

February 2011 "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 who would like to receive the newsletter, send their name and email address to [collectingwithjeff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:collectingwithjeff@sbcglobal.net).

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

## Hey guys, get someone else to get that autograph

Name the best place to try to get autographs of baseball players. No brainer. Spring training.

Spring is eternal for baseball collectors. Florida and Arizona are havens for Major League teams, and smart collectors will strategize plans to accomplish much in as little as time as possible. It is a very common scene to see players surrounded by fans, who may not even know who the players are.

I have experienced it myself. Many, many years ago I was the editor of a newspaper in Gilbert, Arizona. The newspaper no longer exists, as it was taken over by one in neighboring Chandler.

I routinely attended spring games in the Phoenix area, and was initially quite surprised to see fans merely walk up to players before, during, and after the game. Real simple. People of all ages, from toddlers to people who looked like they could pass for being centurions, were asking for autographs. I was no exception.

As time went on, this spring rite of players signing for fans has become a bit more sophisticated, but still very popular. Players are a little more hesitant to sign for adult males, believing that they may hear about the balls they sign winding up on eBay. But they continue to sign.

However, collectors, play it smart. Take your wife, girlfriend, mother, grandmother, daughter, or young son, with you and give them explicit instructions as to who you want them to approach for a signature. Still be able to be close enough for you to see who is signing for them in case there is some doubt.

A common approach is to bring several baseballs with you, as well as cards of the players (if you are a collector who prefers signed cards). If possible, use one baseball for each player who is an actual major leaguer. Keep in mind that very often a major league team will split their squad so that they are playing two games in different sites on the same day. Find out where your desired players are that day.

It is tougher to get your signatures nowadays, but it can be done. And the willing players will not

charge you, either.

By the way, whether you get the players' John Hancock, or you ask a surrogate to do the honors, make sure that the player is thanked. The words "please" and "thank you" are most appreciated

Answer to Trivia Questions for last month

1. What was one of the nicknames of Bill [Bradley](#) when he was with the [New York Knicks](#)? Dollar Bill
2. Stan Musial was from Donora, Pennsylvania. What other baseball superstar was also from there? Ken Griffey, Jr.
3. [Antonio Gates](#) of the [San Diego Chargers](#) was a basketball star at which Ohio University? Kent State
4. Cliff Hagan, the [St. Louis Hawk](#) star later became the athletic director at which University? University of Kentucky
5. Which former [Boston Celtics](#) star was a teammate of [Bill Russell](#) at the University of San Francisco? K.C. Jones
6. In 1947, the [Brooklyn Dodgers](#) was the first team to have a black player on its roster, [Jackie Robinson](#). Of those teams in major league baseball in 1947, which team was the last team to have a black player on its roster? The Boston Red Sox
7. Who is the only player in [Major League baseball history](#) to have gotten a hit for each team in a doubleheader between the teams: Hint, he was traded from one team to the other between games.  
Joel Youngblood
8. Which former pennant winning [San Diego Padres](#) manager was inducted into [Baseballs'](#) Hall of Fame in 2008? Dick Williams
9. Which Hall of Famer struck out [Pete Rose](#) in his final at bat in Major League Baseball? Rich "Goose" Gossage
10. What [Major League Baseball](#) team was the first to put numbers on the back of their uniforms?  
The New York Yankees

Trivia Questions for this month

1. Who holds the Major League pitching record for throwing the most consecutive scoreless innings?
2. Who holds the all-time NBA record for most assists in a game?

3. Whose record did LaDainian Tomlinson break for most touchdowns scored in an NFL season?
4. Who was the MVP of the first NBA All-Star game?
5. In which year were there two MLB All-Star games?
6. Who was the losing team in Super Bowl I?
7. Who founded and originally owned the Harlem Globetrotters?
8. Who won the 1941 American League MVP Award? Ted Williams or Joe DiMaggio?
9. Which Major League team has thrown the most no-hitters? Which team is second?
10. Who are the only major league baseball players to have at least 100 home runs for three different teams? *Name the players and the teams. (Hint: All the teams are in the American League)*