Capstone Project 1

The NBA season can be a grueling stretch of 82 games (minimum) in a season, but it also allows the best players in the world the chance to display their skills and talents on the highest level. Success is typically valued on a team scale, but is also evaluated on an individual scale as well. Besides winning the NBA MVP for the season, making the All-NBA team is considered to be the highest award for the best players in the league (based on personal performance, culminating the entire season). Along with championships, all-star appearances and MVP awards, this honor plays a critical role in personal accolades when being considered for the hall of fame when it is all said and done for that player. I stumbled on an article that breaks down each position by the numbers and assess which players are considered the best playmakers in the league (<http://bleacherreport.com/articles/2690988-nba-metrics-101-the-best-playmakers-in-the-nba-according-to-the-numbers>). What caught my eye is that a majority of these players deemed as the “best playmaker” leading their position from a statistical standpoint, but that doesn't necessarily equate to making the All-NBA team.

For my Springboard Capstone project, I want to predict who will make the All-NBA team for 2017 based on these metrics and assess previous year’s awards to see if they are consistent with the top players in personal stats for that particular season. If that is not the case, I want to investigate what it is exactly that the associated press evaluates when making their decisions. Is it quality over quantity? Essentially, I want to investigate if it is a “popularity contest” and not justified by personal stats.

I plan to approach this question by creating an algorithm that will give each player in the league a “Playmaker Rating”, based on calculations of the player’s various stats per game. The variables that I plan to use will be noted in the next write-up. I will apply this method to each player at all five positions (PG, SG, SF, PF, C). There are various websites which provide NBA datasets, but I am going to use one in particular that has recorded every player’s personal stats from the basic to sophisticated personal stats and take all players from the last 17 NBA seasons (2000 – 2017) and apply the Playmaker Rating to these players as well. I will extract this data into a single CSV file and work from there.

After wrangling this data to look presentable and clean, I plan to evaluate all data provided from a statistical standpoint and apply the inferential statistics methods taught in this course thus far. After completing my analysis, potential deliverables might include code, a presentation deck, as well as a short article-length write-up, perhaps in the style of what you might find in the sports section of FiveThirtyEight.