Analyzing counter-attacks (Premier League 2020-21)

Juan Bautista

Counter-attacking criteria

1. Sequence starts in defensive half
2. Ball moves at least 10 meters forward
3. Last event occurs within final third
4. No set pieces in sequence
5. Ball forward velocity > 4 m/s

Successful counter attack?

➢ Any pass in a sequence that enters the 18-yard box or sequence ending in shot
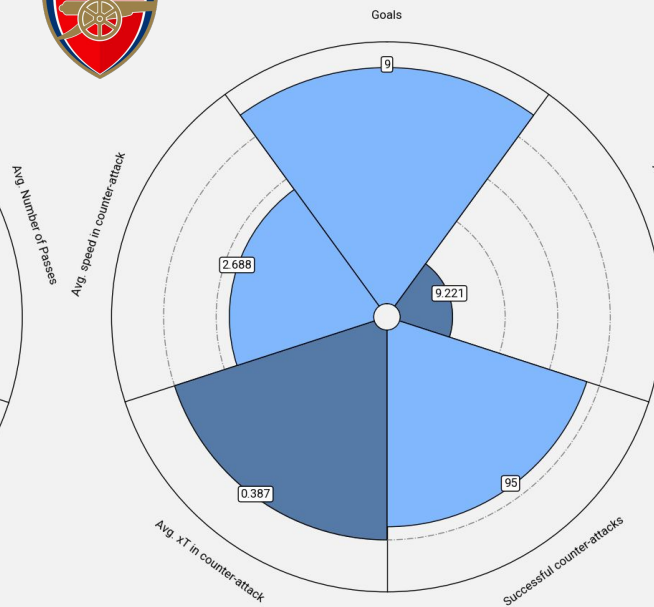
"Big Six" Comparison

➢ Tottenham: the fastest, but xT from passes is the lowest. Low # of successful counter-attacks
➢ Arsenal, Chelsea, Man. City: good quality passes during counter attacks (xT)
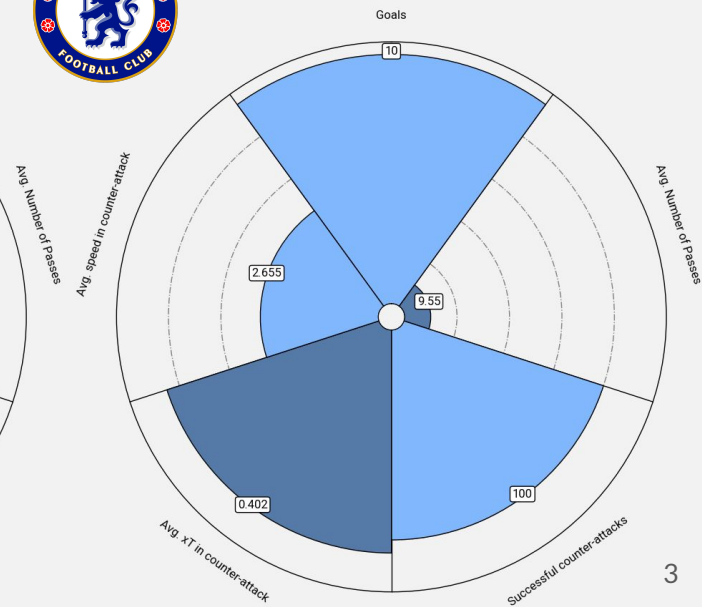➢ "Less direct" type of counter-attacks due to average number of passes in sequence.

Counter-attacking stats: Tottenham Hotspur
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21
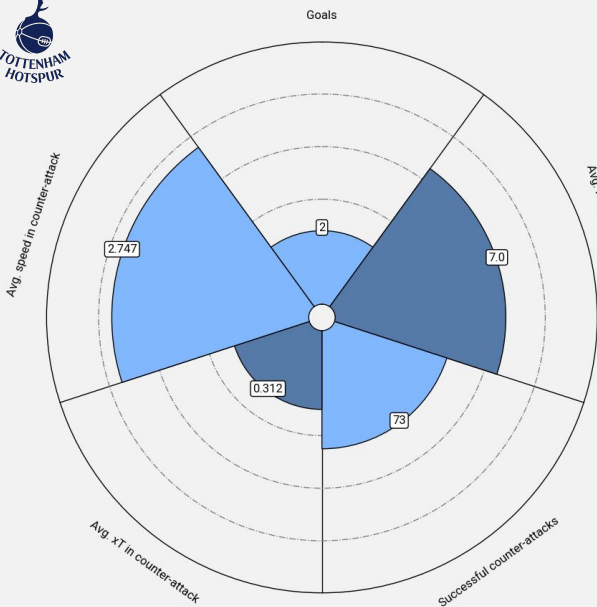
Counter-attacking stats: Arsenal
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21

Counter-attacking stats: Chelsea
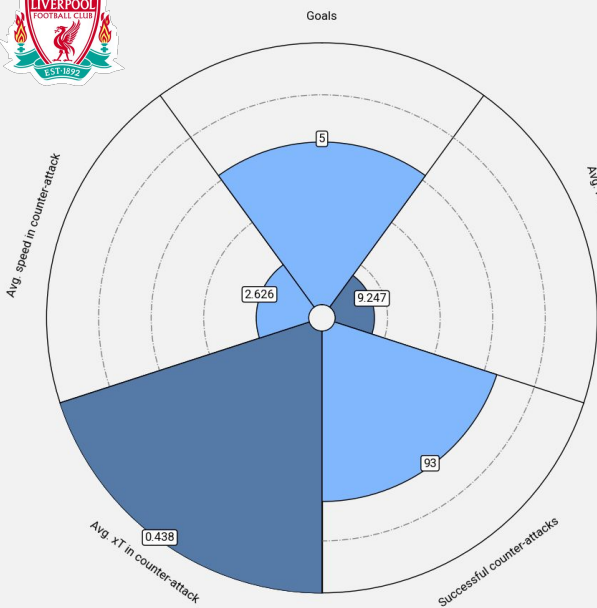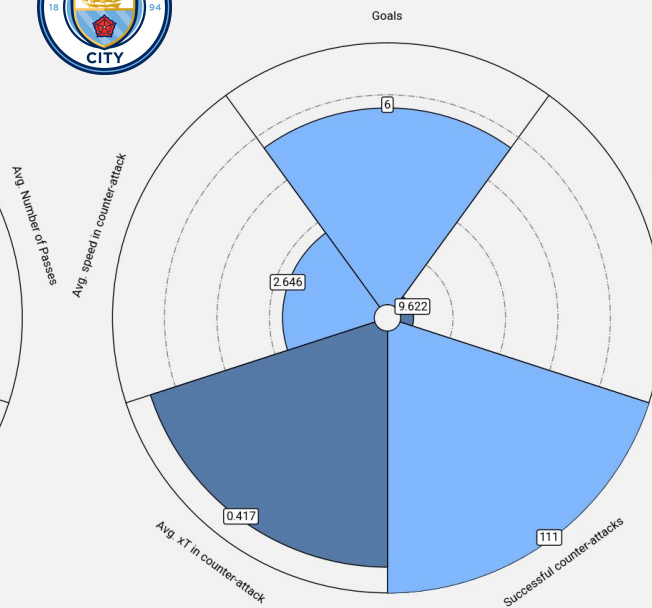Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21

"Big Six" Comparison

➢ Man. City and Liverpool: slow but high threat generated by passes
➢ Efficiency in counter-attacks: most above 60th percentile in number of goals
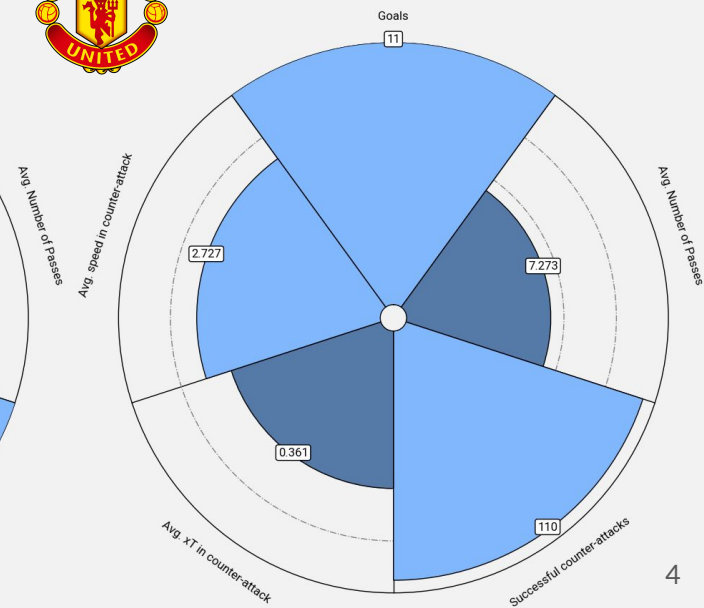

Counter-attacking stats: Manchester City
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21

Counter-attacking stats: Liverpool
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21

Counter-attacking stats: Manchester United
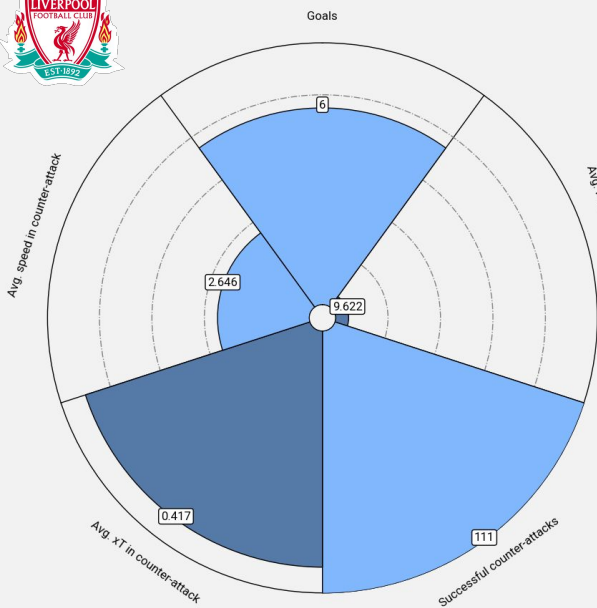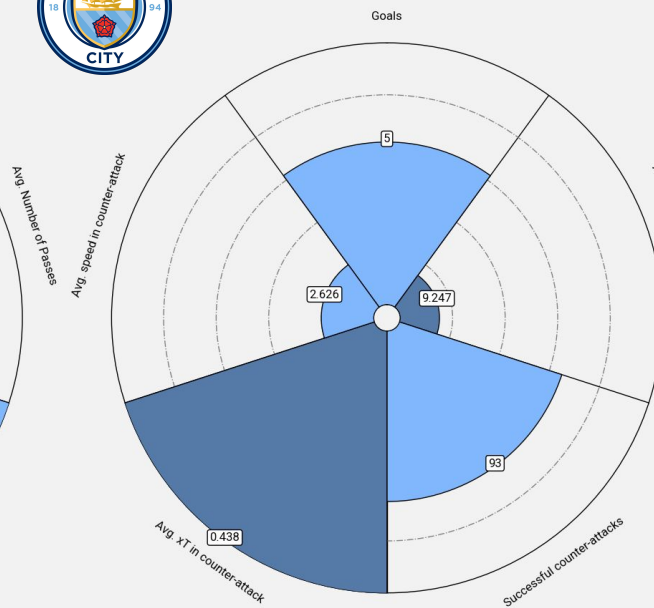Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21

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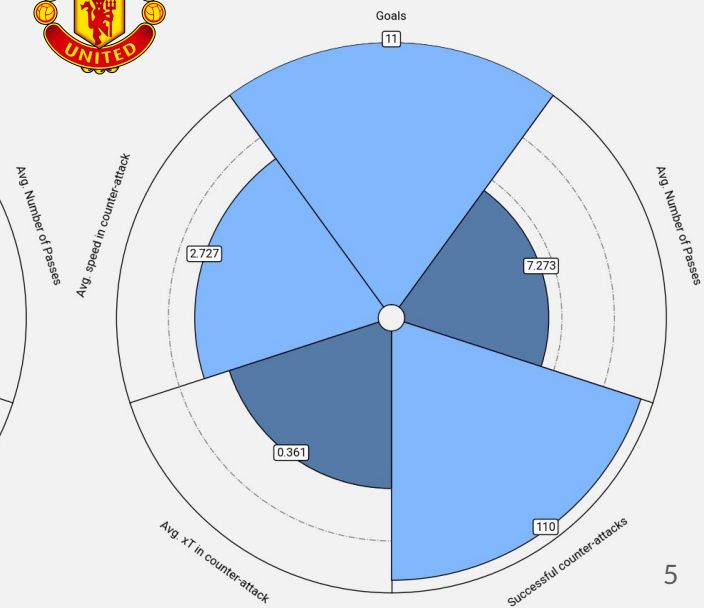

Counter-attacking stats: Liverpool
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21

Counter-attacking stats: Manchester City
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Counter-attacking stats: Manchester United
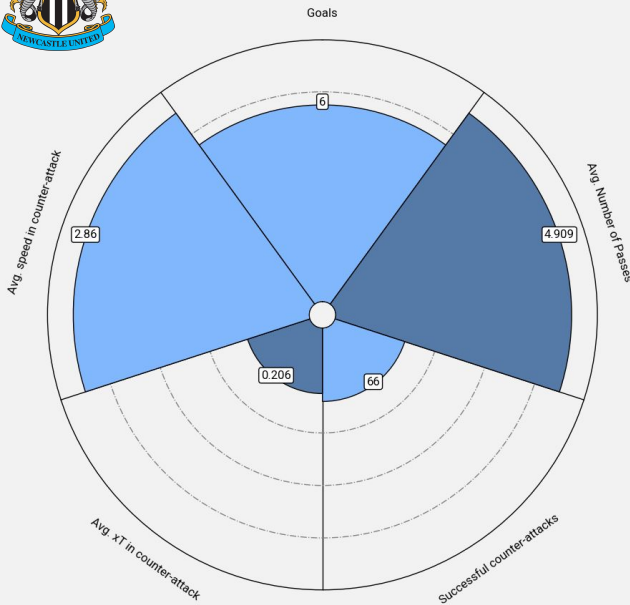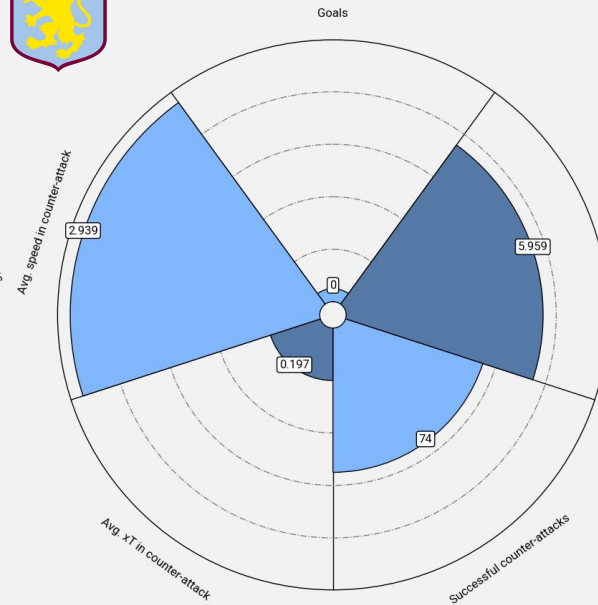Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21

Other interesting teams

➢ "Fast" counter-attacks given by average speed and less number of passes but really poor pass quality

➢ Leeds vs. Newcastle: number of successful counter-attacks → goal counts
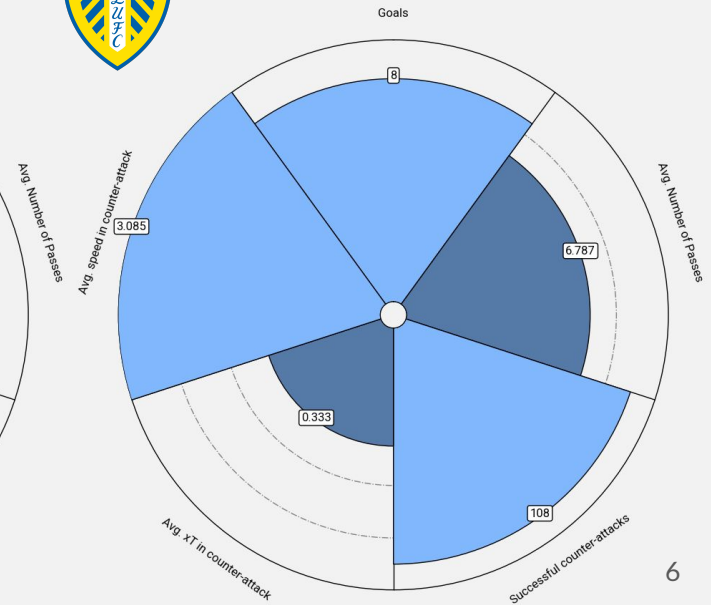

Counter-attacking stats: Newcastle United
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21

Counter-attacking stats: Aston Villa
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21

Counter-attacking stats: Leeds United
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21

Other interesting teams

➢ One of the best teams in terms of xT generated from passes in counter-attacks
➢ One of the "slowest teams", but still average number of passes is below 50th percentile

Counter-attacking stats: Wolverhampton Wanderers
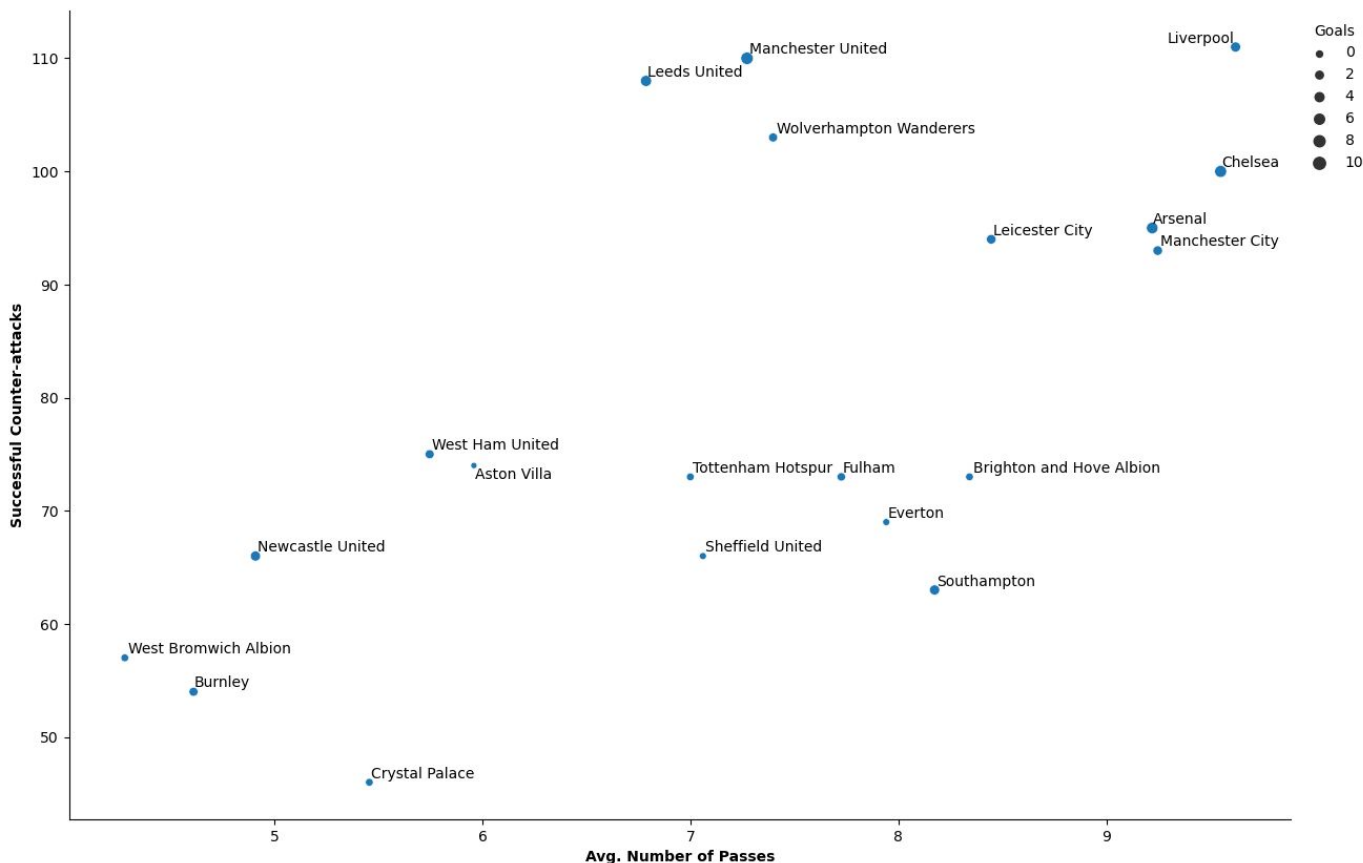Percentile Rank vs Premier League Teams | Season 2020-21
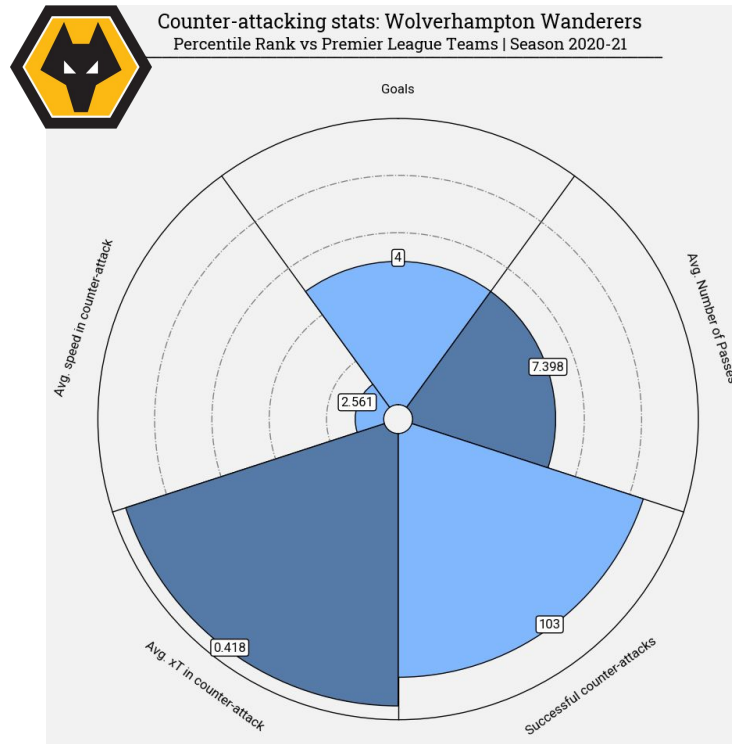
# Average Speed vs. Average Number of Passes
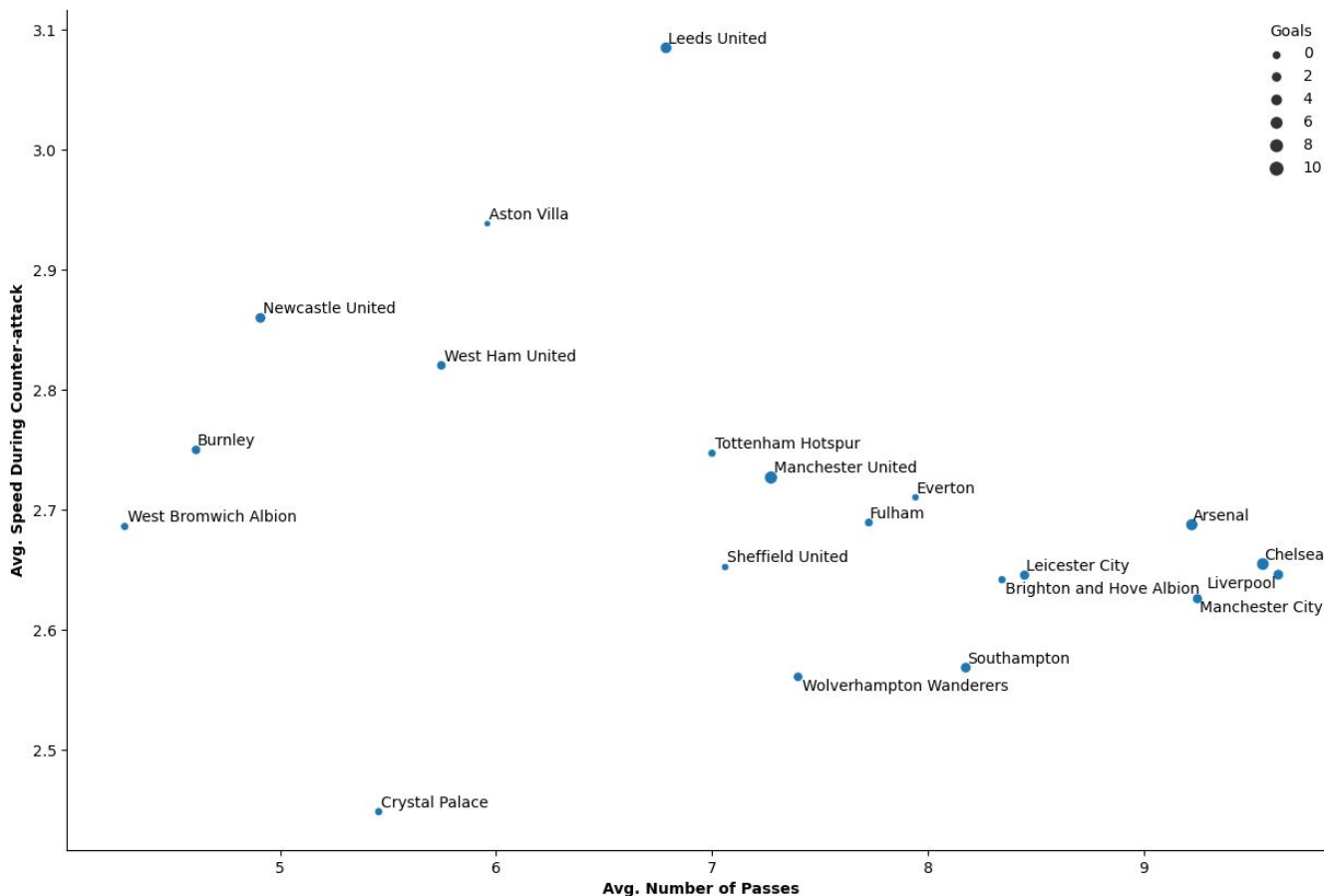
➢ More passes shows less speed in general.
➢ Crystal Palace → slow counter-attacks with small number of passes

Average Number of Passes vs. Successful Counter-attacks

➢ Teams in top right also generate greater xT.
➢ Counter-attacks are not only about speed but also making correct passes.

Average Speed vs. Successful Counter-attacks
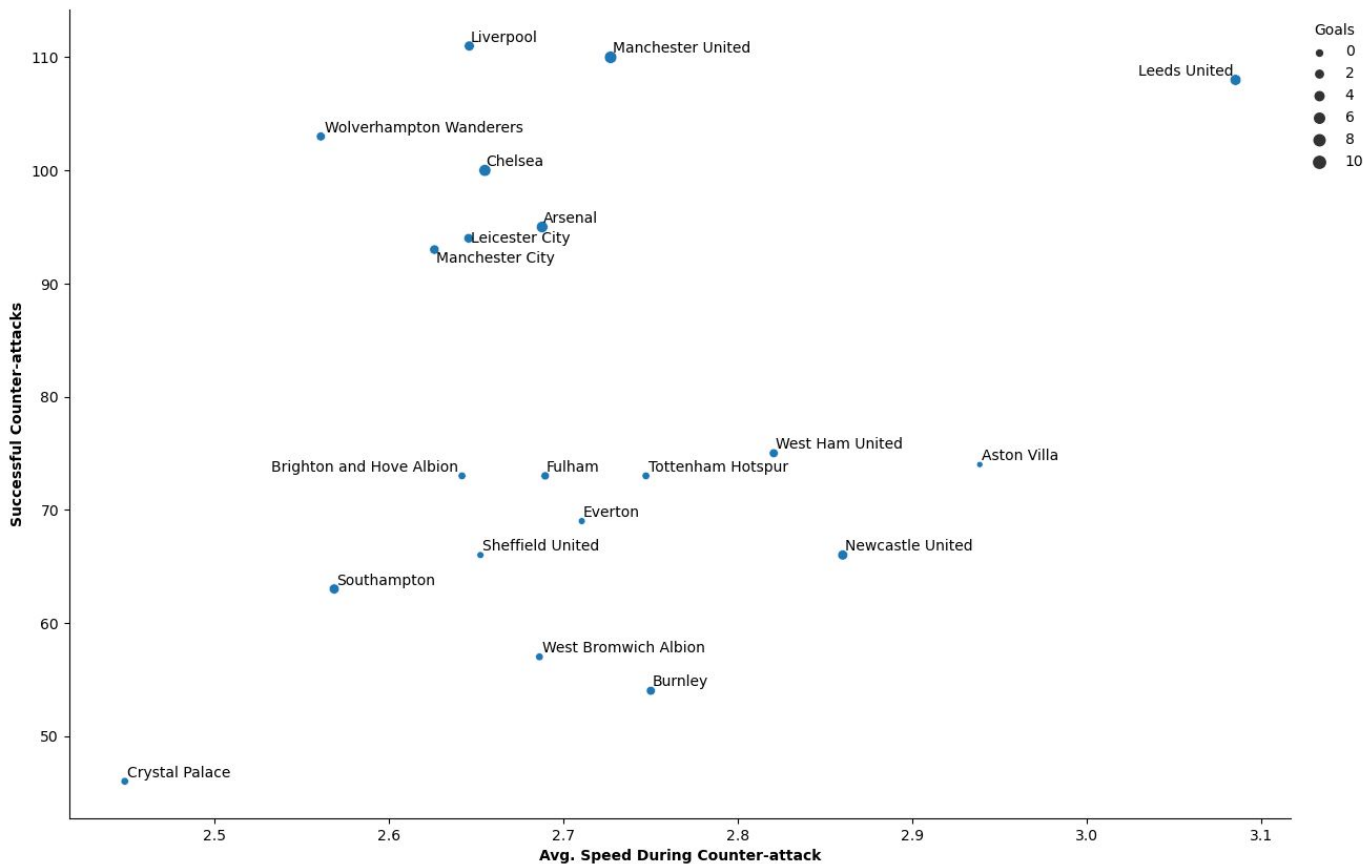
> ➢ Big six (except Tottenham) "clusterized". Similar speeds, similar number of successful counter-attacks
> ➢ Leeds are the fastest with a great number of successful counter-attacks.