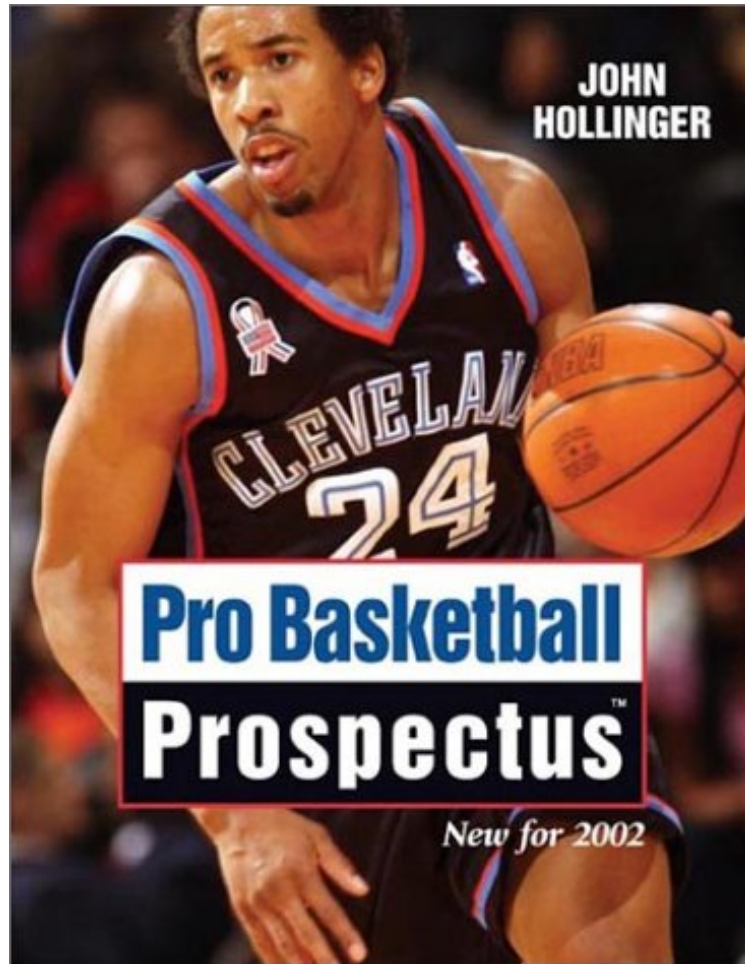


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Pro Basketball Prospectus: 2002 Edition (Pro Basketball Forecast)

John Hollinger

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John Hollinger : Pro Basketball Prospectus: 2002 Edition (Pro Basketball Forecast) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pro Basketball Prospectus: 2002 Edition (Pro Basketball Forecast):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. NBA equivalent of the old Bill James annual By woburnmusicfan John Hollinger is as good an NBA basketball writer as there is today. Last year, in his first "Prospectus", he revealed himself as the Bill James of basketball, an entertaining, funny writer who is both a keen observer of the game and its players, and an expert in innovative methods of using the available statistics to analyze team and individual performance. The book reminded me of James' annual "Baseball Abstract" of the 80s, which I eagerly looked forward to every year. There hasn't been an annual book with a comprehensive scouting report on each NBA player since Rick Barry and Jordan Cohn stopped writing the "Pro Basketball Bible" a few years ago, so Hollinger is filling a big void for NBA diehards. Hollinger's discussions aren't as detailed as Barry/Cohn's, but they're

insightful, accurate, and the best I've found on the book market. He has a good eye for evaluating player skills, and doesn't just recite numbers like a rotisserie league groupie. Basketball statistics aren't as informative as baseball's, and are pretty poor at assessing the defensive end of the floor. Hollinger has come up with measures that give a better indication of a player's value than the official stats, and has the all-too-rare skill of knowing how to PROPERLY use basketball statistics. This year, Hollinger doesn't provide a separate essay on statistics related to each team. Instead, he expands upon last year's methods for determining each team's defense against each position, and provides a "Similarity Scores" method to estimate how a young player's performance might evolve in coming years. The book includes a chapter on each team, with a two-page evaluation of the team's overall performance, followed by a brief statistical summary for each player and a few paragraphs on that player's strengths and weaknesses. This is a book with a limited target audience, but NBA fanatics like myself will find it invaluable. I hope to be buying this book for many years to come. (1=poor 2=mediocre 3=pretty good 4=very good 5=phenomenal) 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. At Last... By Adam Strasberg At last, here's a book that brings the kind of in depth statistical analysis to Basketball that Bill James brought to baseball (and is now carried on by the Baseball Prospectus) so many years ago. Hollinger has written a great book, there is an introduction explaining his methods at the top, then a couple of general essays about the game (On Defense, and the greatest rebounder ever...who you ask? Read the book). Then there are the team essays. Each essay begins with a general overview of the team's season and future prospects, which leads into a statistical discussion about the game or the team ("Are mid-career performance jumps a fluke?" or "Does Defense win Championships?"). Then there are player comments for current players and rookies. The conventional wisdom is always questioned, and the book offers tons of insights (Tracy McGrady better than Kobe, read the book if you don't believe it). I'm not really a big basketball fan anymore, but I have to say I loved this book. It offers cutting edge research into the game. While some of the studies are rough, they are a great beginning for a sport where the statistical analysis has been lacking (much like baseball before James came along). If you're a basketball fan or just a sports statistics fan (I fall into that category) buy this book, it's really top notch work. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Martin Taragano's Basketball Book Reviews By martin taragano After pouring over Pro Basketball Prospectus last winter, this volume has become as popular on my bookshelf as any in my sports library. The content focuses on both team player critical analysis and lively dissection of the "why's" or "why-nots" of a player's or team's success in the NBA. It's much more than a mere statistical overview however; rather the content explores and evaluates the strengths and weaknesses and overall outlook of the forthcoming NBA season vis-a-vis its 29 team rosters. Fans will enjoy the individual player profiles and analysis, somewhat reminiscent of the old Dave Heeren basketball season annuals -- but more in-depth here in PBP, 2003-2004. Moreover, while the book remains on the short side (barely popping over 300 pages) for most can't-get-enough NBA fans, PBP is nonetheless a book full of fascinating overall information. Its content also features evocative insights on players and teams in strong sports prose. The sparseness of each volume of this annual perhaps is what keeps many readers flocking back; that and what Hollinger has to say and analyze about each new NBA season. But for one to hector over such a trivial aspect of the book is not fair. In a word, PBP (last year's version anyway) is a much better choice for NBA Lovers than scanning any online database's impalpable access. A tangible reference such as this by your side feels like a comforting friend with inside-out knowledge expertise on the NBA. Highly didactic in tone from an NBA guru, but well worth The Learn!

Hoops fans want to know more than who won the game. They want to know why their teams won or lost, how they can improve for the next season, and what their chances are to make the playoffs. Pro Basketball Prospectus answers these questions and more. Where other basketball annuals just regurgitate the basic statistics, John Hollinger offers an innovative interpretation of the numbers. He doesn't just tell you who is good or bad; he gives you a new way to appreciate every player's skills and weaknesses. Pro Basketball Prospectus leaves no aspect of NBA basketball unconsidered. Every player's ability to rebound, pass, and score and how his skills affect the team's success are treated in depth. Hollinger's evaluations often vindicate common knowledge, like the historic greatness of John Stockton's passing, but he also shows why Antawn Jamison or Keith Van Horn are also among the league's best. He analyzes teams on the basis of what has happened in past seasons and forecasts what can be expected in the season ahead. For example, who should the Lakers feature offensively, Kobe Bryant or Shaquille O'Neal? In addition, Hollinger evaluates how the change in defensive rules have influenced the game and altered the way some teams play. Every basketball fan will gain incredible new insights into the game from Pro Basketball Prospectus.

"Combines analysis with commentary on each player and biting humor." From the Publisher Includes in-depth analysis of every team and all of today's players About the Author John Hollinger authored the 2004-05 Pro Basketball Forecast and the 2002-03 and 2003-04 editions of the Pro Basketball Prospectus, with his work garnering rave reviews from publications such as the Wall Street Journal, Toronto Star, and Salon.com. Hollinger writes for ESPN.com as one of its NBA Insiders, and also inks regular basketball columns for the New York Sun. Since 1996, he's spearheaded a more analytical approach to pro basketball from his Web site, Alleyoop.com. Hollinger lives in Atlanta.