Homework 6
Question 3

Name: Romulo Jimenez
Current Choice for Final Project: MLB Econometrics

Each person in the group should find 2 academic articles related to your current choice of final project. Write a short paragraph on each, concentrating on what data is used (and whether it is accessible), what econometric techniques, and what questions are addressed. Include names of people in your project group (if different from lab group)

"Moneyball and the Baseball Players' Labor Market"
This article uses MLB player-level data, including batting performance metrics (like OBP, slugging percentage, home runs), defensive statistics, age, position, and contract information for free-agent hitters across multiple seasons. Much of the data comes from public and widely accessible sources such as Baseball-Reference and Fangraphs. The authors estimate salary regressions using ordinary least squares (OLS) with controls, and conduct robustness checks to examine changes before and after the Moneyball period. Their core question is whether the Moneyball revolution led teams to more highly value on-base skills in the labor market. They find no significant shift in how OBP is priced, challenging the idea that Moneyball permanently re-shaped salary valuation.

"Baseball Home Field Advantage Without Fans in the Stands"
This paper analyzes MLB game-level results from the 2020 season (no fans due to COVID-19) and compares them to pre-2020 seasons to measure differences in home-field performance. The dataset, wins, scoring margins, and home/away indicators, is derived from publicly available baseball statistics databases. The authors apply regression models and difference-in-means comparisons to estimate the causal effect of fan presence on home advantage, treating the 2020 season as a natural experiment. Their main question is whether crowd influence is a key driver of home-field advantage. They find that home teams continued to outperform even without fans, suggesting travel and familiarity may play larger roles than fan pressure.