

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP D1, MAA Session on Mathematics and Sports, I

1003-D1-460 **Vince Schielack*** (vincses@math.tamu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3368. *Using Non-technical NFL Data in Interesting Classroom Regression Examples.*

The National Football League generates mounds of data that can be analyzed in various ways. Sports-minded students might be motivated by analyses that require some knowledge of football, but others would be turned off. There is, however, some NFL data that requires no expertise regarding football, so that examples regarding the data are accessible to all students, and the author uses some of this non-technical information in elementary examples involving regression with graphing calculators. Data used include scores of the 38 Super Bowls (including conference of the winner), the increasing face values of Super Bowl tickets, and the number of players paid at least one million dollars per season (by year). Super Bowl scores can be analyzed by considering winners vs. losers or NFC vs. AFC, or by comparing the results from either of these two analyses over the first 19 and second 19 Super Bowls to detect trends. The face values of Super Bowl tickets have increased from 10 to 500 dollars, exhibiting exponential growth. The numbers of NFL million-dollar players per year are classical logistic data, since the number of players is finite. (The salary cap also influences this data; the number of million-dollar players decreased in 1994, the year the cap was implemented.) (Received September 15, 2004)