



SPORTS CARD

INVESTMENT REPORT

WHY YOU SHOULD BUY MIKE EVANS NOW

Contributed by Joe Ayers aka Mosaic Joe

With the seventh pick in the 2014 NFL Draft the Tampa Bay Buccaneers select Mike Evans, Wide Receiver, Texas A&M, passing on O'Dell Beckham Jr. and Brandin Cooks.

Evans is brought on as an immediate #2 wideout behind 10-year veteran Vincent Jackson, who was coming off of 3 consecutive 1,000-yard seasons. Evans and Jackson were identical at 6'5" 230 lbs. and the duo would gain the nickname Twin Towers from Tampa Bay's general manager Jason Licht. Both receivers gained 1,000 receiving yards in Evans 2014 rookie season, but this would be the last for Vincent Jackson. Jackson was plagued with injuries over the next two seasons and would retire following the 2016 campaign due to a torn ACL in week 6. Mike Evans became the #1 target for the Buccaneers and he has retained that position since.

Today, Mike Evans is the first receiver in NFL history to begin his career with 9 consecutive 1,000-yard seasons. Evans has 337 yards through week 4 of the 2023 NFL season and at this pace Evans should surpass 1,000 yards by week 12. He is about to have his name written in the history books with the likes of Randy Moss and Jerry Rice, and he will have done it faster than both.

Should he earn his 10th straight, he will be tied with Randy Moss for 2nd in career 1,000-yard seasons. Moss began his career with 6 consecutive. The GOAT, Jerry Rice has 14 career 1,000-yard seasons out of his 20-year career. Weird fact, Jerry was 73 yards away from having 1,000 yards in his rookie year. Had he achieved 1,000 yards that year, Jerry would have begun his career with 12 consecutive 1,000-yard seasons.

Mike Evans is now playing with his 7th different starting quarterback. In 2014, he had Josh Freeman for 11 games and Mike Glennon for 5. Evans had Jameis Winston for two consecutive full seasons in 2015 and 2016. In 2017, Winston started 13 games, being limited by a nagging shoulder injury which allowed Ryan Fitzpatrick to start 3 games. Then in 2018, Winston would only start 9 games and Fitzpatrick would start 7. Winston would go on to start the entire 2019 season, which was his final season with the team. Then the Tom Brady years from 2020-2022. Now Evans has Baker Mayfield at the helm in 2023.

Maybe having the greatest quarterback in the history of the game has overshadowed the personal accomplishments of Mike Evans over the last 3 seasons. It is understandable, Brady coming out of retirement, hinting at retiring again and then actually retiring again was the football story everyone heard about ad nauseam for the past three years. Then the whole Antonio Brown blow up. Oh yeah, and how about Brady and Gisele going through a divorce. Mike Evans who?

Through all the quarterbacks and the outside distractions, Evans has been consistently the #1 target and has produced as such. If he earns his 10th consecutive 1,000-yard season this year with Baker Mayfield there will be no denying him. Statistically, Evans will be talked about among the greats forever.

The Mike Evans 2014 rookie card market is prime for making a play in anticipation of his imminent career milestone moment. A great thing about 2014 is that Evans has a lot of great rookie card options as both Topps and Panini had the licenses to produce licensed products. That means he has rookies in products like Panini National Treasures, Flawless, Immaculate, Prizm and Contenders as well as Topps Inception, Triple Threads, Museum Collection, Chrome, Finest, and Platinum.

This is where the collector in me feels that it is the buyer's decision on which card to invest in. Any of the sets mentioned above are great options. Flawless and National Treasures will have much higher entry points than many of the others. It is all on how you collect and how much you are willing to invest in Mike Evans. My strategy is to target PSA 10 Prizm autos and PSA 10 Topps Chrome Autos for under \$200 at shows using younger more volatile players as trade bait.

As I write this article, Mike Evans just left the game with a hamstring injury. Comical, but do not worry. There was no play stoppage for the injury and he walked off under his own power. It's being labeled as a hamstring injury.

The Mike Evans buy window may only last 3-4 more weeks. With every yard he gains the more his story will begin to flood into the mainstream. This is something the NFL will be unable to avoid. He may not be the big sexy name in the game but he is about to become a legend. Get in while you can.

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Mike Evans

MIKE EVANS

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