

Foreword

I love basketball. I have been a player, coach and broadcaster, but above all I am an unabashed fan. Basketball is the purest team game of all, and beautiful in its simplicity. Basketball requires its players to play both offense and defense in a continuous flow, with players converting from offense to defense without stoppages in play like you would see in football or baseball.

But basketball is not without complexity, and a true understanding of the game requires in-depth analysis of it. From playing and coaching under Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, I learned to look deeper into the game by breaking it down through the use of statistics. Using skillfully targeted and established metrics and measures helps to determine the true efficiency and productivity of players, plays, combinations, and teams, and illuminates that which can go unseen by even the most trained basketball observers. While statistical analysis does not tell you the complete story about a game, a half, a possession, a team's offense, a team's defense or a player, it takes you much deeper into your analysis and judgments of all of the above. The thoughtful use of statistics and metrics is an invaluable tool in scouting and evaluation, and it is a useful means to deepen the understanding and enjoyment of

the game for any fan.

Basketball Prospectus is one of the essential tools I use in analyzing the game and those that play and coach it. In evaluating tape and live performance, the targeted numbers presented by BP supplement and often drive judgments that once were made solely by my eyes. Often the statistical analysis so expertly presented in BP will open my eyes and my mind to new thoughts and ideas about the relative strengths and weaknesses of teams and players. I know that when I read and absorb BP's easy to use and understand data, which is always presented in precise context, I will learn something. I use Basketball Prospectus as an important part of scouting college basketball teams and players, and in my player evaluations for the NBA Draft.

The true experts in the game, those teaching, coaching, scouting and making day-to-day management decisions in the NBA, all use Basketball Prospectus to gain a competitive edge. If you are a fan, like me, wishing to delve deeper into the game, you will truly benefit from and enjoy Basketball Prospectus. I know that I have. It is a vital tool for my work, and helps me figure out this ever changing and evolving game.

Jay Bilas

ESPN Basketball Analyst