

SCF'S COLLECTORS CORNER

SportsCardForum *at the* Hawaii Trade Conference



Florida Edition



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For all of your hobby boxes needs!

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Battle Armor Signature Series- Special version with authentic autographs of top Nascar drivers. Cards #'d to driver's door number.
Press Pass Signings- An autograph program including approximately sixty of yesterday, today, and tomorrow's stars of Nascar - 1:20

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SCF Happenings Update **By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888**



In this issue, you will find plenty of information on what the SCF contingent at the Hawaii Trade Conference (HTC) found out. Both Mike Silvia (SCF's owner) and Tony Joyce (SCF's General Manager) have agreed to write an article for us. While I didn't attend, their articles allowed me to learn plenty of useful information, for more details please read pages 5 to 13. As a hockey collector though, I cannot help myself and I have to mention that one of the cards received by Mike and Tony is an Upper Deck quadruple autograph of Lemieux, Gretzky, Orr and Howe; which will be given away to a lucky member this year in the hockey forum. Keep your eyes on the announcement forum for all the details but I can already reveal that it will be the ultimate prize in a season long event.

After reading their articles, I also realized that Upper Deck was now on Facebook and not only are they posting news on there but they are also replying to peoples' questions on their discussion boards. You can check them out here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Deck/61698633950?ref=ts> and I have to add that I am pretty impressed with how quickly they answer the questions brought to them. This is a great move to get UD nearer to its customers and it's an idea other card manufacturers might want to look into as well.

Now that the HTC is over, SCF is concentrating on getting ready for the Nationals Sports Collectors Convention in Cleveland from 25th July to 3rd August. All of the big players in the industry will of course be present and we are hoping to be able to report on many interviews. If you have questions you would like the cards manufacturers to answer, please do let us know.

You might have noticed that our magazine has got a new look this month. As we are now on the 7th issue, it felt right to revamp a little bit. I would like to thank Quiet-Things for all her help on the graphics front. Fantastic work Houng and I really like the new look of Collectors' Corner.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the members who have been submitting articles in the Article Submissions Forum. If you feel like writing and you have something constructive to say about the hobby, you are more than welcome to submit your work. If you enjoy the experience, you could eventually be part of the Writing Team and earn card cash for the articles you write. I'm also very happy to report that one of the latest submissions from a member (Batman72) was chosen for publication in Tuff Stuff Magazine. Keep on writing everyone and speak to you next month!



A Hawaiian Experience in Florida

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

For most collectors, hearing terms such as The Nationals and SportsFest gets the blood pumping, the adrenaline rushing and the anticipation rising. The same could be said for a lot of dealers, individual and shop owners. However, for a few days every year, there's one cardboard assembly that retailers and card companies alike love to see scheduled on the calendar, The Hawaii Trade Conference (HTC).

The HTC got its name because it was held in Hawaii every year. Sounds like the perfect work vacation to me. However, with the economic times and affordability, the conference has moved to the mainland and has been hosted in Phoenix, Arizona, as well as Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, over the last couple of years. This year, it was held in Palm Harbor, Florida.

The Hawaii Trade Conference is put together by the wonderful people of F & W Media (Owners of Tuff Stuff and Sports Collectors Digest as well as many other ventures). This brings store owners and card companies together in an attempt to improve the business side of the hobby as well as to build better relationships between the two. Not only that, it gives retailers around the country the chance to exchange ideas to help one another to improve their sales and stay competitive in this new era of the cardboard hobby.



Our first night started with a guest of honor, NFL prospect Ian Johnson. Johnson is a running back who played for Boise St. while in college. He is the all-time leader in touchdowns scored in a career in the Western Athletic Conference. However, he is best known for scoring the 2-point conversion in the Fiesta Bowl against Oklahoma on a play called "Status Left". That play resulted in victory for the Broncos. He celebrated by running over to his girlfriend (a Broncos cheerleader) and got down on one knee and proposed on national television. She said yes.

Johnson signed autographs and posed for pictures for well over an hour.

He took the time to mingle with many of the attendees with a smile on his face. I'm sure he was asked about the play/proposal many times, but always replied liked it was the first time it has been mentioned. Definitely a class act and I wish him the best at the next level (the NFL). He would have deserved to have his name called on the first day of the NFL Draft but it unfortunately didn't happen as he went undrafted. However, according to the Idaho Statesman, he signed a free-agent contract with the Minnesota Vikings.

Afterwards, Upper Deck hosted a private reception for those who signed up for it. It was a relaxed atmosphere with appetizers galore for those in attendance. During the evening, Upper Deck was kind enough to give away many prizes from Mitchell & Ness jerseys, autographs, 1/1 paintings/sketches to hobby boxes. The biggest prize of the night ended up being one of the smallest items, an encased



certified Mickey Mantle autographed baseball. Whether it was one of the aforementioned prizes or other items, everyone in attendance walked away with something. However, the thing most of us will never forget are the four completely different versions of "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" that was sung as a part of one of the giveaways. That song will never sound the same again. That concluded night one.



Day two started out with a slap shot. The NHL in conjunction with Upper Deck hosted breakfast. For those in attendance, various promos and highlights from the NHL were played. On the table, each place setting had a pack of 2008/09 SP Authentic Hockey waiting for the person sitting in that spot. Additionally, each table also had an open box of 2008/09 SP Authentic Hockey, 2008/09 Upper Deck Series 2 Hockey and 2008/09 Upper Deck NHL Champs Hockey. They were there for the people at the table to open while eating breakfast or watching the presentation afterwards. Each table had eight place settings. I was fortunate to be sitting at a table with only four of us there, so we got twice the amount of packs to open. Some of my highlights were a 2008/09 Upper Deck Series 2 Blake Wheeler Jersey, a 2008/09 Upper Deck Series 2 Clearcut Rookies Derick Brassard serial num-

bered to 100, a 2008/09 SP Authentic Kyle Okposo Future Watch Rookie Auto serial numbered to 999 and a 2008/09 SP Authentic Limited Jon Filewich Future Watch Patch/Auto serial numbered to 100. Another person at the table pulled a case hit in the form of a 2008/09 Upper Deck NHL Champs Auroch Femur Redemption.

While the pack busting was going on, it was announced that some of the chairs in the room had numbers under them. If you had a number under your seat, you could come up and claim a prize. There were 28 numbers and I was lucky enough to have one. I was number 18. The numbers decided the order you could claim a prize. There were many items laid out on a table and I missed out by one number on getting a 2008/09 Upper Deck Centennial Collection Hobby Box. But I was happy to have won something and couldn't complain after the pack busting day I had. So I picked up a prize and headed back to my seat. After boxing up my cards, we were off to listen to a presentation about trends in the hobby.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Kim Beason from the University of Mississippi. Dr. Beason is an Associate Professor of Parks and Recreation Management. With the assistance of F & W Media, he sent out the opportunity for collectors around the world to fill out an in-depth survey on collecting trends in the hobby. At press time, he still had surveys coming in but his presentation focused on the 434 he had already received. He used these surveys to illustrate where and what the collectors are doing now as compared to five years ago. It was an eye-opening presentation to some as it stressed the point that card collecting is still a leisure hobby to most people and the movement has taken place out of the local card shops to becoming more Internet focused and driven. This was followed by a best practices seminar to help retailers grow their business with some proven winning techniques. Unfortunately I had to miss out on this presentation as I was needed elsewhere.



After lunch, we were treated to three consecutive retailer roundtables with some of the card manufacturers. First on the list was Upper Deck. Many representatives were there to discuss some of their new marketing programs. Their fairly new addition, UpperDeckU, was discussed. This is primarily for young collectors in the 8-14 age range. Collectors can open select packs of Upper Deck product, such as Upper Deck Series 1 or 2 and Collector's Choice. Each wrapper has a code on the inside that is good for a specific amount of time of play (active account time). This allows you to enter and participate in the ever-changing virtual world. You get to create your own avatar and do a variety of things such as meet other traders, trade virtual cards and play games. Plus, the five letter/number codes on the back of Upper Deck cards

can be used to purchase virtual credits to use towards buying items for your avatar and your virtual room.

From there, the focus changed to ways retailers can boost their sales in their stores. The main points focused on using the Internet as a tool and not running away from it. Using items such as using social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook were great examples. The biggest selling point was simply that these sites/tools are free. Upper Deck made sure the people in attendance were paying attention by calling numerous "Time Outs" and asking trivia questions about the presentation and giving away boxes and jerseys.



From there, we were thrust into the world of Press Pass. After a brief rundown of the product lines and the upcoming releases (which includes a first-time high end racing set called Press Pass Showcase that is due out in July 2009), we got treated to a huge giveaway of prizes. Most of them were boxes of 2009 Press Pass Football, 2009 Press Pass Element Racing and 2009 KISS Ikons. It was a fun time, as you didn't know what you

were going to get as it was done via raffle. I was happy to receive a box of Element. When I got back to my room later that day, I went ahead and opened it. The two main cards to come out of it was a Wheels Matt Kenseth Autograph and an Elements of the Race Yellow Flag of Dale Earnhardt Jr. that was serial numbered to 99. It was actually 01/99, so that was a bonus.

And finally, there was the meeting that everyone was waiting for...Panini America. Ever since word came out with Panini America's exclusive deal with the NBA starting next basketball season as well as the acquisition of Donruss (DLP), most everyone has salivated at a chance to talk to the new kids of the block. Luckily for us, the staff remained the same except for a couple of new additions. That was wonderful news for retailers and collectors alike as there will be no need to start over and rebuild relationships. Many topics





were addressed during this roundtable from what can be expected from Panini America to the age-old question if the company will be trying to re-enter the baseball market. Since the acquisition was around five weeks ago, some things could not be answered. However, it was driven home that the products would not see any major changes but what the company will do for the retailers and consumers will. As a nice gesture, all attendees received a folder/notebook with a special card inside. I ended up with a 2009 Playoff Prestige NFL Draft Michael Crabtree NFL Shield that was specifically made for this conference.

The night ended with dinner and a speed retailing session. This was designed to be like speed dating, but with different retailers involved. The idea was for retailers to exchange ideas and move on to the next person. Each time, a different topic would be used. At the end, the best ideas were presented in front of the whole group. The purpose was to help retailers learn new and exciting ideas as well as different approaches to many of the stumbling blocks that drive away business. Once again, I was needed elsewhere so I was unable to attend this session.

The final day of the conference was Wednesday. It started out with a light breakfast gathering, though I think many went out and soaked up some of the nightlife, as the attendance was low. This carried over into our first speaker, Tim Langlitz. Mr. Langlitz is the online guru for F & W Media. He handles the marketing side of their online division.

His presentation focused on maximizing the online world through marketing and website building. He discussed many avenues and strategies such as creating a one-page website. With one page, you can display the name of your business, directions and store hours. He went on to detail other uses of a website. From there, the presentation change to online marketing strategies such as newsletters, using social networks like Facebook and Twitter (like Upper Deck mentioned) as well as how to optimize you company through search engines. The final part focused on results and expectations and how to set them. What was really stressed was how to monitor the numbers properly and to create realistic goals.

This was followed up by Mike Silvia, the owner of Sports Card Forum (though he was introduced as the President). Mr. Silvia's time focused on the aspects of what current and potential customers are doing online. He discussed how they are using not just sites like Facebook and Twitter, but message boards such as Sports Card Forum. He stressed how these sites are free and a great resource to seeing what the customers are doing/saying as well as a great way to reach the masses with only a few minutes of work a day. While he did suggest there were a handful of well-respected trading boards on the Internet, he primarily showcased how his own site was beneficial to storefront owners. Upon hearing what Sports Card Forum could do for them, the mood in the room really brightened. After the presentation, there was a mad dash to talk to Mr. Silvia and numerous exchanges of business cards. One attendee even remarked, "Hearing that made this whole trip worth it."





From there, we entered the world of Meet The Industry. This is where you the attendees are divided up in groups and they view a presentation about that company and what they are introducing during the year. My group's first stop was with Topps. Topps has a lot of plans this year, primarily with their baseball line. They discussed putting more value in boxes without having to raise the price point. This was especially stressed with Topps Sterling (which will now see an extra hit added to every box with the price staying the same). Another bit of news is Topps will only release two basketball products for the 2009/10 season. A lot of buzz surrounds Bowman '48, as it will have an auto per pack. Topps handed out four mini cards that are a part of a six-card set. All cards were numbered to 100.

We moved on to Upper Deck, but not the sports card side of the company. We got to learn about the gaming/entertainment side. This primarily focuses on the World of Warcraft line. If you are a fan of playing online or the trading card game, what's coming out this year is definitely for you. Another exciting line is Huntik. In the mode of Pokemon and Yu-Gi-Oh, Huntik introduces the world of trading card games to youths everywhere. CW4Kids has proclaimed this as the Year of Huntik; so don't miss out if you get a chance. Upper Deck handed out playmats for the Trading Card Gamers out there. There were also some boxes and packs handed out.

Ultra Pro was our next destination. Most of this focused on the fact that Ultra Pro listened to comments from last year and made a major addition to their card protection line. All card protectors (top loaders, magnetics, etc.) will now be made with 98% UV Protection. This is big considering the issues with fading and bending from sunlight and other forms of UV light. On magnetic one-touch protectors, a gold button where the magnet resides is your indicator if it is the new product or not. If you see that on it or on a box of protectors, it's new. You may see a minimal change in price, but it won't be anything drastic. Ultra Pro was kind enough to give everyone a bag of Ultra Pro card protecting products.



After lunch, we moved on to Panini. Panini showed they will continue to use the Donruss, Playoff and Leaf lines in football. They don't plan to make changes to those lines. We will continue to see products such as Prestige, Elite, Absolute Memorabilia and Limited. Those will also translate to the basketball side of things once October hits. The noticeable, or not noticeable as was the case for some in the room, change will be you will not see the words Donruss, Playoff or Leaf on the boxes. Panini posed the question to the group on how they should handle a name change along with putting the Panini logo on the boxes. It was virtually unanimous in the room that they should push forward with having a Panini logo on the boxes and removing the former company names. Panini brought back the Black Box for all the attendees. Inside was 6 cards with a breakdown of 1 low numbered insert, 1 encased low numbered auto, 2 low numbered autos, 1 printing plate and 1 auto printing plate.

Our final host was Upper Deck, the sports card side. Upon entering, there was a small cooler with ice



cream bars and that really perked everyone up (though no one was really down). Some of the Upper Deck staff passed out a pack of American Idol. Additionally, one side of the room got a couple of packs of Spectrum baseball while the other side received SPx Basketball (including me and I was fortunate to pull a LeBron James/Carmelo Anthony/David West Triple Auto numbered to 25). Upper Deck then showed us a lot of the products they are excited about in the upcoming year. Do you like hairs from a horse's mane or butterflies? Hope so, because it's coming. We were permitted to see a couple of the completed dinosaur fossils, bones and artifacts cards from NHL Champs. It was quite obvious why these were redemptions when you look at the thickness of the cards. Upper Deck finished by giving each attendee a surprise triple or quad low numbered auto. One of the sought after ones was a Wayne Gretzky/Gordie Howe/Bobby Orr/Mario Lemieux Quad Auto numbered to 3. Luckily, one is on display at Sports Card Forum as Mike Silvia pulled one in his box. If you are interested in the card, be sure to follow

what's going on at Sports Card Forum, as one lucky member will receive this card in a huge yearlong contest.

Our last event was a panel discussion on what was good or bad about this year's conference. Though some positives were discussed, the focus was more on the negatives. Things such as needing to be at least a day longer and more opportunities for meeting everyone were mentioned. A lot of the attendees felt rushed and a bit upset they didn't have a chance to meet everyone. This conference is great for those who have attended many years to the ones that have gone for the first time. Store owners love catching up and sharing ideas and it was very hard to do so at this conference.

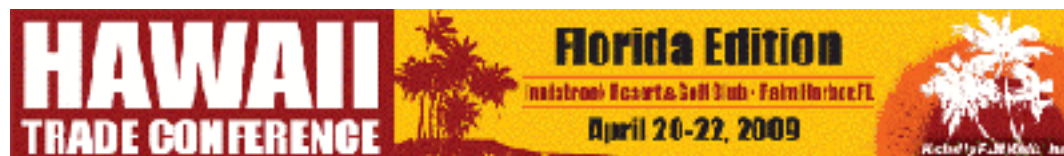
As a first time attendee, I had no idea what to expect. I went into the conference with no expectations other than getting to visit with some of the members of the industry who I have had the privilege of meeting previously. These acquaintances have helped me out during my time bridging the gap between collectors and card companies. I look forward to continuing these partnerships and fostering new ones.

Taking the conference in, I couldn't help but notice and agree the constraints that were felt by many attendees in regards to meeting people. The goal is to meet everyone who attends, even if it means just exchanging business cards. But that was not the case here, as I know I was unable to meet perhaps half the people there. With that said, I did find it an honor and privilege to be able to attend this event. I look forward to doing it next year and catching up with friends in the hobby. But until then, there's always the Nationals in Cleveland this summer.



Panini Makes a Splash at the Hawaii Trade Conference

By Mike Silvia aka mikesilvia



Last week the Hawaii Trade Conference was held at the Innisbrook Resort in Tampa Florida. Once a year the conference brings together the leading sports card and memorabilia retailers, distributors and manufacturers for a few days of fun in the sun and serious industry discussions and round-tables. While this year had a low turn out compared to past years, there were a few bright spots that made my visit worthwhile. First, I got to present my view of how sports card and memorabilia collectors interact online and got to share my best practices on generating traffic to websites. I had a blast and I think I helped many attendees understand the fundamentals of driving traffic to their websites at little to no cost. Second, there was a thick fog of that surrounded Panini before the Hawaii Trade Show, but they cleared the air with two outstanding presentations.



Just in case you missed the news on Panini this year I will recap. On 27 Jan 2009 the NBA awarded Italian-based Panini the exclusive rights to produce NBA trading cards

and stickers starting in the 2009-10 season. It is a multi-year deal and word on the street is the deal gives Panini these rights for four years with the first two years being exclusive. The news shook up the sports card world. Within weeks of the NBA deal, Panini began negotiations with Donruss/Playoff and in mid-March Panini purchased the U.S. based company. The news was met with mixed feelings by sports card collectors and raised several serious questions. Since Upper Deck and Topps have most of the biggest NBA stars on exclusive contracts, how good will the Panini basketball products be? Now that Panini owns Playoff/Donruss, what will happen to the brands that Donruss/Playoff spent years building? I feel these and dozens of other questions were more than adequately addressed at the 2009 Hawaii Trade Conference.



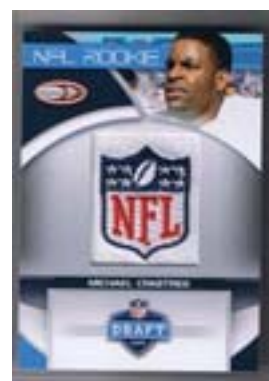
The Hawaii Trade Conference was held from Monday through Wednesday (20-22 April) with Major League Baseball providing free Tampa Bay Devil Rays tickets to early attendees the Sunday before the conference. I arrived on Monday and one of my main goals was to get as much information that I could about Panini and answer some of the hot questions that were heating up on SportsCardForum.com.

Panini conducted two presentations. The first presentation was on Tuesday at the Retailer Round Table and the second was on Wednesday at the Meet the Industry showcase. During Tuesday's Retailer Round Table presentation Panini provided a glimpse at the future of a combined Panini and Donruss/Playoff. Panini America Inc. Chief Executive Officer Michael Eisenstein gave the floor the new Panini America



team. The Panini America team (wearing their shiny new Panini shirts) got right to the point providing details on the future of the company. One of the biggest and most refreshing pieces of news was that the entire Donruss/Playoff staff will remain with the company under the new Panini America name. It was a wise decision by Panini to keep a seasoned team together that has produced such iconic brands as Contenders, Prestige and Elite. Previous Donruss/Playoff owner Ann Powell left on great terms and will move on to pursue other adventures.

Wednesday brought us to the much-anticipated “Meet the Industry” where the manufactures gave away high-end goodies. Upper Deck gave away their triple and quad autographs, Press Pass gave every attendee a free hobby box, and Panini continued the Donruss “Black Box” giveaway and some great samples of the upcoming 2009 Prestige football. While I loved the free items, I was looking forward to the Panini presentation to see what the upcoming product releases would look like. The burning questions were; what would Panini do with the Donruss/Playoff name and what would the NBA products look like? There was a lot of discussion between Panini representatives and retailers. I got the impression that Panini was leaning towards removing the “Donruss/Playoff” name from the products/packaging and simply leaving the product brand name. For example, Playoff Contenders would be just called “Contenders” and Donruss Elite would just be called “Elite” with the Panini name somewhere on the card and/or package. I started a few polls that I will forward to Panini representatives to help them decide here. Take a minute to respond!



I left the Hawaii Trade Show confident that Panini would leverage the experience of the former Donruss/Playoff team to produce some of the best NBA trading cards collectors have ever seen. There was energy around the Panini America team that made you forget that the sports card industry has been in the slump for the past decade. I think it is safe to say that everyone that attended the Hawaii Trade Show was impressed with Panini’s positive attitude, professionalism and willingness to take in feedback to help steer the direction of the new Panini America.

Seeing previews on the basketball product got me excited for the first time in years to buy some basketball hobby boxes. Panini has the muscle (nearly \$1 billion in revenue last year) and now the expertise (by purchasing Donruss/Playoff) to enter the U.S. trading card market with a bang. There are two expectations that I have for Panini going forward. First, expect Panini America to work hard on signing some of the big names in the NBA (i.e. LeBron James, Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan) that are currently exclusive to Upper Deck and Topps. They understand that they need to have the best players in the world signing their product to maximize their brands. Second, look for Panini America to work on breaking back into the NHL trading card market now that they own the Pinnacle and Pacific brands. Either way, Panini made a big splash and left a lasting impression with all the Hawaii Trade Conference attendees. Much like 1990 was a great year for Upper Deck, the year 2009 may go down in collector history as “The Year of Panini.”



In each issue, we will include a release calendar for the upcoming month. At the time of publication, all dates were accurate but as you no doubt know, product releases do tend to be pushed back from time to time.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4  -Draft Pick Football	5  -Draft Edition Football	6	7	8
11  -Prestige Football	12  - Black Basketball	13  -Signature Edition Football	14	15
18	19  - Be A Player Hockey - Series 2 Baseball	20  -Stealth Racing	21	22
25	26  -Heroes Football	27  - OPC Premier Hockey	28	29  - Series 2 Baseball



2008-2009 ITG Between the Pipes **By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888**

Year after year, In the Game releases a set that makes the goalie collectors amongst us immensely happy: Between the Pipes. This year is no different, apart from one little detail, this year the pre sells numbers were disappointing. One can assume that this is due to the current economic conjuncture. How did ITG react? Did they cancel the product? No, they decided to make a lesser number of boxes and as a direct consequence of that decision, each and every BTP is loaded with hits. Originally, autographs were meant to be inserted 1:16 packs, game-used memorabilia card 1:20 packs and Masked Men cards 1:18 packs. As you will see below, the odds are in reality much better than that.

Description

There is nothing special or spectacular about the base set, once again ITG's lack of licence is glaringly obvious because of the close up on the goaltenders part of the Stars of the Game subset. The 100 cards base set is subdivided into 4 sub-sets: Future Stars, Stars of the Game, Greats of the Game and The Rival League. Overall, some nice looking cards but nothing too eye-catching or enticing.

Box Details

Pack per box: 24

Cards per pack: 5

Base Set: 100 cards

Check out: In the Game's Official Product Information

Checklists

Base Cards

Autographs

Masked Men

Game-Used Memorabilia

Made to Order

The Breaks

All the cards listed below were pulled during our break of two hobby boxes of BTP and represent a fair sample of what you could receive when breaking this product.

Autographs

This release prides itself in being the most complete collection of goaltender autographs. While this is a good thing, it also means that there is a risk that you will pull autographs of young goaltenders



who you may not know. It is also interesting to note that 10 of the 14 Stars of the Game autographs are short printed and eight of the 12 Greats of the Game autographs are as well. In broad terms, this means that your chances of pulling something signed by one of the darlings of the hobby are limited. Our two boxes yielded the following autographs:

A-PR Pekka Rinne

A-RM Robert Mayer

A-SV Simeon Varlapov

A-TS Tobias
Stephan

A- MW Mikka
Wiikman



As you can see, we received five autographs out of our two boxes, so roughly speaking autographs in our case were 1 per 10 packs.

Game-Used Memorabilia

There are many sets of memorabilia and some are quite astonishing really. One of the most sought after is without a doubt the Super-Sized Pads set. On those gorgeous cards, not only do you get a massive piece of pad, but there is also a picture of the goaltender in the top left corner. Perhaps a testament that ITG heard the critics of last year's Superlative? However they failed to use the same approach for the Super Glove inserts, which could have benefited from it. That being said, both set take you closer to the action then ever and the feel of the material is just amazing. Overall, there are 16 different sets of Game-Used inserts, all very interesting. Here are the ones our boxes contained:

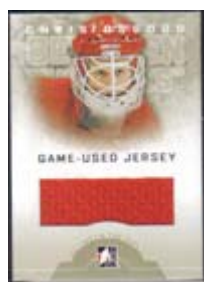
GUJ-26 Chris Osgood

GUN-35 Patrick Roy

SG-18 Sean Burke

DDD-11 Roberto

Luongo/Scott Clemenson





Masked Men

Always a popular feature of the BTP release, the Mask cards include a nice and shinny design and you will be happy to know that they are very much up-to-date. Luongo's mask includes the "C" he has been wearing since the start of the season and Brodeur's mask is his new one. There are 50 mask cards in the checklist and both a gold and silver version is available. We pulled 4 mask cards in our two boxes, one of which was the gold version numbered to 10 only.

MM-05 Corey Schneider

MM-32 Devan Dubnyk

MM-06 Jimmy Howard

MM-41 Roberto Luongo (gold)



Comments

This break was pure bliss from start to finish, the fact that the boxes are completely stacked with hits make this an essential purchase this year. We weren't fortunate enough to pull a Made To Order card but rest assure these are now part of the BTP line-up. As usual, packs without any game-used memorabilia card include a decoy, which also doubles up as a redemption point. If you gather 250 of those, you can send them in to receive one of these amazing duals.

Final Rating

Overall Design: 4/5

Value: 4/5

Fun: 5/5

Rebuy: 4/5

Variety: 5/5

Final Grade: 88%

The product is definitely not easy to rate this year, from a design standpoint, yes it is nice overall however the base set seems to be the same year in year out so a bit of innovation on that front would be welcome. The boxes being loaded because of the reduced production this year gives this product brilliant value but it is taken down a notch because of the lack of licence. Many collectors still refuse to buy or trade for any ITG product because of that very reason unfortunately. There is no denying that there is plenty of variety with all those insert sets and that for a goaltender fan, these boxes are an absolute blast to open. I hope you have as good luck as I had with this product.



09 Press Pass Racing

By Donald Sturm aka stewart20rulz

First and foremost, I'd like to thank our generous sponsors at Press Pass for providing us this hobby box of 2009 Press Pass Eclipse Racing for review.

Product Description

24 packs (5 cards per pack)

MSRP - \$110-\$125

Base Set - 90 "astronomy themed" cards

Black and White Holofoil Base Parallel (Hobby Only--1:2 packs)

Inserts

Ecliptic Path - 1:4 packs

Solar System - 1:12 packs

Autos and Race Used

Solar Swatch - Event-used car cover memorabilia cards. Featured drivers will have a different card for each letter in their last name. Find three in each box on average (1:8 packs).

Burning Rubber - Race Used (Race Won) tire cards from the final 10 chase races in 2008. This insert set continues the Burning Rubber memorabilia insert set started in 2009 Press Pass which consisted of the first 26 race winners. Also look out for rare Prime Cut versions numbered to 25!!!

Under Cover Signature Series - RARE Event Used Car cover cards with the driver's autograph. These cards are numbered to the featured driver's car number.

Four Wide -- Four-piece memorabilia cards with race used tire, sheetmetal, firesuit and pieces of checkered flags. The fourth piece will be oversized and there will be four different versions for each featured driver. **Each box offers a chance at four different versions of super rare Dale Earnhardt, Sr. Four Wide memorabilia cards numbered out of only 3 each!!!**

Press Pass 2009 and Trackside Edition Autographs - Exclusive autographs only found in 2009 Press Pass and 2009 Eclipse (1:24 packs)

1 of 1 Press Plate Autographs

Black Hole Instant Win cards -- cards redeemable online for special prizes ranging from exclusive autographed cards to complete drivers sets of Solar Swatch memorabilia cards numbered 1/1 each.

Overall race used memorabilia odds - 1:8

Overall autograph odds - 1:24



Video Break: Part 1 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XlrC7nkmO3w>
Part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QO4PVgDbcE>

What we pulled:



Base cards: One full set of 90 cards plus nine duplicates

Black & White Holofoil parallel cards (1:2):
 (12 cards) -- #2 Martin Truex, #3 Kurt Busch, #10 Tony Stewart, #17 Kevin Harvick, #18 Jeff Burton, #22 Jimmie Johnson, #23 Michael Waltrip, #37 Ryan Newman, #43 Denny Hamlin, #44 Joe Nemechek, #46 Jimmie Johnson, and #56 Tony Stewart



Ecliptic Path (1:4): (6 cards) -- #EP1 Matt Kenseth, #EP5 Jimmie Johnson, #EP9 Carl Edwards, #EP11 Scott Speed, #EP14 Jamie McMurray, and #EP17 Greg Biffle

Solar System (1:12): (2 cards) -- #SS2 Carl Edwards and #SS5 Clint Bowyer

Solar Swatches (1:8) (3 cards) -- Waltrip (P) #ed/299, Edwards (S) #ed / 299, and Earnhardt, Jr (First A) #ed/?? (Dale Jr versions rumored to be limited to 25 or less)



Press Pass Autographs: Dave Gilliland

My review:

BASE CARDS:
 NCS Drivers: 1-30
 Orbital: 31-36
 Take Off: 37-45
 Lunar Mission: 46-57

Brightest Stars: 58-69
 Ground Control: 70-75
 Pathfinders: 76-84
 Stars Over NYC: 85-90



The base cards for the 2009 Eclipse set are made with sturdy cardboard and have black borders/black backgrounds. This is a significant difference from past Eclipse issues which were mostly white. All the base cards are based on an astronomy theme and most are very nice looking cards.



My overall opinion of 2009 Eclipse is that it is a fabulous product. If you don't want a product chocked full of Truck, Nationwide, and other lower series drivers, this product is for you as it is centered around the top stars of the NASCAR Sprint Cup series. If you're a base set collector, you can almost be certain that 95% or more of the time you will complete a base set with just one box. If you were ready for something different from eclipse, you got it this year. The white background and plain white bordered base cards were bypassed this year for the awesome looking astronomy theme black star-filled look. If you don't like too many different parallel cards, this product is for you as the only parallel set in the product is the black and white holofoil cards. We pulled all the advertised ratio of insert cards and memorabilia cards we were supposed to so overall, the product coalition gets a big A+ from me. I think maybe one more basic insert may have improved the product, but the two inserts offered are spectacular and should be easy to find if you like building insert sets. Although we didn't pull any super rare memorabilia cards or any Black Hole Instant Win cards, we did pull our prescribed amount of memorabilia cards. It's always fun to open a box knowing you are going to pull a minimum of three memorabilia cards and one autograph. The quality of the cards in this box was flawless with the exception of the Edwards Solar Swatches card due to the foil lettering defects. I have heard of other 2009 Eclipse boxes having defective insert cards, but we did not have that problem with this box. The only disadvantage of Eclipse I can find is the typical higher cost of a box. With the current economic times, it may be tough for some people to justify buying a second box if they don't get one of the "big hits". However, for the cost, I think most of the buyers will be happy with what they get for their money.

Final Ratings (Out of 5)

Base set: 4.5/5

Fun: 5/5

Overall design: 4.5/5

Value: 4.5/5

Re-buy: 4/5

Overall: 4.5/5.0

Please check out the Racing Forum for future contests for your chance to obtain the great memorabilia cards pulled in this box break.



MAY 2009



2008 Upper Deck Ultimate Collection Football

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma



First and foremost, I'd like to thank to the wonderful people at Upper Deck for providing us with this box.

Product Description

1 pack per box
4 cards per pack
SRP: \$89.99 - \$99.99

CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 1997 Lives!! Find one 1997 Legends Autograph Card updating the renowned 1997 Legends Set in EVERY case, on average!
- Eight to Nine (8-9) Autographs per case, including:
 - * Three to Four (3-4) Ultimate Rookie Signature Materials
 - * One 1997 Legends Update Autograph Card
- All Autographs are signed on the card!
- Look for single, and for the FIRST-TIME EVER dual, nickname or inscription signature cards!

PRODUCT BREAKDOWN

Autographed Memorabilia Cards:

- Ultimate Rookie Signature Materials (Tier 1) - # up to 99
- Ultimate Rookie Signature Materials (Tier 2) - # up to 375
- Ultimate Rookie Signature Materials Patch Parallels - # up to 15
- Ultimate Signature Jersey - # up to 45
- Ultimate Legendary Signature Jersey - # up to 25
- Ultimate Futures Signature Jersey - # up to 35
- Ultimate Dual Signature Jersey - # up to 45
- Ultimate Patch Autograph Parallel - # up to 25

Autograph Cards:

- | | |
|--|--|
| - 1997 Legends Autographs (1 per case) | - Ultimate Dual Inscriptions - # up to 25 - FIRST-TIME EVER! |
| - Ultimate Signatures - # up to 35 | - Ultimate Rookie Trio Signatures - # up to 35 |
| - Ultimate Legendary Signatures # up to 30 | - Ultimate Six Signatures - # to 6 |
| - Ultimate Dual Signatures - # up to 35 | - Ultimate Eight Signatures - # to 8 |
| - Ultimate Triple Signatures - # up to 35 | - Ultimate Numbers Signatures - # up to 85 |
| - Ultimate Quad Signatures - # up to 10 | - Ultimate Highlight Signatures - # up to 35 |
| - Ultimate Inscriptions - # up to 45 | - Ultimate Signature Plays - # up to 20 |
| - Ultimate Imagery Signatures - # up to 20 | - 1997 Legends Cut Signatures - # to 1 |



Memorabilia Cards:

- Ultimate Foursome Jersey - # up to 50
- Ultimate Foursome Jersey Parallel - # up to 15
- Ultimate Legendary Foursome Jersey - # up to 50
- Ultimate Legendary Foursome Jersey Parallel - # up to 15
- Ultimate Future Foursome Jersey - # up to 50
- Ultimate Future Foursome Jersey Parallel - # up to 25
- Ultimate Generations Jersey - # up to 50
- Ultimate Generations Jersey Parallel - # up to 25
- Ultimate Six Jersey - # up to 20
- Ultimate Foursome Patch - # up to 20
- Ultimate Legendary Foursome Patch - # up to 20
- Ultimate Future Foursome Patch - # up to 25
- Ultimate Generations Patch - # up to 20
- Ultimate Six Patch - # up to 15
- Ultimate Patch - # up to 40
- Ultimate Patch Parallel - # up to 15
- Ultimate Rookie Big Materials - # up to 40
- Ultimate Eight Jersey - # up to 10
- Ultimate Seasons - # up to 20
- Ultimate Seasons Patch - # up to 10

Regular Set and Inserts:

- Regular Cards - # up to 499
- Ultimate Legends - # up to 499
- Ultimate Rookies - # up to 499
- Ultimate Champions

VIDEO BREAK: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oncJdGtpXA0>

WHAT WE PULLED

Base: Kurt Warner (197/275)

Rookies: Mike Hart (082/275), Trevor Laws (109/275)

Hit: Philip Rivers/LaDainian Tomlinson/Drew Brees/Reggie Bush Quad Jersey (01/50)



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

Base set: 4.5/5

Fun: 4.5/5

Overall design: 4.5/5

Value: 3/5

Re-buy: 3.5/5

Overall: 20/25 (80%)

Closing Comments

Ultimate Collection is typically one of the premier high-end sets released by Upper Deck each year. However, they changed how they released the product this year. In previous years, box contained 4 packs with 4 cards each with 4 boxes per case. This year, it's 1 pack with cards per box and 15 boxes per case.

I can see the thought process behind making it 1 pack per box, as not everyone is willing to sell by the pack. However, shouldn't the case at least be equal to the amount of packs in previous years?

The base and rookies are nice. Higher end cards should be made on thicker card stock like Ultimate Collection. This helps aid in accidental damage occurring and the cards just look nicer. Also, the cards are serial numbered, which makes the sets a great chase option if one chooses to take on the challenge.

However, there's a huge lack in value due to only one hit per pack/box. While you could hit it big on one pack, the hit or miss aspect is not all that appealing. Though I'm sure economic times played a part in the change, I think Upper Deck slipped up on this one.

Once again, thanks to Upper Deck for providing us with this box and the opportunity to review it.





2009 Topps Heritage Baseball **By Charles Schmitt aka Chuck-17**

First, I'd like to thank our sponsor, Topps, for providing us with this box to review.

Product Description

24 packs/box
8 cards/pack
SRP: 79.99

Product Highlights

- 500 stars of today on the classic 1960 Topps Baseball design!
- On-card autographs and relics from 1960 legends and today's stars!
- One auto or Relic per box!
- Gum in every pack!

Content Breakdown

Base Cards

- Rookies, Veterans, Legends (425)
- Short Prints (75) - Inserted 1:3 packs.

Chrome Parallel Cards

- Black-Bordered (100) - Seq. #d to 60.
- Refractor (100) - Seq. #d to 560.
- Chrome (100) - Seq. #d to 1960.

Insert Cards - Insert 6 per box.

- New Age Performers (15)
- Then and Now (10)
- Flashbacks (10)
- News Flashbacks (10)

Autographed Cards - One autograph or relic per box.

- Real One (30+ subjects)
- Real One Special Edition - Red Ink (30+ subjects) - Hand numbered to 60.
- Real One Dual Autographs (10) - Hand numbered to 25. Hobby Exclusive
- Flashbacks (5) - Hand numbered to 25.
- 1960 Cut Signatures (10) - One of one.

Autographed Relic Cards (15)

- On autograph or relic card per box
- Clubhouse Collection Relics (10)
- Hand numbered to 25.
- Flashbacks Stadium Relics (5) - Hand numbered to 25.
- NEW! Clubhouse Collection Dual (5) - Hand numbered to 10. Hobby Exclusive.

Relic Cards - One autograph or relic per box.

- Clubhouse Collection (23)
- Clubhouse Collection Dual Relics (5)
- Hand numbered to 60.
- Flashbacks (10)
- Dual Flashbacks (5) - Hand numbered to 10.

Box Loader - Hobby Exclusive!

- Advertising Panels - Inserted 1 per box.



VIDEO BREAK: part 1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyKIX1LP_d8
 part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSYQhVqPWAc>

WHAT WE PULLED

Base - 168/425 39.5%

Dupes - 2

SPs - 11/75 14.7%



The base cards feature the same design as the 1960 Topps cards. The cards have a flat finish and have the same look and feel as their vintage counterpart. On the right side of each card is a head shot of the player and on the left a full body image. The rookie cards also feature the same Topps Magazine Rookie style used in 1960 Topps. Topps also included team cards as shown on the left.

The chrome Parallels use the same image as the base cards but they use the chrome front and are numbered out of 1960. The chrome refractors are numbered out of 560. Here are the ones we pulled.



Here are a few of the other inserts we pulled.



In each box of Topps has included an advertising panel as a box topper. We were also lucky enough to pull a 1960 Topps buyback card. It is an original 1960 Topps card that has been stamped with gold foil.

Final Ratings (Out of 5):

Base Set: 5

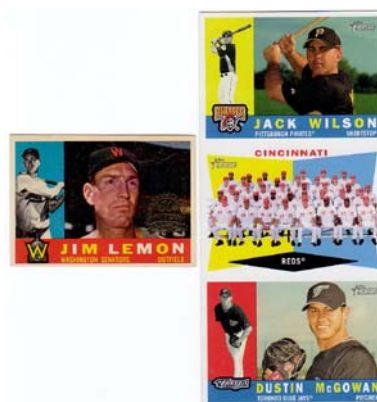
Fun: 4.5

Overall Design: 4.5

Value: 2

Rebuy: 2.5

Overall: 18.5/25 (74%)





Closing Comments

Topps has done a great job with keeping their 2009 Topps Heritage product in line with all of the past Heritage releases. The cards look and feel like the 1960 Topps set. They have a nice flat finish to them and Topps managed to capture a lot of the subtle characteristics of the 1960 set. The rookie cards even feature the Topps Rookie Magazine style and they included the team photo cards.

This is set designed for set collectors. The heritage set has always been a favorite of set builders. This year is no different. The base set is made up of 425 cards with cards 426-500 being SPs. The SPs were inserted at a rate of 1:3 so it makes the set challenging to complete but not impossible. Topps also included a few Super SPs. For more information on those click the link below to read the press release from Topps.

Super SP Press Release

One major complaint I have is that we did not pull a GU or autograph in this box. On the top of the box it says, "Look for a REAL ONE Autograph or Relic in every box". So it was disappointing to not get one. Another complaint I have about this product is with the 1960 Topps Buy Back cards. If Topps is going to go through the trouble of finding 1960 Topps cards and stamping them they should find ones that are in better condition. The Buy back card that we pulled has a large crease going through the top of the card.

Overall Heritage is a nice set and is a great one if you are a set builder or if you are a fan of vintage cards.

I would like to thank Topps for providing Sports Card Forum with this box and giving us the opportunity to review it.





2008-09 Topps T-51 Murad Basketball **By Arash Kassiri aka RenegadeLonghorn**



Special thanks to Topps for sending us their newest product to review!

Product Description

24 packs per box
6 cards per pack
MSRP: \$59.99-79.99

Product Highlights

2008/09 Topps T-51 Murad Basketball brings you back in time to 1910, featuring the Murad design from the first basketball cards which were created almost 100 years ago! These cards feature the best players in the NBA and offer unique mini silk and suede parallel cards! Each hobby box guarantees one autograph and one relic card!

EVERY 24-PACK HOBBY BOX CONTAINS:

- 1 Autographed Card
- 1 Relic Card
- 1 T-6 Cabinet Box Loader
- 4 Rookie Variations Cards
- 8 Short-Printed Cards
- 24 Mini-Parallel Cards

Content Breakdown

BASE CARDS

- Rookies(30)
- *Rookie Variations(20) - 4 per box.
- Veterans(170)
- Short-Prints(30) - 8 per box.

MURAD MINI PARALLEL CARDS - 24 PER BOX!

- Hobby Exclusive! Printing Plates(250 subs/1000 plates) - 1 of 1.
- Hobby Exclusive! Framed Suede(250) - 1 of 1.
- Framed Silk(250) - #'d to 25.
- Black Border(250) - 2 per box.
- Murad(250) - 1 per pack.

INSERT CARDS - 1 PER PACK!

- Action Cards(30)

FRAMED RELIC CARDS - 1 PER BOX!

- T-51(50)
- *Suede Parallel - 1 of 1
- *Silver Parallel - #'d to 10.
- *Black Parallel - #'d to 51.

FRAMED AUTOGRAPHED CARDS - 1 PER BOX!

- T-51(50)
- *Suede Parallel - 1 of 1
- *Silver Parallel - #'d to 10.
- *Black Parallel - #'d to 25.

CABINET CARD BOX LOADERS - 1 PER BOX!

- Hobby Exclusive! T-6(20)
- *Silver Parallel - #'d to 10.
- *Black Parallel - #'d to 51.

MURAD COUPONS

- Hobby Exclusive! Murad Coupons(51)



WHAT WE PULLED

Video break part 1 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLWV5dIDJ0w>

part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44Q2J21pP2U>

part 3 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAjegzEjSX0>

Reviewer note: I mistakenly said O.J. Mayo on a pull when it is Mike Conley.

Base: 76/200 (38%; 8 SP base; no duplicates)

Rookies: 20

Minis: 24 (including six rookies)

Checklists/Action cards: 21



Paul Pierce Cabinet Box Loader/Topper. Once you open the box, you are greeted towards this sealed box loader. We pulled a non-numbered version.

Base cards. Bill Russell (retired), Shawn Marion (veteran), and Kevin Durant (young star SP). Horizontal variations of Tony Parker and Kevin Garnett.



Rookie cards. D.J. Augustin, Eric Gordon, Russell Westbrook, and Kevin Love. The Love is a variation. Rookie Variations run four per box.

Mini parallels and action shot checklist cards. Mini cards fall per pack with numbered framed parallels randomly inserted. We pulled several different checklist cards. To form a checklist set, you need five cards. Minis here are Amare Stoudemire (veteran), Karl Malone (retired), and Eric Gordon (rookie).





Mike Conley Framed Mini Silk parallel (9/25).
Framed Minis can usually be found one per box.



Paul Pierce Framed Relic. We pulled a non-numbered version. One relic per box.



Michael Beasley Framed Autograph Rookie! We pulled a non-numbered version. One autograph per box.

Final Ratings (Out of 5):

Base set: 4/5

Fun: 4/5

Overall design: 4.5/5

Value: 4.5/5

Re-buy: 4/5

Overall: 21/25 (84%)

Topps goes for a vintage look with Topps T-51 Murad. The base design is very unique and artsy mixing an old look with new flavor. The result is a very impressive base design. The base set consists of 200 cards. 1-170 and 210-230. I believe 201-230 are SP base. The base set is also a mixture of veterans, young stars, and retired players. Player names are not located on the front of the card but at the back of the card, which also shows career stats and biography.

But, contradicting what Murad is all about is the checklist cards. We pulled 21, which was about one per pack. Checklists are thicker and so look to be fillers for the framed cards. Personally, some sort of other thick card insert set (maybe gold parallel?) could have been inserted instead.

There are 30 rookies in the set. Rookie variations can be identified with the flag in the background. We pulled twenty different rookie cards; three were variations. I believe variations can be identified by the horizontal design. We also pulled six rookie minis.

Clearly, the best card pulled in the box was the Michael Beasley Rookie Autograph. Value is unknown, but this is one of the best non-numbered autographs one can pull from this set. This is why we bust boxes...for the big hits. Other nice pulls were the Paul Pierce Relic and the Mike Conley insert numbered to /25. All three of these cards were framed. Framed design is very unique and offers collectors something different that we normally don't see in sets. My main complaint about the framed cards is the mini card inside the frame wasn't straight! The Beasley auto just doesn't look right since it's tilted inside the frame. What happened?

Overall, I enjoyed busting this box. It was a bit difficult to identify the player on the card without looking at the back for their name. This and checklists were my only complaints about this set.



Football Update By Jason DiOrazio aka jdio13

There are many exciting things going on in the world of football, which means the activity level and discussions in the Football Forum have never been better. We have many things going on in the Football Forum. In this issue, we will highlight some of those things, and we will also highlight the winner of eBay Steal of the Month Contest March 09.

First, let's start with the winner of eBay Steal of the Month Contest March '09. We had plenty of great entries, and the voting was close, but the winner ended up being Shawnthemon. Here is a scan of Shawn's win:



2008 Ultimate Foursome LaDainian Tomlinson/Reggie Bush/Larry Johnson/Ryan Grant quad patch #02/20 \$15.50 Delivered

All of us on the Football Team would like to send a big Congrats out to Shawn!! And just a reminder that we still are running the eBay Steal of the Month Contest's every month, so if you think you have a steal. Feel free to enter for a chance at winning some Card Cash.

Onto things going on in the Football Forum, every Monday at 7-9 PM EST in the Chat Room, it is Football Chat Night. It is a great place to come and chat with other football collectors, work out some trades, and chat about events going on in the football world. There are contests that give away CC and we are working on the possibility of giving away some cards. We are also planning many new contests for the upcoming NFL season. Feel free to come into the Football Forum and join some contests for the chance to win some cards or Card Cash.

From all of us in the Football Forum, we would like to thank you for reading this article and we hope to see you browsing the boards soon!!!



1/1s: Are They Truly one of a Kind?

By Brandon Boyds aka 6boyds



Is a 1/1 really a 1/1 if there's millions of variations of that one card? After all, this year's SPX football featured 1/1s of players that only differed in the information about them. If the card is supposed to be the only one out there, wouldn't you want something to be different about it from a distance? If I'm looking at a card of Calvin Johnson from a few feet away and I can't see a difference, that's bad. Honestly, I don't care that Calvin had "one rushing touchdown in 2007," or that Calvin was "drafted number two overall by the Lions in the 2007 NFL Draft." You either slap a nice logo patch and an autograph on that baby, or you go home. No ifs, ands, or buts. A 1/1 used to be something that was truly special. Now? In the case of the 2008 SPX cards, it simply tells a different fact. It's not just 2008 SPX cards though. There are many problems with 1/1s now, and card companies need to fix something. Here's a few ways

they can make 1/1s truly special.

A quick search on eBay leads me to many 1/1s. In fact, there are 914 listings under 1/1 in the NFL category. There's a plethora of players, including stars such as David Ball, Ben Obomanu, and Marcus Smith. Heard of them? Me neither. I'm sure they're not bad football players by any means, but why would I want one of their cards, whether it's a 1/1 or not? You can call the card whatever you want, but if they don't have a career regular season reception (like in the case of David Ball), I don't want their card. Where is David now? He signed with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on April 9th. The Hamilton Tiger Cats. Last time I checked, there was not a team in the NFL from Hamilton. I don't even know where Hamilton is. What I do know is that one thing card companies can do to make 1/1s feel more special is getting rid of the no-name players, and start featuring stars on the cards.

My next complaint with 1/1s is what they feature. No, not the players, we already talked about that. While glancing eBay, you can see several letterman 1/1s. The problem? These aren't game-worn letterman, nor are they even event-worn. They're manufactured letterman. That's right, they were made in some factory, far away from the action. Sure, in some cases, the players have touched the patch to sign it, but that's about it. If, however, you buy 2008 Topps Letterman, you get the added bonus of having a sticker placed right on top of the manufactured letter piece. That's right folks; the sticker is on top of the letter piece! It looks about as bad as it sounds, trust me. Don't search for these cards; looking at them has been known to cause permanent sight loss. OK, that's a lie, but they're pretty ugly. My point is, we as buyers don't want manufactured letters, nor do we want ugly looking cards.

These are just a few ways companies like Upper Deck and Topps can go about making the 1/1 feel truly special again. I've never pulled a 1/1, but if I do, I want to feel like I hit the lottery. I want to feel like it's my birthday, I'm celebrating, and I find out that Megan Fox is on the phone wanting to talk to me. Thing is, if I pull a 1/1, I want to know exactly who the player is. I want to see something that stands out about the card, whether it's a patch, autograph, or cool design. I also want the card to feature pieces that the players have actually touched, whether it came from a game or from an event such as the rookie premiere. Finally, I want the card to be appealing to the eye. If it's 1/1, it's got to be spectacular in all aspects. If it's 1/1, it has to feel like it's the only card in the world that's this special. Now, if you'll excuse me, Megan Fox is on line one.



Pay it Forward

By Ricky Sigai aka rickysigai



This is an awesome tale about how cool the football collecting world can be. I was just featured in the March 2009 issue of Beckett Sports Card Monthly. They have a special section for hardcore collectors called Super Collector. I collect each and every thing Ed Reed. I have been collecting him since 2002 his rookie year and haven't stopped since. I really enjoy collection defensive players even though they aren't as popular as Manning, Brady, Tomlinson or the new hot rookies.

Reed can change a game in a second as he proved in the playoffs this year. It was nice to see him finally get the respect he was due. My collection is made up of 378 total cards (14 autographs, 80 game used and patches, 12 1/1s, 52 cards numbered to 25 or less, autographed Pro Bowl jersey, an autographed Pro Bowl mini helmet, four autographed 8x10s and a custom autographed McFarlane). As of now I have 95% of every card ever made. I collect it all. What I'm missing is pretty much 1/1s, a few low numbered inserts and game-used. At the end of the article I asked if anyone had anything Ed Reed and to please email me at edreedcollector@gmail.com if they did. I got a few emails from guys telling me how cool it was to be in the magazine, how awesome my collection was, and wondering if any of my Reeds were for trade as well as people wanting to trade me their Reeds. Then I got an email asking for my address. I gave it to what I thought was a grown man at the time. Well a week went by and I got a package in the mail. It wasn't from a trade or anything I had bought off eBay. So I opened it up to find three Ed Reed cards. Topps Total, Upper Deck, and a Sports Illustrated For Kids. I didn't even know Reed had a 2008 Sports Illustrated For Kids so I was happy I had a new card to add to the collection. Then I saw a note in the bubble mailer. The package was from an eleven-year-old boy! He said he was sorry the cards were a little beat up and hoped I could use them. He even drew a little Ravens bird head!

I do a lot of trading and posting on Sports Card Form so I made a post telling the guys what just happened. I scanned what he sent me and the letter. Just talked about how brilliant it was for an eleven year old to do this. I was still shocked it happened and how thoughtful he was. I made a statement that I was going to send him some stuff back. The floodgates opened. My private message box was stuffed with people wanting to help out. I emailed him back and asked who was his favorite player or team. He wrote me back in a few days and told me. I wrote to everyone who contacted me and posted in the thread back with my address, what he collected and said whatever you can give I'm sure he'll love it. The outpouring was amazing! I got a ton of packages with base, rookies, inserts, game-used, patches, autos, auto patches and even an autographed mini helmet! I threw in a hat; cards and some other stuff packed it all in a big box and off it went. I haven't heard if he gotten it yet, but I talked to his mom via email and told her to please let me know. I know it's going to knock his socks off and hope it makes his day. It is just a great story of how wonderful this hobby can be. How people can come together for a good cause and help what will be the next generation of collectors out.

P.S- if you have any Ed Reed please email edreedcollector@gmail.com

MAY 2009



Hockey Update

By Scott Kozlowski aka scottkoz20



So are you ready for the 2009-10 Season? If not, maybe this will get you excited. One lucky member will have the opportunity to win this card from Sports Card Forum during the 2009-10 Season

That's right, 1 member is going to win the Gretzky/Howe/Orr/Lemieux Quadagraph recently give out at the Hawaii Trade Conference. The Hockey team, as well as the rest of the SCF is planning various contests and ways members will have a chance to win this beauty.

An announcement will be made on how this card is going to be given away will be determined by May 1 (after publishing of this article). So please check out the Hockey Forums for an announcement. Also, current SCF staff will not be

eligible to win this card

Weekly Show and Tell Contest

Showcase your card according to a pre-selected theme. Post a picture/scan, with your handwritten user ID next to the card. A card can only be entered into one weekly contest. Members will then vote on which card is the best of the theme. Each week's winner will earn 50 CC. Standings will be kept, so at the end of 30 weeks, whoever has won the most "card of the week" titles, will win a 2005-06 Bee Hive Signature Scrapbook Autograph Tony Esposito (50BV).



Recent Past Winners include MI5 during week 24 for the best 'In the Game' card, Oilersforever during week 25 for Best 'The Cup' card and SkidSTL for the best 1/1 card during week 26

Case Breaks

During the month of May, Enigma will be hosting a Case Break of 2008-09 Ultimate Collection Hockey. While all the spots have been filled for this case break, upcoming cases will be conducted for 2008-09 OPC Premier and later in the summer for The Cup.

Please check out the Hockey Breaks and Pack Sales forums for discussions and/or announcements of Case Breaks.

NHL Guess the Score

Even though the regular season has come to a close, Rogulon will still be picking several NHL games throughout the playoffs. Just post the correct winning team and the closest score to win (scores are on a first-come, first-served basis with no score duplications). Winners will win SCF card cash.



How Memorabilia Cards Should Be Made By Kevin Petitpas aka Inferno



When memorabilia cards first hit the scene around ten years ago they were an instant hit. If you were lucky enough to pull one of the first game-used jersey cards you won the lottery, the cards were extremely tough to pull and collectors paid top dollar to score a swatch of a jersey from their favorite players.

Fast forward to the hobby of today: memorabilia cards are everywhere, products like Upper Deck SP Game Used have overwhelmingly saturated the market with thousands of jersey cards of common players. Bargain bins are full of cheap cards that dealers can't get rid of and most would be lucky to get \$0.99 on eBay. The appeal of the game-used card is nowhere near what it was when the first jersey cards hit in the mid-90s. With these cards flooding on to the market is the concept dying? Not if ITG has anything to say about it.

Memorabilia cards have always been ITG's specialty, and the controversial decision to cut up the only known pair of George Vezina game-used pads in existence proved just how committed the folks at ITG are to providing the best memorabilia possible for collectors. While Upper Deck is pumping out the same old stuff, ITG is coming up with new concepts to continually improve the role of memorabilia cards in the hobby.

I am primarily an autograph collector, but recently I have found myself hunting memorabilia cards of the goaltender Vladislav Tretiak. For these PC cards I turn to ITG, as they are the only company who creates game-used cards of the legendary Russian. When I saw Tretiak was on the checklist for the Super-Sized Pads insert set in the new 2008/09 Between The Pipes I knew I would have to get my hands on one. Thanks to an exceptional seller on eBay I did:

This card is absolutely stunning. I adore the look and feel of the worn vintage leather, and the seam near the top is a nice touch as well. This could very well be the nicest memorabilia card I will ever own, ITG has certainly outdone themselves by putting such large swatches of memorabilia into cards for the enjoyment of collectors. This card alone has rekindled my love for memorabilia cards and the sentimental value of this card to me is beyond comprehension.

During a live chat session on another hobby site I personally asked Dr. Brian Price of ITG if it was a tough decision to cut such large pieces of vintage memorabilia, leaving less available for future products. His response was simply: "We have had some of those pads forever, I felt it was time to give the collectors bigger swatches." He also mentioned that he wanted to include George Vezina in the set, but unfortunately there wasn't enough pad material left to make it happen. This commitment to providing the best memorabilia cards possible has impressed me to no end.

Take notes Upper Deck, this is how memorabilia cards should be done!



The Right Pickups Before the Playoffs **By Linda Mankefors aka Razzamaztaz**

With the playoffs approaching now is the time to buy if you belong to those who want to make a little cash for your hobby, or simply pick up a player cheaper than in two months.

The simple and obvious choices can be made by anyone. Malkin, Crosby, Ovechkin, and a bunch of Red Wings can be expected to hit new soaring heights, but they're kind of boring choices aren't they? Ovechkin or Malkin will likely wander off with the Hart as well, so it's a good pickup, but if you're the more daring kind, even brave, you should look elsewhere! Each playoffs there is always one surprise, it was the mule last year, but this year we could end up with a whole pile of surprises.

Now here are the real and exciting long shots:

Chicago, Columbus, and Boston



If, all of them are in the playoffs that is (I recommend waiting a few days and make sure of that first). Of those three teams Columbus is the most exciting of all. They have a future Vezina winner goalie and a sure fire Calder winner in Steve Mason. They have young Filatov, which will not be a new Malkin or Ovechkin but for sure a new Semin. Brassard is down and out, but most of all, they have Rick Nash.

Poor Rick. Had he played on almost any other team he would have been loved to death. He's Canadian. His name is catchy. He scores in tons (imagine him with a proper backup!). And he's nice. What could go wrong? He ended up in Columbus that's what.

Take a look at his Young Guns rookie, it has already started making some waves and almost sells for full value. If, if, if Columbus would perform a miracle (I say miracle, this is a playoff virgin team, and those always gets overwhelmed) and pass the first round, you are a very lucky person if you sit with a real nice Nash rookie. Preferably his Premier RC but they're not easily found, so I would choose his Young Guns or SP Authentic.

Steve Mason. I'd pick him up now even if Columbus makes a fast exit, he's bound to get the Calder. He's everything Carey Price isn't. It's a shame for him Carey doesn't play in Columbus and Steve in Montreal. Grab an SP Authentic Future watch RC that was just released.

Don't expect any Columbus success to last long though, their exit will happen before the finals.

Boston then? They already have attention; Boston's fans are intense ones. But nonetheless the Krejci fire has cooled off a bit, pick up any Kessel and Krejci now. Boston just may stay around until June (even if I personally don't believe it).



Chicago. Exciting young hungry team! Also got the attention for a year, but have cooled off. If they survive round one watch eBay explode with “bid-happy-crazies” who think they’ve seen the new Messiah in Toews and Kane. Toews especially will be surrounded by love. Buy Kane and Toews, and even Versteeg, they are relatively cheap at the moment, and Chicago could be the surprise team in the West.

Discounting my own personal interest and favorite teams - For the hobby AND the sport, the best final of all would be Boston-Chicago. Two old Original Six teams with an old rivalry. Two teams with a big loyal fan base. Two big cities. Two teams with great young talent. It would be great for the hobby, and the NHL. If that happens in June and you’ve picked up a hot Krejci rookie and one or two Kane/Toews rookies, thank me.





Pack Searchers: Helping or Hurting the Hobby?

By Stephen Duell aka Spuds1961



First off let me start by saying I'm 47 years old and have been collecting for a while. I have never engaged in this new card craze known as pack searching nor do I condone it. Where to begin? Let's start off with the retail stores Target, Walmart, Meijers, Toys R Us and little outlets such as Fred's and Rite Aid. It doesn't take a genius to spot a pack searcher as they will be the one's at the card section for over 2 hours with all the packs being felt up and scattered. This is an annoyance to us real collectors who want to buy packs at the retail outlet for a cheap pack break. It's not so much that we know the GU or auto will most likely be

gone, but the fact we have to search for the brand we are looking for to complete our sets.

Hot packs on eBay are the result of pack searching. Although there are other methods to guarantee an auto or GU, such as resealing the pack or buying a hobby box and opening every other pack out of the 24 without getting the hit yet. Therefore you could say that pack would have an auto or GU. These packs usually sell for a decent price on eBay, which only fuels the fire. Playing devil's advocate if you want to spend less money than buying a whole box and want a GU this might be the way to go, as long as you know you will most likely get a 5.00 GU or an autograph of a guy who rides the pine, With that being said I have seen the rare hot pack break that does have a decent card.

How to go about stopping pack searching? Some people say the stores should police their card sections better while other people say the blame lies within the card companies themselves. I would like to see the retail outlets have the cards inside a glass cabinet that would have to be unlocked by an employee who works in the card section. That way you would have someone there to make sure the potential buyer is not feeling up the packs or damaging them. I also know this would cost the retail outlet some sales but it would also cut down on the theft factor. If retail outlets do not curtail this problem of pack searching and theft we may see them stop selling cards altogether.

The card companies responsibility and how they can help

How hard can they invent a foolproof pack that cannot be searched? Yes these companies have decoy cards but if someone were to weigh the packs they could still tell the insert apart from the decoy. I would like to see something like a pack inside a pack where there is an outer casing and then the inside pack, or if some of you collectors remember the Donruss Preferred cards that came in a metal tin. It might not be cost efficient in the short run, but in the long run if I or anyone else that collects knew the odds were even for everyone sales might actually go up. With that being said I would also like to see people police the hot pack issue on eBay themselves, remember if it looks too good to be true it usually is. In closing may everyone's box and pack breaks be lucky one's!



TTM Autographs: What is their Value

By Mike Green aka indyreds

I started a thread the other day in the Autograph Central Section of Sports Card Forum asking what the value of a TTM autograph is. The posts reflected that through the mail (TTM) and in person (IP) collectors are not all that concerned with the monetary value of their collection. This might be a real shock to the rest of the sports card collecting community and even more so to the sports stars who do not like to sign as they say their items just end up on eBay. I was glad to see a member actually discuss the monetary value of uncertified autographs.

“TTM and in person autos have the tendency to sell very low on eBay though. An uncertified auto of a star player can be had for 3-4 dollars and even a player like Pujols can be had for around 20 bucks. Any player who thinks twice about signing a card because it might end up on eBay needs to rethink their logic. Waiting around for hours trying to nab an auto just to sell it for 5 bucks on eBay doesn't make any sense at all.” - Go Sox

We have established that you are not going to retire by collecting and selling uncertified autographs, so why does it have such a large collector base? A few other members in the same thread explained the possible answers to this question better. It also goes to give a better understanding as to why we still have people who collect this way. Here are a few highlights.

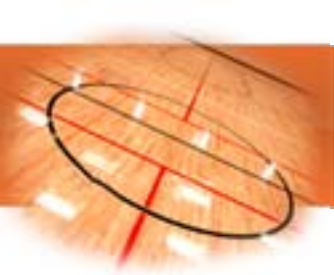
“For me, the value is all in my head and heart. Not in my wallet.” - Rockiesfan33

“The value in my collection is sentimentality. Every autograph that I've gotten via email is special to me, as these athletes and celebrities have taken time out of their important lives to sign, personalize, and mail something back to me.” - demonpower55

The experience of getting IP autographs has always been amazing. The stories of the event can sometimes be brilliant and the autograph becomes a way to remember that day when you met that person and the events of the day. You will find that any IP collection will have items that the owner will never part with. This is a portion of a post in the thread about a member and his Ken Griffey Jr. item.

“I saw him in my town, bought a crappy logo ball and got him to sign it. Its faded, smudged, and bleeding but its mine and I would never want to sell it. I have a certified that my uncle got me and its looks beautiful in its case with a piece of paper from company xxx saying its real and such, but it will never mean as much as the one I got when I was 11 IN PERSON!!! “ - propete23

These autograph collections are as varied as the collectors who build them. The value to the collector can be greater than it will ever be in the open market. The interesting part is that most of these collectors do not care at all about the value, as they will never sell their collections. It is nice to know that there is still a portion of this hobby we all share that is not driven by book value, speculation and greed! It is about the two quick minutes you talk with a player when he signs your item and the time you spent with other collectors waiting for that moment. Value does not matter. You will never see a TTM/IP price guide, as the price does not matter at all. The value of a TTM autograph can only be determined by the person who collected it.



Basketball Update

By Nathan Loewy aka garnett21

This past NBA season was a very competitive season. We saw three teams win at least 60 games, and a fourth team win 59 games. Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade led the NBA in scoring for the 2008-09 season by averaging 30.2 points per game, leading his team to the fifth seed in the East, and achieving 43 wins, which is 28 more victories than they got last season. Dwight Howard led the league in rebounds with 13.9 per game, and in blocks with 2.9 per game, leading the Magic to a division title and the third seed in the East. Chris Paul led the league in assists with 11.0 per game, and in steals with 2.8 per game. Chris became only the second player to lead the NBA in both of those categories in the same season twice, and became the first player to do it in consecutive seasons. Chris led his team to the seventh seed in the Western conference, despite injuries to most of their players at one time or another during the course of the season.

The Cleveland Cavaliers, led by LeBron James, and newcomer Mo Williams, set a franchise record with 66 victories as they clinched the number one seed in the east, and home court advantage throughout the playoffs. They came one victory shy of tying the best home record of any team in the history of the NBA. The 1985-86 Boston Celtics won 40 of their 41 home games, and this season's Cavaliers had won 39 of their first 40 games. They lost their final home game of the year, but most of their starters did not play in the game, most likely contributing to the loss.

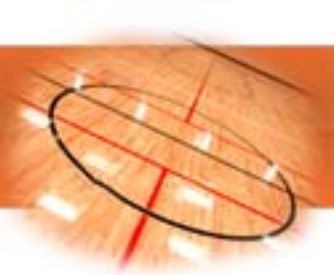
A few of the NBA regular season awards have been announced - Cavaliers head coach Mike Brown won coach of the year, Dwight Howard won defensive player of the year, and Derrick Rose won rookie of the year! 6th man of the year and MVP have yet to be announced at the time of writing this article.

With the playoffs starting last month, our daily, season-long, contests moved into playoff mode. Only those who qualified during the regular season were permitted to play for the card prizes. The following members qualified for each contest:

Pick 'Em: adam334581; allstar; bgggg2001; Christianfriend; dwighthoward; garnett_21; Hoopsman; Idiot83; jdlee123; joe_johnson_hawks; JesRey; key2win; kobe080; mrnyceguy168; nbafan123; PPPanthersGM; RenegadeLonghorn; Showdown; trevor121; underdawg

Top Performers: allstar; garnett_21; gladdyontherise; JesRey; joe johnson hawks; key2win; kobe080; PPPanthersGM; Showdown; underdawg

The playoffs are a bit different than the regular season - after each round of the playoffs, the member, or members, with the lowest amount of points is eliminated from the contest. By the end of the playoffs, whoever of the remaining contestants has the most point will win the first place prize! Be sure to stop by the basketball contests forum to see how all the participants are holding up!



Current standings are as follows:

Pick 'Em (as of 4/24):

Hoopsman- 14	key2win- 12
Showdown- 14	underdawg- 12
dwighthoward- 13	nbafan123- 11
Idiot83- 13	RenegadeLonghorn- 11
jdlee123-13	allstar- 10
kobe080- 13	bgggg2001- 10
adam334551- 12	PPPanthersGM- 10
garnett_21- 12	trevorp121- 8
JesRey- 12	Christianfriend
	joe_johnson_hawks
	mrnyceguy168

Top Performers (as of 4/22):

gladdyontherise ~ 7
 kobe080 ~ 7
 garnett_21 ~ 6
 PPPanthersGM ~ 6
 JesRey ~ 6
 key2win ~ 6
 underdawg ~ 5
 allstar ~ 5
 Showdown ~ 5

We would also like to congratulate all the participants for making this contest fun and exciting for all!

Congratulations go out to the University of North Carolina Tar Heels and their fans on their NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament win. They defeated Michigan State 89-72 to capture their 5th NCAA title. Junior guard Wayne Ellington captured the Most Outstanding Player award, and led all scorers throughout the NCAA tournament with 115 points.

Basketball Theme Weeks are still going strong! We have had 8 full weeks of entries thus far, and every week has seen a different winner! Themes that have been run so far include "Non-Jersey Memorabilia", in which XxViSiOnxX won with a Carmelo Anthony Jacket/Ball card, and "Least Deserved Praise", in which nbacardDOTnet won with a Harold Minor RC, where he is compared to Michael Jordan. Make sure you stop often, as there is a new theme weekly, enter your cards, and vote on the best of the bunch!

Basketball Chat Night takes place every Thursday night from 8 PM EDT until 10 PM EDT in Live Chat. It has been fairly successful so far, but we have not been able to surpass 20 members at one time yet. We have had 19 members in chat multiple times, but 20, the magic number seems to elude us. Be sure to stop by each week for live trading, NBA chat, and contests for CC and sometimes cards!

As always, we appreciate that you are taking the time to read this article! If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about anything in this article, please do not hesitate to PM garnett_21. Again, thank you for taking some time to read this.



Featured Collection By Nathan Loewy aka garnett21



This month, for our Basketball Collection of the Month, we are showcasing sch1tz0fr3nik's Dennis Rodman collection!

Collecting the Worm!

Ah the life of a Dennis Rodman collector, it's a tough one, but a rewarding one. Unlike a lot of collectors, I don't focus on the high-end, autographs, or game-used. Collecting all the base and inserts has proven to be enough of a reward for me. Although, it does make trading or buying for what I need difficult, as not everyone is willing to go through their boxes and find the few random 90s base I still need (but for those that do, I greatly appreciate it). I guess this personal collection quest started way back in the early 90s while Rodman was still playing with the

Detroit Pistons. I admired his full out style of play, throwing his body on the line for every rebound and every play. He never lost that emotion while he played! My eventual goal will be to pick up every obtainable card I possibly can of Rodman

Tough quest, but I feel SCF is a great way to help my search!

My Collection currently stands at 451 total cards, 13 of which are Certified Autos, and 12 are game used/patches. I do have some oddball pieces in my collection, such as a random game card from 1988, a 1991 SLU (Rookie), Highland Mint Gold coins, jerseys, posters and various Bleachers Gold Cards. Some of the best looking, and shiny, cards are his 90s inserts. My favorite would have to be the 1997-98 Bowman's Best Atomic Refractor #91/100 that I pulled from a pack years ago!



I try to keep every single card of Rodman I own scanned and organized in my Photobucket to show off, and for reference reasons. Feel free to check it out or contact me if you have any Rodman card I may not have!



This month, we didn't have too many entries to pick from to show off in our monthly Basketball Showcase, but that doesn't mean the cards weren't nice! If you would like to show off your card, and possibly be featured in this magazine, stop by the Basketball Show and Tell forum and look for the "Basketball Showcase" thread!

Card: 2008-09 SP Authentic Brandon Rush GU patch/auto #d/299
Member: tarheelsnipe
Pulled From: 1 box of 08-09 SP Authentic



Card: 2007-08 Topps Trademark Moves Magic Johnson/Larry Bird/Isiah Thomas Triple Auto #d/39



Member: NickRadz23
Pulled From: 1 box of 07-08 Topps Trademark Moves;
first ever hobby box

Card: 2008-09 Topps Signature Dennis Rodman autograph
Member: dauber01
Pulled From: 1 box of 08-09 Topps Signature



Card: 2008-09 Topps Signature Rodney Stuckey SP auto #d 3/450 (his uniform number)
Member: devilshockey1967
Pulled From: unknown





The Exquisite Level By Julian Martinez aka illadef5



Last time, I wrote about the players that have no business being in Exquisite. While I'm not a fan of the brand, I do realize the cachet it carries. With many collectors anticipating this upcoming release of Exquisite to be Upper Deck's last stand, here is a dream checklist of players that need to be in Exquisite. Assuming they haven't finalized anything, Upper Deck needs to do everything in their power to get every player in this set on at

least one insert.

Every player on this list has been debated on in various message boards and card shops across the world: what makes a player Exquisite-worthy? In the same way that fans argue about players that do and don't deserve to be in the hall of fame based on credentials and impact on the game, collectors should judge players' Exquisite Level worthiness based on their hobby credentials. Like with any hall of fame, there are your no-brainers (Jordan, Russell, Magic, Bird, Oscar Robertson, LeBron, Kobe), your locks (Jerry West, Cousy, Stockton, David Robinson, Carmelo, Kevin Durant, Dwight Howard), your unexpected picks because of their unwillingness to sign (Karl Malone and Scottie Pippen), your "obligated to bring them in because they're new" (rookies and second year players) and your borderline candidates. And this is where it gets interesting and fun.

For those players who are on the borderline, being a great player is only half the battle. On top of that, they also need to have shown that they are big sellers among collectors across the world. For this final Exquisite, every card pulled has to "wow" you, both in his selection to the set and his market value. As an example, let's use Joe Johnson and Penny Hardaway and there was only one spot left. You could argue the merits of both players and even come out with the conclusion that Johnson will finish with better career numbers than Penny. But at the end of the day, Penny's popularity in the 90s, coupled with the still-huge demand of his cards, overwhelms anything Johnson has accomplished up to this point. Conversely, if it came down to Darius Miles and Josh Smith, you would have to go with Smith. Even though Miles during his peak was one of the most recognizable and hyped players of the earlier part of the 21st century, Smith has formed a solid hobby following that has overshadowed everything Miles has done.

Thankfully we don't have to worry about things like set size. We can leave that to Upper Deck. And now, your (hopefully) autograph list for 2008-09 Exquisite.

Stars (current and retired) expected to be there:

All 2008-09 rookies and sophomores (this is a given if you look at previous releases, so don't bother asking why I didn't include Kevin Durant and Derrick Rose), Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, Bill Russell, LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Carmelo Anthony, Chris Paul, Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, Ray Allen, Jerry West, Isiah Thomas, Hakeem Olajuwon, David Robinson, John Stockton, Brandon Roy, Yao Ming, Tracy McGrady, Chris Bosh, Vince Carter, Cylyde Drexler, Amar'e Stoudemire, Steve



Nash, Dwight Howard, Jason Kidd, Deron Williams, Walt Frazier, John Havlicek, Robert Parish, Bill Walton, Rick Barry, Elgin Baylor, Dennis Rodman, James Worthy, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, George Gervin, Julius Erving, Gary Payton, Chris Mullin, Byron Scott, Darryl Dawkins, Alonzo Mourning

The next tier of stars rounding out the checklist:

Danny Granger, Baron Davis, Andrew Bynum, Andre Iguodala, Josh Smith, Al Jefferson, Monta Ellis, Rajon Rondo, Caron Butler, Chauncey Billups, Richard Hamilton, Pau Gasol, Rudy Gay, Tony Parker

Now here's where it gets interesting...

Locked up by Topps so there's no chance:

Shaquille O'Neal, Tim Duncan, Greg Oden, Dwayne Wade, Gilbert Arenas, Allen Iverson

Sure would be nice, but don't count on it:

Earl Monroe, Bob Cousy, Scottie Pippen, Larry Johnson, Shawn Kemp, Penny Hardaway, Grant Hill, Rasheed Wallace, Stephen Jackson, Kevin McHale, Wilt Chamberlain (cut auto), Pete Maravich (cut auto), Drazen Petrovic (cut auto), Oscar Robertson, Red Auerbach (cut auto), Joe Dumars, Dominique Wilkins, George Mikan (cut auto), Len Bias (cut auto), Mitch Richmond, Dirk Nowitzki, Charles Barkley, Manu Ginobili, Karl Malone, Grant Hill, Rasheed Wallace, Chris Webber, Patrick Ewing Sr., Reggie Miller

Borderline (would you be happy pulling these guys in Exquisite?):

David West, Dikembe Mutombo, David Lee, Nate Robinson, Elton Brand, Lamar Odom, Devin Harris, Kevin Martin, LaMarcus Aldridge, Antawn Jamison, Jameer Nelson, Josh Howard, Ron Artest, Michael Redd, Joe Johnson, Emeka Okafor, Gerald Wallace, Carlos Boozer, Andrei Kirilenko, Mehmet Okur

Let's hope this starts a debate and Upper Deck listens to what the fans want. If you feel there are players I missed or those who are undeserving, leave a message in the comments section. Whether Upper Deck goes out with a one last shining moment or with a UCLA-esque whimper (yeah, I said it, Bruins fans), we will have four years to talk about the good old days when packs were worth \$500 and Alonzo Mourning cards topped a thousand dollars. Yeah, bring on the sandwiches...

Special thanks to everybody who contributed in building this list, whether it was on SCF or otherwise.



SCF Racing Cards of the Month

By Darin Heitzer aka JKC



1.) 2009 Press Pass Eclipse Black Hole Instant Winner [Carl Edwards Solar Swatches 1/1 Set] (shown by pa43fan; 11 votes)



2.) 2009 Press Pass Four Wide Tire FWDR David Ragan (06/25) (shown by crmoore83; 6 votes)



3.) 2009 Press Pass Four Wide Firesuit FWKB Kyle Busch (10/50) (shown by pa43fan; 3 votes)



4.) 2005 Press Pass Optima Previews EB50 Carl Edwards (1/1) (shown by race crazy; 1 vote)



--.) 2006 Press Pass Burning Rubber Autographs BRCE Carl Edwards (01/99) (shown by race crazy; 1 vote)

New Members' Corner
By Leo Zuperku aka lzuperku

Here are the links to our contests:

Baseball

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=756299>

Heres what you could win

First Place ---500 card cash

Second Place ---250 Card cash

New Members !!!

If you have a question or problem, don't forget to "ASK LEO"
This is located in the sticky section of the MEET & GREET Forum

Welcome to our newest moderators in training:

endsbergcollector

tutall

Herdsmen87

As always if you wish to join our new member team, don't hesitate to PM Nascards



Set Collecting: My Advice

By Kevin Petitpas aka Inferno



Being somewhat new to collecting in general, I have especially learned a lot about set collecting lately. Here are several things to consider for anybody who is thinking about attempting an autograph set for the first time:

1) How Many Cards Are In The Set?

Some autograph sets may contain around thirty cards, while others could have as many as ninety or more on the checklist. Obviously the larger the set the tougher it will be to get all the cards, but on the positive side many of them will most likely be lower-tier players used to round out the checklist and thus should be easier and more affordable to acquire.

2) How Strong Is The Checklist?

Every set is bound to have superstar players on the checklist, but some may have more than others so make sure to review the list and decide if you would like to attempt a top-heavy set or maybe go for something more balanced. You need to like the players you are about to collect, so don't take on a set just for a handful of players.

3) Is The Set Serial-Numbered?

This is a strong factor to consider, and will make a big difference as to how you go about collecting your set. Sets that are not serial numbered usually have varying print runs, and there is no way of knowing how many of each card exist unless you are lucky enough to get numbers from the manufacturer. Some may be very common, and others extremely limited, so be prepared to chase down cards with very few copies in circulation. If you do choose a serial-numbered set you can pace yourself, knowing that there should be a given number of cards out there and you are bound to come across more as the set progresses. Some sets may be numbered to 100 copies or more, some may be a bit more limited, but make sure to choose one with a fair number of cards so you know there will be plenty of options.

4) Stay Within Your Budget

High-end products often result in high-end prices and more limited print runs, so don't take on such sets if you are not willing to spend the money needed to get the cards. Do some market research beforehand and find out which sets fit your price range.

5) Is The Set From An Established Product?

Flagship sets like SP Authentic Sign of The Times and Ultimate Signatures tend to attract a larger following than more obscure sets. You will have competition for mostly any set, but make sure you know what you are getting into if you decide to do a set that has a reputation for being popular.

6) Start Early

If you know a product is about to be released with a set you would really like to attempt it is best to start collecting it early while the initial rush is on. Dealers will break large amounts of new products



and you will see the market flooded with new cards, give it a couple of weeks to let prices level out then start picking up as many as you can. Waiting too late can come back to bite you especially once people realize what the short-print cards are and by then it's too late to find them.



7) Know Your Checklist

When a product launches there is a large saturation of cards on the market, and it's easy for unlisted cards to slip through the cracks. If a checklist is available before release get to know it, the more you know about the cards in the set the more likely it is you will pick out any unlisted ones and get them for lower prices.

8) Know Your Short-Prints

This isn't always easy to do, especially if you start collecting the set soon after it's release. Sometimes the company will volunteer short-print information, other times it will not. The best thing to do when no short-print information is available is to keep a very close eye on the market and flag any cards that seem less common than others. If you see a dozen copies of many cards and only one of another then it could potentially be a short-print and may be wise to grab while you can. The common ones can wait, you may not have a chance at many others for a long time after the rush is over. By the time price guides release their listings and you realize some cards are too scarce to be priced it may be too late and other collectors will be on to it too. You can also use recent history as a means to guess which cards are short-prints. If a player doesn't sign much to begin with or is a short-print in other sets it stands to reason he may be a short-print in your set as well. Young players tend to sign as many cards as they can because the extra money is tempting to them, but veteran or retired players who have already made their livings may not feel it is worth it to sit down and sign hundreds of cards or stickers. As a general rule of thumb it is best to assume that retired, veteran, or superstar players will have signed less cards than young or current stars.

9) Cooperation Goes A Long Way

It never hurts to form some alliances when collecting in any form, set collecting is no different. Find other people who collect the same set as you and get to know them, you could be surprised how much you could help each other. Collectors working together can make life a whole lot easier, and also save both sides money by avoiding bidding wars when you both want the same card. Offer to take turns picking up cards, and help each other find cards the other still needs.

10) Keep Looking!

You need to spend a fair amount of time searching for the cards you need, especially when it comes to eBay. You never know when a card you need may appear and be snatched up by someone else without you ever knowing. Do advanced searches, search item title and description, search by player name, search by set name, basically search for anything related to your set as some listings may not be as clearly defined as others. For example, when searching for my Puck Signings I will do a search for



"puck auto", this could (and has) turned up vague listings that I would not have found by simply searching "Sweet Shot Puck Signings". The broader you search the more likely it is you'll catch hidden listings, and you'll also have the advantage of limited exposure for competitors as well. Besides searching eBay you can also do Photobucket searches, which is a good way of finding other people with cards available that may not be on eBay. The downside to searching Photobucket is you can not contact the account holders directly, so unless the username on the account matches a member on a site like Sports Card Forum or an eBay member you may not be able to reach that person. It also doesn't hurt to continuously call out for the cards you need on as many trade sites as you can find, to reach as many collectors as possible.



11) Use Snipes

I strongly recommend signing up for an eBay sniping service such as SmartSnipe.com. Basically what these services do is use your eBay account to bid on your behalf seconds before a listing ends. The benefit to bidding so close to the end of the auction is the fact that other bidders don't have time to react and counter-bid. Say there is a card listed and somebody bids \$5, you are willing to pay up to \$15 for the card so you set your sniping service to bid \$15 for you right before the auction ends. Since you didn't place a bid during the auction the other bidder thinks he may be the only one after the card so he would be less inclined to raise his bid. By the time he sees your last-second bid of \$15 it is too late for him to outbid you. While this method still depends on your bid being the highest, you have the element of surprise working in your favor. By bidding often throughout the duration of an auction you are only raising the price further and further. Additionally, the more time bidders have to think about what they want to spend the more likely they are to raise their maximum bids and make it tougher and more expensive to win. There is nothing illegal about sniping, and it is no different then you putting the bid in yourself at the last second except you can have the service do it for you in the event you are away from the computer when the auction is due to end. What I sometimes do is set my snipe for the maximum price I am willing to pay, then place an early bid on the auction for below half of that price. If the other bidder outbids me, and I don't bid again, then he may think he has beaten me and becomes more comfortable with his bid. My snipe then comes in to save the day in the end. It is not a perfect system, and you can still lose auctions if you don't bid or snipe high enough, but every advantage counts when using eBay.

I hope these tips will help any aspiring set collectors out there as much as they've helped me. I thought I was crazy taking on the Puck Signings set after the initial hype had died down and less singles were on the market, but using these strategies got my set to where it is today and I'm very happy with what I've been able to accomplish in roughly six months.

If anybody would like to chat about set collecting or tell me stories about their projects feel free to drop me a line!



Is Book Value Still Needed?

By Kevin Lee aka gosens151911



Technology has done wonders for the hobby; especially making purchases for the personal collection just a click away. The most used site to make these sales is eBay, where collectors bid or use a buy it now feature to purchase cards they're interested in. Another interesting feature available on eBay is that one can view the recent sales of an item. From this, the average sale price can be found for most items. This provides a collector with a very good idea of what he/she could sell a card for. Recently this has become a large issue when selling/trading cards, where one will now refer to eBay value instead of book value. Does this mean that price guides with book values are no longer needed?

Many argue that price guides are a waste of money, with the values ridiculously inaccurate based on eBay sales. However, most people when using a price guide only look at the high book value, and not the low. Looking at the low book value prices, they are usually very close to the selling price of eBay. The high book value prices are more accurate when looking at card stores, which will usually sell their cards much closer to high book value (which in turn is much higher than the average eBay sale prices). This is therefore another reason why eBay sales are not entirely representative of a card's value.

Although the auction site does host thousands of sales, it is not the only source of cards. There are hobby shops and card shows that many collectors attend and purchase their cards at. Also, when buying online card prices are further complicated by Paypal fees and shipping. Should these costs be associated when using eBay values? Not only that, but not every collector has access to eBay. This can be very misleading, as if every single collector had access to it can be assumed that all eBay values would likely rise as there would be more potential buyers. It is extremely hard to put an exact price on any card, but price guides usually do a good job.

When used properly, they are extremely effective. Even though there are a few book values that are questionable, price guides overall appear to be pretty accurate. They are very helpful when working out trade deals, providing both parties with a good starting point. The major problem when using price guides comes from its improper use, especially when it comes to sales. Everywhere you see sales that are "1/2 Book Value", but this isn't entirely true considering one is only using the high book value. If used properly, one will notice that the majority of sales by individuals are extremely close to the low book values given by a price guide.

Therefore, although eBay values are becoming more and more widely used, the bigger picture must be looked at. eBay is not the only source of cards for the majority of collectors. With that being said, one does not have the time to investigate online sale sites, card shows and hobby shops to get an idea of what current market value of a card is. Having a price guide in hand, although not perfect, helps provide a fairly accurate book value on a card that one has in mind.



The Hazards of Online Collecting

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

If you are reading these lines, chances are you are not only deeply involved with the hobby but also involved with the online aspect of collecting. Depending on how seasoned you are as an online trader, you might have experienced different problems and issues or you might have been lucky so far and have had no bumps in the road... Personally, I benefited from fairly smooth sailing over the last two years but recently, I've been experiencing a darker side of trading. While I must say these have been trying times, they have also made me think about the way I trade and the possible issues which new traders might not think about. Without further delay, here are some tips for all traders out there new and old, a refresher course never hurts...

Shipping Delays

When you trade online, make sure to read the rules of the website you are trading on. For instance on Sportscardforum, the rules are quite clear trades should be shipped within three days of being confirmed in the Trade Manager unless you have made a prior arrangement as to the shipping times with your trading partner. Sending them a private message three weeks after the deal has been agreed saying: "I've not had time to ship yet but it will be in the post tomorrow" is in my view not good enough. It is rather frustrating for the traders who stick to the rules and have sent your cards within days of the trade being agreed. Chances are, by doing this; you are exposing yourself to neutral or even negative feedback and potentially infractions. Think about it; by delaying like this in effect, you may be making your trading partner send first instead of sending at the same time, which means that you are enforcing your own version of the "Must Send First" rule. In my opinion, trading is a business transaction and it is good practice to respect the terms and conditions of the transaction, if you do not do this you will need to face the consequences.

The Mode of Shipment



Of course, there is the forever dreaded plain white envelope (PWE) but I would like to focus more on the type of shipping used. Being based in England and making deals with people who are mainly from the United States and Canada, I deal with overseas shipping day in and day out. To me, it goes without saying that all deals should be sent by airmail. For a standard trade sent in a bubble mailer, it will cost my North American trading partners around three to four dollars to ship by airmail and I will receive my card within a week. However, it

seems that it is not that obvious for some traders who will use ground shipping instead. The result? Trades can take up to three months to reach their destination. Is this an acceptable delay considering the money saved? In all honesty, I'm not sure, having never used ground shipping but is three dollars for airmail shipping too much to invest in a trade? I really do not think so... However, if you decide to opt for ground shipping please make sure that your trading partner is aware of that fact, a little courtesy goes a long way.



Now on to the packaging aspect, the dangers of PWE have been covered time and time again in other articles so I shall not spend too much time on this but my advice is simple: do not use them. They provide insufficient protection and are an excellent way to ruin a great deal. What I want to discuss here however is the shipping of out of the ordinary items. For instance, an oversized card or perhaps a McFarlane figure. Many collectors love those figures and they can be great additions to any player collection as long as they are received in a respectable condition. If you are packing a hockey figure and you lay it flat in a box, bending the skates of it, will your fellow trader be happy? I believe the answer is easy enough to guess...If you use a box which for one reason or another has got small circular holes in its sides, please just tape over them, you will ensure that no accessory is lost.



The key to happy trading remains common sense, always think about the worst possible way in which your package could be handled and pack in consequence. While bubble mailers are generally suitable to send out cards, they may not be if you are sending a slabbed card. For those, a thicker bubble mailer and extra bubble wrap would be advisable. Why? Well simply because those cases are easy to crack, unlike your standard top loader which will not crack if it absorbs a blow...and if it does you can always change it to a new one. This solution is of no use for cards encapsulated in a slab though...

Customs Charges

Make sure you discuss the value to indicate on the customs labels, as it will spare you unpleasant surprises. And if you do agree an amount, indicate it on the package but if for some reason you decide to send the trade in two different packages, please do not put the full amount on both packages. This is completely unfair to your trading partner as they may well end up having to pay the customs charge twice.



eBay Pitfalls

Collecting online also generally means acquiring cards on this useful auction site. While eBay has become a known and loved tool for collectors, please use it carefully. There are many possible traps hidden in the listings. First, carefully read the description and remember, the person listing the item is trying to sell it; therefore they will try to make it sound as appealing as possible but it doesn't mean that everything they have written is true.

For instance, they may call a common Upper Deck game-used jersey card a rare card and a must have for collectors. Take your time, look up the card online and see what the print run is. Compare how much the same card is from other sellers. Another craze on eBay right now is to qualify cards as "1/1" for various reasons. The most obvious abuse of this tactic is trying to sell a card number 1/3 as a 1/1 because it's a player wearing the jersey number 13. That card is not a 1/1 the print run is stamped on it; it's 1/3.

Also, be mindful of the shipping charges, many sellers will be reasonable and cut shipping charges for multiple purchases. However, some will try to charge you three dollars per card, no matter how many you buy. I recently read about a member on SCF who bought 30 cards and the seller wanted to charge

they \$90 in shipping. Contacting the seller and asking them if there is a special shipping rate for each additional item prior to buying can avoid this. Take your time when using eBay, it's the best way to avoid both disappointment and problems.



Sometimes, all those issues do make me wish that I had a hobby shop next door where I could buy cards without the shipping headaches. Say what you will about their prices, brick and mortar stores do provide a certain peace of mind when it comes to the hobby. What you see is definitely what you get... As the nearest hobby store is a plane ride away though, I figured the only way for my situation to improve was to share my experiences with you fellow traders.



Like Shuffling a Deck of Cards

By Jacob Gilbert aka Hobbyfan



On Monday, the WWE will hold its annual "draft", which is little more than a public reassignment of some of their talent from one brand to another. However, WWE Chairman Vince McMahon needs to realize that he also has to make changes among the figureheads in charge of those brands, and the shuffling that has taken place this week isn't enough.

Take the case of Vickie Guerrero. Initially, she was assigned as an assistant to Teddy Long on Smackdown in 2007, but then Long suffered a "heart attack" on the 2007-8 season opener in the climax of a staged "wedding" that never reached its conclusion. The very next week, McMahon selected Guerrero to serve as interim GM. When Long was cleared to return two months later, McMahon had already decided to take the interim label off the widow Guerrero, and Long was reduced to being the assistant, now that Guerrero was linked with Smackdown's top heel, Edge. Long left Smackdown last spring, and was appointed GM of ECW to replace Armando Estrada just a few weeks later. By then, there was still no explanation for why Long was denied his job on Smackdown.



That alone speaks volumes of the creative staff's inability to tell a complete story from start to finish. A glaring plot hole left unfilled will create apathy among viewers. Meanwhile, Vickie Guerrero was becoming the most hated woman in WWE, a teflon GM as it were, since she was never punished for any violations committed in the name of helping storyline husband Edge. Instead, on Monday, after 7 weeks as an interim GM on

Raw, she chose to move to the flagship on a full-time basis. Bear in mind that Edge had dropped the WWE World title at Wrestlemania to John Cena, so the timing was rather convenient. Vicki's goal is obvious. Do everything possible to weaken Cena or at worst screw him out of the title.

The problem? Ever since Guerrero took over Raw on February 23, the flagship brand's ratings have nosedived. So far, McMahon isn't willing to admit that he's made a mistake. His ego won't allow it. However, if the ratings continue to slide under the Guerrero administration, considering that Vicki now has to work without a net on Mondays (Raw is live most of the time), McMahon may have little choice but to cut his losses and remove Vicki from office.

Long, meanwhile, has moved back to Smackdown, with Tiffany (Taryn Terrell) acting as interim ECW GM until a full-time replacement can be found. One likely candidate may be the last ECW "Original" on the active roster, Tommy Dreamer, who has openly stated that he would leave WWE after the June 7 PPV, now tentatively titled "Extreme Rules", if he doesn't win the ECW title from current champion Jack Swagger. Becoming GM might be incentive enough for Dreamer to re-up for at least one more year, even if he does decide to retire from competition after all.

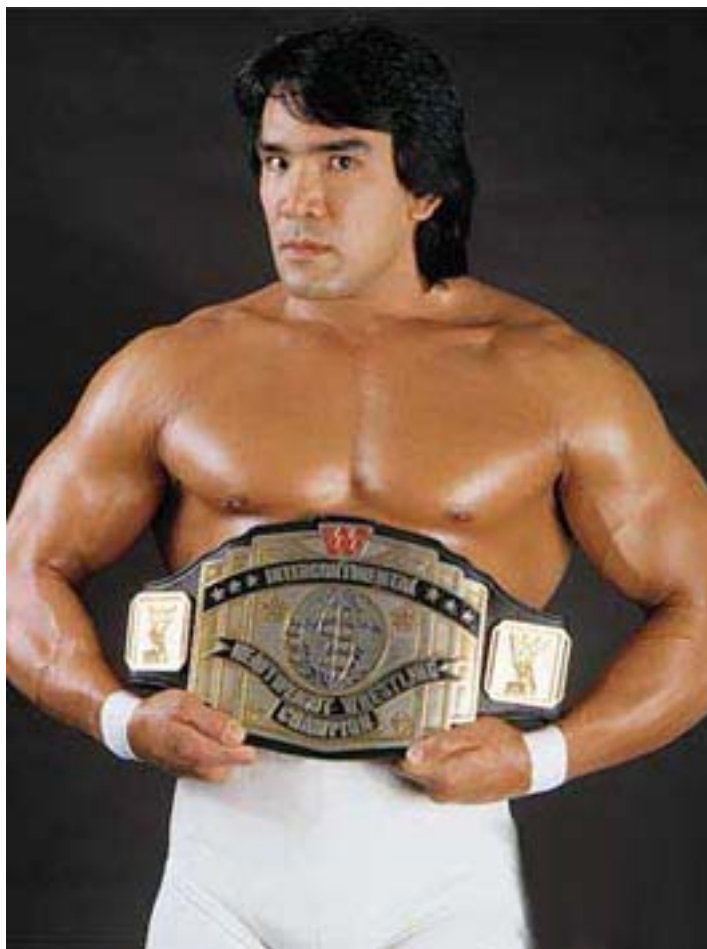


That takes us back to Raw. I doubt very seriously that Vicki Guerrero will be allowed to remain GM too long, with the ratings the way they are. McMahon figures that if he can move A-listers like Triple H back to Raw in the draft, that'll solve his ratings problems. No, it won't. The "WWE Universe" has already spoken, and they want Vicki out as GM, preferably yesterday. So who would fill the void if Vickie is dismissed?

One leading candidate would be newly minted Hall of Famer Rick Steamboat. Why else would they showcase Steamboat on Raw the day after Wrestlemania?

It's not just to capitalize on the buzz generated at Wrestlemania. Steamboat has been working as a road agent/producer the last couple of years, and based on the fan reaction on Monday, it may be time for McMahon to stop with the corrupt executives, and let the GM's just be impartial, as they're supposed to be. Steamboat, who always wore the white hat during his in-ring career, would be a perfect fit on Raw.

So why is Vince McMahon so reluctant to make these kind of changes? Because he believes there's no need for change. He just doesn't realize how wrong he's been for so long.





Oncardauto.com - A Sticker-Free Website

By Juan Martinez aka illadef5



An autograph is an autograph, but not when it's a sticker auto. More than any other topic in sports cards over the past few years, sticker autos have been the biggest concern among collectors. Ever since we first encountered the sticker auto, there has been a growing resentment towards it. The complaints are plentiful; not enough room for players to sign; autographs that are cut off; upside-down placement of sticker and so on.

Honestly, sticker autos are fighting a losing battle in gaining favor with collectors. Yet card companies continue to use them: even infamously used once in the most popular basketball card set there is, Exquisite Collection. While

we could get into an argument about the economic reasons why stickers need to exist, I'd much rather chase after the autographs that are on card than waste my time bickering over the Internet. If only there was a site that featured nothing but on-card autographs. Hey, wait a minute....

Brett Marks is not a fan of the sticker auto. The founder of oncardauto.com, a site dedicated to the hard-signed autographed cards, Marks provides collectors with an easy to navigate virtual library of on-cards autos from the past several seasons. Using the site's search engine, I was able to locate every Alonzo Mourning on-card auto starting from the 2006-07 season to the current 2008-09 easily (and easily depressing myself because I know how expensive each of them are). The site's clean look and user friendly interface make it a must-visit for any collector looking to find out if they are missing cards in their collection. While not every card is pictured, it is interesting to see the progress of each set built through eBay scans and helpful readers. It's almost like collecting the cards themselves, but infinitely cheaper.

The following is a short email interview I conducted with Marks a few weeks ago about the site and the plans he has for it in the future.

I guess the obvious first question would be do you hate sticker autos?

I think it's safe to say I'm not a lover of them.

I just don't see the point of sticker autos, cut autos or anything else that isn't on-card for that matter; they're so impersonal, they look tacky & have many disadvantages when compared to on-card autographs, which includes things such as: less freedom to sign (which commonly ends up with autos being cut off), stickers being put upside down and in the case of cut-autos, the auto being cut off where the company places the remaining part of the card over the small piece of cardboard the player signed on.



Well I noticed there were a lot of people who collect sets - as they do - and I thought it would be a good idea to set up a site which would help them find what on-card autograph sets were available; and at the same time showcasing all the nice on-card autograph sets out there while sticking it (non pun intended) to all the sticker autograph sets out there.



Card companies justify the use of stickers and cut autos by saying they cut down on redemptions and speed up the production cycle. Do you agree with their logic or would you rather all autographs be on card regardless of delays?

I do understand their reasoning for doing it, but that doesn't mean I have to like them.

What would cut down on delays would be for the companies to cut down in their product range - we don't need 30 different products a year - this would buy them more time to get the cards back from the players. People are always going to want autographs so I wouldn't cut down on them drastically, but I think we could afford to cut down on the amount of autograph cards that are produced and work on some nice insert designs, similar to the ones from the 90s.

Are cards with autograph stickers "autographed cards?"

Technically, no they aren't.... I will borrow a quote I read on a forum a little while ago which made me nod my head in agreement: "If I peel the sticker off the card and put it on my coffee mug, does that make my coffee mug an autographed coffee mug!?".

No it doesn't, plain and simple.

I know from personal experience that some people take offense to using scans of cards that are not "your card." Have you run into any issues or snags with the site such as that?

No I haven't. I get a lot of images from eBay, but if I'm going to go through peoples collections' I will generally ask their permission before I use them. I've had several helpful members email or private message me through card forums helping me out with their images, so I am grateful to them for that.

I've found that sometimes, finding a scan of a really rare card is just as tough as finding the actual card. Have you turned to other means besides eBay to search for those scans?

At the moment I don't actively search out images I don't have, as getting all the sets added to the site is my main priority, but as I stated above sometimes other users of the site may email me with images I don't have, so that is always good when that happens.



As of right now, your site is all basketball autographs. Will we see other sports represented in the future, and if so, when?

To be honest I would like to get other sports added as soon as possible. However unfortunately I am a one-man-team at the moment and adding all the sets to the site takes an incredible amount of time (particularly the image sourcing/editing), so it's taking longer than I would like to get other sports added.

With news that Panini will be the exclusive home of NBA licensed cards for the foreseeable future and Upper Deck moving into the more nebulous world of non-licensed cards in order to keep pumping out Michael Jordan and LeBron James autographs, will you feature non-licensed cards on your site?

That's a good question and one I haven't really put much thought into.... as of this time I don't plan on adding unlicensed card data to the site, but that could change depending on user feedback.

What would you rather have: a great looking autograph that's slightly cut-off because it's on a sticker or a terrible give-up autograph but it's hard-signed?

I think this is a trick question Juan... I would have to see the cards to decide, but going by what you say, *maybe* the sticker autograph. Now I feel dirty!

And this is where you shamelessly pimp yourself, where can people find the site and any other links you may have?

You can find us at www.ocardauto.com - be sure to also check out our blog and keep updated on the happenings on the site!





Fantasy basketball has come to an end for this season. SCF's league on Yahoo saw a change in the lead for the first time in 2009, when garnett_21 surpassed NBAFAN123 with about 10 days left in the season. Unfortunately, for them, neither of them won the league - it ended in a tie between SCF members whalechaser and RenegadeLonghorn. A tie breaking guess the score game was played, in which each member guessed what the final score of Game 2 between the Houston Rockets and Portland Trail Blazers would be. RenegadeLonghorn guessed Blazers 97-94 and whalechaser guessed Rockets 100-90. The final score of the game was Blazers 107-103. RenegadeLonghorn was closest, and with his guess, he won the 2005-06 SPX Winning Materials LeBron James dual jersey card! Whalechaser came in second and won the 2007-08 SP Game Used Edition Significance Corey Maggette autograph, and garnett_21 came in third to claim the final card prize, a 98-99 Skybox Autographics Tariq Abdul-Wahid auto. Rounding out the top five were nbafan123, winning 200cc, and demonpower55, winning 100cc. Congratulations to all the winners, and congratulations to all the participants on a good, fun, season-long contest!

Final standings for the season are:

Court Vision 131.5	D-III 108.5	the_future 66
Texas Hellbillies 131.5	Molly's Ballers 107	ello's team 57
garnett_21 129.5	Gimme Some MO! 90	Michigan Man 50
NBAFAN123 127	Strange Brews 87.5	trevorp121 46.5
demonpower55 116	Anchorage Akitas 87	
kobe080 115	Caf. Crusaders 85	
gladdyontherise 109	CHillyDoggy 66	

On the hockey front, we have now moved on to the "Playoofs Pool" here are the current standings:

RNK	TEAM	TOTAL	D	Y	WK	MO	GP	PR	PT	INJ
1	zPens87z	80	0	2	6	0	58	8	2	0
2	todtz79	76	0	2	7	0	60	8	2	0
3	Jshopay	71	0	0	2	0	54	6	3	0
4	newf662001	71	0	2	3	0	52	9	4	0
5	senrab	71	0	0	2	0	54	8	4	0
6	Cam98	70	0	0	2	0	56	5	2	0
7	Superlarrio	69	0	0	3	0	58	6	3	0
8	Sholi2000	68	0	3	7	0	56	8	3	0
9	patrickadams26	67	0	0	3	0	57	5	3	0
10	Drifter2000	67	0	3	9	0	59	9	4	0
11	BruHawk	66	0	0	1	0	53	8	4	0
12	CSSports	66	0	0	3	0	57	6	3	0
13	bgggg2001	66	0	0	3	0	53	8	4	0
14	maddmaxx17	66	0	2	6	0	54	8	4	0
15	Penguinfanatic	65	0	0	3	0	57	5	2	0

MAY 2009



16 bizz	65	0	0	2	0	55	7	4	0
17 gosens151911	65	0	0	3	0	58	7	3	0
18 buck89	65	0	0	2	0	53	8	4	0
19 scottkoz20	65	0	4	9	0	59	6	2	0
20 MatsSundin13Rocks	64	0	3	5	0	55	8	2	0
21 malkinsearcher	64	0	3	4	0	54	8	2	0
22 unkabubba	63	0	0	3	0	55	8	4	0
23 Hockeydude94	63	0	3	6	0	55	8	3	0
24 gretzky99	62	0	1	3	0	55	8	3	0
25 andrewconnors9	61	0	0	2	0	57	8	3	0
26 waf	61	0	0	2	0	55	7	4	0
27 vonkale	60	0	1	2	0	50	8	4	1
28 DamonX	60	0	3	4	0	53	7	3	0
29 greek22hockey	60	0	0	5	0	58	7	4	0
30 LT21Titans27	59	0	0	2	0	54	8	4	0
31 hossa18sens	58	0	0	1	0	52	7	4	0
32 nbcollector	58	0	0	2	0	52	6	3	0
33 bbbomb	58	0	3	6	0	55	7	3	0
34 Pheebz888	57	0	0	1	0	56	7	3	0
35 Nathan7070	56	0	0	1	0	53	8	4	0
36 Rogulon	55	0	0	2	0	57	5	3	0
37 Nairb06	54	0	3	4	0	59	7	2	0
38 udprospect	54	0	0	1	0	53	6	4	0
39 Sensrookie	54	0	0	1	0	53	8	4	0
40 Estovia	53	0	2	4	0	56	6	2	0
41 terstradust	53	0	0	3	0	53	7	5	0
42 Wingsfan-13	53	0	0	2	0	55	7	4	0
43 ravens_creed	52	0	1	3	0	58	6	2	0
44 SkidSTL	51	0	0	2	0	54	5	3	0
45 Captngeetch	50	0	0	3	0	54	6	4	0
46 darrens18	50	0	0	1	0	53	9	4	0
47 fritzer213	47	0	0	1	0	53	8	4	0
48 TysonX504	46	0	0	1	0	56	5	2	0
49 Portis	46	0	3	5	0	52	4	2	0
50 leafsfandan	45	0	0	2	0	55	3	3	0
51 hebgbz	45	0	1	4	0	58	4	2	0
52 warr10r	44	0	0	3	0	54	6	4	0
53 quiet-things	42	0	0	3	0	50	5	3	0