

# Nick Restifo

*generalist data science leader working in basketball analytics*  
*enjoys the search for truth, expected value, and competitive advantage*

## Contact

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## Stack

📊 R (9+)

- Tidiverse
- XGBoost/Keras

🐍 Python (9+)

- Pandas/Numpy
- Sklearn/TensorFlow

🗄️ SQL (8+)

- MS SQL Server
- Oracle SQL

## Skills

Data Science (10+)

- Exploratory Data Analysis
- Research
- Data Visualization

Predictive Modeling (9+)

- Regression & Classification
- Machine Learning
- Testing & Deployment

Data Engineering (9+)

- Web Scraping
- Data Cleaning

Database Administration (6+)

- Data Warehousing
- Database Migration
- Cloud Storage & Computing

Application Development (3+)

- Web Design

## Interests

- Basketball & Other Sports
- Poker & Other Games
- Artificial Intelligence
- Politics & Power Dynamics
- Terraforming & Climate Systems

## Education



**Central Connecticut State University**



*Master's Degree, Data Mining*

January 2013 to May 2016

- Thesis: Modeling the NBA Draft: Leveraging Data Mining Techniques to Project Future NBA Talent



**University of Connecticut**

*Bachelor's Degree, Marketing*

August 2007 to May 2011

## Experience



**New York Knicks**



*Manager Of Coaching Analytics*

December 2020 to Present

- Traveled with the team to attend all strategy meetings, assist in gameplay strategy development, and process ad-hoc requests from the coaching staff
- Managed two full-time direct reports within the Coaching Analytics team
- Designed and developed multiple new postgame reports, pregame reports, player summary pages, and player development reports
- Built sophisticated predictive models to estimate future success of draft prospects, pregame win probability, and in-game win probability
- Oversaw management of a robust basketball operations database stored in the cloud
- Introduced and built many new data pipelines from multiple new data sources
- Produced detailed deliverables to advise top decision makers on drafts, trades, signings, and interactions with league office
- Wrote an internal R package, an internal Python module, and multiple highly scalable internal global functions



**Minnesota Timberwolves**



*Senior Basketball Operations Analyst*

December 2016 to September 2020

*Assistant General Manager, T-Wolves Gaming*

January 2020 to September 2020

- Using an assortment of machine learning and other statistical techniques, built almost all predictive models the Minnesota Timberwolves and T-Wolves Gaming used at that time, including draft models, win projection models, and more
- Advised lead decision makers on all matters of draft, trade, free agency, and gameplay strategy through meetings, presentations, and detailed deliverables
- Managed a full-time basketball operations analyst and three basketball analytics interns
- Led the development of three major internal web applications
- Wrote the majority of the code produced to source data, clean data, create and update database tables, conduct automated analysis, generate reports, and deliver automated messaging
- Developed almost all internal all-in-one methods of player evaluation utilized by the front office

# Additional Experience



## Darden Restaurants



Associate Data Scientist

August 2015 to December 2016

- Performed high-level statistical analysis to address the strategic concerns of Darden's executives and chief officers
- Built predictive models that predicted the outcome of customer churn, wine sales, and restaurant attendance
- Completed projects related to employee effectiveness, promotion effectiveness, real estate strategy, and more
- Executed queries for data-pulls at the request of other departments



## Nylon Calculus



Official Staff Contributor

December 2014 to November 2016

- Wrote and conducted studies on basketball strategy, player evaluations, predictive modeling and more
- Built predictive models that predicted the outcome of draft prospects, NBA games, shot results, and more



## Fordham University



Remote Basketball Consultant

October 2015 to July 2016

- Scraped publicly available data to produce advanced statistical reports for the Men's Basketball program
- Provided automated statistical reports to the head coach, as well as a manual summary of their conclusions, on a pre-game basis



## Ticket Network

Pricing Analyst

July 2013 to July 2014

- Monitored tickets and sales trends in online exchanges in real time
- Produced and analyzed sales, revenue, profit, and conversion reports in order to price more aggressively and intelligently



## University Of New Haven



Special Assistant To The Head Coach

July 2013 to July 2016

Assistant Coach & Basketball Analytics Coordinator

September 2012 to July 2013

- Developed and maintained advanced statistical reports that contained percentages and efficiencies on all levels, including player, team, and lineup and provided them to the head coach on an automated, pre-game basis
- Coordinated distribution of film and filming of practice and games
- Assisted in all day-to-day matters of the team, including coaching, game-planning, and advance scouting



## Hamden Hall Country Day School

Head Coach

December 2011 to March 2012

- Managed and organized a JV Basketball team during games and practices
- Coached an inherited 0-4 team to 8-13



## ESPN

Project Statistics Analyst

August 2011 to March 2012

- Published statistics and game data in real time to various ESPN outputs after ensuring its accuracy
- Updated, edited, and scrubbed information in real time on ESPN outputs that included ESPN.com and Bottom Line



## Springfield Armor

Advance Scout

November 2010 to April 2011

- Analyzed games, teams, and players for the team using Synergy Sport Technology
- Compiled custom edits for the coaching staff to analyze before games