Data is very interesting in that you can use it to make practically any claim you want. Specifically in sports, the same data can be used to make a case both for and against a player when analyzing them. Therefore, this exercise is difficult as there truly is no wrong answer about if Position Player A or Position Player B would be a better pick for our team. Through this report, I plan to compare both players’ stats to each other, first focusing on their basic stats before moving on to more advanced stats, before coming to a conclusion. By the end of this report, I hope you agree with me that Position Player A is ultimately the right choice for our team.

Starting with the most basic stat of them all, Position Player A is six years younger than Position Player B. At age 26, he is likely either entering his prime or hasn’t even reached it yet, which is further demonstrated by nearly all of his stats increasing year over year, both in the basic and advanced categories. Meanwhile, Position Player B is likely reaching the end of his prime or may have already reached the end at age 32. Therefore, the team will get more value in terms of expected productive playing time left out of Position Player A. Moving on, most of the other basic hitting stats are pretty equal for the two players. The only exception I see is that Position Player B generates more hits and RBI’s than Position Player A. This seems to suggest that Position Player B is a slightly better hitter than Positional Player A, though it is important to note that latter does hit slightly more home runs. As for running stats, Position Player A seems to be better, as he gets more runs and has more successful stolen bases than his counterpart. While he does get caught stealing more and at a higher rate than Position Player B, I think this is more due to teams expecting him to steal, showing his speed advantage. Therefore, he is a threat even when he isn’t stealing on the bases simply because he draws attention to himself, which can lead to less focus on other baserunners. The biggest difference on offense is that Position Player A nearly doubles Position Player B in terms of average walks over the four-year stretch, which is a huge advantage for him. The strikeout numbers for both players are pretty similar, though it is important to note that Position Player B had much more strikeouts than normal last year. We would likely need more data to determine if that was just a fluke or a red flag of what’s to come. Finally, the slashing line for both players are pretty similar, with Position Player B having a higher average (due to him getting more hits) and Position Player A having a higher OBP and OPS (due to him getting more walks).

Moving on to the advanced stats, Position Player B had a higher BABIP every year and a higher average BABIP compared to Position Player A, meaning he gets more hits when factoring out home runs. Meanwhile, Position Player A has a higher OPS+ and wRC+ average compared to Position Player B, and a higher value every year except year 1. When factored with DRC+, or Deserved Runs Created Plus, both players seem to have been getting a little lucky over the past four years, as the average is lower compared to the average for wRC+ for both players. wOBA, or weighted On-Base Average, tells the same story, Position Player A is better than Position Player B, but both have been getting slightly lucky. This means Position Player A is better at getting on-base, which is to be expected considering the number of walks he had. When looking at xSLG, we see Position Player A may have been getting a little lucky and we should expect a slightly lower Slugging Percentage in the future. Finally, WAR is higher for Position Player A in all three categories (fWAR, bWar, and WARP) compared to Position Player B, though this is to be expected since the former is a much better baserunner. Additionally, Position Player A is a much better defender, as his Fielding Percentage, Range Factor, Ultimate Zone Rating, Fielding Runs Above Average, Defensive Runs Saved, and Outs Above Average are all higher (some significantly more) than Position Player B. However, based on the fact that the team that currently owns Position Player B has been playing him more as a DH, defense is not necessarily something we need to expect out of him.

Ultimately, this decision comes down to what our team specifically needs. If our team needs offense and we have a good first base defender currently, I would suggest picking Position Player B and playing him as a designated hitter. Without knowing our team though, I will suggest taking Position Player A, as he is more multi-talented. The fact that he is six years younger as well certainly helps.