

## Does the Sophomore Slump Really Exist?

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Various statisticians and sports analysts have addressed the role of regression to the mean in major league sports performances. This paper intensifies general findings on the topic, specifically, that of Schall and Smith (2000), to focus upon regression with respect to the widely-acknowledged sophomore slump. Results of the analysis yield two main findings. First, players' comparatively poor performances during their second seasons of play reflect uncharacteristically high first-season statistics, not low second-season statistics. Second, the degree of change in performance from the first to the second seasons clearly follows Campbell and Stanley's (1963) regression to the mean model. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: [journal@transformativestudies.org](mailto:journal@transformativestudies.org) Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2014 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

**KEYWORDS:** Regression to the Mean; Regression Artifacts; Sophomore Slump; Freshman Fluke.

### INTRODUCTION

Sports players, analysts, and fans alike have long acknowledged the decline in performance that commonly occurs between the first and second years of players' careers. This phenomenon, nicknamed the

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