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Class: DSC530

For this project, I will be predicting the strongest or best 11 players taking part in this world cup 2018. Based on player availability, the best possible lineup is a 4-3-3. Using this dataset, I would be giving you a step by step approach to analyze various characteristics that would help me infer the best players for the World Cup 2018.

Questions:

1. Finding the best Goalkeeper
2. Finding the best Defenders

* Left wing back
* Right wing back
* Right center back
* Left center back

1. Finding the best Mid-Fielders

* Central midfielder:
* Defensive midfielder:
* Attacking midfielder:

1. Finding the Best Attackers

* Attacking Left Wing: Attacking from the left flank.
* Attacking Right Wing: Attacking from the right flank.
* Striker: He is a player Attacking from the center.
* Comparing offensive performance of the teams who played in the final
* Comparing defensive performance of the teams who played in the final

1. Finding the best 11 players

**Analysis**

We currently have 53 columns which include the following attributes:

Name, Nationality, National\_Position, National\_Kit, Club, Club\_Position, Club\_Kit, Club\_Joining, Contract\_Expiry, Rating, Height, Weight, Preffered\_Foot, Birth\_Date, Age, Preffered\_Position, Work\_Rate, Weak\_foot, Skill\_Moves, Ball\_Control, Dribbling, Marking, Sliding\_Tackle, Standing\_Tackle, Aggression, Reactions, Attacking\_Position, Interceptions, Vision, Composure, Crossing, Short\_Pass, Long\_Pass, Acceleration, Speed, Stamina, Strength, Balance, Agility, Jumping, Heading, Shot\_Power, Finishing, Long\_Shots, Curve, Freekick\_Accuracy, Penalties, Volleys, GK\_Positioning, GK\_Diving, GK\_Kicking, GK\_Handling and GK\_Reflexes.

This is a lot of data, we really don’t need all this data for our analysis, so I will delete some columns which are not needed in order to save processing time.

After cleaning the data by dropping of the columns which are not needed then we data can start with the analysis part. I will start by plotting a simple plot which . shows us the number of players representing a particular country. I will be able to use this graph to gain statistical insights.

**Let’s start the analysis by identifying the number of players who represent each country in the world cup.**

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Based on the results from the graph, we conclude that most of the players are from England, Argentina, Spain, France and Brazil. In this case, the graph won’t add a lot of value because we would be picking the best XI, and the results may vary.

The next step is to capture the age of the players.

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Based on the graph, majority of players are between the age of 20 and 29, with the largest peak of 25 years.

Now I will try to answer the most important question which is the problem startment for this project. Who will be the World’s Best Playing XI?

**World’s Best Playing XI: Finding The Best Goalkeeper**

I’ll be analyzing the data to get the best goalkeeper based on the following features;

* Shot Stopper: A goalkeeper who is strong in stopping shots taken by opponents.
* Sweeper: A goalkeeper who is strong in playing with his feet and making passes.

**Shot Stopper**

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SweeperA screenshot of a cell phone

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Based on the two parameters(shot-stopper and sweeper) we used, we can conclude that Manuel Neuer would be the best choice goalkeeper for the World Cup 2018.

**World’s Best Playing XI: Finding The Best Defenders**

I will be using the following features to analyze and get the best defenders:

* **Centre Backs:** We need two center-backs. One who plays LCB and the other who plays RCB.
* **Wing Backs:** We again need two wing backs. One who plays on the Left and the other who plays on the right.

I be predicting 4 best defenders: 2 Centre backs and 2 wing backs. I will now start by predicting left centre back and right centre back.

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As per the above analysis, it is evident that Kyle Walker is the best RWB/RB for World Cup 2018 and David Alaba as the best LWB/LB defender.

**World’s Best Playing XI: Finding The Best Mid-Fielders**

I have to choose 3 midfielders. In order to find these, I’ll be analyzing the data for the below mentioned parameters:

* Playmaker: A playmaker is someone who will move the ball to the attacking 3rd from defence or midfield.
* Beast:A beast is a typical box-to-box player with loads of energy and who can boss the midfield.
* Controller:A controller is the person who is orchestrating your midfield engine by either sitting back or going forward based on dynamic needs.

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As per the above analysis, I’ll pick Iniesta as the best controller/ Left Central Midfielder, Mesut Ozil as the best Playmaker for World Cup 2018 and N’ Golo Kante as the best Beast/ Right Central Midfielder.

**World’s Best Playing XI: Finding The Best Attackers**

In order to find the best attacker, I’ll be analyzing the below mentioned parameters:

* Attacking Left Wing: He is a player, attacking from the left flank.
* Attacking Right Wing: He is a player, attacking from the right flank.
* Striker: He is a player attacking from the center.

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Based on our analysis, we can confirm that Ronaldo is the best Left Wing Attacker for World Cup 2018, Lionel Messi as the right wing attacker for World Cup 2018 and Robert Lewandowski is the best striker in the World Cup 2018.

Conclusion:

I was able to answer all the questions which I stated in my problem statements. I did make the predictions for the best 11 players in the 2018 world cup. During my analysis, I realized that I had way too much data, more than what was needed so I removed the unwanted data. Also, I realized that the data had players who didn’t participate in the world cup, during my prediction I wasn’t able to determine if a player played in the world cup. Overall it was a good prediction.