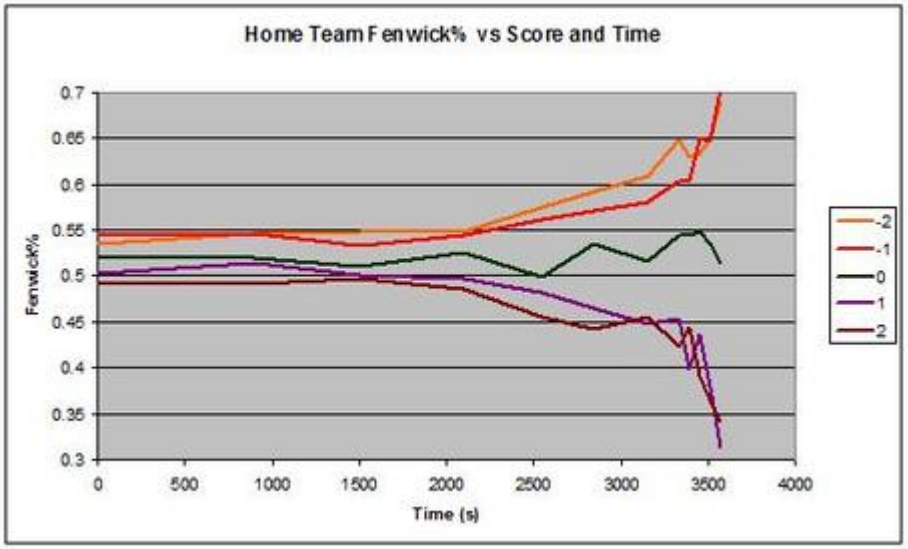
More on Score Effects and Corsi Numbers

By Hawerchuk @behindthenet on Apr 29 2010, 9:00a 1

Earlier, I wrote about the effect that the score has on shot counts. In a nutshell,when a team is down, it tends to outshoot its opponents. This effect is not constant throughout the game - there's very little difference in shot counts for the first two periods, but in the 3rd period, shot ratios are very extreme:



So what happens if we adjust shot totals for home/road, score and time? Surprisingly, not much - the standard deviation of the score effect adjustment is 0.45%. Over the last five years, the 2008-09 Boston Bruins had the largest expected increase in shot ratio, and that was barely 1%:

Season	Team	Fenwick Raw	Fenwick Norm	Difference	Reg Win%
2008-09	bos	50.3	51.3	1.064	646
2006-07	ott	51.0	52.0	0.956	585
2005-06	det	57.0	57.8	0.787	707
2009-10	was	51.4	52.1	0.720	659
2006-07	nsh	47.6	48.3	0.711	622
2006-07	sj	52.4	53.1	0.705	628
2005-06	cgy	51.2	51.9	0.697	561
2007-08	det	58.6	59.3	0.694	659
2008-09	sj	54.4	55.1	0.684	646
2008-09	was	54.6	55.3	0.678	610

At the other end, the adjustments are slightly more extreme - not surprisingly, because it's easier to put together a legendarily bad team than it is to build a comparably good one:

Season	Team	Fenwick Raw	Fenwick Norm	Difference	Reg Win%
2006-07	edm	48.2	47.4	-0.812	390
2009-10	edm	45.2	44.4	-0.825	329
2007-08	atl	42.9	42.1	-0.830	415
2008-09	tb	47.4	46.6	-0.834	293
2005-06	stl	48.5	47.7	-0.837	256
2009-10	tor	53.1	52.3	-0.879	366
2008-09	col	48.1	47.2	-0.885	390
2006-07	la	50.3	49.4	-0.923	329
2006-07	phi	47.2	46.0	-1.221	268
2005-06	pit	45.0	43.7	-1.374	268

Again, this year's Toronto Maple Leafs disaster makes an appearance - bad goaltending and a strange unwillingness to play to the score when they were winning makes them the rare truly bad team that legitimately outshot their opponents.

Overall, I think we don't have to worry too much about score effects at the team/season level - even the best and worst teams over the last five seasons are unlikely to need more than a 1% adjustment. Of course, score effects are incredibly significant at the game level and can not be ignored over a small number of shots.

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