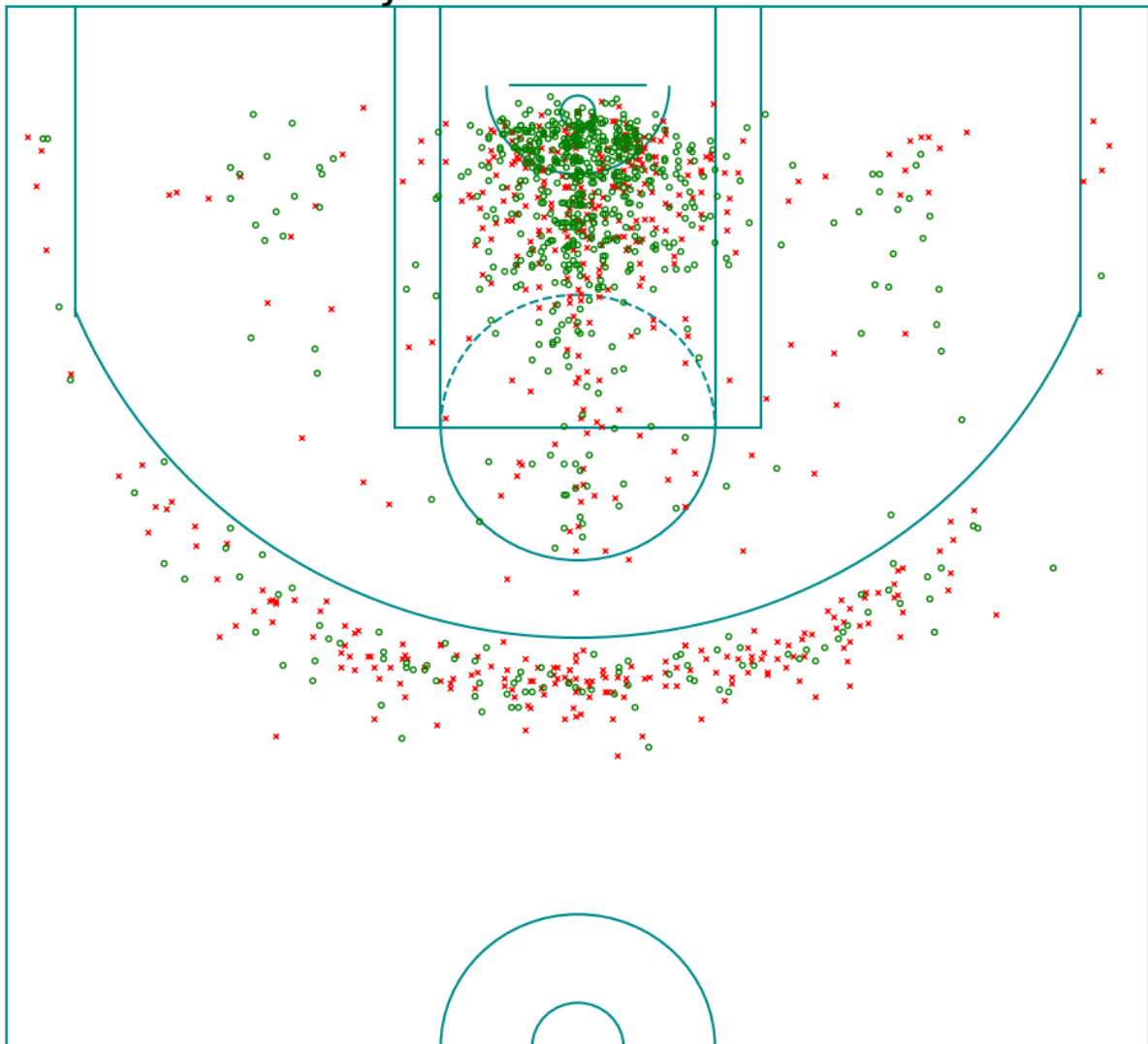


The debate between 2021–22 and 2022–23 NBA regular season MVPs



When discussing the top players in the NBA, the conversation must begin with the big men. Undeniably, 2021–22 regular season MVP Nikola Jokic from the Denver Nuggets and 2022–23 regular season MVP Joel Embiid from the Philadelphia 76ers are at the forefront of these discussions.

Nikola Jokic Shot Chart 2021-22



Data Source: https://github.com/swar/nba_api
Author: God-ass

Looking at the shot chart, we can clearly see that Nikola Jokic's shots are concentrated in the paint and restricted area.

-----Nikola Jokic Scoring Stats 2021-22-----

FG%: 58.28% (764/1311)

league_avg FG%: 46.11%

Total points: 1625

Points per game: 21.96

-----FG% per Zone-----

Mid-Range : 53.54% (68/127)

Restricted Area : 71.87% (350/487)

In The Paint (Non-RA) : 60.88% (249/409)

Above the Break 3 : 34.31% (94/274)

Right Corner 3 : 20.00% (1/5)

Left Corner 3 : 33.33% (2/6)

Backcourt : 0.00% (0/3)

-----league average FG% per Zone-----

Above the Break 3 : 34.60% (22299/64447)

Backcourt : 2.50% (11/440)

In The Paint (Non-RA) : 42.83% (16990/39668)

Left Corner 3 : 38.42% (4371/11377)

Mid-Range : 40.65% (11264/27712)

Restricted Area : 65.32% (41140/62987)

Right Corner 3 : 38.20% (3855/10091)

Based on Nikola Jokic's scoring stats for the 2021–22 NBA season, he had an outstanding season in terms of scoring, with a field goal percentage of **58.28%**, which outperformed the league average by 12.17%. He scored a total of **1625 points**, averaging **21.96 points per game**, **excluding free throws**.

As a top center in the NBA, Jokic dominated the league **in the Paint (60.88%)** and **Restricted Area (71.87%)**, which is **18% and 6.55%** higher than the league average respectively. On the other hand, he also had strong shooting ability. Apart from tying league average **Above the Break 3** at **34%**, he outperformed the league in the **Mid-Range** zone by **12.89%**.

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-----FG% per Play-----
Driving Reverse Layup Shot : 100.00% (7/7)
Running Dunk Shot : 100.00% (10/10)
Dunk Shot : 100.00% (4/4)
Driving Dunk Shot : 100.00% (5/5)
Running Reverse Layup Shot : 100.00% (1/1)
Running Finger Roll Layup Shot : 88.89% (8/9)
Finger Roll Layup Shot : 86.36% (19/22)
Driving Finger Roll Layup Shot : 85.71% (24/28)
Cutting Dunk Shot : 85.71% (12/14)
Reverse Layup Shot : 81.82% (9/11)
Cutting Finger Roll Layup Shot : 81.25% (13/16)
Floating Jump shot : 74.68% (59/79)
Cutting Layup Shot : 73.33% (33/45)
Running Layup Shot : 70.00% (7/10)
Driving Hook Shot : 69.57% (16/23)
Putback Layup Shot : 68.33% (41/60)
Layup Shot : 66.94% (81/121)
Turnaround Bank Hook Shot : 66.67% (4/6)
Running Jump Shot : 66.67% (4/6)
Hook Shot : 65.85% (27/41)
Driving Floating Jump Shot : 61.82% (34/55)
Turnaround Jump Shot : 59.65% (34/57)
Turnaround Hook Shot : 59.00% (59/100)
Driving Floating Bank Jump Shot : 57.14% (4/7)
Driving Layup Shot : 54.41% (37/68)
Tip Layup Shot : 53.33% (32/60)
Pullup Jump shot : 50.00% (6/12)
Jump Bank Shot : 50.00% (2/4)
Turnaround Fadeaway Bank Jump Shot : 50.00% (2/4)
Jump Shot : 41.24% (153/371)
Turnaround Fadeaway shot : 41.18% (7/17)
Step Back Jump shot : 35.71% (5/14)
Fadeaway Jump Shot : 26.32% (5/19)
Running Pull-Up Jump Shot : 0.00% (0/4)
Hook Bank Shot : 0.00% (0/1)

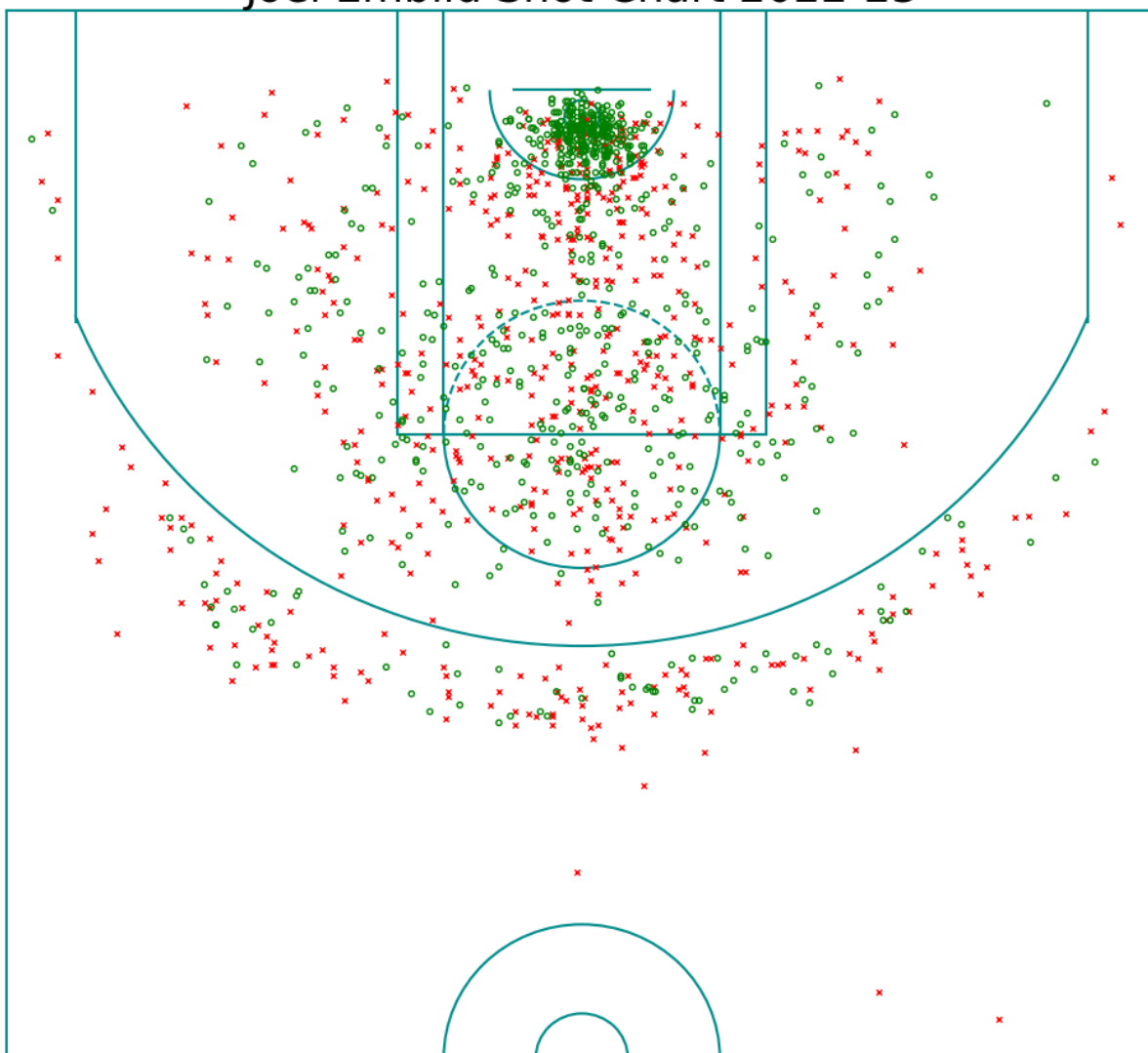
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Looking at play type, Jokic had several plays where he had a 100% success rate, including **Driving Reverse Layup Shot**, and **Dunk Shot**. He also had a high success rate for plays such as **Running Finger Roll Layup Shot** (88.89%), **Finger Roll Layup Shot** (86.36%), and **Driving Finger Roll Layup Shot** (85.71%).

Jokic's most iconic plays are **Jump shot (371 attempts)** and **Turnaround Hook Shot (100 attempts)**. His jump shot is quite accurate at 41.24%. However, his turnaround hook shot and turnaround jump shot (**total of 159 attempts**) have reached an impressive accuracy at 59%.

Overall, Nikola Jokic is a dominant big-man center with strong shooting ability from mid-range to three-point range. He dominates in the paint and restricted area while shooting better than the traditional center.

Joel Embiid Shot Chart 2022-23



Data Source: https://github.com/swar/nba_api
Author: God-ass

Looking at the shot chart, we can clearly see that Joel Embiid's shots are distributed evenly inside the three-point line.

-----Joel Embiid Scoring Stats 2022-23-----

FG%: 54.82% (728/1328)

league_avg FG%: 47.54%

Total points: 1522

Points per game: 23.06

-----FG% per Zone-----

Mid-Range : 48.72% (171/351)

Above the Break 3 : 34.04% (64/188)

In The Paint (Non-RA) : 49.01% (174/355)

Restricted Area : 75.12% (317/422)

Backcourt : 0.00% (0/4)

Left Corner 3 : 33.33% (2/6)

Right Corner 3 : 0.00% (0/2)

-----league average FG% per Zone-----

Above the Break 3 : 35.45% (22201/62625)

Backcourt : 2.46% (10/406)

In The Paint (Non-RA) : 44.36% (18827/42441)

Left Corner 3 : 38.51% (4262/11066)

Mid-Range : 42.05% (10831/25760)

Restricted Area : 66.63% (43298/64983)

Right Corner 3 : 38.55% (3831/9939)

Based on Joel Embiid's scoring stats for the 2022–23 NBA season, he had an impressive season in terms of scoring, with a field goal percentage of **54.82%**, which outperformed the league average by 7.28%. He scored a total of **1522 points**, averaging **23.06 points per game**, **excluding free throws**.

As a top center in the NBA, Embiid outscored the league **in the Paint (49.01%)** and **Restricted Area (75.12%)**, with **6.96%** and **8.49%** higher respectively. On the other hand, he also had strong shooting ability. Apart from tying league average **Above the Break 3** at **34%**, Embiid shoots more accurately in the **Mid-Range** zone by 6.67%.

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-----FG% per Play-----
Alley Oop Dunk Shot : 100.00% (6/6)
Running Reverse Layup Shot : 100.00% (3/3)
Putback Layup Shot : 100.00% (18/18)
Driving Bank Hook Shot : 100.00% (1/1)
Running Dunk Shot : 100.00% (13/13)
Finger Roll Layup Shot : 100.00% (4/4)
Putback Dunk Shot : 100.00% (2/2)
Driving Reverse Dunk Shot : 100.00% (1/1)
Running Alley Oop Layup Shot : 100.00% (1/1)
Reverse Layup Shot : 100.00% (2/2)
Step Back Bank Jump Shot : 100.00% (1/1)
Alley Oop Layup shot : 100.00% (1/1)
Cutting Dunk Shot : 93.75% (15/16)
Cutting Finger Roll Layup Shot : 91.67% (11/12)
Dunk Shot : 90.91% (10/11)
Running Layup Shot : 84.62% (22/26)
Running Finger Roll Layup Shot : 80.00% (4/5)
Driving Dunk Shot : 75.76% (25/33)
Driving Finger Roll Layup Shot : 74.19% (23/31)
Driving Floating Bank Jump Shot : 71.43% (5/7)
Cutting Layup Shot : 71.05% (27/38)
Driving Reverse Layup Shot : 70.00% (7/10)
Floating Jump shot : 66.67% (4/6)
Turnaround Bank shot : 66.67% (2/3)
Hook Shot : 66.67% (6/9)
Tip Dunk Shot : 66.67% (2/3)
Driving Layup Shot : 64.18% (86/134)
Layup Shot : 57.35% (39/68)
Turnaround Hook Shot : 52.63% (10/19)
Driving Hook Shot : 50.00% (2/4)
Running Alley Oop Dunk Shot : 50.00% (1/2)
Fadeaway Jump Shot : 48.35% (44/91)
Pullup Jump shot : 48.18% (106/220)
Jump Shot : 46.08% (135/293)
Tip Layup Shot : 45.45% (10/22)
Jump Bank Shot : 42.86% (3/7)
Running Pull-Up Jump Shot : 40.00% (2/5)
Turnaround Fadeaway shot : 39.34% (24/61)
Turnaround Jump Shot : 39.13% (18/46)
Step Back Jump shot : 38.10% (24/63)
Running Jump Shot : 33.33% (2/6)
Driving Floating Jump Shot : 27.27% (6/22)
Turnaround Bank Hook Shot : 0.00% (0/2)

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Looking at play type, Embiid had several plays where he had a 100% success rate, including **Putback Layup Shot**, and **Running Dunk Shot**. He also had a high success rate for plays such as **Cutting Dunk Shot** (93.75%), **Cutting Finger Roll Layup Shot** (91.67%), and **Running Layup Shot** (84.62%).

Embiid's most iconic plays are **Jump shot (393 attempts)** and **Pullup Jump Shot (220 attempts)**. With a total of large attempts (613), Embiid maintained a high accuracy for these two plays at 46.08% and 48.18%. However, He also had a high success rate for his **Driving layup shot (134 attempts)** at 64.18%.

Overall, Joel Embiid is an all-rounded big-man center with strong shooting ability from mid-range to three-point range. However, his play style is more similar to that of a forward than a traditional center, as he shoots and drives layups more than staying in the restricted area.



Last but not least, Nikola Jokic attempted a total of 896 shots (67%) in the paint and restricted area, 127 mid-range shots (54%), and 288 three-point shots (34%). On the other hand, Joel Embiid attempted a total of 777 shots (63%) in the paint and restricted area, 351 mid-range shots (49%), and 200 three-point shots (33%).

Although Embiid scored higher than Jokic per game, it can be argued that Jokic outperformed Embiid in terms of field goal percentage and scoring efficiency. However, it's important to note that these statistics may not provide a complete picture of their performances, as they exclude free throws.

In conclusion, the debate over who is the strongest player is an endless ongoing conversation. However, Jokic has certainly proven himself by winning the 2022–23 NBA Finals MVP.

Resources:

[1] https://github.com/swar/nba_api