

Bronny James Jr. Data Analysis

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Overview

This project analyzes the performance and career outlook of Bronny James Jr. after being selected 55th overall in the 2024 NBA Draft. Using historical NBA draft and performance data (1996–2022), it challenges common criticisms by comparing Bronny's rookie season to the careers of players drafted in similar positions.

Key Techniques

This analysis applies several data science and machine learning techniques:

Random Forest Regressor to evaluate where Bronny might have been drafted based solely on rookie-year performance

k-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) to identify players with statistically similar rookie seasons

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to explore patterns between draft slot and long-term performance

Descriptive analysis to assess typical outcomes for late second-round picks

Data Source

NBA player performance and draft data from Kaggle

<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/sumitrodatta/nba-aba-baa-stats?select=Player+Season+Info.csv>

Read the article on Medium: [The Debate Around Bronny James Jr — Fair Criticism or Unreasonable Expectations?]

(<https://medium.com/@logan.laszewski14/the-debate-around-bronny-james-jr-fair-criticism-or-unreasonable-expectations-34e5ef205d14>)

Packages Used

pandas
numpy
matplotlib
scikit-learn
statsmodels
scipy
dmdba (for model evaluation and variable selection utilities)

Files

Bronny_James_Jr_Analysis_.ipynb – full code and analysis

all_seasons.csv – contains the cleaned player performance dataset