



Luke Voit Making Dent With Yankees By Dave Lukow

Luke Voit has made a difference.

Acquired by the New York Yankees from St. Louis near the end of July, Voit has been a powerhouse since coming to the Bronx. The Missouri native recently became the fifth player in New York's storied history to have at least 30 hits and 10 home runs in their first 30 games with the club.

Babe Ruth, back in 1920, was the first Yankee to accomplish the feat. Roger Maris became the second in 1960.

In 33 games with New York, Voit has 23 runs, 11 homers, 25 RBIs and 12 walks. He's hitting .306 in pinstripes. In 8 games with the Cardinals, he hit just .182 with one home run and three RBIs.

Voit, who played collegiately at Missouri State, made his MLB debut in 2017, finishing with 18 runs, four home runs and 18 RBIs for the Cardinals. His batting average was .246.

St. Louis selected Voit, 27, in the 22nd round of the 2013 MLB Draft. Kansas City drafted him in the 32nd round in 2009, but he decided not to sign.

With the postseason getting close, Voit seems the favorite to be New York's starting first baseman. His main competition for the job, Greg Bird, has struggled through much of 2018. In 79 games with the Yankees, Bird's hitting .195 with 15 doubles, 11 home runs and 37 RBIs. After missing the 2016 campaign, he had nine homers and 28 RBIs in 48 games last year. He hit .190.

New York, at 95-69, is fighting Oakland for the top wild card in the American League. The A's, 5-5 in their last 10 games, are 94-62. The Yanks clinched a playoff berth September 22.

The Yankees got a boost last week when outfielder Aaron Judge returned to the lineup. Limited to 106 games due to injury, Judge is batting .278 with 72 runs, 21 doubles, 26 home runs and 62 RBIs. The American League Rookie of the Year in 2017, he has 72 walks and six stolen bases.

