Does Hassan Whiteside deserve a franchise player’s salary?

7’0 Center, Hassan Whiteside, made $23.7 million for the 2017-18 season. That number is tied for No. 20 out of all active NBA players, alongside Anthony Davis, Andre Drummond, and Bradley Beal. Next season, he is guaranteed $24.4 million, and $27 million of the 2019-20 season. He’s the highest played active player on the Miami Heat roster.

For the 2017-18 season, Whiteside averaged 14.0 points per game, 11.4 rebounds per game, and 1.7 blocks per game. He leads the team in rebounds and blocks. However, Whiteside only played 54 out of the 82 games, marking him as unqualified for rankings by ESPN; a qualified player must play 70% of the season. Among all players in the league, qualified and nonqualified, he was sixth in rebounds, eighth in blocks, and 85th in scoring in the NBA.

Although Whiteside was a key asset to the Heat’s success in the regular season, helping them to finish sixth in the Eastern Conference, he was nowhere to be found when the team needed him most in the playoffs. He averaged 15.2 minutes per game, 5.2 points per game, 6.0 rebounds per game, and 1.2 blocks per game, and started all five games versus the Philadelphia 76ers in the first round. His only stellar game in the playoffs was 13 points and 13 rebounds in game 4.

His numbers have decreased since the last two seasons. For the 2016-17 season, he averaged 17.0 points per game and 14.1 rebounds per game, and was selected on to the NBA All-Defense Second team. He also led the NBA in rebounding. For the 2015-16 season, he averaged 14.2 points per game and 11.8 rebounds per game in the regular season, and 12.0 points per game and 10.9 rebounds per game in the post season. He led the NBA in blocks for that season as well. In the 2014-15 season, he averaged 11.8 points per game and 10.0 rebounds per game.

Whiteside has been consistent the past two years averaging double figures in points and rebounds. Yet, he has yet to earn an All-Star selection. Goran Dragic, star shooting guard for the Miami Heat, was able to earn an all-star selection last season, but he still makes less than Hassan Whiteside. 6’10 Center, Anthony Davis, is a five time NBA All-Star, three time all-NBA First Team selection, and a three time NBA blocks leader, yet he makes the same amount of money as Whiteside.

Are franchise players decided on what they have already done in the regular season or postseason? Are franchise salaries based on consistency or value to the team? Hassan Whiteside has shown consistent numbers the past few seasons, but at the end of the day, he is not helping the Miami Heat get out of the first round of the playoffs. He may be the Miami Heat’s most vital post player, but that does not mean is worth taking up most of the Heat’s salary cap. If the Miami Heat are to improve their roster, they should consider decreasing Whiteside’s salary to bring in better players.