

MGTA 452

2025-26 NBA Awards Prediction Model

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Objective

The goal of our project was to build prediction models (using different methods) for the 2025-26 NBA season.

The awards considered:

- Eastern Conference Championship
- Western Conference Championship
- NBA Championship
- Most Valuable Player
- Rookie of the Year
- Defensive Player of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- All-NBA First Team



NBA MVP



NBA
Defensive
Player of the
Year



NBA Rookie of the
Year



NBA
Championship



Western Conference
Championship/ Eastern
Conference Championship



NBA Coach of the Year

Most Valuable Player



Building Profile

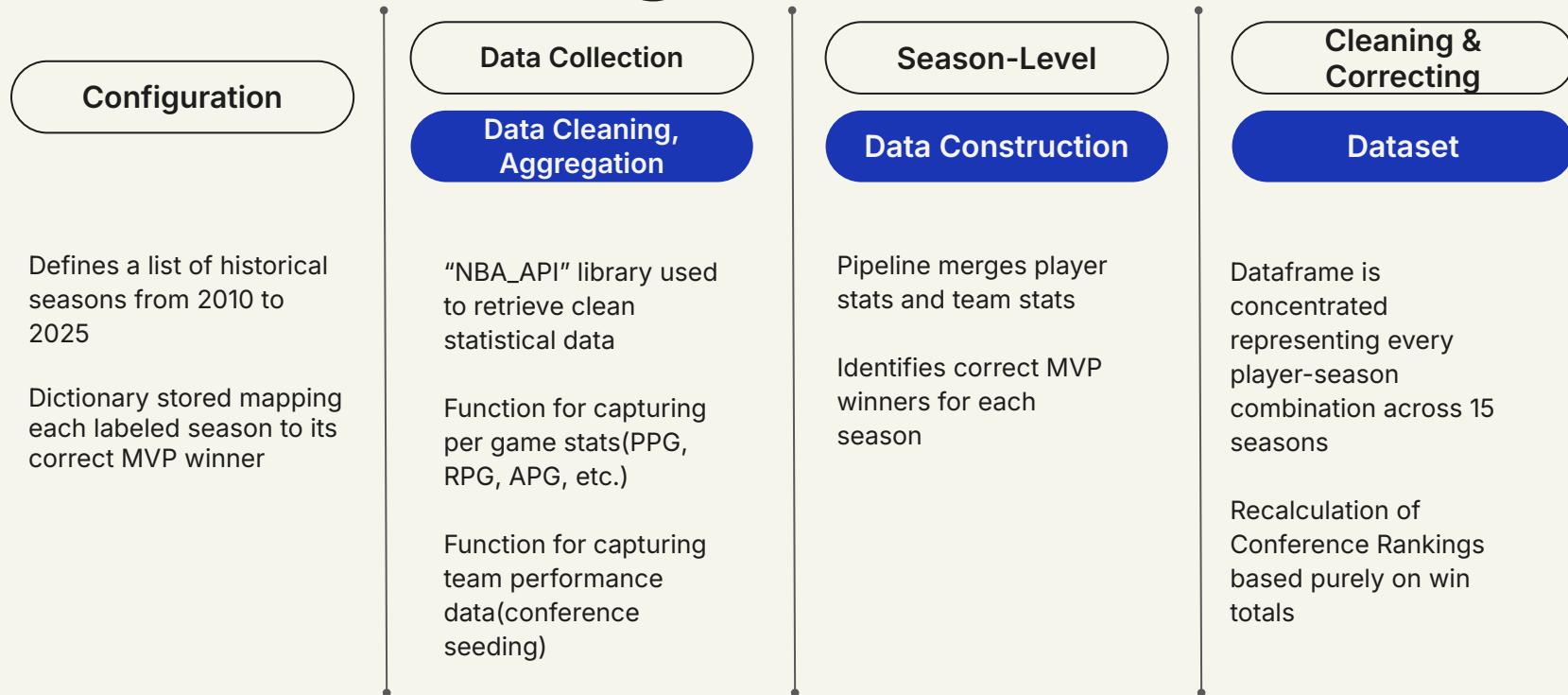
Last 5 MVP Winners

- **2024-25**
 - Shai Gilgeous-Alexander
- **2023-24**
 - Nikola Jokić
- **2022-23**
 - Joel Embiid
- **2021-22**
 - Nikola Jokić
- **2020-21**
 - Giannis Antetokounmpo

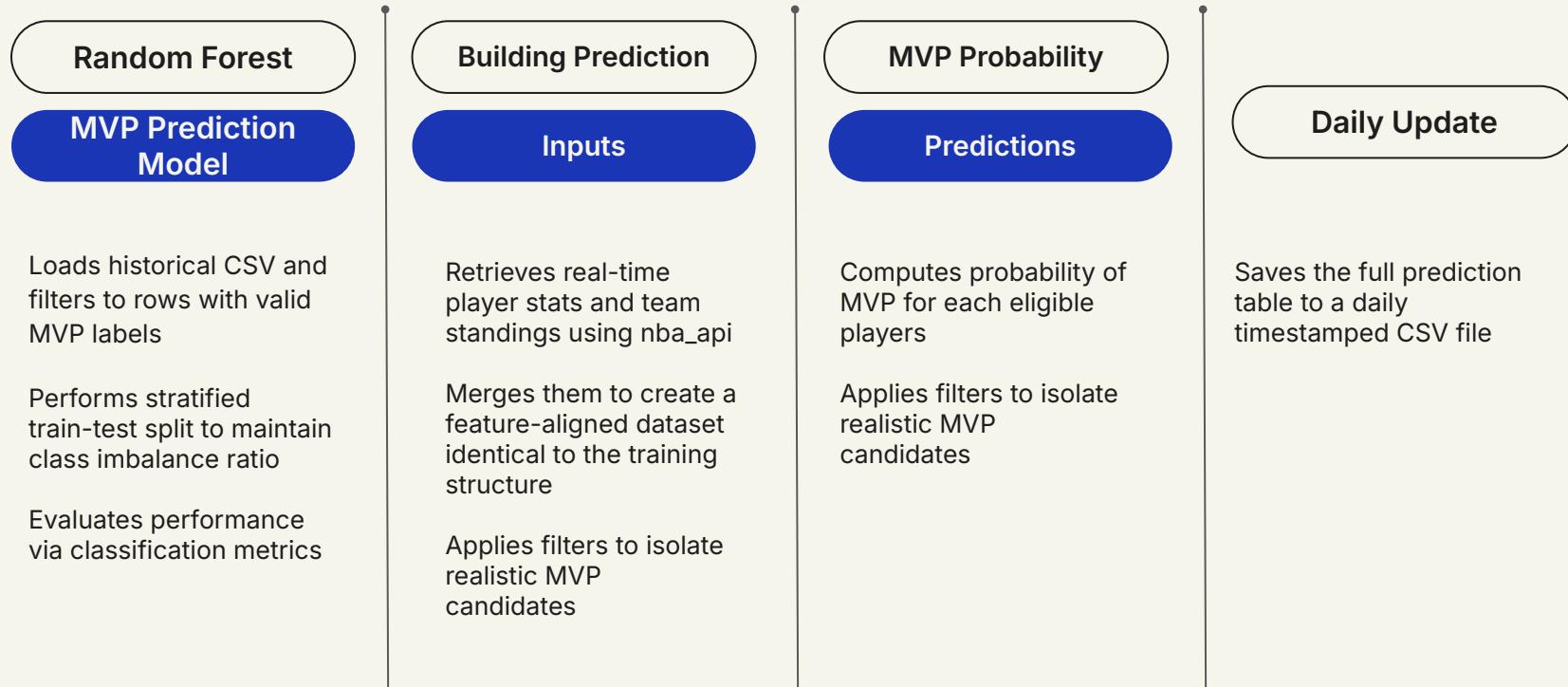
Distinct Characteristics

- All recorded over 26 PPG
- On top-3 seeded team in their respective conference
- MVP's team won over 52 games

Constructing Prediction Model



Constructing Prediction Model(2)



Defensive Player of the Year



Building Profile

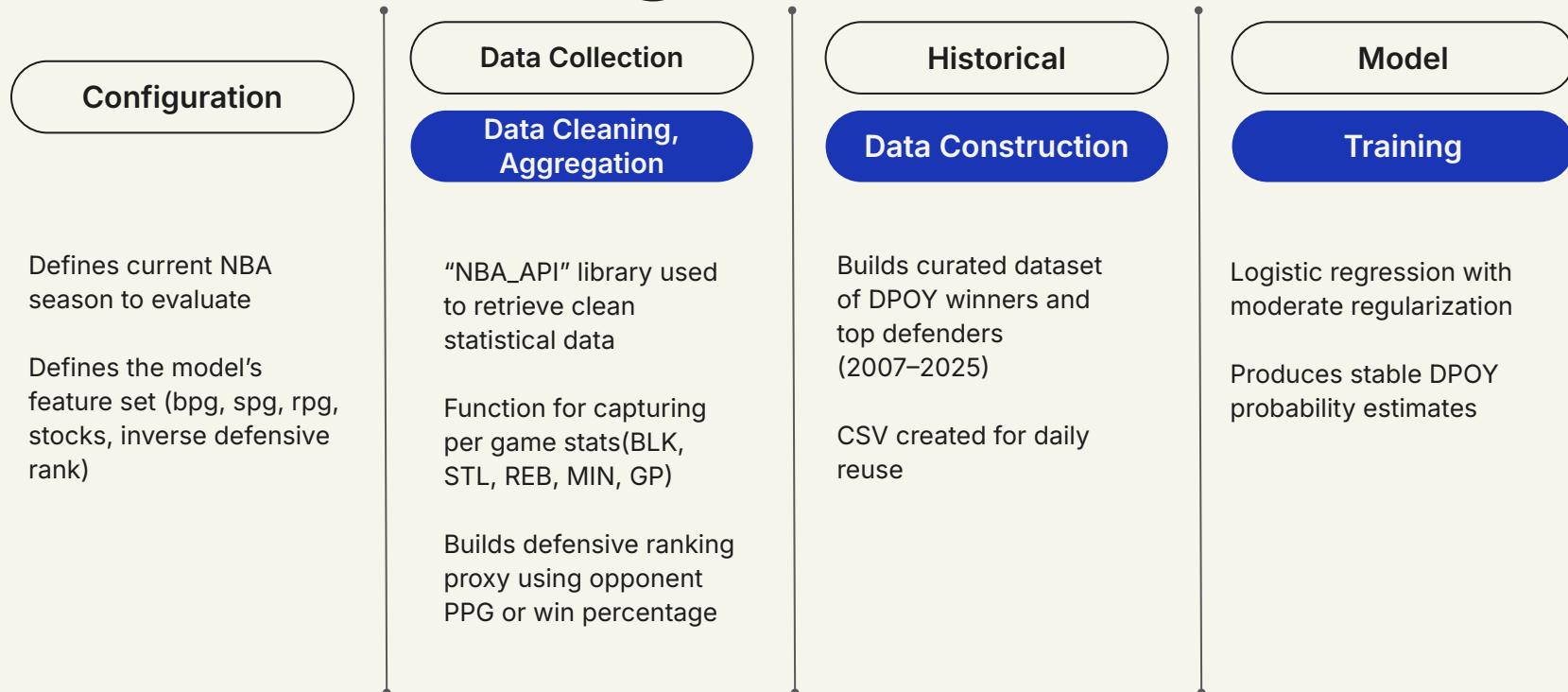
Last 5 DPOY Winners

- **2024-25**
 - Evan Mobley
- **2023-24**
 - Rudy Gobert
- **2022-23**
 - Marcus Smart
- **2021-22**
 - Rudy Gobert
- **2020-21**
 - Giannis Antetokounmpo

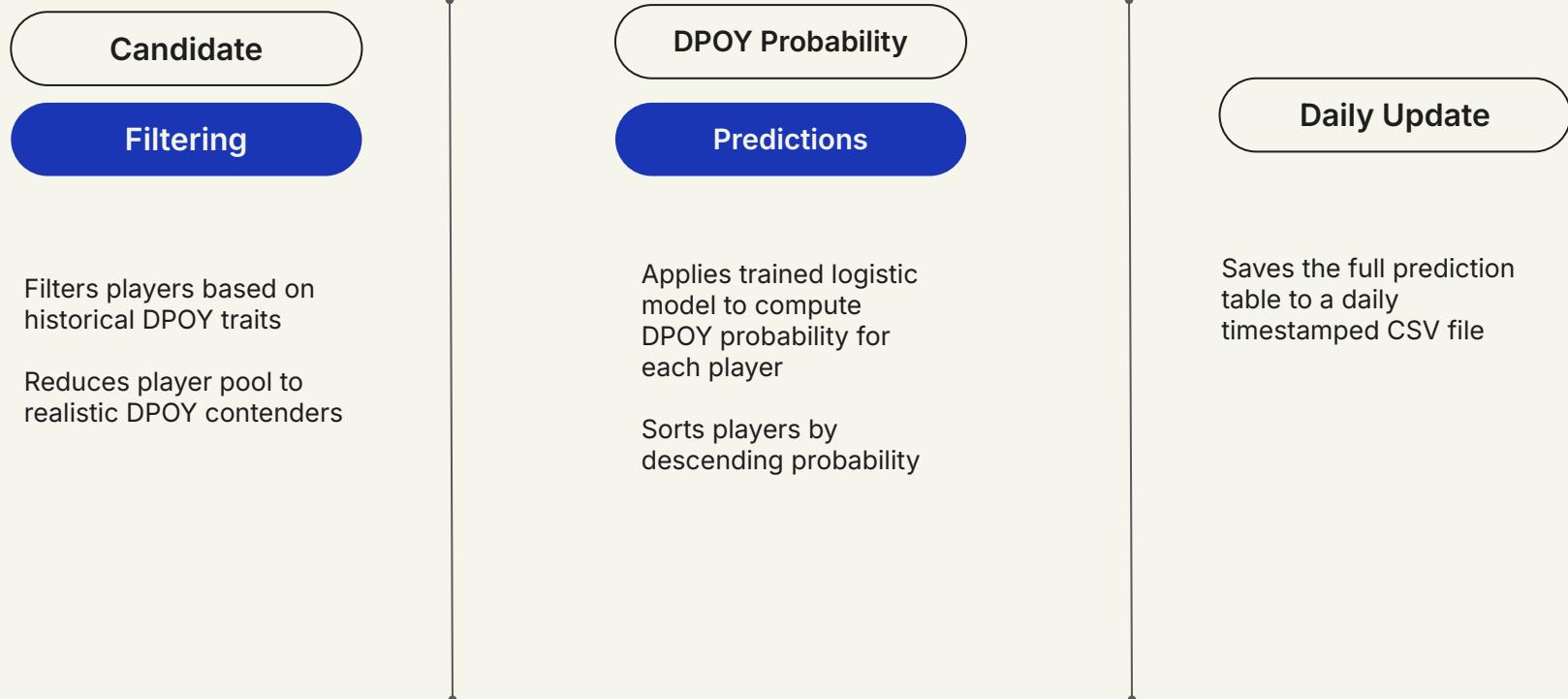
Distinct Characteristics

- Team Defense is ranked in the top 10
- Each player averaged over 28 MPG
- Combined steals and blocks is over 2
- Averaged over 3.5 RPG

Constructing Prediction Model



Constructing Prediction Model(2)



Rookie of the Year



Building Profile

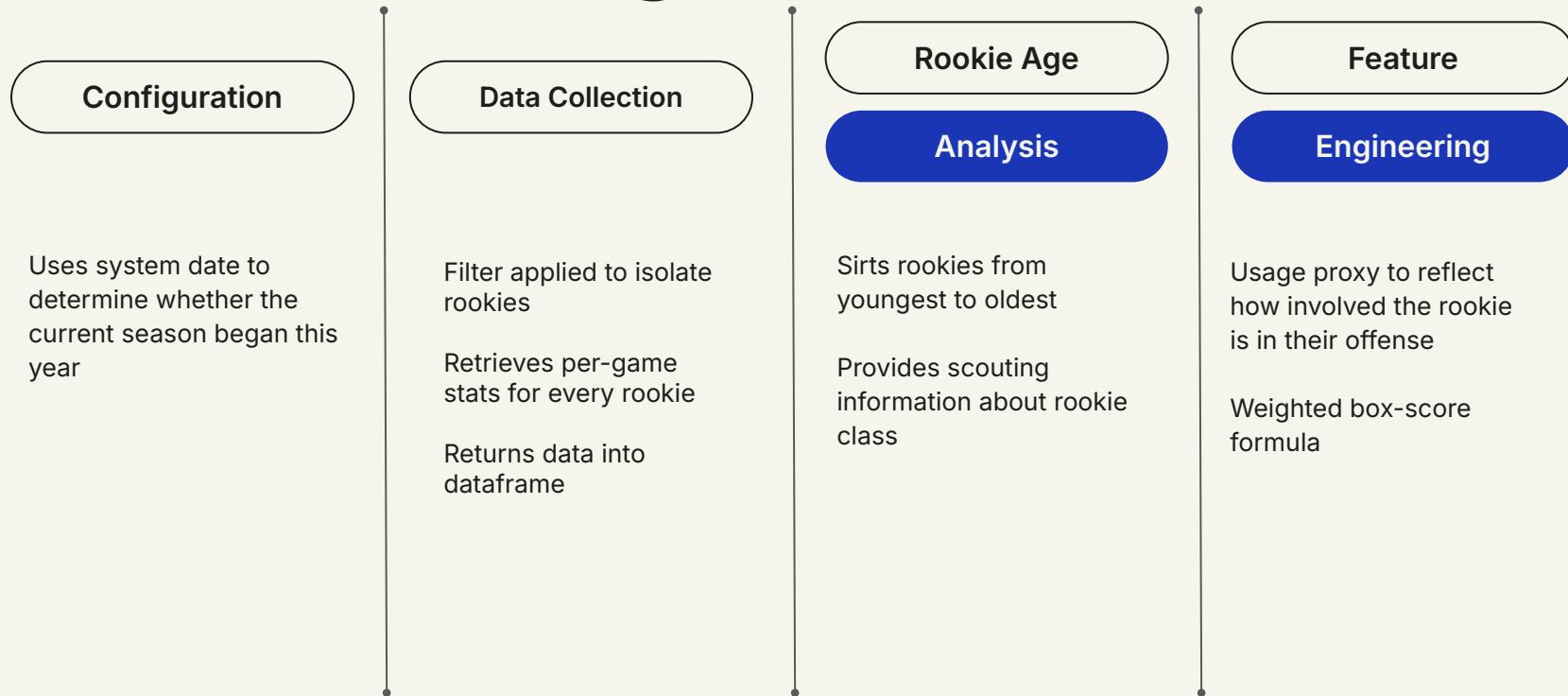
Last 5 ROY Winners

- **2024-25**
 - Stephon Castle
- **2023-24**
 - Victor Wembanyama
- **2022-23**
 - Paolo Banchero
- **2021-22**
 - Scottie Barnes
- **2020-21**
 - Lamelo Ball

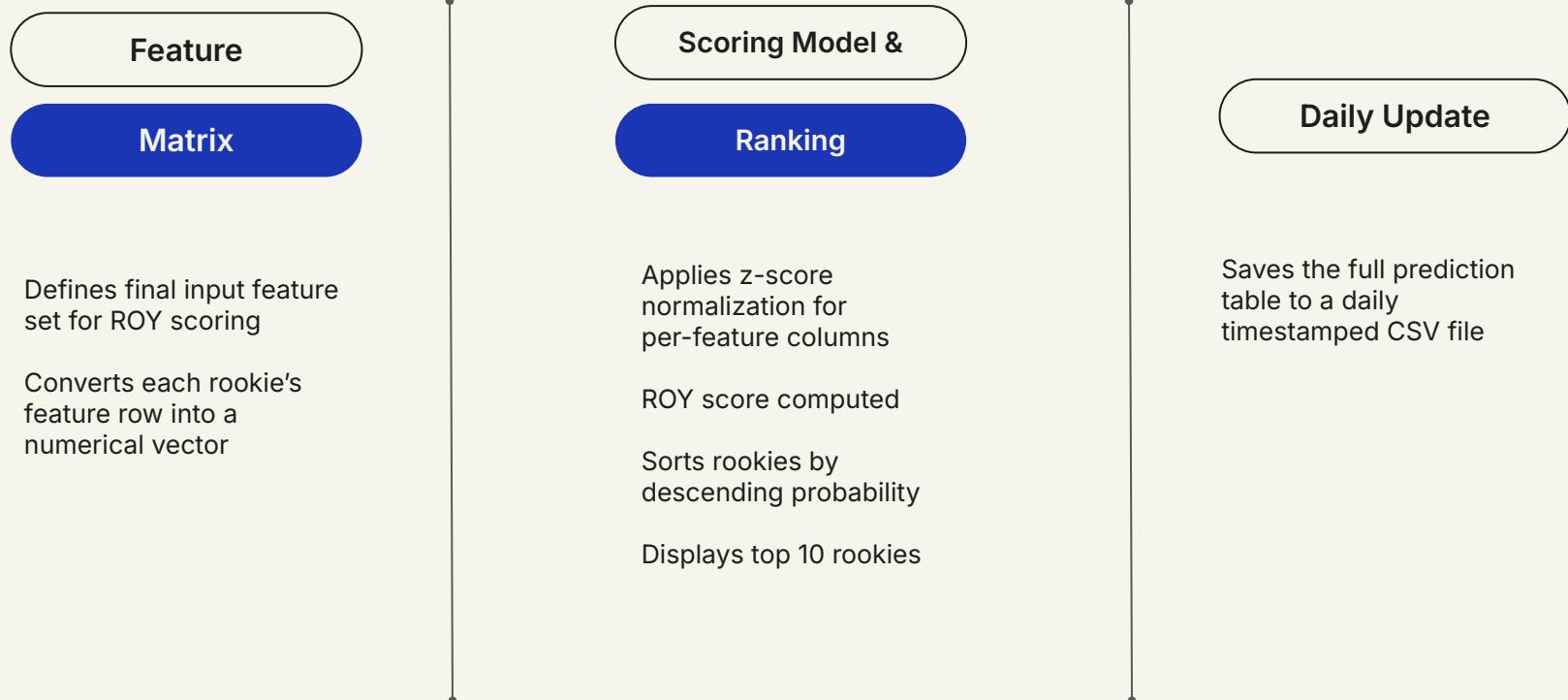
Distinct Characteristics

- 20 years old or younger
- PPG > 15
- Height $\geq 6' 7$
- Team does not make the playoffs

Constructing Prediction Model



Constructing Prediction Model(2)

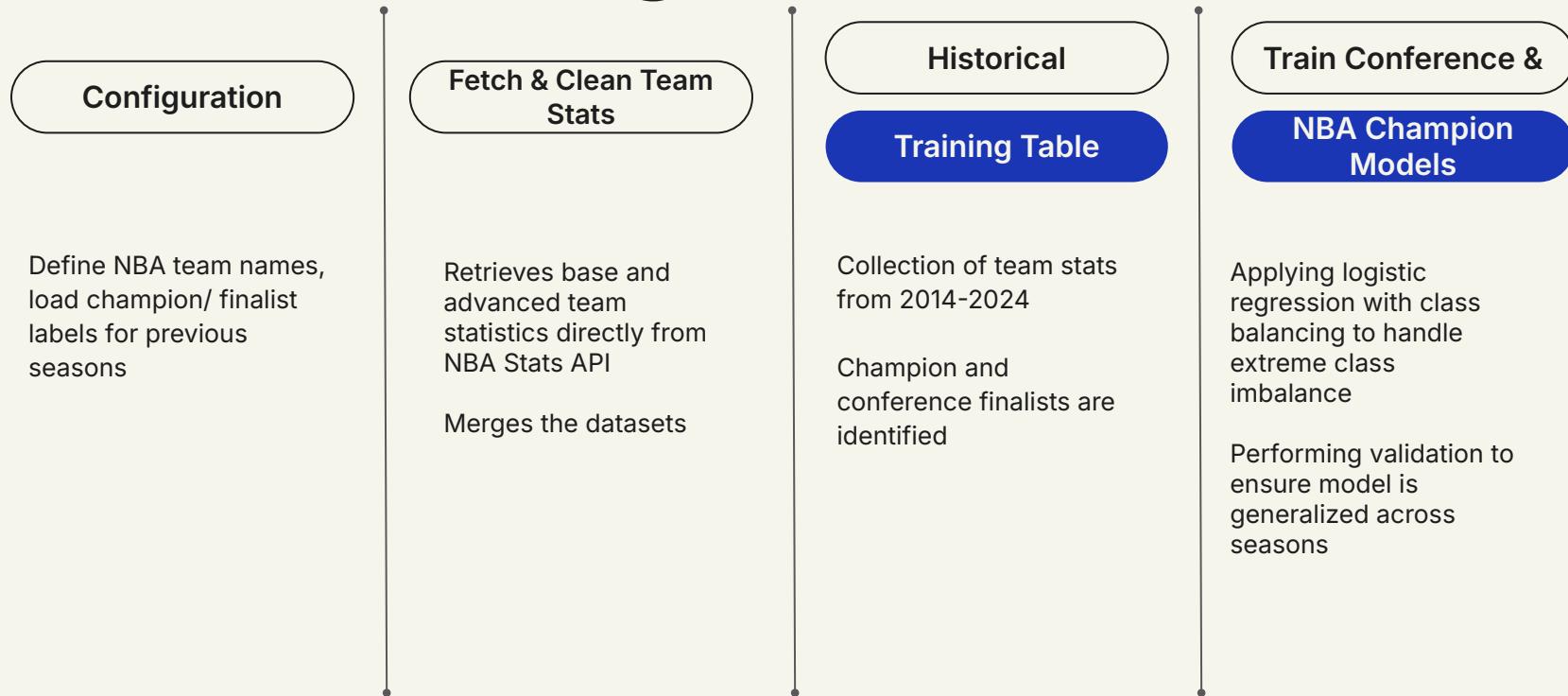


NBA Championship

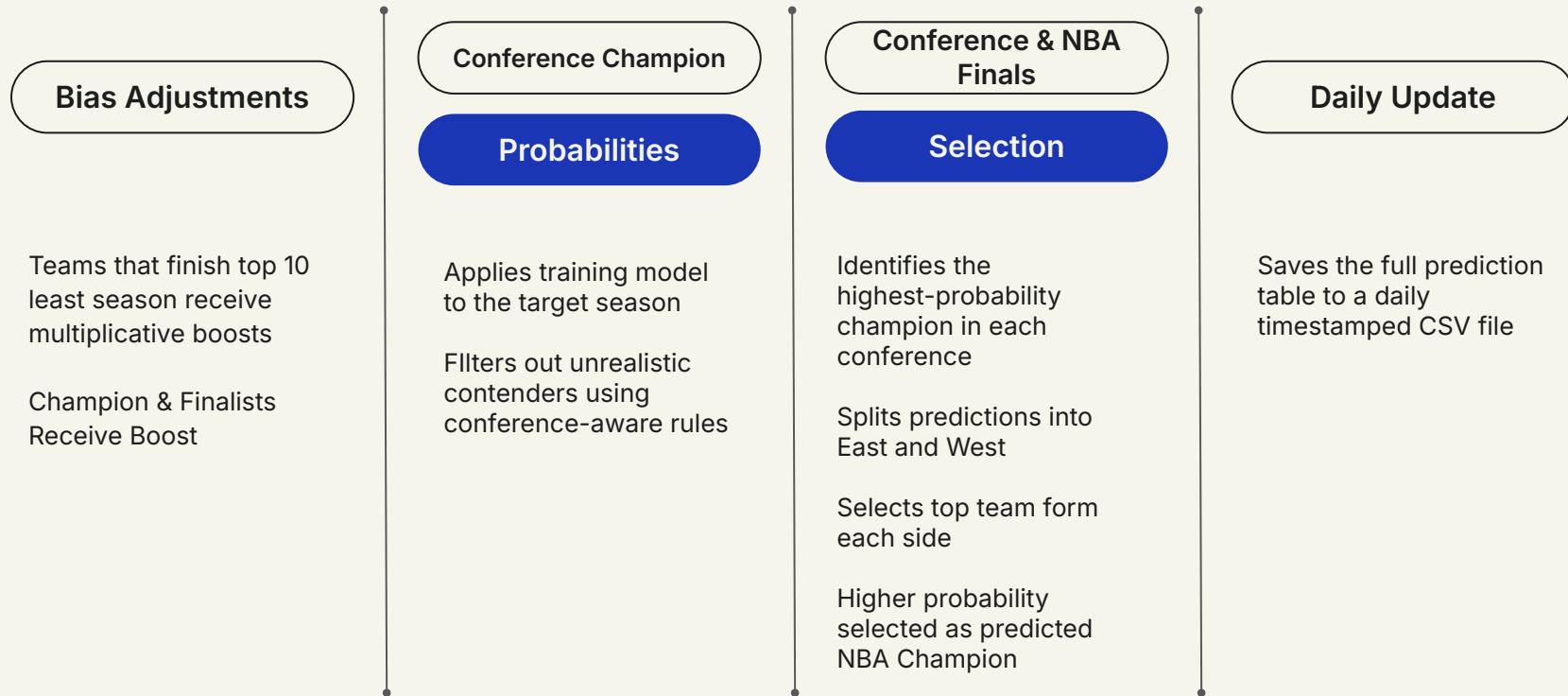
Eastern/Western Conference Championship



Constructing Prediction Model



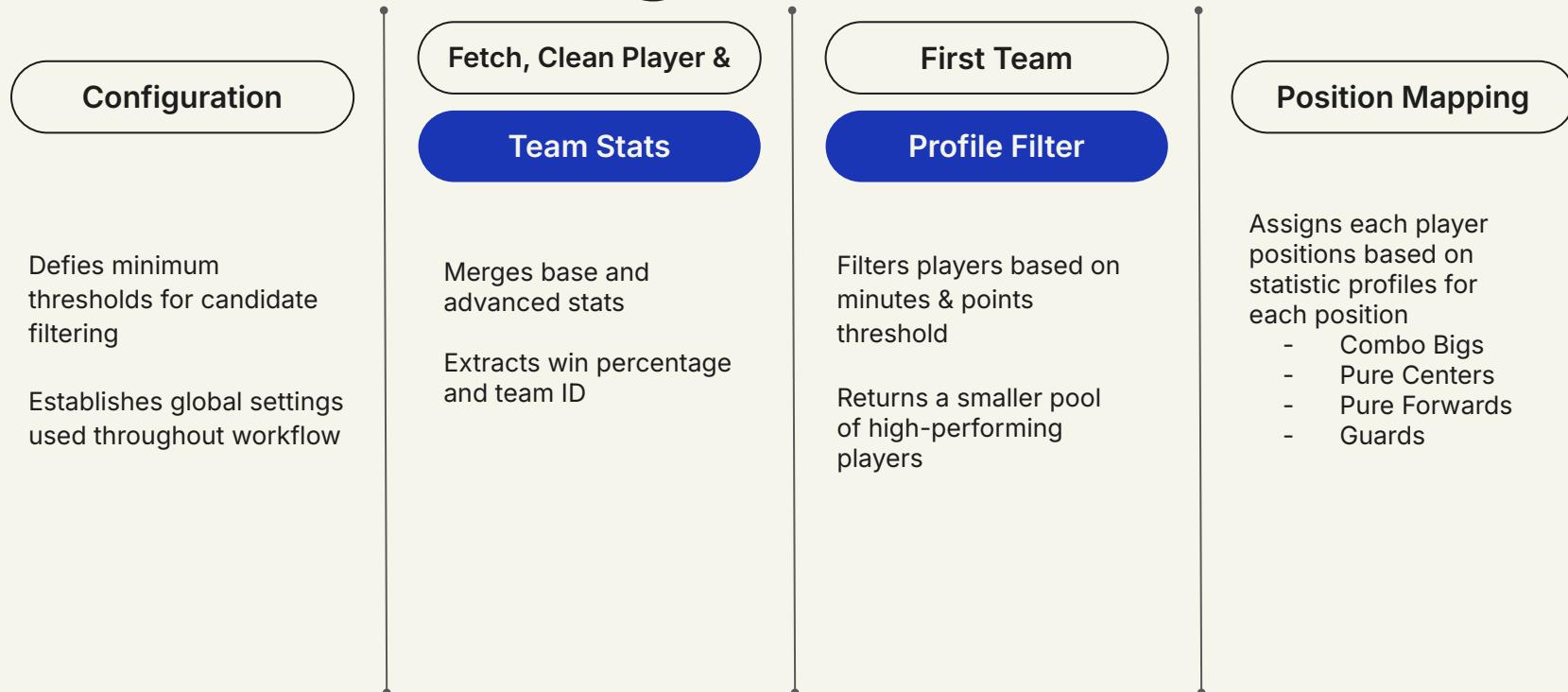
Constructing Prediction Model(2)



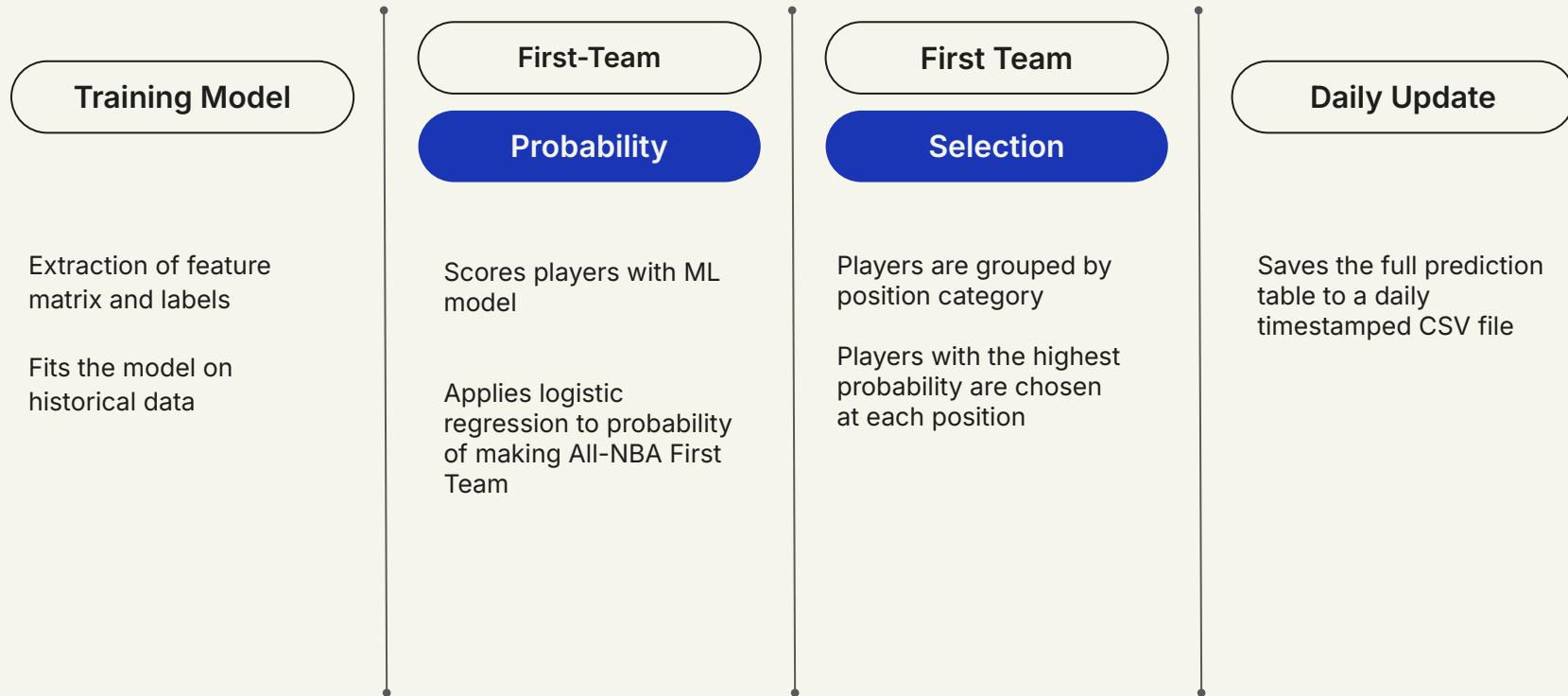
All - NBA First Team



Constructing Prediction Model



Constructing Prediction Model(2)



Coach of the Year



Building Profile

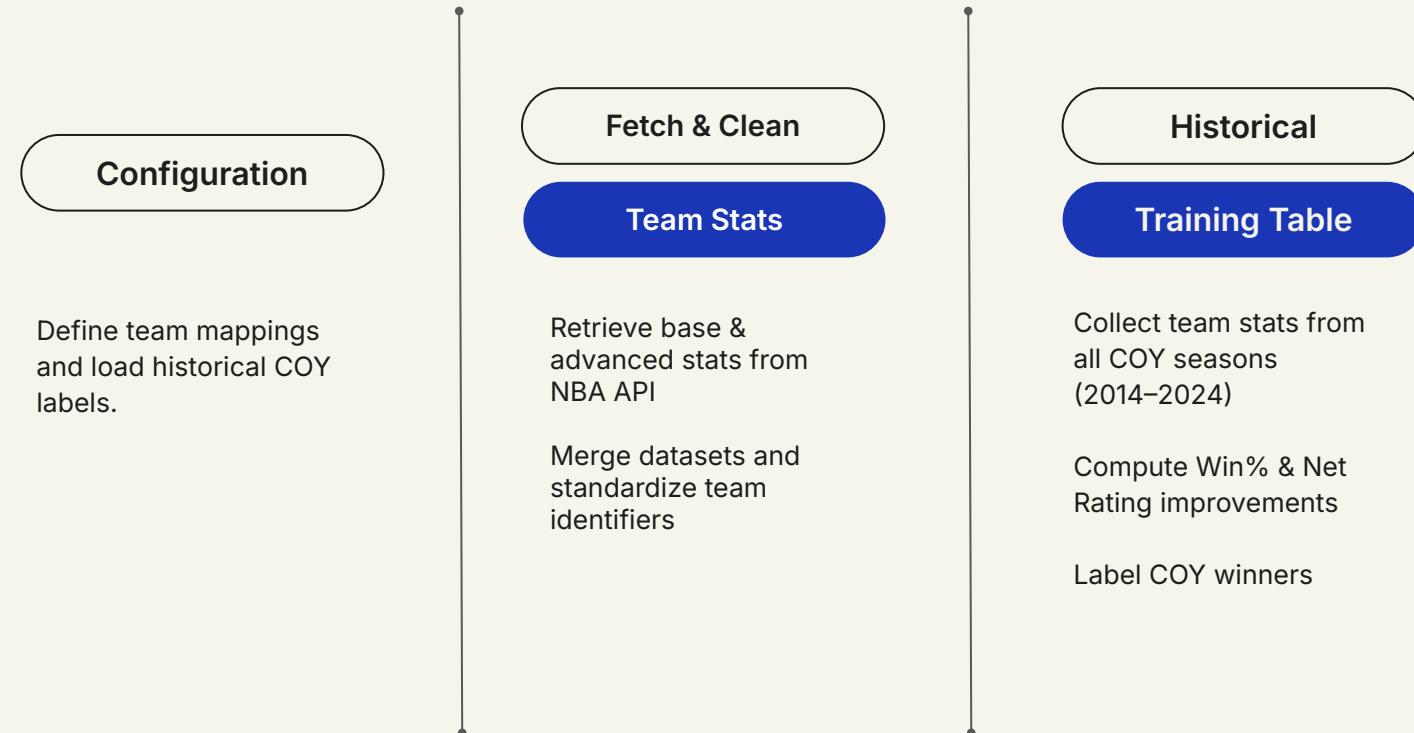
Last 5 COY Winners

- **2024-25**
 - Kenny Atkinson (CLE)
- **2023-24**
 - Mark Daigneault (OKC)
- **2022-23**
 - Mike Brown (SAC)
- **2021-22**
 - Monty Williams (PHX)
- **2020-21**
 - Tom Thibodeau (NYK)

Distinct Characteristics

- Team Win Percentage is **above 0.65(top-tier win percentage)**
- Recorded a **Net Rating of +5 or higher**
- Improved Win Percentage by **at least +0.15** from last season
- Increased Net Rating by **over +2.5** year-over-year

Constructing Prediction Model



Constructing Prediction Model(2)

Train COY model

Feature : W_PCT, NET_RATING, W_PCT_DIFF, NET_RATING_DIFF

Uses a StandardScaler + Logistic Regression pipeline.

Evaluates model accuracy using Leave-One-Season-Out cross-validation.

Predict COY Probabilities

Fetch current & previous season stats

Calculate Win% and Net Rating differences

Apply COY model to generate probabilities

Rank teams by COY likelihood

Daily Update

Saves the full prediction table to a daily timestamped CSV file

12/3/25 Predictions

Most Valuable Player 2025-26



**Shai
Gilgeous-Alexander**
Oklahoma City Thunder

2025-26 Predicted Stats				
CONF Rk	PPG	RPG	APG	
1	32.6	4.9	6.6	

RK	Name	CONF	CONF Rk	PPG	RPG	APG	PROB
1	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander OKC	WEST	1	32.6	4.9	6.6	0.277988
2	Austin Reaves LAL	WEST	2	27.9	5.7	7	0.245977
3	Nikola Jokić SAS	WEST	2	29.6	12.8	11.1	0.238
4	Cade Cunningham PHI	EAST	1	28.1	6.1	9.3	0.197983
5	Luka Dončić TOR	WEST	2	35.2	8.9	9.2	0.076

Defensive Player of Year (2025-26)



Mikal Bridges

New York Knicks

2025-26 Predicted Stats

REB	STL	BLK	STOCKS	TEAM RANK
4.6	2.1	1.2	3.30	1

RK	NAME	REB	STL	BLK	STOCKS	TEAM RK	PROB
1	Mikal Bridges NYK	4.6	2.1	1.2	3.30	1	0.681
2	OG Anunoby NYK	5.6	1.9	0.7	2.60	1	0.653
3	Victor Wembanyama SAS	12.9	1.1	3.6	4.70	6	0.392
4	Tyrese Maxey PHI	4.7	1.6	0.8	2.40	2	0.257
5	Scottie Barnes TOR	8.1	1.5	1.6	3.10	4	0.241

Rookie of the Year (2025-26)



**Cooper
Flagg**

Dallas Mavericks

2025-26 Predicted Stats					
AGE	PTS	REB	AST	MIN	
18	17.0	6.6	2.1	33.9	

	NAME	AGE	PTS	REB	AST	MIN	PROB
1	Cooper Flagg DAL	18	17.0	6.6	2.1	33.9	1.00
2	VJ Edgecombe PHI	20	15.1	5.8	4.1	36.4	0.94
3	Kon Knueppel CHA	20	18.3	5.7	3.0	33.5	0.89
4	Derik Queen NOP	20	11.9	6.1	3.4	23.6	0.82
5	Jeremiah Fears NOP	19	15.4	3.3	2.7	27.2	0.77

Coach of the Year Stats (2025-26)



J.B. Bickerstaff

Detroit Pistons

2025-26 Predicted Stats

W-PCT	W_PCT_DIFF	NET_RATING	NET_RATING_DIFF
0.769	0.24	5.5	3.5

RK	Name	CONF	W_PCT	W_PCT_DIFF	NET_RATING	NET_RATING_DIFF	PROB
1	Detroit Pistons DET	East	0.769	0.24	5.5	3.5	0.89
2	Oklahoma City Thunder OKC	West	0.862	0.073	12.5	1.2	0.8512
3	Toronto Raptors TOR	East	0.692	0.324	5.8	10.1	0.8323
4	San Antonio Spurs SAS	West	0.667	0.234	4.3	7.2	0.5468
5	Atlanta Hawks ATL	East	0.63	0.17	2.2	3.4	0.2159

NBA Championship

Eastern/Western Conference Championship (2025-26)

EAST (2025-26)

TEAM	PROB
1 Detroit Pistons DET	0.083
2 Toronto Raptors TOR	0.075
3 Atlanta Hawks ATL	0.026
4 Miami Heat MIA	0.018
5 New York Knicks NYK	0.010

WEST (2025-26)

TEAM	PROB
1 Oklahoma City Thunder OKC	0.557
2 Denver Nuggets DEN	0.061
3 Los Angeles Lakers LAL	0.058
4 San Antonio Spurs SAS	0.046
5 Minnesota Timberwolves MIN	0.026



NBA CHAMPIONS (2025-26)

TEAM	PROB
1 Oklahoma City Thunder OKC	0.260
2 Detroit Pistons DET	0.241
3 Los Angeles Lakers LAL	0.092
4 Toronto Raptors TOR	0.084
5 Atlanta Hawks ATL	0.075

First Team All-NBA Prediction(2025-26)

PG



**Shai
Gilgeous-Alexander**

Oklahoma City Thunder

REB	STL	BLK	TS%
32.5	4.8	6.6	0.674

SG



**Donovan
Mitchell**

Cleveland Cavaliers

REB	STL	BLK	TS%
30.6	5.0	5.5	0.646

SF



**Jaylen
Brown**

Boston Celtics

REB	STL	BLK	TS%
28.4	6.2	4.8	0.578

PF



**Luka
Dončić**

Los Angeles Lakers

REB	STL	BLK	TS%
35.3	8.9	8.9	0.627

C



**Nikola
Jokić**

Denver Nuggets

REB	STL	BLK	TS%
29.0	12.8	11.1	0.728

Thank you

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