

You've seen thousands of logos. What's the most unusual one that comes to mind? The Puerto Rican *Coquis* (frogs) of the Continental Basketball Association. The team was in existence from 1983-1985, and there is very little merchandise with its logo. There are also some very interesting ones from the Women's Basketball League (1979-80) and from the World Tennis Team (1973-79). The WTT had what I consider to be the all-time worst logo ever created. It represented the San Diego Friars, using a padre in a robe with a tennis racket-shaped face.



Above: The CBA's *Coquis* (kō-kēz') had an entertaining logo. Below: The CFL's Toronto Argos of 1964 had a unique logo, as well.



Fulguro's favorite

Do you have a favorite? I prefer those issued before 1980, and my favorites are centered around the defunct leagues: the ABA, the old WTT and the WBL. If I had to narrow it down to one, it would be the ABA Pittsburgh Condors. It's a funny condor caricature - who knows why, but I love it.

You said you also collect helmet decals. Do you have some of the ones we're seeing every Sunday in the NFL's 75th anniversary throwback games? I have several old AFL helmet decals, including the "red" buffalo of the Bills and the Cincinnati decal that reads "Bengals." Recently I picked up a prototype 49er helmet decal that was proposed a few years ago but was never adopted, and I also have complete sets of USFL and WFL helmet decals.



This was the logo of the United States Football League's Michigan Panthers (1983).

Is there a point when you say 'There, I have them all?' or 'That's enough'?

No, not at all. Like many collectors, my goal is to have the largest, most diverse and most complete decal/sticker collection in the world. It is a constant challenge to keep up since many leagues and teams - especially in the minors and lesser-known leagues - come and go or change their logos frequently.

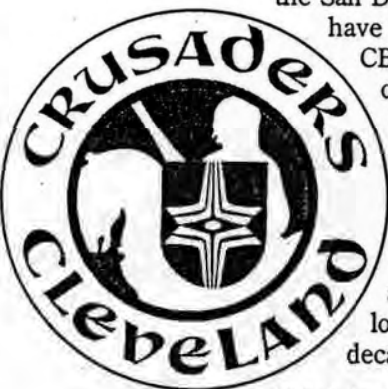


Do you have any frustrating searches with which *Pakrat's* readers might help?

The most elusive decals for me have been the NBA's Cincinnati Royals (1958-72) and the San Diego Rockets (1967-72). In all my years of collecting I have yet to see a bumper sticker or decal with these logos.



CBA teams are also difficult. Most operate on a shoestring, lasting only a year or two, and decals are not a priority. The Kansas City Athletics are the most difficult baseball decal.



Are you ever surprised, or do you pretty much know all the logos by now? It's still exciting. I'm always thrilled when I find a logo, decal or bumper sticker I've never seen before. Often I didn't even know they existed. For instance, my collection now includes 20 different California Angels decals and stickers. The Angels have only been around for about 28 years - not a long time as far as baseball teams go. I thought I must have all the different decals, then in August I discovered one at a show that was completely new to me.

What is the hardest part of compiling your collection? As I got into decal and sticker collecting, I initially encountered difficulty with the identification of older decals, as well as those from more obscure leagues. When I asked others, they often didn't know, either. Part of the fun and challenge continues to be the identification of logos and decals I receive. Sometimes I come up with some interesting surprises. For instance, I was able to pick up a couple of ABA Oakland Oaks decals, and later I learned that the team was only in existence for two seasons, from 1967-69!



Above left: the Cleveland Crusaders were a World Hockey Association team from 1972-76. Above right: The Milwaukee Does played from 1979-80 in the Women's Pro Basketball League. Near right: part of Fulguro's extensive bumper sticker collection, featuring pro basketball teams such as the CBA's Rapid City Thrillers, Topeka Sizzlers and Birmingham Bandits.