

IMAGINE: THE ULTIMATE SEASON, AS PLAYED BY STRAT-O-MATIC!

Each Franchise's Best Year of Last 40 Competes In Full 162-Game Schedule As Part of Strat-O-Matic's 40th Anniversary Celebration

Glen Head, NY, March 26, 2002 – Imagine the 2001 Seattle Mariners, with their 116 victories, competing in a league where every team is the elite representative of the franchise's past 40 years!

It can happen with Strat-O-Matic Baseball, the beloved tabletop board game that is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

The creative team at the Long Island-based game company is about to play out a full 162-game season in which each team's best season is placed in the league, creating a league of nothing but elite teams. Well, elite save for the 2000 Tampa Bay Devil Rays, whose 69-92 record is the best in their four years, and the hapless '69 Seattle Pilots, 64-98 in their only season. Will either of these teams win *any* games against clubs like the '98 Yankees, '69 Orioles or '88 Athletics?

Each franchise is represented by its winningest team of the last 40 years, unless a different team, with fewer wins, won a pennant. The 1964 Milwaukee Braves and the 1969 Seattle Pilots were added to create a balanced schedule of 16 teams in each league. So the 1995 Atlanta Braves will be playing their Milwaukee ancestors eight times while the Mariners and Pilots match up 14 times.

The Strat-O-Matic computer will determine the final standings when the computer version of the game, ever-growing in popularity itself, creates the full dream season, stats and all. The final results will be announced shortly.

The two 16-team leagues are broken into eastern and western divisions. Each team will play opponents in its own division 14 times, and the other division eight times. Teams like the Braves and Brewers that have changed divisions will be returned to the division in which they posted their best season. No DH will be used in ballparks of the pre-1973 AL teams, but will be used when those teams play road games against post-'73 clubs. Teams will stay true to 4 or 5 man pitching rotations, depending on how the game was played at their time. It will be a good test of how the older style plays against the current, 5-man style, as well as a test of how great pitching fares against great hitting.

The season will be played through to conclusion (no labor shutdowns!) with a DH used in the World Series in the AL parks (unless a pre-1973 team qualifies). The best regular season record will potentially host 4 of the best-of-7 series in both an LCS and the World Series. There are no wild card teams, since Strat-O-Matic games are not faced with the challenge of drawing fans after teams drop from contention.

The teams and their original records:

AL East

1998 Yankees 114-48
1969 Orioles 109-53
1984 Tigers 104-58
1995 Indians 100-44
1992 Blue Jays 96-66
1982 Brewers 95-67
1986 Red Sox 95-66
2000 Devil Rays 69-92

AL West

2001 Mariners 116-46
1988 Athletics 104-58
1965 Twins 102-60
1983 White Sox 99-63
1999 Rangers 95-67
1982 Angels 93-69
1985 Royals 91-71
1969 Pilots 64-98

NL East

1986 Mets 108-54
1967 Cardinals 101-60
1979 Pirates 98-64
1993 Phillies 97-65
1984 Cubs 96-65
1979 Expos 95-65
1997 Marlins 92-70
1995 Braves 90-54

NL West

1975 Reds 108-54
1962 Giants 103-62
1974 Dodgers 102-60
1998 Astros 102-60
1998 Padres 98-64
2001 Diamondbacks 92-70
1964 Mil. Braves 88-74
1997 Rockies 83-79

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