**What do you think is/where have you seen the best use of sports statistics in the past year?**

Statistics has been something we have heavily relied on, because it helps us comprehend the world a little better. Every aspect of our lives widely embraces statistics, including sports. It has entirely changed modern sports and Formula 1 is a perfect example of that.

With my newfound interest in racing this year, I learned that racers are not the only ones who drive Formula 1 but also data. In the Brazilian Grand Prix, Charles Leclerc, a Scuderia Ferrari Formula 1 Driver, quickly moved to last, after making contact with Lando Norris on lap 7 and spinning out to the wall. Analysts evaluated his car’s salvageability by assessing the real-time data sent from the sensors. When Charles entered the pits, the engineers and mechanics already had a repair for the problem and a revised strategy to help with the situation. Charles then finished in fourth place by the end of the race. This race was crucial to Charles Leclerc as he was battling with Sergio Perez for second place in the Drivers' World Championship and the recovery he made in this race helped him earn the points needed. By the end of the race, Charles was tied with Perez in points and later went on to finish second in the 2022 Driver Standings.

The recent season demonstrated the importance of sports statistics in the Formula 1 World. In fact, they use terabytes of data and telemetry to execute the best performance and strategy for each team. As Formula 1 teams gather data from the components of the race car, they send it to support teams where real-time analyses are performed. The results are subsequently sent back, used to inform decisions, and execute plans for the driver and the car. Drivers themselves are also permitted to use this information to make changes to modes and settings while still in the car, mid-lap, and shift driving strategies if needed. Technological use in the industry has become so pervasive and crucial to success that even a 2-second lag in data transfer and processing can lead to a driver and its team losing championships.

The use of statistics has been very crucial in Formula 1, because data has become the thread that ties all the teams' efforts together. By using the data and statistics, engineers can act as a second pair of eyes and ears in the vehicle to provide information that drivers cannot obtain from the cockpit alone. I have come to believe that big data drives important decisions here in Formula 1, more than anywhere else. As the reach and application of data analytics expand in the wider world, Formula 1 will undoubtedly benefit from whatever the technology sector develops, with cloud computing, predictive analytics, predictive intelligence, machine learning, and prescriptive intelligence playing larger roles in the sport's future. Being a big fan of Formula 1, it would be a dream to work in the industry and an even bigger one to be able to make an impact on this sport. As such, I hope to help innovate such technology that can help advance the world of Formula 1, because without the use of sports statistics, Formula 1 simply wouldn’t be what it is known as today.