

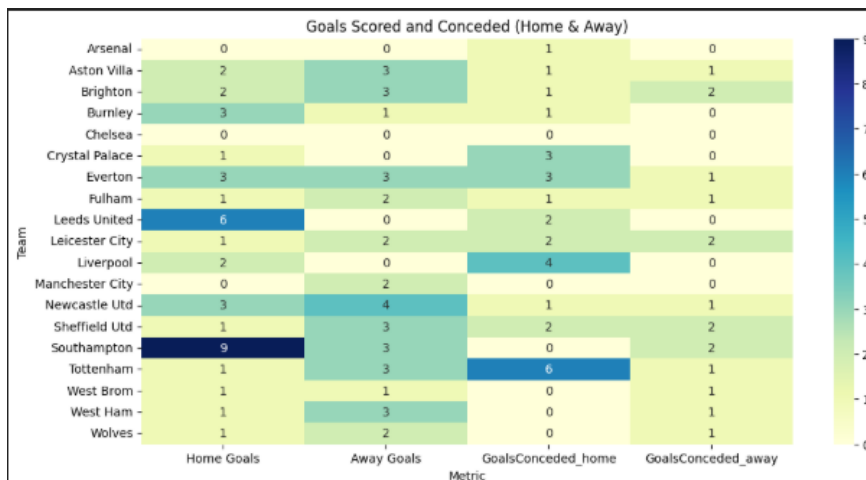
# MANCHESTER UNITED 2020/21 VS 2022/23

## (Ole's best season VS Ten Hag's best season)

### Analysis of 2020/21 season:

#### Manchester United 2020/21 Season: Home vs Away Goals Analysis

When analyzing Manchester United's 2020/21 Premier League campaign, the raw numbers initially suggest that the team performed better at home. United scored **38 goals at Old Trafford** (mean = 2.0 per game) compared to **35 goals away** (mean = 1.84). However, a deeper statistical inspection reveals a more nuanced story.



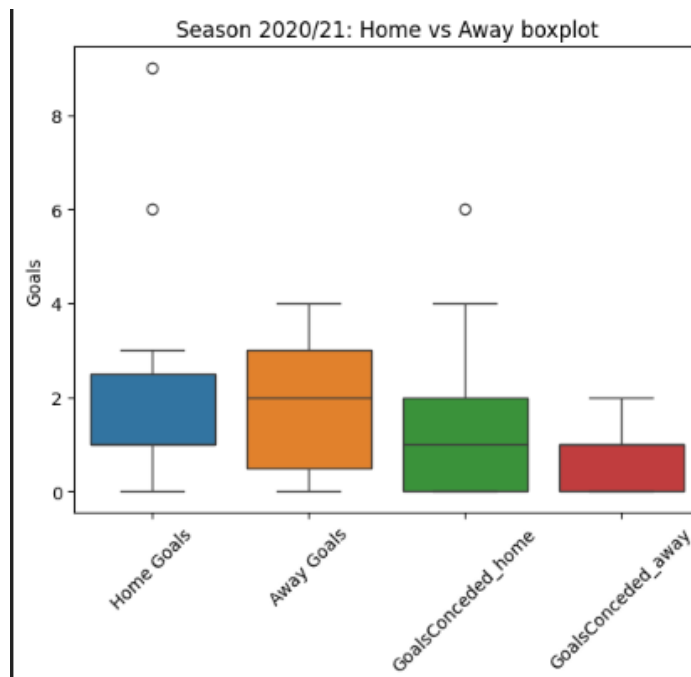
#### Goals Scored:

- The **mean** for home goals is higher, but the **median** (50th percentile) tells a different story:
    - Home median = **1 goal**
    - Away median = **2 goals**
- This indicates that in a typical match, United scored more consistently away from home.

- The **standard deviation of home goals (2.21)** is considerably larger than away (1.34), highlighting the presence of outliers.
- These outliers are clearly visible in the boxplot: matches such as the **9–0 victory vs Southampton** and **6–0 win vs Leeds** significantly inflated the home average. Removing these anomalies, the away performances emerge as more steady and effective.

### Goals Conceded:

- Defensively, United were also stronger away from home.
  - Home mean conceded = **1.47** vs Away = **0.84**
  - The **spread at home** is wider, with an extreme outlier (6 goals conceded at Old Trafford), while the away distribution is compact, mostly within 0–1 goals conceded.
- Quartiles confirm this trend: 75% of away games saw **1 or fewer goals conceded**, compared to **2 at home**.



## Insights:

- **Attack:** United's home attack appears stronger in raw totals, but it was heavily skewed by explosive outliers. Away matches showed a more reliable and consistent scoring rate.
- **Defense:** United were far more stable defensively on the road, conceding fewer goals with less variance.
- **Overall:** While headlines may focus on spectacular home wins, the statistical evidence points to United being a **better all-round side away from home** in 2020/21 — both in attack consistency and defensive solidity.

## 2020/21 Season – Home vs Away xG and Goal Difference (GD) Analysis:

### At Home (Old Trafford)

- **xG (United attack):** 31.6
- **xGA (Opponents' xG vs United):** 21.5
- **xGD (31.6 – 21.5):** +10.1
- **Actual Goals Scored:** 38
- **Actual Goals Conceded:** 28
- **Actual GD:** +10

#### Insight:

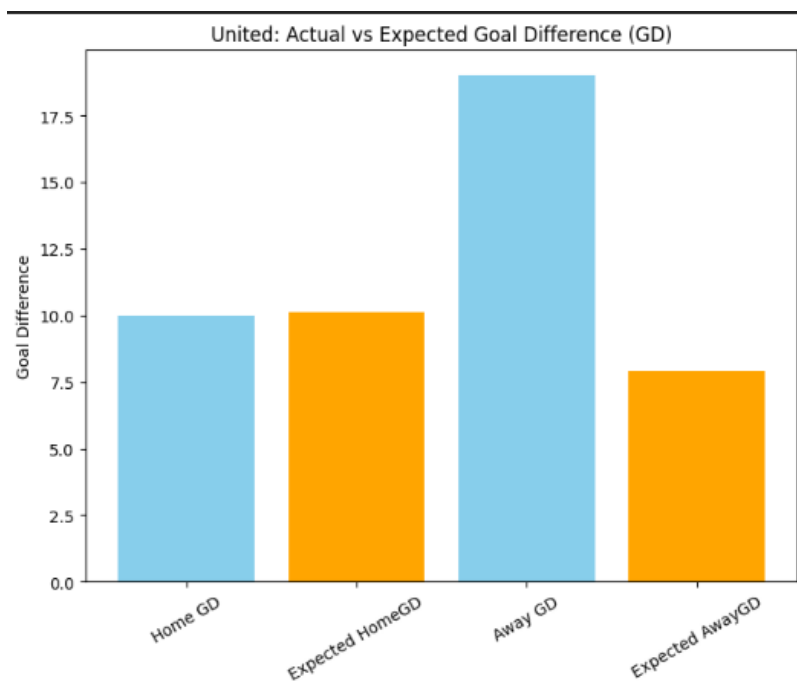
- United's **expected GD (+10.1)** and **actual GD (+10)** are almost identical.
- This suggests that **their finishing & defending at home was pretty much in line with what the chances suggested.**
- No major overperformance/underperformance at Old Trafford.

### Away (on the road)

- **xG (United attack):** 20.8
- **xGA (Opponents' xG vs United):** 28.7
- **xGD (20.8 – 28.7):** –7.9
- **Actual Goals Scored:** 35
- **Actual Goals Conceded:** 16
- **Actual GD:** +19

#### Insight:

- MASSIVE difference here.
- **Expected GD (-7.9)** suggests United “should” have been outscored badly away.
- But **Actual GD was +19** → they massively outperformed the xG model.
- This could mean:
  - **Clinical finishing away from home** (scoring way more than expected).
  - **Outstanding goalkeeping / poor finishing by opponents** (conceded much less than expected).
  - **Possible tactical style:** United maybe played more on the counter away, leading to fewer but higher-quality chances (which xG sometimes undervalues).

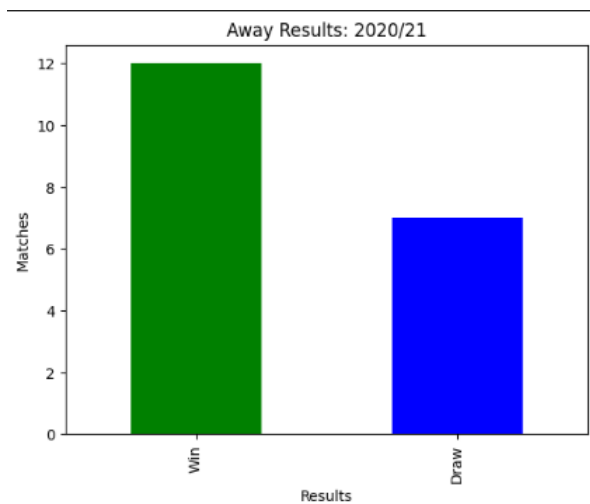
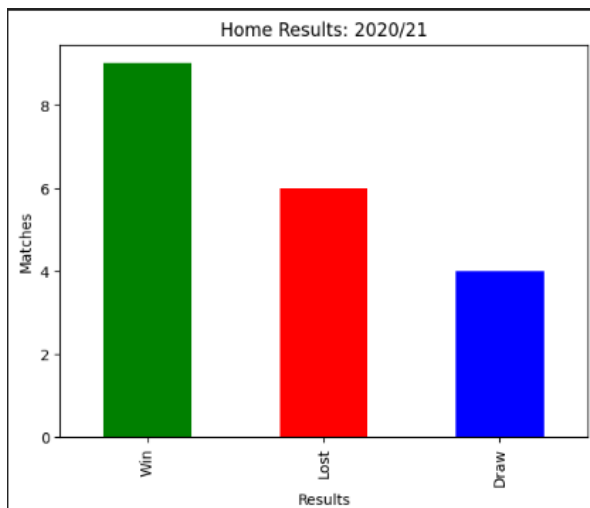


## Overall takeaway

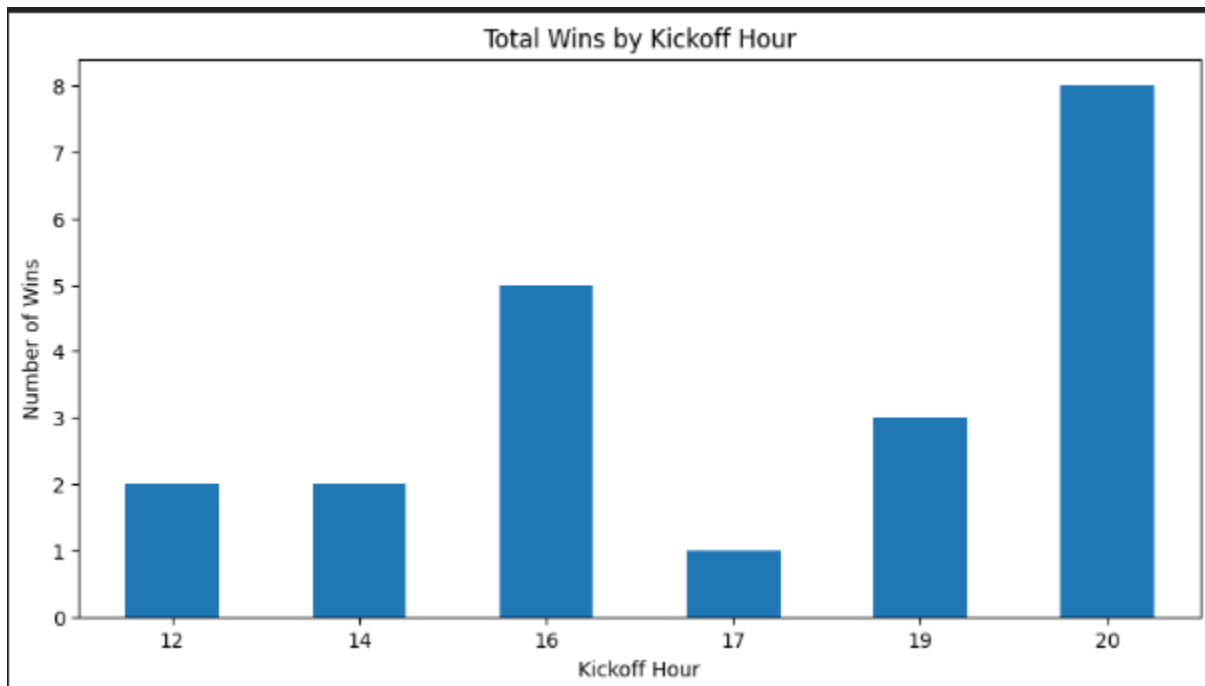
- **At Home:** United performed as expected.
- **Away:** United massively outperformed xG (clinical finishing + resilient defense/keeper).
- This explains why people often said United were a “**better away side**” that season.

## 2020/21 Season – Home vs Away Results:

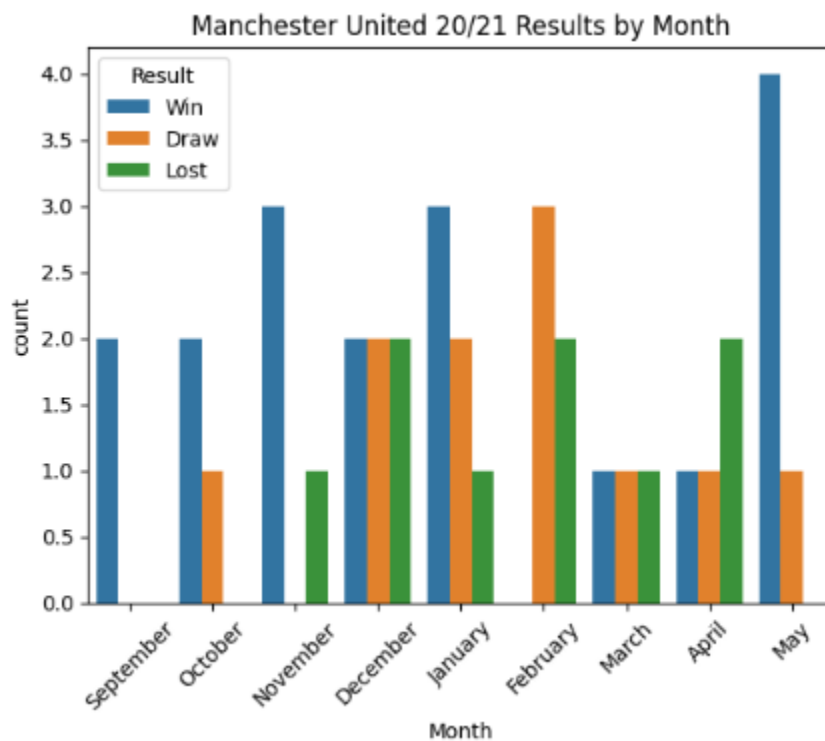
The analysis reveals a striking pattern: Manchester United were far stronger away from home, going unbeaten in all 19 away fixtures (12 wins, 7 draws). In contrast, they struggled at Old Trafford, managing only 9 wins while suffering 6 defeats and 4 draws. This unusual trend highlights how United's traditional home advantage diminished during the campaign, making their away form the backbone of their season.



### 2020/21 Season – Wins by Kick-Off Hours (Home & Away Combined):



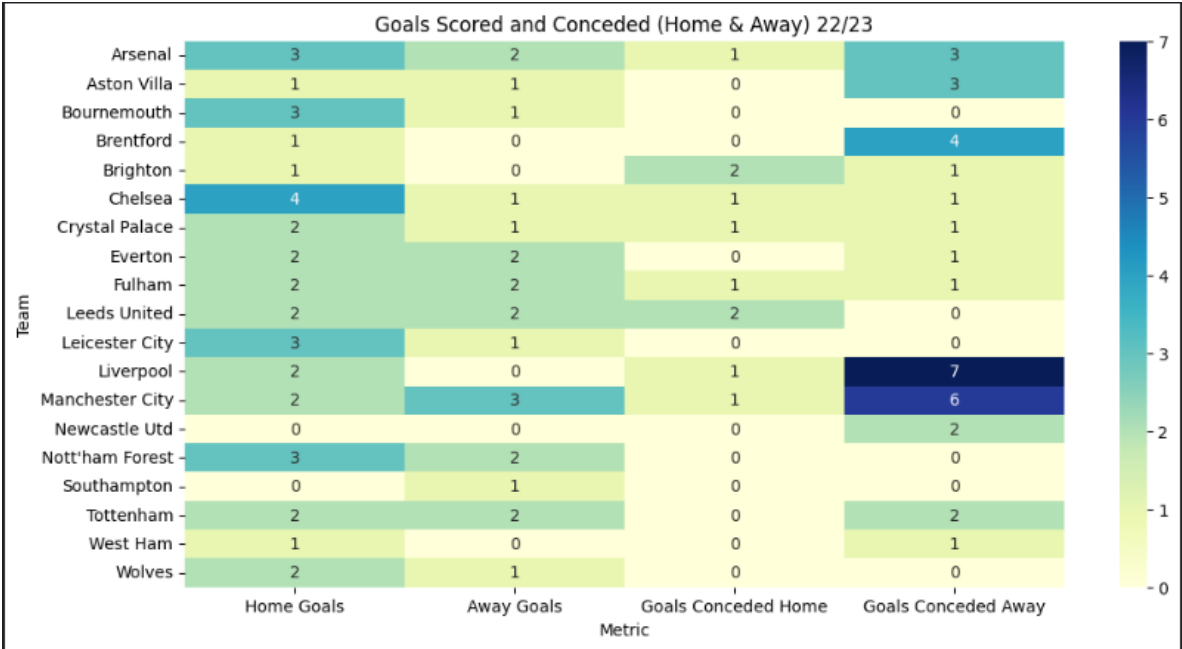
### 2020/21 Season – Results by Month (Home & Away Combined):



### Analysis of 2022/23 season:

## Manchester United 2022/23 Season: Home vs Away Goals Analysis:

When analyzing Manchester United’s 2022/23 Premier League campaign, the raw numbers highlight an interesting home vs away dynamic. At Old Trafford, United generally looked more secure, scoring **37 goals** and conceding only **10 goals across 19 home games** (mean  $\approx 1.95$  scored,  $0.53$  conceded per game). Away from home, however, the story shifts — United scored **24 goals** but conceded **31 goals** (mean  $\approx 1.26$  scored,  $1.63$  conceded per game).



### Goals Scored:

The **median** number of goals is slightly higher at home (**2 goals**) than away (**1 goal**), suggesting that in a typical match, United were more consistent scorers at Old Trafford.

The **spread** is also wider for home matches, with an interquartile range from 1 to 3, compared to away’s narrower 0 to 2. This indicates more variation in United’s home attacking output

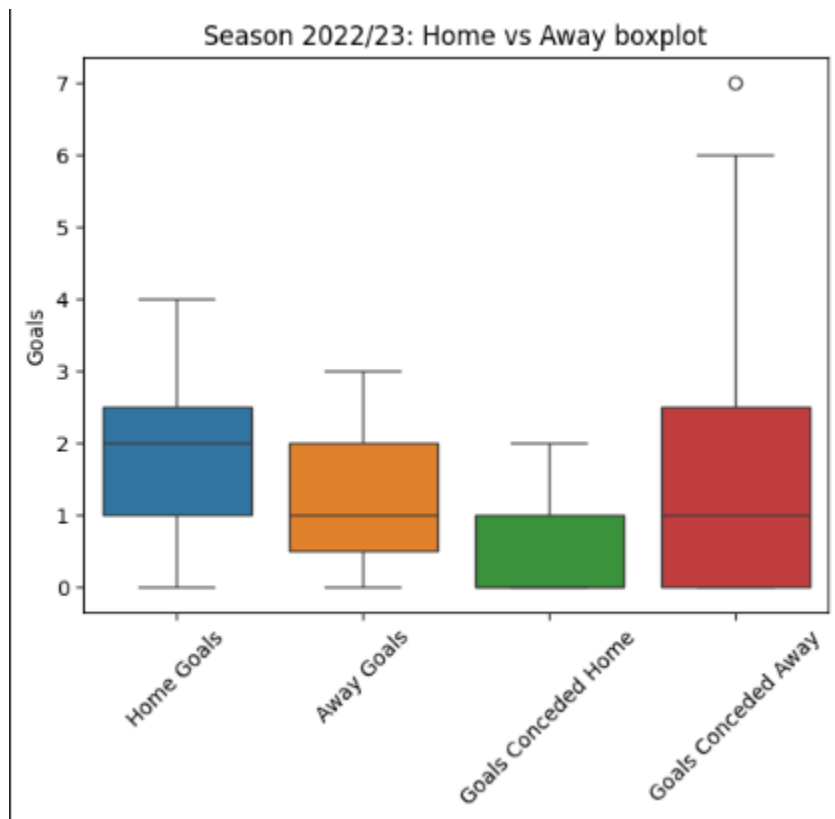
An **outlier** is visible in the home distribution (4 goals scored), reflecting one of United’s dominant attacking performances. In contrast, the away scoring pattern was more stable, rarely exceeding 2–3 goals.

## Goals Conceded:

Defensively, the picture flips. The **median for home goals conceded is 0**, compared to **1 away**, reflecting stronger defensive resilience at Old Trafford.

However, the **variance away from home is much higher**, with an extreme outlier (6–7 goals conceded in a single match). The away boxplot shows a longer whisker extending up to 6+, emphasizing United's vulnerability on the road against strong sides.

At home, the distribution is much tighter, with most games seeing **0–1 goals conceded**.



## Insights:

- **Attack:** United were more consistent and slightly stronger scorers at home, though the presence of a home outlier suggests some inflated performances. Away scoring was steadier but less prolific.
- **Defense:** United's defensive base was significantly stronger at home, while away games revealed fragility — particularly against top opponents, where heavy defeats created clear statistical outliers.



- **Overall:** The boxplot highlights a **home advantage in both attack and defense** during 2022/23. At Old Trafford, United were more consistent and secure, while away matches carried far greater risk of collapse which eventually cost them a higher spot in the table.

In comparison to the 2020/21 season, where the team went undefeated in away games under Ole Gunnar Solskjær, this is the area where Erik ten Hag's side has struggled. While the 2020/21 team wasn't particularly dominant at home, the gap between home and away performances was nowhere near as wide as it is in 2022/23.

## 2022/23 Season – Home vs Away xG and Goal Difference (GD) Analysis:

### At Home (Old Trafford):

- **xG (United attack):** 43.5
- **xGA (Opponents' xG vs United):** 21.6
- **xGD (43.5 – 21.6):** +21.9
- **Actual Goals Scored:** 36
- **Actual Goals Conceded:** 26
- **Actual GD:** +10

### Insight:

United's expected GD (+21.9) was far higher than their actual GD (+10).

This suggests **underperformance at home** – they created enough chances to win more comfortably, but finishing was wasteful and defensive lapses meant they conceded more than expected.

### Away (on the road):

- **xG (United attack):** 20.8
- **xGA (Opponents' xG vs United):** 25.1
- **xGD (20.8 – 25.1):** –4.3
- **Actual Goals Scored:** 27
- **Actual Goals Conceded:** 38
- **Actual GD:** –11

### Insight:

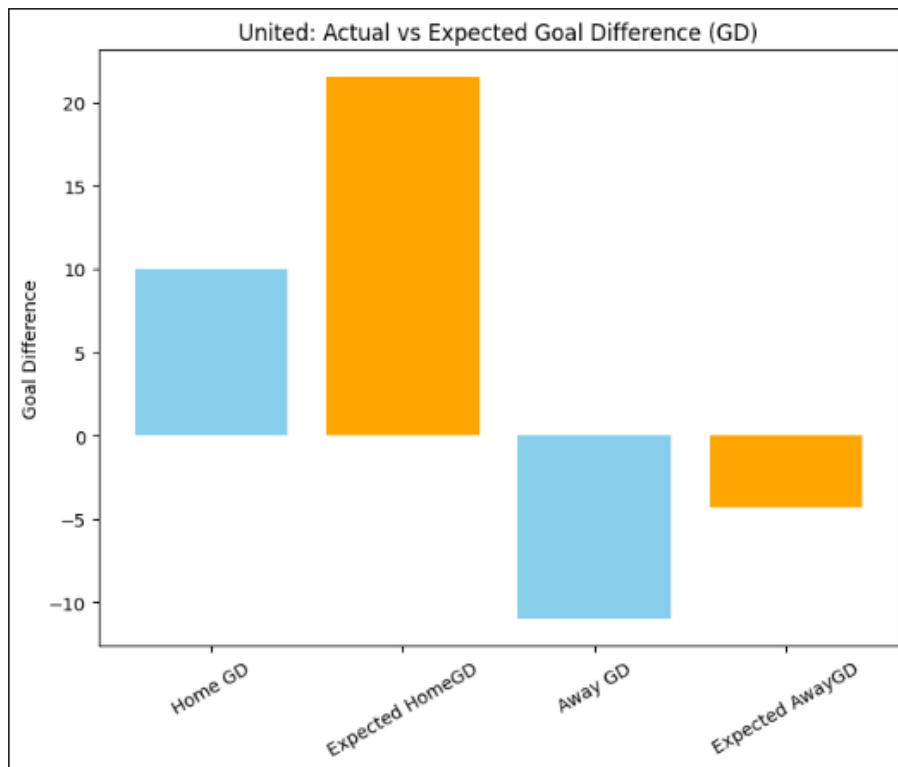
Here the picture is reversed. Expected GD (–4.3) suggests United should have been only

slightly worse off away.

But the actual GD was **much worse (-11)**.

This indicates:

- **Poor finishing away from home** (scored fewer than expected).
- **Defensive errors** (conceded far more than expected).
- Possibly a tactical weakness on the road, leaving them more vulnerable and exposed.



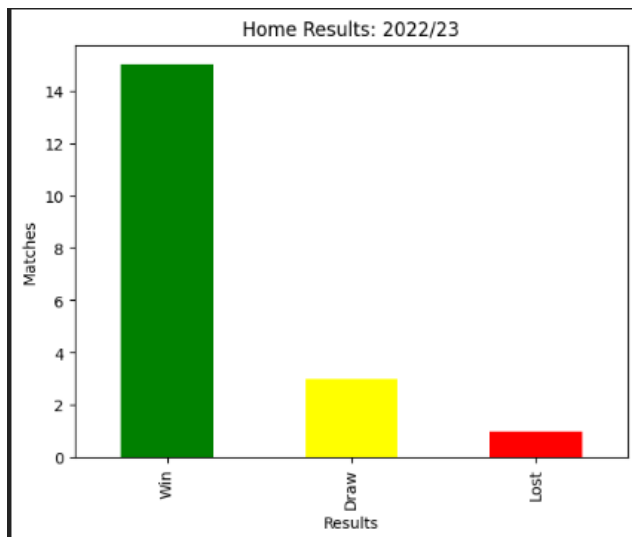
## Overall Takeaway

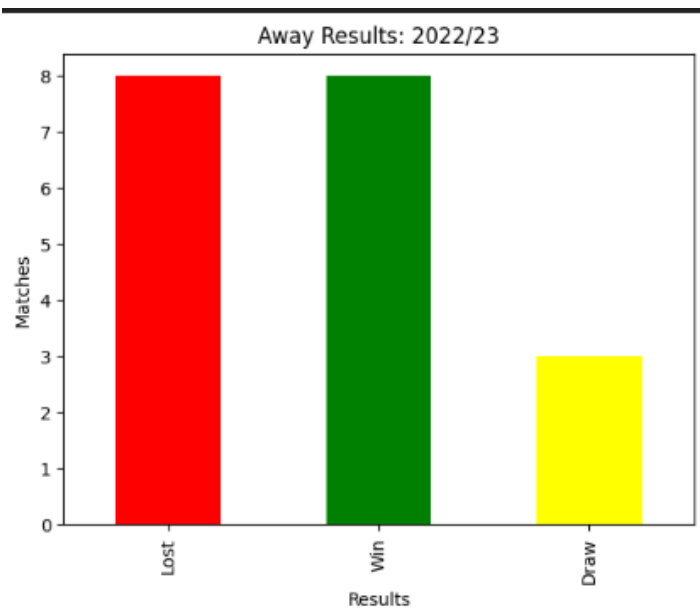
- **At Home:** United underperformed the xG model – wasteful in attack and leaky in defense.
- **Away:** United massively underperformed – both attack and defense fell short of what the underlying numbers suggested.

This season contrasts strongly with 2020/21, where United hugely overperformed away from home. However, under ETH United underperformed at both Home & Away.

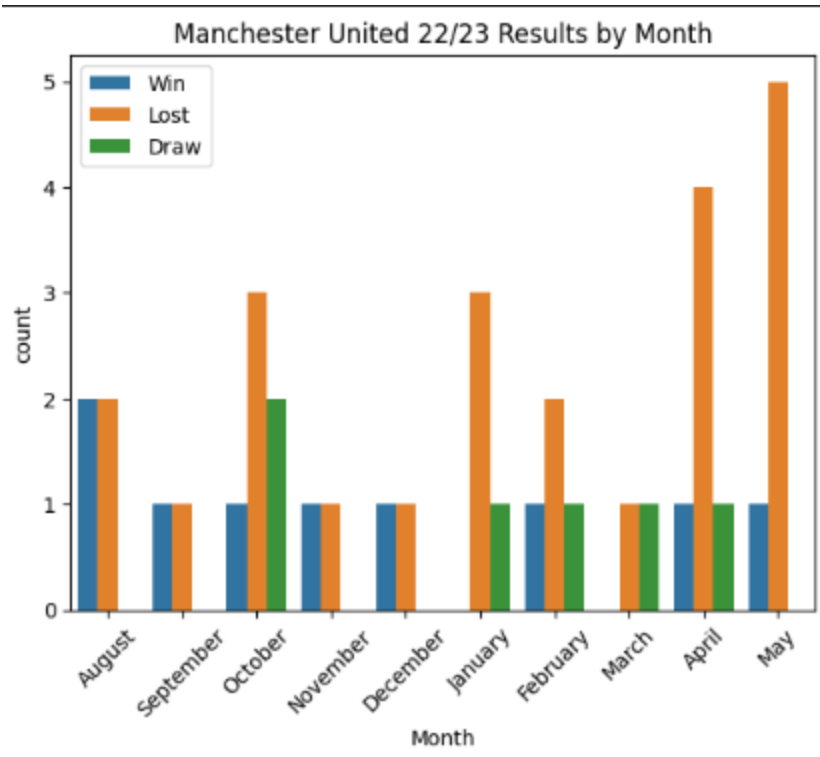
## 2022/23 Season – Home vs Away Results:

The 2022/23 season showed a very different story for Manchester United. At Old Trafford, they were dominant, winning 15 of their 19 matches, drawing 3, and losing just once, a record that re-established their home ground as a fortress. However, their away form was inconsistent, splitting their 19 games evenly with 8 wins, 8 losses, and 3 draws. Unlike the 2020/21 campaign, where their unbeaten away streak defined the season and masked their home struggles, the 2022/23 reversal highlighted a complete role switch – Old Trafford once again became their stronghold while their away performances lacked the same resilience and consistency.





**2022/23 Season – Results by Month (Home & Away Combined):**



The losses throughout the season were consistent, which divided opinions on ETH's debut season, especially toward the end, when United lost almost 70% of their games, leaving fans furious rather than reassured. In comparison, the 2020/21 season had its own collapse during February and March, which ultimately cost United the title race. However, unlike ETH's campaign, there wasn't a prolonged streak of defeats in 2020/21, making that season feel more competitive and respectable despite the disappointment.

## CONCLUSION:

Overall, the comparison between Manchester United's 2020/21 and 2022/23 campaigns highlights two very different stories. Under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the team thrived away from home with a remarkable unbeaten run, even though their home form was inconsistent. In contrast, Erik ten Hag's debut season showed great resilience at Old Trafford, turning it back into a fortress, but the away struggles and late-season collapse exposed the fragility of his side. While both seasons carried their own strengths and weaknesses, the contrast lies in consistency. Solskjaer's United lacked balance between home and away, while Ten Hag's lacked stability across the whole season. Ultimately, both eras underline the same theme: moments of promise overshadowed by shortcomings that prevented Manchester United from reaching the very top.