

A close-up, low-angle shot of a basketball resting on a polished wooden floor. The basketball is in the lower-left foreground, showing its textured orange surface and black lines. The floor is made of light-colored wooden planks, and a black line is visible on the floor. The background is dark and out of focus.

Most Valuable Players

Mitchell Boult

Hunter Tanner

Gardy Anger

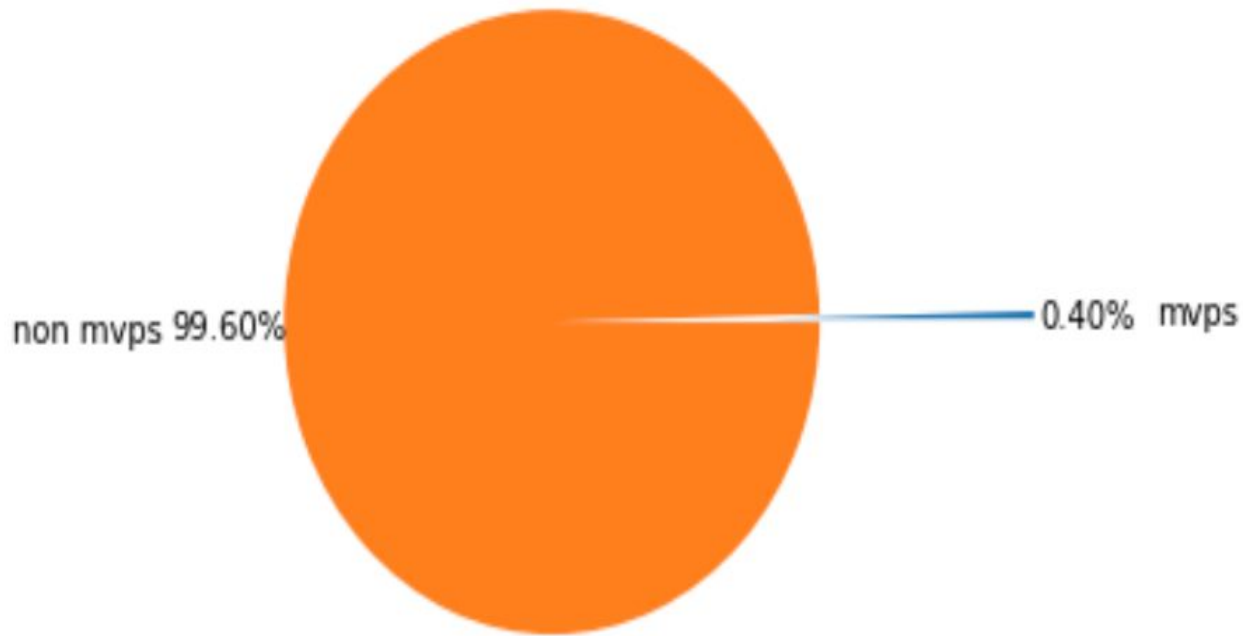
Tabassum Choudhury

Timea Jakab

Project Overview:

- Over 8000 drafted in 75 seasons
- Only 35 players voted season MVP

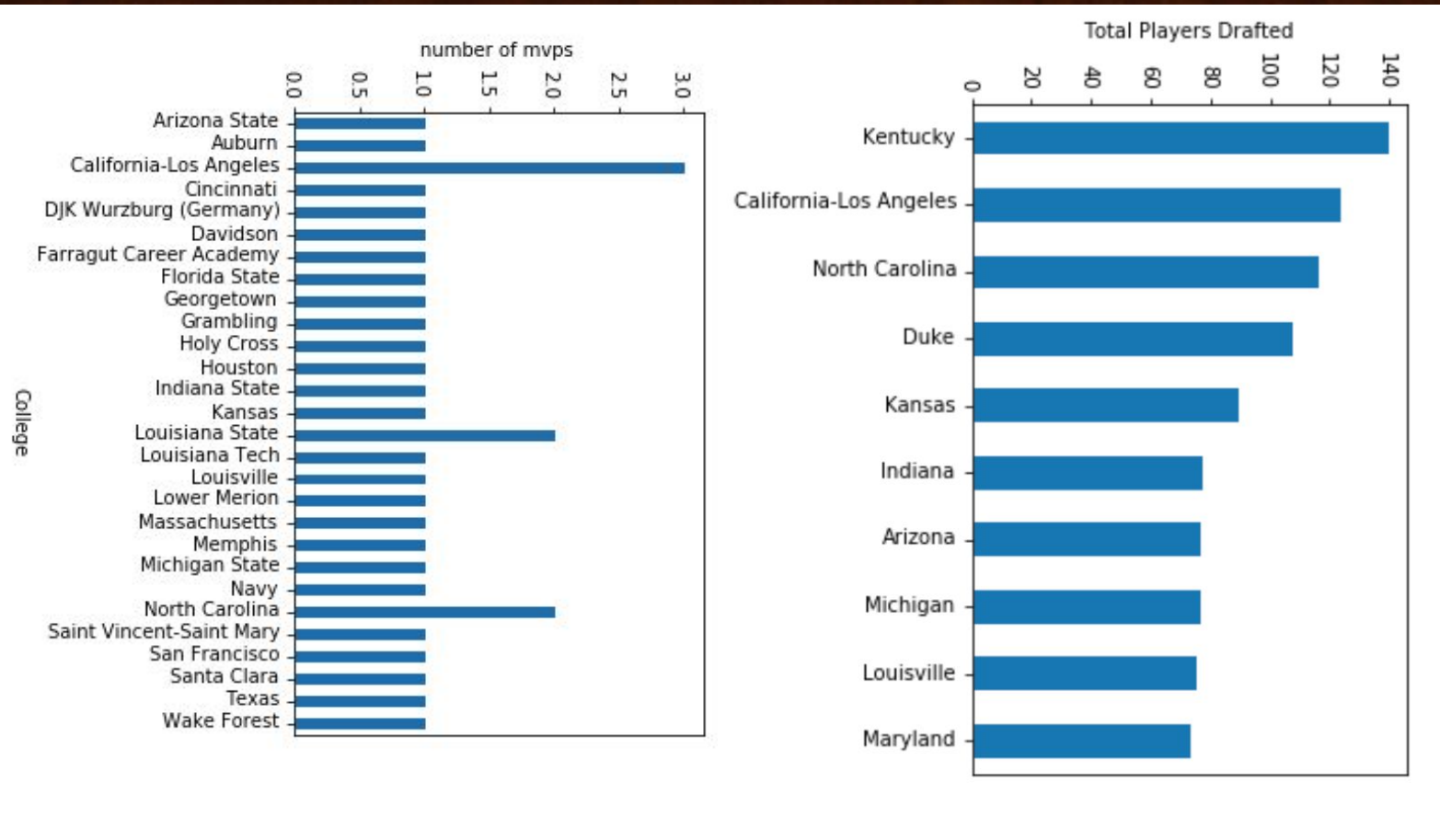
Percentage of Players That Become MVPs



What makes these 35 special?

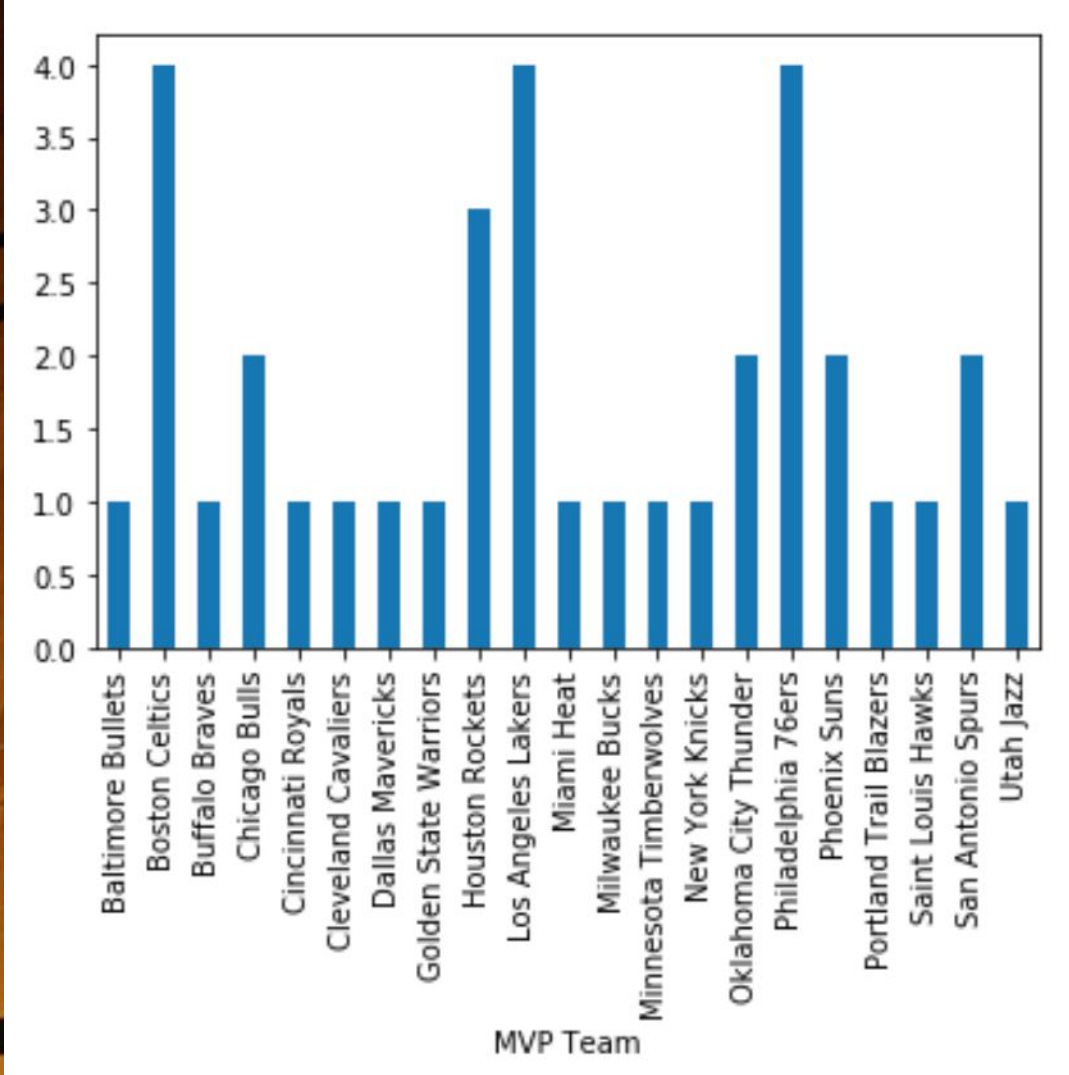
- Hypothesis 1:
 - There is one institution (either college or franchise) developing/identifying talent better than the rest
- Hypothesis 2:
 - One position is more probable to become MVP
- Hypothesis 3:
 - MVPs have physical attributes that set them apart

Hypothesis 1: One institution (college or pro team) develops/identifies talent better than the rest

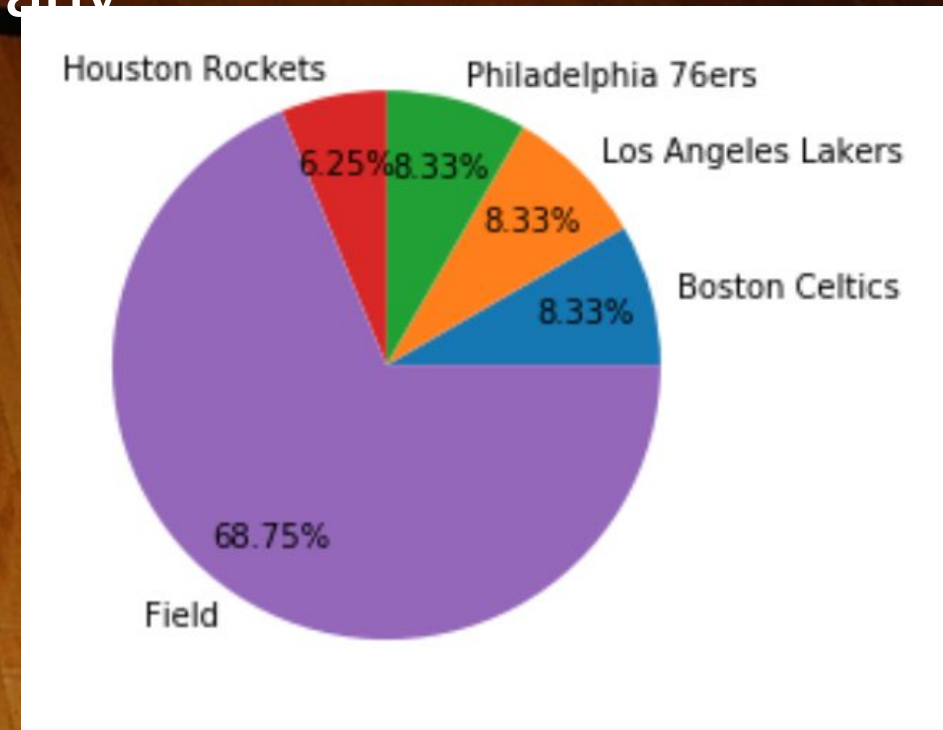


- Certain colleges produce more NBA caliber talent but, with the number of MVPs per school having a **standard deviation of .456**, there is not one that seems to give much of an advantage
- UCLA does have the most with 3

Hypothesis 1: cont.



- Historically the Celtics(4), Rockets(3), 76ers(4) & Lakers(4) produced a third of all MVPs
- The rest of the NBA averages 1 MVP if any



Hypothesis 1 Conclusion:

While the college a player attends can be an indicator of potential NBA talent, the college a player attends doesn't indicate MVP potential.

Once they get into the league, players that play for the Celtics, Lakers, and 76ers are more likely to be in MVP considers.

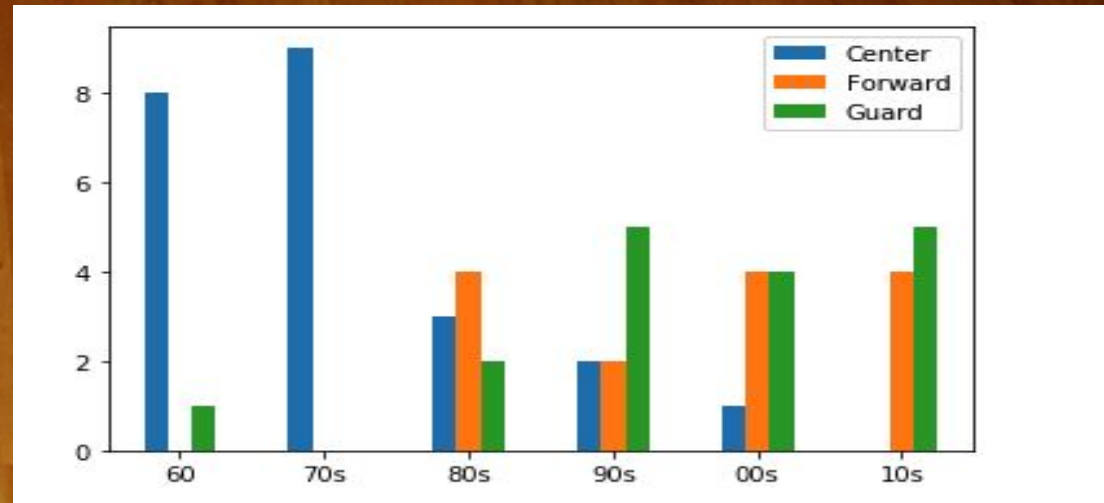
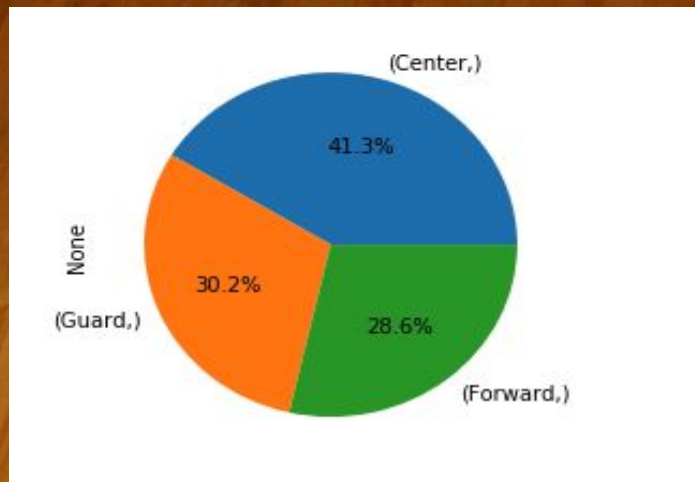
Hypothesis 2: One position is more probable to become MVP

Hypothesis

- Until the 1979- 80 season, the MVP was selected by a vote of NBA players. Since the 1980 -81 season the award is decided by a panel of sportswriters and broadcasters throughout the US . Each member of the voting panel casts a vote for the first and gift place selections on top of this the 3-point liner was introduced the same year. Our hypothesis is that this had a direct impact on the probability of one becoming MVP

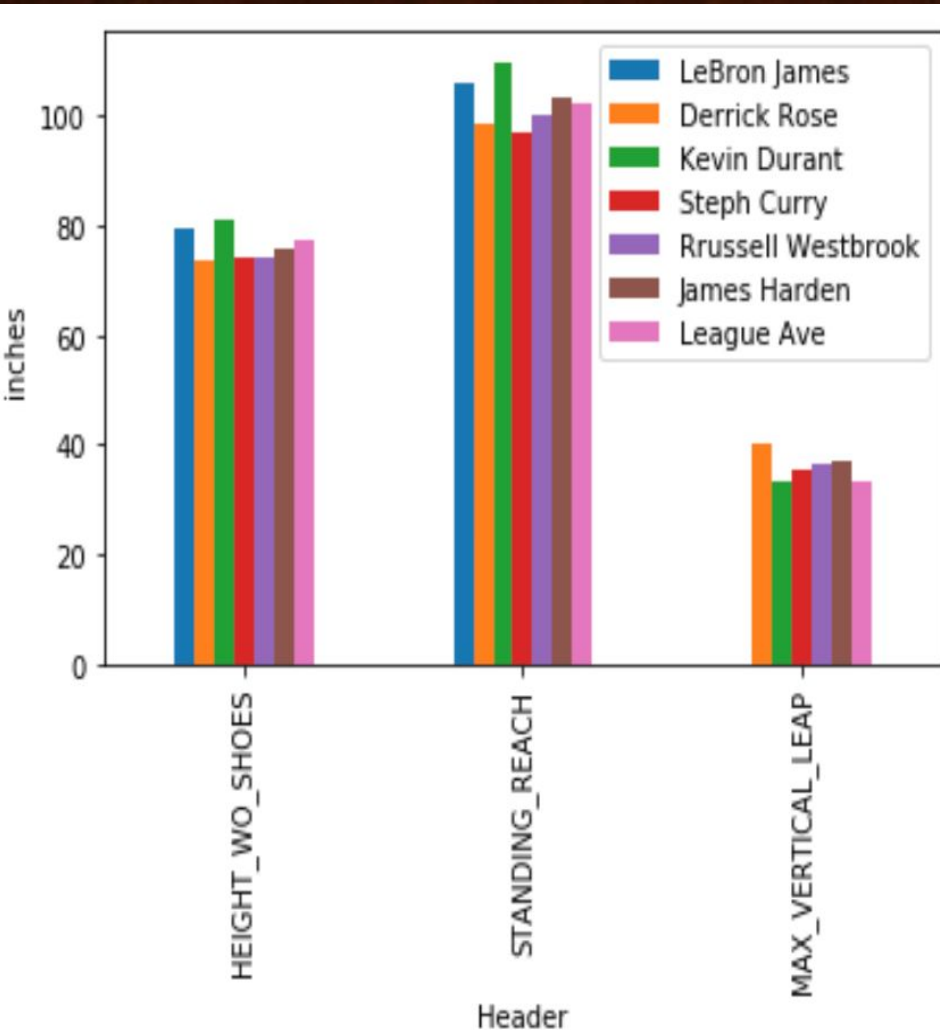
Based on our analysis, the “center” position and also the tallest player on each team, usually playing near the basket has been predominantly winning the title of MVP until the late 70’s.

Once the new measure is implemented in the 80’s we are seeing a more even playing field in terms of positions that will more likely win the title of MVP.



Hypothesis 3:

MVPs have physical attributes that set them apart



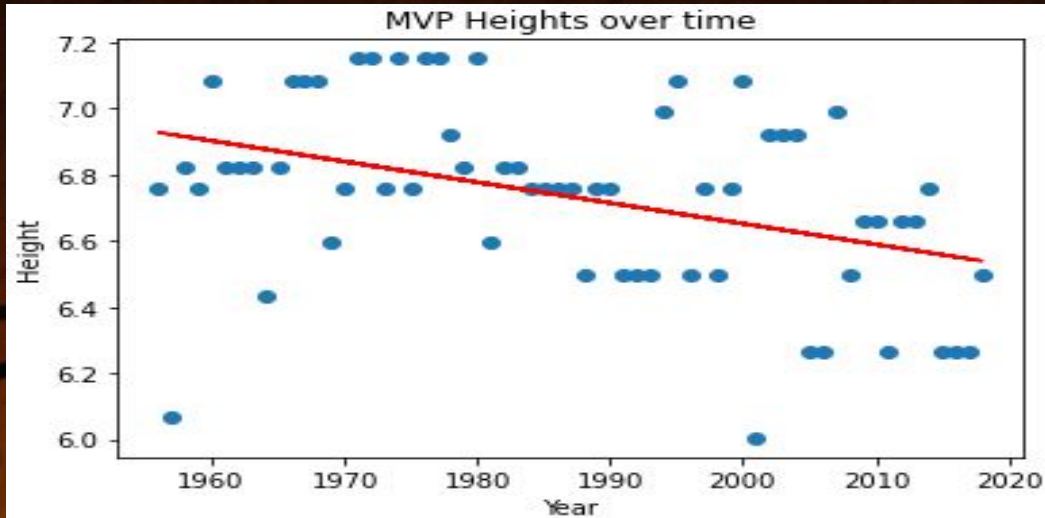
The NBA hosts a combine every year for the world's top prospects. Over the last 20 years, stats like Height, Reach and Vertical Leap have been record for every player that attends the combine.

Given the athletic nature of basketball, Do MVPs must have above average physical attributes?

We compared the Height, Reach and Vertical Leap of LeBron James, Derrick Rose, Kevin Durant, Steph Curry, Russell Westbrook and James Harden (every MVP that attended the combine) to the league average.

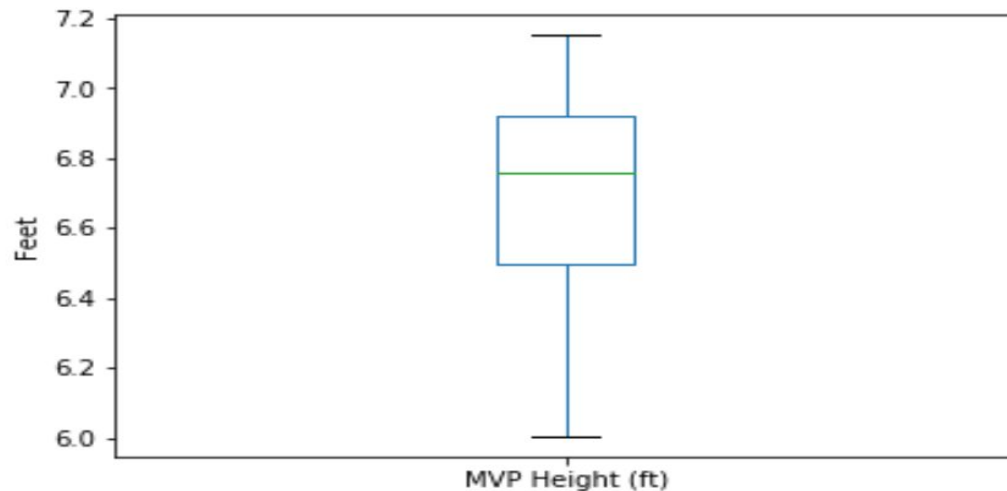
MVPs ability to jump high is an advantage, while their Height and Reach for the majority of the MVPs were below the league average

Hypothesis 3: Cont.



-Infact, over the last 60 years, there has been a steady line regression of years.

-The correlation between height and year has dropped .403 inches. With the lowest quartile being 6.5ft and highest quartile being 6.9. However, 6.75 is the ideal height to look for when predicting possible MVPs



Hypothesis 3 Conclusion:

There's is no real physical attributes that give mvps an advantage,so there skill set is what is setting them apart.

MVPs are expected to contribute more than any other players in their team, not to say in the entire league.

Besides media vote, a player's consistent performance matters.

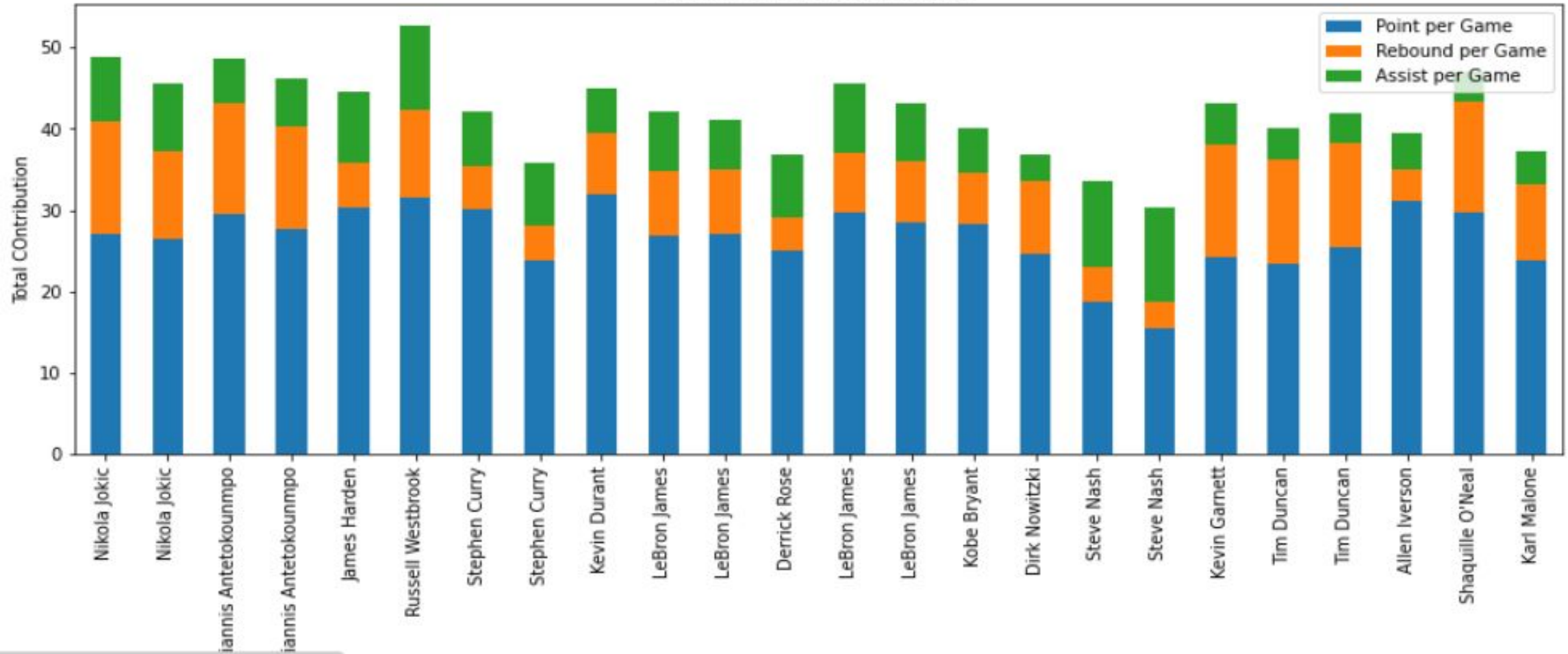
MVP Metrics

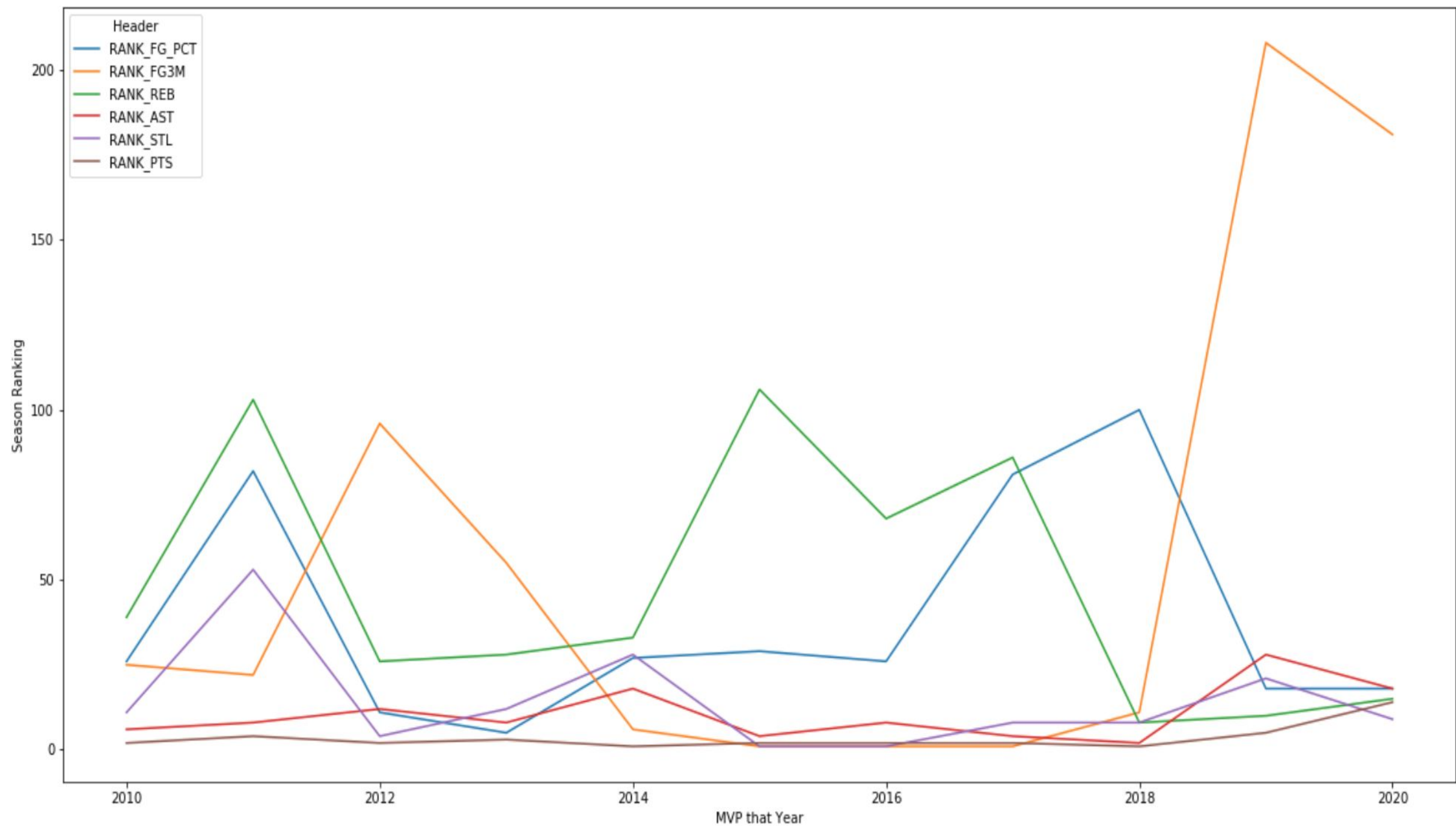
Three primary rubrics to enter the mvp contention list:

1. Average point per game
2. Average rebound per game
3. Average assist per game

Rubric over the past two decades

1999-2021 MVP Contribution





Conclusion

- The path to the NBA is less important than the Team they are playing but both are big factors
- Since the 80's the position they play is less important
- skill and consistency is more important than physical attributes.
- While size can help, basketball is a game of skill and finesse