

2023 Winter Data Journalism Proposal

Title: Which NBA Player is the Most ‘Like Mike’

Idea: Take a group of current or retired players who are commonly compared to Michael Jordan and use statistical analysis to determine a “similarity score” for each player to Michael Jordan. This builds upon the established narrative that surrounds many players careers of being “the next Michael Jordan” and dives into an exploration through comparative statistics. Possibly connect to how media’s narrative might not match the statistics

Method: We will select a group of about 5-10 players and gather their stats from their prime years. In order to standardize this, we will be using the stats for the same number of seasons for all of the players including Jordan. We will compare many basic stats such as:

- PPG: points per game
- RPG: rebounds per game
- APG: assists per game
- SPG: steals per game
- FG/FT/3PT %: field goal/free throw/3-point %
- Shot attempts

As well as advanced stats such as:

- Box +/- : metric that estimates a player’s ability to impact the game, based on how they compare to an average players’ contribution to points per 100 possessions
- Win Shares: tries to split up credit for the team’s successes to individual players
- Shot selection: types of shots taken
- O/D Rating: offense/defense rating

We will need to implement an algorithm to give a “similarity score” per stat and find a way to account for magnitude of difference rather than just give an ordered ranking. In order to exemplify our observations, many forms of visualizations will be incorporated along with an analysis of our results. We will display players’ visualizations side-by-side or on the same graphs.

Sources:

- <https://www.basketball-reference.com/players/j/jordami01.html>
- <https://www.basketball-reference.com/players/d/derozde01.html>
- <https://www.basketball-reference.com/players/w/wadedw01.html>
- <https://www.basketball-reference.com/about/ratings.html>

<https://github.com/jossus657/Data-Journalism-W23>

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/20101994/how-to-git-pull-from-master-into-the-development-branch>

Action Items:

- Cleaning and manipulating the data for the players (thurs)
- Visualization (Double bar chart for [x player] and michael)
 - At least two different different players (fri)