

Home On The Green...MORE

Feature

Kelley Richards...Up to Bat

- Spring Training was the time to work with the ball players along with the club equipment manager to establish what customized baseball bats were needed for the players.
- Each major league team orders one to two dozen bats per player to start the season.
- Ball players average 6 to 8 dozen bats over the course of a ball season.
- Players who signed a Louisville Slugger bat contract had their signature branded onto their bats.
- Major League Baseball bats are made from wood, specifically white ash and maple, and are manufactured to a certain weight, length, barrel size and wood finish.
- The bats are made using specialized computerized lathes.
- Every ball player has his own unique bat specifications. If the bat doesn't feel right, the player won't use it.
- Bat specifications include.....a particular barrel pattern, handle thickness, wide grain or thin grade wood, flame treated finish, painted finish, lacquer finish, unfinished, or stained.
- Players know what wood preference they like. Some use only one type of wood; others use multiple kinds.

- Ball players were always looking to improve their performance at the plate so during the ball season some players might change their bat specifications.
- When the playoffs started, Louisville Slugger made bats with special graphics 'burn stamped' on them indicating ALCS (American League Championship Series) or NLCS (National League Championship Series). If those teams made it to the World Series, Louisville Slugger would then stamp the year and 'World Series' on their bats.
- The playoff & World Series bats were still made to the same specifications as their 'in season' bats.