

NBA Regular Season: Does it matter?



What do you mean, “Does it matter?”

Does the Regular Season Not Matter in Sports Anymore? | The Bill Simmons Podcast

37K views • 1 year ago



The Ringer's Bill Simmons discusses how the significance of the regular season has diminished. Then and Craig ...

Draymond Green calls NBA games boring: 'No substance'

BLOG

Shaq Calls New NBA Season “Boring”

November 8, 2024



r/billsimmons • 5 mo. ago
[deleted]

Nba is so boring bruh



21.9M

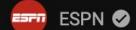
The NFL's avg. viewership over three 2022 Christmas Day games

4.3M

The NBA's avg. viewership over three 2022 Christmas Day games

Do the regular season games not matter anymore?! playing vs. Rockets

39K views • 3 years ago



Sports Illustrated
<https://www.si.com> • NBA

How the NBA Playoffs Are a 'Different Sport'

YouTube • Gil's Arena
121.5K+ views • 10 months ago

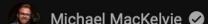
Why The NBA Playoffs Are A DIFFERENT BREED Of Basketball



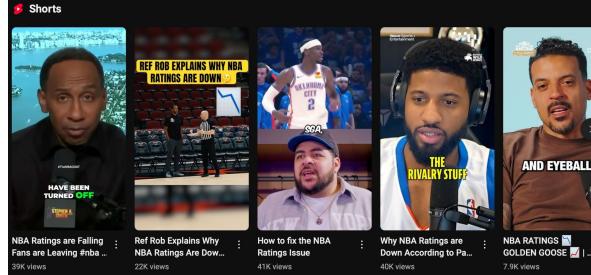
Gil's Arena Explains Why The NBA Playoffs Are A DIFFERENT BREED Of Basketball as OG Hoopers Gilbert Arenas, Kyren Martin & Swaggy P detail ...

Playoff Mode - Just How Different Are the NBA Playoffs?

297K views • 10 months ago



Are the NBA Playoffs...truly different? Statistically different than the regular season, o



Research Question

- Can we use NBA regular season box score data to predict:
 - if a team will make or miss the playoffs
 - how far they will make it in the playoffs?
- Use sample sizes of 5-10 games at a time to make predictions
- Use neural networks to train a classifier model
 - Playoffs?, *n*th round exit?



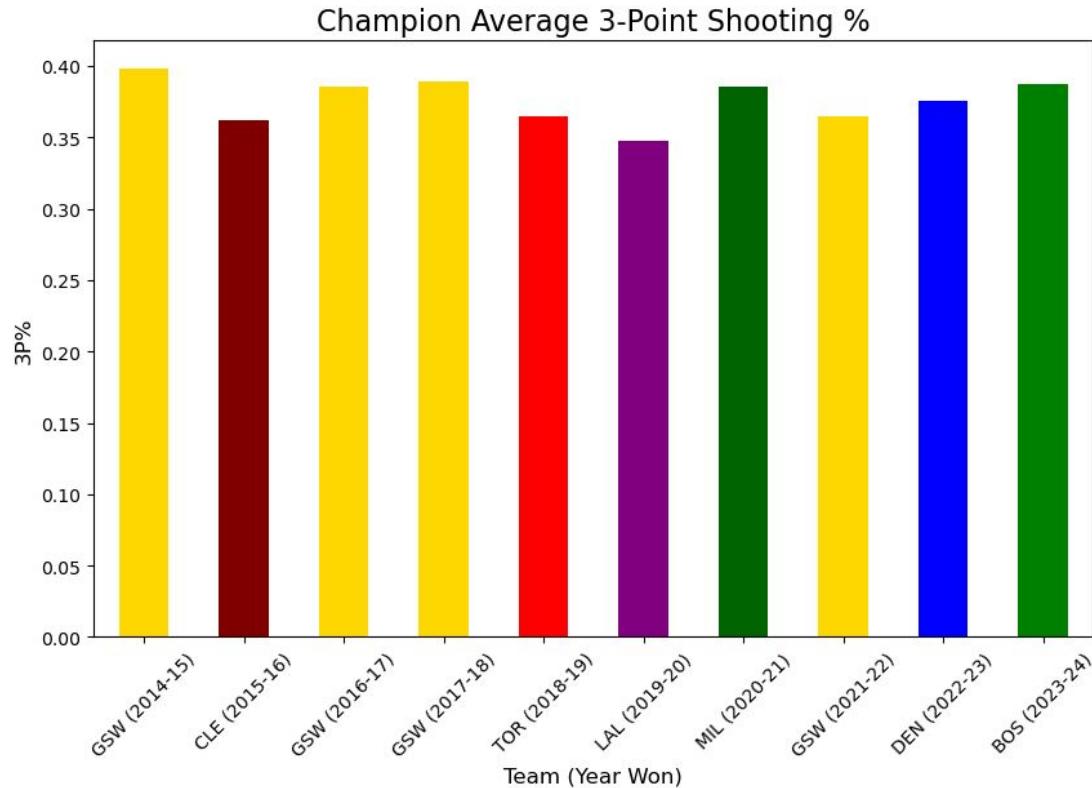
Data Collection

- Scraped standard and advanced box scores from [NBA.com](https://www.NBA.com)
- Used requests and pandas libraries in Python
- Used [nba_api](https://pypi.org/project/nba-api/) to get playoff wins

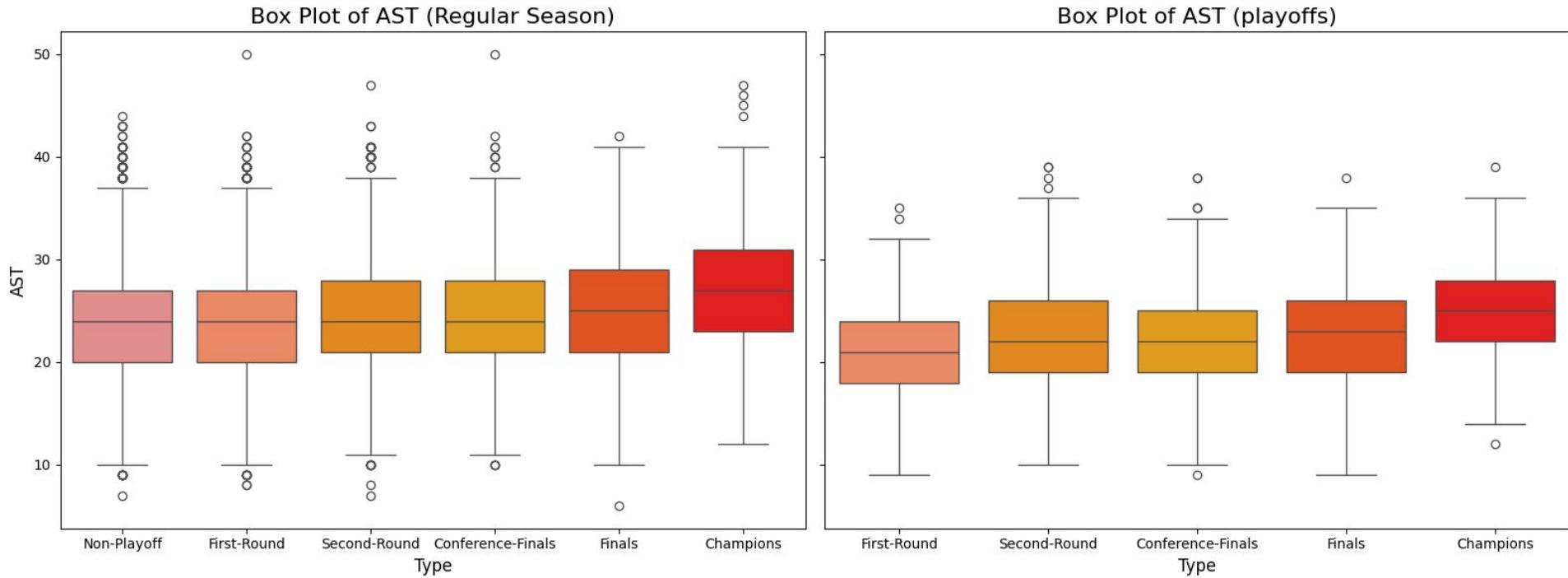
Season	Team	Gameld	[Stats]	Playoff Wins
2023-24	Bos	0042300 405	...	16
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮



Visualizations

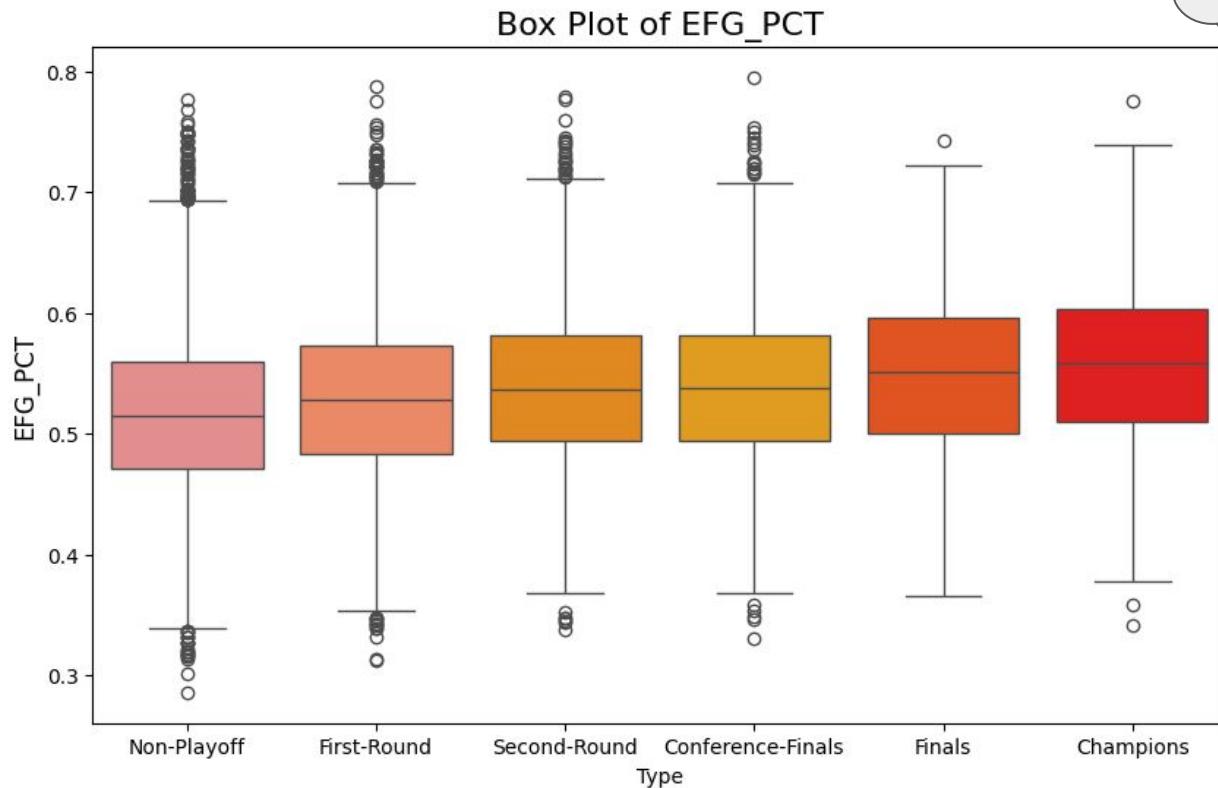


Visualizations

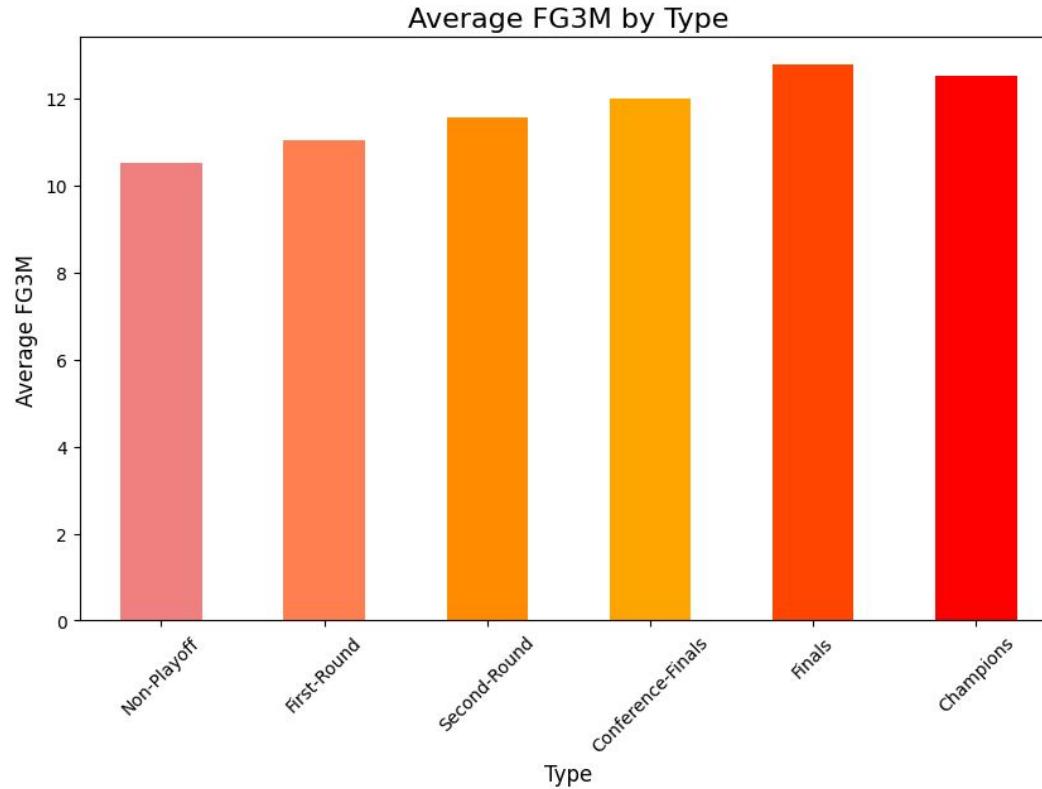


Visualizations

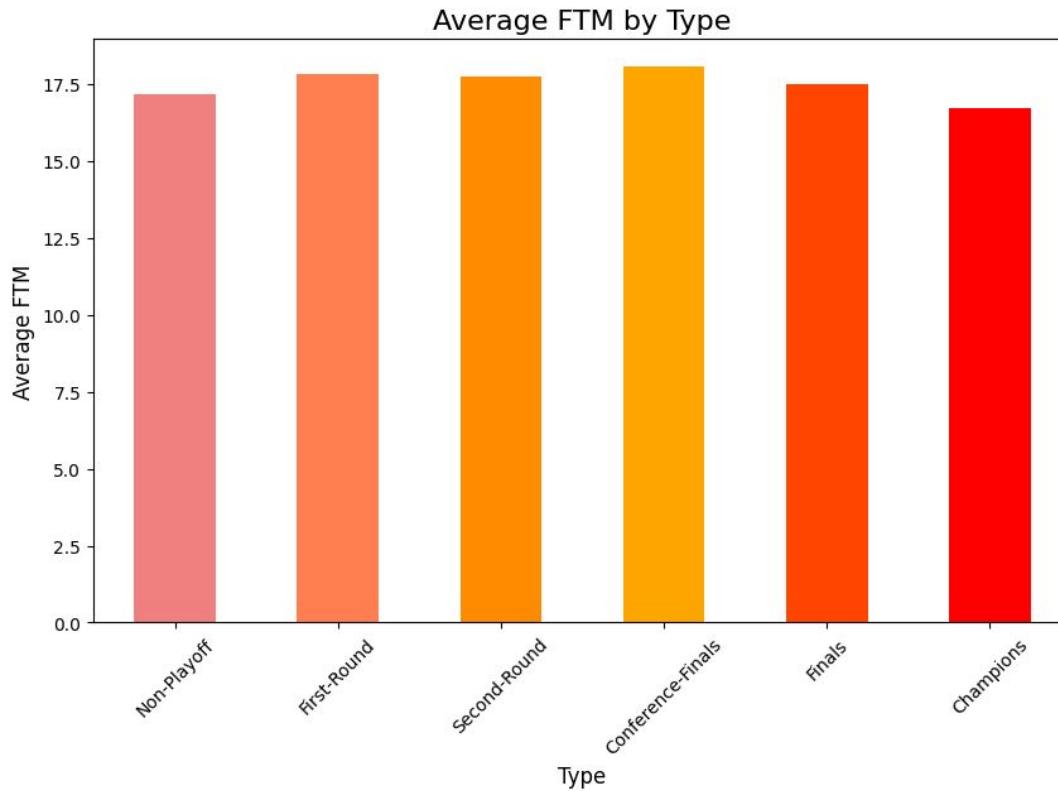
EFG_PCT =
Effective Field
Goal% (shooting
efficiency)



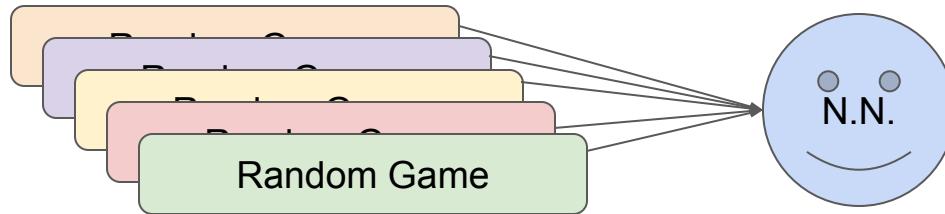
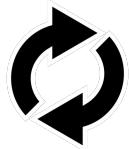
Visualizations



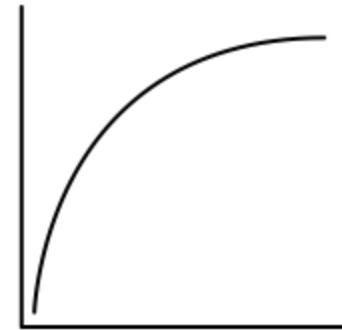
Visualizations



Model



Accuracy v Games



Big Goal: Predict the Champs

See how “valuable” watching regular season games is for estimating Playoff performance

Things to consider:

- Random vs sequential games
- Specialized NN for each team
- Different parts of the season
- 1 game per team → n games per team
- Different models (use season averages?)
- Side quests

Implications

- Sports betting
- Should we shorten the NBA season?
- Is the play-in tournament justified?

