



STRATO-MATIC REVIEW

Devoted exclusively to the Strat-O-Matic Game fan. The Review is printed with the consent of the Strat-O-Matic Game Company

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Game company answers questions

What does the Strat-O-Matic Game Company do in the so-called off season?

Well, first of all there is really no such creature when it comes to the folks at Glen Head, NY. This is between seasons now, right? But, already everyone, particularly S-O-M creator and president Harold Richman, is busy with the preliminary work for the new pro football cards that will be coming out in mid-summer.

The game company is never lacking for projects, for sure. But it does want to come out with - and soon - another past-season baseball card set.

Past polls have indicated a preference for the 1927, 1959 and 1936 seasons, among others. But Richman wants a more updated poll to make the decision for him as to which season is preferred.

"We would like to start on the statistics and research for that season as soon as possible," says Richman. In other words, S-O-M would like the poll to be conducted pronto and sent to it as expeditiously as possible.

S-O-M does ask, though, that it be a past season, or 1960 or before, since the first complete set of baseball cards was based on the 1962 season. The 1961 season, featuring Roger Maris' 61* home runs, is already in print and is one of seven past seasons available from S-O-M.

Gamers can make it a two-in-one poll/ballot if they wish because the Review's Most Valuable Player Contest is also going on. You can send in both your MVP choices and the past season of your choice at the same time and save on postage.

Remember, however, that the stipulation of only one ballot per subscriber is also in effect for the past-season baseball poll. Only vote once.

The Review does want you to list your top three past-season choices, in order, and then send them to the Review (not the game company): Strat-O-Matic Review, P.O. Box 27, Otsego, MI 49078.

Strat-O-Matic also reports that the new perforated baseball cards have gone over well. Most gamers, after some initial negative reaction,

(continued on next page)

mostly due to having to tear the cards apart and the suspected lightness of the paper stock, have been pleased with the appearance of the multi-colored cards.

The perforated edges of the cards quickly wore down and the card stock turned out to be - after some testing by S-O-M - the same weight as previous card sets.

Most of the complaints (check this month's Readers Roll 'em section) pertained to the basic side of the new cards. Many gamers claimed the background and the column numbers were difficult to differentiate because of the color schemes.

"We are planning to lighten up the basic side," says Richman. "Some of our later printing runs had lighter basic sides. Next year we will either lighten it up more, or just go to a plain black like we used to have."

SHIPPING CAUGHT UP SWIFTLY

Along with the cosmetic changes in the baseball cards for 1988, the game company found, because of the elimination of the collating process (whereby the cards were manually separated into teams), that shipping was almost immediately caught up.

"Usually we start off six weeks behind on our shipping when we begin sending out the new cards," says Richman. "But we were all caught up in four days this year. That's the earliest ever, by far. Last year we were six weeks behind and never got caught up until March."

"Orders that come in today, are filled and go out the next day," adds Steve Barkan, a longtime employee of S-O-M and the man who does the bulk of the past-seasons research and testing of the computer baseball versions.

"Steve doesn't have a lot to do right now, that's why we want to get him started researching again," quips Richman.

UPDATED COMPUTER BASEBALL

Barkan, because of his work with the computer games, said that most of the 'bugs' have been worked out for the Apple, Commodore and IBM versions of Strat-O-Matic Baseball.

"In the updated game computer disk we will have pitcher's holding-on ratings in both the manual and automatic versions," points out Barkan.

These updated game computer disks will be available to S-O-M's customers about the same time this issue of the Review arrives in your mailbox.

S-O-M is not charging full price (\$30) for the new game disks. Instead, the cost will be \$4 if you purchased a game disk in 1988 and, if purchased prior to 1988, the cost is \$10. The cost includes sending in your old game disk (it can be any old game disk). The game company pays the cost of mailing, etc.

"The Apple and IBM disks are all ready to go," says Barkan. "But there have been some delays with the Commodore."

"The cost is nominal," says Barkan, "because people have used the other disks (in a sense the purchase of a new disk is being pro-rated on the length of time the old disk was used). Other game companies charge a much higher price for their software to begin with and the cost to update the software is also high."

To inquire about the Commodore game disks, or to purchase the new Apple and IBM game disks, write or send to: Strat-O-Matic Game Co., Inc., 46 Railroad Plaza, Glen Head, NY 11545.

On the next page is the Review's MVP Contest ballot. Don't forget to send in both your ballot and choices for the next baseball season.

Deadline for entries is May 10th

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MVP Contest continues

The countdown is beginning for the Review's latest Most Valuable Player Contest. The deadline is May 10 again and all entries must be postmarked no later than that date to qualify for the 17th MVP Contest sponsored by the Review.

To the winner(s) will go a new set of the baseball cards in 1989 (based on the 1988 season), replete with all the extra players.

In the latest contest, you will recall, there were two winners: Don Miron Jr. of Flushing, MI, and Jim Kelsey, Columbia City, IN. Both picked one of the MVPs correctly, but fared best when it came to picking the winning percentage of the division champs.

Okay, how do you enter?

Simple, just fill out the form below (or copy it off on a postcard or sheet of paper if you don't want to tear your Review). Print or type as it's much easier to read. You must be a subscriber and only one entry per subscriber is permitted. And you must have your entry to the Review, or postmarked, by May 10.

Your cost is only the time it takes to fill out the form and postage.

Some gamers may want to wait until the end of April to see who's on a roll. One month does not a season make, however, so your "sixth baseball sense" may be your best bet.

Below is the contest entry blank:

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER BALLOT

Most Valuable Player:

American League _____

National League _____

Division Winners & Percentages:

American League East _____ % _____

American League West _____ % _____

National League East _____ % _____

National League West _____ % _____

Print Clearly:

Your Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Send to: Strat-O-Matic Review
P.O. Box 27
Otsego, MI 49078

Kreuz returns from cruise and is ready to embark on new season

The cruise is over for John Kreuz.

It's time for the Table Baseball Association's (TBA) major domo to go back to work - both as a financial advisor and tax return specialist and with his favorite hobby, conducting Strat-O-Matic tournaments.

Kreuz, along with his wife Joyce, went on a Caribbean cruise recently that took the couple on a seven-day, island-hopping, fun-filled venture that made all of John's weekend absences running TBA tournaments worth it.

Kreuz had been asked by Norwegian Cruise Lines to conduct football tournaments on a cruise as a method of introducing a new form of entertainment to the passengers, which included on this trip some people who had played S-O-M Baseball but nary a one that had ever tried the football game.

"The trip was the ultimate," enthused Kreuz. "We had a marvelous time, met some interesting people and spread the S-O-M gospel. Unfortunately, they wanted me to teach the football game and conduct a tournament (while the ship was at sea, not while in port). And, as you know, the football game, while easy to learn, can't be picked up in 30 minutes. That was what I had to do: teach the basic game and then run a tournament."

"The fellow that won the tournament won two tickets to next year's Super Bowl and two airline tickets. So it was a good prize."

"I would have rather taught the baseball game. You can do that in five minutes. But this was a football cruise. There were some Hall of Fame players on board - Gino Marchetti, Lou Groza, Dick (Night Train) Lane and Ray Nitschke - as well as three Denver Broncos and three members of the Washington Redskins' Super Bowl winning team."

"Bob Costas and Curt Gowdy were also on board. My wife and I sat with Curt Gowdy and his wife one evening for dinner. Costas was only on board for a day or two and I didn't have a chance to meet him. But he's a Strat-O-Matic player."

"I did meet and talk with Greg Coleman, the punter for the Minnesota Vikings, and Mike Pagel, the No. 3 quarterback for the Cleveland Browns. Coleman is extremely articulate. He's destined to be a politician, or to hold some high governmental position."

"Pagel autographed his Strat-O-Matic card. His card was 'doctored' some as he completed two of three passes. I explained his card couldn't be better than Bernie Kosar's, but it was still a very good card for someone who only took 13 snaps (10 times he handed off on running plays) all season."

BASEBALL CRUISE COMING IN NOVEMBER

Although the turnout for the football tournament was below expectations, the cruise line has invited Kreuz back in the fall to conduct a baseball tournament.

"That cruise will begin Nov. 5 and last seven days, with departure for the islands from Miami," says Kreuz. "There will be a group rate for Strat-O-Matic players, and their wives. People should contact me if they are interested. The trip would be a good bargaining chip for gamers and their 'Strat-O-Matic widows.'"

As far as the TBA, Kreuz swings back into action and launches the 1988 tournament schedule on April 15-17 in Chicago. Tournaments are also planned in April for Philadelphia (22-24) and Los Angeles (April 29-May 1).

For more information on the TBA tournament that will be nearest where you live in the months ahead, send \$1 (refunded on entry) plus a self-addressed, stamped-envelope to: John Kreuz, 4732 Laurel, Glenview, IL 60025. Entry fee is \$50 and checks should be payable to: "TBA"

Ballpark features are all-important

How important are Strat-O-Matic's ballpark features?

Well, in a replay of the 1987 World Series, conducted by lifelong St. Louis and Minnesota fans, Dave Woodard and Mark Frobom, the ballpark features meant everything.

The Twins, guided by Frobom, 29, of Minneapolis, won all four games in the Metrodome where they could utilize their power. Minnesota mashed 10 home runs in the "Homerdome."

But St. Louis, managed by Woodard, 33, won all three games at Busch Stadium - and held Minnesota's sluggers without a home run.

"I still wouldn't want to use the ballpark factors all the time, though," says Frobom. "But I admit it adds interest to a short series."

TWINS IN SEVEN...AGAIN

Just as in real-life, Minnesota won out in seven games in S-O-M, too. The series started out like it would be all the Twins as they won the opener, 6-2, behind the four-hit pitching of Frank Viola, and the second, 4-0, as Bert Blyleven and relief ace Jeff Reardon combined on a four-hitter. Minnesota cracked two home runs in each of the games.

In St. Louis for game three, however, the Cards rode John Tudor's three-hit hurling to a 2-0 victory. Game four also went to the Cards, this one 6-5 in 10 innings. Willie McGee's homer in the ninth off Reardon capped a comeback from a 5-1 deficit and sent the game into extra innings.

Woodard, who was allowed to use Jack Clark for the series, won game five in St. Louis, 2-1, as Clark belted the game-winning homer.

Minnesota was held scoreless in 26 of 28 innings at Busch Stadium and missed out on five ballpark home run chances.

HOME IS WHERE THE HOMERS ARE

The scene switched again in game six...and so did the outcome. The Twins won 3-2 at the Metrodome as Gary Gaetti and Greg Gagne each homered.

Game seven was wild and woolly as Minnesota outslugged the Cards, 13-8. The Twins collected four roundtrippers and St. Louis two, both by Terry Pendleton. Kent Hrbek homered twice for the Twins.

Hrbek was chosen MVP after hitting three homers and driving in eight runs. Kirby Puckett batted .357 (10-28), his exact real-life series average. The Twins outhomered the Cards, 10-4. McGee was the top St. Louis hitter with a .333 average.

"I was surprised that the Twins won," says Frobom. "I was afraid that the Twins all-righty bullpen would be vulnerable to the Cards' lefties and switch-hitters."

"I almost hoped Dave would win, since he's suffered for a long time as a Cardinal fan trapped in Twins' country (he's in graduate school at the University of Minnesota). Plus he said even his wife was for the Twins, in the real-life version of the World Series at least."

'Subway Series' won by Mets

Not everyone was interested in replaying the latest World Series between Minnesota and St. Louis. Rob McBride, of Tarrytown, NY, a big fan of Strat-O-Matic's Computer Baseball game, was disappointed that neither New York team made the playoffs.

So, since he was conducting a replay of the 1986 season - both
(continued on back page)

Clutch hitting revisited

By HAROLD COLEMAN, Columbus, MS

It has been quite awhile since I've written the Review, but I haven't had much to say since my article on dice probability. I suppose a family with two children is starting to cut into my S-O-M time. Actually, my wife and kids have been very tolerant of my hobby over the years.

Ever since S-O-M introduced the super-advanced version of its baseball game, I have been curious about one particular feature - the now-famous and controversial clutch hitting factor. This is not going to be another article on the pros and cons of how the company determines whether or not a player is "clutch." Rather, give that it's here to stay, what information can we gather to let us use it to our advantage? How often does it occur? What positions in the batting order are favored?

With these questions in mind, I embarked on a sabermetric (yes, I am a devout follower of Bill James' study of clutch situations. I am a 12-year veteran of Larry King's ESSOM League.

I studied the games that my Rebels (98-58, best regular-season record) played using the current card set. ESSOM uses the super-advanced rules without the ballpark effects; also, no DH.

Prior to starting, I had suspected the top of the order would not get that many opportunities to hit in the clutch. Two reasons: (1) The top three hitters can never hit in the clutch in their first at-bat, and (2) they hit behind the bottom of the order which tends not to get on base in the first place and ends quite a few rallies. For exactly the opposite reasons, I felt the fifth position in the order might get the most clutch at-bats.

HOW OFTEN DO CLUTCH SITUATIONS COME UP?

Before I go over the results, a word of caution: The number of clutch situations a team gets is affected, obviously, by the quality of the batters in the lineup and, also, by the quality of the man on the hill. Two-out rallies by a good offensive club can lead to a string of clutch situations. My team featured a potent offense - Sax, Gwynn, Hernandez, Webster, Larry Parrish, Mel Hall, Flannery, etc.

The Rebels' pitching was super on paper - Krukow, Knepper, Ojeda, Bob Forsch, Mark Davis, Jeff Robinson and Tekulve - but my defense (4 at shortstop and third base, 3 at second and in center field) tended to bring it down a notch. Still, it was a fine staff.

How often does a player bat in clutch situations - 5%? 10%? 20%? The answer is around 12-13 percent. Rebel opponents had 5,860 plate appearances, of which 723 (12.3%) were "in the clutch." The Rebels had 6,078 plate appearances, of which 804 (13.2%) were in clutch situations. A player will bat in the clutch once every eight at-bats, or about once every two games.

What about the breakdown in the batting order? There are two ways to look at the results: sheer number of clutch opportunities and percentage of total plate appearances. Using either approach, the fourth and fifth spots in the order get the most clutch opportunities. The results are shown on the chart on the next page.

The top three spots do not get their fair share of clutch opportunities. I'm puzzled as to why the second spot gets more clutch chances than the first and third do, but it seems to be significant. The bottom three (or four counting the sixth position) get about the same number of chances, near the average or slightly higher. But the fourth and

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fifth spots come up in the clutch every six or seven trips to the plate.

<u>Rebels</u>				<u>Opponents</u>			
	<u>At-Bats</u>	<u>Total</u>			<u>At-Bats</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>In Clutch</u>	<u>PA's</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>In Clutch</u>	<u>PA's</u>	<u>%</u>
1.	87	744	11.7	1.	63	715	8.8
2.	98	722	13.6	2.	74	695	10.6
3.	84	703	11.9	3.	59	679	8.7
4.	119	692	17.2	4.	95	668	14.2
5.	105	669	15.7	5.	104	649	16.0
6.	96	654	14.7	6.	81	640	12.7
7.	70	648	10.8	7.	82	621	13.2
8.	77	630	12.2	8.	83	606	13.7
9.	68	616	11.0	9.	82	587	14.0

How do we use this information? Surely, we would not sacrifice a great on-base man, who happens to be a good clutch hitter, by batting him lower (fourth or fifth) in the order. Conversely, we would not move a good clutch hitter who has a poor on-base percentage up to fourth or fifth in the order, would we? There has to be an optimum lineup.

I have been fortunate in the past two seasons of having two of the best clutch hitters in the league - Bob Horner in 1986 ('85 card) and Parrish this year. Both batted fifth for the Rebels, according to my hunch on clutch situations. Taking advantage of on-base men batting ahead of them, they amassed some impressive RBI totals. Horner hit .282 with 43 homers and a whopping 140 RBI (in 156 games). Parrish, though hitting a modest .258 with 32 homers, knocked in 110 runs.

LIKES CLUTCH FACTOR

I do want to offer a quick comment on the clutch factor: I like it. It makes play more exciting and adds some strategy to the game.

But I can only assume that it is calculated correctly. Three concerns: (1) I'm not convinced 50-100 at-bats per season is statistically significant enough to base a player's clutch ability; (2) Also, the formula is based on total number of RBI minus home runs (plus several other factors), but does it take into account the player's normal batting position?

We have seen that a leadoff batter does not get a lot of chances to get that "clutch" (as defined by S-O-M) RBI. Therefore, should not his clutch ability be based on the percentage of those runners he plates, not on sheer RBI totals? I don't think S-O-M takes this into consideration - I can't think of any pure leadoff hitter that gains hits in the clutch.

(3) Finally, why define "clutch" situations as those with men in scoring position and two outs? What about with men in scoring position and less than two outs?

Still, as I said before, I like the clutch hitting factor.'

The Review staff

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Another computer replay for Watson

Sacramento gamer has played over 4,000 contests

No one, outside of perhaps the Strat-O-Matic Game Company, has played more S-O-M Computer Baseball games than Stan Watson of Sacramento, CA. And certainly no one in Strat-O-Dom has documented his or her computer replays in as neat a package as Watson.

Watson not long ago completed his third full-season replay using the computer game - the 1984 National League campaign, which was won in real-life by San Diego, with the Chicago Cubs winning the N.L. East and losing out in the playoffs.

Watson reports he's now up to over 4,000 computer games - the 1984 N.L. season accounted for 977 games - and that he's currently enjoying a replay, via computer, naturally, of the 1987 N.L. season.

The latest replay was a solitaire venture. And after its completion, Watson spent another three weeks putting together a voluminous yearbook, which included all the usual stats and records and some not so usual such as home runs by teams and parks.

The Chicago Cubs, for instance, hit a league-high 141 home runs. But only 59 came at home and the other 82 were on the road. More home runs sailed out in Pittsburgh (135) and Atlanta (133) than did at Wrigley Field (111).

WATSON WANTS MORE PLAYERS

"Some of the statistics," says Watson, "are a bit inflated. However, only 24 players to a team were available as this set of cards preceeded the release of the 'extra, extras.'"

Watson did say he was "happy to see the introduction of a cutoff rule in the Apple version and I hope further changes will be incorporated in the future.

"The next change I believe should be in expanding the roster size capability for each team. The current 17 batters and 12 pitchers is simply too limiting for those who want to incorporate the real-life trades in their replays. I think a minimum of 20 batters and 15 pitchers is necessary, especially considering the larger set of extra players now made available by the game company."

As far as the background of Watson, he's 28, married (no children, but with four cats, who have a fondness for S-O-M dice) and works as a claims supervisor for Aetna Life and Casualty in Sacramento. He's been playing S-O-M Baseball since 1972 and, for a five-year period in the 1970s, also played the pro football game. "For the last 8-10 years I have made baseball my year-round interest," says Watson.

HIGHLIGHTS, LOWLIGHTS OF '84 REPLAY

Before getting to the playoffs, involving San Diego and the New York Mets, here are some of the memorable moments and those not so memorable in Watson's 1984 N.L. replay:

- * Steve Rogers of Montreal no-hit the Mets for Watson's third no-hitter - the other two were replaying '85 - using the computer game.
- * Tony Gwynn of San Diego batted a record .370, collected 242 hits batting second in the Padres' lineup, drove in 83 runs and was MVP.
- * Bruce Sutter of the Cardinals saved 45 games - but had an ERA of 4.01.
- * Dwight Gooden fanned 21 in a 9-inning game.
- * Leon Durham of the Cubs smashed three grand-slam homers in a span of eight days.
- * San Diego's Big Three of Gwynn, Kevin McReynolds and Steve Garvey all had 200 or more hits.

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- * Houston's roadrunner offense produced 92 triples.
- * Only one pitcher - Gooden (20-8) - managed to win 20 games. Conversely, every team batted .250 or higher.
- * Mike Schmidt only had five home runs after two months of the season. But he picked up the pace after that, homering 11 times in June and a record-setting 17 in July. Schmidt finished with 42 home runs.
- * The Cubs got a league-high 138 RBI from Durham, but the pitching let them down. Lee Smith had a sad-sack season, going 1-12 with a 4.69 ERA, and Rick Sutcliffe, after a good start, lost five games in a row during a winless July. Chicago scored the second-most runs, 777, compared to Houston's 793, but managed only an 82-80 showing.
- * Houston, without any power, batted .272 and finished a strong second to San Diego in the West with a 92-70 record. Jose Cruz hit .322 with 98 RBI for the spray-hitting Astros.
- * Philadelphia made 185 errors and Los Angeles 174. The bobbles cost L.A. 143 unearned runs.
- * San Francisco's ERA was 4.72 as Mike Krukow (3-21) and Mark Davis (5-23) were double 20-game losers.
- * Cincinnati's Eric Davis flashed signs of his future greatness by clouting 24 homers in only 240 at-bats.

PATH TO THE PLAYOFFS

San Diego, which was 25 games over .500 at the All-Star break, was only 36-37 in the second half and was caught by the Astros on Sept. 22 (both had 90-65 records). Both teams staggered in at the finish, but San Diego edged out the Astros by a game in the West.

In the East, the Mets entered September in fourth place and trailing the frontrunning Phillies by 7 1/2 games. But the Phillies went on to drop 20 of their last 28 games, the second-place Pirates lost 18 of 28 and third-place Cardinals 16 of 28. Meanwhile, the Mets roared in by winning 21 of 29 games and claimed first, with St. Louis in second, three games behind New York.

The playoffs, matching the red-hot Mets and the slumping Padres, went only five games. The opener set the tone for the short series as Eric Show outdueled Cy Young winner Dwight Gooden, 2-0, with Show tossing a two-hitter.

Tony Gwynn went 5-for-5 as the Padres won game two, 7-3. And in game three it was San Diego prevailing, 4-2, as Goose Gossage got the save. Gooden did win game four, 2-0, hurling a two-hitter and striking out 11, but Graig Nettles' grand-slam homer in the first inning set in motion a 7-6 series-clinching triumph by the Padres in game five.

Gwynn batted .444, but San Diego's pitching was the real story as it had a 2.60 ERA and shut the Mets down with a .175 average and only 13 runs in the five games.

Standings and leaders:

1984 EAST	Won-Lost	GB	Batting	Home Runs
New York	89	73	-	Gwynn SD 42
St. Louis	86	76	3	Cabell HOU .370
Philadelphia	84	78	5	J. Thompson PIT 33
Pittsburgh	83	79	6	C. Davis SF .328
Chicago	82	80	7	Lacy PIT .324
Montreal	76	86	13	McReynolds SD .323
				Cey CHI 31
				Strawberry NY 30
1984 WEST	Won-Lost	GB	RBI	H: Gwynn SD 242
San Diego	93	69	-	R: Gwynn SD 123
Houston	92	70	1	2B: Ray PIT 48
Cincinnati	81	81	12	3B: Sandberg CHI 20
Los Angeles	79	83	14	SB: Raines MON 69
Atlanta	72	90	21	GW RBI: Durham CHI 20
San Francisco	55	107	38	

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ERA		Wins		Strikeouts	
Gooden NY	2.53	Gooden NY	20-8	Gooden NY	321
Mahler ATL	2.64	Andujar SL	19-9	Soto CIN	250
Hershiser LA	2.66	Soto CIN	18-10	Ryan HOU	244
A.Pena LA	2.70	J.Niekro HOU	18-15	Valenzuela LA	244
Soto CIN	2.86	Rhoden PIT	17-7	Sutcliffe CHI	217

CG: Soto CIN, Gooden NY 14
SH: J.Niekro HOU 5

HRA: Knepper HOU 34
SA: Sutter SL 45, Gossage SD 38

Custer's longest stand

1977 baseball replay takes eight years to complete

While Stan Watson is the high-tech Strat-O-Matic player who churns out computer replays in rapid-fire order, Mike Custer of Lyndhurst, NJ, is just the opposite.

Custer uses the regular version of the baseball game and, whereas Watson averages a replay on the basis of months, Custer turns one out over a period of years.

Once-upon-a-time Custer conducted a replay of the 1971 season - both leagues - and it took seven years to complete. Shortly after that replay was completed, he undertook a replay of the 1977 season. Eight years later, in November, the '77 season was history.

Custer, who's been an S-O-M gamer since 1970 and a member in good standing of the Lyndhurst Invitational Strat-O-Matic Baseball League since 1979, is currently employed as a credit manager for Colgate-Palmolive and is pursuing advanced (masters) degrees in corporate finance and accounting.

He's also an on-the-field gamer as Custer has played several years of semi-pro baseball. At the age of 29, however, he says "I have pastured out to the Sunday morning softball leagues."

Custer said he will also be married this fall, to Linda Koski, a woman he met just before he embarked on his eight-year replay effort. No mention as to whether Linda rolls dice or not.

NO-HITTERS HIGHLIGHT PLAY

No-hitters provided three of the biggest highlights of the replay as Nolan Ryan, Wayne Twitchell and Rick Wise all had hitless efforts.

Kansas City, as in real-life, won the American League West, and Philadelphia and Los Angeles did likewise in the National League. Baltimore moved up from third in the AL East, winning three more games (100-62 compared to 97-64) than in real-life, with New York dropping to second, five games behind.

Lyman Bostock - remember James Sanders' Bostock Memorial tournaments every summer? - won AL MVP honors and Greg Luzinski of the Phillies was the choice in the NL. Cy Young laurels went to Dennis Leonard (29-7, 2.20 ERA, 309 strikeouts) of Kansas City and Tom Seaver (19-8, 2.56 ERA) of Cincinnati.

Bostock, performing for the Twins in '77, was runner-up to teammate Rod Carew in hitting (.381 compared to .388). Bostock batted .336 in real-life. Luzinski batted .311 with 44 homers and 139 RBI.

As far as the standings, the NL West finish was identical to real-life and the AL West was extremely close. The top five teams in the West were identical to real-life, with only Oakland and Seattle switching places in the replay.

Philadelphia won the NL East with a 100-61 record (100-62 in (continued on next page)

real-life), while Los Angeles was identical to real-life at 98-64. St. Louis, which was 83-79, also emulated real-life in the replay.

Kansas City made short work of Baltimore when the AL playoffs rolled around, disposing of the Birds in three games. The Dodgers, however, had to go the full five games to take out Philadelphia.

The World Series lasted six games, with the Dodgers, thanks to the do-it-all performance of Davey Lopes (MVP with .393 average, 9 RBI, 6 runs scored, 5 stolen bases and one game-winning homer), the champs. LA opened up on the Royals in the opener, smashing six home runs, including two apiece by Reggie Smith and Ron Cey, in a 10-3 romp.

Kansas City won the next two games, one as Al Cowens doubled, tripled and homered in a 6-4 triumph, and the other 2-1 as Leonard pitched a six-hitter. Tommy John won his second game of the Series to even it at 2-2. Game five went 13 innings, with Lopes' home run deciding it. A 6-4 win by the Dodgers in game six finished it off.

Highlights and lowlights:

* The top three batters in the A.L. - Rod Carew, Lyman Bostock and Ken Singleton - were the same as in real-life.

* Steve Garvey of the Dodgers homered 40 times, drove in 130 runs and committed only five errors.

* Baltimore had three 20-game winners in Jim Palmer, Rudy May and Mike Flanagan.

* Real-life Cy Young winner Sparky Lyle was one of the reasons the New York Yankees didn't win the AL East. Sparky had a barely flickering performance that included only five saves and a 4.08 ERA.

* Six Boston players hit 27 or more homers, with the team smashing 240. But Ferguson Jenkins served up 63 - yes, 63! - roundtrippers to offset the power display.

* Cleveland's Andre Thornton produced 149 RBI off only 152 hits. Forty-four of those hits were home runs.

* Texas also had three 20-game winners: Bert Blyleven (28), Doyle Alexander (21) and Gaylord Perry (23). Dock Ellis had 19.

* Lerin LaGrow was amazing for the White Sox, posting a 19-3 record with 22 saves.

* Nolan Ryan disappointed for California, losing 19 games. Ryan's Express led the league in strikeouts (316) and walks (224).

* Philadelphia's bullpen was sensational, with a 50-16 record and composite 2.64 ERA. Gene Garber had 43 saves.

* Garry Templeton, then with St. Louis, almost matched his real-life stats exactly. Templeton's numbers were (real-life in parentheses) as follows: .324 average (.322), 9 home runs (8), 83 RBI (79), 20 doubles (19), 18 triples (18), 69 strikeouts (70) and 36 errors (32).

* A rookie by the name of Andre Dawson hit 29 homers for Montreal.

* Chicago's Bruce Sutter won 13 games and had a 1.31 ERA (compared to 1.35 real-life).

* Pittsburgh was biggest disappointment and John Candelaria was among key flops as, after going 20-5 in real-life, he was only 17-14.

* Cincinnati reliever Pedro Borbon had a spotless 14-0 record.

* Atlanta had pair of 20-game losers in Phil Niekro and Dick Ruthven.

* Batting champ Rod Carew batted .388 in real-life, .384 in the replay.

Standings and leaders:

NL EAST	Won-Lost	GB	NL WEST	Won-Lost	GB
Philadelphia	100	62	-	Los Angeles	98 64 -
Montreal	87	75	13	Cincinnati	92 70 6
Chicago	86	76	14	Houston	87 75 11
St. Louis	83	79	17	San Francisco	67 95 31
New York	82	80	18	San Diego	59 103 39
Pittsburgh	74	88	26	Atlanta	57 105 41

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on next
page)

AL EAST	Won-Lost	GB	AL WEST	Won-Lost	GB	Batting (NL)		
Baltimore	100	62	-	Kansas City	113	49	-	Simmons SL .341
New York	95	67	5	Texas	101	61	12	Stennett PIT .338
Boston	92	70	8	Chicago	85	77	28	Ontiveros CHI .334
Cleveland	80	82	20	Minnesota	81	81	32	(AL)
Detroit	73	89	27	California	69	93	44	Carew MIN .384
Milwaukee	72	90	28	Oakland	54	108	59	Bostock MIN .381
Toronto	69	93	31	Seattle	50	112	63	Singleton BAL .339

Home Runs (NL)	RBI (NL)	R(NL):
Burroughs ATL 44	Luzinski PHI 139	Schmidt PHI, Smith LA 126
Luzinski PHI 44	Bench CIN 136	(AL): Scott BOS 142
Bench CIN 43	Garvey LA 130	H(NL): D.Parker PIT 223
Foster CIN		(AL): Bostock MIN 244
(AL)	(AL)	2B(NL): B.Robinson PIT 45
G.Scott BOS 45	Thornton CLE 149	(AL): Baylor CAL 53
R.Jackson NY 44	G.Scott BOS 142	3B(NL): Templeton SL 18
Thornton CLE 44	Zisk CHI 134	(AL): Randolph NY 18
		SB(NL): Lopes LA 78
		(AL) Remy CAL 63

ERA (NL)	Wins (NL)	Strikeouts (NL)
Richard HOU 2.46	Carlton PHI 22-10	Richard HOU 235
Seaver CIN 2.56	R.Reuschel CHI 21-11	Seaver CIN 228
Reed PHI 2.58	Seaver CIN 19-8	Shirley SD 220
(AL)	(AL)	(AL)
Leonard KC 2.20	Leonard KC 29-7	Ryan CAL 316
Blyleven TEX 2.77	Blyleven TEX 28-7	Leonard KC 309
Palmer BAL 2.95	Palmer BAL 28-11	Blyleven TEX 277
	Goltz MIN 25-11	
	R.May BAL 24-14	

SA(NL): Garber PHI 43	CG(NL): Reuschel CHI 26
(AL): T.Johnson MIN 23	(AL): Palmer BAL 38

**BEGINNER'S
LUCK**

S-O-M humor...



"WHY, WHAT DOES lo(ss)max
MEAN ANYWAY ?"

Readers roll 'em

ONLY ONE GRIPE

Strat-O-Matic has made a number of good additions to its baseball game since I started playing it in 1975 ('e' ratings, advanced fielding, "T" ratings, ball park effect and clutch hitting).

I will reserve judgement on its newest addition (pitcher's holding on ratings) until after I've used it for a season.

The perforated cards are much better than the last set of perforated cards that I purchased from the game company. I hope this paper stock can withstand the abuses of a full-season replay. Thanks to Strat for finally putting the advanced stealing ratings on the cards.

Now for my one gripe. Each new change that Strat implements makes playing one team against a teama from a different season more difficult. Wasn't that a major selling point of the product?

How about a moratorium on further changes until such time as one is found which is:

1. Wantonly desired by the gaming public;
2. verifiable by statistics available to the gaming public before the cards are released; and
3. not easily substituted for with homemade remedies?

It is hard to play in a semi-continuous league when things unexpectedly show up on the cards which aren't at least somewhat calculable.

Thanks to the Review for providing the space for me to express my opinion.

PETE SHELLY
Roselle, IL

Editor's note: Most of the changes in S-O-M's games have come about after extensive research. And all the changes, modifications, etc., have resulted from the urging of the gaming populace to make such changes. The Review editors are concerned about changes that make

past card sets (in all the sports) incompatible with new improvements in the games. It would be nice, perhaps somewhere down the line, if S-O-M could put out "e" ratings and supplementary stealing ratings for past card sets that didn't include them.

LIKES NEW CARDS

The advanced side of the new baseball cards is much nicer now. The colors and print are clear and easy to read.

Why, though, on the basic side did they (S-O-M) use blue ink on a blue background? The cards are much harder to read than they would have been if black on blue had been used.

JIM MCPARTLAND
West Haven, CT

Editor's note: Reader McPartland wasn't the only one to complain about the basic side of the new baseball cards being difficult to read. S-O-M does plan to lighten up that side next year for sure, or perhaps go back to the former black ink printing.

BLINDED BY THE BLUE

As a player of S-O-M basic baseball since 1961, I have never had a complaint until now.

The color scheme and printed diamond on the basic cards gives me headaches when I play the game. Too many blinded blues.

Has anyone else voiced this as a problem?

JOSEPH BORIS
State College, PA

Editor's note: Yes.

IMPRESSED WITH CARDS

I received my new baseball cards on Jan. 29th this year. This is almost three weeks sooner than the last two years (Feb. 16th last year and Feb. 18th two (continued on next page)

years ago).

I am also impressed by the new color format on the advanced side of the cards; however, the basic side did seem to be a little difficult to read with the dark blue results on a light blue background.

As far as the perforated cards go, I have played about a dozen games so far with my St. Louis team and the perforated edges are hardly noticeable.

Overall, I am much impressed with S-O-M's new cards as well as the fact that the delivery is much, much quicker now than in the past.

In regards to the new holding on ratings for pitchers, the only small problem I see is that S-O-M fell just a hair short in this option.

I believe the option should have been set up to include the possibility of pitchers balking as well as the ability to hold runners.

MIKE CRANEY
Loogootee, IN

WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

I realize Mr. Harold Richman (S-O-M's founder and president), who takes the photos when the new cards are first sold to the public, was a very busy man that day.

In his rush he might make some mistakes with the labeling of some photographs.

This was the case in the picture taken of the four guys from Connecticut and my son.

Actually, Robert (Rob) Bruno, the commissioner of the "Fly By Night" league, and Bruce Fogg are from Connecticut. Joe Hults is from Queens, NY, and I am from Staten Island, NY.

Also, Rob, Bruce and Joe are members of the "Fly By Night," which has 20 members, while I am the commissioner of A*C*T*U*A*L, and Joe and Bruce are members of our 26-member league.

We introduced Matthew, the youngest to wait in line

at three years, nine months, as the next commissioner of our league.

Also, we'd like to let everyone know that there are plans being made for the 1988 Fly By Night" champion to play the A*C*T*U*A*L* champion, hopefully face-to-face, to decide the overall champion of the two leagues.

LARRY KIDD
Staten Island, NY

QUESTIONNAIRE NEEDED

With all the discussions in the Review concerning the recent changes (ball parks, clutch hitting) and all the discussions about possible changes (clutch pitching, grass vs. astroturf, catcher's fielding chart revision balks and pickoffs, etc.), why not have the game company send out a questionnaire to be filled out by either all gamers or a random sample?

I do not believe that a simple one page questionnaire would be very expensive.

Some readers argue that before changes are made it needs to be a slow, gradual change and one that would be good for the gaming public as a whole, not just one suited to the desires of a few.

A questionnaire would be a good way of finding out very quickly how the gaming public as a whole perceives possible changes. Maybe the Review could devote one page in an upcoming issue to this type of thing. The readers/gamers could cut it out and send it back and the Review could print the results in a later issue.

I am personally in favor of the clutch pitching idea. Bruce Sutter, 1984, is another argument for clutch pitching. His Strat card was not as good (real-life stats: 1.54 ERA, 45 saves, 109 hits in 123 innings) as I thought it should have been (poor 4-column vs. righties and decent card against lefties).

Add clutch pitching and Sutter would have been great with
(continued on next page)

two outs and runners on.

This "Actual Effectiveness" is an idea I believe needs to be incorporated into the game and it does exist, even though "raw numbers" do not necessarily indicate so.

LARRY MARTINDALE
Solsberry, IN

Editor's note: Clutch hitting and pitching are both areas that are difficult to be realistic with, mainly because of the lack of statistics, or enough statistics. If a batter bats in so-called clutch situations only 10 times, how much do you alter his card to take that into consideration. The same applies to pitchers. A "closer" relief pitcher is usually in clutch situations in every appearance. Some of those things are taken into consideration when the card is made up. Batters who hit third through fifth, for instance, will knock in more runs anyway, so it would be altering the cards too much if they were all loaded with clutch hitting "horseshoes."

'CLUTCH PITCHING' REVISITED

I read with great interest your interview with Harold Richman in the Jan. Review, especially the part regarding my favorite subject, clutch pitching.

I found puzzling the list of questions that were searching for a definition of clutch pitching. The suggestions that items such as (a) number of runners on base when home runs are allowed, or (b) late-inning pitching ability by starting pitchers may be key items, I believe, are missing the heart of the matter completely.

The answer to me, regarding most pitchers, is relatively simple. Why not define "clutch pitching" as "batting average allowed with two outs with runners in scoring positions?"

This complements the current clutch hitting rule and balances

out the contribution of the two parties involved, the pitcher and the hitter, rather than put 100 percent of the clutch/non-clutch hitting variance on the hitter's card.

I, for one, am tired of people drafting players for their S-O-M ability rather than what would happen in real-life.

When S-O-M added the clutch hitting rule, it very much revealed who in our league had been drafting pure talent and who had previously been "Strat-O-Matizing," or simply looking at the raw data-oriented cards. I found it very satisfying that certain teams, which had enjoyed some success despite what I considered lesser talent, were suddenly going to face reality via "negative" clutch hitting factors.

It's time to complete the circle and get rid of this practice with regard to pitchers for those of us who want truly realistic baseball.

To suggest that clutch pitching even possibly does not exist indicates to me that either very flawed or not enough research has been done to date.

ED GRANT
Marietta, GA

REPRINT FOOTBALL TEAMS

Does the game company have any plans to reprint past football teams in the new card format?

I think it's pretty ridiculous not being able to play the '85 Chicago Bears against the '63 Bears.

How about S-O-M reprinting, say, all of the Super Bowl teams in the new, super-advanced style? I'm sure the research on the '67 Packers and '68 Jets would be easier than researching the entire 1962 baseball season.

Right now you really can't play the '76 Raiders against the '71 Cowboys because of the kick-off and punt returns.

CHRIS FRANCO
Edison, NJ

'61 Maris' 66 home runs are tops on hit parade

Gamer records all-time replay records

By RODNEY JOHNSON, Tempe, AZ

How do my all-time Strat-O-Matic Baseball leaders rate compared with those of other gamers? This was the question I set out to answer when I started scanning the Review's pages dating back to Sept., 1983.

I have been playing Strat since the summer of '70 ('69 baseball cards) and have completed 10 Reds' replays along with several Red Sox, Dodgers, A's, Orioles, Yankees, Phillies and Astros seasons.

To go along with these team replays, I also have completed the '69 National League season and am nearing completion of the '70 NL season. Playing partners have included my dad, brother, friends in Colorado (Larry Luccero) and Arizona (Pat Mitchell, Dave Kruiper, Mike Harris).

While these friends have managed some of the teams in the replays, I have included their leaders in my all-time totals as most games have been face-to-face and they are part of my Strat history.

THAT'S INCREDIBLE

In going through the old Reviews I found some incredible totals compiled for some of the leagues. The leagues I looked at were either draft or straight replays, but I skipped the old-timer and Hall of Fame replays as they were basic game only and the stats, I felt, were distorted. For instance, John Mize of the '50 Yanks rapped 67 home runs in one replay. Mize hit 25 in real-life in 274 at-bats.

While these old-timer leagues are none the less fun, I feel it's not fair to compare them with teams using advanced cards that get better or worse versus right-handed and left-handed pitching.

The advanced version home run kings were '61 Roger Maris, '30 Babe Ruth and, surprise, '79 Dave Kingman, all with 66. Mike Walker of Olney IL, was on the dice-rolling end of Kong's record-setting 66. In that '79 replay, Kingman had 92 more at-bats than in real-life. Besides the homers, he also had 174 RBI, which placed him second on that list.

Bill Cozzolino, a policeman from Richmond Hill, NY, produced both the RBI leader and top two batting leaders in his '56 American League replay. Real-life triple crown winner Mickey Mantle batted in 184 runs to take the five-year Review RBI title, while he was second in batting at .393 to Ted Williams' .396. Roberto Clemente was third at .390 for Jeff Wilson of Bullhead City, AZ, in his '71 Pirates replay.

ONLY ONE 30-GAME WINNER

Only one 30-game winner emerged in my research: Tom Seaver ('77) was 32-7 for Mike Ryan of Wrentham, MA. Don Miron Jr. of Flushing, MI (co-winner of the Review's latest MVP Contest) had '81 Jack Morris go 29-9 in the Michigan Majors PBM "long replay" of the strike-shortened season.

Kent Tekulve, '82 (the only relief pitcher on the list), captured the ERA title for Tim Dugan of Astoria, OR, in the Federal League's seventh replay. Tekulve had a 1.36 ERA.

Dwight Gooden, '84, was the whiff king with an amazing 408 in the Clinton S-O-M League based in MA. Dennis Foley managed Gooden. The replay didn't say how many innings Gooden pitched, but in the Atlantic League out of Miami, FL, Scott Ferrons' '84 Gooden registered 359 K's in just 239 innings. That was good for third place on the list.

In going through the past replays, I found the '56 season to be the most popular (or at least most replayed) of the past seasons issued so far. Straight replays seem to provide the more prolific statistics

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because the pitching and hitting are better in draft leagues and tend to offset each other.

The following is my all-time leaders list, along with the leaders I found in the pages of the Review. The issue the replay can be found in is also listed.

BATTING

'56 Williams .396 (Sept. '85)
'56 Mantle .393 (" ")
'71 Clemente .390 (Dec. '83)
'85 McGee .384 (Oct. '87)
'85 McGee .383 (June, '87)

HOME RUNS

'61 Maris 66 (Sept. '84)
'30 Ruth 66 (Nov. '84)
'79 Kingman 66 (June '87)
'82 Murphy 64 (Feb. '84)
'80 Schmidt 63 (Sept. '83)

RBI

'56 Mantle 184 (Sept. '85)
'79 Kingman 174 (June '87)
'80 Schmidt 171 (Sept. '83)
'82 Murphy 171 (Feb. '84)
'78 Rice 166 (June '85)

ERA

'82 Tekulve 1.36 (March '84)
'77 Hooton 1.50 (Feb. '84)
'71 Ellis 1.61 (Dec. '83)
'76 Brett 1.63 (Feb. '84)
'85 Welch 1.67 (Sept. '87)

H: '85 McGee 253 (June '87)

2B: '83 McRae 67 (Jan. '85)

3B: '82 Wilson 25 (Feb. '84
Aug. '84)

R: '56 Williams 165 (Sept. '85)

SE: '82 Henderson 164 (March '84)

WINS

'77 Seaver 32-7 (Feb. '86)
'81 Morris 29-9 (Sept. '83)
7 tied with 28

SAVES

'79 Sutter 49 (June '87)
'83 Smith 44 (May '86)
'78 Gossage 42 (June '85)

STRIKEOUTS

'84 Gooden 408 (May '87)
'83 DeLeon 367 (Feb. '85)
'84 Gooden 359 (May '86)
'76 Ryan 350 (Feb. '84)
'82 Soto 349 (May '84)

JOHNSON'S ALL-TIME RECORDS

AVG - '69 Clemente .370
HR - '70 T.Coniglairo 51
RBI - '69 T.Perez 142
R - '73 Morgan 134
H - '69 Rose 230
ERA - '74 M.Marshall 1.83
W - '73 Hunter 28-11
K - '82 Soto 324

2B - '69 M.Alou 53

3B - '73 W.Davis/ 15

'83 Redus

SB - '73 Harper 95

***** Bostock tournament on tap June 25-26

Don't forget James Sanders' eighth annual Lyman Bostock Memorial Tournament that will be coming up June 25-26 in Portage, IN.

It's still over two months away, but now is the time to sign up for the team(s) of your choice in the variety of tournament offerings that Sanders again will make available.

A Holiday Inn is the site for this summer's gathering, which will again feature tourney play in advanced and elementary baseball, super advanced hockey and super advanced football (using both the modern and old versions of play). Trophies, compliments of the Strat-O-Matic Game Company, will again be presented to the winners and runners-up in each event.

Starting time for the tournaments will be 8 a.m. (CST) on Saturday and the entry fee is \$18.50.

For more information, contact: James Sanders, 1068 Van Buren Street, Gary, IN 46402 (phone: 1-219-882-2938). If writing, Sanders asks that you enclose a large SASE for his reply.

Advertisements

Rates per issue are as follows: 25 words or less - \$1.00; 26-50 words - \$2.00; 51-75 words - \$3.00; 76-100 words - \$4.00. When sending in ads, specify either WANTED, FOR SALE, FOR TRADE, LEAGUE FORMING, or CONTESTS. And name card sets by the year upon which they were based. Note also that only advertising for Strat-O-Matic products or closely related merchandise will be accepted and that merchandise competing with S-O-M products may not be offered for sale. Ads, to be included in the next issue, must be in to the Review by the third of the previous month. Late ads will be held over for inclusion the following month.

Wanted

WANTED: 1975 Jets and Giants; 1968 Mets, Yankees (both with extras, two-sided reprinted teams only); 1971 Mets, Yankees (two-sided, both with extras); 1965 Reds, Cubs, Braves, Astros, Phillies, Cardinals. Contact: Alan Cohen, 5907 North 5th Road, Arlington, VA 22203

WANTED: Baseball - 1982 St. Louis, Milwaukee, California, Atlanta. Extras should be included. James I. Marshall, 202 Bartram Lane, Ocean City, NJ 08226 (1-609-398-6924, or 9-3, 1-800-345-7863).

WANTED: Cardinal baseball teams. Any year, minimum good condition, must include extras. Provide complete description, prices, SASE to: Rick Lepley, 4204 Burnham, Portsmouth, VA 23703

WANTED: 1976, '77, '79, '80, '82 Oakland-L.A. Raiders and 1983 complete season. State price and condition. Dave James, 14-E, Briar Circle, Fayetteville, NC 28306 (919-483-9571)

WANTED: To join a PBM baseball league using the 1988 cards. Using straight teams with basic play with some advance rules. I have seven years PBM experience. 36 years old. Please let me know if you need an extra member for your league. Call or write: Terry Battistine, 909 Visser Avenue, Waupun, WI 53963, or call 414-324-9579 until 2:30 weekdays; all days weekends.

WANTED: The No-Name League needs a reliable person to play the

playoffs and World Series for our league. All information and teams will be sent to you. All you have to do is play the games and send results to me. Larry Vieira, 14 Herman St., Unit I, West Haven, CT 06516

WANTED: Baseball - 1984 season extras. I have 1976 A.L. extras in mint condition if wanted as part of deal. Call or write: Dave Woodard, 632 Adams NE #2, Minneapolis, MN 55413 (612-378-0679)

WANTED: Baseball - Advanced version only: 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 complete seasons with extras if possible, in at least very good condition. Will pay good price. Please write with prices and condition to: Gary Burns, 3549 West 102nd Place, Westminster, CO 80030-6733

WANTED: Complete set or any available teams of the following seasons - '69, '70, '72, '74. To give condition and price write: Michael Orfe, 8H Hasbrouck Road, Garnerville, NY 10923 (or call 914-429-0614)

WANTED: New York Yankee teams from 1930, 1950, 1956 and 1969 through 1984. Any New York Islander teams except the '86-87 team. Mint to excellent condition with extras. Send list of teams with descriptions and offer to: Matt Konig, 316 Sylvan Road, North Babylon, NY 11703 (516-661-8496)

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For Sale

FOR SALE: Hockey teams, all excellent condition - 1978-79, '79-80 NHL teams only, with extras; '80-81 with extras. Football, in excellent condition - 1976 Cowboys, Steelers; 1977 Broncos, Jets, Giants, Rams, Seahawks. Baseball, good condition - 1969 Twins, Royals, Red Sox, Cubs; 1973 A's, Reds, Mets, Dodgers, Orioles, very good condition. 1977 American League; 1985 National League with extras. Looking to see or trade. Will sell as sets (preferred) or individually. Send bids to: Steve Pyatt, 2667 Shirley Lane, Bellmore, NY 11710

FOR SALE: Unbreakable 20-sided dice in red, white, blue, black, yellow, green, orange, purple, brown. Choose numbering from 1-20 or 0-9. Also 6-sided dice available. Only \$2 each, postage included. Specials: 3 for \$5 or 7 for \$10. David de la Funte, 56 Oakdale Ave., Apt. 2, Akron, OH

FOR SALE: 1974 football - \$75. 1986 baseball with extras - \$12. Complete new College Football game - \$20. All items excellent. Cal Whitbeck, 117 Peachtree, Mason, MI 48854

FOR SALE: Improve the realism and detail of S-O-M Baseball with my super-advanced rules, which preserve the game's speed of play and fun. Included are easily memorized rules for more realistic base advances on hits, outs and errors; outfield throwing errors and mis-played hits; trail runners advancing on throws (or being thrown out on cutoffs); injury chart with rare plays; balks, pickoffs, pickoff errors, rundowns; infielders positioned in or back individually; outfield shallow; suicide squeeze, safety squeeze and sacrifice charts where fielding ability and the runner's speed play a part; hit-and-run system that also takes into account the pitcher's abilities and characteristics, fielding and

the runner's speed; and much more, all blended into the game so as not to disturb statistical accuracy or ease of play. Fully tested and refined. Over 200 satisfied customers. \$8, with money-back guarantee. Richard Robb, #305-7100 Gilbert Road, Richmond, B.C., Canada V7C 5C3

FOR SALE: Baseball schedules. Great for S-O-M replays. Every season available. \$1 per season and a stamp. Unbreakable 20-sided dice, easy to read, \$2 each. Richard Breest, 1332 Greenlea Drive, Holiday, FL 34691

FOR SALE: December was a great month. While you were buying Christmas gifts, I was busy buying S-O-M Baseball cards...a lot of S-O-M Baseball cards. I now have over 800 individual baseball teams from 1930-1987. Over 22,000 assorted S-O-M Baseball cards from 1930-1987. Did someone say complete sets? I have them...1978 '79, '80, '81, '83, '84, '85, '86. Send a SASE with 56 cents postage for my giant 1988 Teams List and/or send your list of assorted cards that you want to: Chris Rosen, 731 Bergen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111 (215-745-5247)

FOR SALE: Complete football sets from 1972-82. Individual teams from 1967 to '78. Hockey sets '77-78 to '79-80. 1979 baseball set. 1976 College Football set. Great College Football teams set. All in excellent to mint condition. Will accept best offer. Robert Kondracki, 237 N. 6th St., Reading, PA 19601

FOR SALE: Accuracy - at last, easy-to-use systems to improve S-O-M hit-and-run and Catcher's Card. Both systems add realism and strategy without increasing play time. Hit-and-run uses results directly from player cards, giving each player truly individual H&R ability. Catcher's Card incorporates individual wild pitch ratings for pitchers,

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passed ball ratings for catchers. Statistically accurate for all '87 pitchers and catchers. Works equally well playing stock teams or draft leagues. Just \$3 for each system, \$5 for both. Check or money order to: Glenn Guzzo, 317-21 N. Broad St., #835, Philadelphia, PA 19107

FOR SALE: 1987 baseball players plus additional players, complete and mint: \$12. Larry Vieira, 14 Herman St. Unit I, West Haven, CT 06516 (203-937-6222)

FOR SALE: Drafting your own team? Want to win? Baseball Yardstick is your key to a winning season. Allows you to quickly spot the best player available at any point in the draft. And brother, does it work. Based on 15 years of testing and verification. Satisfaction guaranteed. Get the ultimate winning edge - better players. Send \$5 for the product or 25 cents for further details to: Baseball Yardstick, 12702 Lamppost Lane, Austin, TX 78727

FOR SALE: Fanatics - Make your season more realistic with Baseball Replay '87. Exact day-to-day 1987 schedules and actual starting pitchers; comprehensive list of roster changes (trades, disabled players, minor-league callups); plus a unique lineup guide to assure realistic player use. Ideal for replaying one team or a whole league. More than 100 hours of research at your fingertips for only \$6 for AL or NL, \$10 for both. Similar replay aids for 1961, 1968, 1986, 1985 - \$10 each (roster changes for '61, '68 are trades only). Check or money order to: Glenn Guzzo, 317-21 N. Broad St. #835, Philadelphia, PA 19107

FOR SALE: Complete card sets: Hockey - 1978-79. Football - 1978, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986. Baseball - 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986. Basketball - 1976-77, 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, plus most individuals from

1977 baseball, Hall of Famer sets and old-timer teams. Write or call: Steve Wright, 76 W. 8th Ave., Apt. D-1, Columbus, OH (614-299-09617; no collect calls accepted).

FOR SALE: Accepting bids on original sets of baseball, 1962-70, 1974-85, and hockey, 1979-1984, containing extra and expansion cards when applicable. Good-mint condition. Grab bags of 50+ loose baseball cards (mostly early 1970s), \$2.50 each. Marc Jacobson 555 Crown St. #3F, Brooklyn, NY 11213

FOR SALE: Apple version computer baseball game disk for \$20. Apple version team roster disks for 1968, 1984, 1985 and 1986 seasons. \$10 each. Money orders only. Charles J. Knebel, 1018 Cora Drive, Flint, MI 48532

FOR SALE: Complete advanced game ratings for all 1987 real-season player cards (latest set of cards). Available two months after I receive cards. These ratings were instrumental in my second place TBA finish in Kansas City and have led me to many PBM championships. I factor in HR, 3B, 2B, 1B, BB, gb (a), steal and running ratings, N or W ratings, defensive position and defensive skill including throwing arm. Each player receives an on-base, slugging, total offense and overall rating against both righties and lefties. 1961, 1969, 1984, 1985 and 1986 seasons ratings also available. For your easy-to-read printout, send \$8 per season to: Paul Patrick, 3 Shenandoah, Goddard, KS 67052 (316-794-2353)

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1984 w/extras, 1984 Elias Analyst, 1985 w/extras, 1976 AL (except Baltimore) without extras. Good condition with additional information written on in pencil. 1976 sold as unit or separately. Highest bids received by April 25 to: Will Jennings, 120 South Dr., Copperas Cave, TX 76522

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FOR SALE: Serious baseball enthusiasts - Tired of all the expense and time that it takes to follow your players/teams during the major and minor league seasons? Subscribe to the Baseball Observer for complete stats (including all positions played, ages, transactions, minor league stats, etc.). For price and options brochure, send 50 cents to: Griff's Baseball Observer, Suite #211, 704 Stony Hill Road, Yardley, PA 19067

FOR SALE: Baseball: 1965 - 80% very good and 20% average; 1966 - very good, 1967 to 1985 - excellent. Old-timer teams also. Hockey - 1977 (first year) to 1985, excellent. All teams original; no reprints. Bids accepted until June 31, 1988 for everything or complete seasons. Send bid and SASE to: Philip A. Lupi, 308 Salem St., Safety Harbor, FL 34695

FOR SALE/OR TRADE: 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1983 football season sets in excellent to mint condition; no writing, with original roster sheets. 1979-80, 1985-86 basketball seasons in mint condition. 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80 hockey sets in mint condition. To be sold as complete seasons only. Will TRADE for 1971 baseball cards w/extras and original roster sheet (must be excellent condition) for any above three seasons. Also looking to get 1972 extra players. If no trade, will sell above season sets at best offer. Stan Watson, 74 Hidden Cove Circle, Sacramento, CA 95831 (916-391-9779).

FOR SALE: Don't spend the next month(s) doing the tedious analysis work on the new baseball cards. Get complete, guaranteed accurate analyses of the new cards in an easily readable form. Many different types of sorted lists also available (home run hitters against lefties, on-base percentage against righties, etc.). Customized requests can be generated. For price and options

brochure, send 50 cents to: Griff's Baseball Observer, Suite #211, 704 Stony Hill Road, Yardley, PA 19067

FOR SALE: 1984, 1986 baseball seasons; 1982, 1985 football seasons; 1982-83, 1984-85, 1985-86 basketball. All sets include extras. Also, 1930, 1956, 1961 reprint seasons. Send SASE and bids to: Kevin Hickey, 209 Holiday Road #319, Coralville, IA 52241

League Forming

LEAGUE FORMING: Kansas City area league is looking for a few new managers. Our face-to-face league is entering its third season. Emphasis is on sportsmanship and having fun. Managers' ages range from 26-43. We are a draft league and currently play the American League season in the spring/summer and National League in the fall/winter. For information, write or call: Craig Trotier, 8921 Grant Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66212 (913-341-7984)

LEAGUE FORMING: The South Shore Stratosaurus Baseball League, a face-to-face draft league, is seeking new managers. For information, call or write: Joe Trudeau (617-826-6906), P.O. Box 77, Hanover, MA 02339

LEAGUE FORMING: American Texas League. Head-to-head Houston draft baseball league looking for qualified and interested managers. We play February to October every other Tuesday night at rotating homes. Age of current managers: 25-37. We are currently in seventh season. Seven of eight teams have made playoffs in the past. We have three teams make the playoffs yearly. If interested and knowledge about baseball, call us. If you don't know baseball well, you will get beat like a drum. We have a lot of fun with regular, in-depth computerized stat reports. If you want the best and have the time and interest, call me today. John

(continued)

Blomstrom (855-4735)

LEAGUE FORMING: The H.S.M.B.L. I is currently seeking 6-8 dependable managers for the upcoming 1988 season. We are entering our fifth year as a basic draft league, with many advanced features and shrewd trading definitely permitted. There is plenty of talent available on teams currently formed- you'll be in the race from opening day. New season starts in April/May. We ask only that you be dedicated and serious enough to stay with our flexible timetable. All replies answered. Contact: Jim McPartland, 35 Morningside Dr., Bridgeport, CT 06606

LEAGUE FORMING: The Babe Ruth Memorial Baseball League, going into its fifth season, is in need of a few managers. New managers will draft from vacant teams which contain many fine players. Low league dues. Both A.L. and N.L. cards used. For more information, please write to: Chuck Bender, P.O. Box 81, Bible School Park, NY 13737

LEAGUE FORMING: W.I.F.F.L.F. B.A.L.L. (Weekly Informal Face-to-Face League Executed by Aged Little Leaguers) needs at least one manager for the upcoming season. We are a 10-team, A.L. only, continuous ownership draft league, beginning our third season in southern California. If you think you might be interested, contact: Drew Elliott, 9241 Rosser St., Bellflower, CA 90706 (213-866-4631 - after 5 p.m. during the week; anytime on weekends.

LEAGUE FORMING: The ASC Baseball League (see October issue of Review) is looking for a couple of enthusiastic, knowledgeable, reliable and mature hobbyists as managers. We're a 24-team draft league entering its 18th season. We play a 162-game schedule using their advanced version with liberal player restrictions and feature a

monthly newsletter. Take that first step towards a rewarding career in one of the most enjoyable and stable leagues around. Write to: Tom Fish, 1275 Date St. #100, San Bernardino, CA 92404

LEAGUE FORMING: The BBBL, a Los Angeles area face-to-face baseball league, is looking for a few more managers. We are beginning our sixth 100-game season (ending October) and use all super-advanced rules. For information, write or call: Ed Berro, 1417 S. Holt Ave. #3, Los Angeles CA 90035 (213-652-3647)

LEAGUE FORMING: Four available franchises immediately available in United Basketball Association, a play-by-mail draft league with 16 teams. In our 17th season. Steven L. Hayes, commissioner, 3751 Oak Apple Dr., Ada, MI 49301 (616-676-0085)

Contests

CONTEST: Attention gamers. The first annual Great Southwest Strat-O-Matic Shootout will be held May 20-22, 1988, in Longview TX. There will be a baseball tournament played under TBA (Table Baseball Association) rules. There is a good possibility that this tournament will be sanctioned by John Kreuz as an official TBA tournament. There will also be a sports trivia contest, with a possibility of a college football tournament and/or a pro football tournament. Entry fee is only \$10. For more information, write or call: Allen Pliler, Rt. 1 Box 588, Longview, TX 75602 (214-753-3442)

CONTEST: Eighth annual Lyman Bostock Memorial Tournament will be held the weekend of June 25-26 1988, in Portage, IN, at the Holiday Inn in the Pavillion and Gigi rooms. Featuring advanced and elementary baseball, super-advanced hockey and super-advanced football (old and modern
(continued on page 23)

Questions & Answers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Questions pertaining to individual and team ratings will not be answered in most cases, unless a mistake has been made on the card. The game company cannot, for reasons of security, divulge its card-making formula, which would be necessary to answer some of the questions completely.

QUESTION: On the computer game disks for IBM, how many games worth of statistical information will fit on a disk in a 162-game replay for all 26 teams? Or will only part of a season fit on a disk and more than one disk (how many?) have to be used? (Keith Gallagher, Garwood, NJ).

ANSWER: According to S-O-M, a full season of 162 games for 26 teams will fit on one statistical disk.

QUESTION: If a player has a card in the baseball game, will he be included in the computer team disk, or are the rosters only 24 players per team? (Keith Gallagher)

ANSWER: Twenty-five players are included for each team on the team roster disk, but all the extra players are available in the computer game by calling up American League extras for the East and West divisions and the same for the National League.

QUESTION: Also, if a player has two cards (one for each league), will he be included on the disk and, if so, will his information be adjusted accordingly?

ANSWER: Players with two cards are also found on two teams in the computer game. And, yes, their stats are adjusted.

QUESTION: I've had some errors that have occurred using IBM PC version of the baseball game. Tony Fernandez and Ozzie Smith, both "1" shortstops, handled groundouts that resulted in "GO, runners advance one base," using the 1985 teams. There was also a two-base error for Willie Randolph (1987), another "1," and ditto for Terry Kennedy, catcher for the '84 Padres and a "1." Why are these happening? (Richard Zaborsky, Dublin, OH).

ANSWER: Two-base errors are now possible in all the computer games, even for "1s," because a different fielding chart has been developed for them then is used for the board game. The fielding accuracy is still the same, but the possibility for a two-base error, as well as advancement on a ground-ball to a "1" infielder, does now exist.

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version). Trophies will be awarded to the winners and runner-ups of each event. Play starts at 8 a.m. (CST) and the entry fee is \$18.50. For further information, write (include a large SASE) or call: James Sanders, 1068 Van Buren St., Gary, IN 46402 (1-219-882-2938).

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leagues - McBride decided to play a "subway series" between the Mets and Yankees.

The Mets, champions in real-life, won it in six games, although the Yanks captured the opener, 5-2, as Don Mattingly doubled in three runs in the 11th inning. Len Dykstra's two-run triple in the fifth and game-winning single in the seventh inning decided game two and a three-run 10th inning homer by Keith Hernandez provides Mets with 7-4 triumph in game three and 2-1 series advantage.

Mets continue to roll in game five, clouting two homers - by Gary Carter and Hernandez - in a 9-4 romp. The Yanks, however, stay alive in game five as Doug Drabek pitches four-hit ball for eight innings and Dave Righetti gets save in 2-1 win. Gooden is the loser.

Ron Darling closes it out in game six, blanking the Yankees on a route-going four-hitter. Mattingly is hitless for first time in series. Mets only garner five hits, but two errors help lead to 5-0 victory.