NBA MVPs

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Topic & Motivation

Which qualities are the best predictors of MVP status in the 1997-2022 seasons?

Data Introduction

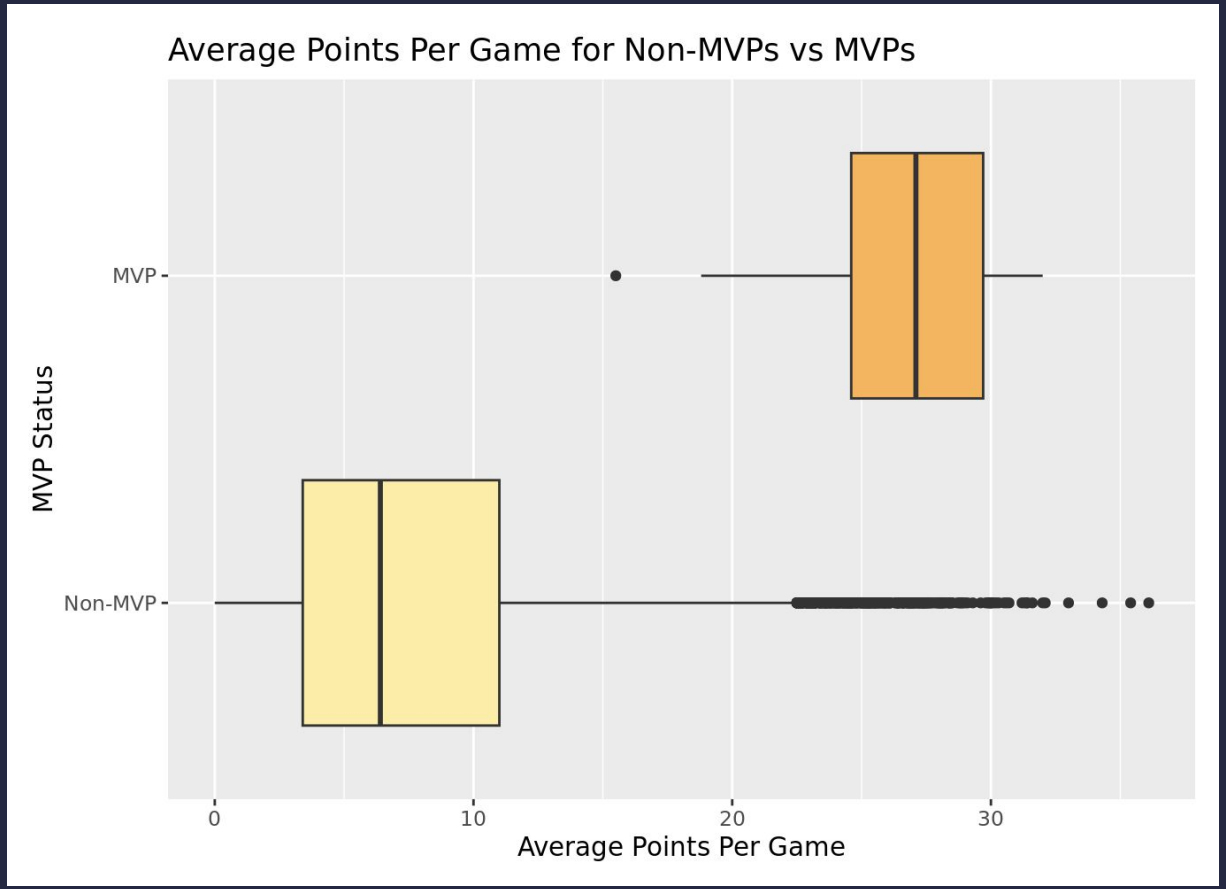
- Basketball Reference website
- Seasons between 1997-2022
- Categorical variables
  - Season
  - MVP Status
- Quantitative Variables
  - Points
  - Steals
  - Defensive Rebounds
  - Offensive Rebounds

BASKETBALL REFERENCE

Exploratory Data Analysis

MVP Status	Number of Observations	Percent
FALSE	14548	99.8284499
TRUE	25	0.1715501

Exploratory Data Analysis



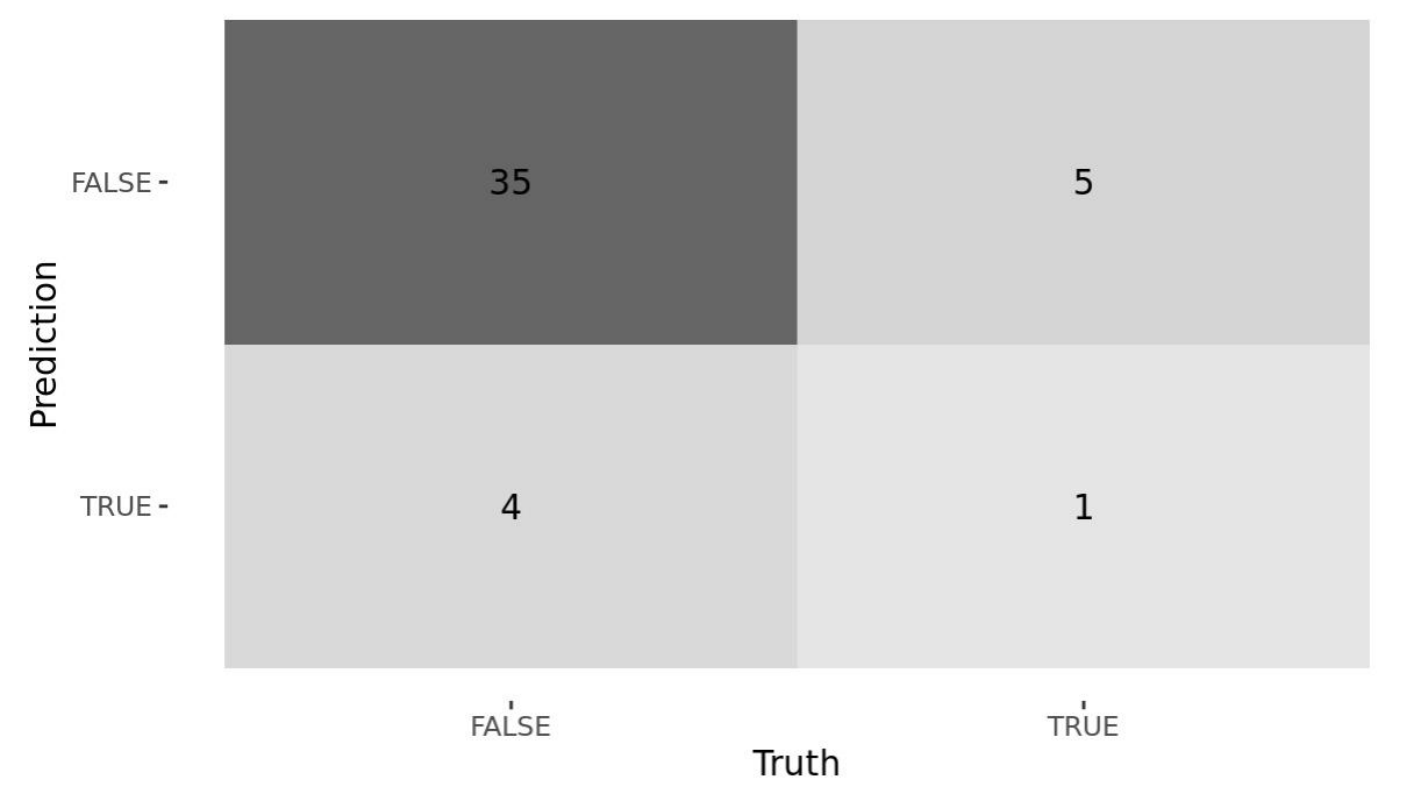
Exploratory Data Analysis

MVP Status	Number of Observations	Percent
FALSE	197	88.73874
TRUE	25	11.26126

Best MVP Predictors

- Average Points per Game
- Field Goals Percentage
- Number of Games Started
- 2-Pointer Percentage
- Average Assists per Game
- Average Field Goals per game
- Number of Games Played
- Blocks per Game

Assessing the Model's Ability to Predict MVPs



Conclusions

- In terms of our hypothesis…
  - Three Pointers Per Game is not one of the best MVP predictors
  - Best predictors were in offensive positions
- Scope, limitations, and looking forward…
  - MVP values are always changing
  - Data set imbalance limits performance