

October 2010 "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 else 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:

The Hunt for Sonny Randle

On my list of favorite football athletes are several players from St. Louis and San Diego, cities in which I have lived for many years. Of course there is [Dan Fouts](#), [LaDainian Tomlinson](#), [Marshall Faulk](#), Sonny Randle, and a few others on that list. That's right, Sonny Randle.

After browsing through some recent clippings about Randle, I attempted to get some old cards of his. Well, after contacting a half dozen or so dealers, I finally ran across Touchdown Treasures, owned and operated by Michael Hattley. My Sonny Randle card hunt was over, at least temporarily. Hattley sent me an inventory list of the St. Louis Cardinals (football) items he has. It looked like a small town telephone directory. And that was only of one team.

Talk about someone with passion about what he does. Hattley, a former financial guy, was an avid collector himself, and decided to make his avocation a vocation, by starting Touchdown Treasures some twenty-four years ago. The company specializes only in football memorabilia. Through the years, merchandise of the Packers, Giants, and Steelers have been requested the most. Although Touchdown Treasures is based in Greenwich, Connecticut, Hattley's favorite team is the [Miami Dolphins](#)

. Why?

Mike said that the most unusual piece he has ever sold was a 1977 Topps NFL Mexican set. There were only twenty sets sold. Wow! Makes you wonder if Chad Ochocinco has a set. The cards were all in Spanish. I would have a tough time with that one.

Michael Hattley is an optimist, even in this economy. Yes, the market is down, but vintage or unique items will hold their own.

If you have a football item "wish list", you might want to contact Hattley. After all, he has an inventory of 39,531 football related items. That was the total a few days ago, maybe it is more by now. I bet he even has some Sonny Randle items. On second thought, I hope not. He is supposed to be

selling all those to me.

Hattley can be reached at (203) 532-9214, or at www.touchdown-treasures.com. Touchdown Treasures conducts both auctions and sales.

In Collectibles Market, Manning is no Brady

Recently on one of my radio broadcasts, I got into a lively discussion about which one NFL player I would start a team with. It is my humble opinion that I would start with a quarterback, while others in the discussion chose other positions. Names of players were thrown out, including [Adrian Peterson](#), Chris Johnson, and even Ed Reed. Yes, that's right, Ed Reed. He is a terrific player, but I don't think you can pick a defensive player to be your cornerstone man. I can see picking a running back, but I still think a quarterback comes first.

So who would I pick? If I was doing the honors today, it would be [Peyton Manning](#). If you ask me next year I might say Peterson or even [Philip Rivers](#), the incredible quarterback of the Chargers. You watch, Rivers has what it takes, and if he can win a [Super Bowl](#) or two, and [San Diego](#) is capable of doing so, Rivers will be at the head of the quarterback class.

But for now, give me [Peyton Manning](#). This 2009 season may very well be his best, especially if you consider the fact that he is without his main man, [Marvin Harrison](#). [Joseph Addai](#) should not be mistaken for Edgerin James either. The Colts simply replace parts as necessary. Do I think that Manning will lead the Colts to another [Super Bowl victory](#) this season? Hardly. I don't think the Colts will even make it out of the [AFC Championship game](#). That's right. And now I'll probably be flooded with emails about how my thinking is distorted.

Funny thing about Manning and the 1998 draft. The two top college quarterbacks in that draft were Manning of Tennessee, and Ryan Leaf of [Washington State](#). Both the Colts and Chargers desperately needed quarterbacks, and [Indianapolis](#) had the first selection, and the Chargers the third. San Diego gave up the kitchen sink to Arizona to move up one spot. The rest is history. The course of the [NFL](#) was changed. Manning became, well, Manning, and Ryan Leaf became, uh, let' just say, one of the biggest busts in NFL history.

However, let it be remembered that in Manning's first season the [Indianapolis Colts](#) were a dismal 3-13.

Despite Peyton Manning's achievements on and off the gridiron, his collectibles have not gone spectacular. Why he hasn't been as big of a box office star with collectibles as, for example, a [Tom Brady](#), or a [Joe Montana](#), is likely due to the fact that for a long time he did not have any Super Bowl rings. Now he has one, as the Manning-led Colts defeated the [Chicago Bears](#) a few years ago. The fact, too, that he plays in a relatively small Midwestern market does not help. Put him in a [New York](#) or a Chicago and the scenario would undoubtedly be different.

For the record, in a 2008 auction, his 2000 game-used helmet went for just shy of \$5000. His 2004 game-worn signed shoes fetched slightly over \$4000 in a 2007 auction. His jerseys usually bring in

upwards of a few thousand dollars, depending, of course, if they are signed.

The Colts have flourished with Peyton Manning at the helm. At age 33, opposing defenses are going to have to put up with him and his gyrations at the [line of scrimmage](#) for at least a handful of more years.

[Answers](#) to last months Trivia Questions

1. Which former tennis great had a brother who pitched for the [San Francisco Giants](#), [Houston Astros](#) and [Toronto Blue Jays](#)?

[Billy Jean King](#). [Randy Moffitt](#) is the brother of Billy Jean Moffitt (King)

2. What is the record for the most runs scored in an inning in [MLB](#) game since 1900 by one team?

17 by the [Boston Red Sox](#) in 1953

3. Who is the only [college football player](#) to have won the [Heisman Trophy](#) twice?

[Archie Griffin](#)

4. What is the NFL record for the most [consecutive road games](#) won?

18 by the [San Francisco 49ers](#) from 1988 - 1990

5. Who were the five original members of the Baseball Hall of Fame?

[Ty Cobb](#), [Babe Ruth](#), [Honus Wagner](#), [Christy Mathewson](#) and [Walter Johnson](#)

6. Who holds the [NBA record](#) for most rebounds in a game?

[Wilt Chamberlain](#) with 55, November 24, 1960

7. Which NFL team holds the record for the most two point conversions in an NFL game?

[St. Louis Rams](#) (4) on October 15, 2000

8. Who was the first [NFL quarterback](#) to throw more than 4000 yards in three consecutive seasons?

Dan Fouts, [San Diego Chargers](#)

9. Who holds the modern [American League record](#) for wins in a season?

[Seattle Mariners](#), 116 in 2001

10. [John Wooden](#) has won the most [NCAA college basketball tournament](#) national championships. Who is second?

[Mike Krzyzewski](#), 4 at Duke

Trivia Questions.

1. Who hit the first home run in MLB All-Star history?
2. Which NFL coach has won the most Super Bowls?
3. Legendary college basketball coach Bob Knight played basketball at what university?
4. Which two universities are tied for the most Heisman Trophy award winners?
5. Willie Mays got his first career MLB hit, a home run, against which Hall of Fame lefthander?
6. Who is the all-time leading college basketball scorer in ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) history?
7. Where have the most Super Bowls been played?
8. There has been one MLB player since 1900 who has gotten seven hits in a nine inning game. Who is he?
9. Who is the all time leading scorer of the Boston Celtics?
10. What was the name of the college player who once scored 113 points in a game? What school did he attend?