Background

In this project, I play the role of a scout or player analyst for a soccer team, Arsenal. By analyzing player stats across Europe's 5 top leagues, I investigate Arsenal's need for a scorer and look for good goal-scoring players that Arsenal could attempt to sign in the next transfer window. I seek to answer these questions:

- How does Arsenal compare to its competitors in terms of a singular scoring player?
- What players could Arsenal consider signing to address their need for a goal scorer?

Findings

Arsenal ranks relatively low in the English Premier League in terms of a singular goal-scorer. Arsenal's top scorer, Kai Havertz, had 9 goals so far this season in the Premier League, at the time the data was downloaded. However, most teams in the league had an individual goal scorer who has scored more than Havertz. Furthermore, the other 3 teams aside from Arsenal that were in the top 4 (Liverpool, Manchester City, and Nottingham Forest) each had a distinct goal-scoring threat (Mohamed Salah with 23 goals, Erling Haaland with 19 goals, and Chris Wood with 18 goals, respectively).

To find a new goal-scoring threat for Arsenal, I looked for young players at teams outside England who had solid goal-scoring records so far this season, and then created a composite score from three different goal-scoring attributes. This revealed the top 3 attacking prospects for Arsenal to consider: Mateo Retegui (Atalanta), Moise Kean (Fiorentina), and Jonathan Burkardt (Mainz).

Conclusion

Arsenal's lack of a singular goal-scoring threat when compared to other teams in the English Premier League is an important area to address as they fight for a league title in the coming years. The team could use this analysis to find a promising young goal-scorer to sign, such as Retegui, Kean, or Burkardt.