



# The Blueprint for Winning in the NBA

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# Thesis Statement

Traditional basketball statistics such as points and rebounds often fail to capture the full story of team success. Teams with superior advanced efficiency metrics , such as offensive and defensive efficiency ratings and shot opportunity efficiency are the ones that consistently rise to the top in today's NBA.



# Advanced Metrics Provide a Clearer Lens on Team Success

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## Offensive Efficiency Rating

Measures points per shot, focusing on scoring quality over volume.

## Defensive Efficiency Rating

Tracks points allowed per shot, highlighting defensive strength.

## Shot Opportunity Efficiency

Combines scoring, rebounding, and turnovers to assess possession efficiency.

# Dataset and Methodology Overview

## Data Source

2025 NBA regular season games through March 15th, including traditional and advanced stats.

## Metrics Used

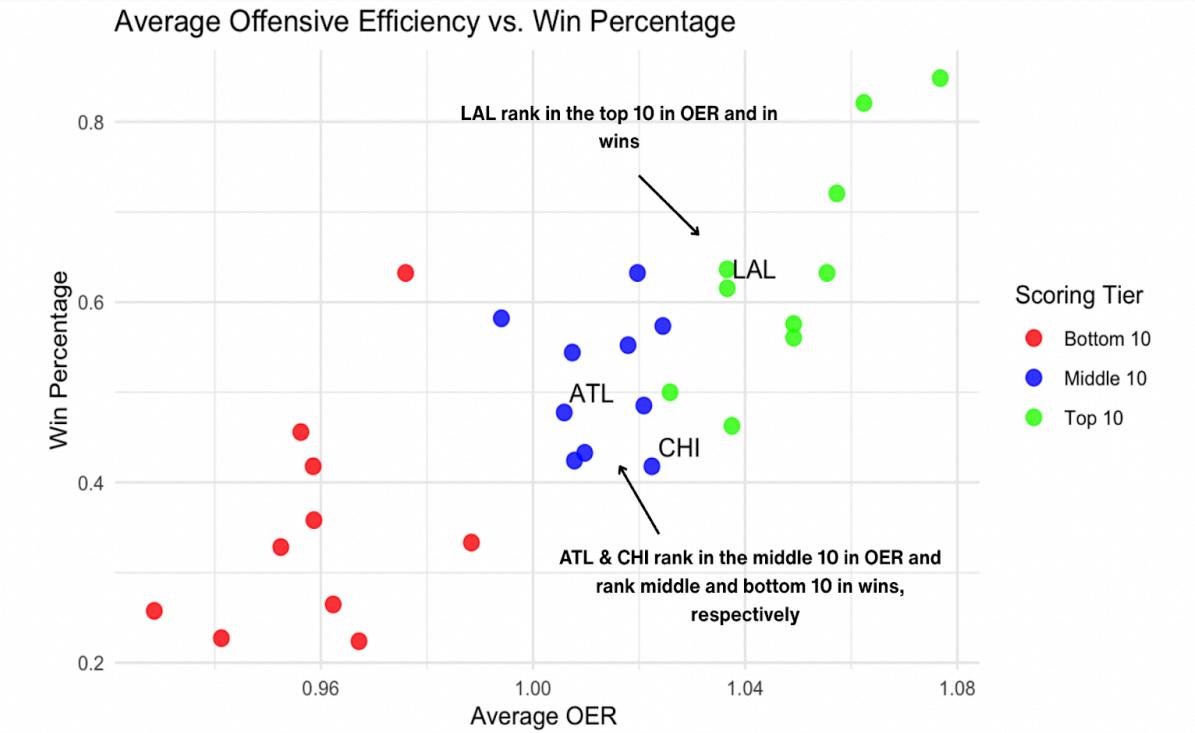
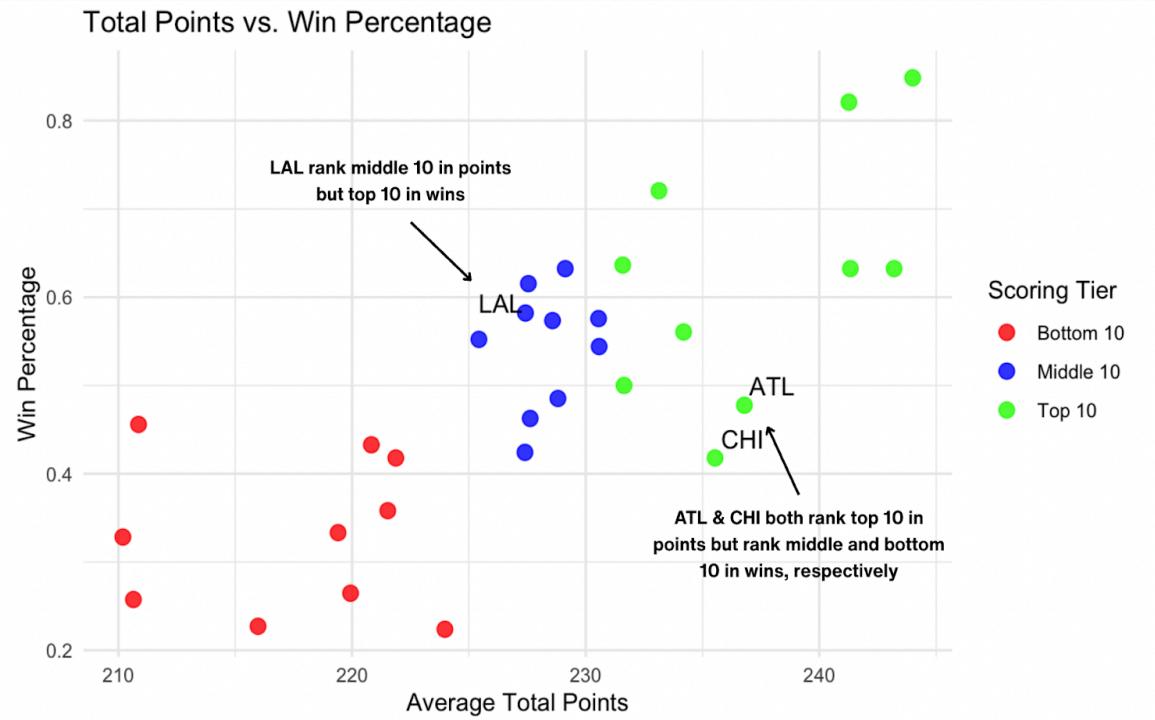
Traditional stats like points and rebounds compared with OER, DER, and SOE for deeper insights.

## Analysis Goal

Identify key efficiency metrics that separate elite teams from struggling ones to guide strategy.



# Why Offensive Efficiency Rating Outperforms Total Points



- Points Can Be Misleading**

Teams like Atlanta and Chicago rank top 10 in points but bottom 10 in wins, showing total points don't reliably predict success.

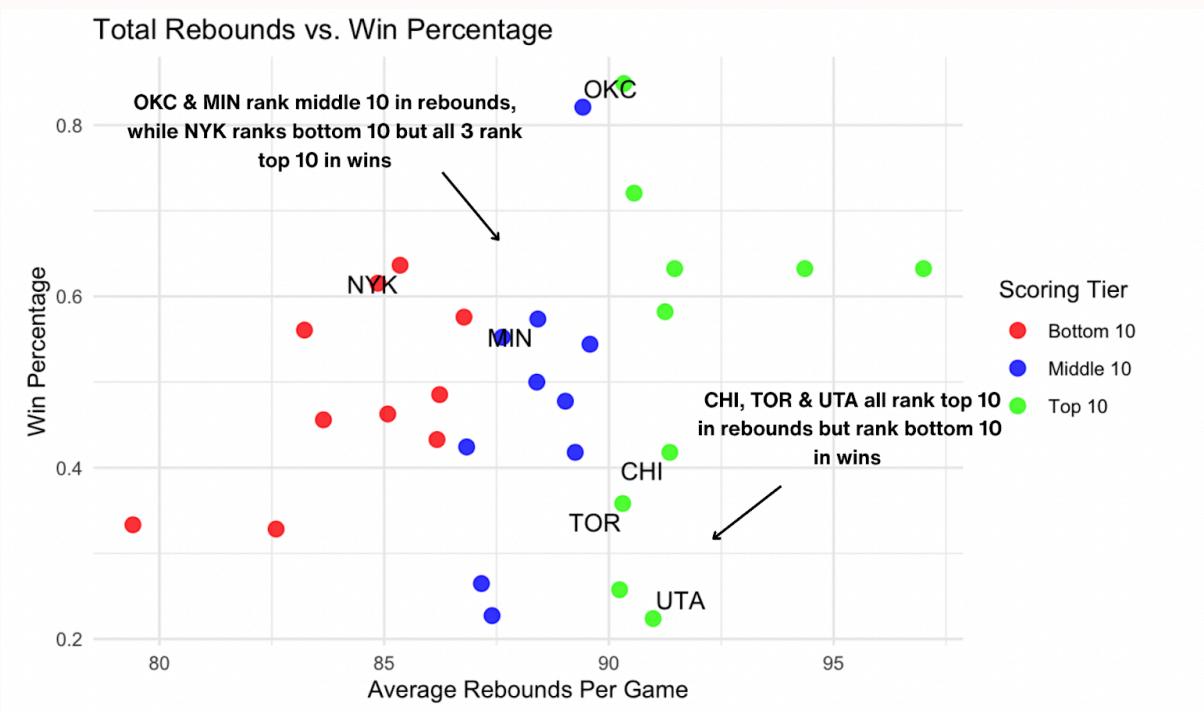
- Quality Over Quantity**

OER isolates scoring quality, eliminating pace or shot volume inflation seen in total points.

- Visual Proof**

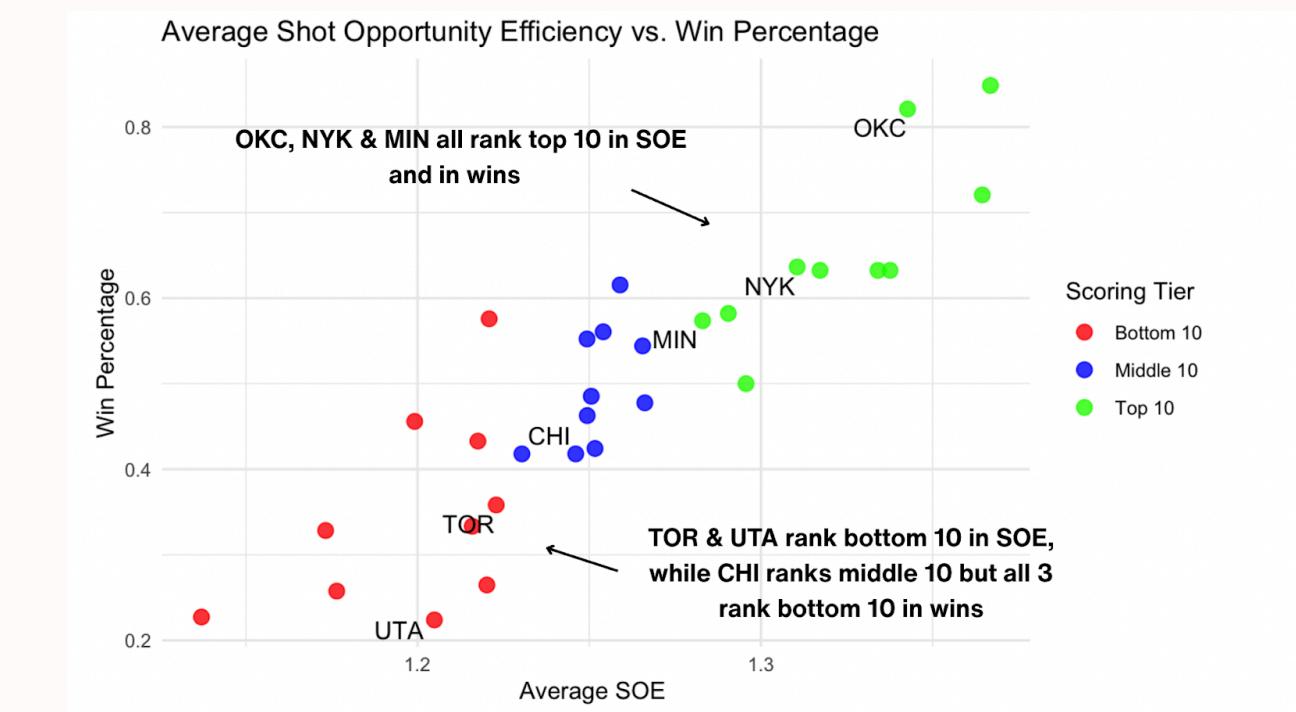
Lakers, middle 10 in points but rank top 10 in OER which is where they rank in terms of wins at 8th.

# Scoring Opportunity Efficiency Beats Rebounds as a Success Predictor



## Rebounds Misleading

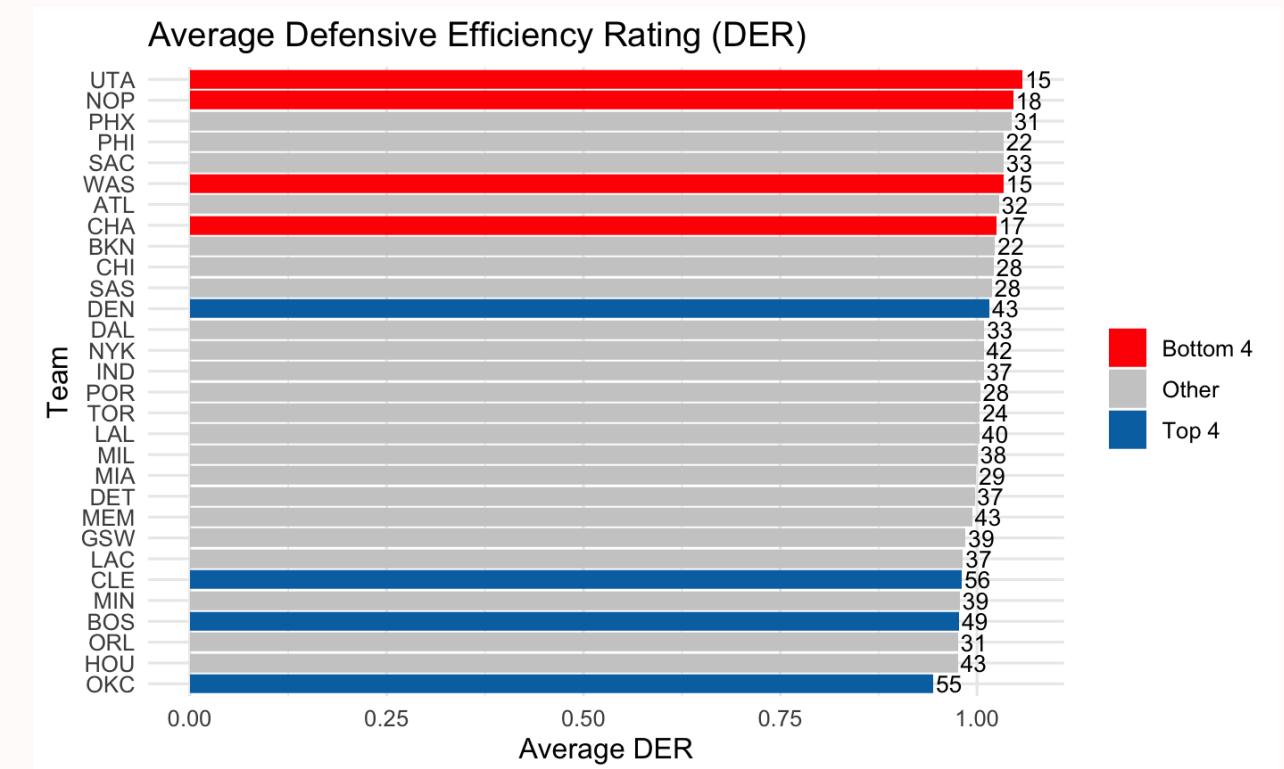
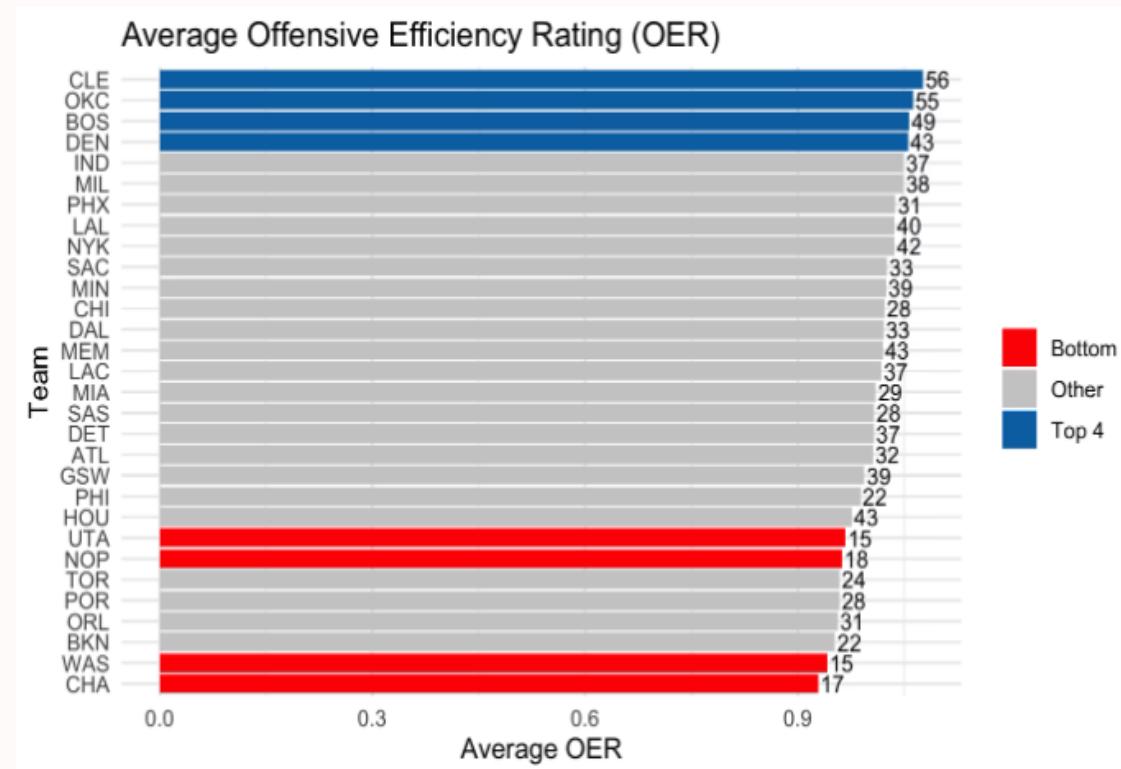
Teams like Chicago, Toronto, and Utah have high rebounds but low wins, whereas teams like OKC, Minnesota and the Knicks have low rebound rates but high wins showing rebounds alone don't predict success.



## SOE Alignment

SOE rankings closely match win rankings, highlighting the importance of maximizing possessions and scoring chances. Top teams post 5.9% higher SOE vs mid-tier, while rebounds show only 4.3% difference, confirming SOE's stronger predictive power.

# Offensive and Defensive Efficiency Reveal True Contenders



## Elite Teams

OKC, Cleveland, and Boston rank high in both offensive and defensive efficiency, correlating with their 49-56 wins.

## Bottom Teams

Lower-ranked teams in wins also rank poorly in efficiency metrics, confirming these stats identify true performance levels.

## Defensive Gap

Top teams allow 2.2% to 4.2% fewer points per shot than mid and low-tier teams, emphasizing defense's role in winning.



# Implications for Coaches, Analysts, and Executives

- **Better Decision-Making**

Advanced metrics help identify true team strengths and weaknesses beyond traditional stats.

- **Strategic Focus**

Prioritizing efficiency metrics can improve player evaluation and game planning.

- **Competitive Edge**

Teams leveraging these insights are better positioned to build winning rosters and strategies.



# Conclusion: Embracing Advanced Metrics for NBA Success

- Traditional stats like points and rebounds can mislead, while advanced efficiency metrics such as OER, DER, and SOE provide a more accurate and predictive view of team performance.
- These metrics reveal why some high-scoring teams struggle and highlight true contenders built on efficiency.
- Ultimately, efficiency metrics offer a clearer blueprint for success in the 2025 NBA season and beyond.

# THANK YOU