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## The next Hank Aaron?

By ROGER AMSDEN, THE LACONIA DAILY SUN May 5, 2018



Gilford's Adrian Siravo. (Alan MacRae/for The Laconia Daily Sun)

Alan L. MacRae

*Gilford sophomore Adrian Siravo already has thrown two no-hitters*

GILFORD — He's only a 15-year old sophomore at Gilford High School, but Adrian Siravo is already making a big impression with his baseball skills.

The rangy, 6-foot-3 Siravo has already pitched two no-hitters this year and has struck out 45 hitters in just over 26 innings, allowing only five hits and one run while posting a 4-0 record.



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And he's showing power at the plate, hitting the first home run of his high school career with a 370-foot blast to right center against Inter-Lakes on Monday, which went for an inside the park homerun.

Siravo wears number 44, in honor of his favorite player Hank Aaron, who broke Babe Ruth's career home run record. And this year he's shifted from the outfield to shortstop, where Aaron played in the minors before moving to the outfield.

His coach Eric Duquette isn't surprised by what he's seeing. He's been coaching Siravo since he was only 10 and playing with the Concord Cannons.

He says that he recognized Siravo's potential then and that he now sees him as a player with the potential to excel in college and perhaps beyond into professional baseball.

"He has all the tools, the throwing arm, the speed and the ability to hit for power. And he loves the game and really enjoys playing. He's always got a smile on his face and is a good team player to have on your team," says Duquette.

The Golden Eagles are 7-0 this year and Duquette, who is in his first year as Gilford's coach, will be coaching Siravo again this summer on the U15 Concord Cannons team.



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He said that as a 14-year-old last year, Siravo batted third in the lineup for the Cannons, hit three home runs and led the team in hitting, extra base hits and stolen bases.

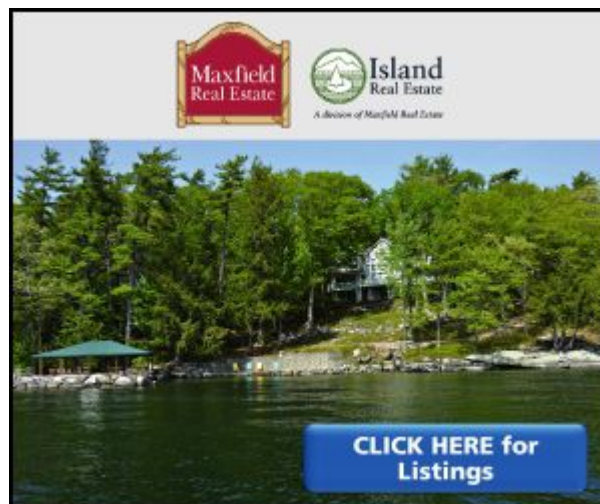
Duquette said that some of those home runs came at college fields, which is an impressive display of power for a 14-year-old.

Last year as freshman Siravo was an All-State choice in Division III, hitting .345 for the Golden Eagles with four doubles and three triples. He also pitched 30 innings and struck out 38 batters.

Duquette isn't the only one who realized that Siravo had great potential. His adoptive father Steve Siravo said that it wasn't long after he and his wife, Tracey, adopted Adrian and his siblings Gavin and Miah on March 19, 2012, that he saw something special.

"He had never played baseball before, but at eight years old he could throw like someone much older," says Steve.

He says that today Adrian's fastball tops out at 84 miles an hour and that he's going to gain even more speed as he matures.



“Last year he was just learning how to control his pitches. Now that he’s developed a rhythm to his delivery he’s really throwing hard. He should be up to 88 miles an hour by next year,” says Steve.

He also watches how Adrian swings the bat. “When he hit a double against Inter-Lakes Monday you could tell by the sound that he didn’t get all of the ball. But it carried well and got over the left fielder’s head before it one-hopped the wall. But he really smoked the home run. If there had been a fence out there it would have cleared it by a lot,” said Steve.

For the Siravo family, baseball has become a family affair. Steve, who manages 11 different crews for a metal roofing firm, takes time during the baseball season to serve as pitch tracker for the Golden Eagles, shows up at all games, home and away, to tally all of the pitches by both teams on a hand-held tablet.

Gavin, a freshman, is the manager of the team and keeps watch of all of the equipment and keeps the scorebook.

His mother, Tracey, and sister, Miah, who attends the Gilmanton School, show up at virtually every home game.

“It was really a no-brainer to adopt all three children. We wanted to keep them together as a family and we are really fortunate. They’re all good kids and that’s what we’re most proud of,” says Tracey.



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She is originally from Salem and met Steve there while he was working at Rockingham Park. Steve, who is from Cranston, Rhode Island, says that it was thoroughbred racing at Rockingham Park that brought him to New Hampshire. The couple will mark their 19th wedding anniversary this year.

Adrian, who is outgoing and voluble, has no hesitation about expressing his feelings, saying loud enough for everyone in the dugout to hear, "I love my family."

His girlfriend, Jaylin Tully, a sophomore from Gilford, also shows up to watch him play and sits with Adrian's mother during the games.

She says that she and Adrian both enjoy hip-hop and rap music and that their favorite subjects are English and social studies. Tully considers herself a serious student and during April vacation went to the Los Angeles area with her mother to check out colleges. She said that she plans on majoring in English and Social Justice in college.

Tracey says that Adrian is enjoying himself playing baseball right now and knows that colleges are watching him and keeping an eye on not only his baseball skills but also on what he does in the classroom.

"I just had a talk with guidance counselors at the school and one was virtually in tears telling me what a good person Adrian is and how much good he does in school. It's very heartwarming to get that kind of response from people," says Tracey.



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Steve shares those sentiments. “Adrian has a lot of baseball talent. But he’s very modest and works hard to be a good teammate. The best thing about him though isn’t the baseball. It’s the kind of person that he is. And that’s the same for his brother and sister. They’re great kids and that really makes us happy.”