

GARAGE SALES

Sports Memorabilia

If you were a kid in the 1990s, chances are you have a trove of sports collecting cards somewhere in your home. We were told to keep them in pristine shape, because they would turn out to be worth big money someday. But are they? Keep reading to find out.

COLLECTIBLE CARDS

Yes, some of your trading cards are worth real money. A card's value is largely determined by the importance of the player to the sport, SI Live says, and its condition. A survey by eBay recently found that baseball cards increased in value by 73%, but cards from other sports skyrocketed. Hockey cards are up 258%, basketball cards by 373% and — get ready for it — soccer cards are up 1,586%.

Some of the most valuable cards, according to the site, are:

- A 1961 Fleer Wilt Chamberlain No.8 in excellent condition, \$308,000.



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- A 1933 Goudey Baby Ruth No.144 in good condition, \$374,912.

- A 1993 SP Derek Jeter Foil No.279 in excellent condition, \$415,210.

- A 1980 Topps Bird/Erving/Johnson No.16 in excellent condition, \$718,188.

OTHER MEMORABILIA

In addition to collectible cards, other sports memorabilia in your home may be valuable. A Michael Jordan jersey sold Sept. 15 for more than \$10 million. He wore it during the famed “Last Dance” season for the Chicago

Bulls, during their Game 1 loss to the Utah Jazz. Another jersey worn by Wayne Gretzky during his final game with the Edmonton Oilers sold for more than \$1 million in June.

Other eye-popping sales:

- A pair of Michael Jordan's shoes from his rookie season

sold for \$1.47 million in 2021.

- A ticket stub from Jackie Robinson's 1947 debut game sold for \$480,000 in February.

- Pierre de Coubertin's original Olympics manifesto sold for more than \$8 million at Sotheby's in 2019.

- An 1891 copy of the rules of basketball, drawn up by the sport's founder, James Naismith, sold for more than \$4 million in 2010.

BUYING AND SELLING

Whether you're buying or selling sports memorabilia, you need to make sure you're working with a reputable seller, particularly if you think you may have something valuable. Sotheby's, the auction house that handled some of these giant sales, has more than 80 offices in 40 countries. The auction house will give you a free appraisal via photographs submitted online.

Sotheby's said that some of the best-selling types of sports memorabilia are vintage baseball card collections, signed items, jerseys and authentic memorabilia from major sports teams and events. In particular demand, the auction house says, are objects signed by Muhammad Ali, Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, Lou Gehrig, Honus Wagner, Wayne Gretzky and Mark McGwire.

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SELLER'S TIP

Selling On Auction Sites

For items not worth a fortune, you might consider selling them on eBay or other auction sites. A selling guide for sports memorabilia will give you tips and tricks on how to get top dollar for your items as well as what you should ask for your sports gear. You can also get an estimate from a third-party authenticators, professionals that are experienced and can give you an unbiased opinion.

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