Abstract

The sport of modern football has been around for over one hundred years as entertainment for the American public. While the game plans have wildly changed, the spectators have not. Back in its inception, fans were betting on who they thought would be able to pull out the victory. As the game developed, so too did the betting markets. Now most bets on the modern day NFL are run through sports books in Las Vegas. The growth of statistics and computing power has made it difficult for the majority of people to consistently bet on NFL games and turn a profit, as Vegas has taken on significant amounts of analysis. I wanted to analyze the statistics and results from games from the past five years to see if a simple model could outperform the complex analysis being run by the sports books.

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