

# COLLECTORS CORNER

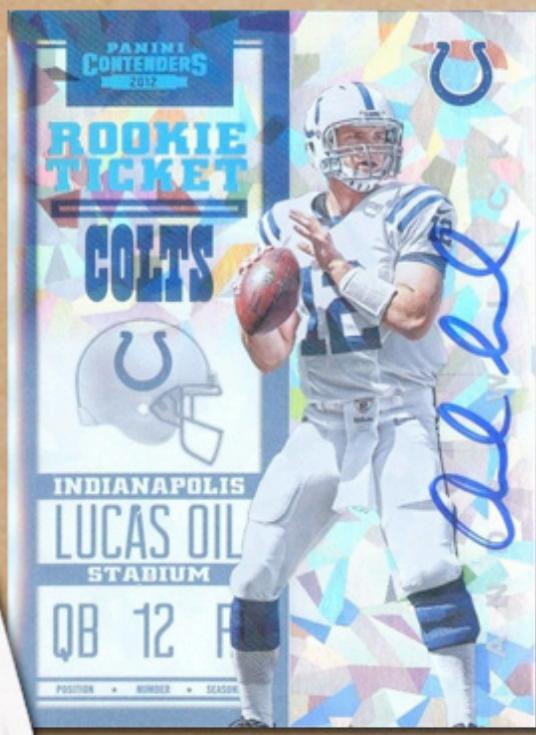
NOVEMBER 2013

5 CARDS PER

CASE



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# PANINI



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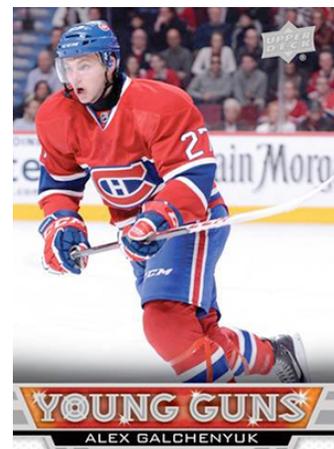
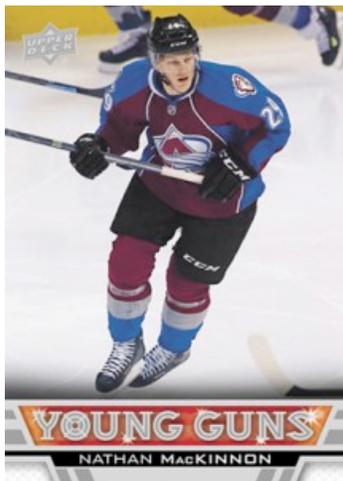
## Hockey Really Is Back Now for Collectors

By Karine Hains aka Pheeb888

While a lockout shortened season is a disappointment for any hockey fan, it is nothing short of a disaster for hockey card collectors. Why? Well, simply put last year it meant no rookie cards in the products. That simple fact means that the value of the breaks plummets faster than the Buffalo Sabres in the rankings this year and that also means that the level of interest reaches new lows. However, and thankfully, the 2012-2013 disaster is now behind us and we're now left with what has only been seen once in the hobby so far; a double or dual rookie class! The last time that occurred, it meant a huge boom in collecting as the long

awaited rookie cards of both Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby were released. This year's crop of rookies also features players labelled as being "the next so and so", one can think of Nathan MacKinnon, Nail Yakupov or Alex Galchenyuk which many predict is the highly needed big star centre the Montreal Canadiens have needed since...well...forever! Without a doubt,

for those who were hesitant about dabbling in the hockey collecting pool, there's never been a better time to dive in! As the hockey articles featured in this magazine will make it clear, some VERY interesting products are now out or shortly due out do not miss your chance!

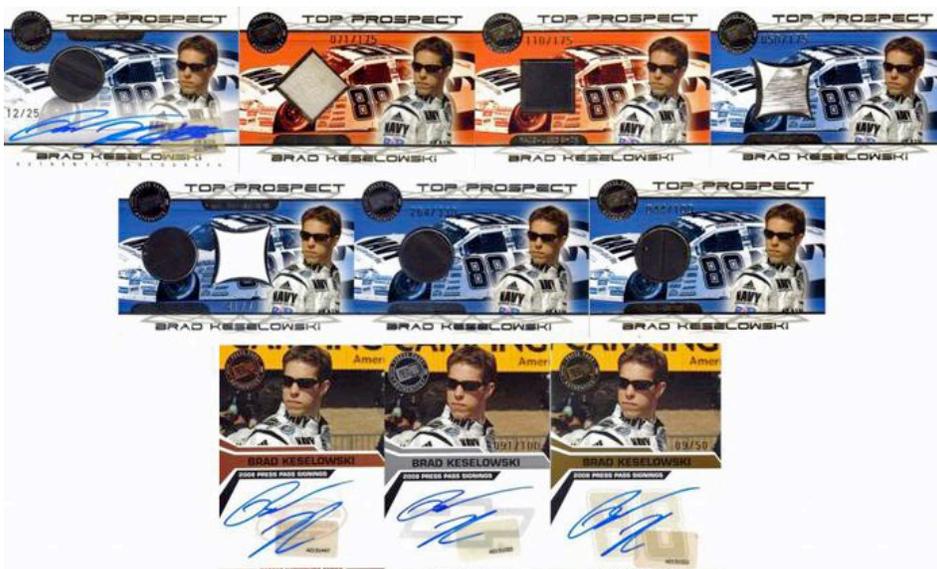


A few years ago, Panini was granted a license to produce NHL hockey card. It's now safe to say that they are well established and have developed a following. As some of you many know, one of our members \*censored\* is a sports card photo editor at the employ of Panini.

At our request, he has accepted to submit himself to a Q and A with our members and that's what this month's featured article is about. If you've ever wondered what working in the sports card world involves, it will make for a rather interesting read!

Also of note, for the racing fans out there, you will find at page 18 a showoff of the top 50 cards owned by SCF's racing community members. I'm not racing collector but I did see some pretty sweet looking cards there! Thanks to race crazy for coming up with the idea for that feature.

That's about it for now, I hope you'll enjoy the read and we'll be back with what is expected to be our last issue on December 24<sup>th</sup>, just in time for Christmas!





## 13 Questions with a Sports Card Photo Editor

by Drew Pelto, AKA \*censored\*

Back in January I was incredibly frustrated. I was the play by play broadcaster for a junior hockey team. While I figured it was the first step in landing my dream job, I felt like I was going nowhere. The team I was working for was on its way to missing the playoffs for the third time in four seasons, I was having problems with some fans who made it no secret that they wanted me out of my job, and I just wasn't enjoying it anymore.

In February, I applied for a photo editor job with Panini. They were looking for a baseball and hockey expert, and I was called in for an interview; I was so confident it went well that I drove around looking at apartments for the rest of the day. A week later, I was offered the position and accepted it, starting in April.

I was asked to write a little about my job for SCF, but I had some trouble-- how do I keep it from being pedantic while also not cutting it super-short? And so, I opened the floor to the readers, letting you ask what you wanted to know about my job. And so, here are a baker's dozen questions on what I do as a photo editor for Panini.

### **Q. Briefly describe what you do on your job.**

A. My job primarily revolves around two areas: identifying photos and selecting them for use on cards. We get a ton of football and basketball photos and once they're put into our computer system, we have to identify who is in the picture, what team they're with, and what jersey they're wearing. I'll get into more about image selection later in this article.

### **Q. In the process of making a set, how many pictures of any one player are taken? Do you guys just work with what the photograph brings back or you actually have a choice?**

A. It varies, really. For baseball, basketball, and football, the vast majority of our images come in bulk from photographers around the country who will shoot games and send them to us on a CD or through a FTP upload. Hockey images are most often purchased from an online company, though we have started having game photos sent directly to us. Also, one of our other photo editors is a photographer so he can occasionally shoot games for us. So it's not like it's a case of us saying "Okay, get us a photo of each of these 100 players," but rather we'll get them from an entire game several times during the season, giving us a large pool from which to choose. We do have to work with what the photographers give us, but we often end up with many that we can use.

### **Q. How long is the process to create a set from start to finish (i.e. selecting a checklist, photos and everything that goes with it)?**

A. This is another piece that varies a lot. Lower-end sets with few-to-no autograph and memorabilia cards can be put out relatively quickly. The higher-end sets take a while longer. It involves a lot of communication between departments to figure out what we have in stock for memorabilia, who can quickly sign cards, and how quickly we can find a photo if a specific one is requested. Sometimes we have to do some major digging to find exactly what we're asked to pick out. Some products can be done from development to hitting the shelves in 4 months. Others may take upwards of 8.



**Q. Does your job involves focusing on one product at the time or do you work on multiple sets in the course of a day?**

A. Most of the time I'll be focusing on one set at a time, though often products will overlap. When I first started, I was working on [2012-13 Prime](#), followed quickly by 2013-14 [Select](#), [Prizm](#), and [Dominion](#) all overlapping to some degree. Most of the time I'll be handed an insert to work on for a day, finish it off, then do some ID'ing for a day or two. If two inserts are similar in player content, I may get asked to do two or three at a time. Working on those all at once helps to ensure a good variety of photos. There are two hockey programs I'm bouncing back and forth on right now. They haven't been formally announced yet, so I probably shouldn't say much more than that.

**Q. Given the sheer volume of photos taken by fans, has Panini ever considered using player photos from non-professional photographers? For that matter, does a photographer have to have some sort of license to be able to sell their own photos of professional athletes?**

A. We have had to occasionally. In hockey for example, if we can't get a photo of a player from Getty or the Hall of Fame, we may put a call out to other professional photographers to buy an image from them. If that fails, we'll try to find if someone else has what we're looking for. The problem is that our images need to be of the highest quality possible. There are even some professionals out there who just aren't up to snuff for what we can use. The best quality shots come from professional photographers with cameras that sometimes [cost close to \\$7,000](#). So the chances of a random fan having a high enough quality image for us is practically zero. As far as I know, there's no license required as long as the photo is one that the owner of the photo took themselves, or at least owns the rights to its reproduction. Don't quote me on that though.

**Q. How does it really go card to card? I know there is a basic format, but other than that, is each individual card done separately? Can some things be brought over, like the logo (as in the Panini logo) and the background, or is each card a lot of work?**

A. This is something I'm not heavily involved in, as we have separate departments for Photo, Color, and Assembly, all falling under the heading of Prepress. This is something Assembly does. Of what I've seen in passing by the desks for people in Assembly, a lot can be carried over. If there's a certain element that repeats on every card (such as company/product/set logo, space for a player's name, team name, area for a position to be listed, or common backgrounds), it can carry over easily. It's rare that a card has to be created totally from scratch every time.

**Q. Which is better, in your opinion - A college/USA uniform or a pro uniform airbrushed out?**

A. It really depends on the set. Much of it comes down to licensing. As you may know, Panini only has half of the required baseball licensing due to Major League Baseball's exclusive deal with Topps. We have the MLB Players' Association though, so we can show the players, just no logos. We often take it a step further and have the Color department remove piping from jerseys, multi-coloring from numbers, and won't even use team names in print. Instead of the Cleveland Indians, they just get called the Cleveland Baseball Club, or just Cleveland. Much of that is hoping that Major League Baseball might see that we're playing by their rules and grant us full licensing once the Topps deal runs out in 2020. If we're doing a set with recent draft picks, usually we'll stick with college uniforms-- though even those often get cloned out in Photoshop so that we don't have to secure that extra NCAA licensing. Having a full deal with



USA Baseball, we can stick with the USA logo as long as it is a Team USA themed set. I like the full uniform use of Team USA items; unfortunately we don't have too much of a choice in the matter.

**Q. Did you start as a photo editor with sports as a hobby or a sports fan who then got into photo editing?**

A. I started out as a sports fan who just happens to be decent with photos. I've been following the big four leagues since I was in elementary school, worked as a yearbook photographer in middle school, and did some photo editing, layout, and even card making work in my previous career as a broadcaster at the junior hockey level. When I read the job description to my wife, she said: "So basically they're looking to hire YOU?" With a degree in journalism, I feel I have an excellent attention to detail and that can really help out in selecting photos.

**Q. How much input do you have? If you had a great idea for a set, would there be a good way of passing it on?**

A. I don't have much input. However, I have a good relationship with the people in Product Development. I actually have lunch with one of the main hockey guys almost every day and I play fantasy hockey with him and a couple others in that area. So if I had some revolutionary idea, I could certainly pitch it to them. I'm not the super-creative type, so I'll probably leave the earth-shattering, ground-breaking ideas up to those guys.

**Q. Are baseball and hockey products harder to edit because of how thin bats/sticks are?**

A. The cropping work is done by the Color department, so I don't get into that at all. However, having done some of this in my amateur work and in my previous job, it's not too tough if you know what you're doing, and the Photoshop mavens over in Color know what they're doing quite well. The magnetic lasso tool is one of your best friends in cutting through even the thinnest parts.

**Q. Have/do you ever get to meet players while doing your job?**

A. I have! Once in a while players will come through to do some signings for products and get a tour of the facilities. I've seen Derek Roy, Reilly Smith, Quincy Acy, C.J. Miles, Rex Burkhead, and a few others. I had a long chat with former goalie and Dallas Stars color commentator, Daryl "Razor" Reaugh a few months ago, swapping war stories of our junior and minor league broadcasting careers. Panini actually had organized meet-and-greet signings with Rangers' pitcher Nick Tepesch and Mavericks' guard and recent draft pick Ricky Ledo for all our employees. My boss goes to the basketball, football, and hockey Rookie Photo Shoots every year, so he's met all the prospects who come in for those. I also am going to have a brief appearance on NHL Network soon, showing off my job as part of a story on the entire card-making process.

**Q. Is there a procedure for getting the photo approved by the players or allowing the player to see it early (to prevent issues like the Billy Ripken)?**

A. Every card we make must be approved by the league (or the MLBPA in the case of baseball). They can reject photos for various reasons, mostly related to jersey or number changes, or if a player is on a different team or even a different league. With Ilya Kovalchuk's sudden "retirement," we pulled him from every product that we could. If we hadn't, the NHL likely would have requested he be removed. The leagues want to keep the products as fresh as possible, making sure the players shown are all current, or at least well-known retired players. Some players have it in their contracts that



they have the right to approve every image. I won't name them specifically, but there is at least one member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, and at least one well-known current basketball player who have the right to request changes to any and all images of them. Additionally, due to sponsorship deals with a razor company, two of hockey's biggest names can't be shown with facial hair, unless it's for a playoff beard themed insert or something of that sort. We also can't show advertisements for alcohol, tobacco, or gambling, so scoreboard or dasher board ads showing beer companies, casinos, or state lotteries have to be removed. We also can't show blood or fighting.

**Q. What is the toughest thing about the job?**

A. Player who chew on their mouthguards or have their tongue dangling out. The best standard we use in picking photos is to ask ourselves "Would you appreciate this card if it was a photo of you?" We try to keep the players looking at least dignified, and it's hard to look good if your tongue is hanging out, your mouthguard is halfway outside where it's supposed to be, or if you make some of the [crazy faces Jay Bouwmeester makes](#). It's true you can't always control your faces when you're focused on your sport, but what good does a mouthguard do if you're chewing on it instead of wearing it?



So, there you have it. You now have an industry insider posting and writing here. Use it wisely. Just don't ask for any of our secrets.

And no, I can't get you any free stuff.

**About the author:** Drew Peltó has been a photo editor with Panini for a little over six months. He resides in Arlington, TX in an apartment that occasionally leaks when it rains. Fortunately that is rare because it's Texas.



**“Carey! Carey! Carey!” Bests “Loooooooouuuu!”**

By Richard McAdam aka RGM81

As soon as the NHL released this year’s schedule, the first thing I looked for was the date that the Montreal Canadiens would visit Vancouver to take on the Canucks. Due to the lockout last year and the adjustment of the schedule to have only intra-conference games, there was no Western Canada road trip for the Habs in the 2013 season. This meant a further delay in me getting to see these two teams square off for the first time since 2003 by an additional year. Just as a point of reference, Jose Theodore was still the goalie for the Canadiens then and Carey Price had not even begun his junior career with the Tri-City Americans.



The date? October 12<sup>th</sup>. Nice and early in the season! I put a call in to a friend of mine to get us tickets so that we wouldn’t have to worry about the game selling out (it always does, the Habs are hugely popular in BC) or having to deal with the crush of people trying to access tickets on the Canucks website when they went on-sale. Plus it’s fun to tell people that you’re on the guest list of one of the players. Thanks, Travis Moen!

This was a special trip for me, not only for the game itself but also because it was my sister’s first time going to an NHL game. We’re a family of Habs fans, going back multiple generations. My grandma still adores Jean Beliveau, my parents grew up watching Ken Dryden and Guy Lafleur during the great dynasty of the 1970s, and my sisters & I hooted and hollered up and down our block when the Habs won the Cup in 1993. I even let her wear my old Saku Koivu jersey to the game. That’s a nice big brother thing to do, right? We hit the road nice and early on Saturday so that we could check out the scene in Vancouver. It’s a great town, always lots to see and do. There were plenty of Canadiens jerseys around as early as 3pm and we made a couple quick friends during the day. We also finally got to meet 87sluggo, best known as Ed to his friends, at the Shark Club an hour before the game. Great guy, tremendous sense of humour, a pleasure to meet him—and he was very brave coming out in his Canucks jersey to a pub that had been overtaken by folks wearing *bleu, blanc, et rouge* sweaters!

Finally, it was time to head to Rogers Arena...still feels weird calling it that...and get to our seats. We had a tremendous vantage point in the upper bowl, right along the goal line where the Habs were attacking in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods. As you’ll see in the pictures at the end of this little write-up, that came in very handy in determining the outcome of a couple plays. The atmosphere in the building was electric, and there were Canadiens fans everywhere! I would tentatively say that it was a 60-40 split in favour of the home team, but wow the Habs fans were definitely the vocal minority. There were a number of rousing ovations for the visitors throughout the night, the best reserved for Carey Price, the hometown boy who was absolutely electric in this game. Save after save, he made at least 3 highlight reel saves in the first period to keep the Canucks off the scoreboard in the early going. Just a fantastic performance.

Now, what this game will be most remembered for will be the absolutely bizarre goal that the Canucks managed to score on themselves in the second period. We were the full 200 feet away, and since the Habs were short-handed I wasn’t really paying attention to the play, instead snapping a pic of Carey getting a brief respite. Then I looked over to see Luongo flop on to his back and the red light go on! Thankfully, they showed it on the replay on the big screen because I don’t think too many people could actually believe their eyes. It was a truly odd play, and I’m sure that Dan Hamhuis felt really bad about the play. Can’t blame Luongo for that at all. The Canucks fans were definitely deflated after that,



and they were never really back into it from that point forward. It was all Habs from that goal onwards. At one point of the third period, the Habs owned the shot clock 10-0 before the Canucks finally got a couple efforts on Price, but he was having none of it.

I was blown away throughout the night just how good the Canadiens “EGG Line” played. Lars Eller, Brendan Gallagher, and Alex Galchenyuk were just amazing. Eller of course got credited with the second goal, keeping his hot streak alive. These young players carried the offence for the Canadiens, and even though the Eller goal was the only time any of the trio got on the score sheet, you can see the talent. Speaking of talent, P.K. Subban is an elite defenceman in the NHL. Yes he is the reigning and defending Norris Trophy winner, but to see him out there and how he just dominates the play when he is on the ice is very special. There was a play during the game where he just stapled a guy (I want to say Santorelli) coming up the right wing with a patented P.K. Sub-bang! You folks in Montreal that get to see him 41 times a year are very fortunate.



A couple of big firsts for me on the night—I got to see a penalty shot in a real NHL game for the first time! I’d previously seen one at a pre-season game in Halifax, when Tomas Plekanec scored to complete a hat-trick against the Bruins. But this was pretty cool. It was Max Pacioretty versus Luongo. Max made a nice move and went high blocker-side, but Luongo was able to get a piece of it, denying Pacioretty what would have been his second of the night. We were right above the play, and I filmed the whole thing on my camera. You can check it out on YouTube here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek7LgWsKd8A> The other first: I got to see Josh Gorges score a goal! It was high-fives for everybody in my section after that—my Kelowna homeboy almost never scores, so for me to get to

see that was pretty special. His family was in attendance for the game as well, and they were probably the only ones cheering louder than me!

In sum, what a great night. Carey Price is now 3-0 when I am in the building, and his goals-against average remains at 1.00. The save percentage is probably over 96% now, as he turned away 39 shots that night and deserved that First Star selection. Great ovation from the crowd when he came out first his quick spin on the ice. I really should start going to more games!

So that’s the report – here are some pictures taken throughout the night!





## October Reveals Weakness of New Divisions/Conferences Alignment

By Richard McAdam aka RGM81

It didn't take much time for the new division and conference alignments in the NHL to reveal a major fundamental weakness. The disparity that exists in the NHL's Eastern Conference between the top teams, who are seemingly all in the Atlantic Division, and its weaker cousins—other than the Penguins, most of whom are in the horribly-named Metropolitan Division—has left the brain trust of the NHL with a potential problem come April.

Granted, it is early in the new season and there is still plenty of time for “everybody but Pittsburgh” to get on a hot streak and demonstrate that they deserve a place in the post-season. Right now, though, the optics are not favourable. There is only one team in the 8-team Metropolitan Division that has a record over .500 and actually won more games than it has lost. Were it not for the good graces of the overtime “loser point” this discussion could be even more unpleasant as it relates to the fortunes of some teams and their rankings. Even as it is, the “weak sister” of the Eastern Conference has been revealed, and it's not the one with the 2-win Buffalo Sabres at the bottom of their division.

A quick refresher for fans that the NHL's new playoff format goes as follows:

- \* The top three teams in each division automatically qualify for the playoffs
- \* The next two highest seeds (based on points) in the conference reach the playoffs as “wild cards”

As of the time of this writing, the top three teams in the Atlantic Division are Toronto, Tampa Bay, and Detroit. They have 20, 18, and 18 points respectively. Over in the Metropolitan, the Penguins lead the division with 20 points...and then the drop-off begins. In 2<sup>nd</sup> sits the Islanders with 13 points followed by the Capitals with 12 points. The two wild card teams are both in the Atlantic Division: Boston and Montreal, each with 16 points.

At a quick surface glance, this is not a major problem, as statistically speaking these are the top eight teams in the conference. Under the old system, these same eight teams would still qualify for the post-season. Where things become more problematic, however, is in how the teams get seeded. It used to be the traditional 1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, and so on, with the division leaders being in the top three spots automatically. That often presented its own issue, usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed representing the “Southwest Division” had fewer points than a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> seed, and sometimes even fewer than their first-round opponent in the 6<sup>th</sup> seed.

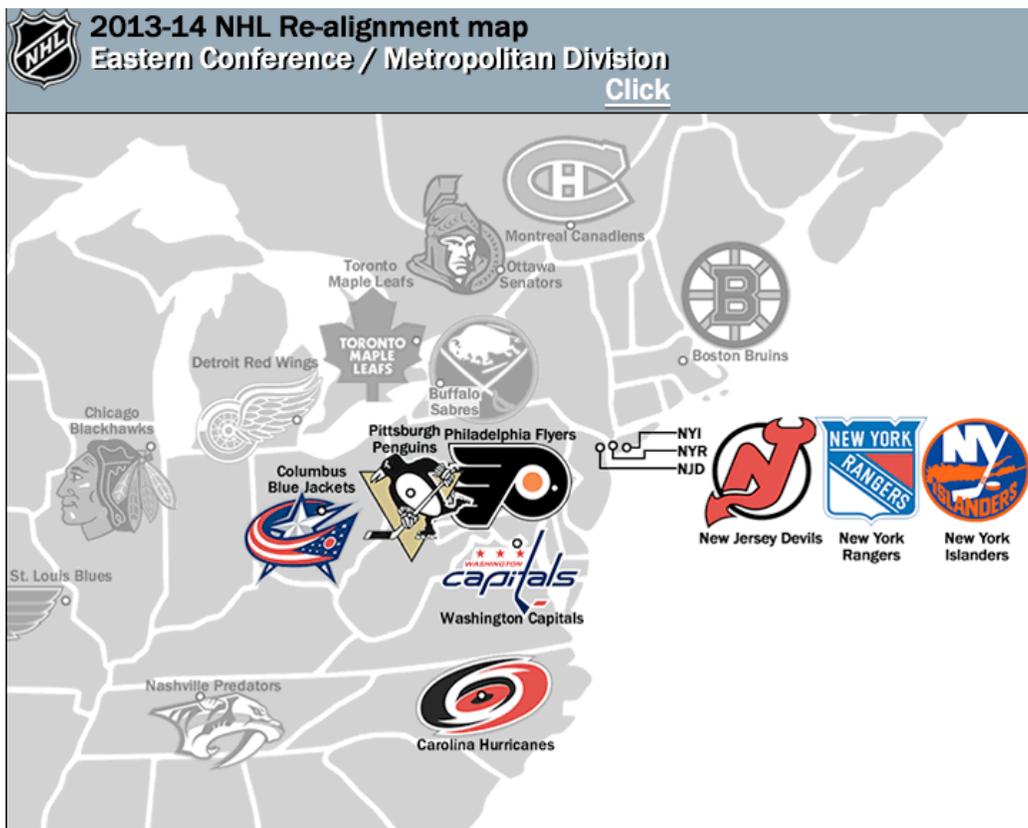
The “old formula”—tweaked slightly to still give division leaders the 1-2 spots—would have first round matches of: Toronto vs. Washington, Pittsburgh vs. NY Islanders, Tampa Bay vs. Montreal, and Detroit vs. Boston. Instead, the new alignment gives the following: Toronto vs. Montreal, Pittsburgh vs. Boston, Tampa Bay vs. Detroit, and the Islanders vs. Washington. OK, maybe those new first round matchups are more “fun” and have better “storylines” to them, but in a sense the two wild card teams are being punished with tougher opponents while the winner of the NYI-WAS series gets a pass into round two while two much stronger teams are going to be eliminated.

Everything is still very much up in the air of course. The Capitals could go on a major hot streak—never discount a team that boasts Alex Ovechkin—and we may see the Rangers and Devils come out of the early season funk that they seem to be mired in after the first month. It usually takes around 20-25 games into a full 82-game season to really start defining trends and getting a solid evaluation of where a particular team may be headed. But what if the Ottawa Senators get on a



roll and emerge from this weird 4-6-3 start to get back to being in the spot as a contender where many expect them to be? It's at that point that we could see a very good Atlantic Division team forced out of the post-season because of the wild card rules while protecting a weak team like Carolina and giving them a berth in the playoffs. It would be a major public relations fiasco to have a 90+ points team not playing hockey in late April while a sub-.500 Metropolitan Division team would be likely to be in at least the second round.

This is not to make any excuses for teams that could find themselves on the outside looking in at the playoff window. They all have the same 82-game schedule to work through and it is their own responsibility to ensure that they work themselves into a position that they deserve to be there. But sometimes you see a little quirk in the system that reveals itself early and hopefully that only makes you work that much harder. It is quite likely that there will be five teams from the Atlantic Division and only three from the Metropolitan Division in the playoffs. Hopefully it will work out that even those three teams deserve to be there. But right now, that position may be tenuous at best.





## 2013-2014 Score Product Review

By Karine Hains aka Phebs888

Sports card collecting is no longer the cheap endeavor it used to be... These days, it's all about the hits, the game-used, the autographs and the rookies. Bottom line, if you're not that solid from a financial backbone point of view, it's hard to stay in the game. I used to be an avid player collector but I eventually had to give it up and since then, the collecting bug has not really beaten me again...well, that was true until about two weeks ago. A friend of mine talked me about trying Score and I must admit, I'm rather glad I did.

### First impressions

Right from the get go, I was hooked. I bought a retail box containing 36 packs of 12 cards and I will admit that opening those 36 packs was an enchanting experience which sort of brought me back to my childhood. Why? Well, simply because I feel this product goes back to the basics. It's not all foil and shine, it's about the player, their pictures and their stats. While most cards feature the players stats at the back, you mainly get the stats from last year whereas Score lists all the seasons at the back. If that means there is no more room to write a tidbit of information about the player then so be it. For instance, if you look at Teemu Selanne's card, you will be able to see the complete breakdown of his illustrious career, from the 76 goals scored as a rookie to his more modest production of 24 points in 46 games last year. To me, that matters. I like to know what a player has done in his career.



### Description

Another strong point of this product resides in the pictures chosen to feature on the cards. There are plenty of in-action shots and a lot of emotion is depicted. Better still, even though Panini did not go down the foil and shine way, they did use an HDR effect on every single photo which in a way almost makes them look like paintings and gives them a kind of retro quality. In fact, this is such a strong point that it draws you in, you actually take the time to look at all of those base cards even though they are not big money hits. Somewhere along the way, I had lost that ability to marvel at base cards and I am rather happy that Panini managed to give it back to me.

### Box details

Retail version

Cards per pack: 12

Packs per box: 36

Price: \$47 USD

Hobby version (jumbo)

Cards per pack: 52

Packs per box: 10

Price: \$75 USD



## The Rundown On



### **Set details**

Set: 650 cards

Base: 1-550

Team Leaders: 551-580

Season Highlights: 581-590

Hot Rookies: 591-650

Parallels: Alternate Back, [Red](#), [Gold](#) (4 per jumbo pack / 1 per retail pack), [Black](#) (1 per retail case)

### **Insert Sets**

Check-it (1-25): A simple set that's all about the big hits as it shows by the effect used on them.

First Goal (1-20): This one is dedicated to the players that scored their first NHL goal last season.

Future Team Score (1-15): This is about tomorrow's (or in some cases today's) stars.

Team Score (1-10): Today's biggest and brightest players.

The Franchise (1-30): Each team's franchise player.

The Future Franchise (1-10): Ten young men who will soon be considered franchise players.

Net Cam (1-20): Amazing pictures in some cases provided by the cameras inside the net.

### **Autographs**

-Recollection Collection Autographs (40 cards): 1990-91 Score US (blue Score logo on front) limited to 20 copies or less. 1990-91 Score Rookie & Traded limited to 15 copies or less (Yellow border). 1990-91 Score Bilingual (red logo) limited to five copies or less.

-Score Signature (39 cards)

-Hot Rookies (59 cards) – Some super short print limited to 100 copies or less

### **Game-used**

Team 8s: 48 cards – 1 included per jumbo box

### **The break (from a retail box)**

Check-it: Steve Ott, Dougie Hamilton

First Goal: Mika Zibanejad, Brendan Gallagher

Net Cam: Henrik Lundqvist, James Reimer, Jonathan Quick

The Franchise: Evander Kane, Taylor Hall, Steven Stamkos

Team Score: Alexander Ovechkin

Autographed Hot Rookie: Sami Vatanen

Score Signature: Nick Palmieri

Set completion: 336/650

I must admit I was rather surprised to find 2 autographs in a retail box but I sure wasn't complaining. However, to me, the base set is what makes this product what it is. Modestly priced but with a high level of quality, this break was an enchanting experience which prompted me to go out and buy another retail box and a hobby box...collecting bug indeed!



**Comments**

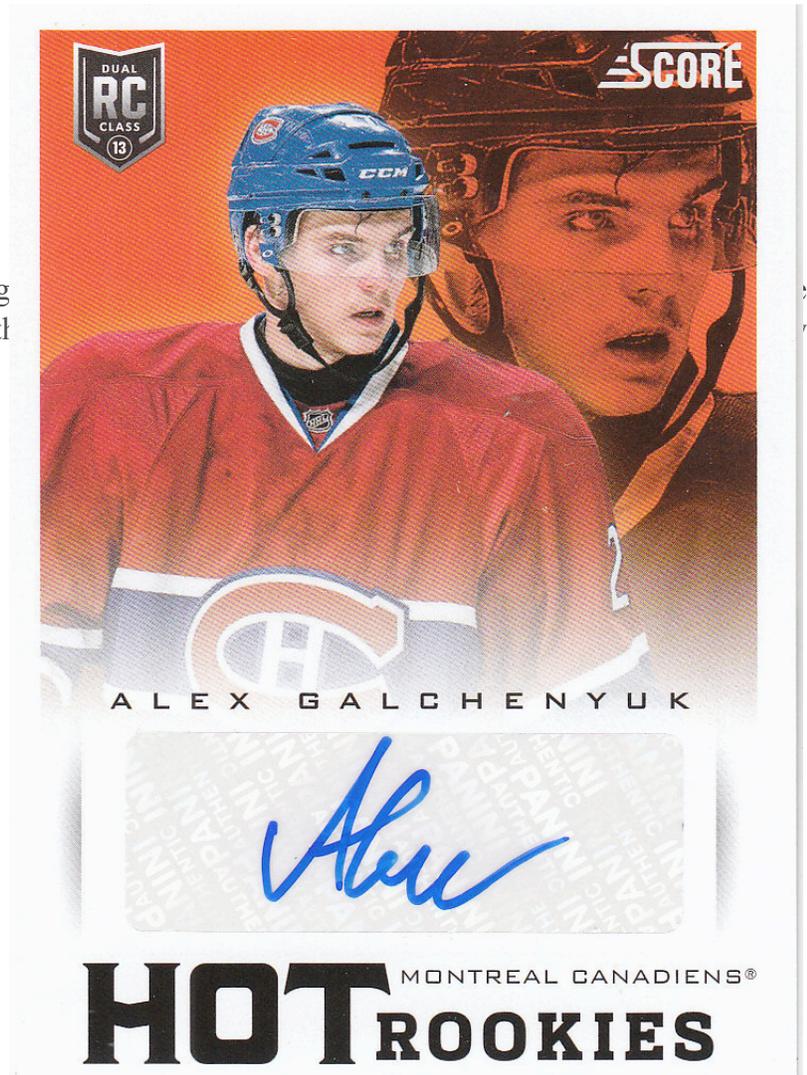
At this price point, this constitutes very good value for money and it's always great to build one of those big sets that gives you a complete outlook of who plays for which team. The visual effect used on the pictures render the experience even more pleasant and the inserts on offer make for a diversified selection that will keep you interested in the chase.

As for the autographs, while most collector prefer hard signed cards, it's hardly a surprise to see sticker autographs for a low-end product and you can't really hold it against Panini. The addition of the Team 8s cards have attracted legions of new collectors to the brand as game-used cards are always guaranteed to generate interest. Couple that with the affordable price and you get a product which would be a nice present for young collectors.

**Final Ratings**

- Overall Design: 4.5/5
- Value: 4.5/5
- Fun: 5/5
- Rebuy: 4/5
- Variety: 4/5
- Total: 88%

There you have it, this might not be a product for the high those of us who still enjoy the thrill of putting a set together just bought.





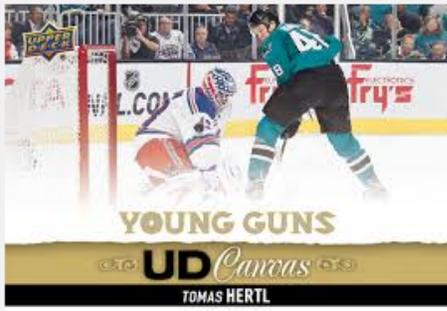
## Rinkside

By Richard McAdam aka RGM81



They're heeeeeeere!

The first week of November means that the Young Guns have arrived! Upper Deck's staple product has hit the market and collectors are frantically snapping up the product with the type of fervour that one would expect from the most popular mainstream hockey release. With a 50-rookie card checklist boasting such notable names as Alex Galchenyuk, Nathan MacKinnon, Nail Yakupov, Thomas Hertl, Seth Jones, and many others, this product will keep collectors busting wax for weeks to come.



With the 2013-14 season in full swing now, and products starting to include live rookies of the players drafted last June, the hobby definitely seems to have turned a corner and is back in a strong position again. Speaking with collectors and some hobby shop owners, you really get the sense that the low ebb of the 2012-13 card season is a thing of the past and brighter days are ahead. There is so much anticipation and excitement for the Double Rookie Class, the return of old favourites, and the latest offerings from the card companies. People are coming back and breaking product, and there's just so much fun to be had again.

Good times to be a collector!

While a lot of the attention this month is on Upper Deck Series One, there is definitely much more coming up in the next several weeks that will satisfy collectors' desires. Panini has announced the return of Select, which will include autographed memorabilia RC's of all the members of the Double Rookie Class as well as a number of exciting memorabilia and autograph subsets of rookies and veterans alike. In The Game has expanded the information available regarding the forthcoming release of the latest edition of Superlative, which will spotlight The Original Six, and that product is going to deliver some tremendous high-end hits for fans of those historical teams. Late last month, Upper Deck announced that they are going to release a themed set for the Edmonton Oilers—utilizing their exclusive with Wayne Gretzky, collectors of the Oilers will be able to score autographs of The Great One as well as the other stars of the 80s dynasty and today's young players as well.

There is also the annual Toronto Fall Expo to attract collectors from across Canada and around the world. All three of the major card producers—Panini, In The Game, and Upper Deck—will be in attendance with redemption programs to reward collectors for breaking product at the event, and there will be a host of other activities, trading, and buying/selling taking place. The whole weekend is a fantastic affair, and we hope that several SCF members will be in attendance to score some great Priority Signings, ITG Redemptions, and Panini Fall Expo offerings.

We also got to hear a piece of breaking news from Dr. Price of In The Game late last week. He revealed to SCF members that his company has applied to the NHLPA for a new license to produce hockey cards. While it may be a while yet until we hear the outcome of that application, we certainly wish ITG the best and that they will be given at least a fair offer from the PA to make an informed decision about whether or not to accept a new licensing agreement. ITG has remained viable, competitive, and relevant to many collectors despite the limitations of a lack of NHL/PA



licensing, and it is thought by many that given the opportunity they would absolutely excel if they got to perform on a level playing field. Keep your eyes posted for future developments to this potential game-changing situation.

October was a great month to be a die-hard collector, as we awarded the prestigious SCF Super Collector badge to two fantastic members. CoolHandLuke has been a fan and collector of the Montreal Canadiens for more than forty years now, with a collection that spans the greatest dynasties in the team's century-long legacy and includes tremendous cards featuring Maurice Richard, Ken Dryden, Carey Price, Patrick Roy, and many others. He also hit a milestone in his collection, surpassing 5,000 unique cards of *Les Glorieux*. Building on that Habs theme, but with a more distinct focus on a single player, QuirkCards also gains recognition for his Lars Eller collection. At the same time that Eller is developing into a star in Montreal, Quirk has been enhancing his collection non-stop, and he now boasts the finest collection of Eller cards you'll ever see. He even got a shout-out from Lars himself when he posted his Super Collector thread on Twitter, which is a very cool recognition for a great collector. Congratulations to you both!

That's it for this month—be sure to check out my extended “discussion” about the disparity between divisions in the Eastern Conference.





**Racing's Top 50 - A Showoff of the SCF Racing Community**

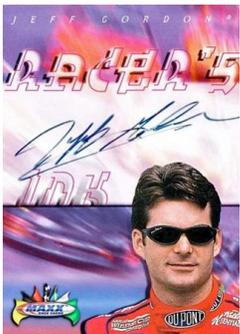
By Stephen Taylor aka race crazy

The racing community at SCF is small but it should not be mistaken for being casual about collecting. Many of our members' collections and cards rank among the best in the racing community. The following 50 cards were submitted in a thread by our members who chose to participate in this for the magazine article. They are presented in order by year as ranking them would be impossible. Enjoy the eye candy!



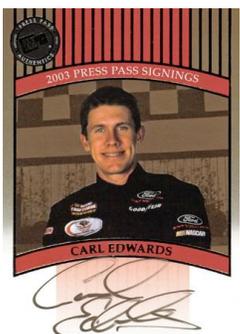
1. **1996 Pinnacle Driver's Suit Bill Elliott-owner-TyrantsASupremeBeing.** Long before race used cards were the norm and Pinnacle was extinct, this was the first ever racing card to feature race used firesuit swatches and only the 2<sup>nd</sup> race used memorabilia set produced.

2. **1998 Press Pass Triple Gear Jeff Gordon-owner-TyrantsASupremeBeing.** The 1998 Triple Gear set was and remains one of the most popular race used sets ever produced. Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt both command a few hundred dollars for these rare finds.

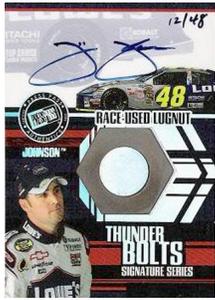


3. **2000 Maxx Racer's Ink Jeff Gordon-owner-TyrantsASupremeBeing.** A card thought not to exist Tyrant has an example of one in his possession and has yet to see another one and no one in our community has either. Whether it is a true 1 of 1 is up to the eye of the beholder but its rarity is not in question.

4. **2000 Maxx Maximum Autographs Jimmie Johnson-owner-Nadeau01\_Johnson48.** The future five-time Cup Series champ certified autograph card is a must have for any Johnson collector.



5. **2003 Press Pass Signings Gold Carl Edwards 21/50-owner-race crazy.** Future Cup Series star Carl Edwards' first certified autograph. The Gold version is considered by Edwards collectors to be his true rookie card and holds its value around the 100 dollar mark.



6. **2005 Press Pass Optima Thunder Bolts Signature Series Jimmie Johnson 12/48-owner-Nadeau01\_Johnson48.** Race used lugnut cards became popular in the early to mid 2000s and this low numbered signature series example from 2005 is a prime example of a great JJ card.

7. **2005 Wheels American Thunder Head to Toe Carl Edwards 099/125-door #-owner-race crazy.** Although not a truly spectacular card a door # (similar to a jersey # in other sports) holds more value. The fact that this was Edwards' cup series rookie year makes this more collectable as well.



8. **2006 Press Pass U Previews Carl Edwards 1 of 1-owner-race crazy.** One of two 1/1 eBay previews owned by our resident Edwards collector this one is a great example of the now forgotten eBay previews produced by Press Pass. The rainbow in the mid 2000s was only ever complete with the preview.

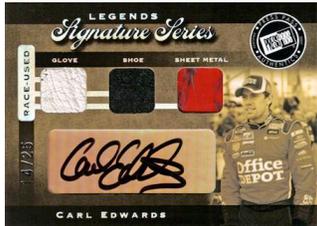
9. **2006 VIP Rookie Stripes Autograph Martin Truex Jr. 16/25-owner-aksn907.** Rookie Stripe Autographs are something truly unique to Nascar collecting as the yellow stripe on the bumper signifies a driver's rookie status. Press Pass incorporated this nicely into featuring rookies and this Truex is a great example.



10. **2007 Press Pass Eclipse Teammates Autographs Dale Earnhardt Jr/Martin Truex Jr/Paul Menard-owner-aksn907.** The last triple autograph of DEI teammates before Earnhardt left the team for Hendrick in 2008, this card remains a unique one since no members on this card are present drivers for the organization that was DEI.

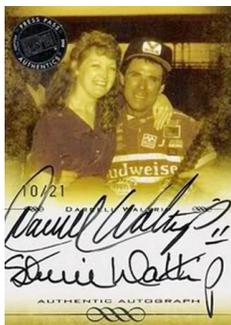
11. **2007 Press Pass Autographs Press Plates Casey Mears 1 of 1-owner-Nadeau01\_Johnson48.** An autographed Press Plate 1 of 1 is always a sought after commodity in every form of card collecting. This Casey Mears version is even more unique due to the #42 being signed on it-a number he would no longer race after the next year concluded.





12. **2007 Press Pass Legends Signature Series Carl Edwards 14/25-owner-race crazy.** The 2007 Legends Signature Series cards were among the nicest and cleanest looking cards ever produced and were the hottest cards of 2007. Stars like Jeff Gordon and Edwards in the set pushed above the 200 dollar range on eBay, a rarity for racing cards with people on them not named Earnhardt or Danica.

13. **2008 Press Pass Top Prospects/Signings Set Brad Keselowski-owner-mdclapps-**A truly unique rookie set which took owner mdclapps years to put together, it is a great display when pieced together and has only risen in value since bad Brad took the Cup title in 2012.



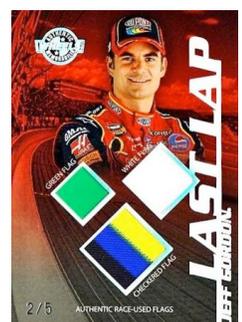
14. **2008 Press Pass Legends Autographs Darrell Waltrip/Stevie Waltrip 10/21-owner-aksn907.** 2008 Legends put limited inscription autographs into the product and numbered them separately. This example is one of only 21 copies signed by Nascar Hall of Famer and the driver's wife Stevie, who is featured in the picture used on the card. Definitely unique.

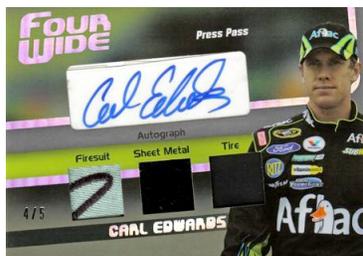
15. **2008 Press Pass Legends Signature Series Jimmie Johnson 19/25-owner-Nadeau01\_Johnson48.** The Legends Signature Series was a hit in 2008 just like 2007 and there is no better example than JJ, who was at this point a 3 time consecutive champion.



16. **2008 Press Pass Teammates Signings Dale Earnhardt Jr/Jeff Gordon-owner-TyrantsASupremeBeing.** The newest Hendrick driver and oldest tenured Hendrick driver appeared together on this sweet dual autograph and it became one of the hot cards of the year.

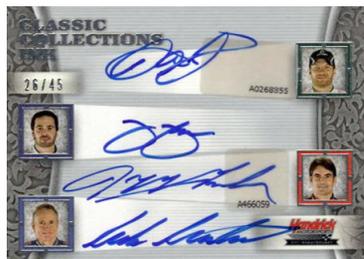
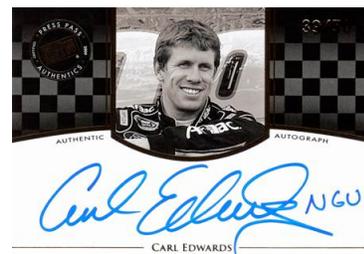
17. **2008 Wheels High Gear Last Lap Holofoil Jeff Gordon 2/5-owner-TyrantsASupremeBeing.** A very difficult and rare find in 2008 were these gems #d to 5 featuring a green, white, and checkered flag piece. Tyrant was lucky enough to pull one of his driver in a pack, a true thrill for any collector.





18. **2009 Press Pass Four Wide Signature Series Carl Edwards 4/5-owner-race crazy.** In 2009 Four Wide Signature Series cards made their introduction with only 5 being produced of the drivers in the set. These cards were extremely difficult to pull or find and a collector is fortunate if they have one of their driver in their collections.

19. **2009 Press Pass Legends Autographs Carl Edwards NGU Inscription 39/50-owner-race crazy.** This card was never meant to be released and the 50 produced were to be used as replacements by Press Pass. Fortunately enough for our Edwards collector race crazy a card delay from waiting on another Edwards card allowed him to acquire this one. Edwards will sometimes sign NGU-(initials for never give up) but it is rare.



20. **2009 Press Pass Showcase Classic Collections Ink Hendrick Motorsports 26/45-owner-ericmcco75.** In 2009 Showcase was all the rage in the racing community. These teammate autographs were the cards to pull and member ericmcco75 was lucky enough to pull this one- featuring Dale Earnhardt Jr. and 3 future hall of famers.

21. **2009 Press Pass Showcase Classic Collections Ink Roush Fenway Racing 06/45-owner-Nadeau01\_Johnson48.** Another example of these cards and also pulled by Nadeau it features 4 solid signatures and is also a door # of driver David Ragan, who is featured on the card.



22. **2009 Press Pass Showcase Prized Pieces Ink Firesuit Patch Carl Edwards 2/5-owner-race crazy.** Besides the 1/1 patch this was the best a collector could do in Showcase. Edwards was a redemption and the card took over a year and half to get sent thanks to snafus on both Press Pass and the Driver's part. Good things come to those who wait.

23. **2009 Press Pass Win Streak Memorabilia Jimmie Johnson/20-owner-Nadeau01\_Johnson48.** These cards were inserted into Press Pass Premium as contest cards and the only way a memorabilia piece like this was produced is if the race you had was won by that driver. JJ happened to





win California and the card was therefore produced, but with only 20 copies it's a rare find.



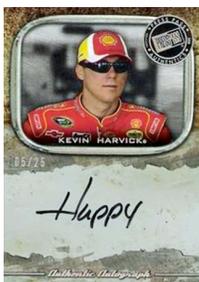
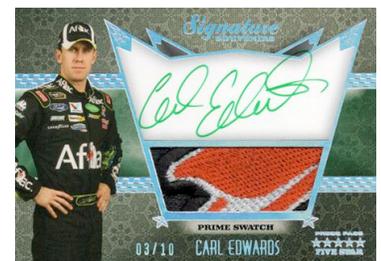
24. **2009 Wheels Main Event Marks Brian Scott/10-owner-Christina87.** Wheels Main Event came out in 2009 for the first time and was a uniquely themed set. Our resident Brian Scott collector Christina owns a /10 of Brian's Main Event Marks autograph card as long as a 1/1 press plate of her driver.

25. **2009-2011 Eclipse Spellbound Swatches sets-owner-race crazy.** In 2009 Press Pass used an example from other sports and allowed racing collectors to try and form the name of their driver with various race used pieces in the letters. Race Crazy finished "EDWARDS" all 3 years.



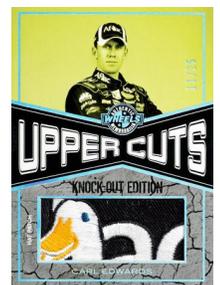
26. **2010 Press Pass Five Star Classic Compilations Book Card Carl Edwards Firesuit 08/15-owner-race crazy.** In 2010 Press Pass released the ultra-high end five star. Few of our collectors could afford the 1/1 auto patch book cards but the next best option were these sweet firesuit patches numbered to 15.

27. **2010 Press Pass Five Star Signature Souvenirs Holofoil Carl Edwards 03/10-owner-race crazy.** Another low numbered and high end card in the Five Star release this card contains a wicked cool patch on it featuring the Aflac Duck's beak.



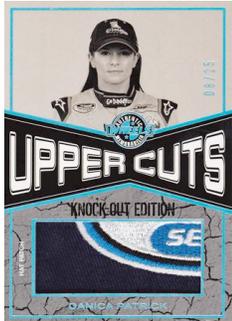
28. **2010 Press Pass Legends Inscription Autographs Kevin Harvick "Happy" 05/25-owner-aksn907.** Inscription cards like this one owned by aksn907 remain a hot item in the racing world and Harvick very rarely signs cards in this manner making it a unique piece.

29. **2010 Wheels Main Event Upper Cuts Knockout Edition Hat Patch Carl Edwards 11/25-owner-race crazy.** Main Event centered on a boxing theme for 2010 and these hat patches were hot cards. Race crazy's Edwards example features





the Aflac Duck in full form.



30. **2010 Wheels Main Event Upper Cuts Knockout Edition Hat Patch Danica Patrick 08/25-owner-race crazy.** Our first Danica card on the list this was a pack pull on Christmas Day by member race crazy. It features the Nascar Nationwide Series patch.

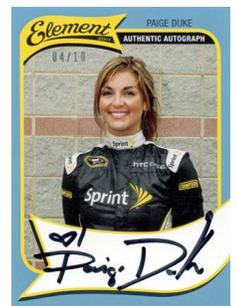


31. **2010 Press Pass Signings Josh Wise 34/35 and 35/35-owner-3DALESR.** Cup Rookie Josh Wise signed his name uniquely on these 2 cards only as his young daughter Harlow helped. The most well-known Wise collector of course got these two unique gems for his collection.



32. **2010 Press Pass Showcase Danica Patrick Autograph/RU RC-owner-Scottsdale7711.** Considered one of Patrick's true rookie cards this one along with its variations remain must haves for Danica collectors.

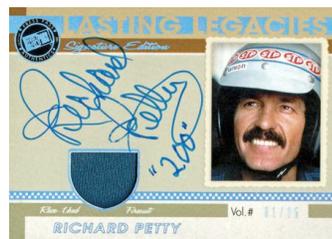
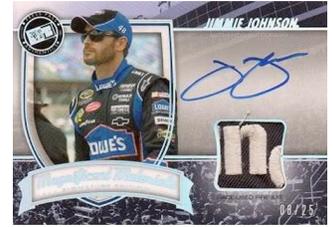
33. **2011 Element Autographs Blue Paige Duke 04/10-owner-race crazy.** Press Pass for the first time included limited examples of autographs from Nascar's Miss Sprint Cups. This rare version is only numbered to 10 and features future Sweet Home Alabama star Paige Duke.



34. **2011 Press Pass Fanfare Dual Autographs Jack Roush/Carl Edwards 09/10-owner-race crazy.** Prior to the 2011 Fanfare release Roush driver Carl Edwards had never had a dual autograph produced with his well-known car owner. These low numbered cards became highly sought after among both Roush and Edwards collectors.

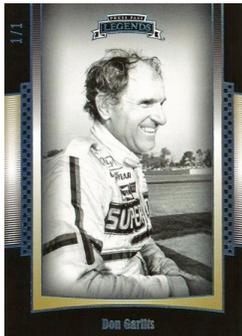


35. **2011 Press Pass Fanfare Signature Series Jimmie Johnson 08/25-owner-Nadeau01\_Johnson48.** Press Pass Fanfare has become a popular release over the last few years and the 2011 signature series design was one of its best and there is no better example than the 5 time champ.



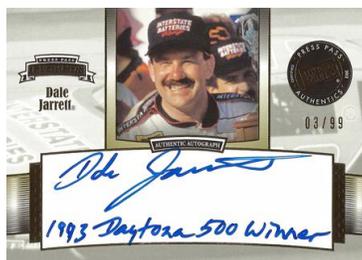
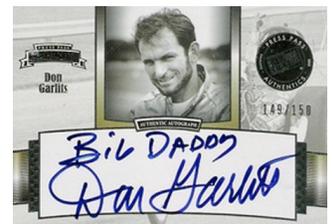
36. **2011 Press Pass Legends Lasting Legacies Signature Edition Richard Petty "200" Inscription 01/25-owner-race crazy.** The only example of Nascar's king on our list is also one of the nicest cards ever produced and was lucky enough to be pulled by race crazy. Featuring the flowing signature of the king along with a 200 inscription for his amount of wins, a firesuit swatch, and the numbering of 01 of 25 it is a shining example of a great Petty card.

37. **2011 Press Pass Showcase Elite Exhibit Ink Danica Patrick 38/50-owner-race crazy.** Every Danica collector wants an autograph card and the 2011 Showcase acetate autograph cards are a beautifully done example to have.

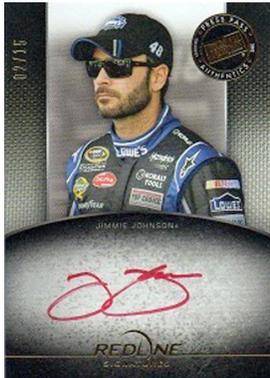


38. **2012 Press Pass Legends Blue Holofoil Don Garlits 1 of 1-owner-race crazy.** Pulling a true 1 of 1 is rare in the racing hobby and Legends provides one of the few opportunities. This Don Garlits was race crazy's 2<sup>nd</sup> ever true 1 of 1 pull in over 15 years of racing collecting.

39. **2012 Press Pass Legends Autographs Incriptions Big Daddy Don Garlits 149/150-owner-aksn907.** Inscription autos continued in 2012 with only a select few of the cards produced being inscribed. This one pulled by member aksn907 features drag racer Don Garlits and his well-known nickname Big Daddy.

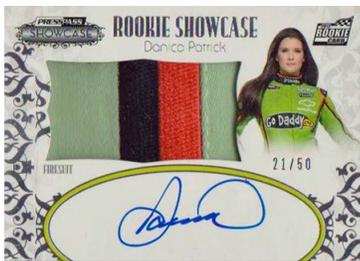


40. **2012 Press Pass Legends Autographs Incriptions Dale Jarrett 1993 Daytona 500 Winner 03/99-owner-race crazy.** Another pack pull this inscription autograph does not contain a nickname but whether the inscription of the event pictured on the card-Jarrett's win in the 1993 Daytona 500.



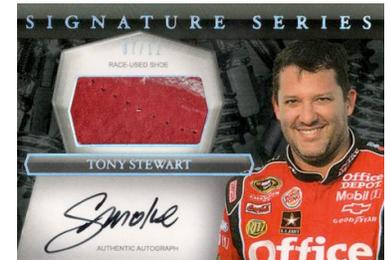
41. **2012 Press Pass Redline Signatures Gold Jimmie Johnson 02/15-owner-Nadeau01\_Johnson48.** Press Pass Redline debuted in 2012 and its Signatures set featuring a beautifully done black background provided many nice low numbered autograph cards like this JJ.

42. **2012 Press Pass Redline V8 Melting Foil Carl Edwards 1 of 1-owner-race crazy.** This unique set which also debuted in Redline contains 8 tire swatches and a sheet metal swatch. The melting foil parallel like race crazy's Edwards are true 1/1s.



43. **2012 Press Pass Showcase Rookie Showcase Danica Patrick 21/50-owner-Scottsdale7711.** This came to be considered as Danica's true Cup Series Rookie card over the course of the last year and it is an important and sought after card in the hobby.

44. **2012 Press Pass Signature Series Tony Stewart "Smoke" 07/12-owner-race crazy.** Stewart's nickname Smoke is how he chose to sign this sweet low numbered signature series card which is very, very rare indeed. It was a Christmas pull for member race crazy in 2012.



45. **2012 Press Pass Triple Gear Danica Patrick 01/15-owner-TyrantsASupremeBeing.** 2012 brought the return of the triple gear cards after a long hiatus. Cards featured either 1, 2, or all 3 pieces of memorabilia and were numbered down accordingly. This example from Tyrant features 2 pieces.

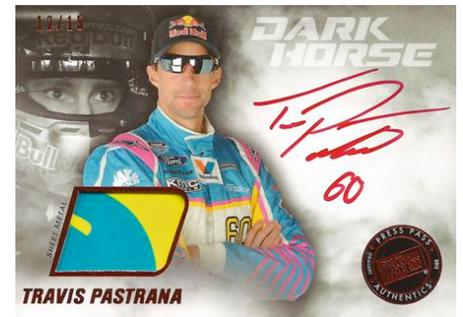
46. **2012 Press Pass Total Memorabilia Oversized Firesuit Patches Carl Edwards 1 of 1-owner-race crazy.** Another true 1 of 1 out of member race crazy's Edwards collection this is a prime example of the clean look used by Press Pass for Total Memorabilia, a popular release over the last few years.





47. **2013 Press Pass Fanfare Signature Rides Carl Edwards 10/10-owner-race crazy.** 2013's Fanfare contained the first autograph cards which prominently featured Nascar's new and sleek generation 6 racecar, making it a sought after autograph card for collectors.

48. **2013 Press Pass Redline Dark Horse Signatures Travis Pastrana 12/15-owner-race crazy.** X Games superstar and extreme athlete Travis Pastrana's arrival to Nascar brought about a new sector of fans and collectors. Redline's Dark Horse set features a wonderful design and this is a great example of a Pastrana autograph card.



49. **2013 Press Pass Signature Series Travis Pastrana 02/10-owner-Nadeau01\_Johnson48.** This low numbered Signature Series card was Pastrana's first and one of the few cards to feature his NNS 99 car.

50. **2013 Press Pass Total Memorabilia Book Cards Quad Melting Foil Carl Edwards 1 of 1-owner-race crazy.** A true 1 of 1 signed book card featuring 4 swatches of memorabilia remains a collector's dream addition to their racing collection. 2013 Total Memorabilia afforded collectors this opportunity and member race crazy finally snatched a true 1/1 book for his collection.





## Courtside

By Jay Weger aka Jay520

### Box/Pack Breaks



In Box/Pack breaks this month saw 13-14 NBA Hoops and the \$1250 12-13 Flawless opened. jmintz pulled a Artists Proof of DeMar DeRozan, autos of Eirk Murphy and Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf and a Carmelo Anthony gu to go with several rookies and inserts from NBA Hoops. leedawg62 also got a box to pull a Artists Proof of Kyrie Irving, Heat Champion card, autos of Tracy Murray and Cody Zeller and a gu of Stephen Curry. Deadshot got a Artists Proof of Francisco Garcia, Heat Champion card, Kobe All-Rookie Team of Victor Oladipo, autos of Greg Buckner and Patrick Beverly and gu of Drew Gooden. sigman101 got these cards from NBA Hoops: autos of C.J. Miles and Alonzo Mourning and a gu of Al Horford. skeen got a Artists Proof Black 1/1 of Ty Lawson, autos of Keith Bogans and Ryan Kelly and a gu of Nene. gstdrich opened 4 boxes to pull Artists Proof of Damian Lillard, Steve Nash, Omar Asik and Wesley Matthews, Kobe All-Rookie Team of Otto Porter, autos of Otto Porter, Ricky Davis, Kelly Tripicka, Grant Jerret, Greg Buckner, Jordan Hamilton and

Josh Akognan, gu of Derrick Rose, Amare Stoudemire, Tyreke Evans and Drew Gooden/25.

12-13 Flawless saw draylllanes get a Kyrie Irving auto/25 from a group break and he also got 1 pack to hit the Kyrie Irving true 1/1 auto! jbittmal spent \$5,000 on 2 cases to get these major hits: Base/20 – Allen Iverson, Oscar Robertson, Elgin Baylor and a Karl Malone 1/1, Patches: Jarred Sullinger jumbo /25, Dwyane Wade jumbo /25, Dwight Howard /25, Doc Rivers25/, Andre Igoudala /15, Isaiah Thomas /10 and Shaquille O’Neal 1/4, Autos: Kevin Durant /25, Sam Jones /20, Stephen Curry /20, Magic Johnson All-Star Ink /20, Tony Parker/15, Anthony Davis /15 and /20, Kobe Bryant /15, Tyreke Evans /10, Alonzo Mourning /10, John Stockton /10, Grant Hill All-Star Ink /10, Harrison Barnes 3/5, Kobe Bryant All-Star Ink 2/5 and Hakeem Olajuwon 1/1, Patch Autos: Grant Hill /20, Bob Lanier /20, Earl Monroe /15, Ty Lawson 10/10.



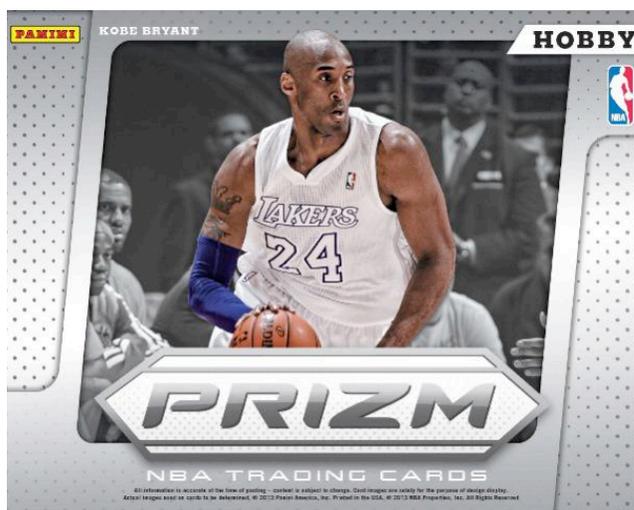


## Contests & Winners

In October a few of the season long contests started which was the 13-14 NBA Top Performers. Although just 5 days into the contest missnesmith and Thrillseeker are on top with 5 points each. AiThor and BigBaller23 share 2<sup>nd</sup> with 4 points each while there is a 3 way tie between phillyteamhater, rocketfan86 and toddsr with 3 points. The season has just started so if you want to try to knock off these regulars please

give it a shot!!! Next is the Guess the Score contests for regular members and VIP's. With only 12 contests posted delones24 has 3 wins to lead the regular member

GTS. 70sbestcardboard, jdlee123 and phillyteamhater are tied with 2 wins each with 3 other members with 1. On the VIP side Rogulon is running away with 5 wins already. gladdyontherise and lil5up3rman are tied with 2 wins with 3 others with 1 win each. Thank you to all the members who have posted in the 13-14 NBA Awards contest. We need some more names for the Basketball Secret Santa this year. If you want to get some great cards for some one and receive the same back hurry and add you name to the list!!! And lastly please take a look at the Box /Pack Sales forum in the basketball section to get in on the group breaks!!!



## Hobby News

By Bryce aka bdoody42

Panini still has one more product to releases before they're finished with the 2012-2013 products. Immaculate is another high end product. Each box contains six cards and will run you about \$400. Those 6 cards will include 1 base card to 99 or less, a rookie auto patch to 99, and a variety of autos and patches. Immaculate will contain the first ever 6 piece logoman cards featuring the NBA's stars and future stars. Immaculate will also contain cap cards worn by the players.

The next 2013-2014 release for Panini will be Prestige. Prestige will be very similar to the past years. Each box will 24 packs with 2 autos and 2 memorabilia cards inside. Prestige is schedule to be released on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November.

Upper Deck will be releasing 2013-2014 Exquisite on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Just like last year each box will contain 6 cards including 5 autos. Exquisite like last year will include autos of LeBron James and Michael Jordan.

Returning for this year will be 13-14 Panini Prizm. Prizm is due out December 18th with a price around a \$100 or more. Each box will yield two autographs and five Prizm parallels. There will be Black Prizm 1/1s as well as the all-new Die-Cut Purple Prizms numbered to 49 in hobby boxes while you can expect Green Prizms and now Blue Prizms in retail.



## NBA News

Although early in the season here are the top guys in the league in scoring, rebounding and assists.

### Scoring

Kevin Love 29.7  
Kevin Durant 29.3  
Chris Paul 27.7  
James Harden 26.0  
LaMarcus Aldridge 25.7

### Rebounds

Dwight Howard 17.0  
Kevin Love 14.7  
Al Horford 12.3  
Anthony Davis 12.3  
DeAndre Jordan 12.0

### Assists

Chris Paul 12.0  
Ricky Rubio 10.3  
Stephen Curry 9.0  
M. Carter-Williams 9.0  
Eric Bledsoe 8.7

## ESPN's Annual Player Ranking Announced

Each year, ESPN unveils a list of the players in the NBA, ranked on their expectations for the coming season. The top 20 players of 2013 are:

1. LeBron James
2. Kevin Durant
3. Chris Paul
4. James Harden
5. Russell Westbrook
6. Stephen Curry
7. Dwight Howard
8. Kyrie Irving
9. Derrick Rose
10. Marc Gasol
11. Kevin Love
12. Tony Parker
13. Paul George



14. Blake Griffin
15. Carmelo Anthony
16. Tim Duncan
17. LaMarcus Aldridge
18. Dwyane Wade
19. Al Horford
20. Deron Williams

The list looks pretty good to me personally, however I feel Stephen Curry is a little high at #6 and Carmelo Anthony is a little low at #15. The biggest jump in the top-20 was Paul George, going from 75th in 2012 to 13th in 2013. The biggest drop tied between Dwyane Wade (8th in 2012, 18th in 2013) and Deron Williams (10th in 2012, 20th in 2013). Notably missing from the top-20 is Kobe Bryant, who drops to #25 for 2013.

In what is believed to have been a weak draft class, Victor Oladipo is the highest ranked rookie at #114, followed by the first overall pick in the draft, Anthony Bennett at #133. Ben McLemore is the third top-ranked rookie at #157.

### **Panini's Dominance on the Hobby**

Last year, Panini was awarded the privilege of being the only licensed NBA trading card maker. This has had a considerable impact on the hobby in a many ways. Many collectors have gotten out of the hobby because of Panini taking the market control. Two of the greatest players to ever play the game, Michael Jordan and LeBron James, are both signed to Upper Deck, meaning that their autographs cannot be featured in Panini products. With the high MSRPs of some Panini products (one product goes for over \$1500 a pack) some collectors feel that the products are not worth buying if you can't pull an autograph of the best player in the game.

The idea when Panini was given exclusive rights was that it would cut down on the number of products being released; this was not the case, however, as Panini saturated the market with product after product, releasing a total of over 10 different products last year. With mostly the same checklists of players, many collectors simply couldn't keep up or lost interest. Another complaint of a lot of collectors is the number of redemption cards in the products. Whether or not Panini can change their ways and fix their perception among collectors remains to be seen.



**PANINI**



## The Year of the Backups?

By Jr Lebert aka rlebert

In what was supposed to be the Year of the Quarterback (and it may be, still), the 2013 NFL season is quickly becoming the Year of the (Backup) Quarterbacks.

Through the halfway point of the season, just 21 of the 32 teams have had their quarterback start all 8 or 9 games this year. Yes, Peyton Manning, Drew Brees, and Matthew Stafford have been fantastic. Cam Newton, Andy Dalton, and Russell Wilson have moved into the NFL's almost-elite. And of course, Tony Romo and Philip Rivers have had confounding, frustrating, and even great games this year. But perhaps like no other time in the NFL's recent history, teams are navigating large portions of the 2013 campaign without their top generals.

While everyone knows that the fans' favorite player is the backup quarterback, the sentiment may not last much longer. Backup QBs have been, for the most part, dismal.

Yes, there have been some very bright spots. Nick Foles is fresh off his record-tying 7 TD performance, has yet to throw an interception, and has more TDs (13) than Flacco, Roethlisberger, Eli Manning, RG3, and even the undefeated Alex Smith. Case Keenum is one of five 3<sup>rd</sup> string QB's this season to start a game, and despite an 0-2 record, has energized the team and fan base in Houston. Before his season-ending injury, Brian Hoyer led the hapless Browns to a 3-0 record. Those three quarterbacks have combined for a solid 5-3 record, certainly nothing to complain about. However...



The starting record for the other backups who have started games this season is 4-20. While that might be fantastic for the Jaguars or Buccaneers, it's awful for job security. Replacing the hapless Blaine Gabbert, Chad Henne went 0-5. Mike Glennon sports the same 0-5 record filling in, or perhaps taking over, for the jettisoned Josh Freeman in Tampa. Buffalo's Thaddeus Lewis and Jeff Tuel are 1-3 combined filling in for rookie E.J. Manuel. Though Matt Barkley has yet to start a game, he has seen action in three games, looking terrible while throwing 4 INTs without a TD.

What was seen as a position of strength going into the 2013 season may now be an unforeseen last chance for many quarterbacks to stay on the roster after what is perceived to be an incredibly strong 2014 Draft Class of quarterbacks. With Marcus Mariota, Johnny Manziel, Teddy Bridgewater, Brett Hundley, Derek Carr, Aaron Murray, and even longshot Jordan Lynch on the horizon, many veteran NFL (read: immobile) QB's may be out of a job after this season. Josh McCown has made the most of Jay Cutler's groin injury, winning his only start and throwing 3 TDs and no picks. Though he started just 34 games in 11 years, McCown may be just the mentor a young QB needs. Jason Campbell's 5-0 TD/INT ratio, along with his upset victory over Baltimore in Week 9, may have bought the 8-year veteran another shot, despite his career record of 9 games under .500.

This may be the end of the line for many long-time NFL backups. Kellen Clemens has spent 8 years backing up for the Jets and now Rams. He has won just one of his last six games started. That one win represents his total wins from



2008-present. Henne has struggled to find a starting role over the last few seasons, and perhaps his 0-5 record, even for the awful Jags, may be enough to run, or rather, pass him out of the league. Matt Flynn has gone from Seattle to Oakland to Buffalo to out of the league, and now possibly back to Green Bay, as insurance if Aaron Rodgers is done for the year and the Packers are forced to rely on journeyman Seneca Wallace. If he can't prove that he can hack it on his fourth (!) team this season, his days may be numbered. Though Ryan Fitzpatrick has averaged 24 TDs and over 3,400 yards from 2010-2012, he has a career record of 20 games under .500, and lost his only 2 starts this year. While a team may covet the 9-year veteran for his

leadership and mentoring ability, he is already on his fourth team. Will he even get the chance for a 5<sup>th</sup>?

The axe may not fall only on the heads of the backups who have underperformed. The aging Brandon Weeden, already 30 but only in his second season, has just 5 wins in 19 starts, with exactly zero wins in 2013. If he was 24, maybe he would get another shot, but at 30, who knows? Christian Ponder, also 0-5 this season, was supposed to take a step forward this year after posting 10 wins and an 18-12 TD/INT ratio. Instead, he has just 3 TDs in 5 starts, and both his QBR and rating have dropped accordingly, along with Minnesota's attendance. It's clear to many in the Jacksonville organization that Blaine Gabbert is not the answer, and for a franchise dying to put butts in the seats, a change may be eminent. His 0-3 record and one, single TD pass may be the icing on the cake. And finally, Josh Freeman, the darling in Tampa in 2012 after passing for over 4,000 yards and 27 TDs, is now a healthy scratch for Ponder's Vikings.



There are still plenty of talented QBs who have yet to get a shot, but are eager to take someone else's job. Ryan Nassib is waiting in the wings in New York, and before their recent two-game win streak, may have received a shot. Kirk Cousins has been a solid insurance policy for Robert Griffin III's balky knee, and could be coveted by teams looking for a new signal caller. Brock Osweiler may never see the field in Denver as long as it's Peyton's Place, but some team may certainly take a flyer on the 6'8" current-Bronco. Ryan Mallett, Chase Daniel, Landry Jones, Kellen Moore, and Ryan Griffin all provide young, cheap options at QB should an NFL team need one.

Yes, there are plenty of great QBs still suiting up in 2013. It's clear, however, that the NFL's QB situation isn't quite as deep as many, including this writer himself, thought it might have been.



## 2013 MLB End of Season Awards

By Jr Lebert aka jrlebert

The beards have barely been trimmed, the options have just started to be declined, and baseball's marathon 2013 season has come to a close. Many in and around baseball didn't see the Red Sox' improbable run coming, but baseball was filled with many other improbable stories and story lines this year.

The Atlanta Braves surprised many this season with their run to yet another NL East crown, the first of the post-Chipper Jones era. The Nationals came crashing back to earth after a great 2012. The Pittsburgh Pirates finally turned the corner, making the postseason for the first time in two decades. The Los Angeles Dodgers, bankrolled by a new television deal and new ownership, pulled off an incredible worst to first run buoyed by an unheard of 15 game road winning streak and a 42-8 record over 50 games. Oakland and Cleveland proved that small market baseball is back and thriving. Houston proved that if you field a near-minor league quality team, you really will lose 110+ games. Finally, Boston's bearded run through the league provided the city its 3<sup>rd</sup> World Series title in 10 years.

It's time for my version of the MLB Awards. Some of these may fall right in line with the experts' predictions, but hey, these are my awards, not theirs. My awards also take in to account post-season play, which may change a thing or two.

AL Manager of the Year – John Farrell, Red Sox

This was one of the easy ones. The Red Sox won 69 games in 2012. They wound up losing just 65 regular season games in 2013, on their way to the franchise's 6<sup>th</sup> title. Farrell's first year success was predicated on his ability to unite a group of ragtag, bearded misfits, and his brand of managing was perfect. He trusted both his veterans, including the usual suspects, Pedroia, Ellsbury, and Bib Papi, as well as the young kids, especially 20-year old phenom Xander Bogaerts.



Others in the running: Absolutely no one

NL Manager of the Year – Fredi Gonzalez, Braves

This was supposed to be the Washington Nationals' year. They had just won 98 games, and backed by Harper, Werth, Desmond, both Zimmermans, Gio Gonzalez and ace Steven Strasburg, the Nats were set to walk to a second straight NL East title. One problem: Nobody told the Atlanta Braves that. Though he lost Tim Hudson and Jason Heyward for the stretch run, Brandon Beachy for most of the season, Chipper Jones to retirement, and Dan Uggla and B.J. Upton's bats to a rare case of all-summer hibernation, Fredi put things together well enough to put a pasting on the Nats, and the rest of the NL East. Anchored by a bullpen featuring baseball's best closer, and a solid defense, Gonzalez surprised everyone in the National League.

Others in the running: Clint Hurdle, Pirates



AL Rookie of the Year – Wil Myers, Rays

In a year a bit sparse of AL Rookie talent, it was Wil Myers who not only put up some of the best numbers, but meant the most to his team, as well. His team was 4 games above .500 before his call-up. After Myers became an everyday player, they were 16 games above .500. In just over 330 ABs, he managed to lead all rookies in doubles and RBI, and finished just one home run off the pace. He did all this while having to live up to the pressure of being traded for All Star James Shields.

Others in the running: J.B. Shuck, Angels

NL Rookie of the Year – Yasiel Puig, Dodgers



First there was Fernando-mania. Then Nomo-mania. 2013 ushered in yet another –mania to Hollywood, in the form of sensation Yasiel Puig, and Puig-mania. From the time he was called up, the Dodgers were not just a changed team, but a changed organization. They were an incredible 32 games above .500, and Hollywood had their star. Whether it was his cannon arm, blazing speed, towering home runs, or his ability to make the impossible seem real, Puig captured the hearts of fans for most of 2013.

Others in the running: Any other year, Jose Fernandez would be a mortal lock to win, and still might. His hits/9, an unfathomable 5.8, is the 11<sup>th</sup> best total ever. Better than Koufax, Gibson, or even Walter Johnson ever did in a single season. On a team that lost 100 games, he managed a 12-6 record with a 2.16 ERA and .979 WHIP.

AL Cy Young Award – Max Scherzer, Tigers

Yes, his 21-3 record looks impressive. As does his league-leading .979 WHIP. Heck, his 240 K's and 12<sup>th</sup>-best ever .875 winning percentage are amazing stats. But my favorite stat from Scherzer this year, the lock to win his first Cy Young Award, is this: He finished tied for 9<sup>th</sup> in the majors with 214.1 IP. Despite the high innings total, he finished t-93<sup>rd</sup> in hits allowed.

Others in the running: This one is over

NL Cy Young Award – Clayton Kershaw, Dodgers



If he does sign the incredible deal on the table, one that allegedly promises a \$300 million payout over the course of his career, Clayton Kershaw may well be worth every penny. Just two players since 1900 have equaled the feat of Kershaw's over the last three years: leading the league in both ERA and WHIP in 3 straight seasons. Those two are Greg Maddux and Sandy Koufax, two of the game's all-time greats. In his 33 starts, he allowed just 48 earned runs. Kershaw was the only qualified pitcher in 2013 to have a quality start percentage over 80%.

Others in the running: Adam Wainwright, Cardinals. Craig Kimbrel, Braves

AL Most Valuable Player – Miguel Cabrera, Tigers



I have to admit, I tried hard to find a way NOT to give the award to Miggy. He had 45 fewer plate appearances than in his Triple Crown season a year ago, and endured several nagging injuries throughout much of the final few months of the season, so surely his numbers would take a serious hit, right? Not even close. Yes, he had a dozen less hits, scored 6 fewer runs, and even hit 14 fewer doubles. But Cabrera's slash line this year was not just better than his famous 2012, it destroyed it! Last year, .330 BA, and in 2013, .348, an 18 point improvement. Last year, .393 OBP, this year, .442., good for an unreal 49 point uptick. Finally, last year Miggy slugged at a .606 clip, 30 points less than his 2013 number. A man who, in 2012, did something that hadn't been done in almost 50 years improved his slash line by 97 points!

Others in the running Yes, Chris Davis had a monster 2013, and Mike Trout may win 4 of 5 of these, but this year, just like last, belonged to Cabrera.

NL Most Valuable Player – Paul Goldschmidt, Diamondbacks

In what will turn out to be the most hotly contested race of the 2013 award season, in this one writer's humble opinion, it should be 2013's breakout star, Paul Goldschmidt, walking away with top honors in the NL. Goldy hit a robust .302, and his power numbers were good enough to tie for the lead in HR's with 36, and pace the field by 14 RBI's with 125. While Andrew McCutchen had Pedro Alvarez and later Marlon Byrd to protect him in the order, Goldy was on his own, with the likes of Martin Prado, Miguel Montero, and Didi Gregorius protecting him in the lineup. With the entire team on his back, Goldschmidt came through time after time, tying for the lead in game-winning RBIs, beating out Cabrera, Chris Davis, and McCutchen.





## SCF Official Review: 2013/14 Panini Prizm

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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

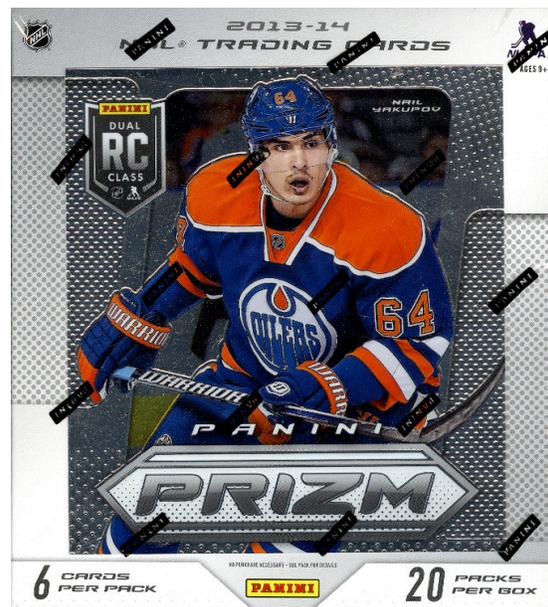
20 packs per box

6 cards per pack

Current Retail Price (online): \$84.99 - \$104.99

### PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- Collect Prizm Autographs Of Mr Hockey, Stevie, Shanny, Sid, Mario, Jaromir, Vinny, Nail, Gally, Dougie And So Much More. Autograph Cards Include Retired, Current And Young Stars From The NHL.
- One Rookie Card Per Pack!
- Look For Rare Prizm Parallels Including Gold And Black Versions Sequentially Numbered To 10 And 1 Respectively.
- Collect The Rainbow! Get All The Colors Of Your Favorite Player.



### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

#### Autographs

Two Autograph Cards In Every Hobby Box Of Prizm!

#### Gold Prizm

Two To Three Prizm Parallels In Every Box. Look For Rare Gold Versions Numbered To 10 And Black Numbered To Just 1!

#### Immortalized

Look For The Die-Cut Immortalized Set Featuring Past Stanley Cup Winners!

#### Base

The Technology You Love Has Come To Your Favorite Sport.

#### Rookies

Find Rookies Including Nail Yakupov, Alex Galchenyuk, Vladimir Tarasenko & More! One Rookie In Every Prizm Pack!

#### Rookie Autos

Featuring Autographs Of The Top NHL Rookies!



## WHAT WE PULLED

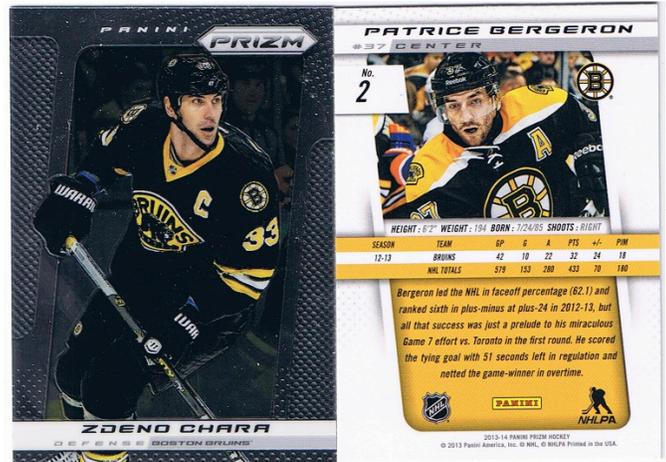
Base: 90/200 (45%)

Rookies: 20/100 (20%)

Prizm debuted last year and had a small following, but got caught in the web of not being able to capitalize on the rookie crop. So with this year's double rookie class that will dominate hockey, this could be the start of something great. Prizm has a 300-card base set with 200 veterans and 100 rookies. Each pack should yield at least 1 rookie card. Like last year, Prizm has a metallic background with a chrome finish. Panini gives some value to the rookies by not overloading the yield, unlike their baseball counterpart.

Prizms (2) (Not scanned, will add a pic later)

Orange Prizms /50 (2): Jarrod Tinordi, Thomas Hickey



There are four parallel levels for each base card in Prizm called Prizms, basically a different way to denote refractors. The unnumbered Prizms is a basic refractor. Gold /10 and Black Finite /1 are back with a new addition, Orange Die Cut /50. Generally, you should expect 3-4 Prizms in every box. Last year, the Gold Prizms were a hot commodity and they seem to be popular again.

Immortalized (1)

Initial Impressions (1)

Net Defenders Prizms (1)

Pivotal Players (1)



There are five inserts sets in Prizm. Four are featured above with Endless Impressions being the fifth. The standout has to be Immortalized with a die cut around the Stanley Cup. It is subtle and not overdone like we tend to see a lot of die cuts. Just like the base cards, there are four parallel versions for each insert. The sets vary in card size from Pivotal Players (30 cards) to Initial Impressions (15 cards) with the others containing 20 cards.



Justin DiBenedetto Autograph



Roman Cervenka Rookie Autograph



Each box of Prizm will contain two autographs on average. There is only one autograph set containing 125 veteran subjects and 75 rookie subjects. Each has two parallel levels, a Prizms version numbered to 35 or less for rookies and 20 or less for veterans as well as a Finite version numbered to 1 for all subjects. On a side note, how sweet would it have been to have an autographed version of the Immortalized set with the auto (on card) going across the Cup?

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 4/5

Design - 4.5/5

Fun - 3.5/5

Value - 4/5

Rebuy - 4/5

Overall - 20/25 (80%)

NPN Information:

NPN 2013-14 Panini Prizm Hockey

5325 FAA Blvd Suite 100A

Irving, TX 75061-3601

Limit 2 Requests Per Household, Mailed Separately

Postmarked By: 11/27/13

Received By: 12/4/13

Canada Skills:  $502 + 964 / 241 \times 213 - 271 = ?$

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



## SCF Official Review: 2013 Panini Certified

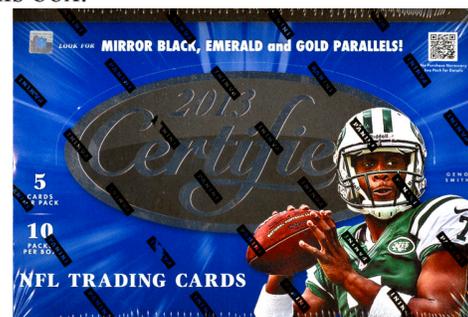
By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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

10 packs per box

5 cards per pack

Current Retail Price (online): \$84.99 - \$99.99



### PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- Three hot boxes per case (one per inner case) feature Platinum parallels that replace all common cards.
- Two of the best running backs in league history - Emmitt Smith and Barry Sanders - get their own inserts. Each card will be silhouette die-cut over a jumbo material swatch, including autographed versions.
- Look for new base set RCs for RPS players (non-auto, non-mem), including Mirror Black and Platinum versions for added value out of the box.
- New designs - Certified's Freshman Fabric auto/mem RCs get a fresh look and the return of Certified Potential Materials after a one-year hiatus.

### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

#### Emmit Collection

The NFL's all-time leading rusher, Emmitt Smith became a household name with America's Team in the 1990s. This five-card insert showcases his best highlights and also comes with an autographed memorabilia version.

#### Freshman Fabric

Newly revamped with die-cut F's (for Freshman Fabric), the 40 players at the NFLPA Rookie Premiere are featured on this traditional Certified rookie card.

#### Sanders Collection

Arguably the most exciting player to set foot on the gridiron, Sanders dazzled fans during his prolific career, which is chronicled in this insert with jumbo swatches and a side-silhouette die-cut.

#### Fabric of the Game

A staple in Certified, these iconic team name die-cuts feature the best and brightest rookies from this year's class.

#### Rookie Combo NFL Shields

Nothing compares to the NFL Shield. These 1-of-1 combo shields are some of the most sought after cards for the 2013 rookies.

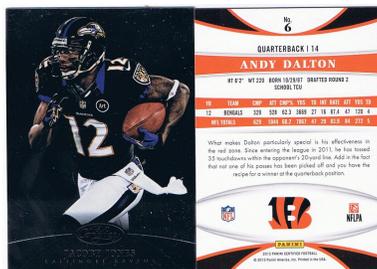


## WHAT WE PULLED

Base: 42/150 (28%)

Immortals /999 (2): Jerome Bettis, Terry Bradshaw

Rookies /999 (2): Nick Kasa, Ryan Swope



Certified has been a mainstay in the Panini (Donruss) product line for many years. It was one of the first products to go with a foil background to stand out from the basic picture cards. This year, Certified technically has a 340-cards base set mixed with numbered cards of legends and rookies along with a mix of rookie jersey/autographs. The veteran compile the first 150 cards, legends the next 50, regular rookies the next 100 and finally the Freshman Fabric series rounds out the final 40.

Mirror Red /250 (2): Terrell Davis, Nick Kasa

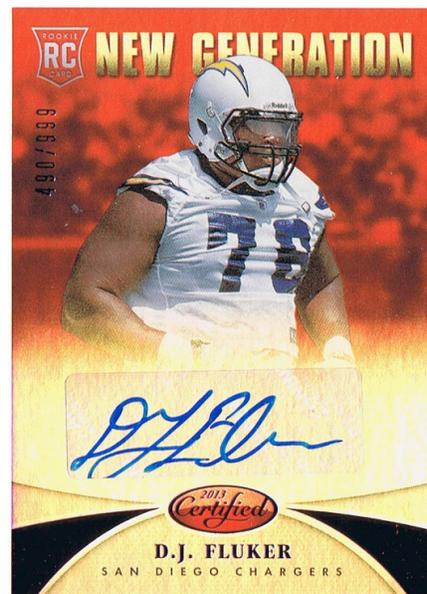
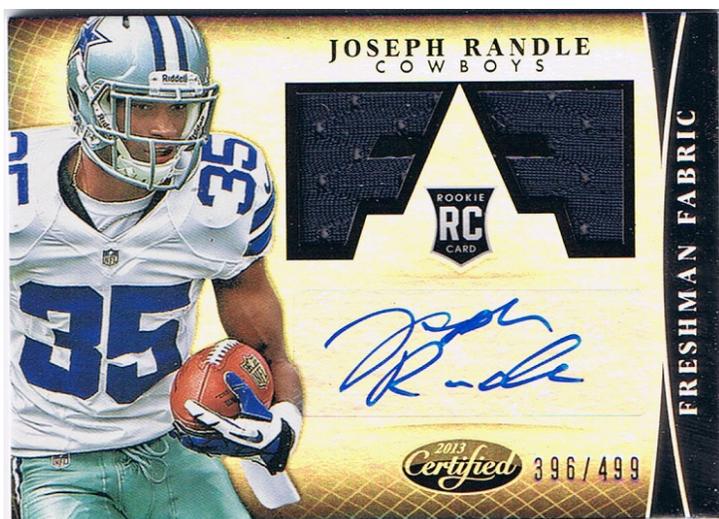
Mirror Blue /100 (1): Phillip Thomas



There are no inserts in Certified. However, it makes up for that with a ridiculous ten parallel versions! Five can be found in regular boxes while four others are in special boxes. The regular five are Mirror Red, Blue, Gold, Emerald and Black which are numbered to 250 or less. The other four are found in randomly inserts Platinum Hot Boxes. These match the Mirror colors and are numbered to 999 or less.

Freshman Fabrics Julius Randle RC Dual Jersey/Autograph /499

D.J. Fluker Mirror Red Autograph /999





Certified Skills Dwayne Bowe Jersey /299



Matt Barkley Fabric Of The Game Team Die Cut Jersey /99



Each box of Certified should contain 4 autographs or relics. There are numerous sets to chase after. There are multiple levels of autographs and relics that follow the colors of the Mirror Parallels. Fabric Of The Game is back, but appears to focus only on the Team Die Cut Windows this year. Freshman Fabrics represents the rookies for 40 players, complete with a dual jersey and autograph. There are parallel versions of these as well. Certified Skills and Certified Potential used to be an insert set as well as a jersey set, but looks like they are jersey only. NFL Shields are available for as combos for rookies (numbered to 1). Finally, Emmitt Smith and Barry Sanders get featured in their own jersey and autograph sets to honor their legendary careers.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 3.5/5  
 Design - 4.25/5  
 Fun - 4.5/5  
 Value - 3.5/5  
 Rebuy - 4/5  
 Overall - 19.75/25 (79%)

### NPN Information:

NPN, 2013 Panini Certified Football  
 5325 FAA Blvd Suite 100  
 Irving, TX 75061-3601

Limit 2 Requests Per Household, Mailed Separately

Postmarked By: 12/4/13  
 Received By: 12/11/13

Canada Skills:  $832 + 764 / 191 \times 431 - 336 = ?$

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



## SCF Official Review: 2013 Topps Triple Threads By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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

2 mini boxes per master box  
1 pack per mini box  
7 cards per pack  
Current Retail Price (online): \$169.99 - \$199.99

### WHAT WE PULLED

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTcxC0\\_aw\\_s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTcxC0_aw_s)



Base (6)



Triple Threads is one of many high-end baseball releases from Topps. Each box will contain six base cards from the 100-card set. Until recently, base cards were numbered. But due the high number (between 999-1399, depending on year), it was perceived easier to just leave them unnumbered. Cards come on a thicker card stock than most cards and have an intricate frame design. There is a mix of legends, veterans and rookies with more future stars featured in an extension of the base set (50 future phenoms auto/relics).

Amethyst /650 (2): Pablo Sandoval, Yasiel Puig  
Emerald /250 (1): John Smoltz  
Amber /125 (1): Bo Jackson



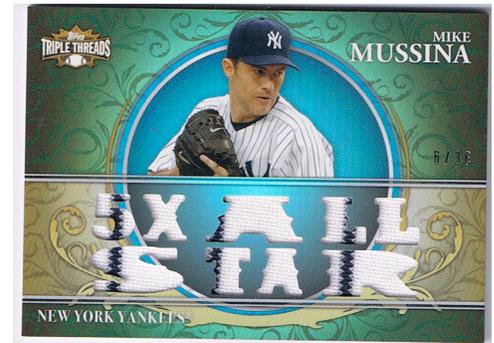
Each base card has seven parallel plus printing plates. These cards are numbered 650 and less. They fall two per pack, so four in every box. Type is easy to distinguish and the background and frame matches the color level.



Trevor Bauer Triple Relic/Autograph (on card) /75



Mike Mussina Triple Relic /36



Don Sutton Sepia Jumbo Jersey /27



Shelby Miller Unity Sepia Jumbo Relic/  
Autograph /75 Redemption



Each box will contain 4 "hits". There are two autographed relics, one triple relic and one single relic. All are numbered to 99 or less. There are numerous types of relic cards from bat knobs, letter patches, logos and laundry tags to regular jerseys and jumbo patches. There are even three different die cut versions among the triple relics. In addition, all have various parallel levels, which means a huge supply of 1/1s. Also, many of the special type of relic cards are in booklet form. There are 50 "up and comers" that have a triple relic/on-card autograph that are card numbered from 101-150, which extends the base set. The regular versions are numbered to 99 with parallels of 75 or less.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 3/5

Design - 4.5/5

Fun - 4.5/5

Value - 3.5/5

Rebuy - 3.5/5

Overall - 19/25 (76%)

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



## SCF Official Review: 2013/14 Panini NBA Hoops

By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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

10 packs per box  
 50 cards per pack  
 Current Retail Price (online): \$89.99 - \$109.99

### BOX BREAK

- Two autographs
- one memorabilia card
- 50 Parallels
- 1 Artist Proof Parallel
- 30 Redbacks
- 20 Action Shots
- 20 Dreams
- 20 Board Members
- 20 Class Action
- 20 Courtside
- 20 Spark Plugs



### PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- The first ever Hoops Hobby Jumbo pack! Each pack has 50 cards, filled to the brim with inserts, parallels, and the first live cards of the 2013 NBA Draft Class!
- The return of Kobe's All-Rookie Team, one of the most valuable short-printed inserts in Hoops!
- Look for the brand new, ultra-rare Highlights card, featuring the greatest stories from the 2012-13 season! Highlights include Kobe reaching 30,000 points, Steve Nash eclipsing 10,000 assists and the Miami Heat's 27-game winning streak!
- Find autographs and unique inserts featuring stunning photography, and hard-to-find chase cards such as Kobe's All-Rookie Team and Highlights!

### WHAT WE PULLED

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKSAf6NA33U>

Base: 277/301 (92.0%)

Dupes: 0

No. 2

PANINI

GUARD

**STEVE NASH**

When Nash eventually hangs up his sneakers, he will likely leave the game as one of the greatest shooters the league has ever seen. Making 27 consecutive free throws to start the 2012-13 season. Nash overtook Mark Price as the NBA's best career free-throw shooter. He still holds that distinction.

SEASON	TEAM	G	FG%	FT%	3PM	APG	STL	BLK	PTS	PPG
06-07	SUNS	68	42.3	82.4	2.3	1.9	2.0	0	17.3	2.5
07-08	SUNS	78	42.6	82.0	2.1	2.1	1.3	1	19.1	2.5
08-09	MAVERICKS	68	36.3	82.6	1.8	5.5	1.7	2	15.8	2.3
09-10	MAVERICKS	74	42.1	82.8	1.8	2.2	1.2	0	16.2	2.2
10-11	MAVERICKS	62	40.2	82.7	1.6	2.1	1.7	0	14.6	2.4
11-12	MAVERICKS	62	40.5	82.0	1.1	2.3	1.5	0	14.5	2.3
12-13	MAVERICKS	74	47.5	82.0	1.4	2.8	1.5	1	18.2	2.5
05-06	SUNS	75	39.2	82.7	1.6	4.2	1.5	0	14.0	1.9
06-07	SUNS	78	37.2	82.0	1.6	3.5	1.1	0	14.2	1.8
07-08	SUNS	81	36.4	82.6	1.9	3.1	1.1	0	12.9	1.6
08-09	SUNS	74	35.3	82.3	1.8	3.3	1.7	0	11.8	1.6
09-10	SUNS	81	36.0	82.4	1.4	3.3	1.1	0	12.1	1.5
10-11	SUNS	75	40.2	82.2	1.8	3.5	1.4	0	14.4	1.9
11-12	SUNS	62	35.2	82.4	1.6	3.5	1.3	0	12.2	1.9
12-13	MAVERICKS	68	40.7	82.0	1.7	2.3	1.7	0	15.3	2.3

NBA TOTALS: 1002 461 394 1071 2.8 4.5 182 106 1228 14.4

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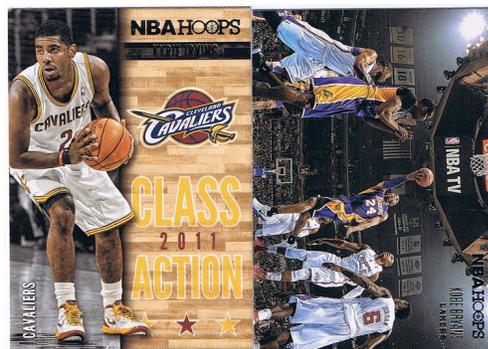
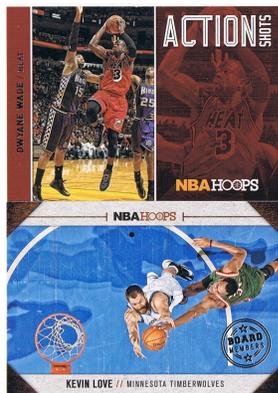
Instead of a typical hobby box, Panini switched gears this year and turned NBA Hoops into a Jumbo product. Previously, it broke down to 36 packs with 8 cards (288 cards). Now, it is 10 packs and 50 cards (500 total). Each pack come generally with the same amount of cards as far as base, parallels and inserts. NBA Hoops is reminiscent in design to some Topps products back in the 1990s. This is a complete overhaul from the designs of the last two years. There are 260 veterans, 40 rookies and 1 Miami Heat Champions card (seen below) that comprises the set.

- Artists Proof (1)
- Gold Border (50)
- Red Back (30)



There are four parallels in NBA Hoops. Gold Border and Red Backs are self-explanatory. Artist's Proof actual have two versions. One is unnumbered and the other is a Black version that is numbered 1/1.

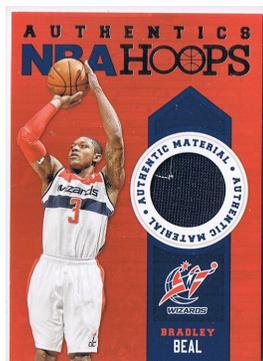
- Action Shots (20)
- Board Members (20)
- Class Action (20)
- Courtside (20)
- Dreams (20)
- Hall Of Fame Heroes (20)
- Spark Plugs (20)



There are a litany of insert sets found in NBA Hoops, most of which you will end up coming just short of a full set in each. Outside of those pictured above, sets include Kobe All Rookie Team (13 cards) and Highlights (5 cards). All of the other sets consist of 25 cards. There are no variations, parallels or numbered versions in any of these sets.



Authentic Bradley Beal Jersey



Signatures Kyle O'Quinn Autograph



Signatures Greg Stiemsma Autograph



Each box of NBA Hoops will yield 2 autographs and 1 relic on average. There is only one autograph set and it contains 200 subjects. In addition, autograph are sticker based. Like the autographs, only one relic set is found and it is called Authentic. There are two versions, a regular and a prime in which the cards are numbered to 25 or less. This set contains 100 subjects.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 4.75/5  
 Design - 4/5  
 Fun - 3/5  
 Value - 2.5/5  
 Rebuy - 3/5

Overall - 17.25/25 (69%)

## NPN INFORMATION

NPN, 2013-14 Panini NBA Hoops Basketball  
 5325 FAA Blvd Suite 100A  
 Irving, TX 75061-3601

Limit 2 Requests Per Household, Mailed Separately

Postmarked By: 12/29/13  
 Received By: 1/5/14

Canada Skills:  $890 + 327 / 109 \times 483 - 604 = ?$

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



## SCF Official Review: 2013 Press Pass Legends By Tony Joyce aka Enigma

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

- 3 mini boxes per master box
- 6 packs per mini box
- 5 cards per pack
- Current Retail Price (online): \$119.99 - \$134.99

### PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

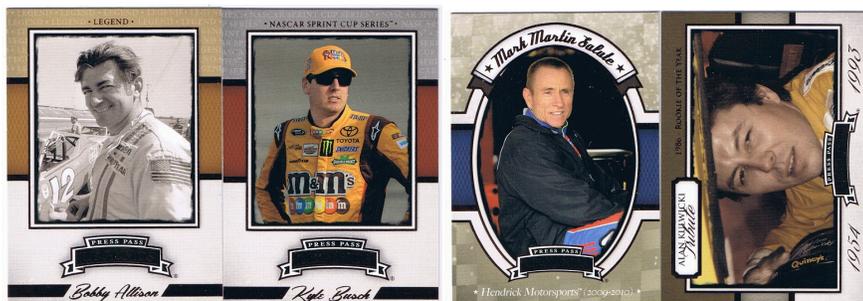
- One On-Card Autograph and One Memorabilia Card In Every 6-Pack Mini-Box!
- New Expanded base set for 2013: 70-card set featuring legendary drivers, current Sprint Cup stars, Alan Kulwicki Tribute, & Mark Martin Salute.
- Signature Style, Famous Feats, and Davey Allison Tribute insert cards Look for "Signature Style" SPs!



### WHAT WE PULLED

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc6KXpn-b2E>

Base: 55/60 (91.7%)  
Dupes: 10



Arguably one of the best product in the Press Pass family, Legends returns for another year of excitement. While the term "legends" seems to be used a bit loosely, the content doesn't disappoint. Legends comes with a 60-card base set that infuses NASCAR, NHRA and IRL greats. Included in this year's release are two subsets honoring Mark Martin and Alan Kulwicki. Small drawback with not being able to complete the base set with one box, especially with more than enough duplicates to cover the missing cards. But this is due to the last twenty cards being short printed.

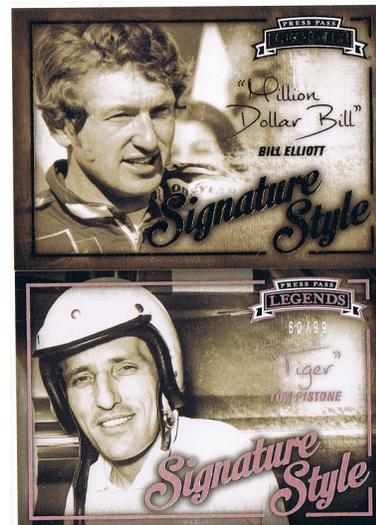
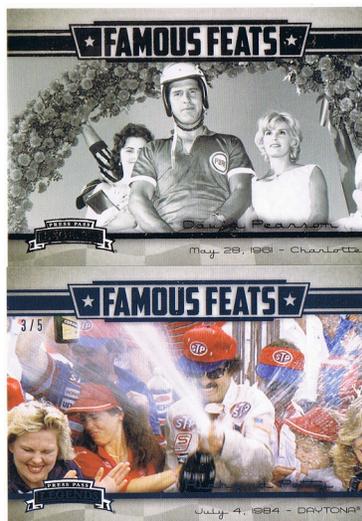
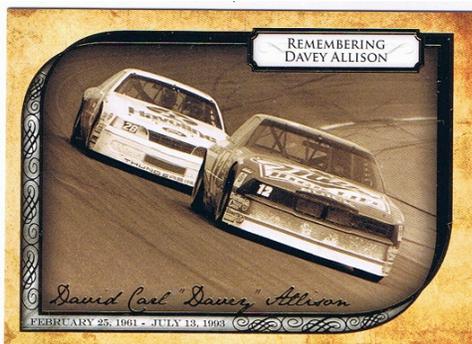
Gold /149 (6): Geoffrey Bodine, Dario Franchitti, Lee Petty, Leonard Wood, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Alan Kulwicki  
Red /99 (1): Jimmie Johnson  
Holo /10 (2): Janet Guthrie, Darrell Waltrip





Legends contains four parallels for the base cards not counting the printing plates. There are Gold /149, Red /99, Holofoil /10 and Blue Holofoil /1. Parallels appear once in every two packs on average.

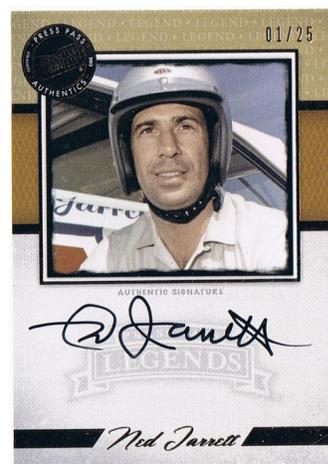
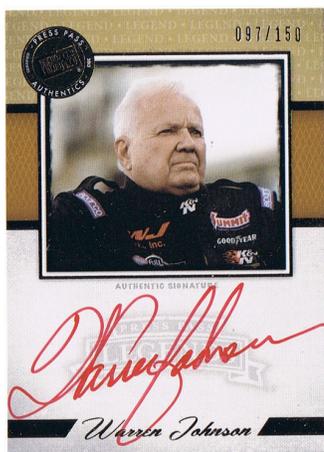
- Famous Feats (4)
- Famous Feats Blue Holofoil /5 (1): Richard Petty
- Remembering Davey Allison (1)
- Signature Style (1)
- Signature Style Holofoil /99 (3): Tom Pistone, Don Prudhomme, Carl Edwards



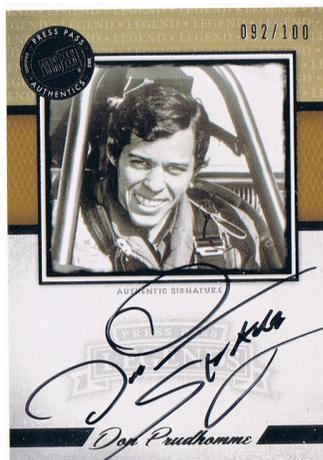
There are three insert sets in Legends. Each one contains two parallel levels numbered to 99 or less and a non-numbered regular version. Famous Feats (10 cards) details great moments in racing history. Remembering Davey Allison is a 10-card tribute to the young man who was tragically taken well before his time. Signature Style (15 cards) focuses on the nicknames of some of the racing greats featured in Legends, with five being short printed.

Warren Johnson Gold Autograph /150  
**\*Red Ink Version\* (Only 25 Copies)**

Ned Jarrett Gold Autograph /25



Don Prudhomme Silver Autograph /100

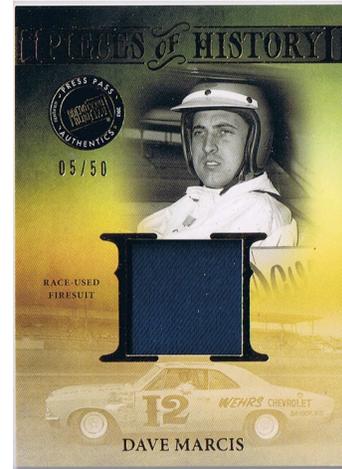




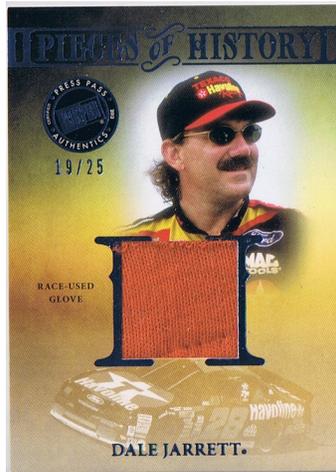
Davey Allison Tribute Silver Firesuit /50



Pieces Of History Gold Dave Marcis Firesuit /50



Pieces Of History Blue Dale Jarrett Glove /25



Each box of Legends contains 1 relic and 1 autograph in every mini box for a total of 3 each in a master box. Like most Press Pass products, the autographs are on card and look great. Be on the lookout for inscription and red ink variations for the autographs. In addition, not all subjects have the same print run, so some are short prints. Famous Feats and Signature Style have autograph versions at four levels with various numbering. There are also Press Plate Autographs as well as the widely popular Four Wide Signature Series. And if that is not enough, the search is on for a Davey Allison Cut Signature.

Relics are primarily centered around two series called Prominent Pieces and Pieces Of History. Each has various levels and utilizes different types of race used relics. The three tribute drivers also have special memorabilia sets with various levels.



The Rundown On



## FINAL THOUGHTS

Base - 4.75/5

Design - 4.25/5

Fun - 4.5/5

Value - 5/5

Rebuy - 4.5/5

Overall - 23/25 (92%)

## NPN INFORMATION

NPN Press Pass Legends 2013

9805 Northcross Center Court, Suite H

Huntersville, NC 28078

Limit 1 Request Per Household

Postmarked By: 1/26/14

Received By: 2/2/14

Canada Skills:  $50 + (2 \times 4) - 10 = ?$

Once again, I'd like to thank our wonderful sponsors at Press Pass for giving us the opportunity to open and review this release. For more information on all of their products, visit them today at [www.presspassinc.com](http://www.presspassinc.com).

