

Analyzing National Basketball Association (NBA) Most Valuable Player (MVP) Data

Analyzing NBA MVP Historical Data



Introduction

The National Basketball Association (NBA) Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award is an annual award from the 1955-1956 season to the best performing player of the regular season.

The MVP award is one of the most prestigious awards an NBA player can receive in one's career.

In this project, historical data of MVP award candidates of previous seasons from 1991-2021 will be analyzed and inferences will be drawn.

The Voting Approach

Before moving on with the project, there must be an understanding of how the NBA decides on the MVP.

Until the 1979-80 season, the MVP was selected by a vote of NBA players. Since the 1980-81 season, the award is decided by a panel of sportswriters and broadcasters throughout the United States and Canada.

Each member of the voting panel casts a vote for first to fifth-place selections. Each first-place vote is worth 10 points, each second-place vote is worth 7 points, each third-place is worth 5 points, each fourth-place is worth 3 points, and, each fifth-place is worth 1 point.

Starting from 2010, one ballot was cast by fans through online voting. The player with the total highest point wins the award.

As of the 2021-22 season, Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets and this information was obtained after analyzing the data.

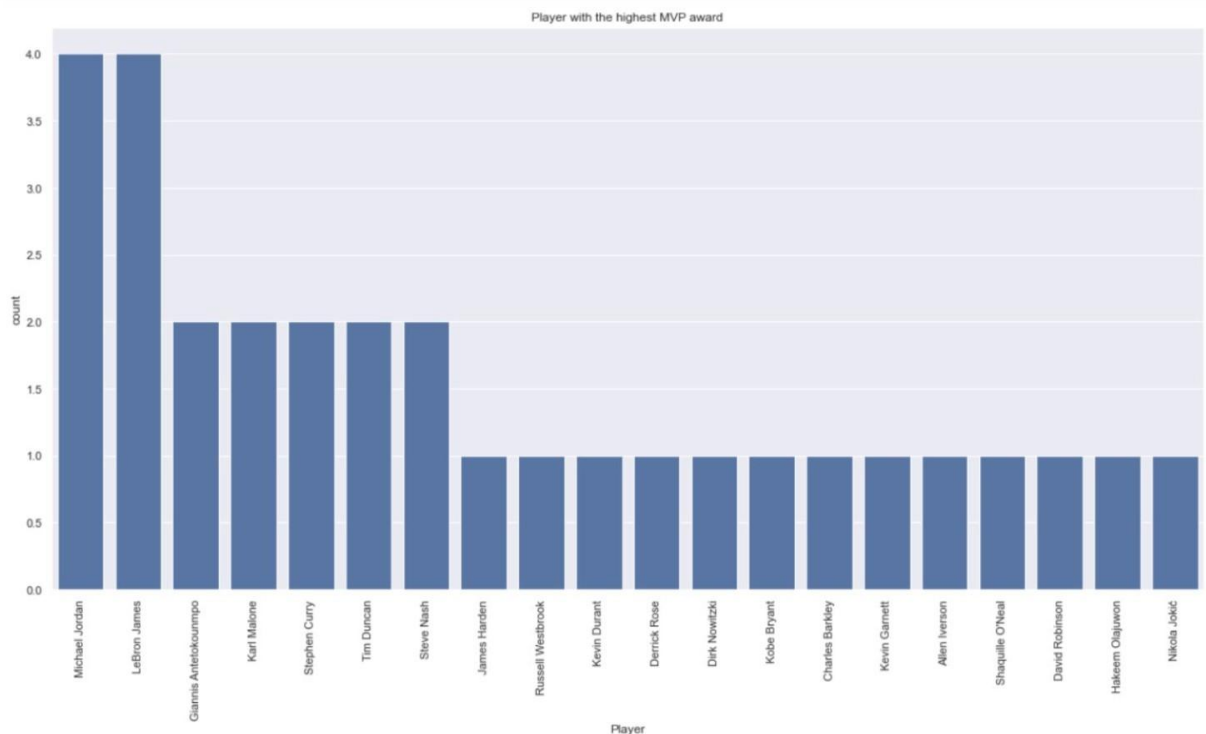
Project Approach

This project focuses on NBA MVP from 1991 to 2021. In the process of obtaining this dataset, I used some python libraries like BeautifulSoup to scrape the website [Basketball Reference](#).

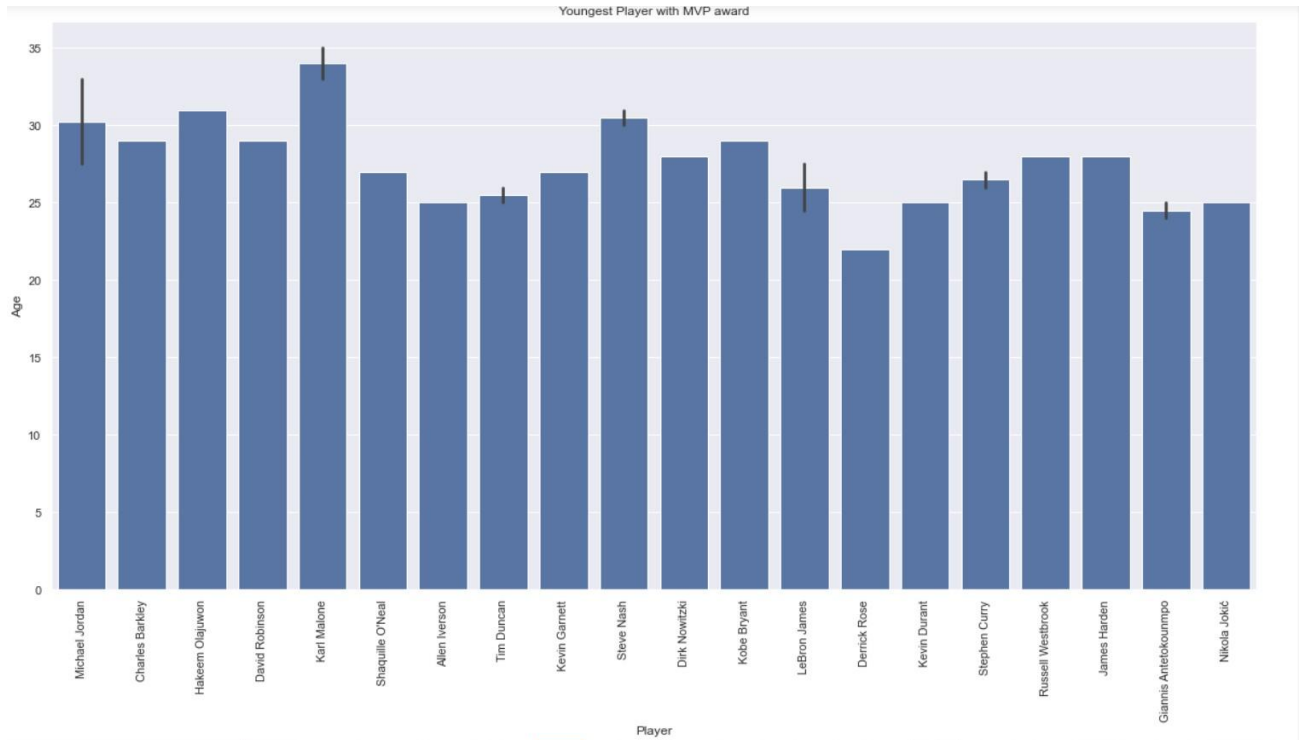
Insights & Visualizations

After analyzing this dataset, some interesting insights were discovered and I'm going to be discussing them.

- Firstly, I was interested in discovering the multi-time award winners in the dataset. I found that Michael Jordan and LeBron James had the highest amount of MVP awards between the years 1991 to 2021. They won the awards 4 times each within the specified year range. This can be seen in the bar plot below:



- I was also interested in knowing who the youngest player to ever win an award was. I turned to my data to satisfy my curiosity and I found that Derrick Rose is the youngest player to ever win an award at the age of 22 also he won the award in the year 2011 and he played for the Chicago Bulls. This can be seen with the aid of the bar plot below:



- I was curious about the highest point ever won from 1991-2021. I wrote some codes and discovered that Stephen Curry of the Golden States Warriors (GSW) in the year 2016 had a total of 1310.0 points and this was the highest point won between the specified year range.
- I wanted to know the team that had the highest number of MVP award winners. After analyzing the data I found that Chicago Bulls (CHI) had the highest number of MVP award winners with a total of 5 players. The players were Michael Jordan with 4 awards and Derrick Rose with 1 award.
- I wanted to find out the winner of the just concluded season's MVP award. After analyzing my dataset I discovered that Nikola Jovic of the Denver Nuggets (DEN) won the MVP award for the 2021/22 season with a total point of 971.0 out of 1010.

Conclusion



After analyzing the dataset I have been able to make some conclusions which are as follows:

- Michael Jordan and LeBron James are both four times NBA MVPs between the year 1991-2021.
- Derrick Rose is the youngest player ever to win the award.
- Stephen Curry had the highest point ever won between the year 1991-2021
- The Chicago Bulls (CHI) produced the most award winners between 1991-2021.
- Nikola Jovic is the current NBA MVP.