Data Visualising, Dashboard Report→

Fantasy Premier League (FPL) Football is an online game where virtual managers battle it out against each other to collect the most points. Operated by the Premier League, points are earned on a week-by-week basis by footballers in the English Premier league. Points are generally earned by having players who score goals, create assists, and earn clean sheets. According to ŠUĽAN (2023), the FPL is being played by over 11 million users from all over the world. Making it the most popular fantasy sport in the world (Pokharel et al 2022). I hope to improve my own FPL position in the various leagues I compete in. Prizes are awarded to those who finish top of the overall public league, along with prize for achieving the most points every month. However, a lot of attention is put into private league, involving large groups of friends, family, and work colleagues, where pride is the prize.

By using data provided by Manakad (2023), the purpose of my dashboard is to provide information to FPL users on what they could do climb the leaderboards. The hypothesis is to see gradual game week improvements in points accumulated, which is measurable by comparing game week points with the total average. With the Power BI connector, I'm able to connect to the Google Sheets and automate the dashboard, meaning that the dashboard can be refreshed whenever for the most up to date data. Helping to avoid the use of data that is from a singular point in time (e.g. excel sheet saved internally on PC).

For the design of my dashboard, I'll be looking to make 5 pages:

1. Introduction/Glossary
2. Goalkeeper Page (GK)
3. Defenders Page (DEF)
4. Midfielders Page (MID)
5. Forward/attackers Page (FWD)

All Pages excluding, 'Introduction/Glossary', have a similar format. Those pages have dynamic filters for splicing the data by a certain player, team, minutes played by player, and total points earned. 'Data Cards' are used to show the Number of Players, Average Cost of Player, and Average Form of Player. A common visual exists for 'Form and Next Fixture Difficulty (with Avg Lines)' showing the scatter points of players by form and fixture difficulty, as shown by Figure 1. High-point earners for the future are likely to be in-form players, with a low fixture difficulty (Points in bottom right corner). The visual has been split for the four Position Pages to shows FPL managers which players they should use/buy, and what players they should avoid. The matrix created by the horizontal/vertical averages, provides a clear picture on who is performing well. Using a bar chart to show the same amount of information would be difficult. The Scatter plot in Figure 1 is able to show all players in a certain position, showing clear outliers to inform FPL managers on who is above/below average. The Position Pages then contains data based on what the position earn points on (e.g. Goalkeepers make saves for points, Forwards get points from goals/assists).
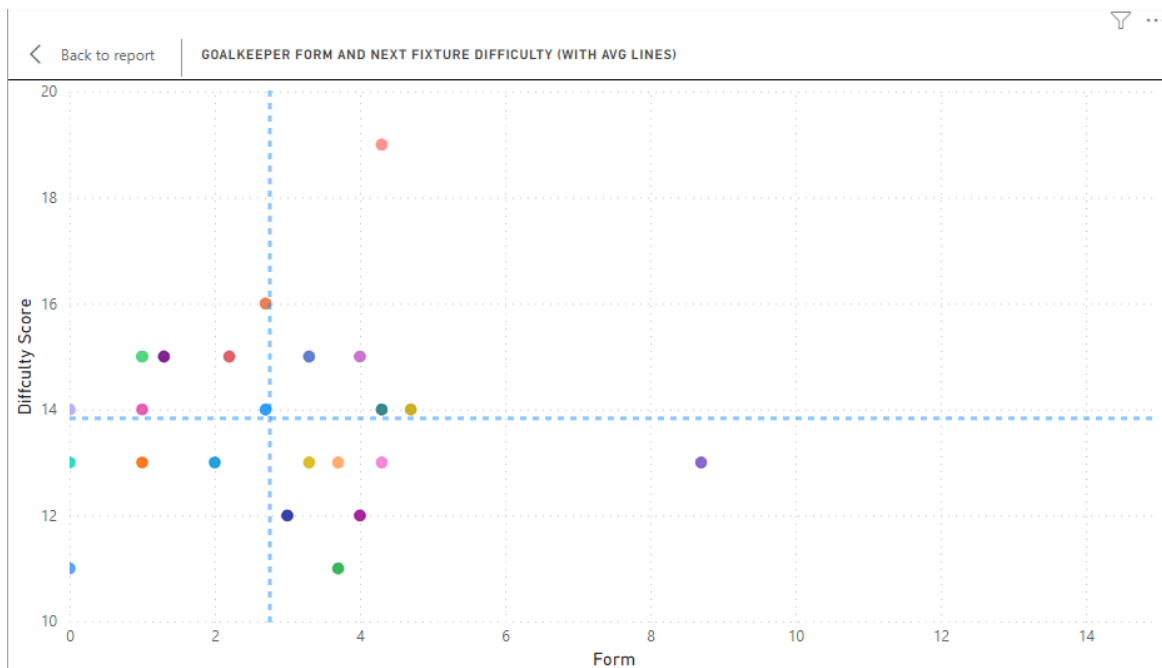
Figure 1- Scatter Plot of Player Form and Next Fixture Difficulty with Average Lines

Introduction/Glossary – The purpose of this page is to introduce the audience to the dashboard. Providing an introduction of what FPL football is and how FPL managers can use it to benefit them. I'll be using different visuals like pie charts and scatter plots for showing the distribution of points amongst teams and players. As Shown in Figure 1, the visual tells a story to the audience on how a cost of a player, usually means the more points they are to earn (Positive Correlation). However, FPL Managers have a limited budget, so may opt to pick players who are above the trend line in Figure 2, but cost less, as the average shows they are performing above their value.
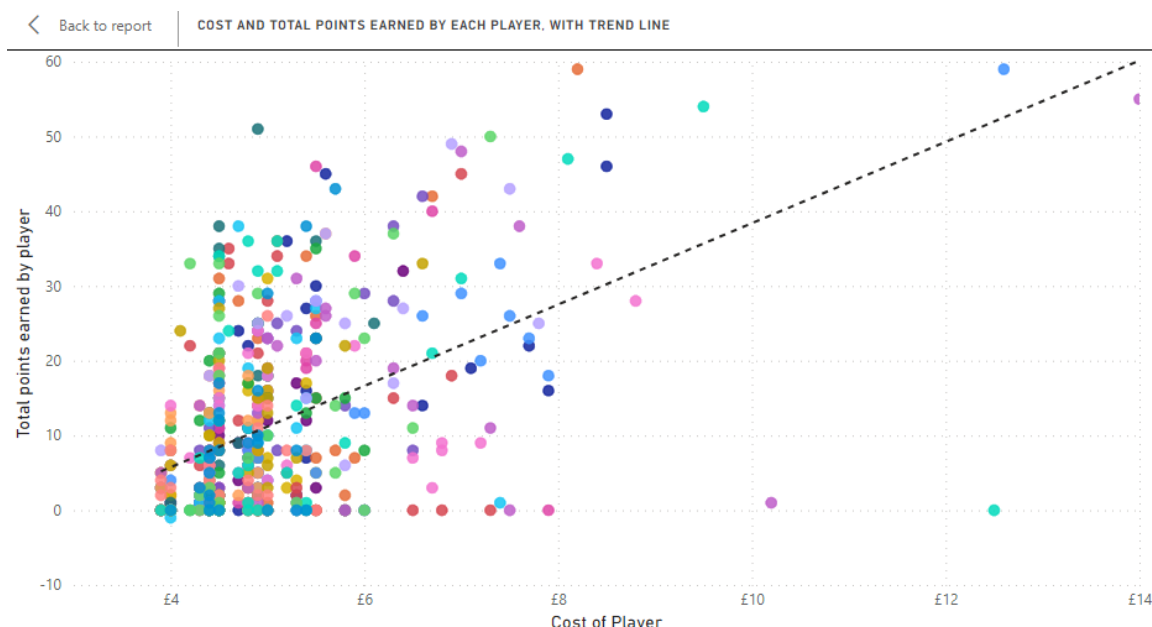
Figure 2 – Cost and Total Points earned by each player, with a Trend Line

Goalkeepers Page (GK)- The page is filtered for Goalkeepers only to allow for a comparison between one position. The 'Average Saves per game by Goalkeeper' shows the saves per game with a trend line for the average, so Goalkeepers above the line are above average, and others are below average. More saves, means more points for FPL Managers. The other visual is a Clustered Bar Chart,

displaying the number of Total Points Earned, Goals Conceded, and Clean Sheets, for each Goalkeeper. The bars are horizontal to allow for an easier read, with it sorted by highest to lowest, to allow for comparisons between the best/worst performing goalkeepers.

Defenders Page (DEF)- For defenders, we have a visual bar chart and line graph combined to show the 'Total Cards' and 'xGc' (Expected goals to concede). Defenders are more likely to commit fouls and lose points from losing clean sheets and picking up cards. The visual helps to show defenders with bad disciplinary and goal sheet history. The other defender visual shows the total points, clean sheets and goals conceded in a horizontal bar chart.

Midfielders Page (MID)- With the page filtered for Midfielders, we have unique visuals for the page. One of them being the 'Selection %' and 'Total Points' Visual which is another bar chart and line graph. The combination gives FPL Managers a chance to see if the most popular players are performing the best, and if a player is outperforming it's 'Selection %' by other FPL managers. We then have a horizontal bar chart showing players ICT index score and sum of points per game.

Forwards Page (FWD)- Added visuals for displaying the total goal contributions (Goals & Assists). An average trend line has been added to show the players who are above average for goal contributions by the total minutes they've played. A horizontal bar chart is added to show the split of goals and assists by each attacker/forward player.

References

Pokharel, P., Timalsina, A., Panday, S. and Acharya, B (2022) Fantasy Premier League-Performance Prediction.

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Manakad, W (2023) FPL 23/24 Live Player Data. Available at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_rkHKgIPt3i_2uKr8kh5u4WZaYOLccNiiTx1xAaAo_Y/edit#gid=1383261384 [Accessed: 21st October 2023]