



PANINI

**CHASING
PARALLELS
AND INSERTS**

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CHASING PARALLELS AND INSERTS

Sports trading cards first began circulating in the 19th century when cigarette and candy companies started including baseball cards with their products to drive sales. With more than 150 years of history, it's safe to say these collectibles have changed, and some people may not be fully aware of all of the exciting features trading cards have nowadays. That's what we're here for. From base cards to parallels to inserts and everything else in between, you can consider this your quick guide to everything you need to know about sports trading cards in the modern world.

First up are what we call "base cards." In the world of trading card collecting, base cards are the standard versions of a card within a specific set. These base cards generally have the primary artwork, player image and statistics from the players' most recent season, or from their career if they're a retired legend. In short, base cards are the most streamlined version of any given trading card, and probably what first comes to mind when you think about sports cards.

On the other hand, "parallels" are special versions of base cards. These parallels feature unique designs, colors and finishes that take the standard base cards and elevate them, making them even more distinct. Parallels make the base cards special in a variety of ways, including rarity, design elements and numbering.

On the rarity end of things, parallels are typically produced in smaller quantities compared to base cards, making them even more valuable for collectors who hope to add unique cards to their collections. When it comes to design elements, parallels tend to offer different colors, borders, foil finishes, die cuts or autographs than the typical base cards. Finally, the numbering of parallels indicates their print run, such as "1-of-50" or "1-of-1," which specifies and enhances the value of the cards.

Some of Panini's most notable parallels include Black 1-of-1s and First Off the Line (FOTL) cards.

Unlike parallels, "inserts" are special, distinct cards that are not part of the base set at all. These cards tend to feature special themed designs and biographies that reflect the brand they belong to. Inserts are often significantly different from base cards in design and content, thus making them increasingly valuable and highly sought after.

Among the most well-known Panini inserts are Color Blast, Downtown and Kaboom!.

That's pretty much everything you need to know about the different variations available in modern sports trading cards. So, whether you're after some of the most special and rare cards out there or simply trying to bolster your collection with some classic base cards, you're prepared to hit the market and locate exactly what you've been looking for.



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