



VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY 2009

INSIDE : SCF NEW FEATURES p.3

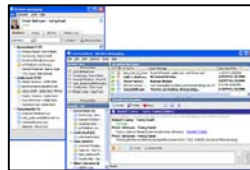
CHAT



BLOGS



INSTANT MESSAGING



ALSO INSIDE

REVIEWS, ADVICE, AND OPINIONS



Sports
Card
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The
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In Sports Card
Trading



www.sportscardforum.com

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 Topps Heritage Baseball \$70.99 (out February 23rd)



- Chrome Parallel Cards
- 6 Insert Cards per box
- 1 Autograph or Relic per box
- Box Loader – Hobby Exclusive

2008-2009 Topps T-51 Murad Basketball \$75.99 (out February 9th)



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

2008 Upper Deck Ultimate Collection Football \$89.99 (out February 11th)



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

2008-2009 Upper Deck Hockey Series 2 \$64.99 (out February 10th)



- Update your Young Guns collection, with an average of 6 per box!
- Collect 2 memorabilia cards in each box on avg.! Including Rookie Materials!
- More Rookies: Find Rookie Playmakers Jersey cards and Clear Cut Rookies Acetate cards! - Both averaging 1 per case!
- Added Value: Pull 1 Victory Update card in every pack!
- Get 1-of-1 Press-plate cards from the UD1 & UD2 regular sets!
- Complete your 08-09 Upper Deck set! Top it off with great parallels: Exclusives and High Glossy versions!
- Look for UD Game Patch and Rookie Materials patch cards - both #'d to 15!

2008 Press Pass Eclipse Racing \$173.99 (out February 25th)



- One Press Pass autograph card in every 20 packs 1:20 - very limited autos only found in Press Pass & Eclipse 2008
- Two memorabilia cards in each box
- Under Cover Signature cards, Star Tracks tire cards # to 250 & 4-wide w/checkered flag insert all HOBBY ONLY INSERTS
- Teammate Autos featuring Dale Jr./Jeff Gordon and/or Jimmy Johnson....a first for these top drivers.
- 90 card base set on 24 pt. stock featuring five new subsets for 2008!
- Stellar - 27 card set-within-a-set on Chrome Board...all '07 race winners!
- Two unique inserts on holofoil and plastic...an industry first



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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

New Year, New Features

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

You might have noticed that on SCF some members have shiny VIP badges. What are those? Well basically, it means that the members have subscribed to the VIP program and are getting these added benefits:

VIP

- PM Space: 500
- Gallery images: 100
- Can Upload Signature banner to SCF Server: Yes, no need to host your banner on Photobucket or somewhere else!
- Most ads removed (ads after first post, in PM, side column and footer)
- Can set self "invisible" and not be seen by other members
- Receives an extra 140 Card Cash for referrals (10 normally, 150 for VIP Members)
- Receives extra 150 Card Cash on birthday (50 normally, 200 for VIP Members)
- VIP Member badge
- Name change once a year and [discounted rates on other username changes](#).
- FREE [Card Cash Auction Pass](#) (Save 800 Card Cash a month!)
- Given priority when SCF offers packs for Card Cash! (48 hours or more)
- Given priority when cards from sponsored breaks are placed into the CC store.
- AND BRAND NEW: Blogs and Userpages.
- AGAIN BRAND NEW: Instant Messaging

Since mid January, both the SCF staff and VIP members have been enjoying the benefits of blogs. Take the time to check them out; our members have got worthy things to say!

For instance, check out nadeau01_johnson48's blog for all things Cleveland (<http://www.sportscardforum.com/blog.php?u=23599>)

and Inferno's page for some sweet sweet cards (<http://www.sportscardforum.com/blog.php?u=28564>).

Even more exciting, you can now chat either in a chat room or on instant messenger on SCF. If you are like me, over the years many fellow traders have also become friends. To avoid clogging up your PM inbox with chit chat message, how about giving the chat and IM a try? The chat is open to every member (as long as they are not banned or suspended) but the IM system is reserved to the VIP members.

We aim to continue to add new features to SCF as the site continues to thrive. If you are wondering what the money from the VIP subscriptions is used for, you'll be glad to know that it is invested back in the site. It helps towards advertising and marketing in magazines such as Tuff Stuff, hiring tables/booths at major card shows (like the Nationals which will be in Cleveland this year), developing new projects (auctions, storefronts and online price guides) and paying for the server costs.





SCF Member Spotlight

By Scott Kozlowski aka Scottkoz20

In this edition of the monthly spotlight, we will once again take a look at five members of sportscardforum.com that have been nominated by the staff. The first three members were nominated by the Basketball, Baseball and Racing teams. 2 more members were nominated by the Football and Hockey teams having earned a "Super Collector" tag for their player collections

Additionally, we will now also feature a member of the staff that has either recently joined or has been promoted.

Staff Spotlight - johan29lhp

Ryan was recently promoted to an Assistant Baseball Manager. As a member of the staff he enjoys knowing that he plays a role in the success of SCF. He is able to work with members on the organization of activities and because of this, he is able to learn about and get to know other members that he might not otherwise know.

A member since December 2007, he has made over 170 deals successfully. He started collecting at age five with his father. He currently collects Johan Santana, which he indicates is ironic since he is an Atlanta Braves fan. However, he sees Johan as a great role model for himself as he plays college baseball at Georgia College.

Basketball Member Spotlight - JammingJames23

Khendra is one of SCF most established and respected female traders. Since joining SCF in February of 2005, she has completed more than 460 trades. This is mostly due to the fact that she finds making deals on SCF easier than on any other trading website.

Khendra started collecting in 1992 and currently collects basketball almost exclusively. Her primary collecting focuses are building up her Antoine Walker player collection and set collections. When she is not on SCF, she enjoys daydreaming, music, reading, running, video games, and weightlifting.

Baseball Member Spotlight - Hawaiian Bam Bam

Elbert is one of SCF newer members, joining in November 2008, but has made a great impact to the SCF community in his short time. He has completed over 50 trades which have landed him over 28,000 cards towards his Topps project. His Topps set project is to collect every Topps card from 1951-2009 along with every post cereal card from 1960-1963.

He loves SCF because of how everyone comes together and helps each other out. Since joining, the 28,000 cards he obtained represent almost 70% of his Topps set project completed just by trading. When he is not on SCF he likes to spend time with his wife and daughter.

Racing Member Spotlight - doG sI kcivraH

Peter is one of the most respected members within the Racing collector community. Since joining SCF in December 2006, he has completed nearly 125 trades. He spends most of his time on SCF in the Racing forums for as he put it "I love the family feel to it. Everyone is so incredibly friendly and we sometime go well out of our way to help each other out, whether it is with our collections or with life in general. You actually feel like part of their life and they a part of yours."

Peter started collecting baseball in the late 80's and NASCAR in 2004. His primary focus is now NASCAR and Kevin Harvick specifically. He does dabble a little in football, preferably Skyler Green. When he is not on SCF, he is an avid bowler, with a 208 average. He intends to go back to school for sports journalism after spending a day as a sports anchor in high school. This fueled his passion for sports journalism.

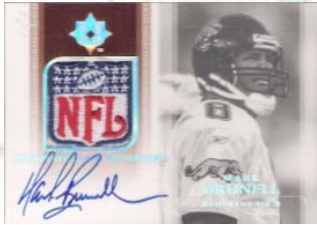


Football Super Collector Spotlight- Jaderock

Peter has been given a Football Super Collector badge for what the football team says is arguably "the best single player collection they have ever seen". Here are some of the numbers:

- Amount Owned/Amount LISTED ON Beckett= 95% of 3300ish
- Amount Auto/GU Owned/Amount Produced= 378/381 = 99.2% (missing 1 NFL shield and 2 QUADS)
- Amount Autos Owned/Amount Produced= 126/129 = 97.7% (missing 1 (#1/1) and 2 listed cards that may not have been made.
- Amount Base Owned/Amount Produced= probably 100% or 99.99%

2004 Ultimate Auto Shield 1/1



Mark Brunell Autograph Jaguar Jersey



Mark Brunell and Joe Theismann Dual Auto



You can check out Peter's Brunell collection at <http://www.freewebs.com/markbrunell/index.htm>

Hockey Super Collector Spotlight - lumm0x

Kelly recently was given the 1st Hockey Super Collector badge for his Jeff Carter collection. When asked why he started to collect Jeff Carter, he stated "I first started collecting him after seeing him excel at the World Junior Championships and finding out he had been drafted by my favorite team; the Philadelphia Flyers. I thought his size, speed and offensive potential would ensure his success in the league. He has realized that potential this season leading the NHL in goals and his team in points".

Here are some of the numbers of his collection:

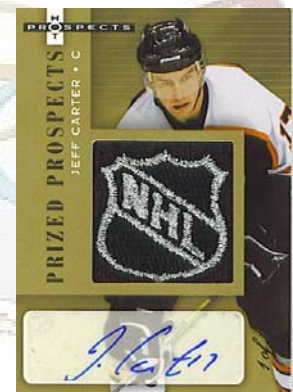
- 91% of all Jeff Carter cards owned
- 247 base set cards
- 101 rookie year cards - only has 18 true RC's- have them all in numerous copies of each
- 318 autos
- 331 game used
- 768 parallels/inserts
- 35 1/1 cards
- 4 oddball cards

And a couple of the cards he owns

Jeff Carter and Mike Richards Dual Shield Patch 1/1 from 2005-06 The Cup



Jeff Carter 2005-06 Hot Prospect En Fuego 1/1



If you are interested to see the entire collection, please visit Kelly's Web page at <http://lumm0x.tripod.com/index.html>



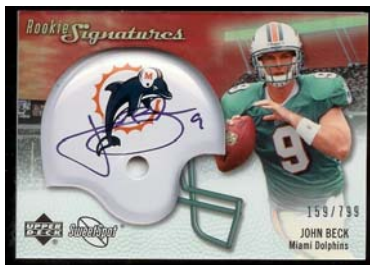
The Team Collectors' Group – Phinsfan77

By Roger Barthelemy aka Patriotsguy

In the upcoming issues of the Collector's Corner, I have decided to introduce our membership to various members of the Team Collector Group. This month, I would like to give the floor to Phinsfan77.

Hello. My name is Andy Heflin, and I am the current Miami Dolphins collector in the Team Collector Group (TCG) on SCF. I just wanted to start out by telling you a little about myself, and then go into my collection and why and what I collect a bit.

I am 31 years old and have been collecting since I was 10 years old in 1987. My first pack of cards ever was a 1987 Topps baseball. I loved those wood grain border cards. Within a year or so I had primarily switched over to collecting football cards. For some reason I immediately latched onto the Miami Dolphins as my favorite team. I loved the uniforms and watching my favorite player of all times, Dan Marino. I would always go to the local card store and pick up packs or boxes of the newest Pro Set or Score set hoping to find all the dolphins cards. I took a few years hiatus from collecting when I went away to college, but quickly got back into the hobby when I settled down after college and actually had some income to start collecting again.



From then on, I have been trying to better my collection through local shows, internet sites, eBay, and for the past couple years my involvement in the TCG has taken my collection to new heights!! I collect anything and everything related to the Dolphins, and really have to look no further than our team collector group. Between the monthly send outs from the other members, and the couple of Secret Santas that take place throughout the year, I am overwhelmed with Dolphins stuff. My collection started with strictly Marino items, but has quickly evolved to anything and everything Dolphins. I have what I would like to think of, as the most extensive Dan Marino collection around. Several thousands cards, and at last count...around 2800 different including hundreds of Game Used cards and autographed cards.

Outside of the thousands and thousands of Dolphin cards, I also collect autographed helmets and jerseys. I have 51 autographed Dolphins mini helmets including all the greats from all of the Dolphin teams over the years. I also have around 10 jerseys of different past and present Miami players.

My collection even includes some bobble heads and banners and pretty much anything that is related to the team in any way.

Despite the vast nature of my collection and the wide variety of stuff I collect, I am always looking to enlarge it anyway I can. To me, I can never have enough dolphins stuff, and I'm always on the lookout for anything new to add to my collection. I couldn't have half of what I have now if it weren't for the TCG and help from members past and present of the group and other SCF members.
















CALENDAR OF RELEASE DATES

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

February (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
2  - 2009 Topps Series 1 Baseball	3  - 2008-09 SP Authentic Basketball - 2008-09 UD Series 1 Baseball	4  - 2008 Playoffs Contenders Baseball	5	6
9  - Topps T-51 Murad Basketball	10  - 2008-09 UD Hockey Series 2	11  - 2008-09 Ultimate Collection Football - 2008-09 UD Premier Basketball	12	13  - 2008-09 UD Rookie Class Factory Set
16	17	18  - 2009 UD Spectrum Baseball - 2008-09 UD Skybox Basketball	19	20
23  - 2009 Topps Heritage Baseball	24  - 2008-09 UD Hockey Collector's Choice	25  - Press Pass Eclipse Racing	26	27

For all your sports cards need, make sure to visit 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



2008-2009 Upper Deck TrilogY Hockey

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

Unlike my usual reviews, this one is based on a case break. Do not think all of the great cards below came out of a single box as you would be sadly disappointed if you bought one. The group break was hosted by Enigma on sportscardforum and for a breakdown of the pulls by box; you can refer to the actual thread [here](#).

Description

In true Upper Deck fashion, this year's incarnation of TrilogY is quite similar to the previous ones. As they say, if it is not broken, why fix it? UD does not surprise in any way with this release, a smart, shiny looking ensemble which should definitely please the set collectors out there. The release also includes plenty of insert, game-used and autograph sets such as Young Star Scripts, Scripted Swatches (three different levels), Ice Scripts, Tri-Color Tandems, Rivals and the ever popular Frozen in Time. In short, there should be something to please everyone in those sets although there will no doubt be some grumbling over the fact that all autographs (aside from the Ice Scripts) are stickers. Most people would expect on card autographs from a product at this price point.

Box Details

Check out [Upper Deck's Official Product Information](#)

Packs per box: 9

Cards per pack: 5

Base set: 100 cards

Price: \$137.99 to \$165.99

Checklists (Print Run in brackets where appropriate)

Base

Ice Scripts

1-2 Combo Clearcut Auto (25)

1-2-3 Combo Clearcut Auto (10)

Foursomes Quad Autos (5)

Frozen in Time (799)

Honorary Swatches

Two-Way Threads

3 Star Spotlights

Tri-Color Tandems

Rivals

Superstar Scripts



Young Star Scripts

Scripted 3rd Star Swatches (100)

Scripted 2nd Star Swatches (25)

Scripted 1st Star Swatches (10)

Rookie Premiere Level 1 (999)

Rookie Premieres Level 2 (499)

The Break

A case of this product was broken which meant 10 boxes of 9 packs each or in other words, 90 packs for a total of 450 cards. Below is the breakdown of the cards pulled by team:

Detroit

13 base cards

Frozen In Time Henrik Zetterberg /799

Frozen In Time Mr. Hockey /799

Darren Helm RC /999

Justin Abdelkader RC /999

Mattias Ritola RC /999

Three Star Spotlight Zetterberg/Holmstrom/Lidstrom Triple Jersey

Two-Way Threads Henrik Zetterberg Dual Jersey

Two-Way Threads Nicklas Lidstrom Dual Jersey x2

Young Star Scripts Valtteri Filppula Auto

Actual Percentage - 8.20%

Pittsburgh

17 base cards

Frozen In Time Sidney Crosby /799

Alex Goligoski RC /999 x2

Honorary Swatches Marian Hossa Dual Jersey

Ice Scripts Mario Lemieux Auto

Scripted Swatches Evgeni Malkin Auto/Jersey /100

Tri-Color Tandems Sidney Crosby Triple Jersey/Evgeni Malkin Triple Jersey

Actual Percentage - 5.74%

Columbus

11 base cards

Andrew Murray RC /999

Dan LaCosta RC /999

Derick Brassard RC /999

Derek Dorsett RC /999

Steve Mason RC /999

Tom Sestito RC /999

Jakub Voracek RC /499

Honorary Swatches Rick Nash Dual Jersey

Actual Percentage - 6.56%

NY Rangers

10 base cards

Frozen In Time Mark Messier /799

Honorary Swatches Brendan Shanahan Dual Jersey

Honorary Swatches Henrik Lundqvist Dual Jersey

Ice Scripts Mark Staal Auto x2

Rivals Lundqvist/Redden/Staal/Fleury/Gonchar/Staal Six Jersey

Superstar Scripts Markus Naslund Auto

Actual Percentage - 5.74%



THE RUNDOWN ON...



Chicago
 11 base cards
 Jordan Hendry RC /999
 Pascal Pelletier RC /999
 Two-Way Threads Patrick Sharp Dual Jersey
 Young Star Scripts Adam Burish Auto
 Actual Percentage - 3.28%



Boston
 11 base cards
 Frozen In Time Bobby Orr /799
 Blake Wheeler RC /499
 Honorary Swatches Phil Kessel Dual Jersey
 Superstar Scripts Cam Neely Auto
 Two-Way Threads Zdeno Chara Dual Jersey x2
 Actual Percentage - 4.92%

Colorado
 13 base cards
 Cody McLeod RC /999
 Ice Scripts Paul Stastny Auto
 Superstar Scripts Milan Hedjuk Auto
 Actual Percentage - 2.46%



Edmonton
 13 base cards
 Young Star Scripts Andrew Cogliano Auto
 Young Star Scripts Rob Schremp Auto
 Actual Percentage - 1.64%

Dallas
 13 base cards
 James Neal RC /999
 BJ Crombeen RC /999
 Garrett Stafford RC /999
 Mark Fistric RC /999
 Ice Scripts Marty Turco Auto Redemption
 Actual Percentage - 4.10%

Toronto
 10 base cards
 Frozen In Time Mats Sundin /799
 Darryl Boyce RC /999
 Robbie Earl RC /999 x2
 Nikolai Kulemin RC /499
 Actual Percentage - 4.10%



NY Islanders
 8 base cards
 Kyle Okposo RC /999
 Ice Scripts Clark Gillies Auto
 Ice Scripts Denis Potvin Auto Redemption
 Young Star Scripts Blake Comeau Auto x2
 Actual Percentage - 4.10%

San Jose
 12 base cards
 Tom Cavanagh RC /999
 Mike Iggulden RC /999
 Scripted Swatches Jonathan Cheechoo Auto/Jersey /100
 Young Star Scripts Devin Setoguchi Auto
 Actual Percentage - 3.28%

Montreal
 14 base cards
 Frozen In Time Patrick Roy /799
 Honorary Swatches Carey Price Dual Jersey
 Scripted Swatches Carey Price Auto/Jersey /25
 Three Star Spotlight Koivu/Shutt/Kovalev Triple Jersey
 Three Star Spotlight Malkin/Kovalev/Gonchar Triple Jersey
 Actual Percentage - 4.10%

Philadelphia
 10 base cards
 Frozen In Time Mike Richards /799
 Claude Giroux RC /999
 Kyle Greentree RC /999
 Actual Percentage - 2.46%



Washington
 11 base cards
 Frozen In Time Alexander Ovechkin /799
 Three Star Spotlight Ovechkin/Malkin/Kovalchuk Triple Jersey
 Actual Percentage - 1.64%

Los Angeles
 7 base cards
 Oscar Moller RC /999
 Erik Ersberg RC /999
 Wayne Simmonds RC /999
 Honorary Swatches Rob Blake Dual Jersey
 Ice Scripts Jack Johnson Auto
 Actual Percentage - 4.10%

Carolina
 10 base cards
 Brandon Nolan RC /999
 Joe Jensen RC /999
 Tim Conboy RC /999
 Zach Boychuk RC /499
 Actual Percentage - 3.28%



Ottawa
 9 base cards
 Brian Lee /999
 Ilya Zubov RC /999
 Jesse Winchester RC /999
 Tri Color Tandems Dany Heatley Triple Jersey/Martin Gerber Triple Jersey
 Actual Percentage - 3.28%

THE RUNDOWN ON...



Atlanta
 10 base cards
 Boris Valabik RC /999
 Scripted Swatches Ilya Kovalchuk Jersey/Auto Redemption /100
 Actual Percentage - 1.64%

Anaheim
 12 base cards
 Andrew Ebbett RC /999
 Three Star Spotlight Getzlaf/Selanne/Perry Triple Jersey
 Two-Way Threads Chris Pronger Dual Jersey
 Actual Percentage - 2.46%

Buffalo
 13 base cards
 Honorary Swatches Ryan Miller Dual Jersey
 Actual Percentage - .82%

Calgary
 9 base cards
 Tim Ramholt RC /999
 Three Star Spotlight Bourque/Phaneuf/Pronger Triple Jersey
 Actual Percentage - 1.64%

Tampa Bay
 10 base cards
 Vladimir Mihalik RC /999
 Janne Niskala RC /999
 Two-Way Threads Vincent Lecavalier Dual Jersey
 Actual Percentage - 2.46%

St. Louis
 9 base cards
 Patrik Berglund RC /999
 Alex Pietrangelo RC /499
 1-2 Combo Clear Cut Erik Johnson/Jack Johnson Dual Auto Redemption /100
 Ice Scripts Erik Johnson Auto
 Actual Percentage - 3.28%

Vancouver
 13 base cards
 Superstar Scripts Daniel Sedin Auto
 Superstar Scripts Henrik Sedin Auto
 Actual Percentage - 1.64%

Phoenix
 6 base cards
 Kyle Turris RC /999
 Viktor Tikhonov RC /999
 Two-Way Threads Shane Doan Dual Jersey x2
 Actual Percentage - 3.28%

Nashville
 5 base cards
 Honorary Swatches Shea Weber Dual Jersey
 Actual Percentage: .82%

Minnesota
 11 base cards
 Frozen In Time Marian Gaborik /799
 Honorary Swatches Marian Gaborik Dual Jersey
 Actual Percentage - 1.64%

New Jersey
 12 base cards
 Anssi Salmela RC /999
 Three Star Spotlight Roy/Price/Brodeur
 Young Star Scripts David Clarkson Auto
 Actual Percentage - 2.46%

Florida
 10 base cards
 Shawn Matthias RC /999 x2
 Superstar Scripts Tomas Vokoun Auto x2
 Actual Percentage - 3.28%



Final Ratings

Overall Design: 5/5
 Value: 4/5
 Fun: 5/5
 Rebuy: 4/5
 Variety: 4.5/5

Final Grade: 90%



It can sometimes be hard not to be influenced by how kind a product has been to you in a break. For instance here, as I had the Montreal Canadiens, I was exceptionally pleased with the Price autographed swatch so this product left me with a very positive impression. When I look at other breaks on sportscardforum, it seems that most people are rather satisfied with their break of Trilogy. It definitely has a higher success rate than another recent release by Upper Deck (Black Diamond). If I had to choose between the two, I would not hesitate for a second.

2008 Donruss Sports Legends

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, thanks to our great sponsors at Donruss for providing us with 2 boxes...yes, 2 boxes...of this product to review.

You can view the videos of this break here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GDGOpTWNlQ> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpUBAj3q8v0>

Product Description	10 packs per box	5 cards per pack	MSRP: \$85-\$95
Per Box Items	4 autograph or memorabilia cards (At least 1 autograph per box)	2 parallels	2 inserts

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Hall of Famers:

Ted Williams, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Cal Ripken, Nolan Ryan, Jim Brown, Joe Montana, Knute Rockne, Dan Marino, John Elway, Larry Bird, Dick Vitale, Jerry West, Bill Walton, Dean Smith, John Wooden, Oscar Robertson, Patrick Roy, Ray Bourque, Paul Coffey, Mike Bossy, Jake LaMotta, Martina Navratilova, Jim Courier, Richard Petty, Bobby Allison, Al Unser, among others.

Legends:

Shoeless Joe Jackson, Pete Rose, Serena Williams, Peggy Fleming, Bas Rutten, Randy Couture, Bruce Jenner, Mike Powell, Cat Osterman, Jennie Finch, Michelle Akers, Lisa Leslie, Sheryl Swoopes, Jeanette Lee, Dennis Rodman, Ron Turcotte, Bela Karolyi, and Pete Weber, among others.

Signature Connection Combo Dual Signed Cards:

Jim Brown/Mike Powell, Bo Jackson/Deion Sanders, Nolan Ryan/Troy Aikman, Al Unser/Richard Petty, Bill Walton/John Wooden, Al Unser Sr./Al Unser Jr., and Bill Walton/Troy Aikman among others.

Legends of the Game Combo Dual Material Cards:

Pete Rose/Shoeless Joe Jackson, Ted Williams/Larry Bird, Knute Rockne/Paul "Bear" Bryant, Willie Mays/Joe Montana, and Cale Yarborough/Richard Petty among others.

Collegiate Legends Patches:

Tom Seaver(USC), Reggie Jackson(Arizona State), Lisa Leslie(USC), Dean Smith(North Carolina), Randy Couture(Oklahoma State), and John Wooden(UCLA & Purdue) among others.

CARD SETS

BASE SET

- Common (150)
- Mirror Parallels (150) - 5 levels, #'d to 250 or less.
- Mirror Signatures (150) - 5 levels feat. a sig., #'d to 250 or less.
- Mirror Materials (150) - 5 levels, #'d to 500 or less.

INSERTS

- Legends of the Game Combos (15) - Two swatches, #'d to 100 or less.
- Prime - #'d to 25 or less.

Museum Collection (35) - 6 levels, including signature, material, prime, and material signatures.

Museum Curator Collection Materials (35) - #'d to 100 or less.

- Prime - #'d to 25 or less.
- Materials Signatures - #'d to 25 or less.

College Heroes (10) - 4 levels, including signature and material versions.

Champions (20) - 4 levels, including signature and material versions.

Collegiate Legends Patches (25) - Features trapped signed ON-CARD embroidered patches and #'d to 250 or less.

Signature Connection Combos (17) - #'d to 100 or less.

Signature Connection Triples (3) - #'d to 250 or less.

Signature Cuts 1-11 (25) - 11 levels featuring a trapped cut signature or signed parchment. Numbering from 100 or less down to 10 or less.



WHAT WE PULLED:

Box 1: Base (43/150) - 28.67% Dupes - 0

Box 2: Base (43/150) - 28.67% Dupes - 0

The base cards from Sports Legends are much like previous Americana releases with the thin foilboard. The set's name is displayed in the top left corner. The left and right borders of the card have the player's team (when applicable) and their position or sport. At the bottom is the location for the player's name. The middle houses the full body photos/portraits.

There are 5 levels of parallels in this release of the base set. They are numbered to 250 or less, depending on the color;

Red - 250

Blue - 100

Gold - 25

Emerald - 5

Black - 1

Obviously, the card itself mirrors the base card. You can tell which parallel version you have by looking at the left and right borders of the card. The color of the parallel appears there.

Red (4) - Pat LaFontaine, Willie Mays, Bob Feller, Carlton Fisk

Gold (1) - Martina Navratilova

There are three inserts set in Sports Legends (all numbered). They are; Champions, College Heroes and Museum Collection.

Champions (a 20 card set) focuses on athletes who helped their teams to win titles or won them as individuals. Their names are synonymous with their respective sport. The card itself has the athlete in a full body picture, with the name of the insert set in the middle. The athlete's name is at the bottom and as with all the other cards in the set, it is on a foilboard. Some of the athlete's accomplishments are listed on the back. There are two versions, the regular numbered to 1000 and the gold numbered to 100.



Champions /1000 (1) - Larry Bird

College Heroes is a 9 card set that displays the athlete in his/her college uniform. These athletes were major stars at their schools and are easily remembered for their accomplishments while attending them. The name of the insert set is at the top like a banner, but sits in the background to the athlete's picture. The athlete's name is at the bottom of the card with a paragraph of accomplishments listed on the back. Much like Champions, there's a regular version numbered to 1000 and a gold version numbered to 100.

College Greats Gold /100 (1) - Gordon Beckham

Museum Collection is a 35 card set that features Hall of Famers from their respective sports. From mainstream sports to lesser known sports, this set runs the gambit of who's who in many fields. The athlete's name is positioned at the top along with the set's logo. The insert set's name is located at the bottom. The player's photo is done as a portrait in the middle, including a black border/lattice frame design that surrounds it. Like the other sets, it also has the two levels.



Museum Collection /1000 (3) - Casey Stengel, Steve Cauthen, Cale Yarborough

There are numerous types of memorabilia and autographs to be found in Sports Legends. As for us, we pulled only the Mirror cards. These cards are the exact same as the base except for housing an auto or memorabilia swatch towards the bottom. There are five levels, much like the base Mirror parallels, however, they vary in their print run per athlete.

Mirror Red Maques Haynes Jersey /500, Mirror Blue Urijah Faber Pants /150, Mirror Blue Bailey Howell Jersey /250, Mirror Blue Mike Schmidt Bat /100

Mirror Red Bobby Wanzer Auto /658, Mirror Red Tatu Pecorari Auto /539, Mirror Red Cat Osterman Auto /493, Mirror Blue Tatu Pecorari Auto /250

Final Ratings (Out of 5):

Base set: 4/5

Fun: 5/5

Overall design: 4.5/5

Value: 4/5

Re-buy: 4.5/5

Overall: 22/25 (88%)

Once again, thanks to our gracious sponsors at Donruss for providing us with two boxes and the opportunity to review them.

2008 Donruss Playoffs Prime Cuts IV Baseball

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, I want to say thanks to our wonderful sponsors at Donruss/Playoff for providing this box to us at SCF.

You can view the videos of this break here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaWHWSy4bcI>

2008 Playoff Prime Cuts IV 1 pack 7 cards 4 auto or memorabilia cards MSRP: \$225-\$240

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Commons (100) - #d to 249.

Rookies Signatures (50) - #d to 299 or less.

Rookies Materials Jerseys (50) - #d to 199 or less.

Rookies Materials Bats (50) - #d to 199 or less.

Rookies Signature Materials Jerseys (50) - #d to 299 or less.

Rookies Signature Materials Bats (50) - #d to 299 or less.

Century (150) - Insert with 3 levels, #d to 50 or less.

Century Signatures (100) - Autograph insert with 4 levels, #d to 99 or less.

Prime Cuts Bats (100) - #d to 99 or less.

Prime Cuts Bats Signatures (100) - #d to 49 or less.

Prime Cuts Jerseys (6) - 6 levels, including signature and prime versions. #d to 99 or less.

Prime Cuts Material Combos (100) - 3 levels, including signature and prime versions. #d to 99 or less.

Icons (50) - 23 levels, including signature, material, and prime versions. #d to 99 or less.

Icons Material Combos (50) - 3 levels, including prime and signature versions. #d to 99 or less.

Timeline (50) - 19 levels, including signature, material, and prime versions. #d to 99 or less.

Timeline Material Combos (50) - 3 levels, including signature and prime versions. #d to 99 or less.

Timeline Trios Materials (50) - 13 levels, including signature and prime versions. #d to 99 or less.

Timeline Quad Materials (50) - 6 levels, including signature and prime versions. #d to 99 or less.

Colossal (25) - 16 levels, including signature, material, and prime versions. #d to 99 or less.

Material Combos (10) - #d to 99 or less.

Material Combos Prime (10) - #d to 25 or less.

Material Triples (10) - #d to 99 or less.

Material Triples Prime (10) - #d to 25 or less.

Material Quads (10) - #d to 99 or less.

Material Quads Prime (10) - #d to 25 or less.

Signature Combos (10) - #d to 99 or less.

Signature Trios (10) - #d to 99 or less.

Signature Quads (5) - #d to 99 or less.

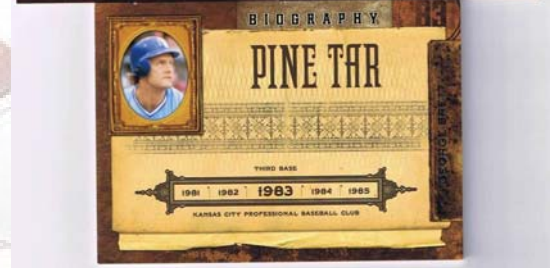
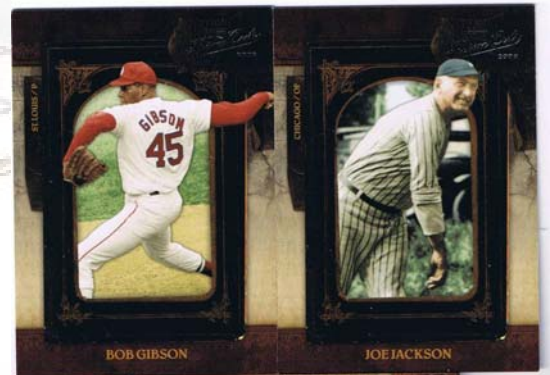
Souvenir Cuts (25) - #d to 250 or less.

Souvenir Stadium Cuts (10) - #d to 250 or less.

Biography (35) - 4 levels, including material, signature, and prime versions. #d to 99 or less.

Leaf Limited Phenoms (25) - #d to 99 or less.

Playoff Contenders Rookies (25) - #d to 99 or less.



Base 2/100 - 2%

Dupes - 0

Base (2) /249 - Bob Gibson, Joe Jackson

Prime Cuts IV's base set is limited to 449 of each base card. At the top of the card, you find the set logo in the right corner. Along the sides, the border takes the appearance of an old piece of paper. The player's picture bursts through the middle as the full body photos are larger than the background. The player's team name and position can be found running vertically on the left side. At the bottom, you find the players name.

There are a few insert sets in this release. The one we pulled was Biography. The card denotes a specific event which happened in the profiled player's career. The top of the card names the set with the player's photo in the top left corner. Across the middle, next to the photo, is the name of the event. The bottom states the player's position, a time line with the year of the event in bold and with a larger font than the other years, and finally the team. The player's name can be found vertically along the right side of the card. The back of the card recaps the event that took place.

Biography (1) - George Brett (non-numbered)

There are many auto and memorabilia set to be found in Prime Cuts IV. We will highlight the ones we pulled.

The Playoff Contenders Rookie Autos mirror what the cards from the football set release are expected to look like. There are 25 subjects in this set. The set name is at the top with the words "Rookie Ticket" in the right corner. The word "ROOKIE" is spelled in white letters across the middle of the card with the player serving as the back drop. Below that is the player's auto with his name and position at the bottom.

Playoff Contenders Auto (1) - Rafael Rodriguez (non-numbered)

Some of the sets are a mirror of the base set. Such is the case with the Prime Cuts Bats Series. There are 100 cards in the series with varying print runs. The card looks exactly like the base card other having the piece of bat at the bottom of the card.

Prime Cuts Bats (1) - Steve Carlton /29

With a similar background/border look to the Biography insert set, Timeline also features a player denoted for an event in a particular year. The Timeline series has 50 subjects. There are four types of Timeline cards:

Timeline Timeline Combos Timeline Trios Timeline Quads Timeline Quads (1) - Orlando Cepeda Quad Bat /99

The set's name is located at the top in the middle of the card. It has a yellow background with a decorative border. The insert set's name is vertical on the left of the card with the player's photo on the right. The middle has the name of the team and the year being honored. The memorabilia pieces (in this case, 4 as it's a quad) are depicted using the player's nickname. At the bottom is the player's name. The back of the card details the reason the player is being honored on the card.

Each pack/box contained one encased card. The encased card can come from any of the Auto or Memorabilia sets in this release. Ours came from the rookie sets. Those sets include:

Rookies Signatures Rookies Materials Jerseys Rookies Materials Bats Rookies Signature Materials Jerseys Rookies Signature Materials Bats
Rookies Signature Materials Jerseys (1) - Rick Porcello /249

There are 50 young future stars highlighted in these cards. They are numbered as an extension to the base set. The card is designed exactly like the base card and mirrors the Prime Cuts Bats series. The exception is the auto is placed above the memorabilia swatch. The case is sealed by the company and has a tamper proof Prime Cuts sticker across the top. This certifies the card was packaged by the company and has not been switched out.

Final Ratings (Out of 5):

Base set: 3.5/5

Fun: 5/5

Overall design: 4/5

Value: 2.5/5

Re-buy: 2.5/5

Overall: 17.5/25 (70%)

Once again, I'd like to thank our fine sponsors at Donruss/Playoff for providing us with this box and the opportunity to review it.



2009 Press Pass Racing Hobby

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

First and foremost, I'd like to thank the fine folks at Press Pass for providing us with this box to review.

You can view the videos of this break here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak3uLKiqX8Y> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QccydObSRHQ>

2009 Press Pass Racing Hobby

28 packs per box

6 cards per pack

MSRP: \$65.99 - \$69.99

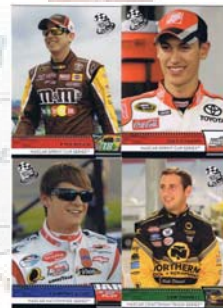
Press Pass 2009 kicks off our 2009 NASCAR product line with all new Burning Rubber memorabilia cards - featuring 1 memorabilia card per box! Plus, you'll find Press Pass 2009 Autographs - our autograph program found exclusively in Press Pass 2009 and Eclipse 2009!

CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- COMPREHENSIVE 120-CARD "YEAR IN REVIEW" BASE SET FEATURING JOEY LOGANO'S FIRST PRESS PASS ROOKIE CARD!
- NEW FOR '09! ONE RACE-USED WIN TIRE PER HOBBY BOX!
- NEW FOR '09! TOTAL TIRE - RACE-USED TIRE COVERS THE ENTIRE CARD FEATURING A SCREEN PRINTED CAR IMAGE AND DIE-CUT DRIVER PHOTO. ALL CARDS SEQUENTIALLY NUMBERED TO 25.
- PRESS PASS 2009 AUTOGRAPHS - EXCLUSIVE TO PRESS PASS 2009 AND ECLIPSE 2009!
- NEW FOR '09! PRESS PASS "TRACK EDITION" AUTOGRAPHS FEATURING UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPHY.
- KICK-OFF FOR THE FOUR-WIDE YEAR-LONG MEMORABILIA PROGRAM THAT WILL HAVE FOUR EXCITING LEVELS TO COLLECT IN '09!
- TOP 12 FINAL STANDINGS PARALLEL - A PROGRESSIVE INSERT COMMEMORATING THE TOP 12 FINISHERS IN THE CHASE FOR THE SPRINT CUP.
- LOOK FOR HOBBY "HOT PACKS" FEATURING TOP 12 FINAL STANDINGS CARDS ALONG WITH A PRESS PASS 2008 "CHASE EDITION" AUTOGRAPH FROM ONE OF THE 12 DRIVERS IN THE 2008 CHASE FOR THE SPRINT CUP!

HALF CASE INSERT SUMMARY (10 hobby boxes)

- PRESS PASS AUTOGRAPHS: 3-4 per case!
- BURNING RUBBER RACE-USED TIRE CARDS: 20 per case!
- TRACK EDITION AUTOGRAPH, SIGNATURE SERIES, OR FOUR WIDE: combined odds 1 per half case!
- HOBBY HOT PACKS FEAT. CHASE EDITION AUTO'S & FINAL STANDINGS PARALLELS: 1 per case!
- CUP CHASE 2009: 20 per half case!



AUTOGRAPHS - 1:84 hobby

PRESS PASS AUTOGRAPHS - Autograph program found exclusively in Press Pass 2009 and Press Pass Eclipse 2009 featuring nearly 60 NASCAR racers.

Look for rare press plate autographs!

- PRESS PASS TRACK EDITION AUTOGRAPHS - All new autograph program featuring unique photography ranging from Joey Logano's first victory in the NASCAR Nationwide Series to Carl Edwards' trademark victory celebration back flip!
- PRESS PASS CHASE EDITION AUTOGRAPHS - Special #'d Press Pass 2009 Autograph featuring the 12 drivers in the Chase for the SPRINT Cup - these autographs can only be found in the HOBBY HOT PACKS!
- SIGNATURE SERIES BURNING RUBBER - Autographed race-used tire cards; sequentially numbered to each driver's door #

RACE-USED MEMORABILIA

BURNING RUBBER RACE-USED WIN TIRE - Authentic race-used rubber from actual RACE-WIN tires from the first 26 events of the NASCAR SPRINT Cup Series season including Dale Earnhardt Jr's first victory for Hendrick Motorsports, Jimmie Johnson's Brickyard 400 win, and the many trips to victory lane for Kyle Busch and Carl Edwards. Also look for a special Burning Rubber card commemorating Joey Logano's first NASCAR Nationwide Series win. All cards are sequentially numbered.

- BURNING RUBBER "PRIME CUT" - special version featuring premium tire swatch pieces, sequentially #'d to 25

*** Combined odds for all race-used tire cards: 1:28 Hobby (1 per box!)

- PRESS PASS SANTA HAT - New for 2009! Get in the holiday spirit with these unique memorabilia cards featuring a swatch of driver worn Santa Hat, sequentially #'

- TONY STEWART: 10 YEARS MEMORABILIA - Look for a special race-used memorabilia parallel to the Tony Stewart: 10 Years base card subset, sequentially numbered



YEAR-LONG MEMORABILIA PROGRAM

- In 2009 each Press Pass product will include FOUR WIDE race-used memorabilia cards. These unique cards feature three pieces of race-used memorabilia plus one OVERSIZED 4th piece. New for 2009! There will be four unique versions to collect featuring OVERSIZED fire suit, sheet metal, tire, and checkered flag pieces. (Hobby only)

BASE SET & INSERTS

- BASE SET- 120-card base set with new subsets & the first Press Pass Joey Logano rookie card! CUP CHASE 2009 - Collectors can win a complete 12-card Cup Chase prize set if the driver on their Cup Chase redemption card makes the NASCAR SPRINT CUP Series Chase for the SPRINT Cup in September 2009.

WHAT WE PULLED

Base (114/120) - 95%

Dupes - 0

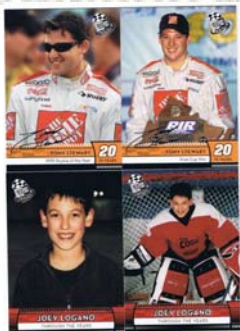
Gold Parallels (28/120) - 23.33%

This year's base cards from Press Pass Racing have a design which is familiar to collectors. In the top right corner, you will find the set's logo. The drivers are featured on the cards with a vibrant and colorful head and body shot that takes up most of the card. The bottom corner shows the car/truck the driver drove in the previous year. The driver's name is written at the bottom along with the series for the driver. Cards 1-35 are drivers from the Sprint Cup Series. Card 36 is a Joey Logano RC. Cards 37-48 are drivers from the Nationwide Series and cards 49-54 are drivers from the Craftsman Truck Series.

There are many subsets in this year's release. Built For Speed cards return this year. These cards feature various cars from the Sprint Cup Series. The cards show the car while in the pit area and then a smaller side view version at the bottom. Along the left side of the card are the words "Built For Speed" and a checkered flag. These cards run from 55 to 66. NASCAR Scene cards are also back this year. They depict specific events that happened through the 2008 Sprint Cup Season. Much like the base cards, the only differences are the words NASCAR Scene is in the bottom right corner instead of the vehicle and the date of the event is at the bottom instead of the driver's series. These are cards 67 to 78.



The Looking Forward series shows various drivers/owners who will be changing things up in one form or another. Some are changing sponsors, while others are changing teams. Heck, there's even one who is changing teams while owning the new team. These look a lot like the base cards with some minor differences; the change is listed at the bottom of the cards and team/car logos are pictured in the bottom right corner. Looking Forward is displayed across the card. You will find these cards in order from 79 to 86. Skipping to the end of the set, you find the Top 12 series. These cards feature the drivers who qualified for the Chase for the Cup after 26 races last year. The drivers are set in order from 1st to 12th. With a similar design to the base cards one, the picture is different as it shows the driver's face and his car. The bottom says Top 12 and the driver's name with the Sprint Cup logo in the bottom right corner. These are cards 107 to 118. Card 119 has the Nationwide and Sprint Cup schedules for 2009 and card 120 is the checklist featuring Jimmie Johnson on the front.



The two other subsets in this year's release focus on two drivers; Tony Stewart and Joey Logano. There are 11 Stewart cards (87-97) and 9 Logano cards (98-106). Stewart is featured for his 10 years of racing in the main series. Each card features a different stat from his career thus far. Logano is set with a Through The Years series to show him from a young age up to now. Combined, the two sets show off a present and future combo.

There are two base parallels this year. The standard Gold series is supposed to be 1 in every pack and that's what we got. The parallel looks exactly like its base counterpart, except that it is bordered in gold instead of silver. The Holo cards are numbered to 100 this year. They also have the same look as the base, but use the gold border as well as a glossy sheen on the cards. The serial number can be found towards the bottom of the card on the front.

Holo /100 (2) - Kasey Kahne, David Ragan

There are a couple of inserts sets this year. The Freeze Frame Series run 1 in every 2 packs and we got the odds by pulling 14 of them. The background of the card looks like a wood panel with a TV in front. The driver is pictured on the right of the TV with the set name, driver name and a little info on the left. For good measure, a hand holding a remote control is in the middle.

Trading Paint features a glossy card design. The car is the main picture in the middle. All around it are what appears to be various paint droplets. The background and the droplets match the car's color scheme. The driver is shown in the bottom right corner of the card with his name to his left. This is a 9 card set with the odds 1:12.

Trading Paint (2) - Matt Kenseth, Jeff Gordon

Unleashed is a set that showcases drivers and their amazing victories during the season. There are three photos of the card with the driver's photo in the middle left area, next to the second car picture. Unleashed is listed at the bottom along with the driver's name. Odds on these are 1:6.

Unleashed (5) - Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson, Clint Bowyer, Kyle Busch, Joey Logano



The final insert is the Cup Chase insert. These run one per box. It is a contest card with a unique code which you can enter at the Press Pass website. If the driver on the card qualifies for the Chase for the Cup in September 2009, you win a special Cup Chase set. In addition, if the driver on the card should win the Chase for the Cup, then you win a special Grand Prize. Press Pass will create an exclusive race used memorabilia card of the champion as long as the champion is under contract with Press Pass.

Cup Chase (1) - Dale Earnhardt Jr.

There are many Race Used and Autographs to be found this year. Autographs run 1 in every 3 boxes (1:84 packs). The Four Wide Series is back with four pieces of Race Used memorabilia on each card. And in addition for this year, there are four versions per driver! Each box is expected to yield a Burning Rubber Tire card, much like this one. The card features a piece of a tire used by the driver featured on the card in winning a race. The race and date is also listed on the card and these are generally numbered to 185.

Burning Rubber Driver Series (1) /185 - Kyle Busch (Talladega 4/27/08)

Final Ratings (Out of 5):

Base set: 3/5

Fun: 5/5

Overall design: 4/5

Value: 4.5/5

Re-buy: 4.25/5

Overall: 20.75/25 (83%)



The first racing box of the year always releases before the New Year starts. This gives racing collectors a head start on their collection before preparing for Daytona in February. As always, there are positives and negatives with this set.

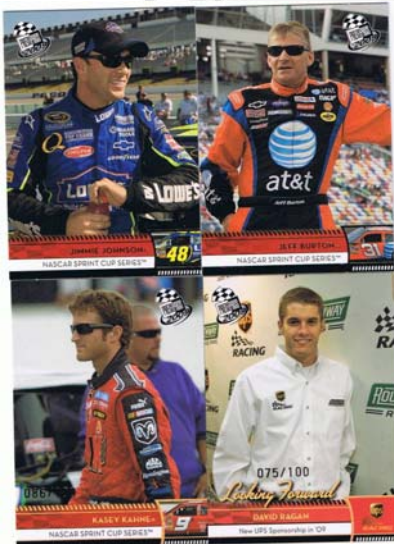
The base set seems somewhat played out. For the most part, it is reminiscent of previous releases and just because it's one of the low end sets of the year doesn't mean it couldn't use some pizzazz to the cards.

I do like that the set features more than the Sprint Cup drivers. It shows there's more racing and drivers out there than the "big league". Lesser known drivers deserve recognition, though the set is a bit top heavy.

Do we really need a schedule card in the set? I mean, in order to complete the full set, you have to have the schedule card. It seems like another driver could have been featured here instead. Also, I know he's the new young gun everyone is talking about, but do we really need a 9 card set devoted to Joey Logano already? We are a month and a half away from the first race of the year and Logano is everywhere.

Though a neat idea, not too thrilled with the Freeze Frame cards. I prefer inserts that are nice to look at and shine, like the Trading Paint and Unleashed cards. I like the use of the color schemes being matched in Trading Paint. It makes that set worthwhile to chase.

All in all, this is a nice release to start off. You get most of the base cards (though would adding 2 more packs and completing a base set in one box be too much to ask?) and a nice variety of inserts. The Holo cards stick out nicely with the glossy sheen finish. There's a wide mixture of possibilities in regards to Race Used cards and Autographs. Overall the entire run, it seems Press Pass has worked hard to give the collectors more bang for their buck and that's always a great thing.



Once again, I'd like to thank the wonderful people at Press Pass for providing us with this box and the opportunity to review it.



COMING UP!

The Canadiens' Bible? Superlative Bleu, Blanc et Rouge

By : Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

2008-2009 was always going to be an amazing year for Montreal Canadiens fan but it got even better on the 1st January 2009 when In The Game announced a new incarnation of their high end Superlative brand. While last year's release was met with mixed reviews, I would bet anything that this release will receive nothing but praise however. Why? Well, simply because it is launched to mark the 100th anniversary of the Montreal Canadiens. The whole product is entirely dedicated to this one team.

Just like last year, a box of Superlative consists of a book containing a small box of 7 cards. A mere 1000 of these books will be produced which means that the whole release includes only 7000 cards. This should be a highly sought after item and if you know a Canadiens' fan, getting them a book as a present would make them extremely grateful. Each book will contain a Modern Base Card, a Vintage Base Card, an Auto Plus Card, a Special Insert Card, a Famous Fabrics Card and an Autograph Card. No average here, with Superlative, you get what is stated.

Here is a sneak peak at every type of card as provided on ITG's official product information.

Modern Base Card

For those who have paid attention to the Habs' uniform this year, yes the piece of patch on the card comes from the 100th anniversary patch. All of the Rouge versions (5 per player) of the Modern Base Card will feature that patch while the Bleu versions (20 per player) will include a piece of the All-Star patch. Earlier in the season, collectors were speculating as to how long it would take for these patches to be used in memorabilia cards, well it looks like ITG was ahead of the game and ready to answer our prayers.



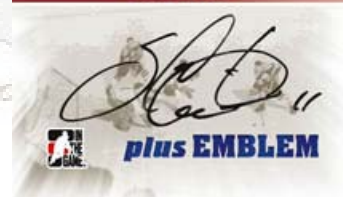
Auto Plus Card

These are likely to be highly popular, each card will include an autograph plus either an emblem, a stick, a pad, a number, a skate, pants, glove or jersey. The jersey cards are the most common with 19 Bleu versions and a 1/1 Rouge version. The other plus cards all have nine Bleu versions and a 1/1 Rouge version. These should get Habs' fans really excited, the design is absolutely wonderful; look at the background of the autograph depicting a vintage hockey game, simply stunning.



Vintage Base Cards

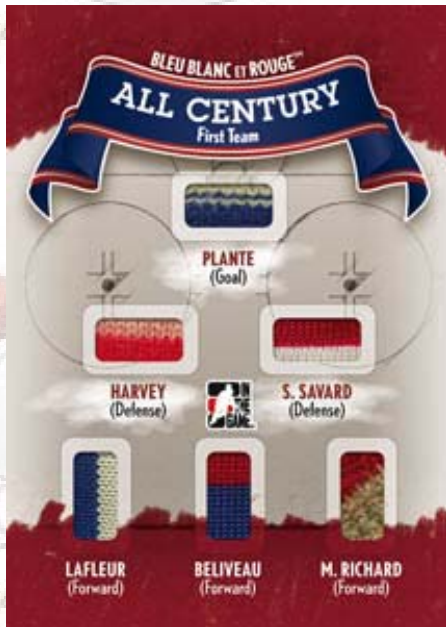
This is the one type of card I have my reservations about. Normally, vintage cards appeal to a certain type of collectors and they like that type of card because of the age of the piece of cardboard they have in their possession. However, with this product, it is vintage styled but it's still a new card...I'm not sure how those will be received but time will tell. The checklist includes 25 different cards and there are 35 copies of the Bleu versions and 5 copies of the Rouge version.



Team	Points	Goals
B-1	Mrs.	...
...
...
...

Special Insert Cards

If you get a book of Superlative Bleu, Blanc, Rouge you will inevitably get one card out of 11 special insert sets. Each sounding as exciting as the other; The Cup, Scoring Leaders, Complete Jerseys, Captains, Greatest Moments, Decades, Autothreads, Complete Package, Stick Rack, Paper Cuts and Records. Some sets are 1/1 while others have a Rouge 1/1 version and nine Bleu versions. Patrick Roy Stick Rack anyone?

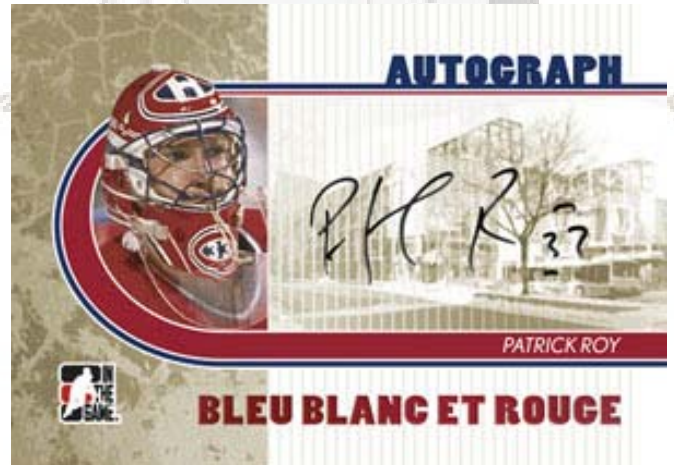


Famous Fabrics Card

In the same fashion as the Special Insert Card, the Famous Fabrics Cards are made of different set of inserts, 9 in total. You can pull either an All Century Team, Raised to the Rafters, Snap Shots, Nameplates, Quad Memorabilia, Game-Used Stick, Gardiens de But, King Sized Memorabilia and Enshrined. Again, these are either 1/1 or nine Bleu versions and a 1/1 Rouge version.

Autographs

The numbers of these are not known at present, however it has been confirmed that there would be a Bleu and a Rouge version. Collectors will also be very happy to know that these are all hard signed and that each book will include two of these...



If you are a Habs fan, I'm sure you are already dying to see what comes out of those books! The good news is they are out from January 23rd! Yet another stroke of genius from ITG as Upper Deck's Centennial Canadiens release has been delayed until March. On the bright side of things, this gives up more time to save for the Upper Deck release. I have ordered my book and I will be reviewing the product based on my break and on a SCF group break in the next issue of Collector's Corner so be sure to read us next month for the verdict! If you get a book, make sure to post it in the box break area, I would love to know what you get. Best of luck to all!

It's Spring TTM Training!

By Mike Greene aka Indyreds

The realization that these cold winter days will soon be coming to an end hits when pitchers and catchers report. The best part of February is that it brings back baseball! The long wait will soon be over and the Boys of Summer are getting ready to return. Every team is a contender. The free agents and rookies that we followed during the Hot Stove League have a chance to shine. I know that the autograph hounds are getting set to start the new hunt at the stadiums and through the mail.



When is the right time to mail autograph requests to Spring Training? It depends on who you are mailing to. Pitchers and catchers report earlier than most position players. My first wave of requests is usually targeting these positions, front office personal and coaches. Most of those report dates are right around Valentines. You can bet that my to do list that day not only includes getting flowers for my wife, but also dropping a batch of mail bound to Florida and Arizona. The start of March is when everyone else gets to work. I usually drop my position player requests during the first week of March.

Who do you mail requests to? I would suggest not mailing to the biggest names in the game. Guys like Alex Rodriguez will get way too many autograph requests to answer them. Focus on steady veterans, young players, coaches, announcers, retired players and front office personal. I am amazed every spring at some of the great successes that come from former players care of spring training addresses. Take the time to see who the assistant coaches, front office personal and even roving instructors are. You should also make sure that the players you are mailing to are not gone for the World Baseball Classic. Keep your eyes open on the success posted in the baseball TTM thread as you might see someone whom you would want that has been signing.



What do you mail to these players? The answer here comes directly from you. Baseball cards, baseballs, magazines, pennants, ticket stubs, programs, photos, index cards, hats, jerseys and many other items are sent to players. It is your collection you select what to collect. The most important thing to remember to send is a nice letter requesting the autograph and a return envelope with proper postage.

Do not make the player try to decide if you were sending an autograph request to him or a gift for him. You also should be sure to invest in forever stamps. It seems like the post office raises stamp prices every year now. Most successful requests are returned within a few weeks or months, but I have had items I sent years ago come back.

Where do you send requests to? You can find the addresses listed in the Autograph Central forum of Sports Card Forum. Well we have covered the when, who, what and the where. Did I forget something? Yeah, just one more thing the why! That is the easy part. It is fun! Spring Training is a great time to give this part of the hobby a shot, if you have not done so yet. Allow these great spring training autographs to bring in the next season for you. We have a great group of members in our autograph community and if the threads there do not answer your questions, just post your questions and we will do our best to help. Until the next time I hope your mailboxes are full.





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

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 NEW MEMBERS

If you haven't done so already, Please update your profile and make sure your mail trade address looks like this:

EXAMPLE

John Doe 1234 main street, your city, your state/province, postcode (12345) (A1A 1A1), country

Welcome to PatriotsGuy to the newbie team and best wishes to KJCarney who has left.

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

Rinkside at SCF

By : Duff McFadden aka Comatoad

Change is inevitable

A new year brings many new beginnings, and that's most certainly true for the Sports Card Forum Hockey Team. Our former fearless leader, Don (doniceage), has now been promoted to Off-Site Relations Manager, with Houng (quiet-things) now assuming the mantle of Hockey Team Manager. Oh yeah, Duff (comatoad) has also been promoted from Moderator-in-Training to SCF Advisor.

Welcome to our newest members

If anyone has doubts about the Hockey Forum being one of the fastest growing Boards on SCF, you only need to look as far as the new folks who've signed on since the new year began – TMLJWHW; CalmChris; iamthej; benishlv; Dawson16; johnbull86; Yerrodd; trpnwillie; bgggg2001; octopus19; luckoftheIrish; smekn; and Rangersfan4Life. Be sure to give a rousing welcome to these new members.

Here's looking at you

To say we live in a very visual society, is a given. And nowhere is that more evident than on You Tube. Sports Card Forum is also making its presence felt there! We can now boast 119 subscribers to our channel, make sure to check it out! Box breaks and personal collection displays make for very interesting viewing. How well is SCF received on You Tube? How about 19,736 videos viewed, 1,313 videos watched and 122 videos uploaded. Here's looking at you, kid.

Are you "Super Collector" material?

Do you think you have what it takes to become a "Hockey Super Collector?" Try comparing your player collection against the likes of Lumm0x's (Kelly) Jeff Carter collection. Our first Super Collector, he owns 91% of all the available Carter cards, this includes 247 base cards, 1,010 rookie year cards (Carter only has 18 true RC's, but Kelly has them all in numerous copies), 318 autos, 331 game used, 768 parallels/inserts, 35 1/1 cards and four oddball cards.

Or, how about comparing your collection against Nathan7070's (Nathan) Milan Lucic collection? Nathan owns 96% of all the Lucic cards out there. As to why he chose Lucic, Nathan says "Because of his throwback style of play. He can fight, hit, score, pass and reminds me a lot of Cam Neely who I grew up watching. I have watched over 90% of the Bruins games since the 1990-91 season and he is by far my most favorite through all the years. After seeing his development this year, it looks like the sky is the limit for this kid."



Our next Super Collectors will include cufjofan2000 (Connie), a Curtis Joseph collector (go figure) and knob1212's (Steve) Ed Belfour collection (1,123 cards). Of course, you can't miss them – they'll be sporting their shiny new "Hockey Super Collector" badge.

Do you have what it takes to be a Super Collector? For more information (including requirements) check out <http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=558419>.

Challenge yourself with our contests

From the, "You can't win unless you play" files – Do you know the Hockey Team sponsors monthly and weekly contests? Besides earning the awe and respect of your fellow collectors', you can also earn valuable prizes, such as cards or card cash. And, all you have to do is enter.

• eBay Steal of the Week – (<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=676927>) – Have you won a single card from an eBay auction that was way, way below its book value? Just post a link to your eBay auction win and explain why you think your card is a steal. If it has a BV, let us know. Convince us!

Monthly Goodie Bag Contest – (<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=663174>) – To enter:

- 1) Guess which player will be the scoring leader for the month;
- 2) Guess how many goals this player will score;
- 3) Guess how many assists this player will make; and
- 4) Guess how many penalty minutes the player will have.

The prize consists of a "goodie bag," which varies from month to month, but will contain a mix of autographs, game used, base cards and inserts. The fun part is you don't know what it is until you've won it!

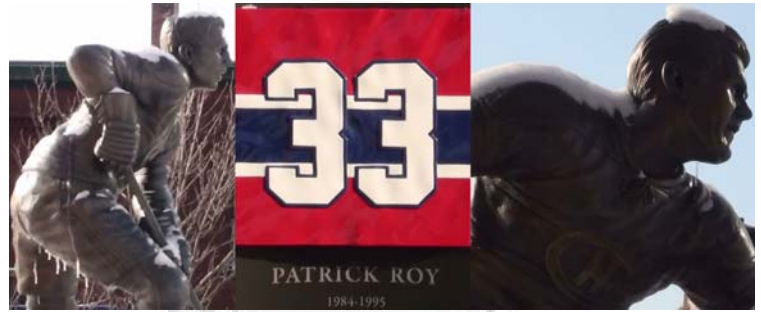
• Weekly Show and Tell Contest – (<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=600475>) – Showcase your card according to a pre-selected theme. Post a picture/scan, with your handwritten user ID next to the card. A card can only be entered into one weekly contest. Members will then vote on which card is the best of the theme. Each week's winner will earn 50 CC. Standings will be kept, so at the end of 30 weeks, whoever has won the most "card of the week" titles, will win a 2005-06 Bee Hive Signature Scrapbook Autograph Tony Esposito (50BV).

• NHL Guess the Score – (<http://www.sportscardforum.com/showthread.php?t=370888>) – Captngeetch will pick several NHL games. Just post the correct winning team and the closest score to win (Scores are on a first-come, first-served basis with no score duplications.). Winners will win SCF card cash.



A Weekend with the Stars By Luc Séguin aka CoolHandLuke

This month, I will cover the Centennial Place inauguration and the NHL All-Star Jamboree held around the All-Star game in Montreal as part of the Centennial festivities. Mainly, the Centennial Place was made near the metro entrance. They have used a wide space which was so far unused and added 4 big statues, the 24 Stanley Cup Alley and on the other side of the place they made an alley for all 15 retired jerseys. In the middle of the place, they have sold bricks to fans where they have written their names for prosperity. They also moved the Habs Zone (Official Habs store) near the Centennial Place as well. This is a great addition and makes history stand out a bit more on the outside of the Bell Center.



I visited this place for the first time while going to the NHL All-Star Jamboree. It cost 10\$ to get in and this is valid only for a two-hour period. You get to visit the Upper Deck and McFarlane sponsored card show, the Player signature tent that has four trophies showcased and the big Jamboree tent where all other trophies, store, skills activities and a bar are located. Both tents have loud music and light shows to get you into the mood. I have not tried the skills challenges because I would have had less time in the card show. Having a two-hour range to see everything makes it almost impossible to do it all.

The card show remains our main focus with the signature tent. We came in early so we took time to look at all the nice cards on display and made sure we got the best cards before they were gone. We visited the Jamboree and appreciated the fact it was not overcrowded as we could navigate from seller to seller freely. Upper Deck's booth was also giving away a special All-Star set of ten cards to those who would buy a UD product from this year and open all packs at their booth. Having 2 players I collect from the set, I bought a UD Black Diamond box to get those. Here is what the cards look like.

The player signature tent was big and I went 1 hour after Stephane Matteau started to sign so it was empty on that Thursday afternoon. I could appreciate the trophies and we had plenty of time to talk to him a bit and get a few signatures on some old O-Pee-Chee cards, jerseys and NHL All-Star card. But for the rest of the week-end, this tent got pretty busy and on the red carpet there were many players signing autographs. On Saturday morning, the practice was sold out. The tickets were 15\$ and the Bell Center was full of kids since it was affordable. I think this was a great success. One kid had written on a big cardboard: "Women like to have Carey Price but as a man all I want is your stick". Carey Price took the time to throw the stick between the board and the big net over the boards behind the goal.



Montreal is really in the mood for the celebration. Last week, the first outside rink was built by the Canadiens hockey club and painted with the 100 years logo on the center of the ice. This is one of many they intend to build to promote hockey. This is definitely in my book the best move up to date. Kids that will play on these outside rinks will probably be the next generation of hockey player and this is a great gesture from the hockey club.



Around the SCF Track

By Darin Heitzer aka JKC

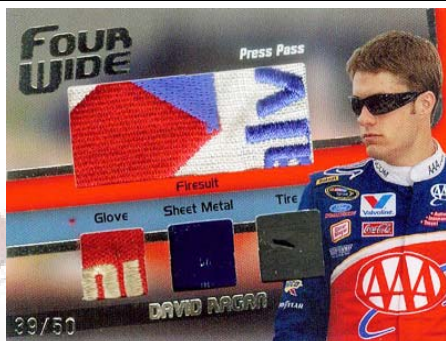
Prediction Poll Results for the 2009 Season

WHO WILL WIN FIRST IN 2009?

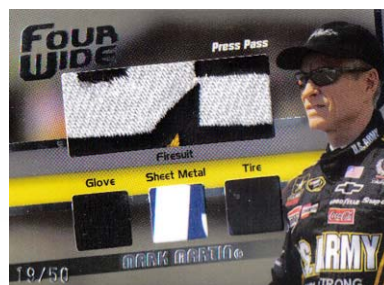
Dale Earnhardt Jr. or Kyle Busch? (8 votes)		Mark Martin or Aric Almirola? (14 votes)	
Kyle Busch - 5	Dale Earnhardt Jr. - 3	Mark Martin - 11	Aric Almirola - 3
Tony Stewart or Joey Logano? (18 votes)		Jamie McMurray or Brian Vickers? (18 votes)	
Tony Stewart - 12	Joey Logano - 6	Brian Vickers - 14	Jamie McMurray - 4
Carl Edwards or Jimmie Johnson? (10 votes)		Casey Mears or Clint Bowyer? (8 votes)	
Carl Edwards - 8	Jimmie Johnson - 2	Clint Bowyer - 6	Casey Mears - 2

Coming Next Month: Championship Prediction Poll Results

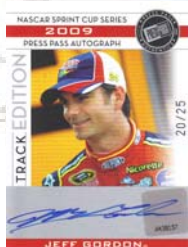
SCF Racing Cards of the Month These are this month's top racing cards from the Racing Show and Tell forum as voted on by the SCF racing community.



1. 2009 Press Pass Four Wide Firesuit FWDR David Ragan (39/50) (munozqc886; 8 votes)



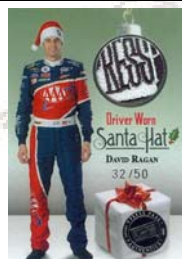
2. 2009 Press Pass Four Wide Firesuit FWMM Mark Martin (19/50) (Shayne1911; 6 votes)



3. 2009 Press Pass Track Edition Autographs Jeff Gordon (20/25) (leemozoid; 1 vote)



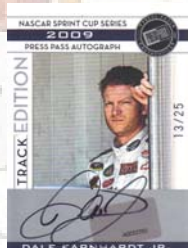
--. 2007 Press Pass Legends Press Plates Black David Pearson (1/1) (SHELBYSALEEN; 1 vote)



--. 2009 Press Pass Santa Hats SH15 David Ragan (32/50) (munozqc886; 1 vote)



--. 2008 Press Pass Speedway Corporate Cuts Patches CD-JM Jamie McMurray (07/14) (JKC; 1 vote)



--. 2009 Press Pass Track Edition Autographs Dale Earnhardt Jr. (13/25) (leemozoid; 1 vote)



--. 2007 Press Pass Premium Hot Threads Patch HTP4 Martin Truex Jr. (11/15) (aksn907; 1 vote)



--. 2009 Press Pass Burning Rubber Driver Prime Cuts BRD7 Carl Edwards (24/25) (race crazy; 1 vote)



--. 2007 VIP Get A Grip Teams GGT17 Denny Hamlin (36/70) (angryeagle07; 1 vote)



On the SCF Gridiron

By Jason DiOrazio aka jdio13

As always, there are plenty of new and exciting things occurring in the Football Forum here on SCF. We are still running our eBay steal contest, but it has changed from eBay Steal of the Week contest to eBay Steal of the month contest. We will highlight the last couple eBay Steal of the Week winner and will have the all new eBay Steal of the Month winner in the next issue. We are also running many contests. We will highlight a few of those in this article. We have also begun a new daily chat thread where members can come in a chat about football, new pickups, steals and many other things.

eBay Steal of the Week contest winners

The last couple winners of our eBay Steal of the Week contest were:

J2short812000 with this great pickup:



The other recent winner of the eBay Steal of the Week contest was Murph05 with this great card:



Congrats to both of our winners and we will be highlighting the eBay Steal of the Month winner in the next issue.

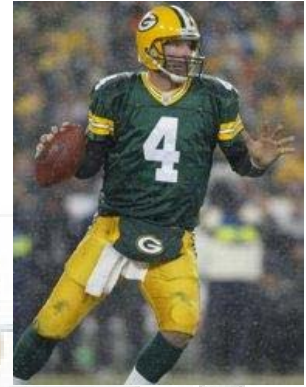
Contests:

As always, we have a few contests going on in the Football Forum. One brand new contest is the SCF 2009 Super Bowl Squares contest. There is still time to sign up and if you do not know what Super Bowl Squares are, we have a great set of directions to help you out. Another contest we have going on right now is the Gridiron Playoff Challenge, where members go to espn.com and pick players playing in the week's playoff games and they have to make a roster under a \$50 million salary cap. Sign up before the Super Bowl and get in on the action.

New chat thread:

As the site grows bigger and bigger, the traffic through the Football Forum increases. Therefore, we have begun a new chat thread in the Football Chat forum titled "SCF Cardboard Junkies." Here, members can chat about whatever they wish (within reason, rules are posted as a sticky in the forum). It is a great place to meet new members who share the same interests as you, and make a few friends.

We on the Football Team would like to thank everyone who reads this magazine every month. We hope to see you on the boards soon!!



Brett Favre Biography and Best Cards

By Bill Kovacs aka chiliwilly

Some of you may know this story, but some may not so here it goes. Even if you are not a diehard Packers fan, you know of the gunslinger from Southern Miss – the rest is history! It all began for me on September 13, 1992. Don Majkowski (Magic Man) got hurt early in a game against division rival Tampa Bay. The Packers had no choice but to bring in an unknown commodity known as Brett Favre. Brett would surpass the wildest dreams of any Packers fan and become the NFL's Iron man.

Born in a little town On October 10, 1969, a legend was born in Gulfport, Mississippi. Brett Lorenzo Favre, the son of Irvin Favre, grew up in a little known town named Kiln in Mississippi. Brett started showing his sports prowess early in life with 5 letters in Baseball. He also led his Baseball team in batting all 5 years he played. During that span he also earned 3 letters in Football.

With Irvin Favre as his Football coach in high school, Brett seemingly started to earn the Iron man moniker already by playing both sides of the ball. Not only offense (QB) and defense (SS), but he also punted and place-kicked. This is where I think the mentality to always play was instilled into Brett.

Brett got only one offer for a scholarship from colleges. Southern Mississippi was the only willing to take the gamble on a little known country boy from Kiln. Favre began his college career as the number 7 QB on the depth chart at Southern Mississippi. He quickly worked his way from number 7 to number 2 on the depth chart. During a bad beat against Tulane University Brett was put in at the half and lead the Golden Eagles to a surprising comeback victory (31-24). His ending stat line read 6 passes completed out of 10 for 85 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Shortly after Brett was in a bad car accident and he had to have 30 inches of small intestine removed as a result of it. One month later he was back playing for the Golden Eagles and beat Alabama 27-24 in comeback style again. How can you not admire a guy that plays no matter what the circumstances?

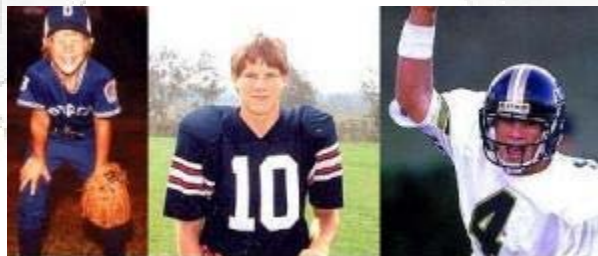
In 1992 Ron Wolf (Packers GM) traded a number 1 draft pick for Brett Favre. It should go down as one of the biggest heists in NFL Football history. Brett Favre earned a Pro-Bowl spot in 1992 and was on his way to prove he was worth the pick that was given up for him. He went on to win NFL MVP 3 consecutive years in 1995, 1996 and co-winner with Barry Sanders in 1997. The first player to ever win it three times and magically for three consecutive years.

The Super Bowl years were the best for me! Especially, the win in 1997 over the Pats (35-21) that was the best of times. Not only was the win for Brett, but to see Reggie White acting like a kid with Brett just amazing. Just imagine the late, great Reggie White running around the stadium hoisting the Lombardi trophy.

There were a lot of things that happen in life that were very hard for Brett and can either make-or-break an individual. The pain-killer addiction he admitted to and the health problems for Deanna Favre come to mind first and foremost. Together they battled through both of these hardships and became stronger because of them. This carried over to his team leadership on and off of the field as well.

Favre owns many of the records for NFL quarterbacks and some think they will never be broken. He is rewriting the books again this year with the New York Jets. It was sad to see him go, but I'm glad I still get to see him play on Sundays. Next up is the Jim Marshall record of consecutive starts...one more year.

18 years in the NFL without missing a game...WOW! Especially playing the position where you get hit and are unprotected many times in one game alone. He played through many aggravating injuries that would have made others take a seat on the bench for weeks. Broken finger...tape it up, sprained ankle...tape it up, sprained shoulder tape it up or harness it someway. The most courageous performance was when he played right after his father passed away and had a phenomenal game against Oakland. Favre passed for 399 yards and four touchdowns in a 41-7 victory on the Monday night stage.





Brett Favre Best Football Cards

Some of the best Brett Favre cards are in my personal collection, possibly to never be traded or sold. I have several Favre autographed cards and many rookie cards as well. Here are some of my personal favorites...

- 2004 Ultimate Dual Autograph Favre/Pennington /50
- 2005 Topps Anniversary Team Brett Favre /50
- 2007 Topps Paradigm Brett Favre /99
- 2006 Absolute Memorabilia Brett Favre /75
- 2007 UD SPA Brett Favre /25
- 2007 SPX Brett Favre SP
- 2004 Ultimate Brett Favre Buyback Auto/Jersey 2/9

Probably one of my favorite cards is his 1991 Topps Stadium Club card where they spelled his name wrong. This card has great value in the market today and would be a great addition to any collection. I have one and I am always looking for more daily.

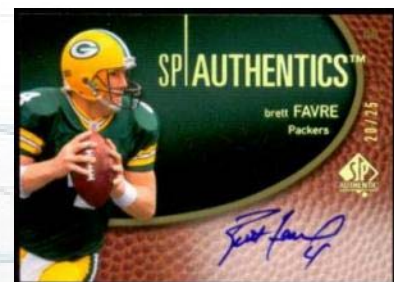
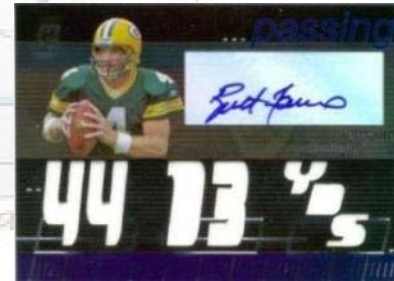
1991 Brett Favre (Farve) Topps Stadium Club RC

I also have a lot of other Favre memorabilia and a lot of rookie cards as well.

Here's a list of the other items I have attained over the years.

- (6) - 1991 Upper Deck Rookie Card #13
- (2) - 1991 Pacific Rookie Card #551
- (2) - 1991 Action Packed Rookie Card #21
- (1) - 1991 Topps Rookie Card #4 of 7
- (1) - 1991 UD Rookie Force Card #647
- (1) - 1991 Pacific Rookie Card #551 PSA 10
- (1) - 1991 Star Pics Card #65 PSA 10
- (1) - 1991 Star Pics Card #65 SGA 98
- (1) - 2001 Stadium Club Dual Auto Favre/Brooks
- (1) - 2002 Stadium Club Lonestar Auto
- (20) - Game-used Cards
- (1) - Autographed Mini-helmet
- (2) - Autographed Full-size football - one from the 1997 Super Bowl
- (1) - Merrick Mint Brett Favre Statehood Quarters Set - This set chronicles his football career starting with Southern Mississippi and progresses with 1991 rookie, 3 time MVP, 442 touchdowns - 275 consecutive starts, All-time Wins for starting QB and ends with Yards passing, attempts and completions. Along with this set comes a \$1 coin that says Green Bay All-time Great Brett Favre.
- (1) Brett Favre Highland Mint Motion Vision Set which includes a motion picture card and a Three-time MVP medallion with Brett on the front face of the coin.

I guess you could say I have become a Favre groupie over the years. But, after seeing Brett play all of these years and not missing a start in a game, that's just phenomenal! Sure there is a lot of luck in his continued streak of games played, but there is also a lot of heart displayed every week by old #4. He could have ridden the bench after some injuries that he has had over his career, but he continues to play week in and week out no matter what. To say he is a lock for the HOF is an understatement! Whenever he retires he will definitely be a first ballot HOF'er and can reunite with Reggie there.





My Brick and Mortar Heaven

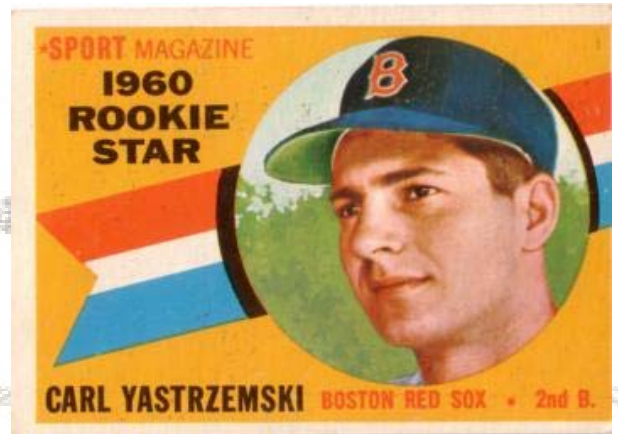
By Stephen Heger aka stephenheger

In this day and age of having everything electronically at our fingertips, there's nothing more satisfying to me as a collector than to go into my local card shop. Mine happens to be Hooplas Sports Cards in Beaverton, Oregon run by Cameron and Shonn. It's always fun to go in and see what new product is out, what's been busted, who got what, and to see what new collections might have been brought in. With the brick and mortar stores, it is becoming harder and harder to find one that not only caters to your collecting needs but that also offers it at a fair price. Couple that with being able to talk about the world of sports and anything else that comes to mind like: Why Hall of Famers and the older players have better signatures, who's looking to be a breakout or a bust this year, and the obligatory look when it's brought up that I still collect Kordell Stewart cards.

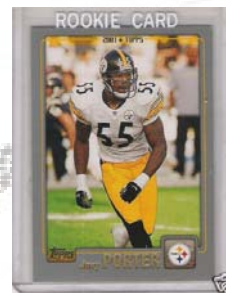
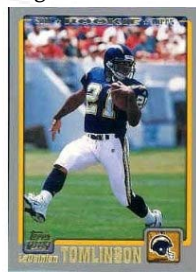
When you first enter, signed jerseys, bats, and balls, supplies, and unopened wax boxes line the walls along with box after box of cards ranging from vintage baseball and football to Magic: The Gathering. Cards broken down by year or team are available to look through along with quarter boxes and the likes. An inner circle of glass cases form a ring around you and are filled with a smorgasbord of cards that are both the shops' and items on consignment. They are filled to the brim with vintage cards, autos and jerseys. A center island is formed with cheap wax, old sports magazines, 8 x 10's, and loose packs. It's got the feel of a lived in place and offers collectors a lot of cards to look through and many bargains to be had.

It's quite a sight when you first enter and once you have taken in what you can you are greeted by either Cameron or Shonn from the back. Though I like to think I get some sort of preferential treatment I see every customer treated with courtesy and respect. Whether it's a person just trying to pick up a gift for a friend or family member that's a collector and willing to drop a hundred dollars on a card or an eight year old coming in to buy Pokemon cards with change, the service is no different.

My card tastes as a collector vary and include Steelers, food and regional issues, vintage, and autographs. At Hooplas I get a good helping of all of those. A vast majority of their prices reflect the online market and run very close to half of book which means that you don't consistently pay for a card and realize later that you could have gotten a much sweeter deal elsewhere. I also like vintage of almost any sort, not just football, and will look through the glass cases and see if there is anything that catches my eye. This is where I picked up my Carl Yastrzemski RC and continue to pick up old Red Sox and seventies players like Steve Garvey or Dave Parker, just to name a few. Though the selection doesn't compare to online, which I think is an impossibility in any shop, it's still great to come across a card that you would never have been looking for and walk away with it.



There is the cheap wax for five dollars or the newest releases of high and low end available as packs or boxes. As a rule I don't buy wax unless it's a pack or two to see what the product looks like, although the urge to bust something has been given into on more than one occasion. I also hit their loose or 'junk' wax from collections they've bought and to just have something to open when I get home. The odd thing is that this is where I consistently pull some pretty decent cards. The second to last time I bought a few packs of 2001 Topps Jumbos for two dollars each and managed to pull a Culpepper signed event jersey SP and in the same pack got a LaDanian Tomlinson and Joey Porter rookie. Nice hits for two measly dollars.



For as much as the online sales have caused problems for some stores, the ones that have been able to evolve and absorb it into their sales, can boost their income and Hooplas is one of them. Their online inventory is huge and covers the whole gamut of the sports card industry. This is where more of their high end cards end up and I have purchased from them by way of the internet also. The great thing about that is I can go to the shop and pay for the item there and not have to wait or pay for shipping. Talk about a win-win situation. So, if you're ever in the neighborhood, stop in and see what they've got, say hello, and go home happy.



Courtside at SCF

By Nathan Loewy aka Garnett_21

The SCF Basketball Team would like to thank fellow basketball staffer DAVE30 for donating part of a set of 2008-09 Topps Treasury refractors to be sold in the SCF Auctions. All the proceeds from the sale will go to the SCF Emergency Fund. Dave donated 65 of the 120 card set. We are still looking for the remaining cards to complete this set, and would like you to help! If you have a card from this set that you are willing to donate, visit the SCF Basketball Card Trading forum and find the thread on the top of the page. These cards are numbered to 999, and the rookies are numbered to 2008. If you can help, we would greatly appreciate it!

Daily contests in the basketball forum are going strong! December's winners and qualifiers for the playoff portion of the contest, for Top Performers were allstar with 30 points, Showdown with 28, and underdawg with 25. Pick 'Em winners for December were adam334581 with 84 points, allstar and Showdown each had 83, and because Showdown won October/November, Christianfriend is now eligible for the playoffs by scoring 80 points. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Top Performers Current contest standings, as of 1/22/09, are as follows:

Showdown ~ 17
gladdyontherise ~ 14
allstar ~ 13
key2win ~ 13

mrnyceguy168 ~ 12
garnett_21 ~ 11
the_future ~ 10
RenegadeLonghorn ~ 10

underdawg ~ 7
kobe080 ~ 5
sl7in ~ 2
romayo ~ 1
trevorp121 ~ 1

Pick Em' Current contest standings, as of 1/22/09, are as follows:

1. allstar- 53, garnett_21- 53, Showdown- 53
2. adam334581- 51, key2win- 51
3. Hoopsman- 49, trevorp121- 49

4. underdawg- 45
5. gladdyontherise- 44
6. nbafan123- 43, RenegadeLonghorn- 43

7. mrnyceguy168- 42
8. nadeau01_johnson48- 41
9. jdlee123- 37
10. Idiot83- 36

In case you are unfamiliar with Guess the Score games, check out the Contests forum on the bottom of the SCF Homepage! SCF member demonpower55 is running away with the NBA portion of the GTS games, with 11 wins thus far, where second place is tied between RenegadeLonghorn and the_future, with 5 points each, while the NCAA GTS games and more tightly contested, with demonpower55 and RenegadeLonghorn sharing the lead with 3 wins each, and 7 people are tied with 2 wins each.

NBA Complete standings, as of January 22nd, 2009, are listed below.

demonpower55 ~ 11
dallascisco ~ 5
RenegadeLonghorn ~ 5
the_future ~ 5
adam334581 ~ 4
allstar ~ 4

aw00d05 ~ 4
Bonds_25 ~ 4
garnett_21 ~ 4
thekingpin ~ 4
gladdyontherise ~ 3
jvince888 ~ 3

key2win ~ 3
sabresfan88 ~ 3
jastet ~ 2
lil5up3rman ~ 2
pwaldo ~ 2
underdawg ~ 2
18 tied with ~ 1

NCAA Complete standings, as of January 22nd, 2009, are listed below.

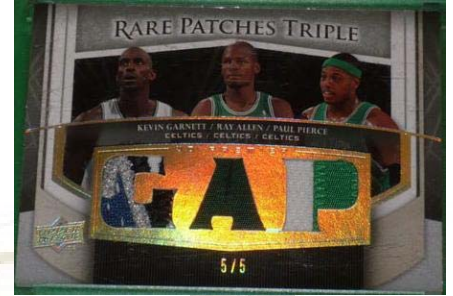
RenegadeLonghorn ~ 4
demonpower55 ~ 3
the_future ~ 2
jvince888 ~ 2
fitchjr1 ~ 2
dallascisco ~ 2
gladdyontherise ~ 2

key2win ~ 2
andrewcstein ~ 2
jrector ~ 2
aw00d05 ~ 1
Nairb06 ~ 1
allstar ~ 1
thekingpin ~ 1

UofLnMU ~ 1
SingleDaddyof2 ~ 1
Ron_Mexico ~ 1
j.jakeson ~ 1
lil5up3rman ~ 1
Showdown ~ 1



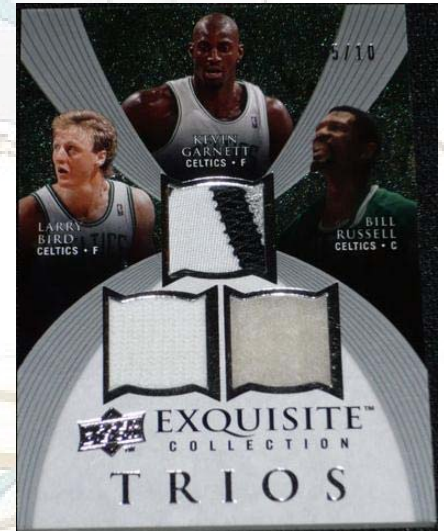
COURTSIDE



The "Basketball Collection of the Month", which debuted last month with trevorp121's collection of Kobe Bryant cards, is featuring LOWinMASS's unique collection of Kevin Garnett cards, this month. His cards all have a serial number 5/x, Kevin Garnett's current jersey number.

Here is, in his own words, a summary of his collection:

I first stumbled across a 2007-08 Upper Deck Premier Kevin Garnett/Kobe Bryant/Lebron James triple jersey card on eBay in April of 2008. Without hesitation, I bought it immediately when I noticed it was serial numbered 5 out of 50, which is Kevin Garnett's jersey number. That purchase started my addiction of collecting 2007-08 and 2008-09 Kevin Garnett serial numbered 5/x cardboard. As of today, I have approximately 35 different Kevin Garnett's serial numbered 5/x, with a few more due to arrive soon. I am very picky on what Kevin Garnett #5/x I purchase on the early released 2007-08 products. The card has to be Celtic related if I am to purchase it. Since my first purchase, I added a triple autograph of Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and Paul Pierce. This card was the first autographed card to have all of them in Celtics uniforms on the same card. The card was redemption, and I had hoped that I would receive the one numbered 5 of 15, but I instead received #3/15, which I attribute to the Big 3. I am very thankful that my girlfriend, Dawn, supports my collecting addiction!"



My favorite card in my collection is, by far, the triple autographed redemption that I mentioned earlier. My recent acquisition of a 2007-08 Exquisite Trios Kevin Garnett/Larry Bird/Bill Russell numbered, you guessed it, #5/10, is also a favorite of mine. To have three generations of legendary Boston Celtics' on an Exquisite card is amazing. Another one of my favorites is my 2007-08 Premier Rare Triple Patches Kevin Garnett/Paul Pierce/Ray Allen.

Recent basketball product releases for 2008-09 include Topps Chrome (1 rookie autograph per box) and Fleer (4 memorabilia cards or autographs per box). Topps Chrome was released in December and includes 40 rookies and several parallel versions for each card in the base set. Upper Deck released Fleer in early January and the set includes retro rookies in a 1986-87 design and current stars paralleled in a 1988-89 retro set. 23 Michael Jordan 1/1 autograph buybacks are also available in this product.

Upcoming releases include Topps Hardwood (late January- 1 autograph and 2 relics per box), Topps T-51 Murad (9th February- 1 autograph and 1 relic per box), Upper Deck SP Authentic (3rd February- 2 autographs per box; 1 rookie patch autograph or autographed letterman), and Upper Deck Skybox (18th February- 3 memorabilia cards and 1 autograph per box). Upper Deck Premier, Upper Deck Black, and Upper Deck X are expected to be released in March.

In our second month of featuring SCF members superb basketball pulls, we had many, many, great submissions. We, the SCF Basketball team, tried to select the best of the best, so if your submission wasn't chosen, please do not feel bad. There is always next month! Now, on to the pulls:

Member: drtom2005
Card: 0607 Hot Prospects LeBron James autograph



Member: sportsfreak007
Card: Luxury Box Courtside Elgin Baylor/Bill Russell dual auto/GU /10



Member: maple19
Card: 0809 Topps CoSigners Brandon Rush/Roy Hibbert dual auto #2/3



Member: notorioussek
Card: 0809 Topps Chrome Derrick Rose Youthquake auto /5



SNEAK PEAK!

Be sure to stay tuned to the basketball contest forum for a special All-Star game contest, in which you could have a chance to win a Topps Finest Derrick Rose RC!

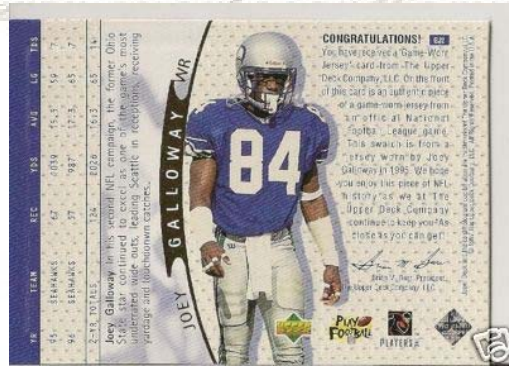
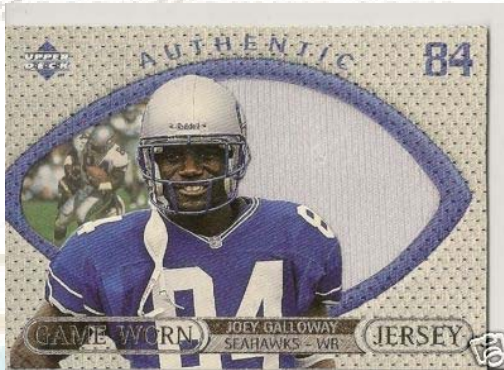


My Great Pull is Worth What?!?

By Stephen Duell aka Spuds1961

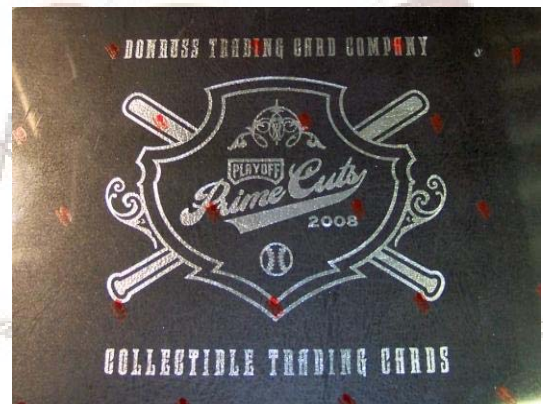
O.K fellow collectors has anybody else noticed that with the escalating price of new products there is a downward spiral of value per box? Yes the cards are getting newer, shinier, and lower numbered, but that doesn't mean they are getting more valuable.

First off, I would like to say I am not blaming the manufacturers. We the collector have fed this beast and now it has grown into an uncontrollable monster. I remember the first glimpse of game-used cards from the 90s they were awesome looking and seeded 1 per case. I was lucky enough to pull a Joey Galloway from 1997 UD Football. Sweet sized swatch greatly designed card and get this it had a book value of 150 dollars. The pack cost 2 dollars and even without pulling anything you got some great looking cards with the possibility of a nice rookie or superstar.



Fast forward to today's game-used and autographs, you have a myriad of products that offer 1, 2, 3 or even 4 game-used or autographs per box. The prices on some of these boxes are designed for adults only or high rollers so to speak. Box prices on high end can go anywhere from 250 dollars all the way up to 600 dollars I myself can not afford that stuff, I am the equivalent of a guy that goes to the casino and plays the nickel slots I am not going to get rich but I won't go broke trying either.

Now here is where it gets tricky... You finally decide to dip your feet into the high end pool and buy a box of whatever the high end of your choice might be. You pull your so-called high end game-used and autographs only to find that after spending your 200 dollars your hits wouldn't even sell for 50 dollars! Not the companies fault once again it's the luck of the draw. My advice to fellow collectors is treating yourself to high end breaks maybe twice a year. Other than that, I would say stick to boxes in the 100 dollars range you will get just as many good hits and you won't be breaking the bank either. Better still let the high rollers bust the expensive stuff and then go on eBay and choose your favorite players for a fraction of the cost of a box. Hoping this sheds a little light on the subject. Until next time, take care!





Jason Kendall Biography and Best Cards

By Darin Heitzer aka JKC



My favorite player? That should be an easy one for anyone that knows me. It is Jason Kendall. I have been a fan of his since 1993, and it was because of him that I became a player/driver collector over the years with my main focus on Jason Kendall. I have been collecting him for as long as I have been a fan.

Jason Daniel Kendall was born on June 26, 1974 and is the son of former major league catcher Fred Kendall. So, you can say he has baseball in his blood. Jason has a great relationship with his dad, and to this day still gives him credit for what he has taught him. While growing up, while his dad was away playing professional baseball, Jason gives credit to his mom for helping him with his baseball. Of course, even at a young age, he was already starting to pick his dad's mind when he was around.



Jason played baseball in high school at Torrance High School located in California, and while he was there he tied a national high school record. The record? It was for hitting safely in 43 straight games. He was also selected to be a part of the High School All-America team. He also ended up getting drafted right out of high school to play professional baseball. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1992 in the first round and was the 23rd overall pick from that year's draft. He signed with them on June 16, 1992. He played in the Pirates' minor league affiliates from 1992 to 1995. He started in 1992 with the GCL Pirates. Then in 1993, he was with the Augusta Pirates. After that in 1994, he was with the Salem Buccaneers. Then he ended his stay in the minor league by playing for the Carolina Mudcats in 1995.

In 1996, Jason made his major league debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates as their catcher. As a rookie that year, he was selected to be a part of the All-Star team. Although he finished third in the MLB NL Rookie of the Year voting, he did win the Sporting News NL Rookie of the Year. He also became an All-Star again for the 1998 season. Then, on July 4th of 1999, while trying to help his team get on base against the Brewers, he bunted and tried to beat it out. That is when his career took a sudden turn. As he stepped on first base, he dislocated and fractured his ankle. It was so bad that the bone came out of the skin. His season was over. However, he did not give up and vigorously worked on rehab to get back to play the game he loves so much. He was ready by the start of the 2000 season, and after numerous reports stating that most players have a hard time coming back after an injury like that, Jason went out and proved them wrong. He was named to the All-Star team for a third time and was a starter. He stayed with the organization until November of 2004 when he waived the no-trade clause in his contract to be traded to the Oakland Athletics. He stayed with Oakland for about two and a half years before getting traded to the Chicago Cubs in 2007. By this time, he had been struggling, and wasn't considered to be the baseball player that he used to be. During the off season and before the 2008 season started, Jason had become a free agent. He ended up signing with the Milwaukee Brewers, and admitted that he had nothing to prove to anyone but himself. He was aware of the fact that he had been struggling. It has been said that during the off-season and before spring training, he actually spent some time with his dad working on improving his game, and it showed. While he didn't have an average or above season at the plate, Jason was able to fulfilled his contract agreement which helped him to secure a spot with the Brewers for the 2009 season.



Pitchers love and hate him. They love him when he is catching behind the plate (especially for them) because of his intelligence of the game. This goes to show how well respected he is among the pitchers. He is also hated by them, but only when he is batting. He doesn't shy away from the plate and has been known to be hit by a lot of pitches. He also doesn't help them out as once he gets on base he becomes a threat to steal. This still happens, but not as much as it used to.

Teams beware! As a competitive player, Jason isn't afraid to fight or stand up for what he believes is right. He has been in a number of fights over his career. Some of the notable ones were from his days with the Pirates, and were involving Gary Sheffield (in 1998), Marlon Anderson (in 2003), and Joe Kennedy (in 2004). Oddly enough, while playing in Oakland, Jason became a teammate of Joe Kennedy.

Jason is one of only a few baseball players not to use batting gloves when he is at the plate. He used them to bat for a few years, but has recently gone back to batting without. Most of the time, Jason does use a batting glove, but it isn't for batting. He wears it on his hand with his catcher's mitt to help reduce the pain of catching the ball from the pitcher during the games.





Jason Kendall Best Baseball Cards

Through the years Jason has had many good cards made of him. I have tried to get what I can, and of what I have, here are the ones that I consider to be his best cards with a reason why:

1. 1992 Little Sun High School Prospects Jason Kendall Autographs 2-S ([Search eBay](#))

Reason: It was one of his first on card autographs, and is probably one of the more sought after autographed cards of his.

2. 2001 Ultimate Collection Jason Kendall 82 ([Search eBay](#))

Reason: This is one of (if not the only) card that has Jason Kendall pictured as an outfielder.

3. 2002 Fleer Genuine Tip of the Cap Game Used Jason Kendall (#ed to 41) ([Search eBay](#))

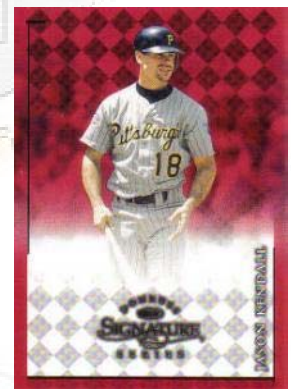
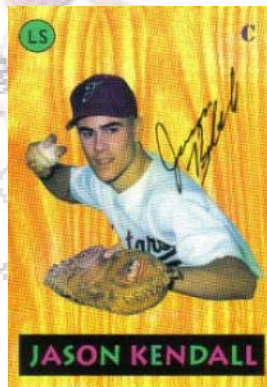
Reason: This card is hardly ever seen, and when it does it goes for a lot. Lucky for me, I got one of them in my very first online trade.

4. Any of the 1998 Donruss Signature Jason Kendall Autographs ([Search eBay](#))

Reason: These cards actually have an interesting story to them. According to what I have read, Donruss sent the four different versions (regular, Century, Millennium, and Preview) to Jason to be autographed and returned to be included in the 1998 Donruss Signature set. Jason never autographed them or returned them, and they were obtained by someone that knew Jason. Jason didn't want them and was reportedly going to throw them away. The cards (still not autographed) made their way to the open market, and are hard to come by. I have three of the four, and hope to someday complete them.

5. 2004 Leaf Limited Threads Jason Kendall Button 51 (#ed to 6) ([Search eBay](#))

Reason: It is a very unique card numbered to only 6, and has a piece of jersey with the actual button from it.



Jason Kendall Best Value Baseball Cards

There is a bunch I could probably list here, but the ones I believe are the best value cards are his 1993 rookie cards. The key ones are the 1993 Bowman, 1993 Stadium Club Murphy, and the 1993 Topps ([Search eBay](#)). Can't go wrong with rookie cards or with Topps! At one time, the 1993 Stadium Club Murphy was considered the best card to get of Jason Kendall as it was as high as \$12-\$15 while mostly the others were about \$1-\$3. Most of them now can be picked up at a very cheap price.

So, to conclude this, I would like to say that Jason Kendall is a great baseball player who is underrated in my mind, and I'm fine with that. Jason understands the game and plays the game the way it is suppose to be played. He has said that he still has the same joy of playing the game as when he was a kid, and when he doesn't feel that way about it he will retire. Kendall is also very competitive. He wants to win, and I am hoping that some day soon he is part of a team that wins a World Series. He is my idol when it comes to baseball, and of course I was sad when he got traded away from the Pirates as they are my favorite team and are the closest MLB team to where I live.

The Goal

By Paul Yetman aka Hockeygrampy

The year was 1970...were you even born yet? I would suggest that many of you were not... Gasoline was just \$0.36 cents a gallon, a first class stamp was \$0.06 cents, you could buy a dozen eggs for \$0.62 cents while a gallon of milk was \$1.15! The president of the United States was Richard M. Nixon and the Dow-Jones average was at 842.

Well, I was a tender 27 years old in 1970, married with no children yet, but my wife was expecting our first child in September. She was working as a book keeper in Boston and we lived in a small town on the North Shore, I'd say about 8 to 10 miles north of the city. I was busy planning how to support a family and was a new business owner who had purchased a small flower and gift shop in Malden, Massachusetts (oddly-enough in the city where we were both born and raised).

Well, at that age and working steadily trying to grow my business and with a wife who was also earning an income, I felt that I had it made! We didn't spend much money as my wife was a "spend-thrift" and was determined to make sure we lived within our means. We had only one "vice" and that was season tickets to the Boston Bruins!

In May of the same year, I had been planning for a busy weekend for a long time and worked diligently to make sure I got everything done and delivered before noon that day. Why? Well the date was May 10th, "Mother's Day". It was a busy day for a florist; trying to make sure all the deliveries to every mom were completed because this was also a very special day for another reason... It was the day of the fourth game of the Stanley Cup final game between the St Louis Blues and the Boston Bruins at Boston Garden. And yes, we had tickets in hand! But what we didn't realize was what this day would mean to the Boston Bruins, to the National Hockey League and the fame that would come to one very special Bruins defenseman, Robert Gordon Orr.

It was a short drive into Boston, taking perhaps 12 to 15 minutes. Just a drive up Main Street, through Everett and on into Boston proper. We found a parking spot about two blocks away and after a short walk to Causeway Street, we filed into our seats in section #114. Our specially-chosen seats were in the first balcony overlooking the blue line where the Bruins enjoyed their offensive zone in the first and third periods. This area allowed us to see two-thirds of their offense. It also enabled us to see the Bruins bench directly across the rink. We had the best seats that we could afford. This was "sport's heaven" and we were having the time of our life!

The Garden was warm that day. We were all a bit sweaty and the arena just couldn't seem to handle the 13,909 fans and the sweltering spring heat of the day. The Bruins led 3 games to none at this point, beating the Blues twice in St Louis and once in Boston. But after three periods of hockey, the score was tied: Bruins 3 and Blues 3. The shots were also even at 31 a piece. The coaches (Scotty Bowman for the Blues and Harry Sinden for the Bruins) had played their teams perfectly and heading into overtime, it was anybody's game!

The play quickly developed in front of us as Orr swooped up ice with Derek Sanderson on the right wing. What we didn't realize was that this would be the last play of the day and what turned out to be the last play of the 1970 Stanley Cup finals.

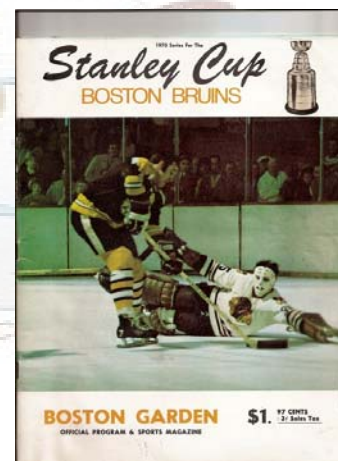
It was a "give-and-go" to Sanderson who flew behind Glen Hall from the right wing. And with a lightning-fast wrist shot, he sent the puck back to Orr as he was streaking across the crease (from Hall's left to his right). Bobby promptly buried the shot behind the stunned goalie. Plager's stick quickly came up under Orr's skates and Bobby went flying through the air, arms outstretched and his screaming mouth open wide! We had just witnessed "The Goal"!

Frankly, the rest of the afternoon is a complete blur to me... It seems that we stood, screamed and applauded "forever"! I have no idea what time it was when we left Boston Garden that day. I can only conger-up the images of the Stanley Cup being carried overhead, players hugging each other and posing for pictures endlessly! It was hot, it was smoky, it was hazy in the Garden, but nobody cared! Everyone was just enjoying this moment in history!

Now it is 2008. The month is October and the weather here in Georgia is balmy. The baseball playoffs are in full swing. But this only means that hockey's opening day is upon us. I miss being in Boston! But times change and life moves on. I now have four grandsons, two by Kimberly who was born just four months after that famous May 10th event back in 1970 and two grandsons by Meredith, who was just two years behind Kim in 1972.

I still have my Stanley Cup "Boston Bruins" program from that steamy day in May, 1970. There is also a 16 x 20 black & white framed and autographed photo of "the goal" hanging on the wall behind my desk! Its plaque reads, "Bobby Orr scores the Stanley Cup winning goal on May 10, 1970". It serves as a friendly reminder of the day spent in Boston when history was made. And my Stanley Cup program will stay with me until I pass it on to my grandkids!

Just when you think you'll be seeing just another hockey game....who knows....perhaps history will be made that day. You just never know!





Top 10 Things I Wish I Knew about Collecting Cards before I Started

By Kevin Lee aka Gosens151911

Here are my top ten tips on what I wish I knew when I first started collecting cards.

10: Redemption Cards are brutal

- Card companies insert redemption cards into packs for rookies who have yet to play, or for players who have yet to autograph their cards. You have to go online, register with the site and then usually type in a redemption code to have your card mailed to you when it's produced. Sometimes the redemptions can take months to arrive, or are never even produced. It's a pain pulling one and not knowing if you're going to get the actual card.

9: You can never have enough top loaders and penny sleeves

- When you bust packs and make trades you'll discover that your cards need to be protected. You can never have enough supplies. Place your cards into a penny sleeve and then into a top loader. You'll see how quickly you'll run out of supplies.



8: Early 90s cards are worthless

- The early 90s were not a good period to be collecting cards. Card companies overproduced them, which in turn lead to the majority of cards having a low value. So if you have any of the cards from when you were younger, go ahead and use them as paperweights.

7: Trading is a great way to obtain new cards

- Instead of buying new cards to add to your personal collection, trade the cards from your packs breaks. This can be done through online web sites such as sportscardforum.com, or through sports card shows/shops with dealers. It's a great way to improve your collection while at the same time getting full value out of the cards you pulled.

6: In person (IP) and Through the Mail (TTM) autos are worthless on the open market

- That giant collection of personally autographed cards you have are worth nothing to most collectors. Unfortunately, without any authentication, there isn't that large of a market out there due to the large amount of fake autographs.

5: Base Cards are pretty worthless

- Starting out some people won't realize that base cards differ from inserts. Base cards are the main set of cards in a brand featuring players from every team. You always get them in a pack, and except for the big stars, they do not have that large a value in the collecting world.

4: Some jersey and auto cards aren't as rare as I thought

- When you first saw a jersey or autographed card, you must have thought they were quite rare and worth a fair sum of money, at least around \$30? Those days no longer exist. Card companies now insert jersey and auto cards into mid end products at a fairly high rate (e.g. 1:24 UD Game Jersey for Upper Deck Hockey). Additionally, they have created higher end sets guaranteeing a jersey or auto card in each pack. The end result is the lower end players jersey/auto cards being overproduced and finding their way into card dealers' dollar bins.



3: A price guide is essential to collecting cards

- Want to make a trade? Make sure you have a price guide on hand such as Tuff Stuff. They are essential to know which cards on the market are the most popular and rare. Before you trade a card that you may think is worthless, check a price guide; you might be surprised.

2: A price guide isn't everything to everyone

- Although price guides are extremely helpful, not everyone is fond of them. Most price guides do not truly reflect the market, and most cards sell for only 1/2 of the high book value (BV). Many people use eBay as a guide to how much a card should sell for. Nevertheless, the price guide is most likely the most useful tool when making a trade.



1: Packs from Wal-Mart and Targets are different than those from the local card shop
 - Who knew! The packs you buy from your local chain stores are different than your local hobby shop. Chain stores carry what are known as retail packs, while hobby/card shops usually carry what are known as hobby packs. The difference is retail packs are cheaper, but usually do not contain the big hits that hobby packs do. Additionally, all hobby packs have better odds for pulling a hit compared to their retail pack counterpart.





Decisions, Decisions

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

Ahhh Collecting, what a fun activity! While I truly mean this statement I have come to realize that sometimes, the hobby can turn into a little bit of a headache. I'm sure we have all had hobby related worries, but during the last week I came to the conclusion that my collecting habits were costing me too much money. As a result, I was forced to downsize my collection. That was the main cause of the headache...I don't know how you feel about your own collection, but I chose each of the athletes I collect carefully and for specific reasons. Dropping one really isn't easy.

Up to a few days ago, I was collecting Patrick Roy, Carey Price and Martin Brodeur. Three great goalies, all chosen for different reasons. Growing up in Québec, Patrick Roy was the hockey player everyone was talking about, he was also the reason for which at the age of 10 I saved and saved for months to buy my very own goaltender equipment becoming an incredible source of pride for my dad and of shame for my mother. Childhood heroes are often the ones you feel most connected too and when I got back into the hobby nearly two years ago, choosing Roy was an absolute no-brainer. Then I thought; a bit of diversity would be good. Bearing in mind that I was a goaltender myself for several years (in hockey, soccer and handball teams), I was always going to choose another goalie. Thinking back on whose play I admired and who had been a consistent powerhouse around the NHL, I couldn't resist going for Martin Brodeur the secret of the Devils' success.

My decision made, I dove into the hobby world head first. I thoroughly enjoyed my first NHL season back into the collecting fold and I just couldn't wait to see the checklists of every new product to know what I needed to add to my want list. However, the 2007-2008 season saw the Montreal Canadiens (the team I support needless to say) use a new goaltender; Carey Price. Instantly, he became one of the darlings of the hobby and many pundits described him as the new Patrick Roy. Now that, was quite simply music to my ears...After watching him in a few games I thought to myself, well why not he does seem to have plenty of potential. Plus, my return to the hobby still being quite recent, I got taken in by the rookie "hype". Seeing the book value of the rookie cards made me think wow! I need to get some of these! And so I started gathering Price cards' as well.

A year down the line, the want list is getting insanely long and the price tags of the cards are getting higher and higher. Which got me to wonder; can I carry on collecting them all? The answer was not long to come, realistically; no. Therefore, it was time for another decision, a harder one really...Who to drop? This was quite the dilemma ...Making that decision was easier said than done.

After a year of devoting time and money to collecting Price and two years to collecting Roy and Brodeur, it seemed almost impossible to decide to drop one of them. However I started looking at it this way, thinking about mail days past, the ones for which I was most excited were mainly the ones when I received Roy cards, that coupled with my life long admiration for the athlete made him untouchable. I was halfway there...

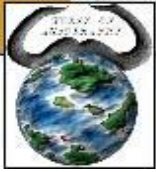


So it was between Marty and Carey, who to choose? I felt like I couldn't actually make the decision so I asked for advice from fellow collectors. There was no consensus, some people advocated for Price while others believe that Brodeur was the one who should go. Amongst the arguments presented was the value of the cards, many stated that Price had very valuable cards which showed no sign of going down. While this is true right now, his career is still young and you never know his performances could decrease. On the other hand, the ones who believed I should keep my Brodeur collection made a very good case by stating that he was truly a proven great. He will shortly be breaking Roy's victory record and by the time he retires, the "who was the best" debates will be all the rage. So I was faced with perhaps going for the most valuable cards or for a proven great...still a tricky decision.

Then, someone said think about yourself and the decision will be obvious...Clearly, he was hinting at the way I am always talking about back home and how I just had to have the Ultimate 8 Battle of Quebec insert set. From that point of view, it was clear that I should also be keeping Brodeur. So weighting all arguments, I decided to go with Brodeur, sure Price is more sought after right now and the value of his cards is high but to me a personal collection is not something I am going to sell, it's something to look at and enjoy. The big advantage of dropping Price as well is the fact that with his cards, I will be able to trade for quite a few nice Roy and Brodeur.

I'm happy my decision to cut down on the spending got me to think about my reasons for collecting and my priorities, it made me appreciate my collections all the more. In the end, it all comes down to one thing; never mind the hype around certain players who do you truly wish to collect? Will the darlings of the hobby be your darlings in the long term?





The World of Autographs – Not as Easy as it Seems

By Linda Mankefors aka Razzamaztaz

There are a lot of us who collect so-called in person autographs. Non-certified autos obtained in person or by mail, or simply traded for or bought. But unless you stand there yourself in front of the athlete, is it possible to do that anymore and know you that you are getting an authentic autograph?

Why would anyone even bother dealing with this hobby when there are tons of certified autographs available? Well, there's the hunt. Collecting a certain card set and getting all the cards autographed. There's the unique chance of getting a jersey, helmet, figure or photo signed. And nothing can beat the fun when you get it in your hand.

Here's a little guide for the newbies or collectors tempted to start but who don't know where to begin. Unless you're a *hound yourself (*hound means person who attend games, player hotels etc to seek out the athlete or star and obtain the autograph in person), there are only a limited number of ways to get hold of an autographed item.

1) Write through the mail or email to the player's team. This works for lesser names, but on rare moments even for stars. Reports say the legend Patrick Roy has signed through a special email address for a year. Personally I've succeeded twice with Georges Laraque through email; both times he sent free personalized signed photos. I also once got hold on email of Michael Nylander he was so nice and chatty we started talking about women's hockey in Sweden. The normal procedure though is to write a letter to a player c/o the team. Be patient, some players take up to 18 months to go through their fan mail. When you write a letter, be personal. Mention a detail about that certain player; praise him on a certain career moment. Always include a self addressed envelope.



1b) Write to a player's home address. This is by far the most effective way to get a mail success as the amount of fan mail to someone's home address is lesser, since that home address supposedly is secret. I've even heard success stories of Chris Chelios (who is notoriously impossible to get otherwise) through home address. Respect the player's privacy and don't just give out the home address to anyone you meet or know.

2) Trade. There are some places online where you can meet fellow autograph collectors and simply trade for that missing piece you need. Occasionally you can see at forums like SCF or others collectors offering for sale or trade their signed memorabilia. I have seen fantastic pieces available.

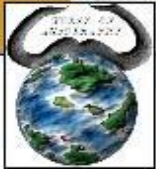
3) Buy on eBay. This is dangerous place to buy with all the frauds and fake items for sale, but nonetheless there are tons of bargains to be made, especially with semi stars. Keep this in mind though: Take a look at a seller's feedback. If they have 1000 positives but 5 people saying he sells fakes, there's a big risk that they are. Don't be fooled by so called photo "proofs" that they've met the athletes in person.

And finally here is my own little trick when buying on eBay: take a look at the other autographs the seller sells, even completed ones. Sometimes, it's obvious something fishy is going on even if the seller has a 100% positive feedback.

Example: A week ago I found a signed Ovechkin photo puck, it's so beautiful my finger wanted to click that buy button, the seller had an impeccable reputation, and the signature in itself indeed looked flawless and authentic. But when I take a further look he pretty much only sells signed items of Ovechkin, Crosby and Patrick Roy. Again and again. These three superstars are very hard to get, which I could have accepted if the seller had sold 20-30 other names as well. Instead he more or less only sells these. That is a very strong indication he's specialized in forging these three signatures, and keeps doing it.

Even following my own advices, I suspect I have several times bought autographs that may have been fakes. Unfortunately it's sometimes hard to tell unless you're very experienced or you send it in for verification, to a serious service like Steiner or PSA.

4) Buy through a player's official site, like Wayne Gretzky's. Then you always know you get the real deal. But if you want that certainty, it costs, 3 or 4 digits.



Even if I've on and off collected autographed for years, I am nonetheless not a very experienced autograph collector as I've never done it on a large scale. So I decided to chat with someone who is.

We say hello to Magnus Wedelin, who has collected autographs intensely for 35 years.

How do you obtain your autographs?

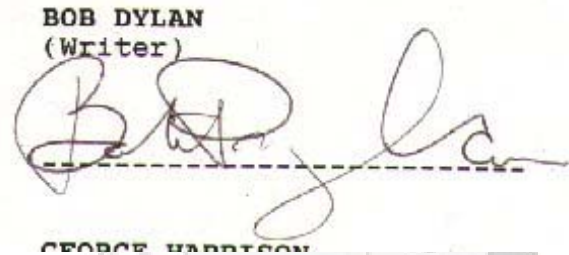
-Most of them in person. Personally I think the real fun in collecting autographs is the hunt and the meeting with the person. To exchange a few words, maybe take a picture, make it more complete. But when it's a name you know you're not capable of getting hold of yourself, I have of course bought. Either directly from an athlete or online. I don't have much experience of eBay as it's flooded by forged autographs. One way is to google the player/star name you want + "autograph", you often come to a serious seller that way. There is a risk of frauds here too, but not nearly as much as on eBay.

When it comes to online autograph shopping, have you got any tips that could help us?

-Signed modern photos, trading cards (and concerning artists, album covers), should arise suspicion.

-Nevermind Certificates of Authenticity (COA)! They don't mean a thing, literary. A COA can as easily be forged as an autograph. On the contrary a COA is often a cover which many use to appear credible.

- Turn suspicious when a big name is for sale cheap. For instance you can often see signed items of Bob Dylan or Bob Marley for cheap money. I have a friend who's tried to get Bob Dylan 5-6 times, and at least one of those times he was there himself with Bob Dylan outside a hotel, and yet Dylan just walked by and said hello, without stopping to sign. If you ever get hold of a genuine Bob Dylan autograph you don't sell it cheaply.



-The more a seller writes in an item description the more suspicious you should get. If you sell an autograph from a film star for example, you don't need to write a lot about them people already know. It's only written to make a serious appearance.

-You can often make detailed studies and discover small but yet important details that are wrong. The more you look at autographs the more you learn.

-Avoid big cheap lots.

What about sending through mail?

-You can't be 100% certain on autographs obtained by the mail. Many big stars got secretaries/personal who writes the autographs. For instance Wayne Gretzky. *(Writer's note: Also beware of so called autopens, machines that scribble out the player's signatures)*

-If you send to a home address you can most of the time count on getting the real deal. The problem is getting hold of the home addresses. There are websites where you can get hold of those; unfortunately you have to pay a member's fee first.

Sending in for verification, is that something you'd recommend?

-I've never done it and don't know if it's worth the money. I'd say it would only be worth the big cost if it's something extremely valuable.

Thank you Magnus. Lastly to all; have fun!



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 Jan 25 (Pool runs Oct 4 to Apr 30) - <http://www.officepools.com>

Rank	Team	Day	Week	Month	Total	Rank	Team	Day	Week	Month	Total
1st	Scottkoz20	0	15	109	649	24th	Tobiasstephan	0	16	96	550
2nd	Rogulon	0	19	115	615	25th	Crackapack	0	9	86	549
3rd	Tannies	0	16	101	608	26th	Cssports	0	12	103	544
4th	Allonblack	0	13	95	602	27th	Newf662001	0	34	121	541
5th	Matssundin13...	0	15	111	601	28th	Canucksfan1812	0	19	109	540
6th	Pheeb888	0	15	117	598	28th	Ja68grfan	0	13	103	540
7th	Doniceage	0	13	100	592	30th	Fitchjr1	0	20	116	538
8th	Digitalmonkey	0	19	106	587	30th	Malkinsearcher	0	13	84	538
8th	Lapierrecollect	0	23	118	587	32nd	Andrewconnors9	0	19	121	535
10th	Nbcollector	0	18	126	585	33rd	Care4cards	0	33	103	532
11th	Darrens18	0	16	108	582	34th	Fritzer213	0	16	97	530
12th	Pantera04	0	17	110	579	35th	Nathan7070	0	14	103	529
12th	UntDuch4b13	0	14	107	579	36th	Leandre	0	34	107	523
14th	Patrickadams26	0	14	96	575	37th	Nabby12	0	20	100	521
15th	Tennisdevils	0	20	97	574	38th	Gladdyontherise	0	8	84	518
16th	Wolf1bh	0	12	88	572	39th	Parco10	0	12	98	516
17th	Gretzky99	0	16	95	571	40th	Sk74	0	34	102	506
18th	Koolkid19	0	18	105	568	41st	Crater_satori	0	11	112	502
19th	Tysonx	0	13	109	565	42nd	Enderwiggin69	0	13	83	490
20th	Quiet-things	0	17	110	561	43rd	Scmike001	0	12	78	482
21st	Greek22hockey	0	17	108	552	44th	Wingsfan-13	0	13	95	479
21st	Hossa18sens	0	11	111	552	45th	Leafsin09	0	32	97	473
21st	Turd_ferguson	0	34	108	552	46th	Cam98	0	12	98	465

SCF's Fantasy Basketball league has seen some dramatic changes since last month, with team Texas Hellbillies jumping up 5 spots, gaining 31 points! No trades have happened in the last month, but there have still been many roster moves, by way of the waivers.

Current standings, as of January 21st, 2009, are:

NBAFAN123 - 136
 Court Vision - 127
 D-III - 126
 kobe080 - 124
 garnett_21 - 123
 Anchorage Akitas - 120

Texas Hellbillies - 120
 demonpower55 - 107.5
 Caf. Crusaders - 94
 Molly's Ballers - 91.5
 gladdyontherise - 91
 Gimme Some MO! - 84

Strange Brews - 74
 CHillyDoggy - 70
 trevorp121 - 62
 the_future - 57
 ello's team - 52
 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...

SMYTHE					
TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	GB
team allonblack - allonblack	91	51	26	.619	--
Team stead - newf662001	70	51	35	.561	10.5
SCF Hockey Staff	87	66	27	.558	9.5
Vegas 420 - Jayvegas420	61	64	31	.490	21.5
Team Andrews - Rockford	44	89	23	.356	42.5

PATRICK					
TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	GB
Syracuse Victory - flitchjr1	84	46	26	.622	--
Toronto Tavares - Matssundin13rocks	85	56	27	.586	4.5
Team Sokol - joskol1626	68	55	33	.542	12.5
Team Weagle - ja68grfan	68	62	26	.519	16
Team Gagne - darryl87	59	77	20	.442	28

ADAMS					
TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	GB
Team gosens151911 - gosens151911	67	58	31	.529	--
Team Swain - TysonX504	66	64	38	.506	3.5
Team Collins - Leafsfan1967	36	89	31	.330	31
Team Farina - Justinpogge4life	36	93	27	.317	33

NORRIS					
TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	GB
Houston Crashers - supercardlover	82	62	36	.556	--
Montreal Jaywalkers - atp0721	66	67	23	.497	10.5
Team Connors - andrew connors9	60	68	40	.476	14
Team Mateya - EricMateya	58	70	28	.462	16

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 Topps Heritage Baseball \$70.99 (out February 23rd)



- Chrome Parallel Cards
- 6 Insert Cards per box
- 1 Autograph or Relic per box
- Box Loader – Hobby Exclusive

2008-2009 Topps T-51 Murad Basketball \$75.99 (out February 9th)



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

2008 Upper Deck Ultimate Collection Football \$89.99 (out February 11th)



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

2008-2009 Upper Deck Hockey Series 2 \$64.99 (out February 10th)



- Update your Young Guns collection, with an average of 6 per box!
- Collect 2 memorabilia cards in each box on avg.! Including Rookie Materials!
- More Rookies: Find Rookie Playmakers Jersey cards and Clear Cut Rookies Acetate cards! - Both averaging 1 per case!
- Added Value: Pull 1 Victory Update card in every pack!
- Get 1-of-1 Press-plate cards from the UD1 & UD2 regular sets!
- Complete your 08-09 Upper Deck set! Top it off with great parallels: Exclusives and High Glossy versions!
- Look for UD Game Patch and Rookie Materials patch cards - both #'d to 15!

2008 Press Pass Eclipse Racing \$173.99 (out February 25th)



- One Press Pass autograph card in every 20 packs 1:20 - very limited autos only found in Press Pass & Eclipse 2008
- Two memorabilia cards in each box
- Under Cover Signature cards, Star Tracks tire cards # to 250 & 4-wide w/checkered flag insert all HOBBY ONLY INSERTS
- Teammate Autos featuring Dale Jr./Jeff Gordon and/or Jimmy Johnson....a first for these top drivers.
- 90 card base set on 24 pt. stock featuring five new subsets for 2008!
- Stellar - 27 card set-within-a-set on Chrome Board...all '07 race winners!
- Two unique inserts on holofoil and plastic...an industry first