WHEN ARE STAR BASKETBALL PLAYERS MOST EFFECTIVE?

Anthony Davis
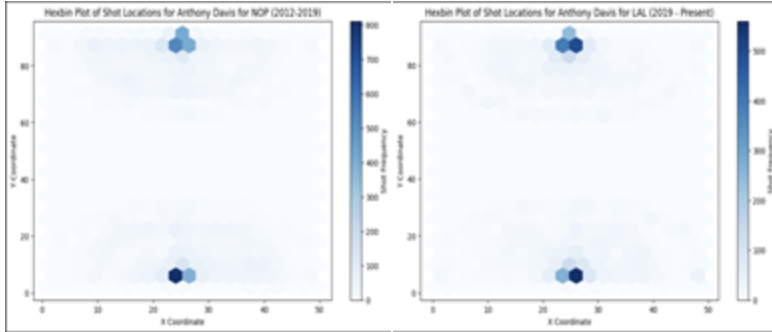Height: 6'10"
Defensive player of the Year: 2018

Anh Tuyet To
Sahiti Reddy
Shreya

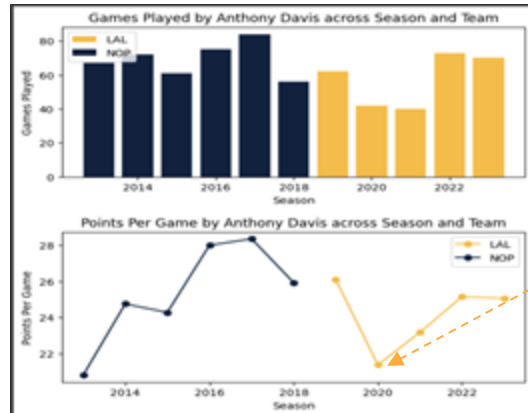# A Shift in Role & Performance

Davis played for majorly two teams: New Orleans Pelicans (2012-2019) and Los Angeles Lakers (2019-Present).
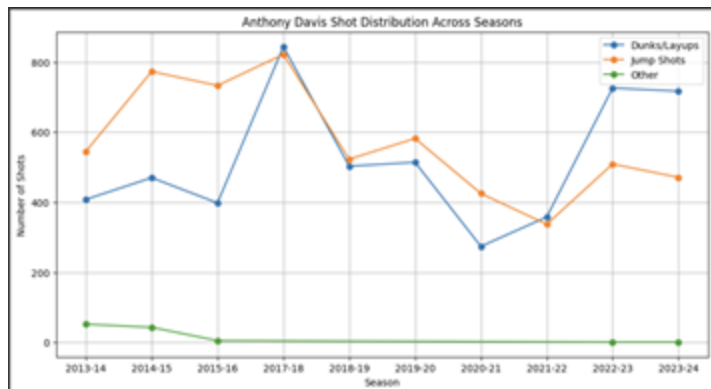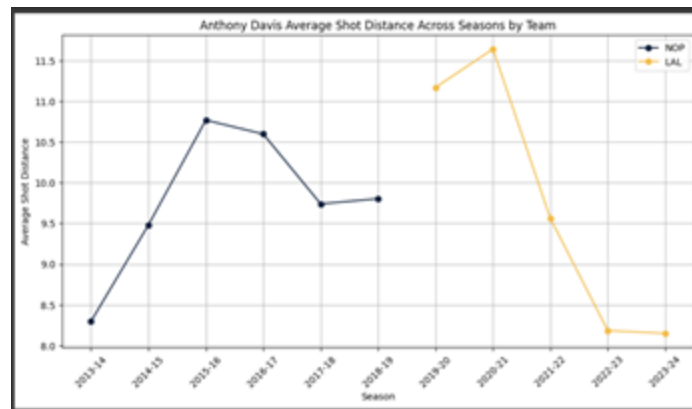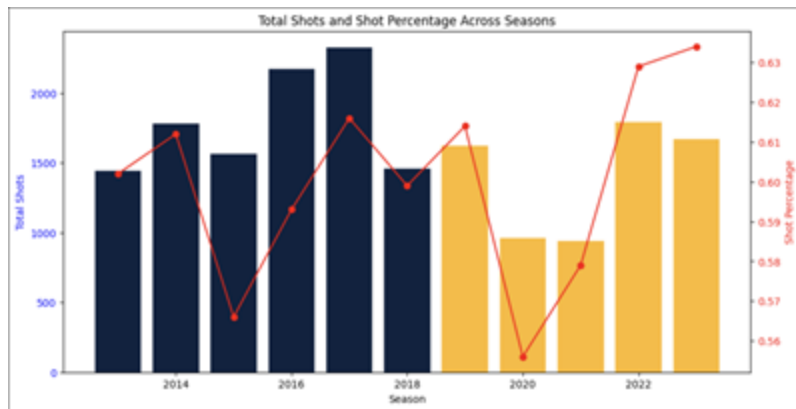

Davis's role:
2012–2019 (Pelicans): Traditional big, interior scorer
2019–Now (Lakers): Versatile, balanced scorer & defender

Injury Impact: Suffered a significant **injury**, leading to a notable decline in his performance. In the 2020-2021 season, Davis averaged around 21.8 points per game, marking one of his lowest averages since the early stages of his career.

From Jumpers to the Paint: How AD's Shot Profile Evolved

Total Shots and Shot Percentage Across Seasons

Anthony Davis Average Shot Distance Across Seasons by Team

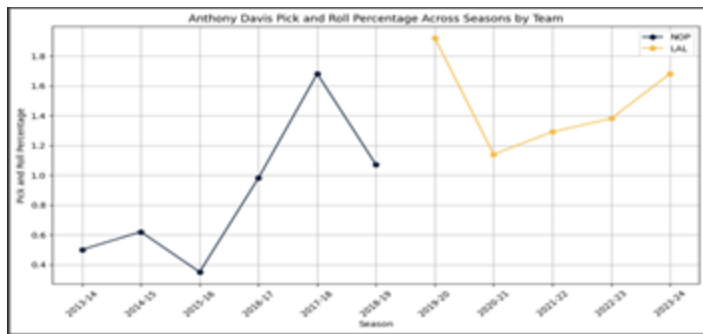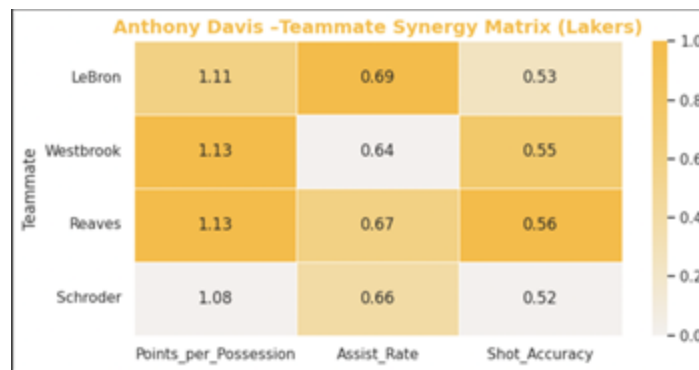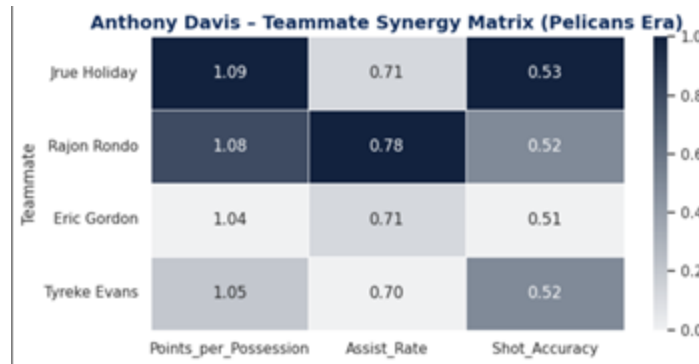Anthony Davis Shot Distribution Across Seasons

NOP vs LAL:
- Shot Distance ↓
- Mid-range % ↓
- Rim Finishes & Dunks ↑
- Jump Shots ↓ which led to ↑ in efficiency

Playing alongside LeBron and other ball-handlers allowed AD to focus on high-efficiency shots, leading to an improved performance after joining the Lakers.
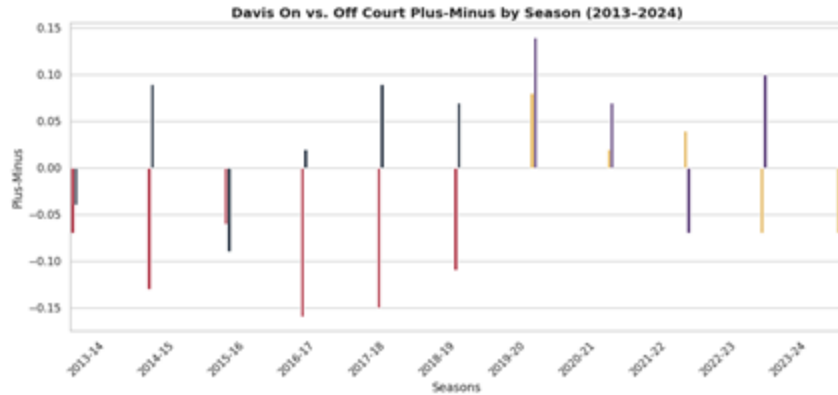
Teammates & System: Fueling AD's Growth

Anthony Davis Pick and Roll Percentage Across Seasons by Team

Anthony Davis – Teammate Synergy Matrix (Pelicans Era)

Anthony Davis –Teammate Synergy Matrix (Lakers)

- Anthony Davis's **pick-and-roll usage peaked in 2017-18** with the Pelicans, then surged again upon joining the **Lakers in 2019-20**, aligning with his championship season.

- Pelicans Era (2013–2019): Davis **had to create more of his own scoring opportunities**, despite modest passing contributions.

- Lakers Era (2019–Present): Improved points per possession (Westbrook/Reaves: 1.13, LeBron: 1.11), highlighting a more **efficient offensive system**.

Team Impact – AD's Arrival Elevated the Lakers

Davis On vs. Off Court Plus-Minus by Season (2013-2024)

Total Score of Lakers (2013-2024)

Lakers Estimated Possession Over Time

- **2019-2020 Peak Performance:** Anthony Davis achieved a +0.15 plus-minus -> playing a crucial role in the Lakers' championship run.
- **Stable Possession:** Estimated possession remained consistent over time.
- **Improved Scoring:** The Lakers' total score rose (except during injury and recovery years), indicating that Davis' presence boosted the team's scoring efficiency, leading to a higher average score per possession per game.

Team Impact – Offense & Defense: What Happens to a Team When AD Joins?

- AD's presence made the Lakers' offense more centralized around him and LeBron.

- Role players had to adjust, with some benefiting (Russell, Bryant) and others losing scoring opportunities (Kuzma, KCP).

- On average, the Lakers' defensive strength has improved since Davis's arrival -> reducing opponents' efficiency in the paint and improving overall team defense.

Star players don't just add scoring—they reshape the team's offensive hierarchy.

Points per Game by Lakers Teammates – Before vs After Anthony Davis

Average Blocks and Steals Per Game by Lakers Players Over Time