

# How important is rebounding?

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I've often wondered just how important rebounding is in both real life basketball and Strat-O-Matic's version. One cannot really tell in real life pro ball and we could argue for a long time over stats and opinions of experts and amateurs alike.

In S-O-M's Basketball game, however, it is possible to get some idea of how important rebounding is and at which positions a coach needs to put his strong board crashers.

In one action deck, the key to S-O-M's Basketball game, there are 119 rebound readings (two on each of 59 cards and one card with a single reading). Of these readings, 82 require a rating and 37 are "freebies."

## OPTIMUM RATINGS

If you know your S-O-M Basketball basics, then you know that the best ratings are obviously anything higher than 15 whether you're on offense or defense. But what's next after the "Any 15+" and "any 7+" ratings? Does it matter whether you're on offense or not?

Surprisingly enough, it does make a difference whether you're on offense or defense. Right forward is the only position in S-O-M Basketball at which offensive rebounding is more important than defensive rebounding. On offense, RF has no rebound readings which require an offensive rebound rating higher than a four while on defense, your RF only needs to be a three to get the toughest RF rebounds.

The highest rebound ratings needed at each position (excluding 7+ and 15+) are listed below:

POSITION	OFFENSE	DEFENSE	
LF	4	6	Surprisingly enough, the left forward needs to have a higher defensive rebounding rating than the center.
LG	3	4	
RG	3	4	
RF	4	3	
C	4	5	

This chart tends to explain why the average S-O-M Basketball player tends to have a better defensive rebounding rating than offensive. The offensive rating doesn't need to be as high.

## WHO HAS TO HAVE GOOD RATINGS?

Naturally, we must not assume that S-O-M generously hands these rebounds out in equal portions as that would obviously be unrealistic. So where should your rebounders be?

Left forward is still the most important rebounding position on the team. LF needs a rating of 1 or better on 18 rebound readings in the action deck. Center is a close second as it needs a 1 or better rating on 17 different rebound readings. The other three positions each need a 1 or better on 13 different readings.

In other words, Alton Lister of the 1984-85 Bucks, a 4-6 rebounder, is going to get (assuming every LF rebounding reading came up in an equal amount of playing time) 18 more rebounds than would Tom McMillen of the '84-85 Bullets, a 0-0 rebounder at LF.

## WHAT ABOUT THE CENTER?

We're all probably used to thinking that in pro basketball the  
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center is the most important rebounder on the floor. Well, in S-O-M, despite the act that the LF works harder for his rebounds, the center will still get more rebounds than the average LF on the same team, as do most NBA centers. Why?

The freebies. There are 37 rebounds which are handed to someone without consulting any rebounding ratings. Of these, eight are team rebounds (six for the defense, two for the offense) and the rest go to either the defensive LF, RF, or center.

Twelve go to the DC, nine go to the DLF and eight go to the DRF. That helps centers make up lost ground on the left forwards. But not very much.

So S-O-M, in its infinite wisdom, helps the centers out a little bit more. Did you ever notice that when a rating is necessary and the player involved isn't good enough, that the rebound always goes to his defender? For example, "DLF 6, if not-DLF"?

Whoops, not always. On 10 rebound readings where a defensive guard's rating is consulted, the offensive center gets any missed rebounds the defensive guards can't handle. This does three things:

1. Gives the centers that many more easy rebounds that the LFs can't get.
2. Makes guards much more important on the defensive boards than they are on the offensive boards (who wants their guards giving Moses and Kareem a lot of easy rebound shots because the guards can't rebound?)
3. Makes up for poor offensive rebounding centers like Jabbar and Mark Eaton...

So while it's true that S-O-M centers generally tend to outrebound everybody, as do real-life centers, it must be noted by aspiring S-O-M coaches that left forward is the position where you need the higher ratings.

#### DON'T BE FOOLED BY 'GLAMOROUS' RATINGS

One more item of interest: Don't be fooled by glamorous but meaningless ratings. Remember, when a reading asks for "any player 7 or more," it doesn't matter whether the guy is a seven or a 14 - he still gets the job done.

The same goes for "Any 15 or more." What difference does it make whether he's a 15 or a 50? Either one will get the rebound you're after.

The only reason that S-O-M bothers giving out ratings other than 7 or 15 for those guys is so that we can compare two excellent rebounders.

This system tells us that 1984-85 Detroit's Major Jones is a slightly better defensive rebounder at RF than is Dan Roundfield. But other than that, the ratings serve no real purpose. Either of those guys is going to tear the backboard right off the post for you.

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