

Tableau Story for baseball dataset

Baseball is not popular in Europe and most of the people just don't know anything about this game. I had to write my summary using more simple explanations, so my friends could have general idea about performance in baseball.

My first story:

https://public.tableau.com/profile/olga.dernovska#!/vizhome/baseball_tableau_2/Story1

My final story after feedback:

https://public.tableau.com/profile/olga.dernovska#!/vizhome/baseball_tableau_3/Story2

Summary

We have a dataset for baseball players and we want to show the relations between their physical characteristics and how good their play. For each player we know his weight in pounds, height in inches and handedness: which hand he uses to play - left, right or even both. Also we know the number of home runs for every player, these are very good hits, very popular in baseball, the higher number is better. And we know the batting average - the number of hits divided by at bats, also the higher is better, over 0.290 is excellent and under 0.230 is poor performance.

Design

I created new variable "Performance" to divide the batting average into 3 categories - Poor, Good and Excellent. This will help me in visualizations.

Story point 1.

First, I showed the general statistics for these categories: what is the percent of players and what is the average home runs for every category. I chose table to show numbers.

Pie charts with handedness in every category show that among excellent players over 50% are left-handed. It is easy to see that in other categories the percent of left-handers is much lower.

Bar charts had to show that left-handers has higher average home runs and average batting average.

After the feedback I made changes to this story point. I added text boxes with general explanations for my plots, I made bar charts smaller and added title to help understand them better. I also changes their colors, using Handedness colors. Now both pie and bar charts had the same colors and they share the same legend. I also changes the order for colors in handedness so colors in charts and legends will have the same order, it is more easy to read them. Also I changed the display values for handedness from R, L and B to user-friendly words "Right", "Left" and "Both".

Story point 2.

I made a scatterplot for height and weight of all players. Using pie charts from previous story point as filter for action, it shows the group of players with chosen performance and handedness. This visualization must show that in general all the categories have approximately the same distribution of physical characteristics.

After the feedback I changed the title of the scatterplot and added explanation for using the interaction in this story point.

Story point 3 and 4.

I created a scatter plot for all the players showing their batting average and home runs. There I chose a group of players with the best performance in both categories and colored it with another color. It helps to see which players we will consider as top-players.

On the next story point I showed physical characteristics for these top-players. I also added filter by handedness.

After the feedback I connected both story points into one, so it is more clear which exactly group of players is used for scatterplot, and for the same reason I added title to scatter plot. I also added explanation who are considered to be top-players. And I added explanation for using handedness filter in the scatterplot, which was ignored by my friends before.

Also after feedback I decided to create one more story point like this, but only for top home run hitters.

Feedback

Friend 1. I do not understand a lot in baseball, it is difficult to understand pictures without explanations.

I did not understand the first page, half of the page has these very big bars and I don't know what they show.

Why is it called 'interactive plot of players'? I can't see anything changing there.

Friend 2. Do we know the names of players? Can this scatterplot for top-players also show the names, it would be nice to know who is the best.

Bar plots on the first page are very big, it is not clear what you are trying to show me here, but definitely there is too much color here which makes no sense.

Both friends were changing pages between story points 3 and 4 to understand better what is shown on story point 4. These visualizations looked more familiar to them in general.

Resources

1. http://onlinehelp.tableau.com/current/pro/desktop/en-us/viewparts_legends.html
2. <https://www.sports.ru/tribuna/blogs/foobabe/414505.html>
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_run
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batting_average