

1987-88 OPC Set of 255

1987-88 O-Pee-Chee Set of 255 (loose stickers)

4 Key Rookie (RC) Stickers

Luc Robitaille, Ron Hextall, Mike Vernon, and Claude Lemieux.

Sticker History

This was the first O-Pee-Chee sticker series where the sticker backs were printed on more glossy cardboard stock than the thinner paper backings of the previous 6 years. There were 168 overall physical stickers to collect. Of those 168 stickers, 88 shared a number with another sticker. Sticker #66 was actually a 2 part sticker (66a and 66b). This is very important as the stickers are listed as #1-255 yet there is a 2 part stickers in there which gives this set 256 different numbers. The traditional sticker package that had to be “ripped” open from their vacuum package, was replaced by wax type packs that were only previously used to encase hockey cards. This was also the first time that the number of packages per box dipped below 50 packs, there were only 48 packs: the fewest to date. O-Pee-Chee distributed these stickers out of London, Ontario in Canada.

Sticker Facts

The size of each full sticker is 5.4 cm X 7.6 cm (2.13 in X 3 in). There were 48 packages in each wax box which originally retailed for \$0.25 per pack. Each package contained 5 stickers. The minimum number of packages needed to make a full set (assuming absolutely no doubles) is 34. The original

album (\$0.45) cover featured Wayne Gretzky and Dave Poulin. The 1987 Stanley Cup winners were the Edmonton Oilers with Flyers Goalie Ron Hextall the Conn Smythe Trophy winner as playoffs MVP.

Season Facts

Luc Robitaille debuted in 1986-87 but was named Canadian Major Junior Player of the Year in 1985-86 2 years after being selected 171st overall in the draft. On November 26th 1986 Borje Sallming is accidentally cut by a skate requiring 200 stitches to his face. Instead of it's annual All Star game, the NHL holds "Rendez-Vous '87" pitting a team of Soviet stars against the NHL's best. Rookie Luc Robitaille won the Calder trophy while rookie Ron Hextall won the Vezina as well as the Conn Smyth Trophy. This was also the year that the Black Hawks (2 words) would now officially be known as the Blackhawks (1 word). Mike Bossy saw his string of 50 plus goal seasons snapped at 9 as he scores only 38 times. Whalers player Doug Jarvis broke Garry Unger's "iron man" record of 914 consecutive games during the 1986-87 season. He would finish his career with 964 games played and never missed a game in his 12 NHL seasons in the NHL.

Expansion Notes

No Expansion notes for this season.

Wayne Gretzky Notes

Gretzky led the league once again in goals, assists and points. Gretzky would beat out points runner up Jari Kurri (108 points) with his assists (121 assists) alone. Wayne captured his 8th straight Hart Trophy and 7th straight Art Ross Trophy. He also won his 5th and final career Lester B. Pearson award after coming runner up to Mario Lemieux the year before. This series featured 5 Gretzky stickers. Wayne scored a season total of 62 goals, 121 assists for a total of 183 points. His points per game ratio for this 79 games played season was 2.32.