

STRAT-O-MATIC® SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 2025

COMING
SOON

PRO FOOTBALL

ETA: MID AUGUST
2024 NFL
1986 NFL CARDS ONLY
1985 USFL

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ETA: LATE AUGUST
2024 WINDOWS GAME

HOCKEY

ETA: MID SEPTEMBER
2024-25 NHL
1959-60 NHL
1972-73 WHA

BASKETBALL

ETA: MID OCTOBER
2024-25 NBA
Windows Basketball Game is still in development.
New features will be announced in a
separate article later this summer.

PRE-ORDERS
BEGIN
AUGUST 5TH!

2024-25 NFL IN REVIEW: THE BIRDS PREVENT THE THREE-PEAT

Fly Eagles Fly! Following a disappointing first round exit in 2023, the Philadelphia Eagles retooled in the offseason with the addition of All-Pro running back Saquon Barkley and tush-pushed their way right back to where they left off in 2022 – in the Super Bowl, facing off against Patrick Mahomes, Andy Reid, and the Kansas City Chiefs. The rematch would prove not to be as thrilling as the 38-35 slug fest of Super Bowl LVII, however, as the Birds would go on to stomp out the Chiefs 40-22, ending Reid & Co.'s chance at the first-ever Super Bowl three-peat.

Super Bowl MVP quarterback Jalen Hurts put together an efficient regular season campaign, throwing for 2,903 yards and 18 touchdowns while leading the team to a 12-3 record in the 15 games he started and the NFC's 2 seed. The run game is where Philadelphia's offense truly shined, though, as Offensive Player of the Year Barkley joined the 2,000-Yard

Club while setting a new franchise record with 2,005 rushing yards and 13 scores on the ground behind the NFL's best offensive line. Hurts himself added 630 yards on the ground and topped Barkley with 14 rushing touchdowns. This didn't stop wide receiver AJ Brown from putting up 1,079 receiving yards in 13 games, leading the team by a large margin.

Despite the lopsided outcome of Super Bowl LIX, the AFC Champion Kansas City Chiefs still managed to put together a historic season, becoming the first team to ever make it to the Super Bowl a third time after winning back-to-back championships. The team clawed its way to a 15-2 record and the 1 seed behind a stout defense despite Mahomes posting career lows in passing yards (3,928), touchdowns (26), and yards per game (245.5). Perhaps the most telling statistic of Kansas City's season, however, was their record in one score games: 12-0. It might not be easy to replicate the

Chiefs record without having the same success Reid, Mahomes, and Co. did in these close games. When the Chiefs kept it close (which they often did) they would come out on top; can you match that?

To fully appreciate the quarterback play of 2024, we must look back to 2018. The quarterbacks of the 2018 draft class came up big for their respective teams this season. The honor of Most Valuable Player went to Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen who led the franchise to its sixth straight playoff berth and a 13-4 record, good for the 2 seed in the AFC. The dual-threat Allen accounted for 4,262 total yards (3,731 passing & 531 rushing) and 40 total touchdowns (28 passing & 12 rushing) while setting a career low in total turnovers (8). Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson followed up his 2023 MVP campaign with arguably his most impressive season to date, setting career highs in passing yards (4,172), passing touchdowns (41), passer

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2024-25 NHL: Florida Goes Back-to-Back, Hellebuyck Wins Second Straight Vezina Trophy

Just one year after winning their first ever championship, the Florida Panthers roared back to the Stanley Cup Finals and took home their second. To claim the trophy, the Panthers had to go through the same team they beat the first time: the Edmonton Oilers. This thrilling rematch saw three of the first four games decided in overtime with the two teams even at 2-2 heading into game 5, but Florida decisively claimed the final two games behind the efforts of Conn Smythe Trophy recipient Sam Bennett.

Despite their postseason dominance, the Florida Panthers

were not among the nine teams that finished with over 100 points in the regular season. The Winnipeg Jets led the way with 116 points, good for the 1 seed in the Western Conference. Over in the Eastern Conference, the Washington Capitals finished with 111 points and the 1 seed. Other league leaders include the Maple Leafs (108 points) and the Golden Knights (110 points) who both led their divisions.

Edmonton's Leon Draisaitl scored the most goals in the league at 52, a sizeable lead over William Nylander of the Toronto Maple Leafs who finished with 45. Six other players finished with more than 40 goals, among them Brayden Point and Jake Guentzel of the 3 seed Tampa Bay Lightning, with 42 and 41 respectively. Nikita Kucherov of Tampa Bay followed up

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CLOSING OUT THE USFL WITH 1985!

The final chapter of one of football's boldest leagues comes to Strat-O-Matic with the release of the 1985 USFL season. The star-packed, high-octane season featured future Hall of Famers, explosive offenses, and a playoff run for the ages.

While lawsuits and league politics loomed off the field, the on-field action was electric, with the Baltimore Stars emerging as champions after a gritty playoff run. The Stars finished the regular season 10-7-1, then turned it up in the postseason, defeating New Jersey (11-7) and Birmingham (13-5) before capturing their second straight USFL title with a 28-24 win over Oakland in the final USFL Championship Game.

Quarterback Chuck Fusina and running back Kelvin Bryant led Baltimore's charge, but the league's biggest headlines belonged to future NFL greats. Herschel Walker shattered the single-season pro football rushing record, piling up 2,411 yards and 21 touchdowns for the New Jersey Generals. Paired with quarterback Doug Flutie, New Jersey became must-see football every week.

The Birmingham Stallions were the class of the regular season at 13-5, powered by quarterback Cliff Stoudt's 34 touchdowns and the league's best defense, while the Oakland Invaders boasted QB Bobby Hebert's career-high 30 passing touchdowns, and future NFL star Anthony Carter lighting up secondaries with 1,323 receiving yards and 14 scores.

The 1985 season also marked the rise of offensive innovation. Teams like Houston leaned heavily into wide-open passing games, setting the stage for the future of pro football. Jim Kelly led the league for the second consecutive season with 39 touchdowns and 4,623 passing yards. Overall the league featured eight 1,000-yard rushers, thirteen 1,000-yard receivers, and multiple QBs topping 3,500 passing yards, perfect for making Strat gameplay that's as thrilling as the real-life league.

The 1985 USFL Strat-O-Matic card set will include six teams: Baltimore, Birmingham, Memphis, New Jersey, Houston, and Oakland. All 14 teams are available in the Windows season. Relive the final USFL season now with Strat-O-Matic.

1986 NFL IS COMING TO A TABLETOP NEAR YOU

Dan Marino, Lawrence Taylor, Jerry Rice, Eric Dickerson and more will soon be available with the full-season 1986 NFL card set.

This was the year the New York Giants conquered the football world. Led by Bill Parcells, the Giants stormed to a 14-2 regular season before tearing through the playoffs and demolishing Denver 39-20 in Super Bowl XXI. The defense was legendary, anchored by Lawrence Taylor, who became just the second defensive player ever to win NFL MVP honors after a 20.5 sack season. Meanwhile, Phil Simms threw for 3,487 yards and a near-perfect Super Bowl performance, and Joe Morris rushed for 1,516 yards and 14 touchdowns.

The Chicago Bears, coming off their dominant '85 title, still boasted the league's best defense and a 14-2 record of their own. The Washington Redskins, with Jay Schroeder slinging deep balls to Art Monk and Gary Clark, and the Denver Broncos, led by John Elway's late-game heroics, both made deep playoff runs. "The Drive," Elway and the Broncos' legendary 98 yards in the final minutes of the AFC Championship Game, stunned the Browns and cemented its place as one of the greatest moments in NFL history.

Other standouts include:

- Offensive Player of the Year Eric Dickerson leading the league in rushing (1,821 yards)

- Dan Marino tossing 44 TD passes and 4,746 yards for Miami

- Jerry Rice scoring 16 touchdowns along with 1,570 receiving yards in his second season

- The Jets' explosive start (10-1), led by Ken O'Brien and Al Toon

- AFC top seed Cleveland Browns, paced by Bernie Kosar, winning 12 games and nearly earning their first Super Bowl trip

This 1986 Strat-O-Matic NFL set includes all 28 teams, bringing you the full scope of a season defined by elite defense, explosive offense, and some of the most iconic moments of the 1980s.

Whether you want to coach LT's Giants to another title, rewrite history with Elway or Marino, or try to go back-to-back with Chicago, 1986 is ready for kickoff.

1972-73 WHA

Strat-O-Matic proudly unveils the inaugural season of the WHA with the debut of 1972-73. A true "start-up" in every sense, the WHA's first year delivered surprising parity, breakout stars, and the birth of a new era of hockey.

Twelve teams took the ice in that historic debut, including several franchises that would become WHA, and later NHL, staples. No team captured attention more than the Winnipeg Jets, who stunned the hockey world by signing Bobby Hull away from the NHL with a \$1 million contract, an enormous sum that was biggest in hockey history at the time. Even after missing the first fifteen games due to NHL lawsuits, Hull still delivered in full, posting 51 goals and 52 assists in just 63 games. Hull was joined by fellow 100-point scorers Norm Beaudin (38-65-103) and Christian Bordeleau (47-54-101) as the Jets roared to a 43-31-4 record to win the West Division. Hull won the league's Most Valuable Player award.

The Jets weren't the only offensive force: the New England Whalers emerged as the league's most consistent club, scoring 318 goals and capturing the regular-season crown with a 46-30-2 record. Led by Tom Webster's 53 goals, Terry Caffery's 100-point breakout, and solid goaltending from Al Smith, the Whalers cruised through the playoffs and captured the first-ever Avco World Trophy.

The Philadelphia Blazers were electric, but chaotic. While plagued by instability (including an early coaching change), they still boasted WHA scoring champ Andre Lacroix, whose 124 points led the leagues, and Danny Lawson (61-45-106), who was the league's only 60 goal scorer. Philadelphia would relocate before the start of the 1973 WHA season. The Los Angeles Sharks, in contrast, brought gritty West Coast hockey to the league with a bruising style anchored by Gary Veneruzzo (43 goals) and the goaltending of George Gardner.

Over in the Midwest, the Cleveland Crusaders were anchored by veteran Gary Jarrett (40 goals) and former NHL All-Star Gerry Cheevers, who brought big-league goaltending to the fledgling league and finished with a league-leading 2.84 goals against average.

Former Canadiens star J.C. Tremblay led the league with 75 assists en route to being named the league's top defenseman for Quebec. Ron Ward is the only 100 point scorer without a physical card in the set. His 118 points led the New York Raiders.

This card set features the six core teams: Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, New England, Philadelphia, and Winnipeg, each printed and ready for tabletop play. The remaining teams, along with additional players and depth for all clubs, are available as downloadable print files in your Strat-O-Matic account.

The carded teams give gamers access to replay the division finals and the top three teams in each division.

The 1972-73 WHA season is a must-have for hockey historians, Strat collectors, and fans eager to relive the beginning of a league that helped redefine professional hockey.

1959-60 NHL

Step back into one of the most iconic seasons of the NHL's Original Six era with the re-release of the 1959-60 season, now available officially through Strat-O-Matic. This year marked the final full season for Maurice "Rocket" Richard, and fittingly, he went out a champion—leading the Montreal Canadiens to their fifth straight Stanley Cup title, a streak unmatched to this day.

Montreal's dynasty was in full force, finishing first in the regular season with a 40-18-12 record. The Canadiens were powered by Jean Béliveau (34 goals, 74 points), Bernie Geoffrion (30 goals, 71 points), Maurice's brother Henri Richard (career-high 30 goals), Norris Trophy winner Doug Harvey, and Jacques Plante in net, who posted a 2.54 GAA to lead the league in that category for the fifth consecutive season.

Montreal then swept through the postseason, defeating both the Chicago Black Hawks and Toronto Maple Leafs for the second straight season to win the Cup.

But the 1959-60 season wasn't just about Montreal's dominance. Bobby Hull is MVP caliber in both seasons we're releasing. Here, the 21-year-old version leads the league in goals (39) for the first time in his career, adding 42 assists to just inch out Bronco Horvath (39-41) as points leader.

Meanwhile, the Detroit Red Wings' Gordie Howe continued his remarkable consistency, finishing second in overall scoring with 73 points, and winning the league's Hart Trophy as MVP for a record fifth time.

This card set includes all Original Six teams, Montreal Toronto, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, and New York. Gamers who already own the Windows version of the season will be able to access this new, updated version of the season with the code they already have with the new game. For those who want to dive in for the first time, Strat-O-Matic Hockey 2025 and a 1959-60 season code will be needed to access this version.

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rating (119.6), and passing yards per game (245.4), all while rushing for 915 yards and 4 TDs. Baker Mayfield had a season worthy of a true gunslinger, finishing third in passing yards at 4,500 and throwing 41 TDs... along with leading the league in interceptions (16). But the most shocking performance of the season came from none other than Minnesota's Sam Darnold, who revitalized his career after filling in for the injured rookie JJ McCarthy and winning 14 games for the Vikings, setting career highs in nearly every statistic along the way. Fans of great quarterback play will have a lot to look forward to from the class of '18 in this upcoming set.

This year's rookie class produced a crop of notable talent as well. The headliner must be Washington quarterback Jayden Daniels, who won Offensive Rookie of the year and led the Commanders to their first NFC Championship appearance in over thirty years. Over in Las Vegas, tight end Brock Bowers set the record for receptions by a rookie (112), clearing the mark set by Puka Nacua a year prior (105). Bowers also set the rookie record for receiving yards by a tight end with 1,194. On the defensive side, pass rusher Jared Verse won Defensive Rookie of the Year for the Los Angeles Rams as he put up 4.5 sacks and 76 quarterback pressures, the fourth most in the league. Other notable rookies include Denver quarterback Bo Nix, who led the club to their first playoff berth since 2015, New England quarterback Drake Maye, and Chicago quarterback and first overall pick Caleb Williams.

The story of the postseason truly begins in the final week of the regular season, when the 14-2 Minnesota Vikings took on the 14-2 Detroit Lions. The victor of this matchup would win the NFC North and claim the 1 seed in the NFC, while the loser would take the 5 seed and be sent on the road for the first round. The Detroit Lions, riding behind their red-hot offense (564 points), would win the matchup 31-9, securing the first round BYE and their highest win total in franchise history (15). Minnesota couldn't recover from this loss and was subsequently blown out by the Rams the following week (27-9), a disappointing ending to an otherwise remarkable season. In Tampa Bay, the 6 seed Commanders upset the Buccaneers 23-20 with a walk-off field goal, giving Jayden Daniels his fifth game winning drive of

his young career. Washington rode this momentum into their matchup with Detroit and stunned them, taking advantage of the Lions' injured defense and winning by multiple scores (45-31). Washington's Cinderella run would come to an end in the NFC Championship game, with the Philadelphia Eagles ferociously punching their ticket to the Super Bowl in a 55-23 rout.

Over in the AFC, fans were treated to a number of exciting playoff matchups as well. The Pittsburgh Steelers fell to the Baltimore Ravens 28-14 in the Wild Card, the final loss of a 5-game skid to end the season after starting 10-3. Houston won a playoff game for the second year in a row with a convincing 32-12 win over a resurgent Chargers team led by new head coach Jim Harbaugh. Moving into the second round, the Bills survived a late scare against the Ravens when Mark Andrews dropped the potential game-tying two-point conversion to lose 27-25 Buffalo. All roads through Kansas City in the AFC as fans were treated to round 4 of the Allen and Mahomes rivalry for the AFC Championship game. 32-29 would be the final score as the Chiefs once again defeated the Bills, dropping Allen's record against Mahomes in the postseason to 0-4 – a figure that continues to haunt Bills Mafia. With the Strat-O-Matic Board Game and Windows Game, gamers will have the opportunity to relive all these exciting moments.

Other notable names from the 2024 season include Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow, who led the league in passing yards (4,918) in route to his second Comeback Player of the Year award. His top target, wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase, secured the triple crown with 127 receptions for 1,708 yards and 17 TDs. He's joined by Minnesota receiver Justin Jefferson (1,533) as the only pass catchers to record over 1,500 yards this season. Ten total players reached the 100-catch mark, notably Lions receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (115), Cardinals tight end Trey McBride (111) and Giants rookie receiver Malik Nabers (109). On the rushing side, 16 total players broke the 1,000 rushing yards mark, with Ravens running back Derrick Henry nearly making his second entry into the 2,000 Yard-Club (1,921).

This season was filled with incredible performances and unforgettable moments; now it's your turn to create new ones!

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his 100-assist season with 84 this season, tied with Colorado's Nathan MacKinnon for the league lead.

The Lightning scored 294 goals – the most in the league this season. Winnipeg finished with the best defense in the league for the second year in a row, allowing only 191 goals, largely due to the efforts of Hart Memorial Trophy

winner Connor Hellebuyck. Hellebuyck finished first in GAA (2.01), record (47-12-3), shutouts (8) and was second in save percentage (.925). This remarkable performance earned him his second straight Vezina Trophy, beating out Darcy Kuemper of the Los Angeles Kings (2.02 GAA) and Andrei Vasilevskiy of Tampa Bay (2.18 GAA).

Individual standout performances can be found in the six players to reach the 100 point barrier: Kucherov (121), MacKinnon (116), Draisaitl (106), Boston's David Pastrnak (106), Toronto's Mitch Marner (102) and Edmonton's Connor McDavid (100).

What's New in Strat-O-Matic Football 2025? New Kickoff Rule and More...

The NFL's new kickoff rules sparked an increase in returns in 2024, and the same will come to Strat-O-Matic Football as well. Available as an optional rule within the custom rules dialog, follow these rules to support the new, Dynamic Kickoff:

- A white die is rolled in addition to the X and 2 red dice.
- Kickoffs are from the 35-yard line.
- A ball that hits in the "Landing Zone" (the receiving team's goal-line to their 20-yard line) must be returned.
- For a negative yardage result from the kickoff card, refer to the white die. White Die 1-3: The ball hits in the landing zone and bounces into the end zone. The ball must be returned or downed by the receiving team. If downed the resulting possession begins at the 20-yard line. White Die 4-6: The ball is caught by the returner in the end zone. The ball must be returned or downed by the receiving team. If downed the resulting possession

begins at the 30-yard line.

- A "Touchback" reading from the kicker's kickoff card indicates that either the ball went through the back of the end zone or it was caught and downed in the end-zone. In either case the resulting possession begins at the 30-yard line.

- If Red Dice total 12 and the White Die is a 4, 5 or 6 then ignore the reading from the kicker's kickoff column. Instead, the ball falls short of the "Landing Zone" or goes out-of-bounds and is whistled dead. The resulting possession begins at the 40-yard line. Note that this is recorded as a touchback to the 40-yard line.

- Onside kicks can only be used by the trailing team after the 4th quarter has begun.

- Squib Kickoffs are no longer available as they conflict with the landing zone rules.

- Safety Free Kicks continue to use punts with the only modification being that the minimum punt will bring the ball to the opponent's 20-yard line.

- Game animations have been updated to support this rule.

That's not all that's new for kicker

animations, or kickoffs, either. Now, when using older goal posts the place kicker will animate as a straight-on kicker, rather than the "soccer style" kicker animation. Some field goal and extra point animations will now also display as missing wide-right. Also updated for this year is the ability to apply penalties on the kicking team to after the return, rather than either accepting the penalty to re-kick the ball or decline.

A number of other penalty situations have also been improved to better align with the NFL. This includes Intentional Grounding, which will now record as a pass attempt to match the NFL, and incomplete Roughing the Passer penalties, which will now ignore the pass attempt in the statistics. If a facemask penalty on the defense is accepted on a play that had resulted in a loss of yards, that play's statistics will not count. We're making sure you get all the yardage on flagrant facemasks. If a flagrant facemask on the defense is accepted on a play that loses yardage the resulting line of scrimmage will be 15-yards from the original line-of-scrimmage, not just 15-yards from the resulting line-of-

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All the Empty Net Goals, Coming To a Strat-O-Matic Game Near You

Strat-O-Matic Hockey 2025 is getting some big rule changes that make your late game strategy even more important. As empty net goals have become more prevalent in the NHL, an update to rule 13.1 is being made that will match it:

13.1 - If the team shooting at the empty net rolls any result considered to be a shot on goal then the goal is scored. This applies to "Goal", "Goalie Rating", or any reading proceeded with an "X" (for example, "X-LD" or "X-Reb"). Note that if a split reading is rolled then either way the result is always a shot on goal, so the goal is scored.

On top of that, gamers will now have additional computer manager settings to give them more control over when to get that extra skater on the ice.

- Never
- When down by 1 with around 1 Minute Remaining
- When down by 1 with around 2 Minutes Remaining
- When down by 1 with around 3 Minutes Remaining

- When down by 1 with around 4 Minutes Remaining
- When down by 1 or 2 with around 1 Minute Remaining
- When down by 1 or 2 with around 2 Minutes Remaining
- When down by 1 or 2 with around 3 Minutes Remaining
- When down by 1 or 2 with around 4 Minutes Remaining

We recommend using "When down by 1 with around 1 Minute Remaining" for seasons prior to 1979-80, using "Down 1, 2 Minutes" between 1979-80 through 2013-14, "Down 1 or 2, 2 Minutes" between 2014-15 through 2023-24, and "Down 1 or 2, 3 Minutes" for the 2024-25 season.

A new optional 'Alternate Penalty Kill Defense' Max Rule has been added to alter readings for some defenders when the 12, 13, and 14 results are used for a short-handed team. These readings will now use generated results based on their Short-handed Defense ratings rather than their Base Defense rating. For example if a player has a defense rating of 4(3) then his Base Defense rating is 4 and his Short-handed defense rating is 3. Since the player has a "4" base defense ratings his 12, 13, and 14 Defense column results are all "Takes Away Puck". However, if this rule is being used, and the player is helping to kill a penalty, and a reading of "Opponent defense 14" occurs against his Defense Column, that would result in an "Outside Shot" instead of a "Takes Away Puck" because his

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2024-25 NBA: Oklahoma City Makes History, Jokic Averages Triple Double

The Thunder managed to capture lightning in a bottle this season, winning their first ever championship in franchise history over the Indiana Pacers. Everything seemed to go Oklahoma City's way: they became the seventh team in league history to finish with 68 wins or more, they earned the 1 seed in a competitive western conference, and they set a new record for best net rating in league history (+12.8). They did this all while fielding the youngest roster in the NBA at an average age of 24.1 years.

OKC's success starts with point guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who took home Most Valuable Player honors for the first time in his young career while leading the league in scoring (32.7 points per game). He was also named Finals MVP, coming up clutch with a 29-point performance in game 7 and averaging 30.3 points per game for the series. Third year forward Jalen Williams was a big help down the stretch, averaging 23.6 points per game with a signature 40-bomb in game 5 to help the squad take a 3-2 lead. A new face for the Thunder made big contributions as well, with veteran guard Alex Caruso providing stifling defense off the bench. The NBA hasn't seen a repeat champion in seven years, but there are no signs of Oklahoma City slowing down next season.

Despite Gilgeous-Alexander's remarkable season, the race for MVP wasn't always crystal clear. Three-time MVP winner Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets found a way to be even more impressive this season, averaging a triple-double for the first time in his career (29.6/12.7/10.2) on a career high 41.7% shooting from deep. Other standout centers include Domantas Sabonis, who averaged a league best 13.9 boards, and Karl-Anthony Towns, who averaged a double-double in his first year with New York (24.4/12.8). Standout offensive performances came from Milwaukee forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (30.4 points per game) and Atlanta guard Trae Young, who led the

league with 11.6 assists per game.

This season saw many young players take big steps forward in their careers. Evan Mobley, fourth-year power forward for the Cavaliers was named Defensive Player of the Year as Cleveland finished with the second-best record in the NBA (64-18), leading the East. The Detroit Pistons bounced back from an awful 2023-24 and made the playoffs as a sixth seed led by former number one overall pick Cade Cunningham, who averaged an impressive 26.1 points and 9.1 assists per game. Most Improved Player honors went to Dyson Daniels, a guard in his third year who led the league with 3.0 steals per game for the Hawks after being traded from New Orleans. Another notable young player this season was San Antonio Spurs guard Stephon Castle who won Rookie of the Year, the second year in a row the franchise has had a winner in the category (Victor Wembanyama).

Every postseason has its share of surprises, but nothing came as more of a shock than the run the Indiana Pacers went on. Led by guard Tyrese Haliburton and forward Pascal Siakam, the Pacers decisively won a five-game series against the Bucks before upsetting the Cavaliers and Knicks in the second and third rounds respectively. Haliburton hit a crucial game winning shot in each series and carried that momentum into game 1 of the finals, where he hit a go-ahead mid-range jumper in the closing seconds to secure the road victory. While the Pacers would eventually fall to the Thunder in 7, this was an unforgettable run for the squad.

Of course, what would an NBA season be without LeBron James adding more milestone achievements to his decorated career? This season he became the first player to ever play a 23rd season in the league, padded out his all-time lead in points scored by reaching 50,000 and surpassed the legendary Michael Jordan as the oldest player in NBA history to score 40 in a game. He comfortably averaged 24.4/7.8/8.2 and led the Lake Show to 50 wins, good for the 3 seed in the West. Strat players should look forward to playing their own seasons on the board game and windows game!

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scrimmage.

Improved reporting has been added so boxscores will now reflect each team's updated win-loss record after a game is completed. Additionally, the ball possession and drive chart will now show the quarter in addition to the minutes and seconds for the time received and time lost fields. Perhaps most importantly, the So Far Today display has been expanded to show the offensive team's play calling tendencies. The display will add a count of all the running and passing play calls for the offense. Even plays negated by penalty will be included in the counts so every coach has all the information at a glance.

No more clutter in the league manager as you can now choose to show or hide any installed seasons or leagues. The option to regenerate depth charts of all teams in a league has also been added to the restart season function. Plus, at

much joy for this writer, when creating a Playoff League you will now be prompted to regenerate team depth charts. If you have altered depth charts yourself, or, most likely, using the QB Starter Schedule has potentially altered the depth chart for playoff teams, this will regenerate each team back to their default settings. No longer will you head into the playoffs with a backup at the top of the depth chart just because the starter was resting.

As always, support for the 2024 NFL season has been added to the Pro Game and 2024 college football season has been added to the College Game.

Speaking of college, naturally the 2-Minute Timeout rule has made its way to Strat-O-Matic College Football 2025. Don't waste it while leading your favorite team to the title!



FROM CHICAGO TO DETROIT, STRAT CLUBS KEEP GROWING

It's been two years since we started up the official Strat Club program and we're excited to report that our clubs are still going strong! In late 2023 and early 2024, we started clubs in Detroit, Connecticut, New Jersey, Long Island, Kansas City, South Carolina, and Philadelphia, all of which have grown significantly and continue to meet.

Since then, we've added clubs all across the United States, notably our groups in Chicago, Atlanta, Tampa, Tennessee, and Staten Island. We were even able to start a club in Toronto, our first ever international Strat Club! Many of our members have enjoyed the benefits of being part of a club, giving them the opportunity to connect with new players for face-to-face matchups as well as access to exclusive discounts. We even hosted an exclusive Zoom meeting this past November where Strat Club members had the chance to meet the legendary Jon Miller, broadcaster for the San Francisco Giants.

If you're interested in joining one of our clubs or starting a new one, reach out to stratclub@strat-o-matic.com and visit www.strat-o-matic.com/strat-clubs/ for more information!



STRAT-O-MATIC TAKES OVER METS HOUSE NYC

Hundreds of baseball fans from across Greater New York (and beyond!) were on hand as Strat-O-Matic and Mets House NYC, the Union Square, Manhattan space with Mets- and baseball-themed special events, family activities, merchandise and more, collaborated on a pair of SOM Takeovers of the location on May 4 and June 21. SOM aficionados just couldn't wait, lining up an hour before opening to be the first to set up in the popup shop's recreation area, breaking out their own cards, dice and charts, and playing some of the new offerings that SOM brought along.

Strat-O-Matic Clubs took center stage, reserving times on a few of the tables to roll a few games with their regular members. Many other SOM players showed up to connect with other fans, and Mets House patrons got a crash course in the game and became new players. Adults and kids alike had a great time whether they were well-versed in the game or learning how to play for the first time.

And Mr. Met and Mrs. Met were enthusiastic participants, greeting Strat players who filled several tables all day.

A highlight for everyone was the chance to meet Strat-O-Matic founder Hal Richman, who greeted many grateful longtime Strat players, signed a few games and even posed for photos with fans (and Mr. and Mrs. Met!).

And those who came to the June event had the bonus of meeting 1969 Met Art Shamsky, who was signing copies of his new book. They also received a free commemorative 1969 Shamsky Strat card produced especially for the occasion.

If this sounds like fun to you, it does to us too. We're all ears if you have an idea for a location near you that might want to do a similar event, just let us know at stratclub@strat-o-matic.com and we'll follow up!

STRAT IN THE PRESS

You may have noticed Strat-O-Matic replays on some of your favorite podcasts and many popular websites. Strat-O-Matic continues to be a source of credible simulations that media trust to create compelling content.

Just a few of the hundreds of articles, posts and podcast mentions include regular creative pieces in publications like Chicago Sports Stuff, NBC Sports Boston, Joe Posnanski's JoeBlogs, Tim Kurkjian's "Is this a Great Game or What" podcast, SI.com, SB Nation and others.

Outlets like the New York Post, The Stein Line, SB Nation, SportsTechie, Digital Sports Desk, Gotham Baseball, and dozens of others have used SOM simulations as the basis for pieces.

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Shorthanded Defense rating is a 3, not a 4. Using this rule will lead to more realistic usage of players on PK units and make it less advantageous to use players with a 4(1) or 5(2) defense rating.

A new checkbox has been added to the lineups dialog called Force Use of All Lines. This will do just as it says and force a rotation of all the offensive and defensive lines that are defined in the Computer Manager. This setting is only for use in manually played games but is particularly helpful in certain game situations when using "Computer Lines, Human Decisions". Also new for this year, the Roster Report has been updated to include each player's actual year and team abbreviation.

A new button has been added to the New Scheduled dialog, labeled "#". This button works very similarly to the Play All Auto button however you are first prompted to enter the number of games to be autoplaid rather. While it will automatically fill with all remaining games on the schedule, you can now limit the number of games to ensure you don't simulate further than you intended to do so.

Strat-O-Matic Hockey 2025 will add support for the 2024-25 NHL season, the 1972-73 WHA season, and a newly revamped 1959-60 NHL season. Gamers who already have a season code for the 1959-60 season will not need to purchase a new code. They will be able to download the re-calculated season using the code they already own.

ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY RETIREMENT HOMES THAT ARE CURRENTLY USING STRAT-O-MATIC GAMES OR HAVE ACTIVE STRAT CLUBS? WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING SET UP A STRAT CLUB AT A RETIREMENT HOME NEAR YOU? IF SO, PLEASE REACH OUT TO STRATCLUB@STRAT-O-MATIC.COM!

NO SOPHOMORE SLUMP HERE, BASEBALL MAX ROARS IN YEAR 2

Baseball MAX's rookie year has come and gone and thousands of Strat fans have already taken part in the newest Strat sensation. Just over two million games have now been played in Baseball MAX history.

With Baseball MAX now entering its second season, Strat fans have never had an easier way to play. Featuring an easy-to-use, streamlined experience, Baseball MAX allows users to quickly play games with any team in a variety of different formats: Exhibition Games, Historical Leagues (as-played replays), Draft Leagues, 2025 Season, and All-Star Games. But there's more coming this summer.

Soon, Baseball MAX will add a Game of the Day

**BASEBALL
MAX** 
BY STRAT-O-MATIC®

feature, pitting any two teams in baseball against each other. Users will be able to select either team, pick the lineup, and go. Leaderboards will be kept so gamers can compare their records and brag about their wins. Here's the best part: Game of the Day will be available FREE. You do not need a Baseball MAX subscription to play. (Although you will if you want to see your name on the leaderboards among the best Game of the Day players).

June's launch of MAX Content coinciding with Lou Gehrig Day will also continue, bringing new challenges to Strat gamers.

Don't hesitate signing up for the most convenient Strat platform there is: Baseball MAX!

STRAT COLLECTIBLES CONTINUES: ALL-STARS 1939, 1999 + ALL-CENTURY TEAM

The All-Star Game is one of baseball's most valued traditions. Every year, baseball greats join for a midsummer celebration of the sport's brightest stars, unforgettable moments, and once-in-a-lifetime matchups. From legendary performances to emotional tributes, the All-Star Game showcases the best of the best.

Strat-O-Matic honors this legacy by bringing more editions of this great game back to life through Strat-O-Matic All-Stars. This special edition card set includes the players who made the 1939 and 1999 All-Star Games, on vivid, colorful all-red cards for the American Leagues and all-blue backgrounds for the National League players. Both sets of cards have white text on the basic and advanced sides, creating a visually impressive card.

The 115 players for these two games are created with Super-Advanced features, a first for the 1939 players as the season has never been released in card form before by Strat-O-Matic.

If that wasn't enough, this year's edition adds on the 30 players named to baseball's All-Century Team. These player cards are in an elegant, silver color

that have already received rave reviews. "They are amazing!!" ... "The best looking Strat cards EVER!"

Let's remember back to the 1999 All-Star Game at Fenway Park. All living semifinalists of the All-Century Team were announced, standing around the infield. Ted Williams is later introduced, entering from center field to raucous applause, arriving at the mound to be immediately surrounded by the 1999 All-Stars. Baseball's best spontaneously paying tribute to baseball immortality.

This set gives you that moment and more.

Each set is individually numbered and packaged in a specially designed collectible box, complete with charts detailing the starting lineups, rosters, and box scores for each game plus a dedicated chart for the All-Century team.

As demand for the last set was sky-high, additional sets are being offered this time around so gamers who may not have seen the initial release will still have the opportunity to jump in.

Winning Numbers: Ratings Guides for Football, Hockey

Good coaches are well prepared coaches. Strat-O-Matic helps you be both with its unique and comprehensive Ratings Guides for its popular football and hockey games.

Each offers all the must-have information you need to evaluate talent: Who to draft, who to trade, and who to play in every situation. Draft leaguers and stock-team players alike can compare players to see where strengths can be maximized and opponents weaknesses exploited.

The guides are available as computer downloads for every season Strat-O-Matic has to offer, and will soon include the new seasons available later this year. For football, that's 1956 to present, including the USFL seasons, and for hockey that's 1944-45 to present, plus the hockey specialty sets: All-Time Greats, Hockey Heroes, and the 1980 Olympics sets – the WHA seasons, too.

Hockey

The guides display each player's basic stats, all of the top-of-card ratings and crunch all the numbers in the shooting

columns, both for even strength and power play. The data is in handy spreadsheet form so that you can easily make your own custom calculations and sort players to rank them in any category. Goalies have their own sheet that calculates the card chances that they will surrender goals, create breakaways, and more.

Football

Prepare like the most astute offensive and defensive coordinators with a staggering amount of information for every player, team defense, and team special teams card. The team defense spreadsheet alone has 62 columns breaking down each team's performance against each type of run, pass, and more. The number crunching in these guides is invaluable to determine the best men to get the tough yards and to get the explosive plays. There are separate spreadsheets for quarterbacks, running backs, receivers, linemen, kickers, and return specialists. The results are color-coded; see at a glance who is great, good, average, below average, or poor at any facet of the game. Of course, you can sort the players and teams according to your needs to make the most of what's available.