

GOLDEN SENIORS LEAGUE LEADERS -- 2006-PRESENT



Who would believe that two of the leading Golden Seniors home run hitters in recent years weigh less than 160 pounds dripping wet, or stand under five and a half-feet tall?

A.J. Petruzzi, who paced L6 with a club-wide record 10 homers in 2007, tips the scales just a few pounds above 150. Also in 2007, diminutive Bob Flink hit nine round-trippers. Of course, these were inside-the-park jobs for Petruzzi, who turns 61 in 2010, and Flink, who turns 70 in 2010. They are among the club's fleetest afoot.

Consistent over-the-fence home run hitters are few and far between in the GSSC of Sacramento. Monta Litle and Rich Ganas are generally recognized as the club's top sluggers for distance year in and year out. They hold the L5 record of nine homers, Monta in 2007 and Rich in 2008. Litle also holds the L4 HR mark of nine in 2007. Most, if not all, of their circuit clouts clear the fences as outfielders play them so far back that they'd be challenged to circle the bases on errorless hits stopped by the fence. Since over-the-fence HRs and inside-the-park HRs were not counted separately in all leagues, we cannot say for certain who the leader is in over-the-fence homers during the 2006-2009 period.

The .800 Club is rather exclusive in recent years, with only nine members matching or exceeding that batting average a combined total of ten times, having sufficient at-bats to qualify, between 2006 and 2009. The highest average was recorded by Bill Christian, who hit .829 in L4 during 2008. In that season, Christian edged Monte Miller by .003, also in L4. Four new players made the .800 Club in 2009. Rich Edwards, who hit .817 in L2, Don Jackson who hit .812 in L4, Rich Ganas who hit .800 in L5, and Doug Peterson, who hit .828 in L6. One more hit would have vaulted Doug to the highest-ever season batting average.

Other .800 hitters: John Lack (.818 in L2 in 2007), Bob Del Chiarro (.817 in L4 in 2007), Monte Miller (.800 in L4, 2007), and Dave Vargo (.800 in L2 in 2008). Miller is the only two-time .800 hitter during these four seasons.

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Statistical leaders for average, base hits and homers and runs batted in, based on scorekeeper records over the four seasons (club season record holders are in bold face):

L2 -- Batting Average: .818 John Lack, 2007; .817 Rich Edwards, 2009, .800 Dave Vargo, 2008. Base Hits: 60 Merv Mill, 2007; 56 Vic Torres, 2008. HR: 9 Bob Flink, 2007; 5 Vidal Franco, 2007; 5 Ron Peck, 2007; 5 Dave Vargo, 2007, 5 Bill Nevis, 2009; RBI: 47 Joe Saiz, 2007; 40 Bob Flink, 2007; 40 Vic Torres, 2007.

L3 -- Batting Average: .795 Norm Blackwell Jr., 2009; .771 Blackwell, 2008. Base Hits: 58 Blackwell, 2009, 57 Wayne Yamamura, 2006; HR: 8 Barry Mortimeyer, 2007; 5 Rich Del Chiaro, 2006; 5 A.J. Petruzzi 2007; 5 Dave Vargo, 2006; 5 Emilio Lobato, 2009, 5 Jack Wabinga, 2009. RBI: 55 M.R. Evans, 2006; 51 Barry Mortimeyer, 2007.

L4 -- Batting Average: **.829 Bill Christian, 2008**; .826 Monte Miller, 2008; .812 Don Jackson, 2009. Base Hits: **66 Allen Riker, 2009**; 63 Bill Christian, 2008. HR: 9 Monta Litle, 2007; 8 Lobato, 2007; RBI: **64 Monte Miller, 2009**; 59 Miller, 2008.

L5 -- Batting Average: .800 Rich Ganas, 2009; .779 Bob Del Chiaro, 2008; Base Hits: 59 George Lamb, 2006; 59 Allen Riker, 2006; 59 Dave Vargo, 2006. HR: 9 Monta Litle, 2007; 9 Rich Ganas, 2008. RBI: 60, Monta Litle, 2006; 55 Rich Ganas, 2007.

L6 -- Batting Average: .828 Doug Peterson, 2009; .784 Bob Cummings, 2007. Base Hits: 58 Dave Vargo, 2008; 55 Doug Peterson, 2008; 55 Bob Fenton, 2009. **HR: 10 A.J. Petruzzi, 2007**; 5 Bob Cummings, 2007. RBI: 53 Doug Peterson 2008; 53 Dave Vargo, 2008.

L7 -- Batting Average: .749 Jim Stinson, 2009; .742 Henry Low, 2009. Hits: 56 Stinson, 2009; 49 Don Wall, 2009. HR: 2 Low, 2009, 1 Ray Crews, 2009. RBI: 33 Low, 2009; 30 John Figlar, 2009.

(Note: L1 does not maintain batting statistics. L6 began in 2007. L7 began in 2009. Thanks to statmeister Dave Vargo for compiling this report, as well as noticing the weight and height of the prodigious sluggers with rabbit-like quickness on the bases.)