

Strat-O-Matic News

<http://www.strat-o-matic.com>

© 2014 Strat-O-Matic Media, LLC

Summer 2014

Your NFL Challenge: Super Seattle D vs. Sensational Denver O

Seattle's dominant defense ruled the National Football League in 2013, but otherwise offense will explode on gamers' table-tops and computer screens, because the rest of the NFL shattered records for most points, touchdowns and yards.

Peyton Manning, Drew Brees, LeSean McCoy, Josh Gordon, Andrew Luck, Pierre Garcon and numerous other quarterbacks, runners and receivers set league and franchise records.

But pay close attention during the fireworks show. Gamers will thrill to the possibility of winning any game — two-thirds of all 2013 games were within one score in the fourth quarter.

Manning and his Denver Broncos set the pace: 55 TD passes, a record 5,447 yards passing, a record five Broncos with 10 TDs or more and the first NFL team to score 600 points (606). Denver is just the peak. Not far below, nine passers topped 4,000 yards. Brees also topped 5,000, for a record fourth time.

Eleven teams topped 400 points. Three — Cincinnati, New England and New Orleans — were 8-0 at home.

Thirteen runners and 24 receivers topped 1,000 yards, led by McCoy's 1,607 running and Gordon's 1,646 receiving. Gordon's consecutive 200-plus receiving days was an NFL first. Five receivers had at least 100 catches, with Garcon's Washington-record 113 on top.

And yet it was young Nick Foles, directing new coach Chip Kelly's up-tempo offense that set a Philadelphia record for yards, who had the league's best passer rating, not Manning. Only the 1965 Chargers of the defunct American Football League had a tandem -- John Hadl and Paul Lowe -- to be No. 1 in passing and rushing the same season, until Foles and McCoy did it this year.

More heroics from the NFL's exciting crop of young quarterbacks: Indianapolis' Andrew Luck became the first QB in history to pass for more than 8,000 yards his first two seasons. Seattle's Russell Wilson became the third in NFL history to pass for more than 50 touchdowns (52) his first two years.

There's more to get fired up about: Philip Rivers' spectacular comeback in San Diego. Kansas City's rebound from two wins to 11 with the electrifying Jamaal Charles, who scored five touchdowns in a game. Jimmy Graham's 16 TD catches. The WR tandem of Brandon Marshall and Alshon Jeffery, whose combined 2,700 receiving yards help make Chicago the second-best offense. On defense, Seattle yielded a remarkably low 14 points per game for a season like this. Indy's Robert Mathis had 19.5 sacks and St. Louis' Robert Quinn had 19.

In other words, this has to be one of the most exciting sets of pro football teams and players Strat-O-Matic gamers have ever enjoyed.

New this Summer from Strat-O-Matic

Football

Strat-O-Matic Pro Football 2014

2013 NFL season

1974 NFL season

1956 NFL season

ETA: Early August

(see Page 3 for more details)

Strat-O-Matic College Football 2014

with 2013 NCAA season

ETA: Late August

(see Page 2 for more details)

Hockey

Strat-O-Matic Hockey 2014

2013-14 NHL season

1989-90 NHL season

1954-55 NHL season

ETA: Late September

(see Page 5 for more details)

Basketball

Strat-O-Matic Basketball 2014

2012-13 NBA season

1967-68 NBA season (Windows only)

1968-69 ABA season (Windows only)

ETA: Cards-Late September

Windows-Late October

(see Pages 4 for more details)

Like us on Facebook; follow us on Twitter
Strat-O-Matic Games @StratOMatic

*The go-to places for Strat-O-Matic
announcements and unique discounts.*

EAT. SLEEP. STRAT.
Strat-O-Matic Baseball Online

By Popular Demand, New
All-Time Greats Leagues
Start Now — see Page 6



New Windows Football Features

Game Replay for Football, Too

Strat-O-Matic is heightening the anticipation of its gamers who play Strat-O-Matic Pro Football 2014. It will happen during play-calling with the Pass Rush Matchup feature, and even after games are done, through Game Replay.

Necessary to play the soon-to-be-released 2013, 1974 and 1956 NFL seasons, the new version of the Windows game has a dozen enhancements for solo players and leagues, and for conventional play, auto-play and NetPlay.

Game Replay, a popular feature already in Strat-O-Matic Windows baseball, is the showcase new feature for pro football. It's especially attractive to review games that have been auto-played or played on a league member's computer. But it can also be enjoyed as a way to savor special games, or to assist the memory when doing post-game write-ups.

For football, as the Help file explains, "The Game Replay draws a drive chart type animation to let you visualize play results." Now you can see how the star of the game got his scores and yards and how the winning rally was accomplished.

GAME ACTION

When a play involves a pass rush, appreciate the new Pass Rush Matchup, which displays a dialog that shows who has the advantage on matchups from your Offensive and Defensive Rating Cards. The display involves up to six matchups. It shows Pass Rush ratings after adjustments have been made for blitzing linebackers, offensive and defensive formation chart adjustments, rule adjustments like employing the shot gun, etc. It shows blockers' Pass Block ratings next to each opposing pass rusher. And it shows the percentage of time a sack will occur when a matchup is invoked by rule. This feature helps expose the underlying game engine more clearly, allowing you to make better in-game decisions.

While your game is in progress, admire the wisdom of your play-calling (or hold your head) with the improved Play Percentage Display. That info no longer clears immediately after the "Snap the ball" button has been clicked, but remains on screen until the play finishes animating and/or the dice stop rolling on the screen. This is especially important while playing Netplay,

as sometimes this information could be cleared too quickly by your opponent.

Other mid-game improvements involve variable sack yardage (more yards on long passes and fewer yards on shorter passes) and pass-interference yardage.

For those who love to play with cards and dice but want the computer to do the hours-saving stat keeping, a vastly improved Manual Dice Entry feature permits manual entries in 21 additional areas of the game, such as the Long Gain / Short Gain charts, variable punts and sacks, injuries and much more.

Finally, the computer-coach logic has been improved for run-keying and for spiking the ball.

AN EASY WAY TO ADD SUSPENSE

Ever run a cluster of auto-play games to complete a week or a season, but wanted to review special games without the spoiler of knowing who won and the new standings in advance? Welcome to the new Hide Standings and Game Scores option in League Manager.

From the Help file: "You could auto-play an entire season and then click the individual games in the calendar to reveal the outcome of your team's games one-by-one instead of having their record and all the game scores displayed up front. Revealing the scores of games this way can be fun, and it allows excitement to grow as the season's games are progressively revealed."

LEAGUE-FRIENDLY

For years now, it has become customary for Strat-O-Matic to answer requests from league commissioners to allow more and more customization for league preferences.

This time, a new Lock/Unlock League option in the League Menu allows the commissioner of the league to lock the league with a PIN code. This can be used to make sure all league members are playing by the same rules, because the commissioner can lock out certain game options.

Further, SOM has added support for the new Blogger API. And it has improved the Schedule Generator to produce partial results when circumstances require some manual entries – no longer will you have to start over if your schedule requirements have details the Generator cannot handle.

Which QB Will Make Your Team National Champion?

The last, memorable year of the BCS soon will be ready for you to replay, conference-style or tournament style on your computer. The 2013 NCAA season was remarkable for spectacular quarterback play, producing a Heisman Trophy winner and a cluster of high National Football League draft choices.

It took an undefeated season for a team to break the Southeastern Conference's run of seven straight national championships, but Florida State did just that with Heisman-Trophy winning freshman QB Jameis Winston and a slew of high-NFL draft picks. To finish the job, the Seminoles had to end Auburn's thrill-a-week Cinderella season of fairy-tale comebacks and a dramatic rise from one of its worst seasons just a year before.

Still, the SEC had Auburn and six other teams in the nation's Top-25 and had the previous year's Heisman winner, Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel, who left for the NFL after a sophomore season with 70% completions, 46 touchdowns and nearly 5,000 yards passing and running. Alabama (A.J. McCarron), LSU (Zack Mettenberger) and Georgia (Aaron Murray) also put quarterbacks in the NFL.

With Strat-O-Matic, you can replay a memorable NCAA season, thrill to what-if replays that could rewrite the conference standings, or create your own national playoff. The nation's top 25 had 14 teams with at least 11 wins and five more with 10. It also had four teams from outside the power conferences elevated by quarterbacks drafted high in the NFL: Central Florida's Blake Bortles (68% completions, 25 TDp, 6 run TD, 9 INT), 12-1 Louisville's Teddy Bridgewater (71% completions, 31 TDp, 4 INT), Fresno State's Derek Carr and Northern Illinois' Jordan Lynch.

Classic Pro Football Seasons

1974 NFL

Raise the Steel Curtain: The start of Pittsburgh's dynasty that claimed four Super Bowl victories in a six-year span.

Oakland's No. 1 offense produced the best season record, but Pittsburgh's supreme defense won the Super Bowl, the Steelers' first title of any kind in its 42-year existence.

This is a deep set of excellent teams — six matched or bettered the Steelers' 10 regular-season wins, offering Strat-O-Matic gamers a terrific "six-pack" of carded teams and a rich collection of other stars in the complete NFL offered in the game company's Windows game.

CARDED TEAMS

Pittsburgh (10-3-1): Good luck running or passing against this defense which led the league in sacks (52), takeaways (47), yards allowed and completion percentage. In the post-season, this D shut down O.J. Simpson, stifled Oakland's league-best offense and outscored Minnesota's offense in the Super Bowl, 2-0. Say hello to Mean Joe Greene, Jack Ham, Mel Blount and Jack Lambert. Franco Harris rushed for 1,006 yards.

Minnesota (10-4): Though it didn't show in the post-season, the Vikings had offense as well as its dominant Purple People Eater defense. Fran Tarkenton completed 57 percent of his passes, HB Chuck Foreman had 1,363 yards from scrimmage and led the NFL with 15 TDs. Meanwhile, only four teams scored 20 points against Alan Page, Carl Eller, Paul Krause and company.

Oakland (12-2): The NFL's top offense could dominate with Ken Stabler's league-leading 28 TD passes (13 to league-leading WR Cliff Branch, who also had a league-best 1,082 yards) or with a punishing ground game led by FB Marv Hubbard (4.6 average) and Clarence Davis (4.3). The pass D was second in INTs (27) and fifth in completion percentage (47.7) and sacks (36).

Los Angeles (10-4): Stifling defense and versatile offense propelled the Rams to the top of the NFC West. HB Lawrence McCutcheon led the NFC in rushing (1,100 yards, 4.7/carry) and the team in receiving. QB James Harris ranked second in the NFC passing with a downfield game that featured WRs Harold Jackson and Jack Snow (17 ypc each) and TE Bob Klein (14 ypc). The Rams yielded the fewest points in the NFL (181), only 3.4 yards/rush, and were second in sacks (44) with All-Pro DE Jack Youngblood, DE Fred Dryer, DT Merlin Olsen, All-Pro



As always, the Windows versions of classic pro football seasons contain every team in the league.

DT Larry Brooks and ballhawk DBs Dave Elmendorf and Charlie Stukes (7 INTs each).

Miami (11-3): After three straight trips to the Super Bowl, and two straight wins there, the Dolphins won the AFC East again, despite a flurry of injuries to its familiar stars, Larry Csonka, Mercury Morris, Paul Warfield and Manny Fernandez. Still, Miami was third in the NFL in scoring and the defense led by Jake Scott held five foes to 7 points or fewer and nine foes under 20 as the Dolphins won eight of their last nine — before losing to Oakland in the playoffs on a last-minute touchdown.

St. Louis (10-4): The Cardinals started 7-0 and all four of their losses were by 3-4 points. They beat division rival Washington twice to win the tie-breaker for the NFC East title. QB Jim Hart led the NFC with 20 TD passes and a 2 percent interception rate. HB Terry Metcalf led the NFC by averaging 4.7/carry, caught 50 passes, returned a kickoff for a TD and averaged 13 yards on punt returns. In all, Metcalf had 2,058 all-purpose yards. FB Jim Otis averaged 4.2/carry and WR Mel Gray averaged 20 per catch.

Highlights from some of the Windows-only uncarded teams:

- Buffalo's O.J. Simpson ran for 1,125 yards, third best in the NFL.
- Cincinnati's Ken Anderson was the NFL's No. 1 passer.
- Dallas' Drew Pearson led all NFL wideouts with 62 receptions.
- Denver's Otis Armstrong led the NFL with 1,407 rushing yards.
- Philadelphia TE Charlie Young led the NFL with 63 catches.
- San Diego's Don Woods ran for 1,162 yards and a 5.1 average, both second best in the NFL.
- Washington (10-4) led the NFC in scoring.

1956 NFL

The rookie season for Johnny Unitas, Lenny Moore, Sam Huff and Bart Starr was a rugged and raw, impose-our-will NFL, one dominated by running games, deep passes and high turnovers. Though completion percentages and field-goal success were low by today's standards, teams averaged 20.4 points per game thanks to such explosive runners as Hugh McElhenny, Ollie Matson Moore, Frank Gifford, and the potent power running of Rick Casares, Alan Ameche, Joe "The Jet" Perry and Tank Younger (4.5).

Green Bay QB Tobin Rote led the league in passing TDs (18) and was second in running TDs (11). Green Bay's Billy Howton (55 rec, 1,188 yds, 12 tds) and the Bears' Harlon Hill (47-1,128-11) averaged almost 100 yards receiving and a touchdown per game. San Francisco's Billy Wilson led with 60 catches (at 15 yards per catch), thrown by veteran Y.A. Tittle and rookie Earl Morrall.

In the West, 9-2 Detroit visited 8-2-1 Chicago in the regular-season finale, which the Bears won 38-21 after notorious Bears DE Ed Meadows blindsided and knocked out Lions QB Bobby Layne on a second-quarter running play.

But the Bears' 30-point-per game offense was no match for the New York Giants' suffocating defense in one of the most lopsided championship games ever, 47-7.

The carded teams in Strat-O-Matic's "six pack" are the Giants (8-3-1), Bears (9-2-1), Lions (9-3), Chicago Cardinals (7-5), Washington Redskins (6-6) and San Francisco 49ers (5-6-1). As always, the full NFL is available in the Windows version of this season.

Both in cards and on the computer, this season is loaded with legendary NFL players in their primes. In New York, linebacker Huff had a dominant defensive line of Andy Robustelli, Jim Katcavage, Rosey Grier and Dick Modelewski in front of him and DBs Emlen Tunnell and Jimmy Patton behind him. Detroit DBs Yale Lary, Jimmy David and Jack Christensen had 23 interceptions. The Cardinals' cornerbacks, Dick "Night Train" Lane and NFL-best interceptor Linden Crow held foes to 44.9% passing.

In Baltimore, rookie Unitas was the league's No. 2 passer. Cleveland's defense gave up the fewest points. Los Angeles had three receivers who averaged at least 17 yards per catch, including Elroy "Crazy Legs" Hirsch. Four teams returned both punts and kickoffs for TDs.

Basketball Bonanza: 2013-14 Spurs and Classic NBA and ABA



Russell-Wilt, Earl the Pearl, and the Big O

The 1967-68 NBA season looked very familiar, yet new NBA teams and a rival new league made this a turning-point season.

After Philadelphia (62-20) dominated the regular season (again), the 76ers blew a 3-1 lead in playoffs to Bill Russell's Boston Celtics. Then for the fifth time in eight seasons, the Celtics beat Los Angeles in the finals.

Philly's Wilt Chamberlain won his third straight MVP award, leading the league in shooting percentage, rebounding, total assists and minutes played.

Meanwhile, NBA expansion teams in Seattle and San Diego, and the debut of the American Basketball Association had an immediate impact on the established NBA teams.

Rick Barry left San Francisco to join the ABA, but the loss of the league's scoring leader left the Warriors' record almost unchanged – 43-39 compared to 44-37 the year earlier. Rudy LaRusso (21 ppg) and Fred Hetzel (19 ppg) picked up the scoring slack at forward. And despite losing center Nate Thurmond (21 ppg, 22 rpg) for 31 games, SF was the league's best rebounding team. However, the Warriors dropped to third in the West, where St. Louis (56-26) and Los Angeles (52-30) made big jumps from losing records in '66-67 and leapfrogged San Francisco.

For LA, Jerry West averaged 26 points, 6 rebounds and 6 assists. Elgin Baylor averaged 26 points and 12 rebounds and backcourt mates Archie Clark and Gail Goodrich combined for 34 points, 7 rebounds and 7 assists. St. Louis had seven men who averaged double-figure points, led by Zelmo Beatty (21.1) and playmaker Lenny Wilkens (20.0). Impressively, the Hawks had three men average double-figure rebounds – Beatty (11.7), Paul Silas (11.7) and Bill Bridges (13.4).

Oscar Robertson led in scoring (29.2 ppg) and assists (9.7), and the leader board had these all-time great scorers: Detroit's Dave Bing (27.1), LA's Baylor (26.0), Philadelphia's Chamberlain (24.3), Baltimore's Gus Johnson (24.3) and Philadelphia's Hal Greer (24.1).

Willis Reed led New York in scoring (21 ppg) and rebounding (13 rpg), but the Knicks owed their first winning record since 1959 to depth and teamwork bolstered by rookies Walt Frazier, Bill Bradley and Phil Jackson.

They were part of a terrific rookie class that included Rookie of the Year Earl Monroe of Baltimore and Detroit guard Jimmy Walker.

Very Cool Spurs Chill the Heat; Durant Brings the Thunder

What a treat for gamers: A rousing 2013-14 National Basketball Association season presented a new MVP and a new champion in legend-making clashes of all-time great players and teams.

Classy San Antonio avenged its seven-game Finals loss of a year ago to trendy Miami with a dominant five-game Finals that gave Tim Duncan his fifth ring rather than LeBron James his third straight. The King surrendered his MVP crown, too, to 32-point scorer Kevin Durant, marking the first time since 2001 that the NBA's leading scorer was named MVP.

The rest of the NBA offered something fresh, too. With the traditionally dominant Lakers, Celtics and Knicks all suffering miserable seasons, the new 50-win powers were Oklahoma City (59), the LA Clippers (57), Indiana (56), Houston and Portland (54), Golden State (51) and Memphis (50).

With Kobe Bryant and Derrick Rose on the sidelines almost all year, Portland's LaMarcus Aldridge, Houston's James Harden, Golden State's Stephen Curry, Indiana's Paul George and Chicago's Joakim Noah joined the NBA's elite with superstars Durant, Chris Paul, Dwight Howard, Blake Griffin, Kevin Love and Tony Parker.

And with Strat-O-Matic you'll get to know the NBA's youngest stars on the rise: Rebound leader DeAndre Jordan, assists leader John Wall and steals leader Ricky Rubio.

1968-69 ABA: Barry and the Mighty Oaks

With this release, Strat-O-Matic will have produced the entire ABA with the exception of its initial season in 1967-68.

The 1968-69 ABA was an 11-team league dominated by Rick Barry's Oakland Oaks.

With Barry averaging 34 points in his ABA debut following his jump from the NBA, the Oaks started 15-2. Barry lasted only 35 games, but with Rookie of the Year Warren Armstrong (21.5 ppg) and future NBA coaches Doug Moe (19 ppg) and Larry Brown (league-best 7 apg), Oakland scored 126.5 ppg and had the best record by far, 60-18 that included a 16-game win streak. No other team won more than 44.

In the playoff finals, Oakland needed only five games to dispose of Eastern Division champ Indiana and ABA MVP Mel Daniels (24 ppg, league-leading 16.5 rpg).

The young league already had a fine selection of former college stars and future ABA legends: Minnesota's Connie Hawkins (30 ppg, 11 rpg in 47 games), Kentucky's Louie Dampier (25 ppg, 6 apg), Denver's Larry Jones (scoring champ at 28.4 ppg) and such eventual ABA legends as Byron Beck, Ron Boone (a rookie in 6'8-69), Roger Brown, Freddie Lewis and Bob Verga.

Hockey: Kings + Historic Dynasties

No doubt, your coaching decisions can make the difference when you play the eagerly awaited 2013-14 National Hockey League teams. The competition was so fierce in the season that the league's 10th-best regular-season team won the Stanley Cup. The margins were so narrow that the Los Angeles Kings ruled the NHL for the second time in three years by repeatedly coming from behind.

Down 3-0 to San Jose in the playoff's opening round, Los Angeles stormed back to win the series — in the first of an unprecedented three Game Seven victories on the road. That included a Western Conference final at defending champ Chicago, where the Kings ultimately won three of the four games in which they fell behind by two goals. That avenged LA's playoff outster last year at the hands of the Hawks.

Then the Kings roared past the New York Rangers in a five-game Finals for their second Stanley Cup in three seasons.

Neither finalist was the top team in their division. Boston (117 points), Anaheim (116), Colorado (112) and Pittsburgh (109) were the regular-season winners. San Jose (111), St. Louis (111) and Chicago (107) also excelled in a season with 10 teams reaching 100 points.

The star power is here, too: Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby won the scoring title and the MVP award. Alex Ovechkin's 51 goals were eight more than any other scorer. Boston had the Vezina winner in Tuukka Rask and the Selke winner in Patrice Bergeron. Chicago had Norris Trophy winner Duncan Keith and four goal scorers with 28 or more. Top rookie Nathan MacKinnon was one of five 20-goal men for high-flying Colorado, where Ryan O'Reilly won the Lady Byng Trophy and Patrick Roy was the league's top coach.

Protect Computer Codes, Organize Card Collections

Strat-O-Matic is thrilled to announce the launch of the Strat-O-Matic Vault, a digital database that allows you to organize and store your entire collection of Strat-O-Matic Product Codes online through the Strat-O website.

Always wanted the convenience of having all of your Product Codes saved in a central location? Today is your lucky day!

The Strat-O-Matic Vault can be accessed by going to www.strat-o-matic.com, logging in to your Strat-O-Matic account, and clicking on the Strat-O-Matic Vault hyperlink. From there, you will be given the option of adding any Windows Product Codes (from before E-Delivery) for baseball, football, hockey or basketball products to your Vault. As soon as you submit each Product Code, the database will verify that the code you are entering is accurate. All Product Codes purchased since the implementation of E-Delivery will already be saved in your Strat-O-Matic Vault.

There also will be an option to enter any Strat-O-Matic card sets you have purchased in the past to your Vault. While there is no way for the database to verify whether you actually own the card set(s), you can use this section as your own personal/official digital archive for card sets owned.

Please take advantage of this great new addition, as the Strat-O-Matic Vault was designed specifically to help you keep all of your Strat-O-Matic purchases organized in one place. In addition, Strat-O-Matic will use the data from your Vault to determine special offers in the future.



1954-55 NHL

This classic season forever will be remembered as the last in Detroit's seven-year run of first place finishes — but even more for the riots at the Montreal Forum following all-time great Maurice "Rocket" Richard's suspension for the final three games and the playoffs after punching a linesman following a stick-swinging incident.

After the Richard suspension, Detroit finished two points ahead of the Habs, 95-93, then whipped the Canadiens in a seven-game final for the Cup.

Richard also ended up tied with teammate Bernie "Boom Boom" Geoffrion for the league lead in goals (38), and one point behind Geoffrion in points, 75-74. Jean Beliveau gave Montreal the top three scorers in the league with a 37-36-73 campaign.

The Canadiens led the NHL in scoring, but were third in goals allowed with rookie Jacques Plante in the net and defenseman Doug Harvey winning his first Norris Trophy in a string of four straight and seven out of eight.

Detroit's Earl Reibel (25g, 66p) and Gordie Howe (29g, 62p) were 4-5 in scoring. The Red Wings were second in offense and first in defense, allowing a mere 134 goals in 70 games with Vezina Trophy winner Terry Sawchuk.

Third-place Toronto had MVP Teeder Kennedy (42 assists) and Lady Byng Trophy winner Sid Smith (33g), but otherwise was defensive-minded, yielding only one more goal than Detroit, but scoring only 147.

1989-90 NHL

Talk about shining stars: the scoring leader was Wayne Gretzky, the MVP was Mark Messier, the Vezina Trophy winner was Patrick Roy, the Norris Trophy winner was Ray Bourque and the Lady Byng Trophy winner was Brett Hull. Steve Yzerman and Mario Lemieux were top-five scorers. Hull (72) and Yzerman (62) topped a list of eight 50-goal scorers that included Cam Neely, Pat Lafontaine and Brian Bellows.

With Gretzky now in LA, Edmonton still had enough to win the Stanley Cup — Messier (45g, 129p), Jari Kurri (33g) and Glenn Anderson (34g).

The other carded teams: Cup-finalist Boston (Bourque, Neely and 101 points), star-studded Calgary, which led the West with 99 points; 98-point Buffalo; Norris Division-winning Chicago (with Denis Savard, Steve Larmer, Jeremy Roenick and Doug Wilson), and Hull's St. Louis Blues.

All of the NHL is included in the Windows version and the non-carded teams can be printed out from a supplemental file download.

There, find Gretzky and 52-goal teammate Luc Robitaille, points-per-game leader Mario Lemieux, Yzerman, Lafontaine, Roy, GAA leader Mike Liut (2.53) of Hartford, 55-goal man Bellows and the Patrick Division-winning Rangers, led by goalies John Vanbiesbrouck and Mike Richter and winger John Ogradnick (43 goals).

First Pitch for New All-Time Greats 8

Strat-O-Matic Meets Gamers' Demands for More Players, New Salaries, More

Online baseball gamers who played the cover off seven prior generations of All-Time Greats craved an expanded player pool with new electronic cards. Strat-O-Matic has granted that wish and more with its just-launched All-Time Greats 8 leagues.

Here's what they are getting:

- 218 new players, inflating the pool to 4,480.

- 20 of the new players are Negro Leaguers based on individual seasons. Previously, the Negro Leaguers in the player pool were the career-based cards from Strat-O-Matic's breakthrough Negro Leagues set.

- 334 players upgraded from their older cards to their more recently released Super Advanced cards. Those are players such as 1961 Mickey Mantle and Rogers Maris, 1977 Rod Carew, 1971 Vida Blue, 1958 Whitey Ford, 1938 Hank Greenberg and 1924 Walter Johnson.

- 10 new stadiums.

- New salaries for some players to reflect the value gamers have placed on them in their salary-cap drafts of All-Time Greats VII leagues. For instance, based on draft history and online-community comments, gamers decided that 1912 Tris Speaker was overpriced at \$13.41 million. His new salary is \$11.91 million. Conversely, 1922 Rogers Hornsby had been judged as a bargain at \$12.39 million. His new salary is \$13.39 million.

"Although many player salaries remain unchanged, changes similar to the Speaker and Hornsby examples have been made throughout the entire list of players," Strat-O-Matic's John Garcia reports.

Strat-O-Matic is constantly improving the online gaming experience. Other enhancements introduced recently include a league injury history (upgraded from listing only current injuries), full-season game logs (instead of the last 10 games) and ability to filter transactions (by transaction type and team).

For ATG 8, the main attraction figures to be the new player cards, including such spectacular additions as 1965 Willie Mays,

1937 Josh Gibson, 1970 Carl Yastrzemski, 1955 Al Kaline, 1967 Roberto Clemente, 1900 Honus Wagner, 1890 Billy Hamilton, 1972 Don Sutton, 1996 Kevin Brown, 1973 Tom Seaver and 2003 Eric Gagne.

They add excitement to early-2014's game changer, Live Draft, a real-time draft option to the time-honored system of filling out a complete draft-preference card.

In the highly interactive Live Draft, gamers can view any player's card easily, use search and filter options to find just the right pick, use a position-count grid to track what positions are becoming scarce of top talent, track each league team's roster and even trash talk with other Live Draft participants.

How it Works

For those gamers who have not yet caught onto the hottest trend in Strat-O-Matic competitive play, you play Strat-O-Matic Baseball Online through the game company's website. You play in a 6, 12 or 24-team league that can be friends you choose or random opponents. Your league decides on the amount of its salary cap (or no salary cap). Then draft 25 players from your chosen player pool of hundreds, or thousands of players.

You manage your team by building lineups, setting pitching rotations and choosing offensive and defensive strategy options. Then each morning you get a report on the progress of your 162-game season. That includes game recaps, boxscores, play-by-play accounts and fully updated stats in 60 categories.

You customize your experience in all these ways and by choosing from eight different player pools: Ones based on 2013, 1999 or 1986; ones based on the Superstar Sixties, The '70s Game, Back to the '80s and Back to the '90s; or the All-Time Greats. The game company and the online community will warn you: This is an addictive way to play. But you'll have a large and active group of gamers to share it with.



75th Anniversary HOF Collectible Nearly Sold out

Strat-O-Matic's collectible baseball card set commemorating the Hall of Fame's 75th anniversary has sold rapidly and is nearly sold out.

After just five months, fewer than 50 sets of the 1,200 printed remain. The collectible printed on specially designed, heavier card stock contains 246 Hall of Famers, plus six bonus cards based on Hall of Famers' 1939 season (the year the Hall opened).

Each set contains a certificate of authenticity acknowledged by Strat-O-Matic creator Hal Richman and Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson.

Though Strat-O-Matic updates its Hall of Fame sets periodically to keep pace with recent inductees, this set will not be reprinted in this collectible form.

School Discounts: Make Learning Fun with SOM

Your classroom or youth group can build relationships by playing Strat with deeply discounted games.

The new Strat-O-Matic After School Program offers your choice of Baseball Selector Sets (game with five teams of your choice) or the Baseball Express game (ideal for younger kids) at 50 percent off.

Selector sets are \$10 each for a minimum of six games. Baseball Express is \$5 each for a minimum of 10 games.

The program is for schools and such youth groups as those affiliated with YMCAs, Jewish Community Centers, churches, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

For orders/questions, email: corporateinfo@strat-o-matic.com.