

THE LINK

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World series winner in April?

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Jeff Reardon, Scott Sanderson, Steve Carleton and Vida Blue were the major figures in a trade announced recently between St. Louis and Baltimore. Altogether 26 players were traded between St. Louis de Ha-Ha and the Baltimore Orioles.

If you are confused it's because these players and teams are actually part of the Concordia Tabletop Baseball League (CTBL), an organization at Concordia since 1972.

The CBTL plays a type of baseball known as Strat-O-Matic, in which each player is represented by a card keyed to their performance in a given major league season, in this case 1980. The better a player is, the better the card will be, so that an André Dawson will out-hit a Rodney Scott. Defense counts too, with each player getting a fielding rating.

There are 14 teams in the CBTL, which plays a 76-game season stretching from October to April. Members of the CTBL manage to keep their season in the proper perspective of academia, despite the conflicts.

"The first week of exams should be the World Series," said league President Andy Rudnick, owner of the Reckless Rudies, which are in fifth place in Division B. The top two teams in each of the two divisions enter the playoffs, plus three wild-card teams.

A second-year-Engineering

student, Rudnick, has been involved in the league since he entered Concordia. He's been playing Strat-O-Matic baseball since high school.

It costs each team \$20 to play a CTBL season. This money goes mainly towards purchasing the players and holding the annual draft, held this season at the Ramada Inn downtown. Left-over money if any, is used to buy a trophy or pay for a closing banquet.

Each club drafts 32 players, 25 for their major league roster and seven for the minor league roster. The top pick in this year's draft was George Brett of the Kansas City Royals. He had a phenomenal 1980 season which brought him within a few hits of batting over .400.

Gary Carter, drafted seventh, was the top Expo picked. For trivia buffs, Terry Kennedy, then of the St. Louis Cardinals, was the last player drafted, number 448 overall.

The teams are then free to make trades, although these are limited to 10 per season, with no more than two involving the same clubs. To protect the level of competition in the league, all trades have to be approved by both the President and the Commissioner.

League Commissioner Robert Guignard, owner of the Scorpions, recently vetoed a trade in which one club, realizing that they had no chance of making the play-

offs, traded all their good players to try to alter the final outcome of the season.

Guignard, is in his third year at Concordia, in Commerce, as well as his third year in the league. But the experience isn't helping, the Scorpions are in sixth place in Division B, a long way from the play-offs.

The veteran of the CTBL is Chuck Stein, co-owner of the Amazing Aces, who has been in the league since its inception. None of those interviewed knew too much about him, although there was some speculation that he had once been a Concordia student.

Most of the league members are involved in other sports. Commissioner Guignard, for example, plays Strat-O-Matic football and basketball in the off-season.

Standings

Division A	W	L	Pct	GBL
Zeber's Supersonics	29	15	.659	—
Oakland A's	27	17	.613	2
Expos	16	12	.571	5
Amazing Aces	24	24	.500	7
Booth's Bums	30	38	.441	11
Baltimore Orioles	20	28	.416	11
Partisans	11	25	.305	14
Division B	W	L	Pct	GBL
Cleveland Shams	22	14	.611	—
Golden Gaels	17	11	.607	1
Brewers	16	12	.571	2
Cannons	15	13	.535	3
Reckless Rudies	29	27	.535	3
Scorpions	15	25	.375	9
St. Louis de Ha-Ha	9	19	.321	9