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## How good is your catcher's throw?

How about using the baseball golden gun equation to offer some serious information on your catchers throwing ability?

In major league baseball the golden gun award goes to the best catcher at shooting down would-be baserunners.

The winner is the major-league leader in Stolen Base Runs Prevented (SBRP). This is calculated from:

- the number of opponent steals (SB)
- the number of runners the catcher throws out (CS)
- the number of runners the catcher picks off (CPO)

Using this simple formula on a spreadsheet:  $SBRP = 0.49*(CS+CPO) - 0.16*SB$

	SB	CS	CPO	SBRP
Catcher #1	27	41	2	16.8
Catcher #2	31	25	5	9.7
Catcher #3	45	30	4	9.4
Catcher #4	58	31	1	6.3
Catcher #5	84	18	0	-4.62

The higher the number the better and some catchers could be in minus which obviously needs improvement.

This equation is based on 'Historical figures' from baseball.

On average a stolen base is worth 0.16 runs to an attacking team (batting).

Caught stealing costs the attacking team (batting) 0.49

But when you consider the running (batting) team needs to succeed about 3 times per every time caught stealing just to break even in the running game then this is possible ( $.49 / 0.16 = 3$ )

Try it over this season in softball. Your team scorer will need to record the CPO separately. Hopefully this will also encourage your catcher to try picking off more runners on base.

The pick off to the 2<sup>nd</sup> baseperson running from behind at 1B can be a real surprise.

The NZ White Sox used this against the World Series 2012 Champions Japan with astonishing success! Well done the dynamic trio of Melanie Gettins (Catcher) and Brooke McManus (2B) and Megan Farrell for pitching the perfect pitch out.

Have a look at below for catchers caught stealing footage and baseball article:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yb9Ykr5y4rg>

<http://www.baseballprospectus.com/article.php?articleid=1311>