



STRAT-O-MATIC REVIEW

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

VOL. IV-9, November, 1974 45¢

In This Corner...The Editors

Usually every month the Review editors are seldom heard from--except for occasional editor's notes or a small credit line at the bottom of some inside page. But this month the Review editors would like to express a few thoughts on the Strat-O-Matic games, league play, new rules, old card sets and the content of the Review itself.

So, here we go.

Oops, almost forgot to mention just who the Review editors are. One is Del Newell, 33-year-old sports writer at the Kalamazoo Gazette, Kalamazoo, MI, who helped found the Review back in March, 1971. The other is Warren Newell, Del's brother, a 29-year-old junior high band instructor who lives and teaches in Otsego, MI, about 18 miles north of Kalamazoo.

So, here we go again.

Double oops, almost forgot to mention Karen Newell, Warren's wife who helps sort the mail daily, types all labels and helps keep subscription files.

So, here we go again...again.

* - Greater-Kalamazoo Strat-O-Matic League (GKSML) -- has played through nine 154-game baseball replays (all but one a draft league) and currently well into third football league. Usually an eight-manager/coach setup. Have noticed in baseball that batting averages tumble (an average of 10 to 15 points) because the pitching is not diluted enough with eight 25-player rosters from each league. With extra players used it means only 200 of possible 288 players are included--and out of that remaining 88 are some awful pitchers, with balloon-like earned run averages who would have to see action if more than eight teams were utilized.

Remember this if you're in a similar-type draft league. It's the batters that usually suffer in "all-star" leagues.

* Dick Allen - No sympathy for him. He's passing on a lot of money for "peace of mind". Shed a tear for Del Newell, however, who has Allen on his American League GKSML team...at least for one more year.

* We were intrigued by the ad in this month's Review, asking for an entry fee of \$12, refundable at season's end if all games were completed. An excellent idea (providing the league's commissioner doesn't take the money and run, which is unlikely in the ad mentioned). One of the biggest failures of leagues is that many of the managers are not reliable and, especially if they're losing, fall behind in the league's schedule and never complete it. A higher than norm entry fee might be just the cure for what ails some leagues. The fly-by-night manager would probably be frightened off by the high entry fee.

The GKSMML went to a higher entry fee this past season--and with great success. A \$5.00 "attendance fee" was tacked on in baseball. Any time a member missed a league night without securing a sub, he was docked \$2.00 of that amount. The third time would mean goodbye. Strangely, after numerous absences in past years (especially by losing managers), nary an unexcused absence was reported.

* Pass-Containment Rule - We like it. Before, with third and long, it was too easy to run and pickup a "short gain". That was unrealistic; third and long was an obvious passing situation. The new rule takes care of that nicely by limiting a running play (if on the offensive card) to a maximum of one yard short of a first down. The new rule also means offenses are going to be gambling less on first and second down, too. Picking up three and four yards with runs or flat or look-in passes will be the thing to do--as was done in real-life--thus preventing that third and long situation from developing. It's a lot easier with a third and two/or three situation. Since the long pass wasn't used much in real-life, the new rule is certain to curtail its use since coaches won't be as likely to "waste" a play on the bomb on first or second down.

* Review subscriptions - Currently hover around the 1,500 mark--the highest ever. There have been a large number of new subscribers this fall. Review readers can be found in Hong Kong, Israel, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Canada (a large number), Puerto Rico as well as all 50 states.

* Most unpopular section of Review - More readers complain about the no-hitter section than anything else. Yet every month an average of 12 to 15 letters bring news of recent no-hitters.

* "Little Guys" - The Review has been criticized of late for failure to print enough material from the "Little Guys". Certain writers have become more popular with the readership, and we don't apologize for running their material. We do, however, try to print as many letters as possible in the Readers Roll 'Em section, giving all a say. Some replays are repetitious, others have limited appeal because of abbreviated schedules and often playing tips are erroneous (the Review staff was caught napping not long ago by a neatly-typed, well-organized tip for figuring a batter's worth--that was mathematically incorrect), these are all reasons why material doesn't appear. We've pointed out before that to run all material sent in would necessitate a paper running well over 100 pages. Some folks, unfortunately, judge the Review strictly by whether or not their material appears.

* Review would like to see more personal touches of S-O-M players. Often leagues send in only stats, seldom mentioning the league members, backgrounds, etc. What types of people play S-O-M and why?--these are areas we would like to know more about.

* Old baseball card sets - An inhuman task to reprint, collate and stock approximately 164 pre-1970 teams. And, of course, collectors or those who have a large monetary investment in old teams, would be left out in the cold. We would (and, incidentally the Review editors do not have all old sets) rather see Strat-O-Matic continue to progress (such as develop a hockey game and a college football game) than bog itself down reprinting old card sets. All-star card sets from past years might settle many of the arguments, as these would give younger S-O-M buffs a chance to play the 'stars of yesteryear.

* Old football teams - Game company is reluctant to produce at this time because of lack of information (mainly offensive blocking and defensive ratings) for older players. This is an area that warms the heart of the Review editors, however, and we'd certainly like to see teams of the past in the future.

* Pitchers' hitting cards - Not worth the extra cost to produce, in our opinion. There are only a few pitchers whose hitting prowess makes a difference.

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'No Homers' Team Superior To 'High Average'

Kessinger MVP In Unique Tourney

BY MARK BAKKE
McVillie, ND

Don Kessinger batting cleanup? Carlton Fisk or Bobby Grich batting eighth? That's what happened when I played the following unusual baseball tournament with the 1973 cards.

To play it, I created eight special teams: STRIKEOUTS -- consisting of players at each position that struck out the most; DEFENSE -- consisting of only players with a "1" Fielding rating; OFFENSE -- players with the highest averages at each position, or HIGH AVERAGE players; LOW AVERAGE -- the opposite of high average; POWER -- players with the most home runs at each position; NO HOMERS -- players with the fewest homers at each position and yet the most at-bats; WALKS -- players who walk the most at each position; and RUNNING -- players with the best stealing and running ratings at each position.

I also had to consider the problem of pitching. I decided to have both teams play against the same pitcher and to have one pitcher hurl one complete round of the tourney. I decided to use Nolan Ryan for the opening round, Tom Seaver the championship round and Jim Palmer, Steve Carlton, Don Sutton, Ron Bryant, Bert Blyleven and Wilbur Wood for the other rounds. The tourney, I decided, would be double-elimination.

Here are the special teams: (notice that some players were on more teams)

NO HOMERS	HIGH AVERAGE	DEFENSE	POWER
1B--Andrews, Oak.	Blomberg, NY	Scott, Mil.	Burroughs, Tex.
2B--Alomar, Cal.	Carew, Min.	Morgan, Cin.	D.Johnson, Atl.
SS--Kessinger, Chi.	Valentine, Cal.	Metzger, Hou.	Schmidt, Phi.
3B--R.Hunt, Mon.	Cater, Bos.	Rader, Hou.	D.Evans, Atl.
LF--Mota, LA	Rose, Cin.	Rose, Cin.	Stargell, Pit.
CF--Hairston, Chi.	Zisk, Pit.	Cedeno, Hou.	Monday, Chi.
RF--S.Jackson, Atl.	Scheinblum, Cal.	Bonds, SF	Bonds, SF
C --E.Rodriguez, Mil.	Montgomery, Bos.	Bench, Cin.	Fisk, Bos.
DH--Aparicio, Bos.	Bumbry, Bal.	Fisk, Bos.	Aaron, Atl.
WALKS	STRIKEOUTS	RUNNING	LOW AVERAGE
1B--Mayberry, KC	Colbert, SD	Baylor, Bal.	Reese, Min.
2B--Morgan, Cin.	Garcia, Mil.	Morgan, Cin.	H.Torres, Hou.
SS--Garrett, NY	Schmidt, Phi.	Campaneris, Oak.	Busse, Hou.
3B--D.Evans, Atl.	Kingman, SF	Lopes, LA	Vukovich, Mil.
LF--Yastrzemski, Bos.	Luzinski, Phi.	Harper, Bos.	Billings, Tex.
CF--Monday, Chi.	Hisle, Min.	Cedeno, Hou.	Hiser, Chi.
RF--Singleton, Mon.	Bonds, SF	Bonds, SF	Callison, NY
C --Tenace, Oak.	Mitterwald, Min.	Fisk, Bos.	Plummer, Cin.
DH--Grich, Bal.	Derwin, Min.	Carew, Min.	Morales, SD

FIRST ROUND

STRIKEOUTS defeated DEFENSE, 4-2, behind Greg Luzinski's two-run homer. Upset of opening round, however, was LOW AVERAGE nipping POWER, 2-1, in 11 innings as Nolan Ryan allowed POWER only three hits (including Jeff Burrough's home run) while striking out 17. WALKS, behind Ken Singleton's three-run homer, belted RUNNING, 8-3, and HIGH AVERAGE shut out NO HOMERS, 5-0, as Ron Blomberg's roundtripper led the attack.

ROUND TWO

STRIKEOUTS stopped LOW AVERAGE, 4-2, as Bobby Bonds homered, and HIGH AVERAGE knocked off WALKS, 5-3, with Richie Zisk sparking the winner's attack. Jim Palmer pitched this round.

ROUND THREE

In the loser's bracket, with Steve Carlton the pitcher, DEFENSE destroyed

a disappointing POWER team, 10-4, as Carlton Fisk had four RBI, and a surprising NO HOMERS club edged RUNNING, 4-3, behind Don Kessinger's three hits.

ROUND FOUR

Don Sutton was on the mound and saw a strong DEFENSE team clobber WALKS, 8-2, as Pete Rose had four hits and scored three runs, and NO HOMERS squeaked out a 1-0 victory over LOW AVERAGE in the most exciting game of the tourney. Kessinger led off the seventh inning for NO HOMERS by doubling. He moved to third on Luis Aparicio's ground out and tried to score on Ellie Rodriguez' squeeze bunt. The bunt missed, however, and Kessinger was faced with a 1-4 chance of stealing home. The split number drawn was a "3" and the game's only run scored.

ROUND FIVE

Again in the loser's bracket, with Ron Bryant hurling, surprising NO HOMERS team defeated DEFENSE, 1-0, with Kessinger again the hero by driving in two runs with a triple and scoring twice.

ROUND SIX

HIGH AVERAGE advanced to the championship round by defeating STRIKEOUTS, 4-3, as Carew banged out three hits, stole three bases and scored two runs. Bert Blyleven was the pitcher.

ROUND SEVEN

Wilbur Wood was the new hurler as NO HOMERS became the other championship round team by trimming STRIKEOUTS, 4-3.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

Tom Seaver faced the final two teams--NO HOMERS and HIGH AVERAGE--with NO HOMERS, a loser in the opening round, needing two wins to cop the championship. NO HOMERS won the first tilt, 5-1, as Mike Andrews highlighted a four-run, fifth inning explosion by tripling with the bases loaded.

So, the stage was set for a showdown. HIGH AVERAGE remained the favorite despite the earlier setback. This time the two teams battled through six innings without a score. Then in the seventh singles by Aparicio and Rodriguez and an error loaded the bases for NO HOMERS. Up stepped Mr. Andrews again, and this time he delivered a run-scoring single, sending Aparicio home, and knocking in what proved to be the winning tally in this final tense duel.

When the smoke had cleared, Don Kessinger was selected as the tournament's most valuable player after going 12-for-27, scoring seven runs, knocking in four and banging two doubles and triples. Nolan Ryan was an honorable mention in the MVP category after hurling a total of 76 innings, giving up only 58 hits, compiling an earned run average of 2.72 and, most amazing, striking out a whopping 95 batters--an average of 11% per nine innings.

Solitaire Method For 'Holding' Runners

Curt Doucette of Wayland, MA sends along this chart for solitaire baseball players who want to be able to hold runners on base. To use it, pick a split number when there's a runner on and if the number falls within the numbers on the chart the runner is being held.

Stealing Second			Stealing Third	
AA	-	1-15	1-11	There is a greater difference between "B" and "C" stealers because usually only "AA", "A", and "Bs" do the majority of the base-pilfering.
A	-	1-13	1-9	
B	-	1-11	1-7	
C	-	1-7	1-4	
D	-	1-5	1-3	
E	-	1-4	1-2	

Strat-O-Matic Spotlight

MOBILE MIDDLE LINEBACKER

Mike Applegate's popular AWA Football league, headquartered in Santa Clara, CA, has its '74 season well under way. Mike reports that the AWA's fourth season has proven very interesting thus far, with O.J. Simpson running wild just like in real-life. Through six games for Buffalo coach Steve Barrett, the Juice has accounted for 758 infantry yards in 129 carries.

Against St. Louis Simpson showed some fancy steppin', plus took advantage of some unbelievably lucky dice-rolling to gallop to a record-shattering 293 yards in 29 carries. Four times Barrett tossed snake eyes for Simpson, including the last play of the game when O.J. went 39 yards for a touchdown to give the Bills a 34-31 victory. "St. Louis coach John Koeplin stormed out of the apartment and wasn't seen for a week," reports Applegate. "John shouldn't have complained, though. Last year he was voted 'Luckiest Roller of the Year'".

The eight-team league has an innovation defensively that other S-O-M grid experts may want to try. The league gives the middle linebacker much wider range than provided in the S-O-M instructions. He can move into either flat pass zone vacated by an outside linebacker, who is either blitzing or double-teaming a receiver. Thus the middle linebacker can prevent a possible flat pass to that zone or pick up a receiver coming out the backfield as a defender.

Also, when the defense has called "pass", the MLB may drop into zone pass coverage by dropping back into the short pass zone. He doesn't cover a man in this instance, just clogs up the short passing lanes.

Now what's the major drawback to the use of a mobile middle linebacker? If the middle linebacker is off roaming, the look-in pass zone is wide open. So, like every good playing tip, this one has its good features and bad--depending on whether you're on offense or defense. It still sounds like a good one. Maybe you'll give it a try.

ANOTHER VOTE FOR 'BANJO HITTERS', GOOD FIELDERS

Mickey Wilson of Alstead, NH, is a believer in the theory that a "4-Fielding" lineup of .240 hitters could whip a lineup of "4-fielders" with .300 averages. He set up a seven-game series between two such teams and the better fielders emerged victorious, four games to three. Each game was close, however, except for the third game which the high-grade fielders won, 9-0.

The "4s" did make seven errors and give up five hits off the X-Chart, while the "1s" committed five boots--still a high number. The "1s" batted .238, compared to .281, but surprisingly the poorer hitters delivered 11 home runs compared to five. Roger Repoz stroked four of the homers for the "1s", while Jim Spencer had two and Dick McAuliffe ('70) a game-winning shot.

SHORT SHAKES

. . . The Cleveland Browns, '73 vintage, recently upset the world champion Miami Dolphins, 34-31, as Mike Phipps of the Browns completed 21 of 36 passes for 307 yards. Arthur Stacey, Winnipeg, Manitoba, was the game's only spectator--and also dice-roller. . . Another feat worth repeating from the gridiron scene involves Detroit's Altie Taylor ('71), who rushed for five touchdowns, caught a pass for another in a 49-45 losing effort against Oakland ('71). Mike Ewen was a witness to that high-scoring thriller. . . Two oddities occurred in S-O-M Baseball for Wayne Wheeler, Cardston, Alberta, not long ago. Danny Murpho of the 1911 A's stole home twice in one game, against the '22 Giants, with the A's winning in 14 innings, 5-4, and the '54 Indians and '06 Cubs battled 25 innings and over an hour before Cleveland won, 2-1, after a double by Al Rosen and singles by Al Smith and Larry Doby. . . Al Fabryio, Shirley, NY, proposes a fee be charged for every trade, or any kind of dealing, after the season begins. This would cut down on wholesale player bartering and also cause managers to think a little longer before making trades. His league (Eastern-Long Island-Sunday Nite Baseball Association) also has a "Farm system" in which the fee system is used.

Clearinghouse For P-B-M Leagues To Be Established

BY BILL HANSING
509 S. Ruston Ave.
Evansville, IN 47714

After talking things over with Rick Shapiro and Keith Walker at last summer's convention, Strat-O-Matic Associates has decided to go on with the Play-By-Mail Clearinghouse that you may or may not have heard about. Rick [Wolfman] Shapiro explained the idea behind the clearinghouse in the April '74 issue of the Review.

Basically, what the clearinghouse will try to accomplish is this: reduce the number of failing P-B-M leagues by attempting to form some sort of constancy between the league president and managers. We will hope to reach this constancy or stability between the two by assuring the manager or league in question of its validity.

CLEARINGHOUSE IS INFORMATION CENTER

The next question, obviously, is how will we do this? How will we assure a prospective play-by-mailer that the league he intends to join is sound? How do we assure the league president that he is "taking on" a solid, dependable manager? It is in answering these questions that we get at the crux of the matter.

The Clearinghouse will be a source upon which the prospective manager or league president can rely for information concerning mail leagues and its participants. Hopefully, it will answer those questions about a player's reliability as a manager or league president. We want to restore some sort of unity among the league and manager and keep things going smoothly instead of a state of confusion existing. Primarily, we want to see the time, effort and money spent on a well-run league with good dependable people, instead of all being wasted on a poorly-run, downtrodden league.

HOW IT WILL WORK

If you are interested in using the Clearinghouse, you must first help get it setup. If you are a league president or commissioner, we need at least three opinions on all the managers in past or present leagues you have been involved in. As a league prexy, you come in contact with all of the members, thus giving you a good basis upon which you could "rate" them. You can either pick two other reliable members in your league to also provide us with some insight, or instruct all of the league's members to rate each other (but not themselves, of course).

If you are not a league president, you can still rate the other managers, providing you also get three others in the league to do so as well. We will not accept a partial report and that means less than three "distinct" opinions. We want to avoid a biased report and, therefore, must require a minimum of three opinions, all mailed separately. Do not collaborate on these reports.

If you are a "rookie" in P-B-M, we will need three opinions outside of your own on your ability and sincerity as a manager.

One unreliable manager can ruin the good intentions of an entire league. A mediocre president, likewise, can ruin the good intentions of numerous good managers. Too many leagues have been ruined because of one of the above or a combination of both. How can you lie back and let it happen?

Month after month the Review has displayed how a good mail league can be a great opportunity for hundreds of people to meet each other and have a good friendship through Strat-O-Matic. Please help the Clearinghouse!

Send your reports to: Bill Hansing, 509 S. Ruston Ave., Evansville, IN 47714.

In case you were wondering, or have been receiving your Review late, every month the Review is mailed out on the 19th. Late arrivals are due to slow mail.

Readers Roll 'Em

'FOR SALE' ADS NO BARGAIN

During the past few months I have become extremely angered at and disappointed with some of the persons placing "For Sale" ads in the Review. It also upsets me to know that you would publish such ads. These particularly upsetting ads are those offering S-O-M teams for outrageous and ridiculous prices.

One such example in the Sept. issue offered the 1971 and 1972 baseball card sets for \$20 and \$15, respectively. Not only are these prices worse than inflation, but on page 23 of the Review it is stated that the game company has these card sets available for \$9.50 and \$9.75, respectively. With this in mind I consider the previously mentioned "For Sale" ad an insult to my intelligence and to the Review. I must ask why does the Review publish such a ridiculous ad like this?

To me this ad suggests that the author of it is more concerned about making a fast dollar than of promoting S-O-M and friendship through the game. As a partial remedy, I agree with Robert Henry that it would be better to "rent" teams, if return of the teams could be guaranteed.

Also, in regards to the "Garola Awards", I believe I have a team with more power than either the 1963 Twins or 1973 Braves. This is the 1964 Minnesota Twins. The Braves's top five hitters hit 161 homers, the top six hit 172 (no one else had more than 10). The Twins had Harmon Killebrew (49), Tony Oliva (32), Bob Allison (32), Jim Hall (25) and Don Mincher (23, in 287 at-bats). The top five also have 161 home runs. However, the Twins add Zoilo Versalles (20), Earl Battey (12) and Rich Rollins (12) for an eight-man total of 205--out of a team total of 224. So, I would say that for power for five to eight players, the '64 Twins are tops.

Keith Walker
905 E. Park #21
Carbondale, IL

Editor's note: The Review cannot pass judgment on the ads, as long as they deal with S-O-M products and no fraud is intended. True, some of the prices might be a "ripoff", but we cannot accept or reject ads on the basis of whether or not we feel they are "fair". You, the readers and buyers, will judge the ads--and that is by your response to them.

WHAT DOES S-O-M LOOK LIKE?

Ever since becoming a subscriber of the Review, I have looked forward to receiving my copy at the end of every month. I feel the Review has vastly improved since the early editions of the magazine. The printing is better and the colors are quite a change from the same white pages we used to see month after month.

Although there has been much improvement, I feel more is needed. I would like to know how the Review feels about my following ideas.

First of all, how many readers know what the S-O-M Game Company looks like? How big is the factory? Are tours available? Can S-O-M items be bought directly at the factory? Where exactly is the printing done? If we went to the company would we see giant cartons full of every S-O-M team ever printed? I have always wondered about these questions and I'm sure many others have, too. Why doesn't the Review do a complete article on the game company which includes pictures?

Another idea I have is for every willing S-O-M player, upon receiving their new cards, to play the World Series, Super Bowl and/or NBA championship game and send just the results of the series to the Review to be tabulated. Then the Review could pass on the nationwide results to its readers.

Mike Kaplan
964 E. 26th St.
Brooklyn, NY

Editor's note: The Review has had articles in the past dealing with the S-O-M game company, S-O-M creator Harold Richman and the company's employees (i.e., Oct. 1974 Review which included a story about the mother-son S-O-M team of Pauline and James Williams). More articles are definitely planned, however. Next month, for instance, there will be
(continued on next page)

a pictorial spread, and text, dealing with the game company. Readers will have the opportunity to see what all of S-O-M's employees look like, including Harold Richman. As far as visiting S-O-M and buying products, yes, you may do both weekdays. A guided tour, as such, is not available, but usually S-O-M employees will give you a look at the company as well as answer any questions you may have.

'GAME PLAN SHEETS' GREAT IDEA

Back in the May issue of the Review there was mention of "Game Plan Sheets," by P.J. White. I not only agree with this, but I find it to be a necessity!

I am probably speaking for many gamers who have a hard time getting opponents for face-to-face games and have a big problem with play-by-mail leagues, such as (1) getting money for the entry fee and stamps, (2) not being able to get in a league because it is filled up or it wants older gamers. I can understand this because I'm only 15 years old and have just a year of game experience. I've also messed up a nice basketball league and know what inconvenience is.

I also represent the "Lone Gamers" who want to play for realism, and need some sort of team guideline.

Phil Ledesma
12344 Felton Ave.
Hawthorne, CA

IT'S ALL IN YOUR IMAGINATION

I am writing to firmly agree with Tony Violanti and his article in the August Review about imagination. Many a time I could see Bob Griese calling signals while bent over the center and Dick Butkus looking Griese in the eye and tersely yelling his audibles.

Or the tension in Madison Square Garden as Walt Frazier waits at the line for an important free throw. Or, perhaps, the look in Bobby Grich's eyes as he watches a ball before turning it into a double play, or the disappointment in the Baltimore dugout when he commits a rare error, losing the game.

Thank you, Harold Richman, for a game that is so realistic it always brings out the best in my imagination.

Jim Craig
221 Pomona Ave.
El Cerrito, CA

AUTOGRAPH GAME

At a Philadelphia-San Francisco baseball game this summer I got the autographs of John D'Aquasto, Ron Bryant, Tom Bradley and Tito Fuentes on the cover of an issue of the Review. Tito Fuentes had never heard of the game, but he was very interested, asking four or five questions about it.

I would like to see more coverage on the GKSML (Greater-Kalamazoo Strat-O-Matic League). I consider this the greatest of all S-O-M face-to-face leagues. But the no-hitter column is boring. A few accounts of no-hit gems are okay, but keep it limited.

I have been a subscriber since the start and have seen your magazine increase in quantity and quality. Thanks for a great mag.

Larry Fryer
709 N. 4th St.
Hamburg, PA

WANTS CFL TEAMS

I do not agree with the Review on whether or not Strat-O-Matic should start research on the Canadian Football League. You state that there would not be enough interest in the CFL game. I totally disagree. If S-O-M can afford to start research on the college game, surely it could on the CFL. The college game isn't even a professional league. There would naturally be more interest in the CFL than college football in the states.

Another reason I feel S-O-M should start research on the CFL, is that many people have written to the Review, but the Review always says there wouldn't be enough interest. If so many people write in about the CFL, it proves that there is interest.

Doug Cochrane
685 Oshawa Blvd.
Oshawa, Ontario, Canada

Editor's note: We still maintain the market would be limited for CFL teams. There would be very little interest in the U.S. We would rather see S-O-M develop a hockey game--something that would have a large appeal in both the U.S. and Canada--than take the time

research CFL teams (which, because of different rules of play, would necessitate major revisions in S-O-M Football as it is now played).

VARIATION IN CARDS

I am writing to express my agreement with Russ Miller in his letter in the August Review. I think that there is room for some variation in the cards; but I would like to point out that uniformity helps to speed up the playing time of the baseball game. I would certainly like to see triple splits or home runs on 3-10, but I have found that knowing there isn't going to be a certain type of hit on any specific number helps to play games faster and without more than a glance at the cards.

I would also like to comment on your reply to Wayne Schriner's letter (July). Speaking in regard to reprinting old baseball sets, you said "how many would care to attempt a full-season replay?" Not too many gamers do attempt full replays anyway. If not involved in a PBM league, most only play 40 to 80-game schedules. Furthermore, you asked, why didn't these people become interested in S-O-M earlier so they could purchase these sets when they were originally printed? Well, I apologize for not being born soon enough to purchase these sets.

You also say, in support to many letters, that those who have already spent large sums to buy original sets would be upset. Well, I have bought five old sets and I wouldn't be in the least upset if they were reprinted. And as to the cost of computing the cards, why not just copy from the originals?

But, please don't get me wrong. You have a great magazine and S-O-M is a great game. I have enjoyed it for five years and I intend to enjoy it for many more years. I also want to thank you for the great innovations you have brought to me through the years and say--keep it up!

Douglas Smith
4 Kings Court
Parsippany, NJ

A LOOK AT BASEBALL CARDS

I would like to address this letter to two aspects of S-O-M Baseball I believe have not received enough attention. The first is the vast improvement of the blue side of the cards. Unlike the old shake, the new shade of blue ink is very easy to read and is not a strain on your eyes. I hope the Game Company continues to use this new shade.

Secondly, the same old patterns that the Game Co. uses for batters and pitchers is, at this moment, far and away the game's largest flaw. The patterns of two batting cards often prevent an S-O-M manager from putting them back to back in a lineup. This is an aspect of the game that clearly should not be.

Can you imagine Bill Virdon not putting Bobby Murcer and Ron Blomberg behind each other simply because they both have "2" columns? I for one believe the Game Co. should randomly select the numbers on which a batter's hit and walk chances will fall. Anybody who takes this lightly does not fully understand the seriousness of the problem.

Gene Milener

PRAISES S-O-M BASEBALL

I enjoy the Review very much, but I am among those who could do without the No-Hitter column. I would, however, like to see more GKSML news.

I play all three S-O-M games and find that I spend \$15 on one of them and that it provides me with more entertainment than watching two or three live games at the stadium. Also, S-O-M games will retain your interest much longer than other tabletop games, most of which have limited possibilities.

I enjoy the baseball game the most, however. I do have one suggestion--that the Sacrifice chart should be revised. In real-life baseball, many times a player sent to sacrifice will foul off pitches and get a two-strike count, forcing him to either abandon the sacrifice or chance a strikeout. This point may seem picky, but hitters have been known to hit homers with two strikes on them. It's impossible to chart each batter pitch-by-pitch, but let's see what S-O-M's finest could do to improve the Sacrifice chart.

Glenn Justice
462 Torito
Diamond Bar, CA

DON'T STAND STILL

I disagree with the recent letter that suggested S-O-M should stand still. Certainly we all would not wish to sacrifice quality of the present products for new games. Baseball is still No. 1 with me and always will be.

However, I am looking forward to the new hockey game and the college football game. I do hope the latter will be by conference, though. I'd like to play the PAC-8; USC vs. Stanford, Washington vs. Oregon, etc.

There is one other product I would like S-O-M to produce: an all-star Black team made up of players from the old Negro League. Cool Papa Bell, Page and others would make up a tough to beat team. I realize statistics would be tough to obtain, but it would be an interesting product. It would be interesting to match these stars with the NL and AL stars of the same era. What do you think about this idea?

R.G. Palmer
302-1835 Piercy St.
Courtenay, B.C.

LEAGUE'S DEMISE

I would like to report a league that folded: "The East Coast Invitational Strat-O-Matic League." The reason the league folded was the president, who never put out a newsletter after play started.

He never even had the courtesy to send me the results of our series, played by him, which was the second series of the schedule. He should be blackballed from ever starting another league. I have written him several times, but I get no reply.

Gerald B. Ittenbach
Box 280 Route 1
Linden, NC 28356

MORE OLD-TIMERS NEEDED

I feel that S-O-M has missed the boat on certain Old-Timer teams that should have been made available and weren't, possibly because they didn't win a pennant or various other reasons.

These are the teams I feel should

be made available if the game company decides to issue any more Old-Timer teams: 1956 Cincinnati Reds, 1962 Los Angeles Dodgers, 1933 New York Giants, 1920 Brooklyn Dodgers, 1926 St. Louis Cardinals and 1921 New York Yankees.

Just because a team doesn't win a pennant, doesn't necessarily mean it is inferior to other pennant winners. The 1956 Reds' statistics (home runs-earned run averages) compare very favorably to many great Old-Timer teams, even though they finished third in the N.L. that year.

I feel by playing Old-Timer teams a person acquires an excellent understanding of baseball history by bringing out many great players' strong points and weak points. I strongly hope the game company plans to issue more Old-Timer teams in the future.

John Fitzpatrick
15 Steiner Ave.
Neptune City, NJ

CONCERN FOR ACCURACY

I would like to second Stephen Schumacher's concern for accuracy in S-O-M Review articles. The fastest way to lose readers and S-O-M fans would be to print erroneous or misleading articles--no matter whether these are written by the Review or by readers.

The most recent article along this line was presented as the first question in the QSA section of the September edition. The Review answer stated that starting pitchers cannot tire until the inning after their endurance factor. Either this is (1) a blatant error or (2) a major change in rules that should have received more coverage. The rules plainly read "A pitcher's point of weakness may only occur in his endurance factor inning or any following inning."

The S-O-M Review staff should remember that much of the popularity of the S-O-M game is due to the successfulness of the Review. Let's keep both up to par.

Eric Johns
140 East Essex Lane
Fort Wayne, IN

Editor's note: Because of Mr. Johns' letter, the question was raised again with the game company [see Questions & Answers this month]. The same answer was repeated. We were surprised the first time the answer was given, but it's obviously so--according to the game co.

Questions & Answers

Editor's note: The Question & Answer section, as you may notice, is larger than usual this month. The main reason for this is that the Review has attempted to dig out many answers and verify them with the Strat-O-Matic Game Co. Many of these answers are to questions that have popped up in past issues of the Review--and some have caused misunderstanding among readers. All questions are answered by the Game Company, incidentally, but some take longer to answer because they involve delving back into old card sets, or statistics. Again the Review wishes to point out, however, that questions regarding individual and team ratings will not be answered unless a mistake has been made on the card. Many questions come into the Review asking why a certain rating. The game company, if it gave out reasons for such ratings, in many instances would have to disclose its entire card-making formula. This, in turn, would jeopardize the future of the game company. So, if your question regarding a rating doesn't appear within three months after being sent to the Review, you may assume the rating is correct.

QUESTION: When is a point of weakness reached for a starting pitcher in S-O-M Baseball?

ANSWER: This is a very troublesome question--one that has confused many readers and the Review staff. The answer given in the Sept. Review was correct, however, despite some disbelief by readers. A starting pitcher's point of weakness may occur only in the inning after that listed on the card. For example, a pitcher with a [6]* on his card may reach his point of weakness in the seventh inning at the earliest, not the sixth inning. The GKSM and many other gamesters have played that the inning listed and the point-of-weakness inning are the same. Not so. The instructions for S-O-M Baseball are hazy on this point, which has added to the confusion. The example is for a [6]* point of weakness pitcher, and mentions that a combination of three hits/walks in the seventh inning brings about a point of weakness. It also says a point of weakness cannot be reached in the fifth inning. But it doesn't mention the sixth inning specifically--the inning listed at the top of the player's card. Remember, it's the INNING AFTER THE LISTED INNING THAT A POINT OF WEAKNESS MAY GO INTO EFFECT.

QUESTION: In S-O-M Football can you move your starting defensive backs around to strengthen your defense against a particular receiver?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: Steve Ramsey of the 1973 Denver Broncos has a guessed right on No. 3 for short and long pass that reads "must run". But on his running card it says will not occur. What should it be?

ANSWER: Substitute "Pass Rush" for "Must Run".

QUESTION: Tom Sullivan of the 1972 Eagles has an 18-yard gain on his pass receiving card, but his longest was only seven yards with no asterisk. If you get on a defensive card does he go only seven yards or could he go 18?

ANSWER: He may go 18 yards.

QUESTION: On Tom Sullivan's 1972 Eagles rushing card he can go as much as eight
[continued on following page]

yards [off-tackle], yet his longest was only five yards. How far is he allowed to go?

ANSWER: Eight yards.

QUESTION: On Mike Livingston's card (based on '73 season) the Kansas City quarterback has a reading of "Int. +16" on a short pass guessed right for a roll of "11". Should there be anything else with that reading (such as a "2-8, 9-12 X")?

ANSWER: The reading is correct.

QUESTION: Is Don Horn's 1973 card right? He has "must run" but no yardage in column. What should be there?

ANSWER: Substitute "Pass Rush" for "Must Run".

QUESTION: Kent Kramer of the 1973 Eagles has yards gained on his pass receiving card, but no record. Why is that?

ANSWER: Kramer was given a card only because the Eagles were short of receivers. The gains listed were off his previous years' performance.

QUESTION: Please clarify what happens when it is a groundball "8" with runners on first and second?

ANSWER: Another troublesome question that has nagged many gamesters. The runner on first is out, the runner on second goes to third and the batter is safe at first. The defense tried for a double play, got the runner going to second but was late on the relay to first.

QUESTION: Can you sacrifice a runner who is on first to second, even if you have a runner on third base?

ANSWER: Yes, but specify that the runner on third base holds.

QUESTION: I received the Old-Timer baseball cards and noticed no running rating for Willie Mays' 1962 card. What should it be?

ANSWER: Running should be 1-17.

QUESTION: How come American League pitchers can be injured nine times as much as National League pitchers? With the new cards this is the case. In the N.L. a pitcher can only be injured when he's at bat, but in the A.L. he can be injured anytime a "6-12" is rolled when the other team is batting.

ANSWER: The injury may occur only when a "6-12" is rolled with the designated hitter (DH) at bat. Then the pitcher is injured.

QUESTION: Shouldn't Balor Moore and Jim Kaat be allowed to start one of every four games? Moore had 32 starts and Kaat 36 in 1973.

ANSWER: Kaat may start every fourth game, but Moore may not.

QUESTION: Of National League pitchers who have worked at least 1,500 innings in their careers, Phil Niekro and Bob Gibson hold the lifetime records [continued on following page]

for fewest sacrifice flies allowed and most sacrifice flies allowed, respectively [29 and 83]. Why is there no evidence of this on their cards? I refer specifically to Niekro's 1973 card, elementary side, which has several flyball "B's" on it.

ANSWER: Sacrifice flies are not computed into pitchers' cards.

QUESTION: Situation: runner on first, one out, batter hits a single to left field, runner tries to go to third base and makes it. Does the batter go to second on the throw?

ANSWER: This question was raised in the Sept. Review. And the Review goofed on the answer. Yes, the batter would take an extra base on a throw attempting to cut another runner down. Whether the runner makes the advance base safely or not, the batter still takes the extra base. The Review regrets the error in the Sept. issue.

QUESTION: Does a runner on second base advance on a groundball "out-3"?

ANSWER: Another sometimes troublesome question. In this situation, according to the game company, the runner would hold second base. If there is a double play, however (runners on first and second and then groundball "out-3"), then the runner on second would move over to third. Some leagues have played that if the ball is hit to the right side of the infield (first or second base), then the runner on second would go to third. The game company instructions do not provide for this, however.

QUESTION: Can a batter advance an extra base beyond the hit stated if the hit is followed by an asterisk? Not followed by an asterisk?

ANSWER: Under neither circumstance may a batter take an extra base off a hit.

QUESTION: Situation: runner on third base, less than two outs and groundball "out-3" is result. Would runner score if infield was back?

ANSWER: Game company says since no runners were forced, runner on third would hold. Only if there was a double play would runner on third score.

QUESTION: What is result with runners on first and third, no outs, and a groundball "B" is rolled?

ANSWER: If infield was back, trying for double play, runner on first would be out at second, runner on third would score and batter would be safe on fielder's choice play. In infield was in, however, runner on third would be cut down at plate, runner on first moves to second and batter is safe at first on fielder's choice play.

QUESTION: What are Allen Lewis' running and stealing ratings for the '73 A's?

ANSWER: Running 1-17; stealing A.

QUESTION: How are intentional walks figured into pitcher's cards?

ANSWER: Intentional walks are not figured into S-O-M pitcher cards. Even though the total walks issued is listed on the card, the actual card does not include such free passes. Intentional walks are actually deducted from the total walks issued and then the actual walks are computed onto the S-O-M cards. Example: pitcher walks 100, 20 intentionally; 80 walks are computed on card.

Evaluating The Old-Timer Teams

World Series rivals, the 1967 St. Louis Cardinals and Boston Red Sox (remember Dick Williams' first pennant-winning team?) are the featured teams in this month's Old-Timer baseball analysis presented by Mike Gilbert.

St. Louis finally won the Series--but it wasn't easy, as the Red Sox, big underdogs, prolonged it to a full seven games.

The Old-Timer series, incidentally, is on its final lap with only the '62 Giants and '60 Pittsburgh Pirates to go next month before the six newest Old-Timer teams (pre-1920) are looked at.

Remember when looking at the ratings listed below, they are taken as an average on a straight curve from all the Old-Timer teams. The teams are thus judged and evaluated against each other, rather than the league as a whole at their time. Exceptions to this average rating are for pitchers (both starters and relievers) and bench, both of which Mike has based on his own opinion. The rating scale used is as follows: 1--Poor; 2--Fair; 3--Good; 4--Excellent. Note also that the first column in each category refers to team average and the second (in parentheses) to individual average.

1967 St. Louis Cardinals

Average	-	2.7	[.283]	Lineup to think about:	
Stealing	-	2.9	[0+ .38]	1. Brock	LF-2
Running	-	4.1	[1-14.4]	2. Javier	2B-2
Power	-	2.8	[12.6 HR]	3. Flood	CF-1
Fielding	-	2.9	[2.1]	4. Cepeda	1B-2
Starters	-	3.8	--	5. Maris	RF-2
Relief	-	3.7	--	6. McCarver	C-2
Bench	-	2.6	--	7. Shannon	3B-4
Totals	-	25.5		8. Maxvill	SS-2

Comments: This lineup has good potential. If Lou Brock and Julian Javier get on base, there should be little trouble scoring. Steal, run and hit-and-run with Brock and Javier. Steal occasionally with Orlando Cepeda and Tim McCarver. If Roger Maris doesn't hit, replace him. The solid pitching staff features Bob Gibson, Dick Hughes, Steve Carlton, Larry Jaster and Ray Washburn as starters and Nelson Briles, Ron Willis and Joe Hoerner in relief. There are no losers on this staff.

1967 Boston Red Sox

Average	-	1.4	[.267]	Lineup to think about:	
Stealing	-	3.7	[0+ .75]	1. Andrews	2B-3
Running	-	2.7	[1-13.2]	2. Smith	CF-2
Power	-	3.9	[17.6 HR]	3. Scott	1B-1
Fielding	-	2.9	[2.1]	4. Yastrzemski	LF-1
Starters	-	2.8	--	5. Conigliaro	RF-2
Relief	-	3.7	--	6. Foy	3B-4
Bench	-	2.6	--	7. Petrocelli	SS-2
Totals	-	23.7		8. Ryan	C-2

Comments: The trouble with the Red Sox lineup is that the hitting ability lies in just three men. Run with Mike Andrews, Reggie Smith and Joe Foy. The pitching is not bad, but again most of the talent lies in the hands of a few. Relieve freely.

Review Staff

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St. Louis Surprises In East
Reds Win '73 N.L. Replay

Cincinnati and Los Angeles again danced a two-team tango in the National League West in a full-season 162-game replay conducted by high school juniors, Dave Marks of Sacramento and Dean Dieble of Carmichael, CA. The prep tandem replayed both divisions, based on the 1973 season, and found the Reds edging the Dodgers in the West by a game and the St. Louis Cards overtaking the New York Mets (real-life champ) and slumping Pittsburgh in the East.

The West was just as exciting as in real-life, with the Dodgers taking an early lead, the surprising San Francisco Giants leading for three weeks, and then the Reds taking over. Cincy beat 20-game winner Ron Bryant of the Giants on the final day of the season to clinch the flag.

Over in the East, Pittsburgh looked as if it would run away from the pack early. The Buc pitching fell apart the last month, however, and St. Louis pulled away at the end.

In the playoffs, Cincinnati swept all three games from the Cards, but it wasn't easy. Cincy won the opener, 2-1, with Pete Rose singling in the winning run in the 10th inning; won the second, 3-2, when pinch-hitter knocked in the deciding tally in the 9th; then outclubbed the Cards, 12-7, although the finale went 11 innings. Joe Morgan hit a grand-slam homer for the Reds. The Cards had sent the game into extra innings with a six-run ninth inning uprising.

Special awards given out and recipients were: MVP -- Willie Stargell (50 home runs, 53 doubles, 128 RBI, .316 average); Cy Young Award -- Don Sutton (26-3 record, 1.50 ERA); Rookie of Year -- Richie Zisk (.324); Fireman of Year -- Mike Marshall (18 wins, 27 saves).

Some unusual happenings as the season, which took 200 days to complete, unfolded included: [1] Bobby Bonds hitting four home runs in one game against Atlanta; [2] Rick Reuschel of the Cubs threw the only no-hitter, a 1-0 victory over Atlanta, striking out five and walking two; [3] Houston lost 10 in a row and 14 of 15 during one stretch, while Cincy and San Francisco each had eight-game win skeins; [4] Jack Billingham won 10 games in a row before losing to San Diego, 2-1, while Mike Torrez lost his first 13 decisions; [5] Dave Kingman hammered four roundtrippers and had 10 RBI as the Giants buried the Dodgers, 18-5; [6] Western division won the all-star game, 3-0, with Sutton the winning pitcher.

Standings and leaders:

West	Won	Lost	GB	East	Won	Lost	GB
Cincinnati	94	68	--	St. Louis	88	74	--
Los Angeles	93	69	1	New York	84	78	4
S. Francisco	88	74	6	Pittsburgh	81	81	3
Atlanta	78	84	16	Montreal	78	84	10
Houston	75	87	19	Philadelphia	77	85	11
San Diego	67	95	27	Chicago	69	93	19

Batting

Rose, CIN	.348	Home Runs
Simmons, SL	.339	Bonds, SF
Grubb, SD	.336	Stargell, PITT
Garr, ATL	.333	Aaron, ATL
Garvey, LA	.327	Evans, ATL
Zisk, PITT	.324	Luzinski, PHI
Watson, HOU	.322	Ferguson, LA
Goodson, SF	.321	Johnson, ATL
Hunt, MON	.316	Monday, CHI
Stargell, PITT	.316	Roberts, SD

RBI

Aaron, ATL	130
Stargell, PITT	128
Perez, CIN	123
Bonds, SF	117
Roberts, SD	114
Ferguson, LA	112
Luzinski, PHI	110
Watson, HOU	108
Evans, ATL	106

Doubles

Stargell, PITT	53	Metzger, HOU	20
Hebner, PITT	46	Davis, LA	14
B.Robinson, PHI	42	Zisk, PITT	13
Staub, NY	42	Brock, SL	12

Wins

Sutton, LA	26
Billingham, CIN	24
Bryant, SF, Cleveland, SL,	
Gibson, SL, all	21

Winning Pct.			ERA		Saves	
Sutton, LA	26-3	.897	Sutton, LA	1.53	Marshall, MON	27
Billingham, CIN	24-7	.774	Rogers, MON	1.97	Segui, SL	19
Marshall, MON	18-6	.750	Marshall, MON	2.20	McGraw, NY	18
Bryant, SF	21-8	.725	Seaver, NY	2.28	Moffitt, SF	17
Rogers, MON	13-5	.722	Billingham, CIN	2.43	Guisti, PITT	17
Cleveland, SL	21-10	.677	Wilson, HOU	2.47		
Gibson, SL	21-12	.630	Gullett, CIN	2.72		
Wilson, HOU	20-12	.625	Bonham, CHI	2.72		
Brett, PHI	16-10	.615	Messersmith, LA	2.95		
Renko, MON	19-12	.614	Hooten, CHI	3.04		
Marichal, SF	14-9	.609				

'72 N.L. Replay On Target With Real-Life

While a replay of the '73 season had one major change at the top--St. Louis instead of the New York Mets--a replay of '72's National League campaign found very little if any variation from real-life results. The replay was conducted by Turk Brown of Weehawken, N.J. and Jack Meister of Leonia, N.J., both ten-year vets of Strat-O-Matic games and both of whom attended S-O-M Conventions in Kalamazoo and Brooklyn.

Pittsburgh, with a two-game bulge over Chicago, won the East and Cincinnati had a whopping 15%-game margin over Houston in the West. Midway in the first half of the season, the Reds reeled off 12 wins in a row and the pennant race was all but over. Not so in the East as the Cubs grabbed the early lead and, with 20 games left still remained on top. Then the Pirates surged and the Cubs sank.

Most of the team records were amazingly close to real-life, with Houston finishing exactly even and seven other teams four games or less off their '72 pace. Biggest difference was San Francisco, which won 10 more games than in real-life. No playoff was held to determine the overall N.L. champ.

There were many memorable moments, however, including four no-hitters: two by Don Sutton of the Dodgers and one apiece by Tom Hall of the Reds and Chicago's Milt Pappas. In another game, the Reds pounded out 24 hits and smothered the Phils, 23-0. Biggest turnabout was the Reds' 12-game win streak being halted by Sutton's no-hitter.

Final standings and individual stats:

East	Won	Lost	GB	AVG	ERA	West	Won	Lost	GB	AVG	ERA
Pittsburgh	90	65	--	.273	2.91	Cincinnati	100	54	--	.256	2.92
Chicago	88	67	2	.250	2.89	Houston	84	69	15%	.255	3.34
New York	76	80	14%	.227	3.15	Los Angeles	82	73	18%	.268	2.95
St. Louis	74	82	16%	.269	3.46	San Francisco	79	76	21%	.236	3.18
Montreal	72	84	18%	.254	3.35	Atlanta	72	82	28	.250	4.12
Philadelphia	58	98	32%	.231	4.16	San Diego	54	99	45%	.233	3.77

Batting			Dept. Leaders			ERA		
M.Alou, SL	.361		Games - Simmons, SL	155		Sutton, LA	1.59	[20-12]
Simmons, SL	.351		AB - Brock, SL	672		Ellis, PITT	2.04	[7-8]
Watson, HOU	.344		Runs - Morgan, CIN	121		Spinks, SL	2.04	[11-6]
Garr, ATL	.331		Hits - Simmons, SL	214		Hands, CHI	2.16	[12-8]
Oliver, PITT	.329		2B - Simmons, SL	45		Morton, MON	2.23	[15-8]
Morgan, CIN	.319		3B - Rose, CIN	17		Carlton, PHI	2.25	[19-19]
Baker, ATL	.317		HR - Bench, CIN	54		Moose, PITT	2.53	[16-8]
Davis, LA	.314		RBI - Bench, CIN	140		Pappas, CHI	2.56	[16-5]
Fairly, MON	.314		SB - Brock, SL	59		Niekro, ATL	2.59	[18-14]
Stargell, PITT	.313		Games - Marshall, MON	77		Billingham, CIN	2.64	[18-5]
Williams, CHI	.313		GS - Carlton, SL	43		Matlack, NY	2.65	[14-15]

[continued on following page]

Brock, SL	.308	CG - Carlton, PHI	31	Stoneman, MON	2.70 [16-12]
Torre, SL	.306	SA - Carroll, CIN	28	Gibson, SL	2.72 [18-15]
Singleton, MON	.305	SH - Carlton, PHI	10	Seaver, NY	2.75 [15-13]
Tolan, CIN	.301	SO - Carlton, PHI	354	Jenkins, CHI	2.81 [22-15]

New Approach For Determining Endurance

Brian McCusker of Saskatoon, Sask. Canada, thinks he has a better idea as far as when a pitcher's endurance factor has been reached.

His playing tip is to set a certain number of batters a pitcher may face before the endurance factor goes into effect, or the point of weakness.

"My rule prevents starters from being able to pitch far more than nine inning without tiring, and also prevents short relievers from being used in long relief roles," points out McCusker. "And, if a starter is getting hit hard and facing a lot of batters in the early innings, then it will have an effect when he tires later in the game."

Here is the chart:

		ENDURANCE	# OF BATTERS	
Starters --	(5)	.....	30	
	(6)	.....	33	For example, once a
	(7)	.....	36	pitcher with an endur-
	(8)	.....	39	ance number of (6) has
	(9)	.....	42	faced 33 batters, then
Relievers --	(2)	.....	10	his point of weakness
	(3)	.....	14	occurs with the next
	(4)	.....	18	batter.
	(5)	.....	22	

What's Available At S-O-M?

FOOTBALL

- 1972 - All teams available. Cost: \$10.50 for entire set; 75¢ per team.
- 1971 - All teams available. Cost: \$10.50 for entire set; 75¢ per team.
- 1970 - Teams available include: Atlanta, Chicago, Green Bay, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Boston, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Houston, N.Y. Jets, Pittsburgh, San Diego. Cost: \$7.00 for entire set of teams available; 75¢ per team.
- 1969 - Only teams left are Buffalo, Cincinnati, Denver, Houston, Miami, San Diego. Cost: \$3.75 for entire set available; 75¢ per team.
- 1968 - Atlanta and New Orleans only teams available. Cost: \$1.25 for both.

BASEBALL

- 1972 - All teams available except for N.Y. Yankees. Cost: \$9.00 for entire set available; 60¢ per team. 1972 96 additional players are no longer available.
- 1971 - All teams available except San Francisco Giants, Oakland and Boston. Cost: \$8.50 for entire set; 55¢ per team.

All orders should be placed with the Strat-O-Matic Game Co., Inc., 82A South Bayles Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050. Include a 25¢ handling charge. Also, because many of the teams are in extremely short supply, a second choice should be listed when ordering. Do not send orders to the Strat-O-Matic Review, only the game company.

Honolulu League Completes Season, Aloaha

Whether it's the "best in the West" is debatable, but Clyde Matsusaka's Greater Honolulu Strat-O-Matic Association is growing in stature every year. Recently the league completed its third football season--its best yet, according to Clyde--and is eagerly awaiting the opening kickoff on a new, 10-team season.

Matsusaka, president of the GHSOMFA, and the league members put together an impressive yearbook, complete with pictures of NFL stars, league history, summary of '72 season and an individual team summary and scores section.

In addition to Matsusaka, who coached the Miami Dolphins, league members and teams were: Kit Man Lee [Oakland], Clyde's brother Brian Matsusaka [Pittsburgh], Dan Fong [Washington], David Fong [Green Bay] and David Uyechi [San Francisco]. The league was further broken down into two divisions, the Union and Confederate, with Miami winning the Confederate with a 12-1-1 record and Pittsburgh the Union, 8-5-1.

The Super Bowl clash was a classic in S-O-M history as Miami jumped off quickly, grabbing a 19-7 lead, later appeared doomed and finally, on the last play of the game, snatched back the victory when Garo Yepremian booted a 17-yard field goal as the final seconds ticked away. Pittsburgh struck first when Terry Bradshaw hit Frank Lewis with a 50-yard TD "bomb". Then Miami went to work, relentlessly working on the Steeler defense for a pair of Yepremian field goals, a one-yard run by Jim Kiick and an 11-yard pass hookup from Earl Morrall to Kiick. Yepremian missed one of the extra points so the score stood 19-7 at halftime.

It was Pittsburgh's turn in the third quarter as John Fuqua tallied on a 11-yard run and shortly Franco Harris burst into the end zone from 12 yards out. Yepremian did connect on a 50-yard field goal [from the 43], so the score was Miami 22, Steelers 21 after three periods. Pittsburgh got the first points of the final quarter, with Roy Gerela's field goal boosting it into a 24-22 lead with the quarter half over.

Miami looked like it would roar right back to again take the lead--only this time Morrall was intercepted deep in Steeler land, and with only four minutes left. Pittsburgh started driving but Harris had a costly case of the bobbles at Miami's 30 and the Steelers relinquished the football. So, with Bob Griese directing the Dolphins on their final drive, they marched all the way to the 10, where Yepremian's boot ended the thriller.

Mercury Morris was Miami's leading rusher with 56 yards in 16 carries, with Larry Csonka adding 29 in 11. Harris had 76 in 18 cracks for Pittsburgh, with Fuqua totaling 57 in 13 carries. Morrall hit on nine of 17 passes (one interception) for 96 yards and Bradshaw was 10 of 24 (one theft) for 184. Paul Warfield was the game's top receiver, with the Dolphin swifty nabbing five tosses for 79 yards.

Standings and leaders: (based on 1972 real-life season)

Confederate	Won	Lost	T	PF	PA	Union	Won	Lost	T	PF	PA
Miami	12	1	1	364	180	Pittsburgh	8	5	1	318	272
Green Bay	6	8	0	253	288	Oakland	6	7	1	338	295
San Francisco	5	8	1	277	392	Washington	2	10	2	227	341

Rushing	Att	Yds.	Avg	TD	Passing	PA	PC	Yds.	TD
Brown, WA	295	1053	3.6	8	Bradshaw, PIT	302	122	2251	15
Hubbard, OAK	242	1033	4.3	2	Lamonica, OAK	293	135	2191	22
Morris, MIA	206	978	4.8	10	Spurrier, SF	286	171	17331	9
Harris, PIT	209	954	4.5	8	Kilmer, WA	250	112	1644	10
Brookington, GB	271	950	3.5	3	Morrall, MIA	166	88	1290	8

Receiving	PC	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Biletnikoff, OK	64	1059	16.9	12
Washington, SF	54	1065	19.9	2
V.Washington, SF	51	285	5.6	4
Kwalick, SF	49	678	13.9	3
Shanklin, PIT	42	1117	26.2	11
Jefferson, WA	42	705	16.7	5

Editor's note: Matsusaka also mentions that Terry Bradshaw was selected as Player of Year. Also, another league is being formed in Hawaii this fall and Clyde is hoping the winners from each can meet in a battle for island supremacy

Allan Ropchan: S-O-M Football's Man-In-Motion

Allan Ropchan is the Canadian Strat-O-Matic Football League's perpetual man-in-motion--so much so that he has to be careful not to run into himself coming from the other direction.

As founder, with Bernie Taschuk, of probably the largest (26 members) face-to-face S-O-M Football league, Allan has become, over the past four years, a jack-of-all-trades and a master of each in his role as commissioner of the Edmonton, Alberta, Canada-based league.

It's his job, for instance, to train "rookie" coaches, plan and conduct meetings, keep members informed of league happenings via the telephone as well through a publication entitled the "Red Dog Review", plus map strategy for his beloved Kansas City Chiefs, a team he has guided to two Super Bowl appearances (1970 and '72), one Super Bowl triumph ('70) and an overall record of 45-25-2. Even now, with the Chiefs no longer on the grid-iron warpath like the recent glory days, Ropchan is unwavering his support and just as eager.

In addition, Allan has won three division titles, two conference titles and was the first to be inducted into the Canadian League's "Hall of Fame."

He's not just a "professional" S-O-M gamester, though. His professional career is as an entertainer, under the name of Allan Lee, and he's well known to the better dining rooms and lounges in the Edmonton-Calgary area. For years he was a rock band leader, but now he's performing as a soloist.

He owns his own home, has two terriers, one cat and is an avid cyclist (10-speed). And, in addition to everything else he does, every year he replays each season solitaire ["just for the sake of interest"].

With a man-in-motion such as Allan Ropchan it's not hard to see why the Canadian Strat-O-Matic Football League has been such a booming success. The league itself has been featured in the Review before--you will remember all the teams play a full schedule (some of the members have even commuted over 100 miles every week to participate), that its governing body consists of a commissioner, secretary-treasurer, division representatives, statman, rules committee, social committee and a headquarters in Edmonton, Canada, all members are adults, and that realistic concepts are adhered to in playing, plus there are playoffs, bowl games, all-star games, trophies and limited trading.

Also, the annual post-season banquet is always a smashing success--with all the coaches, wives, girlfriends, etc. gathering for a catered meal, imbibious fun, dancing, speeches and the presentation of awards.



Taschuk won the "Hard Luck Award" after his Dallas Cowboys finished runnerup to the Pittsburgh Steelers (guided by Howie Riddel), 23-17, in the Super Bowl. A big 73-yard interception return by Mel Blount, a 44-yard aerial hookup between Terry Bradshaw and Ron Shanklin and three Roy Gerela field goals did Dallas in.

Here are the league's final 1973 standings: (based on 1972 season)

<u>AFC West</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>AFC Central</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>AFC East</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
Oakland	11-3-0	Pittsburgh	12-2-0	Miami	12-2-0
Kansas City	9-5-0	Cleveland	8-6-0	Baltimore	9-5-0
San Diego	5-9-0	Cincinnati	7-7-0	New England	3-10-1
Denver	4-10-0	Houston	2-12-0	Buffalo	3-11-0
				N.Y. Jets	3-11-0
<u>NFC West</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>NFC Central</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	<u>NFC East</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
Los Angeles	8-6-0	Minnesota	8-6-0	Dallas	12-2-0
S. Francisco	8-6-0	Green Bay	8-6-0	Washington	10-4-0
Atlanta	7-6-1	Chicago	4-10-0	N.Y. Giants	7-7-0
New Orleans	4-9-1	Detroit	2-12-0	St. Louis	3-11-0
				Philadelphia	2-12-0

Playoffs:

Miami d. Oakland	Washington d. Los Angeles
Pittsburgh d. Baltimore	Dallas d. Minnesota
Pittsburgh d. Miami	Dallas d. Washington

Advertisements

Rates per issue will be as follows: First 30 words--50¢; 31-50 words--70¢; 51-70 words--\$1.00; 71-100 words--\$1.50; 101-120 words--\$1.80; 121-150 words--\$2.00; 151-175 words--\$2.50; 176-200 words--\$3.00. When you send in ads, specify either WANTED, FOR SALE, or LEAGUE FORMING, and 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. Also, no advertisements concerning photocopied Strat-O-Matic player cards or related products will be accepted. If, in responding to ads, you find photocopied cards being offered, contact the Strat-O-Matic Review or Strat-O-Matic Game Co., as patent rights are being violated by any such reproduction of original cards. Ads, to be included in the next issue of the Review, must be in by the third of the month. Those people accepting bids for items should try and give everyone a reasonable amount of time to respond. The mail is notoriously slow to some areas, thus people often respond later to ads. Also, money sent in for ads will not be refunded. If you have already sent money in and do not want an ad to run, notify us and the money will be credited to your subscription.

Wanted

WANTED: 1971 Braves, Giants, Athletics, plus all 1971 extra players. Also, extra players for 1970 and 1969. Also want anything regarding Julio Gotay. I answer all letters. Hi Steve! Paul Hutchinson, Box 86, Val Rita, Ontario, Canada P0L 2Q0.

WANTED: Complete baseball sets 1960 to 1968, both leagues. S-O-M

Reviews March, April 1971; August 1974. Send price and condition and year to: Willie Frasure, 29480

Kearsley, Millbury, OH 43447

WANTED: 1969 Pilots, Expos; 1970 Expos with extra included. Send price to: Peter Rozovsky, 5622 Parkhaven Ave., Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

WANTED: Baseball set based on the 1970 season. Please state price and condition of your cards. Write: Jim Smith, 5025-6th Terrace So., Birmingham, AL 35212

WANTED: 1968-70 A's, '69-70 Giants and '69-70 Expos. Will pay 85¢, or lowest bid. State condition. Send offers to: Wayne Wheeler, P.O. Box 203, Cardston, Alberta, Canada T0K 0K0.

WANTED: H. Aaron '63, '67, '69; M. Alou '69; Bonds '70; Brock '69; Carty '70; Chance '64; Clemente '67, '69; W. Davis '69, '70; Drysdale '62, '68; Ford '63, '64; Gibson '68, '69, '70; Kaline '62; Koufax '63; Maloney '63, '65; Mantle '62, '64; Marichal '68, '69; McDowell '69, '70; P. Niekro '69; Oliva '64; Palmer '70; Pascual '63, '64; G. Perry '66, '70; Peters '64, '67; Radatz '64; B. Robinson '64, '67; Rose '68; Santo '64; Seaver '70; Stottlemyre '69, '70; R. Terry '62; Tiant '68; R. White '70; B. Williams '68; Yastrzemski '70. Also '63 Yankees, '69 Cubs, '69 Orioles, '69 Twins, '70 Cubs and '70 Reds. Will accept lowest and earliest offers. Please give condition. Not too fussy about condition, however, all ratings and column results must be legible. SASE not necessary. Write: Joe DeLaRosa, PSC Box 343, APO New York, NY 09611

WANTED: 1969 pitcher's card of Dick Kelly of the San Diego Padres. Willing to pay; must be in decent condition. Write: Jim Doherty, 219 Sixth St., St. James, NY 11780

WANTED: Desperately need 1966 Baltimore Orioles and 1971 card of Mickey Lolich. I will pay your price. Send offers to: Henry Conley, 5100 Buckingham Ct., Columbus, GA 31907

WANTED: Individual players and some teams from 1966. Send SASE for list. Bidding ends Oct. 20. Martha Lorenz, 46 Manor St., Hamden, CT 06517

WANTED: Additional players from the sets 1969 and 1970 (baseball game) only. Will pay \$2.50 for each set. Write: Randall Scott, 27973 Richardson Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95630

WANTED: 1967 and 1969 Minnesota Vikings. Send bids and condition of teams to: Rob Morrison, Rm. 213 House E6, Box 460, Waterloo, Ont., Canada

WANTED: 1970 Red Sox, '70 extra players, Reviews December '73 through March '74. Will buy Reviews as a set, or separately. Prefer cards and Reviews in decent condition. Send prices to: Richard Bello, 5737 McCommas, Apt. 215, Dallas, TX 75206

WANTED: Any teams 1960-64; 1969-1970 in baseball. Will sell or trade 1972 Baseball Encyclopedia. LEAGUE FORMING: P-B-M draft basketball league needs more managers for new season and backups. Contact: Roger Fahey, 13-31 146 St., Whitestone, NY 11357

WANTED: Lost lots of cards in draft leagues? So have I. I also have extras galore--let's trade. Why spend to get teams when missing one card? Send lists and I'll send mine to you. I have cards in baseball, football and basketball from '68 to present, except '69 football, which I am willing to buy. If possible, I'll forward your lists to others. Please write: Christopher King, Box 9707, S.U.N.Y. Binghamton 13901

WANTED: Any Chicago White Sox teams from 1962 to present. I am particularly interested in 1962 and 1964 teams. Also need any additional players from any year. I will pay top dollar for teams in reasonable condition. Early 1960's White Sox teams--will pay in range of \$10.50-\$15.00 per team. Make me an offer: Chuck Holman, 5324 East First St., Tucson, Arizona, 85711

WANTED: 1969 Mets, Braves, Orioles. Will accept in any decent condition. Contact: Thomas Hilton, 252 74 St., Brooklyn, NY 11209 (212-TE-60830)

For Sale

FOR SALE: Meet the all new S-O-M Stats Bureau. We do basketball, football and baseball stats at 5¢ per game. All stats come typed and always accurate. Our work is very fast. Just the thing for league members who find it difficult to keep stats. For more information write: Roger Simmons, 84 Luquer Road, Plandome Manor, NY 11030

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FOR SALE: Need information? Don't forget the S.I.S. (Sports Information Service). Answers to all questions concerning baseball, football and basketball: statistical leaders, champions, scores, standings, player stats, all-stars, or any miscellaneous questions about present or old-timers. Have many, many guides, rule books, almanacs, registers, schedules, record books, periodicals, annual, books, and statistical summaries dating back several years. 20¢ per letter. Immediate service. Write: SIS, 3808 Wilcox, Downers Grove, IL 60515

FOR SALE: The Paluch Statistics Bureau is now in its fourth year and has a more efficient and experienced staff than ever before. So why not have your stats done by the experts. Only 7¢ per game for football, basketball and baseball. Just send us your scoresheets and in a matter of days your stats will

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FOR SALE: S-O-M Basketball game with all 1973-74 teams in very good condition. 140 scoresheets are included. You pay postage. Bidding starts at \$7.75. Buyer also receives the S-O-M Hall-of-Fame Series. WANTED: 1972 "Official Baseball Guide". Will pay \$3.00. You pay postage. Write: T and A LTD., 12344 Felton Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250

FOR SALE: All 17 NBA teams from 1972-1973 season sold as a set, bids taken. Mint condition. All 26 teams from 1971 NFL season in excellent condition, sold as a set. Bids taken. 1970 NFL season; San Francisco, Washington, Kansas City, Baltimore, Oakland. \$1.50 each, excellent condition. Here they are: the 1969 Super Bowl teams, Kansas City and Minnesota, plus 1969 Buffalo sold as a set only. Bids taken. Back issues of the Review, dating from April 1971 to December 1971, sold as a set. Bids taken. Baseball: 1970 World Series teams, Baltimore and Cincinnati, sold as a set. Mint condition. Bids taken. I will pay all postage. Write to: Carlos Hurtado, 191 South Commonwealth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90004

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FOR SALE: 1973 baseball teams, except Kansas City, selling for 70¢ a team, including the extra players (in good condition) and the 1972 Oakland A's for 70¢, not including the extra players. I have some scoresheets to sell. Send SASE and 10¢ to: Brian Utt, 109 Elm Street, Windsor, MO 65360

FOR SALE: Play-by-mail managers and everyone who sends anything through the mail should take advantage of this unbelievable offer. Get 1,000, yes one thousand, return address labels for only one dollar. These are tailor-made, printed to order, two-color, gold stripe, gummed, padded labels. They are printed with any name (yours or your team's name), address and zip code. If you want them in a custom-made plastic box, add 15¢. For your labels, send \$1.00

(continued on following page)

[or \$1.15 with box] along with 10¢ postage to: Howard Meadows, 511 W. Boone St., Marshalltown, IA 50158

FOR SALE: Attention Strat-O-Matic Football Fans! You can now purchase the ultimate in S-O-M Football: the second edition of last year's football "Kit" is now available. Last year's "Kit" included over 20 rules and variations for the great game of Strat-O-Matic Football. This year's second edition has been updated and now includes over 40 rules and variations. The new "Kit" has everything you ever wanted for S-O-M. It includes such things as: penalties, fumble returns, tackles, option plays, plus numerous offensive and defensive formations. It is easily the best collection of S-O-M Football rule variations ever, and a must for the complete player. Ideal for both advanced and novice players. All rules and variations explained in detail. The first edition sold nearly 50 copies. So, don't delay, send \$3.00 today for this 25-page "Kit". Send to: James W. Potter Jr., Rd-1 Coventry Rd., Greene, NY 13778

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FOR SALE: The Paluch Statistics Bureau has come out with two new books: "NBA Preview '74", which contains rosters, schedules, stats and a complete rundown on each team for just \$2.00. Also "'74 Rating Book" rates players' 1974 performance. Filled with plenty of statistics, including Final stats and

an expert analysis of every team. \$2.00 each for A.L. or N.L., or \$3.00 for both. Two new books that are a must for your sport's library. Write: Paluch Statistics Bureau, 3325 South Hoyne, Chicago, IL 60608

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LEAGUE FORMING: Need one member for Old-Timer draft PBM league. Be ready to jump in immediately. \$3.00 entry fee. Can use two backups. First come, first serve. Hurry! Steve Gross, 31 Eaton Rd., Syosset, NY 11791

LEAGUE FORMING: After extensive research, T.S.O.M.L. has been created. This is a league using all cities having a professional baseball, football and basketball team (11 cities). You will manage one city and all three teams if you care to join or want more information, write: Mickey Wilson, Box 132

[continued on back page]

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