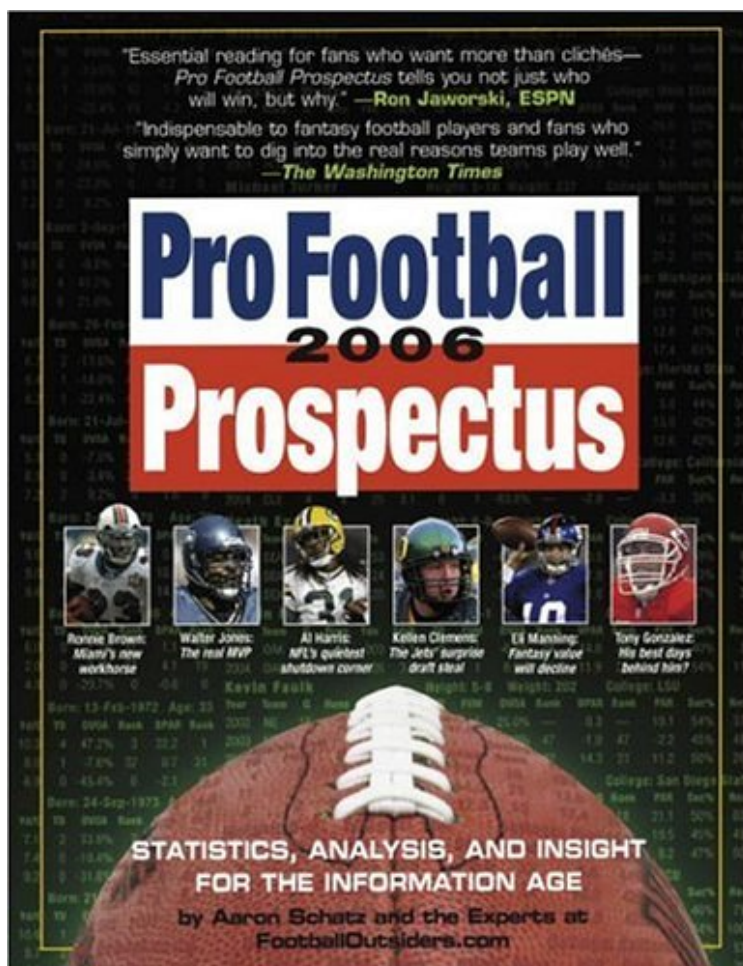


Pro Football Prospectus 2006: Statistics, Analysis, and Insight for the Information Age

Aaron Schatz

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#4554934 in Books 2006-08-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.64 x 1.34 x 8.50l, #File Name: 0761142177496 pages | File size: 68.Mb

Aaron Schatz : Pro Football Prospectus 2006: Statistics, Analysis, and Insight for the Information Age before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pro Football Prospectus 2006: Statistics, Analysis, and Insight for the Information Age:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended for analytical NFL fans By K. W. Schreiter Like its sister publication 'Baseball Prospectus', this book is stuffed with information. 'Standard football statistics are heavily context dependent - the down, distance, the location on the field, the time remaining - all of these elements influence both the goal of the play and its outcome.' The Football Prospectus team strives to improve conventional football statistics by 'filtering out context-dependent effects' with mathematical formulas to best anticipate the results of the coming season. The authors claim to have predicted more playoff teams over the last two

seasons than any other major football medium. 'Defense-Adjusted Value Over Average' (DVOA) is the primary criterion - this compares specific plays, players and teams to the league average. Top players have DVOAs near 30% - Peyton Manning had a 41.7% DVOA in 2005 while Brett Favre's was 1.8%. DVOA skews negative for better defenses, so top defenses like the 2005 Bears approach a -30% DVOA. The authors also use 'Defensive-Adjusted Points Above Replacement' (DPAR) to measure a player's impact for an entire season. For example, if a player dominates in his first few games but then suffers a season ending injury, he is of little overall value to his team that season. Accordingly, he will have a high DVOA but a low DPAR. The introduction offers simple explanations of the complex statistical analysis, but the book can also be enjoyed without studying the authors' methodology. The first half of the book contains an informative and entertaining write-up for each NFL franchise. These capsules are often supplemented with short essays like 'Do NFL Teams Get Jet Lag' for the Oakland Raiders and 'How Impressive are Adam Vinatieri's Clutch Field Goals' for the New England Patriots. Each team's entry further lists statistics and analysis of the 2005 schedule, five-year trends, strategic tendencies, and rankings at all positions. The book's second half includes expanded capsules for all individual quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers, tight ends and kickers. Each capsule lists both statistics for the past three years and a projection for 2006. The last few pages show top 200 player rankings for Fantasy Football, my only resource for my low-intensity preparation for FF 2006. While the few grammatical and spelling errors are unfortunate, consideration must be given to the timeliness of the information and accompanying rush to printing. This book is an outstanding preseason resource and I plan to reference it often during the coming season. Very highly recommended for any NFL fan looking for more than the standard cliches from the major media outlets.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Great Book for Stat-Geeks, Not for the Average Football Fan
By J. Stanton
A long time reader of the Baseball Prospectus series, I decided to pick up a copy of the Football Prospectus to see if it was as enlightening. The book begins with a chapter explaining all the statistics that are presented throughout the book. This section is a must because in addition to the standard statistics the NFL keeps, there is an abundance of new statistics, most of which are completely unique to this publication. The next section contains 7 or 8 pages devoted to each NFL team, complete with countless statistics, 2 or 3 pages of written analysis, and a couple short essays. There is then a section where each NFL skill player is evaluated with a short paragraph and their statistical line. The end of the book contains a short fantasy football section and finally some other essays related to the statistical analysis of football. This book offers something no other football magazine or publication can offer. That is an objective, statistic based approach to solving not just what teams will win and what players will be productive, but WHY certain teams will win and WHY certain players will be productive. The reason I say this book is not for the average football fan is because the average fan may find it too complicated and difficult to understand. Similar to the Baseball Prospectus, many of the statistics presented here are hard to grasp because they are new and some people won't want to take the time to learn how they work. Note: Fantasy football players beware. Don't plan on relying on this book alone for your fantasy draft. Despite the small fantasy section in the back, the entire book is too complex to skim through for 30 minutes before the draft and succeed. Fantasy magazines are better for that. If you have the time though, reading the book and understanding the statistics just might be able to win the league for you.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Revolutionary approach to football
By Sergio A. Becerril Lopez
I've been a reader of [...] for about two years. After reading numerous articles, I still can't figure these guys out. They can be downright hilarious at times, get all serious and scientific later, and yet on every single article you'll find something, big or small, that slowly changes the way you look at games, and at the sport as a whole. Many people regard them as "stats geeks" and complain that you need a math degree to understand their articles; however, that's not true. If you don't have any mathematical background, you can simply skip the tables, graphs and numbers, and go straight to the commentary, in plain English. However, taking the time to learn where they're coming from (which they also explain, on the site and in the book) makes the experience all the richer, leaving you with that "wow... that's good" feeling. This book (and last year's edition) lets you have some very interesting new analysis at the tip of your hands. While it might sometimes seem harsh (particularly if you're a homer, for any team) it's the most accurate I've read about my team or any other. I really can't overstate just how groundbreaking the numbers are - pointing out things that you just know about your team, that no one else even notices, while backing it up with solid mathematical bases. For three years now, they've been predicting stuff no one else could, and the principles of it all are really very simple. As for the book itself, the fact that they have a chapter for every team gives it the feel of a preview magazine, even though the content is far (trust me - FAR) superior than that of any magazine in the market. It has commentary on every single skill player in the league, and it will most definitely help you if you're into fantasy football. All in all, this is one of about 10 books I would definitely recommend to anyone that follows football. And rest assured, these aren't guys that got into this for the money, or are just doing their job and "mailing it in" - these are guys that truly love the game, and that, on top of everything else, gives this book a feel that you won't find anywhere else.

Drawn from the groundbreaking intelligence at FootballOutsiders.com, the braintrust that, according to Salon.com, picked more correct playoff teams in the last two years than any other group of experts, here is the essential annual that features: Pioneering team and player ratings that correct for situation and opponent to reveal true contributions to

success. Unique statistical toolbox and game charting data (unavailable in standard NFL stats) such as which receivers run the longest patterns on both complete and incomplete passes; which quarterbacks benefit the most from yards after catch; which teams most often blitz or run specific offensive formations; and which defensive backs stop the other teams passing game, measuring pass coverage rather than just tackles. Exclusive 2006 Predictions and odds on each team as a Super Bowl contender or a contender for the top pick in the 2007 draft. In-depth essays on blitzing effectiveness, which coaches are most aggressive on fourth downs, how playoff workload affects a running backs career, forecasting fantasy team defense numbers as accurately as those for offensive players, and a revolutionary new method for projecting young quarterbacks based on college statistics.

Indispensable to fantasy football players and fans who simply want to dig into the real reasons teams play well. The Washington Times (The Washington Times)Essential reading for fans who want more than clichsPro Football Prospectus tells you not just who will win, but why. Ron Jaworski, ESPN (ESPN) The most accurate insight into why teams really win and lose. Jim Schwartz, Defensive Coordinator, Tennessee TitansAbout the AuthorAaron Schatz founded FootballOutsiders.com. He is a regular contributor to Foxsports.com and covers NFL for the New York Sun. He also writes for The New York Times, the Boston Globe, and The New Republic Online. He lives in Framingham, Massachusetts. Other members of the Football Outsiders include: Russell Levine, a football writer who lives in northern New Jersey; Chicago-based Michael David Smith who writes for The New Republic Online and the New York Sun; Michael Tanier, a sportswriter who lives in southern New Jersey; and Will Carroll, an award-winning columnist for Baseball Prospectus.