

Three Stats Players And Coaches Use To Improve

(NAPSA)—Teams looking to hit a home run when it comes to playing better this season may be interested in a few facts and stats.

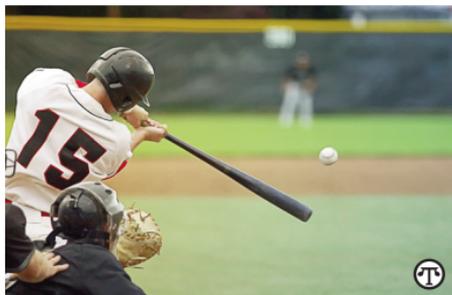
Analyzing over a billion pitches, 300 million at-bats and 7 million games scored, the leader in pro-style stats and live game updates for amateur sports launched its first annual report, “Redefining Success,” analyzing player stats both nationally and state by state.

It highlights three “process-based” metrics—First Pitch Strike Percentage (FPS%), Hard Hit Balls (HHB) and Quality At-Bats (QAB)—that coaches can use to redefine player success, enhance player development and improve player safety.

How To Help Your Team:

- **Make the First Pitch Count**—First pitch strikes lead to more outs, fewer base runners and fewer pitches thrown per inning. When pitchers throw a strike as the first pitch of an at-bat, they are far more likely to succeed. According to the study, at-bats that start with a strike result in a .322 on-base percentage, whereas if the first pitch is a ball, opponents reach base half the time (.500). The national average for FPS% is 58 percent. Pitchers with a 70 FPS% threw on average 14.4 pitches per inning, while those who had a 55 FPS% threw nearly three more pitches each inning. Lead-off walks lead to a run scored 46 percent of the time.

- **Hit the Ball Hard**—and your batting average will take care of itself. A hard hit ball is a line drive or a hard ground ball. Players who have an HHB% of 10 percent have a batting average of



When coaches emphasize teamwork, leadership and perseverance, the scoreboard will take care of itself.

.297. If the HHB% is increased to 25 percent, the batting average jumps to .334. Slugging percentages skyrocket from .348 to .470 when increasing HHB% from 10 to 25 percent.

- **Win Each Battle at the Plate**—to win the war on the scoreboard. Players with high HHB% also have more Quality At-Bats and more wins. Teams with 12 or more quality at-bats a game win at least 60 percent of the time; six quality at-bats cuts the winning percentage in half. A QAB has at least one of the following: three pitches after two strikes, six+ pitches, extra base hit, walk, SAC bunt, SAC fly.

To help coaches and players put this into practice, Ted Sullivan, former Cleveland Indian Minor League player, created a software platform called GameChanger that provides real-time amateur baseball, softball and basketball game updates, analytics and insights. It’s free to coaches on iPhone, iPad and the Web.

Learn More

For further information, visit www.gamechanger.com.