

# **1982-83 Topps USA Version Set of 263**

## **1982-83 Topps Set of 263 (loose stickers)**

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

Dale Hunter, Bob Nystrom, Dino Ciccarelli and Kevin Lowe.

### **Sticker History**

This was the first year that Topps distributed hockey stickers USA wide. An O-Pee-Chee version was also made for this year and it featured the same front pictures as the Topps but with a different unique backing. A very interesting note here is that the Topps version of these stickers had 6 stickers per package and the O-Pee-Chee version of these stickers only had 5 stickers per package. This Topps version here had English language only on the backs of the stickers. When finding unopened wax from 1982, it is not uncommon for the glue that held the packages to be coming undone. Topps distributed these stickers out of Westbury New York in the US.

### **Sticker Facts**

The size of each full sticker is 4.9 cm X 6.5 cm (1.93 in X 2.56 in). There were 100 packages in each wax box which originally retailed for \$0.25 per pack. Each package contained 6 stickers (1 more sticker per package than O-Pee-Chee offered from 1982). The minimum number of packages needed to make a full set (assuming absolutely no doubles) is 44. The original album (\$0.25) cover featured Wayne Gretzky. The 1982 Stanley Cup winners were the New York Islanders with Mike Bossy the Conn Smythe Trophy winner as playoffs MVP.

## **Season Facts**

First overall draft pick Dale Hawerchuk makes his debut in the NHL and wins the Calder Trophy as rookie of the year. This was the one and only season that Mark Messier scored 50 goals in a season. Did you know that Rick Vaive played for the Vancouver Canucks in the 1979-80 season as a rookie? Rick Vaive went on to become the first ever Toronto Maple Leaf to score 50 goals in one season. The Stastny trio of Peter, Anton and Marian combine to score a whopping 300 points. Montreal goalie Denis Herron plays only 27 games yet wins the GAA title with an average of 2.64. Winnipeg Jet Doug Smail sets an NHL record for fastest goal scored at the start of a game (5 seconds). Bryan Trottier is runner up to Wayne Gretzky for the Hart Trophy. Billy Smith wins his first and only Vezina trophy edging out rookie Oilers goalie Grant Fuhr. Bryan Trottier leads all playoff scorers with 29 points and Mike Bossy leads all playoff scorers with 17 goals.

## **Expansion Notes**

No Expansion notes for this season.

## **Wayne Gretzky Notes**

Gretzky had a 4 piece sticker puzzle to put together as it celebrated Wayne scoring 50 goals in an astonishing 39 games. Gretzky became only the 3rd player in NHL history to accomplish this feat. Wayne actually scored his 50th goal into an empty net with a sprawling Bill Barber in his Cooper-All gear trying to make a slide save across the blue line. Wayne also set new season records for goals (92), assists (120), points (212) and hat-tricks (10). Another remarkable fact that sometimes goes unnoticed is that Wayne fired off 369 shots in his 92 goal season (an average of almost 5 shots per game all season long). Gretzky shattered his previous seasons goal totals by 37, his assists record by 11 and his points record by an unreal 48 additional points. Gretzky won

his 3rd Hart trophy and his 2nd Art Ross Trophy. Wayne also took home his 1st Lester B. Pearson Award for league MVP as voted on by the players. This series featured 7 Gretzky stickers. His points per game ratio for this 80 games played season was 2.65.