



SCF'S COLLECTORS CORNER

JULY 2010

INSIDE THE... **UFC** FAN EXPO





Sports Galore!

By **Khendra Murdock**
aka **JammingJames23**

Wow, what a time it's been lately for sports fans!

The world's most widely viewed sporting event, the soccer World Cup, has been very exciting.

In pro basketball, the NBA's greatest all-time teams, the Los Angeles Lakers and Boston Celtics, went the full 7 games in the NBA Finals with the Lakers coming out on top in one of the most talked-about championship series ever.

Hockey also had a noteworthy finish as the Chicago Blackhawks took home their first Stanley Cup since 1961.

As if all those happenings weren't enough, tennis' Wimbledon event is underway, and golf's U.S. Open recently

concluded (Irishman Graeme McDowell won his first major). Even the wide baseball world has been abuzz early on: much-hyped pitcher Stephen Strasburg has been very impressive so far.

With so much fun to keep up with this summer in sports, hopefully you've been able to find time collecting as well, and will find this new issue of the Sports Card Forum magazine entertaining.

The comeback issue 2 months ago was a success, and this issue is even bigger! We're building a nice team of writers and seeing a solid, steady stream of article submissions in the Articles forum.

Keep up the great work, everyone!



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..... Inside this edition

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Baseball Product Review: 2010 Bowman

Setting the tone for rookies and prospects — Strasburg, Ackley, etc.

*By Tony Joyce
aka Enigman*

Over the last few years, Bowman has become 3 sets in 1. Boxes not only yield the Bowman set, but there's also the Chrome series and the Bowman 1st Card series.

Bowman continues its basic design of the base cards with a red line border for veterans and a green line border for rookies. There are numerous parallel levels for each of these cards.

The Bowman 1st cards are like a reverse of the regular Bowman cards. The background is white instead of black and the team logo is on the opposite side of the card. The players are enclosed within a light blue line border.

As for the Chrome cards, they match the design of the Bowman 1st except for the chrome sheen creating a metallic background.

As with the base cards, there are many parallels here as well. The USA National and 18U Teams are featured in the Chrome series in a 22 and 20-card set, respectively.

There are 3 insert sets contained within Bowman. Bowman Expectations are a double-sided card featuring a veteran on one side and a future star on the back. Bowman Throwbacks showcase 100 veterans in a previously used Bowman design. Topps 100 is devoted to highlighting what could be the next 100 stars of tomorrow.

Each box yields 1 auto on average.

The autographs are on the Chrome cards and utilize the same design. They are on-card, but do not feature the Certified logo. However, there is a note under the

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BOX INFORMATION

24 packs per box

10 cards per pack

Current Retail Price: \$134.99-\$149.99 (online)

RATINGS

Base - 3.5/5

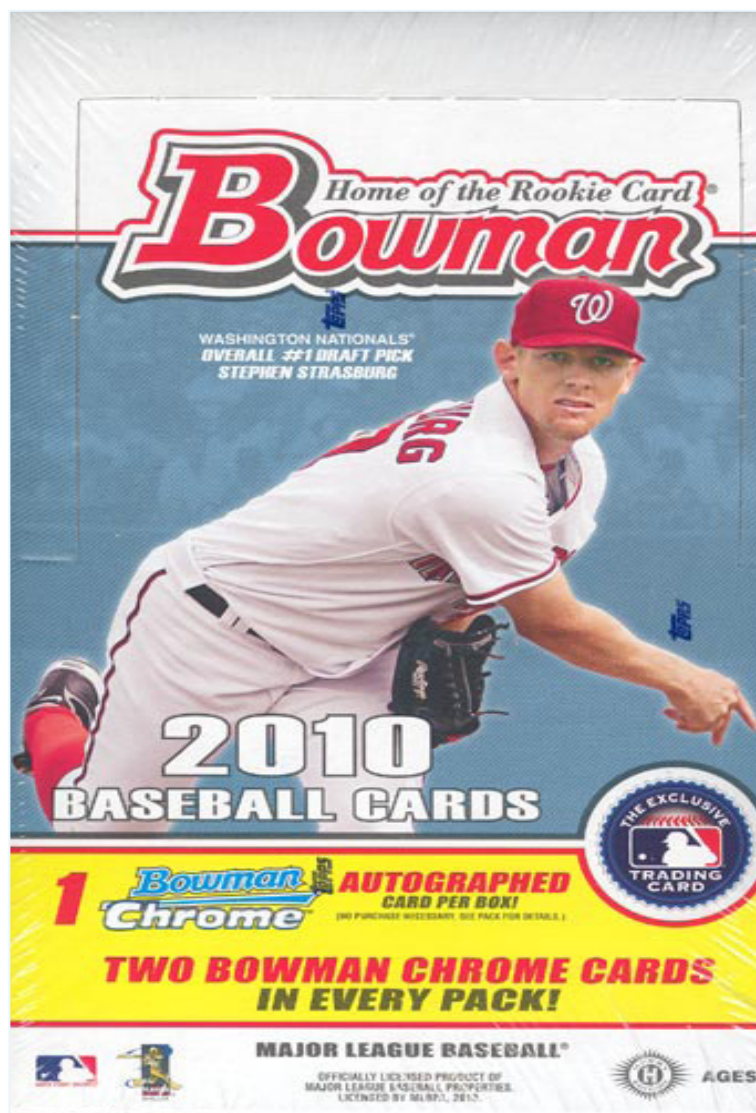
Design - 3/5

Fun - 4.25/5

Value - 4/5

Rebuy - 4.5/5

Total - 19.25/25 (77%)



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhfy8-kwYT0> (part one)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4W2FsJFXliw> (part two)



Basketball Product Review: 2009-10 Panini Certified

BOX INFORMATION

10 packs per box

5 cards per pack

Current Retail Price: \$74.99-\$84.99 (online)

RATINGS

Base - 3.5/5

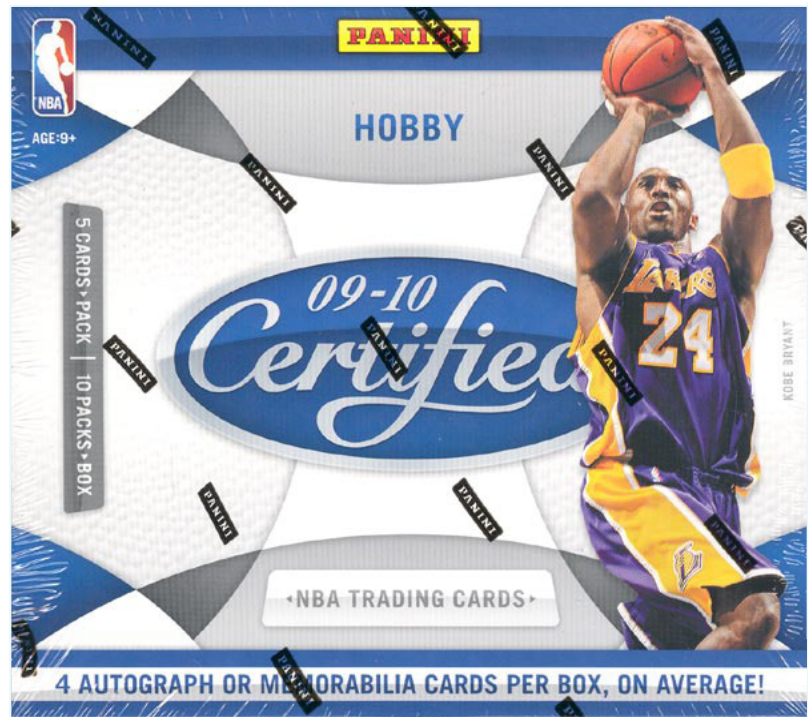
Design - 4.5/5

Fun - 4/5

Value - 4.25/5

Rebuy - 3.5/5

Total - 20.25/25 (81%)



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOU9FUFeERc>

Certified is a risk versus reward type of product

By Tony Joyce
aka Enigma

In continuing the trend of bringing football releases to basketball, Panini has unleashed Certified upon collectors.

With a foil board card stock, the base cards have a great mix of design and shine.

There are 150 cards in the base set, which does seem to be a bit of an overabundance.

There are numerous parallel versions of each card.

There are not a lot of insert sets. The 2 we pulled were Certified Champions and Certified Imports. Champions is a 25-card set that infuses past legends with a few current stars.

Imports is a 15-card set that fea-

tures NBA stars from around the world. Both have multiple parallel versions.

There are numerous memorabilia and autograph sets.

The most popular is the Fabric of the Game series. There are many versions of this set from parallels to patches.

The die-cut swatch area normally is shaped in the player's jersey number, but other versions showcase other tidbits such as the player's team.

Certified is a risk versus reward type of product. Each pack yields either an insert, parallel, or "hit" card.

It is really skimpy on base cards. If lucky, it would take 4 boxes to complete a base set.

Outside of high-end releases, no product should take that many boxes to have a chance to complete a base set.

The design works in conjunction with the foil board, but how many times do we need to see the played-out "X" design?

Getting something in every pack (including 4 "hits" on average) is great, but it's hard to keep picking this up when that's about all you get.

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at Panini for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release.

For more information on all their products, be sure to check them out at www.paniniamerica.net.



Football Product Review: 2010 Press Pass Portrait Edition

BOX INFORMATION

20 packs per box

5 cards per pack

Current Retail Price: \$104.99-\$119.99 (online)

RATINGS

Base - 5/5

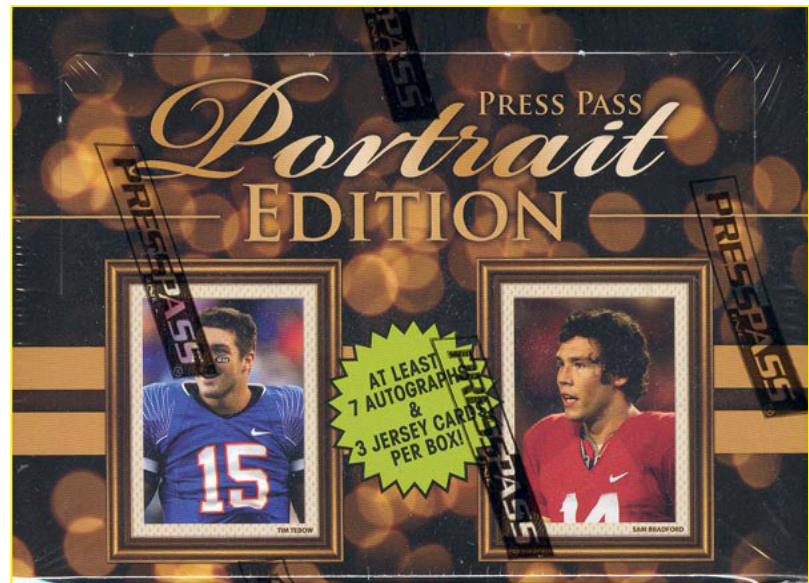
Design - 3/5

Fun - 4/5

Value - 5/5

Rebuy - 3/5

Total - 20/25 (80%)



Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKRW641ziGk>

Press Pass freshens up its football release with Portrait Edition

By *Tony Joyce*
aka *Enigma*

In trying to freshen up its football releases, Press Pass made a change from Signature Edition that has been the second football release since 2004 to Portrait Edition. The 50-card base set has a very basic design. The player is pictured in the middle of what looks like a bay window with gray mesh around it on a white background. The gold parallel version is the same card with the difference being the Press Pass PE logo is in gold, not silver.

There are 3 inserts sets you can collect in Portrait Edition. The tried and true standard is the 10-card Class of 2010 set. The Class of series has been around for years. Next is the Face to Face series. It's a 20-card set that features two players from rival schools or within the same conference in college.

Finally, there's the Headliners series. It showcases 33 players who are making the jump to the NFL. It's a 34-card set (the last card is a checklist featuring one of the players).

The big draws are the game used jerseys and autographs. The Game Day Gear series features a piece from a player's jersey while in college. There are 3 levels to collect. The main autograph series is Sideline Signatures. There are multiple parallel levels and all autographs are on-card, which is a huge bonus. There are other series such as the Class of 2010 Autographs, Game Day Gear Autographs (relic/auto), and Graduating Class Autographs, which features a dual autograph.

There are differences between the old Signature Edition and Portrait Edition. SE contained 12

packs; PE has 20. SE had 1 relic or autograph per pack; PE has them 1 in every 2 packs. PE also allows for a collector to complete a base set in 1 box; SE didn't.

Portrait Edition is a bit of a welcome change, but there's not really much of a difference other than what is posted above. The base design is somewhat stale. There's nothing exciting about the cards. The inserts are the same. While the Class of series is great and should remain a staple, the other 2 are boring. Headliners needs to be revamped. Face to Face is basically Marquee Matchups with a new name. Looking for serial numbered parallels? Well, keep on looking.

The mainstay has been the number of autographs and relics you get per box. Even dropping to 10, the value is indeed still there.

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Hockey Product Review: 2009-10 ITG Heroes and Prospects

Heroes & Prospects: An innovative and exciting product for collectors

By *Tony Joyce*
aka *Enigma*

Heroes & Prospects has been a popular product from ITG for a few years now and should continue that trend this year.

The 150 base card set infuses numerous prospects and various heroes of hockey. The cards feature the prospect/hero on the ice.

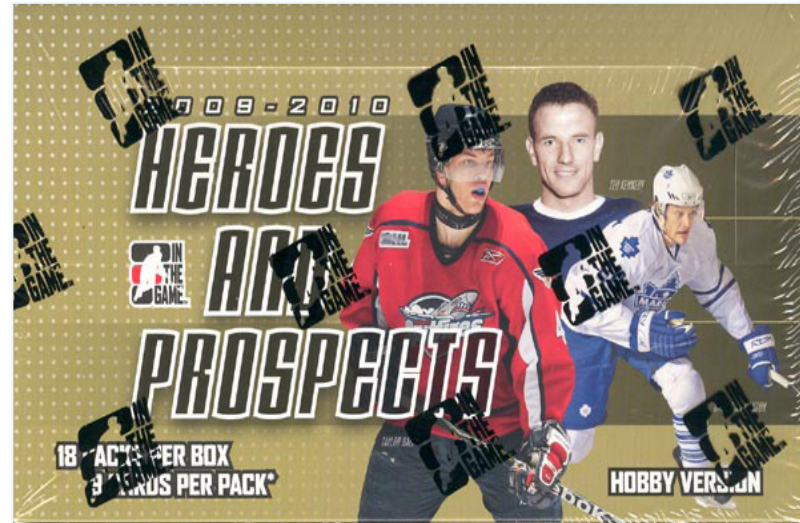
The hero is a black and white photo while the prospect is shown in action. Other than the banner on the rink wall, the background is exactly the same for all the cards.

There are no parallels of the base cards.

The He Shoots He Scores program returns. Each pack (minus the ones with jersey cards) has 1 HSHS point card. If you accumulate 200 points, you can send them to ITG to redeem for a specially made Heroes & Prospects card.

Usually, there are 30 cards with a print run of 20 made for this promotion, so they are limited. All cards come enslabbed, and redemptions are filled in the order they are received.

There are a few inserts sets in H&P this year.



Members of the Calder Cup and Memorial Cup winners are featured in respective sets.

Current players are featured in the AHL All-Star Legends series. A late addition is the Real Heroes set, which focuses on the players of yesteryear who gave of themselves off the ice. A new concept this year is the Class of 2010 redemption series. Each card features a player on the front and a number on the back. If that player is drafted in the number position on the back, this card can be redeemed for some amazing cards.

There are numerous memorabilia cards proliferating in this release. Each 1 has a limited print run, though not always shown on the back of the cards. Autographs can be found aplenty as well. For both the memorabilia and autographs, the subjects are not limited to prospects only; current stars can be found in both.

Heroes & Prospects continues to be an innovative and exciting product. Each box yields almost a full base set. ITG has lowered the number of HSHS points needed to redeem for a card (200 instead of 250), but they also have lowered the number of boxes per case (10 instead of 12).

Each box has a great element of surprise with the addition of the Class of 2010 redemption cards, which

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BOX INFORMATION

18 packs per box

9 cards per pack

Current Retail Price: \$74.99-\$84.99 (online)

RATINGS

Base - 4.75/5

Design - 4/5

Fun - 4.5/5

Value - 4.5/5

Rebuy - 5/5

Total - 22.25/25 (89%)



Racing Product Review: 2010 Press Pass Premium

BOX INFORMATION

20 packs per box

5 cards per pack

Current Retail Price: \$87.99-\$99.99 (online)

RATINGS

Base - 4.75/5

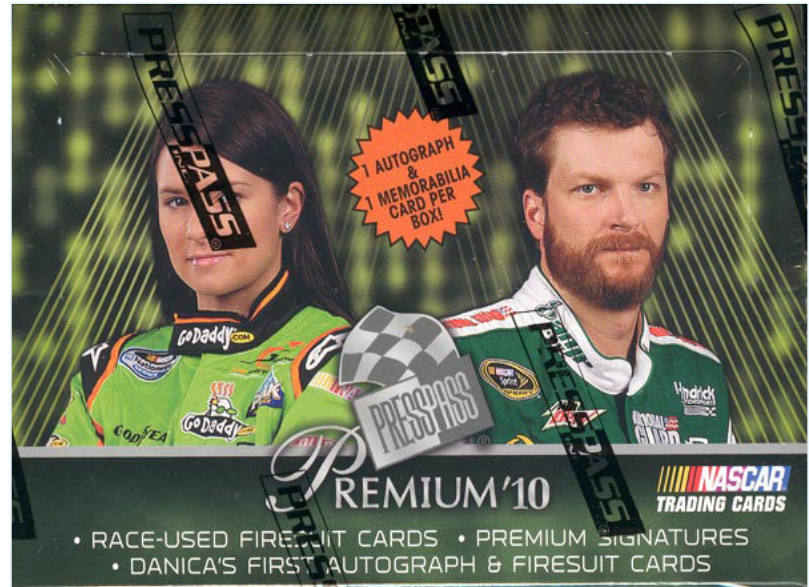
Design - 4.5/5

Fun - 3.5/5

Value - 3.5/5

Rebuy - 3.5/5

Total - 20.75/25 (83%)



Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upCSNCXiIIM>

Danica Patrick race used and autographs creating buzz in hobby circles

By Tony Joyce
aka Enigma

One of the staples of the Press Pass Racing line has been Premium over the last few years. This year, the buzz surrounding it has been the introduction of Danica Patrick Race Used items and her first mainstream autograph cards. The base card contains 90 regular cards and 10 SPs (boxes will yield at least 1 SP on average). There are 8 subsets in the set. They focus on the drivers as well as their cars. The cards use full-color photos that extend to the edge of the cards, almost like having a handful of pictures from a camera. The holofoil lettering does not engulf the cards and actually accentuates them.

There are 3 insert sets in Premium. The NASCAR HOF 100-card set continues with another batch of 10 cards from the series. The other 2 sets are called Allies and Rivals. These cards pair up various drivers who have a good relationship on the track or a history with one another. The Allies set contains 10 cards while the Rivals has 8.

On average, Premium will have 1 race used memorabilia and 1 autograph per box. The main relic series is called Hot Threads and contains a piece of firesuit. There are different levels, including a patch level. The

regular autographs are specific to Premium. It's the 1 set a year that Press Pass will use sticker autographs. This is because it's the first set to feature drivers in their new paint schemes/sponsors or teams and they are unable to produce the cards and get the autographs on the cards in time for release. Half-case hits include the Four-Wide series, Premium Pairings (autographs and/or relics from 2 teammates), and the Signature Series Firesuit Edition (driver's autograph signed on a piece of firesuit).

Typically the fourth release of the year, Premium has once again put a foothold into the world of racing collectors. Between the SPs, inserts, and "hits," consumers will find a bonus in virtually every 2 packs they open. In addition, Premium has a cool, sleek design that is eye-catching and almost creates a sense of making you want more. While Premium will bring in droves in search of Danica Patrick items, there's so much more to be found for racing collectors. However, I'm still dumbfounded on how releases continue to fall short of a complete base set while having duplicates. The SPs are a different twist as Press Pass has been known to make variations of a base card and not just a separate set of them. But I feel the primary issue

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My 2010 UFC Fan Expo Experience

*By Kerry Webster
aka windmortal*

Amazing. That pretty much sums it up. I think the numbers released by the UFC of 125,000 people is a little big, but there were a lot of people there. Like posters in the SCF forums said, Saturday was absolutely crazy. No way 125,000 people though. Still, a great time!

My wife and I arrived in Vegas on May 22 and did a lot of the touristy things the first part of the week. We stayed at Luxor and had very good meals at Bobby Flay's Mesa Grille, Aquanox, and my favorite, N9NE at The Palms. We also visited downtown Vegas and the Pawn Shop as seen on History Channel. We visited a few MMA stores, the fight museum in Mandalay Bay and where the MMAJunkie.com radio show is broadcast live everyday, but other than that, we pretty much just relaxed because we knew a busy weekend was to come.

We aren't fighter stalkers who wait around the hotels for them to show their faces and then mob them for photos and autographs. While at Mandalay Bay, though, a family was near us and talking to Mike Swick in a hallway; they asked if I could take a picture for them, and I obliged. Quick then asked if I wanted a picture, which I gladly accepted. My wife took it:



The first real MMA thing we did was the Thursday night before the Fan Expo. We learned Anderson Silva was going to meet people at Las Vegas Fight Shop on the north part of the strip. It was a perfect opportunity for me to get my Round 1 base card signed for my IP set. The signing was from 5-7 p.m. so we went up a little early to get something to eat. I had pork tacos and my wife had fish tacos at Segundo's, which was awesome.

We ended up at the Fight Shop at about 3:30 p.m. and no line, waited for awhile until the line started forming, then jumped in. We were fifth in line behind a woman and a family of four (2 little boys). Silva walked in to lots of hoots and hollers from fans waiting in line, which got extremely long by the time he showed at a little after 5. He was in a good mood, and when he got to the stores entrance, where we were standing, he noticed the little boys, stopped and stooped down with them to give them a big thumbs up. You could tell they were happy about it. When the little boys were at the register to get pictures with the champ, he was just awesome with them, learning their names and calling them out to them several times when they were leaving.

Here's Anderson giving the kids two thumbs up:



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My 2010 UFC Fan Expo Experience

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When it was my turn, I shook his hand, congratulated him on his success, and thanked him for being so accessible to fans. Not sure how much he understood, but I was just happy to talk with him. He signed 2 Silver Star promo cards as well as my Round 1 offering. He also signed a photo for my wife. It was a great experience.

Unlike last year, the UFC autograph sessions were very well organized. Instead of one line for 6 or 8 fighters, there were a total of 6 lines, with 2 or 3 fighters signing in each.

Fans could choose where they wanted to go. I couldn't see lines 1, 2, and 3 from where I was (at line 5), but on our side, the line for Forrest Griffin was crazy long.

I was 4th from the front in my line. VIPS and ULTIMATE VIPS, who were let in an hour early, were already waiting when the general pub got in. Still, not too many were interested in who I was waiting for - Manny Gamburyan. Can you believe it? 5 hours in line for The Anvil.

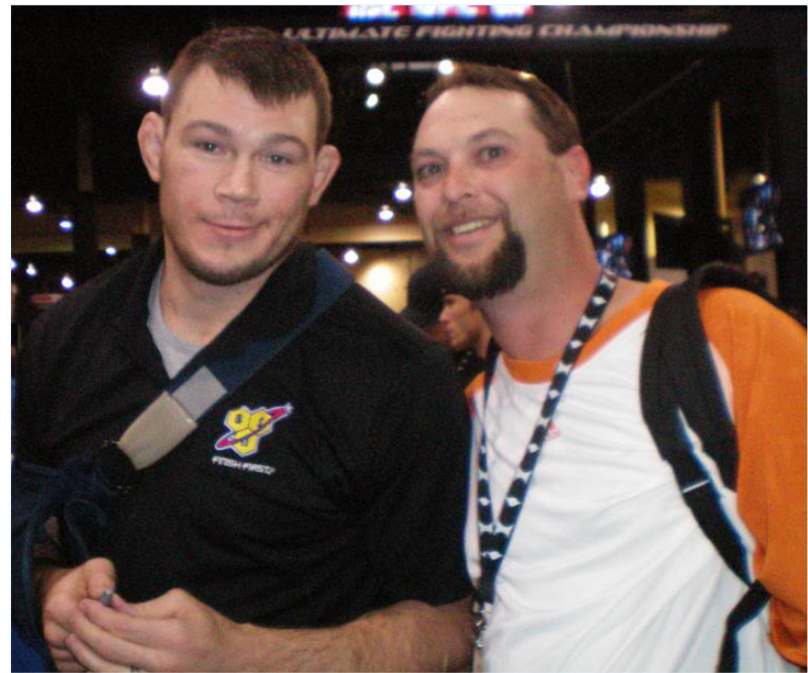
That's because he was the only signer in the first session that I needed for my set. He was cool, and the short line let me get out in a hurry to find more of my needs.



We kind of got a little lucky here. While waiting for Manny, Forrest Griffin came out and was signing autos and taking pictures with people in line.

We simply walked over to him, he stood for photos, and he was off.

We didn't have anything ready for him to sign, but we felt pretty good that we didn't have to wait for Forrest for a photo (which was tough at the UFC signings anyway). We have his autograph from before. My wife was really happy because the photo with him and her from Columbus 2009 has his eyes closed:



After my Anvil autograph, Jeri and I hit the floor. The UFC lines were really long, and although there were great fighters on the list, we knew there would be many more fighters signing at sponsor booths around the convention center.

We stumbled upon a forming line at the Suffer Fight Gear booth and asked who was signing (Frank Mir). They said he was coming in a few minutes, and they were right. Not too long thereafter, he came in, chatted with the sponsors for a bit, and then sat down at a table to sign and take pictures. We were probably 12 from the front. We were expecting him to be in a good mood because we were among the first people,

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My 2010 UFC Fan Expo Experience

but he wasn't. He did sign an autograph and took pictures, but he didn't go out of his way to make you feel like he was happy to be there. He smiled in my wife's picture with him. I tried to make idle chit chat, but he just nodded or mumbled uh-huh or no. He did sign a sponsor photo as well as a Round 1 card.

Just a few steps away from the Suffer booth, I stumbled on Jake Rosholt. He was just kind of standing at a table by himself, kind of looking for someone to talk to. In a way, I felt bad for him and some of the other guys the casual MMA fan didn't recognize (Matt Brown, Justin Wren, Phil Davis). You could tell they were excited to be there, but just weren't commanding the attention of the other guys. Jake was really cool. He had a baseball cap on and long hair flowing out from behind it. Being from Central PA, I know quite a bit about amateur wrestling just from being around it all the time, and that's really about all we talked about. I probably could have stayed there all day with him and chatted, but a line then started to form. I wished him luck in his training, and he signed a sponsor card for me, which he wasn't even on.

Next was a really weird encounter, but I had to do it. Stephan Bonnar was at a booth selling big portraits for \$75 a piece. They were nice, but I wasn't going to buy one. He sure tried to sell them to me though. We were again near the front of the line, so in minutes, I was shaking his hand and talking to him. I said I enjoyed his fights and his fight with Griffin for the TUF title was one of my favorites. I got my photo taken and he did sign my Round 1 card for me - I had 3 down already! After he signed the card, he wanted to talk about selling the pictures, and everything he would say to me, he would pause afterwards and just stare at me, waiting for me to say something. He was like, "I'll give ya one if ya buy 3," then just a long, long stare. It was very weird. I was kind of glad to get away from him.

After meeting with Bonnar, we roamed the floor of the convention center to kind of get a feel for everything and learn where everything was at. I also wanted to find the Topps booth to see what they had to offer. Topps was stuck in a row between some big

booths, and it was hard to get to at first. The showcase out front showed dummy boxes and packs of the new UFC product. When I did get to the booth, I was hoping for a cool giveaway, but they were just packaged up Main Event cards. A base was on top of each one and the bottom showed the back of a Fight Poster card. I only got 3 of the packs, which were given away like water. When I got home, I opened them to find one of each a base card, gold parallel, top 10 fight, TUF tribute and Poster inserts. I wish I would have gotten more, I might have been able to finish my ME insert sets.

They were also selling limited edition poker chips of 5 different fighters, all numbered to /499 - Couture, St-Pierre, Penn, Lesnar and Anderson Silva. For the first 100 that bought all 5 chips, a ticket was given for a special signing with Randy Couture later in the day. I figured I was getting the chips anyway, so I got the ticket. The same offer was for the next day, but the signing was Anderson Silva.

For the Couture signing, he was about 1/2 hour late to the 4:30 p.m. signing. He gladly signed my card and kind of gave a little smile when my wife took the picture, but I could tell he was worn out. All day, security was shuffling him here and there. He was getting grumpy:

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My 2010 UFC Fan Expo Experience

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One of my favorite fighters, Wanderlei Silva, was scheduled to sign at the Silver Star booth at around 11 a.m. There were 2 lines, 1 for people with purchases and 1 for people without. You can guess which the better one to be in was. I planned to purchase a backpack at the Expo, but when I saw the talent signing with Silver Star, I made a good move. Instead of a backpack, I bought a Silva shirt for \$35 and it came in a Silver Star bag, which I discovered was a sort of a golden ticket. I used the bag to stand in the purchasers line for Wandy and didn't have to wait long. I brought 2 gloves to be signed - 1 by Wandy and the other by Nogueira. Here was a great opportunity.

Right next to Silver Star, there was a long line for Jaco for a Wandy signing AFTER the Silver Star signing. There were only about 5 people in front of me and about 4-5 behind me when I noticed how long the line across from us was. I asked a guy across from me who they were waiting for and he said Wandy. I couldn't believe it. They should have just come over and bought a \$15 beanie and got in the short line. I don't know how long Wandy signed at Silver Star, but

I do remember coming back in that same line hours later for Anderson Silva and watching Wandy move 30 steps to the Jaco booth with the same people still waiting in the front of the line.

After last year's expo, I was looking forward to Wandy. He is always, always awesome with fans and he didn't disappoint. Last year, we stumbled on him at the expo while waiting in line for Marcus Davis, if you can believe that. We stepped out of the Irish Hand Grenade's line pretty darn quick to get in Silva's. He gladly signed a promo photo and was happy to sign my glove and pose for a picture. He thanked me for coming to the expo, which was cool, and he smiled the whole time.

Of course I could never post a picture of my wife without her approval, I did want to mention her encounter with Wandy. He signed a photo for her and definitely enjoyed her company, and when it came time to take a picture, Jeri held out her hand to kind of show people how big his hands were compared to his. She said she could tell he really didn't know what to do, and just kind of giggled. She blushed.

Oh, the gold nugget was the bag. I used it to be in the line later that day for a signing with Anderson Silva. SWEET!

It had been awhile since I got any of my set complete so I wanted to just kind of roam the floor and see who I ran into. I didn't feel like waiting in long lines anymore (although I had the trusty camping stool) so we spent much of the rest of the day stopping at the short ones, such as for Kit Cope and L.C. Davis.

In between the meetings with these fighters, we visited sponsor booths just looking at products and seeing all there was to see. We ran into Shonie Carter, who we seem to run in everywhere, and got to chat with him for awhile. As always, he was pimped out to the 9s. We took a little break to get something to eat and ended up leaving the expo around 6 p.m.

I used my golden nugget Silver Star bag to get in line for an afternoon signing with Anderson Silva. We got to meet Silva the night before, but figured since we had the bag, we should use it. Besides, we didn't get a personal posed picture with him at the Fight

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My 2010 UFC Fan Expo Experience

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Shop. The line was decently long when we got there, about an hour early for the signing. I was in line up behind the Dethrone booth, and there was a cool encounter on my way up to see Anderson. After snagging a couple free Budweisers they were giving out, we got to the exit of the Dethrone booth. Koscheck and somebody else was in there, must have been a Brazilian, and Phil Davis. Well, there were some Brazilian guys in front of us yelling "Brazil" into the tent, and when things quieted down, I yelled in, "We Are, Penn State!", knowing that's where Phil Davis wrestled.



Mr. Wonderful looked up and smiled at us, and got up from the table, in the middle of the signing session, to talk to me and my wife. He was so cool. I told him we lived just 30 miles away from Penn State. He asked where and I told him "Philipsburg." He just kind of paused and said, "I've been there." He said he once was a roommate of a local high school graduate and wrestler while at P-O. That wrestler's father owned and operated a grocery store in our hometown for many years. "I've been to the Comet Market," he said. My wife immediately responded, "I can't believe those words just came out of your mouth." He chatted for awhile about some of his times in our hometown

and we discussed his training and upcoming opponent. He gladly took pictures with us. It was a great encounter:

Back to Silva – we got to the front of the line, and I was tempted to pull out the glove for a sig, but I decided to hold out in hopes of Nogueira. Happy as ever, Silva gladly signed promo cards and took pictures with us. Although he acts like a goof in the cage, he's cool as all get out at these kinds of things:



Another of my favorite encounters occurred late on the first day. It was during a time we were just walking around. We got near the Topps booth and noticed Big Nog was taking pictures with people. Deal was, buy a \$10 poker chip and get your picture with him. Thing was, they only were allowing a certain number of pictures and all the spots were taken.

I strolled by the booth just as Nogueira was finishing up. No more pictures (they weren't allowing autographs). I was at the counter and one of the Topps guys asked if I could take a picture of the crew with Nog, and in return, they'd give me a chip. I said okay, and thought about it while I framed up the picture. Snap ... when the guy came back, he asked what poker chip I wanted, and I said, "how bout letting me

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My 2010 UFC Fan Expo Experience

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up there to get a picture" ... they let me through and my wife, Jeri, got the picture. I took 2 gloves to get signed, 1 for Wanderlei (which I got) and the other for Nog. When I pulled it out, 1 of the other Topps guys pulled my arm back and said he wasn't signing. I was a little disappointed, but left happy with another Nog picture. But, when I was leaving the area, security was trying to take Nog out. Of course, everyone swarmed him, and he did manage to take a few pictures with people. Security cleared around him and I was standing there. He looked at me and smiled, walked over to me with a security guard tightly on his butt. I held out the glove, but the security guard pushed my hand away and said "No autographs." Nog held out his hand, and in his deepest, Brazilian accented voice said, "I sign glove. He waiting long time." He signed it and moved on. It was awesome:



On the second day, I was up early again at 5 a.m. to wait in line. Pretty much the same crowd was in the front of the line. Bboy711 was already there so we were right in the front. We enjoyed just hanging out and talking MMA with the people around us. After the doors opened at around 9 a.m., bboy711 stepped out of line to visit the UFC marketing booth in the convention center hallway. He came back with 2 factory-sealed boxes of Main Event, and busted them up right

there on the spot! Many stopped on their way past to throw an eyeball his way, and the fans in line with us seemed to be amazed at what they were seeing. They were almost drooling when they had the opportunity to touch and feel the cage, gear, and mat relic cards. bboy711 turned several people into kids again with those 2 box breaks, and he further helped spread the joys of MMA card collecting by honoring requests of cards. He gladly filled requests for several cards of all the big names, casually handing them over with a smile. No one asked for any of his relic cards or autographs, but I bet if they did, he wouldn't have hesitated to hand it over to them. It was a great way to pass time while waiting in line.



When the doors finally opened, most people sprinted for the UFC table that included Wanderlei Silva and Big Nog. I walked by it then and it was already out of control. I went to Jaco. There Brandon Vera was signing (short line) and I needed him for my set. When I got to him, we shook hands, and I leaned in and said, "getting ready for all the morning breath this morning?" He laughed about it and then kind of shifted his head back. "Now you got me feelin' all self-conscious. You have any gum?" So I dug into my

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My 2010 UFC Fan Expo Experience

(Continued from page 13)

backpack and pulled him out a couple of piece of Trident White. He signed my card and the Jaco company took a photo for me. They said I could find it on the Jaco web site, but I couldn't.

After meeting Vera, my wife showed up. She decided to sleep in and get there at 10. I wish I would have done that. She met me right near Jaco and I took note that I could have walked down with her, got in line, and been done there in no more than 10 or 15 minutes. Hindsight is 20/20.

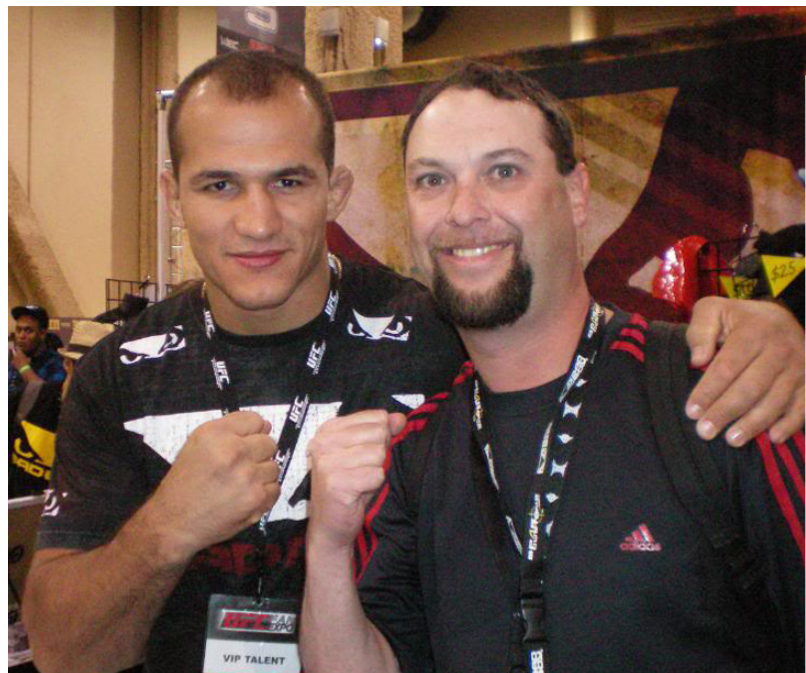
Saturday, the crowds were absolutely insane. Way, way more people on Day 2. That meant longer lines and longer waits. It opened at 10 a.m. and we wanted to be out of there by 2, so we didn't have much time. The expo closed at 4. The first bout of UFC 114 was at 4:15 just to give an idea.

We decided to get in the Tapout line because we got there as it started forming. There were several promotional photos on the table, including Nelson, Schaub, Sonnen, Alves and others, so we were hoping there would be a handful signing autographs. It turned out being Sonnen, Schaub and Nelson. All three were really cool, especially Nelson. When we got to him, I said, "I was going to ask you if I could take a picture of my wife with her head on your belly, but I decided against it." He said, "Well, you might not have liked the answer. Maybe I would have said yes." All with a big smile and friendly giggles the whole way. Really cool experience:



At 11 a.m., we knew Junior Dos Santos was going to be signing and this was a guy I really wanted to meet. And, I'm glad I did. We were probably 25-30 people from the front of the line, and all the while, BadBoy girls were out in the crowd giving away T-Shirts. Of course, I didn't get any. As we made our way up near the actual BadBoy booth, the dude directly in front of me takes 3 steps out of line to the table of T-Shirts, picks one up, looks at it, then folds it over his arm and steps back into line. Moments later, I see him slide the T-shirt into a shopping bag he has slung over his arm. Not cool, and I told him so. He said, with a sneer of course, "I'm going to buy it. I want to get it signed." He then pulled it out of the bag and held onto it until he could talk to a Sales Rep. It was an expensive one too - \$65. Probably had no intention of buying it, and when I called him on the carpet about it, he probably felt he had to. Good for him. I don't like thieves.

Anyway, Dos Santos was awesome. He had a little card on his signing table with several names printed on it in several different hand writings. I figured that he wanted people to write their names there so he could copy for personalized autographs. I complied. He signed a photo for me and also posed for a picture.



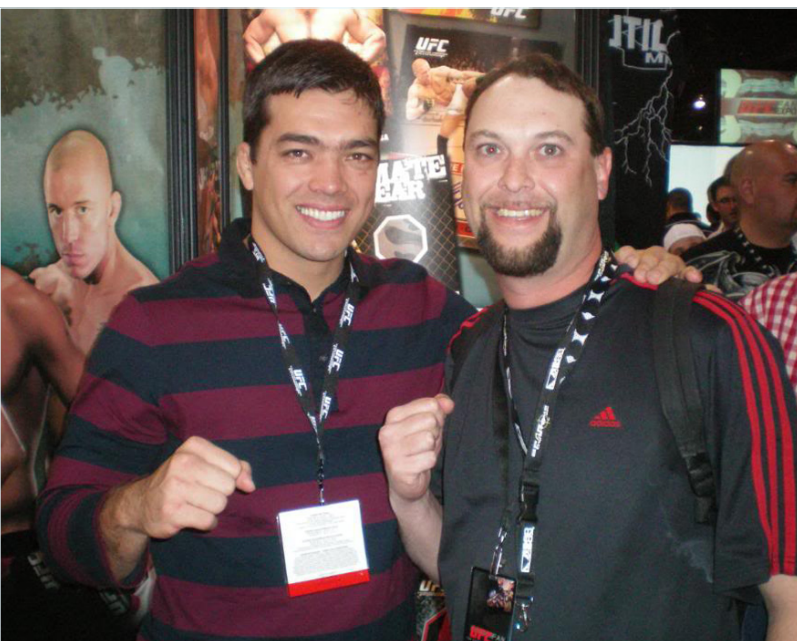
(Continued on page 15)

My 2010 UFC Fan Expo Experience

(Continued from page 14)

My wife got quite the chuckle out of the encounter. She said when he put his arm around her to pose for a picture, he gave her side a little squeeze. I think she blushed again. And that gets me thinking, try to take notice of pictures of fighters with guys and then fighters with girls. When a guy gets a photo with a fighter, 9 times out of 10, there's a fist in the picture somewhere, and many times, some sort of scowl. But in a ladies' photo, there are always smiles and hardly ever any fists. Maybe I just notice it because I always see my wife's photos.

While waiting in line, I had an advantage. I could wait while my wife shot out to see what's in the immediate vicinity and vice versa. She learned Machida was at the Topps booth, and with the purchase of one of those \$10 poker chips, you could meet him. This was my perfect opportunity to get my Lyoto Round 1 signed. It's on my "tough" list so this was important. She waited for Dos Santos while I shot to Topps, which was actually right around the corner. I got my chip and my ticket for admission, and after getting in line, learned he wasn't signing autographs there. BUMMER. Still, I got to the front and got to meet him, shook hands, and handed my camera over to a Topps worker to get my picture. Encounter over.



On my way out, I say to one of the Topps guys (actually, the one who had asked me to take the photo the day before), "hey buddy, I really need to get this card signed. Think if I leave it with you, you could get Lyoto to throw his name on there and I can pick it up later?" I know my request was a little outlandish, but he was kind of rude: "I've said it a thousand times, NO AUTOGRAPHS." Machida was signing later in the day with Silver Star, and I had the golden nugget, but the lines were too long when we got there and we had the fight to get to.

During one of Jeri's scouting trips, she learned Mike Goldberg and Mark Coleman were signing with Cage Fighter, so that's where we went. We waited in line for awhile, and eventually Goldie got up and left. BOO! I needed him for my set. But Coleman was still there and he was definitely needed.

While waiting in line, Matt Brown stopped by for photos. He was really cool to talk to and Jeri said he "smelled good."

Coleman was next up and I was stoked. I've always enjoyed my run-ins with him. We chatted a little about the Ray Mendoza fundraising event we both attended last March in Columbus. He was awesome as always. He gladly signed my card, and included an "HH" to show his Hammer House Pride. Jeri said he was really cool with her too.



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The Future of Goaltending in Montreal

*By Richard McAdam
aka RGM81*

For a significant portion of the 2009-10 season, Montreal Canadiens fans engaged in a spirited and often heated debate over who should be the team's #1 goaltender: Carey Price or Jaroslav Halak. Price was spectacular to start the season but couldn't put together the wins when they were needed, while Halak picked up the slack beginning mid-season and carried the bulk of the load as the team made its charge towards the playoffs. Halak ultimately earned the #1 role and started 18 of Montreal's 19 playoff games, and was often spectacular in the upsets over Washington and Pittsburgh. His save percentage through the first two rounds earned favourable comparisons to Ken Dryden in 1971 and Patrick Roy in 1986, and many were labeling the Slovakian netminder "Saint Jaro" for his exploits.

It would seem, then, that perhaps the debate is settled: Jaroslav Halak is the Montreal Canadiens' #1 goaltender. However, it is not that simple; indeed, in Montreal, it rarely is. Both goaltenders are due to become restricted free agents—at 24, Halak will have arbitration rights while Price, at 22, is coming off his entry-level contract—and both could very well attract offer sheets from teams looking to strengthen their personnel between the pipes. Moreover, due to his fantastic playoffs run, Halak will be looking for a large payday commensurate with other young goaltenders earning #1 dollars. Also to consider is that the Canadiens organization has invested heavily in Price, a first-round pick that has all the physical tools to develop into a true superstar, and they will have to decide whether to continue that investment into the future. It promises to be a very interesting off-season in Montreal once again.

The situation for Montreal is as enviable as it gets: two goaltenders under the age of 25 that are both fully capable of carrying the load in nets and carrying the team into the playoffs. Both are very driven and motivated to succeed. Both are highly skilled. Both have yet to reach their full potential. The last part is where things get very tricky for the organization, as they're



Will we see both goalies in the same jersey next season?

going to have to decide which has the higher upside and which is more likely to reach it with the team. They also have to figure out how to make all of this work under the constraints of the salary cap system. Currently they've got \$44M committed to 14 guys, and have to re-sign players like Plekanec, Lapierre, Pouliot, Moore, a D-man or two, and both goaltenders, while also shouldering the buyout of Georges Laraque.

Barring a trade of Roman Hamrlik (\$5.5M) and/or the Kostitsyn brothers (combined \$4M), there is likely going to be a cap crunch that will compel the Canadiens to sign one of the goalies and trade the other. Halak's value has increased exponentially this past year thanks to spectacular runs in the Olympics and the NHL playoffs, and his agent, Alan Walsh, will no doubt be looking at the deals signed by Kari Lehtonen (3yrs-\$10.5M) and Jonas Hiller (4yrs-\$18M) and say, "How many playoff games did they win singlehandedly this season?" Price's value, however, has dropped off and he may not get much more than the \$2.2M (bonuses included) he's currently at on his entry-level deal. If the Canadiens can move out

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Basketball Card Saber Metrics: NBA Draft Lottery Version

By *Josh Glover*
aka *sonics_79*

This past year has been an exciting one for NBA fans in the hobby. We have seen the emergence of some amazing players from last year's draft who have had a huge impact on the card collecting industry, and the sport in general.

Tyreke Evans, Stephen Curry, and Brandon Jennings among many others have been the big names coming from this year's rookie ranks.

Every year it seems like we see a few surprise players coming out of the draft that end up drawing huge values for their cards.

I have to say, before the beginning of the season I didn't necessarily expect Curry and Jennings to be quite as popular with collectors as they have turned out to be.

It seems like it can sometimes be difficult to predict who is going to be 'the next big thing'. Everyone knew that Blake Griffin and Tyreke Evans would be huge, but after that it was a little up in the air.

So, in honor of last year's draft, where we saw pick #'s 4, 6, and 10 (Evans, Curry, and Jennings) explode, and with anticipation for the soon to be 2010 Draft class, I decided to do a little research to find out exactly how lottery picks have stacked up to each other over the past ten years in the hobby. Thanks to Beckett.com I was able to go through what I call 'basketball card saber metrics' and find the average Beckett value per card for each lottery pick from 1999-2009.

It really wasn't too difficult: simply look up your player, find the total Beckett value for all cards, and then divide by the number of cards made.

Then, add up the average PPC (price per card) for every player of a certain pick, divide by number of years – and voila, average PPC for said pick over the last decade!

So without further ado, here are the results:

1. 30.63 (Gee, thanks, LeBron!)
2. 21.98
3. 18.02
4. 20.79
5. 17.20
6. 14.95
7. 13.82
8. 9.90
9. 11.19
10. 13.70
11. 11.37
12. 10.43
13. 12.88
14. 11.47

There you are! Interpret as you please, but I'll go ahead and share a few things that I happened to notice.

It's important to remember that these are all averages of course, and for every LeBron there is a Kwame Brown, but you get the picture.

First of all, you may notice... gasp, the #1 pick tends to do favorably well.

LeBron had a lot to do with that, but I'd say it's a fairly safe bet that you're going to get value out of a card from the #1 pick.

There are two little surprises for me, however, that I did not expect. What happened to all of those #8 picks, who had the lowest average of all lottery picks?

I guess it should be no surprise when considering this group contains big-time let downs such as Joe Alexander, Rafael Araujo, Chris Wilcox, and DeSagana Diop. Good luck, Clippers!

I was also surprised to see how well the #10 picks fared. This group did not have the highest value, but has Brandon Jennings, Brook Lopez, Andrew Bynum, Joe Johnson, and Jason Terry among its ranks. Let's hope that this year's 2010 class will be just as exciting to collect as 2009! Look for upcoming articles featuring my new patented 'basketball card saber metrics' method.

I will be comparing player values pertaining to several different topics throughout the year!

Football product review_____

(Continued from page 5)

With a price point that has dropped because of the reshuffle, collectors can really enjoy spending the money to pick up a box and feel the excitement within each pack. However, since there's not much more to it than this, most will be satisfied after 1 box.

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at Press Pass for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release. For more information on all their products, you can check them out at www.presspassinc.com.

Improving Your Online Sports Card Trading

By James Friedman
aka JFried1029

As a 7 year veteran of Sports Card Forum, it never ceases to amaze (or annoy) me the frequency with which people whine in their thread titles about not being able to get trades done. I'd like to share my perspective on this subject.

Getting 2 parties to agree on a trade is not as easy as people think. We all have different ways of valuing cards and we should consider it amazing that trades are done with the frequency they are done.

Some people won't trade down; some won't trade autographed cards for game used cards; others won't trade Game used for Rookie cards. Some trade by Sale Value; others by Book Value. I think that we sometimes lose sight of how hard it is to formulize a trade that pleases both parties.

People who think the trading is slow should look at the monthly leader boards from years past when there was not the large number of active members there is today. One month I was Trader of the Month with a whopping total of 3 trades!

With the membership having grown so dramatically, there are thousands of trades being made monthly.

If you are unsuccessful in making trades, you need to look in the mirror and ask yourself if you are part of the problem.

Many times people will have thread titles asking, "Are my cards that bad?". It often is a matter of who the trader is and what his reputation is like on the boards, not

a question of the quality of the cards.

I have also found during the past 7 years that, for whatever reason, there are short stretches of time where I just can't seem to get any trades done. I don't know why this is so; I only know that I periodically experience "fallow" trade periods, sometimes right after getting a bunch of trades done.

I would also offer the following questions for those who cannot get trades done as often as they like:

Are your wants broad or narrow? Remember that if you are super-collecting one player and have virtually all of his cards except 1 of 1's, the likelihood of people being able to help you is going to be small.

Are your wants and your havees reasonably on the same level of value? You aren't going to get a whole lot of responses if you want to trade base cards for high end autographs. It is important that you be realistic in your collecting goals.

Do you keep your trade list updated? It can be frustrating to the other party if everything he likes from your bucket or trade list is gone.

I try to update monthly, and sometimes that's not even enough.

Do you take the time to respond to everyone who posts in your threads with a simple "I have that card already?"

Courtesy goes along way with fellow traders. Unfortunately too many people ignore the posts in their threads and just bump the thread.

This leaves you wondering if they are not interested or if they didn't see the post.

Do you take the time to go through other members' threads? You cannot expect to trade as often if you do not respond to other thread as well as starting your own. I am sure that over the years more than half of my trades have come about from posting on another member's thread.

I have also noticed many times that members start threads, never respond to them, and then start a new thread for exactly the same topic a day or two later.

There are also traders who indicate that they are too busy to go through trade lists or buckets. If you are one of those, you are implying that your time is more valuable than the other person's time. This can be off-putting to fellow traders. If you are not willing to look for cards you may be interested in, we can't just guess what you might like.

On the other hand, if you respond "Check my Bucket" to someone who is only trading for specific needs, and you know you do not have any of those needs, don't be surprised if a trade cannot be worked out.

Many times someone posts a card that I am interested in, but I will skip the thread if I know I cannot help with what the other person is looking for.

Maybe it sounds corny, but the best approach is to follow the golden rule and treat other members as you wish to be treated.

Can Upper Deck Usher in a New Era of College Collecting?

By *Ethan Cahn*
aka *hhliving1101*

For years we have had limited choices in college cards and memorabilia. Sage and Press Pass have been the mainstays for years in this arena, and have always been a hot issue early due to the release of the products around the draft, but they seem to fall out of favor by the beginning of the season after the rookies have their “NFL” rookie cards.

I personally have been quite a fan of the Press Pass sets since the beginning: the on-card autographs, college game-worn jerseys, and nice base card stock made me a fan years ago. Sage has tried, but they seem to be stuck in the 90’s with their base sets, which I find flimsy and stale. Their autographs are stickers, and while the designs of their autographed cards mix well with the stickers on the card, they still are stickers.

This year, starting very soon (late August), Upper Deck will enter this market. Can they move the college collectible market beyond what Press Pass or Sage could?

As much as I like the Press Pass sets, they really have hit their peak, so I am unsure what they can do to move forward within the field.

We only have a few things to go on with the inaugural Upper Deck collegiate product, but from the looks of what they have begun to do as evident at the NFL rookie premier event last week, we could be in for something very special.

In only 4 hours, Upper Deck managed to collect close to 11,000 on-card autographs for their upcoming Sweet Spot release.



Gerald McCoy was fun. He signed so much that day, they had to tape his fingers.

ing Sweet Spot release.

Per Upper Deck, they collected 17,413 autographs during the day.

You have to remember what Upper Deck has done in the past 21 years. They reinvented and invigorated the market for baseball in the beginning of the 90’s. In 1996, they established the “true” introduction to collectible memorabilia (jersey) cards. Others tried first, but there are no other jersey cards that are as revered as the 1996 Upper Deck game jerseys.

This may be their last shot, and it has to count.

The recent developments of counterfeiting, inauthentic cut autographs, and litigation have tarnished this former powerhouse in the sports memorabilia market into a company hanging on by a thread.

With that said, can the college market during the season continue as strong as it is during the draft bonanza every year?

On the next page are the pictures that Chris Carlin’s Upper Deck team shared with us on Facebook. Enjoy what the future of collegiate collecting could very well become (all quotes are those of the staff from Upper Deck listed directly on their page):

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Damian Williams and other rookies getting it done signing for UD.



"Ryan Mathews 2010 Sweet Spot Football cards laid out, ready to be signed."



"Ryan Mathews signing a 'Bulldogs' variation of the Sweet Spot helmet cards."

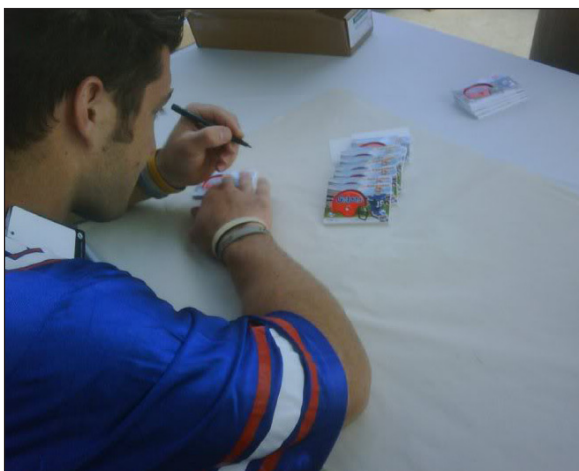


"Ryan Mathews signed 'Bulldog' variation of the helmet cards."



Inscriptions too!

"He's a 'Ramblin Wreck' from Georgia Tech!"



"Tim Tebow signing his 2010 Sweet Spot helmet cards."

I will leave you with this: compared to the others in the market, Upper Deck sure looks like it's going to shake things up quite a bit. I've never been much of a college collector, but I look forward to seeing what else they have in store for us. Change is all around us in the industry.

This is the first time during all the madness happening that I have been excited about collecting again, because of cards like this:



Autographs for a Cause

*By Josh Glover
aka sonics_79*

For many autograph seekers, collecting autographs is simply a fun way to be a part of the game they love. This season, however, the Detroit Tigers with the help of pitcher Jeremy Bonderman have begun to give even the casual collector a new way to appreciate signed memorabilia with their "Autographs for A Cause" program.

The program is simple. Fans can send in a card or 8x10 photo with a 10 or 20 dollar donation, and receive their item back signed. Current Tigers reported to be participating in the program are

Jeremy Bonderman, Miguel Cabrera, Magglio Ordonez, and Rick Porcello. The program is sponsored by the Detroit Tigers Foundation, with each donation going straight to the Miracle League of Michigan. This program helps the community in 2 different and very effective ways. First, it helps raise money for a very worthy cause. Second, it gives fans a chance to give back and be a part of something bigger than themselves. For the average fan, it is not necessarily easy to find ways to give back to the community. However, this program provides fans with an easy way to do so. Getting an autograph is just icing

on the cake!

Obtaining autographs through the mail is a fun experience, but the truly great thing about 'autographs for a cause' is that every donation goes to help such a great organization. The Miracle League of Michigan is a charitable organization that provides children with physical or mental disabilities the chance to experience the fun of playing baseball. Unfortunately not many opportunities exist for children with limitations to play baseball in an organized setting. The Miracle League provides specialized fields for safe play, and a positive atmosphere, so that any

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Changing Times in the Hobby

*By Michael Barton
aka MonticelloCards*

2009-10 has already been quite a year for the world of sports cards. We have seen Upper Deck lose multiple licenses and settle a lawsuit for producing unlicensed cards, Topps becoming the only game in town in baseball (again), and Panini becoming a major player in the marketplace in a few different areas. I am going to discuss 1 positive change, 1 negative change, and 1 change that is still too early to call in this article, and would love to hear others' thoughts and opinions on the subject. Just leave a response below this article.

The Positive – Panini America

Within a span of a little over a year, Panini America has become a

major player within the hobby. Starting with the acquisition of Donruss/Playoff in March of 2009, and ending with their most recent agreement to produce and license NHL products, the company has gone from an afterthought to a major player in the U.S. trading card business. They have handled the success very well, and their products have, so far, been mostly well received. It will be interesting to see what they have in store for NHL cards, and it will be refreshing to see non-exclusivity in the hockey card world again.

The Negative – Upper Deck

Just as Panini has risen, Upper Deck has fallen into a dangerously troubling predicament. As of today, they are left with a college football

license and a hockey license alone, and long-heard rumors were confirmed in the non sports arena when they admitted to counterfeiting Yu-Gi-Oh cards. On top of that, they were sued by Major League Baseball after producing unlicensed cards for the 2010 baseball season. No one is quite sure where they go from here, but collectors lose out in all of this in the long run. The official word from Upper Deck is that everything is going to be fine, but unless they make major changes, the company's credibility has taken a major hit.

Too Early To Tell – Topps Exclusivity with Baseball

Not since 1980 has 1 company had an exclusive agreement with a

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Autographs: Hot or Not?

By *Mike Greene*
aka indyreds

It seems like there are always trends in the collectible world and I cannot help but wonder about autographs in the long term. Will they still hold the same place for sports fans or will they just fade away? We have seen what over production can do to sports cards. Will there continue to be enough demand to keep up with all the supply out there? Why do we find them so desirable in the first place? Will there even be autographs in the future?

I will be the first to say that I do enjoy the fact that there are so many more outlets to get autographs than there were 20 years ago. It is easy to find cards and memorabilia on trade sites like SCF, sports league sites, individual player sites, auctions, and retailers who specialize in autographs. It is common to be able to pull autographed cards out of even the low end card sets. The number of places to obtain autographs seems to point to a strong market now, but the amount of product being signed to keep these places going must affect the long term value. The market is getting so saturated already that I have purchased autograph cards for only a dollar from some card dealers at shows and in their shops. I have seen many autographed cards go unsold for \$1 on an online auction site. I collect most of my autographs via through the mail requests and have found that I can get some players I want cheaper at my local card shop in

the bargain bin!

Autographs still do hold a special place for most sports card collectors out there. It is easy to see when you attempt to trade your cards. See how often that you can trade your regular issue rookie cards or even material cards for an autograph someone has put up for trade on one of the trade sites. Some traders will actually be offended with the suggestion of trading a forty dollar rookie card for an autograph they listed that books half of that amount. It shows that the demand for autos is still stronger than the RC market that has driven our hobby for years.

I have heard a disturbing new trend in our education system that could change the autograph community forever. Some school systems are now only spending a year teaching cursive writing and do not require students to use it afterwards. It seems that with the widespread use of computers that printing matches up better for students' needs. The printed letters correspond better to the real world use of email and word processing skills. Handwritten letters seem to be becoming a thing of the past. Check your mailbox and look at how many items you have that are computer generated now. It is scary to think that in another 20 years that young players may be printing autographs instead of the cursive signatures we have now. Will the next group of collectors coming up have an interest in autographed items? I hope that they do.

Why do we collect autographs in

the first place? Why does a person scribbling something on an item make it worth more? That answer is a varied as the number of us out there who collect autographs in the first place. I think part of it is having an item that was once in the hands of that player. It can be the value for some of us. In person autographs include a memory of the actual meeting with that star. It also can be the thrill of the chase: I love theme autograph collectors. It is great to see an entire autographed card set, a large collection of your team, winners of certain awards, or a collection of players who have hit a milestone. I personally have started working on getting a signed card from each member of the 1986 Mets team. Many people would assign no value to a Mookie Wilson autographed card, but it would be key to that collection to me. The reason we collect autographs is that we find enjoyment of some sort out of it.

I started asking basically if autographs will eventually die out as a collectible. I cannot say that the value will remain high for any particular player, but the current demand seems to point that autographs are going nowhere too soon. Honestly, many of us would be happy if supply drove down the prices even further as it would allow us to collect more of them for less. The hobby will be around as long as we enjoy collecting them. I just hope that when the time comes that I pass my autographs to my children that they find enjoyment in them as well.



A Little Unknown Fact About ITG HSH Redemption Print Runs

By Don White
aka doniceage

Every year I send in redemptions for He Shoots He Scores cards. The only thing I do different from everyone else is I send my redemptions on the very last day possible. The 1 reason I do this is for reference: I get to know how many copies are out there or close to it. Then I just take time to watch eBay to confirm the numbers. It only makes sense that a card that

has 10 copies would be worth more than one with 20 copies. The problem is you have to know how many copies are out there in circulation. Year after year I have fellow collectors try to tell me there are 20 copies according to Beckett or the number of 20 on the card. I then share my experiences with them like the eBay examples below, all of which lead me to believe there less than 20 copies on most of the He Shoots He Score Redemption cards:



Pogge/Potvin (advertised 6 out of 20)
http://rover.ebay.com/rover/1/711-53200-19255-0/1?type=3&campid=5335896190&toolid=10001&mpre=http%3A%2F%2Fcgi.ebay.com%2FPOTVIN-POGGE-07-08-BETWEEN-THE-PIPES-HSHS-JERSEY-20_W0QQitemZ120393717356QQcmdZViewItemQQptZUS_Hockey_Trading_Cards%3Fhash%3Ditem1c0806566c

Mason/Leclaire (advertised 3 out of 20)
http://rover.ebay.com/rover/1/711-53200-19255-0/1?type=3&campid=5335896190&toolid=10001&mpre=http%3A%2F%2Fcgi.ebay.com%2F07-08-BTP-HSHS-STEVE-MASON-PASCAL-LECLAIRE-20_W0QQitemZ390165109264QQcmdZViewItemQQptZUS_Hockey_Trading_Cards%3Fhash%3Ditem5ad7a71a10



Price/Plante (advertised 4 out of 20)
http://rover.ebay.com/rover/1/711-53200-19255-0/1?type=3&campid=5335896190&toolid=10001&mpre=http%3A%2F%2Fcgi.ebay.com%2F07-08-ITG-PIPES-HSHS-JERSEY-4-20-CAREY-PRICE-PLANTE_W0QQitemZ290384486111QQcmdZViewItemQQptZUS_Hockey_Trading_Cards%3Fhash%3Ditem439c439edf

(Continued on page 19)

Now here are 3 of mine that I have all #’ed 7 out of the supposed 20 copies.



I have yet to see any copies beyond 7 so far. I truly believe that with the periodic checking of eBay auctions from time to time the set was not fully redeemed. I know only of 1 set that was redeemed to completion: the 2004-05 Franchise set. Other than that, every other set has less than 20 copies. No one keeps a formal record of this that I know of. I contacted ITG and they would not verify my claim nor would they deny it. To me it helps one truly assess the value of a card based

on how many copies of it are floating around.

So in the future you might want to not assume there are 20 copies out there for ITG HSHS redemptions. If you have any questions about any of the print runs, let me know. I have quite a few documented, but I haven't done H&P HSHS, so I've no information on that set. I assume the same thing would be found out if investigated just like the BTP as the redemption program is the same.

Happy collecting!

(Continued from page 15)

We were totally sick of waiting in lines at this point, and the day was just about over for us. We knew Martin Kampmann was going to be signing with the UFC at 1 p.m., so that's where we went. There were huge lines all around us, but the line we were in was pretty short. 3 fighters were at this table. I definitely needed Kampmann's auto, and I was glad I got it.

The photo is me with WEC champ Dominick Cruz. Well, that pretty much sums it up my UFC Fan Expo 2010 experience. There are a lot of encounters that I didn't talk about, including signings and photos. My goal for the week was 25 or 30 autographs for my collection, but in the end, I got just 9. That's okay though, I'm enjoying the chase. I recently got some TTM. I haven't counted, but I think I now have 53 of the 99 card set. I'll be taking my shortening stack of cards with me to Boston in hopes of clearing some more.

Baseball product review

(Continued from page 3)

autograph in block letters stating "Topps Certified Autograph Issue."

Bowman typically sets the tone for the collecting season in regards to rookies and prospects. This year is huge with the likes of Stephen Strasburg, Bryce Harper, Dustin Ackley, and Starlin Castro (to name a few) in the mix.

This has caused a huge surge in popularity with the product and, unfortunately, a price hike to go along with it.

The cards are the norm for this product as they look like a rehashed design.

The inclusion of a few insert sets is great and gives the opportunity to complete some chase sets.

Still not a fan of a low yield toward a base set, but that happens when you combine 3 separate sets into 1.

While the price hike would seem to be a buzz kill, there's a lot to be found in a box of Bowman.

The enjoyability and anticipation factor is high when you open each pack hoping to see one of the big name rookies in the pack.

Though there's only 1 auto on average, it doesn't mean the value isn't there. Between the various refractors and the roster on the checklist, there's so much to be found in Bowman that it's worth the price of admission so to speak.

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at Topps for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release.

For more information on all their products, you can check them out at www.topps.com.



Hockey product review

(Continued from page 6)

seem to appear around once in every 2 and a half boxes.

With 6 hits on average (2 non-memorabilia inserts, 2 memorabilia cards, and 2 autographs) per box, there's a lot of value within them.

While ITG has not been known for putting serial numbers on cards, it would be nice if each memorabilia card had the print run on the back of each of them.

For instance, some cards are silver and gold versions. There are some that will say 1 of 30 (silver) or 1 of 10 (gold) on the back. Special cards will have 1 of 9 (silver) with the blank filled with a number written by hand or 1 of 1 (gold). If cards are going to be limited in number, then all cards should at least have this so the consumer knows what they have.

The only issue with the autographs (other than being stickered, which is prevalent in all companies) is they tend to stick to the back of the card on top of it, so you have to be careful when pulling it off or the ink will smear from the autos.

One final note is that while the HSHS points are also used as a deterrent for pack feelers, the truth is that it is easy to determine the packs with jerseys (mainly the patch cards) due to the weight of the pack. But all in all, H&P is well worth the money per box.

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at ITG (In The Game) for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release.

For more information on all their products, you can check them out at www.itgtradingcards.com.

(Continued from page 16)

some salary, there does exist the possibility they can retain the services of both Price and Halak on a short-term (probably a maximum of 2 years) basis.

That, in my opinion, is the ideal scenario: keep both goalies and let them continue to push each other to be the true #1 guy. Yes, if Halak gets a larger deal there will be the natural inclination to give him more time in net to justify the contract, but when you look at Chicago's situation, it's not unheard-of for a lower-priced goalie to rule the roost. Give them both 2-year deals, and if the dust has settled by that time the Canadiens will have successfully deferred the problem by two years to fully evaluate their situation and can act accordingly. At the end of that 2-year period, Halak will be 26 and eligible for UFA status, while Price will still only be 24 and eligible for arbitration-rights RFA status. If either has fully established himself as the true #1, keep him and deal the other at that time. You don't want to give up on Price at 22, and you don't want to commit long-term to Halak based on one season, no matter how superlative. If, however, the Canadiens are backed into a corner by a trade request from Price or a too-high salary demand from Halak, and it's a situation where only one can stay, here is what you do:

If they decide to go with Halak and Price has to go, give Halak a long-term deal to ensure that they will not have to worry about what goes on between the pipes for years to come. Desjardins will be good as the backup, I believe. Find a Western Conference taker for Price so that there won't be regular distractions whenever he comes to town. Personally, I wouldn't complain if it was Edmonton in exchange for some of their young talent (no, I'm not going to demand Taylor Hall), though given that Edmonton's paying Khabibulin nearly \$4m a year until 2013 they may not necessarily be a viable option. Colorado? That might be a little too "history repeating itself" for many Habs fans, though he would definitely fit in with the youth movement they have going on there. They are in a fantastic cap situation and could easily give him a long-term deal.

If Halak was just too good in the playoffs and priced himself out of what Montreal can pay him relative to his demands, and the organization wants to stick with Price after investing so heavily in him, a trade to Dallas is in the offing. Trade Halak for Jamie Benn and/or James Neal (pending RFA) and the rights to Marty Turco, who is about to become a UFA (can somebody try this on NHL '10 and see if it gets accepted? Send me a message if it works). It maximizes the return on Halak's stock in getting a blue-



Could their career paths end up the same way?

chip prospect while also giving Price the veteran mentor that he might just need to excel. Plus, if Price falters, Turco, at only 33 years old, is still capable of playing a lot of minutes. Whether Turco wants to accept a more limited role is of course still up in the air, and he may feel that he can get one last big contract as a legitimate #1 goalie. Price gets a 2-year deal (though he may push for 3 so that if he's not happy after the deal's done, he can leave as UFA) for decent money to show confidence on behalf of the organization, gets his veteran mentor, and the reins to prove himself.

I don't know which of these options I truly find more appealing. I of course love Price in Montreal and would hate to see him leave, but it might be the best thing for him moving forward; as much as I hate to agree with Don Cherry that he has to get out of Montreal, it might be true. I actually find the Colorado option very interesting and it would be a great opportunity for him to kick-start his career with a very good up-and-coming team. I'm very much torn between my heart and my head on the matter. There is nothing more I want to see than Carey Price in a Montreal Canadiens jersey hoisting the Stanley Cup. I do believe that he will ultimately emerge as a true #1 superstar goaltender in the NHL. However, I very much fear that, like Roy and Thibault and Theodore and every other goalie for the Habs in the past 30 years, the relationship between the player and the fans may have deteriorated to the point that the player simply has to go elsewhere to ply his trade. I want the best for both my favourite team and my favourite player – I fear that the two may be at a crossroads, and that the outcome may see them go in opposite directions.

In-Person Autograph: Franco Harris

By *Kevin O'Connor*
aka *rainman67ko*

Living in Pittsburgh has its perks. You're never far from the stadiums or arenas, down town has the theater district, and city garage parking is an easy walk across the Roberto Clemente Bridge to PNC

Park, Heinz Field, and the North Shore. Mellon Arena and the new Consol Energy Center are also readily accessible from downtown or the interstates. The Strip District has its own multi cultural appeal with its markets, and there are still ethno-centric neighborhoods with festivals occurring throughout the year.



Last Fall, on a cloudy rain threatening day, my son Brandon and I ventured down to Bloomfield after his golf lessons at Schenley Park. This area is known as the city's "Little Italy". This particular weekend hap-

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Autographs for a cause

(Continued from page 21)

child can feel the thrill of the sport. The special fields provided by the Miracle League feature a safe, artificial playing surface that enables even wheelchairs safe navigation, as well as fully accessible dugouts, bathrooms and drinking fountains. Each game, players are assigned "buddies" who provide assistance in fielding, batting and running. Every child will have the chance to hit the ball and score a run.

For most it is difficult to imagine going a lifetime without ever having the satisfaction of getting a hit or the thrill of crossing home plate. For kids with special challenges, playing baseball provides a real sense of accomplishment and opportunity for positive growth. In the same way, 'autographs for a cause' can give fans a sense of accomplishment by supporting kids who otherwise would not have the opportunity to play baseball.

As fans of the sport, collectors understand the special influence that baseball can have in people's lives. Hopefully, collectors can take full advantage of this opportunity to not only expand their collections, but also to give back and share their love of baseball with others.

For more information concerning the Autographs for A Cause program, or the Miracle League of Michigan, please follow the links below:

<http://detroit.tigers.mlb.com/det/community/foundation.jsp>

<http://www.michiganmiracle.org/index.htm>

Racing Product review

(Continued from page 7)

for Premium is the price point. While it's a nice product, the price versus what you get in return is off-balanced. In my opinion, the right price point would be around \$15-\$20 less a box and that starts with what it costs to get them from the company.

Once again, I'd like to thank our sponsors at Press Pass for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release. For more information on their products, be sure to check them out at www.presspassinc.com.



“It’s the most wonderful time of the year!”

By *Richard McAdam*
aka *RGM81*

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year!”

While those words may be from a Christmas song, truly the late spring is the most exciting time of the year for hockey fans. The 2010 Stanley Cup Playoffs were an amazing tournament filled with highs and lows for nearly every fan, and were capped off by the Chicago Blackhawks winning their first Stanley Cup in nearly 50 years.

Young hobby favourites Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane got to hoist Lord Stanley’s Grail for the first (and probably not last) time in their careers, as did Norris Trophy candidate Duncan Keith, rookie sensation Antti Niemi, and dominating presence Dustin Byfuglien. These pillars of the Hawks will surely see a strong increase in demand for their cards in the weeks to come.

It would be a grave oversight to not mention that the Curse of Marian Hossa has finally been broken – on his third straight trip to the Finals with his third different club, the Slovakian superstar finally has a Stanley Cup win. A big congratulations to the Chicago Blackhawks and their fans, as well as a hearty round of applause to the other fifteen teams that came up short this year.

SCF members participated in many lively discussions throughout the playoffs. The Game Day/Series threads in the SCF Hockey Talk Forum drew huge audiences, attracting some 30,000 views and over 2,500 posts in all. The discussion was spirited and often animated, as the wide diversity of fans on the forums brought their “A Games” to the playoffs and were there every step of the way with their favourite teams. Hats off to all SCF members for your participation!

The off-ice happenings at SCF were nearly as exciting as the events that took place on the ice during the months of May and June! The largest hockey contest of the year, the Race for the Quad (a truly spectacular quad autograph card #’d /3 featuring Wayne Gretzky, Gordie Howe, Bobby Orr, and Mario Lemieux) came to a thrilling conclusion with member waf narrowly claiming the grand prize by the thinnest of margins.

Congratulations to you for earning this amazing card – your perseverance and dedication to victory paid off!

Thank you to all of our members who participated in the contest, and we hope that you will take place in the next SCF mega-contest...

The Race for the Trio!

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, so here’s part of the grand prize:



For complete information on The Race for the Trio, please visit here:

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=1136120>



You Bought What!?!?

*By Stephen Duell
aka spuds1961*

In this crazy hobby, we collectors are involved in some things that can get a little – or in this case, very much – haywire. I’m talking about Topps’ latest release, 2010 Bowman. I haven’t ever, in my 48 years of roaming this planet, seen a product sell so fast and double in price per box since its release. Call it a great rookie class, or thank Mr. Stephen Strasburg for this happening, but I’ll go into my reason for the title next.

The Strasburg 1 of 1 Superfractor has been pulled, and luckily by a collector who knew how

to capitalize on such a pull. The final sale price: 16,403 dollars.

That’s not a typo, that’s a fact, and it’s the craziest price I’ve ever seen for a player who, at the time of the sale, had yet to throw a pitch in the major leagues.

Here comes the fun part for us everyday collectors: could any of you guys or gals tell your significant other you spent 16,403 dollars on 1 baseball card? I have a hard time convincing my wife to let me buy a lower end hobby box in the 75 dollar range, thus the many 1/2 price blaster boxes for my collection.

I seriously wish I had that kind of capital to take

a chance on prospecting, but I doubt I would ever spend that much on 1 card, let alone a prospect. Try telling your significant other you gambled junior’s college fund on this ‘can’t miss’ baseball prospect – can anyone say divorce court?

I find this hobby enjoyable, but when I see a card sell for that astronomical figure, I truly wonder: are we collectors, or are we investors hoping to cash in?

In closing, I would like to congratulate anybody who has pulled a Strasburg card of any kind out of Bowman. I’ve only spent about 50 bucks on retail packs and haven’t hit for 1; that is where my quest

ends. Happy collecting everybody, and I do mean collecting – have fun with the hobby and take care.

Changing times

(Continued from page 21)

sport to be the only one to produce cards. Now, Topps is (once again) the only company with an MLB license to produce cards. From a collecting standpoint, it is really hard to figure out what happens from here. On one hand, Topps could do the right thing, market cards towards younger collectors, and the hobby could boom once again. On the other, the monopoly could cause the company to become complacent, and the collectors lose out in the long term without a viable alternative to choose from. It is far too early to see what the consequences of this exclusive deal are.

I cannot believe the amount of activity in the hobby in the past year. I have seen things happen that never would have crossed my mind as being possible. All I care about, in the end, is that the changes being made benefit us, the collectors – because without us, there is no hobby to speak of.



*By John Schinigoj
aka StainLss*

Is it here yet? Is it time to watch some football? Sadly, that is not the case – but it is time to gear up for the season in the SCF football forums! We have lots of discussion going on about the draft and players’ potential breakout seasons.

Don’t forget about this year’s Gridiron Glory year long contest. Enter for a

chance to win some great prizes along with MAJOR bragging rights.

Last, but certainly not least, check out our football group breaks that our very own Ryan (rchurchward) runs.

We have had some really nice pulls and would love to have you join in the fun.

So come on by the football area for cards, contests, and – of course – smack talk. Thanks for reading!



*By Mike Greene
aka indyreds*

I know that the economy has been a little rough and many of us are cutting back or trying to make our collection dollars stretch further than before.

The county I work in is currently at over a 17% unemployment rate and the national unemployment rate is now over 9%!

Many collectors have a much more limited budget for their hobby as we all tighten our belts.

While I am one of the lucky ones who has not seen my employer laying off workers, I have started to look at my spending and cut back where I can.

It is no secret that our hobby dollars is a place where many of us have cut back.

I know that opening up a box and pulling out an autograph of a player from your favorite team, a Hall of Famer, rookie, or a current star always seems like a success.

I just can no longer justify spending \$100 on a box of sports cards and get a couple of hits.

It is like playing the lottery as you just never know what you will get and you sometimes end up with a piece of cardboard that you just do not want.

Thank God that SCF is here to try to trade those hits you did not want to someone who might.

I wanted more control of the autographed items coming into my collection, but did not want to spend what autograph singles are bringing in the hobby.

Do you realize for around \$10 you can add 10 to 20 autographs to your collection?

It can be done! You can pick up

Here are 10 names that have recent successes in Sport Card Forum's Through the Mail Manager

Andre Dawson, Duke Snider, Paul Molitor, Ozzie Newsome, Lawrence Taylor, Hershel Walker, Karl Malone, Lenny Wilkens, Danica Patrick and Anna Kournikova.

a box of envelopes at most dollar stores for just that 1 dollar.

Purchase a book of stamps for \$8.80 cents at your local post office.

Now look at that stack of cards you have that were not hits from the boxes you have purchased. I assume that most collectors have plenty of base cards that they do nothing with.

Take a few moments and go into the Through the Mail Manager (TTMM) and look through the recent successes.

Select some players that others have gotten back or take a shot at someone else.

You can usually find players who you would love to add to your collection and then sort through those base cards you have sitting out and pull 1 or 2 cards out of those players.

Look up those players in the TTMM and address an envelope to them.

Take a few minutes to write a short letter telling the player why you would like their autograph and ask them to sign the card or cards you are mailing to them.

Fill out another envelope with your address in the send to area

and place a stamp on it. In the hobby, they call this envelope a self addressed stamped envelope and it's often abbreviated to SASE. Place your cards, the request letter, and your SASE into the player addressed envelope.

Stamp the envelope and mail it off!

You have enough supplies with that book of stamps and the envelope box you purchased to attempt 10 requests.

What would you have to pay for a hobby box with 10 autograph hits in it?

Here are 10 names that have recent successes in the TTMM: Andre Dawson, Duke Snider, Paul Molitor, Ozzie Newsome, Lawrence Taylor, Hershel Walker, Karl Malone, Lenny Wilkens, Danica Patrick and Anna Kournikova.

I can definitely see where adding those 10 autographs to your collection for \$10 would make your hobby dollars stretch further.

Give it a shot and please report your successes in the TTMM for other members as well!

I have to go check my mail!

Best of luck with your autograph requests!



SportsCardForum.com

Rookie Debut

Rookie

**By Matthew Cawley
aka HerdsMan87**

Have you won a new member contest in the year 2010? Do you think that your fun is over? NOT SO FAST! The new member team continues to run the year long contest for any member that won a new member contest in the year 2010! Basically, this is a chance to pin winners against winners to see who comes out the top new member trader of 2010! Trades with ANY kind of sports related items will count

for your total!

To gain points in this contest, you will have to trade with as many members as possible.

You will earn 1 point for trading with different members (2 trades with the same person=1 point). And if you are the winner, you will have a pick of some really awesome cards: from NFL logo shields and triple autographs to a triple threads jersey/autograph of a former Rookie of the Year/Most Valuable Player!

In-Person autograph

(Continued from page 27)

opened to be when Bloomfield's Italian Festival was occurring. We walked around the booths set up along Liberty Avenue enjoying the food and other sights and before long it started to rain. As we made our way along the festival we walked past a rather large man with an umbrella standing at a table with some flyers in his hand. I turned back only to see it was Franco Harris.

As our hands met we introduced ourselves and I did the inevitable "Big Fan of yours since I was a kid" thing. Mr. Harris was very friendly and asked questions about us, and then began to speak about his son, Dok Harris, as a Pittsburgh Mayoral candidate. I was familiar with the campaign, and while I supported it on Facebook, I was not eligible to vote for him living in a borough bordering the city. The conversation turned back to Steelers football and Mr. Harris commented that Brandon was too young to know who he was. I let him know that my son was a collector and that together we had been building

our collections of sports cards and memorabilia for a while. I added that I constantly talked with my son about Pittsburgh sports history.

He immediately reached into his pocket, autographed a Steelers magnetic calendar, and handed it to Brandon. I then asked for permission to get a photo of them together, to which Mr. Harris smiled, and leaned over with his arm around Brandon for the opportunity.

We thanked him and left him standing in the rain with a handshake, a wave, and a smile. Brandon flashed his alluring smile, and was polite as always, making the moment enjoyable for all of us.

I had seen pro athletes out in public a few times but never approached them or asked for an autograph except at a signing event. Mr. Harris was as regular as anyone and treated us with the same respect and interest he was shown. When Brandon gets a few years older he'll appreciate this moment a little more. For me it was like meeting Santa Claus.

More generally, are you a new member with questions about the site? If so, stop in the chat every Tuesday at 8 PM EST to talk with fellow new members as well as

the new members team! Ask questions, discuss your collection, make trades, make suggestions, and even win some contests! Come on in and chat it up every Tuesday!



A Word From the Editor

**By Khendra Murdock
aka JammingJames23**

I had a lot of fun gathering and going through all the contents in this issue. I'm very happy that more members are

contributing articles because that means folks are excited about the magazine! You can help spread the word further by posting about it on Facebook or Twitter.

Some of you may enjoy reading the magazine, but are afraid to write. For those of you in that boat, don't be afraid to sail! Articles don't need to be enormous in length or have perfect grammar and spelling — I'm open to a wide variety of submissions and have enough time to edit them for grammar and spelling if needed.

The articles forum is the place for anything you want to contribute. Remember that Card Cash payments are given out for accepted submissions, so there's added incentive for you to write articles besides seeing them here in the magazine.

Finally, let me know if you have any comments and/or suggestions.