

A Schott From The Bleachers

Not All Home Run Hitters Were Prone to the Strikeout

by

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The feat of hitting 50 or more home runs in a season has been accomplished 23 times in major league history. Only 15 players are members of this select group. Babe Ruth produced four such seasons (1920, 1921, 1927, and 1928). Five names are on the list twice: Jimmie Foxx, Ralph Kiner, Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays and Mark McGwire.



Jimmie Foxx



Ralph Kiner



Mickey Mantle



Willie Mays



Mark McGwire



Johnny Mize (left) is the only member of the 50+ home run club to strike out fewer times than he homered in such a season. Mize fanned only 42 times in 1947 while slugging 51 homers.

On the other hand, Cecil Fielder filled the scoreboard with 182 Ks, while hitting 51 homers in 1990. That was 3.57 strikeouts for every home run.

Others who were successful at holding down the strikeout totals in a big home run year were Ralph Kiner (54 HRs/ 61 Ks), Willie Mays (51 HRs / 60 Ks), and Roger Maris (61 HRs / 67 Ks). Many among baseball's all-time home run leaders, including Hank Aaron and Frank Robinson, never hit as many as 50 homers in a season.

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Strikeouts to Home Run Ratio

(Players with 50 or More Home Runs in a Season)

Year		G	AB	HR	SO	SO/HR
1961	Roger Maris	161	590	61	67	1.10
1927	Babe Ruth	151	540	60	89	1.48
1921	Babe Ruth	152	540	59	81	1.37
1932	Jimmie Foxx	154	585	58	96	1.66
1938	Hank Greenberg	155	556	58	92	1.59
1997	Mark McGwire	156	540	58	159	2.74
1997	Ken Griffey, Jr.	157	608	56	121	2.16
1930	Hack Wilson	155	585	56	84	1.50
1920	Babe Ruth	142	458	54	80	1.48
1928	Babe Ruth	154	536	54	87	1.61
1949	Ralph Kiner	152	549	54	61	1.13
1961	Mickey Mantle	153	514	54	112	2.07
1956	Mickey Mantle	150	533	52	99	1.90
1965	Willie Mays	157	558	52	71	1.37
1977	George Foster	158	615	52	107	2.06
1996	Mark McGwire	130	423	52	112	2.15
1947	Ralph Kiner	152	565	51	81	1.59
1947	Johnny Mize	154	586	51	42	0.82
1955	Willie Mays	152	580	51	60	1.18
1990	Cecil Fielder	159	573	51	182	3.57
1938	Jimmie Foxx	149	565	50	76	1.52
1995	Albert Belle	143	546	50	80	1.60
1996	Brady Anderson	149	579	50	106	2.12

(Compiled by Arthur O. Schott)

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This article originally appeared in the May 1998 issue of *Bleacher Creature*

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