

READERS WRITE

The Babe Hits the Strip

I purchased your magazine a while back hoping to find a value for a Babe Ruth strip card

(date as indicated by the seller was 1918). The card is not very large (approximately 1 3/8 by 2 1/4 inches) and depicts The Babe throwing, with his name at the bottom of the card. I purchased it about 14 years ago. I was



unable to find it listed in your price guide.

Additionally, is this something that your grading service can grade?

- John Ralls, via Beckett.com

The card you have is from a set referred to as 1920 W522. It is card #48. Values run between \$350 for Ex-Mt to \$135 for Vg-Ex. Judging from the scan you sent us (not pictured here), the torn edge would detract some off of the VG price. There are 20 cards in the set starting with #31 to #50. Little is known about many of the strip card sets, and the exact year may not be 1920. It could be 1921 or even 1919, but it is around 1920.

The W522 set features the same players and drawings used in the 1920 W520 set. They are just numbered differently. The W520 set is numbered 1 to 20 with Ruth being #13. We have included a scan of the W520 (above) so you can compare them. There is a very good chance that the W522 set was a continuation of the W520 set, but so far there has been no link for numbers 21 to 30. These numbers could be cards of movie stars or other famous people, as is common with many of the strip sets. As for the grading part of your question, our grading service currently does not grade any of the strip cards.

- Wayne Grove

Red or Black Wagner

Can you please tell me if the real Honus Wagner card is printed in red ink or black ink on the back? Any help is much appreciated.

- via Beckett.com

Original T206 Honus Wagner cards come with the Sweet Caporal ad on the backs printed in red. There are also two known T206 Wagner cards that

come with a Piedmont ad on the back printed in blue ink. All T206 Wagners that have black ink printing on the backs are reproductions. However, please be aware that there are also reproductions with the backs printed in red or blue. So, just because the backs are printed in either red or blue does not mean that the cards are genuine.

- WG

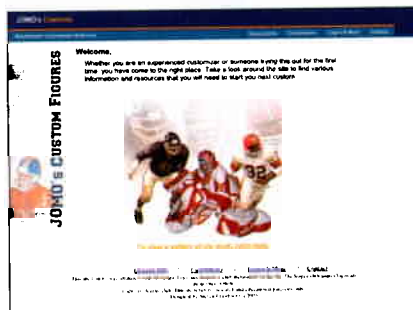
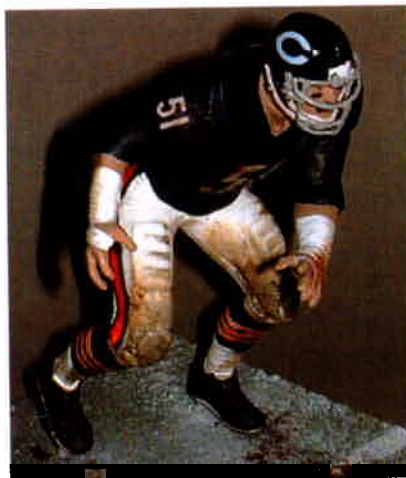
Make Your Own McFarlane

Approximately a year and a half ago, an article appeared in *Beckett Football Card Monthly* about people who repainted McFarlane figures. In that article there was mention of a website. Could you tell me the issue that this article appeared in, or send the website address?

- via Beckett.com

The article you're speaking of - "Who Would've Figured?" - was printed in the September 2002 issue #150 of *Beckett Football Card Monthly*. It gives a brief "how to" guide for customizing your own McFarlane figure.

The website that you mention features tips on



The new craze in action figures is to make your own. The Dick Butkus piece above was created from a Brian Urlacher figure. Learn how to customize your own at www.customsbyjomo.com.

GET YOURSELF IN BSC

Got a question? A hot hobby opinion? A cool story to tell? Let us and the rest of the hobby know. Just send your thoughts to Beckett Sports Collectibles, 15850 Dallas Parkway, Dallas, TX 75248 or shoot us an e-mail at collectiblesmag@beckett.com. All submissions are subject to editing for style and content. And unfortunately, because of the quantity of submissions we receive, we can't respond to each of them personally.

customizing, links to purchase paint and decal paper, as well as contact information of other customizers. The URL is www.customsbyjomo.com. This site is run by customizers and features pictures of finished pieces, such as this Dick Butkus figure, step-by-step tips and many links to other helpful websites. You also can post pictures of your masterpieces on the site to share them with other customizers.

- David Lee

Eye of the Beholder

Over the years I have collected a few hundred 1971 Kellogg's baseball cards that do not have the 3-D coating. In essence, they have the feel of the 1973 Kellogg's set. Anyway, these are definitely unique cards. I have not seen these listed in your annual price guides. Can you please provide any information?

- via Beckett.com

We do not catalog these cards. Although they are unique and unusual, they are basically considered printers scrap and not test cards. Most of the Kellogg's cards without the 3-D coating originated from the dumpster behind the Xograph plant in Grand Prairie, Texas. Many have made their way onto the market, and in a sense they are not much different than wrong backs and blank backs, or any other printing oddities. As such, we do not catalog them.

Their value is arbitrary. Being located in the same general area as Xograph was, we have seen many of these, as well as uncut sheets without the coating from almost every year of the Kellogg's issues. They are interesting oddities. Surely there are some collectors who have interest in them, but secondary market activity is almost non-existent at this time.

- WG