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Minor League Baseball Card sells for \$16,400

Multi-billion dollar hotels and casinos are built in Vegas to take your money. Even though Las Vegas remains a large tourist attraction, they do not exist for you to make money. Slot machines brag about their huge 98% payouts. This number is very close to 100, but when you are dealing with billions of dollars, two percent is a large amount of money the casino profits.

Several people last week took a large gamble on a minor league baseball pitcher that has yet to throw a single pitch in a Major League Baseball game. The number one draft pick by the Washington Nationals is Steven Strasburg. He is currently dominating batters' in the minor leagues and he is scheduled to make his MLB debut on June 8th. An auction on Ebay just ended with his 2010 Bowman non autographed card selling for \$16,400 and 84 bids. Somebody with deep pockets and a passion for rolling the dice purchased this card. There are currently too many unknowns to pay sixteen thousand dollars for a minor league baseball card. It is hard to believe that a Minor League Baseball card can sell for more money than a 1933 Goudey Babe Ruth card in excellent condition.

Growing up in Chicago, I remember Mark Prior and Kerry Wood were the "phenom" stars that were going to take baseball by force. I still remember the day in 1998 when Kerry Wood had a twenty strikeout game. The worldwide audience was amazed and said he was a freak of nature. After the game, Kerry Wood talked to the media and he was shaking uncontrollably. He had just pitched the game of his career. The price of his baseball cards skyrocketed immediately and several dealers began to hoard his rookie cards. Unfortunately, 1998 was the highlight of his career and it began to go downhill from there. He was frequently injured and moved from the starting rotation to a closer role. He did have some success as a closer, but injuries again sidelined him. Former Chicago Cub Mark Prior was also the toast of the town and his baseball cards were selling for astronomical prices when he was first brought up from the minors. His career path was similar to Kerry Wood's. He was always injured. He spent more time on the injured list than on the playing field.

In 2012, I will follow up this posting and see what the verdict is for Steven Strasburg. I wish the young man the best of luck. If he is the best pitcher in the league next year, the gambling man who spent \$16,400 on the card will be able to make a profit on the card. In order to make a profit, you need to sell when he is on the top of his game. Once the velocity and his numbers start to tail off, the bidders are no longer interested in the card and you are sitting with a large loss. You are probably better off in Vegas than investing in the Strasburg baseball card.