

Want To Know About Baseball?

Chilcote Hollow's J.J. Stoudt Claims It's All In The Cards

By Ellen B. Robbins
Daily News Staff Writer

So you think you're a baseball fan.

What can you tell me about Junior Moore? Or Oscar Gamble? Or Larry Hise?

If someone picked a name at random out of a box containing information about every one of the thousand or so major league baseball players for 1978, what are the chances you would know his position, or even his team?

There's a 12-year-old in Chilcote Hollow who can tell you all that, and more.

J.J. Stoudt, who just finished the sixth grade at the Alexandria Elementary School, has made a career out of baseball. From years of studying his extensive collection of baseball cards, from organizing his cards into teams and compiling statistics on each player, he's come to remember an incredible array of facts about the game.

Without so much as a furrowing of his forehead, he can rattle off information about the most obscure of major leaguers.

Junior Moore? A third baseman with the White Sox, drafted from the Braves in 1971.

Oscar Gamble? Outfielder with the Padres, drafted from the Cubs in 1968 and signed as a free agent.

Larry Hise? Outfielder with the Twins, led the American League in RBI's in 1977.

J.J. is philosophical about his ability to remember details. "I guess I'm just one of those guys who looks at something, and it sticks in his head."

Started With Bubble Gum

J.J. got started on his hobby in 1974, when he was just eight years old. His dad, Lester Stoudt, brought home some bubble gum baseball cards, and J.J. decided he'd start a collection.

As an only child living in the country, J.J. found his baseball cards provided hours of entertainment. "He had a lot of childhood allergies," his mom, Cecile, says. "He wasn't outside that much, and so he did inside things."

"I heard about someone making a world's record," J.J. recalls, "somewhere around 20,000 cards." In the back of his mind, he began to think of trying to set his own.

To date, J.J. has a full collection of cards for 1977 and 1978, most of the cards for 1975 and 1976, and some of the cards from 1974. He's not sure of the exact figure, but estimates his entire collection numbers several thousand.

Though baseball is his true love, J.J. also owns football, basketball and hockey cards.

"I have a friend — Andy Domovich, from Petersburg R.D. — who collects football cards," J.J. informs us, "and we're thinking about doing some trading."

Tools of the Trade

Like most hobbies, collecting baseball cards carries with it a vast network of accessories, publications, and specialized tools of the trade.

J.J. subscribes to both The Sporting News and the Baseball Taining player's names and

Digest, two periodicals which carry large classified sections. In the classifieds, he finds what companies to write away to for cards. He has received sets from the Larry Fritsch Company of Wisconsin, from Renata Galasso, Inc., of New York and from the Topps Company, of bubble gum fame.

J.J. notes that most baseball cards today, no matter what company they come from, are actually manufactured by the Topps Company, which then acts as a distributor.

A 1978 mint set of cards, which consists of 1,000 pictures of players from every team and the most recent statistics available on them, sells for \$12.99. The sets come neatly packaged in cardboard boxes.

J.J.'s dad built a special case for the cards, similar to a drawer in a library's card catalogue. It is long and thin, and divided by wooden partitions which have printed on them the names of various teams. Each time a team player is traded, J.J. is careful to change the card's position in the box.

He is also the proud owner of an immaculately detailed board game called the APBA Major League Baseball Game. J.J. saw an ad for the game in one of his magazines, pointed it out to his parents, and received it for a gift one Christmas.

The game, which sells for \$15.00, consists of a printed baseball diamond board, a set of dice, several printed score sheets, baseball cards con-



Setting The Records Straight

One of the ways J. J. gains an insight into the finer points of baseball is by playing the APBA Major League Baseball Game, an expensive and complicated board game which allows its participants to act as managers for their own baseball teams. To help him choose the best combination of possible players, J.J. keeps a running record of all team members, compiling seasonal statistics for each one.

cardboard which outline every conceivable combination of plays that might take place in an actual game.

The game allows J.J. to act as manager for whichever teams he wishes to pit against one another. He makes all the decisions about who should play and when, and formulates strategies for victory.

Despite J.J.'s patient attempts to explain to us how the game works, we were unable to get anything but a sketch idea of the actual rules. Mrs. Stoudt assured us that she, too, has watched him play the game countless numbers of times, and still is unable to follow it. It appears to be one of those games that parents tear their hair out over. The list of rules is endless, the rules extraordinarily complicated.

J.J., nevertheless, managed

to figure it all out in record time and is now an expert at it. His first game, during which he had to unravel the directions, took him two hours. Now, he says, an average game is 20 minutes. He can play it by himself or with a

(Cont'd on Page 3)



Baseball Cards Are A Family Affair

Cecile Stoudt, J.J.'s mom, shares his love of baseball, although she hasn't been able to keep up with her son where facts and figures are concerned. While her husband Lester claims he's not much of a

fan, he can't help becoming involved in some small way. He built the wooden drawer that houses J.J.'s 1978 collection of cards.



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At A Glance: The Pittsburgh Pirates

J.J. has a complete set of cards for the 1978 Pirates, and he's shown them here with manager Chuck Tanner in the bottom center. The players, positions are represented by the tiny baseballs pictured at the top right hand corner of each card. Facts about each

player are contained on the backs of the cards. All photographs on these pages and on the cover are by Daily News photographer Barry Grubb.

Chilcote

(Cont'd from Page 2)

friend.

As part of the game, J.J. keeps a continuing record of his players' performances. He formulates batting averages, earned run averages, runs batted in, and the rest of the standards gamut of baseball statistics. Many of these statistics involve complicated formulas which require the use of a calculator and an understanding of higher mathematics.

"You must do well in match at school," we suggested.

"Well, answered J.J., 'sometimes I do and sometimes I don't.'"

He finds the problems of baseball more interesting than the dry examples of a sixth grade math textbook. At least in baseball, he is unfailingly consistent.

J.J. also is the owner of a collection of pennants from baseball stadiums throughout the country, which his Uncle Henry Stoudt, a retired educator

and fellow baseball fan, compiled during his travels and sent to his most appreciate nephew.

Other family friends also keep J.J.'s hobby in mind, and from time to time send him unusual baseball memorabilia. One, Earl Hawkins of Fleetwood, sent him a genuine New York Yankee cap.

A Pirate Fan!

J.J.'s favorite team? The Pirates, naturally, and he's been to the last three Huntingdon nights at Three Rivers stadium.

The late, great Pirate right-fielder Roberto Clemente is his choice for favorite player.

"Wasn't he the one who died in a plane crash?" we asked.

"That's right," J.J. nodded.

"On December 31, 1972."

Others of J.J.'s favorite include Ty Cobb, Jackie Robinson, and Stan Musial.

Are there any baseball cards that are particularly valuable? J.J. maintains that a 1910 - vintage card of Pittsburgh's bow-legged Hall of Famer, Honus Wagner, is valued at \$10,000.

Looking at J.J.'s stacks of cards, and piles of charts with neatly printed statistics scrawled across the top, we asked him why he likes collecting baseball cards so much.

He stroked his chin with his fingers, and stared off into space with an expression of determined concentration. After several moments had passed, he turned to us, a smile flashing

across his usually solemn features.

"It's fun!" was his reply.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (UPI) — Roma Mahieu's prize-winning play "Games at the Siesta Hour" has been banned throughout Argentina by a decree of the military government.

The play, which won the Moliere Prize and the Talia Prize in Argentina, opened in a Buenos Aires theater in early 1976 and ran till late 1977. It also had been performed in Uruguay, Chile and Brazil and is scheduled for production in Paris.

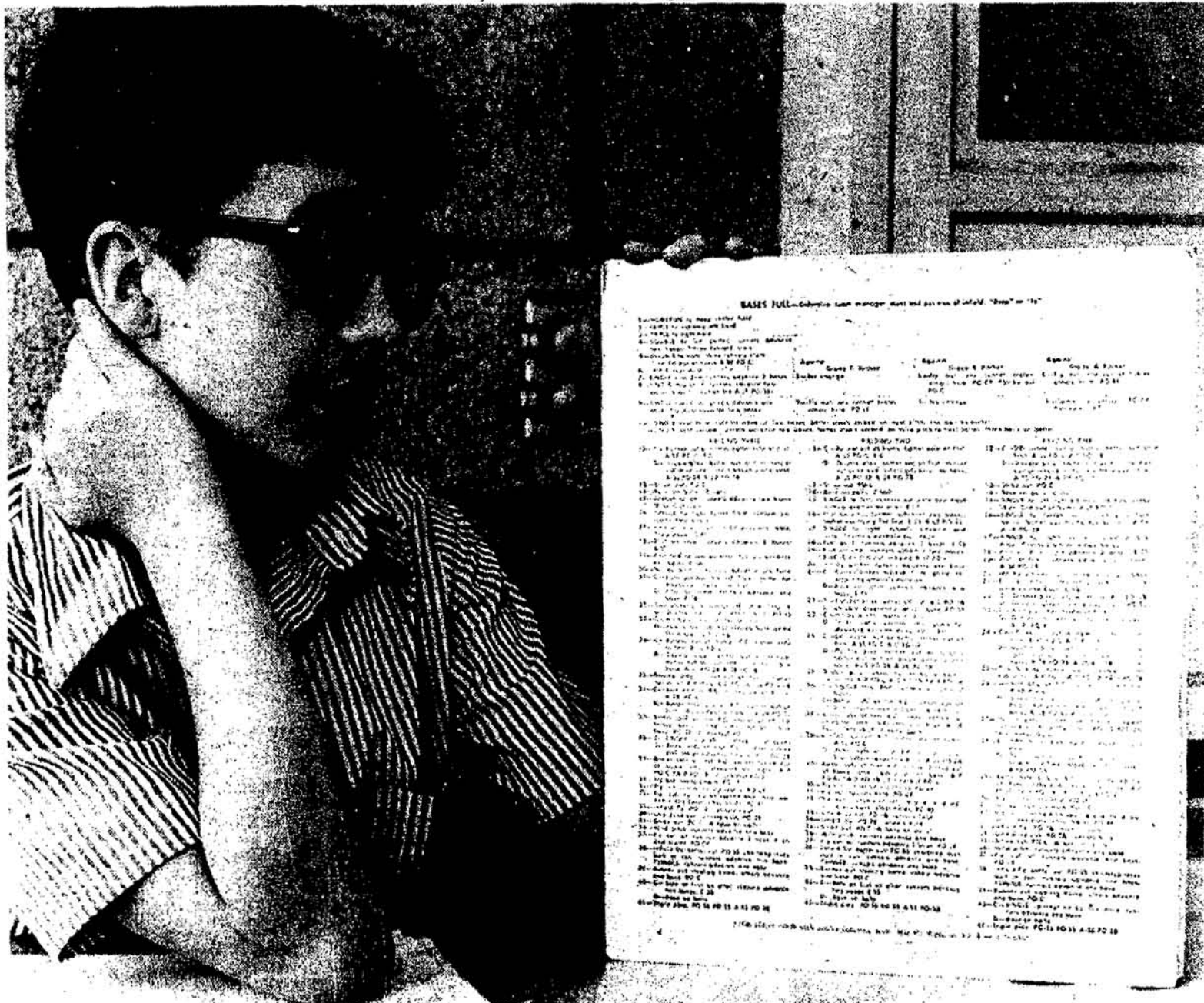
Argentine producer Ricardo Tomazewsky had planned to

make a movie version.

The decree, which bans both the production of the play and the distribution or sale of the script, cited alleged "descriptions of subversive techniques."

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More Than A Matter Of Chance

The APBA Major League Baseball Game contains a series of large, printed cards such as the one J.J. is holding, which outlines every conceivable effect a certain hit has on a certain situation in the game.

A spin of the dice determines how a player performs, but it's up to the team manager to choose from a number of options, and this is where skill and a thorough knowledge of the game comes in.

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