



Football I

Produced by Dr. Mario | UNC STOR 538



Overview of Football





What Makes Teams Win



❖ Two Ways Offense Gains Yards

- ❖ Passing
- ❖ Rushing

YDS = Yards
ATT = Attempt

❖ Analysis by Bud Goode

- ❖ Statistician from the 1960s
- ❖ Passing YDS and Rushing YDS Not Effective
- ❖ Showed YDS/ATT Good Predictors of Success
- ❖ Measures of Efficiency are Better Than Counts
- ❖ Both Passing and Rushing Attempts Use Up a Down
- ❖ Downs in Football are Important Resources





What Makes Teams Win



❖ Scoring Margin for a Team

- ❖ Related to the Spread
- ❖ Formula

$$\text{Scoring Margin} = \text{PTS For} - \text{PTS Against}$$

- ❖ Positive Margin = Team Won
- ❖ Negative Margin = Team Lost

❖ Offensive Predictors of the Scoring Margin

- ❖ Passing YDS/ATT
- ❖ Rushing YDS/ATT
- ❖ TOs Committed

PTS = Points
YDS = Yards
ATT = Attempt
TO = Turnover





What Makes Teams Win



❖ Defensive Predictors of the Scoring Margin

- ❖ Passing YDS/ATT Allowed
- ❖ Rushing YDS/ATT Allowed
- ❖ Defensive TOs Caused

❖ Differential Predictors of the Scoring Margin

- ❖ Difference Between PEN
- ❖ Difference Between Return TDs (Off Fumbles, Interceptions, Kickoffs, and Punts)

YDS = Yards
ATT = Attempts
TO = Turnover
PEN = Penalty
TD = Touchdown





What Makes Teams Win



❖ Regression on the Team Level

- ❖ Covers 2003 – 2006 Seasons
- ❖ All Predictors are Significant Except the Intercept
- ❖ RSQ of 0.87
- ❖ Standard Error of 35
- ❖ Approximately 95% of the Time, the True Scoring Margin Would Be Within 70 Points

PTS = Points
YDS = Yards
ATT = Attempts
G = Games

❖ Interesting Insight

- ❖ Coefficients for Passing Efficiency Triple Coefficients for Defensive Efficiency
- ❖ Extra Passing YDS/ATT Worth 61.67 PTS (+3.85 PTS/G)
- ❖ Extra Rushing YDS/ATT Worth 26.44 PTS (+1.65 PTS/G)
- ❖ What is the Problem with This Interpretation?

Based on 16
Game Season





What Makes Teams Win



❖ Correlation Matrix of Predictors

| | Returned for TD | Penalty Differential | OFF Pass Yds. per Att. | OFF Rush Yds. per Att. | OFF Turnovers | DEF Pass Yds. per Att. | DEF Rush Yds. per Att. | DEF Turnovers |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Returned for TD | 1 | -0.10949 | 0.07646 | 0.15469 | -0.31181 | -0.21578 | -0.08204 | 0.37086 |
| Penalty Differential | -0.10949 | 1 | -0.17464 | -0.03113 | 0.13023 | 0.06286 | -0.1739 | -0.10505 |
| OFF Pass Yds. per Att. | 0.07646 | -0.17464 | 1 | 0.0999 | -0.44827 | 0.01083 | 0.17965 | 0.15363 |
| OFF Rush Yds. per Att. | 0.15469 | -0.03113 | 0.0999 | 1 | -0.31013 | 0.06501 | 0.09502 | -0.03066 |
| OFF Turnovers | -0.31181 | 0.13023 | -0.44827 | -0.31013 | 1 | -0.02521 | -0.09825 | -0.13314 |
| DEF Pass Yds. per Att. | -0.21578 | 0.06286 | 0.01083 | 0.06501 | -0.02521 | 1 | 0.2759 | -0.29984 |
| DEF Rush Yds. per Att. | -0.08204 | -0.1739 | 0.17965 | 0.09502 | -0.09825 | 0.2759 | 1 | -0.14402 |
| DEF Turnovers | 0.37086 | -0.10505 | 0.15363 | -0.03066 | -0.13314 | -0.29984 | -0.14402 | 1 |





What Makes Teams Win



❖ Modified Regressions for Scoring Margin

- ❖ Regression Based ONLY on Passing Info (RSQ = 0.7)
- ❖ Regression Based ONLY on Rushing Info (RSQ = 0.06)

TO = Turnover

❖ Impact of Turnovers

- ❖ Offensive TOs Worth 3.7 Points
- ❖ Defensive TOs Worth 3.4 Points
- ❖ Overall, TO Worth Approximately 3.55 Points





What Makes Teams Win



❖ Relationship Between Passing and Rushing Stats

- ❖ Correlation of 0.10 Between Passing YDS/ATT and Rushing YDS/ATT
- ❖ Many Believe Rushing Improves the Passing
- ❖ Contradicts the Actual Seasonal Data
- ❖ Why Low Correlation? Possibly Due to Payroll Decisions

YDS = Yards
ATT = Attempt





Final Inspiration

If you don't remember if you played
football, you probably played football.

- Mahatma Mario