REVOLUTIONIZING BODYBUILDING COMPETITIONS WITH ELO RATINGS

JESSICA DE SILVA & ANDREI PROKHOROV

PROJECT GOAL

Create a metric that can be used to predict the outcome of professional bodybuilding competitions.





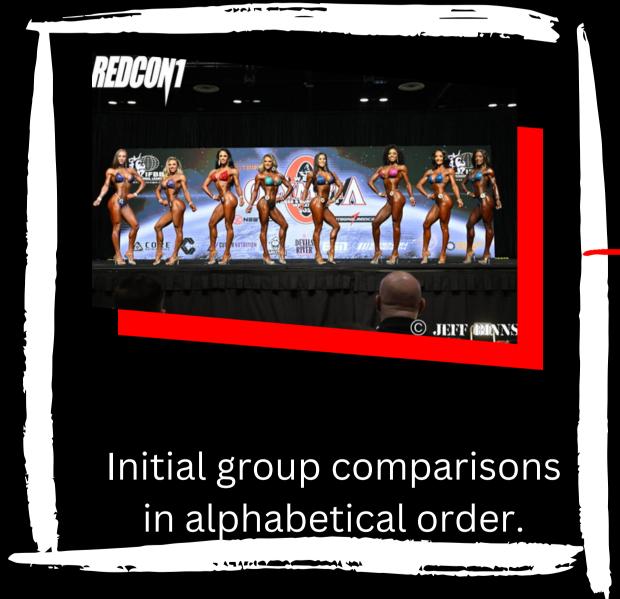






BUSINESS CASE

In 2023, there were **43** occurrences of at least 30 competitors in the same class.





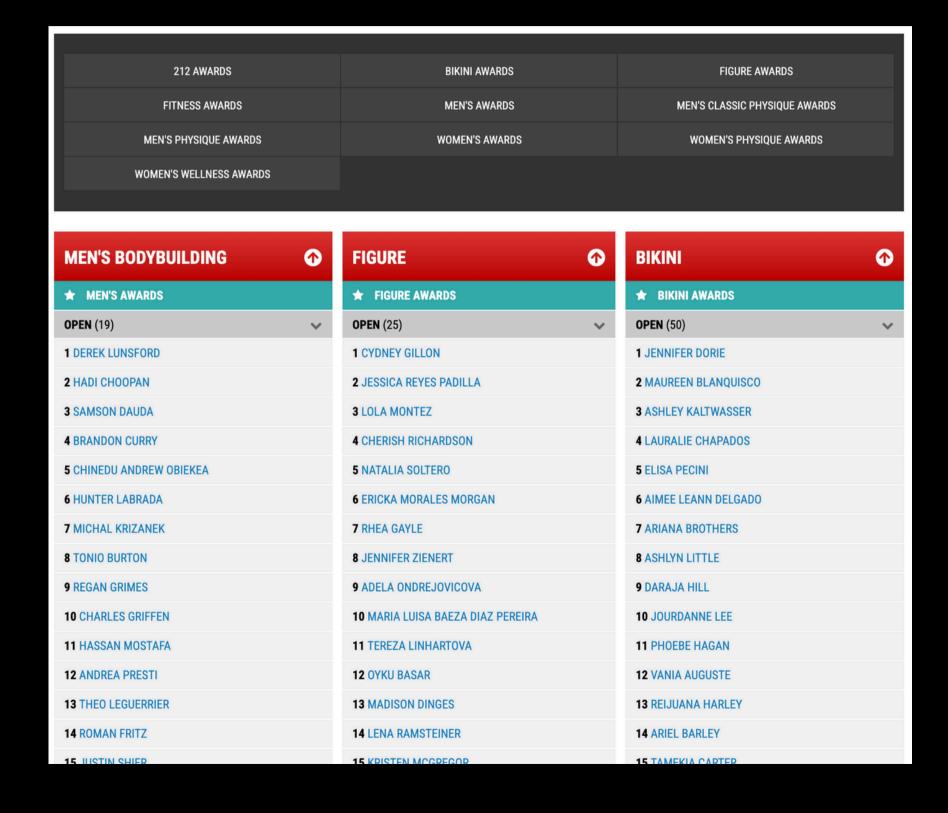


Individual Routine

Final group comparisons in preliminary rank order.

Our ranking can be used as a substitute for initial group comparisons.

DATA COLLECTION



Amateur and professional contest results were scraped from NPC News Online dating back to 2012.

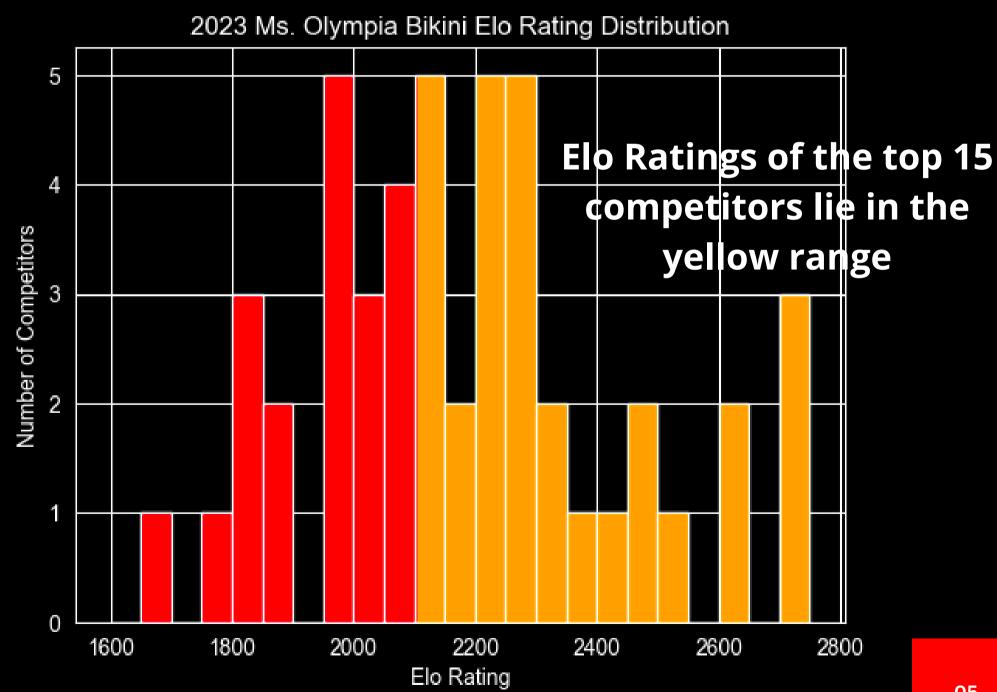
4,086 contests
214,314 competitors
783,708 contest entries

The Elo Rating of a competitor is a numerical value measuring their competitiveness.

Each new amateur competitor is 01 assigned an initial Elo Rating of 1500.

Before each competition, the probability 02 that one competitor will rank higher than another is calculated according to their Elo Ratings.

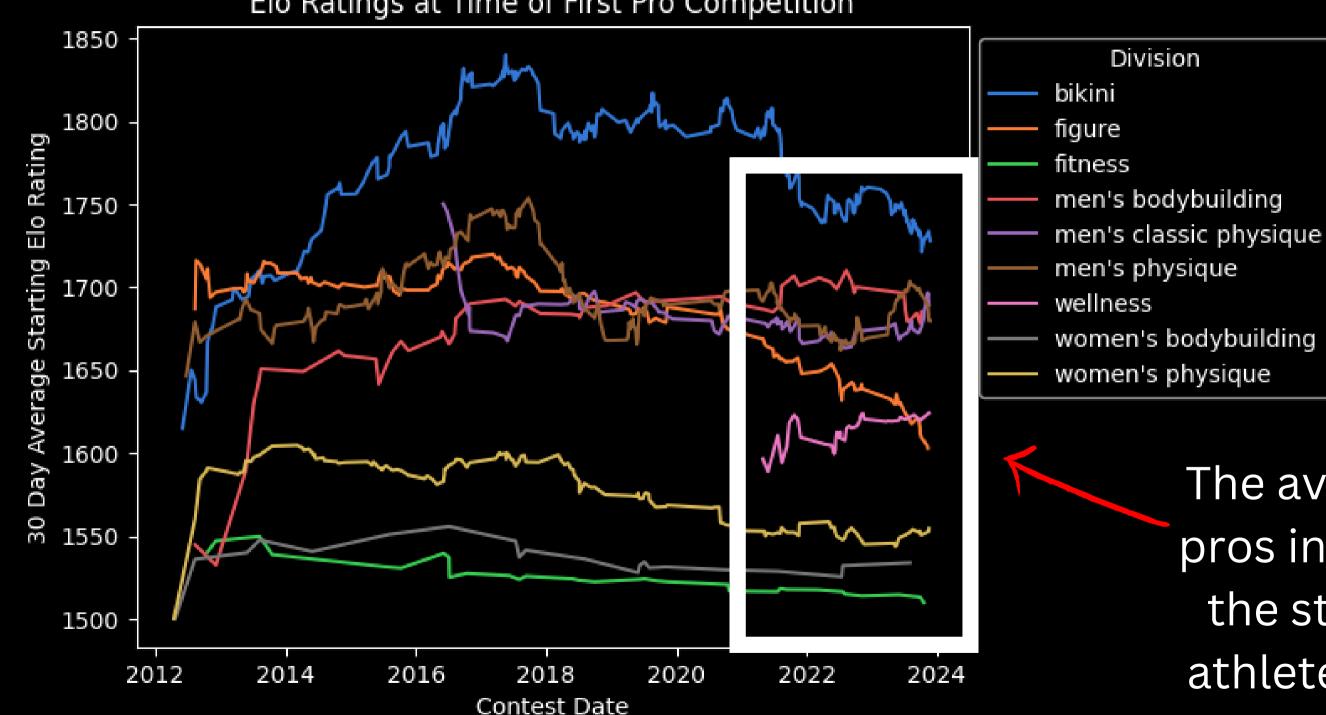
After the competition, each competitor's 03 Elo Rating is updated based on the actual outcome and prior probability.



Starting Elo Rating for Pros

Division





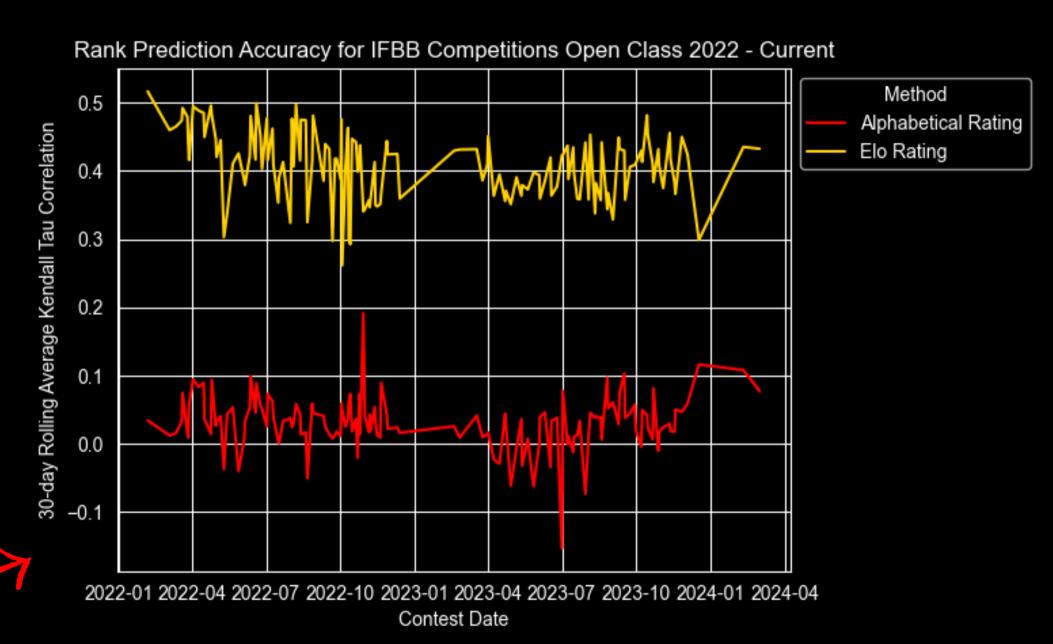
The average Elo Rating for new pros in each division is used for the starting Elo Rating of pro athletes with no amateur data.

PREDICTION ACCURACY

Kendall Tau Correlation Coefficient measures the similarity between predicted and actual rankings.

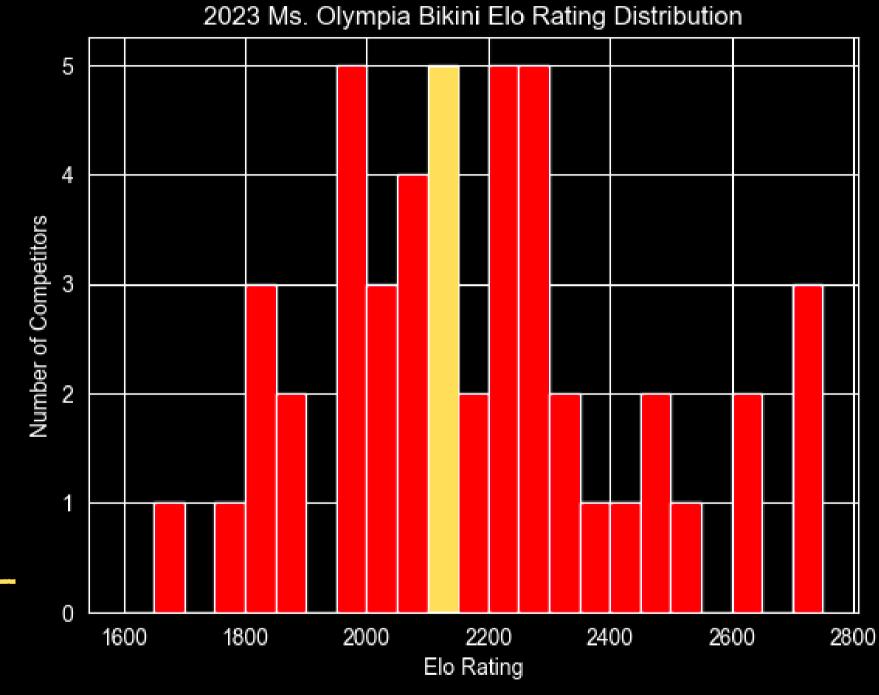
The measurement is based on the number of **inversions** required to obtain one ranking from another.

Rankings from Elo Ratings require much fewer inversions than alphabetical ordering.



MR. OLYMPIA OBSERVATIONS

Competitor Name	Placing	Elo Rating	Elo Rank
Jennifer Dorie	1	2733	1
Maureen Blanquisco	2	2639	4
Ashley Kaltwasser	3	2708	3
Lauralie Chapados	4	2708	2
Elisa Pecini	5	2615	5
Aimee Leann Delgado	6	2491	7
Ariana Brothers	7	2133	25
Ashlyn Little	8	2323	12
Daraja Hill	9	2542	6
Jourdanne Lee	10	2408	9



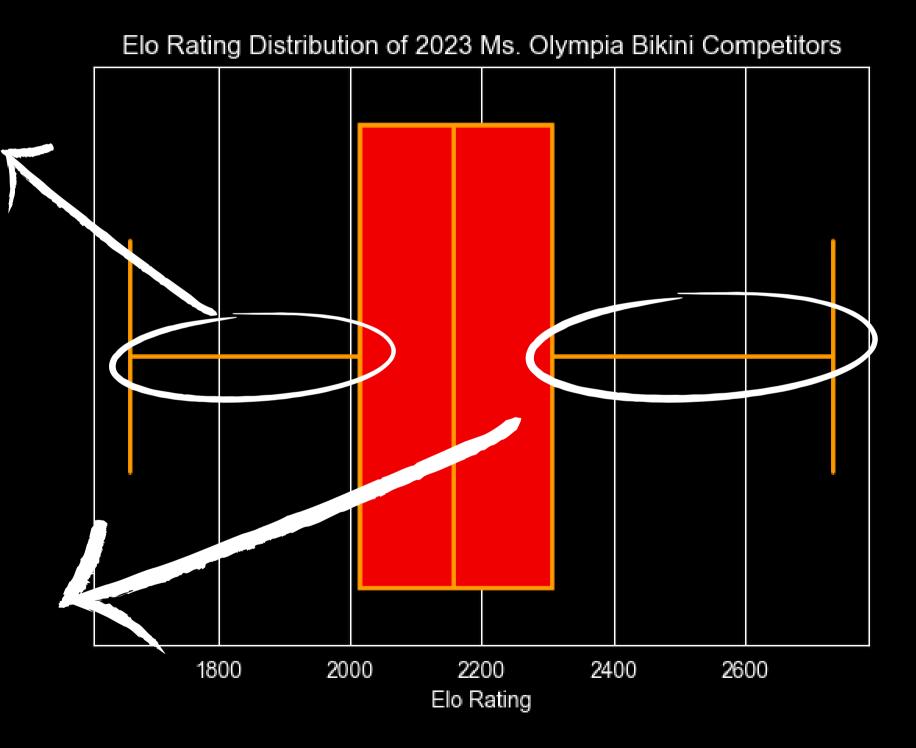
Ariana came back in 2023 after a 3-year off-season.

Elo Ratings do not favor long off-seasons,
although these typically benefit competitors.

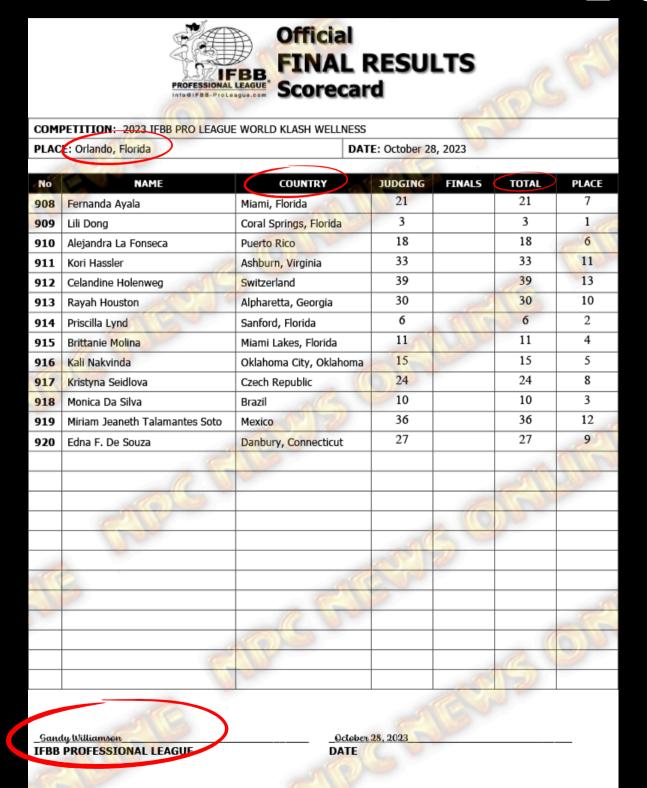
MR. OLYMPIA OBSERVATIONS

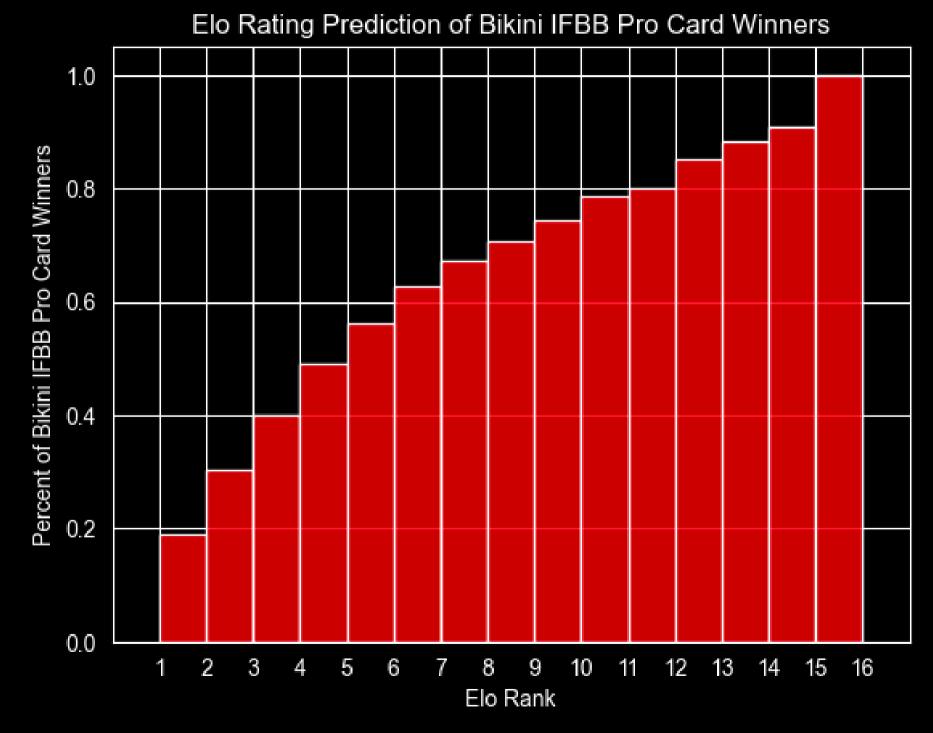
All lower quartile bikini competitors ranked 16 and qualified by winning a show outside of the United States.

10 of the 12 upper quartile bikini competitors ranked in the top 11 and all 12 qualified by winning a show **in the United States**.



FUTURE WORK





Improve Predictions of Pro Card Winners

OCR methods on Scorecards



THE ERDŐS INSTITUTE

Helping PhDs get jobs they love. Helping you hire the PhDs you need.

Project Mentor: Aniket Joshi