



1000+ Monthly Hits

Where's
Your Ad?

Click & Advertise Now!

[Home](#) [Enter Contest](#) ["How To" Definitions](#) [Topic Index](#) [Free Email](#) [Msg Board](#)
[Current Issue](#) [Archives](#) [Addresses](#) [Chat](#) [Contact Us](#) [Links](#) [Calendar](#)
[Event Reports](#) [Submit an Article](#) [What's Been Said](#) [Advertise With Us!](#)

Reader's Gem: Greg Lemond Signed Photo

-Joshua Platt

josh@nbci.com

Growing up, I logged hundred of miles on my 12-speed, participated in an occasional organized race, and idolized America's three-time winner of cycling's most grueling event, the Tour de France. So, when Greg Lemond was inducted into the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame in Somerville, NJ, not far from my home, I jumped at the chance to get the autograph of the man who was once considered the world's greatest athlete.

On June 3, the new hall-of-famer and New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman led more than 200 cyclists on a 20-mile "fun ride" through Somerset County. Guessing there would be pre-race photo-ops, I decided on a stake out -- a first in my collecting experience -- as the best way to meet my childhood hero. In the week before the induction, I doggedly tracked down a photo to present to Lemond for signing and plotted my strategy.

On race day, I placed myself to the left of the Hall of Fame building's door, next to camera crews assembled to cover the event. At 9:30 A.M., ride organizers began moving the cyclists to a staging area, more than a block away from where I was standing. At this point, my growing hope turned to concern.

"Move down the block," officials urged the riders and gathering throng on onlookers. "There's no need to crowd Greg, he'll be signing autographs at the end of the race."

Normally I'd be thrilled to wait my turn later in the day, but I'd already committed to attending a baseball card show at which baseball greats Tom Seaver and Mike Schmidt would be signing.

<http://www.theautographreport.com/reviews/080100/readersgem.html>



Greg Lemond
Signed Photo

A reader in Bedminster, NJ writes in about his "Gem," and his experience meeting one of his childhood heroes... [More...](#)

Find out how you can [submit your "gem"](#) to be seen in this column.



Joshua Platt:
Bedminster, NJ

This month's profile comes to us from New Jersey. Joshua tells us what it's like to work with celebrities everyday... [More...](#)

10/5/00

Nervous I'd be thwarted in my opportunity to get Lemond's autograph, I pressed closer to the door. Then, a cameraman asked me to get out of his shot, and I was forced to shift to the right side of the entrance. As it turns out, moving to accommodate the cameraman's request made all the difference.



The Race is on!
Greg Lemond Signed Photo

As the hall-of-famer cyclist and his team exited the building, Lemond turned in my direction to speak with the event organizer standing beside me. I saw my opening, and figuring it was no or never, I took my chance.

"Greg!" I shouted, thrusting my Sharpie and photo forward. "Would you mind giving me an autograph?"

"I'm signing after the race," Lemond told me with a smile.

"I know," I replied, anxiously. "But I can't stay."

Pausing just a few seconds to consider the situation -- it seemed to last forever -- Lemond gave a slight, but understanding nod, accepted my pen, and signed the photo. Success! The entire encounter took less than fifteen seconds.

Lemond then moved into the crowd of officials and dozens of bicycle police providing security for the governor. The suddenly popping flash bulbs made me realize I'd been so star-struck that I'd forgotten to take a picture. Running to the front of the crowd, I began snapping away in an

effort to correct my earlier error. Finally, in awe of my good fortune, and not wanting to be late for the baseball signing, I smiled with glee at my latest acquisition, pumped my fist in the air, and headed out on my next autograph adventure.

About the author:

I began collecting autographs of football players in 1986. While covering news stories as a newspaper, radio, TV and Web journalist over the last seven years, I've had the opportunity to meet and get the signatures of numerous authors, politicians and some of the fellow journalists I admire, but I never considered myself a serious collector. In February, I attended a baseball card show where the New York Yankees perfect game pitchers were signing autographs. The opportunity to meet Don Larsen, David Wells and David Cone, and to have the trio autograph a baseball, rekindled my interests. I'm now diligently working on acquiring the signatures of my favorite authors, baseball players, broadcasters, cartoonists, and television and film stars. Some of my recent by-mail successes include: John Sterling and Michael Kay, WABC radio broadcasters for the New York Yankees; Walter Cronkite, the former anchor of the CBS *Evening News*; Matthew Broderick, actor in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, among many other great films; Clive Cussler, author of more than a dozen best-selling adventure novels; and, Mike Farrell, a cast member on *M*A*S*H*, one of TV's all-time greatest shows.



Copyright ©2000

[The Autograph Report](#). All rights reserved.