



INTERNAL REPORT

To: Management & Head Coach
Subject: Possession Battle Analytics

1. THE CONCEPT OF THE POSSESSION BATTLE

We all know that winning games usually comes down to two things: how well we shoot and how many shots we actually get. While we spend a lot of time working on our shooting and sets, there is another huge advantage we can find just by making sure we take more shots than the other team. This is what we call the "Possession Battle."

By focusing on getting more possessions, we give ourselves a bit of a cushion. Even on nights when the ball doesn't want to go in, having those extra 1 or 2 chances every game—simply by being smarter with the clock—can really add up and win us a few extra games by the end of the year.

2. MECHANICS OF POSSESSION DIFFERENTIALS

A possession surplus is typically generated by a few key game-management factors:

- **The Jump Ball & Alternance Rule:** Winning the opening tip dictates the alternating possession arrow. Careful management of jump-ball situations, quarter starts, and **Overtime** periods allows a team to potentially finish with a +1 possession advantage.
- **Technical & Unsportsmanlike Fouls:** These events are unique opportunities to break the standard exchange of possessions. They grant free throws while allowing us to retain the ball, creating a "free" offensive cycle.
- **2-for-1 Clock Management:** This is arguably the most controllable tactical variable. By shooting early enough in the final minute of a quarter, we can ensure the final possession belongs to us, effectively turning one possession into two.

3. 2X1 APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES

To maximize our possession volume, the following strategies are suggested for the final minute of the first three quarters:

I. Active Pursuit (The Shot Window)

A 2-for-1 is typically secured by taking the first shot between **48 and 35 seconds** remaining. Analytics suggests a "perfect window" of **40-43 seconds**. This timing generally ensures that regardless of the opponent's response, there will be enough time remaining for us to hold the final shot of the quarter.

II. Passive Pursuit (Clock Management)

When an opponent scores with roughly 35 seconds remaining, we have the chance to "bleed" the clock. Utilizing the running clock in European play—allowing the ball to bounce briefly before the inbound, using the full 5-second count, or rolling the ball—can shrink the remaining time to 24 seconds or less, guaranteeing we take the last shot.

III. Possession Discipline

Unless a high-percentage layup is available, the optimal choice is often to hold for the absolute last shot. Shooting early on the final possession risks giving the opponent a chance for a transition score or a full-court heave. The goal is to leave the opponent with zero time on the clock.

4. VARESE HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE & RANK

The following table tracks how we have performed in this area over the last few seasons and our rank compared to the rest of the league.

Season	LBA Rank	Net Poss. Diff	Points Value (Yr)	Win Impact
2025-2026 (YTD)	15th	-12.75	-13.63	-0.49
2024-2025	2nd	+15.75	+11.50	+0.38
2023-2024	6th	+2.25	+1.64	+0.05
2022-2023	1st	+19.50	+14.24	+0.47

5. 2025-2026 LBA LEAGUE STANDINGS (YTD)

Current standings based on Net Possession Differential across the league. Note our current position relative to the league leaders.

Team	GP	Net Poss (Diff)	Net Value / Game	Extra Games Won
Napoli Basket	15	+11.25	+0.5475	+0.43
Banco di Sardegna Sassari	15	+6.00	+0.2920	+0.23
Nutribullet Treviso Basket	15	+5.25	+0.2555	+0.20
Pallacanestro Trieste	15	+4.50	+0.2190	+0.17
UNAHOTELS Reggio Emilia	15	+1.50	+0.0730	+0.06
Old Wild West Udine	15	+1.50	+0.0730	+0.06
EA7 Emporio Armani Milano	15	+1.50	+0.0730	+0.06
Vanoli Basket Cremona	15	+0.75	+0.0365	+0.03
Umana Reyer Venezia	15	-0.75	-0.0365	-0.03
Dolomiti Energia Trento	15	-0.75	-0.0365	-0.03
Acqua San Bernardo Cantu	15	-1.50	-0.0730	-0.06
Bertram Derthona Tortona	15	-3.00	-0.1460	-0.11
Virtus Segafredo Bologna	15	-3.00	-0.1460	-0.11
Germani Brescia	15	-10.50	-0.5110	-0.40
Openjobmetis Varese	15	-12.75	-0.6205	-0.49

Conclusion:

Historically, we have been league leaders in this category. However, this season we have slipped to 15th in the LBA. This change is effectively costing us **half a win** on our record. By simply getting back to our usual discipline with the 2-for-1 windows and clock management, we can reclaim those points and potentially add another win to our final total.