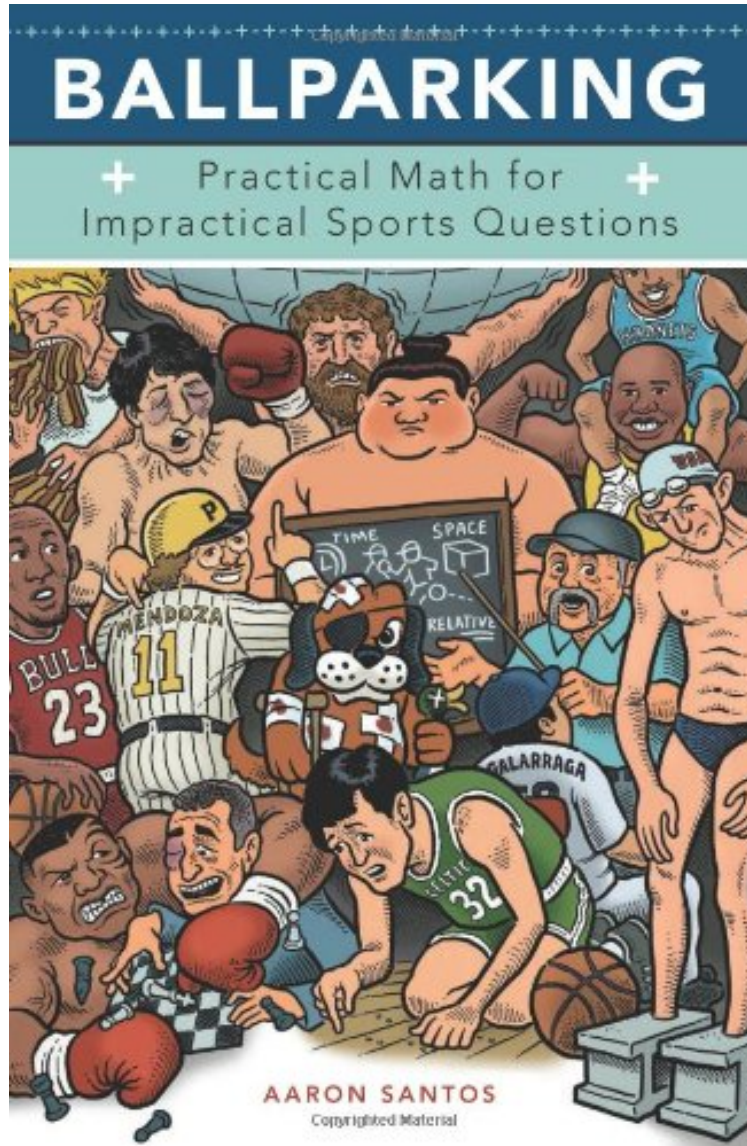


Ballparking: Practical Math for Impractical Sports Questions

Aaron Santos

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Aaron Santos : Ballparking: Practical Math for Impractical Sports Questions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ballparking: Practical Math for Impractical Sports Questions:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Pam Nielsengift1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Perfect giftBy loraLooking for graduation gifts for my son's athletic friends, I found, to my delight, Dr. Santos' second book Ballparking: Practical Math for Impractical Sports Questions. With fun and spot-on, timely

examples, Dr. Santos fascinated even this older mom/grandma whose math skills are also graying. Ballparking: Practical Math for Impractical Sports Questions was an ideal choice for sparking my little gray cells, and engaging digitally absorbed teens. P.S. The grads loved it! 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Light-Hearted Look at Math Applied to Sports By George Poirier In this very appropriately-titled book, the author ponders various physical problems in the world of sports - problems whose estimated solutions can often be quite surprising. On the positive side, I found this book highly entertaining. The Fermi method of estimating solutions to various problems is very well illustrated. The formulas used are many; they are mostly quite simple and are fun to go through. Also, of particular note is that I found several comments/passages in this book to be absolutely hilarious; in fact, on many occasions I had to take a pause to wipe the tears out of my eyes before continuing on (some of the author's choices of words in various contexts are priceless!). On the negative side, the author assumes that the reader possesses knowledge of much of the popular lingo commonly associated with various sports. Not being that well-informed, I found myself scratching my head on several occasions because of this; eventually the contexts in most cases made it clear to me what was meant. Also, someone trying to solve the equations presented by using the indicated numbers must be careful to ensure that the units are all consistent - in many cases, some conversions will be necessary. Finally, I found several unfortunate editorial mistakes scattered throughout. Overall, I enjoyed this book very much. The author's writing style is chatty, friendly, captivating and, as mentioned above, often quite humorous. This book should appeal the most to readers who are familiar with very basic math and physics. If, in addition, they are avid sports fans, then this book will surely be a must.

How fat would you need to be to completely block a hockey goal? How much weight could you lift if you were ant-sized? How hard would you have to hit a baseball to hit the Goodyear blimp? In this amusing and enlightening book of offbeat sports estimations, physicist Aaron Santos poses these and many other outrageous problems and shows how to answer them with Enrico Fermi's method of approximation. Covering a wide range of sports from football, baseball, basketball, and hockey to more far-flung sports like curling and competitive eating, these amusing estimations make boring old math fun and informative. Whether you're a rabid sports fan, math junkie, trivia-loving math hater, or a frustrated Sunday-paper puzzle lover, with the right formula and a little imagination you can start estimating on some of the most bizarre and previously unanswered sports trivia, while learning how to answer your own sports questions that have kept you up at night.

About the Author Aaron Santos received a Ph.D. in Physics from Boston University in 2007, and is currently a visiting assistant professor in the Physics and Astronomy Department at Oberlin College. He is the author of *How Many Licks?: Or How to Estimate Damn Near Anything*, and enjoys writing his *Diary of Numbers* blog (diaryofnumbers.blogspot.com). He lives in Oberlin, Ohio.