

C collectors Corner



Inside

*Find out how Hockey Helps
the holiday spirit*

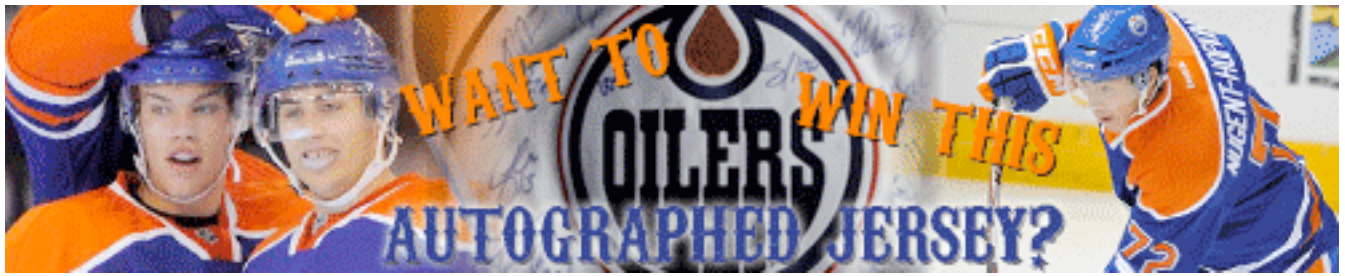


**HOCKEY
HELPS**.COM

*Merry
Christmas*
from

december 2012

SPORTSCARDFORUM.COM



DON'T FORGET TO ENTER THE JAUNT FOR THE JERSEY!!!

A TEAM AUTOGRAPHED OILERS JERSEY IS UP FOR GRABS THANKS TO RAMJAK SPORTS!



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Tis the Season to Be Jolly
By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

Once again the season of joy is upon us! This is the season for giving but this year, something is casting a huge shadow over the season of giving; the greed of both the players and the owners in the oh so publicized NHL lockout. So for this month's edition, I figured that we could remind ourselves that not everything is greed in professional sports. Our featured article is a piece from Richard McAdam who tells us about a new charity initiative he is very enthusiastic about.

You will also note that our team contacts in racing and basketball will tell us a little bit about charitable initiative in their respective sports. Of course, it wouldn't be Christmas if we didn't discuss what we'd like to get under the Christmas tree so that will be covered too. As per usual, you will also find a few product reviews written by Tony Joyce. You will also find the winning article from our latest writing contest which will take you down memory lane.

From all of us here at Sportscardforum.com, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year. We hope that Santa will be kind to you and bring you plenty of hobby related goodies and if you're too old for Santa well, let's hope your family does not think that the hobby is for kids (been there done that way too many times). We also hope that you will have a beautiful holiday season and spend plenty of time with your loved ones, friends and family. Be sure to take some time to check the forum however as it is always buzzing with activity and Christmas breaks!

We hope you enjoy this issue and we'll be back with a new one on February 4, 2013. Yup, we need to enjoy the Holidays too so we'll have a well deserved break. In the meantime, keep your eyes peeled for the next writing contest and make sure you enter it!





Hockey Helps

by Richard McAdam aka RGM81



In the excellent biography about legendary Montreal Canadiens goaltender Patrick Roy, *Winning: Nothing Else*, there is a passage written about hockey players and the impact that they can have on the lives of fans and even people who are not fans of the game. It reads: “He belonged to the select, incredibly privileged circle that can make a person’s day with a simple gesture, wink, handshake or autograph on a piece of paper.” Hockey players are the most selfless, giving, and inviting people in all of sports. They owe much of their success to hard work and natural skill, but they are equally indebted to the generosity and support of their fans, their friends, and their families. As such many of them eagerly give back to the fans, to the community, and to charitable ventures.

It is that spirit of goodwill and generosity that led to the creation of Hockey Helps. This is a project that has been under construction for several months under the leadership of Wessley Perisa, who has been involved in the sports memorabilia business for many years. SCF readers will recall that Perisa has been an active partner of SCF for the past couple years, sponsoring season-long contests such as The Race For The Price and The Ultimate Rivalry. They will also recall him as being the architect of a little birthday party for me in 2011 that saw several members of the Montreal Canadiens in attendance. We have remained in contact since that event, and when he was looking for people that could help him launch this new venture, I was greatly honoured when he contacted me to see if I would be interested.

The guiding principle behind this venture has been to find a dynamic and exciting way to provide fundraising assistance to minor hockey associations, schools, community groups, charitable organizations—basically to cast as wide a net as possible—that gives them all the tools they need to reach their goals and be successful. The process has seen the scope and scale grow considerably since we first started talking about Hockey Helps, a name that was chosen because of what it represents and the message the we bring to people, as encapsulated in that quote about the fame of Patrick Roy and how his gestures towards his fans could mean so much to them.

The months of hard work and preparation have not been adversely affected by the ongoing labour dispute the NHL and the NHLPA. We believe that regardless of how people feel about the lockout, they will still support a initiative that provides assistance to a worthy cause. Hockey fans will still be excited to receive an autographed item of a player from their favourite NHL team. They will still buy merchandise as gifts for the holidays, birthdays, or special events. Once NHL hockey returns we hope to be able to launch a massive initiative with the active participation of a great number of players from around the league. In the meantime, our gift certificate program is and will remain the driving force for Hockey Helps, and we have a significant event ongoing right now which I will discuss as well.

The gift certificate program that we have developed is intended to make fundraising as easy as possible for the initiative that we sponsor. We provide them with the materials and the platform, and we work actively with them through our website and social media network to promote and assist them every step of the way. Hockey Helps knows that minor



hockey associations, schools, and community groups are always looking to raise funds for special events like tournaments, field trips, new computers, improved program delivery, and more. There are several long-running “tried and true” programs out there: book drives, chocolate bar sales, and the like give supporters a simple reward for a base donation. What Hockey Helps does it take that initiative concept to the next level. In exchange for their financial support, Hockey Helps provides people with three premium incentives: a gift certificate to the online store, entry into the pool for a daily prize giveaway, and an authentic autographed collectible of an NHL star. The program we have developed takes fundraising to new heights to provide immediate and highly collectible benefits to people that choose to give their hard-earned dollars to our sponsored initiatives.

**31 MASKS, 31 CHARITIES,
31 GREAT AUCTIONS**

HOCKEY HELPS ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH CAREY PRICE, UBISOFT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR 31 CHARITIES.

ENTER THE AUCTION!



Not only do we provide immediate value in the form of the gift certificate, where people can get a discount on autographed memorabilia from the Hockey Helps Store, and the instant impact of opening up their envelope to reveal a beautifully-designed autograph collectible that they can attach to anything from their favourite poster to their iPhone to their laptop, but the benefit of their contribution can be felt weeks or months later. With the Hockey Helps Daily Prize

Giveaway, we also give choice in the type of value that they can receive when they choose to support a Hockey Helps initiative. When supporters fill out their gift certificate’s information section, they get to indicate their favourite NHL team and their preference of a current player or retired legend. Imagine purchasing a package in January and then getting an email in June saying that you’re also going to receive an autographed puck from a Detroit Red Wings legend. That’s the type of incentive program that others just can’t bring to the table.

While the gift certificate program is the primary vehicle for Hockey Helps, we will regularly team up with our player ambassadors and outside organizations for some really spectacular collaborations. The first such program was a major promotion with Ubisoft Canada and Carey Price based on the video game *Assassin’s Creed III*. For two weeks on the Ubisoft website, a contest ran in which fans could select one of three specially designed goalie masks – one lucky fan received a replica of that mask, a signed jersey, and a copy of the game. The winning design has been re-created by famed mask artist David Gunnarsson (mask designer for Henrik Lundqvist, Price, and others) on 31 masks that are being auctioned off on the Hockey Helps website to benefit 31 charities across

Canada. Each of the masks has been signed and numbered by Price, and the winners of each auction will be invited to a special meet and greet event in Montreal in January 2013 to meet Price and receive their masks. The auctions are currently running, and interested fans can check them out at <http://auction.hockeyhelps.com> We are beyond excited to be



... SUPPORTING YOUR MINOR LEAGUE HOCKEY TEAMS & ASSOCIATIONS



teaming with Price for such an initiative, and his participation will make a huge difference for those 31 charities and the thousands of people that rely on them for support.

The entire Hockey Helps team has a grand vision for this project, one that will put us at the forefront of fundraising support endeavours. With the extensive network of contacts that Hockey Helps has throughout the

NHL, the AHL, junior and minor hockey, and the support of hockey fans everywhere, we believe that we can reach our initial target of helping raise one million dollars for worthwhile causes, charities, minor hockey associations, schools, and other organizations. And that's just the beginning. If you are involved with any type of organization that needs to raise funds, we are interested in hearing from you! Hockey Helps can tailor an initiative that meets your needs and you will have our full support every step of the process. You can learn more about Hockey Helps through our website: <http://www.hockeyhelps.com> If you wish to keep in touch with our latest initiatives, news, and special announcements, you can check us out on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/HockeyHelps> (be sure to Like us!) and give us a follow on Twitter as well @HockeyHelpsCom

If any SCF member would like to contact me to see how Hockey Helps can assist, please send me a PM on the site or an email to mcadam@hockeyhelps.com I look forward to hearing from you!





Around The Rink
by RGM81 aka Richard McAdam

As the NHL lockout continues into December with no resolution seemingly in sight, and as fan anger rises, what changes are fans making to their usual routine? It is strange to think that we should be two months into the 2012-13 NHL season, enjoying watching our favourite team play 2-3 nights a week, and participating in all aspects of the game we love as fans and as collectors. Instead of Habs and Leafs fans enjoying a spirited Hockey Night in Canada tilt last Saturday night, they're speaking in unison hoping that whatever latest round of discussions between the NHL and the NHLPA can spark some legitimate negotiations towards a new collective bargaining agreement. Until that time comes, however, the damage to the game will continue and fans will seek alternative methods of entertainment.

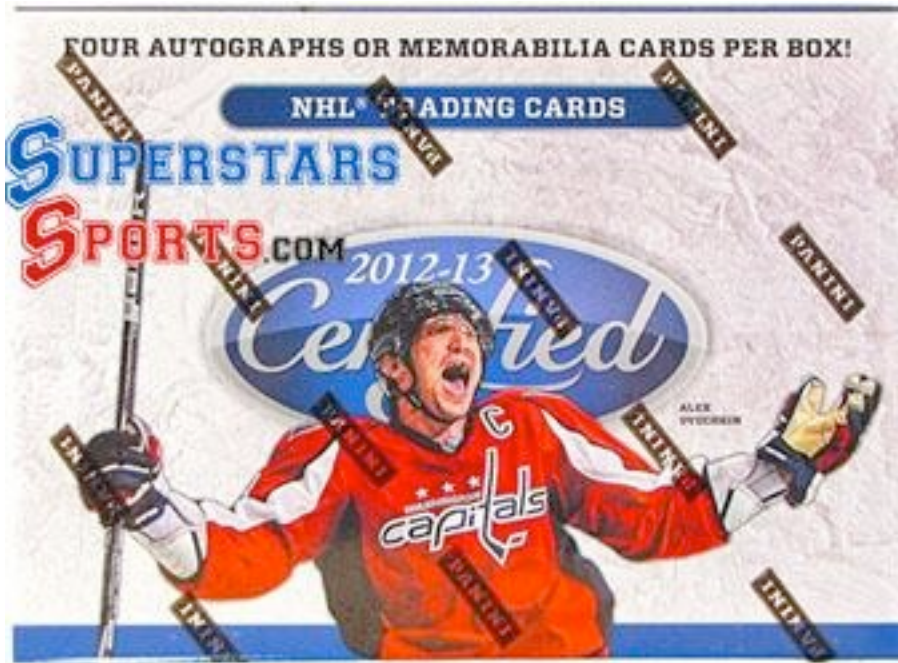


Now that I'm living in British Columbia again, I was genuinely excited for a number of events in the 2012-13 season. The first major event on my hockey calendar was November 3rd, when the Montreal Canadiens were scheduled to come to Vancouver to take on the Canucks. I haven't been to a Canucks game since January 2003, so I was looking forward to that as well as of course seeing Habs hometown heroes Carey Price and Josh Gorges. Obviously that game was only played on millions of Xboxes, Playstation IIIs, and Wiis around the world. There likely would be a couple other games I wouldn't mind undertaking the 4-hour drive to see. Alas, all by the wayside.

With no NHL hockey, I, like many fans, am turning to watching CHL games as often as possible. I've already been to four Kelowna Rockets home games with various friends and family members. The team has been fantastic at home, and are currently in the midst of a 10-game win streak at Prospera Place. The crowds are increasing with each night—I was genuinely surprised to see so many empty seats; as recently as two years ago there was a long wait list to get season tickets—and people are very much enjoying the games. It doesn't entirely fill the void but there have been some great glimpses into the future of hockey. I've seen Morgan Reilly of the Moose Jaw Warriors, Tim Bozon of the Kamloops Blazers, and other future NHL stars. I just hope that they have an NHL to join sooner rather than later.



The hobby is also feeling the effects of the lockout. With no NHL games played, the young guns of the 2012 draft class remain playing for their junior teams and thus cannot have rookie cards produced. There will be no Upper Deck or Panini cards featuring Nail Yakupov, Alex Galchenyuk, or Morgan Reilly until the lockout is resolved and these guys step onto the ice of an NHL rink. Sales of 2012-13 products are thus lower than in recent years. There is still value to be



found in Upper Deck Series 1 or Certified, but it's largely coming from veteran player cards with low print runs. Indeed, many fans are taking a pass on Certified, as many collectors have reported troubles finding certain cards of their favourite players. This product has always been popular with fans, but with its price tag and little promise of a high-end rookie things are different this year. One can also chalk this up to the high number of products that have been released in the past three months, many of which have high-end price tags and better promise of guaranteed hits.

The card companies have been forced by the lockout to branch out from the norms and look for new ways to deliver hits in order to make products enticing. Indeed, the

autograph checklist for UD1's Signature Sensations boasts more top-end names than in recent years. One of the shop owners here in Kelowna reports that he broke five cases of the product and only pulled one of the Clear Cut Foundations acetate cards that are #d /25 – perhaps this is why I still can't find the Josh Gorges/P.K. Subban for my collection! If you can find them, the Goalie Pulls from Certified look very nice, especially the jersey versions. The challenge for the two licensees will be to add value to products such as Black Diamond and Limited so that collectors will be asking to get boxes of these cards under the Christmas tree later this month.

To date, In The Game has been able to provide “lockout proof” releases that haven't hurt their sales too badly. Forever Rivals was an early sell out due to the die-hard Canadiens and Leafs fans. Superlative III delivered a number of phenomenal hits of the stars of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. History of Hockey looks to do much of the same. This is where the lack of a license may come in handy for ITG. Collectors are clamouring for the 2012 draft class, and to this point only ITG is able to deliver the goods for those players.

Who knows how much longer the lockout will endure. We won't know until the NHL is back just how much damage has truly been done to its brand. The level of fan anger at the prospect of losing a second NHL season since 2004 is very high. Many are threatening to not come back. Even long-time fans are turning away from hockey to find other places to spend their money. When the NHL does come back, some of those fans will not be. Until it does, though, remember that the NHL does not equal all hockey. Go out and enjoy your CHL or AHL hometown club. Support minor hockey. Remember that the game itself will never go away.



Modest at the Toronto Fall Expo 2012
by Paul Panturescu aka ravens_creed

Another year, another Toronto Expo has come and gone. Living less than a half-hour's drive from the Mississauga Convention Center, the venue where the bi-annual event is held, and being the hockey card fanatic that I am, I would be a fool not to make my way to the fall and spring mega-shows that so many others are unable to attend. The opportunities to meet-and-greet some of the game's biggest stars, pick up those rare PC singles, crack wax at prices that Canadians rarely see during the rest of the year, and take advantage of the free giveaways and goodies provided by each of the major companies make the Toronto Expo a staple in my annual hockey card endeavors. Nevertheless, I ventured into this most recent Fall Expo with a much different agenda than in previous years. My primary focus was to meet a few people I had come to know through the hobby and through SCF, some for the first time, and others for the second or third. I hadn't set aside any funds for breaking wax, and in doing so, was prepared to sacrifice the opportunity to acquire any bonus goodies. I usually don't partake in the signings with any of the big name stars, HOFers, Legends, and other celebrities, but this year challenged me to buy my ticket for the first time ever, as two of my all-time favorite players would be at this year's show, Pavel Bure and Mats Sundin. With all of that to consider, I also couldn't resist the temptation to bring a small list of PC needs with me, in case I happened upon any of the harder-to-find ones. Still, I wasn't going to be equipped with the same generous bankroll that I had allowed myself in years past. This year's

Toronto Fall Expo was looking to be a different and more modest experience, with the hopes that it would, nonetheless, be an equally enjoyable one.



I arrived about ten minutes late for the prearranged noontime meet-up in the always-awesome ITG Fan Zone, with tuukkatie, scottkoz20, reoddai, flemingc04, 30ranfordfan, hossal8sens and gary991979, the latter two who I had the pleasure of meeting for the first time. My tardiness cost me the chance to catch-up with reoddai, who was on a tight schedule. I was mildly disappointed, as I felt that I owed him from the previous Toronto Expo, where I had falsely guided him to a beauty vintage memorabilia card of Habs legend Aurel Joliat. I had mixed the card up with a Howie Morenz I had also seen, and, naturally, I only re-found the Joliat card after reoddai had left. Rats! I was hoping to guide him to a Joliat card this year, but no dice. It will



have to wait for the next show.

After shaking a few hands and talking some hockey and hobby, we split off in our own directions with our own interests in mind. As we filed out of the ITG Zone, we walked past a guy who anyone who was at the show on the Saturday would probably remember as the most convincing Mats Sundin look-alike/impostor you could ever imagine. He had me fooled, and Mats was a hero of mine growing up! This similarity was uncanny, I tell you, just uncanny. It prompted me to give thought to buying a ticket to get my Mats Sundin jersey that I was wearing signed by the man himself. As I mentioned, I had never previously bought a ticket and lined up for the feature autograph sessions, but the temptation was strong this year. I had a tough time with the asking price, however, as it was going to cost me \$130 to meet Mats and have him sign my jersey with his new HOF inscription. \$130? That buys an awfully nice Sundin card, also. I couldn't make up my mind after being inspired to think about it by the Sundin impostor guy, so I continued on my way. Despite the limited funds that I had set aside for spending at this year's show, it was time to bust out my custom show-made want list and have a look at what was available. Of course, it was also always enjoyable to just browse and see what the various dealers had on display. A number of regulars were back for another show. The two American-based guys with the tons of wax at either end of the showroom were both back and in their regular spots. Dealers featuring jerseys, hats, posters, and other assorted random attire, memorabilia and collectibles were found throughout. Even the guy a bunch of us have secretly deemed the Ron Jeremy of the hockey card world was there with his usual messy, overflowing assorted piles of random low and mid-end jerseys, autos and inserts from the more recent years, and looking as disorganized and Ron Jeremy-like as ever. Unfortunately, also like previous years, most of my wants were nowhere to be found. There were, however, a number of positive differences that I observed as I took in my surroundings.

The level of aggression on the part of most of the sellers was significantly less than my last few trips to the Expo, and it contributed to a much more relaxing and enjoyable afternoon, I dare say. I have found, personally speaking, that in my previous Expo visits, dealers almost reeked of desperation to make a sale, and often, but not always, couldn't be bothered to chit-chat for the sake of good banter. That didn't seem to be the case this year, as I witnessed a much more laid-back and content demeanor on the part of most of the sellers, most of whom were happy to chat and smile and shake hands, even if a deal couldn't be reached. I also noticed that a lot more sellers were willing to consider and talk trades this year, which was also good to see, and was a stark difference from previous years, where most of the sellers I observed were less than open-minded to the prospects of talking trade.

There didn't seem to be any celebrity baseball players present this year, and the only pro wrestler guest was Kevin Nash, who was featured as a major signer on the Saturday only. During previous visits to the Expo, I was appalled to bear witness to former Toronto Blue Jays and San Diego Padre SS great Tony Fernandez sitting alone, by himself, twirling a pen, with nobody bothering to even stop and say hello, despite the fact that he wasn't charging a dime, all proceeds were voluntary and 100% of the proceeds went to his charitable foundation. It was sad, to be honest. In the same regard, former WWF/WWE great Virgil (Vincent) and Tatanka were setup in a small booth off to one side of the warehouse, and most people didn't even know they were there. Thankfully, I, and they, didn't have to endure the embarrassment for another year. No lonely washed-up wrestlers, and no former all-star MLB baseball players twirling pens this year. Apparently someone figured out that this was more of a hockey card show than a sports card and memorabilia show, as it is billed.



As I walked around and picked up the odd item from my want list, most of which were SP Authentic FW auto RC needs of various players from various years, I was also able to catch-up with some of my SCF buddies and watch them wheel and deal, break wax, and tell tales about what they had been through during the day. 30ranfordfan was all smiles and he had acquired a few low-numbered Ranford cards for his PC, as he never fails to do. Scottkoz20 and gary991979 were in cahoots all day long, dealing with each other, combining forces with various dealers to help each other out, and secretly picking things from each other's want lists up as a nice surprise. I watched as several very nice, high-end cards passed through their hands all day long. Well done, gents, well done. I also couldn't forget about the group break that hossa18sens bought into that was hosted by Panini and another unnamed entity ;). At the end of the day, it was difficult for me to forget about his incredibly calm, cool and nonchalant

acknowledgement of the 1/1 he hit in his final pack of Panini Expo redemption packs he earned through the break.

When it was finally time to make up my mind about the Sundin and Bure signings, I ended up deciding against it. For what they were charging, I would rather put that money towards other nice cards of those players, or something else for the PC. I suppose meeting the fake Sundin was as good as meeting the real one. Ok, not really, but that's how it would be, as another very rewarding Toronto Expo experience came to a close. It may have been modest on a personal front, but that was to be expected, as was an otherwise fulfilling day of meeting up with some great people, looking at some really cool cards, and generally forgetting about all other aspects of life except for hockey cards. Who can complain about that? Until the Spring Expo...





Courtside

By Jay Weger aka Jay520

Contests & Winners

At the end of November saw the Oct./Nov. Top Performers month come to a finish with rocketfan86 place 1st with 29 points and earn 100 cc. 2nd place went to tjvisco with 27 points taking in 50 cc and 3rd was Thrillseeker with 22 points. These top 3 are now eligible for the playoffs at the end of the year. Now onto the NBA GTS contests where k_northrup and phillyteamhater are in a tie for the lead with 5 wins each. Following them in 2nd is 70sbestcardboard with 4 wins and 3rd is pwaldo and udeckcoll tied with 3 wins each. On the VIP side we have gladdyontherise, Mnum and 70sbestcardboard all tied with 5 wins apiece in the top spot. Sitting alone in 2nd is mikepro44 with 4 wins and again a tie between bouncer and Fortefan with 3 wins each. Winner of the 3rd Guess the Serial # contest was delones24 winning 50 cc. If you think you can make better guesses or predictions than these members above you need to check out the basketball contests area and other contests sections to try to win some cc then go for it. What do you have to lose?

Hobby News



Upcoming Panini Basketball releases are Contenders, Elite, Panini and Preferred. These products are slated to come out over the next few months giving collectors an array of different products to choose from.

First out will be Contenders in early January and will deliver four autographs in every 20-pack box, with at least three of those autographs being Rookie Cards. The 200-card base set features 100 rookie autographs, three parallels (**Silver**, **Gold** and **Black**), **Contemporary Contenders**, **Substantial Signatures**, **Historic Contenders Autographs** autograph inserts and **Contenders Materials** a 100-card memorabilia insert. Other inserts will be **Hall of Fame Contenders** (1:20 cases) and **Throwback Rookie Tickets** (1:13 cases).

Next is Elite launching in early February will deliver a 200-card base set is bolstered by 100 on-card-signed **Rookie Incriptions Autographs**, four parallels (**Aspirations**, **Status**, **Gold Status** and **Black Status**), four memorabilia insert sets (each with Prime versions) and five unique autograph inserts and including **Passing the Torch Autographs**. Each box will deliver three autographs and one memorabilia card (five cards per pack, 20 packs per box). Inserts included are **Dominators**, **Craftsmen** and both **Elite Series** and **Rookie Elite Series**.

Panini Basketball comes out in late Feb. after a 3 yr absence with a 300-card base set, a 60-card Rookie Card autograph subset featuring both draft classes, a rare **Knights of the Round** die-cut parallel, **Hall of Fame Signatures**, **Spokesmen Signatures**, **Rated Rookie Autographs** auto sets and 50 **Dress Code Jumbo** memorabilia cards. Each box of 2012-13



Panini Basketball (10 cards per pack, 24 packs per box) will deliver two autographs, seven Knight parallels, three **Spirit of the Game**, three **Heroes of the Hall**, three **Matching Numbers** and three additional inserts.

Lastly is Preferred hitting the shelves in early March boasting a four-card box that features three autographs and one six- or eight-player booklet card. Returning is **Silhouettes Signatures** and colorful die-cut **Panini's Choice** and **Crown Royale autographs** with rookies from both draft classes in all 3 autograph sets. Every autograph in the set will be numbered to 99 or less and the autograph checklist includes more than unique 250 signers.



Milestone Collections

This month we have TylerP who finished the 10-11 Classics Significant Signatures set. The auto set is 60 cards of today's stars such as Kobe, Durant and Derrick Rose and legends from yesteryear like Bill Russell, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird all numbered to 99 or less. I took the time to get a small interview with him and ask him a few questions on how he went about tackling this set.

Why did you start the search for the set?

This was my first basketball set to go for and I was looking for a set that met all my criteria. The main thing I look for in a set is for it to have on card autographs and a clean design. The next thing is for the print run of each card in the set to be 100 or less so it is somewhat challenging for me to track them all down. The last thing is for the set to be full of quality players and to be a set of at least 40 cards, again to make it challenging for me to complete it. This 2010-11 Panini Classics Significant Signatures set has a very simplistic and clean card design with on card autographs, cards serial numbered from 99 all the way down to 10, many super stars retired and active, and a checklist of 57 cards. It easily met all my criteria so I decided to take it on.

Another very cool thing about this set is some of the players and their jerseys. I could be wrong but I believe this set is the first on card auto of Rodman in a Spurs jersey and Horry in a Rockets jersey. Also the on card auto of Abdul-Jabbar in the Bucks jersey is neat and the Elvin Hayes is pictured in a Rockets jersey that is different from all the other ones I have seen.

When did you start the search for the set?

I first started the search for the set in early May of this year. My first card was Dolph Schayes /99 who happened to be the oldest player in all of the set.



Best and worst looking autos from the set?

I definitely agree that some of the retired player's signatures are on average nicer than today's stars. I think the nicest autographs in the set are Sam Jones and Rolando Blackman. Both have very very nice signatures. Larry Bird, Oscar Robertson, and Dolph Schayes also have very sweet strokes. As far as the worst autograph in the set, I have to give that award to Bob Lanier. Not because it is a sloppy signature but because he was the only player of all 57 that signed in



black! This drove me crazy for a long time but I've learned to live with it. Others in the set that seem to have sloppy or careless signatures are David Lee, Dominique Wilkins, and Darren Collison.

What was the hardest card to track down?



You would think that the hardest card to track was the Bill Russell because it was the lowest serial numbered card in the set at 10 and with all the Celtics collectors out there but I think I lucked out finding the Russell /10 on eBay fairly early on in the hunt. The hardest card for me to track down was the Carmelo Anthony /20. This card eluded me for a long time until I finally tracked it down, again on eBay. I have yet to see another one surface, while I have seen 3 of the other Bill Russell /10.

What was the most you paid for a card while trying to complete the set?

The most I paid for a card while trying to complete the set was \$200 and that was for the Bill Russell /10. There were several others in the \$150 range but none more expensive than the Russell. ***Update*** the highest amount paid for a card in the set is now the Derrick Rose /25 which he paid \$275 for on eBay in a Buy It Now listing!!!

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

This set was relatively smooth sailing for as large as it was. Other than just the hunt lasting so long for a few of the cards, the biggest road block was the Steve Nash /25. I purchased it on eBay from a reputable seller only a couple states away but didn't receive the card for over 40 days. It somehow got lost with the Post Office and by the time I received it the package was absolutely battered. Thankfully the seller had it in a screw down case and the card was not damaged.



Approximately how much have you spent completing the set?

I have spent right at \$2,275 completing this set. I do this as a hobby so when I am going for a set I don't mind paying a little more than normal for a rare card. You never know how long it could be before you see a card again. It is just part of it.

Was it worth it to complete the set?

Completing this set was absolutely worth it for me. I enjoy the hobby but the satisfaction I get from completing a very tough set is remarkable. I love the hunt of it and reaching out to fellow SCF members to help me in my quest.

Would you do it all over again?

I would definitely do this set all over again. I had a lot of fun with it, not to mention the awesome satisfaction of completing it. While I probably won't start another set until the middle of next year due to starting school at the Fire Academy in January, I see myself set collecting for a long time to come.



The 2 new products to hit the collectors this month was Totally Certified and new one from Panini prisms. First was **Totally Certified** with ronfir opened a few packs to get a Blue RC auto of Malcom Lee/199 and a sick Totally Signatures auto of Roy Hibbert 8/10. fireice113 got a box to pull Red gu of Joe Johnson, RC autos of Quincy Acy, Blue Kyle O'Quin and Kris Joseph to go with a sick Michael Beasley Emerald patch 1/5. theguru got 6 boxes to pull several nice cards such as Red gu of Yao Ming, Chris Bosh, Karl Malone, rc Derrick Williams, Al Horford/49 and rc Kemba Walker/49, Blue Blake Griffin/99 and Glen Rice/99 and Joel Anthony patch/25, RC autos of MarShon Brooks, Darius Miller, Red Reggie Jackson/199, Blue Brandon Knight/49. Now the bigger hits are a Gold base parallel of Matt Bonner/25 and rc Terrence Ross/25, Blue auto of Bill Laimbeer 14/15, and a Black patch of Jalen Rose 1/1. **Prizms** saw neilnijjar got a box Prizm, the new stuff from Panini to pull a RC auto of Kyrie Irving amongst several other stars and RC from both draft classes. JaMardhand2012 got 5 boxes pulling Team USA inserts of Chris Paul and James Harden, MVP inserts of Julius Erving and Kobe Bryant, Finalists inserts of Toni Kukoc, Pau Gasol, Kevin Garnett, David Robinson and Magic Johnson, Downtown Bound inserts of Kevin Love, Danny Granger, Deron Williams, James Harden and Kyrie Irving, Downtown Bound Prizm of Kyrie Irving, Gold Prizms of Kelly Tripucka and rc Quincy Miller, RC autos of Brandon Knight, Jeremy Lamb, Bernard James, Malcolm Lee, Festus Ezeli, Tyler Honeycutt, retired star autos of Vlade Divac, Walter Berry, Allan Houston and Rex Chapman, DeAndre Liggins Rookie Auto Prizm /25 and a SICK Kobe Anthology patch auto 6/8!!!!

Threads and Prestige were still being opened as was Leaf Ultimate and some old scholl products. BostonBoy hit a Triple Threads gu of Deng/Iggoudala/Butler and a Enes Kanter rc auto from just 4 packs of **Threads**. Deadshot got 5 packs to hit a Signage auto of Dave Cowens. ronfir opened a box to pull a Threads gu of Antawn Jamison and a sweet RC auto of Kyrie Irving. nolafan33 got a box to get a Triple Threads gu of Martin/DeRozan/Granger, RC autos of Kawhi Leonard, Arnett Moultrie and Quincy Miller. palantri went with a box also pulling a Threads patch of Anthony Mason /25, Sinage auto of World B. Free, RC autos of MarShon Brooks and John Henson. tjvisco got a Triple Threads gu of Jameer Nelson/Baron Davis/Devin Harris, RC autos of Jeremy Lamb, Jae Crowder and Andrew Gudelock and a Platinum base parallel of Al Jefferson /10. jmintz got a box and hit a nice Triple Threads patch of Rose/Paul/Williams /25, Sinage auto of Monta Ellis, RC autos of Moe Harkless and Tyler Zeller. neilnijjar bought 3 boxes to pull hits of Threads gu of Kevin Durant, James Harden and George Hill, RC autos of Austin Rivers, Iman Shumpert, E'Twuan Moore, Moe Harkless, Mike Scott and a Century Stars Derrick Rose (case hit).tjvisco got a box of **Prestige** to pull a True Colors gu of Andrew Bynum, Prestigious Picks autos of Bradley Beal, Courtney Fortson and Cory Joseph. jrussell13 got a box to pull True Colors gu of Drew Gooden, Prestigious Picks autos of Kyrie Irving, Tyler Zeller and JaJuan Johnson. FballJets opened a box to get hits of True Colors Eric Gordon, Prestigious Picks autos of Michael Kidd-Gilchrest, Nikola Vucevic and Alec Burks. jball50 got a sick Dion Waiters Cyan Printing Plate auto 1/1 from **Leaf Ultimate** while theguru got a nice Scottie Pippen Inscriptions auto 7/25! **Old School** breaks saw rocketfan86 opening 2 boxes of 97-98 Ultra pulling a View to Thrill insert of Allen Iverson and Star Power Plus insert of Scottie Pippen, 1 box of 98-99 Finest getting RC's of Dirk, Pierce and Vince Carter and a Double-sided Mystery Finest Shaq/Zo insert, 2 boxes of 98-99 Stadium Club getting a Shawn Kemp refractor and a sweet Kobe Bryant Luminous Triumvirate and 2 boxes 97-98 Skybox to get a Autographics of Marcus Camby and a awesome Golden Touch Kobe Bryant insert (bv \$200)!!





NBA Cares



The NBA Cares is the league's global community outreach initiative that addresses important social issues such as education, youth and family development, and health and wellness. Under the NBA Cares there are a handful of programs that get involved in the community to help out the less fortunate. 1st is the **NBA/WNBA Fit** program that encourages physical activity and healthy living through events, programs and products for children and families. Next is **NBA Green** works in partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council to help people generate awareness and funding to protect the environment. **Basketball without Borders** is a program that uses the sport to create positive social change in the areas of education, health and wellness.





Gifts for an Entire Month
By J.R. Lebert aka jrlebert

It really is the most wonderful time of the year for football fans. Whether you are a fan of NCAA or the NFL, or even high school football, December and January are the best months of the year

!

In many states across the country, high school state titles are on the line, and whether you are Division 1 or Division 8, 1A or 4A, odds are that a school you went to is trying to take home the crown. Watching those seniors, many of whom will be playing D-1 college ball next year, give it one last shot for your alma mater, is a great gift this time of year.

It's both Heisman Season and Bowl Season in the NCAA. Will the legend of Johnny Football take home the trophy? Could a defense-only player win the award in Mantei T'eo? Or will Collin Klein, a favorite for most of the year, take home the trophy?

Manziel has led Texas A&M to an improbable 10-win season in their first in the SEC, including a win in Tuscaloosa over then-#1 Alabama. He has thrown for over 3,400 yards, ran for almost 1,200, and has accounted for 43 touchdowns on the year. The only thing that may keep him from winning is the fact that many may not vote for a redshirt freshman to win football's most prestigious award.

T'eo has been the heart and soul of Notre Dame's dominating defense. As the only undefeated bowl-eligible team, the Fighting Irish have the nation's #1 ranked scoring defense, allowing just 10.3 points per game. T'eo has led them to wins over several ranked teams, including at then-#10 Michigan State, at then-#8 Oklahoma, and at home against Michigan and Stanford, as well as a win against unranked but tough USC in Los Angeles.

Klein has done it all for Kansas State, leading the Wildcats to an 11-1 record and scoring 42 points or more in seven games. Klein has rushed for 22 TDs, thrown for 15 more, and even caught one on the year. If not for a late-season loss to Baylor, this award may be Klein's to lose.

With the bowls upon us, the fun really begins. Which ridiculously named bowl will your team be playing in: The Beef O'Brady's St. Petersburg Bowl? The San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl? The Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl?

Just as much debate can be had over the names of the bowls, the participants in some of these can be hotly contested as well. Certainly, fans of Texas A&M, Oklahoma, and Georgia have to be scratching their heads when they see their teams left out of BCS bowls in favor of Louisville, Wisconsin, and Northern Illinois. The playoff system cannot come soon enough.

Looking under the radar a bit, however, there are some great match-ups in some of the non-BCS bowls. In the Bridgeport Education Holiday Bowl, a much-improved UCLA team takes on the fun-to-watch Baylor Bears in what may turn out to be a shootout. In the Russell Athletic Bowl, Rutgers takes on Virginia Tech in what should be a hard fought battle in the trenches. TCU and Michigan State should make for a fun game in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl. The Chick-Fil-A Bowl features one of the best non-BCS tilts, with Clemson taking on LSU. Georgia and Nebraska get it on



in the Capital One Bowl. Finally, what could be considered the “sixth BCS bowl”, the Cotton Bowl pits BCS-snubs Oklahoma and Texas A&M against each other.



The BCS bowls offer plenty of intrigue. Will Collin Klein be able to match points with Marcus Mariota and the high-powered Oregon Ducks? Can Northern Illinois prove they belong, and beat Florida State? The question on most fans’ minds, however, has to be about Notre Dame. Do they really belong among the nation’s elite? Can the Fighting Irish beat SEC-power and last year’s champion, Alabama? Or can the Crimson Tide go back-to-back and hand Notre Dame their first loss of the season?

Switching to the pro side, playoff races are heating up, or, in some cases, already being decided! Four teams have already wrapped up their divisions. Atlanta, at 11-1, appears to have the NFC in hand. New England, Houston, and Denver, all riding at least 6-game winning streaks, are in a tough battle for best record in the AFC.

In a league dominated by quarterback play, the young guns are stealing the show. Rookies Robert Griffin III, Andrew Luck, Russell Wilson, and even Ryan Tannehill have their teams poised to make the playoffs. Second year star Andy Dalton is proving that last year was no fluke. Another sophomore is shaking things up in San Fran. Colin Kaepernick has won the starting job from incumbent Alex Smith, and has energized the offense in three starts for the Niners. Even the mercurial Cam Newton is playing much better in the second half, throwing 9 TDs to just one INT, and rushing for 3 more scores, in his last 5 games.

Not to be outdone, however, are Tom Brady and Peyton Manning, two of the greatest to ever play the game. In leading their squads to division titles, they are also locked in yet another battle for NFL MVP. Many came in to the season poking holes in Tom Brady’s game. Maybe he was aging a bit, or losing a little on his arm, or defenses had begun to figure him out. Brady has responded with over 3,500 yards so far, with an incredible 25-to-4 TD-to-INT ratio. After a bit of a slow start, including losing 3 of his first 5 games in a Broncos uniform, Peyton Manning has reeled off 7 straight wins. He, too, is over 3,500 yards, and has 29 TD throws on the year. What makes this MVP run for Peyton even more improbable is how he has come back from severe neck surgeries to regain his place at or near the top of the QB rankings.

The legend of Tony Gonzalez continues to grow. The greatest tight end ever to play has not slowed down one bit. In his 16th season, at





age 36, Gonzalez ranks 8th in grabs and 12th in TDs. Further extending his records as a tight end, it's amazing to think that only the G.O.A.T., Jerry Rice, has more catches than Gonzalez, who also ranks 7th all-time in yards and 6th in TDs. Incredibly, Gonzalez's three most expensive RCs book at just \$20, \$15, and \$10, making his one of the best bargains around!



While it is still definitely a passing league, Doug Martin and Alfred Morris have had breakout rookie seasons. Incredibly, through 12 games, they have the exact same amount of yards, 1,106. Martin is a bit more of a threat receiving, with 32 grabs and 10 total TDs to Morris' 6 grabs and 6 total TDs. Both are still chasing another all-time great, Adrian Peterson. Leading the league by over 300 yards through 12 games, AP has 6-straight 100 yard games, and seems fully recovered from a serious knee injury.

On the defensive side of the ball, it has been a battle at the top of the sack chart this season

between three men, Aldon Smith, Von Miller, and J.J. Watt, all 2nd year stars. They each have 4 games with 2 or more sacks, all play for playoff teams, and are all on pace for 20 or more sacks.

Finally, the fantasy football season is also coming to a close, with many players scouring the waiver wire for one last pick up to help their team to the mythical championship. Performances by Bryce Brown, Ryan Broyles, Marcel Reece, or a host of others become just as important as Drew Brees, Aaron Rodgers, and Calvin Johnson.

Except for me. I am already eliminated from the playoffs in my league.

To all football fans out there, have a wonderful holiday season of touchdowns, game-winners, and end zone celebrations!





A Fan's Wish List for 2013

By J.R. Lebert aka jrlebert

Last week, I received a phone call from one of my family members in New York. "Check your email," she said. "Your cousin is emailing his Christmas list to everyone this year." He is 10, and his list was about a page and a half long. Everything and anything was on the list, from Skylanders toys, to Legos, to 9-sleeve pages for his Yankees collection (which I got him, along with a box of this year's Topps and a ton of Yankees cards).

This got me to thinking. With the 2013 season fast approaching, and the Winter Meetings about to get underway, here's one baseball fan and card collector's wish list for 2013:

A Full Season for Stephen:

One of baseball's most frustrating stories of 2012 was the Stephen Strasburg saga. Worried about future arm trouble, the Nationals decided to shut down Strasburg with more than a month to go in the regular season, effectively robbing their fans of a deep postseason run. At the top of every Nats fan's wish list for 2013 has to be seeing their ace pitch meaningful games in

September
a n d
October.
After an
All-Star
s e a s o n
including

15 wins and almost 200 Ks in just 28 starts, it's time to take the kid gloves off and just let Stephen pitch.



Hall of Fame Love... But Not for Cheaters:

Instead of dwelling on the negative side of the 2013 Hall of Fame ballot, chock full of PED users and steroid allegations, it's time to give some love for the players who did things the right way. Astros fans would love to check off two huge presents from their wish list in the form of inductions of their Killer B's, Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell. It's Bagwell's third year on the ballot, and it's hard to see why he's not in yet. A .297 career average, flanked by eye-popping numbers (over 1500 runs scored and RBI's and over 1400 walks) a full case of awards (MVP, ROY, a Gold Glove, and multiple Silver Sluggers), and, of course, all done for the same



team over a 15-year career at first base. Biggio should be a lock to be elected on his first year eligible. Seven All-Star nods, five Silver Sluggers, four Gold Gloves, over 3,000 hits, and the 5th most doubles in history, again, all done for one franchise in a stellar 20-year career. Wouldn't it be a bit of poetic justice for these two Astros greats to get in together?

If not for playing in the same era as the greatest leadoff hitter of all time, Tim Lincecum would already be in the Hall. He has quietly garnered a bit more support every year for the last four years, having reached almost 49% last year, as voters have begun to see what a truly great career he had. Rock compiled 7 All-Star appearances (in a row!), over 2,600 hits, and the 5th most stolen bases of all time, 808. For Expos fans out there, this would be a great present in 2013.

As Tigers fans have lamented, the career of Alan Trammell (and that of Lou Whitaker, but that makes for another article) has long been under appreciated. With 2013 marking his 12th year eligible, time is running out, and with less than 40% of the vote last year, he needs to make substantial headway to get in. The 6-time All-Star who played 20 years with Detroit is widely considered one of the great shortstops to ever play, and Detroit fans would love to unwrap an induction for Alan in 2013.

Finally, a personal HOF wish of mine in 2013: Please keep Sosa, Bonds, and Clemens out in their first year eligible. Cheaters do not belong in the Hall. Pete Rose and Joe Jackson do.

One More Year for Mo:

Certainly at the top of most Yankees' fans lists is the healthy return to dominance of The Sandman, baseball's greatest closer, Mariano Rivera. Mo didn't want his career to end with a blown out knee while shagging fly balls, and it looks as if he will be back for 2013 to close out his remarkable career on his terms.

2013 will mark the 19th year for Rivera, and what a career it has been. Rivera has chalked up the most saves in history, 608, along with 11 years of an ERA under 2.00. Yes, you read that right. As most pitchers begin to lose their stuff, Big Mo has done the exact opposite. In his last 10 seasons, from age 33-42, Mariano has 365 saves and an ERA of 1.87! What a gift it will be to see Rivera back on the hill in 2013.

162 Games for Trout:

Mike Trout took the baseball world by storm in 2012, capturing AL ROY honors and finishing second to Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera for the MVP. Trout also led the league in runs, SBs, and OPS+, all while playing only 139 games. Angels fans are eagerly anticipating a season for their squad with each game led off by baseball's newest, and possibly biggest superstar.

Peace and Joy for Marlins Fans:

While it seems as if the Grinch has ransacked their team in Miami, near the





top of my wish list for 2013 is for things to turn around in Miami. With millions of dollars in salary jettisoned in trading Mark Buerhle, Josh Johnson, Jose Reyes, and others, and the salaries of Carlos Lee and Carlos Zambrano coming off the books, fans in Miami, as well as budding superstar Giancarlo Stanton are left wondering what could possibly be left under the tree. While this seems to happen every six to eight years in Miami, at least the last two times (1998 and 2004) came after a World Series win the year prior. Here's wishing for a bounce back year for the Fish, and an MVP-caliber season for Stanton.



A Playoff Appearance for Pittsburgh (or Kansas City!):

It took a late season collapse in Pittsburgh for the Pirates to fall just short of .500 ball, but it was a season of hope. In the Clint Hurdle era, they have improved a total of 22 games over two years, and have a core of young talent ready to take them to the next level. Andrew McCutchen officially became a top-tier superstar in 2012, and the Pirates eye not just a winning season, but a playoff berth in 2013.

There is also some hope in Kansas City, a team that averaged just under 66 wins in the 7 season before Ned Yost took over, including four 100-loss campaigns. With Mike Moustakas, Eric Hosmer, Billy Butler, and Alex Gordon, their core four are as solid as any team in the bigs. Adding Ervin Santana and re-signing Jeremy Guthrie to anchor the rotation should

mean continued improvement for the Royals in 2013.

Well, Santa, or Hanukkah Harry, or whomever else out there, I hope you get my list. I can't wait to see what we can unwrap in 2013!





Around the Track By Stephen Taylor aka race crazy

Adam's Dream



Charities in Nascar and among Nascar drivers are common. Almost every driver and team has a charity of some form (either their own or one they work for) but young Adam Petty had a different dream even as a young 20 year old up and coming racecar driver. He stated that someday he wanted to build a camp for terminally and chronically ill children to enjoy their lives and have fun like a normal kid all the while still receiving the proper medical treatment. Adam would never get a chance to see his dream come to fruition and it appeared to pass on when Adam died at the untimely age of 20 after a crash in practice at New Hampshire in 2000.



Adam's dream however would live on. His parents Kyle and Pattie Petty and Grandfather Richard Petty worked tirelessly to gather donations and to pour in their own money from their own racing careers. In order to get the camp up and running and ensure the continuous health care more money and donations were needed. The Nascar community including the sanctioning body themselves rallied around the cause and the family and on June 20th, 2004 Adam's dream became a reality as the camp opened and welcomed its first campers.



Nine years later the camp is still going strong with an effort to build another one in the Midwest. Adam's dream, the one of a young kid with bigger aspirations than to just drive a race car has been a huge cause of Nascar for almost a decade. Almost every driver has either participated in being at the camp or donated large chunks of money. Tony Stewart's charity race the Prelude to the Dream has contributed millions in revenue for the camp as well as countless big business sponsors like Bass Pro Shops and Wal Mart. The smile that made Adam so appealing to people before his untimely death lives on in the children at the camp. The chance to be normal is all they are after. Adam's dream lives on thanks to the Nascar community.





Animal Matters



As with almost any other people, Nascar drivers enjoy their pets. Greg Biffle the driver of the #16 3M Ford for Jack Roush is no different. Having a multitude of dogs his whole life Biffle and his wife Nicole decided to do something about the pet population problem in America. The Greg Biffle Foundation donates money to local humane societies, no-kill animal shelters, spay and neuter clinics, and to animal adoption charities. The foundation has been a huge success through simple donations from the Nascar community and its fans and the massive sales of the annual Pit Road Pets calendar. Every year since its inception the calendar has sold more copies with every penny going to the charities. Nascar personalities are eager to participate in the calendar (even those not with pets) and the fan base has rallied around the cause. The charity continues to grow to this day and it is just one example of a Nascar driver doing good for both humans and animals alike.





Being a Kid at Heart

By John Holzapfel aka jna1488

Can you remember the moment in your life when you became a sports fan? I was thinking about this the other day, and a flood of memories filled my mind about some of the happiest times in my life growing up and they all revolved around sports and sports cards. I am in my 30s now and still find myself acting like a little kid when I watch my favorite team on TV. I'll throw a temper tantrum when my team is losing and gloat when they are winning. When I open a box of cards, I feel like its Christmas morning and there's a pile of presents waiting for me to open. The speechlessness and the shaking you feel when you realize you've just pulled an autograph of your favorite player. Do we ever really grow up as sports fans? I have traced my memories back to the moment that the sports fan inside of me was born.

From big cities to the small sleepy little towns, the persistent plague of boredom looms inside every child's mind. No matter how many toys, video games, or channels on TV a child has at their disposal. The same words seem to always come to life, "I'm bored, there's nothing to do." Hearing my kids saying these same words that I said to my parents some 30 years ago, brought me back to a time where my boredom was wiped away. It wasn't because of a new video game or a new toy, we were too poor and with 6 of us kids it was a struggle for my parents to keep us all feed, let alone buy us an Atari or Nintendo. The boredom was wiped away because of a little sanctuary called Dodgertown, the spring training facility of the LA Dodgers.



The city of Vero Beach is a coastal retirement community in South Florida. The sidewalks roll up when the sun goes down, and if you don't like hanging out at the mall or go surfing, you are pretty much out of luck when it comes to entertainment. Living in this town is like staying at your grandparent's house every day, it does have its perks but you have to be on your best behavior at all times because someone is always watching. Dodgertown was one of the perks of living in a town like this; a place where the town comes together, no matter whether you are 8 or 80, this is a place where everyone becomes a kid again.

Before the Dodgers called Vero Beach home starting in 1948, the site where Dodgertown sat was home to the United States Naval Air Station. In 1942 the United States Navy notified the city of Vero Beach that their airport has been chosen for a Naval Air Station, and that the Navy purchased 1500 acres to build housing and offices for the Naval and Marine Corps personnel that were to train there. In the United States in the 1940s, the war effort was the priority. After



the end of the war, the Naval Air Station Vero Beach was cut down to a minimal staff and later closed in 1947. Even though the Navy vacated the airport and the 1500 acres surrounding it, the U.S. government had guidelines that Vero Beach was to follow. The government had to approve the one who occupied the land and that all money made from the land went back into the airport. In 1947 Bud Holman, a local businessman and manager of the airport saw a lot of potential for the land and buildings that the Navy left. This was to be the beginning of a 60 year relationship between the Brooklyn Dodgers, later to be known as the Los Angeles Dodgers and Vero Beach, Florida.

In 1947, Bud Holman heard that the Brooklyn Dodgers were in search of a training facility inside the United States, and decided to approach Branch Rickey and executive with the Dodgers to pitch his proposal. Holman told Rickey that the land and the housing would be a perfect match with the Dodgers because at the time the Dodgers had 26 minor league teams due in part to Rickey's feeling that player development was extremely important to baseball. There was also another hurdle that the Dodgers faced which was Jackie Robinson had just crossed the color barrier in 1947, and many towns in the South did not want any part of it. Vero Beach was different, even though racial tensions existed; the community had more acceptance than most. In 1948 the city of Vero Beach and the Brooklyn Dodgers had a deal, and Dodgertown was born.

I was 5 years old the first time I went to Dodgertown, to watch my first major league ball game. Being enrolled in tee ball for the first time, my parents wanted to see if baseball was something that would spark my interest and what better way to do it than to take me to a game. I really do not remember who the Dodgers were playing that day, but I do remember everything else. The feeling of excitement I had when we got out of the car and started to make our way to the stadium. I was nervous, and bouncing around not knowing what to expect, and the closer we got, the more nervous and excited I became. I could smell the concessions stands, the aroma of popcorn and Dodger Dogs being cooked filled the air even outside of the ball park. The closer we got the sounds of batting practice filled the air; the cracking of the bat, the smack of a ball being caught, the program salesman yelling "get your program". This was just overwhelming, I couldn't wait to get inside and see what all was going on.

We reached the gate and gave the tender our ticket and we were finally inside, but I still could not see anything but the concessions and the stairs leading up to what looked like nowhere. I started to run up the stairs to see where they led to and when I reached the top, I couldn't believe my eyes. I stood at the top of the stairs, gazing at the biggest and greenest baseball field that I had ever seen; green mound of grass surrounding the outfield, with a giant scoreboard separating right and left field. The orange dirt of the diamond with players warming up for today's game, the open dugouts full of coaches and player lining the first and third base line, the bull pen, one by right field and one by left field with pitchers and catchers playing catch. The seats of blue beginning to fill up with people coming to watch the game. This was the most amazing and beautiful sight that I had ever seen. I still was bursting with excitement but I couldn't move or speak, I was too memorized by everything that was happening in front of my eyes. After a few minutes, I realized that my parents were standing behind me smiling down to me overjoyed in my excitement.



We started to make our way to our seats which was on the home side of the field so we had to walk around to the third base line. On the way we passed by more concessions and souvenir stand and stopped to look around. This being my first game, my dad wanted to get me something to remember this day, so he bought me a miniature bat and a pack of cards. I became fascinated by this pack of cards. I wasn't allowed to open it until we got to our seats so my excitement began to build again. When I thought that this day could not get any better, this little pack of cards came into my life. Reaching our seats I ripped into the pack and found a stick of gum and like any other kid I threw it into my mouth and chomped on it while I thumbed through my cards. My dad was watching me flip through the cards and started to point out players that were on the cards some of them where on the field in front of me. That was all it took, this day, this game and this little pack of cards turned me into a fan and a collector for life. This is the moment where it all began.



As I got older, Dodgertown became a bigger part of my life. During the spring, my friends and I watched all the practices and the games. We got to know a lot of the players and coaches because we were starting to become permanent fixtures at the field. We would get yelled at by Tommy Lasorda a few times a day without a fail because we were keeping his players from practice. We became such regulars that the people taking the tickets would let us watch the games for free just as long as we didn't attract too much attention to ourselves, but being a group of boys we always seemed to draw attention. What started out to be a spring hangout soon began to turn into a season hangout. We started to watch the many minor league teams who came to practice and play at Dodgertown, which made this place become an even bigger part of my life.

As life went on this place that I loved as a boy grew further away from me, and I moved on to other things to occupy my time, even though the love of sports and the collecting of cards was still with me, I didn't seem to have the time anymore.

I moved away from Dodgertown for a time, finished high school and joined the Army not having been back to the training fields of Dodgertown for years. After getting discharged from the Army I met my wife and we both end up getting a job at the same place that gave me so many childhood memories. During the years between my absence from Dodgertown, I lost the love of baseball that I had when I was younger, the lockouts and the greed that I didn't see as a child but became visible as I got older turned me off. I still had a love for sports and sports cards but was geared more towards football and Nascar, and not baseball.

During my employment with the Dodgertown Conference and Convention Center, I started to regain a spark of excitement that I had felt for this place years before. It wasn't as strong as it was when I was 5 but it was there. My work at Dodgertown was in the food service area, I ran the buffet line for the guests and players that visited. In my youth I had



no idea what went on here when baseball wasn't in season, but I was beginning to see that there were all types of events and activities all year long. It was my first month working there when we had to get ready for a 2 week baseball fantasy camp. I had heard about fantasy camps before but I really didn't know all that went on during one. I knew that people paid a lot of money to attend to live out their fantasy of being a professional ball player. This particular camp was a Dodger Blue Fantasy camp. The people that I worked with, many of whom had worked here for years and had been through many fantasy camps started to tell me some of the people who attend these as guest coaches. Among the names were many that I had recognized such as; Duke Snider, Maury Wills, Clem Labine, Carl Erskine, Sandy Koufax, and Ralph Branca. At first I thought they were kidding but the following week I found out that they weren't...



When the camp started I was finding it hard to work, because I was surrounded by baseball greats that I had only heard stories about from my dad. I never would have thought back when my dad was telling me these stories, that I would ever have the chance to met them, but here I was in the middle of a Brooklyn and LA Dodger reunion. When I was at work employees were not allow to fraternize with the guests, which was extremely difficult for me because I had so many questions I wanted to ask, but I contained myself and kept my mouth shut. A couple of days into the camp during breakfast, a group came through the line, I recognized a couple from the group being Erskine, Snider, and Labine. I was professional and greeted them as they made their way through the line answering any questions they may have had. I was shaking with excitement; I was having a hard time trying to contain it when Duke Snider asked me what my name was. I was in shock; Duke Snider wanted to know my

name. I told him my name and that I was a fan, even though I was too young to have ever seen him play. He then introduce himself and the two that were in line with him, and I let them know that I knew who they were and shook their hand. This moment right there was the moment that the spark I felt when I started this job grew into a flame.

My very first meeting with Duke Snider started a landslide of introductions during this camp and spreading to the other camps and onto spring training. I had the opportunity to meet a long list of retired greats and active players, and as the years passed I became somewhat of friends with many that I met. Even though fraternization with the guest was looked down upon, but the guests have the last say so. One of my favorite people that I got to meet and was on first name basis with was Tommy Lasorda. This was the man that yelled at me and my friends for distracting his players. What I remembered about Lasorda was he loves to yell at everyone. Once I got to know him I realized that was just his nature, but he was one of the nicest people that I met at Dodgertown, you just had to get to know him.



The number of people that I met during the camps and spring training kept growing, greats would introduce me to players, players would introduce me to coaches, and coaches would introduce me to more players. Me being a card collector, the thought of autographs crossed my mind but I was enjoying talking to these players more than just asking for their signature. The first time I got autographs came on mine and my wife's day off. The day before our day off, Duke Snider and Maury Will sat down at the same picnic table where we were taking a break at. I had talked to them about our son who started little league and was getting discouraged because his team wasn't that great. They asked my wife if we would bring our son up so they would have a chance to meet with him and talk. This absolutely floored me and my wife, the thought that these two legends would want to take the time out for our son was amazing. I let them know that we were planning on bringing him up there on our day off which happened to be the next day, and they smiled and told us to make sure that we found either one of them as soon as we got there. We agreed that we would, and I felt the love that I had for this game starting to burn strong again.

When we arrived at Dodgertown my son was nervous and as excited as I was 30 years earlier when I came to this place for my first time. He told me and his mom that he was so nervous because he did not know who he was going to be meeting. As we were walking to the field where we knew either Maury or Duke would be at, our son was trying to hide behind us. We walked up to a group of people who were surrounding a golf cart; news reporters and autograph hounds trying to get the attention of the person driving the golf cart. Just as we saw who was driving Duke Snider noticed us and waved us to his cart. At this moment I got a little nervous because everyone who was trying to get Duke's attention was now focused on us. We got to the cart and Duke stuck out his hand and introduced himself to our son "hi there I'm Mr. Snider, and who might you be?" I know my son was so nervous because of all the people around us, but he mustered up the courage to introduce himself. At this time, Duke told the reporters and the people around us that he was sorry to cut it short but he needed to spend some time with an up and coming ball player. Everyone seemed to respect what he said and left us alone. He then asked my son to get in the passenger seat of the golf cart because there was a lot of people who wanted to meet him, at this moment the nervousness seemed to leave my son and he relaxed and acted more like himself. Duke Snider told me and my wife that he was going to take our son around for awhile which was fine with us, and they sped off towards the practice fields.

The thoughts that I had about this day brought me back to my childhood, spending so much time at this place. I took my wife around sharing my memories with her and telling the stories as they flooded into my head walking in the same steps that I took so many years ago. At the end of the day when we met back up with our son and Duke Snider, the smile that was on our son's face reminded me of the smile that I had when I was five. His arms were full of signed baseballs that he had received throughout the day. As the reporters and fans surrounded the golf cart again we thanked Duke and made our way back home, on the way my son told us that this was one of the best days of his life.

On St Patrick's Day in 2007 the Los Angeles Dodgers played their last game at Dodgertown, 61 years of tradition came to an end, the Dodgers moved to their new multimillion dollar spring training facility in Glendale Arizona. The past 61 years, Vero Beach has played host to some of the greatest ball players to ever play the game; Jackie Robinson, Pee Wee



Reese, Duke Snider, Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Maury Wills, Steve Sax, Orel Hershiser, Mike Piazza, and on and on. The history of this place is etched in the minds of so many people who came to it to be a part of baseball history.

Dodgertown was the place that made me a sports fan, not only a sports fan but a fan of sports cards. Even though Dodgertown is now gone, every time I open a pack of cards I become that 5 year old kid again. Many of you know the feeling that I am talking about, when it comes to our hobby we go from an adult to a 5 year old in the matter of seconds.





SCF Official Review: 2012/13 Panini Certified

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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



10 packs per box

5 cards per pack

Current Retail Price (online): \$100.00 (Panini MAPP)

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Hot Box per Mini-Case
- 1 Freshman Fabrics Signature Rookie per Mini-Case
- Freshman Fabrics feature the first autograph memorabilia rookie cards from the league's newest players.



The Rundown On



- Look for the all-new Goalie Pulls inserts featuring NHL goalie cards as you have never seen them before.
- Relive the 2011-12 Stanley Cup Playoffs through the Path to the Cup insert set. Look for memorabilia variations!

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Common

Mirror Gold

Look for Mirror Red, Blue, Gold, Emerald, and Black parallels!

Freshman Fabric

Find autographs and memorabilia from the league's newest rookie class

Goalie Pulls

All-new Goalie Pulls inserts allow you to make the call on leaving the goalie in the card or pulling him from the net!

Face Off Dual Sticks

The league's best meet head-to-head in the Face Off dual game-used stick set.

Path To The Cup

Relive the playoffs with the Path to the Cup Insert Set highlighting each game of the 2011-12 NHL Playoffs.

WHAT WE PULLED

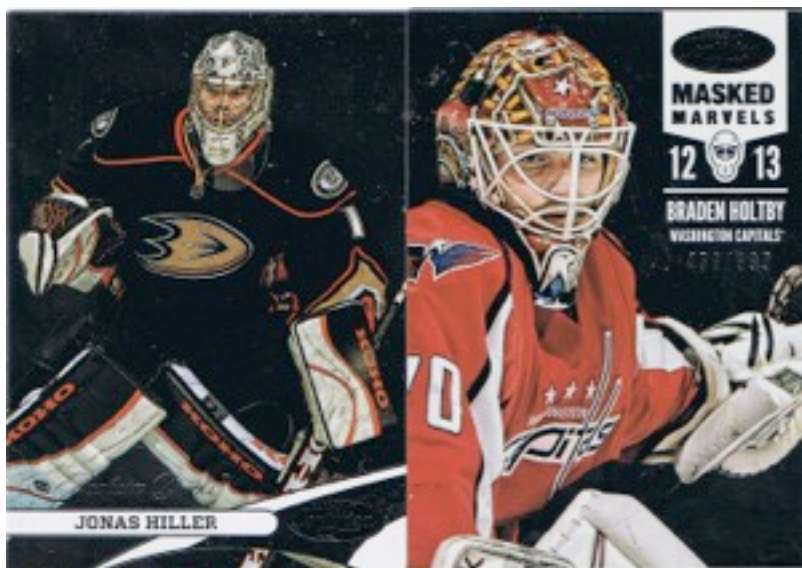
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BT3bmxsi3M>

Base - 43/100 (43%)

Masked Marvels /999 (1) - Braden Holtby

Immortals /999 (1) - Brett Hull

Rookies /999 (1) - Andrew Joudrey

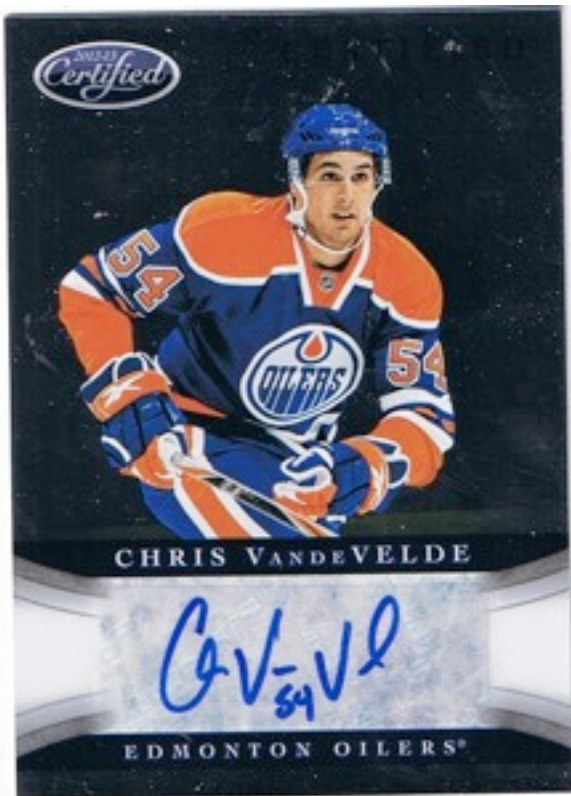


Mirror Red /199 (1) - Jeff Carter

Path To The Cup /399 (1) - Scott Clemmensen/Zach Parise



Chris VandeVelde Autograph





Roman Horak Autograph



Fabric Of The Game Frans Nielsen Jersey /299





Fabric Of The Game Team Name Frans Nielsen Jersey /150



FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 4/5

Design - 5/5

Fun - 4/5

Value - 3.5/5

Rebuy - 3.5/5

Total - 20/25 (80%)

Pros:

Foil back cards make the subjects stand out on the base cards

No non-numbered inserts/parallels

Cons:

Rookie class affected by Lockout

Unnumbered signatures

Better collation

Much better price point once MAPP period is over as price will drop



NPN Information:

NPN, 2012-13 Panini Certified Hockey
5325 FAA Blvd Suite 100A
Irving, TX 75061-3601

Limit 2 requests per household, mailed separately

Postmarked By: 1/23/13
Received By: 1/30/13

Canada Skills: $657 + 612 / 204 \times 128 - 162 = ?$

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

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



PANINI



Official SCF Review: 2012 Topps Triple Threads
By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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



2 mini boxes per master box

7 cards per mini box

Current Retail Price (online): \$174.99 - \$209.99

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

AUTOGRAPH TRIPLE RELIC CARDS - 1 PER BOX

Base Rookie Auto Relics - Up to 50 different cards featuring 1 rookie, 1 autograph and 3 relic swatches per card on a new horizontal design #d to 99

- Sepia Parallel - #d to 70
- Emerald Parallel - #d to 50
- Gold Parallel - #d to 25
- Sapphire PATCH Parallel - #d to 10
- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1
- Pigskin PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1



- "White Whale" PATCH Printing Plates - All 1 of 1's!

Triple Threads Auto Relics - Up to 40 Veteran/Retired/Rookie subjects featuring 1 autograph and 3 relics per card #d to 18.

- Gold Parallel - #d to 9
- Sapphire Parallel - #d to 3
- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1
- Pigskin PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1
- "White Whale" PATCH Printing Plates - All 1 of 1's!

Triple Threads Auto Relics Combos - Up to 15 different cards featuring 3 players, 3 autographs and 3 relics on each card. #d to 27.

- Emerald Parallel - #d to 18
- Gold Parallel - #d to 9
- Sapphire Parallel - #d to 3
- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1
- Pigskin PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1
- "White Whale" PATCH Printing Plates - All 1 of 1's!

Triple Threads Auto Relic Pairs (BOOK CARD) - Up to 10 different cards featuring 2 players, 2 autographs and 6 relic swatches #d to 18

- Gold Parallel - #d to 9
- Sapphire Parallel - #d to 3
- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1

Triple Threads Auto Relic Double Combos (BOOK CARD) - Up to 10 different cards featuring 6 players, 6 autographs, and 6 relic swatches #d to 27.

- Gold Parallel - #d to 18
- Sapphire Parallel - #d to 9
- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1

Triple Threads Jumbo Plus Autograph Relics (BOOK CARD) - Up to 10 Different Cards featuring 1 player, 1 autograph, 2 patches & 1 jumbo relic swatch #d to 3

- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1

Letter Plus Autograph Relic - Up to 10 different cards featuring 1 player, 1 autograph , 2 patches & 1 letter patch #d to 3

- Platinum Parallel - #d 1 of 1

Triple Threads Cut Above Autograph - Up to 10 different cards featuring a cut signature and 3 relic swatches #d 1 of 1



Triple Threads Dual Cut Above Autographs (BOOK CARD) - Up to 3 different cards featuring 2 cut signatures and 6 relic swatches #d 1 of 1

Luck & RG3 Book Cards - Up to 5 different cards featuring Andrew Luck and Robert Griffin III autographs and relics #d to 10. NEW!

Leather Bound Book Cards - The jackets of these book cards are made from the leather footballs used at the NFLPA Rookie Premiere. The inside panels of the book card feature 2 subjects, 2 autographs and 6 relic swatches #d to 5. NEW!

TRIPLE RELIC CARDS – 1 PER BOX

Triple Threads Relics - Up to 50 different subjects featuring 1 player and 3 relics per card #d to 36.

- Sepia Parallel - #d to 27
- Emerald Parallel - #d to 18
- Gold Parallel - #d to 9
- Sapphire Parallel - #d to 3
- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1

Triple Threads Relics Combos - Up to 40 different cards featuring 3 players and 3 relic swatches on each #d to 36.

- Sepia Parallel - #d to 27
- Emerald Parallel - #d to 18
- Gold Parallel - #d to 9
- Sapphire Parallel - #d to 3
- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1

Triple Threads NFL Shields - Up to 35 different cards featuring 1 player, 2 relic swatches and 1 NFL Shield PATCH #d 1 of 1

Triple Threads Quarterback Immortals - Up to 15 different cards featuring 1 Quarterback and 3 relic swatches #d to 36.

- Gold Parallel - #d to 18
- Sapphire Parallel - #d to 3
- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1

Triple Threads Jumbo Patch Combos (3-PANEL BOOK CARD) - Up to 10 different cards, each featuring 3 players and 3 jumbo PATCHES #d 1 of 1.



SINGLE RELIC CARDS - 1 PER BOX

Triple Threads Rookie Jumbo Relics - Up to 55 different cards featuring a jumbo relic swatch #d to 99

- Sepia Parallel #d to 75
- Emerald Parallel - #d to 50
- Gold Parallel - #d to 25
- Sapphire PATCH Parallel - #d to 10
- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1

Triple Threads Rookie Autograph Relics - Up to 55 different cards featuring an autograph and a jersey swatch. #d to 99

- Sepia Parallel #d to 99
- Emerald Parallel - #d to 75
- Gold Parallel - #d to 25
- Sapphire PATCH Parallel - #d to 10
- Platinum PATCH Parallel - #d 1 of 1

BASE CARDS

100 Base Cards - Sequentially #d

Base Veterans & Retired

- Sepia Parallel - #d to 320
- Emerald Parallel - #d to 150
- Gold Parallel - #d to 99
- Onyx Parallel - #d to 50
- Sapphire Parallel - #d to 25
- Platinum Parallel - #d 1 of 1
- Printing Plates - All 1 of 1's!

BONUS REDEMPTION CARDS included as an additional hit!

Autographed Jerseys - Redemption cards for whole autographed jerseys. NEW!

Autographed Helmets - Redemption cards for player autographed team helmets. NEW!

Hand Stamped Autograph Cards - Top rookies ink their gloves and hand stamp jumbo cards alongside their on-card autographs. NEW!

WHAT WE PULLED

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IMhivxJWro>



Base /989 (6) - Eli Manning, DeMarcus Ware, Darren McFadden, Santonio Holmes, Ray Rice, Reggie Wayne



Sepia /310 (2) - Matt Hasselback, Matt Schaub





Emerald /170 (1) - Santonio Holmes
Onyx /50 (1) - Ryan Mathews



Stephen Hill Emerald Jersey/Autograph /50





Michael Floyd Emerald Jersey /18



Robert Turbin Emerald Jersey/Autograph /50 Redemption

Justin Blackmon Emerald Jumbo Jersey /50





FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 4/5

Design - 3.5/5

Fun - 5/5

Value - 4/5

Rebuy - 3/5

Total - 19.5/25 (78%)

Pros:

All cards are numbered

No insert sets

Lots of nice cards in the run

Cons:

Too rookie focused

Price point is a bit steep

Not a product for everyone

A bit redemption heavy

NPN Information:

NPN 2012 Topps Triple Threads Football

PO Box 765

Pittston PA 18642

Limit 1 request per household

Postmarked By: 2/20/13

Received By: 2/27/13

Canada Skills: $33 + 7 \times 3 - 15 = ?$

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at Topps for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release. For more information on all of their products, visit them today at www.topps.com.



SCF Official Review: 2012 Panini Signature Series
By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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



1 pack per box

6 cards per pack

Current Retail Price (online): \$120.00 (Panini MAPP)

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Pioneering Signature Series Baseball Returns To The Diamond For The First Time Since 2001, Packing Three Autographs In Every Six-Card Pack
- No More than 499 base sets produced.
- INKredible Combos (Max #d/10), - INKredible Quads (Max #d/5), - INKredible Six (Max #d/5)
- Cutting-Edge, Personality-Driven Designs Place Extra Emphasis On Each Current MLBPA Superstar And Retired Great In The Product.
- Featuring Very Few Prospects And Heavy On-Card Autograph Content, Signature Series Also Includes Diamond Cuts, Cut Autographs Numbered To 25 Or Less.



BOX BREAK

Three Autographs & Three Sequentially Numbered Commons/Parallels/Inserts per Pack/Box

COLLECTION BREAKDOWN

- 100 Commons
- 100 Signature Proof Silver (#D/25)
- 100 Signature Proof Gold (#D/10)
- 100 Signature Proof Platinum (#D/1)
- 50 Card Signatures Insert (On-Card Autos)
- 150 Rookie Prospects Game Ball Signatures (Max #d/200)
- 100 Game Ball Signatures (Max #d/25)
- 20 Lumber Cuts Prime Materials (Max #d/25)

LOOK FOR

- On-Card Autographs (#D/99) In The 50-Card Signatures Insert That Includes Josh Hamilton, Matt Kemp, Miguel Casrera, Buster Posey, Austin Jackson, Dustin Pedroia, Ryan Braun, David Freese, David Ortiz And Mariano Rivera Among Others
- Signatures Of All-Time Greats Like Ken Griffy Jr. Cal Ripken Jr, Greg Maddux, Carl Yastrzemski, Duke Snider, Mike Schmidt, Nolan Ryan, Pete Rose, Randy Johnson, Reggie Jackson, Rickey Henderson, Ryne Sandberg And Stan Musial.
- Multi-Signed Cards Featuring Up To Six Autographs Per Card.

RATED ROOKIES PATCHES

On-Card Patches (#D/299) Of This Seasons Top Rated Rookies, Including Oakland Phenom Yoenis Cespedes.

COMMONS

Get Up Close And Personal With Today's MLBPA Stars And Emerging Rookies (Including Texas' Yu Darvish, Los Angeles' Mike Trout And Washington's Bryce Harper.

HITTERS INK

Get Up Close And Personal With Hitters Ink Features Both Today's Top Hitters Like Matt Kemp, Josh Hamilton And Adrian Gonzalez To Past Magicians At The Plate Like George Brett, Stan Musial And Al Kaline

LUMBER CUTS

Lumber Cuts Puts The Focus On, What Else, The Game's All-Time Top Hitters

GAME BALL SIGNATURES

Single-Signed Sweet Spot Swatch Cards Carry The Signatures Of Hall Of Famers, Legends And Current MLBPA Stars

SIGNATURE STATS

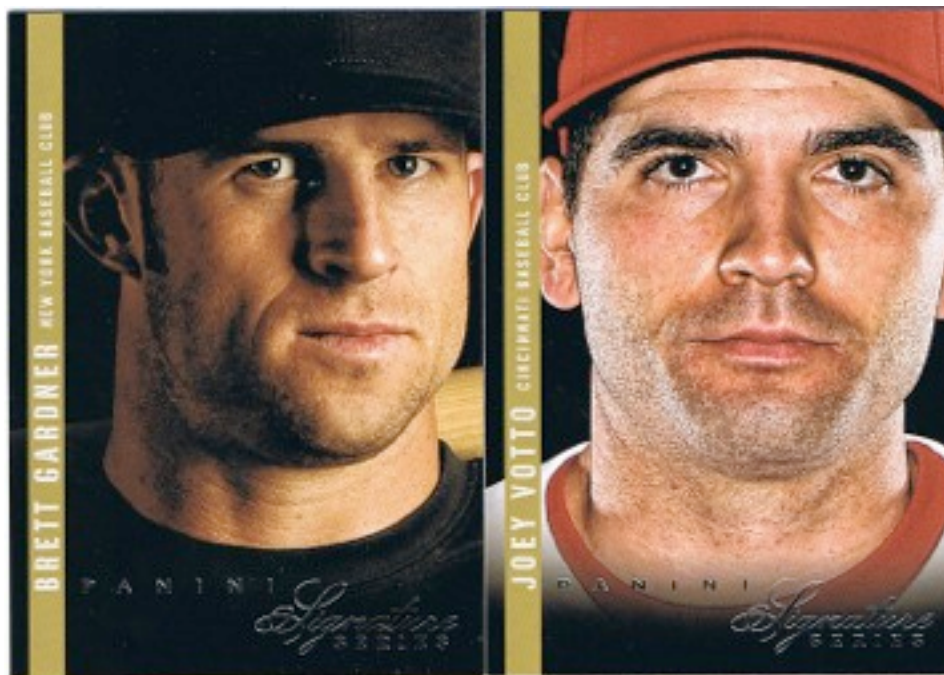
Baseball Is A Sport Whose Heritage Is Built On Stats, And Signature Series Celebrates Those Players - Both Pitchers And Hitters - Ringing Up Big-Time Numbers.



WHAT WE PULLED

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

Base - 3/100 (3%)



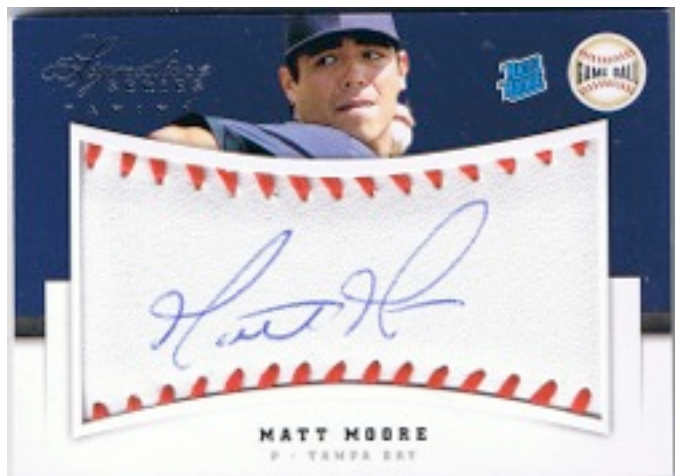
Adam Jones Autograph Redemption

Scott Barnes Rated Rookie Sweet Spot Autograph /299





Matt Moore Rated Rookie Sweet Spot Autograph /299



FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 2/5

Design - 4/5

Fun - 4/5

Value - 2.5/5

Rebuy - 2/5

Total - 14.5/25 (58%)

Pros:

Sweet Spot Autographs

Design isn't bad with what Panini has to work with

Cons:

Priced way too high

Some boxes don't even yield a parallel

Unnumbered base, yet it would take at least 34 boxes to complete set

Yes, you could hit something nice, but mostly a simple waste of money

No NPN for product

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

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



SCF Official Review: 2012/13 Panini Threads
By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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



24 packs per box

5 cards per pack

Current Retail Price (online): \$96.00 MAPP

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- After a year away, the popular Threads brand returns with 100 rookie Cards printed on wood and signed on-card!
- Also look for the collector favorite Team Threads die-cut jersey autographs!
- Look for a 150 base set with a good mix of current and retired players along with rookie autographs from the 2011 and 2012 draft classes.
- Find designs unique to the Threads brand history!
- Autograph sets include Rookies, Team Threads Signatures, Rookie Team Threads Signatures, and Private Signings.
- Memorabilia cards include Authentic Threads, Prime Authentic Threads, Triple Threads, and Prime Triple Threads.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

High Flyers



The game's best dunkers all in one place, showcasing some of the best in-action photography captured during NBA games

Team Threads Signatures

These die-cut jersey card gems with signatures are back again!

Signage

Showcasing on-card autographs of the NBA's best players!

Century Greats

Features a new and unique design along with some of the most recognizable and historical NBA players.

Authentic Threads

Find short-printed memorabilia cards at the rate of one per box! Prime versions as well!

Rookies

Look for on-card autographs of the latest rookies on newly-designed wood cards.

WHAT WE PULLED

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

Kobe Anthology Bonus Pack - 5 cards





Base: 96/150 (64%)

Silver Century Proof/199 (1): Shawn Marion



Century Greats (3)

Floor Generals (3)

High Flyers (4)

Inside Presence (3)

Rookie Team Threads (5)

Talented Twosomes (2)





Isaiah Thomas RC/Autograph





Terrence Ross RC/Autograph



Signage Ben Gordon Autograph





Triple Threads Prime Deron Williams 1-color Patch/Ty Lawson 3-color Patch/Rajon Rondo 2-color Patch /25



FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 4/5

Design - 4.5/5

Fun - 4/5

Value - 4/5

Rebuy - 4.25/5

Overall - 20.75/25 (83%)

Pros:

On card Autographs, especially for Rookies

Rookies are relegated to Autographs, no plain base cards

Nice change to card design

Return of Team Threads inserts

Cons:

Only one numbered parallel per box

Too many insert sets, feels like overkill

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at Panini for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release. For more information on all of their products, visit them today at www.paniniamerica.net. All the base and inserts are available for request. Please PM me with the cards of interest. Cards are available for 30 days from the time this review is posted. As always, only VIPs may make requests for the first 48 hours.