

STRAT-O-MATIC[®]

NEWS

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Summer 2017

Ready for Some Football? Your Coaching *Will* Matter

Since the end of the most dramatic comeback in Super Bowl history, Strat-O-Matic gamers have eagerly awaited the chance to replay the 14-2 Patriots against the 540-point Falcons, or to draft the awesome cards of Atlanta's MVP quarterback Matt Ryan and New England tight end Rob Gronkowski.

The entire NFL season was dramatic – almost six of every 10 games were decided by one score, the most ever. Detroit QB Matthew Stafford led an NFL-record eight fourth-quarter comeback wins.

Now this amazing season can be yours and you will see the effects of your coaching in tight games with new contenders: For the first time, neither of the prior year's Super Bowl teams made the playoffs, while six of the eight divisions had new winners.

What can you do with Dallas' amazing rookie tandem of QB Zak Prescott (67.8% completions, 0.9% interceptions) and HB Ezekiel Elliott (his 1,631 rush yards led the NFL's big jump to seven 1,200-yard runners)? Can you do more for New Orleans with Drew Brees' 5,208 passing yards, for Green Bay with Aaron Rodgers' 40 passing

TDs, or for Minnesota with Sam Bradford's NFL-record 71.6% completion rate?

They and other top quarterbacks had such attractive targets as wide receivers Odell Beckham Jr., Antonio Brown and Larry Fitzgerald – each topped 100 receptions. They are joined by 22 other receivers with at least 1,000 yards, topped by Pro Bowl wide receivers T.Y. Hilton (1,448) and Julio Jones (1,409).

New Orleans (Brandin Cooks and sensational rookie Michael Thomas) and Denver (Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders) had a pair of 1,000-yard pass catchers. Beckham, Brown and league-leader Jordy Nelson of Green Bay (14) were among four receivers with at least 10 TD catches.

Even two tight ends – Kansas City's Travis Kelce and Carolina's Greg Olsen – passed the 1,000-yard mark.

Or play power football with any of the seven running backs who scored 10 or more TDs rushing. New England's LeGarrette Blount smashed for a league-best 18 rushing TDs. Arizona's David Johnson ran for 16 scores (and caught 80 passes, too, while amassing more than 2,100 yards from scrimmage) and Elliott 15.

On defense, thrill to the pass-rushing of Atlanta's Vic Beasley (NFL-best 16 sacks), the Giants' five 6-rated starters (three in the secondary) or the overall strength of New England and Seattle.

There never has been a better head-to-head game than Strat-O-Matic Pro Football, yet, amazingly, the experience is about to get better. See the pages inside for details on how Netplay has been improved and the forthcoming Football 365 for online draft-league play.

Windows gamers also should turn the pages to discover the host of new features that can be used to enjoy this sensational season.



The new way to play – see inside for details

New this Summer from Strat-O-Matic Football

Strat-O-Matic Pro Football 2017
2016 NFL season
1982 NFL season
1968 NFL season (cards only)
Strat-O-Matic College Football 2017
with the 2016 NCAA season
ETA: Pro in Early August, College in late August

Hockey

Strat-O-Matic Hockey 2017
2016-17 NHL season
1988-89 NHL season
1949-50 NHL season
ETA: Late September

Basketball

Strat-O-Matic Basketball 2017
2016-17 NBA season
1962-63 NBA season (Windows only)
1961-62 NBA season (Windows only)
**ETA: Cards-Late September
Windows-Late October**

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Strat-O-Matic Games @StratOMatic*



**Explore the App
Universe with SOM –
see Page 2 for details**

R | ANDREW MCCUTCHEN 2017- stealing-(B) *4-6)-(17-12) bunting-D hit & run-C  

cf-3(0)e7/rf-3e7 running 1-14

72% AGAINST LEFT-HANDED PITCHERS			72% AGAINST RIGHT-HANDED PITCHERS		
1	2	3	1	2	3
2-gb (3b) A ofas injury	2-2 SINGLE (R) SP* 1-15	2-gb (2b)C ▼3-popout (ss)	2-fly (rf) B?	2-2 SINGLE (R) SP* 1-15	2-gb (ss) A 3-foulout (3b)
3-foulout (2b)	or 16-20	4-gb (2b) A 6-SP* 1-15	4-WALK 8-strikeout	or 16-20	4-gb (2b) B 6-SP* 1-13
4-WALK	▼3-SINGLE (rf)	or (3b) 19-20	6-fly (rf) B?	▼4-foulout (2b)	or (3b) 14-20
5-strikeout	4-gb (2b)C	6-popout (ss)	7-gb (ss) A+	5-DO** 1-13	6-gb (ss) A
6-gb (3b) A	▼5-fly (rf) B?	7-gb (ss) A+	8-strikeout	SP** 14-20	7-fly (rf) B?
7-gb (ss) A	6-popout (2b)	8-gb (ss) B	8-strikeout	8-popout (ss)	8-gb (ss) A
8-strikeout	7-fly (cf) B?	9-fly (rf) B?	9-strikeout	7-strikeout	9-gb (2b)C
9-strikeout	8-WALK	10-gb (2b) A	▼11-SINGLE (rf)	8-WALK	10-gb (2b) A
10-strikeout	9-HR 1-14	11-foulout (3b)	12-to (3b) max	9-HR 1-10	11-foulout (3)
11-gb (1b)C	fly (rf) B 15-20	12-gb (ss) A		DO 11-20	12-gb (ss) A
12-to (3b) max	15-DO** 1-6			10-WALK	
	SP** 7-20			▼11-HR 1-11	
	▼11-HR 1-16			fly (rf) B 12-20	
	fly (rf) B 17-20			13-gb (ss) B	
	▼12-gb (2b) B				plus injury

Above: McCutchen on May 27

Below: McCutchen on July 5

R | ANDREW MCCUTCHEN 2017- stealing-(B) *4-6)-(17-12) bunting-D hit & run-C  

cf-3(0)e4/rf-3e4 running 1-14

72% AGAINST LEFT-HANDED PITCHERS			72% AGAINST RIGHT-HANDED PITCHERS		
1	2	3	1	2	3
▼2-fly (rf) B?	2-to (3b) max	2-WALK	2-WALK	2-to (3b) max	2-WALK
▼3-fly (rf) B?	3-gb (ss) A	3-WALK	3-WALK	3-WALK	3-WALK
4-HOMERUN	▼4-foulout (ss)	4-WALK	4-HOMERUN	4-gb (ss) A	4-WALK
5-HOMERUN	5-strikeout	5-SINGLE (rf)	5-HR 1-15	5-gb (ss) A	5-SINGLE (rf)
6-HR 1	6-gb (2b)C	6-SINGLE (rf)	TR 16-20	6-fly (cf) B?	6-SINGLE**
fly (rf) B 2-20	7-gb (ss) A+	7-WALK	▼6-fly (rf) B?	7-gb (ss) A+	7-SP* 1-4
7-TR 1-4	8-gb (3b) A	8-WALK	7-DO** 1-11	8-strikeout	8-gb (2b) B 5-20
SP** 5-20	9-strikeout	9-SP* 1-16	8-TR 1	▼10-fly (rf) B?	8-WALK
8-DO** 1-11	10-gb (ss) A	10-SINGLE (r)	DO 2-20	11-WALK	9-SINGLE**
SP** 12-20	11-WALK	▼11-SINGLE (r)	9-gb (2b) A	12-WALK	10-SINGLE*
9-fly (rf) B?	12-WALK	▲12-SINGLE (rf)	▼10-HR 1-14		11-WALK
▼10-HR 1-14		SP* 1-15	fly (rf) B 15-20		▲12-SINGLE (rf)
fly (rf) B 15-20		or 16-20	▼11-SINGLE (rf)		SP* 1-15
▼11-fly (rf) B?			12-fly (cf) A		or 15-20
12-fly (rf) A					plus injury

Pad  12:14 PM 17%  

R | AARON JUDGE 2017-04-02 stealing-(E) 4,5(12(11-4) bunting-D hit & run-D  

rf-3(1)e7 running 1-10

72% AGAINST LEFT-HANDED PITCHERS			72% AGAINST RIGHT-HANDED PITCHERS		
1	2	3	1	2	3
2-fly (rf) A	2-HOMERUN	▼2-fly (rf) B?	2-gb (ss) A+	2-HOMERUN	▼2-fly (rf) B?
SP* 1-2	▼3-HOMERUN	3-WALK	3-gb (1b)C	▼3-HOMERUN	3-WALK
or 3-20	4-HR 1-17	4-WALK	▼4-fly (rf) B?	4-HR 1-17	4-SINGLE (rf)
3-gb (ss) A	DO 18-20	5-strikeout	5-strikeout	DO 18-20	5-strikeout
plus injury	5-DO** 1-18	6-strikeout	6-strikeout	5-TR 1	6-strikeout
▼4-fly (cf) B?	SP** 19-20	7-WALK	7-fly (cf) B?	SP** 2-20	7-strikeout
DO-strikeout	6-SINGLE (rf)	8-strikeout	8-gb (ss) A+	6-DO** 1-13	8-strikeout
6-strikeout	7-SP* 1-7	9-strikeout	9-strikeout	SP** 14-20	9-strikeout
7-gb (ss) A+	8-gb (2b) B 8-20	10-WALK	10-gb (ss) A	7-WALK	10-SP* 1-17
8-fly (rf) B?	8-WALK	11-fly (rf) B?	11-gb (2b)C	8-WALK	11-gb (ss) A
9-strikeout	9-strikeout	12-to (3b) max	▲12-gb (ss) A	9-WALK	11-gb (3b) A
10-fly (rf) B?	10-gb (3b) A		SP* 1-2	DO-fly (rf) B?	plus injury
11-gb (ss) A	▼11-SINGLE (rf)		or 3-20	10-gb (3b) A	12-to (3b) max
12-gb (3b) A	▼12-HR 1-9			▼11-SINGLE (rf)	
	fly (rf) B 10-20			fly (rf) B 10-20	

Above: Judge on April 2

Below: Judge on June 29

Pad  12:15 PM 17%  

R | AARON JUDGE 2017-06-29 stealing-(C) 4-6(10(15-8) bunting-D hit & run-D  

rf-3(1)e5 running 1-10

72% AGAINST LEFT-HANDED PITCHERS			72% AGAINST RIGHT-HANDED PITCHERS		
1	2	3	1	2	3
2-WALK	2-WALK	2-WALK	2-DO** 1	▼2-fly (cf) A	▲7-strikeout
▼3-SINGLE (rf)	DO-strikeout	3-WALK	SP** 2-20	▼3-fly (rf) B?	SP* 1-4
4-HOMERUN	▼4-strikeout	4-WALK	3-WALK	4-strikeout	or 5-20
5-HOMERUN	5-strikeout	5-SINGLE (rf)	4-HOMERUN	5-strikeout	3-strikeout
6-HR 1	6-strikeout	6-SP* 1-10	5-HOMERUN	6-strikeout	4-WALK
fly (rf) B 2-20	7-strikeout	gb (ss) A 11-20	6-HR 1-8	7-strikeout	5-SINGLE (rf)
7-TR 1-2	8-strikeout	7-WALK	DO 9-20	8-strikeout	6-SP* 1-15
SP** 3-20	▲8-strikeout	8-WALK	7-TR 1-4	9-strikeout	gb (ss) A 16-20
▼5-HOMERUN	SP* 1	9-WALK	SP** 5-20	DO-strikeout	7-WALK
9-strikeout	or 2-20	10-WALK	▼8-HOMERUN	11-strikeout	8-WALK
▼10-fly (rf) B?	10-WALK	11-WALK	9-strikeout	12-to (3b) max	9-WALK
11-DO** 1-19	11-WALK	12-WALK	▼11-SINGLE (rf)		10-WALK
SP** 20	12-WALK		12-fly (rf) B?		11-WALK
DO-strikeout					12-WALK

Watch Lives Flash Before Your Eyes with Card Viewer App and Baseball Daily



The card images on this page are from Strat-O-Matic's Card Viewer App.

The free app comes with images of every card in the careers of the 117 players in SOM's first Baseball Heroes set.

On May 27, Pirates outfielder Andrew McCutchen was off to the worst season start of his career, but he has been on fire since then. On Opening Day, Aaron Judge was a low-average, high-strikeout prospect with intriguing power. Since then he has become a leading MVP candidate, hitting for average as well as power and leading the league in walks while striking out less.

Those and other trends develop in Strat-O-Matic's Baseball Daily with a new card set every day. Baseball Daily games are played online or with the Windows game, but these images were captured from Strat-O-Matic's Card Viewer App.

For \$4.99/month or \$49.99/year, gamers can get every MLB season SOM has ever created – a vast resource for research, draft preparation or nostalgia, among limitless other uses.

For an additional 99 cents you can view all of SOM's specialty sets -- Baseball Daily, Hall of Fame, Negro Leagues and Japanese Leagues.

Here, the images are from Baseball Daily, played with cards that change every day based on season-to-date stats. You can see the dramatic progression in the seasons of Andrew McCutchen and Aaron Judge.

Play the current season as it happens with Baseball Daily (you can begin your play at any time during the real season.)

Strat-O-Matic's journey into the app universe also includes a free app for Baseball 365, the online game. While gamers cannot buy credits for that game through the app, they can do everything else – draft, set their computer managers, check game outcomes and more.

More apps are in the works. Details will be available when the apps are ready to launch. For the latest news, stay connected through the strat-o-matic.com website.

Jon Miller Wins Media Experts Lg

Veteran baseball writers and broadcasters launched Baseball Daily last year by playing with Strat-O-Matic's Baseball 365 online game and most were back for more this year.

They drafted under a salary cap, set their pitching rotations, lineups and computer managers, then made scores of roster moves in the way that fantasy-league gamers do, taking advantage of the ever-changing cards in Baseball Daily to snatch the hot hitters and pitchers and to ditch injured and slumping players.

When the competition was over, this year's champ was broadcaster Jon Miller, who wrote years ago in his autobiography that his play-by-play career began as a pre-teen announcing Strat-O-Matic games in his bedroom.

Miller's Bora Bora Lagoon won the toughest divisional race (two games ahead of baseball writer Joe Lemire's Manny's Cup Check, the wild-card team. Then they had a rematch in the finals of the four-team post-season.

Despite losing games two and three by scores of 11-5 and 14-5 (and being outscored by seven runs for the series), Miller's squad won it all.

Boston Globe sports media columnist Chad Finn's Hack Finns won a league-best 103 games in the regular season with the league's best defense (601 runs allowed) and pitching aces Chris Sale (21-8), Ervin Santana (18-7, 2.47) and Lance McCullers (13-11).

The Teaneck Steel Drums, managed by Doug Glanville, won 101 games with the league's best offense (809 runs scored, 260 home runs). Glanville, who also began playing Strat-O-Matic as a boy, lined up sluggers Ryan Zimmerman (.312-44-124), George Springer (34 HR), Zack Cozart (30 HR), Marcell Ozuna (28 HR), Jake Lamb (23 HR) and Yasmani Grandal (23

HR). Both Finn and Glanville won their divisions by more than 20 games.

But in reversals of fortunes, Finn lost a six-game semi-final to Lemire while allowing five runs per game.

After winning the first two semi-final games against Miller, Glanville's squad fell in seven while scoring only 14 runs in the final five games. The last three Miller-Glanville games were classics: Miller winning 1-0, Glanville winning 4-3 and Miller winning the finale, 6-4 in 11 innings after Glanville's squad scored four in the ninth inning to force extra innings.

The playoff teams dominated the season to such an extent that they were the only ones with winning records in the 12-team league.

Glanville has played in more than twice as many Baseball 365 leagues (56) as all other media experts combined, though this was just his second league experience with Baseball Daily. His three champions were with All-Time Great player pools. This was his most successful regular-season team.

Steve Gardner, the champ in the first Media Experts League, managed a 78-84 record this time.

Miller: Hit 230 home runs, most often by Aaron Judge (47), Bryce Harper (35), Anthony Rendon (27), Adam Jones (25) and Brian McCann (22).

Starting pitchers Dallas Keuchel, Zack Godley and Cole Hamels were a combined 5-0 in the post-season. Judge and Harper each had four post-season home runs.

Lemire: Led by Nolan Arenado (.292-39-129), Eric Thames (33 HR) and Corey Seager (32 HR)

Glanville: All but one of his 13 pitchers had winning records. Reliever Adam Warren was 9-1, 2.18) and David Robertson saved 47 games.



Next for Online Play: Football 365

As Strat-O-Matic's best-selling game by far, baseball long has been the proving ground for new strategy options and computer features. If those things prove to be popular with baseball fans, they often are adopted for Strat-O-Matic's other games.

Baseball 365 has passed the test with its own large and growing audience, so Strat-O-Matic expects to expand the online draft-league format to Pro Football this fall.

The format for Football 365 will mirror baseball: A 12-team league in two conferences will draft players (from the 2016 NFL season or SOM's All-Time Franchise teams) with a salary cap, set computer-manager options and receive the results of one game per night.

Play a 16-game schedule, and the top two teams from each conference advance to the post-season. Stay connected to strat-o-matic.com for additional details as they become available.

Netplay Problems Solved; Easier to Use, Too

"It has been a long and arduous process but we have finally been able to overhaul the Netplay module," Strat-O-Matic creator Hal Richman declared in a letter to gamers. And with that eagerly anticipated announcement came equally big news:

Netplay will be vastly easier to start, more stable to use and simpler to restore if a game is interrupted.

The many unique configurations of computers had long presented connection challenges for Netplay gamers wanting to play over the internet with distant gamers.

But now, after installing the 2017H patch, "gamers can connect simply and easily, no IP address required," Richman explained, adding that "Port Forwarding is a thing of the past," making it unnecessary to reconfigure routers and modems.

Instead, Netplay hosts will be assigned a Game Number to be shared with the opponent. The new Netplay still supports the Game Lobby playing option.

Though internet play always risks network interruptions, Netplay restoration is also smoother now, Richman said.

The improvements should encourage leagues that had given up on Netplay in frustration to resume head-to-head internet play with SOM, Richman said.

"We are committed to continuing to improve Netplay going forward," he added.

Already, the pre-launch testing of the new Netplay went so well that Strat-O-Matic anticipates adding it to the Windows games for Pro Football, College Football, Hockey and Basketball this fall.

Improvements in SOM Football 2017

As relentless as a Tom Brady-led drive or an Aaron Rodgers aerial assault, Strat-O-Matic's football game for Windows play just keeps getting better with age.

New and vastly improved Netplay (see page 3) headlines the advances in Strat-O-Matic Football 2017 for pro and college play, but the Windows game is more versatile than ever.

Realism: The defense now can score a two-point conversion ... The NFL's new free-kick rule is part of the game ... The injury system now accounts for dual-threat quarterbacks by factoring his rushing attempts as well as passing attempts.

Strategy: Game rules can be changed in mid-season if you overlooked something ... There's an option to "Limit Overusage for All" making everyone eligible for mandatory rest.

Organization: League Manager now displays whether a league is Stock, Draft or Playoff ... Save time creating your custom league: A single button will transfer all the teams from a designated season into yours.

Statistics and Reports: League Leaders now can be displayed by conference ... Report Writer now displays Total Offense and Total All Purpose Yards. In addition, player reports now include Total Yards and team reports now include Team Offensive Yardage and Team Defensive Yardage.

Bugs and Data Fixes: Seven bugs have been exterminated (three in the All Pro Report) ... A small number of player ratings have been added/changed for a half dozen past seasons.

Bringing You Up to Date: As usual, Strat-O-Matic Football will be necessary to play the sensational 2016 NFL season, the highlight-filled 2016 NCAA season and Strat-O-Matic's latest classic pro season: 1982.

Wildest NCAA Season Yet?

Replay Clemson's sensational, 35-31 win over Alabama in a national championship game decided on a pass with two seconds left. Replay Pittsburgh's 67-51 win over Syracuse, the most points ever in a regulation game. Or replay the highest-scoring Rose Bowl ever, won by USC over Penn State.

The playoff with Clemson, Alabama, Washington and Ohio State included a team that did not win its conference (Ohio State). If you think conference champions Oklahoma (with its two Heisman Trophy finalists, 44-TD QB Baker Mayfield and 16-TD WR Dede Westbrook) or Penn State (winner of its last nine games before the Rose Bowl) belong, you can sub them or add them with Strat-O-Matic's Tournament mode that will take even more teams – perhaps No. 5 Michigan (a team that really played defense) and USC (freshman QB Sam Darnold led the Trojans to nine straight wins).

Take a look at Louisville's Heisman winner Lamar Jackson (the 51-TD quarterback who became the first player in FBS history with 3,300 yards passing and 1,500 yards rushing in a season). Take a look at LSU, where Leonard Fournette ran for a school-record 284 yards in a game and, a month later, his backup Demetrius Guice ran for 285. Take a look at Oklahoma St. WR James Washington, whose 296 receiving yards in a game was the most ever against a Power 5 conference opponent. Take a look at Western Michigan, 13-0 before its bowl game loss to Big Ten division winner Wisconsin.

Can any steal glory from Clemson's Deshaun Watson, who ended up with 5,222 yards of total offense (including an ACC single-game record 580 yards passing) and was responsible for 50 touchdowns?



Classic Seasons for Pro Football: 1968, 1982

1968 NFL, AFL

Long available in computer-roster form, the legendary 1968 season will soon be available in a six-team card set.

This was the season when New York Jets' quarterback Joe Namath made the audacious guarantee of a Super Bowl victory over the heavily favored Baltimore Colts, then delivered.

It elevated the status of the American Football League.

This was the season of the infamous "Heidi Game," when NBC cut away from the Jets-Raiders regular season game just before the Raiders scored two TDs in nine seconds to win 43-32. Never again.

The carded teams:

11-3 Jets: Namath's passing, stingy D and Weeb Ewbank becomes the only coach to win titled in both the AFL and NFL.

13-1 Colts: With a Super Bowl win, this might have been regarded as Don Shula and Bubba Smith's best Baltimore team ever.

12-2 Raiders: Won a tie-breaker with Kansas City to advance to the AFL title game.

12-2 Chiefs: With top-rated passer Len Dawson and the toughest AFL defense, this squad may have been better than the '66 and '69 Super Bowl Chiefs.

12-2 Cowboys: Tom Landry had Don Meredith, Bob Hayes, Bob Lilly and Le Roy Jordan.

10-4 Browns: Leroy Kelly led the NFL with 1,239 rush yards and 20 TDs. The pass defense set an NFL record with 32 interceptions.

1982 NFL

NFL teams lost seven games each to a player strike, but even a nine-game season showcased stars and impressive teams.

A decade after its first Super Bowl appearance, the **Washington Redskins** finally won the trophy after going 8-1 with quarterback Joe Theismann, Super Bowl star RB John Riggins and the NFL's stingiest defense.

Washington avenged its loss of 10 years earlier by whipping 7-2 **Miami**, a defense-first squad that held the high-scoring "Air Coryell" Chargers to 13 points in the AFC title game.

San Diego had the NFL's top offense (31 points per game with QB Dan Fouts, WR Wes Chandler (1,032 yards, 21 ypc, 9 TDs) and potent runners Chuck Muncie and James Brooks.

With almost 1,100 yards from scrimmage and 14 TDs by HB Marcus Allen, the 8-1 **Los Angeles Raiders** were nearly as explosive, but lost 17-14 in the playoffs to the 6-3 **New York Jets**.

Jets HB Freeman McNeil ran for 5.2 yards per carry on a 16-game pace of 1,415 yards. WR Wesley Walker (1,100-yard pace) gave the Jets potent options.

Dallas, 6-3, is the other carded team, with NFC rushing leader Tony Dorsett, 63-percent passer Danny White and a defense that held seven foes to 14 points or fewer. The 20 non-carded teams are available for the Windows game.



Classic Hockey: The Original Six and Calgary's Only Cup

1988-89 NHL

This season ended emotionally. Calgary's only Stanley Cup championship to date was ultra-popular future Hall of Famer Lanny McDonald's only Cup – in his final season.

Mario Lemieux, Wayne Gretzky, Steve Yzerman and Bernie Nicholls all had at least 150 points, as Lemieux topped the league with 199 points, 85 goals and 114 assists.

The six carded teams:

Calgary: 51-goal scorers Joe Mullen and Joe Nieuwendyk joined future Hall of Famers Doug Gilmour, Al MacInnis and McDonald in a star-studded cast that included Hakan Loob, Gary Sutter, Gary Roberts, Theoren Fleury and Mike Vernon.

Montreal: The Cup finalist had Vezina winner Patrick Roy (2.47 goals-against average, .908 save percentage, both league-bests) and Norris winner Chris Chelios on defense, Selke winner Guy Carbonneau at center and future Hall of Famers Larry Robinson and Bob Gainey. Mats Naslund (33) and Bobby Smith (32) led 13 double-figure goal scorers.

Detroit: Yzerman (65-90-155), Gerard Gallant (39-54-93) and Adam Oates (62 assists) led the Red Wings to the Norris Division title.

Los Angeles: The highest-scoring team in the league (376 goals) had Gretzky (54-114-

168), Nicholls (70-80-150), Luc Robitaille (46-52-98).

Pittsburgh: Lemieux (85-114-199), Rob Brown (49-66-115), defenseman Paul Coffey (30-83-113) and Dan Quinn (34-60-94).

Washington: Won the Patrick Division with Geoff Courtnall (42 goals), Mike Ridley (41 goals) and future Hall of Famers Scott Stevens, Rod Langway, Larry Murphy, Mike Gartner and Dino Ciccarelli.

1949-50 NHL

In the NHL's first 70-game season, Detroit won the second of its seven straight regular seasons, but needed double-overtime in the Stanley Cup Final's seventh game to vanquish pesky New York. The Rangers had been the surprise of the league by finishing fourth for the final playoff spot, then knocked out second-place Montreal in only five games. They had goalie Chuck Rayner, the league MVP, to thank.

Detroit's famed Production Line of Ted Lindsay, Sid Abel and Gordie Howe finished 1-2-3 in league scoring, with Howe's 35 goals second only to Montreal's Rocket Richard (43) in young Howe's breakout season. Montreal's Bill Durnan won the Vezina Trophy for the sixth time in seven seasons, leading the NHL with a 2.20 goals-against average.

2016-17 Hockey

Igloo Tenants Chase Away Predators

The NHL hadn't had a repeat Stanley Cup champion for 19 seasons. But this time, like last year, Sidney Crosby and the Pittsburgh Penguins conquered a first-time Cup finalist.

Crosby was third in NHL history to win back-to-back Conn Smythe trophies.

Those are great reasons to play the 2016-17 season for yourself, but there are plenty more.

Neither Pittsburgh nor Nashville even won their divisions, so the door to your Stanley Cup is wide open. The regular season belonged to Washington, which won the Presidents Trophy with 118 points and 55 wins. The Capitals had to be that good to win the ultra-competitive Metropolitan Division, which had four of the NHL's nine 100-point teams.

For the first time, four teams had win streaks of 10 or more in the same season: Columbus 16, Minnesota 12, Philadelphia 10, Calgary 10. Chicago set a franchise record with eight straight road wins.

Leading scorer and league MVP Connor McDavid, the 100-point man, led Edmonton to the playoffs for the first time since 2006. Auston Matthews, tied for second with 40 goals, and his other rookie teammates led Toronto back to the playoffs for the first time in four seasons.

Four goalies won at least 40 games. Surprisingly, one of them was in Edmonton, Cam Talbot. He was tied at the top with 42 wins with Washington's Braden Holtby, who was no surprise at all for the Presidents Trophy-winning Capitals. Holtby became the third goalie in NHL history to win 40 games for three consecutive seasons.

Netplay and more for Hockey Version 2017

See Page 3 to learn how improved Netplay will make internet play more satisfying. It's a big win for hockey gamers. There's much more to make Version 2017 a must-buy for Windows gamers.

Organization: Save much time creating computer managers for a league with Copy Computer Manager Logic that copies the logic for one team to all the others in the league ... A new Sort Players option filters all forwards who are rated to play the point on the power play (one-star players and two-star players).

Pre-game inspiration: If you select to Use Sounds, the home team's National Anthem will play before the opening faceoff. Version 2017 comes with anthems for the United States and Canada, but you can add your own .WAV files for alternate anthems.

Realism: The internal split deck, customized for each season, will award fewer assists when that was the norm before the 1960s and will adjust the number of goals and specialty-team goals, too ... Rebound shots will be allocated more often to higher-rated offensive players to avoid rebounds going automatically to low-rated shooters ... Fewer subs will end up with zero ice time for a game. If assigned to any line, otherwise-overlooked players will be prioritized when a sub is needed.

Bugs and Data Fixes: Nine bugs (four of them for 3-on-3 situations) have been exterminated ... A single player from each of three past seasons has been corrected. In two cases, it's just updating their published stats.

Keeping up to date: Version 2017 is required to enjoy the 2016-17, 1988-89 and 1949-50 seasons.

The 2016-17 NBA Season

Threematch, 3-Pointers and Triple Doubles

Last year, the Golden State Warriors won a record 73 games. This time, they added NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant and won their first 15 playoff games before avenging last year's Finals loss to Cleveland in five games.

It was the third straight Warriors-Cavs Finals – A “Threematch” – in what could be called the NBA's Year of the Three.

In a season of record three-point shooting (teams averaged 27 attempts and 9.7 made), Cleveland set records with 25 made in a game during the season and 24 made in the Finals and Stephen Curry set an individual record with 13 made in a game.

Only the Warriors could overshadow Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook, the NBA's MVP and leading scorer who set the record with 42 triple doubles, breaking the 55-year-old mark set by Oscar Robertson.

Until Westbrook this season, Robertson was the only guard to lead his team in rebounding. Westbrook led the Thunder with 10.7 rebounds per game and was in the NBA's top 10 in that category.

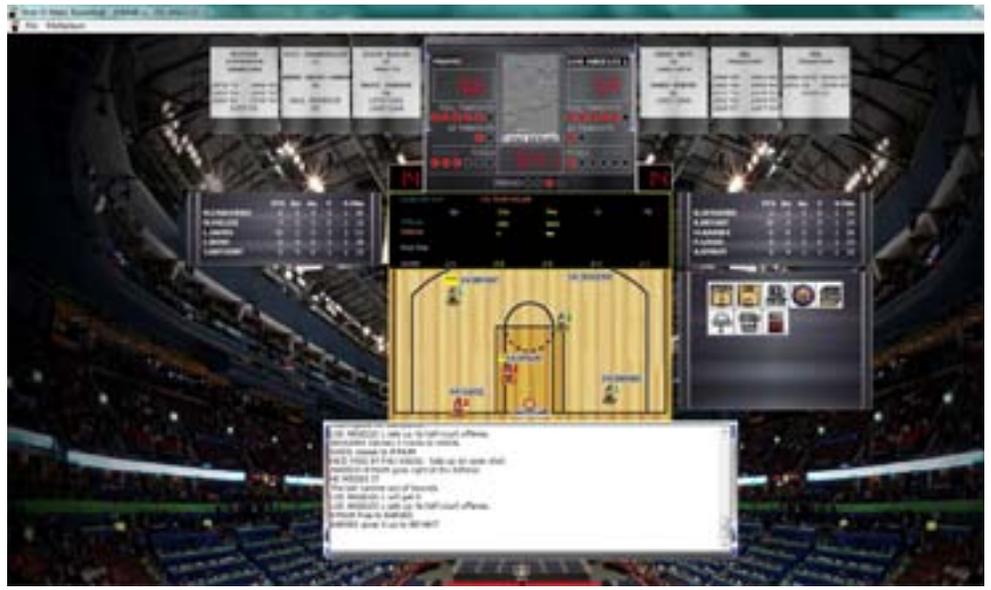
Shooting Stars

This was the first season that 10 different players scored at least 50 points in a game. Phoenix guard Devin Booker became the sixth player in NBA history to score 70 in a game.

Houston's James Harden (29.1 ppg) was the first player with 2,000 points, 900 assists and 600 rebounds in a season. Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo became the first player to rank in the NBA's top 20 in points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocks.

With all-around star Kawhi Leonard averaging 25.5 points, San Antonio won 61 games. With all-around star Gordon Hayward averaging 21.9 points, Utah won 51. With all-star guard Isaiah Thomas finishing third in scoring average (28.9), Boston won 53.

Other 50-plus win-teams relied on potent tandems: LeBron James excelled at everything (26.4 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 8.7 apg) again, but the Cavs also had Kyrie Irving's 25.2 ppg. The LA Clippers again had the inside-outside powerhouses of Blake Griffin (21.9 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 4.9 apg) and point guard Chris Paul (18.1 ppg, 9.2 apg). Toronto had the most prolific backcourt duo in the NBA, DeMar DeRozan (27.3 ppg) and Kyle Lowry (22.4 ppg, 7 apg). Utah had Hayward and Rudy Gobert (first in NBA blocked shots, fourth in rebounding).



The 1961-62 and 1962-63 NBA

Wilt Gets 100; Russell's Celtics Get Two More Titles

The timing could not be better for Strat-O-Matic's re-creation of the 1961-62 NBA season. That's when Oscar Robertson averaged a triple double (30.8 ppg, 12.5 rpg, 11.4 apg) – a feat unmatched until Russell Westbrook in 2016-17.

But for sheer individual dominance, no one has matched Wilt Chamberlain's averages of 50.4 ppg and 25.7 rpg. His scoring prowess was magnified by the only one-man, 100-point game in NBA history, against the Knicks.

Boston did not have a top-10 scorer, but NBA MVP Bill Russell led the Celtics to an NBA-record 60 wins.

The playoffs were not that simple: Boston was down three games to two to Chamberlain and his 49-win Philadelphia Warriors before the Celtics won Game 7. The Finals against the 54-win Los Angeles went to overtime in a seventh game.

The nine-team NBA had six players who averaged at least 30 points per game.

The expansion Chicago Packers won only 18 games, but had Rookie of the Year Walt Bellamy (31.6 ppg, 19 rpg). Others: Los Angeles' Elgin Baylor (38.3 ppg, 18.6 rpg in only 44 games) and Jerry West (30.8 ppg), St. Louis' Bob Pettit (31.1 ppg, 18.7 rpg), and Cincinnati's Robertson.

As usual, Strat-O-Matic's teams for

1961-62 and 1962-63 will be for the Windows game, uncarded. But the computer card images for Chamberlain, Robertson and others will be something to behold.

The championship story in 1962-63 was familiar: The Celtics won a league-best 58 games and their fifth straight crown in Hall of Fame point guard Bob Cousy's final season. In the playoffs, Boston had to conquer Cincinnati in a seven-game division final, then the 53-win Lakers with Elgin Baylor (34 ppg, 14.3 rpg) and Jerry West (27.1 ppg) in the six-game finals.

His Warriors moved from Philadelphia to San Francisco, but the re-location didn't faze Chamberlain, who again topped the league in scoring (44.8 ppg) and rebounding (24.3 rpg), even while his team plummeted to fourth place with only 31 wins.

League MVP Bill Russell (23.6 rpg), Bob Pettit (28.4 ppg, 15.1 rpg), Oscar Robertson (28.3 ppg) and Walt Bellamy (27.9 ppg, 16.4 rpg) added to their Hall of Fame credentials, as did top playmakers Guy Rodgers, Cousy and Lenny Wilkens.

Rookies made a big impression this year and for many seasons to come: Boston's John Havlicek, Detroit's Dave DeBusschere, St. Louis' Zelmo Beaty (all future Hall of Famers) and the rookie of the year, Chicago's Terry Dischinger (25.5 ppg)