

Arcade games go portable for the folks at home

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By Beth Austin

VIDEO GAME buffs don't have to spend their lives donating quarters to the arcades or staring at their television sets. With hand-held games, they can play anywhere.

And the portable units aren't just for video fans. Manufacturers have introduced electronic card games, backgammon and checkers, and a Scrabble game available for Christmas that does everything but race to the dictionary to look up a disputed word.

Tabletop models also are available—miniature versions of arcade games that can go anywhere.

Marshall Field & Co. carries a line of hand-held games by Nintendo. The games available include Donkey Kong [plus Donkey Kong Jr. and Donkey Kong II], Parachute, Snoopy Tennis, Oil Panic and Fire, said Leon Campbell, a salesperson at the State Street store.

MOST OF the games come in two sizes, Campbell said. The standard game costs \$29.95. For \$39.95, Nintendo offers a game that

snaps open to provide a larger screen.

The graphics in the little games are not as sophisticated as those in the larger ones. But Campbell said the games are played in about the same way.

"In Donkey Kong, the object of the game is to save Tiny Mabel from the Big Gorilla," Campbell explained. The player has to send the hero to help the Tiny Mabel in distress, dodging the barrels the gorilla throws in his path. "You get three chances."

Most of the games have two skill

levels. "We recommend them for everyone," Campbell said.

MATTEL'S GAMES, available in Circus World toy stores, include a hand-held version of Burger Time for \$24.97. In the game, introduced this year, the player has to help the chef assemble a hamburger. It sounds easy, and it would be if it weren't for the marauding food-stuffs trying to get the chef.

For the same price, Mattel offers two adventure games, Masters of the Universe and Dungeons and Dragons. In Masters of the Universe, He-Man

seeks the key to Skeletor's castle. In Dungeons and Dragons, the hero goes dragon-hunting.

Circus World also carries the Coleco line of tabletop games.

CENTER VIDEO carries Mattel's line of hand-held sports games. The sports include football, baseball, basketball, hockey and soccer, said Robin Danzey, manager of the store at 2815 N. Central Ave.

Center Video also has a computer Gin game for \$49. In addition to Gin, the game offers three other card games—Gin II, 33 and Go Draw.

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