

Cody Hurtado, Joe Stephen & Ben Finley  
*Spiral Effect*

The question guiding the investigation was how much a spiral on a football would affect the distance of the throw. It was decided that the answer to this question would be of interest to football coaches and athletes wishing to be better quarterbacks. It is hypothesized that when a football is thrown in a tight spiral pattern, due to less friction, the football should travel much farther. Quarterback ratings of different NFL athletes were also compared to help support this hypothesis. Actual testing occurred on a football field, on a calm day to reduce other possible variables, and repeated numerous times to generate a valid data set. In conclusion, it was determined that a football thrown in a tight spiral travels 13.4 yards further than a nonspiral. It was understood that different people have the ability to throw different distances, but despite this difference, the path a football takes is significant to the distance generated.