



Scorecasting: The Hidden Influences Behind How Sports Are Played and Games Are Won

By Tobias Moskowitz, L. Jon Wertheim

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Why NFL coaches rarely go for a first down on fourth-down situations--even when their reluctance to do so reduces their chances of winning. In an engaging narrative that takes us from the putting greens of Augusta to the grid iron of a small parochial high school in Arkansas, Scorecasting will forever change how you view the game, whatever your favorite sport might be.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial ReviewFrom [Booklist](#)

"Defense wins championships!" So declared a triumphant Michael Jordan in 1991, invoking a hallowed sports mantra. But Jordan's assertion melts into cliché when Moskowitz and Wertheim expose it to statistical calculations revealing that, regardless of the sport, offense proves just as decisive as defense. Indeed, in their wide-ranging iconoclasm, the authors repeatedly poke arithmetic holes in what everyone in sports supposedly knows. Typical is their number-crunching assault on the popular explanation of home-field advantage as a consequence of visiting teams' road fatigue. Home teams win, the authors demonstrate, chiefly because referees tend to see plays their way—especially when the crowd of spectators grows large. Parsing of data illuminates off-field behavior, too, explaining which athletes use steroids and which ones use marijuana. Even the curse hanging over the Chicago Cubs comes into focus then the analysts ignore the billy-goat myth and statistically assess a management style fostered by fans perversely loyal to "lovable losers"! Sports buffs eager to win their next barroom argument will be lining up for this book. --Bryce Christensen Review

"The closest thing to *Freakonomics* I've seen since the original. A rare combination of terrific storytelling and unconventional thinking. I love this book..."

—**Steven D. Levitt**, Alvin H. Baum Professor of Economics, University of Chicago, and co-author of *Freakonomics* and *SuperFreakonomics*

"I love this book. If I told you why, the NBA would fine me again."

—**Mark Cuban**, owner of the Dallas Mavericks

"*Scorecasting* is both scholarly and entertaining, a rare double. It gets beyond the clichéd narratives and tried-but-not-necessarily-true assumptions to reveal significant and fascinating truths about sports."

—**Bob Costas**

"A counterintuitive, innovative, unexpected handbook for sports fans interested in the truths that underpin our favorite games. With their lively minds and prose, Moskowitz and Wertheim will change the way you think about and watch sports. Not just for stats nerds, *Scorecasting* enlightens and entertains. I wish I had thought of it!"

—**Jeremy Schaap**, ESPN reporter, Author of *Cinderella Man*.

"(Sports + numbers) x great writing = winning formula. A must read for all couch analysts."

—**Richard Thaler**, Professor of Behavioral Science and Economics, best-selling author of *Nudge*.

"*Scorecasting* will change the way you watch sports, but don't start reading it during a game; you're liable to get lost in it and miss the action. I'm not giving anything away because you'll want to read exactly how they arrived at their conclusions."

—**Allen Barra**, *NJ Star Ledger*

"Like *Moneyball* and *Soccernomics* before it, *Scorecasting* crunches the numbers to challenge notions that have been codified into conventional sports wisdom."

—**Wired Magazine**

"*Freakonomics* meets *Moneyball*"

—**The Wall Street Journal**

From the Hardcover edition. About the Author

TOBIAS MOSKOWITZ is the Fama Family Chaired Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago. He is the winner of the 2007 Fischer Black Prize, which honors the top finance scholar in the world under the age of 40.

L. JON WERTHEIM is a senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*, a recent Ferris Professor at Princeton, and the author of five books, including *Strokes of Genius: Federer, Nadal, and the Greatest Match Ever Played*.

For more information go to scorecasting.com

From the Hardcover edition. Users Review**From reader reviews:**

Della Richardson:Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each book has different aim as well as goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. These are reading whatever they acquire because their hobby will be reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book after they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will want this Scorecasting: The Hidden Influences Behind How Sports Are Played and Games Are Won.

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