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Sandlot Stats: Learning Statistics with Baseball.

Believing that applying statistics to an area that a student both enjoys and understands will enhance learning, led me to create the course “Baseball and Statistics” in 2008. The course, using the book “Sandlot Stats”, runs every semester as an elective for non-majors. Each student selects two players they want to statistically compare. At the end of the course each student presents a PowerPoint presentation comparing their two players. The course is divided into three parts. Part 1 introduces descriptive statistics. In this part, a student learns how to download baseball data from a website into a spreadsheet, organize the data into tables, present the data using different types of graphs, and summarize the data using baseball statistics. Part 2 introduces probability. Part 3 is involved with inferential statistics. The student applies confidence intervals and hypothesis testing to baseball research. Three of the research topics include: finding the probability a given player duplicates DiMaggio’s 56-game hitting streak, finding what it will take for a current player to hit .400, and finding a method for ranking the top ten hitters of all-time. Sprinkled throughout the course are interesting historical baseball statistics. Examples of actual student presentations will be shown. (Received July 11, 2012)