#### **Explain the 'big question':**

Our 'big question' for this project is to determine which team statistics have the highest correlation with wins in Major League Baseball (regular season). As a secondary task, we will also be identifying the regression equation and the overall quality of our model.

Baseball, like most team sports, is a zero-sum game. Every game played must have one winning team and one losing team. Of course, every team (players, management, ownership) and their respective fan bases are hoping to win as many games as possible. But professional sports are a multi-billion dollar industry with many, many stakeholders. With the legalization and expansion of online sports betting, people with limited interest in sports have also become engaged in statistical analysis.

Understanding which statistics significantly influence outcomes of games will help teams to:

- Identify team performance issues
- Make smart, data-driven financial decisions during player acquisitions and drafts, and ultimately devise more effective strategies. And those involved in gambling can also adjust their own strategies to better predict future games.

#### **Introduce the dataset:**

### Origin of the dataset (From where did you obtain the data?):

The data we are using is an amalgamation of all publicly available quantitative data (from multiple spreadsheets) taken from Baseball-Reference.com, an online sports database that provides comprehensive statistics, records, and historical data for baseball players, teams, and games. Below is a partial sample of our data set.

Alternational Antiques   2021   52   110   5   5   12,70   5   0   4   5   5   0   9   64   289   1397   308   31   144   644   43   16   537   1465   0.25   0.39   0.38   0.99   209   2	Columni	season -	W -	L +	Payroll -	Kuns 🕞	Kuns - Stre	- LUCK -	#Bat -	BatAge -	н -	ZB -	38 -	нк 🕝	KBI -	28 -	CS -	BB -	50 -	BA -	OBP -	SLG -	UPS -	IB
Seminor Procession   Seminor	Arizona Diamondbacks	2021	52	110	\$ 91,632,929.00	4.2	5.5 0	2 -9	64	28.9	1297	308	31	144	644	43	16	537	1465	0.236	0.309	0.382	0.692	209
Botton Ref Sox   2021   72   79   51 874,007,94.00   5.1   4.6   0.1   4   5.2   0.1   3   69   28   1434   330   23   219   783   40   21   512   136   0.26   0.32   0.49   0.77   2.46   0.16   0.26   0	Atlanta Braves	2021	88	73	\$ 152,750,691.00	4.9	4.1 -0	1 -6	56	28.2	1307	269	20	239	762	59	19	549	1453	0.244	0.319	0.435	0.754	233
Final Property   Fina	Baltimore Orioles	2021	52	110	\$ 42,421,870.00	4.1	5.9 0	3 -2	62	26.7	1296	266	15	195	632	54	23	451	1454	0.239	0.304	0.402	0.705	217
Chicago White Sox   2021   93   05   \$140,926,169000   4.9   3.9   0.92   4   47   28   1373   275   22   190   757   57   75   75   75   75   75	Boston Red Sox	2021	92	70	\$ 187,100,784.00	5.1	4.6 0	1 4	56	28	1434	330	23	219	783	40	21	512	1386	0.261	0.328	0.449	0.777	246
Chechand Hede   2021   88   79   16,587,447 00   49   40   40   50   50   28   71   150   27   150   28   150   27   150   28   150   27   150   28   150   27   150   28   150   27   150   28   150   28   150   28   150   28   150   28   150   28   150   28   150   28   150   28   150   28   150   28   150   28   28   28   28   28   28   28   2	Chicago Cubs		71	91	\$ 144,037,170.00	4.4	5.2 -0	1 3	69	29.1	1255	225	26		672	86	37	502	1596	0.237	0.312		0.719	
Cerestand Indians	Chicago White Sox	2021	93	69	\$ 140,926,169.00	4.9	3.9 -0	2 -4	47	28	1373	275	22	190	757	57	20	586	1389	0.256	0.336	0.422	0.758	226
Colorand Bockles   2021   74   87   5   116,048,966.00   446   4.9   0.1   -1   45   28.1   1338   275   34   182   709   76   23   499   1356   0.249   0.349   0.731   0.214	Cincinnati Reds	2021	83	79	\$ 126,587,447.00	4.9	4.7 -0	2 0	55	28.9	1352	295	13	222	756	36	24	553	1425	0.249	0.328	0.431	0.759	233
Entrol   E	Cleveland Indians	2021			\$ 50,670,534.00	4.4	4.5 -0	1 0	48	26.7	1269		22	203	686	109	17	453	1387	0.238	0.303	0.407	0.71	
Flower Nation   Flower Natio	Colorado Rockies	2021	74	87	\$ 116,408,966.00	4.6	4.9 0	1 -1	45	28.1	1338	275	34	182	709	76	23	491	1356	0.249	0.317	0.414	0.731	222
Earnest City Royals   2021   74   88   5   15,195,55,500   42   49   0   3   48   203   1349   251   29   163   647   124   33   421   1258   0,229   0,306   0,306   0,306   0,702   214   105 Angeles Angeles   2021   77   85   5   266,000,809.00   5.1   3.5   0.1   3   61   29.2   1330   247   24   227   799   65   17   613   1408   0,244   0,33   0,429   0,702   214   0,006	Detroit Tigers	2021	77	85	\$ 86,348,945.00	4.3	4.7 -0	1 2	49	28.1	1299	236	37	179	675	88	25	490	1514	0.242	0.308	0.399	0.707	214
Description	Houston Astros	2021	95	67	\$ 194,222,042.00	5.3	4.1 -0	1 -6	52	28.9	1496	299	14	221	834	53	16	569	1222	0.267	0.339	0.444	0.783	248
Control Register   Control Reg	Kansas City Royals	2021	74	88	\$ 91,595,545.00	4.2	4.9	0 3	48	29.3	1349	251	29	163	647	124	33	421	1258	0.249	0.306	0.396	0.702	214
Milmaukee Brewers 2021 67 95 \$ 58,157,900.00 3.8 4.3 0 5.5 61 28.2 1244 226 23 158 594 106 29 450 1553 0.233 0.298 0.372 0.671 199 Milmaukee Brewers 2021 95 67 \$ 99,377,415.00 4.6 3.8 -0.3 2 61 28.7 1251 255 18 194 700 82 21 586 1465 0.233 0.317 0.396 0.713 212 0.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00	Los Angeles Angels	2021	77	85	\$ 183,849,560.00	4.5	5 0	2 4	64	29.2	1331	265	23	190	691	79	26	464	1394	0.245	0.31	0.407	0.717	221
Milmoukee Brewers   2021   95   67   5   99,377,415.00   4.6   3.8   -0.3   2   61   2.87   1251   2.55   18   194   700   82   21   586   1465   0.23   0.317   0.306   0.713   212   212   222   222   223   224   224   224   224   225   224   224   225	Los Angeles Dodgers	2021	106	56	\$ 266,020,809.00	5.1	3.5 -0	1 -3	61	29.2	1330	247	24	237	799	65	17	613	1408	0.244	0.33	0.429	0.759	233
Minnesota Twins   2021   73   89   \$ 120,084,606,00   4.5   5.1   0   2   57   28.3   1311   271   17   228   690   54   15   525   1405   0.241   0.314   0.423   0.738   239   0.735   0.7	Miami Marlins	2021	67	95	\$ 58,157,900.00	3.8	4.3	0 -5	61	28.2	1244	226	23	158	594	106	29	450	1553	0.233	0.298	0.372	0.671	199
New York Mets 2021 77 85 \$ 201,189,189,00 3.9 4.1 0 0 64 28.2 1243 228 18 176 604 54 26 495 1392 0.239 0.315 0.391 0.705 203 New York Yankees 2021 80 27 70 \$ 205,669,863.00 4.4 4.1 0.1 6 59 29.3 1266 213 12 222 666 63 18 621 1482 0.237 0.322 0.407 0.729 218 0.44 0.1 1.5 0.0 1.1 50 30.1 1.84 271 19 199 698 88 20 545 1349 0.238 0.317 0.406 0.723 219 Philadelphia Phillies 2021 82 80 \$ 197,263,223.00 4.5 4.6 0 2 55 29.1 1288 262 24 198 700 77 19 564 1402 0.24 0.318 0.408 0.726 219 1155 0.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0	Milwaukee Brewers	2021	95	67	\$ 99,377,415.00	4.6	3.8 -0	3 2	61	28.7	1251	255	18	194	700	82	21	586	1465	0.233	0.317	0.396	0.713	212
New York Yankees 2021 92 70 \$ 205,669,863.00 4.4 4.1 0.1 6 59 2.9 126 213 12 222 666 63 18 621 1482 0.237 0.322 0.407 0.729 216 0.0Adand Athletics 2021 86 76 \$ 90,040,058,00 4.6 4.2 0.1 -1 50 30.1 1284 271 19 199 688 8 20 54 55 1349 0.238 0.317 0.406 0.723 219 181 181 181 181 181 181 181 181 181 1	Minnesota Twins	2021	73	89	\$ 120,084,606.00	4.5	5.1	0 2	57	28.3	1311	271	17	228	690	54	15	525	1405	0.241	0.314	0.423	0.738	230
Oakland Athletics 2021 86 76 \$ 90,400,598.00 4.6 4.2 0.1 -1 50 30.1 1284 271 19 199 698 88 20 545 1349 0.238 0.317 0.406 0.723 219 Philadelphia Phillifes 2021 82 80 \$ 197,763,723.20 4.5 4.6 0 2 55 29.1 1288 262 24 198 700 77 19 564 1402 0.24 0.318 0.408 0.726 219 191	New York Mets	2021	77	85	\$ 201,189,189.00	3.9	4.1	0 0	64	28.2	1243	228	18	176	604	54	26	495	1392	0.239	0.315	0.391	0.705	203
Philadelphia Phillies   2021   82   80   \$ 197,263,223.00   4.5   4.6   0   2   55   29.1   1288   262   24   198   700   77   19   564   1402   0.24   0.318   0.408   0.726   219   1715	New York Yankees	2021	92	70	\$ 205,669,863.00	4.4	4.1 0	1 6	59	29.3	1266	213	12	222	666	63	18	621	1482	0.237	0.322	0.407	0.729	216
Pittsburgh Pirates 2021 61 101 5 54,356,609.00 3.8 5.1 0 3 64 27.5 1261 240 35 124 570 60 30 529 1328 0.236 0.309 0.364 0.673 194 San Diego Padres 2021 79 83 5 175,890,300 5 3.7 0.1 4 63 27 120 233 11 199 673 64 24 55 1492 0.226 0.300 0.385 0.88 206 Seattle Mariners 2021 90 72 5 83,822,113.00 4.3 4.6 0.1 14 54 30.6 1360 271 25 241 768 66 14 602 1461 0.249 0.329 0.44 0.769 240 51.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	Oakland Athletics	2021	86	76	\$ 90,400,598.00	4.6	4.2 0	1 -1	50	30.1	1284	271	19	199	698	88	20	545	1349	0.238	0.317	0.406	0.723	219
San Fancisco Giants 2021 79 83 \$ 179,764,272.00 4.5 4.4 0.1 4 54 28 1305 273 21 180 695 110 39 586 1324 0.242 0.321 0.401 0.722 216 53n Fancisco Giants 2021 107 55 \$ 171,890,308.00 5 3.7 0.1 4 63 27 1209 233 11 199 673 64 24 535 1492 0.226 0.330 0.85 0.688 202	Philadelphia Phillies	2021	82	80	\$ 197,263,223.00	4.5	4.6	0 2	55	29.1	1288	262	24	198	700	77	19	564	1402	0.24	0.318	0.408	0.726	219
San Francisco Giants 2021 107 55 \$ 171,890,308.00 5 3.7 0.1 4 63 27 1209 233 11 199 673 64 24 535 1492 0.226 0.303 0.385 0.688 205 Seattle Mariners 2021 90 72 \$ 83,822,113.00 4.3 4.6 0.1 14 54 30.6 1360 271 25 241 768 66 14 602 1461 0.249 0.329 0.44 0.769 242 1461 0.249 0.769 242 1461 0.769 242 1461 0.249 0.769 242 1461 0.249 0.769 242 1461 0.249 0.769 242 1461 0.249 0.769 242 1461 0.249 0.769 242 1461 0.249 0.76	Pittsburgh Pirates	2021	61	101	\$ 54,356,609.00	3.8	5.1	0 3	64	27.5	1261	240	35	124	570	60	30	529	1328	0.236	0.309	0.364	0.673	194
Settle Mariners 2021 90 72 \$ 83,822,113.00 4.3 4.6 0.1 14 54 30.6 1360 271 25 241 768 66 14 602 1461 0.249 0.329 0.44 0.769 240 51.00 62 \$ 1.00 62 \$ 70,836,327.00 5.3 4 0 -1 61 0.275 120 1.00 62 \$ 70,836,327.00 6.0 62 \$ 70,836,	San Diego Padres	2021	79	83	\$ 179,764,272.00	4.5	4.4 0	1 -4	54	28	1305	273	21	180	695	110	39	586	1324	0.242	0.321	0.401	0.722	216
St. Louis Cardinals 2021 90 72 \$ 151,469,994.00 4.4 4.1 0.2 5 51 28.5 1303 261 22 198 678 89 22 478 1341 0.24 0.313 0.412 0.725 220 Tampa Bay Rays 2021 100 62 \$ 70,836,327.00 5.3 4 0 -1 61 27.7 1336 288 36 222 810 88 42 585 1542 0.243 0.321 0.429 0.75 236 10.6 102 \$ 95,788,819.00 3.9 5 0.2 -2 54 6.8 1254 225 24 167 598 106 29 433 1381 0.322 0.249 0.375 0.67 202 10.6 10.2 \$ 95,788,819.00 3.9 5 0.2 -2 54 6.8 1254 225 24 167 598 106 29 433 1381 0.232 0.249 0.375 0.67 202 10.6 10.2 \$ 10.0 10.2 \$ 1	San Francisco Giants	2021	107	55	\$ 171,890,308.00	5	3.7 -0	1 4	63	27	1209	233	11	199	673	64	24	535	1492	0.226	0.303	0.385	0.688	206
Texas Rangers   2021   100   62   5 70,836,327.00   5.3   4   0   -1   61   27.7   1336   288   36   222   810   88   42   585   1542   0.243   0.321   0.429   0.75   236	Seattle Mariners	2021	90	72	\$ 83,822,113.00	4.3	4.6 0	1 14	54	30.6	1360	271	25	241	768	66	14	602	1461	0.249	0.329	0.44	0.769	240
Texas Rangers 2021 60 102 \$ 95,788,819.00 3.9 \$ 5 0.2 -2 \$ 4 26.8 1254 225 24 167 598 106 29 433 1381 0.232 0.294 0.375 0.67 0.202	St. Louis Cardinals	2021	90	72	\$ 151,469,994.00	4.4	4.1 -0	2 5	51	28.5	1303	261	22	198	678	89	22	478	1341	0.244	0.313	0.412	0.725	220
Toronto Blue Jays 2021 91 71 \$ 150,140,253.00 5.2 4.1 0 -8 62 26.8 1455 285 13 262 816 81 20 496 1218 0.266 0.33 0.466 0.797 255 Washington Nationals 2021 65 97 \$ 144,415,187.00 4.5 5.1 0 -7 60 28.7 1388 272 20 182 686 56 26 573 1303 0.258 0.337 0.417 0.754 224 Arizona Diamondbacks 2022 74 88 \$ 85,964,090.00 4.3 4.6 0 3 57 26.5 1232 262 24 173 658 104 29 531 1341 0.23 0.304 0.385 0.689 2026 Arizona Diamondbacks 2022 101 61 \$ 183,438,888.00 4.9 8.8 0 1 1 53 27.5 1394 298 11 243 753 87 31 470 1498 0.253 0.317 0.443 0.761 244 8altimore Orioles 2022 83 79 \$ 44,888,388.00 4.2 4.2 0.2 4 58 27 1281 275 25 171 639 95 31 476 1390 0.26 0.305 0.39 0.699 211 8bston Red Sox 2022 78 88 \$ 211,121,313.00 4.5 4.9 0.2 2 54 28.8 1427 352 12 155 704 52 0 478 1373 0.258 0.311 0.409 0.731 226 134 0.450	Tampa Bay Rays	2021	100	62	\$ 70,836,327.00	5.3	4	0 -1	61	27.7	1336	288	36	222	810	88	42	585	1542	0.243	0.321	0.429	0.75	236
Washington Nationals 2021 65 97 \$ 144,415,187,00 4.5 5.1 0 -7 60 28.7 1388 272 20 182 686 56 26 573 1303 0.258 0.337 0.417 0.754 224 Airsona Diamondbacks 2022 74 88 \$ 5.85,964,090,00 4.3 4.6 0 -3 57 26.5 1232 262 24 173 658 104 29 531 1341 0.23 0.304 0.385 0.689 206 4 1 1341 0.23 0.304 0.385 0.689 206 0.305 0.3	Texas Rangers	2021	60	102	\$ 95,788,819.00	3.9	5 0	2 -2	54	26.8	1254	225	24	167	598	106	29	433	1381	0.232	0.294	0.375	0.67	202
Arizona Diamondbacks 2022 74 88 \$ 58,964,090.00 4.3 4.6 0 -3 57 26.5 1232 262 24 173 658 104 29 531 1341 0.23 0.304 0.385 0.689 206 Atlanta Braves 2022 10 61 5 183,438,888.00 4.9 3.8 0.1 1 53 27.5 1394 298 11 243 753 87 31 470 1498 0.25 0.317 0.443 0.761 248 Battimore Orioles 2022 83 79 5 4,888,388.00 4.2 0.2 4 58 27 1281 275 25 171 639 95 31 476 1390 0.236 0.305 0.39 0.059 211 Boston Red Sox 2022 78 8 84 5 211,812,131,00 4.5 4.9 0.2 2 54 28.8 1427 352 12 155 704 52 20 478 1373 0.258 0.321 0.409 0.731 226 Chicago Cubs 2022 78 88 5 151,054,737.00 4.1 4.5 0.1 1 64 27.9 1293 265 31 159 602 111 37 507 1448 0.238 0.311 0.387 0.698 207 Chicago White Sox 2022 81 81 5 203,205,326.00 4.2 4.4 0.1 3 44 29.3 1435 272 9 149 654 58 10 388 1269 0.256 0.31 0.387 0.698 207	Toronto Blue Jays	2021	91	71	\$ 150,140,253.00	5.2	4.1	0 -8	62	26.8	1455	285	13	262	816	81	20	496	1218	0.266	0.33	0.466	0.797	255
Arizona Diamondbacks 2022 74 88 \$ 58,964,090.00 4.3 4.6 0 -3 57 26.5 1232 262 24 173 658 104 29 531 1341 0.23 0.304 0.385 0.689 206 Atlanta Braves 2022 10 61 5 183,438,888.00 4.9 3.8 0.1 1 53 27.5 1394 298 11 243 753 87 31 470 1498 0.25 0.317 0.443 0.761 248 Battimore Orioles 2022 83 79 5 4,888,388.00 4.2 0.2 4 58 27 1281 275 25 171 639 95 31 476 1390 0.236 0.305 0.39 0.059 211 Boston Red Sox 2022 78 8 84 5 211,812,131,00 4.5 4.9 0.2 2 54 28.8 1427 352 12 155 704 52 20 478 1373 0.258 0.321 0.409 0.731 226 Chicago Cubs 2022 78 88 5 151,054,737.00 4.1 4.5 0.1 1 64 27.9 1293 265 31 159 602 111 37 507 1448 0.238 0.311 0.387 0.698 207 Chicago White Sox 2022 81 81 5 203,205,326.00 4.2 4.4 0.1 3 44 29.3 1435 272 9 149 654 58 10 388 1269 0.256 0.31 0.387 0.698 207	Washington Nationals	2021	65	97	\$ 144.415.187.00	4.5	5.1	0 -7	60	28.7	1388	272	20	182	686	56	26	573	1303	0.258	0.337	0.417	0.754	224
Atlanta Braves 2022 101 61 5 183,438,888.00 4.9 3.8 -0.1 1 53 27.5 1394 298 11 243 753 87 31 470 1498 0.253 0.317 0.443 0.761 244 Baltimore Orioles 2022 83 79 5 44,883,888.00 4.2 4.2 0.2 4 58 77 1281 275 25 171 639 95 31 476 1390 0.236 0.305 0.39 0.695 211 Boston Red Sox 2022 87 88 5 211,812,131.00 4.5 4.9 0.2 2 54 28.8 1427 352 12 155 70 52 0.4 178 178 178 178 178 178 178 178 178 178	Arizona Diamondbacks	2022	74	88	\$ 85,964,090,00	4.3	4.6	0 -3	57	26.5	1232	262	24	173	658	104	29	531	1341	0.23	0.304	0.385	0.689	206
Battimore Orioles 2022 83 79 \$ 44,888,388.00 4.2 4.2 0.2 4 58 27 1281 275 25 171 639 95 31 476 1390 0.236 0.305 0.39 0.693 211 80ston Red Sox 2022 78 84 \$ 211,812,131,00 4.5 4.9 0.2 2 54 28.8 1427 352 12 155 704 52 20 478 1373 0.258 0.311 0.409 0.731 226 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	Atlanta Braves					4.9	3.8 -0									87			1498		0.317	0.443		
Boston Red Sox 2022 78 84 \$ 211,812,131.00 4.5 4.9 0.2 2 54 28.8 1427 352 12 155 704 52 20 478 1373 0.258 0.321 0.409 0.731 226 Chicago Cubs 2022 74 88 \$ 151,054,737.00 4.1 4.5 -0.1 1 64 27.9 1293 265 31 159 620 111 37 507 1448 0.238 0.311 0.387 0.698 209 Chicago White Sox 2022 81 81 \$ 203,205,326.00 4.2 4.4 -0.1 3 44 29.3 1435 272 9 149 654 58 10 388 1269 0.256 0.31 0.387 0.698 217																								
Chicago Cubs 2022 74 88 \$ 151,054,737.00 4.1 4.5 -0.1 1 64 27.9 1293 265 31 159 620 111 37 507 1448 0.238 0.311 0.387 0.698 209 Chicago White Sox 2022 81 81 \$ 203,205,326.00 4.2 4.4 -0.1 3 44 29.3 1435 272 9 149 654 58 10 388 1269 0.256 0.31 0.387 0.698 217	Boston Red Sox	2022	78	84	\$ 211.812.131.00	4.5	4.9 0	2 2	54	28.8	1427	352		155	704	52	20		1373	0.258	0.321	0.409	0.731	
Chicago White Sox 2022 81 81 \$ 203,205,326,00 4.2 4.4 -0.1 3 4.4 29.3 1435 272 9 149 654 58 10 388 1269 0.256 0.31 0.387 0.698 217									64															
						4.2	4.4 -0	1 3											1269					
	Cincinnati Reds		_			4							18											200

The full table is too large (61R x 56C including headers) to be readable, thus is included in the appendix (in addition to what each acronym means).

#### What is represented by the data:

This data represents the average statistical performance (per team, per year) during the 2021 and 2022 MLB regular season. There are 30 teams in the league, and each team plays 162 games per season, for a total of 2,430 cumulative games per season

**W** (wins, column C) is the most suitable to be our dependent variable. Weighted statistics (such as win% vs winning/losing teams) is unsuitable as the dependent variable because every team plays the same number of games, and all games are weighted equally for the purposes of advancing into playoffs. We used all other quantitative variables as the independent variables, but eliminated the ones below our threshold of 0.05.

#### Size of the data (e.g., sample size, attributes):

The dataset used in this analysis is 39kb and has 56 columns, but the first two are used to represent the team and the year (which collectively acts as a primary key). The next two columns represent wins and losses, meaning 52 columns represent the analysis statistics.

All numbers are seasonal team average stats during the 2021 and 2022 MLB regular season. The MLB season consists of 30 teams, 162 games per team, and 2430 total games per season. For the purposes of our analysis, we will not be combining the two years, meaning we have 60 rows of data.

# Which software (e.g., SAS enterprise guide version 8.3 or SAS enterprise miner workstation 15.2) OR programming language (e.g., R) will you use?

We will be using SAS Enterprise Guide Version 8.3 and Enterprise Miner 15.2 to run our analysis.

#### Names of the statistical tests/analyses that you will perform:

We will run multiple linear regression using backwards elimination, a decision tree model and analyze its associated StatExplore page, a cluster analysis, and an analysis of variance.

#### **Rationale of performing each statistical test:**

#### **Multiple Linear Regression Analysis**

Performing a Multiple Linear Regression analysis with backward elimination can help us understand the relationship between various team statistics and the win rate of Major League Baseball (MLB). This analysis aims to identify which specific team statistic has the highest correlation with the win rate, and the factors that contribute most significantly to a team's success in the league. Backward elimination removes statistically unimportant variables from the regression model, leaving just the most important predictors. By applying this method, the analysis ensures that only those team statistics that have a meaningful impact on the win rate are retained in the final model, reducing the risk of overfitting and enhancing the model's predictive accuracy. An analysis of variance gives us deeper insight into the model.

#### **Cluster Analysis**

K-means cluster works by partitioning the data into clusters in such a way that each observation belongs to the cluster with the nearest mean, it allows the formation of clusters that share common characteristics. Performing a cluster analysis will allow us to confirm our findings from the multiple linear regression analysis.

#### **Decision Tree**

By creating a decision tree, we will be able to break down metrics and analyze specific constraints that constitute a winning team. This will be helpful when we made our final conclusions and recommendations.

#### **Statistical Test Interpretation**

#### **Multiple Linear Regression**

We performed a multiple linear regression analysis, with wins as our target variable and other metrics comprising our explanatory variables. At a confidence interval of 95%, we used backward elimination to remove non-significant predictors and reduce overfitting in our dataset. Of the 51 original explanatory variables in the database, following the completion of backward elimination, we are left with 19 variables that are statistically significant. We also ran a correlation matrix on the 19 variables. We determined that highly correlated pairs would have a threshold of 0.7. The correlation matrix showed us that there were no highly correlated pairs. This makes sense, as the backward elimination has already removed variables based on statistical significance.

The regression equation is as follows: Wins = -163.78 + 18.52\*(Runs) - 14.72\*(Runs Against) + 0.84\*(Luck) + 0.28\*(BatAge) - 0.10\*(H) - 0.10\*(2B) - 0.22\*(3B) - 0.33\*(HR) - 0.03\*(BB) - 0.003\*(SO Batting) + 628.55\*(SLG) - 0.05\*(HBP) - 0.04\*(SH) + 0.03\*(LOB Batting) - 0.03\*(Hits Pitching) - 0.03\*(HR Pitching) - 0.03\*(BB Pitching) + 0.05\*(BF) - 0.03\*(LOB Pitching)

To display our understanding of the regression equation, we will explain the relationship of runs

and runs against. For every unit increase in "Runs," the predicted number of wins is expected to

increase by 18.52. On the other hand, for every unit increase in "Runs Against," the predicted

number of wins is expected to decrease by 14.72. From the backward elimination, in analyzing

the standardized estimate value, our most significant variables (based on the threshold of 0.5) are

Runs (0.58), Runs Against (-0.58), Hits (-0.51), Slugging Percentage (1.11), and Home Runs (-

0.79). These findings are significant for MLB decision-makers, which is explained in the

recommendations and conclusions section.

**Decision Tree Model** 

Furthermore, the game of baseball is split clearly into offensive situations and defensive

situations. When a team is playing defense on the field, they are not capable of playing any

offense at the same time. So we have decided to split the two sides of the game (offensive and

defensive) into Runs and Runs Against.

We used this to create a decision tree, and found some rules that are related to Runs and Runs

Against and how they correlate to the amount of wins a team should be expected to have:

\*\_\_\_\_\_\*

Node = 4

\*\_\_\_\_\_\*

if Runs\_Against < 4.25

AND Runs < 4.55 or MISSING

then

Tree Node Identifier = 4

Number of Observations = 10

Predicted: W = 84.4

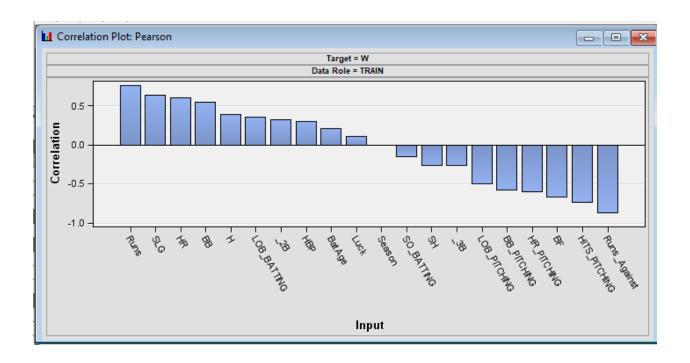
6

```
*_____*
Node = 5
*_____*
if Runs_Against < 4.25
AND Runs \geq 4.55
then
Tree Node Identifier = 5
Number of Observations = 10
Predicted: W = 97
*_____*
Node = 6
*_____*
if Runs_Against < 4.8 AND Runs_Against >= 4.25 or MISSING
then
Tree Node Identifier = 6
Number of Observations = 12
Predicted: W = 78.083333333
*_____*
Node = 7
*_____*
if Runs_Against >= 4.8
then
Tree Node Identifier = 7
Number of Observations = 10
Predicted: W = 66.9
```

So, a team should want to average less than 4.25 Runs Against per game, and have more than 4.55 Runs scored per game. A team with these metrics would expect to get around 97 wins, which would put them near the top of the standings and into the playoffs.

#### **StatExplore**

For further analysis, we have broken down all the stats into either batting stats (which would affect Runs) and pitching stats (which would affect Runs Against). Our team used StatExplore to find the worth of each variable to add onto our Multiple Linear Regression results.



For simplicity, we have decided to take the three stats on both the left and right sides that are not Runs or Runs Against. Broken down into offensive and defensive stats, we have determined the most valuable statistics when it comes to winning baseball games is:

Offensive Stats (Runs For): .SLG, Home Runs scored, Base on balls

Defensive Stats (Runs Against): Hits allowed, Home runs allowed, Batters Faced

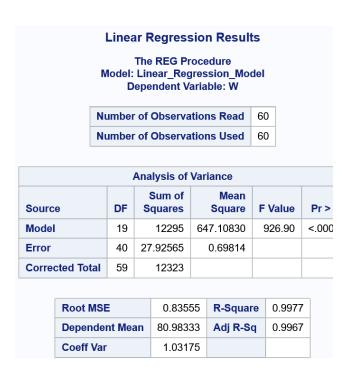
So, using our decision rule tree, any team that is not scoring at least 4.55 runs per game should concentrate on increasing their .SLG, Home Runs scored, or the amount of Bases on balls. If they are allowing more than 4.25 Runs Against per game, they should acquire players that would increase their Hits, Home Runs, and Batters Faced allowed.

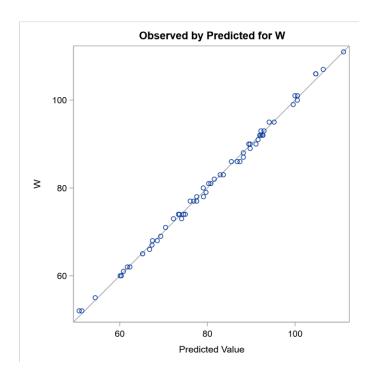
#### **Cluster Analysis**

The results from our cluster analysis are consistent with the findings in the multiple linear regression. Through the cluster analysis, we grouped similar data points based on various metrics, and it was evident that clusters with higher win totals tended to exhibit more positive values in the significant metrics identified during regression analysis. This agreement between the two analytical approaches strengthens our understanding that specific performance metrics play a crucial role in a team's success. Teams belonging to clusters with higher win totals (as seen in Cluster 1 with the 100 win team) are likely to excel in areas such as scoring runs, preventing runs against, and demonstrating better offensive and defensive performances. This coherence across different methods of analysis enhances our confidence in identifying key factors influencing team success, offering valuable insights for decision-making in sports management and related fields.

#### **Analysis of Variance**

Our regression model has a F-value of 920.9, and a p-value < 0.0001, meaning that the model is very statistically significant. Our relative error (SSE/SST) is 27.92565/12295 = 0.0022713, or 0.22713%, and our adjusted R2 is 0.\9967, which is exceptional.





This can be visually observed in the best-fit line, which has no real outliers to speak of. The primary reason for this is because our dataset consists only of averages, meaning outliers simply do not get an opportunity to skew some metrics one way or another.

To test this in real-life scenarios, we created a basic spreadsheet

														LO	HIT				LO
										SO				В	S	HR	ВВ		В
		Runs								ВА				ВА	PIT	PIT	PIT		PIT
	Run	Agai		Bat						TTI	SL	НВ		TTI	CHI	CHI	CHI		CHI
Intercept	S	nst	Luck	Age	Н	2B	3B	HR	ВВ	NG	G	Р	SH	NG	NG	NG	NG	BF	NG
					-	-	-	-	-	-	62	-	-		-	-	1		-
	18.5	-			0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-	173	14.7	0.844	0.27	01	03	17	32	34	03	48	48	38	29	31	29	33	47	29
163.78035	7	239	64	957	46	76	23	11	02	8	83	06	87	03	04	11	83	05	18
Oakland																			
Athletics																			
2021					12	27		19	54	13	0.4			10	13	19	43	60	10
W=86	4.6	4.2	-1	30.1	84	1	19	9	5	49	06	98	17	84	62	1	9	60	89
	-	-	-	8.41	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	31.	-	-	1	28	1
	78.6	61.8	0.844	505	13	28.	4.1	66.	18.	5.1	5.1	4.7	0.6	46	42.	5.5	14.	5.1	31.
86.79842398	004	4038	64	7	0.2	11	27	08	54	26	90	09	60	85	27	60	85	23	77

	48				74	89	37	98	09	2	82	88	79	2	64	01	13		70
					64	6		9			5				8		7		2
Oakland																			
Athletics																			
2022					11	24		13	43	13	0.3			96	13	19	50	61	10
W=60	3.5	4.8	1	28.3	47	9	15	7	3	89	46	59	22	9	94	5	3	21	87
					-	-		-	-		21				-		-		-
	-				11	25.	-	45.	14.	-	7.4	-	-	28.	43.	-	17.	28	31.
	98.9	-		7.91	6.3	83	3.2	49	73	5.2	77	2.8	8.0	13	26	5.6	01	7.9	71
	695	70.6	0.844	183	74	62	58	90	06	78	89	35	55	00	97	76	64	93	86
60.36393118	55	7472	64	1	62	4	45	7	6	2	52	54	14	7	6	45	9	05	6
San																			
Francisco																			
Giants																			
2021 W =					12	23		19	53	14	0.3			10	13	19	48	61	10
107	5	3.7	4	27	09	3	11	9	5	92	85	72	9	40	56	7	5	06	65
					-	-		-			24				-		-		
					12	24.	-	66.	-	-	1.9	-	-		42.	-	16.	28	-
	-	-			2.6	17	2.3	80	18.	5.6	91	3.4	0.3	30.	09	5.7	40	7.2	31.
	71.1	54.4	3.378	7.54	65	60	89	98	20	69	29	60	49	19	02	34	75	87	07
106.4145696	935	7843	56	839	14	8	53	9	07	6	96	32	83	12	4	67	5	3	67

2021-2022 MLB Standings t-test

#### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Following the results of our statistical tests, we have identified several metrics that are significant toward winning. A main takeaway from our multiple linear regression is that our most significant variables (based on the threshold of 0.5 from the standardized estimate value) are Runs (0.58), Runs Against (-0.58), Hits (-0.51), Slugging Percentage (1.11), and Home Runs (-0.79), with Slugging Percentage and Home Runs as the top two variables. Our cluster analysis confirmed our results, as clusters portraying a higher number of wins also had positive results in the metrics we deemed as most valuable.

A main takeaway from our classification tree is that any team not scoring at least 4.55 runs per game should concentrate on increasing their .SLG, Home Runs scored, or the amount of Bases

on balls. If they are allowing more than 4.25 Runs Against per game, they should acquire players that would increase their Hits, Home Runs, and Batters Faced allowed. Teams with Runs Against under 4.25, and Runs over or equal to 4.55 have a predicted 97 wins, which is typically enough to earn a playoff berth.

Considering the insights derived from our statistical outputs, we would like to make a recommendation for players to target for competitive MLB teams in the 2023 offseason, in preparation for the 2024 season. As shown through the classification tree, teams with runs equal to or over 4.55 and with runs against under 4.25 have a predicted wins count of 97. Any team that is not scoring at least 4.55 runs per game should concentrate on increasing their .SLG, Home Runs scored, or the amount of Bases on balls. If they are allowing more than 4.25 Runs Against per game, they should acquire players that would increase their Hits, Home Runs, and Batters Faced allowed. For teams struggling to score runs, 2024 free agents like Shohei Ohtani or J.D. Martinez would be favourable signings, as they rank first and sixth respectively in .SLG for the current season (Baseball America, 2023). For teams allowing more than 4.25 Runs Against per game, 2024 free agents like Kyle Gibson and Lucas Giolito, the two free agents with the highest BF total, will certainly add value to a competitive team. With these metrics in mind, MLB executives can develop an optimal player acquisition strategy.

# **References**

Baseball America (n.d.). Baseballamerica.com

https://www.baseballamerica.com

Baseball Reference (n.d.). Baseball-Reference.com.

https://www.baseball-reference.com/

# **Appendix**

Linear Regression results

# **Linear Regression Results**

The REG Procedure
Model: Linear\_Regression\_Model
Dependent Variable: W

Number of Observations Read	60
Number of Observations Used	60

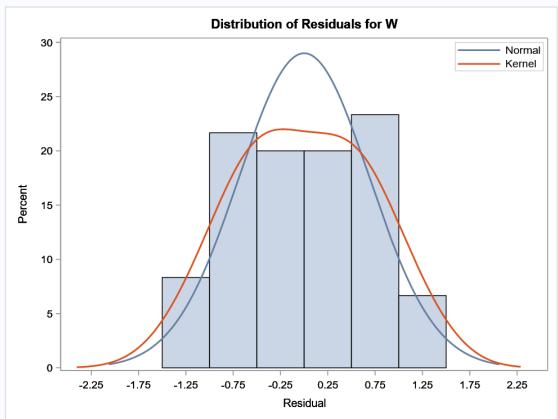
		Analysis of	Variance		
Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
Model	19	12295	647.10830	926.90	<.0001
Error	40	27.92565	0.69814		
Corrected Total	59	12323			

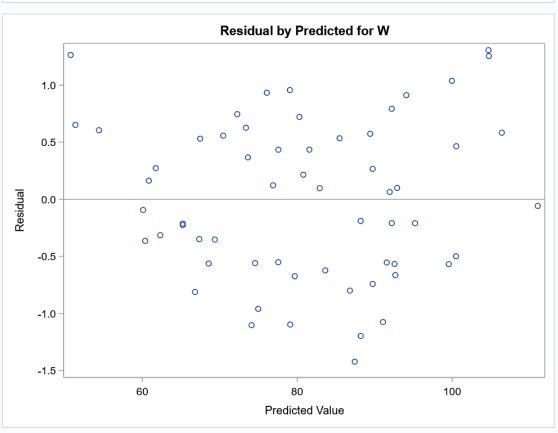
Root MSE	0.83555	R-Square	0.9977
Dependent Mean	80.98333	Adj R-Sq	0.9967
Coeff Var	1.03175		

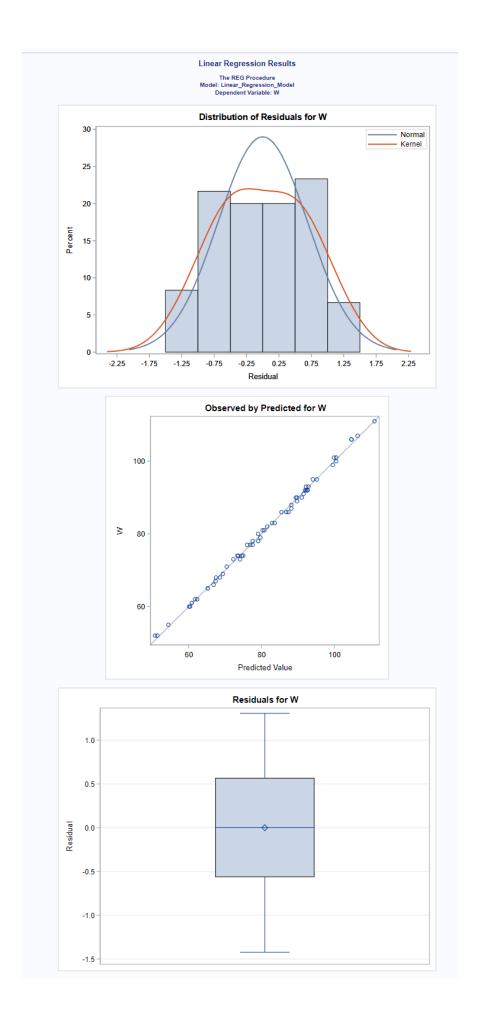
		Parar	neter Estima	tes		
Variable	DF	Parameter Estimate	Standard Error	t Value	Pr >  t	Standardized Estimate
Intercept	1	-163.78035	40.00666	-4.09	0.0002	0
Runs	1	18.51737	1.01460	18.25	<.0001	0.58488
Runs Against	1	-14.72390	0.92595	-15.90	<.0001	-0.58329
Luck	1	0.84464	0.03748	22.54	<.0001	0.23969
BatAge	1	0.27957	0.13426	2.08	0.0438	0.02051
Н	1	-0.10146	0.01787	-5.68	<.0001	-0.51253
2B	1	-0.10376	0.01975	-5.25	<.0001	-0.20902
3B	1	-0.21723	0.04011	-5.42	<.0001	-0.11261
HR	1	-0.33211	0.05809	-5.72	<.0001	-0.79746
ВВ	1	-0.03402	0.00846	-4.02	0.0002	-0.14238
SO BATTING	1	-0.00380	0.00179	-2.12	0.0402	-0.02589
SLG	1	628.54883	107.83866	5.83	<.0001	1.10987
НВР	1	-0.04806	0.01128	-4.26	0.0001	-0.05296
SH	1	-0.03887	0.01666	-2.33	0.0247	-0.03209
LOB BATTING	1	0.02903	0.00833	3.48	0.0012	0.10101
HITS PITCHING	1	-0.03104	0.00563	-5.51	<.0001	-0.20370
HR PITCHING	1	-0.02911	0.00962	-3.02	0.0043	-0.05622
BB PITCHING	1	-0.03383	0.00697	-4.85	<.0001	-0.13523
BF	1	0.04705	0.00757	6.21	<.0001	0.35598
LOB PITCHING	1	-0.02918	0.00787	-3.71	0.0006	-0.09460

#### **Linear Regression Results**

The REG Procedure Model: Linear\_Regression\_Model Dependent Variable: W





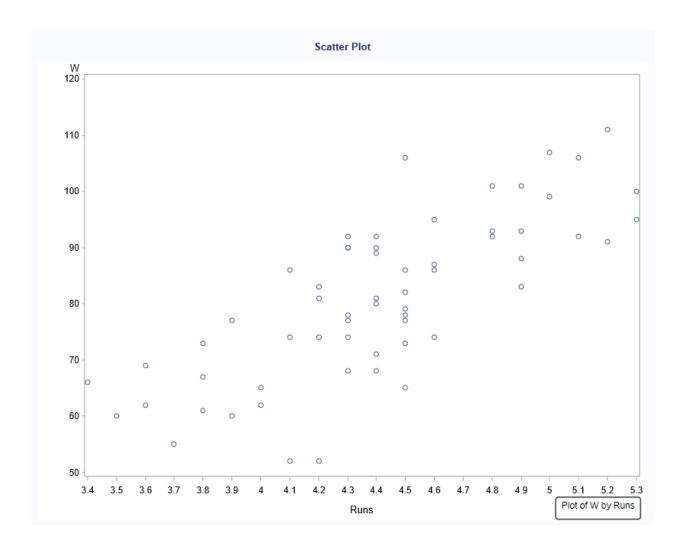


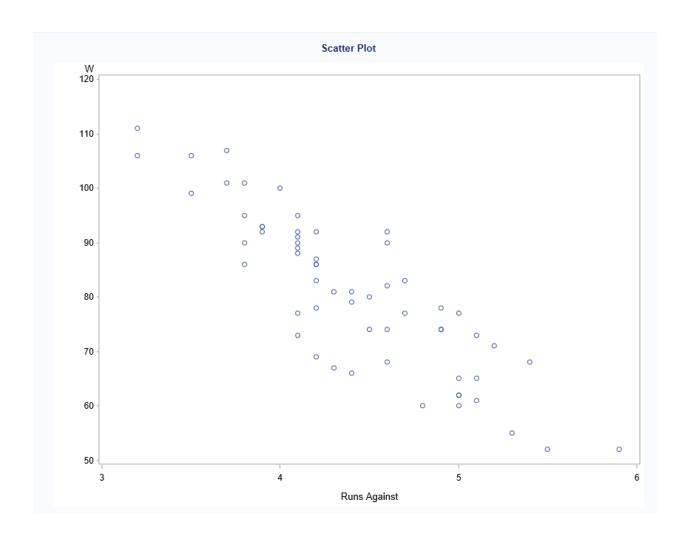
# Cluster Analysis Results (2 parts)

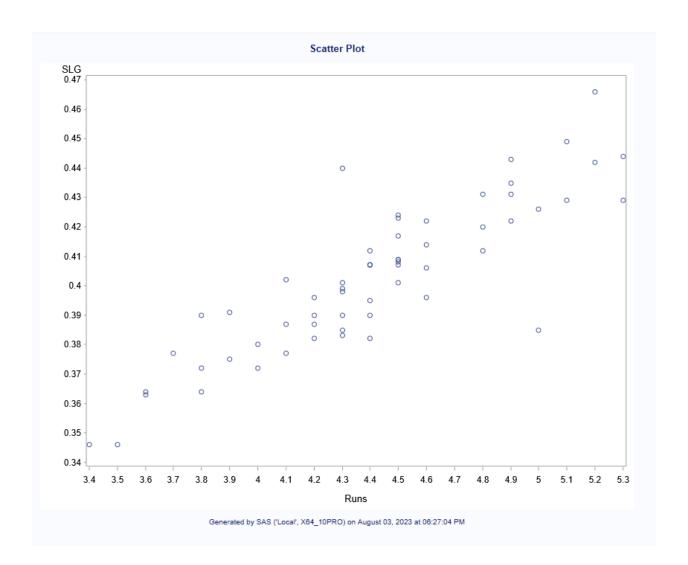
																											C	luster	Means		
Cluster	Season	w	L	Payroll	Runs	Runs Against	Strength of Schedule	Luck	#Bat	BatAge	н	28	3B	HR	RBI	SB	cs	ВВ	SO BATTING	ВА	ОВР	SLG	OPS	тв	GDP	нвр	SH	SF	IBB BATTING	LOB BATTING	#P
1	2021.8	100.8	61.2	260427207.6	4.9	3.6	-0.1	-2.6	56.6	29.4	1374.0	264.8	23.8	215.8	765.8	86.4	23.6	565.6	1350.6	0.3	0.3	0.4	8.0	2333.8	108.0	78.8	15.0	45.4	26.8	1130.8	33.8
2	2021.4	75.7	86.2	124875152.3	4.4	4.6	-0.0	-1.2	56.4	28.4	1315.6	261.9	22.6	181.8	672.0	75.9	25.8	503.6	1386.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	2168.2	114.6	71.5	21.2	39.2	17.4	1083.3	33.8
3	2021.5	74.4	87.6	63963586.3	4.1	4.6	0.0	1.5	57.8	27.6	1274.0	254.1	25.9	171.7	641.5	90.6	27.0	489.4	1415.9	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	2095.0	103.7	63.8	20.3	38.5	18.9	1059.8	34.1
4	2021.5	87.9	74.1	188440131.6	4.6	4.2	0.0	8.0	55.6	28.4	1343.4	272.3	17.2	194.3	700.7	70.1	24.0	521.5	1361.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	2232.9	116.1	67.4	16.9	38.8	21.4	1099.9	32.9

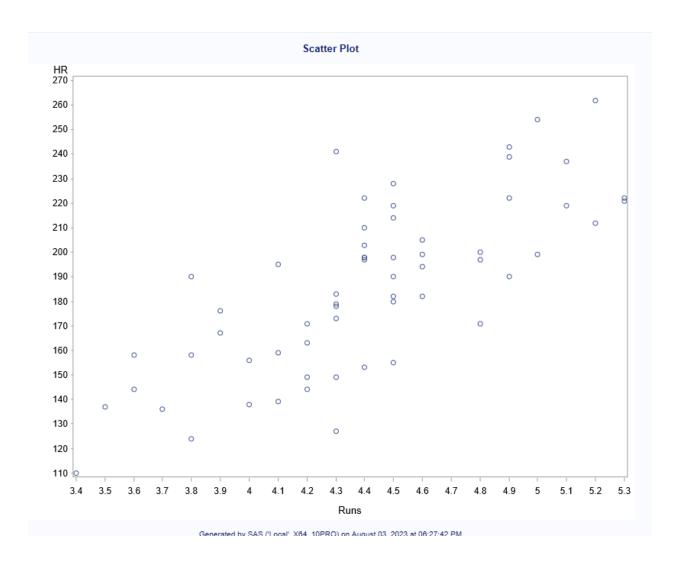
PAge	ERA	CG	tSho	cSho	sv	HITS PITCHING	HR PITCHING	BB PITCHING	IBB PITCHING	SO PITCHING	HBP PITCHING	вк	WP	BF	ERA+	FIP	WHIP	Н9	HR9	ВВ9	<b>S</b> 09	SO/W	LOB PITCHING
29.4	3.3	1.2	16.4	0.6	45.8	1200.4	157.8	445.6	19.0	1502.2	68.4	4.4	42.4	5941.4	122.2	3.5	1.1	7.5	1.0	2.8	9.4	3.4	1043.6
28.8	4.3	1.3	9.8	8.0	38.1	1345.4	195.0	528.5	19.5	1352.6	69.6	4.6	60.8	6091.8	98.8	4.3	1.3	8.5	1.3	3.3	8.6	2.6	1098.0
27.8	4.2	1.2	9.4	0.5	38.5	1346.8	188.4	509.6	20.7	1322.3	69.8	4.6	58.9	6084.8	98.8	4.2	1.3	8.5	1.2	3.2	8.3	2.6	1089.0
29.2	3.9	1.9	11.4	1.0	43.8	1293.5	177.9	502.9	19.0	1438.2	68.6	4.7	56.6	6043.6	105.5	3.9	1.3	8.1	1.1	3.2	9.0	2.9	1080.9

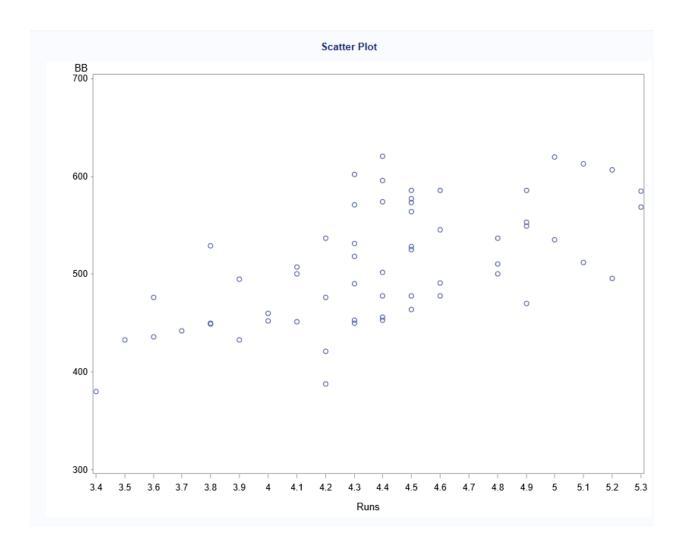
# Various Scatterplots

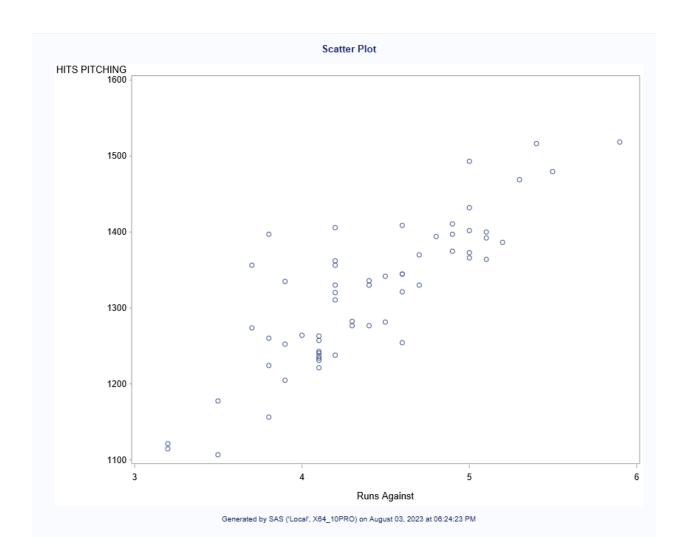


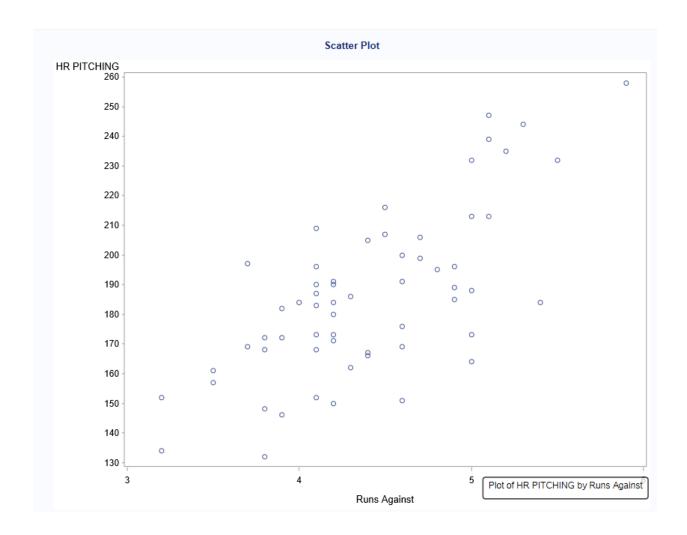


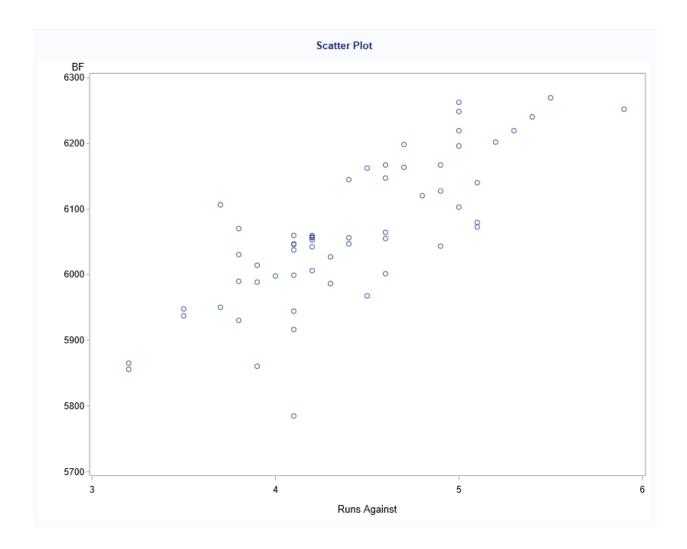


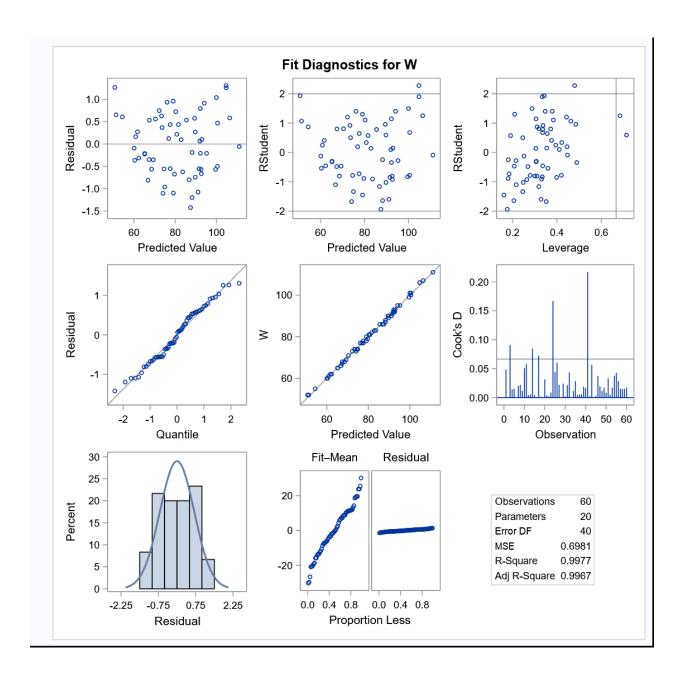


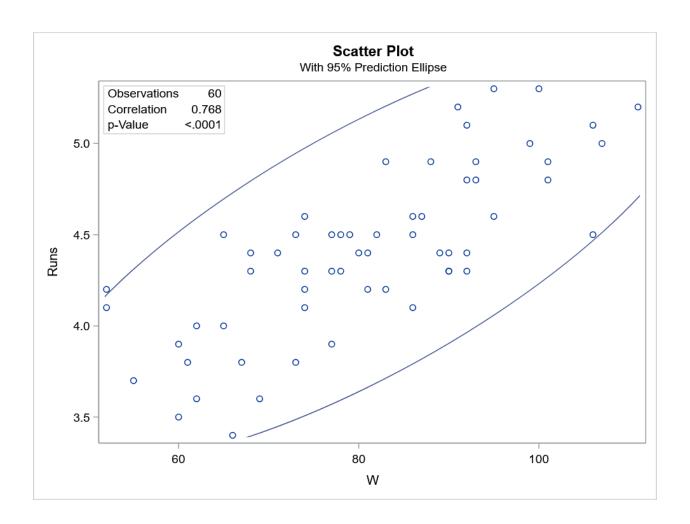


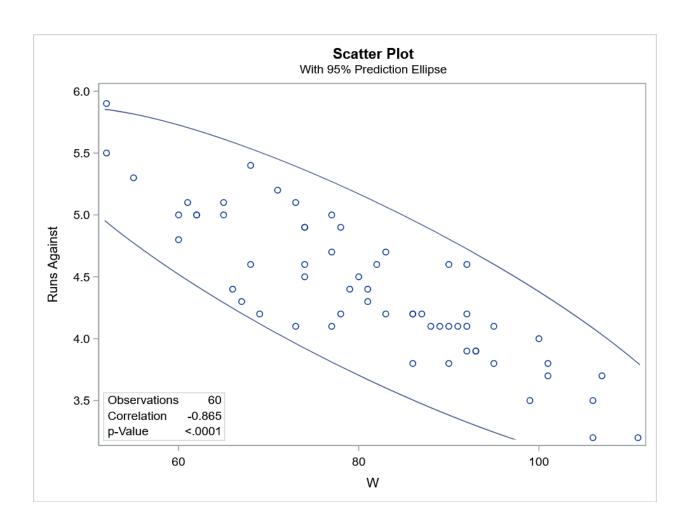


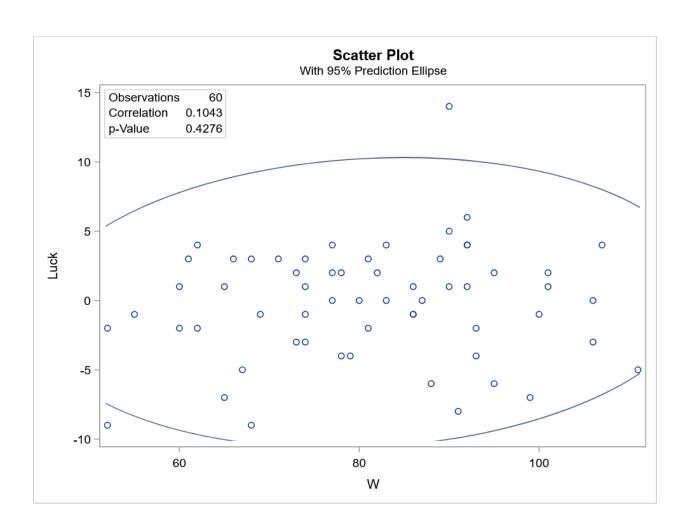


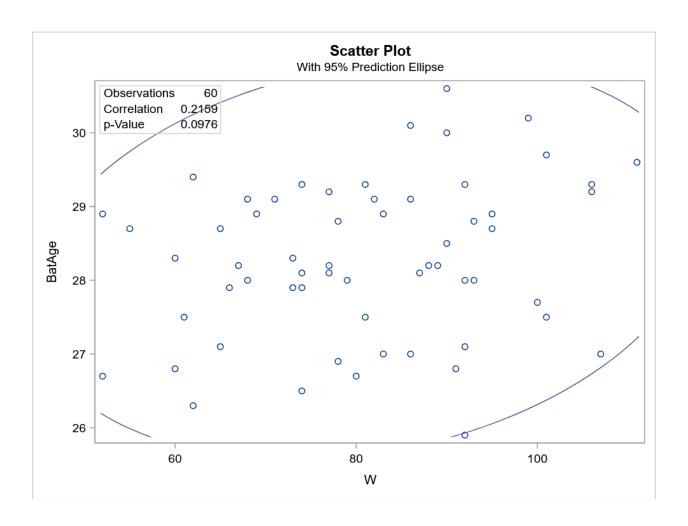


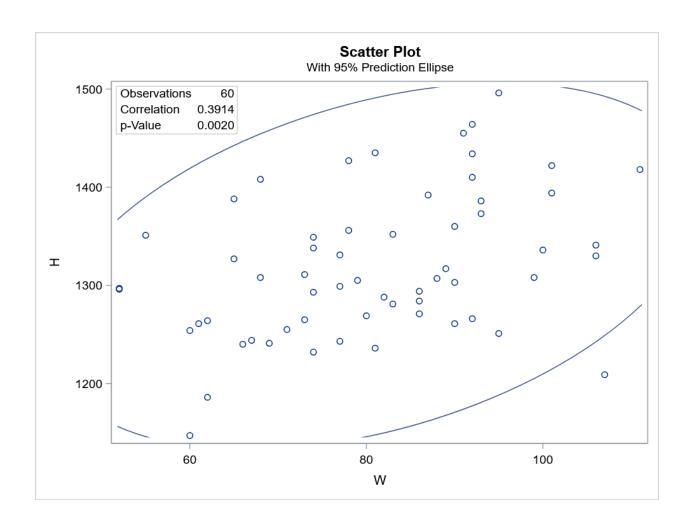












# Glossary of Metrics

Stat	Description	Stat	Description	Stat	Description
#Bat	Players used in Games	#P	Pitchers used in Games	BatAge	Batters' average age
Н	Hits/Hits Allowed	ERA	9*ER/IP	2B	Doubles Hit/Allowed
3B	Triples Hit/Allowed	HR	Home Runs Hit/Allowed	RBI	Runs Batted In
SB	Stolen Bases	CS	Caught Stealing	BB	Bases on Balls/Walks
SOBAT	Batting Strikeouts	ВА	Hits/At Bats	OBP	(H+BB+HBP)/(At Bats+BB+HBP+ SF)
SLG	Total Bases/At Bats	OPS	On-Base + Slugging Percentages	OPS+	OPS+
TB	Total Bases	GDP	Double Plays Grounded Into	HBP	Times Hit by a Pitch
SH	Sacrifice Hits (Sacrifice Bunts)	SF	Sacrifice Flies	IBB BAT	Intentional Bases on Balls
LOB BAT	Runners Left On Base (Batting)	#P	Pitchers used in Games	PAge	Pitchers' average age
HITS PITCH	Hits/Hits Allowed	ERA	9*ER/IP	CG	Complete Game
tSho	Shutouts by a team	cSho	Shutouts	SV	Saves
IP	Innings Pitched	HR PITCH	Home Runs Hit/Allowed	BB PITCH	Bases on Balls/Walks
SO PITCH	Pitching Strikeouts	IBB PITCH	Intentional Bases on Balls	HBP PITCH	Times Hit by a Pitch
BK	Balks	WP	Wild Pitches	BF	Batters Faced
ERA+	ERA+	FIP	Fielding Independent Pitching	WHIP	(BB + H)/IP
H9	9xH/IP	HR9	9xHR/IP	BB9	9xBB/IP
S09	9xSO/IP	SO/W	SO/W or SO/BB	LOB PITCH	Runners Left On Base (Pitching)

Column1	Season	w	L	Payroll	Runs	Runs Against	Streng th of Sched ule	Luck	#Bat
Arizona Diamondbacks	2021	52	110	\$ 91,632,929.00	4.2	5.5	0.2	-9	64
Atlanta Braves	2021	88	73	\$ 152,750,691.00	4.9	4.1	-0.1	-6	56
Baltimore Orioles	2021	52	110	\$ 42,421,870.00	4.1	5.9	0.3	-2	62
Boston Red Sox	2021	92	70	\$ 187,100,784.00	5.1	4.6	0.1	4	56
Chicago Cubs	2021	71	91	\$ 144,037,170.00	4.4	5.2	-0.1	3	69
Chicago White Sox	2021	93	69	\$ 140,926,169.00	4.9	3.9	-0.2	-4	47
Cincinnati Reds	2021	83	79	\$ 126,587,447.00	4.9	4.7	-0.2	0	55
Cleveland Indians	2021	80	82	\$ 50,670,534.00	4.4	4.5	-0.1	0	48
Colorado Rockies	2021	74	87	\$ 116,408,966.00	4.6	4.9	0.1	-1	45
Detroit Tigers	2021	77	85	\$ 86,348,945.00	4.3	4.7	-0.1	2	49
Houston Astros	2021	95	67	\$ 194,222,042.00	5.3	4.1	-0.1	-6	52
Kansas City Royals	2021	74	88	\$ 91,595,545.00	4.2	4.9	0	3	48
Los Angeles Angels	2021	77	85	\$ 183,849,560.00	4.5	5	0.2	4	64
Los Angeles Dodgers	2021	106	56	\$ 266,020,809.00	5.1	3.5	-0.1	-3	61
Miami Marlins	2021	67	95	\$ 58,157,900.00	3.8	4.3	0	-5	61
Milwaukee Brewers	2021	95	67	\$ 99,377,415.00	4.6	3.8	-0.3	2	61
Minnesota Twins	2021	73	89	\$ 120,084,606.00	4.5	5.1	0	2	57
New York Mets	2021	77	85	\$ 201,189,189.00	3.9	4.1	0	0	64
New York Yankees	2021	92	70	\$ 205,669,863.00	4.4	4.1	0.1	6	59
Oakland Athletics	2021	86	76	\$ 90,400,598.00	4.6	4.2	0.1	-1	50
Philadelphia Phillies	2021	82	80	\$ 197,263,223.00	4.5	4.6	0	2	55
Pittsburgh Pirates	2021	61	101	\$ 54,356,609.00	3.8	5.1	0	3	64
San Diego Padres	2021	79	83	\$ 179,764,272.00	4.5	4.4	0.1	-4	54
San Francisco Giants	2021	107	55	\$ 171,890,308.00	5	3.7	-0.1	4	63
Seattle Mariners	2021	90	72	\$ 83,822,113.00	4.3	4.6	0.1	14	54
St. Louis Cardinals	2021	90	72	\$ 151,469,994.00	4.4	4.1	-0.2	5	51

The full dataset is attached separately for formatting reasons.