Based on our progress and the objectives outlined, let's evaluate where we stand and outline the next steps to move closer to achieving 100% of our goal.

**Estimation of Progress Achieved**

* **Data Preparation and Preprocessing (15%)**: We have successfully handled data cleaning, preprocessing, and encoding categorical variables. This foundational work is crucial for any predictive modeling project.
* **Feature Engineering and Selection (20%)**: We identified and utilized relevant features from historical data, including betting odds and team performance metrics, laying the groundwork for insightful model inputs.
* **Model Development and Backtesting (30%)**: We developed a predictive model with high accuracy and performed backtesting using a significant portion of our data. This demonstrates the model's potential effectiveness.
* **External Validation (15%)**: Testing our model on an external dataset for the 2023-24 season and achieving high accuracy is a significant milestone. It indicates the model's robustness and generalizability.

**Total Estimated Progress: 80%**

Our progress is commendable, especially in developing a model that generalizes well to unseen data. The high accuracy suggests that our model could be a powerful tool for predicting match outcomes.

**Next Steps**

* **Profitability Simulation (10%)**: The critical gap between predictive accuracy and actual betting success is profitability. Simulating betting strategies based on our model's predictions against real-world odds will help bridge this gap. This involves calculating potential returns and assessing the model's ability to generate profit over the long term.
* **Risk Management Integration (5%)**: Incorporating risk management strategies into our betting approach is essential for sustainable profitability. This could involve setting betting limits, diversifying betting strategies, and adjusting stakes based on prediction confidence.
* **Model Refinement and Continuous Learning (5%)**: Continuously updating our model with new data and outcomes to adapt to changes in team performance and betting markets is critical. We should consider exploring more advanced machine learning techniques or ensemble models to improve prediction accuracy and reliability.

**Conclusion**

We're approximately 80% towards achieving our project's main objectives, with a well-developed predictive model showing promise for betting outcome predictions. Our focus should now shift towards translating this predictive accuracy into real-world profitability, integrating risk management practices, and ensuring the model remains accurate and relevant over time. These next steps are crucial for closing the gap between theoretical model performance and practical betting success, bringing us closer to achieving 100% of our project goals.