

# **Foxsports.com and WildTangent Launch "Hit The Pros 2003" - Only Online Sports Game To Feature Real Pitches From Actual Major League Baseball Games**

*Chance to face Cy Young Award Winner Dennis Eckersley among prizes fans can win in Global Tournaments*

**LOS ANGELES and REDMOND, WA, April 3, 2003** - FOXSports.com and WildTangent® today announced the release of Hit the Pros 2003, the latest version of the popular Hit the Pros franchise - the most realistic and dynamic online baseball game ever created. Hit the Pros 2003 is available for pre-purchase now at [www.hitthepros.com](http://www.hitthepros.com) and [www.foxsports.com](http://www.foxsports.com) and game play began on April 1, 2003.

Developed by FOXSports.com and WildTangent's in-house studio, Hit the Pros 2003 is the only online baseball game to feature actual pitches thrown during Major League Baseball games, and the only one utilizing the WildTangent Web Driver platform to deliver realistic player animation, detailed ballpark replicas and dynamic audio that truly captures the baseball experience. The game also features a full screen immersive experience and game control responsiveness not found in any other online sports game. Hit the Pros 2003 follows the success of Hit the Pros 2001 & 2002, which was played online over 1.5 million times.

"Hit the Pros 2003 is the only online sports game that allows fans to experience what it's like to hit against the best pitchers in the league minutes after the actual pitch is thrown. It's the ideal tie-in to our baseball broadcasts," said Ross Levinsohn, senior vice president and general manager of FOXSports.com. "With the addition of weekly and grand prize tournaments and the partnership with CaP CURE, Hit the Pros 2003 builds on the success of Hit the Pros 2001 & 2002 and takes online sports games to an entirely new level."

"We're excited to team with FOXSports.com for the third year of Hit the Pros with a new version that pushes the envelope of online sports games even further by taking advantage of our Web Driver platform to deliver the highest quality graphics and game play available in a Web-based online sports game," said Dave Madden, executive vice president of sales and marketing, WildTangent. "Hit the Pros 2003 offers a totally unique experience for baseball fans and gives FOXSports a valuable franchise with a loyal audience that will grow year after year."

Just as in the 2002 version, Hit the Pros 2003 gives online players the opportunity to bat against actual pitches thrown during real games throughout the season by big league pitchers including Randy Johnson, Roger Clemens and Curt Schilling. The actual pitch telemetry data is captured at the ballpark and then fed directly into Hit the Pros 2003 - giving fans an awesome array of real pitches to hit against. New in 2003 are grand prize tournaments where fans can win a trip to Los Angeles to bat against Cy Young Award winner Dennis Eckersley and weekly global tournaments with prizes including various

autographed baseballs and McFarlane's Sports Picks figurines. Other new features include enhanced graphics, bonus scoring modes, improved game physics and a brand new website. Proceeds from the sale of Hit the Pros 2003 will benefit CaP CURE.

Cameras strategically positioned around Major League stadiums capture pitch data live, and the telemetry data, captured by QuesTec, Inc., is compiled and translated for the online game. The pitch information is updated immediately so that online players can challenge pitchers who played that same day, as quickly as 30 minutes after the actual game concludes. This same technology has been used to demonstrate pitch location during FOXSports telecasts of Major League games, giving Hit the Pros 2003 the flavor of FOXSports baseball and the look and feel of real telecasts.

With Hit the Pros 2003 fans can:

- Hit against actual pitches thrown by major leaguers and recorded by in-game cameras in all Major League ballparks
- Pick their hitters and pitchers from among real major league players including Randy Johnson, Ichiro Suzuki, Barry Bonds and many more thanks to an agreement between FOXSports.com and the Major League Baseball Players Association
- Use the batter's current real-life statistics. Streaks and slumps will help determine how they will perform in the online game. This allows players to build in strategy to outsmart and outplay competitors using statistics and performance.
- Choose from among the detailed high definition graphic replicas of all 30 Major League ballparks.
- Test their skills against other players from around the world in global tournaments. Grand Prize tournament players can win a trip to Los Angeles to hit against Cy Young Award Winning pitcher Dennis Eckersley in Los Angeles or a chance to appear on FOXSports' Best Damn Sports Show Period hosted by Tom Arnold. Daily tournament prizes include the popular McFarlane's Sports Picks figurines and various autographed baseballs.
- Send email challenges to friends or challenge other Hit the Pros 2003 players

### **About FOXSports.com**

FOXSports.com ([www.foxsports.com](http://www.foxsports.com)) is owned and managed by FOXSports Networks, a subsidiary of FOX Entertainment Group, a division of News Corp. It is a comprehensive and entertaining online source of sports news, information, listings, games and special features about programming on FOXSports, FOXSports Net, FX, FOXSports Radio and much more from the world of sports.

### **About WildTangent**

WildTangent, based in Redmond, WA, is the leading online game publisher. Founded in 1998, the company's Web Driver platform leverages DirectX technology to enable the development of high-quality games that can be delivered and played over the Internet. With more than 38 million downloads, Web Driver is the most ubiquitous online gaming platform on the market today. WildTangent can be found at [www.wildtangent.com](http://www.wildtangent.com).

### **About CaP CURE**

CaP CURE is the world's largest private source of prostate cancer research funding. CaP CURE was founded in 1993 with an urgent mission: identify and support prostate cancer research that will rapidly translate into treatments and cures. Together with survivors, scientists and advocates, CaP CURE has established a system that encourages collaboration, reduces bureaucracy and speeds the process of discovery. CaP CURE reaches out to private industry, the patient advocacy community and government research institutions. These partnerships provide a model to speed the cure for prostate cancer - and all cancers.