Do migrant footballers on a country's national team lead to better FIFA rankings?

- What is the problem you want to solve?

    The prevailing image of a migrant is that of a low-skilled refugee or perhaps an asylum seeker fleeing war. Less attention is paid to the high-skilled migrants who due to their in-demand skill sets are highly mobile, seeking jobs where there is demand. Among this group of high-skilled migrants, even less attention is paid to football players who have been playing for countries other than those of their birth.

    As an example, the 2018 Men's World Cup in Russia was won by the French who fielded a team composed of two foreign born players while the runner's up Croatia had four foreign born players. It was perhaps due to these foreign born players differing backgrounds (therefore contributing a varied skill set) that these teams were ultimately able to prevail.

    I therefore intend to evaluate the hypothesis that having more foreign born players lead to better FIFA rankings in men's football. This would provide a different angle to the debates raging during this time of increasing ethnonationalism about what migrants contribute to their host countries.

- Who is your client and why do they care about this problem? In other words, what will your client do or decide based on your analysis that they wouldn't have done otherwise?

    The clients are policy makers evaluating and making decisions on migration. With this analysis, I hope to provide more clarity on the boon to a host nation of having more open migration policies, with an emphasis on the social cohesion and cultural benefit of having successful Men's national teams.

- What data are you using? How will you acquire the data?

    I will be using two datasets. The first, is a list of foreign born players playing for men's national football teams in the FIFA World Cup from 1930 until 2018. The second is a list of FIFA world rankings of men's national football teams from 1992 to 2019.

- Briefly outline how you'll solve this problem. Your approach may change later, but this is a good first step to get you thinking about a method and solution.

    I will track the changes in a country's FIFA world rankings from 1992 onwards and compare it to the number of foreign born players who have played

in the world cup during the same timeline. Because the list of players is only for players who have qualified for the world cup, the countries I will focus on will be ones which have qualified for the world cup.

- What are your deliverables? Typically, this includes code, a paper, or a slide deck.

    I will produce a notebook with the code and a slide set for presentation.