

Name _____

MARK McGWIRE

A Man of His Word



Mark McGwire made a promise to his father. He said for his dad's 61st birthday, he would hit a home run. Mark kept his word. On Labor Day, he blasted his 61st home run of the season out of the ballpark. The fans jumped to their feet and roared!

McGwire was born in Pomona, California, in 1963. When he was a young boy, his father said no to Little League. There had been some arguing and other bad behavior at children's ball games. When Mark was eight, however, his dad gave in.

In his first Little League game, he slammed the ball over the wire fence for a home run.

The slugger continued racking up home runs. In 1997, McGwire was traded by Oakland to St. Louis. The first time he played for the Cardinals, he sent the ball sailing for a home run. By the end of August 1998, Mark launched the baseball more than 500 feet five times. Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs and Mark were friendly rivals for the home run record. McGwire would emerge triumphant. By the time the season ended, he had hit 70 homers.

Mark has won a number of awards. He received the Rawlings Gold Glove in 1990. In 1996, he was named to the Silver Slugger Team. He was named to the All-Star team ten times.

"There are power hitters, and then there is Mark McGwire. He's way beyond anybody else in this game," said catcher Tom Pagnozzi.

Name _____

MARK McGWIRE

Write your answers on the lines of the pattern.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

1. McGwire was born in 196____.
2. In 1998, he hit _____ home runs.
3. He said he would hit a home run for his _____'s 61st birthday.
4. He slammed the _____ over the wire fence.
5. St. _____ Cardinals
6. His dad said no to Little _____.
7. In 1996, he was named to the Silver _____ Team.
8. Sammy Sosa and Mark were _____ rivals.
9. The slugger _____ racking up home runs.
10. McGwire would emerge _____.

Research: Use an encyclopedia. Find Roger Maris. He was born in
North Dakota, on _____, 1934. He broke _____'s home
run record in 1961.