

Who Is the Best Soccer Player in the World?

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1. ABSTRACT

According to sportsshow.net, soccer is considered as the most popular sport in the world with 3.5 billion estimated fans, especially in Europe, Africa, Asia, and America. For this final project, we wanted to discover who the best soccer player in the world is. In order to find out, we explored the FIFA 19 data set, known for one of the most popular soccer games in the world. We used Tableau to create interactive visualizations to play around with the data set. After analyzing the data set, we came up with the conclusion of who the best soccer player in the world is.

2. INTRODUCTION

If you are a fan of soccer, you might wonder who the most talented soccer player in the world is. As the new generation constantly appears, it's interesting to see who the best player is right now. FIFA 19 player statistics data set provides individual player's overall rating, detailed statistics, and his player information. Using this data set, we were able to explore the world of soccer even closer and discover the insights of world's greatest soccer players.

3. PROCESS

First, we wanted to make a player card for each player, which shows his name, jersey number, how much he earns as a soccer player, what club he plays for, position, and the date he joined the club. If you wonder about a certain player's information (player card), there is a search bar in the dashboard where you can search the name of the player. After, if you click on the box that's right next to the name, you will be able to see the player card of his. Then, we created a couple more sheets of visualization to interact with the data better. In Tableau, if the data set is huge, it will take a while to load the data and control the features within the program. We learned how to be patient to interact with the data. We wanted to group the players by which country they are from. It was interesting to see some of the famous countries that are known for World Cup contenders actually do produce many players in the top ranking of this data set. Then, we grouped the players by position as well to see which positions are the most popular among the players. To avoid unconscious bias since there are way too many positions in soccer, we organized the positions in three categories: forward, midfield and defense. We found out that the most position of the top-ranked players are forward.

We ranked each player based on their overall rating and detailed statistics that the data set provided. The interactive visualization includes top 1, top 5, etc., where you can see the groups of highly ranked players.

Players Card

Neymar Jr, JERSEY #10

Wage: Value: €118.5M

CLUB: Paris Saint-Germain

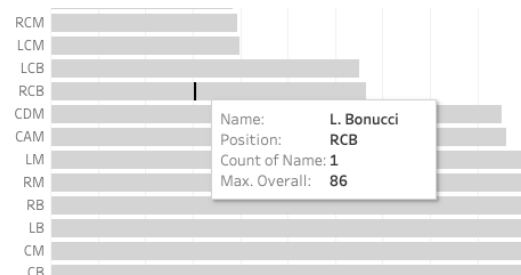
Position: LW

Joined: 2017-08-03

This is an example of "player card". As displayed, there's a name of the player, his jersey number, wage, club information, position, and the date he joined the club.

Brazil	Neymar Jr	2	92
Croatia	L. Modrić	3	91
England	H. Kane	5	89
France	A. Griezmann	5	89
	N. Kanté	5	89
Germany	M. Neuer	5	89
	M. ter Stegen	5	89
	T. Kroos	4	90

This figure shows illustrates the countries the top-ranked players are from. The number that's right next to the name is an example of the ranking given by us followed by the overall rating the data set provided.



This figure illustrates players' position as well as the overall rating the data set provided.

Cristiano Ronaldo	K. De Bruyne
L. Messi	L. Modrić
Neymar Jr	L. Suárez
De Gea	Sergio Ramos
E. Hazard	D. Godín

Darker color means the higher ranking based on their detailed statistics.

4. CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS

Based on our research and creating visualizations, we found out that **Lionel Messi** and **Cristiano Ronaldo** are the best soccer players in the world with an overall rating of 94 and the ranking number 1. To support this argument, Lionel Messi recently just won a Ballon d'Or award of 2019, which is an annual football award presented by France Football. Overall, it was incredibly interesting to visualize the data interactively via Tableau. It was fun to look at each player's detailed statistics and analyze who's better than the other. Tableau is one of many things we learned in this class and we are glad that we used the program to complete our final project.

5. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

We conducted our research through scholarly and non-scholarly articles. The data set that we worked with was a csv file, obtained from Kaggle. All of our visualization components were created on Tableau.

6. REFERENCES

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