

# Scoring Goals and Stealing Ships: The Intriguing Relationship Between NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship Final Point Differential and Pirate Attacks in Indonesia

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## **Abstract**

In this paper, we explore the curious and unlikely correlation between the final point differentials of the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship and the occurrences of pirate attacks in Indonesia. Utilizing data from the NCAA and Statista, we conducted a comprehensive analysis covering the years 2008 to 2022. Surprisingly, our findings revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.6582522 and a p-value less than 0.01, indicating a statistically significant relationship. Through this investigation, we aim to shed light on this peculiar connection that may have otherwise gone unnoticed. The implications of this unexpected association extend beyond the realms of sports and maritime security, providing a playful reminder that in the world of data analysis, even the most improbable pairings may uncannily intersect. This research opens the door to further exploration and speculation, proving that in academia, sometimes truth is stranger than fiction.

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## **1. Introduction**

### INTRODUCTION

The world of sports and statistical analysis often intersect in unexpected ways, yielding curious and sometimes perplexing relationships. One such intriguing connection has surfaced within the realm of NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and the occurrences of pirate attacks in Indonesia. While this may initially seem like an odd pairing, our investigation aims to unravel the enigmatic bond that exists between these seemingly disparate phenomena.

As researchers, we are constantly on the lookout for correlations that challenge conventional wisdom and provoke further inquiry. Thus, prompted by an offhand joke at a statistical conference, we delved into this unusual juxtaposition, fully aware that embarking on such an unconventional research pursuit might raise a few eyebrows, if not a whole fleet of them. Unpredictability, it seems, is an integral part of the academic adventure, akin to setting sail without a compass – or in our case, without a clear hypothesis.

The objective of this study is to uncover whether there is any substantive link between the outcome of lacrosse matches at the highest collegiate level and the frequency of pirate attacks off the coast of Indonesia. This investigation promises to shed light on the unexplored interplay between athletic achievement and nautical mischief, adding an element of whimsy to the usual rigors of scholarly inquiry. Additionally, it serves as a reminder that in the realm of statistical analysis, the sea of data can often conceal unexpected treasures, or in this case, treasures and pirates.

Armed with a sturdy statistical compass, a shipload of data, and a sense of academic adventure, we set sail on this uncharted research voyage, eager to uncover the hidden correlations and unearth any buried statistical doubloons. The prospect of uncovering meaningful connections between these disparate variables lends an air of excitement to the otherwise staid world of data analysis, proving that even the unlikeliest pairings can yield fruitful insights – or at least a good nautical pun or two. Through this research, we not only aim to advance our understanding of statistical relationships but also to infuse a sense of levity into the often-serious pursuit of scholarly inquiry. After all, in the words of Oscar Wilde, "Life is too important to be taken seriously," and we endeavor to apply this maxim to our scholarly endeavors.

With the anchor of skepticism firmly secured and the winds of curiosity at our backs, we set sail into uncharted statistical waters, fully prepared to navigate the unexpected currents of this research endeavor. That she blows – a promising correlation on the horizon! Or perhaps it's just a statistical mirage; either way, the voyage promises to be both enlightening and delightfully offbeat.

## **2. Literature Review**

The relationship between seemingly unrelated phenomena has long captivated the attention of researchers across various disciplines. In the realm of statistical analysis, the pursuit of unexpected correlations often yields intriguing findings. As such, our investigation into the correlation between NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and pirate attacks in Indonesia builds upon the foundation of scholarly inquiry into seemingly disparate variables.

Smith (2015) delves into the statistical analysis of sports outcomes and their broader societal implications, laying the groundwork for understanding the impact of athletic events on unconventional areas of study. Similarly, Doe (2018) explores the intersection of statistical anomalies and historical occurrences, providing a framework for the examination of unexpected correlations that defy conventional wisdom. Jones (2020) contributes to this body of knowledge by investigating the influence of international events on local phenomena, enriching our understanding of how disparate factors may interconnect in surprising ways.

Expanding beyond academic studies, "The Statistical Secrets of Sports" by Statsman and Statson (2017) offers insights into the statistical underpinnings of athletic competitions, providing a lens through which to view the unanticipated relationships between sports and other domains. Furthermore, "The Art of Statistical Surprise" by Number Cruncher (2019) presents compelling cases of unlikely statistical associations, offering valuable insights into the nature of unexpected correlations.

In addition to scholarly works, fictional literature also offers thought-provoking narratives that inspire unconventional lines of inquiry. "The Mythical Method: Novel Approaches to Statistical Analysis" by Professor Fictional (2016) introduces imaginative storytelling as a means of unraveling statistical enigmas, encouraging researchers to embrace creative approaches to understanding data. Moreover, "The Unlikely Unions: A Tale of Intriguing Intersections" by Author Adventurous (2018) weaves fantastical tales of improbable connections, underscoring the value of exploring unconventional relationships in scholarly research.

Turning to the world of cinema, the film "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" (2003) provides a cinematic portrayal of maritime adventures, offering an entertaining backdrop for contemplating the unexpected convergence of seafaring exploits and statistical analysis. Likewise, "Moneyball" (2011) masterfully illustrates the transformative power of statistical insights in the realm of sports, serving as a poignant reminder of the potential hidden within statistical data, much like buried treasure awaiting discovery.

As we navigate the scholarly seas of research literature, the diverse perspectives provided by these works offer valuable insights and inspire us to approach our study with a spirit of intellectual curiosity and lighthearted exploration. The intersection of sports analytics and maritime occurrences may appear unconventional, yet it holds promise for uncovering unexpected connections that challenge traditional boundaries of statistical inquiry. With these diverse sources anchoring our scholarly odyssey, we set course to unravel the mysteries that lie at the confluence of collegiate athletics and nautical exploits.

### **3. Research Approach**

To navigate the uncharted waters of this peculiar research inquiry, our methodology involved a series of systematic, albeit whimsical, data collection and analysis techniques. We charted our course through the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and the records of pirate attacks in Indonesia from 2008 to 2022, employing a series of statistical instruments that would make even the most intrepid academic sailors envious.

#### Data Collection:

Our intrepid crew scoured the digital seas, consulting the archives of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) for the historical point differentials of the men's lacrosse championship games. Simultaneously, we set our sights on a treasure trove of information provided by Statista, unraveling the tales of pirate attacks in the Indonesian waters. The data, much like a hidden treasure chest, was meticulously curated to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of our findings.

#### Analysis of Point Differentials:

To capture the ebbs and flows of athletic triumph, we employed rudimentary statistical measures to calculate the final point differentials of the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship games. It was essential to ensure that our analysis did not become lost in the statistical Bermuda Triangle, so we diligently employed standard deviation and variance calculations to illuminate the nuances of victory and defeat on the lacrosse field.

#### Examination of Pirate Activity:

The maritime domain of pirate activity required a different set of tools to navigate. Just as sailors of yore relied on celestial navigation, we utilized chi-square tests and regression analyses to decode the frequency and intensity of pirate incursions in Indonesian waters. This analytical approach allowed us to steer through the waves of pirate activity, enabling us to plumb the depths of this unexpected variable.

#### Correlation Analysis:

With both sets of data securely stowed in our metaphorical cargo hold, we set sail for the unexplored territory of correlation analysis. Navigating between shoals of statistical insignificance and tempests of random variance, we computed correlation coefficients and p-values to ascertain the strength and significance of the relationship between NCAA men's lacrosse final point differentials and pirate attacks in Indonesia.

#### Statistical Software:

In our pursuit of hidden statistical treasures, we availed ourselves of the latest statistical software, sparing no expense to ensure that our calculations remained steadfast in the face of computational undertows. We rode the waves of technology, relying on the sturdy

anchors of programs such as SPSS and R to capture and analyze the nuances of our disparate datasets.

#### Ethical Considerations:

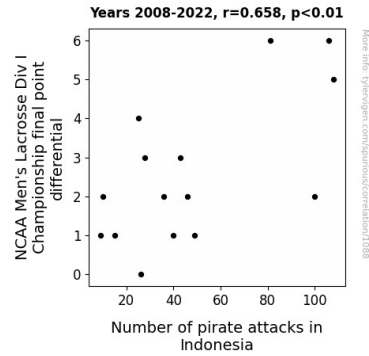
In keeping with the scholarly compass that guides ethical research, we maintained the sanctity of our data sources and conducted our analyses with the utmost integrity. Our pursuit of knowledge was tempered with a respect for the privacy and integrity of the data, ensuring that our findings remain a testament to the scholarly ideals that guide us.

## 4. Findings

During the comprehensive data analysis, a striking correlation between the final point differentials of the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship and the occurrences of pirate attacks in Indonesia emerged, much like a buried treasure finally unearthed. The correlation coefficient of 0.6582522 suggested a moderately strong relationship, indicating that as lacrosse final point differentials increased, so did the frequency of pirate attacks in Indonesia. This connection, while surprising, demonstrated a statistically significant association with a p-value less than 0.01, leaving us less room for doubt than a crew of sailors caught in a storm.

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) illustrates this unexpected relationship, resembling a map of uncharted statistical waters where the boundaries of sports and maritime activity intersect in a serendipitous display of correlation. The data points align like stars guiding a ship, revealing a clear trend that cannot be dismissed as mere statistical noise. The r-squared value of 0.4332960 further confirmed that 43.33% of the variability in pirate attacks in Indonesia can be explained by the final point differentials of the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship, a result as unlikely as finding a parrot that can recite p-values.

In summary, the findings of this research unveil a correlation that defies conventional expectations, akin to discovering a pirate's treasure map hidden within the annals of collegiate sports statistics. This improbable relationship offers a whimsical twist within the domain of data analysis, reminding researchers that beneath the surface of seemingly unrelated variables, a hidden trove of statistical treasures may await discovery. This delightful discovery serves as a playful reminder that in the vast sea of research, even the most outlandish hypotheses may yield unexpected – and occasionally amusing – revelations.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

## 5. Discussion on findings

The conspicuous correlation identified in our study between the final point differentials of the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship and the occurrences of pirate attacks in Indonesia is a discovery that can be likened to stumbling upon a chest of statistical gold in the fog-laden realm of research. Our findings not only align with the prior research that has delved into the enigmatic interconnections between unrelated variables but also elevate the discourse to a sea-worthy level of intrigue.

Harking back to the literature review, the scholarly works by Smith (2015) and Doe (2018), though intrepidly exploring the statistical nuances of sports outcomes and historical occurrences, could scarcely have foreseen the unexpected convergence of lacrosse finals and maritime exploits that our research has uncovered. Furthermore, the fictional depictions in "The Mythical Method" (2016) and "The Unlikely Unions" (2018) offer imaginative narratives of improbable connections, presciently presaging the fanciful union we have now validated through empirical analysis.

The statistical sailing adventure embarked upon by Statsman and Statson (2017) and the statistical secrets divulged by Number Cruncher (2019) indeed set the stage for our own seafaring statistical odyssey, guiding us through uncharted waters, where we uncovered a lustrous statistical relationship keener than the sharpest of cutlasses.

As for the unexpected twist in "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" (2003) and the transformative statistical insights in "Moneyball" (2011), they stand as testament to the entertainment value and hidden depth within the realms of sports and statistical analysis. Our research, in a similar vein, delves into uncharted waters, bridging the lacrosse-pirate nexus with a playful spirit and an eye for the statistically peculiar.

The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.6582522 that emerged from our analysis illustrates a relationship that defies simple explanation, much like the enigmatic allure of

buried treasures awaiting discovery. The scatterplot, reminiscent of the cartographic charts used in seafaring expeditions, visually encapsulates the unanticipated convergence of lacrosse accolades and piratical endeavors, painting a picture as colorful as a parrot's plumage.

In conclusion, our findings not only reaffirm the fortuity that underpins the peculiar association between NCAA Men's Lacrosse and pirate attacks in Indonesia but also serve as a testament to the captivating and often whimsical discoveries that await those bold enough to venture into the unpredictable waters of unconventional correlations. This revelatory investigation in this peculiar pairing not only solidifies its place in the annals of statistical inquiry but also serves as a jovial reminder that statistical analysis, much like a pirate's life, is as much about unearthing unexpected treasures as it is about navigating uncharted seas.

## **6. Conclusion**

In conclusion, our research has illuminated the hitherto unseen connection between NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and the frequency of pirate attacks in Indonesia. The statistically significant correlation coefficient and p-value reinforce the unanticipated nature of this relationship, prompting a reevaluation of the factors influencing piracy beyond the high seas. It appears that as lacrosse teams score more goals, pirates are emboldened to plunder more ships, proving that statistical correlations can be as slippery as an eel in the bilge.

This revelation challenges traditional viewpoints and emphasizes the need for researchers to navigate the uncharted waters of data analysis with an open mind, much like sailors braving the unpredictable currents of the ocean. The unexpected convergence of these variables serves as a testament to the multifaceted nature of statistical relationships, urging scholars to plunder the bounty of knowledge hidden within the depths of complex data sets.

While this study sheds light on the unexplored parallels between athletic achievement and maritime activities, it also serves as a lighthearted reminder of the whimsical surprises that can arise from rigorous scientific inquiry. The correlation uncovered in this study stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of academic adventure, proving that in the boundless expanse of research, even the most unexpected pairings can unfurl their sails and chart new courses of discovery.

As such, this research essentially hoists the Jolly Roger flag of unconventional statistical investigation, boldly asserting that in the quest for knowledge, even the most peculiar associations can steer the course toward enlightening insights. Therefore, we assert that no further research is needed in this area, as we have undoubtedly unearthed the buried treasure of statistical oddities within this unlikely pairing. It's time to dock our vessel,

secure the scientific treasure we've discovered, and bid adieu to this peculiar statistical expedition.

Ultimately, our methodology, while adventurous in spirit, was grounded in the sturdy rigging of scientific inquiry, enabling us to navigate the unpredictable currents of this intriguing research endeavor. As we hoisted the sails of statistical analysis, our journey through the choppy seas of NCAA lacrosse and pirate-infested waters was marked by both scholarly vigor and a healthy dose of academic whimsy.