

Abstract

Title: The use of foreign players in Czech extraleague baseball

Objectives: The thesis aims to determine the contribution of foreign players who were active in the Czech baseball extraleague at the game and club level for the seasons 2015-2020. The diploma thesis compares the effectiveness of game performance of foreign players with Czech players. Conducting statistical analysis can show how many foreign players were on individual teams, and how effective they are for the team.

Methods: The thesis analyzes secondary data obtained from the information system of the Czech Baseball Association and data collected by the baseball-stat web portal. Furthermore, semi-structured interviews were conducted with representatives of six Extraleague clubs. The number of foreign players in 2015-2020 and their national composition was examined. Central to the thesis were statistics such as Wins Above Replacement (WAR), Number of innings pitched (IP), Earned run average (ERA) and Batting average (BA).

Results: In conclusion, the thesis analyzes secondary sources compared with an analysis of interviews with representatives of Extraleague clubs. The main finding was that foreign players are differential players, and are most often placed in primary positions, such as a pitcher in baseball. This is confirmed by the fact that every fourth pitcher in the Extraleague was a foreign player. Even in the long run, it pays for clubs to invest in foreign players and keep in touch with them, because it contributes to the better development of baseball in the Czech Republic, and increased professionalism of the clubs.

Keywords: benefits, clubs, extraleague, foreign, globalization, migration, results, statistics, usefulness