

'Kelly Tripucka lives'

More S-O-M Basketball replays, playing tips wanted

BY JEFF KIK, Paw Paw, MI

The least written about and most ignored game that Strat-O-Matic produces is the Pro Basketball Game. I have played the game since its inception in 1973. The game has gone through three major changes that have completely turned the game into what I consider a great table version of pro basketball.

It doesn't get the attention it deserves mainly because the sport itself isn't as popular as pro football or baseball. What irritates me, however, is the way S-O-M gamers, specifically tournament sponsors, ignore its presence. For instance, the Lyman Bostock Memorial Tournament in Gary, IN, has football, advanced and basic baseball. Now this tournament is right in my area, but it doesn't appeal to me because of no basketball.

The game presented today has all the action of a real basketball game. Fast-breaks, steals, three-point field goals and individual player foul ratings. Its flow is genuine and makes for an exciting Sunday afternoon (that's when fellow basketball gamers and I gather for afternoon-long sessions).

Now don't get me wrong. I am also a member of the GKSM (Greater Kalamazoo Strat-O-Matic League) face-to-face baseball league (which has among its managerial lineup Review co-editors Del and Warren Newell. I love baseball. But up this year I never was involved in an active basketball league--so now I'm more excited than ever about the basketball game.

This year marks the formation of the World's Best Basketball League. This play-by-mail league lists among its members the Ringen family--father Willis and two sons, Terry and Deron. They were members of the long-running Mid-Coastal Basketball League which folded last year.

Anthony Giacobbe is another member of the new basketball loop. He's been a member of many PBM leagues. We have league representatives in Ohio, Arizona, California, North Carolina and Connecticut, with a total of 12 members altogether. Pat Stemas, another member of the GKSM and a teacher in Dowagiac, MI, is also involved in the basketball league.

Let's hear more from the basketball gamers. Come on, also you hockey players. That's a group that isn't afraid to speak out.

Kelly Tripucka lives!

Editor's note: The reaction to the 'new' basketball game last year was all favorable. But playing the game and playing replays appear to be two different things. Most gamers, if they're involved in baseball (which starts in early February) and football (which ends early to late fall) don't have much time in between for dice-rollin'. Hockey, if added, presents another problem as far as trying to fit it in. The Review would be interested in hearing from any other leagues that are operating, results from one-team replays, playoff replays, etc. And, of course, playing tips, provided that they have been tested and checked for realism, are certainly welcome.

And who-should-you-draft? articles, again if carefully researched, always make for interesting reading.