In Major League Baseball, about 75% of the players pool is composed of players acquired through the amateur draft, held every June. This draft is the single most important component of a team's talent pipeline to MLB, and the core of each team's talent-acquisition strategy, supplemented by international talent and talent acquired through trades. However, there is a common misconception that players coming from warmer climates are less likely to develop into major leaguers, due to only being able to play in the spring/summer versus year-round for their counterparts in "cold weather" locations such as Florida, California, Texas, and Arizona. This "cold weather bias" may affect the draft position of prospects, and cold-weather schools, but dropped all the way to 25th round. The goal of this study is to investigate if there is a cold weather effect in the draft positions of prospects, and if cold-weather state prospects are systematically undervalued by teams.

**DATA NOTES**

- The data is not complete. There are two cases of "no snow" and one case of "no rain".
- The data is based on average winter temperature, and average # of snow days/year; it does not account for the number of snow days per year.
- The data is based on hometowns of HS Players only.
- The data is not complete, with many players coming from places with virtually no snow.
- The data is not complete, with many players coming from places with virtually no rain.
- The data is not complete, with many players coming from places with virtually no heat.
- The data is not complete, with many players coming from places with virtually no humidity.
- The data is not complete, with many players coming from places with virtually no wind.

**TECHNICAL NOTES**

- The climate surface analysis in this study was done with the GIS program ArcMap 10.6.
- The bulk NOAA climate normal datasets and baseball-reference were processed in Excel, and added as point layers in ArcMap. The players' hometowns were converted to latlong coordinates with widely available online "batch geocoders".

**RESULTS**

- Draft picks from places with less snow and less rain are less likely to develop into major leaguers, due to only being able to play in the spring/summer versus year-round for their counterparts in "cold weather" locations such as Florida, California, Texas, and Arizona. This "cold weather bias" may affect the draft position of prospects, and cold-weather schools. However, the study is based on average winter temperature, and average # of snow days/year; it does not account for the number of snow days per year. The data is not complete, with many players coming from places with virtually no snow. The data is not complete, with many players coming from places with virtually no rain. The data is not complete, with many players coming from places with virtually no heat. The data is not complete, with many players coming from places with virtually no humidity. The data is not complete, with many players coming from places with virtually no wind.

**REFERENCES**


**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

"This research is possible thanks to support from my Penn State instructors, advisors and administrators. Special thanks to my advisor Eliza Richardson, Justine Blanford, Beth King, Kary Isett, and my class instructors going back to 2014. Thank you to SABR’s Scott Fischthal for guiding me in convention participation. A special thank you to my wife Megan and daughter Elise."