Objective

The objective of our project is to summarize the statistics of the first 3 seasons for each drafted player. Specifically, the total points scored, total defensive rebounds, total offensive rebounds and total assists for each player. For example, the first 3 seasons for players drafted in the 2007 NBA Draft were 2008, 2009 and 2010. We sought to summarize the statistics for those 3 seasons for every player in the 2007 NBA Draft. We would continue this calculation until the 2016 NBA draft. The 2016 NBA Draft class is the latest with 3 seasons of statistics. The completed database would allow us to evaluate the quality of each pick. Thus, we would be able to evaluate the quality of scouting and drafting for each team.

Method

Our main source of data is basketball-reference.com. To accomplish this, we used the basketball\_reference\_web\_scraper module provided by basketball-reference.com. Through a specific function in this module, we were able to download season stats for each player in the NBA. Next, we converted the files into csv format.

We read the stats csv for each season into our database. Then, we condensed each database to “name”, “points”, “defensive\_rebounds”, “offensive\_rebounds”. Next, we merged the databases for the first two seasons of our three season evaluation period. For example, we merged the 2007 stats database with the 2008 stats database to create a 2007-2008 database. Then, we merged the 2007-2008 database with the 2009 stats database. That merge created a database for the first three year period we wanted to analyze, 2007-2009 stats database.

We wanted to continue executing those steps for three year intervals from the 2007 NBA Draft to the 2016 NBA Draft.