

ABSTRACT

THE BETTER-THAN-AVERAGE EFFECT AND THE IMPACT OF OBJECTIVE INFORMATION: A FIELD STUDY WITH YOUTH BASEBALL PLAYERS

Research on the better-than-average effect (BTA) indicates that people tend to hold overly optimistic views of their abilities. Prior studies show that participants may be more accurate in their assessments of performance if clear objective information is provided. In the sport of baseball, players receive frequent objective information regarding their performance. This study investigated the relationship between objective feedback and the BTA effect among 45 youth baseball players. It was predicted that players would rate themselves as less skilled on items associated with more objective information and as more skilled on items associated with less objective information. Results indicated there was an overall BTA effect but, as predicted, the BTA effect was diminished on items associated with more objective information.

Joseph Allen Gerber
May 2006