

# Officials in NBA Games with Prolific Player Scoring

2021-04-21

Stats MAS405 Spring 2021

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## Introduction

In the NBA, are some officials more likely than others to have officiated a game with a prolific individual player performance? Utilizing regular season NBA game and player data spanning 2004-11-02 to 2020-03-11, we produce frequencies of officials in games where a player scored more than 55 points.

## Results

Table 1 shows game information for all games in our data where a player (name) scored more than 55 points.

date	VT	HT	min	refs	team	name	min.1	pts
20050212	ORL	PHI	240	Mike Callahan, James Capers Jr., Anthony Jordan	PHI	Allen Iverson	42	60
20050320	CLE	TOR	240	Michael Henderson, Jess Kersey, Jack Nies	CLE	LeBron James	48	56
20051220	DAL	LAL	240	Steve Javie, Olandis Poole, Leroy Richardson	LAL	Kobe Bryant	32	62
20060122	TOR	LAL	240	Kevin Fehr, Bill Kennedy, Bill Spooner	LAL	Kobe Bryant	41	81
20061111	UTZ	MIL	240	James Capers Jr., Olandis Poole, Greg Willard	MIL	Michael Redd	45	57
20061217	WAS	LAL	265	Dan Crawford, Courtney Kirkland, Jason Phillips	WAS	Gilbert Arenas	49	60
20061229	LAL	CHA	315	Sean Corbin, Leroy Richardson, Derrick Stafford	LAL	Kobe Bryant	54	58
20070316	POR	LAL	265	Sean Corbin, Joe DeRosa, Eli Roe	LAL	Kobe Bryant	49	65
20070322	LAL	MEM	240	James Capers Jr., Bob Delaney, Courtney Kirkland	LAL	Kobe Bryant	45	60
20090202	LAL	NYK	240	Mark Ayotte, Bob Delaney, David Jones	LAL	Kobe Bryant	36	61
20120304	BRK	CHA	240	Derrick Collins, Derek Richardson, Bill Spooner	BRK	Deron Williams	37	57
20140124	CHA	NYK	240	Curtis Blair, David Guthrie, Ken Mauer	NYK	Carmelo Anthony	38	62
20140303	CHA	MIA	240	Eric Lewis, Bennett Salvatore, Ben Taylor	MIA	LeBron James	41	61
20150312	CLE	SAS	265	Eric Lewis, Derrick Stafford, Dedric Taylor	CLE	Kyrie Irving	46	57
20160125	CHA	SAC	290	Steve Anderson, Kane Fitzgerald, Zach Zarba	SAC	DeMarcus Cousins	45	56
20160221	NOP	DET	240	Pat Fraher, Lauren Holtkamp-Sterling, Monty McCutchen	NOP	Anthony Davis	43	59
20160413	UTZ	LAL	240	David Guthrie, Monty McCutchen, Haywoode Workman	LAL	Kobe Bryant	42	60
20161205	IND	GSW	240	Brett Nansel, Kevin Scott, Sean Wright	GSW	Klay Thompson	29	60
20170307	POR	OKC	240	Bill Spooner, Justin Van Dуйne, James Williams	OKC	Russell Westbrook	35	58
20170324	PHX	BOS	240	Matt Boland, Eric Dalen, Bill Kennedy	PHX	Devin Booker	44	70
20170329	OKC	ORL	265	Curtis Blair, Michael Smith, Derrick Stafford	OKC	Russell Westbrook	41	57
20170408	UTZ	POR	240	Ron Garretson, Justin Van Dуйne, James Williams	POR	Damian Lillard	41	59
20171103	CLE	WAS	240	Nick Buchert, Bill Kennedy, Haywoode Workman	CLE	LeBron James	42	57
20171105	UTZ	HOU	240	Eric Lewis, Ben Taylor, Josh Tiven	HOU	James Harden	35	56
20180130	ORL	HOU	240	Bennie Adams, Tony Brown, Dedric Taylor	HOU	James Harden	46	60
20180328	ATL	MIN	240	Eric Lewis, J.T. Orr, Michael Smith	MIN	Karl-Anthony Towns	41	56
20181117	PHI	CHA	265	Brett Nansel, Michael Smith, Zach Zarba	CHA	Kemba Walker	45	60
20190110	OKC	SAS	290	Brent Barnaky, Jason Phillips, Dedric Taylor	SAS	LaMarcus Aldridge	48	56
20190114	MEM	HOU	240	Ed Malloy, Rodney Mott, Gediminas Petraitis	HOU	James Harden	34	57
20190116	BRK	HOU	265	Curtis Blair, Phenizee Ransom, Sean Wright	HOU	James Harden	45	58
20190123	HOU	NYK	240	Brent Barnaky, Pat Fraher, Natalie Sago	HOU	James Harden	40	61
20190228	MIA	HOU	240	Tony Brothers, Mitchell Ervin, Brian Forte	HOU	James Harden	43	58
20190320	HOU	MEM	265	Marat Kogut, Jason Phillips, Derek Richardson	HOU	James Harden	45	57
20190322	SAS	HOU	240	Tony Brown, Aaron Smith, Zach Zarba	HOU	James Harden	36	61
20190325	PHX	UTZ	240	Derrick Collins, Kane Fitzgerald, Justin Van Dуйne	PHX	Devin Booker	41	59
20191030	HOU	WAS	240	James Capers Jr., Jason Goldenberg, Kevin Scott	HOU	James Harden	37	59
20191108	BRK	POR	240	Mitchell Ervin, Scott Twardoski, Zach Zarba	POR	Damian Lillard	40	60
20191130	ATL	HOU	240	John Goble, Karl Lane, Leroy Richardson	HOU	James Harden	30	60
20200120	GSW	POR	265	J.B. DeRosa, Kane Fitzgerald, Brian Forte	POR	Damian Lillard	45	61

Table 1: NBA games in data where player scored more than 55 points.

official	numGames
Eric Lewis	4
James Capers Jr.	4
Zach Zarba	4
Bill Kennedy	3
Bill Spooner	3
Curtis Blair	3
Dedric Taylor	3
Derrick Stafford	3
Jason Phillips	3
Justin Van Dуйne	3
Kane Fitzgerald	3
Leroy Richardson	3
Michael Smith	3
Ben Taylor	2
Bob Delaney	2
Brent Barnaky	2
Brett Nansel	2
Brian Forte	2
Courtney Kirkland	2
David Guthrie	2
Derek Richardson	2
Derrick Collins	2
Haywoode Workman	2
James Williams	2
Kevin Scott	2
Mitchell Ervin	2
Monty McCutchen	2
Olandis Poole	2
Pat Fraher	2
Sean Corbin	2
Sean Wright	2
Tony Brown	2
Aaron Smith	1
Anthony Jordan	1
Bennett Salvatore	1
Bennie Adams	1





Dan Crawford	1
David Jones	1
Ed Malloy	1
Eli Roe	1
Eric Dalen	1
Gediminas Petraitis	1
Greg Willard	1
J.B. DeRosa	1
J.T. Orr	1
Jack Nies	1
Jason Goldenberg	1
Jess Kersey	1
Joe DeRosa	1
John Goble	1
Josh Tiven	1
Karl Lane	1
Ken Mauer	1
Kevin Fehr	1
Lauren Holtkamp-Sterling	1
Marat Kogut	1
Mark Ayotte	1
Matt Boland	1
Michael Henderson	1
Mike Callahan	1
Natalie Sago	1
Nick Buchert	1
Phenizee Ransom	1
Rodney Mott	1
Ron Garretson	1
Scott Twardoski	1
Steve Anderson	1
Steve Javie	1
Tony Brothers	1

Table 2:  
Frequency of officials who have officiated games where a player scored more than 55 points  
(see Table 1)

Table 2: 69 unique officials have officiated the 39 games in our data in which a player scored more than 55 (see Table 1). Of these, Eric Lewis has officiated the most, with 4.

date	VT	HT	name	pts
20140303	CHA	MIA	LeBron James	61
20150312	CLE	SAS	Kyrie Irving	57
20171105	UTZ	HOU	James Harden	56
20180328	ATL	MIN	Karl-Anthony Towns	56

Table 3: High Player Scoring games in which Eric Lewis officiated.