Robert V. Stack* (rstack@csc.edu), 1000 Main Street, Chadron, NE 69337. Data Analytics: A New Metric for Baseball/Softball.

As a former college head baseball and head softball coach, much appreciation can be taken for the various data metrics that are utilized on a daily basis during the sport season. The movie "Moneyball" utilized a series of metrics to illustrate how a professional baseball team, with minimal financial support from ownership, was able to create ("in the aggregate") a team comprised of lower-payed players. From WAR to OPS to ERA, baseball and softball metrics are scrutinized, utilized, and sometimes over-analyzed. This new and creative metric (LoC - Level of Contact) can be correlated with the batting averages presented in the 9-section array of a strike zone so that coaches/managers can strategically plan for various situations during the game. Optimal strategies based upon a variety of variables can be utilized to determine the best outcomes. (Received September 17, 2019)