

EXPERIMENT REPORT

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Project Name	Kaggle Competition
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Deliverables	<NBA Draft 2> <wk2_lr_pipeline> <other>

1. EXPERIMENT BACKGROUND

Provide information about the problem/project such as the scope, the overall objective, expectations. Lay down the goal of this experiment and what are the insights, answers you want to gain or level of performance you are expecting to reach.

1.a. Business Objective

Explain clearly what is the goal of this project for the business. How will the results be used? What will be the impact of accurate or incorrect results?

The objective of this project is to build a model that will accurately predict if a college basketball player will be drafted to join the NBA league based on his statistics for the current season.

1.b. Hypothesis

Present the hypothesis you want to test, the question you want to answer or the insight you are seeking. Explain the reasons why you think it is worthwhile considering it,

- Hypothesis: College basketball players' statistical performance during the current season can effectively predict their likelihood of being drafted into the NBA.
- Question: Can player statistics in college accurately forecast their NBA draft selection?
- Insight: Analyzing player data to determine if metrics like points, rebounds, assists, field goal percentage, and more can reliably indicate their potential for success in the NBA.

This hypothesis is worth exploring as it could provide a data-driven approach to enhance NBA draft decision-making, identifying players who demonstrate the skills and consistency needed to excel at the professional level.

1.c. Experiment Objective

Detail what will be the expected outcome of the experiment. If possible, estimate the goal you are expecting. List the possible scenarios resulting from this experiment.

Experimentation with features to determine the possibility of improvements to the AUC.

2. EXPERIMENT DETAILS

Elaborate on the approach taken for this experiment. List the different steps/techniques used and explain the rationale for choosing them.

2.a. Data Preparation

Describe the steps taken for preparing the data (if any). Explain the rationale why you had to perform these steps. List also the steps you decided to not execute and the reasoning behind it. Highlight any step that may potentially be important for future experiments.

Inclusion of 'pick' as all of the drafted players had a non-null 'pick' value, so the dataset was filtered for this condition. 'Rec_Rank' was also now included since there was now a low occurrence of missing values.

Ht column was corrected by converting the dates into corresponding height values in inches (Month assumed to represent height in feet)

Imputations to fill numerical missing values with median value. High number of numerical missing values so the median was taken in their place to determine if the features were still relevant. Mode and mean will also be tested.

2.b. Feature Engineering

Describe the steps taken for generating features (if any). Explain the rationale why you had to perform these steps. List also the feature you decided to remove and the reasoning behind it. Highlight any feature that may potentially be important for future experiments

No additional features were created for this experiment, however several features were removed: 'type', 'num' and 'player_id'

2.c. Modelling

Describe the model(s) trained for this experiment and why you choose them. List the hyperparameter tuned and the values tested and also the rationale why you choose them. List also the models you decided to not train and the reasoning behind it. Highlight any model or hyperparameter that may potentially be important for future experiments

Pycaret was used to automatically train several different classifiers to determine the best one. Logistic Regression returned the highest overall metrics so this model was generated. Automatic hyperparameter tuning was applied to tune for AUC.

3. EXPERIMENT RESULTS

Analyse in detail the results achieved from this experiment from a technical and business perspective. Not only report performance metrics results but also any interpretation on model features, incorrect results, risks identified.

3.a. Technical Performance

Score of the relevant performance metric(s). Provide analysis on the main underperforming cases/observations and potential root causes.

Accuracy = 0.8175 AUC = 0.8913
Recall = 0.7360 Precision = 0.7817 F1 Score = 0.5009

3.b. Business Impact

Interpret the results of the experiments related to the business objective set earlier. Estimate the impacts of the incorrect results for the business (some results may have more impact compared to others)

The experiment showed much improved results, with a much larger proportion of correct predictions. There were still a few incorrect predictions, the model can still be further improved.

3.c. Encountered Issues

List all the issues you faced during the experiments (solved and unsolved). Present solutions or workarounds for overcoming them. Highlight also the issues that may have to be dealt with in future experiments.

Data preparation issues: Solutions listed in data preparation issues.

4. FUTURE EXPERIMENT

Reflect on the experiment and highlight the key information/insights you gained from it that are valuable for the overall project objectives from a technical and business perspective.

4.a. Key Learning

Reflect on the outcome of the experiment and list the new insights you gained from it. Provide rationale for pursuing more experimentation with the current approach or call out if you think it is a dead end.

'Pick' and 'Rec_Rank' proved to be important features in predicting whether a player will be drafted. Logistic regression brings the added advantage of model simplicity.

4.b. Suggestions / Recommendations

Given the results achieved and the overall objective of the project, list the potential next steps and experiments. For each of them assess the expected uplift or gains and rank them accordingly. If the experiment achieved the required outcome for the business, recommend the steps to deploy this solution into production.

The next step would be to build a better/improved model and manually hypertune it. The generation of more features will also be tested, to achieve the same objective. Similarly, an optimal selection of features needs to be identified for the best AUC.