

May 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).

Also, we are pleased to announce that Jeff will soon be on national television. Jeff has agreed to host a five minute weekly segment on the PBS show, "Nightly Business Report". His segment will be titled, "The Business of Collectibles with Jeff Figler". He will discuss various types of collectibles, not only just sports collectibles.

In addition, Jeff will be hosting a sports-talk radio show on KTRS 550 AM in St. Louis. Three of Jeff's books are now on the market. At the end of this newsletter is a brief description of each. Also, at the end of the newsletter is an attached order form so that you can order these books via this website.

The following article, Jeff wrote for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### **What's an MVP award worth? For Bob Gibson, \$120,000**

In the summer of 2009, there was an auction in Cleveland of some baseball items of a former player. But you see, that former player was just not any player. No sir, the items that were auctioned were of none other than Pack Robert Gibson, or just plain Bob Gibson. I honestly don't know how Pack came to be his true first name. Probably a family name. All I know is that he is near the top of the list of my favorite Cardinals. Right there with Tim McCarver, Dick Groat and Gene Green. That's right—Gene Green. Naturally his baseball card was green. Look him up if you don't believe me.

Gibson was worth the price of admission. But since I was a youngster when he was a national star, I wouldn't have paid my own admission anyway. His 1968 season has gone down in the annals of baseball history as one of top pitching seasons of all time. And due to his 1968 masterful season, the rules of the game were changed, and the mounds lowered.

I had hoped to see Gibson at the induction of the first class of the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame a few weeks ago, but he was not present.

Seizing on opportunities the past several years, I am fortunate to own a Gibson-signed hat, signed baseballs, programs, figurines, and best of all, a game-used signed 1968 Cardinal jersey.

However, I was not present at the recent Cleveland auction conducted by Legendary Auctions. I wonder why "Hoot" wanted to part with some of his valued items at this time, but I dare say that it is not my business to ask. However, suffice it to say that Mr. Gibson's items did all right. His 1968 Cy

Young Award fetched \$84,000. The 1981 Hall of Fame Induction ring brought in \$30,000. A game-used glove was auctioned for \$9000. C'mon Bob, leave something good for the family. But it was not to be. Gibson's 1968 National League MVP Award went for \$120,000. His 1959 Cardinals contract (his rookie campaign), was auctioned for \$5400. I think you can see that even in this stinking economy, that valuable items command top prices.

Gibson's success with the auction influenced Lou Brock and Curt Flood to try their luck at auction, and they too were successful. But I'll save writing about those two star outfielders for later. For those of you who did not have the distinct pleasure to see Gibson pitch, well, you missed a lot. He is most noted for his 1.12 ERA in 1968, a record that will never be broken, but also for striking out 17 Detroit Tigers in a World Series game, pitching a no-hitter in 1971, having his Cardinals #45 jersey retired, and being selected to the Major League Baseball All-Century Team.

Oh, and should I mention that he played for the Harlem Globetrotters as well.

Gibson's 1959 rookie card is one to be treasured. The picture is not very attractive, but who cares? It's worth several hundred dollars, and more if it is signed. Not bad, especially if you were a kid in 1959, went to Sandler's Drugstore on Delmar to buy a couple packs, as I did, pulled a Gibson card, and held on to it.

Now as for Gene Green.

Answers to the Trivia Questions for last month

1. Who is the only MLB pitcher to throw a no-hitter and hit two homeruns in the same game? Rick Wise of the Philadelphia Phillies against the Cincinnati Reds
2. Where did Wilt Chamberlain attend college? University of Kansas 1957 until 1958
3. What was Notre Dames' record the year that Paul Hornung won the Heisman Trophy? 2 wins, 8 losses. The year was 1956.
4. What is the foul pole affectionately named at Fenway Park? Pesky Pole
5. Which southern Illinois University did Walt Frazier attend? Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois
6. What were the names of the Minnesota Vikings' Purple People Eaters? Bonus: Which one is now a Minnesota Supreme Court Justice? Alan Page, Carl Eller, Jim Marshall, Gary Larson. Alan Page is a Minnesota Supreme Court Justice
7. In which stadium did the Los Angeles Dodgers first play after moving West? The Los Angeles Coliseum
8. Where was Jerry Sloan, the former Utah Jazz coach a small-college basketball star? The University of Evansville

9. Where did Johnny Unitas attend college? University of Louisville
10. Who was the manager of the "Big Red Machine"? Sparky Anderson
11. Who was the pitcher for the Arizona Diamondbacks in their inaugural regular season game?  
Andy Benes
12. Who is the only punter ever to have been selected in the first round of the NFL draft? Ray Guy  
by the Oakland Raiders in 1973
13. Who is the only MLB player to have ever gotten his 3000th hit against a Hall of Fame pitcher?  
Dave Winfield off of Dennis Eckersley
14. Dwayne Wade was a star at which Midwestern University? Marquette
15. Which NFL Team, last season, 2010, led the entire NFL in offense and defense, but did not make  
the playoffs? The San Diego Chargers
16. Which three teams have won the most regular season games from 2006-2110? New England  
Patriots, Indianapolis Colts, San Diego Chargers
17. Which NFL kicker holds the record for the most field goals in a game? Rob Bironas, 8, with the  
Tennessee Titans
18. Who was the head coach of the St. Louis Rams when they won the Super Bowls in 2000? Dick  
Vermeil
19. When was the last year that the Boston Celtics won the World Championship? 2008
20. Where did Derrick Rose attend college? University of Memphis

#### Trivia Questions for this month

1. Which Red Sox pitcher threw the pitch that Mookie Wilson hit that when under the glove of Bill  
Buckner? Bonus: Who was the Red Sox starting pitcher that game?
2. Who holds the MLB all-time National League record for saves in a season?
3. Who was the first Heisman Trophy winner?
4. Where did George Karl, the coach of the Denver Nuggets play college basketball?
5. Carmelo Anthony was a college star for one year at which university?
6. Where did Vince Lombardi coach after he left the Green Bay Packers?
7. Which NFL rusher was the first 2000 yard rusher in a season?
8. Who is the all-time MLB leader in career triples?

9. Who is the all time MLB leader in career doubles?

10. Kobe Bryant is the sixth leading NBA all-time scoring leader. Who are the five players ahead of him?

Bonus: This question is one of the hardest I have ever asked. If you answer it, you really know your sports.

Who is the only MLB player to have ever been ejected from a game without ever playing a game in his career? Hint: He is most noted as being a star player and coach in the sport. If you think you know the answer, please email me and I will announce your name on the on the air. Good luck!!!

Jeff has authored three books in the last couple of years. A description of each is as follows:

### *Collecting for Beginners*

From Bobblehead dolls to refrigerator magnets, pricey porcelain figurines to autographed baseballs, everything, it seems, is collected by just about everyone

*Collecting for Beginners* covers a huge array of topics, including how to care for collectibles, how to help children collect the treasures that they hold most dear, how to collect for the future, and how hopefully collectors should conduct themselves at auctions, both on-site and online. (Yes, there's a lot of "how to" in this richly detailed book.)

Collectors will also find themselves immersed in the astonishing world of celebrities and their collectibles, and they'll discover the secrets to learning the real value of their most cherished items.

*Collecting for Beginners* will tell you all you need to know to get started in one of the fastest growing hobbies in the world.

### *Emerson Auction: Bid High, Bid Adieu*

A, new mystery thriller, "*Bid High, Bid Adieu*" is the swiftly paced story of Roy Emerson, who owns Emerson Auctions, and his attempt to counterfeit one of the most famous – and valuable – baseball cards of all time: the Honus Wagner T206, worth millions of dollars. To accomplish this deed – and to make tens of millions of dollars with counterfeit cards – Roy uses arson, mob muscle, and deadly threats, many of them directed against Larry Dalton, a Philadelphia Fire Department investigator. Larry is the single father of eleven-year-old Miranda, who's dyslexic. The girl also becomes a target of Roy's violent tactics.

### *Poway, California*

This book of Jeff's hometown is about the history of Poway California from the early days to the present. The story of Poway is one of many cultures, of many changes, and of many triumphs.

Today it is a very desirable city in which to live, and raise families, and send children to school; it is home to about 57,000 residents glad to have found the pleasures of living in Poway.