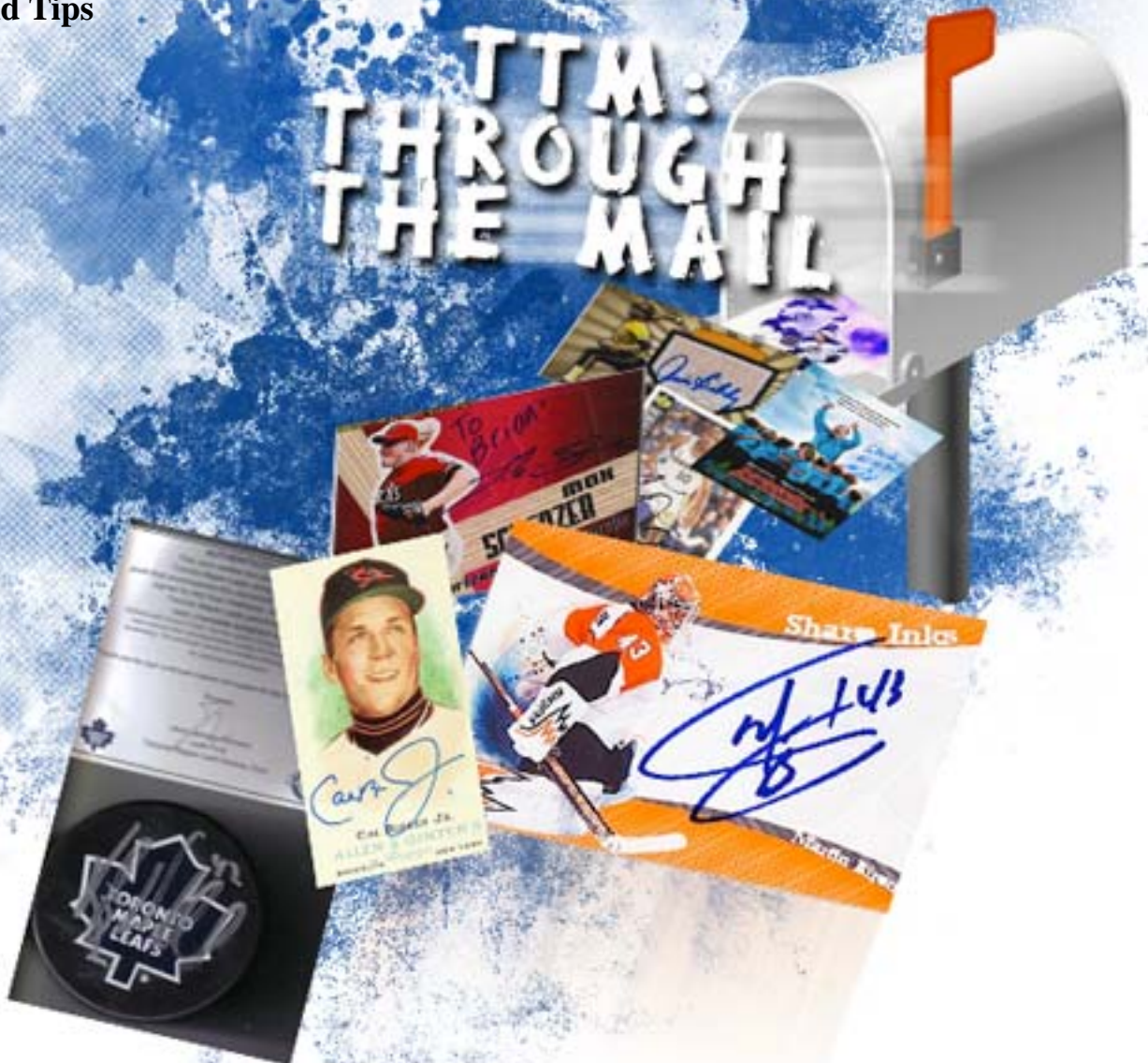


SCF'S COLLECTORS CORNER

INSIDE:

Through the mail successes
Product reviews
Opinions and Tips
And more...

TTM:
THROUGH
THE MAIL



CardsByTheBox.com

For all your hobby needs, visit CardsByTheBox.com! We have an excellent selection of Hockey, Baseball, Football, Basketball and Racing! Come visit us at the Nationals, we will be set up at booth 2052 and offering \$5 off to SCF members who spend more than \$50 on a box (\$2.50 if paying by credit card).



2009 Topps Allen and Ginter Baseball - \$87.99

- Each box contains a combination of three of the following: Autograph, Cut Signature, Rip, Relic, Printing Plate PLUS one box loader



2009 Donruss Classics Football - \$94.99

- 3 Autographs or Memorabilia cards (with at least one autograph)
- 2 Rookies
- 2 Legends, 1 Timeless Tribute, 3 School Colors



2009/10 Upper Deck Draft Day Edition Basketball - \$85.99

- Four autographs in every box
- At least one themed insert, signature or numbered parallel in every pack
- Look for triple-signed Draft Class Signatures featuring legends and current stars



2008/09 Upper Deck The Cup Hockey - \$349.99

- 4 cards per pack, 1 pack per tin
- 2 signed patch cards in every tin
- New Inserts honoring 500 goal scorers, Wayne Gretzky and Canada's Hockey Excellence



2009 Press Pass Showcase Racing - \$199.99

- 5 cards per pack, 3 packs per box
- 1 autograph card per box
- 2 Memorabilia cards per box
- 4 sequentially numbered level of each card!



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Get (Mail) Collecting!

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

As you will have noticed from the cover of the magazine, this month we have put together a special issue for you about the brand new Through the Mail (TTM) manager. Collecting TTM is an increasingly popular trend thanks mainly to how simple it is but also to how much cheaper it is than always buying boxes in the hope of pulling an autograph you like or just outright buying an autograph of your favorite athlete. Of course, success is not always guaranteed but at least with our TTM manager, you can look up the athlete or personality you are interested in and see if others have been successful in getting their autograph.



Collecting TTM really gives a whole new dimension to the hobby, after sending requests it's always fun to check the mailbox and see if you have received any result and when you have, it sort of feels like Christmas. One could be tempted to think this is reserved to collectors in North America but no, far from it. I myself have sent a few fan packs requests by email to NHL teams and even though I am overseas, I still received fan packs from the Montreal Canadiens, the Dallas Stars, the Buffalo Sabres and most notably, the Toronto Maple Leafs who kindly sent me an autographed puck along with a certificate of authenticity. Needless to say, receiving those surprise unexpected packages completely made my day!

If you haven't given TTM collecting a try yet, please drop by the new TTM and I guarantee that looking at the successes posted by others, you will feel like give it a try. In fact, in the next few pages you will see some of our members' favorite TTM successes as well as reading two TTM tips and tricks article written by our TTM manager himself; Indyreds (Mike Greene).

Well that's it, another month in the books and soon, it will be the end of July and time for the collecting masses to make their way to Cleveland Ohio for the National Sports Collector Convention. This year, there will be a strong contingent of SCF staff on site. We have five booths reserved (2052, 2053, 2055, 2152 and 2154) and you can come visit us there. The attendees will be Mike Silvia (owner), Tony Joyce (Enigma – General Manager), Don White (Doniceage – Off-Site Relations Manager), Jeff Curci (Captgeech – Hockey Assistant-Manager), Scott Kozlowski (Scottkoz20 – Hockey Assistant-Manager) and finally myself Karine Hains (Pheeb888 – Editor-in-Chief and Assistant General Manager). We hope to meet as many of you as possible and it will be nice to put a face to the user names so to speak.

As the Nationals run from the 29th July to the 2nd August, the launch of the August issue of Collectors' Corner will be delayed by a week. This will give the team the time to put together a solid issue concentrating on the Nationals and giving you insider information on it. As well as allowing me to fly back from America of course...



To celebrate the launch of the Through the Mail Database, we have decided to highlight some of the best TTM items received by our members over the years. Congratulations to those chosen for the feature and I really wish I could have fit more in!



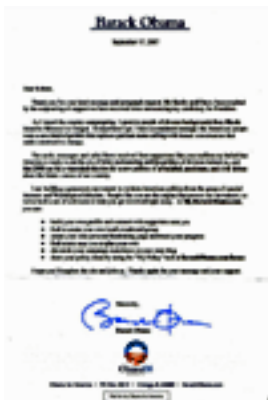
Athlete: Michael Jordan
Received by: Baseballfan123



Athlete: Karl Malone
Received by: Rockiesfan33



Athlete: Danica Patrick
Received by: Dabears67



Personality: Barack Obama
Received by: Bigga



Personality: Angelina Jolie
Received by: Tbculosis



Personality: Jack Nicholson
Received by: Incident57



Athlete: Devin Harris
Received by: Dukey4life47



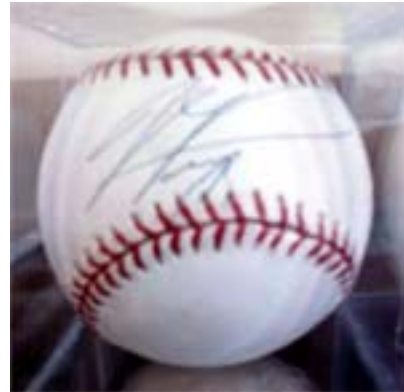
Athlete: Jeff Samardzija
Received by: Cubbieblue29



Personality: Stan Lee
Received by: Carnage38



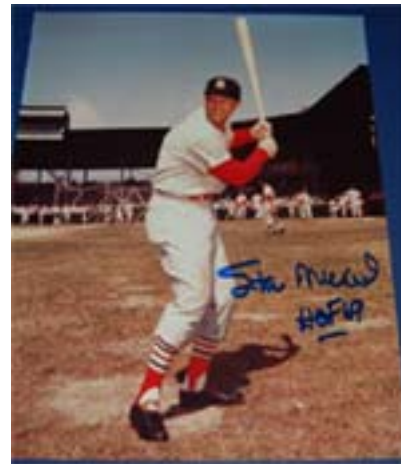
Athlete: Ray Knight
Received by: Incident57



Athlete: Mike Piazza
Received by: Incident57



Athlete: Barry Larkin
Received by: Rookiesfan33



Athlete: Stan Musial
Received by: mmalpedo01



Athlete: Andre Dawson
Received by: Dabears67



Athlete: Pete Rose
Received by: Boomer19



Athlete: Brian Webb
Received by: Dicekmvp



Athlete: Maya Moore & Hasheem Thabeet
Received: Carnage38



Personality: Olesya Rulin
Received by: BynesFan



Athlete: Mario Lemieux
Received by: Tboculosis



Athlete: Jean Beliveau
Received by: Quiet-Things



Athlete: Mickey Mantle
Received by: Trogers196



Athletes: Cliff Lee, Jake Westbrook and Grady Sizemore

Received by: Pronk48mvp

That's it, for this month anyhow there were so many good autographs to chose from! If you would like to get yourself some nice autographs just like these, be sure to have a look at the new TTM database.



TTM 101

By Mike Greene aka Indyreds



For those wondering, TTM stands for Through The Mail. It is a term used for autographs collected by sending items through the mail to an athlete or celebrity in the hope that they will sign the item and return it through the mail to you. The envelope to be sent to the star you are requesting an autograph from should contain a few different items. The first item is a very nice letter explaining why you would care for the autograph and asking for it. The item that you would like to be signed should be included as well. The next part may be the most important item. Include a SASE! A SASE is a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope.

Which items do you need to get these free TTM autographs? You will have to get postage to cover both the cost to mail to and from the celebrity you are writing to. A request letter, one to three sports cards and a return envelope can be sent with one forever stamp on each envelope. This means it only costs you two stamps per request when mailing something this small. I would always suggest using a forever stamp, as you never know how long it will take for a return to come back to you. Envelopes to mail the items are the next needed tools. I use two different sizes of pull and seal envelopes. The inside SASE envelope is a 3 5/8 envelope and the outer envelope addressed to the celebrity is a 4 1/8 by 9 1/2 envelope. You need the tools for writing or printing your letter of request and finally you need to decide what card or item you want to send in the hope of getting your TTM autograph.

OK, I have envelopes, I have stamps and I have tons of sports cards that I would like to get signed! Now what do I do? Try to decide whom you want to write to. I personally like to see who has signed for others in the past, as they will be more likely to sign for me than someone who has not been a good TTM signer. Check the recent successes or the player list pages on SportsCardForum TTM Database or a similar site to see how the player signs and what address to send to your request to. SportsCardForum's new database is showing member success percentages by address used and it's a wonderful tool.

Finally I have my player selected, I have a card selected that I want signed, I have his best address and I have all the items to send the package away, but how do I write the letter? This is actually much easier than many make it out to be! Most people will tell you





to handwrite your letters, but I usually type and print them, as they are easier on the eyes than my handwriting is. The letter consists of two paragraphs; the first paragraph is telling the celebrity why I am a fan of theirs. I will talk about a specific game, an award they won or a team they played for in this section. The second paragraph is asking for the autograph and thanking them for it and their time. It is important to actually ask for the autograph and not to just assume the player knows why you sent your items to them. Saying thanks and not assuming that you will get an autograph without using your manners is just as important.

The last part is real simple. Place your card, your SASE and your request letter in the large envelope to mail it off. It would be nice to take the time to enter your pending request into the SCF TTM database at this point. Hopefully you will be enjoying the new addition to your collection soon. When your SASE returns to you, go back to the SCF TTM database and log your return. This will allow others to use the information that you provided to help decide if they want to mail to this person as well. You will be able to see how long you waited for your return and how many items you received back compared to how many that you had sent. Using this type of database will also let you know what sort of returned autographs you received successfully compare to the number of requests you sent out as well.

I would not feel right ending this article without giving a warning to you. TTM autograph collecting is addicting! It is awesome to open your mailbox and while you are sorting through all the letters, bills and junk mail you find a returned SASE! I will have to admit that the suspense of who sent back to me usually makes me open these before any other mail. It is thrilling to know that one of your sports heroes took the time to sign an item just for you! Give it a shot yourself, but remember I did warn you! You may find yourself adding postage to your weekly collection budget. I wish you the best of luck with your collection and finding enjoyment in your mailbox!





TTM Tips

By Mike Greene aka Indyreds



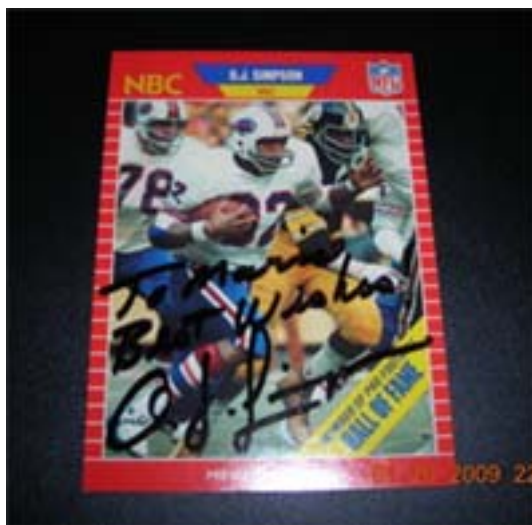
It seems that many through the mail (TTM) collectors run into that certain player who signs well for others, but they have had no success with. When this happens it is time to try some different things to see how they work for you. That may involve changing your letter, the items being sent or even the envelope you are using to send the items. Let us take a look at a few different ideas that might help you in this situation.

What the player first sees when they get the mail is your envelope. You may need to find some way for it to stick out more than the other envelopes. An easy way to do this is buy colored envelopes. I actually have had some great luck with the colored envelopes. You can mail larger envelopes as they draw more attention. You can also write things on the outside of the envelopes. I have written things like 1945 MVP, 1960 ROY, 1980 WS Champion, Three Batting Titles or 525 career Home Runs. Put multiple career highlights on the envelope! They will realize that the person writing to them at least

knows about them. I have drawn team logos and original artwork on the envelopes and gotten them noticed as well. Use an odd color of ink when writing out the envelope. Get creative and make sure your envelope is the one they notice. Realize that the first step is to get the player to open your letter.

Maybe they did notice your envelope, but they did not care for your letter. Was it sloppy or did it seem impersonal? Try to handwrite the letter, if you normally type it. Type the letter, if you normally handwrite as it maybe hard to read. Just change up the way you normally have sent your request. Since it is not working for this player. What you have said in the letter might be an issue as well. Try a longer letter explaining why you are a real fan of the player and also tell them a little about you. Ask for the item to be personalized to you! Some of the stars are upset as they see the items they autograph being sold in online auctions. They know that a true fan would not mind having the item personalized to them and that it would make it harder to sell. Ask the player if they require a donation to charity or sell their autograph and to please send back the information to purchase it.

The item or items you sent might cause an issue. Try sending only one item and not multiple items in your request. Are you sending an item that shows the player with a former team that they may not have left on good terms? Have you seen success posts of the player signing what





you sent? Some players will sign photos and balls and not cards. Other players will only sign cards. Are you sending enough postage to get your items there and back? Is it easy for the player to return the item to you? Did you enclose a sharpie or a pen? It sometimes makes a difference... Did you make a custom card? Many players collect their own cards or have a family member who does. Add an extra of any customs that you send in an extra envelope and write gift for you on the extra envelope. They may have been keeping your cards as they did not have it for their collection or even the giving of the little gift may help them decide to grant your autograph request.

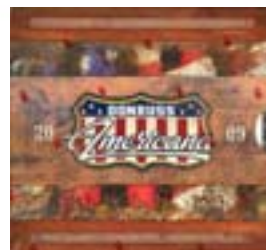
Go back and look at the successes that you have seen from the player. Were they from the same address that you are using? Is there a better address besides the one you have tried? What time of the year were they sent? How long did the successes take and are you just being impatient? Players who take a long time to mail back should definitely have forever stamps used for the SASE. How long has it been since the player has a listed success? Check again to see, if there is a note about what the player signed.

I am sure that you have developed your own tricks to help in these situations. Hopefully these tips can help you finally get that white whale autograph that you have been wanting. Please post your successes in the SCF TTM Database to help others and may you find joy in your mailbox!





2009 Donruss Americana
By Tony Joyce aka Enigma



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

Product Details

4 packs per box
 5 cards per pack

SRP: 74.99-84.99

You can see the complete highlights of the product by clicking on this link: http://www.donruss.com/pis/preview.cfm?product_id=166&product_configuration_id=368

What we pulled

Base: 12/100 (12%)
 Dupes: 0



Cinema Stars /1000 (1): Corbin Bleu
 Hollywood Legends /1000 (1): Anthony Quinn

Silver Proofs /100 (2):
 Randal Kleiser, Barry Bostwick



Co-Stars /250 (1): Anthony Quinn/
 Mickey Rooney Dual Relic Hollywood /45 (1): Jackie Chan "O" Auto





Hollywood Legends /500 (1): Anthony Quinn Relic
 Movie Posters /500 (1): Charlie Chaplin Relic



Final Ratings (Out of 5):

Base set: 4.5/5

Fun: 4/5

Overall design: 4.5/5

Value: 3.5/5

Re-buy: 4/5

Overall: 20.5/25 (84%)

Donruss Americana by Panini is back with its third instalment. Instead of continuing the numbering like it did last year, the numbers start over to make it a set on its own. A big change to the packaging is now the packs look like they are in a cardboard CD case. This is a welcome change as compared to the previous releases with the plastic cases.

Many of the inserts are the same as before, but the designs are solid. The holofoil backgrounds make all the cards stand out. All inserts are numbered, which is a plus as that helps limit the overall production run.

Set collectors will find Americana is a challenge with only twelve base cards per box on average. However, with the addition of the Proofs parallels, it is a worthwhile challenge.

It is really nice to see that this product is entertainment only. It's not an infusion of sports and entertainment. This allows the entertainment collectors to enjoy the product while the sports collectors can shy away instead of having to begrudgingly get the product in order to possibly track down the players they collect.

I'm not so keen on the Lettermen series. If it continues, which I know it will, it would be nice to them just stick to the person's last name, not other words, terms, etc. In our case, I think it would be a lot more fun to spell "CHAN" instead of "HOLLYWOOD" or "OSCAR".

Overall, Americana is once again a great release, even though you know what to expect out of each box in regards to what you will get out of each pack (3 base, 1 insert, 1 relic or auto). The cards are sleek in design, though through the mail/in person autograph seekers will thoroughly dislike the holofoil. The box is a decent value for the money. And seriously, having a chance to own a piece of memorabilia from the likes of Charlie Chaplin? Who could complain about that?

Once again, I'd like to thank our gracious sponsor at Panini for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release. If interested in more information on this release or others, be sure to go to www.donruss.com.



2008-2009 O-Pee-Chee Premier Hockey
By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

Description



While the season is now over in the NHL, the high-end collecting season is only just starting. A few weeks ago, Upper Deck treated us to Ultimate Collection and the have now followed it up with O-Pee-Chee Premier. This year is Premier's sophomore season and if you invested in some of this product last year, you are not in for any big surprises.

As per last year, the design of the cards is polished and efficient, smart and sleek. There is definitely no fault with the overall aspect of the product and it should satisfy the fussiest customers. Unlike last year, the release does not appear to be burdened by quality control issues, that is always good news!

Box Details

Pack per box: 1
 Cards per pack: 5
 Base set: 42 cards – 84 cards with rookies
 Price: \$165.99 to \$184.99
 Check out Upper Deck's Product Information

The release includes several memorabilia and autographs sets such as the Rare Remnants and the Induction Inks. Unfortunately for some, the stitchings are still around and yes, they are still manufactured patches and therefore not game-used. For many, this is fatal to the product, for me I just see it as something different to chase for the players I collect. Of course, they have never worn the patch, but it is nice to have a patch to commemorate Brodeur's 500 wins or Roy's 551 wins. However, I am rather disappointed that Brodeur's 552 wins are not depicted on one of those. In my view, there was enough time between this feat and the release of the product to be able to include it in the set.

The Break

All of the cards below were pulled during our break and are a fair representation of what you could get if you decided to invest in a box.



Card 1 – Martin St. Louis Base 224/299

Card 2 – Mr. Hockey Base Parallel 20/75

Card 3 – Cory Schneider Premier Rookie Quad-autographed jersey 58/299





Card 4 – Joe Thornton Premier Stitchings NHL Assists Leader autographed 3/50



Card 5 – Ryan Getzlaff Penmanship 38/100

Comments

Overall, this wasn't a bad break but it could definitely have been better. The swatches on the rookie jersey were all of a single color and all were blue. It could also have been interesting to short print some of the best rookies as they are all numbered to 299. A short-print top of the class always helps to increase the chase factor. Of course there are parallel versions of both the base and the rookies. Furthermore, while I have said that I do not mind the inclusion of the stitchings, this is far from being the general feeling throughout the hobby and a pull that seems like it has potential can be very hard to trade. Also, I cannot say that I am a big fan of the "cartoony" looking stitchings, have a look at the one of Ovechkin and you might figure out why he is not signing autographs for Upper Deck these days. On the autograph front, collectors will be please to know that they are hard-signed, as they should be for a high-end item like this one.

There are definitely some very nice cards to chase in this release. I love the look of the Rare Remnants and how they all spell different words or acronyms. The Induction Inks are also a great idea as more and more collectors seem to turn towards collecting Hall of Famers over the younger darlings of the hobby. In the same spirit, there are some gems in the Dynasty Duos autograph set that comprise eight cards all numbered to 100.

Final Ratings

Overall Design: 4.5/5

Value: 3/5

Fun: 4/5

Rebuy: 4/5

Variety: 4/5

Final Grade: 78%

While this was a fun break, it was over quite quickly as is always the case with high-end breaks and it felt somewhat anticlimactic. I do like this product but at this kind of price point, I do feel collectors would be better served by saving their money and shelling out on the real big gun; The Cup which will be descending upon us in July. Another of my qualms with the product is that I have seen numerous bland pieces of jerseys and quite simple patches as well, even very low-numbered one. When selling a product for this amount of money, an effort should really be made on the patch side.



2009 Press Pass Signature Edition Football
By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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

12 packs per box
 5 cards per pack

MSRP: 99.99-109.99

Product Information

Visit http://www.presspassinc.com/index.php?/cards/checklist/press_pass_football_2009/ for product details

What we pulled

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9t8ehOR_V8

Base - 39/50 (78%)
 Dupes - 0



Class of 2009 (2) - Mark Sanchez, Donald Brown



Game Day Gear Jersey (2) - Brandon Gibson, Javon Ringer



Double Feature (4) - Matthew Stafford/
 Stafford/Percy Harvin, Hakeem Nicks
 /Darrius Heyward-Bey, LeSean McCoy/
 Donald Brown, Rey Mauluga/James
 Laurinaitis



Headliners (6) - Mark Sanchez, Andre
 Brown, Kenny Britt, Jeremy Maclin,
 Brandon Pettigrew, James Laurinaitis





Game Day Gear Jersey /199 (1)
- Arian Foster



Press Pass Blue Autograph /50 (2) -
James Laurinaitis, LeSean McCoy



Press Pass Silver
Autograph /199 (1) -
Andre Brown *RED
INK*



Gridiron Graphs Autograph (5) - Brian Hoyer,
James Davis, P.J. Hill, Ramses Barden
RED INK, Rey Mauluga



Gridiron Graphs Ruby Autograph /150
(1) - Jarett Dillard



Final Ratings (Out of 5):

Base set: 4.25/5

Fun: 5/5

Overall design: 4/5

Value: 4.5/5

Re-buy: 4/5

Overall: 21.75/25 (87%)

Press Pass Signature Edition is a great product for many reasons, though some will blacklist it because the cards are not "true" rookie cards and the secondary market does not shine highly on them. However, here are some plusses to the set.



In each pack, you receive an insert and either a game worn or auto card. Not many releases can claim that. The base set is easy to put together after a box purchase and the insert sets are limited in number (three).

Autographs are on-card autos. Many vilify the use of stickers on auto cards and Press Pass takes the time to go out and get the players to sign the cards. There's no tacky or gaudy looking sticker. No worries that the sticker is missing placed upside-down or the wrong player's auto sticker is attached.

To make things more interesting and make the cards more collectible, Press Pass reserved a few of the autos to be signed in red ink instead of blue ink. Also, a limited few are signed with nicknames or inscriptions. This gives more value to the cards as well as adding interest to chase them.

Overall, Press Pass SE is a wonderful set for college football fans and pundits. After watching these players for years on the college gridiron, it's nice to have a chance to get a piece of their jersey and their auto before they go on to possibly become stars. Player collectors will come to this set as well as it gives them an opportunity to pick up a few cards for the personal collection before other mainstream releases hit the market. It is also nice to see that the team who drafted/signed the player is displayed on the front of the base card. Since not everyone watches or keeps up with the NFL Draft, having that information is a blessing.

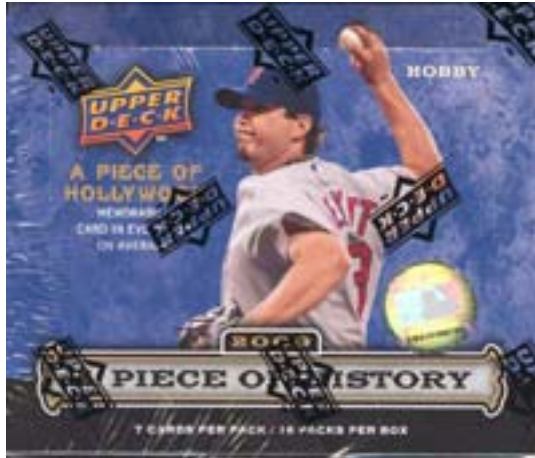
Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsor, Press Pass, for giving us the opportunity to open and review this releases. If interested in more information on this product or others, be sure to check them out at www.presspassinc.com.





Upper Deck A Piece of History
By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, a huge thanks to our sponsor, Upper Deck, for providing us with this box.



16 packs per box
 7 cards per pack

MSRP: \$59.99-\$69.99
 Product information: <http://sports.upperdeck.com/collectorszone/productpreview.aspx?aid=5470>

What we pulled

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE4-pJoM5Dw>
 Base - 44/100 (44%) Historical Moments - 22/50 (44%)
 Dupes - 0 Dupes - 0
 Rookies - 22/50 (44%)
 Dupes - 0



Blue Parallel #/299 (2) - Michael Young, Vernon Wells
 Green Parallel #/150 (1) - Pilgrims Land At Plymouth
 Gold Parallel #/50 (1) - Josh Roenicke

Box Score Memories #/999 (2) - Gary Sheffield, Rafael Furcal





Cut For The Same Cloth #/999 (2) - Ryan Howard/Prince Fielder, Chien-Ming Wang/Daisuke Matsuzaka

Franchise History #/999 (1) - Roy Halladay
Stadium Scenes Parallel #/149 (1) - Roy Halladay



Timeless Moments #/999 (2) - Edinson Volquez, Joey Votto
Timeless Moments Parallel #/75 (1) - Cole Hamels



Piece Of Hollywood Memorabilia (1) - "Along Came Polly"



Autograph (1) - Greg Golson

Stadium Scenes Relic #/180 (1)
- Zack Greinke Jersey





Final Ratings (Out of 5):

Base set: 4/5

Fun: 4.5/5

Overall design: 3.5/5

Value: 4/5

Re-buy: 4.5/5

Overall: 20.5/25 (82%)

A Piece of History returns after a successful rookie year one year ago. Captured within this set are some noteworthy events in the history of not only the U.S., but also the world. Events such as the completion of Mount Rushmore and founding of the Republican Party in the US to Earth Day and the creation of NATO are immortalized in a 50-card subset.

The cards break down nicely out of the packs. With a 44% completion rate from the base, rookies and historical moments, the base cards can be found at a 2 to 1 ratio over the other subsets. With this success rate, it should take collectors only a couple of boxes to complete the set via the packs and then trades. Had this been a straight out base set of 200 cards, I might be turned off by the amount received. However, with the subset coming in less quantity, it makes for an enjoyable set chase.

There are parallels and inserts everywhere in this set. In fact, each pack will yield at least an insert of some kind (not counting the 20th Anniversary Retrospective cards). All are numbered from 999 or less and feature various stars of baseball. With its rich colors and wonderful photo, Stadium Scenes stands out as the best of the inserts sets. The view is as if you are in the stands behind home plate, up in the upper deck. You get a breathtaking view of the field as well as the stadium. Definitely a nice set to put together.

Piece of Hollywood memorabilia cards are back at 1 per box. These cards were a hit last year. Noticeably, it seems Upper Deck still does not have the contractual rights to display photos of the person who wore the item on the front. However, the actor's name is listed (first and last) on the back, which is new as only the first name appeared last year.

















Overall, Piece of History is a great set for collectors as well as bargain hunters. With three hits on average per box, consumers will find enjoyment in many ways. However, I'm still not a fan of the same static card design. The granite/marble color theme to the cards detracts from their aesthetics. Also, the base auto is a different color (I assume to at least denote it's an auto). Reserve the color changes for parallels to keep things less confusing for the collectors.

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsor, Upper Deck, for giving us the opportunity to showcase and review this release. If interested in more information on this box or others, you can check them out at www.upperdeck.com.



Every month, we aim to provide you with an accurate list of release dates, however as you will no doubt know, release dates do change. At the time of publishing, all dates were correct.

July 2009

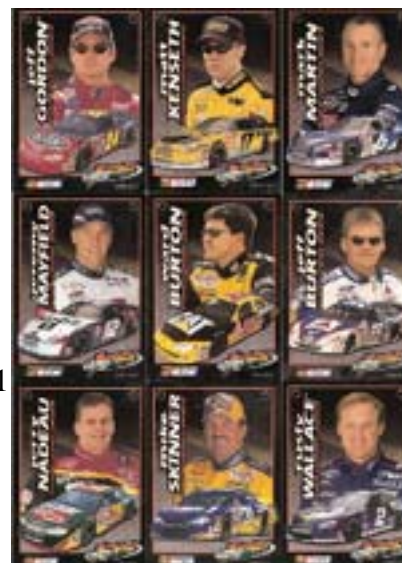
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6	7  -Squared Football	8  - Allen and Gintell Baseball	9  -Icons Football - Ultimate Collection Basketball	10 
13  -Mystery Jersey Baseball	14  - NFL Players Rookie Premiere	15  -Score Football -Rack Pack box Football	16 	17
20	21 	22  -Legends Football  -Inscriptions Football	23  -Topps Football -Jumbo HTA	24
27	28  -Sports Kings Series C  -Exquisite Collection Basketball -Draft Edition Basketball	29  The Cup – Hockey  -Factory Set Baseball	30	31

New Members' Corner By Leo Zuperku aka lzuperku

A hearty welcome to all our new members!

New Members, please read this IMPORTANT LINK:
<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=751252>

Here's a link to our New Member contests:
Racing <http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=815483>
Basketball <http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=794171>



Check the individual contests for complete instructions. Great prizes in each of these contests! All you have to do is get the most trades in a two-month period! For a trading site, that shouldn't be that hard to do...C'mon get trading!!!!!!

Congrats to our two newest MITs

Jr4thechamp and madman1978
Jr4thechamp Is staying in Meet and Greets and
madman1978 is going to the dispute team after his training.

Don't forget to "Ask Leo". This is located in the sticky section of the Meet & Greet forum. And as always: If you wish to join the new member team, pm Nascards



SCF on Ice

By Scott Kozlowski aka scottkoz20



The 08-09 season has concluded with the Pittsburgh Penguins winning the Stanley Cup. However, there is no summer break for the SCF Hockey Team as the 2009-10 season has already begun.

If you have not heard the news, the Hockey team is going to award one lucky member with this beauty (see picture on the left). That's right, Wayne Gretzky, Gordie Howe, Bobby Orr and Mario Lemieux autographs on a single card and the first three contests in the "Race for Quad" have already started!!!!

The first contest is the Draft contest. The contest was completed on Saturday June 27th, with three members having 21 points. They were Crater_Satori, gardzy99 and TannieS.

The tie breaker was to be determined by pick #50 of the draft, which was Kenny Ryan. However, none of the three selected this player at #50, so it was determined by the pick closed to #50 and that was gardzy99 with his pick of Tyson Barrie who went 64th overall. For this, gardzy99 will be receiving the following 2008-09 Upper Deck SP Authentic Future Watch Kyle Okposo Auto (032/999). Additionally, both gardzy99 and TannieS were awarded 5 points each and currently lead the "Race for the Quad".

Top 5 as of 6/27

1. gardzy99 5
1. TannieS 5
3. waf 4
4. Robot Rabbit 3
5. maddmaxx17 2

The second contest is the SCF annual NHL Free Agent Contest. As of writing this, 15 members have submitted their entries with more to come before the start of the NHL Free Agency Period on July 1st. <http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=823906>

The third contest is the Bingo game. Points towards the Quad will be given based on the hockey related Bingo you obtain.

- A regular line = 1 point
- A stick = 2 points



- A puck/net/goalie pads = 3 points
<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=827612>

Other contests for the Race to the Quad will include

- Preseason GTS Contest
- Regular Season Pool Contest
- Pick to Win League
- Show and Tell v2.0 Contest
- Olympics
- Scavenger Hunt
- 2010 Playoff Pool
- Pick to Win League

So even if you miss a contest or two, you will have plenty of opportunity to catch up and win the Quad!

2009 Nationals in Cleveland

Several members of the SCF Hockey Staff will be attending the Nationals in Cleveland this year. The Nationals start on July 29th and run until August 2nd.

Representing the hockey team in Cleveland will be Captngeetch (Jeff) and scottkoz20 (Scott). Other SCF staff members attending include Mikesilvia (Mike), Enigma (Tony), former Hockey Manager Doniceage (Don) and flying across the Atlantic for her only North American appearance Pheeb888 (Karine).

Look for live updates from the entire SCF team from Cleveland

Interview with Upper Deck

During the Nationals, Pheeb888 has scheduled an interview with Upper Deck. While she will have her own questions to ask, she is looking for additional ones. If you have a question or two that you would like to see asked, please contact Pheeb888 or post your question in the following thread:

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=830640>



Pittsburgh XXXI Spring Classic National Sports Card and Memorabilia Show

By Kevin O'Connor aka koconnor67



I went to a show today at Robert Morris University outside of Pittsburgh. I was not planning to attend but at the last minute I saw the opportunity to get out of the house, so I grabbed some stuff, and made my way out to see what was there. I picked up a few things for my PC (see pictures). Overall the show looked like it had a good turn out and all the dealers were in a good mood.

I got in line for Duffy Dyer signing for \$10 plus the ROMLB for \$12. Duffy Dyer was my favorite player when I was a little kid. My dad is a huge Met's fan. We named our Irish Setter Duffy. The first game I went to in

1976 was the Mets vs. Pirates at Shea Stadium and Duffy Dyer was now catching for the Pirates. He wasn't the every day catcher and not an all star but it was great to meet him and talk with him a little bit.

I was able to pick up a couple of things for my hockey PC - I bought the 84-85 OPC #67 Steve Yzerman RC for \$50 down from the \$80 asking price (\$100 BV). I needed this card for my set and was impressed with the overall condition compared to what I've seen on eBay or what is generally available with OPC of that era. The vintage Penguins cards I picked up were just plain cheap. I put together the Pens, the Brodeur RC, the mini pennant, the 1998 U.S.A. Olympic puck, and the 1977 OPC Pens logo for \$17. The Bill Guerin BAP Auto and the 1971-72 Topps #50 Bobby Hull I paid \$23 for both. I also got a box of 2008-09 UD Series 1 for \$50. I will probably break that box after the game Monday or Tuesday. Or tonight if I can't sleep ha ha!



Showing up for the last few hours of a show can be really great. The dealers have either made out really well, or not, but either way they are eager to deal and pretty open to negotiating. I was able to trade if I wanted and also sold a nice 200+ card lot of VG-EX 1960 Topps baseball that included High numbers and listed cards to a dealer that had a need for them in his inventory. In years past I used to always go to shows on the first night and it seemed as if the dealers where a little uptight because they had lots of inventory, not much cash, and were anxious as to what sort of turnout the show would receive. First night is great if you're buying wax or looking for something super rare.

I saw some great memorabilia which you don't see at every local show like these; big 24"x36" box matted Sports Illustrated covers of the Steelers, thousands of autographed baseballs and photos, tons of cool oddball items, programs, warehouse wax dealers, and regional/national dealers with some real quality stuff. I met some local people and made some contacts for buying, selling, and trading. Well worth the trip. The show is billed as a National show but I would say it was pretty much a regional.

After only 2 hours I was back in time to catch the second period on TV and get back to work on the "Honey Do" list. Looking forward to the National but that will be a game time decision too.



Pelle Lindbergh: Triumph to Tragedy
By Kevin Petitpas aka Inferno



Pelle Lindbergh was a Swedish goaltender who first burst on to the international scene during the 1980 Olympics at Lake Placid, where he helped the Swedish national team hold the gold-medal winning Americans to a 2-2 tie and becoming the only team who didn't lose to the champions during the tournament.

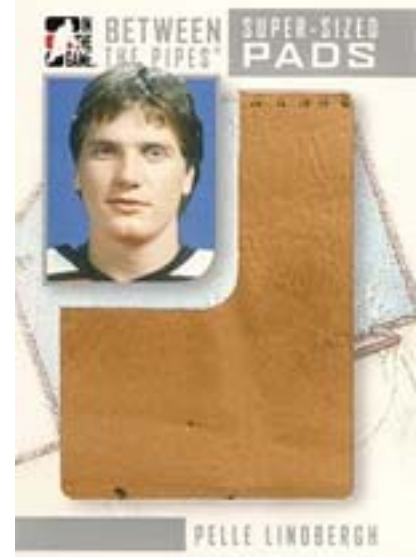
In the 1979 NHL entry draft Lindbergh was selected in the second round, 35th overall, by the Philadelphia Flyers. After playing a couple of seasons in the minor leagues Lindbergh got his debut with the Flyers during the 1981/82 season, where he was named to the NHL All-Rookie team.

During the 1984/85 season he led the NHL with 40 wins and became the first European goaltender in NHL history to win the Vezina Trophy. Later that year on November 10th, after a night of partying, he lost control of his modified Porsche and crashed into an elementary school in New Jersey. He was kept on life support until his family

could pay their respects, then he passed away on November 11th.

After his death Lindbergh led fan voting for the 1986 All-Star game, becoming the first player in a major North American sport to be chosen posthumously for such an honor. Sean Taylor's election to the 2008 NFL Pro Bowl has been the only other case of a posthumous election.

The story of Pelle Lindbergh's successful but tragic life has not been lost on collectors, and more than two decades after his death his cards continue to be popular with hobby enthusiasts. According to Beckett numbers Lindbergh has 89 cards in circulation to this day, 56 of those being memorabilia cards exclusive to ITG. Lindbergh memorabilia is scarce and tends to sell fairly high, with his 2008/09 Between The Pipes cards consistently outselling their Patrick Roy and Martin Brodeur counterparts as an example. Most of his memorabilia cards have appeared in high-end ITG releases such as Ultimate Memorabilia, but inclusion in mid-range products like Between The Pipes has been limited and therefore a big draw for collectors.



I have been fortunate enough to acquire the cards you have seen in this article for my collection, and they are pieces of hockey history that are likely to stay with me for quite some time. If you are a fan of the sport, a fan of goaltenders, or are intrigued by stories like this one, you owe it to yourself to find a nice piece for your collection before it is too late.



The Shadier Side of the Hobby **By Stephen Duell aka Spuds1961**

Lately something has been bothering me about this great hobby and I've been trying to avoid it until now. I hear stories about pack searchers but they are really not what is offending me. What are bothering me are the scam artists on eBay and ruthless shop owners who open their own product and leave the boxes with no hits out on the shelf.

Problem number one with eBay unless you are ordering from a reputable company there is a decent chance that the box you purchase has been gone through and resealed. There is no concrete proof of this activity, but there are far too many box breaks that have missing hits or really awful inserts for people not to be sceptical. Problem number two, when buying a box on eBay make sure you know what you are getting. I've seen far too many people paying hobby box prices for a 19.99 retail box you can get at the likes of Target, Walmart, Toys-R-Us and Meijers you get the idea... Problem number three, hot packs just exactly how do these clowns know it's a hot pack unless it's been felt up opened and resealed or they opened all the packs in the box except for the one left which would mean the hit was there.

Now for the rant on patch fakers, you can't even bid on a card anymore without thinking its been tampered with. A lot of the nicer patch cards have been proven as fakes with the number sequencing from when the plain white patch was sold matching the newer faked colorful patch. There is money to be made in this hobby but it seems the shady characters are the one's making it and us collectors are left footing the bill. I feel eBay can be great for us collectors, but remember to look before you leap as something that seems too good to be true usually is.

Now let's go to the shop owners shall we? I have seen this move done far too many times to fall for it anymore. If you see a box that has about 1/2 the packs left you can rest assured all of the hits are gone. I knew this one shop owner who would open four boxes get all the hits and combine the leftover packs to give the impression of having full boxes of said products. My best advice to my fellow collectors on this issue is buy a sealed box or ask the owner to open a fresh box in front of you. If he balks at your request that is not the shop for you. Another issue I have with shop owners is the way they take advantage of young collectors. My shop owner hates me because I have advised a lot of the younger collectors to find out more about any card they pull in his shop before dealing with him.

Last rant I promise: trading card sites. As a moderator on SCF I see my fair share of trade disputes and scam artists. We have rules in place but we can't catch every rip-off artist out there. My best advice before you trade with someone on a site is to do some research, and don't ever make your first trade with a new member high end as you would only be asking for trouble. Check their feedback, their prior trade history and their shipping procedures that will give you an idea of whether you want to trade with them. Remember this is a hobby to be enjoyed but our money is as hard to come by as the next guy, so remember collect what you like trade what you don't, sell what you can and most of all keep your eyes open at all times. Have a great sports card week and take care!



Topps Sketch Cards

By Robert Shirley aka Champs1985



Some years back I responded to a contest sponsored by Scoreboard to find new ideas for cards. My submission (although I did not win) was "real art cards". The idea came from cards that I had gotten in various packs where artist would sketch or paint and we would be fortunate enough to get copies of these works of art randomly in packs of cards. So, my idea was to get the real thing. Simple Idea but I consoled my loss with the feeling that it really would be very pricey to have this done. To my astonishment Topps has done the impossible. 2008 Topps Update and 2008 Topps Stadium Club started unheralded inserting real sketch cards into their packs. 2009 brought more in Stadium Club and regular Topps packs. You can imagine my surprise and joy to be able to incorporate two true loves of my life into one. My first acquisition was a Jackie Robinson sketch by Holbrecht I got in a trade

I was instantly hooked and trying to find as many as I could get my hands on. Buying is not always an option so I scoured the Internet for trades and inexpensive sketches. Although not many showed up due to scarcity, my journey has not ended. Having nearly thirty now is merely a drop in the bucket of what's out there and my quest will only end when I can say I own one of each artist. (In other words, never)

In the course of my searches I experienced problems with trying to determine whose sketches were out there. Famous artists or just Joe Blow off the street, and Topps really did their homework on this one. Some of the most famous artist in these sets are Scott Barnett, Rich Molinelli, Brian Kong, Don Pedicini Jr., Jim Kyle, Justin Chung, Paul Lemba, Chris Henderson, Ingrid Hardy and Dave Hobrecht. That's where the fun ends. Researching the whole list has been rough, Fact is that there are 21 total artists in the 2009 Topps regular set, but who is still a mystery. Research can be exhausting. After countless hours behind my desk and searching sell and trade sites and the occasional phone call to Topps customer service, I have yet to find a complete list of Sketch card artist for either the 2008 or 2009 Topps sketches.

I have been able to compile most of the signatures and find most of the names in the set, although some signatures are still unknown to me. Topps' customer service states that they don't have a checklist and has provided some help trying to locate a few, but the end result is; I'm still short a few names and sketches. My autograph scans can be found in my bucket <http://s302.photobucket.com/albums/n...ketch%20autos/>

If your love of art and sports are as strong as mine, this is the perfect thirst quencher. Prices on Internet sites range from 10 dollars to 2,000 dollars, although the low-end price is almost never found. The investment into hobby and culture is priceless, and my hunt continues...



How an “ehh” Autograph Became a Prized Part of my Collection

By Keith Matheny aka UpNorthOutWest



So much of our sports card collecting hobby, for good reasons, is focused on the statistical greatness of the player and the card's age, condition and monetary value.

However, I recently had an experience where digging a little deeper in researching a baseball card in my collection caused me to look at it in a very different way. It made the card much more valuable, at least to me...

A while back I got a box of TriStar Signa-Cuts. I'd never bought it before and just wanted to give it a whirl. From it I pulled a cut autograph of Morris "Morrie" Martin, num-

bered 6/26. Who? Yeah, exactly.

From a very short blurb on Wikipedia I learned that Martin pitched from 1949 to 1959, appearing in 250 games for several different teams. His career record was 38-34. I wasn't exactly excited. OK, I was a bit disappointed, hoping for a little better hit. Still, it was an interesting-looking card, an old, signed baseball card cut in half. I slapped it in a protector and it's been in "the pile" ever since.

Fast-forward several months. While surfing the Internet I came across the website www.baseballinwartime.co.uk. There I found information about Morrie Martin's life.

He was born on Sept. 3, 1922 in Dixon, Missouri. The Brooklyn Dodgers signed Martin after a scout watched him pitch two shutouts and strike out 43 batters in one afternoon in his Missouri hometown. Martin was assigned to the Grand Forks Chiefs of the Class C Northern League, where he led the league with a 2.05 earned run average and made the All-Star Team. Martin went 16-7 and was promoted to the St. Paul Saints of the American Association for 1942.

But World War II would put Martin's fledgling baseball career on hold.

On Dec. 28, 1942, Martin entered military service with the Army at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. He served with the 49th Engineer Combat Battalion, and was involved in amphibious landings at North Africa, Sicily and at Omaha Beach in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He suffered shrapnel wounds twice. But one of his closest brushes with death came one night in a small town in Germany. That night, an enemy bomb levelled the house he was staying in. Martin and two other soldiers were buried alive. "We saw a little pin of light out of the darkness and dug ourselves out," Martin told MLB.com in a 2004 interview I also later discovered through some Internet research.



"We got out the next day and everybody was gone. They left us. About a day and a half later we found them. They just figured we were dead. They said we looked like ghosts walking to them, all white with plaster. It was pretty scary, I'll tell you that."

In early 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge, Martin suffered a bullet wound to the leg. Infection set in. A doctor in the Army hospital said amputation would be necessary. Martin relayed what happened in the MLB.com story: "There was a little nurse there, and God bless her soul, I wish I knew where she was now," Martin said. "She said, 'they're supposed to amputate your leg tomorrow. You can refuse that operation.' She said, 'They have a new drug out now that will kill that infection.'"

The new drug was penicillin. Martin said he took more than 150 shots of penicillin to his leg, but was able to keep it. "The little nurse saved it for me," he told MLB.com. "Otherwise, I'd have no career in baseball at all."

Martin was discharged from the Army in December 1945. Incredibly, he returned to the baseball mound the following season, going 14-6 for the Asheville Tourists with a 2.71 ERA. By 1949, Martin made it to the big leagues as a 26-year-old rookie. He pitched in 10 games for the Dodgers, going 1-3. In 1951 he was back in the league with the Philadelphia Athletics. It was Martin's best season. He went 11-4 with a 3.78 ERA, beating every American League team at least once.

In total, Martin spent 10 seasons, pitching with the Dodgers, A's, White Sox, Orioles, Cardinals, Indians and Cubs, mostly in relief. He retired from the big leagues in 1959. Now 86 years old, he currently lives in Washington, Mo.

My Morrie Martin cut autograph card is now a prized part of my personal collection. When I look at it now, I think of an American hero, a member of "The Greatest Generation," who fought and was wounded in some of the most important battles of World War II. I think of the tremendous perseverance Martin must have had, to go from nearly losing a leg in war to pitching again within about a year.

The lesson I learned? Sometimes stats and book value don't tell the entire story of a card, a player, or a man's value. And an uninspiring card, once in a great while, can become a special part of your collection, if you look a little closer.



Card of the Month Winners May-June
 By Peter Kapuschinsky aka doG_sI_kcivraH

Winner: doG_sI_kcivraK 2009 Press Pass Four Wide #FW-GB Greg Biffle #11/25 (8 votes)



2nd Place - (Tie 4 votes each)



Race crazy

3rd Place (3 votes) JKC



rw2fan4ever





Jeremy's Journey

By Peter Kapuschinsky aka doG_sl_kcivraH



May 23rd saw Jeremy Gordon and the #15g America's Car-Mart Chevrolet roll into LA Raceway in La Monte, MO for the Car-Mart night at the races. The race got off in very exciting fashion as the cars of Gordon, Michael Tyler, Danny Everts, and Tanner Young went four-wide down the front stretch on the first lap. Young pulled out in the lead coming out of turn two. Within two laps, the leaders were already catching lap traffic. A caution on the fourth lap was the break Gordon needed, as he rocketed by Young coming out of turn four and drove off to a dominant victory. Everts, Young, Tyler, and John Simpson rounded out the top five.

La Monte was the place to be on the 30th May as Gordon looked to repeat at LA Raceway. Defending points champion Everts led through the midway point of the race. Three laps into the feature, Gordon grabbed the second position, passing Tyler on the high side through turns one and two. Things got interesting on the seventh lap of the race, as Tyler was making a successful run on both Gordon and Everts when the yellow flew. Because Tyler did not lead a complete circuit, he was forced back to the third position for the restart. It wasn't long after the green flag waved that the top three began to distance themselves from the rest of the field. With three to go, Jeremy made his move on the inside of Everts to steal the lead and, ultimately, the checkers for his second consecutive feature win. Tyler also managed his way around Everts for the runner-up position. Jim Ash passed Everts on the final lap and they finished 3rd and 4th respectively. Bret Cox rounded out the top five.

The next night brought the 3rd race of the season to Double X Speedway. Mike Barton of Eldon and Luke Skidmore of Green Ridge took their respective heats, but Jeremy did not disappoint when the time came for the feature. Gordon took home his second feature win of the season as well as his second win of the weekend. The rest of the top five were Skidmore, Mike Schrader, David Martz, and Allen Guthrie. The point standings were as follows:

Luke Skidmore-376
 Mike Schrader-320
 Jeremy Gordon-316
 David Martz-294
 Bridgett Clifford-256



The following weekend was another victorious one for Gordon, as it started off with a 2nd victory at LA Raceway. With that finish, he has shown to be a force to be reckoned with in La Monte, as he currently sits 2nd in points, just 14 out of the top spot. The top five at LA Raceway look as such:

Danny Everts-867 Michael Tyler-733
Jeremy Gordon-853 Miranda Arnold-728
John Simpson-749

The very next evening started with a heat win for Gordon, as well as another heat win for Luke Skidmore. The feature was similar to the week prior, as Gordon took the second straight feature and 3rd of the season and Skidmore repeated as runner-up. The rest of the top five featured Miranda Arnold, Bridgett Clifford, and Cherry Wineland in 3rd, 4th, and 5th respectively. The win for Gordon moved him up to 2nd in the season's points race behind Skidmore. Here's how the points stack up after 4 races at Double X Speedway:

Luke Skidmore-469
Jeremy Gordon-413
David Martz-355
Bridgett Clifford-339
Miranda Arnold-335

The weekend of June 12th brought home a 4th place feature finish at LA Speedway behind Everts, who took the trophy, Young, and Arnold. John Simpson took home a 5th place finish.

The next night at Double X Speedway saw A. J. Wirtz taking the first heat race and Luke Skidmore taking the second heat as this race got a little heated between he and Gordon, as they bumped and banged throughout the heat, with Gordon eventually taking a black flag and being pitted for the remainder of the heat. Not to be outdone, Gordon battled back for a runner-up finish in the feature behind Miranda Arnold, who captured her first feature of the year. Skidmore placed a solid 3rd, followed by Ralph Booth and Bridgett Clifford in 4th and 5th. Skidmore, however, extended his point lead to 72 points over Gordon.

Luke Skidmore-558
Jeremy Gordon-486
Miranda Arnold-428
Bridgett Clifford-416
Cherry Wineland-371



Father's Day weekend turned out to be yet another success. LA Speedway was able to contain Jeremy, as he stuck himself with a 3rd place finish behind the previous week's Double X Speedway winner Miranda Arnold and Everts. John Simpson and Michael Tyler rounded out the top five. The point standings for LA Speedway look like this:

Danny Everts-1122
Jeremy Gordon-1096
Miranda Arnold-980
John Simpson-975
Michael Tyler-955

Double X Speedway's Father's Day event went similar to the previous weeks. Skidmore and Gordon took home heat race victories. It was Gordon, again, who swooped in with a yet another feature win. However, with all the success, he is struggling to close the point gap between him and Skidmore, who took second place honors. Miranda Arnold continued her recent success with a 3rd, followed by Mike Schrader 4th and Chastity Vaughn of Jefferson City 5th.

Luke Skidmore-651
Jeremy Gordon-583
Miranda Arnold-511
Bridgett Clifford-477
Cherry Wineland-422

Stay tuned next month for future updates as Jeremy goes for not one, but two titles. This is Peter Kapuschinsky for www.sportscardforum.com with special thanks to Jeremy Gordon and additional thanks to Mike Goedel aka skippy for his contributions.





A Weekend of Nostalgia

By Dale Griffin aka Djarum



I was at the NHRA Holley Hot Rod Reunion this past Saturday and man it was sweet! I went to it last year and was blown away by all the nostalgic Hot Rods and the history that it has brought this amazing sport.

Upon entering the drag strip grounds in Bowling Green, KY you are overwhelmed by the site of cars, people, and the smell of Nitro. It is a sweltering 102 degrees and muggy from possible rain, that never came. As you leave the parking lot you are witnessing several hundreds of vintage cars ranging from rat rods, willies, and tons of customs rides. For these cars are competing in the annual SoffSeal Show'n Shine. The 10 "Best of the Best" winners, as well as the Top 50 SoffSeal Show'n Shine entries from the Reunion, will be invited to the 55th NHRA Mac Tools U.S. Nationals (Sept. 2-7) at O'Reilly Raceway Park at Indianapolis.

After you have spent hours checking out all these rides you work your way towards the business booths and a swap meet with over 150 tables/spots. You can find every part needed if you wanted to fix that 34' Coupe or your 69' Camaro. Along all the parts and pieces you can find nostalgic books, signs, keys and whatever you can think of when it comes to cars. I myself picked up some vintage Mountain Dew signs to add to my collection.

I then wandered over to the business booths and filled up on all the swag I could get my hands on. From these booths you can pick up parts for your customs or see the newest and greatest products that have come out for your ride. Upon walking through these booths I came upon one that I had to visit. Actress Candy Clark who played Debbie Dunham in the hit film American Graffiti, a role which garnered her an Academy Award nomination as Best Supporting Actress, joined the Reunion party along with tributes to two of the movie's cars – the yellow coupe, probably the most recognized hot rod in the world driven by actor Paul Le Mat in the movie and the black '55 Chevy driven in the movie by actor Harrison Ford. Also on display next to her was a tribute to the '55 Chevy featured in the cult movie Two-Lane Blacktop.



Candy Clark

While all this is happening you can hear the blare of the engines zipping down the drag strip. I picked a great spot at the starting line standing next to the fence just 15 yards from the cars. It was a great opportunity for photos of those impressive burnouts before they raced down the track.



NHRA's all-time Top 50 Drivers.

After watching these cars for a while I headed back to the booths to snag me a few autographs from the drivers of NHRA drag racing history. I picked up autographs of past NHRA legends and HOFers like Bob Nylander who drives a 1932 Bantam Roadster, Robert "Bones" Balogh who has driven dragsters for over 50+ years, Vance Hunt who was a Top Fuel racer who battled Don Galits for years, Amy Faulk who was the first woman to win an NHRA division championship, Bob Creitz who is known as the inventor of the "Burnout" and a prominent Top Fuel racer, Jerry Baltes who set speed records and won the world Series of Drag Racing in 1964, and Darrell Gwynn who is the Grand Marshall of this event. Gwynn was selected as one of the



I packed all my swag and autographs in my truck and headed to the pits to see some of the Nostalgia Top Fuels, Funny cars, Geezer Gassers, and Gas Eliminators.

While looking at all the cars I came upon a trailer that had a very noticeable ride. It was "Big Daddy" Don Garlits' Swamp Rat!!



After checking out his ride and taking a few pictures I got to meet the Hall of Famer and Legend of Racing Don Garlits. He had time to talk with me about when he raced. He even signed one of his shirts I bought and was glad to take a picture with me.

Exhausted from all the walking and sight seeing I wandered back to the track to watch more cars head down the track. After watching this impressive event for the past 12 hours it was time for me to head out and share my experience with my wife and kids. To top this off I got to spend the day with my Dad and enjoy a great Father's Day weekend of cars, history and memories.



Football Happenings
By Jason DiOrazio aka jdio13

Hello and thank you for reading this month's SCF magazine and checking out the Football section. We have quite a few things brewing in the Football forums of SCF, which we will cover later in this article. First, I would like to highlight the winner of the eBay Steal of the Month Contest for May of 09. The winner this month was member ross9013. Here is a picture of the card that he won:



And here is the link to the eBay auction:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&ssPageName=STRK:MEWNX:IT&item=290315051924>

All of us on the Football team would like to send a big congrats out to Ross for this great win!!!

With football season fast approaching, the Football team is planning many new contests for the upcoming season. Some of the ideas we have had include the GTS contests for pro and college football, guess the stat contests, rookie of the year contest, college and pro pick 'em, survivor, and season long stats contests. Check out the Football forums on SCF to get the information on these contests in which you could win card cash and card prizes.

From all of us on the SCF Football Team, we would like to thank everyone who read this article this month. We appreciate it and we hope to see you on the Football boards soon!!



Basketball Update

By Trevor Picone aka trevorp121

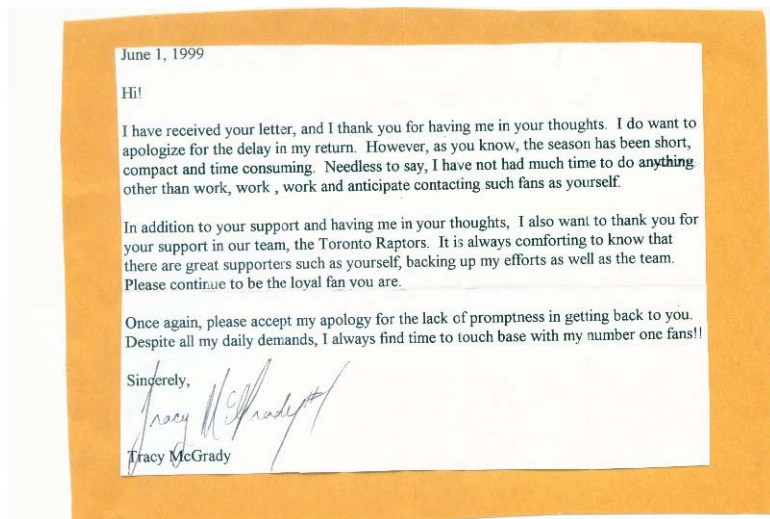
The NBA Playoffs and 2008-09 season have come to a close with the Los Angeles Lakers beating the Orlando Magic in a five game series. The Lakers championship gave Kobe his fourth ring, Phil Jackson his tenth championship, and the Lakers fifteenth banner coming in October. Kobe Bryant was named as the NBA Finals MVP for the first time in his career. Now that the celebration is over it gets down to business where the Lakers may have to make a decision between Lamar Odom and Trevor Ariza who are both free agents in the off-season.

The 2009 NBA Draft happened on June 25th and the Clippers selected Blake Griffin with the first overall pick, Hasheem Thabeet was taken second by the Timberwolves and rounding off the top three was James Harden. Some other notable things that happened on draft day were Shaquille O'Neal getting traded to the Cleveland Cavaliers for Ben Wallace and Sasha Pavlovic, the Lakers selling their pick to the Knicks for 3 million dollars, and Vince Carter becoming a member of the Orlando Magic. That move should only make the Magic a better team next year. This is building it up and it should be a fun and exciting off-season.

Also, some sadder news with the basketball community here at SCF... Ash (RenegadeLonghorn) decided to step down as Team Manager. We will miss him, as he was a major part in making the basketball community what it is today. He was always coming up with fresh ideas for new contests and making it a fun environment. We wish him the best and hope that he decides to come back at some point.

The new TTM manager that SCF has set up made us want to showcase some notable basketball TTM autographs that members have gotten.

Member: JammingJames23





Khendra says: This was before T-Mac became a star. I wrote to him in the early part of the year, including a Topps rookie card for him to sign. He signed both the Topps card and the letter. I ended up trading the card soon afterward to a guy who claimed he really wanted it but thankfully I had enough sense to at least keep the signed letter. There is no way he includes personalized letters to his fans anymore, and his signature looks nothing like that now, so this is really a cool TTM PC piece for me.

Member: tboculosis obtained this autographed card TTM back in 2000 c/o Dallas Mavericks: Nash doesn't sign TTM anymore, let alone sign his full signature.



The season long contests are now over until next year. Here are the Final Standings for each one.

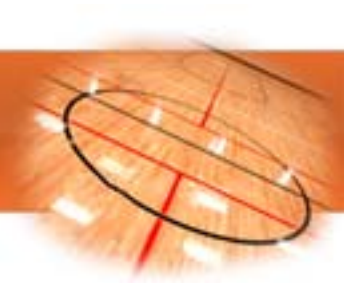
Pick 'Em (Final Top Three):

- #1 dwighthoward- 61 (1162)
- #2 Hoopsman- 61 (1356)
- #3 JesRey- 60 (1263)

Top Performers (Final Top Three):

- #1 key2win ~ 82
- #2 JesRey ~ 79
- #3 allstar ~ 78

We would also like to congratulate and thank all the participants for making these contests fun and exciting for all! We hope you decide to join the contests next year.



Basketball Theme Weeks are still going strong! We have had 17 full weeks of entries thus far, and every week has been fun with a lot of entries. We hope you join in on the fun.

Winners for the year, as of 6/23, are:

- week 1: lc_chatser, bob9826
- week 2: BRoy#7
- week 3: TeamADG
- week 4: jeebus86
- week 5: XxViSiOnxX
- week 6: whalechaser
- week 7: nbacardDOTnet
- week 8: BRoy#7
- week 9: Verse1
- week 10: VintageHeros
- week 11: drtom2005, MatthewLee
- week 12: jeebus86
- week 13: sl7in
- week 14: crizr
- week 15: OJMayo32
- week 16: VintageHeros, kardkid74

Basketball Chat Night still 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 the magic mark of 20 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 or trevor121. Again, thank you for taking some time to read this.



Basketball Featured Collection

By **Khendra Murdock aka JammingJames23**



This month, for our Basketball Collection of the Month, we are showcasing JammingJames23's Antoine Walker collection!

Collecting 'Toine:

Prior to joining SCF in 2005, I never really had a large NBA player card collection. When I saw how active and fun it was to trade on SCF, I decided in mid-2005 to focus on developing a well-rounded player collection. I chose Antoine Walker since he had lots of cards, wasn't too expensive, and was a player I had always liked even though he is often maligned for his shot selection.

As a low-end collector, I figured it would be best to focus on accumulating as many of his base and inserts as possible at first. I am happy to say that I have about 99% of his base cards now, and a large number of inserts and parallels.

Overall, my total number of different Antoine cards now exceeds 700. Autographs have been the toughest to obtain, and I have just eight of those so far. Still, I never thought I'd be able to collect over 700 cards of a player when I first started my collection. It's been fun to watch my collection gradually get larger over the span of several years and get to the point it is at now.



Since I have so many Antoine cards now, accumulating more has become a bit of a slower process in recent months, especially with a limited budget. Nonetheless, I still find some new stuff to add. I've added some lower numbered cards and autographs in recent weeks, which I hope to keep doing since my collection could use more of those in particular. But even as I continue to make the collection better, I am very happy with what I've been able to achieve in a few years. It has turned out better than I anticipated when I first started!



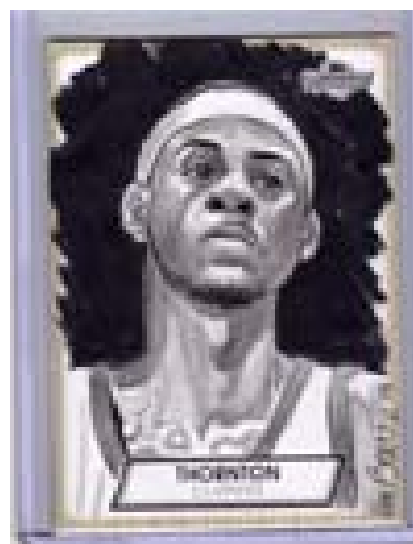
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Basketball Spotlight By Trevor Picone aka trevorp121

Once again 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 Topps Hardwood Al Thornton 1/1 Sketch
Member: drtom
Pulled From: 2008-09 Topps Hardwood pack



Card: 1/1 plate of Jerryd Bayless, Carmelo Anthony Auto and Derrick Rose 1/1
Member: gomiamigo
Pulled From: 08-09 Topps Hardwood Box

Card: John Stockton 1/1 UD Black Auto
Member: gomiamigo
Pulled From: 08-09 UD Black Case





A New Scam

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

The world being what it is, there will always be dishonest people around looking for new ways to make a quick buck. Unfortunately, this is also true in the hobby world and collectors must beware. In the past, I have written an article about fake patches being sold on eBay but it now seems that memorabilia is no longer the scammers' favorite tool. As we all know, the market has become somewhat saturated with game-used cards and many collectors have now lost their enthusiasm for such item. However, the collecting community is still very found of autographed cards and this is all too well known by con artists.

Many of us are not fans of sticker autographs and it seems that we now have one more reason not to like them. Indeed, they are the ones used to produce the new fakes. How you say? Well, it is quite simple, and rather well explained by a great blog online: The Voice of the Collector. If you follow this link (<http://www.voiceofthecollector.com/2009/06/fake-sticker-autos-video-response-to.html>) you can see a video demonstrating how the fake autographs are produced.

Watching the video is almost disturbing as it makes this looks so very easy. Simply put, it seems that anyone with rubbing alcohol, a Q-tip, a razor blade and the right amount of dishonesty can manufacture their own fake autograph. There are four simple steps; first: they must find one a real card with a sticker auto. Then, it's time to dip the Q-tip in the rubbing alcohol and start taking the auto off by rubbing the said Q-tip on it. Almost as if by magic, the autograph will shortly disappear. Once the sticker is blank, a thin razor blade can be used to raise the sticker off the card. Of course, this is likely to damage the card but this isn't an issue for the scammer as he has already ruined it by "erasing" the autograph. Finally, all that's left to do for our scam artist is to find any card of a much more popular athlete and affix the sticker to that card before signing it themselves. Of course, they will sell it on as a real autograph card and likely make good money on it.



Easy as 1,2,3 isn't it? What this means for the collecting masses is that once again, we must be weary of any deal, which seems too good to be true. Before you buy or trade for a sticker autograph card, you might want to do two things. Firstly, use the tools at your disposal and look-up the desired card on the checklist produced by the card manufacturer. For instance, if I wanted to know if a Patrick Roy UD Ultimate Collection autographed base parallel was produced, all I would need to do would be to consult the checklist on Upper Deck's website. This only takes a few minutes but is well worth it if it prevents you from spending money on a fake card. Go to the card company's

website, find the right product and (in Upper Deck's case) click on the product home.



You will be taken to a new page, and on the right-hand side of the page, you will see the list of different sets included in the product. If you cannot see a base parallel autograph checklist set, chances are, there is no such thing and the card you are considering buying is a fake.

Secondly, ask the seller/trader to provide you with a scan of the back of the card, as there is always a message along the lines of: “Congratulations! You have just received a card autographed by _____.

The card was either signed in the presence of an Upper Deck representative or sent in to us and certified as to being authentic by _____”. While this method is safe, it also presupposes that the seller/trader will be happy to oblige. If they aren’t, alarm bells should be going in your head by now and it is time to walk away from the table.



I believe it is fairly easy not to be fooled by this latest scam if you are an informed collector, if you lack the knowledge however it’s another story. Speaking from experience, when a friend decides to buy you a present and all they know is that you collect a certain player, they often resort to eBay and search for the said player looking for the best card for the best price. Chances are, if they see one of those cards which informed collectors have dismissed as fake and elected not to bid on, they very might well be tempted to bid. No one could blame them really as they are definitely not in a position to make an informed decision.

If ever there was a good reason for the card companies to rethink, the use of sticker autographs this is it. Never mind the fact that most collectors prefer hard signed offerings in any event, at least with on-card autographs customers wouldn’t have to worry about things like these. Yes, I know, sticker autographs allow to reduce the amount of redemptions inserted in boxes but think about it, which would you prefer; waiting a few months for your autograph or getting one which was signed by a clever scam-artist? I think the best option is pretty obvious.

In any case, when you next consider buying or trading for a sticker autograph, please do take your time and make sure that what you are getting is the real deal...



SP “Legendary” Cuts

By John Jimenez aka gmoney168



I swear the only reason I would buy a box of this stuff from 06-09 is if I was being held at gunpoint. Yes, I think the set has really been that bad in recent year. Ever since 06, I have really felt that SP Legendary Cuts has gone downhill.

2001 SP Legendary Cuts was by far the best SPL set ever. For around \$75, you could get a 72-card box, with 2 GU bats and 1 GU jersey per box. The bats from that set are the only GU bat cards that I see sell very well, which is because of the significance of the players included in the set that included any big name in baseball history you could think of. The bat and jersey cards sell from \$5 to \$150, depending on the player. But the real reason that 01 SPL

was the best set is because of the possibility of pulling a cut auto. Although they only fell one per case, the quality line-up of players was insane. Some of the cuts from this set were the only ones ever made for some players, which makes them very desirable in addition to the low print run of each one. I have seen the cuts sell from \$50 all the way up to \$10,000. In my opinion, this was also one of the best sets of all time, in addition to the best SPL set. Nowadays, you can find a box for \$150-300.

The next year of SPL was 2005. These boxes ran and still run for \$150 for the 48 cards. You are guaranteed 3 GU or autos, with most boxes having 3 GU, which is why this set ranks second. However, the upside of the 05 set was that there were 2 cut autos, 1 auto/patch, 2 autos, and 2 patches per case, which almost guarantees one of those per box. Still, when compared to SPL's 01 checklist, this set was nothing special, but enough to get second in my book.

The real beginning of SPL's demise started in 2006. The boxes cost \$130, but you really got nothing for your money. Only two GU cards were guaranteed per box, and the case guarantees weren't much better. There are only 2 cut autos per case, and only 2 regular autos per case. Those numbers per case are spread out over a 16 box case, so you are guaranteed an auto or cut auto every 4 boxes, a total of \$520 for the chance at one of them. If you are paying \$100+ for a box, an auto guarantee is a must. 2 GU cards worth maybe \$20 combined are not worth spending \$130.

After 06, 2007 SPL was the next set, the middle year of the 5-year consecutive run of SPL. It also marked the second year of SPL's downhill run. These boxes started out at \$80, but are now down to \$50, which is still overpaying for what you get. 48 cards with only one GU per box! Once again, there are two cut autos per case, but they are spread out over 16 boxes. Now tell me- are there many GU cards worth \$50 in this set? The checklist must be so bad that UD doesn't even want to release it. I hope that's a very nice base set for those of you that bought a box of this stuff.



The way 2008 SPL looked when it came out, I thought this might be the turnaround year. Boy, was I wrong! Everything was just an absolute mess. For \$100, you got 48 cards, four of which were GU. Of course, they were focused more on modern-day players, so each is worth only \$5-10. UD also upgraded the number of cuts per case to 3, to go along with 2 regular autos. But the real problem with 08 was, in addition to those per-case cards being 5 out of 16 boxes; some of the cut autos were “mystery redemptions.” This was the real disaster of the year. When UD released the “mystery” checklist, some of the names were very well known and valuable. But, not shockingly, UD has to be UD and get rid of the original checklist and substitute in another crappy one. This made some people who paid hundreds of dollars for the mystery cards furious, and is where UD’s redemption service went downhill. Is it me or does it seem SPL made lots of things go downhill?

Finally, we get to this year’s 2009 SPL (unfortunately). This set is basically the exact same as 08, except with 60 cards per box. Each box has four GU, with one being a dual, and two cuts and two regular autos per 16-box case. And, with the popularity of 08’s mystery cut redemptions, they return one per case in 09. There isn’t much to say, as in a few months we will get to see how UD screws up the mystery cuts. Once again, for \$90, you don’t make much of your money back with the normal GU pulls per box. Unless you hit a cut, your pocket will be feeling the effects of buying a box of this stuff they call cards. And you still might not make it back judging by the non-quality cuts!

SP Legendary Cuts is a classic example of what card companies are doing to get you to pay more for less. When you compare what you would get in 2001 to what you now get here in 2009, there is just too much value lost. The quality of players in the set has gone down, the price of the boxes have gone up, the guarantees per box and case have gone down, and the overall desirability has gone down, at least for me. Oh, and did I mention that those numbers are Upper Deck’s “average per box”? Remember to take into account UD’s track record with “guarantees” when you are calling customer service to complain about buying a case and getting no cut autos.





Defending the Price Guide
By Kevin Lee aka gosens151911



It has become one of the most discussed and probably hated issues discussed by many members of the sports card community: the price guide. However, is all the criticism received by price guides really justified? In my opinion, I do not believe so. Price guides are essential to the hobby, especially to newcomers who usually will have no clue to what cards are valuable or worthless.



The biggest issue I have is how the price guide itself is used. Most price guides usually provide a range, with a LO column, representing the lowest price one could expect to find with extensive shopping and a HI column which represents the full retail selling price. However, for some odd reason, 99% of collectors just quote book value from the high column only. They then go on to rant about how much the book value is off from actual selling prices. To compensate, sellers will then sell their cards usually around 30-50% of the HI book value. What they don't realize most of the time though, is that they are actually still following the price guide, and are usually selling it at the LO book value. Therefore, it appears that the LO book value is much more accurate for a selling price, whereas the HI book value is more often used for trading. From what I see, there is no justification for criticizing price guides.

Another major issue in the hobby is eBay. Many people use the recent prices of auctions to determine a card's actual value. Is this accurate though? I don't believe it is. There are way too many factors to consider eBay a reliable source for pricing. A major factor is that not every collector owns an eBay account. There are probably many collectors who would be willing to pay more for a card that sold cheap on the auction site (i.e. many printing plates sell for under \$10 on eBay, but I guarantee they could have sold for considerably more if one would take the time to find a buyer). Another factor is shipping, some sellers only ship domestic, limiting the amount of prospective buyers even more, likely lowering the price the card is bought at. There is also the issue with the extremely serious player collectors who pay a large premium on cards they are missing (i.e. a Rob Brind'Amour Be A Player Gold Parallel #/15 selling for \$55). Then there's the issue of shill bidding; those who bid on their own cards in order to increase the selling price. There are likely many more factors, which contribute to eBay not being a very reliable source, leading back to price guides being more reliable.

Nevertheless, I will admit price guides aren't perfect. Some cards can end up selling above HI book value, especially the shorter print runs. This is why most price guides will not release book values for extremely low print runs, as sale prices for these can vary depending on when/where the card is bought. However, price guides do make a point of stating that certain cards may have a pricing premium if "cards of players who became hot since this issue went to press, regional stars or fan favorites in high demand locally, and memorabilia cards with unusually dramatic swatches or patches". Overall though, the majority of book values in price guides appear to be quite accurate and I see no reason to believe otherwise yet.



Book Value or Sale Value? The Great Debate

By John Jimenez aka gmoney168



Book value (BV) or sale value (SV)? It has become one of the largest disagreements for all card collectors. Some people swear by book value because it is the only set value for all cards, while others swear by sale value because it shows what collectors will pay for a card. To me, the decision seems obvious, but to others, it keeps them up at night. With BV, everything varies. Some values are updated often, while others have never changed since the day they were added. Also, some cards are obviously listed with the wrong BV, but people ignore the obvious and use the outrageous BV anyway. The choice is all yours, however.

One of the biggest problems I see with BV is regarding patches. There can be patches from a set that are one or two colors, while there can be three or four color patches from the same set. Obviously, the values for a two-color patch aren't the same as a four-color patch, which is where BV can't tell you things that SV can. Although some people might say that you can't use SV on patches, there actually is a way to figure out a similar price between Sports Card Forum and eBay sales. As long as you can look up the player and find a patch of him on the same team, odds are that there will be at least a result or two



of a patch very similar in color and breaks. Take the average price of the results, and you have a SV. It is a much better price than BV, since it is in real time, and a card is only worth what someone is willing to pay for it.

A perfect example of why BV is messed up and SV is a better value measurement is SP Authentic baseball Letterman. A Hunter Pence 2007 SP Authentic RC BTL #/50 has had six recent sales of \$13.50, \$24.00, \$22.49, \$18.50, \$25.49, and \$21.50. This gives it a SV of \$20.91 if you average out all of the sales. Of course, then you look at BV, which lists the value at \$80. Think about it- do you trust sales to six different people or the value one worker puts on the card, rather than what the collectors themselves pay? This shows the weaknesses of BV, and considering this is only one of hundreds of SP Authentic Letterman, I should probably spare Beckett the embarrassment of looking up every SV and BV of all Letterman. Just remember that most Letterman carry a BV of \$60, but when you look up SV, lots of them can end up being as low as \$4 after a few sales. Now what value is to be trusted after looking at those numbers?

Although book value can be considered a more standard value, if people were less lazy they would be able to look up the real time value that we call sale value. If there was a way for Beckett to weigh the current sales of cards with their book value, prices would become a better average. This way it would be easier to judge prices on scarcer cards that haven't had many sales. However, Beckett would need to come up with values for every card, and not give collectors anymore of that N/A value stuff. Luckily for collectors, the Sports Card Forum online price guide will do just that for them!



Worth the Gamble
By John Jimenez aka gmoney168

Ever wondered why it seems that prospects are becoming more valuable than veterans in card sales, despite the fact that they haven't proven anything yet? I too wonder about this everyday, but each day it becomes clearer that prospects may soon be the future of baseball cards.



A while ago, Razor Letterman came out, looking to crush Bowman in prospect/rookie sales. Beside the controversy surrounding them and Upper Deck, sales have been pretty successful. But why spend \$50 on a prospect auto, someone who has proven nothing in the Majors, instead of getting an auto for \$50 of a proven player? I know people want to gamble for that current prospect whose cards double in value later on, but the odds to find the perfect player to buy low and sell high are very slim. Another example is Stephen Strasburg, the highly touted SDSU pitcher, whose autos are selling in the \$200+ range. Even if he has the most amazing career, will prospect collectors looking to make a quick buck be able to sell his cards in 10 years for \$300? Absolutely not! So why spend the money now? For \$50, you could have bought a Gordon Beckham 2008 Razor Letterman on eBay.



Or you could have bought a card of another young star, who has actually established a solid MLB career so far, and an autograph of a veteran star:



No matter how much people try to convince me that Beckham is the next great thing, I just look at what he has accomplished compared to other guys like Wright and Teixeira and it doesn't add up.



Wright is still young, but he has solidified his status as an elite third baseman for years to come. Teixeira is still somewhat young, but he has always had a great batting average with the small-market Texas Rangers. Now that he is with the Yankees, he will be a better home run hitter in a larger market. Just keep in mind the odds of any of the guys in your next box of Razor or Bowman to have a stellar major league career. They may be like Wright and Tex and grow into MLB superstars, but their card prices will not skyrocket like prospects collectors hope. You are the holder of the future value of your collection.

On the other hand, I think people who don't collect prospects also have to worry. It seems to me that more and more sets are aimed towards prospect and rookie collectors. This benefits both the prospect collector (obviously) and the card companies. Prospect collectors have more variety to choose from for their collections, but the rarity and card value also go down with the more sets available. The companies are able to buy autographs from hot prospects for less than the big stars charge, and the collector somehow feels the urge to jump on the bandwagon with the new trend of prospect cards. It's a win-win for the card company, but often results in a big loss in the collector's pocket in the long run. Maybe a prospect collector can make it big on one or two prospect autograph collections, but the values of those aren't enough to make up for the money spent on the now-worthless players. The bottom line is simple: don't fall into the trap that card companies want you to buy into. You may think you get your money's worth from the box, but if you hold onto all of the cards like prospect collectors do, you might regret the decision in the long run. If I were you, I would rethink that box of 2008 Bowman that supposedly contains the next great superstars. It's \$60 you might not have in the following years.

