

Mathscapes
May 2026

Title

Keeping An Edge

Real world event

NBA Finals

Problem

Your favorite team is in the NBA Finals, which is a best-of-7 series against a single opponent. The series is over once a team wins more than half of the maximum total number of games (which is once a team wins 4 games). Against this opponent, your team wins with probability $2/3$.

What is the probability that your team would win the series?