From Zero to Hero

A seminar by Stuart Coles

Smartodds

Thursday 24 Oct 2024 | 2.30 p.m.
Room Benvenuti
Department of Statistical Sciences

In the Chamonix World Cup slalom ski race of February 2024, Daniel Yule made World Cup history by becoming the first ever slowest qualifier from a first run to win an overall race. In this talk we'll examine how exceptional this occurrence was, extending standard models for rankings to the situation where overall race times are offset by a first run performance. This turns out to be statistically straightforward for one sub-class of models, but challenging for another. The practical implementation for ski races is also complicated by the fact that piste conditions generally deteriorate throughout a race, while race starting positions for both runs are assigned in a different non-random way.