

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Jakub Linhart
Advisor:	PhDr. Janhuba, R. M.A.
Title of the thesis:	US Collegiate Football Analysis: Team's Success as an Indicator of Academic Performance

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

The author analyses the effect of football team performance on academic success of the team members. This seems to be a relevant question due to the increasing number of students engaging in collegiate leagues and expressed concerns that collegiate sports might distract the players from their academic responsibilities. The thesis adds to the existing literature by exploiting a relatively new data set with annual data on academic performance. This contrasts with previous studies relying mostly on the graduation rate instead of the continuous performance of students.

Methods

The selection of indicators and econometric specification are very well explained and justified. The description and discussion of the econometric approach as well as the presentation and interpretation of results demonstrate a very good understanding of the method applied.

Literature

The literature review provides a good overview of the state of academic work on the topic. The literature is quoted in a proper way. The focus of the literature review is on econometric results. A more thorough review of possible explanations for why team performance should affect individual study results might have improved it, but this can be regarded as a very minor short-coming.

Manuscript form

The thesis is very well structured and reflects academic requirements with regard to language, style and formatting. The bibliography includes academic sources of high quality. A minor short-coming is that the sources of two working papers (Tucker 2004b, Tucker 2004c) cannot be identified.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

The thesis makes a relevant empirical contribution on the relationship of football team performance and individual academic success of the team members. The thesis is of very good academic quality with regard to structure and methods applied. The author could have expanded a bit more on the qualitative explanations for the econometric results.

Questions for the defense:

1. Your interpretation of the results refers to a psychological effect: you suggest that the team's success might cause the team to feel better with their performance which might help them concentrate on their academic work. Why does the satisfaction of the public recognition award not improve academic performance? Is there any literature to back up the effect of well-being on academic performance?
2. Based on the results of your study, can you draw more general conclusions for the concern that collegiate sports might distract the players from their academic responsibilities?

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

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CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (max. 30 points)</i>	30
<i>Methods (max. 30 points)</i>	30
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	17
<i>Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)</i>	19
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	96
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE:

Sarah Godar

DATE OF EVALUATION: 30.05.2018

Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F