

EURO 2020 FANTEAM MD6 DRAFT USING DATA MODEL

The Quarter-finals didn't really throw any spanner into the works as all 4 favourites have sailed through to the next round, i.e., the Semi-finals! England's battering of Ukraine really put a marker down for their competitors, and they are now clear favourites to lift the trophy on Sunday! The transfer window preceding MD6 is a final opportunity to make changes to the team in terms of bringing players in and transferring them out, since there won't be a transfer window before the Final! Backing 2 teams heavily seems to be the way ahead, which could derail all the progress made by some teams.

Due to lack of reliable resources such as [FPL Review](#), and a lack of expected data for international events such as World Cup 22 Qualifiers, Euro 20 Qualifiers, Nations League, etc. from the normally reliable [FBREF](#), I decided to build my own data model for the Euro Fantasy game. There are individuals with tremendous knowledge of the analytical aspect in the FPL community, so if someone wants to build their own data model, I would highly recommend [Corridor of Uncertainty FPL podcast](#) as the starting point. A brief "peek under the hood" has been explored in the first article of this series (<https://www.fanteamfocus.com/strategy/euro-2020-fanteam-md3-draft-using-data-model>).

Before we have a look at the Expected Value (EV) optimised team for MD6/Semi-Final, let's review how the EV-optimised team for MD5 performed:



The MD5 draft had an EV of **62.5 xPts** and it ended up scoring a whopping **81.5 Pts**! Backing England heavily paid massive dividends as the 4 English assets scored 46.3 points between themselves! Apart from those, the projections rightly backed Italy over Belgium as Insigne scored a magnificent goal, and hedging bets on Denmark vs Czech Republic brought about a Schick goal and a Maehle assist! The compromises made in midfield were well worth, since it enabled going heavy on England.

Moving onto MD6, my current draft is the result of running optimisation algorithm on points predicted by the data model:



The team has been assembled assuming a budget of 105.0m, and costs exactly 105.0m. Captaining Harry Kane and vice-captaining Raheem Sterling leads to an Expected Value (EV) of **54.2 xPts**.

In order to take advantage of some favourable MD6 match-ups, it is important to have a good captaincy option as well as long term assets for the Semi-finals and the final. As we go further into the tournament, the potential for huge hauls reduces with good teams playing each other to negate

any potential easy route to points. This also reduces the options for differentials, unless you are willing to back the underdog team's assets. Also, a reminder that you can now have a maximum of 7 assets from any side. A short summary of the rationale behind the model for the MD6 draft team:

1. GOALKEEPERS (GK)

England has the best cleansheet odds of all teams in the semi-finals (~50%). Jordan Pickford has been Mr. Reliable for England in this tournament, with a potential for some save points and impact points as well (England has the best odds for winning their match-up, with ~58%). He can be paired with Kasper Schmeichel to ensure that you will have 1 GK going into the final MD.

2. DEFENDERS (DEF)

Luke Shaw has the best odds for providing an assist of all defenders (20%) and the second-best odds for scoring a goal (~10%) as well. His cleansheet odds (same as Pickford) and the prospect of qualifying for the final means that he is a shoe-in. Harry Maguire has the best odds for scoring a goal (~11%) out of all the defenders, and John Stones has goal-scoring odds equivalent to ~10%. This combined with their secured minutes and goal-threat from corners (duh!) makes them very attractive options for MD6. Giovanni Di Lorenzo is expected to retain his place in the Italian backline over Florenzi. He has good odds for providing an assist (~10%), and with the unfortunate injury to the fantasy football legend that is Leonardo Spinazzola, he is now the best budget route into the Italian backline. Joakim Maehle completes the backline, with his low price and attacking output making him a good asset to have on the bench as a backup.

3. MIDFIELDERS (MID)

Raheem Sterling is nailed-on to start and has the best goalscoring odds (~33%) of all midfielders. The cleansheet odds and impact points potential make him a very attractive captaincy option as well. Due to heavy investment in the back-line, there are some compromises that have to be made in some of the midfield spots. Lorenzo Insigne's goalscoring odds are pretty good (23%), along with Jorginho, who is on penalties and has decent goalscoring odds (~13%), along with Italy being the bookies' favourite to win the game against Spain. Pedri and Declan Rice complete the cut-price midfield, with them having meh-odds for assisting (~11%) and scoring (~10%) respectively.

4. FORWARDS (FWD)

Harry Kane has the best goalscoring odds of all players in the game (~43%), best assist odds (18%) of all available strikers and is also on penalties. His brace against Ukraine was vintage Kane (cliché alert!), and with England having the best chance of going all the way, he is a near-essential asset and worthy of the captain's armband for this round! Mikkel Damsgaard and Robert Skov complete the line-up, and their low prices make them the perfect bench fodder in case of an upset in the semi-final!

According to the model projections, the top players for MD6 are*:

Player	Country	Price	Pos.	MD6 xPts
Harry Kane	England	13.2	FWD	5.7
Raheem Sterling	England	12	MID	5.3
Harry Maguire	England	6.6	DEF	4.7
Lorenzo Insigne	Italy	8.2	MID	4.6
Luke Shaw	England	6.7	DEF	4.5
John Stones	England	6.2	DEF	4.3
Jorginho	Italy	7	MID	4.1
Álvaro Morata	Spain	9.6	FWD	4.0
Ciro Immobile	Italy	9.2	FWD	3.9
Ferrán Torres	Spain	9	MID	3.8

*Assuming the player starts

Another valuable metric might be understanding the top value picks for MD6, which according to the model projections, are as follows:

Player	Country	Price	Pos.	MD6 xPts	Value (xPts per million)
Harry Maguire	England	6.6	DEF	4.7	0.715
John Stones	England	6.2	DEF	4.3	0.701
Luke Shaw	England	6.7	DEF	4.5	0.671
Giovanni Di Lorenzo	Italy	5.4	DEF	3.5	0.645
Leonardo Bonucci	Italy	5.5	DEF	3.4	0.624
Giorgio Chiellini	Italy	5.5	DEF	3.3	0.609
Joakim Mæhle	Denmark	4.9	DEF	2.9	0.600
Pau Torres	Spain	5.9	DEF	3.5	0.599
Mikkel Damsgaard	Denmark	5.6	FWD	3.3	0.590
Kalvin Phillips	England	6.1	MID	3.6	0.587

*Assuming the player starts



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