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Personal Statement

I played shortstop since I was six. I had dreams about being the Boston Derek Jeter since I was 12. I moved to New Delhi, India at the age of 15 and played on a newly started high school team. I tried to walk on to my college team and got cut at 18. I did not take that moment as the end of my relationship with baseball. I miss playing baseball, but love the discussions that stem from the sport such as: who is the best player, what position is most valuable, why walks are still under appreciated? When I first got to college, I thought I wanted to be a lawyer, then I was fortunate enough to intern for the Office of the City Administrator in Washington, D.C. Believing this internship would fuel my ambitions in public service, I was not expecting to be exposed to a plethora of information in Data Science. I had already decided on my math major and chemistry minor, but this experience influenced me to pursue a minor in computer science as well.

At this point, I decided that it was time to build an app. I had just spent the summer creating data visualizations with Tableau and thought building a comparative visualization for amateur players looking for professional players they resembled statistically in high school or college was a great idea. This was my first attempt at statistical analysis in baseball even though it was essentially just finding and matching statistics. Later that academic year, while taking my first Probability and Statistics course, I realized flaws in my logic with my initial app idea. I was assuming players whose statistics from varying environments could be treated the same, which is a very basic statistical mistake. This did not discourage me if anything it motivated me more. I began applying to multiple baseball internships paid or unpaid because I felt this passion growing. I got rejected, or no responses from all of them. I got rejected from the two other research positions I applied for as well. So, I contacted my supervisor from the previous summer, and asked to return to where my passion for data was ignited.

That decision I made when I felt like I had no options turned into one of the best decisions of my life. I gained experience with Python, R, and SQL; all things I had some knowledge at school, but never was able to apply to daily tasks needed by people. In the end I performed at such a high level, I was hired as a teleworker to continue my work during my junior year. This was the first time this administration had done anything like that, and I was truly honored. When I got back to college, I filled my major and minor electives with classes that would help me pursue my ambitions as a data scientist such as software engineering, math modeling, and Probability Statistics II. For these classes, I was able to perform statistical analysis and produce reports, or create databases and applications incorporating baseball statistics. Later in the year, my roommate got in a debate: who was more valuable Nolan Arenado or Daniel Murphy? Murphy bested Arenado in MVP votes in 2016 and was a huge part of that talented Nationals team. However, I was arguing the defensive superiority of Arenado is what makes him the better player. He wasn't buying it, so my final project was based on predicting MVP vote points for players purely based on their statistics. From here, this was the first time I was able to use math to answer a baseball question. The next report I wrote was investigating whether there

was a racial bias in the induction process for Hall of Fame candidates with ANOVA testing. Both these projects sparked my newest investigation written in my abstract.

My dream job after graduation would be working for an MLB team's scouting/front office as a data analyst working on small term projects such as scouting certain players and free agency, but also working on long term projects on player analysis and projective models. I would love to do this for the rest of my life and eventually become a general manager. I don't dream about being a shortstop anymore. I dream about becoming a general manager.