# Analyzing SGA and the Value of Soaking Up Usage

## Points Above Cost

Ayomide Awoyemi · lumahoops.org/research/sga-soaking-up-usage

On a night where injuries forced OKC to play rookies for 44 minutes, and with only Ajay as another shot creator, SGA scored 43 points on 35 shots (−4.9 rTS). And was a great example of the value of soaking up usage, and why PAC exists. (Efficiency cannot be looked at in a vacuum. It has to be viewed through the lens of opportunity cost.)

**Table 1.** OKC's half-court offense, 2024-25 and 2025-26 regular seasons

| | 2024-25 | 2025-26 |
|---|---|---|
| League half-court points per 100 | 110.2 | 111.2 |
| OKC half-court points per 100 (rank of 30) | 115.6 (3rd) | 114.0 (8th) |
| SGA on the floor | 119.5 (4,619 poss.) | 118.4 (4,184 poss.) |
| SGA off the floor, games he played (rank equivalent) | **105.2 (25th; 1,864 poss.)** | **106.5 (27th; 1,885 poss.)** |
| Games he missed | 117.5 (6 games) | 110.7 (14 games) |
| SGA's share of OKC's unassisted half-court field goals | **45.9%** | **42.7%** |
| Next player | Jalen Williams, 20.2% | Ajay Mitchell, 12.1% |
| Teammates' attempts that are self-created, SGA on / off | **34.5% / 48.7%** | **32.8% / 48.2%** |
| Teammates' eFG, self-created / all other shots | 45.9% / 60.4% | 47.5% / 57.8% |
| Teammates' true shooting, SGA on / off | 58.0% / 55.7% | 58.1% / 56.0% |

Half court: possessions with no shot tagged fastbreak. Self-created: attempts tagged pull-up, step-back, fadeaway, turnaround or driving. Teammates: every OKC player except SGA. Rank equivalent: where that figure would place among the 30 teams that season. Data: public NBA play-by-play, 2024-25 and 2025-26 regular seasons. LUMA Basketball Research · lumahoops.org

SGA soaked up 37% of OKC's shooting possessions, with 34 of his 35 shots coming in the half court.

Last season, even when healthier, OKC was notoriously poor in half-court creation. With SGA off, OKC scored 105.8 points per 100 HC possessions, 5 pts under league avg. With him on, it was 118.3 (13 pts above). Without him, his teammates took 95 shots per 100 possessions instead of 65, and the share of their makes that were assisted fell from 75% to 67%.

And in just 200 possessions w/o this season, they are −19 in the half court than vs W/him.

The two things that kill efficiency when scaling up: increase in shot load and shot difficulty.

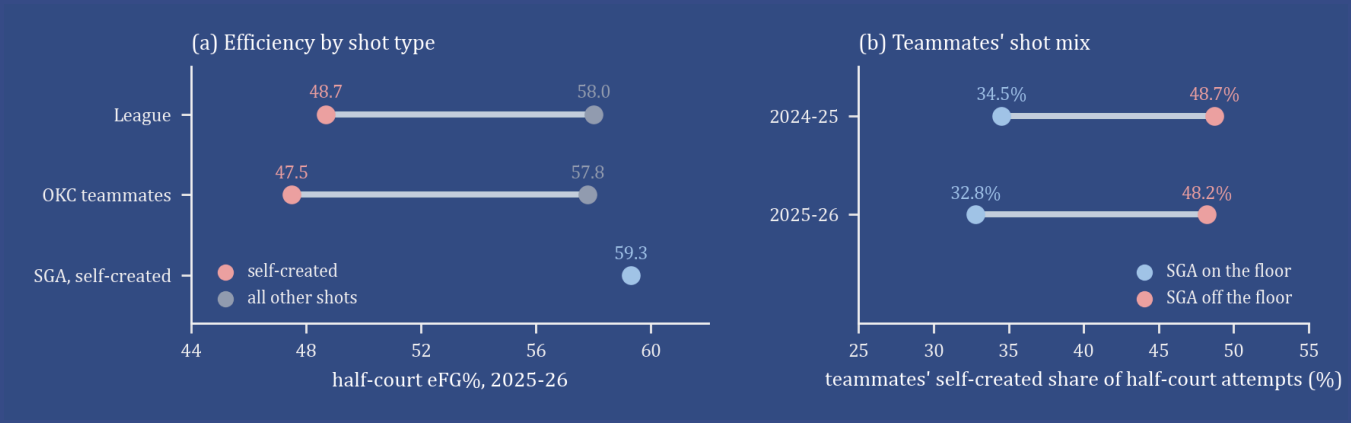



**Figure 1.** (a) Half-court eFG on self-created shots and on all other shots, 2025-26. (b) Share of OKC teammates' half-court attempts that are self-created, SGA on and off the floor. Self-created: attempts tagged pull-up, step-back, fadeaway, turnaround or driving.

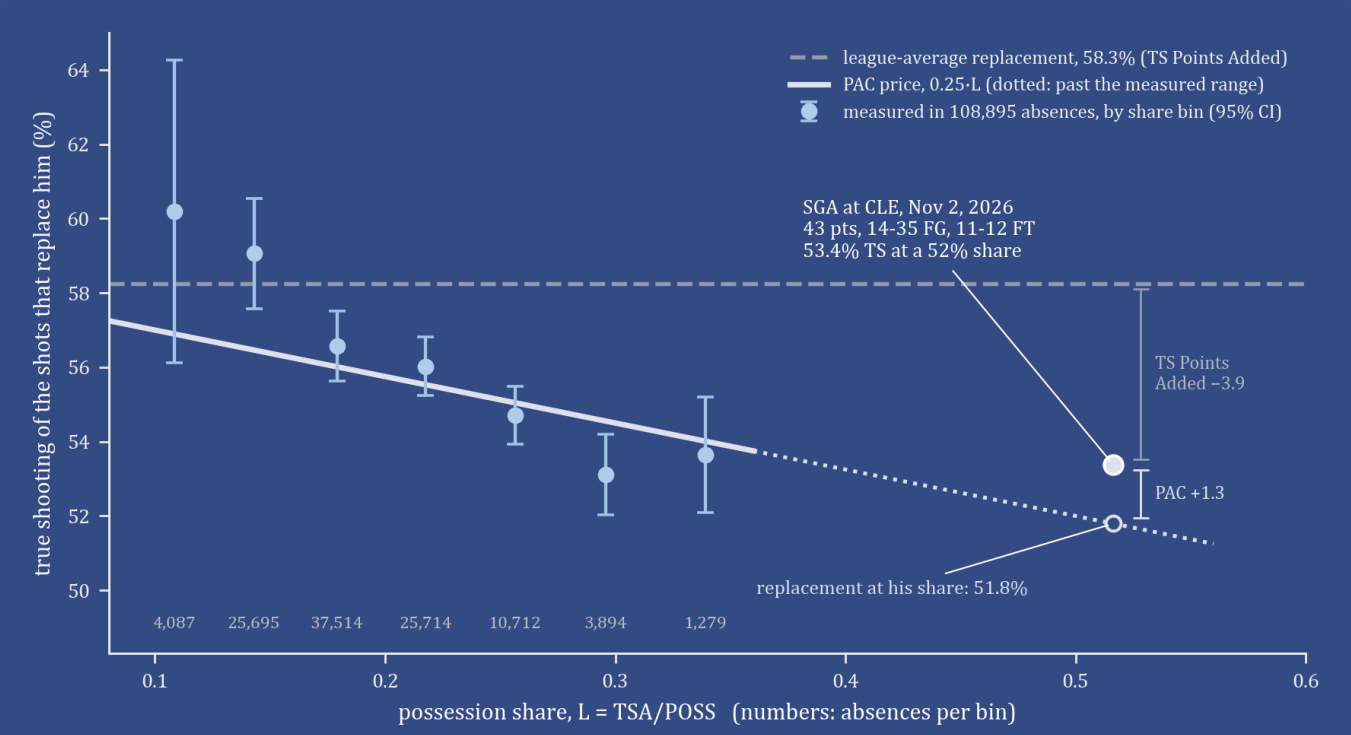
**Table 2.** Half-court offensive RAPM, 2024-25 and 2025-26 pooled (players with 3,000+ half-court offensive possessions)

| Rank | Player | Half-court O-RAPM | Half-court poss. | All-possession O-RAPM (rank) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Stephen Curry | +6.19 | 6,550 | +5.85 (4th) |
| **2** | **Shai Gilgeous-Alexander** | **+6.13** | **8,803** | **+5.99 (2nd)** |
| 3 | Nikola Jokić | +6.12 | 8,533 | +6.54 (1st) |
| 4 | Jamal Murray | +5.90 | 8,966 | +5.41 (5th) |
| 5 | Giannis Antetokounmpo | +5.27 | 6,120 | +5.88 (3rd) |
| 6 | Kawhi Leonard | +4.48 | 5,700 | +4.89 (6th) |
| 7 | LaMelo Ball | +4.41 | 6,363 | +4.50 (7th) |
| 8 | Luka Dončić | +4.18 | 7,342 | +4.44 (8th) |
| 9 | Karl-Anthony Towns | +3.75 | 8,580 | +3.77 (9th) |
| 10 | Austin Reaves | +3.61 | 7,772 | +3.12 (18th) |

Points per 100 offensive possessions above average, holding the other nine players fixed (309 qualified players).
Data: public NBA play-by-play, 2024-25 and 2025-26 regular seasons. LUMA Basketball Research · lumahoops.org

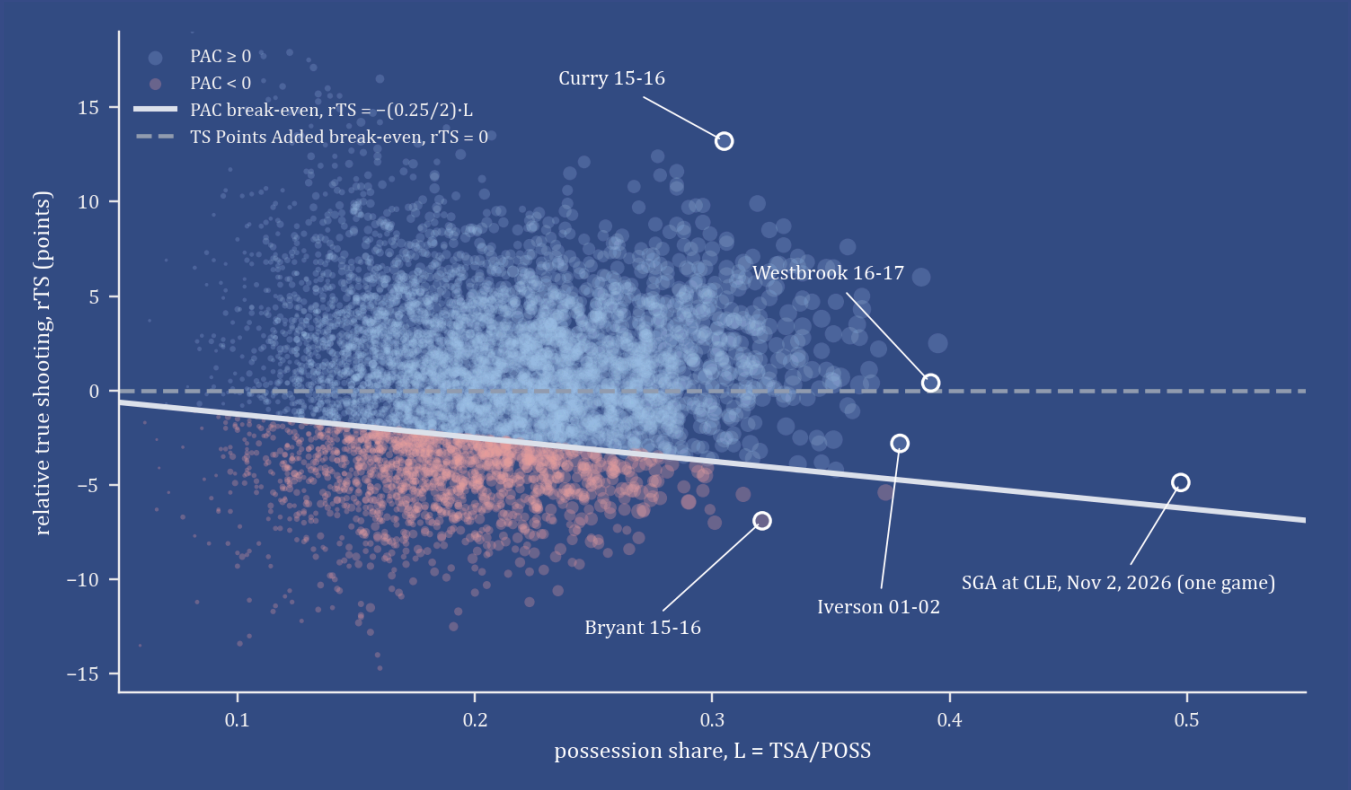
To put into perspective just how much conversion is a skill: last night SGA made contested shots at the same rate that his teammates made open ones, 45% (9-20) vs 46% (18-39). League-wide last season, catch-and-shoot eFG was 55.0%. Pull-up eFG, at 45.9%.

When making PAC I analyzed over 108,000 absences, and the shots that would have replaced SGA's shooting load come back around 52% TS. SGA, despite the kitchen sink being thrown at him, shot 53.4% TS.




What a player's shooting possessions return when teammates take them, by his share of the offense. Measured gaps converted to TS% at the 2025-26 league average (58.3%). LUMA Basketball Research · lumahoops.org/pac

If anything this OKC team is uniquely comprised of non-shot creators and the true shooting would have been worse. And those 1.3 points of added efficiency don't account for how their shot diet is easier due to SGA gravity.




Original PAC Post: x.com/Starro___/status/2105998734454632459

## League leaders in half-court O-RAPM

| # | Player | Team | HC O-RAPM | HC poss. | O-RAPM, all poss. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | **Shai Gilgeous-Alexander** | **OKC** | **+6.26** | **9,216** | **+6.19** 2nd |
| 2 | Stephen Curry | GSW | **+6.24** | 6,844 | +6.05 3rd |
| 3 | Nikola Jokić | DEN | **+6.06** | 9,009 | +6.52 1st |
| 4 | Jamal Murray | DEN | **+5.75** | 9,346 | +5.31 5th |
| 5 | Giannis Antetokounmpo | MIL | **+5.33** | 6,224 | +5.95 4th |
| 6 | Kawhi Leonard | LAC | **+4.64** | 5,899 | +5.11 6th |
| 7 | LaMelo Ball | CHA | **+4.51** | 6,526 | +4.56 7th |
| 8 | Luka Dončić | LAL | **+3.97** | 7,559 | +4.11 8th |
| 9 | Karl-Anthony Towns | NYK | **+3.97** | 8,813 | +4.05 9th |
| 10 | Kon Knueppel | CHA | **+3.54** | 4,737 | +3.44 11th |

2024–25 and 2025–26. Top 10 of 314 players with 3,000+ half-court possessions. Every 2-year window since 2021–22: lumahoops.org/research/sga-soaking-up-usage

## On/off impact on half-court scoring

**Shai Gilgeous-Alexander**, OKC

| Season | On | Off | Off rank | On – off | HC O-RAPM, 2-year | Unast. FG | Teammates' TS%, on / off |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2026–27* | **118.3** | **94.1** | 30th | **+24.2** | +4.69 2nd | 44.9% | 58.9 / 47.6 |
| 2025–26 | **119.0** | **106.7** | 26th | **+12.2** | +6.26 1st | 42.6% | 58.3 / 56.2 |
| 2024–25 | **119.9** | **105.7** | 25th | **+14.2** | +5.52 2nd | 46.5% | 58.3 / 55.9 |
| 2023–24 | **118.4** | **107.5** | 23rd | **+11.0** | +3.81 8th | 43.4% | 59.7 / 58.8 |
| 2022–23 | **113.0** | **103.8** | 30th | **+9.2** | +2.86 23rd | 36.0% | 55.2 / 54.4 |
| 2021–22 | **103.0** | **94.5** | 30th | **+8.5** | — | 31.0% | 52.0 / 50.9 |

Team points per 100 half-court possessions. Off: games he played. *2026–27 through 2026-11-04. Any player: lumahoops.org/research/sga-soaking-up-usage

## High-volume games

| Date | Player | Game | PTS | TSA | Share | TS% | Break-even | PAC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3/10/26 | Bam Adebayo | MIA v WAS | 83 | **61.9** | 0.60 | 67.0 | 50.7 | +20.2 |
| 11/10/25 | Cade Cunningham | DET v WAS | 46 | **52.9** | 0.57 | 43.5 | 51.1 | −8.1 |
| 1/22/24 | Joel Embiid | PHI v SAS | 70 | **51.1** | 0.67 | 68.5 | 49.8 | +19.1 |
| 3/29/24 | Jalen Brunson | NYK v SAS | 61 | **49.6** | 0.57 | 61.4 | 51.0 | +10.3 |
| 12/28/22 | Giannis Antetokounmpo | MIL v CHI | 45 | **46.5** | 0.53 | 48.4 | 51.6 | −3.0 |
| 4/7/24 | Tyrese Maxey | PHI v SAS | 52 | **46.3** | 0.40 | 56.2 | 53.2 | +2.8 |
| 2/2/23 | Giannis Antetokounmpo | MIL v LAC | 54 | **45.6** | 0.60 | 59.2 | 50.8 | +7.7 |
| 1/2/23 | Donovan Mitchell | CLE v CHI | 71 | **45.0** | 0.44 | 78.9 | 52.8 | +23.5 |
| 3/28/24 | Dejounte Murray | ATL v BOS | 44 | **44.9** | 0.50 | 49.0 | 51.9 | −2.6 |
| 2/26/23 | Damian Lillard | POR v HOU | 71 | **44.2** | 0.55 | 80.4 | 51.5 | +25.5 |

Games with 35+ true-shooting attempts (top 0.1% of player-games), 2021–22 to 2026–27; top 10 of 138.

Data: public NBA play-by-play. © 2026 Court Share LLC. LUMA Basketball Research · lumahoops.org