Predicting Quarterback Success in the NFL

Introduction

The success of an NFL quarterback is hard to predict. There are many factors that play into the outcome of the career of an individual quarterback. If it was as easy as going after the biggest player with the strongest arm, then Jamarcus Russell would be in his 13th NFL season rather than fizzling out of the league after 31 games in 3 years.

It is one of the most important positions in all of sports and to be able to predict success in the NFL of a college quarterback would lead to better decision making when building rosters and potentially a championship or two for historically bad franchises.

The goal of this project is to use college quarterback statistics to create a model for better predicting quarterback success. The success of an individual quarterback can be defined in different ways and different tiers of success will be looked at.

Potential Clients

The NFL and its GMs are the clients of this project as they are the ones in charge of building team rosters. If the model can discover the important statistics that lead to success in the NFL, then they can use it to better evaluate prospects prior to draft day.

Data

The main data used for this project will come from the College Quarterback, College Football Statistics and NFL Statistics datasets from kaggle. Additional data may be required as the data is analyzed and additional data is deemed as necessary.

Approach

The approach of this project will be to collect NFL quarterback data, determine a criteria of success in the NFL, find the quarterbacks that fit that criteria and then analyze their college statistics to see if any statistics stand out. The same will be done for quarterbacks that are deemed unsuccessful “bust” especially those that were drafted in the 1st or 2nd round.