

Computer Basketball Preview

Strat-O-Matic's Version 3.0 computer basketball upgrade, complete with options for several new NBA past seasons and the new NCAA Tournament disk, should be arriving any day now for those who ordered by mid-October.

In addition to the 64-team college disk, SOM is offering three new NBA past seasons (1976-77, 1980-81 and 1983-84).

Each season disk is \$20, as is the NCAA disk (which requires the Version 3.0 upgrade). First-time buyers can get the NCAA disk free with Version 3.0 for \$60.

Note to college basketball fans: Check out the exclusive STRAT FAN utility disk that automates supplying player names to the nameless SOM rosters.

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Don't Go Nameless: SF Offer

STRAT FAN has a solution to the disappointing news that Strat-O-Matic's new college basketball tournament disk would contain only nameless players: A new utility disk that will install the names for you.

This disk, available only from STRAT FAN, contains a program that will rapidly and simply install all 640 names.

Now, instead of SOM's game telling you that Arkansas' POWER FORWARD has the ball, you'll see CORLISS WILLIAMSON.

And it's only \$9.95, shipped by first-class mail. Available now.

Basketball Sneak Preview

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Here's a sneak preview at the new features, which were in advanced testing as this was being written:

STRATEGY

■ A "Human — Only Strategy" mode that lets you make substitutions and set offensive and defensive strategy, but not call the shots and passes.

■ In response to requests from draft leagues, SOM has added a Neutral Court option, which also will serve college basketball gamers well.

■ It is now easier to call timeout with the F1 key, since the program checks the keyboard more often for the F1 key than it did in Version 2.0.

■ New NBA 3-point rules: 3 shots on a foul when shooting 3-pointers. Also, the possibility of a basket and foul from 3-point range.

You may now select to play by rules used in various NBA eras (supporting the various past-seasons available from SOM).

■ A Tournament mode, but only for the college game. Selecting this will give you the brackets for the actual 1994-95 NCAA tournament. You cannot customize this to create

your own seedings.

SIGHT AND SOUND

■ User-definable play-by-play that lets you alter the text that appears on your screen.

■ Scrolling text replaces older style play-by-play display.

■ A digitized arena photo is available as a backdrop when in play-by-play mode.

■ Support for larger type size (8x16 instead of 8x14, since some of the newer graphic adapter cards won't support 8x14).

■ Sound for the National Anthem, crowd sounds, basket sounds and more (sneakers, dribble, whistle, horn).

TECH NOTES

No, not Texas Tech or Virginia Tech. Here are some computer tips for playing SOM basketball in the ever-changing world of technology:

■ An Edit Names function will be useful for the college disk, since names are not included. Use the list provided in the STRAT FAN Basketball Annual to insert your own names, or buy the STRAT FAN Utility disk for \$9.95 and let the computer insert all 640 for you in seconds.

■ SOM won't guarantee you'll get the sounds unless you have a Creative Labs

Soundblaster card.

■ Even then, the Soundblaster option will not work with Windows 3.1. In Windows 95, the Soundblaster will work only when you set the SOM game to execute in MS-DOS Mode as follows:

1. Use EXPLORER "My Computer" or right click on the START button.
2. Go to the Strat-O-Matic basketball folder and right click to set the properties.
3. Click on the "Program" tab.
4. Click the Advanced button.
5. Check the MS-DOS mode.
6. If necessary, edit the AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files to be the same as they were prior to installing Windows 95 (Windows 95 renames your old AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS to AUTOEXEC.DOS and CONFIG.DOS).

Important: The last two lines of the AUTOEXEC.BAT file should always be:

```
cd\sombk  
swish
```

7. Now, whenever you start SOM basketball, Windows 95 is removed from memory and DOS loads. You can now execute the game with sounds. When you exit from the game, you will be returned to Windows 95.