

## SPORTSFLASH

## A Strat-O-Matic Break

By Steve Zipay

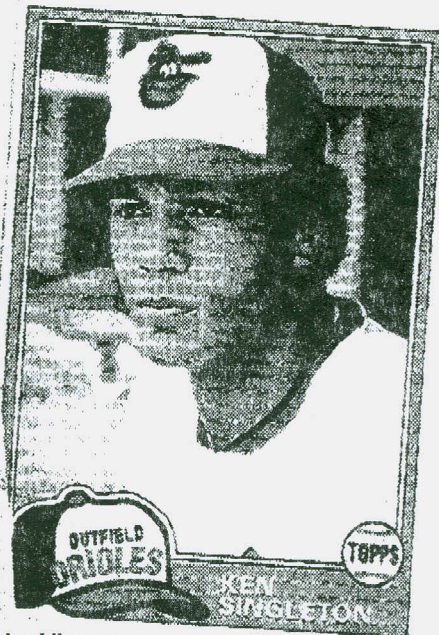
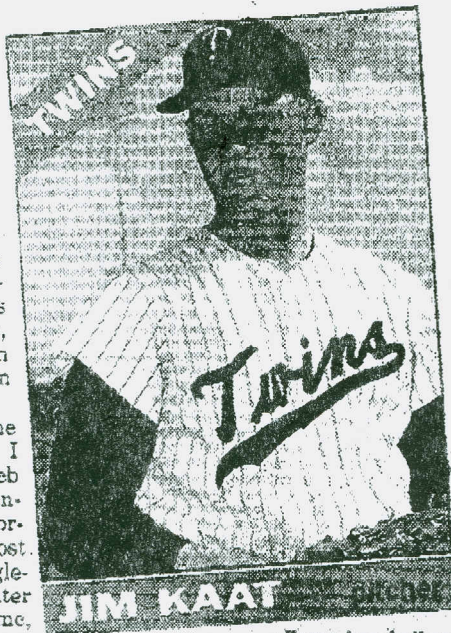
STAFF WRITER

Ever wonder what broadcasters do during lengthy rain delays? On Monday night, MSG's television announcers played a game within a game.

While viewers saw taped baseball programming during the storm that delayed the Yankees-Indians game at Jacobs Field for 2 hours, 44 minutes, Jim Kaat and Ken Singleton went head to head in Strat-O-Matic baseball.

"Usually, we might talk to some advance scouts, or this week, I might have been checking web sites for workouts for the Kentucky Derby," said Kaat, a thoroughbred maven. But MSG host Bill Daughtry mentioned to Singleton that he had a laptop computer version of the popular board game, which is based on actual player stats, and set it up in the booth. For Singleton, it evoked fond memories. "I played a lot as a kid, and I really knew I had made it as a major-leaguer when I first saw my card. It was an untold thrill," Singleton recalled.

Singleton chose the 1979 Orioles, and penciled himself into the lineup. "We had Eddie Murray, Rich Dauer, Al Bumbry, and it was my best year," he said. Singleton hit .295 with a career-high 35 homers and 111 RBI and came in second in the MVP voting to Don Baylor. Kaat, managing the 1966 Twins, named himself the starting pitcher at Metropolitan Stadium in



Topps baseball cards of the era.

Bloomington, Minn.

"I was going to pick the '65 Twins, but I had a better year in '66," said Kaat, who won 25 games that season. Singleton bypassed starter Mike Flanagan and picked Dennis Martinez to face the Twins. Bad decision.

In Game 1, the computerized Kaat allowed 11 hits, but the real Kaat never made a call to the bullpen. The old Kaat went the distance in a 6-5 win. One of those hits, however, was a two-run homer by Singleton in the fourth inning. In Game 2, Singleton went 3-for-3 against Jim (Mudcat)

Grant, including a solo homer, but the Twins took that game, as well, 6-1.

"In real life, I actually did hit one off Jimmy, but never faced Mudcat," he said.

The next day, Kaat found a humorous way to join past and present again.

"I was down on the field and I saw Ted Uhlaendor," who played outfield for the 1966 Twins and is now an Indians coach. "I said, 'Ted, you had a great day yesterday.' He said, 'What?' I told him he made two great catches in center and drove in a run."