

# WAR: What Is It Good For?

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## ABSTRACT

The use of analytics in Major League Baseball has been steadily growing for many years. It all began with *The Bill James Baseball Abstract* in 1977, which sold 75 copies through a small magazine advertisement. Today, every team has an analytics department dedicated to developing better methods to evaluate players and to determine their contract value. Wins Above Replacement (WAR) is the culmination of this analytical work, and it is designed to measure a player's total contribution to his team with one statistic. This presentation will cover the history of Sabermetrics, how fans and teams use analytics, and the derivation and uses of the WAR statistic.