Van hoofdstuk 1 naar 2 verplaatsen

Fischer & Haucap (2020) for example see a significant effect of stadium occupancy rate on home team performance by comparing home advantage before and during Covid-19. Goumas (2013) and Nevill, Newell and Gale (1996)

Previous research conducted by van de Ven (2016) signal a small effect of age on team performance, with teams with a higher average age performing slightly better away than teams with a lower average age.

Goumas (2014) finds that home teams on average win more games, collect more points, and score more goals than away teams. The authors findings resonate with results from earlier studies such as those conducted by Clarke and Norman (1995) and Pollard, (2006). Both studies found a continual advantage for teams playing at home across countries and time. However, the exact source of home advantage and the role of crowd support herein remains debatable. Pollard & Polla[rd (2005](https://shapeamerica.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02640410601038576?scroll=top&needAccess=true)) for example negate the role of crowd support in the formation of home advantage whereas Smith (2003) argues that the performance boost for home teams as a consequence of crowd support is the main driver of home advantage. Crowd support could also affect match outcome through referees decisions. (Bokyo, 2007; Neville & Holder, 1999) find that crowds could influence referee decisions subconsciously in favor of the home team. This favoritism is often named the “referee bias”, a term we will use as well in our research from now on. Endrich & Gesche (2020) quantify the referee bias in their paper where they find that away teams on average receive 0.3 cards less and home teams 0.5 cards more per match when there are no spectators.

A second stream of literature focuses on the

where extant research is sparse. The only paper that we have knowledge about that examines the effect of age on home and away team performance is

This thesis is divided into 5 chapters. The first chapter serves as a background chapter for the rest of the thesis in which we outline the concept to be researched in combination with the academic and managerial relevance. In the second chapter we construct the theoretical framework that will represent the basis of the empirical analysis in the later sections.We analyze the current literature to obtain an overview of what is currently known and define the conceptual framework that serves as overview of the relationships we examine. In chapter 3 we meticulously describe the data set and the variables we use to define the concepts that we want to analyze. Once those concepts are defined, we provide model free evidence to examine trends in home and away team performance. Based on our findings from the variable selection and data structure, we elect the most suitable method of analysis. In the fourth chapter we summarize the analysis and findings of our model to answer the empirical questions. To maintain stability in our findings, we extend our model with a robustness check. Finally, in our last chapter, we generate conclusions and recommendations based on our findings. This chapter will provide soccer club management with deeper insights into the drivers of team performance at home, and to what extent these can be influenced by management. In contrast, we discuss the limitations of this study and provide a guideline for possible future research in this area.