

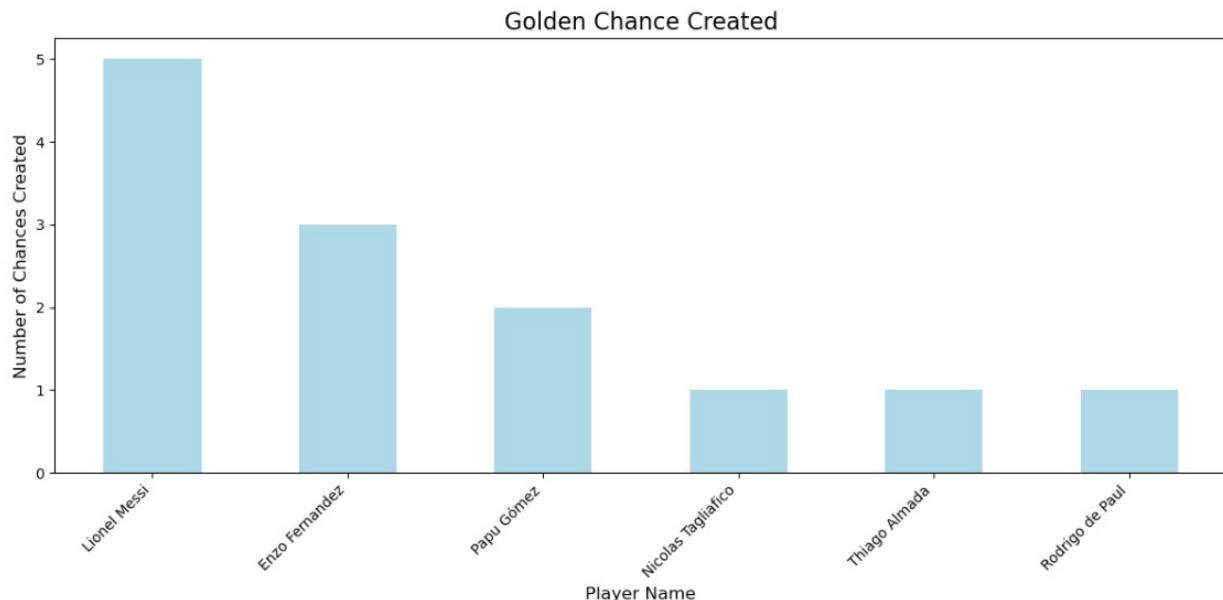
Argentina's New Star

Messi has been searching for a world cup trophy to complete his trophy case. And when you turn on Sunday's final. You know that you are going to get a great performance out of him. But what if I told you that Argentina's success hinges on a relatively unknown youngster. Enzo Fernandez is his name.

Fernandez is box to box midfielder who started the tournament on the bench. But after scoring against Mexico as sub again. His position in the team could no longer be denied. He has now started 4 straight matches and will be one of first names penciled in on Sunday.

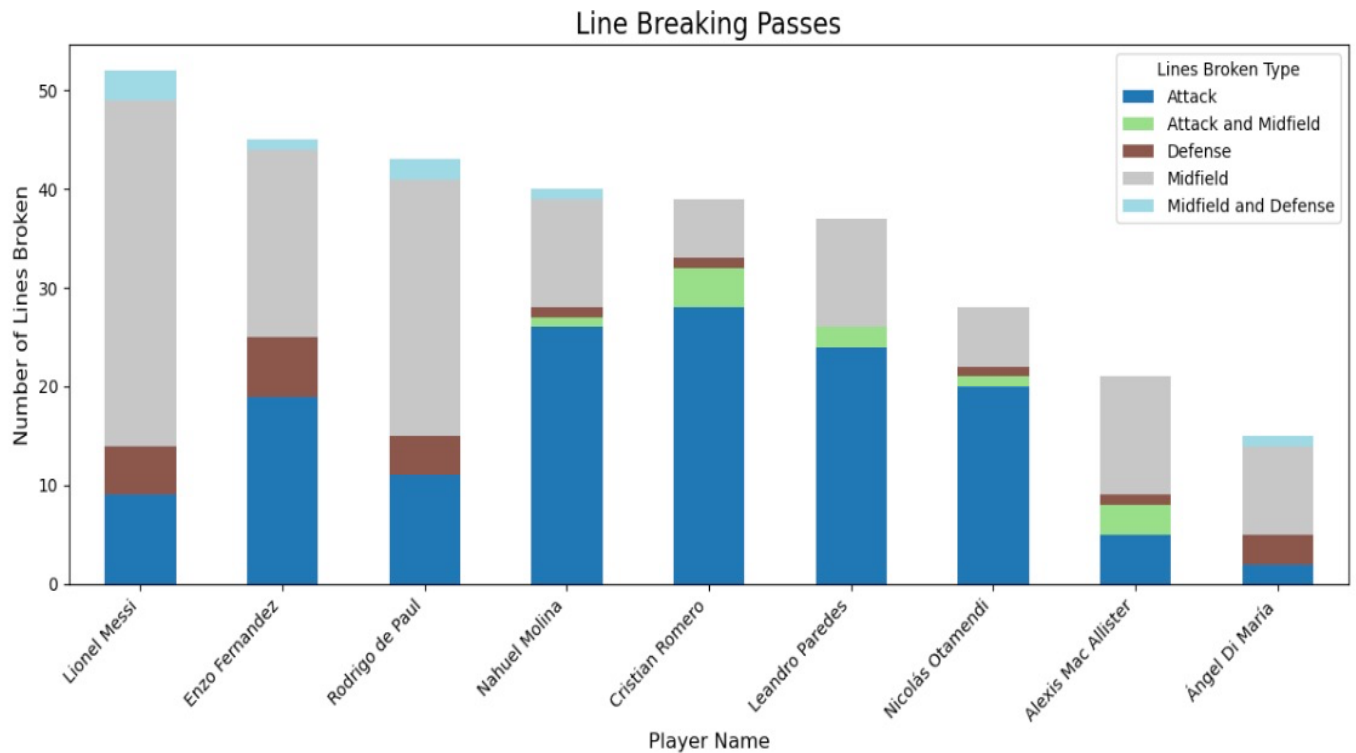
Passing prowess

Where Fernandez really shines is with his passing. Playing as Argentina's most attacking midfielder he is given free rein to bomb forward. While McCallister and De Paul mop up defensively after him.



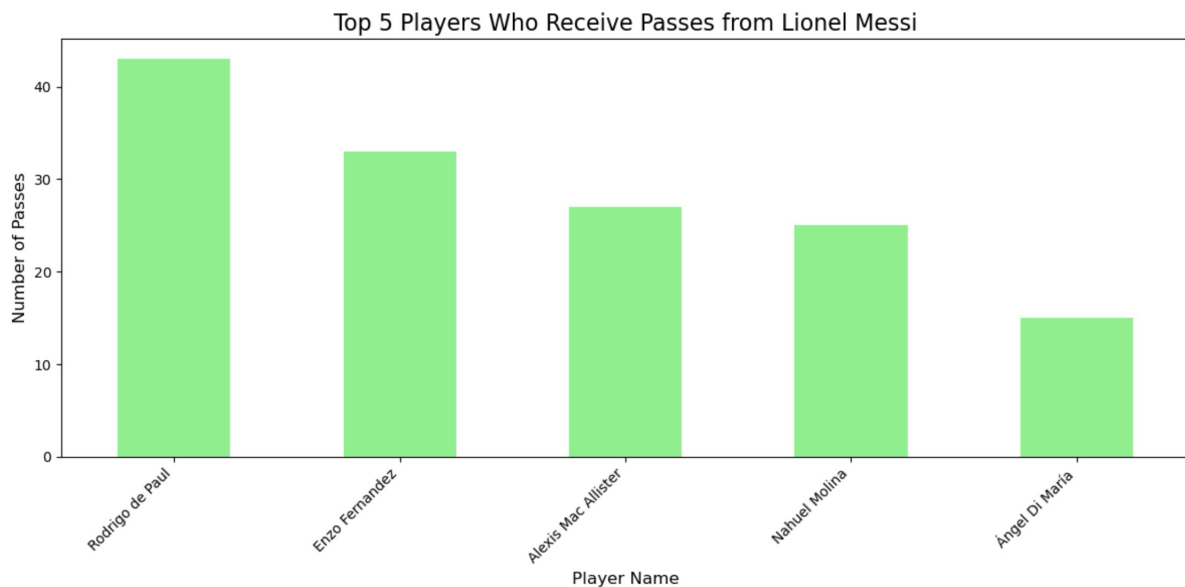
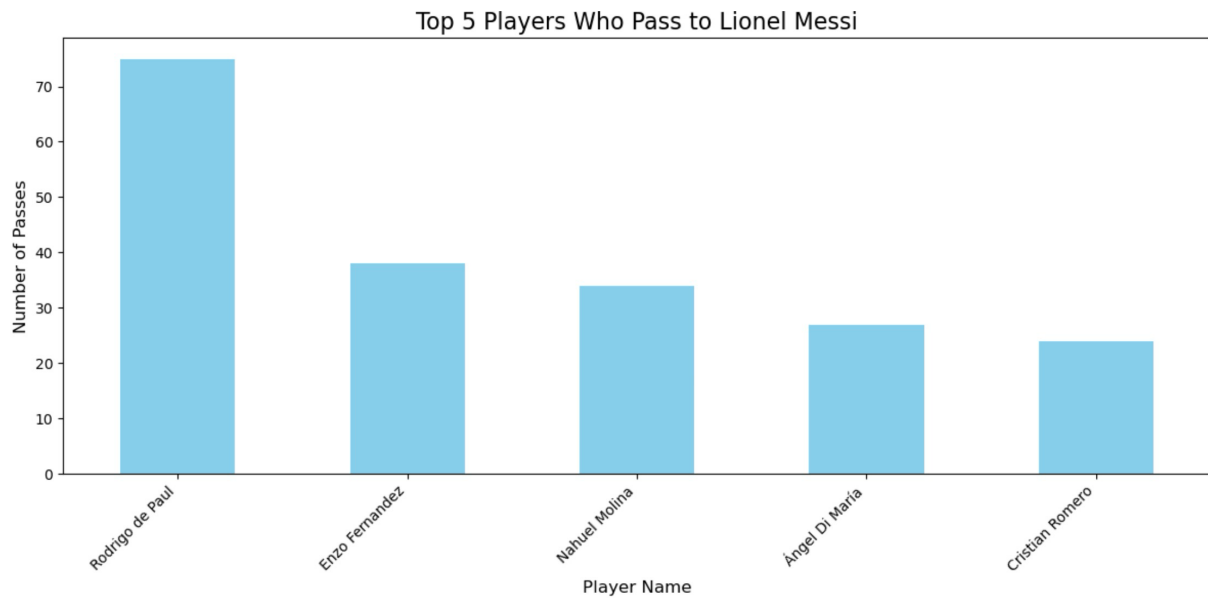
Even though Fernandez hasn't started in every game that Argentina has played in subbing on in the first two group matches. He is second on the team in creating Golden goal scoring opportunities with 3 only trailing Messi.

Another area where Fernandez excels is moving the ball from one phase into the other. This is highlighted below where Fernandez is again second on the team with line breaking passes only behind team captain Messi.



Everyone knows that Messi is the center of Argentina's universe so when a new player is put in the lineup. You are often wondering on how good of a fit that they will be playing off Messi.

When comes to connection to Messi, Rodrigo De Paul has long been considered his bodyguard and many cases he still is. Evidenced by the numerous amounts of passes De Paul makes to Messi. This is often in scenarios where De Paul recovers the ball and gives it to more skilled playmakers like Messi. But if you look closer you will see Fernandez in the number two spot. In both passes to and from Messi. Which further highlights his influence. He has quickly become one of the main engines in the midfield.



Conclusion

If Argentina is going to beat France, they will have to best France in the midfield. Fernandez has shown throughout the cup that he is up to the task. Holding his own against one of the best trios in world in the match against Croatia. I expect him to perform well once again in the final. I would even suggest if you have some extra change lying around to bet on Fernandez netting a goal or assisting one. He has been the robin to Messi's Batman and expect more of the same in Sunday's final.