANTASY STANDINGS

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 Nov 24 (Pool runs Oct 4 to Apr 30) - <http://www.officepools.com>

Team	Day	Week	Month	Total	Team	Day	Week	Month	Total
1st Scottkoz20	7	7	158	301	24th Pantera04	8	8	125	237
2nd Tennisdevils	4	4	151	280	25th Nbcollector	4	4	109	236
3rd Greek22hockey	1	1	132	263	25th Quiet-things	8	8	123	236
4th Scmike001	4	4	130	261	25th Turd_ferguson	2	2	116	236
5th Allonblack	2	2	146	260	28th Cssports	4	4	117	233
5th Fritzer213	2	2	146	260	28th Koolkid19	2	2	112	233
7th Tannies	6	6	136	259	30th Wingsfan-13	2	2	113	232
8th Hossa18sens	1	1	103	255	31st Doniceage	7	7	123	231
9th Andrewconnors9	4	4	126	251	31st Fitchjr1	3	3	109	231
9th Crackapack	6	6	132	250	31st Tysonx	1	1	103	231
11th Malkinsearcher	2	2	149	249	34th Digitalmonkey	6	6	120	230
11th Rogulon	2	2	119	249	35th Crater_satori	5	5	117	226
13th Gladdyontherise	1	1	113	247	36th Canucksfan1812	6	6	123	224
14th UntDuch4bB	1	1	98	244	36th Leandre	4	4	121	224
15th Nathan7070	2	2	123	243	36th Parco10	6	6	115	224
16th Enderwigginn69	2	2	117	242	39th Care4cards	1	1	115	222
16th Gretzky99	6	6	128	242	40th Newf662001	3	3	107	221
16th Pheeb888	8	8	123	242	41st Tobiasstephan	7	7	109	218
16th Wolf1bh	8	8	125	242	42nd Ja68grfan	6	6	112	215
20th Lapierrcollect	2	2	109	241	42nd Sk74	1	1	108	215
20th Matssundin13...	7	7	126	241	44th Cam98	3	3	93	212
22nd Patrickadams26	7	7	129	240	44th Nabby12	1	1	106	212
23rd Darrens18	1	1	98	238	46th LeafsIn09	4	4	102	208

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](http://cardsbythebox.com). The league is divided in four divisions and here are the standings so far:

SMYTHE	NORRIS	PATRICK	ADAMS
1 SCF Hockey Staff 45-17-10	1 Team Connors 27-27-18 (Andrewconnors9)	1 Guaranteed Victory 29-20-11 (fitchjr1)	1 Team gosens151911 30-21-9 (gosens151911)
2 team allonblack 45-18-9 (Allonblack)	2 Team Mateya 20-29-11 (EricMateya)	2 Toronto Tavares 33-26-13 (Matssundin..)	2 Team Farina 19-20-9 (justinpogge4life)
3 Team stead 25-22-13 (newf662001)	3 Houston Crashers 24-36-12 (supercardlover)	3 Team Weagle 34-28-10 (ja68grfan)	3 Team Collins 15-26-7 (leafsfan1967)
4 Vegas 420 28-29-15 (jayvegas420)	4 Montreal Jaywalkers 23-36-13 (atp0721)	4 Team Gagne 34-30-8 (darryl87)	4 Team Swain 13-42-17 (Tysonx504)
5 Team Andrews 18-33-9 (Rockford)		5 Team Sokol 24-26-10 (jskol1626)	

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.

1 NBAFAN123, 144	10 garnett_21, 99
2 Anchorage Akitas, 130.5	11 Texas Hellbillies, 83
3 kobe080, 127.5	12 gladdyontherise, 78.5
4 Caf. Crusaders, 115.5	13 trevorp121, 77.5
5 Court Vision, 115	14 Strange Brews, 76.5
6 CHillyDoggy, 106	15 Michigan Man, 73.5
7 demonpower55, 102	16 Molly's Ballers, 62.5
8 Gimme Some MO!, 101	17 the_future, 60.5
9 D-III, 99.5	18 ello's team, 58



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place

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

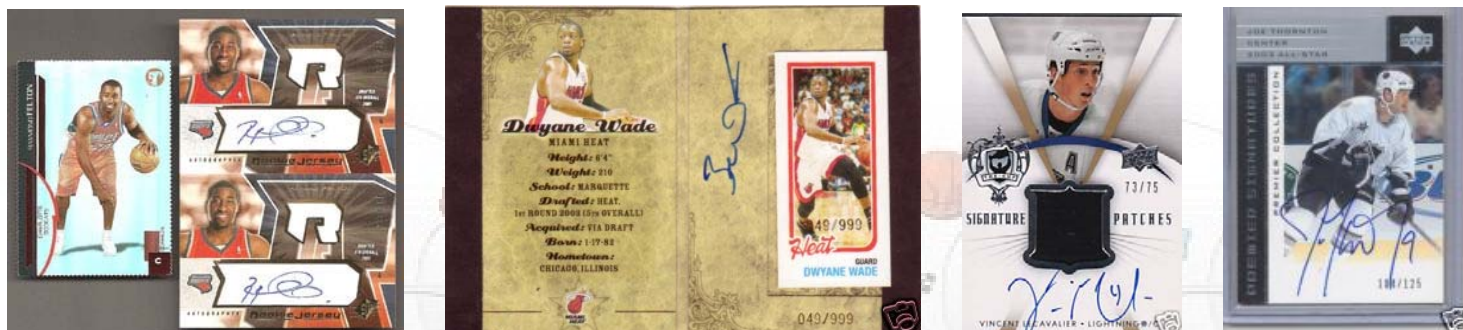
Here are some of the recent winners!

Tarheelsnipe won these three cards with a bid of \$13.50 and \$4.00 in shipping. The total book value of the cards? \$140. (2) 05-06 SPx Auto/Jersey #d/750 RC; (1) 05-06 Topps Pristine Die-Cut #d/50 RC

Whalechaser claimed this beauty (07-08 Letterman Dwyane Wade Mini Auto Booklet #d/999) for a mere \$17.50 and \$2.00 in shipping.

On the hockey side of things, ahhmygooch managed to get himself a Lecavalier The Cup card for \$12.03 with \$3.50 added for postage. The card books at \$60 and this insert set of The Cup really looks great!

Then, Fisk-Factor75 bagged himself a Joe Thornton autographed card 104/125 for a ridiculous \$0.99. Talk about a steal!



For the baseball fans out there, DrewDude got himself this Uggla card at a bargain price of \$1.04 and \$2.99 for shipping.

As for yankeesnycrd he managed to acquire a Robinson Cano printing plate for a modest \$7.

Finally for the football addicts, iowa49erfan got himself a nice Hall of Famer auto of Bill Walsh for \$26.

Then, Ryo1549 managed to get a patch autograph card of Jonathan Stewart for a small \$20.49



Enter in this great weekly contest to have a chance to be featured in the next issue!





### 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 Press Pass Legends Racing Mini Box Break – [Click Here To View This Box Break](#) – Nice Dale Earnhardt Sr. hit!

2008 MLB Donruss Threads 4 Hobby Packs Break – [Click Here To View This Box Break](#) – Bought with Card Cash (CC)

2008 NFL Donruss Threads Hobby Box Break – [Click Here To View This Box Break](#) – Part 1  
[Click Here To View This Box Break](#) – Part 2



#### 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!

29th National Sports Collectors Convention – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Big Sports Kings pull!

29th National Sports Collectors Convention – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Press Pass Redemption Program sneak peeks!

2008 Lexington National Guard and Armory Sports Card Show – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Some very nice vintage and autographed cards!

#### 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 14<sup>th</sup> Live Mail Week – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – A very jamb packed week full of incredible relics!

Brads55 13<sup>th</sup> Live Mail Week – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Tons of nice patches and a 1/1!

Brads55 12<sup>th</sup> Live Mail Week – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Letterman's and Auto's!

#### Live Site Tutorials and Cards for Trade

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 – Doniceage Live Trade Bait – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – Don gives us a glimpse in some of the more sought after cards he has available for trade.

Sports Card Forum – How To Edit Your Signature – [Click Here To View This Video](#) – The tutorial on how to edit your signature to within the appropriate size limits.





### In The Next Issue:

- The Verdict on ITG Ultimate Memorabilia 8
- The Winning Article of the “My Favorite Player Biography” Contest
- The Winning Article of the “Best Card” Contest
- Stay informed on the latest hobby news

