



VIVE and WIN Reality Drive Big League Results with VR Training Simulation

Paired with VIVE hardware, batters are able to gain an edge in between games.



As the old saying in sports goes, “there is no off season.” Whether it’s hiring a professional nutritionist or building a gym at home, athletes are continuously searching for ways to make sure they stay at the top of their game, year-round. It’s the kind of dedication that ultimately separates the great from the good.

Staying on the grind

Consistency is key, no matter the sport, which is why setting a routine is so important for reaching peak performance, since developing good habits are the building blocks every hitter needs to elevate their game. With so much reliance on an established regiment to keep their skillset sharp, players are always working on maintaining their edge—which isn’t always easy.

Welcome to the virtual show

When it comes to baseball-related training it helps to start with players—or in this case a retired catcher and former general manager. Before injuries forced Chris O’Dowd into retirement, he teamed up with his father, and former GM, Dan O’Dowd. Together they founded a VR training simulator called WIN Reality. Based partially on the struggles Chris faced with staying healthy enough to develop good plate discipline, WIN is designed to complement a range of player’s existing training routine. It also seamlessly blends together the game’s technical and mental aspects for a comprehensive experience. The idea behind the program is to provide the look and feel of an actual game when practicing on a field or at a facility with other athletes is

not an option. In order to make this possible, WIN had to have an array of options when it came to the type of pitching situations a batter could face. Staring down fastballs, hitting against left handers, batting with a full count, and more. Each player could go through a multitude of in-game scenarios to ensure their mechanics don't get rusty—especially if they've been away from the game for a while due to injury or offseason. **Thanks to multiple levels, a batter can face 287 different VR-generated pitchers—replicating numerous pitching styles—as well as some of the top names in the majors.** This vast selection perfectly suits batters of different skillsets. At the heart of program is a database compiled from film sessions of actual games. That information is then used to create a virtual pitcher or provide granular details about a current pitcher in the league. Everything from their throwing motion down to personal tendencies, like exhaling before entering their windup, is captured and replicated in the simulation. Such an attention to detail provides the user with a true-to-life exactness that literally makes them feel like they're playing in a live game. Players can even place a VIVE Tracker on the bats they'll be using in actual competition to get a true feel for their swing and follow-through.

For WIN Reality to maximize everything the simulation has to offer, they decided to make VIVE Pro Eye their headset of choice. All this benefits the hitter during each at-bat by helping them improve pitch identification, tracking ball trajectory, and timing their swings. The headset features high resolution for precise clarity, Hi-Res headphones, and 3D spatial integration with a built-in amplifier that offers true-to-life audio. It's ergonomically engineered to provide maximum comfort throughout extended use. The system also provides sub-millimeter accuracy from SteamVR™ Tracking. All this makes the VIVE Pro Eye and VIVE Tracker the ideal system for the most immersive experience.



WIN Reality earns its way into the lineup

From the high school players looking to make varsity to some of the MLB's most feared sluggers—like Aaron Judge—WIN Reality is ensuring players on all levels can improve their rhythm and timing at game-speed. By being able to recognize such things as pitch velocity, location, delivery, and trajectory, batters are seeing and hitting the ball better. Just ask people like Chili Davis, the hitting coach for the New York Mets, who claims:

“It’s an advanced visualization tool, because you’re programming your mind ahead of time to what that guy might do to you... there’s a lot of benefit to it.”—Chili Davis

In fact, with WIN Reality training, players have shown the ability to recognize a pitch 6 feet sooner. The Los Angeles Dodgers—another major league team in a huge market—also relies on the program to help the team keep up in the always competitive National League West division. They even have designated areas at the ballpark dubbed “WIN Labs” and travel with a portable version of the setup whenever they're away playing road games. This kind of reliability is one of the reasons WIN Reality is becoming a vital part of many team's game plan. Currently, over 20 MLB clubs are using the program as part of their player development, and for good reason. **Just a 10% increase in WIN Series generated results led to an average 6.8% improvement in real-world-on-base percentage—a statistic that shows how well a batter is at reaching first base through a hit or a walk.** Due to the ability to get different perspectives on an opposing team's starting rotation, as well as gain bullpen familiarity, baseball players of all types can enjoy more productive at-bats. Whether it's on the road, at home, or during a rain delay, they can simply drop themselves into any stadium to face off against any pitcher, whenever they choose. Built around convenience and reliability, WIN Reality is the type of training players lean on to ensure they consistently produce numbers that lead to victories and big contracts. With WIN Reality as part of their team, batters at all stages can rake in big league results.