

STRAT-O-MATIC® NEWS

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Live the Dream with SOM's All-Star Lineup This Year

Year 55 in the life of Strat-O-Matic Baseball is destined to be the most exciting, as gamers will enjoy this addictive habit, er, hobby, more ways than ever. They include a pair of never-seen-before products that, for generations, gamers could only dream about.

Every year, the most recent Strat-O-Matic season is the leadoff hitter. That's still true after the thrilling 2015 Major League season, with its historic performances and phenomenal rookie class. But this time, there's extraordinary power behind it, including a glittering new version of the ultra-popular online game – freshly branded as Baseball 365 – and the revolutionary Baseball Daily, which will allow you to play the 2016 season as it happens, with constantly updated player cards and ratings.

Also on schedule for this year: A mobile app that will allow you to view every Strat-O-Matic Baseball card ever made. And the much-anticipated documentary film of Strat-O-Matic's amazing birth and growth.

Baseball Daily

Players have digital SOM cards that are updated daily, based on the current season's real-life player performance. Historical performance is influential at the start of the season, but current-season stats gain more weight as the season progresses.

It's a full game within a game, played on the Baseball 365 online game platform, or as an add-on to the Windows game.

For more details, see Page 2.

Baseball 365

The same great draft and sim game with a fresh interface design and mobile app access (coming soon).

For more details, see Page 3.

No one does baseball better than Strat-O-Matic. This year, no one does it bigger, with two new card sets and eight new Windows releases:

■ The 1982 Major League season and Hall of Fame 2016 (now 252 players, including the 6 elected since the last HOF card set).

■ 6 Windows game projects: 1874 National Association; 1908, 1917, 1935 and 1948 Negro League seasons, 2015 Japanese season.

See Page 5 and 6 for more details.

Card Viewer App

Still in development, but expected this year, this mobile-app subscription service will allow you to view Strat-O-Matic cards for every Major League season. Sort and filter to see favorite players, favorite teams, or favorite seasons – up to 100,000 cards. Baseball Daily cards (changing every day) will be available as well. Watch for announcements at strat-o-matic.com

Documentary Film

Managing to Win: The Story of Strat-O-Matic Baseball uses scenes from the 50th Anniversary convention, celebrity interviews, vintage photos and more to tell Strat-O-Matic's remarkable success story from a young boy's invention to the best-selling game in its field. Stay tuned for details at strat-o-matic.com

2015: Royals, Mets and Phenoms

The most-anticipated card set in years will be in gamers' hands soon – and, man, is the 2015 Strat-O-Matic Baseball set worth waiting for.

You like underdogs? The World Series-winning Royals hadn't won in 30 years; the Mets in 29. Toronto won the AL East for the first time in 22 years. Texas went from worst to first in the AL West. The Pirates won 98 games. The Cubs – the Cubs! – won 97. Houston reached the post-season. Yes, the traditional power Cardinals won most of all (100), but somehow did so despite more serious injuries than any other team.

You like 40-homer men? There were nine, eight more than last year. Toronto, with AL MVP Josh Donaldson (41), Jose Bautista (40) and Edwin Encarnacion (39) just missed having three, while outslugging and outscoring every other team – by a lot. NL MVP Bryce Harper hit 42 and also batted .330. That was almost as good as batting-champs Miguel Cabrera (who won his fourth at .338) and Dee Gordon (.333).

You like sub-2.00 ERAs? Hello, Zack Greinke (1.66, the fifth-lowest mark since 1920),

Baseball Ratings Book – see page 2

NL Cy Young winner Jake Arrieta (1.77) and 21 relievers who pitched in at least 30 games.

You like strikeout-per-inning pitchers? They were everywhere. Chris Sale's 11.8 K / 9 IP rate – the 10th highest in history – led 19 qualifying starting pitchers. Aroldis Chapman (15.74) and more than a dozen carded relievers topped Sale.

You like no-hitters? There were five – and Max Scherzer threw two of them.

Who doesn't like rising stars? The Mets rode Matt Harvey, Jacob deGrom and other young arms to the World Series. The Cubs had Anthony Rizzo, Kris Bryant and four other lineup regulars in the 25-and-under club. Young studs Harper, Mike Trout, Nolan Arenado, Paul Goldschmidt and Buster Posey were MVP-quality. Jose Altuve led the AL with 200 hits and 38 stolen bases.

Carlos Correa, a shortstop who hit 22 home runs at age 21, and Bryant (26 HR) led a phenomenal rookie class with

continued on Page 3

Pre-orders begin: Jan. 27 Opening Day at SOM: Feb. 12

Pre-orders for Opening Day pickup will begin the same day as all other pre-orders. However, those coming for Opening Day pickup don't have to rush to be among the first to call.

Play 2016 Baseball As it Happens

In Baseball Daily, Player Cards Change Every Day

Revolutionizing the way its best-selling baseball game can be played, Strat-O-Matic's new Baseball Daily game will have digital cards that update daily, based on the current season's real-life player performance.

Using current, partial-season stats is a first for the game company. But in a fascinating twist on current-season fantasy sports, historical data will be factored into the Baseball Daily cards at the start of the season, with current season stats having increased influence as the season progresses.

That's a reality check on the distorted stats typical in the first month or two of every Major League season. But as the player's season matures, so too his current-season data will represent him more truly. (Projected stats will be used for rookies who open the season on Major League rosters.)

Available for pre-order on Jan. 27, Baseball Daily action will debut April 4, the day after the first day of the 2016 Major League season.

The new game can be played in draft format on Strat-O-Matic's Baseball 365 online platform for the cost of a single credit. As usual with the online game, a season takes two months, so one \$19.99 credit will equal



a two-month slice of the 2016 season.

Baseball Daily also can be played with actual teams as a season-long, six-month experience in the Windows game for an add-on cost of \$29.99.

Note: As a simulation of the 2016 season, the Windows version of Baseball Daily cannot be used for draft-league play.

In either format, Strat-O-Matic creator Hal Richman anticipates that many gamers

will check their players' new card images eagerly each day. Then, they will face the decision every big-league manager has to make: Stick with the proven, high-salary veteran regular, or play the sub who is on a torrid streak.

For gamers who know the thrill of getting the new Strat-O-Matic Baseball cards each year, it's an incredibly exciting combination: It's New Card Day *every* day, coupled with the fresh experience of playing a new card set continually, all season long. It will present new strategy challenges for the veteran Strat-O-Matic manager.

Though Baseball Daily will appeal to fantasy baseball players who love current-season stats, Richman emphasized that Baseball Daily is not to be compared to the daily fantasy sports sites, which emphasize monetary risks and rewards.

"Strat-O-Matic always has and always will be about playing for the *love of the game*," Richman said. "Baseball Daily is a fun, new way to get your regular dose of Strat-O-Matic and a way to broaden the interest in the hobby to new gamers who are only interested in current data. So ... tell all of your friends!"

Win More Games with The Baseball Ratings Book

Every game and every season of Strat-O-Matic Baseball is won and lost because of a series of decisions, large and small. Who should be your starting pitcher in this hitter-friendly park? Who should pinch-hit against left-handers? Who should bat third in the lineup? Sixth? Does this trade do enough to help me? Even at the end of the season, the questions never end and decisions must be made on the best information available.

Strat-O-Matic's Baseball Ratings Book is the best information you can find. It is the only guide with the official data from Strat-O-Matic. The only guide with all the carded and computer-only players. No other source provides as many ratings.

Experienced gamers talk about "chances" of getting on base, hitting a homer or other results. These charts give you that informa-

tion at a glance, saving you hours of number-crunching. It's the detail you need to decide who should play, who to draft or trade, and what strategy to use.

When you roll three dice, there are 216 possible combinations, 108 on the pitcher's card and 108 on the hitter's card. Each column has 36 chances. You might look at the 2-12 listed results on a card and ask, "How can that be when each column only shows 11 results?" The answer, of course, is that the 2-12 rolls do not have equal value. The only way to get a 2 result is by rolling snake-eyes, so a homer on the 2 roll has only one chance in 216 of happening. A homer on the 7 roll has six chances in 216 of happening. Counting chances is further complicated when you consider lefty-righty combinations and split chances.

The charts from a past season below show how the Ratings Book does the number-crunching for you. If you have a runner on first and you want to know the chances of a double play, you see that Grace has 22 chances of a double play against a lefty pitcher, and Orosco has 4 double-play chances against a left-handed batter. Add them and you get 26 out of 216 chances for a double play in that situation. Do you stick with Grace? With the Ratings Guide, you can make an informed decision.

The charts even show such ratings as ballpark homerun chances (BP), clutch, hold and endurance, as well as complete fielding data for all of each player's rated positions.

Since the Ratings Book is published weeks before the cards and computer rosters come out, you can best be prepared by ordering the 2015 season book now.

CHICAGO-N		VS. LEFTHANDERS										VS. RIGHANDERS																			
HITTERS	AB	SO	BB	HIT	OB	TB	HR	BP	CL	DP	SO	BB	HIT	OB	TB	HR	BP	CL	DP	STEALING		STL	SPD	B	H	FIELDING					
Grace,M*	547	0	8	31.2	39.2	39.5	1.4	w	+1	22	0	11	36.7	47.7	49.8	0.9	1	+1	20	4/11 (13-4)		E	11	D	B	1b-1e5					
PITCHERS		VS. LEFTHANDERS										VS. RIGHANDERS										ENDURANCE									
BALT	IP	SO	BB	HIT	OB	TB	HR	BP	DP		SO	BB	HIT	OB	TB	HR	BP	DP				HO	BK	WP	F	BAT/BUNT	ST	SP			
Orosco,J*	56	28	20	7.2	27.2	16.0	1.6	2	4	34	8	5.3	13.3	7.7	0.8	1	5	+3	R(1)		-5	0	7	2-15	1WR-C	E	10				

Strat-O-Matic Baseball 2016

PC Power: Baseball Daily, Hi-Res Ballparks and More

As relentless as time, Strat-O-Matic's baseball game for Windows keeps moving forward with advances in appearance, game play and statistics year after year.

This year, the prime-time event is the inclusion of Baseball Daily as an optional add-on. Also optional, but certain to be popular, are new high-resolution color ballpark photos (lower-resolution color images will come standard with the game).

Those who already own color stadiums will receive a free upgrade to the hi-res parks.

Strat-O-Matic Baseball 2016 also will be the first to employ new Individualized Pitcher Injury rules and new Super-Advanced Injury charts. Both are suitable for board-game play as well, with current or older seasons.

(See the new injury charts on Page 4)

Also during game play, when card images are displayed in clutch batting situations, the images will adjust to show the clutch results (single or out) rather than the clutch symbols. That will make it easier for a manager to evaluate a player's value in the clutch.

In the statistical area, Strat-O-Matic goes to WAR (Wins Above Replacement). The stat that reflects a player's value above a replacement-level (AAA) player has been added to the main game screen for both batters and pitchers. When evaluating players, you may also sort them according to WAR.

TWEAKS

There are improvements to existing features as well.

The Online Draft logic for drafting players when an owner is not present has been improved.

The Super Advanced Fielding results for G3 and G2 on Catch-X plays have been given more realistic descriptions.

Previously, when a double-duty player pinch hit for the pitcher, the computer manager attempted to keep him in the game to pitch. This year, code has been added to use another reliever if the double-duty guy is tired and there are two or more other relievers available in the bullpen.

A new computer-manager option prevents the computer from automatically overriding certain defensive strategies such as holding baserunners, positioning the infield, and positioning the outfield.

The Promote/Demote Minor Leaguers dialog now includes an "All" and a "None" button to make it possible to set all players eligible or ineligible with one click.

The Restore League function now defaults to the Backup folder since that is where backups are normally stored.

For a complete description of new features, including bug fixes, see the game's Help File.



New Name, Same Game, More Fun in Online Play

Strat-O-Matic's increasingly popular online baseball game now has the brand name that captures the passion of its enthusiasts.

Baseball 365 describes the year-round involvement of gamers competing in one 162-game draft league after another.

Playing with the most recent season or historic ones, gamers adopt salary caps and compete both in drafts and in strategic play.

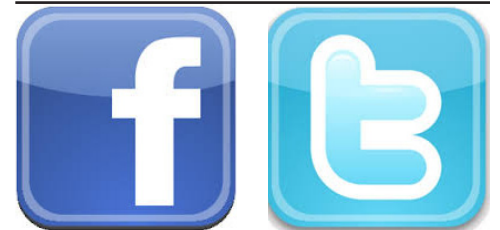
Since each season completes in about two months, winners cash in free credits to play again, while others get another shot at pennants.

This year two new treats have been added: A redesigned interface adds sizzle; the eagerly awaited Baseball Daily (with player cards that update each day) adds steak.

And, coming soon: A mobile app that will allow Baseball 365 users to manage their teams and make transactions on the go from phones and tablets.

This could be your year to join the thousands in Strat-O-Matic's online community.

Check it out at:
<http://365.strat-o-matic.com/>



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Follow us on Twitter (@StratOMatic)

Replay, Draft Thrills with 2015 Season

continued from Page 1

good-field, good-hit SS Francisco Lindor, 3Bs Matt Duffy and Maikel Franco and OFs Randal Grichuk and Eddie Rosario; sluggers Joc Pederson, Miguel Sano, Jung Ho Kang and Kyle Schwarber; speedsters Billy Burns, Delino DeShields and Odubel Herrera, and such pitchers as Mets' Series-game winner Noah Syndergaard, Blue Jays closer Roberto Osuna, Giants' no-hit hurler Chris Heston, and impressive late arrivals Aaron Nola, Marcus Stroman and Lance McCullers.

SPECIAL TEAMS, SPECIAL PLAYERS

This is, of course, the season when Daniel Murphy set a record by hitting home runs in six consecutive postseason games.

It is the year when Clayton Kershaw's 16-7 record, 2.13 ERA, 0.88 WHIP and Ma-

jor League-best 301 strikeouts weren't good enough to earn a fourth Cy Young award.

It is the year when Miami's Giancarlo Stanton slugged .606 with 27 home runs before injury cut his season in half.

And the year when the baseball world would appreciate Houston lefty Dallas Keuchel, the AL Cy Young winner.

Gamers are likely to be impressed by the World Champs – Kansas City again has an amazing six 1-rated defenders at catcher, first base, shortstop and a complete outfield.

Even the Royals can't match the infield defense in San Francisco, which has 1s at first base, second base, shortstop and catcher, with a 2 at third base.

Then there's the stellar up-the-middle defense in Toronto, where catcher Russell Martin, 2B Ryan Goins and CF Kevin Pillar are 1s and SS Troy Tulowitzki is a 2.

Detroit has an all-1 middle infield in 2B Ian Kinsler and SS Jose Iglesias.

Are You Up-to-Date with Game Boxes and Rulebooks?

The early adopters among Strat-O-Matic fans have shared praise for the modernized hockey and baseball boxes, and also for the redesigned hockey rulebook.

Note the rulebook in the foreground of the hockey-game image at right. It combines the rules previously found in multiple places, clarifies rules that prompted the most frequently asked questions, and contains a helpful index for finding specific solutions quickly.

(The Strat-O-Matic Pro Basketball rulebook was redesigned for similar reasons, and to similar acclaim, in 2014)

The hockey rulebook and both of the game boxes debuted last year. If your games aren't current, now might be the perfect opportunity to find out why they should be.



New Individualized Pitcher Injuries

Seasons released from 2016 onward include individualized pitcher injury ratings on the roster sheets. Use those ratings to determine when a pitcher might be injured, and also how many games he will be injured for.

Pitcher injuries can occur with any opposing batter at the plate.

The pitcher injury rating determines the dice roll for possible injuries to the pitcher in the field, as determined by the Potential Injury chart:

INJURY RATING	POTENTIAL INJURY
0	(none)
1	6-12
2	6-11
3	6-10
4	6-9
5	6-8
6	6-7

For example, if the dice roll is a 6-11 when a pitcher with a "2" injury rating is on the mound then an injury has potentially occurred.

To determine if the injury occurs, and to see how long it lasts, roll the 20-sided die and refer to the Super Advanced Pitcher Injury chart.

SUPER ADVANCED INJURY CHART

	Batter Injury	Pitcher Injury	KEY: OK = Player not injured REM = Player injured for remainder of this game only *-Maximum Injuries Batter Starter Reliever Maximum Injury AB GS IP			
1	OK	OK				
2	OK	OK				
3	OK	OK				
4	OK	OK				
5	REM	OK				
6	REM	OK				
7	1	1				
8	1	2				
9	1	4	300	20	40	30 games
10	2	5	450	---	---	15 games
11	2	6	---	28	60	6 games
12	3	9*	600	---	---	3 games
13	3	10*				
14	4*	11*				
15	5*	12*				
16	6*	15*				
17	8*	15*				
18	10*	20*				
19	15*	30*				
20	60*	60*				

Examples: A batter with 460 at-bats receives a 60-game injury. The maximum injury for him is 15 games, so he is injured 15 games instead of 60. A starting pitcher who had 28 real-life starts can receive a maximum injury of 6 games. A reliever with 42 real-life innings can only receive up to a 30-game injury.

Note that a starter/reliever designation for this chart depends on the pitcher's role in this game.

Speed to Burn: Fleet St. Louis Cardinals, 130-Steal Rickey Henderson Rule 1982

Harvey's Wallbangers, Weaver's Swansong, MVPs Yount & Murphy, Rookie Ripken in SOM's Classic Return to '80s

After more than 30 years of re-creating classic baseball seasons from earlier decades, Strat-O-Matic is offering its first updated 1980s set by making the dramatic 1982 season available in Super Advanced format.

It's a season with four spandex-tight division races (nine teams were within three games of titles), a seven-game World Series and many baseball legends at their best:

AL West – Reggie Jackson joins California, leads the AL with 39 HR and the Angels edge Kansas City (whose Hal McRae drives in 133 runs) by three games.

AL East – Milwaukee changes to Man-

ager Harvey Kuenn in mid-season, wins the division for the first time by beating Baltimore on the final day, wins its first pennant by beating California the final two games in a five-game series, then takes St. Louis to seven games in the World Series.

The Brewers, dubbed "Harvey's Wallbangers" club 216 HR with Gorman Thomas (39), Ben Oglivie (34), Cecil Cooper (32) and MVP SS Robin Yount (.331-29-114). Pete Vuckovich (18-6) wins the Cy Young.

In Manager Earl Weaver's final season, the Orioles introduce Cal Ripken Jr. (28 HR, 93 RBI) in support of Eddie Murray (.313-32-121).

NL West – Thanks to MVP Dale Murphy (.281-36-109) and Phil Niekro (17-4), Atlanta wins the closest division by one game over Los Angeles, led by Pedro Guerrero (.304-32-100) and Fernando Valenzuela (19-13, 2.87) and two games over San Francisco and Jack Clark (27 HR, 103 RBI).

NL East – St. Louis trades for Ozzie Smith, then uses speed (LF Lonnie Smith: .307 with 68 SB) and defense to overcome the fewest homers in the Majors (63) to hold off Philadelphia by two games, despite Cy Young winner Steve Carlton (23-11) and Mike Schmidt (35 HR). The Cardinals then sweep the Braves for the NL pennant and win the final two games of the seven-game World Series. 15-game winner Joaquin Andujar wins the clinchers in both series.

What a Difference a Career Makes

Think of it as the ultimate baseball time-machine, or the ultimate What-If? database, but don't overlook the 2015 version of Strat-O-Matic's Career Historical Disk for the Windows game.

Where else can you get every player who ever played in the Major Leagues all in one package? The possibilities for sorting the 15,000 or so players into dream teams are endless.

Displayed in Strat-O-Matic's "Chevy"-style of card design, each player is rated on stats that cover his entire career. The computer files organize players by the decade of their Major League debut, so that's one sort done for you.

Some gamers have created rosters for real seasons, all-time franchise teams, teams organized by their state of birth, or even teams according to a season of Topps Baseball cards — just to name a few ways to enjoy this unique collection.

SOM Issues Largest Baseball Hall of Fame Set Ever

Some gamers say the most fun they've ever had was playing Strat-O-Matic's Hall of Fame baseball card sets. No wonder each one has sold out faster than the one before it.

Continuing its pattern of updating the HOF sets sooner, the game company is issuing a new 252-card set, just two years after the last one.

The 2016 set, also available as a Windows roster, adds the 2015 inductees – Craig Biggio, Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz – and the newest honorees, Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza

SOM's Hall of Fame Card Sets:

1960s: Hall of Fame Sets A&B with 80 two-sided cards (one side best season, other side career stats) in basic-format only

2000: Glossy collectible set on heavy stock with signed authenticity certificates and 192 cards

2010: 238-card set, the first with Negro League Hall of Famers, and a Babe Ruth pitching card

2014: 246 cards (and a HOF 75th Anniv. Edition with six 1939 season bonus cards)

2016: 252 cards

You've Got the Look

In order to be a Strat-O winner, you've got to feel like a Strat-O winner; in order to feel like a Strat-O winner, you've got to LOOK like a Strat-O winner



Outfit your league or go solo to intimidate your opponents with the new Strat-O-Logo Hat and Strat-O-Logo Shirt (each \$19.99)

Discounts for Sales in After School Program

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

The innovative Strat-O-Matic After School Program offers your choice of Baseball Selector Sets (game with five current teams of your choice) at 50 percent off or the Baseball Express game (ideal for younger kids) at 40 percent off.

Selector sets are \$10 each for a minimum of six games. Baseball Express is \$6 each for a minimum of 10 games.

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

For orders/questions, email:

corporateinfo@strat-o-matic.com

Six New Ways to do Windows, Strat-O-Style

1874 National Association: Spalding Wins 'em All

Re-live baseball's formative professional years when the game's rules and franchises were still being sorted out.

In the National Association's fourth season, the Boston Red Stockings won their third straight championship with a 52-18 record, and pitcher Al Spalding (52-16, 1.92) won them all.

The Red Stockings batted .312 as a team and featured eight players who batted over .300—Cal McVey (.359, 123 hits, 71 RBI), Ross Barnes (.340), George Wright (.329, 15 triples), Spalding (.329), Harry Wright (.315), Jim O'Rourke (.314, 5 homeruns, 71 RBI), Andy Leonard (.313), and Deacon White (.301).

Among the other top performers, Chicago's Levi Meyerly batted .394 to lead the league. Lip Pike (Hartford, .355), Jack Manning (Baltimore and Hartford, .346), and John McMullin (Athletics, .346) were among the best hitters. Bobby Mathews (New York) won 42 games and posted a 1.90 ERA. Dick McBride pitched every inning for the Philadelphia Athletics, posting a 33-22 record and leading the league with a 1.64 ERA.

2015 Japanese Leagues: Get the First Look at Kenta Maeda

With more Japanese Leagues batters and pitchers playing well in the Major Leagues, Strat-O-Matic gamers can get the knowledge edge by using today's Japanese stars (including new Dodger pitcher Kenta Maeda) in this unique re-creation. Do it with thrilling pennant races and former Major Leaguers (49 of them) salting the Japanese lineups.

The Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks (90-49-4) posted the best record and made their first Nippon Series appearance since 2001. Led by MVP Yuki Yanagita (.325, 27 HR, 95 RBI, 23 SB), they defeated the Tokyo Yakult Swallows, whose powerful lineup included Nobuhiro Matsuda (.272, 31 HR, 90 RBI), Dae-Ho Lee (.269, 29 HR, 98 RBI), Akira Nakamura (.285) and Seichi Uchikawa (.270, 13 HR, 82 RBI).

To reach the final series, Yakult won the Central League by 1 ½ games over Tokyo rival and traditional power Yomiuri Giants, whose Tetsuto Yamada (.316, 26 HR, 96 RBI, 38 SB) was Central League MVP. Then the Swallows devoured the Giants in the post-season, despite Yamada's three homers in one game.

New Sets Span 4 Decades of Negro Leagues

1908: Rube Foster Takes Charge

Just like the Major Leagues, 1908 was a dead-ball pitcher's dream for the early-stage Negro Leagues, but in stats calculated as Major-League equivalencies to a 150-game season, 24-year-old Pop Lloyd of Philadelphia (league-leading .342, league-leading 29 doubles, 14 triples, .888 OPS) and 25-year-old Pete Hill of Chicago (.340; league leading 16 triples, 8 homers, and .888 OPS) were undeterred.

Otherwise, pitchers dominated. Only future Hall of Famer Smokey Joe Williams (1.45 ERA) and New York's Steel Arm Taylor (1.48) and Brooklyn's duo of Charles Earle (28-10) and Goat Head Buckner (25-16) could rival Chicago's vaunted 1-2 punch of Rube Foster (31-6, 1.57) and Walter Ball (29-11).

Gamers familiar with Strat-O-Matic's Negro League Stars set will recognize 10 players from that set, including Hall of Famers Rube Foster, Pete Hill, Pop Lloyd, Jose Mendez and Smokey Joe Williams.

1917: Better than Cubs, White Sox?

Have fun with a slice of baseball history that takes you not only to New York, Chicago and St. Louis, but to Atlantic City and even Havana.

The Chicago Giants were so formidable that the Major League Cubs and White Sox declined a post-season series.

Experience Chicago's dominant pitching, led by Dick Redding (32 wins, 1.57 ERA, league-best 159 Ks) and Tom Williams (23-9, 1.71), and New York's pitching star Smokey Joe Williams (31 wins) and its power (Jewel Thomas led the league by hitting .359, with an OPS of .906, and catcher Louis Santop had a .948 OPS).

But it was Havana pitcher Juan Padron who was king of the hill at 25-12 with a 1.56 ERA.

You'll find 29 players from Strat-O-Matic's Negro League Stars including Hall of Famers Oscar Charleston, Rube Foster, Pete Hill, Pop Lloyd, Jose Mendez, Louis Santop, Ben Taylor, Cristobal Torriente and Smokey Joe Williams.

1935: Josh, Satch, Mighty Crawfords

Perhaps no Negro League team ever amassed as much talent as the 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords, which dominated as expected (.722 winning percentage, equivalent to 117 wins in a 162-game schedule) after putting Cool Papa Bell at the top of a lineup with Hall of Fame sluggers Josh Gibson, Oscar Charleston, Judy Johnson and such Blackball legends as Sam Bankhead, Jimmy Crutchfield, Spooey Palm and Bill Perkins. In the first year of the lively ball that was cruel to pitchers, the Crawfords' Satchel Paige went 21-4, 2.55 with 174 strikeouts in 212 innings.

Still, Chicago's Turkey Stearnes led in batting (.342) and OPS (.983), as teammate Mules Suttles (.925 OPS) did in home runs (35) and RBI (119). Gibson was runner-up in home runs (32) and OPS (.976). Other regulars in the .900 OPS Strat-O-sphere were Homestead's Buck Leonard (.954), KC's Willard Brown (.918), Philadelphia's Jud Wilson (.924) and Cuban Martin Dihigo (.922; 10-5 as a pitcher).

1948: Mays, Minoso, More

By 1948, Jackie Robinson had broken the Major League color barrier and Larry Doby soon followed. But the Negro Leagues still had the power of such future Major Leaguers as 17-year-old Willie Mays, Minnie Minoso, Elston Howard, Jim Gilliam, Monte Irvin, Luke Easter, Al Smith, Hank Thompson and many others familiar to fans who know the 1950s Majors.

This season also featured six Hall of Famers (Willard Brown, Monte Irvin, Buck Leonard, Hilton Smith, Mule Suttles and Willie Wells) and 12 others from SOM's Negro League Stars (Sam Bankhead, William Bell, Jerry Benjamin, Chet Brewer, Larry Brown, Bill Byrd, Max Manning, Verdell Mathis, Buck O'Neil, Bill Perkins, Neil Robinson, Quincy Troupe).

The teams from Washington (Easter, Leonard), Baltimore (Gilliam) and Newark (Irvin) can win the National League, with Birmingham (Mays) and Kansas City (Willard Brown, Howard, Thompson) going at it in the American.