

# C collectors corner

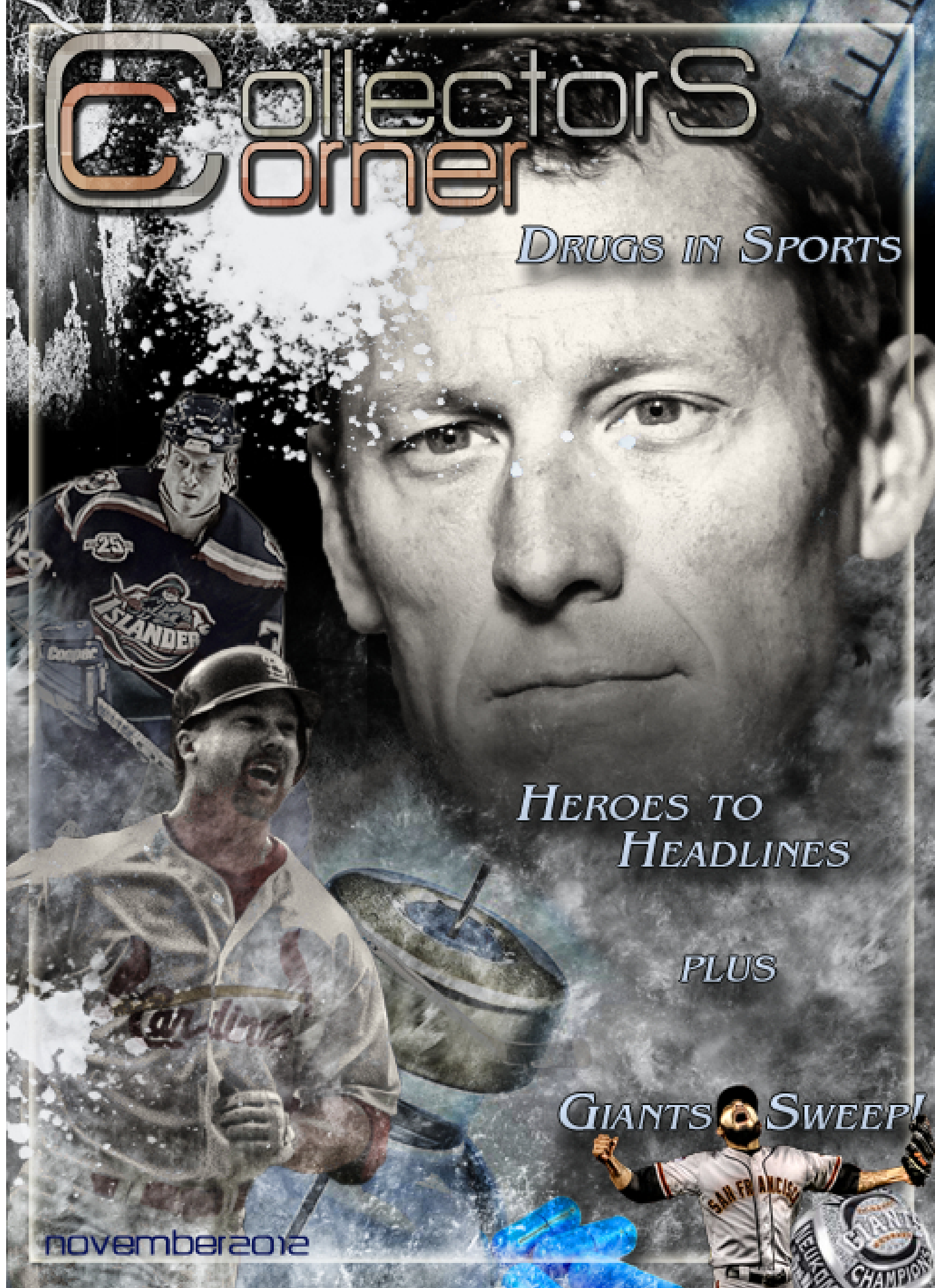
*DRUGS IN SPORTS*

*HEROES TO  
HEADLINES*

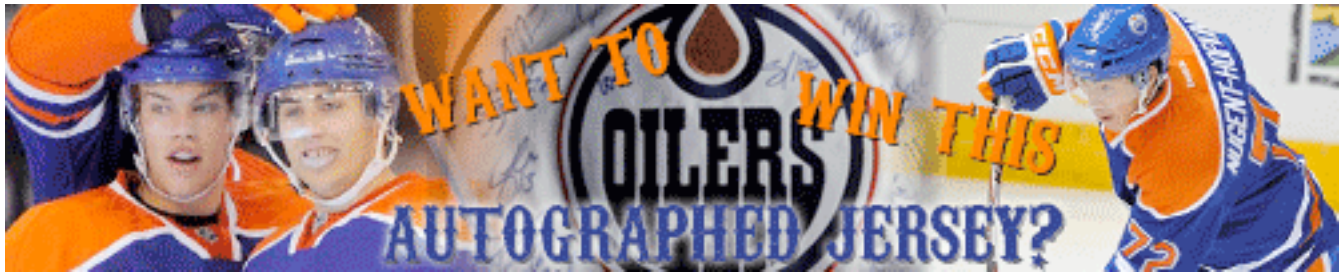
*PLUS*

*GIANTS SWEEP!*

november 2012



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### **I feel a Void**

**By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888**

There is plenty happening on the sports scene these days, the Lance Armstrong saga grabs its share of headlines, the Giants sweeping the Cards swept the Tigers in the World Series while baseball and non baseball fans rejoiced (the former because it was a great series even though it was short and the latter because it meant that regular TV programming would result sooner than expected). Enough to keep sports fans occupied you would think and yet...I still feel a big void.

I gave up collecting shortly after I moved back home from England because I felt like the sport I love (hockey) was everywhere and I didn't need to collect to keep some sort of connection with it but now, we're nearing mid-November and the boys of summer have packed the gear which usually means that hockey can take center stage but right now, nothing...aside from increasingly annoying reports about the ongoing collective bargaining agreement negotiations. Why are they increasingly annoying? Simply because both sides are arguing over who will get the biggest slice of an insanely huge pie. To fans, the pie is almost beyond the reach of our imagination, to us, the amount of money in play is more than we can ever hope to make in our lifetime and yet, the spoilt little brats on both sides of the negotiation table are claiming they're not getting enough...It's enough to drive even the most faithful fan crazy. Yesterday I cancelled my NHL Network subscription, Sportsnet as well and if things do not get back to normal, RDS, TSN and NBC might also taste my axe. Owners and players should keep in mind that while they are fighting, fans are grinding their axes and we may end up chopping up a sizable amount of the pie...

In this month's issue you will find plenty of product reviews, articles about current events and at the very end of the magazine, I've decided to showcase a member's awesome collection...This guy has card that could make any one of us green with envy, his top 10 is absolutely insane!

You will also notice an article by Richard McAdam telling us how he is done chasing anything and everything Carey Price. It might come as a shock to some but not to me, I went through the same thing a year or so ago...What can I say, people change and collectors change to. We refocus, recharge our batteries or simply long for new challenges. My once enormous Roy collection is nowhere near to the size it once was and yet, I cherish it even more now because the pieces in it are unique to me and more or less all have an interesting background story. I don't need a checklist to tell me a need an item, I can make up my own mind...



## What Goes up...Must Come Down By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888



While this is a well known saying, as a sports fan, I always hoped that it would never apply to any of my favorites. I can't imagine how crushed I would be if some of my heroes turned out to have cheated to reach the highs they attained. If Patrick Roy turned out to have used performance enhancing drugs, I would be absolutely devastated. Thankfully, it is not the case, but it is so for one of the greatest cyclist ever, Lance Armstrong.

Armstrong career has been long and eventful. In fact, he was and is still well known not only for his performances as a road racing cyclist but also for the Lance Armstrong foundation which he created in 1997 after battling (and defeating) both

testicular and brain cancer and for his high profile relationship with U.S. Singer Sheryl Crow from 2003 to 2006.

From his humble beginnings as a road racing cyclist in 1992 with the Motorola team to his very public fall from grace, he made the headlines for the right reasons. He took centre stage as early as 1993 by winning the World Championship and a few stage victories in Europe including the stage of Limoges in the Tour de France. Known as a fierce competitor and a perseverant individual, the world was saddened to learn that Armstrong was fighting testicular cancer which had spread to his brain and lungs in October 1996. From diagnosis to his victory over this terrible illness, Armstrong showed the world what he was made of. He never gave up and swore that he would not only be victorious in the most important battle he had ever fought, but that he would also return to competition. As soon as January 2008 he had started seriously training again having signed a contract with the US Postal/Discovery team. A formation for which he would race until 2005 when he retired for the first time, only to return with team Astana in January 2009. He retired for good on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011 which under investigation over doping allegations.

Over his impressive career, Armstrong has won the Tour de France 7 times, finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Vuelta in Spain in 1998, grabbed a bronze medal at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, dominated the Tour du Pont in 1995 and 1997 and also won the Tour du Luxembourg in 1998. One cannot deny



that this is a rather impressive record but unfortunately, he has now been stripped of most of these victory.

As early as 2009, doubts were cast over Armstrong's performances, Paul Kimmage, a British reporter, referred to Armstrong as "Cancer in cycling" an allegation which was not happily received by the American as you can imagine.

Some say that everyone in cycling uses performance enhancing drugs but that there is also a strong culture of silence on the topic, almost an Omerta like code. Back in 2004, Tyler Hamilton (a former running mate of Armstrong's) was busted for doing just that but he kept silent about the whole thing, even when he appealed and lost. He remained silent about everything up until a federal investigation into doping was launched and he was called in front of a Grand Jury with possible perjury charges if he held anything back. The whole story is reported in the book which Hamilton co-authored along with Daniel Coyle: The Secret Race.



On August 24, 2012, the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) stripped Armstrong of all his competitive results from August 1, 1998 onwards as well as imposing a lifetime ban from all competitive events over which it has jurisdiction. A few days latter, the cyclist continued to claim his innocence but said that he would not be contesting the decision. He explained his decision by saying that the process was unfair and it was nothing more that a witch hunt motivated by heinous and unfounded claims but that attempting to prove his innocence would put too much of a

toll on both his family and his foundation and that he wasn't prepared to put either through that kind of drama. In July 2012, the USADA accused Armstrong of both doping and trafficking drugs based on both blood samples from 2009 and 2010 and other cyclists testimonies.

On August 24, 2012 the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) asked the USADA to provide it with a reasoned decision explaining its findings on Lance Armstrong and why it was adamant that he should be stripped of all of his Tour de France victories. After receiving and reviewing such document, the UCI announced that it would not appeal the USADA's decision to the Court



of Arbitration for Sport and it was therefore accepting the recommended sanctions of stripping him of his titles from August 1, 1998 and imposing a lifetime ban. The UCI's president Pat McQuaid was even quoted as saying "Armstrong has no place in cycling. He deserves to be forgotten". The World Anti-Doping Agency has yet to follow suit but its president has said that Armstrong failing to contest the decision seems to indicate that there was substance to the claims.

As things stand now, Armstrong has been stripped of his titles and has also stepped down as president of the Lance Armstrong foundation. In mid-October, he was also dropped by his longtime sponsors, Radio Shack and Nike.

Personally, I am not 100% convinced that Lance Armstrong committed the offenses he has been charged with but his failure to challenge the decision can in fact lead one to believe that it is the case. Either he truly is trying to protect himself, his family and foundation from further bad

publicity or he knows that there is no point in fighting accurate charges and does not have the guts to say so and come clean. I am in no way an expert on the world of cycling but it makes me rather sad to see such a sorry state of affairs. I mean, imagine if Gordie Howe or Wayne Gretzky had been discredited in the same way? I can't help but think that it would tremendously hurt the sport of hockey just like the baseball world was shaken with the whole steroid crisis which is discussed elsewhere in this month's issue. What's even more heartbreaking though is the fact that



Armstrong wasn't just an example for his cycling highlights but also for the qualities and character he exhibited in his battle against cancer, we once thought he was an excellent role model for youths everywhere but we are now forced to review this statement... In fact, his reputation is in such tatters that he was the "villain celebrity" burned in effigy at

this year's bonfire night celebration in Edenbridge, Kent, England. Every year, this town celebrates the failing of Guy Fawkes plan to blow up the parliament by not only having a massive firework display like everywhere else in England, but also by burning the villain of the year in effigy. It is safe to say that things couldn't get any worse for Armstrong and that he has now truly reached rock bottom...



## SCF Official Review: 2012/13 ITG Forever Rivals

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, I'd like to thank our sponsors at In The Game for providing us with this box.

### Box details

1 pack per box

12 cards per pack

Current Retail Price (online): \$89.99 - \$104.99

### PRODUCT INFO:



*For decades, there has been one hockey rivalry that has proven to be greater than all the rest, that's the rivalry between Montréal and Toronto.*

*In The Game is pleased to announce the release of Forever Rivals. Each 12-Card Box contains: 3 Game-Used Memorabilia Cards, 3 Hard-Signed Autograph Cards or PaperCut, 3 Premium Base Cards & 3 Non-Memorabilia Insert Cards.*

#### BASE CARDS (3 CARDS PER BOX)

A 100-card premium base set. Forever Rivals will pay tribute to the greatest players who have worn the Blue and White and the Bleu, Blanc et Rouge, from the early decades of each storied franchise to the players of today.

#### NON-MEMORABILIA INSERTS (3 CARDS PER BOX)

The 45-card non-memorabilia inserts will not disappoint. Insert sets include Double Agents, Playoff Matchups, Rivalry, Net Rivals, Immortals & Greatest Moments.

#### AUTOGRAPH CARDS (3 CARDS PER BOX)

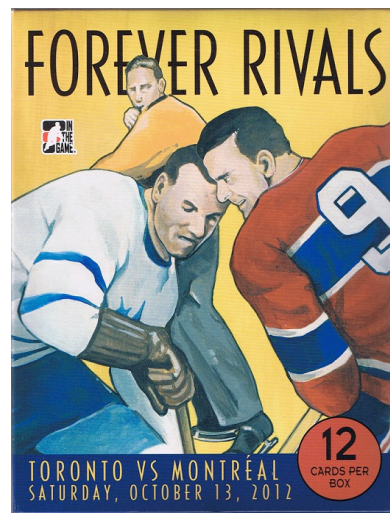
There will be over 120 different autograph cards with several first-time signers and numerous Hall of Famers and stars to collect. Every card is hard-signed in red pen for Montréal and blue pen for Toronto. Forever Rivals will also feature out signatures from both storied franchises.

#### GAME-USED MEMORABILIA CARDS (3 CARDS PER BOX)

Forever Rivals contains many treasured pieces including Game-Used Jersey, Game-Used Patch, Post Season Battles, Rivals, Trophy Winners, Decades and many more.

For more information visit [www.itgtradingcards.com](http://www.itgtradingcards.com)

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### WHAT WE PULLED

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G51-T3wD\\_dI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G51-T3wD_dI)

Base (3) - Maurice Richard (Silver), Carey Price (Silver), Tiger Williams (Silver)

Immortals (1) - Joe Primeau

Net Rivals (1) - Harry Lumley/Gerry McNeil

Playoff Matchups (1) - Ted Kennedy/ Bill Durnan



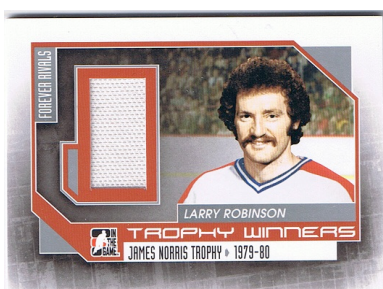
Wendel Clark Jersey (Blue Version) /130



Brian Savage Jersey (Red Version) /130



Trophy Winners Larry Robinson Jersey (Silver Version) /85



Brian Engblom Autograph



Ian Turnbull Autograph



Norm Ullman Autograph



## FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 4/5

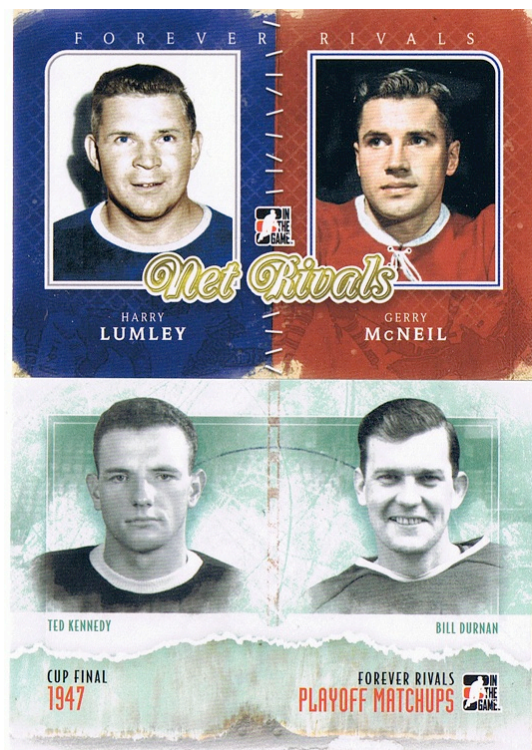
Design - 4.5/5

Fun - 5/5

Value - 4.5/5

Rebuy - 4/5

Overall - 22/25 (88%)



## Pros:

6 hits per box (3 autos/3 relics)

Foil base cards stand out

Some shake-up to the cookie cutter design of previous releases

Buildup is exciting in how the cards are stacked within the box

Opportunity for autographs of players not previous released on sports cards

## Cons:

Not meant for all collectors as it only encompasses two franchises

Only 3 base per pack will turn away a lot of set collectors



Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at In The Game for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release. For more information on all of their products, visit them today at [www.itgtradingcards.com](http://www.itgtradingcards.com).



## SCF Official Review: 2012 Panini Certified

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, I'd like to thank our sponsors at Panini for providing us with this box.

### Box details

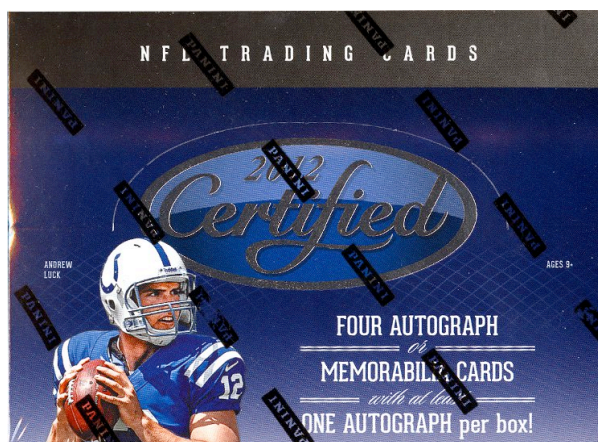
10 packs per box

5 cards per pack

Current Retail Price (online): \$100.00 MAPP

### PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- Autographed Material Rookie Cards  
"Freshman Fabric" featuring Andrew Luck, Robert Griffin III, Trent Richardson, Ryan Tannehill, Justin Blackmon, Brandon Weeden, Michael Floyd, Kendall Wright, and Doug Martin, sequentially numbered to 499 or less.
- Elway Collection Materials - Highlights some of the greatest achievements by one of the greatest quarterbacks to ever play the game. Look for autograph versions sequentially numbered to 10 or less.
- Look for Mirror Material Gold, Emerald and Black cards featuring prime swatches of material or autographs sequentially numbered to 25 or less.



### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Certified Skills Prime Materials

Key skill-position players are fully represented with sweet oversized swatches.

Freshman Fabric Mirror Black

Look for jersey, shoe and football swatches in Freshman Fabric, bringing you closer to the game than ever.

Elway Collection Prime Materials

Twelve years later, the pioneering John Elway Collection returns with updated autograph and memorabilia cards honoring one of the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history.

Rookie Fabric of the Game Team Die Cut Signatures

True to Certified's storied history, these autographed cards include jumbo swatches that are showcased with a unique team name die-cut.



## Immortals Mirror Gold Materials

Featuring historic swatches from players whose names will live forever in the minds of all football fans.

## Essential Signatures

The all-new Essential Signatures autograph chase puts the spotlight on 15 must-have players for the 2012 season.

## WHAT WE PULLED

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QFEqWRbEcc>

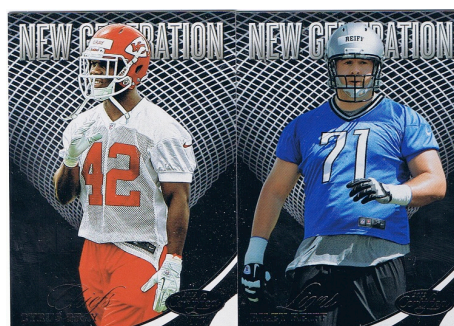
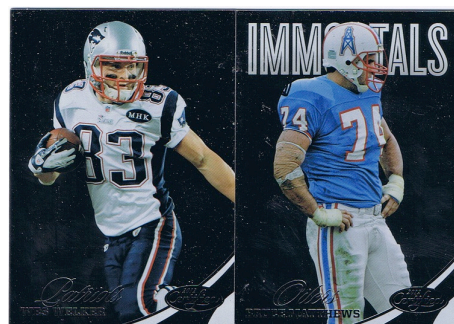
Base: 44/150 (29.3%)

Immortals /999 (1): Bruce Matthews

Next Generation Rookies /999 (2): Cyrus Gray, Riley Reiff

Mirror Red /250 (2): DeAngelo Hall, Ryan Lindley

Mirror Blue /100 (1): Jeremy Maclin



Freshman Fabric LaMichael James RC Dual Jersey/Autograph /499





Certified Skills Dwayne Allen Jersey /299



Immortals Mirror Red Troy Aikman Jersey /199



Immortals Mirror Red Mike Alstott Jersey /199



## FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 4/5

Design - 4.5/5

Fun - 4.5/5

Value - 4/5

Rebuy - 4.5/5

Overall - 21.5/25 (86%)



Pros:

Great card design  
Cards are eye catching  
No chase sets  
Rookies and Immortals numbered the same  
Quick and easy as well as an enjoyable break

Cons:

Have to handle cards carefully due to easily leaving fingerprints  
Sticker autographs  
Mirror relics should be numbered lower

NPN Information:

NPN, 2012 Panini Certified Football  
5325 FAA Blvd Suite 100  
Irving TX 75061-3601

Limit 2 requests per household, mailed separately

Postmarked By: 12/19/12

Received By: 12/26/12

Canada Skills:  $561 + 788 / 197 \times 152 - 441 = ?$

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at Panini for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release. For more information on all of their products, visit them today at [www.paniniamerica.net](http://www.paniniamerica.net).

All of the base cards are available for request. Please PM me with the cards of interest. Cards are available for 30 days from the time this review has been posted. As always, only VIPs may make requests for the first 48 hours.



## SCF Official Review: 2012 Topps Update

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, I'd like to thank our sponsors at Topps for providing us with this box.

36 packs per box

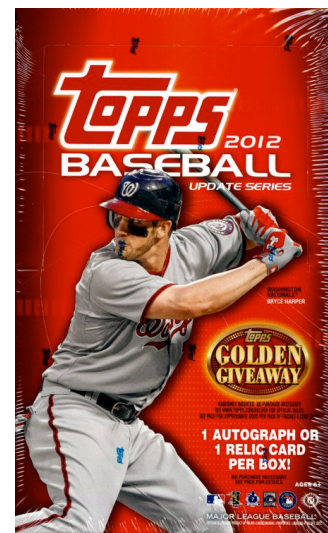
10 cards per pack

Current Retail Price (online): \$54.99 - \$69.99

### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

#### BASE CARDS

The 330-card base set includes traded players, Rookie call-ups, every 2012 MLB All-Star Game selection, the 2012 Home Run Derby participants, 5 Record Breakers cards, and 10 Rookie Debuts featuring the most exciting Rookies of the 2012 season.



#### PARALLEL CARDS

- Black Parallel (330): Black-bordered cards sequentially numbered to 61. HOBBY & HTA ONLY
- Platinum Parallel (330): Platinum-bordered cards. numbered 1/1.
- Golden Moments Parallel (330): A special parallel on shimmering gold foil. Inserted 1:4.
- Wood Parallel (330): The base cards printed on wood stock. Numbered 1/1.
- Base Card Printing Plates (1,320): All 330 base cards will have their 4 printing plates inserted in the product. Numbered 1/1. HOBBY & HTA ONLY
- Gold Silk Collection (100): Framed mini cards printed on special gold silk. Sequentially numbered to 50. HOBBY & HTA ONLY
- Gold Parallel (990) NEW! The beloved gold parallel is back! Featuring not only the Update Series set, every base card from Series 1 and Series 2 will also be paralleled on gold bordered cards and sequentially numbered to 2012.

#### GOLDEN RELIC CARDS (1 per HTA box/1 per Hobby case)

Gold Futures Coin Cards (5) - Rising Stars on cards with an embedded golden coin featuring their likeness including Bryce Harper and Yu Darvish! Numbered to each Player's jersey number.



Award Winners Gold Rings (15) - Cards celebrating 25 Greats from throughout history and an award they won, such as MVP or Rookie of the Year, with a specially designed golden ring embedded in the card.

Gold Hall of Fame Plaques (15) - Cards embedded with a golden replica of the plaques of 15 Hall of Famers, as featured in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Solid Gold Futures (4) - Rising Stars on cards made of a solid piece of gold including Bryce Harper and Yu Darvish! Numbered 1/1.

Gold Engravings Reprint Cards (3) - Cards featuring an embedded golden reprint of a vintage Topps card.

## INSERT CARDS

Blockbusters (30) - Cards featuring the biggest trades and signings in Baseball history. Inserted 1:4.

Golden Moments (50) - Featuring more active and retired players and a Golden Moment from their career. Inserted 1:4.

Golden Greats (25) - Featuring 25 more of the greatest players of all time, each with a Golden Moment highlighted on the card. Inserted 1:8.

1987 Topps Minis (50) - The continuity set from Series 1 & 2 continues with even more subjects. Inserted 1:4.

## MLB ALL-STAR GAME RELIC CARDS

All-Star Stitches - Relic cards featuring swatches from the 2012 MLB All-Star Game workout jerseys of 55 All-Stars.

- All-Star Stitches Gold Parallel #d to 50
- All-Star Stitches Platinum Parallel #d 1 of 1

All-Star Stitches Autographed Relics - 15 All-Stars will be featured on cards with an All-Star relic piece and an autograph. Sequentially #d to 25



All-Star Jumbo Patches - 45 cards featuring over-sized patches from the 2012 MLB All-Star Game workout jerseys. Sequentially #d to 6. HOBBY & HTA ONLY.

All-Star Jumbo Patches Autographs - 10 Jumbo Patch relic cards will also feature an autograph. Sequentially #d to 6. HOBBY & HTA ONLY

All-Star Stitches Duals - 10 cards featuring 2012 MLB All-Star Game selections and a relic from each subject. Sequentially #d to 25.

All-Star Stitches Triples - 10 cards featuring three 2012 All-Stars and a relic from each player. Sequentially #d to 25. HOBBY & HTA ONLY

### AUTOGRAPH CARDS

Golden Moments Autographs - Over 25 autograph cards featuring active and retired players and a Golden Moment from their career.

Golden Moments Autographs Gold Parallel - A parallel of all the above cards on shimmering gold foil. Numbered to 10.

Golden Debuts Autographs - Over 15 autograph cards featuring young, up-and-coming stars and a Golden Moment from their rookie season.

Golden Debuts Autographs Gold Parallel - A parallel of all the above cards on shimmering gold foil. Numbered to 10.

Blockbusters Autographs - 10 players from the insert set will have autographed versions of their cards available. Numbered to 25.

Golden Greats Autographs - 10 of the Golden Greats will have autographed versions of their cards available. Numbered to 10.

### RELIC CARDS

Golden Greats Relics - Relic versions of 15 of the Golden Greats cards Numbered to 10.

Blockbusters Relics - Relic versions of 10 of the Blockbusters inserts. Numbered to 50.



1969 Mickey Mantle Reprint Relic - Mickey Mantle's 1969 Topps card featuring a relic piece. Sequentially #d to 69.

## AUTOGRAPHED RELIC CARDS

Blockbusters Autograph Relics - Autographed relic versions of 5 of the Blockbuster inserts. Numbered to 5. HOBBY & HTA ONLY.

Golden Greats Autograph Relics - Autographed relic versions of 5 of the Golden Greats cards. Numbered to 5. HOBBY & HTA ONLY.

## GOLDEN GIVEAWAY: UNLOCK CARDS, UNLOCK COINS & WIN PRIZES

Every code unlocks a golden chance to WIN PRIZES!

### Golden Giveaway Code Card

- 10 different cards with a code for use in the Golden Giveaway! Inserted 1:6.
- Unlock exclusive die-cut cards, unlock ONE-OF-ONE gold-embedded die-cut cards, unlock golden digital coins to collect and win prizes!
- Codes Unlock Cards And Digital Coins To Collect And Win Prizes!

GOLDEN MOMENTS DIE-CUT CHROME CARDS: Striking die-cut chrome cards featuring 100 players and their greatest Golden Moment.

- GOLD PARALLEL: Also die-cut and numbered to 99.

- ONE-OF-ONE TRULY GOLDEN MOMENTS DIE-CUT

= CHROME CARDS: A parallel of the die-cut set with a piece of real gold embedded in the card! ONE OF ONE!

One-Of-One Gold Base Set Parallel: A parallel of the Topps Baseball Update Series base set with a piece of real gold embedded in the card! ONE OF ONE!

Unlock Digital Gold Coins: In total 90 digital coins can be unlocked: 30 Team Coins, 30 Player Coins, 30 Retired Player Coins

### Collect and Unlock Prizes

The more unique coins unlocked the more prizes you can win. Unlock ten unique coins and automatically qualify for a chance to win a Ken Griffey Jr. autographed gold coin card; unlock 30 team coins, 30 player coins or 30 retired player coins and instantly win a Willie Mays autographed gold coin card.



## PRESIDENTIAL PREDICTORS

Presidential Predictors A special program to bring the excitement of the 2012 United States Presidential election to life! Both candidates will have cards for each state inserted into the product. Collectors who find these cards will go online and enter a code for a chance to win a

special prize! Once the election is complete and each state has a winner, we will randomly select one lucky winner for each state. To be eligible to be selected, the code entered must be for the candidate that won that respective state. 50 Total prizes will be given away - a special Presidential Patch card numbered to 50 of the winner of the 2012 Presidential election.

## WHAT WE PULLED

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIwVHguHqD0>



Base: 286/300 (86.7%)

Gold Sparkle (9)

Gold /2012 (21) - Salvador Perez (S2), Endy Chaves (S2), Bronson Arroyo (S2), Guillermo Moscoso (S2), Jason Motte (S2), Andrew McCutchen (S2), Alex Rodriguez (S2), Bryan Petersen (S2), Tim Stauffer (S2), J.A. Happ (S2), Dan Haren (S2), Logan Morrison (S2), Chris Narveson (S2), Brett Gardner (S2), Robinson Cano x2 (U), Yu Darvish (U), Jason Frasor (U), Bryce Harper (U), Carlos Beltran (U), Craig Stammen (U)

1987 Minis (9)

Blockbusters (9)

Golden Greats (4)

Golden Moments (9)

Golden Giveaway (6) - Not Scanned

Presidential Predictors (1)





Hall Of Fame Commemorative Plaque Mickey Mantle



## FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 4.5/5

Design - 4/5

Fun - 3/5

Value - 3.5/5

Rebuy - 3/5

Overall - 18/25 (72%)

### Pros:

Great product for kids or someone starting out in the hobby

Addition of the Gold /2012 parallels to encompass the run of the series

Continuation of collectible "relics" such as coins and plaques

### Cons:

Presidential Predictor cards as politics need to stay out of sports cards

Very long break in one shot

Priced too high for what you receive in return

### NPN Information:

NPN 2012 Topps BB Update Series

PO Box 785

Pittston, PA 18640

Limit 1 request per household

Postmarked By: 1/2/13

Received By: 1/9/13

Canada Skills:  $100 \times 5 + 10 - 90 = ?$



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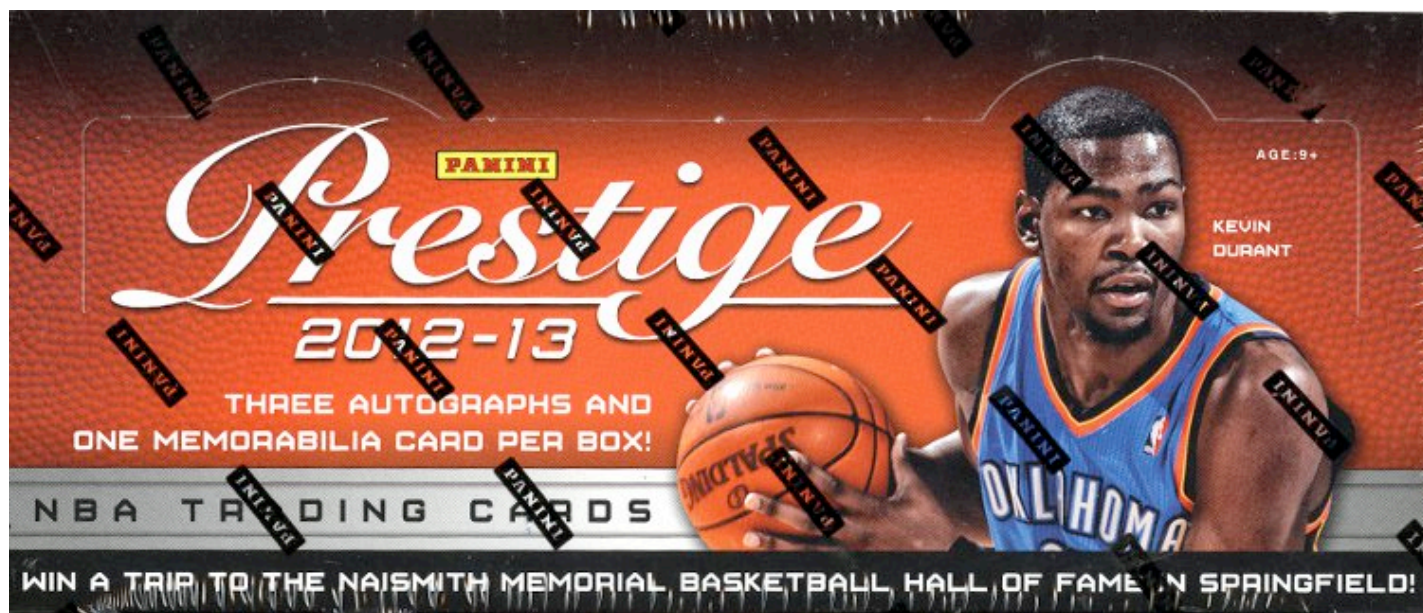
All of the base and inserts are available for request. Please PM me with the players of interest and I'll reply back with what is available since not all the cards were shown in the video. Cards are available for 30 days after this review has been posted. As always, only VIPs may make requests for the first 48 hours.





## SCF Official Review: 2012/13 Panini Prestige

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma



First and foremost, I'd like to thank our sponsors at Panini for providing us with this box.

24 packs per box

5 cards per pack

Current Retail Price (online): \$96.00 (MAPP) - \$109.99

### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Common

Fresh new design featuring the top current players and a full roster of rookies!

Rookie

Look for live rookie cards from both the 2011-12 and 2012-13 rookie classes, including 2012 Rookie of the Year Kyrie Irving!

Prestigious Pros

Look for autographs of the game's top performers!



True Colors

Jersey swatches from some of the game's prime players, including Kevin Durant.

Inside The Numbers

Significant player achievements highlighted along with a prime swatch of memorabilia.

Distinctive Ink

Vertically designed to show off the player's portrait along with an on-card autograph!

## WHAT WE PULLED

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK443OM5Udo>

Box Topper Pack:

Kobe Anthology (5)

Base - 148/150 (98.7%)

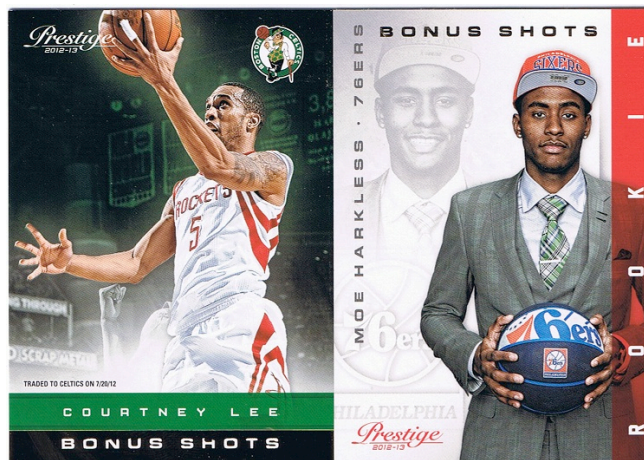
Dupes - 3

Rookies - 24/100 (24%)



Bonus Shots /249 (1) - Courtney Lee

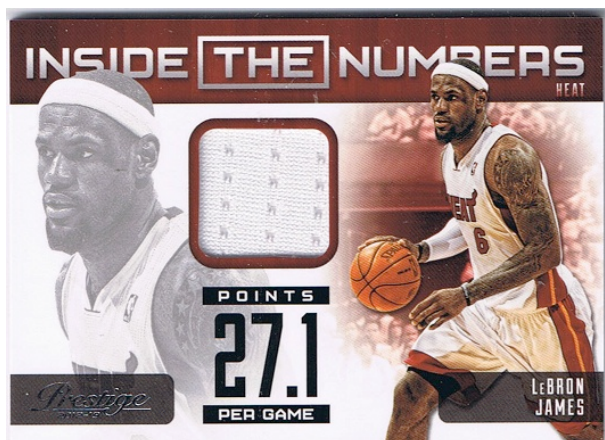
Rookie Bonus Shots /249 (1) - Moe Harkless





- Connections (3)
- Franchise Favorites (3)
- Hardcourt Heroes (3)
- Stars Of The NBA (3)

## Inside The Numbers LeBron James Jersey



## Prestigious Picks Tyler Zeller Autograph



## Prestigious Picks Jon Leuer Autograph





Prestigious Pros Marcin Gortat Autograph \*\*\*Redemption\*\*\*

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 4.75/5

Design - 4/5

Fun - 3.5/5

Value - 3/5

Rebuy - 3/5

Overall - 18.25/25 (73%)

### Pros:

Two years worth of rookies

Can conceivably complete a base set with one box

Rookies are a solid chase set

### Cons:

Incomplete base set, yet duplicates

Sticker Autographs

Numbered parallels, but non-numbered relics and autos

Inconsistent with vertical and horizontal card design

Limit 2 requests per household, mailed separately

Postmarked By: 11/14/12

Received By: 11/21/12

Canada Skills:  $990 + 726 / 363 \times 241 - 260 = ?$

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at Panini for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release. For more information on all of their products, visit them today at [www.paniniamerica.net](http://www.paniniamerica.net).

All of the base and inserts are available for request. Please PM me with the card or cards of interest. Cards are available for 30 days from the time this review is posted. As always, only VIPs may make requests for the first 48 hours.



## SCF Official Review: 2012 Press Pass Legends

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, I'd like to thank our sponsors at Press Pass for providing us with this box.

(Photo is not from our review box. Review boxes do not get a Power Pack.)

3 mini boxes per master box

6 packs per mini box

5 cards per pack

Current Retail Price (online): \$124.99 - \$149.99

### PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- The 50 card set includes current and past legends!
- Three On-Card Autographs & Three Race-Used Memorabilia Card in every master box!
- One On-Card Autographs & One Race-Used Memorabilia Card in every mini box!
- New '12 Additions include Don "The Snake" Prudhomme, Tom "The Mongoose" McEwen, Will Power (current Indy Car Points Leader), Helio Castroneves (current Indy Car star & former Indianapolis 500 winner), Ray Evernham and more!
- Cut Signatures of Dale Earnhardt, Cotton Owens, Benny Parsons, Davey Allison and more!
- Power Pack Early Release Program!



### WHAT WE PULLED

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vniSTccUxg>

Base - 50/50 (100%)

Dupes - 16

Gold /275 (6) - Don Garlits, Paul Goldsmith, David Pearson, Cale Yarborough, Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart

Red /99 (1) - Terry Labonte

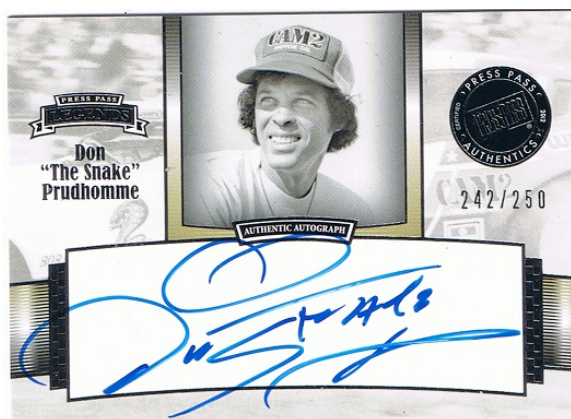
Holo /25 (2) - Muarice Petty, Darrell Waltrip





Memorable Moments (4)  
Trailblazers (5)

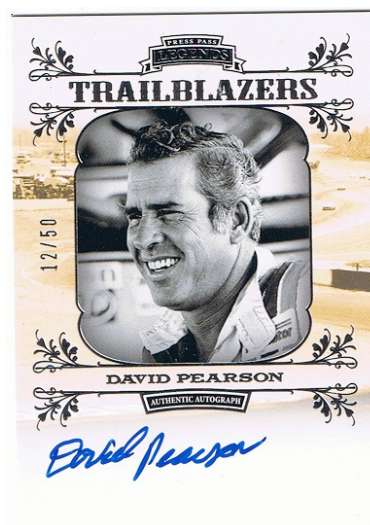
Don "The Snake" Prudhomme Autograph /250



Ken Schrader Autograph /25



Trailblazers David Pearson Autograph /50

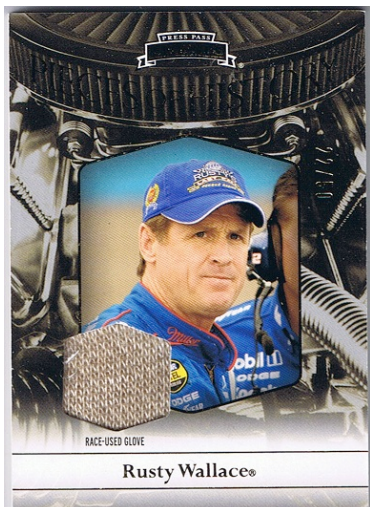


Pieces Of History Tim Richmond Firesuit /99

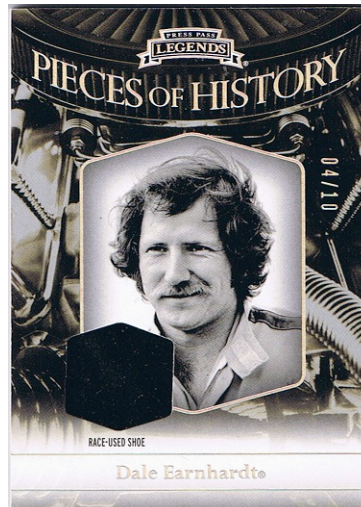




Pieces Of History Rusty Wallace Glove /50



Pieces Of History Dale Earnhardt Shoe /10



## FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 5/5  
 Design - 4/5  
 Fun - 4.5/5  
 Value - 4.5/5  
 Rebuy - 5/5

Overall - 23/25 (92%)

### Pros:

- On card autographs as always from Press Pass
- Complete base set in a box
- 6 hits per master box
- Reasonably priced for what you get (hard to find that happening from other companies)

### Cons:

- Similar design to previous years
- Should be devoted to non-active drivers only

### NPN Information:

NPN Press Pass Legends 2012  
 9805 Northcross Center Court, Suite H



Huntersville, NC 28078

Limit 1 request per household

Postmarked By: 1/26/13

Received By: 2/3/13

Canada Skills:  $50 + (2 \times 4) - 10 = ?$

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at Press Pass for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release. For more information on all of their products, visit them today at [www.presspassinc.com](http://www.presspassinc.com).

All of the base and inserts are available for request. Please PM me with the cards of interest. Cards are available for 30 days from the time this review is posted. As always, only VIPs may make requests for the first 48 hours.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 - Topps Five Star baseball - Leaf Autographed Jersey edition football - Panini Prime Signatures football	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 -Panini USA baseball -Panini Totally Certified Basketball	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 -Bowman draft pick baseball -Panini Prime Cuts baseball -Panini Limited basketball	29	30	



**The lockout Continues...**  
**By Sean McCafferty aka 30ranfordfan**

As hockey fans are well aware, we're still suffering through our third lockout in 18 years. The NHL and the Player's Association have not yet been able to come to terms on an agreement that would see the players return to the ice. We're well past a date when an 82 game schedule could be salvaged, and the league has now pulled the plug on their much heralded Winter Classic.

We've heard on a few occasions that both sides are back at the table, trying to hammer out a deal, but nothing has happened yet to make anyone particularly optimistic that this labor stoppage is going to end in the near future. Still plenty of time to salvage a shortened schedule though, no reason for hockey fans to give up all hope yet!

With the NHL on hiatus, that has allowed those hockey fans that are interested, a great chance to take in some of North America's other leagues.

In Canada, Major Junior Hockey has never had a shortage of fans, and the NHL lockout is only increasing the number of eyes focused on the superstars of tomorrow. The Western League's Kamloops Blazers have taken the early season #1 ranking in the country, starting the year off with a 16-0-0-1 record.



The player in the country who may have the most eyes on him would be Nathan MacKinnon. Another prodigy from Cole Harbour Nova Scotia (google 'Sidney Crosby' if you don't remember who the last one was) MacKinnon has not disappointed in the early going. With 18 goals, and 30 points, he's lead his team to the top of the Quebec league, starting the year off 16-1-0-1.

The Ontario league's Midwest Division is proving, once again, why it may be the best (and certainly most competitive) division among all three Major Junior Leagues. The Owen Sound Attack lead the group with 27 points through 18 games, but three other teams are within 5 points of the top: Guelph Storm (25), Kitchener Rangers(24), and London Knights(22). Seven of the last twelve teams to win the OHL have come from this group, and it looks like there's a great chance it will happen again.



The other league that has to be mentioned is the American Hockey League. The ‘farm’ teams for the NHL, many entry level players were sent there before the NHL lockout began. Perhaps no team in the league is quite as intriguing as the Oklahoma City Barons. The minor league affiliate of the Edmonton Oilers, the Barons are currently stacked with talent, on loan from their parent club. They’re boasting a roster that includes former #1 overall picks Taylor Hall & Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, along with 2011-12 Oilers leading scorer, Jordan Eberle, top-10 pick Magnus Paajarvi, and recent college graduate (and Free Agent signing) Justin Shultz. Through 10 games Shultz is leading the entire league in scoring, having notched 15 points already.

The hobby world has been relatively unaffected so far. By late October we had not yet missed any releases that were scheduled to come out, and all products thus far have looked how they usually do.

Upper Deck & Panini released their entry level sets (OPC and Score respectively) as scheduled. The sets are stocked with ‘holdover’ rookie cards from last year, so the content doesn’t look a whole lot different this year.

Artifacts & Certified were next up for the two licensed manufactures. Artifacts (from Upper Deck) looks and feels a lot like the last couple of issues. Each box contains several memorabilia hits (including at least one with multi players) and autograph, two rookies, and a rookie redemption card (among others). The redemption cards have allowed Upper Deck to include the season’s best rookies into a set they release before the season starts. What Upper Deck will do in the event of no season taking place is a question that many collectors have been asking, but for now we’ve all had to take a wait and see approach.

Certified (from Panini) has been able to lay claim to issuing the first auto/jersey rookie cards of the year. Panini has used this product to set the bar very high when they debuted in hockey back in 2010, and the 2011 release didn’t disappoint either. Being able to pull auto/jersey rookie cards of the year’s best new RCs, only weeks after they’d skated in their first NHL game has made this product a great seller through its first two seasons. How it will fare this year, with all the big name rookies being redemptions (much like Artifacts) and no real guarantee when those cards will ever be made- it has to be something that will hurt interest in this product.



In The Game’s first release of the 2012-13 season was yet another innovative product. Hampered by having no license with either the NHL or the PA, ITG has had to get very creative in recent years, to find products that hobbyists will enjoy. ‘Forever Rivals’ did not disappoint.



It's a set built around the NHL's two most storied franchises: The Montreal Canadiens, and the Toronto Maple Leafs. Each pack contains an assortment of base/ insert cards, along with memorabilia and autograph hits from both teams. This set features game used & signed cards from some of the greatest players to ever play for either team. Like the last several ITG releases, this one sold out from the manufacturer before it hit hobby shop shelves.

What the 2012-13 season will bring us, right now is anyone's guess. The hobby will be impacted quite negatively if collectors aren't able to get their fill of hot new rookie cards. The NHL won itself many new fans since the last lockout seven years ago, but they may be throwing a lot of those gains in the garbage. While hockey hotbeds like Toronto, Detroit, Edmonton, and

Philadelphia will undoubtedly come back – it's impossible to predict how markets like Nashville, Tampa Bay, Dallas, or Carolina will respond. This time next year, we may be watching a very different NHL.

Let's hope that both sides can still reach an agreement in time to save, at least, a shortened season. While we all may be missing the NHL in October and November, it would still be great to have it back for early 2013. We could still have a season, and a Stanley Cup champion.



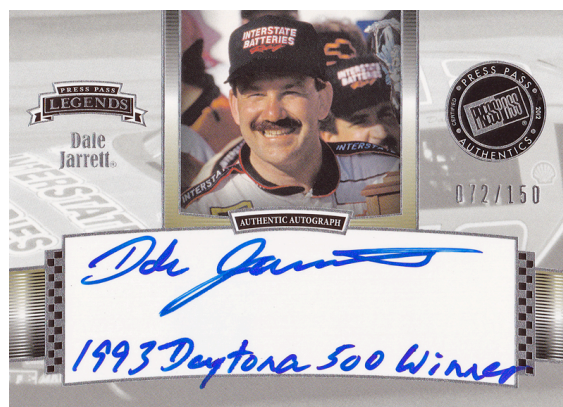


## Racing News

By Stephen Taylor aka race crazy

### Legends Packs Its Usual Punch

Recently released, the 2012 version of the popular Press Pass Legends Racing series does not disappoint. With a diverse set of legends and current drivers, some unique insert sets, and a numbered parallel and insert in every pack in addition to the 6 hits guaranteed Legends is a wonderfully fun product to open. The checklist is solid and so is Press Pass' coalition. In 2 boxes I received 2 full base sets plus some extras, and only 2 inserts were duplicates. This was highly encouraging and it allowed me to be able to complete these unique sets. The hits are always exciting particularly for one who enjoys the history of Nascar and knows the names of these past racing greats. People like Nascar Hall of Famers Ned Jarrett, Richard Petty, Bud Moore, and Dale Earnhardt are all very prevalent in Legends. With the chance to pull amazing cards of these past greats comes with the addition of autograph inscriptions, which are increasingly popular among collectors and also a great piece to add to one's collection. With an on card auto plus a written inscription Legends autographs are the best in racing. For those who loved racing's past or those that want to start collecting, Legends is a great set to start on. Well done Press Pass.





## The Shane Hmiel Story



In 2003 Shane Hmiel seemingly had a promising future in the palm of his hands. An up and coming and successful Nascar driver with a dad who was a crew chief in the sport for many years, Hmiel was set to explode onto the scene. A young and fiery Hmiel was known as a hothead on the track but he was also fast which always caught the attention of car owners. After a semi-successful season in Nascar's then Busch Series, Hmiel was suspended indefinitely by Nascar for failing a substance abuse test in September. Hmiel had tested positive for Marijuana and was at this point the highest level and most well-known Nascar driver to fail a drug test.

Reinstated by Nascar in January of 2004, Hmiel was soon back on track and for a year things seemed to be going well. He won a Nascar Truck Series event in 2004 and was primed for a return to the Busch Series. However in 2005 Hmiel failed his second drug test, this time for Marijuana and Cocaine use. With one last shot given to him in 2006 Hmiel failed a third drug test which resulted in a ban from Nascar for life. What had started out as a promising career was in the tank for good, or at least it seemed to be.

The third positive test and the realization that he had lost his dream opened Shane's eyes to his problem. He sought treatment and rehabilitation for his drug related issues and by 2009 Hmiel was completely clean and understood his past issues. It was a commendable recovery from something extremely difficult to overcome.

So where to go now? Shane returned to his roots and decided to go USAC racing. Winged and non-winged Sprint cars on dirt tracks around the country are a staple of racing roots and also an avenue to enjoy racing and make a decent living if one is successful. Hmiel started his new old career in 2009 with much success winning most improved driver and winning his first USAC event. In 2010 Hmiel was even more successful, winning the Hoosier 100 in Indiana and winning 3 other events during the year. Shane seemed to be primed for a championship run in 2011 completing his remarkable comeback from the bottom to the top.



On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Terre Haute in Indiana this would all change in an instant. Making a qualifying run blasting around the fast dirt oval Shane lost control of his midget and crashed roll cage first against the retaining wall. The cage collapsed and Shane's head, neck, and body took the brunt of the impact, breaking his neck and back and putting Shane in critical and life threatening condition. He was rushed to the hospital and put in an induced coma to reduce brain swelling with no guarantee he would

live. Shane would awake to the realization that because of his massive crash he would be paralyzed for the rest of his life. What seemingly was a career on track to be successful had again been derailed.

After the accident Shane would use his positive attitude and past rehabilitation training to push himself to recover. He has regained use of his limbs and strives to walk on his feet again. Today, still using a wheelchair, Shane is a USAC car owner and motivational speaker. He uses his past experience to try and help others and lives a successful and happy life as a paraplegic with the aid of his girlfriend Lindsey. Hmiel's is a story of heartbreak, triumph, and redemption. Twice on the brink of complete failure Hmiel bounced back both times. His story is the definition of "Never Give Up."





# CHARITY RAFFLE

## 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012



Participate in a raffle to help raise funds for **Diamond Blackfan anemia inc** to help in research in finding a cure for children with this rare genetics blood disorder.

**PRIZE:** Replica Rebook Jersey from 2009 centennial Montreal All star game, autographed by 36 players.

Malkin, Weber, Streit, Brown, Souray, E.Staal, Robidas, Thara, Nash, Lunogo, Markov, Vanek, Price, P.Kane, Marleau, N.Backstrom, Giguere, Campbell, Boumeester, Kovalev, Modano, Heatley, Tkachuk, Toews, Ovechkin, Boyle, Carter, Parise, Thornton, Getzlaf, and Savard Komisarek, St-Louis, Hejduk, Thomas, Kovalchuk.

**PRICE:** 25 \$ per ticket



**Organizers & partners:**  
Chris Bossy, DBA inc,  
Le coin du jouet

**TO GET TICKETS,** more informations or questions contact Chris Bossy,

**Email:** CPBOSSY@hotmail.com

**Tel:** 438-878-7159





## **Basketball News**

**By Jay Weger aka Jay520**

### **Contests & Winners**

With the start of the NBA season in full swing means the start of the contests for the basketball forums. Early on in the 12-13 NBA Top Performers contest rocketfan86 leads everyone with 6 points. Following him in 2<sup>nd</sup> is Thrillseeker with 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> is BayAreaJavy and KD35Russ0 tied with 4 points and 4<sup>th</sup> is Christainfriend, tjvisco and tk10775 all tied with 3 points with several others close behind. The NBA Guess the Score contests returned with a short preseason format that saw k\_northrup and jon555 get 2 wins each. On the VIP side delones24 and gladdyontherise also tied with 2 wins each. So far thru 11/5 there is a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> between telly14 and udeckcoll with 2 wins each in the reGULAR season format with 70sbestcardboard and k\_northrup in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 1 win each. There seems to be a 5 way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> with bouncer, delones24, Fortefan, Mnum and pwaldo with 1 win each on the VIP season standings. It is not too late to give the contest a try if you can GUESS the winner and the point spread. 2 Guess the Serial # contests down with many more to come this season. missnesmith won 50 CC for winning the first contest while delones24 took the second one and also won 50 CC. So if you are a huge contest player and want to have the chance to win some CC get yourselves to the basketball contest forum to play!!!!

### **Hobby News**

By Bryce Doody aka bdoody42

October was quite an action packed month in the world of basketball cards with two new products released. Upper Deck followed up 11-12 Fleer retro with 11-12 Upper Deck Exquisite and for many collectors it didn't disappoint. Each pack contained a total of six cards including five autographs. Every case is guaranteed a Michael Jordan auto. One of these boxes started out going for around \$600 but now the prices is hovering around \$900. 12-13 Panini Threads was released toward the end of October. Each box yields four hits three of which are autographs and will set you back a little under a hundred dollars.

November will be a very busy month for basketball card collectors. Panini is releasing three products Certified, Prizm, and Limited.

Prizm is a new product from Panini that will include two autos, two inserts, and two Prizms per box. Each box will be \$100



Examples of Prizm below:



After a year hiatus Panini has brought back Totally Certified. Each hobby box will contain 3 autographs and 3 relic cards. The always popular parallels are back including the emerald numbered to 5 and the black numbered to 1. Rookie autographs from both the 2011 and 2012 draft class will be included.

The third Panini product being released is 12-13 Limited. Just like the past year, each hobby box will contain just one pack. Each box will include 1 relic card and two autographs. Each box is GUaranteed one on card rookie autograph. Just like Prizm this will cost \$100.

2012 Leaf Ultimate Hobby Box was supposed to be released in October, but now will be released early November. It is the only non Panini product being released this month. Each box will contain three on card autographs or two on card autographs and one memorabilia redemption. The memorabilia redemptions can be for some amazing items such as LeBron James or Michael Jordan signed jerseys, Barack Obama signed basketball, and Kevin Garnett game worn shoes. This product will also offer autos from former NBA star Karl Malone. Each box will cost about \$85

## Milestone Collections

There was a set that was finished that needed to be showcased here in the SCF magazine. The set is the 08-09 Topps Murad mini Silks /25 which consists of 250 cards (1-170 stars and retired, 171-200 RC, 201-250 SP) and it was completed by drtom2005. I took the time to get a small interview with him and ask him a few questions on how he went about tackling this set.

Why did you start the seaRCh for the set?

[I started looking for the set after I pulled the Luis Scola out of one pack at my LCS. I liked the look and thought I would try.](#)

When did you start the seaRCh for the set?



Started in 2008.

Did you buy boxes of 08-09 Topps Murad to help in your search of the Silk set?

No. I did not buy any boxes. Just a couple of packs.

What was the hardest card to track down?

Most of the cards were hard to track down. I would usually find 5-10 a month at a time.

What was the most you paid for a card while completing the set?

The LeBron James appeared during the Finals last year. I paid a significant amount for it.



Where there any road blocks in obtaining a few of the cards?

Just finding the cards was difficult. Luckily, Eric Y. helped me find the rest of the set from another collector.

What is your favorite card in the set pulled or bought?

The Luis Scola is my favorite because it was the first one I pulled.

Approximately how much have you spent completing the set?

Would not like to say but a significant sum.

Was it worth it to complete the set?

Yes, completing sets is fun. It is what I like to do in the hobby.

Would you do it all over again?

Yes I would do it all over again. I love finishing sets.

What is a tip to collectors trying to track down low numbered sets as huge as yours?

The tip for finding low numbered sets is talk to the dealers on the boards. They will find the cards for you.



To see more of his collection go to this link: <http://www.myhobbycards.com/albumbro...pps+Murad+Silk>

## NBA News

In NBA news for October the league came out with new flopping rule that will lead to fines and possible suspensions if found guilty of flopping after officials look at game footage. Also the league is set to tweak its All-Star Game balloting process, doing away with position designations for forwards and centers and instead asking fans to vote for three "frontcourt" players. Lastly the NBA Commissioner David Stern has set his date for retirement which will be



February 2014, the 30-year anniversary of his taking the job. Deputy commissioner Adam Silver is set to take over for Stern once he retires.

### **Injuries**

**Nov. 4** The Warriors will lose Brandon Rush to season-ending ACL surgery on his left knee. The typical rehabilitation time is at least nine months.

**Nov. 3** The Lakers announce Steve Nash will miss a week due to a non-displaced fracture in his fibula on his left leg.

**Nov. 2** The Magics' Hedo Turkoglu will miss a minimum of four weeks after having surgery to repair a broken bone in his left hand.

**Oct. 31** Knicks forward Amar'e Stoudemire underwent a surgical procedure to repair his injured left knee on Wednesday and will be sidelined approximately six to eight weeks.

**Oct. 30** Pacers will start the season without star forward Danny Granger, who has been sidelined indefinitely with a sore left knee.

**Oct. 24** Clippers forward Grant Hill will miss at least two weeks with bone bruises in his right knee, meaning he'll miss the first week of the regular season.

**Oct. 20** Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki underwent arthroscopic surgery on his bothersome right knee Friday and is expected to miss approximately six weeks.

**Oct. 18** Timberwolves' power forward Kevin Love is out 6-8 weeks after he broke his right hand doing knuckle pushups in a workout. The injury can heal without surgery. It's a crushing blow to Minnesota, who will be without point guard Ricky Rubio for the first six weeks of the regular season while he recovers from a torn ACL in his left knee.

### **Trades and extensions**

Oct. 2 the Chicago Bulls and **Tom Thibodeau** agreed on a 4yr contract extension that had been long overdue.

Oct. 3 the New York Knicks sign **Rasheed Wallace** who has been retired for 2 years to a 1 yr deal for the veteran's minimum of \$1.7 million.

Oct. 18 Boston Celtics sign **Leandro Barbosa** who was a free agent at the time and was unsure if he would play this year in the NBA will make the veteran's minimum of \$1.7 million.

Oct. 27 Oklahoma City traded guard **James Harden**, center Cole Aldrich and forwards Daequan Cook and Lazar Hayward to Houston for guard **Kevin Martin**, guard **Jeremy Lamb**, two first-round draft picks and a second-round draft pick.

Oct. 29 Dallas waived guard **Delonte West**.

Oct. 31 Golden State agreed to terms with guard **Stephen Curry** on a four-year contract extension worth 44 million.

Houston agreed to terms with guard **James Harden** to a five-year contract 80 million.

### **Hot**

San Antonio Spurs 3-0



New York Knicks 2-0  
Milwaukee Bucks 2-0  
Orlando Magic 2-0  
Brooklyn Nets 1-0

## Not

Sacramento Kings 0-3  
Denver Nuggets 0-3  
Detroit Pistons 0-3  
Washington Wizards 0-2  
L. A. Lakers 1-3

## Pack/Box Breaks

In October there were 2 new products to hit the collectors which were 12-13 Panini Threads and returning 12-13 Upper Deck Exquisite. To start Threads off Agent 7o2 hit a RC auto of Jan Vesely redemption and a nice Jersey Die-cut RC auto of Markief Morris from just 10 packs. MattyJames got a box to pull RC autos of Doron Lamb, Chris Singleton and Kenneth Faried, Threads GU of Tim Duncan. ninjoker busted a box pulling RC autos of Derrick Williams, Robert Sacre and Andrew Guedelock, Triple Threads GU of Turkoglu/Augustin/Randolph, Silver parallel/99 of Channing Frye, Jersey die-cuts of Kevin Love, David West and RC Kenneth Faried. Fortefan tried a box to get a Sinage auto of Michael Finley, RC auto of Meyers Leonard and Mike Scott, Triple Threads GU of Harden/Westbrook/Durant, Jersey die-cuts of Metta World



Peace, Serge Ibaka, RC Marcus Morris and Terrence Ross. As usual theguru went with many boxes (4) pulling these hits Signage auto of Kobe Bryant, Jersey die-cut auto of RC Kawhi Leonard, RC autos of LaVoy Allen(2), Kenneth Faried, Enes Kanter, Mike Scott, Kevin Murphy, Arnett Moultrie, E'Tuan Moore and Iman Shumpert, Threads GU of Elton Brand and David West, Triple Threads GU of Rondo/Lawson/Williams, Gasol/Horford/Bargnani, Gold parallel/25 of Al Jefferson, Josh Smith and Shawn Marion, Silver parallel/99 of Jameer Nelson, Jersey die-cuts of LeBron

James, Kevin Love, Kevin Garnett, RC of Meyers Leonard, Fab Melo, Terrence Jones and many more. Tylerg30 had the most to gain buying a 12 box case pulling these cards: Century Stars Steve Nash (case hit), Sinage autos of Andrew Bynum, Joe Dumars and World B. Free, Jersey die-cut auto of RC Kawhi Leonard, RC autos of Anthony Davis, Kyrie Irving, Austin Rivers, Derrick Williams, Tristan Thompson, Klay Thompson, Bradley Beal, Dion Waiters and several more, Threads GU of Nick Collison patch/25, Dirk Nowitzki, Joakim Noah and Jamal Crawford, Triple Threads GU of Harden/Conley/Mayo patch/25, Howard/Gasolo/O'Neal and Martin/



DeRozan/Granger, Platinum parallel/10 of Mario Chalmers, Gold parallel/25 of DeMarcus Cousins, Silver parallel/99 of Blake Griffin, Joe Johnson and John Wall with several Jersey die-cuts of stars and RC's.

Exquisite came back with a bang this year to see MikeFitzpatrick get a box to pull RC auto of Markieff Morris/199, UD Black Logo patch auto of Bill Walton/60, Championship Bling Signature of Jim Boeheim /99, Shadowbox auto of Larry Bird and a sweet Endorsements auto of Dennis Rodman 5/5!!! theguru said 1 box isn't enough and went with a 3 box case to pull RC autos/199 of Markieff Morris, Jordan Williams and Chandler Parsons, UD Black Logo Patch auto of Tim Hardaway/60, UD Black Logo Patch dual auto of Mourning/Hardaway/50, Championship Bling Signatures of Cazzie Russell/75, Danny Manning/75 and Billy Donovan/50, UD Black Bio Scripts auto of Cazzie Ruslell/15, Personal Touch auto of David Robinson/30, Shadowbox autos of David Robinson, Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan, Endorsements dual auto of Larry Brown/Danny Manning and a SICK Endorsements Quad auto of LeBron James/Julius Erving/Larry Bird/Magic Johnson 4/5!!!!



## The NBA & World Anti-Doping Agency



In a recent article done by ESPN.com the World Anti-Doping Agency set its sights on the NBA and its anti-doping program. Some of the findings were pretty interesting. WADA general director David Howman looked and found some gaps in the NBA program that he suggests could be better when it comes to testing. WADA would have the NBA implement blood testing for human growth hormones, among other things. Howman says he hopes that they would be discussing all of those things rather than just putting them on the side table. His major concern is that practices that have evidently been effective in other sports are not all being deployed in the NBA.

NBA officials have made the case that performance-enhancing drugs are unlikely to be effective in basketball in the past. Howman's argument is that the



NBA feels it is not an issue like in the MLB and therefore hasn't been addressed it in quite the same way. He continues to say when you think performance-enhancing drugs do not help in the sport you will be proven wrong even when you are not expecting it.

Right now, HGH is banned in the NBA, but the league does not test players' blood for it. WADA would like to see testing done like in the Olympics and in some limited ways the MLB has. NFL

is said to be interested in testing this way but faces hurdles from the union. So far, the NBA has put together a committee to explore HGH testing but has nothing to show at this point. So currently no major North American leagues have adopted WADA's full code of recommendations. Howman said there has been progress in football and baseball, but noted basketball is lagging behind.



**Curse Reversed: How 86 Years of Heartache came to an End****By Shane McCarthy aka NU\_Fan**

Ask someone what other team comes to mind when mentioning the Boston Red Sox and the answer will always be the New York Yankees. What other two teams define the term “rivalry” in baseball, and arguably all sports in general, better than the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees? A large portion of the greatest players to ever grace the game have donned the classic ‘B’ or immortal pinstripes. Each team’s home, up until 2008, is a classic baseball cathedral. Over 100 years of bad blood and almost exceptional hatred for one another has transformed into the match up of all match ups. From the infamous sale of Babe Ruth in 1918 which spawned the “Curse of the Bambino”, to the 1978 one-game playoff for the AL East Pennant, to Aaron Boone’s walk off Game 7 home run in 2003; Boston and New York have shared plenty of defining points.

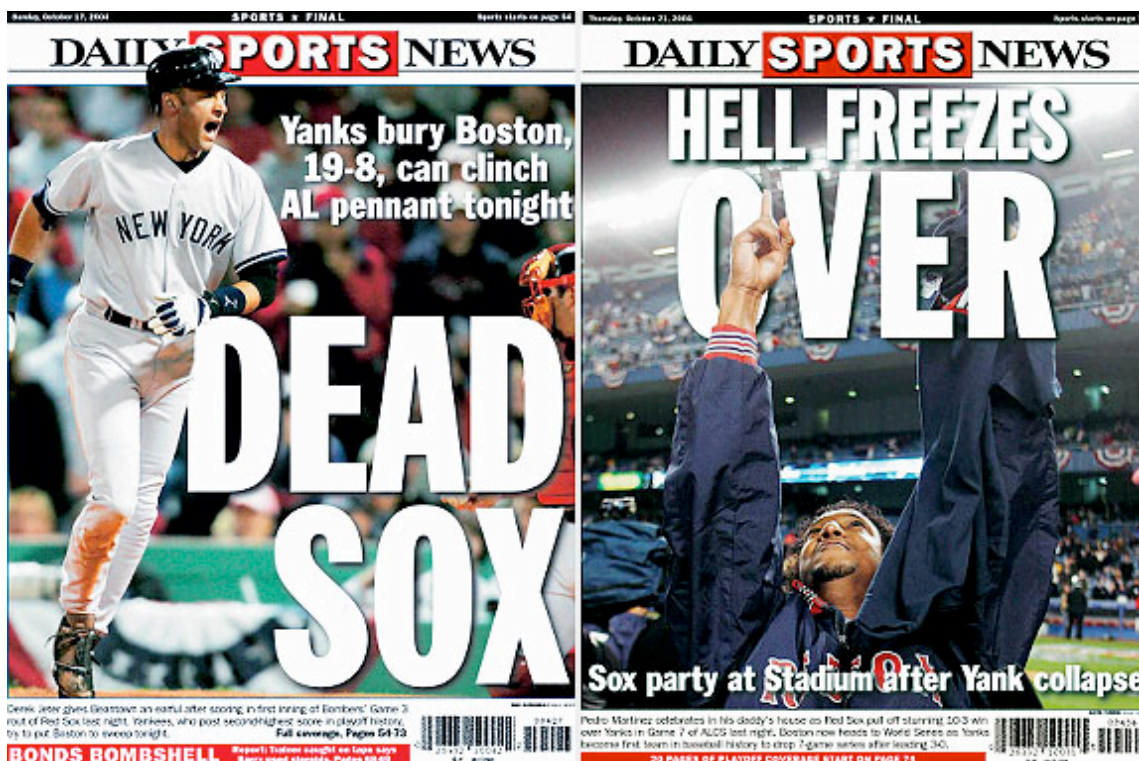
In light of that past history, and Boston almost always being on the wrong side of it, it is no surprise that the 2004 ALCS had the plot straight out of a fairy tale. New York took the first three games, including an absolutely dominating 19-8 performance in Game 3. With no baseball team ever coming back from the seemingly insurmountable 0-3 game deficit, it is an understatement to say that morale was running low in Red Sox Nation. Game 4 went a suspenseful 12 innings; it included a gutsy steal by Dave Roberts in the 9th which led to the eventual game-tying run, giving Mariano Rivera a rare postseason blown save allowing David Ortiz to hit a walk-off two run home run. Game 5 was no less suspenseful and featured another Red Sox comeback which culminated in a 14th inning Ortiz game-winning single. It was at this point in time that I remember seeing a lot of “We Believe” signs popping up. Those fans who may have deserted the Red Sox earlier started rejoining their faithful brethren in hopes of seeing the unthinkable happen. There was a spark of life. The feeling was palpable. It carried over to Game 6, which saw a hobbled Curt Schilling, visibly bleeding on a now very famous sock, pitch a brilliant seven innings, giving up only one run.

All of a sudden, only three days after being on the brink of sure elimination, the Red Sox had tied up the series and seemed to be carrying all the momentum. The Lovable Losers. Baseball’s bums. They were known by many names. This, almost rag tag looking, shaggy haired team wasn’t supposed to be on the same level as the crisp, clean-cut, Yankees. However, one of the reasons baseball is so great is because it allows for moments like this. A team that is the complete underdog in every sense of the word pulls off the unimaginable and shocks the world.



Game 7 gave Red Sox fan's heart palpitations a rest when they built an early lead and capped their amazing comeback with a 10-3 win. Of course, anyone who has been a fan of the Red Sox for more than a few years and lived through all the heartache of years past was not able to rest easy until that final out was recorded.

The Red Sox went on to win the World Series in four straight games as everyone knows. However, for me, and I'm sure the majority of Red Sox Nation, the World Series was really decided in the ALCS that year. Even as I sit here and type, I get goosebumps recalling the details of that series. It was the perfect way to shake off 86 years of bad luck and finally win another championship. I may be a little biased in writing that the greatest single moment to ever happen in the 150ish years of baseball was the 2004 ALCS. Sure, maybe I am a Red Sox fan. Maybe I haven't been around long enough to witness some of the other instances of glory this great sport has given us. Despite these factors, I know in my heart of hearts this was the defining point in time for the nation's past time and I was lucky enough to be alive and witness it.





## Growth as a Collector By Patrick Kessler aka Kess

I cannot remember a time as a child when I didn't have sports on my mind. It started with baseball and summers full of afternoon backyard games with friends and nights camped out in front of the TV watching Yankees and Phillies games. I still remember laying on the floor in front of the TV in a muggy house without air conditioning eating Freeze pops and waiting for Mike Schmidt's next at bat. I didn't get into card collecting until one day when those afternoon backyard games turned into a card show off and swap event. I had no cards at the time, but knew that this was something right up my alley.



We never had much money, so my card collecting started with begging for dollar packs whenever I went with my parents to the local Kmart. My first big score was a wood-bordered 1987 Topps Lenny Dykstra. I traded with a neighbor for it, and got completely ripped off in the trade. I can't remember what I traded for it, but I can recall letting go of several cards for that dog-eared Dykstra card. I eventually upgraded by pulling a fresh one from a pack, and there was nothing sweeter than having two copies of my most sought after card.

As I got older, I began to earn my own money by mowing lawns and shoveling snow. I still didn't have much money to spend on cards, and I would frugally spend my hard earned dollars at the card shop at the mall or at the twice yearly card show at that same mall. I would spend hours visiting every table deciding exactly what cards I would buy with the few dollars I had in my pocket. I never came away with much – usually just inserts of my favorite players or base singles from before I started

collecting. I still have most of those old cards today, and most of them have little to no value, but they still meant the world to me then and I can still smile at them today and wouldn't let go of them for anything.

I got away from collecting as the priorities of a teenager can change how one spends their money. I have only recently revisited the hobby. I am in no way a rich man, but I live quite comfortably. I am now able to collect in a way I could have only dreamed of as a child, and still



there are a million obstacles and roadblocks to ever completing that dream collection I can envision. This is when I realized that the growth of a collector is not unlike the trip of a baseball player from the minor leagues to major leagues and beyond.

The parallels are undeniable. At each new level, both as a collector or athlete, a person and hobby or sport have goals and milestones attached. In collecting, it might just be collecting base of your favorite player, just like a young player is searching for that starting spot on a team. At the same time, each goal or milestone reached doesn't have to be, and most likely isn't, a stopping point. It's that drive to keep collecting – to keep playing. As available cash, time, or skill increase, so do those goals and milestones. It's that next dream that keeps all of us pushing forward. The same instincts that push collectors to complete their next set or find that elusive one of one superfractor are the same things that push the greats in sports. Even with a studded resume, players like Cal Ripken Jr. and Brett Favre still had that itch to keep playing – to keep going – to become the greatest ever.

Collecting for me isn't just something to spend my money on. I could certainly find more practical ways to spend a paycheck. We all could. It also doesn't have to be just about collecting cards and memorabilia from favorite players, teams, and sports. Collecting offers us a way to live similarly to our favorite athletes – all with our own ideals of what makes the perfect collection, the perfect athlete. Rarely do we ever finish the way we imagined or hoped, but it's the journey and goals that keep us going.





## **Bend it like Blanda** **By David Rudick aka Rudickulous**



If Brett Favre was considered too old to play in the NFL, somebody should have carted George Blanda off to the nearest retirement home eight years before he even considered it. Truly a force to be reckoned with, the Canton Football Hall of Famer was known as one of the most unbelievable players in all of football. Playing in four different decades (40s-70s), “The Grand-Old Man” made four AFL all star games, five All-AFL selections, two All-Pro selections, the UPI, AP, TSN AFL MVP in 1963, League champion in 1960, 61, and 67, and a member of the AFL all team selection. Blanda is known for being the oldest quarterback to start in a Championship game (sorry Favre), and for participating in more seasons than any other

player in the game of football (26). Yet in his 26 seasons of football, Blanda only was a quarterback for 21 seasons. How is that possible you may ask? That is because Blanda was one of a kind player. Many players back in 40s or 50s played more than one position. However, instead of playing on both sides of the ball like legends such as Chuck Bednarik had, Blanda performed at a much more interesting position

### **The Placekicker.**

Many argue that what George Blanda could be remembered for the most are his accomplishments at the kicking position. While not remaining as a quarterback after his final start in the 1943 Championship game, he went on to play five more seasons for the Raiders as their primary kicker before retiring just shy of his 49th birthday. Kicking throughout the duration of his twenty six year career, Blanda would go on to set the record not only for the most PATs attempted, but the most converted as well. This feat is so incredible that many experts wonder if anybody will ever come close to breaking the record. To give an example of how ridiculous this record is, the 2nd name on the PAT’s converted list, Morton Anderson, was still ninety four points away from even tying. What is more jaw dropping is that the closest active player to this record, Jason Hanson, is three hundred and sixteen points away. That means that Hanson needs to make over three times the amount of PAT’s Morton Anderson had to make to even tie with Blanda.[\[1\]](#)



We as sports fans sometimes take the kickers for granted in the NFL. Not only is this position one of importance, but it comes packaged with massive amounts of stress and pressure. With the numerous amount of kickers coming out every year from college, it is not uncommon seeing

kickers getting dumped to the side for a younger, fresher model. In fact, this year fans saw that very incident happen in Baltimore to Billy Cundiff. Being dumped in favor of rookie kicker Justin Tucker, Cundiff was joining the free agency pool due to one small mistake. Unfortunately, that small mistake took place on one of the largest stages. The Pro-Bowl kicker had recently been known as the kicker who missed the potential game-tying field goal that cost the Ravens a trip to the Super Bowl. While Cundiff had bounced back from this error and had a decent preseason, Baltimore decided to go a different route. [\[2\]](#) Maybe not everything ended poorly for Cundiff, as he did end up finding a new team in the Washington Redskins. With this addition, however, came more tragedy as both Graham Gano & Neil Rackers became unemployed as the job they were competing for suddenly became filled. In the blink of an eye, their preseason competition meant absolutely nothing. [\[3\]](#)

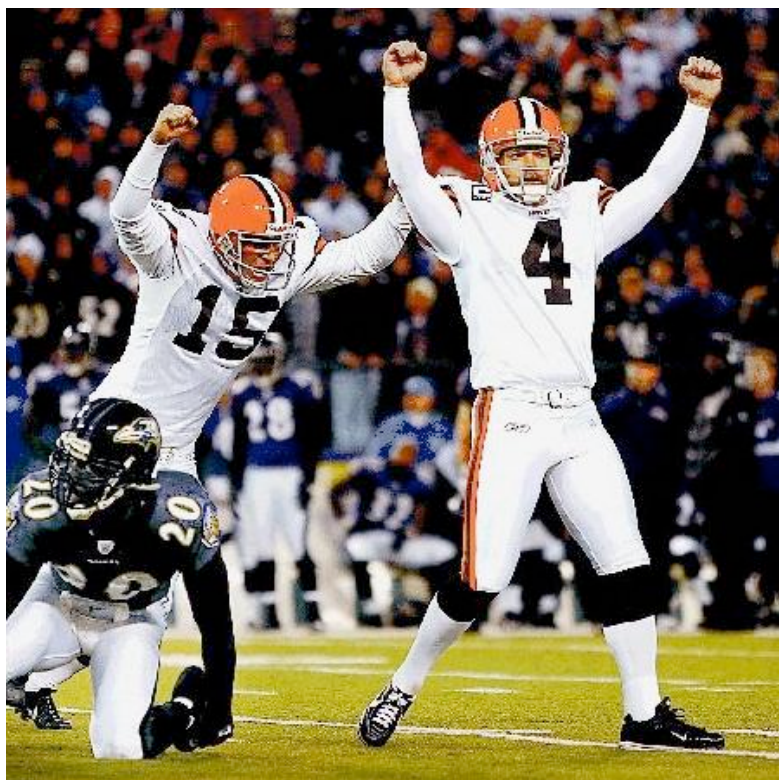
Nothing; similar to the thought process that many fans have towards kickers in the NFL. Heck let's face it, in today's society the kicker is an afterthought. In fantasy football, nobody drafts a kicker with their first round pick. If somebody did, they would be laughed out of the room and called many names not appropriate for this article. Yet in reality, a good percentage of kickers probably outscored your starting WRs, RBs, and other positions during week one. Heck, if you had started Brandon Weeden, nearly every kicker outscored your starting quarterback. People are like the fans described in Adam Sandler's song, *The Lonesome Kicker*; they just forget and neglect the kicking position until something goes wrong. Then the kicker will be assigned to a new position: Scapegoat.

The sports community should be more embracing of kickers, as there were many big stories across the NFL this week, all concerning the forgotten position. One story that has attracted many people's attention is the one of San Francisco 49ers' kicker David Akers, connecting a 63 yard field goal attempt, tying the record for the longest field goal in NFL history. This is quite the



accomplishment, but not the only story. For instance, what people may not realize is that rookie kicker, Blair Walsh of the Minnesota Vikings, not only started off his career with a solid performance, but actually made the game winning field goal to help lead his team to victory. Imagine the amount of pressure the kid must have felt knowing that his first career game and its outcome all depended on him. Needless to say, it was impressive how clutch Walsh was with the game winning kick.

Another incredible story came out of Cleveland where the Browns played against the Philadelphia Eagles. This day was special as it marked the 200th game for kicker Phil Dawson. Think about this one fans, all 200 games were played with the Cleveland Browns. Seriously people, in the NFL a kicker's average career is about 4-5 years.[\[4\]](#) This is not even factoring in the likelihood a placekicker is cut or dropped after having a bad game. Dawson has now played 200 regular



season games with the same team for his entire career (Although he was on both Oakland & New England, he never played in a regular season game for either team). [\[5\]](#) What makes it more shocking is that they all were for the Browns. The man deserves a medal for being in Cleveland for so long. The team has had 15+ different starting quarterbacks and 6 different head coaches in their 12 (going on 13) years since returning to NFL back in 1999. With all these people coming and going, it is incredibly hard to believe that the only player remaining from the franchise...is kicker, Phil Dawson.



If Blanda was still alive, he would be proud of these kickers and encourage them to keep a stiff upper lip. Perhaps the kicker will never be as big as a linebacker, or as popular as a quarterback, but they should never be overlooked. It may be a while before we see another kicker like Sebastian Janikowski being selected in the first round of the NFL draft. Also, who knows when the next kicker will be inducted into the Football Hall of Fame; but that does not mean people have permission to neglect the position. So mock the funny facemasks that in all reality do not protect the kickers whatsoever, or how funny it looks when kickers try to tackle people during kick returns. Mock them all you want, for the truth is that these gifted-legged athletes are a vital and important part to any team, whether NFL or Fantasy Football. That's right kickers, stand up and take a bow...except for you Bill Gramatica.

[1] [http://www.pro-football-reference.co...xpm\\_career.htm](http://www.pro-football-reference.co...xpm_career.htm)

[2] <http://msn.foxsports.com/nfl/story/b...cundiff-082612>

[3] <http://abcnews.go.com/Sports/wireSto...-gano-17094317>

[4] <http://www.livestrong.com/article/15...er-nfl-player/>

[5] <http://news-herald.com/articles/2012.../nh5958759.txt>





## The End of a Player Collecting Era, and a New Beginning by Richard McAdam aka RGM81

Call it the changing of the seasons. Blame it on the lockout. I don't know what the shortest amount of time that needs to pass in order to call something an "era," but I do feel as though I'm through one and into a new one. Recently, I came to a realization that has had a profound effect on the way I collect sports cards and participate in this larger entity collectively known as "the hobby."

For the past four-and-a-half years I have dedicated the great majority of my hobby time, energy, and most of all money, to collecting anything and everything Carey Price. I did this not with an agenda to have "the best" collection or to merit a Super Collector badge; rather, my collecting was a reflection of my passion and dedication as a fan. I bought high during the rookie year frenzy, I ate up everything during the Centennial year of 2008-09, I stood solidly behind him during the *annus horribilis* that was 2009-10, I "chilled out" and loved the Vezina-candidate year that followed, and I was there through all of last year's on-ice debacle for the Canadiens. Nothing has changed when it comes to my support of Carey Price and my belief that he will play a central role in bringing a 25th Stanley Cup to the Montreal Canadiens. He is and remains my favourite player and pro athlete, for reasons well known to any of you regular readers and perusers of SCF.

But as a dedicated player collector, I just don't have the energy any more.

I could recite all the usual reasons: burn out, wallet burn out, the sheer volume of cards, the repetition of cards, the unattainability of so many cards, etc. My reasons are largely no different than those of many other collectors out there. I am not even the first person to step back from collecting Price in recent months. I've seen at least three other superb collections get broken up and sold/traded here, there, and eBay. I share the frustrations of my fellow collectors. I see guys that have invested even more into their PC's than I have just thrown up their hands and said, "I can't do this anymore." Price has played 5 NHL seasons and there are already more than 2,000 cards of him in existence. It is an impossible task to keep pace when you're on a limited budget,

### Carey Price's statistics from your inventory

Type	Have/Total	Percentage	Total Book Value
All cards:	473/2077	22.8%	\$13,861.5
All cards excluding all 1/1:	471/1676	28.1%	
Rookie:	7/19	36.8%	\$397.00
Autograph:	50/540	9.3%	\$4,790.00
Memorabilia:	139/1106	12.6%	\$8,613.00
Serial:	170/1555	10.9%	\$9,405.00



and it is disheartening when there is so little originality from year-to-year. Take a look at 2012-13 Artifacts and see exactly what I mean. Oh look, there's a Tundra Trios of Carey, Subban, and Plekanec. Just like last year, except with an uglier design (no small feat) and smaller jersey pieces. I suppose I should be excited about the new Sapphire /85 parallel right? They haven't used that colour before!

So it is with that mentality that I went through my entire list of Carey Price cards and picked out nearly 400 of them that are going to be made available for trade or sale. Even with that, I still have close to 150 cards that I am, for the time being, keeping in my PC. I'm not ready to make a clean break, I'm not leaving the hobby, I'm just focusing on broadening some horizons and allowing myself to collect some pretty nice cards of other players I like. There will of course be new Price pickups but my days of worrying about checklists and parallels and such are over. At least for Carey. I still have that Gorges collection which is sitting pretty at well over 90% and as long as the cards remain fairly few and far between it is still a fun and enjoyable thing to get the new releases.



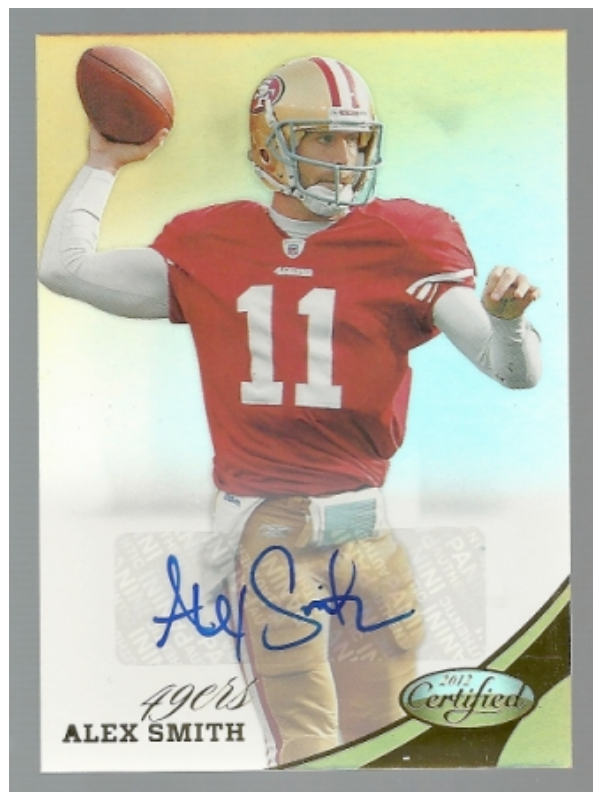
In the past month since arriving at this conclusion, I feel reinvigorated in this hobby of sports card collecting. I have sold or traded more than 50 cards off my big list, an action that just a few short months ago would have been considered madness on my part. It is incredible to see the amount of money sitting in my PayPal account, and yet I do not feel any great sense of loss or remorse. There have been a couple of very nice cards sold that I may in time want to re-acquire, but for now I am very much enjoying looking at the hobby with a fresh set of eyes.

Rather than focusing the overwhelming majority of my hobby dollars on just a single player, I have used my newfound freedom to pursue the cards of many players. In the past month I have built up a respectable beginning to new player collections of Price's teammates Max Pacioretty, P.K. Subban, and Louis Leblanc. I have a number of



autographed cards of each player, and I am setting my sights on acquiring a Pacioretty Cup RC and/or a Leblanc Dominion RC at some point in the not-too-distant future. These are no small investments which likely would not have been possible in my previous way of doing things and collecting Price with the old fervour. I do not need to have the craziest 3-colour patch on the

market, a simple 1- or 2-colour piece will suffice. The timing of my decision has also coincided with Upper Deck beginning to produce Gorges cards beyond base set cards and parallels. There are a pair of cards of him in Series One that, by early indications on eBay, may cost me a few dollars.



Also happening in this new era for me – I have ventured into the realm of collecting football cards. With the prolonged NHL lockout, I have been spending more time and interest in America's Game, and my previously casual fan status of the San Francisco 49'ers has taken on a new depth. This may also be affected by my recent move back to the West Coast. Whatever the reason, I am slowly putting together an Alex Smith PC to satisfy the collector in me that goes with anything of which I support and endorse and enjoy. To this point, I have picked up a couple of RC's and memorabilia cards via trade or sale, and just the other day I obtained my first Smith autograph card, an SP'd Certified Mirror Gold Signatures numbered to only 25 copies. My venture into football has been an eye-opening experience, and I was surprised at first to see just how valuable autographed



rookie cards are relative to other rookie cards. While there are different strata for hockey rookies as well, the vast separation in values between non-auto and auto RC's for football stars is a bit shocking at first. I had expected that a Smith SP Authentic RC would cost roughly as much as that of Carey Price's. Nope, the Smith is worth 3x-5x that of the Price. Granted, it's numbered to 299 copies instead of 999, and also has memorabilia on it. Imagine my surprise at seeing that football card producers use game-used balls in cards! I thought that was really cool, and I hope to obtain some of those at some point soon.

People in this hobby always say, "Collect what you like!" I have endorsed this statement from the beginning, and for the first four-plus years of my time in the hobby, I really, really liked having a near-exclusive focus on Carey Price. Eventually, that became less fun but I still felt somewhat obligated to the collection. After all, once you hit 300, then 400, then 500, and ultimately 600 cards, you do get those momentum boosts. But the feeling of wanting to do it fades, and it did feel more like an obligation. I will retain many cards and continue to add more, but the acquisitions will be fewer and further in between, likely restricted to unique pieces that hold some sort of meaning and/or nicer high-end content. For now and into the future, though, I very much like being able to add nice pieces of the other stars of the Canadiens and this new odyssey into new territory with my 49'ers PC. What's next, baseball?!





## **Sedinfan - Daniel & Henrik Sedin – Supercollector**

**By Richard McAdam aka RGM81**

Get ready to see something truly spectacular. In my time on staff looking after the Super Collector applications I have seen all kinds of collections, but never have I seen one application for two players. It is therefore entirely fitting that the first one I receive be of the brothers Sedin. The "twin magic" that Henrik and Daniel have shown over their years in Vancouver has been nothing short of incredible, and the same statement can be made about our newest Super Collector Hall of Fame member, sedinfan!

I've been talking with Dave about his application for the past week or so, and having seen his website showcasing his collection of the Sedins, I can say that this was an "easy yes" when it came to the voting. When you see the stats on the collection you will see why, and you will be absolutely blown away by the Top Ten cards shown off in the Show & Tell. So give it up for sedinfan and his incredible collection of Henrik & Daniel Sedin!

sedinfan has requested to apply for the Supercollector program on 04-25-2012

SCF UserID: sedinfan

Sport: Hockey

Player name: Daniel and Henrik Sedin

Grand total unique cards: 2020

Grand total unique rookies cards: 2

Grand total unique Autograph cards: 236

Grand total unique G/U cards: 584

Grand total unique base cards: 395

Grand total unique Inserts cards: 1625

Grand total unique 1/1 cards: 42

Grand total unique oddballs cards: 262

Grand total unique Misc. Cards: 2

Why supercollector: If it has Sedin on it, I probably have it - I have between 98 - 99% of all Sedin cards (excluding 1/1's of course, though I have lots of those too). Not only do I collect one Art Ross and MVP trophy winner, I collect a pair of them! I believe I have one of the most complete collections of bona-fide superstars in the entire hockey community. My website showcasing my entire collection speaks for itself, but as sports fans we always like to look at the numbers, so here are the highlights...



My main collection consists of over 2,000 different Sedin cards. I also have about 350 cards in my oddball collection - including almost promo cards (most of which are limited to 10 or fewer). In my main collection, excluding 1/1's, I have...

98.6% of all Sedin cards (1978 of 2007)

98.5% of all memorabilia cards (584 of 593)

99.2% of all auto cards (236 of 238)

For 1/1's, I'm not a fan of and don't collect printing plates, as far as cardboard goes, I have 42 out of 184 1/1's which is just shy of a quarter of all Sedin 1/1's! Some collectors include SPGU By The Letter cards as 1/1's - I have 8 of the 10 ever made (only Daniel has been produced, in 09/10 and 10/11), including those I have a combined 50 1/1's / By The Letters.

Within my 1/1's, I have 10 matching pairs of both Daniel and Henrik! The highlights of my matching pairs include both 98/99 SPx Autographs (their first 1/1's), both 11/12 ITG Ultimate Memorabilia Patch/Auto Gold, and both 10/11 Manufacturer's Marks from Limited. The jewel though of my collection has to be the SPGU 8 patches card 1/1 featuring none other than Wayne Gretzky, Gordie Howe, Mario Lemieux, Sidney Crosby, Alex Ovechkin, Bobby Clarke, Joe Thornton, and Henrik Sedin, paying homage to 8 Hart Trophy winners.

Other highlights include over 30 copies of the 97/98 Quad Diamond RC's (stated print run of 50 per twin), and a large number of special serial-numbered cards: 82 "firsts", 61 "lasts", and 47 jersey-numbered cards.

For promotional cards, I have 262 unique cards, the vast majority from the early 2000's when BAP made several variations for each show. This includes 79 1/1's which is approximately 60% of all 1/1 promo cards that I am aware of. I also have nearly 100 oddball cards, including panini stickers, arena giveaways, magazine inserts, grocery store issues, etc.

Finally, my basement would not be complete without my matching pair of framed and autographed jerseys, one of each twin. There were a total of 6 players available amongst 100 instant win cards inserted in 00/01 SP Authentic, and I was lucky enough to make trades to acquire one of each Sedin twin!

Why collecting: As a youngster I was of course a fan of Trevor Linden and later collected Pavel Bure. When the Russian Rocket left, the late 90's were a time of suffering for Canucks fan missing the playoffs several years, but I was excited by the unique potential of two identical twins Vancouver drafted in '99 who held so much promise, so I began collecting them before



their NHL careers even began. While the collection started out of curiosity, it has continued for all these years as I have so much enjoyed watching their telepathic ability to find each other as well as their linemates with amazing finesse.

Anything else to add: It has been super rewarding to collect two classy players for their entire careers, before they even arrived from Sweden, and watching them progress to become Captain and Assistant Captain as well as owners (or soon to be) of every major Canucks team record.

Most of my collection was a solitary pursuit on ebay, but I've greatly enjoyed becoming an active member of the SCF community, I've gained so much from fellow collectors helping me with information and items on my wantlist, and I've enjoyed giving back by starting free box breaks for the community. I look forward to many more years of sharing with the SCF community.

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## Collection Stats:

Total: 2020/2642

Total minus 1/1 and show cards: 1978/2007

Minimum requirement for 2000+ cards: 35% - ACHIEVED

## More stats:

### Overall

Daniel: Need 9 (Have 878 of 887) = 99.0%

Henrik: Need 13 (Have 918 of 931) = 98.6%

Both: Need 4 (Have 185 of 189) = 97.9%

## Memorabilia

Daniel: Need 1 (Have 215 of 216) = 99.5%

Henrik: Need 5 (Have 236 of 241) = 97.7%

Both: Need 3 (Have 133 of 136) = 97.7%

## Autographed

Daniel: Need 1 (Have 98 of 99) = 99.0%

Henrik: Need 1 (Have 107 of 108) = 99.1%

Both: Need 0 (Have 31 of 31) = 100%



Note that some cards count in both the memorabilia and auto sections - I have 100% of all cards that feature both mem and auto (24 Daniels, 28 Henriks, 4 of both twins).

Now for the 1/1's, I just keep track of what I have...

Daniel: Have 20 in total... 5 are memorabilia... 4 are autographed... 1 mem / auto... also one of them I don't count as a Daniel auto, but it is the ITG Ultimate Mem Presidential with Brian Price's sig on the back.

Henrik: Have 21 in total... 8 memorabilia... 1 autographed... 1 mem / auto.

Both twins: I have just one dual Sedin card, an Artifacts Tundra Tandems with memorabilia from each twin.

Also note for the 1/1's, none of them are printing plates as I mentioned in my application, they simply don't interest me, so all of my 1/1's are "real cardboard".

For promo / oddball cards I haven't really kept too many stats, as I know about way more of those cards than Beckett actually mentions, and I'm sure I don't even know about them all, so I really only keep track of detailed stats for what I call my main collection.

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So that's the application. Once again, to see this truly incredible collection you MUST visit this site: Link to photos: <http://www.swedishtwins.com> - if you like Swedish twins named Henrik and Daniel, you will not be disappointed!

And now, as promised, the Show & Tell!

At #10, I love the looks of this 09/10 Cup Foursomes x/5, four really solid patches, and a nice clean design.





At #9, another design I love, the 08/09 Ice Frozen Foursomes x/5.



At #8, a real favorite of mine featuring the Canucks top line. I've got oodles of cards featuring the Sedins with Luongo or Kesler, but I love the way Burrows plays with the twins, and this 09/10 Donruss Line of the Times x/10 is the only card to feature just these three.



At #7, my only 1/1's featuring both signatures and memorabilia, a matching pair of 11/12 ITG Ultimate Memorabilia Gold Auto Patches.



At #6, another matching pair of 1/1's, from 10/11 Limited, the Manufacturer's Marks. Really love the contrast of one home and one away jersey.





At #5, from 98/00 Swedish UD Choice, one of the Holy Grails for Sedin collectors, the Dual Autographed Game Jersey. To date I believe this is still the only card featuring their autographs on true (not manufactured) jersey swatches.



At #4, a pair of Quad Diamond rookie card parallels from 97/98 Black Diamond.





At #3, the Eight is Enough patches x/5 booklet from 10/11 Dominion featuring some top names past and present.



At #2, the 98/99 SPx Top Prospects 1/1 Spectrum cards, a gorgeous pair of shinnies from the 90's, the first 1/1 card of each twin, these were really the ultimate cards to have early in their careers.





And finally at #1, another eight player patch card, this time from 10/11 SP Game Used, the Authentic Fabrics Eights Patches. Looking at the checklist when this product was released, I figured this would be THE card that I would never be able to own - a 1/1 featuring patches of

Wayne Gretzky, Gordie Howe, Mario Lemieux, Sidney Crosby, Alex Ovechkin, Joe Thornton, and Bobby Clarke... it is definitely the crown jewel of my Sedin collection! Funny thing, UD reversed the patch swatches, so each patch belong in the same location on the opposite side of the card, I suppose Henrik could do worse than having a Gretzky swatch in his place.



An amazing collection to say the least!

Congratulations Dave for your dedication to not just one, but two, superstar players for the past several years. Welcome to the SCF Super Collector Hall of Fame!