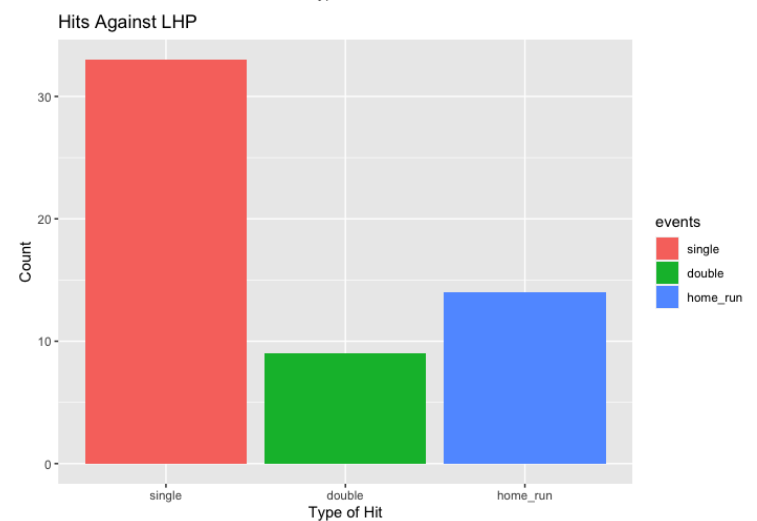
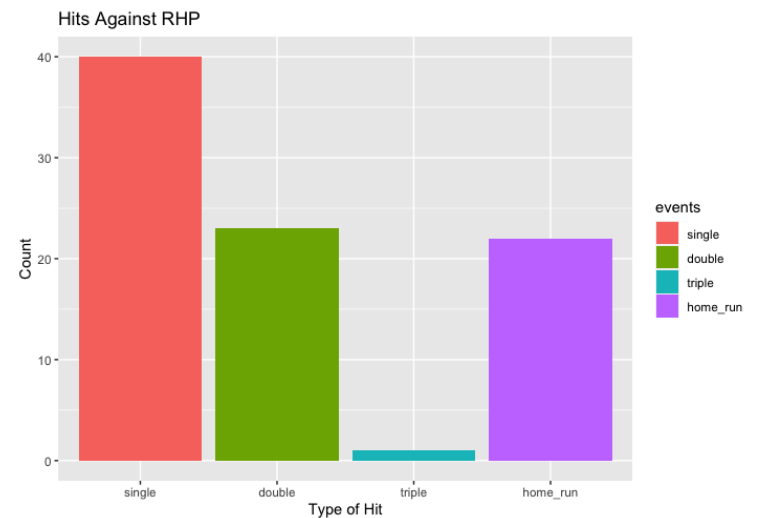
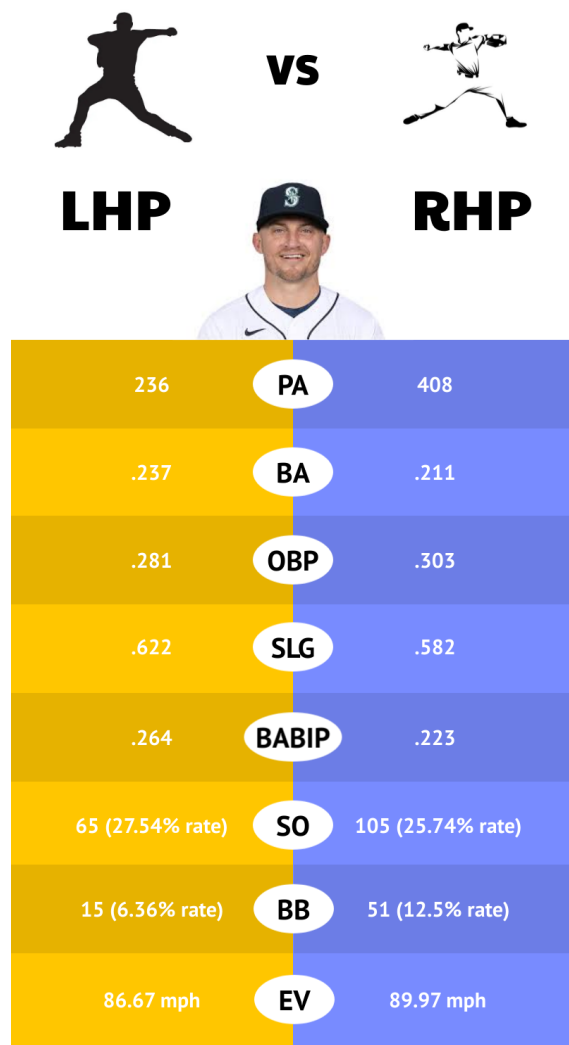


Question: Kyle Seager wants to play one more season before retiring, but he only wants to hit against pitchers from one side of the mound. Based on his statistics from 2021, write an argument on whether Kyle should hit against left handed pitchers or right handed pitchers.



Above are some graphics that look at Kyle Seager's batting statistics during the 2021 season when batting against left handed pitchers versus right handed pitchers. When looking at the numbers at a glance, you might think that Kyle performs better against lefty pitchers, which is valid for a surface-level analysis. In my opinion though, Kyle is a better and more efficient hitter when he is going against a right-handed pitcher.

The first statistic I want to look at to prove this point is Kyle's BABIP. Kyle's BABIP against lefties versus righties has a huge gap of .041. This gap is very important to look at since the BABIP statistic is known as a "luck-based" statistic. The league average when putting the ball in play is known to always be very close to .300, with the elite hitters getting to around .350, but not much higher. One of the main things that raises a batter's BABIP is having a high exit velocity off of the bat. Looking at Kyle's statistics, we can see that his average exit velocity off of right handed pitchers is 3.3 mph faster than off of left handed pitchers. When calculating his average launch angle for each side of the mound, it is only .14 degrees higher against righties with a 19.11 compared to a 18.97. This doesn't make sense when looking back at the BABIP

Question: Kyle Seager wants to play one more season before retiring, but he only wants to hit against pitchers from one side of the mound. Based on his statistics from 2021, write an argument on whether Kyle should hit against left handed pitchers or right handed pitchers. stats and seeing the huge discrepancy between the two. This is where I think the luck factor comes into play. Having pretty much the same average launch angle off the bat and 3 mph faster against righties should yield more hits falling in for Kyle against RHP, but it simply doesn't. This leads me to believe that Kyle just got luckier with his hits against lefties rather than righties this year, and that it is not a sustainable basis to make a claim on.

The next categories I want to talk about are batting average and slugging percentage. Simply put, the differences in both of these categories would be little to none if Kyle didn't get as lucky as he did with his hits against lefties. Building off of what I said in the paragraph above, when calculating the average estimated batting average using the speed and angle off his bat of balls put in play, the number for Kyle against RHP is .324 while the number for against LHP is .276. This again shows just how unlucky Kyle was getting last season with his hits against righties compared to lefties. I believe these numbers show us that Kyle is getting way better contact and power in his swings against righties compared to lefties, but they just weren't dropping for him this year.

The last categories I want to talk about are the ones that Kyle did the best at against right handed pitchers compared to left handers; his walk rate, strikeout rate, and OBP. Looking at the strikeout and walk rates, Kyle had a 25.74% strikeout rate against righties compared to a 27.54% rate against lefties and a 12.5% walk rate against righties compared to a 6.36% rate against lefties. These two stats show that Kyle is swinging at better pitches against righties compared to lefties, which makes sense when thinking where his estimated BA off the bat was for RHP compared to LHP. Kyle swinging at better pitches and taking more walks against righties also explains why his OBP against righties is .022 higher at .303 than against lefties at .281. I think that Kyle's strength in seeing pitches against righties is a big reason for him to stick to going against them because he can control these rates since there is no luck involved in determining a ball or a strike.

In conclusion, I believe that Kyle should focus on batting only against right handed pitchers in his last season in the league. I believe that by keeping his walk and strikeout percentages consistent with his previous year, his better contact against righties will finally begin to pay off and start rewarding him more hits compared to last year. This will in the end bring Kyle back to good numbers against right handed pitchers, and will send him off pleasantly as he retires on a high note.