Drunks, Lampposts and Hockey Analytics

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And

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Drunks and Lampposts

To paraphrase:
statistics is like a lamppost to a drunk – more for support than illumination
Drunks and Lampposts

• Actual quote is an insult attributed to the Scottish Poet Andrew Lang (or A. E. Housman):
  “He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp posts - for support rather than for illumination.”
2008 NHL Draft

Actual Draft:
22\textsuperscript{nd} selection EDM
25\textsuperscript{th} selection CGY

Central Scouting:
Jordan Eberle
Greg Nemisz

Jordan Eberle
Greg Nemisz

33\textsuperscript{rd} Best NA Skater
22\textsuperscript{nd} Best NA Skater
Central Scouting Service vs Teams

Two different rankings: CSS and actual draft

Think of CSS at ‘the market’ and do teams beat the market? And if so by how much?

Look at 1998 to 2002 drafts

- Use Iain Fyffe’s CESCIN combines CSS to single rating
- Responses: TOI (Slides), GP (Paper), and GVT (Paper)
- Smoothing Lines: LOESS Regression
Career TOI 1st Seven Years
Teams do better

But what about Eberle and Nemisz, not comparable on our graphs

Solution:

Rank Diff: Actual Selection – CSS Rank
Metric Diff: Actual TOI – Predict CSS TOI

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What to spend on Scouting?

Average yearly gain for TOI $1.7MM for GP ($2.5MM) and GVT ($5.3MM)
Roughly same if we repeat by position

YEAH SCOUTS!


r=0.2 (p>0.10)

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Illuminations

• Scouting Value ~$2MM/year

• Scouts value comes from 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} rounds

• Central Scouting better in last round

• Some teams draft better than others.....probably not

• New Draft Value Pick Chart (1\textsuperscript{st} 7 years TOI)

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THANK YOU

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