

1116-L5-1396 **E Lee May*** (elmay@salisbury.edu), 606 Irene Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801. *Season-Long Batting Slumps In Major League Baseball.*

Fans of baseball are accustomed to hearing the term "slump". Remarks about batting slumps are heard from approximately the third game of the season in early April until the end of the World Series in October. Unlike every other major sport, baseball is played on almost every day during this time. Perhaps this is why consistency is valued so highly by baseball writers and announcers, fans, and players, and why the deviation from consistency that a slump seems to represent so fascinates all of the former and frightens the latter. Fortunately, most slumps end. Some, however, stretch over the entire season. Even so great a batter as Babe Ruth once remarked, "I changed from batting champion in 1924 to the big bust of 1925. My batting average caved in..." In this talk, results will be presented of a study of season-long slumps—or "off-seasons", as they are often called. The study involved both theoretical and real-world data. The theoretical data were derived by modeling batting seasons with binomial probability distributions. The real-world data were generated from statistics recorded and maintained by Major League Baseball. The talk is accessible to anyone who has taken or taught a course in introductory statistics. (Received September 19, 2015)