

Reply

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Although our note on the S_1 score indicated that we had no desire to make value judgements concerning the score, Mr. Brown's comments suggest that perhaps this point might be reconsidered. Mr. Brown states that "the task of optimizing is tedious enough that analysts, in general, find that their limited time is better spent considering the movement and development of pressure systems," and that "most forecasters

still display the flattening tendency (presumably a propensity to hedge toward a daily mean chart), even though rewarded not to do so."

If these statements are indeed correct, one may wonder if the S_1 score serves a really useful purpose. Perhaps an effort should be made by the National

Meteorological Center to design a score which would not only encourage the analyst to select that characteristic of his prognostic probability distribution which the score designer wishes him to choose, but would also make it operationally practical for him to do so.