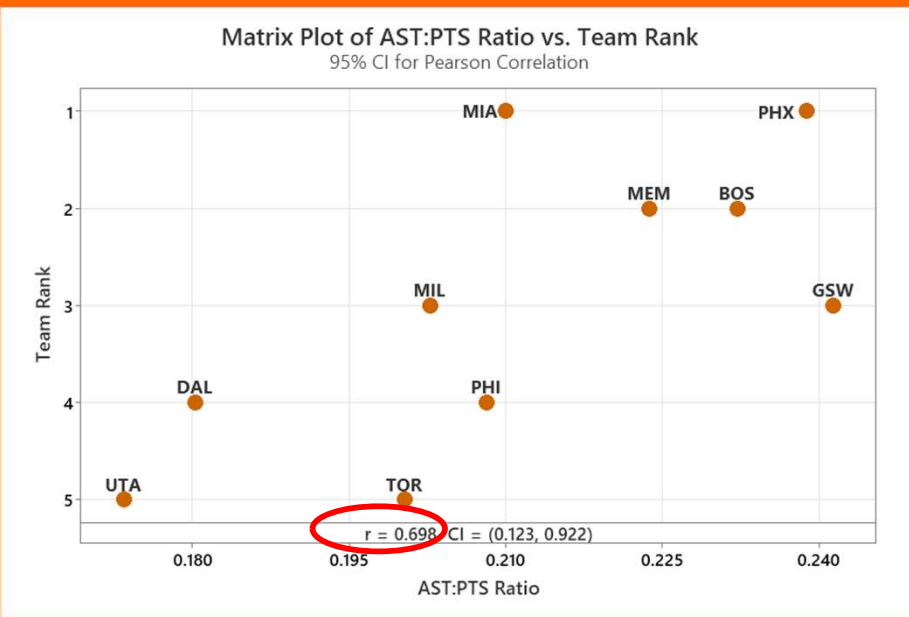


Do NBA Teams with Better Teamwork or Star Players Win Playoffs?

Formulate question

While watching an NBA game, I realized that one team had a star player, but the other team with no star was winning. A question that I got out of this was whether or not having a star on the team helped a team win a playoff, or were other aspects like teamwork more important?

Analyze Data

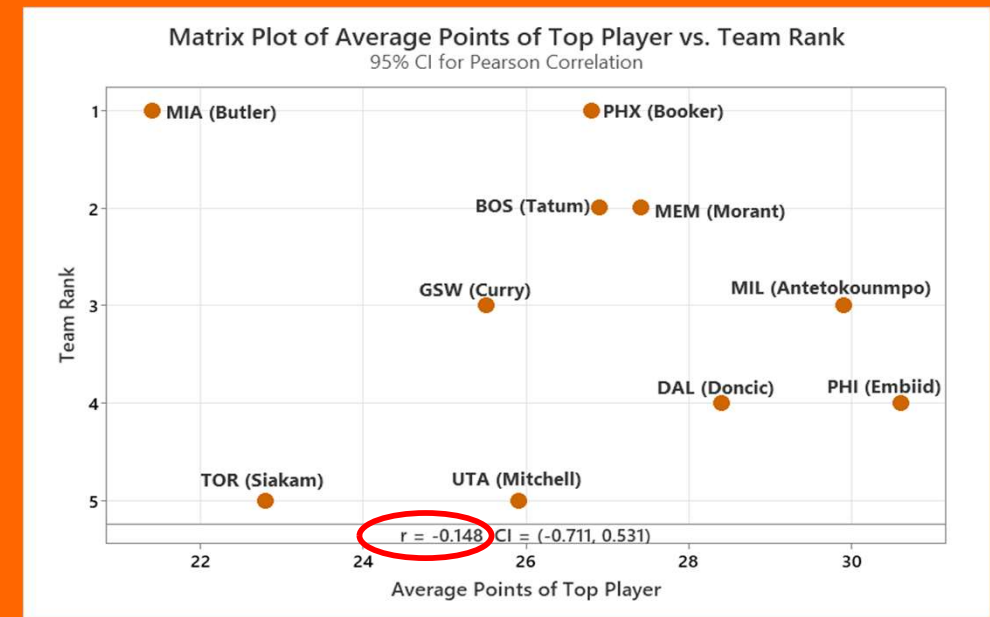


The "AST:PTS ratio" has a strong, positive correlation with "Team Rank" ($r=0.69$).

Collect data

I made two metrics using 2021-22 season data from www.nba.com/stats

- (1) "AST:PTS Ratio": To measure the teams teamwork I took the total assists (AST) in the season, and divided by the total points (PTS). A higher ratio means more teamwork.
- (2) "Average PTS of Top Player": To measure the strength of a team's star player, I took the average points of each team's top player. My dependent variable was "Team Rank."



"Average PTS of Top Player" is NOT correlated to Team Rank ($r=-.0148$.)

Interpret results

The data shows that the "AST:PTS ratio" has a strong correlation with Team Rank, but "Average PTS of Top Player" is not correlated. This means that teams working together to score is more effective than feeding into a star. To win the NBA playoffs, a team needs talent, but talent wont reach its full potential unless the team works together. This insight can be useful when drafting a player, such as prospect Victor Wembanyama, who many NBA teams building around.