

# STRAT-O-MATIC

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

## REVIEW

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\* VOL. 15, January, 1985 \*  
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### No '1s' at third base in National League

## New baseball cards will be out soon

The voice on the other end of the line, said: "Oh, I thought you were another caller wanting to know when they could order the new (baseball) cards."

The voice belonged to Linda Yonke, who was working her usual Tuesday shift at the Strat-O-Matic Game Company at Glen Head, NY. Linda, the wife of S-O-M employee Bob Yonke, seemed somewhat relieved that the call was for Harold Richman, James Williams, or some other member of S-O-M's staff...anyone would do.

Del Newell, co-editor of the Strat-O-Matic Review, was placing his monthly call to the game company. Sure, he wanted to know about the baseball cards, too. But he also wanted to check in with S-O-M about any changes, the status of "Sports Know How," the game company's newest tabletop creation, and to ask a battery of questions, most pertaining to football and basketball.

In case you wanted to know, "Sports Know How" is available both retail and via mail order from S-O-M. The price, however, has been lowered from what it originally sold for. The price has been reduced to \$20, reports Richman, S-O-M's founder and creator of all the board games under that banner.

"There's a saturation of trivia type games on the market," says Richman, "and we wanted to make ours more competitive by reducing the price" (editor's note: A review of "Sports Know How" will be included in the February issue of the Strat-O-Matic Review).

Okay, talk did get around to the new baseball cards.

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"We seem to be on schedule," said Richman of the baseball card production timetable. This was the first week of December, however, and Richman pointed out that the cards still had to be sent to the computer and later shipped back, collated and prepared for mailing. A snag at any of those progress points could slow the entire production.

Since most of the heavy-duty work on card compilation was in progress, only a few National League ratings were revealed.

Mike Schmidt, long a "1" at third base for the Phillies, has been dropped to a "2." In fact, as S-O-M pointed out, there's nary a third baseman in the National League with a "1" rating.

Ryne Sandberg and Bob Didier of the Chicago Cubs, second baseman and center fielder, respectively, both were a "1" as were Tony Gwynn (right field) and Kevin McWilliams (center field) of N.L. champs, the San Diego Padres.

Jeff Leonard of San Francisco, an up-and-down fielder over the years, was given a "1" in left field, based on his 1984 performance.

Philadelphia, long noted for its solid defense, has the misfortune of having a "4" at shortstop (Ivan DeJesus) and second base (Juan Samuel).

#### NEW CARD PRICES REVEALED

Along with a smattering of fielding ratings, S-O-M did provide its price listings for the new cards and the 1969 season.

The 1985 cards (based on 1984 real-life season statistics) will sell for \$13.50 for the 26 teams. Additional players will cost \$3.95 extra. Teams, if purchased individually or in threes, sell for 90 cents each or \$2 for three teams.

The 1969 season - remember the "Miracle Mets?" - replete with all the advanced features, will sell for \$16.75.

Strat-O-Matic kept the card price increase to a minimum - about three percent overall - but did have to increase its handling charge, mainly because mailing costs will go up next year.

Here's a list of handling charges for those gamers who wish to get their orders in soon after the holidays and don't want to wait for the notice of the new cards being available:

Order Cost	Handling Charge	Sample order:	
Under \$5.00	\$1.00	1985 cards	\$13.50
\$5.01-10.00	\$1.50	Additional	3.95
\$10.01-15.00	\$2.00	1969 cards	16.75
\$15.01-20.00	\$2.25		34.20
\$20.01-25.00	\$2.50	Handling	3.00
\$25.01-30.00	\$2.75	TOTAL	\$37.20
Over \$30.00	\$3.00		

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## The Review staff

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# MVP Contest winner revealed

## Only one gamer picks Sandberg; no one Hernandez

Hold on Jonathan Levin, of Benton Harbor, MI. Don't order the new set of Strat-O-Matic Baseball cards.

You have a set coming - compliments of the Strat-O-Matic Review. The new card set, based on the 1984 real-life season, is your prize for winning the Review's Most Valuable Player Contest.

Levin, it turns out, was the only gamer to pick even one of the MVP winners correctly. He forecast that Ryne Sandberg of the Chicago Cubs would be the National League winner. But Levin was the only one to go with Chicago's second baseman.

Over in the American League, where Willie Hernandez of the World Series champion Detroit Tigers captured both Cy Young and MVP honors, nary a gamer picked the southpaw standout.

So, Levin, on the basis of picking one MVP winner correctly, is the recipient of the new cards (plus additional players) when they become available from Strat-O-Matic the latter part of January or early February.

Levin's pick for American League MVP was Alan Trammell of the Tigers. If Trammell hadn't been hurt at mid-season, he may have fulfilled that prophecy, too.

As far as the division winners, Levin picked Detroit in the A.L. East, Chicago in the West, the Cubs in the N.L. East and San Diego in the West. So, he was three of four in that department, missing out on only the White Sox.

The majority of Review readers participating in the poll didn't do as well as far as selecting division victors. Detroit was an overwhelming choice in the A.L. East, but after that - and all were wide-margin picks - it was Chicago in the A.L. West, Montreal in the N.L. East and Los Angeles the N.L. West.

### REVIEW READERS PICKED MURRAY, DAWSON

Eddie Murray of Baltimore and Andre Dawson of Montreal were the readers' choices to win MVP laurels. Murray had 13 more votes than Trammell in the A.L., while Dawson had 17 more than runnerup Darryl Strawberry of the Mets in the N.L.

Hernandez, of course, came to the Tigers from Philadelphia via a trade. When the votes were counted, no one thought Hernandez would win MVP honors. And Sandberg, despite being a great young prospect, wasn't expected to blossom so soon, obviously.

Everyone will get another chance soon, though, as the next MVP contest sponsored by the Review will be under way.

Meanwhile, Jonathan Levin, don't order those cards!

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### Previous winners of MVP Contest

1972 - Mike Borzenski, Lansing, MI.  
 1973 - Pete Condorelli, Windsor, NY.  
 1974 - Mark Roblez, Salt Lake City, UT.  
 1975 - James Lewis, Wellesley Hills, MA.  
 1976 - tie: Neil Orser, Sydenham, Ont.  
       Vince Trivelpiece, Berwick, PA.  
 1977 - Terry Ringen, Beattie, KS.  
 1978 - Terry Ringen, Beattie, KS.  
 1979 - John Dormer, Philadelphia, PA.  
 1980 - Norman Swift, Lake Wales, FL.  
 1981 - Duane Tunink, Lansing, MI.

1982 - Paul Bressoud,  
       Arcata, CA.  
 1983 - Brian Rice,  
       Muskegon, MI.  
 1984 - Jonathan Levin,  
       Benton Harbor, MI.

\* Note that Terry Ringen is the only two-time winner and that four of the winners are from Michigan.



## Who are those guys in S-O-M leagues?

It won't be long before that first pitch is thrown out with the new Strat-O-Matic Baseball cards. The countdown, in fact, is well under way.

Leagues will be revving up for drafts and game-playing, schedules will be created...and divorce papers will be served on husbands whose zealous pursuit of gaming endeavors leaves their wives as "S-O-M widows."

Just kidding, of course.

Most leagues have many married men, and occasionally women, and the relationships are harmonious.

With the baseball season about to start up again, the Review is going into 'spring training' by taking a look at some of the leagues that emphasize managers and personalities rather than statistics.

In other words, who are those guys (or gals) in such leagues as the Greater Dubuque Strat-O-Matic League, the Great Lakes Baseball League and Monday Night Beer League?

Let's find out:

### GREATER DUBUQUE S-O-M LEAGUE

A face-to-face baseball league that has been in existence three years and calls Dubuque, IA, home. Twelve managers currently comprise the league's lineup, with two of them expansion managers.

There are two divisions, divided geographically, and each manager has only a 25-player roster. "We are allowed to cut and draft two players per year," says Steve Olson. "It's progressive so managers must gear towards youth more than other leagues."

At-bats and innings pitched can't be exceeded, but the league does have a 'Worthless Player Pool' for managers to draw from when running short on at-bats or innings. The 'Pool' consists of undrafted players, but when a manager draws from it he must pick the player with the worst possible card at each position.

Now for a look at the managers:

**DAN STEELE** - Won his division last season and then lost to Al Stoltz in the World Series, 4-1...19 and a student at University of Iowa...team features hitting of Wade Boggs, Dale Murphy and Kent Hrbek and pitching of Rich Dotson and LaMarr Hoyt...also in Army Reserve, but unhappy about it because it takes away from dice-rollin'.

**MARK STEUCK** - Married and only father in GDSOML...25...promises to name next son after Ryne Sandberg...team is known as "Geritol Gang" because average age of 25-player roster is 34, including 39 for pitching rotation...first league champion.

**DEAN BROWN** - Math major at University of Dubuque...22...his team has more lifetime home runs...one of city's top softball players.

**TOM TIGGES** - Most outspoken as well as controversial league member...19 and a student at Iowa...Lobbies incessantly for DH rule...still is convinced Jim Morrison of the Doors (not the White Sox, Pirates, etc.) is still alive.

**DAVE DONOVAN** - Employed at 7-Up bottling company...20...big Mets fan, although he was unsuccessful in trying to obtain Darryl Strawberry from Brown.

**AL STOLTZ** - League commissioner and only other married gamer in GDSOML...26...very well organized...responsible for biggest turnabout in league's brief history as he took last-place team to the top in one season, mainly through trades.

**STEVE OLSON** - Political science major at U. of D...biggest trader  
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in league as he has only one remaining player on roster from original draft... 'tis said his players never unpack...22.

ARNIE FRITSCH - Education major at U. of D...youth-oriented (won't draft anyone over 26; his age) and hates to trade...has outstanding pitching staff of foreigners: Jose DeLeon, Mario Soto, Fernando Valenzuela and Atlee Hammaker...party to league's biggest non-transaction ever when he refused to trade Dickie Thon for Lou Whitaker when he already had Cal Ripken at shortstop.

DALE WIEDERHOLT - Education major at Loras College...21...disciple of Earl Weaver philosophy...only stole three bases last season...rolls 'em well on the lanes, averaging 195 as bowler.

PAT CONNOLLY - Another U.D. education major...23...one of many Cub fans in league...had stolen base king in Rudy Law (90).

TIM BLAKE - Freshman at Iowa and one of two expansion managers in league...19...already has acquired such talents as Rick Sutcliffe, Tim Raines, Johnny Ray and Chili Davis, all for draft choices.

CURT DUEHR - Has the other expansion team...20...attends Loras College...his acquisitions include Lee Smith, Willie Wilson and Joaquin Andujar.

#### Standings and leaders:

KENNEDY DIVISION	Won-Lost	GB	Clarke Division	Won-Lost	GB
Dan Steele	90 72	-	Al Stoltz	108 54	-
Mark Steuck	86 76	4	Steve Olson	92 70	16
Dean Brown	78 84	12	Arnie Fritsch	82 80	26
Tom Tigges	78 84	12	Dale Wiederholt	81 81	27
Dave Donovan	64 98	26	Pat Connolly	51 111	57

AVG - L.Smith DON .339	3B - J.Franco STL 17	W - Stieb OLS 14
AB - Ripken FRI 653	HR - D.Murphy STL 40	SA - QuisenberrySTK 39
H - Ramirez STO 186	RBI - Cooper STO 114	K - Soto FRI 272
2B - Brett BRO 44	SB - R.Law CON 90	ERA - Ryan STK 2.53

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#### MONDAY NIGHT BEER LEAGUE

Originated in 1976 to offset the boredom of Monday nights, the MNBL will start its 10th season in February.

Three gamers form the MNBL: Mike Ratterman, an engineer; Gary Rogers, a restaurant manager, and George Hodak, a suburban St. Louis, MO, police officer.

Each is kept busy by managing four teams - with one team in each of four divisions - through a 54-game regular-season. Only the Chicago Cubs (Rogers), White Sox (Hodak) and Texas (Ratterman) are used every year. Trading is allowed between managers, but not between their own teams.

Each manager has league responsibilities as well with Hodak the commissioner, Rogers the statistician and archives director and Ratterman the schedule-maker.

#### Highlights and awards:

\* Rogers has won the MNBL championship four times, Hodak three and Ratterman once.

\* Only one no-hitter has been thrown in over 5,000 games.

\* Ironically, no real-life champion has ever won an MNBL title.

Houston has been league champ three times and Kansas City twice.

\* "Cuss Can" is most frequently contributed to fund. Instituted in 1982 to muffle some of the bleep-bleep mouthings, the Cuss Can helps

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defray the cost of liquid refreshment.

\* Each year's champion is placed in the MNBL's "Wall of Fame."

\* A framed picture of George Steinbrenner overlooks the playing table - ominously, of course - as a reminder of the fate of managers who fail to win when they're expected to.

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#### GREAT LAKES BASEBALL LEAGUE

A play-by-mail league with eight managers who reside in the states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Second season is just about to be completed. All eight managers were back for second season which runs from August through December and features playoffs in January.

Even though the GLBL sent along a yearbook jammed with statistics, the emphasis again was on the league's members and their backgrounds.

Craig Artl, a computer programmer analyst in West Allis, WI, married and the father of two boys, is the founding father of the league and its commissioner.

Five of the league's members are married and the ages range from 26 to 36.

Preseason highlight of the GLBL occurred last spring, in March, when all managers gathered in West Allis for a weekend of drafting and game-playing. The draft, like most, was in reverse order of finish from the first season. Only American League players were used.

Here's a look at the GLBL managers:

CRAIG ARTL (Warhawks) - Has played all of S-O-M's games...28...other interests include camping, computers and music...won division in first season, but record was fourth-best overall.

ROD MELOTTE (Thunderheads) - Employed as assistant to the Madison Muskies minor league baseball team...30 and a bachelor...interests include movies, computers and World War II games.

FRED LAMBRECHT (Regals) - Lives in Racine, WI...36, father of six...employed as firefighter...PBM fanatic...also likes softball and archery.

BRIAN ELWOOD (Capitals) - Co-manager of Capitals...28, bachelor...works as custodian in Madison, WI...other interests include chess, war games and indoor gardening.

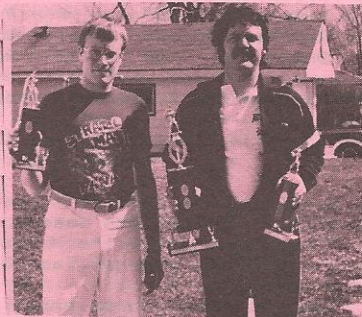
DON MARTINIAK (Capitals) - Also co-manager...26, bachelor, resides in Madison...chess and music are other interests.

BILL MOONAN (Yankees) - Reigning king of GLBL...31, married and father of two...calls Minneapolis, MN, home...packaging supervisor...interests include golf, football and tennis.

DON CHANDLER (Cowboys) - A 13-year veteran of PBM leagues...28, married, lives in Wyoming, MI...employed as reliability engineer...interested in softball, tennis, racquetball and statistics.

WARREN DUNN (Panthers) - Also lives in Wyoming...29, bachelor...accountant...interests include tennis and softball.

ANDY BARANOSKI (Stallions) - Inspector by profession...28, married  
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DIVISION CHAMPS: CRAIG ARTL (LEFT), BILL MOONAN



and father of two...resides in Sparta, MI...football is his other S-O-M game...coaches football and wrestling...interests also include softball, racquetball and antiques.

Standings, leaders and order of 1984 draft (based on 1983 real-life season):

Blue Division	Won-Lost	GB	Avg.	ERA	Batting	
West Allis Warhawks	83 79	-	.263	3.87	W.Wilson PAN	.353
Mad City Thunderheads	82 80	1	.253	4.22	Cooper STA	.316
Racine Regals	72 90	11	.260	4.57	Murray CAP	.312
Madison Capitals	63 99	20	.247	4.49	Evans YAN	.311

Gray Division	Won-Lost	GB	Avg.	ERA	Home Runs	
Twin City Yankees	97 65	-	.277	3.75	Dw.Murphy THU	45
Wyoming Cowboys	85 77	12	.274	4.46	Murray CAP	39
Michigan Panthers	84 78	13	.274	4.17	DeCinces, STA	38
Sparta Stallions	82 80	15	.272	4.06	Winfield YAN	36

Playoffs - Yankees d. Thunderheads, 3-2 (games)  
Warhawks d. Cowboys, 3-1

World Series - Yankees d. Warhawks, 4-3

R: Evans YAN, Yount REG 114	ERA		
H: W.Wilson PAN 225	Morris CAP 3.20		
2B: McRae STA 67	Barker REG 3.23	Wins	
3B: W.Wilson PAN 19	Stieb THU 3.32	Stieb THU	21-13
SB: Henderson WAR 118	Clancy WAR 3.57	Clancy WAR	18-12
GWH: Winfield YAN 22		Hoyt REG	18-15
BB: Henderson WAR 130	SA: Gossage WAR 27	Hough STA	18-17
E: Molitor STA 31	SH: 5 tied with 3		
	IP: Stieb THU 311	HRA: Dotson CAP 43	
	CG: Stieb THU 22	BB: Righetti CAP 128	

#### Strikeouts

F.Bannister CAP	180
Barker REG	177
Stieb THU	176
Righetti CAP	167

#### Draft

1. Boddicker CAP	5. Franco CAP (trade)
2. M.Young REG	6. Honeycutt COW
3. Berenguer STA	7. M.Davis WAR
4. Kittle PAN	8. Smithson YAN

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## Baseball playing tips

The long-running National Texas League (NTL), headed up by John Blomstrom of Houston, TX, has some playing tips (actually rules) you may want to try:

\* Injuries - No team can have more than two injuries at a time. In the case of a third or fourth injury, the latest injured continue to play until one of the first two injured players comes back. Then, after one of the first injured comes back, the latest to be hurt are sidelined.

\* Balance - Any team qualifying for the playoffs or World Series three straight years cannot have a first-round draft pick or acquire one via a trade the following season.

\* Statistics - For batters, the NTL now keeps the following: games, at-bats, runs, hits, RBI, doubles, triples, home runs, walks, strikeouts, errors, stolen bases/attempted steals, double plays and, the newest category, game-winning hits.



# Readers roll 'em

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## S-O-M LISTENS TO GAMERS

I wish to begin by saying S-O-M has the best baseball game around. I have played many baseball games, but none of them have the flow of S-O-M.

Since S-O-M has displayed a willingness to listen to readers of the Review, I am bringing my case to you.

I think it's time for S-O-M to eliminate its single most inaccurate statistic produced from the cards: triples on pitchers' cards. I have played in a PBM league for the past six years and the triple totals have always been erratic. I have had players who hit no triples in real life hit six or seven in the league.

To begin with, triples are seldom a result of something the pitcher does. Triples are a result of many other factors, including:

- \* Fielders - outfielders with limited range can cause a triple by not getting to a double in time. They also bobble a ball long enough to stretch a double into a triple, plus weak arms result in the same thing.

- \* Runners - speedy runners turn many doubles into triples.

- \* Freak plays - Bad bounces, players falling down and colliding have led to triples.

About the only time a pitcher gives up a triple is when a batter hits the ball up the gap in a spacious outfield.

If S-O-M limits triples to only the hitter's card, it will find the stats to be highly accurate.

One more comment: I think the new stealing ratings are a vast improvement. However, they still need some fine tuning.

To demonstrate: I have Tony Bernazard on my PBM team. In the 1982 season he managed only three steals in three attempts. In real life he was 11-0, however. S-O-M made him an asterisk and a 20 first-number rating.

Obviously, he was always

held and his second rating was too low to steal on. His "good lead" number was 3 and every time he got on base (which was a lot), I tried for the lead. I only got it three times.

What I think should have been done was to give him a better attempted steal range, but with no asterisk.

KEITH NOE  
6930 NE. 56th St.  
Altoona, IA

## VOTE FOR COMPUTERS

As for computerized Strat-O-Matic games, I have been playing S-O-M for 21 years and all I can say is it is about time.

W.P. CONN  
18 Wyldewood Rd.  
Sherkston, Ontario

## WHY IS 1969 PRINTED?

What is Strat-O-Matic's reasoning behind the 1969 reprint? We just saw 1970.

Why not start offering some years and players which haven't made an appearance in the baseball game? I would love to see advanced versions of first, the Hall-of-Fame sets (based on lifetime stats) and second, the old-time teams. Each could replace present sets now offered.

Yes, yes, please come out with a rulebook for every S-O-M game...someone.

More attention should be paid to the hockey game. I have seen very, very few changes in five years and no old-timer teams.

KEVIN FORD  
Old 5719 W. 64th Place  
Chicago, IL

Editor's note: Strat-O-Matic has started with 1970, and now 1969, because they are the first back years before the two-sided, advanced cards were introduced. The 1956, 1930 and 1961 seasons have been printed in advanced form.

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but none of the three years has ever been printed before.

#### UPDATE THE OLD-TIMERS

My only complaint about the old-timer cards is that only the basic game is available.

I know the 1930 teams are both basic and advance, but I'm not interested in the 1930 season.

I would rather see S-O-M update the 42 old-timer teams it has now to the advanced game, before it comes out with any other years.

I've been playing S-O-M since 1975, both solitaire and in PBM. I've been reading the Review since 1980 and I do enjoy the playing tips. Hope to see some more.

ROB BRUNO

33 Stony Hill Dr.  
Mystic, CT

#### NEW PERSPECTIVE NEEDED

In the last couple of issues, readers have expressed concern with "cheap homers," when a batter with few homers pops one off a pitcher's card or, even worse, when a pitcher who doesn't give up homers gives up two or three in one game.

I don't think we need new charts; we need a new perspective.

As I see it, when a batter hits a home run off his own card, he got the pitch he was looking for and just clobbered it.

Mike Schmidt and Dale Murphy clobber a lot of pitches and have a lot of home runs on their cards. Granted, Greg Minton didn't give up any homers in 1981 or '82, but surely no one would claim it is impossible for Mike Schmidt to hit a home run off Minton.

I think gamers should not expect statistics from the game to duplicate the real season statistics. That would take all of the fun out of the game.

As far as non-power hitters getting homers off the pitcher cards, I think the same philosophy should apply.

Ozzie Smith is not a power hitter, but sometimes is an N-power from the left side. S-O-M's reason for doing this is that Smith is capable of hitting the ball out of the park if the lefty gets a little careless. It should only happen (statistically) a couple of times a year.

Glen Thompson proposed a new chart to cut down on cheap homers, which I think was done with good intention. However, after using it, I found several workability problems.

Thompson's directions stated "if a batter hits 20 or more homers and rolls a home run result with a split card chance off the pitcher's card, it automatically becomes a home run."

And if a pitcher who gave up 20 or more homers rolls a home run with a split-card chance off the batter's card, it, too, is automatically a home run."

The first problem I encountered was total innings and total at-bats. Minton is a reliever so obviously he is going to have less innings and less homers than a regular starter. Isn't the key statistic homers per inning?

Some batter might also have 620 at-bats and just 20 homers, while another batter platooned with 350 at-bats and 15 homers. The more powerful hitter is the latter with a homer every 23 at-bats, as opposed to a homer every 31 at-bats.

Also, making a split automatically a homer seemed unjust. Some batters have a 1 home run, 2-20 double. It felt weird giving them an automatic homer against Mario Soto.

Lee Smith in '83 has 1 home run, 2-20 fly out. Would I give Eddie Murray an automatic homer?

In light of this, I see no real reason to change the homer system, nor an equitable way to do so.

DAVID DAVIS

627 Elm #4  
Moscow, ID

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## BY THE NUMBERS...

I think Strat-O-Matic should go by the number of home runs a pitcher hits during the regular-season, plus hit average, to give a power (N) or weak (W) rating.

In other words, the pitchers' hitting cards should be revised to have the "W" and "N."

Let's say a pitcher has an average over .200 and does not hit a home run. S-O-M gives the pitcher a 4-rating with an "N." There should be pitchers with ratings of 1, 2, 3 and 4 and with both N and W ratings.

An example is Tom Seaver, 1972, who hit three homers that year but received a "2" card and thus couldn't hit a homer in the advanced game.

Any pitcher who hits a home run should have an "N" no matter what the rating.

GREG BUCURESTEAN  
Detroit, MI

## DICE REVISITED

Last year the Review ran an article by Tom Fish, regarding the different weights of a die's sides, that I enjoyed.

Actually, I was well aware of that fact beforehand, but I'd like to vouch for Fish's claim that small, square-edged dice tend to produce batter-dominated games.

In the South Coast League's replay of 1948-57 era teams, tiny, square-cornered 7-millimeter dice are being used to activate play - two red ones with white points, and one white die with black points.

At the all-star break of the replay, league figures show 785 home runs, 10,171 total bases, batting average of .278 and a slugging average of .450. Lowest ERA is 4.02, ranging all the way up to 5.70.

Personally, I love offense in sports, so I'm having the best time of my life. The only thing I don't like is when one or more

of the dice fall on the floor, as they can be very hard to find.

JIM ELLIOTT  
2604 E. Denise  
Orange, CA

## BLOCKING BLOCKED PUNTS

I have noticed something in regard to football. How could the 1976 Vikings block a punt against the '76 Bucs (who apparently didn't have any blocked as there is none on Dave Green's column)?

I have a suggestion which could be used in the future: Put a reading of "Possible block or X yds." on the punter's column (maybe 12 on Green, or 9 on '82 Maury Buford).

Give each receiving team a block rating, like 2-5, 12, or 2-7, etc. Roll two dice and if the punt is not blocked, the kick is X yards. Each team could also be given a field goal block rating.

KEVIN LASTER, Dallas, TX

## PROGRESSIVE LEAGUES...

I am an avid Strat-O-Matic Baseball fanatic who is a member of the 12-team Greater Dubuque (IA) S-O-M League.

I am probably speaking for a lot of S-O-M managers who are in progressive leagues who are trying to scout future superstars. I thought I read once of a S-O-M player who put out a newsletter about which players to watch and draft for the future, from a Strat-O-Matic perspective.

I read Bill James' "Baseball Abstract," but some things which he feels are important do not help in selecting S-O-M Baseball players (example: clutch hitting).

I would like to know who put out this advance information on future stars?

ARNIE FRITSCH  
Dubuque, IA

Editor's note: Larry Fryer (Hamburg, PA) annually runs a column that mentions "future" players.



Guest column**Supplementary set of cards needed**

BY STEVE BECK, Elburn, IL

I would like to enter the continuing debate on the subject of the baseball cards.

In the mid-1970s I wrote a letter suggesting Strat-O-Matic produce separate cards for players traded in mid-season. Soon after that letter appeared, this practice was begun by the game company. Coincidence? Maybe...maybe not.

One question, though. Why do some players (like Manny Trillo and Jerry Mumphrey) receive two cards, while others (Sixto Lezcano, for example) are given one card without a team name? I can't find a logical reason to explain this inconsistency.

Also, as anyone who has ever attempted a full-season replay knows, it is impossible to limit players to their total at-bats or innings pitched with the current roster size. In the course of a 162-game season, all players will be overused, due to the lack of sufficient part-time players.

Many gamers have clamored for increasing rosters to 28 or 30 players, while others have pointed out that the game company will not do anything which is not profitable. Both sides have valid arguments. I have a suggestion which I believe meets both arguments.

**A CARD FOR EVERYONE**

My suggestion is that S-O-M continue to produce the basic 20-player teams and the set of additional players. This number of players would still prove to be sufficient for a number, perhaps even a majority, of gamers.

Additionally, the game company could produce a supplementary set of cards for every other player who saw major league action (even one at-bat).

Since the card formula already exists, this would not involve too much extra work - merely feeding the statistics into a computer. By offering these cards as an extra set, the game company could price them so as to make a profit on their sale, yet those gamers who would not want this set would not have to bear additional costs.

**OVERUSE IS UP TO GAMER**

S-O-M may argue that overusing players from this set could result in statistical inaccuracy. While that is certainly true, anyone who purchases the game has the right to use players in any manner they desire.

Also, overusing a Tony Gwynn or an Eddie Murray (which the current roster size necessitates in a full-season replay) results in a statistical inaccuracy just as overusing a player with at-bats.

One other point. Cards should reflect the actual performance of players.

Ironically, while S-O-M often argues for preserving the statistical accuracy of the game, it will also alter ratings (ala Lee Lacy's "e" rating) based on what they "would have" done over a full season instead of what they actually did in a part-season.

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Here's a baseball playing tip, proposed by James Colguhoun of North Massapequa, NY, that provides for longer injuries (multiply injury by five) if you use "super cards" with few at-bats or innings for a long season. An injury of five games would be 25 instead, etc.



## 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: Under the new rule revision for football regarding the two tight ends, two wide receivers, one running back offense, are the individual offensive linemen's pass block rating increased as was done prior to the revision enclosed with the current cards?

ANSWER: No. The offensive lineman ratings have already been adjusted.

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QUESTION: When playing with a football team that basically uses a two-back offense (i.e., Buffalo), is it still possible to substitute a running back for a second tight end as was possible before the revision? I am aware that under the new revision this would be impossible since there would be no pass block rating for the second tight end/blocking back. I can't see why a team like Buffalo is not allowed to substitute a running back for a second tight end in this era of one-back offenses.

ANSWER: S-O-M says that it can be done, but that it should be done sparingly. Only five teams used the one-back offense regularly last season.

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QUESTION: If the free safety double teams correctly and moves to a vacated flat pass zone, is he the linebacker in zone?

ANSWER: Yes, according to S-O-M.

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QUESTION: It is stated that the free safety blitz must be shown prior to play selection. Can he move into a blitz area after the play selection and be considered playing run? (especially 4-3) Or must he be in run area?

ANSWER: When moved up to the line, the free safety becomes a 0-rated linebacker. The free safety must be in a blitz area and pass defense must be called. The free safety, once moved, cannot be moved again on that play.

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QUESTION: If there are three wide receivers and no extra defensive back, can the free safety blitz?

ANSWER: Yes, the free safety can blitz. But it would be very dangerous since the free safety would normally be covering the extra wide receiver. The long pass zone is now open and a  
(continued on next page)



pass to the extra wide receiver, if defender's rating came into play, would be automatically completed.

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QUESTION: In reference to the Linebacker-Run containment, it says that the rule does not apply inside the 10-yard line. Does this refer to just the part of the rule about the linebacker vacating his zone or the entire run containment rule?

ANSWER: The entire containment rule. Linebackers are not used inside the 10 because flat passes are not allowed. All linebackers are either on the line or used as an extra defensive back.

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QUESTION: Football situation: The defense has no players who have an asterisk rating for pass rushing purposes. The offense goes to a formation of three wide receivers, one running back. The offense calls a passing play in which the intended receiver is the running or blocking back. The defense calls pass and pass rush occurs with the pass rusher designated by an asterisk (let's say a roll of six-nine). What is the result?

ANSWER: Since the roll came up on the defense, and since there is no player with an asterisk, no sack occurs. When referring to the defense, an asterisk has priority.

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QUESTION: The biggest problem I have is with the two tight end, one back offense, especially with the rule revision. In all of the other super-advanced offensive formations the offense is strengthened in some areas and weakened in others. However in this offense, the offense is only strengthened. The second tight end's block rating is used for two players positions, strengthening the run block rating. In most cases a second tight end is a better receiver than a second running back. Plus, a defensive move is taken away in that there is no keying. Is there a way to combat this defensively?

ANSWER: No, not officially, according to S-O-M. But S-O-M does strongly suggest you don't use this offense inside the 10-yard line. It's not in the rules, but perhaps it will be soon. You have touched upon an area that is too strong for the offense. The game company is aware of this, thus the suggested not-use rule inside the 10. A change in the rules may be forthcoming, too, according to James Williams of S-O-M.

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QUESTION: When utilizing a defense with five defensive backs, it is my understanding that the extra back must play in the short pass zone if the defense is blitzing the safety while the offense has an extra wide receiver. My question is, if there is no safety blitz, can the extra back play in the long pass zone even if there is an extra wide receiver in the game?

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ANSWER: The extra defensive back has to play in the short pass zone, according to S-O-M.

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QUESTION: When playing super-advanced football, a kickoff is returned for a touchdown. The penalty die indicates a possible penalty and the dice roll reveals a penalty #5 on the receiving team. No. 5 on a kickoff against the receiving team is defined as an illegal block penalty. The penalty is 15 yards from the concluding line of scrimmage. Since the return resulted in a TD, from what point is the penalty assessed?

ANSWER: Since the point of the infraction is not really known, assume the illegal block took place on the 20. Mark the penalty as half the distance to the goal, or at the 10. Most penalties on kickoffs or returns occur near where the return began.

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QUESTION: When the free safety correctly double-teams a receiver going out for a long pass, how many men are in the long pass zone?

ANSWER: Just the free safety is in the long pass zone.

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QUESTION: In basketball when a split number is needed to determine whether a shot is good or missed, do you look at the last discarded number if it hasn't been used, or do you draw a new split number?

ANSWER: Look at the last discarded number.

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QUESTION: Basketball situation: I am playing with Denver and have Kiki Vandeweghe positioned inside against my opponent's defense. However, after Vandeweghe got hot my opponent switched to a sag defense to try to stop him, so I move outside and then my opponent switched to a close defense again. Who has the last say regarding positioning?

ANSWER: According to S-O-M that's what timeouts (which are not explained in the rules booklet) should be used for. If the defense wants to change, then a timeout must be called. The same applies to change in offense (i.e. fastbreak from normal or vice-versa). Since each team is limited to seven timeouts per regulation game (no more than four in the fourth period and no more than three in the last two minutes of regulation play), the constant switching of offenses or defenses will be curtailed.

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QUESTION: On several of the advanced sides of the basketball cards a reading of "FB Shot?" appears. What does this mean?

ANSWER: If it's the left guard, a fastbreak shot occurs; if the right guard, then it's a turnover (page 10 of rules booklet)



## Fielding proof is in number 6,000?

BY TOM YANEGA, N. Floral Park, NY

I recently acquired the 1973-76 sets and attempted to assign 'e' ratings to certain players I plan to use in my 1965-1977 league. My first approach was to examine the correlation between fielding percentage and the assigned 'e' ratings, using the 1980 set's third basemen.

The results produced a fairly consistent pattern, but there were far too many unexplainable deviations.

I next referred to the article by Baker & Coffey in the May 1982 Review and used the table for the probability of an x at each position and the table for determining how many of those x's would call for the 'e' rating.

For example, a third baseman's 'e' rating would be needed 12.6 times in 2,000 rolls (.028 'x' probability times .45 'e' probability equals .0126. Note that 2,000 rolls, not 1,000, are needed since the pitcher's card comes up only half of the time).

Next, I looked at the 1980 stats in The Sporting News Guide and saw that both "batters faced pitcher" and total fielding chances for each team were usually in the 6,000s, so I used 6,000 to represent a full season (6,000 rolls). The next step was to multiply 12.6 times three to get the number of times a third baseman's 'e' rating would be needed over a full season.

The result is 37.8. If this process is done for each position, the resulting number is nearly identical to the worst possible 'e' rating on the advanced fielding chart. So, theoretically, even the worst third baseman will make only 37 or 38 errors over a season.

### PROVING 6,000 IS THE NUMBER

To prove that 6,000 is the basis for the fielding chart, take the percentage chance for an error under an 'e19' third baseman's rating, which is .509: 37.8 times .509 equals 19.24. So an 'e19' third baseman will make 19 errors over a season. Further tests showed that an 'e26' will make 26 errors and so forth.

I racked my brains trying to figure out a formula to convert fielding percentage into an 'e' rating, and concluded that it can't be done. The reason is that fielding percentage is only relative to putouts and assists, while S-O-M is evidently designed only to produce a given number of errors for each team or player.

This method neatly sidesteps the problems caused by players who either get to a lot of balls, or to very few.

So, a Mike Schmidt will make plenty of errors even though his fielding percentage is good, as it represents the proportion of errors to assists and putouts, which he makes in large numbers. The number of errors, however, remains high.

In the end, the team or player will give up a given number of errors, period. Who knows what the fielding percentage will be?

The upshot, then, is that it's necessary to know how many errors per inning played at a position each player made. This rate, times the team's total number of innings, would give you an 'e' rating.

Unfortunately, we gamers can only come up with such a rating for pitchers. The best we can do without special stats for innings played at other positions is errors per games played at a position. To do this multiply errors times 162 and divide by games played. The result is an 'e' rating (round off to the next full number).

Of course, players who were used frequently as late-inning replacements will have better ratings than they should, since their 'games

(continued on next page)



played' don't mean as much. One could look for a relatively low total chances per game as an indicator to make this adjustment, but I didn't bother, since it would only mean more errors.

#### HOW TO FIGURE CATCHERS

For catchers, figure them normally and then subtract six from the 'e' rating. This is based on a "T-rating" of 1-6 for every catcher and about 140 stolen base attempts per team. If you run more, you can adjust this accordingly. The idea here is to push some of a catcher's errors into the "T-rating," thereby lowering the regular "e" rating: 6 or 7 of his errors will now occur on throws.

This system isn't absolutely perfect since you have to "fudge." The ratings somewhat, but my guess is that Strat-O-Matic fudges them, too.

The "scientific" ratings are most likely manipulated to account for players not given cards, so that the team will perform as it actually did.

In addition, there is the despicable practice of manipulating hard numbers solely to prevent overuse of certain players. This is something I've always felt should be left to the gamer to regulate. This isn't to say, however, that a player who made no errors in seven games at third base should be rated 'e0'. Such players should be given either a mediocre rating if he played the position frequently in other years, or the worst rating if he didn't.

I also called the Elias Sports Bureau here in New York where I live and was told that no one keeps stats for innings played at positions. S-O-M may do this work themselves (or employ someone like Elias), but my guess is that it simply fudges it to try to make the team performances realistic.

I'd like to thank John Henshell of Tigard, OR, for discussing the fielding chart with me and helping me to reach some of these conclusions. I suppose only S-O-M knows whether or not they're correct.

Editor's note: Tom Yanega has played S-O-M Football for 12 years and, as he puts it, "S-O-M Baseball regrettably only three years." He's a recent graduate of St. John's Law School and is a practicing attorney living in Queens. He's a big fan of the Mets, naturally, but also the California Angels and Washington Senators in baseball and Atlanta Falcons in football.

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## Basketball playing tips

### TIMEOUTS!

Since Strat-O-Matic Basketball doesn't provide for timeouts, gamer John McTernan, Belleville, IL, has come up with a method to stop play. Here's how it works:

First, a second action deck is needed. It will be referred to as the "timeout deck."

- [1] A coach must be in possession of the ball to call timeout.
- [2] Coach calls "timeout" and makes any changes he desires; the opposing coach has the option also.
- [3] When time-in occurs, simply roll one die and check players left to right: 1-LF, 2-LG, 3-RG, 4-RF, 5-C, and if a 6 comes up it's any player. That player is now in possession of the ball.
- [4] Now pick an action card from the "timeout deck," and check home or visitor. Only one "timeout" action card per timeout. After the play, refer back to the "game deck" for any further plays. Treat a replay as

(continued on last page)



# 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: 1962 Indians and Yankees. Not a collector, but cards should be in playable condition. Will consider entire league or set. Doug Schmidt, 9137 Latin Road NW, East Canton, OH 44730 (216-863-1430)

WANTED: 1967, '73, '74, '75 California Angels, with extras if possible. Will pay \$5 each for '73, '74, '75 and \$8 for '67. Rick Goldman, 11915 Darlington Ave. #8, Los Angeles, CA 90049

WANTED: Experienced manager looking to join an established FBM baseball winter draft league. I will consider taking over a team mid-season or a team for the fall of 1985. I would prefer a contending team, but would consider a weak team with a future. Patrick Curtis, 2315, 3950 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60613

WANTED: 1961 Chicago Cubs reprint. Must be complete; excellent to mint shape. Will pay postage. Send price and condition to: Kevin J. Ford, 656 W. Wrightwood, Apt. 405, Chicago, IL 6064

WANTED: I need the extra players for the 1979 baseball set. I will pay reasonably for cards in at least playable condition. Please send price and condition to: Paul Saffell, 502 West North St., Ada, OH 45810 (419-634-4370)

WANTED: S-O-M Baseball players wanted to form league in Queens-Nassau area. We already have the nucleus to form league. We would like to include you. No teams set as of yet. Starting early 1985. Face-to-face only; 18 years or older, please. Call: 516-825-0924 (Dory Shorr)

WANTED: To meet with fellow S-O-M fanatics in the Anniston-Oxford-Fort McClellan area. Would also like to hear from gamers in the rest of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. My address is: Dave Dunwoody, 1925 Rocky Hollow Dr. Apt. 2, Anniston, AL 36201 (205-236-0508)

## For Sale

FOR SALE: Complete baseball season w/extras 1969-present. Selling individual teams or entire season. Send list of teams needed with SASE and bids to: Sal Maniapanese, 239 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011 (201-546-9698)

FOR SALE: Football teams, 1968-78. Good condition. If you meet my price, I will sell immediately. Lower bids will be decided at the end of the month. Mike Bordon, 5445 Braesvalley #724, Houston, TX 77096 (713-721-5465)

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

FOR SALE: Baseball schedules for entire 1930, 1956, 1961, 1969 and 1970 seasons. Great for S-O-M replays. Both AL and NL. Send \$1 per season plus one postage stamp for each order. Specify seasons wanted. Mailed immediately. Send to: Richard Breest, 6 Wren Drive, Hauppauge, NY 11787

FOR SALE: Replay your football season right with defensive players rated individually and accurately for interception returns. That's right - 147 players rated based on official 1983 statistics and using the same format as kickoff/punt returns. Includes fumble return chart. All for \$4. Paul Ladewski, 14340 Maple Lane, Midlothian, IL 60445

FOR SALE: Super-advanced rules enhance realism and detail of S-O-M Baseball while preserving the speed of play that makes it fun. Includes easily memorized rules for more realistic base advances on hits, outs and errors; outfield throwing errors and misplayed hits; trail runners sometimes advancing on throws (or being thrown out on cutoffs); injury chart with rare plays; balks, pickoffs, pickoff errors, run-downs; infielders positioned in or back individually; outfield shallow; suicide squeeze, safety squeeze and sacrifice charts where fielder's ability and runner's speed play a part; hit-and-run method that also takes into account pitcher's abilities and characteristics, fielding, runner's speed; and much more: all blended into the game so as not to disturb statistical accuracy or ease of play. Fully tested and refined in face-to-face league

play. \$8, with money-back guarantee. Richard Robb, #305-7100 Gilbert Rd., Richmond, B.C., Canada V7C 5C3

FOR SALE: Replay research; guides for replays of any S-O-M Baseball season. Includes standings, team batting, fielding, pitching stats, schedules, All-Star game, World Series records and more. Any season, \$6; any two seasons, \$11; three seasons, \$15. Old-timer teams guide, \$8. Rodney Johnson, 956 W. Lajolla, Tempe, AZ 85282

FOR SALE: Single teams. Baseball and football. 1967-1983. Basketball, 1977-1983. Hockey, 1977-1979. All teams complete and in mint condition. Rosters also available. Make offer: no reasonable refused and all inquiries answered with SASE. Send to: Otto Hernandez, 2731 Haven Ave., Ocean City, NJ 08226

FOR SALE: Complete sets, mint condition. Football - 1978 and 1981. Hockey - 1978-79, '79-80, '80-81. Basketball - '72-73, '73-74, '74-75, '75-76, '76-77, '77-78, '78-79, '79-80. Baseball - '72, '74, '75, '76, '77, '80. Offers to: Daniel Holeczy, 105 Hilltop Circle, Glenshaw, PA 15116 (412-486-0815)

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1970 season, original, \$50. Football - 1974 season; players number written on cards, otherwise excellent condition. Also 1981 and 1982 seasons. Hockey - 1977-78 season, 1978-79. Football - 1968 AFL and NFL. Asking \$100; good condition. If not satisfied, money returned. I will pay postage. Money orders only. Tom Sherman, 1449 N. 14 Way 202, Hollywood, FL 33020

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  
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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 post-paid. Thanks to our many satisfied customers. Paul Ladewski, 14340 Maple Lane, Midlothian, IL 60445

FOR SALE: Football teams - '70 Lions; '72 Dolphins, Steelers (2 teams), Raiders (2 teams), Cowboys, Redskins, Browns, 49ers; '73 Vikings, Bills; '74 Steelers, Vikings, Redskins. Best offer plus postage (25 cents per team). Also: 1972 Bengals, Saints, Lions, Oilers, Giants, Cards, Eagles, Pats, Bills, Bears, Chiefs, Vikings (no Gilliam). Sold as set for \$10 plus postage. 1974 - Pats, Jets, Colts, Broncos. Sold as set for \$4 plus postage. Send bids to: Mark Frobom, 1049 22nd Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 or call 612-623-3650 after 9 p.m. (no collect calls, please).

FOR SALE: Baseball, football, basketball. Complete baseball sets mint with extra players: 1976, '77, '78, '79, '80, '81, '82, '83, 1968 set ex-mt. but individually mounted on index cards. Complete basketball sets, mint: 1972-73, 1973-74, 1974-75. Complete football set mint: 1976. Send all bids with SASE to: Paul A. Ohran, 1056 Oleander Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94086

FOR SALE: Baseball seasons.

Serious bidders only. Include SASE. Will accept and respond to all bids received within 30 days of this ad. 1966 season; 1976 w/ex. plus expansion players; 1977 w/ex.; 1978 w/ex.; 1979 w/ex.; 1980 w/ex.; 1981 w/ex.; 1982 w/ex.; 1983 w/ex. Also 1956 w/ex.; 1961 w/ex. Football - 1980 pro season. Above cards are all in mint condition. Write: Leonard Melito, Daniel Road, RD#2 North Salem, NY 10560

FOR SALE: 1972 baseball teams (except Pirates), no extras, good to excellent condition, \$5 per team (St. Louis, \$2, due to writing). Complete American League, \$50; complete division (except NL East), \$25. Hurry. Taking first response. Also, 1982 baseball (except Pirates); 1982-83 season basketball; 1980 and 1982 football, all \$1 per team or \$15 per set as advertised. Write: Joe Hornback, P.O. Box 119, Bardwell, KY 42023, or call 502-655-6431.

FOR SALE: Football teams, 1968-78. Good condition. If you meet my price, I will sell immediately. Lower bids will be decided at the end of the month. Mike Bordelon, 5445 Braesvalley, #724, Houston, TX 77096 (phone: 713-721-5465)

FOR SALE: For the first time only, the 'Legend' from the 'Great White North' is selling some of his football game sets. All sets are in excellent condition and will sell as complete sets only. 1976 and '77 sets, \$100 U.S. or \$130 Canadian for each set. 1978 set, \$140 U.S. or \$170 Canadian. The 1978 set is in mint condition and is beautifully preserved in plastic. Serious replies only. Please add 50 cents postage per team. Only money orders will be accepted. Write to: David Holubec, 36 Finchley Cres., Bramalea, Ontario L6T-3P6 Canada

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1970 re-issued set, all teams with  
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extras: never been used. \$10. All my NL teams from '82 and '83, all with extras. Will sell all 24 teams for \$10 or 50 cents a team (include 37 cents postage). Keith Miller, 318 Dale, Willard, OH 44890

FOR SALE: "Talkin" baseball. Full seasons. No individual clubs. For the serious bidders only. Include SASE. Will respond to all bids within 30 days of this ad. Top bids get 'em. Must sell. 1966 season no/ex. (Strato's 6th year); 1976 w/ex. plus expansion players; 1978 w/ex.; 1979 w/ex.; 1980 w/ex.; 1981 w/ex. (strike year); 1982 w/ex. All in mint shape. Write: Leonard Melito, Daniel Road RD#2, North Salem, NY 10560

FOR SALE: Didn't get what you wanted for Christmas? Is your cousin Billy upset with the ties you bought? Well, why not make it up to him - and yourself. Buy Strat-O-Matic cards. I've got dozens, hundreds, even thousands to send to you. Join the great post-Christmas Strat sale. Buy any baseball sets, from 1979 to today. Buy Strat-O-Matic Reviews, from 1978 to today. All sets complete, excellent/mint condition, with extras. Why wait? Order now. Send your bids in to: GPCSS, c/o 4675 Circle Road, Montreal, Quebec, H3W 1Z2, or call 514-487-2036 before 10 p.m. EDT, and secure your favorite cards. Hurry. Tomorrow may be too late.

## League Forming

LEAGUE FORMING: Chicago-area face-to-face advanced baseball league looking for managers to take over existing teams or expansion teams for the coming season; 162-game schedule with two divisions. Detailed league constitution, with trophies awarded to divisional and World Series winners. For more

information, contact: Steve Gersch, 4504 N. Meade, Chicago, IL 60630 (312-736-8617)

LEAGUE FORMING: The Lombardi Football League (LFL) is looking for capable coaches. We are a 14-team PBM league well established. Currently our backup list is empty so plenty of backups are needed. Send brief resume (no experience needed) with SASE. Larry Scotti, 638 Woodrow Road, Staten Island, NY 10312

LEAGUE FORMING: Louisiana - would like to start face-to-face baseball league in Baton Rouge/New Orleans area. If interested, contact: Roger Johnson, 16338 Chadsford, Baton Rouge, LA 70817 (504-292-0844). Are there any Strat fans in Cajun-land?

LEAGUE FORMING: Forming unique straight teams and draft league for 1985, 1984 season cards. Would like to start laying the groundwork now and start one month after the release of the 1984 season cards. League will be 10 most wanted AL teams with an eight-round draft of the remaining players. Trades and waiver moves allowed. You will be permitted to drop two of your original 24 players if desired and will have a five-player minor league. If you want more information, please send a list of the AL teams you would most prefer in order. If you would only like to join the league if you get the team of your choice, please state that. For more on the league and a rules constitution, write: Peter LeBlanc, 4749 Circle Drive, Beale AFB, CA 95903, or call me anytime at 916-788-1939. Eight manager spots available.

LEAGUE FORMING: The Coast to Coast American League, an established PBM baseball organization using mostly AL cards, has openings available for the upcoming June-September season. Though we stress punctuality and neatness, (continued)



ample time is allotted for game playing and statistics. To take part in our annual late winter draft, send for complete details as soon as possible. Remember: this is a well-organized league with established (and good) teams available, so don't miss out. Robert Gebeloff, 9 Evergreen Rd., West Caldwell, NJ 07006 (201-228-2765). S-O-M experience gets preference, but no PBM experience necessary.

**LEAGUE FORMING:** Interested in a baseball league that's big enough it doesn't look like a collection of all-star teams, where managerial skills really matter? Then get an early start by joining the second year summer Tradewater II league (22 teams). All the available teams have a good foundation just looking for a winning manager. Reliable applicants only. For information, write: Dean Monson, 3503 W. 4400 South, West Valley City, UT 84119

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The Oxford Valley Strat-O-Matic face-to-face baseball league is looking for a manager to take over the helm. The league is in its ninth year. Call: Dean M. Sullivan (215-547-1755). The league is based in Levittown, PA.

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The Continental Baseball League needs a few good managers to begin its first season. It is a 20-team, advanced baseball league that will use the 1984 cards to begin play. All managers will begin the same 24-man roster as S-O-M prints for his team. What they do from there is up to that manager. Managers who send in their preference list before Dec. 28, 1984, will have an equal opportunity at teams not already assigned. A draft of the players from the six remaining teams will be held after the league is filled. A 162-game schedule is planned for this year. The league publishes an instruction manual in order to speed play. A regular newsletter is planned with manager articles

and statistics from the games. Trading between the teams will be allowed. Send dues of \$20 and team preference list to: Jeff Weinke, 107 West Chicago St., Algonquin, IL 60102

**LEAGUE FORMING:** I am looking for anyone interested in playing face-to-face baseball and/or football in the Naples/Collier County Florida area. Write to: Kevin Hackett, 2372 Washington Ave., Naples, FL 33962, or call 813-775-5705. Please include information about past history of playing S-O-M.

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The Cincinnati Baseball League is looking for reliable managers for a face-to-face total draft league. Draft conducted by rounds from all AL and NL players. For more information, contact: Scott Jegggle, 2705 E. Towers Dr. #401, Cincinnati, OH 45238

**LEAGUE FORMING:** Veteran league gamer looking to form face-to-face advanced baseball draft league in Philadelphia area. League will begin playing in Feb., 1985 and will use the 1985 card set. Meetings will be held as soon as possible in order to get acquainted and lay the groundwork for a strong league. We will have a detailed league constitution. There will be a small league fee to cover costs of cards and trophies. No prior league experience necessary. For more information, write: Tony Lemmo, 1555 Yardley-Newton Road, Yardley, PA 19067

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The CGL has immediate openings for our sixth season. This is a PBM baseball league featuring draft format, 150-game schedule and continuous ownership. We will be using 1983 cards including extras. Advanced game is used. For more information, contact: Steve Lorenz, 406 Pinewood Drive, Utica, NY 13502

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The North American Hockey Association (NAHA) is  
(continued)



looking for backup coaches. There currently are no backup coaches should an opening occur. NAHA is a six-year-old PBM summer league that runs from April through August, with liberal scheduling allowances for vacations, etc. We use the S-O-M super-advanced rules with some modifications. There are 14 teams in two divisions of seven teams playing a 76-game schedule. Annual phone draft held after release of cards. If interested, send name, age and experience to: David Oldham, 1903 Dumas Place, Newark, DE 19702

**LEAGUE FORMING:** New Jersey North draft baseball league is in need of managers for its season which begins in March. This is a PBM league beginning its inaugural season. We are open for suggestions on number of games per week, etc. Call 201-546-9698 or write: Sal Mangiapane, 239 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011

**LEAGUE FORMING:** Newly founded Sportsman's Baseball Association. PBM. Advanced rules. for 1985 membership application and details contact promptly: Burke Ittenbach, 104 Macon Dr., Mobile Estates, Cary, NC 27511

## Contests

**CONTEST:** The third annual Super Bowl Tournament will be held Feb. 16-17 at the Swansea Improvement Association Hall in Belleville, IL. Among the entrants will be last year's finalists, Paul Friederich and James Sanders, along with Paul's wife Kathy, this year's Lyman Bostock Tournament football champion. Entry fee is \$7. Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd will be awarded. Teams from 1967-1981 will be used with a random draw for the order of picks and the divisions. A round-robin format will be used Saturday, with playoffs Sunday. Super-advanced rules are used. A super-advanced consolation tournament on Sunday for those

not qualifying for the playoffs will be held also. Teams used will be from 1982-1983 seasons. Call: Al Skidmore (618-235-8287) or Paul Friederich (618-234-1929) for more information, or send a SASE to: Al Skidmore, 1600 N. Church St., Belleville, IL 62221

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## S-O-M league, replay scene

DECADE 1973 AMERICAN LEAGUE REPLAY - Play-by-mail baseball league that used 1973 cards...Minnesota, guided by Mike Mayko, won AL West and Kent Kennedy's Baltimore team captured AL East...Led by MVP Rod Carew and a pitching staff with a 3.52 ERA, Minnesota won the AL playoffs from the Birds, 3-2 in games. Carew batted .520 (13-25) had seven extra base hits, scored 11 runs and swiped five bases...Baltimore's highly regarded pitching staff was strafed for an 6.46 ERA, with Dave McNally shelled for 15.71 off 11 earned runs in only 6 1/3 innings...As far as home-and-away results, Decade's home winning percentage was .529. Four teams finished over .500 on the road, although Minnesota (40-41) was not one of them. Baltimore was tops on the road at 49-32, while the New York Yankees, winners of nine straight away games at season's end, were 48-33...Carl Yastrzemski of Boston was MVP after batting .334 with 28 homers, 126 RBI, 106 runs scored and 208 hits...Jim Palmer of Baltimore was Cy Young choice after going 26-7 with 2.71 ERA. McNally, who failed so dismally in the playoff, was 25-10 and 21.84...Mayko was the manager of the year and John Hiller of Detroit (140 innings, 1.48 ERA, 17-11, 28 saves) was Fireman of Year...Cleveland's Dick Tidrow had the only no-hitter, stopping the Red Sox, 1-0, striking out five and walking two...Managerial lineup, in addition to Mayko and Kennedy: Rob Loman (Oakland), Rich Davies (NY Yankees), Greg Gougian (Boston), Chicago White Sox (three managers, with Sky O'Callahan, founder and commissioner of Decade, finishing up games for September), Blaise Castren (Detroit), Mack Smith (Kansas City), Martin Feldman (Milwaukee), Sky O'Callahan (California), Jim Beauchemin (Cleveland) and Kent Kennedy (Texas)...Mayko's Twins and O'Callahan's Atlanta Braves met in the World Series, with Atlanta prevailing 4-2. Last game was played face-to-face, with Atlanta winning 4-3...Minnesota's bullpen, which had featured Bill Campbell all season, broke down in the Series as Campbell made three appearances and suffered two losses...Mayko, as far as background, works as a court and criminal justice reporter for the Bridgeport Telegram (Bridgeport, CT). He's won nine journalism awards in 10 years of reporting. Mayko is also active in another baseball league, a PBM hockey league and a face-to-face football league. He's also known for his excellent instruction sheets, which have endeared him to rival managers....O'Callahan, a 10-year S-O-M veteran, is particularly interested in statistical analysis and baseball history. He's a graduate of California State University-Chico, and is close to finishing up a Master's from Long Beach State. Works with Sears as a data processing analyst. Once conducted a survey of over 100 S-O-M gamers and found, among other things, that the average age was close to 30.

### Standings and leaders:

West	Won-Lost	GB	East	Won-Lost	GB	Playoffs
Minnesota	90 72	-	Baltimore	102 60	-	Minnesota d.
Oakland	88 74	2	New York	98 64	4	Baltimore, 7-9,
Chicago	81 81	9	Boston	91 71	11	8-0, 6-8, 3-0,
Kansas City	72 90	18	Detroit	81 81	21	10-4
California	67 95	23	Milwaukee	75 87	27	
Texas	57 105	33	Cleveland	70 92	32	

Batting	Home Runs	RBI
Yastrzemski BOS .334	R.Jackson OAK 34	Yastrzemski BOS 126
Carew MIN .332	D.May MIL 34	R.Jackson OAK 117
Horton DET .326	Spikes CLE 30	Cepeda BOS 116

H: Carew MIN 234	2B: Nelson TEX 40	SB: North OAK 104
R: Harper BOS 141	3B: Yastrzemski BOS 12	Carew MIN 100
	Northrup DET 12	(continued on back)



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(continued from page 23)

ERA	Won-Lost	Strikeouts
McDaniel NY 2.44	Palmer BAL 26-7	Ryan CAL 431
Palmer BAL 2.71	McNally BAL 25-10	G.Perry CLE 279
Corbin MIN 2.83	Blyleven MIN 24-16	Blyleven MIN 279
McNally BAL 2.84	Singer CAL 23-17	Singer CAL 269

CG: Blyleven MIN 35	SA: Acosta CHI 33, Hiller DET 28
IP: Wood CHI 402	SH: Stottlemire NY 7 BB: Ryan CAL 205

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## Basketball playing tip (continued from page 16)

the timeout "play" and refer back to game deck.

Here's a brief summary of NBA timeout rules:

- (1) A team must take at least one timeout per quarter.
- (2) Each team is limited to no more than four timeouts in the fourth quarter and no more than three in the last two minutes.
- (3) Each team shall be granted seven full timeouts per game.
- (4) Each team shall be granted two timeouts in overtime.
- (5) Each team is granted one 20-second timeout per half. Only one substitution per team and no use of the "timeout deck" during a 20-second timeout.