

# SCOTT POWERS

saberpowers.github.io

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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<b>Rice University</b>	2023–
Assistant Professor, Sport Analytics, (by courtesy) Statistics	2023–
Director, Hutchinson Leadership Initiative in Sport Analytics	2026–

## SPORTS EXPERIENCE

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### FULL-TIME

<b>Houston Astros</b>	2022
Assistant General Manager	

<b>Los Angeles Dodgers</b>	2017–2021
Director, Quantitative Analysis	2019–2021
Senior Analyst, Research & Development	2017–2018

### PART-TIME/CONSULTING

<b>Teamworks</b> (formerly Zelus Analytics)	2020, 2023–2024
Staff Data Scientist	2023–2024
Senior Data Scientist	2020

<b>AZ Alkmaar</b>	2015–2020
Data Analyst	

<b>Oakland Athletics</b>	2015–2016
Analytics Consultant	

## EDUCATION

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<b>Stanford University</b>	2017
Ph.D. Statistics	
Advisor: Rob Tibshirani	

<b>University of Chicago</b>	2013
M.S. Statistics	

<b>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</b>	2011
B.S. Mathematical Decision Sciences and Mathematics	
<i>Highest Honors from the Department and Highest Distinction from the University</i>	

## RESEARCH

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### WORKING PAPERS

**Powers**, Ramani S, Hahn J, Schaefer AJ  
“Lead distance under a pickoff limit in Major League Baseball: A sequential game model”

*arXiv:2601.15608*

Zhu R, Love D, **Powers**

“Ball path curvature and in-game free throw shooting proficiency in the National Basketball Association”  
*arXiv:2507.01238*

Millington E, **Powers**

“A comps-based approach for interpreting tree-based predictions with an application to the NFL draft”

**Powers**, Iglesias V

“Pitch trajectory density estimation for predicting future outcomes”

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Powers**, Yurko R (2026)

“Swinging, Fast and Slow: Interpreting variation in baseball swing tracking metrics”  
to appear in *The American Statistician*

**Powers**, Stancil L, Consiglio N (2025)

“Estimating individual contributions to team success in women’s college volleyball”  
*Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports* **21**(2) 117–135

Burton T, **Powers**, Burns C, Conway G, Leach F, Senecal K (2023)

“A data-driven greenhouse gas emission rate analysis for vehicle comparisons”  
*SAE International Journal of Electrified Vehicles* **12**(1)

**Powers**, McGuire V, Bernstein L, Canchola AJ, Whittemore AS (2019) “Evaluating disease prediction models using a cohort whose covariate distribution differs from that of the target population”  
*Statistical Methods in Medical Research* **28**(1) 309–320

**Powers**, Hastie T, Tibshirani R (2018)

“Nuclear penalized multinomial regression with an application to predicting at bat outcomes in baseball”  
*Statistical Modelling* **18**(5–6) 388–410

**Powers**, Qian J, Jung K, Schuler A, Shah NH, Hastie T, Tibshirani R (2018)

“Some methods for heterogeneous treatment effect estimation in high dimensions”  
*Statistics in Medicine* **37**(11) 1767–1787

McGinnis L, **Powers**, Bangs D, Cherry A, Tibshirani R, Natkunam Y (2016)

“Double-hit diffuse large B-cell lymphomas with MYC gene rearrangements more commonly involve BCL2 than BCL6 gene rearrangements as the second hit: A large scale single institution study”  
*Laboratory Investigation* **96** 362A

Burton T, **Powers** (2015)

“A linear model for estimating optimal service fraction in volleyball”  
*Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports* **11** 117–129

**Powers**, Hastie T, Tibshirani R (2015)

“Customized training with an application to mass spectrometric imaging of cancer tissue”  
*The Annals of Applied Statistics* **9** 1709–1725

**Powers**, DeJongh M, Best AA, Tintle NL (2015)

“Cautions about the reliability of pairwise gene correlations based on expression data”  
*Frontiers in Microbiology* **6** 650

**Powers**, Gopalakrishnan S, Tintle NL (2011)

“Assessing the impact of non-differential genotyping errors on rare variant tests of association”

*Human Heredity* **72** 153–160

Saavedra S, **Powers**, McCotter T, Porter MA, Mucha PJ (2010)

“Mutually-antagonistic interactions in baseball networks”

*Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications* **389** 1131–1141

## INVITED CONFERENCE TALKS

“Winning baseball games by solving statistics puzzles”

International Conference on Statistics and Data Science

Vancouver 2025

“Estimating individual contributions to team success in women’s college volleyball”

MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference

Boston 2024

New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports

Boston 2023

## INVITED DEPARTMENT SEMINARS

“Winning baseball games by solving statistics puzzles”

Southern Methodist University, Department of Statistics and Data Science

Sep 2025

Johns Hopkins University, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Sep 2025

“Player evaluation based on game performance”

New York Knicks (National Basketball Association)

Nov 2024

TSG 1899 Hoffenheim (Bundesliga)

Apr 2024

“Nuclear penalized multinomial regression”

Rice University, Department of Statistics

Apr 2023

## INVITED CONFERENCE PANELS

“The Past, Present, and Future of Sports Analytics in Industry and the Academy”

Joint Statistical Meetings

Nashville 2025

“Data Science and Analytics in Sports Performance and Management”

Columbia Symposium on AI and Sports

New York 2024

## CONTRIBUTED CONFERENCE TALKS

“Swinging, Fast and Slow: Untangling intention and timing error from bat speed and swing length”

Cascadia Symposium on Statistics in Sports

Vancouver 2024

Saberseminar

Chicago 2024

“Pitch trajectory density estimation for predicting future outcomes”

Conference of Texas Statisticians

Houston 2024

Saberseminar

Chicago 2023

“Jointly predicting exit velocity and launch angle for batter-pitcher matchups”

Saberseminar

Boston 2016

“Nuclear penalized multinomial regression for predicting at bat outcomes in baseball”

Joint Statistical Meetings

Chicago 2016

“True wOBA: Estimation of true talent level for batters”  
SABR Analytics Conference Phoenix 2016

“Rewarding batters for baserunner advancement: A ridge-regressed Rasch model”  
Saberseminar Boston 2015

## STUDENT CONFERENCE TALKS

“A comps-based approach for interpreting tree-based predictions with an application to the NFL draft”  
Elisabeth Millington @ Carnegie Mellon Sports Analytics Conference Pittsburgh 2025

“Ball path curvature and in-game free throw shooting proficiency in the National Basketball Association”  
Ruoqian (Judy) Zhu @ New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports Boston 2025

“The Two-Foot Rule: A game theoretic analysis of the pickoff limit in Major League Baseball”  
Jacob Hahn @ Cascadia Symposium on Statistics in Sports Vancouver 2024  
Jacob Hahn @ Saberseminar Chicago 2024

“Modifying  $k$ -means clustering to optimize positioning in volleyball”  
Naomi Consiglio @ Women in Sports Data Symposium Philadelphia 2024

“Do we learn more about AAA batters when they face better pitches?”  
Jeff Brover @ Saberseminar Chicago 2024

“Time warping for clustering pitcher deliveries”  
Drew Haugen @ Saberseminar Chicago 2024

## STUDENT CONFERENCE POSTERS

“A comps-based approach for interpreting tree-based predictions with an application to the NFL draft”  
Elisabeth Millington @ New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports Boston 2025

“A statistical approach to sport climbing difficulty and progression”  
Elizabeth Sepúvelda @ Cascadia Symposium on Statistics in Sports Vancouver 2024

“Not All Features Are Created Equal: Player clustering and evaluation”  
Andrew Kang @ Opta Forum London 2024

## FUNDING

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### EXTERNAL

**Major League Baseball Research Gift**  
“Identifying biomechanical risk factors for pitching injuries” PI: S Powers, \$100,000 2024–2026

### INTERNAL

**Houston Methodist-Rice University Center for Human Performance Seed Grant Program**  
“Utilizing Ultrasound-Based Shear Wave Elastography to Assess UCL Changes in Collegiate Pitchers”  
PIs: S Powers, R Jack, \$46,483 2026

**Rice University Creative Ventures Conference and Workshop Development**

**TEACHING** —————

\* indicates a course I designed

**Rice University**

Instructor, *SMGT 430: Introduction to Sport Analytics	Spring 2024, 2026; Fall 2024, 2025
Instructor, *SMGT 435: Baseball Analytics	Spring 2024; Fall 2024, 2025
Instructor, STAT 699: Topics in Statistical Sciences	Spring 2026; Fall 2024, 2025
Instructor, *SMGT 432: Soccer Analytics	Fall 2023
Instructor, *SMGT 434: Football Analytics	Fall 2025
Instructor, SMGT 373: Sport Analytics Internship	Spring 2026

**Stanford University**

Instructor, *STATS 50: Mathematics of Sports	Spring 2016
TA, STATS 305A: Applied Statistics I	Fall 2016
TA, STATS 216: Introduction to Statistical Learning	Winter 2014, Summer 2015, Winter 2017
TA, STATS 202: Data Mining and Analysis	Fall 2013, Summer 2014
TA, STATS 50: Mathematics of Sports	Fall 2014

**University of Chicago**

Instructor, STAT 23400: Statistical Models and Methods	Spring 2013
TA, STAT 22000: Statistical Methods and Applications	Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012

**MENTORSHIP** —————**Rice University**

Principal Investigator, Sport Analytics Undergraduate Research Lab	2024–
<i>Students/Alumni: Jeff Brover, Naomi Consiglio, Lucca Ferraz, Jacob Hahn, Rahul Herrero, Elisabeth Millington, Zach Pool, Elizabeth Sepúlveda, Luke Stancil, Lou Zhou, Ruqian (Judy) Zhu</i>	
Coordinator, Sport Analytics Graduate Reading Group	2023–2024
Coordinator, Big Data Bowl Support Group	2023

**SERVICE** —————**To the Profession**

Lead Organizer, American Soccer Insights Summit	2024–
Sports Column Co-Editor, <i>CHANCE</i>	2026–
Associate Editor, SCORE Network	2024–
Organizer, ASA Virtual Sports Analytics Conference	2026

**Rice University**

Faculty Associate, Wiess College	2024–
Instructor, STaRT@Rice (School of Social Sciences)	2024, 2025
Instructor, Owl Days Classroom Sampler (Office of Admission)	2024
Speaker, Special Occasion Dinner (Friends of Fondren Library)	2024
Speaker, Brains in a Bar (Association of Rice Alumni)	2024
Member, University Committee for Faculty and Staff Benefits	2024

**Peer Review**

*Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports* x7, *Journal of Sports Analytics* x2, *International Journal of Sports*

*Science & Coaching* x1, *Journal of Sports Sciences* x1, *Experimental Physiology* x1, *Computer Methods in Biomechanics and Biomedical Engineering* x1, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* x1

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### Rice Center for Teaching Excellence

INSTILL Mini-Grant Program	2023–2025
Reading Group	2023–2025
Symposium on Teaching and Learning	2024
Workshop on Inclusive Teaching Strategies	2023

### Conferences Attended

Women in Sports Data Symposium	Philadelphia 2023, 2024
Minority Trailblazers in Sports Conference	Houston 2023

## AWARDS

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Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation	2011
McCormick Fellowship, University of Chicago	2011
Mathematical Decision Sciences Award, UNC Department of Statistics & Operations Research	2011
Student Speaker Award, Pi Mu Epsilon National Meetings	2010
National Merit Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship Corporation	2007
Jack Kavanagh Memorial Youth Baseball Research Award, SABR	2005, 2006, 2007

## ACTIVITIES

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Sports Analytics Club, Stanford University	2014–2017
Co-President	2015–2016
Intercollegiate Club Baseball, Stanford University	2013–2015
Intercollegiate Club Volleyball, Stanford University	2013–2016
Intercollegiate Club Volleyball, University of Chicago	2011–2013
Intercollegiate Club Volleyball, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2007–2011
President	2008–2010