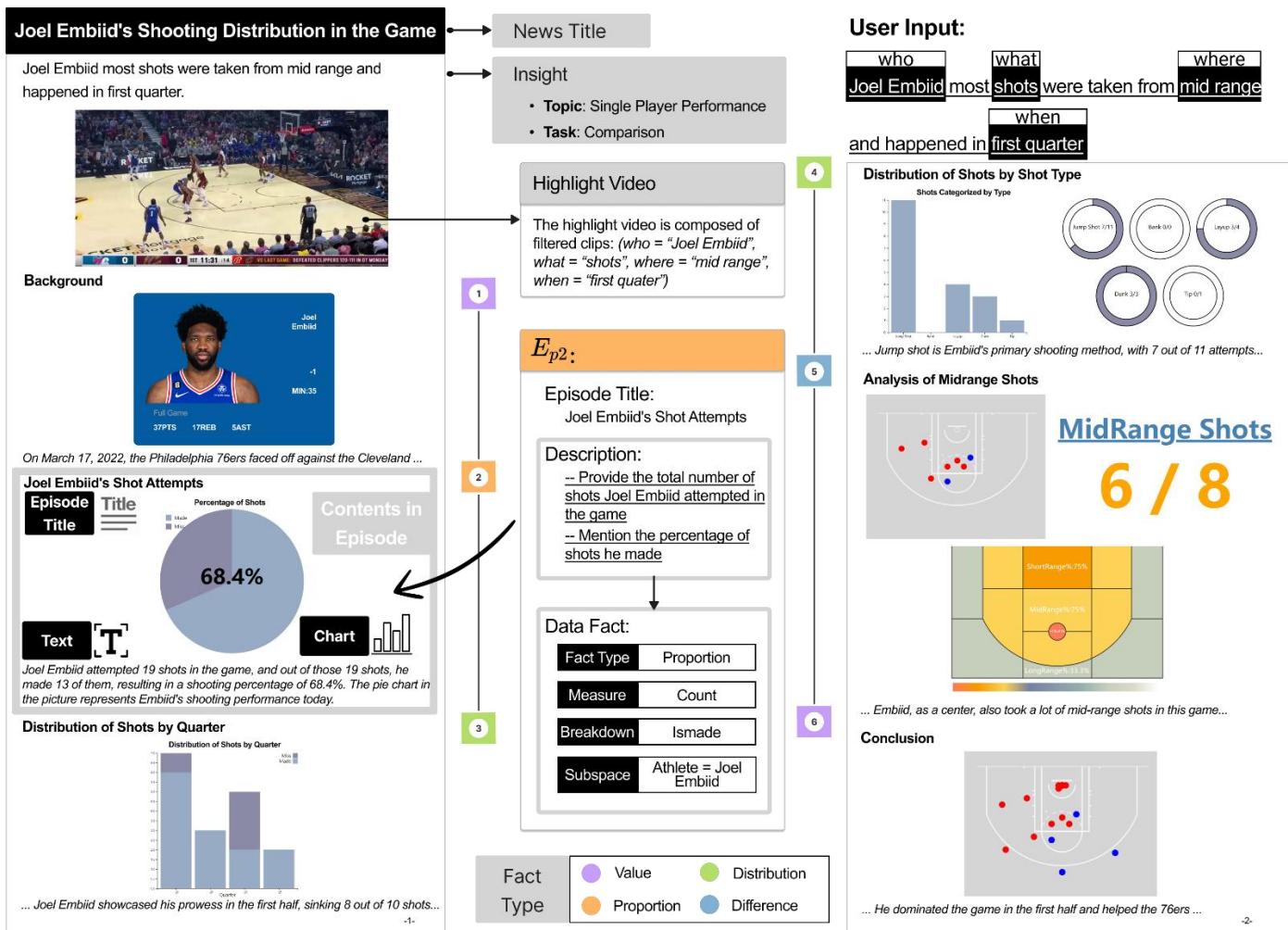


Appendix

To enhance the comprehensibility of the paper, we have furnished an extensive appendix for InsightSupporter. This appendix includes definitions and detailed explanations of terms utilized in the article, a description of the collaborative process with experts and data collection in the Preliminary Study, a narrative of the insight summarization process, and detailed content and examples from two User Studies.

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Preliminary Study:	6
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Term Definition:



- Insight.** Insight refers to the description of the game based on journalists' experience and subjective understanding. Insight forms the essence of the article and constitutes the effect in the causal analysis of this match. It represents the core message that journalists aim to convey. Insights are predominantly evident in titles, subtitles, summarizing statements at the beginning or end of articles, or annotations in charts. They offer readers an immediate understanding of the article's gist. Insights are derived from initial match impressions, post-game recordings or data summaries, and post-game analytical system assessments. The "Embiid's Mid-range Shot," originating from match observation and data analysis, serves as the fundamental insight for this sports news piece. All subsequent content serves to support this

insight, corroborating or supplementing Embiid’s performance in this match.

- **Topic.** Topic, previously termed as insight type, refers to the topic of data journalism, which can be about a specific player, the whole team, and other aspects. After analyzing the corpus, we discovered that all sports news articles fall into one of five topic categories: single player performance, whole game review, strategy and tactic, referee, and accident. In the 120 data-driven stories we examined, 57 articles (47.5%) were found to focus on single-player performance. Meanwhile, 25 stories (20.8%) centered around strategies and tactics, and another 22 stories (18.3%) provided a comprehensive review of the entire game. The remaining articles covered topics such as accidents (11 articles, 9.2%) during the game and referee decisions (5 articles, 4.2%).
- **Task.** Task refers to the different types of analytical tasks. Each insight has unique tasks. Following the typologies of visual analytics tasks [1] and sports analytics tasks [2], we categorized the tasks into identification, comparison, and summarization.
- **Episode.** Episode, denoted as Epi, refers to a self-contained segment within data news that contributes to overall narrative [3]. In the narrative structure of sports journalism, an episode is akin to an episode in a TV series. It denotes a specific event or plot point, particularly analytical within a news. Each episode contains a title, text, and several charts. Given that episodes act as logical junctures that weave together the entire narrative structure, we articulate the output of each episode as a blend of textual and graphical representation.

- **Narrative Structure.** Narrative structure of sports news consists of a sequence of episodes that are connected by logical order.
- **Description.** Description, denoted as D_i , previously termed as subinsight, consisting of short sentences with a verb-object structure, provides an overview to guide the content generation [4] for each episode. It serves as a reference for data facts and defines the generative variables associated with graphs. Within an episode, such as the one in the news article titled “Embiid’s Mid-range Shot,” there exists an episode called “Distribution of Shots by Shot Type.” This episode delves into Joel Embiid’s shot selection during the game. It involves categorizing Embiid’s shots by type (midrange, three-point, layup, etc.) while highlighting the percentage of shots he attempted for each type. This analysis showcases the accuracy of the various shot methods employed by Embiid.
- **Event Sequence.** Event Sequence, denoted as S_i , comprises all the play-by-play events in data space related to the episode.
- **Data Fact.** Data fact [5] is conceptualized as a measurement encompassing a collection of data elements within a designated subspace of the data domain related to insights. The data fact approach represents a widely adopted method in the automated generation of data-driven narratives from tabular datasets, where data facts serve as fundamental building blocks. We denote data facts as $F = \{fact\ type, measure, breakdown, subspace\}$, formed by parsing the description through an interpreter.

- **Fact Type.** Fact Type, previously termed as subtask, is derived from the data fact, which is formed by parsing the description through an interpreter, and is closely related to the types of charts used. The categorization of fact types delineates the nature of information each fact conveys, which is determined by the prevalence of visualization charts corresponding to these fact types in basketball focused sports journalism. We have categorized these fact types into common types prevalent in basketball-themed sports news, including value, extreme, categorization, distribution, difference, rank, association, proportion, and trend.

References

- [1] M. Brehmer and T. Munzner, “A Multi-Level Typology of Abstract Visualization Tasks,” IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics, vol. 19, no. 12, pp. 2376–2385, 2013.
- [2] T. Lin, Z. Chen, Y. Yang, D. Chiappalupi, J. Beyer, and H. Pfister, “The Quest for : Embedded Visualization for Augmenting Basketball Game Viewing Experiences,” IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics, vol. 29, no.1, pp. 962–971, 2023.
- [3] N. Pr ollochs, S. Feuerriegel, and D. Neumann, “Detecting negation scopes for financial news sentiment using reinforcement learning,” in 2016 49th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS), 2016, pp. 1164–1173.
- [4] Z. Chen, S. Ye, X. Chu, H. Xia, H. Zhang, H. Qu, and Y. Wu, “Augmenting sports videos with viscommentator,” IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 824–834, 2022.
- [5] D. Shi, X. Xu, F. Sun, Y. Shi, and N. Cao, “Calliope: Automatic visual data story generation from a spreadsheet,” IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics, vol. 27, no. 2, pp. 453–463, 2021

Preliminary Study:

- **Article Dataset:**

The article dataset comprises 120 sports news articles that we collected. Within this dataset, we have annotated specific information, insights, and types of visualizations used. This article dataset serves as a reference for our analysis of sports news and the formulation of design requirements. For further details, please refer to 'article_dataset.xlsx'.

- **Coding Book:**

The coding book serves as a set of guidelines established for the systematic summarization of insights within the article. For detailed guidance on the process of summarizing insights, please refer to 'coding book.doc'.

- **Additional Preliminary Study Statistics:**

We also conducted an analysis of popular NBA sports news websites and compiled our findings in '10_nba_stats_website.csv'. Additionally, we analyzed various visualization formats and summarized our results in 'stats_chartType.xlsx'.

Comparative Study:

The following section presents a comprehensive set of five comparison groups, utilized in the comparative study between InsightSupporter automated stories and original stories. These groups encompass five distinct topics, allowing us to conduct comparisons for each category of sports news.

- Comparison group 1:**

Topic: Whole Game Review

Insight: The Philadelphia 76ers played well in the first half, but lost lots of shots and were chased a lot of points in the third quarter.

- Origin Link:** https://www.espn.com/nba/game/_gameId/401360853

- Comparison group 2:**

Topic: About Accident

Insight: Kevin Durant had to leave the game after Jimmy Butler landed on his knee.

- Origin Link:**

<https://nypost.com/2023/01/08/kevin-durant-forced-out-of-nets-game-with-apparent-knee-injury/>

- Comparison group 3:**

Topic: Single Player Performance

Insight: Joel Embiid most shots were taken from mid range and happened in first quarter.

- Origin Link: <https://weibo.com/6255899788/4648308787907121> (Derived from the paper "Supporting Data-Driven Basketball Journalism through Interactive Visualization"[1].)

[1] Yu Fu and John Stasko. 2022. Supporting Data-Driven Basketball Journalism through Interactive Visualization. In Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 598, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3491102.3502078>

- **Comparison group 4:**

Topic: Strategy and Tactic

Insight: Embiid's receiving limited, Harden and Embiid's Pick and Roll tactics effectively contained.

- Origin Link: <https://bbs.hupu.com/59960101.html>

- **Comparison group 5:**

Topic: About Referee

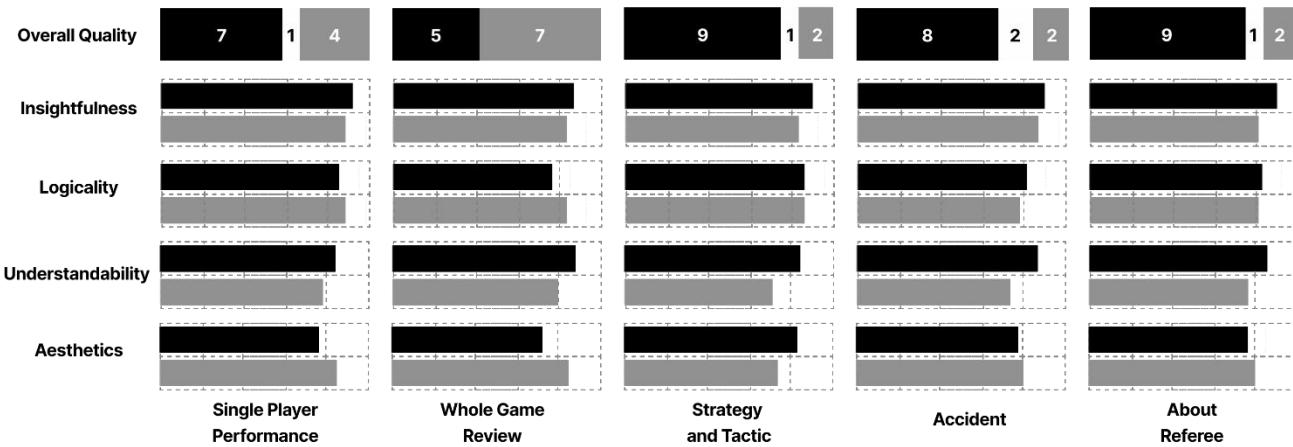
Insight: There is controversy surrounding whether Embiid fouled Westbrook in the decisive moments of the game.

- Origin Link:

<https://www.basketballnetwork.net/latest-news/russell-westbrook-believes-joele-embiid-fouled-him-on-last-play-vs-76ers>

News for Comparative Study

Results of Comparative Study



Comparative 1

- Topic Type: Single Player Performance

- Insight: Joel Embiid most shots were taken from mid range and happened in first quarter.

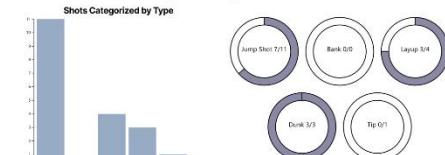
Joel Embiid's Shooting Distribution in the Game

Joel Embiid most shots were taken from mid range and happened in first quarter.

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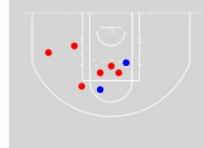


Distribution of Shots by Shot Type



Jump shot is Embiid's primary shooting method, with 7 out of 11 attempts successful. Embiid's layups and dunks are very consistent and have a high success rate. As a center, Embiid has the ability to attack and shoot while holding the ball. In today's game, the mid-range shot was his main scoring method.

Analysis of Midrange Shots



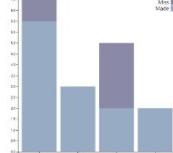
MidRange Shots

6 / 8

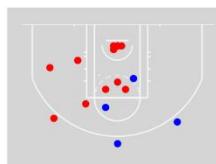


Embiid, as a center, also took a lot of mid-range shots in this game. The shot chart shows his mid-range shooting points and accuracy. Embiid took 8 mid-range shots and made 6 of them, for a shooting percentage of 75%. The area chart illustrates Embiid's shooting proficiency at various distances in this game, with close-range and mid-range shots being Embiid's dominant areas.

Distribution of Shots by Quarter



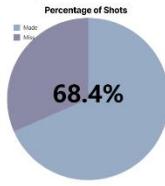
Conclusion



The Shot Chart displays Joel Embiid's shooting performance, with most of his points coming from close range and mid-range shots. In a word, He dominated the game in the first half and helped the 76ers secure a victory.

On March 17, 2022, the Philadelphia 76ers faced off against the Cleveland Cavaliers in a regular season NBA game, with the 76ers prevailing 118-114 over the Cavaliers. Joel Embiid played for 35 minutes and scored 37 points, shooting 13-19 and getting 17 rebounds and 5 assists to help his team secure the victory. Embiid's mid-range shooting played an important role in the game, helping the 76ers take the lead in the first half.

Joel Embiid's Shot Attempts



Joel Embiid attempted 19 shots in the game, and out of those 19 shots, he made 13 of them, resulting in a shooting percentage of 68.4%. The pie chart in the picture represents Embiid's shooting performance today."

Joel Embiid's Shooting Performance

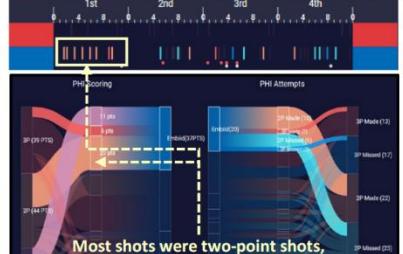
In the game between the Philadelphia 76ers and the Atlanta Hawks, Joel Embiid scored 37 points and grabbed 13 rebounds with a 12-for-20 shooting performance. He converted 11 points from free throws and led the 76ers to victory with a +10 net rating. Embiid was dominating in the first half, hitting nine out of eleven, probably the biggest reason for the 76ers 26-point lead. But that was because he was making most of his mid-range jumpers(6/8), which is not very sustainable. He only hit 3 in the second half, and none of his shots were near the rim!



Most shots were taken from mid range



Most shots were taken from mid range



Most shots were two-point shots, and happened in the first quarter

The Hawks employed defensive strategies against Embiid, with Gallinari notably contributing to congesting the paint alongside Capela and Collins to deter Embiid's close-range attempts. However, Joel Embiid maintained a strong scoring efficiency by utilizing long mid-range shots from either the free-throw line area or the left side of the hoop.

Embiid has become a mid-range maestro, capable of punishing defenses in multiple ways. 8 of his 12 made field goals came from that area of the floor. Playing through his mid-range game gives an added layer of flexibility. Often in the triple threat position off the catch, he has a better view of the floor. He can either take the shot, drive to the basket or survey the floor. This allows him to quickly make the correct read when teams send over double teams. With his mid-range jumper on the money most nights, he is nearly unstoppable from that position.

In this game, Embiid's shooting performance was concentrated in the mid-range shots during the first quarter, showcasing his undeniable skills as an all-around offensive center.

- Insight: The Philadelphia 76ers played well in the first half, but lost lots of shots and were chased a lot of points in the third quarter.

Philadelphia 76ers' Struggles in the Third Quarter

The Philadelphia 76ers played well in the first half, but lost lots of shots and were chased a lot of points in the third quarter.

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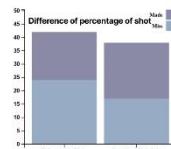


Introduction



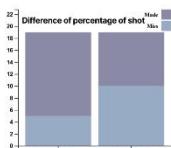
On March 17, 2022, in a regular season NBA game, the Philadelphia 76ers played against the Cleveland Cavaliers. The 76ers started the game strong with a 16-4 run and maintained a 13-point lead at halftime. Both teams showed high offensive efficiency in the third quarter. The Cavaliers came back and won the quarter by 18 points, leading the 76ers by 5 points going into the fourth quarter. The 76ers had a disastrous performance in the third quarter, but managed to complete a comeback in the fourth quarter, ultimately winning the game 118-114.

Strong Start in the First Half



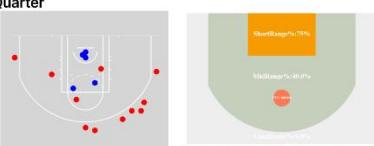
The Philadelphia 76ers dominated both ends of offense and defense in the first half, making a strong start. In particular, regarding shooting accuracy, the stacked bar chart shows the number of shots and hits for both teams. The 76ers had more shots and a higher hit rate, leading them to take the lead at halftime with a 13-point advantage after scoring 72 points.

Third Quarter Woes



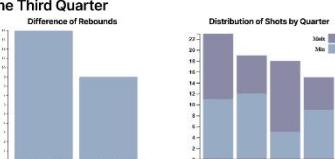
During the third quarter, the Philadelphia 76ers were outscored by the Cleveland Cavaliers. The 76ers lost by 18 points during this period and were overtaken by 5 points. The 76ers performed poorly in the third quarter, especially on the offensive end. A stacked bar chart illustrates the 76ers' performance in the third quarter, showing that their shooting accuracy was half as low as that of the Cavaliers."

Shots of 76ers in Third Quarter



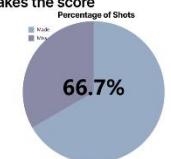
During the third quarter, the 76ers missed a lot of shots. The shot chart displays all of the 76ers' shots in the third quarter, and it is evident that they missed many of their shots, especially from long-range three-pointers, where they attempted seven shots but did not make any. Although they were still efficient in shooting from short-range, their mid-range shooting had a success rate of only 40%.

Reason of Struggles in the Third Quarter



Next, we will discuss the reason for the struggles in the third quarter. First, in terms of rebounds, the 76ers were lacking on the inside compared to the Cavaliers, with five fewer rebounds in a single quarter. Secondly, looking at the time, the 76ers had a poor shooting touch in this quarter, with both the number of shots taken and the number of shots made being very low.

Fourth Quarter Restores Form, Overtakes the Score



In the fourth quarter, the 76ers regained their form and found their touch on the offensive end. A pie chart shows that the 76ers had a 66.7% shooting percentage in the fourth quarter. They ended up winning the fourth quarter by 9 points.

Reason of Struggles in the Third Quarter



Overall, despite being ahead in the first two quarters, the 76ers were completely restricted on the offensive end in the third quarter, losing the initiative. Although they were overtaken in the third quarter, the 76ers still completed a comeback in the fourth quarter and ultimately won the game 118-114.

Embiid has 35 points, 17 rebounds as 76ers beat Cavs 118-114

By AP

Updated: Mar 17, 2022, 10:35 am



CLEVELAND -- Joel Embiid had 35 points and 17 rebounds, James Harden scored 21 points and added 11 assists, and the Philadelphia 76ers edged the Cleveland Cavaliers 118-114 on Wednesday night.

Embiid was a game-time decision with a sore back, but showed no signs of the injury on his 28th birthday. The All-Star center and MVP candidate shot 13 of 19 from the field, including 1 of 3 from 3-point range, and was 8 of 10 from the foul line while adding five assists in 35 minutes.

"We got a win we had to have and I'm feeling great," Embiid said between sips of fruit punch from his postgame celebration. "It's the NBA season. None of us feel good at this point. We need to keep playing the same way."

Darius Garland had 22 points and seven assists for the Cavaliers, who lead Toronto by a half-game in the race for sixth place in the Eastern Conference. All-Star center Jarrett Allen missed his fifth consecutive game with a broken left finger.

Cleveland, which trailed by 17 in the second quarter, took a 104-103 lead on a 3-pointer by Lauri Markkanen with 3:47 remaining. Harden answered with a pair of free throws 27 seconds later to put the 76ers in front for good.

"(Embiid) made some tough, tough shots down the stretch — some and-ones through physicality — but there was nothing easy," Cavaliers coach J.B. Bickerstaff said. "He had to earn it all. James had to earn it all. We made them earn it tonight."

Tyrese Maxey's 3-pointer extended Philadelphia's lead to 110-106 with 1:19 left, and Harden and Maxey combined to make 6 of 6 free throws in the final 20 seconds to lock up the win. There were seven lead changes and four ties in the fourth quarter.

"It's a real cool sight to see teams double-teaming James, so it makes it easier on Joel," said Maxey, who scored eight of his 25 points in the fourth. "If you let them play a two-man game, they're pretty hard to beat. That should be tough for teams."

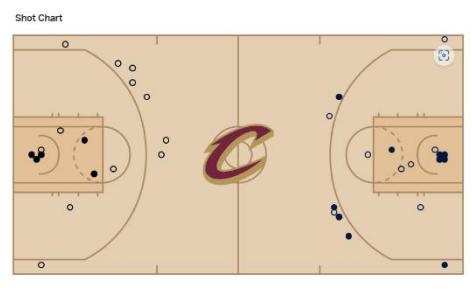
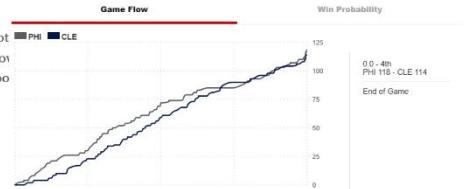
Isaac Okoro scored 17 points and Evan Mobley added 13 points and nine rebounds for Cleveland. Caris LeVert had 10 points and 10 assists in his return game back from a sprained right



The Cavaliers went ahead for the Goodwin late in the third. Kevin end of the period, completing a 1

The 76ers built a 52-55 lead mid' advantage into the break behind Embiid. Tobias Harris had 16 of:

"Offensively, we didn't have a lot
"And when it became a free throw
we've got a great free throw sho



Field Goal %	Three Point %	Total Turnovers	Rebounds
PHL 51.9 CLE 48.8	PHL 37.5 CLE 32.1	PHL 11 CLE 9	PHL 39 CLE 39

Comparative 3

- Topic Type: Strategy and Tactic
- Insight: Embiid's receiving limited, Harden and Embiid's Pick and Roll tactics effectively contained

Harden and Embiid's Pick and Roll in Trouble

Embiid's receiving limited, Harden and Embiid's Pick and Roll tactics effectively contained

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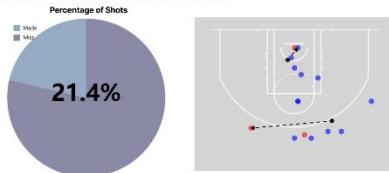


Background



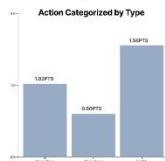
In the East Semifinals - Game 3, the Boston Celtics took a 2-1 series lead as they defeated the Philadelphia 76ers with a final score of 114-102. Looking back at this game, the performances of the 76ers' key players, Harden and Embiid, were average. Harden scored 8 points in transition and another 8 points from free throws, but his overall offensive efficiency was relatively low. However, he was able to contribute to the team's offense by facilitating plays and generating assists. On the other hand, Embiid was a force to be reckoned with inside the paint, scoring 30 points and grabbing 5 offensive rebounds, showcasing his abilities as a top-tier center in the league. Compared to their performances in previous games of the series, the Pick-and-Roll tactics between Harden and Embiid were limited. The Celtics' team defense was impressive, effectively containing the Pick-and-Roll plays. Their collective defensive effort played a crucial role in securing the home victory.

Harden's Poor Shooting Performance



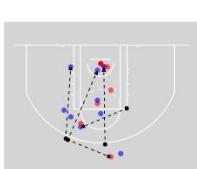
Harden had an ice-cold shooting touch, going 3 for 14 from the field, with a shooting percentage of 21.4%. Particularly, he missed numerous scoring opportunities from mid-range and around the basket, making only 2 of his 7 three-point attempts, resulting in a low offensive efficiency. Harden's individual offensive performance was lackluster, which to some extent diminished the effectiveness of the Harden and Embiid's Pick and Roll tactics. The Celtics, capitalizing on Harden's struggles, focused their defense on containing Embiid's offense, highlighting the effectiveness of their defensive strategy against Harden.

Harden Utilized His Playmaking Skills to Assist 76ers



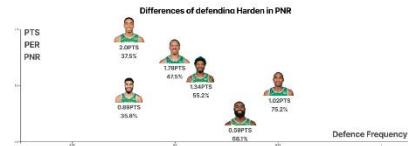
Despite Harden's underwhelming individual offensive performance, his 11 assists still contributed to the team's smooth offense. Utilizing screens and Pick-and-Roll tactics, Harden primarily executed three types of actions: Deep-Drop, High-Drop, and Switch. After analyzing the statistics, it was found that in each offensive possession organized by Harden, the Switch action had the highest impact on the team's scoring, generating 1.56 points per possession. The Deep-Drop action followed with 1.02 points, while the least effective action was the High-Drop, where Harden directly faced the Celtics' defenders in close range, resulting in only 0.6 points. In the playoffs, Harden's primary assists were in conjunction with Embiid. In this particular game, out of his 11 assists, 5 were given to Embiid: three resulting in direct inside layups after screens, and two were Embiid's familiar long-range shots. Harden's assists helped the 76ers narrow the score gap.

The efficiency analysis of Pick-and-Roll tactic



Harden and Embiid's Pick and Roll tactics are offensive strategies initiated by Harden at the top of the arc, involving a two-player collaboration to create scoring opportunities. These tactics can be divided based on their location, specifically categorized as left or right, depending on the direction of the screen. In this game, the offensive tendency of the Pick and Roll tactics was analyzed. It was found that the left Pick and Roll, initiated from the left side, had the highest scoring efficiency, with an average of 1.6 points per possession. Additionally, there was a high passing frequency of 80% in these situations. The most frequently used tactic was the one initiated from the top of the arc, particularly the right Pick and Roll, which was executed 34 times and averaged 0.72 points per possession. Despite the higher success rate and scoring efficiency of the left Pick and Roll, Embiid preferred initiating the screen from the right side. The right Pick and Roll had the highest average scoring efficiency. The Pick and Roll tactics often resulted in fouls committed by the Celtics in this game. Harden and Embiid collectively drew 21 fouls, leading to numerous free throw opportunities. They capitalized on these chances with an impressive free throw shooting percentage of 90.5%, converting 19 of their attempts. Although the team had some success utilizing the left Pick and Roll tactics in this game, the targeted defense by the Celtics limited the effectiveness of the Pick and Roll tactics initiated from the top of the arc.

The Celtics' defensive performance against the Pick and Roll



The Celtics' defensive performance against the Pick and Roll in this game was notable. They were able to effectively limit the impact of the Pick and Roll tactics initiated from the top of the arc. The targeted defense employed by the Celtics disrupted the flow of the offensive plays and restricted the effectiveness of the Pick and Roll strategy. It's important to note that the Celtics' defensive approach might have included various techniques such as hedging, switching, or trapping to disrupt the ball handler and the roll man. These defensive strategies aim to deny easy scoring opportunities and force the offense into making difficult decisions or contested shots. Overall, the Celtics displayed a strong defensive effort against the Pick and Roll tactics, particularly those initiated from the top of the arc. Their ability to limit the effectiveness of these plays contributed to their success in containing the opposing team's offense. Drawing fouls is a crucial aspect of the Pick and Roll strategy as it not only awards the offensive team with free throws but also disrupts the defensive rhythm and potentially leads to foul trouble for key defenders. Harden and Embiid's ability to draw fouls and convert their free throws at a high rate significantly contributed to their team's offensive output and scoring efficiency in this game.

Conclusion

In this series, particularly in this game, the Celtics effectively limited Harden and Embiid's Pick and Roll tactics by utilizing Brown's defensive abilities and the interior defensive switching capabilities of their big men. This defensive strategy played a significant role in the Celtics' victory in this game. However, if Harden can find his shooting rhythm and activate his offensive desire while enhancing his individual scoring ability, while also maintaining the synergy with Embiid and their ability to draw fouls, the 76ers still have a chance to win in the subsequent games. Despite the 114-102 loss to the Celtics in this game, it is expected that there will be tactical adjustments in the following games to address the challenges faced and potentially improve the team's performance.

Reason for Containing Harden and Embiid's Pick-and-Roll Tactics

In Celtics' recent matchup against scoring machine James Harden, the Celtics showcased a well-calibrated strategy. While showing respect for Harden's scoring prowess, they judiciously employed a defensive retreat combined with strategic delays. This approach, with a focus on the coordination between Brown and Horford, proved most effective in containing Harden's offensive onslaught.

Among the Celtics' defensive lineup featuring Smart, Brogdon, and Brown, it was Brown who emerged as the prime disruptor of Harden's rhythm. He consistently restricted Harden to a mere 0.6 points per attempt, demonstrating remarkable defensive prowess.

Harden's ability to exploit defensive switches remains a potent threat. Despite a lackluster showing in Games 2 and 3, he managed to exploit the vulnerabilities of the Celtics' smaller defensive trio (Horford, Rose, and Gwin). Harden consistently delivered over 1.5 points per possession after each switch or pick-and-roll situation.

Considering this, the role of the "screen-setter" becomes pivotal in reshaping the game. If they manage to draw Brown away during the switch (as seen in the crucial moments of the previous game, where the King's double-team on Harden led to a Brown delay, allowing Tatum the opportunity for a clutch shot), or if the screen forces a delay in Brown's defensive actions, theoretically, Tatum could capitalize on the resulting space to showcase his performance.

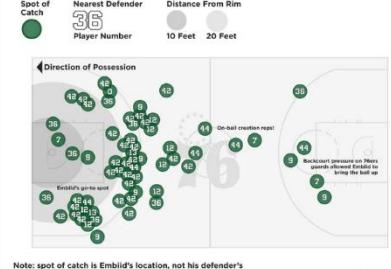
Count Points per PnR Pass Frequency

Location	Direction	Count	Points per PnR	Pass Frequency
Left	Left	0	5.0	1.600000
	Right	0	7.0	0.857143
Right	Left	0	9.0	1.375000
	Right	0	23.0	1.000000
Top	Left	0	12.0	0.636364
	Right	0	34.0	0.718750

Analyzing tracking data, it's evident that only during one-on-one switches is Harden compelled to use his weaker right hand, while this tendency doesn't emerge during pick-and-roll scenarios. This insight could play a decisive role in the Celtics' continued defensive planning against Harden in future encounters.

The Celtics are forcing Embiid off the block

Where Joel Embiid caught the ball on all of his Game 4 touches, and his nearest defender



Note: spot of catch is Embiid's location, not his defender's

Source: ESPN

By Timmy Krantz

Embiid's catch distance based upon which Celtics defender was guarding him. While Embiid is sometimes too mid-range-happy, Boston's bigs did a great job of forcing the MVP off the block in Game 4. However, it is clear that Philly feels that Embiid can exploit Robert Williams off the dribble, as they gave their star the ball earlier in possessions with more room to operate. Still, keeping the NBA's best post scorer off the block is never a terrible thing; unsurprisingly, Embiid's most efficient touches this postseason have been in the paint. Horford surprisingly allowed deeper catches than Rob. Timelord played off of Embiid by a few steps which probably explains the discrepancy.

Comparative Results

- Topic Type: Strategy and Tactic

- Task Type: Summarization

A InsightSupporter

B Origin

Overall Quality

9

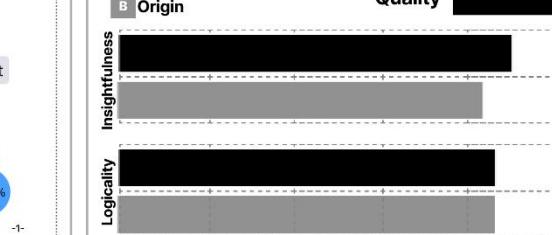
1

2

Insightfulness

Understandability

Aesthetics



Comparative 4

- Topic Type: Accident
- Insight: Kevin Durant had to leave the game after Jimmy Butler landed on his knee.

Kevin Durant Injured Against Miami Heat

Kevin Durant had to leave the game after Jimmy Butler landed on his knee.

A



Kevin Durant's Strong Start

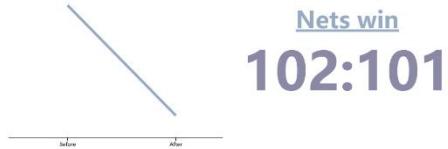
On January 9th, 2023, the Brooklyn Nets faced off against the Miami Heat. Kevin Durant played for 30 minutes and scored 17 points and 5 rebounds. He had a strong start, making 5 out of 11 shots and leading the Brooklyn Nets to victory.

Jimi Butler's Collision with Durant

The incident occurred with just over a minute remaining in the quarter, when Heat's Jimmy Butler attempted to drive to the basket, only to have his shot blocked by Ben Simmons, who sent Butler crashing into Durant's knee. Despite staying on the ground for a brief moment, Durant remained in the game and attempted to play through the injury. However, it soon became apparent that the injury was more serious than initially thought, as Durant kept rubbing at his knee and eventually had to be taken out of the game during a timeout.

Nets struggle to beat the Heat

Difference of the Nets' performance



Before Durant left the court, the Nets were leading by 6 points, but after he left, they ended up winning the game by a slim margin of 102-101.

Kevin Durant leaves Nets game with apparent knee injury after Jimmy Butler collision

By Brian Lewis

January 8, 2023 | 5:17pm | Updated

Heat wing Jimmy Butler had his shot blocked by Ben Simmons with 1:05 left in the third, and fell awkwardly into Durant's knee.

B

Oh no he didn't @ohmoredidnt24 Follow

Kevin Durant injury



Durant was down for several seconds in discomfort, before being helped to his feet. He tried to stay on the floor, and play through the pain. But the Brooklyn star turned the ball over on the next possession, and looked to be massaging his knee on defense on the ensuing trip back downcourt.

The Nets took a timeout down 80-79 with 36.6 seconds left in the third. Durant didn't take the court after play resumed, heading down the tunnel for evaluation and treatment. He didn't return.



Kevin Durant checks his knee after injuring it during the Nets' game against the Heat on Sunday.
YES

Referee on Embiid for Not Fouling Westbrook

There is controversy surrounding whether Embiid fouled Westbrook in the decisive moments of the game.

A



Introduction

On Jan 16, 2023, during the regular season of the NBA 2022-23 season, the Philadelphia 76ers faced a tough challenge on the road against the Los Angeles Lakers and emerged victorious with a score of 113-112. In the final moments of the game, there was a controversial call. After a defensive stop, Lakers head coach Darvin Ham chose not to call a timeout. Westbrook attempted to isolate against Embiid but lost control of the ball momentarily, recovered it, and then dribbled towards the paint before making an erratic pass attempt that hit the rim. The clock expired, resulting in a loss for the Lakers.

Embiid Performance



Player	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	REB	AST	STL	TO	PTS	PF	+/-
J. Embiid	36	12-21	2-5	9-12	11	3	0	3	35	3	+7

Embiid had an excellent performance in this game. As one of the controversial calls, he ultimately defended the basket. Embiid finished with 35 points, shooting 12 out of 21 from the field, displaying highly efficient offense. His three-point shooting and free throw accuracy were on fire, with a 60% three-point shooting percentage. However, as a center, Embiid's rebounding and rim protection abilities were not outstanding. He failed to secure any offensive rebounds, resulting in missed second-chance opportunities.

Westbrook Performance



Player	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	REB	AST	STL	TO	PTS	PF	+/-
R. Westbrook	34	7-14	2-5	4-5	14	11	1	4	20	2	+3

As a substitute player, Westbrook showcased an impressive performance, playing for 34 minutes and achieving a triple-double with 20 points, 14 rebounds, and 11 assists. Maintaining this level of play, he has a chance to compete for the Best Sixth Man of the season. As a guard, Westbrook not only connects with his teammates and orchestrates the offense but also actively competes for rebounds. His 14 rebounds were the highest on the team. During crucial moments, Westbrook employed a one-on-one strategy against Embiid. Although he didn't succeed in the end, it demonstrated his confidence and abilities.

Events in the Final Moments

Events in Final Moment

Q4

13.

Westbrook REBOUND (Off:0 Def:14)

3

MISS Westbrook 6' Driving Layup

Niang BLOCK (1 BLK) 3.1

Embiid REBOUND (Off:0 Def:11) 3.1

In the game between the Philadelphia 76ers and the Los Angeles Lakers, there was a critical moment during the final possession when Joel Embiid did not foul Russell Westbrook. This decision by Embiid proved to be a key factor in the 76ers' victory over the Lakers. Although there was some controversy surrounding the play, with some Lakers fans and players arguing that a foul should have been called, the referees ultimately determined that no foul had occurred. As a result, the 76ers were able to secure the win and maintain their lead in the league standings.

Conclusion

The Lakers suffered a bitter loss at home today, falling to the 76ers by a narrow margin of 112-113, marking their third consecutive defeat. Russell Westbrook missed the final shot, and after the game, he pointed directly to Joel Embiid, alleging that Embiid grabbed his hand during defense, preventing him from raising it for a layup. However, the referees did not blow the whistle, and Embiid responded by saying that it was just Westbrook's bad luck. With 13.1 seconds left in the fourth quarter, the Lakers had the final possession. Westbrook took on Embiid in a one-on-one situation but was blocked by Georges Niang, who provided help defense. In the end, the Lakers fell short by one point, 112-113. In a post-game interview, Westbrook directly mentioned that Embiid held his right hand, preventing him from shooting. At that moment, Embiid tightly gripped Westbrook's right wrist with his left hand, but the referees did not see it.

- **Insight: There is controversy surrounding whether Embiid fouled Westbrook in the decisive moments of the game.**



BASKETBALL NETWORK

"I couldn't get my nano up to snoot because ne [Joel Embiid] was grabbing it" - Russell Westbrook explains the disastrous last possession that gave the game away to the Philadelphia 76ers

B

Embiid was asked the same question about the last play, and described it as "great defense."

NICOLE GANOLANI • JAN 16, 2023

f X p



Joel Embiid, Russell Westbrook

The Los Angeles Lakers dropped their third straight game, this time at the hands of the Philadelphia 76ers, who were led by Joel Embiid's 35 points. The game came down to one possession, which involved Russell Westbrook, who could've won the game for Los Angeles but instead turned the ball over.

Westbrook, who had himself a night ranking up his 199th career triple-double of 20 points along with 14 rebounds and 11 assists, believes that he was fouled by Joel Embiid in the last play.

Talkin' NBA

@_Talkin_NBA Follow

Joel Embiid grabbing Russell Westbrook's wrist:



Kyle Goon @kylegoon

Russell Westbrook said in the locker room that the final play was a shot attempt that was blocked by Joel Embiid grabbing his right arm. Westbrook showed a handful of reporters a screenshot of the play where Embiid appears to be grabbing him.

1:39 PM · Jan 16, 2023

1.1K Reply Share Read 35 replies

Too many things have gone wrong in the possession

The Sixers were up 113-112 with less than 15 seconds to go as the Lakers had the last possession. Head coach Darvin Ham, who had two timeouts remaining, opted not to call one as Westbrook brought the ball down the court.

Unfortunately for the 9-time All-Star, he lost his handle in the middle of the play and still tried to go to the rim to attempt his shot, which resulted in a successful defensive rebound.

Afterward, Joel Embiid was asked the same question about the last play. The Sixers' superstar, however, said he didn't foul Russ.

"I don't think I fouled him. Physical play on both sides, you could've called a foul on the other end, too, a bump. It goes both ways. I thought it was great defense, and we got the win," Embiid said. "He was actually unlucky because he lost the ball, and then from there, he kinda had nothing else going. Yeah, I would say that he was unlucky."

The Lakers have a problem in clutch moments

Westbrook's unsuccessful play to close Sunday's game against the Sixers is just one of the many that the Lakers have had all season. They've managed to tread water despite their overall health issues but somehow have lost multiple games in heartbreaking fashion this season.

This was an unfortunate breakdown for the Lakers, and while Westbrook may have a point that the play could've been a foul, at the end of the day, it's going to count as a loss — and one that's going to hurt the now-19-24 Lakers team moving forward.

Usability Study:

The following eight sports news articles were created by eight participants in a user study. Some of the participants used our previous sample news articles as a reference and made modifications based on them. Others found matches of personal interest and inputted their own insights, resulting in entirely new news articles. Subsequently, they utilized the InsightSupporter tool to craft these sports news pieces. For details, please refer to 'user study' folder.

- **Case A:**

Insight: Joel Embiid most shots were taken from mid range and happened in first quarter.

- **Case B:**

insight: Harden shines despite poor shooting, utilizes assists and inside drives effectively.

- **Case C:**

insight: Cavaliers dominate in forward line, pose threat on both ends against 76ers.

- **Case D:**

insight: Embiid shines with Double-Double and precision shooting, renders Cavaliers' defense powerless.

- **Case E:**

insight: Durant maintains a shooting percentage of 50%, despite being injured and leaving the court.

- **Case F:**

insight: Kevin Durant was forced to exit the game when Jimmy Butler landed on his knee.

- **Case G:**

insight: Suns' bench dominates both ends of the court against Jazz, helping the team secure victory.

- **Case H:**

insight: Joel Embiid did not foul Russell Westbrook on LAL's final possession.

News for Usability Study

A

Embiid's Shooting Performance

Joel Embiid most shots were taken from mid range and happened in first quarter.

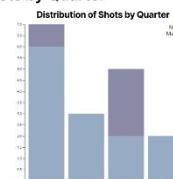


Joel Embiid's Performance



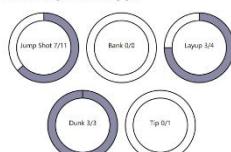
On March 17, 2022, the Philadelphia 76ers faced off against the Cleveland Cavaliers in a regular season NBA game, with the 76ers prevailing 118-114 over the Cavaliers. Joel Embiid played for 35 minutes and scored 37 points, shooting 13-19, resulting in a shooting percentage of 68.4%, and getting 17 rebounds and 5 assists to help his team secure the victory. Embiid's mid-range shooting played an important role in the game, helping the 76ers take the lead in the first half.

Distribution of Shots by Quarter



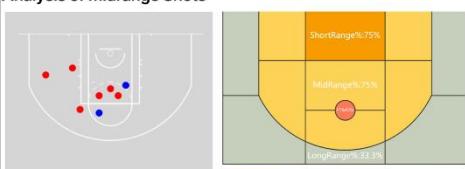
Joel Embiid showcased his prowess in the first half, sinking 8 out of 10 shots and propelling the 76ers to an early lead. However, his success was primarily attributed to his mid-range jumpers, hitting an impressive 6 out of 7 attempts. The momentum shifted in the second half as Embiid's shooting cooled down, managing only 4 out of 9 shots. The third quarter saw a drastic decline in his shooting accuracy, and in the final quarter, he attempted only two shots. Embiid's shooting performance in this match was largely concentrated in the opening quarter, raising questions about his sustainability throughout the game.

Distribution of Shots by Shot Type



Jump shot is Embiid's primary shooting method, with 7 out of 11 attempts successful. Embiid's layups and dunks are very consistent and have a high success rate. As a center, Embiid has the ability to attack and shoot while holding the ball. In today's game, the mid-range shot was his main scoring method.

Analysis of Midrange Shots



Embiid, as a center, also took a lot of mid-range shots in this game. The shot chart shows his mid-range shooting points and accuracy. Embiid took 8 mid-range shots and made 6 of them, for a shooting percentage of 75%. The area chart illustrates Embiid's shooting proficiency at various distances in this game, with close-range and mid-range shots being Embiid's dominant areas.

B

Harden's Performance Review

Harden shines despite poor shooting, utilizes assists and inside drives effectively.



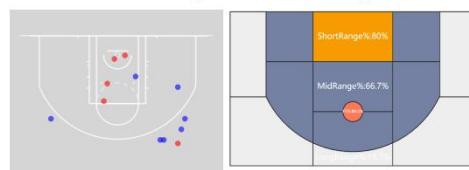
Strong Overall Performance as Harden



Player	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	REB	AST	STL	TO	PTS	PF	+/-
J.Harden	42	5-12	1-6	10-12	2	11	0	4	21	1	+18

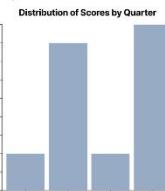
In a recent NBA clash on March 17, 2022, the Philadelphia 76ers triumphed 118-114 over the Cleveland Cavaliers during a regular season game. James Harden shone with an impressive performance, recording a double-double of 21 points, 11 assists, and 2 rebounds. Despite struggling with their shooting, Harden's finesse in both free throws and assists proved crucial. He skillfully penetrated the paint, inflicting damage with his drives, and maintained his composure in the pivotal moments of the fourth quarter by sinking crucial free throws, ultimately securing victory for the team.

Poor Three-Point Shooting, but Dominant Scoring in the Paint



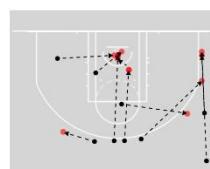
James Harden struggled from beyond the arc, hitting just 1 out of 6 attempts from three-point range in the game. However, his prowess in the paint was truly remarkable, converting 4 out of 5 attempts near the basket. Harden's aggressive play earned him an impressive 12 free throws, showcasing his formidable ability to create scoring opportunities and his unwavering determination to secure victory.

Sluggish Offense in Q1, Dominant Performance in Q4



In the first and third quarters, both teams seemed to lack offensive drive, but the fourth quarter told a different story. Harden's initial presence was limited, drawing fouls and converting both free throws in the first quarter. Despite his extended time on the court, his offensive initiative remained subdued, thanks to impressive performances from his teammates, notably Embiid's impeccable shooting. However, the narrative shifted in the second and fourth quarters as Harden aggressively penetrated the defense, amassing 17 points in just two quarters. Demonstrating his veteran prowess, he dictated the tempo, drew fouls, and led his team to a well-earned victory. In the crucial moments of the final quarter, Harden showcased his leadership by capitalizing on a Maxey assist for a layup, followed by a series of successful free throws after drawing fouls. Harden's impeccable performance in the closing stages, going 4 for 4 from the free-throw line, ensured his team's consistent lead, ultimately securing the triumph.

Efficient Assists Showcase the Role of Point Guard



APG/TPG

2.75(11/4)

In this game, Harden achieved 11 assists, effectively utilizing pick-and-roll situations to feed the interior for points, creating opportunities for three-point shots through penetration and passing to open teammates. With an impressive assist-to-turnover ratio of 2.75, his exquisite passing seamlessly connected the entire team, especially exhibiting great chemistry with Embiid and Maxey. The offensive coordination flowed exceptionally well.

C

Cavaliers' Frontcourt Poses Threat to 76ers

Cavaliers dominate in forward line, pose threat on both ends against 76ers.



Overall Performance of the Frontcourt

Philadelphia 76ers:

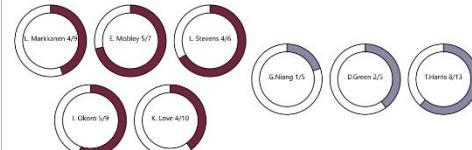
Player	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	REB	AST	STL	TO	PTS	PF	+/-
T.Harris	39	8-13	3-6	0-0	6	3	1	2	19	6	+21
D.Green	21	2-5	2-5	0-0	1	1	2	0	6	3	-8
G.Niang	19	1-5	1-4	0-0	2	1	1	0	3	2	-12

Cleveland Cavaliers:

Player	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	REB	AST	STL	TO	PTS	PF	+/-
L.Markkanen	33	4-9	2-6	3-4	4	2	2	0	13	2	-4
E.Mobley	31	5-7	0-1	3-3	9	3	0	3	13	5	-6
L.Stevens	19	4-6	0-0	0-0	2	1	1	0	8	1	-10
I.Okorogbo	41	5-9	3-5	4-4	5	1	0	0	17	3	-17
K.Love	17	4-10	2-7	0-0	7	0	1	1	10	2	0

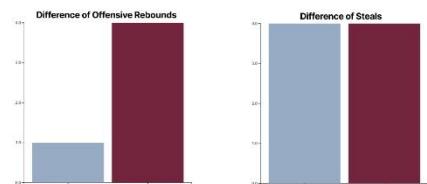
In a regular season NBA clash on March 17, 2022, the Philadelphia 76ers squared off against the Cavaliers. The 76ers' frontcourt trio of Harris, Green, and Niang took center stage. Harris delivered a remarkable performance, scoring 19 points with an impressive 8 out of 13 field goals, earning the game's highest +/ of +21. The remaining two backup forwards also made defensive contributions, despite their normal overall display. On the flip side, the Cavaliers, boasting a roster rich in frontcourt talent with 5 players, faced a mixed outcome. Star player Markkanen had an off-night, struggling with limited ball possession and falling short of his usual standards. Players like Mobley, Stevens, Okoro, and Love showcased excellent three-point shooting, displaying a cohesive frontcourt unit that excelled on both ends of the court, notably contributing to the team's defense. Nevertheless, the victory ultimately went to the 76ers, showcasing their prowess on the court.

Cavaliers' Frontcourt Dominates 76ers in Offensive



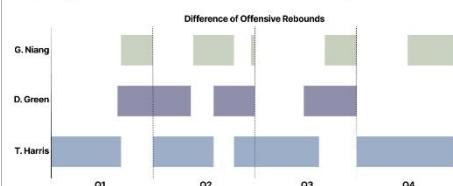
The Cavaliers' frontcourt took control, overpowering the 76ers' defense. With five players from the Cavaliers' front line getting on the court, they collectively made 22 shots out of 41 attempts. On the other hand, only three players from the 76ers' frontcourt saw action, making 11 shots out of 23 attempts. Among them, the standout was the in-form starter, Harris, sinking 8 shots. This starkly highlighted the distinct contributions of different playing styles from both teams' frontcourt in the game.

Cavaliers' Frontcourt Performance Leads in Offensive Rebounds



The Cavaliers' frontcourt advantage has propelled them to secure a significant lead in offensive rebounds. Their formidable frontcourt players have capitalized on their athleticism to outmuscle opponents for crucial offensive boards, granting them numerous second-chance opportunities. Notably, the Cavaliers have garnered four times as many offensive rebounds as the 76ers, translating to a plethora of extra possessions. Leveraging their exceptional physicality and agility has been pivotal in maximizing this edge. Both teams have recorded an equal number of steals, with each frontcourt contributing four steals apiece.

Disparity in 76ers' Frontcourt Performance Explained



The noticeable gap in the 76ers' frontcourt performance can be attributed to the coaching strategy employed by their head coach. The coach has made a habit of allocating significant minutes to the starting lineup, employing tactics to mitigate the team's frontcourt weaknesses. In this regard, Harris has been the primary player logging extended playing time. Green and Niang, meanwhile, have been utilized primarily as three-point shooters, contributing firepower and defensive support during their appearances on the court.

D

Embiid's Performance Review

Embiid shines with Double-Double and precision shooting, renders Cavaliers' defense powerless.

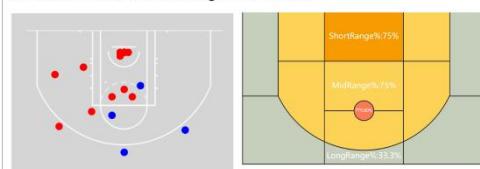


Embiid Shines Bright Throughout the Game



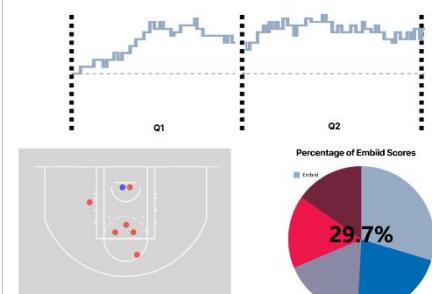
In a thrilling NBA matchup on March 17, 2022, the Philadelphia 76ers clashed with the Cleveland Cavaliers during the regular season. The 76ers emerged triumphant with a final score of 118-114 over the Cavaliers. Joel Embiid's outstanding performance stole the spotlight as he secured a remarkable double-double, amassing 35 points and 17 rebounds. The game kicked off with Embiid showcasing his firepower right from the first quarter, setting the tone for the team's victory. His consistent output throughout the match proved pivotal in securing the win for the 76ers. With precision shooting and an impressive display on both ends of the court, Embiid rendered the Cavaliers' defense powerless, ultimately shining as the driving force behind the 76ers' success.

Embiid's Precision Shooting Performance



In a remarkable display of accuracy, Joel Embiid's shooting prowess proved unstoppable as he sank 13 out of 19 field goal attempts, along with a remarkable 5 out of 7 from the free-throw line, totaling 10 free throws. His performance left opponents struggling to contain him defensively. Embiid's dominance extended beyond the paint, showcasing his proficiency in mid-range shooting. The strategic mix of drawing fouls and maintaining a high shooting percentage guaranteed his exceptional offensive efficiency throughout the game. This standout performance solidified Embiid's role as a force to be reckoned with on both ends of the court.

Explosive Start Leads Team to Seize Early Advantage



In the opening moments of the game, Joel Embiid showcased excellent athletic form, dispelling pre-game injury concerns. He wasted no time and nailed five consecutive mid-range jumpers in the elbow area, followed by a thunderous dunk assisted by Harden. This dominant start provided the 76ers with an early advantage, setting the tone for their triumph. Embiid's individual performance in the first quarter propelled the 76ers to a 7-point lead and, at its peak, extended to a 16-point lead.

E

Durant's Performance Review

Durant maintains a shooting percentage of 50%, despite being injured and leaving the court.



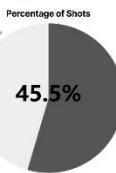
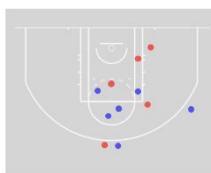
Durant Whole Game Review



Player	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	REB	AST	STL	TO	PTS	PF	+/-
K.Durant	30	5-11	1-3	6-7	5	2	1	4	17	1	-2

January 8th, 2023 Regular Season: Brooklyn Nets narrowly defeated Miami Heat with a final score of 102:101. Kevin Durant maintained a shooting percentage of 50%, but unfortunately suffered an unexpected injury and had to leave the court during the final quarter. In the latter half of the third quarter, Durant collided with Butler while attempting a layup, clutching his knee in pain and falling to the ground. After Durant's departure, Kyrie Irving took charge of the offensive and the Nets closely trailed the score. In the final 3.2 seconds, they made a comeback with a put-back shot by O'Neal, securing the victory. Durant scored 17 points in this game, making 5 out of 11 attempts, displaying high offensive efficiency despite not taking many shots. However, Durant had several turnovers in this game, with 4 of them resulting in 6 points for the opposing team through fast breaks.

Low Offensive Desire and Efficient Shooting Performance



In this game, Kevin Durant scored 17 points with a shooting percentage of 5 out of 11. However, he unexpectedly left the court due to injury during the crucial stage of the fourth quarter. Fortunately, the Nets secured the victory in the end with a precise buzzer-beater from O'Neal. Durant, who played for 30 minutes, took 11 shots and maintained his 50% shooting percentage. His ability to excel in one-on-one situations made it seem effortless for him.

Efficient Offensive Performance

Advanced Stats

TS%: 60.4

USG%: 26.9

EFG%: 50.0

Kevin Durant continued his impressive efficiency on offense before getting injured, maintaining a true shooting percentage of 60.4%. He scored 17 points on just 11 shot attempts. Despite being in his limited healthy state, he played for 30 minutes with a usage rate of 26.9%. Although not the primary ball-handler on the court, Durant's individual scoring ability and playmaking skills are outstanding even among power forwards. Advanced statistics highlight Durant's status as one of the top players in the league. We hope for a speedy recovery for Durant so that he can return to the court soon.

F

Durant's Injury

Kevin Durant was forced to exit the game when Jimmy Butler landed on his knee.



Kevin Durant's Impressive Initial Performance

Player	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	REB	AST	STL	TO	PTS	PF	+/-
K.Durant	30	5-11	1-3	6-7	5	2	1	4	17	1	-2

On January 9th, 2023, the Brooklyn Nets confronted the Miami Heat. Kevin Durant participated in the game for a total of 30 minutes, contributing 17 points and securing 5 rebounds. His performance began on a high note as he successfully converted 5 out of 11 shot attempts, ultimately leading the Brooklyn Nets to a victorious outcome.

Jimi Butler's Collision with Durant

The incident occurred with just over a minute remaining in the quarter, when Heat's Jimmy Butler attempted to drive to the basket, only to have his shot blocked by Ben Simmons, who sent Butler crashing into Durant's knee. Despite staying on the ground for a brief moment, Durant remained in the game and attempted to play through the injury. However, it soon became apparent that the injury was more serious than initially thought, as Durant kept rubbing at his knee and eventually had to be taken out of the game during a timeout.

G

Super Subs Lead to Suns' Victory

Suns' bench dominates both ends of the court against Jazz, helping the team secure victory.



Team Stats Review

Team Stats



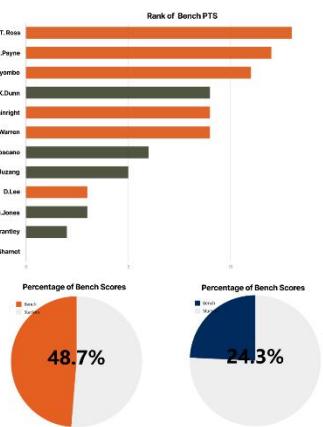
On March 28, 2023, in a regular-season NBA game, the Phoenix Suns defeated the Utah Jazz with a score of 117-103. It is worth mentioning that due to Ayton's injury, the Suns' bench rotation lineup received ample playing time in this game. The bench unit ultimately dominated the Jazz, thanks to their higher three-point shooting percentage, field goal percentage, and free throw percentage. With a steady performance, the Suns were able to suppress the Jazz and secure the victory.

Two Teams' Bench Player Performance

Team	PTS	FG	3PT	FT	REB	AST	STL	TO	BC	PF	+/-
Phoenix Suns	57	22-48	7-21	6-6	26	14	1	1	7	13	+18
Utah Jazz	25	11-22	2-9	1-2	11	6	0	2	5	8	-12

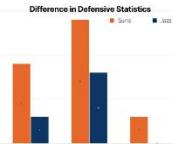
In a comparison of the performances of the two teams' bench players, despite the Phoenix Suns having 7 players on their bench, which is two more than the Utah Jazz, the Suns' bench overall outperformed the Jazz. The Suns' bench scored a total of 57 points, surpassing the Jazz's bench by 32 points. The Suns' bench primarily consisted of 3-and-D players, and in this game, they made 7 three-pointers, significantly more than the Jazz. As substitutes, they dominated the game on both ends of the court, opening up a 30-point lead and helping the team secure the victory.

Excellent Offensive Performance of Suns' Bench



There is no doubt that the bench lineup of the Phoenix Suns completely dominated the Utah Jazz on the offensive end. T. Ross scored the highest among the bench players with 13 points, but his offensive efficiency was not high. The top three scorers among the bench players all came from the Phoenix Suns, while the highest-scoring bench player from the Jazz, K. Dunn, scored 9 points. The Suns also had underperforming bench players, as L. Shamet, who is a key rotational substitute, contributed zero points in this game, falling below the team's expectations. The Suns heavily relied on their bench lineup for scoring in this game, with 48.7% of their total score of 117 points coming from the bench. In contrast, only 24.3% of the Jazz's score came from their bench lineup. Strengthening the bench lineup will be an anticipated improvement for the Jazz this season.

Consistent Defensive Performance of Suns' Bench



On the defensive end, the Phoenix Suns' bench players, who are predominantly 3-and-D players, emphasized defense, particularly in rebounding and shot-blocking. They protected the paint while also disrupting the perimeter, securing 9 offensive rebounds, which is 6 more than the Jazz. This gave them more opportunities for second-chance points. Defensively, they effectively protected the defensive rebounds, making it difficult for the Jazz to secure offensive rebounds. Additionally, the Suns' bench players utilized shot-blocking and steals to put pressure on the Jazz's offense. They successfully fulfilled their defensive responsibilities, contributing to the team's victory.

Conclusion

The reinforcement of the bench rotation lineup plays a crucial role in improving the overall strength of a team. The Utah Jazz team is in urgent need of strengthening their bench lineup. However, the Phoenix Suns also exposed the issue of lacking a backup center due to Deandre Ayton's absence. Strengthening the backup center position will be crucial for the Suns to continue their postseason journey. In this game, the Suns' bench dominated both ends of the court, with an efficiency of +18 in plus-minus value and three players achieving double-double statistics. These results became the key to the Suns' victory.

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Controversial Referee Decision in Final Moment

Joel Embiid did not foul Russell Westbrook on LAL's final possession.



Referee Decision in the Final Moments

Events

in Final Moment

Q4

13. Westbrook REBOUND (Off:0 Def:0)

3

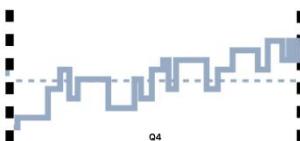
3.1 MISS Westbrook 6' Driving Layup

Niang BLOCK (1 BLK) 3.1

Embiid REBOUND (Off:0 Def:11) 1.0

In the game between the Philadelphia 76ers and the Los Angeles Lakers, there was a critical moment during the final possession when Joel Embiid did not foul Russell Westbrook. This decision by Embiid proved to be a key factor in the 76ers' victory over the Lakers. Although there was some controversy surrounding the play, with some Lakers fans and players arguing that a foul should have been called, the referees ultimately determined that no foul had occurred. As a result, the 76ers were able to secure the win and maintain their lead in the league standings.

The impact of the game



The Los Angeles Lakers suffered a narrow defeat at home, losing to the Philadelphia 76ers by a score of 112-113, marking their third consecutive loss. Russell Westbrook missed the final shot, and he pointed out after the game that Joel Embiid's hand was holding him while defending, preventing him from being able to raise his hand for a layup. However, the referees did not blow the whistle, and Embiid responded by saying that Westbrook can only blame himself for his misfortune. In this particular case, the referee's decision, or lack thereof, regarding the alleged foul or violation could have affected the Lakers' chances of winning the game. The outcome could have been different if a foul had been called on Joel Embiid for impeding Russell Westbrook's shot attempt. Such decisions can spark debates and discussions among fans, players, and analysts, highlighting the importance of fair and accurate officiating in sports.