

best fg percentage in nba history

best fg percentage in nba history represents a critical metric in evaluating the efficiency and scoring ability of NBA players throughout the league's existence. Field goal percentage (FG%) measures the accuracy of a player's shots, reflecting how often they successfully make a basket out of their attempts. Understanding the best FG percentage in NBA history involves analyzing individual players, season records, and career achievements. This article delves into the top performers who have set benchmarks in FG%, the context behind their efficiency, and how playing style and position influence shooting accuracy. Additionally, the piece explores the evolution of shooting trends and the significance of FG% in modern basketball analytics. Readers will gain comprehensive insights into the players who have excelled in this statistical category and the historical context surrounding their performances.

- Understanding Field Goal Percentage in the NBA
- Top Players with the Best FG Percentage in NBA History
- Season Records for Highest FG Percentage
- Factors Influencing High FG Percentages
- Impact of Position and Playing Style on FG Percentage
- Evolution of FG Percentage Over the Decades

Understanding Field Goal Percentage in the NBA

Field goal percentage (FG%) is a fundamental statistic that measures a player's shooting efficiency by calculating the ratio of made field goals to attempted field goals. It is expressed as a percentage and is a key indicator of scoring effectiveness in basketball. The best FG percentage in NBA history highlights players who not only take high-percentage shots but also maintain consistency over extended periods or seasons. FG% excludes free throws and focuses solely on shots taken during active play, including two-point and three-point attempts.

Definition and Calculation of FG Percentage

Field goal percentage is calculated by dividing the number of field goals made by the number of field goals attempted and multiplying the result by 100. For example, a player who makes 500 shots out of 1,000 attempts has an FG% of 50%. This metric is used to assess shooting accuracy and efficiency, which are crucial for a player's offensive impact.

Importance of FG Percentage in Player Evaluation

The best FG percentage in NBA history is not only a reflection of shooting skill but also of shot selection and offensive role. High FG% often correlates with players who take shots closer to the basket or have exceptional shooting mechanics. Coaches, analysts, and scouts use FG% to determine a player's scoring reliability and offensive value, making it a cornerstone of basketball analytics.

Top Players with the Best FG Percentage in NBA History

Several NBA legends and role players have achieved remarkable FG percentages, setting records and defining efficiency standards. The best FG percentage in NBA history is frequently dominated by big men who operate near the rim, but exceptional guards and forwards have also demonstrated outstanding accuracy.

Career Leaders in FG Percentage

Players with the highest career FG percentages typically include centers and power forwards known for dunks, layups, and close-range shots. Notable names include:

- **Artis Gilmore:** Known for his dominant post play, Gilmore holds one of the top career FG percentages, exceeding 59%.
- **DeAndre Jordan:** Renowned for his lob dunks and rim finishes, Jordan has maintained an FG% above 59% throughout his career.
- **Rudy Gobert:** A defensive stalwart with efficient scoring, Gobert consistently posts FG percentages near 65%, making him one of the most accurate shooters.
- **Mitchell Robinson:** A newer entrant to the league, Robinson has showcased elite efficiency, often shooting above 70% in limited minutes.

Noteworthy Guards and Forwards with High FG Percentage

While centers dominate FG% records, some guards and forwards have also achieved high efficiency. For example, Steve Nash and Kevin Durant have posted impressive FG percentages due to their shooting prowess and shot selection. However, their numbers are generally lower than those of rim-focused players.

Season Records for Highest FG Percentage

Seasonal FG percentage records highlight players who had exceptional shooting years, often setting the bar for efficiency in single campaigns. The best FG percentage in NBA history for a season is

typically held by players who combine high volume with outstanding accuracy.

Highest Single-Season FG Percentages

The record for the highest FG percentage in a single NBA season is held by Mitchell Robinson, who shot over 74% during the 2019-2020 season, an unprecedented mark. Other notable single-season leaders include:

1. **Mitchell Robinson (2019-2020):** Over 74% FG, leading the league with remarkable finishing ability.
2. **Wilt Chamberlain (1972-1973):** Shot approximately 72.7%, reflecting his dominance near the basket.
3. **DeAndre Jordan (2016-2017):** Posted around 71.0%, benefiting from his athleticism and shot selection.

Comparing Season Leaders Over Time

Over the decades, the highest FG percentages by season have generally improved due to changes in playing style, training, and analytics. Players have become more selective, emphasizing shots with a higher likelihood of success. This trend is a significant factor in the evolution of the best FG percentage in NBA history.

Factors Influencing High FG Percentages

Several factors contribute to achieving the best FG percentage in NBA history, ranging from individual skill to team dynamics and offensive strategies.

Shot Selection and Playing Style

Players who take shots closer to the basket, such as dunks, layups, and hook shots, naturally have higher FG percentages. Conversely, players who attempt more mid-range jumpers or three-pointers typically display lower FG percentages. Efficient shot selection, including avoiding low-percentage attempts, is critical for maintaining a high FG%.

Physical Attributes and Skill Set

Height, athleticism, and shooting mechanics significantly impact FG%. Taller players with strong finishing skills at the rim tend to have higher FG percentages. Additionally, players with excellent footwork and touch around the basket, such as post moves and floaters, can increase their shooting efficiency.

Team Offense and Role

A player's role within the team offense affects their FG%. Those who are focal points in pick-and-roll plays or receive alley-oop passes often have higher FG percentages due to easier scoring opportunities. Teams emphasizing ball movement and spacing can also help players find higher percentage shots.

Impact of Position and Playing Style on FG Percentage

The best FG percentage in NBA history is strongly influenced by the player's position and style of play. Certain positions naturally lend themselves to higher FG% due to typical shot locations and offensive responsibilities.

Centers and Power Forwards

Big men, particularly centers and power forwards, often lead in FG% because they operate primarily in the paint. Their shots are usually high-percentage attempts like dunks and layups. The ability to finish through contact and convert putbacks also boosts their FG%.

Guards and Small Forwards

Guards and wings tend to have lower FG percentages on average due to a higher volume of jump shots and three-pointers. However, efficient shooting guards and small forwards who focus on shot selection and have strong mid-range or three-point shooting can post respectable FG percentages.

Role Players vs. Starters

Role players often have higher FG% than star players because their offensive roles focus on scoring close to the basket or taking selective shots. Star players typically take more difficult shots under defensive pressure, which can lower their FG% despite their scoring volume.

Evolution of FG Percentage Over the Decades

The best FG percentage in NBA history has evolved in response to changing playing styles, rules, and advancements in analytics. The league has seen shifts in shot selection, offensive strategies, and player skill development that influence FG% trends.

Early NBA and the Dominance of Big Men

In the early decades of the NBA, dominant big men like George Mikan and Wilt Chamberlain set high FG percentage standards through their control of the paint. The game was more focused on inside scoring and physical play, which favored efficient shooting near the basket.

Modern Era and Increased Perimeter Shooting

The modern NBA has embraced perimeter shooting, with three-pointers playing a central role. This trend has generally lowered FG percentages league-wide due to the higher difficulty of long-range shots. However, players have adapted by improving shot selection and efficiency within their roles.

Analytical Advances and Shot Optimization

Advancements in basketball analytics have encouraged players and coaches to prioritize high-percentage shots, such as shots at the rim and three-pointers, while minimizing mid-range attempts. This strategic approach has contributed to incremental improvements in FG percentages among efficient scorers.

Training and Skill Development

Improvements in training, nutrition, and skill development have allowed players to enhance their shooting accuracy and decision-making. These factors have helped elite players maintain or improve their FG percentages even as the pace and style of the game have evolved.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who has the best career field goal percentage in NBA history?

DeAndre Jordan holds the best career field goal percentage in NBA history, shooting approximately 59.3% over his career.

Which player has the highest single-season field goal percentage in NBA history?

Wilt Chamberlain holds the highest single-season field goal percentage at 72.7%, achieved during the 1972-1973 season.

What factors contribute to a player's high field goal percentage in the NBA?

Players with high field goal percentages typically take high-percentage shots close to the basket, such as dunks and layups, and often play positions like center or power forward.

How does the best field goal percentage impact a player's effectiveness?

A high field goal percentage indicates efficient scoring, meaning the player converts a large portion of their shot attempts, which contributes positively to their team's offensive performance.

Are there any active NBA players with historically high field goal percentages?

Yes, players like Rudy Gobert and Clint Capela are known for maintaining high field goal percentages, often above 60%, due to their scoring around the rim.

How has the best field goal percentage evolved over NBA history?

The best field goal percentages have generally increased over time due to improved training, analytics, and a greater emphasis on efficient shot selection, especially close to the basket.

Additional Resources

1. *Swishing Efficiency: The Story of NBA's Best FG Percentages*

This book dives into the history of the NBA's most accurate shooters, analyzing players who have dominated the field goal percentage charts. It explores the evolution of shooting techniques and how efficiency has become a cornerstone of modern basketball. Readers will find detailed statistics, player profiles, and memorable moments that defined high-percentage shooting.

2. *Beyond the Arc: Mastering Field Goal Percentage in the NBA*

Focusing on the importance of shot selection and precision, this book examines how players have optimized their shooting to maintain top field goal percentages. It includes interviews with coaches and players who emphasize efficiency over volume. The book also discusses the impact of analytics on shooting strategies in the league.

3. *Legends of Accuracy: NBA's Greatest FG Percentage Records*

This title highlights legendary players known for their exceptional shooting accuracy throughout NBA history. It provides an in-depth look at their careers, training regimens, and how they maintained consistency under pressure. The book also compares different eras and playing styles that influenced shooting percentages.

4. *Efficient Scoring: Techniques Behind NBA's Best FG Percentages*

A technical guide that breaks down the mechanics behind the most efficient shooters in NBA history. From footwork to release speed, this book offers insights into what makes a high field goal percentage possible. It's a valuable resource for players, coaches, and fans interested in the science of shooting.

5. *High Percentage Heroes: NBA Players Who Changed Shooting Forever*

This book chronicles the careers of players who revolutionized shooting efficiency in the NBA. From centers with dominant post moves to guards with pinpoint accuracy, it showcases how these athletes set new standards. The narrative also covers the cultural and tactical shifts leading to higher FG percentages league-wide.

6. *The Art of Precision: How NBA Stars Achieve Top FG Percentages*

Exploring both the mental and physical aspects of shooting, this book reveals how NBA stars maintain remarkable field goal percentages. It includes psychological strategies, training routines, and game-day preparations that contribute to shooting success. The book also features anecdotes from players about overcoming shooting slumps.

7. Shot Selection and Success: Unlocking NBA's Best FG Percentages

This analytical book focuses on the relationship between shot selection and field goal percentage. It uses advanced metrics to explain why certain shots yield higher efficiency and how players tailor their approach accordingly. Coaches and analysts weigh in on how this knowledge shapes modern basketball offenses.

8. The Efficiency Era: Tracking NBA's Rising Field Goal Percentages

Covering the recent trend of increasing shooting efficiency in the NBA, this book examines factors such as rule changes, training advancements, and the three-point revolution. It provides a comprehensive overview of how the league has moved toward more efficient scoring. The book also profiles current players leading the efficiency charts.

9. Precision Under Pressure: NBA's Best FG Percent Shooters in Clutch Moments

Focusing on clutch performances, this book profiles players who maintain or elevate their field goal percentage in high-stakes situations. It combines statistical analysis with narrative storytelling to highlight the mental toughness required for efficient scoring under pressure. Readers gain an appreciation for the intersection of skill and resilience in the NBA's best shooters.

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