

# STRAT-O-MATIC®

## WINTER NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 2026

**IMPORTANT DATES**

OPENING DAY ORDERS CAN BE PLACED ONLINE THROUGH 2/19

**PRE-ORDERS BEGIN**  
2/3

**EARLY ACCESS TO BASEBALL MAX**  
2/3

**OPENING DAY!**  
2/20

**NEW BASEBALL PRODUCTS SHIP**  
(G. NEW WINDOWS PRODUCTS RELEASED)  
2/23

**2025 SEASON LAUNCHES ON BASEBALL 365**  
EARLY MARCH

## 2025 SEASON IS HERE!

It's déjà vu all over again for baseball fans as, for the second year in a row, the Dodgers won the World Series over an AL East opponent. This time it was against the American League champion Blue Jays who fought hard to take a 3-2 lead before heading back home for games 6 and 7. Unfortunately for Toronto fans, the squad couldn't get the job done as World Series MVP Yoshinobu Yamamoto secured the win in both games, starting the former and closing out the latter. His three wins in the series also included a complete game in Game 2 and tied the record for most pitching wins in a World Series performance.

The storylines don't end there for Los Angeles. Not only did the team go back-to-back as champions, but Shohei Ohtani went back-to-back as the National League MVP, earning his third straight MVP award including his win on the opposite side of town in 2023. At this point, Ohtani seems to set a new record every year, as he returned to pitching duties to become the first player in MLB history to hit 50+ home runs (55) and strike out 50+ batters (62) in the same season. Speaking of

back-to-backs, you can't forget about New York's own Aaron Judge, who won his second MVP in a row while eclipsing 50 home runs for the fourth time in his career (53) and leading the majors in batting average (.331). Just when you thought the Yankee Captain had run out of ways to impress, he delivers something new.

Despite Judge's dominance, winning the MVP was not a foregone conclusion due to the monstrous season from Seattle catcher Cal Raleigh. Raleigh put together a season matched by no other player in the history of MLB as he not only became the first catcher to hit 50 home runs, but he became the first catcher to hit 60 home runs in a single season, shattering Salvy Perez's previous record of 48. He did this for a Seattle Mariners team that won the AL West and made it to the ALCS for the first time in twenty four years. For a moment in time, it looked like Seattle might be a team of destiny, but they fell in seven to the Blue Jays on the back of a three-run George Springer home run in the seventh inning that put Toronto in position to secure a 4-3 victory.

Detroit was another team that briefly emerged as an AL contender this season, building on their hot finish in 2024 to put together an 87-win campaign. Though they ceded the division title to Cleveland in the final weeks of September, they were able to reclaim their pride with a Wild Card series win over their foes from the Central. Lefty ace Tarik

(cont. on page 3)

## BE THE FIRST TO GET YOUR HANDS ON THE 2025 SEASON

For the second year in a row, the new baseball season will be available early on Baseball MAX! Get ready to experience the thrills of the 2025 season nearly three weeks before the cards and Windows game become available. The 2025 season will be fully accessible for exhibition games, historical leagues, draft leagues, and tournaments.

You'll also gain early access to the Stats & Ratings tab, where you can view cards for every player, including Shohei Ohtani, Aaron Judge, Cal Raleigh, Paul Skenes, and many more!

### 2025 Game of the Day

Last year, Strat-O-Matic introduced Game of the Day to Baseball MAX, a feature that allows anybody (yes, even non-MAX subscribers) to jump into and play through a single game of pre-determined teams. Throughout the pre-order period, every matchup will feature 2025 teams. Make sure to log in every day to play with all 30 teams... before they're available on other platforms.

This is set to be Baseball MAX's best year yet and we're excited to bring you along for the ride!

### Subscribe and Save

Sign up now and secure a full year's worth of MAX at a discounted rate with 40% off annual subscriptions for first time subscribers! Gain access to all the incredible features offered on MAX for only \$119.99 for the year, down from the normal rate of \$199.99.

Be on the lookout for 2025 themed tournaments during the early release on Baseball Max which will have prizes for the winners.

# 1985

Get ready to hop on the I-70 and take a ride back into the 1985 baseball season! Kansas City fans will be excited to return to the season where the franchise claimed its first World Series championship over their in-state rival St. Louis Cardinals. Relive the magic of this classic series where Cy Young winner Bret Saberhagen led his Royals to victory with a complete game shutout in game 7 to the tune of a 0.50 ERA between his two starts as Kansas City miraculously erased a 3-1 deficit.

Despite coming out on the losing end of the World Series, St. Louis was the team that dominated most of the storylines for the regular season. They led the majors with 101 wins, led by the efforts of NL MVP Willie McGee, who led the league in batting average (.353) and hits (216) while winning the Gold Glove. It wasn't a one man show, however, as outfielder Vince Coleman managed to take home the NL Rookie of the Year award, while swiping 110 bases. Fellow teammates Tom Herr, John Tudor, and Jack Clark finished fifth, eighth, and tenth respectively in MVP voting.

The AL East was a bloodbath this season, with the 99-win Blue Jays winning the division race over the 97 win New York Yankees. The division featured the four highest scoring offenses in the Majors, those being the Yanks (839), Baltimore (818), Boston (800) and Toronto (759). New York's Don Mattingly finished first in the AL MVP voting, driven by his major-league leading 145 RBIs.

George Brett far outpaced the rest of the AL with a 1.022 OPS. Brett's .335 batting average was second only to Wade Boggs' .368. Darrell Evans crushed 40 home runs for the 84-win Detroit Tigers.

Over in the NL, Cy Young winner Dwight Gooden put together an all-time great pitching season for the 98-win New York Mets, tossing 16 complete games and 8 shutouts en route to a 24-win season with an astounding 1.53 ERA. On the opposite coast, the 95-win Los Angeles Dodgers featured great performances as well, notably Orel Hershiser's 2.03 ERA season and Pedro Guerrero's .999 OPS campaign.

Fans should be excited to experience this iconic season all over again, recreated to include all Super Advanced features. 1985 was a year filled with a slew of phenomenal performances – how will the story of the season play out when it's in your hands?

# 1952

Longtime fans of Strat know that we've carded every season from 1947 to 2025, except for the elusive 1952 season. That all changes in 2026 as we are excited to announce that we will be releasing 1952 for the first time ever, created to include all Super Advanced features.

Experience a classic World Series between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Yankees, the fourth of twelve championships meetings between the franchises to date. The Yanks won this series

in seven over Brooklyn, led by the contributions of Mickey Mantle, Gene Woodling, Johnny Mize, and Yogi Berra. On the Dodgers side, get ready to experience great seasons from legends such as Jackie Robinson, Duke Snider, Gil Hodges, and Roy Campanella, who all helped guide the Dodgers to a Major League-best 96 wins.

While the Dodgers and the Yankees were the best individual teams in 1952, the most notable individual performances came from elsewhere. Bobby Shantz, the starting pitcher for Philadelphia Athletics, won American League MVP honors for his dominant season in which he won a league-best 24 games and pitched to a 2.48 ERA. The NL MVP was given to left fielder Hank Sauer of the Chicago Cubs for his 37 homers and 121 RBIs. Ralph Kiner tied Sauer with 37 home runs for his seventh consecutive home run title. Stan Musial hit .336 with 42 doubles and a .538 slugging percentage, all league bests.

Other notable teams to play with are the Cleveland Indians, who fielded a dominant rotation of starters featuring Early Wynn, Mike Garcia and Bob Lemon, as well as the New York Giants, who won 92 games despite losing 21-year-old Willie Mays to the Army. There's a lot to experience this season and we hope you enjoy it!

## HEROES 4

You asked for it and you shall receive – Strat-O-Matic Heroes is returning for the first time since 2021!

Heroes 4 will be more of what you've come to know and love about this series, featuring 117 players spanning all throughout MLB history, carded based on the seven best seasons of their career. This collection includes a handful of players that have recently hung up the spikes. For starters, we have future Hall of Fame pitcher Clayton Kershaw making the cut, as well as Corey Kluber, Zack Greinke and Johnny Cueto.

This set features many players from the 2000s and onwards, from consistently reliable all stars like Anthony Rizzo and Edwin Encarnacion to surefire Hall of Famers like Miguel Cabrera. Fans of other eras of baseball will still be happy to see that we've included players from throughout the entire 20th century, even touching the late 1800s with outfielder Mike Donlin.

Enough players are included at every position to create four full teams. As usual, Windows game users will have the teams broken out into AL or NL and either Classic or Modern. Play with them as is or combine these players with other Heroes sets or the Hall of Fame cards. Windows players shouldn't forget the various Stars Packages and the new Supplemental Heroes and Stars roster.

**Keep an eye out for a restock of Heroes II, also available to order and ship with pre-order products!**

(cont. on next page)

## HEROES 4 PLAYER LIST

Edgardo Alfonzo	Kyle Seager
Garret Anderson	Adrelton Simmons
Charlie Blackmon	Terry Steinbach
Bobby Bonilla	BJ Surhoff
Bret Boone	Dickie Thon
Michael Brantley	Justin Upton
Ryan Braun	Jason Varitek
Ellis Burks	Greg Vaughn
Miguel Cabrera	Joey Votto
Lorenzo Cain	Frank White
Mike Cameron	Roy White
Ken Caminiti	Eddie Yost
Robinson Cano	Michael Young
Luis Castillo	
Ray Chapman	Ted Abernathy
Shin-Soo Choo	Andy Benes
Jeff Cirillo	Chris Carpenter
Brandon Crawford	Clay Carroll
Nelson Cruz	Francisco Cordero
Eric Davis	Johnny Cueto
Josh Donaldson	Steve Farr
Mike Donlin	Alex Fernandez
Edwin Encarnacion	Gene Garber
Darin Erstad	Zack Greinke
Prince Fielder	Harvey Haddix
Art Fletcher	Cole Hamels
Larry Gardner	Pat Hentgen
Jim Gilliam	Roberto Hernandez
Carlos Gonzalez	Willie Hernandez
Juan Gonzalez	Burt Hooton
Alex Gordon	Jason Isringhausen
Mark Grace	Clayton Kershaw
Dick Groat	Corey Kluber
J.J. Hardy	John Lackey
Ryan Howard	Vern Law
Ron Hunt	Bill Lee
Charles Johnson	Dutch Leonard
Brian Jordan	John Lester
David Justice	Tim Lincecum
Howie Kendrick	Frank Linzy
Terry Kennedy	Mike Marshall
Kevin Kiermaier	Denny McLain
Paul Konerko	Andrew Miller
Ray Lankford	Randy Myers
Evan Longoria	Jim Perry
Garry Maddox	Gary Peters
Kevin McReynolds	David Price
Yadier Molina	Ron Reed
Don Money	Johnny Sain
Bobby Murcer	Anibal Sanchez
Danny Murphy	Mike Scott
Mike Napoli	Bobby Shantz
Lefty O'Doul	Rafael Soriano
Freddie Patek	Mike Stanton
Tony Pena	Stephen Strasburg
Buster Posey	John Tudor
Boog Powell	Johnny Vander Meer
Aramis Ramirez	Adam Wainwright
Anthony Rizzo	David Wells

(cont. from page 1)

Skubal took home the AL Cy Young yet again as he managed to one-up nearly every stat from the previous year, improving in ERA (2.21), strikeouts (241), and WHIP (0.89). He was challenged only by fellow lefty Garrett Crochet, who put up career bests in every stat in his first season with Boston, leading the majors in Ks in the process (255).

As close as the AL Cy Young race was, the voting in the NL proved to be much less divisive. Righty flame thrower Paul Skenes was unanimously voted the NL Cy Young as he pulled off nearly identical numbers from his previous Rookie of the Year campaign with an incredible 1.97 ERA (1.96 last year) and 0.948 WHIP (0.947 last year). He did best last season with his 32 starts and 187.2 innings pitched this year. Skenes is off to as dominant of a career start as one could possibly hope for.

2025 saw a wide array of storylines develop around MLB, including the (Sacramento?) Athletics producing two Rookie of the Year finalists, with Nick Kurtz winning over teammate Jacob Wilson. Arguably the most exciting storylines came in the form of blockbuster trades that changed the dynamic of both leagues, starting with Boston shipping franchise-staple Rafael Devers over to the San Francisco Giants in the early goings of the season. San Francisco failed to make the postseason in a stacked division, but fans eagerly anticipate a full season of Raffy in 2026. Another huge trade came in the form of Arizona shipping Eugenio Suarez and Josh Naylor to the Mariners at the trade deadline, bolstering Seattle's roster for a deep playoff run. Houston fans were also treated to a rather unceremonious homecoming with the return of veteran SS Carlos Correa as the team failed to make the postseason for the first time since 2016.

There's so much we didn't get to cover in this article, but now it's up to you to create the rest of the stories. Who will win the World Series in your league? Who's taking home the MVP? Will the Mets avoid choking away a postseason spot? Find out with Strat-O-Matic!

### More Players... Again!

Last year, we increased the number of additional players included with the set to 360 cards. The 2025 card set will be adhering to the same standard. Included in the additional players will be every participant of the 2025 playoffs who had an at-bat or inning pitched. The post-season often tells a different story from the regular season, and we want to make sure that every key contributor from the playoff rosters has a chance to shine. This includes outfielder Chase DeLauter, who made history for Cleveland as he became one of only six players in the history of baseball to make his Major League debut in a postseason game.

## NEW WINDOWS FEATURES

Each new Windows edition brings a fresh set of refinements aimed at improving how the game plays and feels. In Baseball 2026 we've introduced a variety of updates making everyday tasks faster, screens easier to use, and gameplay more flexible than ever.

To start, we've improved the Quick Play feature to allow users to go straight to the bottom of any inning. Undo Last Play has been improved to give you the option to delete only the substitution. Options to delete the preceding play will remain. This was a highly requested quality of life improvement for gamers.

Pitchers should no longer run up high pitch counts with new CM logic to remove them if they are beginning to tire and exceeding their pitch counts. The Computer Manager dialog has been improved so users can see more players at a time, and more games on the starter schedule. Readability of player names is also improved.

### Filter by Balance Rating

Sort Players has been improved to allow filtering of players by Balance Rating. This will allow you to identify players that are better vs. lefties or righties. That will come in handy when trying to assemble a balanced draft team. To use this feature you enter in the "From BAL" and the "To BAL" and only batters and/or pitchers whose balance rating falls into that range will be displayed. For example, say that you are looking to add a batter to your bench who is a "lefty killer". In that case you might set the "From BAL" to "9L" and the "To BAL" to "4L" so that only batters who are much better against lefty pitchers will be displayed in the free agent pool.

For as-played seasons, pre-game game notes report will now include the list of the current day's transactions. In addition .TRN files have added support for claiming and releasing players from the free agent pool.

You may notice a striking difference on the main game screen. The player information area located there and on other dialogues will now show the player's full first and last names rather than their first initial.

### Other Improvements

**Awards Voting Report** - The League Stats Awards Voting report has been improved so that Designated Hitters are now included in the All-Star Voting and Silver-Slugger award sections.

**Reports** - The size and positioning of various report screens will now be saved. This will be especially handy if you are using non-default font settings, as that previously might have required re-adjusting the size of the report every time you opened it.

### Ballparks And Play By Play

We will be adding 12 new ballpark pictures and 28 new ballpark entry pictures to Baseball 2026, allowing players to create a more realistic and immersive experience than ever before. In addition to that, thanks to the amazing efforts of Ren Petrie, there are now more than 171,000 hand-crafted player nickname play-by-play accounts that ship with the game. The game also includes over 34,000 hand-crafted lines of play-by-play that describe play in amazing detail and with great situational specificity.

## 1939 NEGRO LEAGUES SEASON

Windows only- 14 teams playing a 156 game schedule. 16 Hall of Famers, Ray Brown, Willard Brown, Roy Campanella, Oscar Charleston, Andy Cooper, Leon Day, Josh Gibson, Monte Irvin, Buck Leonard, Biz Mackey, Buck O'Neil, Hilton Smith, Turkey Stearnes, Mule Suttles, Willie Wells, Jud Wilson

And 27 original Negro Stars, Newt Allen, Sam Bankhead, Jerry Benjamin, Larry Brown, Bill Byrd, Rev Cannady, Dewey Creacy, Jimmie Crutchfield, Roosevelt Davis, Vic Harris, Bill Holland, Sammy T Hughes, Fats Jenkins, Max Manning, Webster McDonald, Spooky Palm, Red Parnell, Bill Perkins, Alec Radcliff, Double Duty Radcliffe, Frog Redus, Neil Robinson, Tubby Scales, Dick Seay, Ted Trent, Quincy Troupe, Wild Bill Wright

This was an outstanding Washington Homestead Grays (.673 W%), and the KC Monarchs (.641) was near as dominant. Newark Eagles (.609) chased the Grays hard in the National. Chicago American Giants (.532) lacked the firepower to run down the Monarchs in the American. As a group the 14 teams batting averaged .267 while Grays (.296) and Baltimore Elites (.293) not only were better hit makers but were the only 2 teams to top the 100 HR mark (Grays 139, Elites 133).

Monarchs strength was in pitching with a team ERA 1.33 lower than the 14 teams' 4.87 average. Giants (3.99) was the only other team under 4. The Atlanta Black Crackers (.365) and NY Cubans (.346, Lefty Tiant 12-20 but only a 4.15 ERA) struggled to compete.

The top 3 in batting average were Grays, Josh Gibson (.371), Buck Leonard (.368), Speed Whatley (.366), followed by 2 Elites, Big Bill Hoskins (.365), Wild Bill Wright (.353, 50 D). Elite Sammy Hughes led in D (52), Giants Alex Radcliff in T (16). Gibson (36) out-homered teammate Leonard by 3 and the Eagles Mule Suttles by 1 and Ace Stone by 4. Leonard (124 RBI) kept Gibson from a Triple Crown by 1 RBI! Suttles t-2nd RBI with Gibson.

17 pitchers won 20 or more; 3 lost 20 or 21. Top winners were 2 outstanding double-duty athletes, Grays Ray Brown (26-6) and Elites' Bill Byrd (26-9). Eagles dd great Leon Day (24-15) and Squab Hill (24-8), Philadelphia Stars dd Henry McHenry (24-9, 4 HR hit), Cleveland Bears Preacher Henry (24-12) followed, as did Little Walker (24-6, league lead at 2.17 ERA), he of the Monarchs formidable trio, Hilton Smith (23-9, league lead 171 K), Frank Bradley (22-10).

Fielding 1's are Catcher Pea Greene (KC); 1B Buck Leonard (Homestead), Buck O'Neil (KC), Jim West (Baltimore); 2B Sam

(cont. on next page)



## INTRODUCING THE RHETT RED TEE!

RHETT RICHMAN BEHRMANN (SISTER TO STRAT-O-MATIC CREATOR HAL RICHMAN) WAS A BOLD, VISUAL ARTIST WITH A SENSE OF DIMENSION AND PERSPECTIVE THAT WAS AHEAD OF HER TIME. GRADUATING FROM PRATT UNIVERSITY IN 1960 WITH A FINE ARTS DEGREE, SHE DEVELOPED THE ORIGINAL STRAT-O-MATIC THICK LINE GAME BOX DRAWINGS FOR BASEBALL, FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.

MOST OF HER ART REFLECTED HER GREAT LOVE OF ANIMALS, PARTICULARLY HORSES, BUT IT WAS HER COMMERCIAL WORK AT STRAT-O-MATIC THAT GARNERED HER THE MOST ATTENTION AND ACCLAIM. WE ARE THRILLED TO BRING BACK RHETT'S CLASSIC DESIGNS FROM THE STRAT-O-MATIC ARCHIVE.

(cont. from last page)

Bankhead (Homestead), Fred Bankhead (Memphis Red Sox), Billy Horne (Chicago), Dick Seay (Newark); 3B Felton Snow (Baltimore), Alec Radcliffe (Chicago), Jake Spearman (Homestead); SS Pee Wee Butts (Atlanta), Willie Wells (Newark), Ches Williams (Philadelphia); LF Marvin Barker (NY Black Yanks), Bubba Hyde (Memphis), Red Parnell (Philadelphia), Daniel Wilson (St. Louis Saints); CF Jimmie Crutchfield (Toledo Crawfords), John Ray (Cleveland); RF Ducky Davenport (also CF, Memphis), Ace Stone (Newark), Zollie Wright (Black Yanks); P Emery Adams (Baltimore), Flash Bremer (Memphis), Ray Brown (Homestead), Leon Day (Newark), Chip McAllister (St. Louis).

With Gus Greenlee cash poor and selling the Crawfords to a Midwest consortium there was concern for the National teams being

able to negotiate a proper league schedule among themselves. They would manage that, but both leagues were feeling the effect of the Mexican League's approach to their players. The lure of the World's Fair in Queens, opened on April 30, had a drastic impact on attendance at the NY area ballclubs into the summer months. Rumors post-season had the Monarchs as the only team to turn a healthy profit on the season.

The 1939 season did draw high marks for its quality of play, and there were far fewer incidents of unruly player behavior and nasty confrontations with umpires. There would be a feeling among the insiders of "a season well done" and a general sense of confidence and excitement for the 1940 season.

## A BASEBALL BONANZA: SUPPLEMENTAL HEROES AND STARS FOR WINDOWS

When it comes to our Hall of Fame, Heroes, and specialty Stars sets, we have heard your requests for more. We are offering a LOT more in 2026 as we introduce Supplemental Heroes and Stars! With teams grouped by decade and spanning the full breadth of American baseball history from the 1870s to the present day, this amazing computer-only collection is the supplemental equivalent of more than seven Heroes sets! Accounting for double-duty, this 922-card set features **890** new cards and **857** new players!

**Active players!** Judge, Ohtani, Verlander, Trout, Betts, Bregman, Freeman, Cole, Harper, Scherzer, Realmuto, Sale, Arenado, Machado, Goldschmidt, deGrom,

McCutchen, Springer, and Schwarber are among more than 30 active stars included, with their peaks calculated through the 2024 season. These are in-progress snapshots of modern greatness; expect active players to see their cards reassessed post-retirement when we create their conclusive Hero or HOF card for our traditional printed and computer release.

**19th Century foundations!** Those who have desired more representation from the early years of baseball will be thrilled. From Barnes to Browning, Start to Stovey, Glasscock to Griffith, Childs to the elder Wright, and McVey to McCormick, McGuire, McKean, and McMahan, there is a treasure trove of building block Stars.

**Deadball delights!** The early 20th century features the likes of Sheppard, Tenney, Tannehill, Beaumont, Milan, Cravath, Merkle,

and both George Burns. There's McInnis and Barry of the A's "\$100,000 Infield", Duffy Lewis of the Red Sox "Million Dollar Outfield", and infamous Black Sox Cicotte, Felsh, Gandil, and Weaver represented by happier times.

**MANY more Negro League Stars!** Presented alongside their White contemporaries are more than 140 new Blackball stars, from Fleet Walker in the pre-segregation era, to notable integration pioneers Sam Jethroe, Luke Easter, and Hank Thompson. The talent is remarkable, with pitching giants George Stovey, Steel Arm Taylor, Juan Padron, Big Bill Gatewood, Dave Barnhill, Flash Bremer, Jeep Jessup, and Needle Nose Wright. Great batters abound, like Piper Davis, Lennie Pearson, Zack Pettus, George Giles, Henry Kimbro, Rabbit Shively, Ace Stone, Jim West, Ted Strong, Andrew Patterson, and the Spearman brothers.

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## 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 hitterfriendly park? Who should pinch-hit against lefthanders? 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 information 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 result 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 happen when each column only

shows 11 results?” The answer, of course, is that the 2-12 positions do not have equal value. The only way to get a 2 result is by rolling snake-eyes, so a homer on the 2 position has only one chance in 216 of happening. A homer on a 7 position 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 lefthanded batter. Add them and you get 26 out of 216 chances for a double play in the 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. The physical and digital ratings guides for the 2025 season are now available. Digital ratings guides for 1952, 1985, and Heroes 4 are also now available at [www.strat-o-matic.com](http://www.strat-o-matic.com)

CHICAGO-N		VS. LEFTHANDERS										VS. RIFHTHANDERS																			
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. RIFHTHANDERS										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					

### FOUR NEW INDUCTEES TO STRAT-O-MATIC HALL OF FAME



The Strat-O-Matic Hall of Fame celebrates the people, and now leagues, that have made Strat more than just a game but have turned it into a lifelong passion and shared community. This year’s inductees reflect the heart of Strat-O-Matic, from league builders, tournament players, Strat innovators and supporters. These are the true legends of the hobby. Congratulations to Ed Berro, Ken Marino, Sheila Richman, and the East Meadow Strat-O-Matic Baseball League.

Ed Berro’s impact on the Strat-O-Matic community spans decades and platforms, but nowhere is his influence more felt than in the Strat Windows game. A longtime player and league organizer, Ed, or ‘NFLed’ has built and shaped multiple Windows football leagues including the Strat Internet Football Association (SOMIFA) founded in 2002 and his spring head-to-head leagues SSFA and SOMSFA. Beyond league commissioner duties, Ed is the creator of the Computer Managers for all modern teams that come packaged with the Windows

game. Since Version 2, Ed has designed offensive CMs for every team, customizing detailed strategies that mirror real NFL tendencies. He even overhauled the CM framework from the ground up in 2006. In addition, Ed’s contributions include the Strat Football Quick Start Guide and the defensive draft league cards that are now included in Strat’s software. Ed’s dedication to crafting realistic, competitive, and fun experiences has enriched the Strat-O-Matic community and introduced countless fans to the strategic depth of the game. Thank you Ed, for being a champion of Strat Football.

Ken Marino was many things, an avid Strat-O-Matic player, a devoted husband and father, and, above all, a courageous New York City firefighter. A member of FDNY’s elite Rescue One Company, Ken served his city for over a decade with unwavering commitment. On September 11, 2001, Ken made the ultimate sacrifice while rushing into danger to help people escape during the devastating attacks on the World Trade Center. Ken was a local Strat league and tournament legend, well-known in competitive play. Multiple leagues have

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(cont. from page 5)

**Double your pleasure!** This release is set up for double-duty play, and there are dozens of two-way players available, including some that had previously been carded only for their predominant duty. Gamers can now have Oscar Charleston toe the rubber while Smoky Joe Wood patrols the outfield. The "Ohtani Rule" can be used on the man himself, as Shohei Ohtani is carded as both a batter and pitcher. You can also let Ruffing, Lemon, Earl Wilson, Parisian Bob Caruthers and many others take care of their business.

**Curiosities!** There are some inclusions that stray from traditional Heroes territory because the subjects are of special interest to baseball fans. Players such as Bostock Jr. and Olin had their careers prematurely end in tragedy. Others, such as Score and Fidrych, burst onto the scene, only to be derailed by injuries. Anthony Rendon, Paul "Daffy" Dean, Dave "Boo" Ferris, Bill Lange,

Dontrelle Willis and more burned briefly but brightly. Such players are carded with their abbreviated star careers represented as they were. Also, nine Hall of Fame managers (Durocher, Hanlon, Harris, Huggins, Lopez, Mack, Robinson, Southworth, and Stengel) will get their uniforms dirty by playing ball instead of just kicking dirt on ump's.

**And all the other decades!** Whether it's the Meusel brothers, Pipp, Herman, Derringer, Root, Henrich, Pesky, Moses, Fain, Chapman, Rolfe, Allison, McNally, Kuenn, Rivers, Zisk, Leonard, Jensen, McGee, Buhner, Carter, Drabek, Dunn, Kazmir, Bryant, or Bumgarner, every decade has something memorable to offer. This vast new collection will greatly expand the realm of possible projects utilizing our library of peak cards, which totals nearly 2,100 unique players across the Hall of Fame, Heroes 1-4, Negro League Stars, Cuba Stars, Japan Stars, Latino & Caribbean Stars, and Supplemental Heroes and Stars sets.

## LATINO & CARIBBEAN STARS AND CUBA STARS EXPANDED FOR 2026

Latino & Caribbean Stars introduces 37 brand new players, including active stars such as Altuve, Bogaerts, Jansen, Lindor, Salvy Perez, and Jose Ramirez, calculated through their 2024 seasons. Among the retro additions are 1987 AL MVP George Bell and, in what is a first for the peak universe, a pair of genuine Colorado Rockies pitchers—Ubaldo Jimenez and Jorge De La Rosa. The set also loses four players (Alfonzo, Cordero, G. Hernandez, R. Hernandez) to Heroes 4 and has replaced San Diego-born "ringer" Adrian Gonzalez with Mexican Baseball HOFer Hector Espino, their Sadaharu Oh.

Cuba Stars is updated by one player—pitcher Mike Cuellar. Orioles fans will certainly agree he is worth the update!

PLEASE NOTE, IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED THESE TWO STARS SETS, YOUR EXISTING AUTHORIZATION CODES ARE YOUR TICKETS TO THESE UPDATED 2026 ROSTERS. NO ADDITIONAL PURCHASE IS NECESSARY!

## COMING SOON NEGRO LEAGUES DIAMOND GEMS C

Joining our Diamond Gems collection later in 2026 will be a new collection of Negro League (and related) teams. Exclusive to the card & dice crowd is the third of our sets dedicated to the great teams of Blackball.

Negro Leagues Diamond Gems C is composed of these eight classic teams:

**1906 Philadelphia Giants (81-59)** includes three 20-game-winning Double Duty stars—Rube Foster, Danny McClellan, and Emmett Bowman. McClellan, in particular, is great to include at his peak among the Gems as he was an influential organizer of early Blackball. We know Pete Hill well and he had a monster year with the bat (.346; .878 OPS).

**1915 Indianapolis ABC's (82-58)** have a pitching staff of familiar faces, with Dizzy Dismukes and Dicta Johnson as 20-game winners. Also, School Boy Johnson and Jim Jeffries, with Oscar Charleston and Ben Taylor making 20 starts between them. Outfielder Rabbit Shively (.297; 44 steals) was an early Blackball standout, with Bingo DeMoss, Todd Allen, and Specs Clark being other notables.

**1919 Lincoln Giants (75-65).** Don't let that W/L record lower your prospects. This was a potential powerhouse undone by player dissent. Any team with Smokey Joe Williams (27-5) on the hill is a contender, but there wasn't enough behind him. The Giants (.274) hit 20 points above league average and had two real dandies in the

outfield—Blainey Hall (.306) and Jewel Thomas (.295). An argument can be made that 1B/C Zack Pettus (.349; .896 OPS) is the best player to miss out on being carded in our Negro Stars set.

**1926 Kansas City Monarchs (103-47).** You can't have too many Monarch Gems because, from the '20s on, the Monarchs won big. Consistency and an eye for talent. As the Grays and Crawfords cycled through rosters, the Monarchs took the Yankees approach—add to the spine. Three won 20: William Bell (23-9), Chet Brewer (22-7), and DD Bullet Joe Rogan (21-6; .322; .877 OPS).

Newts Allen and Joseph, Frank Duncan, and Hurley McNair would be in KC for many seasons. This version adds Cristobal Torriente (.328; .873 OPS).

**1937 Trujillo City Dragons (82-58)** is what we meant above by "and related." We revisited the historically significant 1937 Dominican Republic baseball season, the one uniquely marshalled by the dictator Rafael Trujillo, when a big batch of top talent from the Negro Leagues and the Caribbean Leagues was lured to the DR by riches previously unknown. The Dragons, El Jefe's team, must win this league as prison time was very much the alternative. We've comprehensively researched this season in order to create this version that sits confidently and comfortably alongside the Negro League teams. Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, Leroy Matlock, Perucho Cepeda, Sam Bankhead, Bill Perkins, Lázaro Spalding, and

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more. 'Nuff said?

**1938 Homestead Grays (102-54)** because for so many years, when you wore this uniform, you expected to win. The three 20-game winners were DD Ray Brown (21-12), Wild Man Walker (20-10), and Silent Roy Partlow (21-9). Your favorite Grays are here—Josh Gibson (1.126 OPS), Buck Leonard (1.037 OPS), Vic Harris, and Jerry Benjamin. Three of the support cast are worth knowing—2B Lick Carlisle, OF Big Jim Williams, and P Roy Welmaker (18-7).

**1946 Newark Eagles (101-53).** Max Manning (25-9), Leon Day (25-7), Rufus Lewis (23-6), and Leniel Hooker (17-13) gave Newark a pitching complement to match its always potent offense. Monte Irvin (1.015 OPS) and Larry Doby (1.012 OPS) were great before

joining MLB. 1B Lennie Pearson (.311; 28 HR) and LF Cherokee Davis (.294; 25 HR) could also carry the offense.

**1947 New York Cubans (98-56).** Finally, the Cubans became a very good team in the '40s. It was always undermanned at the bat and reliant on its arms. This year it was league average on offense but .87 better than league ERA, led by Lefty Tiant (22-8), Lino Donoso (21-8), Pat Scantlebury (17-9), Dave Barnhill (13-5), and Barney Morris (13-16), none with an ERA above 3.47. Their best bats tended to come from Cuba and tended to return to the Cuban League after a season or two. Or to the AL like the wonderful 3B Minnie Minoso. 1B Chiquitin Cabrera (.868 OPS), RF Big Neck Duany (.885 OPS), CF Cleveland Clark (.823 OPS), and SS Silvio Garcia (.794 OPS) had strong seasons.

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memorialized Marino on various championship trophies or awards, including the IMBA Strat-O-Matic Baseball League and the STPC which present a Kenny Marino Sportsmanship award every year. The biggest Ken Griffey Jr fan around, league mates knew Kenny would draft Junior and never let him go. Days after 9/11, Kenny's wife Katrina got in touch with the Reds and asked if Griffey could hit a home run for Kenny. He did. That started a relationship between Griffey and the Marino family which continues to this day. Ken Marino will forever be remembered as both a Strat legend and a real-life hero.

Sheila Rae Mednitsky Richman is the rock star wife of Hal Richman and has been married to the creator of Strat-O-Matic for nearly 60 years. That was no easy task as Hal spent countless long hours at Strat-O-Matic, but Sheila was always there supporting both him and the company. Together they raised two children, Ann and Adam, and along the way Sheila played a crucial role at Strat-O-Matic herself. In the 1970's, she transformed

Strat-O-Matic's meager retail division into an important distribution source for the company. Despite lacking sports product knowledge, she was the best salesperson the Company ever had. Many longtime players may remember Kay Bee Toy and Hobby, which Sheila made happen. And who can forget her amazing efforts to redirect Strat's shipment of player cards stuck in the blizzard-ridden Poconos in the early 2000's just before Opening Day. Having grown up near the Poconos, Sheila made a series of phone calls that successfully rerouted the shipment, allowing Opening Day customers to receive their card sets. The true power on the throne, the amazing Sheila!

The East Meadow Strat-O-Matic Baseball League holds a special place in the history of Strat gaming as the earliest known organized league that is still playing today. Founded in 1965 by a group of 4 kids from East Meadow, New York, the league played two seasons before disbanding and getting back together in 1972. Since then, the league has played continuously with over five decades of uninterrupted play. League members

have gone in and out but league founder and original Commissioner Jim Drucker has played 54 seasons of the league with current Commissioner Jeff Weintraub having played in 52 seasons. Current league members include Stu Spitzer, Steve Tessler, Steve Espstein, Mark Levine, Tom Dagger, Ed Borenstein, and Dave Konsker. This group plays at least 60 games a season and meet 12 times a year. Once for the draft, once for the playoffs, and ten times for regular season game nights. The original group of 4, Drucker, Bruce Charles, Michael Finkelman, and Jesse Reece were introduced to the game by Alan 'Abner Doubleday' Kravitz in December of 1964. With generations of managers competing, strategizing, and sharing their love of Strat baseball year after year, the East Meadow league embodies the communal heart of the hobby.

Each of these inductees will be honored in a small celebration on Strat's Opening Day, February 20th, in Glen Head beginning at 12:30 pm.

At some point in his life, every Strat fan has wondered "What would it feel like to be crowned the greatest Strat player in the world?" And now we may finally have an answer. Strat-O-Matic is teaming up with the World Series Of Board Gaming for an exciting first-of-its-kind tournament later this year. While more details will be released next month, gamers who come to Opening Day in Glen Head on February 20th will be the first to hear all the details and receive special offers.

**THE STRAT-O-MATIC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP- COMING SOON!**

