

## And 2,160 games later...

By DAN EILTS  
(Sports Editor)

Dave Knutson has always loved baseball. He's always loved statistics.

The game of Strat-O-Matic baseball has been a perfect way to pass the time for Dave in his bedroom over at 1276 Phelps Street.

Strat-O-Matic is a dice baseball game based on actual statistics of the major league players. Those who play Strat-O-Matic assume the role of the manager — making out the lineups, changing pitchers, using pinch-hitters, giving the steal signs and so forth.

Dave purchased the game five years ago and was hooked on the game. So he decided to embark on a giant experiment.

He began playing the entire 1981 baseball season on his game board using the statistics of the 1980 season provided by Strat-O-Matic.

Two years and 2,160 games later, Knutson finally finished the '81 schedule last week.

The division winners were Montreal in the National League East by a game over Philadelphia, Houston by a whopping 23 games over Cincinnati in the N.L. West, Milwaukee by three games over Boston in the American League East and Kansas City by five over Oakland in the A.L. West.

Knutson plans on playing out the league playoffs and World Series. Houston, which had a phenomenal 109-53 record, had been pegged as the favorite.

The Cubs and Sox? Both finished at the bottom of the heap in their respective divisions. The Cubs were 62-100 and the Sox 61-101.

The Cardinals were third in the N.L. East with an 84-78 record.

REMEMBER, 1981 was the year of the strike. The Phillies ended up winning the N.L. East and the Dodgers the N.L. West with the Dodgers winning the league pennant and the World Series.

The Yankees and A's emerged as division winners in the A.L. The Yankees beat Oakland in the playoffs, but lost to the Dodgers 4-2 in the World Series.

Knutson says he averaged about 10 games a week. A game takes about 20 minutes if you play by yourself and between 40 and 45 if you're playing against somebody.

"It's really made for two people, but in order to play the whole season, I had to play a lot of the games myself," said Knutson. "Yeah, at times it got boring. But I wanted to play the whole season so I kept plugging away."

Knutson says he'll now go back and compile

individual statistics. He's sure Mike Schmidt of the Phillies will be the major league home run leader for his Strat-O-Matic season.

"There were three no-hitters, one by Doyle Alexander then with Atlanta, one by Danny Darwin of Texas and one by Mike Norris of Oakland.

"And in one game Steve Garvey (then of the Dodgers) hit four home runs and added a double."

Knutson also played an all-star game. Of course, the National League won 4-3. But it took 10 innings.

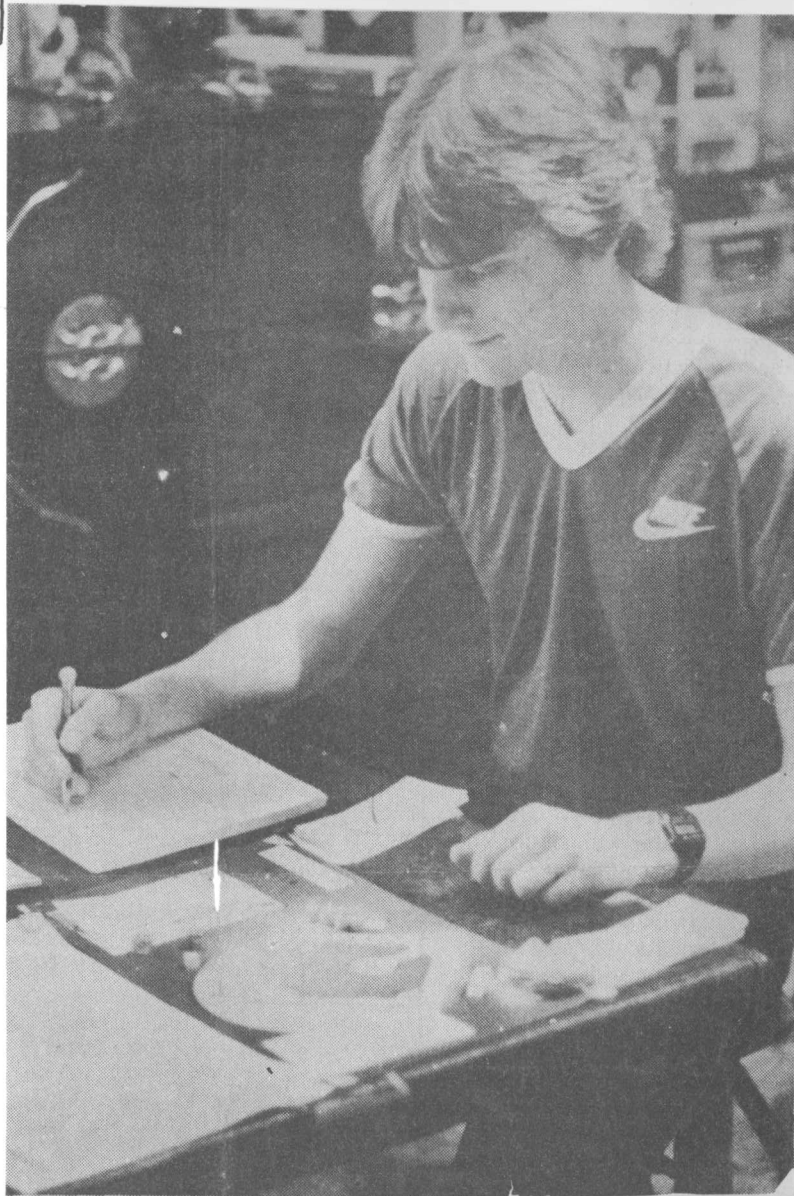
"THE GAME is very realistic," said Knutson. "I think it's the best of its kind on the market. Anything is possible. Players and managers get kicked out and there are injuries.

"I guess the only thing not real is a manager yelling, 'Let's get a six (on the dice).'"

Knutson said his busiest schedule was one day when he played 15 games.

"It's a time killer. It's better than watching TV," said Knutson. "I really get into baseball and stats, so it's a perfect way to pass the time for me."

The Astros won 109 games, huh? Knutson says he's not an Astro fan. But hey, maybe the Houston organization had better check into Dave's strategy for success.



Dave Knutson of Ottawa played an entire baseball season on his Strat-O-Matic dice game. The 2,160-game season took two years to complete. (Daily Times