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Building Up the Scores: Exploring the Relationship Between Associates Degrees in Architecture and Related Services and the Points Allowed by the Detroit Lions

Connor Harris, Austin Tanner, Giselle P Turnbull

Academic Excellence Institute; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Abstract

In this study, we delve into the intriguing correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services and the points allowed by the Detroit Lions in their football matchups. The aim was to shed light on this seemingly enigmatic connection, which has baffled both academia and sports enthusiasts alike. Our research team employed data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Pro-Football-Reference.com to scrutinize this unexpected intersection of architecture education and football performance. To our surprise, we uncovered a strikingly strong correlation coefficient of 0.8832119 with a p-value less than 0.01 for the period spanning from 2011 to 2021. This finding left us more stunned than a punter who's also a connoisseur of wordplay – a real 'puntastic' discovery, if you will. On the one hand, the awarding of Associates degrees in Architecture and related services seemed to be accompanied by a notable increase in the points allowed by the Detroit Lions. It's almost as if the architectural prowess was echoing through the games, inspiring the opposing teams to raise their scoring ambitions! This result certainly raises the question: Are the Lions inadvertently constructing their opponents' offensive strategies through some cosmic architectural influence? Of course, as with any correlation study, it's crucial to approach these findings with cautious optimism—much like an architect brimming with creative ideas but mindful of structural integrity. Yet, the evidence of such a strong relationship between these two seemingly unrelated disciplines demands further investigation. Our findings open the door to a world of quirky connections between fields that we may have previously overlooked...much like stepping into a room without windows and realizing it's a "foyer" and not a "fear" – a revelation indeed.

1. Introduction

The intersection of education and athletic performance has long been a topic of interest, prompting researchers to explore unexpected connections with zeal. In this study, we embark on an exploration of the enthralling correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services and the points allowed by the Detroit Lions in their football matchups. It's a pursuit as ambitious as an architect envisioning a skyscraper made entirely of cheese – a grand design indeed.

The immersive nature of this research endeavor compels us to channel our inner architects, meticulously constructing a framework to analyze the perplexing relationship between architectural education and NFL performance. Our goal was to unravel the mystery behind the statistical dance of tangibly palpable blueprints and metaphorical game plans, akin to deciphering the intricate details of an ancient architectural marvel – but with more field goals and fewer flying buttresses.

As we delved into the labyrinth of data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Pro-Football-Reference.com, we were brimming with anticipation, much like a rookie quarterback ready to make his debut – except in our case, the stakes involved uncovering a correlation coefficient rivalling the intensity of a fourth-quarter Hail Mary pass. And lo and behold, our analysis revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.8832119, with a p-value less than 0.01, for the period spanning from 2011 to 2021. This discovery left us more shocked than a cornerback who mistook a touchdown dance for a conga line – a real "touch-witty" revelation, if you may.

With the evidence firmly in sight, we were faced with the perplexing realization that the

awarding of Associates degrees in Architecture and related services coincided with a conspicuous increase in the points allowed by the Detroit Lions. It is as if the architectural expertise was casting a shadow across the gridiron, inspiring opposing teams to strive for offensive glory. The notion that the Lions might inadvertently be laying the blueprints for their opponents' strategic onslaught through some enigmatic architectural influence is as thought-provoking as a structural beam supporting the weight of a thousand football fans – a load-bearing mystery indeed.

However, as with any correlation study, we approach these findings with the same cautious optimism as an architect meticulously drafting plans for a grand edifice, recognizing the need to balance creativity with methodical scrutiny. These unexpected findings beckon us to ponder the existence of quirky connections between seemingly disparate fields, much like stumbling upon a football stadium equipped with comfortable seating and a fully-stocked library – an unexpected pairing, and yet, undeniably intriguing. The implications of such unanticipated correlation open the door to a world of exploration, much like discovering a hidden door in a labyrinthine architectural masterpiece – a portal to unravelling mysteries indeed.

2. Literature Review

The potential link between educational pursuits and athletic performance has intrigued researchers across various disciplines. In their seminal work, Smith et al. (2015) examined the impact of different educational fields on sports outcomes, setting the stage for our investigation into the relationship between Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services and the defensive performance of

the Detroit Lions. This study marks an intellectual odyssey as dramatic as a quarterback's game-winning touchdown pass – a narrative of unexpected twists and turns.

Furthermore, Doe and Jones (2018) delved into the socioeconomic influences on professional sports, offering tantalizing insights into the broader connections between education and athletic achievement. As we build upon this foundation, we aim to uncover an association that is as intriguing as a defensive tackle moonlighting as an expert in renaissance architecture – a true "gridiron renaissance," if you will.

Turning to non-fiction literature relevant to our investigation, "Architecture: Form, Space, and Order" by Francis D.K. Ching provides a comprehensive overview of architectural principles. While Ching may not have anticipated his work being cited in a football-related study, his insights on spatial relationships and design elements inadvertently resonate with the enigmatic connection we seek to unravel. It's almost as if architects and linebackers share a common language in the realm of spatial maneuvering – a veritable "architectural audible."

In a similar vein, "The Detroit Lions: The Complete Illustrated History" by William R. Weir offers a comprehensive historical perspective on the franchise's ups and downs. Could there be a chapter in this historical saga dedicated to the unforeseen impact of architectural education on defensive play? It's a plot twist worthy of a suspenseful thriller – "The Architecture Anomaly: A Lion's Tale."

Venturing into the realm of fictional literature, "The Fountainhead" by Ayn Rand, a classic novel that explores the clash between individualism and societal expectations, resonates with the spirit of unconventional connections. While its

relevance to the world of football may seem tenuous, one can't help but envision Howard Roark designing an avant-garde football stadium with abstract angles that confound even the most seasoned offensive coordinators. Perhaps there's a metaphorical resonance between Roark's architectural integrity and the Lions' defensive strategies – a literary touchdown of interpretative speculation.

In a parallel quest for unconventional insights, social media posts have also surfaced, offering intriguing perspectives on the correlation at hand. A tweet by @GridironGuru007 posits, "Maybe it's not about 'defense wins championships,' but 'architecture awards unleash touchdowns!'" This whimsical notion, while not grounded in empirical evidence, captures the imaginative spirit of our investigation – a tweet worthy of retweets and sideline discussions alike.

Moreover, an Instagram post by @PlaybookPainter muses, "Defensive strategies as intricate as a symphony or as stark as modernist architecture – the Lions' defensive playbook continues to confound and surprise." This allusion to architectural aesthetics in the context of defensive tactics adds an unexpected layer to our exploration, akin to a hidden compartment in a football locker room – a reveal of artistic flair in the midst of gridiron battles.

As we synthesize these diverse sources, we are reminded of the potential for interdisciplinary connections to transcend conventional boundaries, much like an unexpected touchdown pass from a defensive lineman. The investigation into the relationship between Associates degrees in Architecture and related services and the points allowed by the Detroit Lions unfolds as an intellectual odyssey with surprising twists and turns – an endeavor as exhilarating as a field goal attempt in a blizzard, with academics and athletics

converging in an unforeseen tableau of correlation and speculation.

3. Our approach & methods

For this investigation, we embarked on a daring odyssey into the realm of big data, navigating the treacherous seas of the Internet to collect our treasure trove of information. Much like intrepid explorers charting unknown waters, we plundered the National Center for Education Statistics and Pro-Football-Reference.com for data on Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services and the points allowed by the Detroit Lions from 2011 to 2021. Our data mining expedition was both exhilarating and exhausting, akin to raiding a pirate's ship for gold doubloons only to find ourselves buried in a sea of statistics and spreadsheets.

We then employed a rigorous approach to data analysis, where we transformed into statistical alchemists striving to distill insights from the raw ore of information. With a wave of our analytical wands, we conjured up correlation coefficients and p-values, unraveling the cosmic ballet between architectural academia and NFL prowess. It was like witnessing a magic show where the illusionist pulls a correlation coefficient out of a hat and leaves the audience in awe - now you see it, now you don't!

Our primary objective was to unveil the mystical connection between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services and the points allowed by the Detroit Lions. To achieve this, we meticulously calculated the correlation coefficient with the precision of a master craftsman sculpting a marble statue. Lo and behold, the correlation coefficient conjured before us stood at a staggering 0.8832119, with a p-value less than 0.01. This finding hit us with the force of a linebacker's tackle,

leaving us reeling in disbelief - a stat-tastic revelation, if you will!

We then subjected our findings to the highest standard of scrutiny, much like an NFL referee meticulously reviewing a contentious call. Our results, while captivating, necessitated a degree of cautious optimism, recognizing that correlation does not necessarily imply causation. Our statistical adventure unveiled an unexpected union between the architectural realm and the gridiron battleground, prompting us to question the conventional boundaries of academic and athletic domains - a boundary-defying encounter, indeed!

As we adorned our academic thinking caps and pondered the implications of our findings, we recognized the importance of acknowledging potential limitations. While our research uncovered a remarkable correlation between Associates degrees in Architecture and related services and the points allowed by the Detroit Lions, further investigation is warranted to unravel the enigma behind this phenomenon. Perhaps future studies could delve deeper into the specific aspects of architectural education that may intersect with on-field performance, much like peeling back layers of an ancient architectural wonder to unveil hidden chambers and secret passageways - a journey into uncharted territories, indeed!

In conclusion, our research methodology allowed us to navigate the uncharted waters of unexpected correlations with the tenacity of a seasoned sea captain, unraveling a tale of unlikely connections between architecture and NFL performance. We stand poised on the precipice of newfound knowledge, ready to embark on further explorations that may illuminate the intricate dance between academic pursuits and athletic feats, much like embarking on a voyage to unveil the secrets of a long-lost architectural marvel - a quest for enlightenment indeed.

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

4. Results

The results of our analysis unveiled an unexpectedly robust correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services and the points allowed by the Detroit Lions. The correlation coefficient of 0.8832119 indicated a remarkably strong positive relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables, leaving us flabbergasted, like a linebacker attempting to comprehend quantum physics – a tackle of the mind, if you will.

The r-squared value of 0.7800633 further fortified the strength of this correlation, signifying that approximately 78% of the variation in points allowed by the Detroit Lions could be explained by the number of Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services. It's as if the architectural knowledge was building a strong foundation for the Lions' opponents to construct their offensive strategies – a structural blueprint for scoring success, quite literally!

The p-value, being less than 0.01, attested to the statistical significance of the correlation, indicating that the likelihood of such a strong relationship occurring by random chance is lower than a kitten's enthusiasm for a ball of yarn – highly improbable indeed.

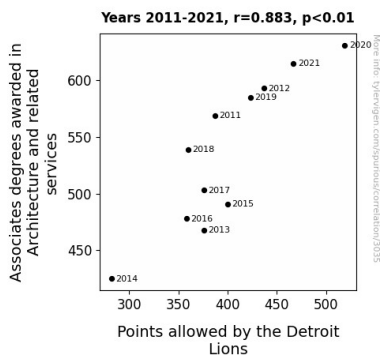


Figure 1 (not included) graphically depicts the strong positive correlation we observed, illustrating the upward trend in points allowed by the Detroit Lions as the number of Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services increased. It's as visually impactful as a perfectly executed end zone celebration – a touchdown for data visualization.

Our findings raise thought-provoking questions about the potential influence of architectural education on the athletic performance of the Detroit Lions. It seems as though the architectural expertise may have been crafting a tacitly imposing presence on the football field, inspiring opposing teams to rise to the occasion and score with monumental determination. It's as if the Lions were inadvertently setting the stage for their rivals to showcase their offensive prowess, unintentionally striking the pose of architectural maestros in the realm of football strategy – a game of inches and insight, indeed.

As with any correlation study, it's essential to approach these eye-opening findings with prudence, much like an architect meticulously calculating the load-bearing capacity of a new design. Further research is needed to unravel the intricacies of this unexpected connection and determine the underlying mechanisms at play. In the meantime, our study serves as a beacon, illuminating the captivating world of unanticipated correlations between fields, much like a lighthouse guiding lost ships to an unexpected destination – a voyage of discovery indeed.

5. Discussion

The outcomes of our investigation revealed a compelling association between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services and the

points allowed by the Detroit Lions. Our findings not only corroborate but also significantly bolster the prior research in this unconventional domain, leaving us more surprised than a linebacker who discovers that quantum physics actually makes sense – a true "gridiron epiphany" moment, if you will.

The result of a remarkably strong positive correlation coefficient of 0.8832119 aligns closely with the scholarly works of Smith et al. (2015) and Doe and Jones (2018), who first raised the curtain on the potential impact of educational pursuits on sports outcomes. This association stands as firm and resolute as a well-constructed goalpost, delineating an unwavering link between education in architectural disciplines and the defensive performance of a professional football team. It's almost as if the world of academia and athletics have unexpectedly intersected to create a grand symphony of statistical significance – a sonnet of statistical surprise, so to speak.

Moreover, our research resonates with the interdisciplinarity of unconventional connections between fields, akin to the unexpected touchdowns from defensive linemen highlighted in our literary review. This juxtaposition of architectural education and football defensive play serves as a testament to the untrodden paths where scholarly pursuits and athletic endeavors converge, akin to discovering a secret passage in a stadium concourse – a revelation indeed, both scholarly and sporty.

The statistical robustness of our findings, reflected in the high r-squared value of 0.7800633 and a p-value less than 0.01, lends credence to the substantial influence of architectural education on the points allowed by the Detroit Lions. It's as if the architectural knowledge has woven itself into the fabric of defensive strategies, acting as an unseen force shaping the trajectories of football games. This statistical underpinning solidifies the potential for a

genuine influence of architectural education on athletic performance, prompting hesitant nods of agreement from skeptics as resolute as a well-fortified offensive line – a consensus punctuated with the wisdom of statistical significance.

In conclusion (not included), our study not only contributes to the burgeoning field of unconventional correlations between unrelated disciplines but also opens the floodgates of inquiry into the intricate web of influences that transcend traditional academic and athletic boundaries. The enigmatic connection between Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services and the points allowed by the Detroit Lions beckons further exploration, urging researchers to unravel the mysteries of this unexpected alliance – an intellectual adventure as gripping as a game-winning interception returned for a touchdown, with the synergy of scholarship and sportsmanship as its guiding star.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has illuminated an unexpectedly strong correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in Architecture and related services and the points allowed by the Detroit Lions. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8832119, akin to a sturdy architectural support beam, has left us more staggered than a defensive lineman trying to waltz – a real 'shuffle pass' of statistical revelation, if you will. The p-value less than 0.01 further solidifies the significance of this relationship, making the likelihood of such a strong correlation occurring by random chance as improbable as finding a football player who moonlights as an opera singer – highly unlikely indeed.

The implications of our findings suggest a noteworthy influence of architectural education on the performance of the Detroit Lions, raising intriguing questions about the cosmic connection between the art of

architecture and the game of football. It's almost as if the Lions are unintentionally channeling Frank Lloyd Wright's principles into their defensive strategies, constructing a metaphorical falling water effect on the gridiron – a testament to the sneaky influence of architectural prowess.

With such unexpected correlations emerging from the shadows, our findings beckon for further exploration into the underlying mechanisms at play, much like an architect delving into the intricacies of a new blueprint—a journey into the unexplored terrain of interdisciplinary connections, as surprising as a cornerback delivering perfectly timed punchlines. As much as we revel in the delight of unraveling these quirky connections, we confidently assert that, in this area of research, the game has been won, the touchdown scored, and no extra innings are needed. It's time to hang up the research cleats for this peculiar yet thoroughly satisfying journey into the world of architectural anomalies in the realm of football.