

2010: YEAR OF THE PITCHER

Run production has been on a steady decline in recent seasons. In 2010, the 30 major league clubs averaged 4.38 runs per game, a drop-off of nearly a half-run per game since 2006. That 4.38 runs-per-game average is the lowest full-season mark since 1992, the year prior to the first of two rounds of expansion in the 1990s. Run production in this era peaked in 2000, when teams averaged 5.14 runs a game.

Right-handers Beware

American League MVP Josh Hamilton batted .401 against right-handed pitching in 2010, the first big league regular to bat .400 against right-handers over a full season since the strike-shortened 1994 campaign. He is one of only three players to do so over the last 35 years.

Player	Team	vs RHP	Overall
George Brett	1980 Royals	.437	.390
Tony Gwynn	1994 Padres	.404	.394
Josh Hamilton	2010 Rangers	.401	.359
Wade Boggs	1983 Red Sox	.398	.361
Rod Carew	1977 Twins	.398	.388



HAMILTON

Falling Behind to Get Ahead

Falling behind in the count 0-2 normally isn't a ticket for success, but it was in 2010 for these players, who posted higher batting averages after starting 0-2 than they did over the full season.

Player	0-2 ABs	After 0-2	Overall
Placido Polanco, Phi	87	.322	.298
Yadier Molina, StL	62	.306	.262
Fred Lewis, Tor	98	.306	.262
Jerry Hairston Jr., SD	83	.289	.244
Juan Pierre, CWS	119	.277	.275
David Eckstein, SD	103	.272	.267

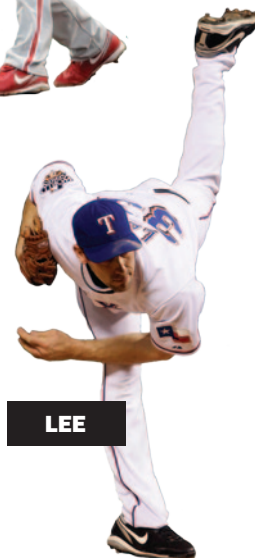


POLANCO

Coming Through on 3-2

Once hitters worked a 3-2 count in 2010, they walked more than they struck out, though not all pitchers were apt to lose the 3-2 battle. These pitchers worked in full counts at least 60 times and posted the highest strikeout-walk ratios.

Pitcher	BF	K/BB	Ratio
Roy Halladay, Phi	103	32/19	1.68
Gavin Floyd, CWS	105	39/27	1.44
Francisco Liriano, Min	98	42/30	1.40
Ryan Dempster, ChC	131	47/36	1.31
Adam Wainwright, StL	101	31/24	1.29



LEE

Stranded



The starting rotation of the World Series champion Giants attracted most of the attention, but the San Francisco bullpen led all big league clubs in save percentage (78.1) and in stranding the highest percentage of inherited baserunners.

Player	IR	IRSc	Strand Pct
San Francisco Giants	278	66	76.3
Minnesota Twins	244	58	76.2
San Diego Padres	208	53	74.5
Cleveland Indians	265	69	74.0
Tampa Bay Rays	254	68	73.2
Oakland Athletics	199	54	72.9

Blue Jay Bombers



While 2010 was a good year for pitchers, the Toronto Blue Jays became only the fourth team in major league history to stroke 250 or more home runs in a season. Only one team in history has averaged fewer at-bats per home run than the 2010 Blue Jays.

Team	Year	HR	AB/HR
Seattle Mariners	1997	264	21.27
Toronto Blue Jays	2010	257	21.38
Texas Rangers	2005	260	21.98
Baltimore Orioles	1996	257	22.14
Houston Astros	2000	249	22.37

Stingy to the Extreme

In a remarkable season split between Seattle and Texas, Cliff Lee struck out 185 batters and issued only 18 walks. Only one ERA qualifier since 1901, the beginning of the modern era, has posted a better strikeout-walk ratio.

Pitcher	Year	K	BB	Ratio
Bret Saberhagen, NYM	1994	143	13	11.00
Cliff Lee, Sea-Tex	2010	185	18	10.28
Curt Schilling, Ari	2002	316	33	9.58
Pedro Martinez, Bos	2000	284	32	8.88
Greg Maddux, Atl	1997	177	20	8.85