

Analytic Methods in Sports: Using Mathematics and Statistics to Understand Data from Baseball, Football, Basketball, and Other Sports

By Thomas A. Severini





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The Most Useful Techniques for Analyzing Sports Data

One of the greatest changes in the sports world in the past 20 years has been the use of mathematical methods to analyze performances, recognize trends and patterns, and predict results. **Analytic Methods in Sports: Using Mathematics and Statistics to Understand Data from Baseball, Football, Basketball, and Other Sports** provides a concise yet thorough introduction to the analytic and statistical methods that are useful in studying sports.

The book gives you all the tools necessary to answer key questions in sports analysis. It explains how to apply the methods to sports data and interpret the results, demonstrating that the analysis of sports data is often different from standard statistical analysis. Requiring familiarity with mathematics but no previous background in statistics, the book integrates a large number of motivating sports examples throughout and offers guidance on computation and suggestions for further reading in each chapter.

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Editorial Review

Review

"... this book is ideally suited to someone who has a keen interest in various sports and mathematics and would like to take their interest to a deeper, more quantitative level. I could also imagine using this book as a supplementary resource in an introductory statistics courses given its trove of interesting examples. ... the book is extremely well written and includes a multitude of tools for someone interested in quantitative methods in sports. I would highly recommend the book for the audiences described above and, in particular, someone teaching introductory statistics who needs motivating examples for his/her course(s)."

?*The American Statistician*, August 2015

"There is much to like here. The book provides an overview of statistical methods and gives applications of these methods for a wide variety of sports. ... the book is a nice complement to other introductory statistics sports texts and could be used in teaching a lively introduction to statistics using sports."

?*Significance*, April 2015

"Students and interested sports fans will find **Analytic Methods in Sports** very useful for learning the probability and statistics they need to begin analyzing sports data. The author provides the intuition behind the analytic methods discussed, avoiding overly technical explanations, and presents many interesting and thought-provoking examples that help to illuminate the material."

?David Rosenthal, Associate Professor of Mathematics, St. John's University, and co-author of *A Readable Introduction to Real Mathematics*

"A comprehensive and up-to-date look at the primary tools and techniques in sports analytics, covering every major sport, **Analytic Methods in Sports** condenses what took me five years to learn into 200 pages. It's both easy to read and complete with mathematic rigor. If you're serious about getting into analytics in any sport at any level, this needs to be on your bookshelf."

?Brian Burke, Founder of Advanced Football Analytics and NFL Team Consultant

"Many people enter the rapidly growing sports analytics industry without the adequate tools to perform analysis. In his book, Severini details the fundamental statistical skill set needed to succeed with examples from every major sport. It will appeal to readers just introduced to the field of statistics as well as the more experienced looking to further develop their ability to manage and interpret data. A worthy addition to any analyst's library."

?Keith Goldner, Chief Analyst, numberFire

About the Author

Thomas A. Severini is a professor of statistics at Northwestern University. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and the author of *Likelihood Methods in Statistics* and *Elements of Distribution Theory*. He received his PhD in statistics from the University of Chicago. His research areas include likelihood inference, nonparametric and semiparametric methods, and applications to econometrics.

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