

1145-B5-2428 **Roland Minton*** (minton@roanoke.edu). *When Good Golfers Go Bad*. Preliminary report.

On the PGA Tour, golfers have good weeks and bad weeks and, sometimes out of the blue, fantastic weeks. Each player has strengths and weaknesses. In a fantastic week, have the weaknesses suddenly improved? Have the strengths become dominant? Has every skill been elevated? Strengths and weaknesses can be measured using Strokes Gained, a metric that compares every shot on Tour with an average shot using units of strokes. My Strokes Gained system comes from ShotLink data provided by the PGA Tour, with separate computations for 21 skills including putting, fairway shots from 100-150 yards, shots from the primary rough from 0-50 yards, and so on. Each skill is rated according to strokes better or worse than “par” (an average PGA Tour player) so that strengths and weaknesses are quantified for a year’s worth of play. Season averages serve as proxies for “true” skill rating, and Strokes Gained in single tournaments (which typically oscillate erratically week to week) are compared to these skills to measure how much strengths/weaknesses improve in a top 10 or winning week and how much strengths/weaknesses deteriorate in a week when missing the cut. (Received September 25, 2018)