

Visualizations

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2023-02-26

Visualizations

All Subjective Sports

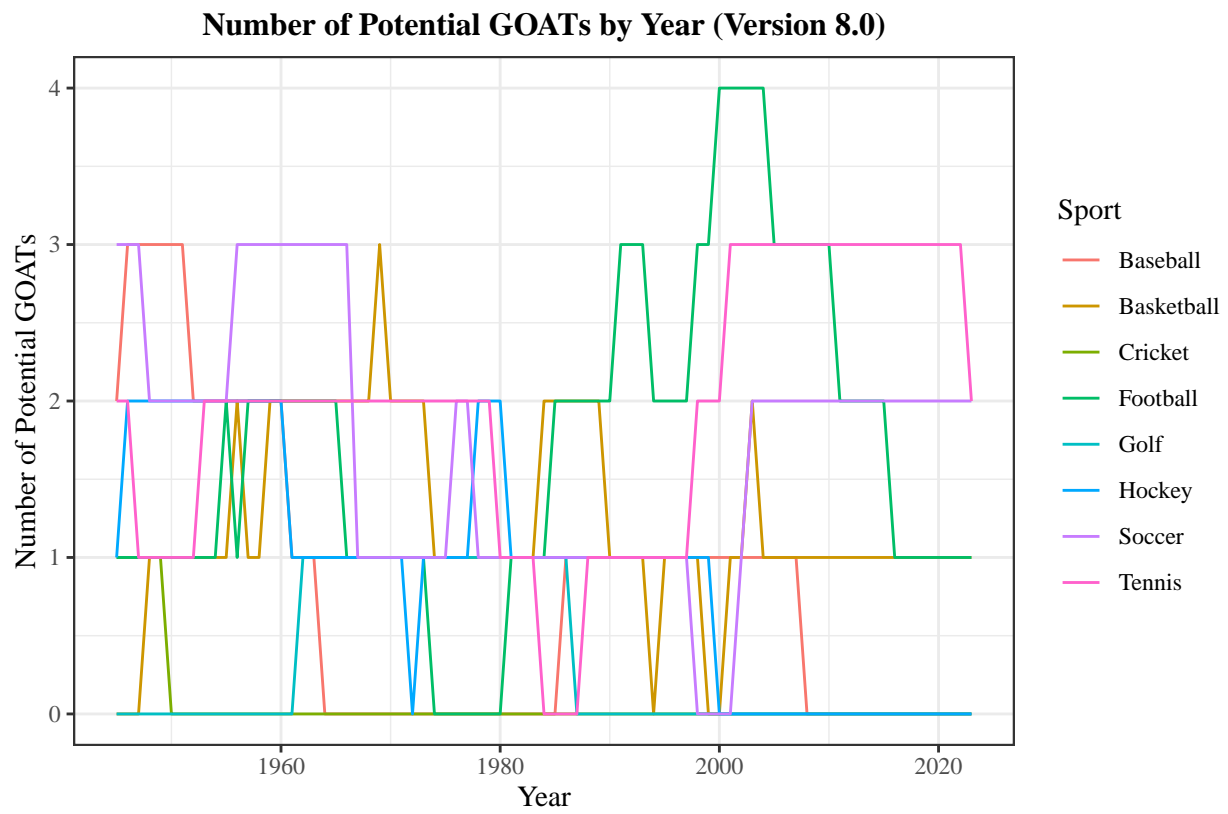


Figure 1

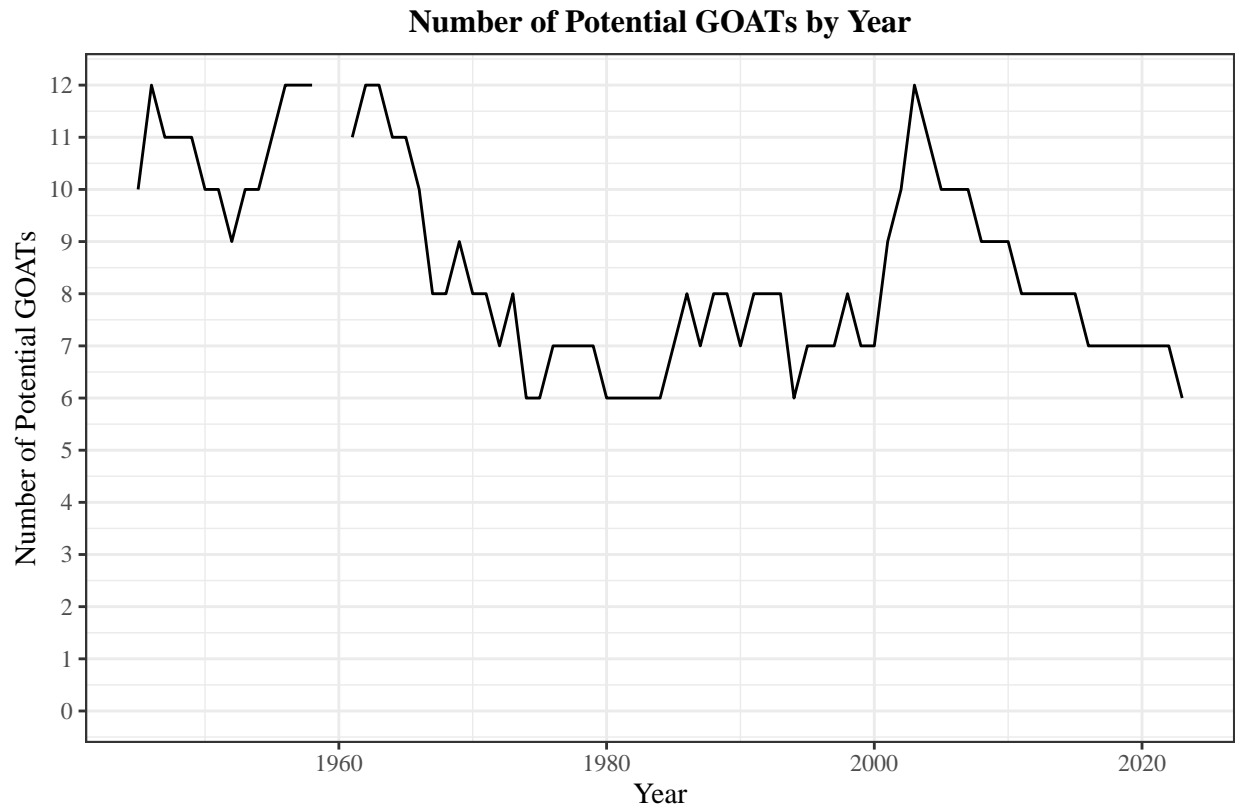


Figure 2

Soccer

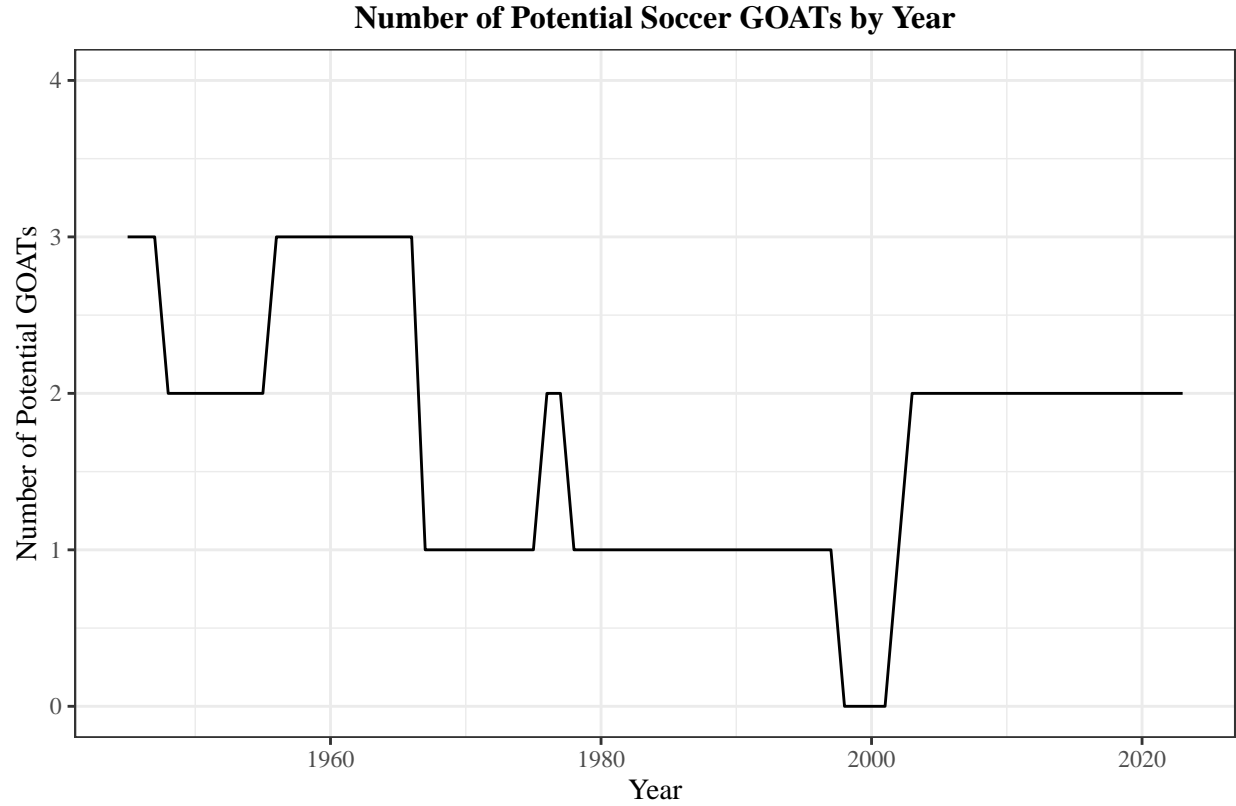


Figure 3

Cricket

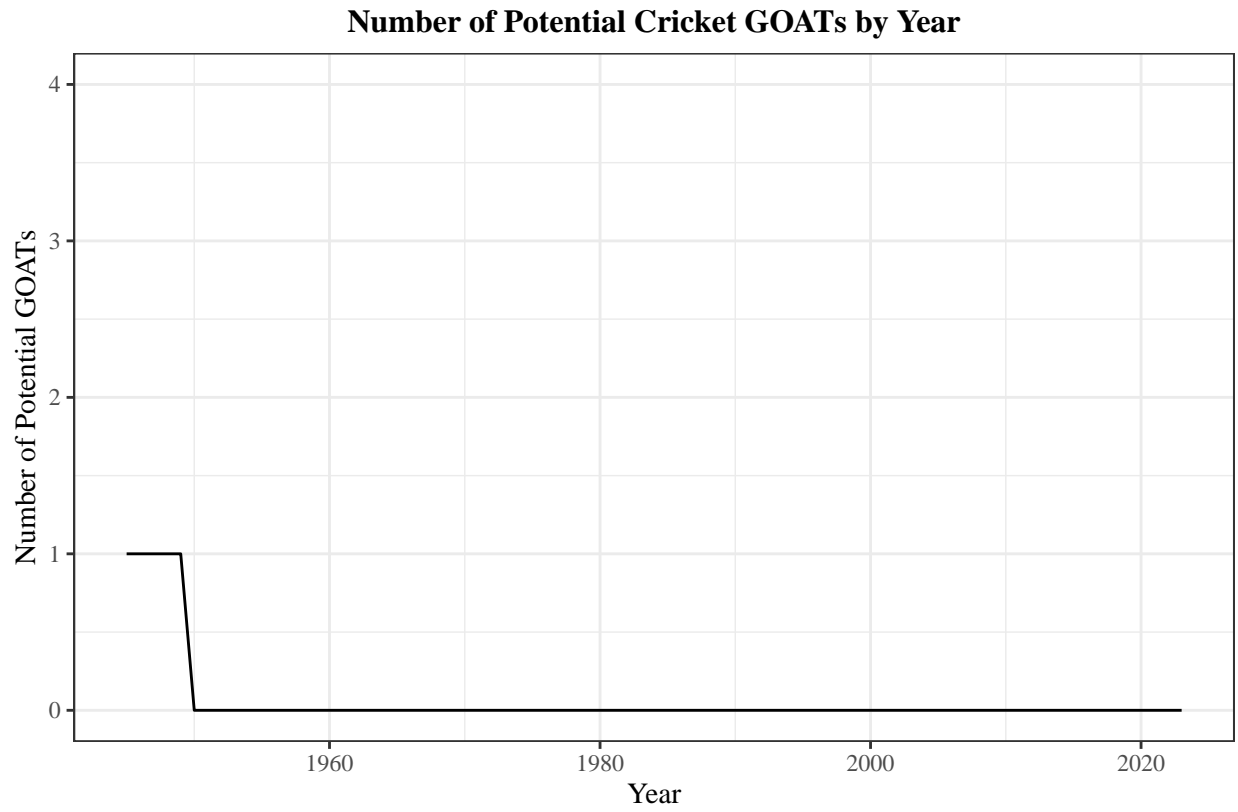


Figure 4

Tennis

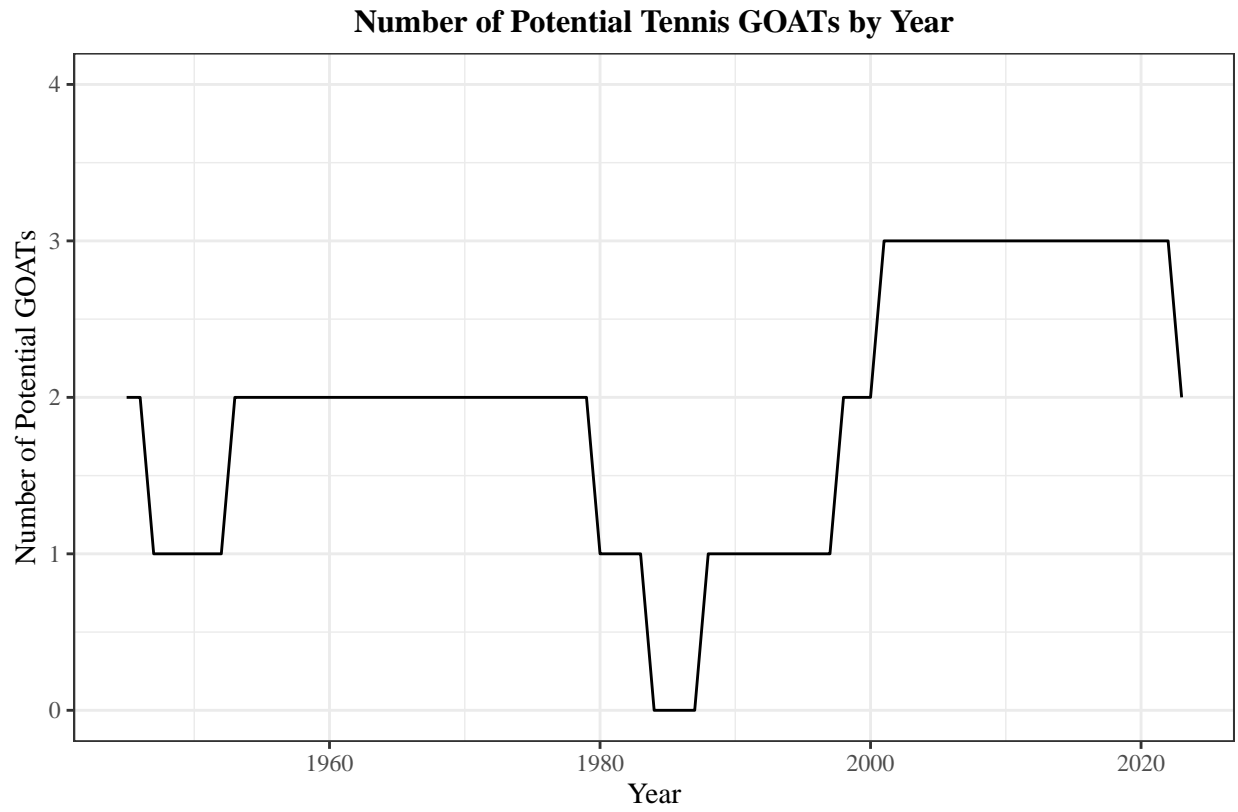


Figure 5

Basketball

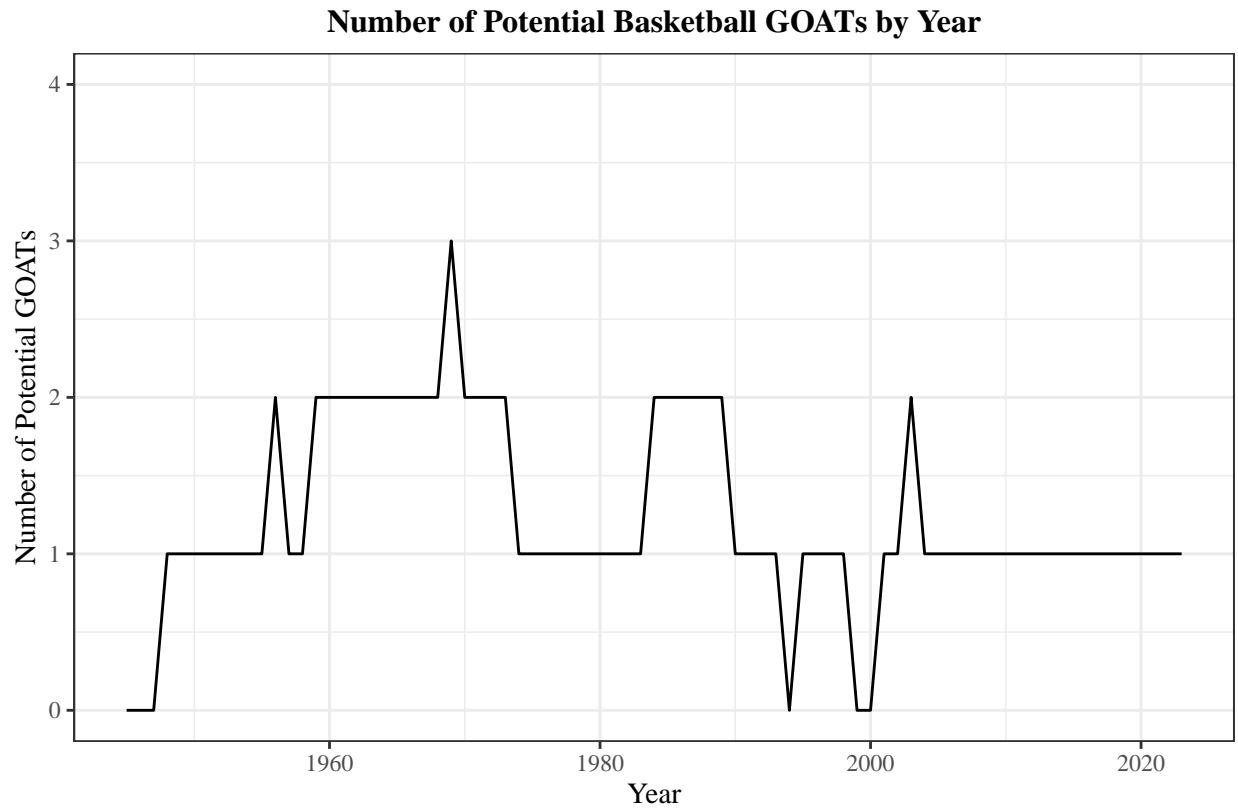


Figure 6

Baseball

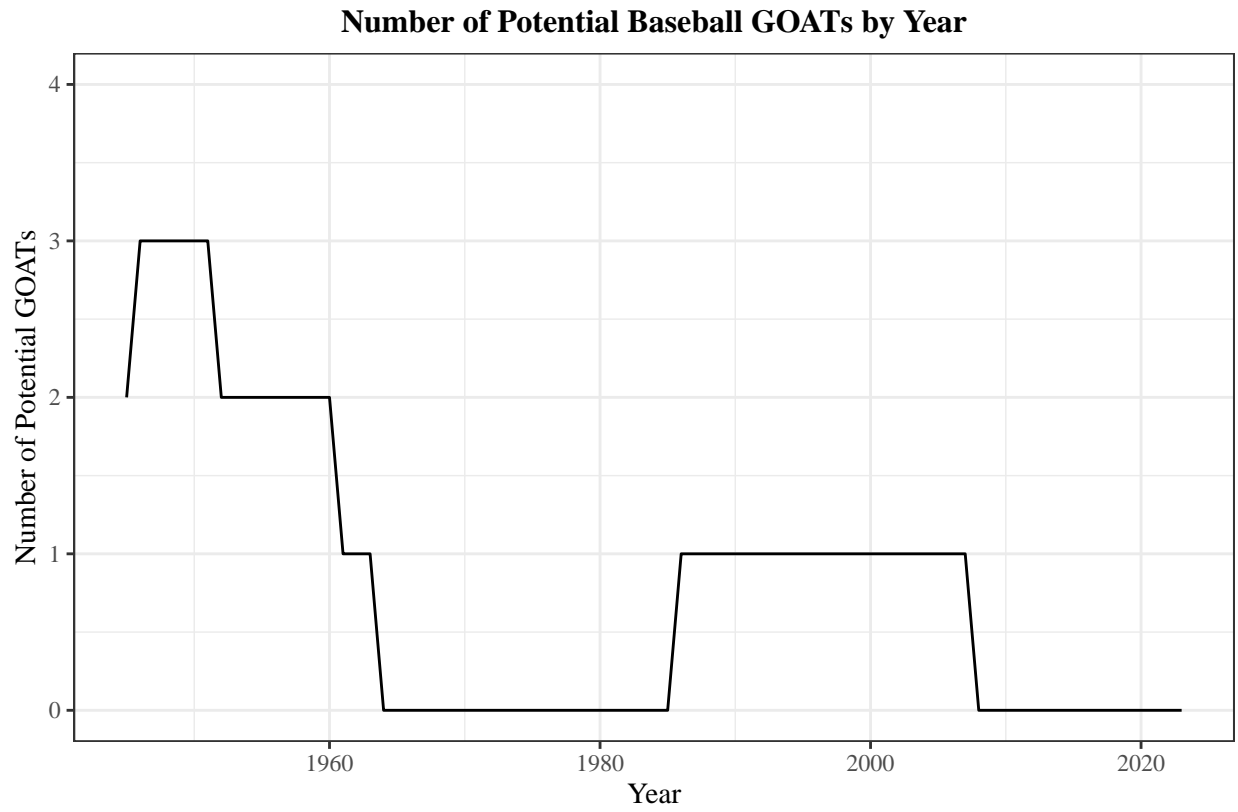


Figure 7

Football

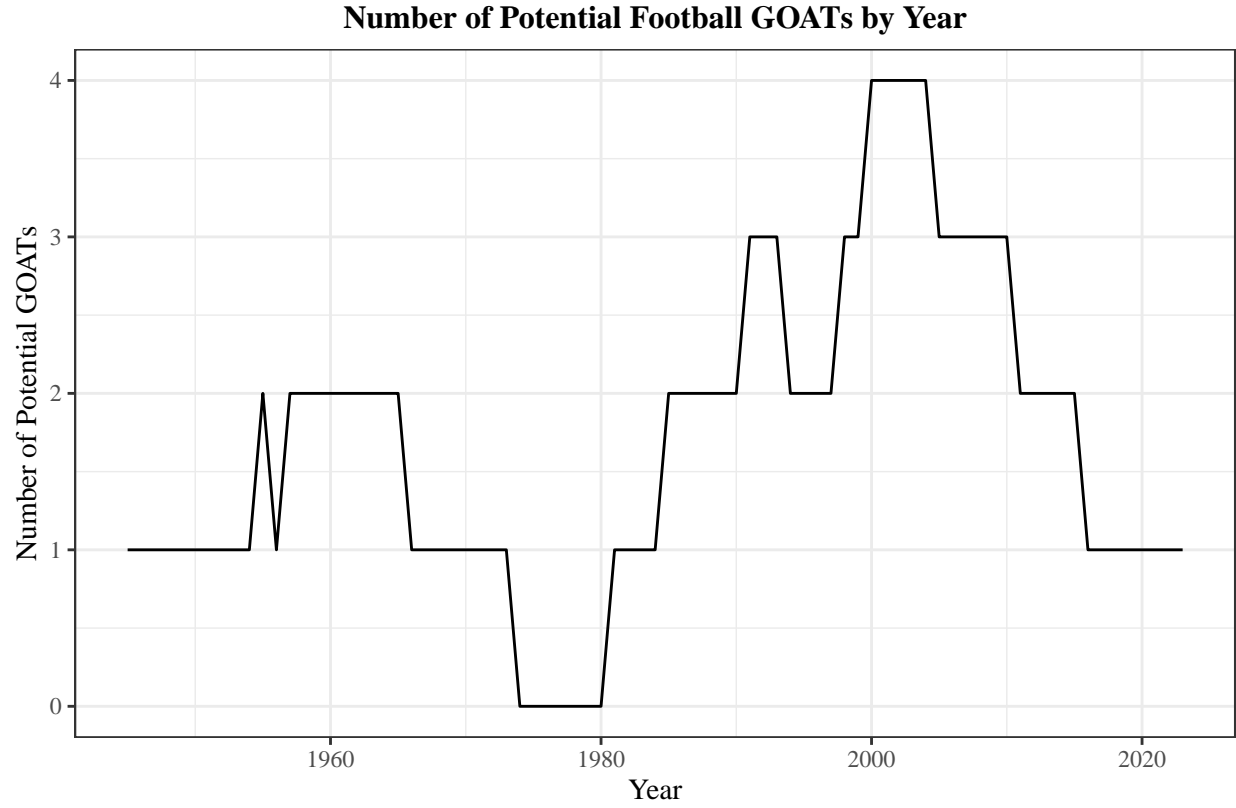


Figure 8

Hockey

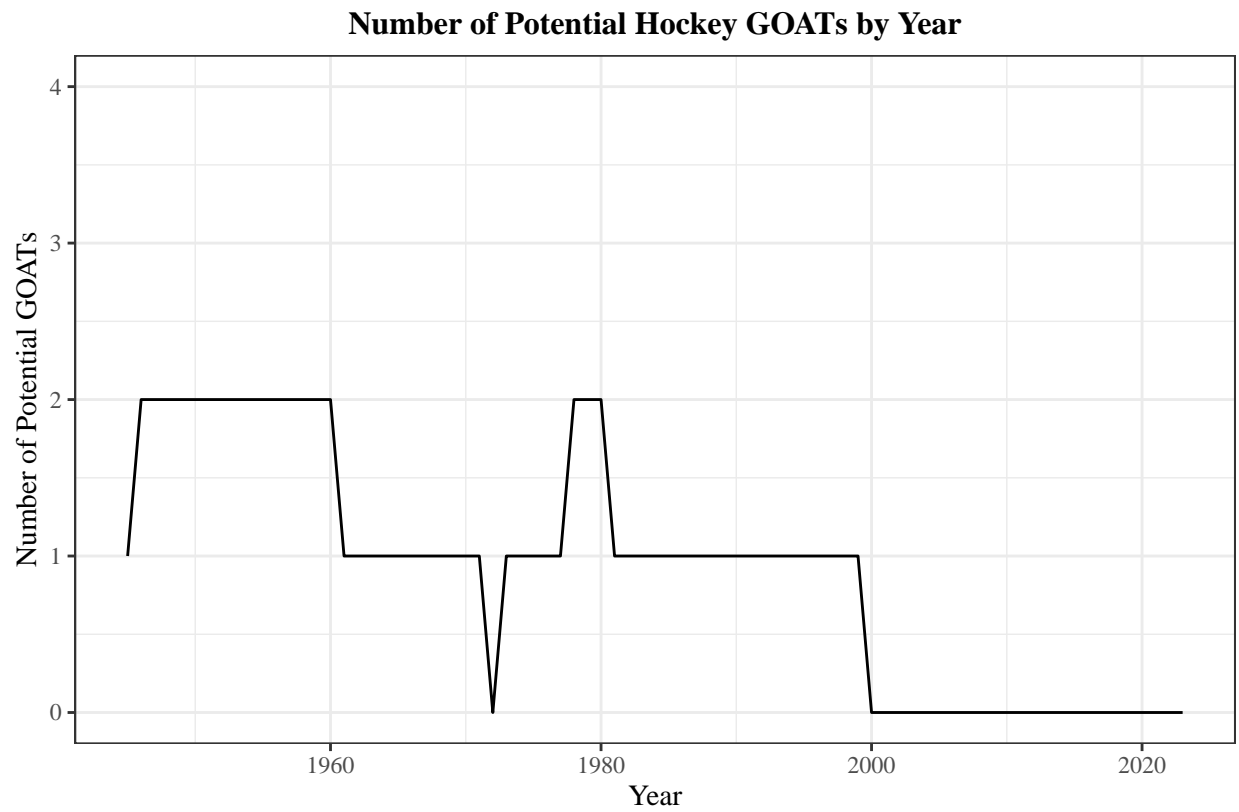


Figure 9

Golf

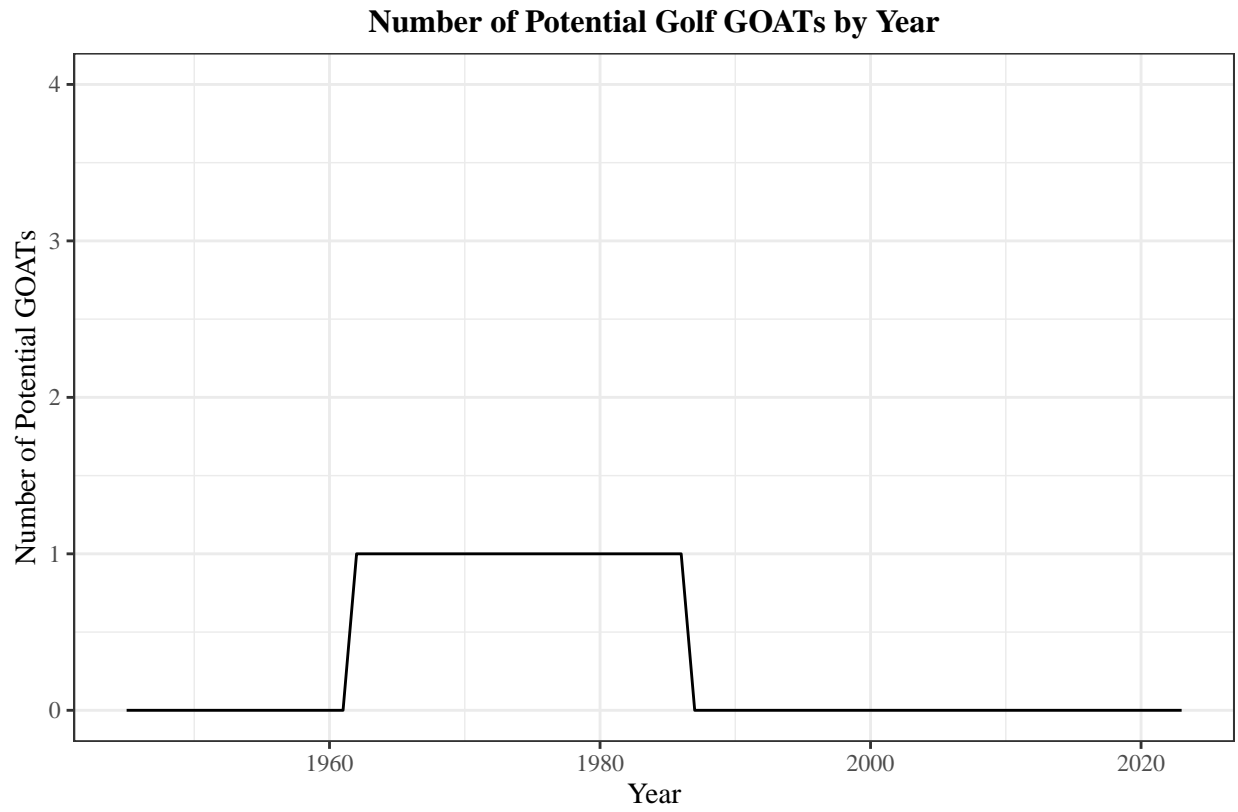


Figure 10

Commentary & Notes

Cricket

- There have not been any GOAT candidates in a while (before 1950). The GOAT for cricket is Sir Donald Bradman. Is this contention valid? Have there legitimately been no GOAT candidates in this long? If so, is there something intrinsic about cricket that makes it so difficult to find GOAT-quality players? Or is Bradman just such a statistical anomaly?
- Would Sir Donald Bradman be as good as he was if he were to play today?

Hockey & Golf

- The patterns that are seen with these sports appear to resemble what most people would likely expect: GOAT candidates occur sporadically without any legitimate pattern. Additionally, there has not been a GOAT in a while, and data does not suggest that there will be a GOAT candidate anytime soon (although this may be different if Tiger Woods is finally included as a GOAT candidate for golf).

Soccer, Tennis, Basketball, Football

- Tennis also seems interesting because there were **22** consecutive years where there were at least **3** GOAT candidates playing at the same time. This 22 year window spans from 2001 to 2022.
- With basketball, there has been at least one GOAT candidate (playing) for a while.
- An interesting note about football is that there were **4** GOAT candidates playing from 2000-2004. I personally wonder if this increase in GOAT candidates can be attributed to the inflation of the importance of the quarterback position, as 3 of the 4 candidates were quarterbacks (Brett Favre, Peyton Manning, and Tom Brady). Of course, the presence of 4 GOAT candidates can also be chalked up to mere coincidence, or simply the fact that we have multiple (2) lists of GOATs for football.

Tables and Visualizations Related to Career Longevity

Table 1: Average Career Length by Sport

Sport	Average Career Length
Cricket	23.0
Hockey	22.8
Soccer	22.0
Baseball	20.7
Golf	20.0
Tennis	19.9
Basketball	16.2
Football	15.3

Table 2: Number of Years with 0 GOAT Candidates by Sport (since 1945)

Sport	#
Cricket	74
Golf	54
Baseball	38
Hockey	25
Football	7
Basketball	6
Soccer	4
Tennis	4

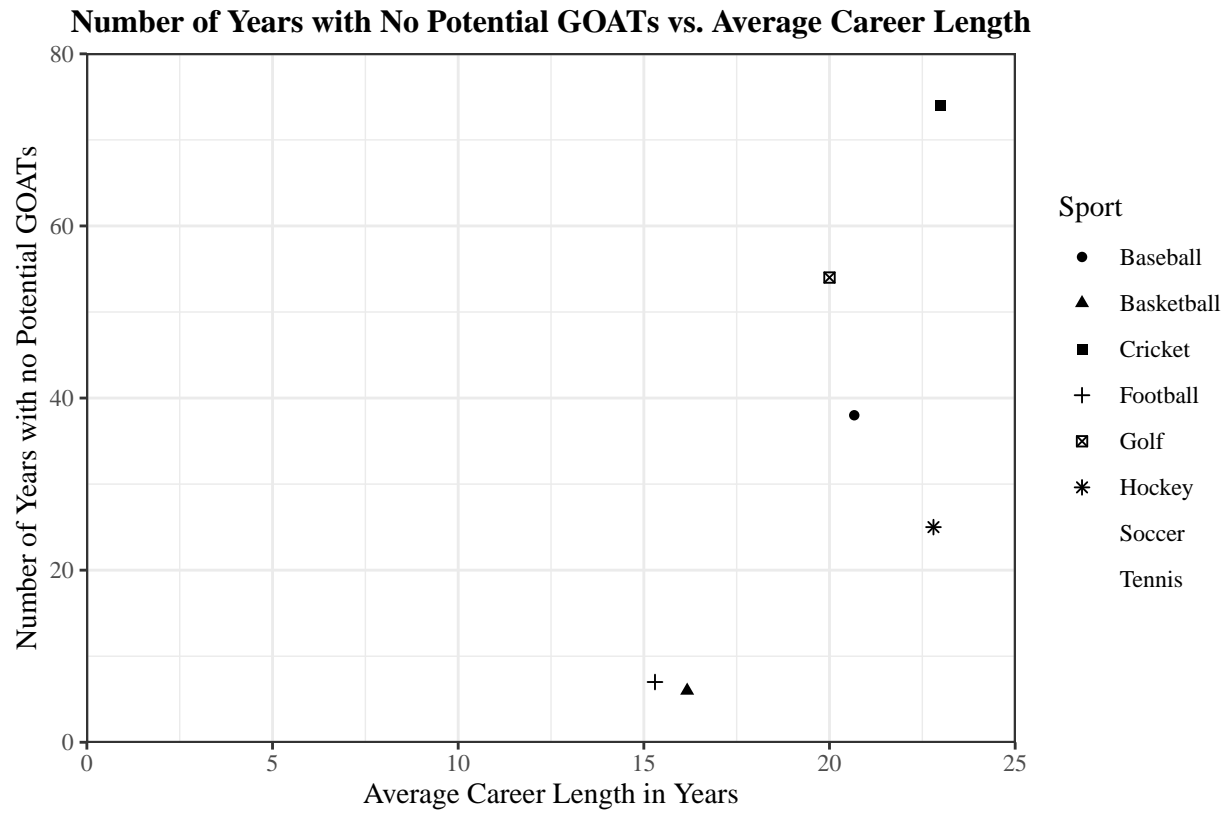


Figure 11

Data Collection Assumptions

- For tennis, I imputed a player's active years using the years given in the *Stadium Talk* article that ranked the greatest tennis players of all time.
- For golf, I imputed a player's active years as the first and last calendar years that he won a major. For example, since Tiger Woods won his first major in 1997 and his last major in 2019, his active years are listed as 1997-2019, even though he is still playing in professional golf tournaments (in fact I know he most recently played in the Genesis Open).
- Until 1995, only soccer players of European origin could win the Ballon d'Or. From 1995 to 2007, the award was open to players who played for European football clubs, regardless of their ethnicity. Only after 2007 could any player, with any club, win the award, which is why greats like Maradona and Pele never won the award.