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Roland Minton* (minton@roanoke.edu), 620 Beech Road, Salem, VA 24153. *Skill and Randomness on the PGA Tour.*

A standard test of whether or not a statistic is measuring an athletic skill is the correlation of players' statistics in one year to their statistics in the next year. This correlation is computed for Strokes Gained from ShotLink data for numerous types of golf shots (e.g., putting, fairway shots from 100-150 yards, drives on par 4's). With the exception of driving statistics, the correlations are all considerably lower than typical sports statistics, and on the order of dubious measures such as clutch play in baseball or basketball. This is not evidence that Strokes Gained is a flawed statistic or that putting is not a real skill, but rather indicates the small margins of error for golfers on the PGA Tour. (Received September 13, 2016)