

# Yang Hyun-jong End of Season Report

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# Introduction

Vitals	Pitch Type	Avg MPH	Usg%
Throws: LHP	4-Seam	89.5	57.4%
Age: 32	Slider	80.8	20.2%
DOB: 03/01/1988	Changeup	81.1	17.3%
Height: 6' 0"	Curveball	75.6	5.1%
Weight: 200 lbs			

Yang Hyun-jong (also goes by Yang Hyeon-jong) is one of the most tenured and decorated starting pitchers in KBO history and is reportedly interested in making the jump to MLB after the 2020 season. Yang was posted for the first time back after the 2014 season, but the Kia Tigers rejected the highest bid, and he remained with the club. With 14-years of time in the KBO, Yang is exempt from international signing restrictions and can pursue any MLB contract. In 2020, Yang showed his potential multiple times but also had outings where he came apart the third time through the lineup.

He has been an incredible workhorse for the Tigers over his 14-year career, averaging 184.1 IP over the last seven seasons. From the left side of the mound, Yang throws four different pitches: a 4-seam fastball, a sweeping slider, a changeup that is effective against right-handed hitters, and a curveball. Yang has struck hitters out at a decent rate over the last few seasons, but his strength is limiting hard contact from hitters.

His 2020 season was up-and-down at times, but his slider and changeup both performed well, and there's significant room for Yang to throw those pitches more and decrease his fastball usage. It's far too easy a comparison, but I believe that Yang could be successful in a role similar to that of Kwang Hyun-kim, although I think the swing and miss potential is higher for Yang, given how his slider and changeup performed this season in the KBO. Yang's rocky 2020 showing may scare some people off, but there's room for improvement and a path back to his 2019 success.

I'd like to see Yang consistently work away from hitters with his 4-seam fastball, working down in the zone against ground ball hitters and up when trying to induce pop-ups against fly-ball hitters. He'd also benefit from an increase in slider and changeup usage, especially incorporating more changeups against LHH while his slider can be effective in the dirt against RHH. Such an increase would decrease his reliance on his 4-seam fastball which is a below-average offering.

There's a path for Yang to be successful in MLB with his above-average changeup and decent slider if he can consistently locate his fastball. He has back-end of the rotation MLB potential as an inning-eater and has been remarkably healthy throughout his career. Yang's interest in making the jump to MLB is high and money is reportedly not an issue.

# Stats and Graphics

Table 2: Stats from FanGraphs Yang Hyun-jong

Season	Team	IP	K%	BB%	K-BB%	AVG	WHIP	BABIP	LOB%	ERA	FIP
2007	Tigers	49.2	22.1%	14.3%	7.8%	0.212	1.41	0.248	77.2%	4.17	4.67
2008	Tigers	75.2	16.5%	14.1%	2.4%	0.265	1.65	0.316	64.0%	5.83	4.27
2009	Tigers	148.2	22.2%	9.3%	12.9%	0.235	1.28	0.287	79.6%	3.15	3.71
2010	Tigers	169.1	19.4%	13.1%	6.3%	0.262	1.58	0.327	72.6%	4.25	4.07
2011	Tigers	106.1	15.0%	14.0%	1.0%	0.277	1.74	0.318	65.2%	6.18	4.94
2012	Tigers	41.0	12.9%	15.4%	-2.5%	0.307	2.00	0.350	74.6%	5.05	5.31
2013	Tigers	104.2	21.4%	9.7%	11.7%	0.251	1.36	0.308	82.1%	3.10	4.19
2014	Tigers	171.1	22.5%	10.5%	12.0%	0.249	1.39	0.316	69.8%	4.25	4.18
2015	Tigers	184.1	20.8%	10.3%	10.4%	0.224	1.24	0.266	87.2%	2.44	4.52
2016	Tigers	200.1	17.2%	9.1%	8.1%	0.248	1.34	0.284	71.5%	3.68	4.72
2017	Tigers	193.1	19.6%	5.6%	14.0%	0.274	1.31	0.327	72.1%	3.44	3.90
2018	Tigers	184.1	19.7%	5.6%	14.1%	0.274	1.31	0.321	72.7%	4.15	4.36
2019	Tigers	184.2	22.3%	4.5%	17.8%	0.237	1.07	0.302	75.2%	2.29	2.59
2020	Tigers	172.1	20.0%	8.6%	11.4%	0.266	1.42	0.324	65.0%	4.70	3.96

Pitch locations for Yang Hyun-jong. Data for pitches from starts was manually charted from ESPN/Twitch broadcasts.

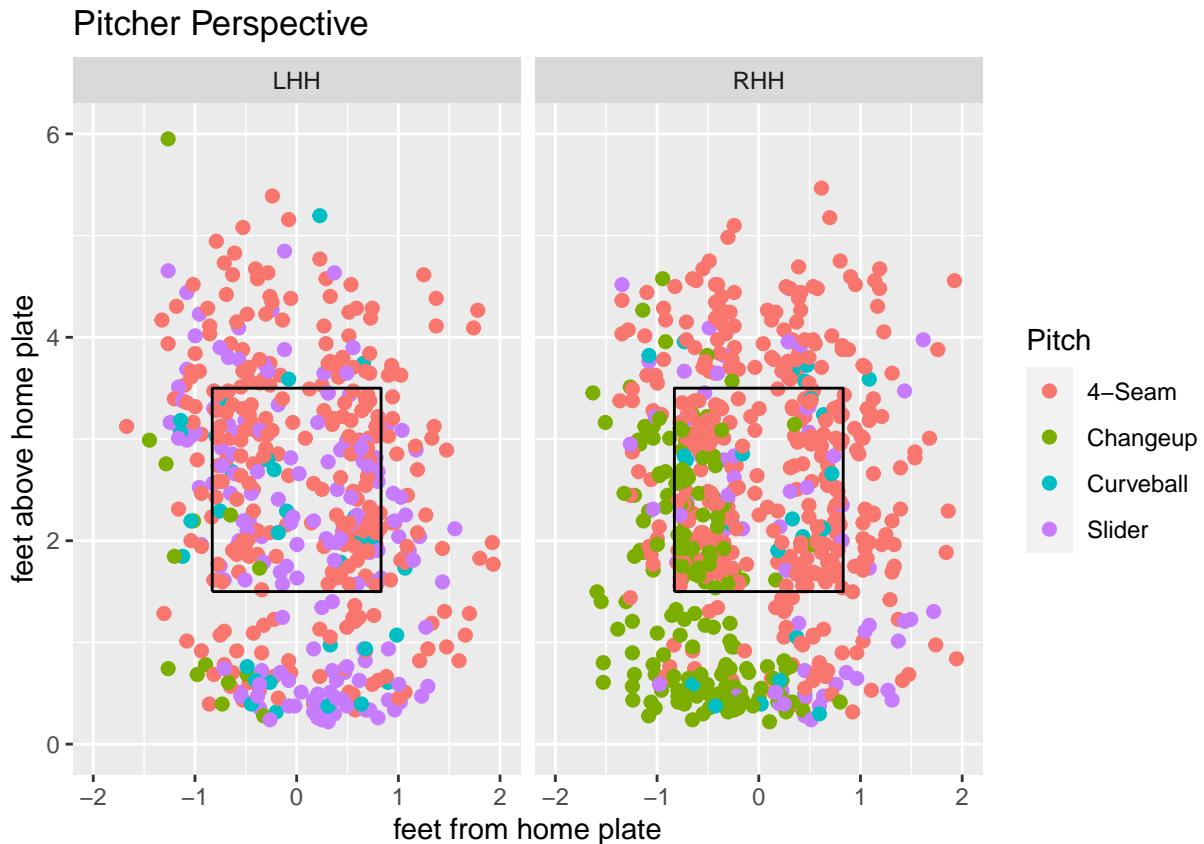


Table 3: Overall Charted Stats for Yang Hyun-jong

Pitcher	Pitches	wOBA	xwOBA	xwOBACON	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%
Yang	1178	0.309	0.327	0.348	26.0	10.4	21.8	15.5	48	78.2
KBO	28058	0.338	0.340	0.363	27.5	10.3	22.0	17.2	47	78.0

Table 4: Overall Charted Batted Ball Event Data for Yang Hyun-jong

Pitcher	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	Medium%	Hard%	Pull%	Straight%	Oppo%
Yang	214	45.3	26.6	17.3	10.7	38.3	38.8	22.9	34.1	44.9	21.0
KBO		51.2	26.4	13.7	8.7	30.3	40.6	29.0	34.3	42.7	23.1

### Yang Hyun-jong Velocity Distribution

4-Seam ~ 89.5, Slider ~ 80.8, Changeup ~ 81.1, Curveball ~ 75.6

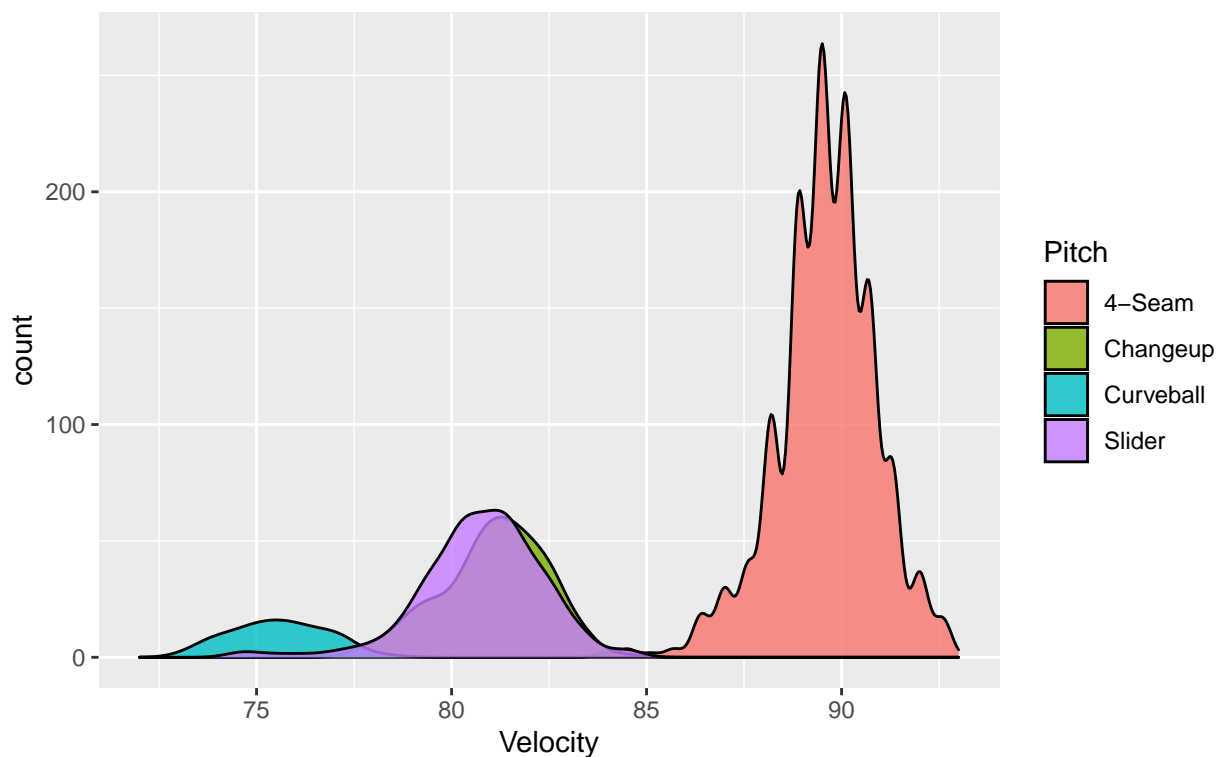


Table 5: Yang Hyun-jong Pitch Usage by Batter Handedness

Bats	Pitches	4-Seam%	Slider%	Changeup%	Curveball%
RHH	665	57.0	10.5	28.6	3.9
LHH	513	57.9	32.7	2.7	6.6

Table 6: Pitch Type Charted Stats for Yang Hyun-jong

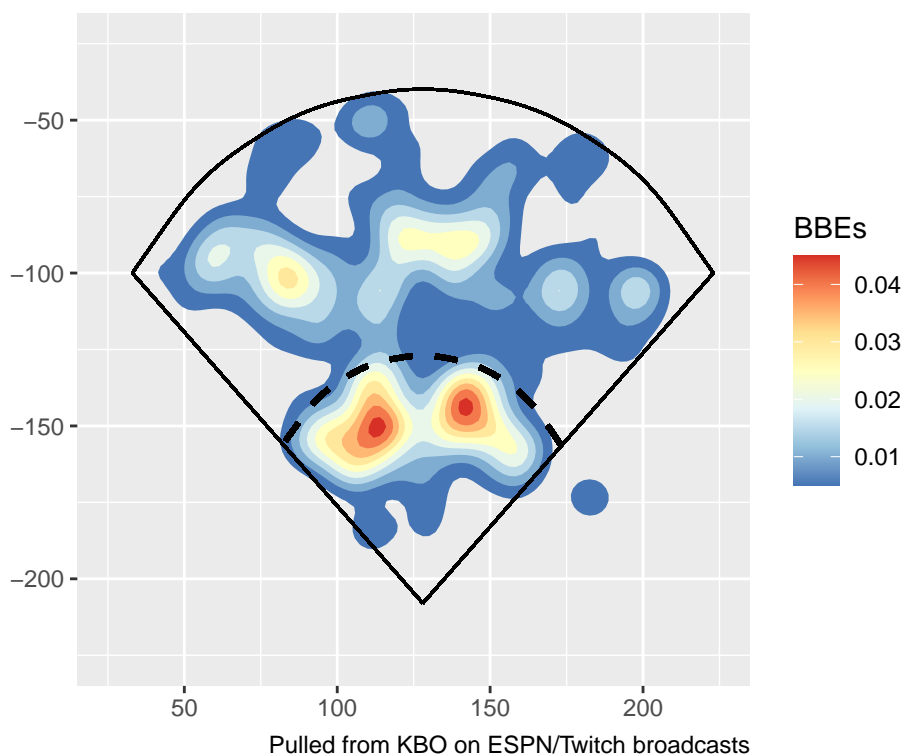
Pitch	Velo	Usg %	Pitches	wOBA	xwOBA	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%
4-Seam	89.5	57.4	676	0.348	0.368	22.3	7.7	15.4	14.6	50.0	84.6
Slider	80.8	20.2	238	0.265	0.327	33.2	11.8	28.6	21.4	41.2	71.4
Changeup	81.1	17.3	204	0.278	0.250	29.4	18.1	35.9	11.3	50.5	64.1
Curveball	75.6	5.1	60	0.214	0.227	26.7	10.0	23.1	16.7	43.3	76.9

Table 7: Pitch Type Charted Batted Ball Data for Yang Hyun-jong

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	xwOBACON	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	Med%	Hard%
4-Seam	89.5	57.4	0.369	121	34.7	33.9	17.4	14.0	30.6	40.5	28.9
Changeup	81.1	17.3	0.307	44	70.5	11.4	15.9	2.3	52.3	36.4	11.4
Slider	80.8	20.2	0.351	37	45.9	27.0	16.2	10.8	35.1	40.5	24.3
Curveball	75.6	5.1	0.278	12	58.3	8.3	25.0	8.3	75.0	25.0	0.0

Yang Hyun-jong Charted BBE Plot

Data for charted BBEs from ~ 9/03 to Present



Yang Hyun-jong, a 32-year-old LHP, has pitched for the KIA Tigers since his KBO debut back in 2007 and a total of 2,013 IP in the KBO. He's won two Korean Series titles with the Tigers, in 2009 and in 2017 when he won KBO MVP, the Korean Series, and the Korean Series MVP, as well as the unofficial Cy Young award of the KBO, the Choi Dong-won award (which he also won in 2014).

In 2020, Yang threw 172.1 IP with an unsightly 4.70 ERA and a (much better) FIP of 3.96 that ranked 9th in the KBO. Yang had a rough start to the beginning of the season before performing well in the middle of the season before two poor outings in his last two starts. His ERA is inflated due to the poor defense of the KIA Tigers; of their four main starters (Yang, Aaron Brooks, Drew Gagnon, and Im Ki-young), Brooks

was the only one to post an ERA that was better than his FIP, with a 2.50 ERA and 2.67 FIP thanks to his excellent contact killing skills. Yang, Gagnon, and Im had ERA-FIP differentials of 0.74, 0.65, and 1.09. The KIA defense, particularly the infield, struggled to field grounders consistently and make heads up plays. This resulted in more runners on base and longer innings for Yang, which was not conducive to his efficiency, and he ended up posting the lowest LOB% of his career since 2008 at 65% versus being above 71% for the last few seasons.

Yang also recorded one of the highest BABIPs and AVG allowed of his career, at 0.324 and 0.266, marks that I again believe were inflated by a poor defense behind him. Of course, not all of this was the defense's fault, and Yang was not his own best friend on the mound in 2020. His BB% of 8.6% was the highest it's been since 2016, and his 1.42 WHIP was his highest since 2012. However, he also posted a 20% K% that ranked 9th in the KBO and was in line with his 2019 mark of 22.3% through much of the season.

At times, Yang struggled to locate his 4-seam fastball for called strikes this season. His overall Called Strike + Whiff % (CSW%) of 26% was just below the tracked KBO average of 27.5%. However, his SwStr% of 10.4% was barely above average, while his Called Strike % (CS%) was just 15.5%, below the tracked average of 17.2%. His 4-seam's CS% of 14.6% hurt him as the inability to get calls on the edge of the strike zone kept setting him behind in the count.

Yang set himself apart with his ability to limit hard contact in 2020. His wOBA allowed of 0.309 was the 7th-lowest among qualified starting pitchers, and his xwOBA of 0.327 was the 9th-lowest. His xwOBACON, a measure of his batted ball profile, was 0.348, the 8th-lowest mark in the KBO. How Yang got there is an interesting question. His GB% of 45.3% was lower than the tracked KBO average of 51.2%, and he allowed a 17.3% LD%, a few points higher than the charted average of 13.7%. Interestingly, Yang's pop-up% (PU%) of 10.7% was also higher than the tracked average and the 6th-highest in the KBO.

However, Yang Hyun-jong's soft-hit% of 38.3% ranked third-overall in the KBO this season, and his hard-hit% of 22.9% was the fourth-lowest in the KBO. Maybe it's a cliché, but Yang knows how to pitch against different kinds of hitters, whether it's hunting pop-ups against high FB% guys or weaker ground balls against hitters oriented that way. A lot of Yang's batted balls stayed on the infield (which is great when your infielders can be relied on to make plays), while most of his fly balls allowed went to left or center field.

Table 8: Yang Hyun-jong Pitch Usage by Count vs RHH

Side	Count	Pitches	4-Seam%	Slider%	Changeup%	Curveball%
RHH	00	177	58.8	10.2	28.8	2.3
RHH	01	77	58.4	7.8	23.4	10.4
RHH	02	42	59.5	7.1	33.3	0.0
RHH	10	76	56.6	7.9	34.2	1.3
RHH	11	65	61.5	18.5	13.8	6.2
RHH	12	68	51.5	14.7	25.0	8.8
RHH	20	25	72.0	4.0	24.0	0.0
RHH	21	30	60.0	6.7	33.3	0.0
RHH	22	55	47.3	9.1	40.0	3.6
RHH	30	7	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RHH	31	14	57.1	7.1	35.7	0.0
RHH	32	29	34.5	20.7	41.4	3.4

Table 9: Yang Hyun-jong Pitch Usage by Count vs LHH

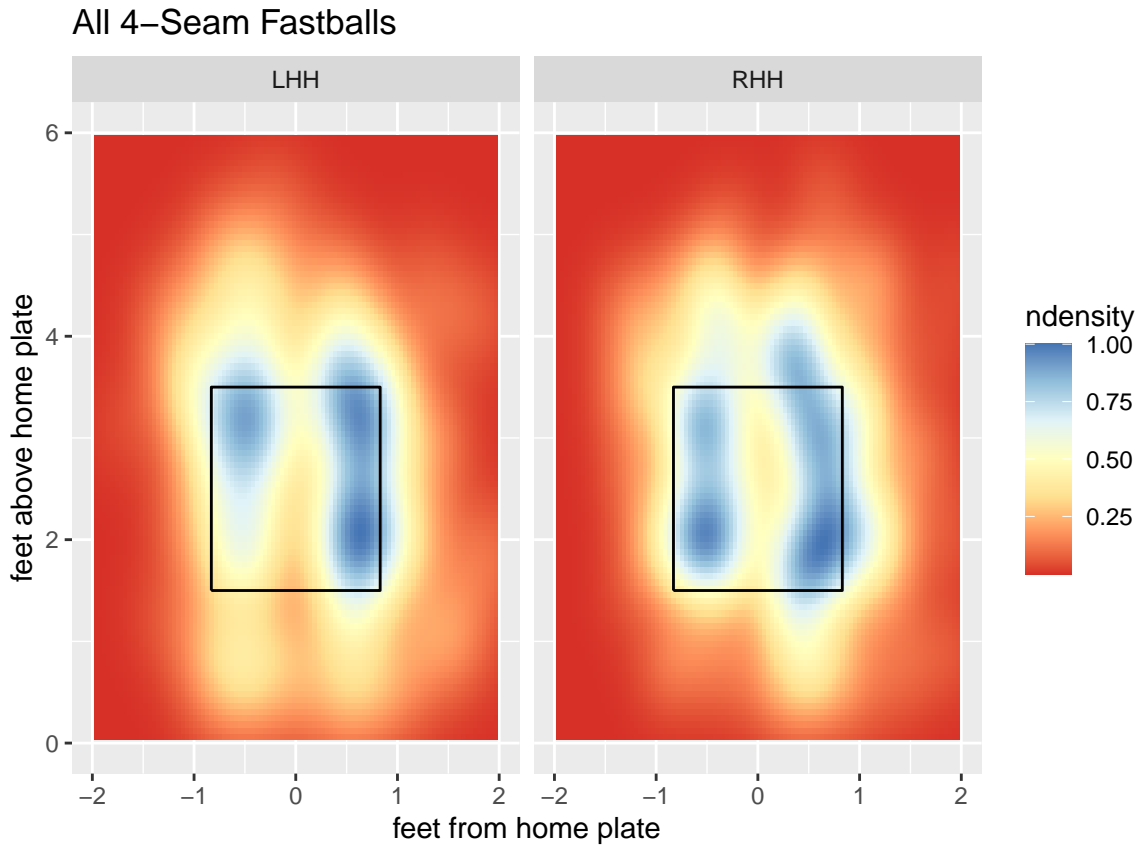
Side	Count	Pitches	4-Seam%	Slider%	Changeup%	Curveball%
LHH	00	125	64.8	28.0	3.2	4.0
LHH	01	64	56.2	31.2	3.1	9.4
LHH	02	27	51.9	33.3	3.7	11.1
LHH	10	51	58.8	39.2	0.0	2.0
LHH	11	54	51.9	37.0	3.7	7.4
LHH	12	52	57.7	21.2	1.9	19.2
LHH	20	18	77.8	16.7	0.0	5.6
LHH	21	28	42.9	57.1	0.0	0.0
LHH	22	50	46.0	40.0	6.0	8.0
LHH	30	7	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LHH	31	14	64.3	35.7	0.0	0.0
LHH	32	23	56.5	39.1	4.3	0.0

Yang threw four different pitches throughout the season. His 4-seam fastball is his most frequently used pitch, with an overall usage% of 57.4% and averaging about 89.5 mph. He throws it against both LHH and RHH, using it 57.9% and 57% of the time. His velocity is on the low end of the MLB spectrum, and I'd want to see what his the rest of his fastball characteristics, his spin rate, spin efficiency, tilt, and movement, look like before passing judgment on his 4-seam's ability to be an MLB pitch. For what it's worth, his compatriots, Kwang Hyun-kim and Ryu Hyun-jin, both have 4-seam velocities around 89-90 mph and below-average FB spin.

Yang's secondary pitches are his best. He throws his slider around 20.2% of the time at about 80.8 mph. Both of his secondaries have big LHH/RHH splits, with his slider accounting for 32.7% of his pitches against LHH versus just 10.5% against RHH. His changeup has an even more drastic split, with a 28.6% usage against RHH versus a 2.7% usage against LHH. He throws his changeup around 81.1 mph and a 17.3% of the time. Yang also throws a rare curveball around 75.6 mph and a 5% usage, split 6.6% against RHH and 3.9% against LHH.

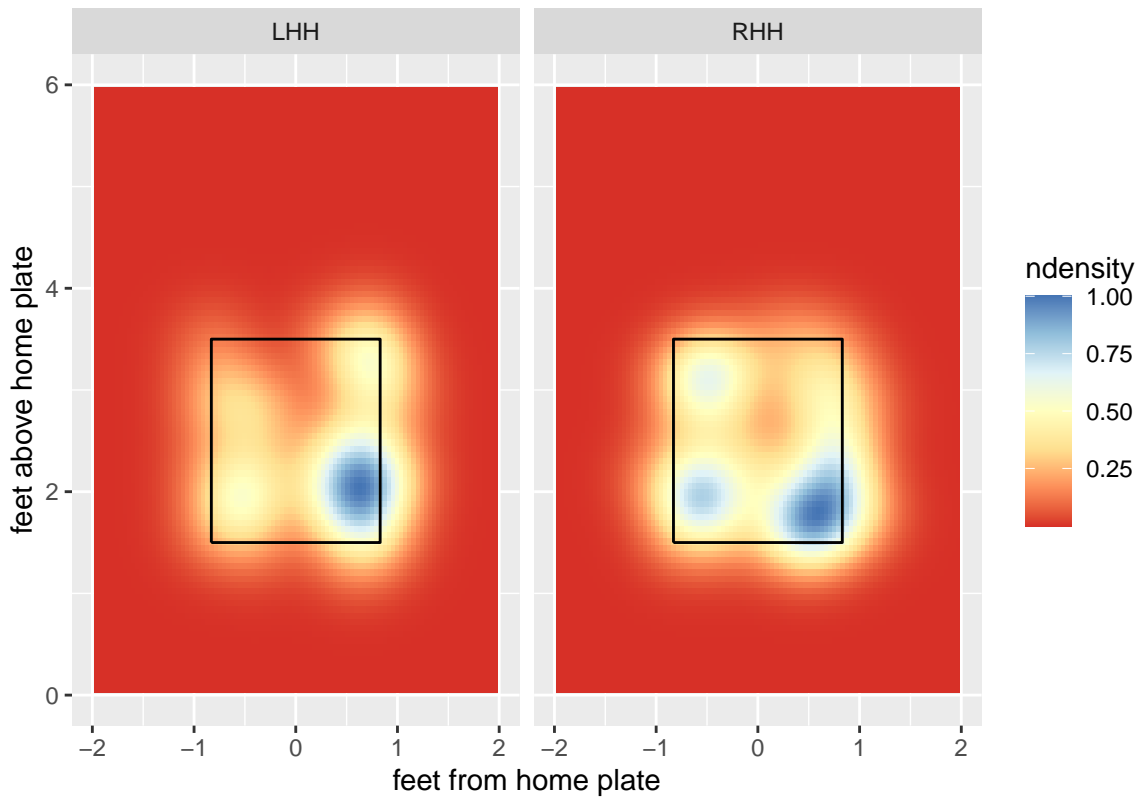
Over the last 14 seasons, Yang Hyun-jong has put together a remarkable career in the KBO with an MVP, two Choi Dong-won awards, and a pair of Korean Series titles. He ranks 5th overall on the KBO's all-time strikeout list and 4th on the all-time win list. Some of his best performances this season included a late-season 8 IP shutout of the LG Twins as KIA fought to keep their playoff hopes alive and a 7.1 IP gem against the Lotte Giants where he lost a perfect game with two outs in the 6th on a weak dribbler to the 9-hole hitter. On days like that, it was easy to see MLB potential in Yang, but the question is whether or not he can be reliable and consistent.

# Yang Hyun-jong 4-Seam Fastball

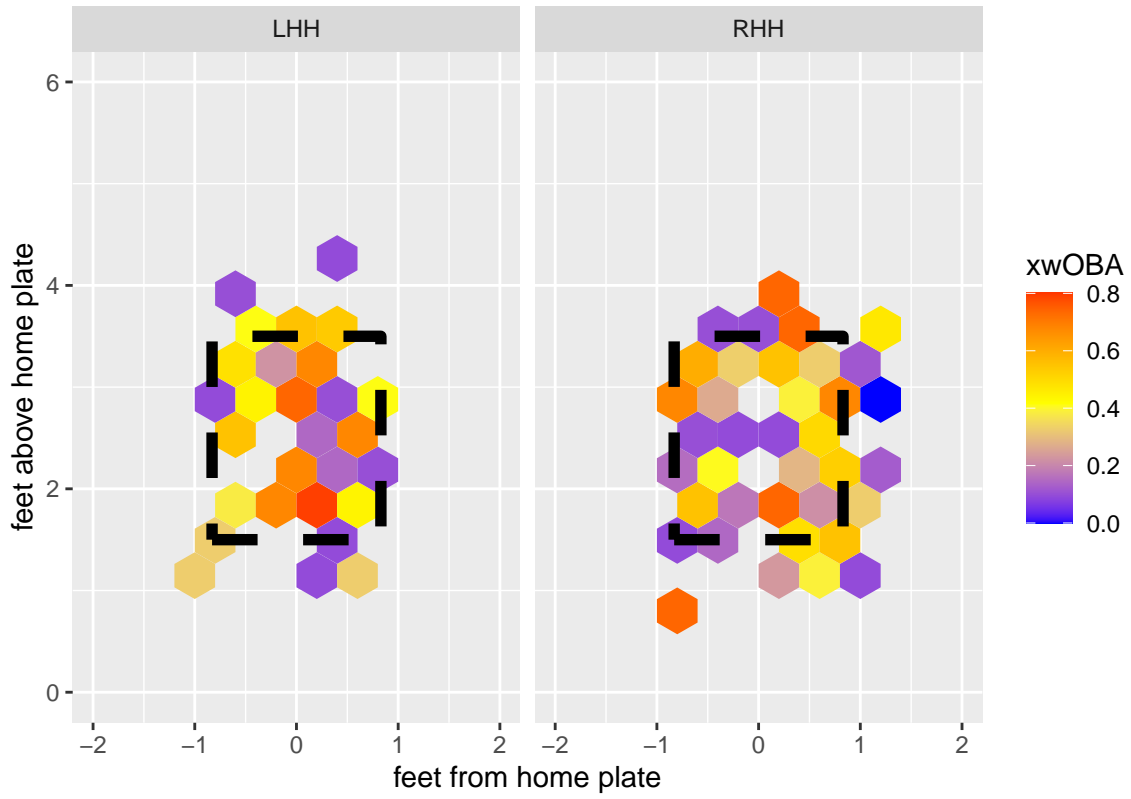




### Called Strikes



### xwOBA on Balls in Play by Pitch Location



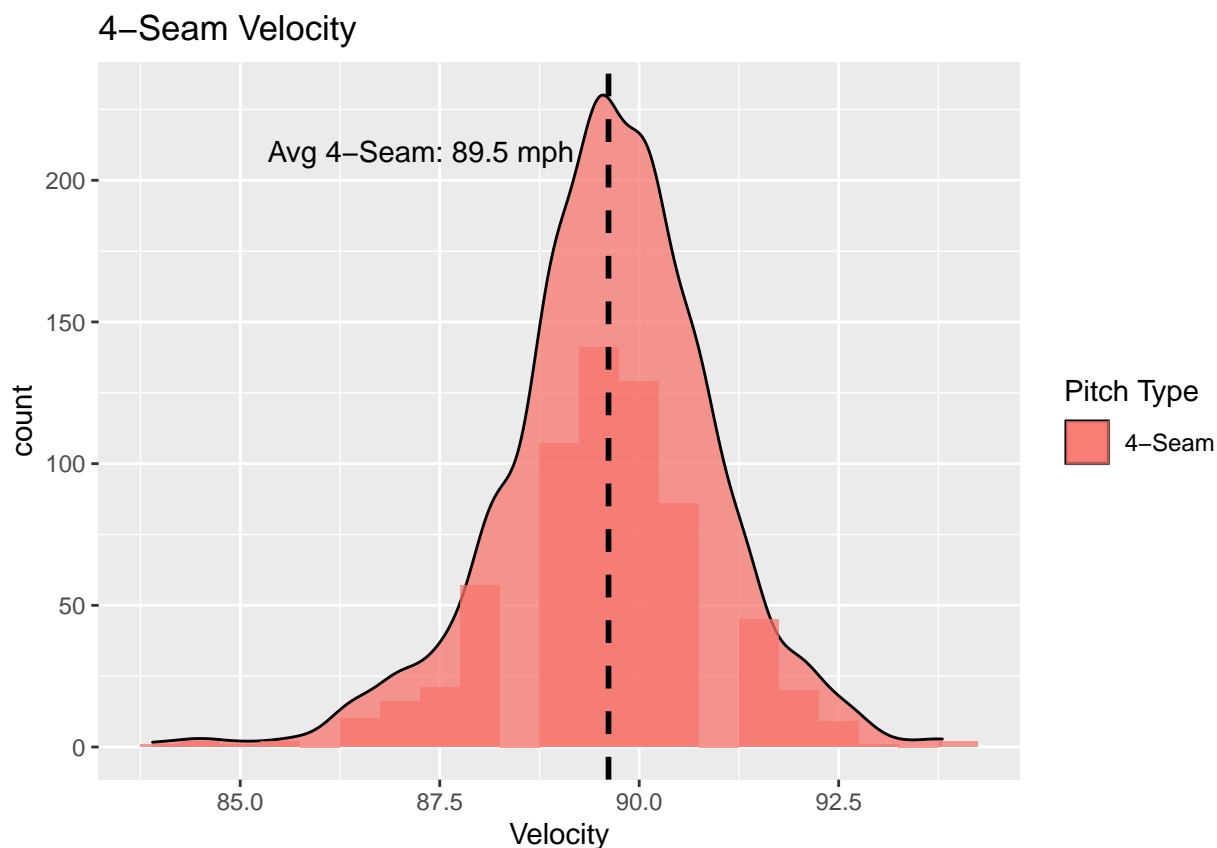


Table 10: Yang Hyun-jong 4-Seam Stats

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	wOBA	xwOBA	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%
4-Seam	89.5	57.4	0.348	0.368	22.3	7.7	15.4	14.6	50	84.6

Table 11: 4-Seam Stats by Batter Handedness

Bats	Usg%	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%	Strike%
LHH	57.9	25.6	9.8	20.7	15.8	47.1	79.3	63.0
RHH	57.0	19.8	6.1	11.7	13.7	51.7	88.3	65.4

Table 12: Yang Hyun-jong 4-Seam BBEs

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	xwOBACON	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	Med%	Hard%
4-Seam	89.5	57.4	0.369	121	34.7	33.9	17.4	14	30.6	40.5	28.9

Yang Hyun-jong is incredibly reliant on his fastball, throwing it about 57.4% of the time against KBO hitters in 2020. It averaged 89.5 mph this season, occasionally touching 91-92 as he threw it equally against RHH and LHH. Yang primarily located his fastball on the edges of the zone, both inside and outside against hitters. His swings and misses on the 4-seam came up in the zone, while he worked more down in the zone for called strikes.

However, his fastball was sometimes erratic and not consistently effective. His 4-seam CSW% of 22.3% was the 6th-lowest among qualified 4-seamers in 2020. He had a low CS% of 14.6% as he failed to get many favorable calls on close pitches over the season. However, his 4-seam's swing-and-miss numbers kept the pitch somewhat effective. His 4-seam Swtr% of 7.7% was the 5th-best in the KBO, but I think that it's fair to wonder if that would translate to MLB with his below-average velocity of 89.5 mph. If he's a high-spin/movement guy, there's more wiggle room there, but that's not something I'm able to glean from the broadcast.

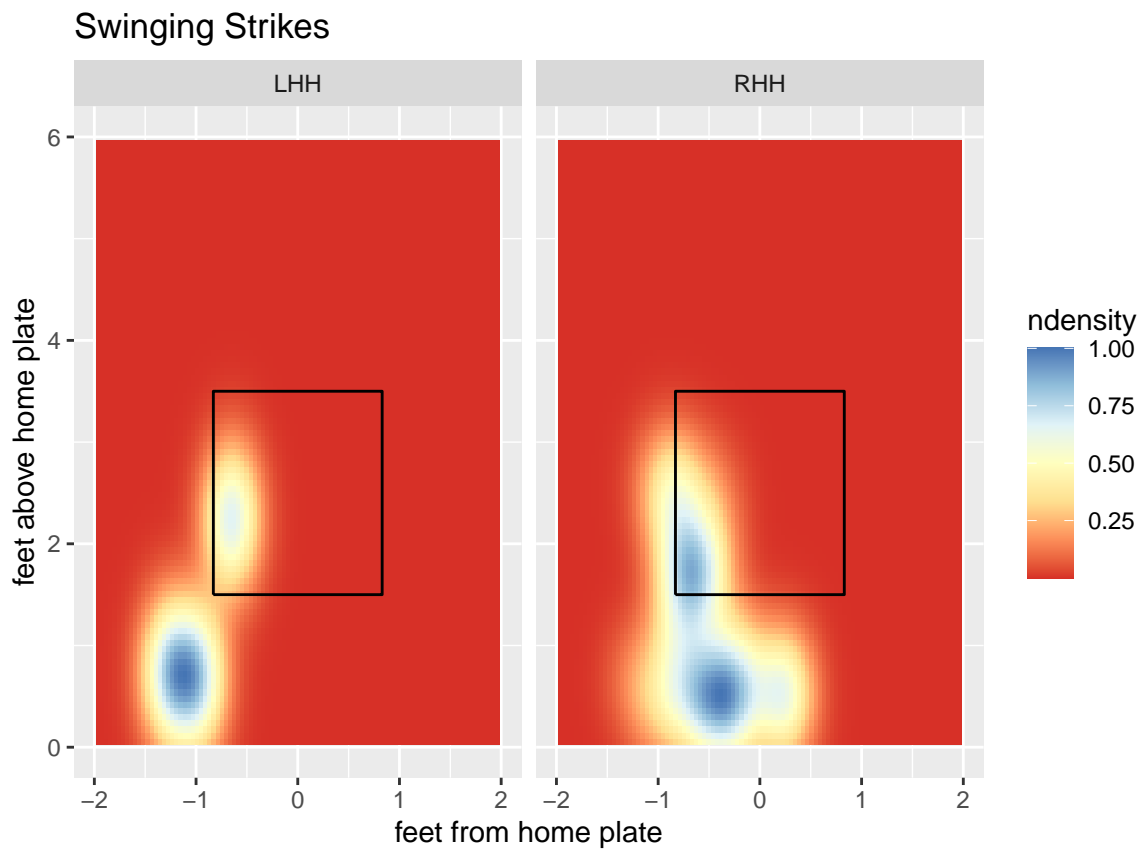
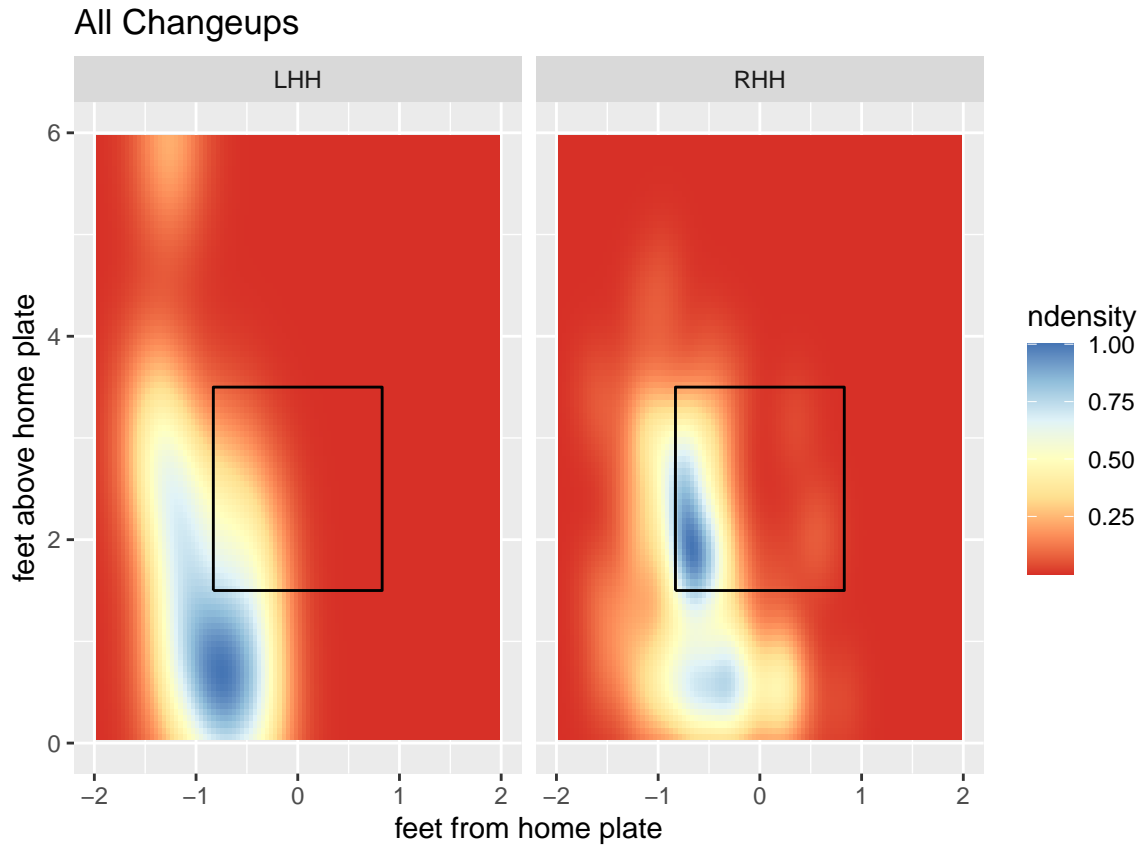
Yang's fastball is his most used pitch in almost every single situation against both RHH and LHH. His 4-seam% dips under 50% in 2-2 and 3-2 counts against RHH, as well as 2-1 and 2-2 counts against LHH. He's just incredibly predictable with his 4-seam usage, and I want to see him mix things up.

His fastball did fare better against LHH than RHH, with a 25.6% CSW% against LHH and a 19.8% CSW% against RHH. He's able to work away from LHH easier, coming across the zone to end up away to get awkward swings. I'd like to see him focus more on working away to RHH as well, rather than giving them the chance to adjust to pitches that are coming inside. Based on his xwOBA on Balls in Play, working away from both LHH and RHH was much more beneficial to him, though batters from both sides of the plate did fare well on inside 4-seamers.

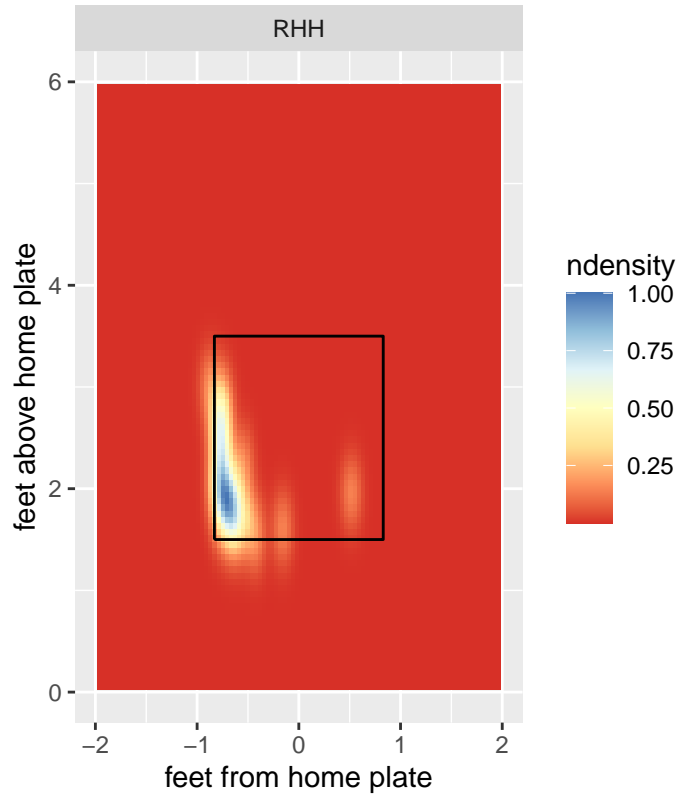
Overall, his 4-seam's batted ball profile was fine, with his xwOBACON of 0.369 coming in a little bit higher than the KBO average. His fastball's GB% of 34.7% was lower than average while his FB% of 33.9% and LD% of 17.4% were both higher than average. His PU% was also above average at 14%, potentially indicating an ability to attack up in the zone against fly-ball heavy hitters, something that would be beneficial against MLB hitters. His soft-hit%, med-hit%, and hard-hit% were all in line with the overall KBO averages which, for a fastball, isn't too bad.

To be a successful MLB pitcher, Yang needs his fastball to be about league-average. He's not going to be blowing his 89.5 mph fastball by MLB hitters, but he needs to keep the baseball in the park. In non-juiced baseball season, he's been pretty good at that, only allowing 0.68 HR/9 in 2020 and 0.29 in 2019. His higher PU% and ability to keep a KBO average xwOBACON are more good signs in that department. I'm still interested in seeing his 4-seam% decrease in the future to increase unpredictability and maximize his other pitches.

# Yang Hyun-jong Changeup



### Called Strikes



### Changeup Velocity

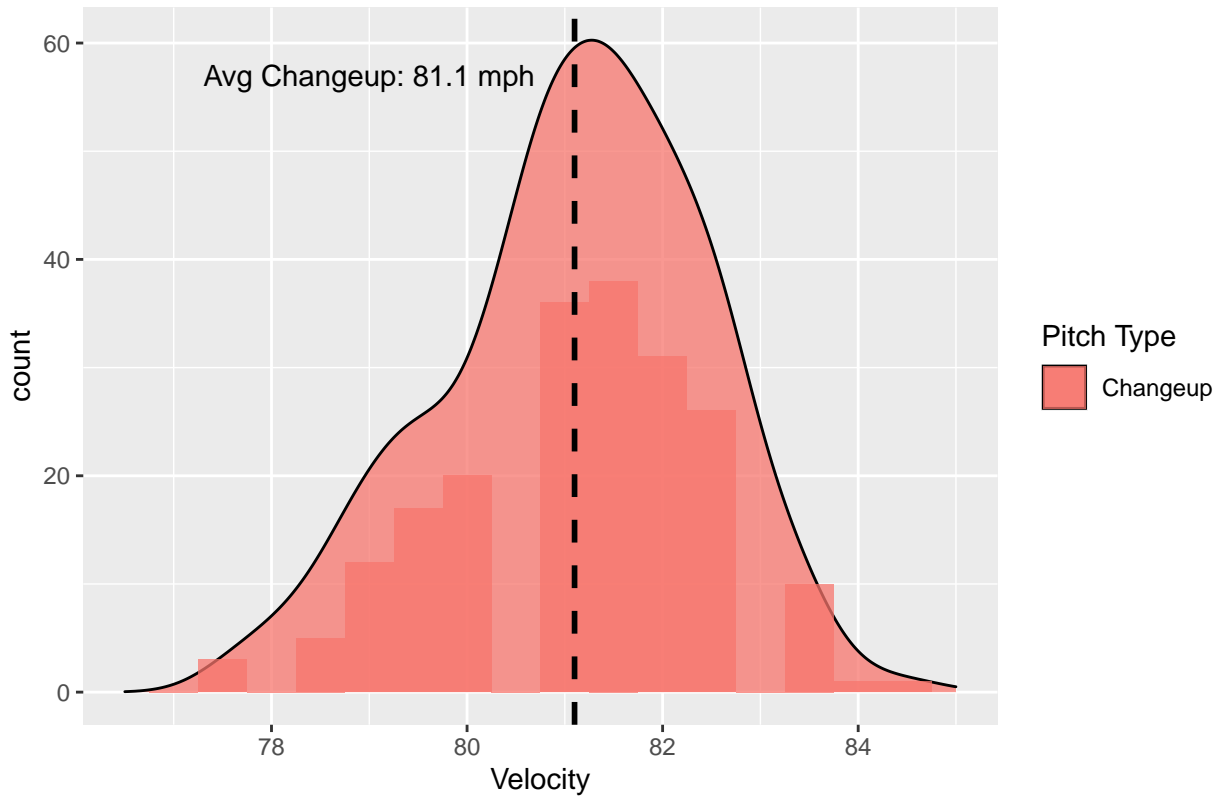


Table 13: Yang Hyun-jong Changeup Stats

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	wOBA	xwOBA	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%
Changeup	81.1	17.3	0.278	0.25	29.4	18.1	35.9	11.3	50.5	64.1

Table 14: Yang Hyun-jong Changeup Stats by Batter Handedness

Bats	Usg%	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%	Strike%
RHH	28.6	30.0	17.9	35.4	12.1	50.5	64.6	62.6
LHH	2.7	21.4	21.4	42.9	0.0	50.0	57.1	50.0

Table 15: Yang Hyun-jong Changeup BBEs

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	xwOBACON	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	Med%	Hard%
Changeup	81.1	17.3	0.307	44	70.5	11.4	15.9	2.3	52.3	36.4	11.4

Yang Hyun-jong's best pitch his changeup and throwing it more is something that could increase his overall effectiveness as a pitcher. Averaging 81.1 mph, Yang throws his changeup about 17.3% of the time. However, that usage breaks down to 28.6% usage against RHH and just 2.7% against LHH. He throws his changeup in almost any situation against RHH, peaking in 3-2 counts at 41.4% and 2-2 counts at 40.0%. He trusts his changeup to get a whiff or groundball and his usage reflects that trust.

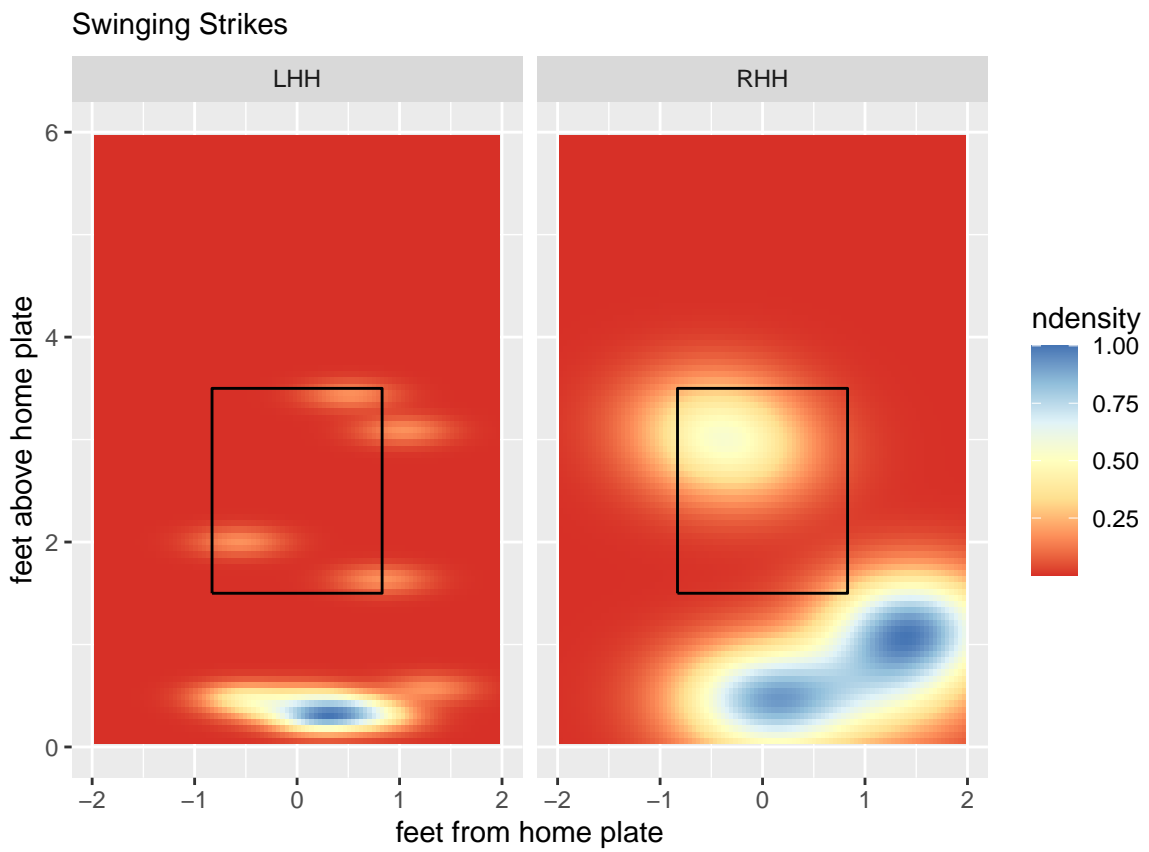
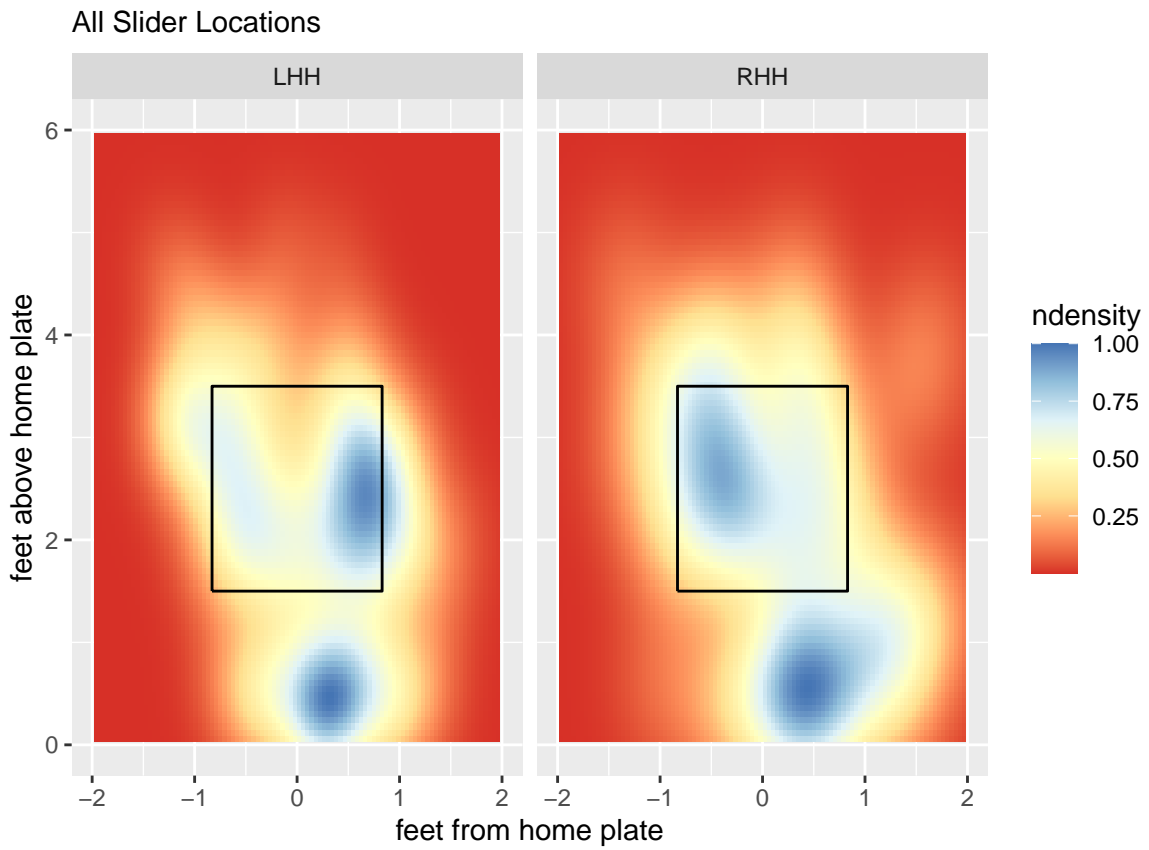
His changeup is his best swing and miss pitch, with an SwStr% of 18.1%, and has overall been extremely effective, with a wOBA of 0.278 and an xwOBA of 0.250, which is the 6th-lowest mark on an individual pitch in the KBO. However, he doesn't get very many called strikes on the pitch with a CS% of 11.3% due to where he locates his changeup.

Yang primarily locates his changeup down and away to RHH on his arm side, which is where he gets his swings-and-misses. His changeup doesn't seem to move much horizontally, relying more on vertical drop with a little bit of late arm-side movement, giving it almost a straight shape.

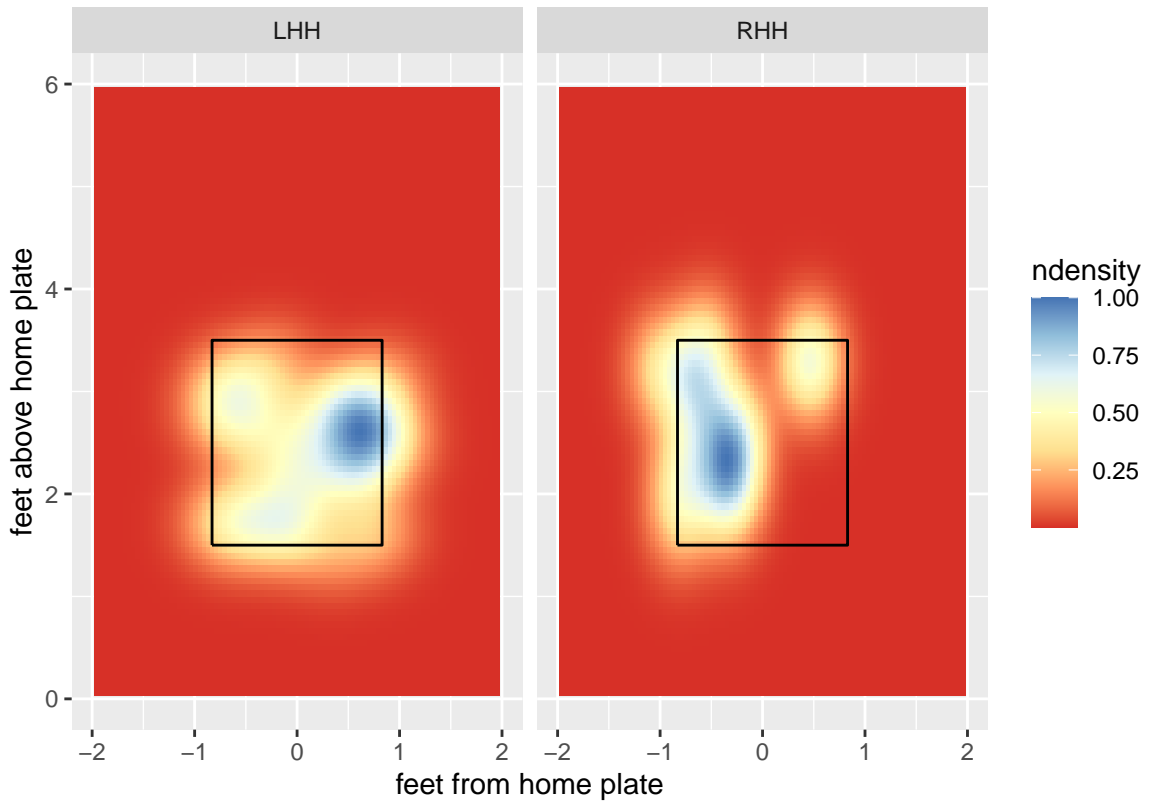
His changeup is also one of the best pitches in the KBO at inducing soft contact on the ground. The 70.5% GB% on his changeup is the 3rd-highest on an individual pitch in the KBO, allowing an xwOBACON of 0.307 (tied for 8th-lowest). His changeup's 52.3% soft-hit% is the second-highest in the KBO, and his hard-hit% of just 11.4% is the second-lowest among individual pitches.

Yang's changeup has performed extremely well in the KBO, serving as a swing-and-miss pitch as well as an extreme ground ball pitch. I'd like to see him throw it more frequently, along with his slider, to reduce some of his fastball usage.

# Yang Hyun-jong Slider



### Called Strikes



### Slider Velocity

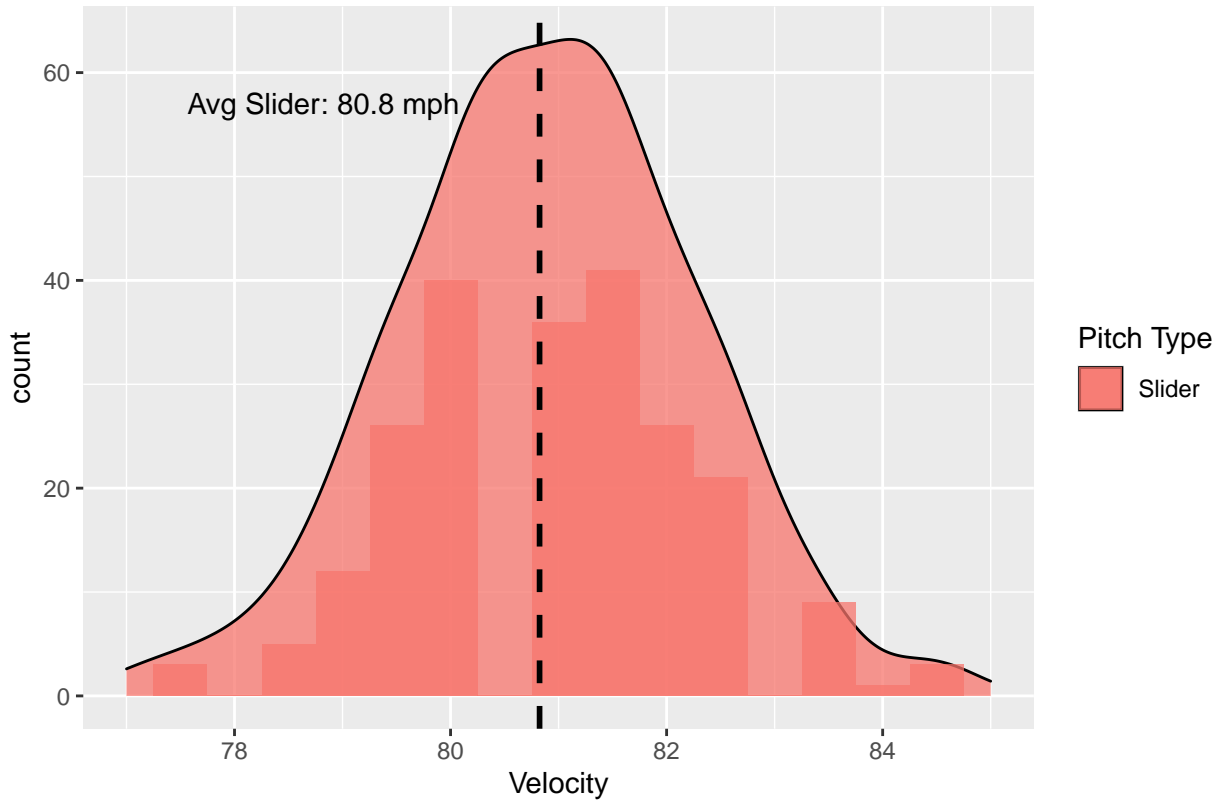




Table 16: Yang Hyun-jong Slider Stats

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	wOBA	xwOBA	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%
Slider	80.8	20.2	0.265	0.327	33.2	11.8	28.6	21.4	41.2	71.4

Table 17: Yang Hyun-jong Slider Stats by Batter Handedness

Bats	Usg%	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%	Strike%
LHH	32.7	34.5	11.3	27.5	23.2	41.1	72.5	64.3
RHH	10.5	30.0	12.9	31.0	17.1	41.4	69.0	58.6

Table 18: Yang Hyun-jong Slider BBEs

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	xwOBACON	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	Med%	Hard%
Slider	80.8	20.2	0.351	37	45.9	27	16.2	10.8	35.1	40.5	24.3

Yang Hyun-jong throws his sweeping slider at 80.8 mph around 20.2% of the time, breaking down to 32.7% of the time against LHH and 10.5% of the time against RHH. Like his changeup, it's an effective pitch, but he uses it in different ways against RHH and LHH. He throws it 32.7% of the time against LHH, particularly in 2-1 counts (57.1% usage) and 2-2 counts (40%). Against RHH, he'll throw his slider in 1-1 (18.5%), 1-2 (14.7%), and 3-2 (20.7%) counts.

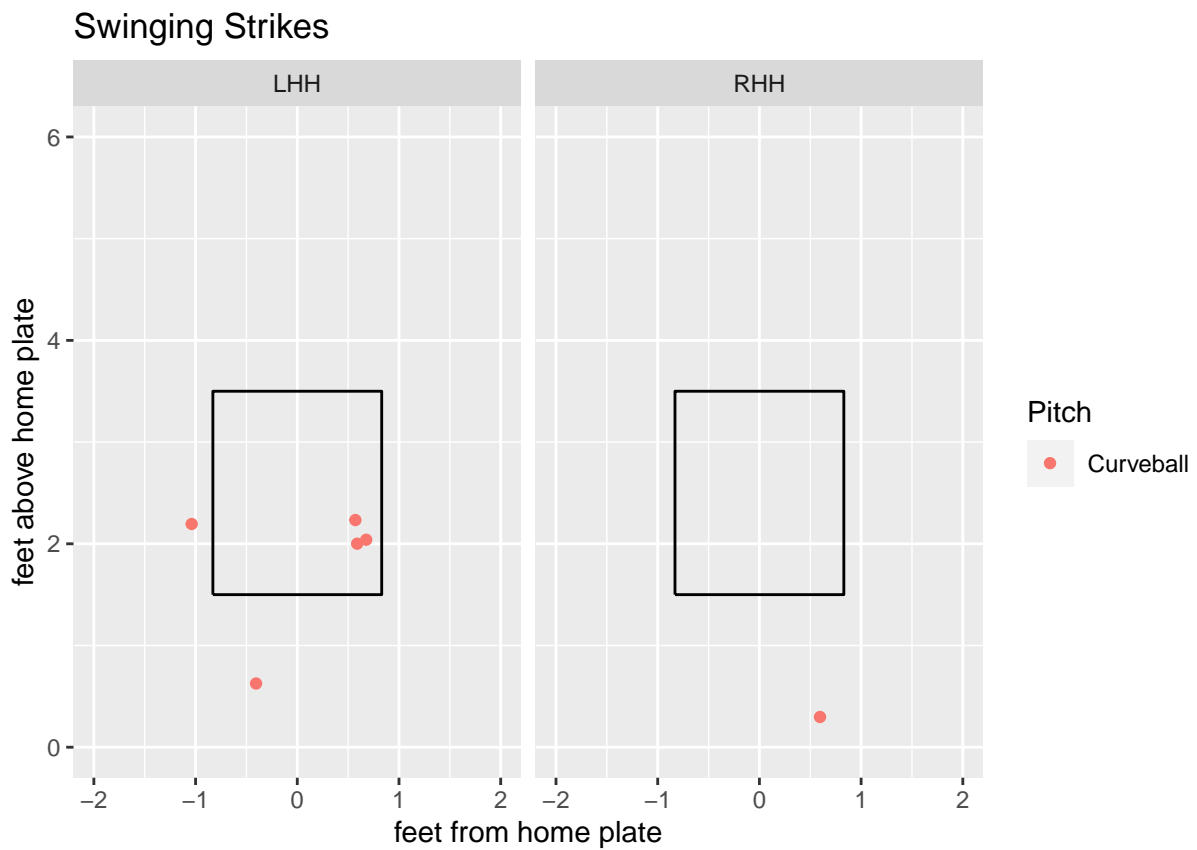
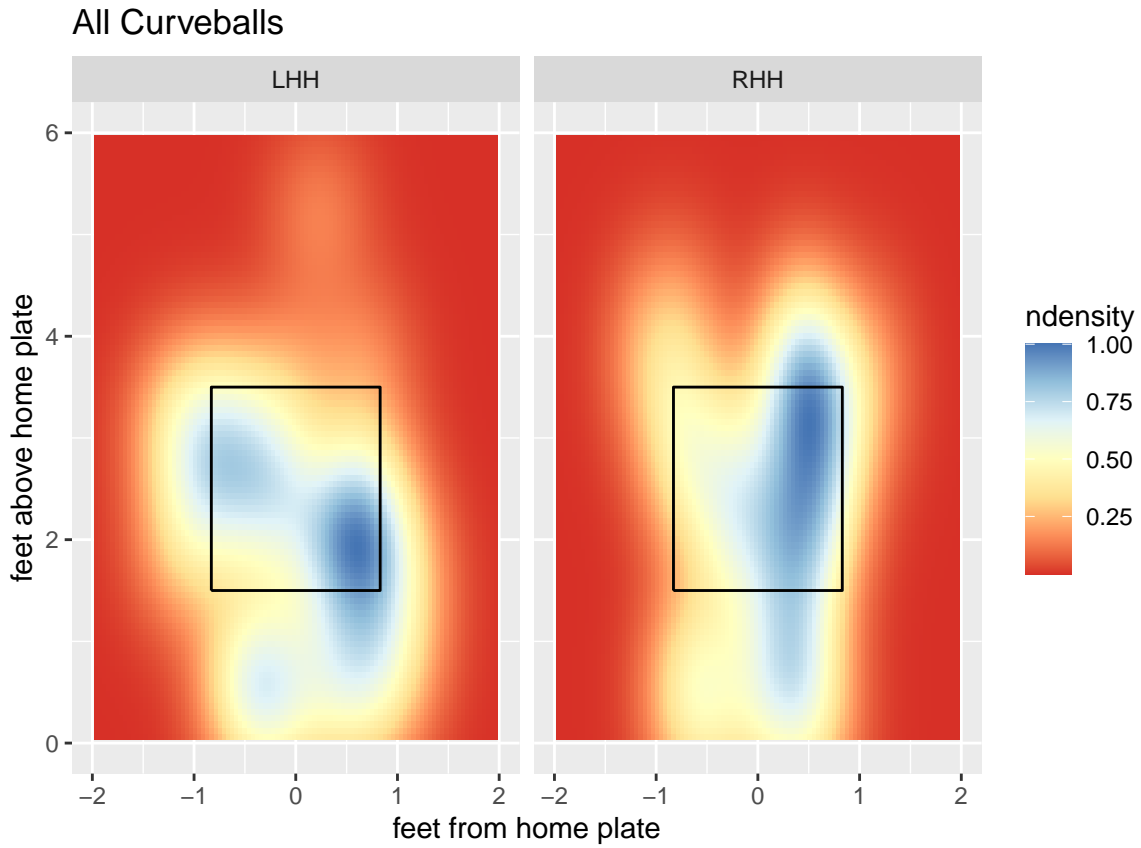
His slider has an SwStr% of 11.8% and a CS% of 21.4%, giving him a CSW% of 33.2%. Interestingly, his slider has a higher SwStr% against RHH (12.9%) than against LHH (11.3%), given that you'd expect sweeping sliders in an LHP vs LHH matchup to be an effective swing and miss pitch. However, as mentioned earlier, Yang's best swing and miss pitch is his changeup, and he can use his slider to set it up and get called strikes with his ability to locate it consistently.

Yang works his slider away from LHH, working both up on the outside edge of the zone and down in the dirt. With the sweeping action that his slider gets, he's able to start it off looking like a ball inside before it breaks enough to land on the outside edge of the zone. For swings and misses, he'll start it out lower and towards the plate, looking like a great pitch to hit before it dives down and away, resulting in a swing and miss. His 23.2% CS% against LHH, along with his 57% usage in 2-1 counts shows how confident Yang is in his ability to locate his slider where he wants.

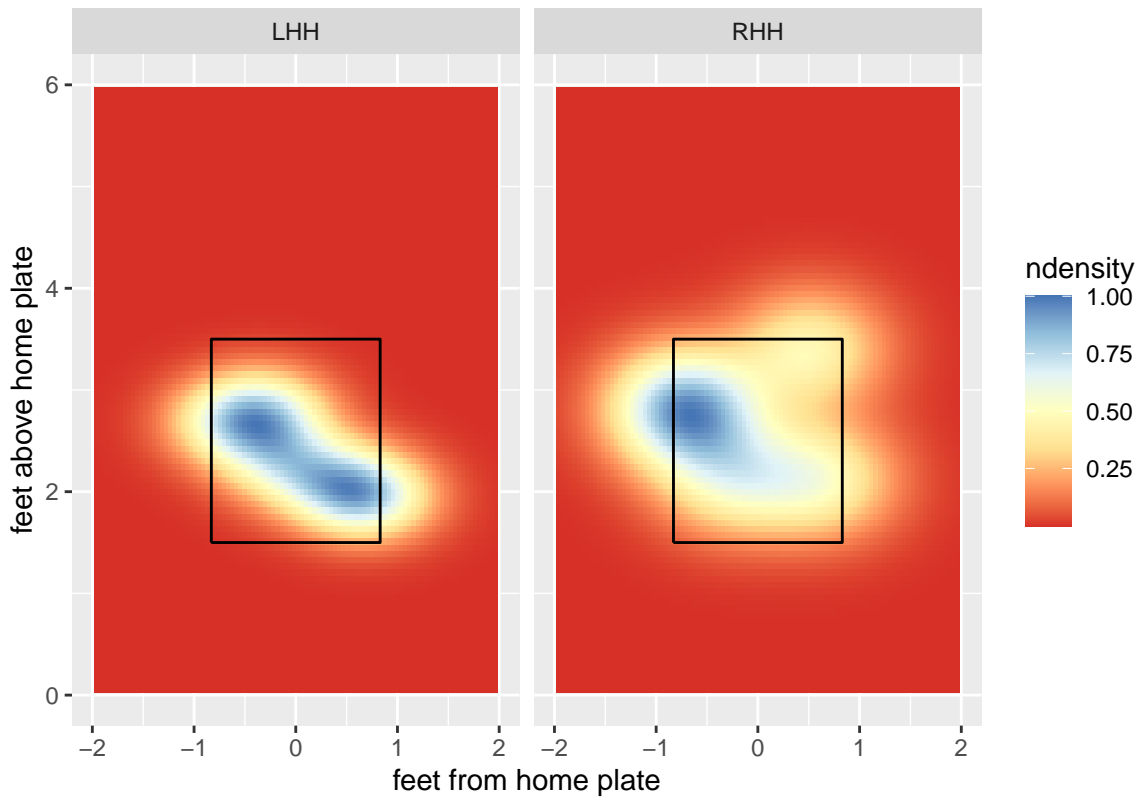
When facing RHH, Yang's slider is a successful swing-and-miss pitch due to how it works with his changeup. When he's looking for a called strike against an RHH, Yang uses the sweeping action of his slider to start off of the plate and catch the outside edge of the zone. But he works in the same space that he does against LHH when he's looking for a whiff, throwing back foot sliders to RHH in the dirt. Given that he primarily locates his changeup down and away against RHH, they're trying not to get beaten by that pitch, making the late movement on his slider effective in inducing awkward swings.

His slider isn't quite as good as his changeup in terms of inducing weak contact, but it's been good enough, in line with his overall batted profile and grades out as average, between his changeup and 4-seam. If he continues to locate up in the zone, MLB hitters will take advantage of any mistakes that he makes. However, the more aggressive nature of MLB hitters is likely to raise the swing-and-miss effectiveness of his slider. I believe that Yang's slider can be effective against MLB hitters, but it'll require good planning and execution which I believe Yang Hyun-jong is capable of.

# Yang Hyun-jong Curveball



### Called Strikes



### Curveball Velocity

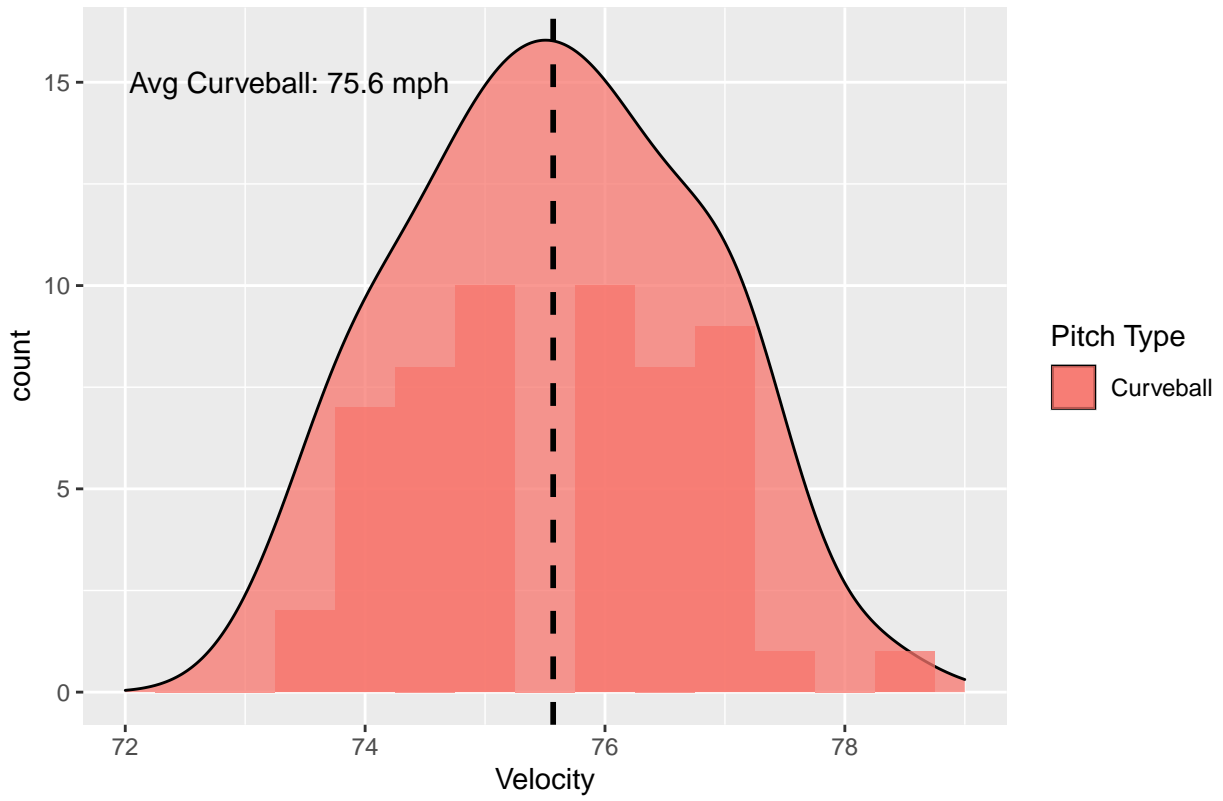


Table 19: Yang Hyun-jong Curveball Stats

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	wOBA	xwOBA	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%
Curveball	75.6	5.1	0.214	0.227	26.7	10	23.1	16.7	43.3	76.9

Table 20: Yang Hyun-jong Curveball Stats by Batter Handedness

Bats	Usg%	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%	Strike%
LHH	6.6	29.4	14.7	31.2	14.7	47.1	68.8	61.8
RHH	3.9	23.1	3.8	10.0	19.2	38.5	90.0	57.7

Table 21: Yang Hyun-jong Curveball BBEs

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	xwOBACON	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	Med%	Hard%
Curveball	75.6	5.1	0.278	12	58.3	8.3	25	8.3	75	25	0

In addition to his 4-seam, slider, and changeup, Yang Hyun-jong also throws the occasional curveball at about 75.6 mph, using it just 5.1% of the time. Against LHH, he's thrown it about 6.6% of the time and about 3.9% of the time against RHH. In a small sample, his curveball has been successful against LHH with an SwStr% of 14.7%, and an xwOBA of 0.227. He used his curveball most frequently in 0-2 (11.1%), and 1-2 (19.2%) counts against LHH, indicating a measure of confidence in that swing-and-miss ability.

Out of the 12 BBEs that Yang yielded on his curveball, 58.3% of them went for ground balls, and none were hit hard, resulting in a 0.278 xwOBACON in a really small sample. He's mostly thrown his curveball down in the zone, away from LHH and inside to RHH, which makes a higher GB% seem sustainable, however, it's such a small sample that I'm not comfortable drawing a conclusion from it.

Yang's curveball is more of a change of pace pitch than anything else. It's got some of the sweeping action that his slider has as well, but with more depth to it. I don't think that Yang needs to throw it much more than he already is; helping him steal a first-pitch strike or keeping hitters from seeing his changeup/slider early is going to be its best use.

## Resources

- [KBO Wizard to host 28,000+ charted KBO pitches](#)
- [Yang Hyun-jong's myKBO page](#)
- [Yang Hyun-jong's FanGraphs page](#)
- [Mid-season breakdown of Yang Hyun-jong](#)
- [Yang Hyun-jong GIFs](#)