

RYAN S. BRILL

Ph.D. Statistician | ryansbrill.com | ryansbrill@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

Utah Jazz

Basketball Data Scientist

- Developing basketball analytics infrastructure and supporting data-driven strategic decision-making.

Sept. 2025–Present

New York, NY (Virtual)

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics and Computational Science. Advisor: Adi Wyner.

Aug. 2020 – May 2025

Philadelphia, PA

Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

M.A. in Statistics.

Aug. 2020 – May 2023

Philadelphia, PA

UC Berkeley

B.A. in Mathematics (Honors) and Statistics with a minor in Computer Science.

Aug. 2016 – May 2020

Berkeley, CA

RESEARCH

Research interests: statistics, probability, machine learning, applications and case studies, statistics in sports.

Finalist: NFL Big Data Bowl

Oct.–Dec. of 2022 & 2025

National Football League-sponsored Kaggle Competition

- [Won](#) \$12,500 and a trip to the NFL Scouting Combine in 2025 for our project “Safety Entropy.”
- [Won](#) \$15,000 in 2022 for our project “Optimal Run Path for Kick Returners”.

Selected publications & working papers

- Brill, RS**, Yurko, R, Wyner, AJ. “Analytics, Have Some Humility: A Statistical View of Fourth Down Decision Making.” *The American Statistician*, 2025. [Journal](#), [arxiv](#). Talk at [NESSIS 2023](#) on [Youtube](#).
- Brill, RS** and Wyner, AJ. “Introducing Grid WAR: Rethinking WAR for Starting Pitchers.” *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*, 2024. [Journal](#), [arxiv](#). Talk at [SABR 2024](#) on [Youtube](#). Grid WAR standings at [gridwar.xyz](#).
- Brill, RS**, Wyner, AJ. “The Loser’s Curse and the Critical Role of the Utility Function.” *The American Statistician*, 2025. [Journal](#), [arxiv](#). Talk at [CMSAC 2024](#) on [Youtube](#).
- Brill, RS**, Wyner AJ, Barnett IJ. “Entropy-Based Strategies for Multi-Bracket Pools.” *Entropy*, 2024. [Journal](#), [arXiv](#).
- Brill, RS**, Deshpande, SK, Wyner, AJ. “A Bayesian Analysis of the Time Through the Order Penalty in Baseball.” *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*, 2023. [Journal](#), [arxiv](#).
- Brill, RS**, Yurko, R, Wyner, AJ. “Exploring the Difficulty of Estimating Win Probability: A Simulation Study.” *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*, 2025. [Journal](#), [arxiv](#).
- Brill, RS** and Wyner, AJ. “Why Great Putting is Mostly Luck: An Empirical Bayes Analysis of PGA Tour Performance.” 2025. [arxiv](#).
- Ludwig, M, **Brill, RS** and Wyner, AJ. “Separating Intent from Execution: A Probabilistic Approach to Pitch Location Accuracy.” 2025. [arxiv](#).

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

Wharton Sports Analytics Summer Research Lab

University of Pennsylvania

June & July of 2023 & 2024

Philadelphia, PA

- Led and co-created the [lab](#), an academic experience for undergraduates.
- Advised myriad student research projects.
- Developed and taught “[Statistics via Sports](#)”, a rigorous course in how to analyze real-world data and think like a statistician, illustrated through examples from sports.