

Bronx Bombers Pummeling Pitchers

By Dave Lukow

The New York Yankees haven't been kind to opposing pitchers.

In their first year under manager Aaron Boone, the Yankees (43-19), are in first place in the American League East. The Boston Red Sox (47-22) have more wins, but New York, at .694, has a better winning percentage. Boston's winning percentage (.681) ranks second in MLB.

A key for the Yankees has been a lineup loaded with power. New York batters have hit a league-high 105 home runs. The Yanks also lead MLB in RBI (332). They've scored 341 runs, second only to Boston, which has 349.

Heading into the season, expectations for the Yankees were high, especially considering the offseason trade that brought slugger Giancarlo Stanton to New York. While Stanton has contributed - the former Miami star has 40 runs, 15 home runs and 34 RBIs - other players are also making a dent.

Outfielder Aaron Judge, who hit 52 home runs in 2017, is batting .271 with 44 runs, 18 homers, 45 RBIs and 47 walks. Shortstop Didi Gregorius has 13 home runs, 38 RBIs and 41 runs. Gary Sanchez, New York's starting catcher, is only batting .190, but has 33 runs, 12 home runs, 35 RBIs and 28 walks.

Austin Romine, who plays behind Sanchez, is hitting .348 with four home runs and 20 RBIs.

Veteran outfielder Brett Gardner, a regular in the Bronx since 2008, has 41 runs, 10 doubles, a pair of triples, five homers, 21 RBIs and 31 walks. He's batting .263.

Two rookies - Gleyber Torres and Miguel Andujar - are playing like seasoned pros. A second baseman, Torres, who's just 21, is hitting .297 with 20 runs, 11 home runs and 29 RBIs. Andujar, New York's regular third baseman, is batting .310. A native of the Dominican Republic, Andujar has added 30 runs, 63 hits, 21 doubles, eight home runs and 28 RBIs.

It's still June - there's plenty of baseball ahead - but the abundance of firepower has New York looking like a team destined to play well into October.