

STRAT-O-MATIC

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

REVIEW

VOL. 15, August, 1984

'Sports Know How' coming your way in October Sports trivia is next S-O-M game

How's your sports trivia knowledge?

Starting soon, Strat-O-Matic will help you answer that question when the newest gaming product, "Strat-O-Matic Sports Know How," goes on the market.

"Our newest game will be out in October," says Harold Richman, creator of Strat-O-Matic's products. "The questions are prepared by Century Sports, the same people who put out Inside Sports, Baseball Digest, Football Digest, etc. Many of these are questions that have appeared in those publications over the last 15 years. The questions will be of the highest quality."

The game, modeled after many of the trivia-type games on the market today, will be all sports. And there will be strategy involved. "Many times," says Richman, "the questions will be asked by an opponent and he or she will have a choice as to which question. Some of the questions you can use early in the game or save them until later when your opponent is trying to win the game."

All told, 2,800 questions are available in S-O-M Sports Know How. And the answers, including the multiple ones, number well over 3,600. "The game can be played in under 25 minutes. Fifteen minutes will be about the average," adds Richman. "The game will play very fast."

According to Richman, 43 percent of the questions will be about baseball. Football will be next, followed by basketball, hockey and the other sports. One category is entitled: "Mixed Bag of Mindbenders." Another is "Statistical Stoppers."

It will be a board game [actually it's a combination of previous

(continued on next page)

games that Richman had created) and will be sold both retail and via the mail. Cost of the game will be \$25.

So, make it six Strat-O-Matic games on the market come this fall: baseball, football, basketball, college football and hockey, along with S-O-M's newest creation!

Interested in S-O-M via computer?

While talking by phone with Harold Richman, the owner of Strat-O-Matic, earlier this month, the topic of computers came up.

Richman asked about the gaming public's interest in a computerized version of S-O-M Baseball - playing S-O-M Baseball by computer via a program, in other words.

"We would like to know how many people would be interested in a home computer version of the game. What kind of computer they have?" And any other particulars about their hardware and software, as far as power and capabilities.

S-O-M not long ago purchased a computer for its office. Now it's being used exclusively for work. But soon, perhaps, it could be used as the testing device for another giant step forward by S-O-M as it joins the computer gaming world.

Let the game company know, or the Review, if you're interested in a computer version of the baseball game.

Here's look at new football cards

Aerial blitzes expected as pass defenses are weak

Look for Strat-O-Matic pro football teams to strike frequently through the air in the new set of cards. There are many good quarterbacks, again, while the passes defenses, for the most part, are weaker than in the golden days of defense.

"The most exciting teams," says Warren Newell, co-editor of the Review, should be the "Chargers, Packers and Cowboys. All have lots of offense, but can be scored on." Washington presents the most vivid contrast on defense, however, as it is very poor on pass defense but virtually impossible to run against.

A check of the cards reveals that Washington, when it comes to defending against the run, has a "3, 12" reading on the traditional (since the pro game was revised last year) No. 6. But, wait a minute. Look at the next number, the popular "7" and you find a straight fumble chance. Seldom, if ever, has that happened - having fumble chances on Nos. 6 and 7, and straight on 7.

Some other general observations gleaned from the new football cards by Warren and Jim Myers, an S-O-M gridiron buff who also lives in Otsego (both are members of a face-to-face league that drafts not only players but also specialty and team offense and defense cards) are:

* Dan Fouts of the Chargers, even though hurt and throwing only 340 passes, again has an exceptional passing card. Against short pass defenses he has the obligatory interception chance on 11, a misfire on 10 and 12 and, guessed right, an incompleteness on 3 and must run on 4. Everything else is a completion. He completed 63.2 percent of his attempts, though.

* Curt Warner of Seattle and Joe Cribbs of Buffalo, plus Walter Payton of the Bears, probably have the best overall cards among the runners. Ottis Anderson of St. Louis and Eric Dickerson of the Rams are good runners who have high fumble chances (Anderson: 2-9; Dickerson: 2-10).

* Curtis Dickey, who gained over 1,000 yards for Baltimore, doesn't have a long gain on his running card. But he has a number of them on

(continued on next page)

the pass receiving side, including one on No. 10, flat pass, guessed wrong.

* Both quarterbacks Joe Theismann of Washington and Baltimore's Mike Pagel have outstanding running cards. Theismann's end run features a 21-yard pickup on No. 4, short gain on No. 6 and 11 and two other 19-plus gallops, guessed wrong. Pagel is even better, having gains of 32, 29 and 28 yards.

* For the defense, the real-life champions, the Los Angeles Raiders, and San Francisco, have the best backfields, going by the numbers. Los Angeles, which has 6s at left end (Howie Long), left outside linebacker (Ted Hendricks) and right outside linebacker (Rod Martin), goes 6-4-6-6 with a unit of Lester Hayes, Mike Davis, Mike Haynes and Vann McElroy, respectively.

And the 49ers, even though they have but one 5 among the linemen and 'backers, go 6-5-5-6 with Ronnie Lott, Carlton Williamson, Eric Wright and Dwight Hicks.

* Conversely, Houston, which is rated poor against the run, has a short gain reading with no linebackers in the zone against all three types of rushes.

* Houston is one of five teams with poor run defenses; the others being Green Bay, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Kansas City. Meanwhile, L.A. Raiders, Dallas and Washington have excellent run defenses.

* Dallas and Washington have porous pass defenses, with Dallas and Green Bay rated poor and the 'Skins, Atlanta, Baltimore and San Diego rated very poor.

* Overall, the running offensive cards seem weaker than in the recent past, but the defensive cards against the rush seem weaker, too.

* There are some excellent field goal kicking cards, or ratings, with Ali Haji-Sheikh of the Giants having 2-10 readings on the first three distances, 2-8 from 23-32 yards and a solid 2-5 from 33-39. Raul Allegre of the Colts is even better, going 2-10 on first three distances, 2-9 from 23-32 and 2-6, 11 and 12 from 33-38. The 38 is unusual, though, as most have 39 as the longest distance. An exception to that is Nick Lowery of Kansas City, who connects from 33-41 on 2-5.

* Among the receiving corps, Mark Duper of Miami has a super card as far as long gains. Duper has a long gain both ways on No. 7 on long pass, ditto for 10 and No. 11 on short pass and No. 12 on flat pass. He has 13 long gain chances, guessed wrong, on long pass, plus another gain of 85 yards on No. 12, which would be the equivalent of another long-distance strike obviously.

* Others who can haul 'em in and turn 'em into long gains frequently are Mike Quick of Philadelphia (long gain on 7 and 10 on long pass, both ways), Willie Gault of Chicago (long gain on 6 and 8 on long pass) and James Lofton of Green Bay (5 and 8, both ways, and No. 7 guessed wrong, all on long pass). Lofton averaged 22.4 yards per catch.

Cris Collinsworth of Cincinnati, Roy Green of St. Louis, Steve Watson of Denver (No. 7 both ways is long gain on long pass) are other deep threats.

* Washington, with its tremendous turnover chances on its defensive cards, doesn't have any offensive fumbles. The 'Skins have the best interception card, with thefts on 2-8, 11, 12 with four men in the short pass zone and 2-11 with one player in the long pass zone.

* Philadelphia's defense has one 5 (left end Dennis Harrison) and one 0 (linebacker Joel Williams), while everyone else is a 4.

* Seattle has only one punt returner and the same for kickoffs. But both Paul Johns (punts) and Zachary Dixon (kickoffs) have a touchdown on No. 2.

* Andra Franklin of Miami is definitely a one-way threat. He carried the ball 224 times...but never caught a pass. He was given some token yardage totals on flat pass, however, but the statistics at the bottom of the card are a long line of zeroes.

* Steve Bartkowski of Atlanta has the best card for fewest inter-

(continued on page 15)

Strat-O-Matic spotlight

KITTLE CONNECTS FOR FOUR HOMERS

There's nothing more thrilling, or frustrating for the manager on the receiving end, than a home run in Strat-O-Matic Baseball. It can be a sudden and quick clean shot (3-5) or a tantalizing split-number roundtripper that doesn't settle into the seats until seconds, sometimes minutes, have elapsed.

Individual long-ball heroics are a special thrill. Two home runs in a game. Three occasionally. And, rarely, four homers in a single game.

Keith Adams experienced just such a moment recently when, playing a Federal League Baseball game, Ron Kittle socked four homers in four at-bats. Kittle was playing for the Texas Rangers in the draft league and, ironically, cracked the home runs against his real-life team, the Chicago White Sox, and teammate, LaMarr Hoyt.

In fact, all four were clouted off Hoyt, who lasted long enough to get the pitching win in an 11-8 slugfest.

The inning-by-inning chronology of Kittle's home run feats was as follows:

1st inning - Texas trailing 3-0...Kittle unloads a two-run shot on a 3-5 roll off his own card.

4th inning - Texas trailing 8-2...Kittle just reaches the seats after a 1-9 roll (No. 7 split card was drawn). It was the only split-card homer of the four.

6th inning - Kittle finds the 5-10 on Hoyt's card for HR No. 3.

8th inning - This time it's a 3-6 roll on Kittle's card that pays off in HR No. 4.

The bottom line on Kittle read: 4 at-bats, 4 home runs, 4 runs and 5 RBI.

"I've been playing Strat-O-Matic nine years now and I've never had a player hit three home runs in one game, much less four," says Adams. "The closest to anything like this I've seen was when Wayne Nordhagen hit two grand-slams in the same game against me."

Kittle would have been even more productive as far as RBI if the three batters ahead of him - Damaso Garcia, Gary Matthews and Carney Lansford - hadn't gone a combined 1-for-14.

John Wockenfuss also homered for Texas, while Andy Van Slyke and Barry Bonnell connected for the Chisox as a total of seven homers were hammered.

HONDO'S HOMER HAPPY

Ron Kittle isn't the only slugger with a fan club. Tom (Hondo) Ackerson, of Webster City, IA, would be president of the Frank (Hondo) Howard fan club, if such elections were ever held.

The first player drafted by Ackerson in a neighborhood draft league, Howard (1969 real-life season) proceeded to hit 64 home runs.

Today, 15 years and numerous replays and seasons (19) later, Howard has 1,421 homers.

"I would like to know if anyone has ever had a player hit this many home runs, or is even close to Howard's mark," writes Ackerson, who concludes by saying, "See you in four of five years when Howard hits his 2,000th!"

THIRTY YEARS OF GAMING

Jim McPartland and Les Morey of New Haven, CT, have been playing S-O-M for a combined total of 30 years. And during that span the duo has never, believe it or not, experienced a no-hitter. The closest to a no-hitter was when Floyd Bannister, '83 Chisox, went six innings against Toronto before yielding a single (Single 1-2, Lo 3-20) by Lloyd Moseby in the seventh inning.

That wasn't the greatest gaming thrill for the duo, however.

[continued on next page]

McPartland, 25 and a restaurant manager by profession, and Morey, 29, a professor at Yale University, both point to the seventh and deciding game of a '82 Milwaukee-St. Louis World Series replay as the most memorable.

McPartland was managing his beloved Cards and Morey had Milwaukee, of course. It was the bottom of the ninth inning and Milwaukee led 5-4 with two outs. Paul Molitor booted Keith Hernandez' game-ending ground-er, keeping St. Louis' flickering last hope alive.

Up stepped George Hendrick...and on the mound was Milwaukee's bullpen stopper, Rollie Fingers. McPartland, with two hearts pounding like jackhammers, rolled the dice...and a 4-4 was the result on Fingers' card! A home run! The Cards win the Series!

'58 COLTS WIN TOURNEY

Call it a prelim for the Lyman Bostock Memorial Tournament coming up this month. The name was Super Bowl Tournament, and it was hosted by Al Skidmore in Belleville, IL. Many of S-O-M's best football coaches were on the scene to try their luck and skill in a round-robin format.

Among the entrants was James Sanders, of Gary, IN, organizer of the Bostock tournament, friends Joe Craig and Dale Hunt, and the husband and wife S-O-M team of Paul and Kathy Frederick.

Kathy, who had the '70 Detroit Lions, won her first four games and Division A, before her husband's '58 Colts ousted her in the semifinals, 47-23. Kathy did beat Craig's '77 Cowboys, 27-24, to capture third place in the 12-team tournament. A field goal in overtime ended the game.

The eventual champion was Paul Frederick, whose Colts, after leading 23-0, hung on for a 32-14 victory over Sanders' '71 Cowboys in the Super Bowl showdown.

Teams used were from 1967-1981 and the six old-timer teams. The 1980 San Diego Chargers was the first team drafted, with the '58 Colts being third, Sanders' '71 Cowboys sixth and Kathy Frederick's '70 Lions eighth out of 12 teams.

SHORT SHAKES

The North-South Strat-O-Matic League had its all-star game at, hold onto your dice, Disney World near Orlando, FL. Four of the league's five members were to be present for S-O-M/vacation junket that was organized by league commissioner Steve Schumacher. Bob and Andy Willnus were driving down from Ann Arbor, MI, while Schumacher and Mike Tumbleson were flying in from Houston, TX...More highlights and lowlights from Donald Frankfort's (Gillette, WY) ongoing replay of the 1973 baseball season - Game 113 (out of an eventual total of 1,944), Reggie Jackson goes 3-for-4 with two doubles and home run, four RBI and four runs scored. Sal Bando is 4-for-5 with a double and two homers and five RBI in 12-4 Oakland rout of Chicago; Atlanta strokes nine hits, draws 11 walks, yet leaves 17 runners on base in 5-4 loss to Pittsburgh; Yankees win first three games of a series with Texas, spray 44 hits, including six doubles in one contest, yet homer only once in all the carnage; and J.R. Richard, in game 243, pitches a two-hitter and Cesar Cedeño delivers a two-run homer as Houston blanks Pittsburgh, 2-0. In another game, Boston defeats Texas, 8-6, as no outs are made by the outfielders, and in still another, Darrell Evans of the Braves, after drawing five walks (all unintentional), belts a grand-slam home run in the 12th inning to give Atlanta an 11-5 victory over St. Louis. All told, Atlanta batters walked 12 times, or once per inning.

FINAL REMINDER ABOUT BOSTOCK MEMORIAL

This is the last call for Strat-O-Matic gamers planning on or interested in partaking of the fun at the fourth annual Lyman Bostock Memorial Tournament which will be held August 4-5 at Hobart, IN. James Sanders, organizer of the tournament, reports that late entries will be accepted.

Readers roll 'em

GAME IS GREAT, BUT...

I have been playing S-O-M Baseball for five years now. I think the game is great, but there's always room for improvement.

I think the supplementary stealing system is a great addition compared to the old system. But what about a pitcher's holding on rating? Does S-O-M believe that Dick Ruthven is as good as Steve Carlton when holding on runners?

One more point to improve on is the outfielders' ratings. Take Harold Baines (#10) for example. How many times do you see him let one get by for a two-base error? Most of his errors are throwing errors.

Is there anyway S-O-M can work on a T-rating system for outfielders?

S-O-M Baseball is the best in its class, so let's keep it there. I only ask that S-O-M take these suggestions into consideration.

ERIC SPITZ
Los Altos, CA

SOLITAIRE PLAYING TIPS

I would like to see more tips for solitaire gamers - especially stealing, running, etc. in the advanced game.

I tend to make 1-14+ the cutoff point, but if there was another system I'd like to see it.

JIM MCPARTLAND
208 Greta St. #112
W. Haven, CT

MORE PLAYERS...PLAYERS...

I am just one of hundreds of gamers who think that 24 players per team in baseball is not enough.

The idea of adding players should not be just a possibility, it should be a necessity! I guarantee that anyone who's been involved in a 162-game season using straight teams (with no trading) will agree with me that 24 (or even 25 or 26) players are far too few.

A total number of 30 players per team would be sufficient. You argue that overusing these players will alter the team's overall performance; well overusing any key players will do the same thing.

Leave this up to the commissioner. Also, the increased price would have very little effect, if any, on the purchase of these "additional" extras.

JEFF SCHWARZE
1208 Stoughton Apt. #24
Urbana, IL

UPSET ABOUT MIKE WARREN

It's too bad we can't replay Mike Warren's no-hitter (Oakland) against the Chicago White Sox. I'm not trying to sound selfish, but a player with a 5-3 record in 66 innings deserves a card.

There are other teams and players, of course; at least four other pitchers with eight decisions but no cards.

I feel particularly sorry for gamers who replay the Seattle and California seasons. California had three players who batted 104, 112 and 156 times and a fourth with 85 but didn't get cards. Similarly, Seattle had no less than six players who ranged from a low of 63 at-bats to a high of 127, with no cards.

At least S-O-M's nameless card set should do a good business.

MARK CORRY
Gaffney, SC

Editor's note: Of the nine pitchers S-O-M has included in the 1984 set of cards for Oakland, three are straight relievers, there is one straight starter and the rest - with innings pitched from 84 to 206 - that are starter/relievers. Warren was in 12 games and started nine. Based strictly on innings pitched by starter/relievers, Warren had to be excluded. S-O-M perhaps could have solved the problem of Warren and the no-hitter by giving him a special card, mainly because of the one-game feat. Warren's overall performance, however, indicates that the no-hitter was a "fluke."

[continued on next page]

MORE POLLS WANTED

After resuming S-O-M after not playing since 1977, I was pleasantly surprised by the addition of old timer seasons.

I would like S-O-M Review to conduct a poll to see what other seasons could be published. I recommend: 1941 season (Joe Dimaggio's hitting streak; Ted Williams hitting over .400), 1948, 1953 and 1964.

I would also like to see the USFL season published for football. In fact, old timer seasons in football would be a good idea. Seasons from the 1950s and '60s would be interesting.

FRANK GREEN
Grafton, VA

MORE POLLS PART II

You run polls for football teams (1972 Miami was most popular); how come you don't run a poll for past baseball seasons?

I would like to see S-O-M reproduce the following seasons: 1960, 1959, 1969, 1962, 1963, 1958, 1957, 1964, 1967, 1965, 1966 and 1968.

B. WINGE
591 E. Forum
Roselle, IL

Editor's note: We have had polls before for baseball. As far as past seasons, S-O-M, which came out with 1970 last spring, will be coming out with the 1969 season next year.

WHAT ABOUT OLYMPIANS?

What about the Olympic hockey players who have contributed to some teams in their run for the playoffs?

Some deserve cards, most definitely, such as Flatley and LaFontaine of the Islanders.

Also, I agree with Larry Scotti of Staten Island, NY, about stopping the practice of putting goaltender cards together. There should be more extra players, especially goaltenders. The Bruins, for instance, missed Doug Keans.

STEVE CURLEY
Medford, MA

'FOUL' CALL ON ANSWERS

Two of your answers in the May "Questions & Answers" section were definitely foul!

First, it seems clear to me that you can play the infield in without a man on third base. The Advanced Strategy Chart states above all three strategy sections - Hit and Run, Sacrifice and Squeeze - that the related rating changes by one letter if the infield is playing in.

Since you cannot sacrifice with a runner on third and it would be very unrealistic to hit and run with a runner on third, the only logical assumption is that you can play the infield in without a man on third base.

The instruction chart I have does state that the infield can play in only with a man on third. However, it does not mention the Advanced Strategy Chart and, I believe, was written before the chart was created. The booklet you mention in your answer is, I believe, even older. S-O-M Baseball needs a consolidated, consistent rule book.

Second, your reply on why Lee Lacy received an e7 outfield rating despite a 1.000 fielding percentage, makes no sense. Statistically, if Lacy made no errors in 98 games then he would make no errors in 162 games, so his rating cannot be "based on if he had played every inning of every game in the outfield."

Moreover, Brian Downing received an e0 rating on his 1982 card and did not play 162 games in the outfield. Is this a new S-O-M policy in which the game company is now using judgement in error ratings as well as range ratings?

ERIC JOHNS
c/o USGAO
10 W. Jackson, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL

Editor's note: If you are not playing in to prevent a runner scoring from third base, why play the infield "in?" You may want to hold a runner on first, or second, but you would not have to play the entire infield "in." Secondly, S-O-M stands by its e7 rating for Lacy, who's always been known as a good hitter but sub-par defensively.

Who makes the tackle in football?

That's what Ira Wolins and Norman Brahen of Philadelphia, PA, are attempting to determine in the chart below.

"The football game has changed so drastically and so much emphasis is placed on offensive statistics that we thought it was about time to recognize the defensive stats," writes Wolins, who's well-known to Review readers for his cartoons (July, 1984, page 16).

Sacks, of course, are now provided for in the newly revised Strat-O-Matic Football game. But the chart proposed by Wolins-Brahen is for tackles. Both admit it hasn't been tested over the course of a full-season and that "bugs" may have to be worked out.

As far as the time factor, Wolins says "no real substantial playing time is added to the game because, while the statistician records the yardage gained or lost, the opponent rolls the 20-sided die (or picks a split number) and refers to the chart, calls out who made the tackle and the stat man duly records it."

Not all the tackles will come from the chart. For instance, when the play is off the defensive cards, such as "Defensive right tackle +5 or +1." If the player's rating that is being challenged is higher than the dice roll (he stops the play, in other words) then he gets credit for the tackle. If the +5 is the result, then the chart would have to be checked because the right tackle was unable to make the stop.

S-O-M TACKLE CHART

Key:

Out - Means the ballcarrier went out of bounds and no one gets credit for a tackle.

End, Tackle, Cornerback - Roll 1 six-sided die (1,2,3 = left end, tackle or cornerback/ 4, 5, 6 = right end, tackle or cornerback made the tackle).

Defense - Defender made tackle (LB - LLB 1-2, MLB 3-4, RLB 5-6).

* Linebacks - Tackled by MLB.

* Linebacks - Tackled by FS.

* If 2-tmd, tackle made by doubleteaming player.

* Look-in passes - Tackled by defending player.

TACKLES RUSHING

No.	(-)-3 yds	4-7 yds	8-15	16+
1 -	LE	E	CB	LCB
2 -	RE	T	LB	RCB
3 -	LE	LLB	LLB	LCB
4 -	RE	MLB	MLB	RCB
5 -	LE	RLB	RLB	LCB
6 -	RE	LLB	LLB	RCB
7 -	LE	MLB	MLB	TS
8 -	RE	RLB	RLB	TS
9 -	LT	LLB	LCB	TS
10 -	AT	MLB	RCB	FS
11 -	LT	RLB	LCB	FS
12 -	AT	LE	RCB	FS
13 -	LT	RE	TS	FS
14 -	AT	LE	TS	FS
15 -	LT	RE	TS	FS
16 -	AT	LT	FS	FS
17 -	LLB	AT	FS	FS
18 -	MLB	LT	FS	FS
19 -	RLB	AT	Out*	Out*
20 -	Out+	Out+	Out*	Out*

TACKLES PASSING

No.	(-)-4 yds	5-9	10-19	20+
1 -	LE	E	FS	FS
2 -	RE	T	FS	FS
3 -	LT	LLB	TS	FS
4 -	AT	MLB	TS	FS
5 -	LE	RLB	LCB	FS
6 -	RE	LLB	RCB	FS
7 -	LT	MLB	LCB	FS
8 -	AT	RLB	RCB	FS
9 -	Def.	Def.	Def.	Def.
10 -	"	"	"	"
11 -	"	"	"	"
12 -	"	"	"	"
13* -	"	"	"	"
14* -	"	"	"	"
15* -	"	"	"	"
16 -	LLB	LLB	FS	TS
17 -	MLB	MLB	FS	LCB
18 -	RLB	RLB	FS	RCB
19 -	Out+	Out+	Out+	Out+
20 -	Out+	Out+	Out+	Out+

Questions & Answers

Editor's note: Questions regarding 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: When playing super-advanced football pass rush rules, does a "D" reading on the black die result in a pass rush attempt against a flat pass?

ANSWER: No, you cannot have a pass rush attempt on a flat pass.

QUESTION: Same question as above and if the free safety is blitzing on a flat pass and a "D" reading appears, is the quarterback automatically sacked?

ANSWER: No, again situation doesn't apply to a flat pass. Sacks only occur on short or long pass situations.

QUESTION: What will be the next past season baseball card set that Strat-O-Matic plans to come out with?

ANSWER: The 1969 season, with the "Miracle Mets," will be the next card set from the past to be reproduced with all the advanced features. The 1969 set should be available in early Feb.

QUESTION: In baseball, if a runner is not held on base, is the catcher's throwing arm taken into account?

ANSWER: Yes, it is always taken into consideration, except when attempting to steal home.

QUESTION: What happens in this situation in baseball? Runner on second, you hit-and-run with the next batter and he swings and misses. Your roll shows that the runner did not get a good lead. Do you go ahead and use the second rating in the normal manner?

ANSWER: Yes, the second rating is checked.

QUESTION: On an attempted steal of home, do you automatically subtract nine, or do you only take off nine if the runner is being held on?

ANSWER: Automatically subtract nine and then check second number.

QUESTION: What was the first year that an S-O-M Baseball game was produced? Was it the complete league? What year was the advanced version introduced?

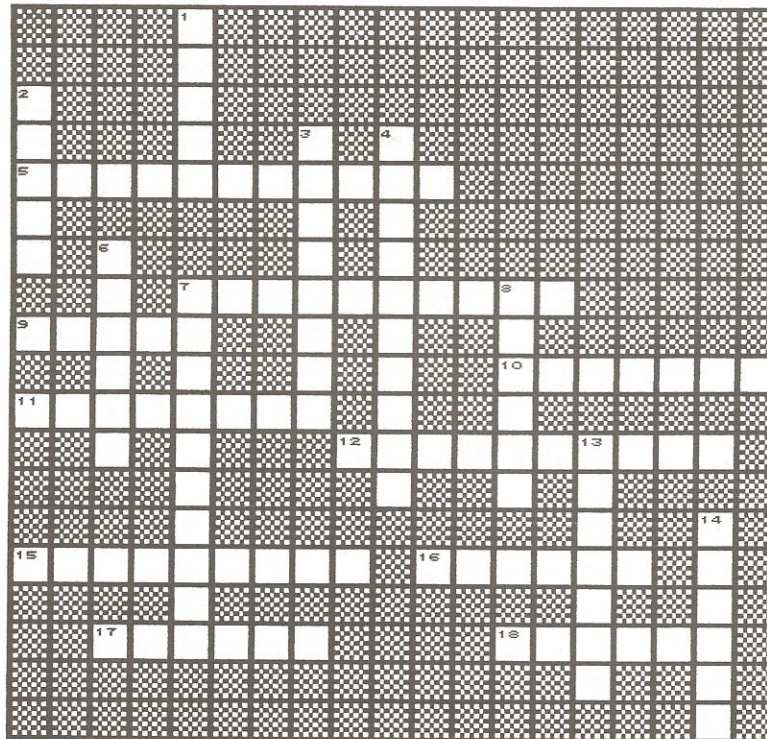
ANSWER: The first S-O-M Baseball game came out in 1961 and was based on the 1960 real-life season. The card set consisted of two 40-player (one from each league) all-star teams. There were no individual fielding or base running ratings on those cards. The first game that included all the teams was not produced until 1963 and was based on the 1962 real-life season. The advanced version of baseball was introduced in 1972 and was based on 1971. The advanced features included righty-lefty batting and pitching, pitcher's endurance factor, N and W power ratings and outfielder throwing arms.

Strat-O-Matic Trivia Quiz IV

The summer months are here and it is, of course, baseball time. So, it's only fitting that Strat-O-Matic's crossword man, Dave Corbett, of Waltham, MA, should send along part IV of crosswords, this one pertaining to baseball solely.

The first crossword appeared last year and was about all of S-O-M's games. The second was about only football and the third, which appeared in the March, 1984 Review, was about basketball.

Now here's S-O-M Crossword IV (answers are found on page).



ACROSS CLUES

5. DOUBLEPLAY BALL (2WORDS)
7. TOP SELECTION OF MANY DRAFT LEAGUES
9. --- O-MATIC
10. SUICIDE
11. SOM RARITY
12. AWESOME RELIEF PITCHER
15. PAST SOM CARDS (2WORDS)
16. PLAYS SIX POSITIONS
17. TORONTO CF
18. MONTREAL SPEEDSTER

DOWN CLUES

1. HBP MOST OFTEN
2. MOST HITS VS RIGHT PITCHING
3. THIS PITCHER IS 'GIANT' VS. LEFTYS
4. SOM LONGDISTANCE (3WORDS)
6. MR. MVP
7. PLAYER'S NUMBERS
8. LIST OF TEAM'S PLAYERS
13. SOM T-SHIRT WEARER
14. THIS TEAM COULD PLAY A (-12) ARM OUTFIELD

Advertisements

Rates per issue are as follows: 50 words or less - \$1.00; 51-100 words - \$2.00; 101-150 words - \$3.00. Maximum length of an ad will be 150 words. 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. Photo-copied cards also are prohibited from being 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: New to Strat-O-Matic Baseball; interested in buying any teams and players I don't have. Full-sized cards only. Send list and price. Leon Major, 2313 S. Walnut #80, Stillwater, OK 74074 [405-743-0172]

WANTED: N.Y. Yankee teams, 1964-1968 and 1972-1980; 1980 Royals; 1979 Orioles, Pirates; 1978 Red Sox, Dodgers, Royals; 1977 Dodgers, Red Sox, Royals, Orioles w/additionals. Hockey - 1978-79 Rangers, Canadiens, Islanders; '79-80 Islanders, Flyers; '80-81 Islanders, Flyers, North Stars; '81-82 Islanders, Flyers, Canucks. Send offers to: S. Mangiapane, 239 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011

WANTED: I wish to purchase any or all of the following teams (with or without extras): 1966 Orioles, Dodgers; 1967 Red Sox; 1969 Mets, Cubs; 1970 Pirates, Orioles, Reds; 1971 Pirates, Orioles, Reds; 1972-74 A's; 1975 Reds, Red Sox; 1976 Reds; 1977 Yankees, Dodgers; 1978 Yankees, Royals, Dodgers, Red Sox; 1979 Pirates, Orioles; 1980 Royals, Phillies, Expos, Astros; 1981 A's, Yankees, Brewers, Expos, Dodgers; 1982 Cardinals, Brewers, Orioles. I will pay reasonable price. Write or call: Jeff Turnbull, 603 Sunnycrest Ct., Urbana, IL 61801 [217-367-7679]

WANTED: 1971, 1972, 1974 American League S-O-M baseball teams, complete with extras. Good condition. Contact: Ed Carlson,

1720 Kings Highway, Rockford, IL 61107

WANTED: Complete baseball sets for 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979. Don't need extras. Not concerned about condition. Send SASE to: [and asking price] Brad Oistad, 1853 16th St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901

For Sale

FOR SALE: Exact schedules and pitching rotations for all major league teams from each season available in sets, 1900-1983. 1983 sells for just \$8; write me for quotes on all other seasons. Rich Pray, 7800 LaNair Drive, Pensacola, FL 32514

FOR SALE: Random number sheets. Printed by computer. Perfect for S-O-M Baseball. Increase your playing time. You will receive enough numbers for hundreds of games. I'll even pay the postage. Send check for \$4 to: Richard Friedman, 13641 Cedar Road, University Heights, OH 44118

FOR SALE: Boggled down in statistics? Are statistics preventing you from enjoying your valuable free time? Compiling statistics shouldn't be a chore. Statistics are numbers that dance. Let us compile your statistics and the numbers will jump out at you. Computers are used to produce first class printouts quickly and accurately at very reasonable prices. Save time and help improve the organization of your league. Some features of our thorough statistics (continued)

istical report include: standings, newsletters, team stats, individual stats and league leaders. Ideal for entire leagues or individual teams. Send SASE for more information: Carlton Chin, 500 Memorial Dr. (210), Cambridge, MA 02139

FOR SALE: Football complete sets, 1977-81. Basketball complete sets, 1976-77 to present. Hockey complete sets (w) extras when applicable, '77-78 to present. Baseball complete sets w/ extras, '78-81. First good bid accepted. Write or call: Anthony Giacobbe, 15 Welles Ct., Staten Island, NY 10301 (212-273-5355)

FOR SALE: Original 1970 (elementary) set. Starters with * on roster sheet have an * typed on cards, "extras" have "EX" marked on cards in pencil; \$40 including postage, or will trade for '75 set with extras in good condition. 1969 Royals with extras, \$3. Elementary nameless players, \$1. 1961 Reds and Tigers (old-timer, elementary), \$1 each. Also for sale: elementary-advanced conversion chart. Convert elementary fielding ratings into "e" ratings for pre-1977 cards, \$1. Exact error percentages for every "e" rating at every position, \$2. Accuracy guaranteed. John Henshell, 9800 SW Frewing St., Apt. 38, Tigard, OR 97223

FOR SALE: Basketball, 1972-73, 1973-74, 1974-75; all sets mint. Football, 1976; mint. Send bids with SASE to: Paul Ohren, 1056 Oleander Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94086

FOR SALE: Baseball, complete sets plus extra players (excellent to mint): 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974. Baseball, 1973 [good to poor, but readable - no writing], missing San Diego, Mil. Texas, Minn., but with complete extra players. Baseball, 1972 [very good], missing Phil., KC; no extra players. Baseball individual teams: 1978 NYM, SF, Detroit; 1977 NYM, White Sox, Det.; 1976 NYM, Phil.; 1975 NYM, Cin.; 1974 Cal., extras; 1972 Oak., mint; 1971 Pitt.; 1970 NYM; 1969 Pitt. Bids accepted

until final day of month on Review cover. Early postmark breaks ties. Will not break complete sets - preference given to bidders of multiple sets. Split postage on accepted bids less than \$50. Send bids and SASE to: Todd Giorgio, 6233 Gulfton Drive, #2109, Houston, TX 77081

FOR SALE: Baseball - complete sets - 1971 through 1982 seasons [all in mint condition with extras]. Will respond to all bids. Include SASE. Also have many individual clubs for sale, 1968 through '82 seasons. Send inquiries as to your needs and for prices. Leonard Melito, Daniel Road, North Salem, NY 10560

FOR SALE: 1967 Baseball; 1979 AL extras, all mint condition, will not break up. Also, 1965 Astros, Cubs, Mets, A's, Red Sox, White Sox, Senators; fair to good condition. Send bids with SASE to: Ronald Tonti, 234 Clay Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235

FOR SALE: Hockey game with all game parts and 10 teams, from 1982-83 season [NY Islanders, NY Rangers, St. Louis, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Montreal, Quebec, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg], \$15. College Football with all game parts and 24 all-time great teams, \$10. Basketball with all game parts and all 1982-83 teams, \$20. John Lee, 4412 Ellysee Way, Pensacola, FL 32505. I will pay postage.

FOR SALE: Hockey game complete set, 1978-79 season, all teams plus additional players and one scorepad mint condition. Basketball, complete game set plus two scorepads, 1973-74 Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Bullets, Chicago, Detroit, Lakers, Milwaukee, Knicks, Warriors; '74-75 Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Kings, Seattle, Wash., Warriors; '75-76 Boston, Buffalo, Cleveland, Lakers, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Seattle, Washington, Warriors. All mint condition. Send bids to: Paul Mangiafico, 2218 Harbor View, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

FOR SALE: Baseball, 1972 through 1982, '56 and '61. Good condition, some excellent; best offer [will
(continued)]

not break years up), Hockey, 1978-79 through '81-82; good condition; best offer (will not break years up). Football, 1973, good condition; best offers. Some teams other years in football, baseball, basketball. For offers on any of the above, or list of others, send to: Dwight Malloy, 3850 Kirkup Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45213

FOR SALE: The following items are for sale only as complete years. Baseball - 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1980. Complete with extra players. All teams in very good-excellent condition except 1975, which is mint. The following are for sale as individual teams: 1969 Mets, Pirates, Cubs, Cards, Braves, Dodgers, Giants, Reds, A's, Twins, Senators, Red Sox, without extra players. 1968 Mets, Dodgers, Red Sox, Orioles, Giants, Tigers, Reds, all in good condition. Also, 1967 Tigers. Make reasonable offer. **SASE** to John Eigenauer, 1628 Westgate #205, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (213-826-8685)

FOR SALE: Baseball, 1979, '80, '81, '82; all mint condition; all complete with extras; \$40 per year (except 1982), minimum acceptable bid. Teams sold as complete sets only. Deadline is last day of this month's issue. Winning bids receive free **Strat** bonus. Mail to: Louis Rakita, 4675 Circle Road, Montreal, Quebec, H3W 1Z2. Or call 514-487-2428 or 486-9322. Don't delay - bid today!

FOR SALE: Over 14,000 baseball cards in stock, 1966 to present. Send requests to: Sports Games Association, P.O. Box 60062, Oklahoma City, OK 73103

FOR SALE: Another first for S-O-M fanatics. In Playbook IV, pitchers play a major role with individual ratings for fielding range, stealing, bunting, hit-and-run, running and power. Expanded pitcher's fielding chart included. All pitchers are precisely rated based on official statistics and formulas similar to those used for non-pitchers. Seasons (1982, 1983) are \$3 each, or \$5.50 for both.

Also available: Playbook I can be used solitaire or head-to-head and involves advanced strategy where managing makes the difference. Playbook II gives you advanced hit-and-run, sacrifice/squeeze play, outfield/infield drawn in and injury charts. Playbooks I and II are \$6 each, or \$11 for both. Playbook III involves weather effects based on city, month and season. Seasons (1970, 1983) are \$3 each, or \$5.50 for both. Special: Playbooks I-IV (51 pages in all), \$20 postpaid. Thanks to our many satisfied customers. Paul Ladewski, 14340 Maple Lane, Midlothian, IL 60445

FOR SALE: Baseball teams, 1970 Reds, Orioles, Cards, Braves, Cubs, Tigers, Yankees, Red Sox; average condition. Cubs and Braves missing one player; \$32 for this set. 1971 teams, Mets, Cards, Giants, Dodgers, Braves, Pirates, Cubs, Expos, White Sox, Red Sox, Indians, Tigers, Orioles, Athletics, Royals, Yankees, \$56. Very good condition. In mint condition, 1972 Athletics, Orioles, Royals, White Sox, Tigers, Twins, Yankees, Red Sox, Cards, Reds, Phillies, Pirates, Cubs, Astros, Braves, Dodgers; \$54. Entire 1973 season in mint condition for \$56. The following seasons are all in mint condition with the extra players included: 1974 season, \$56; 1975, \$54; 1976, \$50; 1977, \$44; 1978, \$38; 1979, \$32; 1980, \$28. Buy the entire lot for \$450. Prices include postage. Allow checks to clear. Postal money order gets next day shipping via UPS. If any questions on buying entire lot call: 802-234-5120. Fred Trombly, P.O. Box 120, West Lebanon, NH 03784

League Forming

LEAGUE FORMING: The OOPS Football League will begin its 16th season in 1984. We are a face-to-face league in the Los Angeles-Orange County area. We are an on-going draft league, which means that when you acquire the rights to a player, either through the draft or by trade, you keep them for life. New teams draft from an expansion pool which includes many quality veteran players. All teams draft from the

(continued)

previous year's NFL rookies. We follow NFL draft and scheduling rules and our season runs concurrently with the NFL. For further information, write: P.O. box 4141, Downey, CA 90241. Or call: Paul Mankiewicz (213-861-2151), or Dave Sieminski. (213-640-8008) or Steve Ambers (213-479-5280).

LEAGUE FORMING: ASFL (Atlantic Strat-O-Matic Football League), a face-to-face league with eight existing franchises, is looking to expand. We draft whole teams, not players. Order of draft is based on last year's ASFL standings. New coaches pick teams on a first-come, first-served basis. Weekly stats and bulletins sent out. Football outing at Sullivan Stadium each year. Trophies and awards banquet at the end of the season. Games played Sundays in Canton, MA; six playing sites throughout the town. For more information, call: Jim Campbell (617-821-0091) weekends or write: Jim Campbell, 510 Sherman St. A-3, Canton, MA 02021

LEAGUE FORMING: Two S-O-M PBM draft baseball leagues with continuous ownership using the advanced rules, need managers and backup managers. Entering our 7th season, one league is a summer league with three divisions, 12 teams, uses the DH and uses mostly AL cards. The winter league has three divisions, 10 teams, no DH, uses mostly NL cards and is the only league anywhere that has individualized pitchers' batting cards. Five teams in each league make the playoffs and they will get trophies. As many as three teams from any division can qualify. Competition? We have two managers consistently near the top every year. Join us and see if you can outwit them. Write: Thomas Angel, P.O. Box 55, Astor, FL 32002

LEAGUE FORMING: National League winter league, PBM, draft baseball league, using advanced rules has two expansion teams that are very weak and hard to find managers for. I will buy your S-O-M Baseball cards for 1985

if you join and complete one season. Also, your 1986 baseball cards if you complete a second season. No membership fee for two years (regularly \$12). Also, one established team available. But no freebies with that team. Write: Thomas Angel, P.O. Box 55, Astor, FL 32002

LEAGUE FORMING: Play-by-mail hockey league now forming. This will be a draft league using the new cards. Let's get started now so we can draft and play as soon as the cards are available. Interested coaches may reply to: Roger Simmons, 84 Luquer Road, Manhasset, NY 11030. Please enclose \$3 to cover mailing fees.

LEAGUE FORMING: Reliable managers needed for Hot Stove League's 1984 season, starting soon. The Hot Stove League (HSL) is an old-timer baseball draft replay, using old-timer set plus selected HOF, 1956 and related sets. The season is 154 games with only four games a week scheduled. You may play as fast as you wish, but we require only four per week. An unusual aspect of the HSL is the career limitations rule. Players must retire when any of the following are reached: games played, at-bats, appearances, innings pitched. As you can see, the cards age before your eyes even though they don't change stat-wise. Sound interesting? Send a resume, including experience, and join us in our 8th year. Only serious gamers need reply. Send to: Mike Cummins, RR#3 Box 99, Pana, IL 62557 (217-562-2361, after 6 p.m. CST)

LEAGUE FORMING: National Texas League, combination PBM/Face-to-face advanced draft league, needs two managers to take over existing teams. Although we do have play-by-mail, we have at least two managers in each city to insure all games are played head-to-head. Available cities - Austin, Houston or San Marcos, TX/Monticello, IA, or Richmond, VA. Could accept two managers in one new city; 18-and-over apply and only if you're a serious Strat and baseball lover. This league is nine years old and will

(continued on page 15)

probably run 29 more. We have loan officers, insurance agents, ballplayers, booking agents, CPA's, marine biologists, women and other diverse personalities. If this sounds like something you'd like to do the next four years, contact: John Blomstrom, 4931 Whispering Falls, Houston, TX 77084 [713-463-2398 or 463-8418]

LEAGUE FORMING: American Texas League; head-to-head advanced draft American League currently in fourth year. Looking for two managers, 18 and over, in greater Houston area to join league. Must be willing to travel to other manager's home to play. We do a lot of rollin' and three seasons produced three different champions. If this sounds like fun, contact me, now. John Blomstrom, 4931 Whispering Falls, Houston, TX 77084 [713-463-8418 or 463-2398]

LEAGUE FORMING: Looking for managers to start a PBM league. Four divisions, 16 teams. Approximately four more managers needed. The league will start by drafting the '83 cards, then drafting new '84 cards in a rookie draft. The draft is to start by late August/early September. The first season is to start in March, using '84 cards. A full 162-game season using the DH will be played. Yearly features will include - a rookie draft, an all-star game and a playoff/World Series format. League leaders will be kept and published in a newsletter. There will be no annual fees, but there may be a small fee at start for a winner's trophy.

(Editor's note: The party sending in the above ad did not enclose a name and address. Please send all responses for next month to the Review, P.O. Box 27, Otsego, MI 49078, and hopefully the person placing the ad will contact the Review)

LEAGUE FORMING: The SWSOMFL league, a face-to-face, straight team football organization located in the Phoenix area, is looking for managers. Easy going, good time; competitive; in its fourth year of existence.

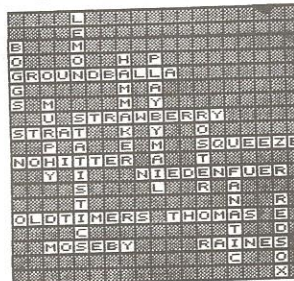
anyone interested, please contact: Pat Mitchell, 1031 S. Stewart #1225, Mesa, AZ 85202 [602-964-1308]

LEAGUE FORMING: The SBA Basketball Association (advanced, PBM draft), is about to enter its 12th year of operation and needs two coaches to take over existing teams (both very competitive) for 1984-85 campaign. Newsletters, yearbook provided. For details, please send SASE to: Gary Graber, 5422 Clinton Blvd., Jackson, MS 39209

LEAGUE FORMING: Looking for managers for a face-to-face, advanced play draft baseball league in the Baltimore area. League format and rules to be negotiated. For more information, write or call: Tom Benner, 1712 Kennoway Road, Baltimore, MD 21234 [301-882-5476]

Answers to Crossword IV

[continued from page 3]



New football cards

[continued from page 3]

ceptions, yielding 1.2 percent. Lynn Dickey of the Packers has a great throwing card, although it is marred by a 6.0 percent interception ratio.

* Two cards were wrong for Dallas and Chicago. On the flip side of the specialist card for Dallas the first cards had defensive ratings. A corrected card was included, as was one for Chicago.

76ers breeze in basketball replay

Philadelphia fan relives championship season with S-O-M

Chuck Steinmetz is probably not eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new basketball cards. At least not like he was a year ago at this time.

Steinmetz is from Philadelphia and a long-time fan of the Philadelphia 76ers. Up until a year ago he was also a long-suffering fan as the 76ers frequently came close but the championship prize always eluded them.

That all changed in the 1982-83 season as the 76ers, with the addition of Moses Malone in the middle, won the title and blitzed Los Angeles in the finals in four straight games.

"From the moment Mo Cheeks hit the floor after jamming the final points of the Philadelphia 76ers' 115-108 win over the Los Angeles Lakers May 31, 1983, I awaited the news that the new basketball cards were ready," relates Steinmetz of his anticipation.

The cards arrived and Steinmetz, plus a cousin, Bill Kirwin, began a replay of that memorable season. Kirwin played the first half of the season and Steinmetz the latter, with weekends reserved for head-to-head games. Also, all big games [those against LA, Boston, Milwaukee, etc.] were played head-to-head.

MALONE IS MVP

The 76ers compiled a 68-14 regular-season record, three games better than real-life. Some of the highlights included:

- * Julius [Dr. J] Erving scoring 51 points and grabbing 14 rebounds against New Jersey.

- * Malone pumping in 46 points and snaring 27 rebounds versus Milwaukee.

- * The Dr. coming up with the triple against Golden State: 36 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists.

- * Blowing out L.A., 139-107, in early December and giving a hint of what was to come in the playoffs. Clint Richardson had 19 points.

- * And Malone winning MVP honors for the regular-season after averaging 25 points and 17.2 rebounds. Malone shot at a 47.2 percent clip from the field [671-1423], 75.5 from the line [683-905] and had a total of 1,391 rebounds, 578 off the offensive board. He also had 152 blocks, which was tops on the team, with Erving second with 131 and Bobby Jones having 106.

- * Andrew Toney launched 131 of the 76ers' 171 three-point field goal attempts. He swished 36 downtown shots and went on to average 21.5 points. Erving also topped the 20-point mark, averaging 21.9.

- * Maurice Cheeks doubled everyone else on the team as far as assists. He dished out 744 baskets, or an average of 9.1 per game.

- * Both Cheeks and Bobby Jones shot over 50 percent from the floor, with Cheeks netting 442 of 859 shots [51.5] and Jones 298 of 571 [52.2]. Cheeks averaged 14 points and Jones 10.1.

- * As a team the 76ers scored over 100 points in all but three games and held opponents under the century mark 18 times. Philly averaged 121.9 points, of which 31.6 percent, or 38.5 points, came via the fastbreak. The 76ers outscored opponents on the break, 38.5-24.3. The home record was 38-3 and the road 30-11.

PLAYOFFS ALSO A BREEZE

Just as in real-life, much to the pleasure of Steinmetz, the 76ers rolled through the playoffs, including sweeping the Lakers in four straight games in the finals.

The playoffs were replayed with the real-life teams, with the New York Knicks the first to fall, four games to one. [118-98, 127-92, 98-104, 116-110, 109-95].

[continued on next page]

Cheeks had 13 assists in game two as four Knicks fouled out. Bernard King averaged 20.4 points for the losers, including scoring 28 in the Knicks' lone win in game three. Toney, who averaged a team-high 20 points for five games, pumped in 26 in game four. Philly had 38 fast-break points to New York's 2.

Milwaukee also suffered the same 4-1 fate in the second series. The first game set the tone for the series as Toney netted a three-point field goal at the buzzer of a 129-126 76er win. Toney and Malone each had 32 points, Sidney Moncrief 40 for the Bucks. Philly lost Erving to an injury in the third quarter (he will also miss games two and three), but Bobby Jones came off the bench to score 17.

Game two was a blowout, 130-91, as Malone had 36 points and 16 rebounds. Reggie Johnson, starting in place of the Dr., had 12 points. Milwaukee won game three, 112-87, as Moncrief scored 30, Junior Bridgman 20. Malone had 27 for 76ers.

With Erving back, Philly romped in game four, 124-114 (Erving: 21 points, three blocks; Malone: 32 points, 27 rebounds, 14 offensive). Moncrief, who averages 27 points for the series, led the Bucks with 34. Erving fires in 36 points and has 14 rebounds in the final, Toney chips in 30 points and Philly romps, 122-114. Alton Lister's seven blocks were only highlight for Milwaukee.

LAKERS HOPES DRY UP

The championship series was over quickly, at least as far as the Lakers, as Magic Johnson was injured in the first quarter and missed the rest of the playoffs.

Malone scored 25 points and grabbed a playoff-high 30 rebounds as Philly won opener, 118-108. Erving had 19 points, 9 rebounds (7 offensive) and seven blocks. L.A., surprisingly, led 83-78 going into the fourth quarter, only to be blitzed 40-25.

Toney tossed in 37 points, in only 29 minutes of playing time, and Erving added 23 as 76ers win game two, 115-104. Bob McAdoo had 27 for L.A., but centers Malone and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar neutralize each other offensively, with Kareem outscoring Moses 10-5. Malone won rebounding battle, though, 19-5.

Philly had too much firepower in game three as Malone scored 29, Erving 25 and Toney 19. James Worthy had 32, Jamal Wilkes 29 and Norm Nixon 17 assists for L.A., which fell this time 128-115. Nixon had redeemed himself after committing 11 turnovers in the third game.

Game four was the finale as Toney scored 33, in only 30 minutes, while the Sixers outpointed L.A. 36-20 in the decisive third quarter (20-0 fast breaks). Worthy had 36 points for the Lakers before fouling out. Toney averaged 28.6 points, Malone 19.3 rebounds in finals, while Worthy led L.A. in both categories (25.5 points/8.0 rebounds).

"Not only was the Sixers' replay enjoyable, it was also statistically accurate, which made it even more enjoyable to play and to relive Philadelphia's exciting and long-awaited rise to the top," concluded Steinmetz, who is probably not so anxious about the arrival of the new 1984-85 Strat-O-Matic Basketball cards.

The Review staff

Editors: Warren Newell (Otsego, MI), Del Newell (Kalamazoo, MI).
 Production: Karen Newell
 Printing: Oliver S Tobias (Kalamazoo, MI).
 Mailing: The Review is mailed monthly, third-class, from Otsego, MI. First-class mailing is available for an extra 20 cents per month. All printed matter should be sent to the Strat-O-Matic Review, P.O. Box 27, Otsego, MI 49078, as well as all correspondence related to subscriptions, advertising and questions pertaining to S-O-M games and cards.

Guest columnist

Fryer's 'scouting report' critiqued

BY GLENN LUSSKY

I would like to respond to Larry Fryer's "scouting report" (S-O-M Review May, 1984) on who to draft in Strat-O-Matic Baseball leagues. I was a member from 1975-1983 of the Universal Baseball Association (UBA) which held yearly drafts of all unclaimed players (15 teams; 35 players/team, at least five of whom are designated as minor league future picks).

While I, too, do not claim to pick everything right, my record of championship teams (every year but one) speaks for itself. I believe that it is important to comment on someone else's drafting opinions, especially since mine is different than his. I would also like to respond to some of his player comments.

It is apparent that Fryer values specific players very highly. I think that is fine, except that he mentions to get Daryl Strawberry on your team whatever it takes. I disagree very strongly. While Strawberry is certainly a fine young ballplayer and may well have an excellent career, it is unquestionably more valuable for a team to have strength throughout the lineup rather than to lump it into one or two positions.

If you can deal from strengths with solid backups to obtain him, then it may be worthwhile to pursue him. Otherwise, you may be losing more strengths than you'll be gaining. In terms of building a batting order around Strawberry, if the lineup is weak ahead of him, he won't have men on base to knock in (solo homers don't win a lot of ball games). If the lineup is weak behind him, your opponents will pitch around him.

SCOUTING REPORT ECHO

Fryer's statements on Mike Marshall and Lloyd Moseby may be accurate, but they are just the same things the scouts have said for the past three years. He hardly said anything new when he stated that Moseby "looks like the next Andre Dawson," especially since he had a year which was arguably as good as Dawson had last year.

He also says to look at Dickie Thon's minor league numbers to see that he is no fluke. If only he had also checked Carmelo Martinez's minor league numbers. He only hit .258 at Iowa last year. Don't be too surprised if he hits in the .230s or less in the majors this year (although his power should keep him in the lineup). I still can't believe that Fryer rates Martinez above Kevin McReynolds, who hit over .370 last year in Class AAA.

Fryer's observations on Ted Simmons and DH's are very good. Trade Simmons now since he has a good 1983 card and you will get a lot more for him this year.

Cesar Cedeño's attitude problems last year probably had a lot to do with his problems on the field. However, his change of attitude going into this season may well make a difference in his play on the field. Remember, he is only 32 years old.

Put an exclamation point by Julio Franco! Amazingly, just a year ago, some well-known major league scouts asked rhetorically, "would he still be called a shortstop if the ball gets past him all of the time?"

Jack Clark - even when he has an "off-year," he still produces runs because he has a good eye, patience and extra-base power versus both sides. Add on his defense and you have a solid full-time right fielder every year. Even if he stays in San Francisco, get him after an off-year and you could help yourself considerably.

CHANCE TO PLAY IMPORTANT

One thing Fryer does not mention is that when you try to decide who to draft, you want to get a player who not only is a top prospect, but one

(continued on next page)

who will also have a good chance to play regularly. For example, Tony Fernandez was drafted three years ago in the UBA, only to be sent to the minors each season because Alfredo Griffin had a toehold on the Blue Jays' shortstop position. Thus, he has been an expensive future pick to have held onto all these years, especially if you drafted him because your regular shortstop was getting older and needed a replacement.

On the other hand, other players like Steve Sax, Julio Franco, Juan Samuel, Brook Jacoby and Kevin McReynolds all had "can't miss" labels, but they also had a position all but given to them. This having been common knowledge, these players became more highly sought after as future draft choices.

It is interesting to note that the writer of the article states that Greg Brock made it big last year, just as Fryer had predicted. This is not true. I wish he had made it big since he would be another example of having a position all but given to him; in reality, however, his .209 average and only occasional power was enough of a disappointment in Los Angeles that they were seriously testing out other first basemen in camp this spring.

Sometimes it seems that the Review writers get so carried away with certain people and certain leagues that they report things inaccurately or emotionally, trying to make something out of nothing. Please stay away from this practice and give other people and leagues equal time. The apparent prejudice of the Review staff and writers takes a whole lot away from the good aspects of the publication.

NOW DRAFTING: GLENN LUSSKY

Now for some general comments on drafting.

Pitchers - Pick pitchers with a history of either low hits/innings pitched or walks/innings pitched. If he is mediocre at both, he generally won't be as effective over the years (unless history shows improvement in either category).

Hitters - Young players who have good offensive value but are poor defensively are great picks for DH's. In a few years, their defense usually improves and they are no longer liabilities in the field, thus making room for new young DH's. This is a great way to keep up the supply of young offensive talent in your organization.

Probably the best drafting advice to give a manager is to read, read, read. Research the Sporting News and Street & Smith Yearbooks, the Baseball Abstract and other yearbooks and special baseball previews of the major sports magazines.

The weekly Sporting News and daily papers often mention who wants who included in a trade (thus indicating who is valued the most in certain organizations) or give reports on minor league activities.

One can often anticipate who will be good major leaguers and who will get there first from these articles. Also read up on the history of the draftables to learn of their strengths and weaknesses.

Try to keep up on who complains of a sore arm, who wants to be traded or who wants more playing time and who is on the Yankees (seriously). Most often, these players are poorer risks since they don't see as much playing time, are unhappy and as a result may be less effective.

Editor's note: Anyone, such as Larry Fryer, who writes an opinion-type article is going to be second-guessed. Fryer, like all of us, is not always right. But we defend his right to his opinions (he is right much more than not) and point out that opinion and prejudice are not the same. As far as the Review favoring some writers and leagues over others, we strive to have the best writers (most knowledgeable, most popular with readers, etc.) and leagues that are better organized, unique in some way or lend a personal touch to gaming, rather than reams of statistics and standings. The fact that reader Glenn Lussky is given 1½ pages in the Review to express his opinions reflects our overall policy toward everyone in the world of Strat-O-Matic.

Pitchers' hitting cards are tested

BY RODNEY JOHNSON, TEMPE, AZ

I have long wondered about the pitchers' hitting ratings. What do they really mean?

I have looked up different pitchers' hitting stats and matched them against the ratings the pitcher was given and found a wide range of averages within each rating.

To satisfy my curiosity I went through the stats from some of the seasons I have played in the past and came up with some interesting results.

I added together the hitting stats for 1, 2, 3 and 4 pitchers for 104 players from various teams and seasons. These stats are the hitting stats that these 104 players compiled for me using their respective hitting cards:

Number		AB	H	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	AVG
1	-	1466	195	38	4	0	78	563	.133
2	-	994	162	21	5	0	41	319	.163
3	-	475	89	14	3	1	27	157	.187
4	-	840	192	32	4	11	46	226	.229

Below are figures adjusted to 500 at-bats for comparison:

1	-	500	67	13	1	0	27	192	.134
2	-	500	81	11	3	0	21	160	.162
3	-	500	94	15	3	1	28	165	.188
4	-	500	114	19	2	7	27	135	.228

I found the number of walks of particular interest. They seem to remain consistent for all four ratings.

I was surprised to find the pattern so consistent. The hitters really do get progressively better from one to four.

After checking the stats closely, what about those pitchers who hit .300?

Opposing pitchers enhance batting averages

The one sure statistic gleaned from the above is that pitchers' batting averages are enhanced by opposing pitchers. The batting cards don't generate much offense in themselves.

A check of the cards reveals the following averages:

- #1 - .000 (no hit chances and only a walk chance on 2-10)
- #2 - .059 (straight hit chances on 2-3, 2-4 and 2-5 (1-6); 6.20 hit chances out of 105 (walk on 3-4, subtract 3 from 108 card chance total)
- #3 - .120 (straight hit chances on 1-8, 1-9, 1-10, 1-11 (1-6); 12.6 hit chances out of 105 (walk on 3-10, subtract 3 from 108 card chance total)
- #4 - .200 (straight hit chances on 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 3-9, 3-11, 3-12, 3-8 (1-16); 21 hit chances out of 105 (walk on 3-10, subtract 3 from 108 card chance total).

Many readers have asked about what batting average a pitcher would have with the various hitting cards. Perhaps the above information will provide the answer.

'Fanatic' league is not a misnomer

What has a commissioner that's played over 10,000 games of Strat-O-Matic and is currently in four play-by-mail leagues, a gymnasium manager, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Yale University and a would-be doctor of medicine?

No, it's not your average PBM league. Instead, it's called the Strat-O-Matic Fanatic Baseball League. And the name is not a misnomer.

Jeff Schwarze, 20, and a student at University of Illinois, majoring in computer science, is the activist commissioner. Introduced to S-O-M by a friend in 1980, Schwarze has bought numerous past seasons card sets along with every season since.

He's currently in four PBM leagues and manages a total of nine teams in the four. "I'd have to say Strat-O is my No. 1 hobby," says Schwarze in the manager profile section of the latest S-O-M Fanatic Baseball League yearbook.

It's back to the basics as far as cards used in each of the four leagues. Only the basic side of the baseball cards are used, although in his league the cutoff rule and supplementary stealing system are used. "My league uses straight teams, with absolutely no trading and with strict limitations on at-bats and innings pitched," continues Schwarze, who also adds that roster expansion is needed [beyond 24 players] to realistically complete such a replay.

WHO ARE THOSE GUYS?

The Strat-O-Matic Fanatic Baseball League's yearbook is a professional-looking, voluminous work of art that is not only loaded with statistics of all sorts but also a manager profile section.

Leafing through that one discovers that Terry Battistone, 32, is a 14-year S-O-M vet who manages the gymnasium at Marian College of Fond Du Lac, both for athletic and social events.

Another manager is Jim McPartland, 24, who received S-O-M as a Christmas gift 14 years ago and has been playing ever since.

Les Morey, 28, is the assistant professor of psychiatry at Yale. A Ph.D. from University of Florida, Morey has been involved with S-O-M for almost 18 years, beginning in 1967. He leads a busy schedule, both on the job and at the gaming table and, under the hobbies section of a manager's profile, says: "Not much time for anything; a fair softball player (ss-2, e26).

Many of the managers had more than one team in the 26-team, full-season replay of the 1982 real-life season. Schwarze, for instance, wound up with six teams, four after managers had dropped out. Morey had two teams, the Yankees and San Francisco, while McPartland guided Cleveland and St. Louis, real-life World Series king.

CALIFORNIA SURPRISES

Competitive was the name of the game throughout the replay as three of the four divisions were decided by one game, two of those in a one-game playoff.

Philadelphia edged real-life champ St. Louis, by a game, for National League East honors and Los Angeles, with the best record of any team at 102-60, easily won the West. Over in the American League it was Baltimore and Detroit tying in the East and California and Kansas City doing likewise in the West.

In one-game playoffs, Baltimore, behind Jim Palmer, tamed the Tigers, 5-1, and California, with Mike Witt on the mound, stopped the Royals, 4-2.

Both California teams dominated in championship series, with L.A. checked Philadelphia with a .169 batting average and won in four games and California swept Baltimore in three straight, scoring 27 runs and

(continued on next page)

batting .374.

The Angels, managed by Jeff Schwarze - they were one of his two original teams - went on to down the Dodgers in a seven-game World Series that saw Jerry Reuss (LA) and Tommy John (Angels) pitch two-hitters and California's Bob Boone deliver a grand-slam home run (the Angels' 12th roundtripper of the Series) to key a 10-4 win in the decisive seventh game. Mitt Witt was the winner and Fernando Valenzuela took the loss.

All games in the playoffs and World Series were played by a third manager, one who didn't have a team competing. California, which won its division, just as in real-life, but fell in the playoffs for real, had captured its first title.

Highlights for the Angels were many, including seven players blasting 10 or more home runs, led by Reggie Jackson's 45 and Doug DeCinces' 44. Four had more than 100 RBI and five scored more than 98 runs, with Brian Downing leading the way across the plate with 118. DeCinces was the team's MVP (.291, 44, 122 RBI) and Ken Forsch (19-11, 3.82) and Witt (17-7, 2.66) were the best of the hill staff.

A LOOK AT THE TEAMS

BALTIMORE (Skip Hawkes) - Paced by MVP Eddie Murray (.371, 49, 143) and Mike Flanagan (20-8, 3.48), Birds overcame slow start - shades of real-life! - to finish fast and tie Detroit at 98-65, with Boston third (2½ back) and real-life A.L. winner Milwaukee fourth (4½).

DETROIT (Kevin Veldre) - Jack Morris (26-15, 3.06) won Cy Young Award but was hurt by home runs (58)...Tigers allowed 210 roundtrippers. ..Dan Petry was 22-8 with 3.45 ERA.

BOSTON (Jeff Miller) - Relievers were key as Bob Stanley, Mark Clear and Tom Burgmeier combined for 26-16 record and 39 saves and 2.31 ERA... Jim Rice had great season (.357, 38, 145) and was second in MVP voting... Bosox batted .283.

MILWAUKEE (Terry Battistine) - Had most homers (258) and tied in batting (.283)...seven players had more than 20 homers and five had more than 30, led by Gorman Thomas' 48...Cecil Cooper (.323, 38, 105) and Robin Yount (.318, 32, 117) had solid seasons...Pete Vuckovich was 21-10 with a 3.30 ERA, although he walked 164...Rollie Fingers may have been underused as relief ace saved only six games (the Brewers only had nine saves) and pitched only 68 innings in 40 appearances.

N.Y. YANKEES (Les Morey) - Just got over .500 at end of season... Goose Gossage (15-5, 17 saves, 1.57) and Dave Winfield (44, 122) were only bright spots on offense.

TORONTO (Laird Leathers) - Lack of power (116 homers) and fourth starter hurt.

CLEVELAND (Jim McPartland) - Poor pitching (4.42 ERA) was downfall... Stole 135 bases...Len Barker was 19-11 with 3.28 ERA.

KANSAS CITY (Ted Hanson) - Willie Wilson (.327, 25 triples!), George Brett (.307, 29, 107) and Hal McRae (25, 120) were offensive stars...Dan Quisenberry (19-9, 15 saves, 2.00) was the bullpen ace.

WHITE SOX (Kevin Veldre) - Pitching, after LaMarr Hoyt (19-13, 3.28), was major problem...Rich Dotson was 10-19, 4.58, Salome Barojas, despite 17 saves, finished 0-10...Team batted .274 and had 148 homers.

SEATTLE (Jeff Schwarze) - Bad pitching (4.41)...Floyd Bannister (245) and Jim Beattie (217) were 1-2 in strikeouts but gave up 72 homers in 475 innings...Richie Zisk had 33 homers, Al Cowens (.306) 28.

MINNESOTA (Jeff Schwarze) - Allowed too many homers (225) and walks (596/3.7 per game)...Bad ERA (4.61), too...Gary Ward was surprise with .302, 33, 105 stats...Ron Davis had 26 saves, tops in AL, but lost 17.

TEXAS (Jim Reid) - Not much offense (.251 average; 25 stolen bases).

OAKLAND (Greg Schwarze) - Led league in steals with 223; Rickey Henderson had 142, plus 125 walks, 125 runs scored...Pitching allowed 629 walks - almost 4 a game - and had 4.83 ERA.

PHILADELPHIA (Joe Woschitz) - Mike Schmidt wins second straight MVP award (.304, 49, 144)...Steve Carlton second in Cy Young voting after

(continued on next page)

23-12, 2.18 283 strikeouts...good blend of hitting (.270) and pitching (3.22)...committed fewest errors in majors (104)...Dick Ruthven is big surprise, going 20-6 with 3.26 ERA.

ST. LOUIS (Jim McPartland) - Led in steals with 249 as Lonnie Smith had 100...Lack of power (94 homers; 34 by George Hendrick) hurt...Bruce Sutter is Fireman of Year after 11-5, 22 saves and 2.79 stats.

MONTREAL (Jim Reid) - Led league in runs (805) and homers (164)...Gary Carter hit 40 homers (132 RBI), Tim Lincecum scored 126 times and Al Oliver led NL in average with .362 mark...Steve Rogers was ace of starting staff with 24-13, 2.54 and 232 strikeouts.

PITTSBURGH (Laird Leathers) - Highest average in NL at .279...Kent Tekulve (19-7, 2.04) and Rod Scurry (24 saves, 2.30) gave Bucs strong bullpen.

CHICAGO (Jeff Schwarze) - Bill Buckner was second in hitting at .348...starting pitching was weak link as reliever Lee Smith (11-15, 14 saves) had most wins...Cubbies made second most errors in NL, 156.

N.Y. METS (Chris Grimm) - Bad pitching (4.55) and hitting (.254) hurt...Dave Kingman clouted 37 homers and drove in 100 runs, despite batting only .197.

LOS ANGELES (Laird Leathers) - Best pitching (2.63 ERA) as Fernando Valenzuela (1.99, 22-13, 9 shutouts, 257 Ks) wins Cy Young...Jerry Reuss (20-12, 2.28, 9 shutouts) and Bob Welch (19-8, 3.24) make super big three...Steve Howe (1.59, 12-6, 17 saves) is relief ace...Hitting attack is paced by Dusty Baker (.306, 28, 106) and Pedro Guerrero (.288, 33, 104).

SAN FRANCISCO (Les Morey) - Bill Laskey (18-11, 3.15) is best pitcher, Jack Clark best hitter (.305, 27, 90)...Drew NL high 609 walks as Darrell Evans (96), Joe Morgan (96) and Clark (90) took the four-count frequently.

ATLANTA (Kevin Vedrine) - Pitching staff, except for Phil Niekro (21-10, 3.06) and Steve Bedrosian (8-6, 2.53) was battered...Rick Camp lost 20 games...Dale Murphy had a good season, with 42 homers and 115 RBI...Braves had only one shutout.

SAN DIEGO (Ted Hanson) - Led NL with 172 errors...Terry Kennedy was only effective batter, hitting .335...Had 176 steals - second in NL.

HOUSTON (Jeff Schwarze) - Dead last in hitting (.248) despite having two (Ray Knight, .318; Phil Garner, .312) of hitters in top 10.

CINCINNATI (Jeff Schwarze) - Worst ERA in NL (4.58)...only hit 80 homers...Mario Soto struck out 339, but was only 13-20 with 3.30 ERA.

Standings and leaders:

AMERICAN EAST				AMERICAN WEST				Batting	
Baltimore	98	65	-	California	90	73	-	Murray BAL	.371
Detroit	97	66	1	Kansas City	89	74	1	Rice BOS	.357
Boston	95	67	2½	Chicago	81	81	8½	Wilson KC	.327
Milwaukee	93	69	4½	Seattle	74	88	15½	Home Runs	
New York	83	79	14½	Minnesota	68	94	21½	Murray BAL	49
Toronto	75	87	22½	Texas	67	95	22½	Thomas MIL	48
Cleveland	68	94	29½	Oakland	58	104	31½	R.Jackson CAL	45
RBI				ERA				Wins	
Rice BOS	145	R: Murray BAL		137	Witt CAL		2.66	Morris DET	26
Murray BAL	143	2B: White KC		57	Stanley BOS		2.68	Petry DET	22
DeCinces CAL	137	3B: Wilson KC		25	Morris DET		3.06	Vuckovich MIL	21
GW RBI				H: Murray BAL				Strikeouts	
McRee KC	23	SB: Henderson OAK		142	Bannister SEA		245	IP: Morris DET	355
Rice BOS	23	W: Henderson OAK		125	Beattie SEA		217	CG: Morris DET	35
E: T.Cruz SEA				38	Barker CLE		213	SH: Flanagan	
On Base%				W-L %				SA: Davis MIN	
Murray BAL	.442	Torrez BOS		.773	Stanley BOS		22	BAL 4	
Rice BOS	.415	Gossage NY		.750				Morris DET	4
				Petry DET					

(continued on back page)



[continued from page 23]

[illegible]