

Basketball Oldtimers

SOM Branches Out with 1970-71 Season

Strat-O-Matic's first complete oldtimer season in a sport other than baseball is coming this fall.

The 1970-71 basketball season will be available on computer disk for sure, and possibly on cards, too, SOM creator Hal Richman said.

Cost will be \$20 in either format.

"We looked hard at the 1969-70 season with the great Knicks team," Richman said, "but 1970-71 is the earliest season for which we could get the stats that we need to do a season," especially the team defense stats.

This was the season of the Milwaukee Bucks' lone championship, a 66-16 season followed by a 12-2 playoff run. In his last season as Lew Alcindor, the Bucks' second-

year center led the NBA with 31.7 points/game and added 16 rebounds/game. And this was Oscar Robertson's first season as a Buck after a Hall-of-Fame career in Cincinnati. "The Big O" averaged 19.4 points, 8.2 assists and 5.7 rebounds.

This was the season the NBA split into four divisions, accommodating three expansion teams — the Buffalo Braves, Cleveland Cavaliers and Portland Trailblazers — in the new 17-team league.

And this was the season of a spectacular rookie class — Dave Cowens in Boston, Bob Lanier in Detroit, Pete Maravich in Atlanta, Spencer Haywood in Seattle, Calvin Murphy in Houston, Nate Archibald in Cincinnati and Geoff Petrie in Portland.

There were many interesting teams. The Baltimore Bullets, just 42-40 in the regular season, made the finals with a flashy offense led by Earl Monroe and powerful rebounding led by Wes Unseld and Gus Johnson.

Defending champ New York (Walt Frazier, Willis Reed, Dave DeBusschere) and physical Chicago (Bob Love, Chet Walker, Jerry Sloan) won 50-plus games. The Lakers (Jerry West, Wilt Chamberlain), 76ers (Billy Cunningham, Hal Greer) and the Suns (Connie Hawkins) each won at least 47.

Among the others with great individual seasons were San Diego's Elvin Hayes (28.7 ppg, 16.6 rpg), Boston's John Havlicek (29 ppg), Detroit's Dave Bing and Atlanta's Lou Hudson (27 ppg each).