

1983-84 Topps USA Version Set of 330

1983-84 Topps Set of 330 (loose stickers)

4 Key Rookie (RC) Stickers

Pelle Lindbergh, Reijo Ruotsalainen, Phil Housley and Bernie Nicholls.

Sticker History

I get emails constantly from collectors looking for Topps Gretzky stickers #7 (All-Time Leader) and #161 (All-Star) and the answer is they do not exist with a Topps backing. All of the 60 “die cut” stickers that were made in the O-Pee-Chee set were not made with a Topps backing. Stickers #5-14 and #141-190 were not made with a Topps backing, so those 60 stickers do not exist in “1983 Topps”. This was the biggest Topps set to date featuring 2 piece puzzles of at least one player from every NHL team. 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. (except the “Record Breakers” which only have English language on the front). This Topps version here had English language only on the backs of the stickers. When finding unopened wax from 1983, 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. There are 270 actual Topps branded physical stickers in this set. The other 60 stickers in this set are O-Pee-Chee branded stickers that were used instead of making actual Topps branded stickers for the die-cuts. If you are building a set of these stickers the O-Pee-Chee stickers will be included to make a complete set.

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. The minimum number of packages needed to make a full set (assuming absolutely no doubles) is 55. The original album (\$0.25) cover featured Goalie Pete Peeters. The 1983 Stanley Cup winners were the New York Islanders with Goalie Billy Smith the Conn Smythe Trophy winner as playoffs MVP.

Season Facts

Future hall of famer Glenn Anderson contributed 48 goals on the Oilers while Jari Kurri chipped in another 45. Pete Peeters won his first and only Vezina trophy and finished runner up for the Hart Trophy, Rod Langway won the Norris trophy, Goalie Pelle Lindbergh won 23 games as a rookie. Still a player, Bobby Clarke led the Flyers in scoring with 85 points. Mike Bossy recorded his 6th season with at least 50 goals. The interesting note here is that Bossy has only played in the NHL for 6 seasons. Peter Stastny finished behind Gretzky in the scoring title race. Journeyman forward Pat Hughes from the Edmonton Oilers has a 2 piece puzzle in this series for scoring the quickest 2 short-handed goals 25 seconds apart.

Expansion Notes

The Colorado Rockies were purchased by John McMullen and move to New Jersey. The Devils started playing their home games in New Jersey for the 1982-83 season.

Wayne Gretzky Notes

Gretzky was featured 9 times with 2 stickers being the O-Pee-Chee version where Topps versions of them do not exist

#7 and #161 (plus 3 other stickers that do not have him directly on the stickers but are a part of a 4 piece puzzle #19-#21) this set includes his first foil puzzle for being a Record Breaker. Wayne led the NHL in goals with 71 and a new record of 125 assists. Gretzky set a playoff record with 38 points. He did this without scoring a goal in the Finals. Wayne became the first player to win 4 straight Hart trophies for being the most valuable player in the league. He also won his second straight Lester B. Pearson award for being the league MVP as voted on by the players. The Art Ross trophy was awarded to Wayne for the 3rd time. This was the 2nd year in a row that Wayne would fire more than 300 shots with a total of 348 to be exact. This series featured 7 Topps Gretzky stickers. Wayne scored a season total of 71 goals and 125 assists for 196. His points per game ratio for this 80 games played season was 2.45.