Much like the rest of the basketball world, I too was shocked to see the news of Kobe's demise this afternoon. While I wasn't lucky enough to watch him play live, I've seen so many highlights on YouTube showing the sheer variety of ways in which the mamba could score buckets.

One of my favourite facts about Kobe was his drastic improvement in scoring after moving into the starting lineup. To illustrate this, I decided to plot out his scoring averages by season. [Here's](https://imgur.com/a/6BXTJnd) his regular season PPG by season. His jump after his 3rd season was incredible to see. He was an absolute monster during the mid 2000s, devastating opposing defenses with a high of 35.4 ppg in 2005-06! On a sadder note, it's quite apparent the toll his torn achilles tendon took on him during his last three years. To illustrate his prowess in scoring ability, I've also put a reference line showing the average NBA player's ppg (using 2018-19 stats).

As incredible as he was during the regular season, he was one of the rare legends who could turn it up even more during the postseason, [as seen here.](https://imgur.com/a/qTWOHK7) The consistency after his first few seasons is truly a sight to behold, even as his game aged. He just knew how to continuously adapt his game and remain the beast that he was.

**Notes:**

* I used the methodology suggested by Matt Weisinger [here](https://www.quora.com/How-many-points-per-game-does-the-average-NBA-player-score) to calculate the average player's ppg. I used figures from the [2018-19 regular season](https://www.basketball-reference.com/leagues/NBA_2019_totals.html) and [post-season](https://www.basketball-reference.com/playoffs/NBA_2019_totals.html) to calculate averages by player. I do acknowledge that this would be slightly inflated compared to most of Kobe's career due to a faster pace.
* Game logs were obtained season by season through [basketball reference.](https://www.basketball-reference.com/players/b/bryanko01/gamelog/2016)
* Data cleaning and analysis were done through a mix of Excel and R. Plotting was done in R using ggplot2.
* A shout out to [u/llewellynjean](https://www.reddit.com/u/llewellynjean)[[+13]](javascript:void%200) and Kirk Goldsberry of ESPN, I'm inspired every day by their posts.

**R.I.P Mamba. Basketball will not be the same without you, be it #8 or #24.**