Abby Smith Lab 2.1

A graph showing a number of numbers

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Before 1973, the best league ERA was a battle between each league. Shortly after 1973, when the designated hitter was added to the AL, the AL had higher ERA’s than the NL. This seems counterintuitive considering the pitchers in the American League would have to face a skilled hitter instead of a pitcher. However, the pitchers in the AL had more time to rest on the bench instead of worrying about hitting. The AL consistently had a higher combined ERA than the NL until around the 2020s when DH hitters were being introduced to the Nation League. The difference between the two league ERAs was high after the introduction of DH’s, but it has gone down in the last twenty years.

A graph showing the number of years

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

The Slugging Percentages in both leagues have been pretty like each other, but the AL has been slightly higher when the DH rule only applied to them. Both Slugging Percentages seem to move in the same path which is very interesting. Like we saw with ERA, since the DH was integrated into the NL, the highest slugging percentages have traded off between each league. Also, like ERA, after 1973 the difference in slugging Percentages increased quite a bit, but it has since gone down.