

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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* VOL. 21, JUNE, 1991 *
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Options available as Review ^{K2}phases out

As all of the readers of the Strat-O-Matic Review are probably aware of by now, the Review will soon cease to publish - after 20 years churning out stories, and running playing tips, letters and ads devoted to S-O-M games.

We are, as a result, trying to jam into this issue and the next one as much as possible.

Some of the readers will still have back issues of the Review coming even after the July issue. The Review is offering a couple of options to fulfill that obligation.

One option would be to request back issues of the S-O-M Review to fill out the subscription.

Another would be to take out an ad(s) in exchange for issues still owed.

And a third option has become available, thanks to Glenn Guzzo, the editor and publisher of the soon-to-be-available "Strat Fan," a monthly publication that will be devoted to S-O-M games and fans (it was mentioned in the May issue of the Review).

Guzzo has agreed to honor issues of the Review still owed. But since his publication will be larger and more expensive to produce, the ratio for exchange will be as listed in the article that follows that was written by Guzzo.

Customers will be allowed only one of the options, however, for the sake of bookkeeping. In other words, a Review customer can't ask for two back issues of the Review, one issue of "Strat Fan" and also place an ad (in lieu of owed issues of the Review).

Of course, advertising is still being accepted for the July issue of the Review. And back issues of the Review (see list of what's available on next page) can be ordered separately for \$1 per issue.

To receive one of the options, check which option you prefer (if back issues, be sure to list month(s) and year(s) wanted).

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Back issues of the Review

Send to:

Place an ad in the July issue

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

Future issues of Strat Fan

Here's list of back issues available

- 1991 - All back issues sold out.
1990 - All issues available.
1989 - All issues available.
1988 - All issues available, except April.
1987 - All issues available.
1986 - All issues available.
1985 - Jan., March, July, August, Oct., Nov., Dec. all available.
1984 - Jan., Feb., May, August only issues available.
1983 - Feb., March, July, Oct., Nov., Dec. available.
1982 - March, August, Sept., Nov., Dec. available.
1981 - Feb., March, July, Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. available.
1980 - July, Nov., Dec.
1979 - Sept., Oct., Dec. only issues available.
1978 - Jan., Feb., April, May, June, August, Oct., Nov., Dec.
1977 - Nov., Dec. only issues available.
1976 - Nov., Dec. only issues available.
1975 - Jan., July, August only issues available.
1974 - Dec. only issue available.

Note that the Dec., 1988 Review included an article, by Randy Marty, dealing with how-to-play-by-mail in baseball.

And the Jan., 1988 issue had, in addition to the preseason fielding ratings, an article by former major league pitcher Tony Brizzolara, reflecting on S-O-M Base-ball.

'Strat Fan' one of options

By GLENN GUZZO, Editor and Publisher of Strat Fan

The unhappy news of the Review's departure surely has created some anxiety and confusion. This article helps address uncertainty about the "new publication" mentioned in the May Review.

The new monthly magazine, "Strat Fan," will debut in September. You will see a brochure very soon in the game company's summer mailing. Pay special attention to the limited-time subscription discount offer.

In some ways, Strat Fan will pick up where the Review leaves off. We are going to work very hard to continue what Review editor Del Newell described last month as the Review's proudest accomplishment: Providing "the link" that lets all in the Strat-O-Matic world talk to each other.

The continuity will be easier because of the familiar lineup of contributors to Strat Fan: Jim Battista, Judy Goldberg, Dick Hunt, Luke Kraemer, John Kreuz, John Lamanna, Chris Rosen, Mack Smith and Stan Watson among them.

You may recognize me as a professional journalist who has played Strat-O-Matic for nearly 30 years and has written about our hobby for (continued on next page)

the Review and other publications for nearly two decades.

Strat Fan will be professionally written, edited, designed and printed. Each issue will contain at least 16 letter-size pages, most with color, and eight sheets (48 cards) of facsimile Strat-O-Matic cards.

These cards, perforated and on the same cardboard stock as the game company uses, will be cards that Strat-O-Matic has never published (e.g. individual hitting cards for pitchers, extra players for current and past seasons, advanced-side cards for Hall-of-Famers, the 1951 Dodgers and Giants) and reprints of cards no longer available from the game company (e.g. the 1975 Reds and Red Sox, the 1982-83 76ers, etc.)

Since only the game company knows the exact card-making formula, Strat Fan's original cards won't be exactly as Strat-O-Matic might have made them, but they will be very close.

They are published by Strat Fan with the permission of the game company.

STRAT FAN WILL BE FOR EVERYONE

By publishing the equivalent of 32 letter-sized pages (including the cards) per month - nearly triple the size of the Review - Strat Fan will be able to recognize that baseball is king in the Strat-O-Matic world, but still offer monthly, substantial content on basketball, football and hockey.

Strat Fan will be for board gamers and computer gamers; solitaire, face-to-face and play-by-mail players; replayers, draft leaguers and tournament players; basic, advanced and super-advanced gamers.

Strat Fan will emphasize useful information: News, card ratings, playing tips, game innovations, strategy and expert advice on who to draft and how to be a better S-O-M manager/coach.

But it will also reflect the human side of our hobby - from interviews with Harold Richman (S-O-M's creator and president) and hobby celebrities to features on interesting gamers.

SUBSCRIBERS CAN PARTICIPATE IN STRAT FAN

Subscribers will be able to participate in many, many ways.

A few of them: Help interview special guests on "The Talk Show;" elect members to the Strat Hall-of-Fame; join scouting bureaus to help evaluate the pros, Strat-style; enter monthly contests (crosswords, trivia, ratings predictions) to win card sets, subscription extensions and other merchandise; place classified ads.

You may have guessed that Strat Fan will be more expensive to produce than the Review. Yes, it will cost more to subscribe (at least \$25) and to advertise. But everywhere we have discussed Strat Fan, we have encountered excitement, and we believe the value will be apparent.

SPECIAL OFFER TO REVIEW SUBSCRIBERS

If your subscription to the Review extends beyond the July issue and you do not opt for any of the compensatory offers made by the Review, you may choose to get issues of Strat Fan instead.

1-3 issues of the Review remaining: 1 issue of Strat Fan
4-6 issues of the Review remaining: 2 issues of Strat Fan
7-9 issues of the Review remaining: 3 issues of Strat Fan

And so on.

If you wish to select this option, we will need to know by July

Winberry organizes all-computer league

Brizzolara, Watson, Smith among managers playing Version 2

Bob Winberry is a hands-on computer programmer. He's Strat-O-Matic's computer programmer and the creator of Version 2.

But he doesn't just create computer products for S-O-M; he also plays S-O-M computer products.

Winberry signed up nine other computer gamers and formed a league using the Version 2 game, which all the managers play and have in their "stadiums."

The following is an account of the formation of the first all-Version 2 computer league by Bob Winberry:

"I'm going to start a computer league to test out the Version 2 game," I told my wife. Being the new parents of twins doesn't leave much spare time in our lives. But my wife is an understanding lady, so she said "Okay, but just make sure you don't draft Dave Rohde." Rohde, needless to say, is her least favorite player.

Thus the V.O.M.L. was born. After gathering the names of perspective managers, I settled on nine highly dedicated gamers. The list includes some pretty impressive names from the Strat-O-Matic world - Tony Brizzolara (ex-major league pitcher), Mack Smith and Stan Watson, among others.

COMPUTER MANAGER HANDLES VISITING TEAM

The concept of this league is slightly different than your normal play-by-mail league. All 10 managers own IBM compatible computers and the Strat-O-Matic Version 2 computer game.

All league games will be played on computer. The visiting team will be handled by the computer manager, using the strategy specified by that team's manager.

Gone are the days of the three-page road instructions. The sheet of instructions is one simple page. Lineups, substitutions and tendencies are listed along with the starting pitchers. The home manager simply enters this information into the computer before the game begins.

Then the computer manager kicks in for the visiting team - it handles all of the managerial duties basing its decisions on the strategies selected by the visiting team's manager.

This method of league play is very enjoyable. You no longer have to keep track of what moves you should be making for the visiting team. Instead, you manage "head-to-head" against the computer manager. This allows you to concentrate on your own team and the task of guiding it to victory.

ALL-COMPUTER LEAGUE HAS MANY ADVANTAGES

Also, using the computer manager for league play avoids errors of omission in the instructions. If the visiting manager fails to specify which pinch-hitter to use, it's not a problem. The computer manager will choose an appropriate pinch-hitter if one is not specified.

Having a computer-only league also helps if someone is falling a little behind schedule. If you don't have the time to play a league game and you're coming up to a deadline, there's no need to panic. Simply program in the strategy for your opponent's team and your team. Then let the computer play the game in "Quickplay" mode. In less than a minute (on an average 286 machine) you're back on schedule.

One problem to be solved was the statistics. Having 10 computers means having 10 different places where the stats are stored. We needed

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a way to consolidate these 10 databases into one.

The solution is provided by the Version 2 Accessory disk (recently available from S-O-M). At the end of the month each manager ships the commissioner of the league a copy of his stats disk. The commissioner uses the Accessory disk to merge these 10 stats disks into one "report league."

He can then print out all of the stats for the entire league and include them in the monthly newsletter. He can even ship a copy of this "report league" back to each manager so they can display the full league stats on their computers.

Another thing we decided was to shut off the Super Advanced pitcher fatigue option. We prefer to control our pitching rotations manually using special rules we devised for our league.

The Version 2 computer game has a lot of flexibility in this area - it lets you pick and choose which options you wish to play with.

SANDBERG FIRST PLAYER DRAFTED

Anyway, the teams in our league are spread throughout the country - four in New York, two in Atlanta and one each in Florida, California, Kansas and Washington. We are a National League only, no DH league.

The league includes some interesting teams and ballparks. For example, one entry is the "Elwood Simpsons" (managed by Mike Graham; they play their home games in "The House That Homer Built").

Our inaugural draft was a blast. Stan Watson had the honor of drafting first and he went with Ryne Sandberg. I, acting as the newly named G.M. of the Twinberries (we play our home games in the Double-Dome) was able to grab Ramon Martinez sixth.

The rest of the nine-hour draft seems like a blur now. By the time the 30th round rolled around, I was exhausted and perhaps this contributed to what occurred. In that last round I made my biggest blunder of the draft. A mistake that I am sure will never stop haunting me. How could one make such a mistake in the last round of a draft? Simple - I took Dave Rohde!

P.S. Shortly after this was written, I swung an eight-player deal with Mack Smith. Guess which player on my roster was included? Hint: It wasn't Ramon Martinez.

Version 2 1990 team disk correction

Bob Winberry also sent along a correction for the 1959 Version 2 Team Disk:

"We have discovered a problem with Chicago on the V2 1959 Team Disk. On the disk, Chicago's team name and nickname both contain superfluous spaces.

"In order to correct the problem you should perform the following procedure on your 1959 Team Disk (on floppy or hard drive).

"Load the SOMUTIL program and enter the "General Manager" functions. Choose "Team Maintenance" and then select to "Update An Existing Team." Select the league ("1959 NL") and then choose the team ("1-Chicago"). Hit the enter key nine times and the file will be saved to your diskette.

"The above procedure will fix the problem with the 1959 Team Disk. In order to prevent the problem with teams you create yourself, you should avoid using long team names and nicknames. The total of the team name and nicknames should not exceed 28 characters."

Bo Jackson biggest impact player

Three TBA tournaments have been played

Bo Jackson may not be available when draft time in 1992 comes around. But John Kreuz, who knows Table Baseball Association tournaments, says Bo's the main man when drafting this year (based on the '90 season).

"Bo's power overcomes his defensive shortcomings," says Kreuz. "In the first three TBA tournaments, teams that had Bo on them finished in the top four every time."

"What people are doing is starting Bo in center field - he has more power than any other center fielder - and then switching him to left in the later innings."

"There's a pleasant dispute going on (among TBA gamers) over who is the best center fielder: Dykstra, Van Slyke or Griffey. I maintain it's Bo because of his power. If he's in a home run ballpark, he could hit 50 home runs. Remember, he didn't bat that many times (449 counting walks)."

Kreuz also cites Bo's -4 throwing arm. His liability, of course, is that he's an el6. But he's a "3" in center and "2" in left. And he's fast, too.

POWER HITTERS ARE IN DEMAND

"There's a need for power with this card set," continues Kreuz. "The on-base percentages are down and the need for power is up greatly. Jose Canseco would be my No. 2 choice as an impact player."

"Canseco has got the closest card to Kevin Mitchell's card last year. He strikes out a lot, but I'd rather see those Ks than groundball As."

Ryne Sandberg, although he admittedly has trouble against lefties, "is still the most important card overall," says Kreuz. "He does it all. He still, even though he doesn't hit lefties that well, has more power versus left-handed pitchers than any other second basemen."

After those two, Kreuz, who's officially retired from TBA gaming after winning the World Championship in January, says he would pick Rickey Henderson No. 3. Then it would be Barry Bonds.

Among the pitchers, Ramon Martinez, Danny Darwin and Dennis Eckersley are usually among the first selections. "Nolan Ryan is another good pick," says Kreuz. "He always keeps a team in the game." Roger Clemens is another who's always among the top five pitchers drafted.

Sometimes a manager will take Clemens over Martinez and Darwin, but Kreuz says that's usually because of Clemens' name.

FOUR-WAY TIE IN L.A.

Three TBA tournaments have been completed to date, including one in Los Angeles that saw four managers tie for first place.

"One of them, Peter Lewis of San Francisco, had already signed up for the World Tournament. That was one of the tiebreakers and, as a result, Lewis was declared the winner," says Kreuz.

Sean Riley, Long Beach; Brian Veneski, Fresno; and David Greenbaum of Walnut, all shared second place. "All of the top four were from California," points out Kreuz.

Riley and Greenbaum are 17 years old, prompting Kreuz to remark: "That was the first time that two people that young went that far in a TBA tournament. Greenbaum hadn't even seen the cards until the afternoon of the draft."

The season-opening TBA was held in Newark, NJ, and Mike Naidus of Philadelphia took home the first-place check. Chuck Pugsley, Cranston, RI, and the brother duo of Ed and Bryan Eichenbaum of South Amboy, NJ,

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shared second. Joe Sheehan of New York city was fourth.

In Chicago, not far from Kreuz's home base (Glenview, IL), veteran TBA gamer Bill Meinhardt of Allston, MA, was the winner. Meinhardt, you may recall, was the 1990 regular-season points champion and had moved into No. 1 lifetime with 964 points accumulated in TBA tournaments.

Meinhardt earned 56 points for his victory in Chicago. "Bill's parents live in Chicago," says Kreuz. "So he decided to visit his parents and take in a TBA tournament."

The ties continued, however, as three gamers tied for second in Chicago: Kevin Vadrine, Mt. Prospect, IL; Chuck Zielesch, Kenosha, WI; and Brad Wilkens, Oakdale, MN.

Note that in both the Newark and Chicago tournaments, the four finalists all represented four different states.

TBA POINT STANDINGS - 1991

1. tie, Bill Meinhardt, Allston, MA.....56
Mike Naidus, Philadelphia, PA...56
3. Chuck Pugsley, Cranston, RI.....55
4. Peter Lewis, San Francisco, CA.....51
5. Joe Sheehan, New York, NY.....38
6. Sean Riley, Long Beach, CA.....36
7. Brian Veneski, Fresno, CA.....35
8. David Greenbaum, Walnut, CA.....30
9. Ed-Bryan Eichenbaum, So. Amboy, NJ...29
10. tie, Chuck Zielesch, Kenosha, WI....26
Kevin Vadrine, Mt. Prospect, IL....26

Upcoming TBA Tournaments

- May 31-June 2 - Chicago
June 14-16 - Newark
June 21-23 - Sacramento
June 28-30 - Chicago

July 12-14 - New York
(Long Island)
July 19-21 - Dallas
July 26-28 - Chicago

LIFETIME TBA POINT STANDINGS

1. Bill Meinhardt, Allston, MA.....1033
2. Bob Scofield, Stratford, CT.....603
3. Kevin Vadrine, Mt. Prospect, IL....513
4. Bill Fenlon, Chicago, IL.....444
5. Greg Jeffrey, Jersey City, NJ.....430
6. Peter Lewis, San Francisco, CA.....396
7. Will Roberts, Leonia, NJ.....391
8. Jeff Schwarze, Carol Stream, IL....371
9. Scott Kuklinski, Palatine, IL.....355
10. Chuck Pugsley, Cranston, RI.....299

* Note that the lifetime TBA point standings include only gamers who have signed up for at least one TBA tournament in 1991.

For more information about TBA tournaments, write or call:

John Kreuz
4732 Laurel
Glenview, IL 60025
(1-312-635-6747)

Strat-O-Matic spotlight

Jeff Schwarze, of Carol Stream, IL, was among the first gamers to write after it was revealed in the May issue that the Review would soon cease publication.

Schwarze, an actuary for a Chicago insurance company, has played Strat-O-Matic since 1980 and is a battle-tested veteran of TBA tournaments, having played in more than 20 (he's currently eighth on the all-time points list).

He created the TBA guide, which rates all the players, for John Kreuz.

Before the last issue of the Review rolls off the presses, Schwarze wanted to make sure his "Christmas Wish List" to the game company was

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Columbus league 'insured' of success

Half of managerial lineup works with National Insurance

The Greater Columbus (OH) Baseball League, because of its managerial lineup and its share-the-wealth yearly team standings, is all but insured of success.

With half of its managers employed by Nationwide Insurance, the GCBL has built-in longterm security. And since all four years of the league have seen a different champion, the interest level has remained high.

The GCBL is a face-to-face, super-advanced draft league that uses predominately National League cards. It plays a 160-game schedule from February to October and games are played at each manager's convenience. There are four "Strat Fests" in which all members gather for a full day of S-O-M.

Each team retains 20 players from the previous season's roster and the GCBL does allow each team to have two American League players on its roster.

The draft, conducted in reverse order of finish from last season, is strictly from National League cards.

DIVISION CHAMPS HAVE SAME RECORD

The regular-season standings had Philadelphia, managed by Scott Jeggle, winning the Red Division and Frank Zidonis' Chernobyl Glowbugs capturing the Blue, both with 97-63 records.

In the World Series, Philadelphia defeated Chernobyl, 4-2, making the GCBL four-for-four in crowning a new champion.

Four of the games were decided by one run and another was a 2-0 victory by Chernobyl in game two as Frank Viola and Rick Aguilera combined on a six-hitter.

Aguilera, interestingly, had a hand in the outcome of the first four games. He served up a two-run, top-of-the-9th-inning home run to Von Hayes that gave Philadelphia a 5-4 win in the opener. Aguilera got the save in game two and the win in game three (2-1), coming on in relief and notching victory when Andre Dawson doubled in the winning run in the 10th inning.

In game four, Aguilera was the loser (record: 1-2 with one save). He couldn't protect a 3-2 lead in the ninth inning, as RBI singles by Mike Davis and Eric Davis, with two outs, pinned the defeat on him.

Philadelphia broke a 2-2 series tie by winning game five, 6-1, as Scott Garrelts got the win. Scott Bradley and Von Hayes homered for the winners.

Game six, which was like two games in one, was the finale. It lasted 19 innings and wasn't decided until Pedro Guerrero doubled in Von Hayes, who was hit by a pitch, and Dennis Eckersley got the last three outs for the victory.

A turning point in the game occurred in the 16th inning when Orel Hershisier, who had already pitched 6 2/3 innings in relief for Chernobyl, was injured. Mark Grant was his replacement and eventually the losing pitcher.

"It was a classic way to end a classic series," said Jeggle, 28, the GCBL's commissioner since its inception who won his first title. "The major leagues can only dream of having this much drama in their October Classic."

Kevin Mitchell (.294, 46 home runs, 135 RBI) of the Lincoln Continentals was MVP and Sid Fernandez (21-5, 2.06 ERA) of the Oxford Blues was Cy Young award winner.

Now here's a look at the managerial lineup for the GCBL:

SCOTT JEGGLE, 28 (Philadelphia Fuhrera), group actuary Nationwide
(continued on next page)

Insurance...Commissioner of GCBL; also founded Greater Cincinnati Baseball League in 1985.

DARL BROOKS, 25 (Oxford Blues), life actuary at Nationwide...Original GCBL member...Won division titles in 1987 and '89.

RICHARD KELCH, 27 (Newark Nitros), research engineer...Guided Nitros to .500 after taking over as mid-season replacement.

KEVIN RINGS, 28 (Springfield Sabres), attorney for city of Marietta, OH...Original member...1988 division champ.

DAVE BARNES, 27 (Barnesville Brewers), programmer at Nationwide...Second year in GCBL...Team philosophy: "Keep ambulances warmed up (team led league in injury days)."

FRANK ZIDONIS, 30 (Chernobyl Glowbugs), financial controller...Original member...1987 World Series champ...Team philosophy: "Quick feet and quick substitutions."

JOHN STRYKER, 28 (Lincoln Continentals), pension actuary at Nationwide...Original member...Won 1989 World Series...Counts on speed to power Continentals.

JOE CORDIANO, 17 (Bronx Bombers), student...Second-year in GCBL.

BRIAN SAY, 15 (Cooperstown Titans), student...Second-year in league...Team philosophy: "Keep it close through nine."

BOB KUBA, 32 (Canton Bulldawgs), life actuary at Nationwide...Third year...Greatest managerial fear: grounding into double plays (led league).

Standings and leaders:

Red Division	Won-Lost	GB	Blue Division	Won-Lost	GB
Philadelphia	97 63	-	Chernobyl	97 63	-
Oxford	85 75	12	Lincoln	93 67	4
Newark	80 80	17	Bronx	76 84	21
Springfield	75 85	22	Cooperstown	75 85	22
Barnesville	61 99	36	Canton	61 99	36

Batting

Gwynn LIN	.333
W.Clark CHER	.332
H.Brooks COOP	.330
Puckett HAYS	.325
Boggs OXF	.323

Home Runs

Mitchell LIN	46
Esasky FARM	43
Sandberg LIN	38
G.Davis LIN	35
J.Carter CHER	34

RBI

Mitchell LIN	135
Esasky FARM	128
W.Clark CHER	123
Guerrero PHIL	107
H.Brooks COOP	104

R: V.Hayes PHIL 113

2B: Boggs OXF 53

3B: Coleman HAYS 11

Bonilla COOP 11

W.Clark CHER 11

SB: O.Nixon LIN 73

Gwynn LIN 59

Coleman HAYS 58

H: Gwynn LIN 221

W.Clark CHER 212

BB: J.Clark BARN 121

E: R.Alomar BARN 39

K: Esasky FARM 149

GIDP: Franco HAYS 25

Pendleton CHER 25

DMDTI: McDowell LIN 57

HBP: L.Smith LIN 14

SB%: Walton COOP 83.3%

Wins

Fernandez OXF	21-6
Ryan COOP	21-10
DeLeon LIN	20-6
Cone PHIL	19-6
Smiley LIN	18-11
Magrane PHIL	18-12
Strikeouts	
Ryan COOP	347
Clemens FARM	238
Cone PHIL	205
DeLeon LIN	203
Langston BARN	202

ERA

Fernandez OXF	2.06
Ryan COOP	2.13
Scott COOP	2.38
Glavine CHER	2.57
Cone PHIL	2.78
Hershiser CHER	2.88

SH: Ryan COOP 4

SA: D.Smith OXF 29

Dibble FARM 29

Eckersley PHIL 28

IP: Hershiser CHER 271

CG: Fernandez OXF 13

HRA: Drabek CHIL 29

L: Sutcliffe HAYS 9-21

Gross BARN 7-20

Key: GIDP - Grounded into doubleplays; DMDTI - Days missed due to injury; SB% - Stolen base percentage.

Replays are always learning experience

Managing S-O-M team isn't just rollin' dice

RUSSELL SCHROEDER, Pell Lake, WI

I subscribe to a magazine from Morton Grove, IL, named "Nostalgia Digest." Occasionally there are articles on big bands and other items that I'm not the least bit interested in. However, the other articles about old radio shows, profiles and letters from other subscribers (particularly from senior citizens) are interesting and very stimulating.

What does this have to do with anything?

It pertains to Mark Frobom's second letter giving the Review a "second chance." I think he made a good move. I also think he realizes that it's better to stick around and try to change things for the better than to just bow out.

Mark has made some valid points, but all he might be saying is what I believe, that is: "Hey out there. No matter how your season turns out -- send in the results. We want to see them."

If we don't laugh at Roger Maris hitting 78 home runs, or Nolan Ryan striking out 450, then we won't laugh at anything.

REPLAY IS LEARNING EXPERIENCE

I just sent in my 1983 White Sox replay and I didn't do that well. But I'll tell you, there is a lot to be learned from a replay and its results. With the 1983 Chicago team, a simple change in the batting order might have produced five or six more wins.

In reply to Kevin Cavanaugh's letter in the April, 1991 Review: I agree about how much fun it is to speculate and pit teams from different eras.

Also, I can't say that draft leagues are bad because that is one terrific way to bring gamers together. This type of season makes for some interesting numbers and results, also.

However, I disagree with his comment about spending hundreds of hours on a replay when you know what the results will be.

I must say that if I felt this way, I wouldn't have undertaken the tremendous project of a complete season replay of 1927. I have played 115 games as of this writing and I figure this project will be finished by the year 2001. That's at the rate of four games per week.

This is by far the most interesting project I've ever been involved with. The 1927 season is a wonderfully done set. Harold Richman (Strat-O-Matic's creator) and the game company outdid themselves on it.

It lends itself nicely to many important managerial decisions: i.e., hit-and-run, lots of bunting and key pinch-hitting and running moves. I've already made some great decisions and a couple of blunders.

JUST WHEN YOU THINK IT'S SAFE...

Managing in Strat-O-Matic is not as easy as some people think. You could be happily rolling dice for five innings, then, pow! Man on third, one out, you're ahead only 2-1 and playing the Reds, who can explode at any moment, triggering a big inning.

Do you go infield in or back? If you concede the run, it's tied. New ball game. You get the idea.

So if you match a team's wins exactly for a season, you should get a pat on the back. You earned it.

That's why Strato is an excellent game, because it is set up to challenge your decision-making role.

P.S. to Mark Frobom: I'd like to see all your statistics from 1927.

Replay of '27 season mirrors real life

11

Ruth raps 62 homers; team finishes mirror real life

David Kaylor of Harleysville, PA, turned back the clock, thanks to Strat-O-Matic Baseball, 64 years.

Kaylor, who's replayed the 1956 season and found that enjoyable, replayed the 1927 season and found that "much more exciting."

"Not only did I have the known stars (Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Paul Waner, Rogers Hornsby, Frankie Frisch, George Sisler, etc.), but I also had the end of great careers like Ty Cobb, Tris Speaker, Eddie Collins, Max Carey, Zack Wheat and Walter Johnson. Also there was the beginning of great careers like Mel Ott, Jimmy Foxx, Lefty Grove, Bill Terry and Gabby Hartnett.

"This blend of past, present and future Hall of Famers made this season an ideal one to play."

TEAM STANDINGS VERY ACCURATE

The team standings for '27 were right-on with real-life. Every team finished in its exact position. Pittsburgh and the New York Yankees won pennants, with each posting a 103-51 record.

Six of the American League teams, Kaylor points out, came within two games of their actual win totals.

On an individual basis, Ruth crushed 62 home runs, lost the RBI title to teammate Gehrig on the last day of the season (156-155) and Al Simmons (.409) of the A's and Detroit's Harry Heilmann (.404) both bettered the coveted .400 plateau.

Realism was also reflected in the numbers for individual players as one-fifth of the players had their exact averages or were within one hit of it.

The Pirates surprised by winning as many games as the Yankees -- they clinched the title a day earlier than the Bronx Bombers -- as Lee Meadows went from a 19-10 pitching record to a career mark of 30-5! Waner led N.L. hitters with a .383 average and drove in a league-high 123 runs.

All told, the Bucs had seven of the top 10 hitters, including an all .300-plus batting infield. The Giants also had a .300 hitting infield.

Other N.L. highlights included Cincinnati's pitching staff tossing 15 shutouts; the Phillies had five .300 hitters, the league's home run king (Cy Williams, 29) and the worst pitching in the N.L.; and Brooklyn improved by 10 games over real-life.

RUTH SIZZLES AT SEASON'S END

Over in the American League, Ruth, Gehrig and Co. got off to a 19-2 start and eventually coasted in with a 12-game bulge. The Yanks did win seven fewer games than real-life, however.

Ruth, as in real life, had a sizzling finish, homering 16 times in August. Earle Combs had a remarkable 32 triples (23 actual) and 248 hits.

Simmons, although playing in only 101 games because of injuries, had 126 RBI and, thanks to a 21-game stretch during which he batted over .500, hit the lofty .409. Heilmann chased Simmons -- and even passed him by a fraction of a point with a week to go -- and finished runner-up with a .404 average.

YANKEES BREAK OUT BROOMS

Just as in real life, the Yankees swept the Pirates in the World
(continued on next page)

Series. The Yankees dominated just one game, however, winning by scores of 2-1 (10 innings), 12-3, 8-7 (10 innings) and 4-2. Ruth ended the final game by belting a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth.

Standings and leaders:

<u>National</u>	<u>Won-Lost</u>	<u>GB</u>	<u>(Actual)</u>	<u>American</u>	<u>Won-Lost</u>	<u>GB</u>	<u>(Actual)</u>		
Pittsburgh	103	51	-	(94-60)	New York	103	51	-	(110-44)
St. Louis	84	69	18.5	(92-61)	Philadelphia	91	63	12	(91-63)
New York	83	71	20	(92-62)	Washington	87	67	16	(85-69)
Chicago	79	74	23.5	(85-68)	Detroit	80	73	22.5	(82-71)
Cincinnati	77	76	25.5	(75-78)	Chicago	78	75	24.5	(70-83)
Brooklyn	75	78	27.5	(65-88)	Cleveland	64	89	38.5	(66-87)
Boston	60	94	43	(60-94)	St. Louis	58	95	44.5	(59-94)
Philadel.	53	101	50	(51-103)	Boston	53	101	50	(51-103)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Batting	Home Runs
P. Waner PIT .383	Williams PHI 29
Barnhart PIT .367	Hornsby NY 24
Hornsby NY .354	Wilson CHI 21
Webb CHI .350	Terry NY 18
Harris PIT .342	

RBI	Wins
P. Waner 123	Meadows PIT 30-5
Bottomley SL 112	Alexander SL 20-12
Hornsby NY 107	Haines SL 20-16
Traynor PIT 105	Kremer PIT 19-8
Grantham PIT 92	Hill PIT 19-13

Strikeouts	ERA
Vance BROK 191	Lucas CIN 2.14
Root CHI 184	Robertson BOS 2.22
May CIN 120	Henry NY 2.47
Hill PIT 110	Meadows PIT 2.53
Grimes NY 109	Kremer PIT 2.56

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Batting	Home Runs
Simmons PHI .409	Ruth NY 62
Heilmann DET .404	Gehrig NY 46
Combs NY .367	Lazzeri NY 21
Ruth NY .363	Simmons PHI 20
Fothergill DET .356	Williams SL 20

RBI	Wins
Gehrig NY 156	Grove PHI 23-10
Ruth NY 155	Shocker NY 21-6
Simmons PHI 126	Lisenbee WAS 21-8
Goslin WAS 117	Lyons CHI 21-13
Heilmann DET 117	Hoyt NY 19-8

Strikeouts	ERA
Grove PHI 181	Pipgras NY 1.73
Walberg PHI 170	Moore NY 1.81
T. Thomas CHI 123	Braxton WAS 2.12
Whitehill DET 119	J. Miller CLE 2.29
Lisenbee WAS 113	Grove PHI 2.43

Baseball playing tip

Stealing streamlined using advanced-game rules

Dennis Sixbey is another gamer who likes to tinker with the Strat-O-Matic Baseball playing rules.

A native of Fairfax, VA, Sixbey's been in a face-to-face league since 1983 and he and his gaming chums "have, on occasion, come up with an idea to streamline play."

One of the playing tips involves base-stealing, using the advanced game. Sixbey developed the chart and, at the urging of some of the league's managers, decided to send it on to the Review.

"I developed it to assist with the advanced game stealing (throwing for catcher's included)," says Sixbey. It assumes that an AAA stealer is 1-19 to steal second, 1-15 to steal third and 1-9 to steal home."

The playing tip also takes into account the use of a "5" catcher. The stealing charts are found on the following page:

ADVANCED BASE STEALING CHARTS

All numbers represent the possibility of being "safe".
Numbers in () are for baserunners that are being held.

BASE STEALING CHART FOR SECOND BASE

Cat. Arm	Base Stealers Rating						
	AAA	AA	A	B	C	D	E
-5	14 (13)	12 (9)	10 (7)	8 (4)	6 (2)	4 (0)	2 (0)
-4	15 (14)	13 (10)	11 (8)	9 (5)	7 (3)	5 (0)	3 (0)
-3	16 (15)	14 (11)	12 (9)	10 (6)	8 (4)	6 (1)	4 (0)
-2	17 (16)	15 (12)	13 (10)	11 (7)	9 (5)	7 (2)	5 (0)
-1	18 (17)	16 (13)	14 (11)	12 (8)	10 (6)	8 (3)	6 (1)
0	19 (18)	17 (14)	15 (12)	13 (9)	11 (7)	9 (4)	7 (2)
+1	19 (19)	18 (15)	16 (13)	14 (10)	12 (8)	10 (5)	8 (3)
+2	19 (19)	19 (16)	17 (14)	15 (11)	13 (9)	11 (6)	9 (4)
+3	19 (19)	19 (17)	18 (15)	16 (12)	14 (10)	12 (7)	10 (5)
+4	19 (19)	19 (18)	19 (16)	17 (13)	15 (11)	13 (8)	11 (6)
+5	19 (19)	19 (19)	19 (17)	18 (14)	16 (12)	14 (9)	12 (7)

BASE STEALING CHART FOR THIRD BASE

Cat. Arm	Base Stealers Rating						
	AAA	AA	A	B	C	D	E
-5	8 (7)	6 (3)	5 (2)	4 (0)	3 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)
-4	9 (8)	7 (4)	6 (3)	5 (1)	4 (0)	3 (0)	2 (0)
-3	10 (9)	8 (5)	7 (4)	6 (2)	5 (1)	4 (0)	3 (0)
-2	11 (10)	9 (6)	8 (5)	7 (3)	6 (2)	5 (0)	4 (0)
-1	12 (11)	10 (7)	9 (6)	8 (4)	7 (3)	6 (1)	5 (0)
0	13 (12)	11 (8)	10 (7)	9 (5)	8 (4)	7 (2)	6 (1)
+1	14 (13)	12 (9)	11 (8)	10 (6)	9 (5)	8 (3)	7 (2)
+2	15 (14)	13 (10)	12 (9)	11 (7)	10 (6)	9 (4)	8 (3)
+3	16 (15)	14 (11)	13 (10)	12 (8)	11 (7)	10 (5)	9 (4)
+4	17 (16)	15 (12)	14 (11)	13 (9)	12 (8)	11 (6)	10 (5)
+5	18 (17)	16 (13)	15 (12)	14 (10)	13 (9)	12 (7)	11 (6)

BASE STEALING CHART FOR HOME

Cat. Arm	Base Stealers Rating						
	AAA	AA	A	B	C	D	E
N/A	9 (8)	7 (4)	6 (3)	5 (1)	4 (0)	3 (0)	2 (0)

How N-HR, ballpark HR factors affect ratings in Strat-O-Matic

By ANTHONY GIACOBBE, New York, NY

This article is about N-HR and ballpark HR factors as applied to ratings. The article is a result of my recent year in the famous Metropolitan Baseball Association. Much to my surprise, I captured the league title in only my first year.

However, as I tried to use ratings effectively, I was continually learning more about the game and the subtle changes affecting the ratings. Some of the information presented here did not become apparent to me until well into the season. I think other managers will benefit from it.

Some of the first part of the article may be too obvious for some people, but most people should benefit from the second part.

ADJUSTING RATINGS FOR BALLPARK HOME RUNS, N-HRs

How many baseball managers play without the use of a ratings system? Few, indeed. But how many of us know how to use the ratings effectively? This article shows the proper ways to adjust ratings for N-HRs and BPHRs. The ratings I use are identical to the system used by John Lamanna (1989 ratings).

A player's total bases (TB) rating is computed by multiplying each hit or walk by the number of chances it has in a given column (Example: a walk on 2 or 12 has a value of 1; a walk on 6 or 8 has a value of 5). If the hit is a double, triple or home run, the value for that hit is multiplied by 2, 3 or 4, respectively. This should be familiar material to most managers.

However, because the ballpark HR number is different for each game, a player's rating may change drastically. To compute the adjustment, simply multiply the number of BPHRs by 4 and then multiply that number by the BPHR divided by 20. This may be illustrated by Kirk Gibson, who rates 53.8 with 7 BPHR.

BPHR	BPHR/20	BPHR/20*4	# of HR	HR Total	Rating	Total
0	0	0	7	0	53.8	53.8
4	.2	.8	7	5.6	53.8	60.4
12	.6	2.4	7	16.8	53.8	70.6
20	1.0	4.0	7	28.0	53.8	81.8

That is simple enough. As you can see, the variation in Gibson's rating is substantial.

However, in each game, Gibson's actual rating will depend on the opposing pitcher. If the pitcher is Mike Bielecki, who rates a 39.6 with 1 BPHR vs. lefties, you must adjust the numbers above as follows: The rating becomes 93.4 (53.8 + 39.6) and the # of HR becomes 8 (7+1).

Compare these ratings to those of Gibson vs. Mike Moore, who rates a 23.5 with 0 BPHR.

BPHR	Gibson vs. Bielecki	Gibson vs. Moore
0	93.4 + 0 = 93.4	77.3 + 0 = 77.3
8	93.4 + 12.8 = 106.2	77.3 + 11.2 = 88.5
10	93.4 + 16 = 109.4	77.3 + 14 = 91.3
15	93.4 + 24 = 117.4	77.3 + 21 = 98.3
20	93.4 + 32 = 125.4	77.3 + 28 = 105.3

So what does this tell you? Well, consider that my other center-
(continued on next page)

fielder is Jerome Walton. Walton rates a 48.4 and is weak vs. righties. Bielecki is a 26.5 with 0 BPHR and Moore is a 27.8 with 3 BPHR vs. righties. If you rate Walton vs. these two pitchers as shown on the previous page, you must make two adjustments because Walton is weak. These adjustments are discussed below.

For now, perform the same computation with one change: do NOT multiply BPHR/20 by 4. This accounts for the fact that the BPHRs on Moore's card should be treated as singles for Walton. Again, this is explained below.

The results are as follows:

BPHR	vs. Bielecki		vs. Moore	
0	Gibson 93.4	Walton 74.9	Gibson 77.3	Walton 76.2
3	Gibson 98.2	Walton 74.9	Gibson 81.5	Walton 76.65
12	Gibson 112.6	Walton 74.9	Gibson 94.1	Walton 78.0
15	Gibson 117.4	Walton 74.9	Gibson 98.3	Walton 78.45

You can see how important these differences can be. The next step would be to estimate the difference in fielding. That's a separate article, however, although I estimated it at 19 points.

By using this information wisely, you can increase your chance of victory by using the most appropriate players.

HOW WEAK BATTERS AFFECT RATINGS

The next issue to consider is what effect a weak batter has on these ratings.

A pitcher's rating vs. a particular batter is computed in the same way as done before. That is, one adds the pitcher's rating to the batter's and sums up the BPHRs.

Let us suppose that Dennis Eckersley is facing Gerald Young, who rates a 35.6 and is weak. Eckersley rates 20.4 with 7 BPHR. Consequently, there are 7 BPHR (on Eckersley's card) that actually represent singles (since Young is weak, W).

Young's rating may be computed as follows: $35.6 + 20.4 + (7 \text{ times BPHR}/20)$. With BPHR 0, Young is a 56.0. With BPHR 20, he is only 63.0. The difference here is that instead of multiplying by the BPHR factor by 4, you multiply it by one as shown above by Walton. (Note: In Lamanna's system, a single** is rated a 1. This is the same as a walk or single*).

However, an additional adjustment must be made. Eckersley's rating of 20.4 includes an N-HR on 4-4 and one on 4-5 with a 1-5 chance.

When computing Eckersley's rating, this was done as follows: (1) (3) (4) = 12 plus (.25) (4) (4) = 4. Thus, of Eckersley's 20.4 rating, 16 points were from the N-HRs. However, if the N-HR was a single, the rating would be (1) (3) (1) = 3 plus (.25) (4) (1) = 1.

Thus, when computing Eckersley's ability to get Young out, Eckersley's rating should be a 8.4 ($20.4 - 16 + 4$). Now, Young drops from 56 (above) to 44.0 ($35.6 + 8.4$) with BPHR 0 and from a 63.0 (above) to 51.0 ($35.6 + 8.4 + 7$) with BPHR 20.

Obviously, this difference can be of tremendous importance when deciding which batter to use and in evaluating your pitcher's true ability to perform vs. weak hitters.

Needless to say, BPHRs and N-HRs can have a tremendous impact on ratings. A gamer who uses ratings must always be aware of the changes that occur in different ballparks and because of different matchups.

Hopefully, this article will help some managers understand these changes a little bit better.

Baseball playing tips

Scouting is important in S-O-M, too

By MICHAEL MACHER, Middlesex, NJ

As commissioner of the North America Football Association (continuous ownership, draft, PBM league) I have offered my thoughts on the statistical and rules side of S-O-M Football and on my view as commissioner.

However, there is a topic which gets very little press in the S-O-M Review -- scouting. Being also a coach, I have a feeling that this information is guarded like Fort Knox because it is a true means of differentiating between an average and good coach.

Few coaches that work hard to predict statistical and S-O-M correlations want to share this information, but as commissioner of a league I want to discuss a few aspects of scouting to increase interest in the S-O-M Football game and hopefully to create more enthusiasm for all draft leagues.

These are the basic steps to scouting S-O-M Football: (1) Know the S-O-M cards; (2) Know your league; (3) Know yourself.

KNOW THE S-O-M CARDS

This is the true key to unlock the secret of scouting any S-O-M sport. Although S-O-M is designed as a replay game and therefore is not totally predictable, there are certain correlations which can be drawn from the NFL statistics.

I will not try to provide all I know, but rather point out two areas to start the thought process - offensive fumbles and defensive sacks.

With offensive fumbles, the NFL stat I look at is the fumbles lost by the team. The approximation (remember replay effect) is as follows: Team A loses 9 fumbles so fumble chance is only roll of 2, Team B loses 12 (F 2-4, 12) or Team C loses 15 (F 2-7). With these good estimates, trading or drafting in the off-season becomes more informed. Many teams want that low-chance fumble for games with late leads.

The second correlation is defensive sacks, which again a little knowledge could aid in your team planning. Sacks correspond fairly close to these values: Defensive lineman has sack number about the same as actual sacks and linebackers have a sack number of twice the actual sacks (as not always rushing the passer).

Therefore, a team with many sacks by the lineman provide an automatic great rush with every guess of 'pass.' Those LBs rated 12 rush and 0 rating should always rush as not losing any coverage skill. A team with no individual sack number over 8 will usually have a slow sack season.

KNOW YOUR LEAGUE

Scouting isn't only looking at the cards. A great perspective can be achieved by reviewing your specific league rules and tendencies.

Some leagues limit the player availability to a subset of the NFL teams. If you know the S-O-M cards you could limit your scouting or suggest teams for eligibility that match your needs.

Also, by evaluating tendencies you should have an idea of how much talent should be available due to expansion, turnover or the number of NFL rookies that made an impact that year. This may influence your decisions on drafting for best team that year or looking to build a consistent team.

(continued on next page)

KNOW YOURSELF

Many coaches have personal philosophies on winning in S-O-M Football, favorite teams or NFL players. Why not heighten the enjoyment of playing the game by scouting the best team for yourself.

Although this analysis is only a small sample of my years of NFL statistic and S-O-M card correlations, hopefully I have shown that with a little extra effort your scouting can lead to a better team.

Most coaches claim to do scouting -- look at cards when issued and their favorite preseason magazine -- but if your league requires off-season cuts or allows off-season trading this enhanced scouting can differentiate you as the "good coach."

Readers roll 'em

LIKES OLD DIAMOND

I really like the Version 2 of Strat-O-Matic Baseball with all its added options and details.

But there is one part of it I dislike compared to the old Version 1 game and that's the baseball diamond, or lack of one in Version 2.

I really liked the old diamond where it had the names of the players running around the bases and the pitcher on the pitcher's mound. It seemed like a real baseball game.

The new screen is more like studying a corporate chart or mathematical survey, with a little diamond at the bottom with little Pac men running the bases. I feel like my natural field has been replaced by artificial turf.

But the solution is simple. All S-O-M has to do is raise the diamond to the center of the screen and once again have the players' names on the diamond where they belong and make this game baseball once again.

BILL HAYES
Acworth, GA

HOCKEY NEEDS CHANGES, TOO

I recently returned to Strat-O-Matic Hockey after an 11-year hiatus from the game and was astonished to find that no alterations, additions or enhancements have been since

then.

Just look at the awesome changes in the baseball game during the 1980s. If gamer Ken Donnelly says football gamers are "second-class citizens," then hockey gamers have got to be considered fourth-class citizens.

The penalty system/chart needs reworking to reflect such things as the 5-minute "intent to injure" major (where the penalized player sits out the entire penalty regardless of how many goals are scored) and bench minors for too-many-men-on-the-ice, etc.

I could understand where perhaps the game company might be reluctant to include a provision for bench-clearing brawls with massive penalties, as that would involve extra "bookkeeping" and slow the game's fluidity. But certainly an optional rule could be introduced.

Also, injuries occur far too infrequently. At least two more injury chances should be added to the split deck, especially since the most a player can be injured is two games.

I also wonder about the inflated stats in some of these hockey draft leagues. In the USHL (March, '91 Review), I see Mario Lemieux with 36 shorthanded goals in 80 games, while the Corona Hockey League (Oct. '90 Review) had Bernie Nichols with 85 goals (26 shorthanded) in only 48 games.

Finally, I've been seeing articles about a "PC Transporter." Isn't that what Scotty operated on the Starship Enterprise?

PHANTOM GAMER, Long Island, NY

Strat-O-Matic league, replay scene

FAITH BAPTIST STRAT-O-MATIC LEAGUE - A face-to-face fun league that gives out almost as many postseason awards as it plays regular-season games...Faith Baptist league has completed eight seasons, plays

98-game schedule and is based in Perkaskie/Sellersville, PA...Russ Hollenbach's Giants defeated George McNair's Pirates in World Series, 4-3, to capture second straight title... Kevin Mitchell (two home runs, seven RBI, .400) was MVP...League has special events committee which plans all-star game, banquet, picnics and draft night...Among the special awards:

"Hangman's Noose" - Choke award (Tim Kuhn); "Bandaged Leg" - Most injuries (Matt Kellogg); "Charlie Brown Blockhead" - Worst first-round draft pick (George McNair); "Trader of Year" - Most trades (Marc Hoover); and "I Can't Roll A Thing" - Bad luck (Arden Mutter)...Latest new rule: With a runner on second base only and GB A, B, C to 1b or 2b, automatically move runner to third base...Dave Justice was first draft pick in most recent draft, being the choice of last year's basement dweller, Matt Kellogg and the Dodgers...Russ Hollenbach sayings that never endear him to the other managers in league: "Wow, a single**". The only hit in the entire column!" "This guy hit .209 in real life, but for me he's hitting .348!" "Man, I can't believe it! My third '1' in a row after rolling a bunch of 2s and a couple of 3s. And you've rolled nothing but 19s and 20s. But I know things will even out. They always do."



Front row from left: Marc Hoover, Russ Hollenbach, Jim Clymer; Back: George McNair, Dale Moe, Tim Kuhn, Matt Kellogg, Arlen Mutter

Standings:				Won-Lost	GB	Won-Lost	GB
Phillies (Tim Kuhn)	63	35	-	Cubs (Dale Moe)	48	50	15
Giants (Russ Hollenbach)	57	41	6	Cards (Marc Hoover)	42	56	21
Astros (Jim Clymer)	53	45	10	Braves (Arlen Mutter)	40	58	23
Pirates (George McNair)	53	45	10	Dodgers (Matt Kellogg)	36	62	27

1989 SEATTLE MARINERS REPLAY - Peter Gillis, Chamblee, GA, guided the Mariners to the same record as real-life (73-89)...Hitting was also almost exact (.254 in replay, .257 actual), while pitching improved in board game (3.76 compared to 4.00 real-life)...Alvin Davis had exactly 498 at-bats, and produced 151 hits (152 actual) and .303 (.305) average...Harold Reynolds, the M's other .300 hitter, batted .307 in the replay compared to .300 actual...Gillis had to overuse some players and pitcher Erik Hanson was one. Although he pitched only 113 innings in real-life, Gillis worked Hanson 240 innings, with Hanson responding with a 16-14 record and 2.82 ERA (9-5, 3.38) and 12 complete games... Henry Cotto led in home runs with 23, although Cotto, who had nine in real-life, batted 259 more times than his actual 295.

Advertisements

Rates per issue are as follows: 25 words or less - \$1.00; 26-50 words - \$2.00; 51-75 words - \$3.00; 75-100 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. Only if S-O-M gives permission in writing will a questionable ad be printed in the Review. 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: Willie McCovey S-O-M game cards for 1960, '61, '64, '67, '68, '70 and '77. Will buy entire team if necessary. Rob. Worthington, 15370 E. Benwood, Moorpark, CA 93021

WANTED: One super reliable manager to join our 20-year-old face-to-face baseball league located on the east side of Cleveland. We play a 162-game schedule using super advanced rules, drafting new teams annually, combining both A.L. and N.L. players. Contact: Neil Brown, 26411 N. Woodland, Beachwood, OH 44122 (216-464-1667)

WANTED: Hockey - 1977-78 through '79-80, '81-82, '83-84 through '85-86 seasons. Please state condition and cost. Chris Malitsky, 3528 Sussex Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19114

WANTED: Commissioners who have tired of the tedious administrative burden required to operate your league. Have you had enough of addressing and stuffing envelopes, licking stamps, making copies, compiling and typing newsletters and standings reports? Of course you have. League Journal provides an alternative. Simply fax, phone or mail results of your league's action and League Journal will do the rest. Within 24 hours of receipt, League Journal will update and distribute a standings/results report to your

managers and coaches. Your latest newsletter will be compiled to your specifications, including league leaders, and distributed within one week of receipt. All this and more for slightly higher than your current costs, without the hassle. For more information, fax, phone or mail your name, address and sport of interest to: League Journal: fax - 201-337-6956; phone - 201-337-7038; mail - P.O. Box 196, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

WANTED: Strat baseball players in Houston area for face-to-face play. Call: Jim (713-666-6451).

WANTED: Baseball - Desperately need 1963 Houston, Senators, Mets; 1964 Twins, A's; 1965 Mets, Senators. Will also buy complete 1963 and '65 sets. Football - 1967 Rams, Colts, Cowboys; '68 Jets; '73 Dolphins. Will also buy complete '67 NFL. Call or write: Casey Verbert, 28-19 21 Avenue, Astoria, NY 11105 (718-721-2859)

WANTED: Football - 1967-1970, complete card sets; prefer good-excellent condition. Please call or write: Robert Miranda, 10919 Newgate Ave., Whittier, CA 90605 (phone: 818-961-1408)

For Sale

FOR SALE: Drafting your own team? Baseball Yardstick is your key to a winning season. Quickly spot best player available each round of the
(continued)

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 a 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 (512-339-3115 evenings and weekends)

FOR SALE: Complete card sets with additional players, in mint condition. Baseball - 1962, 1968, 1984-1988. Hockey - 1977-1978 through 1988-1989. Hockey game with game parts only. IBM computer (Version I) baseball game and season disks for 1962, 1968, 1984-1988. S-O-M Reviews, May 1987 through present issue. Send bids/offers to: Charles Knebel, 1018 Cora Drive, Flint, MI 48532

FOR SALE: 20-sided dice available in red, white, blue or green. Send \$1 each (includes postage) to: David Landsman, 685 West Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1570

FOR SALE: Fanatics - Make your season replay more realistic with Baseball Replay '90. Exact day-by-day 1990 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, 1959, 1961-64, 1967-69, 1985-89 - \$12 each season (roster changes for pre-1985 are trades only). Check or money order to: Glenn Guzzo, 1925 Brickell Ave., #1104, Miami, FL 33129

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1979 NL and AL (minus Yankees). Mint condition, some laminated. \$50. 1982 NL and AL (minus Yankees). Excellent condition. \$40. Doug Day, Route 1, Box 424, Ault, CO 80610 (303-834-2319)

FOR SALE: My 1991 Teams List is bigger than ever with over 1,600 S-O-M Baseball teams from 1927-1989. I also have over 36,000 assorted S-O-M Baseball cards from 1927-1990 and a large assortment of complete sets as well as specially designed storage boxes to hold your Strat-O-Matic gaming cards. For a complete list of teams and other S-O-M related items, send a large SASE with \$1.21 postage on it or send your want list with a SASE (29 cents postage) to: Chris Rosen, 731 Bergen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111 (215-745-5247)

FOR SALE: Baseball cards, 1985 through 1989 seasons, complete, w/extras, excellent and mint condition. All cards must go, due to space considerations. \$30 U.S. or best offer. Write: Lou Israel, 4100 Bouchette, #18, Montreal, Quebec, H3S 1J2 (or call 514-737-4054 after 10 p.m., please). Don't delay - do it today.

FOR SALLE: 1977-78 complete hockey set, \$25. Apple game disk and 1986-1989 roster disks, \$6 each. Baseball cards - 1981 w/o extras, \$20; with extras, \$30. 1987 with extras, \$30. 24 miscellaneous Reviews, Sept. '85 to current, \$6. Reasonable offers accepted; add 15% for postage. Paul Mallo, 298 Shawnessy Dr., Calgary, Alta. T2Y 1M5 (1-403-256-6719)

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1987, 1988 (excellent), \$34 each. Also, copies of S-O-M roster sheets: 1970-74, '76, '77, '79-81 (major league years). \$1 per four seasons. S-O-M Reviews - 1974-1988, 50 cents each. List - Require SASE, I pay postage. Brian Fischel, 2517 Teal Road, Wilmington, DE 19805 (302-994-8682)

FOR SALE: Baseball schedules. Great for S-O-M replays. Every season available. \$1 per season and SASE (continued)

per order. Richard Breest,
1332 Greenlea Drive, Holiday,
FL 34691

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1987 AL and NL (\$35); 1988 NL (\$15); 1989 AL and NL (\$25) and 1990 AL and NL (\$20). Hockey - 1986-87 (\$24); 1987-88 (\$21); 1988-89 (\$18); 1989-90 (\$15). Will consider splitting baseball sets, but would rather not. Cards are ex-mint. Includes extras. Please add \$1 to share the postage. Before mailing money, call for availability. Jim Fell, % SCM Corporation, P.O. Box 338, Marion, IN 46952 (800-428-0211)

FOR SALE: No reasonable offer refused on the following: Baseball - 1982 Expos, Padres, Mariners; 1987 complete; 1989 complete. Football - 1967 Cardinals; '81 49ers; '83 complete (good condition, minor writing); '87 complete, '88 complete, '89 complete. All excellent unless noted. S-O-M Reviews - Jan., Dec. '86; Jan., Feb., Nov., Dec. '87; '88 complete; Jan., Nov., Dec. '89; '90 complete. All must go, so make me an offer. I'll sell them real cheap, but I won't split up complete seasons. T.D. Nash, 500 E 135 5 A, Grandview, MO 64030

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1939, 1950, 1956, 1961, 1962, 1968, 1967 and 1970, all for \$11 each; 1987, 1988 and 1989 (all w/extras) for \$23 each. Basketball - 1982-83 and 1983-84 for \$15 each. Football - 1977 Browns, Raiders; 1979 Rams, Bears, Eagles, Bills for \$2 per team. All teams excellent to mint. I pay postage. Steve Bernhardt 1921, E. 10th St., Tucson AZ 85719

FOR SALE: Baseball, complete seasons: 1980 (\$65); 1981 (\$60); 1982 (\$55); 1956 (\$16); 1961 (\$16). Please send SASE with order to: Larry Gavlak,

RD-1, Box 703, Houtzdale, PA 16651

FOR SALE: Taking bids on all teams/sets. Football - 1972-1986; assorted teams 1968-71. Baseball - Original 1969, '70 NL, top three AL. Teams (\$10); 1978 (\$20). 1971-87 full sets top bid. Send SASE or call 407-255-2457. Put nicknames on all your cards with stamp kit. Fast and easy, can be put on advance side, even draft team names. Below retail, \$20; should last you a lifetime. Could also fill your stamping needs around the house. William Golden, 1920 Stewart Road #16, Melbourne, FL 32935

Leagues

LEAGUES: Los Angeles-area gamers. The California Baseball Association, a super-advanced, face-to-face league entering its 10th season, has one franchise available to the right owner. The CBA's special features include catered draft, all-star barbeque, awards banquet, 6-6-6 Wild! Plays From Hell chart and more. If you're experienced, sociable and want to be instantly competitive (first-year managers have won it all each of the last two seasons), call: Bob Colleary at 818-902-9657.

LEAGUES: The West Coast Baseball Association, a PEM league, has just completed its fifth year of operation. We are looking for two managers to take over existing teams. Ours is a draft league of 16 teams, playing 162 games, starting in April. We roll dice, we don't use computers because of the incompatibility. If interested, contact: Mark Panagos at 714-597-5844, 213-942-5044 or 3602 Livorno Ct., Chino, CA 91709. Prompt, dedicated gamers only, please.

LEAGUES: The Continental S-O-M Rotisserie League (CSRL) has franchises available for its second season, starting very soon. We are looking for creative, professional, highly motivated individuals. The CSRL features: 12 AL teams and 10 NL teams with seasons running concurrently, preseason rookie draft, (continued)

Rotisserie-style player contract system, complete with player salaries and free agency, quarterly newsletters, bi-weekly standings report and much more. Most importantly, we insure excellence and enjoyment through active hands-on management of league and franchise affairs. If you enjoy playing Strat and you want to get the feel of what it's like to be a GM, then the CSRL is for you. Call or write and ask for our recruiting package. Eric Spitz, 3465 Sacramento St. Apt. #5, San Francisco, CA 94118 (415-931-3704)

LEAGUES: Looking for reliable, experienced managers in the northern New Jersey area to form a face-to-face super-advanced baseball league. Plan to use straight teams and play a manageable schedule. Contact: David Klonsky, 97 Tierney Drive, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 (201-239-3265 after 6 p.m.)

LEAGUES: Bloomington (IN) Rotisserie and Strat-O-Matic Society (BRASS) League is beginning its second full season and has openings for several franchises and backup owners. The league is a 16-team winter PBM league using all AL and NL talent and super-advanced rules. We play a 160-game season from September to March and use continuous rosters. The league is under new management and league constitution, features monthly newsletters, traveling all-star game, realistic player contracts, salaries and free agency, rotating positions of league-wide authority, off-season draft, individualized ballpark construction and incorporates many GM type activities. The league offers many features designed to simulate our owners making the types of decisions big league GMs, owners and managers must make when handling franchise affairs, yet preserves the S-O-M game itself by not tinkering with the game company's rules. We will only consider experienced

applicants; computer gamers are welcome. Rather than take over someone else's style ball club, we will allow you to draft your own from a draft pool made up of the teams we folded. Among the talent available are such stars as Stieb, Stewart, R.Martinez, Ryan, Clemens, Saberhagen, Drabek, Benes, Eckersley, Henke, D.Jones, Aguilera, Schooler, L.Smith, Thigpen, Fisk, Santiago, S.Alomar. Oops! W.Clark, Maas, McGriff, Olerud, Thomas, B. Larkin, Sandberg, DeShields, Boggs, Gruber, Matt Williams, C.Ripken, O.Smith, Bonilla, Butler, Dykstra, Griffey Jr., Gwynn, R.Henderson, R.Kelly, Mitchell, Puckett, Raines, Yount and many more young stars. If you're looking for a great opportunity to get in on the ground floor of an established league without having to inherit someone else's mess, here's your chance. Please call Vaughn at 812-339-8119 or Jim at 219-845-8145. We hope to draft in mid-June, so don't delay, call today, 7 p.m.-10 p.m. CST.

LEAGUES: The CABL is a 20-team PBM Strat baseball league enjoying its sixth season. We are looking for backup managers, with the probability of needing one or two new managers for next season. Some facts: (1) 45-man rosters; (2) One round uncared draft; (3) DH; (4) Penalty point system which maintains timeliness; (5) Winter schedule; (6) advanced game; (7) Bi-monthly standings. I invite responsible managers to respond. I feel that our current group of managers can best be described as competent, experienced and just plain fun. Please contact: Keith Rowland, 2298 Columbia, Troy, MI 48083 (call: 313-689-7818)

LEAGUES: Los Angeles-area face-to-face NL baseball league looking for new/backup managers. California Baseball Association (II) in fifth season. Super-advanced rules plus custom league rules. Continuous draft/no limits on protection. Will expand from 10 to 12 teams in 1992. Mid-Wilshire/Westside/San Fernando Valley. 81 games. Full stats and newsletter. Call Dana Perlstein

(continued)

(213-383-4104). Commissioner is veteran of TBA tournaments, PBM, etc., 11 years.

LEAGUES: Coast to Coast Baseball League is looking for several managers and backups. We are a 22-team PBM league in our 7th season in 1991. The CTCBL features: (1) face-to-face winter meetings; (2) weekly standings, quarterly newsletters and a year-end yearbook; (3) a mature, honest, responsible, fanatical group of franchise owners; (4) drafting of minor leaguers; (5) trophies for the world champion, league champion and executive of the year. If you are willing to dedicate the time to make your franchise a success, then you are ready to join the best PBM league in America, the CTCBL. Contact: Robert Smith, 2124 E. 69th Street, 1st Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11234 (718-251-6183)

LEAGUES: CWSBL is looking for two replacement managers to fill immediate openings. These managers should be willing to meet monthly deadlines for reporting stats and other vital information. These teams have quality players such as R.Henderson, Gwynn, DeShields, Guillen, Greenwell and others. We are a 16-team winter league which stresses both managing and GMing. If interested, call or write: Loren Rice, 8721 Kildare Dr., Knoxville, TN 37923 (615-690-3304)

LEAGUES: Great opportunity! The prestigious NAFA, PBM football league, is looking for a few good managers. The 9th season features continuous ownership, phone draft, some face-to-face games (Review, March, 1991) and awards for participation. Basic requirement is personal commitment. Contact: Mike Macher, 415 Walnut Street, Middlesex, NJ 08846 (908-469-9331)

LEAGUES: Nationwide play-by-mail Strat-O-Matic Baseball

extravaganza. Dan's 4th Annual Drafting League is looking for some good drafting managers across America to manage teams. League includes new cards, super-advanced rules, a 10 to 20-team league, team stats, trophies, weekly newsletters and more. Send complete list of desired players (plus \$5 for postage) to: Dan Morookian, 2367 Vista Road, La Habra, CA 90631 (or call: 213-697-1521)

LEAGUES: Managers wanted - Two GMs in a 12-team face-to-face league are looking for part-time adult managers to run teams. SWSSL plays a 160-game schedule from August through April. Teams are located from Oak Lawn to Elk Grove, IL. Call: Bob at 708-598-1267 for information.

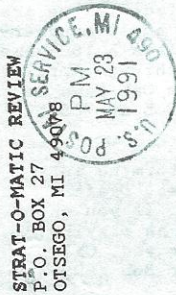
LEAGUES: New league forming in central New Jersey area. Draft league up to 12 teams. If you enjoy keeping stats as much as playing, this is the league for you. Call Andy (908-287-2651) or Bob (609-799-0335) for details.

Contests

CONTEST: Hosted at Stinkey's Sports Bar, July 27-28. 15 players (plus). First prize - Air fare to Los Angeles and two NFL home games (Raiders, Rams). Second prize - NFL pro helmet etc. Over \$1,125 in prizes. If less than 15 contestants, first three prizes will be pro helmets, etc. Teams entering tournament based from 1984 to 1991. During play, game players switch at halftime and use opposition's team (total points decides winner). Registration for tournament is \$45 and should be in by May 31. Contact: Glen Boulter at CASFL (The Point After), 351 Falconridge Gardens, N.E., Calgary, Alberta, Canada (403-293-6474). Could the Review issue a challenge to the Edmonton Strat-O-Matic Football League for us?

NEXT MONTH LAST ISSUE!

The July issue will be the last chance to put an ad in the Review.



Strat-O-Matic spotlight

(continued from page 7)

included. Here is his 'Wish List' to S-O-M:

- (1) Please find a way to add clutch to pitchers. It doesn't have to be defined in the same terms as clutch hitting. There must be a way to make "ace" relievers better than their respective setup men.
- (2) Why can't Greg Maddux have more GB (2b) X's on his card than Sid Fernandez? Adjusting one-two infield/outfield X's can't be that difficult.
- (3) You've already added the stealing numbers on the card, why not the balk/wild pitch numbers? Another easy one.
- (4) A minor annoyance is always picking up the wrong fielding chart; can you print them in different colors?
- (5) My vote for replay seasons is any year before 1950. We already have many 1950s, '60s and '70s sets - let's see some players that were around before we were born. Bonus: Is 1894 possible?
- (6) With the popularity of the NBA, I really hope the next computer game is for basketball. The time it takes to play a game really limits my enjoyment of S-O-M Basketball.

Seriously, though, I do enjoy Strat and I especially love putting my drafting/managing skills to the test in the TBA tournaments. I think the game company has done a good job with the modifications it has made recently, but why stop now?

A few more necessary improvements would put the final touches on the best game in town.