## gracenote. <br> A NIELSEN COMPANY

Predicting the Olympic Games
16 January, 2018

## COMPANY OVERVIEW



World's leading entertainment data and technology company We power the world's top music services, consumer electronics, automakers, cable and satellite providers

## Gracenote - leveraging the power of metadata



## Gracenołe Sports - History

## 1995

infostradasports


## Sports Services - Analytics



Benchmarking


Predictive Analysis


Talent Identification


Results Monitoring

Gracenote can dive deep into the numbers to provide business intelligence for decision making.

## Gracenote Sports High Performance Customers

High Performance clients - Gracenote Sports Analytics


## Słoryłelling

－＂．．There are 8 million stories．．．＂in our sports database
－Analytical tools and statistical models help tell them

Virtual Medal Table（Olympic Sports）


## Prediction



## Prediction is very difficult, especially if it's about the future.

(Niels Bohr)
$\boldsymbol{O}$

## Projecting Olympic Medals

- Economic factors
- Expertise
- Results or other performance data



## Economic factors

- Needs to include previous Olympic performance
- Static
- Provides no information on who might win medals
- Works poorly for Winter Olympics



## Expertise

- Available only just before the Olympics
- Static
- Potential for recency bias



## Results

## －More information

|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Date | PhaseName |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Alpine Skiing Downhill Women－Bad Kleinkirchheim $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Alpine Skiing Slalom Men－Wengen $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Biathon 12．5km Mass Start Women－Ruhpolding 2017／2018 |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Biathlon 15 km Mass Start Men－Ruhpolding $2017 / 10018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Bobsleigh 4－Man Competition Open－St．Moritz $2017 / 12018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Cross Country Skiing Team Sprint Freestyle Men－Dresden $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Cross Country Skiing Team Sprint Freestyle Women－Dresden 2017／2018 |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Equestrian－Dressage Individual Open－Wellington $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Freestyle Skiing Ski Cross Men－Idre $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Freestyle Skiing Ski Cross Women－Idre 2017／2018 |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Golf Individual Men－BMW SA Open 2018 |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Luge Single Men－Oberhof 2017／2018 |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Luge Team－Relay Mixed－Oberhof 2017／2018 |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Nordic Combined Gundersen Large Hill／ 10 km Men－Val di Fiemme 2017／2018 |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Short Track 1000 m Men－European Championships $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Short Track 1000 m Women－European Championships $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Short Track 3000m Relay Women－European Championships $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Short Track 5000m Relay Men－European Championships $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Short Track Overall Men－European Championships $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Short Track Overall Women－European Championships $2017 / 2018$ |
| 14－Jan－2018 | Ski Jumping Individual－Normal Hill Women－Sapporo 2017／2018 |


| Rank | Person／Team | Country |  | Age（days） | It |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Sofia Goggia（ITA， 15 Nov 1992） |  | 11 | 25－060 | 1：04．00 |
| 1 | Marcel Hirscher（AUT， 02 Mar 1989） | Austria |  | 28－318 | 1：45．45 |
| 1 | Kaisa Mäkäräinen（FIN， 11 Jan 1983） | Finland | ＋ | 35－003 | 34：05．6 |
| 1 | Johannes Bo（NOR， 16 May 1993） | Norway | 誰 | 24.243 | 37：11．2 |
| 1 | Germany（Johannes Lochner） | Germany |  | 26－053 | 2：08．42 |
| 1 | Nöckler／Pellegrino | ｜taly | 11 | 28－121 | 12：18．31 |
| 1 | Ingemarsdotter／Dahlavist | Sweden |  | 28－086 | 13：33．40 |
| 1 | Vilhelmson Silivén（Paridon Magi） | Sweden | $\pm$ | 50－186 |  |
| 1 | Jean Frédéric Chapuis（FRA， 02 Mar 1989） | France | 1 | 28－318 |  |
| 1 | Sandra Nasslund（SWE， 06 Jul 1996） | Sweden |  | 21－192 |  |
| 1 | Chris Paisley（ENG， 24 Mar 1986） | Great Britain | 类 | $31-296$ | $-21$ |
| 1 | Felix Loch（GER， 24 Jul 1989） | Germany |  | 28－174 | 1：25．591 |
| 1 | Germany | Germany | － | 28－100 | 2：20．952 |
| 1 | Jan Schmid（NOR， 24 Nov 1983） | Norway | 120 | 34．051 | 26：19．9 |
| 1 | Sjinkie Knegt（NED， 05 Jul 1989） | Netherlands |  | 28－193 | 1：24．632 |
| 1 | Arianna Fontana（ITA， 14 Apr 1990） |  | 11 | 27－275 | 1：30．353 |
| 1 | Russia | Russia | － | 23－212 | 4：10．257 |
| 1 | Netherlands | Netherlands |  | 25－175 | 6：36．198 |
| 1 | Sjinkie Knegt（NED， 05 Jul 1989） | Netherlands | ＝ | 28－193 | 107 |
| 1 | Arianna Fontana（ITA， 14 Apr 1990） | Italy | 1 | 27－275 | 84 |
| 1 | Maren Lundby（NOR， 07 Sep 1994） | Norway | 演 | 23－129 | 251.6 |

－Allocates medals

## Predicting Olympic medals using results data

- Relative Medal Table
- Virtual Medal Table
- Ranking methodology

| Relative Medal Table 2018 Winter Games |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| + Country | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | T | 4 |

## Relative Medal Table

- Result at last World Championships
- Adjusted for entries at the Olympic Games

- Popularised by Luciano Barra


## Virtual Medal Table

- Developed in 2010
- Results from events with world class fields

|  | gracenote. ANIELSEN COMPANY | Virtual Medal Table |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \# | NOC | G | S | B | T |
| 1 | Germany | 14 | 12 | 14 | 40 |
| 2 | Norway | 14 | 11 | 12 | 37 |
| 3 | 14 Canada | 7 | 12 | 14 | 33 |
| 4 | 三 United States | 10 | 10 | 9 | 29 |
| 5 | France | 9 | 9 | 6 | 24 |
| 6 | Netherlands | 6 | 7 | 5 | 18 |
| 7 | Austria | 6 | 2 | 7 | 15 |
| 7 | Japan | 4 | 7 | 4 | 15 |
| 9 | - Sweden | 3 | 10 | 1 | 14 |
| 10 | 4 Switzerland | 3 | 6 | 3 | 12 |

- Weighted by recency \& event importance


## Virłual Medal Table application

- Media

- Anti-doping organisations

CALGARY - An international data analytics company predicts Canada will win a whopping 33 medals, including men's hockey gold, at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.
In a virtual medal table released Wednesday, Gracenote projects the Canadian team will rank third in total medals behind Germany (40) and Norway (37) and ahead of the United States (29).

## Virłual Medal Table improvements over time

- Home advantage (2014)
- Winning margins (2016)
- Best 10 results (2016)
- Personal bests (2016)



## Virtual Medal Table issues

- Generic model
- Weighting is subjective
- Probabilties not easy to compute


## Ranking methodologies

- Elo method as starting point
- Adjustment for multi-competitor
- Skill sharing across events



## Ranking methodologies

- Strength of field is calculated from participants
- Every result can therefore be included
- Updated every day

| Short Track | 500 m | Men | 1 | Wu Dajing (CHN, 24 Jul 1994) | 23-174 | China | - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Short Track | 500 m | Women | 1 | Choi Minjeong (KOR, 09 Sep 1998) | 19-127 | Korea | \%; |
| Short Track | 1000 m | Men | 1 | Hwang Dae Heon (KOR, 05 Jul 19 | 18-193 | Korea | \%; |
| Short Track | 1000 m | Women | 1 | Choi Minjeong (KOR, 09 Sep 1998) | 19-127 | Korea | \%; |
| Short Track | 1500 m | Men | 1 | Hwang Dae Heon (KOR, 05 Jul 19... | 18-193 | Korea | \%; |
| Short Track | 1500 m | Women | 1 | Choi Minjeong (KOR, 09 Sep 1998) | 19-127 | Korea | ;\% |
| Short Track | 3000 m Relay | Women | 1 | Korea | - | Korea | ;\% |
| Short Track | 5000 m Relay | Men | 1 | Korea | - | Korea | ;\% |
| Skeleton | Individual | Men | 1 | Yun Sungbin (KOR, 23 May 1994) | 23-236 | Korea | \%; |
| Skeleton | Individual | Women | 1 | Jacqueline Lölling (GER, 06 Feb 1... | 22-342 | Germany |  |
| Ski Jumping | Individual - Large Hill | Men | 1 | Kamil Stoch (POL, 25 May 1987) | 30-234 | Poland |  |
| Ski Jumping | Individual - Normal Hill | Men | 1 | Kamil Stoch (POL, 25 May 1987) | 30-234 | Poland |  |
| Ski Jumping | Individual - Normal Hill | Women | 1 | Maren Lundby (NOR, 07 Sep 1994) | 23-129 | Norway | Hity |
| Ski Jumping | Team - Large Hill | Men | 1 | Norway | - | Norway | Hitil |
| Snowboard | Big Air | Men | 1 | Maxence Parrot (CAN, 06 Jun 1994) | 23-222 | Canada | \|*| |
| Snowboard | Big Air | Women | 1 | Anna Gasser (AUT, 16 Aug 1991) | 26-151 | Austria |  |
| Snowboard | Halfpipe | Men | 1 | Scott James (AUS, 06 Jul 1994) | 23-192 | Australia | 8 |
| Snowboard | Halfpipe | Women | 1 | Chloe Kim (USA, 23 Apr 2000) | 17-266 | United States |  |
| Snowboard | Parallel Giant Slalom | Men | 1 | Nevin Galmarini (SUI, 04 Dec 1986) | 31-041 | Switzerland | + |
| Snowboard | Parallel Giant Slalom | Women | 1 | Ester Ledecká (CZE, 23 Mar 1995) | 22-297 | Czech Republic | - |
| Snowboard | Slopestyle | Men | 1 | Chris Corning (USA, 07 Sep 1999) | 18-129 | United States | E |
| Snowboard | Slopestyle | Women | 1 | Jamie Anderson (USA, 13 Sep 1990) | 27-123 | United States | . |
| Snowboard | Snowboard Cross | Men | 1 | Pierre Vaultier (FRA, 24 Jun 1987) | 30-204 | France | 1 |
| Snowboard | Snowboard Cross | Women | 1 | Chloé Trespeuch (FRA, 13 Apr 1994) | 23-276 | France | 1 |
| Speed Skating | 500 m | Men | 1 | Alex Boisvert-Lacroix (CAN, 08 Apr... | 30-281 | Canada | $1+1$ |
| Speed Skating | 500 m | Women | 1 | Nao Kodaira (JPN, 26 May 1986) | 31-233 | Japan | $\bullet$ |
| Speed Skating | 1000 m | Men | 1 | Kai Verbij (NED, 25 Sep 1994) | 23-111 | Netherlands |  |
| Speed Skating | 1000 m | Women | 1 | Miho Takagi (JPN, 22 May 1994) | 23-237 | Japan | $\bullet$ |
| Speed Skating | 1500 m | Men | 1 | Denis Yuskov (RUS, 11 Oct 1989) | 28-095 | Russia |  |
| Speed Skating | 1500 m | Women | 1 | Miho Takagi (JPN, 22 May 1994) | 23-237 | Japan | $\bullet$ |
| Speed Skating | 3000 m | Women | 1 | Miho Takagi (JPN, 22 May 1994) | 23-237 | Japan | $\bullet$ |
| Speed Skating | 5000 m | Men | 1 | Sven Kramer (NED, 23 Apr 1986) | 31-266 | Netherlands |  |
| Speed Skating | 5000 m | Women | 1 | Martina Sáblíková (CZE, 27 May 1... | 30-232 | Czech Republic | - |
| Speed Skating | 10000 m | Men | 1 | Sven Kramer (NED, 23 Apr 1986) | 31-266 | Netherlands |  |
| Speed Skating | Mass Start 16 Laps | Men | 1 | Lee Seung-Hoon (KOR, 06 Mar 19... | 29-314 | Korea | ;0: |
| Speed Skating | Mass Start 16 Laps | Women | 1 | Francesca Lollobrigida (ITA, 07 Fe .. | 26-341 | Italy | 11 |
| Speed Skating | Team Pursuit 6 Laps | Women | 1 | Japan | - | Japan | - |
| Speed Skating | Team Pursuit 8 Laps | Men | 1 | Netherlands | - | Netherlands |  |

## Virłual Medal Table PyeongChang 2018



Netherlands at PyeongChang 2018


Netherlands at PyeongChang 2018


## The Esmee Visser problem



## Competition Mutations <br> Date

Discipli Gender Competition
Women European Single Dist
Rank Person/Team Women Stavanger B Group Esmee Visser (NED, 27 Jan 19


0

## Podium Rankings PyeongChang 2018

- Norway now top ahead of Germany
- Korea look more realistic
- U.S.A. perhaps a bit low

| NOC | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Norway | 15 | 8 | 16 |
| Germany | 14 | 16 | 8 |
| France | 11 | 6 | 8 |
| Korea | 9 | 4 | 4 |
| United States | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| Japan | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| Canada | 5 | 13 | 9 |
| Netherlands | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| Sweden | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| Austria | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| Olympic Athletes from Russia | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| Switzerland | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| China | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Italy | 2 | 5 | 5 |

## PyeongChang 2018 insights

- Top of the medal table looks like a fight between Norway \& Germany
- Canada, France and U.S.A will round off the top-5 medal winners
- Host nation Korea will gain medals from being at home
- Laura Dahlmeier (Germany, Biathlon) to win most medals
- Record number of countries to win medals at a Winter Games


## So how good are these methods?

| Rio 2016 | Virtual Medal Table |  | Podium Rankings |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Prediction | Result | Total | Percentage |  | 114 |
| Gold | Gold | 133 | $43.46 \%$ | $37.13 \%$ |  |
| Medal | Gold | 211 | $68.95 \%$ | 206 | $67.75 \%$ |
| Top-8 | Gold | 269 | $87.91 \%$ |  |  |
| Medal | Medal | 517 | $53.24 \%$ | 520 | $53.44 \%$ |
| Top-8 | Medal | 769 | $79.20 \%$ | 811 | $83.35 \%$ |
| Top-8 | Top-8 | 1601 | $65.56 \%$ | 1651 | $67.44 \%$ |


| Sochi 2014 <br> Prediction | Vesultual Medal Table |  | Total | Percentage | Podium Rankings |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gold | Gold | 30 | $30.61 \%$ |  | 33 |  |
| Medal | Gold | 67 | $68.37 \%$ | $33.33 \%$ |  |  |
| Top-8 | Gold | 88 | $89.80 \%$ |  | $70.71 \%$ |  |
| Medal | Medal | 141 | $47.96 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Top-8 | Medal | 243 | $82.65 \%$ | 246 | $49.49 \%$ |  |
| Top-8 | Top-8 | 494 | $63.01 \%$ | 236 | $80.00 \%$ |  |

## So how good are these methods?

- More accurate than the economic models
- Top of ranking more or less same as reality

- At least as good as expert forecasts


## Most predictable winter sports events

- Figure Skating - Team (89\% of medallists correct)
- Ice Hockey - Women's Team (85\%)
- Snowboard - Women’s Big Air (83\%)
- Cross Country Skiing - Men's Team Sprint (78\%)
- Speed Skating - Women's 3000m (78\%)
- Ice Hockey, Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Skeleton all predictable


## Least predictable winter sports events

- Nordic Combined - Men's Normal Hill/10km (19\% of medallists correct)
- Cross Country Skiing - Men's 50km Classic Style (22\%)
- Cross Country Skiing - Men's Sprint (22\%)
- Speed Skating - Men's Mass Start (22\%)
- Alpine Skiing - Men's Super G (23\%)
- Nordic Combined, Alpine Skiing, Snowboard, Biathlon all unpredictable


## The men's ice hockey problem

## NHL will not participate in 2018 Olympics

League announces no break in 2017-18 schedule for
PyeongChang Games, says 'matter officially closed'
by Dan Rosen @drosennhl / NHL.com Senior Writer
(9) April 4th, 2017 त share


## To summarise

- Results data provides a very good forecast of Olympic medal table
- At individual event level, accuracy still above $50 \%$ for medals
- Sport will always have surprises,
- Some sports are more unpredictable than others
- Allows post-hoc analysis of under- or over-performance
- Forecasts an important part of the debate


## QUESTIONS?

Twitter: @simongleave (@GracenoteGold)

