

# HOW TO WIN MORE GAMES ... BY PLAYING SLOWER

## ANALYSIS OF 26240 POSSESSIONS IN BEL 1<sup>st</sup> DIVISION BASKETBALL

### *EuroMillions Basketball League, Season 2017-2018*

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10 teams. 36 rounds. 180 games. 7200 minutes of basketball. 26240 possession. The curtain has fallen over the 2017-2018 regular season in the 1st Division basketball in Belgium. Before heading to the play-offs, time to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of all teams on both ends of the court. Throughout this analysis we will go deeper into the advanced stats and ratings for every team during the regular season.

In order to focus on evaluating team performances in offense and defense we'll rank the teams according to their *Net Rating*, rather than a normal ranking where wins or losses in close games are huge.

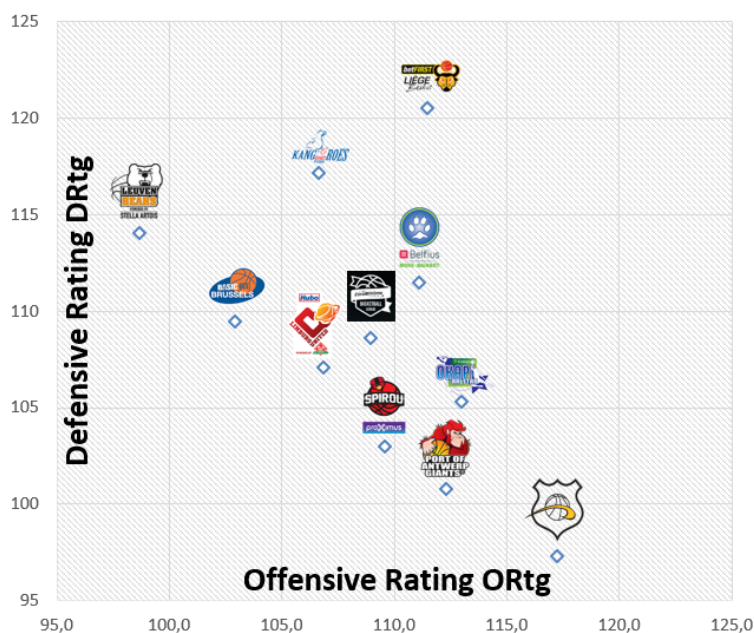
		ORtg	DRtg	NetRtg
1	OOS	117,1	97,4	19,7
2	ANT	112,2	100,9	11,3
3	AAL	112,9	105,5	7,4
4	CHA	109,5	103,1	6,3
5	LIM	106,7	107,2	-0,5
6	MON	111,0	111,6	-0,6
7	BRU	102,8	109,6	-6,8
8	LIE	111,4	120,6	-9,3
9	WIL	106,6	117,3	-10,7
10	LEU	98,6	114,2	-15,6

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

Most surprisingly is the second last place for Kangoeroes Willebroek, which remains mostly covered by a 7<sup>th</sup> spot in the official ranking and thus an upcoming match-up against neighbor Antwerp in the quarter-finals of the play-offs.

Graphically, one notices immediately the weak performances of Liege, Willebroek and Leuven on the defensive end, while Ostend dominates the regular season once again, on both sides of the floor, despite 4 losses in their last 6 games.

Belgium D1 Reg season '17-'18



In the remainder of this report, we'll go deeper into the aspects that make a solid defense or an affective offense. Furthermore, we'll link the playing style of each team to its efficiency, with a remarkable conclusion that goes against the newest trends in modern basketball.

## 1. DEFENSE

Oostende is by far the only team in Belgium that can limit their opponent below 100 points for every 100 possessions. They are the *best of the class* in 3 of the *so-called Four Factors* behind a solid defense. Teams score +120 points in 100 possessions when they play against Liege (allowing them an effective field goal percentage of 60%). For every 10 field goal attempts by the opponent, Limburg United gives away more than 4 free throws.

DEFENSE						
		DRtg	eFG%	TOV%	DR%	FT/FGA
1	OOS	97,4	0,47	14,8	77,6	0,25
2	ANT	100,9	0,49	15,6	76,3	0,30
3	CHA	103,1	0,53	17,5	75,2	0,37
4	AAL	105,5	0,52	13,5	77,5	0,27
5	LIM	107,2	0,53	16,4	75,0	0,41
6	BRU	109,6	0,54	14,9	75,1	0,27
7	MON	111,6	0,54	13,8	73,1	0,32
8	LEU	114,2	0,56	13,8	75,2	0,33
9	WIL	117,3	0,56	11,7	73,6	0,29
10	LIE	120,6	0,60	14,3	72,0	0,27

*eFG%* = effective field goal percentage by the opponent

*TOV%* = number of turnovers per 100 possessions by the opponent

*DR%* = Defensive rebound percentage is the percentage of available defensive rebounds a team grabs

*FT/FGA* = number of free throws provoked per field goal attempt by the opponent

## 2. OFFENSE

In this section we'll have a closer look to the performances in offense of all teams. Below are all teams ranked according to their offensive ratings and also their *Four Factors*. Next to the fact that Oostende excels once again and that Brussels and Leuven underachieve on the offensive end, the poor performance of powerhouse Aalstar on the offensive boards jumps out. Liege ends up with the 4th most efficient offense of the league thanks to their low turnover rate and pressure on the offensive rebounds.

OFFENSE						
		ORtg	eFG%	TOV%	OR%	FT/FGA
1	OOS	117,1	0,58	15,0	27,4	0,38
2	AAL	112,9	0,57	15,2	19,7	0,30
3	ANT	112,2	0,54	14,1	29,2	0,31
4	LIE	111,4	0,52	13,2	28,5	0,32
5	MON	111,0	0,55	14,8	23,0	0,31
6	CHA	109,5	0,53	13,8	25,3	0,32
7	LIM	106,7	0,52	14,5	25,5	0,28
8	WIL	106,6	0,54	15,7	20,1	0,28
9	BRU	102,8	0,51	14,1	22,0	0,26
10	LEU	98,6	0,48	16,0	27,1	0,30

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

*TOV%* = number of turnovers per 100 possessions

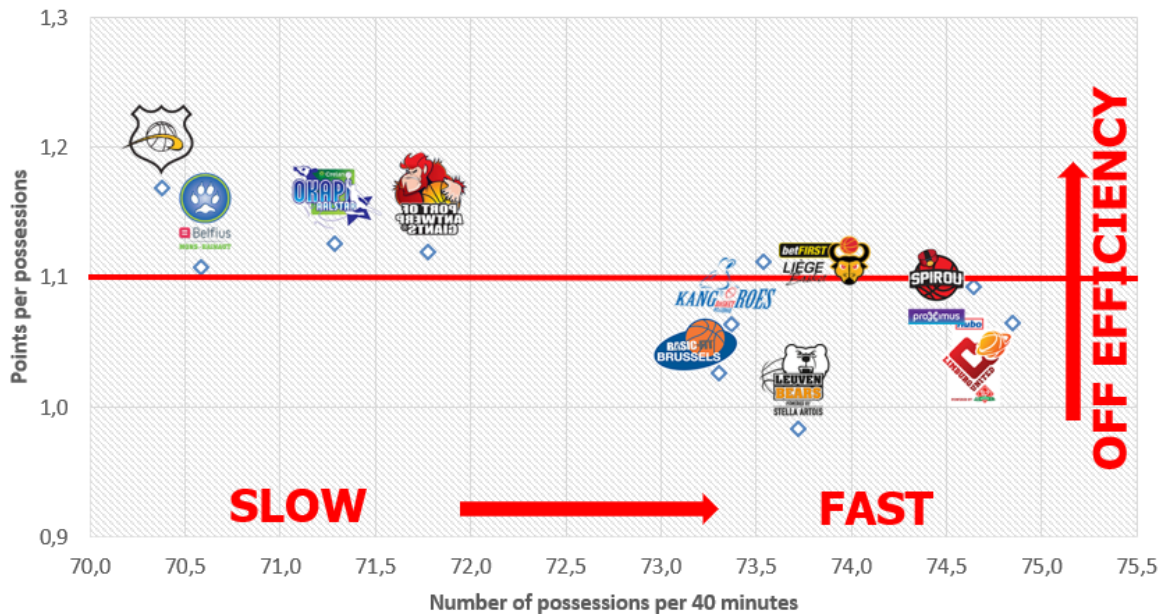
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*FT/FGA* = number of free throws provoked per field goal attempt

In the last section of this report, we'll focus on how the playing styles of all teams result in these ratings in offense.

### 3. PLAYING STYLE

#### Offensive efficiency versus pace



All season long, Limburg and Charleroi have been the teams with the highest pace of the league, having +74 possessions a game, while Oostende averages 4 possessions less a game.

A quick look at the graphic, shows that 4 teams (*Oostende, Mons, Aalstar and Antwerp*) play significantly slower than all the rest. Remarkably, all those 4 teams end up with an offensive rating above 110 points, while all faster playing teams (except for Liege) stay below this mark! **You could conclude that in the Belgian League the slowest-paced teams are offensively the most effective!**

This is completely against the latest trends in the NBA where five teams (*Golden State, Houston, Philadelphia, Toronto and New Orleans*) end up in the Top 10 of pace **AND** offensive efficiency.

		Pace	PPP
1	LIM	74,8	1,067
2	CHA	74,6	1,095
3	LEU	73,7	0,986
4	LIE	73,5	1,114
5	WIL	73,4	1,066
6	BRU	73,3	1,028
7	ANT	71,8	1,122
8	AAL	71,3	1,129
9	MON	70,6	1,110
10	OOS	70,4	1,171

**PACE** = number of possessions per 40'  
**PPP** = points per possession

#### Author



Pascal Meurs is holder of the FIBA Europe Coaching Certificate. Currently, Pascal is active as head coach for T71 Dudelange in the Total League in Luxemburg & acts as an analyst for Eleven Sports Network on Belgian TV.

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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