

The 2009 SPECTATOR

2009 June Issue



I think about baseball when I wake up in the morning.
I think about it all day and I dream about it at night.
The only time I don't think about it is when I'm playing it."

The Crack of the Bat

In 2002, Town team baseball outlawed aluminum bats and returned to the use of wood bats citing three reasons: Wood bats are safer because the ball comes off of an aluminum bat at such a fast speed that pitchers faced a real possibility of injury compared to the power generated by the wood bats.

Games would be shorter. Because so many home runs were hit and so many runs scored with aluminum bats, games took way too long.

Better fundamentals would be required, bringing back better baseball instead of slow pitch softball-like homerun hitting contests.

Has a wood bat made a difference? As the statistics below show, batting averages have dropped from .305 to .260 and Homeruns have gone down 70% from 1083 in seven years with aluminum to 342 in seven years of wood bats.

Statistically, during the seven years from 1995 to 2001 when aluminum bats were used, the league batting average and the total number of Homeruns hit were as follows:

- 1995 .281 BA and 64 HR
- 1996 .292 BA and 85 HR
- 1997 .312 BA and 110 HR
- 1998 .310 BA and 171 HR
- 1999 .308 BA and 246 HR
- 2000 .304 BA and 192 HR
- 2001 .320 BA and 215 HR

An overall batting average of .305 for the seven years and a total of 1083 HRs hit. The top individual HR total during those years was 11 by Ramon Vega in 1998 and Erick Estrada in 1999.

During the seven years from 2002 to 2008 when woods bats have been in use, the league batting average and the total number of Homeruns hit were like this:

- 2002 .260 BA and 42 HR
- 2003 .268 BA and 47 HR
- 2004 .257 BA and 52 HR
- 2005 .263 BA and 65 HR
- 2006 .271 BA and 35 HR
- 2007 .263 BA and 32 HR
- 2008 .261 BA and 69 HR

An overall batting average of .263 and a total of 342 HRs with the top individual HR total of 7 by Chad Raiche in 2004 and Andy Snyder and Chris Volkmann in 2008.



When baseball is no longer fun, it's no longer a game.

The CENTRAL



ST. MICHAEL

The Saints have many players among the stats leaders, winning their first five before Howard Lake got the best of them.



Kyle Krzmarzick has the division's best average and Adam McGrane has notched three wins toeing the rubber. Chris Volkman, Nick Volkman, Mike Freske, Dane Carlson and Bobby Kneefe lead the offensive attack.

2009 CENTRAL DIVISION STATS

| NAME | AB | R | H | AVE. |
|------------------|----|----|----|------|
| K Krzmarzick SM | 29 | 7 | 16 | 552 |
| C Raiche ML | 25 | 10 | 12 | 480 |
| C Volkman StM | 18 | 10 | 8 | 444 |
| T Thode Hut | 21 | 2 | 9 | 429 |
| B Marsnik ML | 28 | 4 | 12 | 429 |
| E Sandberg Del | 14 | 5 | 6 | 429 |
| J Juergensen Hut | 19 | 4 | 8 | 421 |
| N Volkman StM | 29 | 8 | 12 | 414 |
| D Birkholz DC | 23 | 4 | 9 | 391 |
| B Opsahl DC | 26 | 4 | 10 | 385 |
| J Schwarze Hut | 21 | 5 | 8 | 381 |
| M Freske StM | 22 | 1 | 8 | 364 |
| T Queck ML | 20 | 4 | 7 | 350 |
| N Johnson ML | 23 | 6 | 8 | 348 |
| C Runke Hut | 19 | 2 | 6 | 316 |
| D Carlson StM | 20 | 11 | 6 | 300 |



HUTCHINSON

The Huskies also have only dropped one game in the early going to Maple Plain. They continue to get offense from Tim Thode, Justin Juergensen, Jordan Schwarze and Chris Runke. Corey Rycks anchors a strong pitching staff that includes Adam Padmos and Kevin Kuhl.

2B Leaders

| | |
|------------------|---|
| J Schwarze Hut | 4 |
| B Kneefe StM | 3 |
| K Krzmarzick StM | 3 |

3B Leader

| |
|--------|
| 5 at 1 |
|--------|

HR Leaders

| | |
|---------------|---|
| C Volkman StM | 2 |
| B Opsahl DC | 2 |

RBI Leaders

| | |
|------------------|----|
| B Marsnik ML | 12 |
| K Krzmarzick StM | 12 |



DASSEL-COKATO

The Saints have introduced many new, young players to their line up this year with mixed results so far. Still above .500 they have lost a couple of close games and their top players stats-wise are a couple of veterans in Dan Birkholz and Brent Opsahl.

Team Pitching Leaders

| Name | IP | W-L | SO | E.R.A. |
|---------------|----|-----|----|--------|
| J Janzen Del | 17 | 0-1 | 13 | 1.04 |
| C Rycks Hut | 27 | 2-1 | 29 | 1.33 |
| J Schmidt ML | 16 | 1-1 | 12 | 2.25 |
| A McGrane StM | 21 | 3-0 | 18 | 2.53 |
| D Birkholz DC | 14 | 1-0 | 20 | 3.86 |



MAPLE LAKE

The Laker's results have been a mixed bag this year, losing to some of the better teams in the league by close scores and also winning big a couple of times. Chad Raiche, Bert Marsnik, Tim Queck and Nate Johnson lead a potent attack for the Lakers. Jeremy Schmidt has been the top pitcher with Ben Jungers and Casey Pack getting plenty of innings also.

SLUMPS ARE LIKE A SOFT BED. THEY'RE EASY TO GET INTO AND HARD TO GET OUT OF."



DELANO

The Athletics lead the league in extra inning games with three league games and a couple of non league going longer than nine innings. Solid defense and pitching keeps Delano in every game, now a clutch hit here or there and their win-loss record could change drastically. Jeff Janzen sports the top ERA in the league, but in the hitting stats, only Eric Sandberg appears among the division leaders.



The CENTRAL Standings thru June 10

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------|---|---|------|-----|
| St. Michael | 7 | 1 | .875 | ... |
| Hutchinson | 5 | 1 | .833 | 1 |
| D-C | 4 | 3 | .571 | 2 |
| Maple Lake | 3 | 5 | .375 | 4 |
| Delano | 2 | 5 | .286 | 4.5 |

Why Tom Glavine played baseball rather than hockey.
"I had all my own teeth and I wanted to keep it that way."



The EAST



2009 EAST DIVISION STATS

| NAME | AB | R | H | AVE. |
|-----------------|----|----|----|------|
| D Mitchell, Alb | 16 | 1 | 9 | 563 |
| B Musgjerd Rog | 24 | 1 | 13 | 542 |
| J Jarvis Alb | 17 | 3 | 8 | 471 |
| N Maher Lor | 28 | 9 | 13 | 464 |
| A Snyder Md | 37 | 11 | 17 | 459 |
| T Klaers Alb | 30 | 6 | 13 | 433 |
| A EngebretsonMP | 29 | 15 | 12 | 414 |
| K Koch Lor | 38 | 8 | 15 | 395 |
| J Wood Md | 34 | 4 | 13 | 382 |
| J Vidor Rog | 29 | 6 | 11 | 379 |
| R Moynaugh Md | 32 | 6 | 12 | 375 |
| J Rusch ER | 19 | 3 | 7 | 368 |
| N Triplett Lor | 22 | 8 | 8 | 364 |
| D Hess Alb | 14 | 1 | 5 | 357 |
| P Sycks Md | 34 | 6 | 12 | 353 |
| D Brant Alb | 20 | 3 | 7 | 350 |
| M Mitchell Md | 36 | 4 | 12 | 333 |
| T Maher Lor | 34 | 8 | 11 | 324 |
| A Pratt MP | 34 | 4 | 11 | 324 |
| E Schutte Lor | 28 | 10 | 9 | 321 |
| Br Scanlon Lor | 38 | 11 | 12 | 316 |
| A Gregg MP | 19 | 9 | 6 | 316 |

2B Leaders

| | |
|------------------|---|
| A Engebretson MP | 6 |
| A Snyder Md | 4 |

3B Leader

| | |
|---------------|---|
| K Koch Lor | 3 |
| D Carlson Rog | 2 |

HR Leader

| | |
|---------------|---|
| L Kingren Rog | 3 |
|---------------|---|

RBI Leader

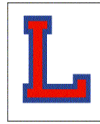
| | |
|--------------|----|
| A Snyder Md | 14 |
| T Klaers Alb | 10 |

Team Pitching Leaders

| Name | IP | W-L | SO | E.R.A. |
|--------------------|----|-----|----|--------|
| P Kunz MP | 24 | 3-0 | 17 | 3.00 |
| R Klingelhofer,Alb | 25 | 0-3 | 15 | 3.20 |
| J Althoff Lor | 32 | 3-0 | 20 | 3.62 |
| C Harrell Md | 31 | 1-3 | 25 | 5.12 |
| M Nelson Rog | 28 | 0-3 | 18 | 7.07 |
| T Jarmoluk ER | 17 | 0-2 | 8 | 12.18 |

The EAST Standings thru June 10

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------|---|----|------|------|
| Loretto | 8 | 1 | .889 | |
| Maple Plain | 8 | 2 | .800 | .5 |
| Elk River | 3 | 3 | .500 | 3.5 |
| Mound | 2 | 6 | .250 | 5.5 |
| Rogers | 1 | 9 | .100 | 7.5 |
| Albertville | 0 | 10 | .000 | 8.5 |



LORETTO

As expected, the Larks are off to a good start with six hitters over .300, Nathan and Tyler Maher, Kent Koch, Nate Triplett and Brandon Scanlon. Combine that hitting with Joe Althoff's 3 wins on the mound and you can see why Loretto is at the top of the division.



MAPLE PLAIN

The pitching arms of Paul Kunz and TJ Aalid, exceptional defense and consistent hitting through the line up has combined to produce a winning start to the season. Top hitters have been Andrew Engebretson, Lee and Adam Gregg, all above .300 and each with a HR. Engebretson added two more HRs on Wednesday at Maple Lake.



ELK RIVER

The Pioneers are looking for some consistency. They have won some low scoring games and been pounded hard in a couple of losses. Consequently, only Jason Rusch is hitting over .300 in league play and the team's ERA is very high. All of which leaves them with a .500 record through the early stages of the season.



MOUND

The Mallards began the season with a potent offense and a high ERA. Lately, the pitching has improved, but the bats have quieted down and the result has been more losses than wins. Andy Snyder leads the whole league in RBIs, has 4 2Bs and two HR and an average over .400. Others hitting well are Robb Moynaugh, Joe Wood, Peter Sycks and Mike Mitchell .



ROGERS

In their third year, the Red Devils are still struggling to win, beating only Howard Lake with a late inning rally. Beau Musgjerd and Josh Vidor lead the team in hitting and Logan Kingren has 3 homeruns to lead the league in that category.

It helps if the hitter thinks you're a little crazy."



ALBERTVILLE

The Villains again have many high average hitters including league leader D Mitchell. Jeff Jarvis, Todd Klaers, Hess and Dan Brant are also on the leader board. Albertville continues to hit and often scores runs, the problem is they give up way too many and are still looking for their first win.

"The guy with the biggest stomach will be the first to take off his shirt at a baseball game."



The WEST



HOWARD LAKE

Pitching defines the west and the Orphans usually have the best of that. This year Shane Heber is leading the way with three wins and a 1.24 ERA. Luke Gagnon, Andy Gagnon, Tim Sonnek and Jesse berg are all hitting over .300 and Adam Koch is leading the division in doubles and RBIs.

"A team is where a boy can prove his courage on his own. A gang is where a coward goes to hide."



BUFFALO

The Bulldogs have won three in a row to get back in contention after starting the season with losses in three of their first four games. Jake Duske has connected for 3 HR as well as having the team's lowest ERA. Nate Hill , Derek Bauer and Steve Kiphuth are among the division's hitting leaders.

2009 WEST DIVISION STATS

| NAME | AB | R | H | AVE. |
|---------------|----|----|----|------|
| G Holker Mon | 13 | 3 | 6 | 462 |
| L Gagnon HL | 30 | 11 | 11 | 367 |
| A Brion Mon | 23 | 10 | 8 | 348 |
| A Gagnon HL | 23 | 7 | 8 | 348 |
| N Hill Buf | 29 | 5 | 10 | 345 |
| D Bauer Buf | 24 | 7 | 8 | 333 |
| T Sonnek HL | 34 | 8 | 11 | 324 |
| S Kiphuth Buf | 31 | 5 | 10 | 323 |
| J Berg HL | 29 | 6 | 9 | 310 |
| I Keen Roc | 30 | 3 | 9 | 300 |



KINGSTON

The Kings are hanging close and are the only west team that has not lost to a division rival They have won close games over Buffalo and Howard Lake plus won an extra inning affair over Monticello. Eric Pokornowski has posted three of the wins on the mound and Billy Aho is at the top of the division in driving in runs.

2B Leaders

| | |
|------------|---|
| A Koch HL | 3 |
| N Hill Buf | 2 |
| B Aho Kin | 2 |

3B Leader s

| | |
|-------------|---|
| A Gagnon HL | 4 |
|-------------|---|

HR Leaders

| | |
|-------------|---|
| J Duske Buf | 3 |
|-------------|---|

RBI Leader

| | |
|-----------|---|
| B Aho Kin | 9 |
| A Koch HL | 9 |



MONTICELLO

The Polecats came out of the gate as if they would be the surprise team of the league, handing Loretto its only loss and beating Howard Lake as they won four of their first five. Greg Holker and Adam Brion have been leaders at the plate with Jason Holker and Chris Hardie doing well on the hill.

Team Pitching Leaders

| Name | IP | W-L | SO | E.R.A. |
|-------------------|----|-----|----|--------|
| S Heber HL | 29 | 3-0 | 36 | 1.24 |
| J Holker Mon | 21 | 1-0 | 21 | 1.29 |
| C Hansen Roc | 37 | 1-2 | 33 | 1.45 |
| E Pokornowski Kin | 38 | 3-1 | 38 | 2.56 |
| J Duske Buf | 22 | 1-1 | 13 | 2.82 |



ROCKFORD

The normally slow starting River Bandits won their first three games, but then, they lost 6 close games to drop to the bottom of what has become the most competitive division. Cole Hansen has posted an excellent 1.45 ERA on the mound, but at this time, the only .300 hitter is I. Keen.



The WEST Standings thru June 10

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------------|---|---|------|------|
| Howard Lake | 7 | 3 | .700 | |
| Buffalo | 4 | 3 | .571 | 1.5 |
| Kingston | 5 | 4 | .556 | 1.5 |
| Monticello | 4 | 4 | .500 | 2 |
| Rockford | 3 | 6 | .333 | 3.5 |

"Two hundred million Americans, and there ain't two good catchers among 'em."



Minnesota Baseball Association

minnesotabaseball.org

