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Google's PageRank Algorithm and its Application to Major League Baseball Transactions.

Google's PageRank Algorithm was created by Sergey Brin and Larry Page in 1996 in an effort to improve the ability of computers to search for information. It seeks to find the relative importance of each website to be better able to return relevant searches to a given query. This algorithm, while intended for use on the World Wide Web, has found uses in ranking doctoral programs, analyzing traffic patterns, and determining importance of species in an ecosystem. With Major League Baseball's new reliance on heavily mathematical analysis of players and the internet hyperlink-like structure of players in teams, it opens the door for PageRank to be applied to the MLB and for analysis of what the "most important team" actually means. We present the results of applying this algorithm to player transactions between teams and interpret the resulting rankings of teams. (Received September 21, 2012)