

## Role Redefinition -

To properly assess value, we need to redefine the traditional role listing into one that more accurately represents a player's skill set and what they are asked to do. For this, we will need to use publicly available data.

We can run a k-means clustering algorithm to group together players that are more alike to get a better understanding of their roles. From there we can assign role definitions to each cluster based on our own understanding of what players in a cluster are tasked to do in a game.

### Preliminary:

The 5 traditional listings for basketball positions are the Point Guard, Shooting Guard, Small Forward, Power Forward, and Center. More broadly, these positions can be coalesced into 3 different roles.

Ball Handlers - Smaller players who primarily dribble the basketball around the court, initiate offense, and pass to teammates to create or utilize an advantage.

Wings - Taller players who can dribble, score, and defend on the perimeter. Wings often finish possessions by scoring.

Centers - The tallest player on the court who anchors the team's defense, and scores directly at the rim.

As modern NBA offenses have diversified however, players are being asked to enhance their skill sets and perform one or more roles. Popular new archetypes include the Stretch Big - a Center who shoots the ball further away from the hoop, and the 2 way Wing - A wing player who are the primary offensive components for their team and versatile swiss army knives who score, shoot, and pass to their teammates, therefore initiating and finishing offense.

By clustering and reclassifying roles, we will have a better idea of what players are asked to do, which can factor into figuring out what types of roles are the most impactful.