

Statistically Evaluating Defensive Performance

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Game statistics are a vital tool in analyzing performance, tendencies and preparation for future games. However, most coaches only scrutinize boxscore reports offensively, and base their defensive evaluations predominately on subjective observations.

Defensively What To Look For In A Boxscore

1

Opponent FG percentage: Field goal percentage is probably the most important single statistic in winning or losing. Although, the percentages will vary according to the level of play, to be successful, you will want to hold the opponent's field goal accuracy under 45% and their three point percentage to less than 33%. Just by having a hand up on shots will reduce the shooting percentage almost 10%.

2

Defensive Stops: Defensive stops are also a vital statistic. Defensive stops are the number of possessions in which the opponent does not score. If the box score does not show the number of defensive stops, they can be quickly determined by adding the number of defensive rebounds and opponent turnovers.

3

Defensive Rebounding Percentage: Defensive rebounding percentage is what is important, not the number of defensive rebounds. In fact, looking at just the number of defensive rebounding can be very misleading and will vary according to the number of opponent missed shots. Defensive rebounding percentage is determined by dividing the number of defensive rebounds by the sum of defensive rebounds and the opponent offensive rebounds. Defensive rebounding goal should be 67%+.

Opponent Offensive rebounds: Similar to the number of defensive rebounds, looking at just the number of offensive rebounds allowed is not a good indication of a team's rebounding performance at all. However, the number of opponent's offensive rebounds, does have a direct correlation in determining defensive rebounding percentage.

4

Opponent Individual Offensive Rebounding: Opponent individual offensive rebounding totals are a very important halftime statistic. By scanning the offensive rebounding column and determining specifically which of the opponent's players need to be boxed out can impacts the outcome of the game.

5

Points Allowed Off Opponent Offensive Rebounds: Although defensive rebounding percentage is very important, an even more import statistic is the actual number of points scored by the opponent on second efforts. Offensive rebounds can be simply erased or cancelled by increasing the defensive intensity and focus and making a defensive stop. Therefore, the only offensive rebounds that hurt are the ones in which the opponent scores.

6

Opponent Turnover's: The number of opponent turnovers can be used in assessing defensive performance. However, the percentage of ball handling error would be better. The number of opponent turnover's divided by the number of defensive possessions since the tempo of the game has a direct bearing on the number of turnovers. Defensive goal should be force the opponent's into turning the ball over 20% of the time.

Caution: Forcing turnovers has little value, if you do not capitalize and score off them. To be successful you must finish (score).

7

Personal Fouls: The number of personal fouls is usually a good indication that defenders are out of position and reaching. Points out specific individual defenders that are not moving their feet to establish good defensive position. Cutting down the opponent's free throw attempts definitely impacts the out come of the game.

8

Defensive Transition: Do not to forget analyze the number of points allowed after turning the ball over. Making a defensive stop after a turnover is a really big play (RBP) and can determine the outcome of the game. The only Turnovers that hurt are the one the opponents score on! The goal for defensive recovery should be to allow less than one point per turnover.

9

Points/Possession Allowed: The total points allowed is another one of those miss leading numbers. Although, the media, erroneously, uses points allowed in ranking defensive performance, the number of points allowed is meaningless statistic by itself. Points per possession allowed is a more accurate way to determine defensive performance. By accounting for the number of offensive possession it takes into account the tempo of the game. You want to limit your opponent to under 0.9 points per possession.

10

Blocked Shots: Unless you are blessed with a dominate shot blocker, this is one statistic you really do not want to win. Block shots are usually an indication of poor defense, since most block shots occur on dribble penetration. Block shots are also worthless, if they go directly out of bounds or if the opponent maintains possession. To be successful, block shots must result in ball possession.

Offensive Charges Taken: Taking an offensive charge is a really big play (“RBP”). Really big plays are plays that can actually determine the outcome of a game. In taking an offensive charge, it not only saves a basket, but just as important, gives the offensive player a person foul.

Steals/Defensive Assists: Steals are primary an individual statistic. It is much better to track Defensive Assists. Defensive assists are credited when a defender’s action forces an opponent turnover, such as a deflection that leads to a steal or putting pressure on the dribbler that causes them to double dribble or carry the ball or make a bad pass. Defensive assists are now a mandatory stat in the NBL of Australia.

Opponent Shot Charts: Shots by location can quickly show the opponent’s shot selection. If they are a predominately right side or left sided or if they are mostly three point shooters or shooting in the paint along with how many layups shots were allowed.

Note: With computer programs, such as CyberportsUSA, shots can even be rated as to easy, open, contested or bad. Obviously, on defense, you want the majority of shots to be contested or bad and never giving up an easy shot.

CybersportsUSA Basketball - Game Box Score
Washington Huskies vs. Utah Runnin Utes
 Date: 11/14/2007 Time: 7:30 Site: Bank of America Arena Attendance: Unknown

Visitors: Utah Runnin Utes

##	Name	P	FG	3 Pt	FT	PTS	ORB	DRB	TR	PF	AST	TO	BS	ST	MIN
1	Bryant	G	7/13	2/5	2/2	18	0	2	2	4	1	1	0	1	24:28
3	Grant	G	0/0	0/0	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP
5	Drca	G	2/4	0/1	1/1	5	0	2	2	4	2	1	0	2	21:55
10	Smith	G	0/0	0/0	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP
11	* Borha	G	4/6	3/4	2/3	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	0	1	33:00
13	* Weigh	G	8/14	3/7	2/4	4	0	2	2	0	3	2	0	5	36:28
14	Tillie	G	1/2	0/0	0/0	0	0	3	3	5	0	0	0	0	8:49
15	Brown	G	0/0	0/0	0/2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2:13
21	* Green	G	0/1	0/1	0/0	0	0	3	3	4	2	0	3	1	19:20
32	* Kepkay	G	2/5	0/1	0/1	4	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	12:10
50	* Neville	G	5/8	0/0	4/5	14	2	8	10	5	0	3	0	0	31:43
Team															
Totals			29/53	8/19	11/18	77	2	25	27	26	16	18	6	11	200
Total FG		1st Half	13/22		59.1%	2nd Half	16/31		51.6%	Game	29/53			54.7%	
3 PT FG		1st Half	3/7		42.9%	2nd Half	5/12		41.7%	Game	8/19			42.1%	
Free Throws		1st Half	6/10		60.0%	2nd Half	5/8		62.5%	Game	11/18			61.1%	

Home: Washington Huskies

##	Name	P	FG	3 Pt	FT	PTS	ORB	DRB	TR	PF	AST	TO	BS	ST	MIN
00	* Smith	G	3/4	1/1	4/5	11	1	1	2	1	3	3	0	1	21:17
1	* Overton	G	2/8	0/2	5/6	9	2	2	2	6	3	0	3	29:41	
2	Oliver	G	1/2	1/1	0/0	3	2	3	3	1	2	0	0	16:51	
4	Morris	G	0/2	0/0	0/2	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	15:58	
5	* Dentmon	G	4/9	1/3	7/9	16	0	2	2	1	0	4	0	32:46	
11	Bryan-Amaning	G	0/1	0/0	0/0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2:04	
21	Wallace	G	0/0	0/0	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DNP	
22	Holiday	G	1/2	0/0	0/0	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	2	10:33
24	* Pondexter	G	3/5	1/2	2/4	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	1	26:20
32	Wolfinger	G	1/4	0/1	0/0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	7:43
40	* Brockman	G	11/23	0/0	9/11	31	6	12	18	0	2	1	10	0	36:53
Team															
Totals			26/60	4/10	27/37	83	12	26	35	17	15	15	0	8	200
Total FG		1st Half	14/30		46.7%	2nd Half	12/27		44.4%	Game	26/60			43.3%	
3 PT FG		1st Half	4/8		50.0%	2nd Half	0/2		0.00%	Game	4/10			40.0%	
Free Throws		1st Half	12/15		80.0%	2nd Half	15/22		68.2%	Game	27/37			73.0%	

	UT	UW	UT	UW	UT	UW		
Free Throw Pts	11	27	3Pt Points	24	12	Pts/Possession	1.00	1.05
Pts off Turnovers	26	20	2nd Chance Points	2	12	Pts off Bench	25	7
Total Rebounds	27	38	Team Rebounds	3	1	Lead Ball Reb	5	6
Off Rebound %	7.14	32.4	Def Rebound %	67.6	92.9	Total Rebound %	41.5	58.5
3Pt Efficiency	+0.9	+10.7	Def. Stops	40	47	Pts/Shot	1.24	1.06
Technical Fouls	UT None	UW None						
Officials	Unknown							

	1st Half	2nd Half	OT 1	OT 2	OT 3	OT 4	Total
Utah Runnin Utes	35	42	0	0	0	0	77
Washington Huskies	44	39	0	0	0	0	83

Largest Lead UW 46 UT 35 (11 pts) Lead Changes 9 Number of Ties 9
 Comments: None

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