The only inside source for all Nintendo games TEND P.O. Box 97043 Redmond, WA 98073-9743 **FORWARDING & RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED** ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED NEWS FLASH N NINTENDO.64 8-Page Power Preview! SUPER Mario RPG College Slam Legend of the Seven Star Cutthroat Island Virtual Boy 3-D Tetris AWARI

COLLEGE SLAN Arriving just in time for the NCAA championships, Acclaim slam dunks another b-ball blockbuster into your Super NES. College Slam features 40 top-ranked college and 8 kickin fraternity teams in two-on-two, NBA Jamstyle game play, You can have your own Final Four right in your living room! Tetrads go 3-D in a new Virtual Boy puzzler destined to take the classic challenge to a new level. See how the pieces fall beginning on page 44.

CONTENTS Volume 82 March 1996

College Slam	10
Frantic Flea	18
Cutthroat Island	22
Super Mario Kart	34
3-D Tetris	44
NHL '96	74
The Smurfs	78

Digipen's Fearless Team	40
Griffey Goes On-Line	50
Yoshi's Island:	
Most Wanted Tips	54
Nintanda Davier Avierda	0.7

Epic News5	5
Super Mario RPG Preview5	6
Tales of Phantasia64	4
Epic Strategies6	6

EVERY ISSUE	
Player's Pulse	6
Arena	32
Classified Information	70
Counselors' Corner	82
Now Playing	86
Pak Watch	100
Next Issue	106
Game List	106

POWER CHARTS

Readers voting in the Player's Poll send Super Mario RPG soaring up the Most Wanted list this month. Eager to find out about the plucky plumber's all-new adventures? Check out the big review in this month's issue. Then send us your personal Most Wanted list while casting your vote in the 1995 Power Awards Contest which starts on page 92.

SUPER NES TOP 20

Ιđ				
	GAME	COMPANY	EAST MONTH	MONTHS -
0	DONKEY KONG COUNTRY 2: DIDDY'S KONG QUEST	Nintendo	1	5
0	KILLER INSTINCT	Nintendo	4	9
Ō	CHRONO TRIGGER	Square Soft	5	8
4	SUPER MARIO WORLD 2: YOSHI'S ISLAND	Nintendo	2	5
5	THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: A LINK TO THE PAST	Nintendo	6	50
6	DONKEY KONG COUNTRY	Nintendo	3	17
7	FINAL FANTASY III	Square Soft	8	15
8	SECRET OF EVERMORE	Square Soft	11	6
9	EARTHWORM JIM 2	Playmates	9	5
10	SUPER METROID	Nintendo	10	23
11	EARTHBOUND	Nintendo	19	9
12	DOOM	Williams	-	7
13	FINAL FANTASY II	Square Soft	-	41
14	BREATH OF FIRE II	Сарсот	NEW	1
15	SIMCITY	Nintendo	-	22
16	KEN GRIFFEY JR. PRESENTS: MLB	Nintendo	17	23
17	OGRE BATTLE	Enix	-	5
18	SUPER MARIO KART	Nintendo	14	35
19	MEGA MAN 7	Capcom	-	2
20	SECRET OF MANA	Square Soft	20	15

MOST WENTED

- 1. MINITENDO ULTRA 54 2. KILLER INSTINCT (NU 64)
- 3. SUPER MARIO RPG
- 4. CRUIS'N USA (NU 64)
- 5. DOOM (NU 64) 6. VIRTUAL BOY
- 8. VIRTURE BOT 7. DONKEY KONG COUNTRY 2: DIDDY'S KONG QUEST 8. DONKEY KONG COUNTRY 9. MEGA MAN X3 10. CHRONO TRIGGER

GAME EOY TOP 10

	GAME	COMPANY	AST MONTH	MONTHS ON CHERT
0	THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: LINK'S AWAKENING	Nintendo	2	35
0	DR. MARIO	Nintendo	-	39
0	METROID II: RETURN OF SAMUS	Nintendo	9	51
4	WARIO LAND: SUPER MARIO LAND 3	Nintendo	6	20
5	TETRIS	Nintendo	3	41
6	DONKEY KONG LAND	Nintendo	1	14
7	SUPER MARIO LAND 2: 6 GOLDEN	Nintendo	8	41
8	KILLER INSTINCT	Nintendo	4	4
9	KIRBY'S DREAM LAND 2	Nintendo	-	7
10	MORTAL KOMBAT 3	Williams	5	3

TOP 5 SIMS

Here are the top five simulations, as voted by Nintendo Power readers. Sims continue to attract a fer vent following, with groups of devotees playing a single game, year days weeks. Check out this month's Epic Generafor exclusive strategy tips on Koei's latest sim, P.T.O. II.

- 1. SIMCITY (NINTENDO)
- 2. CIVILIZATION (KOEI)
 3. AEROBIZ SUPERSONIC (KOEI)
 - 4 (TIE) UNCHARTED WATERS NEW HORIZONS (KOEI) ROMANCE OF THE

THREE KINGDOMS IV:

WATUAL EOYTOP 5

_	GAME	COMPANI	Medical	CHAR
0	WARIO LAND	Nintendo	1	5
2	GALACTIC PINBALL	Nintendo	2	5
3	MARIO CLASH	Nintendo		3
4	MARIO'S TENNIS	Nintendo	3	5
5	RED ALARM	Nintendo	5	5
_				





Since its Moscow release in 1985, Tetris has swept across boundaries and created unsurpassed international puzzle hysteria. But the original game of falling blocks and all its sequels were just training exercises for T & E Soft's...



EASY |

Pick the 3-D game you want to play. Drop the blocks for a high score in 3-D Tetris mode, or convert the tetrads at the top of the screen into the formulaone race car at the bottom of the well in Puzzle mode.

T & E Soft's new title isn't Tetris as you know it. It isn't a puzzle game for button-munching sissies. This is a REAL puzzle game that requires the REAL brain cells of REAL, down-to-earth people. Still reading? Good. Then you have found your game. Virtual Boy 3-D Tetris contains three different puzzle games using block shapes that are twisted or rotated into a stack within a wire-frame structure called the "well." The game is so versatile

that it uses every button on the Virtual
Boy controller. A battery-backed
save option not
only saves both
high scores and
names, but also
saves your progress in
Puzzle mode, so if you'n

Puzzle mode, so if you're really stumped on a level, you can take a break and think about your next move.



In all three games, the 3-D action revolves around dropping block shapes. known as tetrads, in an orderly fashion onto the floor of a well. An empty well has five layers, or floors. A handy radar display on the right side of the screen shows players the contents of every floor from the bottom up. Stacking blocks sounds easy in theory, but things quickly become complicated.

Get a new perspective!

As the games progress in levels, the tetrads begin to fall faster and faster, which means players have to keep a close eye on the action. One of the best ways to do this is with the rotating perspective. As the gamers place blocks, the well rotates on its base, letting players see all the action from every angle. If you decide that you don't like the rotating perspective (or you want to make things tough on yourself), you can switch it off with a tap of a button.

Five floors might seem like a lot of room to maneuver in, but if you mess up and fill the well incorrectly, you'll lose room to play one layer at a time.



If you've played any previous Tetris game, you remember that all you had to worry about was which way to spin and drop your block. These tetrads rotate, and you have to think about your game strategy in a whole new way. Depending on the shape of the tetrad, a single block might have six different positions, and one of them might be a perfect fit.

Tumbling Tetrads

The original Tetris game had seven tetrad shapes, but all three modes of Tetris 3-D contain new shapes never before encountered in tight situations. Capitalize on the game's third dimension by rotating and flipping each piece as it tumbles down the well. Remember to think in three dimensions. The easy levels of every game start with basic tetrads, blocks with no corners, zigs or zags. The pieces become more complex as you progress though the levels and plunge down the well faster than a truckload of cinder blocks.







Virtual Boy 3-D Tetris is just like the original Tetris game, but you must place the pieces in a three dimensional environment. Each time you fill a floor of the well, the blocks are cleared and you score a brick load of

points. Clear all five floors at once to add 10,000 points to your score. If you fill the well, the floor will begin to collapse layer by layer.

Outside in

If you're looking for a new high score, try layering blocks along the perimeter of the well, keeping a space open at the center. When the layers are four deep, place a long tetrad (the same shape you used to score a tetris in the two-dimensional game) in the hole you left in the center and clear all the floors at once. This strategy is easier to explain than it is to master, but if you keep your floors flat and the outer perimeters full, you'll see higher scores every time.

> Turn and rotate each block until you have left a hole in the floor that is sev eral layers deep. Drop a long tetrad in the hole and clear several layers at

Mere Child's Play?

Stacking blocks might seem like a basic skill, but if you've ever played a Tetris game, you already know that the action gets fast, furious and highly addictive as the levels progress. In past Tetris games, you raced to build a seamless wall with an assortment of blocks. Now you're building perfect cubes in a tight well, which requires a new dimension of thinking. You need to consider height, width and depth. Of course, if you were one of those unfortunate kids who had their Game Boys stolen by their Tetris-mad parents, you might want to hide your Virtual Boy system under your bed and remind them who they bought it for.

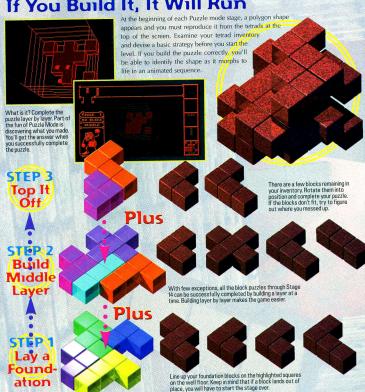




777

Puzzle mode is undoubtedly the toughest and most innovative game in 3-D Tetris, and once you figure it out, you'll be back for more. The object of the game is to reproduce a shape with a limited inventory of tetrads. Like the first Tetris game, the premise is easy to learn but tough to master, and you'll find this game only in a 3-D environment.

If You Build It, It Will Run





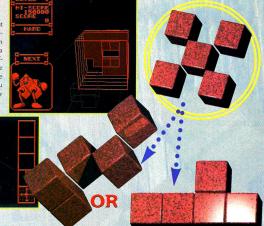




fit, but if you spin it 90 degrees, it will land as two double-block tetrads. Improvisation is a critical skill for progressing in VB Tetris.

Flip It As It Falls!

Even if a tetrad looks impossibly out of place, try rotating the piece several times and looking at it from every perspective. You might find a solution to your problem from a different angle. Remember that some blocks break apart as they make contact with the stack, allowing you to move the tetrad fragments to new locations.



CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

0428 6211 4842 0480

MEMBER IDENTIFICATION #





Secret Option Menu

If the undersea life is getting you down, use this code to access a secret debug menu that will let you increase your weapons and equipment reserves to a maximum of 99 pieces each and your money to a bank-breaking \$600,000! On the main bridge screen, press L, R, B, A, Left, Right, X, Y, Up and Down to make the debug menu appear. Use the control pad to highlight the weapon or item you'd like to increase and press A. You'll have more torpedoes and Stingers than you'll know what to do with!



Press the Select Button to go to the main bridge, then enter the code



You can access the debug menu anytime during your game by repeating the code.



The Little People

This trick won't help you win the game, but it's fun to do, anyway. Play through the first stage until you come to the room with the small figures running around. Destroy the enemies, then stop and turn back towards the entrance of the room. Fly slowly along the wall to your right and shoot the lower right corner of the wall near the door. A little house will appear, complete with stick people and furniture!



Start your game as you nor-mally would. This trick works at any difficulty level.



Clear this chamber of enees, then turn around and go back the way you came.



Shoot the wall to the right of and down from the door.



Voila! A virtual couple will set up housekeeping!



Lemmings Subtitles

This is another trick that's just for fun. On the title screen, place the cursor on the dot just above the "i" in "Lemmings" and press B. A word balloon saying, "Hi!" will appear. Now whenever your Lemmings say something, little word balloons will pop up!



Use the cursor and the B Button to dot the "i."



Now you'll have subtitles, in case you're hard of hearing!



full of blue M&M's. Be sure to wallow in our Power review this month.

Nice, big, character graphics. Good use of Super Game Boy enhancements.

Not too challenging.

3-D TETRIS

CompanyNintendo Release DateFebruary 1996

Memory Size 8 Megabits The most popular computer puzzle game in history enters a new dimension.

Tetris enters a new era on Virtual Boy in the form of 3-D Tetris from Nintendo, Instead of the flat tetrads filling in a vertical col-



umn. players now find full, 3-D blocks that must be stacked to fill a 3-D space. Just as in original Tetris, once you fill a level, the blocks disappear and you score

points. If you fill multiple levels at once, you'll score even more points. Although you won't find a two-player mode in 3-D

Tetris, you will be able to play three variation modes. The Normal 3-D Tetris game can be played at 10 levels and three levels of difficulty. The Puzzle mode begins by showing you a shape constructed

tetrads, then it's



up to you to recreate from memory that same shape using selected tetrad blocks. The third mode is called Center Fill. When you create a symmetrical shape surrounding the hole and place a tetrad in the hole, you clear the level and score points. Option settings allow players to adjust the field of depth or move the camera angle during the game. Power presents a stack of strategies in this month's review.

- Automatically saves Puzzle mode and all high scores. Can adjust settings. Very challenging.
- Players won't find it easy to spend the hours they spent on the original Tetris.

TITLE	POW G	ER MET	TER RA	TINGS T	EDITOR PICKS	IDSA RATING	GAME TYPE
3-D TETRIS	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.6	☆★	K-A	PUZZLE
CUTTHROAT ISLAND	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.1		K-A	ACTION
CUTTHROAT ISLAND	3.1	3.0	2.8	3.0		K-A	ACTION
NHL '96	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.2	☆	K-A	HOCKEY
THE SMURFS	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	K-A	ACTION

POWER METER

The Power Meter ratings are derived from evaluations on a five point scale with five being the highest score possi-

ble for a category. The categories are: G=Graphics & Sound, P=Play Control, C=Challenge, T=Theme & Fun



SUPER NES



GAME BOY



VIRTUAL BOY

If you like the same types of games as one of our Power editors, then check for his or her seal of approval above.

- Scott Sports, Simulations, Adventures
- Henry Fighting, Action, Sports Dan
- Leslie RPGs, Puzzles, Adventures Jeff
- Action, Adventures, Puzzles
- Terry RPGs, Simulations, Sports Action, Sports, Fighting

IDSA Ratings

These Independent Digital Software Assoc. ratings reflect appropriate ages for players. The categories include: EC=Early Childhood, K-A=Kids to Adults, T=Teen (13+), M=Mature (17+), A=Adult (18+), NR=No Rating, To contact the IDSA regarding the rating system, call 1-800-771-3772.



Virtual Boy burst onto the scene last August with some amazing graphic capabilities and a disappointingly small library of titles. Now, a dozen titles have been released, and the games range from sports titles such as Golf and Virtual League Baseball to full adventures such as Wario Land. This month, Power recaps all Virtual Boy titles released to date. there's a weakness to Golf, it's that there is only a single 18 hole golf course. Even so, there's enough challenge and variety of terrain on those 18 holes to keep golfers buried in this game for a long time to come.

IACK BROS.



Nintendo, August 1995, 8 Megabits Power MeterG 3.1 P 3.9 C 3.5 T 3.3

Although the ball is a puck in this pinball game, Galactic Pinball captures the excitement of real, arcade pinball with its laser-like 3-D action. The four games feature space themes. In each game, players begin



with three pucks and the goal is to keep them in play forever, or at least until the Virtual Boy tells you to take a rest.



Atlus, November 1995, 8 Megabits Power MeterG 3.3 P 3.3 C 3.3 T 3.3

It's Halloween and the witching hour draws nigh for Jack Frost, Jack Lantern and Jack Skelton—three goblins who must scamper home by the stroke of midnight. The Jack of your choice will reach home only if he beats

the clock in each level, and each level may consist of three or four stages. Stages contain three or more keys for Jack to collect and several enemies to dispatch. The final stage in each level holds a guardian.

GOLF

Nintendo, November 1995, 16 Megabits Power MeterG 4.0 P 3.2 C 3.8 T 3.8



Golf for Virtual Boy comes to Nintendo by way of T&E Soft, a lapanese company known for outstanding golf simulations on the Super NES such as True Golf Classics: Pebble Beach. The new golf interface and engine

for Virtual Boy will delight duffers with its realism. Golf turns out to be the most realistic of the first sports titles for Virtual Boy. You actually feel as if you can judge distances in this game. If

MARIO CLASH



Nintendo, November 1995, 8 Megabits Power MeterG 3.0 P 3.4 C 2.7 T 3.0

Mario Clash borrows heavily from the early Mario Bros. arcade game in which Mario hops between three levels while avoiding koopas and other enemies. Mario Clash adds a laver of deoth by



creating a second layer to the play field and several pipes for passing to and from the front and back areas. Although Mario Clash plays much like a platform game, it doesn't have much of a feeling of adventure.

MARIO'S TENNIS

Nintendo, August 1995, 4 Megabits Power MeterG 3.2 P 3.6 C 3.4 T 3.4



The original pack-in game for Virtual Boy packs a lot of fun into its small, four megabit memory. Although the basic tennis game seems fairly simple, the presence of eight characters, each with different skill rankings.

adds to the strategy factor. You can play singles or doubles as a one-player game in either Single Match or Tournament Mode with Mario, Luigi, Princess Toadstool, Yoshi, Koopa, Toad and Donkey Kong Jr. The characters may be funky, but the game requires sound tennis strategies such as mixing shots, lobbing and serving aces. The Al in the doubles match may not be as much fun as having a real partner, but it's not bad. The greatest strength of the game is that it is easy to learn and fun to play.

NESTER'S FUNKY BOWLING

Nintendo, February 1996, 16 Megabits Power MeterG 3.3 P 3.3 C 3.3 T 3.5

Nester, the obnoxious gamer of Nintendo Power fame, finally got his fondest wish by appearing in a video game. Besides Nester's cinematic antics, the bowling mechanics work like a dream, and for anyone who has ever puzzled over a bowling rouzzled over a bowling



scorecard, all the scoring in Funky Bowling is automatic. Players can try their hand in any of three game modes, including a regular bowling game, a practice session, and a challenge mode in which you must pick up spares by taking out some of the nastiest splits you've ever seen. Two-players can take alternating turns in any of the modes.



Power MeterG 3.3 P 3.6 C 3.6 T 3.1



Don't confuse this title with Bomberman VB, which hasn't been released in the U.S. Panic Bomber, although it comes from Hudson Soft, resembles Tetris

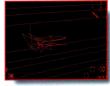
Blast more than a Bomberman game. The idea is that you use bombs to blow up blocks and dump rubble in the opponent's screen. Unfortunately, the opponent is the computer and not a fellow human being. Panic Bomber requires strategy and quick reflexes.

RED ALARM

Nintendo, August 1995, 8 Megabits Power MeterG 3.2 P 3.5 C 3.6 T 3.5

Red Alarm immerses you in a 3-D universe where you have total control of your Tech-Wing fighter in a war to destroy a sentient machine. You can fly anywhere within the confines of

each of the six stages, battling enemies, both biological and mechanical, and one major guardian at the end of each stage. The wireframe, vector graphics convey a sense of depth in the Virtual Bov environment, but



the graphics also present a few difficulties since you can't see the solid surfaces you are about to kiss at a thousand miles per hour. Ouch. Special features in Red Alarm include custom camera angles and replay flights. It's fun, fast and challenging.

TELEROBOXER

Nintendo, August 1995, 8 Megabits Power MeterG 3.3 P 3.3 C 3.6 T 3.2

Teleroboxer pits you against futuristic pugilists in a modified Punch-Out!! perspective. Your robotic or cybernetic opponent appears in front of you from the waist up while you see only your



arms and gloves in front of you. Dodging from side to side and jabbing, hooking and pummeling as best you can at vulnerable points, most players will find a lot of challenge in the eight opponents. Teleroboxer contains three memory save slots for recording your progress through the tournament. The 3-D effects look impressive, but the game suffers from the small stable of fighthers.



Nintendo, March 1996, 8 Megabits Power MeterG 3.0 P 3.5 C 3.5 T 3.6

See this month's regular Now Playing for coverage of 3-D Tetris.



Power MeterG 3.I P 3.5 C 3.I T 3.0

On the surface, Vertical Force may seem like just another space shooter, but there are really two surfaces or layers where the



action takes place. As you fly along a vertically scrolling path, blasting enemy spaceships and grabbing power-up items, you'll notice a second layer of activity below your ship. At the push of a button, you can shift

your fighter down to that level, then back again to avoid a fight or to enter a new fight. It's fun, but Vertical Force could have gone even further in using Virtual Boy's potential for 3-D graphics and strategy.

VIRTUAL BOY WARIO LAND

Nintendo, November 1995, 16 Megabits Power MeterG 4.3 P 3.8 C 4.4 T 4.3

Hands down the best game for Virtual Boy so far, Virtual Boy Wario Land shows off the strengths of the 3-D graphics and creates gaming situations that take advantage of the depth of field possible with the system. In



fourteen stages, players battle four major guardians and hun-

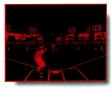
dreds of baddies who fly, swing, bounce and charge at Wario from every angle, including from the side. As in his Game Boy adventure from last year, Wario wears special hats to help him head off danger.

VIRTUAL LEAGUE BASEBALL

RO)

Kemco, October 1995, 8 Megabits Power MeterG 2.9 P 2.9 C 3.0 T 3.0

Virtual League Baseball may not be a true virtual experience,



but it turns out to be a pretty good baseball game. The league consists of 18 international teams divided into Pan American, Asian and European divisions. Virtual League Baseball was designed in Japan by Kemco. The play won't surprise

video game baseball vets with its traditional behind-the-plate perspective, and the options, which include an All-Star game and Pennant Race mode, also fall into the mainstream of video baseball. In fact, the baseball mechanics of the game and the Al are fairly sophisticated.

WATERWORLD

Ocean, November 1995, 16 Megabits Power MeterG 3.3 P 3.3 C 2.4 T 2.8

Ocean of America waded into the uncharted territory of Virtual Boy with Waterworld, a game based on last summer's apocalyptic look at a very wet future. The designers of the game

hoped to create an arcade shooter along the lines of Asteroids, and that's exactly what Waterworld for Virtual Boy turned out to be. The asteroids have turned into Smokers on water bikes and in boats and the space ship is Kevin Costner's



three-hulled Trimaran, but the action is basically a pivot and fire shooter. Variety? Don't expect much. Variety is measured in the number of Smokers attacking you and the number of atollers who must be saved. Ocean spiced up the play by tossing atollers into the drink for you to rescue within a limited time. The music may be the best part of the game, and it shows that Virtual Boy sound can be full and evocative if given a chance.

THE NINTENDO POWER

YEAR AGAIN WHEN YOU, OUR READERS, GET TO CHOOSE WHICH OF THE BEST AND

IT'S THAT TIME OF

BRIGHTEST GAMES OF 1995 WILL BE HONORED WITH NINTENDO POWER AWARDS. MARK YOUR FAVORITES ON YOUR RESPONSE CARD, SEND IT IN AND CHECK OUT FUTURE ISSUES TO SEE WHICH GAMES WALK AWAY WITH THESE COVETED AWARDS. IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU COULD WIN A SLEW OF GAMES AND SUPER POWER STAMPS!



BEST SOUND





BEST GRAPHICS



The beeps and bloops of yesteryear have been replaced by synthesized orchestras, digital sampling and stereo surround sound. Games have never sounded better!

- 1. DONKEY KONG **COUNTRY 2**
- 2. CHRONO TRIGGER
- 3. KILLER INSTINCT
- 4. EARTHWORM JIM 2
- 5 SYNDICATE
- 6. THE ADVENTURES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN





1995 was another banner year for technical and artistic achievement in graphics, prompting us to create a separate Best Graphics award for the first time.

- 1. TOY STORY
- 2. SUPER MARIO WORLD 2: YOSHI'S ISLAND
- 3. DONKEY KONG COUNTRY 2
- 4. EARTHWORM JIM 2
- BATMAN FOREVER
- WARIO LAND (VB)
- 7. KILLER INSTINCT





NINTENDO POWER



From classic cartoons to whimsical adventure, from the biography of a hero to futuristic action, here are the most intriguing game plots and concepts of 1995

- 1. SCOOBY DOO
- 2. SYNDICATE
- 3. DRAGON: THE BRUCE LEE STORY
- 4. CHRONO TRIGGER
- 5. EARTHBOUND











A,C,F,R,S,V,AA PLAYER'S GUIDE & VOL 73-78





There are physical challenges and there are mental challenges. The following selection of worthy titles offer both kinds, often within the same game

- 1. DONKEY KONG COUNTRY 2
- 2. SUPER MARIO WORLD 2: YOSHI'S
 - ISLAND
- 3. KILLER INSTINCT
- 4. MORTAL KOMBAT 3
- 5. P.T.O. 2
- 6. METAL WARRIORS





BEST PLAY CONTROL

Play control is critical to both a player's and a game's success. The only things you'll get with bad play control are low scores and low sales!

- 1. NHL '96
- 2. MEGA MAN X2
- 3. SUPER MARIO WORLD 2: YOSHI'S ISLAND
- 4. KILLER INSTINCT
- 5. WARIO LAND (VB)
- 6. DONKEY KONG COUNTRY 2



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o D

BEST TOURNAMENT FIGHTER

Though there were fewer releases in this cate-

gory this year than last year, fighting games still account for a sizable chunk of the video





BEST EPIC GAME

Sims and hybrid games that combine RPG, adventure and sim elements are gaining popularity in the U.S., while RPGs are gaining more depth and complexity.

- 1. CHRONO TRIGGER
- 2. OGRE BATTLE
- 3. EARTHBOUND
- 4. THE SECRET OF EVERMORE
- 5. CIVILIZATION



game market. MORTAL KOMBAT 3

- 2. KILLER INSTINCT
- 3. DRAGON: THE BRUCE LEE STORY
- 4. WEAPON LORD
- 5. WWF WRESTLEMANIA: THE ARCADE GAME
- 6. JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE



MARIO'S TENNIS:

U,Z VOL 75











BEST PUZZLE GAME **(1** Developers have been trying for years to come



BEST SPORTS GAME

After years of domination by baseball, football and basketball, the sports genre has been gifted recently by some terrific soccer, hockey and other sports titles.

- 1. NHL '96
- 2. TECMO SUPER BOWL III: THE FINAL EDITION
- 3. INTERNATIONAL SUPERSTAR SOCCER DELUXE
- 4. NFL QUARTERBACK CLUB '96
- 5. FRANK THOMAS BIG HURT BASEBALL (GB)
- 6. GOLF (VB)



up with "the next Tetris." Do you think there are any this year that could challenge the king of the puzzlers?

- BUST-A-MOVE
- 2. KIRBY'S AVALANCHE
- 3. ZOOP
- 4. MARIO'S PICROSS (GB)
- 5. TETRIS BLAST (GB)



NBA JAM T.E.:

W,Y

NHL '96: E,H,J,AA VOL 78



BEST MULTI-PLAYER GAME

Sports or action? One-on-one, two-against-two or every player for himself? Which type of multi-player challenge keeps you and your friends up all night?

- 1. TECMO SUPER BOWL III: THE FINAL EDITION
- 2. KILLER INSTINCT
- 3. DIRT TRAX FX
- 4. METAL WARRIORS
- 5. NHL '96
- 6. MORTAL KOMBAT 3



Making a game out of a movie is no small task, and there's often something lost in the translation. Which of these rates high on the ol' applause meter?

- 1. JUDGE DREDD
- 2. TRUE LIES
- 3. ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES
- 4. STARGATE
- 5. TOY STORY

GOLF:

VOL. 76



'95 NP AWARD **NOMINATIONS**

OST INNOVATIVE

In an era of "been there, done that" game play, some developers continue to push the creative envelope beyond its previous limits and change the way we have fun.

- SUPER MARIO WORLD 2: YOSHI'S ISLAND
- EARTHBOUND
- **OGRE BATTLE**
- THE IGNITION FACTOR
- 5. KIRBY'S DREAM COURSE



MORTAL KOMBAT3: D,G,J,M,Q,V,W,AA

VOL 78.80,82



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HE "OWIE" AWARD

It's all just make-believe, but you know it's gotta hurt! With the ratings system in place, more action games are being aimed at mature players. Tell us which is the best (or worst) of the lot.

- 1. DOOM
- 2. MORTAL KOMBAT 3
- 3. PRIMAL RAGE
- 4. MUTANT CHRONICLES: DOOMTROOPERS
- 5. KILLER INSTINCT
- 6. TRUE LIES

SUPER MARIO WORLD 2: YOSHI'S ISLAND:

B,D,E,K,O,R,S,V,X,AA
PLAYER'S GUIDE & VOL 75, 77, 79, 80



FUNNIEST

Here's a list of, in our humble opinions, some of the funniest titles of the year. Whether the humor was sophisticated or tasteless, we couldn't help but laugh!

- 1. THE SECRET OF EVERMORE
- 2. EARTHWORM JIM 2
- 3. BOOGERMAN
- 4. EARTHBOUND
- 5. THE MASK
- 6. AAAHH!!! REAL MONSTERS



BEST HERO/HEROINE

Will it be a tried-and-true video veteran or a young rookie with flashy moves that takes this great honor? It's up to you to decide!

- 1. DIDDY KONG
- 2. DIXIE KONG
- 3. YOSHI
- 4. EARTHWORM JIM
- 5. BOOGERMAN





BEST GOODIE/SIDEKICK

These are the unsung heroes of the video game world, the often-overlooked second bananas without whom the big stars couldn't get the job done.

- 1. CRANKY KONG (DKC 2)
- 2. RUSH (MEGA MAN 7)
- 3. SNOTT (EJ 2)
- 4. SQUITTER THE SPIDER (DKC 2)
- 5. MILO THE DOG (THE MASK)



WARIO LAND:

B,E,Z

VOL. 79









WORST VILLAIN

It's a lot of hard work to be a big, bad villain, so we'd just like to take this opportunity to say, "Thanks!" to the biggest and baddest of them all!

- 1. KAPTAIN K. ROOL
- 2. MAJOR MUCUS
- 3. EYEDOL
- 4. SHAO KHAN
- 5. POKEY







'95 NP AWARD NOMINATIONS

There are hundreds of video game bad guys out there, in all shapes, sizes and species. Here's your opportunity to salute the best of a bad bunch.

1. MOCK-UP (YOSHI'S ISLAND)

This year's nominees will not only get you across town, they'll take you almost anywhere in space 2. JUGGLER (CHRONO TRIGGER) and time. Which one would you like to put in your garage?

3. GRIM LEECHER (YOSHI'S ISLAND)

1. YOSHI (YOSHI'S ISLAND)

4. GRANNIES (EJ 2) 5. KABOOM (DKC 2)

- **EPOCH TIME MACHINE (CHRONO TRIGGER)**
- THE BATMOBILE (ADV. OF BATMAN AND



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- 4. DACTYLS (CHRONO TRIGGER)
- 5. UFO (EARTHBOUND)
- 6. TESSIE (EARTHBOUND)

FRANK THOMAS BIG HURT BASEBALL:





DONKEY KONG COUNTRY 2:

A.B.D.E.O.P.Q.R.U.V.AA

PLAYER'S GUIDE & VOL. 76, 79, 81





KIRBY'S DREAMLAND 2:

It's amazing the kinds of things they're carrying around in video games these days. We're waiting on pins and needles for the winner of this category

- 1. HOLY FRY PAN (EARTHBOUND)
- 2. CAN OF BEANS (BOOGERMAN)
- 3. BUBBLE GUN (EJ 2)
- 4. CHAIN SAW (DOOM)
- 5. MALLET (THE MASK)



ous or the graceful that takes home this award? In our opinion, this one is a toss-up!

- 1. DIXIE'S HELICOPTER SPIN (DKC 2) 2. THE FLAME FRRT (BOOGERMAN)
- 3. SQUITTER'S PLATFORM WEB (DKC 2)
- 4. FULGORE'S MECH HEAD DANGER MOVE (KI)
- 5. DONKEY KONG'S OVERHEAD SLAM (MARIO'S TENNIS)



BEST ENDING

After all those hours of bit-mapped blood, sweat and tears, you deserve more than a simple "Game Over" for all of your efforts.

- 1. CHRONO TRIGGER
- 2. DONKEY KONG COUNTRY 2
- 3. KILLER INSTINCT
- 4. SUPER MARIO WORLD 2: YOSHI'S ISLAND
- 5. THE SECRET OF EVERMORE
- 6. MORTAL KOMBAT 3

RED ALARM: Z





COOLEST CODE/TRICK

Sometimes the codes are better than the games themselves! Codes can't save a bad game, but they can extend a game's life far beyond the final stage.

- 1. KOOLER STUFF KODE (MK3)
- 2. STREET FIGHTER MEGA MAN (MEGA MAN 7)
- 3. HIDDEN PLAYERS AND PLAY OPTIONS (NBA JAM T.E.)
- 4. ONE-HIT FATALITIES (PRIMAL RAGE)
- 5. LOONEY OFFENSE/DEFENSE (LOONEY TUNES B-BALL)

BEST OVERALL

GAME NOMINEES



BEST GAME BOY GAME

The world's favorite portable game system continues to wow players with quality, best-selling titles in all categories. This is a tough choice!

- 1. DEFENDER/JOUST
- 2. NBA JAM T.E.
- 3. DONKEY KONG LAND
- 4. KIRBY'S DREAMLAND 2
- 5. FRANK THOMAS BIG HURT BASEBALL

DONKEY KONG LAND: V,Y,AA VOL 68 69 74



BEST VIRTUAL BOY GAME <

Though relatively few titles were released for Nintendo's fledgling 3-D system, a number of Virtual Boy games distinguished themselves among pros and players.

- 1. WARIO LAND
- 2. GOLF
- 3. TELEROBOXER
- 4. RED ALARM
- 5. MARIO'S TENNIS





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While we try to be objective and offer balanced game reviews, sometimes there's a little something that nags at us that we just can't ignore!

- 1. CRYBABY MARIO (YOSHI'S ISLAND)
- 2. HOLD ON (BATMAN FOREVER)
- 3. WHERE'S THE BACKGROUND? (WATERWORLD FOR THE VB)
- 4. DIE, ROBOTS, DIE!
 (MECHWARRIOR 3050)
- 5. NESS, PHONE HOME! (EARTHBOUND)

DEFENDER/JOUST:



VOL. 78

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Despite dire predictions, 16-bit games remained the industry's driving force in 1995. These outstanding titles show the true potential of the 16bit format.

- 1. DONKEY KONG COUNTRY 2
- 2. SUPER MARIO WORLD 2: YOSHI'S ISLAND
- 3. NHL '96
- 4. MORTAL KOMBAT 3
- 5. CHRONO TRIGGER
- 6. KILLER INSTINCT

'95 NP AWARDS -THE CONTEST-

-GRAND PRIZE-

25 GAMES AND 25 SUPER POWER STAMPS

- SECOND PRIZE-

A Super NES Game and 10 Super Power Stamps

-THIRD PRIZE-

A Nintendo Power T-shirt and 5 Super Power Stamps

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

To enter, either fill out the Player's Poll response card or print your name, address, telephone number, Vol. 82, your picks for each category, and the answer to the trivia question on a plain 3 1/2" x 5" card. Mail your entry to this address:

Nintendo Power Player's Poll Vol. 82 P.O. Box 97062 Redmond, WA 98073-9762

One entry per person, please. All entries must be postmarked no later than April 1, 1996. We are not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

On ar about April 15, 1996, winners will be drawn from among all eligible entries. By accepting their prizes, winners consent to the use of their names, photographs, or other liknesses for the purpose of advertisements or promotions on behalf of "Mintendo Power" magazine or Mintendo of America Inc. (MOA) without further compensation. Prizes are limited to one per household. Chances of winning are determined by the total number of entries received. The ratio of prizes to entry cards distributed is 611,000,000. No substitution of prizes is permitted. All prizes will be awarded. Actual games awarded is subject to availability. To receive a list of winners, which will be available after April 30,1996, sond year reasest to the address above.

GRAND PRIZE: The Grand Prize Winner will receive 25 Super NES, Game Bay and/or Virtuel Bay gemes of his or her choice, subject to availability, and 25 Super Power Stomps. The winner must provide a written release to NOA. Estimated total value of all prizes is \$3,000. Some restrictions apply. Valid only in the U.S. and Canada. Valid where prohibited by law. Not open to employees of NOA, its affiliates, agancies, or their immediate families. This contest is subject to all federal, state and local laws and regulations.

PANEL 0 3 PON

If you love puzzle games, Pak Watch has good news, great news, incredible news for you. A Japanese game called Panel De Pon from Nintendo will take on a new look for the Super NES and appear in North America this spring. probably in May. The original game was aimed at young female players and featured winged fairies as the characters beyond the play field. In the U.S., the game will feature Yoshi and will be targeted at a wide range of puzzle players. But the appearance of the game is almost immaterial. The play is everything. The Panel play field fills up with blocks of different colors that can be moved sideways. The trick is to line up three or more blocks vertically or horizontally to cause them to disappear. Although this sounds simple, the strategies for moving blocks can be complex and the play is captivating. The game will contain regular timed matches, two-player vs. matches, and a puzzle mode in which players can learn much of the intricacies of this deceptive game.

GAME BOY SLAM

College Slam for Game Boy may seem like another NBA Jam without the stars, but the action on the court has Games, the developer, did a great job of incorporating speed and play control into this diminutive hoopster. It feels great. Slam includes the following modes: Practice, Head-to-Head (one player), Semi Final, Tournament, and Season



match-up. The Super NES version may have the color, but this version packs in virtually all of the other features. You should be able to take this one with you starting next month

TOYON BOY



Last month we showed off the first pics of Toy Story for Game Boy. Now, we have a working version, although it isn't 100% complete. The two most striking aspects of the game at this stage are the graphics, which look

remarkably like those of the Super NES game, and the play control, which has all the speed and maneuverability of an ice berg. The first stage is almost identical to the Super NES game, but at this early stage doesn't feel much like it. We'll keep you posted as this pak grows up.

ENRECAS



1996 OLYMPIC SPORTS BASS MASTER II FRANTIC FLEA KEN GRIFFEY JR.'S WINNING RUN THE LOST VIKINGS II MAIII MALLARD

MOHAWK & HEADPHONE JACK PINOCCHIO **POCAHONTAS** POWER PIGGS OF THE DARK AGE ROAD RASH THE SMURFS SUPER MARIO KART SUPER MARIO RPG

BOUND HIGH 3-D TETRIS VIRTUAL FISHING UNDECIDED WINTER '96

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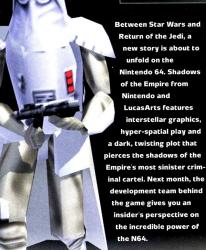
1996 OLYMPIC SPORTS COLLEGE SLAM KIRBY'S BLOCKBALL NHL '96 **POCAHONTAS** THE SMURFS TOY STORY

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WINTER '96

Coming Next Issue..... Volume 83, April 1996





KIRBY'S BLOCKBALL

The world famous cream puff is back, bouncing off the walls and breaking down barriers in Kirby's Blockball, an arcade-style puzzler for Game Boy.



PIGGS POWER!



Nothing can ruin your day quite like a wolf in damsel's clothing. **Check out Power Piggs** of the Dark Ages, a hilarious side-scroller from Titus.

KI 2 SPECIAL

If you're tired of waiting in line to play Killer Instinct 2, perhaps it's time to adopt a winning game plan. Next month's issue features the best KI 2 arcade secrets and strategies used by the pros. Read up on their cool moves and combos, then take control and dominate the competition at

GAME LIST

Super NES

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41. Final Fantisy III 42. Final Fight 3 43. Frank Thomas Big Hurt Baseboll 44. Golzille Destroy All Monsters 45. Grid Iron Glory

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61. Lemmings 2 62. The Lion King

rd. Lobo 64. Lecrusy Turnes B-bull 65. The Lost Vikings II 66. Madden NFL '96 67. Marso Paint 68. Mark Davis' The Fishing Master

70: Mauj Malland 71: Mechwarrier 2050 72: Mega Man X 73: Mega Man X2 74: Mega Man X3 75: Mega Man 7 76: Metal Warriors

95. Nosteratu 96. Ogre Battle 97. PGA European Tour 98. PGA Tour 96 99. The Phantom 2040 100. Pracechio

108. RoboTrek 109. Romance of the Three 110. Semurai Shodown 111. Scooley Dao Mystery 112. Secret of Evermeer 113. Secret of Mana 114. StriCity 115. Sirik of Swim

115 Sirke Sheim 117. Spider-Man & Weson Marijmin Carn 117. Spider-Man The Animodel Series 117. Spider-Man The Animodel Series 117. Spider Man Deep Space (Nove 117. Series Series Free Anabasy 117. Series Series Free Anabasy 117. Series Free Trained 117. Series Race EX 127. Series Race EX 128. Series Race Race EX 129. Series Marie Karle St. 129. Series Marie Karle 129. Series Marie Race 129. Series Marie Race 129. Series Marie Race 129. Series Marie Race 120. Series

131 Super Punch-Out!! 132 Super R. B. L. Baseball 133 Super Return of the Jed 134 Super Street Figher II 135 Sunt Kats 136 Syndicate 137 Tecnno Secret of the Star 138 Basema Sunce Band III I

136. Syndkols
127. Tocano Secret of the Stars
128. Tocano Super Borel III: Final Edition
128. Tocano Super Borel III: Final Edition
128. The Leafur
140. They Teorie Wacky Sports
141. Top Genry Wall
127. Top Stars
142. Top Stars
143. Top Stars
144. Luck Hardel Walters: Niov Horizons
144. University Walters: Niov Horizons
145. Luck Hardel Walters: Niov Horizons
145. Luck Hardel Walters: Niov Horizons
145. Luck Hardel Walters: Niov Horizons
146. Luck Hardel Walters: Niov Horizons
147. Luck Hardel Walters: Niov Horizons
148. Luck Hardel Walters: Niov Horizons
149. Luck Hardel Walters
149. Luck

150. Wayne Logothy and 151. Wesponland 152. Whit 153. Wesponland 152. Whit 153. Wild.C. A. T. S. 154. Wolverine 155. WWF Raw 155. WWF Raw 156. WWF Westlemania: The Arcade Carne 157. Xeffer: Mutani Apocalypse 156. 7cm

158. Zeop 159. 1996 Olympic Sports Green Rea

140. Aladdin
161. Allen Gomes
162. Animanians
162. Animanians
163. Animanians
163. Animanians
164. Bilinnan: The Animaniad Series
165. Carino Funghi,
166. Certipode/Alfilipode
166. Certipode/Alfilipode
167. Cornas: The Alem Was
168. Continon Island
169. Defensior/Fostal
170. Desent Strike
171. Denkey Kong
172. Denkey Kong
172. Denkey Kong
173. Denkey Kong
174. Denkey Kong
175. Denkey Kong
176. Denkey Kong
177. Denkey Kong
177. Denkey Kong
178. Denkey Kong
178. Denkey Kong
178. Denkey Kong
179. Denkey Kong
179.

173. Dr. Mario 174. Earthscorm Jins. 178. Earthscorm Jins. 2 176. FIEA Score Vie 177. Forenson for Real 178. Frank Thomas Big Hurt Basels 179. Galasja (Galasjan 181. Judge Drodd 182. Jungels Strike 183. Jungels Strike 183. Jungels Strike

196. NBA Jam 197. NBA Jam Tournament Edition 198. NBA Live '96 1-9, NSA LIW 96 199, NFI, Quarterback Club 96 200, NHL Hockey 95 201, NHL 96

218. True Lies 219. Vegas Stakes 220. Wario Blass 221. Wario Land: Super Mario Land 3 222. Waterward 222. Ware 224. Zoop 225. 1996 Olympic Sports Virtual Boy

226. Brund High 227. Galetti Pirkelli 228. Gold 228. José Bros. 228. José Bros. 231. Mariot Stenis 231. Mariot Stenis 231. Mariot Stenis 231. Fenic Brosher 234. Fenic Brosher 235. Teler Brosher 236. John Stenis 236. Teler Brosher 236. John Stenis 237. Verinal Flohing 238. Virtual F

Other Picks

242. Cruis'n USA (N 64) 243. Doom (N 64) 244. Dragon Quest VI 245. Killer Instinct (N 64) 246. Mortal Kenthat 3 (N 64) 247. Nimendo 64

