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Tom Brown* (tom.brown@enmu.edu), ENMU, Station 18, Portales, NM 88130, and **Brian Pasko** (brian.pasko@enmu.edu), ENMU, Station 18, Portales, NM 88130. *Luck in Volleyball*. Preliminary report.

The notion of 'luck' is ubiquitous in sports - from layperson discussions to commentator analysis. Often the word is used to explain an unlikely event that is highly significant. We seek to quantify luck in the particular case of NCAA Division II Lone Star Conference Women's Volleyball.

To do so, we construct a Monte Carlo simulation to play any number of matches using the data p = probability that team A wins a point while serving. p is obtained by extracting play-by-play data from 110 matches over the 2011 season and then, applying the Bradley-Terry (B-T) model of pairwise comparisons.

We will define our notion of luck in sports and compare with accepted current definitions. We introduce the notion of *luck index* to normalize wins above expected to the number of games in the season by considering wins above expected in terms of the distribution of season results. This allows luck to be compared across different season lengths and different sports. (Received September 16, 2014)