Understanding the Football Tactical Dynamics and how it defines Leagues

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source : Nerdsofgambling

Football is undoubtedly the most loved sporting activity in the world as we know today. It spans across every continent and every country. At these levels, there exist various competitions called Leagues.

Most fans and lovers of football have clubs they support and leagues that they are in love with. They happen to be more loud as regards their favorite league being the best league in the universe. This assumption they make out of emotional sentiments.

Words across the streets have it that some leagues are called the toughest league, some are called the most popular league while some are regarded as farmers' leagues. But the concern right now is that if you ask these fans on what parameters they make these assertions, you will receive a deafening silence. Most of the time, it's just because their favorite player plays in that league, that's all.

But this is not an intellectual conclusion, that is the reason this article is being published in order to help football fans make data driven conclusions of the performance of their favorite league. In this article, we will look into the data of the top performing teams from leagues across the world and analyze the data to gain insight on the leagues especially in the area of their tactical dynamics.

Evaluation of 2022/2023 Football season

The best form of decision making is the one informed by solid data working behind the scene. Likewise, we are also making the inference in this article by data.

The data provides a club ranking of 641 football clubs worldwide which includes the names of the club, their defensive rating, offensive rating and their leagues based on their 2023 season's performances.

	Position	Club_Name	Leagues	Offensive_Power	Defensive_Power
0	1	Man. City	Premier League	2.8	0.3
1	2	Bayern Munich	Bundesliga	3.0	0.7
2	3	Barcelona	La Liga	2.4	0.4
3	4	Real Madrid	La Liga	2.6	0.6
4	5	Liverpool	Premier League	2.6	0.7
...	...	...	...	...	...
636	637	Wimbledon	League Two	0.2	2.3
637	638	Doncaster	League Two	0.2	2.4
638	639	Forest Green	League One	0.2	2.4
639	640	Crawley Town	League Two	0.2	2.4
640	641	Beijing Renhe	Super League	0.2	2.6

641 rows × 5 columns

Now, we will be x-raying the overall performances of the 2022/2023 football season as it relates to individual teams and the leagues in general. This will be done under various subsections. This assessment will give us better and hidden insights as to the unseen happenings in the just concluded football season world wide.

Overall Best Team

Sitting comfortably on the topmost position as the best football team of the season is **Manchester City Football Club** of England.

Position	Club_Name	Leagues	Offensive_Power	Defensive_Power
1	Man. City	Premier League	2.8	0.3

Overall Worst Team

Unfortunately, the team that happens to be on the bottom of the ladder is **Beijing Renhe** of the Chinese Super League.
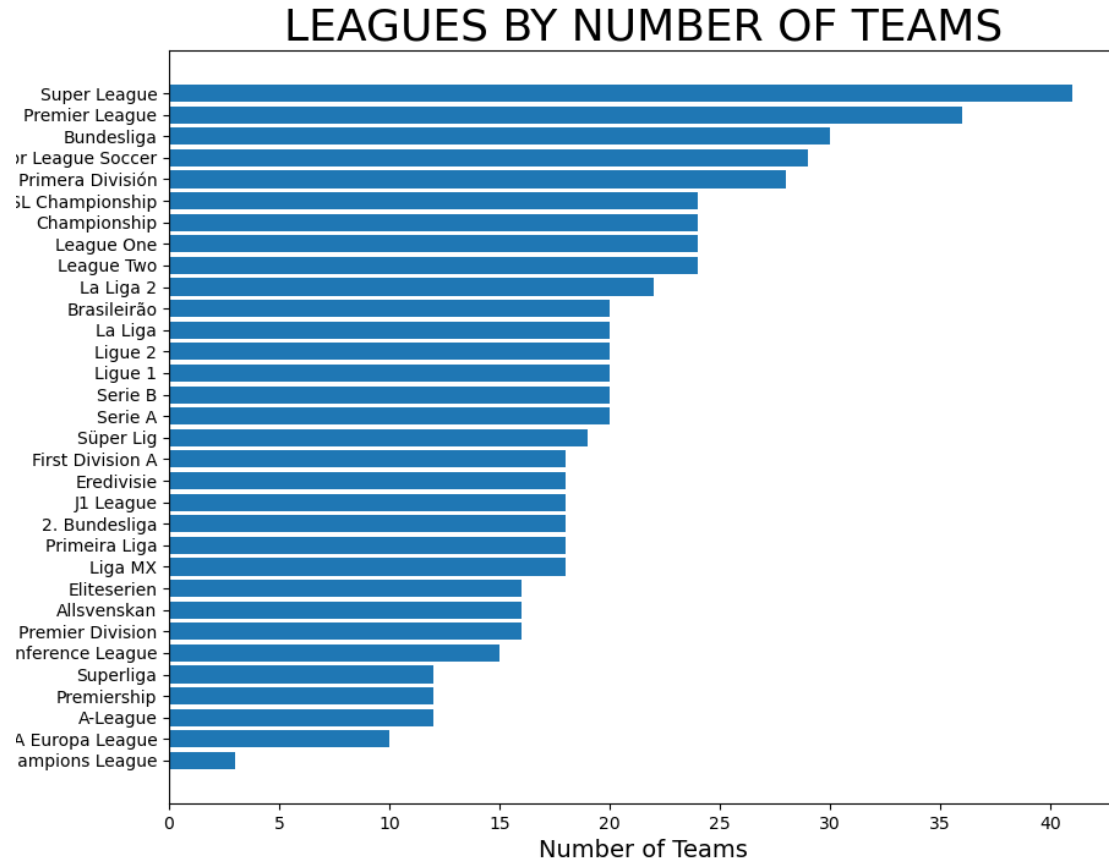
641	Beijing Renhe	Super League	0.2	2.6

Leagues Represented

There are a total of 32 leagues represented in the data. These leagues happen to be the top 32 leagues worldwide based on coverage and fanbase. They include the following;

1. Premier League
2. Bundesliga
3. La Liga
4. Serie A
5. Primeira Liga
6. Ligue 1
7. Eredivisie
8. Premiership
9. Brasileirão
10. Süper Lig
11. Super League
12. First Division A
13. Liga MX
14. UEFA Europa Conference League
15. Eliteserien
16. Championship
17. UEFA Champions League
18. Primera División
19. UEFA Europa League
20. Superliga
21. Major League Soccer
22. League One
23. J1 League
24. Ligue 2
25. Serie B
26. Allsvenskan
27. 2. Bundesliga
28. La Liga 2
29. Premier Division
30. A-League
31. USL Championship
32. League Two

Consequently, the number of teams from these leagues that made it to this list of **Top 641** can also be assessed.

LEAGUES BY NUMBER OF TEAMS

This chart shows that the Chinese Super League has the most number of teams making the list with 41 teams followed by the English Premier League with 36 teams then comes the German Bundesliga with 30 teams.
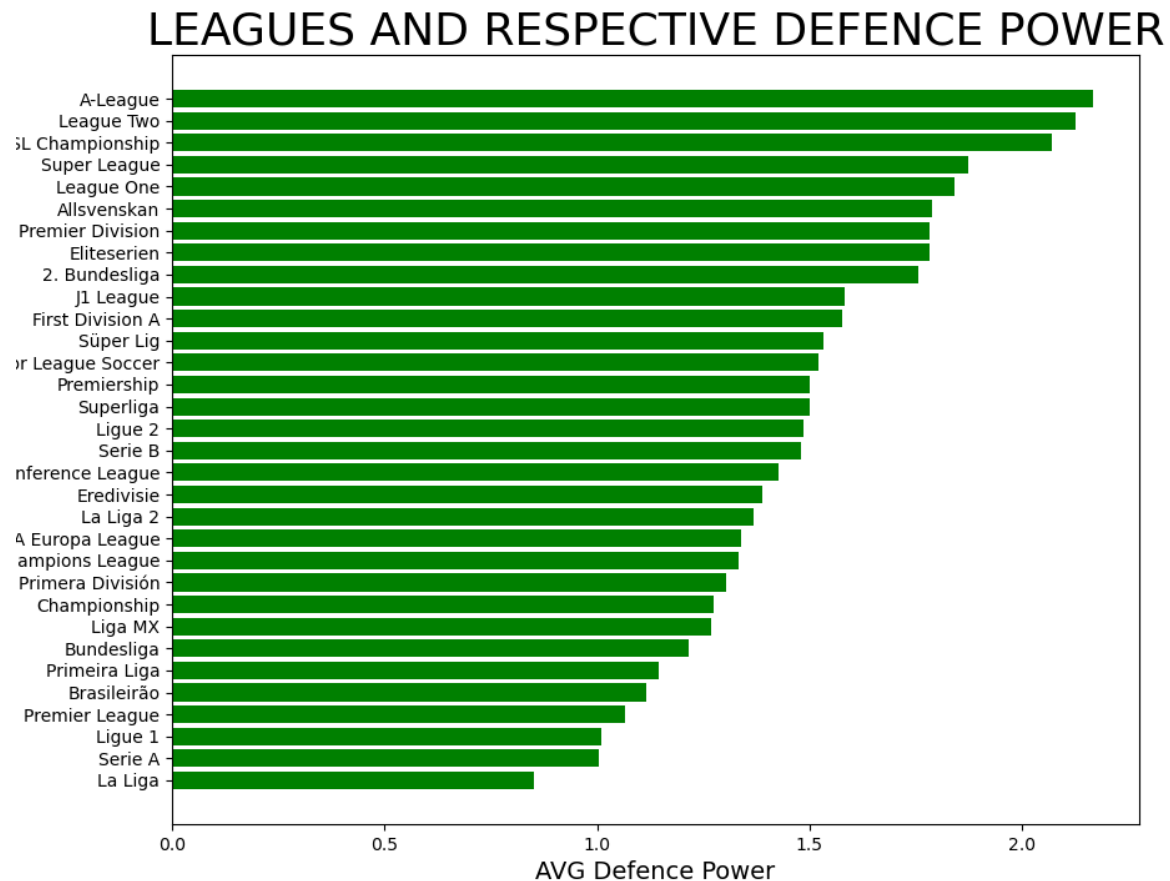
Exploring Tactical Dynamics of Leagues.

When we talk about football tactics, we discuss two subjects. Is the team or league more defensive oriented or are they more offensive in style of play. Taking a look at the 32 leagues before us, we can actually pin out what the tactical dynamics of each looks like.

Defensive Prowess

Some leagues believe in playing more defensively than pushing attacks. This makes it more difficult for them to be penetrated by the opponent team. The chart below summarizes the

defensive playstyle rating of the various leagues.
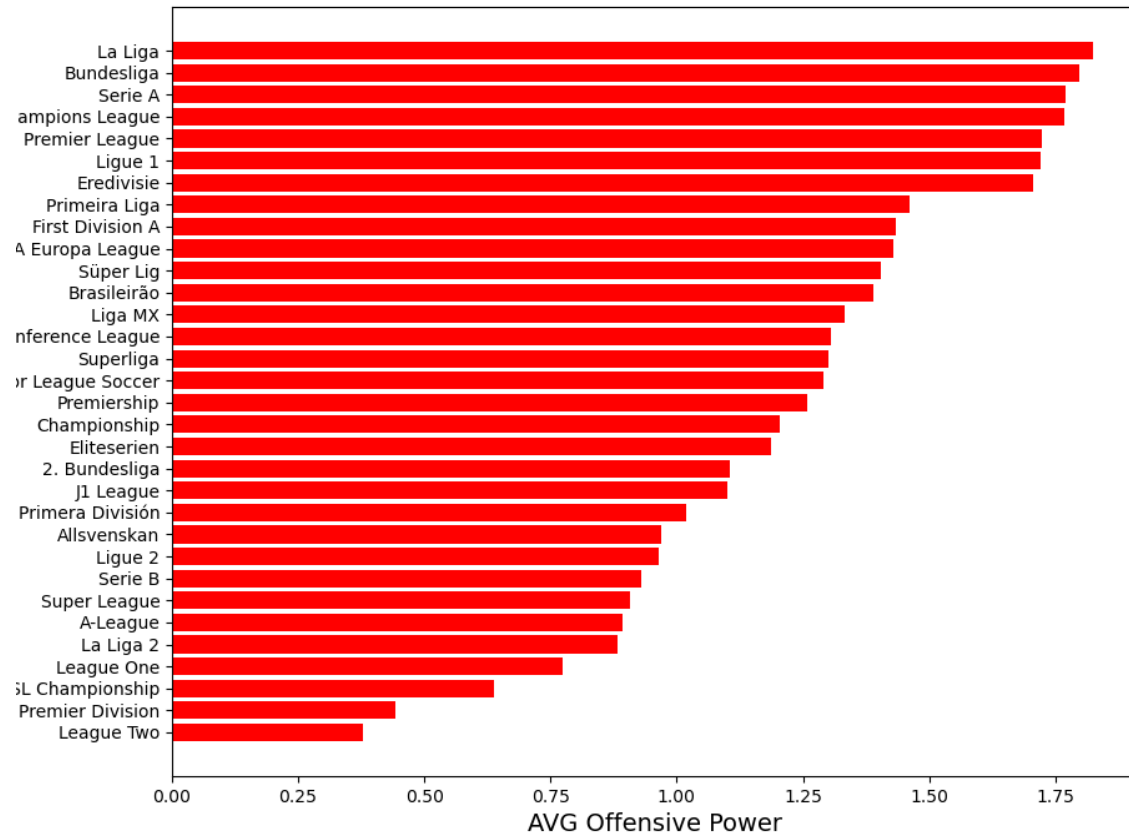

LEAGUES AND RESPECTIVE DEFENCE POWER

From the chart, the A-league happens to be more defense oriented followed by League-2, whereas the La Liga and the Serie A are low in defensive play. This data negates the normal words on the streets that Italian Serie-A is a tough defensive league.

Offensive Prowess

Now unto the leagues that play with a greater attacking mindsets. These leagues happen to be ones with huge hunger for more goals and goal dominance. The more attacks you push, the resultant effect is goals. The chart will x-ray the leagues with such mindsets amongst the 32

leagues in consideration.

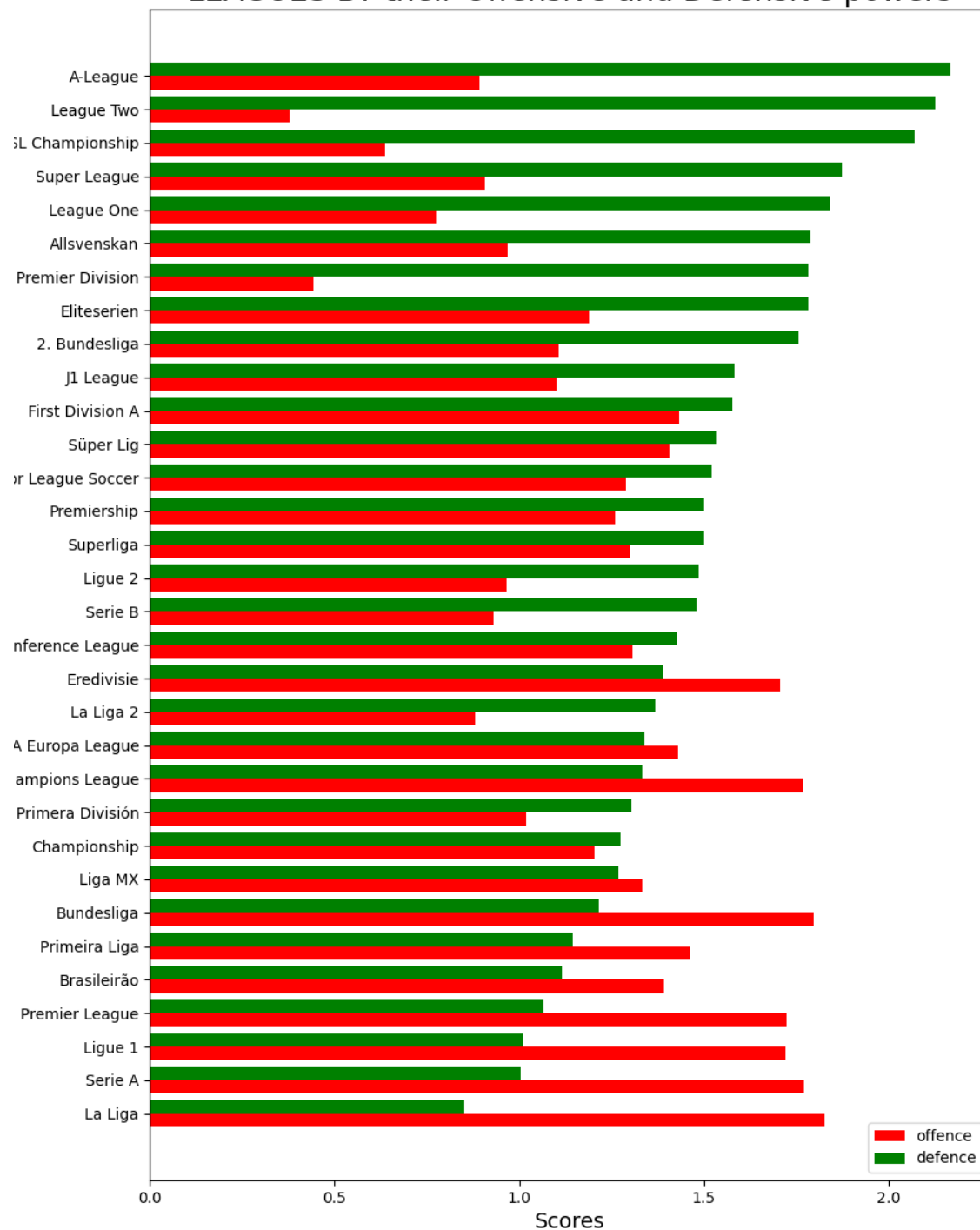## LEAGUES AND RESPECTIVE OFFENSIVE POWER

The Spanish La-Liga prides itself as the king of attacking football, followed by the Bundesliga, Champions League and Premier League whereas the League Two, The Premier Division and USL championship sits at the rock bottom.

Tactical Wholeness

One unique thing about football tactics is that each team is a representation of the two tactical dynamics. You focus on one as your dominant style of play while the other is the recessive. So we shall be combining the two tactics for each league in this section to see how tactically balanced or ill-balanced a league is. The chart below will aid our quest.
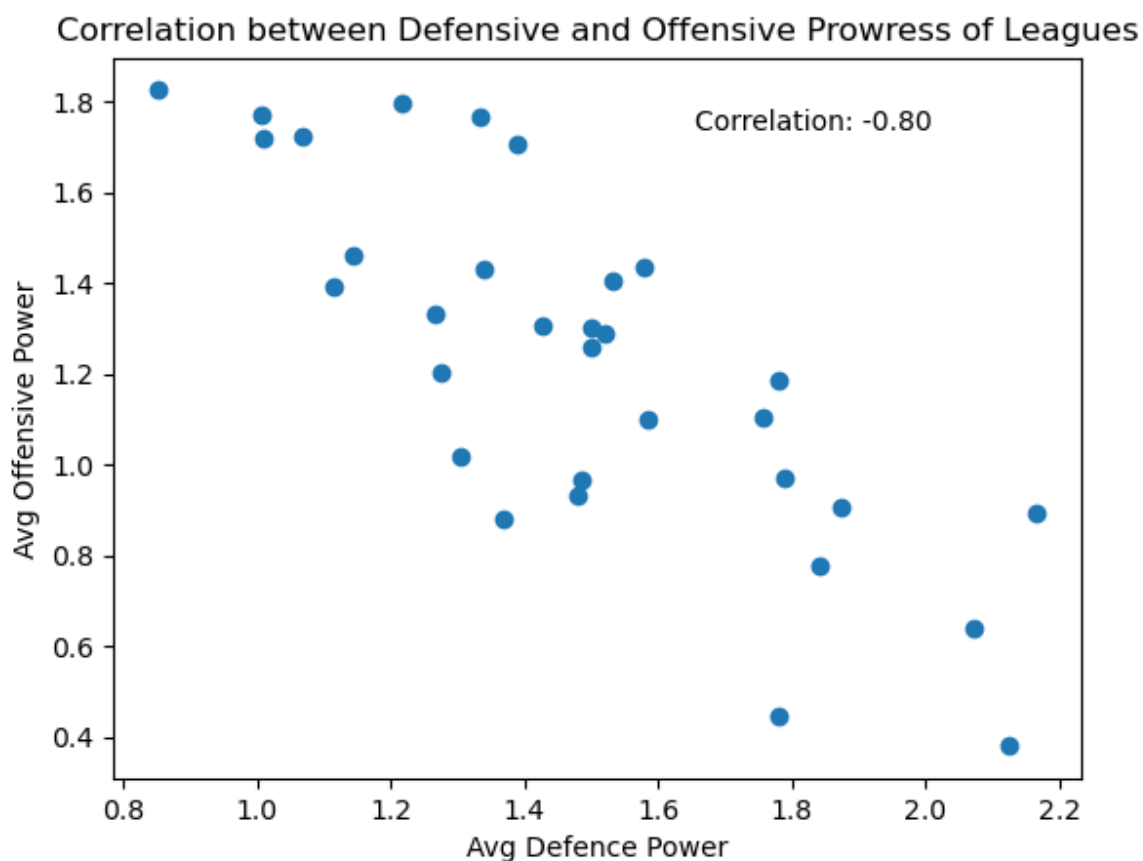
LEAGUES BY their Offensive and Defensive powers

Just a glance at the chart will tell you how Offensive or Defensive minded a league happens to be. Looking for a more balanced league in terms of the two tactics, we can say that UEFA Conference League, Championship and Liga MX seems balanced.

Exploring the Relationship

Since the two tactical play styles define a league, there must be a special kind of relationship between the defensive and offensive. Is there a direct or inversely varied relationship or there is no related parameter at all. A scatterPlot will help find the correlation and is shown in the figure below.

Having a correlation coefficient of -0.80 which is a negative is a pointer to one scenario; that as one of the tactical mindset increases in a team or league, the other mindset diminishes.

Conclusion

Now, having understood that in defining a league or a team, one has to do that in terms of its tactical dynamics as backed up by data and not just emotional sentiments, therefore the usage of farmers' league or goats' league to define a league must stop.

It is also imperative to note that for you to understand your opponents, you must do so in line with their tactical dynamics and then decide how to play them.

Fun Fact: If you want to build a dream team, do the following;
- Hire defenders from **A-league** because of their high defensive mindset
- Buy Strikers and Forwards from **La Liga** because of their great attacking playstyle.
- Get your Midfielders from **Liga MX** because of their balanced tactical prowess.