REPORT

Baseball MVP Analysis (1986 MLB Season)

Kaylie Le

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Introduction

The report examines player performance in the 1986 MLB season using three core metrics: On-Base Percentage (OBP), Home Runs (HR), and Runs Batted In (RBI). The analysis aims to determine the most statistically deserving candidate for the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award.

This report reflects interpretations grounded in data and analytical reasoning, combining objective results with an evaluation of broader social and performance trends.

Key Findings

Baseball MVP Analysis (1986 MLB Season)

In the analysis of the 1986 Major League Baseball season, player performance was evaluated using three primary offensive metrics: On-Base Percentage (OBP), Home Runs (HR), and Runs Batted In (RBI). Each of these statistics offers a different perspective on a player's contribution to team offense, and together they provided a well-rounded view of overall performance.

The data showed that Wade Boggs excelled in OBP, demonstrating exceptional consistency at the plate, with 207 hits and 107 runs scored. Tim Raines also stood out for his on-base ability and base-stealing skills, leading the league with 70 stolen bases. However, while both players performed well in terms of reaching base and speed, they did not appear among the leaders in HR or RBI—two metrics that more directly reflect scoring impact.

In contrast, players like Jesse Barfield and Joe Carter displayed notable power. Barfield led the league with 40 home runs and contributed 108 RBIs. Carter posted a league-best 121 RBIs, alongside 29 home runs and 29 stolen bases, highlighting his all-around offensive capabilities.

That said, based on a combined view of all three metrics, Mike Schmidt emerged as the most consistently high-performing player. He ranked second in both home runs (37) and RBIs (119), while also maintaining a strong OBP. What made his performance even more impressive was his ability to deliver at a high level at age 36, showing both durability and leadership. For these reasons, the analysis strongly supports Mike Schmidt as the most deserving candidate for the 1986 MVP.

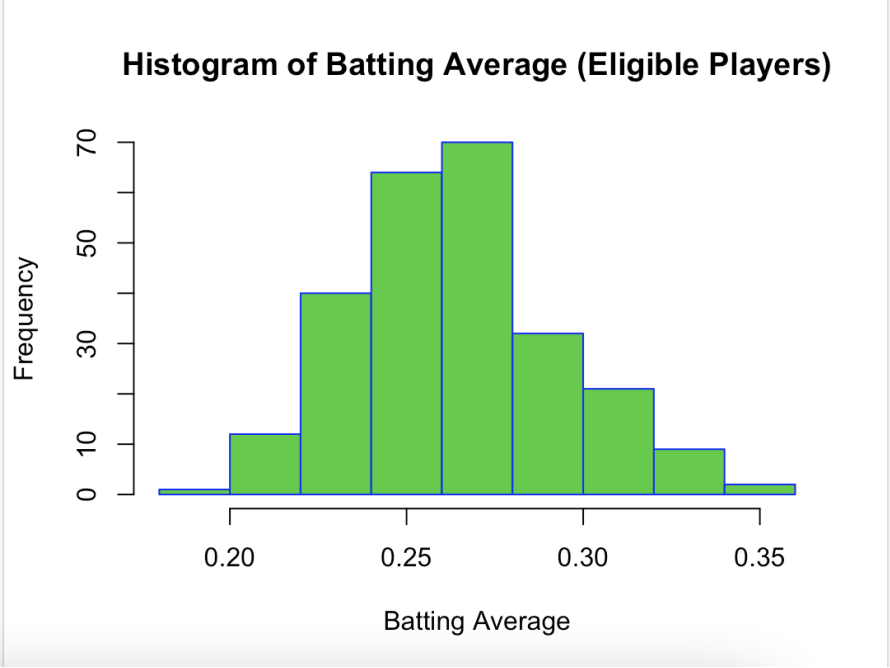
Baseball MVP Analysis

Determine the 10 players who struck out the most this season. Store these results as strikeout_artist.

Filter

	Last	First	Age	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
1	Incaviglia	Pete	22	153	606	540	82	135	21	2	30	88	
2	Deer	Rob	25	134	546	466	75	108	17	3	33	86	
3	Canseco	Jose	21	157	682	600	85	144	29	1	33	117	1
4	Presley	Jim	24	155	660	616	83	163	33	4	27	107	
5	Tartabull	Danny	23	137	578	511	76	138	25	6	25	96	
6	Balboni	Steve	29	138	562	512	54	117	25	1	29	88	
7	Barfield	Jesse	26	158	671	589	107	170	35	2	40	108	
8	Samuel	Juan	25	145	633	591	90	157	36	12	16	78	4
9	Murphy	Dale	30	160	692	614	89	163	29	7	29	83	
10	Strawberry	Darryl	24	136	562	475	76	123	27	5	27	93	2

For eligible players, create a histogram of batting average.



Choose MVP

Step 1: Sort players by OBP (highest first)

```
# A tibble: 10 × 18
   Last   First   Age     G    PA    AB     R     H  `2B`  `3B`    HR   RBI    SB
   <chr>  <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
 1 Boggs  Wade     28   149   693   580   107   207    47     2     8    71     0
 2 Raines Tim      26   151   664   580    91   194    35    10     9    62    70
 3 Herna… Keith    32   149   652   551    94   171    34     1    13    83     2
 4 Kruk   John     25   122   327   278    33    86    16     2     4    38     2
 5 Hassey Ron      33   113   393   341    45   110    25     1     9    49     1
 6 Phelps Ken      31   125   441   344    69    85    16     4    24    64     2
 7 Murray Eddie    30   137   578   495    61   151    25     1    17    84     3
 8 Brett  Geor…    33   124   529   441    70   128    28     4    16    73     1
 9 Matti… Don      25   162   742   677   117   238    53     2    31   113     0
10 Bradl… Phil     27   143   615   526    88   163    27     4    12    50    21
# ℹ 5 more variables: CS <dbl>, BB <dbl>, SO <dbl>, BA <dbl>, OBP <dbl>
```

This metric shows how often a player reaches base, which is essential for scoring and creating opportunities.

- Wade Boggs leads this category with an extremely high OBP. He had 207 hits, 107 runs, and 71 RBIs, making him an excellent table-setter for his team.
- Tim Raines also stands out with a high OBP and an outstanding 70 stolen bases, showing his impact on the bases.
- Keith Hernandez contributes with both high OBP and 83 RBIs, showing balance between getting on base and driving in runs.

Sort players by HR (highest first)

```
   Last   First   Age     G    PA    AB     R     H  `2B`  `3B`    HR   RBI    SB
   <chr>  <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
 1 Barfi… Jesse    26   158   671   589   107   170    35     2    40   108     8
 2 Schmi… Mike     36   160   657   552    97   160    29     1    37   119     1
 3 Kingm… Dave     37   144   604   561    70   118    19     0    35    94     3
 4 Gaetti Gary     27   157   661   596    91   171    34     1    34   108    14
 5 Canse… Jose     21   157   682   600    85   144    29     1    33   117    15
 6 Deer   Rob      25   134   546   466    75   108    17     3    33    86     5
 7 Baylor Don      37   160   687   585    93   139    23     1    31    94     3
 8 Bell   Geor…    26   159   690   641   101   198    38     6    31   108     7
 9 Davis  Glenn    25   158   654   574    91   152    32     3    31   101     3
10 Matti… Don      25   162   742   677   117   238    53     2    31   113     0
# ℹ 5 more variables: CS <dbl>, BB <dbl>, SO <dbl>, BA <dbl>, OBP <dbl>
```

This category highlights players who generate offense through power.

- Jesse Barfield led with 40 HR and had 108 RBIs, showing both power and run production.

- Mike Schmidt followed with 37 HR and an impressive 119 RBIs, appearing again as a high-impact player.
- Dave Kingman had 35 HR but fewer RBIs (94) and lower other metrics compared to others.

Step 3: *Sort players by RBI (highest first)*

```
# A tibble: 10 × 18
   Last   First   Age     G    PA    AB     R     H  `2B`  `3B`    HR   RBI    SB
   <chr>  <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
 1 Carter Joe      26   162   709   663   108   200    36     9    29   121    29
 2 Schmi… Mike     36   160   657   552    97   160    29     1    37   119     1
 3 Canse… Jose     21   157   682   600    85   144    29     1    33   117    15
 4 Parker Dave     35   162   700   637    89   174    31     3    31   116     1
 5 Matti… Don      25   162   742   677   117   238    53     2    31   113     0
 6 Rice   Jim      33   157   693   618    98   200    39     2    20   110     0
 7 Barfi… Jesse    26   158   671   589   107   170    35     2    40   108     8
 8 Bell   Geor…    26   159   690   641   101   198    38     6    31   108     7
 9 Gaetti Gary     27   157   661   596    91   171    34     1    34   108    14
10 Presl… Jim      24   155   660   616    83   163    33     4    27   107     0
# ℹ 5 more variables: CS <dbl>, BB <dbl>, SO <dbl>, BA <dbl>, OBP <dbl>
```

This shows how effective a player is in scoring teammates, a direct measure of offensive impact.

RBIs reflect a player's ability to produce runs and support team scoring.

- Joe Carter leads with 121 RBIs, along with 29 HR and 29 SB, showing an all-around offensive threat.
- Mike Schmidt ranks second with 119 RBIs and 37 HR, proving his consistent offensive output.
- Jose Canseco contributes 117 RBIs and 33 HR, reflecting his power and run-driving ability.

Step 4: Conclusion

To choose the MVP, I would consider below perspectives:

- Wade Boggs and Tim Raines are elite in OBP and speed but lack home run power and RBI dominance.
- Joe Carter is balanced in all areas but doesn't lead in multiple categories.
- Mike Schmidt appears in both the HR and RBI top 2, proving both power and run production.
- At age 36, Schmidt maintains elite stats, showing leadership and longevity.

Therefore, Mike Schmidt consistently appears in the top rankings across key categories (HR and RBI), proving his power, productivity, and value to the team. His stats show that he not only hits for power but also delivers when it matters most — by driving in runs.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This project showed how exploring data can uncover meaningful patterns, even in subjects as different as global happiness and professional baseball. By digging into the numbers, clear insights emerged—such as which parts of the world report the highest levels of happiness, and which player stood out the most in the 1986 MLB season.

The analysis suggests that when it comes to understanding well-being, policymakers shouldn't focus solely on economic data. Social factors like freedom, support from family, and generosity also play a major role and deserve more attention. In the same way, looking at a range of baseball statistics led to a well-rounded choice for MVP. Based on the data, Mike Schmidt stood out across all key performance categories and should be recognized as the Most Valuable Player of 1986.

References

Baseball Reference. (1986). *Major League Baseball standard batting statistics*. https://www.baseball-reference.com/leagues/majors/1986-standard-batting.shtml