

## Partizan Belgrade | Euroleague | Adriatic League

After failing to qualify for nearly a decade, Serbian powerhouse Partizan Belgrade returned to the Euroleague this season and has managed to win 8 of the last 10 games, despite a 4-9 start.

In **The Playbook**, we explore the strategies, numbers, and personnel behind their turnaround and what is needed for a successful playoff push.



*\*All stats as of 2/8/23*

### What works well

#### A very balanced offense

- 1st in Off Rating 121.0; 1st in 3PT% 39.4
- 1st in FG% 49.8; 3rd in PPG 84.3
  - 10 players who score between 4.2-14.9 PPG

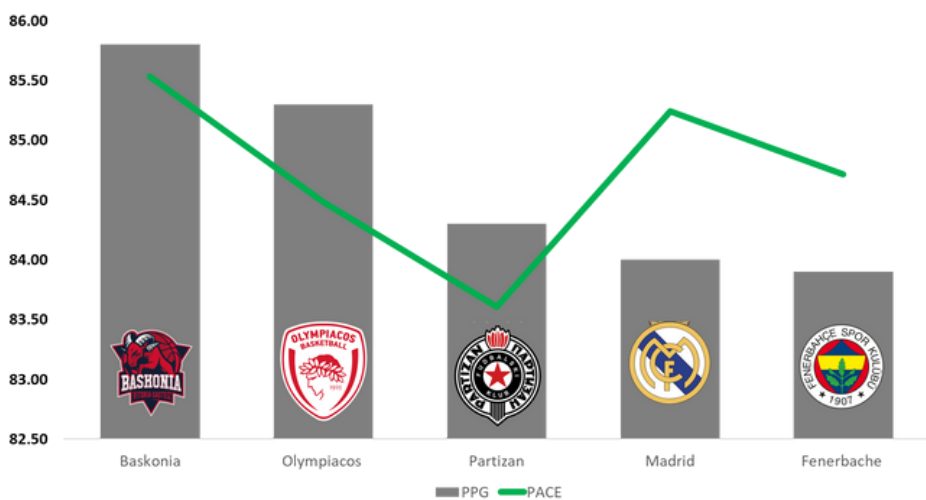
#### Efficiency at the line

- 2nd in Fouls Drawn (PFD), 22.5/game
- 1st in FTM 17.2; 3rd in FTA 21

#### Aggressive guard play + ball security

- 6th in 2PTA 37.3; 4th in 2PTM 20.8
- 5th lowest T/O rate 11.6

PPG x PACE



### What stands out

- **Slow pace, but highly efficient**
  - **Pace:** 68.9, 5th lowest in the EL
  - **PPG:** 84.3 (see graph)
- **Quality shot selection**
  - 1st in 3PT%
  - 17th in 3PtA, 21.6/game
- **Inside approach**
  - 8 of 11 rotation players take more 2-pointers than 3s
  - 17th in 3ptA, 21.6

### The Playbook

- **Intentionally Slow** - Partizan's approach is designed to slow the game down, **limiting possessions (for opponents) = fewer opportunities to score**
- **Defense Wins** - During the first 13 games (4-9), Partizan allowed 87.38 PPG --> last 10, 77.5 PPG
  - The Serbians have held opponents under 80 points in 7 of the last 10 games (**8 wins**)
- **Key to Victory** - their offense improved slightly: **82.3 PPG/first 13 games** --> **84.2 PPG last 10**
  - The offense has been good, but the **defense has been great** (credit to coach Obradovic)



## The Spotlight | Mathias Lessort

The 6'9 French national has been essential for Partizan's Euroleague success, and is one of the top bigs in the competition, **averaging 12.7 PPG and 7.2 RPG.**

Although a veteran in Europe (with prior stops in Red Star (Belgrade), Bayern (Munich), Maccabi (Tel-Aviv), Lessort has taken a major leap this season, earning the trust of coach Obradovic to lead the team in **MPG, 30:57.**

### The Numbers

- While shooting 69%, Lessort leads Partizan and/or the Euroleague in multiple categories, including -->
- In all statistical categories, he is at least top 5 (club/league)
- Per game stats as of 2/8/23

| Partizan           | Euroleague     |
|--------------------|----------------|
| PIR (1st)          | TOT Rebs (1st) |
| MP (1st)           | OFF Reb (1st)  |
| OFF/TOT Rebs (1st) | PIR (2nd)      |
| BLKs (1st)         | 2PM (2nd)      |
| 2PTa (1st)         | FTA (4th)      |
| FD (1st)           | FD (4th)       |

### The Exceptional

- **Lessort** is very active on the offensive end, excels around the rim, and knows how to position himself for easy duck-ins, putbacks, and dunks [see here](#)
- As an **undersized big** (6'9), he is still the team's **defensive anchor**, using his mobility to protect the paint
- **Despite playing the most minutes** for Partizan, Lessort's motor is always on high rev, and his work ethic brings **fans out of their seats**

### Player Comparisons

**Jan Vesely**, 2017-18 with Fenerbahçe

- 12.5 PPG/2.5 OReb, shooting 60.9% on 2-pointers
- Excelled in the with a high motor + constant energy

**Mike Batiste**, 2005-06 with Panathinaikos

- 13.3 PPG /1.8 OReb, shooting 65.7% on 2-pointers
- High motor + lob threat, dominant inside the paint

