

2020 PANINI FLUX · CARD #202

Anthony Edwards

Blue Cracked Ice — a rookie card

2020 Panini Flux #202 · Blue Cracked Ice

What this is

A written record of one card, kept for the person it belongs to — what it is, where it came from, and who was there. The last pages are blank because that half is written by hand, and it is the half that will matter most later.

SET	2020 Panini Flux
CARD	#202
YOUR EXAMPLE	PSA 10 · certificate ••••••••
VERIFY IT	psacard.com/cert/ — withheld on this sample

THE STORY

Why this card

Anthony Edwards was the first player chosen in the 2020 NBA draft, and this is a card from his rookie season with the Minnesota Timberwolves. He was nineteen. He had played one year at Georgia, and before that he had grown up in Atlanta, in a family that lost his mother and his grandmother to cancer within eight months of each other when he was fourteen. He has said, more than once, that he plays for them.

The draft he came out of was unlike any other. The 2020 season had been suspended in March, finished inside a sealed campus in Florida with no crowds, and the draft itself was pushed from June to November and held remotely — no stage, no walk, no handshake. Players found out at home, on camera, in their living rooms. Every rookie card from that year is a card from a season the sport nearly did not have.

The pattern on this one is called Cracked Ice. It is a foil treatment that fractures the light into what looks like shattered glass, and Panini prints it in several colors — this is the blue. A card printed this way is called a parallel: the same photograph and the same design as the ordinary version, made in far smaller numbers. Most people who opened Flux that year got the plain one.

PSA has graded this card GEM MT 10 — their highest grade, meaning that when they examined the corners, the edges, the centering and the surface, they found nothing to mark it down for. Of the 161 they have seen in this grade, none has ever been graded higher, because there is nothing higher.

What makes a card scarce

Scarcity in cards is rarely about age. It is about how many were made, and how many survived in good condition. A parallel like this one is scarce by design — the printer decided, before anyone opened a pack, that there would only be so many. The grade is the other half: plenty of these were printed, far fewer came out of a pack and through thirty years of handling with every corner still sharp. This one did.

HOW IT CAME TO BE YOURS

The day itself

Both of you were there. This is the page that remembers the room.

Where we were

The show, the shop, the day. Who came with us.

How it happened

Sometimes a card is chosen. Sometimes it is won.

What else was on the table

You could have had any of them. This is the one you reached for.

What you said

The first thing out of your mouth.

FROM THE PERSON WHO GAVE IT

In your words

Your voice, to them — written once, read for a long time afterwards.

Why this card, for you

What I was like at your age

What I collected, what I chased, what I lost track of.

What I hope you do with it

Keep it, sell it, hand it on — all of them are fine. Here is what I hope.

Something I want you to know

It does not have to be about the card.

IN THEIR OWN HAND

For them to fill in

Left blank on purpose. They may write here at fifteen, or at forty, or never — and a blank page addressed to a child is a small act of faith that they will come back to it.

Why I picked it

What I knew about them then

Who Anthony Edwards was, the year this became mine.

Who I told

Where I kept it
