



Some strains of the yellow fruit might be headed for extinction

trike it rich

Baseball card collector finds niche in Kirksville

BY ALEX BOLES
Assistant Features Editor

The earliest set of baseball cards dates back to more than a century ago.

Baseball cards, or tobacco cards as they were known starting in the 1870s, were used as a marketing strategy for tobacco companies, according to baseball-almanac.com.

The first sets of well-known cards were named The Old Judge cards and were released between 1887 and 1890, according to the Web site. With baseball anchored as America's national pastime, baseball cards were bound to catch the attention of fans everywhere.

Kirksville resident George Hiatt is one person whose interest was piqued by the cards. Hiatt owns a store on the south end of town called Sport Cards, which also con-

tains High Five, the name under which he sells letterman's jackets to surrounding high schools.

"I opened [the store] in 1990, and, I don't know, I always enjoyed sports, so it was something to do as I was getting older," Hiatt said. "Plus, it was different. Kids liked it. I liked it."

The store offers more than just the typical baseball cards. One can find football, basketball and NASCAR trading cards as well as memorabilia, which Hiatt said most people buy for birthdays and holidays.

Hiatt said he did not collect as a kid because the towns he lived in never had baseball card shops. He said the recent negative media that surrounds baseball and other sports is to blame for the dying hobby.

"With all the steroids and everything that happened to these super stars and the way they live their lifestyle, you know, on the media, it just takes away from it, and then with the baseball strike in



George Hiatt, owner of the Sport Cards store in Kirksville, started a baseball card collecting venue in 1990. He said he sells mostly Cardinal items, and he also sells other sports memorabilia including letterman's jackets.

Mayank Dhungana/Index

'95 [1994] — that hurt it," he said. "Every time something negative happens on television it hurts business, and in this area when the Cardinals win or the Royals or something like that, the Chiefs, it's great, but basically everybody loves a winner."

Hiatt said he sees college students come into the store about once a week and that the most popular items are Cardinals' memorabilia.

"When [the Cardinals] don't win, you know, like this last year when they didn't even get in the playoffs, I mean, business was slow for that," he said. "Actually, we sell school letter jackets because I wouldn't have been able to stay open with just the cards."

He said the market of buying, trading and selling back cards has slowed throughout the years and that he thinks there are not as many collec-

tors as there once were, but he is happy with his business decision.

"I'm kind of glad I did it," Hiatt said. "It hasn't been a real moneymaker, but I stuck it out, and now, you know, it's kind of fun now."

Senior twins Corey and Travis Whitesides have collected baseball cards since they were 5 years old. Corey said he and his brother picked up the hobby from their father who collected when he was younger.

"He had a bunch of good cards, like Mickey Mantle and all those guys, and he was leaving his cards out a lot on the table, and his mom told him to clean them up, otherwise she was going to throw them away, and she went and threw them away because he didn't clean them up," Corey said. "So then, I don't know,

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Hiatt sees college students come in about once a week, but he also gets business from high school students and local residents.

Mayank Dhungana/Index

Highest bids for selected rookie cards on eBay

Famous Cardinals

- \$560 Stan Musial, outfield ('41-'44, '46-'63)
- \$1000 Bob Gibson, pitcher ('59-'75)
- \$750 Ozzie Smith, shortstop ('82-'96)
- \$124 Albert Pujols, 1st, 3rd, outfield ('01-present)

Famous Cubs

- \$600 Ernie Banks, 1st base ('53-'71)
- \$45 Sammy Sosa, White Sox outfielder ('89-present)
- \$77.50 Ron Santo, 3rd base ('60-'73)

Famous Royals

- \$13 George Brett, 1st, 3rd, outfield ('73-'93)
- \$2.25 Bret Seberhegen, pitcher ('84-'91)
- \$2.50 Frank White, 2nd base ('73-'90)



Source: beckett.com
Reporting by Alex Boles/Index



The most valuable baseball card in history is the 1909 T-206 series Honus Wagner card.

Only about 50 of the cards were ever distributed, one of them being passed from Wayne Gretzky to Wal-Mart in 1995 for use in a promotional event. The card was re-sold several times since then, most recently for \$2.8 million in 2007.

Part of the mystery and allure behind the card is why it was pulled from the shelves shortly after its release. Legend has it that Wagner objected to having his image associated with tobacco products, especially when it might influence impressionable children. Another theory, however, holds that Wagner simply didn't receive compensation for his image and forced the tobacco company to pull his card.

Source: baseball-almanac.com, reporting by Nick Wilsey/Index

Student ambassadors enthused about guiding

BY KATHLEEN MEYER
for the Index

On the left, Baldwin Hall. Directly to the right stands Pickler Memorial Library. In front, a student ambassador.

Most people might not know that their tour guide is called a student ambassador, who voluntarily shares his or her knowledge of and experiences at the University.

The student ambassador program consists of volunteer students and is organized through the Office of Admission. The focus of the program is to attract new students through a personal experience with a current student. Jill Graves, the student ambassador adviser, explained the role of the student ambassadors.

"The student ambassador program is designed to give prospective students the opportunity to interact with currently enrolled students," Graves said. "It is a completely volunteer organization. They come in at that same time each week and check to see if there is a family that needs a tour of campus. If there is, then they give the tour, and if no one happens to be visiting at that time, then they can sign in and go on their way."

Graves explained that the students



Krista Goodman/Index

Prospective students and their parents listen to junior student ambassador Rachel Uhlig give a tour of a room in Centennial Hall.

have other responsibilities throughout the academic year, including helping with the visit day events. Students give tours, eat with the families and help make these days run smoothly, Graves said.

Although the ambassadors are volunteers, they must go through an extensive application and interview process.

"We look for students who are involved on campus that have positive things to say about their experiences — of course those are the stories we want to share," Graves said. "We do like to see students who are involved in other organizations because they can talk about those experiences. So people who have kind of encompassed

themselves in the Truman experience are going to be at an advantage for having one of these positions."

Graves said the program also searches for students who do well academically.

"It is a competitive experience with the interview," Graves said. "We are looking for the best to be representatives for the University. We do look for students who are academically successful. We want them to be enjoying their classroom experience as well."

Senior communication major Amanda Hoylman has been a student ambassador since the fall of her sophomore year. She is currently the new membership chair and helps plan visit events as well as organize training sessions.

"When I was a freshman I saw students giving tours, and I'm a student adviser on campus, so I've always liked that interaction," Hoylman said. "I love Truman so much, I was like, 'Let's talk about it.'"

She said she thinks the ambassador program is especially beneficial to potential students.

"It gives them a more personalized experience of what it's like, because you can go look at brochures and look at the Web site and walk around campus, but to gain that hands-on experience and personal information that you get from the student, it's really beneficial," she said.

Hoylman said that besides giving tours and helping out on visit days, the ambassadors have certain qualities that make the experience valuable for newcomers.

"I think the main thing is somebody who is able to communicate about the University in a positive light, somebody who enjoys the University, so they can come and share their experiences with the incoming students and their families," Hoylman said. "Good communication skills, someone who is very personable and easy to talk to and has a knowledge of the University."

Hoylman said she thinks this type of program is unique.

"Having students able to communicate

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"You can add your own special feeling to it, talk about your favorite places on campus as you go."

Alana Webster
Student Ambassador

Around the Ville

Today

9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Jam 'n' Slam

Earth Week planning committee hosts discussion about the environment

SUB Down Under Free



Tomorrow

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Body Art

Residence Life welcomes you to come out and paint your body or paint with your body

On the Quad Free



April 26

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Public Tie-dye

Come join Alpha Chi Sigma to tie-dye shirts, boxers, sheets, etc.

Magruder 1025
\$5 to dye with own shirt
\$10 for shirt and dye

