



Walks and Strikeouts

Written by

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What's This For?

In leagues that deviate from standard league formats, the drafts are often extremely inefficient. This is because most drafters still use standard rankings with little respect to the categories that the players actually produce in. In leagues that count walks and strikeouts, taking note of the players that accumulate the most walks and the least strikeouts can seriously improve your standing. There are no other easily accessible tools like this! By using this guide, you will have a serious advantage over the competition. However, even if your league doesn't count walks and strikeouts this can be a helpful guide. Contrary to popular belief, every out in baseball is not equal. For example, players who strike out more have fewer opportunities to get RBIs on sack flies. Likewise, players who walk more, have more opportunities to score runs and steal bases without it necessarily being reflected in his batting average.



How Can I Use This?

Below you will find walks and strikeouts analyzed in various ways. By looking at each list, you can determine which players to upgrade on draft day and which players to downgrade. As is often stated, the four rounds of a draft can not make your draft, but they can break it. By unknowingly drafting players that can actually HURT you (with too many strikeouts or not enough walks) in the first four rounds, you are seriously hurting your chances to win. As is also often stated, the middle and end of the draft is where you make all your money. Therefore, below you will also find the list of the top players in each category. Upgrade these players accordingly.

Top 50 Overall Offensive Players (with walk and strikeout totals for 2007 in parentheses)

Ex. Player Name, Team - Walks, Strikeouts

1. Alex Rodriguez, NYY – 95, 120
2. Hanley Ramirez, FLA – 52, 99
3. Albert Pujols, STL – 99, 58
4. Jose Reyes, NYM – 77, 78
5. David Wright, NYM – 94, 115
6. Chase Utley, PHI – 50, 89
7. Matt Holliday, COL – 63, 126
8. Miguel Cabrera, DET – 79, 127
9. Grady Sizemore, CLE – 101, 155
10. Jimmy Rollins, PHI – 49, 89
11. Ryan Howard, PHI – 107, 199
12. Prince Fielder, MIL – 90, 121
13. David Ortiz, BOS – 111, 103
14. Alfonso Soriano, CHC – 31, 130
15. Carl Crawford, TB – 32, 112
16. Carlos Beltran, NYM – 69, 111
17. Brandon Phillips, CIN – 33, 109
18. Carlos Lee, HOU – 53, 63
19. Ryan Braun, MIL – 29, 112
20. Vladimir Guerrero, LAA – 71, 62
21. Mark Teixeira, ATL – 72, 112
22. Lance Berkman, HOU – 94, 125
23. Ichiro Suzuki, SEA - 49, 77
24. Victor Martinez, CLE – 62, 76
25. Russell Martin, LAD - 67, 89
26. B.J. Upton, TB – 65, 154
27. Curtis Granderson, DET – 52, 141
28. Derek Jeter, NYY – 56, 100
29. Justin Morneau, MIN – 64, 91
30. Magglio Ordonez, DET – 76, 79
31. Travis Hafner, CLE – 102, 115

32. Manny Ramirez, BOS – 71, 92
33. Nick Markakis, BAL – 61, 112
34. Alex Rios, TOR – 55, 103
35. Bobby Abreu, NYY – 84, 115
36. Chone Figgins, LAA – 51, 81
37. Aramis Ramirez, CHC – 43, 66
38. Garrett Atkins, COL – 67, 96
39. Eric Brynes, ARI – 57, 98
40. Gary Sheffield, DET – 84, 71
41. Michael Young, TEX – 47, 107
42. Derrek Lee, CHC – 71, 114
43. Brian McCann, ATL – 35, 74
44. Troy Tulowitzski, COL – 57, 130
45. Miguel Tejada, HOU – 41, 55
46. Joe Mauer, MIN – 57, 51
47. Brian Roberts, BAL – 89, 99
48. Robinson Cano, NYY – 39, 85
49. Hunter Pence, HOU – 26, 95
50. Adam Dunn, CIN – 101, 165

What Does All This Mean?

There are a couple important things to note about the above list. First of all, because these are not rate stats, you need to factor playing time into your observation of the list. Interestingly, there are only five players that had more walks than strikeouts: Albert Pujols, David Ortiz, Vladimir Guerrero, Gary Sheffield and Joe Mauer. Obviously all of these players get an upgrade in the rankings. The top five rankings actually see a fair amount of movement. Rodriguez stays at number one, but Pujols and Reyes jump ahead of Hanley Ramirez. Elsewhere, Magglio Ordonez moves up. Among those moving down: Ryan Howard, Curtis Granderson, Troy Tulowitzki, and Adam Dunn.

Other Ways to Analyze the Data:

By looking at the rate stats for the statistics we can determine which players have more and less value in fantasy leagues due to the change in stats. Bad players can become decent players and decent players can become good players or vice versa just because they appear on the lists below! We use rate stats because they eliminate the playing time factor. Keep in mind with rate stats; however, that you need to look at the projected playing time for the players on the list in order to properly use the data.

Top 15 Offensive Players for Walks (BB/PA*):

1. Jack Cust – .207
2. Pat Burrell - .191
3. Jim Thome - .177
4. Todd Helton - .170
5. Carlos Pena - .168

6. David Ortiz - .166
7. Ryan Howard - .165
8. Adam Dunn - .160
9. Travis Hafner - .154
10. Rickie Weeks - .154
11. Nick Swisher - .152
12. Albert Pujols - .146
13. J.D. Drew - .143
14. Gary Sheffield - .142
15. Lance Berkman - .141

* A BB/PA of .100 would translate to 70 walks in 700 plate appearances. There were only 64 qualified batters who had a BB/PA of .100 or over last year.



Bottom 15 Offensive Players for Walks (BB/PA):

1. Ivan Rodriguez - .017
2. Tony Pena Jr. - .019
3. Yuniesky Betancourt - .027
4. Bengie Molina - .029
5. Kenji Johjima - .029
6. Jose Lopez - .036
7. Delmon Young - .038
8. Craig Biggio - .041
9. Corey Patterson - .042
10. Juan Pierre - .045
11. Brandon Phillips - .047
12. Khalil Greene - .049
13. Freddy Sanchez - .049
14. A.J. Pierzynski - .049
15. Pedro Feliz - .049

Other Notable Names for Walks: Alfonso Soriano (.050), Carl Crawford (.051), Robinson Cano (.058), Grady Sizemore (.135), Alex Rodriguez (.134), Brad Hawpe (.134)

Offensive Players with a BB/K over 1.00*:

1. Albert Pujols – 1.71
2. Todd Helton – 1.57
3. Placido Polanco – 1.23
4. Casey Kotchman – 1.23
5. Gary Sheffield – 1.18
6. Luis Castillo – 1.18
7. Vladimir Guerrero – 1.15
8. Dustin Pedroia – 1.12
9. Jose Vidro – 1.11
10. Kenny Lofton – 1.10
11. Chipper Jones – 1.09
12. David Ortiz – 1.08
13. Mark Loretta – 1.07
14. Brian Giles – 1.05
15. Luis Gonzalez – 1.00
16. Hideki Matsui – 1.00

*A BB/K over 1.00 means the player had more walks than strike outs in 2007

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