evanhennis:

What should I be trying to hit when I run the "Score" method against the [data_type == 'validation'] data?

I recommend loading up the example predictions and computing the spearman correlation of those predictions against the validation data. Take note of that number (and please post it here as I'm curious what it is but have never computed it myself), then compare it to the historical performance of the obenchmark_models model.

I call your attention to that model in particular because it just posts the example predictions each week. By looking at this one example's performance against both validation data and the live data, you might get a sense of what to expect in the competition. Of course there's no saying that your model will experience similar variance to obenchmark_models, but it's at least a place to start trying to answer your question.

Good luck!