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INFO 3401

Problem Set 6

For this problem set, I decided to analyze the 2007 NBA Draft class. I decided to download my data from the “basketball reference” website that provided me with all of the career statistics for every player that was drafted that year. I decided to compare and analyze the first player selected in the draft, Greg Oden, and the 48th player selected, Marc Gasol. Both of these men play the same position (F/C). Clearly, since Oden was taken number one overall, he was poised to have to better career. But come 13 years later, Gasol is still in the league as an all-star and Oden’s playing days have been done for nearly a decade.

As you can see from the visualizations that I created, Oden clearly did not play that many games. With second pick Kevin Durant being one of the current best players in the league, I decided to see where he, and the rest of the draft class stack up against these two players. KD is clearly the best player from this class having the most scored points and almost the most played games. Marc Gasol has played a lot of games and scored a lot of points as well, but where’s Oden? Once I analyze Oden on a deeper level, it is revealed in another visualization that he only played 105 career games. To add in some perspective, picks 2-5 have all played at least 820 games in the NBA. After some research, it was revealed that Greg Oden is considered a “bust” because his playing career was cut drastically short due to a plethora of leg injuries.

After analyzing Oden and Gasol, I decided to see who the two players related to the best out of their entire draft class. Obviously, Oden’s “neighbors” were other members of his draft that rarely got any playing time in their careers:

1. Jarvaris Crittenton
2. Kyrylo Fesenko
3. Chris Ricard

It is no surprise to me that these three players match so well with Oden. All four of these players played no more than five years total in the NBA and none of them competed in more than 150 games in their careers. As for Gasol, since he was one of the biggest stars drafted from this class, he is in much better company than Oden was:

1. Thaddeus Young
2. Jeff Green
3. Kevin Durant

All of these players are similar to Gasol because they have all played relatively the same number of games/seasons, they all have at least 11,000 points scored. And, all of their shooting percentages are good.