Final Project

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##Part 1 - Introduction #The topic of study is the characteristics of NBA players from 1947 to 2022. We are studying the effect of height on free throw percentage and also finding the changes over time of basketball players and their demographics. This includes a variety of variables including height, weight, BMI, free throw percentage, and etc. We can learn about the changes over time of NBA players who qualify and see whether certain characteristics affect player level and quality.

##Part 2 - Background #Our group used three datasets 1) contained the physical attributes of all of the people to ever play in the NBA dataset 2) and 3) had the game stats for all the active players in the league for the 22-23 and 23-24 season. The datasets provided our group with the needed information to observe the phenomenon where the tallest players are the worst at free throws compared to their shorter team members. We also observed how the average height, weight, and BMI of players have changed since the start of the league in 1948 to today. All of the datasets were Excel/CSV files. The unit of observation for the all_player_bios was the individual player's name. The stats data frame unit of observation was also the individual player in a given season, which was either 22-23 or 23-24. The most important variables for our project were the player's height, weight, BMI, position, and free throw percentage(FT%). These variables were the most useful for us to try and observe a correlation between physical attributes such as height and free throw accuracy. When reading the data visualizations it is important to remember that a player's position is usually related to the player's height. For example, the tallest and biggest players generally play center, and the smaller and faster players are more likely to play a guard position. It is also important to note that some data points for the free throws lie on the asymptote 1 or 0.0. This does mean that the player that the point represents has 100% success at the line or zero success. It more likely indicates that that player did not have the opportunity to play more than once or twice that season. Finally, for the age visualization, the graph appears counterintuitive in that as players get older they would get worse. This is a collider bias issue because only the players who remain high performers in their later years stay in the league. Thus the graph might be misleading because only the best players can play into their late thirties and early forties it doesn't show that the majority of players retire around 33 years old.

##Part 3 - Data Wrangling

```
#Load tidyverse, stringr, ggridges, and csv data files.

library(tidyverse)
```

```
## -- Attaching core tidyverse packages ---
                                                       ----- tidyverse 2.0.0 --
## v dplyr
               1.1.4
                          v readr
                                       2.1.5
## v forcats
               1.0.0
                                       1.5.1
                          v stringr
## v ggplot2
               3.4.4
                          v tibble
                                       3.2.1
## v lubridate 1.9.3
                                       1.3.1
                          v tidvr
## v purrr
               1.0.2
                                    ----- tidyverse conflicts() --
## -- Conflicts -----
## x dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
## x dplyr::lag()
                      masks stats::lag()
## i Use the conflicted package (<a href="http://conflicted.r-lib.org/">http://conflicted.r-lib.org/</a>) to force all conflicts to become error
```

```
library(stringr)
library(ggridges)
a_initial_Season_22_23 <- read_csv("NBA Stats 202223 All Stats NBA Player Props Tool.csv")
## Rows: 609 Columns: 29
## -- Column specification -------
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (3): NAME, TEAM, POS
## dbl (25): AGE, GP, MPG, USG%, TO%, FTA, FT%, 2PA, 2P%, 3PA, 3P%, eFG%, TS%, ...
## lgl (1): RANK
##
## i Use 'spec()' to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set 'show_col_types = FALSE' to quiet this message.
a_initial_Season_23_24 <- read_csv("NBA Stats 202324 All Stats NBA Player Props Tool.csv")
## Rows: 598 Columns: 29
## -- Column specification -------
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (3): NAME, TEAM, POS
## dbl (25): AGE, GP, MPG, USG%, TO%, FTA, FT%, 2PA, 2P%, 3PA, 3P%, eFG%, TS%, ...
## lgl (1): RANK
## i Use 'spec()' to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set 'show_col_types = FALSE' to quiet this message.
a_initial_playerset <- read_csv("common_player_info.csv")</pre>
## Rows: 4171 Columns: 33
## -- Column specification -----
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (26): first_name, last_name, display_first_last, display_last_comma_fir...
        (6): person_id, weight, season_exp, team_id, from_year, to_year
## dttm (1): birthdate
##
## i Use 'spec()' to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set 'show_col_types = FALSE' to quiet this message.
all_player_bios <- a_initial_playerset %>%
#Clean data by removing players who have never been drafted or have no body measurement data.
 filter(draft_year != "Undrafted") %>%
 filter_at(vars(height, weight), all_vars(!is.na(.))) %>%
#Select variables for first name, last name, body measurements, season experience, position, year of dr
 subset(select= c(first_name,
                 last_name,
                 weight,
                 height,
                 season_exp,
```

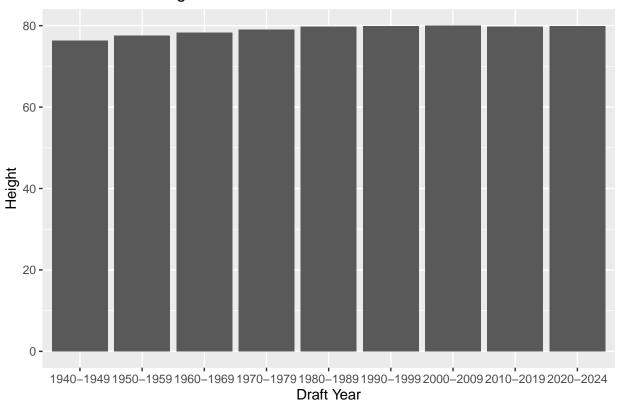
```
position,
                   draft_year,
                   to_year)) %>%
#Concatenate first and last name of players. Create a new variable, "NAME", and alphabetically order pl
  unite("NAME",
        c(first_name,last_name),
        sep=" ",
       remove=TRUE) %>%
  arrange(NAME) %>%
#Convert "height" from "feet, inches" into strictly inches.
#Separate non-numeric variable, "height", into two numeric variables, "Feet" and "Inches".
  separate(height, into = c("Feet", "Inches"),
           sep ="-") %>%
 mutate(Feet = as.numeric(Feet)) %>%
  mutate(Inches = as.numeric(Inches)) %>%
#Recalculate "height" in strictly inches and remove the "Feet" and "Inches" variables.
  mutate(height = 12 * Feet + Inches) %>%
  subset(select = -c(Feet,Inches)) %>%
 relocate(height, .after = NAME) %>%
#Create and calculate BMI
  mutate(BMI =
           round((weight*0.453592)/(height*0.0254)^2, 2)) %>%
 relocate(BMI, .after = NAME) %>%
#Edit "position" for later joining and simplify "position" to strictly Forward, Center, or Guard.
  mutate(position = gsub("Forward", "F", position)) %>%
  mutate(position = gsub("Center", "C", position)) %>%
  mutate(position = gsub("Guard", "G", position)) %>%
  mutate(position =
           case_when(
             position == "F-C" | position == "F-G" | position == "F" ~ "F",
             position == "G-C" | position == "G-F" | position == "G" ~ "G",
             position == "C-F" | position == "C-G" | position == "C" ~ "C")) %>%
#Change draft_year and to_year into a numeric for later analysis.
  mutate(draft_year = as.numeric(draft_year)) %>%
  mutate(to_year = as.numeric(to_year)) %>%
#Remove punctuation that could hinder later joining.
  mutate(NAME = gsub("\\.","",NAME)) %>%
 mutate(NAME = gsub("\\'","",NAME))
#Create a new dataset that reports general info of players in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 season.
player_bios_22_24 <- all_player_bios %>%
 filter(to_year >= 2022)
print(all_player_bios)
```

```
## # A tibble: 3,037 x 8
##
      NAMF.
                      BMI height weight season_exp position draft_year to_year
                                                                  <dbl>
##
      <chr>
                    <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
                                             <dbl> <chr>
## 1 AC Green
                     24.1
                                                16 F
                                                                   1985
                                                                           2000
                              81
                                    225
   2 AJ Bramlett
                     23.7
                              82
                                    227
                                                 1 C
                                                                   1999
                                                                           1999
## 3 AJ English
                     21.9
                              75
                                    175
                                                 2 G
                                                                   1990
                                                                           1991
## 4 AJ Griffin
                     25.4
                              78
                                                 1 F
                                                                   2022
                                                                           2023
                                    220
## 5 AJ Price
                     25.0
                              74
                                                 6 G
                                                                   2009
                                                                           2014
                                    195
## 6 Aaron Brooks
                     21.8
                              72
                                    161
                                                11 G
                                                                   2007
                                                                           2017
                              80
## 7 Aaron Gordon
                     25.8
                                    235
                                                 9 F
                                                                           2023
                                                                   2014
## 8 Aaron Gray
                     26.9
                              84
                                    270
                                                 7 C
                                                                   2007
                                                                           2013
## 9 Aaron Holiday 25.1
                              72
                                                 5 G
                                                                           2023
                                    185
                                                                   2018
                                                14 G
## 10 Aaron McKie
                     24.8
                              77
                                    209
                                                                   1994
                                                                           2006
## # i 3,027 more rows
print(player_bios_22_24)
## # A tibble: 356 x 8
##
     NAME
                           BMI height weight season_exp position draft_year to_year
##
      <chr>
                         <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
                                                  <dbl> <chr>
                                                                       <dbl>
                                                                               <dbl>
## 1 AJ Griffin
                          25.4
                                   78
                                         220
                                                      1 F
                                                                        2022
                                                                                2023
## 2 Aaron Gordon
                          25.8
                                   80
                                         235
                                                      9 F
                                                                        2014
                                                                                2023
## 3 Aaron Holiday
                          25.1
                                   72
                                         185
                                                      5 G
                                                                        2018
                                                                                2023
## 4 Aaron Nesmith
                          25.5
                                   77
                                         215
                                                      3 G
                                                                        2020
                                                                                2023
## 5 Aaron Wiggins
                          22.5
                                         190
                                                      2 G
                                                                        2021
                                                                                2023
                                   77
## 6 Admiral Schofield
                          28.6
                                         241
                                                      3 F
                                                                        2019
                                                                                2023
                                   77
## 7 Al Horford
                          25.7
                                   81
                                         240
                                                     16 C
                                                                        2007
                                                                                2023
## 8 Alec Burks
                          24.7
                                   78
                                         214
                                                     12 G
                                                                        2011
                                                                                2023
## 9 Aleksej Pokusevski 20.9
                                                      3 F
                                                                        2020
                                                                                2023
                                   84
                                         210
                                                     10 C
                                                                        2013
                                                                                2023
## 10 Alex Len
                          23.8
                                   86
                                         250
## # i 346 more rows
#Create "SEASON" that reports the season that the data originates from.
a_initial_Season_22_23 <- a_initial_Season_22_23 %>%
 mutate(SEASON = "2022-23") %>%
 relocate(SEASON)
a_initial_Season_23_24 <- a_initial_Season_23_24 %>%
  mutate(SEASON = "2023-24") %>%
 relocate(SEASON)
#Join 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 season stats. Remove unnecessary variable, "RANK".
player_gamestats_22_24 <- full_join(a_initial_Season_22_23, a_initial_Season_23_24) %>%
  arrange(NAME) %>%
#Rename certain stats with "%" for later analysis
  rename(FTp = "FT%") %>%
  rename(P3p = "3P%") %>%
  subset(select = c(SEASON, NAME, TEAM, POS, AGE, FTp, P3p)) %>%
#Remove punctuation that could hinder later joining.
  mutate(NAME = gsub("\\.","",NAME)) %>%
  mutate(NAME = gsub("\\'","",NAME))
```

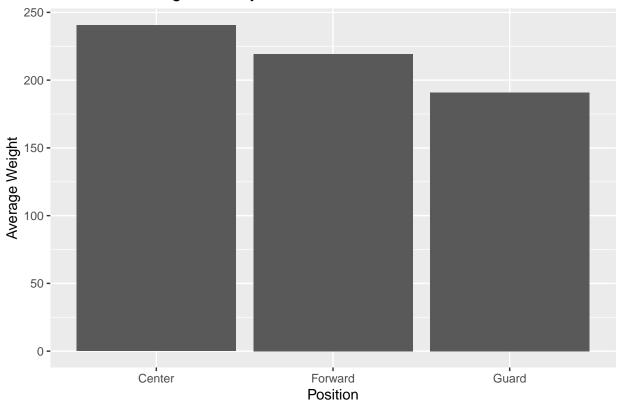
```
## Joining with 'by = join_by(SEASON, RANK, NAME, TEAM, POS, AGE, GP, MPG, 'USG%',
## 'TO%', FTA, 'FT%', '2PA', '2P%', '3PA', '3P%', 'eFG%', 'TS%', PPG, RPG, APG,
## SPG, BPG, TPG, 'P+R', 'P+A', 'P+R+A', VI, ORtg, DRtg)'
print(player gamestats 22 24)
## # A tibble: 1,207 x 7
     SEASON NAME
##
                          TEAM POS
                                       AGE FTp
##
     <chr> <chr>
                         <chr> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 2022-23 AJ Green
                        Mil G 23.5 1
                                                 0.419
                       Dal G
Min G
## 2 2022-23 AJ Lawson
                                      22.7 0.25 0.4
## 3 2022-23 AJ Lawson
                                     22.7 0
                       Dal G
                                     23.6 0.632 0.325
## 4 2023-24 AJ Lawson
## 5 2023-24 AJ Green
                        Mil G
                                     24.4 1
                                                 0.415
## 6 2022-23 AJ Griffin Atl F
                                     19.6 0.894 0.39
## 7 2023-24 AJ Griffin Atl
                               F
                                     20.5 1
                                                 0.273
                              F
## 8 2022-23 Aaron Gordon Den
                                     27.6 0.609 0.347
## 9 2023-24 Aaron Gordon Den F
                                     28.4 0.641 0.315
                                     26.5 0.844 0.409
## 10 2022-23 Aaron Holiday Atl
                              G
## # i 1,197 more rows
#Join data from 2022-2024 season stats and player general info.
player_info_22_24 <- player_gamestats_22_24 %>%
 left_join(player_bios_22_24, by=c("NAME", "POS"="position")) %>%
#Remove players with no height or weight data (approx. 300 players).
 filter_at(vars(height, weight), all_vars(!is.na(.)))
#Group players by position and draft year. Create variables for the mean height, weight, and BMI of pla
mean_all_player_bios <- all_player_bios %>%
 group_by(position, draft_year) %>%
 summarize(mean_height = mean(height),
           mean_weight = mean(weight),
           mean_BMI = mean(BMI))
## 'summarise()' has grouped output by 'position'. You can override using the
## '.groups' argument.
print(player_info_22_24)
## # A tibble: 556 x 13
##
     SEASON NAME
                     TEAM POS
                                   AGE
                                        FTp P3p
                                                    BMI height weight season_exp
##
                     <chr> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
                                                                          <dbl>
             <chr>
## 1 2022-23 AJ Grif~ Atl F
                                  19.6 0.894 0.39
                                                   25.4
                                                           78
                                                                 220
                                                                              1
## 2 2023-24 AJ Grif~ Atl F
                                  20.5 1
                                            0.273 25.4
                                                           78
                                                                              1
                                  27.6 0.609 0.347 25.8
## 3 2022-23 Aaron G~ Den F
                                                           80
                                                                 235
                                                                              9
## 4 2023-24 Aaron G~ Den F
                                  28.4 0.641 0.315 25.8
                                                           80
                                                                 235
                                                                              9
                                                                              5
## 5 2022-23 Aaron H~ Atl G
                                  26.5 0.844 0.409 25.1
                                                           72
                                                                 185
## 6 2023-24 Aaron H~ Hou G
                                27.4 0.902 0.409 25.1
                                                           72
                                                                 185
                                                                              5
                                  25.1 0.75 0.519 22.5
## 7 2023-24 Aaron W~ Okc G
                                                                              2
                                                           77
                                                                 190
```

```
## 8 2022-23 Admiral~ Orl F
                                   26 0.913 0.324 28.6
                                                                    241
## 9 2023-24 Admiral~ Orl F
                                   26.9 0
                                            0.3
                                                     28.6
                                                              77
                                                                    241
                                                                                 3
## 10 2022-23 Alec Bu~ Det G
                                   31.7 0.814 0.414 24.7
                                                                    214
                                                              78
                                                                                12
## # i 546 more rows
## # i 2 more variables: draft_year <dbl>, to_year <dbl>
print(mean_all_player_bios)
## # A tibble: 227 x 5
## # Groups: position [3]
     position draft_year mean_height mean_weight mean_BMI
                               <dbl>
                                          <dbl>
##
                   <dbl>
                                                    <dbl>
                                79.3
## 1 C
                    1947
                                            205
                                                     23.0
## 2 C
                                80
                                            224
                                                     24.6
                    1948
## 3 C
                    1949
                                80
                                            207
                                                     22.7
## 4 C
                                80.2
                                            219.
                                                     23.9
                    1950
## 5 C
                    1951
                                81
                                            210
                                                     22.5
## 6 C
                                                     23.8
                    1952
                                80.5
                                            220.
## 7 C
                    1953
                                81.6
                                            220
                                                     23.3
## 8 C
                    1954
                                78.8
                                            221.
                                                     24.9
## 9 C
                    1956
                                81.6
                                            219
                                                     23.2
## 10 C
                    1957
                                80
                                            230
                                                     25.3
## # i 217 more rows
##Part 4 - Exploratory Analysis
#All of these histograms were used to show the viability of our data and accuracy of each variable.
#Histogram for Height vs. Draft Year
histogram_height_year <- mean_all_player_bios
#Mutating histogram to create groups by 10 year intervals
histogram height year <- mutate (histogram height year,
     year_group = cut(draft_year,
                      breaks = seq(1940, 2022, by = 10)))
#Creating Average Heights for each 10 year interval
 histogram height <- histogram height year %>%
   group_by (year_group) %>%
   summarise (avg_height = mean(mean_height))
#Creating Histogram
ggplot(histogram_height,
     aes(y = avg_height,
         x = year_group)) +
 geom_col() +
 labs (x = "Draft Year",
       y = "Height",
       title = "Draft Year vs. Height from 1940 - 2024") +
```

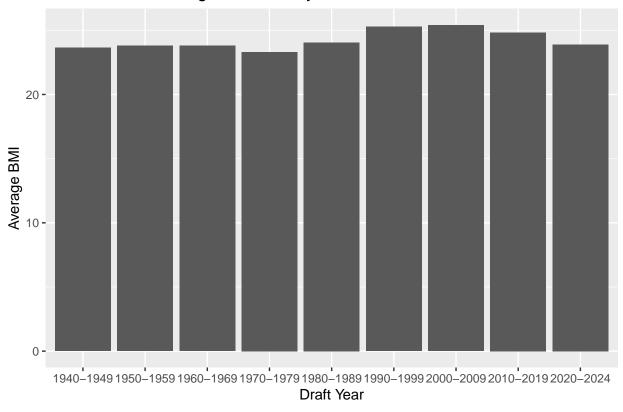
Draft Year vs. Height from 1940 - 2024



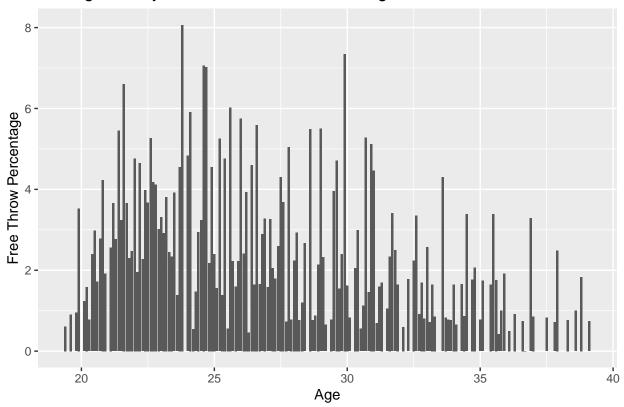
Position vs. Weight for Players from 1940 – 2024



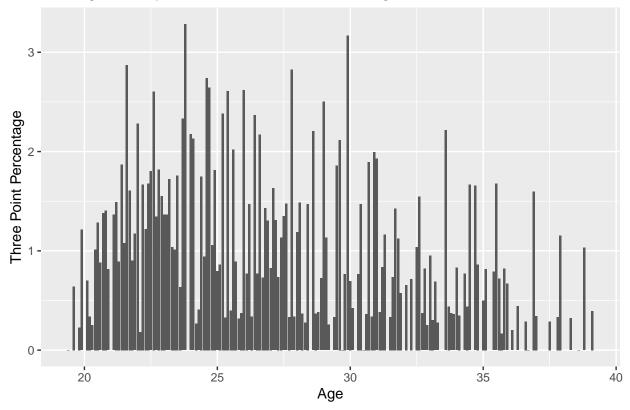
Draft Year vs. Average BMI for Players from 1940 - 2024



The Age of Players vs. Free Throw Percentage for 2022–2023



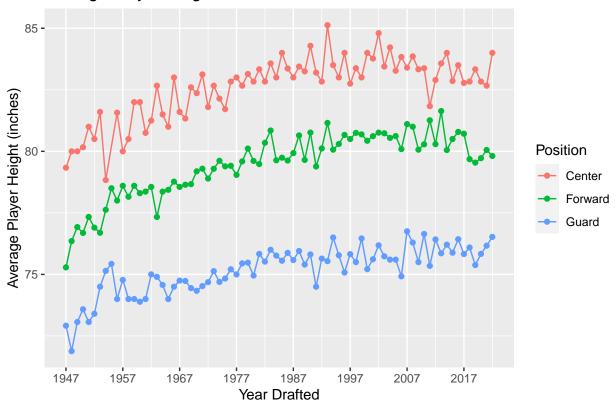
The Age of Players vs. Three Point Percentage for 2022–2023



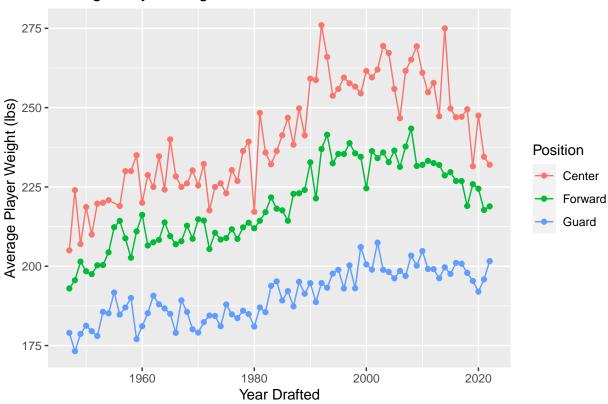
#How has height and weight changed throughout the year - "common_player_info"?

```
ggplot(mean_all_player_bios,
       aes(y=mean_height,
           x=draft_year,
           color = position,
           group = position)) +
 geom_line() +
 geom_point() +
  scale_x_continuous(breaks =
                       seq(1947, 2022,
                           by = 10)) +
  scale_color_discrete(labels =
                         c("C" = "Center", "F" = "Forward", "G" = "Guard")) +
 labs(x = "Year Drafted",
       y = "Average Player Height (inches)",
       title = "Average Player Height vs. Year Drafted between 1947 to 2022",
       color = "Position")
```

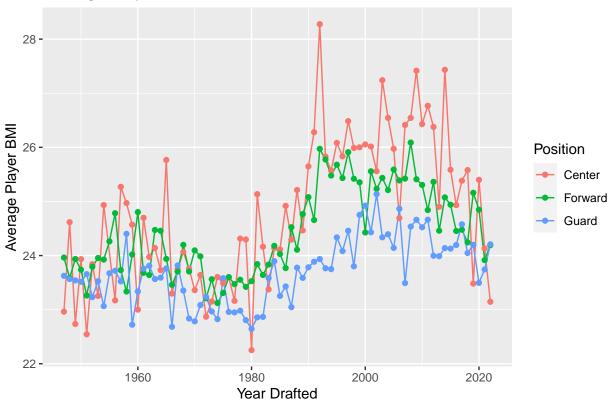
Average Player Height vs. Year Drafted between 1947 to 2022



Average Player Weight vs. Year Drafted between 1947 to 2022





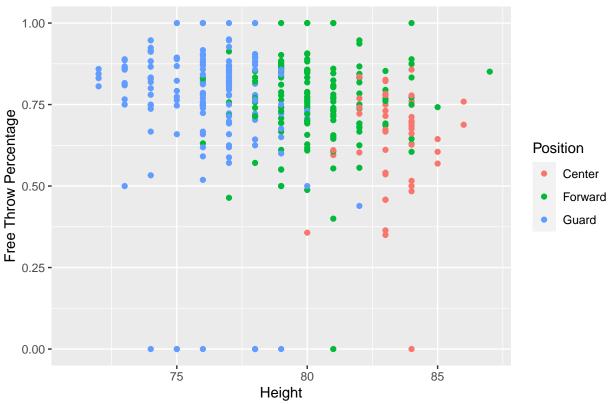


#How does height and weight differ btwn teams?

```
#Age vs Free Throw Percentage
#Filtering to include only players who played in 2023.
df3 <- all_player_bios %>%
 filter(to_year >= 2023)
  #join_by(all_player_bios, a_initial_Season_23_24, "NAME")
  #merge(all_player_bios, a_initial_Season_22_23[, c("NAME", "FT%")], by = "NAME", all.x = TRUE)
#Merges bio info with the statistics to create one data frame for visual.
info_22_23 <- merge (df3,
                     a_initial_Season_22_23[,c("NAME", "FT%", "3P%","AGE")],
                     by = "NAME",
                     all.x = TRUE) \%>%
  rename(FTP = "FT%") %>%
  rename(tPP = "3P%")
#Height vs. Free Throw Percentage
#Creating point graph only allowing values between 0 and 1 for percentages
ggplot(info_22_23, aes(x = height,
                       y = FTP,
```

Warning: Removed 33 rows containing missing values ('geom_point()').

The Height of Players vs. Free Throw Percentage for 2022–2023

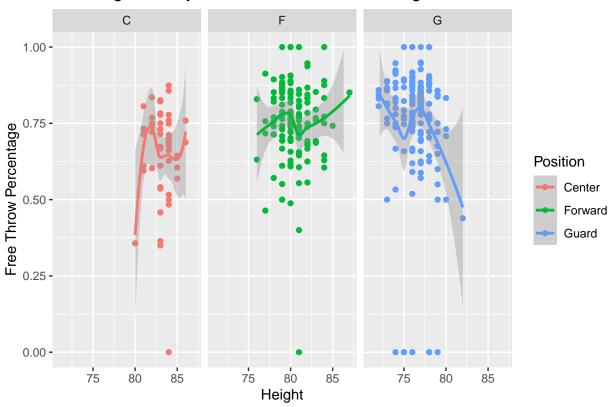


```
color = "Position")
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'loess' and formula = 'y ~ x'
## Warning: Removed 33 rows containing non-finite values ('stat_smooth()').
## Warning in simpleLoess(y, x, w, span, degree = degree, parametric = parametric,
## : pseudoinverse used at 83
## Warning in simpleLoess(y, x, w, span, degree = degree, parametric = parametric,
## : neighborhood radius 1
## Warning in simpleLoess(y, x, w, span, degree = degree, parametric = parametric,
## : reciprocal condition number 0
## Warning in predLoess(object$y, object$x, newx = if (is.null(newdata)) object$x
## else if (is.data.frame(newdata))
## as.matrix(model.frame(delete.response(terms(object)), : pseudoinverse used at
## 83
## Warning in predLoess(object$y, object$x, newx = if (is.null(newdata)) object$x
## else if (is.data.frame(newdata))
## as.matrix(model.frame(delete.response(terms(object)), : neighborhood radius 1
## Warning in predLoess(object$y, object$x, newx = if (is.null(newdata)) object$x
## else if (is.data.frame(newdata))
## as.matrix(model.frame(delete.response(terms(object)), : reciprocal condition
## number 0
## Warning: Removed 33 rows containing missing values ('geom_point()').
```

title = "The Height of Players vs. Free Throw Percentage for 2022-2023",

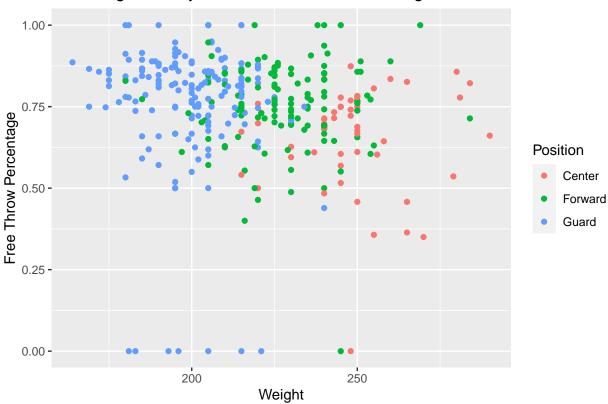
y = "Free Throw Percentage",

The Height of Players vs. Free Throw Percentage for 2022–2023



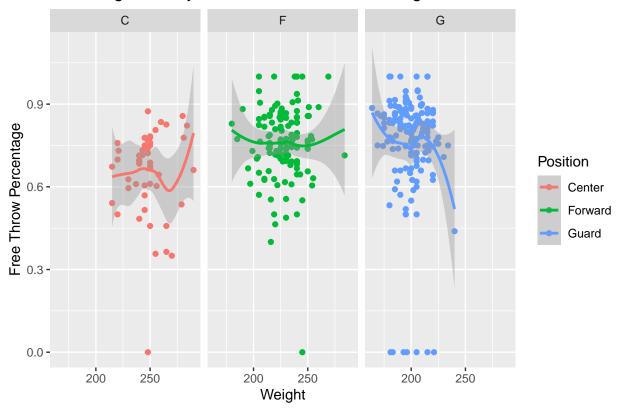
Warning: Removed 33 rows containing missing values ('geom_point()').



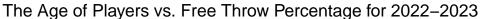


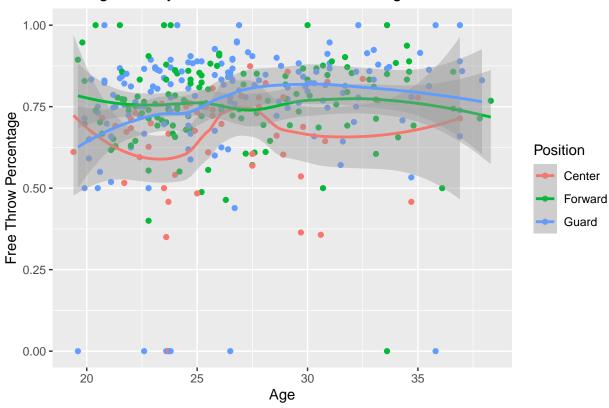
```
#Weight vs. Free Throw Percentage Faceted
#Creating graph with a facet for each percentage and smooth line through points to show trend
ggplot(info_22_23, aes(x = weight,
                       y = FTP,
                       color = position)) +
 geom_point() +
 facet_wrap(~ position) +
 geom_smooth() +
  scale_color_discrete (labels =
                          c("C" = "Center", "F" = "Forward", "G" = "Guard")) +
 labs(x = "Weight",
      y = "Free Throw Percentage",
      title = "The Weight of Players vs. Free Throw Percentage for 2022-2023",
       color = "Position")
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'loess' and formula = 'y ~ x'
## Warning: Removed 33 rows containing non-finite values ('stat_smooth()').
## Removed 33 rows containing missing values ('geom_point()').
```

The Weight of Players vs. Free Throw Percentage for 2022–2023



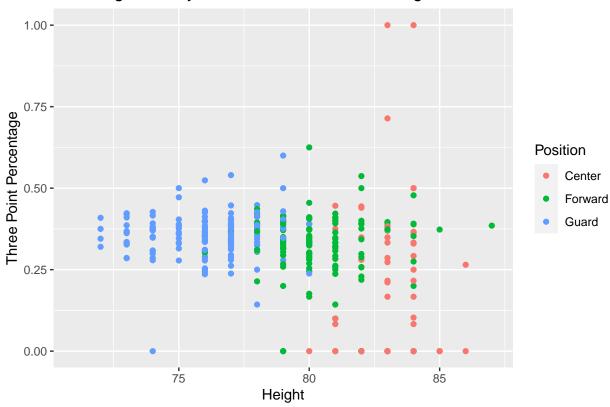
```
## 'geom_smooth()' using method = 'loess' and formula = 'y ~ x'
## Warning: Removed 33 rows containing non-finite values ('stat_smooth()').
## Removed 33 rows containing missing values ('geom_point()').
```





Warning: Removed 33 rows containing missing values ('geom_point()').

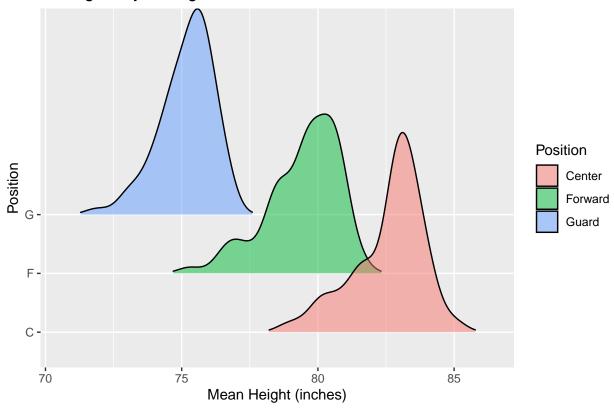




What are the variations between different body measurements and positions?

Picking joint bandwidth of 0.424

Average Player Height vs. Positions



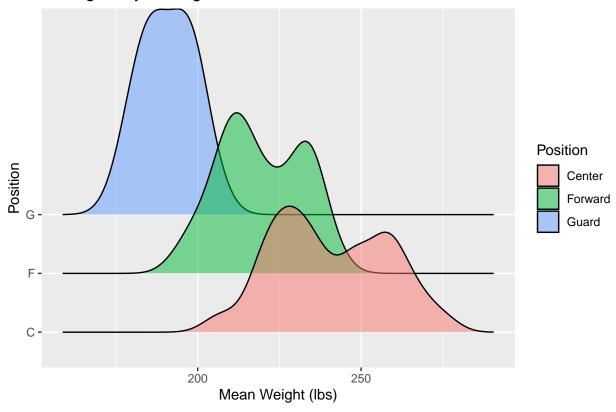
```
#_
## WEIGHT
ggplot(mean_all_player_bios,
    aes(x = mean_weight,
        y = position,
        fill = position)) +

geom_density_ridges(scale = 3.5, alpha = 0.5)+
scale_fill_discrete(labels=c("C" = "Center", "F" = "Forward", "G" = "Guard")) +

labs(x = "Mean Weight (lbs)",
    y = "Position",
    title = "Average Player Weight vs. Positions",
    color = "Position",
    fill = "Position")
```

Picking joint bandwidth of 4.8

Average Player Weight vs. Positions



Picking joint bandwidth of 0.347

