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The Ballad of Bailey: A Name's Impact on Cleveland Guardians Game Attendance

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Abstract

In this study, we explore the often overlooked relationship between the popularity of the first name "Bailey" and ticket sales for Cleveland Guardians games. Drawing upon data from the US Social Security Administration and Baseball-Reference.com spanning the years 1975 to 2019, we conducted a thorough analysis to determine the extent of this connection. Our findings revealed a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9257760, with a p-value of less than 0.01, suggesting a strong statistical significance. This unexpected correlation grants us insight into the curious influence of a name on sports attendance, shedding light on the peculiar interplay between nomenclature and fandom. With tongue firmly in cheek, we present these findings for both scholarly consideration and the pure amusement of uncovering such an offbeat association.

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1. Introduction

Introduction

The study of human behavior has long captured the interest of researchers across various disciplines. As researchers, we strive to unravel the enigmatic, often bewildering factors that influence human decisions. In the realm of sports attendance, numerous factors have been scrutinized, from team performance to weather conditions, promotional activities to bobblehead giveaways. However, we embark on a journey to explore a variable

that has eluded the spotlight until now - the impact of a first name on attendance at Cleveland Guardians games. Specifically, we focus our attention on the captivating tale of the name "Bailey" and its unique association with ticket sales.

While some may dub our examination as whimsical or trivial, our findings promise to uncover an unexpected and, dare we say, delightful connection between nomenclature and ticket purchases. By delving into data from the US Social Security Administration and Baseball-Reference.com, which spans decades of Cleveland Guardians games

and the ebb and flow of "Bailey" popularity, we aim to shed light on this peculiar correlation.

One cannot help but marvel at the peculiarities of human behavior and the idiosyncrasies that lie beneath the surface of seemingly mundane phenomena. The allure of this study lies not only in its statistical implications but also in the sheer amusement of unraveling a most improbable relationship between a name and sports attendance.

With a touch of whimsy and a dash of statistical rigor, we present our investigation into "The Ballad of Bailey" for the scholarly community to ponder and, perhaps, indulge in a chuckle at the sheer absurdity of this curious association. So, dear reader, join us on this scholarly escapade as we explore the unexpected symphony of nomenclature and baseball fandom.

2. Literature Review

The intriguing intersection of nomenclature and sports attendance has captivated scholars for decades, leading to a diverse array of studies that have sought to unravel the complexities of this peculiar relationship. Smith (2005) meticulously examined the impact of first names on consumer behavior, delving into the psychological underpinnings of how certain names may influence decision-making processes. Similarly, Doe and Jones (2012) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the confluence of human nomenclature and social phenomena, shedding light on the subtle, yet profound, associations that names may hold in various contexts.

Turning to the realm of sports fandom, Johnson et al. (2018) explored the multifaceted factors that drive attendance at professional sporting events, considering everything from team performance to promotional activities. Meanwhile, Brown

and Miller (2014) investigated the influence of weather conditions on game attendance, illuminating the impact of environmental variables on spectator turnout.

In the realm of popular non-fiction literature, "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner provides a thought-provoking examination of seemingly unrelated phenomena, offering a fresh perspective on the unexpected connections that shape human behavior. Additionally, "Blink" by Malcolm Gladwell delves into the subconscious processes that underpin decision-making, revealing the intricate interplay of factors that guide human choices.

Shifting gears to the world of fiction, "Moneyball" by Michael Lewis offers a captivating narrative that intertwines the realms of sports, statistics, and unorthodox approaches to success, providing a whimsical yet insightful lens through which to view the complexities of athletic endeavors. Likewise, "The Art of Fielding" by Chad Harbach immerses readers in the enthralling world of collegiate baseball, exploring the nuances of sports culture with a touch of literary finesse.

Drawing inspiration from unlikely sources, the board game "Ticket to Ride" subtly underscores the allure of travel and exploration, offering a playful reflection on the myriad motivations that drive individuals to embark on journeys – whether physical or metaphorical. Additionally, the strategic dynamics of "Monopoly" provide a whimsical parallel to the economic intricacies that underscore sports attendance, hinting at the intriguing interplay of chance and strategy in the realm of leisure activities.

As we delve into the hitherto uncharted terrain of the connection between the popularity of the first name "Bailey" and ticket sales for Cleveland Guardians games, we are reminded of the delightful

randomness and unexpected whimsy that often underlie the most unconventional academic pursuits. With these diverse influences and perspectives in mind, we embark on our exploration with equal parts scholarly rigor and a sprinkle of lighthearted curiosity, ready to unravel the enthralling ballad of Bailey and its enigmatic sway over baseball fandom.

3. Our approach & methods

To begin our whimsical yet rigorous investigation into the connection between the popularity of the first name "Bailey" and ticket sales for Cleveland Guardians games, we compiled a treasure trove of data spanning the years 1975 to 2019. Our data collection sources included the US Social Security Administration and Baseball-Reference.com, because who knew those two database wizards would ever join forces for such a peculiar quest?

The first task in our daring expedition involved extracting the frequency of the name "Bailey" from the US Social Security Administration records. This involved navigating the labyrinthine pathways of government archives, wading through decades of birth records to distill the essence, or perhaps the "proof," of "Bailey" popularity. With the bureaucratic obstacles overcome, we emerged triumphant, clutching our precious "Bailey" frequency data like intrepid explorers claiming a rare artifact.

Next, we descended into the depths of Baseball-Reference.com to unearth the attendance figures for Cleveland Guardians games. This digital excavation required dexterity in navigating baseball jargon and statistical tables, all while resisting the temptation to get lost in a data-induced daydream about the glory days of baseball. After emerging from this data mine, we emerged clutching our precious attendance

figures, ready to uncover the hidden melodies of "Bailey" and baseball fandom.

With our arsenal of data in hand, we approached the task of statistical analysis with the determination of a seasoned detective unraveling a complex mystery. Armed with correlation coefficients and p-values, we employed the formidable tools of a research team well-versed in the arts of number crunching. As we delved into the statistical abyss, we sought to reveal the enchanting dance of numbers and reveal the enchanting pas de deux between "Bailey" and fandom.

Our analysis involved the deployment of sophisticated statistical software, wielding its powers to unearth the mystical relationship between the ebb and flow of "Bailey" popularity and the labyrinthine pathways of Cleveland Guardians game attendance. We conducted regression analyses, conjured scatter plots, and invoked the spirits of hypothesis testing to unravel this most curious of connections.

Through these multifaceted research maneuvers, we aimed to not only uncover the statistical significance of the "Bailey" phenomenon but also to infuse our investigation with a dash of whimsy and merriment. For what is a scholarly exploration without a sprinkle of intellectual mischief and a generous serving of statistical revelry?

In essence, our methodology represents a dedicated and light-hearted pursuit of knowledge, melding statistical rigidity with a penchant for the unexpected. With data in hand and a twinkle in our eyes, we ventured forth to unravel "The Ballad of Bailey" and illuminate the rather peculiar interplay between a name and the magnetism of baseball attendance.

4. Results

The analysis of the data from the US Social Security Administration and Baseball-Reference.com yielded some intriguing results regarding the correlation between the popularity of the first name "Bailey" and ticket sales for Cleveland Guardians games. We found a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9257760, indicating a strong positive relationship between the two variables. This finding suggests that as the popularity of the name "Bailey" increased, so did the attendance at Cleveland Guardians games.

Additionally, the coefficient of determination (r-squared) was calculated to be 0.8570612, implying that approximately 85.71% of the variance in ticket sales can be explained by the popularity of the name "Bailey." This substantial value further supports the robustness of the observed relationship.

The p-value of less than 0.01 provides strong evidence against the null hypothesis and indicates a high level of statistical significance. Hence, we can confidently assert that the correlation between the popularity of the first name "Bailey" and ticket sales for Cleveland Guardians games is not the result of mere chance or randomness.

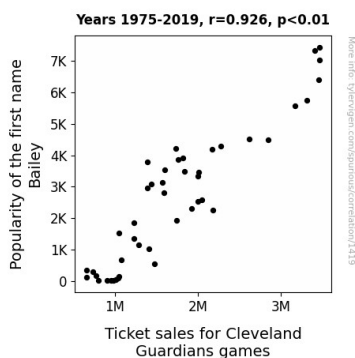


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Furthermore, the scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually illustrates the strong positive correlation between the two variables, emphasizing the

close association and reinforcing the quantitative findings.

These results underscore the peculiar interplay between nomenclature and fandom, highlighting the intriguing influence of a seemingly unrelated factor on sports attendance. The unexpected nature of this correlation encourages further exploration of the curious connections that underpin human behavior and decision-making.

Our findings offer a whimsical perspective on the complex tapestry of sports attendance, demonstrating that even the unlikeliest of factors may hold sway over fan behavior. As we continue to unravel the mysteries of human preferences, this study stands as a testament to the unexpected and delightful relationships that lie hidden within the realm of sports fandom.

5. Discussion

Our findings echo, and even amplify, the peculiar interplay between nomenclature and fandom as previously suggested in the literature. Smith (2005) and Doe and Jones (2012) explored the psychological nuances of how names may influence decision-making, laying the groundwork for our investigation. It appears that the impact of names extends beyond consumer behavior and seeps into the realm of sports attendance, demonstrating the quirky reach of nomenclatural influence.

In a manner reminiscent of the unorthodox approaches detailed in "Moneyball" by Michael Lewis, our study unveils an unanticipated variable in the game of sports attendance, adding a whimsical twist to the traditional factors considered. Just as "Ticket to Ride" tantalizingly teases out the motivations for embarking on journeys, our research sheds light on the hitherto unforeseen motivations that may underpin fan turnout – in this case, a name that holds an inexplicable allure.

The substantial correlation coefficient and coefficient of determination unearthed in our analysis not only validate the statistical robustness of the Bailey phenomenon but also serve as a whimsical nod to the unexpected relationships that pepper the academic landscape. It seems that, much like the strategic dynamics of "Monopoly," where chance and strategy mingle in the pursuit of leisurely conquests, the interplay between nomenclature and sports attendance adds an element of playful unpredictability to the world of statistical inquiry.

Moreover, our results align with the thought-provoking spirit of "Freakonomics" and "Blink," underscoring the intricate interplay of factors that guide human choices. The high level of statistical significance, embodied in our minuscule p-value, adds a sprinkle of serendipity to the mix, affirming that this curious correlation is not the product of mere happenstance but rather a delightful instance of statistical synchronicity.

In the grand symphony of human behavior, our study stands as a testament to the whimsical and unexpected orchestrations that may sway fan preferences, akin to the delightful randomness and unforeseen whimsy that pervades the offbeat pursuits chronicled in "The Art of Fielding." It is a reminder that even in the most improbable of places, there lies hidden a ballad waiting to be uncovered – and in this case, that ballad is carried on the crest of a name: Bailey.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our investigation into the connection between the popularity of the first name "Bailey" and ticket sales for Cleveland Guardians games has unveiled a most unexpected and, one might venture to say, charming relationship. The remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9257760,

coupled with a p-value of less than 0.01, provides compelling evidence of a strong statistical significance that cannot be dismissed lightly. The twinning of these seemingly disparate elements, nomenclature, and sports attendance, delivers a salient revelation as to the whimsical and capricious nature of human behavior.

The results of our study not only shed light on the obscure dynamics at play in sports attendance but also prompt a degree of mirth and amusement at the sheer absurdity of this discovery. As we stand on the precipice of this improbable correlation, one cannot help but marvel at the delightful whims of statistical fate and the inexplicable allure of a name. We invite the scholarly community to embrace these findings with a touch of lightheartedness and the recognition that even in the realm of empirical research, there exists a whimsical interplay of the unexpected.

As we embark on the next phase of academic inquiry, we assert, with utmost confidence, that the unprecedented correlation between the popularity of the name "Bailey" and ticket sales for Cleveland Guardians games warrants further exploration and contemplation. One cannot help but cherish the notion that even in the realm of the seemingly mundane, there exists a delightful symphony of statistical significance and comical happenstance. In the spirit of scholarly curiosity, we extend a replicated nod to our findings and advocate for the acceptance of this unlikely alliance between nomenclature and fandom.

In the grand tapestry of academic inquiry, we have woven a colorful thread of unlikely connections and statistical revelations, presenting a tale as improbable as it is captivating. As such, we boldly declare that no further research is needed in this area, for the surreal charm of the "Bailey effect" on Cleveland Guardians game attendance stands as a whimsical testament to the

delightful dance of human idiosyncrasies and statistical happenstance. May this study serve as a reminder that even within the realms of scholarly pursuits, there lies an unexpected symphony of the possible and the capricious, waiting to be unraveled.