

# CSE422: Artificial Intelligence

# Spring 2024

Title: Impact of Player Injuries on Team Performance

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## 1. Introduction:

This project aims to analyze the performance of football teams after the return of a key player from injury. In competitive football, the absence of critical players due to injuries can significantly impact team dynamics, strategies, and overall performance. When these players return, their reintegration into the team can either improve or disrupt team cohesion. The project investigates how a team's performance changes in the matches immediately following a player's recovery.

Football teams often rely heavily on key players, and their absence due to injury can affect results. While it's generally assumed that a returning player strengthens the team, this may not always be the case. Factors such as fitness levels, match sharpness, team chemistry, and tactical adjustments can all influence outcomes. The challenge lies in quantifying and understanding these effects to determine whether teams experience performance improvement, stagnation, or decline after a player's return.

The motivation for this project stems from the critical role injuries play in football. Coaches, analysts, and fans often debate the impact of returning players, but these discussions are rarely backed by systematic analysis. By providing data-driven insights, this project aims to support teams in decision-making, such as the timing of a player's return or adjustments to tactics. Additionally, it seeks to deepen our understanding of how individual contributions shape team performance, offering valuable perspectives to players, coaches, and the broader football community.

## 2. Dataset description:

Source: Kaggle

Link-

https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/amritbiswas007/player-injuries-and-team-perfor mance-dataset/data

## • Dataset Description:

There are in total 42 features in our dataset.

The target feature of our dataset is "Match1\_after\_injury\_Result" which has only three unique values (lose, win & draw). So, the data of the target feature is categorical and the problem we are trying to solve is a classification problem.

There are 656 data points in the dataset.

Our dataset has both quantitative and categorical features.

Below is a breakdown of potential features for this project:

Quantitative Features:

These are numerical values that can be measured or calculated.

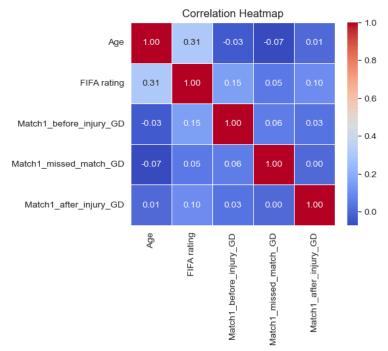
Examples include: 'Age', 'FIFA rating', 'Match1\_before\_injury\_GD' etc.

Categorical Features:

These are non-numerical variables that represent distinct categories or groups.

Examples include: 'Position', 'Match1\_before\_injury\_Result' etc.

The following heatmap shows the correlation between various features of our dataset. Diagonal elements are all 1, as each variable is perfectly correlated with itself. Age vs. FIFA rating: Correlation of 0.31, indicating a weak positive relationship. FIFA rating vs. Match1\_before\_injury\_GD: Correlation of 0.15, suggesting a weak positive relationship. Match1\_missed\_match\_GD vs. other variables: Mostly close to 0, indicating very weak or no correlation. Match1\_after\_injury\_GD vs. Match1\_before\_injury\_GD: A correlation of 0.03, indicating negligible relationship. We can see that most of the features of our dataset are not strongly correlated. The only obvious correlation we can observe is between 'Age' and 'FIFA rating' which will not help us that much as none of these are the target feature. This lack of correlation might result in poor accuracy when we train our machine learning model with these dataset.



• **Imbalance Dataset:** The dataset we used for this project is an imbalance dataset as the target feature does not have equal instances of all the unique classes.

```
target_column = 'Match1_after_injury_Result'

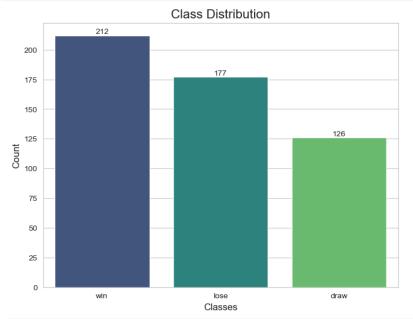
class_counts = data[target_column].value_counts()

plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
sns.barplot(x=class_counts.index, y=class_counts.values, palette='viridis', hue=class_counts.index, legend=False)

plt.xlabel('classes', fontsize=12)
plt.ylabel('count', fontsize=12)
plt.title('Class Distribution', fontsize=16)

for i, count in enumerate(class_counts.values):
    plt.text(i, count, str(count), ha='center', va='bottom', fontsize=18)

plt.show()
    v[1502] 75ms
```



## 3. Data pre-processing:

#### • Null values:

There are null values in our chosen dataset.

```
data.isnull().sum()
[142]
 Name
                                           0
 Team Name
                                           0
 Position
                                           0
 Age
                                           Θ
 Season
                                           Θ
 FIFA rating
                                           0
 Injury
                                           0
 Date of Injury
                                           0
 Date of return
                                           0
 Match1_before_injury_Result
                                          65
 Match1_before_injury_Opposition
                                          65
 Match1_before_injury_GD
                                          65
 Match1_before_injury_Player_rating
                                          67
 Match2_before_injury_Result
                                         101
 Match2_before_injury_Opposition
                                         101
 Match2_before_injury_GD
                                         101
 Match2_before_injury_Player_rating
                                         102
 Match3_before_injury_Result
                                         157
 Match3_before_injury_Opposition
                                         157
 Match3_before_injury_GD
                                         157
```

To remedy this we dropped the columns that have too many null values along with the features that we do not want to work with in our model training.

We also dropped the rows where the target value which we are trying to predict is null.

### • Categorical values:

Machine Learning models can only interpret numerical or qualitative data. However, our dataset has many features that are categorical.

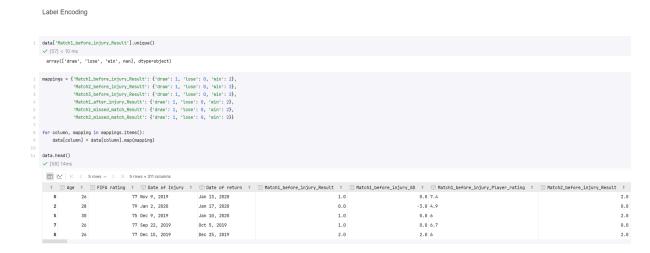
#### data.info() √ [5] < 10 ms</p> <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'> RangeIndex: 656 entries, 0 to 655 Data columns (total 42 columns): Column Non-Null Count Dtype 0 Name 656 non-null object 1 Team Name 656 non-null object 2 Position 656 non-null object 656 non-null int64 3 Age Season 656 non-null object 4 5 FIFA rating 656 non-null int64 Injury 656 non-null object 6 Date of Injury object 7 656 non-null Date of return object 656 non-null 591 non-null Match1\_before\_injury\_Result object 10 Match1\_before\_injury\_Opposition 591 non-null object 11 Match1\_before\_injury\_GD float64 591 non-null 12 Match1\_before\_injury\_Player\_rating 589 non-null object 13 Match2\_before\_injury\_Result 555 non-null object 14 Match2\_before\_injury\_Opposition 555 non-null object

For the models to be able to understand these categorical features, we need to encode these data to numeric values.

We used one hot encoding for those features where each classification value is of the same importance.

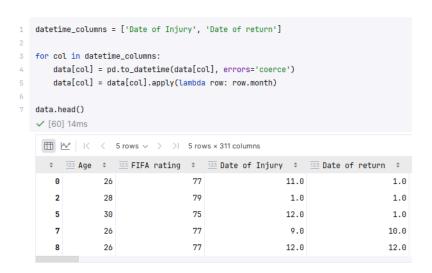
One Hot Encoding								
data = pd.get_dummies(data, columns=['Team Name', 'Position', 'Season', 'Injury', 'Match1_before_injury_Opposition',  'Match2_before_injury_Opposition', 'Match3_before_injury_Opposition',  'Match1_after_injury_Opposition', 'Match1_missed_match_Opposition',  'Match2_missed_match_Opposition'], drop_first=True)  print[data.shape] data  data.head()  / [56]   Zms								
	(515, 311)							
□ M ( < Srows ∨ > >) Srows × 311 columns								
	10 Team Name_Aston Villa ÷	10 Team Name_Brentford ÷	10 Team Name_Burnley :	10 Team Name_Everton ÷	10 Team Name_Man United :	10 Team Name_Newcastle ÷	10 Team Name_Tottenham :	10 Position_Center Back ÷
	False	False	False	False	False	• True	False	• True
	False	False	False	False	False	• True	False	• True
	False	False	False	False	False	• True	False	• True
	False	False	False	False	False	• True	False	False
	False	False	False	False	False	• True	False	False

We used label encoding for the features where the categorical values hold some significance. For example winning is better than a draw or a loss.



#### • Date & Time:

The features indicating a date in our datasets are stored as strings. For the machine learning model to understand the data we need to convert that to datetime type data and then to a numeric value. For our dataset we felt that the month holds the most important information. So, we just kept the month value as a number.



### • Objects to numeric:

There are some features left which are in object data type. We converted those to numeric values as well.

## 4. Feature scaling:

We believe that our particular dataset does not require any scaling because there are no such features in our dataset that have overwhelming variance compared to other features. We experimented with MinMaxScaler and Standard Scaler and found that our models accuracy decreases if we use these scalers.

## 5. Dataset splitting:

We splitted our dataset into a Train set and Test set where the train set contains 70% of the original dataset. Stratified splitting was used to ensure that each unique categorical target data was adequately present in our train and test set.

```
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
3 target_column = 'Match1_after_injury_Result'
5 x = data.drop(target_column, axis=1).fillna(0)
6 y = data[target_column]
8 x_train, x_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(x, y, test_size=0.3, random_state=42, stratify=y)
   ✓ [64] < 10 ms
1 x_train.info()

√ [65] < 10 ms</p>
     <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
    Index: 360 entries, 44 to 617
     Columns: 310 entries, Age to Match2_missed_match_Opposition_Wolves
     dtypes: bool(293), float64(15), int64(2)
     memory usage: 153.6 KB
1 x_test.info()
   ✓ [66] < 10 ms
     <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
     Index: 155 entries, 559 to 538
     Columns: 310 entries, Age to Match2_missed_match_Opposition_Wolves
     dtypes: bool(293), float64(15), int64(2)
     memory usage: 66.1 KB
1 y_train.info()

√ [67] < 10 ms</p>
     <class 'pandas.core.series.Series'>
     Index: 360 entries, 44 to 617
     Series name: Match1_after_injury_Result
     Non-Null Count Dtype
     -----
     360 non-null int64
     dtypes: int64(1)
     memory usage: 5.6 KB
1 y_test.info()

√ [68] < 10 ms</p>
     <class 'pandas.core.series.Series'>
     Index: 155 entries, 559 to 538
     Series name: Match1_after_injury_Result
     Non-Null Count Dtype
     155 non-null int64
     dtypes: int64(1)
     memory usage: 2.4 KB
```

## 6. Model training & testing:

### • Decision Tree:

We trained a decision tree model using our train set and tested with the test set and found out that this particular model has 42% accuracy for our dataset.

#### • Random Forest:

We trained a random forest model using our train set and tested with the test set and found out that this particular model has 50% accuracy for our dataset.

#### • Hist Gradient Boosting Classifier:

We trained a hist gradient boosting classifier model using our train set and tested with the test set and found out that this particular model has 52% accuracy for our dataset.

#### • KNN:

We trained a K nearest neighbor model using our train set and tested with the test set and found out that this particular model has 39% accuracy for our dataset.

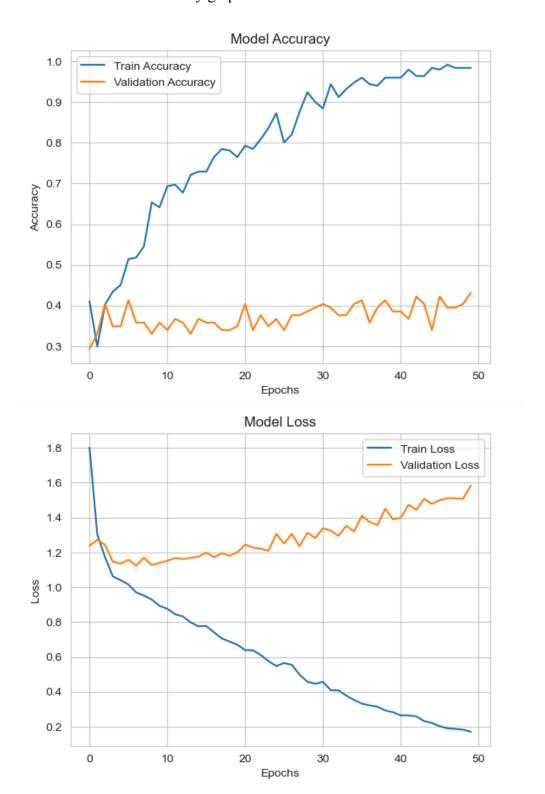
#### Neural Networks:

Finally, we implemented a neural network model using tensorflow and it provided an accuracy of 47%.

```
num_classes = len(np.unique(y))
3 if num_classes > 2:
       y_train_NN = tf.keras.utils.to_categorical(y_train, num_classes)
       y_test_NN = tf.keras.utils.to_categorical(y_test, num_classes)
7 model = Sequential([
      Input(shape=(x_train.shape[1],)),
      Dense(64, activation='relu'),
     Dense(32, activation='relu'),
     Dense(num_classes, activation='softmax' if num_classes > 2 else 'sigmoid')
12 ])
   ✓ [1524] 13ms
1 model.compile(
      optimizer='adam',
3
      loss='categorical_crossentropy' if num_classes > 2 else 'binary_crossentropy',
      metrics=['accuracy']
5)
   ✓ [1525] < 10 ms
1 history = model.fit(
      x_train,
       y_train_NN,
       epochs=50,
     batch_size=32,
      validation_split=0.3
7 )
   ✓ [1526] 3s 314ms
                                         Epoch 41/50
     8/8 -----
                          — 0s 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.9792 - loss: 0.2494 - val_accuracy: 0.3853 - val_loss: 1.3981
     Epoch 42/50
     8/8 ———
                           — 0s 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.9914 - loss: 0.2427 - val_accuracy: 0.3670 - val_loss: 1.4744
     Epoch 43/50
     8/8 -
                           — 0s 6ms/step - accuracy: 0.9517 - loss: 0.2707 - val_accuracy: 0.4220 - val_loss: 1.4440
     Epoch 44/50
     8/8 -
                           — 0s 6ms/step - accuracy: 0.9684 - loss: 0.2318 - val_accuracy: 0.4037 - val_loss: 1.5071
     Epoch 45/50
     8/8 -
                           - 0s 6ms/step - accuracy: 0.9801 - loss: 0.2236 - val_accuracy: 0.3394 - val_loss: 1.4786
     Epoch 46/50
     8/8 -
                           - 0s 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.9844 - loss: 0.1927 - val_accuracy: 0.4220 - val_loss: 1.4996
     Epoch 47/50
     8/8 -
                           - 0s 6ms/step - accuracy: 0.9927 - loss: 0.1848 - val_accuracy: 0.3945 - val_loss: 1.5122
     Epoch 48/50
     8/8 -
                           - 0s 5ms/step - accuracy: 0.9840 - loss: 0.1924 - val_accuracy: 0.3945 - val_loss: 1.5101
     Epoch 49/50
     8/8 —
                           - 0s 6ms/step - accuracy: 0.9904 - loss: 0.1804 - val_accuracy: 0.4037 - val_loss: 1.5080
     Epoch 50/50
                           — 0s 6ms/step - accuracy: 0.9916 - loss: 0.1722 - val_accuracy: 0.4312 - val_loss: 1.5838
test_loss, test_accuracy_NN = model.evaluate(x_test, y_test_NN)
   test_accuracy_NN = round(test_accuracy_NN, 2)
print(f"Test Accuracy: {test_accuracy_NN}")
    ✓ [1527] 50ms
     5/5 —
                          — 0s 3ms/step - accuracy: 0.4365 - loss: 1.4133
     Test Accuracy: 0.47
 1 y_pred_NN = model.predict(x_test)

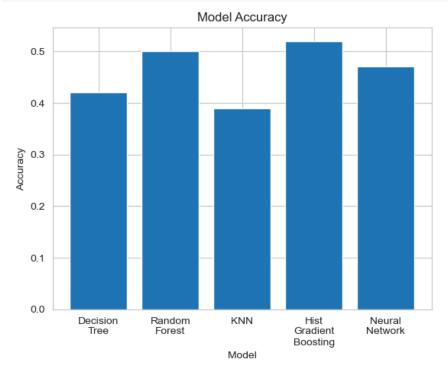
√ [1528] 69ms
     5/5 ----
                         —— 0s 6ms/step
```

The model loss and accuracy graph for this neural network model was:



## 7. Model selection/Comparison analysis:

• Bar chart showcasing prediction accuracy of all models:



- Precision, recall comparison of each model:
  - (a) Decision Tree:

```
report_decision_tree = classification_report(y_test, y_pred_Decision_Tree)
print(report_decision_tree)

√ [432] < 10 ms</p>
                precision
                             recall f1-score
                                                 support
            0
                     0.39
                               0.45
                                         0.42
                                                      53
            1
                     0.35
                               0.29
                                          0.32
                                                      38
            2
                     0.48
                               0.47
                                         0.48
                                                      64
     accuracy
                                          0.42
                                                     155
                     0.41
                               0.40
                                          0.40
                                                     155
    macro avg
 weighted avg
                     0.42
                               0.42
                                          0.42
                                                     155
```

#### (b) Random Forest:

```
report_random_forest = classification_report(y_test, y_pred_Random_Forest)
print(report_random_forest)

√ [433] < 10 ms</p>
                   precision
                                recall f1-score
                                                  support
                        0.49
                                  0.49
                                            0.49
                                                        53
                        0.67
                                            0.26
                                                        38
                                  0.16
                2
                        0.49
                                  0.72
                                            0.59
                                                        64
                                            0.50
                                                       155
         accuracy
                        0.55
                                            0.44
                                                       155
        macro avg
                                  0.46
     weighted avg
                        0.54
                                  0.50
                                            0.47
                                                       155
```

#### (c) KNN:

- report\_KNeighborsClassifier = classification\_report(y\_test, y\_pred\_KNeighborsClassifier)
  rint(report\_KNeighborsClassifier)
  - ✓ [434] < 10 ms

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.38	0.58	0.46	53
1	0.35	0.18	0.24	38
2	0.43	0.36	0.39	64
accuracy			0.39	155
macro avg	0.39	0.38	0.36	155
weighted avg	0.39	0.39	0.38	155

## (d) Hist Gradient Boosting:

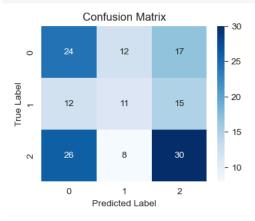
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.48	0.51	0.50	53
1	0.48	0.39	0.43	38
2	0.56	0.59	0.58	64
accuracy			0.52	155
macro avg	0.51	0.50	0.50	155
weighted avg	0.51	0.52	0.51	155

## (e) Neural Network:

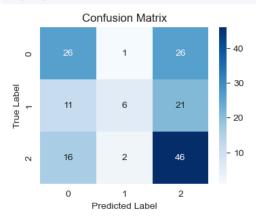
1/5 ———	5 0s 9ms/step5/5				
	precision	recall	f1-score	support	
0	0.42	0.26	0.33	53	
1	0.32	0.26	0.29	38	
2	0.49	0.70	0.58	64	
accuracy			0.45	155	
macro avg	0.41	0.41	0.40	155	
weighted avg	0.43	0.45	0.42	155	

#### • Confusion matrix:

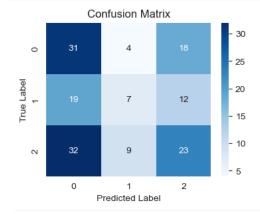
## (a) Decision Tree:



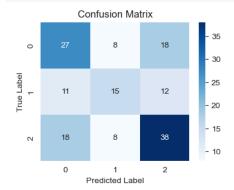
## (b) Random Forest:



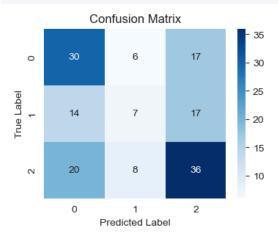
## (c) KNN:



## (d) Hist Gradient Boosting:



#### (e) Neural Network:



## 8. Conclusion:

From the performance metrics of the above models we can conclude that for our particular dataset the Hist Gradient Boosting model was the most successful among the used models. The accuracy of prediction for all the models were not satisfactory. The reason behind this can be the lack of correlation between the features and the target variable which is to be expected as predicting football match results is not an easy task. The result of a football match depends on the performance of each player of a team and the tactics of the coaching staff on the pitch. Predicting a match result with a finite number of attributes with great accuracy is almost an impossible task. This is the thing that makes a football match interesting and enjoyable.