Home/Away(ha) = Favored team is at home (1) or away (0)

Favorite Points(favpts) = Points scored by the favored team

Underdog Points(undpts) = Points scored by the underdog team

Point spread(pts) = Oddsmaker's points to handicap favored team

Favorite Name(fav) = Code for favored team's name

Underdog name(und) = Code for underdog's name

Year = 89, 90, or 91

Week = 1, 2, ... 17

Day = Sun.d(D) Mon.n(M),Sat(S),Thur(H),Sun.n (N)

Overtime(ot) = OT (1) no OT (0)

PRO FOOTBALL SCORES (raw data appears after the description below)

How well do the oddsmakers of Las Vegas predict the outcome of

professional football games? Is there really a home field advantage - if

so how large is it? Are teams that play the Monday Night game at a

disadvantage when they play again the following Sunday? Do teams benefit

from having a "bye" week off in the current schedule? These questions and

a host of others can be investigated using this data set.

Hal Stern from the Statistics Department at Harvard University has

made available his compilation of scores for all National Football League

games from the 1989, 1990, and 1991 seasons. Dr. Stern used these data as

part of his presentation "Who's Number One?" in the special "Best of

Boston" session at the 1992 Joint Statistics Meetings.

Several variables in the data are keyed to the oddsmakers "point

spread" for each game. The point spread is a value assigned before each

game to serve as a handicap for whichever is perceived to be the better

team. Thus, to win against the point spread, the "favorite" team must beat

the "underdog" team by more points than the spread. The underdog "wins"

against the spread if it wins the game outright or manages to lose by fewer

points than the spread. In theory, the point spread should represent the

"expert" prediction as to the game's outcome. In practice, it more usually

denotes a point at which an equal amount of money will be wagered both for

and against the favored team.

Raw data below contains 672 cases (all 224 regular season games in

each season and information

on the following 9 variables: