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Call for Papers—Interfaces Special Issue: Analytics in Sports

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Call for Papers

Interfaces Special Issue: Analytics in Sports

Editors

Michael J. Fry

Department of Quantitative Analysis & Operations Management, College of Business, University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221, mike.fry@uc.edu

Jeffrey W. Ohlmann

Department of Management Sciences, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242,
jeffrey-ohlmann@uiowa.edu

Sports-related business activities constitute a multi-billion dollar industry in which difficult decision-making problems exist at the strategic, tactical, and operational levels. Fostered by the increasing availability of data and advances in computational power, the use of quantitative analysis to improve decision making in sports has enjoyed growing popularity. In this special issue of *Interfaces*, we seek to highlight the role of analytics in the sports industry.

Appropriate papers will analyze decision making in one or more aspects of the sports industry, such as scheduling, in-game strategy, business operations, personnel decisions, marketing, logistics, and sports economics. All varieties of methodological approaches are encouraged. Possible methodologies include (but are not restricted to) optimization, simulation, statistics, data mining, econometrics, game theory, artificial intelligence, decision analysis, and applied probability. We invite the development and utilization of mathematical models, both prescriptive and descriptive, that provide insight for practitioners in the sports industry.

An important challenge facing model builders is the implementation and incorporation of technical

analysis by sports-management personnel. Therefore, ideal papers for this issue of *Interfaces* should demonstrate an impact on decision-making practice in the sports industry. Papers describing applied sports research must include letters from relevant organizations verifying the implementation of the analysis and subsequent benefits. We also encourage novel sports studies that do not have commercial or industry application; however, we will give preference to those papers that maintain relevance to sports-industry practice.

For guidance on paper preparation, please review the *Interfaces* Instructions to Authors at <http://interfaces.pubs.informs.org/guidelines.htm>. Papers must be submitted online using Manuscript Central at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/inte>. In the Author Center of Manuscript Central, please designate the "Manuscript Type" (#1—"Type, Title, & Abstract") as "Special Issue" in the dropdown list; in #4—"Details & Comments," respond "Analytics in Sports" to the question, "This paper is for which special issue?"

All papers will be refereed. The deadline for submission is **March 1, 2010**.