

Game Day Analysis



VS



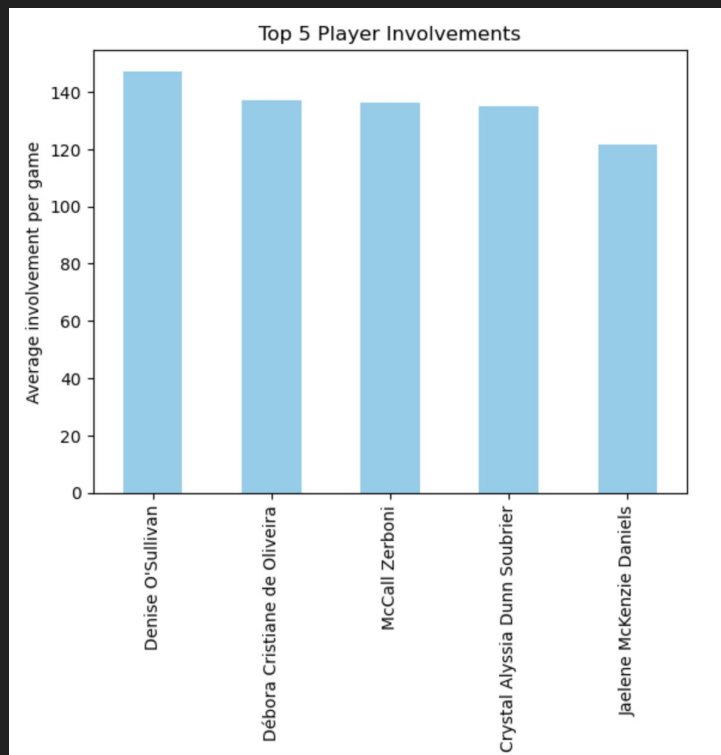
(2018)

North Carolina Courage Analysis: Overview

- **Finished first place 2018 NWSL Season**
- **Data from Statsbomb free dataset**
 - ***only data from 13 games of the 2018 season available***
- **Identified key areas using data analysis:**
 - **Key players**
 - **Strengths**
 - **Weaknesses**



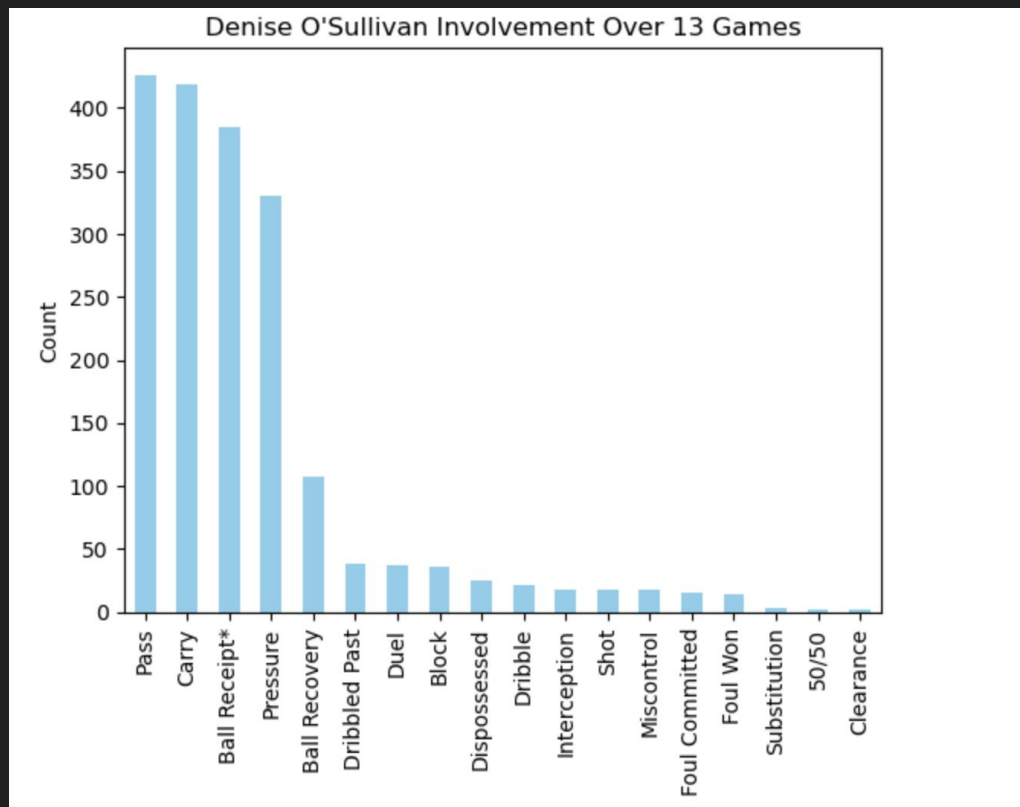
Average Involvement per Game (Top 5)



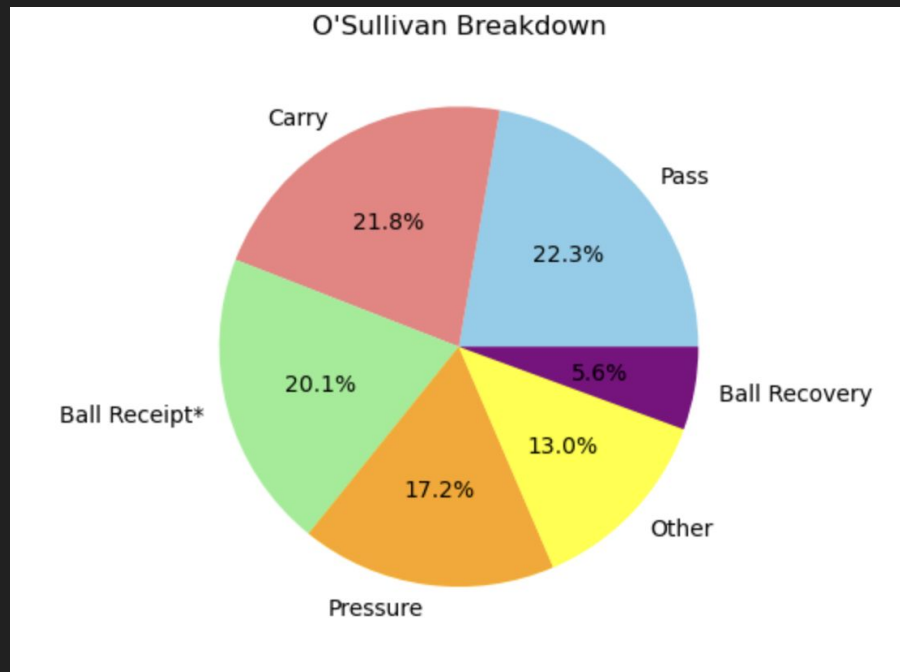
- **Identified key players by counting the number of times they were involved in a game**
- **Players that dictate the pace of game, connect lines, create chances**
- **Denise O'Sullivan analysis next**



Denise O'Sullivan: Breakdown



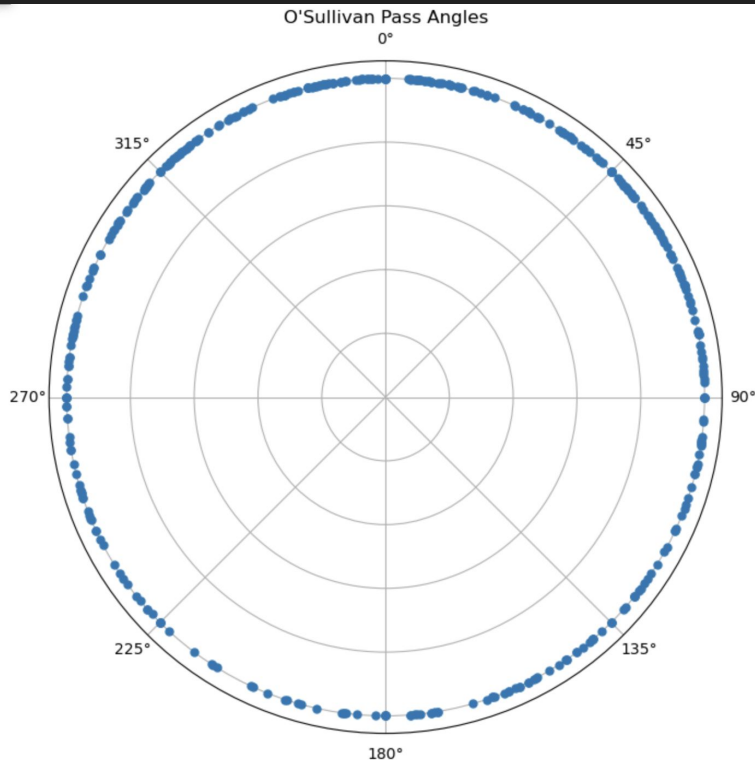
Denise O'Sullivan: Breakdown (cont)



- **Broke down O'Sullivan by type of involvement**
- **Engine room of the team**
- **Main role is to receive the ball and progress play.**
 - **Stop her, stop the team**
- **Plays important role protecting backline**



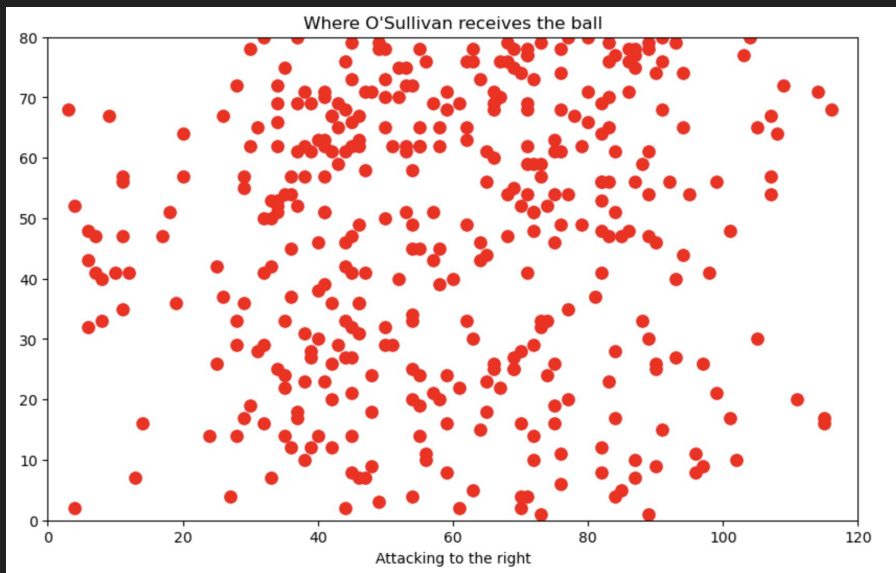
Denise O'Sullivan: Pass Angles



- **Majority of passes forwards. This indicates that she breaks lines**
- **Slight tendency to pass right**



Denise O'Sullivan: Pass Received

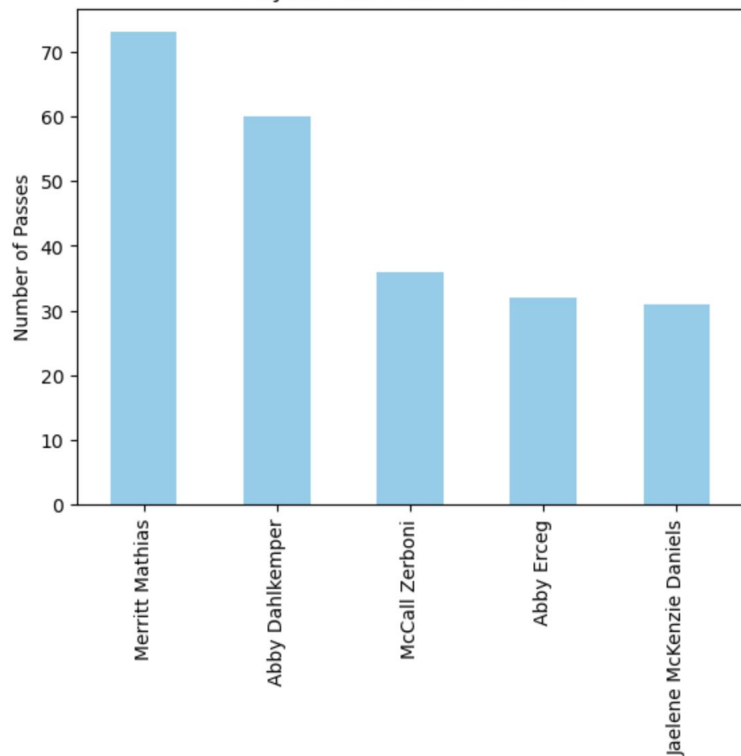


- **Where O'Sullivan receives passes**
- **Middle third of the pitch**



Denise O'Sullivan: Players that pass to O'Sullivan

Players That Pass to O'Sullivan



- **Merritt Mathias (right back) passes the ball to O'Sullivan the most**
- **Indicates a pattern of play in their build up**
 - **From Mathias (Right back) to O'Sullivan (Center Mid)**



Denise O'Sullivan: Video Clip

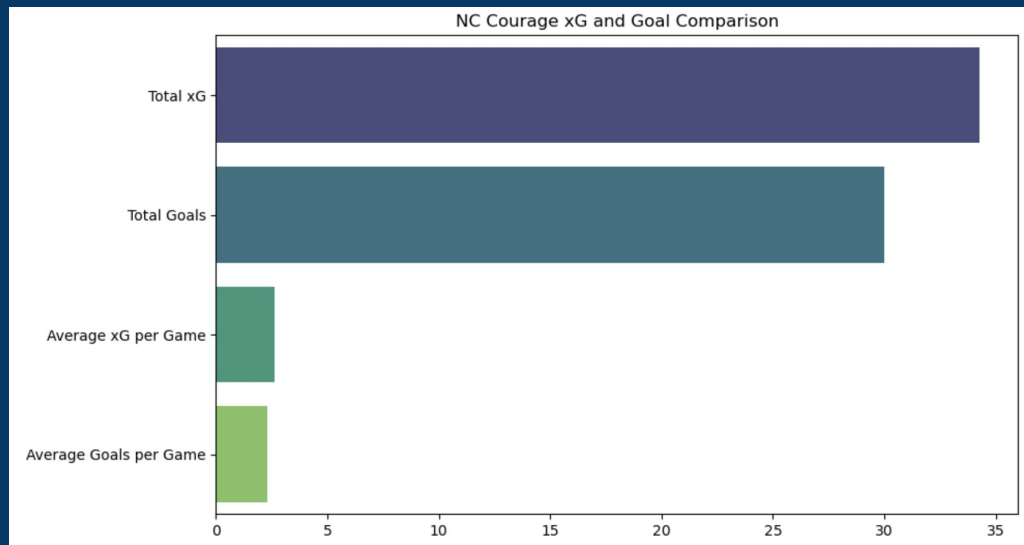


1. **Receives ball to beat the press**
2. **Carry that breaks midfield line**
3. **Through pass to break defensive line**
4. **Continues run and gets the end of a loose ball at the top of the box**
5. **Scores a worldie**

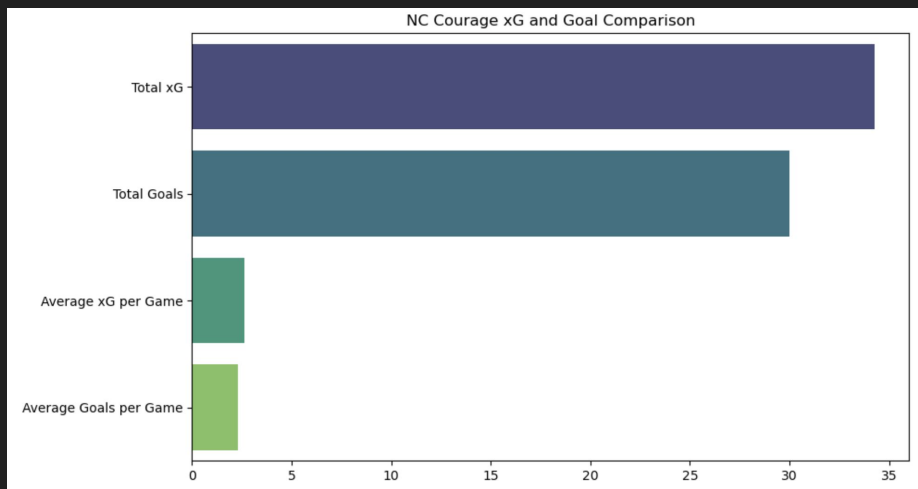


North Carolina Courage: Scoring

- **Creates many, high value chances**
- **High conversion of chances**



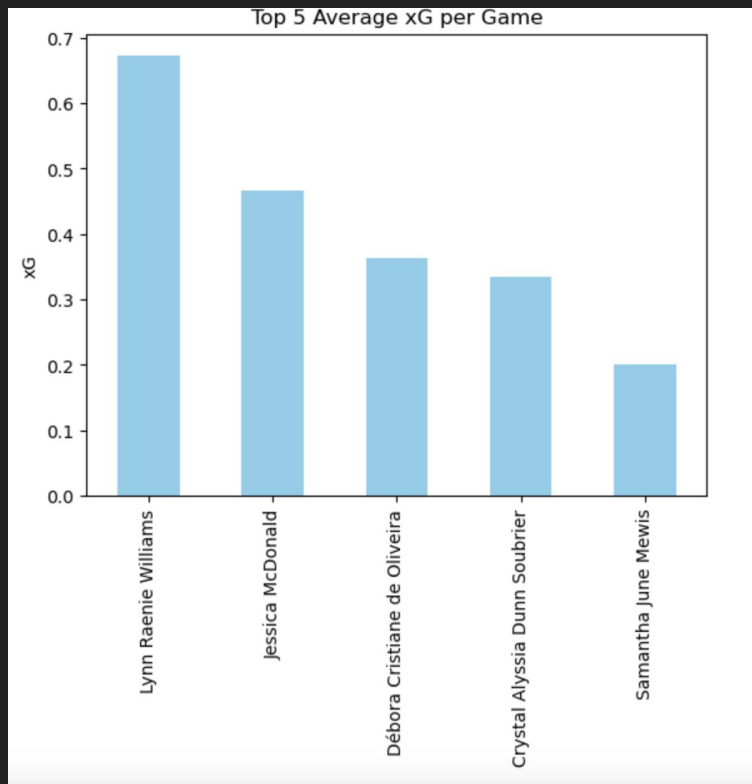
North Carolina Courage: Scoring



- **xG: A statistical value of a shot that represents the likelihood of it ending up a goal**
- **xG and Goal count are similar**
 - Indicates that they are a clinical team, making the most of every opportunity they create



North Carolina Courage: Scoring

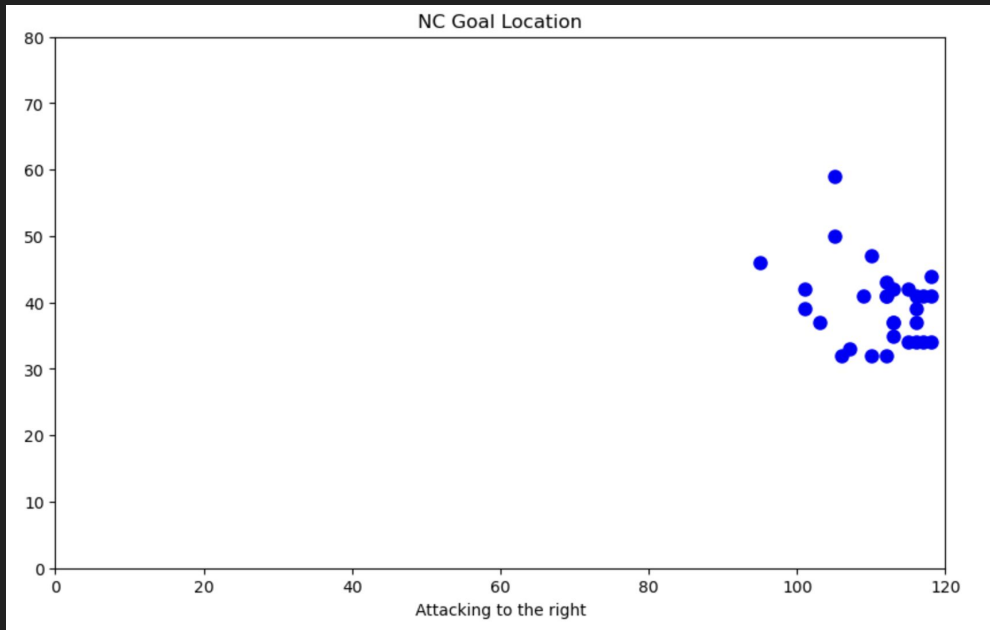


● Top 5 xG on the team

- **Williams: 0.672**
- **McDonald: 0.467**
- **Oliveira: 0.363**
- **Dunn: 0.334**
- **Mewis: 0.201**



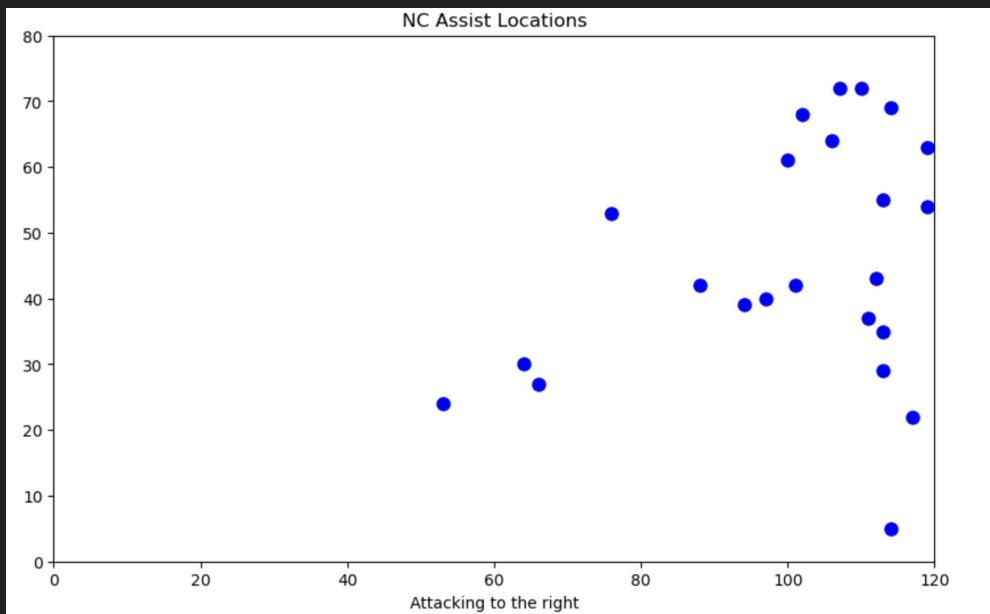
North Carolina Courage: Scoring



- **Note: 6-yard box generally has the highest xG**
- **Courage exploit this area, looking to create high value chances**
- **How?**



North Carolina Courage: Scoring

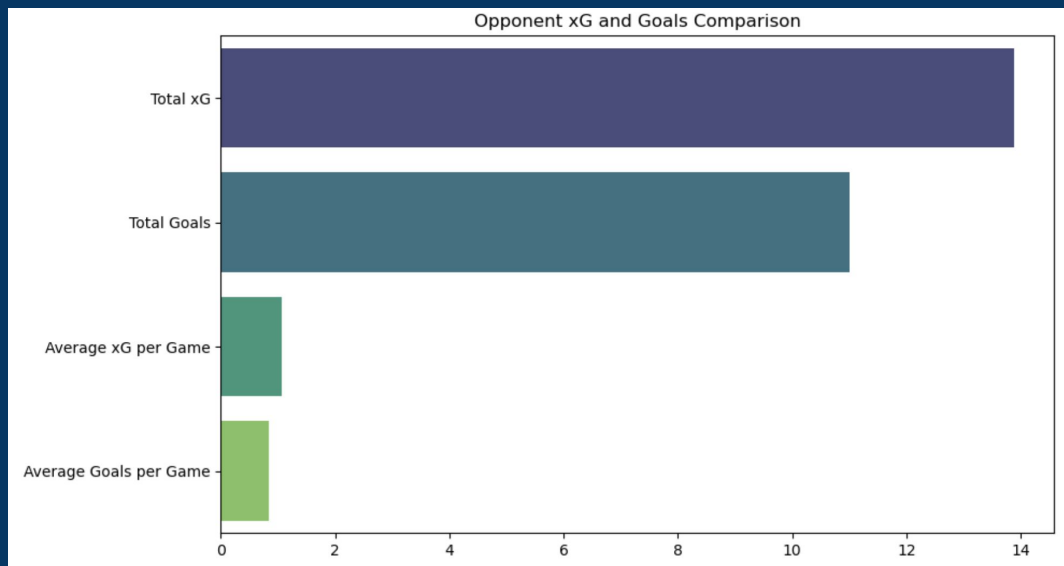


- **Cut backs, ground crosses into danger zone**
- **A cluster of assists coming from their left flank**
 - **Might indicate that they have a tendency to attack down that side**



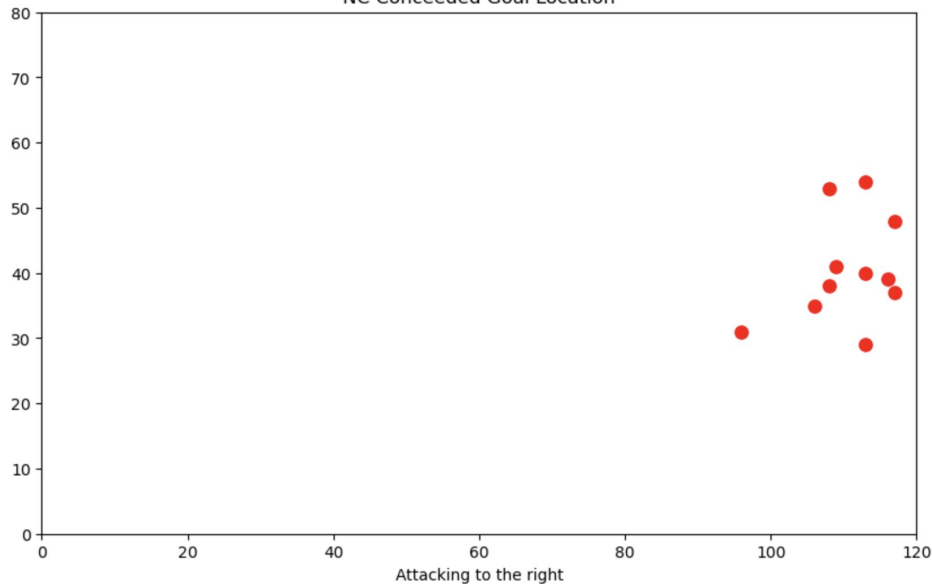
North Carolina Courage: Conceding

- **The opposite of their scoring tendencies. Opponents tend to have low xG with even lower Goal count**
 - **Good Goalie?**



North Carolina Courage: Conceding

NC Conceded Goal Location

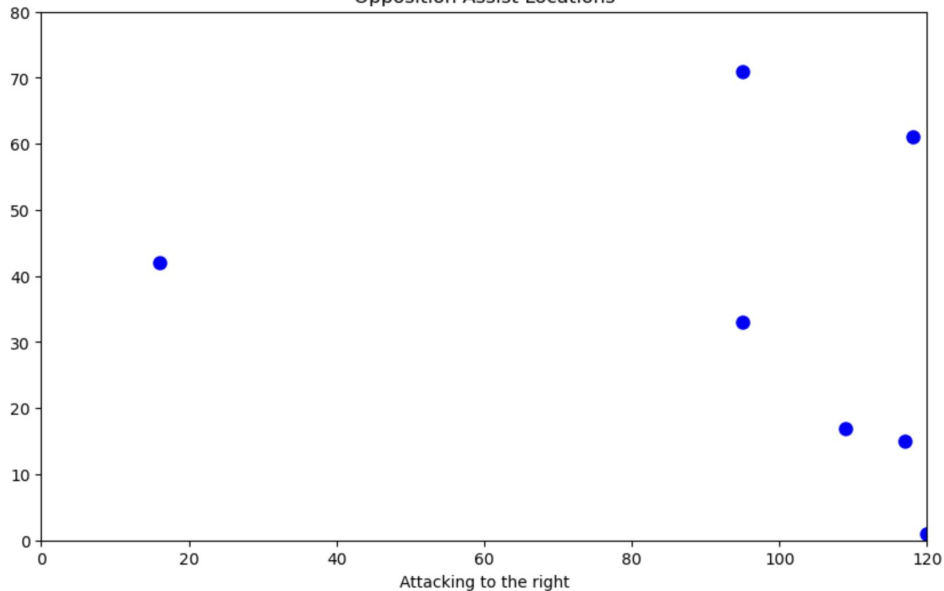


- **Courage limit opposition chances**
- **Goals come from high xG zones**



North Carolina Courage: Conceding

Opposition Assist Locations



- **Where opposition assist come from**
- **Weak defending crosses into box?**
 - Sample size not big enough for solid conclusion
 - Could play a 9 that is an Aerial threat
- **Assist from deep, maybe space in behind**



North Carolina Courage Analysis: Conclusion

- **High scoring**
 - Chances created by cutbacks and ground crosses
- **Stop O'Sullivan, stop the team**
 - Pattern of play: Right back -> center mid
 - Make her play backwards
 - She is the outlet to break press
- **Strong defensively but concedes soft goals**
 - Hit them in-behind a couple times to earn their respect and prevent high-press
 - Defense could be vulnerable to crosses into box, but that doesn't mean only cross
 - An athletic 9 with strong heading ability might suit this game



Ways to Improve Analysis

- **Data on San Diego Wave or Angel City would be more beneficial (DUH)**
- **Full access to Statsbomb or other sources of Women's Soccer Data**
 - More data will help make more accurate conclusions
 - Can analyze teams or player performance over time
 - Statsbomb IQ is a useful tool to quickly identify areas of exploration, cutting down time for analysis
 - Can analyze teams and players from other leagues
- **Help from Video Analysis**
 - Data and Video can work together to validate each other
 - Data can analyze many games, quickly. Video analysis can dive deeper into each game
- **An understanding of Bay FC's philosophy**
 - Positional Play? Counter Attack? A mix?
 - Formation
- **A look at our players and their strengths and weaknesses**



Who I Am

- **My name is JOTA YAMAGUCHI and I would like to become the DATA/VIDEO ANALYST for BAY FC**
- **Played soccer my whole life**
 - **Favorite team is Pep's Barcelona**
- **Bay Area native**
 - **Played (and beat) Brandi's Bellarmine team back in High School**
- **Played at UCSD and studied Data Science**
- **Current Head Coach of UCSD Club Soccer**



Who I Am (cont)

- **Inspired by Robert De Zerbi's Brighton side**
 - **The way they use data to analyze matches, opposition, and scout players. One of the most advanced Football Clubs in terms of their use of data.**
- **I want to use my Soccer IQ with my studies of Data to help the coaching staff make decisions.**
- **I would love to come home and contribute to the soccer community that did so much for me.**



Contact Info and Links

- **Phone: 408-218-1692**
- **Email: jyamaguc@ucsd.edu**
- **[Link to this analysis](#)**
- **[My Analysis of the teams from the 2022 World Cup](#)**
- **[LinkedIn](#)**
- **[Github](#)**

Please don't hesitate to reach out for more analysis on different teams or players!



Thank you

And best of luck!