

Game Reviews

by Jordan Glover

The Sony Playstation 2 or “PS2” is heading towards the end of its life. The PS2, on the market since November of 2000, has been one of the biggest game consoles of all time. To this day, you can find a PS2 in almost every household, barbershop, dorm room, car, office, store, etc. The PS2 even has a smaller counter part called the PSP. Although, it has had its ups and downs, the Sony Playstation 2 continues to be a solid system and to others, arguably the best system of all time.

Madden NFL 07: Ah yes, the king of football has arrived. On August 22, 2006 Madden NFL 07 was released. This year’s edition is definitely going to turn some heads. This year’s edition contains three new features. The first feature is the Run Block. You can now take control of a blocker so that you can create a hole for your halfback to run through. For example, it’s fourth down and two minutes left on the clock. You have one more yard to gain in order to get a first down. Do you throw and risk the interception on incomplete or run it in. Well, for those of you who want to run you can take control of a lineman and create a hole so that your halfback can run through and get a first down. The second feature of Madden NFL 07 is the highlight stick. If you played Madden NFL 06 then you may remember the truck stick. The truck stick was magnificent for big halfbacks such as Jerome Bettis but halfbacks such as Willie Parker and Carnell Williams were out of luck because they tend to use speed over strength. Well now in Madden NFL 07, small agile halfbacks such as Parker and Williams have the highlight stick. This feature allows these halfbacks to perform acrobatic and flashy maneuvers in order to lose a defender rather than plow over them. The last feature added is the Superstar Mode. Although it can be seen in last year’s edition, superstar mode now lets you step into the role of any position you would like to play. It offers a whole new perspective and idea of how a football game should be played.

Madden continues to be a great sports title but can still use some minor tweaks in the graphics department. I would definitely recommend this game to anybody who enjoys sports games and loves to have fun. SCORE 4.5 out of 5.

Final Fantasy 7: Dirge of Cerberus: FF7:DOC follows the role on Vincent, the young vampire from the original FF7 game. The entire game, however, takes place after the movie Final Fantasy 7:Advent Children. This game has magnificent graphics, a great story, great weapons, epic boss battles and a decent level of difficulty. You would think that would be all that you need for a game, right? Absolutely NOT, the gameplay is this game’s downfall. The enemy A.I. is deplorable and Vincent moves like a bootleg Dante from Devil May Cry. Although the enemies are cool to look at, they are horribly rendered and move like a robot that has had water thrown on it. If you’re a big Final Fantasy fan you may just want to check this one out as a rental but if you’re a gamer looking for a kick butt, guns a blazing, non stop action video game I would definitely check out Devil May Cry 3 or Grand Theft Auto. Please heed my warning and DO NOT BUY THIS GAME. SCORE: 1.5 out of 5

Microsoft Xbox 360 Microsoft released the Xbox 360 November of last year. The Xbox 360 has had its fair share of problems but in the end it is a must have system. The one thing that stands out about this system, aside from the breathtaking graphics, is the online play. Xbox Live is an online service for the Xbox 360 that costs 50 dollars a year but it is definitely worth every penny. If you're a fan of video games you should check out the Xbox 360.

NBA Live 07: It's that time of the year again. The champagne has dried, the hangovers are over, and Dwayne Wade is settling down with his newfound superstar status. The Miami Heat won the NBA Finals last year but its September now, so that means the new NBA season is just around the corner. And with every new NBA season comes a new installment in the NBA Live franchise. NBA Live 07 has just come out and I kind of had mixed feelings about it. Of course since I bought it for the Xbox 360 the graphics are bound to be amazing, and let me tell you that they absolutely were. Sweat comes off of a player's body as the game progresses, players yell for the ball, players yell in agony if they took a hard fall on the hardwood. This game is by far the true definition of what a next generation game should look like. The new features in this game are the new freestyle superstar features and total freestyle control. You can now change your freestyle superstar ability in a pinch during a game with the click of a button. For example, if you take somebody like Tracy Mcgrady and dunk with him constantly the other team is going to get hip and clog the paint and the lanes so that he can no longer penetrate. However, if you turn him into a shooter he will no longer have to dunk it, he can just step back and drain 3 pointers without being stopped by the defense.

Total Freestyle Control is also a pretty cool feature to have. Players truly act and behave like their real life counter parts. For example, players such as Allen Iverson will constantly call for the ball and Jason William's famous "quick draw" shot mentality will get to the point where it starts to aggravate you, if you play with the Miami Heat. This games only downfall is kinda, sort of, not really the gameplay. It could just be me being picky but the gameplay feels just like the NBA Live 06 engine. I just can't help shaking the feeling that EA just took the NBA Live 06 engine and just added a WHOLE LOT of new content and called it a new game. But I still say this is a solid sports game for anybody who loves basketball or just love games. SCORE: 4.0 out of 5.

Saint's Row: Let me start off by saying this, Saint's Row is the best Xbox 360 game out right now. It is arguably better than Grand Theft Auto as well. Extreme Sony fans will hate me for saying this but it is 100% true. Saint's Row literally let's you do whatever you want, whenever you want, however you want. I'm not going to tell you all of the explicit things that you can do because I don't want any controversy but this game does everything to perfection. The graphics are absolutely beautiful. Hair flows in the wind and cars get damaged from gun shots and explosions. You can create your own gang and take it online and fight rival gangs for money and cash prizes. You can steal a car and trick it out, you can kidnap people and take them as hostages, you can get drunk, you can get mansions by defeating the leaders of rival gangs and you can even rob stores by pointing a gun at the clerk point blank in the daytime or break in at night and rob them before the cops get alarmed by the alarm. The gunplay is very similar to Socom and I always say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Saints Row is a game that every Xbox 360 owner should have and if you do have an Xbox 360 and you don't have the

game you should be ashamed of yourself. This game alone is a reason to buy the Xbox 360.
SCORE: 5 out of 5

Games to look out for:

1. Grand Theft Auto: Vice City Stories-PSP
2. Socom: Combined Assault-PS2
3. Marvel Ultimate Alliance-All systems
4. NBA 2k7-All systems
5. NBA 07 the life vol.2-PS2
6. Tony Hawk's project 8-Xbox 360
7. Need for Speed Carbon-All systems
8. Devil May Cry 4-PS3
9. Super Smash Bros. Brawl-Nintendo Wii
10. Killzone 2-PS3
11. Metal Gear Solid 4-PS3