

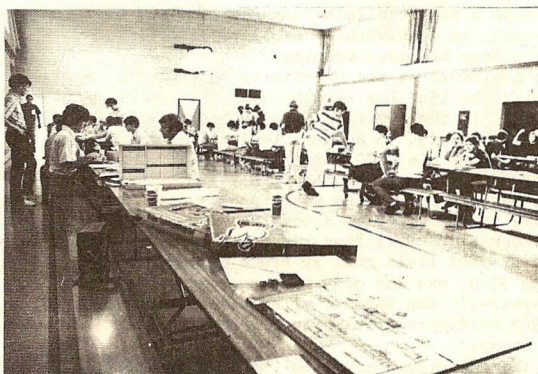


STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW



Devoted exclusively to the
Strat-O-Matic game fans, with
the consent of the Strat-O-Matic
Game Co.

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First SOM Convention A Hit

From the moment Brad Furst of Spencer, IA, arrived with his sleeping bag and game after hitchhiking, until the final moments when Ken O'Bryan, Dayton, OH and Don Nadeau, Chelsea, MI, were crowned football and baseball champions respectively, the first annual National Strat-O-Matic Convention was marked by success.

All told, over 70 people from all over the midwest and as far away as Jackson, MS, in the south, New York and New Jersey in the east, Kansas and Iowa in the west, came by car, bus and plane to attend the initial convention held at Comstock North Elementary School (near Kalamazoo, MI) on Saturday, August 12.

Chelsea had the largest single-city turnout, with eight including baseball king Don Nadeau. Other familiar names in the Strat-O-Matic world who were in attendance included Don Miller, 33-year-old Deputy Director of Mississippi's Head Start program; J.G. Preston, the 15-year-old whiz from Port Washington, NY, founder of the popular Metropolitan Baseball Association; Steve Keplinger, Baltimore, MD, of the Mid-Coastal Football League; avid Review collector Robert Henry, Detroit, MI, who orders three copies of each issue; and many, many others.

Brad Furst, hitchhiking, pulled into Kalamazoo on Thursday from Spencer, IA, signaling the start of the arrivals. Most arrived Friday afternoon or evening and

likewise left Kalamazoo early Sunday.

Review co-editors Mike Allison and Del Newell sponsored the event and, from the size of the turnout and enthusiasm generated, it appears the convention can definitely be classified as an "annual" happening.

And, making the day even more memorable, was the fact that Steve Barkan, an executive at the game company itself (Port Washington, NY) was in attendance, playing in the football tournament and conducting an enlightening 20-minute question-and-answer session with the audience.

Harold Richman, Strat-O-Matic's owner, was not able to attend because of an illness in his wife's family. Steve, who has been with SOM for over four years, was an able replacement, however. After driving straight through--over 13 hours--and catching, as he put it, "about three minutes sleep," his hectic weekend began Friday with "talk sessions" with other SOM conventioners. The tourneys on Saturday followed, lasting throughout the day and finally, as the clock inched toward 9 PM, the last of the trophies, for baseball, was presented by Steve and the first Strat-O-Matic convention was history.

The day started with a single-elimination football tourney. And, for some, the day ended with SOM football, as survivors of early play continued their advance, eventually playing in the finals late Saturday evening.

Ken O'Bryan, 18, a student at the University of Kentucky, emerged as the football champion after guiding the 1967 Los Angeles Rams through an upset-minded field. Ken had a mighty close call in the semifinals, edging Ted Bafford (Baltimore, MD) and his 1970 Cincinnati Bengals, 24-19, to advance to a championship showdown against Ken Garber (Southfield, MI) and his 1970 San Francisco 49ers, who had ousted Brad Furst's 1967 Baltimore Colts, 26-24, in a semifinal thriller.

O'Bryan and his '67 Rams turned the championship game between the two coast teams into a rout, however, as LA rolled up a 45-3 score. Roman Gabriel passed to Jack Snow for three touchdowns and Dick Bass ran for a pair of six-pointers to spark the Rams to victory. A 12-yard field goal by Bruce Gosset, with 3:15 left in the third quarter and trailing 35-0, was the only 49er scoring.

In baseball, 13-year-old Don Nadeau, with the large Chelsea following cheering him on, took the 1969 Baltimore Orioles to the championship in a tourney pitting 1960 and post-1960 teams.

Nadeau's foe in the championship series (best two-of-three games) was Jim Bridson of Lansing, MI, who had run roughshod over much of the tourney field with the power-hitting 1961 Yankees, featuring the "MM Boys," Roger Maris (61 homers) and Mickey Mantle (54 homers).

After coming through the double-elimination meet unscathed, the two met for the title. It turned out that Nadeau's pitching-rich Orioles were too much for the Yankee power as first Jim Palmer and then Dave McNally blanked the New Yorkers, both by identical 3-0 counts. Palmer had a six-hitter and Frank Robinson singled twice and drove in two runs in the opener, while McNally also notched a six-hitter and Paul Blair clouted a two-run, first-inning homer in the finale. Bridson's Yanks, incidentally, had earlier averaged over five runs a game, plus in one tilt had walloped five home runs.

The crowd wasn't an all-male gathering either, as a sprinkling of girl friends and wives were in attendance. One woman, accompanied by her husband, had driven 400 miles from Pittsburgh, PA, so her sons could participate in the tourney.

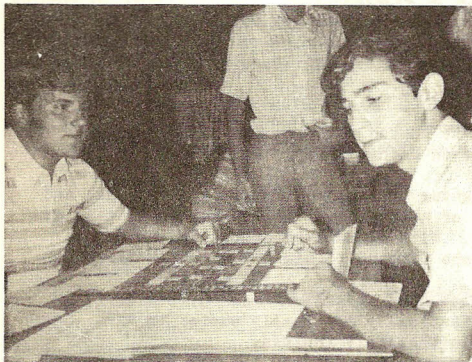
Barkan's question and answer session was another tourney highlight. When questioned, he emphasized that a fielder's rating was determined both by his fielding percentage and, more importantly, by his range. Thus some outfielders, who didn't commit an error over an entire season, still deserved a "3" or "4" rating because of their lack of range.

One outfielder, Steve mentioned, usually moved about one inch to his left and one inch to his right, plus he played so deep (often over 400 feet) that nothing could be hit over his head and stay in the ball park. That was an example of an outfielder

who didn't have much range.

A special thanks for the convention's success should also go the Game Co. for furnishing the trophies for the tourneys, plus Pepsi-Cola of Kalamazoo provided soft drinks free of charge. Even the Kalamazoo Gazette, a daily newspaper, took an interest in the dice-rolling happenings, sending a reporter and photographer to cover the convention.

The first small step was unquestionably a successful one as far as the convention. Next year's, hopefully a giant leap forward, promises to be even bigger and better.



LEFT: Football champ Ken O'Bryan all smiles as his '67 Rams trounce Ken Garber's (right) '70 49er's.

RIGHT: Ken O'Bryan accepts trophy from Game Co. representative Steve Barkan (right) symbolizing National Championship.



LEFT: Jim Bridson, second from left, prepares to throw dice in losing effort against Don Nadeau's Championship '69 Orioles.

RIGHT: Steve Barkan presents the baseball trophy to Don.

EDITORS NOTE: Even the most enthusiastically laid plans often go astray as the following story will prove. Thomas Swank, the author of the story, had made plans for an elaborate "Family Affair" Strat-O-Matic Baseball Tournament (May, 1972). All, however, didn't go as planned, as you will see.

Family Fun Fizzles

Thomas Swank
Little Falls, NJ

Regarding my "Family Affair Tournament", it bombed out. We (my nephew Bruce Buglovsky and I) ran it at my mother's house on Mother's Day. Bruce and I both brought our games.

My sister Dolly Buglovsky played her daughter Debbie, '27 Yanks vs. '70 Reds, and won. She played, but not with a great deal of enthusiasm. Debbie failed to take my advice and it ended up costing her the game. With runners on second and third, instead of walking Babe Ruth as I advised, she pitched to him and he hit a three-run homer for a 5-3 victory.

I played my sister Marie Reddington and got beat in 10 innings, '57 Braves 3, '65 Dodgers 2. Marie threw the dice enthusiastically and really wanted to win. She also uttered a few curse words when losing in the early innings.

Bruce defeated my dad, Clarence, in 12 innings, '69 Mets 4, '54 New York Giants 3. My dad has always been a baseball fan. Unlike Roy Campanella's old saying, "to play baseball you've got to have alot of 'little boy' in you," my dad, however, showed little emotion and played the game just to be a good sport.

My wife after being coaxed consented to play my sister Dorothy and won in 10 innings. '71 Pirates 3, '34 Cards 2. This game was the one that ruined the day, however, My wife and Dorothy were talking about everything but the game during the course of it. Bruce even had to pinch them once just to see if they were alive. Dorothy was my big disappointment as she had said she liked the game.

So, Operation "family affair" turned out to be a washout.

My current project is a 40-team all-time super league consisting of four divisions of 10 teams each. Thirty-four of the teams are pennant winners and six are non-pennant division winners from the last three years. This will be a long and time consuming project, but the best thing about it is that I'm playing it solitaire.

The divisions are arranged so that each team plays a two, three and four-game series with each team in the same division--81 gamesaltogether. The first and second place teams in each division, eight teams, will be joined by the two best third-place teams from the four divisions to form a new super league of 10 teams. The other 30 teams are considered eliminated.

These 10 teams, all having played 81 games, will continue the same schedule for a second 81 games, maintaining their present records, and continuing to 162 total games have been played. The winner, of course, will be declared the greatest of all the SOM pennant winners.

Here are the divisions in case any readers would like to undertake a similar project: (teams are listed in order of won-lost percentage and possible finish)

Eastern Division--1. '53 Dodgers; 2. '61 Yankees; 3. '35 Cubs; 4. '54 Giants; 5. '67 Cards; 6. '60 Pirates; 7. '61 Reds; 8. '50 Phillies; 9. '71 Athletics; 10. '69 Twins.

Western Division--1. '54 Indians; 2. '46 Red Sox; 3. '41 Yankees; 4. '71 Orioles; 5. '65 Twins; 6. '62 Giants; 7. '34 Cards; 8. '65 Dodgers; 9. '69 Braves; 10. '70

Pirates.

Northern Division--1. '27 Yanks; 2. '69 Orioles; 3. '40 Reds; 4. '68 Tigers; 5. '46 Cards; 6. '48 Indians; 7. '22 Giants; 8. '71 Pirates; 9. '67 Red Sox; 10. '70 Twins.

Southern Division--1. '31 Athletics; 2. '70 Orioles; 3. '41 Dodgers; 4. '50 Yanks; 5. '70 Reds; 6. '57 Braves; 7. '69 Mets; 8. '24 Senators; 9. '68 Cards; 10. '71 Giants.

EDITORS NOTE: There must be a lesson in the plight that befell Thomas Swank in trying to have a "family affair" tournament. Certainly the family that plays SOM together doesn't necessarily stay together, that was brought out. Also, another lesson might be that if an attempt at such a tournament is tried in the future, rule out Mother and Father's Day, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, etc. These are not days conducive to good dice-rolling.

Trying to bring the female sex into the world of Strat-O-Matic, like any male-dominated sport, is another thing that would be hard to do. We're curious as to the number of wives that play SOM with their husbands, sisters with brothers, etc.

1967 Grid Powerhouses Clash

Kelly Huey
Nashville, TN

Over the years, Jimmy Gardner and I have had some great battles in baseball and football. And I must admit my nerves and our friendship have been stretched to the limit on more than one occasion.

One of the better football battles was my '67 Packers versus his '67 Rams. With 15 seconds left and the Rams ahead, 27-21, I had the ball on his 45-yard line. Miraculously, Bart Starr connected with Carroll Dale on a 45-yard touchdown pass and Don Chandler split the uprights and had a 28-27 win. Victory never tasted sweeter, but the look on his face brought me back to earth. He had paid me back about double or triple, but, of course, I only want to talk about my victories.

We are always trying to get the upper hand on the other before the battle even begins. One time he took a team of players from the Atlanta Braves roster of 1967. He took the best card he had on each player. I took the lineup of the '53 Dodgers with the pitching staff of the '66 Dodgers.

In the first game, Sandy Koufax defeated the Braves, 7-1, and he even got an RBI to boot. In game two, Don Drysdale and Ken Johnson hooked up in an old fashioned pitching duel. Finally, in the top of the ninth, Billy Cox stepped to the plate for the Dodgers with the score tied 1-1. He promptly unloaded a homer over the left field fence, giving me a 2-1 lead with the heart of the Braves' lineup coming up.

Hank Aaron hit a liner that Pee Wee Reese nabbed at short, Joe Torre went down swinging and Deron Johnson tapped weakly to Drysdale. That was as close as the Braves would come to a victory.

In game three Claude Osteen stopped the Braves on three hits and Gil Hodges slugged two home runs in an 8-0 win, and then Koufax came back to finish the Braves, 8-0 on a four-hitter, as Reese, Duke Snider and Jackie Robinson each had three hits apiece.

How sweet it was to note that the Dodgers outscored the Braves, 30-2, out hit 'em, .312 to .178 and to dwell on Jackie Robinson batting .500, and Felipe Alou .187, Hank Aaron .134 and Joe Torre .000.

Readers Roll 'Em

GOWDY, SCOTT, GIFFORD,
COSELL ROLLED INTO ONE!!

When I read that George Watkins actually announces his baseball games I was surprised and relieved. I was relieved to find out someone else has this problem.

In the past, I have never been able to talk about it, but now I can. Although I don't do my announcing out loud, (there are non-believers in my house), I do go a step further than George, I don't just do crowd noises and public address systems (wanna hear my Yankee Stadium?) I go all the way.

I have an SOM football league made up of 20 fantastic teams which I naturally call the Fantastic Football League. On each week of the season I have ten games. Nine on Sunday and one on Monday. Six of the nine Sunday games are not televised (or announced). I only choose the finest games to be televised. The three Sunday games that are televised are on CBS or NBC. When the game is on NBC I do a Curt Gowdy voice to myself. When the game is on CBS I do a Ray Scott voice (very tough) to myself.

The next night is Monday night football on ABC. On a full moon or sun I become a triple threat. Yes, people, I do Frank Gifford, Dandy Don, and even Howard Cosell in the same game. A hat trick.

I find announcing helps me pick better plays. When I have a game that isn't televised, I play the radio or a tape loud. That's when I call lousy plays. When I announce I need silence to concentrate. That's when I call logical plays.

I even considered doing the announcing and taping it. That way I wouldn't need to keep stats during the game. After the game I could play the tape back reliving all the excitement and recording the stats of those great 40-3 games.

Announcing turns an incomplete pass into the following: Dawson fades back into the pocket. He's under pressure. Now unloads just as Big Bubba gets to him. Bomb for Taylor. Oohhh. Just off his fingertips. Second and ten.

Mark Kimlin
New Paltz, NY

DISPLEASED WITH AD

I think most of the letters you receive indicate that the Strat-O-Matic games and the Strat-O-Matic Review are very good. Why then, do people abuse the privilege of the SOM Review?

Take for instance, when I answered an ad that read, "I have a large number of SOM cards for sale and sports material," I became interested, sent the requested self-addressed envelope, and after two weeks received the reply.

In this reply there were six pages of books, almanacs, autographs and other "junk" plus cards for another game company. His so-called large number of SOM cards, totaled 120 1969 cards, and the players were all what you might call average players and none of the cards of the standouts.

I don't know how much of this false advertising has been going on and I also know the SOM Review editors have no control over this type of "bush league" transaction, but I wish the SOM game owners who wish to sell or trade would keep it honest. C'mon men, let's keep a good thing going...I think you know what I mean.

Steve Danielson
Ellsworth, Iowa

EDITORS NOTE: Surveillance of the ads is an impossible task, so we count on a table-gamer's loyalty to his counterparts to act as his guide in such transactions. We realize, however, that although the "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" sections are to deal strictly with Strat-O-Matic products, attempting to skirt the restrictions by offering SOM products and sending additional information on other game company products is sometimes done. If names of offenders are brought to the attention of the Review, ads can be refused. Steve, however, did not mention the party involved.

WANTS GRID OLD-TIMERS

With all the new changes in SOM football and baseball, other games should just give up. Strat-O-Matic games are truly the best and most realistic I have played.

Since there are old-timers in baseball, why not have football old-timers too? Then we could see Jim Brown, Norm Van Brocklin, Sammy Baugh and all the other great old-timers take the field and show these modern-day players some hard-nosed football.

Dennis Yost
Baltimore, MD

THROWING SUGGESTION

After reading various suggestions in the Review, I have formulated my own concerning the use of the outfielder's throwing rating.

Say a lefty is up and he hits a double with no asterisks and no field to which it was hit is specified. In the rules it says that the center fielder's throwing rating is used. For a variance, and more realistic play, I suggest that a player in this situation roll one die and if it comes up even use the center fielder's rating. If it comes up odd, let the right fielder take it.

In the case of a right-handed hitter, roll between the left fielder and center fielder. This will let the rating for a left or right fielder come into play more often than just for a flyball B, and help cover up for a poor center fielder, plus represent the other outfielders in case of a good center fielder.

I hope you will give an opinion on my idea.

Jim Black
Englewood, FL

LIKES STATISTICS

When I read the article in "Readers Roll 'Em" by Scott Matheson in the July issue, I was disgusted to say the least.

He suggests book reviews. With many already on the market, why add another. The SOM Review is the magazine dealing with the game itself. As far as

"meaningless" statistics, I couldn't disagree more! Personally, the stats are what interest me most.

Randall Linss
Cole Camp, MO

FIELDING CHART A-OK

After reading over the July issue's fielding chart, I really urge the game company to reconsider not printing it up. I look forward to the day where each player will have his 2A, 2B, 4C or whatever rating. I don't think the multiple ratings would slow up the game much. Everybody was worried about the two-sided cards doing that, but the advanced version doesn't take much extra time. So a harmless fielding chart won't make that much difference either.

A small change I look for next year is the rating of the catcher's arm, much like the outfielder's arms. There are some good fielding catchers who can't make the throw to second and vice-versa.

Whatever you do, don't throw out the replays of seasons by various gamemasters. I disagree with Scott Matheson (July) on that issue. I enjoy reading of exciting replays.

One comment concerning the want ads: I would like standardization of card conditions. That way if an ad says "good condition," game owners know what they're investing their money in. I think Sgt. George Lippman's ratings (April, 1972) of mint, good, fair and poor condition should be used.

Another service wanted: a booklet of playing tips and special charts (such as for relievers, threatening weather, etc.), for the baseball and football games.

Finally, I'd like the "This 'N That" column expanded. Those "quickies" are the first thing I look up when I get the Review.

Mike Volberding
Bellevue, WA

IL COMMISSIONER

Your Review is absolutely great and I

enjoy reading the articles. Right now I have a very similar job as do many people around the country who are responsible for the mail leagues; writing out news reports for each series played and sending the report to the league's members.

The league I'm in was started by J.G. Preston, who was your guest columnist in the May issue. The league is his minor league. There are six of us and another guest columnist, Don Miller, is a member. The others are Bryan Baker, Flint, MI, Rich and Dennis Van Haitzma, Holland, MI, and Dave Guy, Grandville, MI. We are currently finishing our fourth series and then all teams will have played 96 games. The players we use are those who got their first cards in 1969. At the conclusion of the season, I will send in the results.

The news report I write contains a series report, league leaders, stats, a Player-of-the-Series article, a general interest article and my editorial. We started February 28, and should be finished shortly. Playing in a mail league has been great fun. We all contribute toward our league and I have found new pen pals that are as nuts about Strat-O-Matic as I am.

Rich Shapiro
Skokie, IL

ADAPTS PENALTY SYSTEM

I have used and adapted Jack Connelly's football penalty system reported in the January, 1972, SOM Review. The two adaptations I use, which I feel add more realism, are:

(1) Instead of having a penalty occur on a regular dice roll of 1, 2, 3 or 2, 3, 4 or 4, 5, 6, I use the following system: two dice are used, a black and a white, in addition to the two red dice. The white die serves the same function as it does in the regular SOM procedures, plus penalties occur on black and white dice rolls of 2-2, 3-3 and 5-5. This is the same frequency as Jack's system, but it serves to randomize the chances for a penalty on all the red and white dice rolls instead of a select few.

(2) In Jack's system a re-roll of three

dice which results in "11" is a holding penalty against the defense. I have changed this to mean defensive holding on a run or flat pass and pass interference on a short or long pass. Penalty is yardage to point of infraction, plus a first down.

Also, I use Joe Meusey's (March, 1972) timing system. The timing is the same as in SOM except that in the last two minutes of each half, a team on offense may choose to declare a "two-minute" drill. Then, the plays that normally take 30 seconds are counted as 20 seconds and plays that normally take 15 seconds are counted as 10 seconds.

In the last two minutes, the offensive team can call a "sideline pass" when throwing a short pass only. If complete, subtract four yards from yardage result and receiver goes out of bounds. No sideline pass can gain more than 15 yards.

Other notes on timing: (a) an automatic timeout is called at the two-minute mark of each half; (b) kickoffs take 15 seconds and returns take 15 seconds--except kickoffs with less than two minutes in each half, which take 0 seconds and returns 15 seconds. This is consistent with NFL rules, in which timing starts when kicker touches ball before two minute mark and when receiver touches ball with two minutes or less left in half.

These timing changes should be used only in conjunction with some type of penalty system, or else the total number of plays possible will vary too much from actual figures.

I also agree with Andrew Fischer (June, 1972) when he estimates that flat, short and long passes are usually thrown in the ratio of 3:2:1. Too many long and short pass attempts result in too many quarterback sacks, or at least would seem to me to contribute to that problem. In support of Fischer, the 1971 Official NFL Record Book shows the average NFL team completed 193 passes over the season, with 114 first downs by passing and 16 TDs by passing. This means that only 60 percent of the passes in 1970 were long enough for a first down. I would guess the 1971 stats would place the figure closer to 55 percent.

Frank Kastelic

Guest Columnist

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This month's guest columnist is Ed Furman of Oak Park, IL. Ed is a third-year student at the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle Campus who plans on majoring in accounting, the same area, incidentally, that SOM creator Harold Richman specialized in.

Collecting SOM Cards

Originally, I was going to talk about mail leagues, but since that has been the main topic of discussion during the past issues, I will instead pass on a few words on the subject of collecting old SOM sets.

There are several questions which you must answer before you start the task of collecting these old sets. The first question is: How much money can I afford? Although it's great to own the old sets, it's not worth going bankrupt to do it. However, one important point to remember is that once you have purchased a set it is very easy to sell it if it is in good condition. This is especially true of the older sets, such as 1962, 1963 and 1964, which are in constant demand among your fellow collectors.

A second important question is: How much do I really want the sets? You may think you really want them but, unless you are prepared to go through a great deal of trouble and disappointment, you will find that you don't want the sets as much as you originally thought. You must be prepared to answer every promising ad and perhaps to even run an ad of your own. This can get to be quite a chore but if you are really determined to complete your collection, you will tackle these ads with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Once you have answered the ads you better be ready to be disappointed. You will probably never receive a reply at all from half of them and from the other half you will get sad news that the sets have already been sold. If you are lucky, you will receive one reply which will inform you that you now own another SOM set.

You may be nervous about sending a check to a person you don't know, especially if it is for a large sum of money. However, it makes more sense to send a check first since anyone who sends the merchandise first would be taking an even bigger risk. I have never run into any dishonest people in my dealings, although there were a few times when I thought the sets would never arrive...but they did!

I would like to thank the editors of the REVIEW for running a great publication. I would also like to thank everyone who has ever run a mail league. I have really come to enjoy these leagues. Finally, I would like to thank Terry C. Ray who made it possible for me to complete my SOM collection and without whom it would still be incomplete.

.....Just after Ed put together this month's column on collecting old SOM card sets, he was visited by Roy Dixon, Norfolk, VA, an SOM friend whom he met through the mail. Ed knows his subject will, too, as he owns SOM baseball card sets for every year.

Forster's Autograph

Maybe another Strat-O-Matic baseball fan? Ed Podrazik, who's a four-year SOM player, not long ago got Terry Forster of the Chicago White Sox to autograph his SOM card. Forster, the White Sox' young pitcher, expressed an interest in the game, according to Podrazik. "Who knows, maybe another fan is born," says Podrazik.

Easy Method Devised For Rating Baseball Players

10

Ever wonder just how good or valuable a certain hitter or pitcher was in Strat-O-Matic baseball?

Well, for those who would like to have a way of rating both batters and pitchers, Steven Belmont, Westwood, NJ, has devised a relatively simple system of doing just that.

First, as Steven points out, each dice total is equal to a certain number of points: 2 and 12 are worth 1 point, 3 and 11 are each worth 2, 4 and 10 are worth 3, 5 and 9 worth 4, 6 and 8 worth 5 each and 7 is worth 6.

"When you want to rate a batter you total up hits and walks for your total.

Example, Babe Ruth, 1927: hits and walks appear on one-column numbers 4, 5, 8-12, two-column numbers 4-10 and three-column numbers 4, 5, 9-12. You total up all chances of getting on base as follows: one-column 4 is worth 3 points, 5 is worth 4 points, 8 is worth 5 points, 9 is worth 4 points, 10 is worth 3 points, 11 is worth 2 points and 12 is worth 1 point. The total is 22 points. You then follow the same procedure for columns two and three using the above table.

"In a case such as three-column 8 (single 1-8, lineout 9-20), a fractional hit is worth .05 (.05 x 8 equals .40) you multiply .40 x 5 (8 is worth 5 points) and you come up with a total of 2.0 points for the three-column 8 split-number chance.

"Just for the record the Babe's card is worth 22 points for the one-column, 26 for the second and 19 for the third--a total of 67 points. This is a very good percentage to get on base since 108 is the highest (36 in each column).

"Pitchers are rated very similar to batters, except that you give the pitchers credit for every out. The highest rating a pitcher can receive is 78 points because the 'X Chart' comes up as follows: Shortstop--7 chances on pitcher's card; Second Base--6; Center Field--3; Third Base--3; Catcher--3; Pitcher--2; Left Field--2; Right Field--2 and First Base--2.

"The total number adds up to 30 and 108-30 equals 78. The highest pitcher's rating I have found is 73 on Walter Johnson's 1913 card. He lost three points for 6-10 and 1.6 for the partial hit on 6-10. The way of determining fractional outs and hits was described above.

"Just for the record, Joel Wright (four-time Greater Kalamazoo Strat-O-Matic League champ) wasn't totally wrong for picking Wilbur Wood over Vida Blue in this year's draft. Wood was a mere 1.4 better on the scale (64.25 for Wood and 62.8 for Blue). The difference is very minimal but the figures do show that Wood is slightly tougher."

Steven's system could be enlarged (other readers have done so) to include a point value for extra base hits off both hitters and pitchers cards. For instance, counting a home run as worth much more than a walk on a batter's card.

Steven's system avoids the mind-booggling mathematics, however, that the average fan wouldn't want to get involved in. It's a quick and simple method, one you might want to try.

DeTour Just Ahead

Mark and Thorn Jarvis of DeTour, a small community in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan that annually turns out rough, tough high school football teams, have got a 140-game schedule going involving the top eight teams in the major leagues from last season.

At the half-way mark, Detroit has a surprising 7½ game lead over Baltimore, followed by Oakland and Kansas City, in the AL, while Los Angeles is 4½ up on St. Louis, followed by Pittsburgh (five out) and San Francisco in the NL. Joe Torre is hitting the ball at a robust .420 clip; Reggie Jackson is the home run leader with 18, while Mickey Lolich had a 15-2 record with a 2.25 earned run average and Vida Blue has 131 strikeouts to go with a 1.53 ERA.

Six-Overtime Thriller Climaxes Grid Season

EDITOR'S NOTE: Suddenly, like an avalanche sweeping down, the Review has had a number of play-by-mail league results descend upon it. The following, an account of the Mid-Coastal Football League, is just one of them. The history of the league was written by Emery Kurts of Santa Maria, CA, while Stephen Keplinger, Reisterstown, MD, prepared the stats and league standings. In fact, the standings, stats, playoff and Super Bowl results altogether comprised a booklet of over 25 pages.

Here is the league's history, a thumbnail sketch of the six league members, standings, league leaders and playoff results.

THE HISTORY OF THE MID-COASTAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE Emery Kurts, Santa Maria, CA

Our league was born at the end of July when the August edition of the Review came out. I had placed an ad in the August, 1971, Review asking for several teams and, as an after thought, I added, "Also anyone interested in league play write...." I almost hadn't included that statement and when I did I did so with the hope of finding someone in my area who wanted to form a league. I never dreamed I'd become involved in a play-by-mail league.

Two days after the Review came out I got a letter from Steve Keplinger of Reisterstown, MD. Steve said he was interested in a play-by-mail football league and because my ad had not stated what kind of league I was interested in, he thought he should write and find out. His idea for a league was to have six members, each playing out one division of last year's schedule.

Steve's letter came at the right time, because I'd never played SOM football before. I had been reading football replays in the Review and had decided to start playing SOM football. I wrote to Steve and told him I was interested and I liked his idea. The only problem I saw was how would we play games against other divisions. I told Steve the only way I could think of to play these games was for the coach of the visiting team to send a game plan to the coach of the home team. The home coach would then play the game and send the results to the visiting coach. It was decided this was the best method and we'd use it.

No one else answered my ad so Steve and I started writing to people in the Review who had indicated interest in play-by-mail leagues.

We each chose the division we wanted. Steve took the AFC East and I took the AFC West.

On August the 19th I got a letter from Steve telling that Tom Nelson of Springfield Gardens, NY, had joined our league and become the coach of the NFC Central.

Early in September, John Woodrum of Fayetteville, WV, joined our league and took the NFC West. A short time later we decided to use the advance version of the game. We also set up a schedule for sending out game plans and statistics from games played, and we started making suggestions for a league name. Steve also put an ad in the Review.

A short time later we had our only problem. One of the people Steve had written to and one of the people I had written to both wanted the NFC East. We decided to accept the person who had written first and Jeff Wood of Mechanicsville, MD, got the division and became our fifth member.

On the third of October I got a letter from Steve saying that Larry Hall of Washington, DC had responded to his ad and was joining our league. Larry became the coach of the AFC Central division.

Our season officially opened Wednesday, October 6. Our league's name was the MIDLAND-COASTAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE. Later the name was shortened to MID-COASTAL

FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

LEAGUE MEMBERS

AFC EAST

Steve Keplinger - Reisterstown, MD. 18 years old - attending the University of Maryland. Has been playing SOM baseball for three years. This is third year of SOM football. League was his idea.

NFC EAST

Jeff Wood - Mechanicsville, MD. 17 years old - senior at Ryken High School in Leonardtown, MD. Played SOM baseball and football since 1967. Likes football best.

AFC WEST

Emery Kurts - Santa Maria, CA. 22 years old - attending Allen Hancock College. Works part-time for local newspaper. Married, has one child. Has been playing SOM baseball since 1965. Just started playing SOM football.

NFC WEST

John Woodrum - Fayetteville, WV. 16 years old - junior at Collins High School. Became interested in SOM by a coupon from a magazine. Has been playing both SOM football and baseball since Christmas, 1971.

AFC CENTRAL

Larry Hall - Washington, DC. 13 years old - 8th grade student at St. Thomas Apostle School. Has played SOM baseball for two years and SOM football for one year.

NFC CENTRAL

Tom Nelson - Springfield Gardens, NY. 21 years old - junior at New York University. Has been playing SOM football since 1968 and SOM baseball since 1969.

STANDINGS

<u>NFC EAST</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
1. NY Giants	9-5-0	9-5-0
2. Dallas	8-6-0	10-4-0
3. St. Louis	8-6-0	8-5-1
4. Washington	4-9-1	6-9-0
5. Philadelphia	2-11-1	3-10-1

<u>NFC CENTRAL</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
1. Minnesota	13-0-1	12-2-0
2. *Detroit	11-3-0	10-4-0
3. Green Bay	6-6-2	6-8-0
4. Chicago	5-9-0	6-8-0

* Playoff Spot

<u>AFC CENTRAL</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
1. Cincinnati	8-5-1	8-6-0
2. Cleveland	7-7-0	7-7-0
3. Pittsburgh	5-8-1	5-9-0
Houston	5-8-1	3-10-1

<u>NFC WEST</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
1. *Los Angeles	9-4-1	9-4-1
San Francisco	9-4-1	10-3-1
3. Atlanta	4-9-1	4-8-2
4. New Orleans	2-10-2	2-11-1

*Los Angeles won in head-to-head play.

<u>AFC EAST</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
1. Baltimore	11-1-2	11-2-1
2. *Miami	10-4-0	10-4-0
3. Buffalo	4-9-1	3-10-1
4. NY Jets	4-10-0	4-10-0
5. Boston	2-12-0	2-12-0

<u>AFC WEST</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
1. Kansas City	8-3-3	7-5-2
2. Oakland	8-5-1	8-4-2
3. Denver	4-7-3	5-8-1
4. San Diego	3-8-3	5-6-3

PLAYOFFS

NFC New York 21, Detroit 6--Fran Tarkenton hit on 25 of 38 passes for 230 yards and three touchdowns.
Minnesota 20, Los Angeles 17--Charley West's 53-yard punt return set up game-

Continued on page 19.

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 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: 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: '64-69 Yankees, '64, '66-69 Twins; '64-69 White Sox; '64-67, '69 Orioles; '64-'67, '69 Tigers; '64-66, '69 Giants; '64, '66, '68, '69 Dodgers; '64-'66, '68 Pirates; '64-66 Reds; '64-'66 Cards. I am willing to pay good money. Cards must be in playable condition. Write: Tom Ramsey, 745 Hilltop Avenue, Kent, WA 98031

WANTED: The following individual cards from the 1967 football teams: Spec. card, Bob Hayes, Don Perkins, Dan Reeves, Don Meredith from Dallas; Donny Anderson from Green Bay; Gale Sayers, Ralph Kurek from Chicago; Spec. card, Monty Stickler, Gary Lewis from San Francisco; Spec. card, off-def. rating card, Dick Bass, Dave Pirec from Los Angeles; Spec. card, Hewitt Dixon, the other fullback card, ER-FP defense card from Oakland; off-def. rating card from Denver; Spec. card, off-def. rating card, ER-FP defense card, SP-LP defense card from New York Jets; off-def. rating card, SP-LP defense card from Miami. Also, 1968 Bill Brown from Minnesota, 1969 Spec. card from Baltimore. Also, the following complete teams from 1967: Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, New Orleans, Atlanta, New York Giants, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Washington. Will buy any cards, assortment of cards, and/or teams from anyone just name your price. Richard Keyes, 608 Oak Drive, Dover, DE 19901

WANTED: Any SOM baseball sets 1961 to 1968. Will pay \$120-160 according to condition and content. Will pay \$15-20 for the following individual sets: 1961-64 and '68. Will pay \$12-16 for '65-67. Wish to have roster sheets and additional included. Write R. Hustad, 816 111 Avenue, Dawson Creek, B.C. Canada stating condition and content. Interested in any different package deals.

WANTED: Super Bowl and World Series teams after '67. For Sale: various baseball teams, send stamp and name for a list. Mike Boesen, 2021 West E, North Platte, Nebraska 69101

WANTED: '60, 62-65 Cincinnati; '60 Braves; '61-63, 65 Pittsburgh; '64, 66, 68 Balt; '68 Cleveland; '68 St. Louis. Will pay well. Call or write: Joe Ennes, 1536 E. St. James, San Jose, CA 95116

WANTED: DESPERATELY NEEDED for replay, will pay YOUR price if reasonable! '62-'66 SF Giants. If you have the team but do not wish to sell them I will pay you 30¢ to borrow it for no more than a month at most. Contact Dave Foos, 78 Strohm St., Rochester, NY 14612

WANTED: Football: 1967 Raiders. Baseball: '60-61, 63-65 Giants, '62-64 Twins, '62-64 Cubs. Send name and price to Brian Comfort, 83 Raft Island, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

WANTED: 1967, 68 baseball teams. Also '65 Yanks, and issues 1-5 of the SOM Review. Send price and condition. Write: Keith Fosness, 1438 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ St. So., Fargo, ND 58102

WANTED: 1963, 1964 Yanks. Will give more than \$6.00 per team, need very badly, you name price. Also need 1964 Orioles, 1965 Yankees will pay up to \$5.00 for each team. Also need 1966 Orioles and 1966 Yankees will pay \$2.00 for each team. Also want 1967 Yanks, Tigers, Orioles. Will pay \$1.00 for each team. Want 1968 Cards and Orioles \$2.00. Write: Wayne Larrivee, Pease Terrace, Lee, MA 01238

WANTED: Baseball Cardinals any teams '68 or older. Will accept lowest bids. Tod Miller, 288 South Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126

WANTED: Like to compile statistics? We need someone to compile stats for the last half of our 1968 American and National League replay. (81 games/team). We use a scoring system similar to that shown in the July Review. Send bids NOW to Rick Curtis, 230 Frankland Rd., Rochester, NY 14617

WANTED: 1968 Tigers & '68 Cards. Will pay YOUR price, but be reasonable. Send offers to: R.J. Stinstrom, 85 W. Longden Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91006

WANTED: Any baseball leagues 1970 or earlier. Will pay extra for any individual team or league that has Jim Bouton on it. State condition and price. Extra players wanted in sets if possible. Write: Tom Evans, 220 W. Avondale, Greensboro, NC 27403

WANTED: 1968 Cards and/or 1968 Indians. Will buy or trade for them. Write to: Jeff Reddick, 914 Noltby Street, Cardiff, CA 92007. Name your price!

WANTED: To buy 1967 Strat-O-Matic football teams: Packers, Rams, Colts, Raiders or Jets. Please contact Michael Francescone, 31-50 43rd St., Long Island City, NY 11103

WANTED: 1968 Tigers and/or 1969 Mets. Will pay to the lowest bidder in 10 days. MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION. Persons owning both or either of these teams are asked to send their bids as soon as possible to Jim Stewart, 483 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

WANTED: I would like to buy Pittsburgh Pirate teams from 1958 to 1971 inclusive. Please write to: Doug Zimmerman, R.D. #1, Box 81A, Central City, PA 15926

WANTED: 1963 and 1965 Major Leagues. I have cash and 1969 mint condition. Never before used NFC and AFC complete. To negotiate for the two baseball leagues write and please state your terms. P.J. White, 44 Auburn Avenue, Rochester, NY 14606

For Sale

FOR SALE: Any or all of the following complete sets: '69 and '70 baseball teams, '70 football teams. No individual teams sold. Excellent condition. Will go to highest bidder. Write to: Tom Seidel, 620 McClellan St., Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

FOR SALE: 1969 Packers, Rams, Patriots, Vikings, Chiefs, Cowboys, Colts, Raiders, Jets, Browns. Excellent condition. Highest bidder. Separately or any combination. Eddie Robinson, 131 Kensington Lane, Swampscott, MA 01907

FOR SALE: 1965 baseball set, all except White Sox. Sold in set or by team. Highest bidder. Some players have name scratched but it is still readable, can be erased. Jay Miller, 203 S. Lincoln Avenue, Aurora, IL 60505

FOR SALE: Complete 1970 football card set - \$7.00. All 26 NFC and AFC teams in good condition. I'll pay postage. James Ianni, 83 Greenfield Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109

FOR SALE: Vol. 1-12 SOM Review. Baseball- '68 Cubs, Cards, Braves, Reds, Giants. '69 Cards, Astros, Giants, Dodgers, Cubs, Twins, Mets, Tigers, Pirates, Orioles, Reds, Braves. '70 Orioles, Mets, Reds, Cubs, Twins, Pirates. Also will sett Hall of Fame and these oldtimer cards: '50 & '61 Yanks, '57 Braves, '53 Dodgers, '54 Giants, '60 Pirates, '50 Phillies, '54 Indians. Football- '68 Rams, Packers, Bears, Browns, Vikings, Colts. '69 Bears, Cards, Chiefs, Browns, Rams, Vikings. These teams will be sold to the highest bidder. No bids after October 15. Write: Scott Ross, 848 Mitchell, Elmhurst, IL 60126

FOR SALE: 1965 SOM baseball leagues, complete to highest bidder. Wanted: these seven 1969 SOM football cards: Kapp, Fleming (GB) Denney (Chi), Warfield, Crenshaw & Johnson (St. Louis), Richardson (Balt). Bill Sarubbi, 428 74th Street, North Bergen, NJ 07047

FOR SALE: 1968 and 1969 major league baseball. Both sets are complete and in excellent condition. I will sell to the highest bidder or trade for old-timer set. All replies will be answered. Steve Carrico, 1823 S. Dawson St., Indianapolis, IN 46203

FOR SALE: 1969, 1970 baseball cards (both leagues). Will trade or buy for 1967 or 1968 football teams AFL and NFL. Or bid. Robbie White, 11629 Lockwood Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20901

FOR SALE: '67 Reds, '67 Cubs, '67 Red Sox (original), '67 Cards (original). Would rather trade for other teams than sell. Also for trade, '69 Chargers, '69 Jets, '69 Falcons, '69 Saints, '69 Dolphins, '69 Steelers. Willing to trade these football teams for '70 baseball teams. Finally, will send 3 rare New Orleans Mardi Gras doubloons for any SOM team baseball or football. Jeff Perigoni, 1942 Rose St., Arabi, LA 70032

FOR SALE: 1969 Braves, '69 Twins, and 1969 Orioles. Mint condition!!! Teams will go to highest bidder. Sheet containing most frequently used batting order is included. Also, information on a surprise baseball player. Write: Mike Schwartz, 41 Farington Rd., Teaneck, NJ 07666

FOR SALE: Complete 1969 AFL-NFL set of football cards. All in at least good condition. Many never used. Price is \$15.00. I pay postage. To ensure reply enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. You pay when you receive teams. Send to: Dana Homo, 633 South 32nd Street, South Bend, IN 46615

FOR SALE: (Year condition) baseball: 1960 original set complete in excellent condition, please no bids under \$75 for this set. '67 set-good; '68 set-excellent; '69 set-excellent; '70 set-excellent. Football: '67 set-excellent; '68 set-excellent; '69 set-excellent; '70 set-excellent. Please no bids on individual teams. Bill O'Brien, 15320 Beaverland, Detroit, MI 48223

FOR SALE: SOM football owners! I'll send you every team's own interception return chart and fumble return chart, plus changes for more realistic punts and kickoffs for each team, plus defensive special team ratings--all based on official 1971 season NFL statistics. \$1.00. A. Fischer, Rydal East, Apt. 211, Jenkintown, PA 19046

FOR SALE: 1969 baseball player cards all teams-fair condition, \$4.00; 1970 baseball teams-fair condition, \$4.00; 1968 NFL and AFL player cards-excellent condition, \$11.00; 1970 NFL player cards all teams-excellent condition, \$9.00. Raymond W. Benedict, P.O. Box 661, Blanding, Utah 84511

FOR SALE: SOM Directory, a treasure book of over 330 names and addresses all over North America of Strat-O-Matic players. Price -- 50¢. Use last page for easy ordering.

League's Forming

LEAGUE FORMING: I am interested in managing the Boston Red Sox in any play-by-mail baseball league. I am currently involved in J.G. Preston's MBA league and find it to be a very well organized league. Anyone thinking of forming a play-by-mail league, with the Boston Red Sox included, please contact me by writing to: Richard Chapman, 76 Morningside Drive, Westbury, NY 11590

LEAGUE FORMING: ATTENTION SOM FOOTBALL FANS!! The United States Championship Association is looking for players to replay the 1970 football season. Each team will play a full 14 game schedule. This season will start in the middle of September and run until the end of November. It will cost \$1.00 to enter this league plus an additional \$2.00 for newsletters if you want them. Send your first five choices and the one dollar entry fee to: Steve Hippler, 1550 W. Logan St., Freeport, IL. Hurry and write because only the first 26 players will get teams. (ZIP 61032)

LEAGUE FORMING: Wanted new members to start a league in the Chicago area. If interested contact: Jeff Harris, 7138 River Side Drive, Berwyn, IL 60402 or call 749-6150

LEAGUE FORMING: Anyone in the greater Rhode Island-Massachusetts area interested in forming a head on league contact: John Spellman, 19 Edgemere Drive, Cranston, RI 02905 (401) 781-2934. Don't call till the fourth.

LEAGUE FORMING: An eight team league that will play several seasons, starting with the 1968 players. Managers will retain players from season to season. 1968 players will be formed into 10 teams of fairly equal talent. All managers will pick one team. This league won't fail. Please send 25¢ for league info and constitution, only if you are willing to stick out at least one season, can play 11 games every other week, and own teams from 1968-71. Dave Surdam, Route 8, Box 728, Pleasant Hill, Oregon, 97401. Also, will trade or sell eight 1970 teams; Vikings, Jets, Giants, Rams, 49ers, Patriots, Raiders and Chiefs. Prefer bids including 1968 Cards and Tigers, or 1967 American League.

LEAGUE FORMING: An established play-by-mail league, the Continental Football Association (see League Forming, November, 1971) has many openings for the upcoming football season. Send in order of preference a list of all teams you would be interested in coaching to: Ed Grant, 626 Sumac, Highland Park, IL 60035

LEAGUE FORMING: North American Baseball Tournament (using rules similar to those of J. Perigoni's football tourney) 28 berths available. Selected teams from: 1969 AL; 1969, 1970, 1971 NL; 1960 old-timer set: will be used. Send for further details. All letters answered. Send to: Gerald Black, 646-69 Avenue, Laval, Quebec, Canada

LEAGUE FORMING: The GRA baseball league just finished its first season. It presently has 8 NL draft teams. It would like to add on a 10 team AL division, and add on 2 more NL teams. The next season should start in November. All major replay games accepted. Please write Russell Frazier, 120 Patrician Way, Pasadena, CA 91105 right away.

Back issues now available of the Review, which may be purchased for 35¢ each, are: October, November 1971; January, February, March, April, June, July and August, 1972.

Will It Be Five Titles?

17

Joel Wright Bids For NL Crown

After watching Joel Wright win four straight Greater Kalamazoo Strat-O-Matic Leagues (GKSML), it looked seriously like things were going to be different as the National League draft took place.

The main difference was that Joel, who had just won the American League replay and accomplished the unheard-of feat of winning the fourth straight championship, announced he would not, because of work, be able to participate in the NL league.

A new league member, Brian Fiebelkorn of Kalamazoo and a friend of Mike Allison's was brought in to take Joel's place as the league members gathered at Mike's for the all-important and oh-so-nerve-racking draft.

Again, like in the past, each manager picked 25 players from all the NL cards, including the extra players.

Bill Martin, who as we were to find out shortly wasn't going to be able to participate in the league either, got the first draft choice. He picked Tom Seaver of the NY Mets.

Jack Hills followed by nabbing Hank Aaron of Atlanta and the draft was on in earnest.

With Bill dropping out before the first ball was thrown, the search began immediately to find a new manager. A number of people were rejected (one because he had the habit of tossing the dice like they were an Apollo moon shot) and others wanted to sub on a part-time basis but not handle a team full-time.

Through the first 40 games the team had three different managers and, surprisingly, still had a good chance at the pennant--mainly because none of the other clubs could put together a big winning streak.

Everything changed at this point, however, as Joel was asked about subbing one week. He readily agreed and won seven of 11 games with the team which hadn't been above .500 in any week since the start of the season. Next day he called and asked about taking over the team full-time.

All the other managers, despite his all-winning ways, agreed that Joel could rejoin the league. Joel was even given the right to look through the players not drafted and pickup some players and lop off some from his current roster if he so desired. This was done because the team was not drafted by Joel.

So what happened? Joel picked up Brock Davis, Bill Mazerowski, Joe Lis, Bobby Valentine and George Stone and dropped Jose Ortiz, Paul Popovich, Julian Javier, Doyle Alexander and Donn Clendenon. Then he traded Ralph Garr and his lusty batting average and Bob Bailey for Doug Rader and Ed Acosta. Then he turned around and won seven of ten games, with Brock Davis going four-for-six at the plate in his first start and George Stone not giving up an earned run in 14 innings.

Joel is back, make no mistake about that.

Now, with the NL reaching the half-way point on a 154-game season, Joel is four games out of first in a tightly-bunched pennant race. Mike is on top, two games ahead of Del Newell and Cliff Sage, Warren Newell is three games out, Joel four and Jeff Sampson is five away.

Somehow, even though Joel is four behind, the rest of the league members are feeling awfully uneasy. It was in the recently completed American League replay that Joel was four games out nearing the half-way mark, then he won five straight and previous leader Mike Allison dropped five in a row and it was Joel on top the rest of the way.

It won't be long before we see if history repeats itself.

In The Strat-O-Matic Spotlight

SUPPLEMENTARY CHART...BLUE DOTS

Giving credit where credit is due, a tip of the topper should go to Mike Allison of the Review staff for the supplementary fielding chart that appeared in the July issue. Mike did all the work and research for the chart and, from the response by readers, his work has paid off in a successful addition to the baseball game.

While on the topic of the baseball game, some readers have written suggesting that not enough blue dots appear on pitcher's cards.

Actually there is an average of 10 "points" worth of blue dots on each pitcher's card. Some have as few as nine or as many as 11, but most have 10. What this means is that a batter's on-base probability is increased, naturally, by an estimated 46 "points" (combining both batter's and pitcher's cards). Thus a .254 hitter becomes, in reality, a .300 hitter when he goes up against a pitcher that has reached his endurance rating.

GUEST COLUMNIST

J.G. Preston, Great Neck, NY, in a recent letter mentions something that is of growing concern to the editors of the Review. "The quality of the guest columnists must improve. Those 'hoorah' for Strat-O-Matic articles are getting to me. I feel you should tell your writers to either inform, relate experiences and tips, or entertain, instead of cheerlead. I say 'yay SOM', but I don't need 35 other people saying the same thing."

We're in agreement with J.G. on this point. Although we feel this month's guest columnist, Ed Furman, has done a good job with his column on collecting SOM cards, many of the recent columnists were becoming very repetitious.

Hopefully, future columnists will bring before readers different and enlightening articles.

THIS 'N THAT

...Richard Rayhan, Little Rock, AR, and friends Andy Tarkington and Stan Scott, recently had a draft of the American League and the first players to go were, in order, Wilbur Wood, Vida Blue, Dave McNally and Rico Petrocelli. The GKSM's AL draft went Wood, Blue, Lolich and Murcer....Frederick D. Floreth, Litchfield, IL, has played approximately 1,000 games of SOM baseball over a six-year period, over 90 percent of the games solitaire. However, the only two no-hitters he's had came when two people played against each other. In 1967 his brother, with Sam McDowell and Cleveland, no-hit Frederick and Washington, and in 1968 his brother, with Joel Horlen and the White Sox, did likewise to his uncle and Detroit. It was the first and last SOM game for his uncle....Nineteen runs crossed the plate in a solitaire SOM baseball game played by Craig Barto, Emporia, KS, recently. Strange part about the score, 14-5, San Diego over Los Angeles, was that 15 of the runs were unearned. Six Dodger errors, including three by shortstop Maury Wills, allowed 10 unearned runs, while San Diego committed three more bobbles, permitting all the Dodgers' tallies....Daniel Markind, Cherry Hill, NJ, asks about a team comprised of players from the old Negro league. Biggest problem here, Dan, would be lack of statistics on such players to prepare cards....Talk about a rally-killer, Kansas City's Cookie Rojas, against Oakland in a recent baseball game of Mark Selle's, Carmel, CA, arrived at the plate with no outs and two runners on base in the third inning and promptly departed after lining into a triple play. Then, in Cookie's next plate appearance, this time with

the bases loaded and no outs, he again lined into a triple killing....Big Willie McCovey, '69 Giants, totaled 19 bases in a game against the '69 Dodgers played by Lonnie Hildreth, St. Charles, IA. Willie blasted out four home runs, doubled and singled, plus drove in nine runs in six at-bats....Every single member of the 1971 Atlanta Braves, including winning pitcher Phil Niekro, had at least one hit and scored at least one run as the Braves blitzed the 1970 Cubs, 19-5, in a game played by Jim Belza, Louisville, KY. The Braves scored 11 runs in the first inning, went on to total 22 hits as Felix Millan and Hank Aaron had four apiece and Ralph Garr three.

(Continued from page 12)

winning 13-yard field goal by Fred Cox in overtime.

NFC Championship: Minnesota 33, New York 10--Blocked punt and touchdown interception return by Lonnie Warwick killed Giants. Viking defense held New York to 35 yards on ground and 135 total.

AFC Kansas City 34, Miami 20--Kansas City ground out 252 yards as Ed Podolak rambled for two TDs. KC had a 68-45 advantage in number of plays.

Baltimore 19, Cincinnati 16--Johnny Unitas hit Roy Jefferson with a 55-yard pass that set up 27-yard field goal by Jim O'Brien with 2:30 left that snapped tie and won game. Colt defense held Cincy to only 131 total yards.

AFC Championship: Baltimore 20, Kansas City 16--Jim Duncan's 105-yard kickoff return and three interceptions by Colt defense sparked Baltimore.

Super Bowl -- Was an unbelievable six-overtime thriller that Baltimore won, 17-10, after Unitas covered 64 yards in eight plays, climaxed by hitting Ed Hinton for 26 yards with 1:15 left.

Score was tied 10-10 after regulation time as Fred Cox booted a tying 39-yard field goal for the Vikings and, with one minute to go, Jim O'Brien of the Colts misfired on a 14-yarder that could have ended things. O'Brien, incidentally, missed another 14-yard attempt in the fourth overtime, while Cox missed from the 25 and also the 50 in the first and third overtime sessions respectively.

All told, Baltimore had a 372-210 total yardage advantage over Minnesota, while it ran off 85 plays to the Vikings' 71.

NFC PASSING					NFC RUSHING		
	ATT-COMP	PCT	TD	YD		ATT-YD	AVG
1. Cuozzo (MN)	251-145	57.7	15	2187	1. Farr (Det)	228-1216	5.3
2. Brodie (SF)	389-203	52.1	25	2685	2. Osborn (MN)	256-1153	4.5
3. Munson (Det)	165-101	61.2	8	1418	3. Brown (Wash)	235-1120	4.8

NFC RECEIVING				NFC KO RETURNS	
	NO	YDS	TD		AVG
1. Gordon (Chi)	72	1430	14	1. Turner (Chi)	31.2
2. Sanders (Det)	61	846	6	NFC PUNT RETURNS	
3. Abramowicz	55	921	8		AVG
				1. Mallory (Atla)	15.0

AFC PASSING					AFC RUSHING		
	ATT-COMP	PCT	TD	YD		ATT-YD	AVG
1. Lamonica (Oak)	326-182	56.0	18	2408	1. Little	207-1258	6.1
2. Hadl (SD)	335-167	49.9	18	2102	2. Podolak (KC)	184-1030	5.6
3. Dawson (KC)	286-149	52.2	14	2022	3. Dixon (Oak)	197-1029	5.2

AFC RECEIVING				AFC KO RETURNS	
	NO	YDS	TD		AVG
1. Briscoe (Buf)	57	1207	8	1. Duncan (Balt)	36.5
2. Garrison (SD)	52	1093	13	AFC PUNT RETURNS	
3. Hinton (Balt)	47	740	6		AVG
				1. Wyatt (Oak)	17.6

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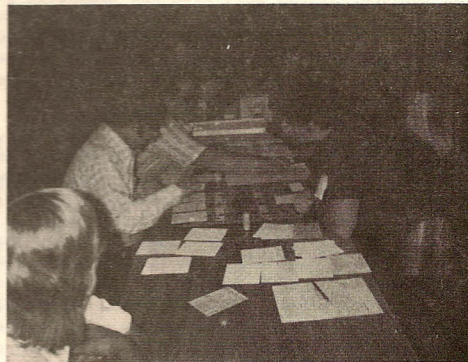


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LEFT: Game Co. representative Steve Barkan receives a question during the question and answer time. Mike Allison, Review staff, is seated at his right.

RIGHT: Steve tangles with GKSML baseball champ Joel Wright (right); won by Steve, 44-35.

Coming Next Month...

Report on league play...An "odd play" chart to add to your baseball enjoyment...more from the computer world...and much, much more.