GENERAL

ken griffey jr career stats

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Introduction

When you think of baseball greatness, a handful of names come to mind—Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, and, of course, Ken Griffey Jr. Known for his effortless swing, soaring home runs, and a dazzling glove, Griffey captured the hearts of fans across the United States. His on field accomplishments are matched only by the sheer joy he brought to the game. In this deep dive, we'll explore every facet of Ken Griffey Jr.'s career, from his early days in the minor leagues to his final at bat in 2007. Whether you're a lifelong fan or new to the sport, this guide will give you a comprehensive understanding of his career stats and the legacy that still echoes in baseball history.

Early Life and Rise to the Majors

Born on August 1, 1969, in East St. Louis, Illinois, Ken Griffey Jr. was destined for greatness. His father, Ken Griffey Sr., was a professional pitcher who played for the Cleveland Indians, and the baseball lineage was strong. Griffey's early exposure to the sport fostered an innate talent that would soon become legendary.

After excelling at St. Louis Park High School, Griffey was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 1986 MLB draft. He spent two years in the Reds' farm system, honing his skills in the Midwest League and the Southern League. By 1988, his performance earned him a promotion to the Triple A level with the Indianapolis Indians, where he posted a .314 batting average with 12 home runs and 67 RBIs.

On September 27, 1989, Griffey made his Major League debut with the Cincinnati Reds. He hit his first Major League home run in his very first at bat, a moment that would become a signature highlight of his career. The Reds, recognizing his potential, signed him to a lucrative contract that would set the stage for a decade long partnership.

The Seattle Mariners Era

In 1990, the Seattle Mariners acquired Ken Griffey Jr. for a trade that included pitcher Randy Johnson. The move was a turning point for both Griffey and the franchise. With the Mariners, he became the face of the team, earning the nickname "Ken the Kid." The 1990s were a period of explosive power hitting and defensive brilliance for the outfielder.

Statistical Highlights (1990 2000)

- Batting Average: .285
- Home Runs: 412 (league leader in 1993 and 1995)
- RBIs: 1,149
- Stolen Bases: 140
- On Base Percentage: .383
- Slugging Percentage: .623
- OPS: 1.006

These numbers illustrate Griffey's consistency and power. He was a perennial All Star, earning 13 selections from 1990 to 2003. His 1993 season was particularly remarkable, as he hit 42 home runs and drove in 116 runs, earning the American League MVP award.

Defensive Mastery

Defensively, Griffey was a rare blend of agility and range. He led the American League in outfield assists in 1995 and 1998, and his 1,245 total outfield assists rank among the most in MLB history. He also stole the first base in the 1995 World Series, a testament to his speed and base running intelligence.

Career Milestones and Accolades

Ken Griffey Jr.'s career is dotted with memorable moments that have become part of baseball lore. Below are some of his most significant achievements:

1. 1993 AL MVP – Recognized for leading the league in home runs and RBIs.
2. 1995 World Series Champion – Hit a pivotal home run in Game 4, securing the Mariners' first championship.
3. 12× All Star – Consistently performed at the highest level over a decade.
4. 1996 Silver Slugger Award – Awarded for offensive excellence in the outfield.
5. Hall of Fame Inductee (2016) – Honored for his impact on the game.

Ken Griffey Jr. Career Stats – A Detailed Breakdown

Below is a comprehensive look at Ken Griffey Jr.'s career stats, broken down by season, batting, power numbers, and fielding. These figures highlight why he is often compared to baseball's all time greats.

Seasonal Performance (1990 2007)

Year	Team	Games	AVG	HR	RBIs	SB
1990	Seattle Mariners	131	.245	23	73	5
1991	Seattle Mariners	157	.279	29	111	12
1992	Seattle Mariners	155	.280	32	112	15
1993	Seattle Mariners	160	.312	42	116	10
1994	Seattle Mariners	83	.292	20	58	3
1995	Seattle Mariners	158	.287	51	119	2
1996	Seattle Mariners	151	.288	37	104	3
1997	Seattle Mariners	155	.281	34	106	5
1998	Seattle Mariners	149	.274	30	87	3
1999	Seattle Mariners	151	.276	32	95	1
2000	Seattle Mariners	155	.260	28	78	0
2001	Seattle Mariners	131	.260	24	68	0
2002	Seattle Mariners	147	.267	22	69	0
2003	Seattle Mariners	145	.244	18	59	0
2004	Cincinnati Reds	140	.260	13	35	0
2005	Cincinnati Reds	139	.242	6	20	0
2006	Cincinnati Reds	96	.232	5	15	0
2007	Cincinnati Reds	45	.215	2	8	0

Career Totals

- Games: 2,554
- Batting Average: .284
- Home Runs: 462
- Runs Batted In: 1,530
- Runs Scored: 1,287
- Hits: 2,485
- Walks: 1,052
- Stolen Bases: 140
- Outfield Assists: 1,245
- Fielding Percentage: .995

Power Numbers

Griffey's slugging ability is evident in his career totals:

- Slugging Percentage (SLG): .623
- On Base Plus Slugging (OPS): 1.006
- Extra Base Hits: 1,040 (1,040 doubles, triples, and home runs)
- Total Bases: 4,112

Defensive Metrics

Defensively, Griffey was a pioneer of the modern outfielder's skill set. He led the American League in outfield assists three times and maintained a career fielding percentage of .995. His 1,245 outfield assists rank him in the top 10 of all time, and his 1,345 total chances (putouts, assists, errors) reflect his high level of activity in the field.

Impact on the Game and Legacy

Ken Griffey Jr.'s influence extends far beyond his statistical achievements. He was a catalyst for the modern era of baseball, blending power, speed, and defensive brilliance into a package that many teams strive to replicate. His charismatic presence and love for the game earned him nicknames such as "The Kid," "King of the Outfield," and "Ken the Great."

Beyond the numbers, Griffey was a role model for younger generations. He mentored players like Ichiro Suzuki and contributed to the development of the next wave of outfielders. His humanitarian efforts, including the creation of the *Ken Griffey Jr. Foundation*, demonstrate his commitment to giving back to the community.

Griffey's Hall of Fame induction in 2016 was a fitting tribute to a career that redefined what it means to be a baseball superstar. His legacy lives on through the countless fans who remember his soaring home runs and the Mariners' "Blue White" era.

Comparing Ken Griffey Jr. to Other

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