SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mathematics

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The following review appeared in the August 2013 issue of CHOICE:

Baseball statistics guru Bill James defined sabermetrics as "the search for objective truth about baseball." Since a large segment of American society is familiar with and understands baseball statistics, it stands to reason that an introductory statistics textbook that uses baseball examples would be quite helpful. Rothman (Quinnipiac Univ.) attempts to provide such a resource with *Sandlot Stats*, and largely succeeds. The author covers most of the basics provided in introductory one-semester college-level statistics courses, including descriptives, probability, random variables, sampling distributions, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing. In addition, he introduces many of the basic sabermetrical measures, including James's runs created and Pete Palmer's linear weights. Since batting average is technically the probability of getting a hit, that statistic is a natural fit for the probability chapter. Of special interest is chapter 16, "Streaking," with a detailed analysis and simulation of Joe DiMaggio's 1941 record 56-game hitting streak. Rothman also gives some step-by-step instructions for using Excel in statistical analysis, a very convenient, appropriate application, as most people will have access to that software. Several chapters compare Barry Bonds and Henry Aaron as offensive performers, after the author covers certain statistical topics in earlier chapters. **Summing Up**: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates, two-year technical program students, and general readers. -- *J. T. Saccoman, Seton Hall University*