"OFFENSIVE FLOW AND EFFICIENCY"

EuroMillions Basketball League (Belgium)
1/3/2018

During this FIBA national team break, the Euromillions Basketball League 2017-2018 is more or less halfway. Every team played each opponent twice, with two more meetings to come in the regular competition. Time for a team analysis that focuses on offense from a coach's point of view. The source for this report of all traditional stats is the Euromillions Basketball League website.

By calculating more advanced and meaningful numbers, I want to make some conclusions about the playing styles, weaknesses and strengths of all teams in the league. Therefore, it is important to look beyond the traditional stats and to look at the numbers that are statistically more relevant[1]. Throughout this analysis we will go deeper into these ratings for every team so far this season:

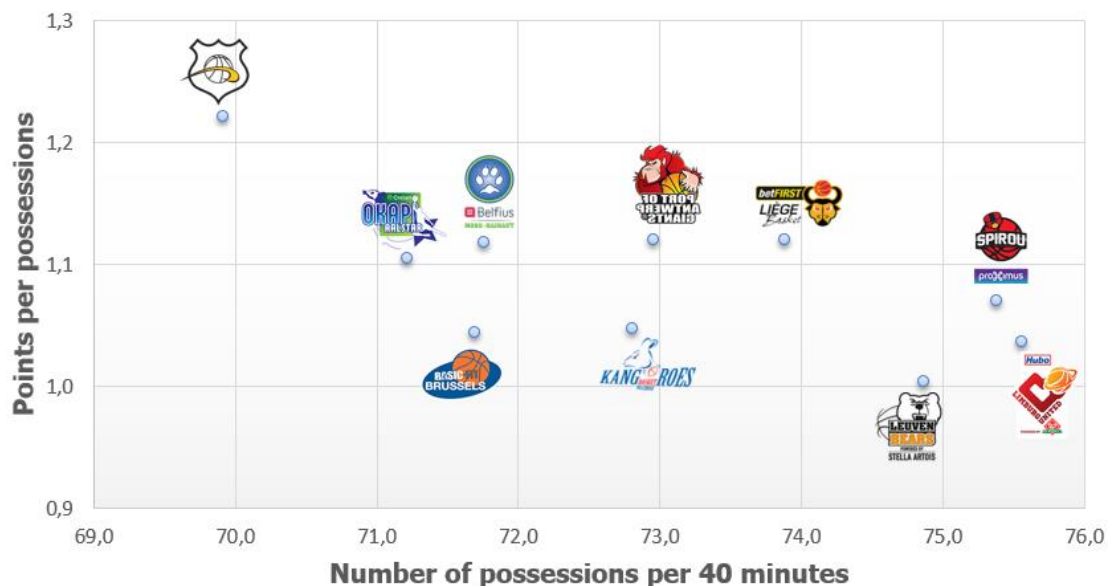|	ORtg	Gameday 9	DRtg	Gameday 9	NetRtg	Gameday 9
OOS	122,1	122,8	90,7	96,8	31,4	26,0
ANT	112,0	115,9	102,5	103,3	9,5	12,6
AAL	110,4	99,7	105,6	116,4	4,8	-16,6
CHA	106,9	111,0	105,8	119,9	1,1	-8,9
MON	111,7	111,2	112,3	107,9	-0,6	3,3
LIM	103,7	107,1	105,4	107,9	-1,7	-0,8
BRU	104,4	105,3	109,9	101,6	-5,5	3,6
LIE	111,9	100,1	120,4	108,5	-8,4	-8,3
WIL	104,7	115,0	118,0	108,8	-13,4	6,1
LEU	100,3	103,0	115,9	117,9	-15,6	-15,0

ORtg = *points scored per 100 possessions*
DRtg = *points allowed per 100 possessions*
NetRtg = *ORtg – DRtg*

In red and green is marked whether the teams have substantially improved or not their offense and defense since Gameday 9.

While this analysis is focused on offense, the fact that Oostende improved their defensive rating to 90,7 stands out. They limited their contenders Aalstar and Mons to impressive scores of 38 and 48 points in this second part of the championship.

1. Pace and Efficiency

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[1] *To give an example: It is logic that when a team plays run-and-gun basketball with a lot of possessions every game, they score AND allow more points than a team that often walks up the ball. To analyze the defense and offense of each team, it is far more correct to look at the points allowed and scored per 100 possessions.*

It is remarkable that Oostende, without any doubt the best team on both ends of the court since several years, has by far the slowest **PACE** *(= number of possessions per 40 minutes)*. The fastest team (Limburg) has on average 6 possessions more than Oostende. If these differences seem minimal, one has to realize that so far this season 35% (!!) of all games were decided within two possessions of the game!

The efficiency of an offense can be expressed in the **PPP** *(= points per possession)*. While Oostende has by far the most efficient offense, Leuven is just on the edge to score on average 1 point per possession.

	Pace	PPP
OOS	69,9	1,221
ANT	73,0	1,120
LIE	73,9	1,119
MON	71,8	1,117
AAL	71,2	1,104
CHA	75,4	1,069
WIL	72,8	1,047
BRU	71,7	1,044
LIM	75,6	1,037
LEU	74,9	1,003

In the next section we will focus on the keys to these efficiency numbers.

2. Four factors behind offensive efficiency

More info about the choice of these Four Factors, can be found here[2].

OFFENSE					
	ORtg	eFG%	TOV%	OR%	FT/FGA
OOS	122,1	0,603	14,4	29,5	0,384
ANT	112,0	0,534	13,8	27,1	0,293
LIE	111,9	0,527	12,6	25,2	0,291
MON	111,7	0,551	14,1	23,4	0,283
AAL	110,4	0,561	15,6	20,6	0,297
CHA	106,9	0,525	15,3	24,7	0,280
WIL	104,7	0,536	16,7	21,7	0,275
BRU	104,4	0,521	13,9	23,3	0,231
LIM	103,7	0,498	14,8	27,3	0,293
LEU	100,3	0,490	16,2	28,4	0,268

ORtg = points scored per 100 possessions

eFG% = effective field goal percentage (which takes into account extra value of scored 3pt)

TOV% = number of turnovers per 100 possessions

OR% = Offensive rebound percentage is an estimate of the percentage of available offensive rebounds a team grabbed

FT/FGA = number of free throws provoked per field goal attempt

FACTOR 1: Effective field goal percentage eFG%
Best team: Oostende 60.3%
Worst team: Liege 49.0%

FACTOR 2: Turnover Rate TOV%
Best team: Liege 12.6
Worst team: Willebroek 16.7

FACTOR 3: Offensive rebound percentage OR%
Best team: Oostende 29.5%
Worst team: Aalst 20.6%

FACTOR 4: Free throws provoked FT/FGA
Best team: Oostende 38.4
Worst team: Brussels 23.1

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[2] https://www.pascalmeurs.com/2017/03/the-four-factors-behind-a-good-offensive-rating/

The fact that Oostende excels in three out of four factors highlights once again their dominance in the league. Their effective field goal percentage *(which takes into account the fact that a threepointer results in more points than a lay-up)* of 60,3% shows their smart shot selection (nobody else comes close to 60%), as nobody comes close to their 0.38 free throws provoked for every field goal attempt.

3. Offensive flow versus isolation ball

When one has to judge the offensive flow based upon stats, one is a bit limited. In an earlier article I already wrote about the importance of *secondary assists ("hockey assists")*, which are unfortunately not available in standard boxscores. Also here, the pace factor prohibits us to simply look at the number of assists that a team has. A fast pace *run-and-gun* team will have more fieldgoals a game and therefore also more chances upon an assist. I will focus here on two numbers: the **number of assists per made field goal (AST/FGM)** and the **assist over turnover (AST/TO) ratio**.

	AST/FGM
ANT	0,648
CHA	0,644
LIM	0,627
OOS	0,599
BRU	0,563
LEU	0,548
AAL	0,534
WIL	0,506
LIE	0,503
MON	0,465

	AST/TO
ANT	1,7
OOS	1,6
BRU	1,5
CHA	1,5
LIM	1,4
LIE	1,4
AAL	1,3
MON	1,3
LEU	1,1
WIL	1,1

Both factors mostly say something about playing style and not about quality. If you compare it with the NBA, last weekend one had the match-up between the two extremes: Cleveland vs San Antonio. Cleveland known for its *isolation ball* around Lebron James versus the *team ball* of San Antonio directed by Popovich (and without individual stars as Leonard, Parker and Ginobli).

The four teams where 60% or more of all field goals are scored out of an assist are Antwerp, Charleroi, Limburg and Oostende. Their playing style is also more related to a passing game with a lot of ball movement. Oostende and Antwerp combine this with an excellent AST/TO ratio. The offensive strategy of Mons, Liege and Willebroek where 50% or less of all field goals are scored out of an assist, are more based upon isolation plays for their most talented scorers.

Author

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He has been coaching at the highest level in The Netherlands (BSW Weert), France (Arras women) and Belgium (DBC Houthalen women). As a FIBA-instructor, he shared his knowledge in Qatar, Tunisia, Albania and spent two months in the coaching staff of NCAA1 St-Joseph's Hawks.

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