

December 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](mailto: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](mailto:collectingwithjeff@sbcglobal.net).

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The following articles, Jeff wrote recently for the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#).

### **Sports Illustrated lithographs are real gems**

A true hidden gem, even to most collectors is the twelve Sports Illustrated limited edition signed lithograph set from the early 70s. The twelve lithographs are of action poses of famous athletes from baseball, basketball, golf, boxing, football, tennis, and horse racing. Some of the lithos include two players, such as a basketball one of Wilt Chamberlain and John Havlicek, or a boxing one of Joe Louis and Max Schmeling. For a true sports historian this set is a real treasure.

The difficult part is to collect the entire set. You may see single lithos of Stan Musial, Joe DiMaggio, Jack Nicklaus, or even Red Grange, in an auction or sale, but it is rare to see the whole group at once. If you are lucky enough to get the entire collection, grab it. It will cost you several thousand dollars, but it is well worth it. My set is on one wall of my museum, and it probably gets as many comments as any set I have.

For the curious, the twelve pieces include Musial and DiMaggio in baseball, Billie Jean King and Rod Laver in tennis, Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer in golf, basketballers Chamberlain and Havlicek, footballers Grange and Johnny Unitas, boxers Louis and Schmeling, as well as Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney, and Eddie Arcaro in horse racing.

In my opinion, the Louis and Schmeling piece, as well as the Grange litho are the two most valuable pieces and the ones hardest to find as well. The lithos are colorful and extremely well done, and I'm sure you will thoroughly enjoy them.

### **How Snipers Rule The Auction**

Okay, now it's my turn to sound off about the times that auctions close. Let me explain.

At one time catalog auction bidding was merely telephonic. The Internet was relatively new, and telephone bidding was the modus operandi. An auction closed at a certain time, and that was it. Then, in an effort to have bids increase, the ten-minute rule was devised, whereby auctions would stay open until there were no bids on an item for at least ten minutes, or for however long the time limit was. I really had no problem with that, although, on a couple of occasions, I had to stay up until four or five in the morning, as well as call back every ten minutes or so, to see if I was still the high bidder on an item. I didn't mind that too much. Then Internet bidding came along.

Today, most of the bidding is done through the Internet. In fact, up to 90% of all catalog auction bids are placed that way. I am of the "old" school, and I still bid via the telephone (thank goodness for speed dial!). However, "sniping" has snuck into many a collector's arsenal, and is not healthy.

"Sniping" is where you can program your software enabling you to place bids at the very last second, and up to a maximum bid amount. What that means is that a bidder can easily be outbid at literally the last second, with no recourse, by a sniper. Of course, sniping can only be effective when the auction ends at a particular time, and when the ten minute rule does not apply.

Take for example a recent Coach's Corner auction. First, let me say that I have dealt with Coach's Corner, of Souderton, Pa., for many years, and their staff, including Lee, Scott, Rosa, and several others are extremely professional. However, they end their auctions at 1AM Eastern Time. Snipers have a field day with bidding on items with little fear that they will be outbid.

How does a person like myself get around that? Unfortunately, I think I know the answer-learn to "snipe" myself!

### **ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTIONS.**

1. When the Chicago Bears beat the Washington Redskins 73-0 in the 1940 NFL Championship game, who were the two opposing Quarterbacks? Sid Luckman --Chicago, Sammy Baugh - Washington
2. To which team was Jackie Robinson traded after the 1956 season, but retired instead? The New York Giants for Dick Littlefield and \$35,000 cash.
3. Who holds the record for the most fumbles in a professional football game? Len Dawson, 7 on November 15, 1964, Kansas City vs. San Diego
4. How many quadruple-doubles have there been in NBA history? Four. David Robinson, San Antonio Spurs (Feb. 17, 1994). Hakeem Olajuwon, Houston Rockets (March 29, 1990), Alvin Robertson, San Antonio Spurs (Feb. 18, 1986) and Nate Thurmond, Chicago Bulls (Oct. 18, 1974)
5. How many no hitters have there been on opening day in Major League Baseball History? One,

Bob Feller, April 16, 1940

6. How many years was Sonny Randle of the St. Louis football Cardinals selected as a first-team All-Pro by the Associated Press? One year, 1960.
7. In what year was the 24 second clock first used in the NBA: 1953, 1954 or 1955? 1954.
8. Which NFL Running Back holds the record for most 200 yard rushing games? O J Simpson, six games.
9. Who holds the all-time football record for the most fumbles in a season? Kerry Collins (2001) and Daunte Culpepper (2002). Both had 23.
10. Who was the first commissioner of the ABA basketball league? George Mikan

Trivia Questions for this month

1. Which NBA superstar is part of the official NBA logo?
2. Which Yankee player was caught stealing to end the 1926 World Series against the Cardinals?
3. Who is the only Hall of Fame Yankee player in its history that never saw Yankee playing action?
4. In what city did Wilt Chamberlain score his record breaking 100 points?
5. Who was the first MLB player to reach 3000 hits?
6. Who was the second MLB player to reach 3000 hits?
7. Which President started the 7th inning stretch tradition?
8. Who holds the all time NFL record for points scored in one game?
9. Who hold the National League consecutive games streak?
10. Who was the youngest Major League Baseball player in history? How old was he?