

How efficient was Kobe?

Nobody can argue against Kobe's ability to get points, his athleticism or the amount of rings he has...and I'm not trying to do that. But I am saying there's at least 50 guys that, when in their prime, I'd put on my hypothetical team ahead of Kobe – This is playing to win one game, with the best talents of all time being available. I'm listing 50 players I'd select before Kobe in creating the best team possible, for one game/playoff series/season to be played in 2023 [today's court, rules, refs, etc.].

Before you go ape shit...how do you differentiate Jordan and Kobe? Both 6'6" or so, athletic like few others, competitive defenders when it matters and can get 30 with ease. The difference between Jordan and Kobe is shooting efficiency....I'm stressing shooting percentages with this list. Counting stats are obviously there for everyone here, but in meeting what this hypothetical situation calls for, an efficient 23 ppg is more valuable than an inefficient 30 ppg. I'm selecting guys to be on a loaded lineup, efficiency is more important considering anybody on the court [this list] could go for 20+. Ability to hit the 3 at a strong clip is also important. The game has evolved to where more 3s are taken and there is a reason for that, no matter how unpleasant to watch it may be.

I pulled the one best **statistical** season for Kobe and all listed below. Defense was also considered in making this list. Steals and blocks don't tell the whole story for many good defenders, so it's obviously subjective. There will also be some names on this list that aren't worth much on defense, but their offense makes up for it...again, for purposes of this hypothetical, I'd take them over Kobe.

One last thought before you consume....Allen Iverson did a lot with very little on that Sixers team that he took to the finals, I think Kobe could have done similarly with that team had he been in Iverson's position. But on a loaded team, I don't need Iverson, and that's how I feel about Kobe as well. So while somebody like Reggie Miller never would have taken that Sixers team to the finals, I'd rather have him on my loaded squad. Reggie's on the list, Iverson isn't

Kobe's best season from an efficiency standpoint was 2008. Kobe played all 82 for the second year in a row and was in his athletic/basketball prime. Kobe was 46.7% from the floor [he never had a year at 47% or better, and was 44.7% for his career]. He shot 35.1% from beyond the arc in 2008 [best year from 3 was in 2002 at 38.3%, well above his career average of 32.9%]

Now before you say f*** this it's all about the playoffs....Kobe's stats in 6 game losing effort against the Celtics that year – **40.5%** from the floor, **32.1%** from 3, **79.6%** at the stripe. Did he have better playoff series efficiencies, I sure as hell hope so! Anyways, cool your jets, kobe-lifers...I know I know, paul pierce and ray allen were tenacious defenders

<https://www.basketball-reference.com/playoffs/2008-nba-finals-lakers-vs-celtics.html>

There's a few old-time lakers in there so you laker homers can correct the order of your all-time lakers lists, kept it very modern though since I didn't want to project who could shoot 3s back when there was no 3 pt line [kept this very objective]....also some fun names at the end just to really piss kobe fans off, LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

The List: [In no particular order] - all stats pulled from basketball-reference.com

Player	Year	Team	GP	Min	Pts	FG%	3pt%	Reb	Ast	Stl	Blk
KOBE!!	2008	Lakers	82	36.1	26.8	46.7	35.1	5.2	4.9	1.5	0.5
Player	Year	Team	GP	Min	Pts	FG%	3pt%	Reb	Ast	Stl	Blk
Jordan	1995	Bulls	82	37.7	30.4	49.5	42.7	6.6	4.3	2.2	0.5
Bird	1984	Celtics	80	39.5	28.7	52.2	42.7	10.5	6.6	1.6	1.2
Lebron	2012	Heat	76	37.9	26.8	56.5	40.6	8	7.2	1.7	0.9
Kawhi	2015	Spurs	72	33.1	21.2	50.6	44.3	6.8	2.6	1.8	1
Steph	2015	Warriors	79	34.2	30.1	50.4	45.4	5.4	6.7	2.1	0.2
Joel Embiid	2020	76ers	51	31.1	28.5	51.3	37.7	10.6	2.8	1	1.4
Jokic	2022	Nuggets	56	33.6	24.5	63.4	39.8	11.8	10	1.2	0.7
Giannis	2020	Bucks	61	33	28.1	56.9	30.3	11	5.9	1.2	1.2
Luka	2022	Mavericks	54	36.5	33.4	50.7	35.5	8.7	8.1	1.5	0.5
KD	2016	Warriors	62	33.4	25.1	53.7	37.5	8.3	4.8	1.1	1.6
Barkley	1989	76ers	79	39.1	25.2	60	21.7	11.5	3.9	1.9	0.6
Dirk	2006	Mavericks	78	36.2	24.6	50.2	41.6	8.9	3.4	0.7	0.8
Steve Nash	2006	Suns	76	35.3	18.6	53.2	45.5	3.5	11.6	0.8	0.1
Olajuwon	1993	Rockets	80	41	27.3	52.8	42.1	11.9	3.6	1.6	3.7
Duncan	2006	Spurs	80	34.1	20	54.6	11.1	10.6	3.4	0.8	2.4
The Admiral	1995	Spurs	82	36.8	25	51.6	33.3	12.2	3	1.4	3.3
Pippen	1993	Bulls	72	38.3	22	49.1	32	8.7	5.6	2.9	0.8
Wilt	1966	76ers	81	45.5	24.1	68.3		24.2	7.8		
Kareem	1979	Lakers	82	38.3	24.8	60.4	0	10.8	4.5	1	3.4
Magic	1983	Lakers	67	38.3	17.6	56.5	20.7	7.3	13.1	2.2	0.7
Worthy	1989	Lakers	80	37	21.1	54.8	30.6	6	3.6	1.2	0.6
West	1967	Lakers	51	37.6	26.3	51.4		5.8	6.1		

Damian Lillard	2019	Trail Blazers	66	37.5	30	46.3	40.1	4.3	8	1.1	0.3
Jayson Tatum	2020	Celtics	64	35.8	26.4	45.9	38.6	7.4	4.3	1.2	0.5
Jaylen Brown	2020	Celtics	58	34.5	24.7	48.4	39.7	6	3.4	1.2	0.6
Klay	2017	Warriors	73	34.3	20	48.8	44	3.8	2.5	0.8	0.5
Chris Paul	2014	Clippers	82	34.8	19.1	48.5	39.8	4.6	10.2	1.9	0.2
Malone	1995	Jazz	82	38	25.7	51.9	40	9.8	4.2	1.7	0.7
Stockton	1994	Jazz	82	35	14.7	54.2	44.9	3.1	12.3	2.4	0.3
Dwayne Wade	2008	Heat	79	38.6	30.2	49.1	31.7	5	7.5	2.2	1.3
Paul Pierce	2009	Celtics	71	34	18.3	47.2	41.4	4.4	3.1	1.2	0.4
Ray Allen	2010	Celtics	80	36.1	16.5	49.1	44.4	3.4	2.7	1	0.2
Penny	1994	Magic	77	37.7	20.9	51.2	34.9	4.4	7.2	1.7	0.3
Ewing	1989	Knicks	82	38.6	28.6	55.1	25	10.9	2.2	1	4
Reggie Miller	1989	Pacers	82	38.9	24.6	51.4	41.4	3.6	3.8	1.3	0.2
Gary Payton	2000	Thunder	79	41.1	23.1	45.6	37.5	4.6	8.1	1.6	0.3
Garnett	2002	Timberwolves	82	40.5	23	50.2	28.2	13.4	6	1.4	1.6
Isiah Thomas	1985	Pistons	77	36.2	20.9	48.8	31	3.6	10.8	2.2	0.3
Dominique	1992	Hawks	71	37.3	29.9	46.8	38	6.8	3.2	1	0.4
Kyrie	2020	Nets	54	34.9	26.9	50.6	40.2	4.8	6	1.4	0
Dr J	1983	76ers	77	34.8	22.4	51.2	33.3	6.9	4	1.8	1.8
Devin Booker	2021	Suns	68	34.5	26.8	46.6	38.3	5	4.8	1.1	0.4
Donovan Mitchell	2022	Cavaliers	55	35.3	27.4	48	38.7	4	4.8	1.5	0.4
Paul George	2020	Clippers	54	33.7	23.3	46.7	41.1	6.6	5.2	1.1	0.4
Jalen Brunson	2022	Knicks	61	35.2	23.9	48.7	41.1	3.6	6.2	0.9	0.2
Ja Morant	2021	Grizzlies	57	33.1	27.4	49.3	34.4	5.7	6.7	1.2	0.4
Anthony Edwards	2022	Timberwolves	66	36.3	24.6	45.8	36.6	5.8	4.5	1.7	0.7
Harden	2022	76ers	47	36.8	22.1	45.2	40.5	6.2	10.6	1.2	0.6
CARMELO	2007	Nuggets	77	36.4	25.7	49.2	35.4	7.4	3.4	1.3	0.5
Shai Gilgeous	Career***		297	32.5	20.5	48.1	34.6	4.5	4.5	1.2	0.7