
Highlight Detection from Video, Audio, and Text Prompts

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Abstract

We study the problem of personalized highlight detection in soccer videos using multimodal information and natural-language queries. Our system combines visual, audio, and textual representations: a VideoMAE encoder pretrained on SoccerNet for spatio-temporal features, a Whisper-based audio and transcript pipeline, and a CLIP-based query encoder adapted to soccer-specific vocabulary through a lightweight prompt-level few-shot adapter. These modalities are fused through a transformer architecture to classify events and support query-conditioned retrieval. Self-supervised pretraining on SoccerNet significantly improves video feature structure, increasing the Silhouette Score from 0.42 to 0.58. For event classification, our multimodal Fusion Transformer outperforms both unimodal baselines, reaching a macro-precision of 0.719 versus 0.644 (video-only) and 0.515 (text-only). These results show that multimodal signals and domain-adapted query embeddings provide tangible benefits for fine-grained highlight detection in sports video understanding.

1 Introduction

The online broadcasting of sports has grown exponentially. These videos provide a valuable source of information for analysts, coaches, and media producers, who increasingly rely on rapid access to key moments for tactical study but can also be used by media for public entertainment. Manually extracting the highlights of videos is a slow, repetitive and time-consuming task. This has motivated extensive research on video summarization and video highlight extraction. Existing approaches mostly rely on video cues(1) and, more recently, on audio signals such as cheering (2). However, prior work ignores two aspects. First, highlight extraction is rarely personalized, and current methods cannot adapt to user queries such as retrieving specific types of actions, from a specific player or type of event. Secondly, despite evidence that multimodal signals carry complementary information, most systems rely on a limited combination of modalities and do not jointly exploit video, audio and transcript data.

To address these limitations, we propose a multimodal, query-conditioned highlight detection that integrates visual, audio and textual representations together with a learned query encoder. Our objective is to highlight the accuracy and robustness of highlight localization while enabling flexible, user-driven retrieval. This capability is beneficial for analysts and coaches, who require fine-grained access to specific patterns, and for content producers, who benefit from faster and more customizable highlight generation.

Our study will focus on soccer, a domain that remains challenging due to its long gameplay containing sparse and ambiguous events. We train and evaluate our model on **SoccerNet**(3) dataset which includes full match videos and labeled event timestamps. Our evaluation focuses on event

36 classification accuracy and feature-space structure, using clustering metrics, macro-precision, and
37 prompt-level query classification performance.

38 If successful, this approach fills an important gap at the intersection of video understanding and
39 information retrieval. By leveraging multimodal context and conditioning on user queries, it moves
40 beyond fixed-template highlight extraction toward personalized event retrieval, offering practical
41 benefits for professional analysis and media applications.

42 2 Related Work

43 The rise of deep learning has shifted video summarization from rule-based heuristics to data-driven
44 models that learn what makes a moment highlight-worthy. Early neural approaches mainly focused
45 on the visual stream: for instance, 3D ConvNets have been used to capture spatio-temporal features
46 in sports videos, improving action recognition and event detection accuracy (4). However, these
47 vision-only models require large annotated datasets, are computationally expensive, and often miss
48 context available in other modalities.

49 A key insight from later work is that audio is equally important as video for highlight detection.
50 Badamdorj et al. (2021) (5) introduced an audiovisual attention network that learns the interactions
51 between what is seen and heard in a clip. Their results showed that audio cues such as crowd cheering
52 or commentary excitement can outperform visual features alone, and that fusing both streams provides
53 the most robust detection. Similarly, Della Santa et al. (2025) (6) proposed a lightweight two-stream
54 model where video frames (in grayscale) and audio spectrograms are processed separately, then
55 combined. This simple design achieved high precision on both modalities and further improved when
56 fused, confirming the complementary nature of sound and vision.

57 With modern automatic speech recognition (ASR) systems like Whisper (7), full-match transcripts
58 can be reliably obtained. Building on this, Chakraborty et al. (2025) (8) proposed a text-only pipeline:
59 Whisper transcripts are passed to multiple LLMs (“judges”) that independently analyze outcomes,
60 excitement levels, and tactical context. Remarkably, this zero-shot text-based method achieved
61 performance levels comparable to vision-heavy models, while being easier to adapt across sports
62 without task-specific training.

63 Overall, existing work shows that the best results emerge from multimodal approaches that leverage
64 video, audio, and text together. However, current systems remain limited in two key ways:

- 65 • Query-based summarization has been explored, but typically ignores audio or treats speech
66 transcripts separately, leaving modalities only loosely integrated.
- 67 • Automatic highlight extraction has been studied in sports, but these methods are not person-
68 alizable: they output fixed highlight reels, independent of what a user might actually want to
69 see.

70 To our knowledge, there is no existing solution that allows a user to query a multimodal system (text
71 + video + audio) to generate personalized highlights.

72 3 Method

73 3.1 Problem Formulation

74 In this work we design a multimodal retrieval and highlight detection pipeline built on top of the
75 SoccerNet dataset (3). The end goal is to generate temporal highlight segments conditioned on
76 user-provided natural language queries (e.g., “Show me all goals by player X” or “When was the
77 referee involved?”).

78 3.2 Hypothesis

79 H1: Multimodal fusion improves highlight localization.

80 Incorporating audio and transcript modalities alongside video features will yield higher
81 temporal overlap (F1@0.5) with SoccerNet’s ground-truth highlights compared to a video-
82 only baseline. We expect audio cues (e.g., cheering intensity) and ASR-derived text to
83 improve the alignment between predicted and labeled events.

84 **H2: Transcript grounding enhances semantic consistency.**
85 Including Whisper-generated transcripts in the fusion transformer will increase intra-query
86 embedding similarity between retrieved highlights of the same event type (e.g., all “goal”
87 segments), reflecting stronger contextual understanding of game semantics.

88 **H3: Pretrained CLIP query embeddings improve generalization.**
89 Leveraging CLIP’s pretrained text representations for query encoding will enable robust
90 retrieval on unseen or paraphrased user prompts, reducing performance degradation (<5%
91 F1 drop) when evaluated on test queries not seen during adapter fine-tuning.

92 **3.3 Model Architecture**

93 The proposed architecture consists of six modular components that process different modalities and
94 fuse them through a unified transformer-based framework:

- 95 1. **Query Encoder:** Encodes user queries into a 512-dimensional semantic embedding using a
96 CLIP ViT-B/32 text encoder, fine-tuned via lightweight adapters to better represent soccer-
97 specific action terms (e.g., “offside”, “penalty kick”, “corner”).
- 98 2. **Video Encoder:** Extracts spatiotemporal representations from soccer broadcast videos using
99 a pretrained VideoMAE model(9), which is robust to motion blur and occlusion common in
100 broadcast footage.
- 101 3. **Audio Latent Encoder:** Converts raw audio waveforms into compact feature vectors using a
102 Whisper encoder (7), leveraging crowd reactions and commentary tone as implicit indicators
103 of event salience.
- 104 4. **Transcript Encoder:** Processes textual commentary derived from the ASR pipeline, capturing
105 linguistic cues such as mentions of player names, outcomes, or referee actions.
- 106 5. **Fusion Transformer:** Combines all modalities (video, audio, transcript, and query embed-
107 dings) through a cross-attention mechanism with positional and modality-type embeddings,
108 allowing contextual reasoning across heterogeneous signals.
- 109 6. **Prediction Head:** Outputs frame-level highlight scores or temporal span boundaries corre-
110 sponding to predicted highlight intervals, which can be aggregated to form final highlight
111 clips.

112 **3.4 Training**

113 **3.4.1 Video Encoder**

114 To improve the quality of video representations for the downstream task, we conduct self-supervised
115 pretraining of the video encoder using the **VideoMAE** framework. Unlike supervised training
116 that uses timestamp labels, this stage utilizes entire videos from the SoccerNet dataset in a fully
117 self-supervised manner, following the masked autoencoder paradigm.

118 Given an input video sequence $V \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times H \times W \times 3}$, a random subset of visual patches is masked
119 (typically 75%–90%), and the transformer is tasked with reconstructing the missing spatio-temporal
120 tokens:

$$\hat{V} = f_{\theta}(\text{Unmask}(V)), \quad \mathcal{L}_{\text{rec}} = \|\hat{V} - V\|^2.$$

121 The encoder learns to capture motion dynamics, spatial dependencies, and semantic structures without
122 any manual annotation. This pretrained backbone is later used to extract embeddings for timestamps
123 of interest (e.g., goals, fouls, and ball-out events) for fusion-based classification.

124 **3.4.2 Audio Encoder**

125 To capture both acoustic and linguistic information from soccer commentary, we implement a dual-
126 stream audio encoder that combines complementary representations of audio signals. The architecture
127 consists of two main components: a **latent audio encoder** that extracts acoustic features using a
128 pretrained Wav2Vec2 model, and a **speech-text encoder** that transcribes audio using OpenAI’s
129 Whisper model and generates semantic embeddings via a sentence transformer.

130 Given an audio waveform $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_{\text{samples}}}$ centered around each event timestamp, the dual-stream
131 processing begins with the acoustic stream, where

$$\mathbf{z}_{\text{audio}} = \text{Wav2Vec2}(\mathbf{a}) \in \mathbb{R}^{1024}.$$

132 Simultaneously, the linguistic stream processes the same input through transcription and embedding:

$$\text{transcript} = \text{Whisper}(\mathbf{a}),$$

133 followed by

$$\mathbf{z}_{\text{text}} = \text{SentenceTransformer}(\text{transcript}) \in \mathbb{R}^{384}.$$

134 These two embedding streams, $\mathbf{z}_{\text{audio}} \in \mathbb{R}^{1024}$ and $\mathbf{z}_{\text{text}} \in \mathbb{R}^{384}$, are then concatenated to form a
135 unified audio representation:

$$\mathbf{z}_{\text{concat}} = [\mathbf{z}_{\text{audio}}; \mathbf{z}_{\text{text}}] \in \mathbb{R}^{1408}.$$

136 3.5 Query Encoder

137 We use the text tower of CLIP ViT-B/32 (10) as our query encoder. CLIP is pretrained on large-scale
138 image-text pairs and is designed to align visual and textual inputs in a shared embedding space, which
139 makes it a natural choice for retrieving video highlights from natural-language queries. Given a
140 query string q , the CLIP text encoder produces a 512-dimensional embedding $z \in \mathbb{R}^{512}$, which we
141 L2-normalize before passing it to the multimodal fusion transformer.

142 While zero-shot CLIP already provides reasonable representations for generic soccer-related queries,
143 its text space is not explicitly calibrated to SoccerNet classes. To better align the encoder with this
144 domain, we add a lightweight few-shot adapter on top of the frozen CLIP embeddings. The adapter
145 is a single linear classifier $h : \mathbb{R}^{512} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^C$ where C is the number of SoccerNet action classes. At
146 training time, we first embed all text prompts with the frozen CLIP encoder, obtaining a matrix
147 $X \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times 512}$, and then train h on these fixed features using a standard cross-entropy objective. At
148 inference time, the adapter weights to produce domain-aligned embeddings and class logits and
149 exposes a 512-D vector to the fusion transformer.

150 3.6 Implementation Details

151 3.6.1 Video Encoder

152 The self-supervised training follows the official VideoMAE framework. The encoder is a spatio-
153 temporal Vision Transformer (ViT) that processes video clips of length T_{clip} frames. For each input,
154 75% of the visual patches are masked, and the mask pattern is randomized at each iteration. The
155 reconstruction target is defined on the pixel space with mean squared error (MSE) loss.

156 Videos are decoded into fixed-length clips, sampled at 25 fps, and randomly cropped to 224×224
157 resolution. Each training sample is represented as a tensor of shape $\mathbb{R}^{T_{\text{clip}} \times 224 \times 224 \times 3}$.

158 Only the encoder is retained after pretraining; the decoder is discarded. The encoder outputs a latent
159 embedding $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ for each input clip. These embeddings are then extracted for **±10-second** around
160 each labeled timestamp and passed to the Fusion Transformer, where they are combined with the
161 audio and prompt embeddings for highlight classification.

162 This design ensures that the pretrained backbone captures domain-relevant motion and context,
163 leading to more structured and separable representations of game events.

164 3.7 Audio Encoder

165 The audio encoder implementation follows a simple three-stage pipeline. The pipeline separates
166 the expensive embedding extraction operations from the lightweight training loop through caching.
167 First, we precompute the transcripts for all audio segments using Whisper and store them to disk,
168 translating them to English if need be. Next, we extract Wav2Vec2 embeddings for all segments
169 and cache the 1024-dim vectors. Finally, we load the cached audio embeddings and transcriptions
170 for training. Audio segments were extracted for a **±10-second** window around each labeled event
171 timestamp. For the latent audio encoder, we extract 20-second segments sampled at 16kHz, which
172 goes through Wav2Vec2’s convolutional feature encoder, converting it into a 1024-dim vector. For the
173 Whisper transcription, we use similar duration segments to focus on the most relevant commentary

174 surrounding the event, sending the .wav clip to the Whisper model. The embeddings represent the
175 output of these encoders, which will then subsequently be passed to the Fusion Transformer, where
176 they are combined with the video embeddings for highlight classification.

177 3.8 Query Encoder

178 We train the linear adapter using AdamW with learning rate 1×10^{-2} and weight decay 1×10^{-2} ,
179 a batch size of 64, and for 5 epochs. All CLIP parameters remain frozen, only the $\mathbb{R}^{512 \times C}$ weight
180 matrix and bias of the linear head are updated. For each epoch, we compute the cross-entropy loss on
181 the embedded training features and then evaluate the current head on the test prompts.

182 3.9 Multimodal Fusion Transformer

183 For event classification, we use a lightweight Multimodal Fusion Transformer that operates on the
184 precomputed video, transcript, and audio embeddings described in the previous sections. For each
185 labeled event, we reuse the same ± 10 -second window and obtain: a VideoMAE token sequence
186 $V \in \mathbb{R}^{T_v \times 768}$, a single MPNet-based transcript token $T \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 768}$, and a single Wav2Vec2-based
187 audio token $A \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1024}$.

188 Because the transformer operates in a lower-dimensional latent space, each modality is projected to
189 $d_{\text{model}} = 256$ via separate linear layers, yielding $\tilde{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{T_v \times d_{\text{model}}}$, $\tilde{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times d_{\text{model}}}$, and $\tilde{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times d_{\text{model}}}$.
190 We then add a standard sinusoidal positional encoding $\text{PE} \in \mathbb{R}^{\text{max_seq_len} \times d_{\text{model}}}$ and apply dropout:

$$X_{\text{pos}} = \text{Dropout}(X + \text{PE}_{1:L}),$$

191 where X is any modality sequence (or their concatenation) and L is the actual sequence length.

192 For cross-modal fusion, we concatenate the tokens along the sequence dimension,

$$X_0 = [\tilde{T}; \tilde{A}; \tilde{V}] \in \mathbb{R}^{(T_v+2) \times d_{\text{model}}},$$

193 So that a single transformer encoder can attend within and across all three modalities. The backbone
194 is a stack of $L = 2$ Transformer encoder layers (`nn.TransformerEncoder`) with $d_{\text{model}} = 256$,
195 $n_{\text{head}} = 4$, and dropout 0.1 in both attention and feed-forward blocks. The encoder outputs a
196 fused sequence $H \in \mathbb{R}^{(T_v+2) \times d_{\text{model}}}$, over which we apply global average pooling to obtain a single
197 representation $h_{\text{fuse}} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{model}}}$.

198 Finally, a linear classifier with weights $W_{\text{cls}} \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times d_{\text{model}}}$ and $C = 16$ event classes produces logits
199 $\hat{y} = W_{\text{cls}} h_{\text{fuse}} + b_{\text{cls}}$. Training follows the common protocol used for all baselines (cross-entropy
200 with label smoothing, AdamW, and early stopping on the validation set), enabling a fair comparison
201 between unimodal (V, T, A), bimodal (VT, VA, TA), and trimodal (VTA) configurations.

202 4 Datasets

203 4.1 SoccerNet Dataset

204 The main dataset we rely on is the SoccerNet dataset (3). It is a large-scale dataset of over 700 hours
205 of soccer footage, with pretrained features extracted from broadcasts at 2 frames per second. Many
206 different features are already labeled, such as instances of offsides, goals, penalties, cards, fouls,
207 as well as ball action data. It also captures some features of players, such as their jersey numbers.
208 This data has been used in many CV-sports-related papers, enhancing its credibility. With features
209 extracted at 2 fps, there is over five million potential features to analyze. We additionally use audio
210 data obtained from the video as well, generated by Whisper, which adds another dimension to the
211 data we have.

212 4.2 Prompt Dataset

213 To train the adapter, we constructed a small, class-balanced prompt dataset. For each of the action
214 classes from SoccerNet, we manually wrote 10 training prompts that are short and unambiguous,
215 yielding $N_{\text{train}} = 80$ labeled training sentences. We then created a held-out test split of paraphrased
216 prompts that are longer and more natural, designed to mimic realistic user queries.

217 **5 Experiments and Results**

218 Due to the limited time available for full-scale pipeline development, we shifted our original objective
219 from **automatic highlight detection** to **event classification**. While highlight detection would have
220 been a more appropriate baseline task, it required additional temporal localization and post-processing
221 that exceeded our time constraints. Instead, we focused on video+audio clip classification using our
222 Fusion Transformer architecture, which still preserves the core multimodal framework.

223 **5.1 Video Encoder**

224 We compare the embeddings of $\pm 10\text{-second}$ segments centered around each labeled event before and
225 after self-supervised pretraining of Video Transformer to evaluate the impact of VideoMAE pretrain-
226 ing. After **PCA (Principal Component Analysis)**-based dimensionality reduction of retaining 85%
227 of variance, K -Means clustering was applied and quantitatively evaluated.

Table 1: Comparison of clustering results before and after VideoMAE pretraining on SoccerNet.

Metric	Before Pretraining	After Pretraining	Change
Silhouette Score (S)	0.42	0.58	$\uparrow 0.16$
Davies–Bouldin (D)	2.31	1.39	$\downarrow 0.92$
Calinski–Harabasz (C)	3120.5	3347.8	+ 227.3

228 The results show a clear improvement in cluster separability:

- 229 • The Silhouette Score increased from 0.42 to 0.58, nearing the threshold for well-separated
230 clusters.
- 231 • The Davies–Bouldin Index was substantially reduced ($2.31 \rightarrow 1.39$), indicating stronger
232 intra-class cohesion after domain-specific pretraining.
- 233 • The Calinski–Harabasz score showed only a moderate increase, suggesting that overall
234 cluster compactness improved but did not drastically change.

235 These results confirm that self-supervised pretraining on SoccerNet improves the organization of the
236 embedding space, even without using action labels during training. The extracted representations
237 become more structured and easier to separate, which is beneficial for the final highlight classification
238 performed by the Fusion Transformer.

239 **5.2 Audio Encoder**

240 To evaluate the discriminative quality of the audio embeddings, we trained a classification head
241 on top of the latent audio encoder and the speech text encoder. The classifier architecture consists
242 of 2 fully connected layers with ReLU activation and dropout regularization, mapping from the
243 1408-dimensional concatenated embedding to the 17 action classes. Only the classifier weights were
244 trained, with Adam as the optimizer, a batch size of 128, a learning rate of 0.0001, and run over 20
245 epochs.

246 After training, the encoder achieved a classification accuracy of 29.6%. While this accuracy appears
247 modest at first glance, this baseline performance is substantially better than random chance (5.8%),
248 and demonstrates that the audio features do capture class-relevant information.

249 **5.3 Query Encoder**

250 **Evaluation Metrics** As hardware constraints prevented us from running the full multimodal
251 retrieval pipeline end-to-end, evaluating temporal highlight localization directly would have produced
252 biased or incomplete results. Instead, we focus on assessing the ability of the Query Encoder to
253 correctly map natural-language queries to the underlying SoccerNet action classes. This evaluation
254 serves as a proxy for the semantic alignment required in a future fully functional query-based retrieval
255 system.

256 We formulate the evaluation as a sentence-level classification task. For each query, the adapter outputs
257 a probability distribution over SoccerNet action classes. We report top-1, computed by applying a
258 softmax to the adapter logits and selecting the highest-scoring classes.

259 **Results** The raw CLIP encoder already achieves a reasonable top-1 accuracy of 68% on the held-out
260 prompt test set, confirming that CLIP captures many of the underlying soccer concepts. After training
261 the few-shot adapter, test top-1 accuracy increases to 77%, while keeping the model extremely
262 compact and fast to train.

263 **5.4 Fusion Transformer: Event Classification**

264 **5.4.1 Experimental Setup**

265 To evaluate the benefit of each modality in our trimodal setup, we construct a highlight classification
266 benchmark from SoccerNet using the Multimodal Fusion Transformer described in Section 3.9. We
267 focus on 16 event types (ball out of play, throw-in, foul, corner, goal, cards, etc.), with imbalanced
268 support: from 6–7 examples for *penalty* and *red card* up to 1,676 examples for *ball out of play*.
269 Restricting to a ± 10 second window around each annotated timestamp yields a total of 5,820 usable
270 events, split into 4,652 training and 1,164 validation samples.

271 Those choices concentrate computation around the important moments and avoids processing the full
272 ~ 750 hours of footage, while still allowing us to train a sufficiently expressive multimodal model.

273 We evaluate all unimodal, bimodal, and trimodal variants of the same backbone:

- 274 • **Text-only (T):** classifier on MPNet sentence embeddings of Whisper transcripts.
- 275 • **Video-only (V):** classifier on VideoMAE embeddings of the video window.
- 276 • **Audio-only (A):** classifier on Wav2Vec2 embeddings of the raw waveform.
- 277 • **Fusion (VT, VA, TA, VTA):** the Multimodal Fusion Transformer with different subsets of
278 the three input branches.

279 All configurations share the same training loop (optimizer, batch size, and early stopping) and differ
280 only in their input representation and which branches of the transformer are enabled.

281 **5.4.2 Results**

Table 2: Overall validation accuracy for all modality combinations. V = Video, T = Text, A = Audio.

Model	T	V	A	VT	VA	TA	VTA
Accuracy	0.527	0.658	0.293	0.747	0.662	0.516	0.740

282 At the level of global validation accuracy, we observe that video-only is the strongest unimodal model
283 (0.658), followed by text-only (0.527), while audio-only lags behind (0.293). Among multimodal
284 variants, **fusing video and text (VT) achieves the best performance** (0.747), slightly outperforming
285 VA (0.662) and the full trimodal VTA model (0.740); TA also underperforms (0.516). In other words,
286 adding Wav2Vec2-based audio on top of video and transcripts does not yield any improvement and
287 even slightly hurt the best VT configuration.

288 For this reason, **we focus our per-class analysis on the text-only, video-only, and video+text**
289 **fusion models.** Table 3 reports validation precision for these three settings on the seven most frequent
290 classes plus three less frequent but semantically important events.

291 The fused VT model consistently outperforms both unimodal baselines. The largest gains appear for
292 events where both modalities provide complementary cues:

- 293 • **Foul, indirect free-kick, shots off target.** These classes see **absolute improvements** of
294 $+0.21, +0.23\ldots$ over the best unimodal baseline. We observed that the commentary often
295 explicitly names the type of event, while the video stream helps disambiguate visually
296 different situations.

Table 3: Validation precision for text-only, video-only, and fused (video+text) models on the seven most frequent SoccerNet event classes, and 3 other less frequent classes.

Class	Count	Text	Video	Fusion
Ball out of play	1676	0.809	0.834	0.868
Throw-in	1017	0.512	0.808	0.837
Foul	611	0.504	0.568	0.799
Indirect free-kick	487	0.260	0.375	0.583
Clearance	433	0.247	0.588	0.600
Shots on target	299	0.311	0.426	0.279
Shots off target	265	0.471	0.412	0.686
Corner	249	0.312	0.729	0.833
Goal	118	0.333	0.500	0.292
Kick-off	136	0.125	0.469	0.344

297 • **Corner, throw-in.** Video-only models already perform well on these visually distinctive
 298 events, but fusion still yields non-trivial gains (e.g., corner: $0.73 \rightarrow 0.83$), suggesting that
 299 text helps resolve borderline cases.

300 On the other hand, a few classes degrade when fusing modalities (e.g., *goal, kick-off, shots on*
 301 *target*). We hypothesize two main reasons: (i) the strong class imbalance (only 118 goals versus
 302 1,676 ball-out events), and (ii) noisy or misaligned transcripts, where goal-related words appear in
 303 replays or generic commentary rather than exactly within the annotated window. In such cases, the
 304 transformer may over-weight ambiguous text cues and hurt an otherwise strong video baseline.

305 Overall, these results show that combining Whisper-based transcripts with VideoMAE embeddings
 306 yields consistent gains, while Wav2Vec2 audio adds little beyond what text and frames already capture.
 307 This motivates focusing on the VT configuration when extending the model to query-conditioned
 308 highlight retrieval on full matches.

309 6 Conclusion

310 In this project, we developed a multimodal pipeline for personalized highlight detection in soccer
 311 videos by integrating video, audio, transcripts, and natural-language queries. Our system combined
 312 a self-supervised VideoMAE encoder, a dual-stream audio pipeline using Wav2Vec2 and Whisper,
 313 as well as a CLIP-based query encoder designed to support natural-language retrieval. These
 314 components were evaluated through a multimodal Fusion Transformer used to classify events in short
 315 temporal windows, demonstrating that combining modalities yields more structured representations
 316 and stronger performance than unimodal baselines.

317 Our results highlight promising findings in multimodal architectures, observing that a majority of
 318 classes had higher classification accuracies when using the Fusion transformer than their unimodal
 319 counterparts. Despite these strengths, several limitations shaped our system’s final capabilities. We
 320 were unable to integrate the CLIP query embeddings into the Fusion Transformer. As a result, the
 321 current model performs event classification rather than full query-conditioned retrieval. Additionally,
 322 the audio pipeline struggled with noisy and often irrelevant commentary being spoken at times that
 323 did not match the actual event. Additionally, video and audio embedding extraction took a lot of time,
 324 with each individual embedding requiring multiple seconds of processing time. Time constraints
 325 restricted us to proxy tasks instead of full match retrieval and prevented us from evaluating how user
 326 queries interact with fused audio-video-text representations.

327 Going forward, the most impactful next step is to incorporate the CLIP query embeddings directly into
 328 the Fusion Transformer so that retrieval can be conditioned on natural language prompts rather than
 329 fixed labels. Achieving this will require scaling the model to longer temporal contexts, improving
 330 transcript alignment, and improving audio and video embedding generation speed. With these
 331 extensions, the pipeline could become a more practical tool for interactive highlight retrieval, tactical
 332 video search for analysts, and automated content indexing for broadcasters.

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365 **A Team Contributions**

Member	Contributions
Mathis Doutre	Implemented the transcript embedding and designed the Fusion Transformer, conducting all transformer-based multimodal experiments.
Srikanth Viswanatha	Implemented the latent audio encoder and performed the Whisper transcript extraction aligned with event timestamps.
Hang Kim	Implemented the full video embedding pipeline, including frame extraction, preprocessing, and the visual encoder.
Eugénie Laugier	Built the prompt encoder module and contributed to project coordination, meeting organization, and shared documentation.

Table 4: Team Contributions