

A statistical analysis of the traditions of the Super Bowl MVP award

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1 Background

In the wake of Super Bowl XLV on 6 February 2011, a large number of discussions occurred in various venues about the content and outcome of the game itself and its surrounding events. The topic of the present discussion was the designation of Green Bay Packers' quarterback Aaron Rodgers as Super Bowl MVP.

1.1 Original prompt

The conversation was begun as a status update on Facebook as follows:

Anybody else think Rodgers didn't really deserve the MVP?

The original poster (OP) and another contributor then proceeded to nominate alternative recipients for the award, as

Jordy nelson!

Or the guy who forced a fumble to stop the first drive that would have put Pittsburgh ahead, or the guy with the pick-six, which was the entire margin of victory, or the guy with the interception and a few other great defensive plays.

1.2 Extended prompt

The author then joined the conversation, claiming

You give it to the winning QB when there's not an obvious standout. Just sort of tradition.

to which OP took particular exception. The author was then posed the challenge to which this paper will purport to respond, that is, to prove conclusively that it is traditional in the National Football League to award the Super Bowl MVP to the winning quarterback by default.

The two competing theses which we will examine are as follows:

H_0 MVP quarterbacks are consistently significantly higher performers than the other members of their football teams.

H_A The quarterback position is traditionally awarded MVP when there is not a stand-out performance by another member of the team, and he need not be a high-performing player himself.

That is, our null hypothesis is that the quarterback MVP award is merit-based rather than a traditional award. We frame this paper from the standpoint that if we cannot find sufficient information to reject the null hypothesis, we will accept it.

Section two of this paper will deal with the general statistics of the MVP award, section three will compare the performance of Aaron Rodgers to that of Jordy Nelson, Clay Matthews, Jarrett Bush and Nick Collins, and section four will contain a retrospective of recent Super Bowl MVP quarterback performances compared with the performances of the top receivers, running backs and defensive players of their teams. The final section will contain a discussion of the material presented as well as opinions of the author on the merits of the conversation in general.

1.3 Definitions

One of the key pieces of information required in this analysis is the clear establishment of definitions for the terminology used.

First and most importantly, we must define **most valuable player**. In general, the MVP is considered to be the *highest-performing player* on the team [16]. However, the Super Bowl MVP is selected as the single player receiving the most votes of 20 possible votes: 16 votes are cast by on-site media members, and the other four are assigned based on fan votes (the top fan choice receives 2.5 votes, the second 1 vote, and the third 0.5 votes) [1]. Due to the subjectivity inherent in this process it may be misleading to construct a formula based on a player's statistics, but for our purposes we will consider the **highest performance** of a player resulting in an MVP to be defined as a significant contribution to the total score and yardage (or lack thereof by the other team for defensive players) which exceeds the contribution of other players on the field, or who has set a Super Bowl record for performance in their position.

For the purposes of establishing the validity of H_A as an alternative hypothesis, we must also define **tradition**. According to the Random House-based Dictionary.com [8], a *tradition* is

the handing down of [...] customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, especially [...] by practice.

Thus we assert that a practice (the awarding of the MVP to quarterbacks) which is repeated over a large span of years (45 Super Bowls) by various generations of people (the media present at each game vary from year to year) shall be considered "traditional," and thus the alternative to a high rate of outstanding quarterback performance over the years is instead tradition.

2 Super Bowl MVP statistics

Over the 45 Super Bowl games in NFL history, 46 MVP awards have been given, including a co-MVP award given in Super Bowl XII [17]. Of these 46 awards, only one has ever been given to a player on a losing team, namely Chuck Howley of the 1970 Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl V. Eighteen teams have produced at least one MVP, with the record going to the Dallas Cowboys with seven (including the co-MVPs from Super Bowl XII).

The MVP has been awarded to players from a total of nine positions, with the MVP going to quarterbacks 52% of the time [17]:

| Position | Total |
|------------------|-------|
| Quarterback | 24 |
| Running back | 7 |
| Wide receiver | 6 |
| Defensive end | 2 |
| Linebacker | 2 |
| Safety | 2 |
| Cornerback | 1 |
| Defensive tackle | 1 |
| Kick returner | 1 |

If we assume that the MVP is uniformly distributed over the 15 combined offensive and defensive positions in American football, the award is clearly significantly skewed towards the quarterback. This strongly suggests that the MVP is not uniformly awarded and that there is some other underlying distribution for awarding the MVP title which strongly favors quarterbacks, which is the basis of our initial observation.

2.1 Rodgers v. other Super Bowl MVP quarterbacks

As an aside, we will briefly consider the original assertion of OP that Aaron Rodgers did not deserve the Super Bowl MVP award, by comparing him to other Super Bowl MVP quarterbacks. By the assumptions of H_0 , previous Super Bowl MVP quarterbacks performed at a high level worthy of recognition as a “most valuable player,” and so we will use their performance as a basis of judging whether Rodgers was worthy of the award in the absolute sense. Later sections will discuss the relative merits of other members of the team.

In Super Bowl XLV, Rodgers achieved a passer rating of 111.5. Of the 23 other occasions on which a quarterback was named MVP, 10 quarterbacks achieved a higher passer rating than Rodgers, and 9 a lower rating¹, placing Rodgers squarely in the middle [2].

| Statistic | μ | σ/\sqrt{n} | $\pm\sigma/\sqrt{n}$ |
|------------------|--------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Passer rating | 114.19 | 4.85 | (109.3, 119.0) |
| Touchdowns | 2.7 | 0.3 | (2.4, 3.0) |
| Interceptions | 0.5 | 0.2 | (0.3, 0.7) |
| Pass completions | 21 | 1.3 | (19.7, 22.3) |
| Pass attempts | 31 | 1.74 | (29.2, 32.7) |
| Passing yards | 282 | 16 | (265, 298) |

Aaron Rodgers’ numerical performance in passer rating (111.5) and touchdowns (3) fall within our estimated $\pm\sigma/\sqrt{n}$ interval for average Super Bowl MVP quarterback performance. His performance for interceptions (0), completions (24) and yards (304) fall on the favorable side of the interval. From this we shall conclude that Rogers put forth a performance during Super Bowl XLV that was at least numerically typical of Super Bowl MVP quarterbacks.

2.2 MVP quarterbacks v. non-MVP quarterbacks

Finally we wish to consider the original assertion that MVP quarterbacks are consistently significantly high performers. We will thus compare the 20 MVP quarterbacks (see Table 1) for whom we have statistics to the top 20 non-MVP passers who completed at least 10 passes during the game (see Table 2), proposing a problem-specific H_0 that the quarterbacks are not significantly different. We introduce the 10-pass constraint to exclude quarterbacks who did not play for much of the game, as well as players from other positions who earned

¹Quarterback statistics for the first four Super Bowls is not available on the NFL.com website, and so they will be excluded from our analysis.

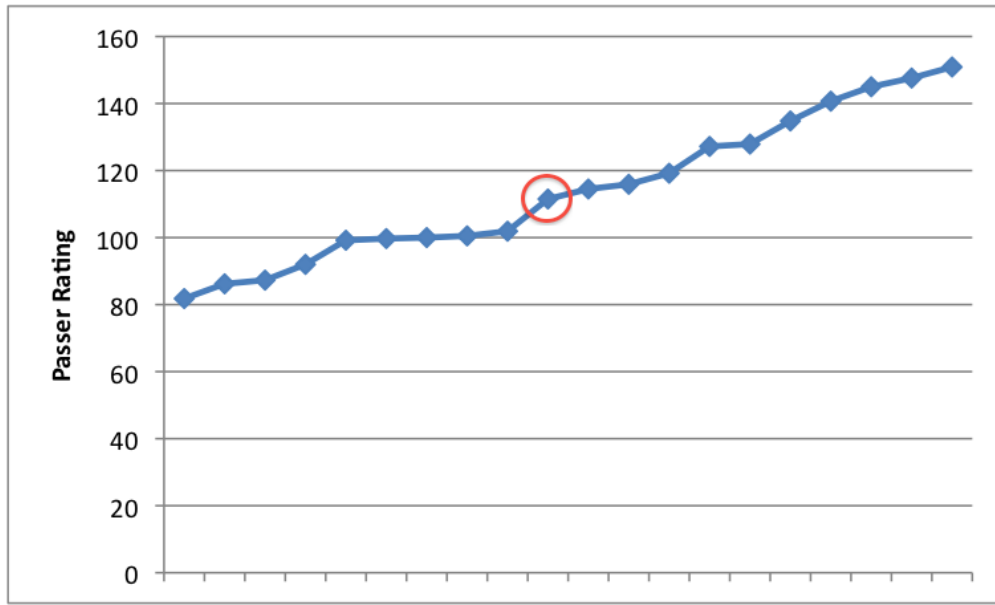


Figure 1: Distribution of passer ratings for all Super Bowl MVP quarterbacks since 1970. Circled in red is Aaron Rodgers' Super Bowl XLV passer rating of 111.5.

a passer rating. Using one-tailed Student t -tests, we compared the groups' touchdown numbers, interceptions, completions and attempts, and yards gained. Of these measures, we found that with $p < .001$ the MVP touchdown number was higher among MVP quarterbacks, but interceptions ($p = .32$), completions ($p = .39$), attempts ($p = .33$) and yards ($p = .09$) were not significantly different.

The average Super Bowl MVP quarterback threw for 2.7 touchdowns per game ($\sigma = 1.4$), whereas the average non-MVP quarterback threw for only 1.5 touchdowns ($\sigma = 0.9$). If number of touchdowns scored is the only measure of performance, we may reject our null hypothesis, but if we consider all measures in our measure of performance, we do not have enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis and so we assert that MVP quarterbacks are **not** significantly different from their non-MVP counterparts.

3 Super Bowl XLV performances

The author's original assertion was that in the absence of a single obvious standout player of a non-quarterback position, the award is given to the quarterback of the winning team. In this section, we will assess the validity of the assertion that there was no single "stand-out" player in the game. The OP's nominations for alternative winners were Jordy Nelson, Clay Matthews, Jarrett Bush and Nick Collins, and so the present analysis will concentrate on their performance.

Wide receiver Jordy Nelson [6] had 9 receptions for 140 yards with one touchdown. Linebacker Clay Matthews [4] had 3 tackles including one for a three-yard loss, and one forced fumble. Cornerback Jarrett Bush [5] had five tackles and an interception, but missed defending a touchdown pass from Ben Roethlisberger to Hines Ward. Safety Nick Collins [7] had 4 tackles and an interception returned for a touchdown.

The team statistics for the game included, for the Packers, 338 total yards and four touchdowns; for the Steelers, 387 total yards and three touchdowns. Nelson was therefore responsible for 41% of the Packers' total yardage and 19.3% of their total points (6 of 31). Matthews was not the tackle leader for the defense, but was responsible for a possession change at the GB 36, preventing a likely score by the Steelers of 3 points (if the

play had resulted only in a tackle at the GB 36 rather than a fumble), which would have been nearly 10% of their resulting total, and the resulting Packers' possession ended in a touchdown. Bush was a high performing tackle and his interception resulted in a touchdown after the ensuing Packers' possession, but his error in pass defense on Ward equalizes the contributions of his interception. Collins is directly responsible for 19.3% of the Packers' total points as well as ending a Steelers drive, preventing as many as 93 yards or what would have been 19% of their resulting total.

Based on these percentage performances, we assert that Nelson and Collins were equally numerically valuable players, though Collins' contributions to total yardage are more difficult to quantify. Matthews' and Bush's performances were numerically inferior, which for our analysis will take them out of consideration as MVP candidates. Therefore if we accept the OP's original assertion that there were players more deserving of the MVP award than Rodgers, we shall then assert that the set of such players consists of Jordy Nelson and Nick Collins, and that they delivered equally meritorious performances.

3.1 Rodgers' performance

Rodgers, on the other hand, is responsible as quarterback for 302 of the 338 yards (accounting for the -2 rushing yards attributed to him), or 89%, and three of the four touchdowns (18 of 31 points), or 58% of the total points. However, as quarterback, we will judge Rodgers' performance on a different scale than other players: of the top 40 rated passers (MVP and not-MVP) in Super Bowl history with more than 10 completions, Rodgers' numbers were within one standard deviation of the mean for touchdowns ($\mu = 2.075, \sigma = 1.31$), interceptions ($\mu = 0.45, \sigma = 0.68$), completions ($\mu = 20.25, \sigma = 5.79$), attempts ($\mu = 31.5, \sigma = 7.89$), and yards gained ($\mu = 267.23, \sigma = 68.61$), so we shall call his performance typical of a quarterback of a high-performing team (since of the 40 quarterbacks included in the analysis, only 8 were members of a losing team, and those by a median of only 4.5 points).

4 Relative performances of Super Bowl MVP quarterbacks and their teams

Here we come to the crux of the matter: whether we observe a factual historical trend of defaulting to a winning quarterback-MVP in the absence of a clear standout player in another position, or when there is a tie between multiple players. For each year since 1971 in which a quarterback was awarded the MVP, we have examined the statistics [3] for receiving, rushing, and interceptions for the players on their team, since more fine-grained statistics such as tackles and first downs only began to be collected in the last decade.

Of the 20 quarterbacks awarded an MVP, 13 played alongside a 65+ yard rusher, four alongside a 100+ yard rusher, and one with a 200+ yard rusher (QB Doug Williams with RB Timmy Smith of the 1987 Washington Redskins); of the thirteen 65+ yard rushers, eight scored at least one touchdown, one scored two (RB Timmy Smith in 1987²), as did a sub-65 yard rusher (RB Franco Harris of the 1979 Steelers). Fifteen threw to one or more receivers with over 80 yards, ten to one or more receivers with 100+ yards, two to receivers with 150+ yards; of the 15, 11 scored at least one touchdown, four scored at least two, and two (WR Jerry Rice of the 1989 and 1994 San Francisco 49ers) scored three. Eleven MVP quarterbacks played on teams with defenders who caught at least one interception, four on teams with interceptions returned for touchdowns.

Based on the performance of seven previous running back MVPs, we will move the lower bound on rushing yards to 122 (average 150.2 yards, standard deviation 28 yards; at least one touchdown). Of the rushers with over 122 yards in a Super Bowl, only four have not been awarded MVP: Michael Pittman (124 yards, 0TD), Thurman Thomas (135 yards, 1TD), Clarence Davis (137 yards, 0TD), and Timmy Smith (204 yards, 2TD). Thomas was a player on the losing 1990 Bills, Pittman and Davis did not score touchdowns, but Smith holds

²It is worth noting here that the 1987 Redskins won Super Bowl XXII 42-10 over the Denver Broncos.

the current record for rushing yards in a Super Bowl and scored 28% of his teams points – and was passed over in favor of the quarterback, Doug Williams.

The six wide receiver MVPs have an average of 140 receiving yards (standard deviation 45.2 yards), so we will set the lower bound on “high performance” receiving to 95 yards. The previous WR MVPs also averaged 55% of their team’s receiving yards (standard deviation 24%), so we will require that a receiver account for at least 31% of his team’s receiving yards to be considered an MVP candidate. We note that particularly in the case of Fred Biletnikoff (1976 Oakland Raiders), a low yard total and lack of touchdowns scored does not preclude MVP status for a wide receiver, so we will allow a receiver with a significant proportion of his team’s receiving yardage and no score to remain in consideration.

Defensive MVP players prove to be less statistically obvious. Of the eight players who were named MVP, only four had any interceptions. Two players forced fumbles, and the rest were recognized for being “leaders” (see for example [11]). Despite this subjectivity, for the purposes of our analysis we will consider any defender with at least two interceptions or an interception and a touchdown to be a high-performing defender.

4.1 Quarterback MVPs

After imposing these restrictions on what we shall consider a high-performing non-quarterback player, only four of the MVP quarterbacks are left as the sole high-performing player on their team: Phil Simms, Joe Montana (1981), Kurt Warner, and Eli Manning. Add to their numbers Steve Young and Drew Brees, whose MVP performances set and/or matched the only record on their team, for a total of six singularly outstanding quarterbacks. All fourteen other quarterbacks for whom statistics were available played on a team with at least one other high-performing player³, and in six cases more than one (an asterisk following a player’s name denotes a record set, a † denotes a record matched).

| Quarterback | Top Rusher | Top Receiver | Top Defender |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Simms* | Morris – 67yds, 1TD | | |
| Montana* (1989) | Craig – 69yds, 1TD | Rice* - 148yds, 3TD | Brooks – 1INT |
| Plunkett | Eeghen – 75yds, 0TD | King – 93yds, 1TD | Martin - 3INT |
| Aikman | Smith – 108yds, 1TD | Irvin - 114yds, 2TD | Norton - 1INT, 1TD |
| Young* | | Rice - 149yds, 3TD | Cook – 1INT |
| Williams* | Smith* - 204yds, 2TD | Sanders* - 193yds, 2TD | Davis – 1INT |
| Montana (1984) | Craig - 77yds, 2TD | Craig - 58yds, 1TD | |
| Bradshaw (1978) | Harris – 68yds, 1TD | Swann - 124yds, 1TD | Blount – 1INT |
| Staubach | Thomas – 95yds, 1TD | | |
| Brees† | | Colston – 83yds, 0TD | Porter - 1INT, 1TD |
| Rodgers | | Nelson - 140yds, 1TD | Collins - 1INT, 1TD |
| Bradshaw* | Harris – 46yds, 2TD | Stallworth† - 121yds, 1TD | |
| Brady* (2003) | Smith – 83yds, 1TD | Branch† - 143yds, 1TD | |
| Montana (1981) | | | Hicks – 1INT |
| Warner* | | Faulk – 90yds, 0TD | |
| Elway | Davis – 102yds, 0TD | Smith - 152yds, 1TD | Gordon - 2INT |
| Rypien | Ervins – 72yds, 0TD | Clark - 114yds, 1TD | Edwards - 2INT |
| E Manning | Toomer – 84yds, 0TD | | |
| Brady (2001) | Smith – 92yds, 0TD | Brown - 89yds, 0TD | Law - 1INT, 1TD |
| P Manning | Rhodes – 113yds, 1TD | | Hayden - 1INT, 1TD |

That is to say, 70% of the time that a quarterback is named Super Bowl MVP, there exists at least one other high-performing player on his team who could also have been considered a contender.

³We note that while Montana’s (1984) teammate Roger Craig was not a high-performing rusher or receiver, his combined three touchdowns are a Super Bowl record. Montana himself was 24 for 35 with three touchdowns and 331 yards.

4.2 Non-quarterback MVPs

Of particular interest for our purposes here are the non-quarterback MVPs. If we find here that non-quarterback MVPs are also members of teams with other obvious standouts, the author's initial statement that the award is given to the QB when there is not an obvious standout will be refuted.

First we mention the case of Desmond Howard, the only special teams member to have been awarded an MVP. Howard's 99 yard kickoff return for a touchdown was a Super Bowl record, and as we will see, there is a strong tendency to award MVP status to a record-setting player.

In the case where a rusher received the MVP honors, we see the following:

| Quarterback | Top Rusher | Top Receiver | Top Defender |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elway - 0TD, 1INT | Davis* - 157yds, 3TD | | Braxton - 1INT |
| Aikman - 0TD, 1INT | Smith† - 132yds, 2TD | | Dallas - 1INT |
| Hostetler - 1TD, 20/32 | Anderson - 102yds, 1TD | Ingram - 74yds, 0TD | |
| Plunkett - 1TD, 16/25 | Allen* - 191yds, 2TD | Branch - 94yds, 1TD | |
| Theismann - 2TD, 2INT | Riggins* - 166yds, 1TD | Brown - 60yds, 1TD | |
| Bradshaw - 1TD, 9/14 | Harris* - 158yds, 1TD | | |
| Griese - 0TD, 6/7 | Csonka* - 145yds, 2TD | | Johnson - 1INT |

Using the same cutoffs for "high performance" as above, we see that only Anderson of the 1990 New York Giants had a non-record-setting performance which was rivaled by another player on his team, the quarterback Hostetler. Their respective performances are quite similar to the Brady/Smith performances for the 2001 New England Patriots (see Tables 1 and 2 in the Data section below). However, cited as a reason for the Giants' dominance [13] is their 40:33 time of possession, fueled strongly by the run; with only a 26:30 time of possession, Brady was quoted [15] after the game as saying "I think our whole team is MVP... We have an MVT - a Most Valuable Team."

When a receiver was honored with the MVP title, the case is the following:

| Quarterback | Top Rusher | Top Receiver | Top Defender |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Roethlisberger - 1TD, 1INT | | Holmes - 131yds, 1TD | Harrison - 1INT |
| Roethlisberger - 0TD, 2INT | Parker - 93yds, 1TD | Ward - 123yds, 1TD | Herndon - 1INT |
| Brady - 2TD, 23/33 | Dillon - 75yds, 1TD | Branch* - 133yds, 0TD | Harrison - 2INT |
| Montana - 2TD, 23/36 | Craig - 71yds, 0TD | Rice* - 215yds, 1TD | Romanowski - 1INT |
| Stabler - 1TD, 12/19 | Davis - 137yds, 0TD | Biletnikoff - 79yds, 0TD | Brown - 1INT, 1TD |
| Bradshaw - 2TD, 9/19 | Harris - 82yds, 0TD | Swann* - 145yds, 1TD | 3 players - 1INT |

Here we see two non-record-setting receivers honored when at least one other player on their team delivered a performance consistent with other MVP winners. In the 2008 Super Bowl, Santonio Holmes' MVP was awarded especially for his final 6-yard touchdown reception with 35 seconds left in the game for a come-from-behind victory, and notably, both Roethlisberger and Holmes were invited to film the "I'm going to Disney World" commercial that year [9]. Biletnikoff's win in Super Bowl XI is more confusing and not statistically predictable, with only four catches in the game for about 48% of the Raiders' receiving yards and no touchdowns. His catches were said to have set up three of the four touchdowns [10], but his award remains a mere statistical anomaly.

Finally we examine the case when a defensive player was awarded MVP:

| Quarterback | Top Rusher | Top Receiver | Top Defender |
|---|--|--|--|
| B Johnson - 2TD, 1INT Dilfer - 1TD, 12/25 Aikman - 1TD, 15/23 McMahon - 0TD, 12/20 Stubach - 0TD, 1INT Griese - 1TD, 1INT Morrall - 0TD, 1INT | Pittman - 124yds, 0TD Ja. Lewis - 102yds, 1TD Csonka - 112yds, 0TD | Gault - 129yds, 0TD Mackey - 80yds, 1TD | Jackson* - 2INT, 2TD R Lewis - 0INT Brown - 2INT Dent - 2FF, 1.5S* White, Martin - 8 turnovers Scott - 2INT Howley - 2INT, 1FF |

Defensive MVPs are much less statistically straightforward and must therefore be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. In Super Bowl V, Chuck Howley became the first defensive MVP but was a member of the losing team (a choice which makes little sense in retrospect - "we couldn't have won without him"? - and has not been repeated since). Jake Scott was a member of the "No-Name Defense" on the only undefeated team in NFL history, and contributed a well-timed interception and return. White and Martin were the only co-MVPs, and both leaders of a defense that held the opposing quarterback to only 8 completions of 25 attempts. Richard Dent's defense contributed to a record 7 sacks, and his forced fumbles, contributions to an interception and safety made him a high-contributing member of a record-setting team [12]. Larry Brown had two well-timed interceptions. Ray Lewis was called "the heart, soul, and leader of perhaps the best defensive unit and performance in Super Bowl history." [14] Dexter Jackson's two interceptions were in a single half (a record). In short, all of these defensive players were considered to have contributed stand-out performances, if not in easily statistically analyzable ways.

5 Discussion

The aim of this analysis was to show that the awarding of the MVP title to a winning team's quarterback is traditional in light of a high performance by the entire team and in the absence of a single stand-out player in another position (if we accept that a team can be considered high-performing by merit of simply winning).

In section 2, we examined the overall statistics of MVP winners in past Super Bowls and observed that more than half of all MVPs have been quarterbacks, and that Aaron Rodgers' performance was quite average for a Super Bowl MVP quarterback. We also observed, however, that aside from touchdown statistics, there was no significant difference in performance between MVP quarterbacks and non-MVP quarterbacks, which leads us to reject the hypothesis H_0 that MVP quarterbacks are somehow earning the award more than their non-MVP counterparts.

In section 3, we examined the performance of the four Green Bay Packers players nominated by the OP as potentially more meritorious of MVP status than Rodgers. We then proceeded to show that there was no single statistical stand-out performance among these five players, and that both Nick Collins and Jordy Nelson delivered equally outstanding performances to Rodgers' above-average quarterback performance, making Super Bowl XLV a game to which the author's hypothesis (the quarterback is awarded the MVP in the absence of a single clear stand-out player) applies.

Section 4 proceeded to analyze the relative performance of quarterbacks and their teams in historical games. In section 4.1, we made an in-depth comparison of MVP quarterbacks and their respective teams, and all but five quarterbacks were found to have had at least one other high-performing player on their team; even eliminating defensive players from consideration based on the statistical nebulosity of previous defensive MVPs, only a third of the 24 MVP quarterbacks were the single standout player on their team.

We then combine this information with the results of section 4.2, wherein we examined the performance of non-quarterback MVPs. Of rushing MVPs, only one was a non-record setting-or-tying performance, and his award is cited as a non-statistical contribution to time of possession. Of the three non-record-setting MVP receivers, two had a high-performing teammate, one of which (Roethlisberger) was acknowledged as a high contributor by outside groups and one of which is accepted as a statistical anomaly. The defensive MVPs were considered to have won their awards for either record-setting individual performances or non-statistical leadership qualities on their teams.

To summarize, we note that not only are two-thirds of quarterback MVPs members of teams with other high-performing players, and not only are they not significantly different from their non-MVP counterparts, but nearly every non-quarterback MVP is the sole stand-out member of his team. Therefore we shall conclusively state that MVP quarterbacks are not disproportionately meritorious of their awards, but that it has become *tradition* - that is, the custom has been handed down through practice - over the past 41 Super Bowls that we have analyzed to award the quarterback of the winning team the MVP title, absent a clear stand-out player in another position.

In conclusion, we nod briefly to Shakespeare's oft-quoted line, "brevity is the soul of wit." In light of a comment made during the initial challenge which inspired this paper, the author was accused of being more interested in comedy than substance. The author sends forth this paper in the hopes that ten pages of analysis are sufficiently prolix so as to obfuscate any possible attempts at comedy which may have snuck in.

6 Quarterback performance data

Here we present the data used in our statistical analysis.

| | QB Rating | TDs | INTs | COMP | ATT | YDS |
|-----------|-----------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|
| Simms | 150.9 | 3 | 0 | 22 | 25 | 268 |
| Montana | 147.6 | 5 | 0 | 22 | 29 | 297 |
| Plunkett | 145 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 21 | 261 |
| Aikman | 140.7 | 4 | 0 | 22 | 30 | 273 |
| Young | 134.8 | 6 | 0 | 24 | 36 | 325 |
| Williams | 127.9 | 4 | 1 | 18 | 29 | 340 |
| Montana | 127.2 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 35 | 331 |
| Bradshaw | 119.2 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 30 | 318 |
| Staubach | 115.9 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 19 | 119 |
| Brees | 114.5 | 2 | 0 | 32 | 29 | 288 |
| Rodgers | 111.5 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 39 | 304 |
| Bradshaw | 101.9 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 21 | 309 |
| Brady | 100.5 | 3 | 1 | 32 | 48 | 354 |
| Montana | 100 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 22 | 157 |
| Warner | 99.7 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 45 | 414 |
| Elway | 99.2 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 29 | 336 |
| Rypien | 92 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 33 | 292 |
| E Manning | 87.3 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 34 | 255 |
| Brady | 86.2 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 27 | 145 |
| P Manning | 81.8 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 38 | 247 |

Table 1: Super Bowl MVP quarterback statistics.

References

- [1] NFL Enterprises. Fans to vote online, via wireless devices for Cadillac Super Bowl MVP, January 2009. <http://www.nfl.com/superbowl/story?id=09000d5d8065ada6&template=without-video&confirm=true>.

| | QB Rating | TDs | INTs | COMP | ATT | YDS |
|----------------|-----------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|
| Montana | 115.2 | 2 | 0 | 23 | 36 | 357 |
| Delhomme | 113.6 | 3 | 0 | 16 | 33 | 323 |
| Warner | 112.3 | 3 | 1 | 31 | 43 | 377 |
| Stabler | 111.7 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 19 | 180 |
| Brady | 110.2 | 2 | 0 | 23 | 33 | 236 |
| Aikman | 108.8 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 23 | 209 |
| Favre | 107.9 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 27 | 246 |
| McMahon | 104.2 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 20 | 256 |
| Staubach | 102.6 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 25 | 183 |
| Plunkett | 97.4 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 25 | 172 |
| Anderson | 95.2 | 2 | 2 | 25 | 34 | 300 |
| Hostetler | 93.5 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 32 | 222 |
| Roethlisberger | 93.2 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 30 | 256 |
| Favre | 91 | 3 | 1 | 25 | 42 | 256 |
| P Manning | 88.5 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 45 | 333 |
| Elway | 83.6 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 37 | 304 |
| Brady | 82.5 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 48 | 266 |
| Kelly | 81.8 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 30 | 212 |
| Dilfer | 80.9 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 25 | 153 |
| Johnson | 79.9 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 34 | 215 |

Table 2: Passer statistics for the top 20 non-MVP players who completed at least 10 passes in a Super Bowl.

- [2] NFL Enterprises. Super Bowl history, February 2011. http://www.nfl.com/superbowl/44/categorystats?d-447263-o=2 &tabSeq=0 &statisticCategory=PASSING &d-447263-p=1 &d-447263-s=PASSING_PASSER_RATING &d-447263-n=1.
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