

# SwingAway makes a cost effective pitch

**By Don Cameron**

Some hitting aids work. Some are gimmicks. Some require patience. Some need a well-trained instructor to monitor progress. Company president John Flading's confidence in his SwingAway product erases much of the doubt: "The only way it doesn't work," Flading said, "is if you don't use it."

From baseball dad to CEO, Flading has re-energized the SwingAway brand with the introduction of a 2009 model geared toward the home consumer rather than the pro or collegiate ballclub. Technological improvements over previous SwingAway models include the introduction of a bottom boom feature and the SA Hitting Mat. Perhaps a more enticing improvement in a tough economy is price — the new SwingAway retails for \$199.99, making it affordable for the home consumer.

"We built the new machine to a specific price point but we didn't cheapen the product," Flading said.

Relying on an elaborate yet easily set up pulley and bungee cord system, the SwingAway — available in a baseball or softball model — is designed to work in compact spaces such as a garage, basement or driveway. The ball-resetting mechanism allows for solo hitting workouts and maximum reps in short timeframes.

"We build a machine that is consistent with what the top hitting professionals out there are teaching," Flading said. "It's repetition, to get your reps in a very time-efficient manner. As a training device, it will not let you have a bad swing."

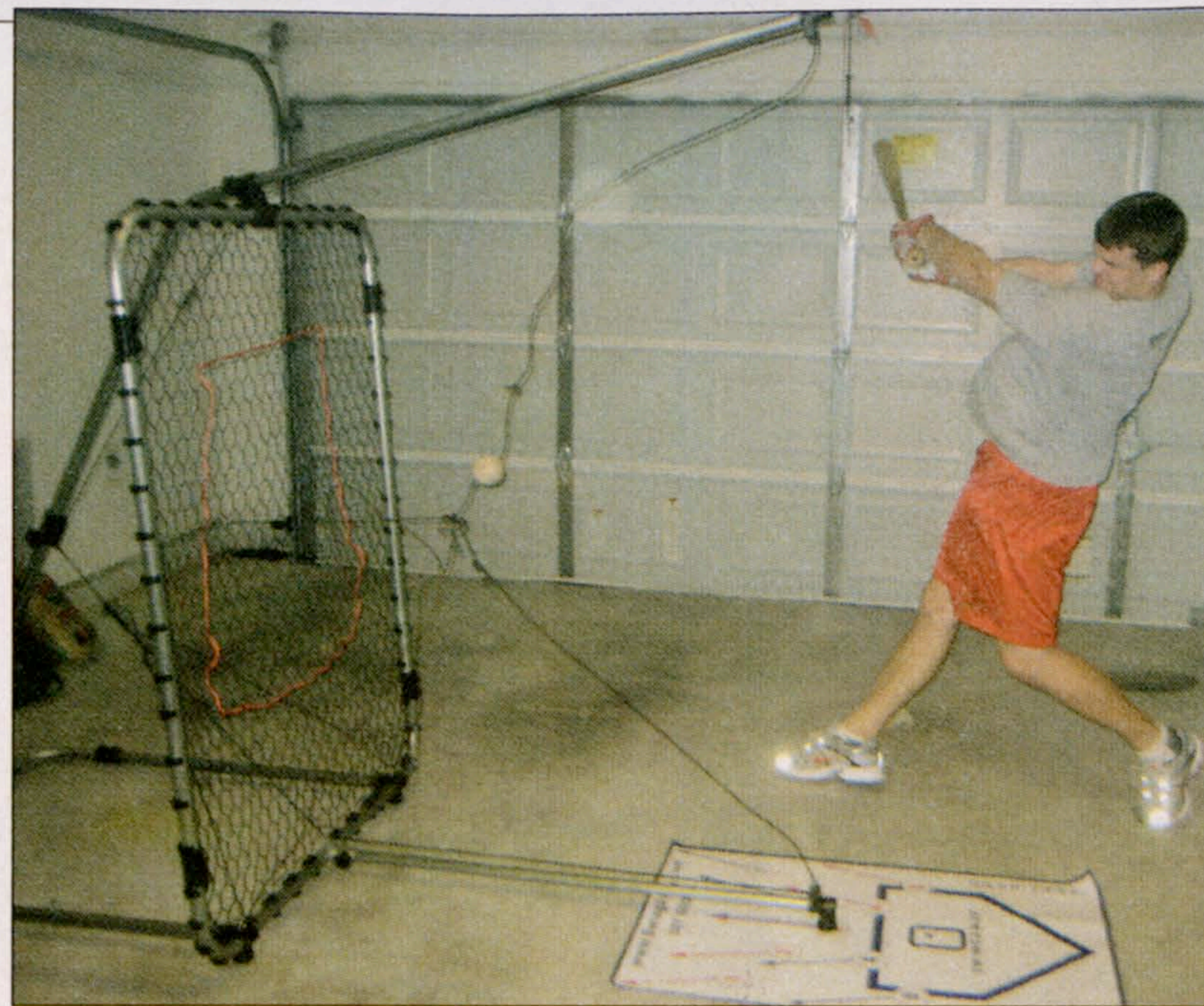
I tried the SwingAway for several months before the start of my Colorado men's fastpitch season. As Flading stressed, the instant feedback from where the ball strikes the screen, and the feel off the bat, help reinforce good habits and force change of bad habits. The SwingAway will change mechanics for the better, particularly swing path and hand quickness.

The SwingAway is terrific for learning to hit pitches to all parts of the field, no matter the pitch location. The bottom boom feature aligns the pulley system to increase the life

of the bungee system. The SA Hitting Mat replicates the inner portion of the batter's box. The mat is marked for both right- and left-handed hitters, and numbered baseballs show the proper contact points plus directional arrows to show where to drive each pitch location.

"It was the first stationary training aid I had ever encountered that actually had the feel of a pitched ball," said St. Louis Cardinals rising prospect Mark Hamilton. "The resistance on the bungee cords gave the sensation upon impact that I was hitting a live pitch. ... Instead of going to the cages everyday, I can use the SwingAway daily and go to the cages when I need to see a moving ball. This is the only machine that allows a player to improve at home and in a confined space."

The SwingAway is great, too, as a ball rebounder, particularly for infielders looking to improve reaction time and work on backhand and forehand drills. Check out [www.swingaway.com](http://www.swingaway.com) for more information.



Mark Hamilton, St. Louis Cardinals minor league ballplayer uses the SwingAway in a garage.

## The Allstar Ace 5000 pitching simulation is now available

The Allstar Ace 5000 pitching machine offers pitching simulation designed for all players. The product allows the hitter to adapt to all pitch types and pitch speeds matching the pitch speed with the arm speed to give the hitter a natural feel. The product live synchronizations to where the batter will never have an off timing issue guaranteeing that every pitch every day is in synch with the video.

The Allstar Ace 5000 programmable baseball and fastpitch system features a multi-pitch system featuring Home Plate pitching machine. The baseball system pitches curves and sliders while the softball system has risers and drops.

The Allstar Ace 3000 is a smaller model that features the Iron Mike pitching machine. It offers on-screen display and remote starting/stopping.

Both systems can pitch left or right handed and offer the availability to film

your own pitchers. Both are programmable to feed in team rotation mode (5 to 15 balls per player) or continuous balls. Both models offer easy owner setup.

The Allstar Ace 5000 is the official pitching system of Perfect Game USA which is the world's largest scouting service. Perfect Game USA President Jerry Ford

states the Allstar Ace 5000 best timing he has ever seen on a video simulator.

The Allstar Ace 3000 retails for \$5995.00 and the Ace 5000 retails for \$13,995.00 with lease options available on both models.

For more information visit [www.AllstarBP.com](http://www.AllstarBP.com) or call 770-867-1957.

