

Predicting Sporting Events

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Horary Interpretation

This method is perfectly fine, except for one small issue: whether it's really a horary moment.

First, there's the question of whether the Querent has standing: with potentially millions of people asking this question, why is your version a horary moment, and not someone else's? Or not a million else's? To believe that a million different times would all come out to the same answer truly stretches credulity.

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Methods of Interpretation

1. Horary
2. Chart interpretation
3. Mundane

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Horary Interpretation

Second, with a general aphorism against asking the same question twice, who knows when the first time is that the question is asked?

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Horary Interpretation

In the horary method, the Querent is taken as a partisan, even if s/he is actually a fan.

Thus, if my team is the St. Louis Cardinals, and I ask if they/we will win the World Series against the Kansas City, then the Cardinals will be given by the 1st House (my team), and the Indians by the 7th House (the enemy team).

I should now be able to evaluate the relative strength of the two Significators, and thus determine the outcome.

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Horary Interpretation

So is horary useless in sports? Not at all!

But I wouldn't pin your hopes on getting more than an occasional success out of it, because if you start to use this method for game after game after game, you will almost inevitably lose the angst that produces good questions!

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Chart Interpretation

It is also possible to use a chart for each of the two teams, and compare them to the moment of the game, with the game chart being a transit. Then, the relative strength of each chart can be assessed.

The same logic has been applied to key players for each team, as with using the quarterback or starting pitcher comparisons.

The difficulty with this method is precisely the result of inaccurate chart data. Birthdates for players are common: timed charts are rare.

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Judgment

The hardest thing about predictive astrology is confidence in the ability of factors to be weighted properly.

This is compounded by the human tendency to take a wrong prediction "explained" as a correct prediction.

Accordingly, we should seek at least partially quantitative models which cannot be "cheated" by this psychological phenomenon.

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Team Charts

Team charts have precisely the same problems as corporate charts: there may be more than one.

- The incorporation of the team
- The first game played
- The first game played at home
- The first game played after a relocation of the team
- The first game played in the season

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Models for Prediction

One of the biggest preliminary considerations is whether each of the two teams truly have a 50% - 50% chance of winning.

Quite apart from the relative skill of the players, in many sports, the home field team has a considerably better chance of winning than the visiting team.

There are two ways to take this into account:

- Extra point(s) may be given to the home team
- A different model than the usual one may be used to account for the differential

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Mundane/Electional Methods

• A mundane approach would involve using either a mundane chart, such as a lunation, or an event chart in order to predict the outcome of the match.

• Mundane charts have the advantage of evading the discussion from horary of whether the question has been asked or has standing.

• It also evades the issue of having an accurate chart for the more natively-based prediction methods.

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Open Field vs. Castle Besiegement

In Bonatti's rules of warfare, he discusses two different predictive models:

• In open field conflicts, the two sides meet on the battlefield, and while one side may have better terrain, the conditions are essentially equal.

• In castle besiegement, the attacking party doesn't only have to win a battle, but they have to be able to take the castle away from the holders quickly enough to not starve themselves outside the walls.

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Astrologically Treated

- On open-field conflict is treated as a 1-7 conflict.
- A castle besiegement is a 1-4 conflict, with the holder of the castle being the 4th house (their army is the 7th), while the invader is the 1st house.

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What does "open Play" mean?

First, it depends upon the sport. Examples:

- In soccer, it's the team that throws in the ball – but it's the visiting team if there's a home field advantage
- In baseball, the opening event is the 1st pitch, but the 1st house represents the visiting team
- In basketball or hockey on a neutral court (as in college playoffs), it's the team who wins the tip-up/face-off
- In tennis, it's the first serve, and the server is the 1st house

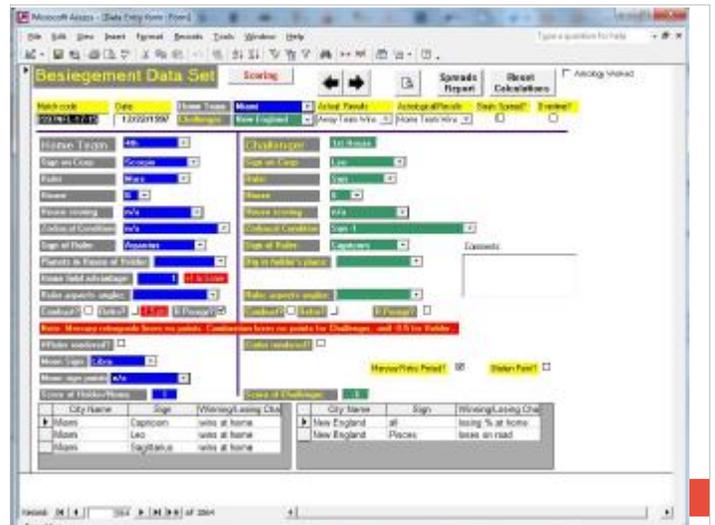
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Ramesey Quotation

"Learn thou this, that the Ascendant, and its Lord, and the Planet or Planets therein, or in Conjunction or Configuration with the Lord thereof, of in aspect with it, are to signifie him or them that begin the quarrel or controversie, the seventh, Lord thereof, and the Planet or Planets therein, and in aspect therewith, or with the Lord thereof, or in Conjunction with him, the other, or contrary party." (p. 179)

Notice that this clearly assigns the 1st House to the party that begins the match. This is further clarified in Ramesey's discussion of gaming: "... you are to understand that the Ascendant and its Lord are signifiers of the party that challengeth or beginneth first:..." (p. 186)

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Challenging

What does challenge mean? Well, in most sports, the challenging team is the away team. So what this means is that you have two different ways to establish the 1st House team:

- Assign the 1st house to the visiting team, or
- Assign the 1st house to the team that opens play.

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Items to Consider

1. Does combustion affect Significators? In some sports such as cricket, the effect can be devastating. In others, there's no detectable effect. Another point is that different planets may operate differently when combust. Mercury, being combust frequently, may not be affected at all, while a superior planet may be.
2. Inferior planets in detriment or fall may not act as one would predict. In some games, Venus in Scorpio acts rather like Saturn in Aries – it produces a good effect for the signified team. Mercury in Sagittarius may produce a neutral effect.
3. A planet retrograde may not produce an effect – or only on the days when the planet is actually going retrograde.

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Statistical Significance

These kinds of models work best statistically. The purpose in all sports prediction is to predict the outcomes at better than 60% accuracy, which is the typical winning percentage that you have to beat to make money betting on the games.

Can these models beat the House? Yes – with tweaking, for the circumstances and sport. And generally, all the models work better during play-offs.

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The Use of Particular Events

It is also possible to create an empirical model based totally on direct observation of a data set. In this case, the method is to find the demographics of who wins, and compare the winning group the losing group. For example, for the regular 1997-98 basketball season:

The away team wins more frequently than the home team when the Moon is in Aquarius. The home team does proportionally better when the Moon is in Scorpio, Gemini, or Taurus; and worse when the Moon is in Pisces. Overall, the home team is winning 60% of the time.

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Does the magnitude of the Score Differential Predict the actual scoring differential?

I wish!

These models don't hint at which games are the most "uncertain" in outcome: i.e., which games are less likely to match the model. The clearest candidate would be the point differential between the two teams. Unfortunately, when the projected winner beats the projected loser by a score of 8-1, it's no more likely to be correct than when the scores are 5-4.

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The Use of Particular Events

The use of particular events can produce a higher winning percentage – but at a cost.

These predictions do not work for all games.

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Key Player vs Model Prediction

I applied these two methods to a study of the 1993 World Series between Toronto and Philadelphia, using the starting pitcher as the key player. Using a comparison of transits, I got the following results.

Starting

	Pitcher	Game Cht	Actual Result
1	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto
2	Toronto	Phila	Philadelphia
3	Toronto	Phila	Toronto
4	Toronto	Phila	Toronto
5	Phila	Phila	Philadelphia
6	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto

What is perhaps the most interesting result of this table is that, when the two methods agree, they call the outcome together. This would suggest a possible betting strategy of only betting when the two techniques agree.

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Additional Applications

The same methods that are used to calculate winners and losers in sports can be used in other applications that also use the rules of warfare.

First is the obvious: warfare itself.

Second are political campaigns.

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