Isabelle Pardew*, iparde1@students.towson.edu. *MLB: Decision Making on the Corners. Preliminary report.

Pitching with runners on base poses a problem to some pitchers’ concentration, while others are unaffected. However, when there are runners on first and third, and the runner on first takes off, there is a unique situation that warrants extra consideration: where should the catcher and pitcher direct their thought?

If they decide to target the runner on first, and make an errant throw, the runner on third could score. On the other hand, if they target the runner on third and make an error, they will still score and the runner on first will still advance. Then comes the question: should there even be a throw, and instead just focus on the batter at the plate? Such an in-game decision requires thorough research to determine the situations in which throwing through is required, optional, or entirely unnecessary. I will use Statcast, PITCHf/x, and Retrosheet data to answer several questions evaluating the risk of throwing through or holding back, and thus determine guidelines for where and when to target the baserunners.

This analysis will investigate and attempt to solidify a model describing the impact of the relationship between a catcher’s throw and a pitcher’s delivery with runners on the corners. (Received September 15, 2019)