

# Keeping Score

## *An Informal History of Pro Basketball Encyclopedias*

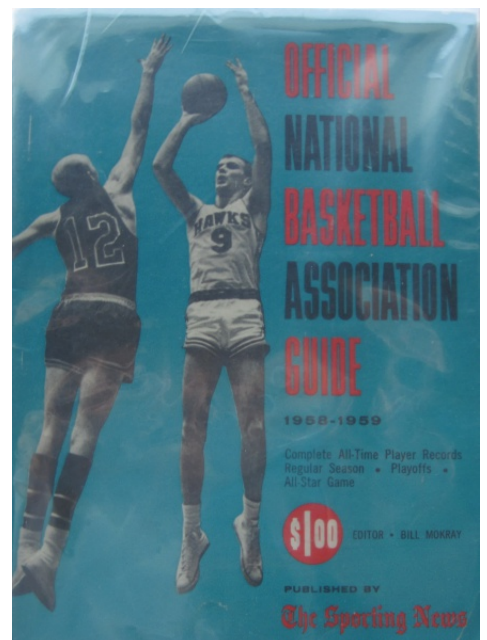
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CASUAL BASKETBALL FANS are not as obsessed with statistics as baseball fans. Hank Aaron's career home run total of 755 is common knowledge, while the number of points scored by the NBA's all-time leading scorer is not. Today, basketball historians and casual fans alike can find the answer to this question in seconds by using [basketball-reference.com](http://basketball-reference.com) or other internet sites. But before these marvelous resources existed, you would have needed to reach for a basketball encyclopedia, a "handbook," or a well-done team media guide, and leafed through its pages until your curiosity was satisfied.

THE MODERN "sports encyclopedia" genre traces its lineage back to 1951, when Hy Turkin and S.C. Thompson compiled the *Official Encyclopedia of Baseball*. Turkin was a sportswriter for the *New York Daily News*; Thompson was a musician who moonlighted at the Elias Baseball Bureau and had been accumulating baseball statistics and related biographical information for two decades before he sought out Turkin and introduced himself.<sup>1</sup> Published by A.S. Barnes & Company with a cover price of five dollars, it was hailed as "the most monumental statistical work on baseball ever attempted."<sup>2</sup> The *Spalding's Official Base Ball Guide*, and its successor from *The Sporting News*, had been published since the formation of the National League, but Turkin and Thompson had summarized the career of every major leaguer in a single volume.<sup>3</sup> While the quantity of stats they included was skimpy by today's standards, it was a significant achievement.

IN 1958, *The Sporting News* decided to add an *NBA Guide* to its growing list of publications. Bill Mokray, the promotions director for the Boston Celtics, was chosen as editor. Mokray's duties for the Celtics included compiling their annual yearbook that contained tables of NBA league leaders, attendance figures, and box scores for every Celtics game from the previous season. He had also contributed articles to *The Sporting News* earlier that year.<sup>4</sup>

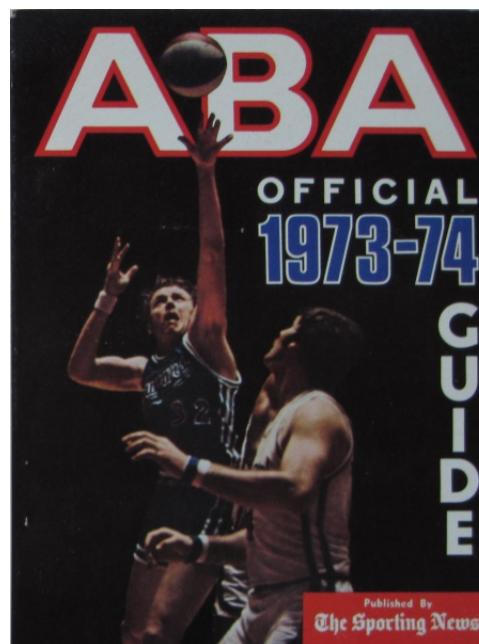
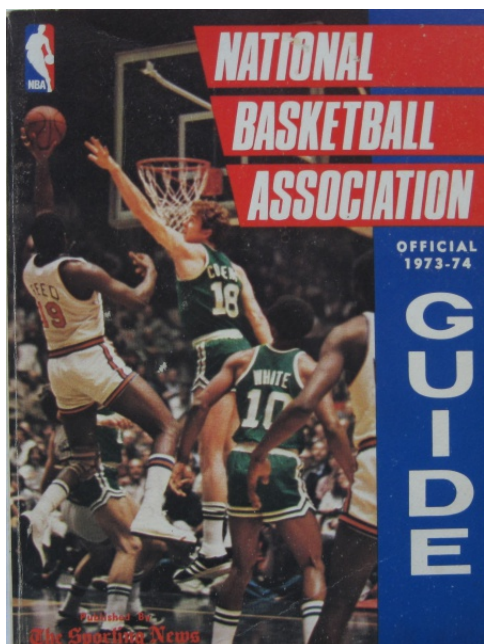
The inaugural edition of the *Guide* featured Bob Pettit of the defending champion St. Louis Hawks on the cover, and packed a lot of information into 192 pages. Not quite pocket size at five-by-six-and-a-half inches, the *Guide* included a forward written by Mokray, a team directory listing front office staff from each club (with their phone numbers!), plus head shot photographs of every current owner, general manager, coach, and player. A summary of each NBA season since 1946-47 (the league was known as the BAA until its merger with the NBL in 1950, but the *Guide* referred to champions from the earlier seasons as "NBA Champions") featured a team photo of each championship squad and a list of that season's top 25 scorers. Regular season standings and player and team statistics for each season were provided in a separate section, though individual player stats were excluded for seasons prior to 1957-58.



*The first TSN Basketball Guide*

The longest part of the *Guide* was dedicated to tables of year-by-year statistics for every player who had played in the BAA/NBA since 1946, including their NBL statistics, if applicable. The players were arranged alphabetically, and their regular season and playoff stats were presented in two separate sections totaling 93 pages. Mokray also added various regular season and playoff records, both league-wide and broken down by arena, along with the NBA's official rules, a chart of referee hand signals, and more.

The 1958-59 edition was essentially a complete encyclopedia of player and team statistics since the founding of the BAA/NBA, but in future years the player stats would be re-organized and condensed in the interest of space. By 1962-63 the *Guide* had grown to 256 pages despite eliminating year-by-year stats for players who were no longer active. New features, such as a complete set of All-Star Game box scores, accounted for much of the growth, but you could still find out how many points a recently retired player had scored in a given season by turning to the expanded yearly summary section. From the 1954-55 season forward, the summaries now included data for every player, organized by team. Playoff stats were excluded, and prior to 1954 only team totals were presented. A separate *ABA Guide* would debut in 1968 to cover the new rival American Basketball Association.



*The 1973-74 Editions of the TSN NBA and ABA Guides*

Bill Mokray continued to edit the *Guide* until 1967, when NBA PR director Haskell Cohen took over, but Mokray kept busy by working on other books.<sup>5</sup> His *Basketball Stars of 1962* was a slender paperback that contained profiles and year-by-year statistics for 36 players – mostly professionals – along with a recap of the 1960-61 NBA, NCAA, NAIA, and AAU seasons.

A YEAR LATER, Mokray compiled a more extensive volume for the Ronald Press Company.<sup>6</sup> Published in 1963, the 588-page *Ronald Encyclopedia of Basketball* covered every aspect of the game from its invention by James Naismith through the 1961-62 basketball season in a dry, no-nonsense format between plain dark blue covers. After a brief introduction, the bulk of the hardcover book focused on college basketball: yearly records organized by conference, major and small college champions, and a complete list of College All-America selections. The pro game was relegated to 74 pages, and the first 30 or so covered leagues that had preceded the BAA/NBA, ranging from the 19th century National League to the American League of the

1940's. The NBA section – which began with 1946-47, following the same convention as the *NBA Guide* – contained yearly standings and lists of statistical leaders, but no comprehensive coverage of yearly player statistics. Curiously, there are no box scores from championship series games, but are presented for every All-Star Game. The encyclopedia concludes with two pages dedicated to the 1961-62 seasons of the Eastern League (a forerunner of the CBA) and the American Basketball League, a prospective major league which folded a year later.

MEANWHILE, Harvey Pollack was making his own contribution to the world of pro basketball statistics. Pollack was originally hired by Eddie Gottlieb to track statistics for the Philadelphia Warriors BAA franchise in 1946, and eventually held similar positions for the 76ers and six colleges in the Philadelphia area. He also handled football statistics for Temple University and the Baltimore Colts, and even kept records for a local pro lacrosse team.<sup>7</sup> Pollack's media guides for the 76ers, which began as a couple dozen typed pages<sup>8</sup> before graduating to a printed booklet for the 1966-67 season, became legendary for their length and breadth of information about the entire league, and were a model for the rest of the NBA to follow. A small sampling: player statistics organized not only by season but also by opponent; birthdays for every player in the league; analysis of team performance when playing on three consecutive nights or four games in five nights; the average height and weight for each team. In the 1990's, his *Philadelphia 76ers Statistical Yearbooks* were rebranded as *Harvey Pollack's Statistical Yearbook* to reflect their league-wide scope. The 2006-07 edition stretched to 290 pages in PDF format.

IN 1969, BILL MOKRAY contributed to Zander Hollander's *The Modern Encyclopedia of Basketball*. Hollander began his career as a journalist in the Air Force during World War II, then covered yachting and other sports for the *New York World-Telegram*. Now he had formed his own company, Associated Features, to publish and package sports-related books, many aimed at children.<sup>9</sup> Over the next three decades, Hollander was arguably the foremost distributor of sports statistics in the country, releasing titles on hockey, football, soccer, and tennis in addition to basketball.

The *Modern Encyclopedia* differed from the *Ronald Encyclopedia* in two key respects. First, Hollander included over 150 photographs, including a color game action photo of Wilt Chamberlain and the Los Angeles Lakers against Bill Russell and the Boston Celtics on the cover, and second, he devoted the majority of its 468 pages to the pro game, including an overview of each season with regular season standings, playoff results, and league leaders. An all-time register listing every player in NBA and ABA history, including NBL statistics for old-timers who later played in the NBA, followed in the footsteps of the *NBA Guide*. The scope of the information in the register was limited (Birthdate, Height, Weight, Alma mater, Games, FGM, FTM, Points, and Points Per Game) and omitted playoff statistics, but was the most complete reference available in one volume at the time.

Despite its "Modern" title, Hollander also provided coverage of the years between James Naismith and the founding of the BAA; three members of the Original Celtics, Joe Lapchick, Nat Holman, and Dutch Dehnert, even appeared at a luncheon in New York to help promote the book.<sup>10</sup> Amateur basketball was well-covered: yearly summaries of college basketball, box scores for the NCAA and NIT championship games, and yearly lists of high school state champions and All-American teams. Essays on the "greatest" college and professional players and coaches provided additional context about the history of the game. Revised editions would follow in 1973 (hardcover) and 1979 (paperback).

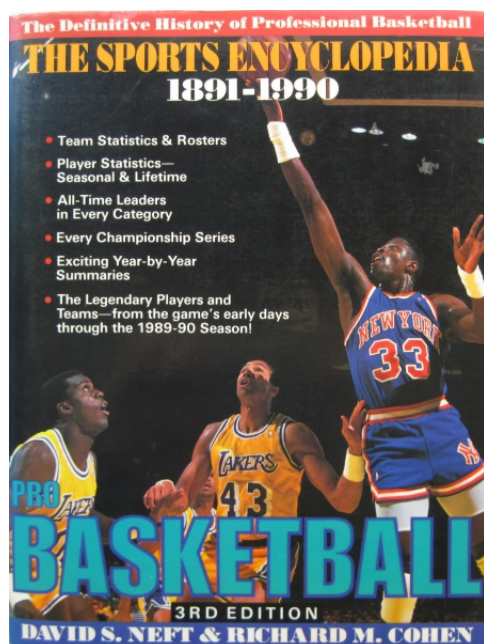
IN THE *Modern Encyclopedia*, Hollander wrote in a concise, clear style that was hardly dry but stuck to the historical facts; in his epic *Complete Handbook of Pro <insert name of sport here>* series, he let his



personality show. The series began as four paperback books published by Lancer Books in 1971, one for each of the four major pro sports. Hollander edited the baseball and hockey handbooks while John Devaney, a contributing editor at *Sport* magazine and author of multiple sports biographies, assembled a football version; Jim O'Brien, who edited the *Street & Smith's College and Pro Basketball Yearbook* and wrote a weekly ABA column for *The Sporting News*, compiled the basketball edition.<sup>11</sup> The series continued through the *1973 Complete Handbook of Pro Baseball*, then abruptly stopped when Lancer filed for bankruptcy in the fall of 1973.<sup>12</sup>

The following spring, Hollander relaunched the series for Signet/New American Library with a new baseball edition, then personally edited versions for the three other major sports later that year.<sup>13</sup> Unlike the Lancer series, the same cover format was used for all sports, including a short-lived soccer version, and remained unchanged until 1991; the books became an iconic symbol of the coming of a new season. To conform to the cover format, the basketball and hockey books were branded as "1975" editions despite previewing their respective 1974-75 seasons.

Each basketball edition contained a few feature articles, written by guest contributors such as Bob Ryan from the *Boston Globe*, followed by a preview of each team. Teams from both the NBA and ABA were included until the merger in 1976. Within each team preview, Hollander listed the club's veteran roster and key draft choices, followed by a capsule profile for each player that featured a head shot photo and their year-by-year regular season statistics (Games, FGM/%, FTM/%, Rebounds, Assists, Points, PPG). The profiles were arranged in order of the player's importance – as determined by Hollander – rather than alphabetically, and were filled with obscure facts but also humorous commentary. Of the well-traveled and self-centered Rick Barry, Hollander wrote in 1975: "A basketball gypsy...Bright, good-looking, charming, always ready to talk about himself..."<sup>14</sup> In the Celtics section of the 1988 edition, you could read that Larry Bird "keeps one of his MVP trophies on refrigerator in the basement of French Lick home," then flip forward two pages to find out that Robert Parish's house had been robbed during the 1987 Finals. Hollander wrapped up the section with a dismissive description of benchwarmer Rick Carlisle: "Just another pretty face who looks like perfect Minnesota Timberwolves material ... Going, going, gone."<sup>15</sup>



**Neft & Cohen (Third Edition)**

SOON, HOLLANDER's basketball encyclopedias got some competition from Grosset & Dunlap's *The Sports Encyclopedia* series. David S. Neft, who had led a team of statisticians to produce *The Baseball Encyclopedia* for Macmillan and Information Concepts Incorporated (ICI) in 1969 – which had required a significant amount of research to reconcile inconsistent data that Turkin & Thompson had relied on<sup>16</sup> – left ICI and began work on a new series of reference books. Working with Richard Cohen, Jordan Deutsch, and Roland Johnson, Neft's team produced baseball and pro football encyclopedias in 1974 and a pro basketball version in 1975. The books shared a common cover format that featured an abstract watercolor painting of game action from the corresponding sport.

Inside the *The Sports Encyclopedia: Pro Basketball*, Neft and Co. organized the history of the sport into five eras. Part one covered the first 40 years of the game, with commentary on each season of the ABL of the 1920's and early 1930's accompanied by standings and scoring leaders. After that were sections on the early NBL era and the pre-shot clock NBL/BAA/NBA period, followed by the post-shot clock

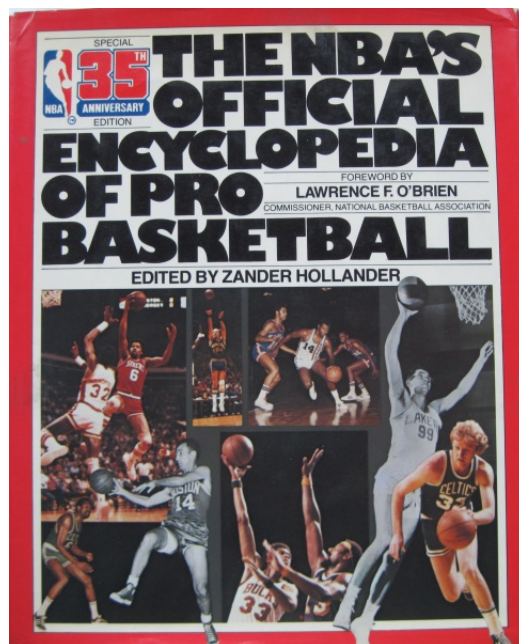
years. Part five focused on the period since the founding of the ABA; the two leagues were treated equally, and career totals for players incorporated their statistics from both, just as Hollander had done. (*The Sporting News* took a different approach. Its *NBA Guide* ignored the ABA entirely until the merger, listing only statistics from the senior circuit. After the merger, player totals from the two leagues were presented separately.<sup>17</sup> However, the *ABA Guide* contained stats from both leagues, and summarized each player's ABA, NBA, and combined "pro" totals.)

Neft's format for each season was straight-forward: a one-page essay highlighting the season's major storylines, followed by tables of team rosters that listed each player's position, height, and weight plus their statistics, which were as complete as those in the *NBA Guide*. Through 1950, condensed playoff stats appeared alongside the regular season data; from 1951 forward, complete playoff numbers were shown in a separate set of tables, again organized by team and accompanied by the team's game-by-game playoff results. Devoid of photographs, the concise format left room for additional information: the name of the head coach (or coaches, including the record of each one), regular season standings, team statistics, and league leaders.

There was one unfortunate formatting choice. Since the player statistics were organized by team and by season, player career totals had to be listed separately. But instead of presenting that data alphabetically in a single chapter, separate tables were included at the end of each of the five parts, with each player listed in exactly one of those tables. Since many players' careers spanned more than one era, readers were left to decipher which section contained the career statistics for a particular player. Still, the book was an excellent reference, more complete than Hollander's *Modern Encyclopedia*, and was the first encyclopedia to focus exclusively on the pro game. Beginning in 1989, a few revised editions were released in paperback, each containing an additional section that covered the years since the merger with the ABA.

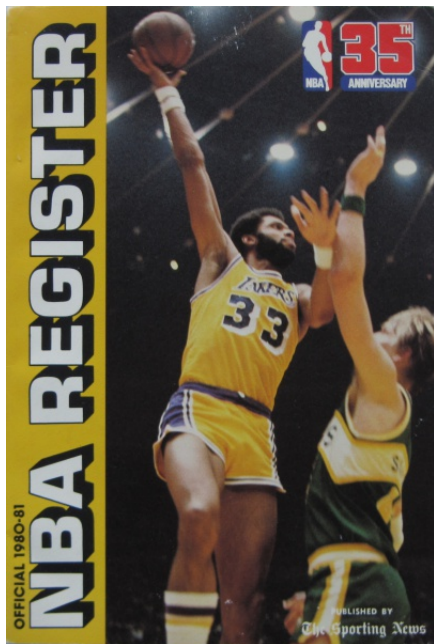
PREDICTABLY, ZANDER HOLLANDER responded in 1977 with his own *The Pro Basketball Encyclopedia*. At 404 pages, it was thinner than his *Modern Encyclopedia* but covered the pro game more comprehensively since it had shed the former's college and high school material. Unlike Neft, Hollander devoted pages to the history of the Harlem Globetrotters and the Basketball Hall of Fame, box scores for every All-Star Game, and included lists of award winners and college draft picks for both the NBA and ABA. Season summaries were presented in a format consistent with the *Modern Encyclopedia*, with plenty of photographs and player statistics listed in an "All-Time Player Directory" that also followed his earlier formula. Four years later, the book was re-issued as *The NBA's Official Encyclopedia of Pro Basketball*, and billed as a "Special 35th Anniversary Edition" complete with the NBA 35th anniversary logo on its front cover. Sporting a more attractive jacket design, the book had also been reformatted into a shorter, squarer size that necessitated re-cropping some of the photos and lengthened the book to 532 pages.

The re-issue of Hollander's latest work coincided with the emergence of Larry Bird and Magic Johnson as the NBA's leading stars. *The Sporting News* also took advantage of their appeal, publishing their first *NBA Register* prior to the 1980-81 season, and resizing the *NBA Guide* to a matching six-by-nine inch size.



**35th Anniversary Edition (Hollander)**





***The first TSN NBA Register***

The net result was an increase in content across the two volumes, though you now had to spend \$16.50 (or \$9.95 if you ordered direct from *TSN*) to get it all.<sup>18</sup> The yearly player stats and career totals for all active players were shifted to the *Register* and were augmented by each player's yearly college statistics. Box scores for each All-Star Game were also included in the *Register*, and padded with a full-page photo of an All-Star from that season. The *Guide's* yearly summary sections were enhanced by restoring the tables of individual player statistics, organized by team, going all the way back to 1946-47. All that was missing were comprehensive career totals for every retired player.

IN 1989, HOLLANDER cooperated with Alex Sachare, the NBA's Director of Information, who had helped edit recent editions of the *NBA Guide* and *NBA Register*, to create *The Official NBA Basketball Encyclopedia*.<sup>19</sup> The format was similar to Hollander's earlier NBA-centric books, and the written summaries for older seasons were largely lifted from those older works verbatim, though for the ABA years they were slightly reworked to blend the ABA and NBA season summaries into a single narrative per year

instead of covering the two leagues separately. However, the statistics in the book were significantly improved. Additional league leader tables now accompanied the seasonal essays, and the "All-Time Player Directory" finally included complete yearly regular season data based on the official categories as defined by the NBA at the time. Playoff statistics were also presented, but only career totals, not year-by-year records. Sachare assembled a second edition in 1994, and Jan Hubbard completed a third hardcover edition in 2000.

The mammoth 1470-page *Total Basketball* would fill the playoff gap in 2003, with yearly playoff stats in its "Player Register" section which consumed 690 of those pages. *Total Basketball* followed a Hollander-like formula, mixing essays on a variety of historical topics with season summaries, though editor Ken Shouler also provided chapters on women's basketball, the Continental Basketball Association (CBA), the United States Basketball League (USBL), and the Olympics, along with a 90-page section on college basketball.

BUT THE ERA of printed sports encyclopedias was already nearing its end by the time *Total Basketball* hit the shelves. The Association of Professional Basketball Research (APBR) was founded in December 1997 by Robert Bradley (who would publish his own landmark reference work, the *Compendium of Professional Basketball*, in 1999) and its website debuted the next year featuring an eclectic mix of articles and stats covering dozens of early basketball leagues, the Globetrotters, NBA draft history, lists of retired numbers, and other material that continues to be hard to find elsewhere online, even today.<sup>20</sup> Many of the association's members later contributed to *Total Basketball*.

Then, in 2000, baseball-reference.com was launched by Sean Forman,<sup>21</sup> to be followed by pro-football-reference.com, and then, in the spring of 2004, basketball-reference.com. Unlike the APBR site, basketball-reference.com included yearly player statistics for every player in NBA history (initially only for the regular season). Over time, the site has grown more extensive, adding "sabrmetric"-like statistics. The site has also demonstrated the advantages of online/electronic encyclopedias over their paper counterparts. Gone are the days where researchers must flip back-and-forth across hundreds of pages to find team results and player career statistics. Hyperlinking has made cross-referencing between players and teams easier than ever before, web browsers can display multiple pages at once for quick comparisons, and the ability to

download stats in a computer-parsable format such as CSV allows code-savvy fans to write their own scripts to analyze data.

Also, now that “page space” is no longer a concern, the scope of the data presented in online encyclopedias has continued to expand. Through the work of Dick Pfander, box scores for every NBA game in history were added to basketball-reference in 2012, and have been continually improved over the years. (Author’s note: I followed in Mr. Pfander’s footsteps and contributed ABA box scores in 2015 and 2016.) It is hard to conceive of anyone ever “printing” a collection of sports information of this scope in book form.

The “crowd-sourcing” potential of the internet has led to other sites with their own unique statistical focus, such as nbastats.net. And in January 2017, probasketballencyclopedia.com was launched, providing extensive and invaluable coverage of the game’s first six decades, through 1951. The NBA now publishes their own *NBA Guide*, based on the old *Sporting News* format, and provides it for free on NBA.com.

IT HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER to find data about pro basketball. Whether you want to know that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar passed Wilt Chamberlain during the 1983-84 season to become the NBA’s leading scorer, ending his career with 38,387 points,<sup>23</sup> or how often LeBron James has achieved a triple-double (94 through the 2019-20 season), the information is now at your fingertips or, thanks to Alexa, Google and Siri, within the sound of your voice. Today’s statisticians follow a path formed by curators of basketball’s past, but their predecessors would marvel at the methods that can now be used to share that information with an increasingly stats-hungry public.

## List of Basketball Encyclopedias and Reference Works Mentioned in this Article

All books listed below were published in hardcover unless noted otherwise.

\*Available on the Internet Archive (<http://archive.org>).

†Some editions available on the Internet Archive (<http://archive.org>).

\*Mokray, William G. (ed). *Ronald Encyclopedia of Basketball*. New York: Ronald Press, 1963.

Hollander, Zander (ed). *The Modern Encyclopedia of Basketball*. New York: Four Winds Press, 1969.

\*Hollander, Zander (ed). *The Modern Encyclopedia of Basketball: Revised Edition*. New York: Four Winds Press, 1973.

Neft, David S. (ed), Roland T. Johnson, Richard M. Cohen, and Jordan A. Deutsch, et al. *The Sports Encyclopedia: Pro Basketball*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1975.

\*Hollander, Zander (ed). *The Pro Basketball Encyclopedia*. Los Angeles: Corwin Books, 1977.

Hollander, Zander (ed). *The Modern Encyclopedia of Basketball*. New York: Dolphin (Doubleday & Company), 1979 (Paperback).

\*Hollander, Zander (ed). *The NBA’s Official Encyclopedia of Pro Basketball*. New York: New American Library, 1981.

\*Hollander, Zander and Alex Sachare (ed). *The Official NBA Basketball Encyclopedia*. New York: Villard, 1989.

Neft, David S. and Richard M. Cohen (ed). *The Sports Encyclopedia: Pro Basketball: Edition 2*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1989 (Paperback).

Neft, David S. and Richard M. Cohen (ed). *The Sports Encyclopedia: Pro Basketball: 3rd Edition*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1990 (Paperback).

Neft, David S. and Richard M. Cohen (ed). *The Sports Encyclopedia: Pro Basketball: 4th Edition*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1991 (Paperback).

Neft, David S. and Richard M. Cohen (ed). *The Sports Encyclopedia: Pro Basketball: 5th Edition*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1992 (Paperback).

Sachare, Alex (ed). *The Official NBA Basketball Encyclopedia: Second Edition*. New York: Villard, 1994.  
Bradley, Robert. *Compendium of Professional Basketball*. Tempe, Arizona: Xaler Press, 1999.  
Hubbard, Jan (ed). *The Official NBA Basketball Encyclopedia: Third Edition*. New York: Doubleday, 2000.  
\*Shouler, Ken (ed), et al. *Total Basketball: The Ultimate Basketball Encyclopedia*. Toronto: Sport Classic Books, 2003.  
Bradley, Robert. *Compendium of Professional Basketball: Second Edition*. Tempe, Arizona: Xaler Press, 2010.

†*The Sporting News NBA Guide*, published from 1958-59 through 2006-07 (Original series, Paperback).<sup>24</sup>

†*The Sporting News NBA Register*, published from 1980-81 through 2006-07 (Original series, Paperback).

*The Sporting News ABA Guide*, published from 1968-69 through 1975-76 (Paperback).

*Complete Handbook of Pro Basketball* by Jim O'Brien, published 1970-71 (Magazine), 1971-72 and 1972-73 (Lancer Books, Paperback).

†*Complete Handbook of Pro Basketball* by Zander Hollander, published 1974 ("1975" edition for the 1974-75 NBA season) through 1997 (Paperback).

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## Notes

1. Schwarz, Alan. *The Numbers Game: Baseball's Lifelong Fascination with Statistics*. New York: Thomas Dunne, 2004, p53. Wire story, "Set Services for S.C. Thompson, Baseball Author," *Anderson (Indiana) Herald*, March 23, 1967. Reportedly, Thompson was a bassoonist who played in John Philip Sousa's band in the 1920's; see wire story, "Baseball Encyclopedia Co-Author Dies at 68," *Daily Illinois State Journal*, March 23, 1967.
2. Tommy Holmes, "Latest Thing in Baseball Records," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, April 24, 1951.
3. *The Sporting News* began publishing its version of the *Baseball Guide* in 1942.
4. See January 8, 1958 and March 12, 1958 editions of *The Sporting News*. Bio in *1957-58 Boston Celtics Yearbook*. The NBA had produced a 48-page "Record Book" for 1957-58 which included similar team directory and league record information, but fewer statistics than *TSN* would include in their editions.
5. Mokray would be let go by new Celtics owner Marvin Kratter in the fall of 1967; he continued his work with basketball statistics by contributing to the *Converse Basketball Yearbook*, which was published annually from 1922 through 1983. Nason, Jerry, "Green Curing Road Showitis," *Boston Globe*, October 28, 1967; Obituary, "William (Bill) Mokray, 66, authority on basketball," *Boston Globe*, March 24, 1974. After Cohen retired in 1969, Nick Curran succeeded him as the NBA's PR director and editor of the *NBA Guide*.
6. Ronald Press had previously published football and baseball encyclopedias in a similar format.
7. Richard Goldstein, "Harvey Pollack, Inventive Statistician in N.B.A. From Day 1, Dies at 93," *New York Times*, June 24, 2015; <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/25/sports/basketball/harvey-pollack-a-statistician-in-nba-from-day-1-dies-at-93.html> . Dan Loh, "Harvey Pollack, last original employee of NBA's 1st season, dies," *USA Today*, June 23, 2015; <https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nba/2015/06/23/pollack-last-original-employee-of-nbas-1st-season->



dies/29192537/ .

8. Ebay listings September 2018: <https://www.ebay.com/itm/1964-65-NBA-Philadelphia-76ers-Media-Guide-Dolph-Schayes-Hal-Greer-Near-Mint/283118798265>; <https://www.ebay.com/itm/1965-66-Philadelphia-76ers-Press-Media-Guide-1st-Full-Year-w-Wilt-Chamberlain/371919786023>
9. Douglas Martin, "Zander Hollander, Sports Trivia Shepherd, Dies at 91," *New York Times*, April 14, 2014.
10. "Three Original Celtics Find Game Has Bypassed Them," *New York Times*, December 4, 1969.
11. Jim O'Brien biography from his web site: <http://www.jimbriensportsauthor.com/>. Examples of the Lancer Books editions are available on eBay and other sites. The first edition of the basketball handbook had been released in magazine form in 1970. Email from O'Brien to author, September 5, 2018.
12. "Business Records: Bankruptcy Proceedings," *New York Times*, October 15, 1973.
13. John Devaney also contributed to Hollander's books, and would go on to edit the *Schenley Pro Football Guide*.
14. David Friedman, "Wayback Machine, Part I: The 1975 Complete Handbook of Pro Basketball," <http://20secondtimeout.blogspot.com/2011/09/wayback-machine-part-i-1975-complete.html>, September 15, 2011.
15. Hollander, Zander (ed). *The 1988 Complete Handbook of Pro Basketball*. New York: Signet, 1987. Available on the Internet Archive (<http://archive.org>). Hollander would prove to be half-right: Carlisle would be released by the Celtics that fall, but played out his career with the Knicks and Nets instead of being selected by the expansion Timberwolves in 1989.
16. John Thorn, "All the Record Books Are Wrong," Our Game blog, <https://ourgame.mlblogs.com/all-the-record-books-are-wrong-340d12173b88>, January 5, 2015. Accessed September 30, 2018.
17. Eventually, by the late 1980's, the *NBA Guide* did list a player's combined NBA and ABA totals, if applicable, but so few ABA alumni were still active by that point that it provided little benefit.
18. Ad in *The Sporting News*, October 18, 1980.
19. Sachare is listed (and photographed) in the NBA directory in *The Sporting News 1984-85 NBA Guide*.
20. The Internet Archive's "Wayback Machine" at <https://web.archive.org/> was essential for discovering early versions of the web sites mentioned in this section.
21. Rob Neyer SABRcast podcast with Sean Forman, Episode #18, July 29, 2019: <https://sabr.org/sabrcast>
22. <http://www.nba.com/news/nba-register-and-nba-guide>
23. [https://www.basketball-reference.com/leaders/pts\\_progress.html](https://www.basketball-reference.com/leaders/pts_progress.html)
24. The NBA began providing a similar NBA Guide and Register, as a .pdf file, in the fall of 2007. See: <http://www.apbr.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=11&t=783&p=2866>. The book series was later relaunched (using *The Sporting News* label) by Stats, Inc., who had published their own "*Pro Basketball Handbook*" for a few years from the late 1990's to the early 2000's.