

Another trip down 'Hoops' lane

Georgetown's revenge!

Anthony Giacobbe Jr. of New York is another who responded to our call for gamers who play Hoops and who wish to comment on the college basketball game that Strat-O-Matic is now selling.

Giacobbe has played Hoops for years and recently purchased the updated game.

His opinion of the game is neither as harsh as Bart Ewing's (March 1990 Review) or as flowery as Patrick Clark's (in this issue).

Here are his comments:

"In general, the game is excellent.

"My only complaint about the solitaire version is that the game does not adequately react when a team is losing. A team down by six points with a minute left will wait 35 seconds before shooting. This makes no sense. A flaw in the game itself is that there is no way to automatically shoot the ball when behind. Even in hurry-up, you can't always get off a shot.

"I do not use the fatigue factor because I hate it. Everybody gets tired much too quickly. I prefer to let coaches regulate rest on their own.

"There are sometimes too many fouls. Also, the fouls are streaky. A player with three in the first half may pick up his fourth right away in the second. Sometimes, a team is over the limit four minutes into a half. The frequency of fouls should be reduced.

"What ever happened to offensive rebound shots? Why is such an integral part of the game never used? Players who get rebounds pass the ball back out. Why?

"I don't know if the 3-point shot gives a team an advantage over an older team. This may have helped Arizona, Illinois and Oklahoma in a tournament. Does an advantage result?

"These are just some points worth mentioning. On the whole, the game is excellent. The most important change that should be made is providing mechanisms for a team to attempt a comeback. Now, the coach does not have enough control to do this."

HOORAY FOR THE HOYAS

Since Giacobbe is a graduate of Georgetown, one of his projects with the Hoops basketball game was to, in his words, "avenge some of the upsets of the past."

In all games the computer was used to coach both teams and all features of the game were used, except for fatigue.

The first re-creation was of the 1989 tournament. This time, with Giacobbe at the computer controls, the Hoyas got past Duke, 77-67, as Charles Smith pumped in 21 points. Seton Hall fell next, 74-66, and then Michigan, 84-81. One goal achieved.

Next was to see if the Villanova upset in 1985 could be avenged. Before playing the final, however, St. John's, led by Chris Mullin, was given another shot at the Hoyas. Mullin scored 33, but Georgetown won 74-67. The Hoyas hammered Villanova in the rematch, 70-46.

The last upset to avenge was the one to Providence in '87. And the Hoyas did just that, 90-89. But, and "just to prove I wasn't cheating," says Giacobbe, "I will admit that my luck ran out against Syracuse (84-71), preventing a much wanted (coaching) showdown between Knight and Thompson."

GREATEST TEAMS TOURNAMENT

Giacobbe's next project was to pit the 32 greatest teams in a
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tournament. "I took the 32 highest rated teams (limited to one team per school) and paired them off according to their number ratings."

UCLA, 1968 vintage, was the tourney favorite and was rolling along as expected until Arizona, '89, upset the Bruins in the final, 86-67.

Sean Elliott had 34 points and eight rebounds for Arizona.

Arizona defeated '85 Georgetown (71-67), '60 Cincinnati (91-84), '89 Illinois (69-59) and '56 San Francisco, led by Bill Russell (78-73) to reach the final.

UCLA, meanwhile, had disposed of '72 Long Beach State (98-78), '74 Notre Dame (91-79), '74 North Carolina State (93-85) and '60 Ohio State (83-67).

Russell was the MVP after averaging 31.3 points and 15.5 rebounds in four games. Lew Alcindor (as he was known then; '68 UCLA) averaged 26.4 points and 11.6 rebounds.

San Francisco nipped '88 Oklahoma on a last-second shot, 86-84, in a Final Eight thriller, while another memorable game was '60 Ohio State edging coach Bobby Knight's '75 Indiana team, 93-89. Knight, the player, came off the bench to net two free throws and go 0-for-3 from the floor for the losing Buckeyes.

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