

FEBRUARY 2008

"COLLECTING WITH JEFF"

JEFF FIGLER

**QUESTION: #1** I have a baseball signed by Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron. How much could the ball be worth? Justin C., Little Rock, AR.

**ANSWER:** I have seen a Ruth-signed ball be worth anywhere from \$5,000 on up to \$40,000 or \$50,000. It depends on condition, and if it is an official major league baseball. If you add Aaron to the ball, the ball will be worth at least \$20,000.

**QUESTION: #2** I have a 1944 St. Louis Brown Lapel pin in a box. Does it have any value? Bryan R., St. Louis, MO.

**ANSWER:** Not too much value. At most, it is worth \$100.

**TRIVIA:**

1. Who is the only major league baseball player to have hit at least 100 home runs for three different teams? Name the player and the teams. (Hint: All the teams are in the American League.)
2. Which major league baseball player holds the record for playing in the most games in his career without ever playing a post season game?

Answers in the next issue. If you know the answer, please email them to [collectingwithjeff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:collectingwithjeff@sbcglobal.net).

### **THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY**

Who was on the receiving end of the first pass that Brett Favre completed as a Green Bay Packer?

History will show that players' careers will sometimes get off to very unusual beginnings. In baseball, a player might hit a home run in their first at-bat in the big leagues and then not hit another one for years, if at all. Such was the case with Hoyt Wilhelm. Or in football, a player may have started his career with a team by completing his first pass to no one else but himself. Yes, that actually happened to none other than Brett Favre.

Brett Favre was born in 1969 in Gulfport, Mississippi, and was raised in the small town of Kiln, Mississippi. He played on the high school football team coached by his father, and received his only college football scholarship to Southern Mississippi. He persuaded the coaches that he wanted to be quarterback instead of defensive back. After leading his Golden Eagle team to a few legendary wins against the likes of Tulane, Florida State, and Alabama, he was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the second round in the 1991 draft.

Favre's first regular season pass in the National Football League (NFL) resulted in an interception for a touchdown. In fact, he only attempted four passes for Atlanta that first year and did not complete any.

After his first year, Favre was traded by the Falcons to the Green Bay Packers for a first round pick, who turned out to be Tony Smith, from, ironically, his own school of Southern Mississippi.

It was in the second game of the 1992 season on September 13<sup>th</sup> against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers that Favre finally saw action as a Packer. Trailing 17-0 in the second half, the Packer starting quarterback Don Majowski was benched, and replaced by Favre. On his first regular season play as a Green Bay Packer, Favre threw a pass which was deflected and caught by himself. He was tackled, and the play lost seven yards. The Packers lost the game 31-3.

In the next game that season against the Cincinnati Bengals, Favre fumbled four times, but did throw the game-winning touchdown pass to Kitrick Taylor with 13 seconds left for a 24-23 victory. It was the following week's game against the Pittsburgh Steelers that started the NFL's longest consecutive starts streak by a quarterback in NFL history.

Brett Favre has been with Green Bay since the 1992 season, and holds a score of NFL quarterback records, including most career yards, touchdowns, starts, completions, career pass attempts, career pass completions, and others. Favre is most proud of the record that he holds of the most career victories as a starting quarterback. However, with the victories, come the spoils. Favre also holds the NFL record for the most interceptions thrown in an NFL career.

Brett Favre has led the Packers to the Super Bowl and was voted to the NFL 1990s All-Decade Team, and is a surefire first-football ballot Hall of Famer.



## **THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY**

Who holds the NBA record for most points scored while registering a triple-double?

A triple-double, in which a player records ten or more in three categories of points, assists, rebounds, or blocks is extremely difficult. Most NBA players who register such a feat score, at the most, twenty to twenty-five points. However, scoring forty nine points while registering a triple-double is unheard of, except of course, if you are Larry Bird.

Larry Bird was born on December 7, 1956, in West Baden Springs, Indiana. As a child, he grew up amidst poverty and domestic problems. However, he became one of the best basketball players around French Lick, Indiana, and received a scholarship to Indiana University. However, he stayed at Indiana only one month, and eventually enrolled at Indiana State University.

Bird led the Indiana State University Sycamores to a 33-1 season, and a spot in the 1979 NCAA championship game. The Sycamores lost the title game to the Magic Johnson-led Michigan State

Spartans. The Boston Celtics had drafted Bird sixth overall in the 1978 NBA draft, not knowing whether he would remain at Indiana State or go professional. He did sign with the Celtics before the 1979 draft, and his impact was immediate, as Boston won 32 more games in the 1979-80 season, than the prior year. Larry Bird would play with the Boston Celtics his entire professional career from 1979-1992.

The combination of Bird, Robert Parish and Kevin Mc Hale, made the Celtics a formidable opponent, helping Boston to win three NBA championships during Bird's playing days. It is generally agreed that the addition of Bird and Magic Johnson to the NBA, beginning with the 1979 season, rejuvenated the league. Bird's Celtics and Johnson's Lakers would face off in key games throughout the 1980s, including the NBA Finals of 1984, 1985, and 1987. The Lakers versus the Celtics, and Bird versus Magic, were great rivalries.

One of Bird's greatest games as a player was in March 1992 against the Portland Trail Blazers, when he sent the game into overtime with an off-balance three-point shot, and would up with 49 points, 14 rebounds, 12 assists, and 4 steals in a double-overtime 152-148 Boston victory. His 49 points are the most points in an NBA game by a player while registering a triple-double.

In the summer of 1992 Bird joined Johnson, Michael Jordan, and other NBA players in the Olympics in Barcelona. It was the first time in America's Olympic history that it sent professional basketball players to compete. The "Dream Team" easily won the gold medal. After the Olympics, Bird announced his retirement.

Bird worked in the Celtics front office from 1992-1997, and then joined the Indiana Pacers, first as a coach, and later as the Pacers' President of Basketball Operations. He was the NBA Coach of the Year in 1998.

Larry Bird was selected as one of NBA's 50 Greatest Players in 1996. In 1998 he was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

