

# **1988-89 Topps Insert Master Set of 40**

## **1988-89 Topps Master Set of 40 (loose stickers)**

### **4 Key Stickers**

Wayne Gretzky, Patrick Roy, Ray Bourque and the Flyers Logo with Helmet Stickers.

### **Sticker History**

This was the 4th year that Topps decided to put out an All Star Insert sticker set along with team logos and helmet sticker numbers. This Topps Sticker insert set was commonly referred to as the “Pin Year” set as the design boasted a push pin in each corner giving the idea that this card had already been pinned up. These inserts were the same size as your standard hockey card. Only the Topps NHL Hockey card packages from 1987 contained one of these inserts in each pack. There were 12 All Stars in this set numbered #1-12 and there were 21 NHL teams represented and they were numbered #13-33. There were variations of stickers #27-33 where the logo and helmet stickers alternate from top and bottom.

The 7 variations are found on #27 Devils, #28 Blues, #29 North Stars, #30 Capitals, #31 Bruins, #32 Islanders and #33 Oilers. 1 logo or player All Star per 1986 Topps hockey card package. These were not put into the O-Pee-Chee hockey card packages. In most guides it says that there are 33 stickers, however, with the 7 logo variations, there are really 40 stickers in this set. All of the 12 All Star stickers were stamped with 1988 Topps on the back and were identified with either First Team or Second Team All Star selections. The logo stickers used in the 1988 Topps Stickers

insert set however, are the same 1987 stamped inserts that were also used in the 1987 series. The logos #13-33 are all stamped with 1987 Topps on the back (this is NOT a typo as Topps used the same logo stickers from the previous 1987 year and inserted them into 1988 Topps packs. The Topps Company did not print new logo inserts for the 1988 series, they just used the ones from the year before and inserted them into packs.

Here is the frequency of appearance of the different helmet sticker digits and sticker pucks. The #1 appears 5 times, #2 appears 6 times, #3 appears 5 times, #4 appears 6 times, #5 appears 2 times, #6 appears 4 times, #7 appears 6 times, #8 appears 4 times, #9 appears 6 times and #0 appears 3 times. Sets of 3 sticker pucks appear on 8 total cards so 24 little sticker pucks are available in this set. The toughest digit to find in this set is the "5", the second rarest digit to find is the "0".

The backs of the logo stickers from 1987 and 1988 logo stickers are exactly the same.

For both sticker years; 1987 and 1988, Topps used sticker logo inserts #13-33 with only the 1987 stamp on them. There are no 1988 stamped #13-33 logos that exist. Both 1987 and 1988 stickers have a glossy finish on the backs.

The All Star stickers #1-12 show different players from 1987 to 1988 and are stamped specifically with the year that they came out.

The most obvious difference between the 1988 and the 1989 Topps insert sets are that the numbers are Red on the inside with a blue outline in 1989 whereas the numbers are blue on

the inside and red on the outside in 1988 (in fact the same as in 1985, 1986, 1987 as well).

Sticker #15 Red Wings for the 1989 logo was more diagonal and white on top with more red on bottom whereas the 1988 (stamped as 1987) logo is more horizontal and red on top with more white on bottom.

On the #16 Penguins sticker in 1989, the “R” for Registered Trademark is on the left side whereas in 1988 (stamped as 1987) it is on the right hand side.

For the #18 Flames Insert sticker in 1988 (stamped as 1987) there is a “TM” logo for Trademark and logo has the red yellow red color scheme, whereas in 1989 the logo is just yellow outlined with red and an “R” for Registered Trademark.

The #21 Hawks logo in 1988 (stamped as 1987) had black facepaint, a black earring, feathers that are red, green, gold and orange with a black outline in the feathers. However, The Blackhawks logo in 1989 had red and white facepaint on the face, a red earring, feathers that are red, green, gold and orange but with white/blue, gold, black and white outlines (respectively) in the feathers.

The #22 Kings logo went from purple and gold in 1988 (stamped as 1987) with an “R” for Registered Trademark to silver and black in 1989 (ready for the arrival of Wayne Gretzky) with a “TM” for Trademark.

The #30 Capitals logo in 1988 (stamped as 1987) the “R” for Registered Trademark is under the “C” in Capitals, whereas

in 1989, the “R” for Registered Trademark is under the “I”.

For the #32 Islanders sticker, the puck in the logo in 1988 (stamped as 1987) changed from being white with a touch of blue to the puck in the logo being white on top and orange on the bottom in 1989.

The #33 Oilers sticker had an “R” for Registered Trademark in 1988 (stamped as 1987) whereas in 1989 it had a “TM” for Trademark.

The #28 Blues logo changed altogether. In 1988 (stamped as 1987), the large word “Blues” was written on top of a small musical note that has “St. Louis” written on the top line of it. In 1989, the small musical note got enlarged and the word “Blues” was gone from the logo.

The Flames #18 has a “TM” for Trademark.

The other 20 teams now all have an “R” for Registered Trademark in 1988 (stamped as 1987).

None of the 21 logos are missing an “R” for Registered Trademark or a “TM” for Trademark. So if you are building a set, you will get the 1987 logo stickers to make up the full Topps 1988 set.

### **Sticker Facts**

The size of each sticker was about about 8.9 cm X 6.4 cm (3.5 in X 2.5 in). There was no album made for this set.

