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**STATISTICS HELP FILE**

This document has been created to answer the most frequent questions that come up about statistics entry, use, and analysis. The first thing you need to know about all statistics is that they are never a means to the end. Simply stated, statistics DO NOT give you answers. Rather, statistics create questions. Often that question is why. However, it is those questions and more importantly the answer to those questions the statistics create that will give you value in your statistics. You will understand this better as we go through this narrative. You should always have a hypothesis in advance of what you think a particular player needs to work on. The statistics, through the proper analysis, can prove or disprove your hypothesis.

Secondly, goals for success should never be, nor are they numerical. There are two kinds of athletes. There are process oriented athletes and there are results oriented athletes. The highly successful athletes are the process oriented athletes. This is not a new concept. It is similar to saying that you need to start by working on your fundamentals, but the entire process encompasses much more. If you want an example of one of the greatest process oriented athletes to ever play a sport you would look at Peyton Manning. Although “his statistics” are quite impressive, you never hear him talk about that as it relates to his success. Rather he talks about first of all getting his team into the proper play call for the defense that is being played. Then he talks about footwork, release, timing, etc. All success relates to a proper process that is followed on each and every shot or play (depending on your sport).

In the game of golf, the goal is always the same. To make the correct decision on every shot as to WHAT TO DO and then to execute that shot using the proper fundamentals and skills you have practiced. So all goals are shot to shot and are the same. Statistics might well improve the decision portion of that goal if you properly answer the questions that your statistics create.

One of the things I have heard over and over again: what should I be looking at on my statistics? I am going to answer that for you, but remember that what I will find in those statistics most of all, are other questions. We have also entirely re-designed the look and use of our statistical reports. This is a project I have been working on for 3 years. If I have done my job properly, those questions you need to be asking yourself that are created from the statistical analysis, will be more obvious.

**Where to start:**

In analyzing statistics the first three statistics I look at are, Ham & Egg, Putting Par, and Lost Shots (this is a new statistic). Ham & Egg and the definition of it are the most frequently asked question. I often refer to Ham & Egg as the blood pressure statistic.

Ham & Egg definition is: number on left is the number of pars or better you make during a round when you hit the green in regulation; number on right is the number of pars or better you make during the round when you miss the green. Ham & Egg, by itself is telling you how you made your score.

Obviously you want the total number (adding the left and right together) to be as high as possible (18 is the limit). You also want to compare it to your overall for the season and you want to look at it from tournament to tournament to find any pattern. However, there are a series of QUESTIONS that are raised. If it varies, why is that happening? You might think about the golf course you played. It only makes sense that on a course where you have smaller greens there is a higher likelihood that your left hand number will be less. Still your total should be the same. Obviously if you see a change in pattern on similar courses you need to ask why this is happening (either good or bad). That becomes the critical question. There might be other statistics that will give you the answer, but it can change from event to event.

When I personally look at Ham & Egg the first thing I do is see if the total of the numbers has changed. If it has, that means I am making a different number of pars or better (more or less). Why? The question of why is more critical if the number is higher. Too often we just accept the good and search the bad. In reality we need to search the good just as hard because if we understand why we are getting better, we have far better insight into corrections when we start to struggle. If the total is staying the same, but the left and right numbers change I need to ask why? It could be something as simple as the size of the greens (as mentioned before). If that is not the case I need to dig deeper into the data to see some other statistical patterns that may be fluctuating. Anybody that tells you they can give you a cause and effect relationship that holds true for all players is fooling you. If it was that easy, people would win in Vegas all of the time, accountants would rule the business world (I have an accounting degree so I can get away with saying that), and most importantly rankings of anything would always make sense.

Putting Par and Lost Shots are part of the why question. We just added Lost Shots and it is the relational inverse of Putting Par. Putting Par is to short game efficiency what Lost Shots is to long game efficiency. The addition of Putting Par and Lost Shots will equal your score versus par. While, statistically very few relationships are ever perfect, the easiest analysis of this is to say that your Putting Par is equivalent to your short game shots lost or gained and your Lost Shots is equivalent to your long game shots lost or gained. Again, these two statistics are telling you where you are losing or gaining your shots. This can also relate to your Ham & Egg. Putting Par and Lost Shots might relate directly to changes in Ham & Egg. Remember that no matter what the relationship between those three statistics they are still raising more questions, especially that WHY question.

**New Changes to the Statistical Analysis Report:**

1. We have added Tournament by Tournament breakdown of Par 3, 4, and 5 scoring. In addition we have broken that scoring down by different distances.
2. We have added comparisons on certain statistics against the schools and players in your conference and also comparisons against the Top 100 Ranked Players and Top 25 Ranked Teams.
3. On the Men’s side we have added comparisons against the Top 125 Money winners from last years PGA Tour statistics.
4. We have added some color coding on good and bad performances versus your normal performance. This will help when you are answering the questions that get created by analyzing the statistics.

**Helpful hints on the Report:**

* Always remember that there are external factors that alter statistics. We can address some of those issues within the statistics, but we cannot address all of them. As an example: what were the conditions during the tournament or how was the golf course set up. In other words, did the golf course play difficult or easy or did you just play poorly or well?
* Within the color coding you may find different statistics that seem to always correlate to better scoring. Make sure you remember that there is a question there. That question is why is that the case and remember that the same relationships my not hold true for each player on your team.
* The fairway satisfied category was added because it is important to realize that fairways hit can be misleading at times. There are times when you cut doglegs and end up in the rough slightly but it was worth it. There are also times when you hit the fairway, but your angle is poor and you certainly did not want to be where you are. Of course that category is very subjective, but if used PROPERLY, it can be very beneficial.
* Putting Par and Lost Shots categories can be skewed by really poor shots from tee to green or chili dip equivalents around the green. The logic of the data does not necessarily accommodate those categories (i.e. if you miss the green on a par 4 and then leave your chip in the rough and then get up and down with 1 putt, it looks 1 shot more successful around the green than you actually were. Unless you have a player that continually does this, the law of large numbers will keep your statistical data valid. If you do have a player that does continually do something like that you have to subjectively understand that and address it even though in this case the statistics may be misleading. Remember what I said: statistics actually create more questions.
* When looking at Par 3,4,5 scoring you may be able to tell about a players game based upon their success on different types of holes. As an example, if they play par 3 holes well, but not 4’s or 5’s it indicates that there might want to look at their tee shots possibly getting them into trouble. Also, you can get a quick and great feel of their success from different distances in the Par 3 section. Remember that the data does not know the course setup so you have to use some subjective thought added to the objective data to maximize your ability to learn about your game.
* The comparisons can really help to figure out where a particular player might be losing shots. Each players statistics become a profile of how they play their way around the course. How that deviates from top players may be an obvious indication of where they need the work.
* If you are using our Mobile Entry you can get an added dimension on your short game by analyzing the length of your first putt after your chip or sand shot. A player might have a higher percentage of Up&Dn, but may need work on their putting because they are putting the ball so close. Conversely, a player may be a great putter and saving themselves on their short game even though their first shot needs the work.
* Always remember that statistics create more questions than answers, but those questions are the questions that need to be asked in order to gain the most benefit from the data.

**Subjectivity on Data Entry:**

I talked about the Satisfaction of your tee shot. While this is entirely subjective, it can be very valuable in analysis if it entered properly. There are other parts of data entry that can be subjective, but if you follow a disciplined and consistent pattern with your data entry, you will achieve your maximum benefit. I have listed some other examples below.

* When missing a green and you could really pick more than one directional flaw, pick the one where the flaw is obvious. In other words, if you picked the wrong club and you were short, but you also pulled the ball to the left because you knew in your heart that you may not have enough club, you should pick short.
* With Sand Saves, if you say that you had a bad lie or stance that should be more consistent with a buried lie, a downhill lie, 1 foot out of the bunker. In other words, the types of things that would make the shot difficult for anybody. It should not be subjectively bad just because you are not the best bunker player and only a perfect lie and distance make you more comfortable with the given shot.