

Comments (0) | [Recommend](#) (0)

- [Print](#)
- [Reprint or License](#)
- [Share](#)

Fortune hits home run jackpot

By Cliff Mehrtens

cmehrtens@charlotteobserver.com

Posted: Friday, May. 08, 2009



SouthLake Christian's Jared Fortune, a sophomore, has 12 home runs this season and is hitting .488 through 25 games. "Home runs happen when you're prepared," he said. "A lot of it is mental." DAVID T. FOSTER III – dtfoster@charlotteobserver.com

[To purchase this photo](#) | [Browse our store](#)

More Information

- [Fortune hits home run jackpot](#)
- [Hickory's Parks to walk on at Charlotte](#)
- [Spano finishes with kick with 3 conference titles](#)
- [22 from Carolinas in all-American game](#)
- [Knights ace lands CISAA honor](#)

Jared Fortune hits home runs by trying not to.

"You can't go up to the plate thinking home run," said Fortune, the cleanup hitter at SouthLake Christian High. "I try to have the mindset of getting a line drive, and then the home runs will come."

Fortune, a sophomore, has smacked 12 this season, tops among hitters at Observer-area schools.

He's not just a long-ball specialist. Fortune, in 25 games, is hitting .488 (40-for-82) and has 45 RBIs. He has six home runs on the road and six at home.

"Jared is extremely quiet and humble," SouthLake Christian coach Rich Landis said. "I've been around more than 20 years, and what stands out is his desire to play the game. He's a sponge when it comes to coaching."

SouthLake (11-14) will play at Westchester Country Day (14-7) at 4:30 p.m. Saturday in the N.C. Independent Schools Athletic Association 2A playoffs. Fortune, at 6-foot-4 and 220 pounds, is an imposing figure at home plate. But hitting home runs is more than brute strength.

"Power comes from working on my mechanics, and from your lower body," he said. "Home runs happen when

you're prepared. A lot of it is mental.”

Fortune said his patience has improved, as he's more prone to wait for a favorable count. He also visualizes his at-bats long before he steps into the batter's box.

Landis said he noticed a difference in the first game.

“Jared was more selective at the pitches he swung at,” he said. “He shortened his swing, and he'll take the outside pitch to left-center. He's hitting .488, so he's not just about hitting home runs.”

Fortune had three home runs as a freshman. Last winter, he was adamant about working on his swing with several coaches.

“The (12 home runs have) surprised me a little bit,” Fortune said. “I have to credit the coaches who've helped me.”

Landis said Fortune hasn't buckled under expectations the 12 home runs sometimes spawn.

“That's where his humble attitude comes into play,” Landis said. “He just goes about his business, does it well and you can see he's having fun doing it. That's a special attribute that doesn't come along often.”

 [Subscribe to The Charlotte Observer & Earn Miles.](#)

This affects comments on all stories.

[Disclaimer](#)

The Charlotte Observer welcomes your comments on news of the day. The more voices engaged in conversation, the better for us all, but do keep it civil. Please refrain from profanity, obscenity, spam, name-calling or attacking others for their views. [Read more](#)

POWERED BY 

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Comments:  0 Showing:

More comments on this story:

that readers will not occasionally find offensive or inaccurate comments posted on our website. In addition, we remind anyone interested in making an online comment that responsibility for statements posted lies with the person submitting the comment, not The Charlotte Observer.

If you find a comment offensive, clicking on the exclamation icon will flag the comment for review by the administrators, we are counting on the good judgment of all our readers to help us.

The Charlotte Observer is pleased to be able to offer its users the opportunity to make comments and hold conversations online. However, the interactive nature of the internet makes it impracticable for our staff to monitor each and every posting.

Since charlotteobserver.com does not control user submitted statements, we cannot promise

[Southlake Generalcontractors](#)

Find prescreened general contractors in Southlake in just one click.
[contractors.clicksmart.com](#)

[Asia Fortune Your Future](#)

This Professional Fortune Teller reveals all year 2009 here and Now.
[AboutAstro.com](#)

[Save on Southlake TX Accommodation](#)

Hotel Deals in Southlake, TX. Compare Prices and Save up to 75%.
[Southlake.Hotel.net/Hotel-deals](#)

Ads by Yahoo!