

(1976 - SEASON)

the FBNBA

INFORMER

APRIL INTRO ISSUE

Managers---

Here it is! The supplementary newsletter which I plan to produce for your enjoyment in the 1976 FBNBA season. All of you are receiving this as an introduction on what's to come.

The purpose of this publication is to create a statistical interest throughout the league. Last season, Dave just couldn't find the space and time to list the top batters and pitchers in their respective categories. Since most of us are statistical nuts, I think the interest in this newsletter would be great. This is not to degrade our fearless commissioner in any way, A newsletter of this content will relieve the pressure on his newsletter somewhat in terms of work plus I just enjoy doing this kind of thing.

I know you want to see more than a bunch of names and numbers scattered amongst these pages, so I've come to another unique idea. A section of the newsletter based on strange happenings in a particular game or series--- a super pitching or batting performance like a no or one hitter, a 15 strikeout game, 3 home runs by one man in a contest, a man hitting for the cycle and so many, many more possibilities. You managers can "show-off" the excellence of a player which might have gone unnoticed by the rest of the league. Everyone will get their turn to talk highly about their team.

You can also submit articles of interest to this publication. All will be taken but please don't try to write a novel. Keep them no longer than one typewritten page, please. Make your topics as interesting as possible so the most will be made out of them.

A listing of the current standings will be printed also.

Here is your chance at expanding league interest and sharing your knowledge with fellow managers. Just \$1 gets you the seasonal subscription. Who will win the home run and batting races..... which pitcher will be the most successful in winning and striking out his opponents? You can follow these and all the other statistical races to see who comes out on top.

May 30 (after series #4) will be the due date for all stats, team records, articles, and big performances. Even if you don't subscribe, please send in these things anyway. Everything is to be sent to my HOME ADDRESS. School will be over by then and my summer vacation will have started.

Best of luck in your season. Hope to hear from all of you soon.

James W. Jorgensen
4/13/76

GUEST COLUMNISTS

This month we are fortunate to have not one, but two guest columnists. Gerald Ittenbach has sent along his 1976 convention Report and Scott Baker has sent along an interesting article on his recent visit to the Strat-O-Matic Game Company on Long Island. Jim Sargensen has written to me and he says that he too is planning on visiting the game company's headquarters on Monday the 24th of January.

1976 F-B-N B.A. TOURNAMENT IN URBANA

By Gerald Ittenbach
Carolina Fines Manager

Prior to attending the F-B-N Convention, I had the pleasure of meeting Tommy Brown, Jr. the 1976 F-B-N B.A. World Series winner, his wife Jane, and lovely little daughter Mondy. I arrived in Cave City, MI to visit Lamoth Caves which I'd seen before but my youngest daughter hadn't, plus the hope of meeting Tommy. I called him by phone only to find out he was playing softball that night. Anyway, he called me at the motel after the game and we talked quite a while (all long distance on his phone bill) and agreed to get together for a breakfast meeting the next morning before I was to leave for Illinois. We had a good baseball talk before and during breakfast and strengthened our friendship that had begun via F-B-N B.A. correspondence. Since he had to drive about 20 miles for our breakfast meeting and had quite a long distance phone bill to pay, I figured the least I could do was be the last of the big time sponsors and pick up the breakfast bill for our families plus the fact my family had outscored his 5 to 3. Tommy claims my Carolina Fines have got a box on his Murray Racers which seems to be true. Anyway, we will see in 1977 when I expect both of us to field fine F-B-N B.A. teams. We parted good friends anyway.

After leaving Tommy and family, I visited my mother-in-law and my mother, then it was time for the big event, the F-B-N Convention at Urbana!

Upon arrival in Urbana and settling my family in at the Holiday Inn, I went to the Florida Dorm where I would have stayed had I not had my family with me (who are not baseball nuts like me). At the Florida Dorm I got info on events for July 30, 31, and August 1. Steve and Becky Walters were there (Galactic), as was Dean Amrhein (Funky P's) and after some chit-chat I followed Steve and Becky to their motel where Steve and I played the last 2 games of our 7 game series at his park. He won both giving him an overall edge of 5-2 in that series. The next night we played the last 2 games on our 7 game series at my park, each winning one. However, since I'd lost 4 of 5 before he had an overall edge of 5-2 in that series too. "Post Morton", since he beat me 3 of 4 games in the 1976 F-B-N B.A. playoffs too, I'd have to say he had the hex on me in 1976 as I had on Tommy Brown.

Back to convention play on July 29th, I found out David Smith, Mandy Popp, and Scott Ellis wouldn't make it to the convention. David got a job, and Scott was just getting back from viewing the Scotland lassies. I presume he at least tried to view them since he is a good looking red-blooded American boy.

Convention activities I played in were the Old-Timers Tournament one Friday using the 1927 Yankees. I won about 5 rounds before being eliminated afterward. There was bowling with Wolfman Shapiro, who also took us all to see FLAHO at 9 P.M. where we played many electronic games on the University of Illinois computers. Steve Walters really got hooked on this losing much sleep. He was still going strong when I left to get some sleep.

On Saturday I played in the Advanced Baseball Tournament with the 1975 Cincinnati Reds winning 5 of 6 rounds. Then, due to the rule if both managers had the same team they were to use their backup teams, I got eliminated by the Oakland A's while using the 1975 Boston Red Sox. That evening it was back to Steve Walter's new found love "Flato."

I managed to play each day in competition from about 6 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m., but Steve was too lucky, losing early and going back to Flato. His wife Becky made the best show. I don't think I had to such luck either at the convention,

but all seemed to have a good time.

I left Sunday when final wins were being played as I had about 1,000 miles ahead of me and I needed an early start. However had I or any of the other F-E-W B.A. members been in competition I would have stayed to see who won.

In summary, I'd say if you enjoy B-O-H games face-to-face, and keen competition, go if you can to the next convention. Accommodations at Florida Hall are real good which is where I stayed when I attended in 1975 with plenty of players around for all the extra game activity you could want and Convention activity too.

SEMIESTER BREAK STRAT-O-MATIC TOUR
by Scott Baker
Tri City Ring Dings Manager

During my recent semester break, I was able to tour the Strat-O-Matic Company in Glen Head, Long Island. An account follows.

After some searching, my companions and I happened upon the quaint, pink and white building which served as the supplier of Strat-O-Matic merchandise for the thousands of gamblers across the nation. Initially it appeared as if the building might be closed, but upon further examination, we discovered an open door. This led to a small, deserted office. We were beginning to feel like intruders in a vacant warehouse when we finally encountered some employees in the adjoining room.

"Excuse me, but we were in the area and wondered if we could take a look around," explained my friend.

"Sure, come on in," came the reply from a young, mustachioed man dressed in casual clothes.

Thus, began our tour of the small, dimly lit building. Leading us from the second office, the man showed us to a storage room which contained stacks upon stacks of playing cards and other miscellaneous supplies. The room measured about 50 by 100 feet and seemed in a general state of disarray. The next room was similar in size but served as the order assembly area. A large table of game boxes strategy charts and rosters were piled on one table for rapid order filling. The baseball cards, which will constitute the next major mailings, had already begun to be stacked in this area. Large boxes of 1977 National League cards ran along one wall and this provided quite a temptation. The tour guide agreed to show us any player we wanted and I decided on Gary Matthews (of Tri City). Matthews is a 3 fielder and a stealer. He also has a very inviting 3-6 homerun (there is your pre-season peek!) number.

In discussing card make-up, the mustachioed man explained that though baseball cards are now computerized, all others are still done by hand and mistakes can occur (witness Jim Hart's interception rating). He went on to tell us that all cards and charts are printed in New York City and the warehouse serves only for shipping purposes. He also said that the American League Baseball cards should be completed by January 21 (the N.L. has been completed) and orders will begin to move out after that date.

As we left, I observed issues of the Baseball Register, and Street & Smith's strewn about the desks - evidence of painstaking research.

So, fellow F-E-W B.A. members, my life is now complete and a new sense of inner peace and tranquility envelopes my being, for I have been to the Mecca of the Strat-O-Matic world.

ADDITIONAL TRADE JUST RECEIVED-

CAROLINA sent Rudy May, Danny Frisella, Ramon Hernandez, Don Carrithers, Ian Warthen, Ollie Brown, and West Jeff's 3rd Round Draft Choice to CALGUTTA for Larry Fattin

REMEMBER-

Rosters frozen at 15 August for draft choices controlled and frozen players due soon.