FC BARCELONA PERFORMANCE BEFORE vs AFTER LIONEL MESSI

Class Project Presentation – MOULIK JAIN

GUIDING QUESTION

How did FC Barcelona's overall performance metrics (goals, wins, possession, and points) change before and after Lionel Messi's departure in 2021?

Purpose:
To evaluate whether Messi's departure meaningfully impacted Barcelona's match-level and season-level performance.

CHALLENGE ENCOUNTERED

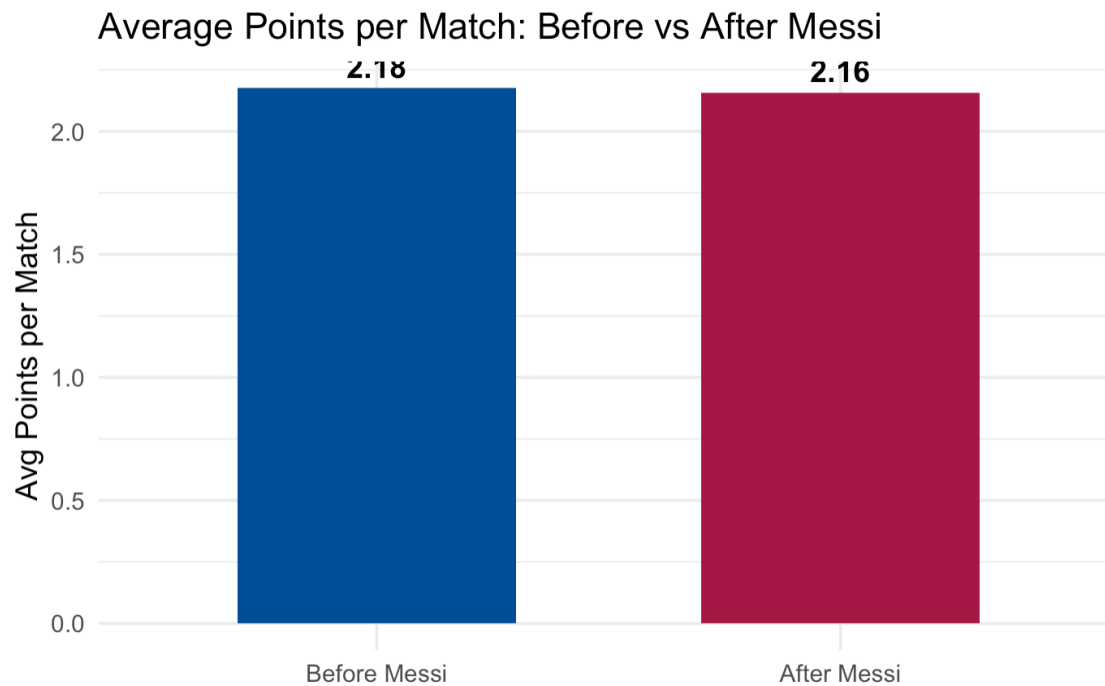One major challenge I faced was making the R Markdown project fully replicable.

Initially, the notebook used absolute file paths, which caused knitting errors when the project folder was zipped and moved.

I solved this by:

- Reorganizing the project into a self-contained folder

- Adding a dedicated data/ directory

- Switching to relative paths using *list.files()*

- Using *knitr::opts_knit$set(root.dir = getwd())* to stabilize the working directory

This ensured that anyone, including the instructor, can knit the project successfully without changing anything.

Average Points per Match: Before vs After Messi

KEY VISUALIZATION

Barcelona averaged slightly fewer points per match after Messi left (2.18 → 2.16), marking a modest performance dip immediately following his departure.

CONCLUSION

KEY TAKEAWAY –

- Barcelona's performance dropped noticeably right after Messi left — especially in points per match and win rate.

- However, the most recent seasons show gradual improvement, suggesting tactical adaptation, stronger team chemistry, and rebuilding progress under new management.

THANKS!!