



# Modelling the NBA position(less)

# Positionless Basketball



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## How (and why) po have taken over th

NBA teams are increasingly tro  
players who can play (and guar  
it merely a fad?



Steve Aschburner  
Archive



June 3, 2022 4:41 AM

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## Commissioner Adam Silver discusses league's 'positionless basketball' at Finals press conference

The league's lead executive touches on injury management, the collective bargaining agreement, potential expansion and more.

### RELATED

**Black coaches now lead 50% of NBA teams**  
In the past 12 months, eight coaching gigs in the NBA have been filled by Black candidates.

Forbes

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## Oklahoma City Thunder's Media Day Reinforces Commitment To Play Positionless Basketball

By **Nick Crain**, Former Contributor. © Nick Crain is an NBA reporter covering the OKC Thunder for Forbes.

Published Sep 28, 2021, 07:45am EDT, Updated Sep 28, 2021, 10:54am EDT

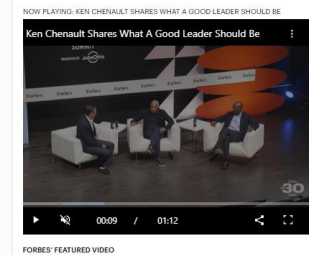
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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA - AUGUST 15: Josh Giddey #3 of the Oklahoma City Thunder poses for a photo during the 2021 NBA Rookie Photo Shoot on August 15, 2021 in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Photo by Joe Scarnici/Getty Images)

The Oklahoma City Thunder begin training camp on Tuesday with just over three weeks until the start of the 2021-22 season. Prior to the season kicking off, they'll carry 20 players through training camp and four preseason games.



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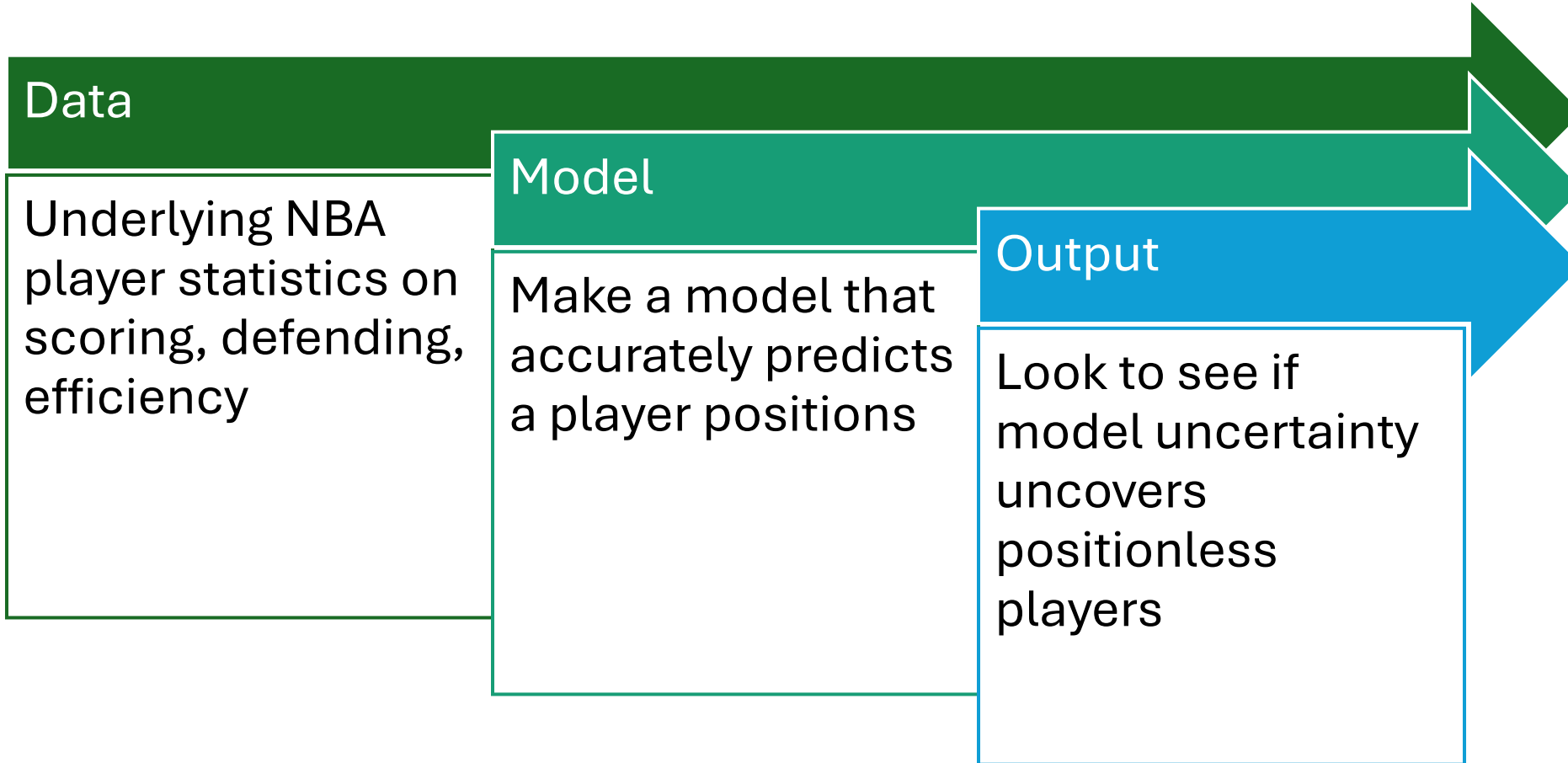
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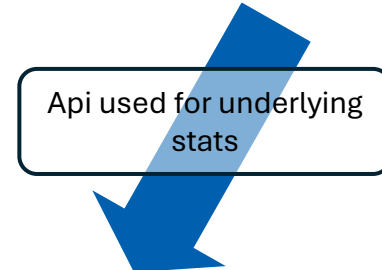
# Project goals



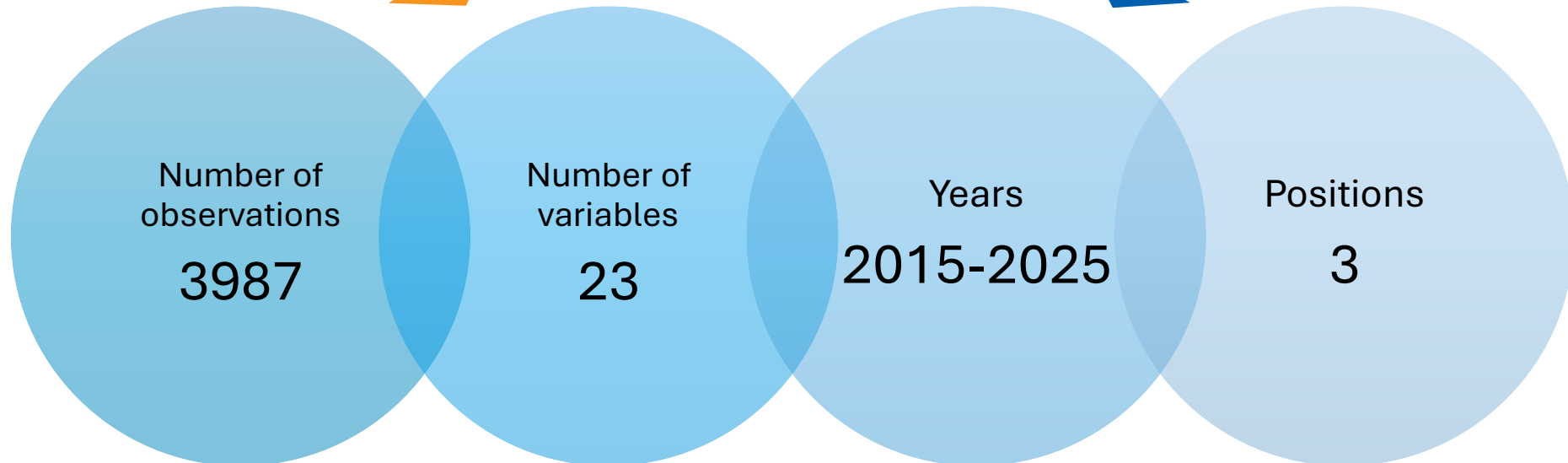
# Data Collection



Website scraped for  
player positions



Api used for underlying  
stats



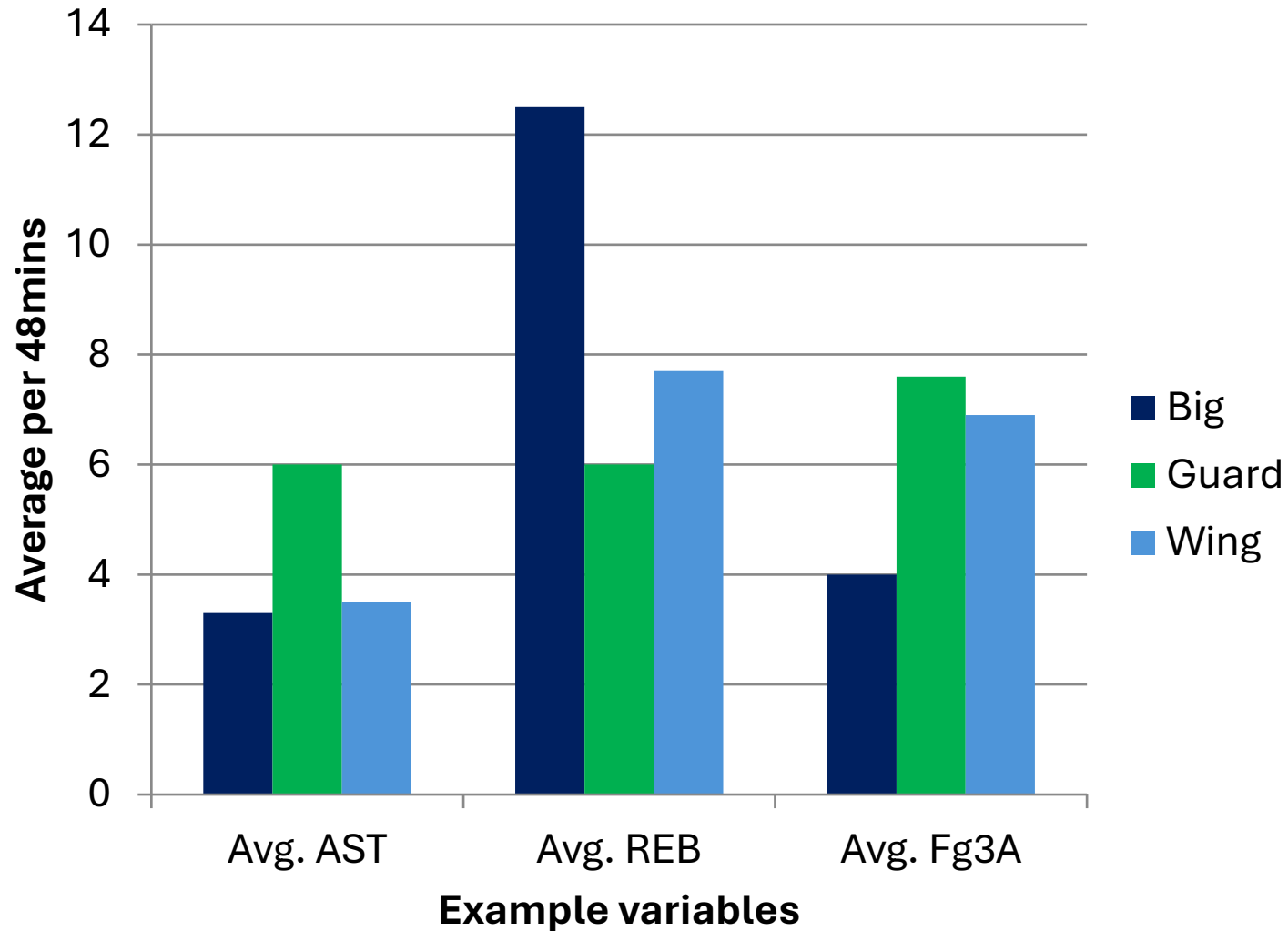
Number of  
observations  
3987

Number of  
variables  
23

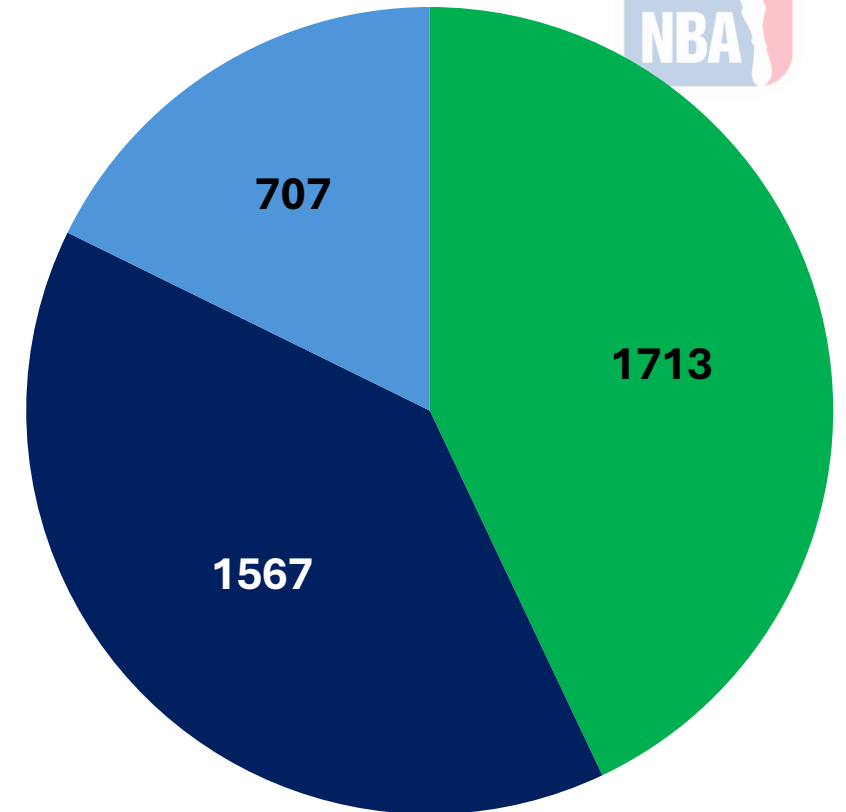
Years  
2015-2025

Positions  
3

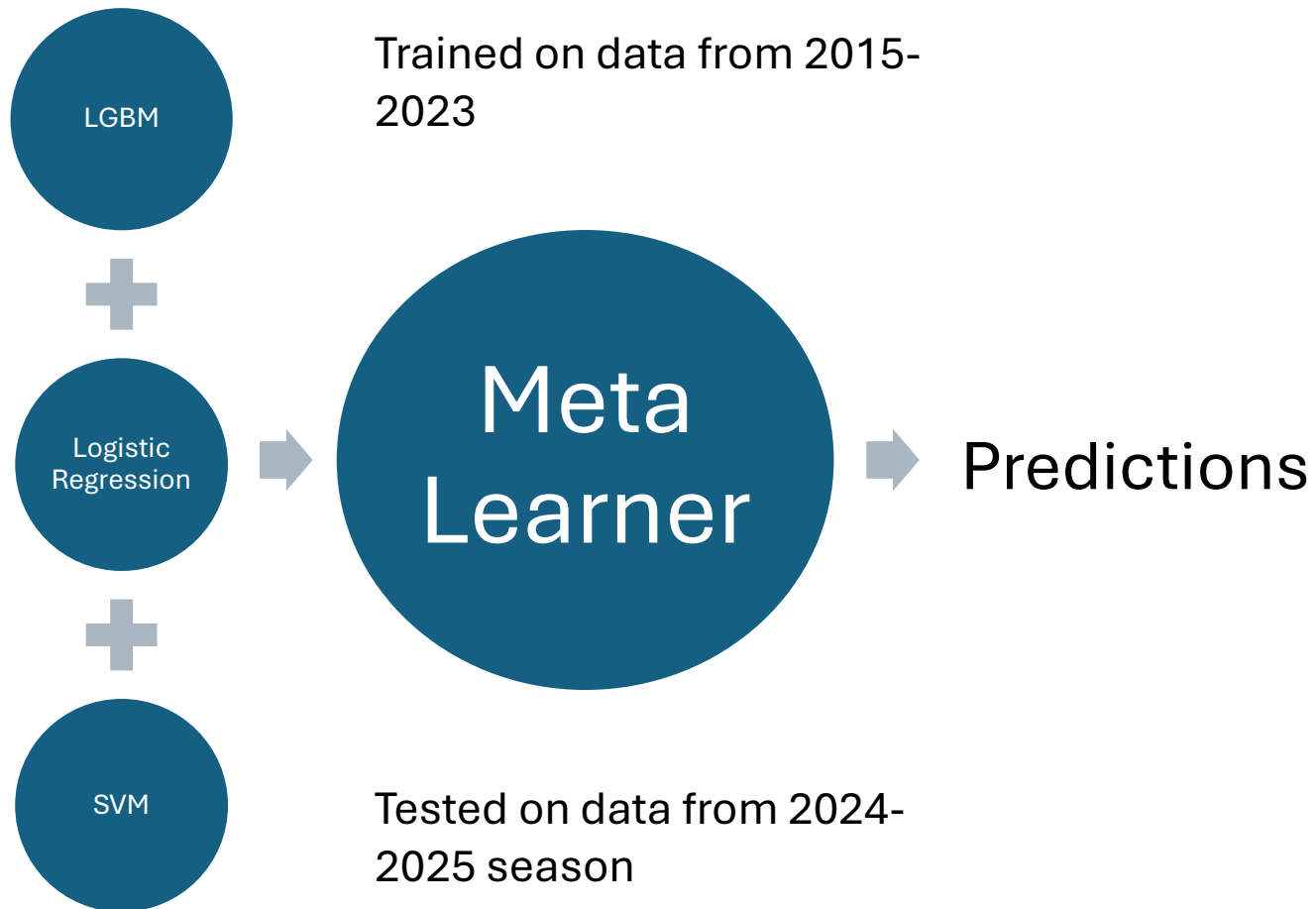
# Looking at the data



Total Position Observations



# Modelling



## Pros

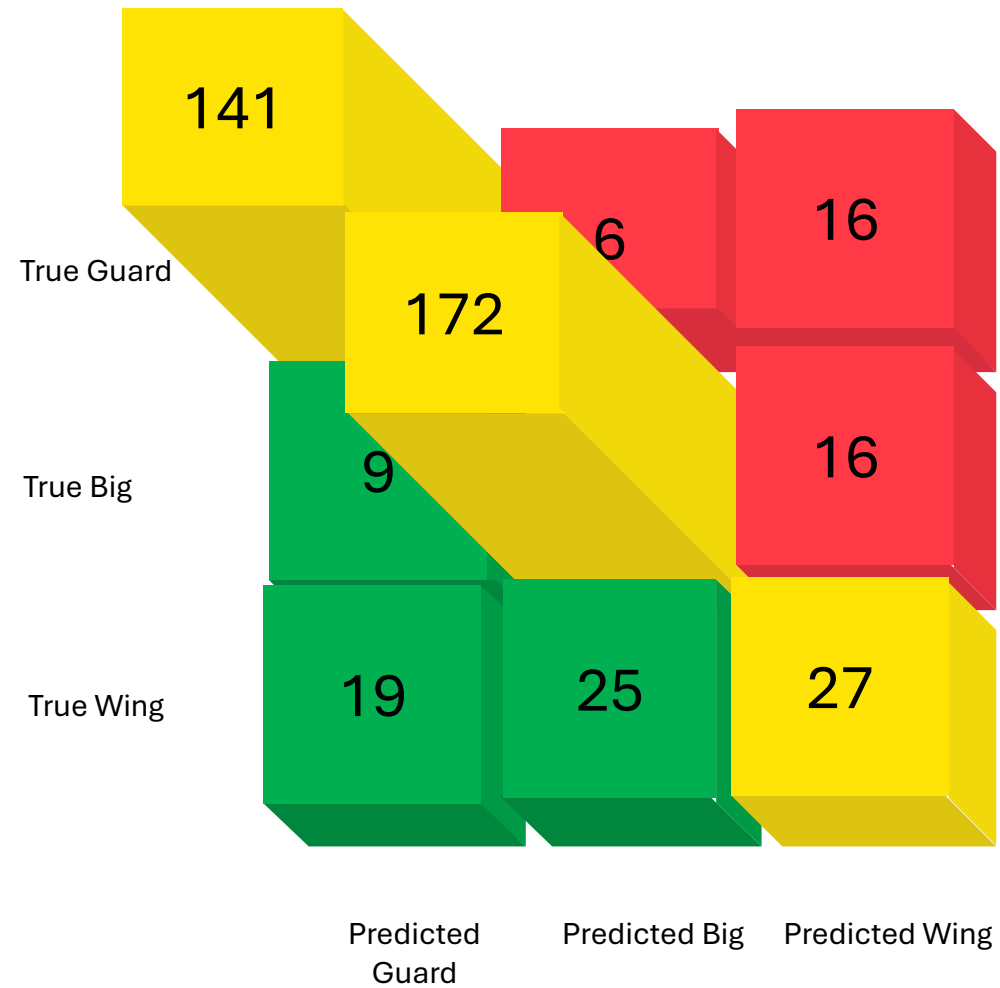
- Reduces model bias
- Meta-learner can learn optimal blending
- Flexible

## Cons

- Computationally expensive
- Harder to interpret
- Pipeline complexity

# Output

Accuracy:  
0.7888631



# Positionless Players (2024-25)

	Pred Pos	True Pos	Prob Guard	Prob Wing	Prob Big
Draymond Green	Wing	Big	0.32594	0.34024	0.33381
Jaylon Tyson	Big	Guard	0.23639	0.32941	0.43420
Jake LaRavia	Wing	Big	0.24222	0.45872	0.29907
Harrison Barnes	Wing	Big	0.24645	0.46233	0.29123
Jayson Tatum	Wing	Big	0.21376	0.46253	0.32372
Wendell Moore Jr.	Wing	Guard	0.24672	0.48549	0.26779
Jonathan Kuminga	Wing	Big	0.24613	0.49957	0.25430
Max Strus	Guard	Wing	0.46386	0.35238	0.18377
Kyle Anderson	Big	Wing	0.19102	0.33058	0.47841
Ousmane Dieng	Wing	Big	0.28555	0.51737	0.19708

5 out of 10 (50%)



**NBA Champions**  
(~12% of NBA players  
are champions)





# Jaylon Tyson



## 2024-25 Averages

Rebounds	Assists	Points
2.0	0.9	3.6

## Current Contract

\$3,492,480

## League Average

\$11,910,649

## 2025-26 Averages

Rebounds	Assists	Points
5.0	1.8	12.5
3P FG%	Offensive rating	
47.6% (5th)	131.4 (13th)	

## Jaylon Tyson single-handedly offers the Cavaliers a skill they haven't had in years

Cleveland's young wing prospect Jaylon Tyson is enjoying a breakout season to become one of the Cavaliers' most important players as a do-it-all phenom.

By [Caleb Crowley](#) | 16 hours ago



Indiana Pacers v Cleveland Cavaliers | Jason Miller/GettyImages

# Wrap up

- Modelled player position at 80%
- Model able to identify positionless players
- Further able to identify unknown positionless players
- Great information for: Scouts, negotiations, fantasy basketball, sports betting



# Victory is built on the shoulders of defeat



```
pip install gus_nba_tools  
pip install nba_api
```

[ ]:

```
from gus_nba_tools import PlayerGameProcessor  
  
player_name = "Victor Wembanyama"  
season = "2023-24"  
  
processor = PlayerGameProcessor(player_name, season)  
  
df = processor.process()
```