

Strat-O-Matic News

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Winter 2011

Let's Get This Party Started

Year-long 50th Anniversary Celebration Begins Feb. 12

Batting Leadoff: Opening Day in NYC

Many will be wearing the 50th anniversary T-shirt. Some will be interviewed by TV, radio and newspaper reporters. Celebrities and lesser-known gamers alike surely will be featured in the forthcoming video documentary. And one will be crowned the "Ultimate Strat-O-Matic Fanatic" for extreme devotion when the Strat-O-Matic universe convenes in a unique Opening Day to celebrate the company's golden anniversary.

For the first time, Strat-O-Matic will move its legendary baseball Opening Day activities from Long Island to Manhattan for a full day of festivities and the annual unveiling of the new baseball cards and computer rosters.

This time, Strat-O-playing former Major Leaguer Doug Glanville, stat master John Dewan and other celebrities will join Strat-O-Matic creator Hal Richman for special presentations and mingling with gamers. This time, the doors to the Community Church of New York at 40 East 35th St. will open at 7:30 a.m. (not the traditional 1 p.m. at SOM headquarters) for registration.

All who register by 9 a.m. will receive collectible, replica samples of cards created by Hal Richman before his future dice game captured the imagination of millions. These cards, displayed in the book *Strat-O-Matic Fanatics*, relied on playing cards rather than dice to activate the results on batters and pitchers.

continued on Page 4

Batting Cleanup: The 2010 MLB Season

In this case, all that glitters is golden. The baseball season Strat-O-Matic re-creates for its golden-anniversary year reveals a 2010 Major League shining with underdog heroes, sensational rookies, veteran sluggers and no-hit pitchers.

The World Series featured two cities that had never won one. San Francisco, which did not win enough to qualify for the post-season until the final weekend of the regular season, won its first World Series since the Giants moved from New York 53 years earlier. The Texas Rangers, who made their debut 38 years earlier, played in their first World Series.

Both teams had rookies of the year, Giants catcher Buster Posey (.305-18-67 in 108 games) and Rangers closer Neftali Feliz (40 saves, sub-1.00 WHIP, 71 Ks in 69 IP). Texas gave us another heart-warming underdog to celebrate – MVP Josh Hamilton, who led the Majors with a .359 average, belted 32 homers and fielded brilliantly, not long after his career was nearly trashed by drug abuse.

Cincinnati rose from sub-mediocrity to win its division, produce MVP Joey Votto (.324-37-113) and introduce several promising rookies. Low-budget Tampa Bay won more than the big-spending Yankees and Red Sox. And San Diego, presumed dead, rode a young pitching staff and small-ball offense to win 90 games while leading the National League West most

continued on Page 4



The Rest of the Lineup: New Games and More

While the latest Major League season is the superstar of every Strat-O-Matic Opening Day, this year's lineup of new products is the strongest supporting cast in the game company's history.

■ **The Version 16 CD-ROM** upgrade has a variety of heavily desired new features, including much smoother handling of double-duty players who have both batter and pitcher ratings (see Page 2 for details on this and other features).

■ **The Strat-O-Matic Baseball Founders Edition** is a replica of the original board game – box, game parts and 80 All-Star player cards based on the 1960 season. Marketed solely in 1961, only 350 of the original were sold and are extremely scarce today.

Only 1,000 of the limited-edition Founders Edition will be sold, at the promotional "50 for \$50" price -- 50 years of tradition for \$50. Each will come with a numbered certificate of au-

continued on Page 4

Time to order the Baseball Ratings Book – see Page 2

Rosters for Baseball Heroes, Founders game – see Page 3

Email / Web site discounts: Don't miss out – See Page 4

What You'll See and What You'll Get in V16 Baseball

Even after 15 versions, Strat-O-Matic gamers demand an ever-more-versatile computer baseball game – one even more powerful and even easier to use. The forthcoming Version 16 does all of that with many improvements that were at the top of wish lists.

Among the features destined to be most popular, V16 will make it far easier to use those special “double-duty” players who have both a batting and pitching card – there were five such men in the Negro Leagues set; pre-World War II seasons have several, and the pre-1900s seasons have many.

V16 will be necessary to play the 2010 season, the Hall of Fame 2010 rosters, the new Baseball Heroes release, and the new 19th Century seasons – 1876, 1880, 1885 and 1893.

PRE-GAME

New convenience: The CD-ROM no longer needs to be inserted in order to install rosters. And an option to use Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) – if it is available with your router – may help gamers who have not been able to NetPlay because of problems port-forwarding with their routers.

A new function called Check League Database will check and offer the option to rebuild the league database should it ever get corrupted.

GAME ACTION

Double-duty players such as Babe Ruth, Double Duty Radcliffe, Bullet Joe Rogan, Red Lucas and others will now be able to use both their pitcher and batter cards without denying another player a roster spot and the game will recognize when the proper card needs to be used.

The new Super Advanced rule limiting overuse in consecutive games by relief pitchers will be enforced in V16.

The computer manager is smarter. Now it recalculates whether to hold the runners and how to position the infield defense whenever a substitution is made. And it will always choose to make a play at the plate whenever a squeeze play can score the winning run.

Improved play-by-play makes descriptions clearer (and more situation-aware) on cut offs, sacrifice bunts, certain rare plays and end-of-game plays. And autoplay will run significantly faster in V16.

POST-GAME

Several improvements are likely to generate enthusiasm. There's more variety in box score game stories, with many new phrases. The box scores will list players who had 2-out RBIs. And the “score sheet” heading and data will appear only when an associated score sheet is going to be displayed.

The League Leaders report now shows traded players' current team codes instead of asterisks. For example, a traded player currently on Cincinnati will have “CIN” and the team code instead of “*****”. And the MVP Award voting has been adjusted for realism to make it more difficult for a starting pitcher to win that award.

All of these improvements are in addition to a huge cache of roster improvements and corrections, and to the annual upgrades in ballpark photos, team-specific play-by-play, nicknames (including the Negro Leaguers) and more. For a complete list of improvements, see the V16 Help File.

Win More Games with The Baseball Ratings Book

Every game and every season of Strat-O-Matic Baseball is won and lost because of a series of decisions, large and small. Who should be your starting pitcher in this hitter-friendly park? Who should pinch-hit against left-handers? Who should bat third in the lineup? Sixth? Does this trade do enough to help me? Even at the end of the season, the questions never end and decisions must be made on the best information available.

Strat-O-Matic's Baseball Ratings Book is the best information you can find. It is the only guide with the official data from Strat-O-Matic. The only guide with all the carded and computer-only players. No other source provides as many ratings.

Experienced gamers talk about “chances” of getting on base, hitting a homer or other results. These charts give you that informa-

tion at a glance, saving you hours of number-crunching. It's the detail you need to decide who should play, who to draft or trade and what strategy to use.

When you roll three dice, there are 216 possible result combinations, 108 on the pitcher's card and 108 on the hitter's card. Each column has 36 chances. You might look at the 2-12 listed results on a card and ask, “How can that happen when each column only shows 11 results?” The answer, of course, is that the 2-12 positions do not have equal value. The only way to get a 2 result is by rolling snake-eyes, so a homer on the 2 position has only one chance in 216 of happening. A homer on a 7 position has six chances in 216 of happening. Counting chances is further complicated when you consider lefty-righty combinations and split chances.

The charts from a past season below show how the Ratings Book does the number-crunching for you. If you have a runner on first and you want to know the chances of a double play, you see that Grace has 22 chances of a double play against a lefty pitcher, and Orosco has 4 double-play chances against a left-handed batter. Add them and you get 26 out of 216 chances for a double play in the situation. Do you stick with Grace? With the Ratings Guide, you can make an informed decision.

The charts even show such ratings as ballpark homerun chances (BP), clutch, hold and endurance, as well as complete fielding data for all of each player's rated positions.

Since the Ratings Book is published about a month before the cards/disks come out, you can be best prepared by ordering the 2010 season book now.

CHICAGO-N		VS. LEFTHANDERS										VS. RIFHTHANDERS																	
HITTERS	AB	SO	BB	HIT	OB	TB	HR	BP	CL	DP	SO	BB	HIT	OB	TB	HR	BP	CL	DP	STEALING	STL	SPD	B	H	FIELDING				
Grace,M*	547	0	8	31.2	39.2	39.5	1.4	w	+1	22	0	11	36.7	47.7	49.8	0.9	1	+1	20	4/11 (13-4)	E	11	D	B	1b-1e5				
PITCHERS		VS. LEFTHANDERS										VS. RIFHTHANDERS										ENDURANCE							
BALT	IP	SO	BB	HIT	OB	TB	HR	BP	DP	SO	BB	HIT	OB	TB	HR	BP	DP			HO	BK	WP	F	BAT/BUNT	ST	SP			
Orosco,J*	56	28	20	7.2	27.2	16.0	1.6	2	4	34	8	5.3	13.3	7.7	0.8	1	5	+3		R(1)	-5	0	7	2-15	1WR-C	E	10		

23 Future Hall of Famers Were in Strat-O-Matic's First Baseball Card Set

The 80 players in the original Strat-O-Matic Baseball game were three batters and two pitchers from each of the sixteen 1960 Major League teams. Most Strat-O-Matic players have never seen these cards, much less played with them. On the rare occasion when a set becomes available in online auctions, prices can top \$1,000. Now you can get exact-replica cards in a complete game for \$50. Here is a roster of the 80 players, which include such all-time greats as Mickey Mantle, Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Ernie Banks, Ted Williams, Frank Robinson, Yogi Berra, Don Drysdale, Whitey Ford and Stan Musial.

As in 1961 when they were released, these cards are in Basic format only.

Chicago-NL	Philadelphia	Baltimore	Detroit
Ashburn	Herrera	Hansen	Cash
Banks	Gonzalez	B. Robinson	Colavito
Zimmer	T. Taylor	Triandos	Kaline
Ellsworth (p)	Buzhardt (p)	Estrada (p)	Bunning (p)
Hobbie (p)	Conley (p)	Wilhelm (p)	Lary (p)
Cincinnati	Pittsburgh	Boston	Kansas City
Bailey	Groat	Malzone	Lumpe
Pinson	Hoak	Runnels	Siebern
F. Robinson	Mazeroski	T. Williams	R. Williams
O'Toole (p)	Friend (p)	Monbouquette (p)	Daley (p)
Purkey (p)	Law (p)	Sullivan (p)	Herbert (p)
Los Angeles	San Francisco	Chicago-AL	New York
Larker	Cepeda	Aparicio	Berra
Moon	Kirkland	Fox	Mantle
Wills	Mays	Sievers	Maris
Drysdale (p)	S. Jones (p)	Baumann (p)	Ford (p)
S. Williams (p)	McCormick(p)	Wynn (p)	Terry (p)
Milwaukee	St. Louis	Cleveland	Washington
Aaron	K. Boyer	Francona	Batley
Crandall	H.R. Smith	Held	Killebrew
Mathews	Musial	Kuenn	Lemon
Burdette (p)	Broglio (p)	G. Bell (p)	Pascual (p)
Spahn (p)	Jackson (p)	Perry (p)	Ramos (p)

Maddux, Bonds, Mattingly on Baseball Heroes Roster

STARTING PITCHERS		
Babe Adams	Tommy John	Allie Reynolds
Vida Blue	Randy Johnson	Curt Schilling
Bert Blyleven	Jim Kaat	Urban Shocker
Tommy Bridges	Jimmy Key	Luis Tiant
Kevin Brown	Jerry Koosman	Lon Warneke
Lew Burdette	Mickey Lolich	David Wells
Roger Clemens	Eddie Lopat	RELIEF PITCHERS
David Cone	Greg Maddux	Roy Face
Wilbur Cooper	Dennis Martinez	Tom Henke
Wes Ferrell	Carl Mays	Sparky Lyle
Tom Glavine	Jack Morris	Tug McGraw
Dwight Gooden	Mike Mussina	Dan Quisenberry
Ron Guidry	Don Newcombe	Jeff Reardon
Mel Harder	Billy Pierce	Lee Smith
Orel Hershiser	Jack Quinn	Kent Tekulve
INFELDERS		CATCHERS
Roberto Alomar	Charlie Comiskey	Del Crandall
Craig Biggio	Will Clark	Bill Freehan
Julio Franco	Steve Garvey	Elston Howard
Bobby Grich	Keith Hernandez	Javy Lopez
Jeff Kent	Gil Hodges	Thurman Munson
Willie Randolph	Don Mattingly	Lance Parrish
Lou Whitaker	Fred McGriff	Mike Piazza
Dick Allen	Mark McGwire	Wally Schang
Buddy Bell	Rafael Palmeiro	Ted Simmons
Ken Boyer	Frank Thomas	Joe Torre
Bill Madlock	OUTFIELDERS	
Edgar Martinez	Harold Baines	Minnie Minoso
John McGraw	Albert Belle	Dale Murphy
Graig Nettles	Barry Bonds	Tony Oliva
Ron Santo	Bobby Bonds	Al Oliver
Dave Concepcion	Jose Canseco	Dave Parker
Bill Dahlen	Cesar Cedeno	Vada Pinson
Tony Fernandez	Dom Dimaggio	Tim Lincecum
Jim Fregosi	Dwight Evans	Pete Rose
Barry Larkin	George Foster	Ken Singleton
Vern Stephens	Ken Griffey Jr.	Sammy Sosa
Alan Trammell	Frank Howard	Rusty Staub
Cecil Travis	Joe Jackson	Larry Walker
Maury Wills	Kenny Lofton	Bernie Williams
Jeff Bagwell	Roger Maris	Kenny Williams

Are You Getting the Best Price from SOM?

If you have registered your email at the Strat-O-Matic web site, you have received exclusive offers to buy some of the company's most desirable items at never-seen-before prices.

If not, well, you have missed opportunities to buy Hall of Fame sets at 25 percent off, or the Franchise Football sets at 33 percent off.

Steep discounts have been offered on card sets, full games and computer products.

It's all part of Strat-O-Matic's Digital Green

initiative, which seeks to rely less on paper and more on technology. In addition to the benefits to the environment, Digital Green saves Strat-O-Matic money – savings that can be passed along to gamers.

And email offers reach gamers immediately. Their orders can be placed online immediately, too.

The benefits are even better for frequent visitors to the web site at www.strat-o-matic.com. Strat-O-Matic is encouraging vis-

its by offering web-site-only deals not offered via email. Recently, the popular 3-for-\$25 offer (three complete seasons that can be mixed-and-matched from all SOM sports), was available only to web-site visitors.

By encouraging web-site visits this way, Strat-O-Matic also can communicate with its fans more often, since the site is updated frequently with company announcements, columns, blogs and other content customized for Strat-O players.

Golden Anniversary Celebration Set for Feb. 12 in New York City

continued from Page 1

This souvenir will be distributed only on Opening Day.

Then Richman and Strat-O-playing sports radio broadcaster Bill Daughtry will lead a variety of presentations. Glanville will discuss *The Game From Where I Stand*, his book with the multiple Strat-O-Matic references, and how the hobby influenced his life. Richman, Glanville and Dewan will conduct a panel discussion. Gamers will have question-and-answer time with the celebrities and other featured guests to be announced.

And one lucky gamer will be revealed as the Ultimate Strat-O-Matic Fanatic with a claim to the ultimate prize cache: A trophy and a certificate signed by Richman, acknowledging the winner's place in history, and a free set of the newest cards and computer game in the sport of the Fanatic's choice *for life*. Four finalists will receive \$100 gift certificates.

As always, the newly released cards and computer rosters are the main attractions of Opening Day. But this time, gamers picking up their orders will have ample reason to linger rather than scamper.

Game tables will be set up to sort your cards and to begin play. Glanville will be at one book-signing table. Richman and *Strat-O-Matic Fanatics* author Glenn Guzzo will sign books at another. (Glanville's book may be pre-ordered at dougglanville.com and the *Fanatics* book is sold through Strat-O-Matic).

Strat-O-Matic's partners in the hobby will have their own tables to introduce gamers to their goods and services, and to meet face-to-face with customers.

Note: Opening Day attractions are evolving rapidly and were incomplete when this was

written. Visit www.strat-o-matic.com frequently for the latest updates.

One rule is set: To pick up Strat-O-Matic merchandise on Opening Day, you *must* pre-order and register (by phone only) by Feb. 8.

All-Star Lineup of New Baseball Products

continued from Page 1

thenticity signed by Strat-O-Matic creator Hal Richman.

The 80 All-Stars include 23 future Hall of Fame players, such as Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Yogi Berra, Stan Musial, Don Drysdale and Whitey Ford (*see Page 3 for the full roster*).

■ **Baseball Heroes**, 117 star players not yet in the Hall of Fame, will be released in two-sided card form and as computer rosters, based on their seven best seasons, just like the Hall of Fame set. These players include sure-fire inductees such as Greg Maddux and Ken Griffey Jr., strong candidates such as Jeff Bagwell and Barry Larkin, tarnished stars such as Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, and thus-far-bypassed greats like Ron Santo and Tony Oliva (*see Page 3 for the complete player list*).

■ **The Hall of Fame 2010** players, released in card form last summer, will be issued as computer rosters compatible with Version 16.

■ **A new T-shirt** declares Strat-O-Matic's status as "The Original Fantasy Sports Games" and displays the 50th Anniversary logo. It's black and heavyweight, 100-percent cotton.

King Felix, Cargo and Doc Halladay Spice the 2010 Season

continued from Page 1

of the season.

Many said this was the Year of the Pitcher – after all, there were an impressive six no-hitters, including two perfect games and the controversial near-perfect game by Detroit's Armando Galarraga. Philadelphia's Roy Halladay pitched one of the flawless gems, then became one of the few pitchers to throw two no-hitters in a season – by becoming only the second man to throw a post-season no-hitter.

Halladay (21-10, 2.44) was the NL Cy Young award winner. In the AL, Seattle's Felix Hernandez pitched brilliantly for a poor team to win the Cy Young on the strength of a league-best 2.27 ERA and 232 strikeouts.

Strong pitching did not tarnish the achievements of numerous sluggers, including the whole Toronto team, whose 257 home runs were seven short of the all-time record. Blue Jay Jose Bautista blew away all competitors with 54 homers.

Other premier sluggers included Detroit's Miguel Cabrera (.328-38-126), St. Louis' Albert Pujols (.312-42-118) and Colorado's Carlos Gonzalez (.336-34-117). Along with Votto, all were contenders for baseball's first Triple Crown since 1967.

One of the most productive rookie classes ever featured catchers Posey and John Jaso, first basemen Gaby Sanchez and Ike Davis, infielders Starlin Castro, Neil Walker and Danny Valencia and outfielders Justin Heyward, Austin Jackson, Mike Stanton, Jose Tabata, Brennan Boesch and Logan Morrison.

Feliz leads a freshman class of pitchers that includes Jaime Garcia, Brian Matusz, Wade Davis and Johnny Venters.