

MANNING

Manny Ramirez powers the Indians

PITCHERS TAKE COVER! THE CLEVELAND Indians are scoring runs by the truckload. Their lineup is loaded with big bats that are blasting opponents for an average of six runs per game.

Manny Ramirez is swinging the biggest bat of all. Manny, age 27, is 6 feet and 205 pounds of muscle. He bats cleanup. Cleveland's first three hitters reach base ahead of Manny so often that he has plenty of chances to drive them in. Manny has become an RBI machine!

"Every time we need a run, Manny finds a way to bring it home," says Indian shortstop Omar Vizquel. "I hope he doesn't get tired."

Manny had 96 RBIs by the All-Star

break in mid-July. At that blistering pace, he could break the single-season record of 191 RBIs. That record was set in 1930 by Hack Wilson of the Chicago Cubs!

Manny has been the Indians' starting rightfielder since 1995. He had 45 homers and 145 RBIs last season.

Manny's bat is loud, but he is quiet. He rarely talks to reporters. He often seems to be in his own world. Manny sometimes grabs a teammate's bat without realizing it and uses it during his turn at the plate. He usually gets a hit anyway!

"Manny is really fun to watch," says first baseman Jim Thome.

Unless you're on the other team!

— BY ALAN SCHWARZ

Manny's bat keeps driving these guys home:

Kenny Lofton, centerfield: Kenny starts the attack. He stole 58 bases per season from 1992 through 1998. He led the A.L. in runs scored (82), as of July 19.

Omar Vizquel, shortstop: Speedy Omar stole 40 bases per season from 1997 through 1998. He is getting on base a lot, thanks to his .325 batting average.

Roberto Alomar, second base: Roberto keeps the attack rolling. He hit .324, with 12 homers, in the first half of the season. He also stole 21 bases.



JOHN WILLIAMSON/MLB PHOTOS



DAVID DUROCHKI/SPORTSPICS

67



CHRIS WILSON/SPORTSPICS

20

40

Machine

1. What team does Manny Ramirez play for?
2. What is the line up for Cleveland loaded with?
3. If Manny weighs 205 pounds, what is his weight in ounces?
4. What place in the batting order does Manny hit?
5. How many RBI'S did Manny have at the All-Star break?
6. Who set the record of most RBI'S in a single season?
7. Who is the centerfielder for Cleveland?
8. How many more bases per season did Lofton steal than Vizquel?
9. What happens when Manny uses another team mates bat by mistake?
10. List the three players that Manny usually drives in with a hit.