How would you like to liven up this winter by having Jim Rice hit home runs for your fantasy baseball team? Or deciding if you want to trade George Brett for Reggie Jackson? Instead of spending the off-season with no baseball, now you can have all the fun of drafting, trading and managing a team of major league players from the early '80s.

Join a National League and maybe you’ll get Jack Clark to bat third, or Lee Smith as your closer. You could choose to spend your top pick on Fernando Valenzuela, or go for the great hitting of Dale Murphy. In the American League, such players as Yount, Ripken, Eddie Murray and Dave Steib will all go in the first few rounds.

Just as in our regular Scoresheet Baseball game, your team will play complete simulated games, based on your players’ major league performances from 1981-1984. Drafting will begin in late October and will go until early December, and the 12-week season runs from mid-December thru early March, taking you right up to spring training. We’ll use 1981 stats for the first 3 weeks, then 1982 stats for the next 3 weeks, 1983 stats for 3 more weeks, and 1984 stats for the last 3 weeks. Changing the stats used every 3 weeks will keep you supplied with fresh challenges, as you trade or change your lineup to get the most from your team. And in this off-season game all trades Of course, all the games are played on our computer while you get the fun of running your team.

As in all of our games, a player can only be drafted by one team in each league. Once the draft is over, we have found that trading in these winter leagues hits a fever pitch. This is your chance to discuss blockbusters such as Andre Dawson for Steve Garvey, or Fisk for a package of pitchers and hitters to fill many holes. You will get to see exactly how your trades work out as you read over your results each week. And to help refresh your memory of these past players, we do print year by year statistics for each player in the draft packet.

Your team will play 12 games a week, for a full 144 game schedule. We’ll send you a complete scoresheet for every game your team plays. Games can also be viewed on the web in a text based play by play format. You’ll also receive: league standings, individual and team stats, trade offers and results, a weekly newsletter, league leaders, team-vs-team records, and the best and worst team stats in all of Scoresheet. League winners will be awarded trophies engraved with your name and accomplishment.

TRY NEW STRATEGIES

Not only is this winter game a great memory trip, it also is a chance to test your theories of what wins baseball games. If you think that pitching is 90% of the game then you should certainly list a lot of pitchers at the top of your ranking sheet. Or if you are a fan of the 3-run homer, put sluggers such as Pedro Guerrero or Tony Armas at the top of your list. Speed and defense will also play a big part in each team’s success - you’ll have to balance a player’s hitting with how much his defense helps (or hurts) your pitchers. (Fielding numbers as used in Scoresheet are also included in the draft packet for each player.) We have found that with player stats being known to all, these leagues have some very evenly matched teams, making for great pennant races.

Since the luck of unknown injuries isn't a factor, this is also a great game for testing your managerial ideas. You can really see the effects of various strategies controlling stealing, bunting, pinch hitting, earliest innings for pitchers, use of closers and setup men, and defensive replacements.

One of the best parts of this winter game is getting to know your fellow managers. Every year, our most knowledgeable and enthusiastic Scoresheet fans sign up to play. Virtually all of them are avid traders, especially since our 4-year format encourages trading to fill holes (and since lineup changes are free in the winter). You’ll be playing with our most experienced team owners from throughout Scoresheet, and can find out what strategies have worked best for them.

DRAFT THE STARS

We will be forming 10-team leagues of either American League or National League players only. Each league is split into 2 divisions. At the end of the season we play a League Championship Series, based on all 4 year’s stats, between the two division winners. There were no wild cards in that era, so we have none in this year’s winter game.
If you and your friends want to form a complete league and *draft among yourselves*, please feel free to call us and we can discuss your special needs. We are quite flexible, and can run a league of any size for you, including a combined league with players from both the A.L. and the N.L.

Before the season, you’ll draft a 36-man team. The large roster, together with trading, allows you to cover each of the 4 years with both starters and backups. Each week, we limit your players to their playing time in an average 12 game span in the corresponding year in the majors. Thus a good bullpen and a strong bench are also important.

Winter baseball leagues that we form by putting individuals together in the same league will draft using our web-based draft system. If you have your own league of friends you can choose to hold your draft against the other owners (it on the web for the web draft), and we’ll send you back complete draft information. The drafting packet lists all eligible players by position, sorted according to at-bats or innings pitched in 1981-84. Summary *stats are printed for each player*, including yearly batting average and home runs hit, at-bats or innings pitched, ERA and fielding numbers.

Using these player lists, you’ll rank the players in the order you want them. Deciding whether to draft a top pitcher such as Dan Petry or a great infielder such as Ryne Sandberg will have you re-living those great baseball days of 35 years ago. You will send us your ranking list (or save it on the web for the web draft), and we’ll hold your draft against the other owners in your league. Full explanations of our drafting system will be included with the drafting packet, along with complete rules.

*Scoresheet* will be forming leagues through the middle of November, with the first web drafts set to begin in early November. Please send in your order form by the end of October to begin enjoying the winter baseball draft as soon as possible.

**AFFORDABLE FUN**

Owning a *Scoresheet Baseball* winter franchise costs just $64 for the entire season – trades and lineup changes are all free! If you join in a group of 4 or more the cost is only $59 per team. The team fee is payable with your order form, or if you prefer you can pay $35 with your order form and the remaining balance with your first draft list. Engraved trophies are awarded to all league winners.

Each week of the season (12 weeks of regular season play, plus a one week play-off), you’ll receive reports which include everything you’d want to know about your team. The newsletter will relive all the big baseball events of 1981-84.

The accompanying pages show a possible lineup using American League players from the 1981-1984 era, along with a sample game from a week using 1982 stats. Of course, your lineup will use the players you’ve drafted for your team; certainly some of your strategy decisions will be different from what we’ve chosen. But by looking at the accompanying sample lineups we hope you will get a feel for the kind of teams that will be playing *Scoresheet Baseball* this winter.

Send in your order form and begin planning for the winter season! If the enclosed order form has been misplaced, just send us your name, address, and phone number, including your choice of AL or NL. As soon as we hear from you we’ll rush you the appropriate draft packet.

See how much fun playing fantasy baseball this winter can be. Don’t go without baseball for the next few months. Instead, play ball with *Scoresheet Baseball* this off-season!