

Sporting Photos
Weekly Times Column
By Warren Joel

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As with most areas of sporting memorabilia it is all about the members of the team and who signed the photograph. With the proliferation of high profile sporting identities that are splashed across our television screens on an almost daily basis we need to weave our way through what is collectable and what is not.

One only has to turn on the cricket or watch the Australian Tennis Open to be bombarded with “limited edition” signed memorabilia. But what will become a collectors’ icon and what will be just another autograph? If we go back to the basics of collecting there are a couple of rules that we need to apply to determine potential future value. One of the key elements is limited edition and I am sorry, but a limited edition of a thousand is not limited. So what you are after is the signed photograph from the player who signs very little.

As mentioned in previous articles many of the touring cricket teams to Australia and the Australian team have signed bats for many, many years. Amongst the collectors’ items are photographs of either the touring team or an individual. The higher the profile of the sportsperson and the more widely viewed the sport the greater future financial return. At the very pointy end would be an Australian team captained by the “Don” during the bodyline series (1932-3). This photo could sell for as much as ten thousand dollars. And as with any collectable it needs to be in good condition.

As you go down the hierarchy of the player and the less appealing sports the financial return diminishes quite rapidly. The cricket bats that will be advertised this summer during the test series will certainly have a resale value but their potential for high returns is diminished by the quantity produced.

Next week: What Do The Numbers Mean?

Free Valuation for Weekly Times readers.

Byjoel will do a free valuation of your collectables via email. If you send a photo and description of your item to valuations@byjoel.com.au I will access the item and respond.

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Warren is a third generation auctioneer and valuer specialising in Art, Antiques and Collectables, accredited by the Commonwealth in 35 different areas of collectables.

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