World Series 2020:
Has baseball analytics gone too far?

By: Joshua Majano

Scenario

- You are the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 6 of the World Series
- World Series is a best-of-seven and you are down 2 games to 3
- Score: 1-0 in your favor
- Your starting pitcher is about to face the start of the Dodgers' lineup for a third time
- Question:
  - Do you continue with your starting pitcher or choose to make a pitching switch?

What do the numbers say?

TIMES THROUGH THE ORDER MLB SINCE START OF 2015	OBP	SLG	K%
FIRST	.317	.403	23.2
SECOND	.323	.434	20.3
THIRD +	.331	.454	18.6

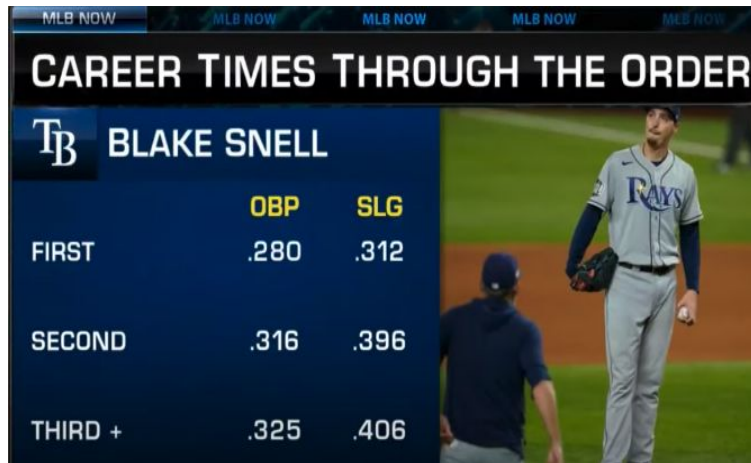| TB NICK ANDERSON — REGULAR SEASON CAREER WITH TB	
INNINGS	37.2
ERA	1.43
K/BB	67/5

Your chosen relief pitcher
to take over the inning

Q: Do you make a pitching change with the batting lineup coming for the third time?

Credit: MLB Now

The numbers during Game 6

- Overall stats going into pitching change:

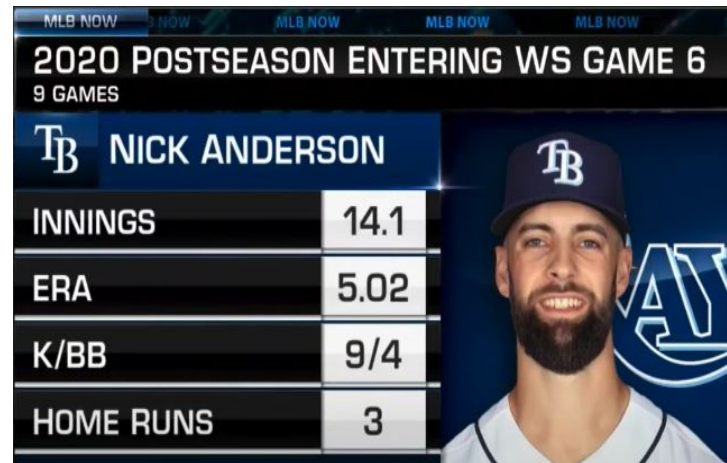**CAREER TIMES THROUGH THE ORDER**

TB BLAKE SNELL

	OBP	SLG
FIRST	.280	.312
SECOND	.316	.396
THIRD +	.325	.406

2020 POSTSEASON ENTERING WS GAME 6
9 GAMES

TB NICK ANDERSON

INNINGS	14.1
ERA	5.02
K/BB	9/4
HOME RUNS	3

- Blake Snell stats through 5 innings pitched:
  - 1 hit, 0 runs, 9 strikeouts, average exit velocity from hitters: 76.7 MPH

Credit: MLB Now

Takeaways

- Data is useful!
  - Used a lot for team composition, defensive placement, batting line-up structure, in-game decision-making, etc.
- Data is not the end all, be all
  - Point is not to make a move because of "the numbers"
  - The stats are a tool to be used along with other evidence to make a move