

THE A-Z OF THE NBA ISSUE

HOOOP



AN OFFICIAL NBA PUBLICATION



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Tech Coaches

Wearable tech has infiltrated the basketball court, helping ballers get better in the form of metrics, motivation and feedback to their game. The following connected devices all excel in a particular area of the game, and combined will serve as a virtual basketball coach that should reap dividends to your game, while telling the entire world—or at least those in your social circle—about it.

ShotTracker

The ShotTracker has the ballplayer in mind, as it was co-designed by former D-III college player Davyeon Ross, who once led the nation in field-goal shooting percentage and studied computer science while at Benedictine University.

The ShotTracker is comprised of a wrist sensor, a net sensor and the app. Combined it sends signals from the wrist sensor (worn either in the included wristband or shooting sleeve) of a shot attempt, the net sensor (attachable to the basketball net) tracks makes and misses to the app, which gathers all the data into your smartphone.



STRENGTHS: When it comes to shooting the basketball, nothing on the market beats the ShotTracker. From our tests, we found the results of makes and misses to be accurate over 99 percent of the time (rare anomalies like a front rim bounce or a toilet-bowl roll on the rim might trigger a false reading). The long battery life (8 hours on the wrist sensor, 3 months on the net sensor) means it doesn't require too much micromanaging between sessions.

For coaches, the ShotTracker gives the added benefit of allowing personalized workouts for their players, while being able to remotely keeping tabs as they watch them improve.

WEAKNESSES: As a shooting-centric device, the ShotTracker doesn't really focus too much on things outside of shooting. Things like ballhandling and speed drills are virtually nonexistent.

Price: \$149.99

94Fifty Smart Sensor Basketball

From first looks, the Smart Sensor Basketball looks like your average ball (most folks who tried it didn't even give it a second look) and it even feels like a good quality ball, but embedded inside are nine sensors (accelerometer and gyroscope) that track dribbling and shooting, all via Bluetooth on your Android or iOS device. The ball is charged inductively, or wirelessly, by placing it atop the included ball stand.

STRENGTHS: The 94Fifty Smart Sensor Basketball really excels in dribbling drills. The sensors are able to pick up the nuances of good ballhandling—dribble speed, dribble power, figure-8s, crossover speed (with both hands)—to really improve on one's handle. The included drills will push you to improve and the immediate data after each one will serve as motivation to keep you going.

WEAKNESSES: The ball does focus on shooting—things like shot arc and backspin are tracked—but unfortunately, makes and misses have to be tracked the old-fashioned way (pen and paper) as the ball cannot determine if the shot goes in. It's not a huge drawback, but going low tech does take away from the experience a bit.

Price: \$249.95



Blast Basketball

Less basketball training device and more a social sharing basketball experience, Blast Basketball is a wearable sensor that will capture performance metrics like vertical jump height, body rotation and hang time. This data can be incorporated into video (separate Blast ActionCam needed) highlights to be shared via email and social networks.

STRENGTHS: It's a cinch to use. Just clip the pin-sized sensor onto your shorts and you can start making *SportsScience*-worthy clips. For the athletically inclined who yearn to show off to the world their dunk game and vert, Blast Basketball is hard to beat. Consider it the best narcissistic basketball tech device in the marketplace.

WEAKNESSES: Outside of showing off your game, there's not too much to Blast Basketball. Perhaps it's best to start with the basic training the 94Fifty Smart Basketball and ShotTracker afford to develop your skills before you start stunting with Blast Basketball.

Price: \$149.99