

January 2011 "COLLECTING WITH JEFF"

by **JEFF FIGLER**

I am glad you are enjoying the "Collecting With Jeff" newsletters. If you have any questions or comments, contact Kathi at collectingwithjeff@sbcglobal.net. Also, if you know of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter, send their name and email address to collectingwithjeff@sbcglobal.net.

The following articles, Jeff wrote recently for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Ticket stubs alone have little value

Every so often I am asked if there is value to ticket stubs, or even unused full tickets. In short, the answer is no.

The only instances in which ticket stubs or unused tickets are of value is if they are related to significant events, and only if they are auctioned with other related items. A ticket stub to, let's say a game in July 1962 has no value, except to the owner of the stub. (Maybe going to the game was a birthday gift.)

However, a ticket stub to a game of historical significance, for example, Game 7 of the 1960 World Series between the New York Yankees and the Pittsburgh Pirates, would have some value. If you combine the ticket stub from that game, with a program from that game, newspaper clippings, and a team-signed ball of the 1960 Pirates, then you have a nice package, worth a minimum of \$500. Of course, the value will depend on the condition of the items, especially of the baseball, and if there happened to be a bidding war on that lot.

In case you might have forgotten, Game 7 of the 1960 World Series was the one in which statistically the Yankees dominated, but the Bucs won the Series on a walk-off homer by Bill Mazeroski.

If someone has the entire unused ticket of a particular event, not merely the ticket stub, the value goes up a bit, but not dramatically.

Sometimes I am asked about tickets of games that were never played. Huh? That's right. Take for example, a situation in which Major League Baseball asks the Cardinals to print tickets, in case they played in the World Series. However, if they never made it to the Series, those printed tickets are nice souvenirs with no value.

Making the most out of those brushes with greatness

Of course, sometimes you cannot anticipate where or when you might be in a position to add to your sports collection. Oh, let me cite a couple of examples that happened to me.

I boarded an airplane in San Diego, with Washington, D.C., as my destination. I heard a little commotion in the gate area, but didn't really give it much thought. On the plane I took my window seat in the second row, and a couple of minutes later the aisle seat next to me was occupied by Senator Bob Dole.

For the next four hours he and I sat and discussed a myriad of topics, from sports to Visa. How was I to know that he would be next to me? The following week I sent him a Major League baseball for him to sign. He obliged, and even went one step further. Not only did he sign the ball, but Elizabeth Dole signed as well. The ball now sits in a cube next to autographed baseballs I have of presidents and vice-presidents.

Another situation involved the time I turned around in a deli and the baseball Hall-of-Famer Tony Gwynn was behind me. I should have had a pen and paper. By the way, Tony Gwynn is a prolific signer and a class act as well. He is often compared with Stan Musial as a champion hitter, and as a willing signer. A Gwynn-signed baseball is worth about \$60, a Musial-signed ball a bit more. A Sporting News cover several years ago had both of them together. That cover with both of their signatures is valued at \$400-500.

Answer to Trivia Questions for last month

1. Which NBA superstar is part of the official NBA logo? Jerry West
2. Which Yankee player was caught stealing to end the 1926 World Series against the Cardinals? Babe Ruth
3. Who is the only Hall of Fame Yankee player in its history that never saw Yankee playing action? Joe Medwick
4. In what city did Wilt Chamberlain score his record breaking 100 points? Hershey, Pennsylvania
5. Who was the first MLB player to reach 3000 hits? Cap Anson
6. Who was the second MLB player to reach 3000 hits? Honus Wagner
7. Which President started the 7th inning stretch tradition? William Howard Taft
8. Who holds the all time NFL record for points scored in one game? Ernie Nevers
9. Who holds the National League consecutive games streak? Steve Garvey, 1,207
10. Who was the youngest Major League Baseball player in history? How old was he? Joe Nuxhall, 15 years old. MLB debut 6/10/1944 in the ninth inning for the Cincinnati Reds against the St. Louis Cardinals

Trivia Questions for this month

1. What was one of the nicknames of Bill Bradley when he was with the New York Knicks?
2. Stan Musial was from Donora, Pennsylvania. What other baseball superstar was also from there?
3. Antonio Gates of the San Diego Chargers was a basketball star at which Ohio University?
4. Cliff Hagan, the St. Louis Hawk star later became the athletic director at which University?
5. Which former Boston Celtics star was a teammate of Bill Russell at the University of San Francisco?
6. In 1947, the Brooklyn Dodgers was the first team to have a black player on its roster, Jackie Robinson. Of those teams in major league baseball in 1947, which team was the last team to have a black player on its roster?
7. Who is the only player in Major League baseball history to have gotten a hit for each team in a doubleheader between the teams: Hint, he was traded from one team to the other between games.
8. Which former pennant winning San Diego Padres manager was inducted into Baseballs' Hall of Fame in 2008?
9. Which Hall of Famer struck out Pete Rose in his final at bat in Major League Baseball?
10. What Major League Baseball team was the first to put numbers on the back of their uniforms?