

Softball 2022 Hitting: AUM vs. Gulf South Conference

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In 2022, the softball team representing Auburn University at Montgomery were regular season and tournament champions in the Gulf South Conference. They went on to become NCAA regional champions and super-regional champions, and went on to Denver to represent AUM(Auburn University at Montgomery) at the NCAA D2 Softball World Series.

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This project will analyze overall Gulf South Conference(GSC) hitter through a method of sabermetrics to explore trends that led to how AUM became 2022 Conference Champions. This presentation will compare statistics to compare the year's offensive performance between AUM and GSC listed from data scraped directly from the Gulf South Conference's own website. Furthermore, AUM and UAH(University of Alabama-Huntsville) will be directly compared, since the teams faced off in th GSC tournament final and the NCAA Super Regional final.

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My hypothesis is that the hitting data will present trends that indicate how AUM dominated their competition. It should be noted that defensive and pitching data are not currently being analyzed in this project. Thus, if the hypothesis is significantly contradicted this could be pointing to that the defensive/pitching could explain AUM's success. Likely through analysis beyond the current scope of this presentation, all three categories play key roles in the 2022 season.



Definitions provided by mlb.com

Batting Average(AVG)-

batting average is determined by dividing a player's hits by his total at-bats for a number between zero (shown as .000) and one (1.000)

On-base Plus Slugging(OPS)-

adds on-base percentage and slugging percentage to get one number that unites the two. It's meant to combine how well a hitter can reach base, with how well he can hit for average and for power

At Bat(AB)-

An official at-bat comes when a batter reaches base via a fielder's choice, hit or an error (not including catcher's interference) or when a batter is put out on a non-sacrifice. (Whereas a plate appearance refers to each completed turn batting, regardless of the result.)

Run(R)-

A player is awarded a run if he crosses the plate to score his team a run

Hit(H)-

credited to a batter when the batter safely reaches or passes first base after hitting the ball into fair territory with neither the benefit of an error nor a fielder's choice

Double(2B)-

A batter is credited with a double when he hits the ball into play and reaches second base without the help of an intervening error or attempt to put out another baserunner

Triple(3B)-

a triple occurs when a batter hits the ball into play and reaches third base without the help of an intervening error or attempt to put out another baserunner

Home Run(HR)-

A home run occurs when a batter hits a fair ball and scores on the play without being put out or without the benefit of an error

Runs Batted In(RBI)-

A batter is credited with an RBI in most cases where the result of his plate appearance is a run being scored. There are a few exceptions, however. A player does not receive an RBI when the run scores as a result of an error or ground into double play.

Total Bases(TB)-

Total bases refer to the number of bases gained by a batter through his hits. A batter records one total base for a single, two total bases for a double, three total bases for a triple and four total bases for a home run

Slugging Percentage(SLG%)-

Slugging percentage represents the total number of bases a player records per at-bat. Unlike on-base percentage, slugging percentage deals only with hits and does not include walks and hit-by-pitches in its equation

Walk(BB)-

A walk (or base on balls) occurs when a pitcher throws four pitches out of the strike zone, none of which are swung at by the hitter. After refraining from swinging at four pitches out of the zone, the batter is awarded first base

Hit By Pitch(HBP)-

A hit-by-pitch occurs when a batter is struck by a pitched ball without swinging at it. He is awarded first base as a result. Strikes supersede hit-by-pitches, meaning if the umpire rules that the pitch was in the strike zone or that the batter swung, the HBP is nullified.

Strikeout(SO)-

A strikeout occurs when a pitcher throws any combination of three swinging or looking strikes to a hitter. (A foul ball counts as a strike, but it cannot be the third and final strike of the at-bat. A foul tip, which is caught by the catcher, is considered a third strike.)

##Ground-rule Double Play(GDP)- occurs when a player hits a ground ball that results in multiple outs on the bases. The most common double plays are ground balls where a forceout is made on the player running from first to second base, then another forceout is made on the batter running to first base.

On Base Percentage(OB%)-

OB% refers to how frequently a batter reaches base per plate appearance. Times on base include hits, walks and hit-by-pitches, but do not include errors, times reached on a fielder's choice or a dropped third strike

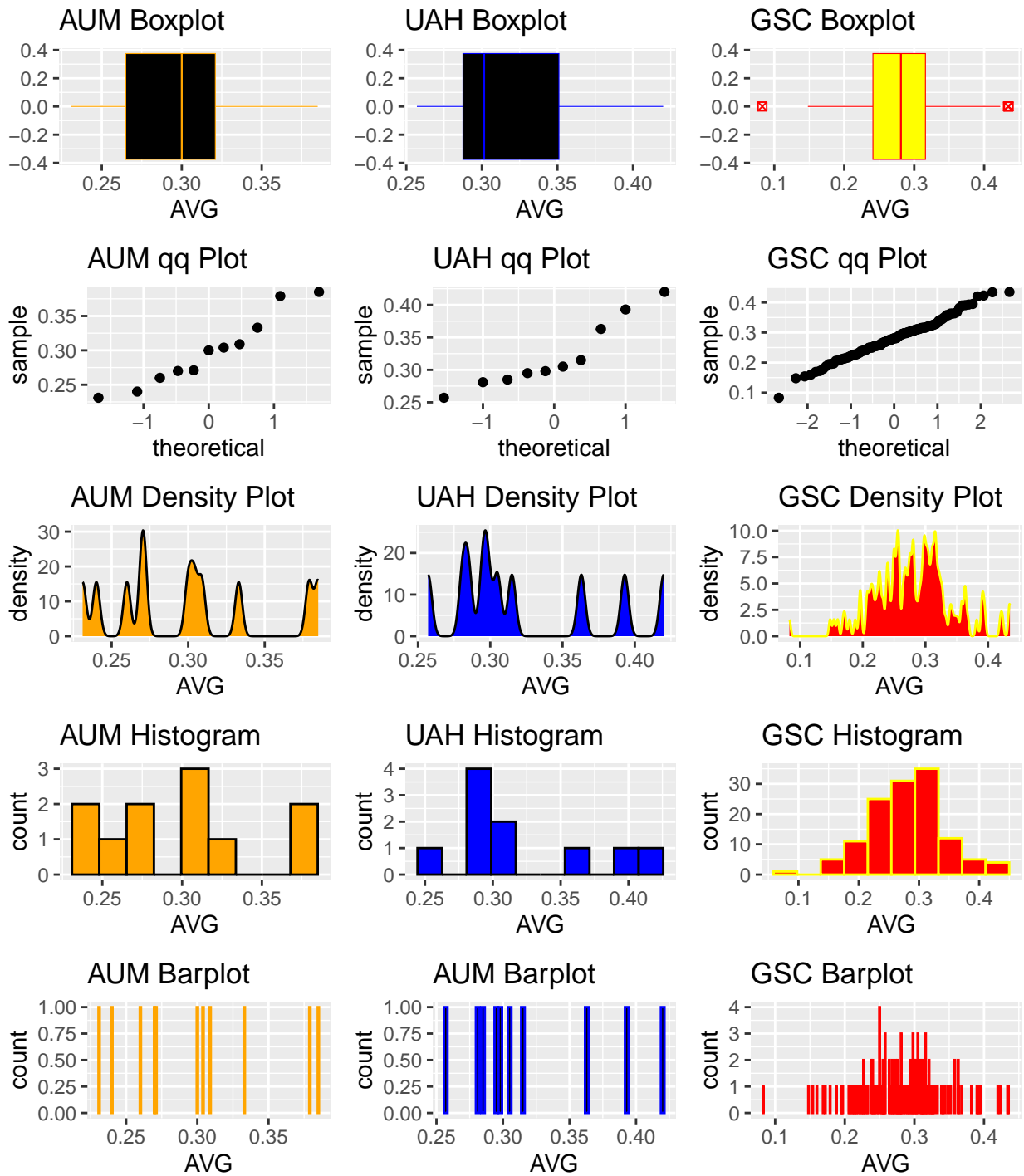
Sacrifice fly(SF)-

A sacrifice fly occurs when a batter hits a fly-ball out to the outfield or foul territory that allows a runner to score. The batter is given credit for an RBI.

Sacrifice hit (SH)-

A sacrifice bunt occurs when a player is successful in his attempt to advance a runner (or multiple runners) at least one base with a bunt. In this vein, the batter is sacrificing himself (giving up an out) in order to move another runner closer to scoring.

League-wise Batting Average Visualisation



League-wise OPS Visualisation

