

Wolverines Found To Be Dominant Relative to Buckeyes

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ABSTRACT

We present a detailed analysis of the habits of wolverines and buckeyes, concentrating on their interaction histories, eating habits, and pure raw power. Observations spanning 106 years, obtained with OSU-SUCKS, are used to prove with high statistical significance the overall supremacy of wolverines with respect to buckeyes. We therefore confidently predict a wolverine victory on their next encounter scheduled for 2003 November 22.

Subject headings: animals:wolverines—nuts:buckeyes

1. Introduction

The largest terrestrial member of the family Mustelidae, the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*; see Figure 1) has a somewhat bear-like appearance while retaining the speed and agility of a smaller animal. The wolverine has a powerful frame ideally adapted for surviving harsh winters. With robust skull and jaw muscles, and an impressive array of 38 teeth, this animal can thrive even on frozen meat and bone. The wolverine is an extremely opportunistic hunter and is known to attack every animal, with the possible exception of humans (www.wolverinefoundation.org). The wolverine is primarily a carnivore and has been observed to take prey as large as caribou. However, Banci (1987) found that wolverines incidentally ingest foliage due to the frenzied nature of their feeding habits.

A buckeye is a nut.¹ See Figure 2.

2. Observations

All data for this project were obtained with OSU-SUCKS (Observer of Sports Under Scientific Ultimately Controlled Kinetic Situations) between

¹While the high tannic acid content of the buckeye is poisonous to some animals (www.luckymojo.com/buckeyes.html), it is easily compensated by the robust and efficient function of the wolverine digestive system (www.nps.gov).



Fig. 1.— A wolverine.



Fig. 2.— A buckeye. 'Nuff said.

epochs	wolverines (wins)	buckeyes (wins)	null
all	56	36	6
1993–2002	6	4	0

Table 1: Wolverines v. Buckeyes, complete results.

1897 and 2003. Data reduction was performed in the usual way, using the BEERAF² and SExtractor data reduction packages. Results are summarized in Table 1, which shows that after 99 epochs of observation, the wolverine has been found to be dominant to the buckeye.

3. Discussion & Conclusions

In the wild, a wolverine consumes at least 6.8×10^2 g day⁻¹ of food (Detroit Zoo, private communication). Assuming a constant rate of consumption, this leads to a rate of 1.0 buckeye hr⁻¹. Given an equal number of wolverines and buckeyes in the sample gridiron, on average the wolverines will completely deplete the supply of buckeyes and be victorious after one hour of observation. This prediction is supported by past results, which establish the wolverine advantage at nearly the 3- σ level. Additionally, wolverines can travel 20 mi day⁻¹. Buckeyes are sedentary—unless, of course, they are contained in the stomach of a wolverine. Our current analysis, along with previous results, allow us to predict confidently a wolverine victory in the next encounter.

Future work is to be completed with OSU-SUCKS2, to be deployed 2003 November 22 from Ann Arbor, and yearly on approximately the same date for the next 100 yr.

References

Banci, V. A. 1987. Ecology and behavior of wolverine in Yukon. M.S. Thesis, Univ. British Columbia, Vancouver. 178pp.

²BEERAF, the Buckeye Eating Experimental Reduction and Analysis Facility, is distributed by the University of Michigan.