



# Basketball II



Produced by Dr. Mario  
UNC STOR 390





# +/- Player Ratings

- Recall the Box Score

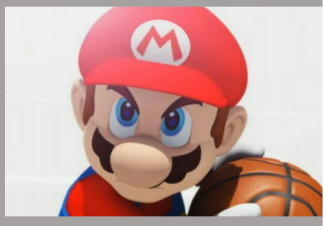
Toronto Raptors															
PLAYERS	MIN	FG	3FG	FT	+/-	OFF	DEF	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PF	PTS	
Siakam	46	10-17	3-6	3-4	2	2	8	10	3	1	1	2	2	26	
Lowry	42	9-16	4-7	4-6	16	2	5	7	10	3	0	3	5	26	
Leonard	41	7-16	1-5	7-8	-2	1	5	6	3	2	1	2	4	22	
Gasol	27	0-5	0-2	3-4	-7	3	6	9	4	0	0	1	4	3	
Green	18	0-0	0-0	0-0	7	0	1	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	

Notice the Additional Metric

- Traditional Statistics Do Not Measure Player's Ability to ...  
"Make the Team Better"



# +/- Player Ratings



- Pure +/- Ratings
  - Historically from Hockey
    - Number of Goals a Player's Team Outscores Opponent When a Specific Player is Playing on Ice
    - Highest: Bobby Orr, 1970-1971, +124
    - "Worst Statistic in Hockey" by Hockey-Graphs.com
    - Counting Statistic of Rare Event (Subject to Outliers)
    - Time on Ice Not Reflected
    - Players Who Play the Most and Least Have +/- Closer to 0
    - Weakest Players Not Given Time to Accumulate Negative +/-
    - Same Values are Not Equal i.e. +5 Can Result from Many Scenarios
  - Application to Basketball
    - Pure +/- Statistic Based on Points and Scaled to 48 Minutes
    - Depends on Quality of Players When Player is on Court
    - Players on Bad Teams (Below .500 Record) Get Penalized



# +/- Player Ratings

- Pure +/- Ratings

- Found on [www.82games.com](http://www.82games.com)

- Cavs Championship Season

- Seasonal Player Stats

- LeBron James on the Court +/-

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Net Points Per Min} \times 48 \text{ Min} &= \frac{617}{2709} \times 48 \\ &= 0.22776 \times 48 = 10.9 \end{aligned}$$

- LeBron James on Bench +/-

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Net Points Per Min} \times 48 \text{ Min} &= \frac{-125}{1261} \times 48 \\ &= -0.09913 \times 48 = -4.8 \end{aligned}$$

- Net Per 48 Minutes

$$\text{Court} - \text{Bench} = 10.9 - (-4.8) = 15.7$$



Player	Min	Production			On Court/Off Court			Simple Rating
		Own	Opp	Net	On	Off	Net	
<a href="#">James</a>	68%	30.3	10.7	+19.6	+10.9	-4.8	+15.7	+18.3
<a href="#">Love</a>	61%	21.2	15.3	+5.9	+8.4	+2.2	+6.2	+6.0
<a href="#">Irving</a>	42%	21.4	18.5	+2.9	+5.9	+6.0	-0.1	+1.9
<a href="#">Thompson</a>	57%	17.9	17.3	+0.5	+7.6	+3.7	+3.9	+1.6
<a href="#">McRae</a>	3%	15.2	16.8	-1.6	+13.1	+5.7	+7.4	+1.4
<a href="#">Varejao</a>	8%	12.7	12.7	-0.0	+8.1	+5.8	+2.3	+0.8
<a href="#">Dellavedova</a>	47%	12.2	15.4	-3.2	+9.8	+2.6	+7.2	+0.2
<a href="#">Frye</a>	11%	16.3	16.7	-0.3	+5.5	+6.0	-0.5	-0.4
<a href="#">JR.Smith</a>	59%	13.4	14.4	-1.0	+6.3	+5.5	+0.8	-0.4
<a href="#">Shumpert</a>	33%	9.4	14.9	-5.5	+6.8	+5.5	+1.3	-3.2
<a href="#">Jones</a>	12%	12.7	13.8	-1.1	-2.2	+7.0	-9.2	-3.8
<a href="#">Mozgov</a>	33%	16.2	19.8	-3.6	+0.1	+8.9	-8.8	-5.3
<a href="#">Kaun</a>	2%	13.4	18.5	-5.1	-2.0	+6.1	-8.1	-6.1
<a href="#">Jefferson</a>	33%	10.6	15.6	-5.0	-1.6	+9.7	-11.4	-7.1
<a href="#">Mo.Williams</a>	19%	13.4	18.5	-5.2	-3.2	+8.1	-11.3	-7.2
<a href="#">D.Jones</a>	1%	11.1	21.6	-10.6	-1.1	+6.0	-7.2	-9.4
<a href="#">Cunningham</a>	9%	6.4	18.3	-11.9	-1.9	+6.7	-8.6	-10.8
<a href="#">Harris</a>	0%	3.8	34.1	-30.3	-66.0	+6.2	-72.3	-30.2

Stat	ON Court	OFF Court	Net
Minutes	2709	1261	68%
Offense: Pts per 100 Poss.	116.6	103.0	+13.6
Defense: Pts per 100 Poss.	105.1	107.8	-2.7
Net Points per 100 Possessions	+11.5	-4.8	+16.3
Points Scored	6089	2466	+3623
Points Allowed	5472	2591	+2881
Net Points	+617	-125	+742



# +/- Player Ratings



- Adjusted +/- Rating

- Adjustment for Teammates Played With
- Adjustment for Opponents Played Against
- Adjustments Based on Play-by-Play Data Over Whole Season
- Average +/- Rating = 0

- Simulated Game Data

- Players 1-9 Compete Against Players 10-18 in 20 Games
- Assume Starters Play the Entire Game
- Results of Game Shown Below

```
head(GameData)
```

```
A tibble: 6 x 12
```

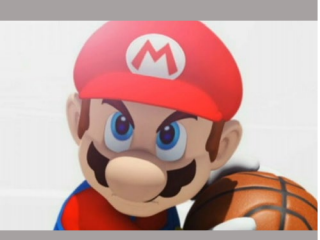
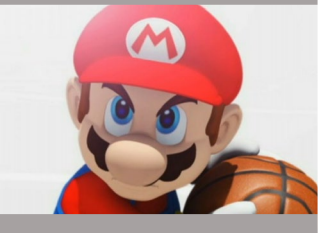
Game	Result	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10
<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>
1	-13	4	1	7	5	2	15	16	10	17	14
2	19	1	6	2	5	4	11	17	14	15	18
3	-4	1	9	2	8	4	15	14	10	17	13
4	29	1	6	5	3	2	16	17	18	14	11
5	-3	9	7	1	5	6	17	15	12	18	10
6	12	7	2	5	1	4	17	11	15	16	18





# +/- Player Ratings

- Modified Game Data into Matrix (A)
  - Each Row is a Different Game (Except Last Row)
  - Each Column is A Different Player
    - 1 = Played on Team 1
    - 0 = Did Not Play
    - -1 = Played on Team 2
- Notice Last Row of All 1's



```
print(A)
[ ,1] [ ,2] [ ,3] [ ,4] [ ,5] [ ,6] [ ,7] [ ,8] [ ,9] [ ,10] [ ,11] [ ,12] [ ,13] [ ,14] [ ,15] [ ,16] [ ,17] [ ,18]
1 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 -1 0 0 0 -1 -1 -1 -1 0
1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 -1 0 0 -1 -1 0 -1 -1
1 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 -1 0 0 -1 -1 -1 0 -1 0
1 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 -1 0 0 -1 0 -1 -1 -1
1 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 1 -1 0 -1 0 0 -1 0 -1 -1
1 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 -1 0 0 0 -1 -1 -1 -1
1 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 -1 0 -1 -1 0 -1 -1 0 0
0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 -1 0 -1 0 0 -1 0 -1 -1
1 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 -1 0 0 -1 -1 -1 -1 0
1 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 -1 -1 0 -1 0 -1 0 -1
0 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 -1 -1 0 -1 -1 0 -1 0
1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 -1 -1 0 -1 -1 -1 0 0
1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 -1 0 0 0 -1 0 -1 -1 -1
0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 -1 -1 0 -1 -1 0 -1 0 0
1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 -1 0 -1 -1 -1 0 0 -1
1 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 -1 0 -1 -1 -1 0 0 -1
0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 -1 -1 0 0 0 -1 0 -1 -1
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```



# +/- Player Ratings



- Game Results into Vector ( $y$ )
  - Each Element is a Different Game (Except Last One)
  - Notice 0 in Last Element
- Code Used to Create Matrix  $A$  and Vector  $y$

```
#Modified Data
GameData2 = cbind(GameData[,1:2],matrix(NA,20,18))
names(GameData2)[3:20]=paste("P1ayer",1:18,sep="")

for(j in 1:20){
  for(k in 1:18)
    GameData2[j,k+2]= as.numeric(k %in% GameData[j,3:12])
}

GameData2[,12:20]=-GameData2[,12:20]
Games.Played=colSums(GameData2[,3:20])

#Added Constraint to Data (Sum of Effects = 0)
GameData2[21,]=c(NA,0,rep(1,18))

#Create Matrix A
A=as.matrix(GameData2[,3:20])

#Create Vector y
y=as.matrix(GameData2[,2])
```

```
print(y)
      [,1]
[1,]    -13
[2,]     19
[3,]     -4
[4,]     29
[5,]     -3
[6,]     12
[7,]     -5
[8,]    -32
[9,]     18
[10,]     17
[11,]    -11
[12,]    -14
[13,]     29
[14,]     17
[15,]     -4
[16,]     -7
[17,]      9
[18,]     24
[19,]     18
[20,]    -24
[21,]      0
```



# +/- Player Ratings

- Goal: Estimate Adjusted +/- for All 18 Players

- Expressed into Vector ( $b$ )

$$\vec{b} = [b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{18}]'$$

- Constraint: We Want The Sum of Adjusted +/- to Equal 0
- We Invoke Constraint With Last Row of A and Element of y
- Solve the Linear Equation Using Least Squares Regression

$$\vec{y} = A\vec{b} + \epsilon \longrightarrow \vec{b} \approx (A'A)^{-1}A'\vec{y}$$

- Code for Solving System of Linear Equations

```
#solve Linear Equations|  
b=solve(t(A)%*%A)%*%t(A)%*%y
```

- Adjusted +/- For Each Player

```
> print(b)
```

	[,1]
Player1	13.441601
Player2	-1.306216
Player3	-7.755180
Player4	-7.446202
Player5	1.759840
Player6	-1.925423
Player7	2.055698
Player8	-3.983937
Player9	7.633862
Player10	14.295170
Player11	-14.596050
Player12	1.285212
Player13	-4.753639
Player14	-11.077068
Player15	9.742491
Player16	2.115617
Player17	6.092244
Player18	-5.578021







# +/- Player Ratings

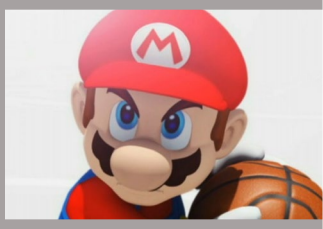
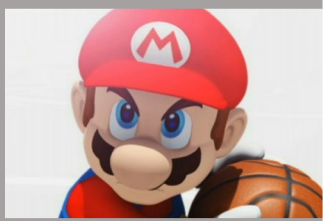
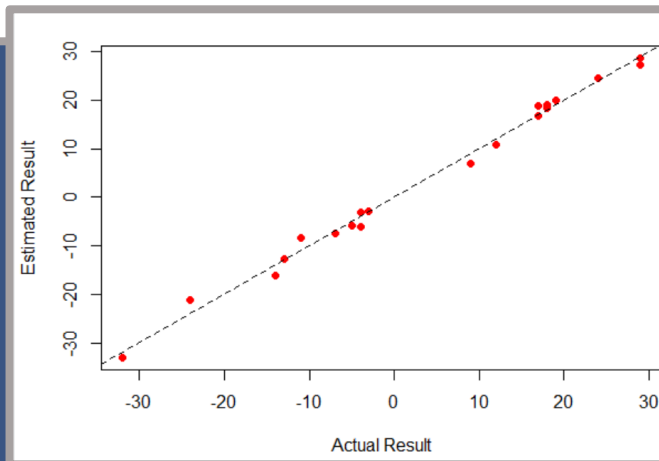
- Can Be Used to Approximate Game Result

- Code to Calculate Predicted Scores Using Adjusted +/-

```
Approx.Score=rep(NA,20)
for(k in 1:20){
  Team1Total=sum(as.numeric(b)[as.numeric(GameData[k,3:7])])
  Team2Total=sum(as.numeric(b)[as.numeric(GameData[k,8:12])])
  Approx.Score[k]=Team1Total-Team2Total
}
```

- Code and Graphic Comparing Predicted Versus Actual

```
plot(x=y[-21],y=Approx.Score,col="red",pch=16,
     xlab="Actual Result",ylab="Estimated Result")
abline(a=0,b=1,lty=2)
```





# +/- Player Ratings



- Comparing Adjusted +/- to Pure +/-
  - Let's Look at Player 15 Who Played 13/20 Games on Team 2
  - When in Game, Team 1 Averaged 5.4918 Points Above Average
  - When in Game, Team 2 Averaged 5.1072 Points Above Average
  - This Leads to a Pure +/- of -0.3846154 Points (Approximately Even)
  - When in Game and Ignoring Player 15, Team 2 Averaged 4.635 Points Below Average
  - Ignoring Player 15, the Pure +/- Would Be Horrible ...

$$(-4.635) - 5.4918 = -10.12711$$

- Adjusting for the Teammates Player 15 Was Playing With, We Would Adjust the +/- by Subtracting Pure +/- With Player 15 Minus Pure +/- Without Player 15 Would Be...

$$-0.3846154 - (-10.12711) = 9.742491 \rightarrow \text{Player 15's Adjusted +/-}$$



# +/- Player Ratings

- Comparing Adjusted +/- to Pure +/-
  - Code for These Calculations on Player 15

```
Games.Played.15=GameData2[GameData2$Player15==1,]  
Opponent.Points=rep(NA,dim(Games.Played.15)[1])  
Team.Points=rep(NA,dim(Games.Played.15)[1])  
for(k in 1:dim(Games.Played.15)[1]){  
  Opponent.Points[k]=sum(b[which(Games.Played.15[k,3:20]==1)])  
  Team.Points[k]=sum(b[which(Games.Played.15[k,3:20]==-1)])  
}  
x1=mean(Team.Points)-mean(Opponent.Points)  
  
Team.Points2=rep(NA,dim(Games.Played.15)[1])  
for(k in 1:dim(Games.Played.15)[1]){  
  Team.Points2[k]=sum(b[which(Games.Played.15[k,3:20]==-1)])-9.742491  
}  
x2=mean(Team.Points2)-mean(Opponent.Points)  
  
x1-x2
```





# +/- Player Ratings

- **WINVAL System**

- Created by Wayne Winston and Jeff Sagarin
- Adjusts for Home Team Advantage (+3.2 Points Per 48 Minutes)
- Adjusts for Time Interval Where Court Composition is Constant
- Home Team Scores 9, Away Team Scores 7, and 3 Minute Time Segment

$$\text{Adjusted Home Team Score} = 9 - \left(\frac{3}{48}\right) \times 0.5(3.2) = 8.9$$

$$\text{Adjusted Away Team Score} = 7 + \left(\frac{3}{48}\right) \times 0.5(3.2) = 7.1$$

- Actual Adjusted Margin is 1.8 Points
- Actual Adjusted Margin Per Minute is  $1.8/3 = 0.6$  Points





# +/- Player Ratings

- WINVAL System

- Predicted Margin Per Minute

$$\text{Predicted} = \left[ \frac{3.2 + \text{Sum}(\text{Home Player Ratings})}{48} \times \right] - \left[ \frac{\text{Sum}(\text{Away Player Ratings})}{48} \right]$$

- Goal: Choose Player Ratings So That the Predicted Margin is as Close as Possible to the Actual Adjusted Margin
- Kevin Garnett Had Highest WINVAL of 19 in 2006-2007 Season = He Would Improve His Team by 19 Points Per 48 Minutes
- WINVAL can Be Broken Up into Offense and Defense
- Kevin Garnett Offense WINVAL of 7 and Defense WINVAL of -12

- Using Adjusted +/- to Rate Team

- Each Player Has Own Adjusted +/- But Plays Different Minutes
- Weighted Average Across Team Can Evaluate Entire Team







# +/- Player Ratings

- Further Evaluation of Kevin Garnett's Greatness

- Look at Kevin Garnett's Impact on Team's +/- When He is On the Court and On the Bench
- Garnett In is Positive
- Garnett Out is Negative
- Shows Points Better than Average Team



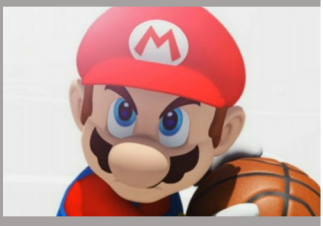
	Garnett in	Garnett out
Garnett	2.068623241	dnp
Smith	6.625117829	-19.1260921
Foye	2.687658381	-18.8363539
Jaric	1.528346916	-17.4928541
Davis	2.062763933	-19.804282
James	1.149827728	-25.2165387
Hassell	1.741019578	-25.8873062
Blount	1.1715841	-21.7697961
Madsen	6.752480906	-14.093463
Hudson	-1.458252856	-15.0936761
McCants	12.04746088	-27.8568458
Reed	-20.23843887	-11.1550147



# +/- Player Ratings

- **Problems With WINVAL**

- A Lot of Noise (We Can Observe Standard Error in +/- Ratings)
- Little Confidence When Player Plays Less Than 500 Minutes
- Impact to WINVAL at Meaningless Points of the Game



- **WINVAL Impact Rating**

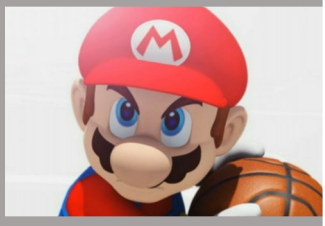
- Similar to SAGWIN Points From Baseball
- Constantly Evaluate the Impact a Player Has on Probability of Win
- I Play for 5 Minutes and Score is 14-5 Favoring My Team
- For the Raw +/-, I Would Net +9 Points
- Alternatively, I Increased My Team's Chance of Winning from 50% to 72%
- For Impact +/-, I Would Net +22 Impact Points
- Interpretation: Kevin Garnett (Impact = 42) with 4 Average Dudes Would Beat 5 Average Dudes  $50\% + 42\% = 92\%$  of the Time

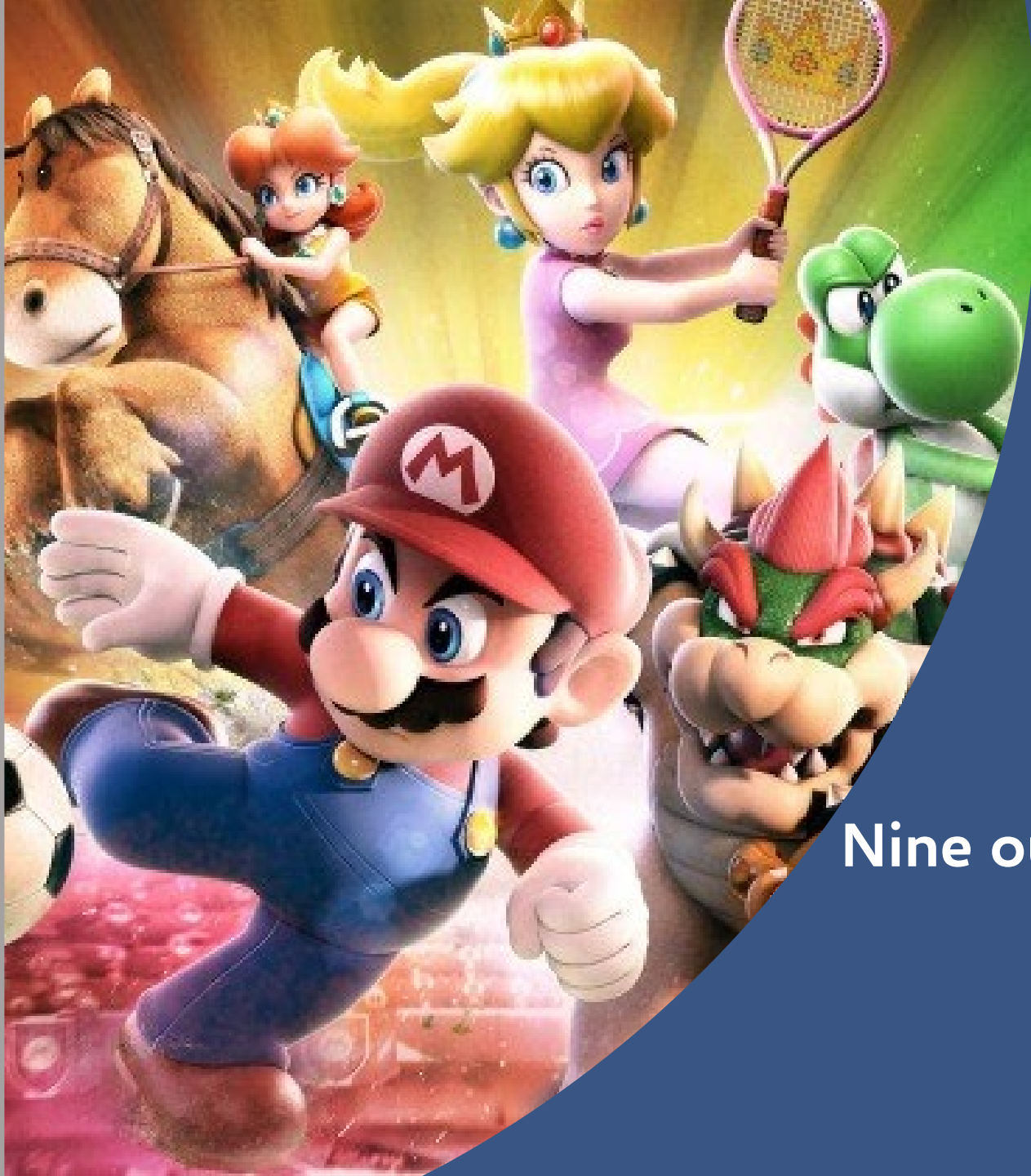


# +/- Player Ratings

- Improvements to Adjusted +/-
  - Research by Joseph Hill (2010 Winner of Sloan Paper Competition)
  - Applies Cross-Validation = Intentionally Splitting Up Data to Use Portions As Training and Test Sets and Then Averaging Over Splits
  - Applies Ridge Regression = Combat Overfitting and Shrinks Player's Adjusted +/- Toward 0
  - Cross-Validation Necessary for Selection of Tuning Parameter in Ridge
  - Applies Weights to Loss Function Based on Number of Possessions

$$\sum_i p_i (t_i - \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x})^2 + \lambda ||\mathbf{w}||^2$$





# Final Inspiration

Nine out of 10 schools are cheating.  
The other one is in last place.

- Jerry Tarkanian