

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.

* VOL. 16. NOVEMBER. 1966 *

'Fireside chat' with S-O-M

Game company responds to criticisms of clutch hitting

Clutch hitting in Strat-O-Matic Baseball is, according to some gamers, like clutching straws: they don't understand how the game company arrived at its ratings and there's nothing, when it comes to explanations, to grasp onto.

Strat-O-Matic creator and owner Harold Richman also is concerned about how some of the gaming public has perceived this latest change in the baseball product.

Usually the game company does not disclose much about its research or its formulas, but Richman did talk at some length recently with Review co-editor Del Newell about clutch hitting.

"There are two schools of thought regarding clutch hitting," said Richman. "First there's the Bill James school that you can't have clutch hitting because it really doesn't exist. And then there's the school like in Elias' Baseball Analyst. In the Elias book there are eight different setups for rating clutch hitting.

"I have the greatest regard for James and his theories. He's an expert on baseball statistics. However, I do disagree with him regarding clutch hitting.

"There is clutch hitting - it does exist. We feel it is legitimate. But we don't feel there is such a thing as clutch pitching. There is nothing statistically to evaluate clutch pitching."

Richman, although he couldn't disclose the clutch hitting formula actually used, did say the denominator was "RBI minus home runs, divided by run producing situations. The fallacy of the Elias system," says Richman, "is that it's not based on enough at-bats. The system is right, but there's not enough at-bats.

"The key figures are wrong. For instance, George Foster was criticized because Elias said he batted .132 in 'pressure situations.' People asked how we could give him a card actually better than his .263 batting average when he was only a .132 hitter in the clutch, or in pressure situations.

(continued on next page)

"But Foster was given a card with a .260-plus average and some horseshoes, turning outs into base hits. Foster, however, batted .305 with runners in scoring position and with two outs, and .313 with runners on and two outs. He was actually above average with runners in scoring position."

Richman also pointed out that the incorporation of clutch hitting was not a hasty decision and action on the game company's part. In fact, 120 hours a year are spent researching boxscores to accumulate the data used in the formula (remember it's RBI minus home runs, divided by run-producing situations).

"I have worked on clutch hitting off and on for over five years before it was introduced this year," adds Richman. "We feel our system is the best and most comprehensive."

BALL PARK EFFECT

Richman also touched briefly on the other major change in S-O-M Baseball, the ball park effect as far as singles and home runs.

The ratings were determined on the basis of the last five years, but are subject to change as ball parks change. "One reader was concerned that the ball park ratings for Texas would be wrong because the ball park's dimensions have been changed. Next year, the ratings will reflect that," according to Richman.

FOOTBALL CARD CHANGES

A couple of small changes are needed in the new football card set. Neither one will have much impact, but, nevertheless, should be made.

One pertains to Tampa Bay's team card under offense. Calvin Magee should be listed as the backup, or second, tight end, not Mark Witte.

The other concerns the use of running back Tony Galbreath of the New York Giants. Galbreath only carried 29 times but gained 187 yards for a 6.4 average in real-life. "We should have regulated his use," says Richman, "because we heard in one tournament that Galbreath carried 35 times in a game. But his card is actual (not "watered down")."

The bottom line in a situation like that is that gamers should be more responsible - unless no attention is paid to realism - as far as usage of players. The same applies to all the other S-O-M sports games. S-O-M has been criticized in the past for not creating cards for fringe players that reflect their actual statistics. But the Galbreath over-usage is a good example of why sometimes the game company must impose limitations (usually on the roster sheet by noting amount of usage), or by basing the card on more than one year's statistics.

BASKETBALL CARD ADDITION

S-O-M also reports that the card (advanced side) for Detlef Schrempf of the Dallas Mavericks in the basketball game has two omissions.

Under "Defense," on the far right side of the card, he should have numbers to the left of "Pos. shot" and "T." It should read as follows:

46-48 - Pos. shot
49-51 - T

HOCKEY ROSTER SHEET CHANGE

One change is also needed on the new hockey card roster sheet. Most gamers received the corrected roster for the Los Angeles Kings, but in case you missed it, the roster sheet sent out by S-O-M had the extra players listed twice, including under the defensemen column.

Rejuvenated TBA holds tournaments

John Kreuz has pumped new life in moribund organization

The TBA (Table Baseball Association), like a boxer on the verge of a knockout who rises up and decks his opponent to turn the fight around, is back on its feet and walking tall.

It's all due to the energetic efforts of John Kreuz, a chartered life underwriter and certified financial planner from Glenview, IL, who has activated a plan to restore the image of the TBA after a disastrous summer of confusion and disappointment.

Kreuz, who was mentioned in the October Review along with his efforts to revive the TBA and give it creditability, dashed off a letter to the Review while en route to a recent TBA tournament in Los Angeles.

He was following up on tournaments in Boston and Chicago and outlining future tournaments as well as the goals of the TBA. He also included some highlights of the first two tournaments totally under his direction.

"They were smashing successes," enthuses Kreuz, "and were won by Jon Silverstein (Cambridge, MA) and Bill Hanlon (Chicago), respectively. The Boston tourney featured a no-hitter by Fon Guidry and a 27-inning game between Forrest Newton and Jim Jalutkewicz."

Jalutkewicz won the marathon, 4-3, when Don Mattingly homered for the second time in the game. Lowlight for Newton was having Bob Horner strike out three times and go hitless in 11 at-bats.

WHAT'S ON DECK FOR THE TBA?

"Many of the Boston participants will be playing in our New York tournament (Dec. 12-14) at the Howard Johnson's in Newark, NJ," continues Kreuz. "And many of the Chicago participants will be playing in our Detroit tourney (Dec. 5-7, at Howard Johnson's, Ann Arbor)."

Before the month of November is over, TBA tournaments are scheduled for Philadelphia (Nov. 7-9 at Howard Johnson's, Philadelphia-North) and in San Francisco (Nov. 14-16 at the Travel Lodge at the Wharf).

"Following the conclusion of these seven tourneys the second annual World Championship will be held, if it is economically feasible - probably by three-way phone linkups," says Kreuz. "It will consist of tourney winners and last year's World champion, Bill Meinhardt of Malden, MA.

TBA: A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

"The TBA has been and will remain a national organization with a national outlook," stresses Kreuz.

"Our agenda for the balance of 1986 is:

- (1) Deal with, to the customer's satisfaction, any complaints arising from the action (or inaction) of the former owner, including a full refund of any money paid, if necessary.
- (2) Run the remaining tournaments on time, at break-even or better and to the customers' satisfaction."

As far as 1987, the TBA plans to run two (spring and fall) tourneys in each of the seven abovementioned cities. "Also," adds Kreuz, "if enough interest is generated, run inaugural tourneys in Toronto, St. Louis, Cincinnati and any other city in which we can get at least 16 entrants."

Also, the TBA appears certain to receive the endorsement of the Strat-O-Matic Game Company and its owner Harold Richman. The two TBA tourneys in Boston and Chicago, according to Richman, were closely watched by S-O-M, and their success would mean that the game company's

(continued on next page)

official endorsement and sanction for the 1987 tournaments would follow. (Richman has confirmed that the TBA has S-O-M's backing for future endeavors)

As far as Pro-Strat, the New York-based organization that put on a successful tournament in the New York area this summer, it is still active and planning a tourney the weekend of Nov. 7-9. Pro-Strat and the TBA have discussed a merger, but at last report no actual consolidation had taken place. Many of the rules for both tournaments are the same.

RELIEF PITCHERS ARE REGULATED

One of the main differences in the TBA and Pro-Strat rules of play is the use of relief pitchers.

According to the Pro-Strat rules (Oct., 1986 Review), "Relief pitchers may not be used for more than six (6) outs per game, except...if a double or triple play sends a reliever over his six outs quota."

The TBA rules regarding relievers, and instituted by Kreuz, limit usage more strictly. The rule was designed to prevent unrealistic usage of relief pitchers. "Some tourneys allow a relief pitcher to be used each and every game for two innings," says Kreuz, who adds that some managers "send 'waves' of relievers at the other team each game."

"Another effect of our rule is that it places greater emphasis on drafting good starting pitching in order to avoid overusage problems. This rule means an end to the 'draft-the-four-starters-in-the-final-four-picks strategy' which was used last year."

"Somehow it does not seem realistic to have your starting staff drafted after your backup infielders. Our rule requires the manager to use judgment in deciding when to bring in a relief pitcher and when to remove him. Our tourney managers face and have to make the same decisions that managers must make in real-life."

TBA TOURNAMENT RULES

The pitching rules implemented by the TBA include the following:

* "Strictly relievers may not start nor may strictly starters relieve. Any pitcher who is eligible to start may start every fourth game. Ignore the line printed under starter/relievers and reliever/starters - they may start or relieve; however, a starter/reliever or reliever/ starter used as a starter cannot pitch again until he has rested three games."

A reliever/starter or starter/reliever used in relief must rest at least one game before starting and may have to rest two or more games if the relief pitching chart (below) requires it. Each manager must keep a sheet which lists his pitchers and the innings they pitched each game. This sheet must be signed by the opposing manager at the end of each game."

* Relief pitchers:

Innings Pitched in Game -	1	2	3	4
0 -1	0 -1	0 -1	M	
0 -1	1.1-2	M		
0 -1	2.1-3	M+1		
0 -1	3.1-4	M+2		
0 -1	4.1-5	M+3		
1.1-2	0 -1	M		
1.1-2	1.1-2	M+1		
1.1-2	2.1-3	M+2		
1.1-2	3.1-4	M+3		

(continued on next page)

Relief Pitching chart con'ts:

Innings Pitched in Game -	1	2	3	4
	1.1-2	4.1-5	M+4	
	2.1-3	M		
	3.1-4	M+1		
	4.1-4	M+2		

M = May not pitch in that game.

+ = Additional game of M.

A reliever may not pitch more than five innings unless all other available pitchers have been used; if this is the case, then add an extra missed game for each additional inning pitched.

Other rules used by the TBA that are different than most tournaments, include:

* All super-advanced rules of S-O-M Baseball, including supplementary stealing.

* Immediately after randomly establishing a draft order, but prior to the selection of any players, a draft of ball parks is held, starting with the last draft position and following in reverse order until the manager with the first pick in the draft has chosen.

* Each manager drafts 27 players, with two cut before play begins. Only players listed on the regular 20-man roster for each team may be drafted. S-O-M defined "additional" or "extra" players will not be eligible. Trading is not allowed.

* At least two players should be drafted for every position. A player may play only positions listed on card. Players without positions listed on their cards are 1b-4 e25. The DH will not be used.

* No at-bat or innings pitched limitations (with the exception of relief pitchers). However, a starting pitcher may not be removed until he has pitched four innings or given up three runs (earned/unearned).

* Injury chart: 1-4 - No injury and player remains in game: 5-20 - Player is injured, misses rest of game, but returns for all future games.

* Depending on the number of participants, the tournament format will usually be a round-robin first round (two-game series, home-and-away) within each eight to 13-manager division and single elimination in all subsequent rounds. Other rounds, which could include either eight or 16 teams, will be best-of-five or best-of-seven games.

* When the infield is in without a runner on third, any groundball A, B or C results in the lead runner being forced out and other runners advancing one base. However, if there is no runner on first, then the runner on second is out at third only on groundball B and holds at second on groundball A or C. When the infield is in, it is not possible to ground into a doubleplay.

* For pinch-hitters the infield may be brought in "two-levels," which decreases the bunting by two letters, increases the hit-and-run by two letters and turns all of the pitcher's weakness dots into SINGLE**. In the unlikely event the pitcher is already weak, all groundball C plays also become SINGLE**.

* A manager may not remove or pinch-hit for the last player at any position. If an injury removes the last player at a position, the opposing manager picks a non-pitcher from the bench to fill the spot (fielding rating for player is worst possible at position and includes a +5 arm rating).

For more information on the TBA, or if you have questions you would like answered, contact: John Kreuz, 4732 Laurel, Glenview, IL 60025 (1-312-635-6747).

Readers roll 'em

FOOTBALL IS GREAT

I have played Strat-O-Matic Football for almost 10 years and it is great. I love the new pass-rush rules.

But how about the following: (1) Individual runner's fumbles? (2) Linebackers ratings for run and for pass defense? (3) Where is William Perry's running card (I know he only had five rushes)?

Also, are there any football leagues in the west-suburban Chicago area?

DAVID WHITE
6 Wood Sorrel
Woodridge, IL 60517

Editor's note: James Sanders' version of William (The Refrigerator) Perry's rushing, as well as pass receiving, card was printed in the September issue of the Review. S-O-M has to do fumbles on a team basis in order to be realistic, as many fumbles occur on the exchange between the quarterback and running back and are attributed to the quarterback.

MORE ON CLUTCH HITTING

The clutch hitting formula is illogical if it is true that part of the formula uses data based on several past seasons player performances in clutch situations.

If it is true that all other data used to make the 1985 season cards is from the '85 season only, then it is very obvious that the clutch hitting, plus or minus, on each batter's card, should be formulated with data only from the '85 season. The uniqueness of each season's performances is what makes each season's card set different from the preceding years.

I also question the home run and hits ratio ratings chart of each ball park. As I understand it, the ball park chart will not be issued each year in order to reflect an individual year's park changes in statistics.

How can one ball park chart

be for more than one season when the number of hits and home runs occurring in each ball park vary, sometimes greatly, each year?

STEVEN M. WALTERS
Port St, Lucie, FL

Editor's note: We refer to the front page article in this issue that has comments on the above subject from S-O-M's creator and president Harold Richman.

REVIEWING THE REVIEW

Thank you for printing my recent letter in your Readers roll 'em section. I know it reflects the views of many gamers and I hope it sparks some new life into the Review and its contributors.

I only have one more thing to add in rebuttal. I find it interesting that you claim that reporting new innovations from the game company proves that the Review has grown with the times. Reporting news is not news.

Is The Sporting News a better periodical because it reports the new batting statistics every week? No. The Sporting News is a better publication from years past because it tries new features, new writers, new formats and allocates space based on the interests of its readers.

I'm not trying to compare you to The Sporting News. I just don't think it's accurate claiming credit when it's not due. Learn from other publications and your own experiences from the newspaper.

All is not bad, though. Your expansion of the Readers roll 'em is outstanding - keep it up. Not only do we readers learn what other gamers are up to and concerned about, the game company also learns our feelings.

Another feature that wasn't available back in the Review's early days was the quest editorial. I haven't seen it recently but you must be applauded for its

(continued on next page)

appearance.

Back to beating a dead horse. I am completely dissatisfied with the newest innovations from S-O-M, clutch hitting and home run adjustments.

Over the months, readers have pointed out inconsistencies between ratings and real-life statistics and every time we get the same response - S-O-M uses something better than real-life stats. Nonsense, what can be more accurate than the real thing?

Strat got to be the number one baseball game today because of two reasons: One, it's fun to play and, two, it is quite simply the most accurate game available.

Has Strat changed its philosophy? Is it now overlooking statistical accuracy to compete with the game challengers that pop up every year? And what happens with these upstarts? They fold.

Strat, stick to your tried and true formula: add to the game but keep it accurate. You could still use clutch hitting and ball park adjustments, but base them on real-life.

When you added the advanced sided cards, did you concoct some mystery ratings? No. When you added the E-Chart, did you assign ratings without relying heavily on errors allowed? No. Drop your bizarre new formulas now, rely on actual stats, and next season produce the most exciting and accurate game ever.

LUKE KRAEMER
934 Blazingwood Ave.
Cupertino, CA

Editor's note: We also refer reader Kraemer to the front page story in this issue. Harold Richman, without detailing S-O-M's formulas, is trying to dispel the idea that clutch hitting and ball park effect ratings are "concocted" or are an overnight creation without statistical substance. As far as the Review, we stand 'guilty' of reporting news about S-O-M games and gamers. Reporting news is, in our opinion, news. Changes in the

S-O-M games, many of which were the direct result of reader input, have always been reported first in the Review. The Sporting News may have changed over the years, but it never has stories dealing with Strat-O-Matic. That's what the Review is all about. The Review is actually its readers - and a reflection of their ideas. If Luke Kraemer, or anyone else, wishes to submit articles, ideas, columns, etc., most will some day see print in some form or another. Personally, the Review editors would like to see more articles dealing with the personal side of S-O-M leagues and play, more card rating appraisals (the 10 best shortstops, based on their cards, in the 1986 card set, etc.), most frequently used power play and penalty killing lines in hockey (where are you Juno Kim?), who should you draft (and why) articles and anything that makes those paper cards come "alive" in some form or another.

'RBI FACTOR'

My compliments to the editors. I have enjoyed the Review for the past year as much as the new rules for Strat-O-Matic Baseball.

I cannot understand how anyone can complain about the ball park effect or the clutch hitting (RBI Factor seems a more appropriate name).

However, I feel S-O-M is still shorting us on extra players. A few of my gripes:

- Depth of Chicago Cubs' starting pitchers.
- No cards for the starting shortstops for 36 Pirate games.
- Numerous catchers who started 10 or more games.
- Manny Lee ahead of Cecil Fielder?

One possible solution to account for September lineups would be to produce two nameless cards per team. One for position players and one for pitchers. Their stats could be based on a composite of those players not

(continued on next page)

otherwise represented.
 BILL SOKOLOWSKI
 12 Poplar St.
 Bridgeport, OH

1970'S BASEBALL SET?

I have written to the game company and to the Review about a possible 1970's old-timer baseball set, but have yet to hear anything either way.

Could you please help me out as far as telling me whether a possible late 1960's-70's set is in the making?

Would a poll in the Review be worth conducting on this project? I know it was your poll that helped prompt the 1920's-1930's B set. I would be interested in any possible feedback.

FAT WAHL
 3906 Stoneridge Dr. 5
 Pleasanton, CA

Editor's note: We checked with Strat-O-Matic about the possibility of a 1970's set and it replied there was no plan afoot to print such a set. Research is being conducted on past-season baseball sets (1968 will be out next year) and other projects (one of which will be featured in the December, 1986 Review) are currently in progress.

MANAGERIAL DISCRETION ADVISED

In my 15 years as a Strat-O-Matic fanatic, I have been very pleased with the fine work of the game company brain trust. At present I can find only one issue that really bothers me, and that is the decision of who does and doesn't receive cards.

The game company has often argued that certain players would drastically alter the performance of a given team. It usually cites the overuse of certain outstanding players.

But if you cast that argument aside and can get the game company to give cards to such players (hopefully, all players some day), then a new perspective can add insight to Strat games. It's

coaches and managers!

How many times have teams with great talent failed to perform up to expectations? I think that's due to poor leadership.

If S-O-M would concentrate on giving us an accurate set of cards dealing with the players' abilities, then our replays could reflect which real-life managers do a good or bad job.

I don't like being limited on talent in a straight-teams league because the actual manager did a poor job. It is this policy that has all but made straight-teams leagues extinct, yet S-O-M supposedly makes each card set for the purpose of regular-season replays. Why have a manager's abilities "built in" to a card set when I am supposed to be able to call the shots.

PHIL LEDESMA
 Hawthorne, CA

Editor's note: We are not sure we understand the point you're trying to make. The cards, as far as we know, reflect the players' stats and perhaps overall team performance. The overuse of Tony Galbreath in a football tourney (mentioned on page two of the current Review) is a good example of what can happen when a coach (manager) violates the so-called rule of realism. When it comes to a manager, the team's success or failure usually indicates his "abilities."

RATINGS ON CARDS

I think that the supplementary stealing ratings should be placed on the card. It's a pain in the neck to keep checking the sheet.

Because I don't like stealing that much, I'll take a player who hit 30 home runs over one that will steal 50 bases.

PETER TAO
 2 Ross Road
 Lexington, MA

Editor's note: Many gamers put supplementary stealing ratings on the cards themselves.

S-O-M has medicinal effect, too

Baseball game helps Frobom during time of illness

Sometimes, Strat-O-Matic can be a good cure for what ails you. Or, if confined because of an illness, it sure helps pass the time.

That's what happened to longtime S-O-M buff Mark Frobom of Minneapolis, MN, in the last year.

His latest replay, the 16th in the past 14 years, was a four-team, 154-game affair in his solitaire Mildly Eccentric Baseball League (MEBL).

Frobom admits, that other than the unusual choices of teams and some of the games being played at late hours of the evening, the MEBL "has become a downright conventional league.

"I have started using the advanced game, kept inter-league games at a minimum, use no 'special' cards such as the Steve Dalkowski cards, and only use the DH when a DH era team is at home."

What does set his latest replay apart from all the rest, however, is that Frobom used it to bolster his spirits after battling Crohn's disease, an intestinal disorder. Rolf Benirschke, placekicker for the San Diego Chargers of the NFL, had the same disease a few years ago.

"I had to have surgery a couple of times and was in the hospital most of the winter and spring," relates Frobom. "If I hadn't had Strat-O-Matic to keep my spirits up, I don't know what I would have done. It was about the only thing I was able to do during this time. Strat has always been a big part of my life, but never so much so as this last year."

Frobom also points out that one of the X-ray machines used on me was called a "Strat-O-Matic." Whether that was its actual name, or whether the machine was dubbed it because of Frobom's fondness for S-O-M, was not revealed.

METS ARE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The teams Frobom used included the 1985 New York Mets, 1930 Brooklyn Robins, 1950 Boston Braves and 1984 Oakland A's. Everyone of the teams was over .500, except for Oakland which had a 77-85 record.

None were pennant or even division winners, though, with the Mets' second-place finish (98-64) in the National League East the highest along with being the most wins by any of the four teams.

The replay did match teams from different eras and when it was over the Mets compiled an 87-67 record to finish seven games ahead of Brooklyn. Boston was third and Oakland a not-so-surprising distant fourth.

Darryl Strawberry stayed healthy for a change and led the mini league in home runs (41) and RBI (140), plus also won the MVP award. The Mets also got big seasons out of Keith Hernandez (batting champ: .337), Gary Carter (39 HRs) and Dwight Gooden (25 wins, 311 strikeouts, 2.98 ERA) who won the Cy Young award.

Gooden's ERA, though, was considerably higher than the 1.53 total he posted in real-life. Of course, the hitting attacks of the '30 Robins and '50 Braves were considerably better than what Gooden faced in the N.L. in '85.

Offense was Brooklyn's weakness, according to Frobom. "1930 teams usually lose 30-40 points in batting vs. modern teams, although shortstop Glenn Wright had 29 homers and 127 RBI. Babe Herman could only manage .311 and 22 HRs vs. modern pitching (.393, 36 HRs real-life)."

Brooklyn did have a one-two pitching punch of Dazzy Vance (20-16, 2.66) and Dolph Luque (20-11, 3.18). Pitcher that stole the spotlight, however, was Sloppy Thurston, who saved 14 games in relief and then, pressed into starting duty, went 41 straight innings without giving up

(continued on next page)

a run. Thurston led the league with a 2.55 ERA.

The Braves were, according to Frobom, "truly (Warren) Spahn (20-15) and (Johnny) Sain (20-16) and pray for rain." Spahn and Sain had 56 complete games as the bullpen had only 10 saves. The Braves did have power, as five players hit 20 or more home runs. Sid Gordon had 31 and Earl Torgeson 30.

Vern Bickford of the Braves did no-hit - the only no-hitter in the replay - the Mets early in the season as Boston got off to a 10-2 start.

Oakland was the Dave Kingman/Rickey Henderson show and that was about it. Kingman blasted 40 homers and drove in 139 runs, while Henderson scored 117 times, swiped 51 bases and drew 110 walks. Bill Caudill saved 22 games, but served up 18 homers in 120 innings.

Standings and leaders:

	W	L	GB	Batting	Home Runs
1985 New York Mets	87	67	-	Hernandez NY .337	Strawberry NY 43
1930 Brooklyn Robins	80	74	7	Herman BRO .311	Kingman OAK 40
1950 Boston Braves	76	78	11	Cooper BOS .305	Carter NY 39
1984 Oakland A's	65	89	22		
				Wins	
RBI				Gooden NY 25-10	
Strawberry NY 140				Luque BRO 20-11	
Kingman OAK 139				Spahn BOS 20-15	
Wright BRO 127				Sain BOS 20-16	
				Vance BRO 20-16	
				ERA	
Thurston BRO 2.55					
Vance BRO 2.66					
Lynch NY 2.97					
				Strikeouts	
IF: Spain BOS 332					
SA: Caudill OAK 22					
SH: Spahn BOS 7					
CG: Spahn BOS 27					
H: Hernandez NY 206					
R: Henderson OAK 117					
2B: Herman BRO 44					
Hernandez NY 44					
3B: Frederick BRO 11					
Bissonette BRO 11					
SB: Henderson OAK 51					

Guest columnist

Too many lineouts in baseball?

BY TIMOTHY TUCKER, Mavfield, KY

I've been playing Strat-O-Matic Baseball since 1972 and have been a longtime fan of the football and basketball games as well. I'm 24 years old and am a graduate of Murray State University in Kentucky. I think you are doing a fine job with the Review, as I especially enjoy the letters and the card previews.

The original purpose of this column was to give my comments regarding the new ball park and clutch hitting effects in the baseball game. I played a 93-game tournament using all 26 teams and found both new features to add much excitement to the game. Just as in real-life, no lead was safe at Wrigley Field, while at the Astrodome, you can breathe a little easier with a four-run lead.

The clutch hitting factor also adds realism, as a Pete Rose or a Reggie Jackson seem to get better when the game is on the line, while a Dave Kingman doesn't. Besides, it's unlikely Hubie Brooks or Tommy Herr would get their 100 RBI without the clutch rating.

On the other hand, the new features have magnified another problem. That is, there seem to be too many lineouts in the baseball game. I never really noticed this before, but with the addition of the ball

(continued on next page)

park chart and the open triangle readings it became more apparent.

I decided to break down the outs in some real-life baseball games and compare the distribution with the out distribution in S-O-M. For the major league replay, I used 12 World Series games (1984 and 1985) and 14 games I scored from games I attended or watched on TV. The 26 major league games showed these results (not counting strikeouts, sacrifice hits or baserunning outs):

Groundouts	-	491	50.0%
Outfield flyouts	-	283	23.8%
Infield popouts	-	86	8.7%
Infield foulouts	-	48	4.9%
Outfield lineouts	-	44	4.5%
Infield lineouts	-	27	2.7%
Outfield foulouts	-	4	0.4%
Totals	-	983	100%

I did a similar count using 45 S-O-M games from the aforementioned tournament, with these results:

Groundouts	-	754	42.1%
Outfield flyouts	-	523	29.2%
Infield lineouts	-	292	16.3%
Infield popouts	-	189	10.6%
Infield foulouts	-	32	1.8%
Totals	-	1790	100%

As you can see, there definitely appear to be too many infield lineouts in S-O-M. There also seem to be too few groundouts. The difference between outfield flyouts isn't significant since S-O-M obviously counts an outfield lineout as a flyout. Added together, real-life outfield flyouts and outfield lineouts come very near S-O-M's figure.

Put another way, S-O-M's infield lineout figure averages out to 6.5 lineouts per game, which just doesn't happen in real-life.

Fortunately, the problem can be easily corrected. As mentioned earlier, the ball park chart made the lineout problem more noticeable because of split lineout readings like "Single# 1-12, lineout (2b) 13-20." The open triangle readings are usually split single/lineout readings also.

While counting outs in S-O-M, I also kept track of lineouts for 21 games. I counted the number from the ball park chart, from card split chances and from card non-split readings. Here are the results:

Ball park chart lineouts	-	36	25.9%
Card split lineouts	-	53	38.1%
Card non-split lineouts	-	50	36.0%
		139	100%

So if these percentages are constant, merely changing all single/lineout split readings to single/groundout readings would pretty much solve the problem. Doing so using my earlier figures would result in about 105 lineouts (5.9%) rather than 292 and about 941 groundouts (52.6%) rather than 754. These figures are much closer to the real-life distribution and, more importantly, would appear to require only a slight modification of the card makeup.

Why do I bring this to attention when I could just choose to read a split lineout as a groundout myself?

First, I understand that the automatic version of S-O-M Computer Baseball reads the cards as is. If the computer reads a lineout, it goes into the books as a lineout. Thus, the gamer couldn't change what is on the cards.

Second, changing lineouts to groundouts would make S-O-M Baseball
(continued on next page)

more accurate. I'll admit there is little difference over a season's worth of games in a lineout and a groundout. But it could have an effect on base advancement which could affect some games. It would also affect fielding statistics to a certain extent, assuming putouts and assists are recorded.

Third, S-O-M has a reputation of responding positively to gamer suggestions when the game company feels it could improve the games. I feel the lineout/groundout distribution should at least be considered for more study.

I realize that the number of games I sampled may be too small to warrant changing the card formula overnight. And, on the subject of the card formula, it would be interesting to know what percentage of groundouts and lineouts the cards and charts are supposed to produce.

No-Hitters

LONG DROUGHT - AND THEN FOUR MORE

Mark Panagos of Chino Hills, CA, has been a typical Strat-O-Matic Baseball gamer as far as experiencing no-hitters - that is, until recently. Panagos, an S-O-M player since 1972, was party to a pair of no-hitters, in 1972 by Ken Holtzman and by 1975 Luis Tiant.

Panagos has been in a no-hit drought ever since, until this summer. He's a member of four FBM baseball leagues: Bay Area Association and West Coast Baseball Association in the summer, and Can-Am Baseball League and Great Lakes League in the winter.

In an away series in the BAA (a National League actual teams league with trading) Lee Tunnell pitched a perfect game against the Expos. It was Panagos' no-hitter, but it occurred on someone else's tabletop.

Two weeks after the perfect, Dwight Gooden, pitching against Panagos' Bobcats in the WCBA (a NL/AL draft league) opener, hurled a no-hitter. Panagos witnessed this one as the game was at home. A week later, and back in the BAA, Panagos received word that his Cardinals had been victims of a Gooden no-hitter. Different leagues, but same results.

After another two weeks, Panagos watched Fernando Valenzuela no-hit the Bobcats at home. "Four no-hitters in six weeks, that must be some kind of record," enthuses Panagos. "My only regret is that I had to suffer the embarrassment of being on the receiving end three of four times."

Other no-hitters to cross the desk of the Review in recent months:

* In a matchup of 1984 teams by longtime S-O-M gamers Mike Craney (Loogootee, IN) and Phil Hand (Washington, IN), Joaquin Andujar of the Cardinals didn't allow a hit against Oakland. Ray Burris was the loser, although allowing only three hits, one a homer to Andy VanSlyke.

* Dennis Leonard of the 1977 Kansas City Royals did it the hard way, tossing a no-hitter against the power-hitting '61 New York Yankees in a 4-0 white-knuckler game for Jimmie Currie, Haskell, NJ, who's come close many times but never experienced such a pitching gem before. Leonard struck out four, including DH John Blanchard twice, and walked three. "Although his team lost the final game of a best-of-five series to the Yanks," relates Currie, "Leonard's performance will never be forgotten by me."

* Tad Schwartzberg of Marietta, GA, is another who's been rolling S-O-M dice for a long time and never experienced a no-hitter. That is until he conducted a replay of the 1985 N.L. season with the new S-O-M Computer Baseball game. Using the automatic version, Orel Hershisier of

(continued on next page)

the Dodgers set down San Francisco with nary a hit. Hershiser would have had a perfect game if he hadn't walked leadoff batter Dan Gladden. He went on to strike out six in a 3-0 triumph.

* Mike Marker, organizer of the Lansing (MI) Strat-O-Matic League, was on the receiving end of a no-hitter by Greg VanSteel's Steve Comer in a 14-manager face-to-face league. Ironically, Marker was never aware that he was being no-hit...until VanSteel shouted it out after the final out. Comer allowed four walks and was victimized by a two-base error. Comer outpitched Jack Morris in a 2-0 thriller.

Baseball playing tips

The National Texas League, featured in the October issue of the Review, passes along a few other baseball playing tips that might be worth considering during the "hot stove" season.

One playing tip pertains to stat keeping and, probably, is not so new to many leagues. The NTL, starting with its 10th season (it has completed 11 seasons), kept game winning hits and caught stealing stats.

Triple W Rule - Any player without a triple in the real-life season cannot hit a triple off a pitchers' card. It becomes a double with a three-base advance for all runners. As far as pitchers in the N.L., a manager has to be able to prove (with stats) that his pitcher hit a triple in real-life.

Runners Advancing - Groundball B to first or second, runner on second moves to third if runner is at least 1-14 runner.

New Injury Rules:

(1) Injured players can pinch hit if they are injured less than five games if... (a) when they are injured, manager rolls first for injury and then rolls again to see if he can pinch hit. If injured player on second roll rolls an even number, he can pinch hit. If player is able to pinch hit you cannot add a player to your roster to replace him. The manager could chose to disable him completely and take a spare player for the duration of the injury.

(2) Injuries must be reported immediately to opposing manager with postcard or phone call. Manager plays out injuries as they are reported.

(3) Injuries do carry over to the playoffs and World Series, with a credit of two games rest given all playoff teams equally.

Football playing tips

Ralph Rink of Auburn, NY, is another who wants to vary the yardage for sacks in Strat-O-Matic Football.

You will recall that Joe Tate of Marietta, GA, had a similar suggestion and the result was his sack yardage chart that appeared in last month's Review (page 11).

Now Rink is presenting two more methods for varying yardage from the standard nine yards.

"A check of the Sporting News Pro Football Guide for the past few years indicates the following NFL average losses on sacks," says Rink. 1983 - 1215 sacks/9249 yards; 1984 - 1313 sacks/9995 yards. Both years had an average of 7.6 yards per sack.

"Thus," continues Rink, "a 9-yard average loss is 12-18% above the actual NFL average loss on a sack; a significant difference over the

(continued on next page)

course of many games."

Rink proposes two methods as alternatives:

METHOD 1

Each time a sack occurs, roll two (six-sided) dice, total them, then refer to the table for the yards lost:

Dice Roll	Yards Lost On Sack	Dice Roll	Yards Lost On Sack
2.....	3	8.....	9
3.....	4	9.....	8
4.....	5	10.....	10
5.....	6	11.....	11
6.....	7	12.....	12
7.....	8		

Using Method 1 gives sack yardage varying from 3 to 12 yards, with two-thirds of the losses from 7 to 9 yards. The average loss is 7.6 yards, the same as the NFL average in 1983 and '84.

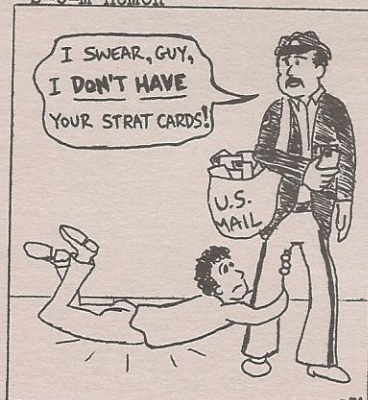
METHOD 2

Each time a sack occurs, roll two dice and add one to the total of the dice (example: dice roll of two results in a three-yard sack; roll of three results in four-yard sack, etc.). A roll of 12 would result in a sack of 13 yards under this easy-to-follow method.

Using Method 2 provides sack yardage varying from 3 to 13 yards, with two-thirds of the losses from 7 to 10 yards and the average sack being 8.0.

"Unfortunately," points out Rink, "neither of these methods is based upon actual statistical breakdown of sack losses grouped by yards, as I don't have this data. So the methods are mainly given for variety/playability while still providing a certain degree of realism."

S-O-M HUMOR



BY IRA WOLINS
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Advertisements

Rates per issue are as follows: 50 words or less - \$1.00; 51-100 words - \$2; 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: If you live in the New York metropolitan area and would like to make quick, easy cash - unload your unwanted S-O-M material on us. Call Charles SGiannone (1-718-417-5009). Those living outside the greater NY area can call or send their list to 792 B Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

WANTED: Football - 1967 AFL: 1968 Colts, Browns, Lions, Vikings, Rams; 1969 Cowboys, Lions, Vikings, Packers, Bears, AFL. Send your price and condition to: Dan Barrett, 3504 Briarwood Court, Apt. A, Elkhart, IN 46517

WANTED: Baseball - 1978 Expos: 1977 season plus extras: 1976 season. Football - 1974 season. Basketball - 1976-77 and 1977-78 seasons. College Football - pre all-time great seasons. Send condition and asking price to: John Sawickis, 1415 West Lafayette Apt. 3, Jacksonville, IL 62650 (217-245-1496)

WANTED: Football teams 1967-69. Complete sets desired, but would be interested in individual teams. For quick response, send me your asking prices and list of available sets and/or teams. Include your name, address and telephone number and I'll respond within one week. Ron Dickinson, % Radio Shack 201 N. 3rd St., Oregon, IL 61061 (815-732-7785, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.). Willing to pay postage.

For Sale

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: The exact schedules and pitching rotations played by major league teams for any season 1901-present. 1985 sells for just \$8, 1956 for \$7.25. Write for quotes on all other seasons. Rich Fray, 7800 LaNain Drive, Pensacola, FL 32514

FOR SALE (or TRADE): 1979 Cubs, A's, Astros, Padres, Orioles. Excellent condition. No extras. Also want 1986 Hockey Guide with '84-85 stats and '81 Hockey Guide with complete '80-81 NHL schedule. Send prices to: Phil Ledesma, 3626 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250

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 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: Baseball cards based on the following seasons: '70, '71, '72, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77. All are complete and with additional
(continued)

players, except: 1977, no Baltimore, Philadelphia, Yankees, Los Angeles; 1970, no Baltimore or California. 1970-71 and '76 in good condition. 1972, '73, '74, '75, '77 in very good to excellent condition. Football - Based on following seasons: 1974, '75, '76, '78. All in very good condition. Reviews, Dec., 1975 to Dec., 1978 inclusive. All bids will be considered to be in Canadian money. David Smith, 765 Maher, Lasalle, P.Q., H8R 2S4

FOR SALE: Baseball schedules for entire 1930, 1950, 1956, 1961, 1969 and 1970 seasons. Great for S-O-M replays. Other seasons also available. Both AL and NL. Send \$1 per season and a postage stamp per order. Mailed immediately. Richard Breest, 1332 Greenlea Dr., Holiday, FL 33590-6759

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

FOR SALE: Baseball. 1984, complete

w/extras; additional 1984 NL (no extras), Individual teams (no extras): two-sided '79 Cardinals, Mets, A's, White Sox, Tigers. Basic only: original '70 Mets, White Sox, Orioles, Phillies, Reds, Twins, Yankees; original '69 Braves, Cubs; original '68 Cardinals, Twins, Orioles, Tigers. Old-timers: '22 Giants, '24 Senators, '27 Yankees, '31 A's, '34 Cardinals, '35 Cubs, '41 Yankees (two teams), '46 Cardinals, '46 Red Sox, '53 Dodgers, '57 Braves, '61 Yankees; NL and AL Hall-of-Famers. Also many stray cards, '68 to present, especially 1984. Send SASE and bids to: David Donat, 921 Harlem Ave. #6, Glenview, IL 60025 (312-729-4623) Also want to buy '76 Dale Murray.

FOR SALE: Baseball teams - virtually all in excellent condition. Complete sets, 1975-85, with additionals every year except '76. Also, '74 season (15 teams); '70 season (18 teams); '69 season (8 teams). Old-timers: '27 Yankees, '40 Reds, '61 Yankees, '65 Twins, '65 Dodgers, S-O-M's special set of 36 teams (1962-76) that are 60% sized. In addition, football teams from 1971 (Dolphins, Colts, Chiefs) and 1972 (Dolphins, Redskins, Colts, Cowboys, Lions). Send for list of available teams in '69-'70-'74 years, and/or make an offer for complete set in other years. All teams must go. Mark Bergeron, 33 Eastern Ave., Apt. 2, Lynn, MA 01902 (617-592-7432 evenings, or 617-531-4311 days)

FOR SALE: Most football teams, 1967-1970. Make offer. Robert Henry, 231 W. Noble St., Mantoloking, NJ 08634 (717-735-8205)

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1979, 1982 seasons, w/extras. Many single teams '65-present. Football - Single teams, '71-present. Hockey - Single teams, '77-present. Would like to sell over 600 teams in all sports for hot price. Send offers and SASE to: Sal Mangiapane, 23 W. Lincoln Avenue,

(continued)

Cranford, NJ 07016 (201-276-5457)

FOR SALE: Complete advanced game ratings for all 1985 real-season player cards, including extras (ratings for 1984 season cards also available at same price). These ratings have been the key factor in my building two excellent draft league teams. I've won six of six pennants and four of six World Series in the four seasons I've used this system. My ratings were also cited as being valuable by one of the top finishers in a major S-O-M tournament that was reported in the Sept. Review. I factor in HR, 3B, 2B, 1B, BB, qb(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. (1961 and 1969 seasons will be ready by mid-December) For your easy-to-read printout, send \$6 per season to: Paul Patrick, Route 3 East Lawn, Iola, KS 66749 (316-365-2931)

FOR SALE: Complete sets in excellent condition, including extra players. Cards based on stats for year listed and prices include postage. 1984 - \$25; 1983 - \$30; 1982 - \$35; 1981 - \$40; 1978 - \$55. Tom Davelaar, 144 Dartmouth, Holland, MI 49423 (or call 1-616-392-6768)

FOR SALE: Football - 1968 AFL very good condition (Jets only fair-good), \$45; 1967 NFL (very good condition), \$55; 1968 Cowboys, Bears, Saints; 1969 Chiefs, Redskins (all very good condition), \$5 each; 1974 Redskins, Steelers (very good condition), \$4.50 each; 1975 Rams, Bengals; 1978 Cowboys, Steelers (very good condition), \$4.25 each; following 1977 teams (very good condition), \$9 each; Broncos, Patriots, Bucs, Bears, Vikings, Dolphins, Colts, Raiders, Cowboys. Dan Barrett,

3504 Briarwood Ct. A, Elkhart, IN 46517 (219-295-1564)

FOR SALE: 1983, '84 and '85 hockey sets in near-mint condition, with extras. I pay postage. Send bids to: Phil Ledesma, 3626 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250

FOR SALE: 1969 and '70 original baseball seasons, complete with extras. Complete sets \$25 each. For individual teams price, send list and make offer. First year Strato Basketball game with all teams. Brand new, never been used. Make an offer. Ron Dickinson, % Radio Shack, 201 N. 3rd St., Oregon, IL 61061

FOR SALE: RDR Football Combo Card designed via CAD with high resolution laser printer. Thoroughly play tested, this card contains a unique way of selecting plays and conveniently shows rush rolls, rushers, blockers and has areas to enter blocking ratings, thus reducing the need to refer to special cards during play. Plus, it is laminated for writing on and long-term use. Sold in sets of two for only \$1, plus 25 cents for postage and handling or send SASE to: RDR Enterprises, 46 Barber Street, Auburn, NY 13021. Satisfaction guaranteed.

FOR SALE: Baseball - 1964 White Sox, Dodgers; 1965 Indians, Reds, Cards, Phils, Astros, Braves; 1966 White Sox; 1967 Tigers, Red Sox (originals); 1970 Angels, Astros, Orioles, Mets, Dodgers, Phils, Twins, A's, Tigers, Red Sox, Senators, Brewers, Royals, Cubs, Giants, Cards, Padres, Reds, Braves, Pirates, Indians, Football - 1968 Saints, Falcons, Bills, Eagles; 1969 Bengals, Bills, Chargers; 1970 Bengals, Falcons, Browns, Chiefs; 1974 set and 1975 set. Alan Rothschild, 1001 Oakview Ave., #17, Columbus, GA 31906 or 404-576-4259.

FOR SALE: S-O-M Reviews, March, 1974 to Dec., 1978, and June, (continued)

Aug., Sept., Oct., Dec., 1979, Feb., '80. Not available - May, '75; April, '76; March, May, July, '77; March, June, Oct., Nov., '78. Price: \$2 each plus postage. Excellent condition. Also, 1956 and 1930 schedules AL and NL, 50 cents each plus SASE for each request. Also, supplementary stealing sheets, 1981-85, 50 cents each plus SASE for each request. Prefer dealing by phone. Butch Haber, 2085 Rockaway Parkway Building 11 Apt. 5-I, Brooklyn, NY 11236 (1-718-241-2605)

FOR SALE: Complete baseball sets in excellent-mint condition. All sets include extra players except 1975. 1975 (the rare, glossy surface edition), 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982. Luke Kraemer, 934 Blazingwood Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014 (408-255-0818)

FOR SALE: Baseball - complete sets with extras: 1980, 1977; 1974 NL only; 1982 NL plus Brewers, Angels, Orioles; 1970 complete, no extras; 1965 complete; 1967 Giants, Cardinals, Cubs, Mets, Red Sox, Tigers, Twins. Some roster sheets. All cards excellent condition. Prefer to sell entire years rather than teams, but will consider all offers. Robert Mariotti, 22400 Rockaway Lane, #203, Hayward, CA 94541 (415-581-3840)

FOR SALE: We all know that not all punts are returned/fair caught or go out of bounds. Thus, introducing a realistic and simple method (using an additional die roll) to determine if a punt is returnable or not. All NFL punters' returnable punts ratings for each year from 1982-1985 have been calculated. Each year's ratings are listed on a one-page sheet which includes instructions and notes. A single year's ratings is 50 cents, or all four years for \$1.50. Please include 25 cents

for postage and handling or send SASE to: RDR Enterprises, 46 Barber St., Auburn, NY 13021

FOR SALE: The following season cards (includes extra players cards where printed). Baseball - 1979 (very good), \$22; 1983 (very good), \$18. Football - 1978 (excellent), \$25; 1981 (excellent), \$24. Hockey - 1977-78 (very good) \$13. Basketball - 1973-74 (good), \$16; 1974-75 (good), \$16; 1975-76 NBA and ABA (good), \$19; 1978-79 (mint), \$16. I pay postage. Bill Kozack, 49 Commonwealth Ave., Haverhill, MA 01830 (617-372-6852)

FOR SALE: Complete baseball with extras - 1972, 1974 (NL only), 1975, 1976 (includes Toronto/Seattle), 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980. The 1969 (original), 1970 (NL only), 1981 sets available without extras. 1966 Mets; '67 Mets, Cubs, Senators; '68 set without Cardinals; '70 Orioles, Twins, Angels (extras), Royals; '71 Mets, Phils, Cards, Cubs, Giants, Dodgers, Reds, Braves, Tigers, White Sox, Royals, A's; '72 Astros; '73 NL (Mets/Expos with extras); '73 Brewers, Orioles, Indians (extras), White Sox (extras), A's, Royals, Twins, Angels; '74 AL (except Red Sox, Tigers, Angels) with extras; '82 Mets, Cards, Phils, Astros, Brewers, Yankees, Angels (all with extras). Complete basketball - '74-75: '76-77: '74-75 Seattle, K.C.; '76-77 Jazz, Lakers; '79-80 Spurs, Knicks, Celtics, Hawks, Supersonics; '80-81 Detroit, Cleveland. Most include roster sheets/supplementary stealing. Most cards excellent/mint. SASE for list of individual players (1969-84) and old Reviews. Send bids: Bob Baurkot, 4800 Henry St., Easton, PA 18042 (215-258-2655)

FOR SALE: Individual baseball teams from 1962 to 1974. Most teams are in excellent/mint condition and have extras if printed. Send me your want list. Luke
(continued)

Kraemer, 934 Blazingwood Ave.,
Cupertino, CA 95014 (408-255-
0818)

League Forming

LEAGUE FORMING: I would like to start a face-to-face S-O-M Football league this fall. We can use all the super advanced rules. If interested and you live in Los Angeles or Orange County area, contact: Cliff Knotek (714-828-1327) or write: P.O. Box 7105, Buena Park, CA 90622

LEAGUE FORMING: Hockey fanatics: Have you been wishing away the year for a top-notch league stressing the building of tradition and a reputation that ranks with the other three sports? Do you want the world's fastest sport to get what it deserves? Then the National Strat-O-Matic Draft Basic Hockey League is for you. The NSOMDBHL will feature an 80-game schedule, playoffs, trophy, newsletters and a yearbook. We need eight totally dedicated coaches and backups as well. The road to the top begins in November with a draft of the 1985-86 cards. Highly organized operation and commitment to excellence are the theme. Reply now. Experience not necessary; dedication is. Act now, for early response is critical for total organization; something we have. Contact: Sp4 Al Stessman, 488-82-6378 USA RPC NEG (opd) APD NY 09696 for constitution. Basic version used. Dare the dream!

LEAGUE FORMING: Serious football players in greater Boston area wanted for face-to-face league. Format of actual teams or draft (draft preferred) can be discussed, along with penalties, revised injury chart, etc. If interested, call: Brian (617-522-7694) or Jonathan (617-969-7536)

LEAGUE FORMING: South Shore, MA, S-O-M Baseball league is looking for backup and expansion

managers. We are a face-to-face draft league that meets every Sunday in Brockton, MA. We have a lot of innovative rules. We are looking for backup managers for this season and expansion managers when the new cards come out in Feb., '87. If interested, please call or write: Bob Hanflig 31 Cynthia Dr., Brockton, MA 02402 (617-587-3517)

LEAGUE FORMING: Backup managers needed for PBM baseball draft league. All players permanently owned. Established league features minor league draft, all-star game and World Series. Must be 18 years of age or older with some PBM experience. This league is well run. Write or call: Ron Iwaszkiewicz, Can Am Baseball League, 1805 Hickory Bark Lane, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013 (313-852-1303)

LEAGUE FORMING: The Universal Baseball Federation is seeking a few top-flight managers to play in the upcoming 1987 season. We are entering our second season with the rookie draft to be held in January. This is a super-advanced PBM league. We feature 16 teams (formerly 20) with playoffs, all-star game and much more. We plan to expand back to 20 teams in 1988 and even 24 in the near future. Managers must have PBM experience, promptness and cannot be involved in more than one other summer league. Managers are required to play an active role in all league activities (such as participating in the trades or rules committee, or help with newsletters, etc.). Frequent newsletters (about 20 last season) keep this league running. The season operates from late March to early September. Interested gamers must send a resume and a SASE to: Peter Tao, 2 Ross Road, Lexington, MA 02173. Please include your phone number.

LEAGUE FORMING: Group of executives, 28 and older, looking for new members in a draft league,
(continued)

super-advanced rules. West Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley area. Call: Tom Pichotta (818-999-3344, daytime).

LEAGUE FORMING: The No Name League is entering its fourth year. I need four more managers plus backups for the upcoming season. We will be playing super-advanced rules with the 1985 baseball cards. I pay all postage. The league will be a draft league. If interested, write: Larry Vieira, 14 Herman St. Unit I, West Haven, CT 06516

LEAGUE FORMING: I am the new commissioner of the Strat-O-Matic Memorial Baseball League. We are a 16-team PBM league in our seventh season. By 1989 we plan to have expanded to 20 teams divided into a 10-team American League and a 10-team National League. Experienced managers interested in joining a solid, ongoing league, should contact me as one or two teams may be available for 1987. Patrick A. Curtis, 520 West Roscoe, Chicago, IL 60657

LEAGUE FORMING: The NTL, a combination head-to-head/play-by-mail National draft league looking for two managers to begin play in our 12th season in Feb., 1987. We need managers in any of these cities: Houston, Austin, TX; Atlanta, or St. Louis. Write today for information about one of the most unique and stable leagues in the country. Although we are a play-by-mail league, all games are head-to-head as we have at least two managers in each city. Current league members are between 25-37 years of age and five of the managers have been in the league over six seasons with two original managers still playing. Contact: John Blomstrom, 4931 Whispering Falls, Houston, TX 77084 (713-855-4735)

LEAGUE FORMING: The ASC, an established baseball league in

existence over 10 years, is looking for managers for immediate openings and waiting list. We are a 24-team play-by-mail league with permanent trading, an annual draft of unprotected players and rookies and a great core of managers. We play a 162-game schedule with player limitation rules in effect. The off-season trading period is active and exciting. If interested, write or call: Howard Brover, 200 Baltic St., Brooklyn, NY 11201 (718-596-7007)

LEAGUE FORMING: The Penn-Jersey SOM League immediately has a managerial position available. The league, based in Clinton, NJ, meets one night a week for face-to-face play. Dependability and statistics required. Interested? Write: Jim Jurgensen, 635 12th Avenue or call nights/weekends: 215-867-4239 now!

LEAGUE FORMING: We have eight managers but would like to add two more in a face-to-face S-O-M Baseball league in Orange and Los Angeles counties. If interested, contact: John Fellet (work, 818-961-3629; home, 818-968-1588) or Cliff Knotek (714-828-1327) or write: Cliff Knotek, P.O. Box 7105, Buena Vista, CA 90622

LEAGUE FORMING: The North Coast American Baseball League is looking for managers in the Cleveland/Akron, OH, or Philadelphia, PA, areas. We are an eight-team combination face-to-face and play-by-mail league. We are a draft league which allows a partial carryover of players from year-to-year. The league features the super advanced rules with a few additions. If interested, please contact: Tim Fowalio, 8504 Ryan Road, Seville, OH 44273 (216-769-2838) in the Cleveland area, or Lee Polk, 474 Roxborough Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (215-487-1887) in the Philadelphia area. We are beginning our fourth year in 1987 and would like to start soon after the new cards come out.

(continued)

LEAGUE FORMING: The World Baseball Association is looking for 14 reliable managers for a PBM draft league. We will use the 1977 season and use the advanced side. This is a 16-team league, eight AL and eight NL teams. 162-game season. We will have a 35-man roster. \$10 entry fee. If interested, contact: Gregory Bucurestean, 7121 W. Vernor Apt. 304, Detroit, MI 48209

LEAGUE FORMING: The Fly-By-Night Baseball Association is seeking quality managers for backup positions as well as possible regular managerial positions for upcoming 1987 ('86 cards). We are a 20-team draft baseball league using all advanced rules. The league fee is \$20 per year. If you would like to become a part of one of the top leagues in the country, please send a 4-by-9-inch SASE to receive a questionnaire to help determine new league members to: Steven M. Walters, 2349 SE Holland St., Port St. Lucie, FL 33452

LEAGUE FORMING: Sportsman's Baseball Association entering third season. PBM. Advanced rules. Emphasis on sportsmanship, communication and promoteness. For 1987 membership application and details, write: Burke Ittenbach, 104 Macon Dr., Mobile Estates, Cary, NC 27511

LEAGUE FORMING: The ASC is looking for a few new managers. Reliability is a must. Enthusiasm and a good baseball mind are helpful. The ASC is a 16-year old play-by-mail, draft baseball league, playing a 162-game schedule. Write to: Tom Fish, 1699 E. Washington St. #1075, Colton, CA 92324

LEAGUE FORMING: The Few Stat League (FSL) is a new 12-team, continuous draft, PBM league that uses the advanced rules. The organizers have experience in the Federal League and the ASC League. The FSL only requires stats that determine

standings, top 10 individual leaders and that monitors player usage. All road box scores will be sent to you to allow you to keep all the stats you want on your team. Monthly newsletters will be sent out. All road instructions will be sent at the beginning of the season. Season runs from April through October. Franchise fees are \$10 plus a \$5 phone fee that is refundable. Draft will be from seven AL and seven NL teams. For more information, write: Bob Walter, 8907 Saratoga Drive, Bridgeview, IL 60455, or call 312-598-1267 before 10 p.m. CST.

Contests

CONTEST/TOURNAMENT: Pro-Strat would like to announce the coming of our second tournament. The Pro Tournament will take place on the weekend of Nov. 7-9, 1986. Early registration is encouraged so that we may increase our prize pool. The registration fee is \$40 until Oct. 15, 1986 and \$45 thereafter. Our prize pool for the tournament will be at least \$1,200 first prize, \$500 second prize, VCR third prize and color TV fourth prize and more. Due to the overwhelming success of the losers' tournament, we will again host a losers' tournament for those eliminated after the first round of the tourney. The entry fee for the losers' tournament will remain at \$15. Note: cash prizes will be awarded for the losers' tournament in proportion to the amount of entries. New item - On Sunday, Nov. 9, Pro-Strat will hold its first amateur BYOT tournament. Each manager will B-bring Y-your O-own T-team from any advanced card set. The format and rules will be similar to the Pro Tournament setup. Winners could receive TV, trophies and free entries. The entry fee for the BYOT tournament is \$15. All are welcome. Important - Please inform every S-O-M player about our tournament. More people = more prizes + more tournaments.

(continued on back page)

S-O-M league, replay scene

FLY-BY-NIGHT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION - 1985 season replay with eight teams in both American and National leagues...Play-by-mail league that is another that puts out an impressive yearbook...Managerial lineup includes two women - Debra Cope (Dragons) and Elizabeth Walters (Grand Fuzz), with the latter the wife of FBN pioneer Steven Walters...When smoke from regular-season and playoffs had cleared, Walters' Galactic Gladiators, National League champs, faced Craig Haines' Chicago Blue Chippers in the World Series. In an exciting seven-game Series, played by impartial managers Bob Cebelak and Mark Ewing, Walters captured his fourth championship in the league's 11-year history, winning the final and decisive game, 3-2, as Alejandro Pena bested John Denny in a pitchers' duel...Dave Stieb of the Gladiators had a FBN Series record when he no-hit the Blue Chippers in game five, 5-0, Stieb struck out 11 and walked three. Surprisingly, Sixto Lezcano of the losing Chicago team was chosen MVP, after he hammered five home runs and drove in 10 runs. Stieb did lose game No. 2, thus detracting from his overall performance...Voted least valuable was Chicago's shortstop Garry Templeton, who went hitless in the Series, reached base only once, and that via an error, and bobbled two in the field...Ironically, except for the seventh game, the home team lost every Series game...As far as Galactic, Walters had three 20-game winners in Stieb (20-12, 3.06), Mike Boddicker (22-11, 3.63) and Bert Blyleven (22-8, 2.96), plus an attack featuring Mike Schmidt (39 homers, 118 RBI), Rickey Henderson (89 steals) and Eddie Murray (23, 109)...Haines also had three 20-game winners in Bill Gullickson (23-8, 3.21), Mario Soto (21-9, 3.03) and Mike Witt (20-7, 3.11), plus a robust attack led by Harold Baines (15 triples, 43 HRs, 138 RBI, 107 runs) and Kent Hrbek (44 doubles, 31 HRs, 115 RBI, 113 runs)...Baines batted .329 and was the A.L.'s MVP, while Hrbek batted .328. Blue Chippers chipped out hits at a .300 pace as a team and averaged 5.3 runs per game...Baines was MVP and Rick Sutcliffe (23-13, 3.13 and an amazing 31 complete games) of Ken Muir's Mud Hens was Cy Young winner. National League winners were Don Mattingly (.323, 28 HRs, 83 RBI) of Cebelak's Holland Hawkmen as MVP and Blyleven as Cy Young winner.

Standings and statistics:

NATIONAL LEAGUE

West		Won-Lost GB		Batting	
Galactic (Steven Walters)	103	59	-	Mattingly HOLL	.323
TEEM (Bruce Kutler)	93	69	10	Barrett HOLL	.303
NY Grey Sox (Peter Stein)	73	89	30	C.Davis DRAG	.302
Mystic (Rob Bruno)	54	108	49		
East				Home Runs	
Holland (Bob Cebelak)	87	75	-	Schmidt GAL	39
Eastown (Mark Ewing)	86	76	1	Armas EAST	35
Dragons (Debra Cope)	81	81	6	Ripken DRAG	34
America's Team (Dave Vinson)	60	102	27		

RBI		ERA		Won-Lost	
Schmidt GAL	118	Hershiser HOLL	2.87	Blyleven GAL	22-8
Armas EAST	111	Gooden MYST	2.88	Boddicker GAL	22-11
E.Murray GAL	109	J.DeLeon EAST	2.91	Stieb GAL	20-12
		Blyleven GAL	2.96	B.Black TEEM	19-9
				Smithson EAST	19-11

R: Raines TEEM	116	CG: Stieb GAL	17	Strikeouts	
2B: Ray EAST	44	SH: Gooden MYST	6	Gooden MYST	297
3B: D.Collins NY	21	Stieb GAL	6	Ryan TEEM	216
SB: R.Henderson GAL	89-43	IF: Stieb GAL	289	Stieb GAL	208
Raines TEEM	88-35	HFA: P.Perez AT	46		
GWERB: Schmidt GAL	22				

(continued on next page)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	Won-Lost	GB	Batting
Illinois Aces (Scott Ellis)	104 58	-	Gwynn ILL .344
Jupiter (Mike Kostek)	90 72	14	Baines BC .329
Florida (Mike English)	78 84	26	Hrbek BC .328
Mud Hens (Ken Muir)	60 102	44	Lacy BC .327
West			
Blue Chippers (Craig Haines)	101 61	-	Home Runs
Icicles (Don Glumac)	86 76	15	Murphy ILL 53
Grand Fuzz (Elizabeth Walters)	70 92	31	Baines BC 43
East Meadow (Rich Meyerson)	70 92	31	Rice JUP 33
			L.Farrish ILL 33

RBI	Won-Lost	ERA
Baines BC 138	Gullickson BC 23-8	A.Fena BC 2.53
Murphy ILL 121	Sutcliffe MUD 23-13	Tanana ILL 2.56
Hrbek BC 115	Tanana ILL 21-7	Dotson FLO 2.90
Rice JUP 111	Soto BC 21-9	Candelaria ILL 2.93
	Viola EM 21-12	Viola EM 2.96
	Witt BC 20-7	

H: Hrbek BC 201	GWFB: Baines BC 19	IF: Viola EM 289
Baines BC 201	SA: Caudill EM 30	HFA: Price MUD 38
Hubbard MUD 46	Orosco BC 26	
SE: Sandberg GF 19	SHQ: Sutcliffe MUD 7	
Murphy ILL 121	CG: Sutcliffe MUD 31	
SE: Dernier MUD 89		
O.Smith MUD 87		

National League playoffs: TEEM d. Holland, 4-1; Galactic d. Eastown, 4-0; Galactic d. TEEM, 4-2.

American League playoffs: Hibbing d. Illinois, 4-3; Chicago d. Jupiter, 4-1; Chicago d. Hibbing, 4-1.

1983 BALTIMORE ORIOLES REPLAY - Conducted by Ed Caylor, Hampton, NH, over a span of several years...Caylor, who's been doing Baltimore replays since 1966, has never experienced a no-hitter...But he experienced a plethora of other thrills as Orioles, like in real-life, won pennant and World Series...Birds did finish, thanks to sub-par performances by ace reliever Tippy Martinez and real-life MVP Cal Ripken, four games below actual record, going 94-68. Martinez had 5.76 over 28-inning span in September, while Ripken, although he had hitting streaks of .410 (25-65) and .416 (32-77), still batted only .295 compared to real-life .318 mark. Ripken hit 12 fewer home runs (15-27) and bounced into 32 double plays...Highlights included Storm Davis (13-5) winning his final seven decisions and Scott McGregor (18-8) winning six straight in May...Pitching ERA was 3.70, compared to 3.63 real-life, while batting was .267 in replay and .269 actual...Sammy Stewart had 1.72 ERA over final 31 innings and picked up slack for Martinez coming out of bullpen...Dan Ford, Eddie Murray and Ripken each had five-hit games, with Ford accomplishing the feat a total of three times...Baltimore edged Chicago White Sox in American League playoffs, 3-2, despite hitting only .213. Pitchers held Sox to 13 runs in five games...In World Series, Baltimore won easily, 4-1, as Murray was MVP with .524 (11-21) average. Ripken atoned for regular-season showing by batting .421. Philadelphia, Baltimore's Series victim, had its bats turn to pulp as Mike Schmidt batted .158 (3-19) and Pete Rose .059 (1-17)...Murray's regular-season stats in the replay and real-life were amazingly close as in the replay he batted .302 (.306 real), had 35 (33) homers and drove in 113 (111) runs...Stewart had a 3.54 (3.62) ERA and Mike Flanagan 3.24 (3.30).

STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW
P.O. BOX 27
OTSEGO, MI 49078

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 32
OTSEGO, MICH.

THIRD CLASS

If the number before your name reads 86/11, this is the last issue of your current subscription. To renew, check the number of months below and enclose proper amount (check, money order, U.S. funds, but please no coins). First-class mailing is available for an additional 22 cents per month. Also, when renewing, please list your subscription expiration date as it expedites the process.

_____ 3 months, \$3.00; _____ 6 months, \$4.50; _____ 1 year, \$7.25.

Note the cost for Alaska, Hawaii, Canada and Puerto is as follows:
_____ 3 months, \$3.85; _____ 6 months, \$5.90; _____ 1 year, \$9.85.
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 second on the label.

Advertisements

(continued from page 27)

If you have a list of managers and their addresses or phone numbers, please send it to us. The tournament will be held either at Hofstra U. or another location in Queens or Nassau. Another tournament is also planned for Philadelphia (Airport Ramada Inn), Jan. 16-18. Entry fee is \$30 if paid before Nov. 7; \$40 after Nov. 7. Call Howie (516-795-4762) or Steve (718-769-6658), or write: Pro-Strat, 172 Atlantic Ave., Massapequa, NY 11762

The Review staff

Editors: Warren Newell (Otsego, MI); Del Newell (Kalamazoo, MI).
Production: Karen Newell (Otsego, MI).
Printing: Oliver & Tobias (Kalamazoo, MI).