

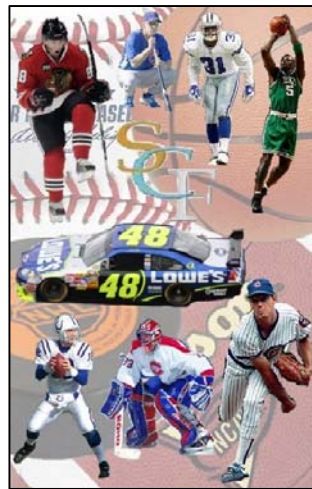


VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2009

WRITING CONTEST EDITION

WINNING ARTICLE INSIDE



ALSO INSIDE

RELEASE CALENDAR, PRODUCT REVIEWS  
AND SCF UPDATE



Sports  
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The  
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In Sports Card  
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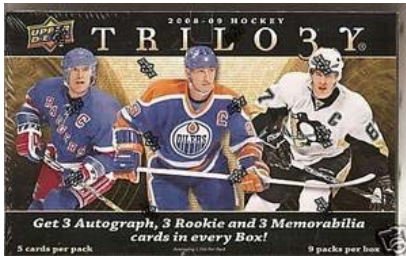
# CardsByTheBox.com

**For all of your hobby boxes needs!**

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

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

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



- Six Jersey inserts compose the memorabilia hits:
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Star Swatches bring the best players to life on awesome signed jersey cards!
- Autographs, rookies and memorabilia cards  
3 of each per box - on average!
- Two-sided Tri-Color Tandems and Trilogy Rivals Jersey cards combine for 3 per case on avg.!
- Young Star and Superstar Scripts give collectors great autographs to chase!

### **2008-2009 Upper Deck SPx Hockey \$109.99 (Out January 14<sup>th</sup>)**



- 2 Rookie Jersey Cards per box on average, 1 will be autographed (average)
- 1 Winning Combo and 1 Winning Materials per box on average
- Find fabulous flashback fabrics
- Memorable moment perimeter die-cuts hit twice per case!

### **2008 Playoff Contenders Football \$124.99**



- 4 Autographs per box
- And 6 others of the following:
  - Parallels
  - Rookie of the Year Contenders
  - Round #s
  - Draft Class
  - Rookie Roll Call

### **2008 SP Authentic Football \$104.99**



- One (1) Autographed Memorabilia card in every box, on average!
- Including an unprecedented eight (8) Rookie Autographed Patch Cards in EVERY case, on average!
- Two (2) additional Autographs in every box, on average!
- Look for Multi-signed cards falling two (2) per case, on average
- Look for 1-of-1 Autographed Rookie Logo Patches!
- All autographs are signed on the card!



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- Leo Zuperku
- Mike Green





### **Full Steam Ahead**

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

First, I would like to say Happy New Year to all of our members I hope you all had a fantastic festive season and that you made the most of both the celebrations and the time off that hopefully came with it. 2008 was a spectacular year for SCF and we are aiming to make 2009 an even bigger one! Before discussing what lies ahead, let's have a quick look at what has been happening in the last few months.

In 2008, SCF stroke up important partnership deals, getting us not only boxes to review and cards to give away to our members but also more exposure by being published in Tuff Stuff. We also saw the traffic on the site increase significantly which could very well have been brought on by all the work invested in the partnerships. The last few months also saw the site owner sell packs of cards for card cash which was a much appreciated initiative by the members. This new development made card cash quite sought after and in this spirit, I have decided to award 2000 CC as the prize of the "Caption This" contest. We received many entries and chose the following as the top five:



#### What is Marty Turco thinking or saying here?

1. The New Matrix on Ice – Starring Marty Turco – zPens87z
2. Then Dave Tippett gave him a biscuit and rubbed his belly - wolf1bh
3. My dad used to play for the Seals – Habs\_fan\_Ontario
4. Guys look, look! I finally did it! I can balance the puck on my nose! – SK74
5. I am one with the puck, be the puck – Cromalk

The voting was close, so close in fact that we had a tie between number 1 and number 3. Both zPens87z and Habs\_fan\_Ontario will split the prize and receive 1000 CC each. You can see the voting thread [here](#).

The end of 2008 also saw the first edition of the SCF writing contest come to a close. The contest, titled "My Favorite Player" saw 23 members write an article about their favorite player in the hope to win a box of 2008 Donruss Elite Football cards. So many great articles were received that we couldn't help but make this issue of the magazine a special edition featuring some of the best articles received. Be sure to read the article on Alan Trammell by Peter Grossmann as this was the winning entry. Congratulations to all who participated and I am sorry that we could not feature every article in this issue. The articles on Kevin Garnett and Jimmie Johnson were already featured in last month's magazine.

In 2009, SCF is hoping to launch many new initiatives always in the hope of improving the trading experience for our members. Firstly, we can mention our "escrow program". Simply put, this will allow traders who are making a high end deal to both send to a trustworthy member of staff who will then forward each end to the right trader. This will remove some of the risk element from high end deals, if you have any questions about the program, please contact Enigma by PM. Secondly, our storefronts program should also see the light shortly, this has been in the making for some time but we are getting very close to a launch. Thirdly, we will also shortly be launching the SCF auction system and finally, in cooperation with Tuff Stuff SCF is currently working on putting together its very own price guide. This guide will not only take into account sale value from eBay but also trade value based on SCF transactions.

As you can see, this should be an exciting year on SCF and if you have any ideas which you think could improve your experience on our site further, please make a post in the feedback forum.

Karine Hains, Editor-In-Chief





## The SCF Emergency Fund

By Scott Kozlowski aka Scottkoz20

In September of 2008, sportscardforum.com established an emergency fund to help members that have fallen victim to hard times. Currently, there are several initiatives ongoing to build up the SCF emergency fund. These include

### 1. Building the following High End base card sets

#### Football

*2008 Playoff Absolute Memorabilia RPM Set* - We currently only have 3 of 34 Non-Autographed rookies, Kevin O'Connell, James Hardy and Limas Sweed.

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=579135>

#### Hockey

*2007-08 Ultimate* - We only have 16 of 60 base cards and 10 Rookies at this point. The Rookies would be a significant boost to this set.

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=581715>

*2007-08 The Cup* - We only have 43 of 100 base cards with 4 cards incoming.

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=579131>

#### Racing

*2008 Press Pass Legends Blue Racing /599* - We are awaiting the final 10 cards to complete this set

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=630046>



### 2. SCF Online Auctions

These auctions are silent auctions and the winner will be the highest bidder. All of the proceeds after paypal fees and shipping of the item will go towards the fund. Each of the auctions is on cards that have been donated to sportscardforum.com.

Please check out the current ongoing auctions. <http://www.sportscardforum.com/forumdisplay.php?f=436>

As of December 23, 2008, there is a grand total of \$15 in the fund. At this point, we are not looking for cash donations, rather if you are interested in helping, please contact Enigma on information about making a card donation. Donators to SCF do have additional benefits of an expanded PM mailbox size and as well as a tag indicating that you are an SCF Donator.



## SCF Member Spotlight

By Scott Kozlowski aka Scottkoz20

Starting in this issue, we will take a look at 5 members of [sportscardforum.com](http://sportscardforum.com). These individuals have been nominated by the staff.

This month, we will look at 3 members from Basketball, Football and Hockey and 2 more members from Baseball and Racing that have earned a "Super Collector" tag.



Basketball – gladdyontherise



Dan is one of the most active members of sportscardforum.com. Since joining SCF in December of 2007, Dan has had 730 successful trades, averaging nearly 2 deals per day. Dan is also one of the few members that have reached 100 trades in 1 month.

Dan started collecting when he was 10 years old and collects Detroit Pistons and Al Jefferson. He also has an extensive Justin Verlander collection, having about 11% of all of his cards. When he is not trading on SCF, he plays video games and loves to bowl. He also tells me that he is an excellent cook...



Football - atrain2004



Adam is one of the longest active members of SCF, joining in February of 2005. He currently has over 700 successful trades and is one of SCF's Top Ten All-time traders.

Adam started collecting in 1986 when his dad bought him a box of 1986 Fleer Baseball and he got hooked. This was something that Adam and his dad shared together. Currently, the focus of his collection is Football, specifically Jay Cutler. He is a huge fantasy sports guru and is looking into pursuing a career in sports radio broadcasting and was a starting offensive lineman for Northern Colorado University.

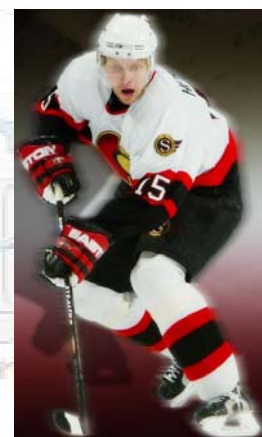


Hockey - tysonx504



Tyson is a new member on SCF, having joined in July of 2008. He currently has just over 30 deals completed and is extremely active within the hockey forums.

Tyson restarted his collection when he found SCF. He is an Ottawa Senators fan and does have a focus on Dany Heatley, Jason Spezza, Nick Foligno and Daniel Alfredsson; however he is more focused on having fun with collecting. Tyson enjoys playing hockey and video games when he is not online and currently works as a manager of a business locally in Winnipeg.



## "Super Collector" Spotlight



### Baseball - JKC



Darin was the 1st Baseball "Super Collector" with his Jason Kendall collection. He currently owns 1797 Kendall cards, which represents nearly 89% of all Jason Kendall cards. Darin started collecting him after pulling his rookie out of 1993 Topps Baseball. Prior to this, he was not much of a player collector, but he felt that he would be a fan of his and decided to collect what he could.

The following is a breakdown of his collection:

#### Number of cards in collection:

Licensed - 1749  
 Aftermarket - 10  
 Unofficial Show Promos - 38  
 Autographs - 52  
 Autographed Game Used - 8  
 Game used - 138  
 1/1's - 32  
**TOTAL - 1797**

#### More items in the collection:

Baseballs - 10  
 Bobble Heads - 7  
 Die Casts - 3  
 Figures - 7  
 Magazines/Books - 18  
 Other Items - 38  
 Photos - 15 (2 are autographed)  
 Posters/Poster Proofs - 10

[approximately 89% (based on licensed part of collection, and some cards in that part of his collection are not recognized by Beckett)]

For the complete list of Jason Kendall cards that Darin has, please visit his website. <http://www.freewebs.com/jkccollectib...nkendallpc.htm>



### Racing - Lesracing



Les was the first SCF member to be designated as a "Super Collector" and with his collection you will understand why. He started collecting racing cards in the late 80's and currently only collects them. His primary focus is on Dale Earnhardt Sr., Kerry Earnhardt and Kevin Harvick; Les also has cards from every known racing card set, regardless if it is a mainstream release, obscure or track specific. Here is a small sample of Lesracing's collection:

Kevin Harvick - 1,637 total known cards produced and he has 1,167 of them for 71.3% of all Harvick cards. Included in this collection is one of every Beckett Sample card that were produced (88) as well as one of every eBay Preview card numbered to 5 produced (68). He currently has 36 Autographs, 18 Autographed Race Used, 163 Race Used, 158 other serial numbered cards.

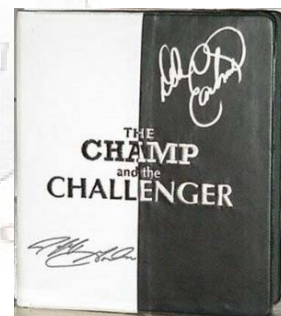
Kerry Earnhardt - He has 84 of 98 known cards for a percentage of nearly 86%.

Here is a cabinet with 45 binders all filled with sets (pictured right)

Oh, I almost forget about Dale Sr. The numbers of Dale Sr. cards is in the process of being calculated.

A few of the highlights:

- An 8 card set of 1996 VIP Dale Earnhardt firesuits featuring silver foil (1:384), gold foil (1:512), blue foil (1:2,048) & green foil (1:6,144)
- 3 1997 Pinnacle 1 of 1 Press Plates
- 1988 Maxx #99 base card. Originally, this card was not included in the 1988 Maxx set due to a contract dispute; however he obtained this card from a friend's son that worked for Maxx. He snuck the card out in his lunch box and sent it to me
- And "The Champ and the Challenger" dual autograph Dale Sr. and Jeff Gordon (pictured right)



Next month, we will look to feature 3 more members and 2 more "Super Collectors".



## The Best of the Box/Pack Breaks

By Brad Guyton aka Brads55

Some collectors are lucky enough to pull what I like to call a 'Grail'. A card so rare that you are speechless in its presence. Well I decided to spotlight some of our members' best pulls on the site. I contacted these members by PM to see if they'd be interested in being in this online magazine and if they could provide some scans of their 'Grail' along with a little Q&A about their pull....



### Q&A with SCF Member : bearsfaninltncc – Michael Oddo of Charlotte, NC

1. What did you purchase?  
"1 Pack of 2008 UD Sweet Spot Baseball."
2. What was the card you pulled?  
"Sweet Spot Bat Barrel Auto of Ken Griffey Jr."
3. How much did the purchase cost?  
"\$20.00."
4. Where did you buy the product?  
"Grand Slam in Rock Hill, South Carolina."
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?  
"No."
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?  
"No, a 2006 Reggie Bush SPX Auto RC."

### Q&A with SCF Member : LBJ23213 – Kyle Medeiros of Coventry, RI

1. What did you purchase?  
"I purchased a pack of 08-09 SPX Basketball cards."
2. What was the card you pulled?  
"I pulled a Dwight Howard Spectrum Parallel numbered 1/1!"
3. How much did the purchase cost?  
"The purchase cost me \$10. The pack was on sale for 50% off."
4. Where did you buy the product?  
"I bought the pack at BC Sports in the Providence Place Mall in Providence, Rhode Island."
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?  
"Yes, I also pulled a Sonny Weems Rc Auto/GU numbered out of /599."
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?  
"This has to be one of, if not my best, hit I have ever pulled."



### Q&A with SCF Member : T\_Terry – Tim Terry of Brookfield, Nova Scotia Canada

1. What did you purchase?  
"2 Packs of 2008-09 ITG Heroes and Prospects."
2. What was the card you pulled?  
"The 2008-09 ITG Heroes and Prospects Emblem Patch 3/9 of Matt Duchene."
3. How much did the purchase cost?  
"The packs were \$5.19cdn plus tax, which came to \$12.xx when all said and done."
4. Where did you buy the product?  
"The Batter's Box in Truro, Nova Scotia."
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?  
"I had pulled a Jiri Tlustý Numbers Patch x/9 the weekend before in Halifax."
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?  
"This is easily the nicest patch I've personally ever pulled."

### Q&A with SCF Member : mwagner24 – Michael Wagner of East Brunswick, NJ

1. What did you purchase?  
"I purchased a box of 2008 Leaf Rookies and Stars Football."
2. What was the card you pulled?  
"A Matt Ryan Dress For Success Jersey Auto numbered 6 of 25."
3. How much did the purchase cost?  
"The box cost 58 dollars."
4. Where did you buy the product?  
"I bought it on eBay."
5. Did you get other big pulls out of the product?  
"That was the only big pull from the product I have got."
6. Is this the best hit you've ever pulled? If not, what was it?  
"No, the best hit I have pulled is a Chris Paul Artifacts Exclusives Auto numbered to 5."





## Alan Trammell Biography and Best Baseball Cards

By Peter Grossmann aka pgrossma

*Note from the editor: This article was the winning entry of the SCF writing contest. Congratulations to Peter on an excellent article.*

### Biography

Alan Trammell ranks as one of the great shortstops of his generation. Born February 21, 1958, Trammell excelled in both baseball and basketball at Kearny High School in San Diego, earning all-CIF honors in both sports[1]. This was enough for Detroit Tigers to make him their second round draft pick in 1976.

Trammell's minor league career was brief and successful, as he earned a spot on the Appalachian League (A) All Star Team in 1976[2] and Southern League (AA) MVP honors in 1977, batting .291 and hitting 19 triples in 134 games[3]. This earned him a September call up in 1977, and he became the Tigers everyday shortstop in 1978.

1980 was Trammell's breakout season—he earned his first major league all star appearance en route to a .300 season with 107 runs scored[4]. He also collected his first Gold Glove [5]. After a pair of sub par hitting seasons, Trammell bounced back in 1983 with a .319 season, good for 4th in the AL, and he also set his career high in stolen bases (30)[6].

When the Tigers leaped out to a 35-5 start in 1984 and then cruised to a 108-54 record, Trammell figured heavily in their success. He hit .314 with 34 doubles, 14 home runs, 69 RBI, and 19 stolen bases while earning his fourth Gold Glove at shortstop[5][6]. He found an extra gear in the playoffs, hitting 4-11 (.364) in a three-game sweep of the Kansas City Royals in the ALCS [7] with a triple, a home run, 3 RBI and 2 runs scored [8]. His World Series performance earned him series MVP honors, as he hit .450 (9-20) with 2 home runs, 6 RBI, and 5 runs scored in a 4-1 defeat of the San Diego Padres[9].

Trammell's finest individual season came in 1987. He finished a very close second to George Bell in the MVP voting, and many still believe he should have won the award. Serving as the Tigers cleanup hitter, he bat a career high .343 (3rd behind only Wade Boggs and Paul Molitor). He achieved noteworthy totals in numerous statistical categories, accumulating quantity and variety in combinations not often seen: 205 hits, 107 runs scored 105 RBIs, 34 doubles, 28 home runs, and 21 stolen bases in 23 attempts. He also struck out just 47 times in 597 at bats. [10] He also developed a reputation as a clutch hitter, batting .466 in late inning pressure situations [11].

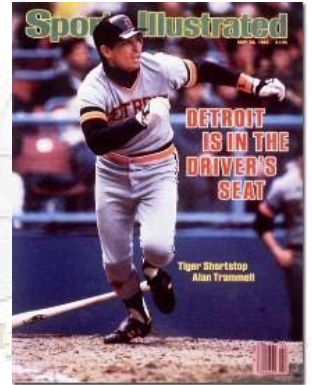
Trammell followed up this season with a stellar 1988 season, making the All Star team and finishing seventh in batting at .311[12]. In 1989 injuries limited his playing time to just 121 games and he hit just .243. Healthy in 1990, he completed his sixth .300+ season, batting .304 and again making the AL All Star Team.

After 1990, injuries and eventually age cut dramatically into Trammell's production. He missed 60 games in 1991 and a broken foot limited him to just 29 games in 1992. In 1993, he put together one last top-flight season. Although he played in just 112 games, he hit .329 and put together solid totals for his games played (72 runs, 25 doubles, 12 HR, 60 RBI, and 12 SB). From 1994-1996 he was effectively a part-time player, playing a total of 216 games in his final three seasons [13].

Trammell's career hitting statistics are pedestrian by today's standards, but when accounting for the era in which he played and his status as a top fielding shortstop require legitimate Hall of Fame consideration. He finished his 20 seasons as a Tiger batting .285 with 2365 career hits, 412 doubles, 185 HR, 1003 RBI, and 236 SB in 2293 games [14]. He totaled six All Star appearances (1980,1984,1985,1987,1988,1990)[15], four Gold Gloves (1980,1981,1983,1984)[5], and seven .300+ seasons. Trammell also partnered with Lou Whitaker at second base every year of his career except 1996, setting a variety of longevity records for double play tandems. It must be noted that Whitaker also compiled an impressive personal resume during this partnership, totaling 244 home runs, five All Star appearances, three Gold Gloves, and batting .276[15].

Intangibles constituted another area where Trammell excelled. In 1984 he was voted by AL managers as "Best Defensive infielder (sic) and Smartest Player (best baseball sense) by AL managers" [16]. A teammate is quoted on one of his cards as saying "When you're talking about today's great players, Alan has to be included....There isn't anything he doesn't do well" [11]. Another card quotes an AL scout alluding to his clutch performance: "we hate to pitch to this guy with the game on the line....He's deadly."[17]. He was also well regarded as having played the game the way it was supposed to be played, having always executed routine plays, and having had a very accurate throwing arm.

Trammell has not yet gained entry into the Hall of Fame. Each of his appearances on the ballot since he has become eligible has yielded him between 13 and 18 percent of the vote, far short of the 75% required for induction [18]. His case does not appear to be gaining momentum over time as some borderline candidates do, suggesting that his chances of being voted in before his eligibility expires are slim. His reputation as a great shortstop and top baseball mind, however, remain untarnished. He was chosen to manage the Detroit Tigers in 2003 after serving for three seasons as the San Diego Padres' first base coach. After enduring a 119-loss season in 2003, the team improved to 72-90 in 2004[19]. Failure to improve again in 2005 and rumors that he was losing the clubhouse led to his firing after the 2005 season. He now serves as the bench coach for the Chicago Cubs.





## Alan Trammell's Best Baseball Cards

Alan Trammell is best known in the sports card world for his appearance along with Paul Molitor on 1978 Topps #707 in what people have long considered one of the best shots at two HOFers sharing a rookie card. This earned the card a spot in "300 Great Baseball Cards" by Mike Payne. When U.L. Washington's statistics are also accounted for (he and Mickey Klutts appear below Molitor and Trammell on the card), '78 Topps #707 represents over 6000 hits of production [20].

Trammell and his peers occupy a unique niche in the sports card industry as their playing days span both the era of Topps' near monopoly on the hobby and the rise of high-end insert cards. To illustrate this, consider Trammell is one of sixteen players with pre-1981 Topps rookie cards that appear in the '93 Finest Refractor set\*\*\*.[21][22] Additionally, by virtue of their recent retirement, Trammell and his peers figure prominently in today's burgeoning market for game-used and autograph cards of inactive players. Trammell's minor star/semi star status in the card collecting community also means that all but his scarcest cards are affordable for virtually any collector.

For these reasons there are many great Trammell cards to choose from. Setting aside the '78 Topps rookie and the '93 Finest Refractor, here are some highlights

\*1978 Burger King Alan Trammell #15 — By most people's definition this a true rookie card, since it was not issued in a major set. Nonetheless, many Trammell collectors treat it as a second rookie card, and consequently it is a favorite of many. It is also very difficult to find well-centered, and no copies have received a grade of PSA 10 to date. PSA 9 copies sell for ~\$150; ungraded copies in nice condition can be had for \$10 or less with patience, although a "BV" type price is more like \$25.

\*1985 Thom McAn NNO Alan Trammell — The scarcest of Trammell's discs made by Mike Schechter and Associates (MSA). Its present value is difficult to ascertain because oddballs don't sell for what they used to, but I have not seen one for sale in several years. The card front is the same as another disc commonly referred to as the "Subway" disc. While the Subway disc back is blank, however, the Thom McAn back says "JOX(R) by Thom McAn" on the back.

\*1989 Star Company Alan Trammell Certified Autograph #1 — Hand-signed and serially numbered to 500, this card is wildly ahead of its time (there's even a COA for it). The next numbered, signed Trammell card was released in 2000, four years after he retired. Star's cards are now sought only by aggressive player collectors, meaning that the print run greatly exceeds demand. Thus, this card can thus be had for around \$8.

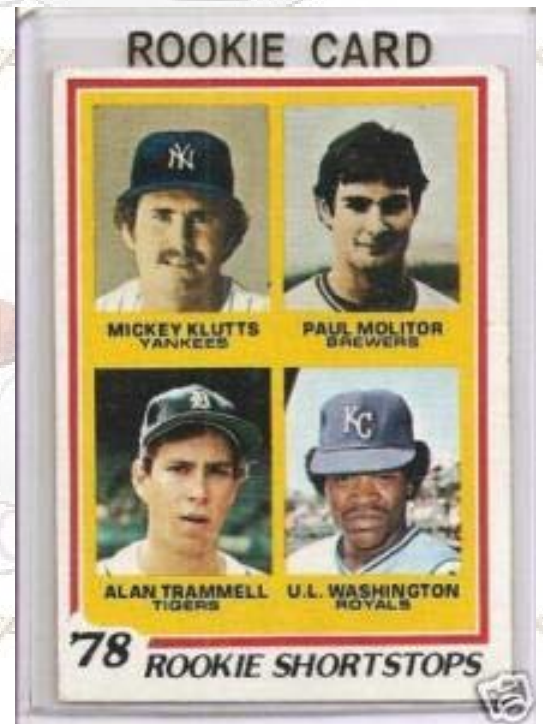
\*1997 Ultra Platinum Medallion Alan Trammell #64 — The stated print run of this card is "less than 200". Judging by how often you see this card for sale (I think I've seen it on eBay twice in 10 years) and what it sells for (\$100+), it would appear that the print run is significantly less than 200.

\*2003 Donruss Timeless Treasures Alan Trammell Prime Ink #2 — The sheer length of the Trammell checklist in 2004-2005 has resulted in something of a premium on pre-2004 Trammell inserts. Of these, this card has one of the strongest combinations of eye appeal (neato brownish-red background), features (patch and autograph), and print run (#ed/50). Consistently sells on eBay for ~\$40, which is more than other cards with similar traits.

\*2004 Prime Cuts II Icons Signature Combos Prime Alan Trammell #3 — If you want a Trammell with all the bells and whistles of today's high-end inserts, this is the one for you. It's got a patch, jersey, and autograph; it comes pre-sealed in its own case, and it's serially numbered to 3. A fair price would be \$100-\$125; a serious bidding war could reach \$160.

\*2005 Donruss Signature INKcredible Trios Alan Trammell NNO — A well-designed triple autograph, also featuring Cal Ripken and Ozzie Smith. Trammell's card collection has a long tradition of grouping him with the other great shortstops of his era, and this card is a neat example of that. Typical final bid price for this is around \$90.

These cards do a good job of representing the spectrum of Trammell cards out there. Because there is so much variety in the checklist, what card constitutes the best value is more open to debate.



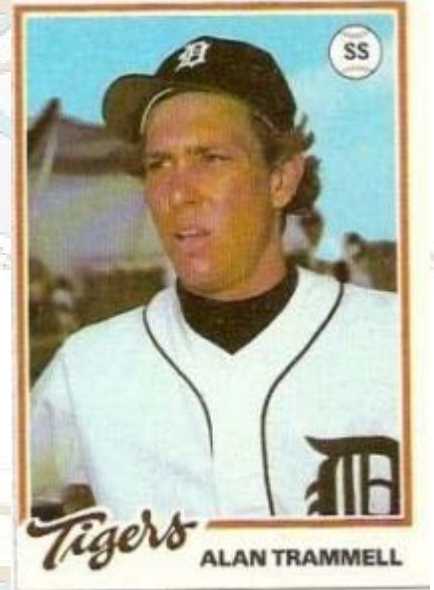


### Alan Trammell's Best Value Baseball Card

Let's define "best value" somewhat loosely and subjectively as the best blend of affordable price and card appeal. Since in some people's mind they almost constitute separate arenas of collecting, let's perform the exercise separately for cards from 1978-1997 and for cards made after 1997.

Since there are very few Trammell cards from 1978-1997 that cost more than \$10, and most of these are random rare parallels from 1995-1997, for cards produced while Trammell was an active player I believe the best value Trammell cards are in fact his best cards. A decent '78 Topps #707 can be had raw for \$15 on eBay, and in PSA 8 for around BV of \$40-50; and there have been recent '93 Finest Refractor sales of \$25 after a peak price of more like three times that. The '78 Burger King is, in my mind, a huge value in PSA 8 (~\$20) or raw; it's hard to beat an oddball card from a rookie year. While the refractor is the scarcest, it's also the most expensive. The Burger King "rookie" is actually the least expensive of the three, and whilst it is not visually stunning, its importance to Trammell collectors cannot be understated. On this basis, I'd have to say it's the best value Trammell from his playing days.

The main reason to consider Trammell's post-retirement cards is that, while he does have high-end inserts from the mid-90s, no major manufacturer produced a game-used or autograph card for him until 2000. In this discussion the 2000 Greats of the Game autograph must be considered—it came first, the gold borders look cool, it's hand-signed, you can get it for \$10-\$15. On the other hand, it does not have a stated print run, and were it from a less important would sell for far less than it does. Trammell's very best short-print inserts from this era sell for enough that a better \*value\* can be had with a higher print run and a small sacrifice in card features. A good example of this (and I'm sure there are others) is Trammell's 2004 Donruss Timeless Treasures Material Ink Jersey Numbers #2. The card background is beautiful, the foreground has a jersey swatch and an autograph, and it's numbered to 100. Yet with that print run, a final bid price under \$10 is realistic.



\*\*\*The other fifteen are Lou Whitaker, Ozzie Smith, George Brett, Paul Molitor, Andre Dawson, Rickey Henderson, Dennis Eckersley, Nolan Ryan, Eddie Murray, Carlton Fisk, Bob Welch, Dave Winfield, Charlie Hough, Mike Morgan, and Robin Yount.

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[2]'80 Topps #232

[3]'89 Star Gold Set #147

[4]'81 Topps #709

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## Greg Maddux Biography and Best Baseball Cards

By Alex Harvey aka AHarvey

Control, command, and wit; those are all keys to Greg Maddux's success. His talent is indisputable. The accomplishments speak for themselves. However, when the stadium lights shut off and the fans have gone home, Maddux does not hide from his role as an influential leader in the community. This commitment to excellence, both on the diamond and off, is what makes Greg Maddux my favorite player.

Gregory Alan Maddux was born in central Texas on the 16th of April, 1966. Most of his early childhood years however, were spent in Madrid, where his father, a member of the United States Air Force, was stationed. It was here that Greg was introduced to baseball, igniting a passion that would last for decades. Upon the family's return to the states, brothers Mike and Greg received pitching guidance and coaching from Ralph Medar, a former scout. The focus soon turned from the elder Maddux to Greg. While preparing the young phenomenon for his pitching future at Valley High School, Medar offered Maddux the advice that would guide him into the majors. He stressed the importance of movement, location, and control over velocity, tailoring a strategy that would utilize Greg's talents while downplaying what he lacked in power. Medar taught Maddux two key pitches: the changeup and a variation of the two-seam fastball; pitches which would carry him to two All-State titles before his graduation in 1984.

While dominant on the mound, Maddux's less than average physical build left scouts hesitant. He received few offers to play at the collegiate level, leading to his decision to enter the 1984 amateur draft. This same image plagued Greg in the draft; however the Chicago Cubs saw past this misconception and drafted him in the second round. Two years later, Greg Maddux took the mound in the 18th inning, making his major league debut. He gave up the game winning home run. Less than a week later, however, Maddux earned redemption in his first start, a complete game win, launching a legendary career.

Following stellar seasons in 1991 and 1992, Maddux was awarded with his first of four consecutive Cy Young awards. While a clear star for the Cubs, Maddux's contract expired and the Braves scooped up the free agent for \$28 million. It was money well spent. He pitched well throughout his first season with Atlanta and helped lead the team to the post season. The following year, Greg Maddux recorded a season-long ERA of 1.56, the second lowest in history. Seemingly impossible to replicate, Maddux returned in 1995, producing an ERA just seven hundredths of a point higher. It was with these numbers that the Braves were able to capture their third world championship, adding yet another accomplishment to Greg Maddux's already lengthy résumé.

From 1996 to 2003, Maddux remained a consistent and critical cornerstone for the Braves. He continued to accumulate Gold Glove Awards, demonstrating hustle and determination after the pitch. Greg remained as reliable as ever, even throwing a 76 pitch complete game in 1997 and striking out over 200 batters the following season. Nineteen ninety-nine marked another trip to the World Series. While the team was unable to run the table, Maddux's contributions provided them with the opportunity. Greg Maddux continued to exhibit extreme consistency and became a highly sought after free agent after the 2003 season.

It had been twelve years since Greg Maddux was last a Cub and eighteen since his first start, but there were still records to be broken. Two monumental milestones came in back-to-back seasons. In 2004, Maddux earned his 300th win in a victory over the Giants. His name was added to the history books again however, in 2005, as strike three was called on Omar Vizquel who became a victim of Greg Maddux's 3000th strikeout.

Since 2006, Maddux has traveled from the Dodgers to the Padres and back, wrapping up an awe-inspiring career. Ensuring his claim to baseball history, the Mad Dog solidified his records and continued to climb the charts, passing legends from years past. After 23 exquisite seasons however, 2008 was likely his last. What else could such a highly decorated athlete achieve? It seems only one honor remains unclaimed; a spot in Cooperstown; one that is certainly in the future for Greg Maddux.

While Maddux's on-field success is undeniable, his actions off the field and in the community are equally as impressive. Along with his wife Kathy, Greg founded the non-profit Maddux Foundation in 1993. Using his star status, Greg raises money for various organizations and causes, including childhood cancer, abused children, and battered women. Each year, Maddux teams up with Butch Harmon and countless other notable figures for the Maddux Harmon Celebrity Invitational raising close to one million dollars for local charities. In addition, Maddux takes pride in working with the next generation of baseball stars, appearing at youth clinics and camps at which he provides coaching and advice to young pitchers and players. This dedication to the community distinguishes Maddux as a true star.

Without question, Greg Maddux is, and will always be one of baseball's best and a personal favorite of mine. Perhaps it was the World Series he helped win in '95 when I was just four, or watching batter after batter whiff at his change-up from the seats of Turner Field, or listening to his tips as he watched me pitch at a summer clinic, but I will always be a fan. "He's the true definition of a pitcher," Randy Johnson once said. He could only be describing one man; Greg Maddux: pitching ace, hometown hero, humanitarian, and my favorite player.



## Mad Dog Must Haves - Greg Maddux's Best Cards

### 5. High Grade 1987 Donruss Rookies ([Search eBay](#))

These graded '87 rookies are sure to increase in value as Maddux nears retirement. They are available for relatively affordable prices, and you can't beat the mustache



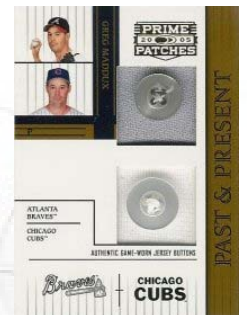
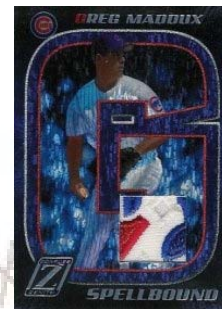
### 4. 2005 Donruss Zenith Spellbound Patches /10 ([Search eBay](#))

The perfect multi-colored swatches with an innovative design. Collect all four letters (G-R-E-G), for the ultimate set of Maddux patches.



### 3. 2004 Playoff Prime Cuts Timeline Material Autograph/Patch /50 ([Search eBay](#))

These beautiful cards feature Greg Maddux's unique autograph, as well as variations of multi-colored patch on a simple and attractive design, commemorating milestones on the 'timeline' of Maddux's career, including his 1996 Cy Young Award.



### 2. Gem Mint 1987 David Berg Rookie ([Search eBay](#))

Extremely rare and highly sought after, it is not uncommon for these cards to sell for well over \$300 on the internet marketplaces. Only distributed in a stadium giveaway, pristine copies are hard to come by.

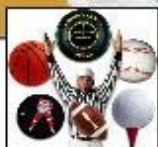
### 1. 2005 Prime Patches Past and Present Button Combo /5 ([Search eBay](#))

A single button of a star player would be a prized piece for any collector. However, this card features two and offers a best-of-both-worlds layout, as it highlights Maddux's transition from Brave to Cub. A button and photo from each team along with a low print run make for an awesome centerpiece for any Maddux collection.

### Greg Maddux Best Baseball Card Values - ([Search eBay](#))

Common Greg Maddux Patch Cards - Readily available and selling for as little as \$5, sharp looking Maddux patches are sure to be a great investment once he retires and likely enters the Hall of Fame.





## Roy Williams Biography and Best Football Cards

By Daniel Prentice aka grinningplowman



My favorite player has to be wide receiver Roy Williams and I was very sad to see the Detroit Lions let him go to the Dallas Cowboys recently. I feel he had always kind of taken a back seat in the Lions organization. First, when they drafted Charles Rogers ahead of him and later when Calvin Johnson was drafted and immediately given priority. Being born and raised in Michigan, I have been a life-long Detroit Lions fan and was overjoyed with Williams' selection in the draft as I have followed him all throughout his High School and college career.

Roy Williams has always shown so much versatility, and is just such a tough, physical player, I could never understand why he always seemed to get lost in the shuffle of other wide receivers that I never felt could compare. Even in Permian High School in Odessa, Texas where Williams was born and raised, he was known as "The Legend". There is no doubt how he earned that nickname. He excelled in track. In fact, it is simply unbelievable at the high school level of the standards he set for himself, almost superhuman. Check it out. In the spring of 2000, in high school track competition, mind you. He won the long jump with a 25 foot, 6 inch jump and also got 2nd in high jump at 6 feet, 10 inches, and 3rd in the 100 meter dash at 10.38 seconds. Those are world-class; Olympics type numbers...In HIGH SCHOOL!!! Simply amazing.

As you may be aware people are very intense about their sports in the state of Texas. You may remember the movie based on a real life story about the mother who murdered someone who was competing with her daughter for high-school cheerleader and there have been other bizarre stories like that, too. Roy Williams was always able to please the masses in Texas which is so hard to do and impress everyone with his athletic prowess from his high school days at Permian High straight on through to the college of his choice, Texas. It seems fitting that once the Lions parted ways...that he would wind up alongside Terrell Owens with the Dallas Cowboys. Of course, after such an impressive beginning in high school, he had no where to go but down, right? Texas Longhorns fans were no doubt pessimistic that he had already reached his peak, but his college statistics are right up there with the best of all-time. I am confident in my vote of Roy Williams being my favorite player for all of the above-stated reasons.

There is some good value to be found in his cards, too. My top 5 Roy Williams cards to watch with enormous upside on all are:

- (1) 2004 SPX Rookie Auto/Jersey/375 ([Search eBay](#)) - (my pick for best value NOW)
- (2) 2004 Playoff Contenders Rookie Contenders auto ([Search eBay](#))
- (3) 2004 Fleer Hot Prospects Auto /350 ([Search eBay](#)) - (Did they have the 1/1 White Whales back then?)
- (4) 2004 Donruss Elite Turn of the Century Auto/125 ([Search eBay](#))
- (5) 2004 E-X Auto w/Jersey Swatch ([Search eBay](#))





## Peyton Manning Biography and Best Football Cards

By Mike Janeway aka mjaneway



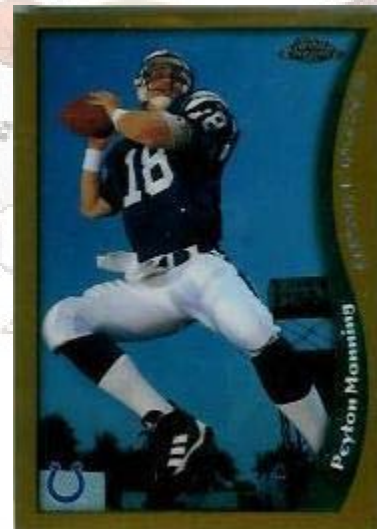
My favorite player is Peyton Manning, quarterback for the Indianapolis Colts. I have followed him since he started playing at the University of Tennessee. I know he is the best quarterback in the NFL at this time. I am such a fan of him that my youngest daughter is named Peyton after him. How is that for being a huge fan?

Peyton Williams Manning was born on March 24, 1976 in New Orleans, Louisiana. His father was former NFL quarterback Archie Manning. Peyton became the starting quarterback at Newman High School in New Orleans taking over from his brother Cooper as a sophomore. He enjoyed another marvelous campaign in 1992, throwing for 30 touchdowns and he was honored as the Gatorade Circle of Champions National Player of the Year and the Columbus (Ohio) Touchdown Club National Offensive Player of the Year. Manning decided to attend the University of Tennessee instead of attending the University of Mississippi. Selected as the #1 quarterback, the Vols went 7-1 with the freshman at the helm, including a decisive victory over Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl after the other 2 quarterbacks were felled by injury in his freshman year. On the year, he passed for 1,141 yards and 11 scores, and was named SEC Freshman of the Year. Manning was then known as a studious film watcher, it has been reported that the phone would ring at the pizza parlor at midnight and they knew it was him calling for an order which the also knew where to deliver it.

In 1998 he was made the #1 pick by the Colts over Ryan Leaf. He immediately became the starter and has been ever since. He has only missed one snap in his entire NFL career due to injury. He has featured in over 155 consecutive starts which is second behind Brett Farve. Peyton holds NFL records for consecutive seasons with over 4,000 yards passing and the most total seasons with 4,000 or more yards passing in a career. He was also named Co-MVP with Steve McNair in 2003. In 2004 he set the record for touchdown passes with 49 breaking Dan Marino's record. In 2006 Peyton led the Colts to a Super Bowl Victory over the Chicago Bears and was named MVP of the game.

### Peyton Manning's Best Football Cards

1. 1998 Topps Chrome # 165 ([Search eBay](#))
2. 2006 Topps Bowman Sterling BS-PM ([Search eBay](#))
3. 1998 Upper Deck UD3 Future Shock Peyton Manning ([Search eBay](#))
4. 2003 Upper Deck Sweet Spot ([Search eBay](#))
5. 2004 SPX Swatch Supremacy Autograph ([Search eBay](#))



### Peyton Manning's Best Value Card

I feel his best value card is 1998 Upper Deck rookie card ([Search eBay](#)) that has a book value of \$30.00 and can be found on EBay from time to time for a reasonable price.





## Patrick Roy Biography and Best Hockey Cards

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

October 5th 1965 is an important date for the world of hockey. Not for one but for two reasons. On that day, both Mario Lemieux and Patrick Roy were born in the province of Québec. No one could have known then the kind of impact both players would have on the sport but 43 years later, there is no denying that they changed the face of the sport. Growing up in Québec City, I watched each and every one of Roy's games with the Canadiens and through solid and spectacular performances; he became not only my favorite athlete but also the main focus of my collection.



From a very young age, Roy took up the goaltending duties in street hockey games in his hometown. One thing led to another and soon enough, he was wearing the pads for the "Quebec Haute-Ville" pee wee team at the prestigious International Pee Wee hockey tournament in Quebec. From there, his objective was clear; get to the National Hockey League. He moved through the ranks making an impression at every level; with the Sainte-Foy Gouverneurs at midget level and then with the Granby Bisons at the Junior Level. The Granby team was far from being a powerhouse and this meant that he had to face many 60+ shots games while suiting up for the Bison. He finished his second junior season with The Bisons with a goal against average (GAA) of 4.44. Not a very impressive number but when considering the poor defense he was working behind, he did rather well and finished with the third best GAA in the league.

Following the Bisons' elimination from the playoffs in the first round, a long summer lay ahead of Patrick but he did have one thing to look forward to that summer...The NHL entry draft scheduled for the 9th June 1984. On that memorable day, the first pick overall was of course Mario Lemieux and Roy had to wait until 2 other goaltenders had been selected (Craig Billington and Darryl Reaugh) before hearing his name called. The Canadiens used the 51st pick overall to select Roy. Not long after, he signed his first professional contract with the Habs and was ready for his first professional training camp. He stayed with the Canadiens until the 24th October before being sent back down to his junior team as he was rather young and could use more playing time. Towards the end of the 1984-1985 season the Canadiens assigned Roy to their farm team; the Sherbrooke Canadiens. There, he would start to write a page in the history book of hockey with the goaltender coach Francois Allaire. He started his professional hockey career by leading the Sherbrooke Canadiens to the American League Championship and was promoted to the big league the following season.

In 1985-1986, Roy started the year as Steve Penney's back-up. He had his ups and his downs but late in the season, Jean Perron (the Canadiens' head coach) decided to bring Francois Allaire up from Sherbrooke to work with Roy on a daily basis. Together they spent hours in the video room studying his technique and slowly but surely bettering what became known as the "Butterfly" style. That spring, Roy backstopped the Habs to a well deserved Stanley Cup and a legend was born in Quebec. His stellar play during the post season earned him the Conn Smythe trophy as the playoffs MVP, he would go on to win this trophy 3 times over his decorated career something no other player has ever accomplished.

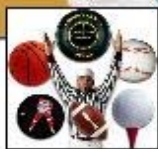
Over the years in Montreal, Roy carried on working on his technique and became the idol of numerous young goaltenders in Quebec, many of which made it to the NHL. His influence has been tremendous just like his accomplishments. From 1984 to 1995 in Montreal he won 2 Stanley Cups, 4 William M. Jennings trophies (less goals allowed by a team), 3 Vezina trophies (best goaltender), 2 Conn Smythe trophies (playoffs MVP), he was selected on the first All-Star team 3 times and twice on the second All-Star team. Many fans will remember Roy's wink to Thomas Sandstrom in the 1993 Stanley Cup final. He liked winning and doing it in style...

Unfortunately, the bliss came to a halt in Montreal on the 2nd December 1995. That evening, the Habs were taking on the Wings and the Canadiens rookie coach, Mario Tremblay, was keen to prove to his star goaltender who was the boss. Roy had a dreadful evening and let in 9 goals on 26 shots. The crowd being like it is in Montreal, the jeered Roy a few times on the easy saves he made. When Tremblay was satisfied that his goaltender had "learned his lesson" he pulled him out of the game. Frustrated, Roy went straight to the team's president, Ronald Corey, and told him that he had played his last game in Montreal. He didn't take kindly to the humiliation and decided instantly that he could not play under Tremblay anymore.

Three days later, Roy's wish was granted when Rejean Houle traded him along with Mike Keane to the Colorado Avalanche in return for Jocelyn Thibault, Andrei Kovalenko and Martin Ruscinsky. Colorado, managed by Pierre Lacroix (Roy's former agent) made what is seen by many as the biggest steal in hockey history on that day. Roy went on to enjoy many successful years with the Avalanche while the Canadiens suffered without solid goaltending until Jose Theodore emerged in 2001.

In Denver, Roy won the Stanley Cup twice (1996, 2001), the Conn Smythe Trophy once, the Jennings trophy once, was named on the 1st All-Star team in 2002 and took part in the All-Star game in 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003. He was hailed as hero when he helped the Avs win the ultimate prize in their first season in Denver and he was a big part of Raymond Bourque finally realizing his dream of winning the Stanley Cup in 2001.

When he retired in 2003 he held many records: most regular season wins (551), most playoff games played by a goaltender (247), most playoff wins by a goaltender (151) and of course most Conn Smythe trophy wins (3). Yes, some of these records will most probably be beaten by Martin Brodeur but to me, it doesn't matter. Roy will forever be remembered as the best clutch goalie of his generation and as a true inspiration to numerous goaltenders.



If I had to list my five favorite Roy moments I would have to go for the following:

5. Roy makes the save on Thomas Sandstrom in the 1993 Stanley Cup final and winks at him. The McDonald's restaurant immortalized this moment on a T-shirt which was extremely popular in Quebec after the Habs conquest of the Cup.
4. In the 1996 Playoffs, Jeremy Roenick taunted Roy in the press with one of those special J.R. comments. Roy's reaction? He said: "I can't hear what Jeremy says, because I've got my two Stanley Cup rings plugging my ears". Even in an English that was at best tentative back then, Roy could be witty enough to play with the best of them. Rising to the challenge, Roy led the Avs past the Hawks that year on his way to a 3rd Cup ring.
3. Roy's play in the 1993 playoffs, winning 10 games in overtime. A goaltender's play truly is on display when games are this tight. Under pressure, no one excels like Patrick Roy and he sure demonstrated it that year.
2. Game six of the 2001 Stanley Cup final between the Avalanche and the Devils. The Devils were in the lead 3-2 and could have finished the series and win the Cup but that night, Roy stopped all 24 shots taken by the Devils while the Avs scored 4 times in 18 shots on Brodeur. A few days later, Ray Bourque was finally able to raise the Stanley Cup...
1. The 1994 playoff series against the Bruins. No, the Canadiens didn't win but Roy missed game three with appendicitis but came back in game four and stopped 39 shots in a 5-2 Canadiens' victory. After the elimination, his appendix had to be removed. This truly shows Roy's commitment and determination, two reasons why I really admire the athlete.

Now for my 6 favorite Patrick Roy cards, this is not solely based on book value as I firmly believe there is more to collecting than the economic aspect.

6. 1997-1998 Donruss Canadian Ice Les Gardiens #1

This card only has a value of \$30 but I think it is more than just a card. It is also a reminder of Roy's origins and of the fact that he influenced and inspired an entire generation of French-Canadian goaltenders.



5. 2007-2008 ITG Superlative Holy Grail Silver 3/9 #HG-14

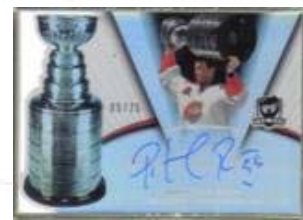
Many did not like ITG's Superlative, I personally did. This card is by far the best card I ever pulled out of a pack. It marks Roy's capture of the Stanley Cup in 1986 and the jersey piece is a fantastic 2 color split. I also like the fact that it is different with the picture of Lord Stanley on the front. Being such a short printed card, there is currently no book value for it.

4. 2007-2008 The Cup Stanley Cup Signatures 5/25 #SC-PR1

A beautiful on card autograph of Roy on a card which commemorates his Cup wins as a member of the Montreal Canadiens. Current book value is \$250 but its sentimental value to me is much higher.

3. 2007-2008 The Cup Chirography #CC-PR

Another autograph from this year's release of The Cup. The Chirography set is absolutely stunning with the light autos on the black background. It was almost a breathtaking sight when I received this card.

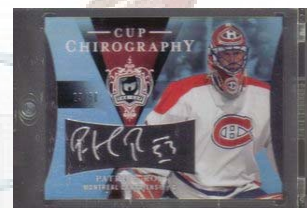


2. 1986-1987 Kraft Drawings #61

This is by no means a high end card, it's not short printed, autographed and does not include memorabilia. It only has a book value of \$40 but it is one of the first Roy cards I ever had. Before of course damaging it and losing it at the venerable age of seven. It took me some time to find this one, which is an amazing looking graded version.

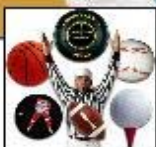
1. 2007-2008 The Cup Signature Patches #SP-PR 5/25

I love everything about this card; the design, the colors, the flawless autograph and the fact that only 25 of these were made. It currently has a value of \$300 but I would never ever sell it. When this card was pulled on SCF I was certain I wouldn't have enough to trade for it. However, the trader accepted to trade down and I am forever grateful for this.



If you wanted to find the highest valued Roy card right now, you would have to look for the 1997-1998 Pinnacle Totally Certified Mirror Platinum Gold #2 which currently books at \$1200. This excludes all cards which are too short printed to establish a market value.

Of course, this article is only a small glimpse at Roy's career, accomplishments and best cards but hopefully it is sufficient to make you understand a little bit more why he is the main focus of my collection. In closing, be sure to watch the Bruins-Canadiens match on the 22nd November 2008 to see the Habs retire Roy's number in front of a packed Bell Centre; a pair of tickets for the event currently sells for more than \$400.



## Patrick Kane Biography and Best Hockey Cards

By Barry Hren aka Wolf1bh



Quick! Name the greatest American born hockey players ever! Well, there's Mike Modano and Chris Chelios...umm Jeremy Roenick, I think...and...er...yeah. That's about as far as most casual hockey fans would get but soon young Chicago Blackhawks stud Patrick Kane will be on that list for every hockey fan from eight year olds in Cleveland to housewives in Nova Scotia. As I write this he turns 20 today and is currently tied for 4th in the NHL in points. Not bad for a kid who lists his favorite websites as NHL.com and "Facebook".

He is babyfaced to say the least and not that far removed from his teenage photos where his short hair earned him the nickname "Buzz". He recently mentioned that he would not shave until he went a game without scoring a point, though even after a 4 game streak it appeared that a bit of cream and a cat to lick his chin would be about all it would have taken for that. Growing up in South Buffalo, New York, he admired Buffalo hockey players such as Pat Lafontaine and Alex Mogilny. His father took him to Sabres games and as a six year old he even ended up pictured on a 1994 Pinnacle hockey card of Sylvain Turgeon, watching the game on his dad's lap behind the glass.

Coming up through the teenage ranks, his skills were quickly noticed but his lack of size brought questions. Even today he is listed in some publications as 5'10", 175, though an inch and 10 pounds off of that seem more realistic. His wicked speed and soft hands more than made up for any worry in stature. Drafted in the OHL as a 16 year old, he decided to wait and play 2 years with the US National under 18 team. Teammate Kevin Quick said in 2006 that Kane "had the best hands I have ever seen" and "everyone somehow gets points when playing with him". The latter sentiment continues today, as Blackhawks teammates Patrick Sharp, Kris Versteeg, and Martin Havlat are all averaging about a point a game themselves, with fellow young sensation Jonathan Toews not far behind. After 2 years of seasoning with the National team, he made the leap to the OHL and the London Knights in 06-07. Playing on a sick line that included future pros Sergei Kostitsyn and Sam Gagner, he amassed 62 goals and 83 assists- 145 points in 58 games. He was the OHL rookie of the year and MVP runner up to John Tavares, carrying his team to a runner up finish in the championship.

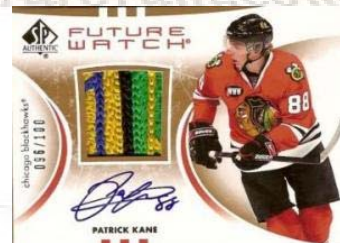
As the 2007 draft approached the Chicago Blackhawks were in disarray. The once loud and proud barn known as the United Center (the former Chicago Stadium) was often half empty. By a stroke of luck, even though they were slotted as the 5th worst team, they won the draft lottery and moved up 4 spots to #1. Few would know at the time that a red revival was only a year or two away. Patrick Kane was that #1 pick.

Some will argue that an 18 year old has no business being in the NHL, however a rookie year with 21 goals and 51 assists quickly put that argument to bed. While not quite Sid Crosby or Alex Ovechkin numbers, he is on par with another young sensation, Pittsburgh's Evgeni Malkin, and Kane was younger then any of them as a rookie. So far this year, he has 8 goals and 14 assists, on tap to finish somewhere around 40-70 if he keeps it up. Off the ice as well, he has been nothing but an outgoing, friendly ambassador to the fans and Blackhawk charities, and the kind of young man you would be proud for your kids to emulate. The future looks very bright for both he and Chicago fans, and hopefully when people talk about that list of "American" greats in 20 years, he will be at the top.

### Patrick Kane Best Hockey Cards

5. 07-08 Fleer Ultra Ice medallion rookie /100. This one is more of a vanity pick for me. Ultra is kind of a blue collar everyman set that never gets the love of the fancier ones, but nonetheless a cool set to pick up a mini "rainbow" of the regular, gold, and ice rookies. Limited to just 100 and with probably a few redemptions that will never even get cashed in, this is a great rare affordable card. High book around \$150, the few that do come up can be got for around \$100... for now!

4. 07-08 SP Authentic Future Watch rookie patch auto /100. The Future Watch patches are usually attractive and with the array of colors in the Blackhawks logo, some of these as well as the Cup, are simply stunning. Patch high book around \$500, though some can be had for \$300. Affordable option is the SP auto only /999 which can still be nabbed for \$50 or \$60.



3. 07-08 Upper Deck The Cup. Not much to say. The Cup continues to be the Holy Grail of sets, and he and Carey Price are the two Holy Grail players. High book value around \$1000, though single color swatches can be had for around \$400. An alternative is the rookie gold numbered to 88 that are just as nice and rarer but due to the hockey hobby's odd habit of not recognizing parallels, can be had for around half the price of his regular Cup.

2. 07-08 Upper Deck Ice. Limited to just 99, you have a needle in a haystack chance of pulling one, but if you can get one at a reasonable price, the sky's the limit! High book \$500 you might be able to sneak one at \$400 if you can find one!

1. 07-08 Upper Deck Young Guns. I thought about adding an unusual stick piece or something here but decided to go with 5 cards that were (generally!) available for the average collectors, and this is my #1 best card pick. Affordable, obtainable, and a cool looking card. High book \$80, can still be got for \$35-\$45 with a little searching and surely this card has nowhere to go but up! And for those who think it's too common to be the "best" Kane? go for the YG exclusives /100 or high gloss /10. Again, good luck searching!















# CALENDAR OF RELEASE DATES

In each issue, we will include a release calendar for the upcoming month.

## January

(At the time of publication, all dates were accurate but as you no doubt know, product releases do tend to be pushed back from time to time.)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	30  - 2008 Ultimate Collection Baseball - 2008-09 Premier Basketball - 2008-09 Trilogy Hockey	31  - Hardwood Basketball	1	2
5  - 2009 Topps Mayo Football	6  - 2008-2009 UD Fleece Basketball	7  - 2008-2009 SPx Hockey - 2008 SP Authentic Football  - 2008 Playoff Contenders Football	8	9
12  - 2008-2009 Topps American Heritage	13	14	15	16
19  - 2008 Topps Sterling Football - 2009 Topps UFC Round 1 - Topps Star Wars Galaxy Series 4	20	21  - 2009 Press Pass Elements Racing	22	23
26	27	28  - 2008-2009 SP Game Used Hockey	29	30

For all your sports cards need, make sure to visit [www.cardsbythebox.com](http://www.cardsbythebox.com) or check out the pack/box sale area on SCF. For more information on the products available, you can also send a private message to Enigma.

# CardsByTheBox.com



## 2008 NFL Leaf Rookies and Stars

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, I'd like to thank our Sponsor, Donruss (DLP), for providing us with this box for review.

You can view the videos of this break at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2Mac0BYliw>

### Product Description

24 packs per box  
5 cards per pack  
MSRP: \$69.99 - \$79.99

### Per Box Items

4 autographed or memorabilia cards  
3 rookies  
3 Longevity parallels  
5 other inserts or parallels



### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

SP Rookie Signatures featuring signed embroidered NFL Patch Rookie Cards:

Matt Ryan, Darren McFadden, Colt Brennan, Donnie Avery, Joe Flacco, Jonathan Stewart, Devin Thomas, Brian Brohm, Felix Jones, Jordy Nelson, Chad Henne, Rashard Mendenhall, James Hardy, Kevin O'Connell, Chris Johnson, Eddie Royal, Matt Forte, Jerome Simpson, Ray Rice, DeSean Jackson, Kevin Smih, Malcom Kelly, Jamaal Charles, Limas Sweed, Steve Slaton.

SP Rookie College Signatures featuring signed embroidered college patches:

Matt Ryan, Darren McFadden, Colt Brennan, Donnie Avery, Joe Flacco, Jonathan Stewart, Devin Thomas, Brian Brohm, Felix Jones, Jordy Nelson, Chad Henne, Rashard Mendenhall, James Hardy, Chris Johnson, Eddie Royal, Matt Forte, Ray Rice, DeSean Jackson, Kevin Smih, Malcom Kelly, Jamaal Charles, Limas Sweed, Steve Slaton.

Team Chemistry rookie dual signed embroidered NFL patches:

Matt Ryan/Harry Douglas, Brian Brohm/Jordy Nelson, Jamaal Charles/Glenn Dorsey, Matt Forte/Earl Bennett, Rashard Mendenhall/Limas Sweed, Andre Caldwell/Jerome Simpson, Joe Flacco/Ray Rice, Chad Henne/Jake Long, Malcolm Kelly/Devin Thomas.

Team Chemistry rookie dual signed embroidered college patches:

Darren McFadden/Felix Jones, Brian Brohm/Harry Douglas, Early Doucett/Glenn Dorsey, Chad Henne/Mario Manningham, Limas Sweed/Jamaal Charles.

### PRODUCT BREAKDOWN

Commons (100)

Elements (15) - Numbered insert with 3 material parallels.

Longevity (200) - Parallels to commons, Elements, and rookies and #d to 249 or less. Six numbered parallels, including material versions.

Rookies (85) - #d to 999 or less.

- Holofoil Signatures (85) - Autographed parallel #d to 100 or less.

SP Rookies Signatures (50) - Numbered parallel featuring an autograph and an embroidered NFL patch with 4 parallel versions.

SP Rookies Jumbos (50) - 4 levels, numbered to 50 or less.

SP Rookies College Signatures (50) - 4 levels, numbered to 25 or less.

SP Rookies College Jumbos (50) - 4 levels, numbered to 25 or less.

Team Chemistry Signatures (15) - Features two rookies and a dual-signed embroidered patch (10 NFL, 5 college), and #d to 10 or less.

Prime Cuts (14) - Features prime jersey swatches and numbered to 50 or less.

- Prime Cuts Signatures - #d to 25 or less.

Prime Cuts Combos (14) - Features 2 prime swatches and numbered to 25 or less.

- Prime Cuts Combos Signatures - #d to 10 or less.

Statistical Standouts Materials (15) - 4 levels, including prime and autographed versions.

Crosstraining (34) - Numbered insert with 6 levels, including material, prime, and signature versions.

Studio Rookies (34) - Numbered rookie insert with 6 levels, including material, prime, and signature versions.

Studio Combo Rookies (10) - Numbered rookie insert featuring with 6 levels, including material, prime, and signature versions.

Gold Stars (10) - Numbered insert with 7 levels, including material, prime, and signature versions.

Dress for Success (34) - Material insert with 4 levels, including prime and signature versions.

Freshman Orientation (34) - Material insert with 4 levels, including prime and signature versions.





# THE RUNDOWN ON...



## WHAT WE PULLED

Base (100/100) - 100% Dupes - 7

Rookies (4/85) - 4.70% Dupes - 0

Elements (1/15) - 6.67% Dupes - 0

The base cards this year are on a white background. The player's name and team name run vertically on the left and right side of the card, respectively. The set's logo is located at the bottom of the card. The top and bottom has a myriad of shapes which makes it look like the player is bursting through the card. The player's background is a series of dots and the picture resides directly in the middle.

The design of the rookie cards are exactly like the base cards. The only difference is the word "Rookie" is displayed on both sides of the set's logo. The rookies are numbered to 999 or less. Rookies (4) - Kellen Davis /999, Martin Rucker /999, Bruce Davis /999, Jalen Parmele /999

The Elements subset features players in various weather conditions. There are 15 cards in the set and they are needed in order to complete a full set. These cards have the same design as the base cards with the word "Elements" on both sides of the set's logo. Elements (1) - David Garrard

Longevity is a parallel set for the base, rookies and elements cards. The main background is colored differently to match which parallel version it is. The word "Longevity" is blended into the player's background. Depending on the parallel version, the cards are numbered to 249 or less.

Longevity (2) - Lendale White /249, Paul Smith /249 Longevity Gold (1) - Ben Roethlisberger /49 Longevity Holo-Foil (1) - Ryan Torian /99

There are three insert sets this year:

Crosstraining

Studio Rookies/Combos

Gold Stars

Crosstraining is a 34 card set which features only rookies. There are three versions of the inserts and three versions of relics and autos. The name of the insert set is positioned at the top of the card. The player's photo extends down the middle. At the bottom is the player's name. Splitting the photo in half is the team's helmet, the player's jersey number and the set's logo.

Studio Rookies are a foil based insert series. There are three versions of the insert and three versions of relics and autos for both the individual and combo cards. The set's logo is at the top of the card. The team logo is either displayed at the top or the bottom. The bottom of the cards is also where the insert set name and player name is located. The player's photo looks like a pencil drawing, which can only be viewed properly when the card is turned towards a light source.

Crosstraining (1): Matt Forte /1000

Studio Rookies (1): Rashard Mendenhall /1000

Studio Combo Rookies (1): Joe Flacco/Ray Rice /1000

Numerous memorabilia and auto sets highlights Leaf Rookies & Stars. Along with the previously mentioned sets, there are the following:

Dress For Success, Freshman Orientation, Prime Cuts, SP Rookies College, SP Rookies Jumbos, SP Rookies Signatures, Statistical Standouts, Team Chemistry Signatures

Dress For Success (1) - Early Doucet III Jersey /250

SP Rookie Jumbos (1) - Ray Rice Jersey /25

Studio Rookies (1) - Matt Ryan Jersey /250

Studio Combo Rookies (1) - Chad Henne/Jake Dual Auto /25



### Final Ratings (out of 5):

Base Set - 3.75/5

Fun - 4.5/5

Overall Design - 4/5

Total = 21/25 (84%)



Value - 4.5/5



Rebuy - 4.25/5



## Final Remarks:

The base set is a little too bland for my liking. There's nothing that really stands out about it. I like the idea of the Elements cards, but would much rather see them as a variation card for all the base and rookie cards. This would turn them into a chase card/set and allow for 15 more rookies to have a card.

Really not a fan of the Studio Rookies and Combos. The idea is sound, but the execution of the cards failed. When you have to work to see the picture on a card, you've overdone the design. Collectors want to enjoy their cards, not have to maneuver it in order to even enjoy the photo.

With that said, Rookies & Stars does deliver throughout the box. On top of being able to complete a base set in one box, you get 15 extras between the inserts, parallels, relics and autos. That's almost 2/3s of the box. As the set's name implies, this is more about the rookies than anything else. It's nice to see that reflected in the extra goodies.

Once again, thanks to the wonderful people at Donruss for providing us with this product and the opportunity to review it.



## 2008 MLB Donruss Elite Extra Edition

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, I'd like to thank our Sponsor, Donruss, for providing us with this box to review.

You can view the videos of this break at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3RusNgDGwE>



### Product Description

20 packs per box  
5 cards per pack  
MSRP: \$70.99 - \$79.99

### Per Box Items

4 autographed or memorabilia cards  
5 inserts or parallels



### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

First autograph cards of baseball's top baseball draft picks: Buster Posey, Rick Porcello and Gordon Beckham

Also including 1st round picks:

- Ike Davis, Andrew Cashner, Ryan Perry, Anthony Hewitt, Christian Friedrich, Daniel Schlereth, Carlos Gutierrez, Shooter Hunt, Brad Holt, Zach Collier, Evan Frederickson, Mike Montgomery, Lance Lynn, Jaff Decker, Wade Miley, Bryan Price, Logan Forsythe

- Collegiate signed patches of Celebrities and Draft Picks!

- Also look for Throwbacks Threads and College Ties inserts featuring autograph, memorabilia and autographed memorabilia cards.

### CARD SETS

Commons (100) An impressive lineup of Draft Picks highlight Elite Extra Edition's base offering, each set upon metallized film board.

Autographed Rookies (75) Autographed rookie cards from the top Draft Picks of 2008, and notable names from previous drafts as well, set upon double rainbow film board and numbered to 1,499 or less.

Turn of the Century Rookies Signatures (175) Partial parallel includes an autograph and is numbered to 999 or less.

Aspirations Die-Cut (175) Base set parallel includes double rainbow film board with blue foil and each numbered to 150 or less.

Status Die-Cut (175) Die-cut base set parallel includes double rainbow film board with red foil and each numbered to 50 or less.

Gold Status Die-Cut (175) Die-cut base set parallel includes double rainbow film board with gold foil and each numbered to 25 or less.

Aspirations Signatures Die-Cut (175) Die-Cut base set parallel on rainbow film board, with an autograph, each numbered to 100 or less.

Red Status Signatures Die-Cut (175) Parallel numbered to 50 or less.

Gold Status Signatures Die-Cut (175) Parallel numbered to 5 or less.

Black Status Signatures Die-Cut (175) Parallel numbered to 1.

School Colors (50) This magnificent parallel highlights the high school or college that recent draft picks attended and is numbered to 1,500.

School Colors Materials (50) Parallel numbered to 100 or less.

School Colors Materials Prime (50) Parallel numbered to 25 or less.

School Colors Autographs (50) Parallel numbered to 100 or less.

Throwback Threads (25) Insert with parallels numbered to 500 or less.

Throwback Threads Autographs (25) This game-used insert includes a swatch of material cut from items used in a collegiate, high school or minor league game and an autograph, with each numbered to 100 or less.

Throwback Threads Prime (25) Only the best of the best material makes this cut; Attractive game-used insert includes a PRIME piece of material from an item used in a collegiate, high school or minor league game, with each numbered to 50 or less.

Throwback Threads Prime Autographs (25) Highly-desirable insert includes a swatch of PRIME material taken from an item used in a collegiate, high school or minor league game with the added element of an autograph included. Each card is numbered to 50 or less.

College Ties Green (35) Highlights collegiate stars paired with other noteworthy players or coaches from the same school and printed on double rainbow film board with green foil, and each numbered to 1,500 or less.

College Ties Gold (35) Highlights collegiate stars paired with other noteworthy players or coaches from the same school and printed on double rainbow film board with gold foil, and each numbered to 500 or less.

College Ties Red (35) Highlights collegiate stars paired with other noteworthy players or coaches from the same school and printed on double rainbow film board with red foil, and each numbered to 100 or less.

College Ties Autographs (35) Highlights collegiate stars paired with other noteworthy players or coaches from the same school and printed on double rainbow film board with blue foil and an autograph. Each card numbered to 100 or less.

College Ties Jerseys (35) Game-used material adorns this highly-collectible insert highlighting collegiate stars paired with other noteworthy players or coaches from the same school. Each card printed on double rainbow film board with silver foil and numbered to 500 or less.

College Ties Jerseys Prime (35) PRIME game-used material adorns this highly-collectible insert highlighting collegiate stars paired with other noteworthy players or coaches from the same school. Each card printed on double rainbow film board with silver foil and numbered to 50 or less.

Collegiate Patches (65) A ground-breaking insert that debuted in 2007 Elite Extra Edition, each card is highlighted by an embroidered collegiate logo and an autograph from a collegiate legend. Each card is numbered to 250 or less.

# THE RUNDOWN ON...



## WHAT WE PULLED

Base (91/100) - 91% Dupes - 0

This year's cards utilize a foil board which is typical from a Donruss Elite release. For the base set, the player's professional team is displayed. The sides have a dot matrix design. On the bottom, the player's name is seen. Directly above are the set's name and the Donruss Elite logo. On both sides of the logo is the player's position.

Another staple of the Donruss Elite sets are the Status and Aspirations inserts. Normally, the print run of both cards would equal 100. The Status parallel would equal to the player's jersey number and the Aspirations parallel would equal to whatever number added to the jersey number would equal 100. However, this year, the cards are randomly numbered like before, but they don't have a particular criterion for the numbering. The parallels are on a double foil board, which enhances the prism effect on the front of the cards. These parallels are also die-cut, each with their own unique look.

Aspirations (2): Greg Veloz /150, Jordan Meaker /150

Donruss Elite Extra Edition uses a lot of photos of players in their college uniforms. The main two sets are School Colors and College Ties. School Colors features an individual player in their college uniform. The color scheme of the card is set to match that of the school. Cards are numbered to 1500. There are 50 players featured and there are no parallels, though autographs and memorabilia cards can be found for this set. The design has the Donruss Elite logo in the top left corner and the set name next to it, which extends across the top of the card. At the bottom, below the player's picture is the insert set's name, then the player's name and followed by the school's logo.

College Ties features two players from the same school pictured together. The players are not necessarily former teammates, just two players who played for the same school. On the card, both player's have their picture on the left side, one above the other. The players' position and name appear directly above and below their respective positions on the card. The pictures are separated by the insert set's name. The background for each player has a series of triangles all pointing to the right. On the right side, the Donruss Elite logo is seen. Though the card is horizontal in nature, the name of the school runs vertically along the right edge of the card. There are many parallel versions of this card.

College Ties Green (1500 or less)

College Ties Gold (500 or less)

College Ties Red (100 or less)

School Colors (2): Brett Jacobson /1500 (Vanderbilt), Jose Duran /1500 (Texas A&M)

College Ties Green (1): Sawyer Carroll/Scott Green /1500 (Kentucky)

There are various autos and relics throughout this release, with the most highly sought after being the Collegiate Patches Autos. These feature a huge swatch with the college logo stitched in one corner and the auto across the swatch. The base and parallel autos match their regular base and insert counterparts in design with the auto (sticker) above the set name and the serial number directly below the auto.



Rookie Auto (1) - Allan Dykstra /1069  
 Turn of the Century Auto (1) - Adam Moore /844  
 Aspirations Auto (1) - Vance Worley /25  
 Status Red Auto (1) - Charlie Furbush /50  
 Throwback Threads Autographs (1) - Andrew Cashner /100



Base Set - 5/5

Fun - 4/5

Overall Design - 4.5/5

Value - 4/5

Rebuy - 4/5

### Final Ratings (out of 5):

**Total = 21.5/25 (86%)**

### Final Remarks:

- Donruss Elite Extra Edition delivers again much like it did last year and leaves us collectors shaking our heads on why the MLB will not give a license back to Donruss.
- With 17-20 releases a year from the other major card companies, it seems the collectors would be happier if it was spread out more as Donruss tends to have the best base card designs in the industry.
- The base cards are amazing this year. I really like how the player's picture stands out in contrast to the card. It makes the set somewhat worth trying to put together, especially considering you can almost complete a base set in one box.
- The drawback is not being able to see the pro team's logo on the uniforms, which limits the type of pictures that can be used. This guarantees the player is turned away from the camera and can be boring.
- Basically half the packs will produce either an insert, parallel, relic or auto. Average run will yield 9 overall, but some will have the Throwback Threads or Collegiate Patch card and will produce 10 (much like this box).
- Donruss Elite Extra Edition strikes a nice balance with using pictures of players in their college uniforms. There are numerous collectors who collect based on a school and they love getting cards showing off that school.
- Thanks again to our friends at Donruss for supplying this product to us and giving us the opportunity to review it.



## 2008-09 Topps Co-Signers Basketball

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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

### Product Description

10 packs per box  
6 cards per pack  
MSRP: \$80.00 - \$85.00

2008-2009 Topps Co-Signers Basketball is the ultimate autograph collector's set and returns this year with more Dual Autograph combinations than ever before. Every box contains 1 Co-Signers Dual Autographed Card, 1 Rookie Autographed Card, 4 numbered Rookie cards, 6 Veteran Parallel cards, and 8 NEW Changing Faces Customizable cards! AND, every 20-box Hobby Distributor Case guarantees 1 Hobby Exclusive Triple Autographed Card and a One of One Parallel card!

### Product Breakdown

**AUTOGRAPHED CARDS - 2 PER BOX!**

Co-Signers Dual Autographed Cards (70) - 1 per box!

- Hobby Exclusive! Hyper Platinum - All one of one!
- Hobby Exclusive! Framed Printing Plates - All one of one!
- Hyper Gold - Seq. #d to 10.
- Gold - Seq. #d.

Hobby Exclusive! Tri-Signers Triple Autographed Cards (10) - Seq. #d. 1 per 20-box case!

- Hobby Exclusive! Hyper Platinum - All one of one!
- Hobby Exclusive! Framed Printing Plates - All one of one!

Hobby Exclusive! Quad-Signers Autographed Cards (4 subs/5 variations) - Seq. #d.

Rookie Autograph Cards (30) - 1 per box!

- Hobby Exclusive! Hyper Platinum - All one of one!
- Hobby Exclusive! Framed Printing Plates - All one of one!
- Hyper Silver - Seq. #d to 25.
- Gold - Seq. #d.

**INSERT CARDS - 8 PER BOX!**

NEW! Changing Faces Customizable Cards (50 subs/100 cards) - Seq. #d.

- Hobby Exclusive! Hyper Platinum - All one of one!
- Hyper Gold - Seq. #d to 25.
- Hyper Silver - Seq. #d to 99.
- Hyper Bronze - Seq. #d to 199.
- Gold - Seq. #d to 399.
- Silver - Seq. #d to 599.
- Bronze - Seq. #d to 799.

**BASE CARDS**

- Veterans (100) - 4 per pack!
- Rookies (40) - Seq. #d to 2008.

**PARALLEL CARDS - 6 VETERANS AND 4 ROOKIES PER BOX, INCLUDING ROOKIE BASE CARDS!**

- Hobby Exclusive! Hyper Platinum - All one of one!
- Hobby Exclusive! Framed Printing Plates - All one of one!
- Hyper Gold - Seq. #d to 10.
- Hyper Silver - Seq. #d to 25.
- Hyper Bronze - Seq. #d to 50.
- Gold - Seq. #d to 99.
- Silver - Seq. #d to 399 or less.
- Bronze - Seq. #d to 799 or less.





## What We Pulled

Base (40/100) - 40% Dupes: 0 Rookies (4/40) - Russell Westbrook, Brook Lopez, Kosta Koufos, Chris Douglas-Roberts Dupes: 0

The base and rookie cards are on a card stock which is a little bit thicker than most base cards. There are 100 base cards overall with mostly veterans and a few retired players. The bottom of the card is a black box with the team name and player position. The player's name runs vertically along the left side of the card. A sun-type backdrop accentuates the player's photo and gives it the impression of movement.

There are two types of parallels, the base series and the Hyper series. The Base series are Bronze (numbered to 799 or less), Silver (numbered to 399 or less) and Gold (numbered to 99 or less). This series utilizes a shiny background instead of the flat background of the regular card. The three colors match the color of the parallel. Unfortunately, we did not pull any Hyper series to show off, so I cannot relay the differences.

Bronze (2) - Caron Butler /299, John Stockton /299 Silver (2) - LeBron James /199, O.J. Mayo /199 Gold (2) - Jamarion Moon /99, Brook Lopez /99

The Changing Faces inserts are back with a twist. They are interchangeable. You are able to pull them apart and create your own dual card. This means numerous possibilities for the set. The regular card is numbered to 899. The parallels are the same colors as the parallels for the base cards.

Regular /899 (4) - Ray Allen/Yao Ming, Deron Williams/Greg Oden, Kevin Martin/Tony Parker, Jerryd Bayless/Kevin Durant

Gold /399 (2) - Tony Parker/Kevin Martin, Brandon Roy/Richard Hamilton

Hyper Bronze (2) - Joe Alexander/Chris Paul, Jason Kidd/Dirk Nowitzki

Co-Signers has two autos per box. One is a rookie auto and the other is either a dual, triple or quad auto. The Rookie auto is simply the rookie card with the autograph sticker at the bottom of it. The multi-auto card is designed with a cut-out area where the autos reside. The player face is pictured next to the auto with his team and name directly below. The Triple and Quad auto cards come 1 per case.

Rookie Auto (1) - Ryan Anderson /350

Triple Auto (1) - Brook Lopez/Jason Thompson/Anthony Randolph /36

Base Set - 4/5

Fun - 4/5

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

Overall Design - 4.5/5

Value - 3.5/5

Rebuy - 3.5/5

**Total = 19.5/25 (78%)**

## Final Remarks:

When Co-Signers first came out, I was a big fan. You would get two rookies autos and one multi-auto card. Soon after, the box stated three autos per box. But that was misleading as you got one rookie auto and a dual auto which equals three autos. Collectors did not realize that as most took it to mean three auto cards. So it is nice to see Topps has changed how they present the autos on the box.

I do like the change from just having the thick Hyper cards as the parallel as a lot of times, you couldn't tell which version you had. Seeing three distinct colors is nice, but not sure on the whole "numbered x amount or less" for a particular parallel. Why not simply make them numbered to the same amount? If you don't have this info about the product, you would be confused on what version you got. I was, until I went back to the description and got that tidbit of knowledge.

But above all else, the thing I did not like the most was the Changing Faces inserts being interchangeable. I understand the idea of trying to come up with something new and catchy, but mix and match cards are for younger collectors. And since most young collectors can't afford to buy a box or pay the normal \$10 pack cost, is it unreasonable to ask not to put this in the pack? As collectors, we like to put our cards in a penny sleeve/top loader combo. Well, how do you collect this card? The only true complete card would have the same player on both sides of the card, which defeats the purpose of Changing Faces. Very confusing to me and something I could do without.

This is not to say Co-Signers isn't a nice product. It really is. The photos and card designs are great. The color pop out to you and are quite eye pleasing. But the additions are unnecessary. No reason to change a good thing. What's that old saying about if something isn't broke...?

As always, big thanks to Topps for providing us with the opportunity to review this product and their sponsorship.



## 2008-09 Upper Deck Black Diamond Hockey

By Scott Kozlowski aka Scottkoz20

### CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Collect Cool, Valuable Rookie Cards! Averaging 3 Triple RC's and 1 Quad RC per box!
- Get a total of 6 Triple Diamond and 2 Quad Diamond cards in each box (on avg.)!
- Awesome Run for the Cup cards return - now #d to 100 and averaging 1 per case!
- Pull 2 Quad-Swatch Jersey cards in each box (on avg.)!
- Great Blast From the Past: Perimeter Die-Cut cards are Back! Averaging 1 Single and 1 Double Diamond in each box!
- Gemography signature cards offer tremendous hits, delivering in every other box!
- Get 1 Ruby, Diamond or Jersey parallel #d to 100 or less in each box!

### PRODUCT BREAKDOWN:

#### Regular Set

- 84 Regular Cards - Single Diamond
- 42 Regular Cards - Double Diamonds - inserted 1:4
- 21 Regular Cards - Triple Diamonds - inserted 1:8
- 21 Regular Cards - Quadruple Diamonds - inserted 1:24
- 21 Rookie Gems rookie cards - Triple Diamonds - inserted 1:8
- 21 Rookie Gems rookie cards - Quadruple Diamonds - inserted 1:24

#### Signature & Memorabilia Cards

- Black Diamond Quad Jerseys - inserted 1:13
- Black Diamond Quad Jerseys, Ruby // - #d to 100
- Black Diamond Quad Jerseys, Gold // - #d to 25
- Black Diamond Quad Jerseys, Onyx // - #d to 10
- Gemography signature cards - inserted 1:48

#### Awesome Inserts

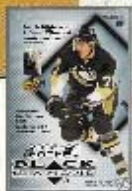
- Run for the Cup - #d to 100
- Perimeter Cut Die-Cuts, Single Diamond - inserted 1:24
- Perimeter Cut Die-Cuts, Double Diamond - inserted 1:24
- Perimeter Cut Die-Cuts, Triple Diamond - inserted 1:170
- Perimeter Cut Die-Cuts, Quad Diamond - inserted 1:1015

#### Black Diamond's Great Parallel Cards and Inserts

- Regular Cards (single, double, triple and quad diamond) - Ruby Parallel regular card parallel - #d to 100
- Regular Cards (single, double, triple and quad diamond) - Gold Parallel regular card parallel - #d to 10
- Regular Cards (single, double, triple and quad diamond) - Diamond Parallel regular card parallel - #d to 1
- Rookie Gems (triple and quad diamond) - Ruby Parallel rookie card parallel - #d to 100
- Rookie Gems (triple and quad diamond) - Gold Parallel rookie card parallel - #d to 10
- Rookie Gems (triple and quad diamond) - Diamond Parallel rookie card parallel - #d to 1



## THE RUNDOWN ON...



### BOX DETAILS

- 24 packs per box
- 5 cards per pack
- Price: Purchased for \$89/USD, this included 8.75% NYS Tax
- Base Set Completed(Single Diamonds): 65/84 = 77.3%
- Duplicates: 39

### THE HITS

- Eric Staal Triple Diamond
- Peter Forsberg Triple Diamond
- Nicklas Lidstrom Triple Diamond
- Jonathan Toews Triple Diamond
- Patric Hornqvist Triple Diamond Rookie
- Shawn Matthias Triple Diamond Rookie
- Olli Jokinen Double Diamond
- Evgeni Nabokov Double Diamond
- Dion Phaneuf Quad Jersey
- Pascal Leclaire Quad Jersey
- Jarome Iginla Quad Jersey Ruby #50/100
- Premier Die Cuts: Daniel Briere and Daniel Alfredsson
- Mark Messier Quad Diamond
- Henrik Zetterberg Quad Diamond



### Overall Design: 4.5/5

The look of the base Black Diamond Cards is very nice. The player on the card appears to be "popping" out of it. This is by far the best part of this product.

### Value: 2.5/5

For the \$89 USD that I paid for this box, I would have expected to complete a base set or be very close to finishing one. I was left nearly 25% away from completion of this set. People might say that I beat the odds with 3 quad jerseys, however this is not 100% true because the Iginla jersey is a Ruby Parallel and #d parallel come 1 in each box.

### Fun: 2/5

While I did not like the fact that this box yielded the number of duplicate cards that it did, this was not the worse aspect of this product. The predictability was. Both Rookie cards I pulled were from consecutive packs, the Quad Jerseys were from consecutive packs and the Quad Diamonds were in the same row of the box. From a pack searching perspective, this is a product that dealers would have to mix up in order for people not to dive into various spots of the box.

### Rebuy: 2/5

If you are looking to get a box that is loaded with rookies or loaded with various types of different inserts, then this is not the product for you. In times that are economically challenging, if you're considering buying this product, I would advise you to save the money for something else after the New Year.

### Variety: 2/5

Black Diamond did not have any real variety to speak of. Outside of the quad jersey cards and the die-cuts, all other cards are the same design. The variation is the number on the card to indicate what diamond level it is. Also, I would have expected to either complete or get close to completing 1 base set from a hobby box.

### Final Grade: 44%

With an 84 card base set and 120 cards per box, the collation of this product was horrible. Additionally, all of the players that were signed as free agents or traded during the off season are still pictured in their previous team uniform. The season began in early October, giving Upper Deck plenty of time to obtain these players playing in their current team's jersey.



### ITG Ultimate Memorabilia 8

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

#### Product Description

For many hockey collectors, Upper Deck is the only way to go. Why? Simply because they have an exclusivity licence when it comes to producing cards depicting the NHL players, as a result other companies are unable to use the teams' logos on their product. Whilst you may agree with most and think that any release which cannot make use of the teams' logos is doomed from the start, I respectfully disagree. For me, this is by no means a fatal blow and In the Game's Ultimate Memorabilia brand has more than enough redeeming features. From the packaging to the overall look of the cards and the multitude of insert sets, this is a release for real fans and real collectors. Interestingly, ITG only produces 10,000 packs of this product which means that once these are gone, it's all over. It certainly adds an important chase element if you decide to put together a set of these.

From the moment you break the seal on the box and open it to reveal five neat little boxes (or packs) you know you are in for a treat. With only 3 cards per pack, the breaks are short but they are also hugely entertaining. Who said something needs to last long to be fun? Any rollercoaster fans in the audience? This product is not accessible to everyone however for one reason; its rather expensive price tag...

#### Description

The most distinctive feature of the Ultimate memorabilia brand is that every single card comes sealed in a hard protective case, just like graded ones. Obviously, this means that you will not get any damaged card which is in itself is a huge plus. The base cards this year look absolutely amazing especially if you are a fan of the "DUFEX" technology ITG has been using for their "The Mask" insert sets. There are three different level of the 100 strong base set; silver, gold and onyx. The background colour of each version is of course different and the "DUFEX" technology gives the impression that the players are literally bursting through the cards. However, because of the licence issue you will not see an "action shot" of the player but rather a close up picture. Some will say this makes the release boring, personally I think it gives it a classy and serious look and it is a great way to give the collectors an alternative to the Upper Deck monopoly. Each of the five packs will yield one base card, one autographed card and one **real** game used memorabilia card (no event used nonsense in this product).

#### Box Details

- Packs per box: 5
- Cards per pack (mini-box): 3
- Base Set: 100 cards
- Price: Between \$570 and \$650
- Check out [ITG's Official Product Information](#)

#### Checklists

- [Base](#)
- [Game-Used Memorabilia](#) (Print Run 90 for the Silver version, 9 for the Gold version and 1 for the Onyx version)
- [Autographs](#) (Print Run differs from one set to another, see guide below)

#### Print Run Guide

#### Autographs

- Future Star Autograph – Silver: 40 Gold: 10
- Future Star Auto and Patch – Silver: 19 Gold: 1
- New Millennium First Rounders – Silver: 40 Gold: 1
- Jersey and Auto – Silver: 30 Gold: 10
- Triple Auto – Silver: 9 Gold: 1
- Double Autograph Double Memorabilia – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Dual Auto – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Ultimate Auto – Silver: 30 Gold: 10
- Ultimate Stick and Auto – Silver: 30 Gold: 10
- Auto Trifecta – Silver: 9 Gold: 1



Paper Cuts, Lumbergraphs, Maple Leafs Forever, Marvelous Maroons, Motown Heroes, Bleu Blanc et Rouge, Beantown's Best, Broadway Blue Shirts, Chi-Town Immortals, Amazing Amerks, Builders, Sensational Sens: 1/1



# THE RUNDOWN ON...



## Game-Used Memorabilia

- Battle of Alberta – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Battle of Quebec – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Blades of Steel – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- City Scapes – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Complete Jersey – Silver: 9 Gold: 1
- Complete Package – Silver: 9 Gold: 1
- Cornerstones – Silver: 9 Gold: 1
- Country Wide – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Decade Dominance – Silver: 9 Gold: 1
- Emblem Attic – Silver: 4 Gold: 1
- Franchises – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Game-Used Emblem – Silver: 9 Gold: 1
- Journey Jersey – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Journey Emblem – Silver: 9 Gold: 1
- Game-Used Jersey – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Gloves are Off – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Net Zero – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Net Wins – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Net Average – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Past, Present and Future – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Raised to the Rafters – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- First Rounders – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- St. Patrick's Legacy – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- St. Patrick's Legacy – Silver: 9 Gold: 1
- Stick Rack – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Retro Teammates – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- Triple Logo – Silver: 4 Gold: 1
- Vintage Lumber – Silver: 9 Gold: 1
- Vintage Lumber – Silver: 24 Gold: 1
- All Made to Order – 5 of each inserted



## The Breaks

All of the cards below were pulled during our break of 2 boxes. The pictures were taken pack by pack which is why you can see one base, one autograph and one memorabilia card per picture.

### Box 1

- |               |                    |   |   |
|---------------|--------------------|---|---|
| <b>Pack 1</b> | Joe Thornton 42/90 | Michael Del Zotto Future Stars Auto 30/40             | Norm Ullman Vintage Lumber 20/24                                |
| <b>Pack 2</b> | Jari Kurri 2/90    | Glenn Hall Jersey and Auto 13/30                      | Doug Harvey Vintage Lumber 6/9                                  |
| <b>Pack 3</b> | Chris Osgood 1/90  | Pavel Datsyuk Game-Used Jersey 23/24                  | John Tavares New Millennium First Rounders 30/40                |
| <b>Pack 4</b> | Guy Lafleur 14/90  | Peter Forsberg Auto and Jersey 8/30                   | Sam Gagner Gloves are Off 7/24                                  |
| <b>Pack 5</b> | Bill Durnan 8/90   | Michael Del Zotto New Millennium First Rounders 36/40 | Mike Modano / Brett Hull / Marty Turco Ultimate Franchises 1/24 |

### Box 2

- |               |                      |   |  |
|---------------|----------------------|---|--|
| <b>Pack 1</b> | Ed Belfour 74/90     | Joe Nieuwendyk Jersey and Auto 8/10               | Guy Lafleur / Yvan Cournoyer Retro Teammates 10/24 |
| <b>Pack 2</b> | Gary Cheevers 37/90  | Chris Chelios Stick and Auto 28/30                | Mike Richter Stick Rack 23/24                      |
| <b>Pack 3</b> | Ilya Kovalchuk 34/90 | Dominik Hasek Ultimate Auto 1/30                  | Peter Forsberg Country Wide 2/24                   |
| <b>Pack 4</b> | John Tavares 63/90   | Dominik Hasek / Chris Osgood Dual Autograph 8/24  | Peter Forsberg First Rounders 1/1                  |
| <b>Pack 5</b> | Jaromir Jagr 45/90   | Frank Mahovlich / Johnny Bower Dual Autograph 1/1 | Ed Belfour Journey Jersey 7/24                     |

# THE RUNDOWN ON...



## Comments

Overall, these were hugely entertaining breaks. The anticipation and the hopes are running high when you invest that amount of money in a box. Of course, just like with any break, it is a bit of a gamble. You do not know what will be in your box. You could get a 1/1 or not or in some cases, like box two above, you could even get two 1/1. Having busted the first box, I was not disappointed not to get any cards numbered lower than nine. The reason is simple, I got three cards for my personal collection in the box and a memorabilia autograph of the player who will likely be selected first overall at the next NHL draft. Had I not got those PC cards however, this break could have been a huge disappointment. The other down side, to both breaks this time, is that in both boxes, we got two autographed cards of the same player. Michael Del Zotto in the first instance and Dominik Hasek in the second, this is not a problem if you collect those players but if you don't, getting two out of 15 cards of the same player is a bit of a let down. The risk to get duplicate cards in these boxes is quasi inexistent, but it appears that duplicate players are quite possible.

On the bright side, ITG must be congratulated for using real game-used memorabilia, no event used pieces. The back of each memorabilia card clearly state that the piece is game-used and it even specifies which team/country or special event (All-Star game) the jersey was from. You will not be pulling a card and wondering where on earth the swatch came from. In the same line of thought, take a minute to look at the piece of stick pulled in the second box, absolutely spectacular! The spread of colours on the Tavares autographed jersey also deserves a mention considering how big a player this is, it would have been disheartening to get an all white swatch.

Finally, I cannot help but comment on the wide selection of insert sets on offer in this product. From local rivalries to goaltender stats and national pride, you are sure to find something to your taste. My personal favourite is no doubt the "Battle of Quebec" set. I started putting it together as soon as the product came out and I absolutely love the design; the pictures of both players, two swatches and the province's emblem this is a great ensemble and dare I call it a stroke of genius.

Variety – 5/5

Fun – 5/5

## Final Ratings (out of 5):

Overall Design – 5/5

Total = 22.5/25 (90%)

Value – 4/5

Rebuy – 3.5/5

## Final Remarks:

While I thoroughly enjoyed this break, I know I won't be able to afford to get any more of this product, a crying shame considering how nice it is. However, I might try to put together a few of the insert sets by trading or buying the cards on eBay. This should allow me to get my fix. The product lost points on the value because when you compare the price of the box to what you can get when you sell the cards on, you realize that even though all cards are of a limited print run, it is tricky to make your money back. In closing, I am very pleased I got a box of Ultimate 8 I got some great pulls in there and some sweet cards for my personal collection.

## Through the Mail : Who, What, When, Where, and Why?

By Mike Green aka Indyreds

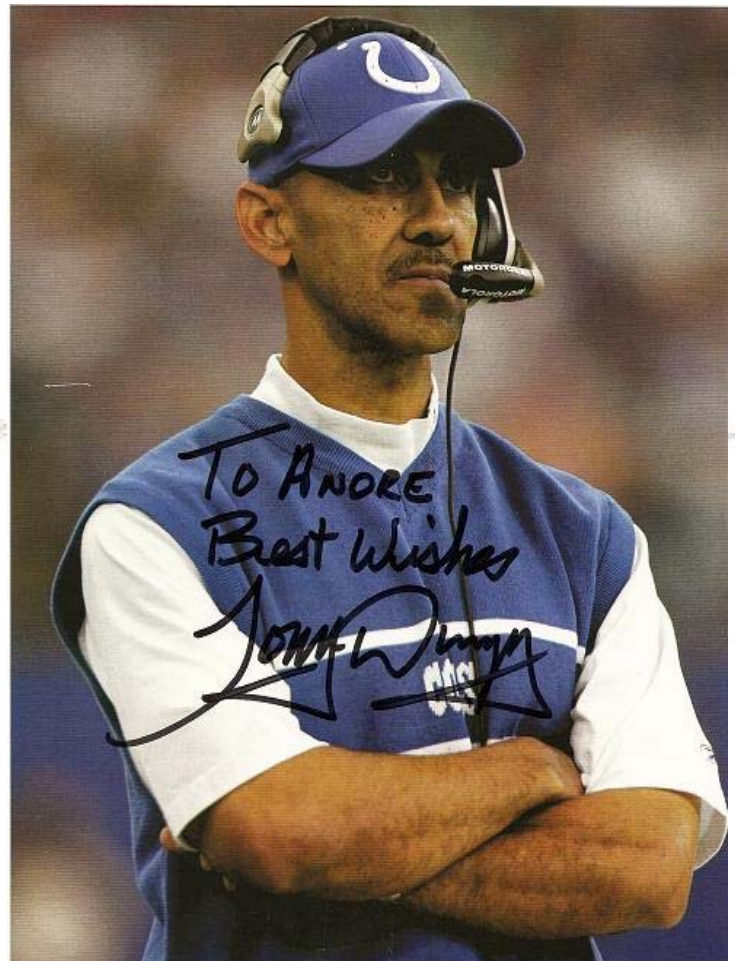
What in the world does TTM stand for? TTM's are autographs through the mail. Many of us have been doing this for years, but it now seems to be growing in popularity. Those of you that have tried to collect autographs through the mail know just how much fun it is to see one of your self addresses stamped envelopes (SASE) arrive back to you in the mail. I personally can not wait to crack open my mail and see who it is from. It is kind of like opening that box of cards that claims to have a hit per box and knowing you have not gotten that hit with just one pack left. It is a thrill to see what is inside. I want to make it easier for anyone who has thought about trying to join in this part of our hobby to give it a try, so I will try to answer a few questions for you this month.

Who will sign autographs for free through the mail and where do I get their address? These seem to be a few of the biggest questions out there. Sports Card Forum has answers for you! Just go to the [Autograph Central](#) section of our site. Click on the sports forum that you might be interested in mailing to. You will find different sub forums there. The team address forum is the best address to contact most active players during their regular season. You will also find the success forum and that area is to look through to see who has been signing lately. I would encourage you to also post there when you get your TTM autographs back. An RTS sub forum is also present to record those returns that did not result in an autograph. There are also many retired player addresses posted in alphabetical order below these sub forums. Those are tested addresses that have worked in the past for autographs! I would suggest trying someone off of the success list. The fact that the celebrity or sports star has signed for others recently would give you the best chance to get a positive return.

What do I send? First is the request letter. You should write a short letter explaining why you are a fan of the individual and asking them for an autograph. You should be polite and I usually send a two or three paragraph letter. You also need to enclose a means of getting your autograph back to you in the form of a SASE. You also need to enclose the item or items to be signed. Please be sure that you do have the right postage for each way.

What do I send to get signed? This is the most varied and fun part of TTM autographs. I started by sending players sports cards. I still do that with many of my requests today, but not for all of them. I have sent index cards, Sports Illustrated issues, baseballs, 8x10 photos, and books. I have seen others who sent custom cards that they have made of the star, helmets, mini helmets, jerseys, hockey pucks, hockey sticks, programs and posters. The best answer to this is that it is up to you! You can collect what you want.

Why would you want an uncertified autograph? I can not help, but chuckle whenever I hear this. Flip over your certified pack pulled autographs and read them. There is only one current card company that will state on their card that it was signed in the presence of an employee! The rest of those pack pull autographs are just TTM cards as well! We also know that so many autograph companies have had issue with false certificates of authentication. Why spend a ton of money for an autographed 8x10, card, baseball or jersey when you can get it for free? The only real way to know an autograph is real is to have it signed in front of you. Most of us will not have that option and I suggest trying TTM. Can you imagine getting an autographed card of legends like Lawrence Taylor and Duke Snider for less than a dollar? That is what TTM collectors are able to do. You can also spend money on certification, through PSA for your cards, if you must get that certificate! I know that I have thought about that certification on some of the late greats that I have gotten. Dale Earnhardt Sr might find his way into a PSA capsule from my collection one of these days.



Hopefully a few of you will join our ranks as TTM autograph hounds. It is a fun and relatively cheap way to collect autographs. Please ask away in the TTM forum, if you have any questions. May all your mailboxes bring you joy!



## ROOKIE DEBUT

### Welcome to the SCF New Members Corner

By Leo Zuperku aka Lzuperku

Here is the link to our current contest in the racing area:  
<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=638147>

First place will get



1994 Maxx Jason Keller #198 ROOKIE CARD  
2006 Press Pass AUTOGRAPH Jason Keller  
2007 Eclipse Regan Smith #87 2007 CUP ROOKIE CARD  
2003 Press Pass SIGNINGS Regan Smith

Second place gets 250 cc!  
Keep an eye out for our football contest coming next month

Welcome KJCarney78 to the New Member Team

New Members!!!  
If you have a question or problem, don't forget to "ASK LEO"  
You can find this thread in the sticky section of the MEET & GREET forum

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS**

If you haven't done so already, please update your profile and check the boxes that correspond to the sports you collect. This will help us send you special notices pertaining to the contests & sports you're interested in.

The New Member Team hopes everyone has had a wonderful Christmas & a joyous New Year!!

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

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

By : Scott Kozlowski aka ScottKoz20

The Hockey Staff has had a couple changes during the month of December. Kevin (Inferno) is now an SCF Advisor, after making it through the SCF Staff Training program. We now have a new trainee, Duff (comatoad) who joined the Hockey Team during month. **Congrats to Kevin and welcome Duff!**

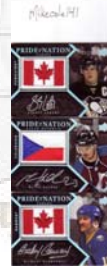
### Show and Tell Contest Update

The Hockey Card Show and Tell contest is nearly a 1/3 done for the season. Some of the recent winners include

Week 7: Best plexiglass card - todtz79

Week 8: Best Vintage – ekardz

Week 9: Best Insert Set - mikecole141



### Upcoming themes will include

Week 11: Best Rookie card (with memorabilia or auto)

Week 12: Best Rookie card (without memorabilia or auto)

Week 13: Best multi player autographed card

Week 14: Best multi player patch card

Week 15: Best multi player jersey card

Week 16: Best Goalie card (any type card)

Visit the Show and Tell Contest page for rules and information on how to enter. <http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=600475>

### Hockey Supercollector Program

From the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009, the Hockey Team will be starting to accept applications to become a Hockey Super collector.



Some of the criteria that the Hockey Team will be looking for in a submission are the following

Player collectors: Percentages of total cards owned:

100-250 cards = 75%...251-500 cards = 70%...501-750 cards = 65%...751-1000 cards = 60%...1001-1500 cards = 50%...1501-2000 cards = 40%

Your player must have at least 100 cards and be in his sophomore (2nd) year in the NHL

Some information on why you started to collect this player.

This program will recognize those collectors that truly have a "super collection".

### Group Breaks

This month; the Hockey Team is holding a Group Break of Trilogy. This product was originally scheduled for release just before Christmas however this was pushed back to December 30th. Therefore, results from this break will not be published until the February Magazine.

The following is the list of participants and the teams they will be obtaining from the break:

Enigma - New Jersey, Colorado Pheeb888 - Montreal, Ottawa mikpaq77 - Boston, San Jose Captngteetch - NY Rangers, NY Islanders  
 MatsSundin13Rocks - Washington, Atlanta scottkoz20 - Buffalo, Detroit SkidSTL - St. Louis, Anaheim CroMalk - Pittsburgh, Vancouver  
 quiet-things - Edmonton, Florida CSSports - Los Angeles, Phoenix steen101984 - Toronto, Calgary Canucksfan1812 - Columbus, Tampa Bay  
 fdp79 - Carolina, Philadelphia wolf1bh - Chicago, Dallas Tangerinebunny - Minnesota, Nashville

### Rules in French

Since SCF grows constantly, we have noticed more and more members who are native French speakers. For this reason, 2 of our French speaking staff members Karine (Pheeb888) and Luc (CoolHandLuke) took the initiative to translate the rules pages into French. We hope that you will take the time to read and understand them in order to be able to fully enjoy the site.

<http://www.sportscardforum.com/view.php?pg=frenchrules>

Puisque SCF grandit constamment, nous avons remarqué la présence de plus en plus de membres dont la langue maternelle est le français. Pour cette raison, nos membres du personnel de langue française; Karine (Pheeb888) et Luc (CoolHandLuke) ont pris l'initiative de traduire les pages de règlements. Nous espérons que vous prendrez le temps de bien les lire et les comprendre, de manière à mieux apprécier ce site.

### Contests

As always, the Hockey team has a few contests ongoing:

Weekly eBay Steal Contest - 50cc to the weekly winner

The monthly goodie bag contest - Each month for the rest of the season, pick the leading scorers for the month and win!

Come and check out these contests!



### Halifax Forum Card Show

Halifax, Nova Scotia

November 29<sup>th</sup> 2008

By Richard McAdam aka RGM81

The last Saturday of the month means one thing for card collectors in the province of Nova Scotia: card show at the Halifax Forum! The fun starts early and runs for most of the day, with the show opening up at 8am and usually running well into the afternoon. I wasn't sure that I was going to be heading to the show this month, as today is my girlfriend's birthday and we had a lot of things planned; unfortunately, she got called into work today. The upside is that it freed me up to visit the show and file this report.



I headed in, warm Tim Horton's coffee in hand, and at around 9am armed with a few bucks, some traders, a short want list, and my trusty digital camera to document the event. The show takes place at the Bingo Hall so that each seller has adequate room to set up their wares, and as you'll see in the photos below, there are some really nice items up for grabs.

As I usually do I spent more time talking with the various sellers than I did money, which is a good thing. It is the holiday season, after all, and like I said, there's a birthday to deal with as well. A lot of sellers seemed pretty upbeat about the day and the new releases this season. I saw a lot of McDonald's for sale today, as many people had broken high volume of the product. There were a lot of full subsets available as well as singles from the base and insert sets. I did not, however, see any gold cards on sale, demonstrating just how difficult it is to pull one of those variants. Without spending too much time dwelling on the negative, there was the usual grumbling about collation, lazy autograph signers, and the glut of products on the market. For the most part, though, people clearly enjoy the Upper Deck products that we're treated to.

I had two main objectives at this show: I wanted to finish off my McDonald's base sets (I always do three a year) and see if I could move my Kyle Chipchura collection. Well, I was half-successful in my objectives. I'm pretty much done with McDonald's now since I'm not going to get my hopes up of pulling the mega-rare Carey Price autograph or any of the other Instant Winner redemptions. I do, however, still have my Chipchura collection intact. As one seller pointed out, I should have skipped him entirely and gone with Sergei Kostitsyn as my secondary Habs rookie last year. He said this as he pointed to Sergei's Cup RC, part of a very impressive Cup rookie collection, as you can see here.

That one second from the top on the left deserves a closer look:



Awesome patch on that Kane Rainbow Cup /88. That was the most spectacular card I saw at the show, I must say. That's not to take away from any of the other really nice cards, and there were many, but if I had to pick just one, that would be it.



## ON LOCATION

Earlier in the week I made contact with fellow SCF member Brad (and I feel really bad that I don't remember your user name) and hoped that I'd get to run into him. Brad's a Bruins fan, but nobody's perfect, and at least he was able to show up for the event (oh Inferno, how we missed ye!) and we were able to shoot the breeze. He even wrangled it out of me that I am a Lucic fan. The guy is a force and he's fun to watch, Cam Neely reincarnated! Brad brought along some goodies for the show in the hopes of making some deals. Among his very nice batch of Artifacts patches and ITG Ultimate was this potential gem of a card:

That there is a Victor Hedman auto jersey. Whether he goes #1 ahead of Tavares or at #2, that's going to be a very desirable card in a short period of time. Very nice to meet you, Brad, hopefully we'll run into each other again next month!



As for me, like I said earlier, my want list was pretty short at this event. I'm mostly in a holding pattern until Black Diamond and the Canadiens Centennial sets are released, looking only for a few items here and there for my PC. There were so many nice Habs cards I would have liked to grab, including a Roy Cup Enshrinements, but that's a little out of my league at this point. I did bring along some McDonald's stuff, including my Sakic Clear Path to Greatness that I was aiming to move for a pretty decent card or two. Well, near the end of the day I found what I was looking for and I made my offer. It was accepted and I am finally the proud owner of a Josh Gorges The Cup RC!

I'm going to have to snap a shot with that, the Platinum /25, and the Black Rainbow 1/1 one of these days, not to mention finding the elusive Rainbow /6. Very happy to finally own one of these!

So after hanging around for about an hour and a half I was pretty much done for the day. It's great to have the monthly chat with all the sellers and see their latest acquisitions. I was surprised that there wasn't more Artifacts or Upper Deck series 1; there was a considerable amount but not as much as I expected. It's a great group of people there, and I really do enjoy just talking with a lot of them about the hobby and the game in general sure wish the Habs would have won last night so that I could have avoided the ribbing that I endured, but that's the way she goes. After the show I wandered across the street to the local hobby shop where I busted open some wax: four packs of UD1 and one of Artifacts. Not too much out of the UD series 1: a Neal YG, two Hat Trick Heroes inserts, and the Brodeur Checklist. Ah well, that much closer to the base set. The pack of Artifacts yielded a rather nice Shane Doan Treasured Swatches jersey/patch /50. Mostly white with a bit of maroon and a nice thick stitching.

That's the day's events in a (rather large) nutshell. As always, can't wait to do it all over again next month; hopefully next time Kevin will be able to make it down for the day so that we can chat and he can share a by-line with me?

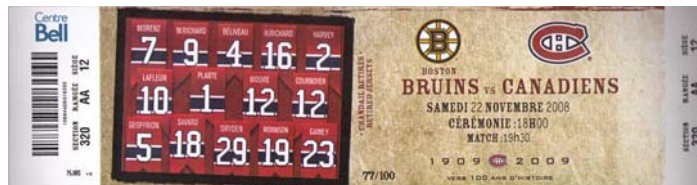


# CENTENNIAL WATCH



## Raised to the Rafters

By Luc Séguin aka CoolHandLuke



I am writing this article on the 24<sup>th</sup> December, so I wish every SCF members to land their white whale in 2009. Now back to the Centennial watch, three things caught my attention but I will only report on Patrick Roy's jersey retirement night. I will keep the other events for next month's article.

For a Habs fan and a Roy collector like myself, It was finally the night Patrick came back home. Yes the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008 was a night to remember. To me, this was the best event in the new Bell Centre ever. Finally I could now relate to things I had witnessed in the old forum, perhaps now the ghosts are back?



The manner in which Patrick made his way back into the Bell Centre was really classy. Patrick Roy left because he and Mario Tremblay, the Habs' head coach back in 95, could not stand each other. Not long after, Roy was traded. We heard so often on the radio shows, around Montreal, that one day, Patrick would need to come back to Montreal by the big door. They took that literally by having Roy come in by the main entrance, walking amongst the fans, who were wondering if it was really him at first. Then he turned right and came in the Bell center, walked down the spectators' stairs, passed by front of Jean Beliveau (one moment I had to say was very touching) and finally made it to the center of the ice.



Three of his old coaches, two of whom he won the Stanley cup with, made a presentation speech. Then, Francois Allaire, the goaltender coach back then with the Habs, brought a good point on how Roy and he modified the equipment so much, always adding a little here and a little there. He shared some great moments to finally pass the microphone to Patrick. What Patrick said was simple, yet very touching and you could see that he was visibly moved as he spoke. After his speech, it was finally time to approach his jersey banner, number 33.

Carey Price, Jaroslav Halak and Saku Koivu were holding the banner while Patrick was hanging both sides to the cables. Then, Patrick returned to the center of the ice along with all his family members to watch his banner get up to finally sit along with 14 glorious other players that have made the Habs what they are today.

For us collectors, a great ensemble to acquire was the RDS banner, Roy mask, program and ticket that all spectators who attended the game received. This means that there should roughly be 25,000 copies of each in circulation. Although, many masks were destroyed by kids which should lower the number in circulation.

To give you a chance to see what this celebration looked like, I have set up a little photo album of the evening with a thumbnails navigation bar. Enjoy those images and I will leave you with a last image for this month Centennial Watch.

Photo album: <http://www.lucseguin.com/images/33/>





## Update on the Racing Forum

By Darin Heitzer aka JKC

### Racing Contest Winners

We have had some great contests for the 2008 racing season. Thanks to everyone that took part in them and made them fun to watch. Also, a special thank you goes out to those in charge of those. While some of them haven't always been posted or updated in a timely manner, they do their best with everything else that goes on in their hectic lives. Here are the latest winners:

**Cup Chase Champion:** Charles Zandstra (Rw2fan4ever)

**Survivor Champion:** Alex Westgerdes (ajwest92)

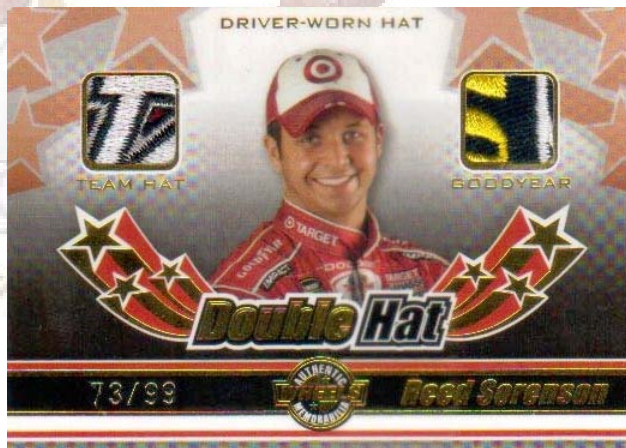
**Yahoo Fantasy Racing Champion:** John Reed (jreed00)

**Racing Team Challenge Chase Edition:** Peter Farkas (bgnfan4God)

Thanks again to everyone involved, and keep a look out during the off season for some great contest put on by the racing team. Also, be on the look out for the above contests during the 2009 season. Yes, that will include Racing Team Challenge. It is going to be making a rookie season run after having some trial run including the Chase Edition that ended last season. Looking forward to all of the fun they bring, and hope to see *you* there!

### SCF Racing Cards of the Month

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



1. 2006 Wheels American Thunder Double Hat DH22 Reed Sorenson (73/99)  
(sorensonsupercollector; 11 votes)



2. 2008 Press Pass Legends Prominent Pieces  
Bronze PP1-TS Tony Stewart (06/99)  
(Tony\_Fan\_since\_1999; 4 votes)



3. 2009 Press Pass Four Wide Firesuit FW-JJ  
Jimmie Johnson (41/50) (race crazy; 3 votes)



4. 2008 Press Pass Legends Prominent Pieces Silver  
PP4-JM Jamie McMurray (50/50) (JKC; 2 votes)



--. 2008 Press Pass Premium Red 84  
Dale Earnhardt Jr. (3/5) (leemozoid; 2 votes)



## The End is Coming...

By Jason DiOrazio aka jdio13

In the past month, the SCF Football Forums have had many visitors and many different changes. This is one of the most active forums on the site, averaging about 125-150 viewers at any given time during the day, and we hope to see more over the next few months. With the end of the regular season fast approaching, a couple of the contests that are currently running are coming to an end, such as the NFL Hi/Lo contest where each week, members post which team will score the most points and which team will score the least points. Members must also post how many points they believe each team will score.

Another one of our contests that is coming to a close is the eBay Steal of the Week Contest. Over the past month we have had some outstanding steals which will be showcased in the eBay Steals section.

But just because the season is coming to an end, doesn't mean all the contests are ending, in fact, there is one just beginning. The College Football Bowl Pick'em Contest has just begun taking in members who feel they know who will win each bowl game this year. All you have to do is state what team you believe will win a match up and rank the choices by how confident you are. This is run through Yahoo. Check out the Football Contests forum to enter and have a chance at winning some great prizes!

As we also stated last month, the Football Team began taking in applications to be considered a player Super Collector. Last month, we only had 2 Super Collectors. Over the past month we have added 10 more Super Collectors to the list, bringing the total to 12 Football Super Collectors. The players collected by those 12 Super Collectors are: Ed Reed (rickysigai), David Thomas (Ryo1549), Dan Marino (Phinsfan77), Lofa Tatupu (#1 Lofa Fan), Jimmy Smith (Rocketman12), Otis Amey (WestCoastSkinsFan), Curtis Martin (JetsFan3Ever), Mark Brunell (Jaderock), Priest Holmes (FalcoShane), Terrell Davis (Bronco30 99), and Jim Brown (Atma232). You may have noticed that there are only 11 Super Collectors listed, and I did this because I would like to highlight one member in particular.

This member, Labguy42, is the first person to have super collections of two different players, and I must say that these two players that he super collects changed the game of football. The two players are Red Grange and Jim Thorpe. It is very impressive when a member can super collect one historical football player, but meeting the requirements for two historical players is unbelievable. Labguy42's Red Grange collection consists of 90% of all base ever made, 95% of game used cards, 4 1/1's, and 4 different autos. His Jim Thorpe collection is not far behind, having 94% of all base, 92% of game used, 5 1/1's, and plenty of odd ball cards that aren't listed. His collections are simply stunning. Make sure to check out the Football Super Collector Hall of Fame forum and look at all of these collectors' great collections!!



We at the Football Team would like to thank everyone who reads this newsletter. We would also like to wish everybody a safe and happy holiday season. We hope to see you soon!



**Let's Go to the Video Tape**  
By Stephen Duell aka Spuds1961

O.K 2009's baseball season will have a very interesting rule change, it is going to involve the use of video technology .I think it is a travesty to go with new technology over old school. The men in blue who call these games get the calls right about 99 % of the time for a 1% error ratio and you are going to disrupt the flow of the game for this? While taking the human error which has always been part of the game out of the equation...

Just imagine if they had replay back in 1996, Little Jeffrey Maier would have been booed out of the stadium by the Yankee faithful if his interference on Derek Jeter's home run would have been called just that. I would say that most fans would rather risk a mistaken call and keep the game flowing than having to wait countless minutes for a call to be made. There are instances where certain missed calls have turned the tide of a World Series and changed the outcome, anybody remember the St Louis Cardinals vs. the Kansas City Royals? That series was actually won by the Cardinals but a missed call at first base gave the Royals a 2nd chance and the rest is history.



If the umpires don't mind constantly being second guessed and watched like hawks from a replay booth, then by all means go right ahead. My thoughts are that if it can be instituted and done at a quick pace it might work, but as a fan; people will miss that argument factor of well if that stinking umpire hadn't blown that call we might have won. You can't take out the human factor from America's past time, I would much rather see an umpire get one call wrong out of 100 then to let machinery take away a part of the game which is the on field umpiring. Instead of demeaning the men in blue we as fans should be praising them, as most of us wouldn't want their job anyway... [www.sportscarforum.com](http://www.sportscarforum.com)





**Basketball Happenings**

By Nathan Loewy aka Garnett\_21

The SCF's Basketball Team hopes that everyone has had a very Merry Christmas, and a great New Years! We hope you got what you want and that you had a happy and relaxing time!

SCF's Basketball contests have been quite competitive! The "Top Performers" contest, where you pick who you think will score the most points, pull down the most rebounds and dish the most assists per day, winner from October/November was kobe080! He had 42 points, and was awarded 1000cc, along with qualifying for the playoff portion of this contest! Joining kobe080 in the playoff portion of the contest so far are key2win (37 points) and PPPanthersGM (35 points)! Congratulations to all three of you!

Standings for December, as of December 22nd:

allstar ~ 21	garnett_21 ~ 17	Christianfriend ~ 11
Showdown ~ 20	kobe080 ~ 16	JPBaseball1322 ~ 10
underdawg ~ 19	jvince888 ~ 15	mjaneway ~ 3
RenegadeLonghorn ~ 18	mrnyceguy168 ~ 14	jagsfan92 ~ 2
PPPanthersGM ~ 18	key2win ~ 14	tennisdevils ~ 1
gladdyontherise ~ 17	the_future ~ 13	Nairb06 ~ 1

The "Pick 'Em" contest, where you pick the winners of a select few games for the day, was even more competitive in October/November. PPPanthersGM won that month with 98 points! He was awarded 1000cc and now qualifies for the playoff portion of this contest! PPPantherGM is joined in the playoffs by garnett\_21 (95 points), Showdown (92), and key2win (92). Congratulations to everyone!

Top 10 standings for December, as of December 22nd:

Christianfriend- 62	gladdyontherise- 55	nadeau01_johnson48- 51
parep2001- 59	jvince888- 55	Hoopsman- 50
adam334581- 58	key2win- 54	PPPanthersGM- 50
Showdown- 57	deuxmachinax- 53	sabresfan88- 50
allstar- 55	underdawg- 53	the_future- 50
garnett_21- 55	nbafan123- 52	

The inaugural Basketball Theme Weeks contest has come to an end. We had a total of 28 different themes, with various great cards! theanswer0221 won this years contest with 6 weeks won.

The final standings are as follows:

theanswer0221: 6 weeks	DonMaynard: 1 week	tierre_brown: 1 week
DAVE30: 3 weeks	Italy61587: 1 week	walt55054life: 1 week
nbacardDOTnet: 3 weeks	molly1984: 1 week	waxbuster: 1 week
gatorboymike: 2 weeks	RenegadeLonghorn: 1 week	williams51: 1 week
sportsfreak007: 2 weeks	s13driver: 1 week	XxViSiOnxX: 1 week
underdawg: 2 weeks		

At the time of writing, a second place contest was taking place between DAVE30 and nbacardfanDOTnet to determine the 2nd place winner.

Stay tuned for Theme Weeks '09, kicking off in January 2009!



Beginning this month, the SCF basketball team will be featuring a basketball players collection in the magazine. This collection is preferred to be, but not limited to, either a player or team collection. If you would like to be featured in one of our upcoming months, please PM garnett\_21.

This month we feature trevorp121's Kobe Bryant collection:

"I started collecting Kobe Bryant in 1996. The main reason was because he was a Laker and I love the Lakers. I have always collected Laker cards. The second reason I started collecting him was he came straight out of high school to play in the NBA. The very first card in my collection was pulled at a card shop in Casa Grande, AZ called "The Main Event". I would go in there at least once a week to see what deals I could find. One time, I bought two packs of UD3 and pulled my very first Kobe card. This started a frenzy and now I have a nice collection.



My collection consists of over 400 Kobe cards. If I had to pick a favorite, I could narrow it down to three; either my 1996-97 Topps Draft Redemption, 1996-97 Hoops Grant's All Rookie Team or 03-04 UD Glass Auto Focus (all pictured). None of these were pulls, which shows that card collecting also involves buying, selling and trading. I bought all of them, and probably overpaid, but I had to have them and it was worth it to me. Now my collection also includes 41 different rookie cards, 2 autograph cards, 2 patch cards, 1 shoe card, and 9 jersey cards. One card that I am missing is his Topps Chrome rookie card. That is the one card that I really would like as it would make my collection complete. Any sellers or traders out there?"

Also new this month, the SCF Basketball Team is starting a new featured section where we will feature hits that people have pulled from packs or boxes of cards. If you would like to be featured with your pull, enter it in the thread in the Basketball Show and Tell forum! This month, we have the following cards to show off:

Member: Italy61587  
Card: 07-08 Topps Trademark Moves  
Pulled From: 2 Hobby Packs



Member: theael  
Card: 07-08 Topps Chrome White Refractor Wilson Chandler autograph #d/10  
Pulled From: Blaster Box

Member: NyFanCam01  
Card: 08-09 SPX Winning Materials Combos Carmelo Anthony/Allen Iverson dual patch #d 1/25  
Pulled From: 1 pack SPX



SCF's Basketball super collector program is set to be launched in early 2009! Stay tuned for more updates! Also, be sure to check out the basketball contests forum for a contest close to the All-Star Game!



## Growing Pains

By Michael E. Schutz aka Gatorboymike

Many people credit Michael Jordan with popularizing the sport of basketball in the United States, and he was certainly a major player in popularizing the basketball card collecting hobby, too. But two players, David Robinson and Shaquille O'Neal, were arguably more central to the hobby. Before 1989, basketball card collecting was not a significant hobby in the US. Until then, there had never been more than one professionally licensed set of basketball cards produced in a year, and as recently as 1982, there were none made at all.

The catalyst was David Robinson's 1989-90 Hoops rookie card, a shocking innovation in that it was the first rookie card to be produced during the player's rookie year. Before then, collectors had to wait until a player's sophomore season to obtain an NBA-licensed card of his. The Hoops Robinson was the first basketball card that everyone had to have, causing collectors of other sports to branch into basketball for the first time. That year, two NBA-licensed sets were produced for the first time ever, and that number grew to three in 1990, four in 1991, and seven in 1992.

Then, in 1992, the hobby received another jolt with Shaquille O'Neal's professional debut. Historically, the modus operandi in card collecting was the completion of large base sets. But Shaq was headed for big things and everyone knew it. The manufacturers were inspired to create the most desirable (and expensive) Shaq card possible, and they competed with each other for the title. That year, Topps won with its Stadium Club Beam Team card, but the next year and every following year, the fight would begin anew. Now that the hobby had both numbers and direction, a collision course with chaos was set.

16 years later, everyone knows the hobby has grown, but I thought of a way to measure exactly how much. I recently counted the number of rookie cards there are for every #1 draft choice since the inception of the modern concept of rookie cards. We can assume the #1 draft choice will have at least one rookie card in every product, since the manufacturers want to make the best (most expensive) products possible, and before each season begins we always assume the #1 draft choice will be one of the best in his class, even when this does not happen.

These are the results, sorted in chronological order, with each player's number of rookie cards listed after his name:

1989 - David Robinson: 1  
Only RC: Hoops #138

1995 - Joe Smith: 15  
Best RC: Finest #111

2002 - Yao Ming: 40  
Best RC: Ultimate Collection #79 (/250)

1990 - Derrick Coleman: 3  
Best RC: SkyBox #362

1996 - Allen Iverson: 16  
Best RC: Topps Chrome #171

2003 - LeBron James: 61  
Best RC: Exquisite Collection #78 (/99)

1991 - Larry Johnson: 4  
Best RC: Upper Deck #2

1997 - Tim Duncan: 18  
Best RC: Topps Chrome #115

2004 - Dwight Howard: 42  
Best RC: Exquisite Collection #90 (/99)

1992 - Shaquille O'Neal: 7  
Best RC: Upper Deck #1

1998 - Michael Olowokandi: 18  
Best RC: SP Authentic #91 (/3500)

2005 - Andrew Bogut: 30  
Best RC: Exquisite Collection #43 (/99)

1993 - Chris Webber: 11  
Best RC: Finest #212

1999 - Elton Brand: 37  
Best RC: SP Authentic #91 (/1500)

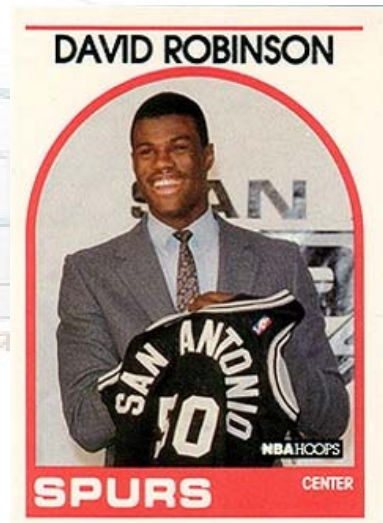
2006 - Andrea Bargnani: 34  
Best RC: Exquisite Collection #43 (/99)

1994 - Glenn Robinson: 14  
Best RC: Finest #166

2000 - Kenyon Martin: 43  
Best RC: SP Authentic #91 (/500)

2007 - Greg Oden: 31  
Best RC: Exquisite Collection #112 (/99)

2001 - Kwame Brown: 46  
Best RC: Ultimate Collection #90 (/250)



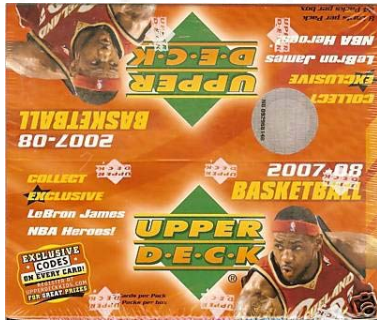


# AROUND THE BOARDS

The data indicates that, with the exception of 2003 as the rookie year of LeBron James (who was received in much the same caliber as Robinson and O'Neal), the number of products has actually decreased over the past five years. This is likely due to Upper Deck's buying out of the now-defunct Fleer Corporation, as Fleer was notoriously over-productive between 1999 and 2004, and Upper Deck retained only a small number of Fleer brands.

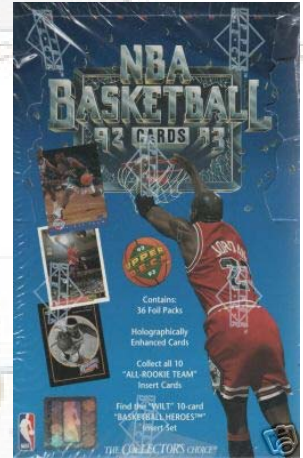
Another way to measure the growth of the hobby is to examine the change in average prices of all products produced within a year. According to data collected from Upper Deck and Dave & Adam's Card World, the average price per standard hobby box of the 31 different basketball products produced during the 2007-08 season was \$127.30. This is an increase of 354% over the average price per box of the seven products produced (each in two series) during the 1992-93 season of \$28 per standard hobby box.

However, the average numbers of cards per pack, packs per box and cards per box have also vastly decreased, causing the average price per card to skyrocket:



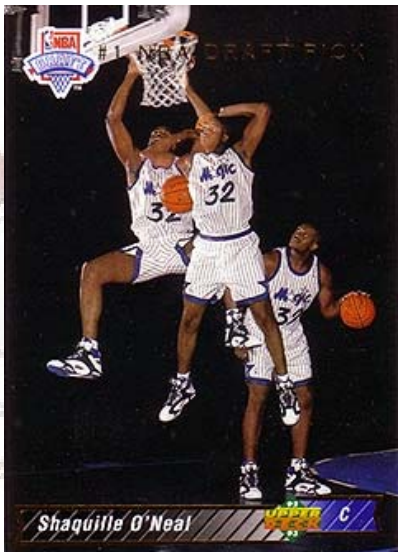
1992-93  
 Average Packs Per Box: 36  
 Average Cards Per Pack: 14.6  
 Average Cards Per Box: 481.7  
 Average Price Per Card: \$0.06

2007-08  
 Average Packs Per Box: 11.8 (67.2% decrease)  
 Average Cards Per Pack: 6.1 (58.2% decrease)  
 Average Cards Per Box: 78.9 (83.6% decrease)  
 Average Price Per Card: \$1.61 (2,583% increase)



In other words, when you buy a basketball hobby box today, you will pay an average of 3.5 times as much for it as you would have paid 15 years ago, you will get 6.1 times fewer cards, and you will pay almost 26 times as much for each card in the box.

On top of that, serial numbered cards, game-used memorabilia cards and autographed cards have all been devalued at a rate rivaling that of the US dollar due to massive overproduction. The sad truth is that the hobby has grown too much, too fast, and too out of control for the same reason that a drug addict keeps needing more and more of the drug to get high: we, the collectors, have built up a tolerance, and we are forever craving another nostril full.





Truth

## Steve "The Captain" Yzerman

By Frank Konofalski aka Alpinemedic



There is no easy way for me to begin this story, as it brings up many emotions. But, I'll try and do my best for I think it is a story that I need to tell.

When my son started playing hockey, he idolized StevieY. From his gloves to his stick they all had to be like the ones Yzerman used. For Christmas that year, I wanted something special for my son and as luck would have it I found it on eBay. There was an auction for a personalized photo of Yzerman with the cup and you could have it personalized in any way you liked. I won the auction and had it personalized to my son.

This started a great friendship with Derrick Luck who at the time was representing Yzerman in the sports memorabilia market. Lucky and I would talk hockey and how Yzerman was doing almost weekly. For my son's birthday the Fed-Ex man brought a brand new pair of Bower skates. When Scott opened up the box which customs had so thoughtfully opened up for him first, he was as excited as I ever seen a 14 year old. The first thing he showed me was that the right boot was autographed by Yzerman, but he also had the left boot autographed by Sundin and both players personalized the boots.

When I talked with Lucky the next day he said Steve wanted to do something special for his number one hockey fan in Alaska.

Then, things changed in the fall of 1996. My wife Julie was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. Our Yzerman card collection was put on hold and my son's competitive hockey ended and he played house hockey. Not once did he complain about not being able to play with the team. However every year, on Scott's birthday there was always something from Mr. Yzerman. If it wasn't an autographed puck, then it was one of his stick blades personalized to Scott. We as a family fought a 4 year battle with the disease, and it finally won. On July 9, 2000 my wife Julie lost her battle with cancer.

One of the calls I made was to Lucky to inform him of her death. Lucky took her death as hard as anyone I know, and we never to this day have met face to face. On the day of the funeral we had just come from the cemetery and walked in the front door. The phone started to ring and I was not going to answer it. My brother answered the phone and his mouth kind of fell open and he handed me the phone and said you need to take this call. I took the phone and the voice on the other end of the line was very familiar. I heard it a thousand times on TV and radio doing interviews. Yes it was Steve Yzerman and he offered me his condolences and then he asked if he could speak with Scott, I handed the phone to Scott and he and Yzerman talked for over 30 minutes. To this day I have no idea what the conversation was about. I only know that it helped my son tremendously in dealing with his grief. To this day I believe the hand of Providence had a role in that phone call.

So now, I am remarried to a wonderful wife who allows me my Yzerman collection without a word of complaint. Scott is now a network engineer, and Steve Yzerman will always be "The Captain" and a class act. However this story would never have taken place if it wasn't for two men who wanted to make a difference, Derrick Luck and Steve Yzerman.





## Book Value Based on Skills?

By Kevin Lee aka gosens151911

Pricing guide's book values (BV) for hockey player are usually based on two things; their popularity, and their play on the ice. Now, some people probably believe that book values should be based more on their play on the ice. It's well known that when referring to their performance, we're usually referring to the amounts of points they can accumulate. This article will look at the top 2005-06 and 2006-07 rookie forwards (min \$15 BV for Upper Deck Young Guns), who all have around a minimum of two seasons under their belt and look at what they'd be worth if book value was based on their play. It will also serve to see if Beckett's pricing is consistent.

First off, let's see each player's point per game average as of December 4, 2008. Their cards' book value for several unnumbered rookie are also included in the table below.

Player	BV UD Young Guns	BV Ultra RC	BV Victory	PPG
Sidney Crosby	\$350	\$150	\$30	1.39
Alexander Ovechkin	\$150	\$100	\$20	1.29
Evgeni Malkin	\$100	\$50	\$20	1.25
Paul Stastny	\$40	\$25	\$8	0.98
Anze Kopitar	\$30	\$20	\$3	0.98
Ryan Getzlaf	\$15	\$12	\$2.50	0.87
Thomas Vanek	\$15	\$12	\$3	0.81
Mike Richards	\$15	\$12	\$2.50	0.71
Zach Parise	\$15	\$10	\$2	0.69
Alex Radulov	\$25	\$12	\$3	0.66
Wojtek Wolski	\$12	\$10	\$2.50	0.64
Corey Perry	\$12	\$10	\$2.50	0.63
Drew Stafford	\$12	N/A	\$3	0.58
R.J. Umberger	\$15	N/A	\$1.50	0.52
Phil Kessel	\$25	\$12	\$4	0.49
Jordan Staal	\$60	\$30	\$6	0.44
Guillaume Latendresse	\$20	\$12	\$4	0.37

For the top five players in PPG, their BV seems suitable for what they produce. Apparently, producing over a point per game gets your Young Gun rookie card in the triple digits. However, two of the higher BV players are at the bottom of the list for PPG: Staal and Latendresse. Are the BVs of those two players too high? That's where price guides may be showing their flaws, as from what I know, they aren't highly collected players around SCF...

Now, let's see how much BV each player is getting for each point per game earned.

Player	BV/PPG Upper Deck YG	BV/PPG Ultra	BV/PPG Victory
Sidney Crosby	\$251.80	\$107.91	\$21.58
Alexander Ovechkin	\$116.28	\$77.52	\$15.50
Evgeni Malkin	\$80	\$40	\$9.60
Paul Stastny	\$40.82	\$25.51	\$8.16
Anze Kopitar	\$37.88	\$22.73	\$3.41
Ryan Getzlaf	\$17.24	\$13.79	\$2.87
Thomas Vanek	\$18.52	\$14.81	\$3.70
Mike Richards	\$21.13	\$16.90	\$3.52
Zach Parise	\$21.74	\$14.49	\$2.90
Alex Radulov	\$37.88	\$18.18	\$4.55
Wojtek Wolski	\$18.75	\$15.63	\$3.91
Corey Perry	\$19.05	\$15.87	\$3.97
Drew Stafford	\$20.69	N/A	\$5.17
R.J. Umberger	\$28.85	N/A	\$2.88
Phil Kessel	\$51.02	\$24.49	\$8.16
Jordan Staal	\$136.36	\$68	\$13.64
Guillaume Latendresse	\$54.05	\$32.43	\$10.81

The players with the top few prices on this list should deserve the high book value per point because they are usually consistently scoring. Obviously, the players with the lowest prices on this list (Getzlaf and Richards) should also be seeing their BV rise as their skills surpasses the BV they currently receive. Mike Richards, as some people know, is becoming much more popular on eBay, so his BV should definitely increase, but will the price guides realize that? Additionally, we see that Staal's BV is ridiculously high for his play. His BV per point for Upper Deck is higher than Malkin and Ovechkin, how is that possible? Additionally, Latendresse is right up there with the high scoring players! Are price guides just raising the BV of the bigger name players to ensure there's a crop of higher BV rookies each year? It makes you wonder about hockey book value pricing, when statistics apparently don't count for much.



## A Look at the True Value of your Box Breaks

By Linda Mankefors aka Razzamaztaz

While card manufacturers step away from card design or set building, and instead concentrate on "big hits", it is hard not to concentrate on the real value of the cards you get out of a box.

Five to eight years ago, at a time when I bought boxes for sheer joy and the chance to start/finish a set, a box contained a whole lot of interesting base cards or exciting inserts to get your hands on. Rare inserts, autographs or game used that weren't of any interest ended up being sold, and thus I got all or almost all my money back so I could buy a new box.

That's how it should be, buy a box, get a few items for your pc or set, sell/trade the rest so you can either buy a new box or trade for more pc/set cards. That's the proper and fun way to buy and break boxes. Now and then, you might get a case hit; jump up and down in joy because it means you can afford to buy a monster card, or a whole case of boxes.

But it isn't. Today in many cases, getting a case hit means you maybe, I repeat, \*maybe\* get the money you've spent for the box back. You need a little more luck than that, you have to hit the right player too, a case hit with Eric Staal or Lidstrom, no matter how truly great stars they are, won't get you much.

What does it mean buying a box today? It's a gamble. And it's always fun and always will be. If you got plenty of budget you really have no problem with it, you buy your boxes or even a case, get plenty of hits, and have a good time. You likely lose a lot of money on it (meaning the sale value of the cards you get won't be even close to what you pay for the boxes), but since your budget is so big you don't even think about it.

So what does it mean for collectors whose budget is tight? Again it's a gamble and it's always fun. But boy does it sting. Boxes today burst with hits of three or four game used, maybe an autograph on top of that. Or even a game used/autograph per pack. The big problem is it doesn't mean anything in the current hobby. When the common game used/autograph ends up at \$5 book value (BV), and in reality is hard to sell for 99 cents, or trade for that matter (be honest now, how many of you manage to trade away your BV \$5 Recchi jersey cards?), it's a sad affair. Especially if luck isn't with you and you basically get the average break.

Note that I won't count any book values in this article. (Raise up your hand, anyone who has lately traded a Carey Price patch against a Heatley patch even if BV is the same? Thought not). The words "sale value" are becoming increasingly used in trading situations, making trading messier than usual, but then when Beckett decided to upgrade their Online Price Guide daily it made Beckett value comparisons pretty messy too.

Take your pick, but whether admitted or not the majority compares eBay sale values. Thus it's not only in resale terms that it's important to find out what a box gets you, it's also important in trading terms. Counting by BV, it's easy to get full value and more, as each base card is worth something according to the guides. We all know better.

The average break means you get the average rookies, game used and autos. Even in a product like Trilogy or SP Game Used, two products that should be fantastic to break, the average break will get you a bunch of game used cards, rookies and autos that together, if all of them were sold, would get you what exactly?

Let's take a look at it. Here's a bit of shocker for you, I've searched through in different forum archives around 20 box breaks of each of these products:

07-08 Trilogy –(retail price approximately \$160)

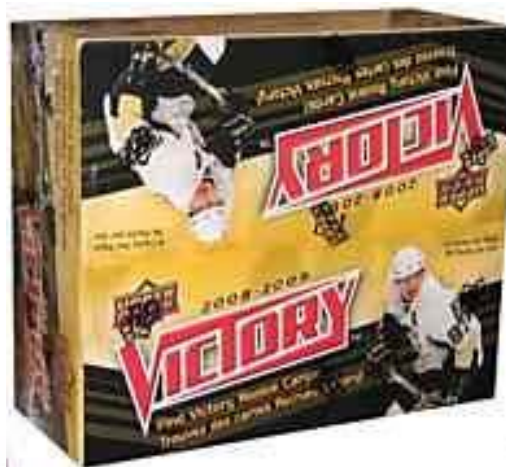
07-08 SP Game Used –(retail price approximately \$180)

07-08 SP Authentic –(retail price approximately \$80)

08-09 O-Pee-Chee (OPC) –(retail price approximately \$50)

07-08 Fleer Ultra –(retail price approximately \$35)

08-09 Victory –(retail price approximately \$20)



20 random box breaks are in no way a scientific research, but they could be a pointer on how much true resale value there is in these products. Remember that choosing 20 boxes is to each and every brands advantage as one or two case hits are bound to be found. The normal average box break may yield even less than what is concluded here.



## RANDOM RANT : HEAD TO HEAD

The first three being regarded as thrilling high-end products, the last three being low-end products which most people find unexciting.

Now to the numbers. If the 20 Trilogy box breaks were to be sold on eBay the total sale price would be \$1198, a 40% payback of the price originally paid for the boxes (\$3000). (It should be noted one box contained a Sidney Crosby Personal Script auto which pushed up the percentage a whole 10 %.)

40% is not acceptable, disregard Crosby and we get a measly 30%. Quite a surprise, how can it go wrong with 3 rookies, 3 autos and 3 game used in one box? We can flip the view of angle and also say you have to buy 20 Trilogy boxes to get enough stuff to trade for a Carey Price rookie. Only problem is you could have bought three if you hadn't bought boxes.

The 20 SP Game Used box breaks would bring in \$1490 (noted that 3 letter marks and a Carey Price RC were pulled, which could be considered normal), a 41% payback of the price paid for the boxes (\$3600).

41% on normal pulls is better than Trilogy, but still a disgrace on a product that brags about its game used galore and hot hits.

The 20 SPA box breaks would sell for \$940 which gets back 58% of the money originally invested (\$1600). (It should be noted this box brand was more hit and miss than the other mentioned, 15 of the boxes only yielded a 30% payback even while including a few patch hits, while the other five contained Price, Kane, Toews rookies, an Ovechkin rookie review and Perron auto patch)

58% is clearly better, and state a pattern that will soon appear.

The 20 boxes of OPC would generate \$720, 72% of the buying price (\$1000).

No spectacular cards were pulled so it's safe to say this is a statistically correct number.

The 20 boxes of Ultra gathered \$240, 30% of the investment (\$800). Considerably below average pulls.

A poor result, perhaps there were pulls below average, or it's just a poor product with very low market interest.

The 20 boxes of Victory would sell for \$302 which is 75% of the money initially paid (\$400). (It should be noted that an Ericsson RC Black parallel was pulled which beats the odds).

Even without the Ericsson card, the payback is clearly better, but it also demands you sell each and every base card and insert which is quite some work. Good luck trading any of these cards unless they're gold or black parallels.

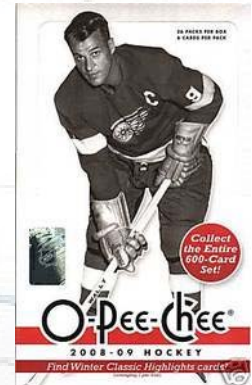
Sensing a pattern that low-end cheap boxes mean more value for money, but not having enough statistics for it, I decided to look further. A further look on a few dozen of box breaks of 07/08 OPC, Upper Deck Mini jersey, UD MVP, Heroes & Prospect and O Canada, reveals that the payback lands between 50-80%.

For the average collector with a low monthly budget, there's no question on what kind of box to buy. Get a low-end brand and odds are you will at least get half of your money back, and keep a few of the base or insert cards, thus getting ahead with your collecting. Some of the brands have extra attention from set collectors so there's room for trading as well. It is still not acceptable with a 50-80% payback, but it should be noted some of the cheap boxes reached 100% without any huge pulls.

As for the medium to high-end boxes this from our investigation can be said in their favor. Choosing 20 boxes, it's granted you get a few big hits. But even with them included the percentage payback was far less. Keep in mind a considerable amount of the expensive boxes only got a poor 15-25%, despite being considered average pulls. If you're buying these boxes, go for a case, at least you get something nice then. One or single boxes of these are often dreadful value wise.

I've avoided the ultra high-end brands. Frankly, when one single pack consisting of 2-5 cards sets you back in 3 digits numbers, it's not meant for normal working people. It would surprise me to see a higher payback on these, but on the other hand my personal experience of the few packs (ITG Ultimate, OPC Premier and such) I've bought is indeed that you do get a quite high payback. At least you always get very fancy and well made cards in thick cardboard.

So what's my advice and conclusion? Either buy really cheap or save up for something super high-end. The normal medium or high-end brands like SP Game Used, Spx/Artifacts/Upper Deck etc (yes I've just taken a look at them too with similar results, the more expensive receiving the worse results), will most likely disappoint you and have you pull your hair out. Then you have to wait another 3 months until you afford something else, and you sit with cards hardly anyone wants to trade for. Be smart, use the ultra cheap alternative, or go for those ultra luxury immortal cards. Don't buy into the propaganda of game used/auto/rookie galore.





## A Priceless Hobby

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

Recently, one of my fellow SCF writers produced an article titled "[A Look at the True Value of your Box Breaks](#)". While she took the time to research her article and to bring some solid facts to the table, I would like to express a different view. Of course, I can't argue with the figures she provided. Truth be told, chances are that when you buy a box of cards, the total value of the hits pulled will not add up to your investment. However, is this really important?



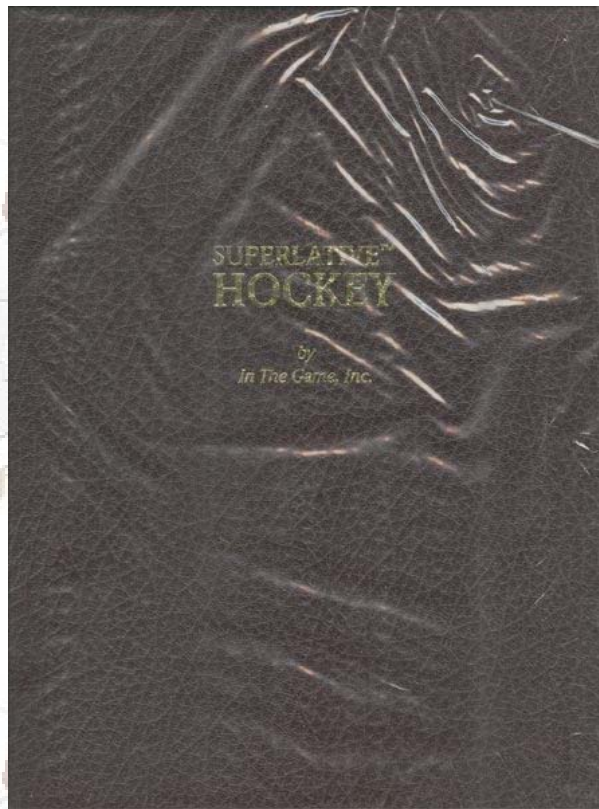
Let me explain myself... You, me and everyone on Sportscardforum are collecting something, be it card, memorabilia or figurines to name a few. Now, why are most of us doing this? Is it because we have to, do we have some sort of obligation? No...that can't be it...Is it because it's our job? No. The 40 hours a week I spend in central London prove that collecting definitely isn't my job...Is it because we do not have anything better to do? No, between video games, movies, gigs, books and sports events I can think of hundreds of other things I could be doing right now...So...then I suppose we do it, we collect, simply because it's our hobby of choice.

By definition, a hobby is: "An activity or interest pursued outside one's regular occupation and engaged in primarily for pleasure". Keeping this in mind, if you truly collect as a hobby, should you expect to make your money back when you buy a box to bust? Let me ask you this, say your hobby is going out for dinner and having a few drinks with friends. How much will that set you back? Well, here in the UK a standard meal in say TGI Friday's will cost you about £12.99 for your main and if you have a sweet tooth and decide to get a desert (Apple Waffle Crunch uummmm) it will be another £5.99. Then of course you need a few drinks, I know that I never leave TGI without having had at least two cocktails. So for argument's sake lets say two Woo Woos (large ones not the tiny ones), that's another £16.00. Overall, my evening has just cost me £34.98, in American dollars that's 51 big ones. So, if I sacrifice 2 of those evenings I can get one hobby box....ummmm not bad. No offense to my friends either, but if I go for the box rather than the dinners, well, I will have something left after I actually bust the box. On the other hand, hunger will soon catch up with me after the nice dinner. In both cases, I will have had a great time but only in one situation will I have something to show for it. Unless of course you are one of those people who carry your digital camera everywhere and will have pictures of the evening for keeps. Before you call me an antisocial weirdo, yes I still see my friends and socialize but I much prefer to invite them over and have a home cooked meal and drinks which while less glamorous will be just as nice.

As for making your money back, well, if collecting is truly a hobby for you, you shouldn't feel the need to make your money back. After all, a hobby is something you do for pleasure, not profit. If your hobby was to go to the cinema or go see a NHL match, would you expect to make your money back somehow? You probably wouldn't...Of course, card collecting is a bit of a different animal, and each card has a book value! It must mean that the aim is to make money! Or is it? Be honest here, is money such a big issue for you when you are collecting? It's not for me...

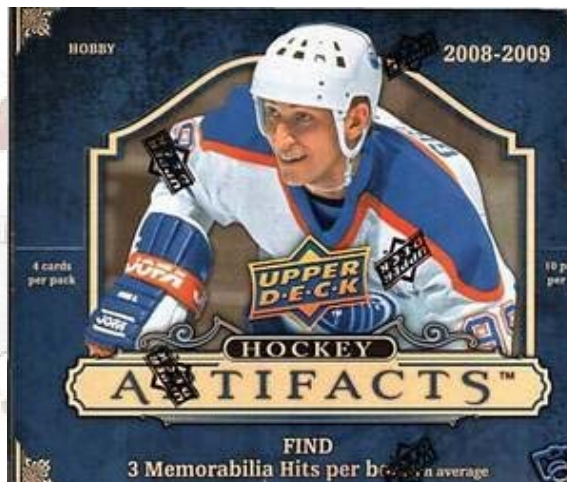
I spend a fair amount of money on cards every year and yes it is safe to say that I would probably have more cards for my personal collection if I only bought singles but where is the fun in that? Where is the chase? Where is the gamble? Where is the interaction? When I buy a single card, yes I look forward to getting it but the point is I know exactly what is coming. However, when a full box is making its way to me well, I wonder if I'll get a huge pull, what kind of trade bait it will yield... Most importantly though, when it gets here and I bust the packs one by one I really enjoy myself for a couple of hours. Inevitably, some breaks will be better than others; you win some and you lose some as they say.

# RANDOM RANT : HEAD TO HEAD



As for pulling things you can't manage to trade, well this is part of the gamble. One way or another there is always something to do with unwanted/untradable cards. For instance, On Saturday, I donated a box of 300 base cards to a charity shop on Upminster's main street. You may think this is England you're talking about, no one will want them...you would be wrong. Three days later, the box had been sold. I can't be sure but I like to think that it was bought by a little boy I often see playing soccer over at the park while wearing his favorite team colours...No not Manchester United or Chelsea, this boy wears his Devils number 30 jersey every time he plays soccer and yes he is a goaltender or a keeper as they call them here. I think I may strike up a conversation with him one of these days and ask him if he wants my Brodeur base duplicates.

To sum up, I'm not bothered about not making my money back because I'm in this hobby for the fun of it and if I didn't spend the money on this, I would spend it on something else and not expect a monetary return in any case. I'm of the view that the obsession with book value has reached ridiculous heights and that people need to remember what the hobby is all about; fun. We're not investment bankers, we're collectors... In my eyes at least...





# FANTASY STANDINGS

Another month, another contest update! Here are the standings in our various pools and leagues!

First off, the SCF regular season pool sponsored by [NSCC](#)

## 2008/09 Regular Season

Through games of Dec 30 (Pool runs Oct 4 to Apr 30) – <http://www.officepools.com>

Rank	Team	Day	Week	Month	Total	Rank	Team	Day	Week	Month	Total	
1st	Scottkor20	4	7	190	540		24th	Greek22hockey	1	2	126	439
2nd	Allonblack	2	4	191	502		25th	Turd_ferguson	3	4	146	437
3rd	Rogulon	4	6	204	500		26th	Cssports	3	6	152	435
3rd	Tannies	3	6	190	500		27th	Gladdyontherise	3	6	143	432
5th	Doniceage	1	4	200	490		28th	Fritzer213	3	5	128	431
6th	Matssundin13...	3	5	191	485		29th	Canucksfan1812	2	5	161	429
7th	Digitalmonkey	3	5	198	481		29th	Ja68gfan	5	6	175	429
8th	Pheabs888	2	5	182	479		29th	Tysonx	4	4	153	429
8th	Wolf1bh	1	3	182	479		32nd	Care4cards	7	10	148	427
10th	Gretzky99	1	2	178	474		33rd	Nathan7070	2	4	130	421
10th	Patrickadams26	4	6	179	474		34th	Nabby12	1	4	165	418
12th	Darrens18	4	6	179	468		34th	Parco10	4	8	153	418
13th	Untouch4bl3	3	6	174	467		36th	Fitchjrl	5	8	139	417
14th	Tennisdevils	5	7	138	466		37th	Newf662001	4	7	143	415
15th	Lapierrecollect	2	5	177	464		38th	Andrewconnors9	4	6	125	413
16th	Crackapack	4	4	168	463		39th	Leandre	5	7	139	411
16th	Pantera04	2	6	180	463		40th	Enderwigin69	4	4	118	402
18th	Koolkid19	3	6	163	456		41st	Semike001	2	5	101	399
19th	Nbcollector	4	7	167	454		42nd	Sk74	4	8	128	396
20th	Malkinsearcher	3	8	153	453		43rd	Crater_satori	6	8	124	389
21st	Quiet-things	1	3	173	451		44th	Wingsfan-13	4	4	115	383
22nd	Tobiasstephan	2	3	182	445		45th	Leafsin09	2	4	120	375
23rd	Hossal8sens	2	2	147	441		46th	Cam98	1	2	131	365

The SCF Fantasy Basketball league is going strong! There haven't been any trades made this month, but lots of players have been dropped and picked up on the free agent market.

The current standings, as of December 22nd are:

NBAFAN123 – 140  
 kobe080 - 127.5  
 Anchorage Akitas - 125.5  
 Court Vision - 123.5  
 D-III - 112.5  
 garnett\_21 - 111.5

demonpower55 - 106.5  
 Caf. Crusaders - 102.5  
 Gimme Some MO! - 102  
 gladdyontherise - 91  
 Texas Hellbillies - 89  
 Strange Brews - 81.5

ChillyDoggy - 79.5  
 Molly's Ballers - 78  
 trevorpl21 - 71.5  
 ello's team - 60.5  
 the\_future - 56.5  
 Michigan Man – 51



# FANTASY STANDINGS

In the draft fantasy league, 17 members are battling it out against the hockey team for a box provided by the good folks at cardsbythebox.com. The league is divided in four divisions and here are the standings

## ADAMS

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	GB
<a href="#">Team gosens151911</a> – gosens151911	52	46	22	.525	--
<a href="#">Team Swain</a> – TysonX540	45	58	29	.451	9.5
<a href="#">Team Collins</a> – Leafsfan1967	31	64	25	.363	19.5
<a href="#">Team Farina</a> – Justinpogge4life	32	66	22	.358	20

## NORRIS

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	GB
<a href="#">Houston Crashers</a> - supercardlover	66	50	28	.556	--
<a href="#">Team Connors</a> – andrewconnors9	50	53	29	.489	9.5
<a href="#">Team Mateya</a> - EricMateya	44	54	22	.458	13
<a href="#">Montreal Jaywalkers</a> – atp0721	46	64	22	.432	17

## PATRICK

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	GB
<a href="#">Syracuse Victory</a> – flitchjr1	61	39	20	.592	--
<a href="#">Toronto Tavares</a> – Matssundinrocks13	63	45	24	.568	2
<a href="#">Team Sokol</a> – jskol1626	56	48	28	.530	7
<a href="#">Team Weagle</a> – ja68grfan	56	56	20	.500	11
<a href="#">Team Gagne</a> – darryl87	57	59	16	.492	12

## SMYTHE

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	GB
<a href="#">team allonblack</a> - Allonblack	75	39	18	.636	--
<a href="#">SCF Hockey Staff</a>	76	47	21	.601	3.5
<a href="#">Team stead</a> – Newf662001	56	37	27	.579	8.5
<a href="#">Vegas 420</a> – Jayvegas420	55	60	29	.483	20.5
<a href="#">Team Andrews</a> - Rockford	33	69	18	.350	36



# STEALS OF THE MONTH

As you may have noticed, each week, the hockey, basketball, football and baseball teams are running a "Steal of the Week" contest. Taking part is simple; all you have to do is post your steal of the week in the appropriate thread. 50 CCs are up for grabs each week for each sport. Here are some of the recent winners!

Member: mrnyceguy168  
Card(s): 2007-08 UD Black Rudy Gay Letter Patch AUTO #d 16/22  
Ending Price: \$8.50  
Shipping: \$3.50



Member: jiggidy  
Card(s): 2008-09 Fleer Hot Prospects Bob Lanier Road to Springfield AUTO #d 2/5  
Ending Price: \$15.50  
Shipping: \$3.00



Member: Flemingc04  
Card: 2008-2009 UD Masterpieces Canvas Clippings Red Phil Esposito /10  
Ending Price: \$0.99  
Shipping: \$3.00



Member: CroMalk  
Card: 2007-2008 Sweet Shot Jordan Staal Stick Auto  
Ending Price: \$16.50  
Shipping: \$3.50



Member: j2short812000  
Cards: 08 SPX auto rookie Jersey lot (Steve Slaton, Rashard Mendnehall, Early Doucet, and Brian Brohm)  
Ending Price: \$49.00  
Shipping Price: \$2.00



Member: pgh1969-79  
Card: 08 Leaf Limited Rashard Mendenhall jersey auto #/15  
Ending Price: \$19.99  
Shipping Price: \$4.50



Good luck to all of those who will enter in the upcoming month!

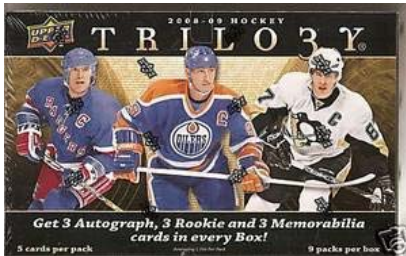
# CardsByTheBox.com

**For all of your hobby boxes needs!**

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

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

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



- Six Jersey inserts compose the memorabilia hits:
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Star Swatches bring the best players to life on awesome signed jersey cards!
- Autographs, rookies and memorabilia cards  
3 of each per box - on average!
- Two-sided Tri-Color Tandems and Trilogy Rivals Jersey cards combine for 3 per case on avg.!
- Young Star and Superstar Scripts give collectors great autographs to chase!

### 2008-2009 Upper Deck SPx Hockey \$109.99 (Out January 14<sup>th</sup>)



- 2 Rookie Jersey Cards per box on average, 1 will be autographed (average)
- 1 Winning Combo and 1 Winning Materials per box on average
- Find fabulous flashback fabrics
- Memorable moment perimeter die-cuts hit twice per case!

### 2008 Playoff Contenders Football \$124.99



- 4 Autographs per box
- And 6 others of the following:
  - Parallels
  - Rookie of the Year Contenders
  - Round #s
  - Draft Class
  - Rookie Roll Call

### 2008 SP Authentic Football \$104.99



- One (1) Autographed Memorabilia card in every box, on average!
- Including an unprecedented eight (8) Rookie Autographed Patch Cards in EVERY case, on average!
- Two (2) additional Autographs in every box, on average!
- Look for Multi-signed cards falling two (2) per case, on average
- Look for 1-of-1 Autographed Rookie Logo Patches!
- All autographs are signed on the card!



# Sports Card Forum



The  
Ultimate  
In Sports Card  
Trading



[www.sportscardforum.com](http://www.sportscardforum.com)

## IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- THE VERDICT ON UPPER DECK TRILOGY
- UPDATE ON THE STOREFRONTS AND AUCTIONS PROJECTS
- MORE INFORMATION ON THE CENTENNIAL RELEASES

