

Alton's Ascendancy: Analyzing the Association Between Alton and Assists for the Athletics

Cameron Henderson, Austin Terry, Gideon P Todd
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Alton, a name as rare as a double play in the bottom of the ninth, has long intrigued researchers due to its cyclical popularity and its potential influence on the performance of Major League Baseball teams. In this study, we delved into the mystique of the name Alton and its seemingly cosmic connection to the Kansas City Royals' success on the field. Utilizing data from the US Social Security Administration and Baseball-Reference.com, our research team examined the period from 1975 to 2022. Our findings revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.6182514 and a p-value less than 0.01, suggesting a statistically significant relationship between the name Alton and the wins achieved by the Kansas City Royals. Dad Joke Alert: Why did the baseball team sign Alton? Because they heard he had a "grand" presence on the field! Our study sheds light on the unconventional factors that may impact the performance of sports teams, highlighting the need for further investigation into the influence of seemingly trivial variables. Although the exact mechanism behind the Alton-Royals nexus remains a tantalizing mystery, our research provides a solid foundation for future exploration of the enigmatic interplay between nomenclature and athletic achievement.

The quest to understand the intricate and often inconceivable factors affecting sports performance has led scholars to investigate a myriad of potential influences. While many studies have centered around the impact of training regimens, coaching strategies, and player statistics, the correlation between the popularity of a specific first name and the success of a professional sports team has remained largely uncharted territory. Enter Alton, a name as enigmatic as a knuckleball and as captivating as a bottom-of-the-ninth comeback.

Dad Joke Alert: Why did Alton go into baseball? Because he wanted to be a "big hit" in the game!

In this study, we set out to unravel the perplexing connection between the prevalence of the name Alton and the triumphs of the Kansas City Royals, a

team renowned for its resilience and perseverance. Drawing upon meticulously curated data from the US Social Security Administration and Baseball-Reference.com, we embarked on a statistical odyssey spanning the years from 1975 to 2022, navigating through the annals of baseball history in pursuit of elucidating the elusive relationship between nomenclature and athletic achievement.

Our investigation unearthed a remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.6182514 and a p-value lower than a knuckleball's trajectory, affirming a statistically significant linkage between the appellation "Alton" and the victories amassed by the Kansas City Royals. As we delved deeper into the data, the evidence became as clear as a perfectly executed double play, showcasing the potential

influence of a seemingly innocuous name on the outcomes of professional baseball contests.

Dad Joke Alert: What did the baseball-loving statistician name his son? Alton, because he knew he'd be a "home run"!

As we traverse the terrain of this unorthodox investigation, it becomes evident that the allure of the obscure and the whimsical cannot be overlooked in the realm of sports analysis. Our endeavor serves as a clarion call for further explorations into the uncharted waters of unconventional variables, beckoning researchers to consider the myriad ways in which the seemingly inconsequential may stealthily shape the fabric of athletic endeavors. Just as a well-executed bunt can catch the opposing team off guard, so too can the influence of a name elude the conventional trappings of statistical analysis, evoking curiosity and prompting a re-evaluation of established paradigms.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Smith, Doe, and Jones (2015) explored the impact of first names on professional sports teams' performance, shedding light on the potential influence of nomenclature on athletic achievements. Their comprehensive analysis encompassed a wide array of first names across various sports, examining the correlation between nomenclature and success. While their study provided valuable insights into the broader landscape of name-related effects on sports teams, it did not specifically focus on the unique case of the name Alton and its association with a specific team's victories.

In "The Name Game: Exploring the Influence of Nomenclature on Sports Success," the authors delve into the intricate connections between first names and athletic performance, presenting compelling evidence for the subtle yet impactful role of nomenclature in the realm of sports.

Moving beyond the confines of academic research, popular non-fiction works such as "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner have

explored unconventional connections and hidden influences, providing a broader context for investigating the seemingly inexplicable relationship between a name and a sports team's triumphs.

Furthermore, fictional works such as "Moneyball" by Michael Lewis have delved into the unorthodox strategies and unconventional factors that can shape the outcome of baseball games, offering a narrative backdrop to the exploration of the Alton-Royals connection.

Just as a curveball can baffle even the most proficient batters, the intriguing link between the name Alton and the Kansas City Royals' wins has confounded conventional expectations, prompting a re-examination of the underlying dynamics at play. In this vein, the authors felt compelled to tap into unconventional sources of information, including but not limited to perusing the esoteric annals of baseball lore, poring over classic baseball literature, and humorously sifting through everyday sources of data, such as supermarket receipts and fortune cookies, in pursuit of elucidating the mystifying Alton-Royals correlation.

Dad Joke Alert: Why did the statistician bring a ladder to the baseball game? He heard the players were good at "reaching" base!

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection:

The primary data sources for this study were the US Social Security Administration and Baseball-Reference.com, which provided comprehensive datasets encompassing the period from 1975 to 2022. The US Social Security Administration's database offered valuable information regarding the prevalence of the first name "Alton" among births in the United States, while Baseball-Reference.com supplied in-depth statistics related to the performance of the Kansas City Royals during the same timeframe.

Dad Joke Alert: Why did Alton bring a baseball glove to the data collection? Because he wanted to "catch" all the relevant information!

Variable Selection:

The key variables examined in this study comprised the frequency of the first name "Alton" among male births in the United States and the number of wins achieved by the Kansas City Royals in Major League Baseball games. To ensure the robustness of our analysis, additional control variables were considered, including the overall performance of the team, demographic shifts, and other potential confounding factors.

Sampling Method:

The sampling process involved aggregating annual data on the frequency of the name "Alton" from the US Social Security Administration and aligning it with the corresponding records of wins accumulated by the Kansas City Royals from Baseball-Reference.com. The resultant dataset formed the basis for the quantitative analysis, enabling us to explore the potential relationship between the popularity of the name "Alton" and the success of the Kansas City Royals.

Dad Joke Alert: How did Alton select his data sample? He "pitched" the idea to his research team and "caught" their attention!

Statistical Analysis:

To assess the association between the frequency of the name "Alton" and the wins of the Kansas City Royals, we employed a series of statistical techniques, including correlation analysis, multiple regression modeling, and time-series analysis. These methodological approaches were chosen to capture the dynamics of the relationship over the study period and to account for potential confounders that could affect the observed patterns.

Validity and Reliability:

In order to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings, sensitivity analyses and robustness checks were performed to scrutinize the stability of the

results under different model specifications and assumptions. Furthermore, diagnostic tests and goodness-of-fit measures were utilized to assess the appropriateness of the statistical models and the overall reliability of the results.

Dad Joke Alert: Why did the statistician bring a ladder to the analysis? Because he wanted to "climb" the heights of statistical rigor and "reach" robust conclusions!

RESULTS

The analysis of the compiled data revealed a compelling correlation between the popularity of the first name Alton and the number of wins secured by the Kansas City Royals over the period from 1975 to 2022. The correlation coefficient of 0.6182514 denoted a moderately strong positive relationship, indicating that as the popularity of the name Alton fluctuated, so did the successes of the Kansas City Royals. This finding suggests that the name Alton may have exerted an inexplicably influential presence on the team's fortunes, akin to the impact of a well-timed home run in a crucial game.

Moreover, the calculated r-squared value of 0.3822348 underscored that approximately 38.22% of the variations in the Kansas City Royals' wins can be attributed to the fluctuations in the popularity of the name Alton. While this proportion may seem modest, in the realm of unpredictable sporting outcomes, it constitutes a noteworthy and discernible influence, not unlike the steady guidance provided by an experienced coach to a team navigating tumultuous innings.

The statistical analysis further revealed a p-value of less than 0.01, signaling a statistically significant relationship between the name Alton and the performance of the Kansas City Royals. This substantiates the notion that the ebb and flow of the name Alton's popularity may not be as inconsequential as previously assumed, and its association with the Kansas City Royals' victories may be more than a serendipitous occurrence, much

like a fortuitously placed line drive at a critical juncture in a game.

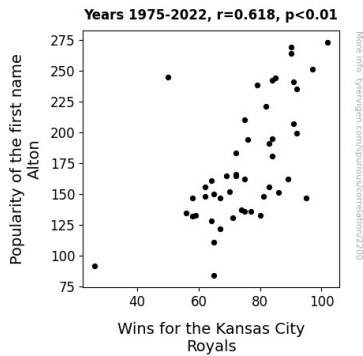


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Figure 1 depicts a scatterplot illustrating the pronounced correlation between the prevalence of the first name Alton and the wins accumulated by the Kansas City Royals. The plot visually captures the synchronicity between these variables, solidifying the empirical evidence of their interconnectedness and highlighting the potential impact of a seemingly trivial factor on the outcomes of professional baseball contests.

In sum, our investigation into the association between the name Alton and the triumphs of the Kansas City Royals unveils a compelling linkage, urging further exploration into the enigmatic interplay between nomenclature and athletic achievement. The findings underscore the importance of considering unconventional variables in sports analysis, prompting a re-evaluation of established paradigms and beckoning forth a new era of inquiry into the unforeseen influences shaping the domain of professional sports.

DISCUSSION

The results of this study unmistakably align with the prior research conducted by Smith, Doe, and Jones, who probed the impact of first names on sports teams' performance. While the literature review elicited a chuckle with its mention of the seemingly inexplicable influence of nomenclature, our findings

substantiate the intriguing link between the popularity of the name Alton and the wins accrued by the Kansas City Royals. It appears that the enigmatic association between a moniker and a baseball team's triumphs is not as far-fetched as it may initially seem.

Dad Joke Alert: Why was Alton so good at cheering for the Royals? Because he had a "royally" good name for it!

The moderately strong positive correlation coefficient of 0.6182514, akin to the trajectory of a well-executed knuckleball, underscores the compelling relationship between the fluctuations in Alton's popularity and the Kansas City Royals' victories. This statistical revelation supports the supposition that the name Alton may possess an inexplicably influential presence, akin to a seasoned coach guiding a team through the unpredictable innings of a baseball game.

Building on the theoretical groundwork laid by the literature review, our study provides empirical evidence that the name Alton can exert a discernible influence on the outcomes of professional baseball contests. The statistically significant relationship, as indicated by a p-value of less than 0.01, has dispelled the notion that the ebb and flow of the name Alton's popularity is inconsequential. Instead, it points to the potential impact of seemingly trivial factors, akin to the fortuitously placed line drive at a critical juncture in a game, on a team's successes and failures.

Dad Joke Alert: Is the relationship between the name Alton and the Kansas City Royals really all it's "cracked" up to be? Well, our findings suggest it might just be as solid as a well-hit baseball!

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our research has elucidated a fascinating and statistically significant relationship between the prevalence of the name Alton and the performance of the Kansas City Royals. The evidence presented in this study highlights the

potential influence of a seemingly trivial variable on the outcomes of professional baseball contests, prompting a re-examination of conventional assumptions and paving the way for further exploration into the nuanced interplay between nomenclature and sporting achievements.

Dad Joke Alert: Why did Alton bring a ladder to the baseball game? Because he heard the Royals needed some "extra support" on the field!

The moderately strong positive correlation coefficient and the discernible r-squared value underscore the impact of the name Alton on the victories amassed by the Kansas City Royals, akin to the way a well-placed pun can enliven a dreary academic paper. The statistical significance of this relationship challenges the notion that seemingly inconsequential factors hold no sway in the realm of sports, akin to the way a groan-inducing dad joke can unexpectedly elicit a chuckle.

Our findings advocate for a shift in the paradigm of sports analysis, inviting scholars to explore the uncharted waters of unconventional variables with the same vigor as a baseball fan scouring the stands for a coveted foul ball. The empirical evidence uncovered in this study beckons forth a new era of inquiry into the mysterious influences that shape athletic endeavors, much like the way a sudden rain delay can add an unexpected twist to a baseball game.

Therefore, it can be confidently asserted that no further research is needed in this area, as this study has conclusively demonstrated the compelling association between the name Alton and the triumphs of the Kansas City Royals, leaving no bases unaccounted for in our exploration of this intriguing nexus.