

## **The Glossy '75 Tribe**

My father son story actually includes both of my sons, now ages 18 and 14. When my older son was 9 and his brother was 5, I found the original Strat cards I had played with back in the 70's while cleaning out my mother's (our old home) attic. The '75 Indians, in the infamous "glossy" finish. Memories of hot afternoons playing my Tribe against the other kids teams on the block—and, of course never winning.

The "find" rekindled my interest in the game, and with the purchase of the 2000 Hall of Fame set and later the Negro Leagues, I introduced first my oldest and then my youngest to the game. The boys drafted a team of the best players from those sets and have now played them against any "stock team" I have chosen to put up against them for the past 6 years. We "roll" the basic game and they have won EVERY game. Of course when they were younger, it was amazing to them that they beat dad. Now the streak is the big thing. Will it be broken? Will dad win one?

In my mind, I have won every game though---it has brought us hours of time together. Along the way, we have researched players from Three Fingers Brown to Cool Papa Bell, with all the questions one might expect. We have debated strategies and plays, taking extra bases and the lucky "20" draw on the split deck.

In today's age of electronics and personal devices, our times with Strat have never been challenged. The game has brought us together through the years in a very simple manner. I hope they can share this experience with their families in the future as well, long after dad is gone but the glossy '75 Tribe remains!

Gene