

Measuring Athletic Performance the Role of Luck in Sports

A general problem in sports is the measurement of performance. In baseball, one wishes to measure the abilities of batters, pitchers, and fielders to determine salaries, to make predictions of future performance, and to give awards. The problem is that any measurement of performance is only an estimate of a player's ability and this estimate can be poor when chance variability is present. We describe good and poor measurements of baseball performance for learning players' abilities.

Jim Albert is Professor of Statistics at Bowling Green State University. His academic interests are in Bayesian modeling, statistics education, and the statistical analysis of sports data. He is the coauthor (with Jay Bennett) of *Curve Ball: Baseball, Statistics, and the Role of Chance in the Game* and *Teaching Statistics Using Baseball*. Jim is the new editor of the *Journal of Quantitative Analysis of Sports*. In sports, as a spectator, Jim is a big fan of the Phillies and, as a participant, is an active tennis player.
