



Hitting Stars for the month Hitting coach Eddie Kranepool was happy to turn in this report: Ramon Vazquez has been solid. He is our leading hitter against right-handed pitchers and has shown good patience at the plate for a young hitter. Right behind him is Quinton McCracken, the veteran who has fit right into the clubhouse and the lineup. Against the southpaws, Greg Colbrunn has been unbelievable! He slugged 1.115 with a .500 average with 4 homers and 10 RBIs in 30 AB. Then Eric Karros has done a great job vs. those lefties. I need to at least mention Chris Gomez who has been playing real hard and batting .293.

Now if we could get the rest of the guys doing what they should we could raise the team batting average over .260.



Pitching Goats Jimmy Key, the pitching coach was pleased with the overall team performance, but was disappointed in a few guys. "I

have been working with Eric Milton for a few years and while he keeps improving, but he often struggles with the long ball. He gave up a team leading 9 home runs, while striking out 28 and walking only 7 in 45 innings. Veteran Andy Ashby also had trouble with allowing home runs 8 in only 25 innings. Andy has not found his groove yet for the Mets, but maybe he does not like the cold weather and will do better in the warmer months ahead."

"I have been surprised pleasantly by Mike Venafró. He made the team as our

tenth pitcher because he throws left-handed, but has 1.88 ERA and 8K-1 BB although he allowed 2 homers. Keep up the good work Mike!"

Hey, Hey, Hey, Where's Albert?

Last season Albert Pujols was the National League Rookie of the Year and the Mets Most Valuable Player. He was predicted to carry his team this year as he did last year, but that has not been the case so far. Mets bench coach, Mike Stanley is still in the corner of the Mets star player. "Albert still leads the team in RBI, hits, doubles and has started games in left field, third base and first base. No his average is only .272 so he is not quite where we expect him to be, and he has only 2 home runs. He has been pulling off the ball a little and popping the ball up, instead of getting those line drives. With Greg (Colbrunn) and Eric (Karros) hitting so well against the south paws, Albert has moved down from his familiar #3 or #4 to #5 for now. We expect him to make some adjustments and be back to where he should be, representing us at the All-Star game."

Last month's question?

In April, we wondered if Brian Roberts could hit enough to help the Mets. When the dust settled the answer was, a broken finger on his right hand after one of those headfirst slides. He batted only .246, but was 14/17 in stolen bases, to lead the team, 22 bases on balls, to lead the team and 6 sacrifice hits to lead the team. He also played flawlessly in the field in 21 games. Mets manager liked what he saw, "Brian provided us a spark and scored 13 runs, unfortunately the injury will keep him out for some time. We hope to have him back in September.