Senior VP of Baseball Ops

Writing skills has helped – scouting reports

Front end – more art than science

Hardest thing to evaluate is who can hit in MLB

A lot subjective and a lot objective

Try to be ahead of trends

Important: Passion, willing to work really hard, curiosity – challenge own/others thinking, see what other info is revealing; continuous learning

Books: Thinking Fast and Slow and Super Forecasting. Super Forecasting is better.

Player development or Scouting position

background in data analysis

With Dodgers: Internship then Full-time analyst on data science side

Has been with Dodgers for 13 years

Favorite: Feels like she's apart of the team, bonding, highs and lows; lean on each other

Consistent over years: Dodgers best resources are its people, keeps culture consistent, winning culture. Dodgers have resources to invest in people and things

What Has changed: analyst would came in and was expert, background would get you through interactions, now assume you can learn from others – more creative ideas and learning others' language

There are brilliant people not behind computer

When align resources with good people then you can have a special combination that can last long

Know knowledge base and what will resonate with player – does player have technical background – communicate based on what will resonate with them – don't use technical language with non-technical background person

Grind, only 10 days off, and travel a lot

Does slow down more in off season – maybe more time off than a 9 to 5

Front office is more 9 to 5, some weekends work, but average is more than 9 to 5. Part of the long hours are watching a Dodgers game together – some of those experiences are unforgettable.

Favorite Moment of Year: Dream was to be on the field during WS championships which happened, were some big lows in season

Hitting Coordinator

support Hitting and help hitters be best they can be

played in MLB, did scouting for Korean team then went to Dodgers

Favorite thing: see transition as player makes it to MLB

Be open to others, curious, and passionate

Don't assume you have all the answers – be willing to say you're not an expert

Don't be afraid to ask "dumb questions"

Develop personal relationship, develop coaches not hands on with player/challenge coaches and listen to them – challenge them on individual hitters

Favorite Moment from Year: 2 homers from Andy Pages – was in double A and then shoulder injury and then 2 homers

Motion Trax and KinaTrax

Senior Analyst, Quantitative Analysis

player talent models – more math heavy

Went to Pomona College

Quantitative department looks at: How good is a player going to be next year, year after, and 5 years from now. Projecting injury

Skills look for:

- Choosing a topic you're interested in will show passion, how you can go from question to problem. Everybody has technical skills but communication and soft skills set you apart

- Technical skills: Cleaning data/choosing own features and contributing to existing codebase. Cleaning data shows initiative.

NASA propulsion lab for 5 years – predictive modeling and cost analysis then Dodgers

Favorite: Passionate about sports and has technical skills – so enthralling questions/discussions – a lot of talking before trying something. The bigger picture of helping the team helps her get through grunt work.

Endless applications for math, even if not SME, not in aerospace and baseball

Can lean on other people to do well

All acronyms and lingo vary from industry to industry

Modeling portion is team's specialty – utilizes site baseball systems made

Not about project content/technical skills cuz in resume

Show thought process, question formulation, and communication skills

Favorite Moment from Year: Freddie Freeman's grand slam, sprinting up and down, felt emotions never felt before and went to OKC and wrote scouting report on Ben Casparius – he contributed to championship team after she gave him a great grade

Best thing to do to stand out: something that doesn't show up in technical skills/Talk about sports analytics club, presenting at conference, school projects and show you can work with real world data. Can choose a passionate project that isn't sports related

Other

What department has higher retention rate: only retained in baseball systems and 1 in baseball ops, but have only done intern program for 3 years

Where job is based is not where someone lives/A lot of travel in scouting

Open biomechanics dataset

R and D: Baseball Strat, quant analysis, perf science, Baseball Systems; Baseball product

Baseball Strategy: Support on-field decision making

Quantitative Analysis: Develop and maintain core player evaluation models, including projecting player performance

Performance Science: Biomechanics

Baseball Systems: Support of baseball ops software through a data platform and website

Baseball Product: manage and design baseball ops products – visualizations – internal team makes site like Savant

Student Projects:

Leash to give pitcher using Bayesian models

Catboost model to on change in run value to get stuff in previous inning – no seam shifted wake

Look at stickiness for model of player talent

Looked at avg wOBA in inning distribution and predicted wOBAs in inning

Exponential model worked best

In future look at batters coming up and rest days and more

Effects of a Decreased Coefficient of Friction (COF) while Pitching a Baseball

Look at UCL injuries and grip strength – sticky stuff banned got her interested.

Maximizing lift force makes ball trajectory more difficult to predict

75% of lift force explained by negative spin parameter

Sticky substances may help 3rd digit when pitching

Grip stabilizes the medial elbow so increasing COF (through use of legal sticky stuff) can prevent UCL injuries. Can do grip strength exercises too.

Research Hurdles: A lot of variability from differing skin moisture

Research Breakthroughs: use EMG sensors to get measurements during pitch (I think of grip)

Pitcher Evaluation

head of baseball at Georgetown

Broke down Declan Cronin:

Looks at bio and different splits in depth – GB rate in high leverage situations

Stats inflated from 31+ pitches

Has been really good with FB so could use that more, which could lead to more whiffs (only uses it 4% of the time)

Interesting Comment from Bob Prichard

I have a unique skill. I can release the scar tissue generated from lifting weights that make all the American players much stiffer than the Japanese players--who don't lift weights. This

means the Dodgers can have 4 or 5 Ohtani's or Yamamoto/Sasaki pitchers. My 18 Olympic athletes have won 44 Gold Medals and set 11 World Records after completing my one-week Microfiber (scar tissue) Reduction program. My baseball players have improved their 40 yard time 13%, from 4.92 to 4.27, equal to Deion Sanders best time. A baseball team improved their batting average 61 points, from .321 to .382, won the state championship and had a 51-4 summer season. You can see an example of my work in the short video at the top of www.somaxsports.com and dozens of before/after photos by clicking on Client Photos in the top navigation. In order to help all the players, we need to start working with players in February. I am located in Tiburon, just north of San Francisco. 415-435-9880.