

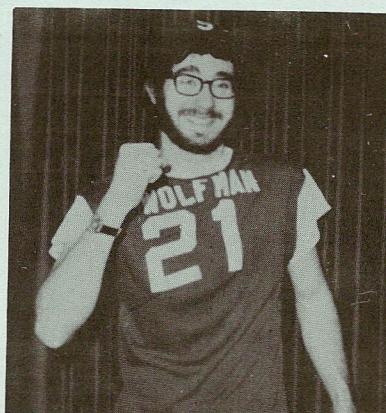
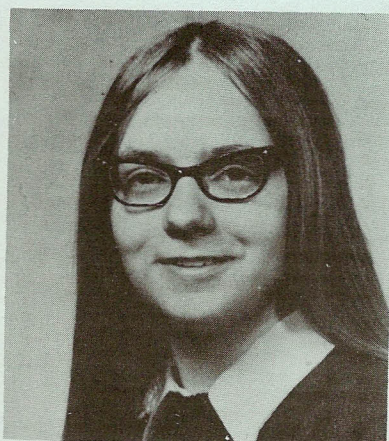


STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW



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

Vol. III-2 April 1973 40¢



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST? Hmm...Male, female play-by-mail competition between Donna Chevette (top) and Rick "Wolfman" Shapiro (bottom) showed both teams very strong at home. Story on page 2.....

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story was written by Rick (Wolfman) Shapiro of Skokie, IL, commissioner of the International League play-by-mail SOM baseball organization, who has pioneered with his table-gaming by playing, by mail, an all-star series with a member of the female sex, Donna Chevette, Plainfield, CT.

Rick has been a frequent contributor to the Review, in addition to his work with the IL, and was in attendance at last summer's SOM Convention in Kalamazoo, MI. In the picture Rick is dressed in his "Wolfman Jersey" his famous Skokie cap and with fist extended in a sign of victory. The "Wolfman," title, incidentally, was bestowed upon him for his beard, not his antics in pursuit of the opposite sex.

How did the series between Rick and Donna originate, and how did it come out? We'll let Rick tell it in his own words.

ATTENTION STRATO FANS! THE SERIES OF THE YEAR!!!

One day I was reading the November issue of the Review and I saw an article about a girl who plays the game, Donna Chevette. At first I didn't believe a girl could be interested, so I wrote a letter to her to find the truth to this story. Also, another thought was swimming through my mind - publicity! Here was an opportunity for me to do something which no one else had done--CHALLENGE A GIRL TO PLAY AGAINST A GUY IN STRATO. Naturally, this would have to be done by mail since Donna lived in Plainfield, CT, but with all my mail experience there would be no problems setting up such a series except for getting Donna's consent.

Also this series would answer two questions: what does a girl look like that plays the game and can a girl beat an experienced pro in Strato?

Besides worrying about publicity, I also was interested how this series would turn out. Well, I got an answer and she agreed to play me.

We decided to use the All Stars from 1971 and I let Donna have her choice between the NL and AL. To my delight she picked the Americans. As far as I was concerned the National League was the better of the two (and I'm sure I'll get letters from players disagreeing); and with guys like Aaron, Stargell, Clemente, and Torre on the same team, how could I lose? We each picked thirty players and any starting pitchers could go with a three-day rest. We used shortened injury charts and had the IL rainout rule. The series would be four-game sets, alternating between Skokie and Plainfield, and if there should be a tie at the end of the 16th game, the playoff game would be in Skokie.

On a grim day in December the contest began in Skokie. Little did I dream the series would be as bitterly fought as it was. One thing I must mention is what my reaction was to her instruction sheets. They were typed very neatly and even though I disagreed with some of her player selections I could follow her instructions perfectly. If a stranger looked at these papers he wouldn't have been able to see that a girl was responsible for them. Getting back to the series, the NL was favored to win (disregarding the managers) because of their superior hitting, speed, power and relievers. The AL held an advantage in defense, better starters and hit-by-pitch.

The first game was a shock to my male pride as I realized it wasn't going to be as easy as I thought. In the 4th inning, Chevette scored eight runs and won the game, 9-2. I was baffled but determined. I won the next three games to take a three-game to one lead. In Plainfield, the AL tied the series up at three games apiece but lost the last two to make it 5-3 in the NL's favor. Back in Skokie, after a first game bloodbath won by the NL, the pitchers took over and the NL again took charge as they won three out of the four games and led the series 8-4. One win would bring me victory.

At this point my team was almost assured of victory unless a disaster struck; was one win asking for too much. The picture of me in this article was taken at this time, so I kind of cheated. But I was so confident of victory. Anyone would have done the same. Well, my men must have been over confident because when I received Donna's results did I see just one scoresheet? No, four and when I looked at the 16th game I saw an American League win. I couldn't believe it, but leave it up to a girl to do the impossible. Now I was going out of my mind. The playoff game was at hand and if I lost I would never hear the end of it. I had promised the Review editors that I would send them a report of this series so I couldn't break a promise, or could I? Also, I had told all my friends in the IL about the series and they would begin asking questions about the series if I didn't say anything. Donna would also be on my back because here she had won and nobody would know about it. Well, with all these thoughts running through my mind, anyone could see why I was so nervous. A line I shall never forget in one of Donna's letters said, "If you lose, you'll have a lot of explaining to do." The big question now was would I be humiliated in front of all my friends in the SOM world? The only way to find out was to play the game.

I sat down to play the final game and tried to stay calm. I just sat there saying things like: it's only a game, I've been under pressure like this before, just play it cool. Do you think any of that stuff helped me? Nope, right from the start Chevrette was out for my blood. The AL picked up two runs in the first inning and five more in the second. So my friends, if your addition is correct that makes it 7-0 in Donna's favor. Wood was pitching for the AL and through the whole series he had been almost unhittable. I managed to cut the lead to 7-2 in the bottom of the second and in the fifth to 7-4 on Cepeda's homer. At this point I still didn't think I could win so I just threw the dice, not really caring.

Then, in the bottom of the seventh with two outs, I couldn't stop throwing hits on my hitter's cards and with the help of Wood's error I managed to tie up the score. Just as I was getting ready to concentrate on winning, Freehan hit a homer to put her back ahead 8-7. In the bottom of the 8th my hitters continued a massive hit barrage and were able to score three runs to take a 10-8 lead. Immediately I made defensive changes, but even though I had a two-run bulge I still didn't feel secure. The first man up was Kaline, pinch-hitting for the pitcher. He grounded out. That's one! The next man, Belanger, lined out. That's two!! Rettermund, who always found ways to get on base, hit a long drive to center field. Willie Davis went back to pull it in. The fans at Skokie Park went wild. The players were mobbed, but more important MY TEAM HAD WON!!! So, male players around the world, girls can be tough cookies and I wouldn't be surprised if more girls become interested in "our" game.

The MVP of the series was Joe Torre. He hit an amazing .469 in 17 games. Donna couldn't stop him and in many of her letters asked if Torre ever gets sick physically, or of playing the game. Donna and I decided to switch teams to see if the series was determined because one team was better than the other or because of managers (think both reasons were true, but only our next series will tell. Besides, if a guy can't brag in his own article where can he do it?)

Back issues of the Review now available are: 1971, October, November; 1972 February, April, July, August, September, October, November, December; 1973 January, February. Remember, back issues of the Strat-O-Matic Review can be purchased through the Review for 35¢

Readers Roll 'Em

ALL IN THE FAMILY

My husband has owned the Strat-O-Matic football game for 2½ years. During his college years in Oregon, he had a weekly game with one friend and many, many other games with other friends. Truthfully, I resented that game so much!

This fall, we moved from Oregon to New York. My husband insisted on teaching it to me--what a mistake! Now we both love it so much and have a game at least once-a-week. In fact, I ended up winning the first season (and all the games were evenly matched) 9-3-2! That infuriated my husband, but he's ahead now in our second season. We both love this game! Thank you for the SOM Review, too we both enjoy it.

Grace Reichen
New York, NY

'HOCKEY, GAME OF FUTURE'

I was looking over a recent (December) SOM Review and read a letter that Charles Kilgus had submitted. He said that hockey was the game of the future. I thoroughly agree with his view.

I am going to buy the new basketball game when it comes out, but I would rather have a hockey game. One of the reasons I feel this way is the unavailability of hockey games. I have tried to find them, but just can't. In the future, I hope the Strat-O-Matic Game Co. will make a hockey game--hopefully soon.

Richard D. Gant
Brooksville, FL

MAKE IT '36' NOT '31'

I don't believe it. Can't anyone add? Where does the February guest columnist get 31 rolls total in one column? There are 36! How can you formulate statistical chances if you don't add 1+2+3+4+5+6+5+4+3+2+1. I hope that 31 refers to something else and I just missed its meaning.

Also, regarding the column on no-hitters, a no-hitter is not that interesting.

Also, please mention that in the "League Forming" section that people should say whether the basic or advanced cards are to be used.

Incidentally, I received the new baseball cards on January 27 (Saturday) at 1:30, which may or may not be the first set mailed. I sincerely doubt it, though I am curious to find out.

Having cards while reading the Review made me feel strange because people asked all sorts of questions that I could have answered. The Oakland pitching staff will dominate! And, one last thing, please advise everyone to get the 96 extra players. Without them the league is very weak.

Mark Pistolese
Saddie Brook, NJ

MISTAKE CORRECTED

I want to thank you for thinking enough of our February article to print it as feature of the high quality "Guest Columnist" section.

Unfortunately, it contained an unforgivable error. Early references to "thirty-one rolls" should, of course, have been the logical 36 rolls. The reader will be able to discern this by adding the total number of rolls given for each two-dice sum.

This error will no doubt be discovered by the countless additcs of SOM who devour "The Review."

I must apologize for this blatant error to both those who rightly demand perfection in the field and to the editors of the Review for desiring the responsibility of the gospel, while being unworthy.

Jack Molino
Huntington, WV

FATE OF MATTY ALOU?

I am writing in regard to an aspect of the baseball game. In the past, the game company has produced each player's card from the team he ended the season with regardless of how many games he may have played with a previous club in that same year.

When the baseball cards based on the 1969 major league season came out, Tommy Davis had a card produced from his one month tenure with the Houston Astros. That year he played from April 8 - August 31 with the Seattle Pilots. He batted 454 times at Seattle, compared with only 79 at-bats at Houston. I was very disappointed when the card was for his sub-par performance at Houston.

Now my concern is for the production of the 1972 season-based Matty Alou card. Matty Alou played 102 games at St. Louis, only 32 games at Oakland. We hit at his regular Alou .300+ average at St. Louis, and only .281 at Oakland. Matty had more to do with St. Louis' final standing than he had to do with Oakland's final standing. He spent over 75% of his games at St. Louis. Anyone will not come close to breaking 70 wins. Oakland has outfielders Joe Rudi, Reggie Jackson, and Angel Mangual. St. Louis, without Matty, would only have one outfielder over 350 at-bats. So I hope that the game company will change its policy toward players who play in both leagues in the same year.

Mike Volberding
Founder of Bellevue
Baseball Association
Member, Greater United
States SOM Organization
Member, Main Lane Base-
ball League
Bellevue, WA

EDITORS NOTE: See article in this month's Review dealing with the new player cards in baseball.

'SKILL' CONTEST WANTED

I was wondering if you are going to have the MVP contest this year? Hopefully, you're not. If you are going to have a contest, please make it something that is cut and dry, with no sportwriters voting needed. In my opinion, the sportwriters we have voting now have their heads up their posterior and don't know what the heck they're doing. If you are going to have a contest, please make it something that it takes skill to win and not all luck. Have a contest such as picking the standings or batting leaders or something of that sort. When the MVP is picked, its not

necessarily the best player (such as this year) and it depends on the sportwriter's votes.

Also, I would like to put my two-cents worth in about improving the elementary edition of Strat-O-Matic baseball. There is absolutely no reason why HBP's or catcher's and outfielder's throwing ratings aren't incorporated on the elementary version. The throwing ratings would make the game more difficult, but as they do with ** and ++'s, they could ignore the ratings in the case of the extreme elementary player. This would improve the game and help out the people who are advanced enough to play the "advanced version" but think the righty-lefty stuff unnecessary. I still think SOM is the best game on the market, but it can be improved (yes, it can) and hopefully SOM will consider my suggestions.

March Campbell
Sacramento, CA

'DESIGNATED BATTER'

A very big problem has come up for SOM baseball owners with the AL passing the designated pinch-hitter rule and not the NL.

Table-gamers who play inter-league games and want to have the pitcher bat will be in a query because the AL will have no pitcher's hitting ratings. They would either have to be given ratings based on past performances or SOM might do the same. This, however, would be unrealistic because the pitcher would not have batted all year.

Also, SOM might have to enlarge rosters if a team has a player who was a DPH only and didn't play in the field. It appears that Orlando Cepeda of Boston and perhaps others will go that route next year.

Robert Routier
Kensington, CA

SOM 'BROTHERHOOD'

After 15 years of solitaire play with various games, I am now getting involved. Baseball is what life is all about. I even played pro ball one year (before I discovered I couldn't hit) in order to get as close to the game as possible.

I discovered SOM in 1966--now it is my

peace-of-mind, my security blanket.

This year I am joining a play-by-mail league and am looking forward to this season as I have never done before.

My wife thought that I was the only man in the world with a love for "the statistical beauty of SOM baseball." After reading my SOM Review, she realizes that I am but one of a "brotherhood" in this big wonderful world of baseball.

The Review had taken my cherished pastime and magnified it more than I could hope for. Thank you Michigan Man, thank you.

N.F. Mahan
Denver, CO

PLEASED WITH POLL

I was pleased, for the most part, with the results of the poll in the January Review. However, I disagree with the majority who wanted two monthly magazines; one for baseball and one for football. The basketball game will be released this summer and how can it be covered in a magazine devoted solely to baseball or football? A third magazine would not be feasible, since there would not be enough league results or playing not specifically to either game. I think a better answer would be for the Review to expand on its present format.

I hope all play-by-mail leagues will send in information on their organization. I have been very curious as to how such leagues are run but have never had the time to join one. Past articles have never been complete, so I hope at least one league will give a really thorough report.

Craig Heiland
South Gate, CA

EDITORS NOTE: The Review, as has probably been noticed, has continued as one magazine--devoted both to football and baseball happenings. Four pages have been added to the Review's length, making a total of 20 today. Plans are to continue the present size, adding basketball to the coverage of baseball and football when the newest SOM product becomes available.

'DESIGNATED HITTER'

Since the American League has adopted a designated pinch-hitting rule, I was wondering if or how SOM would change?

Previously, I had been against printing of individual pitchers' hitting cards; but now I feel there is a need for them. Weak hitting pitchers, such as Bill Hands or Sam McDowell will not bat too often next year. But what about pitchers such as Bob Gibson or Jim Hunter? These pitchers will probably bat for themselves because of past hitting ability. From past stats, these pitchers come up anywhere from 75-120 times a year. This could produce more of a real-life accuracy if individual pitcher's hitting cards were used. In my opinion, the present pitchers' hitting cards are not producing accurate stats for most pitchers of a particular rating. What I mean is: not all #2 rated pitchers hit for the same average during the season; but if they come in only a handful of times, the ratings are generally accurate. But what about #2 pitchers who come 83 or 116 times a season? Statistics are not always produced accurately from the ratings.

I will propose two solutions I feel are commendable: 1) having six or eight pitchers ratings would give more of a selection to rate pitchers according to their ability; 2) printing of individual pitchers batting cards for those pitchers with a certain number of at-bats or who appear in so many games. The remainder of the pitchers would receive a rating.

John Heath
Dubuque, IA

FAN OF FERGIE JENKINS

I enjoy the Review thoroughly and am astounded by the letters you print that do nothing but deride it. These gamers obviously have not seen the error-filled, semi-literate publications put out for other table games.

I often feel I'm getting a bit old for such games (27 years), but I enjoy them as much as I did when I first received a table baseball game back in 1958. Most of my experience is solitaire because the few people I have introduced games to

have written me off as a psycho. (Ergo, I appreciate reading about other gamers to know that I am not the only nut in the world.) I have never been a great one on quantity of games, but my interest has been fairly constant over the years.

One final note per Tom Gredell's October edition comment that using Ferguson Jenkins as a pinch-hitter would ruin the game. I couldn't disagree more. The whole idea of the game is that you manage the team. Players are rated according to their performance, but they do not have to be played exactly as their actual manager used them. Final results will be different, but I think that's the whole point of the game: manage your team to perform as well as possible, trying to move them up from their actual finish. There are other points to the game too, of course, (just to have fun is a good one) but it seems to me that Tom's statement places limitations on the game that should not be there.

At the moment I am playing a 144-game schedule with a team made up of players whose last names begin with my three initials: E, D and J. Jenkins has hit four home runs through 92 games, and I have been aching all season long to use him as a pinch-hitter (since he is, as Tom says, one of my favorites). Unfortunately, the situation has not presented itself yet. But when there is a chance...when suddenly the right situation presents itself...when I have either a big lead or a big deficit along with a tiring pitcher or weak-hitting shortstop due up to bat...then I'm just going to trot Jenkins up to the plate and see what he can do as a pinch-hitter. After all, Claude Osteen used to pinch-hit for the Washington Senators.

Eric Johns
APO San Francisco, CA

LEAGUE TROUBLE

My name is Larry Steinberg. I am 19 and am a member of the Greater United States SOM Organization. I have decided to write about the experiences and organization of our league. Many of these experiences are bad and should tell future play-by-mailers what not to do.

To start with, the league began with an ad in the Review. I sent in a list for my

choice of teams and a small entry fee. I received a schedule, information on how the league would be run and my team. The team was not among my list of teams I wanted.

Each team followed the Major League schedule with all teams playing 162 games. Statistics were to be sent to the league president as soon as a series was finished. Things were very well organized and I was enjoying the league.

About one month from the league's start, I received a letter saying that the league president had to go overseas. The league was in jeopardy unless somebody took it over. It was at this point that I wasn't getting instructions from managers and results from series.

About two weeks later, I received a newsletter saying that Jeff Fleischman had taken over the league. The newsletter had stats and the league standings. The statistics, however, differed from the statistics that I was keeping. I wrote to Jeff about this and he said that he received three packages of unfinished stats and no money.

So, I had to use the newsletter stats as official for my team; even though they were wrong. However, I was glad that we had a new president and things would get back to normal. But things stayed the same. Some managers were very efficient and trustworthy while others were never heard from by anybody. I was beginning to think that some names were made up just to fill the league up. Most series I played were played late and many times without instructions.

I ended up playing 145 games. There was a final newsletter with interesting stats and results from the voting for MVP, Cy Young Award winner, Fireman of the Year and more. As of now, the play-offs and world series are being played.

I hope that I'm not scaring off any potential play-by-mailers. There were good experiences as well as bad. For one thing, we have learned from our mistakes. Next season, there will be divisional heads to keep stats. Also, each team will play only about 130 games. Jeff did an excellent job in running the league.

Larry Steinberg
Skokie, IL

Baltimore Wins Out In Top Teams Grid Replay

by Bob Garber

The Southfield SOM League of Southfield, MI, has recently completed its third football league, since the SSOML began four years ago, and this time Larry Graff with the Baltimore Colts came out the victor. Graff finished the season with a 9-3 record, just one game ahead of runner-up Ken Garber, in another race that went down to the final day of the season.

STANDINGS

COASTAL	W	L	T	PCT	CENTRAL	W	L	T	PCT
Larry Graff (Bal)	9	3	0	.750	Larry Topor (KC)	5	6	1	.455
Ken Garber (LA)	8	4	1	.667	Don Peven (Wash)	5	7	0	.417
Alan Wenokur (Mia)	6	6	0	.500	Bob Garber (Cin)	4	7	1	.363
Rob Peven (SF)	5	6	1	.455	Marty Garber (Dal)	3	6	3	.333

There was no playoff between the winners of the two divisions, since the best record in the Central only matched the worst record in the Coastal division, so it was mutually agreed that Graff be declared the overall winner. In the all-star game, however, the Central division, led by the game's MVP, Virgil Carter, defeated the Coastal all-stars, 33-20.

In the Coastal division, Larry Graff lost his first game, and then went on to win eight straight games, breaking the old record of five set by Bob Garber two years ago. At this point Ken Garber was two games behind Graff with a 6-3 record, but in Graff's next two games he was upset, 20-17, by Kansas City (Larry Topor), and 29-10 by Miami (Alan Wenokur). Meanwhile, Ken won two close games to tie for the lead, knocking off Cincinnati (Bob Garber) 13-7, and edging San Francisco (Rob Peven), 20-17. That set the stage for the final dramatics, with one week left. First Ken met surging Alan Wenokur, who had won four of his last five games, and for the second week in a row Wenokur upset a contender, beating Ken, 33-19. Larry Graff had the ginger ale ready as he prepared to take on Rob Peven and the 49'ers (we use ginger ale instead of champagne, for obvious reasons), and Graff won the title going away, 35-7.

The other division was more of a nobody-wants-it race. Marty Garber, with the Dallas Cowboys, was eliminated after two straight ties, and then a heartbreaking 42-38 loss to brother Ken and the Rams. Bob had a good shot at it, as well, but a fumble on the Dallas one yard line with four minutes to go, and a 63-yard pass from Roger Staubach to Bob Hayes with 15 seconds left, did him in (17-16). Don tied Larry for the lead with one week to play, as he trounced the Chiefs, 38-13, but on the final day of the season Bob Garber's Bengals pulled off the upset, 19-17 over Don's Redskins. So, Larry Topor appeared in the driver's seat, but the best he could do was a 21-21 tie with the Cowboys. So, the Chiefs had the division title with a below .500 record, and even Larry agreed the Colts should be declared the automatic winner.

Statistics:

PASSING	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	RUSHING LEADERS	ATT	YDS	AVG
Carter, Cinc	222	148	66.7	1813	8	Ellison, LA	220	1002	4.6
Dawson, KC	329	177	53.2	2681	26	Bulaich, Balt	167	800	4.8
Staubach, Dall	220	112	50.9	1827	10	Czonka, Mia	187	784	4.2
Brodie, SF	323	160	49.2	2368	13	Brown, Wash	225	646	2.9
Kilmer, Wash	261	134	51.4	1892	13	Podolak, KC	158	634	4.0

RECEIVING	NO	TD	AVG	SCORING	TD	FG	FGA	XP	PTS
Taylor, KC	61	11	30.5	O'Brien, Balt	0	34	51	25	127
Kwalick, SF	44	1	12.2	Stenerud, KC	0	26	39	33	111
Trumpy, Cin	43	4	13.1	Yepremian, Mia	0	29	40	22	109

New Cards Arrive Then a No-Hitter

9

Mail has been flooding in to the Review in response to the column devoted to baseball no-hitters. And the thrilled table-gamers witnessing such pitching feats have sent along interesting descriptions, in most cases, of the mound gems.

Mike Borzenski, who last year picked the MVPs correctly in a contest sponsored by the Review and won a set of the new cards as his prize, had what must be the earliest no-hitter with the 1973 card set.

He received his cards on January 25 and started his solitaire league two days later with Detroit (Woodie Fryman pitching) visiting Cleveland (Gaylord Perry). The two hurlers, as might be expected, hooked up a duel. Detroit finally broke a 0-0 stalemate in the fifth inning with a pair of runs. Fryman, however, continued to set the Indians down, finishing with a no-hitter. He did walk Perry in the eighth to ruin his perfect game bid and also issued another free pass to Chris Chambliss in the ninth. Detroit ended up winning, 3-0.

Jimmy Lake, White Creek, NY, had an unusual no-hitter, one that can't be classified as a bonafide no-hitter since the pitcher, Don Sutton of the 1970 Dodgers, didn't complete a full nine innings. What happened is that Sutton, hurling against the 1970 Giants, would up losing an away game, 1-0, although not yielding a hit. The Giants scored in the third inning when Tito Fuentes led off with a walk, Hal Lanier reached first on a rare error by Wes Parker, both were sacrificed along and then a sacrifice fly brought in the game's only run.

Mickey Lolich, Detroit's top-notch lefty, got into the no-hit action on a couple of occasions. Lolich, 1971 vintage, blanked the Atlanta Braves, 1-0, with a no-hitter for Jim Belza, Louisville, KY, while his card counterpart hooked up in a duel with Cleveland and hurled nine innings of no-hit ball, only to be injured and have to leave the game with the score 0-0, in a contest rolled by Christopher Wise, Hanover, MA. Fred Scherman came on in relief for Detroit and set the Tribe down for two more innings without a hit as the Tigers finally won, 1-0, in the bottom of the 11th.

Wise, frustrated by watching an injury occur in that game, did get a complete no-hitter by Dave McNally (1970 Baltimore Orioles), who turned the trick against the New York Yankees. A perfect game bid was spoiled by an error by Brooks Robinson--the Golden Glove third baseman.

Andy Messersmith of the California Angels also had a pair of no-hitters. Dave Richter, playing only his sixth game of SOM baseball, watched Messersmith, 1968, no-hit the Chicago White Sox, striking out 10 and walking one batter, while Bob Poogach, a table-game veteran of eight years and currently a student at George Washington University, Washington, DC, had Messersmith, 1971, doing in the White Sox also, 7-0, in a nine-strikeout, four-walk performance.

Among the Old-Timers, Dutch Reuther of the 1927 New York Yankees blanked the '46 Red Sox, 1-0 in 10 innings in a game in which there were only two references to the fielding chart. A triple by Earl Combs in the 10th produced the game's only run. Reuther, hurling a perfect game through nine innings, gave up a two-out walk to Dom DiMaggio in the 10th and then retired always-dangerous Ted Williams on a flyout. Closest Boston came to snatching the no-hitter was a 1-13 single chance by Johnny Pesky on a split number situation. A 17 was drawn, however, and Reuther was home safely.

Dizzy Dean, finishing a replay season with a 1.21 earned run average, notched Jerry Wallace's (Paducah, KY) only no-hitter. Dean, 1934, did it against the hard-hitting 1961 Yankees, striking out eight and beating Whitey Ford, 1-0.

Fireballing Sandy Koufax of the 1965 Los Angeles Dodgers also had a pair of no-hitters. For Mike Waldrip, Walls, MS, he struck out 15 in defeating the Minnesota Twins, 1-0, while for Ted Gartner, Parsippany, NJ, the present-day "color man" announcer in baseball, fanned 16 in whipping the same Twins' team, 4-0.

Kenneth Henry, No. Brunswick, NJ, started the new year with a no-hit bang as, after receiving the new cards, Don Sutton immediately hurled a pitcher's dream against the Cincinnati Reds, runnerups to the Oakland A's in the World Series.

Two pitchers whom you don't usually expect to see no-hitting foes had just such gems

for Robert Routier, Kensington, CA, as John Odom ('69 A's) stopped Atlanta ('69) despite walking six including loading the bases in the sixth inning, and Mike Wegener ('69 Expos) also walked six batters but still set down the '69 Padres on no hits. Wegener had to face only 30 batters as four San Diego batters grounded into double plays.

Other no-hitters reported in the last month included:

Mike McQueen, Porterville, CA, who set up a battle pitting the 1971 New York Mets against the '62 Mets and watched Al Jackson, from that first hapless team, no-hit Tom Seaver, Cleon Jones, Tommy Agee and Co.

Jim Phelps, Wenatchee, WA, has had five no-hitters in four years. Bob Gibson (1968 St. Louis Cardinals) got the first against the 1968 New York Yankees; Stan Williams, hurling for the Cleveland Indians (1969), recorded the second on July Fourth, 1971, stopping the Baltimore Orioles (1969) despite entering the game with a 3.94 ERA and a tendency to issue the "gopher ball" frequently; Diego Segui (Oakland, 1970) and teammate Pat Dobson both no-hit Kansas City, strangely only a week apart; and Gary Bell, 1968, did it in Dave Surdam's Pacific Coast SOM play-by-mail league.

John Elston, Willowdale, Ontario: A no-hitter by Bill Singer (1970 Dodgers) against Montreal.

James Lee, Cleveland, OH: Joel Horlen (1971 White Sox) got Lee's first no-hitter after hundreds of games when the Chicago right-hander throttled the California Angels.

Mike Poweleit, Cold Spring, KY: George Culver (1969 Cincinnati Reds) was the no-hit pitcher and also the losing hurler. Culver no-hit San Francisco but came away a 2-0 loser after walking five batters in the fourth inning.

Timothy Carlson, Two Harbors, MN: Bert Blyleven, pitching for the 1970 Minnesota Twins, no-hit Minnesota, 1965, 4-0.

Roger Fahey, New York, NY: Wilbur Wood was the wonder pitcher in a 3-0 no-hitter against Baltimore in a game matching teams from 1971.

And, wrapping up the no-hit report, Joe James, Grosse Pointe, MI, with two friends forming the "crowd," received a no-hit performance from Dave McNally (1971 Baltimore Orioles) against Detroit.

Balance Interception Ratio

Concerned, because Rex Kern, a "0" defender in the Baltimore Colt defensive backfield in 1971, intercepted more passes than Rick Volk, Charlie Stukes or Jerry Logan?

If you are, you might want to try a method devised by Steve Brostoff, Rego Park, NY, which is aimed at trying to remedy the situation.

Under this system if a "9" is rolled for a short pass or a "7" for a long pass, you disregard the number of men in the zone as to which column to look at. If you roll higher than the defender, you look at the "3-man or 0-man" column. This increases the chances of a Charlie Stukes of receiving more interceptions than Rex Kern, as it should be.

It should be noted the rating of a defensive back affects only a roll of "9" on short pass and "7" on long as to which column to look at. For other numbers, you still refer to the number of men in the zone.

A note from the Game Co: There are no 1969 Orioles and 1970 Cubs left. Please do not send orders to the Game Co. for these two teams.

NOTES FROM THE GAME COMPANY

by Steve Barkan
Strat-O-Matic Game Company

Q: IS THE PERCENTAGE OF AT BATS ON THE ADVANCED SIDE OF THE CARDS IN BASEBALL THE PERCENTAGE OF OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL TIMES UP?

A: The percentage of at-bats on the advanced side of the cards show the unofficial times up in that they include walks, hit batters, sacrifices, etc.

Q: WHY DOESN'T BILL MELTON'S 1969 CARD HAVE AN INJURY ON IT?

A: There was a proof reading error that resulted in Bill Melton's 1969 card getting by without an injury. The reading should appear on number 1-12. With the 1970 set, a revised computer program was set up that eliminated this particular problem.

Q: THE RULES SAY THE INFIELD CANNOT BE IN UNLESS THERE IS A MAN ON THIRD BASE, YET ON THE ADVANCED STRATEGY CHART UNDER THE HIT AND RUN AND SACRIFICE CHARTS, THE INFIELD CAN BE IN. WHY DOES THE MATERIAL ON THE CHART CONTRADICT THE RULE?

A: The infield can be brought in, on the basic game to cut off a potential run from scoring, and brought in, on the advanced game to squelch a possible attempt at a sacrifice, even though there is no runner on third.

Q: WHAT IS THE CORRECT RUNNING RATING FOR WILLIE MAYS' 1962 CARD AND WHITEY LOCKMAN'S 1954 CARD?

A: Mays should be considered a 1-17 runner and Lockman a 1-13 runner.

Q: ROD CAREW IS RATED A FOUR FIELDER IN 1971. IS THIS A PRINTING ERROR? IT SEEMS CAREW IS A MUCH BETTER FIELDER THAN THAT.

A: Rod Carew has never been considered an outstanding second baseman and his play in 1971 was even below par for him, due to injuries. The four rating was no error. Incidentally, he is back to a three this year.

Q: ON THE 1968 MINNESOTA VIKINGS, HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THEIR PASS RUSH RATING IS A ONE AND THEIR PASS BLOCKING RATING WAS A FIVE? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE NUMBERS WERE SWITCHED IN ERROR?

A: The Vikes should have a five pass rush and one pass block rating in 1968. We let another proofreading error go by and our faces were red all year.

Q: ON THE 1969 LEN DAWSON (KANSAS CITY) CARD, FLAT PASS NUMBER 10, WHY ISN'T THERE AN "X" AFTER THE INTERCEPTION? SHOULD THERE REALLY BE A YARDAGE FIGURE?

A: On this particular card, that reading is correct. We try to stay away from unorthodox readings on the cards, but this particular one could not be helped.

Q: WHEN THE 1970 TOM DEMPSEY MISSES ONE OF THESE EXTRA LONG FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS, IS IT RUN BACK THE SAME WAY AS A MISSED 43-47 YARDER?

A: Yes.

Q: ON BART STARR'S 1968 CARD WITH THE PACKERS, HE HAS A 30 YARD GAIN ON 2 WHEN CALLED RIGHT BUT AN INCOMPLETION WHEN THE PLAY IS CALLED WRONG. IS THIS A MISPRINT?

A: Starr's 1968 card was computed correctly. The reason for this situation is that Starr's completions were incorrectly matched up, however, the card is correct as it came out.

Q: IF YOU INJURE BOTH FULLBACKS (OR HALFBACKS), SHOULD AND COULD YOU USE A BACKFIELD CONSISTING OF TWO HALFBACKS (OR FULLBACKS)?

A: Yes.

Q: WHY IS RON JOHNSON'S 1970 CARD SO BAD? HE RAN FOR 1000 YARDS. IF IT'S HIS AVERAGE, 3.9; WHY IS DONNY ANDERSON OF THAT YEAR SO MUCH BETTER WITH ONLY A 3.8 AVERAGE, AND ONLY 800 YARDS?

A: In comparing running cards, many factors must be taken into account. In the comparison between Johnson and Anderson, there is one prevalent factor; the fact that the Giants are a passing team and the Packers a running team. Because the Giants passed so much, the defenses were naturally anticipating the pass, opening up many holes for Johnson. The Packers, though have been traditionally a running team the last ten years or so and the defenses are thinking run, which makes the yardage that Anderson gets, much tougher than the yardage Johnson gets. There are many arguments for both players, however, this is the main factor in that particular comparison.

Buc's and Giants Tops In This Replay

by Richard Zaborsky

I have just completed a replay of the 1971 National League baseball season. I kept rather extensive records. Following are some of the final results:

EASTERN DIVISION				WESTERN DIVISION			
W	L	GB	PCT	W	L	GB	PCT
Pittsburgh	98	64	-.605	San Francisco	102	60	-.630
St. Louis	95	67	3 .586	Los Angeles	89	73	13 .550
New York	90	72	8 .556	Houston	82	80	20 .506
Chicago	81	81	17 .500	Cincinnati	76	86	26 .469
Philadelphia	62	100	36 .383	Atlanta	75	87	27 .463
Montreal	49	113	49 .302	San Diego	73	89	29 .450

RUNS	DOUBLES	TRIPLES	HOMERUNS	RBI	STOLEN BASES
Aaron - 114	Cedeno-55	Metzger-18	Aaron-61	Aaron-153	Brock - 76
Bonds - 109	Oliver-46	Gaston-16	L.May-51	Torre-136	Morgan - 58
Fuentes -109	Henderson-43	Montanez-12	Stargell-45	L.May-126	Harrelson-36
Garr-106	Davis-42	Henderson-11	Johnson-34	Santo-118	Garr-32

WINS	LOSSES	COM. GAMES	SHUTOUTS	SAVES	RELIEF PTS
Marichal-26	Morton-22	Jenkins-33	Marichal-9	Giusti-29	Giusti-38
Jenkins-24	Renko-22	Marichal-26	Seaver-8	Frisella-19	Johnson-28
Seaver-22	Stoneman-21	Roberts-26	Nolan-7	Upshaw-19	Brewer-23
Sutton-22	Arlin-19	Seaver-23	Forsch-6	Johnson-18	Frisella-23

It goes without saying that the MVP was Hank Aaron with credentials of 61 homers and 153 RBI. The Cy Young Award was earned by Juan Marichal, 26-9, 1.77 ERA, and 9 shutouts. The Rookie of the year was Willie Montanez, who scored 89 runs, hit 37 doubles, ripped 12 triples, bombed 30 homers and knocked in 102. Mike Lum was the only player to hit three homers in one game, turning the trick against bullet Bob Gibson. (It's rather interesting to note that he actually did hit three in one game that year, although vs. Los Angeles.) Tom (Terrific) Seaver vs. the Giants fanned in succession, Bernie Williams, Tito Fuentes,

Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, Bobby Bonds, Dick Dietz, and Chris Speier. I used the Advanced Playing Style and adhered to the percentages as closely as I could.

OOPS!! CONVENTION AUGUST 3rd & 4th

Error, error, error! Last issue we mentioned the SOM Convention this year was for sure July 21st and 22nd and needless to say we were wrong. August 3rd and 4th, Friday and Saturday 10:00-6:00 both days, are now the absolute, for sure, positive, correct dates for the 1973 SOM Convention. The Convention will begin at 10:00AM in the morning with many tournaments taking place. Convention location will be the Abraham & Straus Brooklyn Store, at the corner of Fulton and Hoyt, in the store's convention hall, New York.

Final (hopefully) announcement will be made the next issue with regard to exactly what tournaments will be held. However, again you will be advised to bring with you the teams that you would like to play with in the tourneys. Both elementary and advanced tournaments will be held for both the baseball and football games. Because of the large amount of people that will be expected, a one dollar reservation fee will be required... next issue we will print entry blanks on the back of the Review for you to send into Abraham & Straus to reserve a place for yourself. Please, do NOT send the money to the Review, and please also wait for the entry blank to be printed before sending money to the store.

Remember, the deadline for the new 1973 Strat-O-Matic Directory is April 15. All entry blanks, which are printed on the last page of the Review, must be received by the Review no later than April 15 to be placed in the new Directory.

You will note that in the Advertisement section of this month's Review, under the For Sale division, there is an ad without a name. If you recognize this ad to be yours, please write the Review. Also, if you wish to respond to the ad, please send your responses to the Review so that when the person lets the Review know the Review can forward replies. The ad without a name also requested the following to be printed:

"Will the person whom I sold the 1970 baseball season please return the extra team (composed of all-star players from other sets) which I accidentally enclosed with the set."

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: '69 Braves. Will consider unreasonable prices. All inquiries answered, accepting bids to the 10th. Also, need pre-69 extra players and '66 or '65 complete leagues. Again money no problem. Write: Jack Molino, 1677 6th Avenue, Hurlinton, WV 25703

WANTED: 1969 Rams, Vikings, Cowboys, Browns, Chiefs, Raiders, Colts, Lions, Redskins, Packers, Jets and Chargers. Will buy separately or all together. Low bid wins. Write: Steve Crandall, 137 La Vereda Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93108

WANTED: 1967, 68, 69 Cowboys, any condition. Need badly. Also 1969 Chiefs, Vikings, 1970 Dolphins, Colts. Name your price. Kurt Conlan, 901 SW 74th Terrace, Plantation, FL 33314

WANTED: 72 extras-Chi, Oak, Det, Pitt, Cin. Will pay very good! Send price and stamp for reply. Good condition only. Tim Cawley, 3808 Wilcox, Downers Grove, IL 60515

WANTED: 1968 Jets, Colts and Bears. These 3 teams were lost in the mail and were unavailable from the game company. I need them badly. Will pay very well. Write: Tom Nelson, 188-20 Nashville Boulevard, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413 or call (212) 527-7139

WANTED: 1967 Bears, good to excellent condition, all players enclosed. Will except the lowest bid or a trade as I have many teams. Please include postage with bid. Robert White, Box 14039 Laredo AFB, TX 78040

WANTED: All SOM NFL football teams sets preceeding the year 1971 except the year 1967. Especially any KC-Chiefs. Will pay any reasonable price. Please state prices and conditions of all above requests. Write Ron Smith, 502 Crest Drive, Papillion, Nebraska 68046

WANTED: 1967 Orioles, 1967 Indians, 1967 A's, 1968 Pirates, 1968 Braves, 1968 Reds, 1969 additional players; 1966 AL and NL, and 1965 AL and NL. Have the following to use as trade and/or cash: Jon Guinn, P. O. Box 695, Centralia, WA 98531

WANTED: 1967 National League baseball set, BUT it must be in at least good condition. Needed desperately. Write as soon as possible to Harry A. Hole, 5569 Annuz, Crackertown, CA 95604

WANTED: The 1969 Seattel Pilots and Pittsburgh Pirate teams from the following years: '61, '62, '63, '64, '65, '67, '69. For Sale: '71 baseball teams. Write: Doug Zimmerman, RD#1, Box 81, Central City, PA 15926

WANTED: 1969 Vikings, Rams, Cowboys. 1968 Chiefs, Jets, Colts, Cowboys, Rams; 1967 Packers, Rams, Colts, Raiders. Will pay lowest offer or any reasonable price if made immediately. Need desperately and willing to trade (1970-1971 teams). Michael Olszewski, 156 West 104th Street, Bloomington, MN 55420

WANTED: Any Washington Senator team, the 1967 Green Bay Packers, any Washington Redskins, and the 1969 Mets. Write: Mike McConchle, 6304 Wingate St., Alexandria, VA 22312

WANTED: 1964 National baseball League. Would like to buy or trade. State price or make deal for any of these leagues. 1963-both leagues, 1965 both leagues, 1969 National, 1970-both, and all 28 old timers. If interested state condition of teams and terms. Jim Pippenger, Box 544, Kendallville, IN 46755

WANTED: 1969 Mets. Will pay \$2.50 for team in good condition. Also wanted 1968, \$2.00 for team in good condition. Richard Gant, 206 Hickory Street, Brooksville, FL 33512

For Sale

FOR SALE: 1970 season baseball cards. Good to excellent. Both leagues. Sold as a complete set only (no individual teams). Also 1970 season football cards. Excellent condition; all 26 teams (no individual teams. Sold as complete set only.) Best offer \$10.00 or above per set. I will only answer your letter if selling to you unless stamp is enclosed. Write soon!! Mike Baitinger, 3219 N. Prospect, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

FOR SALE: Recommended to fortify any serious player's collection. Complete football game parts and entire AFL-NFL teams for 1967 and 1968 seasons. Total of 60 teams. Condition excellent to mint. Complete baseball teams: both series of oldtimers and all AL and NL teams for '67, '67, '69, '70 and '71. Teams from '69 to '71 include four extra players. Total of 138 teams. Would prefer selling as one set and by personal contact; however, all enquiries will be considered. Estimated value over \$75,000. John T. Edsar, 1101 Welsh Rd., Maple Glen, PA 19002

FOR SALE: 1967 American League baseball teams. 10 teams in full. Excellent condition. Opening bids must be at least \$20. Ted Kusaka, 322 W. South Street, Anaheim, CA 92805

FOR SALE: Every SOM baseball & football team ever made. Send teams you want and bid to - Jeffrey Guterman, 28 Emm Lane, Roslyn, NY 11576

FOR SALE: 1967-71 SOM football. All are complete and are from excellent to mint condition, plus other miscellaneous teams from 1970. WANTED: Any SOM baseball from 1961-72. Please state condition and price. The above is for sale by bids only. All bids will be considered. Bid as often as you like. Make all replies to: Richard York, 19171 Derby Street, Detroit, MI 48203

FOR SALE: I am taking bids on the following 1968 baseball teams: Boston, Cubs, A's, Angeles, Pitts, Houston, LA, Yanks, Wash, Mets. Send bids to Keith Fosness, 1438 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ Street, S. Fargo, ND 58102

FOR SALE: Many baseball teams available 1969-1971 plus old-timers. Send 10¢ for your list. High bids win. Paul Schraeter, 1515 Park Street, Atlantic Beach, NY 11509

FOR SALE: 1969 Rams, Chiefs, Vikings, Browns, Cowboys, Raiders, Jets, Chargers, good to excellent condition. Also: 1967 Packers, Colts, Rams, Lions, Cowboys, Redskins in playable condition. Also 2 complete game sets. 65¢ per team, \$2.50 per game set: David Althaus, 181 Haas, Frankenmuth, MI 48734

FOR SALE: 1969 baseball (mint condition - NO pirates) \$13.00. Old Reviews from August 1971, 40¢. 1968 Senators and Angels, 60¢ each. Football game + nameless players (good condition) \$3.00 complete. Baseball game (excellent condition, includes all-time great teams) \$8.00 complete.

FOR SALE: 1967 National League baseball teams. 10 teams in full. Excellent condition. Opening bids must be at least \$20.00. Ted Kusaka, 322 W. South Street, Anaheim, CA 92805

FOR SALE: Baseball teams, 1968 and 1969, complete and 1966 (missing White Sox, Indians, Yanks, Orioles, Twins, Tigers). All excellent condition. Teams go to highest bidder. Write: Tony Isbell, 9729 Nestle Avenue, Northridge, CA 91324

FOR SALE: The following teams for sale. Send bids for team or teams wanted. The following fourteen are old-timer teams: 22 Giants, 27 Yankees, 40 Reds, 41 Yankees, 41 Dodgers, 46 Cards, 46 Red Sox, 48 Indians, 61 Reds, 62 Mets, 65 Twins, 65 Dodgers, 67 Cards, 67 Red Sox. Minimum bid on the above is \$2.00 each. The following are ORIGINAL teams: 62 Twins, 62 Braves, 62 Giants, 62 Reds, 62 White Sox, 63 Dodgers, 63 Yanks, 63 Red Sox, 63 Cards. The following are 1969 teams: Cubs, Twins, Braves, Pirates, Athletics, Reds, Orioles, Yankees, Red Sox, Senators. The following are 1970 teams: *Padres, *Pirates, *Indians, *Yankees, *Senators, *Expos, *Braves, *Cards, *White Sox, *Dodgers, *Royals, *Mets, *Angeles, *Astros, *Twins, *Giants, *A's, *Cubs, *Reds, *Phillies, *Brewers, *Orioles, *Red Sox. The following are 1971 teams: *Cards, *Senators, *Dodgers, *Orioles, *Athletics, *Brewers, *Indians, *Expos, *Twins, *Angels, *Phillies, *Padres, *Reds, *Royals, *Red Sox, *Astros. (* - Have Additional Players) Also, for sale, the following football teams: 1969 Bills, Colts, Packers; 1970 Cowboys, Dolphins, Cards, Browns, Lions, Redskins, Patriots, Bears, Vikings, Colts, Jets, Packers, Bengals, Giants, Rams, Eagles, Chiefs, Oilers, Broncos, Steelers, Bills, Raiders, Saints, Falcons, 49ers. Teams will go to the highest bidders. Steve Ludwiski, 2321 White Oak Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

League's Forming

LEAGUE FORMING: Baseball league (24 teams). Send four picks to Jeff Guterman, 28 Emm Lane Roslyn, NY 11576

LEAGUE FORMING: Play-by-mail league with the following teams: Giants, Braves, Angeles, Royals, Yanks, Orioles, Mets, Dodgers, Red Sox, Cubs. Trading will be allowed, additional players needed, and each manager drafts 3 players from the teams not used. Send in teams preferred, list of players you want to draft, age, name, address, idea for schedule and any playing innovations you want considered to Billy Bebiec, 35 Willow Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002

LEAGUE FORMING: Attention all solitaire players. Join a play-by-mail baseball league. We will draft from the American and National League 1972-1973 advanced baseball cards. Hurry, this league will fill up fast. Send 60¢ if interested to: John Conrad, 827 Stark Street, Wausau, WI 54401

LEAGUE FORMING: I am starting a head-on baseball league in the Anaheim area. We will use new cards. Contact Ron Depue, 808 S. Westchester Drive, Anaheim, CA 92804

LEAGUE FORMING: RPLVNDX (Roslyn Pines, Lakeville, Vanaria, Neward, Dox) SOM baseball league will begin in 3 months. Send all 24 picks to: Susan Dornfeld, 13 Maylin Road, Roslyn, NY 11577

LEAGUE FORMING: Attention all DEPENDABLE SOM players! Join a fun, well organized league using the actual American League teams including the additional. The teams will be divided into three, four team divisions, with all the teams having a great chance to make the playoffs. We'll play a 150 game season, and in order to insure a quick, smooth flowing league, we'll use the elementary version and there will be no trading. Newsletters will be sent out frequently, keeping everyone well informed. Small entrance fee of \$2.50 will be charged. If interested, write TODAY to Rick Gross, 133 Exeter Place, St. Paul, MN 55104

LEAGUE FORMING: An elaborate baseball league with all '69, '68, '67, '70 '71 and '72 teams. Champions of league will get season tickets to all North Carolina State basketball games for the 1973-74 season. Send 10 picks to: Tom Burleson; 33981 Room 15B, North Carolina State University; Raleigh, NC 27604

LEAGUE FORMING: 1972 National League teams. League setup to add losing teams. 156 game schedule to compensate for strike. \$3.00 fee to be collected later, 4 playoff spots, at least 1 for 4 worst teams. Send stamp to insure reply. Send top 12 choices, to Steve Wilson, 2126 Iglehart, St. Paul, MN 55104

LEAGUE FORMING: Play-by-mail replay of '72 season, American and National. Send a list of teams you want and any suggestions you have if interested in joining. Ted Bailey, 836 Warren Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303

LEAGUE FORMING: Play-by-mail league. 1972 cards. Apply for membership only if you can play with another person. No solitaire games! Send following: age, name, address, experience, preferences, in both leagues, for information write: Dave MacLean, 301 Avenue "Y" North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7L 3K8

LEAGUE FORMING: This is a regular team baseball league using the new cards we will play 160 games and have a newspaper come out once a month. Hurry we've already got berths taken. Write Joe James, 16847 St. Paul, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

LEAGUE FORMING: Anyone interested in forming a league of Strato-baseball. Featuring "head-on" play one night a week, in the Holland-Grand Rapids area, please write or call immediately. Tom Davelaar, 227 Lizbeth, R #3, Holland, MI 49423 (616) 772-6895

LEAGUE FORMING: Want enthusiastic players willing to play one or two evenings a week starting June 15. Minneapolis area. We will draft from 1973 cards. Contact Les Gerdin, 155 Satellite Lane NE, Apt. 19, Fridley, MN 55432 Telephone # 566-3346.

Here's Play-By-Mail Baseball Timetable

Dave Surdam of Pleasant Hill, OR, and one of the eight managers who comprise the Pacific Strat-O-Matic Baseball play-by-mail league, has taken the time to give the Review readers some hints as far as completing a specified number of games within a short span of time and a sample timetable his league uses to do just that.

Using Surdam's schedule, no manager plays any games until he first receives a newsletter listing starting pitchers and possible strategy changes.

"Everyone plays his 11 home games during a three-week period; it used to be a two-week period, but not everyone could meet this pace and the mail really goofed us up. So, if you're planning a league allow for the mail to be slow and time for everyone to catch up."

Here's a sample of one month of the schedule followed by the Pacific SOM League: The schedule is set so there is a two-week period to play each block of 11 games.

<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Games to be completed</u>
Nov 4	Stats for games 1-22 sent to Dave Surdam	23 - 33
Nov 11	Newsletter sent out, plus stats sent to opposing manager for games 23-44	34 - 44
Nov 18	Stats for games 23-44 sent to Dave Surdam	45 - 55
Nov 25	Newsletter sent out, stats sent to opposing manager for games 45-66	56 - 66

(Remember, the two-week schedule shown provides for 11 home and 11 away games.)

Pressure Mounts as Kansas City Football Win Streak Hits 46

Neil Currie of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, is one person you would have difficulty convincing that the 1969 Kansas City Chiefs weren't the best of the football teams put out by the Strat-O-Matic Game Co.

Currie's winning exploits with the '69 powerhouse were described in the June, 1971, Review, and at that time the Chiefs had compiled a 20-game winning streak.

Kansas City has had many challengers since, reminiscent of the fastest gun in the Old West, but has always won and remained alive to play another day.

Here, in Currie's own words, are the roadblocks that have been brushed aside as the winning streak mounted:

"News of my winning 20 games in a row was greeted hungrily by my regular local opponents. Yet, by the end of that year, the Chiefs were still undefeated and were, in fact, 27-0-0. The games had been against top-flight teams from 1969: the Vikings, Browns, Raiders, Cowboys, Rams and Packers. These teams compiled a total record of 54-18-2 (.774) in real-life, or roughly 11-3 per team. Serving to further infuriate my friends, were occasional slaughters. The Vikings supporters once viewed their heroes being bludgeoned, 52-0; the Browns were once trampled, 51-3; the Rams, 51-19; the Cowboys, 27-3; and Raiders, 36-3, and the Packers, 27-7.

1972, therefore, saw a rash of new challenges hurled at the Chiefs. Still they ground out victory after victory. The 1970 Dolphins (24-3) and Cowboys (27-21) were repulsed, as were a number of lesser teams, among them Pittsburgh (64-7), Cleveland (43-9), New York Jets (27-3) and the Detroit Lions (36-13). After eight early games in 1972, only the '71 Dolphins tried late in the year and fell, 22-13. This was victory number 36. The previous games had generally been very decisive, and chances of defeating the Chiefs appeared dim. The only serious threat of the first 36 games had been when the '69 Packers piled up a 21-6 lead by the fourth period. However, the Chiefs miraculously manufactured three touchdowns to steal it, 27-24.

In view of this performance, and imposing 32.0-22.2 points for and against totals in the 36 straight wins, any subsequent encounter with the Chiefs in 1972 was regarded with about as much enthusiasm as is a chance to wrestle Willie Lanier.

However, in the early stages of this year, the onslaught came again. No less than six title defenses were made on January 28th, which, along with four others in January comprise the current 46-game winning streak.

Despite the success, I have premonitions of impending doom. The opposition is now unfailingly top-ranked and instead of one close game out of the first 40, three of my last six wins have been by a field goal or less. The 1971 Cowboys are great and frequent challengers now and have come closest to actually beating the Chiefs. Mike Clark missed a 30-yard chip-shot field goal attempt on the last play of regulation time in game No. 44. Then the Cowboys lost, 17-14, after 4:15 of overtime. In game No. 42, a touchdown pass to Robert Holmes with two minutes left provided the winning margin in a 20-17 squeaker.

Another team steadily opposes the Chiefs now, too. It is the die-hard Packers, back for revenge, and only a touchdown pass to Fred Arbanas with 30 seconds left produced a 16-14 win in game No. 41.

In retrospect, I feel that while I have this unblemished record intact, I should write and warn the hearts of all Chief supporters (especially those who use the '69 version).

One day, however, a letter will cross the desk of the Review containing details of my defeat. Perhaps then, a special obituary column would be appropriate at such a time to inform readers not only of the termination of the win streak, but also of my probable suicide. Such is the importance of Strat-O-Matic in this game-owner's existence.

Possible New Strategy Charts

With the baseball season about to begin or already started, now would be a good time to look over possible changes in the Strat-O-Matic strategy charts.

If bunting is a concern to you, we think you'll be interested in the modifications that Ronald Kickey and a friend, Mike Faulhaber, of Arlington, VA, have come up with.

Ron is 24 years old, a college graduate and currently a musician in the U.S. Army Band in Washington, DC. He's been playing SOM baseball for slightly over a year and just recently rolled his first die with the football game.

Baseball's his favorite and not long ago he, plus three others--all musicians, too--completed a pair of draft leagues (American and National Leagues) using the 1971 cards.

During the baseball replays the foursome found the "hit-and-run" to be a good weapon in their strategy arsenal, especially with fast baserunners, but were concerned because the bunt seemed to be overused.

So, at the conclusion of the league play, Ron and Mike (Mike, incidentally, has played over 3,000 games of SOM baseball) decided to revise the bunting charts.

"We decided that bunt plays should take into consideration the fielding abilities of the first baseman, third baseman and catcher, and the running ability of the lead runner," points out Hickey. "It would certainly be foolish to attempt a squeeze play against the fine Baltimore infield (Brooks Robinson and Boog Powell) with Frank Howard on third base!"

"We also came up with a more realistic bunt defense--bringing the corners in--as used in real baseball. In order to do this we had to create three new charts."

In essence, Ron and Mike have tried to make bunting more realistic without changing the basic concept of the bunt as created by the Game Co. With the charts (listed below) bunting becomes more difficult, especially with a good defensive infield.

Here are the explanations of the charts they use, and (below) the charts themselves.

1. Infield Position Chart: Gives results for all groundballs which occur when the batter swings away. Indicated are four possible infield positions:
 - (a) Normal depth -- no change from basic game.
 - (b) Looking for sacrifice bunt (corners in) -- Cannot be used with runner on third base. There is no need for the entire infield to come in when trying to prevent a sacrifice bunt; in real baseball only the first and third baseman would play in anticipation of the bunt. Since the shortstop and second baseman remain at normal depth, they can still make the doubleplay pivot on all groundball "A's" even if hit to the first or third basemen. This maneuver also increases the possibility of the foreplay on a sacrifice bunt attempt.
 - (c) Looking for squeeze bunt (corners in) -- This is the same defensive alignment as "looking for the sacrifice," but since the primary concern here is to stop the runner on third from scoring, the results on groundballs are slightly different. The shortstop and second baseman play "halfway", being in position to make the doubleplay pivot or to hold the runner on third if first base is open. If a groundball is hit to the pitcher, first baseman or third baseman, they will make the play to the plate if the runner breaks. Note on chart that all "groundball C" results score the runner from third. If the batter bunts, this maneuver is as effective as bringing the entire infield in.
 - (d) Infield in -- This defense is used to prevent the runner on third from scoring at all costs. It is no more effective against the bunt than "looking for the squeeze", but if the batter swings away the runner cannot score on a groundball. (Exception: ++ groundballs) Since the entire infield is pulled in, they are not in position to make a doubleplay on "A" groundballs.

All bunting is done with two dice in the traditional manner. If the defense employs any of the above bunt defenses, lower the batter's bunting rating one letter. A result reading "###" on the sacrifice or squeeze charts indicates a play dependent upon the fielders' and lead runner's ratings. Compute the fielding-running total in this manner:

- (A) Sacrifice" Add the fielding ratings of the catcher, first baseman and third baseman; multiply by two; and add that total to the running rating of the lead runner.
 (B) Once the F-R total is figured, look for the result of the play on the respective "##" chart.

NOTE: (1) The "##" charts are consulted only if a reading of "##" occurs on the bunt charts. (2) If the batter bunts with the infield at "normal depth," his rating is not lowered. (3) When referring to the "##" charts, use the batter's adjusted bunt rating. If the infield is normal, use his regular rating. (4) If the infield is at any other position than normal, all "groundball ++" results are "Single**." (5) If the infield is at any position other than "normal," the batter's hit-and-run rating is increased by one letter. The revised bunting charts can also be applied to the basic version of SOM baseball. Use the same procedure as in the advanced version with the following exceptions: (1) Use the "C" bunting ratings for all batters. (2) If the batter bunts with the infield at normal depth, results of "##" become "Sac". (Bunting chart unchanged from original.) (3) If the batter bunts with the infield in one of the bunt defenses, do not lower his letter to "D". Continue to use the "C" column but refer to the "##" charts when readings of "##" occur.

SACRIFICE ## CHART

F-R Totals	A	B	C	D	E
14-16	FC	FC	DP	DP	DP
17-19	FC	FC	FC	DP	DP
20-22	Sac	FC	FC	FC	DP
23-25	Sac	FC	FC	FC	FC
26-28	Sac	Sac	FC	FC	FC
29-31	Sac	Sac	Sac	FC	FC
32+	Sac	Sac	Sac	Sac	Sac

$$FR \text{ Total} = 2(c + 1b + 3b) + rr$$

Inf. Position		gb A	gb B	gb C	gb++	Elem Sac/Sqz
NORMAL	Runner on 1st	DP (2nd & 1st) Other runners advance	FC (lead runner out) Other runners advance	Batter out All runners advance	Ignore ++	Use C bunt Rating
	1st Base open	Batter out Other runners hold	Batter out Other runners hold			
LOOK FOR SAC-RIFICE BUNT *		Same as "Normal"	Same as "Normal"	Same as "Normal"	SI**	Read C bunt Use ## result
LOOK FOR SQUEEZE*	1st Base open	Batter out Other runners hold	Batter out Other runners hold	Same as "Normal"	SI**	Read C bunt Use ## result
	Runner on 1st	to 2b or ss--same as "Normal" results to p, 1b or 3b--out at plate, others advance		Same as "Normal"	SI**	
INFIELD IN	1st Base open	Batter out Other runners hold	Out at plate Other runners advance	Batter out Other runners hold	SI**	Read C bunt Use ## result
	Runners 1st & 3rd	Batter out, runner on 3rd holds, others adv.	Out at plate Other runners advance	Batter out, runner on 3rd holds, others adv.		
	Bases full	Lead runner out at plate, all other runners advance				

*All X draws on infield, assume "out-3"=gb A; "out-1"=gb C; "out-4"=gb B. Assume "out on dribbler-1" on catcher's card to be gb C.

SQUEEZE PLAY

	A	B	C	D	E
2	SI*	SI*	SI*	SI*	SI*
3	SI*	SI*	SI*	SI*	Sac
4	Sac	Sac	Sac	Sac	Sac
5	Sac	##	##	##	FC
6	##	##	##	FC	FC
7	##	##	FC	FC	Steal
8	##	FC	FC	FC	Popup
9	FC	FC	FC	Steal	FC
10	FC	Popup	Popup	Popup	FC
11	Steal	Steal	Steal	Steal	Steal
12	DP	DP	DP	DP	DP

SQUEEZE ## CHART

F-R Totals	A	B	C	D
12-17	FC	FC	FC	FC
18-21	Sac	FC	FC	FC
22-25	Sac	Sac	FC	FC
26-29	Sac	Sac	Sac	FC
30-33	SI*	SI*	Sac	Sac

$$FR \text{ Total} = 2(1b + 3b) + rr$$

In The Strat-O-Matic

23

Spotlight

RAY OYLER 'SUPER' IN
WORST TEAMS LEAGUE

Looking for something different in your Strat-O-Matic baseball playing? You might try what Ron Fike of South Lyon, MI, does every season--take the five worst teams and play a 40-game season.

"It's really very enjoyable to watch .250 hitters battle for the batting crown and pitchers with 4.00 ERAs battle for the most wins," says Fike.

Some of you dice-rollers who have played through entire seasons with either the American or National Leagues or both, probably have second thoughts about such a league, remembering the dull moments you experienced when a pair of teams in the depths of the standings "clashed" and literally put you to sleep.

Anyway, it is something different and a definite switch from the usual all-star team replays that are conducted.

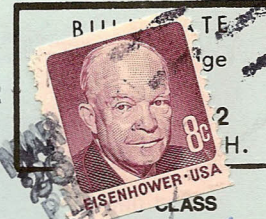
Fike reports he's had a lot of surprises in his mini-leagues. "In a replay with the four expansion teams, I received one of my biggest thrills," reflects Fike. "On the old Ray Oyler batting card of 1968 his average was .155--yet he batted a stupendous .308 in the expansion-team league.

Then in a 1969 replay with the Angels, A's, White Sox and Indians, I got another thrill as Ken (Hawk) Harrelson batted .411 and hit 30 home runs in only 170 at-bats. I was tempted to carry on the league to a full 162 games to see if he could swat 60 or 70 homers, but I decided against breaking league policy. Leading pitcher that season, incidentally, was Tommy John (102), with a 1.91 ERA, compared to 3.26 in real-life."

THIS 'N THAT

...Speaking of trying something a little different, Bill Carter of Cranford, NJ, played an exhibition baseball game with the American League Hall-of-Famers against a motley crew of rejects. The HOF's, as might be expected, romped. The final was 35-0, with 22 of the runs coming in the eighth inning. The flurry included eight walks, 11 singles, three doubles and one triple....Bill Gray, Berkeley, CA, is one of those SOM fans who never let his interest in table games diminish, despite a full course load at Dartmouth College. A fanatic when it comes to the baseball game, which he's been playing since 1965, Gray reports that SOM probably occupied more of his time than college course work. He's graduated now, also a new subscriber to the Review, and says he likes to write (he was an English major). We'll be waiting to hear more about his SOM experiences....Strat-O-Matic baseball and football truly get around. Robert Deer, mailing address Fremont, CA, "seas" to that. Geer is in the United States Navy and stationed aboard the USS John F. Kennedy, an aircraft carrier. With a missionary zeal, he's trying to convince his shipmates of the fun SOM games can bring into their lives....With all the complaints being voiced about delivery of the mail, it was refreshing to hear from Duncan Jameson of Pittsburgh, PA, who says that he sent away for the deluxe baseball game and cards and received his order exactly one week later, although not expecting it for another month....Millie Stargell of '71 Pittsburgh Pirates had the greatest individual slugging performance ever viewed in SOM baseball by Jim Belza, Louisville, KY. After going hitless his first two at-bats, Stargell terrorized Boston Red Sox pitchers with a barrage of hits. He socked a three-run homer in the fifth inning (off a 1-12 split on 5-7); a double in the seventh; a lead-off homer off 1-8 in the ninth and, in the same inning, a grand-slammer. His final stats read: four-for-six at the plate with three home runs and nine RBIs....Jeff Fleischman, Downey, CA, now has bumper stickers for his car. The stickers are a bright red with "GO With G.U.S.S.O.M.O. (Greater United States SOM Organization) printed on them.

STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW
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The Review is going to be compiling a new Directory with many more features than the last one. Our first Directory contained well over 300 names and addresses and this time we would like to go well beyond that. Just fill in the form below, clip out and send it in.

We are also inviting any leagues around the country to send in an item for the Directory, include -- Name of League, How League is Played (play-by-mail for face-to-face, draft or actual teams, etc.), Names of League Officers (or just commissioner) and Addresses of Each Officer (telephone numbers too if desired).

Please note, you do not have to be a subscriber of the Review to be included in the new Directory.

Deadline date for your being included into the second SOM Directory is April 15, 1973. Even if you were included in the first directory, or have sent in your name since, you must re-submit your name and address to be included in this one.

AD _____

CIT _____

TELE _____

AGE 15

I PLAY SOM: _____ BASEBALL
_____ FOOTBALL
☒ BOTH

____ I BELONG TO A FACE-TO-FACE BASEBALL LEAGUE.
NAME LEAGUE (INITIALS WILL DO) _____
____ I BELONG TO A FOOTBALL FACE-TO-FACE LEAGUE.
NAME LEAGUE (INITIALS WILL DO) _____
☒ I BELONG TO A BASEBALL PLAY-BY-MAIL LEAGUE. MBA (PREXY)
NAME LEAGUE (INITIALS WILL DO) _____
____ I BELONG TO A FOOTBALL PLAY-BY-MAIL LEAGUE.
NAME LEAGUE (INITIALS WILL DO) _____