

Top 21 Single-Season Rockies Home Run Leaders

There was nothing quite like the thin air at Coors Field in the late 1990s and early 2000s, right? The Rockies home run leaders for a single season is proof of that, as [Nolan Arenado's](#) 2015 performance of 42 [home runs](#) has been the only occurrence that's come close to cracking the very top of this list.

While his first year in Denver didn't go as planned, [Kris Bryant](#) will likely find his way on this list at some point in the near future. But for now, let's take a look at the most powerful seasons in Rockies history, with the top five all happening between 1996 and 2001. Then, we'll list out the rest of the top 21.

Rockies Home Run Leaders: Top 5

Larry Walker: 49 Home Runs in 1997

[Larry Walker](#) put together nine different seasons with at least 4.0 fWAR during his Hall of Fame career, but none were better than his 1997 campaign. He posted 9.1 fWAR with a 177 wRC+, both of which were career-high marks for a single season. He did a little bit of everything while winning NL MVP honors, as he went to the All-Star Game, won a Gold Glove, and brought home a Silver Slugger award. The outfielder slashed a ridiculous .366/.425/.720 line with 49 home runs, 42 doubles, 130 RBI, 143 runs scored...and 33 stolen bases.

Nobody can say he had this crazy season specifically because of Coors, though. Walker hit 29 of his 49 home runs on the road and had a slightly better OPS on the road (1.176) than at home (1.169) in 26 fewer plate appearances. And while his performance was better when Colorado won ballgames, it wasn't bad when they lost, either. He still slashed .323/.396/.589 with 17 homers and 49 RBI when the Rockies came up short. But when they won? Those numbers jumped to .403/.497/.833 with 32 homers and 88 RBI.

He made an impact in more ways than just being on the field. If you're wondering what I mean, just give this [excellent piece on Walker's number retirement](#) from SB Nation's Purple Row a read.

Todd Helton: 49 Home Runs in 2001

[Todd Helton](#) is a special case here because he not only owns a share of the franchise's [single-season home run record](#), but he also used a powerful first half of his career to become the [Rockies' all-time home run king](#), too. As we'll see below, this was the end of the most powerful two-year stretch of Helton's career.

He slashed a healthy .336/.432/.685 while posting 40-plus homers and 140-plus RBI for the second straight year. In addition to winning his second straight Silver Slugger award, he also added a Gold Glove to his mantle. And how's this for some consistency -- when looking at his

monthly splits throughout the season, Helton never finished with an OPS below 1.000. That's cool, but it gets better.

There was just one month when he finished with fewer than 20 RBI (it was 17 in July). He also slugged exactly eight homers in every month of the year, except for May...when he just missed that number and hit nine.

Andrés Galarraga: 47 Home Runs in 1996

[Andrés Galarraga](#) was a solid player -- and a powerful hitter -- throughout his MLB career, but his peak power production came as a member of the Rockies. He hit 399 home runs over 19 big-league seasons, and 172 of them -- about 43% -- came in just five years with Colorado. The Big Cat enjoyed four straight seasons of 30-plus homers, with the last two being at least 40.

The 1996 season was the apex of his power, which was his age-35 campaign. Those 47 homers were a single-season career-high mark and they also led the league. He was at the top of the RBI leaderboard with 150, as well. If we add in his first year with the Atlanta Braves in 1998, Galarraga enjoyed three straight seasons with 40-plus homers and 120-plus RBI. This performance for Colorado was the [most powerful for a Rockies first baseman](#) in history...until Helton came along.

Galarraga's home/road splits are more of what the masses would expect from a Rockies hitter, though. He slashed an incredible .359/.419/.738 with 32 home runs and 103 RBI at Coors. On the road, those numbers dropped down to .245/.290/.458, 15, and 47, respectively.

Vinny Castilla: 46 Home Runs in 1998

[Vinny Castilla](#) had a pretty long power prime while with the Rockies. It lasted from his age-27 to his age-31 campaigns, which spanned between 1995 and 1999. He enjoyed five straight seasons of 30-plus homers (with three being 40-plus) and four straight seasons of 100-plus RBI during this time. Castilla's 1998 performance was the best of the bunch, as his 46 dingers and 144 RBI were easily career-best marks.

What's interesting here is that the third baseman had plenty of success going up to the plate and immediately being aggressive. He made contact with the first pitch of an at-bat 157 times, and Castilla posted a 1.138 OPS with 12 homers and 42 RBI in that specific situation.

Todd Helton: 42 Home Runs in 2000

Technically, we have a tie here between Helton's 2000 season and Arenado's 2015 season. So to break the tie, I compared each player's fWAR and wRC+ in said seasons. In both instances, Helton (7.1 and 160) easily beat out Arenado (4.5 and 121).

While Helton wasn't a finalist for the MVP award and finished fifth in the voting, he nearly won a triple crown by leading the league in batting average (.372), on-base percentage (.463), slugging percentage (.698), RBI (127), doubles (59), and hits (216). The first baseman did enjoy hitting in

the thin air at Coors when it came to his home run splits (27 at home, 15 on the road), but his OPS split was ridiculous in both situations (1.242 at home, 1.074 on the road).

What also jumped out when looking at Helton's campaign was the 59 (!) doubles he hit. There were three straight months when he collected at least 10: June (11), July (10), and August (18).

Rockies Home Run Leaders: The Rest

Here's what the rest of the Rockies' top-21 most powerful seasons look like:

- [Nolan Arenado](#), 2015: 42 home runs
- Nolan Arenado, 2016 and 2019: 41
- [Andres Galarraga](#), 1997: 41
- [Ellis Burks](#), 1996: 40
- Vinny Castilla, 1996 and 1997: 40
- [Carlos Gonzalez](#), 2015: 40
- [Dante Bichette](#), 1995: 40
- Larry Walker, 2001: 38
- Nolan Arenado, 2018: 38
- Nolan Arenado, 2017: 37
- [Charlie Blackmon](#), 2017: 37
- Larry Walker, 1999: 37
- [Trevor Story](#), 2018: 37
- [Jeromy Burnitz](#), 2004: 37

Rockies All-Time Home Run Leaders: The Top 25

The Rockies all time home run leaders list is a who's who of the best power hitters in franchise history. While the top three made their respective marks in this department in the earlier, pre-humidor days at Coors Field, the latter portion of the top five includes a couple of more recent faces of the franchise who are no longer with the organization. We'll also list out the remainder of the top 25.

After you're done checking this out, be sure to also take a peek at the [Rockies' single-season home run leaderboard](#).

Rockies All Time Home Run Leaders: Top 5

Todd Helton: 369 Home Runs

Although he has to share honors with a teammate in one category, [Todd Helton](#) is one of the few sluggers who are among the team-specific [all-time home run leaders](#) while also holding the [single-season home run record](#) for that same club.

Helton enjoyed six seasons of 30-plus homers during his 17-year MLB career, and each of those occurrences came consecutively between 1999 and 2004. The numbers he racked up in 2000 and 2001 are just insane, though. While he nearly had two straight 200-hit performances, the first baseman did post consecutive seasons of 50 doubles, 40 homers, and 140 RBI, all with an OPS of at least 1.100.

The left-handed hitter placed fifth in NL MVP voting in 2000, but he managed to lead the league in hits (216), doubles (59), RBI (147), batting average (.372), on-base percentage (.463), slugging percentage (.698), OPS (1.162), and total bases (405).

Larry Walker: 258 Home Runs

Hall of Famer [Larry Walker](#) is the guy Helton shares the Rockies' single-season home run record with since he hit 49 homers in his NL MVP campaign of 1997. That year began a ridiculous five-year stretch when it came to Walker's batting average. He won three batting titles during this period and finished with an average of at least .350 *four times*.

This period spanned 2,674 plate appearances. During that time, Walker slashed .357/.445/.658 with an average of 31 homers, 35 doubles, 97 RBI, and 107 runs scored. That's quite the peak performance, don't you think?

Although his OPS was slightly higher in 1997, Walker's slash line in 1999 was his best in a number of ways. It finished up at .379/.458/.710, and he led the league in each of those categories. The outfielder posted a monthly batting average below .348 just once (it was .326 in July). And, for those wondering, his slash line at Coors (.461/.531/.879) was much different than it was on the road (.286/.375/.519).

Vinny Castilla: 239 Home Runs

As long as [Vinny Castilla](#) suited up for a full season's worth of games with the Rockies, you could pencil that man in for at least 30 homers. He did it during each season between 1995 and 1999 and even did it again when he came back for one more year in 2004 as a 36-year-old. The period that stands out the most here is 1996 through 1998, which were his only performances of 40-plus homers in the major leagues.

His '96 and '97 seasons were nearly identical. He hit 40 homers and collected 113 RBI in each campaign, while his line in '96 (.304/.343/.548) was almost exactly the same as the following year (.304/.356/.547). The 1998 campaign was when Castilla finally did something a little different, upping his power numbers to 46 homers and 144 RBI to go along with a .319/.362/.589 line. This stretch [was just part of his dominance](#) at the hot corner in Denver.

Castilla was a career .333 at Coors Field, with 132 of his total homers coming in that stadium.

Nolan Arenado: 235 Home Runs

As long as [Nolan Arenado](#) didn't exercise the opt-out clause in his contract following the 2022 season, he was a lock to overtake Helton at the top of the Rockies' all-time leaderboard. But of course, that wasn't meant to be since Colorado traded him following the 2020 campaign.

Even though he won't get that distinction here, he made his mark during an eight-year run with the organization. He at least held a share of the [NL lead in home runs](#) three times in a four-year span and racked up at least 37 dingers each year between 2015 and 2019.

During this time, Arenado was essentially automatic for the following things: 30 homers, 110 RBI, 100 runs scored, an All-Star Game appearance, a Silver Slugger award, a Gold Glove award, and a top-10 NL MVP finish. Who knows what could've been if he stayed in Denver for at least another couple of seasons before opting out, but it seems like he's doing just fine with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Carlos Gonzalez: 227 Home Runs

[Carlos Gonzalez](#) is one of the many dudes that I could watch swing a bat for hours and legitimately not get bored. It's just so beautiful -- I can't take my eyes off it when CarGo is on my screen. Gonzalez won two Silver Sluggers and appeared in three All-Star Games during his career, but his best overall performance came in 2010.

The sweet-swinging left-handed hitter won the batting title with a .336 average and paired that with a league-leading 197 hits, as well as 34 home runs, 117 RBI, and 111 runs scored. He took home one of his Silver Sluggers in this campaign, and it was accompanied by his first of three Gold Glove awards. And even though he didn't earn a trip to the midsummer classic, he placed third in NL MVP voting behind [Joey Votto](#) and [Albert Pujols](#).

Gonzalez's power numbers in the first half (17 homers, 60 RBI) were nearly identical to his second-half production (17 homers, 57 RBI). However, his batting line went from .314/.346/.532 prior to the All-Star break to .363/.412/.679 after it. He did do a lot of that damage at Coors, as 26 of his homers happened in front of the home fans while hitting .380 in Denver.

Rockies All Time Home Run Leaders: The Rest

Here's what the rest of the Rockies' top-25 career home run leaders looks like:

- [Charlie Blackmon](#): 207 home runs (...and counting)
- [Dante Bichette](#): 201
- [Troy Tulowitzki](#): 188
- [Andres Galarraga](#): 172
- [Trevor Story](#): 158
- [Matt Holliday](#): 130
- [Brad Hawpe](#): 118
- [Ellis Burks](#): 115
- [Garrett Atkins](#): 98
- [Ryan McMahon](#): 73 (...and counting)

- [Chris Iannetta](#): 80
- [Wilin Rosario](#): 71
- [Clint Barmes](#): 61
- [C.J. Cron](#): 57 (...and counting)
- [Preston Wilson](#): 57
- [Ian Stewart](#): 54
- [Seth Smith](#): 51
- [DJ LeMahieu](#): 49
- [Ian Desmond](#): 49
- [Mark Reynolds](#): 48