

Answers to reading check #6

1. What's PECOTA? (You don't have to remember what it stands for; just describe what it is.)

Nate Silver's own computerized statistical rating and prediction system for baseball players.

2. Which of the following aspects of baseball does Silver *not* say is especially difficult to measure and predict?

- hitting (batting)
- defense (fielding)
- pitching
- how minor leaguers will fare in the major leagues

3. In analyzing why scouts didn't recognize the star talent in Dustin Pedroia, Silver explains that our first instinct is often:

- to focus on what's flashy instead of what's fundamental
- to analyze data to death instead of looking at the broader picture
- to only value individuals who act or look noticeably "different" than the norm
- to place information into a small, preset number of categories

4. In the "post-Moneyball era," how would you describe the role and perceived importance of traditional scouting?

It is still extremely important. All the teams – especially the good ones – are combining statistical analysis with traditional scouting reports.

5. Silver talks about innovators "thinking very big" and "thinking very small." What does he say about this?

Good innovators do *both*. New ideas are frequently found at both ends of the spectrum, but rarely found in the middle 99 percent.