

Give Your Old Basketball Cards A Facelift

BY BILL DAUGHTRY
215 Lengdon Ave.
Mount Vernon, NY

As your NBA replays shift into high gear, here's a playing tip that will bring a new dimension to your dice adventures.

As most of us know, the S-O-M Basketball cards underwent a slight facelift in 1975 (advanced side). Gone were the "Defensive Turnover Rating," "1-4 shooters," and those identical "Inside/Outside" defensive ratings. The game company made some nifty moves, blessing us grousing "hoop freaks" with more "percentage shots," improved defensive ratings and ...the team defensive card!

It's needless to say, but that small but crucial maneuver made S-O-M Basketball a more visual and faster-paced game. But what about those old "dinosaur" split decks, and players from the pre-1974-75 era? While the basic game remained stable, the blue (advanced) side of the cards became obsolete...Right?--Wrong!

Convert them...that's right, maybe you'll write on them...but you can use them again. The 1973-74 Milwaukee Bucks can live again. The conversion, while time consuming, is easy (except for the team defensive cards). But remember it's worth the effort.

All you have to do is downgrade all shooters one point. Example: change 1-4 to 1-3, 1-3 to 1-2, 1-2 to 1, etc. While a player's shooting rating changes, his shot selection (asterisks) doesn't. Defensive ratings also stay the same, but for visual effect you could place the "I" rating under the penetration rating.

Saving the best for last (it's not as hard as it may sound), you design the new team defense card. Except for a few variations, determined by team makeup, personality and final place in the standings, they're all the same anyway. I figured out (or computed, if you prefer) mine by comparing it with those from teams from other seasons and the factors I just mentioned.

Following the above outline, your pre-1974-75 teams can "live again." You can use the current split deck and referral chart and the cards will perform realistically. So, get your felt-tip pen, index cards, ruler, and thinking cap...and get to work!

Defensive team card for Milwaukee Bucks, 1973-74 season (example):

OUTSIDE SHOT	PENETRATION SHOT	REBOUND AND INSIDE SHOT
2. opp def rating-0 X or no good	2.	2. Foul (2)
3. Foul (2)	3. offensive foul	3. opp def rating-I X or no good
4.	4. Foul (2)	4. opp def ctr rtg-I X or no good
5. Foul (1)	5. opp def rtg-P X or no good	5. opp def rtg-I X or no good
6. opp def rtg-0 X or no good	6. opp def ctr rtg-I X or no good	6. see referral chart
7. X passing situation for opposing team	7. X-1-15 passing situation for opposing team	7. X 1-11 passing situation for opposing team
8. shot missed rebound situation	8. shot missed rebound situation	8. shot missed rebound situation
9. turnover	9. Turnover	9. Foul (2)
10.	10. Foul (2)	10. Foul (1)
11. X 1-10	11.	11.
12. Foul (2)	12. offensive foul	12. Foul (1)