

Will it be boom or bust in baseball?

STAT SHEET



JOHN GRABOWSKI

By John Grabowski

Will there be a power shortage or boom in baseball in 1989?

Don't make your prediction — one way or the other — too quickly. A year or two can make a big difference. As the seasons change, so do home-run totals.

In fact, major-league home runs were at an all-time high in 1987. New season marks were set in both the American League (2,634) and National League (1,824). But things changed completely in 1988. So what's in store for '89?

Team totals in 1987 ranged from a high of 225 HRs by Detroit, to a low of 94 by St. Louis, the only squad below the century mark. Five '87 teams — the Cubs, Giants, Tigers, Orioles and Blue Jays — surpassed the 200 plateau.

But last year home runs dropped significantly.

The Toronto Blue Jays led the majors in 1988 with a total of only 158 four-baggers. Five clubs failed to top 100 HRs last season — with the Cardinals again bringing up the rear, this time with only 71 circuit clouts.

Another way of looking at this dropoff is to examine the homer totals of regular players (for our purposes, those with at least 400 at bats).

There were 19 such players who slugged at least 10 home runs more in 1987 than they did the previous season. Leading the pack was Chicago's Andre Dawson, who won the NL Most Valuable Player award. Dawson's 49 homers were 29 more than he hit in 1986. Will Clark of the Giants also showed an improvement of better than 20, jumping from 11 to 35.

On the other side of the coin, only four regulars — Bill Buckner, Jesse Barfield, Jim Morrison and Doug DeCinces — had double-figure drops in home runs from '86 to '87. Buckner "led" the way, falling from 18 to 5 (minus 13).

The differences between 1987 and 1988 were dramatic.

Last season Andres Galarraga of the Expos and Jose Canseco of the Athletics were the only two major leaguers to stroke at least 10 home runs more than their 1987 totals. Galarraga upped his production by 16 — from 13 to 29. And Canseco's 42 four-baggers were 11 more than his previous year's figure.

On the other hand, double-figure falloffs were commonplace in '88.

Thirty big leaguers saw their HR totals drop by at least 10 last season. The player with the biggest decline, perhaps not surprisingly, was Dawson. After increasing his homer output by 29 in 1987, "Hawk" returned to earth with a total of only 24 round-trippers last year — a dropoff of 25.

Six other players — Brook Jacoby (23), George Bell (23), Keith Moreland (22), Larry Sheets (21), Wally Joyner (21) and Dale Murphy (20) — saw their home-run totals plummet by 20 or more.

The overall result? A total of 1,279 homers were hit in the National

League in 1988, a decrease of 30 percent from 1987. The American League total of 1,901 was 28 percent fewer than the year before. That works out to an average of 49 fewer homers per major-league team.

• The largest percentage increase in HR totals by a regular player in 1987 was 1,100 percent by Terry Pendleton of St. Louis (12 homers to 1). Galarraga's 123 percent jump was the largest last season.

Buckner's drop was 72 percent in 1987 (18 to 5). The biggest percentage fall last year was 88 percent by Keith Moreland (27 homers to 5).

• Of the 19 players who increased their totals by at least 10 home runs in 1987, only one hit more homers in 1988. Bobby Bonilla of Pittsburgh slugged three out of the park in 1986, 15 in 1987, and 24 in 1988.

Darryl Strawberry of the Mets stayed at 39 homers last year.

Each of the remaining 17 regulars stroked an average of nearly 14 fewer four-baggers last season than they did the year before.

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Ladies serve up tennis

The Gordon Alcott Ladies "C" Inter County tennis team started off the season on home courts on May 6-7 against Regency Club by taking three points.

Daiga Zelek and Karin Wilson had scores of 5-7, 1-6. Joanne Van

Den Hoek and Mary Hughes won in three sets 6-3, 6-7, 6-2. In two sets, Ouida Gravelle and Margot Prior won with scores of 6-3, 6-3. In three sets, Dynese Griffiths and Norma Maynard won with 4-6, 6-4, 7-6.

Food Poisoning

An estimated 500,000 to 1 million cases of food poisoning occur in the United States each year.

Color Change

A colorless pigment in raw pears may turn pink with heat; the color change is not harmful.

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Home
Post Scripts



By Glenda Hughes, Sales Rep.

873-0300

This weekend marks a special day for most moms — one that we hope is special to our families as well. Certainly our homes are the centre of our lives, and I think most of us try to make it a special place for our loved ones. Homes speak volumes about us, and it is obvious to us, when we show a home, just what kind of love grows inside. Little touches mean so much, from the door decoration, to the flowers on the table, to the cake in the oven. Houses talk — and we as sales representatives, want your home to talk of all the good things that happen in your little world. So, with this in mind, and with Mother's Day this weekend, you have a little advantage, if your home is on the market.

As you have probably already figured out, if you are an avid real estate gazer, there are more than the usual amount of homes for sale at the present time. This means that purchasers can spend lots of time looking, comparing, choosing and keeping within their price frame. If your home is one that gets a showing this weekend, let's make it worthwhile! Kitchens are always a big selling factor in any home. If you do nothing else, get that kitchen spotless; clear away as much as possible from the counter tops, try to place some flowers around (if you have been lucky enough to receive some this weekend) and make that kitchen one to be proud of.

Next comes the bathroom. Again, get it shining bright, have fresh towels hanging, and try to make it as pretty and as attractive as possible. Yes, I know it is Mother's Day, but wouldn't you like to have a "sale" for a present? What could be nicer than a Sold sign on your lawn this Sunday — and if you are very lucky, you might get your family to do the little extras for you — that would make a very nice gift, wouldn't it.

Home is certainly where the heart is — and to all the Moms that I know — my heart goes out to you this weekend if you have your house on the market — and if you don't — enjoy your day — maybe even go "open housing."

"Homes sold Creatively"

Power Shortage?
The home run gap
(Minimum: 400 at bats)

	1987	1988	Difference
Andre Dawson	49	24	-25
George Bell	47	24	-23
Brook Jacoby	32	9	-23
Keith Moreland	27	5	-22
Larry Sheets	31	10	-21
Wally Joyner	34	13	-21
Dale Murphy	44	24	-20
Wade Boggs	24	5	-19
Larry Parrish	32	14	-18
Mike Pagliarulo	32	15	-17
Mark McGwire	49	32	-17

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