

BASEBALL HISTORY

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28 Major League Hitters Had More Walks Than Strikeouts in 2003

The boys of spring, summer and fall are finally back on the field. Hopes are high in major league cities (well, maybe not all of them), and millions of baseball fans look forward to what will transpire during the 2004 season.

But, despite the many constants in baseball, there are only two certainties: George Steinbrenner will continue to spend gobs of money and major league batters as a group will continue to strike out at a record pace.

Although I'm not necessarily an advocate of "small ball," it would be nice to see the best players in the game display better pitch selection and bat control.

In musing about such things, I checked the batting records of major league hitters with more than 250 at-bats in the 2003 season and discovered 28 batters who walked more frequently than they struck out. While this number is small in comparison to many seasons past, I was mildly surprised to find that many. The 28 are as follows:

Player	BB	SO	BB/SO	Player	BB	SO	BB/SO
Barry Bonds	148	58	2.551	Nick Johnson	70	57	1.228
Brian Giles	105	58	1.810	Jason Kendall	49	40	1.225
Juan Pierre	55	35	1.571	Albert Pujols	79	65	1.215
Gary Sheffield	86	56	1.564	Edgar Renteria	65	54	1.204
Todd Helton	111	72	1.542	Bernie Williams	71	61	1.164
Omar Vizquel	29	20	1.450	Mike Sweeney	64	56	1.143
Edgardo Alfonzo	58	41	1.415	Chipper Jones	94	83	1.132
Luis Gonzalez	94	67	1.403	Larry Walker	98	87	1.126
Jose Vidro	69	50	1.380	Placido Polanco	42	38	1.105
Doug Mientkiewicz	74	55	1.345	Dave Roberts	43	39	1.103
Eric Young	57	44	1.295	Rafael Palmeiro	84	77	1.091
Craig Counsel	41	32	1.281	Luis Castillo	63	60	1.050
John Olerud	84	67	1.254	Manny Ramirez	97	94	1.032
Scott Hatteberg	66	53	1.245	David Bell	41	40	1.025

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