



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. 16, November, 1985 *
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Timothy Johnson has a 'dream' Regional S-O-M Baseball tournaments planned in 24 cities

Baseball has its World Series. Football the Super Bowl. There are championship playoffs - national in scope - in almost every pro and college athletic endeavor.

Even occasionally, there's a meeting of Strat-O-Matic gamers that has a semblance of being a national tournament, such as the gatherings in Champaign-Urbana, IL, in the 1970s, organized by Rick Shapiro, and more recently the Lyman Bostock Memorial tournaments in the midwest put on by James Sanders.

But there's never been, as some critics of so-called national champions have charged, a truly national tournament where the best S-O-M players are all brought together to prove their mettle in head-to-head competition.

No longer is that going to be true - not if the dream of Timothy Johnson of Charlotte, NC, becomes a reality.

Johnson and Curt Freund, bankers by profession, have formed Table Tournays, Inc. for the explicit purpose of conducting national tournaments with Strat-O-Matic games.

Baseball is the first game and a grandiose plan calls for regional national tournaments to be held in 24 cities (all with major league baseball teams) in 1986. Winners and runnersup at each tournament will meet in a national championship tournament.

Johnson says that each tournament will have 320 participants, with the entry fee ranging from \$75 to \$85. The amount appears steep, but Johnson points out the payoff will be high, too, with prize money going from a top of \$4,000 for the winner, \$2,000 to the runnerup, down to \$200 apiece for 17th through 32nd place finishes. The 32 division winners will more than double their entry fee cost.

The tournaments, according to Johnson, will be true tests of a gamer's drafting and playing skill. No actual teams will be used, rather teams will be drafted. There will be 16 divisions in each of the

(continued on next page)

American and National leagues, with 10 teams in each division.

"We have incorporated," says Johnson, who claims that Table Tournaments has the financial resources to put on tournaments in 24 cities and conduct advertising campaigns in each.

"We will be advertising in The Sporting News and local newspapers. Everyone will be welcome, not just Strat-O-Matic gamers. Strat-O-Matic Baseball is the game that will be used. But practice sessions are planned for those who haven't played the game before."

A large number of S-O-M games will be purchased by TTT for each tournament as well, according to Johnson, who is devoting most of his waking hours toward making this project a smashing success.

As far as the entry fee, Johnson suggests that leagues perhaps pool their resources and send forth their 'finest' to represent them. Because 24 regional tournaments are planned, Johnson hopes travel distance and time can be cut down, although he says "there will be no limit on the number of tournaments a person may enter."

"I've talked to motels and hotels and they've said that discounts for a large number of people can be arranged, if they know far enough in advance."

PHILADELPHIA IS LAUNCHING-PAD SITE

Philadelphia will be the site for the TTT's first tournament, with the date Thursday-Sunday, Jan. 16-19. "That weekend was chosen," explains Johnson, "because that's the off week of the pro football playoffs. There shouldn't be anything else going on."

The large number of S-O-M gamers in the Philadelphia and New Jersey area was a main reason that city was selected to launch the tourney schedule.

Site in each city is likely to be a prep school, according to Johnson, a graduate of University School of Milwaukee (a prep school that his father is principal at in Wisconsin). "Classrooms would be used for drafting and first round games," says Johnson. "And the playoffs would be in the gymnasium."

Johnson, who's a graduate of Davison University and makes his home in Charlotte, NC, says that his roots are in the midwest and that his family is a good friend of Harry Dalton, general manager of the Milwaukee Brewers.

"We plan a real gala affair in Chicago (February) as many of my friends will be there," says Johnson.

HOW WILL TOURNAMENTS BE CONDUCTED?

The tournaments, as mentioned before, will be tests of gaming ability as well as drafting expertise.

Here's the schedule for the Philadelphia tournament on Jan. 16-19:

* Thursday, Jan. 16

4 p.m. - Welcome and training sessions.

6 p.m. - 32 10-team divisions will be separated for the drafting sessions. All owners will be expected to have prepared for an individual player draft. A prepared draft list is suggested, because there will be a one minute limit for each drafting selection. It is suggested that gamers rank players by position so that they will not feel panicked when an unexpected selection is made just before they pick.

In order to ensure optimum fairness, the 10 teams in each division will pick by lot for drafting order. The first-round order will be 1-10 and the second 10-1, continuing in such manner through 25 rounds. A 25-player roster will be used.

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Injuries will not be a part of the tournament, as the misfortune of an injury would have a disproportionate effect upon a round-robin system. Trading will be permitted for 45 minutes after the draft ends.

* Friday, Jan. 17

4 p.m. - Each team will play two exhibition games.

5:30 p.m. - A 15-minute trading session will be allowed.

5:45 p.m. - End of trading session: no more trades will be permitted the duration of tournament.

6:15 p.m. - Divisional "season" begins promptly at 6:15, with each team playing nine games, one versus every team in the division. Plays continues until all games are completed. Excessively slow play will not be permitted. The definition of "excessively" slow play is at the discretion of the umpire (one per division whose job it is to monitor play, decide disputes on the spot, etc.).

In case of a tie for the divisional lead after all games are completed, the tied teams will meet in a one-game playoff, with each team permitted to start its best starting pitcher.

Each team must have a four-man starting rotation. Relievers will be permitted to pitch six innings per three games, with a maximum of four in one game.

* Saturday, Jan. 18

9 a.m. - Final 32 teams (16 in the A.L., 16 in N.L.) begin playoffs with a new draft.

3 p.m. - Play begins in best-of-five series to trim field to eight teams in each league.

* Sunday, Jan. 19

9 a.m. - Semifinals begin (again best-of-five).

12:00 - League championships (best-of-five).

3:30 p.m. - World Series (best-of-seven).

8 p.m. - Checks and trophies presented. Champion and runnerup both automatically qualify for national championship at end of year in Charlotte, NC.

TOURNAMENT TOUR

After Philadelphia in January, Chicago and Boston are the next two cities the tournament will travel to, with play scheduled for both in February.

"We will have one tournament the first month, in January," says Johnson. "After that it will be two weekends every month." If all goes well, Johnson says football would be the next national tournament endeavor, possibly beginning in 1987.

In March, either Baltimore or Washington would be one tournament site, with Los Angeles the other. St. Louis and Detroit are slated for April and Houston and San Francisco in May. Next up would be, as part of the west coast swing, San Diego and Seattle for the month of June.

Two-a-month tournaments are planned throughout the summer, with the tourney schedule culminating with the warm weather cities of Miami and Tampa Bay at the end of the year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Admitting the entry fee cost is high, Johnson encourages all interested gamers to contact him for more information. The address is: Table Tournaments, Inc., 6417 - Suite 2E, Cameron Forest Lane, Charlotte, NC 28210 (phone: 704-553-7658).

"The original fee is \$85 but we're offering a discount to \$75 for anyone who sends in their money 60 days in advance of a tournament." If for any reason the tournament is not held, or is not conducted as advertised, Johnson says all money will be unconditionally refunded.

Strat-O-Matic spotlight

Sean Riley is a believer in Yogi Berra's double-talk that "it ain't over 'til it's over."

Riley, who calls Long Beach, CA, home, was playing a game in his 1983 American League replay season when Berra's verbalizings took on a new meaning.

Toronto batted a succession of Twins' pitchers and led 8-2 going into the bottom of the ninth inning. Dave Stieb was on the mound for the Blue Jays, making Minnesota's plight appear even more hopeless.

There was just minor concern when Kent Hrbek singled and, after the next two batters were out, Darrell Brown cracked a two-run homer. But Toronto's concern grew when the next three batters also reached base.

Along came Gary Gaetti and BANG! The Twins had tied it at 8. Stieb stayed in. But Dave Engle's single sent him packing and brought in a reliever. Another single by Hrbek put runners on the corners. Gary Ward stepped up and BANG! again. A three-run homer. The Twins win, 11-8.

Nine runs in the bottom of the ninth...all with two outs. And three home runs...also all with two outs. Ward, the last hero of the game for the Twins, also hit two doubles - all the hits were off 1-7 rolls (HR 1-12, DO 13-20), including the game-winning homer.

SHORT SHAKES

...De La Salle High School in Concord, CA, offers five credits for participation in a face-to-face Strat-O-Matic Baseball league. It's part of the school's Activities/Athletics/At-Large program...Clay Beard, West Point, NY, gets together with friends every Monday night to roll S-O-M Football dice. The real thing finishes second, reports Beard, who says "inevitably we get more involved with the game on the table than the game on the television set"...Notice the emphasis this month in the Review on managers in various baseball leagues? Keep the personality sketches and league info coming, and continue to keep stats to a minimum...Tom Fish, who now resides in Redlands, CA, after having a job transfer from Minnesota, reports that the ASC, a play-by-mail, draft baseball league, is entering its 15th year. It has 24 teams. Any leagues that have been around longer and have more teams?...Steve Walters, new commissioner of the Fly-Bv-Night Baseball Association (see story in this month's Review), says that five league members live in Florida now and that the FBNBA may soon have a Sunshine State Division and its members can play face-to-face...Some changes (optional, of course) are planned by S-O-M for baseball but the Review can't disclose them until next month. Stay tuned...What's the biggest problem with putting out the Review, as far as its editors are concerned? It cuts into S-O-M game-playing time... A Super Bowl replay of San Francisco and Miami was put on the backburner for November because of the breaking news of Timothy Johnson's 'dream' of having S-O-M Baseball tournaments in 24 cities throughout the country next year.

The Review staff

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Readers roll 'em

COVERAGE LACKING

I don't mean to be critical of the Review, because I dearly love it.

But the coverage of advanced baseball in the Lyman Bostock Memorial Tournament was weak. It drew the most participants but was shunned the coverage it deserved.

Even though my 1981 A's went a meager 3-9 in league play, my division had a five-way first-place tie and this wasn't mentioned anywhere.

Please give advanced baseball the coverage it deserves in the future.

LAIRD LEATHERS
St. Charles, IL

DELIGHTED ABOUT 1950

I, to, along with Jim Elliott, am delighted that Strat-O-Matic will be putting out the 1950 season.

I was a teen-ager in 1950 and remember that season very well. It was an exciting pennant race and the Red Sox hitting attack was awesome.

We Red Sox fans sure suffered between 1948-1950.

I hope Strat-O-Matic will put out the 1967 season next rather than 1968. The 1967 season had one of the most exciting pennant races ever.

Many thanks for putting out such a fine publication. I have gotten many hours of enjoyment from reading the Review.

LAWRENCE GREEN
59 Gelinas Dr.
Chicopee, MA

Editor's note: The 1950 season, replete with the slugging Red Sox, will be the next past year that S-O-M will come out with. The '50 set will be available at the end of January, along with the new 1986 baseball card set.

DISTURBED ABOUT ANSWER

I was disturbed by Strat-O-Matic's answer to the recent question regarding the factors considered in determining range ratings.

It was stated that the company considers factors other than putouts, assists and double plays in compiling range ratings for infielders.

While I don't expect the precise formula to be revealed, I definitely have a right to know whether the other factors are truly objective or the subjective opinion of some person who may well be incorrect in their opinion.

So far as I can tell, the company does not inject subjectivity into its pitching cards, hitting cards, error ratings, or stealing ratings. I truly hope the game is not being polluted by subjectivity in range ratings.

Yet, the range rating awarded to Bobby Dernier in 1984 makes me wonder...

JOHN MCGUIRE
1933 N. Rodgers
Alton, IL

Editor's note: Much research and checking of "inside" scouting reports and evaluations is the way S-O-M objectively rates players for range on defense.

LIKES COLUMNS, TIPS

Many columns written by Review readers show the innovativeness and commitment to the game.

Pitchers' defense and holding on ability by Kurt Smeby (Sept. '83 Review) is a great example. Another is the "5" fielding chart by Brian Webster (June '83 Review).

These columns are what really make the Review worth reading.

JERRY UNGER
958 E. Lewelling
Hayward, CA

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COMPUTER FOOTBALL?

Ten to 12 years ago I was an avid S-O-M Football fan, starting the first face-to-face Viet Nam Vet league in Rockaway Beach, NY, which was written up in the Review.

Eight years ago I moved to Walnut Creek, CA. I still order the cards periodically, but have no one to play with. At 38, my friends don't want to take the time to learn 20 pages of instructions to play a table-top game.

I'm sure there are hundreds, if not thousands, of other ex-S-O-M Football gamers out there, just like me, who want to play and don't have a partner (solitaire is not challenging enough).

Pro teams watch game films from the previous week, both of their own game and their next week's opponents. If you're in a face-to-face league, wouldn't you like to play your next game in advance (against a computer) to see what might work?

For the past three months I've been working on a computer version of S-O-M Football on an Atari 800-XL, in basic. Needless to say, with all the rules the going is slow and quite complicated.

Should I continue or is the company going to develop one?

CHARLES A. ROGERS
2671 Sandpiper Court
Walnut Creek, CA

Editor's note: At this time S-O-M is devoting all of its energy to ready its computer version of the baseball game. If it is successful, then football could very well be next.

WHAT ABOUT ATARI?

I am upset by S-O-M's announcement of their newest product, the "statistical package." Why is this product being only made for Apple and Commodore owners? I have an Atari 800 and was waiting for something like this to come

along. This would help me tremendously.

I understand that Atari is only third in popularity to these two companies, but Atari has come out with a new line of hardware. The new computers coming out have been considered by many to be better than Apple for amazingly half the price. This should make Atari very popular in the near future.

Right now, I know of four people who would buy the product right away if available for Atari owners.

I just hope that if S-O-M makes a computer version of the game, it will make it available for Atari as well.

ADAM WOODON
4 Colmer Ave.
Lake Grove, NY 11755

'BASIC' THROWING ARMS

I'm one of the few who still prefer to play the basic S-O-M Baseball game.

However, I would like to be able to use the outfielders' throwing arms.

Would S-O-M consider changing the basic version where you could determine which field the ball goes to?

Could you also tell me if a "Flyball A" that moves a runner from first to second base is considered a sacrifice fly or not?

Editor's note: Throwing arms are considered part of the advanced game and S-O-M at this time has no plans to add which field the base hit was to in the basic version. Regarding the last question, no, it is not a sacrifice fly. A sacrifice fly can only be when a run scores as a result of the flyball.

LARGER ROSTER NEEDED

I am a S-O-M Baseball veteran who has enjoyed thousands of games of dice-rolling excitement since playing my first game in

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1965. During the 20 years I have played just about every baseball table top game on the market and have found few compare with S-O-M.

But recently I purchased a couple of excellent baseball games both which emphasize one of Strat-O-Matic Baseball's weaknesses - a limited roster.

Over the years I have agreed with numerous readers of the Review who have urged S-O-M to provide a larger roster. I have read the replies from the company, that the Review supplied, against expanded rosters, but am left unconvinced.

I am currently finishing a full-season replay for 1984 Pittsburgh (previously I have completed full-season replays for the 1956, '61, '82 and '83 Pirates).

The frustration in recreating an accurate full-season replay is the limited roster S-O-M provides. I have used the unnamed player cards as suggested, but find that the matchups are never perfect for all categories.

I have also been replaying all N.L. and A.L. playoffs and World Series games for the last 20 years. Unfortunately, I have not been able to do this with historical accuracy since a number of starting pitchers and key players were not issued.

I cannot understand the game company's reasoning for: (1) selling extra players - why not include them in the card set? (2) Not printing a more complete roster so that the nameless player card set could be used for players who appeared in only a few games.

I think S-O-M Baseball is super, but I feel the game company is failing to make a necessary adjustment for its customers by providing an extended roster which would enable a more authentic full-season replay.

Thank you for your continued fine publication which I have enjoyed through the years.

RAYMOND GAUSMAN
110 Tamarack St.
Liverpool, NY

SHOCKED ABOUT KRAMER

After receiving this year's football cards and reading a recent issue of the Review, I was quite shocked.

I find it very difficult to accept S-O-M's reasoning for not including Tommy Kramer in the regular set. He played more games and attempted more passes than any of the other Viking quarterbacks.

But S-O-M feels that I will get more accurate and realistic stats using David Wilson and Archie Manning? Not likely.

My opinion is that it was a very, very poor (unrealistic, too) decision.

S-O-M has a great game, but I've lost some enthusiasm to play the game as it is now unrealistic when a team's most pivotal player is left off its squad.

TOM FISH
Redlands, CA

Editor's note: The decision to leave Kramer and Billie Sims off the regular team sets was not a popular one by Strat-O-Matic. However, most gamers ordered the extra players and both were included in that set. Anyone attempting a realistic full-season replay would likely need the extra players anyway. In fact, if S-O-M had put the extras on each team, we feel that most gamers wouldn't have checked the rosters close enough to notice that Kramer and Sims were not on the regular roster.

WHO'S JUDGE CRATER

Who the heck is this Judge Crater you constantly refer to when describing defunct leagues?

KURT HOLLASCH
5068 Carriage Lane
Lockport, NY

Editor's note: Judge Joseph Crater was a New York Supreme Court justice who disappeared in Aug., 1930. He was never seen again.

It's back to 'basics' in baseball

Twenty-manager Fanatic League continues old-style version

It may be back to the basics when it comes to playing Strat-O-Matic, but the S-O-M Fanatic Baseball League is anything but that as far as its yearbook and managerial lineup.

First of all the SOMFBL has 20 members, which makes it one of the largest play-by-mail leagues going. Secondly, along with a yearbook that is the ultimate in organization and contains every statistic that you would ever want to know, there's a section devoted to profiles of the managers.

That's what's intriguing to us, the editors of the Review, the personalities that make up a league. Jeff Schwarze (see article in Aug. 1984 Review on the SOMFBL) is the commissioner and the young man responsible for the voluminous yearbook.

He epitomizes an S-O-M 'fanatic' as he's in two other PBM leagues, is in his fourth year at University of Illinois (major: actuarial science, a form of statistics and finance) and is engaged (Janice; marriage planned for May, 1987).

"She doesn't particularly care for S-O-M," says Schwarze. "But she does support me in my game-playing...and she was also impressed in all the time and effort that went into the production of the yearbook. She only wishes that I would spend that much time on my school work."

TIGERS ARE MOST IMPROVED

The SOMFBL uses actual teams and doesn't allow trading, so it also provides a good comparison with real-life results (except for the use of the basic game, with some modifications including the cutoff rule and supplementary stealing).

Detroit was the most improved team as it had a .568 winning percentage in real-life in 1983 and won the most games in the league (109-53) for a .673 mark and .105 improvement. The Chicago Cubs (.438 real/.444 league), Houston (.525/.519), Texas (.475/.469) and Dodgers (.562/.556) were the closest, while Atlanta (.543/.469, -.074) and Kansas City (.488/.414, -.074) were the biggest disappointments.

In the playoffs, the White Sox, managed by Kevin Veldrine, defeated Detroit, 3-1, and then went the full seven games before edging Philadelphia in the final, 4-3, in the World Series. LaMarr Hoyt won two games and had a 2.19 ERA to win Series MVP honors.

The National League playoff went the full five games, with Philadelphia outlasting the Dodgers. Garry Maddox of the Phillies was MVP after batting .524 and collecting 11 hits.

SOMFBL'S MANAGERIAL LINEUP

Now for a look at the gamers behind the dice rolls and statistics in the SOMFBL. On the next couple of pages are listings of the managers, ages, occupations, their team(s) and information about them as well as team highlights/lowlights:

BRAD HISE (Detroit) - Age 17...student...been playing S-O-M for five years...most memorable game was when Juan Berenguer no-hit Twins..

Detroit led all teams with a 2.67 ERA and only 82 errors...Jack Morris was Cy Young winner after 27-8, 2.17 ERA, 290 strikeouts for numbers...Dan Petry (21-12) was also stopper, while Lou Whitaker (.342, 116 runs and only two errors), Alan Trammell (.303, 26 home runs, 101 RBI) and Larry Herndon (.320, 24, 105) took care of offense.

JIM MCPARTLAND (Baltimore) - Age 26...district executive Boy Scouts of America...15 years experience...single; looking for an S-O-M (continued on next page)

wife - to at least tolerate game!...Mike Boddicker came close to perfect game against Yankees, giving up one hit in first inning...Key players were Eddie Murray (.315, 42, 121), Cal Ripken (.335, 29, 105) and Storm Davis (18-11, 2.86).

FRED MILLER (Milwaukee) - 18...student...seven years experience...Cecil Cooper was AL MVP with .344, 39 and 148 totals...Robin Yount led in runs scored (126) and batted .313...Don Sutton was only reliable starter (20-9, 3.62).

CHRIS GRIM (NY Yankees) - 16...started playing S-O-M when age seven...father and brother also are in SOMFBL...Never had a no-hitter...Most exciting game was a 13-12 New York win over Baltimore, with both teams combining for 41 hits (21 by the Orioles) and six double plays erasing more potential runs...Don Baylor was super (.323, 40, 54 doubles, 131) while Dave Winfield (.274, 33, 120), Ron Guidry (23-5, 2.75) and Dave Righetti (19-10, 2.72) also led the Yankee charge...Goose Gosage saved 34 games and had 2.48 ERA before heading off to National League.

JEFF MILLER (Boston) - 21...computer programming student at Parkland College, Champaign, IL...Plays on church league basketball team that won 1985 National Lutheran Sports Association tournament...Highlight was Gary Allenson's home run in bottom of ninth inning that beat Detroit, 6-5. It was Allenson's only roundtripper of the season.

JIM REID (Toronto) - 25...upholster...had best hitting team (.279) as well as slugging (201 home runs)...averaged 5.1 runs...Cecil Upshaw (.303, 36, 114), Jesse Barfield (35 homers) and Lloyd Moseby (.327, 23, 106) were offensive stars...Dave Stieb (23-18, 2.77, 40 complete games) was pitching ace.

FRED MILLER (Cleveland) - Also guided Milwaukee in A.L...pitching staff gave up league-high 10.4 hits per game...Last in homers with 111.

KEVIN VEDRINE (White Sox) - 20...attends University of Illinois (plans on pursuing law degree after graduation)...manager of year in A.L...proponent of DH ("fans shouldn't have to pay \$10 a ticket to see pitchers bat)...5-4 win over Kansas City that lasted 22 innings was most memorable game...balance was key for White Sox...three 20-game winners: LaMarr Hoyt (24-14, 3.25), Richard Dotson (22-10, 3.47) and Britt Burns (22-3, 2.15)...Burns was ERA champ...Hitting was keyed by Ron Kittle (34 homers), Carlton Fisk (32, 101) and Tom Facoriel (.326).

GREG SCHWARZE (Oakland) - 19...student at Illinois State...brother of Jeff...played four years of high school football and had scholarship offer to South Dakota, but turned it down (too far away)...favorite player is Reggie Jackson...Oakland led AL in steals (240) and errors (165)...Rickey Henderson was the top thief with 108...pitching-poor...

SCOTT CROUCH (Texas) - 17...student: varsity baseball and football player in high school...pitching staff had second-best ERA (2.91) and gave up fewest homers (108)...Larry Parrish (35, 106) was only hitter of note.

JEFF SCHWARZE (California) - 21...student at Illinois...commissioner of SOMFBL...has experienced five no-hitters, but none recently...goal in life is to win the Illinois lottery so he can own major league baseball team...his paper team, California, was hurt by lack of speed as it stole only six bases and made only 11 attempts...Rod Carew batted .328 but with only 36 RBI.

ANDY TORCHALSKI (Kansas City) - 20...student at Illinois where he's a junior majoring in computer science...enjoys horseback riding when not rolling S-O-M dice...best hitting team in AL West (.267)...Dan Quisenberry was pitching leader (18-17, 23 saves, 1.56), but Bud Black had worst ERA in both leagues (6.21)...George Brett (.286, 37, 99) had good numbers, again.

DAVE GRIM (Minnesota) - 14...student...youngest player in SOMFBL...
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.5-11, 150 pounds and an avid weightlifter...most memorable game was 13-12 win over Cleveland as both teams had 32 hits...Kent Hrbek batted .294 with 19 homers...had worst pitching staff with 4.63 ERA.

BARRY GROSS (Seattle) - 31...lawyer (works as an Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County)...married with one child and a busy career, "But I always find time for Strat"...received game as a gift seven years ago...Seattle had anemic offense (.242, 3.6 runs per game)...pitching staff did strikeout league-high 1,007...Matt Young was big disappointment (14-19, 5.31).

JOE WOSCHITZ (Philadelphia) - 26...intern at St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, IN: plans on going into Ophthalmology (eye doctor)...13 years of S-O-M experience...runnerup in SOMFBL...Steve Carlton's no-hitter against Dodgers was most memorable game, Carlton struck out 15 and walked four. Game was played in car while Woschitz was en route to cousin's wedding ("Guess you could say I was rollin' down the road")...had lowest ERA (3.06) in N.L...Mike Schmidt (.295, 53, 138) won third straight MVP award...John Denny (26-5, 2.13) was Cy Young winner...Al Holland was bullpen bulwark with 29 saves, 1.02 ERA.

JIM REID (Montreal) - Also manages Toronto...Tim Lincecum led NL with 128 runs scored...Steve Rogers (18-12, 3.05) was best pitcher.

JIM FISHER (Pittsburgh) - 19...student U. of Illinois...most memorable game was when Jim Morrison hit three-run homer in top of 13th to give Pirates 6-3 win over Chicago. Buc hurlers gave up only three hits...Pirates led NL in hitting (.272)...Rick Rhoden had 21-8 record and led NL with one home run allowed per 31 innings.

JIM MCPARLAND (St. Louis) - Also manages Baltimore...Lonnie Smith led NL in hitting (.362)...offense was tops with 4.7 runs per game...also led in stolen bases (189) and fewest errors (91).

ANDY TORCHALSKI (Chicago) - Also manages Kansas City...Sub-par season except for Lee Smith (8-12, 1.77, 19 saves).

JEFF GRIM (NY Mets) - 38...business manager for public school district...married: father of SOMFBL managers Chris, David...co-NL manager of the year...only 19 complete games for pitchers, but staff had 40 saves...Keith Hernandez batted .325, Strawberry hit 27 home runs, Seav had 18-16 record and Jesse Orosco saved 36 games.

LAIRD LEATHERS (Los Angeles) - 18...fresh student at Southern Illinois, majoring in business...played over 5,000 games of S-O-M...most memorable game was when Dodgers defeated St. Louis, 8-7, after trailing 7-1 going into the eighth.

JEFF SCHWARZE (Houston) - Also manages California...Jose Cruz batted .300 and tied Lonnie Smith for most hits (217)...Joe Niekro (20-11) was a surprise while Nolan Ryan disappointed (16-9, 23 homers allowed).

SHAWN HISE (San Diego) - 17...student...Terry Kennedy was top hitter (.285, 96 RBI) and Eric Show was best pitcher (20-11)...San Diego had biggest home-road differential (+27).

BOB GILLESPIE (Atlanta) - 28...works at General Motors...12 years S-O-M experience...married with 3 1/2 year old daughter...highlight(s) of season with many lowlights was "when Phil Niekro won"...Dale Murphy (.299, 40, 97) had another solid season...Bob Horner (.306, 43, 97) gave Braves 1-2 punch...pitching was bad with 4.14 ERA.

LES MOREY (San Francisco) - 29...college professor (clinical psychology, Vanderbilt University)...17-year S-O-M vet...Giants led in homers (162) but were last in ERA (4.16)...Darrell Evans (.291, 46, 116) bid N.L. farewell with fireworks...Atlee Hammaker (17-4, 1.89) was second in Cy Young voting and led N.L. in ERA.

BARRY GROSS (Cincinnati) - Also manages Seattle...Terrible hitting team, batting miserly .228...Pitching (3.60) was adequate...Mario Soto was top hurler with 18-21, 2.71 numbers, but lost 20 for second year in a row.

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AMERICAN LEAGUE									
East	W	L	GB	West	W	L	GB	Batting	
Detroit	109	53	-	Chicago	101	61	-	Boggs BOS	.366
Baltimore	94	68	15	Oakland	76	86	25	Cooper MIL	.344
Milwaukee	93	69	16	Texas	76	86	25	Whitaker DET	.342
New York	93	69	16	California	72	90	29	Ripken BAL	.335
Boston	87	75	22	Kansas City	67	95	34	Carew CAL	.328
Toronto	87	75	22	Minnesota	62	100	39	Home Runs	
Cleveland	59	103	50	Seattle	52	104	43	Luzinski CHI	46
ERA				Wins				Rice BOS	46
Burns CHI	2.15			Morris DET	27			Murray BAL	42
Morris DET	2.17			Hoyt CHI	24			Baylor NY	40
Stewart BAL	2.57			Guidry NY	23			Cooper MIL	39
Tanana TEX	2.59			Stieb TOR	23			Hi Whitaker DET	
Beattie SEA	2.71			Burns CHI	22			233	
				Dotson CHI	22			Ri Yount MIL	126
CG: Stieb TOR	40							2E: Farrish DET	64
W-L%: Burns CHI	.880			Strikeouts				SE: Henderson OAK	108 (.788%)
SH: Morris DET	7			Morris DET	290			GWRBI: Farrish DET	22
SA: Gossage NY	34			Bannister CHI	267				
Barojas CHI	31			Stieb TOR	270				
NATIONAL LEAGUE									
East	W	L	GB	West	W	L	GB	Batting	
Philadelphia	96	66	-	Los Angeles	90	72	-	L.Smith SL	.362
Montreal	89	73	7	Houston	84	78	6	Cruz HOU	.330
Pittsburgh	89	73	7	San Diego	79	83	11	Hernandez NY	.325
St. Louis	82	80	14	Atlanta	76	86	14	Hendrick SL	.322
Chicago	72	90	24	San Francisco	74	88	16	Oliver MON	.311
New York	70	92	26	Cincinnati	71	91	19	Home Runs	
ERA				Wins				Schmidt PHI	53
Hammaker SF	1.89			Denny PHI	26			Evans SF	46
Denny PHI	2.13			Rhoden PIT	21			Horner ATL	43
Fena LA	2.30			Niekro HOU	20			Murphy ATL	40
Soto CIN	2.71			Show SD	20			Guerrero LA	36
Seaver NY	2.74							Hendrick SL	113
Strikeouts				CG: Soto CIN	25			Hi Cruz HOU	L.Smith SL 217
Soto CIN	288			SH: Carlton PHI	7			Ri Faines MON	126
Carlton PHI	275			SA: Orosco NY	36			2E: Oliver MON	54
Valenzuela LA	218			Holland PHI	29			SE: Wiggins SD	(.869%)
Ryan HOU	213			Tekulve PIT	28			GWRBI: Schmidt PHI	26

Eight is not enough for this league

Eight is anything but enough for the Clinton Strat-O-Matic Baseball League.

The face-to-face league that calls Clinton, MA. home is currently playing with the 1984 season-based cards and when the final die is cast it will be season No. 9, with the last three with 10 members.

John Joyce is commissioner and his home is the league's 'stadium' once a week for games. The schedule is not overly taxing as only four games are played per session.

Since the Clinton league plays a 160-game schedule plus playoffs, it's almost a year-round endeavor. The last replay was completed in

(continued on next page)

December. Enough said.

There was one no-hitter in the recent season and nine one-hitters. Nolan Ryan of Fran Sheehy's team set down Kent DeGroot, 2-0.

Here's a thumbnail sketch of the teams in the Clinton S-O-M League:

DIVISION I

JOHN JOYCE - Won fifth straight division pennant with 103 wins... scored the most runs (825) and allowed fewest (624)...Mike Schmidt and Dale Murphy smashed 36 and 34 homers, respectively, as team pounded 220...Alejandro Pena (20-3 plus 13 saves) was chosen Cy Young winner.

DICK O'MALLEY - Won 91 games but still finished 12 behind Joyce... Dave Stieb (21-12, 3.35 ERA) was ace of staff...Rapped 292 doubles... Andre Dawson carried biggest stick with 30 homers, 105 RBI.

DENNIS FOLEY - Pitching staff slumped, particularly Mario Soto (12-22, 4.35)...Tippy Martinez (14-5) was one of few bright spots... Rickey Henderson swiped 119 bases and scored 95 runs.

RICH KENNEDY - Pitching also failed as Matt Young (10-19), LaMarr Hoyt (12-18) and Craig McMurry (11-21) were dubbed the "disaster triplets"...Lee Smith did save 35 games and Charlie Hough win 20, but Hough also lost 17.

MARK DRISCOLL - No. 1 draft choice John Denny had 14-21 record but 3.48 ERA, with lack of support the reason for the big numbers in the loss column...Jim Rice cracked 31 homers, Doug DeCinces 24, but rest of team had only 85.

DIVISION II

JOE DIMAURO - Set league record with 107 wins...seven players hit 20 or more home runs, with Dave Winfield (34) and Pedro Guerrero (33) tops...team hit 241 homers which is second-best in league's history (Joe's 257 is standard)...George Brett led in extra-base clouts (53-3-22)...Lance Parrish chipped in 27 homers...Atlee Hammaker (18-7) and long reliever Frank Tanana (21-5) had best records among hurlers.

FRAN SHEEHY - Featured MVP Robin Yount (35 doubles, 10 triples, 16 homers, 114 RBI), Ed Murray (35, 107 RBI, 103 runs) and "Mr. Clutch," Keith Moreland, who drove in 56 runs and hit .348 in only 287 at-bats.

DAN TOMASELLO - Had four .300 hitters but only one batter hit 20 homers (George Hendrick)...had league-record 337 doubles...Mike Boddicker was 21-10 with 3.32 ERA.

KENT DEGROODT - Had power in Greg Luzinski (30), Larry Parrish (29) and Ron Cey (23), but that was extent of talent...future looks bright as roster includes young man by the name of Don Mattingly.

BRIAN MAHONEY - Had league's worst record second straight year... getting married soon and may take a break from league play...Jesse Barfield (38, 100 RBI) and Darrell Evans (31) were only offensive bright spots...pitching staff gave up 828 runs.

SHEEHY CAPTURES SERIES

The two top teams in each division qualified for the playoffs. Division II champ Joe DiMauro rocked Dick O'Malley, 9-1, 12-7 and 3-2, while Fran Sheehy upset Division I winner John Joyce, 16-3, 5-3 and 3-1.

Cecil Cooper (25 homers during the regular-season) whacked three in three playoff games and Dickie Thon went 9 for 11 (.818) for DiMauro.

In the World Series, Sheehy won his first championship ever by defeating DiMauro in six games (6-4, 2-5, 4-6, 5-3, 11-4, 10-5). Yount lived up to his MVP award by batting .429 (12-8) and scoring seven
(continued on next page)

runs. Eddie Murray hit three homers and knocked in 10 runs and Moreland was "Mr. Clutch" one more time by going 9-for-17. Bob Welch was the lone two-game winner in the Series.

Standings and leaders:

Division I					Batting	
Won-Lost	GB	Avg.	ERA			
John Joyce 103 57	-	.258	3.40	Boggs DT	.333	
Dick O'Malley 91 69	12	.263	3.59	Hendrick DT	.314	
Dennis Foley 71 89	32	.241	4.20	Herr DF	.309	
Rich Kennedy 70 90	33	.258	4.05	Lo.Smith FS	.308	
Mark Driscoll 69 91	34	.239	3.62			
Division 2					Home Runs	
Won-Lost	GB	Avg.	ERA			
Joe DiMauro 107 53	-	.268	3.32	Barfield BM	38	
Fran Sheehy 94 66	13	.273	3.54	Schmidt JJ	36	
Dan Tomasello 80 80	27	.277	3.83	Murray FS	35	
Kent DeGroot 60 100	47	.255	4.34	Da.Murphy JJ	34	
Brian Mahoney 55 105	52	.247	4.60	Winfield JD	34	
ERA					REI	
Wins						
A.Pena JJ 2.27	Tanana JD 21-5			Yount FS	114	
Hammaker JD 2.73	Boddicker DT 21-10			Murray FS	107	
Welch FS 2.86	Stieb DO 21-12			Dawson DO	105	
Berenguer MD 3.14	A.Pena JJ 20-3			Guerrero JD	102	
Ryan FS 3.18	Hough RK 20-17					
Strikeouts					H:	
CG:	SH:	SA:				
Soto DF 254	Denny MD 3			Lo.Smith FS	196	
Ryan FS 240	Stieb DO 3			Ln.Farrish JD	56	
F.Bannister MD 234	Welch FS 3			Dawson DO	15	
Stieb DO 228	Le.Smith RK 35			Lefebvre FS	15	
	Niedenfuer JD 32			Winfield JD	108	
				Raines JJ	120/165	
				Henderson DF	119/174	

Questions & Answers

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

QUESTION: Are a catcher's "T" numbers inclusive? For instance, for a catcher with T 1-8, does a throwing error occur with a split draw of 5?

ANSWER: Yes, the numbers are inclusive.

QUESTION: When the batter misses the pitch on an attempted hit-and-run what happens if the runner attempting to steal third base fails to achieve a good lead?

ANSWER: Runner is automatically out.

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QUESTION: A manager pinch-hits for his right fielder. When he attempts to make his defensive replacement he finds that none of his unused players is rated for right field. What should be done?

ANSWER: The question above and the next couple below are best answered by either following major league baseball rules or that particular league's constitution, by-laws, etc. In answering the question from the standpoint of the GKSM (Greater Kalamazoo Strat-O-Matic League, which includes Review co-editors Warren and Del Newell as managers), the manager should not have pinch-hit. Penalty would be to put any unused player in right field and assign him worst possible defensive ratings (4, +4 arm, e16).

QUESTION: An injury occurs to the catcher. The team's other catcher is unavailable to play. Who do you put behind the plate and what are the ratings?

ANSWER: Same as above answer: assign available player (preferably a utility type) a "4, +4, e16, T1-20." The GKSM, because most teams can't carry more than two catchers with a 25-man roster, allow for a third catcher and a 26-player roster. If team has a 26-player roster, however, that extra player must be a third catcher.

QUESTION: What is the penalty for batting out of order in S-O-M? In real-life it is a strikeout.

ANSWER: Penalty is the same in S-O-M - a strikeout.

QUESTION: A team is in the middle of a pennant race with another team. Manager A pitches Alejandro Pena against manager B's team and Pena wins the game. Manager A then plays another game and afterwards realizes his pitching is screwed up. Pena had pitched with only one game rest? What penalty should be imposed for this poor management?

ANSWER: Again, go by what league's constitution, etc., calls for. The GKSM says starters must have two full days (not games) rest between assignments, plus they cannot exceed number of innings pitched in real-life for the season, which further restricts their use. If a violation has occurred, we would suggest the game be forfeited by team A, but that all stats be kept.

QUESTION: In the football game if the outside linebacker is double-teaming the wide receiver and either the free safety or inside linebacker is moved into the vacated zone, is the zone vacated if a pass is thrown there?

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ANSWER: No. The zone is physically occupied (by a card, of course).
One man in zone is the reading on the defensive card.

QUESTION: Referring to the same question, what is the result with the free safety or inside linebacker in outside linebacker's zone if the dice roll is on quarterback's card?

ANSWER: It is still guessed right, according to Strat-O-Matic.

QUESTION: In the basic basketball game, it seems the offensive team gets the rebound after a missed second free throw too often. Even the shooter gets the rebound once or twice a game since I've been playing. Am I doing something wrong?

ANSWER: We would use, regardless of whether playing basic or advanced, the rebounding situation described on page 12 of the rulebook. For a missed free throw "increase the rating of all defensive rebounders by 2, and decrease the rating of all offensive rebounders by 2."

QUESTION: The instructions for 3-point shots are not specific. Can the coach call for a 3-point attempt anytime there is a dice roll shot, except for an offensive rebound open shot? If "D" comes up, do you read the defensive card as usual - "X" for 3 points?

ANSWER: A coach can call for a 3-point attempt anytime, provided the shooter can make such an attempt(s). The roster sheet has a listing of players who attempt 3-point shots and how many they can try per game. When playing the basic game and the roll is on the defensive card, roll two dice and check the "3-Pt. Shooting" at the top for whether attempt is good or missed.

QUESTION: What happens if Willie Hernandez (3 as far as point of weakness inning), enters a game in the sixth inning with two outs and pitches the rest of the way? Does his point of weakness (hits and walks) start with the second out of the eighth inning, or does the rule hold that, because he appeared in the sixth inning - even if he faced only one batter - that his two "free" innings were the sixth and seventh and that hits and walks started counting in the top of the eighth inning?

ANSWER: A very technical question, to be sure. The way the GKSMML plays this situation is the same as described above in the first part of the question. Hernandez, if he entered the game with two outs in the sixth inning, would have hits and walks count against his point of weakness beginning after there were two outs in the eighth inning. It's done by fractions of innings in the case of relievers, at least according to the GKSMML constitution.

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: Desire to join face-to-face league in Sacramento, CA area that maintains continuous team ownership. Also interested in finding players to start face-to-face league in area - ran league in San Jose for five years. Call Rick Lagomarsino (916-624-9156), or write: 5525 3rd Street, Rocklin, CA 95677

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: Giants ('63); Pirates, Cardinals ('68); Dodgers ('76); Cubs ('64); Braves ('66, '68), Reds ('62, '65); Senators ('62); Orioles ('62, '64); White Sox ('66); Indians ('66, '67); A's ('62, '66). Send price and condition to: Kevin Schoenecker, 5790 Elmhurst Dr., Littleton, CO 80123

WANTED: 1977 and 1978 Royals. 1978 extras. Jeff Mueller, 214 Terrace Apts., Pullman, WA 99163

WANTED: 1967 football. I need Philadelphia, Washington, New Orleans, Chicago, Pittsburgh, LA, Atlanta, Detroit, Minnesota. I will pay top dollars for mint condition, but lesser condition okay. Also, I have many football teams, 1968-1983, to trade. Otto Hernandez, 26

Broadway, Hammonton, NJ 08037 (609-561-6139)

WANTED: 1971-1977, complete baseball sets with extras, in good to excellent condition. Also, 1979-80 Baltimore Orioles in excellent condition. David Rizza, 46 Winchester St., Medford, MA 02155 (617-395-8205)

WANTED: Any/all football teams from 1970 on back. Please send list of teams and price list to: Todd Turner, Pastor, Hancock United Methodist Church, Hancock, MD 21750

WANTED: Cards from the 1982 baseball season. Please reply as soon as possible to: Scott Marty, 2604 Granada Way #3, Madison, WI 53713

WANTED: No contest - just opinions. I want to play 1930 all-star game, the game that never was, but should have been. Will publish in S-O-M Review on postcard. On postcard, send 35 players for AL and NL (70 total) in each league. Ten pitchers and 3 at other positions. Butch Haber, 2085 Rockaway Parkway, Building 11 Apt. 5-1, Brooklyn, NY 11236 (1-718-241-2605)

For Sale

FOR SALE: Greatest S-O-M liquidation sale. Baseball - complete seasons most w/extras, 1972-83. (continued)

Single teams '65-83. Teams missing a few players, '71-83. Football - complete, '73-83. Many single teams '70-83. Hockey complete seasons, '77-84. Single teams, '78-83. Send all bids and SASE to: Sal Mangiapane, 239 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011 (201-546-9698)

FOR SALE: Individual S-O-M Baseball teams from 1930-1984. Send for list and include SASE to: Chris Rosen, 731 Bergen St., Philadelphia, PA 19111 (215-745-5247)

FOR SALE: 1982 National League with extras: 1979 Blue Jays; 1981 Reds, Expos; 1983 w/extras, Dodgers, Reds, Astros, Expos, Braves, Phillies; all at least excellent, for \$20, or bid separate. D.M. Schmidt, 9137 Latin Road NW, E. Canton, OH 44730

FOR SALE: 1979 and 1982 baseball sets. Also, 1978 Rangers; 1979 Yankees, Mets, Twins, Blue Jays. Jeff Mueller, 214 Terrace Apts., Pullman, WA 99163 (509-334-9528)

FOR SALE: Strat-O-Matic games and team cards (baseball, football, basketball, hockey). Trades considered. Send today for giant-sized sports catalogue #2 - only \$1 (SASE please). Herb Levv, Box 197-Sr., East Meadow, NY 11554

FOR SALE: Finally, 'E' ratings for 1971-1976. Complete, accurate, detailed. Make these sets compatible with your newer sets. All players over 25 games at position get actual rating. At positions under 25 games, special estimated ratings are marked with asterisks, allowing you to limit playing time at those positions, or downgrade ratings if necessary. My ratings are totally objective, based only on statistics. You decide how to use the players. Special feature: catcher throwing arms for 1971 and 1972. Enormous amounts of work and research went into this project. \$5 per year,

\$25 all six years - postpaid. Satisfaction guaranteed. Write: Tom Yanega, 79-31 260 St., North Floral Park, NY 11004

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1970 (reprinted version, complete), 1978 (with extras), and 1982 with extras (excluding Baltimore, Boston, Milwaukee). Will sell as package to highest bidder. Will pay postage. Will also consider trades for complete sets between 1971 and '77. In good to excellent condition. David Rizza, 46 Winchester St., Medford, MA 02155 (617-395-8205)

FOR SALE: S-O-M Reviews - March, 1974-Feb., 1975 (12 issues); March, '75-Feb., '76 (12 issues); March, '76-Feb., '77 (12 issues); March, '77-Feb., '78 (12 issues). Each year, \$27; all four years, \$100. All prices include postage. Excellent condition (also March, '78 to present for sale). Prefer by-phone deals. Butch Haber, 2085 Rockaway Parkway, Building 11 Apt. 5-I, Brooklyn, NY 11236 (718-241-2605)

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-

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

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1979 with extras missing, mint; '78 w/o extras, good; '77, '75, '73 with extras, all mint; '74, '72 w/o extras, good; '69 with 23 extras missing, fair. Also have individual teams: '76, '73, '71, '70 A's; '75, '73 Reds; '68 Cubs; '67 Cards. Also have basketball - '72-73, '73-74. Prefer to sell baseball as set, but willing to sell individual years. Most cards unused, but a few have pencil writing. Write to: James Frost, 24590 Townsend Ave., Hayward, CA 94544 (415-783-7623 or 415-784-1934) and leave message.

FOR SALE: I started with 5,000 - now I have 10,000 loose S-D-M Baseball cards from 1930-1984. Check your card sets, missing any, some worn? Send your list and include year, team, players name and an SASE to: Chris Rosen, 731 Bergen Street, Philadelphia, PA (215-745-5247). Lowest prices ever.

FOR SALE: Still available. S-D-M Baseball "Kit," a valuable addition to any gaming situation, but especially for solitaire players. Includes a complete system for organizing solitaire play, outline for setting up leagues and miscellaneous rules and variations. Guaranteed. Send \$4 plus 50 cents postage to: Gopher Graphics, RD-2 Box 323, Greene, NY 13778

FOR SALE: Every hockey set ever issued, complete with extra players and roster sheets. All in excellent to mint condition. Send a SASE with your bid to: Phil Ledesma, 3626 W. 139th Street, Hawthorne, CA 90250

FOR SALE: 1975-76 basketball - Golden St., Washington, Buffalo, Cleveland, Boston; \$2.50 each, all 5 for \$9.50. 1977 football -

Denver, Chicago; \$2.30 each. 1978 football - NY Jets, New England, Pittsburgh, Dallas, New Orleans, San Francisco, LA Rams. Atlanta; \$1.90 each. All 10 football teams. \$12.90. Rick Guzman, 3833 E. Marilyn Road, Phoenix, AZ 85032-5246

FOR SALE: Individualized football defensive squares for all current or past NFL seasons. Each square has the name, position(s), defensive rating and pass rush rating in each team's colors. Teams are: 75 cents each or all 28 for \$8 (\$9 plastisized). State desired season(s). Ron Brammer, 2508 NE 52nd Ter., Kansas City, MO 64118

FOR SALE: Solitaire Strat-O-Matic Football. It is very realistic than anything I have ever seen. It does everything you can think of. It took over 40 hours of testing and renovations to get the game to present state. You can get all six charts (front and back) and over six pages of rules for the price of \$6. For a free brochure, write to: Alan Rawls, 1139 Washington St., Hollywood, FL 33019

FOR SALE: 1971 baseball teams in excellent condition. Football. 1970 good to excellent condition. 1971 excellent condition: 1972 mint, four teams missing (Raiders, Redskins, Packers, Giants): 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, all in mint condition. Send bids to: Raymond Rzeznik, 181-39th St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201

FOR SALE: Baseball - all teams complete with extras and most teams in brand new condition: 1978 all National League teams available except Pirates. Hockey - all teams complete and most teams in excellent condition; 1977-78 all teams available except Canadiens and Blues: 1979-80 teams available are Kings, Flames, Bruins, Canadiens, Islanders, Flyers, Sabres, North Stars. Football - all teams complete and

(continued)

most teams in excellent condition; 1971 teams available are Bengals, Broncos, Eagles, Cardinals, Falcons; 1972 teams are Chargers, Jets, Colts, Saints, Broncos, Patriots, Lions, Eagles, Falcons, Bengals, Cardinals, Bills, Rams, Oilers, Giants, Bears; 1973 teams are Eagles, Giants, Colts, Broncos, Packers, Redskins, Lions; 1974 teams are Browns, Falcons, Rams, Bills, Oilers, Colts, Chargers, Broncos, Packers; 1976 all teams available except Steelers, Bills, Jets; 1977 all teams available except Steelers, Broncos, Dolphins, Colts, Cowboys, Rams. Basketball - 1976 complete game available with all teams and is in brand new condition. Send bids for all teams and/or basketball game to: David Allen, 8 Chadwick Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5P 1Z8

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

FOR SALE: Basketball - 1972-73 through 1981-82. \$10 per set; 1983-84, \$12. Write: Chuck Steinmetz, 2114 Oakmont St., Philadelphia, PA 19152

FOR SALE: Finally, something special for Strato Football fanatics. Thirty-page Football Playbook I gives you individual interception return ratings, plus these features: interceptor system/ratings, audible system/ratings, team fumble recovery/return ratings, individual kicker/returner extras. Based on 1984 statistics. Only \$8.50. Paul Ladewski, 14340 Maple, Midlothian, IL 60445

FOR SALE: Football, complete sets, 1972 (\$45), 1974 (\$30), 1976 (\$30), 1978 (\$25), 1979 (\$25). Also 75 miscellaneous teams from 1973, 1975 and 1980,

sold as a group for \$50. Ron Brammer, 2508 NE 52nd Ter., Kansas City, MO 64118 or call 816-455-2366.

FOR SALE: The 1985 edition of Baseball Playbooks III and IV is here. Playbook III is an easy-to-use weather system for every team used by month or season. There are rainouts, snowouts, suspended games and rain-shortened games stopped during or after an inning. Ratings are based on exact results from 1970, 1983 and 1984 seasons, which are \$3 each or \$6 for all three. Playbook IV allows pitchers to play a complete role with individual ratings for fielding range, stealing, hit-and-run, running, bunt and power. Expanded pitcher's fielding chart. All pitchers are rated based on official statistics and formulas similar to those used for non-pitchers. 1982, 1983 and 1984 seasons are \$3 each, or \$6 for all three. Playbooks III-IV complete, \$11. Also available: Playbook I (super advanced strategy) and Playbook II (advanced play charts) complete, \$11. Paul Ladewski, 14340 Maple, Midlothian IL 60445

For Trade

FOR TRADE: Wanted: Complete year's set of football teams from any of the following years: 1971-1975. Have the following baseball teams (excellent condition) to trade: 1971 (all), 1972 (12 teams plus extra players), 1973 (all), 1974 (8 teams). Please contact: Ralph Rink, 46 Barber Street, Auburn, NY 13021

League Forming

LEAGUE FORMING: The Berger-Rockland Baseball League will begin its sixth season in March and is looking to add four new teams. This is a face-to-face draft league, with holdovers. We play a 96-game schedule with playoffs.

(continued)

Anyone interested please contact Bob at 212-281-8000 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

LEAGUE FORMING: The league you've always wanted to be part of. A league that you make decisions on how it will be run. Will it be a mail or a face-to-face league? I am looking for dedicated hockey fans of Strat-O-Matic to form either a draft league or one consisting of this year's rosters. If you have what it takes, write to me as follows: Hockey Fanatic, 554 Chess Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

LEAGUE FORMING: Manager wanted to assume existing team in five-man FTF league. Excellent players available. Sandberg, Ripken, Lance Parrish, etc. League to start with '85 cards. David Wadsworth, PO Box 301, Huntington Beach, CA 92648 (714-960-3608)

LEAGUE FORMING: The Greater Dubuque Strat-O-Matic League is looking for backups and/or possible expansion managers for our upcoming season. The GDSOML is a 12-team face-to-face advanced baseball league that begins its 4th year in February. League includes trophies, massive year-book and limited drafting of minor league players. If you live within driving distance of Dubuque, are 18 years of age and are looking for a league that takes itself very seriously, call 319-582-6682. Or write to: Steve Olson, 2222 Hoyt St., Dubuque, IA 52001

LEAGUE FORMING: Sportsman's Baseball Association entering second season. FBM. Advanced rules. Emphasis on sportsmanship, communication and promptness. For 1986 membership application and details, contact promptly: Burke Ittenbach, 104 Macon Dr., Mobile Estates, Cary, NC 27511

LEAGUE FORMING: Coaches wanted for super-advanced, continuous ownership football league in

Detroit/tri-county area. OFL is starting 9th season. No experience necessary. Please write: Mark Chadwick, 406 Pontiac State Bank Building, Pontiac, MI 48058 or call 313-334-7999.

LEAGUE FORMING: The ASC will be entering its 16th baseball campaign in 1986 and is in need of some new and backup managers. The ASC is an exciting, innovative draft league comprised of some of the finest tablegamers around. We're a mature group that seems to spend more time talking baseball and trades than rolling the dice; though we do get our 162-game schedule and playoffs completed every year. If you're reliable and have good baseball sense, come join the fun. Write to: Tom Fish, 1433 Hunter Dr., Redlands, Ca 92374

LEAGUE FORMING: S-O-M fanatic organizing a 12-team FBM baseball and basketball league: experience preferred, but not necessary. Rush resume about your Strato background, a sample strategy sheet and a picture, if possible, for newsletter to: Joseph A. Cerniglia, 8711 W. Dallas St., Milwaukee, WI 53224

LEAGUE FORMING: DECADE needs two managers for 1975 actual teams National League advanced baseball replay. DECADE is entering its 5th season with 100% completion record, outstanding computerized stats, fun and excellent quality newsletter. Our top-quality, experienced managers and format that emphasizes managerial ability and rotation planning, make for excellent competition. Low mailing costs, guaranteed completion, outstanding permanent notebook make DECADE a value at \$35 fees. Send resume, or request for more information to: Sky O'Callahan, 5016 NE Flonders, Portland, OR 97213

LEAGUE FORMING: The #1 FBM hockey league, the Federal Hockey League, will begin its fourth (continued)

season of play in December. We have a couple of managerial openings and need backups as well. The FHL (see Oct. '83 and '84 Review) is a super-advanced, 18-team league that uses special innovations such as Bob Lopeck's penalty system, a five-defenseless plan; league instruction manual, and optional phone draft. If you are knowledgeable, reliable and hungry for first-class competition, write to: Bob Laird, 63 Spear St., Oakland, NJ 07436 (201-337-5381). Canadian gamers welcome.

LEAGUE FORMING: Greater Cincinnati Baseball League (GCBLL) is searching for S-O-M fanatics in the Cincinnati area to join our face-to-face league. Contact: Scott Jeggle (489-3612) or Kevin Morris (321-2272)

Contests

TOURNAMENT: The Greater United States S-O-M Organization (GUSO-SOM), an established play-by-mail draft baseball league of 15 years, is organizing a PBM baseball tournament in order to determine who has the best PBM team and who is the best PBM manager. We will use the current season's cards and begin the tournament shortly after the conclusion of the 1985 baseball season. So you think you have the best team/league? Come on, show us your stuff. Meet new friends, have fun and find out who really is the best manager with the best team. Please call or write now to: Jeff Fleischman, 5929 Southbrook Court, San Jose, CA 95138 (408-226-8074). Please include detailed information about your PBM league and teams. Trophies will be awarded to the winners. Come on...who is the best manager/team. Show us your stuff.

Note: The above ad is not truly a contest, and it is certainly

not a league forming ad. So we put it under the "contests" heading and called it a tournament, which is what it really is.

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Fly-By-Night is now flying high

The good, bad and ugly of a 12-year-old league

The Fly-By-Night Baseball Association (FBNBA) is everything but, well...fly by night.

Any league that has been around for 11 years, watched 32 managers and three commissioners come and go - and, in many cases, come and go again - is anything but flightily.

Recently, Scott Ellis, one of the FBNBA's more active managers and self-chosen league historian, sent along a couple of hundred typewritten pages that chronicled the good, bad and ugly times the FBNBA has experienced.

"Today, we are probably stronger than we've ever been," says new commissioner Steve Walters, who talked to Review co-editor Del Newell in a phone conversation recently. The league, founded in 1975 and almost abandoned many times since, is, in fact, expanding to 20 teams next season.

It has a constitution that spells out the duties of the commissioner and two league presidents - one for the American, the other National - as well as provides a guideline for solving the many problems the FBNBA has experienced during its growing years.

"We've had our share of disorganization, delays, feuds and disputes, but we've managed to survive because the FBNBA has always been fortunate to have a solid nucleus of high-quality managers," says Ellis, who, like Walters, calls Port St. Lucie, FL, home.

"The FBNBA is not heavily into statistics, but neither does it discourage detailed recordkeeping," continues Ellis. "We do, however, focus more on personalities and competitiveness, rather than getting bogged down with trivial numbers. I think it is especially nice that the FBNBA can accommodate both computer brains and goodtime gamers."

AD IN REVIEW WAS BIRTH CRY OF FBNBA

The FBNBA actually started as an eight-team, face-to-face league in Hutchinson, MN, the brainchild of Dave Smith, who would soon become the first commissioner and the 'father' of the league during its infancy days. Smith was commissioner for four years.

In the fall of 1974 an ad was placed in the Strat-O-Matic Review, asking for managers to form a new FBM league. The result was 16 managers and 14 backup managers. The FBNBA was born.

First game was played Feb. 26, 1974.

Smith dubbed the league Fly-By-Night Baseball Association and the title has stuck, even though one attempt was made to change the name. In 1981, by a 14-2 count, the FBNBA's membership voted down a name change.

Among the charter members of the FBNBA were such familiar names in S-O-M as Gerald Ittenbach, Jeff Merklin, Dean Amrhein and two members of the GKSML (Greater Kalamazoo Strat-O-Matic League which the Review's editors belong to), Jeff Green and Thomas Angel. Green is still very active in the GKSML, while Angel's stint in the league was only a year. Neither is in the FBNBA today, though, as both dropped out, later rejoined, and then dropped out again.

"It's a real good league," says Green of the FBNBA. "I was going to school and then got married and that's why I dropped out the first time. After I joined again, the pressure of raising a family (daughter Nicole was born), playing in another play-by-mail, plus the GKSML, was just too much. But it's definitely a real good league."

Angel, who ran up tremendous telephone bills trying to consummate a myriad of trades, dropped out for financial as well as lack-of-time reasons.

(continued on next page)

"The association has had dozens of managers, a few dynasty teams, a lot of trades, some disputes and a lot of fun," writes Ellis. "But the mere fact that the FBNBA has held together for 11 years is a testimony to the caliber of the association's members."

The league puts out a newsletter, first started by Smith, which has columns, stats, standings, trades and the latest word from the commissioner and presidents (Bob Cebela). NL: Ellis. AL). All proposals, as outlined in the constitution, are voted on by the entire league membership.

One of Smith's first columns was, ironically, "Why the FBNBA Won't Fold." It didn't, but he did, dropping out after four years.

Another newsletter had an article entitled, "How Important Is Defense?" Ittenbach, who annually had one of the most porous defenses in the league, penned the article.

Here are other highlights and lowlights the FBNBA has experienced in its 11-year history:

- * Dues for first season are \$4 for regular managers and \$1 for backups. Today the cost is \$15.

- * Ellis takes over Tommy Angel's franchise (now named the Illinois Aces) and, after finishing 15th overall out of 16 teams his first year, Ellis has turned out more championship teams than any other AL manager.

- * June, 1975 - Nolan Ryan, pitching for Lancaster, throws FBNBA's first no-hitter. Ryan struck out 16.

- * Smith, writing in the newsletter, mentions that he received 56 responses to ad placed in the Review, and chose 30 from that pool.

- * Steve Walters, along with wife Becky, Ellis, Amrhein, Scott Baker, Ittenbach, Randy Popp and Smith, all attend National S-O-M Convention in Champaign-Urbana, IL. No one takes home a championship trophy, although few years later Jeff Merklin will win advanced baseball. All told, Walters attends five national conventions.

- * 1976 - FBNBA experiences second no-hitter as Bruce Kison of the Tallahassee Seminoles blanks Tri City Ring Dings, 4-0. It would be last no-hitter until 1984.

- * Also that year fifth manager drops out of league and Smith talks about expanding to 20 teams - something that won't happen for another decade.

- * Another interesting column by Smith appears in the July, 1976 newsletter: "How To Rate A Fitcher." Smith claims that lefties in S-O-M usually do worse than righties because managers stack their lineups against them. Walters was a believer, as he usually shuns lefties on his squad.

- * Managers are allowed to keep 18 players from previous year's roster. In 1982, it goes to 20 players.

- * Jeff Merklin's mother makes a green and white flag to go to the World Series winner. It's sent to Smith for forwarding...and disappears, like Judge Crater (see Readers roll 'em section), and is never seen again.

- * The 1979 World Series is played face-to-face (the first such meeting for the Series), although it doesn't happen until March, 1979 - a delay of 15 months!

- * Period from 1977-78 was the worst of times for the FBNBA as about half the managers drop out and league is on verge of extinction. Herculean efforts of new commissioner (Craig Haines) and nucleus of dedicated managers are all that pull league from sinking out of sight.

- * League stabilized in 1980s as, according to Ellis, "most of the FBNBA's members were no longer in high school or college - most were young adults with jobs and families and their perspectives had changed."

(continued on back page)

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(continued from page 23)

- * Emergency (or backup) instruction sheets are introduced for first time to solve problem if no instruction sheets are sent.
- * Promptness and neatness ratings are instituted and ratings will determine order for even-numbered draft picks.
- * 1984 season is most stable ever as no managers depart. Aces win third straight World Series and fourth overall.
- * Big dispute erupts over rights to Carmelo Martinez, the first draft dispute in league's history. Two managers claimed him.
- * Walters takes over, after 14-1 vote, as commissioner for second time.
- * Presidential Proposals, co-authored by Ellis and Mike Kostek, make FBNBA true democracy as all managers have say and vote in all of league's happenings. It's FBNBA's Bill of Rights. All powers and duties are now spelled out.
- * Joe Niekro throws league's third no-hitter, in 1984.
- * Established teams can protect only 15 players as FBNBA prepares for expansion draft and adding four franchises to make total of 20.
- * First telephone draft goes off without any problems.
- Ellis sums it all up best by saying: "There's been fun, excitement, hatred, envy, competition and crisis in our league the past 11 years. Hey, sounds...like a real-life baseball league, doesn't it?"