What Makes a Player Valuable? Using Linear Regression to Determine Player Value

Sidney Barrer

Arcadia University
School of Global Business
Sport Management

Abstract

The NBA has many different values that determine a player is “good” or not. Different people use different statistical values to assess a player’s talent. Players are compensated in the NBA based on how well they perform and their skill level. There are many different studies that examine statistical impact on player’s salary but most of these studies investigate almost every statistic available in the game. To investigate how each statistic affects a player’s salary, 199 players were selected who signed contracts between 2010/2011 and the 2019/2020 season and were active the year before. The analysis uses only 12 variables to determine the most impactful values in determining a player’s salary. The analysis revealed that points, assists, plus/minus statistic, rebounds, and blocks are positively effect a player’s salary and are statistically significant ($p<.05$).

Keywords: NBA, salary, performance, scoring, rebounds, plus/minus