



ShowCircuit



Deion lets pen do the talking at Tristar Show

BY ROSS FORMAN

There were six Baltimore Ravens helmets waiting to be signed in the backstage area of the Arlington (Texas) Convention Center. Each was to be signed by "Prime Time" Deion Sanders, appearing on the final day of Tristar Productions' three-day show, held Aug. 27-29.

At the time of the show, Sanders would have nothing to do with the Ravens helmets despite the persistent rumors he would end his retirement and be Baltimore bound in the weeks leading up to the show.

He simply signed Dallas Cowboy souvenirs, plus NFL footballs, baseballs, magazines, photos, mini helmets and more.

Just not Baltimore items, at least not yet.

Throughout his appearance, rumors ran wild that he was returning to football with the Ravens. But Sanders was non-committal on the subject, telling one fan, "I cannot answer that," when asked if he was returning to the NFL. Days later, Sanders turned rumor into reality when he inked a deal with the Ravens and officially ended his three-year retirement.

Sanders appeared Sunday at the show along with Glenn Davis (of Heisman Trophy fame, not the ex-major leaguer), Jeff Burroughs, Gino Marchetti, Willie McCovey, Tony Perez, Tony Dorsett, Eddie George, Bob Horner, Steve Owens, Doc Blanchard, Billy Sims, Larry Brown and Walt Garrison.

Also signing autographs at the Tristar show were Yale Lary, Mel Renfro, Josh Rupe, Jason Botts, Ian Kinsler, Steve Carlton, Laynce Nix, Hank Blalock, Francisco Cordero, David Dellucci, Whitey Ford and the Perry brothers, Gaylord and Jim.

"Overall, it was a good show," said Jack Hegwood of J&J Sports Cards. "It was crowded every day and Tristar brought in the right guests for this marketplace."

Said Bill Goodwin of Bill Goodwin & Co. (St. Louis), "I did extremely well and hope Tristar makes Arlington a permanent stop on its show circuit."

Former major leaguers Ron Blomberg and Rick Dempsey also signed at the Tristar show. Blomberg, who was the first DH in baseball history, repeatedly

joked with fans that he "really screwed up the game, huh?!" Blomberg's autobiography, tentatively titled *The First Hebrew*, is due out in 2006, he said.

Steve Carlton was another of the featured signers on Saturday. With his distinct, legible autograph style and courteous nature, Carlton proved to be one of the best show guests of the event.

REVIEW



Walt Garrison

Major Applewhite was, without question, the show's biggest draw when he appeared Saturday afternoon. He signed for two hours straight. Clearly, Texans haven't forgotten the quarterback heroics of the former University of Texas superstar.

Billy Sims, Herschel Walker and Walt Garrison were also popular signers in Arlington.

"It was a good show. Sure, I've had better shows, but this definitely was a good one," said Mike

Williamson of Bryan's Collectibles of Raymore, Mo. "I've seen a lot of new collectors here, and that's a good thing."

Cindy Philpott of Home Run Sports Inc. of Tujunga, Calif., noted the Arlington show attracted an abundance of families, which is something she has not seen much of late on the circuit. "I thought it was a good show. There were a lot of people in the building," she said.

What was hot? Here's a look at the super six products, courtesy of Philpott: 2004 Playoff Absolute Memorabilia Baseball (\$169 per box), 2004 Playoff Absolute Memorabilia Football (\$165), 2003 Bowman Chrome Baseball (\$75), 2004 Donruss Elite Football (\$85), 2004 Topps Football (\$54), 2004 Upper Deck Legends Basketball (\$82).

Jack Hegwood of J&J Sports Cards (Rock Spring, Ga.) also noted solid sales of Playoff Absolute Memorabilia Football. He also praised weekend sales of: Upper Deck Reflections Football (\$95), Upper Deck Etchings Baseball (\$89), Fleer Sweet Signatures Baseball (\$83), Donruss Throwback Threads Baseball (\$79) and Upper Deck SP Game-Used Football (\$149).

Basketball sales were limited in Arlington, while hockey purchases were even more scarce.

Carl Gerjes of T&C Investments of Alvin, Texas, said Scott Rolen, Barry Bonds, Alfonso Soriano and Roy Williams were the most sought-after active players.



Deion Sanders

HIGHLIGHTED SHOWS

- Oct. 3** - Mike Riccio Sports, LLC, Stratford Ramada Inn, Stratford, Conn.
- Oct. 9-10** - Long Island National, Hofstra University, Long Island, N.Y.
- Oct. 10** - Racing & Toy Collectible Show, N.Y.S. Fairgrounds, Syracuse, N.Y.
- Oct. 15-17** - Tristar Collectors Show in Kansas City, Overland Park International Trade Center, Kansas City, Mo.
- Oct. 17** - Downtown Taunton Sports Card Show, American Legion, Taunton, Mass.
- Oct. 31** - Dedham Extravaganza Sports-card Show, Dedham Holiday Inn, Dedham, Mass.
- Nov. 5-7** - 19th Annual Greater Boston Sports Collectors Convention, Wilmington, Mass.
- Nov. 7** - Mike Riccio Sports, LLC, Stratford Ramada Inn, Stratford, Conn.
- Nov. 12-14** - Tristar Collectors Show in Cleveland, I-X Center, Cleveland, Ohio
- Nov. 19-21** - 29th Annual *Chicago Sun-Times* Sports Collectible Convention, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, Ill.
- Nov. 21** - Dedham Extravaganza Sports-card Show, Dedham Holiday Inn, Dedham, Mass.
- Nov. 26-28** - 5th Annual Hartford Holiday Sports Show, Conn., Expo Center, Hartford, Conn.
- Dec. 3-5** - 89th Philadelphia Sports Card & Memorabilia Show, Fort Washington Expo Center, Fort Washington, Pa.
- Dec. 5** - Dedham Extravaganza Sports-card Show, Dedham Holiday Inn, Dedham, Mass.
- Dec. 5** - Mike Riccio Sports, LLC, Stratford Ramada Inn, Stratford, Conn.
- Dec. 12** - West Coast Promotions, Cow Palace, San Francisco, Calif.
- Dec. 17-19** - Tristar Collectors Show in New England, Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlborough, Mass.





Show Circuit

Dave Okon of Triangle Sports Cards of Guasti, Calif., said the Arlington show was "a great buying show," especially for game-used jersey cards. He obtained plenty of Los Angeles Dodgers and Anaheim Angels inserts that he knows will sell in his home market of Southern California, especially cards of Shawn Green, Eric Gagne and Adrian Beltre.

Roger Neufeldt of Sports Memories in Norman, Okla., said his vintage card sales were slow, but he was aided by strong sales of vintage college football program, college bowl programs and vintage basketball programs.

"I continue to be amazed how well 1970s cards continue to sell, especially those in near-mint or better condition," Neufeldt said.

Most notably, stars and commons from 1970-73.

Neufeldt said 1963 Topps is one of the hottest sets around, with high demand for the 1963 cards of Bob Gibson, Ernie Banks and Willie Mays, among others. According to

Neufeldt, 1962 Rookie Parade cards, especially those numbered 591-598, were also in high demand.

Phil Hershey of PJR Sportscards in Grapevine, Texas, noted strong sales of vintage commons and deeply-discounted cards, especially baseball and football relics from 1973-79.

"Those sales were amazing, definitely kind of unusual," he said. "Tristar did a great job and I think Dallas definitely needs a major promoter like Tristar to help cultivate this market. This show was better than most past shows in the area. There were many dealers on site who the local collectors haven't seen in the past."

Tristar's next show will take place in Kansas City, on Oct. 15-17, with Whitey Ford, Harmon Killebrew, Terrell Davis, Carlton, Bart Starr, Bobby Bell and Don Sutton all scheduled to appear.



Eddie George

Show Preview

Irvin headlines Stratford Show

Baseball Hall of Famer Monte Irvin will appear in person at the Stratford Baseball Card and Sports Memorabilia Show on Sunday, Oct. 3 at the Stratford Ramada Inn. Show hours will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with Irvin appearing from noon to 1 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$.99 for children under 10.

Like many great black athletes of his time, Irvin played most of his Hall of Fame career in the Negro Leagues but also won two pennants during his eight years with the New York Giants.

For more information contact: Micael Riccio at 203-364-1209 or go to the Web site at mikericciosports.com or mlriccio@aol.com.

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ODDS-N-ENDS

#1965 Volpe Tumblers: Det. Tigers, Al Kaline (NRMT) \$75.00; Hank Aguirre (NRMT) but 4" cr \$15.00; Dick McAulliffe (NRMT) \$25.00; Norm Cash (damaged beyond repair) \$7.00

#1937 Kellogg's Pop Stamp Panels: (clip on) header #4 w/Duff (Gold), Kerr (FB), Madison (Swim) and Tilden (Tennis) EXMT \$22.00; (NRMT-yellow) also \$22.00; #5 w/Geo. Lott (Tennis), Gabby Hartnett (Base), Frank Thomas (FB), Pomponio (Horse) paper clip mark on header \$20.00; (fringed \$16.00) (NRMT) \$25.00; #6 Billy Herman (Base), Dick Degen (Swim), Cannoner (Boxing), Arnold (Auto Racing) tape damage to header back, paper clip mark \$19.00; Crayton on back \$15.00; #7 Jack Sharkey (Boxing), Bill Shakes Pearce (Notre Dame FB) 1st round draft choice of Steelers, G. Coleman (Swim), Maury Rose (Auto Racing) (NRMT) \$27.00; #12 Stan Madigan (FB), Bill Tilden (Tennis), Ralph Guiland (Gold), Geo. Salkir (Hockey) (NRMT) \$27.00; #13 G. Coleman (Swim), M. Walker (Boxing), Walter Johnson (Base), C. Pangborn (Aviator) (EXMT) \$29.00; #14 Buster Crabbe (Swim), Delphina (Auto Racing), Von Elm (Gold), Fritz Crisler (FB) (EXMT) \$25.00; #16 Diego (Gold), R. Ferrell (Red Sox), Red Grange; Barney Ross (Boxing) (EX+) \$30.00 (NRMT) \$425.00; #18 Extremadior (Horse) Howard Jones (Ohio St. USC), R.O. Williams (Aviator), Sam West (Base-St. Louis Browns), paper clip insert \$199.00; (NRMT-yellow) \$199.00; (Gold \$75.00; (mis-cl) \$125.00; #20 Tris Speaker (Indians) Equipase (Horse), Richards (Tennis), Phelan (U. of Washington in FB), (VG) (well used) \$69.00

#22 Sun Beau (Horse), Delaney (Boxing), 3 Fingers Brown, Red Grange (cr thru 1st 2 stamps) \$350.00 (paper clip marks thru Grange & Delaney) \$250.00

#1937 Kellogg's Pop Single Stamps (NRMT) Mordcazi Brown \$150.00; Bruce Barnes (Track) \$40.00; Jim Corbett (Boxing) \$60.00; Bill Tilden \$50.00; D. Merrill (Aviator) \$20.00; Gallant Fox (Horse) \$15.00; Sun Beau (Horse) \$15.00; Jack Sharkey (Boxing) \$75.00; Luke Appling (W. Sox) \$125.00; R. Ferrell (Red Sox) (ok dmg) \$40.00; Billy Herman (Cubs) \$125.00; Gabby Hartnett (Cubs) \$125.00; Johnny Evers \$175.00; Jim Thorpe \$250.00; Gene Tunney (Boxing) \$75.00; Arky Vaughan (Pirates) (ok dmg) \$55.00; Joe Medwick (Cardinals) \$125.00; Red Grange \$200.00; Bronco Nagurski \$200.00; Jess Willard (Boxing) (dmg) \$7.00; Craig Wood (Gold) \$125.00; Frank Thomas (Alabama FB) \$100.00

#1937 Kellogg's Pop: Album & Games: spot for each stamp & 35 diff. games (diecut), have 3 available, varying degrees of condition \$100.00 to \$225.00 ea.

1960 Union Oil: Lou Clinton (Plainers) (NRMT) \$9.00

1976 Philadelphia Eagles: Jess Hatt (NRMT) \$12.00

1964 Baseball: Pintail game (Steyer Mfg.) (ok11), some wear, good working condition "Play Ball" \$39.00

1976 Rose Bowl: UCLA vs. Ohio St., jigsaw puzzle (comp). Photo is of the stadium w/boydner blimp in foreground (NRMT) \$29.00

1962 Falstaff Beer: Detroit Lions team picture (color-VG) \$29.00

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Arizona Republic: Game photos (8x10) (B&W) c.1990: H. Walker \$7.00; Paul Palmer C. Boys vs. Cardinals (Hill) \$7.00; Jimmy Johnson \$5.00

SHOW SCHEDULE
Oct. 22-24
Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA.