



Baseball for beginners

Baseball is the national sport of the USA. Two teams, each with nine players, are pitted against one another. The pitcher throws the ball to his catcher past the other team's batter. If the batter manages to strike the ball, he must try to reach a base before the ball returns to play. A run is scored if the batter reaches the fourth base. Only the batting team can score points. The winner is the team which scores the most runs from nine innings. There is no time limit and the score cannot be a draw. If the scores are equal after all nine players on each team have batted, the game continues until there is a winner.

The ideal training partner for professional baseball players

A training machine which can take the place of a perfect pitcher is causing a stir in the USA

The balls fly through the air as if thrown by an invisible hand: to the left, to the right, diagonally or straight as a die, slowly or up to a maximum speed of 100 miles an hour. A training machine which can take the place of a perfect pitcher is causing a stir in the USA. This is good news for all baseball players who have to practise batting. The pitching machine means that they no longer have to find a top-notch pitcher for a training partner.

The system combines a computerised baseball pitching machine with state-of-the-art technology. A life-size image of a pitcher in action is even projected onto a video wall for the batter using the machine for training purposes. However, it is not the pitcher but the machine which pitches the balls out of the pipe in the machine, reproducing the motions of a perfect pitcher down to the very last detail.

The ProBatter Sports company, based in Milford in the US state of



Connecticut has been designing and selling these machines since 1999. The company is committed to continuously improving its products.

Crucial to this process was the search for a motor inverter for the precision control of the drive wheels. The Lenze subsidiary AC Tech provided a solution with frequency inverters from the smd range. The axes have to be accelerated or moved precisely so that the machine can simulate a slider or a slurve with high precision.

Michael Suba, Deputy Head of Technology at ProBatter Sports LLC, told us that the ProBatter simulator works

with three wheels. "This enables us to simulate almost any pitch a human being would be capable of." Pitching machines produced by other manufacturers only have two drive wheels. "Our smd range inverters are able to provide the features the ProBatter Sports engineers were looking for", Darrow Hanesian, AC Tech's Sales Manager for North America, told us. "This drive, which boasts highly dynamic braking capacities, can brake the wheels on the machine faster and with higher repeat accuracy." The system is also very reliable and cost-effective. The excellent support provided by AC Tech was also an advantage.

The ProBatter systems are so unique that six US patents have been granted for several system features. A number of other applications are currently being considered by the Patent Office.

ProBatter Sports LLC

ProBatter Sports, based at Milford, Connecticut, designs and sells state-of-the-art baseball training systems and accessories to numerous international distributors. The company offers a wide range of products. Batters, pitchers and catchers of all ages – both professionals and amateurs – are bound to find the products they need here.

www.probatter.com

AC Technology

Lenze's American subsidiary AC Technology (AC Tech) offers an extensive range of cost-effective and high-performance standard motor drives – from the smallest sub-micro drive in the world to a 185 kW unit.

www.actechdrives.com