

Officials in NBA Games with Prolific Player Scoring

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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 Dwyne, 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 Dwyne, 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 Dwyne | 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 Duyne | 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.