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Strat-O-Matic game fans, with
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Game Co.

STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW



Vol. II-2 April 1972 35¢

Wilbur Wood Picked No. 1 In GKSM's Baseball Draft

First it was the New York Yankees in baseball in the 1950s then the Green Bay Packers in football in the '60s that dominated the sports scene.

Now the Greater Kalamazoo Strat-O-Matic League has a successor to both in Joel Wright, a senior at Comstock High School, just east of Kalamazoo, who has ruled table game baseball play like a dictator since the League's inception in 1970.

Joel, for the record, has won three straight baseball titles, starting by guiding the '64 Chicago White Sox to a championship in an actual replay, then following by winning both National and American League draft replays in '70 and '71, respectively.

Although there have been no shouts to "break up Joel Wright" (just whispers), it was obvious that the League's seven other members didn't care who would win the upcoming replay, just so long as it wasn't 'ole Joel, when the first league meeting was held recently, and plans were formulated for a draft of the American League players.

Returning members of the GKSM included, in addition to Joel, who, incidentally, is the League's youngest member, Warren and Del Newell, Mike Allison, Jeff Sampson, Jack Hills, Cliff Sage and Bill Martin (no relation to the Detroit Tiger manager). All participated in the recent GKSM football season, while the Newell brothers, Allison and Joel have been members since the League's founding.

Warren is a junior high band instructor at Otsego, located 15 miles north of Kalamazoo; Del, the oldest of the group at 30, is a sports writer at the Kalamazoo Gazette and a co-editor of the Review; Mike is a disc jockey at radio station WAOP in Otsego and also a co-editor of the Review; Jeff, who lives in nearby Portage, was the winner of the recent football league as coach of the Kansas City Chiefs; Jack is a newspaper reporter in Sturgis, 35 miles south of Kalamazoo; Cliff lives in Otsego and keeps busy with a heavy officiating schedule; while Bill works with Mike at the radio station.

Again, like in the past, numbers were drawn to determine the order of drafting. All 20 players from the 12 AL teams were used, plus the additional players were also eligible for the draft. The draft itself was set up so that the first round order was reversed in the second, and altered thereafter so that each "manager" picked the way he chose in the first round four times and three times from each of the seven other positions, until a 25-player roster was completed.

As luck would have it, Joel drew No. 1 out of a hat, enabling him the first choice of all the AL players. The other managers greeted this luck of the draw with cries of: "here we go again and there goes Vida Blue."

Joel surprised us, however, and instead chose Wilbur Wood of the White Sox. "Since we decided this year that the players we drafted would be kept in the future, I felt that the pressure would be on Blue this season and he would be less likely to repeat his great performance of last year," said Joel in explaining why he passed up Blue.

Jeff Sampson, picking No. 2, grabbed up Blue next and the draft was on in earnest. Mickey Lolich went to Cliff Sage...Bobby Murcer to Del...Mel Stottlemyre to Warren...Jim Hunter to Bill, Jim Palmer to Jack...and Amos Otis to Mike.

It's interesting to note that during the first two rounds a total of 12 pitchers were selected, with Mike, who nabbed Utis and Tony Oliva, the only one not to pick a pitcher during that time.

While pitchers were quickly gobbled up, third sackers were left untouched during the early rounds. And with the likes of Sal Bando, Brooks Robinson, Bill Melton, Graig Nettles, etc., available, it wasn't hard to understand why--everyone would have a good third baseman, no matter when he picked.

Shortstops were another matter, however, as few with good fielding ratings plus a sting at the plate were available. Joel, spotting the shortage quickly, selected Fred Patek ("AA") as the 20th pick overall, while Mike grabbed Mark Belanger (a "1" fielder) 26th and Jeff followed with Leo Cadenas as the 32nd pick.

Some managers drafted with an eye for the future as Warren chose Carl Yastrzemski 42nd, despite a sub-par '71 campaign, obviously looking for him to bounce back with a big '72 season, and Jeff picked bad-boy Alex Johnson 62nd.

Del, adopting George Allen's the-future-is-now attitude, chose power-hitting Frank Robinson as the 49th selection, despite the fact that Robinson had been traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League for '72 and would not be available the next year (players traded or sold from one league to another do not revert back to the real-life team they were on when drafted, thus are lost the following season).

Here are the first three rounds of the GKSM '72 draft, based on the '71 season, and also the complete chart showing the order of drafting:

FIRST ROUND

1. Wilbur Wood (Joel); 2. Vida Blue (Jeff); 3. Mickey Lolich (Cliff); 4. Bobby Murcer (Del); 5. Mel Stottlemyre (Warren); 6. Jim Hunter (Bill); 7. Jim Palmer (Jack); 8. Amos Otis (Mike).

SECOND ROUND

9. Tony Oliva (Mike); 10. Tom Bradley (Jack); 11. Bill Freehan (Bill); 12. Clyde Wright (Warren); 13. Joe Coleman (Del); 14. Bert Blyleven (Cliff); 15. Rat Dobson (Jeff); 16. Mike Cuellar (Joel).

THIRD ROUND

17. Ken Sanders (Jeff); 18. Cesar Tovar (Cliff); 19. Andy Messersmith (Del); 20. Fred ratek (Joel); 21. Mike Hedlund (Bill); 22. Reggie Smith (Jack); 23. Rudy May (Mike); 24. Ron Kline (Warren).

[illegible]

Who's Greatest Grid Team

Are the Kansas City Chiefs of 1969 the greatest of the Strat-O-Matic champions?

If you go by the results of a tournament pitting the Super Bowl teams from the 1967 through 1970 seasons that was conducted by Tom Nelson, Springfield Gardens, New York, the Chiefs would be at the front of the class of champs.

Nelson matched the 'Suer' foes against each other in a single-elimination tourney, starting with first-round games pitting actual opponents, then the semifinals and finally the championship game, which pitted the '67 Green Bay Packers, Vince Lombardi's last title-winning team, against the '69 Chiefs.

Here is a game-by-game report on the tourney's results:

FIRST ROUND

(1967) Green Bay 24, Oakland 10: Bart Starr was the biggest star for Green Bay, completing 15 of 24 passes, and Donny Anderson rushed for 105 yards and tallied one touchdown.

(1968) New York Jets 13, Baltimore 7: The Jets outdefensed the favored Colts again. Joe Namath hit on 12 of 18 passes for New York, covering 231 yards and hooking up with George Sauer on a 32-yard touchdown toss.

(1969) Kansas City 9, Minnesota 3: The closest of the games, as the two ended in a 3-3 tie at the completion of regulation time. In a tense sudden death (or "sudden victory") overtime, Kansas City pulled it out when Lenny Dawson pitched a 12-yard touchdown pass to Otis Taylor after 7:45 had elapsed.

(1970) Dallas 26, Baltimore 20: Dallas scored 16 points in the final quarter to erase a 20-10 Baltimore lead and provided the only "upset" of the real-life Super Bowl outcome.

SEMIFINALS

Green Bay 27, New York Jets 21: Two former Alabama University quarterbacks dueled each other, with Namath shredding the vaunted Green Bay defense for 17 completions in 27 attempts, 272 yards and one touchdown, and Starr 14 of 19, clicking on his first six passes at the game's outset. Namath, however, had four passes picked off by the Green Bay secondary.

Kansas City 17, Dallas 16: Trailing 13-10 in the fourth quarter, Kansas City rallied for victory when Dawson flipped a nine-yard TD pass to Mike Garrett and Jan Stenerud booted the game-winning extra point.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Kansas City 29, Green Bay 20: The Chiefs, looking for revenge for a lopsided loss pinned on them by the Pack in the very first Super Bowl back in 1966, got off to a slow start, trailing 17-6 at halftime. Jan Stenerud, who had accounted for all of KC's first-half points with a pair of field goals, then went to work and booted three more in the third quarter. Bobby Holmes blasted six yards for Kansas City's first touchdown after Green Bay's third fumble, and the Chiefs led 22-17. Don Chandler's 40-yard field goal cut the score to 22-20 entering the fourth quarter. It was the Chiefs, however, that came up with the "big drive," stressing ball-control, a tactic that the Packers had made famous. In that victory march, covering 64 yards, the Chiefs used 19 plays and a lot of the clock, capping it with a 13-yard touchdown run by Mike Garrett. Stenerud converted five of five field goals and added two extra points to finish with 17 of Kansas City's 29 points.

How The Baseball Cards Have Changed

The Strat-O-Matic baseball cards have certainly come a long way in 11 years!

Although smaller in size than the first cards put out in 1961, based on the 1960 season, today's cards bulge with a lot more data and resemble hieroglyphics in comparison to the simplicity of those first cards.

That first set turned out by Strat-O-Matic's creator, Harold Richman, was an 80-player all-star unit comprised of 40 players from each league. Today, of course, all 24 teams--20 players each--are included, as well as it being possible to purchase an additional four player cards per team.

Examples of Hank Aaron's cards for the 1960 and 1971 seasons clearly show the changes that have taken place.

For one thing those first cards were much larger, scaling six inches in height and four inches wide, compared to today's dimensions of five inches high and two and three-fourths inches wide.

And, where once there were only three columns on a card, now, on the advanced side, are found six columns, with righty-lefty batting and pitching presented for the first time.

Those first cards included name, team, position, stealing rating and previous season's statistics at the bottom, all of which are included on the current cards.

Missing, however, and since added, have been fielding and running ratings, hit-and-run, bunting, sacrifices, injuries, hit batsman, where the ball is hit and pluses for base hits when the infield is drawn in. The '60 cards did have a "GROUNDBALL E" (providing for an error and a one base advancement for all runners)--but that was the lone method of considering fielding.

The year 1963 saw a big breakthrough when individual fielding was added to the game. Thus the fans that purchased an SOM set based on the 1962 season not only received fielding ratings for

HANK AARON			
MILWAUKEE BRAVES		OUTFIELD STEALING—B	
1	2	3	
2—foulout	2—lineout	2—SINGLE	
3—lineout	3—groundball c	3—SINGLE	
4—groundball b	4—WALK	4—SINGLE	
5—groundball b	5—groundball a	5—SINGLE	
6—HOMERUN	6—flyball b	6—SINGLE 1-8 popout 9-20	
7—HOMERUN 1-19 DOUBLE 20	7—flyball b	7—groundball c	
8—TRIPLE 1-10 DOUBLE 11-20	8—WALK	8—flyball c	
9—SINGLE	9—lineout	9—groundball a	
10—popout	10—strikeout	10—WALK	
11—lineout	11—GROUNDBALL E	11—strikeout	
12—FLYBALL E	12—flyball a	12—lineout into as many outs as possible	
AT BATS 590	DOUBLES 20	TRIPLES 11	HOME RUNS 40
AVG. .292	WALKS 60	STRIKEOUTS 63	

R HANK AARON					
power: N			stealing: E		
AGAINST LEFT-HAND PITCHER			AGAINST RIGHT-HAND PITCHER		
1	2	3	1	2	3
2-lo(3b) max	2-fly (lf) B ?	2-gb (3b) A	2-lo(3b) max	2-fly (cf) B ?	2-gb (ss) B+
3-popout (3b)	3-popout (3b)	3-lineout (ss)	3-fly (rf) B ?	3-gb (ss) B	3-gb (ss) B
4-gb (ss) A	4-gb (ss) B	4-popout (2b)	4-fly (lf) B ?	4-gb (3b) A	4-gb (3b) A
5-strikeout	5-HOMERUN	5-WALK	5-fly (lf) B ?	5-HOMERUN	5-SI* 1-8
6-gb (ss) A	6-HOMERUN	6-HOMERUN	6-fly (cf) B ?	6-HOMERUN	6-lo(ss) 9-20
7-gb (ss) A+	7-HOMERUN	7-fly (cf) B ?	7-strikeout	7-TR 1-3	6-HOMERUN
8-gb (3b) A	8-HR 1-7	8-SI* 1-14	8-gb (ss) A+	8-SI** 4-20	7-WALK
9-gb (ss) B	fly(lf)B 8-20	lo(ss) 15-20	9-gb (ss) A	8-DO** 1-19	8-SINGLE (rf)
10-gb (ss) B	9-DO** 1-6	9-WALK	10-gb (ss) A	9-SI** 20	9-WALK
11-lineout (1b)	SI** 7-20	10-fly (lf) B ?	11-gb (ss) A	9-SINGLE (cf)	10-WALK
12-HBP	10-SINGLE (cf)	11-fly (rf) B	12-HBP	10-SINGLE (lf)	11-strikeout
	11-popout (3b)	plus injury		11-gb (ss) B	plus injury
	12-fly (lf) A	12-WALK		12-fly (lf) A	12-HR 1 DO .2-20

the first time, but they also had all of the major league teams for the first time. Ritches's hitting also underwent a transformation, as in 1965 four categories of hitting cards were introduced for the first time, replacing the single card that had been used previously. Where that first pitcher's card had base hit opportunities on only the one column (No. 5, 1-16) and the three column (No. 2, 3 and 4), the current cards enable the "better" hitting pitchers to perform realistically using the No. 3 and 4 cards.

Through most of the '60s the changes in the game and cards were slight, with a gradual shrinking of the card size probably the most noticeable.

In 1971, using the 1970 season, pitcher's fielding ratings were changed, however, with all being given "2" rankings and the former "3" rating being discontinued.

Color changes have also been made, with the current cards a lighter shade of black on the regular side and blue on the advanced side. The first cards were very dark--for batters, that is--while all pitcher cards were done in red ink.

Biggest breakthrough, of course, has occurred in just the last few months with the introduction of the 1972 baseball game with the two-sided cards that included, for the first time, righty-lefty batting and pitching, individual bunting and hit-and-run ratings, a power rating preventing weak hitters from recording home runs off the pitcher's card, an endurance factor rating for pitchers and ratings for an outfielder's throwing ability.

Those card sets that go back to the 1960 and 1961 seasons are collectors items today, with very few in circulation and even less available to a potential buyer hoping to fill out his collection. Richman says that 1,000 games were printed for the '61 version, the first, but that only about 350 were sold, the rest being destroyed.

Despite the fact that those first card sets are about as easy to find as survivors of Custer's last Stand, the Review was fortunate enough to purchase such a set from Terry Ray of Kansas City, MO, not long ago.

The first replay of the '60 season, however, that has crossed the desk of the Review was submitted by Mark Campbell of Sacramento, CA. And, since it was the first the Editors of the Review thought readers might be interested in the results.

'60 Replay Won By A. L.

Mark Campbell's replay of the 1960 season with an 80-player all-star set of cards turned out to be a runaway for the American League as Pete Runnels, Ted Williams, Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle and Co. won 22 of their first 33 games and went on to compile an 84-70 record.

Sub-par pitching performances by Warren Spahn (9-20 compared to 21-10 in real-life) and Ernie Broglio (10-14 compared to 21-9) hurt the National Leaguers. Frank Baumann of the American League, meanwhile, won an amazing 19 of 21 games and went on to compile a nifty ERA of 2.92. Baumann's hurling feats (he was 13-6 with a 2.68 ERA in real-life) won him the Cy Young Award.

Roger Maris, AL, was the MVP winner as he hit 42 home runs and drove in 97--both league-leading totals--while batting .273.

Ted Williams, although limited to 310 at-bats, belted 28 homers, including four in one game, for the American Leaguers.

One of Mark's biggest problems in playing the '60 season had to be the 40-player rosters. Because of the overabundance of standouts, many top-notch players were not used, while others had their playing time limited.

Here are team and individual statistics.

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PCT</u>	<u>GB</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>HR</u>
American	84	70	.545	-	3.29	.261	214
National	70	84	.455	14	3.90	.278	158

PITCHING

	<u>G</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>ERA</u>
Jim Bunning	32	16	13	252	2.54
Bill Monbouquette	60	12	9	215	2.80
Frank Baumann	27	19	2	185	2.92
Mike McCormick	48	11	11	174	2.95
Whitey Ford	26	12	12	192	3.26
Vernon Law	35	18	14	271	3.34
Don Drysdale	32	15	14	245	3.51
Ernie Broglio	36	10	14	226	3.89
Chuck Estrade	26	6	11	171	4.21
Ray Herbert	28	7	10	159	4.27
Warren Spahn	40	9	20	267	4.98

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

	<u>AB</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>AVG</u>
Pete Runnels	544	169	36	5	.311
Willie Mays	619	189	73	24	.305
Ken Boyer	560	169	66	22	.302
Ted Williams	510	92	64	28	.297
Maury Wills	528	156	27	3	.295
Norm Larker	451	132	23	4	.293
Harmon Killebrew	469	136	73	29	.290
Del Crandall	551	158	44	15	.287
Hank Aaron	600	171	82	34	.285
Brooks Robinson	493	138	37	2	.280
Frank Robinson	476	131	69	31	.275

One In A Thousand

Jon Barth of Lincolnwood, Illinois, has played over 1,500 games of Strat-O-Matic baseball and never had a no-hitter. Then he showed a friend of his--a Cardinal fan--the game and, presto!, a no-hitter. Barth was on the losing end, however, as Bob Gibson and the '68 Cards turned the no-hit trick against his '68 Reds.

Barth, undaunted, then challenged: "I'll bet you can't do that against the 1970 "Big Red Machine!" Gibson then did it again, pitching another no-hitter and walking only one batter.

The 'Foot' In Football

In Donnie Badgett's (Bybee, Tennessee) recent Super Bowl the foot was truly in the football as nine field goals accounted for all the scoring as the Dallas Cowboys downed the Kansas City Chiefs in "sudden death" overtime, 15-12.

Dallas' Mike Clark kicked five field goals and Kansas City's Jan Stenerud four. Dallas picked up 327 rushing yards, with Duane Thomas netting on 169 in 28 carries and Calvin Hill 158 in 28 also. Dallas had 575 total yards, while Kansas City had only 137.

Reader's Roll 'Em

IN A CLASS BY ITSELF

I wish to thank you for a great magazine. I am eighteen years old, attending college, and have been playing Strat-O-Matic baseball since 1966. This game outclasses any other baseball game I have played because it actually educates you while playing with it. I have played many games with youngsters and after the game they were amazed with both the game and the players. In our old-timer games, the names of Al Simmons, Lefty Grove, and even Casey Stengel will not be forgotten by those children. I myself confess to acquiring an avid interest in old-time players, and I constantly search for old records. What I believe has made this game such a success is the great personalization you get with the players and the teams. Now fans know why they called 'em the "Gashouse Gang".

In response to many people wishing to know the secrets of fast playing, I wish to help them. First, know your players and try to remember the fielding chart. Second, don't fool around, but play seriously but in good humor. Thirdly, I use graph paper for my score sheets. It enables a lot of games to be played on one sheet and is neat. Finally, I have disbanded with the game board. For myself, it added confusion, so I just remember where the men are on base and so does my opponent. I wish not to offend the game company for not using their game board, but I only wish to aid those players, especially in league play, who wish to play faster. I find that I can play five games in about an hour and fully record statistics also.

Steve G. Kukla
Garfield Heights, Ohio

A TOAST TO SOM

I think Strat-O-Matic has come a long way with the new revisions in the cards. Although injuries and errors could also be improved, I believe that SOM is at its greatest.

I enjoy reading "This 'N That" and also sharing other games of fellow gameowners.

SOM has accomplished its main objective: giving us months of fun and realistic excitement.

Robert Karol
Freehold, New Jersey

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations as the first year of your printing of the Review comes to its close. You have done a fine job. Receiving the Review on my birthday, December 22, with my letter in it was a great thrill.

That birthday was my 15th and I am a sophomore in high school here in Wilmington. Although I was born in Newark, NJ, I have lived in Wilmington for over 11 years. I have played both Strat-O-Matic games for four years.

I found the ideas in the January 1972 issue very interesting. I hope the response to the proposed directory of SOM game players is good enough for printing. I thought about the idea myself but didn't think it would be possible. I think you would be perfectly justified if you were to raise the price of new subscriptions and renewals because of the combination of rising production costs. Your great magazine is worth at least 40¢ per issue.

Jon Brams
Wilmington, Delaware

VOICE FROM A SMALL TOWN

I'm a college senior at the University of Nevada-Reno and from the 20th of each month until it gets here I watch the mail box like a child looks for hidden Christmas presents. The Review is the only magazine I've ever subscribed to that I read cover to cover.

I'm very happy the Review is 20 pages long. I would be willing to pay more per year if the subscription rate should go up, as long as the number of pages doesn't get shorter.

Now entering my third year as a game player, I've been unable to have many leagues with other players due to the small size of my home town, Carlin, Nevada. Two neighbors do come over to play occasionally. I've had three no-hitters; the first a perfect

game in which Nellie Briles ('69 Cards) beat the '69 Expos, 4-0; the others involved '70 teams, as Dock Ellis of Pittsburgh no-hit the Minnesota Twins, 3-0, and Fritz Peterson of the Yankees won his own no-hitter over Cincinnati by hitting an eighth inning two-run double for a 2-0 win.

John Hyatt, Jr.
Carlin, Nevada

SUGGESTS GRID CHANGES

I have played the Strat-O-Matic football game for about two fanatical years, and have come up with some ideas that I feel would add realism to the game.

First (and most important), the fumbling frequencies of the running backs should be individualized. Runners on any given team will vary in their ability to retain possession of the football. Of course some standardization is necessary (especially for running backs who have not carried the ball much), but I feel that fumbles are too important to be standardized as they are presently.

Other aspects of the game which are standardized, such as kickoffs, losses under the double-teamed column of quarterbacks and the flat pass O men column should also be modified to better conform with realism.

In closing, I would like to say that I am making these criticisms because I consider Strat-O-Matic to be an excellent game. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to express them.

Mark Chergosky
Minneapolis, MN

'ZONE' IMPROVEMENTS

I was extremely surprised and quite satisfied that the Review has expanded in size. Along with the size of the paper being larger, I think that the content of the paper has improved ten times over. I hope that you can keep the paper up to its present level of value.

I think that Andrew Fischer's article (December Review) on the use of the zone defense was a masterpiece. But I do see a few flaws. I can see where the title of the article came from, "Popular 'Zone Defense'". Of course the zone would be popular, it has every advantage possible and relatively few disadvantages. With

the present form of the zone, I would use it every time.

To combat the advantages of the zone I propose the following rules to be incorporated into the zone defense: (a) that if Receiver comes up on a long pass you would now use the Right column instead of Rec. 2-tmd column; (b) because the zone defense has trouble covering the running backs and the tight end on pass plays, I propose that on short passes and flat passes when Receiver comes up for running backs and the tight end, that you use the Wrong column on the receiver's card. I arrived at this last rule change because the tight end and the running backs are catching more passes this year because most teams have gone to using the zone.

Don Richardson
Murrysville, PA

KIMLIN-ARTICLE A BIG HIT

I must compliment Mark Kimlin on his great article (February Review), "The Strat-O-Matic Doesn't It Burn You Up When" book. It was very funny and oh so true. It would make a great idea for a column in the Review.

I hope you receive enough addresses to put together the SOM Directory. It is a great idea and should receive everyone's support.

A supplement containing SOM modifications would be a good idea, too. It would be a great help for SOM players and save them time from looking through back issues of the Review.

Duncan Jameson
Pittsburgh, PA

SHORT SEASON A-OK

First let me compliment you on an excellent publication. I've been an SOM owner for a couple of years. I started with the '68 season of football and, while I only switched to baseball last year, I have complete sets back to 1966.

I'm 19 and attend the University of Illinois Circle Campus (I often ride with Ed Furman). I have just completed a replay with the '70 leagues. For reasons of practicality I used a 54-game season. The surprising champions were the Minnesota Twins, whose season record of 31-23 would

have merely tied them for third in the East. The Twins then knocked off the Boston Red Sox and the "Big Red Machine" in two-of-three-game playoffs.

In past issues there have been complaints that 54-game seasons are unrealistic. While that may be true, they are just as much fun and far more practical.

For the record, Johnny Bench (who hit 25 homers and drove in 64 runs) was the National League's MVR and Bob Gibson (who had a no-hitter and 10 complete games) the Cy Young award winner, and Carl Yastrzemski (17 home runs) and Gary Peters (10 wins) were chosen MVP and Cy Young winner in the American League.

A. F. Mazeika
Oak Park, Illinois

WANTS '36 & '56 YANKS

A few months ago when you announced which new "old-timer" teams would be printed, I was shocked to see that the 1936 and 1956 Yankees were no included. Both teams were pennant and world series winners.

The absence of the 1936 Yankees has no excuse. The team won its pennant by 19½ games! Its record was 102-51. The team batted .300, hit 182 home runs and scored 1,065 runs (the '27 Yankees scored 975). Five people had 100 RBIs or more and six regulars batted over .300. Here are some stars of the '36 team: first base--Lou Gehrig, .345-49 HRs - 152 RBI; center field--Joe DiMaggio, .323-29 HR-125 RBI; catcher--Bill Dickey, .362-22 HR-107 RBI; pitcher--Red Ruffing, 20-12. How was this team overlooked?

The 1956 Yankees won 97 games and lost 57. They batted .270 and hit 190 home runs. Mickey Mantle (center field) won the triple crown that year, batting .363, hitting 52 homers and driving in 130 runs.

I would like to know if it is still possible to these teams to be printed? If not it's a shame.

William Barbesil
Roughkeepsie, New York

EDITORS NOTE: Regarding the poll of readers (published in the August Review), neither of the above teams ranked in the top 11. The poll was not the final word, however, and although those in the top

11 will be the first old-timer teams to be printed, it's likely that others will follow--perhaps, the 1936 and 1956 Yankees.

UNRELIABLE REPLY

I have always enjoyed Strat-O-Matic and, of course, your Review. However, I would like to point out something which I hope other readers will consider.

Recently I placed an ad in the Review for some football teams. I had hoped to use each team's best year (ex. 1967 Bears) with the exception of the worst team in each of the 5-team divisions.

The second reply I received stated that he would sell me 6 of the 13 teams I presently needed. I jumped at the offer. All other similar offers were told, "I'm sorry."

After waiting more than time sufficiently called for, I received a letter from the same person, with my check returned. He said he had sold the teams.

I consider this unfair and unjust. Please SOM fans, take this into account the next time you answer an ad.

Charles Kapner
Seattle, Washington

SOM TOPS ALL AROUND

Like John Ladd in the February issue of the Review, I too have found Strat-O-Matic football to be a great game. I have had games that were incredibly exciting. Some of my games make George Blanda boring. I recall one game in which the New York Jets ('68) were beating the Houston Oilers in the fourth quarter, 27-7. Well it just so happened that Joe Namath was having a great game and my friend wanted to pour on the points by bombing my secondary. Little did he know that my cornerbacks were once magicians and the first long pass was picked off and ran back 80 yards, making the score 27-14 with 8:00 left.

I then kicked off and on third down he tried again and again the pass was picked off and ran back 84 yards. The score was now, 27-21, and my opponent was a little shook up. Soon he punted and I went 53 yards to score the go-ahead touchdown to the utter amazement of my friend. I kicked off again with two minutes left and Namath drove his Jets down field into field goal range for Jim Turner. On third down my friend tried to pass again and another interception stole the game away from the Jets.

I would like to add that the controversy over righty-lefty and pitchers endurance have come to an end for me as I went to Port Washington (home of SOM) and bought the advanced game. It satisfies every desire that was expressed in the pages of the Review. I must say that the topic gave the Review a head start in sales with the monthly controversy and I was surprised to see how quickly Mr. Richman (SOM's creator) responded with the tons of work he has. I found the game company's staff to be extremely helpful and friendly.

Mark Kimlin's article (February issue) added a new light to the Readers' Roll 'Em section and his aggravations were very familiar, as I have witnessed them many a time. It was an excellent article that made me laugh more than Johnny Carson could, as I was reading it while Johnny was doing his monologue.

Paul Zuckerman
Jamaica, New York

MORE INVOLVEMENT, ANYONE?

My congratulations to Don Miller on his excellent article in the March Review. As the first guest columnist, he started off right on top, which should give future columnists an excellent target to shoot for and a fine example to follow.

Let me cast my vote for Don's help in designing a system for setting up league play on a short term commitment so players have a means, etc., for involvement.

One thing I've found from contacting people through ads in the Review, or people contacting me, is that they are afraid to express their ideas and opinions. Why they are afraid is beyond me, for they must have had ideas when they placed their ad or answered mine.

What I would like to see is people being able to communicate through a media, like the Review. The guest columnist idea is a step in that direction, but not related enough to a single purpose.

An idea that might work along the above line is to, each month, set up a think question in the Review for the readers to answer. Something from which you can get people to start expressing themselves and get over the

inhibitions of saying what they think. An example question would be: How would you organize a league?

Don's article is a prime source of ideas toward understanding league play and for creating additional questions.

Joe Mordente
Carlstadt, New Jersey

ANOTHER VOTE FOR HOCKEY

In my opinion, the March issue of the Review was the best yet, I am intrigued at the possibilities that can occur thanks to computer programming. I sure hope that Mr. Checkosky and Mr. O'Neill get together soon and can come up with some exciting Strat-O-Matic games.

Mr. Miller, who had the hard task of being the first guest columnist handled the assignment beautifully, and came out with a really good and true article about league play.

Also, I am an avid hockey fan, and I am waiting and waiting and waiting for a hockey game which uses pro statistics, as there are hockey games already on the market, but none use player cards. My question is - why is Mr. Richman working on a basketball game when there already are games of that sport which use players cards, whereas hockey (as far as I know) would be a first? (EDITORS NOTE: Two game companies, to our knowledge, currently put out a hockey game using individual player cards.)

Lastly, I want to thank Ed Grant, President of the Continental Football Association for making the league-play-by-mail such a success. Even though I had the Chiefs and could only manage a 5-9-0 record, it was great fun. I'm sure all the participants were honest. I know I was.

Steve Inkles
Port Jefferson Station
New York

CHANGE FOR PITCHERS' HITTING

In the February Review you said that most pitchers bat under 100 times a season, hardly a gauge for their hitting ability. I agree with this, but I feel that by using a pitcher's lifetime batting record his true batting ability would come through. With these records you could make a pitcher's hitting card that is realistic. Thank you for a truly great game--my friends and I love it.

Dave Foos
Rochester, New York

Yanks Replay

by
Graydon Vigneau, Jr.
Brattleboro, Vermont

I have just completed the New York Yankees 1970 baseball season. Due to limited time, I was unable to play a more comprehensive slate with more teams involved. I played the '70 schedule solitaire and completed all 162 games during the summer. I must confess that I was truly amazed at the great similarity between the statistics I compiled and the actual 1970 stats. Almost all were tremendously close to the '70 ones and some were even identical. Official results such as RBI and runs scored as well as stolen bases were in some cases quite different because they are not governed by the SOM cards.

In my replay, I also incorporated the use of the four additional players and made use of six nameless player cards (Pete Ward, Bobby Mitchell, Frank Tepedino, Steve Hamilton, Mike McCormick, and Bill Burbach).

Here are some of my results with the actual 1970 statistics enclosed in parentheses:

1970 RECORD	WON	LOST	PTC
Yankees	93 (93)	69 (69)	.574 (.574)

BATTING STATISTICS

NAME	AB	BA	HRS	SO	RBI
Horace Clarke	690 (686)	.249 (.251)	5 (4)	38 (35)	36 (46)
Roy White	609 (609)	.296 (.296)	22 (22)	64 (66)	103 (94)
Bobby Murcer	582 (581)	.249 (.251)	24 (23)	96 (100)	87 (78)
Danny Cater	580 (582)	.298 (.301)	7 (6)	43 (44)	68 (76)
Thurman Munson	457 (453)	.302 (.302)	6 (6)	53 (56)	39 (53)
Gene Michael	426 (435)	.214 (.214)	2 (2)	89 (93)	39 (38)
Jerry Kenney	401 (404)	.192 (.193)	4 (4)	47 (44)	24 (35)
Curt Blefary	268 (269)	.209 (.212)	9 (9)	43 (37)	37 (37)
John Ellis	228 (226)	.246 (.248)	4 (7)	43 (47)	24 (29)
Ron Woods	221 (225)	.222 (.227)	7 (8)	32 (35)	26 (27)
Jake Gibbs	153 (153)	.301 (.301)	9 (8)	11 (14)	26 (26)
Jim Lyttle	116 (126)	.310 (.310)	1 (3)	16 (26)	11 (14)
Frank Baker	111 (117)	.216 (.231)	0 (0)	26 (26)	7 (11)
Ron Hansen	90 (91)	.300 (.297)	5 (4)	8 (9)	21 (14)

TEAM BATTING AVERAGE: .250

PITCHING STATISTICS

NAME	WON	LOST	IP	ERA	HITS ALL	SO
Mel Stottlemire	15 (15)	13 (13)	277 (271)	3.09 (3.09)	267 (262)	128 (126)
Fritz Peterson	20 (20)	11 (11)	269 (260)	2.94 (2.91)	266 (247)	109 (127)
Stan Bahnsen	14 (14)	9 (11)	227 (233)	3.35 (3.32)	228 (227)	104 (116)
Lindy McDaniel	10 (9)	5 (5)	110 (112)	1.96 (2.01)	79 (88)	80 (81)
Ron Klinkowski	7 (6)	7 (7)	100 (98)	2.52 (2.66)	89 (80)	34 (40)
Steve Kline	6 (6)	6 (6)	100 (100)	3.42 (3.42)	99 (99)	48 (49)
Mike Kekick	7 (6)	4 (3)	100 (99)	4.41 (4.82)	107 (103)	61 (63)
Jake Aker	4 (4)	2 (2)	70 (70)	2.06 (2.06)	56 (57)	40 (36)
John Cumberland	2 (3)	5 (4)	65 (64)	4.01 (3.94)	69 (62)	42 (38)
Gary Waslewski	2 (2)	2 (2)	58 (55)	3.10 (3.11)	46 (42)	30 (27)

'65 Twins Sole Survivors

Kenneth Hutchings
and Jeff Shepard

We played a single-elimination tournament to decide the "best team of the 1960s." From a field of 16 teams, the 1961 Tigers and 1965 Twins made it to the finals, with the Twins winning the best two-of-three-game playoff by scores of 5-4 and 6-4. Most valuable player was Twins' shortstop Zoilo Versalles who, in five games, batted .409, scored seven runs and hit a pair of homers.

First Round Results

'61 Yanks d. '62 Giants, 5-2
'65 Twins d. '68 Tigers, 5-4
'67 Red Sox d. '61 Reds, 7-1
'69 Twins d. '68 Cards, 1-0
'60 Pirates d. '69 Orioles, 5-3
'67 Cards d. '68 Orioles, 3-1
'69 Mets d. '63 Giants, 1-0
'61 Tigers d. '65 Dodgers, 7-0

Second Round Results

'65 Twins d. '61 Yanks, 7-5
'67 Red Sox d. '69 Twins, 3-2
'67 Cards d. '60 Pirates, 7-2
'61 Tigers d. '69 Mets, 2-1

Semifinals

'65 Twins d. '67 Red Sox, 3-1
'61 Tigers d. '67 Cards, 4-3

FINALS

'65 Twins d. '61 Tigers, 5-4 and 6-4

Field Dwindles In Grid Tourney

Just four teams remain in the National SOM Football Tournament, being held in Arabi, LA, under the direction of Jeff Perigoni. The four coaches that remain represent three different areas of the country. Below are the pairings for the semi-final rounds, with the results from the last round.

ANDREW FISCHER, PHILADELPHIA, PA -- his '67 Colts drew a bye in the last round
vs

MARTY COGBURN, LAFAYETTE, CA -- his '69 Chiefs aided by two Jim Kearney touchdown interception returns (89 & 71 yards) defeated Joe Belzer's (St. Louis Park, MN) '69 Vikings 29-14.

DON WILLIAMSON, NEW IBERIA, LA -- his '68 Jets lead by Joe Namath's super passing performance (39 of 54 for 352 yards, and 5 TDs) demolished the '68 Colts of Ken O'Bryan, Kettering, OH, in a Super Bowl rematch, 44-17.
vs

DON MILLER, JACKSON, MS -- his '70 Lions edged the '70 Vikings of Barry Esquivel, 27-21, on a Lem Barney TD punt return with time running out. The Vikings had lead all the way, till that point.

The Review would like to send out its congratulations to the four remaining players, and to Jeff Perigoni for his fantastic work in making this tournament a success.

Guest Columnist

EDITORS NOTE: Dan Fumagalli, Joliet, Illinois, is a 14-year-old freshman in high school. He participates in football (he was a defensive end on a 4-2-1 record team this past fall), basketball and track. He's been playing Strat-O-Matic football for two years now.

Let's Hear It For SOM!

by Dan Fumagalli

Even though the Strat-O-Matic Game Co. and the SOM Review have brought hours of fun, pleasure and relaxation to thousands of people everywhere, they have also contributed greatly to other aspects of everyone's lives. Read on further and you will see what I mean.

Take, for instance, the ever-growing popularity of football and baseball games. I am sure that most players who have owned any SOM game have found a greater enthusiasm for the real-life sport. Replaying all those past years' replays brings back old memories. The Old-Timer teams have enabled us to pit a team of yesteryear against one of our modern-day favorites.

If we explore this idea even further, we find that playing SOM football (or baseball) leads to a greater enthusiasm for real football, which in turn creates an even greater enthusiasm for SOM football. The cycle goes on and on. Those of you who watched the '71 football season go down the wire, are probably anxiously awaiting that day in July when the new cards come rolling off the press, ready for action. If more people would play sports table games, then there would be much more fan participation and, above all, more enjoyment in sports as a whole.

The overall popularity of the SOM games has risen tremendously in the past few years; many more leagues in numerous cities have been formed, and new friendships have been started because of this. People enjoy playing replays and the more involved, the merrier. Many times you can just page through the Review, read a few articles and experiences from scattered leagues across the nation, then contemplate...on their meaning. It seems that all SOM game owners belong to one big friendship organization, where all are equal.

Not only have friendships been built around SOM, but now even couples join leagues, competing against other couples who have the same interests as they do...having fun and relaxing at the same time.

So far we have explored several categories that, until I got down to writing this article, were probably never mentioned at all. I think that these are the most important functions of any sports table game; not that the others don't count, but they are really secondary to these reasons, which are the fundamentals for forming leagues or subscribing to the Review.

As a final note, I think we should thank Mr. Richman and Mike Allison and all the others who have some connection with the game company or the Review. They are the ones responsible for adding pleasure and enjoyment to our lives.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Rates: Per Issue - up to 30 words, 50¢; 31-50 words, 70¢; 51-70 words, \$1.00; and 71-100 words, \$1.50. When you send in your ads, specify either **WANTED**, **FOR SALE** or **LEAGUE**, name any card sets by the year upon which they were based. **NOTE:** Only advertisements regarding Strat-O-Matic products, related merchandise, and leagues will be accepted. No other brand names may be mentioned or advertised. No advertisement concerning photocopied Strat-O-Matic player cards or related products will be accepted.

Wanted

WANTED: 1962, 1963 Los Angeles Dodgers complete teams in usable condition. Name your price. Write: Hugh Beyeler, 307 W. 11th Street, Azusa, CA 91702

WANTED: Any baseball teams '68 or older or football teams '69 or older. Write stating what you have, condition and price for prompt reply. Larry Wolf, 7602 Redding, Houston, Texas 77036

WANTED: '69 Cards, Mets, Cubs, Twins, Orioles, Giants, Sox; '70 Cubs, Cards, Reds, Pirates, Orioles, Expos, Padres, Mets. Will buy individually. Best offer or will trade, 1970 Colts, Bears, Lions Cowboys. Bob Clineman, 216 E. Terra Cotta Avenue, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

WANTED: 1967 Cleveland Browns, good condition. Send bid, lowest accepted. Send to: Mitchell Garber, 1405 Edgevale Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19151

WANTED: Any team or league prior to 1968. Also 1968 American League and 1969 National League East. Need badly '65 Senators, A's, Astros, and Mets. Also want '67 football cards. Will pay well for any or all. Also want issues 1 and 11 of Review. Dee Evans, P.O. Box 185, New Burnside, IL 62967 state what you have, condition and price for prompt reply.

WANTED: A copy of the March '71 issue of the Strat-O-Matic Review. I will pay well. Name your price. Greg Sliwa, 31 Canterbury Lane, New Shrewsbury, NJ 07724

WANTED: pre-1968 SOM baseball teams and any SOM football teams; also want old roster sheets and previous issues of SOM Review. Robert Henry, 15919 Ferguson, Detroit, MI 48227

WANTED: 1963 teams. Trade original set baseball cards based on 1961 season. Excellent condition, but glued on index cards to insure longevity. Write: Steve Constant, 3701 Humble, Midland, Texas 79701

WANTED: Baseball: teams or complete seasons based on 1968 statistics and before. Football: 68 - DALLAS - 67 any teams. Steven Belmont, 14 Sutton Place, Westwood, NJ 07675

WANTED: 1968 and/or 1969 Detroit Tigers. Good to excellent condition. Write and suggest price to: Corey Gill, 14526 Park Ave., Livonia, MI 48154

WANTED: I'll pay 60¢ apiece for the '63-'69 Orioles, '66 Dodgers, and '69 Mets (75¢ with additional players). Also, '68 Colts and Jets. Contact: David Clarke, Cooksville, MD 21723

WANTED: 1962 entire set and 1963 American League. I will pay up to \$50.00 for the 1962 set and \$20.00 for the 1963 American League. Write: Mark Campbell, 3500 Gina Ct., Sacramento, CA 95841

WANTED: 1968 Cowboys; 1967 Rams, Bears, and Packers. These teams are needed very badly. Please state condition. I will pay very good prices. Charles Kapner, 12556 Third Ave., NW, Seattle, Washington 98177

WANTED: I will pay any reasonable price for the following individual players cards; '69 Frank Howard, '69 Willie McCovey, '69 Rico Petrocelli, '69 Jimmie Wynn, '63, '68 or '69 Juan Marichal, '68 or '69 Denny McLain, '68 Luis Tiant, '68 Willie Horton, '68 Bob Gibson, '61 Jim Gentile, '62 Ernie Banks, '63 Harman Killebrew, '65 Dean Chance, '67 Joel Horlen, '64 Larry Jackson, '66 Frank Robinson, '64 Ken Boyer, '64 Brooks Robinson, '66 Al Kaline, '62 Tommy Davis, '62 Leon Wagner; send to: Chuck Reubens, 210 Jordan Ave., Rochester, NY 14606

WANTED: The 1967 football teams listed, will pay a good price. Rams, Dallas, Cleveland, Chicago, Jets, Green Bay, Baltimore and Oakland. Contact: Don Jacobus, 1812 East 215th place, Carson, CA 90745

WANTED: 1966 Orioles at \$1.00. '62, '63, '65 Orioles at \$.75 FOR SALE: '63 Braves, '63 Twins, '64 Cardinals, and '64 Dodgers (all complete). write: Don DiGennaro, 212 Burrows Street, Rochester, NY 14606

WANTED: The 1967 NFL and AFL sets. Will pay a good price if the set is in good condition. I also need the 1970 extra players set. State set, condition and price in your letter. Send offers to: Tim MacArthur, R#5, Box 263, Cheboygan, MI 49721

WANTED: Baseball - '68 Reds, '66 Braves, Pirates, '65 Yankees, '64 Cardinals, Twins, Yankees, '63 Twins, Yankees, Dodgers, Braves. Must be in at least fair condition and complete. Pay to \$3.00 for some teams or best bid. Bids til April 15. Tim Brace, Box 1384, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY 13323

For Sale

FOR SALE: Football: '67 Cowboys, '68 Cowboys, Rams; '69 Colts, Cowboys, Lions, Oilers, Chiefs, Rams, Vikings; '70 Colts, Cowboys, Rams. Baseball: 20 oldtimer teams; AL, NL Hall of Famers; 1960 series B teams (all 8); '70 Orioles, Reds, Twins, Pirates, Yankees, Dodgers; '69 Mets, Orioles, Twins, Braves, Cubs, Dodgers; '68 Tigers, Cardinals, Dodgers; '66 Orioles, Dodgers; '64 Cardinals, Yankees, Dodgers; '63 Dodgers, Yankees. Conditions range from fair to excellent depending on age of team. Highest bids win. winners pay postage. write to: Gordon D. Sheldall, 9443 Steele St., Rosemead, CA 91770

FOR SALE: 1966 (set only): Orioles, Dodgers, Braves, Giants, White Sox, Twins, Tigers, Indians, Yankees, Pirates (worn condition) for highest bid over \$10.00. also selling 1969 baseball set: Orioles, Twins, Indians, Yankees, Angels, Tigers, Cards, Braves (with additional players, teams in good condition) for best bid over six bucks. Remember, whoever shows me that they want these teams most will get them. Kurt Scharfe, 913 S. Adams, Hinsdale, IL 60521

FOR SALE: I have just finished listing a very large quantity of SOM cards and sports material. For list, which includes a Sports Quiz Contest, send stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Steve Goldstein, 16 Lowell Terrace, Bloomfield, NJ 07003. You'll be glad you sent for it.

FOR SALE: 2 Strat-O-Matic games. Also a lot of teams. For a list, send 10¢ in coin or stamps. All merchandise will be sold to the highest bidder. Richard York, 19171 Derby St., Detroit, MI 48203

FOR SALE: 1968 Yanks, Sox, Orioles, Tigers, Reds, Cards, Giants, Braves and Phillies. Excellent condition. 35¢ each. write: Mike Ravensbergen, 44 Sycamore Rd., Dumont, NJ 07628 Call (201) 385-3593 Hurry!

FOR SALE: '69 Senators, Tigers, Braves, Reds, and Cubs. Call or write Jeff Goldsmith, 5 Northway, Hartsdale, NY 10530 (914) 673-9256

FOR SALE: 1971 96 additional players, separately by team, 4 cards 15 cents. Never been used. Mitch Nyberg, 724 Apple Tree, Glencoe, IL 60022

FOR SALE: 1969 AL-NL season plus extras mint condition. 1967 Red Sox, mint condition. 1970 NL: Pittsburgh, Chicago, Mon. AL: Baltimore, California, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Boston, New York, Chicago, Kansas City. Replay the "Miracle Mets" with 1969 set! Will sell above separate or as a unit. Send bids to: J.L. Smith, 432 N. Mulberry St., Hagerstown, MD 21740

FOR SALE: 67, 68, 69, 70 sets of SOM baseball, I will take highest bid. Mike Parker, 24172 Zorro Ct., Hayward, CA 94541

ATTENTION ALL STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW READERS. Here's your chance to purchase the first year (Volumes 1-12) of the Review. Its a steal at \$4.00 (33¢ per issue). Write: Dan Dei Rossi, 1060 S. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. I'll pay the postage. First come, First serve.

FOR SALE: Baseball (64-70) and football (67-70) cards. Assorted. Both games and back issues of the Review. Send SASE for complete list. Patrick Ernst, 3400 SW 26 Terrace, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

League's Forming

LEAGUE FORMING: The American Open SOM Football League is now accepting applications. for play by mail. The AOF is attempting to form a full 26 team, 14 game schedule, of the last 4 years. Send self-addressed stamped envelope for additional information. It is recommended that you have at least the 1969 and 1970 SOM cards sets available. we hope to begin play soon, so hurry & write immediately! John R. DeRoy, 11449 Essex, Bridgeton, MO 63043

LEAGUE FORMING: SOM play-by-mail football league forming. Cards based on 1968 season will be used. First come-first served. put all 26 teams in order of preference. First game will be April 20th. write: Pete Crockett, 445 South Street, #1gin, IL 60120 will send schedule and rules immediately. Both leagues will be used. No fee required.

LEAGUE FORMING: Attention SOM Fans! Play-by-mail baseball league forming using the new, 1971 cards. For more information write: Rich Gross, 133 Kxeter Pl., St. Paul, MN 55104 Please hurry!

LEAGUE FORMING: ATTENTION New England SOM enthusiasts! Join the New England Baseball Association. It will be compact and well run. We'll have eight managers and use the old-timer teams. We'll play a 120- game schedule. Send top five choices and we'll start soon. Hurry and write for instructions. John Peterson, R.D.#4, Montpelier, VT 05602 or call (802) 223-3891. Thank you and write soon.

LEAGUE FORMING: Attention SOM football fans! A play-by-mail league using 1971 cards will start soon! Each member send top 10 choices along with a dollar (for the newsletters) and you're in the league!!! Need dependable players. You also must have at least 28 SOM scoresheets on hand. This league will not fold! For a constitution and schedule write to: Clyde Matsusaka, 1459 ranchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Hurry!

LEAGUE FORMING: Football league forming in regard to upcoming cards. will consist of all 26 entries in NFL. Send top 6 choices to Bob Margeson, 1 Guilford way, Pittsford, NY 14534 Season to start 4/6 weeks after cards are available or on response for entries and arrival of cards.

LEAGUE FORMING: Seattle/Tacoma area fans are invited to join an established draft baseball league. Build your own team. Call or write Bob Collman, 11225 55 SW, Seattle, Washington 98146 CH4-4703

LEAGUE FORMING: 1972 US National Baseball championship league needs new members. will use 1971 playing cards with extra players. Age is no handicap. Need dependable players only. Write for details. Robert white, Box 14039, Laredo AFB, Texas 78040

Reds Share First Orioles

David Jacobs
Livingston, New Jersey

I have just completed a replay of the 1970 baseball season using six of the top teams. Rice Carty (.366) batted .372, six points higher than in real life. Also, Don Kessinger tripled 23 times. The Orioles and Reds tied for first place and the Reds won a best two-of-three game playoff, two games to one. One of the big disappointments was the Yanks' Mel Stottlemyre winning only eight while losing 26. Dave McNally and Tom Seaver, surprisingly, were also 20-game losers!

Standings and leaders (real life marks are in parentheses):

	WON	LOST	GB	BATTING		HOME RUNS
1. Reds	91	71	--	1. Carty	.372 (.366)	1. Williams 59 (42)
2. Orioles	91	71	--	2. Williams	.341 (.322)	2. Bench 51 (45)
3. Cubs	85	77	6	3. Rose	.335 (.316)	3. Aaron 46 (38)
4. Mets	79	83	12	4. Powell	.311 (.297)	4. Hickman 39 (32)
5. Yankees	74	88	17	5. Hickman	.310 (.315)	5. Powell 34 (35)
6. Braves	66	96	25			

RBIs		WINS		ERA - 162 INNINGS
1. Williams	144 (129)	1. Cuellar	24 (24)	1. Koosman 2.30 (3.14)
2. Bench	130 (148)	2. Jenkins	23 (22)	2. Jenkins 2.70 (3.39)
3. Powell	112 (114)	3. Palmer	20 (20)	3. Peterson 2.99 (2.91)

Monarchs Are Champs

David R. Stoker, owner and manager of the Monarchs Baseball Club, reports that his Monarchs captured the most recent championship with a 36-24 record (earlier the league was reported in the December Review) and a six-game ouster of the defending champion Texans.

Stan Musial of the Monarchs just missed his second straight batting title, losing out by four points to Rod Carew of the House of David, who hit .358. Don Mossi of the Crabbers had an 11-4 record to lead in victories, while the fabulous Tom Hall won the ERA crown with a 2.14 mark in the Texas-based league.

Johnson Stars For '68 Reds

The 1968 Cincinnati Reds survived a 16-team elimination baseball tournament played recently by Mike Oldham of Libby, Montana, defeating the 1968 World Series champion Detroit Tigers in the finals, four games to one. Detroit's only victory was a two-hit shutout by Denny McLain.

The first round was a best two-of-three game affair, second and third were three-of-five and the finals the best-of-seven. Three old-timer teams were also added to the field with the '31 A's bowing in the first round to the '68 Tigers and the '54 Indians being knocked out by the '68 Pirates, also in the first round. The '35 Cubs did manage to advance to the semifinals before losing to the '68 Tigers.

The hero of the tournament was Alex Johnson who punished the ball at a .409 clip--highest in the series--hitting safely in all 16 Reds' games plus driving in over half their runs.

In The Strat-O-Matic Spotlight

NO SOLUTION YET FOR FOOTBALL PENALTIES

A number of readers have written the Review with tips regarding how to set up penalties for the Strat-O-Matic Football game.

Most of the suggestions are sincere attempts to remedy the problem of what to do about the lack of penalties and many have been tested by gamers and found successful, and some have even found their way onto the pages of the Review.

The editors of the Review, however, still aren't convinced a realistic solution for incorporating penalties has been found, despite the large number of suggestions.

Our concern is centered mainly in the belief that penalties should not be determined by chance alone for instance, rolling two dice and having one team penalized if 2-6 comes up and the other penalized if 7-12 comes up, since some teams--quite often the inferior teams--are penalized more than others.

One subscriber (his name was inadvertently misplaced after his envelope and playing tip became separated) got to the crux of the problem when he used team statistics to determine frequency of penalties for each team on both offense and defense.

He then set up penalty "frequency" percentages and applied the frequency to a fraction of 36 for both the offensive player cards and team defensive cards, picking out numbers least likely to affect player averages and circling them as "penalty numbers."

A penalty chart, plus factor ratings for all the teams, were also sent to the Review, but no individual examples were given, thus the big problem here becomes what numbers do you circle on the offensive player and defensive cards and not affect averages?

The editors of the Review personally don't care whether penalties are included or not, being satisfied with the non-penalty game as it is now. However, since some readers have challenged the authenticity of some of the penalty tips previously printed, we felt it necessary to bring the matter before the SOM public and give our views.

MINT, GOOD, FAIR OR POOR

Sgt. George Lippman, currently stationed in Japan, suggests a system of grading cards so that people dealing with each other through the mails will have some idea of the condition of the cards.

Lippman's suggestions cover four categories of card condition, ranging from:

MINT -- Never been used; new.

GOOD -- Have been used, but not excessively worn.

FAIR -- have been used and are excessively worn.

POOR -- Any cards that have been mutilated, ripped, torn, folded, bent, spindled, written on (had pabulum spilled on), etc.

He also would like to see prices set for cards, by condition, for each year.

What do the readers think of Lippman's suggestions? Also, what the value of older card sets should be, based on condition and year?

THIS 'N THAT

...Dick LaBeau of the Detroit Lion defensive secondary was the biggest thief, intercepting 20 passes, as he and his mates picked off a whopping 44 in a 12-game replay conducted by David Plavin of Lewiston, Maine. Despite all the thievery, the Lions still finished second to the Los Angeles Rams in a four-team league...Greatest moments in SOM baseball for Bob Galvin, Amherst, Ohio, came when Sam McDowell of the 1970 Indians struck out 11 Cincinnati Reds in succession...Mark De Silva, Huntington, New York, had a first recently when Alex Johnson ('71 edition) unloaded home runs in the second, fourth, sixth and eighth innings in leading California to a 7-4 victory over Oakland...Oldsters, and

that includes Review editor Del Newell, who turns 31 on April Fool's Day, take heart! Myron Finkelstein, a certified public accountant from Clifton, New Jersey, writes he's been a subscriber since July, 1971 and "enjoyed finding out that there are other SOM fans over 30, such as myself, in this country"...Despite losing standout wide receiver Gene Washington through an injury in the first quarter, San Francisco quarterback John Brodie still completed 37 of 54 passes for 349 yards and four touchdowns in a 47-3 lacing of Miami, reports Sandy Tolan, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. Brodie, with Washington sidelined, went to his backs with 20 of his completions, hitting Ken Willard and Doug Cunningham with 10 tosses each...Jim Marnocha, president of the SESML (South Bend Strat-O-Matic League in Indiana), passes on word that league members once played a baseball game in as little as five minutes, plus it's not uncommon for the league to whip off 30 games in a day. League members, besides Jim, are Phil and Chris Kulczak, Ed Crabill, Lacy Hatcher and Robert Sanders...While grand-slam homers are hard to come by for some dice-rollers, they're as easy as hitting into double plays in league competition for Keith Muth, who has witnessed 30 such clouts in the first 50 games in a replay of the 1971 American League season. Biggest one-man feat was turned in by Billy Conigliaro of the Red Sox when he walloped three roundtrippers, two of 'em grand-slams, and the other with two runners aboard...Danny Wallace, Huntsville, Alabama, pitted the '70 Detroit Tigers against an All-Star team of Hall-of-Fame players and it was like the Christians vs. the lions (with Detroit in the defenseless role). The Hall of Famers clawed Detroit, 28-0, helped by a 14-run ninth-inning, and Walter "Big Train" Johnson fired a no-hitter, walking only Al Kaline and allowing Norm Cash to reach first base on an error...Scott Bradbury, White-water, Colorado, feels that the free safety should have an opportunity to intercept a pass in SOM football and thus rolls two dice after a theft and credits it to the free safety if a "2, 3, 7, 11 or 12" come up.

Question & Answer Corner

Q: IN THE NEW CARDS, BOB LOCKER OF THE A's, HAS AGAINST LEFT-HANDED BATTERS ON 6-6: DO 1-2, fssbp?plu3-20j, WHAT IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE?

A: Flyball B 3-20.

Q: ON THE NEW CARDS, WHEN THERE IS: HR 1-2, DO 3-20, AND YOU GET THE DOUBLE, WHICH FIELD IS THE BALL HIT TO?

A: As stated in the advanced rules, "In the event that there is no outfield symbol, adjudge the throw to be made by the centerfielder."

Q: ON THE NEW CARDS, WHEN AN OUTFIELDER LIKE MERV RUTTERMUND IS RATED cf-3(-1) rf-2 lf-2, WHAT ARE HIS THROWING RATINGS FOR RIGHT AND LEFT FIELDS?

A: The first throwing rating, in this case -1, indicates his throwing rating from all outfield positions.

Q: WITH THE NEW CARDS, IF YOU HAVE A PITCHER LIKE VIDA BLUE, A LEFTY, WHO IS NOT QUITE AS GOOD AGAINST LEFTIES AS RIGHTIES, CAN YOU HAVE YOUR SWITCH-HITTERS BAT LEFTY AGAINST HIM?

A: No, there is no way this would happen in real life. The switch-hitter must bat right-handed in this case.

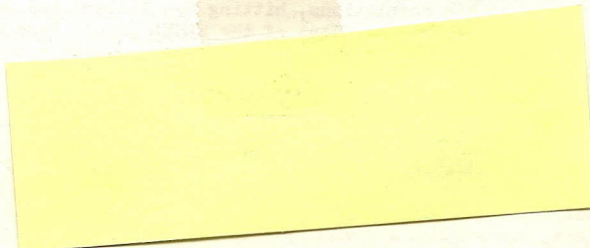
Q: WHAT ABOUT THE DIRECTORY, WHEN WILL IT BE AVAILABLE AND HOW MUCH?

A: We are proud to say that over 300 of you have sent in your names and addresses. We hope to have the Directory ready to be sent out by the next issue. We are not sure on a price as yet, since we must first check with our printer. Probably no more than 50¢. You'll find out next issue.

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STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW
P. O. Box 27
Otsego, Michigan 49078

FIRST CLASS



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Q: HOW DID THE STRAT-O-MATIC GAME CO. FIND THE PERCENTAGES OF TIMES A PLAYER BATTED AGAINST LEFT OR RIGHT-HANDERS? I DIDN'T THINK THOSE STATISTICS WERE KEPT.

A: The Company got those stats by analyzing play-by-play of the total 1944 games.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN SOM CONVENTION?

A: We have received many such inquiries, and have done some research on the subject, needless to say, many problems arise like time, money and distance. If the Review sponsored an SOM convention, it would have to be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The Review would find the meeting place and pay for its use for the one or two days. However, the SOM fans would have to provide their own transportation, and would have to pay for their rooms and such. We agree that it would be a great chance for SOM people to get together, and maybe even a couple of tourneys could be held. If your interest is great enough, we would be willing to get something like this going. Let's say something like this could take place in July or August, let us know if you would definitely attend. We only want a reply from those who would definitely come. If we receive quite a few replies--who knows??? We could have an annual convention on our hands...

Coming Next Month . . .

Want to learn how to set up a play-by-mail baseball league? Next month you'll find out when colorful J.G. Preston of Port Washington, NY, home of the Strat-O-Matic Game Co., tells you how in the role of Guest Columnist. Also next month: a humorous story on cheating your way to a no-hitter; a visit with Thomas Swank, Pleasant Falls, NJ, and his Strat-O-Matic world; a look at league play around the country, and much, much more...