

STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW

Devoted exclusively to
the Strat-O-Matic Game
fan, with the consent
of the Strat-O-Matic
Game Company

VOL. VIII-9, December, 1978

Before 75,994 Orange Bowl No-Shows

'72 Dolphins vs. '77 Cowboys

Picture it. Two bespectacled "coaches" hovering over a card table at the 50-yard line in the cavernous Orange Bowl in Miami. The undefeated Miami Dolphins of 1972 were about to collide with last year's Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys. There were 75,994 no-shows not cheering them on.

On one side of the table was the coach of the Dolphins: hair receding, husky of build, in fact looking very much like a football player. Subbing for Don Shula was Manny Fernandez, defensive tackle for the Dolphins from 1968-1975 and a member of that "no-name" contain unit that won 17 straight games in 1972.

Across from him, resembling a sports writer for the Miami Herald, was Terry Kelleher, a sports writer for the Miami Herald. On that afternoon in mid-October, before 75,994 no-shows, he was also coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

"The six yes-shows looked suspiciously like apathetic, broom-pushing maintenance men," reported Kelleher in a full-page feature story that appeared in the "Sports Extra" section of the Tuesday, Oct. 17, Miami Herald. "The lavish pre-game ceremonies were rained out by the sprinkler system."

Two Review subscribers, Andy Robinson of Miami and Robert Lopeck of Opa-Locka, sent along clippings of that article. "'72 Dolphins Remain

[continued on next page]

Unbeaten!" was the banner across the full-page story, which included a picture of the two contestants sitting at a table on the 50-yard line, empty stands in the background, plus another of Fernandez with the look of a winner (which he and the Dolphins were by a 24-0 count).

Kelleher, who's obviously an S-O-M buff, called himself "Son of Plastic Man" for the matchup and refused to make any prediction as to the outcome of what had to be the most unique game of S-O-M Football ever played.

Fernandez flat out predicted victory for the Dolphins. Writes Kelleher: "Moments before shake-off, Fernandez confidently forecast victory for his paper Dolphins. 'In any contest of equal age--I mean, us in our prime against them in their prime--there's no way we wouldn't come out on top.' Coach Fernandez judged Dallas superior on the defensive line--though the Miami front four was anchored by the incomparable Manny Fernandez--and gave Billy Joe Dupree the edge over Marv Fleming at tight end. In all other areas, he said, the '72 Dolphins were the better team."

Linebacking and secondary were Dolphin strong points, according to Fernandez. 'Tony Dorsett is explosive, but the consistency of Jim Kiick plus the explosiveness of Mercury Morris puts us far above...Bob Griese is far above Roger Staubach (based on statistics the last eight to ten years) and on the offensive line, it's the Dolphins by far.'

IT'S NO CONTEST!

Fernandez, wielding S-O-M dice like he used to toss aside opposing offensive linemen, and mixing his plays, completely overwhelmed the "Plastic Man."

The Dolphins took only five plays to score after taking the opening kickoff, with Morris dashing 48 yards for a touchdown on a fourth-and-two call near mid-field. Dallas came right back and marched to Miami's 41 and then, setting the tone for the remainder of the afternoon, fumbled the ball away, Doug Swift recovering for Miami.

Dallas got to Miami's 19 early in the second quarter, only to have Dorsett stacked up on third down and Efren Herrera miss a 36-yard field goal attempt. Halftime score: Miami 7, Dallas 0.

After another Dallas fumble, Miami, aided immensely by Morris' 38-yard gallop, built its lead to 10-0 on a 33-yard Garo Yepremian field goal. Then Fernandez delighted coach Fernandez by blocking a punt and recovering it at Dallas' 24. Four plays later, on a fourth-and-two situation, the daring Fernandez had Griese put the ball in the air--result: a 16-yard TD pitch to Kiick--and disdain the field goal.

Miami completed the devastation late in the game as Griese tossed a 29-yard touchdown pass to Paul Warfield, making the final score 24-0. Fernandez, a bad winner, joked afterward: "It was just the roll of the dice. If we'd gotten a better roll, it would have been 48-0. The cards seemed to rate our defense above our offense. The blocked punt and the sacks won it for us."

GRIESE OUTPERFORMED STAUBACH

In the individual duels, Griese easily outperformed Staubach, completing eight of 13 passes for 109 yards and two touchdowns. Roger "Dodger" meanwhile, hit on only five of 17 throws for 96 yards.

And Morris, thanks to the pair of big gainers, rang up 95 yards in just seven carries. Dorsett took 11 rushes to gain 50 yards.

Kelleher, while admitting his Cowboys were beaten in every phase of the game--offense, defense and good dice-rollin'--was at a loss to explain why. The roar of the no-shows couldn't have hampered his charges. And the sprinkling system didn't make for treacherous footing. Even the "zebras" couldn't be blamed, as Jim Carson, fellow Miami Herald writer, served as referee.

But Kelleher, as is characteristic of all losing coaches, concluded his article by saying he would find out what happened--when he views the films of the game.

S-O-M Has Another Hit In Hockey!

Hockey fans must be in a state of ecstasy by now!

As anyone who has already purchased Strat-O-Matic's newest creation is already aware of, the game company has another big hit on its creative hands.

Not only is the tabletop version of the ice sport easy to play, but it has everything in the way of action that can be found on the ice. Review co-editor Del Newell was one of the first to receive a copy of the game [many people are, or have, just purchased the game as the general public was not informed of its availability until just recently via brochure].

Since Del is not a hockey fan, he was apprehensive as to what his initial venture would be like attempting to play the game. After a thorough reading of the instructions, he gave the basic game a try, sending the Detroit Red Wings against the world champion Montreal Canadiens.

At the outset, every action card, or roll of the dice, caused him to reread and reread the instructions. It was slow going. Suddenly, near the end of the first period, everything fell into place. He breezed through the last two periods and was quickly convinced that a game could, with very little experimentation, play the basic game in 20 to 25 minutes.

Speed of play is a definite plus-feature of the newest creation. The line change cards placed in the action deck are another big help, as line changes are dictated to you rather than having to be made at a gamer's discretion. The basic version of the power play is another great feature, as all the plays (as many as five, six shots by the power play team, perhaps a breakaway by the short-handed team, etc.) are found on a chart.

"You have only really scratched the surface," said Harold Richman, creator of the S-O-M games, via a telephone conversation with Del Newell. "The advanced game has a lot more things you can do regarding strategy, and doesn't take too much longer to lay. The super advanced game, especially with the penalty and power-play situations, is for just the most avid hockey fan. It can be quite complicated."

WHO FORMS POWER PLAY LINE?

The game company also sends along a roster sheet with the most frequently lines listed--which is a great help to those unfamiliar with so many names of the National Hockey League players.

One area where hockey buffs could be a big help, however, would be to supply a team-by-team breakdown of the most frequently used power-play lineups as well as short-handed, or penalty killing, lineups. This would be an excellent playing tip, certainly would save precious playing time, and give a hockey fanatic a chance to get his name in the Review.

Power plays and penalty-killing were the areas that slowed your co-editor down tremendously. He searched through the cards each time, wasting valuable time, and then was never sure the units he sent out were the best for the mission.

So, an urgent call is out to the S-O-M public: What are the most frequently used power-play and penalty-killing lineups used by each NHL team, based on last season's performance?

Only One Change Needed On Hockey Cards

Only one change is necessary regarding the new S-O-M Hockey cards, according to the game company. Brian Spencer, left wing for the Pittsburgh Penguins, should have a reading of "Goal" on an Inside Shot with a roll of "2," rather than "Goal 1-17." That, however, is the only change needed on the new cards.

[continued on next page]

Now, as far as those initial playing experiences with the hockey game, Montreal rallied to turn back pesky Detroit, 3-2, and in another game just before the Review went to press, the New York Islanders subdued the Boston Bruins, 4-2. Both games were played using the basic version, but with the advanced face-off chart.

In the first encounter, Detroit peppered Canadian goalie Ken Dryden with a flurry of first-period shots and took a brief 1-0 lead on Dale McCourt's (he of the court litigation) goal. Game is unrealistic. Right?

Wrong!

Before the period was over, Montreal counterattacked behind goals by Guy LaPointe and Rejean Houle and took a 2-1 lead. Second-period goals by Steve Shutt of Montreal and the Wings' Andre St. Laurent completed the scoring in a game won by the Canadiens, 3-2. After firing 11 shots Dryden's way in the first period, Detroit was able to launch only 11 more on goal the last two, including a mere four shots in the final period. Wings' netminder Jim Rutherford was credited with 32 saves.

Reed Larson assisted on both Detroit goals and Errol Thompson was credited with one assist. LaPointe, Guy LaFleur, Rick Chartraw and Jacques Lemaire had single assists for the Canadiens, although LaPointe's goal was of the unassisted variety. Five penalties were called, with Dennis Polonich of Detroit twice visiting the "box."

In the other game, the Islanders broke a 2-2 stalemate with a pair of third-period goals by Stefan Persson and Mike Kaszycki. Mike Bossey and Bob Nystrom also tallied for the Islanders, who got a pair of assists from both Clark Gillies and Denis Potvin, while Peter McNab and Terry O'Reilly scored for the Bruins. New York's Glenn Resch was credited with 26 saves and Ron Grahame of the Bruins had 29.

How about your experiences? The Review is interested in your reaction to S-O-M's newest product, results of games played and what leagues are in the works. So, please keep us informed.

T-Shirt Contest Ends

Strat-O-Matic's T-Shirt design contest is officially over and game company employees are sorting through close to 60 entries for the logo, emblem or design that will be emblazoned on the soon-to-be-released shirt.

The winner of the contest will receive the new hockey game and a set of the new baseball cards from S-O-M. And S-O-M reports that some one will be a winner, whether or not their idea is used in its entirety. The creator coming the closest, in such a case, would be the winner.

What's Available At S-O-M?

The following teams are still available from the Strat-O-Matic Game Company, Inc., 46 Railroad Plaza, Glen Head, NY 11545. The year listed is the year upon which the cards are based. Please include a 75¢ handling charge for each order (three football teams, one set of baseball teams and six basketball teams, ordered together, is one order).

FOOTBALL

- 1972 - Teams available include Atlanta, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Houston, Cincinnati and New England. Cost: \$1.25 for 2 teams, 75¢ per team.
- 1973 - Teams available include Cleveland and New England only. Cost: \$1.25 for both, 75¢ per team.
- 1974 - All teams available except Los Angeles, Minnesota, Miami, Oakland and Cincinnati. Cost: \$8.50 for set, \$1.25 for 2 teams, 75¢ per team.
- 1975 - All teams available except Minnesota. Cost: \$10.50 set, \$1.25 for

(continued on page 6)

S-O-M Baseball Trivia Corner...

5

Robert Henry is back with us once again--even though he's moved his base of operations out east again. Strat-O-Matic Baseball's answer to an archivist, Henry is now making his home in Penns Grove, NJ, and, presumably, going to school.

Along with being back with another set of baseball trivia questions, Henry also sends along a warning: there's a seller of S-O-M cards who's selling "copies" as originals. The unsavory party resides in the east, according to Henry, who adds that he's been contacted by concerned collectors fearing they had purchased copies.

As a result of Henry's warning, anyone feeling they may have purchased such copies is urged to contact the Review for follow-up on the matter. As of this time, the Review has received no formal complaints of copied cards.

Now, back to the baseball trivia.

Henry again asks readers who wish personal responses to questions to contact him (please include an SASE) at: Canterbury Court Apts. 15, Penns Grove, NJ 08069.

- QUESTION [1] - Has any modern player been rated "1" at an outfield position and "2" or better at second base, third base, or shortstop?
- QUESTION [2] - Who holds the record for fewest on-base chances on a home run leader's card?
- QUESTION [3] - Who has improved the most in running [rating] over the course of his career?
- QUESTION [4] - Who holds the record for most hit-by-pitcher on a card? [question submitted by John Ciabattari]
- QUESTION [5] - Has any modern team had neither a second baseman nor a shortstop rated better than "4"?
- QUESTION [6] - Did slowballer Stu Miller ever receive 36 strikeout card chances (i.e. one column full of strikeouts)?
- QUESTION [7] - The 1964 Minnesota Twins had six players who hit 20 or more home runs. How many home runs did those players receive on their cards [card chances]?
- QUESTION [8] - What is the first year for the advanced baseball game? [submitted by John Ciabattari]

...And Now For The Answers

- ANSWER [1] - 1962 Tony Kubek, New York Yankees, was rated LF-1 and SS-2.

- ANSWER [2] - Graig Nettles, 1976, had only 33.75, slightly lower than 1975 Reggie Jackson's 34.15. If Dave Kingman had led the NL in 1975 or 1976, he would have been embarrassingly low, 23.5 and 24.4.

- ANSWER [3] - Richie Allen (as he was known when he established the record) improved from 1-11 in 1964 to a peak of 1-16 in 1967, for a total increase of five.

- ANSWER [4] - Many S-O-M fans would be caught flatfooted on this question, believing that 1971 Ron Hunt, holder of the major league

[continued on next page]

record for HBPs, must lead the way with 18 HBPs versus left-handed pitchers and 17 HBPs versus right-handed pitchers. However, obscure 1976 Ken Pape, recipient of a card in the expansion set, had 19 HBPs against both left-handed and right-handed pitching.

ANSWER [5] - The 1977 Seattle Mariners and 1977 Atlanta Braves both reached this depth. The Braves go the Mariners one better, however, also having no catcher rated better than "4", either. The Braves deserve their reputation for the worst up-the-middle defense in S-O-M.

ANSWER [6] - Yes, in 1963 the slow-motion Miller received 39 strikeout card chances.

ANSWER [7] - Don Mincher, 23 home runs (13 card chances); Zoilo Versalles, 20 (3.4); Bob Allison, 32 (8.5); Jimmy Hall, 25 (7.5); Harmon Killebrew, 49 (12.6); and Tony Oliva, 32 (7.25).

ANSWER [8] - The 1971 set was the first with the revolutionary two-sided setup, thus making the S-O-M Baseball game the most realistic on the market. The two-sided cards (and the righty-lefty pitching and batting on the back side) thus forced managers into platooning in many cases--which was and continues a way of life in major league baseball. Two years later, S-O-M added catcher throwing ratings.

Remember, if you have a question you would like Henry to answer and have it appear in the Review, write him at the following address:
Robert Henry, Canterbury Court Apts. L5, Penns Grove, NJ 08069.

What's Available At S-O-M?

(continued from page 4)

2 teams, 75¢ per team.
1976 - All teams available. Cost: \$11.75 set, \$1.25 for 2 teams, 75¢ per team.

BASEBALL

1974 - Only Oakland available. Cost: 65¢. Extra players available: \$2.70.
1975 - Only Cincinnati available. Cost: 65¢.
1976 - All teams available except Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Diego, San Francisco, Montreal, Atlanta, Detroit, Chicago White Sox, Cleveland and Los Angeles. Cost: \$6.00 for set, \$1.25 for 2 teams, 70¢ for one team. Extras available: \$2.70. Also Seattle and Toronto available: \$1.00 for both.

BASKETBALL

1974-75 - All 18 teams available. Cost: \$7.00 set, 50¢ per team.
1975-76 - All 22 teams available. Cost: \$8.00 set, 50¢ per team. Also 20 ABA stars available: 65¢.
1976-77 - All 22 teams available. Cost: \$8.50 set, 50¢ per team.

All orders should be placed to: Strat-O-Matic Game Company, Inc.
46 Railroad Plaza
Glen Head, NY 11545

Here's Method For Resting Players **Basketball Playing Tip**

7

Duane Swasso feels he has a way to solve the problem in S-O-M Basketball regarding how to handle substitutions--more specifically: how to provide each player with his designated rest time and still not alter the outcome of the game.

Swasso's method is based on setting bench time prior to the game. Each player, depending on whether he's to be rested six or 12 minutes, or less, hits the "pines" at certain stages of the contest.

In Swasso's system, "all starters who need six or 12 minutes of rest, should have two rest times listed, each being half the time of rest the player needs. Players who need three minutes rest only need one time."

Here's a sample that Swasso, who hails from Irving, TX, created for his team in a draft league:

Rest (min.)	Name	Starts Rest	QT.	Length	Rest	QT.	Length
12	VanArsdale	6:00	1	6 min.	9:05	3	6 min.
3	J.White	12:00	2	3 min.	-----		
12	T.Robinson	9:05	2	6 min.	3:00	3	6 min.
6	Neal	3:00	2	3 min.	9:05	4	3 min.
6	Collins	12:00	3	3 min.	6:00	4	3 min.

Reading the chart, VanArsdale, who has 12 minutes of rest, would sit out starting at the six-minute mark of the first quarter, and remain on the bench until the start of the second period. Later, in the third quarter, at 9:05, he would sit out another six minutes, re-entering the game late in the third period.

Jo Jo White, on the other hand, because he only sits out three minutes, is benched only at the start of the second period, and then for just the first three minutes.

Notice that the bench time is spread around so that never more than two starters are off the floor at one time.

A player in foul trouble would alter this chart, of course. Swasso's suggestion here is that if a player commits his second foul in the first quarter, three by the second, four into the third--then he should be subbed for. He could then sit out a minimum of three minutes, possibly six depending on the total rest time, and then re-enter the game at the discretion of the coach.

It's mandatory under Swasso's system, that a player be replaced when in foul trouble. Even if he's already sat out 12 minutes, he still goes to the 'pines' for a minimum of three more.

COACH STILL MUST DECIDE

Substitutions, of course, are not taken completely out of the hands of a coach, or gamer. When a fifth foul is committed, the coach must decide whether or not to keep a player in the game. And a cold shooter, or one who's a defensive liability, might have to come out because of the pace of the game. More rebounded might be needed; there again a substitution may be called for.

As far as players on the bench, most will put in their rest time during the course of a normal game. If an early substitution has to be made, because of foul problems, then that sub should be watched for excessive use.

One major drawback to this system is that a gamer does have to take precious time before each contest and list the rest periods. But perhaps the flow of the substitutions throughout the game will compensate for time normally lost as a coach ponders when and for whom to substitute.

One last point, Swasso recommends using a small pawn (perhaps one from the baseball game) and placing it on the clock portion of the playing board. Using Swasso's team and rest chart, the pawn would first be placed at the 6:00 mark of the opening quarter--that's when VanArsdale would rest for the first time--and then move it to each corresponding rest time.

Using this method, everyone would get a rest. Only your S-O-M dice would be in play all the way.

Here's S-O-M Basketball Replay⁸

Jabbar MVP As Phoenix League Completes 36-Game Season

Phoenix, the land of the rising Sun(s), was the home base for a Strat-O-Matic Basketball replay that encompassed a 36-game regular-season and a brief playoff.

Since basketball replays are seldom seen on the Review's pages, we decided to take a close look at the league, which included Gary Graber, his brother Neil, Dave and Don Cornelison and Jack Smith/Stephen Lovett. The replay sent in was based on the 1975-76 season which included a draft of players and use of the basic game, but with advanced rebounding.

The league's fourth season saw Gary Graber's 86ers, sparked by the dynamic duo of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bob McAdoo, edge brother Neil's Hussars by one game in the final standings. Don Cornelison's Knots were tied down in third-place, Dave's Copper State quintet was a more-distant 15 games behind and Jack Smith, coach of the Shamrocks, threw in the towel and was replaced by Lovett the last half the season.

JABBAR IS MVP

The 86ers presented the league's best defensive team (106.9 allowed per game) and also most explosive offense (118.2). Jabbar finished second in scoring with a 30.5 average, first in field goal percentage (.548), third in rebounding (12.6)--and first when it came to selecting the Phoenix Basketball Association's Most Valuable Player.

Big McAdoo, who came over to the 86ers in a "steal" of a trade with the luckless Shamrocks, poured in a league-high 33.4 points per game, and gave Gary Graber an unstoppable front line. Jim McMillian (16.5 points) and Wes Unseld (9.5 rebounds) were other key players. Only a below average backcourt prevented the 86ers from running away from the rest of the league.

Meanwhile, the Hussars were the hottest team down the stretch, just missing out on catching the 86ers by a game. Bob Lanier was the team's top triggerman, averaging 25.9 points, Paul Silas was caretaker of the boards (18.7--second-best in league) and Mike Newlin (21.8) and Doug Collins (18.1) were heart of best backcourt in league. Hussars completely dominated Shamrocks, whipping 'em nine straight times.

COWENS NO. 1 BOARDMAN

Dave Cowens swept the backboards for an average of 22.6 per game and Rick Barry averaged 26.7 points, but they weren't enough to prevent the Knots from finishing in the middle of the pack. Randy and Phil Smith helped out, too, averaging 16 and 13.4 points, respectively, but the Knots couldn't handle the 86ers, dropping eight of nine games.

Copper State was weak up the middle, thus the team finished back in the pack. Bob Dandridge had a good season, averaging 25.1 points, but Paul Westphal was a disappointment with his 16.2 output and Spencer Haywood was a total flop in the pivot. The Copper coach finally resorted to using the tandem of Clifford Ray and aged Nate Thurmond at center.

Trading of McAdoo started the time of troubles for the Shamrocks, who had worst offense and defense in league. McAdoo was peddled, reputedly, because other teams were double-teaming him and the Shamrock hierarchy wanted to employ a more "team concept." As a result, the 'team' died together--without Big Mac. Bright spots were Pete Maravich (22.6), Earl Monroe (16.8, John Shumate (16) and Elvin Hayes (15.8, 10.7 rebounds).

The playoffs, matching the two top teams in a best two-of-three series, saw the surging Hussars hustle past the 86ers. The Hussars won two straight games, 126-124 in overtime and 139-97.

Standings and leaders of the Phoenix S-O-M Basketball Association:

Scoring

McAdoo, 86ers	33.4	Lanier, Hussars	25.9	(continued on next page)
Jabbar, 86ers	30.5	Tomjanovich, CS	25.7	
Barry, Knots	26.7			

Field Goal %		Rebounding			Free Throw %		
Jabbar, 86ers	.548	Cowens, Knots		22.6	Barry, Knots		.952
Murphy, Hussars	.540	Silas, Hussars		18.7	Westphal, CS		.880
R.Smith, Knots	.538	Jabbar, 86ers		12.6	Newlin, Hussars		.879
Unseld, 86ers	.512	Wilkes, Sham/Hus		11.3	Chenier, Hus/CS/Sm.		.856
Newlin, Hussars	.508	Lanier, Hussars		10.9	R.Smith, Knots		.831

Guest Columnist

How To Keep Interest In League Play

BY ROBERT LOPECK
Opa-Locka, FL

I have been reading with great interest about the problems that PBM leagues are having and all the moans and groans in regard to irresponsible managers and general lack of communication, which usually prefaces the death of the league.

While I am currently running a face-to-face league here in South Florida (Florida Gold Coast Baseball Classic, going on its sixth successful season), I have been a part of PBM leagues before, and would like to suggest an alternative system to PBM commissioners who have failed in previous leagues.

We found, for the most part, that managers would lose interest in the league and quit if they were saddled with a poor team from the outset of the season, or if their team quickly dropped to the bottom of the standings with no hope of resurfacing. In the PBM league that I operated overseas in 1974, we eliminated this problem by holding a second draft at the All-Star break. All managers could only protect 15 players, and the remainder went into the draft, which was conducted by the worst team drafting first and so on.

EVERYONE PLAYS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

When it came time for the league championship, we would follow this system: The two participants in the series (usually seven games) would submit a strategy sheet for the entire series to every manager in the league. Then all managers would play the series all seven games (even if one team won all seven), based on the information provided in the strategy sheets.

They would then send in the game sheets to the commissioner, who would place each sheet in a separate envelope, marked on the outside only by the game number. When all game sheets were received, the commissioner would then take all the envelopes marked Game 1 and write a number on the outside of the envelope (in a 10-team league the envelopes would be numbered 1-10). Before numbering, it would be a good idea if the envelopes were sealed and then shuffled to insure that the commissioner has no idea which game sheet is in a particular envelope.

The way the envelopes are selected is by this manner: The divisional champion manager with the best winning percentage would select the envelopes in games 1, 2, 6 and 7, by submitting a number between 1 and 10 for each game. The other divisional champion manager would also submit numbers for games 3, 4 and 5 in the same manner.

The commissioner would then select the numbered envelopes chosen for each game, open them, and the game sheet inside would be the official game

(continued on next page)

sheet for that game. He would continue to do this until one team wins a majority of the games (best-of-seven, or whatever). As a result of this system, all managers will feel that they have a final say in determining the league champion (all actually play the championship series), as well as an overwhelming sense of participation in the league long after their particular team has been eliminated from contention.

ALTERNATE SYSTEM PROPOSED

Our league, FGCB, also has a system which rates teams before the season starts and then again at the All-Star break after the second draft, determining which teams are better than the others.

We then actually assign a number to each team, indicating what percentage of games that team should win during the season. At the end of the season, we compare the ratings with the final records to see which team played better (or won more games) than we predicted. The manager would be then awarded the trophy for Manager of the Year--as he was the difference in the team's success. This system is a switch from the standard policy of awarding the prize to the league champion, strictly because he won the league title.

Editor's note: Robert Lopeck is a computer engineer who has been playing S-O-M games since 1967. He plays the football and basketball games, too, and he and his fellow FGCB members conducted the Drafting Contest that was featured in the November Review.

Directory Additions

The following names should be added to the Strat-O-Matic Directory:

- * MEISSNER, MIKE, 1960 Temblethurst, South Euclid, OH 44121; played S-O-M for 10 years; primarily interested in baseball, but also plays football, basketball.
- * KOTZ, PAUL, 1468 Bellows, W. St. Paul, MN 55118; plays baseball mostly.
- * ABRAMS, IRWIN, 6450 N. Sacramento, Chicago, IL 60645 (phone: 338-0450); has played baseball for 3 years.
- * GNIADY, JOSEPH, 2809 W. Lunt, Chicago, IL 60645 (phone: 465-1273); has played baseball 6 years.
- * ISADA, PATRICK, P.O. Box 177, Burin, Newfoundland, AOE 1E0; age 14; student; 4 years pro football, 5 baseball, 1/2-year college football; currently replaying 1977 N.L.; usually plays face-to-face or solitaire; interested in PBM league.
- * RAKITA, LOUIS, Montreal, Canada (phone: 514-681-1631 days, 514-681-1632 evenings); no other address mentioned; 18; plays advanced baseball, some football.
- * LOPECK, ROBERT, P.O. Box 2031, Opa-Locka, FL 33055 (phone: 305-473-0222); 24; played baseball since 1967, football since 1967 and basketball since 1975; member of Florida Gold Coast Baseball Classic, 5-year, face-to-face league located in South Florida; also belongs to North Atlantic Baseball Association, as well as helping run FGCB Drafting contest (Nov., 1978 Review); computer engineer and student.
- * AMNASOM - 17-member, PBM, draft baseball league using actual teams and limited draft; plays 100-game season; basic game used; Tom Johnson, 895 Prospect St., North Dighton, MA 02764, is commissioner; other members: Steve Shuster, Ed Nielsen, David Brewer, Kevin Lawless, Dave Young, Kevin Gertsen, Anthony Johnston, Pete Stein, Larry Bellar, Bill Gilbert, Tony Grossi, Brian Morris, Andy Hirschhorn, Marvin Burnette, Vince DiGeronimo, Keith Fosness, Andrew Petersen.
- * ALDEN PBM LEAGUE - Robert Dormer is president of baseball league, which has 14 members and uses unique method of selecting teams (Sept., 1978 Review). Bottom 14 teams (actual) are used, 15 players are protected, and then draft is held of other players, with each manager given \$10

(continued on next page)

million to bid on players. League members include: Bob Dormer, 5949 Belden St., Philadelphia, PA 19149; John Dormer, same address; Ken Eickholt, 11451 N. Saginaw Rd., Clio, MI 48420; Steve VanNote, 5949 Alma St., Philadelphia, PA 19149; John VanNote, 5944 Alma St., Philadelphia, PA 19149; John LaPiana, 15 Commonwealth, Buffalo, NY 14216; Jim McPherson, RR#3, Washington, IN 47501; Bill Matthews, 5 Brookbanks Dr. #403, Don Mills, Ontario M3A 2S7; Jim Ferguson, 916 N. Sangamon, Gibson City, IL 60936; Mike McClure, 1111 N. Lott Blvd., Gibson City, IL 60936; John Coggan, 27 Preble St., Gorham, ME 04038; Dave Kolonko, 3413 Bistineau Dr., Bossier City, LA 71112; Dan Healy, 559 N. Live Oak, Glendora, CA 91740; Chris McCartan, 152 Brookside Blvd., Newark, DE 19713.

A Summer To Remember...

ECBA Members Have Wonderous Weekend

Remember the things you did last summer? With snow about to descend upon us, or already having done so, it's nice to reminisce about the way we were--when the weather was sunny and warmer!

Larry Fryer of Hamburg, PA, and six other members of the East Coast Baseball Association (ECBA), a play-by-mail league in its fifth year, are certainly unlikely to ever forget the experiences of the summer of '78. Seven of the league's 12 members gathered in August for a three-day convention at Elmira, NY.

Fryer, a pioneer manager in the league that was born in 1973, as are Dan Hoffman (Elmira) and John Nastro (West Babylon, NY), made the 200-mile trek to join in the fun. "I left my home on a Friday morning, armed with the essentials--clothing, money, camera and my Strat game filled with ECBA goods," says Fryer of his experiences.

"My thoughts during my drive were these: 'I wonder how different my co-managers will look from the way I have pictured them?' And, 'I'm not going home until I have acquired Jason Thompson.'"

Other members of the well-organized ECBA, which appears to become stronger with each passing season, are: Ralph Hebb, current commissioner (Elmira) and four-year member; Jim Beltz (Shoemakersville, PA), three-year



ECBA CONVENTIONEERS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) BILL COX, RALPH HEBB, TOM BELTZ (PEERING OVER TOP), DAN HOFFMAN, LARRY FRYER, LARRY MENDELSON, AND KEN REASER

vet; and Ken Reaser (Reading, PA), Larry Cohen (Kenmore, NY), Rich Firth (West Babylon), Larry Mendelsohn (Williamsville, NY) and Tom Beltz (Hamburg), all two-year mentors.

Most of the gaming, as well as culinary capers, were performed in the homes of Hebb and Hoffman, who is the league's most successful manager.

Seven members of the ECBA gathered for the convention and, as Fryer aptly put it: "Where PBM born friendships could become lifetime friendships."

After introductions, Friday and Saturday were consumed by numerous dice-rolin' endeavors, with
[continued on next page]

a cookout Saturday night at Hoffman's one of the few moments the gamers had something other than dice in their hands.

Ralph Hebb's mother prepared a chicken dinner for Sunday, as the countdown toward the convention's ending was under way. But five of the managers never left the table...until four hours later after the biggest trade in ECBA history, involving five managers and players such as Tom Seaver, Rod Carew, Joe Morgan, George Brett, Jason Thompson, Ken Griffey, Fred Lynn, Jim Palmer, Richie Zisk, and Ron Leflore.

All of the deals hinged on each other, however, so a snag involving the peddling of Brett blocking consumation of the deals for hours. Finally, the roadblock was removed and all the transactions made. Said Fryer: "It was like we were five multi-millionaire businessmen, wheeling and dealing, and signing our lives away."

"Excitement filled the air, believe me! It was four hours I will never forget. The convention ended that night, but the memories will last forever. So will the friendships."

Oh, by the way, Fryer also drove home accompanied by Jason Thompson, a newcomer to his team who had been acquired via trade.

Home Run Research Continues

Scott Messinger, the Old Timer team researcher par excellence, has added some more entries to his log. Spending long hours at the local library, and using old newspapers as virtual treasured artifacts, Messinger has gleaned home run totals for the pitching staffs for four more teams -- all of whom presently do not have such totals listed on their Strat-O-Matic cards.

One thing that Messinger, who resides in North Hollywood, CA, wants to make perfectly clear, however, is that previously submitted home run totals for Red Ames and Christy Mathewson of the 1905 Giants are correct. Ames gave up two roundtrippers in that long ago, dead ball season, while the heavily worked Mathewson served up four homers.

This month's offerings include the breakdown for the 1935 Chicago Cubs, 1936 New York Yankees, 1941 New York Yankees and 1941 Brooklyn Dodgers.

Before going ahead and presenting the totals, however, some gamers may be wondering why is the home run research of any significance. One reason is obviously that such totals are not listed on the cards currently. Many baseball fanatics, for another, want to have the cards portrayed as realistically as possible, hence they may want to list the home runs allowed and alter the card to adhere to the actual number allowed.

In most cases the latter wouldn't be too difficult. Considering the '35 Cubs, for instance, Messinger's research reveals that Tex Carleton gave up 17 home runs, Lonnie Warneke 19 and Charley Root 15. A check of the S-O-M cards, however, reveals Warneke has a home run chance on only No. 4-column #0, split number 1; Carleton on four-column 8 1-6 and Root No. 4 off 4 split number one. So, some alteration is in order.

Why doesn't S-O-M have home run totals on the pitcher's card? Because such statistics were not kept in those days--thus the reason Messinger had to go through such painstaking research to obtain his totals.

And now, presenting the 1935 Chicago Cubs: (85 were given up)

Tex Carleton 17	Roy Henshaw 6	Charley Root 15
Hugh Casey 2	Fabian Kowalik 2	Lonnie Warneke 19
Larry French 10	Bill Lee 11	Others 3

1936 NEW YORK YANKEES

"The 1936 Yanks gave up about 84 home runs," says Messinger, distressed that during his careful research he somewhere, somehow, inadvertently

[continued on next page]

missed a game somewhere along the season. "Because of this," he writes, "I can't even determine the team total for home runs allowed and a total for Lefty Gomez and Others. The best I can do is to give an approximation, probably accurate to within one or two home runs."

Johnny Broaca	17	Pat Malone	4	Monte Pearson	13
Bump Hadley	11	Johnny Murphy	5	Red Ruffing	23

Note that Red Ruffing gave up the whopping total of 23 home runs, five times serving up a pair in a contest. Monte Pearson twice was rocked for three homers in a game and Johnny Broaca and Bump Hadley had the same fate befall them once. A check of the above totals indicates that 73 of the 84 home runs are accounted for.

1941 NEW YORK YANKEES

Research was quite easy for this team, according to Messinger, who knows what tough going is like. Home runs were spread around and research unearthed 81.

Tiny Bonham	12	Atley Donald	11	Red Ruffing	13
Marv Breuer	10	Lefty Gomez	10	Marius Russo	8
Spud Chandler	5	Johnny Murphy	1	Others	11

No one came close to matching the performance of the '36 Ruffing, not even Ruffing. Tiny Bonham did get nailed for four home runs in one game, however, and three in another, while Ruffing twice was nicked for a trio of roundtrippers--half his season's total in nearly two games!

1941 BROOKLYN DOOGERS

The only Dodger team researched so far. A total of 81 home runs were allowed, but 22 of them were thrown by pitchers who didn't receive cards. Larry French did give up 10 while with Chicago, thus compensating for the difference somewhat, although 12 home runs were lost via the no-card route.

Here is the breakdown:

Hugh Casey	8	Larry French	11 (only 1 with Brooklyn)
Curt Davis	6	Luke Hamlin	14
Freddy Fitzsimmons	3	Kirby Higbe	17
Newell Kimball	0	Others	22
Whit Wyatt	10		

RESEARCH CONTINUES...

Messinger reports that he's now completed Phase I of his Old Timer home run research. His next project is to conduct an intensive comparative analysis: "Checking, double-checking, triple- and quadruple-checking the totals, using as many as four different concurrent newspapers," he reports.

The ICA will be quite a trip for him. He plans to check the pitchers used, then the home runs hit (if any), then read the actual story of the game and studying the accompanying box score. Messinger admits that it takes him 1½ hours to check 30 games using this tedious method, but that he feels it must be done.

As a result, time for new research will be limited if available at all, in the near future. Phase II of the Old Timer research may be a year away.

The Review Staff

Editors: Warren Newell (Otsego, MI), Del Newell (Kalamazoo, MI).

Production: Karen and Mary Newell.

Printing: Oliver S Tobias (Kalamazoo, MI).

Mailing: The Review is mailed monthly, via third-class, from Otsego, MI. First class mailing is available for an additional 15¢ per month charge.

Readers Roll 'Em

14

BEFORE HIS TIME, SO...

I would like to know if S-O-M and Harold Richman are going to print baseball cards for the 1950s and 1960s?

The reason is that I am only 14 years old and was not alive to buy the sets of those years.

So, Review let's try to get S-O-M to print the entire seasons of great seasons of the past so that everybody can enjoy the game to its fullest.

P.S. I was recently outbid for the 1964 baseball card set even though the bid was for \$90. It's quite ridiculous. It makes me mad. So, let's get some old sets reprinted for younger people.

Matt B. Smith
327 Adams St.
Imperial, CA

Editor's note: The first full-season set of cards produced by S-O-M was for 1962--issued in 1963. At this time, S-O-M has no plans to issue a full-season card set from the 1950s, or early 1960s, for reasons that have been mentioned many times before in the Review. Cost, storage of such card sets and limited sales market (or demand) would make this financially not feasible for Strat-O-Matic.

MORE OLDIES WANTED

Here are a few more suggestions for Old Timer teams: 1915 Red Sox, with the great outfield of Hooper, Lewis and Speaker, and Ruth's first full year as a moundman; 1951 New York Giants; 1944 Browns; 1948 Boston Braves; 1966 Orioles and 1971 Pirates.

I am quite shocked that the '51 Giants have never been created because surely they are one of the great comeback teams in history. The '48 Braves boast "Spahn and Sain and a day of rain" and the MVP third baseman Bob Elliott.

Your quality work is not going unnoticed; thanks for an absorbing little magazine.

Mike Ryan
64 Cameron Road
Norwood, MA

ANOTHER VOTE FOR OLD TIMERS

As a fan of S-O-M Baseball for many years (I started playing in 1962, then stopped when I got older, only to rediscover it again about four years ago), I would like to push for additional Old Timer teams.

I already have all of those teams issued by the game company and have acquired over 200 others from those years of the early to mid 1960's, either by placing or answering ads in the Review.

I have called or written S-O-M numerous times "pushing" myself on them, suggesting another series of Old Timer baseball teams, whether from a specific period of time, i.e., a 10-year period, or just merely assorted teams from any eras. But they tell me that they're into other things, such as college football, hockey, pro football, etc.

I can understand this and, by no means, intend to discourage it, but in reading the Review, and seeing what is available from the company as far as other Old Timer series, it is quite evident that baseball is by far the most popular, and that most people would "drool" over more teams being printed.

The last time I spoke to someone at the company (Dec., 1977), it was hinted that additional Old Timer baseball teams might not be considered for at least two years. I find that ridiculous and totally unfair.

I don't know what more I can do, except that in the event S-O-M does consider additional teams, I am submitting to you a lengthy list of possibilities.

Gary Gannett
c/o Clifford Art
Studio, 40 W. 17th
New York, NY

Editor's note: Gannett's list of teams included 63, most of whom were pennant winners. Among them: 1929 Philadelphia A's, '30 A's, '30 Yanks and Cardinals, '32 Yanks, '33 Senators, '36 Giants, '37 Yanks, '38 and '39 Yanks, '40 Tigers, '47 Yanks and Brooklyn Dodgers, '48 Braves, '49 Dodgers, '51 Giants and Dodgers, almost every Yankee team

[continued on next page]

of the '50's, '59 White Sox, '59 Dodgers and '60 Yanks, Orioles and White Sox.

It should be pointed out that when Gannett talked with S-O-M it was obviously concentrating all efforts toward producing a hockey game. Now that it is out, old timer teams are again a possibility. But should they be from baseball...pro football...college football...basketball...or what about hockey?

CONVENTION IN EAST?

I would like to see a convention in New York next year. A lot more people from the east would go. I also think it would be great to have basketball in the convention.

I also think Robert Henry's trivia quiz is great and it definitely should be continued. Thanks for the great magazine.

Barry Miller
Andover, MA

BASEBALL SUGGESTION

I would like to suggest that when "Catcher's Card X" comes up with wild pitch or passed ball the "Followed by foul out" be dropped. The batting team would roll the dice again to see what the batter does.

Most of the team a passed ball occurs and a runner on first or second advance only to have the "Followed by foul out" be the third out. In reality, how many times does this occur?

By rolling again you at least have a chance to get a hit and take advantage of the situation. Look at all the game Rich Gossage lost in the early part of the season on wild pitches. If the batter fouled out after all of them, he never would have lost. As for taking time to roll again, it should not slow the game down as a wild pitch or passed ball do not occur that frequently.

John Luczynski
163 Houghton St.
North Adams, MA

DON'T ALTER THE CARDS

Once again this year, the roster sheet sent out with the new pro football teams contained the follow-

ing explanation: "...To insure realism, passing cards for second string quarterbacks who threw less than 100 passes were adjusted according to their past records or reduced below the records achieved by their teams' first string quarterbacks. To further insure realism, certain substitute running backs' yards per carry average were reduced by their longest runs..."

I have completed six full-season solitaire leagues since I began playing Strat-O-Matic Football in 1970 and I've concluded that the ludicrous practice illustrated above is the single greatest flaw in the making of the cards. It does absolutely nothing to insure realism. In fact, butchering player cards only serves to destroy realism by distorting the statistics of substitute players, many of whom played important roles and need to duplicate their actual performances if their teams are to do so.

The game company has claimed that reducing the potential substitutes is necessary to discourage the "overuse" of such players. In S-O-M Baseball the cards are never altered to influence managerial decisions; a .330 hitter has a .330 card, regardless of at-bats. This is the way it should be, and it is here that the baseball game is superior to the football game.

The company asserts that many baseball gamers use substitutes with outstanding cards, such as the 1974 Rick Auerbach, in regular roles; this is supposed to point out the need to doctor the football cards. However, it should be entirely up to leagues and individual gamers to set up guidelines for player use; the game company defeats its own purpose when it interferes.

Serious S-O-M gamers desire realism and will use players as they were used in actual play. If someone like Eric Torkelson averages 5.1 yards a carry on 45 attempts, most football gamers will give him 45 attempts--but they want him to maintain his 5.1 average. Statistical accuracy is of the utmost importance, and the statistical accuracy of S-O-M Football would be greatly improved if the cards were produced without bias.

Matt Lorenz
Hamden, CT

Staggered Frequently, It Survives First Season

Northwestern League Runs Gauntlet

That first league experience, whether face-to-face or play-by-mail, is usually an exercise in futility. The league runs a gauntlet--and most stumble and are beaten down somewhere short of the finish.

An interesting league played at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, did reach the finish, but just barely. Organized by Paul Montague, who lives in Evanston, the league (Northwestern S-O-M Football League) consisted of nine members, each with three teams, and attempted to replay the 1976 National Football League season with the 1976 player cards, plus a few extras based on 1975.

Trading was permitted up to the sixth week and most members eagerly took part in the swapping. One blockbuster saw Baltimore Colt fanatic Ray Kunstmanas, one of the league's better coaches, swap his entire Pittsburgh team for his beloved Colts. Another deal brought Kansas City the likes of Ken Stabler, Cliff Branch and Mark van Eeghen from Oakland, with the result the Chiefs slipping into their war bonnets and qualifying for the playoffs.

Biggest problem the league encountered, a common affliction of all leagues it seems, was coaches dropping out. For three the work pressure became too much; another pledged a fraternity and no longer had time. One replacement was found, but the "league" had to play many of the games. Says Montague of the experience: "It proved to me the necessity of maintaining a rigid schedule, instead of letting the players play games when they choose!"

FEARSOME FIVESOME

Those original members (and their teams) that went all the way were: Montague (Washington, New England, Atlanta); Paul Dionne (Cincinnati, St. Louis, New Orleans); George Gibbs (Dallas, Houston, Green Bay); Kunstmanas (Baltimore, N.Y. Giants, Seattle); and Dave White (Kansas City, San Francisco, Pittsburgh). Jeff Ward was the designated coach, taking over Los Angeles, Miami and San Diego.

Dionne was the hard-luck coach as well as the league's least emotional mentor. Only eight of his 22 setbacks were by more than six points. Gibbs, meanwhile, the one who introduced many of the members to S-O-M, made little change in his rosters and wound up leading Green Bay into the playoffs. Ward was the "mad bomber" because of his pass-oriented, big-play attack, and also the most emotional coach. Montague was noted for his conservative tactics--which paid off in two Super Bowl teams, Washington and New England. White, the "Mad Trader," built K.C. into a power, but in his own opinion was a better manager than on-field tactician.

HIGHLIGHTS...AND LOWLIGHTS

Because of the numerous dropouts and abbreviated schedule, the league races are not significant. But there were many interesting highlights and lowlights. For example: Miami edged Baltimore in their first meeting, 6-3, then was outslugged in the rematch, 54-42.

Detroit, for another, didn't call a single running play against the Vikings--and still won, 30-20! Dallas' Golden Richards caught five TD passes against the Giants. Ken Stabler shredded Miami's defense for 39 completions in 47 attempts for 444 yards and four TDs. O.J. Simpson got loose for 244 yards in 44 rushes against the Jets--but the Bills still lost. Buffalo, ironically, won three of its first five games while Simpson was out with an injury...but won only one game after he returned.

Twice, on the game's last play, Dallas scored to edge St. Louis. Mike Haynes had six TD punt returns. Lydell Mitchell scored six TDs in one game, while Fred Biletnikoff caught 21 passes, John Gilliam 22 in a single contest. Conversely, and on the lowlight side, Minnesota controlled the ball in one

[continued on next page]

game and ran 100 plays, compared to Green Bay's 48--yet lost the game, 28-9. The New York Jets, in another memorable non-productive effort, rushed for a mere 10 yards against New England. And Tom Dempsey once did everything he could to snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory, missing five extra points in a Los Angeles win over Detroit.

NO SUPER BOWL

In the playoffs, Kansas City routed Baltimore (42-17) and New England pummeled Cincinnati (36-17) in the AFC, while in defensive duels in the Finals, it was New England shading the Chiefs, 12-6, and Washington (22-21 victor over San Francisco) edging Green Bay (runaway 33-14 winner over L.A.), 17-7.

The Super Bowl, since it would have matched two of Montague's teams, was not played. "It was not a very satisfying end to a long season," admitted Montague, who got immersed in the compilation of statistics and never lined up a coach to take one of his champions and play against him.

PLAYING TIPS

The Northwestern League did incorporate penalties into its games (using a system featured in the March and June, 1977 issues of the Review), as well as altering the injury system. When a player was injured, a roll that was odd (number) meant he was only "shaken up" and out for a series. If the roll was even, then the regular chart was followed. Also, when an injury came up that said any offensive player, and the quarterback was running, he automatically became the player hurt.

Other modifications that seemed to work quite well included a "sideline" pass, in which the call was made before the dice thrown, the play taking only 15 seconds, and yardage deducted for each gain (flat pass: 2 yards; short: 5 yards; long: 10 yards). And the tight end could be lined up on the left side instead of always the right, free safety could be moved into the flat/look-in zones, and linebackers could change zones but wouldn't be allowed to blitz in the new zone.

Advertisements

Rates per issue will be as follows: First 30 words--60¢; 31-60 words--\$1.00; 51-100 words--\$1.50; 101-150 words--\$2.00; 151-200 words--\$3.25. When sending in ads, specify either WANTED, FOR SALE, or LEAGUE FORMING. And name card sets by the year upon which they were based. Note also that only advertisements regarding Strat-O-Matic products, related merchandise (baseball guides, etc.) and leagues will be accepted. Merchandise competing with S-O-M products (i.e. scoresheets) also may not be offered for sale. Also, no photo-copied cards should ever be offered for sale. Ads, to be included in the next issue of the Review, must be in by the third of the month. Late ads will be held over for inclusion the following month. Also, money for ads will not be refunded, rather will be credited to your subscription should you not wish ad to appear

Wanted

WANTED: 1967 Dallas Cowboys, 1967 Detroit Lions; 1968 Baltimore Colts, 1968 New York Jets; 1970 Dallas Cowboys; 1972 Miami Dolphins. Baseball - (with extra players) 1975 New York Yankees, 1975 Pittsburgh Pirates, 1975 St. Louis Cardinals. State price and condition of teams. Willing to pay \$5 and up for these football teams, depending on their condition. J.F. Luczynski, 163 Houghton St., North Adams, MA 01247

WANTED: 1969 Pilots, Astros; 1971 American League teams. Teams must be at least in average condition. Will buy them, or trade 1972 Pirates, Orioles, Braves and 1968 Red Sox without extra players. 1972 Cardinals with extras. Football - 1971 Vikings; 1973 Raiders, Vikings, Patriots; 1974 Vikings, Steelers, Cowboys, Patriots for them. I will also buy or trade teams individually. Write to: Jon Bourdon, 5 Joseph Ave., Lee, MA 01238

WANTED: 1974 American League, complete with extra players; also, my heroes, the '69 Seattle Pilots. I'm no fanatic about condition. Send offers to: Dave Sears, 27 Memorial Dr., Amherst, MA 01002. Can anyone name the only original Pilot to play in this year's World Series?

WANTED: Football - 1972 Houston Oilers; 1972 Minnesota Vikings. Also 1970, 1973 Pittsburgh Pirates [baseball]. Cards must be in good condition. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Will take first reasonable bid. Do not send teams. Send bids to: Larry Gavlak, RD#1, Box 410, Houtzdale, PA 16851

WANTED: Yankee teams! 1972 and any complete teams before 1968. Will trade 1973 football teams or National League baseball teams 1973-76. Also wanted, any Mets teams before 1973, and 1975 Penn State college football team. Let's make a deal! Bob Fray, 563 Knauss Rd., Nazareth, PA 18064

WANTED: Baseball - 1970 Reds; 1971 Orioles; 1972 Reds; 1973 Mets; 1974 Dodgers; 1975 Red Sox. Send price and condition to: Keith Markman, 34A Warwick Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

WANTED: Back issues of Review. Will pay following prices: Jan., 1974 [75¢], Sept., 1973 [\$1.00], Oct., 1973 [\$1.00]. Keith Fosness, 510 17th St. So., Apt. 4, Moorhead, MN 56560

For Sale

FOR SALE: Set I - 1968 Cardinals, Tigers, Giants, Phillies; excellent condition; bids start at \$20. Set II - 1970 Expos, Phillies, Royals, Braves, Astros, Reds, Dodgers, Giants, Padres; mint condition. Set III - 1972 National League and Tigers, Yankees, Brewers, Sox, Indians, Angels, Chi-sox; A's; all with extra players and in mint condition. Set IV - Complete 1973 baseball set with extra players and in mint condition. Please bid on sets individually and bidding ends on the 15th of December. Contact: Jerry Moran, 226 Tomstock Rd., Norristown, PA

19403 (phone: 215-539-8479).

FOR SALE: 1968 Baltimore Orioles; very good condition. Keith Fosness, 510 17th St. So., Apt. 4, Moorhead, MN 56560

FOR SALE: 1976 Indians, Cardinals, Rangers, Mets, Tigers, Twins, Expos, Astros, Braves, Padres, Mariners, A's, Toronto. 70¢ each. Nameless player set, 30¢. James Burns, 2 Daisy Lane, Smithtown, NY 11787

FOR SALE: S-O-M Football teams, 1967 through 1973. Condition good to excellent. I have a price in mind for each team and will sell either to the first person who meets my price, or to the highest bidder by the end of the month. Mike Bordelon, 5445 Braesvalley #724, Houston, TX 77096 (phone: 713-721-5465)

FOR SALE: You've heard about them--here's your chance to own one: 20-sided dice; \$3.25 each. Makes a great gift! Dale Barnes, Rhoads Hall, Box 804, Terre Haute, IN 47809

FOR SALE: Baseball teams including all 1966 except Baltimore, Los Angeles; 1969, '70 and '71 Baltimore and '73 teams. Write or call [after 5:30] for condition: Steve [Boom] Johnson, 1547 Bunker Dr., Lima, OH 45805 (phone: 419-991-8483).

FOR SALE: Football - complete 1971, 1973, 1974 seasons; excellent condition [sold only in complete sets]. Baseball - 1971 Tigers, Dodgers, Padres, Astros, Royals, Red Sox, Braves, Twins, A's, Giants, Yanks, Reds, Orioles, White Sox, Pirates; 1973 Yanks, Phillies, Indians, Angels, Royals, Tigers, Brewers, Expos, Twins, Rangers, Cardinals, Pirates, White Sox, Mets, Reds [extras included]; 1974 A's; 1975 Pirates [all teams in excellent condition]. Basketball - 1972-73 complete set [excellent condition]. Reviews - 1973 Oct.; 1974 all except Feb.; 1975 Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. Send SASE with bids to: Peter Papageorgantis, 284 Quassaick Ave., New Windsor, NY 12550

FOR SALE: 1966 Giants [missing Ossie Virgil]; 1969 Twins; 1972 A's;

(continued on next page)

1973 A's; 1975 Red Sox, Pirates, A's; 1971 through 1977 Expos, Padres, Brewers; 1972 through 1977 Rangers. Football - 1971 all except Cowboys, Dolphins; 1972 all except Redskins, Steelers, Chiefs; 1973 all except Dolphins, Bills, Bengals, Vikings. All teams complete and in excellent condition. Would prefer to trade my teams for 1964 Braves, '69 Orioles, A's, Pirates, Astros; 1970 Indians, Angels, Mets, A's, Astros, or 1967 or 1968 football teams. Send bid or trade offer to: D. DeGrasse, RD#1, Box 205A, Hampden Hlds., ME 04445

FOR SALE: Our precision crafted, high impact, 20-sided dice create the random percentile numbers needed to play Strat-O-Matic games. A single number like 0, 1 or 2, etc., is engraved on each die face. Roll two dice of contrasting colors for numbers up to 100. Roll 3 dice, like red, white and blue, for numbers up to 1,000. Choose red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet, black, brown or white and please list extra color choices in order of importance so we can substitute if necessary. Send 75¢ per engraved die without inked digits. Send \$1 per engraved die with inked easier to read digits. Send \$1 per order to cover postage and handling. 12-sided dice, 8-sided dice and 4-sided dice in the same colors are also available for the prices quoted. Lou Zocchi, 7604 Newton Drive, Box STRA, Biloxi, MS 39532

FOR SALE: How to play by mail! Comprehensive six-page report ready now. Send \$2.00 to: Bob Warsinski, 17471 Revere St., Southfield, MI 48076

League Forming

LEAGUE FORMING: The Eastern States Strat-O-Matic PBM League currently has one managerial opening. The team in question is below average. But, the league is far above average. It is strictly an advanced league. We have 14 teams in two divisions. Four-page newsletters are sent out after every other series. We have a nominal entry fee. We use the entire set (with

extras). Everyone in the ESSL is quite reliable. This is your chance to get into a league you've always wanted. We are also looking into possible expansion for next season. If interested, send resume (including age) to: John Helmbrecht, RD#1, Box 12-B, West Springfield, PA 16443. All replies will be answered.

LEAGUE FORMING: I am forming a 162-game league and I am looking for managers. It will be a 24-team league. When players are drafted and traded, they are yours for keeps. The first 24 to send in will be managers. Entry fee is \$6.00. Mark R. Evans, 2973 Barry Avenue SE, Smyrna, GA 30080

LEAGUE FORMING: Louisville Slugers Baseball Association...four managers needed...Louisville, Kentucky area...next year's card set...American and National Leagues...4-team East and West Divisions...managers run a club in each league...draft league...advanced rules...face-to-face and/or by-mail...100-game schedule...send resume. Tony Auter, 332 Huntington Park Dr., Louisville, KY 40213

LEAGUE FORMING: Backup coaches needed for newly formed PBM draft hockey league, using super advanced rules. League will start December 5. For more information, send resume to: Larry King, 401 E. 102nd St., Apt. 6 B, New York, NY 10029

LEAGUE FORMING: New baseball league starting when the new cards come out. There will be 12 teams, drafting from the National League. There will be newsletters, MVP, Manager of the Year, trophies, a yearbook, and more. Only those who intend on a long term commitment need apply. Also required is a desire to keep close contact with other managers and the desire and drive to make this one of the best leagues around. Please send a brief resume to: Scott Menser, 317 Keigan St., Dawson Springs, KY 42403

LEAGUE FORMING: The members of the Florida Gold Coast Baseball Classic (FGCBC) wish to announce the creation of the Florida Gold

(continued on next page)

Coast Hockey Association (FGCHA) and also the start of a new PBM hockey league. We are currently seeking 10 to 14 coaches, with the hope of kicking off the inaugural season on January 1, 1979. The league will be half real team and half draft; the season will be 97 games long (including championship). There are no entry fees required at any time and we will have a bi-weekly newsletter and a trophy to the champion at the conclusion of the season. So, if you wish to get in on the start of this pioneer hockey league, please write to: Bob Lopeck, P.O. Box 2034, Opa-Locka, FL 33055. Please send your telephone number, too. All letters sent will receive a response.

LEAGUE FORMING: Face-to-face draft league; 1977 baseball cards; advanced version; National or American League; 6 to 12 teams preferred. Greater Seattle area. Entry fee. Write: John Michaelson, 444 Ravenna Blvd. #407, Seattle, WA 98115 (phone: 206-522-6541 or 206-363-6732).

LEAGUE FORMING: Several managers needed for established PBM S-O-M draft baseball league for new season starting soon after new baseball cards come out. For full information, contact: Paul Zucker, 1457 W. University #79, Mesa, AZ 85201

Looking For Back Issues Of Review?

The following back issues of the Strat-O-Matic Review are still available. To purchase, send check or money order to: S-O-M Review, P.O. Box 27, Otsego, MI 49078.

1978

Oct., Sept., August, Cost: 60¢ each. July, June, May, April, March, Feb., Jan. Cost: 50¢ each.

1977

Dec., Nov., Oct., Sept., August, July, April. Cost: 50¢ each.

1976

Nov., Oct., June. Cost: 50¢ each. Jan. Cost: 45¢.

1975

Nov. (very limited), Oct., Sept., August, July, June, May, Feb., Jan. Cost: 45¢ each.

1974

Dec., Nov. Cost: 45¢ each.

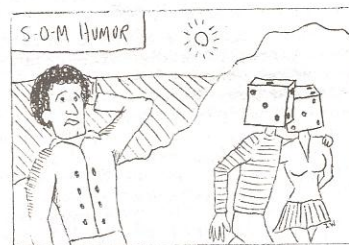
1973

August. Cost: 40¢.

Strat-O-Matic Directory - Cost: \$1.

Please include a second choice when ordering Nov., 1975.

Humorous Look At S-O-M



"Yeah, I must be playing too much of Strat-o-matic!"

Thanx, and a tip of the topper to Ira Wolins of Philadelphia



"You sold my STRAT-O-MATIC GAME?!"

Gold Cup Tourney Heads Into Third Round

21

There will be snow on the ground long before there's gold in anyone's hands in Steve Beren's Gold Cup Baseball Tournament. But Beren doesn't mind--he wants the tournament to be accurate, realistic and a true test of a manager's strategic plays.

As reported earlier in the Review, all contestants vying in the tourney conducted by the native of Jackson Heights, NY, send in detailed instruction sheets as to how their two teams (won-and-lost records can't, combined, be over .500) should be played. Some of the instruction sheets, as noted earlier, ran two and three typed pages.

When the tourney is history--some time around the first of the year --the winner will receive \$25, runnerup \$12.50, third-place \$7.50 and fourth \$5.00. No great payoff, perhaps, but something to shoot for nevertheless.

Beren is in no hurry to rush the tourney to completion. He painstakingly plays every series, down to the minutest detail on the instruction sheet. Some of the game have taken as long as 45 minutes; others as little as 12. First-round games averaged over 30 minutes.

Here is the scoreboard of results for the final first-round games and half of the second. A manager must have a 7-5 record (each series is six games) to advance to the third round.

FIRST-ROUND RESULTS

* Gary Fell, Picton, Ontario ['77 Reds +14; '77 Angels -14] vs Duane Swasso, Colorado Springs, CO ['74 Reds +34; '74 Padres -42]. Series ended 3-3 so both advance. Tom Seaver, Frank Tanana and Nolan Ryan all hurled shutouts for Fell.

* Martin Feldman, Rockville Center, NY ['71 Orioles +44; '77 Blue Jays -53] d. Jim Lash, Cuyahoga Falls, OH ['75 Indians -1; '76 Astros -2], 4-2. Feldman's teams hit 10 homers, including at least one in each game.

* Joseph Paldino, Brooklyn, NY ['77 Red Sox +33; '77 Mets -34] d. Anthony Paldino, Brooklyn, NY ['77 Reds +14; '77 Angels -14], 4-2.

* An error in following instructions resulted in final game of Ed Rychtar, Baltimore, MD ['77 Reds +14; '77 Angels -14] vs. Norman Swift, Lake Wales, FL ['77 Angels -14; '74 Braves +14] being replayed. Rychtar won game, 9-3, thus series, 4-2, advancing to second round.

SECOND-ROUND RESULTS

* Rick Shapiro ['71 Mets-'71 Angels] vs. Keith Fosness ['75 Yanks-'74 Royals], series split 3-3. Both Shapiro (7-5), who now has five shutouts in seven wins, and Fosness (8-4) advance to third round.

* Glen Strong ['77 Astros-'77 Cubs] d. Tom Grzywacz ['73 Yanks-'77 Astros], 4-2. Strong (9-3) advances; Grzywacz (5-7) is eliminated.

* Glen Wetzel ['77 Reds-'77 Angels] d. Bruce White ['71 Yanks-'71 White Sox], 4-2. Wetzel (8-4) advances; White (5-7) is eliminated.

Robert Fafat ['73 Pirates-'73 Expos] d. Milton Deutsch ['77 Pirates-'76 White Sox], 4-2. Fafata (8-4) advances; Deutsch (6-6) is eliminated. Richie Hebner's dramatic two-out, two-run homer in bottom of ninth inning in game three, off Rich Gossage, turns series around for Fafata, who had lost previous two games. After Hebner's shot, he won last three...and series.

* Gary Fell ['77 Reds-'77 Angels] d. Ed Daley ['71 Giants-'77 Indians], 4-2. Both Fell (7-5) and Daley (7-5) advance to third round. Tom Seaver's 3-0 victory for the '77 Reds over the '71 Giants in game two took only 12 minutes--the fastest game played so far in the tournament.

* Joe Paldino ['77 Red Sox-'77 Mets] vs. Duane Swasso ['74 Reds-'74 Padres], series split 3-3. Paldino (7-5) advances; Swasso (6-6) is eliminated.

* Ed Rychtar ['77 Reds-'77 Angels] d. Jim Rosenbeck ['77 Angels-'75 Dodgers], 4-2. Rychtar (8-4) advances; Rosenbeck (6-6) is eliminated.

S-O-M League, Replay Scene...

MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING (MSOE) FOOTBALL LEAGUE - Los Angeles ended its playoff frustrations in this 10-team, face-to-face league that's second season was highlighted by the Rams' 34-10 trouncing of Denver in the Super Bowl...All members of league are students at Milwaukee School of Engineering...advanced version of game was used, including super advanced rules, as league played 14-game schedule with 1976 cards... Coaches included Ron Blank, Watertown, WI (Baltimore), Glenn Meisner, Shawnee, WI (L.A.), Bob White, Sheboygan, WI (New England), Steve Johnson, Baldwin, WI (Denver), Marty Patterson, Woodstock, IL (Oakland), Steve Parewski, founder of league, Norridge, IL (Pittsburgh), Paul Koncar, Chicago, IL (Chicago), Carmelo Kona, Bridgeport, CT (Cincinnati), Tim Lasure, Belleville, WI (Dallas) and Gerald Kort, Freeport, IL (Minnesota)...Meisner's Rams rolled up 413 points--tops in league--and four times scored over 40 points...Lydell Mitchell rushed for 1,265 yards and Bert Jones completed 62.5 percent of his passes for Colts, who tied New England and L.A. with 10-4 record...Both Sam Cunningham (N.E.) and Otis Armstrong (Denver) rushed for over 2,000 yards...Broncos were best team defensively, yielding only 187 points...Steelers, slowed by overtime loss in opener and Terry Bradshaw's dismal 43 percent completion accuracy, did beat L.A. twice.

Standings and playoff results:

Division I	W	L	T	PTF	PTA	Division II	W	L	T	PTF	PTA
New England	10	4	0	288	241	Los Angeles	10	4	0	413	257
Baltimore	10	4	0	367	261	Denver	9	5	0	297	187
Oakland	7	6	1	252	270	Pittsburgh	7	7	0	213	237
Chicago	5	8	1	265	271	Cincinnati	5	9	0	219	306
Dallas	4	10	0	204	323	Minnesota	2	12	0	202	367

Playoffs: Denver 26, New England 16
Los Angeles 32, Baltimore 24

Super Bowl: Los Angeles 34,
Denver 10

REPLAY OF 1975 WORLD SERIES - Alan Federman and Todd Sharek, North Dartmouth, MA, wanted to find out if duel between Cincinnati and Boston was the most exciting Series ever...After a split of the first four games, the Red Machine wrapped 'er up in six, as George Foster hit his fourth homer of the Series in the bottom of the 13th in game six to give Cincy a clinching 4-2 victory...Reds won game one (3-2, as Foster homered and Gary Nolan got win), No. 3 (3-1, as Bench and Foster clouted roundtrippers in support of Don Gullett's five-hit hurling), No. 5 (5-2, scoring three times in top of ninth)...Carl Yastrzemski knocked in four runs with a double and homer and Bill (Spaceman) Lee hurled 7 2/3 strong innings for Sox in No. 2, and Jim Rice and Carlton Fisk slammed home runs in support of Luis Tiant in a 6-4 triumph in No. 4.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STRAT-O-MATIC PLAYERS OF AMERICA (NASOMPA) - Play-by-mail, draft baseball league that recently completed first season... 162-game schedule was played, although only four of original six teams completed season...1976 season included only American League players... Mike Kay was commissioner, and surprisingly his team wound up third--unlike so many leagues where the commish, or organizer, frequently has the best team...Dave Norton's All-Stars won it all, compiling 93-69 record. 'Stars featured Rod Carew, leading hitter with a .353 average; George Brett (.300), Fred Lynn (102 RBI), Thurman Munson and George Scott, plus pitchers Vida Blue, Stan Thomas (17-9), Ken Brett (23-11) and Jim Kern (306 strikeouts). ...Reggie Jackson of Steve Tefft's second-place Tigers (89-73) was the top slugger with 35 homers as the team hit 188. Cy Young Award winner Marty Pattin was 21-8 with a league-low 2.33 ERA. Add Mark Fidrych (2.71, 23-13) and Nolan Ryan (315 strikeouts) and the Tigers had a formidable starting trio...Kay's Lumber Co. tied Dave Lunden (Lunden Bridges) for third, at

(continued on next page)

77-85, 16 games off the winning pace. Much of the 'Lumber' turned to pulp as George Hendrick (.244), Butch Hobson (.196), Bobby Bonds (.236), among others, brandished weak bats. Bert Blyleven (12-21) and Dennis Eckersley (15-20) didn't help the cause either...Lack of depth hurt the Bridges, who got good seasons from Mickey Rivers (.298), Rusty Staub (.298) and Lamar Johnson (.312)...NASOMPA is set to embark on second season, this time with a two-division, nine-team setup.

SOLITAIRE REPLAY OF 1973 FOOTBALL SEASON - Joseph Olin of Hollywood, FL, completed the project, taking two years to accomplish it...Miami rang up perfect 14-0 regular-season record in the 26-team replay and then blasted three playoff foes, the last Los Angeles, 41-31, in the Super Bowl... Dolphins had most explosive offense (producing 478 points) and stingiest defense (allowing mere 208)...Denver was surprise team, winning 12 of 14 games and "arriving" four years early...Oakland, meanwhile, wound up 9-5 and didn't qualify for playoffs...Cincinnati and Pittsburgh tied for first in AFC Central, with Bengals getting nod by virtue of one defeat and one tie against Steelmen...Los Angeles, after a slow start, won six of last seven and yielded only 217 points--second-best in league...Playoffs: Miami 20, Pittsburgh 6--Gary Yepremian booted 53 and 45-yard field goals, Larry Csonka scored twice and the Dolphin defense intercepted Terry Bradshaw six times; Denver 23, Cincinnati 19--Jim Turner's third field goal sealed win in fourth period after Broncos had taken early 20-0 lead; Los Angeles 34, Dallas 21--Larry McCutcheon scored two TDs, John Hadl passed for two and L.A. picked off three Roger Staubach passes and sacked him six times for 55 yards in losses; Atlanta 17, Minnesota 7--Defense was decisive for Falcons as it intercepted Fran Tarkenton twice, sacked him six times. Championship, Super Bowl, standings and leaders:

AFC: Miami 68, Denver 7 -Mercury Morris exploded for five touchdowns and 330 yards rushing, and Bob Griese completed 65 percent of his passes for two scores and 247 yards. Paul Warfield caught 70 and 31-yard TD strikes. NFC: Los Angeles 20, Atlanta 13 - Defense prevailed in clash of NFC West rivals. Jim Bertelsen rushed for 171 yards off 24 carries and scored once for L.A., which sacked Bob Lee four times and intercepted one pass. Super Bowl: Miami 41, Los Angeles 31 - Griese was on-target on 13 of 19 throws for two TDs--both to Marlin Briscoe--as Miami shot away to a 17-0 lead. Morris tallied on a 43-yard scamper, Csonka from 12 yards out and Jake Scott scooted 47 yards with an intercepted pass. Harold Jackson was a one-man gang for L.A., catching nine passes for 340 yards and two TDs.

AFC East	W	L	T	Central	W	L	T	West	W	L	T
Miami	14	0	0	Cincinnati	9	3	2	Denver	12	2	0
Buffalo	8	5	1	Pittsburgh	9	3	2	Oakland	9	5	0
New England	7	7	0	Cleveland	4	9	1	Kansas City	7	7	0
N.Y. Jets	5	9	0	Houston	2	11	1	San Diego	4	10	0
Baltimore	2	11	1								
NFC East	W	L	T	Central	W	L	T	West	W	L	T
Dallas	7	5	2	Minnesota	8	5	1	Los Angeles	8	4	2
Washington	7	6	1	Detroit	7	7	0	Atlanta	8	5	1
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	Green Bay	6	7	1	New Orleans	5	7	2
Philadelphia	3	9	2	Chicago	5	7	2	San Fr'sco	5	7	2
St. Louis	3	9	2								

Rushing	Att-Yds.	Avg.	TD	Receiving	No.-Yds.	Avg.	TD
Simpson BUF	338-2229	6.6	32	G.Garrison SD	69-1575	22.8	8
G.Pruitt CLE	266-1569	5.9	7	Vataha NE	69-1314	19.0	11
Foreman MINN	258-1494	5.8	14	O.Taylor KC	66-1161	17.6	6
E.Johnson CIN	257-1469	5.7	15	Kwalick SF	66-1031	15.6	11
Morris MIA	220-1270	5.8	8	Dunbar NO	59-1252	21.2	5

Scoring: Simpson BUF, 198; Johnson, CIN, 108.

(Continued on next page)

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



THIRD CLASS
FIRST CLASS

If the number before your name reads 12/78 this is the last issue of your current subscription. To renew, check the number of months desired below and enclose proper amount (check or money order preferred, please no coins). Send renewals to address listed above in left-hand corner.

_____ 3 months, \$1.80; _____ 6 months, \$3.25; _____ 1 year, \$5.75.

_____ Strat-O-Matic Directory, \$1.00.

S-O-M League, Replay Scene

(continued from page 23)

Passing	Att-Comp	Yds.	TD - Int.	Pct.	Rating
Dawson KC	354-204	2804	25 20	57.6	83.0
Griese MIA	215-120	1746	17 14	55.8	81.6
Namath NYJ	303-160	2374	20 14	52.8	81.6
Gabriel PHI	377-208	2748	14 11	55.2	78.7
Stabler OAK	260-145	1755	13 11	55.8	75.8

STRAT-O-MATIC GAMES MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Don't forget about Strat-O-Matic games at Christmas time. They make excellent gifts. And because a Gift Special Set is available in each of the games, the cost is reasonable.

And for those of you who find your finances depleted after purchasing football and basketball cards, want not put the new hockey game on the list of gifts you'd like that bearded, jolly fellow from the north to bring you.