

PASSING VERSUS RUSHING

WHAT REALLY MATTERS?

Scenario

- As NFL teams are looking to acquire new players, which position should they focus on more?
- Does an NFL team need a traditional passing QB or a reliable Running Back?
- Which of these positions is more crucial to a team's winning percentage?

Data

- 2013 Regular Season Statistics
 - Team Record
 - Team Passing Yards
 - Team Rushing Yards

- All Data was collected from:
 - Pro-Football Reference.com

Regular Season Winning Percentage

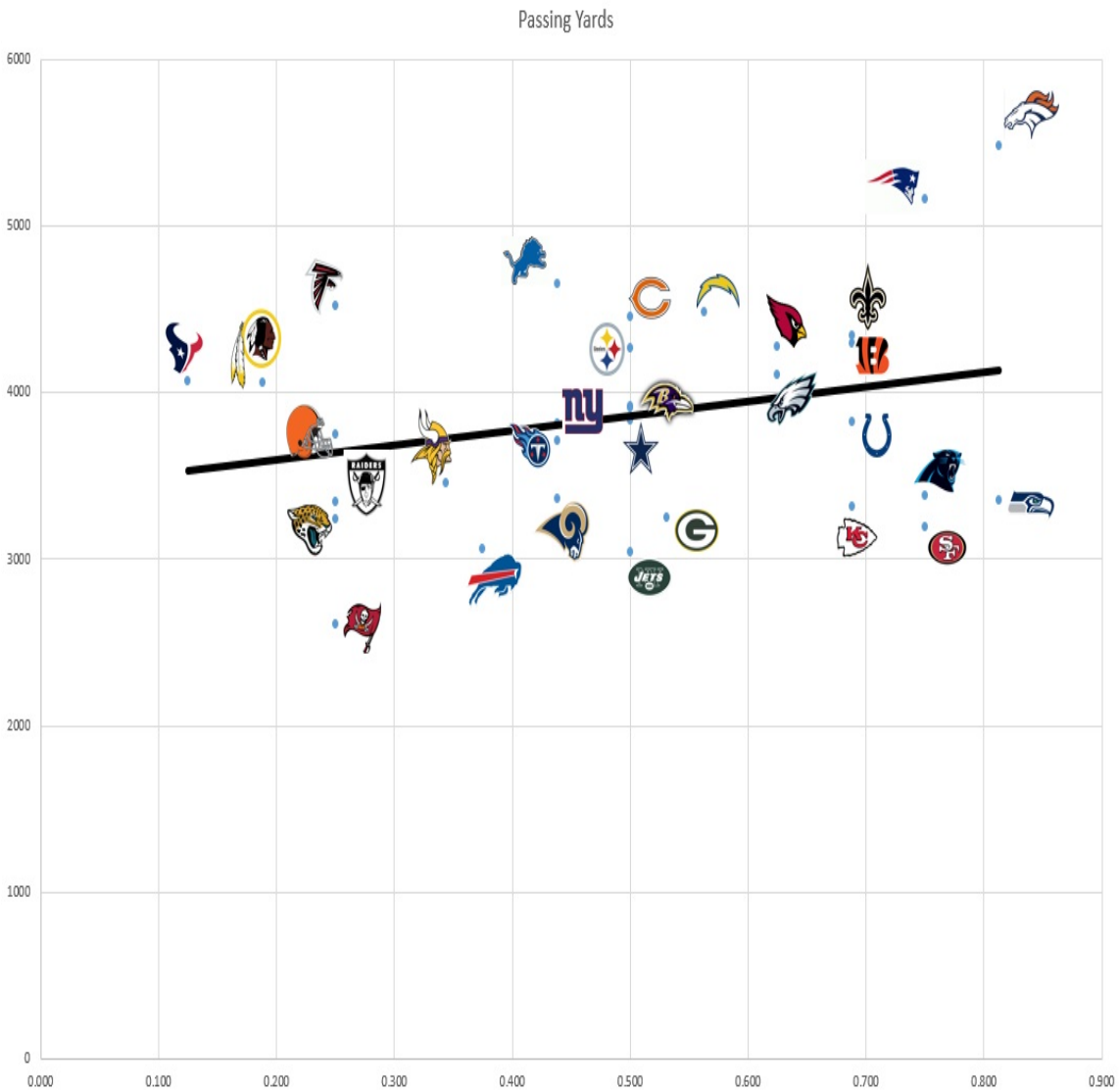
2013 Rank	Quarterback	Team	Passing Yards
1	Peyton Manning	DEN	5477
2	Drew Brees	NOR	5162
3	Matthew Stafford	DET	4650
4	Matt Ryan	ATL	4515
5	Philip Rivers	SDG	4478
6	Jay Cutler / Josh McCown	CHI	4450
7	Tom Brady	NWE	4343
8	Andy Dalton	CIN	4293
9	Carson Palmer	ARI	4274
10	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	4261
11	Nick Foles / Michael Vick	PHI	4106
12	Matt Schaub / Case Keenum	HOU	4070
13	Robert Griffin / Kirk Cousins	WAS	4057
14	Ryan Tannehill	MIA	3913
15	Joe Flacco	BAL	3912
16	Tony Romo	DAL	3828
17	Andrew Luck	IND	3822
18	Eli Manning	NYG	3818
19	Jason Campbell / Brandon Weeden	CLE	3746
20	Ryan Fitzpatrick / Jake Locker	TEN	3710
21	Matt Cassel / Christian Ponder	MIN	3455
22	Cam Newton	CAR	3379
23	Sam Bradford / Kellen Clemens	STL	3360
24	Russell Wilson	SEA	3357
25	Terrelle Pryor / Matt McGloin	OAK	3345
26	Alex Smith	KAN	3313
27	Aaron Rodgers / Scott Tolzien	GNB	3253
28	Chad Henne	JAX	3241
29	Colin Kaepernick	SFO	3197
30	EJ Manuel / Thaddeus Lewis	BUF	3064
31	Geno Smith	NYJ	3046
32	Mike Glennon	TAM	2608

Passing Yards per Team

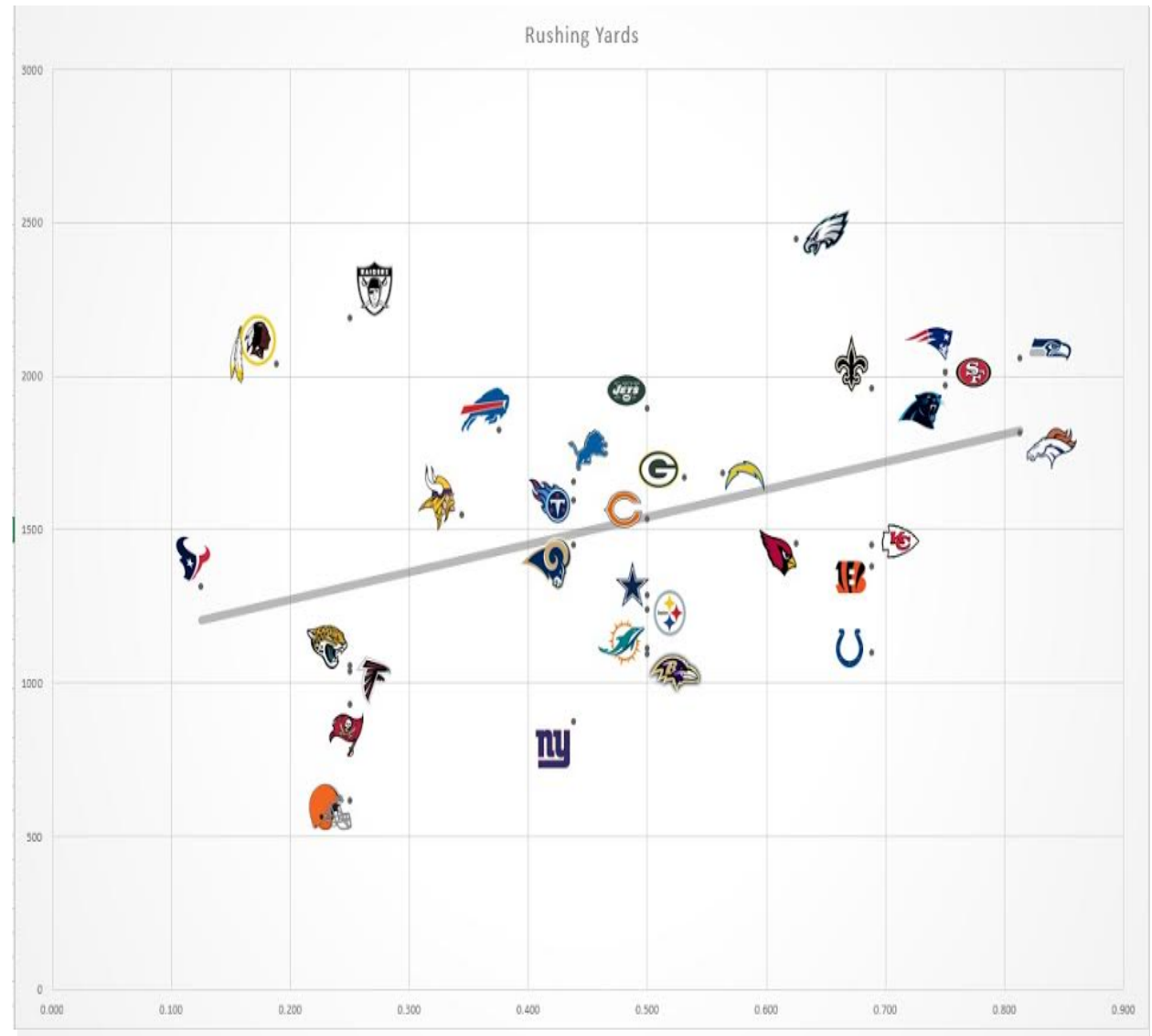
Team	Winning Percentage
ARI	0.625
ATL	0.250
BAL	0.500
BUF	0.375
CAR	0.750
CHI	0.500
CIN	0.688
CLE	0.250
DAL	0.500
DEN	0.813
DET	0.438
GNB	0.531
HOU	0.125
IND	0.688
JAX	0.250
KAN	0.688
MIA	0.500
MIN	0.344
NEW	0.750
NOR	0.688
NYG	0.438
NYJ	0.500
OAK	0.250
PHI	0.625
PIT	0.500
SDG	0.563
SEA	0.813
SFO	0.750
STL	0.438
TAM	0.250
TEN	0.438
WAS	0.188

2013 Rank	Team	Players	Rushing Yards
1	PHI	McCoy, Vick , Brown, Foles	2448
2	OAK	Pryor , McFadden, Jennings	2188
3	SEA	Lynch, Turbin, Wilson	2060
4	WAS	Morris, Helu, Griffin III	2038
5	NEW	Vereen, Bolden, Blount, Ridley	2024
6	SFO	Hunter, Kaepernick , Gore	2010
7	CAR	Newton , Williams, Tolbert, Stewart	1969
8	KAN	Davis, Smith , Charles	1960
9	NYJ	Smith , Powell, Ivory	1896
10	BUF	Spiller, Jackson	1823
11	DEN	Moreno, Himman, Ball	1815
12	SDG	Woodhead, Matthews	1684
13	GNB	Starks, Lacy	1671
14	DET	Bell, Bush	1656
15	TEN	Fitzpatrick , Greene, Johnson	1597
16	MIN	Peterson, Gerhart	1549
17	CHI	Forte, Bush	1536
18	ARI	Taylor, Ellington, Mendehall	1454
19	CIN	Bernard, Green-Ellis	1451
20	STL	Cunningham, Richardson, Stacy	1449
21	NOR	Sproles, Robinson, Ingram, Thomas	1379
22	HOU	Foster, Tate	1313
23	DAL	Murray, Randle	1285
24	PIT	Jones, Dwyer, Bell	1241
25	MIA	Thomas, Miller	1115
26	IND	Bradshaw, Luck , Brown	1100
27	BAL	Rice, Pierce,	1096
28	JAX	Jones-Drew, Todman	1059
29	ATL	Jackson, Rodgers , Snelling	1039
30	TAM	Leonard, James, Martin	933
31	NYG	Jacobs, Wilson, Brown	876
32	CLE	Ogbonnaya, McGahee	617

Rushing Yards per Team



Passing



Rushing

Conclusions

- Total Rushing Yards has a bigger effect on Winning Percentage
 - P-values
- A team does not have to completely focus on acquiring a traditional throwing Quarterback to be successful
 - Teams such as the Seattle Seahawks, Kansas City Chiefs, and Carolina Panthers were all relatively successful despite having below-average passing-games

References

- http://espn.go.com/nfl/standings/_/year/2013
- <http://www.pro-football-reference.com/years/2013/passing.htm>
- <http://www.pro-football-reference.com/years/2013/rushing.htm>