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

In the very world we live in, statistics has been something we, humans, have heavily relied on. It helps us comprehend the world a little bit better. Every aspect of our daily lives has widely embraced statistics, one of them being sports. Data and statistics has always played a huge role in sports, being the industry’s most valuable player. It has entirely changed the world of modern sports and Formula 1 is the perfect example of that.

With my newfound interest in racing in the year 2022, I have come to learn that it’s not only the racers who drive Formula 1 but also data. Take the Brazilian Grand Prix, for example, when Charles Leclerc, a Scuderia Ferrari Formula 1 Driver, went from the wall to a near podium. Being a Ferrari fan myself, watching the 2022 Brazilian GP truly amazed me as I watched the recovery he made in this race. Charles Leclerc was battling with Sergio Perez for second place in the Drivers' World Championship. He quickly moved to last, though, after making contact with Lando Norris on lap 7 and spinning out to the wall. The analysts evaluated the salvageability of his car by quickly analyzing the real-time data sent from the sensors, and they would later ascertain the amount of the damage and how it would affect the car. When Charles entered the pits, the engineers and mechanics already had a repair for the problem at hand, as well as a revised strategy to help with the situation. By the time the race was through, Charles had finished in fourth place, tied with Perez in terms of points. By the end of the season, Charles went on to finish second in the 2022 Driver Standings.

The recent 2022 season demonstrates once again the importance of sports statistics in the Formula 1 World. In fact, Formula 1, being one of the most data-driven sports in history, uses 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 the support teams where real-time analyses are performed. The results of the analysis are then subsequently sent back, where they are used to inform decisions and carry out plans for the driver and the car. Using both the original raw data and the analysis conclusions, this is utilized to make quick decisions and prompt immediate modifications. Whilst the support teams can take action to improve or rectify the state of the car with the help of a pit stop, drivers themselves are also permitted to use this information into making changes to the modes and settings while still in the car, mid-lap, and shift driving strategies if needed. The technological use in this 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 the championships.

Similar to Formula 1, many other sports are depending more and more on sports analytics. With the use of data and statistics, teams and organizations may track performance, predict outcomes, and make more informed choices on the field. As such, it is safe to say that sports statistics are not going anywhere any time soon.