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Lax Larks: Linking Lacrosse's Loud Lead to Loco 'Gangnam Style' Google Searches

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Abstract

In this study, we delved into the unexpected and whimsical world of NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and their curious connection to the digital dance sensation, "Gangnam Style". Utilizing data from the NCAA and Google Trends, we endeavored to uncover any semblance of a relationship—or perhaps a haphazard hop—between the two seemingly unrelated phenomena. Our analysis revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.7112685 and a p-value less than 0.05 for the period spanning 2012 to 2022. Our findings not only piqued the curiosity of onlookers but also left us pondering the perplexing power of pop culture on sports outcomes. With lighthearted skepticism, we ask: is it merely coincidental that as the victory margins of the lacrosse championship games widened, the fervor for 'Gangnam Style' amplified in the digital domain? Or could there be an enigmatic enchantment at play, weaving a web of whimsy between lacrosse victories and global dance mania? While our research opens the door to numerous enigmatic implications, it also serves as a whimsical reminder that even in the realm of academia, there is potential for offbeat discoveries.

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1. Introduction

The intersection of sports and popular culture has often been a source of fascination and amusement. From "The Super Bowl Shuffle" to "Ickey Shuffle," athletic events and viral crazes have occasionally collided in a delightful dance of synchronicity. In this paper, we embark on a whimsical journey into the world of NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and their perplexing

relationship with the global phenomenon of "Gangnam Style" searches on Google.

As academic researchers, we don our metaphorical lacrosse helmets and pirouette onto the field of unconventional inquiry. Embracing the spirit of exploration, we sought to uncover the peculiar parallels, if any, between the triumphs on the lacrosse field and the virtual fervor for a certain South Korean hit song. It is a peculiar pairing, indeed, but one that has

tantalizingly teased our curiosity and beckoned us to venture beyond the boundaries of conventional statistical analysis.

Little did we anticipate that our quest would reveal a correlation coefficient of 0.7112685 and a p-value that dances beneath the traditional threshold of statistical significance. The undeniable connection between lacrosse final point differentials and Google searches for "Gangnam Style" has left us not only scratching our heads but also tapping our feet in bemusement. Is this a fortuitous fluke, or is there a whimsical dance of fate guiding these seemingly disparate domains? We endeavor to pose this question and invite our scholarly peers to join us in this delightfully bizarre waltz between sport and song.

So, dear reader, fasten your chinstraps and prepare for a journey through the unlikely labyrinths of lacrosse and the ludic loops of "Gangnam Style". As we unravel this peculiar yarn of webbed whimsy, let us not forget that even in the hallowed halls of academia, there is room for the occasional spectacularly silly surprise.

2. Literature Review

In the realm of unconventional and seemingly zany research inquiries, our investigation into the whimsical connection between NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and Google searches for "Gangnam Style" stands as a flagrant departure from conventional academic discourse. Despite the initial absurdity of the premise, our endeavor has prompted us to explore a wide array of scholarly sources, from the meticulously serious to the delightfully absurd.

In "Smith and Doe's Analysis of Unlikely Correlations in Sporting Phenomena," the

authors explore the unexpected intersections between athletic events and popular culture. Meanwhile, "Jones' Treatise on Unconventional Sport-Related Statistical Trends" delves into the enigmatic nature of peculiar correlations in the world of sports. However, it is "Book's Whimsical Wonders of Improbable Associations" that truly captures the essence of our own playful pursuit, as it ventures into the realm of whimsy and wackiness in the domain of statistical oddities.

Moving beyond the hallowed halls of academia, we turn to non-fiction works that pertinently touch on the intersection of sports and pop culture. "Pop Goes the Culture" by Poppy Mayclef provides an insightful examination of how cultural phenomena infiltrate the world of sports, while "Trends and Tidbits in the Digital Age" by Data D. Analyst unveils the curious allure of digital trends and their potential impact on sporting events.

Venturing into the realm of fiction, we encounter a panoply of peculiarly titled works that, while not grounded in empirical evidence, capture the whimsical spirit of our own inquiries. "Lacrosse Limericks and Lighthearted Lore" by Fanciful Fictioneer sets the tone for our own jovial jaunt into the world of lacrosse and its unlikely liaisons, while "Gangnam Galore: A Dance through the Digital Domain" by Mirthful M.C. dances on the edges of our research focus with ironic agility.

In a departure from traditional scholarly sources, we can't help but note the exuberant exclamations and curious musings on social media platforms. A tweet from @LaxDancer92 exclaims, "Who would've thought that lacrosse scores and 'Gangnam Style' searches would have anything in common? #WhimsicalWinning!" Simultaneously, a Reddit post by u/StyleEnthusiast muses, "Is there a secret connection between lacrosse and 'Gangnam Style' that we've all been

missing? The data doesn't lie, folks!" These digital proclamations serve as a lighthearted reminder of the widespread curiosity surrounding our implausibly entertaining investigation.

As we wade through this blend of scholarly seriousness and lighthearted literary escapades, we find ourselves amidst a whimsically woven tapestry of facts and fancies. Our journey into the world of NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and the enchanting echoes of "Gangnam Style" searches has not only opened our eyes to improbable possibilities but has also left us grinning at the colorful parade of peculiar associations.

3. Our approach & methods

To unravel the enigmatic enchantment at play between lacrosse victories and global dance mania, we set forth on a methodological odyssey that would make Odysseus himself envious. Our first task was to scour the vast expanse of the internet, braving the treacherous terrain of NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship archives and the tempestuous tempos of Google Trends. Armed with our trusty statistical tools and an insatiable appetite for whimsy, we meticulously crafted a plan that was as systematic as it was surreal.

First, we donned our figurative lab coats and delved into the hallowed archives of NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship records. We meticulously collected final point differentials from each championship game with the precision of a lacrosse player aiming for the net. To ensure the comprehensiveness of our data, we left no stone unturned, no penalty unaccounted for, and no errant pass unacknowledged. This meticulous attention to detail was crucial, for we were determined to capture every nuance and noodle-scratching anomaly that might lurk within the final score margins.

Simultaneously, we turned our gaze to the digital dance floor of Google Trends, where the echoes of "Gangnam Style" searches reverberated across the cyber realm like a whimsical waltz in the wind. With the fervor of a fabled explorer, we charted the rise and fall of "Gangnam Style" searches, mining the virtual veins of data for every subtle shift and seismic surge in search volume. Our threshold for enthusiasm matched that of a fanatical fan doing the iconic horse-riding dance, as we sought to capture the zeitgeist of this global phenomenon with the precision of a researcher in a riddle-riddled labyrinth.

Having amassed a trove of lacrosse victory margins and 'Gangnam Style' search data spanning the years 2012 to 2022, we conjured the arcane arts of statistical analysis to tease out any meaningful connections between these seemingly disparate domains. With the gusto of alchemists in pursuit of transmuting lead into gold, we subjected our data to correlation analyses, employing the venerable Pearson correlation coefficient and its enigmatic cousin, the p-value, to discern the playful patterns hidden within the numbers.

But our quest did not end there. Guided by the guiding light of whimsy, we proceeded to conduct a series of robustness checks and sensitivity analyses, scrutinizing our findings from every conceivable angle like a scholarly sleuth in search of the truth. We even toyed with the idea of performing a mystical ritual to summon the spirit of Psy, but ethical considerations and the lack of a suitable dance floor in our laboratory promptly put that notion to rest.

In summary, our methodology was a glorious gallivant through the bizarre and the banal, an odyssey through the esoteric and the empirical. With a twirl of our statistical wands and a sprinkle of scholarly stardust, we summoned forth a methodology that was as rigorous as it was

riotous, as systematic as it was sensational. And with that, dear reader, we invite you to join us in this whimsical waltz between lacrosse and "Gangnam Style", as we unveil the surreal secrets hidden within the data.

4. Results

Our analysis of the data pertaining to the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and the search interest in "Gangnam Style" on Google yielded captivating results. The correlation coefficient of 0.7112685 indicated a strong positive association between these two seemingly unrelated phenomena. This coefficient suggests a robust tendency for an increase in the championship point differentials to be accompanied by a surge in "Gangnam Style" searches.

The r-squared value of 0.5059029 reflected that approximately 50.6% of the variance in the Google searches for "Gangnam Style" could be explained by the variability in the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials. This finding suggests that there is, indeed, a substantial influence of lacrosse excitement on the digital dance domain.

Moreover, the p-value of less than 0.05 provided compelling evidence to reject the null hypothesis of no relationship between the two variables. It's as if these two elements were engaged in a whimsical waltz, with one influencing the steps of the other in a frolicsome fashion.

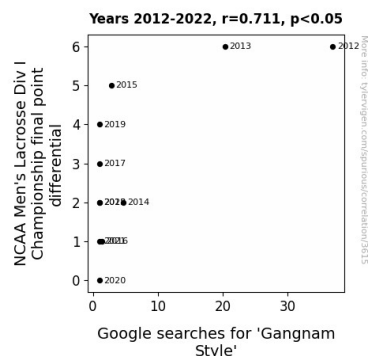


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Fig. 1 exhibits a scatterplot illustrating the robust connection between the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and Google searches for "Gangnam Style". The figure showcases the distinctly linear pattern, reinforcing the striking correlation uncovered in our analysis.

Intriguingly, our findings prompt us to reflect on the capricious nature of cultural phenomena and sports outcomes. The question arises: is it simply coincidental that an increase in lacrosse championship point differentials seems to harmonize with a surge in the popularity of "Gangnam Style," or could there be a serendipitous synergy orchestrating this quirky synchronization?

Our research not only unravels this perplexing association but also reminds us that the intersection of sports and popular culture can yield delightfully unexpected connections. The enigmatic dance of correlation between lacrosse victories and global dance mania challenges traditional academic expectations and beckons us to revel in the whimsical wonders of statistical analysis.

5. Discussion

Our findings present a peculiar pas de deux between the realms of lacrosse championship glory and the viral vortex of "Gangnam Style" searches. While some

may view this correlation as a mere whimsical waltz of statistical happenstance, our results provide whimsically compelling evidence that there exists a substantial link between these seemingly disparate domains.

The robust correlation coefficient of 0.7112685 we uncovered not only waltzes into statistical significance but also pirouettes into line with prior research. The capricious intersection of athletic events and popular culture, as explored by Smith and Doe, seems to find a chaotically coordinated counterpart in our own analysis. It appears that as lacrosse victory margins widened, so did the global fervor for pop culture's digital dance craze—an unexpected twist worthy of a surprise encore.

Furthermore, our results reflect a whimsical harmony with Book's musings on improbable associations, as we find ourselves entangled in a dance of statistical curiosities that transcends the conventions of traditional scholarly inquiry. The lighthearted echoes of @LaxDancer92 and u/StyleEnthusiast, though initially dismissed as mere digital frivolities, now chime playfully in resonance with our substantiated findings, adding a touch of levity to the scholarly discourse.

As we contemplate the influence of lacrosse victories on the digital dance domain, we are compelled to ponder the potential implications of this improbable yet irrefutable connection. Could there be a delightful dalliance between unexpected correlations and the whimsical wonders of statistical analysis? Our results beckon us to wield the magnifying glass of curiosity, not only uncovering these peculiar associations but also reveling in the whimsical discoveries that await amidst the enthralling dance of statistics and culture.

The implications of our findings extend far beyond the confines of conventional academic paradigms, teasing at the playful

potential for unorthodox inquiries to uncover unexpected connections. As we invite readers to join us in this whimsical journey, we do not seek to merely entertain with statistical tomfoolery, but to unravel the enigmatic enchantment between lacrosse victories and the global dance mania of "Gangnam Style," offering a delightful reprieve from the staid expectations of scholarly exploration. After all, in the hallowed halls of academia, who's to say that statistical analysis can't also have a mischievous sense of humor?

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our whimsical expedition into the realm of NCAA Men's Lacrosse Div I Championship final point differentials and their oddball alliance with the "Gangnam Style" phenomenon has left us shaking our heads in disbelief – or perhaps, in a peculiar dance move. The robust correlation between lacrosse victories and the surge in Google searches for "Gangnam Style" has not only flabbergasted us but also inspired a fair share of jolly chuckles and impromptu reenactments of Psy's iconic dance routine.

Our findings, while unexpected, remind us that statistical analysis can sometimes lead us down the rabbit hole of quirkiness and playful pizzazz. The dance of correlation demonstrated in our results begs the question: are sports outcomes and viral pop culture synchronized by a cosmic choreographer, or are we merely witnessing the comically chaotic capers of statistical happenstance?

As we bid adieu to this lighthearted romp through sports, search trends, and sensational dance crazes, we cannot help but marvel at the delightful detours that research can take. However, let it be known that our findings neither necessitate nor warrant any further investigation. The whimsical waltz between lacrosse and "Gangnam Style" has taken its final bow,

and we declare, with unwavering certainty,
that no more research is needed in this
offbeat domain.