Unravelling the Unprecedented Decline: A Comprehensive Analysis of Chelsea F.C.'s 22/23 Season

Introduction:

The 12th-place finish of Chelsea F.C in the in the 22/23 Premier League season, following staggering a £600 million investment has left pundits and fans bewildered. This report delves into the factors contributing to this unexpected downturn, with a particular focus on player performance. While broader issues like management and ownership like management and ownership play a role, our analysis homes in on the players on field contributions.
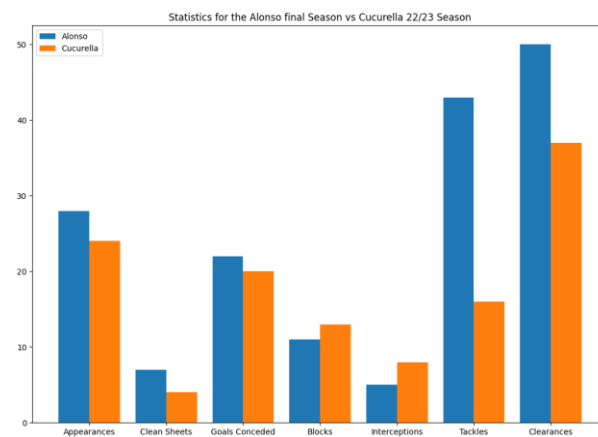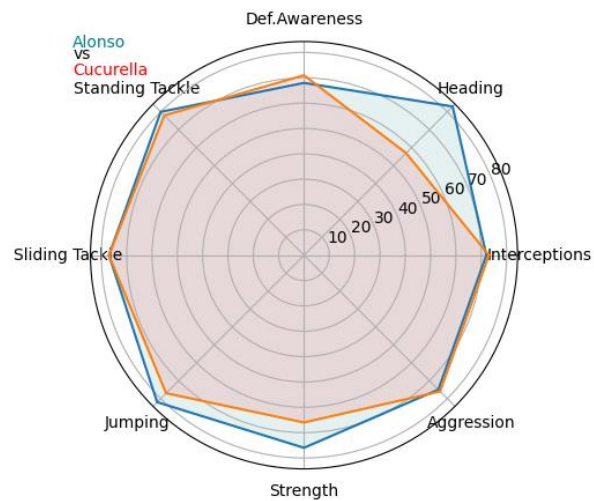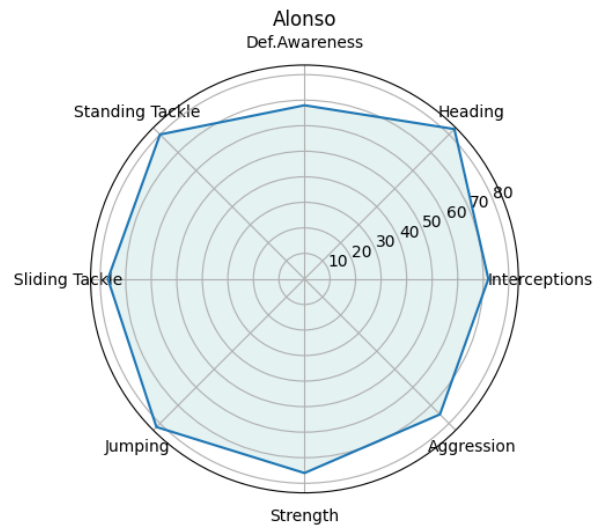
Decoding the Dilemma:

	Club	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Last 5
1	Man City	38	29	6	3	99	26	73	93	
2	Liverpool	38	28	8	2	94	26	68	92	
3	Chelsea	38	21	11	6	76	33	43	74	
4	Tottenham	38	22	5	11	69	40	29	71	
5	Arsenal	38	22	3	13	61	48	13	69	
6	Man United	38	16	10	12	57	57	0	58	
7	West Ham	38	16	8	14	60	51	9	56	
8	Leicester City	38	14	10	14	62	59	3	52	
9	Brighton	38	12	15	11	42	44	-2	51	
10	Wolves	38	15	6	17	38	43	-5	51	
11	Newcastle	38	13	10	15	44	62	-18	49	
12	Crystal Palace	38	11	15	12	50	46	4	48	
13	Brentford	38	13	7	18	48	56	-8	46	
14	Aston Villa	38	13	6	19	52	54	-2	45	
15	Southampton	38	9	13	16	43	67	-24	40	
16	Everton	38	11	6	21	43	66	-23	39	
17	Leeds United	38	9	11	18	42	79	-37	38	
18	Burnley	38	7	14	17	34	53	-19	35	
19	Watford	38	6	5	27	34	77	-43	23	
20	Norwich City	38	5	7	26	23	84	-61	22	

Season 2021-22

	Club	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Last 5
1	Man City	38	28	5	5	94	33	61	89	✗ ▬ ✓ ✓ ✓
2	Arsenal	38	26	6	6	88	43	45	84	✓ ✗ ✗ ✓ ✓
3	Man United	38	23	6	9	58	43	15	75	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✗
4	Newcastle	38	19	14	5	68	33	35	71	▬ ▬ ✓ ▬ ✗
5	Liverpool	38	19	10	9	75	47	28	67	▬ ▬ ✓ ✓ ✓
6	Brighton	38	18	8	12	72	53	19	62	✗ ▬ ▬ ✗ ✓
7	Aston Villa	38	18	7	13	51	46	5	61	✓ ▬ ✓ ✗ ✗
8	Tottenham	38	18	6	14	70	63	7	60	✓ ✗ ✗ ✓ ✗
9	Brentford	38	15	14	9	58	46	12	59	✓ ✓ ✗ ✓ ✓
10	Fulham	38	15	7	16	55	53	2	52	✗ ▬ ✓ ✓ ✗
11	Crystal Palace	38	11	12	15	40	49	-9	45	▬ ▬ ✓ ✗ ✓
12	Chelsea	38	11	11	16	(38)	(47)	-9	44	▬ ✗ ▬ ▬ ✓
13	Wolves	38	11	8	19	31	58	-27	41	✗ ▬ ▬ ✓ ✗
14	West Ham	38	11	7	20	42	55	-13	40	✗ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✗
15	Bournemouth	38	11	6	21	37	71	-34	39	✗ ✗ ✗ ✗ ✓
16	Nottm Forest	38	9	11	18	38	68	-30	38	▬ ✓ ▬ ✓ ✗
17	Everton	38	8	12	18	34	57	-23	36	✓ ▬ ▬ ✓ ▬
18	Leicester City	38	9	7	22	51	68	-17	34	✓ ✗ ✗ ✗ ✓
19	Leeds United	38	7	10	21	48	78	-30	31	✗ ✗ ✗ ✗ ✗
20	Southampton	38	6	7	25	36	73	-37	25	▬ ✗ ✗ ✗ ✗

In light of our initial investigation, it becomes evident that Chelsea F.C struggles both in defence and offence. An in-depth examination the two seasons reveal differences: Chelsea's goal-scoring prowess dipped by a staggering 38 goals in the recent 22/23 season when juxtaposed with their previous 21/22 campaign. Moreover, the defensive line struggled, conceding 14 more goals in the 22/23 season than the 21/22 season.
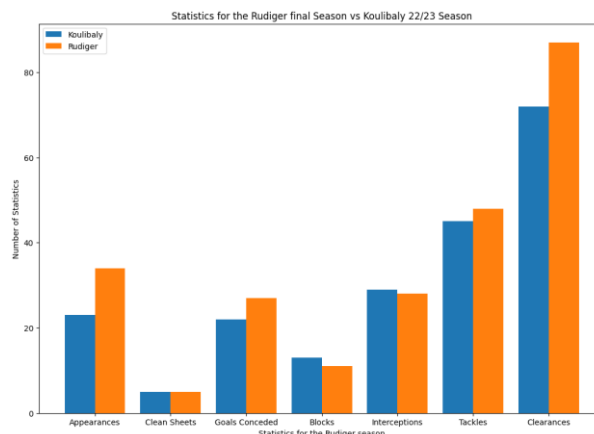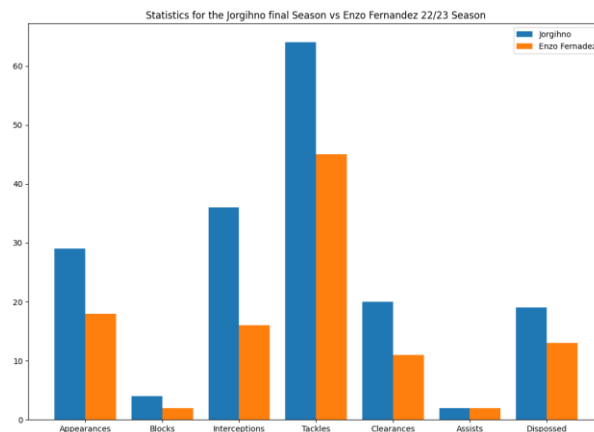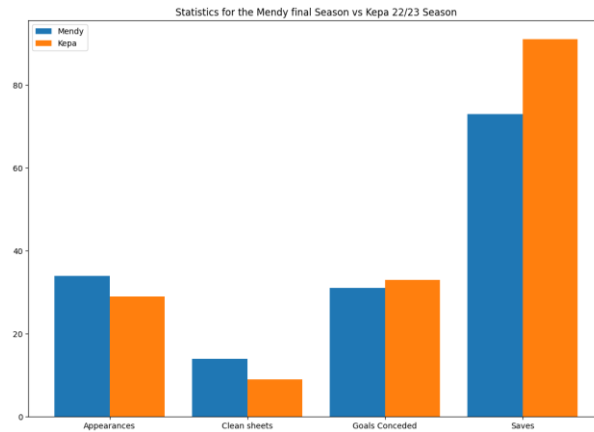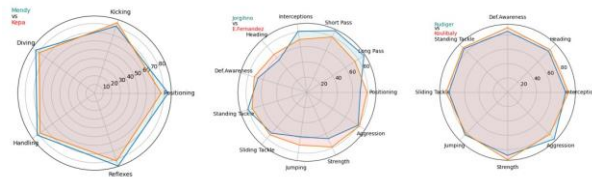
Defensive woes:

The heart of Chelsea's downfall can be traced to their defensive vulnerabilities. Despite high expectations, their defensive line encountered significant challenges, as evidenced by Cucurellas disappointing debut season. He was anticipated to make a great replacement for Alonso and an injured Chilwell, but his initial struggles highlighted the team's difficulty in maintaining a solid defensive foundation.

Analysing Defensive Disarray:

The following graphs depict a comparative analysis of Chelsea's player statistics during the 21/22 Premier League Season and the following 22/23 season. These graphs focus on the players who occupied the same position and accumulated the most minutes and games in both seasons.

Statistics for the Mendy final Season vs Kepa 22/23 Season

Statistics for the Jorgihno final Season vs Enzo Fernandez 22/23 Season

Statistics for the Rudiger final Season vs Koulibaly 22/23 Season

Utilizing a histogram, we can vividly observe Chelsea's defence falling short of expectations. To delve deepr into the reasons behind this underperformance, it's crucial to investigate further.A revealing aspect emerges from the data- the highest outfield replacement in the defense are merely 24 appearances. This sheds light on the the pesrsistent player rotation that plagued Chelsea's defensive line. This frequent rotation could be attributed to the presence of multiple managers throughout the season, each having their preferred set of players. Additionally, Chelsea's substantial list of injuries

played a pivotal role in the lack of ca consistent starting eleven. This constant shuffle prevented the defense from building the neccesary chemistry and cohesion due to players not getting accustomed to playing alongside each other as frequently as needed.

The Attacking Enigma:

In contrast to past glory, Chelsea's attacking prowess dimmed significantly during the 22/23 season. The lack of coherence resulting from a continuous rotation of attacking players prevented the team from building a unified and potent offensive strategy.
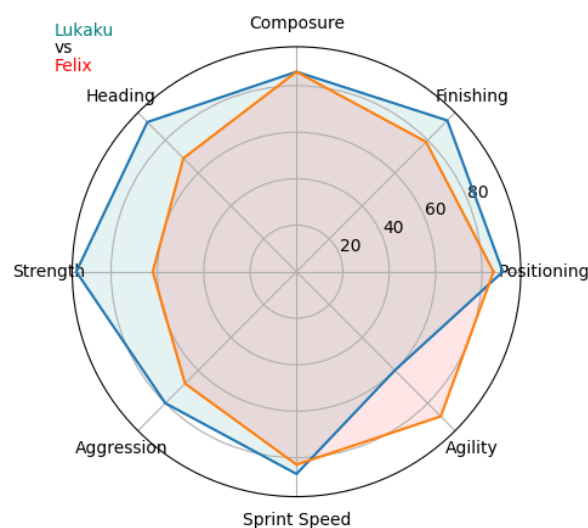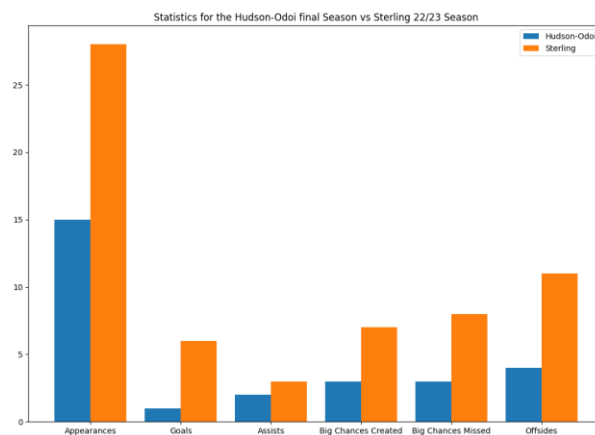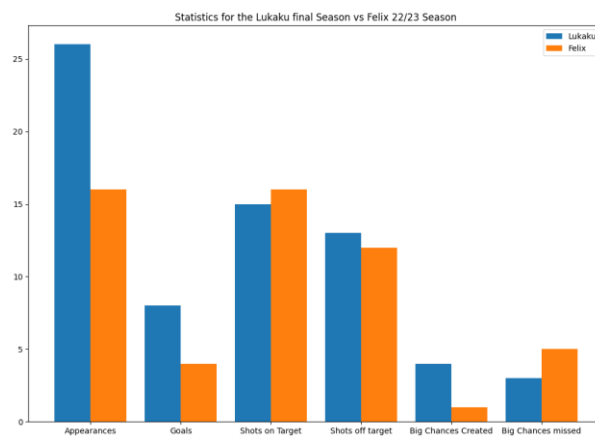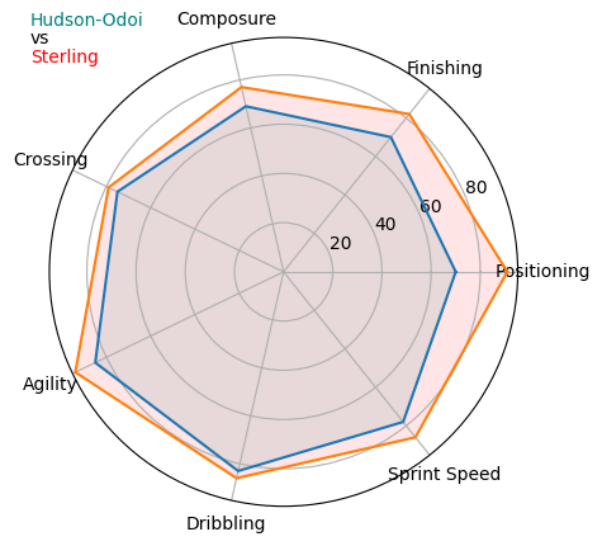

1 - Appearances

2 - Goals

3 - Minutes Played

#	Player	Age	Nat.	In squad	⚽	⚽	⏱
23	**Conor Gallagher** Central Midfield	22	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿	37	35	3	1.614'
29	**Kai Havertz** Attacking Midfield	23	🇩🇪	36	35	7	2.578'
17	**Raheem Sterling** Left Winger	27	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿 🇯🇲	29	28	6	1.901'
10	**Christian Pulisic** Right Winger	23	🇺🇸 🇭🇷	29	24	1	812'
19	**Mason Mount** Attacking Midfield	23	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿	26	24	3	1.655'
11	**João Félix** Second Striker	22	🇵🇹	17	16	4	942'
9	**Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang** Centre-Forward	33	🇬🇦 🇫🇷	20	15	1	550'
15	**Mykhaylo Mudryk** Left Winger	21	🇺🇦	19	15	-	654'
30	**Carney Chukwuemeka** Attacking Midfield	18	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿 🇳🇬	21	14	-	345'
31	**Noni Madueke** Right Winger	20	🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿 🇳🇬	16	12	1	645'
18	**Armando Broja** Centre-Forward	20	🇦🇱 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿	13	12	1	286'
27	**David Datro Fofana** Centre-Forward	19	🇨🇮	9	3	-	68'
-	**Omari Hutchinson** Attacking Midfield	18	🇯🇲 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿	5	1	-	22'

In the 22/23 season, Chelsea had a staggering 13 different attacking players take the field 22/23 Premier League campaign collectively contributing a modest 28 goals. This statistical revelation raises significant concerns, as the tally of players is sufficient to form an entire squad. Kai Havertz emerges as the leading goal-scorer, with 7 goals from 35 games. However, the fact that even the top scorer managed to find the net only once every 5 games is undeniably troubling.

Attacking Analysis:

Hudson-Odoi
vs
Sterling

Composure
Finishing
Positioning
Sprint Speed
Dribbling
Agility
Crossing

Statistics for the Lukaku final Season vs Felix 22/23 Season

Statistics for the Hudson-Odoi final Season vs Sterling 22/23 Season

Felix's arrival held promise, yet his 4 goals in 16 games proved inadequate, lagging behind Lukaku's performance. Interestingly, Sterling's performance outshone Hudson-Doi's from the previous season, prompting us to delve deeper into this comparison. A closer examination reveals that Sterling's season indeed surpassed that of Hudson-Odoi. Sterling managed 9 goals and assists across 28 games, averaging approximately 1 goal or assist every 3 games. In contrast, Hudson-Odoi's record of 3 goals and assists in 15 games equates just to 1 goal or assist every 5 games, highlighting the noticeable difference in their contributions.

Conclusion:

In the quest to understand Chelsea F.C.'s baffling 22/23 Premier League finish, we have examined the struggles that plagued their defence and attacking fronts. The revolving door of players and injuries eroded defensive cohesion. Meanwhile, a fragmented attacking line failed to capitalize on the significant investment in talent. As the club looks ahead, addressing these concerns will be pivotal in reclaiming their former glory.

Recommendations:

Stability in Defence: Prioritize continuity in the defence, fostering understanding between players and bolstering chemistry on the field.

Strategic Player Handling: Minimize abrupt shifts in player rotations due to managerial changes, aiming for steadiness and rhythm.

Injury Prevention and Care: Invest in sports science to reduce injuries, ensuring a more settled lineup.

Attacking Cohesion: Emphasize better tactical coordination in the offensive lineup, enabling players to thrive together.

Monitoring Player Performance: Consistently assesses new player acquisitions based on their impact, ensuring they align with team goals.