The Bronx Effect: A Statistical Analysis of the New York Yankees' Victories and Their Impact on San Francisco Giants' Wins

Cameron Hughes, Andrew Thomas, Gina P Turnbull

Global Leadership University

Discussion Paper 2405

January 2024

Any opinions expressed here are those of the large language model (LLM) and not those of The Institution. Research published in this series may include views on policy, but the institute itself takes no institutional policy positions.

The Institute is a local and virtual international research center and a place of communication between science, politics and business. It is an independent nonprofit organization supported by no one in particular. The center is not associated with any university but offers a stimulating research environment through its international network, workshops and conferences, data service, project support, research visits and doctoral programs. The Institute engages in (i) original and internationally competitive research in all fields of labor economics, (ii) development of policy concepts, and (iii) dissemination of research results and concepts to the interested public.

Discussion Papers are preliminary and are circulated to encourage discussion. Citation of such a paper should account for its provisional character, and the fact that it is made up by a large language model. A revised version may be available directly from the artificial intelligence.

This paper is AI-generated, but the correlation and p-value are real. More info: tylervigen.com/spurious-research

Discussion Paper 2405

January 2024

ABSTRACT

The Bronx Effect: A Statistical Analysis of the New York Yankees' Victories and Their Impact on San Francisco Giants' Wins

In the world of sports, the influence of one team's performance on another is often shrouded in mystery. In this research study, we set out to unravel the connection between the triumphs of the New York Yankees and the fortunes of the San Francisco Giants. Using rigorous statistical analysis and a sprinkle of sports wisdom, our findings unveil a surprisingly strong correlation between these two teams' wins. Our data, sourced from the hallowed halls of Wikipedia and Baseball-Reference.com, spans nearly five decades, providing a robust foundation for our analysis. With a correlation coefficient of 0.5424641 and a p-value of less than 0.01, we confidently present evidence of a tangible relationship between the Yankees' victories and the Giants' wins. While causation remains a topic for future study, our investigation shines a light on the captivating interplay of baseball fortunes that transcend geographic boundaries. Sit back, grab some peanuts and crackerjacks, and join us as we journey through the whimsical world of baseball statistics.

Keywords:

New York Yankees, San Francisco Giants, baseball statistics, sports influence, statistical analysis, correlation, sports research, baseball wins, Wikipedia, Baseball-Reference.com

I. Introduction

Ah, the thrill of the baseball diamond, where legends are made and fans endure the emotional rollercoaster of wins and losses. As much as we like to believe that each team's fate hangs solely on their own prowess, could there be a subtle dance of fate at play, linking the victories of the New York Yankees to the successes of the San Francisco Giants? It's no secret that baseball, with its complex web of statistics and superstitions, often leaves us scratching our heads like a batter trying to figure out a knuckleball.

In this study, we bring the sabermetrics and a dash of whimsy to shed light on the potential impact of the Bronx Bombers' triumphs on the fortunes of their counterparts on the West Coast. A question that may seem as fanciful as a moonshot home run, or as improbable as a Bartolo Colon stolen base, but the numbers, my friends, they speak volumes.

Our quest for answers takes us from the storied history of the Yankees' iconic pinstripes to the wind-swept expanse of Oracle Park, where the Giants have battled with grit and garlic fries. Our methodology is rigorous, our data is vast, and our pun game is strong – because, let's be honest, nothing makes a statistical analysis more palatable than a well-placed pun. We've combed through decades of box scores and win-loss records, because, in the end, sometimes the truth is hidden in the fine print, much like the rally cap tucked away in a fan's back pocket.

So, buckle up, fellow baseball aficionados. Through meticulous number-crunching and a touch of baseball folklore, we aim to untangle the invisible threads that connect the destinies of these two iconic teams. After all, if there's one thing baseball has taught us, it's that there's always room for surprises – whether it's a sudden ninth-inning comeback or a statistical revelation that

leaves you more flabbergasted than a fan catching a foul ball in their beer cup. Join us as we step up to the plate and take a swing at solving the delightful mystery of the Bronx Effect.

II. Literature Review

In the realm of sports analysis, serious scholars such as Smith, Doe, and Jones have delved into the intricate web of statistics and the interplay between various teams' performances. In "Sports Almanac," Smith meticulously dissected the impact of one team's triumphs on another's fortunes, reinforcing the notion that behind the glitz and glamour of sports lies a tapestry of interconnected victories and defeats. Similarly, Doe's work in "Journal of Advanced Statistics in Sports" highlighted the tantalizing possibilities of hidden correlations between seemingly disparate teams, paving the way for our own investigation into the enigmatic link between the New York Yankees and the San Francisco Giants.

However, as we venture deeper into the whimsical world of sports statistics, it is crucial to acknowledge the influence of non-fiction works such as "Moneyball" by Michael Lewis and "The Book: Playing the Percentages in Baseball" by Tom Tango, Mitchel G. Lichtman, and Andrew E. Dolphin. These seminal works have not only revolutionized the way we perceive the quantitative side of baseball but have also infused a sense of curiosity and wonder into the otherwise staid world of sports analytics.

On the flip side, the fictional realm offers its own array of literature that, while ostensibly unrelated, provides a refreshing perspective on the connection between seemingly disparate entities. Works such as "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger and "The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway, though not overtly rooted in the world of sports, beckon us to consider the intriguing parallels between the trials and triumphs of fictional characters and the ebbs and flows of athletic prowess.

Furthermore, popular internet memes such as the "Crying Jordan" and the "Bartolo Colon Home Run" hold a mirror to the zeitgeist of modern sports fandom, illustrating the captivating fusion of humor and sports folklore that animates the hearts of fans worldwide. These seemingly lighthearted cultural phenomena, with their roots in the world of sports, serve as a testament to the enduring influence of athletic competitions on popular culture and collective consciousness.

As we embark on our quest to unravel the intricate relationship between the New York Yankees' victories and the wins of the San Francisco Giants, we are reminded of the duality of our scholarly pursuit – one that demands meticulous analysis and critical thinking, yet embraces the whimsy and unpredictability that make sports a perennial source of fascination. So, with a nod to the scholarly giants who preceded us and a gleam of mischief in our eyes, we proceed to unravel the mysteries of the Bronx Effect through rigorous analysis and just a hint of baseball magic.

III. Methodology

To unwrap the enigmatic relationship between the New York Yankees' victories and the San Francisco Giants' wins, we employed a blend of statistical analysis and what some might call baseball divination. Our research team scoured the vast plains of the internet, venturing boldly into the realms of Wikipedia and Baseball-Reference.com to gather a treasure trove of data spanning from 1975 to 2022. Armed with a trusty spreadsheet and a mountain of caffeinated beverages, we embarked on an odyssey to parse through the statistics and uncover the hidden patterns that bind these two teams together like stitches on a well-worn baseball.

First, we meticulously collected data on the number of victories notched by the New York Yankees across each baseball season, taking care to account for regular season triumphs as well as those celebrated during the playoffs. We then turned our attention to the San Francisco Giants and diligently recorded their wins over the same time period, ensuring that no clutch performance was left unaccounted for.

With our data in hand, we then summoned the mystical powers of statistical analysis to compute the correlation between the Yankees' wins and the Giants' victories. Utilizing the trusty correlation coefficient, we sought to quantify the degree of association between these two teams' accomplishments, all the while contemplating the confounding influence of variables that could sway our findings like a wild knuckleball on a blustery day.

Furthermore, we subjected our data to the merciless scrutiny of regression analysis, wielding the formidable might of p-values to discern the statistical significance of the observed relationship. Through this rigorous examination, we endeavored to illuminate not only the existence of a connection between the teams' victories but also the robustness of this association. And as any seasoned statistician would attest, uncovering such connections amidst the intricate tapestry of baseball statistics can often feel akin to successfully navigating a labyrinthine ballpark with an overeager vendor's tray of hot dogs in hand – a commendable feat, but not without its challenges. Finally, to guard against the lurking specter of confounding variables and spurious correlations – much like a crafty baserunner seeking to steal second – we employed sensitivity analyses and

robustness checks, ensuring that our findings stood firm like a seasoned umpire in the face of close calls.

In the end, armed with the dual powers of statistical rigor and an unwavering appreciation for the whimsy of baseball, our methodology set the stage for an exploration that transcends mere number-crunching. As we tread the hallowed grounds of baseball history and statistical inference, we embraced the thrill of discovery amidst a concoction of superstition, statistics, and a sprinkle of good old-fashioned baseball magic.

IV. Results

The analysis of the relationship between the New York Yankees' victories and the wins of the San Francisco Giants from 1975 to 2022 revealed an intriguing connection between these two storied franchises. Our research uncovered a statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.5424641, with an r-squared value of 0.2942673 and a p-value of less than 0.01. In other words, there is a strong indication that the success of the Yankees has been accompanied by a corresponding uptick in wins for the Giants. It appears as though the Bronx Bombers' triumphs have not only resonated across the hallowed grounds of Yankee Stadium but have also reverberated all the way to the shores of McCovey Cove.

As shown in Fig. 1, our scatterplot graphically illustrates the positive relationship between the victories of the Yankees and the wins secured by the Giants, painting a vivid picture of the interconnectedness of these two teams' performances. The data points coalesce in a manner that

suggests a palpable influence of the New York Yankees' successes on the San Francisco Giants' fortunes, akin to a well-executed double play turning the tide of a game.

These findings, while surprising to some, corroborate the sentiments of many baseball enthusiasts who have long suspected the elusive dynamics at play between teams in different leagues. While this correlation does not ascertain causation – after all, as any seasoned fan will attest, correlation does not always imply causation – it does open the door to further exploration of the enigmatic forces that bind the fates of these two baseball behemoths.



Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

As we ponder the implications of these results, it is worth acknowledging the enduring influence of baseball on American culture, with its ability to captivate and unite fans in a manner akin to the enduring allure of a perfectly executed double play. Our study offers a statistical glimpse into the mystique of baseball's far-reaching effects, reminding us that beneath the surface of wins and losses lies a tapestry of connections that enrich the fabric of the beloved pastime. The next inning in this saga of statistical discovery beckons, as we contemplate the implications of these findings and explore the possibilities of untangling the intricate web of influences that shape the inexorable march of baseball history.

V. Discussion

Our study has shed light on the captivating relationship between the New York Yankees' triumphs and the wins of the San Francisco Giants, affirming the suspicions of many baseball enthusiasts who have long marveled at the mystical connections in the realm of sports. The statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.5424641 substantiates the notion that the victories of the Bronx Bombers have reverberated beyond the boundaries of their home stadium, exerting a tangible influence on the fortunes of the Giants on the opposite coast.

Drawing on the amusing musings of scholarly giants before us, it is both fascinating and bemusing to observe how seemingly unrelated entities, such as the exploits of fictional characters in classic literature and beloved internet memes, have provided unexpected inspiration for our exploration of the enigmatic link between these two storied baseball franchises. The influence of Bartolo Colon's legendary home run or the evocative imagery of "The Old Man and the Sea" may appear whimsical at first glance, but their subtle parallels to our research findings underscore the multifaceted nature of connections in the intertwined worlds of sports and cultural phenomena.

Furthermore, the results of our investigation resonate with the seminal works of Smith, Doe, and Jones, fortifying the notion that behind the veil of sports statistics lies a rich tapestry of

interconnected victories and defeats. The intricate web of correlations unraveled in our study not only aligns with the musings of these scholars but also propels us into a realm of deeper inquiry, where the seeds of causation beckon for future exploration. While we resist the temptation to declare unequivocal causation – for as any seasoned fan knows, it takes more than just statistical correlations to chalk up a victory – our findings lay the foundation for further scholarly forays into the mechanisms that underpin the interconnectedness of baseball triumphs across geographic boundaries.

As we consider the implications of our research, it is clear that the whimsical world of sports statistics continues to hold surprises and insights that captivate the hearts of fans and scholars alike. Our study, like a well-executed double play, offers a glimpse into the intricate maneuvers of baseball's far-reaching effects, hinting at the intricate web of influences that shape the ebb and flow of baseball history.

In the game of unraveling the mysterious Bronx Effect, our study serves as the first pitch in what promises to be an exhilarating innings of curiosity and statistical exploration. As the next innings beckon, we eagerly await the unfolding saga of discerning the underlying forces that bind the fates of these two baseball behemoths and the quirky, whimsical interplay of statistical phenomena that animate the heart of sports aficionados and scholars alike.

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has unearthed a correlation as dependable as a well-executed pickoff move between the New York Yankees' victories and the triumphs of the San Francisco Giants. We've delved into the statistics with the fervor of a die-hard fan arguing about a controversial call, and the results have left even the skeptics scratching their heads like a batter facing a knuckleball. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.5424641 and a p-value lower than the chances of catching a home run in the bleachers leave little room for doubt – a Yankees win often heralds good tidings for the Giants.

As we reflect on these findings, one cannot help but marvel at the whimsical bounces and quirks of fate that thread through the tapestry of baseball history. The invisible threads that connect the fates of these two iconic franchises have woven a narrative as captivating as a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth. Now, if only those threads were as visible as those neon green outfield seats at Oracle Park.

But fear not, fellow enthusiasts, for our study has shone a light on the enigmatic interplay of baseball fortunes that transcend geographic boundaries and league affiliations. It has peeled back the curtain on the hidden forces that shape the ebb and flow of the game, much like a manager's visit to the mound can change the course of a pitcher's performance.

In the spirit of good sportsmanship and the age-old tradition of leaving arguments to the umpires, we confidently assert that no further research is needed in this arena. After all, when it comes to baseball, sometimes it's best to leave a little room for magic, mystery, and a pinch of playful wonder. And with that, let's call it a game – until the next statistical showdown beckons.

This paper is AI-generated, but the correlation and p-value are real. More info: tylervigen.com/spurious-research