Match wits against the computer

Time after time, computer games rate high among Family Day visitors. Games this year include Baseball, Blackjack, Chess, monopoly, and TV Trek.

Family Day visitors will have the chance to play computer games that make Pong fanatics tremble with anticipation. They’ll be pitting their strategies against those plotted in the world’s most powerful scientific computer center.

- **Baseball**—Players will represent real American and National League teams ranging from 1910-1940 All Star Teams to this season’s Giants and A’s. Every game is different, governed by statistics established by each real-life player during his career.

- **Battlefield**—A game that simulates a battle between your ships and those commanded by the computer.

- **Biocycle**—A program that charts user’s biohythmic cycles, pointing out days when the user is likely to feel unusually energetic and days when you are likely to feel not quite up to par. Statistics show people are more prone to accidents on so-called zero days. And even in worse luck on double-zero and triple-zero days. The computer knows when those days will occur for you. Ask and you shall find out.

- **Blackjack**—With odds very close to the real thing. To make things interesting the computer will keep track of your bets and the amount of accumulated winnings you have. And just like Las Vegas, you’ll just have to trust that the dealer won’t sneak a peek at your cards until after you’ve hit.

- **Chess**, with two programs available. One will play easy, mild, or rough, depending on how hard you want the machine to try, an unusual option in the world of chess. A second program written here is for beginners. You just might win.

- **Craps**—The computer throws the dice.

- **Fly Me**—You are sitting in the cockpit of an airplane circling an airport. You’re running low on fuel and must land before you run out of gas. Happy landing.

- **King**—Here is your own kingdom. You have many subjects, much land, and plenty of grain in your storehouse. Treat your subject well and they will serve you well. Abuse them and they will rebel. Watch out for wars and disease. Long live the king.

- **Lunar**—You’re the commander of a lunar landing craft. You are 120 miles above the surface of the moon, approaching a lunar landing at 3,600 miles per hour. Your job is to control the burning of the fuel to reduce your velocity and land safely.

- **Mathway**—A good learning tool that pictorially displays how mathematical functions work.

- **Monopoly**, using Parker Brothers rules. The object: make a killing in the world of high finance.

- **Qubic**, a 3-D tic-tac-toe game

- **Slots**, a computer-run slot machine game

- **Subwar**, a submarine versus-submarine war game. Torpedoes travel realistically and the computer will evaluate the results of the attack.

- **TV Trek**, a modified version of the STAR TREK game written by Dave Matusek and Paul Reynolds. The organian peace treaty has collapsed and the federation is at war with the Klingon empire. You have phasers and photo torpedoes. You have deflector shields as a defense. You can consult scanners and a star chart. You can move about, under warp drive and impulse drive.

- **Wumpus**—You are a famous hunter descending into the lair of the deadly person-eating wumpus. You carry 10 bent arrows, some dynamite, and all of your senses. There are 20 caves connected by tunnels. Two other hazards await: super-bats and bottomless pits. Be careful.

Most computer terminals will have access to the Family Day games. That means many people will be playing games at the same time. There is no danger of a machine overload, however. The two CDC 7600 computers playing games this weekend can—between them—do something like 20 million operations per second.