For my project, I knew immediately I would fall into the majority of students who write about something sports-related. I take time every day to look at statistics on hockey-reference.com, and often find myself digging deeper to hunt for trends. So I feel that hockey is a very natural path for me to take.

Within this subject area, I am interested in particular by skaters who have recorded 50 or more goals in a season, which stands as a scoring benchmark. There are a couple of ways that I could take this. I could predict playoff success based on a team rostering such a player. This would mean tracing team results and seeing how often a 50-goal player in the regular season leads to a Stanley Cup victory, for example.

The second idea I have is to predict hall of fame inclusion based on the number of 50-goal seasons a player has in their career. From this, one could see how often 50-goal seasons occur as flukes in a player’s career, or how many good, but not great, players have scored 50 or more goals in a season. Either of these ideas could be pursued with linear regression: one variable, predicting another.