Blog Post #1:

Just when you thought the luck had ran out for the Indianapolis Colts in the upcoming 2012-2013 season, Luck himself had come to change everyone’s opinions of just that; Fortunate luck.

Andrew Luck, star quarterback for the Indianapolis Colts has become now known for more than just his three extravagant years as playing quarterback at Stanford University. Although his stats were quite charming in this time era, having completed 67% for 713/1,064 of his passes connecting for 9430 passing yards, leading a whopping 82 touchdowns, which ultimately gave him a quarterback rating of 162.8 as a total in his entire career at Stanford, his ability to do the same in the NFL however, was not so “lucky”.

Seeing that his statistics in his “young man” college days have seemed to be much more impressive than those of his first year entering the National Football League, however, that is just it; it is his first year in professional football. People are not giving him the credit he deserves in my opinion. I can understand the logic of people over-estimating his abilities as being the next “Payton Manning”, but let’s not start criticizing someone that is becoming successful as a rookie and surprising not only fans, but sports analysis across the country.

Although there are going to be the criticizers about any single misfit that he endures, one thing is made certain, he is becoming uproar in the sports media world. His job is simple. It is not to maintain a quarterback rating, throw a number of touchdowns, or complete as many yards as he did in his college years. His job is to win football games, which he is becoming quite good at. Whether or not you want to call it “luck” is in your own personal opinions.

Think of it logically, if his last name were to be “skill”, would that put a different approach on everyone’s insinuations? His last name is a catchy slogan, yet his predominance to surpass the expectations of his critics is superb.  Andrew Luck has not proven himself to be the best quarterback in the NFL thus far, although his time in this league has been less than a full season and is making huge strides in little time. He is victorious until proven otherwise.  In the end criticizers will critique, while supporters continue to support. None of this will change his outlook on what he is striving to do as an Indianapolis Colt, which is win. Call it what you want, but his winning seems to be proven a little bit more than just mere “Luck”.

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Blog Post #2:

Sometimes it feels like fantasy football is an entirely different game each week. Players’ points, especially those of running backs and wide receivers, can swing wildly up and down the scale, with seemingly no correlation from one week to the next. For example, consider Lance Moore, running back for the Saints, in the first three weeks of the fantasy football season. He began the season with an impressive eighteen points, yet his performance dropped 83% to three points in week two and jumped yet again in last week’s play to thirteen points. Moore and many like him are a nightmarish puzzle for the fantasy team manager. Each week we agonize over the risk of starting these decent-to-average players. But I’m wondering: can any position – or any player within that position – be trusted to perform more reliably than others from week to week? In short, who is the most consistent (and therefore most predictable) when it comes to fantasy football?

In approaching this problem with the C105 football database, I relied not only upon averages, but also on a statistical number called the standard deviation. Standard deviation for a dataset – in this case, a list of football players’ fantasy points – shows the average distance between any number in the set and the mean, or average, of the set itself. Go ahead, read it twice. Ideally, players in a position with a low standard deviation for fantasy points will perform closer to that position’s average each week, and the post as a whole will be more reliable. Here are the stats:

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| **Position** | **QB** | **RB** | **WR** | **TE** | **K** | **DST** |
| **Average Fantasy Points** | 11.35 | 7.40 | 5.87 | 3.94 | 7.18 | 4.66 |
| **Standard Deviation** | 8.30 | 7.33 | 5.79 | 4.38 | 3.88 | 6.90 |

Wow! When considering all players in all regular-season games since 2006, kickers apparently have the lowest standard deviation in fantasy points scored each game. And I’m not sure whether this is mathematically significant, but the proportion of average fantasy points to standard deviation is the highest for the kicker position. So if kickers have been the most reliable position over the last few years as a whole, what about 2012 in particular? And who has been the most consistent player in that position this season?

2012 Stats:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **QB** | **RB** | **WR** | **TE** | **K** | **DST** |
| **Average Fantasy Points** | 13.89 | 6.44 | 5.73 | 4.36 | 8.17 | 7.36 |
| **Standard Deviation** | 8.15 | 6.87 | 5.59 | 4.71 | 4.33 | 5.95 |

Again, kickers champion the lowest standard deviation. And of all players in this position in the first three weeks of 2012, Alex Henery (PHI), Jay Feely (ARI), and Matt Prater (DEN) share the lowest standard deviation of 0.577, with Feely racking up the highest scores, an average of 8.33 fantasy points per game.

So maybe it’s hard to believe, but according to this analysis, Jay Feely of the Arizona Cardinals is the most consistent player in the most consistent position thus far in 2012. Interestingly enough, Feely remains a free agent in my C105 fantasy football league. Perhaps we managers prefer the thrill of risk-taking to the surety of predictability. But should we?

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