



STRAT-O-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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In this corner...the editors

Although it passed without any fanfare or ticker-tape parades, the Strat-O-Matic Review did celebrate a birthday last month. The Review, believe it or not, turned 18. Eighteen years of publishing a magazine devoted to Strat-O-Matic games.

A labor of love would be another way of putting it. The Review's birth pangs resulted from an idea that became reality for three young men - only one of which, Del Newell, is still with the Review.

Warren Newell, Del's brother, and his wife Karen took over the subscription and mailing duties and the Review has never missed a beat.

The pages have been increased, and, of course, so have the prices. But where else today can you buy anything of value or substance for 75 cents? And that's what it costs per month if you buy a year's subscription to the Review.

We really didn't expect presents. But the best gift of all, really, would be for you and others like you to continue to subscribe to the Review and invite your friends to subscribe, too.

CARD CORRECTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE

As pointed out in last month's Review, there were only a couple of minor changes in the new baseball card sets.

The four players from the 1962 reprinted set (complete with advanced features) that had the transposed back sides were corrected in later-shipped sets.

And the positions on the basic side of Detroit's Chet Lemon and Luis Salazar were straightened out, too.

One other change was brought to the Review's attention by the game company: Ron Jones, who had no team listed, should have been listed with Philadelphia. And Barry Jones, who was listed as playing with Philadelphia, should have had no team listing.

Strat-O-Matic also reported that the main bulk of its baseball card/computer shipping was done in record time this year. The computer disks were about two-to-four weeks behind the shipping of the cards, but overall it was the best shipping performance ever for S-O-M.

Smeby moves up coaching ladder

Former S-O-M gamer guides British all-star football team

Kurt Smeby continues to move up in his football coaching career in England.

Smeby, many S-O-M gamers will recall, was a longtime contributor to the Review as well as organizer of some model play-by-mail leagues. He's the first to make the transition - and very successfully at that - from playing an S-O-M game and then using that experience to coach a real-life pro team.

Smeby moved to England in 1984 and soon after his arrival hooked on as an assistant coach of an "American Football" team. In the August, 1988 issue of the Review, Smeby's coaching activities, in particular how they related to his S-O-M coaching days, were chronicled.

"I received loads of nice letters from gamers since you last printed an update on my life and I'm surprised so many people remembered me and my articles from the early 1980s," says Smeby.

"I appreciate all the letters and will try to answer as many as I can. Particularly pleasing were letters from old friends like Harold Coleman and Russ Schroeder."

SMEBY COACHES AGAINST FLORES

Smeby sent along a program of a game in which the British Gridiron Football League (BGFL) all-stars played the Australian Kookaburras, a touring team coached by former Los Angeles Raiders' coach Tom Flores.

Smeby, who had become a head coach soon after the BGFL was formed, was selected to guide the league's all-stars against Flores' Aussies.

Thanks to a 27-point second quarter, the BGFL's best claimed a 33-28 thriller.

"I must emphasize," pointed out Smeby, "that at this level my S-O-M experience wasn't what really helped as much as pure experience of actual coaching and dedication."

"But again it did prove a hypothetical theory: someone with a minimal sports background and serious gaming background can indeed succeed on the very highest levels. I think this would be a nice thing for all gamers to remember, especially younger ones wondering if all the time they spend gaming is just wasting their life."

VISIONS OF A BLACK DIE

As far as highlights of the game, Smeby reports that the BGFL's placekicker booted a record 58-yard field goal. The offense moved the ball well, but the defense had trouble with a sprint-out passing attack that Flores had the Aussies using and a flock of penalties, particularly of the pass interference variety.

"I swear I saw a big black die fall from the skies with a big 'X' on it," quipped Smeby, referring to 150 yards in walkoffs.

Any of Smeby's friends who haven't contacted him and wish to do so, can write him at the following address: Kurt Smeby, 10 Appleby Walk, Lakeview Estate, Northampton, England NN3 1PP 0604 492214.

The Review staff

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New tournaments added to Bostock

Gaming lineup includes modern pro football

There have been some changes made in the Lyman Bostock Memorial Tournament that will be coming up this summer, August 19-20, at the Holiday Inn in Portage, IN.

James Sanders, the policeman from Gary, IN, who started the LBMT nine years ago, will again be directing the fun-filled weekend.

The change is the addition of a couple of new tournaments, including super-advanced pro football (modern version). In addition, college football, super-advanced baseball and super-advanced football (old version) will be Sunday-only backup tournaments.

Winners and runners-up in each tournament will again be awarded trophies (the trophies are provided by the Strat-O-Matic Game Co.). Entry fee is \$19.50 for both days, or \$12.75 for those wishing to compete Sunday only.

"The main events (staged Saturday and Sunday) are advanced baseball and super-advanced hockey (as well as super-advanced football)," mentions Sanders.

"Actual teams will be used. Due to the limited amount of teams available for modern football, no teams can be reserved in advance. We will draw numbers for team selection."

Mini leagues will be played Saturday and playoffs, Super Bowl, World Series and Stanley Cup on Sunday. Those gamers that don't qualify for Sunday's playoffs can enter any of the three one-day backup tournaments.

Gamers interested in more information about the LBMT should either call (1-219-944-8339) or write: James Sanders, 2149 McKinley St., Gary, IN 46404.

Baseball playing tip

Along with sending along information regarding this summer's LBMT, Sanders included a baseball tip for using the currently supplementary stealing system with past seasons.

It's a conversion chart from the AAA through E stealing system of the past to the supplementary stealing system that's so popular today.

"This system does give respect to 'C' or better stealers," says Sanders. "The system works just like the supplementary system and all 'C' or better stealers are given an asterisk. Pitchers are not allowed to steal, the same as in the supplementary system.

"And, after making all the adjustments (catcher's arm, holding on, etc.), no ratings are higher than 1-19 or below 1."

Here's the conversion chart:

		<u>Rating</u>	<u>Good Lead</u>	<u>Picked Off</u>
AAA	-	20-16	* 2-7, 10	-
AA	-	19-15	* 2-7,	-
A	-	17-13	* 2-5, 10	-
B	-	15-11	* 2-5	-
C	-	13-9	* 2-4	-
D	-	11-7	2-4	7
E	-	9-5	2	7,8

Who are top rookies in new card set?

Jefferies, despite few at-bats, rated the best

Playing the ratings game is fun, doesn't really cost anything and can pay off in the near future if you're in a Strat-O-Matic league.

A position-by-position list of ratings for both the American and National leagues, for instance, was included in the Feb. issue of the Review. Jeff Green, a highly successful manager in two S-O-M leagues, one face-to-face and the other play-by-mail, passed along his expertise on how he ranked the new cards.

Doug Crandall of Deerfield, KS, has expanded on Green's ratings by listing the rookies at each position and describing, in his opinion, who to go after in any upcoming draft.

"As a manager of three PBM teams and commissioner of the Roberto Clemente Memorial Baseball League, I have researched the new set and have made my predictions for this year's 'Great' rookies and also this year's group of rookie 'flashes'."

Some of the players listed saw heavy duty action and were regulars while others had so few at-bats/innings pitched that if you draft them they would definitely be futures and be of little help this season.

Here are Crandall's ratings of the rookies available (having a card):

CATCHERS

Damon Berryhill (Chicago Cubs) is by far the best catcher available. Kirt Manwaring and Craig Biggio are great prospects, while Pat Borders, Brian Harper and Nelson Santovenia will surprise many people.

Damon Berryhill (Cubs)	Brian Harper (Milwaukee)
Kirt Manwaring (Giants)	Nelson Santovenia (Montreal)
Pat Borders (Toronto)	Mark Parent (San Diego)
Craig Biggio (Houston)	Mackey Sasser (NY Mets)

FIRST BASE

If you don't grab Mark Grace now, you may never get another chance. He is a good fielder and an excellent overall player. Ricky Jordan could put up some big numbers with power. Luis Medina is only a DH, but due to his offensive potential should be a first-rounder.

Mark Grace (Cubs)	Joey Meyer (Milwaukee)
Ricky Jordan (Philadelphia)	Jim Eppard (California)
Luis Medina (Cleveland)	

SECOND BASE

Roberto Alomar is just out of high school and is already one of the top second basemen in the game. Greg Jefferies has more ability, but will he be at third base? Rex Hudler surprised many people with his offense and he has good speed. Luis Alicea has the tools but still has a ways to go.

Roberto Alomar (San Diego)	Rex Hudler (Montreal)
Greg Jefferies (NY Mets)	Luis Alicea (St .Louis)

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THIRD BASE

A player of Jefferies' ability should go on the first pick of the draft. Take him at all costs. Chris Sabo will do well in Cincinnati, due to his Charlie Hustle attitude.

Greg Jefferies (NY Mets)

Chris Sabo (Cincinnati)

SHORTSTOP

If you need a shortstop who is young, can field and is an average hitter, then take Walt Weiss. However, if you will need a shortstop in the future or if you can afford to draft him early, then take Gary Sheffield as soon as possible.

He has awesome talents and Milwaukee has groomed him for rookie of the year. Jody Reed is a good hitter, but if you want more defense and an up-and-coming hitter, then draft Kevin Elster.

Walt Weiss (Oakland)

Kevin Elster (NY Mets)

Gary Sheffield (Milwaukee)

Luis Rivera (Montreal)

Jody Reed (Boston)

OUTFIELDER

A weak year for outfielders. But there are some great prospects. Jay Buhner could hit 30-plus home runs in the Kingdome. And Brady Anderson could hit .300 for the next decade in Baltimore.

Cecil Espy is Texas's center fielder for many years to come. Darrin Jackson can't replace Rafael Palmiero's average, but will play defense and provide power in Chicago. Rob Ducey and Sil Campusano have outstanding talent but will they get a chance to play in Toronto?

If you need a terrific pinch-hitter, then draft Donell Nixon of San Francisco. He has perhaps the greatest hitting card S-O-M ever

printed (advanced side). He's only a one year shot, though.

Editor's note: Against left-handed pitching, Nixon (who had only 78 official at-bats) has 87 on-base chances, plus five possible ball park hit chances. He has hits and walks, and lots of them, in all three columns. That figures out to an on-base percentage of amazingly,

DONELL NIXON					
IF-2(+2) 27/27 27					
stealing-B *3-10/2,11,12 (15-11) bunting-B hit & run-C running 1-17					
35% AGAINST LEFT-HAND PITCHER					
1	2	3	1	2	3
2-strikeout	2-2 foulout (c)	2-fly (lf) B?	2-WALK	2-foulout (c)	2-gb (ss) B+
plus injury	3-strikeout	3-fly (lf) B?	3-fly (rf) B?	3-gb (3b) B	3-popout (ss)
3-SI* 1-12	4-WALK	4-strikeout	4-gb (ss) B	4-gb (ss) B	4-gb (3b) B
lo(ss) 13-20	5-WALK	5-SINGLE**	115-SINGLE (rf)	5-gb (ss) A	5-WALK
4-WALK	6-SINGLE**	6-SINGLE**	116-SINGLE (lf)	6-SI* 1-14	6-WALK
5-DOUBLE(d)	7-WALK	7-WALK	117-SINGLE**	lo(ss) 15-20	7-strikeout
6-DO** 1-16	8-WALK	8-WALK	8-SINGLE*	7-strikeout	8-fly (cf) B?
SI** 17-20	9-fly (lf) B?	9-SINGLE**	9-SINGLE (cf)	8-gb (ss) A+	9-fly (lf) B?
117-SINGLE (lf)	10-strikeout	10-SINGLE*	10-SINGLE**	9-gb (ss) B	10-fly (lf) B?
118-SINGLE**	11-fly (lf) B?	11-SINGLE**	11-gb (ss) A	10-gb (ss) B	SI* 1-15
9-SINGLE*	SI* 1-18	112-SINGLE**	12-lo(3b) max	11-lineout (ss)	lo(ss) 16-20
10-SINGLE (cf)	lo(ss) 19-20		plus injury	12-fly (cf) B?	111-SINGLE**
11-strikeout	12-fly (lf) B?				112-SINGLE**
12-lo(3b) max					

DONELL NIXON - SUPER AGAINST LEFTIES

.806 (not counting ball park hit chances).

Jay Buhner (Seattle)

Dave Gallagher (White Sox)

(continued on next page)

Brady Anderson (Baltimore)
 Cecil Espy (Texas)
 Darrin Jackson (Cubs)

Rob Ducey (Toronto)
 Sil Campusano (Toronto)
 Donell Nixon (San Francisco)

STARTING PITCHERS

Tim Belcher is head and shoulders above all others. Jack McDowell and Melido Perez should provide White Sox with 250-plus innings for many years and won't last past second-round of draft.

Allan Anderson of Minnesota is a one-year shot. Don't count on him to help you in the future. Erik Hanson of Seattle and Shawn Hillegas, White Sox, are future stars in the A.L. Don August and Jose Bautista could surprise some people but are no threat to win 20.

Tim Belcher (Los Angeles)	Erik Hanson (Seattle)
Jack McDowell (White Sox)	Shawn Hillegas (White Sox)
Melido Perez (White Sox)	Don August (Milwaukee)
Allan Anderson (Minnesota)	Jose Bautista (Baltimore)

RELIEF PITCHERS

Bryan Harvey has excellent stuff and he will learn to hold runners (+8) close to base. Take Belcher if you have enough starters. Rob Dibble will be good setup man for Cincinnati.

Terry Ward, Mike Schooler and Todd Burns have good arms and could become excellent pitchers. Entire list of relievers could be gone by the third or fourth round of draft.

Bryan Harvey (California)	Duane Ward (Toronto)
Tim Belcher (Los Angeles)	Mike Schooler (Seattle)
Rob Dibble (Cincinnati)	Todd Burns (Oakland)
Scott Terry (St. Louis)	

ALL ROOKIE DREAM TEAM

If I could start a team from scratch (or have an expansion team with all rookies from this year's card set), this would be my top 16 picks:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Greg Jefferies (NY Mets) | 9. Luis Medina (Cleveland) |
| 2. Mark Grace (Cubs) | 10. Tim Belcher (Los Angeles) |
| 3. Gary Sheffield (Milwaukee) | 11. Jack McDowell (White Sox) |
| 4. Roberto Alomar (San Diego) | 12. Melido Perez (White Sox) |
| 5. Ricky Jordan (Philadelphia) | 13. Jay Buhner (Seattle) |
| 6. Walt Weiss (Oakland) | 14. Bryan Harvey (California) |
| 7. Chris Sabo (Cincinnati) | 15. Brady Anderson (Baltimore) |
| 8. Damon Berryhill (Cubs) | 16. Darrin Jackson (Cubs) |

Questions & Answers

QUESTION: When using the supplementary stealing system, can a stealer attempt to get a good lead everytime a new batter comes up?

ANSWER: No, unless the baserunning situation, or pitcher, changes.

Here's tale of two replays

Los Angeles, Oakland split in two seven-game World Series

Here's a tale of two World Series replays, one conducted by Jaime Manuel of St. Louis, MO, and the other by Larry Hill of Spokane, WA.

These were the first World Series gaming efforts to cross the desk of the Review and, since both tried to adhere to real-life pitching rotations and lineups, we thought they would be of interest to readers.

Both differed from real-life in that each went the seven-game route. Manuel used Kirk Gibson only as a pinch-hitter, while Hill started him the first three games and, after he was injured, as a pinch-hitter in game five.

In Manuel's replay, Oakland got out of the shackles that restricted its hitting in real-life, batted .298 and wound up edging L.A. in the seventh game, 5-4.

Hill, meanwhile, watched the A's blast out eight home runs but bat only .229 (the Dodgers weren't much better at .211), with Los Angeles pulling out the seventh game as MVP Orel Hershisier pitched a three-hitter and struck out nine in a 1-0 victory.

Hershisier emulated real-life in Hill's replay, tossing two shutouts, allowing only seven hits, striking out 18 and walking just one.

Hershisier got off to a good start for Manuel, too, hurling a four-hit shutout in game two. But in game five, Hershisier was hammered for five runs and 10 hits in six innings of a 5-2 loss.

GIBSON VS. ECKERSLEY

Each of the gamers also had a duel between Gibson and Oakland relief ace Dennis Eckersley. In neither was there a feat straight out of "The Natural" by Gibson.

In the first game by Manuel, Gibson came up as a pinch-hitter with two outs and the score tied at 2-2 in the bottom of the ninth. Gibson drew a walk and the A's exploded for six runs the next inning for an 8-2 win.

After starting the first three games (0-for-10), Gibson was only used a pinch-hitter by Hill. In game five, with Oakland leading 4-3, two outs and a runner on first in the ninth, Gibson hit a long drive off Eckersley that was caught against the fence.

"Art does not imitate life," said Hill after the near-miss.

In Manuel's replay, Dave Parker batted .421, Walt Weiss .407, Jose Canseco .393 (two home runs) and Mark McGwire .333 (two homers and six RBI). Steve Sax was a terror for L.A., hitting .448 (13-29), with six RBI and five runs scored. Eckersley was 1-0 with two saves and a 1.61 ERA.

For Hill, meanwhile, Canseco hit .276 (four homers, six RBI), Dave Henderson had three home runs (six RBI), while Mike Marshall led L.A. with three homers and eight RBI and Franklin Stubbs batted .385.

NEW RULES USED BY HILL

Hill used the new balk, wild pitch and passed ball rules.

"For the seven games I had three balks (Dave Stewart, Storm Davis, Bob Welch), one passed ball and one wild pitch (Tim Belcher). The balk for Davis must have rattled him because he gave up a home run to Marshall on the next pitch. I also had one pickoff, with Alfredo Griffin being picked off on a roll of 19 on wild pitch chance in game one.

"I do have a suggestion for the rule: I think that it should only be in effect for baserunners who have a *. This will keep managers from trying to get leads with players like Terry McGriff (2 - 20-6). I would try to steal a player like that every time he's on base, in hopes of

(continued on next page)

getting a base by a balk, wild pitch or passed ball, even though he has little hope of actually having to steal."

Manuel goes on to say: "I hope that my PBM leagues (Fly-By-Night and ASBA) adopt this rule and report results to the game company so it will be a permanent part of the game. It did add to the excitement of these seven games."

WORLD SERIES SUMMARY

JAIME MANUEL

Game 1: Oakland 8, LA 2...WP: Eckersley.
...A's scored six runs in top of 10th inning.

Game 2: LA 4, Oakland 0...Hershiser pitches four-hitter...L.A. collects three triples, one by Hershiser. LP: Storm Davis.

Game 3: LA 4, Oakland 2...WP: John Tudor gets win and Sax hits three-run homer and goes 2-4.

Game 4: LA 3, Oakland 2...Error by Glen Hubbard in ninth lets in winning run off Dave Stewart. ..Sax doubled in ninth and scored winning run.

Game 5: Oakland 5, LA 2...Canseco goes 3-for-4 with homer as A's knock Hershiser out (five runs, 10 hits in six innings).

Game 6: Oakland 5, LA 1...Canseco and McGwire club homers as A's drive Tudor out behind 12-hit attack...WP: Welch.

Game 7: Oakland 5, LA 4...Eckersley gets save as A's, after taking early 4-0 lead, hold on for win...WP: Stewart. LP: Belcher.

LARRY HILL

Oakland 7, LA 3...WP: Stewart Canseco had three homers and five RBI.

LA 5, Oakland 0...Hershiser also pitches four-hit shutout plus strikes out nine.

LA 5, Oakland 2...Tudor goes 6 2/3 innings and Jay Howell gets save..Gibson is injured.

Oakland 3, LA 2...Canseco's homer in eighth off Belcher is difference...Eckersley makes first appearance and gets save.

Oakland 4, LA 3...Mickey Hatcher's error at first with two outs in eighth lets in two runs...Save: Eckersley.

LA 7, Oakland 6...Dave Anderson's pinch single in fifth drives in winning run...WP: Brian Holton. SA: Howell.

LA 1, Oakland 0...Hershiser was the hero with three-hitter (nine strikeouts)...L.A. scored in first inning on bases-loaded hit batsman.

Questions & Answers

QUESTION: In going over all literature that was included with 1987 card set, I saw nothing about any rule concerning advancement of runners on an attempted throw to third base or home. Could the new rule be explained? (Robert Howard III, West Lebanon, NH)

ANSWER: S-O-M's new rule is found in the instructions for playing the computer game (page 11), but for IBM and Commodore only. The rule reads: "The cut-off rule is implemented in two instances: (1) With runners on first and second, or (continued on back page)

Readers roll 'em

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EXCITED ABOUT SANDERS' CARD

As many S-O-M College Football players may feel, I am very excited about Barry Sanders' 1989 football card. He is definitely one of the most exciting winners and he really had a statistical edge.

In response to the article on information on the cards, I think the cards are good enough now and don't need improvement. I love the simplicity (though I'm not stupid) of playing the game and believe that those who love stats should go to a bookstore and buy a baseball magazine.

S-O-M, of course, could be made more fun by using playing tips. I think you should publish a whole issue (or, maybe a special) on playing tips. You could ask readers to submit ideas and pick the best ones.

Football on computer would be fun and I was wondering if there were any plans to make a computer college football game. This would be great and help me with my statistics (which I like to update after every game but take forever). I would even settle for a statistical package.

I am a little concerned about the fact that some players or teams (college football game), won't roll up as many yards as other teams simply because in S-O-M there aren't as many bad teams: i.e., Kansas, Kansas State with Oklahoma in the Big Eight, etc.

I think there should be more ways of scheduling weaker teams (maybe even expanding the amount of teams).

Does Strat-O-Matic plan on issuing college basketball? To me it is more exciting than the pros and I would definitely be a customer. I also know other people that would like to see it.

I think the Review should run a poll on the top 48 teams (1988-89 football season) for the readers (48 points for first, 47 for second, etc.) and get a top 48 (as soon as teams for the '89 edition are released) so that we can play our leagues using the same top 48.

Give my idea a thought, please.

KEVIN LEMASTER

MORE STATS ON CARDS

I agree with Kevin Anderson's column in December regarding more stats on the baseball cards.

At-bats, batting average and home runs versus right-handed and left-handed pitching are some more stats, as well as number of batters faced, batting average and home runs allowed versus RHB and LHB.

More stats make the game more useful for research as well as playing. The cards have plenty of room - abbreviations are used in all record books.

CHARLES MILLER
Fullerton, CA

COMPUTER FOOTBALL

It is my opinion that Mr. (Harold) Richman should research and later release a computer version of the pro football game. A computer version of the game would be particularly appealing to the solitaire gamer, and at the same time would certainly spice up head-to-head competition.

Hats off to S-O-M's computer baseball game. The standings and leaders feature is simply fantastic.

JAMES PERKINS
Edmore, MI

WEISS, CANSECO UNDERRATED

We really appreciate your sacrificial efforts producing the Review. We just received the January issue and compared our prognostication of player ratings with the real thing.

Mainly our educated guesses were of the local teams and in particular the A's Weiss and Canseco. We were about two-thirds sure Weiss would be a "1" because he was just so exceptional, maybe even the next wizard. But I realize that S-O-M along with the rest of the league take time to

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accept fielding prowess, i.e. Gaetti, Dwight Evans. The hardest to accept is giving Alfredo (Griffin) a "1" while (Walt) Weiss gets a "2" and knowing that in S-O-M there is a big effective difference between those two ratings for shortstops.

In Canseco's rookie year he was real raw in the field and we had to forgive him on many occasions. In 1987 was a great improvement; his knowledge of hitters, speed, consistency in his throwing, all added to so much improvement that we would not have been surprised if he were rated a "2", but we could live with the "3" he got.

In 1988 Jose was like a different outfielder. He was moved to right field and he covered it would than almost anyone we had ever seen. We both saw Willie Mays in his prime and we think Jose is closing the gap.

We don't have access yet to 1988 range factors but he caught so many balls normally falling in or hitting the fence or going foul, that if the range factor is low then there just wasn't enough balls hit to right.

Jose Canseco a "4"? Worse than 1987? It's got to be a typo.

We hope it is because our friends who are fans but not yet S-O-M players would see it as a loss of creditability. Even a "3" would have been enough to cry in disbelief.

We know how much fellow gamers care about the game, so this represents the opinion of two. We had guessed that Jose would get a "1" or "2", but a "4" is so much worse than a "3".

On the computer game, we would like to see a hard disk version, all three dice able to stop rolling independently, league leaders compiled and listed for all categories and all past seasons put on disks.

RICHARD A. GRAY
MARTIN BRODY

Editor's note: Your concerns about Canseco's "4" rating were well-founded as there was a typo.

He should be, as was mentioned in the February Review, a "3". The other mistake was the Review listing Wally Joyner as a "4" when he should have been a "1".

BASEBALL SUGGESTIONS

I have some suggestions for the S-O-M Baseball game.

First, I think the company should include a set of pitcher's hitting cards with each season purchased. Like a lot of gamers I have over 100 teams and only four PHCs. Actually, a hitting card for each pitcher would be nice.

Second, the computer game should have an auto-play function to make playing entire seasons easier (in fact, much easier).

You could give the computer instructions for different situations that would come up. These could be different for different teams. The computer could play automatically until a strange situation occurred, or a pitcher got tired or a pitcher came up with men on base after a given inning.

It could also stop automatically if a perfect game was in the works, or a batter came up with a chance of hitting for the cycle, hitting a fourth homer in a game, etc.

An alternative would be to have the computer play automatically until someone reached base. Even this could speed things up.

Obviously, you wouldn't want to play all your games this way, but it would be perfect for re-playing a season. You could play your own team out by out, then work out the starters for all the other teams and let the computer play those games, stopping them when you need to make a decision.

DALE MILLER
Berkeley, CA

A LOOK AT ALL THE GAMES

I am a 33-year-old teacher, married with three kids (two possibly dice-rollers) and in my 20th year of Strat-O Baseball.

(continued on next page)

It's been a great relationship.

I played basketball in the mid-70s, got football in 1978 and hockey in 1980. I would like to comment on each of the games.

First, the baseball game is outstanding. It has changed so much since the 1967 set, yet you can still play the basic game. From stealing to clutch hitting to computer, it has evolved.

But after the new Hall of Fame set and the 1927 set, let's put baseball on hold for one year. I have enough teams and seasons. Let's upgrade the other three games.

Back in 1983 (the 1982 season), the new football game came out. A poll was conducted in the Review and the readers voted on the 10 old-time teams they wanted for the new game.

There was a lot of grumbling because the old and new games weren't compatible. Mr. (Harold) Richman said he would bring out the old-timer teams we voted on. Over five years later, I still can only play 1982 and later. I play with my old football game as much as the new.

I do like the penalties and the pass rushing in the new game, but I miss not being able to play with teams of the '60s and '70s. I get awfully tired of playing the 1980s teams.

The same would hold true for basketball. If S-O-M could offer some old Celtic and Laker teams and others, it could bring up sales. It would be fun to match Bill Russell's Celtics against Larry Bird's.

Finally, in hockey I would like to see a 30-player Hall of Fame set, with players like Gordie Howe, Bobby Hull, Maurice Richard, etc. That way we could incorporate them onto teams of the present.

Last, I would like to compliment the Strat-O-Matic Review. You've been informative, entertaining and helpful all these years. Keep up the great work and I'll be reading you for at least another 20 years.

JEFF HORLEN
Spokane, WA

NO MORE 'STREAKS'

Please don't waste any more space on letters complaining about the lack of a "streak factor" in Strat-O-Matic (William Golden's letter, Feb. Review).

Strat is concerned with end results (final stats), not the means required to achieve them. Streaks are based on random dice rolls and cannot be factored into the game, yet the game is full of streaks.

If you don't see streaks in your games, you're not studying your boxscores carefully enough.

An example of "ends" versus "means": In my 1987 Mets replay, Keith Hernandez was never more than 10 points above or below his real-life .290 average the entire season.

On the other hand, Darryl Strawberry ripped at a .340 pace the first half of the season, then slumped badly the second half to wind up close to his real-life .284 mark.

Different means, same ends.

To top it off, Mr. Golden complained about the stats of '68 Bob Gibson, then revealed he was using Gibby against 1930 teams. Gibson's '68 stats were compiled against a league that hit only .243, while the 1930 league averages were .288 (NL) and .303 (AL). Of course his stats will be altered.

NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST

Looking for back issues of Review?

The following issues of the Review are available at a cost of \$1.25 per issue. Send to: Strat-O-Matic Review, P.O. Box 27, Otsego, MI 49078.

1988

Jan., Feb., March, May, June, July, August, Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

1987

Jan., Feb., March, April, May, June, July, August, Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

Strat-O-Matic spotlight

Stan Watson, the heavyweight playing champion of Strat-O-Matic's computer baseball game, is continuing to rack up some impressive numbers.

Watson, who hails from Sacramento, CA, and has completed four National League replays using the computer version (Nov., 1988 Review), has put together a player Register that would rival anything put out for the major leagues.

It's divided into two sections, one for batters, and the other for pitchers. Almost every pertinent statistic is listed, with only pitchers' batting not available because of lack of computer memory.

Houston's Glenn Davis, we found by checking the Register, has been a model of consistency. The Astro slugger had 31 home runs, 105 RBI, 13 game-winning hits and batted .314 based on the 1985 season. In 1986 the numbers were 33, 118, 26 and .272. And in 1987 they were 36, 115, 22 and .250.

Slugging percentage and total bases are also included among Watson's myriad of statistics.

In addition, Watson has all-time leaders (a top 20) for individual players, plus complete team hitting and pitcher statistics for each season. A lot of work. Mike Schmidt is the all-time home run (146) and RBI (480) leader. And Dwight Gooden has the most wins (84-32 record), 15 more than runner-up Fernando Valenzuela (69-52) and strikeouts (1019). Nolan Ryan is second on the strikeout list with 986.

Gooden's four-year ERA is also tops at 2.41. Ryan is second at 2.58.

Watson has already pressed the first keys for the start of his 1989 (based on '88) N.L. computer replay. We should be hearing from him again sometime this summer.

NEW KING CROWNED AT MID-MICHIGAN

Ron Dickerson of Rockford, IL, reigns as the king of the eighth annual Mid-Michigan Invitational football tournament that was staged at the township hall in the small town of McBride.

Dickerson guided the 1972 Miami Dolphins to the championship of the double-elimination tourney which also included such well-known gridiron gamers as Craig Dashut of Downers Grove, IL ('76 Bears); Ken Donnelly, South Bend, IN ('75 Steelers) and Adam Veile, Elkhart, IN ('75 Rams), winner of the Review's most recent MVP Contest in baseball.

Jim Perkins of Edmore, MI, again put on the tournament, as well as played in it. Perkins directed the '77 Broncos.

In the finale, Dickerson's Dolphins defeated Stan Kowalski's (Burnham, IL) 1968 Chiefs, 27-20. Miami reached the championship game with nary a loss, pinning setbacks on, in order, the '73 Dolphins (29-20), '68 Packers (23-10), Ron Brammer's defending champion '70 Lions (30-14) and the '68 Cowboys in overtime (9-6).

Other coaches in the tourney, in which super-advanced rules were used, included Brammer, Gladstone, MO; Dan Barrett, Elkhart, IN ('68 Cowboys); Pete Nicholson, Westchester, IL ('68 Packers); Pat Taselski, Mishawaka, IN ('73 Dolphins); Steve Cornelius, Rockford, IL ('58 Colts) and Sam Dragovich, East Chicago, IN ('71 Cowboys). James Sanders of Gary, IN, was also in attendance but did not participate.

THAT'S MY GIRL!

Phil Ledesma of Wellington, KS, is turning S-O-M Hockey into a family affair.

(continued on next page)

His wife, Patricia, used to play the game (in fact, she won the Wild West Hockey Association championship in 1984). And now his daughter, Christa, 9, guides an expansion team in the Gordie Howe Classic.

"She's been rolling Strat dice since age three," says her proud pop, who adds that when she joined the GHC he acted as general manager of her expansion team. "Her opening game was a victory over my L.A. Kings (Detroit won 4-1)," adds Ledesma.

"Like most Strato rookies," continues Ledesma, "Christa is an excellent student who loves games. She attends Kennedy Elementary school in Wellington and her lifetime GPA (grade-point-average) is 4.0."

The Ledesma family also includes a son, Billy, 6, who hasn't started rolling dice seriously yet. But he's a future coach.

"If we can get mom to come out of retirement," says Phil, "we might be able to take over a whole division some day."

VIOLA, A NO-HITTER!

Frank Viola's super season in 1987 carried over to the tabletop when Minnesota's southpaw pitched a no-hitter in a face-to-face draft league in Dublin, OH.

Tom Hale was the manager who watched Viola mow down an all-star lineup and record the league's second no-hitter using the IBM computer game.

The league consisted of the best players from 1985, '86 and '87 seasons so it was definitely all-star all the way.

Viola was pitching in the '85 Houston Astrodome and that helped on those ballpark home run chances. As it turned out, he struck out five and walked three while facing the likes of Kevin Seitzer, Brett Butler and '85 Bob Horner.

Richard Zaborsky and Randy Boring were the other managers in the league, with Zaborsky chronicling the no-hitter and sending the information to the Review.

REPLAYS COMING NEXT MONTH

Some very good replays have crossed the desk of the Review in recent months and, unfortunately, have yet to see the printed page.

Fielding ratings and evaluations of the new cards have taken up a lot of space, along with ads, Readers roll 'em, etc. But, hopefully the Review can devote a larger section to replays in its next issue.

Please, however, if you plan on sending information and yearbooks about your league, emphasize the personal and personnel, rather than the statistical.

We want to know how your league came into being, who the managers are, what they do for a living and how they began their S-O-M careers. Highlights and lowlights are always good, too. And innovations your league uses are always of interest to other gamers who may adopt some of them for their leagues.

How the league is conducted as far as schedules and organization is also of general interest.

But please don't send in mammoth yearbooks with every statistic imaginable - particularly if there's no summary of the league's season and very few references to the managers and their backgrounds.

Everyone is proud of their league affiliation, especially if the league has been around for a number of years/seasons. And the Review in the months ahead would like to share some of those leagues with readers.

So, send your league along to the Review. Give the highlights, the standings and some statistics. Any new rules - i.e., balks, wild pitches, passed balls - that you've tried, let us know about them, too.

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: Concerning the wild pitch, balk and passed ball rules: It says credit the pitcher with a pickoff, rather than charging the runner with a caught stealing (18-19-20). In baseball, if you are picked off, it is a caught stealing. Also, what about 2b-4 and 1b-4 on Chet Lemon's Detroit elementary card? No listing of him in American League averages. (John McTernan, Belleville, IL)

ANSWER: Score it as a caught stealing, the same as would be done if a picked off number was rolled when the baserunner was attempting to get a good lead. Lemon's card was corrected in the March issue of the Review. Lemon should have only right field listed on his card. Later card sets did have this correction made.

QUESTION: Is there a list available of fielder's range and error ratings, pitcher's "to hold" numbers and catchers' arms, before the cards come out? (Rick Kuchma, Hamilton, Ontario)

ANSWER: Best source of this information (fielder's range and error ratings, catcher's arm, etc.) is the Review, which has had that information in its January issue for the last few years.

QUESTION: Will the game company be sending out a new fielding chart to match the one used for the computer game? (Doug Crandall, Deerfield, KS)

ANSWER: S-O-M has long maintained that there is no actual hard copy version of the fielding system found in the computer games. The program was created according to S-O-M's specifications and incorporated into the computer version - all without a written copy.

QUESTION: Do you know if Strat-O-Matic is planning to produce an IBM computer version of football or hockey? (George Georgeopoulos, Vancouver, B.C.)

ANSWER: Not at this time, or for the foreseeable future. But this is not the final word on the subject of other S-O-M computer sports, for sure.

QUESTION: Whatever happened with the Advanced Penetration chart (continued on next page)

(experimental in 1978 or 1979) in hockey? (Judy Goldberg, New York, NY)

ANSWER: It is, and has been, part of the chart today.

QUESTION: When goalie is pulled at end of game, shouldn't all X-results be considered goals? Who gets the save if they are not? (Goldberg)

ANSWER: No, because defensemen are assumed to be protecting net. It's a team save in such situations, according to S-O-M.

QUESTION: Is there any provision for a player receiving a 5-minute major penalty when an opponent does not? In other words, can there be a 5-minute power play in S-O-M Hockey? (Goldberg)

ANSWER: S-O-M says it doesn't have a provision for a 5-minute power play in hockey. The penalty chart may undergo some revision or updating, in the future.

QUESTION: The rule states only one stolen base attempt is allowed with each base running situation. When a good baserunner gets on with no out and doesn't get a good lead, few people will steal him. But with two outs I often will steal with a 60 percent chance. In the computer version, it allows you to go for a good lead with each new batter. Is this a flaw in the computer version? (Paul Malo, Calgary, Alberta)

ANSWER: Play S-O-M's computer baseball game the same as you would the board game. The computer game, however, does ask for strategy options for every batter, regardless of whether or not the baserunning situation has changed. Only one option, or attempt, is allowed for each baserunning situation, so any ensuing options in the computer game have to be a "no."

QUESTION: Please explain the following discrepancy: In the 1987-88-based basketball cards, Darnell Valentine received a 2-3, 12 rating for a 3-point shot (he was .455, 15-33). I attributed his poor shooting to the low attempts per game rate. However, Jeff Malone shot .417 (10 for 24) and received a very respectable 2-6, 12. The Review has stated many times that the game company would continue to print cards based on actual data (with the 'please limit' statement on the rosters). (Bryan Kernal, Bellflower, CA)

ANSWER: According to James Williams of S-O-M, the 3-point ratings are based more on number of attempts than shooting percentage. "Valentine was only fourth on the Clippers as far as number of 3-point attempts." On the Bullets, however, Malone was second on the team despite attempting only 24. And the No. 1 shooter was only five of 38. Malone's had to be improved.

Hockey playing tip

By PHIL LEDESMA, Hawthorne,, CA

As a veteran player and student of Strat-O-Matic Hockey, I have found that most gamers don't really know the rules. I thought it was about time that somebody clarify things for those of you who want to do it the right way. All of my information comes from Strat-O-Matic's rules.

ASSIST - How many times did you automatically give an assist to players who got a rebound shot that was put in by a teammate? It seems logical enough. I mean, the NHL gives assists in such cases, right?

Suppose you decide to pass with a player with a passing card that cannot complete one? You get that lucky split card that does what your passer was not capable of, an "inside shot." Wouldn't you automatically give this guy an assist? You saw him complete it and you saw the goal, so why not?

If you win a faceoff in your opponent's end, your player scores on a blast from the point. An assist for the center? Seems logical, right?

Now it's time to get out your rules. Now turn to page 4, column one near the bottom of the page. Are any of the above situations a legal automatic assist? Oh, I know that you saw what you thought was an assist, but look on page 4, I don't see it.

For those of you who didn't think you needed to keep your rules, or for those who misplaced the rules, I'll share my copy with you:

"Credit a player with an assist if his pass contributes directly to a goal from either the Action Deck or the Passing Section of his card."

Now, if you see the word rebound or faceoff in there anywhere in the "assists" section of the rules, then I owe you next year's hockey set.

The rules go on to have you use the assist ratings to award assists to the players. These assist ratings are the key to statistical accuracy because there are only four basic passing sections in S-O-M Hockey. Assist ratings separate the Lemieuxs and the Gretzkys from the Mikael Anderssons.

Wayne Gretzky has been short-changed by many S-O-M gamers just because of this "automatic visual assist" bug that has bitten us all. Strat's system relies very heavily on the assist ratings, not our opinions.

NO 'AUTOMATIC' ASSISTS

Getting back to the other two situations. Any player in control of the puck when his team gets a breakaway chance, does not get an automatic assist under the rules.

The defenseman that has no pass completions on his card cannot get an automatic assist ever, because his passing section does not allow him to. Only his assist rating can get him assists as the rules state.

My last words involved passing directly after a faceoff. If you look at the rules literally, you will notice the passing option is allowed "when a reading of outside shot occurs." One look at the faceoff chart and you will find no "readings" of outside shot.

The basic faceoff rules (on page 1 of the instruction booklet) mention the penetration option or shooting. The advanced faceoff rules mention only the +1 and +2 faceoff advantages. The passing option is still not mentioned.

My final analysis: If it doesn't say so (in the playing manual), you can't do it. I'm not sure if this is how Strat-O-Matic meant things to be done, but this is how I "read" it.

S-O-M league, replay scene

LEAGUE OF VILLAGE IDIOTS - A six-manager, face-to-face draft league in the Austin-San Antonio, TX, area that has had more than its share of unusual happenings...Phil Jones' Strawberry Fielders won league championship and became first to repeat in four seasons...Other managers included Steve Marquez, an accountant (Whassamotta U.); Champ Kerr, cosmetologist (Contra Freedom Fighters); Mark Roberts, college student (Golden Griffins); and expansion teams, banker Scott Barry's Sids and Matt Prestridge's (computer security administrator) Matt Rats. Restrictions were placed on at-bats and innings pitched, but only an 80-game schedule was played...Some highlights included: Whassamotta U. winning a game by the widest margin in league history, 17-0, over the Matt Rats; Strawberry Fielders missing five consecutive diamond chances in one game (Atlanta was the park and the odds were 1000-to-1 against such an occurrence), but still winning game, 2-1, on a straight home run by Candy Maldonado in the ninth; Mark McGwire of the Freedom Fighters setting league marks for homers (27) and RBI (73); Mike Schmidt of Whassamotta had a game in which he hit a two-run homer, a three-run shot and then unloaded a grand slam; Bob Boone winning three games with ninth-inning home runs; and Will Clark clouting six clutch last-inning homers...Darryl Strawberry, on the other hand, was a major disappointment, batting only .243 with 12 roundtrippers and 38 RBI. Strawberry did lead the league in steals with 18, however..."Stealing was almost non-existent because the jump was too hard to get," reports Jones. Eric Davis swiped only eight bases and was caught four times, for example.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS REPLAY - Vince Aversano of Winnetka, IL, took the Jays through their 1987 season and guided them to 106 wins, 10 more than real-life. "This only convinces me more than ever that I'm a far better manager than Jimmy Williams," says Aversano...The replay took six months to complete and the statistical results were amazingly close. "I found the realism to be nothing short of uncanny," enthused Aversano. "The only major difference was in the wins"...Actual starting lineups and pitchers were used for each game...Toronto batted .274 in the replay and .269 in real-life. The Jays also slugged 217 home runs in S-O-M and an almost-exact 215 were clouted for real. Pitching was very close, too, as the team ERA was 3.74 in real-life and 3.64 in S-O-M while 167 homers were hit in the replay and 158 actual...George Bell, the bluest of the Blue Jays when it comes to unhappiness, was a terror in the replay as he blasted 34 home runs and had 97 RBI by the All-Star break. He finished with 52 (47 real-life) and 157 (134), plus he batted .309 (.310)...In one game Bell went 5-for-6 and had five RBI in a 20-9 ripping of Kansas City...Dave Stieb won his first 13 pitching decisions and then failed to garner another victory over the last 53 games...Cecil Fielder turned Babe Ruth for a game by smashing three homers and going 4-for-5 against the Yankees.

Below are some statistics from the replay (real-life is in parentheses):

	HR	RBI	Avg.	
Barfield	28 (28)	97 (84)	.251	(.263)
Bell	52 (47)	157 (134)	.309	(.310)
Fernandez	5 (5)	64 (67)	.349	(.322)
Moseby	30 (26)	103 (96)	.282	(.282)
Upshaw	13 (15)	67 (58)	.241	(.244)
Whitt	22 (19)	73 (75)	.292	(.269)
Pitching: Key -- HR - 24 (24), ERA - 2.79 (2.76), W-L - 19-12 (17-8);				
Eichorn -- HR - 17 (14), ERA - 3.54 (3.17), W-L - 13-7 (10-6)				

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 CONTEST. 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. Also, no photo-copied or reprinted cards should ever 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: Willie McCovey S-O-M game cards. Should be excellent-mint or better, all years and variations. Any other McCovey collectibles. Rob Worthington, 15370 E. Benwood, Moorpark, CA 93021

WANTED: 1981 through 1988 Boston Celtics teams, any condition. Will pay good price. Mike Craney, R.R. 1, Box 45, Loogootee, IN 47553 (812-295-2259)

WANTED: Houston 49 Colt baseball team player cards. Paying up to \$50 for complete team. Contact: Bruce Fainblatt, 624 Greenbriar Road, Elkins Park, PA 19117

WANTED: 1979-80 Philadelphia 76ers. Will buy or will trade for football teams (5) 1967-80, or baseball teams (5) 1976-79. Jerry Fry, Rt. 1, Box 102, Freeman, MO 64746

WANTED: 1967, 1969, 1972 football teams, complete sets. Also want 15 nameless players (old version), 1984 additional players and roster sheets of various seasons, 1968-82. Send letters to: Todd Berenstein, 3050 St. Johns Ct., Apt. #8, Columbus, OH 43202

WANTED: 1972 Philadelphia Phillies team or Steve Carlton card of that year. Please send price or call: Tom Pulcini, 27405 LaRose, Warren, MI 48093 (313-755-5250). My 1972 season was purchased without the Phillies included.

WANTED: Managers wanted for PBM league using National League players. We use basic side with some advanced features. Emphasis on fun, keeping it simple and being on time. If interested, write to: Scott Horton, P.O. Box 426, West Liberty, KY 41472

For Sale

FOR SALE: Original 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974 baseball seasons with extra players. Best offer over \$20. Hockey - 1977-78 season; offers. Football - 1972 Giants, Jets, Dolphins, Packers, Lions, 49ers, Redskins, Steelers, Bears, Browns. \$2 per team. 1976 Rams, Raiders, Vikings, Steelers. Paul Malo, 298 Shawnessy Drive S.W., Calgary, Alta, T2Y 1M5

FOR SALE: Baseball with extras - 1979 (\$65), 1981 (\$55), 1982 (\$50), 1983 (\$45), 1984 (\$40), 1985 (\$35). 1979, '81, '82 and '83 are all in excellent condition; 1984 and '85 excellent to mint. All prices include UPS shipment. William E. Carter, 6805 H Carnation Road, Richmond, VA 23225

FOR SALE: Baseball and football. Plus complete team sets: Baseball - 1976-1977; Football - 1976-1984. Call: Ed Booth (815-459-4152)

FOR SALE: Basketball - 1974-75, 1981-82, 1976-77 seasons. \$13 each postpaid. First come. First

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served. Gary Wnek, P.O. Box 132,
Cromwell, CT 06416 (203-635-1118)

FOR SALE: Fanatics - make your season replay more realistic with Baseball Replay '88. Exact day-to-day 1988 schedules and actual starting pitchers; comprehensive roster changes (trades, disabled players, minor-league callups) by date; 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 \$12. Similar replay aids for 1956, 1961, 1962, 1968, 1985, 1986, 1987 - \$12 each (roster changes for pre-1985 are trades only). Check or money order to: Glenn Guzzo, 317-21 N. Broad St. #835, Philadelphia, PA 19107

FOR SALE: Pro football - 1971, '76, '80, '81. College football - 1975, '76, '77. Baseball - 1965, '67, '68, '71, '84 original releases. Pro basketball - 1972-73, 1973-74. Sold as complete set only. Pat George, 2128 Allen Road, Ortonville, MI 48462 (313-627-6001)

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

FOR SALE: Baseball: 1966, NL only - \$50; 1956 - \$10; 1979 - \$40; '80 - \$30; '81 - \$25; 1964 Dodgers (mint condition) - \$6. Football: 1974 - \$75; '78 - \$50; '79 - \$40; '80 - \$30; '76 Colts, Cowboys - \$7. Basketball: almost new game with '80-81 Suns, Bucks, 76ers, Spurs, Celtics; '81-82 Bucks; '82-83 Bucks, 76ers - \$10. S-O-M Reviews: Jan. '72 to Oct. '72, Dec. '77 to June '83, June, July, August '75 (80 issues) - \$15. Anthony Johnston, 1916 Alden Lane, Little Rock, AR 72207

FOR SALE: S-O-M Basketball teams, 1976-1980. Will sell as complete sets only. Kurt Meunier, 1504

North St., Neenah, WI 54956
(414-722-3096)

FOR SALE: S-O-M Baseball becomes even more true-to-life and fun using my super-advanced rules, which add realism and detail while preserving the game's speed of play and accuracy. Included are easily memorized rules for outfield throwing errors and mis-played hits; more realistic base advances; 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 involving the pitcher, fielders and runner's speed; and much more, all smoothly blended into S-O-M. Nearly 300 satisfied customers. \$9, with money-back guarantee. Richard Robb, #305-7100 Gilbert Road, Richmond, B.C., Canada V7C 5C3 (or PO Box 1776, Pt. Roberts, WA 98281)

FOR SALE: The Ultimate Strat-O-Matic Empire. Complete football extras). All cards (both baseball and football) have been sealed on both sides with clear adhesive plastic. I prefer not to break up complete seasons. I also have for sale an encyclopedia of each player's offensive and defensive ratings for football, 1967-1981, alphabetically organized by team. Send offers and SASE to: Gerard Smedinghoff, 2319 Meadow Spring Circle, Columbus, OH 43235

FOR SALE: 1989 edition card analysis for super-advanced baseball. Includes OPB, power percentages and diamond chances for both batters and pitchers. Also gbA and clutch hitting percentages for batters. All this plus additional card information condensed into a quick reference format. Great for drafting or setting up lineups against pitchers. Enhances chance of winning. I'm a 12-year gamer with a bach-

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elor's degree in math. I've enjoyed many World Series appearances using this analysis. Many satisfied customers. Only \$8. Why not get the edge this season? Rohn Morin, 2510 Hotel Road, Auburn, ME 04210

FOR SALE: Single plastic card protectors for your Strat-O-Matic cards. Size 5" x 3". Great fit. No more worry or damage; keep your cards in great shape for years. Each 100 for \$5 plus \$1 shipping and handling. Shawn Frye, Rt. 1, Box 546, Munford, AL 36268

FOR SALE: Complete hockey seasons - 1984-85, '85-86 or '86-87, \$21 per season, plus \$1 postage. 39 old-timer teams - \$19 plus \$1 postage; 34 small past season teams - \$12 plus \$1 postage. All replies answered. Larry Gavlak, RD#1 Box 703, Houtzdale, PA 16651

FOR SALE: 1985 and 1986 baseball sets with extras. 1985-86, '86-87 hockey sets with extras. All in very good to excellent condition. No reasonable offers refused. I pay postage. Write: Phil Ledesma, 815 N. Woodlawn #142, Wellington, KS 67152

FOR SALE: Drafting your own team? Baseball Yardstick is your key to a winning season. Quickly spot best player available each round of draft. Save hours of scouting and analysis. Get the ultimate winning edge - better players! Computerized. Objective. 15 years in development. Handsome spiral-bound book. Proven in competition. Order Red Book to build strong team that gets stronger every year; Green Book when 1988 player performance is all that matters. Either book \$25. Both books \$40. Satisfaction guaranteed. Baseball Yardstick, 12702 Lamppost Lane, Austin, TX 78727. Phone (512-339-3115). Add \$3 for rush orders, \$5 outside USA.

FOR SALE: Pro football 1979 season, all teams. Six old-timer football teams. Will not sell individual teams. Best offer. David Eilering, RR#1, Box 167-Z, Collinsville, IL 6223475

FOR SALE: Complete advanced game ratings for all 1988 real-season player cards (latest set of cards). These ratings have been instrumental in developing excellent draft teams in league play and tournaments (first, second, fourth in the three TBA's I've been in). I factor in HR, 3B, 2B, 1B, BB, gb(a), steal and running ratings, N or W rating, 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, 1964-basic, 1969, 1984-1987 season 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: Apple version computer game disk with pitcher's hold rating included, \$14. Season disks also available: 1962, 1968, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987 and the new 1988 disk. Your choice, \$9 each; any two for \$16. Please call or write: Michael Stucchi, 453 Potter Road, Framingham, MA 01701 (508-990-7412 or 508-877-1322)

FOR SALE: I still have over 900 individual S-O-M Baseball teams from 1950-1987. I now have over 25,000 assorted S-O-M Baseball cards from 1930-1987. I also have a new assortment of complete sets. Send a SASE with 85 cents postage for my Giant 1989 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. Special note: I have a lot of new stock and am interested in buying more.

FOR SALE: Show your team's true colors with 6-, 10- and 20-sided dice in your choice of nine colors: red, white, blue, black, purple, orange, green, yellow and brown. Guaranteed unbreakable. Only \$2 each postpaid. Specials: 3 for \$5, 7 for \$10. Strat
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player's special: 3 6-sided dice plus one 20-sided die for \$6. It's all a dice-roller needs. David de la Fuente, 41 Marshall Avenue, Apt. 4, Akron, OH 44302

FOR SALE: Large box of assorted teams and cards from 1973-1987. Many have never been opened, some fairly used. Over 200 teams - box is very heavy. Want to sell as a group. Top offer takes all. Call or contact: John Blomstrom, 4931 Whispering Falls, Houston, TX 77084 (713-855-4735)

FOR SALE: I am liquidating my football and basketball collections. I have the following football cards for sale: one game and parts plus 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984 and 1985 cards, plus nameless players for both types of cards; Basketball: one game and parts plus 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86. All cards in very good to excellent condition. Would prefer to sell complete seasons, but could sell individual teams. All extras are included. Please make best offer to: Tim Austin, 3723 Greenland Ave. NW, Roanoke, VA 24012 (or call: 703-366-5197).

FOR SALE: Special defensive cards for solitaire and draft league S-O-M football gamers. Play selector allows you the option of 18 possible defenses for a variety of situations, including man-to-man or zone pass coverage, blitzes, short yardage, prevent, line shifts and stunts and much more. These easy to use defenses add realism and excitement, but do not add to the time it takes to play a game. For further information and a sample send a legal-sized SASE to: Carson Riley, P.O. Box 575, Vesuvius, VA 24483

League Forming

LEAGUE FORMING: PEM Bask S-O-M Hockey League is drafting players for a perpetual league. Need coaches and backups. Emphasis on sportsmanship, communication and promptness. For more information

write: John Barkoviak, 703 East Walnut St., Apt. B, Bloomington, IL 61701. Include name, age, address and phone.

LEAGUE FORMING: Established baseball league requires a couple of reliable and dedicated managers. The CanAm S-O-M League, established in 1974, has just completed its 15th year. We are a winter league, running from Sept. to February, but we want you now so you may participate in our upcoming annual phone draft. We have 15 teams, play a 160-game schedule, use all super-advanced rules, play either by hand or computer and have ongoing 40-man rosters. If you feel you are a dedicated and mature gamer, write to: Gary Fell, 132 Brock St., Thamesford, Ontario, NOM 2M0 or call: 519-285-3832.

LEAGUE FORMING: 1989 Winter PEML forming. Own two teams, one American League, one National. Nine teams in each league; 80 games each league, 160-game total. Unique real-life trades taking effect. Free agent drafts. Draft now. League will start September 1. Experience preferred. Call Dennis (313-981-0101).

LEAGUE FORMING: Established face-to-face all-star baseball league (Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN) needs dependable adult managers to take Oakland A's. Contact: Dave Christenson (phone: 612-861-2612)

LEAGUE FORMING: Established, successful, super advanced face-to-face football league is looking for a few new coaches to continue our past success. We are currently in our 11th season and have been well documented in the Review. We are located in the beautiful Sullivan County Catskill Mountains in New York state. We play on the average of once per week and are flexible. If you're looking for a well organized league, great stats, halftime festivities and great times, give (continued)

us a call. Everyone gets a shot at a solid playoff contending team. Wayne Benton (914-292-4119) or Norm Evansky (914-292-5799).

LEAGUE FORMING: New face-to-face baseball league is looking for managers in the Chicago area. Call: Mike Wilson (312-875-0466 or 312-743-0742).

LEAGUE FORMING: Continuous 16-team face-to-face PBM advanced draft league in fourth year is looking for a few quality managers. The NASBL drafts from all MLB, so many superstars on available teams. Reply soon - season starts in March. Call or send SASE and biography please. Ian Zook, Box 16734 LaJolla, CA 92037 (619-558-7318)

LEAGUE FORMING: A.T.L., American League all draft league from Houston needs backup manager. We play nine games away every other Thursday at rotating homes from Feb. to Oct. Nine-year league keeps players year-to-year, draft, trades, etc. Backup manager will play when other manager can't attend and will join full-time when someone quits or expansion (Jan., 1990). Managers ages from 21-40. Contact: John Blomstrom, 4931 Whispering Falls, Houston, TX 77084 (713-855-4735)

LEAGUE FORMING: N.T.L. looking for backup managers. Exciting and interesting play-by-mail, head-to-head format. We are a draft National League with two five-team divisions, one in Houston and the other has two in Atlanta; two in St. Louis and one in Atlanta. We meet each February in Houston for our World Series, draft and first 40 games of new season (some teams play more). Some managers travel out of town during season to play. There is virtually no solitaire. Contact: John Blomstrom, 4931 Whispering Falls, Houston, TX 77084

Contests

CONTEST: Ninth annual Lyman Bostock Memorial Tournament.

Featuring six big events. Super advanced football (modern version), advanced baseball, super advanced hockey (these three tournaments are held both days) and three backup tournaments (Sunday only), super advanced football (old version), super advanced baseball and college football. Play mini leagues on Saturday and playoffs and championships on Sunday. Actual teams will be used. Meet gamers from all over the country and experience the pressures of tournament play. Teams can be reserved in advance except for super advanced football (modern version). We will select numbers for team selection the morning of the event. Entry fee is \$19.50 or \$12.75 if only attending on Sunday. For further information, writ or call: James Sanders, 2149 McKinley Street, Gary, IN 46404 (1-219-944-8339). If writing, please enclose a long SASE.

CONTEST: Pensacola Open. S-O-M tournament. April 28-30, \$50 entry fee. \$45 if entered by April 14. Guaranteed \$450 for first, \$200 for second and \$100 for third if there are at least 30 participants. Great location surrounded by motels and eating places. Easy access to I-10. Call or write Rich Vioral for more information: (904-944-4356) 2269 White Pines Drive, Pensacola, FL 32506

Baseball playing tip

I have a playing tip for baseball. I suggest ballpark stealing. Teams such as St. Louis are built around its ballpark, using stealing.

Strat-O-Matic should put a symbol by certain numbers when rolling for a good lead.

Example: Vince Coleman

* 3-7 / - (20-6)

+ on 4, 6

+ St. Louis

1-18 - stolen base

19-20 - caught stealing

Entry deadline is May 10

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MVP Contest continues

Even though there's another month to go in the Review's contest, you may want to start putting pencil in hand and dash off your choices for the 1989 MVPs in baseball.

The Review's annual Most Valuable Player contest will close on May 10 (all entries, to be eligible, must be postmarked no later than the 10th), so don't tarry too long before getting in on the action.

Remember, the winner receives a set of the new player cards next January.

And remember all you have to do is be a subscriber to the Review to enter the contest. The cost, really, is just a 25-cent stamp.

Only one entry per subscriber is allowed. All entries should be sent to the Strat-O-Matic Review, P.O. Box 27, Otsego, MI 49078.

What you have to do is make your picks as to the MVP in each league and also to select the division winners and their percentages. The division winners/percentages will be used to break any ties.

The most recent winner of the Review's MVP contest was Adam Velie of Elkhart, IN, who selected both Jose Canseco in the American League and Kirk Gibson in the National.

Velie was the only one out of over 300 entries to name both correctly.

Below is the entry form:

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



STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW
P.O. BOX 27
OTSEGO, MI 49078

If the number before your name reads 89/4, this is the last issue of your current subscription. To renew, check the number of months below and enclose proper amount (check, money order, U.S. funds, but please no coins). First-class mailing is available for an additional 25 cents per month. Also, when renewing, please list your subscription expiration date as it expedites the process.

_____ 3 months, \$3.75; _____ 6 months, \$5.80; _____ 1 year, \$9.00.

Note the cost in Canada is: _____ 3 months, \$4.65; _____ 6 months \$7.60; _____ 1 year, \$12.60. In Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico the cost is: _____ 3 months, \$4.50; _____ 6 months, \$7.30; _____ 1 year, \$12.00. Rates for Canada, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico include first-class mailing.

Question & Answers

(continued from page 8)

bases loaded with a reading of single with no *'s or (2) with the bases loaded and less than two outs with a fly B? reading. In both of these instances, the offensive manager has the option to take an extra base using the lead runner's running rating and the outfielder's throwing arm. If the offensive manager elects to try for an extra base, the defensive manager is asked if he wishes to 'cut-off' the throw to the plate. By cutting off the throw, he allows the runner from second to score on the base hit, but 'holds' the runner from first on second base. On a fly B?, the runner on third scores, but the runner who was on second remains there. By not cutting off the throw on a fly B?, if the runner from third base is safe, the runner from second will go to third. On a single, the runner on first will go to third."