

Town & Country Antiques Mall

Article Archives



Start & Keep Your Sports Memorabilia Collection In Playoff Shape

March is now here and with it comes some very special memories for the sports fan; the final shot sinking as the buzzer announces the end of the game, the game-winning goal being scored by your favorite team and the anticipation of the ump yelling “Play ball!”, ushering in the beginning of the summer baseball season.

Many sports fans have, at one time, collected some type of sports-based collectible, whether it from your favorite team or player through collecting items from a particular sport or sports. To those of you who already collect this may be a nice reminder of the basics and to those who are new or would like to collect this may be just what you need to get you started.

What is the difference between memorabilia and a collectible? – Memorabilia is when an item has been signed by an athlete and has been certified by a reputable distributor, while a collectible is a replica or authentic sports product that is either unsigned or signed but not authenticated.

What are the basics of collecting? –

- Decide what it is you want to collect. – Since sports collecting is a huge business encompassing just about anything to do with sports pick something specific to begin your collection. Many find that collecting their favorite team or player is the way to go. Others may begin with a specific item, such as cards or programs.
- Start small and know your budget! – Knowing what you can spend can keep you on-track. If you want to collect autographed jerseys and helmets you need to have an extremely large budget to work with so starting small will help you build a strong collection, allowing you to learn the industry and grow into bigger ticket items and larger collectibles.
- Protect and display your collection. – Include the necessary tools you’ll need to adequately protect and display your collection. For example, helmets and balls should have appropriate display cases while, cards should be stored in protective sheets and binders or sturdy-plastic cases. Remember that these are a necessity and should be included in your collecting budget.
- Always catalogue your collection! - Keeping a good record of your inventory when you first start collecting has a number of benefits. When you’ve built up a good collection that you’d like to have appraised, you’ll certainly want to have a written record handy. It’s also a good idea to keep track of your memorabilia for insurance purposes, or in the event that one of your pieces goes missing or is stolen.
- Have fun! – This is the most important rule. Collect what is fun for you and, especially when starting out, don’t worry about how much every item is worth. The value will come as you build your collection!



What are the types of sports collectibles? – While impossible to list everything you can collect (as it is practically endless), below are some of the most popular types of sports-collectibles.

- Cards
- Signed uniform articles, such as jerseys, helmets, caps etc.
- Signed balls from all sports are popular collectibles. Hockey pucks, boxing gloves are great too!
- Programs, media guides and literature.
- Stadium memorabilia. People love owning a bit of history with pieces of their favorite stadium. Seats, scoreboards and even pieces of the building themselves are highly sought-after collectibles.

In closing, sports memorabilia is an exciting collection to have and can provide much enjoyment as well as being profitable. Let your collection show your personality! It will make this a fun adventure!

Play Ball!

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