

# **1990-91 Panini Set of 351**

## **1990-91 Panini Set of 351 (loose stickers)**

### **4 Key Rookie (RC) Stickers**

Mike Modano, Mike Richter, Curtis Joseph and Mark Recchi.

### **Sticker History**

This was the first year since 1986 that there was only one NHL sticker brand put out on the marketplace. When they first came out, these stickers were quite scarce and hard to find. Sporadically, they would turn up. In the early 2000's many boxes and cases of this product turned up in dollar stores across Canada for a short stint and quickly sold out. These stickers are now starting to dry up but there is still enough unopened product out there and it is readily available. Wayne Gretzky as an L.A. King was featured on the cover of both the sticker album and the black coloured packages and display box. The album had 2 variations. The Canadian version sold for \$0.79 and featured bilingual writing as well as the back promoted the 1990 Upper Deck Hockey Card brand. The American version sold for \$0.99 and featured English only writing with a spread on "The Great One's" (Wayne Gretzky's) NHL records on the back. Panini USA out of New York was the American distributor. No Canadian distributor was named.

### **Sticker Facts**

The size of each full sticker is 5.4 cm X 7.6 cm (2.13 in X 3 in). There were 100 packages in each wax box which

originally retailed for \$0.30 USD/\$0.35 CAD per pack. Each package contained 6 stickers. The minimum number of packages needed to make a full set (assuming absolutely no doubles) is 59. The original album (\$0.99 USD/\$0.79 CAD) cover featured Wayne Gretzky. The 1990 Stanley Cup winners were the Edmonton Oilers with Goalie Bill Ranford the Conn Smythe Trophy winner as playoffs MVP.

### **Season Facts**

The Minnesota North Stars chose Mike Modano from Prince Albert of the WHL as their first overall pick in the 1988 draft. He debuted with the Stars this year and has 2 very nice rookie stickers in this 1990 set. In May of 1989, Alexander Mogilny defected from Russia's Central Red Army and lived out a dream by joining the Buffalo Sabres. This was the year that other prominent Soviets finally joined the NHL including Vladimir Krutov and The Professor (Igor Larionov) with the Vancouver Canucks and Sergei Makarov with the Calgary Flames. Guy Lafleur joins the Quebec Nordiques after scoring 18 goals with the Rangers in his first season back from retirement. Sergei Makarov won the Calder Trophy as NHL rookie of the year at 31 years of age. He was the oldest player in NHL history to win this award. The NHL then declared that a future Calder winner would have to be 25 years or under at the start of the season to qualify for the award. Brett Hull scored a very impressive 72 goals in the 1989-90 season making it the first time that a father and son tandem recorded 50-goal seasons. Paul Coffey scored a very impressive 103 points followed closely by Al MacInnis with a very respectable 90 points.

## **Expansion Notes**

No Expansion notes for this season.

## **Wayne Gretzky Notes**

Gretzky surpassed Gordie Howe's NHL career scoring mark on October 15th 1989 with a 2 goal performance against the Edmonton Oilers. This epic night gave Wayne 1852 points in a measly 780 games. It took Gordie Howe 1767 games to get his 1850 points. Wayne scored 142 points to lead the league in points winning his 8th career Art Ross Trophy. This series featured 2 Gretzky stickers. Wayne scored a season total of 40 goals, 102 assists for a total of 142 points. His points per game ratio for this 73 games played season was 1.95.