

## STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW

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

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### Super-advanced baseball rules realistic, but time-consuming

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Jeff Green is a longtime member of the face-to-face Greater Kalamazoo Strat-O-Matic League (GKSML) - his National League team currently has a 102-45 record heading into the final week of the season - and also plays in play-by-mail leagues. He's a student of the cards, but not to the statistical saturation point. His observations of the super-advanced optional rules in baseball are interesting because of his success with S-O-M Baseball, his basic conservatism and his awareness of how changes impact on leagues he belongs to.

By JEFF GREEN, Kalamazoo, MI

It is very easy to get set in your old ways when playing Strat-O-Matic Baseball. I joined a new play-by-mail league this year and when I found out that the league would be using all the new super-advanced rules I started having second thoughts.

I was one of those gamers who, when the new "e" ratings came out years ago, sounded warnings that the game would never again be the same smooth-flowing one that I knew so well.

But I quickly found out that it was to be one of the single-best improvements the game company ever made. I had forgotten that, though, when I started playing some practice games, using the new super-advanced rules, with my newly drafted team in this fledgling league.

A whole new world opened as I played that first game. The many things that these new rules do are hard to describe, but they add things to the game that I thought would never be possible on these player cards.

The way the fielding chart works you have to get a result on the defensive rating and then another on the "e" rating and then put the  
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two together. And then you go to the symbols chart to find the direct result. It all comes together and the result is so much more realistic. It sounds like a lot has to be done, but it's really not so bad when you get the hang of things.

The improvements I like the most are the fielding chart, the option of bringing just the corners in on defense and the new cutoff rule on trailing runners.

To me these are additions that make it real baseball, not just S-O-M Baseball.

#### NOT ALL CHANGES WERE WELCOMED

The revised balk, wild pitch and passed ball system is one I totally hated at first. But after playing with it 30 games into our season I can accept it a little more now.

I just hope the game company decides next year to put individual balk, wild pitch and passed ball ratings on the cards, rather than the roster sheet. Sure, the dedicated gamers can put them on the cards themselves, but it is a time-consuming bother.

Some of the other rules, such as outfielders being able to play all three positions, throws to third base and realistic pitcher usage, have already been adopted by many leagues. Most of these rules, which come in varied forms, have been around for years. But it is good to have them defined now.

#### GAMES DO TAKE LONGER

When reading this you may think all these new rules will really lengthen the time of the game and while I would love to say it hasn't, it has.

I used to average anywhere from 15 to 25 minutes per game. Now it's more like 30 to 40. Mind you, I'm not complaining, because if you want to have all this added quality you can't help but have longer games.

My suggestion to you is if your league is thinking of using these new rules, just play a few games (it took me just two games to decide). I think you'll be hooked...as many other gamers are this year.

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## How to convert past seasons to supplementary stealing

More than a few folks who have basesball seasons before supplementary stealing came along, have asked about how to convert those seasons.

Strat-O-Matic has provided a generic guide for setting up supplementary stealing ratings. It's not as exact as the ratings by the game company, but the system fills a void in past-season sets.

STEALING GRADE		CONVERSION	
AAA	-	* 3-7,	- (20-16)
AA	-	* 3-6	- (19-15)
A	-	* 4-6, 12	- (18-13)
B	-	* 4-6	- (17-12)
C	-	4-6	/ 10 (15-8)
D	-	5-6	/ 10-11 (14-6)
E	-	4, 5	/ 12 (11-4)



Deadline for entries is June 15

## MVP Contest to open — and close!

OOPS!

Even though the major league baseball season got off to a late start, the Review staff didn't intentionally push back its annual Most Valuable Player Contest.

We simply forgot about it. It should have been in at least the April issue and it wasn't. We still are having the contest. The entry form is in this issue and the deadline will be June 15 (entries must be postmarked no later than June 15).

We apologize for the shorter period for entering the contests. But one good thing is that the baseball season will be farther along and eliminate a little of the guesswork that annually goes into making such selections.

Remember, anyone who subscribes to the Review is eligible for the contest. Only one entry per subscriber is permitted, though. Only cost to you, the reader, is for the stamp to send off your entry blank.

### HOW THE CONTEST WORKS

Again the contest entails you picking who you think will be the Most Valuable Players in both the American and National leagues. Also list the division winners and their won-and-lost percentages. The latter category will be used to break ties.

Last year, some readers will recall, Greg Balas of Hinton, Alberta, Canada, was the MVP Contest winner. He won out by coming the closest on the percentages of the division winners.

Balas was one of six readers who picked Kevin Mitchell to win the N.L.'s MVP award. One reader picked Robin Yount in the A.L. Three of the gamers had two of the division winners, but Balas came the closest when the percentage tiebreaker was used.

In other words, it was mighty close.

Balas won a set of the new baseball cards, compliments of the Review. He became the 18th different winner of the contest (Terry Ringen of Beattie, KS, won in 1978 and '77), which dates back to 1972.

### MOST VALUABLE PLAYER BALLOT

#### Most Valuable Player:

American League \_\_\_\_\_

National League \_\_\_\_\_

#### Division Winners & Percentages:

American League East \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_

American League West \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_

National League East \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_

National League West \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_

#### Print Clearly:

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Readers roll 'em

## WHAT HAPPENED TO CONTEST?

Hey, folks! Strike (almost) got you down? How come there isn't an MVP Contest this season?

If there is one, it wasn't mentioned in either the April or May, 1990 issues. Was this an oversight? Usually 5/5 is the deadline.

A season without giving the S-O-M Review my annual bad picks is like having Seattle finish over .500. Pretty tough, huh? (One of these days, though)

Oh, a disclaimer last season. I picked Tony Gwynn and Kirby Puckett. I thought you wanted the batting champions!

JIM COLQUHOUN  
N. Massapequa, NY

**Editor's note:** Thanks for jogging our fading memory. We were asleep between dice rolls...the MVP ballot should have been in beginning with the March issue. It is in this month, however, and the entry deadline is in June, for obvious reasons.

## WHERE'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL?

Just received my first two issues of the Review. Where's all the information on college football?

It's all baseball. Do you run stuff based on which season is coming up?

ANTHONY TENORIO  
Dearborn, MI

**Editor's note:** There's more baseball in the Review than for any other sport because baseball is No. 1 in amount of mail received. The Review receives only about two to three replays/stories regarding college football each year.

## WAR YEAR WANTED

I would like to see a season replay of either the 1944 or 1945 season. It would be educational

if nothing else.

I also would think some gamer would gather together gaming tips, etc., for each game and sell them in booklet form. Apparently this logical idea is not as logical as I presume.

MAURICE MALONEY  
Mechanicville, NY

## A WAY OF COMMUNICATING

I am writing to you to clarify my new address as well as express my opinion of your publication.

I feel that your magazine is extremely informative as well as educational. I have not only communicated with other gamers through the Review, but also have learned better ways to organize my league as well as incorporate other players' ideas with my own for better enjoyment out of my game playing.

ROBERT HAAS  
Philadelphia, PA

## CHEATED BY RATINGS

I would like to address the issues discussed by Ed Grant in his letter to the editor in the April issue.

On the whole, I do believe you do a good job.

However, Mr. Grant is absolutely right that by publishing ratings you are cheating us, the subscribers. The ratings are on the cards - there is no need for the Review to reprint them.

Your response to him disappointed me. First, you said that "Reader contributions are what the Review is all about." But then you said that "the entire January issue was filled with ratings" and that extra ratings in February were printed because they were "promised."

These two statements are in direct contradiction. Ratings are not, and never will be, reader contributions. You should neither promise them, nor print them.

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Otherwise, I feel that the Review does a good job of combining reader suggestions, replays and interesting personal stories.

I do have one suggestion: I think S-O-M should allow xeroxing of a small number of cards for the purpose of completing a set. S-O-M could give express permission and place strict limitations on the process (i.e., no more than five cards per set and only if those five will complete the set).

This would prevent mass duplication. Because some of my sets are old, some cards are missing. This greatly devalues the set to me and anyone who may buy it.

Because I do not use my old sets, I sell them to other people so that some enjoyment may come from them. Why should the set be virtually worthless when a small number of copies would allow it to be passed on to a fellow gamer?

By permitting duplication on a small level, S-O-M would increase the use that gamers get out of the cards by allowing more people to enjoy them.

ANTHONY GIACOBBE JR.  
New York, NY

**Editor's note:** The January issue, or the baseball ratings issue which comes out in late December, is by a wide margin the most popular. Prior to the time when ratings were printed in the January issue, the Review, as well as the game company, was flooded with phone calls asking for player ratings. The Review has been able to obtain these ratings in early December and has promised to carry a complete listing in its next issue (or February in the case of extra players). The arrangement has worked well for both the Review and S-O-M...and has saved an immense amount of time that would have been spent on the phone. These ratings (excepting extra players) are in the Review a month before the new cards are available from S-O-M. Dare to say, we would lose more than a

few readers if we discontinued the ratings issue.

#### PLEASED WITH LOOK OF CARDS

I would like to pass along some thoughts on S-O-M.

First, I want to compliment the game company on the appearance of the player cards. They are extremely attractive and have a very professional look and are a vast improvement over the cut-card format because all the cards in each set are now the same size.

Adding color to the cards was a very good idea.

The new baseball supplementary chart is okay, I guess. But I think that I will stay with the advanced chart. It seems to be a little quicker and over the long run cuts down on extra dice rolls that the new chart has.

Speed of play is very important to me. The new hit-and-run and bunting charts are excellent. The game company is, slowly but surely, refining the game to perfection.

I am also happy that S-O-M is continuing to put out past seasons.

I think that you are doing a terrific job with your "cutesy little monthly from Kalamazoo."

Ed Grant, in the April Review, although he is entitled to his own opinion, is way off base in his remarks concerning the way you put together the Review.

I happened to be reading through some old Reviews and came across a letter in the Readers roll 'em section of the March, 1981 edition that sounded amazingly similar to the one in April. The name at the bottom of the letter was that of Ed Grant. Even nine years ago Ed seemed to know how to run your monthly magazine better than you do.

Maybe he should put out his own monthly magazine about S-O-M. My advice: if you don't like it, don't buy it. Don't waste our reading space with "ripup" letters like the one in April.

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## Questions & Answers

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

**QUESTION:** Spotted an error in the 1927 baseball set. Wally Schang, catcher for the St. Louis Browns, is listed as a right-handed batter. Shouldn't he be a switch-hitter? (Neil Greenberg, Brooklyn, NY)

**ANSWER:** According to S-O-M, Schang batted right-handed in 1927 and 1928, and then became a switch-hitter after that.

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**QUESTION:** On the symbols chart F2, for outfielders, NO, does the runner on second trying to advance have the same conditions that are on the first trail runner applied to him? (Stanley Schick, Phillipsburg, NJ).

**ANSWER:** S-O-M says to follow the chart.

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**QUESTION:** Can a runner on second with a flyout B or B? advance to third base with the conditions of the first trail runner? (Stanley Schick)

**ANSWER:** No and yes. A trailing runner cannot advance on a flyball B when the runner on third scores. At least that's the way we interpret S-O-M's rules. The new super-advanced rules do provide, however, for a trailing runner to be able to advance on a flyball B? We would follow the calculations listed under the "Cut-off Rule" when applying this. Previously, trailing runners could not advance on flyball B situations and the defense had nothing to lose by throwing to try and cut down the runner going from third to home.

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**QUESTION:** Wade Boggs, 1989 season, had zero sacrifice hits, yet he is rated an "A" bunter. I don't know how many bunt hits he had but is this correct? (John McTernan, Belleville, IL)

**ANSWER:** The rating, according to the game company, is correct. Boggs is considered a good bunter, according to S-O-M, although he seldom if ever sacrifices because he's the leadoff hitter and such a good hitter.

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**QUESTION:** Todd Burns, Oakland pitcher, vs. left-handed batters gave up 14 walks against 134 batters, also 14 walks against 203 right-handed batters. His S-O-M card has six walk chances vs. left-handed batters and five vs. right-handed. Is this correct? (John McTernan)

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**ANSWER:** The game company says the card chances are correct. It adds, without elaborating on its ratings, that intentional walks also have to be considered.

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**QUESTION:** I feel there's an error in accuracy on the 1990 baseball cards. On Tom Herr's card, he has a rating of "N" power against both lefty and righty, but he hit only two home runs in 561 at-bats. (Lou Lombardo, Audubon, NJ)

**ANSWER:** Officially, the game company stands by the ratings. But unofficially it admits that Herr should have an "N" against right-handed pitchers and a "W" versus left-handers. It's not an official correction, however. Herr doesn't have a home run chance off his card and having an "N" rating against both types of pitching does seem strange.

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**QUESTIONS:** Would you automatically flip the next action card for the following readings in basketball? (William Champagne, Saco, ME) (a) Advanced side - On the player card under defense with a reading of "pass to any 1+ for position shot"? (b) Advanced side - On the player card under defense with a reading of "steal"? (c) Basic side - On the player card under passing. Reading of "pass to highest rated shooter for shot"? (d) Basic side - On the player card under defense. Reading of "pass to any +1 shooter for shot"? (e) Basic side - On the player card under defense. Reading of "steal-take open shot"?

**ANSWERS:** (a) No, you do not flip the next action card. (b) You have two options: roll for a fastbreak or refer to last discarded card under normal offense. (c) No. Just roll dice for shot. (d) No. Roll dice for shot. (e) No. Again roll for shot.

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**QUESTION:** When compiling league leaders for manual version of the basic computer baseball game, one team's record is incorrect for my league. All other stats are correct. Is there a way to fix this? (Mark Garner, Berwyn Heights, MD)

**ANSWER:** We asked the game company this question and S-O-M would like to have Mark Garner contact it directly (ask for Steve Barkan). It's nothing serious, just a minor bug.

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**QUESTION:** In the August, 1989, issue of the Review, your answer to a hockey question involving penetration of the power play center was incorrectly given. You stated that "penetration is automatic, as there is no defensive rating to be checked." This is incorrect. The rules state that penetration is never automatic and that all players on the power play team with a 4 breakaway/penetration rating penetrate successfully on a split pick of 1-13, 3's at 1-11, 2's at 1-9 and 1's at 1-7. (Phil Ledesma)

**ANSWER:** The Review thanks reader Ledesma for righting the wrong.



## Another trip down 'Hoops' lane Georgetown's revenge!

Anthony Giacobbe Jr. of New York is another who responded to our call for gamers who play Hoops and who wish to comment on the college basketball game that Strat-O-Matic is now selling.

Giacobbe has played Hoops for years and recently purchased the up-dated game.

His opinion of the game is neither as harsh as Bart Ewing's (March 1990 Review) or as flowery as Patrick Clark's (in this issue).

Here are his comments:

"In general, the game is excellent.

"My only complaint about the solitaire version is that the game does not adequately react when a team is losing. A team down by six points with a minute left will wait 35 seconds before shooting. This makes no sense. A flaw in the game itself is that there is no way to automatically shoot the ball when behind. Even in hurry-up, you can't always get off a shot.

"I do not use the fatigue factor because I hate it. Everybody gets tired much too quickly. I prefer to let coaches regulate rest on their own.

"There are sometimes too many fouls. Also, the fouls are streaky. A player with three in the first half may pick up his fourth right away in the second. Sometimes, a team is over the limit four minutes into a half. The frequency of fouls should be reduced.

"What ever happened to offensive rebound shots? Why is such an integral part of the game never used? Players who get rebounds pass the ball back out. Why?

"I don't know if the 3-point shot gives a team an advantage over an older team. This may have helped Arizona, Illinois and Oklahoma in a tournament. Does an advantage result?

"These are just some points worth mentioning. On the whole, the game is excellent. The most important change that should be made is providing mechanisms for a team to attempt a comeback. Now, the coach does not have enough control to do this."

### HOORAY FOR THE HOYAS

Since Giacobbe is a graduate of Georgetown, one of his projects with the Hoops basketball game was to, in his words, "avenge some of the upsets of the past."

In all games the computer was used to coach both teams and all features of the game were used, except for fatigue.

The first re-creation was of the 1989 tournament. This time, with Giacobbe at the computer controls, the Hoyas got past Duke, 77-67, as Charles Smith pumped in 21 points. Seton Hall fell next, 74-66, and then Michigan, 84-81. One goal achieved.

Next was to see if the Villanova upset in 1985 could be avenged. Before playing the final, however, St. John's, led by Chris Mullin, was given another shot at the Hoyas. Mullin scored 33, but Georgetown won 74-67. The Hoyas hammered Villanova in the rematch, 70-46.

The last upset to avenge was the one to Providence in '87. And the Hoyas did just that, 90-89. But, and "just to prove I wasn't cheating," says Giacobbe, "I will admit that my luck ran out against Syracuse (84-71), preventing a much wanted (coaching) showdown between Knight and Thompson."

### GREATEST TEAMS TOURNAMENT

Giacobbe's next project was to pit the 32 greatest teams in a  
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tournament. "I took the 32 highest rated teams (limited to one team per school) and paired them off according to their number ratings."

UCLA, 1968 vintage, was the tourney favorite and was rolling along as expected until Arizona, '89, upset the Bruins in the final, 86-67. Sean Elliott had 34 points and eight rebounds for Arizona.

Arizona defeated '85 Georgetown (71-67), '60 Cincinnati (91-84), '89 Illinois (69-59) and '56 San Francisco, led by Bill Russell (78-73) to reach the final.

UCLA, meanwhile, had disposed of '72 Long Beach State (98-78), '74 Notre Dame (91-79), '74 North Carolina State (93-85) and '60 Ohio State (83-67).

Russell was the MVP after averaging 31.3 points and 15.5 rebounds in four games. Lew Alcindor (as he was known then; '68 UCLA) averaged 26.4 points and 11.6 rebounds.

San Francisco nipped '88 Oklahoma on a last-second shot, 86-84, in a Final Eight thriller, while another memorable game was '60 Ohio State edging coach Bobby Knight's '75 Indiana team, 93-89. Knight, the player, came off the bench to net two free throws and go 0-for-3 from the floor for the losing Buckeyes.

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## S-O-M to have more hockey extras

Strat-O-Matic, heeding the call from hockey gamers who want more players, has increased the number of additional players that will be available when the new cards come out late this summer.

There will be 135 extras, including 11 extra goalies beyond the usual two-per-team roster format as before. And whereas 21 was tops for number of players per team, now each team will have between 22 and 23.

Cost for the additionals in hockey has been increased accordingly, to \$5.75.

Here are the preseason prices for hockey, pro football and basketball:

	(# Teams)	Price	Additional	Be sure, if sending in order early, to include handling cost.
Hockey	(21)	\$14.75	\$5.75	
Football	(28)	\$22.00	Included in price	
Basketball	(27)	\$16.00	\$3.50	

Send orders to: Strat-O-Matic Game Co.  
46 Railroad Plaza  
Glen Head, NY 11545

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## Sanders is back with Bostock Memorial

James Sanders, the policeman from Gary, IN, will be staging his 10th Lyman Bostock Memorial Tournament at the Portage, IN, Holiday Inn on July 14-15.

Sanders, who was on the inactive list for most of the fall and winter (much of it because of surgery), apologized for never reporting last summer's Bostock tourney. He's back now and says results will be dutifully reported (see his "Contest" ad on pages 23-24).

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## The Review staff

**Editors:** Warren Newell (Otsego, MI); Del Newell (Kalamazoo, MI).  
**Production:** Karen Newell (Otsego, MI).  
**Mailing:** Monthly, third-class, from Otsego. First-class mailing is available for an additional 25 cents per month.



## Macher has learned 'lessons' well

### NAFA commissioner presents reasons for league's success

For most folks who have been or are commissioners of leagues, it's a lot like going to school. You have to learn your lessons and gather experience.

Michael Macher, commissioner of the highly successful North America Football Association (NAFA), shares some of the lessons he's learned in one of Strat-O-Matic's largest draft play-by-mail leagues.

"After five years as commissioner of the NAFA, which rose from the ashes of the Lombardi Football League, I have a few observations for success," says Macher.

Here are his lessons, one for each season the NAFA has been rolling 'em:

1. DEDICATION - A PBM league requires stability. Although I have all S-O-M games, I essentially only do S-O-M Football and this league 12 months a year.
2. SCHEDULE - Creating a good schedule, with friends in the same division, and maintaining the time frames with provisions such as proxy instructions, are important. The NAFA has never used the same schedule twice, or started the playoffs late.
3. VARIETY - Allow coaches input for league rules and read the S-O-M Review for new ideas. Some of the NAFA's improvements:
  - A. Game: 4-1-6 defense, modified safety blitz, four-wide receiver offense.
  - B. League: Limited protected rosters, phone draft and games played by phone.
  - C. Special: Extravaganza - Weekend at commissioner's house at present date to allow coaches to plan. Meeting other coaches creates communication and a stronger league. Lasting friendships develop from a stronger league, too.
4. INTEREST - Foster coach involvement and year-round activity. Our typical season has monthly newsletters, June-February. In March-May returning teams have to trim their rosters and expansion teams are recruited and have the expansion draft.
5. FLEXIBILITY - The commissioner and coaches must be willing to compromise, the bottom line being what is fair and good for the league.
6. FUTURE - The commissioner should always be thinking where will this league be in six months to a year. Plan for coaches dropping out, roster size for next year and draft order after the season.
7. FUN - Keep a proper perspective. If this hobby isn't enjoyable - take up golf.

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## Championship contest played via phone

Michael Macher may have had more fun than most of the other coaches in the North America Football Association's seventh season as his Rattlers captured the championship.

Macher, who calls Middlesex, NJ, home, faced George Murphy's Beagles in the title game. Since Murphy lives in Fontana, CA, the game was played via the phone, one of three playoff games to be played using Alexander Graham Bell's invention.

Macher's Rattlers stung the Beagles, 31-17, capping a season in which they won 18 of 19 games.

Macher, 32, has had his Rattlers in all five NAFA Bowls, winning the championship game three times. He works as a network manager for AT & T (hmmm...maybe he gets a discount on those phone games).

A total of 20 teams played in the NAFA's latest season, including  
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one that was guided by a female coach, Annette Pickett, of Sandy, UT. She was part of a husband-and-wife coaching team.

Her husband, Brad, a student at Brigham Young University, guided the Bayliners to the league's best turnabout, going from a 2-14 record in '88 to 14-2 this past season.

#### 'SEVEN YEARS OF EXCELLENCE'

Macher calls the latest season the most successful among many successful campaigns experienced by the still-growing NAFA.

"The year 1989 featured an international flavor," says Macher, "with George Urwin of England one of our coaches. This was the first year our PEM league featured a majority of the games being played face-to-face (61 games involving 15 of the 20 teams)."

Another highlight was the NAFA Extravaganza Weekend, with eight teams gathering for a weekend of S-O-M Football. In fact, 20 games were played from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning.

Season records were set by Bob Brickeen's Purple Aces, who returned six punts for touchdowns, and Brad Pickett's Bayliners, who ran back seven interceptions for TDs.

Lowlights had to be Jim Kelly's 2-of-26 (four interceptions) passing performance for Stephen Beardslee's Fishermen and Herschel Walker, of Bob McGee's Hurricanes, rushing for a minus 18 yards in 11 carries.

#### A LOOK AT THE COACHING LINEUP

Here are the coaches in the NAFA and a thumbnail sketch of each:

**SAL FIORE**, Staten Island, NY, 40, painter... Browns... Only charter member of league still playing... Joe Montana has been his QB all seven years... 50-56 overall record.

**TOMMY MANNA**, Avenel, NJ, 25, college student... Blitzkreig... First year in NAFA... Favorite S-O-M card is Randall Cunningham's, which Manna would like to acquire in trade.

**MIKE MACHER**, Middlesex, NJ, 32, AT&T network manager... Rattlers... Won NAFA titles in '85, '88 and '89... Overall record is 75-27... Favorite card is Cunningham's - and Macher owns his card!

**BRIAN SAMPSON**, White Plains, NY, 32, draftsman... Assassins... Overall record: 33-20... Favorite card: Neal Anderson, which Sampson doesn't have.

**JEFF SMITH**, Avenel, NJ, 21, college student... Seahawks... First team had many actual Seahawks, including QB Kelly Stouffer and receiver Brian Blades.

**BILL COWART**, Washington, DC, 23, legal assistant... Marauders... Won title in '87... Considered top strategist, guiding team into playoffs six straight years... Favorite card: Philadelphia defense.

**LARRY SPENCER**, Rochester, NY, 25, United Van Lines sales consultant... Wolverines... First year in NAFA... Favorite S-O-M team: Steelers.

**ERIC BESSETTE**, Rochester, NY, 31, General Motors financial analyst... Mustangs... Overall record: 24-25... Favorite card: Randall Cunningham

**STEPHEN BEARDSLEE**, Gloucester, MA, 27, programmer research center... Fishermen... Runner-up in 1988... Favorite card: Receiver Hoby Brenner.

**DENNIS BONAIUTO**, Peabody, MA, 31, police officer... Centurions... First year in league... Favorite S-O-M team: Washington.

**MICHAEL IRION**, Edmond, OK, 24, college student... 89ers... Finished strong in first season... Favorite S-O-M card: Bernie Kosar.

**ERICH KAFFERLIN**, Spring Creek, PA, 16, student... Highwaymen... Won first phone playoff game... Favorite S-O-M team: Buffalo, because of ratings.

**ALAN WHITTON**, Nepean, Ontario, Canada, 29, Bell Northern Research  
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programmer...Nazguls...Plagued by bad luck (9-23 overall record).

GEORGE URWIN, Ramsgate, Kent, England, 52, music teacher...Wolfhounds...Adds international flavor to NAFA...Quickly learned how to play PEM football...Favorite S-O-M card: Dan Marino.

BOB BRICKEN, St. Louis, MO, 27, computer programmer...Purple Aces...Started planning for draft three months early...Overall record: 46-43...Favorite S-O-M card: Christian Okoye.

ANNETTE PICKETT, Sandy, UT, 21, general accounting clerk...Bears...In playoff contention until end of season...Overall record: 8-15...Favorite S-O-M card: Joe Montana.

LARRY HILL, Spokane, WA, 32, manager Major League Pizza...Headbangers...Returned as coach in NAFA last year, taking over 0-6 team...Favorite S-O-M player: Paul Skansi, wide receiver for Seattle.

BRAD PICKETT, Sandy, UT, 24, college student...Bayliners...Had best turnabout, going from 2-14 record in '88 to 14-2 in '89...Overall record: 16-17...Favorite S-O-M card: Thurman Thomas.

GEORGE MURPHY, Fontana, CA, 32, IRS tax auditor...Beagles...Had best season in '89 (14-5), losing in title game...Overall record: 33-34...Favorite S-O-M card: Joe Montana.

BOB MCGEE, LeRoy, NY...Hurricanes...Took over Hurricanes with six games to go in '89 season...Fond of all past (Miami) Hurricane QBs: Kelly, Kosar, Vinny Testaverde.

#### NAFA STANDINGS

Atlantic	Won-Lost	South	Won-Lost-T	East	Won-Lost
Rattlers	15 1	Purple Aces	10 6 0	Marauders	11 5
Assassins	10 6	Highwaymen	8 7 1	Fishermen	8 8
Blitzkrieg	8 8	Nazguls	7 9 0	Mustangs	7 9
Browns	7 9	89ers	6 9 1	Wolverines	6 10
Seahawks	5 11	Wolfhounds	4 12 0	Centurions	4 12
<u>West</u>	<u>Won-Lost</u>				
Bayliners	14 2				
Beagles	12 4				
Bears	7 9				
Hurricanes	6 10				
Headbangers	4 12				

#### Playoffs:

Rattlers d. Blitzkrieg, 41-17  
 Marauders d. Assassins, 23-7  
 Beagles d. Purple Aces, 26-0  
 Highwaymen d. Bayliners, 34-30  
 Rattlers d. Marauders, 34-25  
 Beagles d. Highwaymen, 27-3  
 Rattlers d. Beagles, 31-17

Rushing	Att-Yds.	Avg.	TD	Receiving	No.-Yds.	Avg.	TD
Craig BRO	321 1661	5.1	9	Tice HIG	135 1025	7.5	8
Settle BAY	256 1430	5.6	10	K.Jackson MAR	126 1091	8.7	4
Ferrell MAR	232 1374	5.9	6	JT Smith BEG	123 955	7.8	4
N.Anderson WOV	311 1161	3.7	5	Bavaro BRO	118 867	7.3	8
T.Thomas MUS	251 1138	4.5	3	Rice ASS	117 1718	14.7	11
JL Williams SEA	234 1119	4.8	7	Clayton BAY	113 1397	12.4	10
G.Anderson BEG	202 1094	5.4	10	A.Carter WOV	97 1893	19.5	13
Dickerson RAT	259 1080	4.2	12	Holman FIS	106 848	8.0	5
Warner BLI	305 1077	3.5	4				

Passing	Att-Comp.	Yds.	TD-Int.	NAFA Rating
Montana BRO	363 234	2608	18 11	91.8
W.Wilson ASS	295 155	2153	16 2	90.7
Cunningham RAT	369 192	3050	29 18	85.8
Esiason BER	524 262	3876	30 15	80.8
Marino BAY	737 390	4599	32 23	75.3
Rypien CEN	331 177	2594	17 19	75.1
O'Brien SEA	488 244	2782	18 6	74.5
Simms NAZ	447 224	2634	16 7	73.8
Everett BEG	552 321	3294	17 19	73.4



# A look at shooting in S-O-M Hockey

## College basketball player owns all but first set of cards

By CAREY MILLER, Saskatoon, Sask.

The most arcane area of Strat-O-Matic Hockey is the shooting columns - outside/inside/rebound/breakaway.

With the new cards many gamers are doing double- and triple-takes when looking at the cards. "My sniper scored 39 goals, but Joe Blow, a scrub with seven goals, can shoot the puck better than my guy. Why?"

Basically the shooting columns are rated on two criteria: (1) The even-strength goals per game (power-play scoring is another matter), and (2) the offense and breakaway/penetration numbers given to the player. Usually players with similar ESG/game ratios and identical offense and breakaway/penetration ratings will receive the same chances to score.

The cards are systematically graded so players with lower O and B/P ratings and less goals will receive shooting columns comparable to players with high ratings and big goal scoring totals.

This is to compensate for the fewer scoring opportunities these low rated players will get in the context of a game. That's why Los Angeles teammates, super slugger Marty McSorley (2-0, 2-B/P, 0.12 ESG/Game) and Dave Taylor (3-0, 4-B/P, 0.27 ESG/Game) have very similar scoring cards, despite Taylor's superior offensive prowess in 1988-89.

### SYSTEM WORKS...BUT MINOR FLAWS

The system works but has some flaws.

One minor flaw I feel is S-O-M often overcompensates a lower rating and gives a shooting card too good when you consider the small difference in rating.

A good example is Adam Oates of Detroit and Pat Elynuik of Winnipeg. Oates is rated a '3' on both offense and penetrating and recorded 14 ESG in 69 games (0.20 ESG/Game). Elynuik also is rated a '3' on offense, but is a '4' penetrating. Elynuik scored 21 goals in 56 games, a 0.38 ESG/Game ratio, far superior to Oates'.

However, Oates' shooting columns are substantially better than Elynuik's, making it highly unlikely, even with the small (4-3) penetration advantage that Elynuik has, that he will outscore Oates at the rate he did in the 1988-89 NHL season.

Another problem seems to be on occasion players with nearly identical ESG/Game ratios and identical offense and penetrating ratings, will inexplicably get cards very dissimilar. Granted these cases are few, but if you look hard you'll find them.

Bryan Trottier and Mikko Makela of the New York Islanders are nearly perfectly matched. They both are '3s' in both offense and penetrating and had virtually the same ESG/Game ratios (0.17 for Makela, 0.16 for Trottier).

So their shooting columns are the same, right? Wrong. In fact, when it comes to scoring numbers, Makela's card, in the words of Saturday Night Live's Dennis Miller, "Gets stoned like a Narc at a biker rally." Trottier's card is so superior it almost seems that S-O-M made an error and the corrected card is on its way.

**Editor's note:** Carey Miller, 19, is a third-year education student at the University of Saskatchewan, plays on the school's basketball team and is an avid fan of S-O-M Hockey and hockey in general. He owns every set of hockey cards (11), except for the first year, and is an original member (eight years and skating strong) of two play-by-mail hockey leagues - Chuck Gardiner Memorial Hockey League (Glenside Bionicsmen) and the Federal League (defending champion Buffalo Sabres).



## Here's 'Wish List' for S-O-M Baseball

Stephen Cappiello of Stamford, CT, has a "Wish List" he would like to share with the Strat-O-Matic gaming world.

"I recently sent it to the game company," says Cappiello of his list. "It is essentially this gamer's 'Wish List' for future game revisions and products for S-O-M Baseball. I would like to hear other gamers' opinions on these suggestions, especially Nos. 2 and 9."

Cappiello has played S-O-M Baseball for five years and reports he's enjoyed all the changes and new products over that time. He emphasizes this is not a hit list, but rather a wish list.

### Cappiello's 'Wish List'

1. The 1927 season with all super-advanced features is a welcome sight. The only problem is, all my other recreated seasons aren't in that format.
2. The perforated cards separate nicely and are sturdy enough, but I would pay whatever it cost to have a deluxe laminated playing card style set (which could still be perforated). Laminating them yourself is costly, imprecise and time-consuming, as well as unprofessional in quality.
3. Include a 20-sided die in each game set. Every time I buy a new season I have to get a new 20. The split deck skews the possibilities, anyway, without constant reshuffling.
4. Pitchers who both start and relieve a great deal might have their performance in both of those areas separated. Something like the fatigue-factor dots might be used to represent the difference.
5. You might investigate ballpark doubles and triples. For example Fenway appears to be a "double-heaven" and Kansas City a great place for triples.
6. S-O-M does not offer all-time original franchise teams. I would really enjoy playing them, but I won't try to compile them card-by-card from existing sets.
7. I'd like more Hall-of-Famers in the old-timer sets, but I prefer career totals instead of best season. Anyone can have one good season. Great players have many. You could offer all-time teams in best season format and HOF'ers in career format. Having them in advanced format would be great, too.
8. Turf-grass is already part of ballpark singles. Let's keep it that way but add ballpark doubles and triples to completely capture the effects of artificial turf stadiums.
9. How about lineup cards (one set of 26) as an available option for those of us who are not familiar with each team's most frequent lineup versus righty and lefty pitching? The reverse side of the card could have the complete team rosters.
10. And how about a set of 26 solitaire manager-decision cards for each real-life manager/team?
11. The individual old-timer teams need to be redone in advanced format and S-O-M could add a few more. Even some "worst teams of all time" would be fun to play against the '62 Mets.
12. Finally, must all infielders playing out of position be "4" or "5" fielders?  
One would think that a good shortstop would have at least average range at second base and vice-versa. And playing third and first would be similar as well (unless the first baseman is left-handed).  
All players out of position should have the worst e-rating, but it seems to me infielders playing positions that require similar skills should have a chart listing penalties to range rating like the one for outfielders (with the new super-advanced rules).



# Past seasons are part of history

## Gamer makes pitch for baseball's early years

By CHRISTOPHER SHILTS

I am a graduate of the College of Wooster in Ohio. I have been playing Strat-O-Matic Baseball since the sixth grade and one of my joys is my immortal quest in search of the best team ever.

In the December, 1988 issue of the Review, Kevin Anderson wrote that he considers the game cards an excellent source of athletic and statistical information about each player. I would add that all cards are historical files. This is why I'm concerned about the onslaught of 1960s teams, thereby neglecting baseball's glorious past.

I understand the dominant generation of S-O-M gamers were children or young adults during the '60s and wish to relive the passion. But let's leave the players we know so well by the side for a while and dig deep into the inner sanctum of baseball.

### LOOKING BACK, BACK, BACK

Here are basic sketches of several seasons I feel would be of great interest:

1904 - The year that John McGraw had his New York Giants sit out the World Series. "Iron Man" McGinnity was 35-8 with a 1.61 ERA and 408 innings pitched; Christy Mathewson was 33-12, 2.03. The A.L. was tight; Boston, New York, Chicago and Cleveland all relatively close.

1908 - Replay what is called one of the greatest pennant races ever. In the N.L., one game separated the top three teams. Here we can pinch-run for Fred Merkle and save the Giant pennant chances. In the A.L., two games separated the top three teams.

1915 - This is merely a wild stab. How about support for a Federal League season? Name players included Ed Plank, Three Finger Brown, Ed Roush, Hal Chase and Ed Reulbach.

1919 - Give Joe Jackson and pals another chance. White Sox manager Kid Gleason claimed that his squad was the best ever assembled to date. Let's allow the "Black Sox" the opportunity to prove him right.

1920 - Some rumors say that many gamblers still clung to several "Black Sox" with an iron grasp. Apparently, the White Sox were throwing games all season, just to keep the race close. The one thing we do know for sure is that Comiskey suspended eight players with three games to go, with the Sox in a virtual tie for first with the Cleveland Americans at the time of the suspension.

New York, with Babe Ruth in his second year as a Yankee, was in the chase all season long as well.

1938 - I only suggest this season because we need to include one of those powerful Yankee teams. It was also Lou Gehrig's last full season. In the N.L., the Cubs and Pirates went down to the wire.

1941 - This is one of three seasons from the '40s I consider interesting. It was the last year anyone hit .400 (Ted Williams, .406) and it was also the year Joe DiMaggio hit in 56 straight games. The individual talent is worth some support.

1942 - The Dodgers won 104 games, yet lost the pennant to St. Louis (106). It was also Stan Musial's rookie year. I think people tend to stay away from the war years, which is too bad.

1944 - Hal Newhouser and Dizzy Trout, both pitchers for Detroit, won 29 and 27 games, respectively, yet the Tigers still lost the pennant to the St. Louis Browns. Yes, here we would be given a chance to steer the Browns to the World Series.

1951 - This season is a must. I realize I sound hypocritical, considering that the 1950 season has already been printed and the whole

(continued on next page)



crux of this proposal is to ignite interest for new eras. Yet, I can't see how this season can possibly be left out. What fun it would be to undermine Charlie Dressen by keeping Don Newcombe in, or walking Bobby Thomson.

Then we can set the stage for Willie Mays, who was on deck when Thomson sent the ball over Andy Pafko's head.

This is my top 10 list. My honorable mentions would be 1912 and 1918. I like 1912 because I'm a Smokey Joe Wood fan. The 1918 season would be interesting because here we are permitted to play out the remaining games that World War I made baseball relinquish.

Also, it would be fun to insert Ruth as a pitcher. That year was also the last time the Red Sox won a World Series. Eventually, I think every decade should be represented.

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## What are odds of replay success?

By PETER LANGDON, Boca Raton, FL

I am a big fan of Strat-O-Matic Baseball. I am currently working on a replay of the 1950 season. I have often wondered what the odds are of a given team winning in a replay of a season?

In an effort to gain some insight into this question, I developed a model for an eight-team league using Lotus software. The model utilizes random numbers to determine results of the 22 games played between each pair of teams.

The relative strengths of each team in the model are determined by two criteria: First is how many games out of first place each team actually finished. The second is how successful one would expect a team to be, given how many runs it scored and how many it allowed. This is based on a formula developed by baseball analyst Bill James.

For instance, in my 1950 A.L. model Boston is rated a couple of games stronger than Detroit, even though Boston finished a game behind in the standings. In my N.L. model, Brooklyn is rated closer to Philadelphia than the two games that separated them.

I ran both of my 1950 models 200 times and here are the results:

AL - 1950		NL - 1950	
Team	1st Places	Team	1st Places
New York	45%	Philadelphia	37%
Boston	28%	Brooklyn	36%
Detroit	15%	New York Giants	19%
Cleveland	12%	Boston	6%
		St. Louis	2%

One of the main characteristics I look for in a replay is a tight pennant race with several teams involved. Clearly 1950 is ideal for this. I thought it would be interesting to look at the data I had accumulated to see what the odds are of a close race.

The tables below indicate how the top four finishers in each league were spaced in the results in the model.

AMERICAN LEAGUE				NATIONAL LEAGUE			
Games out of 1st	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	Games out of 1st	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
0	5.0%	0.5%	-	0	8.0%	0.5%	-
1-3	32.5%	9.0%	1.5%	1-3	35.5%	10.5%	1.5%
4-6	27.5%	20.0%	7.0%	4-6	20.5%	20.0%	12.0%
7-9	20.5%	25.5%	11.0%	7-9	16.0%	21.0%	13.0%
10-12	8.5%	19.5%	13.0%	10-12	11.0%	20.5%	24.0%
13+	6.0%	25.5%	67.5%	13+	9.0%	27.5%	49.5%



Because the pennant races in 1950 have many similarities the data is not conclusive. There is some evidence, however, that there is a slightly better chance of having a close pennant race in the NL than the AL. I think the main reason for this is that five teams have a chance to win. Even though St. Louis only won the pennant 2% of the time, it finished within five games of first in 12% of the races.

Looking at the table on the preceding page for the AL it is interesting to note that the fourth-place team finished within six games of first less than 10% of the time. In real life, Cleveland, the fourth-place team, finished six games out.

This points out a characteristic I noticed throughout my study: that it is highly probable in a replay at least one of the contenders will perform significantly better or worse than in real life.

For instance, in my NL model, although Philadelphia was rated only half a game better than Brooklyn, they finished five games of each other only 40% of the time.

#### HOW STUDY RELATES TO S-O-M

I thought this information could be useful the next time Strat-O-Matic surveys readers about what season to produce cards for.

In the last survey, 1951 was popular presumably because of the NL race. In reality this is a poor choice since only two teams have a chance to win. It is highly unlikely that a 1951 replay would reproduce the drama that actually occurred.

Looking at the seasons that have been reproduced so far it appears that S-O-M uses the same reasoning. The choices of 1950, 1930 (NL), 1956 (NL) and 1961 (NL) are all outstanding if a close pennant race is the main criteria.

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### Strat-O-Matic short shake

The name wasn't on the letter, but some Strat-O-Matic Baseball gamer tripled his fun when it came to experiencing no-hitters.

Three no-hitters were reported by this gamer, who added that his total of career no-hitters is now up to five with the recent tripligate.

Juan Berenguer of the 1984 Tigers - remember that memorable season Detroit fans? - no-hit the '56 Indians in a replay game. Berenguer struck out 10 and walked two.

Fred Fitzsimmons of the '30 Giants got the second, shutting down the Reds of that year in another replay contest.

And the third was by Danny Darwin of '83 Texas, who survived four straight walks and giving up a run in one inning to notch a no-hitter against the '69 Senators. Darwin fanned three and walked seven in a 4-1 victory.

#### HIGHLIGHTS GALORE

Lou Israel shares some of his dice-rollin' experiences that, if he produced a highlight film, would certainly find their way onto tape.

In one game, using the 1988 cards in a draft league, Carlton Fisk hammered three home runs, including the game-winner in the 14th inning, against Israel. Brian Gibbs was the happy manager of Fisk.

Eric Show, facing a lineup of eight left-handed batters, gave up only a pinch-hit single to Carney Lansford and pitched to only 28 hitters. In another game, Frank Viola struck out eight of the first 10 batters and went on to whiff an amazing 19, both events in league games.



# Advertisements

Rates per issue are as follows: 25 words or less - \$1.00; 26-50 words - \$2.00; 51-75 words - \$3.00; 76-100 words - \$4.00. When sending in ads, specify either **WANTED**, **FOR SALE**, **FOR TRADE**, **LEAGUES**, or **CONTEST**. And name card sets by the year upon which they were based. Note also that only advertising for Strat-O-Matic products, or closely related merchandise, will be accepted and that merchandise competing with S-O-M products may not be offered for sale. Also, no photo-copied or reprinted cards should ever be offered for sale. Ads, to be included in the next issue, must be in to the Review by the third of the previous month.

## Wanted

**WANTED:** Pre-1986 pro football teams (complete seasons preferred). Please send information on teams/seasons available, condition, price wanted, to: Randy Veosovich, 1342 Leila Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R2P 1J7. Include phone number with your reply (and, no, I won't call collect!).

**WANTED:** 1984 baseball set, with extra players if possible. Send offers to: Jack Little, 217 Beach Street, Northwood, OH 43619

**WANTED:** Baseball - Need desperately 1972 Steve Carlton. Others: 1963 Dick Farrell, Art Fowler, Dailey from Twins, Bobby Shantz; 1964 Dick Hall, Dennis Menke, Larry Jackson, Dick Radatz; 1965 Stu Miller, Hoyt Wilhelm. Will accept above cards in any condition. Need many 1963-1965 cards. Please send lists and prices to: Murray Shamp, 349 Ashcroft, Clovis, CA 93612 (call: day 209-441-7471; night 209-291-6066)

**WANTED:** I am looking for complete S-O-M Baseball sets from 1971, 1972 and 1973. I need them for competition and will pay premium prices for any complete sets in any playable condition. Please call John at 1-800-634-0491 weekdays.

**WANTED:** I want to create a directory of S-O-M gamers and leagues. Gamers should send name, address, occupation, games that you play and any other interesting personal information. Leagues should send type (PBM/Face-face

draft/straight), sport, teams and schedule length. The project will take several months and will probably not be ready before the fall. Send SASE to receive ordering information then. Anthony Giacobbe, 435 W. 119th Street, Apt. 7H, New York, NY 10027

## For Sale

**FOR SALE:** Fanatics - Make your season replay more realistic with Baseball Replay '89. Exact day-to-day 1989 schedules and actual starting pitchers; comprehensive roster changes (trades, disabled players, minor-league callups) by date; plus a unique lineup guide to assure realistic player use. Ideal for replaying one team or a whole league. More than 100 hours of research at your fingertips for only \$12. Similar replay aids for 1927, 1956, 1961-64, 1967-68, 1985-88 - \$12 each season (roster changes for pre-1985 are trades only). Check or money order to: Glenn Guzzo, 1925 Brickell Ave., D-1104, Miami, FL 33129

**FOR SALE:** Show your team's true colors with 6-, 10- and 20-sided dice in your choice of nine colors: red, white, blue, black, purple, orange, green, yellow and brown. Guaranteed unbreakable. Only \$2 each postpaid. Specials: 3 for \$5, 7 for \$10. Strat Player's special: three 6-sided dice plus one 20-sided die for \$6. It's all a dice-roller needs. David de la Fuente, 41 Marshall Ave., Apt. 4, Akron, OH 44303

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FOR SALE: Basketball - 1973-74, 1976-77, 1980-81 complete sets. Hockey - 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80 complete sets. Football - 1969 Denver, Houston; 1971 Atlanta; 1974 Miami, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Oakland, Washington, Minnesota, Los Angeles, St. Louis. Good to excellent condition. Will accept bids through June. Would prefer trade for pre-1976 baseball sets. Craig Corbett, 6000-F Hunt Club Run, Norcross, GA 30093

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

FOR SALE: Single plastic card protectors for your S-O-M baseball, football, basketball and hockey cards. Sizes 5" x 3" and 5.75" x 3.5". Great fit, no more worry or damage. Keep your cards in good shape for years. Get a trial size of 100 for only \$6, or each 1000 for \$29.50. Even bigger discounts for larger orders. Call or write for free price quote (please include a SASE): Shawn E. Frye, P.O. Box 546, Munford, AL 36268 or 205-358-0331.

FOR SALE: Football - 23 1972 teams; 26 1982 teams. Hockey - 1982-83, '84-85, '87-88 teams. Basketball - 1983-84, '84-85, '87-88 teams. 20 sets of defense

squares. \$1 each, SASE. William Petterson, 524 N. 17th St., Grand Forks, ND 58203

FOR SALE: I still have many quality football teams left from 1967 to '81. Send SASE or call after 6 p.m. EDT for updated list. Mike Merwine, 1135 Brook Avenue, Allentown, PA 18103 (215-791-3253)

FOR SALE: Apple version computer game disk, \$19. Season disks available: 1927, 1962, 1968, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989, \$9 each. Please call or write: Michael Stucci, 453 Potter Road, Framingham, MA 01701 (508-877-1322)

FOR SALE: Baseball strategy charts. Excellent for PBM or face-to-face leagues. Base-running, defense, offense. Know the percentages of strategy based on score and inning. These charts have helped me to a lifetime .742 won-and-lost % in PBM leagues and .807 % in face-to-face (18 years experience). No more time wasted writing instructions. \$5/chart. All three for \$10. Add \$1 postage and handling. Send to: Vince Trivelpiece, 1042 Sunset Drive, Berwick, PA 18603

FOR SALE: Your S-O-M Baseball will be even more true-to-life and fun with my super-advanced rules, which add realism and detail while preserving the game's speed of play and accuracy. Simple rules provide outfield throwing errors and misplayed hits; more realistic base advances; injury chart with rare plays; improved wild pitch, balk and pickoff system, including errors; rundowns; infielders positioned in or back individually; outfield shallow; suicide squeeze, safety squeeze and sacrifice charts that incorporate fielding ability and the runner's speed; hit-and-runs involving the pitcher, fielders and runner's speed; and much more, all smoothly blended into S-O-M. Over 300 satisfied  
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customers. \$9, with money-back guarantee. Richard Robb, #305-7100 Gilbert Road, Richmond, B.C., Canada V7C 5C3 (or P.O. Box 1776, Pt. Roberts, WA 98281)

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

FOR SALE: S-O-M Baseball sets, 1969 complete (original one-sided), '70 A.L. complete (original one-sided), '73 N.L. complete, '74-'88 complete except no '85 N.L. All reasonable offers accepted. Call or write: Steve Alms, 1318 Twenty Sixth Avenue N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55418 (612-788-7227)

FOR SALE: What do you keep your S-O-M cards in? What's the best way to store and protect your cards? Gray, acid-free, metal-edged storage boxes in two sizes. Box "A" measures 6x4x4 and has a hinged-lid design. This box comes complete with 16 acid-free sleeves. Box "B" measures 12x4x4 and has a free-lid design. This box comes complete with 52 sleeves. Protect those cards you worked so hard to get. Box "A" \$3.50; Box "B" \$5. Send check or money order to: Chris Rosen, 731 Bergh Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111 (215-745-5247). For more information, send a SASE to the address listed above.

FOR SALE: Complete advanced game ratings for all 1989 real-season player cards (latest set of cards). These ratings have been instrumental in developing excellent draft teams in league play and tournaments (1st, 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th in the five TBA's I've been in). I factor in HR, 3B, 2B, 1B, BB, gb(a), steal and running ratings, N or W rating, defensive position and defensive skill including throwing arm. Each player receives an on-base, slugging, total offense and overall rating

against both righties and lefties. 1961, 1964-basic, 1969, 1984-1988 season ratings also available. For your easy-to-read printout, send \$8 per season to: Paul Patrick, 3 Shenandoah, Goddard, KS 67052 (316-794-2353)

FOR SALE: "The Natural," Roy Hobbs. Single card reflects the greatest 2/3 of a season (and career) a player ever had, but not unrealistic stats. Events based on novel and film reflected on card. Letter accompanies card explaining ratings choices, novel and film information, stat projections and advanced adjustments. A truly realistic card from a Strat-O veteran. Professionally printed on stock identical to game company's. Play against Hall-of-Famers, old-timers, or add to current team. \$1 = 75 cents card + 25 cents postage. Have Hobbs show up in your dugout. The card is approved by an S-O-M letter, although the calculations are mine. Joe Earle, Box 333, Fiskdale, MA 01518

FOR SALE: Baseball teams, complete with extras. Every season 1970-1981. Good to excellent condition. Will sell entire set for \$250 or individual seasons for \$35 apiece. Postage included in price. Ken Pertcheck, 2449 Drummond Road, Toledo, OH 43606

FOR SALE: 42 old-timer teams plus 1987 Twins; 1986 Mets; 1984 Cubs, plus Hall of Fame series and several Reds' past season teams; 1987 Giants; 1980 Phils; sold as total group for \$22. Also 1979 season, 1927, 1930, 1950, 1956, 1961, 1962 and 1970, all from good to excellent condition and most in mint condition. \$10 each. Also super advanced rules on cardboard stock and Stats Major League handbook for 1990, \$8. 1989 teams mint condition, \$12. Write to: Alan Kirkbride, 505 Railroad St., Caldwell, OH 43724 (614-732-2974). Also for sale six new B scoresheet pads for \$10.

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**FOR SALE:** I now have over 1400 individual S-O-M Baseball teams from 1927-1988. I am currently holding over 31,000 assorted S-O-M Baseball cards from 1927-1989. I also have a new assortment of complete sets. Send a SASE (with 85 cents postage on it) for my Giant 1990 Teams List and/or send your list of assorted cards that you want along with a SASE to: Chris Rosen, 731 Bergen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111 (215-745-5247). Special note: I have just made a purchase of approximately 200 S-O-M Baseball teams (1973-1985) and am interested in buying more.

**FOR SALE:** 22-year gamer selling collection. For complete listing send SASE to: Bruce Tangeman, 512 West Perry St., Papillion, NE 68046

**FOR SALE:** Computerized baseball standings program. When replaying your favorite S-O-M team's season, enter the score from your game and the program generates scores from the rest of the league and displays current standings, including: Wins, Losses, Pct., GB, Last 10 and Streaks. Define schedule yourself or let computer. Results are random, but based on team's actual winning percentage for that season. A.L. and N.L. included. IBM only. Money-back guarantee. For program disk, including data for 1989 season, send \$9 (U.S.) or check to: A & B Software, 8008 Bainbridge, Alexandria, VA 22308. Program purchasers only, other season data updates (1969 on) are \$5 each. Specify season. Note: This product enhances but does not replace the Strat-O-Matic Computer Baseball Game.

**FOR SALE:** Complete baseball game with 1989 cards in mint condition. \$25. Cal Whitbeck, 117 Peachtree, Mason, MI 48854

**FOR SALE:** 1981 baseball teams w/o additional players, Apple version game disk and 1986,

'87, '88, '89 player disks and game card. Best offers. Paul Malo, 298 Shawnessy Dr. S.W. Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2Y 1M5

**FOR SALE/TRADE:** Football card sets for 1972, '73, '76, '78 and '82. 1972 and '73 sets are \$75 each, the others \$50 each. All are in mint condition except for 1972, which is very good (light pencil erasures on several cards). Willing to trade either '78 or '82 for a complete (with extras) 1977 baseball card set in mint condition. Call Dick Hunt (but not collect) at 207-288-4993

**FOR SALE/TRADE:** 1983 football season. Will trade for 1982 football season or various individual teams. David James, 1695 Pine St. #8, Napa, CA 94559 (707-226-6360)

**FOR SALE:** Complete sets (including 48 additional players and two-team player cards). For cards issued 1971-1975. Best offer. Jim Van Eaton, 7924 Pebblebrook Circle, Hanover Park, IL 60103 (1-800-475-1212, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., CDT)

## For Trade

**FOR TRADE:** Have all Super Bowl teams, 1967-1988; in very good to excellent condition. Will trade any two of them for one of the following baseball teams with extras: 1971 Pirates, 1973 A's, 1976 Reds, 1978 Yankees, 1979 Pirates, 1981 Dodgers, 1982 Cardinals, 1983 Orioles, 1984 Tigers. Richard Gulezian, One Robinhood Road, Windham, NH 03087-2110

## Leagues

**LEAGUES:** The Federal Baseball League, an existing, well-established play-by-mail league in existence for five years, is looking for experienced PEM managers to take over existing franchises in a 24-team league of all major league players. We have a 162-game schedule, utilizing all

(continued)



super-advanced rules, annual draft, trading; as close as you can get to the real-life thrill of owning your own major league franchise. If interested, write or call: John Soares, 594 Buchanan Street, Hillside, NJ 07205 (201-688-0377)

LEAGUES: Northern New Jersey established face-to-face advanced rules baseball league in Morris County seeks additional managers. We meet every Thursday night from September through March and use both AL and NL players. 100-game regular season followed by playoffs. Call: Keith Peterson (201-361-4419)

LEAGUES: The Continental S-O-M Rotisserie League (CSRL) has one managerial opening and needs backups for its AL PBM league. We also seek candidates for NL franchises. The CSRL features a preseason rookie draft featuring limited drafting of minor leaguers; a Rotisserie-style player contract system complete with player salaries and free agency; computerized injury determination; organized winter league meetings; quarterly newsletters; weekly standings; an official colorized league logo and all the frills; and much more. Most importantly, we ensure excellence and enjoyment through active hands-on management of league and franchise affairs. Interested? Then call or write and ask for our recruiting package. Don't join another league until you see what the CSRL has to offer. Ed Carpenter, 709 Kensington Lane, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013 (313-647-0447)

LEAGUES: Two Toronto face-to-face baseball leagues are seeking new managers for both the upcoming season and as backups. The leagues use both advanced and super-advanced rules and are in their fifth and 10th years, respectively. All replies will be promptly answered. For information, write or call: John Walsh (416-429-0014 evenings; 416-482-8422 days), or write:

John Walsh, 5 Vicora Linkway  
Apt. 1401, Don Mills, Ontario,  
Canada,, M3C 1A6

LEAGUES: Last chance. The prestigious NAFA, PBM football league is expanding for the last time to 24 teams (three openings). The eighth season will feature continuous ownership, phone draft, some face-to-face games and awards for participation. Basic requirement is personal commitment. Contact: Mike Macher, 415 Walnut St., Middlesex, NJ 08846 (201-469-9331)

LEAGUES: The United States Hockey League has two rare openings as we are losing a pair of veteran coaches. Replacements are needed for the 1990-91 season. We are a serious S-O-M PBM hockey league, with members including bankers and lawyers. We require a strict adherence to dates and deadlines. We are looking for mature coaches only, who can make a long-term commitment and can handle the rigors of an 80-game schedule. If you believe you qualify, send a personal resume detailing who you are to: USHL, 995 Plum Tree Dr., Crystal Lake, IL 60014. We want to fill the positions as soon as possible, so don't delay in writing.

LEAGUES: Coast to Coast Baseball League (CTCBL) is a highly successful 20-team PBM league. The CTCBL features: 1. Face-to-face winter meeting; 2. An operating budget to ensure league success; 3. Responsible, honest, fanatical group of franchise owners; 4. Weekly standings, quarterly newsletters and yearbook; 5. A unique sophisticated playing format, including limited drafting of minor league talent, rotating administrative duties, etc. The CTCBL is seeking mature, honest managers to fill one National League franchise and backup franchises in both leagues. We are the No. 1 PBM league in the United States, just ask the guys copying us. For more information, please respond  
(continued)



with appropriate detail and SASE to: Robert Smith, 2124 East 69th Street, 1st Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11234

**LEAGUES:** Armchair Football League is getting ready to enter its fourth season and currently has openings available. We offer a 14-game format that allows coaches to play their own home games. We use the super-advanced football rules with many innovations that have been featured in the Review. Please send resume of gaming experience to: Joe Hornback, 5010 E. Cheyenne Dr. #1028, Phoenix, AZ 85044

**LEAGUES:** Basketball enthusiast, a continuous ownership, 24-team, advanced S-O-M Basketball league will have its initial draft this summer. Features include realistic playing restrictions, annual rookie draft plus some interesting innovations. Schedule of 44 games runs from November through March. Contact: John Storer, 5736 Crabapple Way, Milford, OH 45150 (513-575-9720)

**LEAGUES:** Super-advanced PBM baseball league seeks managers. Realism stressed, reliability demanded. April-September season, draft league. Carl Kieke, 1417 N. 7th #2, Abilene, TX 79601 (915-673-3553; call anytime before midnight Central time)

**LEAGUES:** Coaches needed for two immediate openings in an established PBM hockey league for 1990-91 season. Teams currently vacant are New Jersey (including such stars as Carpenter, Burke, Terreri, Sundstrom, Flatley, Lowe, John MacLean and Verbeek) and Quebec (including players such as Kurri, Stastny, Steve Duchesne, Federko, Malarchuk and Sakic). No guarantees as to how long vacancies will last but waiting list will be established for any other openings that become available. Must have good solid hockey and

S-O-M experience as well as good organization to meet strict deadlines. For those interested, drop a short letter with S-O-M experience and some personal background or call: Russ Madle, FHL Commissioner, 238 Wood Glen Lane, Oak Brook, IL 60521-1535 at 708-834-7877 week nights after 7 p.m. CDT. Rookie draft will be held on Labor Day weekend, with play beginning sometime in October, 1990.

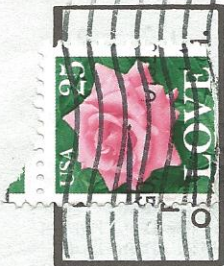
**LEAGUES:** Nationwide Draft League is seeking backup managers. Entering our ninth season, the NDL is a 10-team PBM league using NL players and advanced rules. We play a relaxed 160-game schedule which runs from April through November. Most of our members play by computer. While our turnover isn't high, we are always looking for reliable backups. For more information, send SASE to: Robert Dyer, 3104 NW 61st St., Oklahoma City, OK 73112. All inquiries will be answered.

**LEAGUES:** Roberto Clemente Memorial Baseball League, a PBM draft league in existence for 10 years, is looking for one more manager. We have 14 teams (seven in each league). We play a 162-game schedule, annual draft, trading and a good time. If interested, write or call: Doug Crandall, Box 161, Deerfield, KS 67838 (316-426-2532)

## Contests

**CONTEST:** 10th annual Lyman Bostock Memorial Tournament. Featuring five big events, July 14-15, 1990, in Portage, IN, at the Holiday Inn (Gigi and Pavillion rooms): Super-advanced baseball, football and hockey are two-day events. Backup tournaments Sunday only are advanced baseball and super-advanced football (old version). Trophies are awarded to all winners and runnersup. No teams will be reserved in advance; we will draw numbers for team selection. Entry fee is (continued on back page)





STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW  
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\*\*\*\*\*

### 10th annual tournament planned for July 14-15

(continued from page 23)

\$22. For further information, contact me at the following address and number. If writing, please enclose a long SASE. James Sanders, 2149 McKinley St., Gary, IN 46404 (1-219-944-8339)

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### Readers roll 'em

(continued from page 5)

I would like to wish the "boys (and girl) from Kalamazoo" continued success and a big thank you for keeping all of us informed through the years. I am looking forward to another great year of the Strat-O-Matic Review.

FRANK DYER  
River Falls, WI