A photograph of Ben Wallace, a professional basketball player, wearing a white Detroit Pistons jersey with the number 2. He is holding a Spalding NBA basketball with both hands. He is wearing a blue headband and blue wristbands with "NTZ" written on them. The background is dark and out of focus.

Ben ***"Big Ben"*** **Wallace**

**Portfolio for Induction into
the Naismith Memorial
Basketball Hall of Fame
Class of 2020**

By the Armstrong High School
Sports Analytics Club
Richmond, Virginia



Player Profile

Full Name: Ben C. Wallace (“Big Ben”)

Position: Center and Power Forward

Shoots: Right

Height: 6’9”

Weight: 240 lbs

Born: September 10, 1974

College: Virginia Union University

High School: Central High School, Hayneville,
Alabama

NBA Debut: November 1, 1996



Introduction

In this presentation, we will establish an analytical narrative to support the Induction of Ben Wallace into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

This effort will require more than a cursory review of basic statistics. We will provide an innovative look into Ben Wallace's overall NBA career statistics, illuminating his game-changing defensive impact.

NBA Records and Accomplishments

- 6x All-Defense Team
- 5x All-NBA
- 4x NBA Player of the Week
- 1x NBA Player of the Month
- 2x Total Rebounding Leader
- 2001-02 Blocks Leader
- 2003-04 NBA Champion
- 4x Defensive Player of the Year
- 4x All-Star



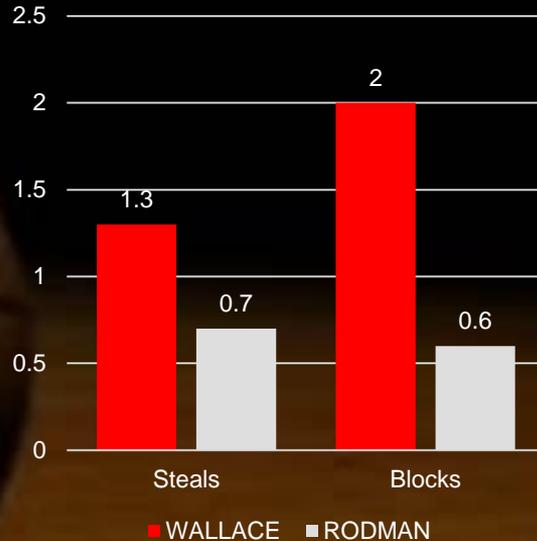
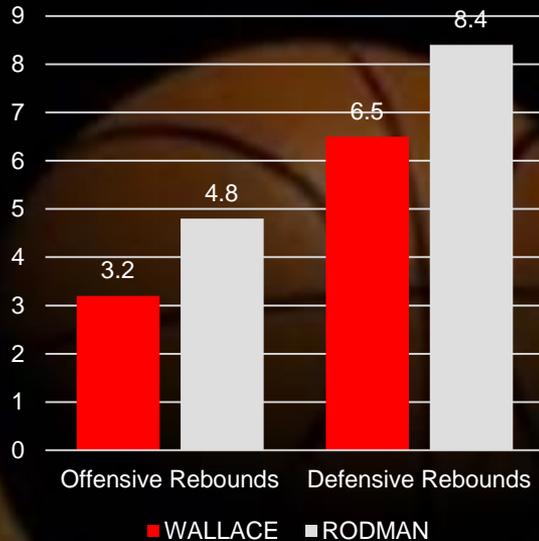
Supporting Data for Ben Wallace's Induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame

- In this portfolio, we will provide a statistical analysis comparing Wallace's NBA body of work with several players that have already been inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
- We first compared Ben Wallace to **Dennis Rodman**. We chose this comparison because Mr. Rodman has a similar player profile, and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2011.
- We compared Ben Wallace to **Dikembe Mutombo**. We chose this comparison because Mr. Mutombo has a similar player profile, and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2015.

Supporting Data for Ben Wallace's Induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame

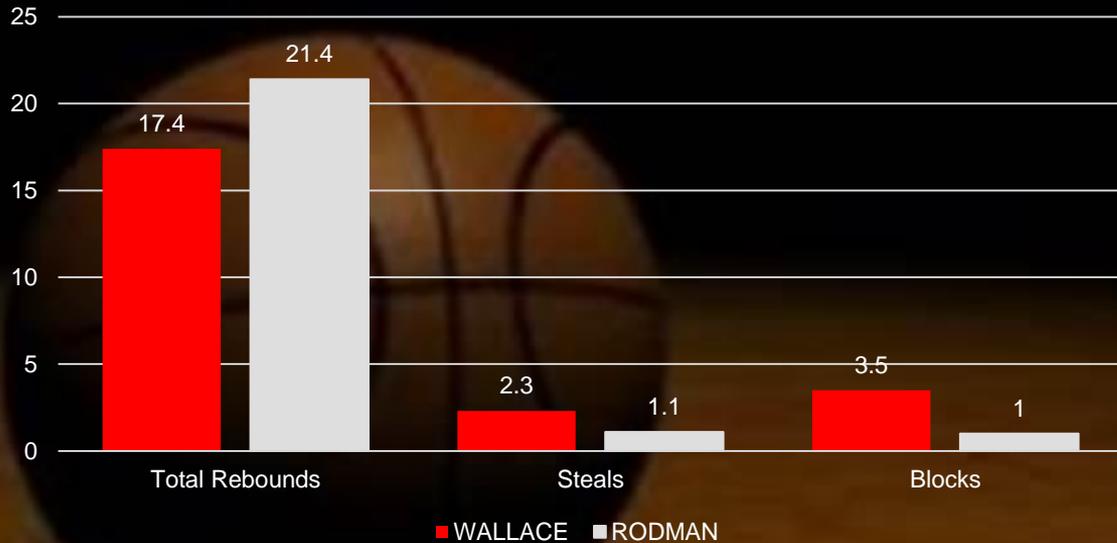
- We compared Ben Wallace to **Wes Unseld**. We chose this comparison because Mr. Unseld has a similar player profile, and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1988.
- We compared Ben Wallace to **Nate Thurmond**. We chose this comparison because Mr. Thurmond has a similar player profile, and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1985.
- Lastly, we compared Ben Wallace to **Zelmo Beaty, Jr.** We chose this comparison because Mr. Beaty has a similar player profile, and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016.

Comparison of Rebounds, Steals and Blocks Per Game: Wallace vs. Rodman



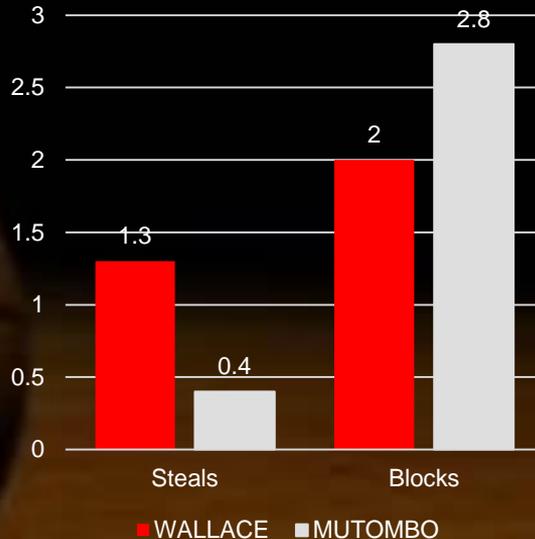
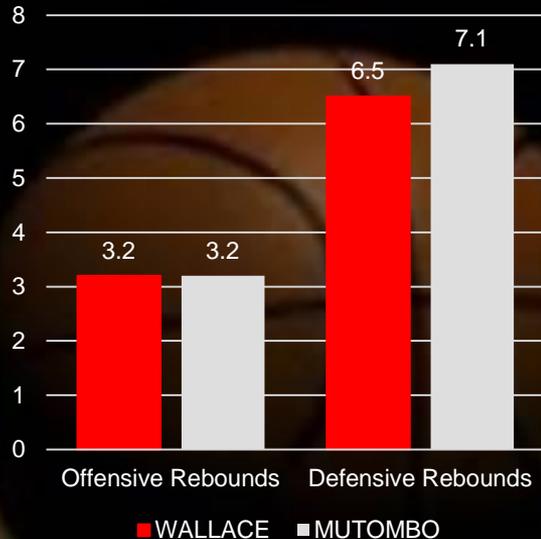
Wallace exceeds Rodman in steals by an impressive 46%, and by 70% in blocks.

Comparison of Rebounds, Steals and Blocks Per 100 Possessions: Wallace vs. Rodman



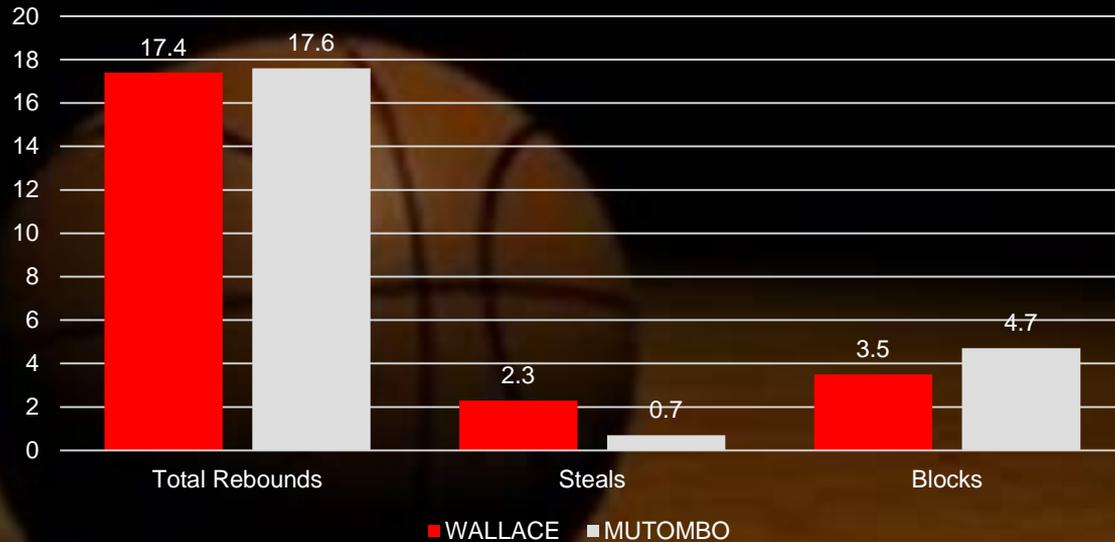
Wallace exceeds Rodman in steals by 52%, and by an astounding 71% in blocks.

Comparison of Rebounds, Steals and Blocks Per Game: Wallace vs. Mutombo



Wallace and Mutombo are equal in offensive rebounds. Mutombo has a slight edge over Wallace in defensive rebounds; however, Wallace clearly dominates Mutombo in steals by 69%.

Comparison of Rebounds, Steals and Blocks Per 100 Possessions: Wallace vs. Mutombo



Wallace and Mutombo are nearly equal in total rebounds, but Wallace has a clear 70% advantage in steals.

Comparison of Rebounds, Steals and Blocks Per Game: Wallace vs. Unsel



Wallace has an impressive 70% lead over Unsel in blocks and a 15% lead in steals.

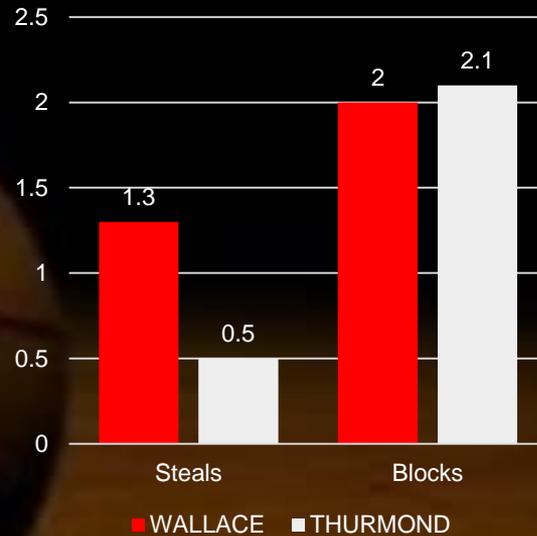
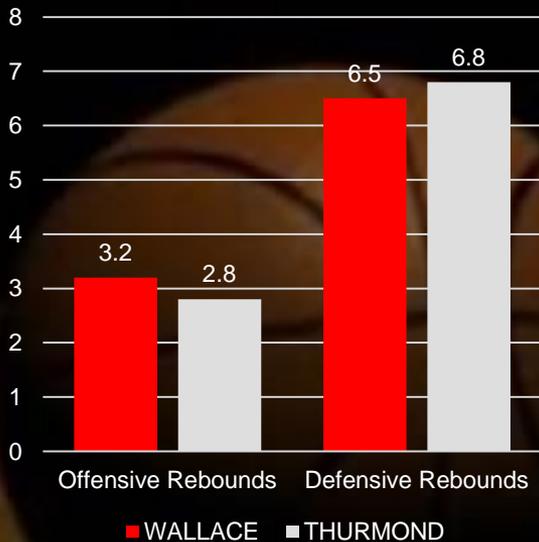
Comparison of Rebounds, Steals and Blocks Per 100 Possessions: Wallace vs. Unsel



Ben Wallace dominates Wes Unsel in total rebounds (10% lead), steals (39% lead), and blocks (77% lead).

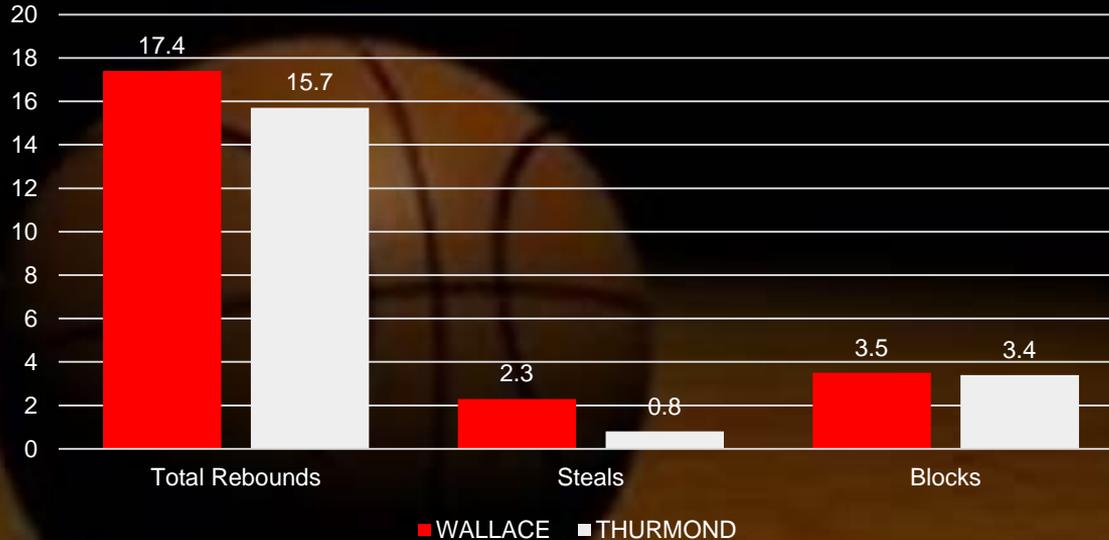
* All seasonal data not accessible for Unsel for this analysis

Comparison of Rebounds, Steals and Blocks Per Game: Wallace vs. Thurmond



Wallace and Thurmond are comparable in offensive and defensive rebounds and blocks, but Wallace has a significant advantage over Thurmond in steals.

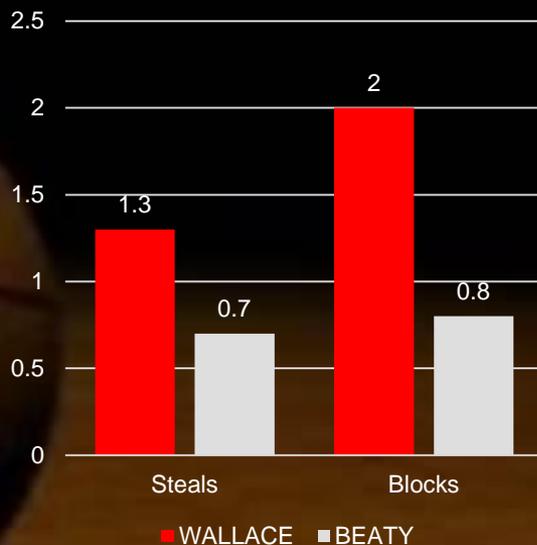
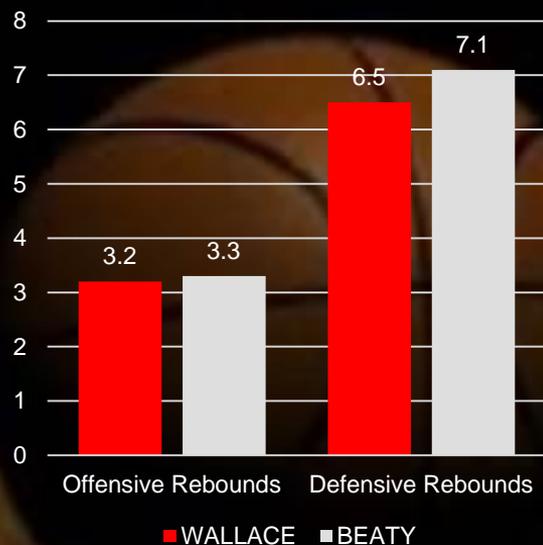
Comparison of Rebounds, Steals and Blocks Per 100 Possessions: Wallace vs. Thurmond



Wallace and Thurmond are closely comparable in total rebounds and blocks, with Wallace having a slight advantage. However, Wallace exceeds Thurmond in steals by almost three-times the amount.

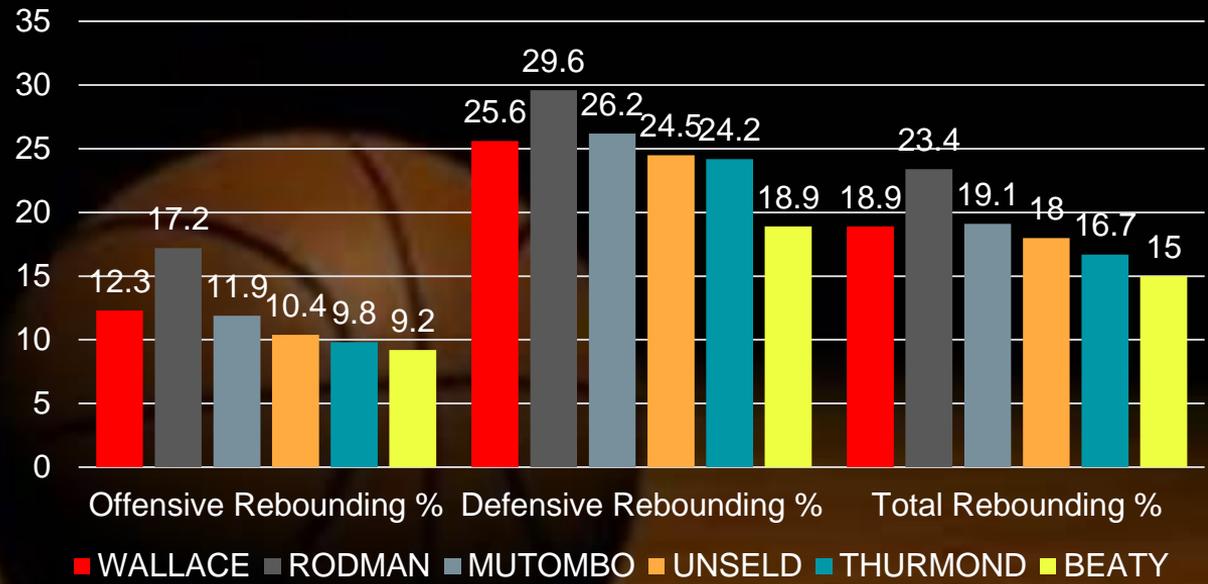
* All seasonal data not accessible for Thurmond for this analysis

Comparison of Rebounds, Steals and Blocks Per Game: Wallace vs. Beaty



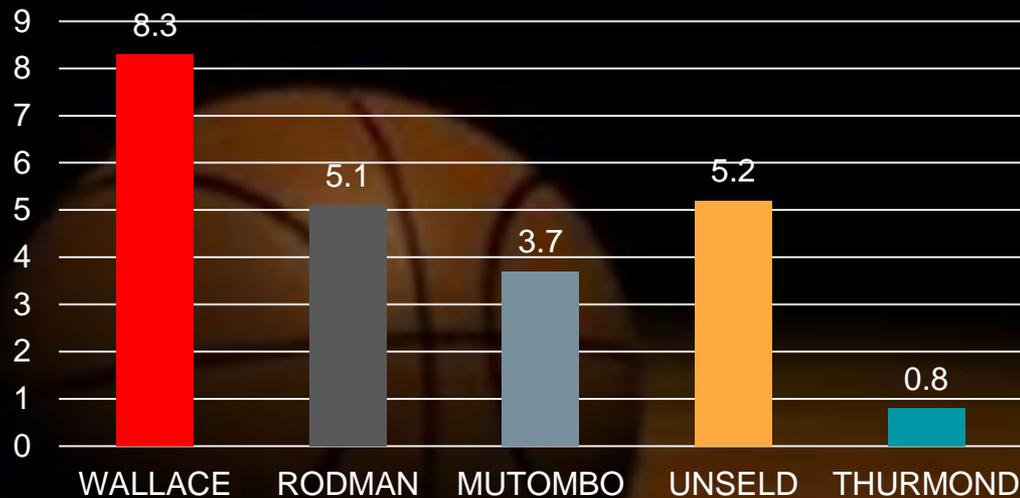
Wallace and Beaty are closely comparable in offensive and defensive rebounds. However, Wallace exceeds Beaty by 46% for steals, and by 60% for blocks.

Comparison of Rebound Percentages



Wallace is comparable with his competitors in ORB, DRB, and TRB percentages.

Value Over Replacement (VORP) Comparison

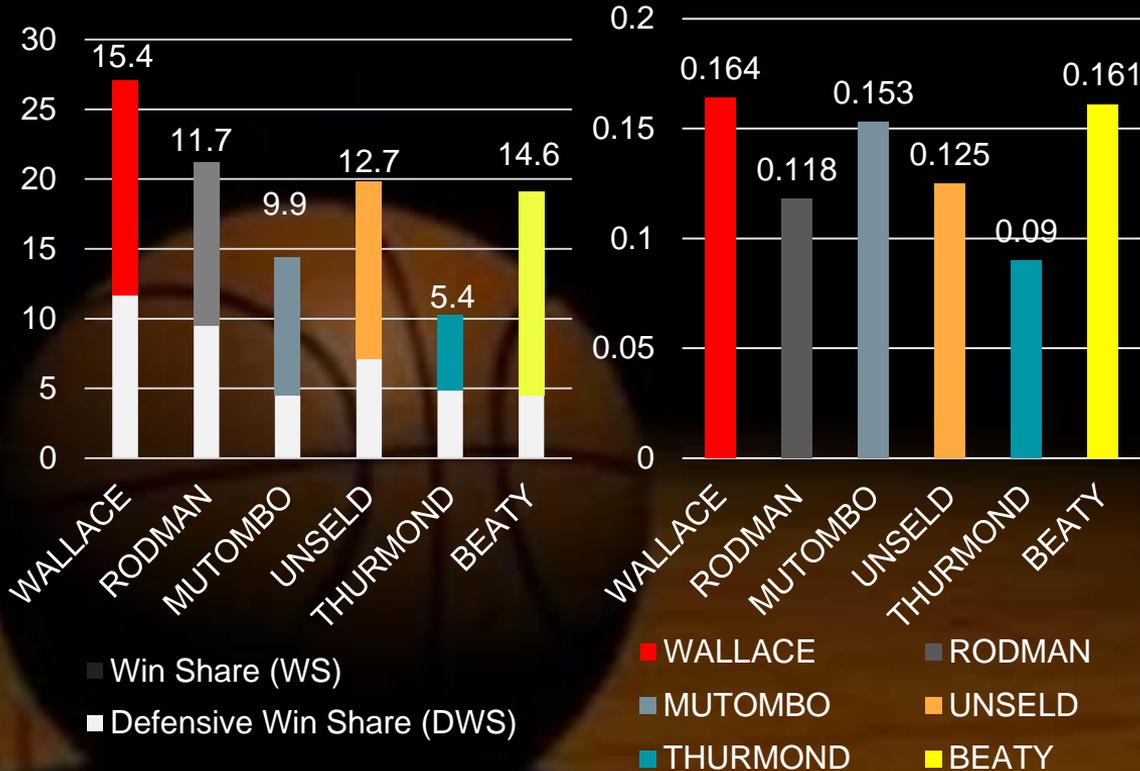


VORP is an estimate of each player's overall contribution to the team, compared to what a theoretical "replacement player" would provide.

Ben Wallace has a significantly higher career VORP ranking than his defensive counterparts.

* Seasonal data missing for Unsel and Thurmond

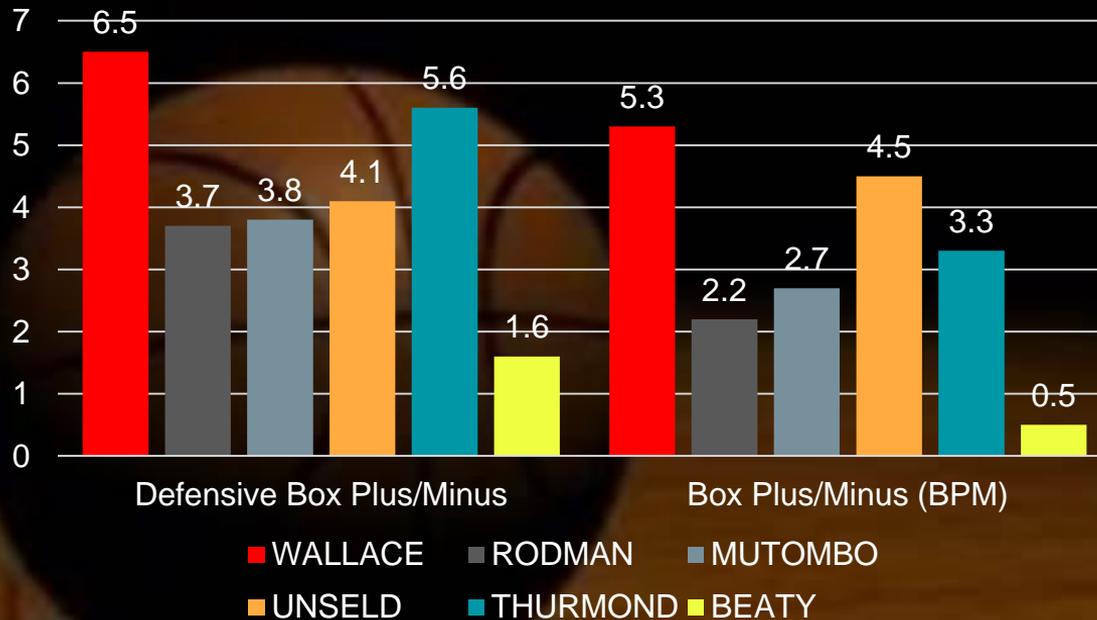
Win Share



Win share is a player statistic which attempts to divvy up credit for team success to the individuals on the team.

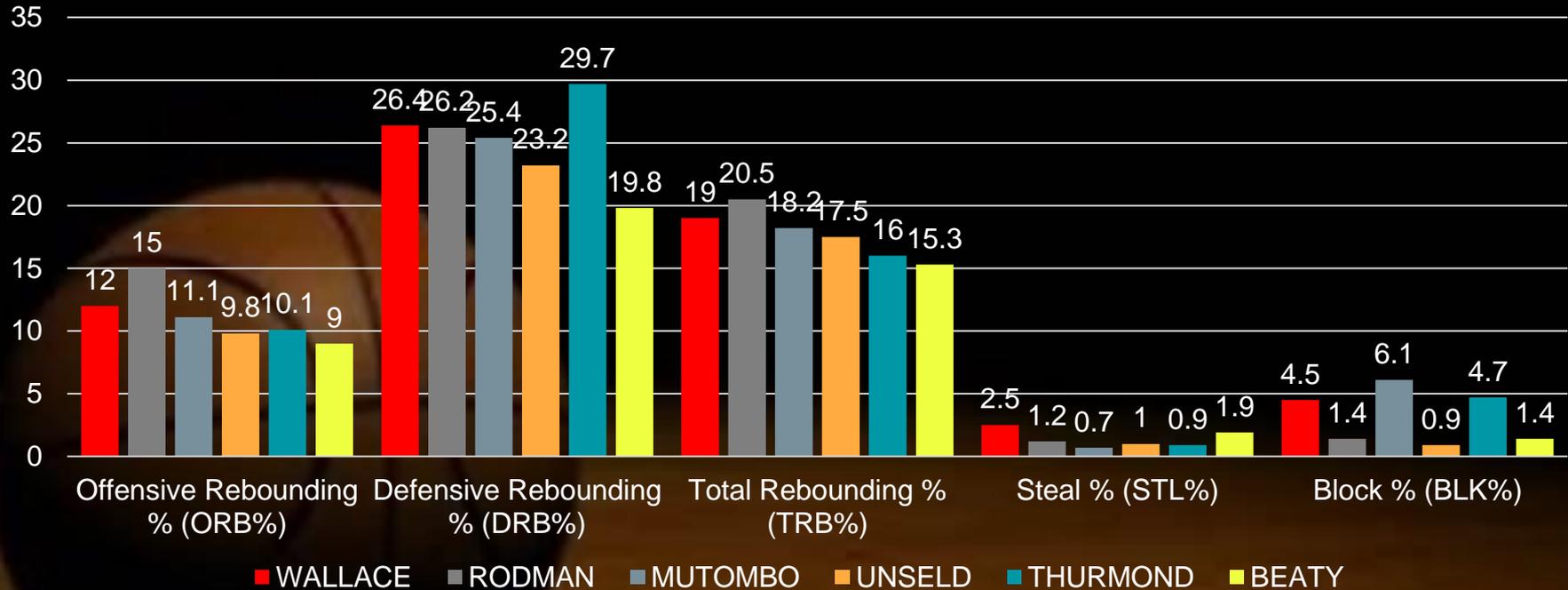
Ben Wallace leads in defensive win share, win share, and win share over 48 minutes.

Defensive Box Plus/Minus



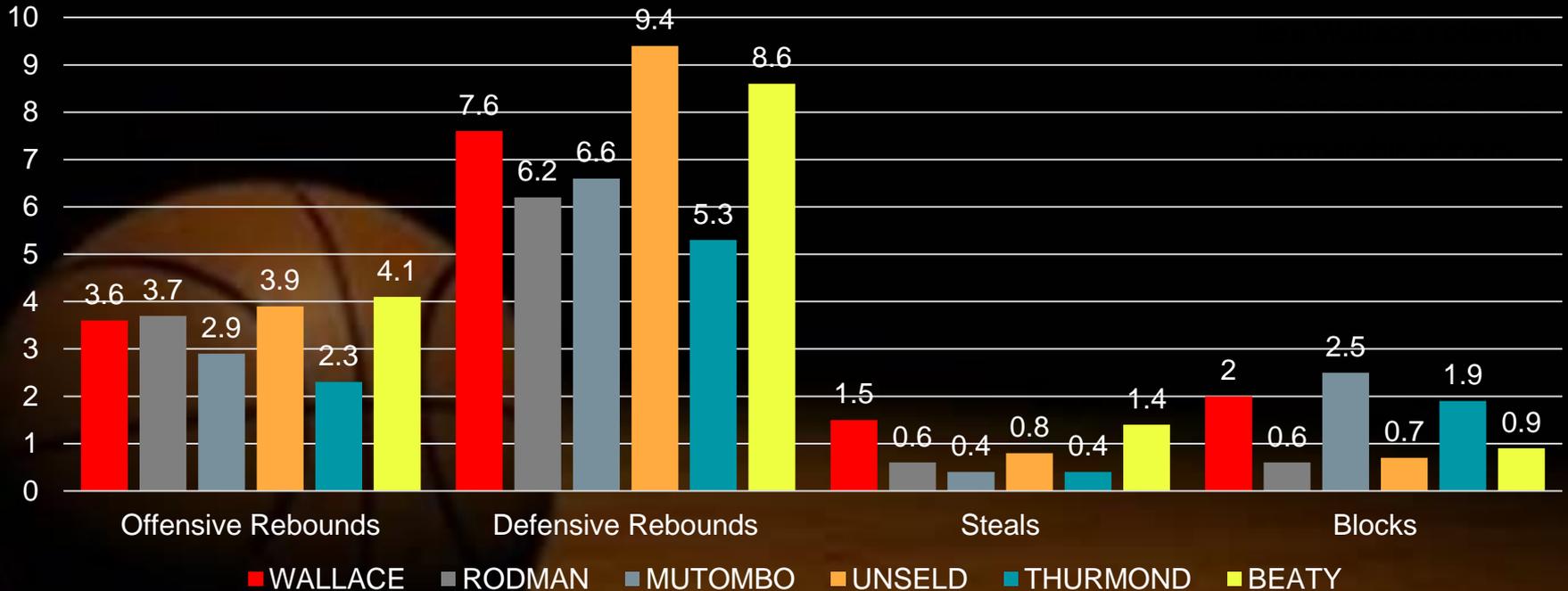
BPM estimates a player's performance relative to league average based on a player's box score information, and the team's overall performance. 0.0 is the league average; +5 means the player is 5 points better than an average player over 100 possessions .

Playoff Totals



Wallace has a significant advantage in steals over his competitors, and he is only 0.4% below the top competitor for blocks.

Playoff Statistics Per Game



Ben Wallace has a slight lead over his top competitor for steals and is comparable with the other players in offensive rebounds, defensive rebounds, and blocks.

NBA Player Accomplishments

Ben Wallace was selected All-NBA 5 times, more than anyone else in this group. He also was named Defensive Player of the Year (DPOY) four times, tying Dikembe Mutombo for the most in NBA history (DPOY has been awarded since the 1982-83 season).

	Wallace	Rodman	Mutombo	Unsel	Thurmond	Beatty
NBA All-Defense Team Selections	6	8	6	0	5	0
All-NBA Team Selections	5	2	3	1	0	0
NBA Championship(s)	1	5	0	1	0	0
NBA Total Rebounds Leader	2	7	2	1	0	0
NBA Total Blocks Leader	1	0	3	0	0	0
Defensive Player of the Year Award(s)	4	2	4	*	*	*
All-Star Selections	4	2	8	5	7	2

* Award was not given during player's NBA career

Conclusion

Ben Wallace was arguably the league's most dominant defender since Bill Russell, winning the Defensive Player of the Year Award four times, tying Dikembe Mutombo for most in NBA history. For that reason, we compared him to other inductees who excelled in defense and rebounding – Dennis Rodman, Dikembe Mutombo, Wes Unseld, Nate Thurmond, and Zelmo Beaty. Wallace ranked in the top half of this group in rebounding, steal, and block rates (per 100 possessions), as well as defensive plus-minus and VORP.

Outside of MVP, no NBA award measures a player's overall impact more than being selected to an All-NBA team. Wallace was selected to 5 All-NBA teams; his inductee peers combined were only selected to 6 All-NBA teams, with no individual inductee accounting for more than 3.

Ben Wallace was a unique player in that his defense and rebounding were so dominant that it helped elevate a team without a conventional superstar into an NBA champion. We believe that unique dominance elevates Wallace as a preeminent Inductee for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.



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Acknowledgements

Armstrong High School

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