



Record-setter and league leader Reyes Gonzales
(Courtesy of Mug Shot Studios)

June 2020

Softball Stats for Traditionalists By Larry Wolfe

Why do most baseball and softball fans and players love statistics? It's probably because stats give the game historical context and allow for the comparison of various accomplishments from the past to the present. They also are used to measure the performance of each player versus others on his team and in his league. Over time the number of stats and their complexity has grown exponentially. If you look at a box score from the 1950s, you'd see players listed with five columns for at bats, runs, hits, putouts and assists. Today's box scores contain a myriad of statistics that could keep a

nerdy reader occupied for a long time! And the introduction of so-called Sabermetrics such as WAR (Wins Above Replacement), FIP (Fielding Independent Pitching) and wRC+ (Weighted Runs Created Plus) have added another level of complexity to statistical analysis of the sport. But don't fret; this article is based upon good ole traditional stats that we all understand! We're talking hits, runs, doubles, triples, homers, etc.

Our senior softball statistics are based upon the results of our three formal sessions: fall, winter and spring. We also usually have a summer session, but it's more "loosely run" since many of our players are either vacationing or back up north somewhere. This year's spring session was cut short due to the COVID-19 virus shutdown, so not many records were set. In fact, only one "all time record" was set; Reyes Gonzales had a remarkable slugging percentage of 1.634 which topped Mark McKinnon's 1.447 mark set during the 2016/2017 sessions. Slugging percentage measures both hitting for average and power, as additional value is assigned to extra base hits.

Here's our league leaders in traditional categories in the Sun Division: singles (Dave Platt, 110); doubles (Dave Platt, 44); triples (Kelly Anderson, Ron Carmichael and Dan Melosi, 6 each); homeruns (Tom Chilton, 38), bases on balls (Randy Neumann, 24), batting average (Reyes Gonzales, .834) and the aforementioned slugging percentage (Reyes Gonzales, 1.634).

In the Lakes Division the leaders were: singles (Tom Erpelding, 100); doubles (Jerry Smith, 29); triples (Dave Martin, 16); homeruns (Tom Lorgan, 6); bases on balls (Gary Hillabolt, 26); batting average (Tom Lorgan, .822); and slugging percentage (Tom Lorgan, 1.034).

In the Sun Division a total of eight players hit over .700, which is kind of equivalent to being a .300 hitter in baseball. Following Reyes Gonzales at .834 were Mike Lebet (.809), Dan Melosi (.763), Bobby Farmer (.743), Larry Kaufmann (.723), Tom Stephens (.711), Dean Messier (.709) and Dave Platt (.707).

Just five players hit the .700 mark in the Lakes Division. Following Tom Lorgan's .822 were Dennis LePore (.751), Gary Hillabolt (.726), Doug Warwick (.713) and Dave Martin (.712). Vern Rogers just missed the 700 Club, hitting .699.

Thanks to all of our scorekeepers and to our Chief Statistician, Jim Entwistle, for compiling all the statistics.

And speaking of stats, this is softball article number 376 since I began writing for the *Splash* back in 2006. That's 144 player profiles and 232 general news articles. Guess I didn't know what I was getting into at the time!! Maybe we'll have some sort of celebration when I hit 400, after all, that's a "magic stat" in baseball!

As of press time, the resumption of our program, including our summer session, was still uncertain. Check our website, www.sunlakessoftball.com, for up-to-date information.