Mickey Mantle's rookie card

Local man gets $16,100 for Mantle card

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The 1952 Mickey Mantle Topps rookie baseball card is probably the most coveted among collectors. Mark and Donna Rubin held it for a month and a half before they sold it on eBay for $16,100.

The Rubins own American Legends, a collectibles shop in Scarsdale. The card was part of a set that was included in a collection they bought. Rubin would not disclose how much he paid for the collection, which had cards from 1951 through last year.

"Personally, I'm not a Yankee fan," said Mark Rubin, a Bronxville resident. "So it didn't mean that much to me."

The collection included the entire second series of the 1952 Topps set. The two-series set was the first with full images, stats, team logos and a facsimile signature. The sold Mantle card was graded a seven (out of 10) — near mint — by Professional Sports Authenticators.

The Rubins put the entire second series on eBay at the same time. The Mantle card climbed above $15,000 after the first day and more than 5,000 people viewed the card.

The Willie Mays rookie card is also in the 1952 set, along with legends such as Jackie Robinson, Yogi Berra, Gil Hodges and Roy Campanella.

Ken Horton, 37, of Brownstown, Ind., needed the Mantle card to complete his 1952 set. When he saw the auction on eBay the bid had already risen to more than $16,000.

"I thought, 'I'm not going to get this,'" Horton said. "It was going to exceed my price range."

But someone canceled a bid and that brought the price down to about $15,000.

Before buying the Mantle card, Horton never paid more than $1,200 for a card — a 1933 Goudey Babe Ruth.

He once sold a 1953 Topps Mantle for $700. Horton said he has been trying to get the 1952 card for about two years.

"I'm going to keep it in my set," he said. "I have no plans to sell it at all. I've been looking for it for so long."