

# Basketball, Football Changes Suggested In S-O-M

Input from gamers and Strat-O-Matic's desire to constantly improve on an already highly successful product has obviously made S-O-M a leader in its field.

Response from gamers, for instance, prompted the righty-lefty batting and pitching feature to be added to the baseball game. This was also true for outfielder throwing ratings and catcher throwing. The basketball game was revised in its second year--again input from S-O-M gamers having a lot to do with the changes.

Constructive criticism, in short, has led S-O-M to put out even better products.

Robert Ivers of Chicago, IL, and Jim Murphy of Rockford, IL, are a pair of avid Strat-O-Matic fans who would like to see some changes made in the basketball and football games, respectively. Not all of their proposals will send S-O-M employees back to their drawing boards, but some may have merit.

Ivers, zeroing in on S-O-M Basketball, offers these suggestions for improving the game:

(1) I would like to see the individual double-teamed cards brought back. The current double-team chart used for all players is unrealistic because it is obvious that someone like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar can handle double-teaming better than Larue Martin.

(2) The passing situations should be graded as the offensive rebounding is currently graded, with the center having the most chances to get an offensive board. When passing, the guards should have the most chances to pass. The leader in assists each year is almost always a guard.

(3) The rebound and inside shot should not be put together as is currently the case. Both shots are unique within themselves. A good example on how different they are is by taking a look at Paul Silas. Silas cannot score from the inside well when a play is being set up on offense, but he is deadly on the offensive boards, having a great knack for tip-ins. Jabbar gets all his points from the inside position, where he should be deadlier than anyone else. Yet when he gets an offensive board, many a time I have seen him throw the ball back out to a guard to set up another play.

(4) Somewhere there should be a chance to have an "X and foul" occur on an outside shot. I see it occur in pro ball every now and then.

(5) Vary the rest minutes more by having more multiples of three, say three, six, nine, 12 and 15 rest periods instead of just three, six and 12.

(6) A rule should be made that it's not mandatory for a player to put up his offensive rebound. But then again the rule should not let such a situation become totally optional, either.