

APRIL 2008 "COLLECTING WITH JEFF" JEFF FIGLER

**QUESTION #1:** I have a Jack Buck & Mike Shannon autographed baseball-your thoughts on value and would the value increase much if I could get Joe Buck to autograph it also. Pete B., St. Louis, MO.

**ANSWER:** If you could get Joe Buck to autograph it, the value would increase. As the ball stands now, it would be worth about \$250-300.

**QUESTION #2:** I have a 22" long mini bat, medium brown in color with gold engraving. It has the signature of Wally Moon engraved on the barrel and an oval with Louisville Slugger - 25 - Hellerich & Bradsby Co. ö Made in U.S.A. ö Louisville, KY. inside of it. I would appreciate any information you can give me, including what it might be worth. Ellen C., Rosamond, IL.

**ANSWER:** It is worth a couple hundred dollars.

**QUESTION #3:** I have a baseball autographed by the 1946 Cardinal team. Can you tell me the possible value? Richard W., St. Louis, MO.

**ANSWER:** If the signatures are clear and all of the key players have signed it, the maximum value is \$1000-1100.

**TRIVIA ANSWERS FOR THE QUESTIONS FROM THE MARCH NEWSLETTER:**

1. Who was the youngest major league baseball player in history?  
How old was he?

His name is Joe Nuxall. He was 15 years old when he made his debut on June 10, 1944 in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning for the Cincinnati Reds against the St. Louis Cardinals.

2. Who was the first black NBA player?  
Who was the first black NHL player?

Chuck Cooper was the first black player in the NBA. He debuted in 1950 for the Boston Celtics.

Willie OâRee was the first black player in the NHL. He first played for the Boston Bruins in 1958.

**TRIVIA:**

1. Who was the first NBA player to score 20,000 points in their career?
2. Who was the first NFL quarterback to throw for more than 4,000 yards in a season?  
Who holds the NFL record for most consecutive 4,000 yard seasons?

**THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY**

Which announcer did the famous Kirk Gibson pinch hit home run off of Oakland reliever Dennis Eckersley in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series?

Jack Buck was an American sportscaster legend. He first started play-by-play announcing by broadcasting Ohio State basketball games. He then became the voice of baseballâs minor leagueâs Rochester Red Wings of the International League. He then moved up to the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team in 1954 on powerful KMOX radio. He teamed with Haray Caray, Joe Garagiola and Milo Hamilton on the Cardinals broadcasts, and after a bit of shuffling, Buck and Caray were the teamsâ broadcasters from 1962-1969. Caray left after the 1969 season, and eventually Buck and Mike Shannon

were the Cardinal announcers through the 1999 season.

Amazingly, Jack Buck also broadcast "Monday Night Football" for CBS Radio, the St. Louis Cardinals football games, American Football League (AFL) games for ABC, St. Louis Blues hockey games, and Major League baseball on CBS, among other assignments.

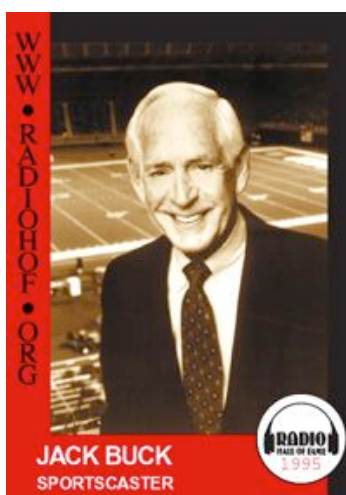
Jack Buck is noted for several announcing calls, including the following:

"Smith corks one into right, down the line! It may go-Go crazy, folks! Go crazy!! It's a home run! And the Cardinals have won the game, by the score of 3-2, on a home run by the Wizard! Go Crazy!" ---- Ozzie Smith's walkoff home run in Game 5 of the 1985 National League Championship Series.

"Montana lines up on the five. And on third down and three, he rolls right, looking to throw-looking to throw-and he throws into the endzone, touchdown! Touchdown! Touchdown, San Francisco, by Dwight Clark!" ---- "The Catch" in the 1981 NFL football Championship Game.

And, of course, "Gibson-swings and a flyball to deep right field. This is gonna be a home run! Unbelievable! A home run for Gibson! And the Dodgers have won the game, five to four. I don't believe what I just saw! I don't believe what I just saw!" ---- Kirk Gibson's walkoff home run in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series.

In the 1990s, Buck scaled down his broadcasts to only St. Louis baseball Cardinals home games. He had severe health problems including Parkinson's disease, diabetes, and other ailments.



### THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Which broadcaster has been the longest with a single club in professional sports history?

Vin Scully grew up in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. His favorite team was actually the New York Giants. From listening to football broadcasts on the radio, Scully knew he wanted to be a sports announcer.

He began his broadcasting career at Fordham University, and then worked for a CBS Radio affiliate in Washington. He caught the attention of Red Barber, then the sports director of the CBS Radio Network, to do college football.

In 1950, Scully joined Barber and Connie Desmond in the Brooklyn Dodger radio and television booths. Barber got into a salary dispute with the World Series sponsor Gillette, and Scully replaced him for the World Series. At 25 years of age, Scully became the youngest person to ever broadcast a World Series. After Red Barber left the Dodgers to go to the New York Yankees, and with Desmond often sidelined by alcohol problems, Vin Scully became the Dodger's principal broadcaster. He has been with the Dodgers ever since, a record as the longest period of time with a single club in professional sports history.

In addition to the Dodgers, Scully has also been a part of 28 years of World Series broadcasting, more than any other announcer as well.

Scully has been a very prominent broadcaster with CBS Sports, covering football, golf, and tennis. With NBC, besides the World Series, Scully has also broadcast championship Series games, as well as All-Star Games, and Saturday Games of the Week.

Vin Scully now limits his work schedule to about 110 games a year, and usually will not call a game that is from east of the Rocky Mountains.

A few of Vince Scully's memorable calls are:

"Ladies and gentlemen, the Brooklyn Dodgers are the champions of the world" ---- After the final out in the seventh game of the 1955 World Series.

"Two and two to Harvey Kuenn, one strike away. Sandy into his windup, hereâs the pitch: scoring on and missed, a perfect!" ---- Sandy Kofaxâs perfect game in 1965, his fourth of his career.

"Itâs a long drive to deep left, Buckner to the fence:It is gone!" ---- Henry Aaron hitting career home run number 715 on April 8, 1974 off the Dodger pitcher Al Downing, to break Babe Ruthâs record.

"Little roller up along first behind the bag! It gets through Buckner! Here comes Knight and the Mets win it!" ---- The conclusion of the sixth game of the 1986 World Series.

Vin Scully was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1995, and by the way, was named Broadcaster of the Century by the American Sportscaster Association in 2000.

