Portfolio Introduction

This is a portfolio consists of some of the work I have done over my two seasons with the Philadelphia Union. I interacted with the technical staff and Sporting Director to make reports the staff uses to aid week to week as well as big picture decisions.

Types of Data

These reports are made with the use of event data (data on the ball I.E. shots, passes, etc) from Opta, tracking data(movement data of the players that happen on and off the ball) from Chyron Hego, and sequence data(events that are placed in chronological order, and in sets called sequences or possessions) provided by Opta as well. I have used, R, python, Opta, SBG’s Matchtracker, and excel to produce visuals and reports for the coaching staff to dissect and use in their decision making.

How the Reports are Made

Knowing how to query is a small part of how these reports are made. Often, coaches aren’t very familiar with what to look for in the data and won’t respond well to pure numbers. For example, a coach will ask for a report to evaluate attacking midfielders and how they will fit our style of play. They will give me qualitative descriptions of what is necessary. It is then my job to interpret their terminology and create a report that answers their questions in a way they will understand(rankings, visuals, simple numbers(whether bigger or smaller numbers are better, comparing it to averages or other positions, what goes in the numbers, and why it’s important).This involves using my knowledge to query data the proper data sets based on their requests, as well as use my own football insight to fill gaps they may have left or better respond to their requests.

Overall, a knowledge of the game and how it intersects with the data is important, as it is my responsibility to translate their football terms into data queries and reports, and to create reports they can understand and use.