Brandon Huggard

Dr. Thomas Finholt

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HW6: Measuring Patrick Mahomes' 2021 Performance Using Four Separate QBR Methods

To the casual fan, NFL Quarterbacks are often ranked purely on eye test or name recognition (often driven by above average or otherwise notable play). To the sports analytics inclined- quarterback is one of the most complex and difficult positions to accurately measure performance on, blending raw athleticism, arm talent, intellect, and, at times, pure instinct and game feel. While there are several well documented and accepted quarterback rating measures, very few of them are often easy to interpret or user friendly to those who don't know what goes into the synthesis of the final number.

Likely most recognizable to the average fan- the National Football League rates quarterbacks on a scale of 0 to 158.3, with no real sense to 158.3 beyond the fact that it's better than any possible values lesser than itself. The NCAA has a similar system of strange numbers at the mercy of regression coefficients used to determine how well a quarterback is really playing, and independent minds such as *The Wages of Wins: Taking Measure of the Many Myths in Modern Sport* author, David Berri and separately, Brian Burke.

Using Patrick Mahomes' 2021 season as the lens through which we view all four qb rating metrics, we can see based off of his NFL rating, 98.45, that he played very well compared to other quarterbacks around the league (10th overall) but maybe not up to his own MVP-like standards. Expanding this to NCAA, Wages of Wins, and Burke-sian QB Ratings, we can see numbers with a huge variance in terms of range- 142.64 (NCAA), 2391 (Wages of Wins), and

9.566071 (Burke). While the numbers themselves are nowhere close to one another- they convey the same message that, after all of our analysis, the common fan is likely very aware of: Patrick Mahomes is a top-tier quarterback in a high powered offense.

Postscript: Homework 5 continues to, in no uncertain terms, give me the business. I am not quitting however, I'm gonna talk with Matt Wellman on his strategy as I refuse to let a sports analytics assignment get the best of me as someone on the leadership team at MSAS this year! I totally understand if credit is no longer available but it's become personal as I have toiled with it on and off for weeks now. Be on the lookout for some extra effort on that!

Works Cited

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