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Math Modeling Final Project Proposal

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Every year, sixty of the world’s top basketball prospects are drafted in the NBA. Often, the future of billion dollar franchises lies on the shoulders of the prospect that they draft. It is imperative to correctly predict how well a player will perform once in the NBA. For our project, we are going to analyze current NBA players and prospects in order to create a framework for more accurate draft models, looking specifically at the 2019 NBA draft class.

Some of the questions that we will have to answer for our research are:

* How do we rank current NBA players?
* What characteristics are best at predicting a player’s future skill in the NBA?
* How do these characteristics contrast with the characteristics that NBA teams look at to rank prospects?
* Can we predict the longevity of a player’s career?
* What characteristics distinguish a safe prospect from a riskier prospect?
* **How do these ideas apply to the 2019 NBA draft class. Are there any prospects that are severely underrated? Overrated?**

Our data sources are:

* Data on current NBA players from <https://www.basketball-reference.com/>’
  + Spreadsheets of every player’s stats for recent NBA seasons, including advanced stats such as WS, BPM, and VORP.
* Data on current NCAA players from <https://www.sports-reference.com/cbb/> and NCAA.