



The Stat Man: Chief Statistician Jim Entwistle

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Record-setting Year for Sun Lakes Softball
By Larry Wolfe

Ever since Henry Chadwick formulated the first box scores in 1859, baseball fans have had an infatuation with statistics about the sport. True fans know about Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak and the Babe's original homerun records of 60 in a season and 714 for his career, for many years baseball's "unbreakable" records. DiMaggio's record still stands, but the Babe's HR records were topped by Roger Maris' 61 in '61 and later by steroid-aided players Sammy Sosa, Mark McGuire and Barry Bonds. These tainted records are looked upon with disdain by baseball "purists." Our league had several records broken this past year with no

steroids in sight! Granted, some players may have been aided by new knees or hips, but that's OK!

Here's a run-down of the 2020-2021 stats. The numbers exclude tournament stats. Leaders are listed separately for the Lakes and Sun Divisions, with the Lakes' leaders shown first.

At-Bats: Frank Rouse (329) and Kim Whitney (372), both far below Tom Erpelding's 2017-18 record of 394.

Times On-Base: Frank Rouse (244) and Mike Lebet (264), just short of Erpelding's 2017-18 record of 269.

Walks: Four players topped John Whitman's 2017-18 record of 36. Mike Willits (43) and Rick Thompson (38) bested the record in the Lakes Division while Randy Neumann established a new all-time high of 45; Bobby Farmer (41) also beat the previous record.

Singles: Frank Rouse (149) and Kim Whitney (170), again just short of Tom Erpelding's record of 177.

Doubles: Doug Warwick (41) and Bobby Farmer (47), three below Larry Kaufmann's 2015-16 record 50.

Triples: Frank Rouse (10) and Mike Lebet (10), just half of Bill Stanick's 2016-17 record of 20.

Homeruns: Vern Rodgers and Tim Loeffler (7 each) in the Lakes Division. Bobby Farmer (56) and Mike Lebet (55) both topped Mark McKinnon's 2017-18 previous all-time "mark" of 51.

Sacrifice Flies: Kim Whitney (18) wiped out the record of 12, held by Bill Corso, Rick Ebel and Gary Hillabolt.

Batting Average: Tom Lorgan led the Lakes Division with a .744 mark, edging out Frank Rouse (.742). Bobby Farmer led the Sun Division with a robust .823 average. The all-time record of .873 was set in 2016-17 by Reyes Gonzales.

Slugging Percentage, a stat measuring average and power-hitting: Doug Warwick (.957) and Bobby Farmer (1.571). Reyes Gonzales holds that record, too (1.634 in 2019-20).

There you have it. Some new records were set, some came close to being elapsed and some remained seemingly “unbreakable.”

Thanks to Chief Statistician, Jim Entwistle, for his dedication and long hours in compiling the statistics of over 100 players. He compiled and posted the stats to our website, www.sunlakessoftball.com, after every play date. Additionally, we thank our scorers and scoreboard operators: Cyndy Hilby, Joe Commisto, Tom Erpelding, Gary Hillabolt, Larry Maggard, Vern and Dorothy Rodgers and Rick Thompson. Without these folks, there would be no stats! And as someone said, or should have said, “A ballgame without stats is like an article without words (or something like that!).