



# 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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## Here's closer look at baseball cards

BY JEFF GREEN

Youth is being served in the form of the 1986 Strat-O-Matic Baseball cards. Never before in recent memory has such a galaxy of good cards been given to younger players.

The obvious super cards went to Dwight Gooden, Darryl Strawberry, Willie McGee, Pedro Guerrero and Ryne Sandberg, all of whom were featured in last month's Review.

But there are plenty of other stars whose cards are shining bright this year.

Jesse Barfield, Lloyd Moseby and Tony Fernandez all were main ingredients in the success of Toronto. Barfield is a 1 e4 in right field, with a -4 arm. He has 46 on-base chances versus lefty pitchers (out of 108 possible chances) and 43 against righties. Moseby is a "1" in center field and Fernandez is a 1 e31 at shortstop.

For the Seattle Mariners, Phil Bradley and Jim Presley are two good ones, for sure. Bradley is a 1 e5 with a +1 arm in left field and has 36 on-base chances against lefties and 46 versus righties.

Presley, meanwhile, is a 2 e18 at third base with 48 on-base chances vs. lefties.

On the Astros, Bill Doran is a 1 e19 at second base. At the plate he has 45 on-base chances vs. lefties and 40 against righties. And catcher Mark Bailey has a -1 arm while having 52 on-base chances vs. lefties and 40 vs. righties.

Mike Marshall of the Dodgers, continuing the parade of young talent, is a 2 e3 in right field, with 1-5, 1-10 and partial 1-6 rolls resulting in home runs against both types of pitching.

The list goes on and on. There are also Kirby Puckett (1 e4, -4 arm in center field), Glenn Wilson (1 e13, -4 in right field), Andy Van Slyke (1 e1 in RF and LF, -3 arm), Gary Pettis of California (1 e6, -2 arm in center), Brett Butler (2 e1, -1 arm in center), Brook Jacoby,

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Mike Young, Mike Davis, Mike Brown and Rich Gedman.

But the old standbys still have good cards, too.

Dale Murphy is a 1 e7, -3 arm in center field for the Braves, with 58 on-base chances vs. lefties and 44 against righties. Dave Parker was rewarded for his great comeback with a 2 e10, -3 arm rating in right field and on-base chances numbering 42 vs. righties, including 11 home run chances and all kinds of extra-base potential.

Tony Gwynn is a 1 e4 in right field for San Diego. He has 43 on-base chances against pitchers from either side.

Tommy Herr is a 2 e13 at second base and has 51 chances to get on base when going against righties. Jack Clark of the Cardinals is again a tough out with a whopping 61 chances vs. lefties and 42 against RHPs. Clark's fielding continues to go down, though.

#### CARTER HAS BEST CARD AMONG CATCHERS

Among the catchers, Gary Carter is once again the best as he has 52 on-base chances vs. LHPs and 36 vs. RHPs, plus joins a group of Bob Boone, Lance Parrish, Gedman and Tony Pena with a rifle (-3 throwing) for an arm.

Tim Lincecum is a 39 vs. LHPs and 53 vs. RHPs and is a 2 e2, +2 arm in left field. He's an added threat because of his speed, naturally, being rated a AA stealer.

Mike Schmidt has his usual card, being a 50 vs. LHPs and 47 vs. RHPs and having 11 home run chances. His defense, though, continues to backslide as he's now a 3 e37 at third base.

The Yankees have a trio of stars as Rickey Henderson is an ever-popping 68 vs. LHPs and 49 vs. RHPs as well as a 1 e11 in left and 2 e11 in center. Don Mattingly, a 1 e7 at first, is a 36 vs. lefties and a 47 vs. RHPs, with lots of extra-base chances. Dave Winfield is a 1 e3 -5 arm in right, though he is only 33/34 as far as on-base chances after his offense dipped.

Eddie Murray has a typical Eddie Murray card. He's a 44 vs. LHPs and 46 vs. RHPs. He's a 1 e20 at first base. Teammate Cal Ripken and Alan Trammell of Detroit are both 2's at shortstop this year.

The only 1's at shortstop are Fernandez, Alfredo Griffin of the A's, Ozzie Smith of the Cardinals and San Diego's Garry Templeton.

#### BOGGS, BRETT BOTH HAVE GREAT CARDS

The two real-life buddies, George Brett and Wade Boggs, are great, as can be expected. They are both 2's at third. Brett has 49 chances vs. lefties and 54 against righties, while Boggs is a mind-boogling 54 vs. LHPs and 63 vs. RHPs.

When filling out a pitching staff, grab off for starters Dwight Gooden, John Tudor, Sid Fernandez, Fernando Valenzuela, Orel Hershiser, Rick Reuschel (yes, Reuschel, as he's got a super card!), Ron Guidry, Dave Stieb, Bret Saberhagen, Bert Blyleven, Dan Petry and Jimmy Key. If you have two of the above on your staff, you're in great shape.

When calling for firemen, you'd want Willie Hernandez, Goose Gossett, Tom Niedenfuer, Dave Smith and Jeff Reardon.

Besides the young players already mentioned, there are rookies such as Vince Coleman, Mariano Duncan, Chris Brown, Shawn Dunston, Glenn Davis, Len Dykstra, Jose Uribe, Mitch Webster, Jose Canseco, Tom Browning, Ozzie Guillen, Oddibe McDowell, Ernest Riles, Harry Salas, Tim Burke, Don Carman, Scott Garrelts, Joe Hesketh, Roger McDowell, Tom Henke, Brian Fisher, Ted Higuera, Danny Jackson, Steve Ontiveros and Stu Cliburn.

It's hard waiting those four long months for the cards to come out but when the cards finally arrive the wait is well worth it.



## Two corrections needed

The Review has received word that two corrections are needed for the new baseball cards, according to the Strat-O-Matic Game Company.

Both of the corrections pertain to the supplementary stealing chart.

(1) Gary Carter of the New York Mets has a "0" listed under the column "out stealing." It should be just a dash.

(2) And Terry Francona of Montreal is not listed on the supplementary stealing chart and should be. His numbers are: Terry Francona \* 5-5 2-6, 8 7 and (15-7).

He has an asterisk, stole five bases and was caught stealing five times. He gets a good lead on 2-6 and 8 and is picked off on 7. His rating is (15-7).

Many of the orders have the changes, but some of the early pickup and mailings did not, thus the reason for listing the two corrections.

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## Review has another birthday

### First issue rolled off presses March, 1971

It's birthday time for the Strat-O-Matic Review.

It was back in March of 1971 that the first issue - 14 pages worth at a cost of 35 cents - rolled off the presses.

Now, 179 issues and 4,176 pages later, the Review is still going strong and continuing to fill its role as a link between the Strat-O-Matic Game Co. in Glen Head, NY, and its gaming public. And, of course, the Review, has also always been a link between S-O-M gamers, the vehicle of communication, so to speak.

Over the years many, many changes have occurred, both in S-O-M's games and in the Review.

Back in March, 1971, for example, S-O-M Basketball, Hockey and College Football were still on the drawing board, or more likely still in Harold Richman's ever-functioning creative mind.

The baseball cards at that time did not have an advanced version. The cards were just skeletons of the amply-filled out cards of today. No lefty and righty batting and pitching, and, of course, no throwing arms for outfielders, "e" ratings, supplementary stealing, etc.

That first issue of the Review contained 16 pages, including a replay of the 1969 pro football season (which Kansas City won as in real-life), a brief introduction to the joys of league play, two letters (the birth pangs of Readers roll 'em), a couple of other replays (including the 1968 American League baseball season) and the first part of a three-part series about S-O-M's creator and his games.

The editors were introduced - at that time the Review's editors were Mike Allison, Dave Thompson and Del Newell, with only Newell still a partner in the enterprise - and an all-time records section was included. The so-called all-time records would be folded, spindled or otherwise mutilated in the next few months, so much so that all-time records were eclipsed by "all-world" marks. The all-time records were

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soon discontinued.

Thompson was the first editor to leave the Review and Allison followed a few years later as he pulled up stakes and headed for Tennessee to study for the ministry. Upon his departure, Warren Newell, Del's younger brother, and his wife Karen came aboard.

Warren and Karen handle all the subscriptions and mailings, plus the bulk of the correspondence work, while Del, a sports writer at the Kalamazoo Gazette since 1968, does the editorial work.

Changes in S-O-M's games have always come to readers of the Review first, including the latest changes in baseball (additional extra players, no injuries on some players' cards, clutch hitting, ball park adjustment and the soon-to-be-delivered computer version).

In the January, 1972 issue (the price was still 35 cents, by the way), the Review broke the good news about advanced baseball coming out. The changes made a good game the best on the market as far as realism and continued speed of play.

As far as the Review, the first eight issues - March-Oct., 1971 - contained 16 pages. Beginning with the Nov., 1971 issue, the Review expanded to 20 pages. Sixteen more issues were churned out before, on March, 1973, the Review expanded to the current 24-page format.

#### READERS HAVE ALWAYS HAD VOICE IN REVIEW

Over the years many changes have occurred with the Review, too. As more games were developed, the Review had to "cut its coverage pie" into thinner slices. Guest columnists and the Readers roll 'em section have always given the readers a major voice in the Review - a voice Strat-O-Matic has always listened to.

Richman, for instance, has mentioned frequently that many of the changes in the games were prompted by comments made by readers.

And how many gamers have joined play-by-mail leagues or made new friendships because of the Review? Many "closet" gamers have found out they are not the only ones rollin' 'em.

Some readers have cried for an expanded Review and a few have wanted to join as partners. A couple have even suggested we send them our subscription lists so they could start up a rival publication devoted to the sports that they didn't think we covered adequately.

Mailing costs have prevented expansion of the Review beyond 24 pages. And, as far as rival publications, there have been and are a few of those in existence today. The trend today seems to be toward evaluating and rating player cards, particularly in baseball. Check the "For Sale" section under advertisements this month (or any month) and you will see what we mean.

The biggest problem with publishing the Review every month has nothing to do with other publications, or gleaning through and evaluating 200-page league yearbooks. The real problem is and always has been - time! If the Review was not published, think of all the Strat-O-Matic game playing that could take place.

Only kidding, of course. Although the Review does take time, the editors still roll their dice in local face-to-face, long-running baseball and football leagues, plus occasionally replay the playoffs or championship series in all the sports.

#### 180 ISSUES...4,192 PAGES!

The readers of the Review have been the major reason for those 180 issues and 4,192 pages...without your interest and support the publication would have expired long ago.

It's been a labor of love for 16 years now. And the labor of love will continue.



# Coleman is first pick in N.L. <sup>5</sup>

## Two blockbuster trades highlight start of GKSML's 31st season

Who would you draft first if you were picking the rookies in a 1986 (based on 1985 real-life) National League draft league?

If you're shy of pitching, would it be Tom Browning, the Cincinnati Reds' 20-game winner?

Or would it be speedster Vince Coleman, provided there were no ill effects from the episode with the mechanical tarp in last year's World Series?

Or how about some ex-American Leaguers who are in the N.L. now? Veterans like Lamarr Hoyt and Rick Reuschel, the latter of whom is making his second trip into the N.L. ranks, should go high in any draft, too.

Well, as far as the Greater Kalamazoo Strat-O-Matic League (GKSML) which includes Review co-editors Warren and Del Newell in its ranks and has already begun its 31st full-season, 154-game replay, the answer lies in Vince Coleman.

Coleman was chosen No. 1 by Del Newell, who 'earned' the pick by finishing last in the N.L. a year ago with a 59-93 record. Newell hesitated briefly, mainly because he was concerned about Coleman's ineffectiveness against southpaws, but then decided with all that speed, a good card against righties and youth on his side, to go for it.

The GKSML has played 17 games of its newest season and Coleman, although kept off the bases in four games and out for another with an injury, has stolen 14 bases in 17 attempts.

A good pick - certainly for the future!

The second choice was Mariano Duncan, shortstop for the Los Angeles Dodgers who's rated a 2 e38 at shortstop and is another roadrunner on the bases (stealing: 6-7 for a good lead; 19-14; running: 1-17). Gary Tien, a data processor, tabbed Duncan.

Gary King, a computer programmer and the newest member of the GKSML, took over a team that had the third-round choice and he picked Browning.

The oldies, Hoyt and Reuschel, went fourth and fifth, with Todd Newell, Del's 22-year-old son, selecting Hoyt and Jeff Kik, manager of a Gordon Food Service store, choosing Reuschel, who has a very good and tough to hit card.

Del Newell, in case you've forgotten or are a new subscriber, is a sports writer at the Kalamazoo Gazette and the 'senior citizen' of the GKSML, being 44 years young. He and his brother Warren, a junior high band instructor in Otsego, located about 18 miles north of Kalamazoo, have played Strat-O-Matic games for 23 years.

Both Gary's, Tien and King, are 33 years old, Warren is 40, while Jeff Kik is 31. Other members of the GKML include: Mike Pryson, 24, a student at Western Michigan University and part-time sports writer at the Gazette; Pat Stemas, 32, guidance counselor at Galien High School; Jeff Green, 28, a paint manufacturer; and Bruce Mulder, 29, a factory supervisor.

Mulder and Stemas hear traveling music every Sunday night during the season, with Mulder motoring to Kalamazoo from Grand Rapids (about a 50-mile drive) and Stemas from Dowagiac (also about 50 miles).

### TWO BLOCKBUSTER TRADES

Before the GKSML had its annual draft, a three-hour period was used to look over the new National League cards, including extras, and discuss trades.

Trade talk for almost two and one-half hours was just that: talk. But suddenly one trade was made...then another...and before long two  
(continued on next page)



blockbuster trades were consummated. They were two of the biggest ever in GKSML history.

One of the trades had Todd Newell giving up perennial all-star center fielder Dale Murphy (remember, Todd also has Dwight Gooden on his team, but he feels two superstars aren't enough to carry him to a pennant). Murphy was traded to Mike Pryson, who the year before traded Gooden to Todd for Walt Terrell, Tim Raines and the seventh player overall in the draft. Payback time? Perhaps.

Pryson minutes before had sent second baseman Juan Samuel to Pat Stemas for his first-round draft pick (No. 7 overall). Pryson had both Tommy Herr and Samuel on his team, thus he could afford to part with one of the second basemen.

So, Pryson traded his first (No. 4 overall), the pick acquired from Pat (No. 7) and his second-round selection (No. 14) for Murphy. Todd then turned around and drafted Hoyt (4), Kevin Bass (7) and Chris Brown (14). Todd had previously traded away his own first-round pick.

Blockbuster II occurred when good buddies Jeff Kik and Bruce Mulder traded the likes of Pedro Guerrero, Mike Marshall and relief ace Ken Howell.

Bruce sent Guerrero and his first-round draft choice (No. 5 overall) to Jeff for Marshall, Mark Bailey, Graig Nettles and Howell. Kik took Reuschel with the draft pick.

#### PITCHING AGAIN AT A PREMIUM

Pitching again was all-important as 11 hurlers were chosen in the first two rounds of the draft and six went in the first round.

In addition to Hoyt and Reuschel, Joe Hesketh was chosen No. 8 by Warren, Don Carman No. 9 by Kik and Roger McDowell No. 10 by Jeff Green. The fact that Carman and McDowell are relievers and that Hesketh only hurled 155 innings, further indicates the lack of pitching available in the draft.

Two other significant trades had Gary King sending Nolan Ryan to pitching thin Del Newell for his second round pick (No. 11 overall) and Bruce giving up his second round choice (No. 15 overall) to Pat for Joaquin Andujar, who during the off season was traded to the American League and thus is unlikely (unless traded back to the N.L.) to have a card in the N.L.

Here's the first two rounds of the GKSML's 1986 N.L. draft:

- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 - Vince Coleman (Del Newell)   | 11 - Tim Burke (Gary King)         |
| 2 - Mariano Duncan (Gary Tien)   | 12 - Joe Orsulak (Gary Tien)       |
| 3 - Tom Browning (Gary King)     | 13 - Scott Garrelts (Gary King)    |
| 4 - Lamarr Hoyt (Todd Newell)    | 14 - Chris Brown (Todd Newell)     |
| 5 - Rick Reuschel (Jeff Kik)     | 15 - Vance Law (Pat Stemas)        |
| 6 - Glenn Davis (Gary Tien)      | 16 - Cecilio Guante (Todd Newell)  |
| 7 - Kevin Bass (Todd Newell)     | 17 - Carlos Diaz (Pat Stemas)      |
| 8 - Joe Hesketh (Warren Newell)  | 18 - Mitch Webster (Warren Newell) |
| 9 - Don Carman (Jeff Kik)        | 19 - Davey Lopes (Jeff Kik)        |
| 10 - Roger McDowell (Jeff Green) | 20 - Rick Aguilera (Jeff Green)    |

It's interesting to note the number of veterans drafted high. The future for those players is obviously limited. But in many cases it was a matter of trying to secure players with enough at-bats and innings pitched to fill out a representative roster.

The GKSML adheres strictly to at-bats and innings pitched, with no percentage basis. A pitcher can start a game with one inning left and go the distance, however. A 26-player roster is allowed, providing there are three catches as part of the 26. Otherwise, a 25-man roster is the rule.



# Readers roll 'em

## PLAYING TIP UNCLEAR

One quibble - in your December issue (page 22) you give a basketball tip that is, I think, incomplete and maybe a little misleading.

You state "1-shot fouls are not shot until the guilty team has four personal fouls in the quarter."

Of course, a team does not start shooting the one-shot fouls until the other team has accumulated five team fouls. Your statement could be read this way, but it implies that the team will start shooting when the other team just gets to four team fouls.

Also, even if a team does not get five team fouls it will be in the penalty situation when it commits two fouls (excluding offensive fouls, of course) in the last two minutes of any quarter.

KEITH GERCKEN  
3008 Bowling Green Dr.  
Walnut Creek, CA

Editor's note: Reader Gercken is correct that a team is not in the penalty situation until the fifth team foul is committed. We said the fourth foul was the last before the penalty situation when into effect, which is saying the same thing. Gercken makes a good point - and one the Review did not make - when he states the penalty situation is in effect during the last two minutes of a quarter after two fouls are committed, even if the team fouling has not been charged with five fouls.

## OLD TIMERS WANTED

Is there a possibility of old timer teams being available for the football and basketball games?

I think true sports gamers would appreciate seeing the Giants and Colts of the 1950s and the Packers and Bears of the

1960s or the Dolphins or Steelers of the 1970s.

In basketball, I could imagine pitting Bill Russell, George Mikan or Bob Pettit against Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Michael Jordan or Julius Erving.

The S-O-M game company has done a fantastic job with old timer leagues and teams in baseball. Let's hope it follows suit with basketball and football.

FRANK GREEN  
Yorktown, VA

Editor's note: S-O-M has no plans at this time for old timers in football or basketball. Computer baseball and all the testing that went into it has taken up most of the time the game company usually devotes to testing new products and coming out with new teams, etc.

## WRONG ABOUT SIMS, KRAMER!

A friend introduced me to S-O-M and the Review. They're both great!

I've read the comments, but I feel S-O-M is very wrong not to include Billy Sims and Tommy Kramer in the latest football card set. I'm fairly poor and cannot afford the extras. I feel discriminated against.

Plus, when starting to select players for those teams, those are the players at their respective positions everyone would start with. They played the most. S-O-M reduced them to fourth stringers.

Is D'Addio really more valuable than Sims?

LUIS CHAVEZ

## MORE PLAYERS NEEDED

Since I am renewing my subscription I thought I would take a moment to go on record saying how much I agree with Ray Gausman's letter in the Nov. issue.

Although I do not claim to be a longtime veteran of Strat-O- (continued)



Matic Baseball, I have played many tabletop games and am currently in an S-O-M play-by-mail league. This is my first year in this league, but I already realize that the lack of player ratings is a major weakness in the game.

I feel strongly that most gamers do not play in a PBM league, but choose to play at their leisure in a season/team replay. The lack of player ratings greatly hinders this effort as Ray Gausman pointed out.

In addition, I feel that anyone who purchases S-O-M Baseball did not do so to use nameless player cards that probably do not match the individual they intend it to represent.

I enjoy playing S-O-M Baseball and am impressed with the format of the game. I will, however, always hope that the company will change its mind and issue at least a few more player ratings per team.

I'm sure the extra cost for these players would be gladly paid by those in need of those ratings.

JIM FRASER  
Sweetwater, TX

Editor's note: The game company changed its mind back in the fall. It was decided to issue close to 140 extra players - previously it was 105 to 108 extras - with the 1986 card set (based on the 1985 season). The cost has gone up to \$4.50, an increase of about 55 cents from a year ago. S-O-M has heard the cries for additional players and has responded with an enlarged set of extras.

#### LOOKING FOR A DIRECTORY

I have been receiving the Review almost three years now and there's been no sign of a directory.

Anything possible for the near future? I'd like to find some local gamers. Man cannot live on PBM alone!

GARY ADONE

Editor's note: The Strat-O-Matic Review has no plans at this time to issue a Directory. The last Directory was published in 1977, but time demands on the editors have prevented a more recent version from being printed.

#### RECENT CONVERT TO S-O-M

I recently purchased S-O-M Baseball and decided to have a look at your publication.

I am a CPA (certified public accountant) currently working on an MBA in economics at the University of Wisconsin. I work as an administrator of branch operations for a major manufacturer and distributor of mechanic's hand tools.

I began playing table game baseball back in 1956.

Being a fan of the old Houston Colt .45s, I would very much like to purchase some of those old teams from the early 1960s. Is it possible that any of your readers might have a "broken set" from which they would be willing to sell a team?

DAVE LAUER  
1510 87th Place  
Kenosha, WI

Editor's note: Glad to have you aboard as an S-O-M gamer. As far as purchasing old teams, we suggest you take out a wanted ad in the Review, stating what teams you wish to purchase and the price you are willing to pay.

#### RELIEF FOR RELIEVERS

I enjoy playing the S-O-M Baseball game but the game is lacking something other tabletop baseball games require - rest for relief pitchers.

I think there should be an optional rule that would require a relief pitcher to rest an inning for each batter faced. If a relief pitcher does not have the required rest, all out readings followed by a dot would be considered a single (like when a point of weakness occurs).

FRED HENRY JR., Dallastown, PA



## 'IT'S ABOUT TIME'

I have written to you many times and I have never received a response. Perhaps this time will be different.

First of all, "Wow! Wow! Wow!" is overreacting to the new changes in the baseball game. "It's about time" is more appropriate, especially for the extra players and injuries.

My second concern is over the injuries. On the first page of the January issue, you said that there will be no injury possibility for a player "who is not injured in real-life."

On page 5 it is stated that there will be no injury possibility for a player "who played as a regular in every game." Please clear up this issue. Don't leave me out in the cold this time.

MICHAEL SAN CLEMENTE  
Lexington, MA

Editor's note: The Review's comment in the January issue referred to players who played in all the games, of course. Part-time players would still have an injury chance on their cards, even though they may not have been injured. As far as the major changes made by S-O-M, we felt they warranted "overreacting" coverage. Most gamers certainly warmed up to them quickly and they were and are a hot topic during the hot stove league. The Review, by the way, is anxiously awaiting the reaction by gamers to the changes. We will even print reader San Clemente's reaction so we can be two for two as far as responses in '86.

## LONGER SUBSCRIPTIONS?

Renewing each year is a pain. Would it be possible for the Review to offer two and three-year subscriptions? That might also cut down on your bookkeeping.

By the way, Richard Robb's baseball playing tips offered for sale in your Jan., 1986 issue are excellent, comprehensive and not

really time consuming.

JEFF FEUER  
164 Wilmington Ave.  
Dorchester, MA

Editor's note: The Review does not have a subscription plan for longer than a year, although some readers have subscribed for two or three years by simply doubling or tripling the one-year cost.

## CHANGE NEEDED IN ACTION DECK

I think it's time for a change in the hockey action deck.

First, the basketball game took a tip from the hockey game by incorporating an action deck. Now it's time for hockey to take a tip from the NBA product, such as a home-ice advantage action deck.

Make home ice mean something in S-O-M. While S-O-M tries that, why not add a D-D and 4-4 to the system?

JOHN MCERNAN  
Belleville, IL

## HOCKEY TEAMS OF THE PAST

I would like to say thank you for your publication. Keep the playing tips for football, baseball and hockey games coming.

I'd like to let the game company know of my interest in past season hockey teams compatible with the current hockey game.

It would be fun to play the early 1970s Boston, Montreal and Philadelphia teams, plus the all-time best hockey greats such as Gordie Howe and Bobby Hull.

Also, has anyone invented a good method of playing the pro football game (revised) solitaire?

RALPH PATRICK  
12513 Littleton St.  
Wheaton, MD

Editor's note: A realistic solitaire system for playing the new pro football game would certainly be welcome. Other than S-O-M's version, with the accent on the defense, there's isn't a system.



## **FGCHA is alive and well**

Play-by-mail leagues, other than in baseball, are usually short-lived undertakings. In hockey, football and basketball - Strat-O-Matic's other table games - such PBM leagues are usually ready for the undertaker shortly after birth pangs have sounded.

Baseball is, of course, the easiest board game to play by mail because the instruction sheets are much simpler and do not have to take into account as many situations in the other sports, especially regarding substitutions.

That's why whenever a full-season PBM replay of any of the other sports is accomplished, it's a happening worth noting in the Review.

Take for example the Florida Gold Coast Hockey Association, founded seven years ago by Bob Lopeck of Florida. The first couple of years saw a revolving door of coaches, with most of the departures directly proportional to records with a disproportionate number of wins at home and on the road.

Some coaches dropped out for the usual reasons: not enough time, lack of interest, losing teams, illness, family problems, etc.

Lopeck was a tower of strength in keeping the FGCHA alive when it appeared one die was already in the grave. Remember, Lopeck was the gamer who created a realistic penalty chart that was used by many other hockey gamers. His contributions were many in the world of S-O-M.

Lopeck is no longer affiliated with the FGCHA today, but it has continued to survive and, in fact, is now playing the 1985-86 season.

"The 1984-85 season...was our first complete season without our founder and only commissioner, Bob Lopeck," relates Joe Nixon, a charter member of the FGCHA who coaches the New York Nighthawks.

"We also lost three original coaches this season, as well as two other coaches. The coaches we did have went through illnesses, deaths in the family, job changes and business trips. Fortunately, all the new coaches finished the season and all but one are back in 1985-86.

"The FGCHA seems to have survived its worst crisis and looks strong as we face the start of what hopefully will be the rebirth of the best PBM league in S-O-M," says Nixon.

### **GRETZKY REPEATS AS MVP**

Wayne Gretzky of the Schaumburg Skatamoks (meaning unknown) was, to the surprise of no one, the league's Most Valuable Player for the second straight season. Gretzky led Schaumburg to a 46-30-4 record in the Eastern Division of the Lopeck Conference (see, he's not forgotten) and a sweep through the playoffs until losing to coach Cliff Dolgins' New York Dolphins in the Cloverleaf Cup final (the FGCHA's Stanley Cup).

Gretzky's stats included 94 goals, 59 assists, 154 total points, 22 power play goals, 15 short-handed goals, 15 game-winning goals, 11 hat tricks and an on-target shooting percentage of .284.

Other coaches (home towns) and their teams included: Gary Vaughn (Chicago, IL) - Schaumburg Skatamoks; Jerry Banko (Erie, PA) - Erie Blades; John Helmbrecht (West Springfield, PA) and Jim Keegan (Chicago, IL) - Chicago Aces; Dave Lubera (Grosse Pointe Shores, MI) - Grosse Pointe Norsemens; Steve Van Note (Philadelphia) - Philadelphia Phantoms.

Joe Nixon (Mt. Vernon, NY) - New York Nighthawks; Peter Stein (Flushing, NY) - Long Island Empires; Joe Zinkowicz (Lavallette, NJ) - Jersey Shore Gulls; Neal Walters (St. Albert, Alberta) - Alberta Hawkeyes; Cam Sebastian (Calgary, Alberta) - Saint Albert Barons; Keith MacLean (Saskatoon, Sask.) - Cohan Gnats.

Dennis Martin (San Diego, CA) - San Diego Comets; Cliff Dolgins (continued on next page)



New Rochelle, NY) - New York Dolphins; Steve Scott (Alta Dena, CA) - California Rangers; Bill Severn (Baltimore, MD) - Essex Cougars; and Bill Ziem (Union Lake, MI) - Union Lake Owls.

The lengthy Cloverleaf playoffs finally came down to two teams - the N.Y. Dolphins and Schaumburg - both of whom were in the finals for the first time.

The Skatamoks, behind Gretzky's hat trick and a pair of goals by Paul Coffey, including the game-winner, captured the opener in an overtime thriller, 6-5. But the Dolphins demolished Schaumburg in the second game, 9-2, as John Tonelli had a Texas hat trick (four goals) and Rick Middleton two.

Game three also went to New York (6-3), as well as game four, which was a defensive battle (3-1). Kent Nilsson assisted on all three Dolphin goals. New York then wrapped up the Cloverleaf Cup by winning game five, 7-6, holding off a Dolphin attack that almost overcame a 7-2 disadvantage with four third-period goals.

Brian Bellows of the Dolphins was named MVP of the playoffs after scoring 16 goals, including three game-winners. Gretzky, for his part, produced playoff highs for points (43), goals (21) and assists (22).

Earlier in the playoffs, the Skatamoks were victimized by the California Rangers who bombed 'em for five goals in seven minutes in an 8-7 shootout won by the Rangers after five players from the two teams had each scored a pair of goals.

In another game in the same series, Marcel Dionne and Glenn Anderson each had Texas hat tricks as the Rangers rang up a 12-7 victory.

Standings, playoffs and leaders:

LOPECK CONFERENCE									
Southern Division	Won	Lost	I	Pts.	GF	GA	Home	Away	
Erie Blades	48	24	8	104	299	227	22-14-4	26-10-4	
Chicago Aces	40	35	5	85	297	301	19-21-0	21-14-5	
Grosse Pte. Norsemen	33	38	9	75	261	272	22-14-4	11-24-5	
Philadelphia Phantoms	28	42	10	66	284	326	16-16-8	12-26-2	
Eastern Division									
Schaumburg Skatamoks	46	30	4	96	336	294	19-18-3	27-12-1	
N.Y. Nighthawks	35	39	6	76	310	306	15-23-2	20-16-4	
Long Island Empires	32	40	8	72	266	291	14-21-5	18-19-3	
Jersey Shore Gulls	22	53	5	49	253	353	13-23-4	9-30-1	
TRUDELL CONFERENCE									
Northern Division	Won	Lost	I	Pts.	GF	GA	Home	Away	
Alberta Hawkeyes	45	29	6	96	306	262	23-13-4	22-16-2	
St. Albert Barons	42	30	8	92	295	268	21-17-2	21-13-6	
Cohan Gnats	34	37	9	77	285	306	17-18-5	17-19-4	
San Diego Comets	29	45	6	64	257	292	19-18-2	10-27-3	
Western Division									
N.Y. Dolphins	59	13	8	126	380	220	31-7-2	28-6-6	
California Rangers	40	31	9	89	320	272	21-14-5	19-17-4	
Essex Cougars	27	44	9	63	223	295	14-22-4	13-22-5	
Union Lake Owls	22	52	6	50	219	308	14-23-3	8-29-3	

Playoffs: First Round - Chicago Aces d. Grosse Pointe Norsemen, 3-1; N.Y. Nighthawks d. Cohan Gnats, 3-1. Quarterfinals - N.Y. Dolphins d. N.Y. Nighthawks, 4-2; Erie Blades d. Chicago Aces, 4-3 (won last game, 4-3, in OT); Schaumburg Skatamoks d. California Rangers, 4-3 (scores: 3-2, 7-8, 7-12, 4-3 OT, 6-7 OT, 9-4, 8-3); St. Albert Barons d. Alberta Hawkeyes, 4-1. Semifinals - N.Y. Dolphins d. Alberta Hawkeyes, 4-1; Schaumburg Skatamoks d. Erie Blades, 4-2.

(Individual statistics are found on the next page)



Points		Goals		Assists	
Gretzky SS	154	Gretzky SS	95	Coffey	91
Bourque AH	134	Kurri SAB	67	Ramage	91
Coffey SS	134	Bellows NYD	66	Bourque	90
Middleton NYD	126	Pederson NYN	62	Middleton NYD	77
Bellows NYD	122	Kerr PP	62	D. Wilson NYN	72

Power Play Goals		Short-Handed Goals		Hat Tricks	
Dionne CR	23	Gretzky SS	15	Gretzky SS	11
Gretzky SS	22	Bellows NYD	9	Pederson NYN	5
Pederson NYN	20	Carbonneau CR	8	Kurri SAB	5
Larouche JSG	17	Pederson NYN	6		
Savard EC	17				

Shooting Pct. (200+)		Game-Winning Goals		Penalty Minutes	
Gretzky SS	28.4	Bellows NYD	17	Bd. Maxwell CR	284
Kurri SAB	22.9	Kurri SAB	16	Messier AH	220
Yzerman LIE	20.1	Gretzky SS	15	B. Sutter ULO	202
Kerr PP	19.7	Middleton NYD	11	D. Hunter LIE	198
Bossy NYD	19.2	Tanti EB	10	Maloney EC	182

Shutouts		Goals/Game Avg.		Save Pct.	
Fuhr AH	3	Feeters NYD	2.40	Herron EB	.9057
Liut LIE	2	Herron EB	2.64	Fuhr AH	.9048
Jensen NYD	2	Fuhr AH	2.77	Feeters NYD	.9022
Millen ULO	2	Jensen NYD	3.03	Lemelin EC	.8973
Hanlon NYN	2	Melanson EB	3.11	Barrasso SAB	.8912
Herron EB	2	Barasso SAB	3.30	Melanson EB	.8912
Bannerman CG	2	Lemelin EC	3.30	Jensen NYD	.8883

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## Looking for back issues of Review?

The following back issues of the Strat-O-Matic Review are still available at a cost of \$1 per issue. To purchase, send amount and issues desired to:

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

### 1985

Jan., March, April, May,  
June, July, August, Sept.,  
Oct., Nov., Dec.

July, Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

### 1980

July, Sept., Nov., Dec.

### 1984

Jan., Feb., March, May,  
July, Aug., Sept., Nov., Dec.

### 1979

April (limited), June, Aug.  
(very limited), Sept., Oct.

### 1983

Feb., March, April, May,  
July, Oct., Nov., Dec.

### 1978

Jan., Feb., March, April,  
May, June, Aug., Sept., Oct.  
Nov., Dec.

### 1982

March, April, Aug., Sept.,  
Nov., Dec.

### 1977

Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.

### 1981

Feb., March, April, June,

### 1976

Nov., Dec.



## Strat-O-Matic spotlight

A couple of more marathon Strat-O-Matic Baseball games have crossed the desk of the Review, including a 'legitimate' one that went 41 innings.

The 1979 Cincinnati Reds and the '76 Philadelphia Phillies were the combatants in the 41-inning battle played by Dave Donat of Glenview, IL. "It was impressive because it pitted two legitimate, quality teams," says Donat.

Each team, because of limited availability, used only four pitchers. The most exciting inning was the 25th when Greg Luzinski hit his second home run of the game, a two-run shot. But the Reds, now trailing 5-3, struck back in the bottom of the 25th when Dan Driessen doubled in two runs with the bases loaded and two outs. Pete Rose, the runner on first when Driessen delivered, couldn't deliver the winning run as he was cut down at the plate on a throw from Ollie Brown.

Finally, in the top of the 41st, Luzinski doubled in Garry Maddox to end the marathon. Luzinski was MVP (8-15, 2 HRs, 4 RBI), while Larry Bowa was non-existent at bat, going 0-for-14. Ron Reed preserved the win by striking out Driessen, George Foster and Johnny Bench in the bottom of the 41st.

The Phillies finished with 7 runs, 29 hits and committed no errors, while the numbers for the Reds were 6, 34 and 1.

Another marathon game reported was a 25-inning encounter between the '62 Yankees and '64 White Sox. Joe Cortese, of Brooklyn, NY, an S-O-M player for 16 years, engaged longtime friend Tom Gacatoca.

The Yanks finally won what Cortese calls "my most unusual game" by scoring four runs in the 25th for a 7-3 triumph. Tom Tresh's RBI single and a three-run homer by Elston Howard finished it off. Jim Bouton pitched eight innings and got the win, while Roger Maris collected two doubles and a homer for the Yanks.

### TOURNAMENT FIELD - 272 TEAMS!

James Earnisse of Chicago played the Big Daddy of the S-O-M solitaire baseball tournaments when he took 272 teams and over a six-week period managed to whip off 286 games - an average of six per day for 46 days.

All the teams from the 1984, '83, '82, '81, '80, '79 and '70 seasons were used, as well as many others from the '70s and 26 old-timer teams. It was single-elimination until the semifinals, which was best-of-five, with the finals a best-of-seven affair.

Semifinals were - and this should make long-suffering Cubs' fans happy - the 1929 and '06 Cubs, '77 California Angels and '48 Indians. Cleveland defeated the '29 Cubbies, 3-0, and the '06 Cubs downed the Angels, 3-1.

In the championship series it was all the Indians as Cleveland wrapped it up in five games. Overall, the Tribe had a 13-1 record, a team average of .332, the leading hitter in Thurman Tucker (31-61, .508) and the MVP, Bob Feller, who was 5-0 and struck out 27 in 45 innings. The '06 Cubs were the swiftest, stealing 33 bases in 40 attempts.

### SHORT SHAKES

...Keith Miller, Willard, OH, must think the 'A' stands for awesome in Oakland A', after the A's pounded out 30 hits in crushing Boston, 25-4. Carney Lansford, Dave Kingman, Mike Davis, Dwayne Murphy and Mike Heath all had four hits apiece and Bruce Bochte five for the awesome A's, prompting Miller to say: "I've played for 10 years and never

(continued on next page)



had a game like this one"...Jimmy Goetz, 14, of Brockport, NY, threw out the first die for his first official game of S-O-M Baseball by visiting neighbor LaVere Curran (Curran's age was not listed but he has fond recollections of the Hall of Fame players). Goetz managed the National League HOF and Curran the A.L. Whitey Ford hit a grand-slam in the fifth inning that carried the A.L. to a 5-4 victory. "Sandy Koufax had pitched great for four innings," relates Curran. "It was an unbelievable home run by Ford!"...Another 14-year-old, Jeff Hale, Buna, TX, is president of a fall-winter, mostly face-to-face league that currently includes all eighth-grade junior high students...The Woolridge Hall League of Lock Haven, PA, University - now a three-member league consisting of Mick Miller, Mike Grubb and Scott Crispell - also had a marathon as Grubb's Aces and Crispell's Firefist hooked up in a 19-inning duel that was finally decided when Don Mattingly's error led to a pair of runs and a 3-1 Aces win. Steve Bedrosian ('84) and Willie Hernandez ('84) pitched for the Firefist, with Hernandez going the last seven, while John Denny ('83) and Jesse Orosco ('83) pitched for the Aces, with Orosco getting the victory after also a seven-inning relief stint.

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## Questions & Answers

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

QUESTION: Does "plus injury" apply to the designated hitter, or is it ignored like injuries to pinch-hitters?

ANSWER: No, it is not ignored. Injuries to designated hitters are treated the same as other injuries.

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QUESTION: On a 4 on 4 situation in hockey, home left wing has the puck. The next action card reads "possible breakaway" and the split number reads "LW (C)." Can the LW still get the breakaway shot?

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

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QUESTION: How can there be an offensive foul in S-O-M Basketball on an open position shot, especially when the offensive player is not penetrating?

ANSWER: S-O-M's explanation is that an open position shot does not mean the defensive player disappears. He is still guarding the offensive player - albeit close enough to draw a charge - although the offensive player does dictate the action and that an open shot by a guard from outside should seldom result in a charging foul. Inside players are usually not completely open either. They would have more of a tendency to draw a charge, even on so-called open shots, than the backcourt players.



# Advertisements

Rates per issue are as follows: 50 words or less - \$1.00; 51-100 words - \$2.00; 101-150 words - \$3.00. Maximum length of an ad will be 150 words. When sending in ads, specify either WANTED, FOR SALE, FOR TRADE, LEAGUE FORMING, or CONTESTS. And name card sets by the year upon which they were based. Note also that only advertising for Strat-O-Matic products or closely related merchandise will be accepted and that merchandise competing with S-O-M products may not be offered for sale. Ads, to be included in the next issue, must be in to the Review by the third of the previous month. Late ads will be held over for inclusion the following month.

## Wanted

WANTED: Any/all complete baseball seasons, 1971-earlier. Willing to pay reasonable, but not outlandish price. Will also pay any/all postage. Garry Goetz, 509 Camellia, Ontario, CA 91764 (714-391-3105)

WANTED: 1963 Phillies, Giants, Twins, Orioles, Cardinals; 1962 and '67 Orioles; 1982 Jets. Please state price and condition. Mike Merwine, 1135 Brook Ave., Allentown, PA 18103 (215-791-3253)

WANTED: S-O-M Football players for face-to-face games. Would like to form or join league anywhere in Missouri, eastern Kansas or northwest Arkansas. I've only been playing a short time. Basic version only. Need some one to explain advanced version more thoroughly. Terry D. Nash, P.O. Box 645, Branson, MO 65616

WANTED: Back issues of Strat-O-Matic Review: 1982 - May, June, July, Oct.; 1981 - Jan., May; 1980 - Jan., March, April, May, June, August, Oct.; 1979 - Jan., Feb., March, May, July, Nov.; 1971 - April-Dec. Please state availability, price and condition. Lowest prices will be accepted. Robert A. McMullin III, 902 Montgomery Ave., Fort Washington, PA 19034

WANTED: S-O-M Baseball play-by-mail instruction and rules. Write to: Jim Lehr, 2619 Lewis Ave., Ida, MI 48140

WANTED: 1972 baseball season with extras. Condition of cards not important as long as they are legible. Send prices to: Stanley Staton, P.O. Box 244, Dana, NC 28724 (704-685-3986)

WANTED: S-O-M Reviews: 1982 - Jan., Feb., May, June, July, Oct.; 1983 - Jan., June, Aug., Sept.; 1984 - April, June, Oct.; 1985 - Feb., Dec. Contact: Joe Tate, 2976 Fern Valley Drive, Marietta, GA 30060

## For Sale

FOR SALE: Purists - at last, easy-to-use systems to improve S-O-M hit-and-run and catcher's card. Both systems add realism and strategy without increasing play time. Hit-and-run uses results directly from player cards, giving each player truly individual H&R ability. Catcher's card incorporates individual wild pitch ratings for pitchers, passed ball ratings for catchers. Statistically accurate for all '85 pitchers and catchers. Works equally well playing stock teams or draft leagues. Just \$3 for each system, \$5 for both. Check or money order (for faster service) to: Glenn Guzzo, 2018 Green St., Philadelphia, PA 19130

FOR SALE: Get your copy of the S-O-M Baseball "Kit," a valuable addition to any gaming situation but especially for solitaire players. Includes complete system (continued)



for organizing solitaire play, outline for setting up leagues and miscellaneous rules and variations. Money back guarantee. \$4.50 postpaid. Gopher Graphics, Rd.-2 Box 323, Greene, NY 13778

FOR SALE: Defensive rating comparison chart. Is a 3 e12 at first better than a 4 e4? This chart allows you to easily compare defensive ratings such as these. Good year after year. Only \$2 (a 4 e4 is better than a 3 e12!). Rohn Morin, RFD #4, Box 399, Auburn, ME 04210

FOR SALE: Complete baseball sets with extras: 1968 - \$50; '69, '70 - \$25 each (original sets); '75 (mint) - \$55; '76 (mint) - \$50; '78 - \$45; '79 - \$40; '80 - \$35; '82 - \$25. Excellent condition. Include \$3 per set shipping. Money order or cashier's check only. Claude Shull, 4405 Chippewa Apt. C, St. Louis, MO 63116 (314-772-5215 after 6 p.m.)

FOR SALE: Computed on-base percentages from all 1985 hitters (vs. LHP and RHP) and pitchers (vs. RHB and LHB). Great for lineups, pinch-hitters, relief pitchers. Last three years' purchasers were very satisfied. Send \$2, stamped, self-addressed envelope, to: Eric Koziol, 15 Stagecoach Road, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

FOR SALE: Super-advanced rules enhance the realism and detail of S-O-M Baseball while preserving the speed of play that makes it fun. Includes easily memorized rules for more realistic base advances on hits, outs and errors; outfield throwing errors and misplayed hits; trail runners sometimes advancing on throws (or being thrown out on cutoffs); injury chart with rare plays; balks, pickoffs, pickoff errors, rundowns; infielders positioned in or back individually; outfield shallow; suicide squeeze, safety squeeze and sacrifice charts where fielder's ability and

runner's speed play a part; hit-and-run method that also takes into account pitcher's abilities and characteristics, fielding, runner's speed; and much more; all blended into the game so as not to disturb statistical accuracy or ease of play. Fully tested and refined in face-to-face league play. \$8, with money-back guarantee. Richard Robb, #305 - 7100 Gilbert Road, Richmond, B.C., Canada V7C 5C3

FOR SALE: 1965 baseball complete set; good condition. 1972-73 basketball complete set; excellent condition. 1970-71-73-77 football complete sets; good to excellent condition. Best offers. Steve Dasenbrock, RR 2, Box 99, Watson, IL 62473

FOR SALE: 1981 and '82 baseball teams, includes extras; all cards in great condition. Make an offer to: Marty Masten, P.O. Box 273, Garfield, WA 99130

FOR SALE: Get batting average, OBP and slugging percentage vs. LHP and RHP for each batter in the 1986 card set. Get the same three statistics for each pitcher vs. RHB and LHB. Very useful in drafting and trading. Delivered to you by April 1. Data for 1984 and 1985 card sets also available; all sets include extras. \$10 per set. Roger Johnson, 16338 Chadsford, Baton Rouge, LA 70817 (504-292-0844)

FOR SALE: Baseball schedules for entire 1930, 1950, 1956, 1961 and 1970 seasons. Great for S-O-M replays. Other seasons also available. Both A.L. and N.L. Send \$1 per season and a postage stamp per order. Mailed immediately. Richard Breest, 1332 Greenlea Dr., Holiday, FL 33590-6759

FOR SALE: 1986 edition card analysis for advanced baseball. Includes OBP and power percentages for batters and pitchers, also gBA percentages for batters. All this plus additional card (continued)



information condensed into a handy form. Categorized by position. Great for planning lineups against certain pitchers or for quick reference during a game. Greatly enhances chance of winning. I'm a 9-year veteran gamer with a bachelor's degree in math and I've always enjoyed winning seasons using it. Still only \$5. Why not get the edge this season? Rohn Morin, RFD #4, Box 399, Auburn, ME 04210

FOR SALE: S-O-M Baseball teams in sets, only N.L. 1976 through 1982. A.L. 1976 and 1982. \$15 each. '82 Boston and Milwaukee unavailable. A.L. 1977 through 1981, \$17.50 each; 1975 Cincinnati, \$2. Extra players except '75 Reds. Postage included. Robert Owens, 111 Penner St., Pearl, MS 39208 (601-939-5141)

FOR SALE: S-O-M teams with extra players. Baseball - 1977 Mets, Cubs, Angels, Rangers, Twins, Blue Jays, Brewers, Yankees, Indians; without extra players - 1977 Mariners, Red Sox. Football - 1979 Steelers, 49ers, Chargers, Cowboys. Hockey - 1979-80 Islanders, Flyers, Canadiens, Rockies, Oilers. Basketball - 1979-80 76ers, Supersonics, Celtics, Pistons, Lakers. \$1 per team, plus \$1 for postage on orders of \$3 or less. Orders \$4 or more, postage free. Robert Kruck, 21122 N. Highway 21, Prairie View, IL 60069

FOR SALE: Fanatics! Make your season more realistic with Baseball Replay '85. Exact day-to-day 1985 schedules and actual starting pitchers; comprehensive list of roster changes (not just trades, but disabled players and minor league callups); plus a unique lineup guide to assure realistic player use. Ideal for playing one team's season or a whole league. More than 100 hours of research at your fingertips for only \$6 for AL or NL, \$10 for

all 26 teams. Check or money order (for faster service) to: Glenn Guzzo, 2018 Green St., Philadelphia, PA 19130

FOR SALE: S-O-M Basketball game with five teams. Asking \$10, but will trade for any baseball merchandise. Write to: Jim Lehr, 2619 Lewis Avenue, Ida, MI 48140

FOR SALE: 1985 Strat Player Card Ratings for complete issues set based upon standard probability and statistics. Package includes summary of ratings methodology, hard copy printouts of player ratings, including ratings in following categories: OBA, total bases, power rating, hitting rating, defensive ratings by probable outcome, stealing and running; all ratings include lefty/righty factor. Full pitching statistics, including all standard hitting categories plus strikeout proficiency. Printouts will include player sorts by league, team, position and will include a "rookie" rating by league for continuous PBM/FTF league members. Ratings developed using 1-2-3 and symphony (IBM compatible software). Basic player stats: \$10; player stats + diskette (specify 1-2-3 or symphony): \$12.95. Postage included. Nick Torbick, 3687 Castle Rock Lane, Tucker, GA 30084

FOR SALE: Join the growing number of S-O-M fanatics who have advanced to Playbooks I and II. Playbook I is used solitaire or head-to-head and involves super-advanced strategy that lets the offensive and defensive managers call the shots. Play results include pickoffs, rundowns, interference, balks and much more. Playbook II gives you advanced hit-and-run, sacrifice/squeeze play, outfield/infield drawn in and injury charts that emphasize speed and defense, giving managers more results and options. Playbooks I and II are \$6 each, or \$11 for both. Paul Ladewski, 14340 Maple Lane, Midlothian, IL 60445



**FOR SALE:** Complete baseball - 1976, '77, '78, '79, '80, '81, '82, '83; single teams, '67 present. Taking serious bid on mint 1963 teams. Football - '70-present, single teams. Hockey - 1981-82, '77-78 seasons and single teams '77-present. Send all offers and SASE to: Sal Mangiapane, 23 West Lincoln Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016 (201-276-5457)

**FOR SALE:** Complete advanced game ratings for all 1985 player cards, including extras. These ratings have been the key factor in my building two excellent draft-league teams (I've won 4 of 4 pennants and 3 of 4 World Series in the four seasons that I've used this system). 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, total defense and overall rating against both righties and lefties. For your easy-to-read printout, send \$6 to: Paul Patrick, 2210 Terry Way, Manhattan, KS 66502 (913-539-7954)

**FOR SALE:** 1981-82 hockey set. Mint condition; extras, roster sheet, complete game box, score pad. I pay postage. \$25. Richard Breest, 1332 Greenlea Drive, Holiday, FL 33590-6759

**FOR SALE:** Back by popular demand, the 1986 edition of Playbooks III and IV is here. Playbook III is an easy-to-use weather system for every team used by month or season. Now there are rainouts, snowouts, suspended games and rain-shortened games stopped during or after an inning. Ratings are based on exact results from 1970 and 1983-85 seasons, which are still \$3 each, or \$6 for all four. Playbook IV allows pitchers to play a complete role with individual ratings for fielding range, stealing, bunt, hit-and-run, running and power. Expand-

ed pitcher's fielding chart included. All pitchers including extras are rated, based on official statistics and formulas similar to those used for non-pitchers. 1982, 1983-85 seasons are still \$3 each, or \$6 for all four. Playbooks III-IV complete, \$11. Playbooks I-IV complete, \$22. See other ad in this section. Paul Ladewski, 14340 Maple Lane, Midlothian, IL 60445

## For Trade

**FOR TRADE:** Want to obtain complete set of football cards for 1971 or 1972 season. Will trade complete 1973 baseball card set and will include nine baseball teams from 1974. Write: Ralph Rink, 46 Barber St., Auburn, NY 13021. Also, thanks to Tom in MA for trading 1973 football set.

## League Forming

**LEAGUE FORMING:** Coaches wanted for super-advanced continuous ownership football league in Detroit/tri-county area. OFL is starting ninth season. No experience necessary. Please write: Mark Chadwick, 406 Pontiac State Bank Building, Pontiac, MI 48058 or call (313-334-7999)

**LEAGUE FORMING:** Join the Game Towne Sports leagues in San Diego: Baseball - 162-game season; short seasons; Football - short seasons. All are face-to-face draft leagues, with draft and World Series/Super Bowl parties. Contact: Game Towne, 3954 Harney St. (in Old Town), San Diego, CA 92110 (619-291-1666)

**LEAGUE FORMING:** Now undergoing plans for face-to-face football league in the mid-Michigan area. Will start in the fall of '86. Experienced commissioner for five years in old CMFL. Weekly newsletters, Super Bowl trophy and more. For additional information contact: Jim Perkins, 4503 N. (continued)



Peoples Road, Edmore, MI 48829  
(517-762-5413)

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The new Greater Los Angeles Baseball League is now forming. Seeking experienced S-O-M enthusiasts to play in face-to-face league. We will have a 25-player draft and use advanced rules. Please write: Andrew Trilling, 3240 Inglewood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90066

**LEAGUE FORMING:** A friend of mine and I are interested in forming a face-to-face advanced baseball league in the Toronto, Ontario area. While we would prefer to form a draft league, we are open to any suggestions. We are interested in beginning the league shortly after the new cards come out this spring. For more information, write or call: Kelly Filson, 2307-40 Homewood Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2K2 (home: 924-3485; work: 925-3311 ext. 3501)

**LEAGUE FORMING:** New managers needed. The RWBL needs four new managers. It is continuous with major and minor leagues. Experience only need apply. To ensure no dropping out, an entry fee may be necessary. This fee refunded at completion of season. The 1986 draft will be held as soon as new managers are selected. Please pick team by name: Eagles, J.P., Cards and Belts. League letters monthly. Elementary version used with E.O.W., arms, bunting. For more information, phone 804-480-4651 or write: Robert White, 9625 26th Bay St. #37, Norfolk, VA 23518

**LEAGUE FORMING:** Niagara Falls/ Buffalo, NY area. Serious managers needed for an established draft baseball league. We are entering our second year of the Independent Strat-O-Matic Baseball League. The ISBL is a face-to-face league consisting of four managers using the most recent cards. There are excellent teams available with

the possibility of expansion. There are no fees and great trophies for the pennant and World Series winners. We prefer our new managers to be 18 years or older. If interested, contact or write: Dale Polley (716-298-5496) or Bruce (716-692-4652), 2480 Linwood Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14305

**LEAGUE FORMING:** I am organizing a FBM draft football league. It will include all 28 teams and we will use the advanced rules. You will use the specialist and defense cards of the teams you select and draft the other players. If you are interested in becoming a manager, send a SASE to: Brad Jarvis, P.O. Box 31, Brownsdale, MN 55918 (507-567-2437). Please include your telephone number and your first five choices for your team.

**LEAGUE FORMING:** FBM baseball league. Advanced, beginning eighth year, needs backup managers. Draft league, all teams. Realism stressed. Carl Kieke, 1417 N. 7th #2, Abilene, TX (915-673-3552, call anytime).

**LEAGUE FORMING:** Looking for people in the Detroit area to start a face-to-face league using the 1985 season, with super advanced rules. This will be a draft league. If interested, contact: Greg Bucurestean, 7121 W. Vernor Apt. 304, Detroit, MI 48209 (313-849-0523)

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The ASC Baseball League is entering its 16th season and is in need of a couple of managers, plus a few backups (we'll keep you busy until there is an opening). The ASC is a 24-team draft league, playing a 162-game schedule, with liberal player restrictions, a monthly newsletter, phone draft and more. If you're serious about baseball and very reliable, then come join the friendly competition in one of the better organized FBM leagues around. We're a mature and very  
(continued)



fun group, devoted to this wonderful hobby of tabletop baseball. Apply to: Tom Fish, 1433 Hunter Dr., Redlands, CA 92374

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The ASBBL advanced PBM basketball league will begin its first season as soon as five good coaches in the five-state region around Minnesota have replied. '85-86 cards, 82 games, all-star game, playoffs. No experience necessary. Write to: Chris Dunn, 17585 Pond Circle, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The Double Commissioner League will be starting in April. 1985 baseball cards will be used. There will be a telephone draft. The league will consist of 12 teams, 6 American and 6 National - but the draft will be open. We play 162-game schedule, with 100% card usage. We need managers who are quick, honest and reliable. Please contact: Allen Lee, 3870 W. Camino Nuestro, Tucson, AZ 85745 (602-743-7321)

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The United States Baseball Association, in its 14th year, has an opening in the American League for the 1986 season. Interested parties should contact: Roy Dixon, 6709 Whitewood Street, Suffolk, VA 23435 (804-483-3209)

**LEAGUE FORMING:** An established PBM league is seeking managers to fill franchise openings for the upcoming season. Act quickly to get a spot in our league in which 16 teams protect players from year to year. Players on managerless teams include: Gary Carter, Ripken, Stieb, Gooden and Brett. The draft for our third season will be held in late March. For more information, contact: Blaise Castren, 227 Felicio Common, Fremont, CA 94536 (415-793-9015)

**LEAGUE FORMING:** Bay Area Association, an established N.L. PBM

draft league, is looking for a few experienced managers. We play advanced rules with some features other leagues don't have. Please contact: Tom Millard, 732 Dolphin Drive, Danville, CA 94526 (415-820-0704)

**LEAGUE FORMING:** The ANUAL, a PBM advanced baseball draft league in its inaugural season, is looking for long-lasting managers. No experience is necessary, but honesty, S-O-M knowledge and your guarantee to complete the season are required. Features include: 12-16 teams using 1985 cards with extras, phone draft, 162 games, March-October. Divisions based on AL/NL team composition percentages. Restricted year-round trading. DH/away and injuries, pitcher/home. Traditional statistics, charts plus additions by members. Constitution, yearbook, newsletters. Preseason instructions, rotations offset late instructions. All managers involved in rules, all-star games, playoffs. Possible split-season format for more playoff teams. \$20 fee, partially refundable. Send personal background, photo, sample strategy sheet, S-O-M references, \$20 and SASE to: Jeff McMillen, Peru State College, 112 Delzell Hall, Peru, NE 68421. Also, list the do's and don'ts you wish to incorporate. Let's get organized now.

## Contest

**CONTEST:** The fourth annual Super Bowl Tournament will be held the weekend of April 12-13, 1986 at the Swansea Improvement Association Hall in Belleville, IL. Among the entrants are three-year finalist and two-year champion Paul "Bushwacker" Friederich. Entry fee is \$10. Teams from 1967 through '81 will be used with a random draw for the order of picks and the divisions. A round-robin format will be used Saturday, with a playoff on Sunday. Super-advanced rules are used. A super-advanced consolation.  
(continued on page 22)



## Nuggets, Natt shine in NBA playoff replay

### 'Healthy' Denver surprises L.A.

There are many reasons for playing Strat-O-Matic games; to replay your favorite team through an entire season, to replay an entire league, to beat the neighborhood bully in something to make up for the physical beatings he's administered to you, for camaraderie and good times, etc. The list could go on and on, ad infinitum.

One of the most popular forms of gaming methodology is the "what if?" What if the 1927 Yankees played the '53 Dodgers, the '68 Chiefs met the '72 Dolphins, or the best Islander team skated against Edmonton and Wayne Gretzky, 1984 or '85 vintage.

Neal Linkon, who resides in Denver, CO, - and is a fan of the Denver Nuggets, naturally - wanted to find out what would have happened if the Nuggets had been at full strength when they faced eventual champion, the Los Angeles Lakers, in the playoffs.

Remember this is the Denver team that had acquired some defense to go with one of the NBA's most explosive lineups offensively. Wayne Cooper, Calvin Natt, Fat Lever and two draft picks went to the Nuggets in exchange for high-scoring Kiki Vandeweghe in a trade with Portland.

And remember also that Denver has traditionally given the Lakers trouble in the Western Conference playoffs.

In real life the Nuggets battled L.A. with point guard Lever hurting with a bum knee and, with the series at 2-1 in the Lakers' favor and the fourth game being played in Denver, Alex English, the Nuggets' leading scorer, broke a finger.

The Lakers breezed the rest of the way, as they did through most of the playoffs.

"The question burning in the minds of most Nugget fans, and perhaps NBA fans nation-wide," says Linkon, "centered on the 'what ifs' that make Strat games so fascinating. What if Lever and English had been healthy?"

"Could Denver have beaten the high-powered Lakers with a full deck? We will never know for sure, but a replay using the Strat cards from last year's season could provide some clues."

#### THE 'NATT' ATTACK

Calvin Natt, one of the acquisitions from Portland, turned out to be the difference as Denver surprised L.A. in Linkon's replay, winning in six games. Natt averaged 34.5 points and grabbed 9.1 rebounds, plus managed to draw enough fouls on Kurt Rambis to keep one of the Lakers' unsung heroes on the bench for long spells.

The Nuggets were deployed in a sag defense to shut down Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and James Worthy inside. Bryan Scott and Michael Cooper did hurt Denver from the outside with 3-point shots, however. L.A. used a normal defense and both teams ran a fast-break.

The Lakers opened the series by scoring a 104-96 victory as Jabbar rang up 36 points. Natt had 33 for Denver. Rambis was a major force as he blocked five shots and had four steals to go with six points and five rebounds.

Denver captured game two as the Nuggets began to go inside more to draw fouls on Rambis. Natt poured in 34 as Denver won 107-101. Jabbar had 32 for the Lakers, who faded in the fourth quarter as Denver ruled the offensive board.

Game three was a two-point thriller, won by Denver, 111-109. Natt had 32 points and nine rebounds, Jabbar 34 tallies, but Rambis got into immediate foul trouble and the Lakers again lagged on the offensive boards. Denver's inside game also slowed L.A.'s fast-break to a walk.

Game four was another thriller, with Denver winning 116-114,  
(continued on next page)



despite Magic Johnson being credited with a whopping 18 assists. The Lakers, however, were hampered by foul troubles as Jabbar, Rambis and Scott all exited via the six-count. Cooper of the Nuggets also fouled out, but Dan Issel, Denver's greybeard, turned in a 21-point, five-rebound performance. Worthy led the Lakers with 28 points and eight rebounds.

The series returned to L.A. for game five and the Lakers pulled out a 107-106 squeaker as Magic had a scoring/assist double of 17. Denver had trailed by 23 points midway through the third period, however, before almost overtaking the Lakers.

Denver did clinch the series in game six, winning 123-122. Never more than seven points separated the two teams in another tight battle that wasn't decided until the last action card.

Natt again led Denver, pouring in 36 points, while English and Lever chipped in 21 apiece. Magic was spectacular for the Lakers in a losing cause, pumping in 24 points, grabbing eight rebounds and dishing out 20 assists. He was perfect from the field, swishing all 10 of his attempts, plus was four of five from the free throw line.

The result of the playoffs has Linkon convinced that a healthy Denver squad could have toppled the Lakers in real-life, too. But Linkon stresses "how well the Nuggets have always matched up against the Lakers," and adds, "I doubt the Nuggets would match up very well with the Celtics."

Summary (statistical averages):

DENVER	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Blocks	Steals
Natt	34.5	9.1	-	1.0	-
English	17.8	7.0	2.1	1.1	1.1
Lever	12.8	5.6	3.5	-	2.5
Issel	12.0	3.3	-	-	-
Evans	8.5	2.0	2.0	-	-
Cooper	7.3	7.3	-	1.8	-
Kopicki	7.1	3.0	-	-	-
Dunn	5.3	2.1	-	-	1.0
Hanzlik	3.6	2.5	-	-	-

LOS ANGELES	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Blocks	Steals
Jabbar	23.6	6.5	2.1	3.8	-
M. Johnson	21.0	8.0	13.3	-	0.8
Scott	19.5	1.6	1.0	-	1.6
Worthy	18.8	8.6	1.3	2.5	-
Rambis	6.6	5.0	-	3.5	1.6
McAdoo	6.6	3.8	-	-	-
M. Cooper	6.5	2.3	2.6	-	-
Spriggs	4.0	1.5	-	1.5	-
Wilkes	1.6	1.1	-	-	-
McGee	1.0	0.8	-	-	-

\*\*\*\*\*

## Advertisements

(continued from page 20)

(Contest continued)  
 tournament will be held on Sunday for those not qualifying for the playoffs. Teams used will be from 1982-84 seasons. Call: Al Skidmore (618-235-8287) or Paul Friederich (618-234-1929) for more information, or send a SASE to: Al Skidmore, 3536 Summit Ave., Belleville, IL 62223



Entry deadline is May 10

23

## Review's MVP 'lottery' continues

It doesn't compare with winning the big payoff in a lottery, but the Strat-O-Matic Review's Most Valuable Player Contest is still a pretty good deal for anyone rollin' the baseball dice.

The cost is really only 22 cents - or the price of a stamp - and the payoff is a set (plus extra players) of the new baseball cards when they become available at the end of January or the early part of February.

Tim Retchless, of Olean, NY, is the most recent winner of the MVP Contest. Tim should be enjoying his new card set by now.

The Review's newest contest is already under way and you can take part by simply sending along your choices for MVP in each league, the division winners and the percentage of each division winner. Division winners and their percentages will be used to break ties if necessary.

To enter all you have to be is a subscriber to the Review and get your entry in before May 10th. Only one entry per subscriber will be permitted.

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

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

### Past winners of MVP Contest

1985 - Tim Retchless, Olean, NY  
1984 - Jonathan Levin, Benton Harbor, MI  
1983 - Brian Rice, Muskegon, MI  
1982 - Paul Bressoud, Arcata, CA  
1981 - Duane Tunink, Lansing, MI  
1980 - Norman Swift, Lake Wales, FL  
1979 - John Dormer, Philadelphia, PA

1978 - Terry Ringen,  
Beattie, KS  
1977 - Terry Ringen,  
Beattie, KS

(continued on  
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The above prices for the two states, Canada and Puerto Rico include first-class mailing. Also note that the expiration date is listed first and then the month on the label.

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## MVP Contest now in 15th year

(continued from page 23)

1976 - tie, Neil Orser, Sydenham, Ont.  
Vince Trivelpiece, Berwick, PA  
1975 - James Lewis, Wellesley Hills, MA  
1974 - Mark Roblez, Salt Lake City, UT  
1973 - Pete Condorelli, Windsor, NY  
1972 - Mike Borzenski, Lansing, MI

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Review staff

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