



# PLAYER PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS FOR CHARLTON ATHLETIC

- ARJUN  
SRIDHAR

SEPTEMBER 12,  
2024

# PROJECT OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

## Primary Objective 🏆

- Recommend 3 standout players for Charlton Athletic’s first-team squad based on in-depth performance analysis.

## Sub-objectives

- **Data Cleaning & Preprocessing** 🛠️  
Handle missing values, standardize metrics, and normalize data.
- **Performance Analysis** 📊  
Assess players’ attacking, defensive, and transitional abilities.
- **Player Comparison** 🔍  
Identify top performers for each position based on impact per 90 minutes.
- **Player Recommendation** 🏆  
Deliver data-backed recommendations for the top 3 players.

## Key Metrics Defined 📏

- **Play Duration** ⌚  
Total seconds a player has spent on the pitch, reflecting their experience and contribution.
- **Match Share** 📄  
Proportion of match time participated in, indicating consistency and reliability.

## Deliverables 📁

- **Comprehensive Data Analysis**  
Detailed review of player performance across positions and leagues.
- **Data-Driven Visualizations**  
Insights into playtime, ultimate scores, and top players.
- **Recommendations**  
Selection of 3 key players with detailed justification and supporting visuals.

# DATASET BREAKDOWN

## Key Features of the Dataset 🏠

### ➤ Play Duration 🕒

Total time a player has spent on the pitch.

**Importance:** Reflects experience and contribution during matches.

### ➤ Match Share 📊

Percentage of total available match time played by the player.

**Importance:** Measures reliability and consistency in team selection.

## Additional Features 🔍

### ➤ Position Categories ⚽

Various roles (e.g., Central Midfield, Goalkeeper, Winger) for role-specific comparison.

### ➤ Performance Scores 📈

Metrics like AI Score, Weighted Score, Z-Score to objectively rank players.

## Challenges 🛠️

### ➤ Missing Data ?

Incomplete records addressed via imputation or removal.

### ➤ Data Normalization 📏

Applied scaling across leagues for fair player comparison.

```
def get_best_players_by_position(data, score_column='ultimate_score'):
    """
    Get the top 3 players from each specific position category.

    Args:
        data (pd.DataFrame): The dataset containing player information.
        score_column (str): The column used to determine the best players (default is 'ultimate_score').

    Returns:
        dict: A dictionary where keys are positions and values are DataFrames.
    """
    # Define the specific positions
    position_categories = [
        'CENTRAL_MIDFIELD', 'RIGHT_WINGBACK_DEFENDER', 'LEFT_WINGBACK_DEFENDER',
        'GOALKEEPER', 'DEFENSE_MIDFIELD', 'CENTER_FORWARD', 'ATTACKING_MIDFIELD',
        'CENTRAL_DEFENDER', 'LEFT_WINGER', 'RIGHT_WINGER'
    ]

    # Dictionary to store the top players for each position
    top_players_by_position = {}

    # Loop over each position and get the top 3 players based on the score column
    for position in position_categories:
        # Filter the players based on the position
        position_players = data[data['position'] == position]

        # Sort the players by the given score column and get the top 3
        top_players = position_players.sort_values(by=score_column, ascending=False)

        # Store the top 3 players in the dictionary
        top_players_by_position[position] = top_players[['playername', score_column]]

    return top_players_by_position
```

# DATA CLEANING & PREPROCESSING

## Steps Taken

### ➤ Standardized Column Names

Ensured uniformity and clarity in data labels.

### ➤ Handled Missing Values

Addressed incomplete data through imputation or removal.

### ➤ Scaled Important Features

Normalized Play Duration and Match Share for consistent comparison.

## Outcome

### ➤ Data Consistency Achieved

Dataset is now uniform and ready for insightful analysis.

```
data_preprocessing.py X
charltonFC > scripts > data_preprocessing.py >
6 from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestRegressor
7 from sklearn.metrics import mean_squared_error
8 from sklearn.cluster import KMeans
9
10 # Load and Preprocess Data
11 def load_data(filepath):
12     """Load dataset from a CSV file."""
13     return pd.read_csv(filepath, low_memory=False)
14
15 def standardize_column_names(data):
16     """Convert column names to lowercase and replace spaces with underscores."""
17     data.columns = data.columns.str.lower().str.replace(' ', '_').str.strip()
18     return data
19     # Arjun Sridhar, 4 days ago • all files except dataset and virtual env ...
20 def ensure_unique_column_names(data):
21     """Ensure column names are unique by appending a suffix to duplicates."""
22     cols = pd.Series(data.columns)
23     for dup in cols[cols.duplicated()].unique(): # Find duplicates
24         dup_indices = cols[cols == dup].index.tolist()
25         for i, idx in enumerate(dup_indices):
26             if i == 0:
27                 continue
28             cols[idx] = f"{dup}_{i}"
29     data.columns = cols
30     return data
31
32 def preprocess_data(data, required_columns):
33     """Convert to numeric, fill missing values."""
34     data[required_columns] = data[required_columns].apply(pd.to_numeric, errors='coerce').fillna(data[req
35     return data
36
37 def scale_data(data, columns):
38     """Scale selected columns using StandardScaler."""
39     data[columns] = StandardScaler().fit_transform(data[columns])
40     return data
41
```



# SCORING AND RANKING PLAYERS

## Scores Applied 📊

- **AI Score 🤖**: Generated using the rainforest model for unlabeled data.
- **Weighted Score ⚖️**: Balanced based on key metrics.
- **Z-Score 📏**: Standardized performance measure.
- **PCA Score 📉**: Principal Component Analysis for dimensionality reduction.
- **Geometric Mean Score 📐**: Average score using multiplicative factors.
- **Harmonic Mean Score 🌀**: Average emphasizing lower values.
- **Simple Sum Score ➕**: Aggregated sum of key metrics.

## Final Score 🏆:

- **The Ultimate Score ⭐**: A weighted combination of all scores for effective player ranking.

## Weights 📊:

- **AI Score**: 25%
- **Weighted Score**: 20%
- **Z-Score**: 15%
- **PCA Score**: 10%
- **Geometric Mean Score**: 10%
- **Harmonic Mean Score**: 10%
- **Simple Sum Score**: 10%

```
data_preprocessing.py
# Scoring Methods
def create_combined_scores(data, col1, col2, weight1=0.5, weight2=0.5):
    """Apply all scoring methods"""
    data[col1] = data[col1].apply(lambda x: max(0, 1e-10))
    data[col2] = data[col2].apply(lambda x: max(0, 1e-10))
    data['simple_sum_score'] = data[col1] + data[col2]
    data['weightet_score'] = (data[col1] * weight1 + data[col2] * weight2)
    data['geometric_mean_score'] = np.sqrt(data[col1] * data[col2])
    data['z_score_combined'] = [
        (data[col1] - data[col1].mean()) / data[col1].std() +
        (data[col2] - data[col2].mean()) / data[col2].std()
    ]
    data = create_pca_combined_score(data, [col1, col2])
    data['harmonic_mean_score'] = 2 / ((1 / data[col1]) + (1 / data[col2]))
    return data

def create_pca_combined_score(data, cols):
    """PCA-based score calculation"""
    pca = PCA(n_components=1)
    data['pca_score'] = pca.fit_transform(data[cols])
    return data

def apply_all_scores(data: pd.DataFrame, col1: str, col2: str, weight1: float = 0.5, weight2: float = 0.5):
    """Apply all scoring methods and add them as new columns"""
    data = create_combined_scores(data, col1, col2, weight1, weight2)
    data = create_z_score(data, col1, col2)
    return data

def create_ai_based_score(data, col1, col2, model_type='random_forest'):
    """Create AI-based score using Random Forest as the model"""
    if model_type == 'kmeans':
        kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=3, random_state=42)
        data['ai_score'] = kmeans.fit_predict(data[[col1, col2]])
    elif model_type == 'random_forest':
        # If "performance_metric" is not available, create a dummy metric
        # Here we use a simple average of the two features as a target
        data['performance_metric'] = data[[col1, col2]].mean(axis=1)
        x = data[features].values
```

```
main.py
# Main Script
def required_columns = (player_position, performance)
data = preprocess_data(data, required_columns)
data = scale_data(data, required_columns)

# Apply all scoring methods and create the ultimate score
weights = {
    'ai_score': 0.25,
    'weighted_score': 0.2,
    'z_score_combined': 0.15,
    'pca_score': 0.1,
    'geometric_mean_score': 0.1,
    'harmonic_mean_score': 0.1,
    'simple_sum_score': 0.1
}

data = apply_all_scores(data, 'player_position', 'performance')
data = create_ultimate_score(data, weights)

# Add top 5 players flag
data = add_top_5_players_flag(data, 'ultimate_score')

# Verify dataframe before saving
print(data.head())
print(data.columns)

# Save the updated dataframe to a csv file
csv_file_path = 'processed_data_for_ranking.csv'
data.to_csv(csv_file_path, index=False)
print(f"Data saved to {csv_file_path}")

# Find the best players by position
best_players_by_position = get_best_players_by_position(data)

# Print the best players from each position category
print(f"Top 5 Players by Position:")
for position, players in best_players_by_position.items():
    print(f"Position: {position}")
    print(players)

# Visualization (optional)
```

#### Method

##### ➤ **Ranking Players**

Used **Ultimate Score** to rank players within each position.

##### ➤ **Top 3 Flag**

Created a flag for the top 3 players in each position category.

#### Positions Covered

##### ➤ **Central Midfield**

##### ➤ **Goalkeeper**

##### ➤ **Center Forward**

##### ➤ **(and others)**

#### New Column

##### ➤ **is\_top\_3\_in\_position**

Indicates whether a player is among the top 3 in their position.

# IDENTIFYING TOP PLAYERS BY POSITION

# VISUALIZATIONS: PLAYER ANALYSIS

Ultimate Scores 📊

➤ Bar Chart 📊

Displays players' Ultimate Scores, sorted from highest to lowest.

Play Duration vs. Match Share 🔄

➤ Scatter Plot 🔍

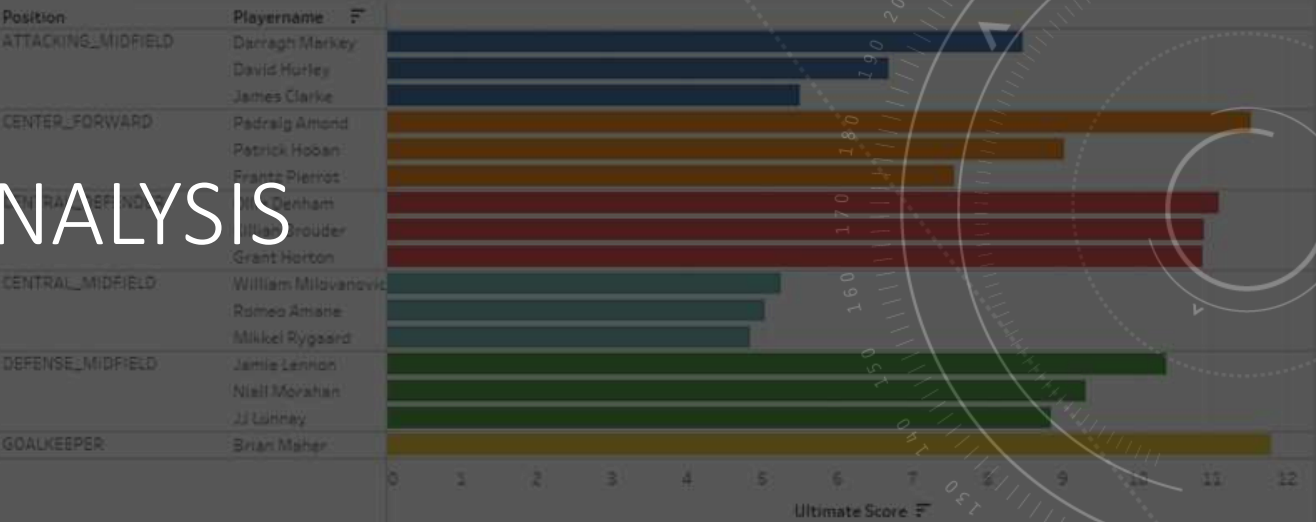
Shows the relationship between Play Duration and Match Share, with player names labeled.

Top 3 vs. Ultimate Score 🏆

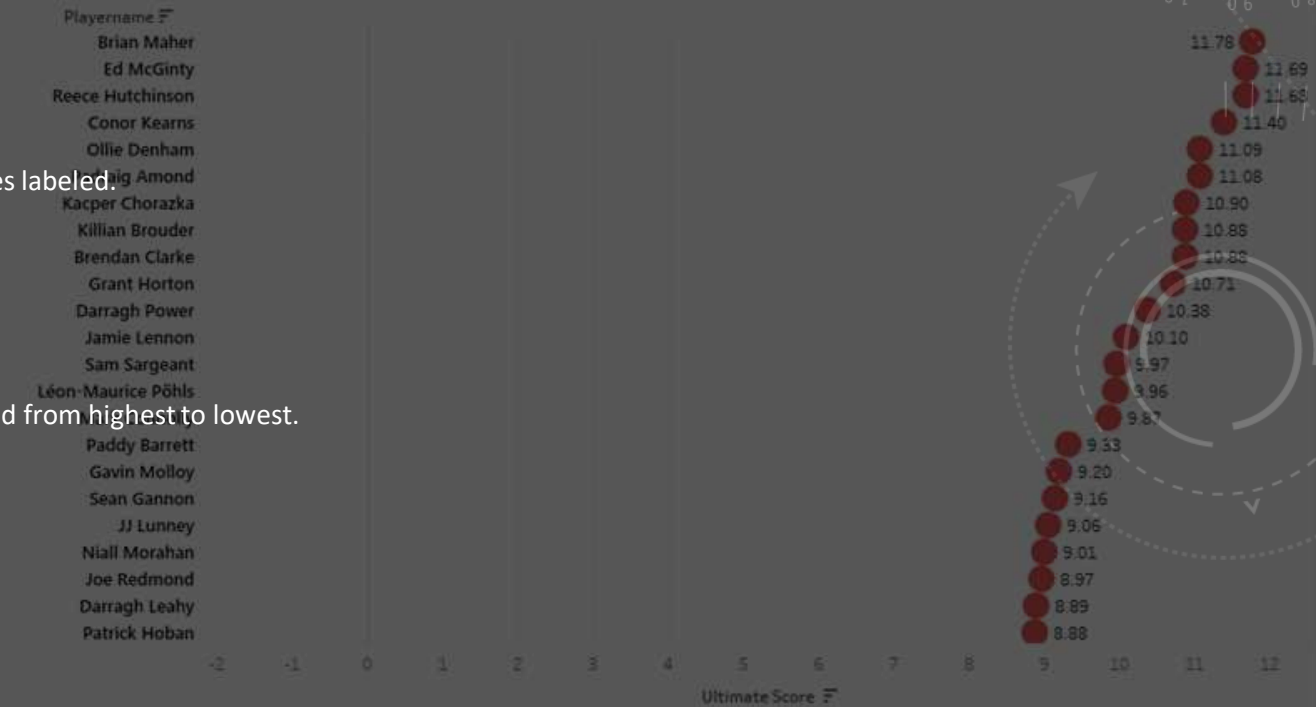
➤ Bar Chart 📊

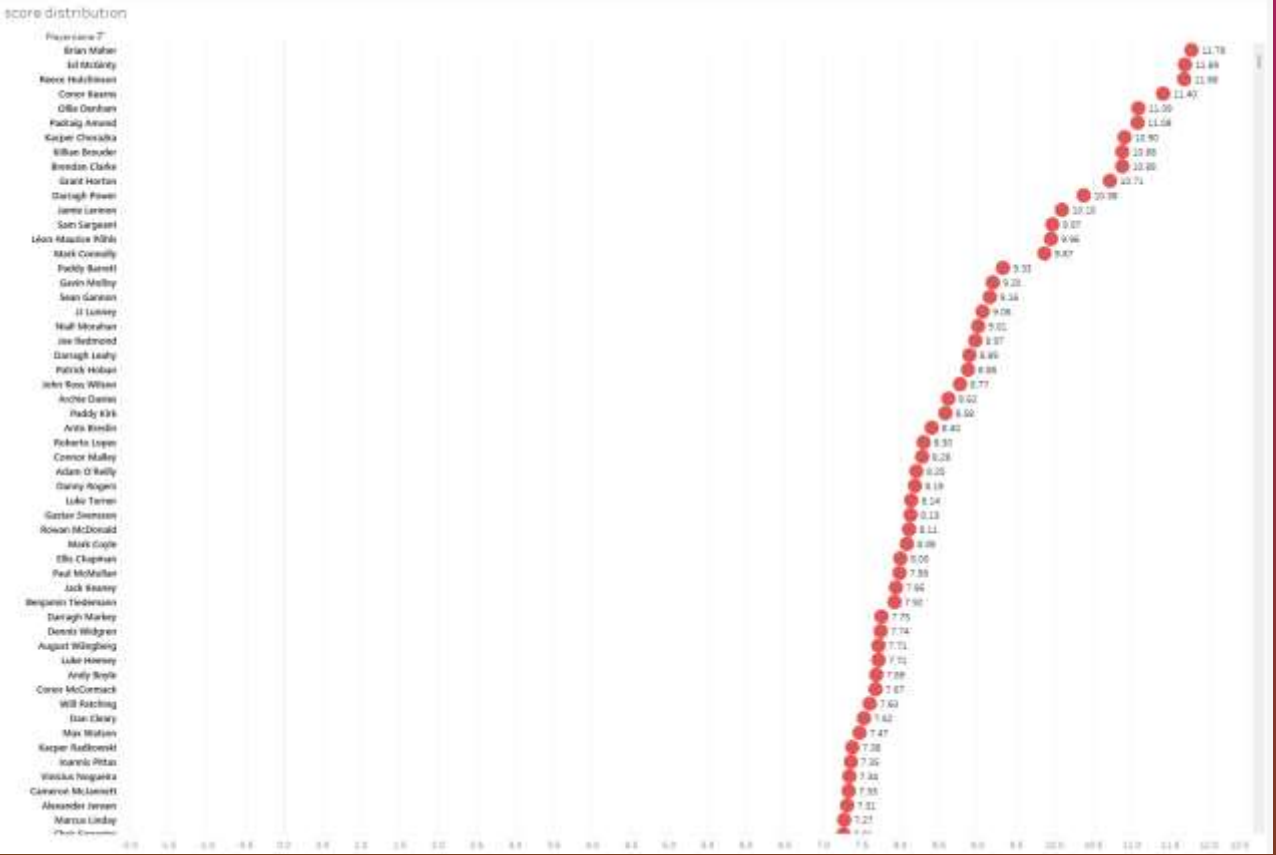
Compares the Ultimate Scores of the top 3 players in each position category, sorted from highest to lowest.

top 3 vs ultimate score



score distribution

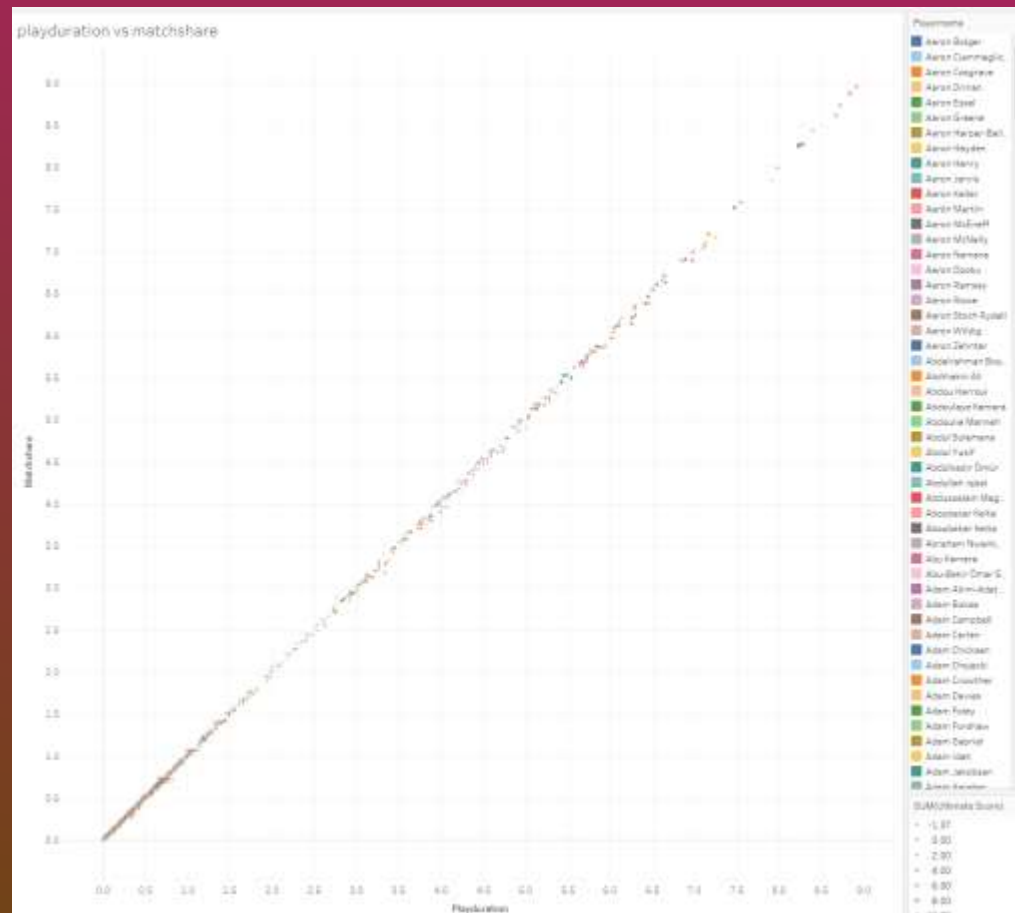




# ULTIMATE SCORES

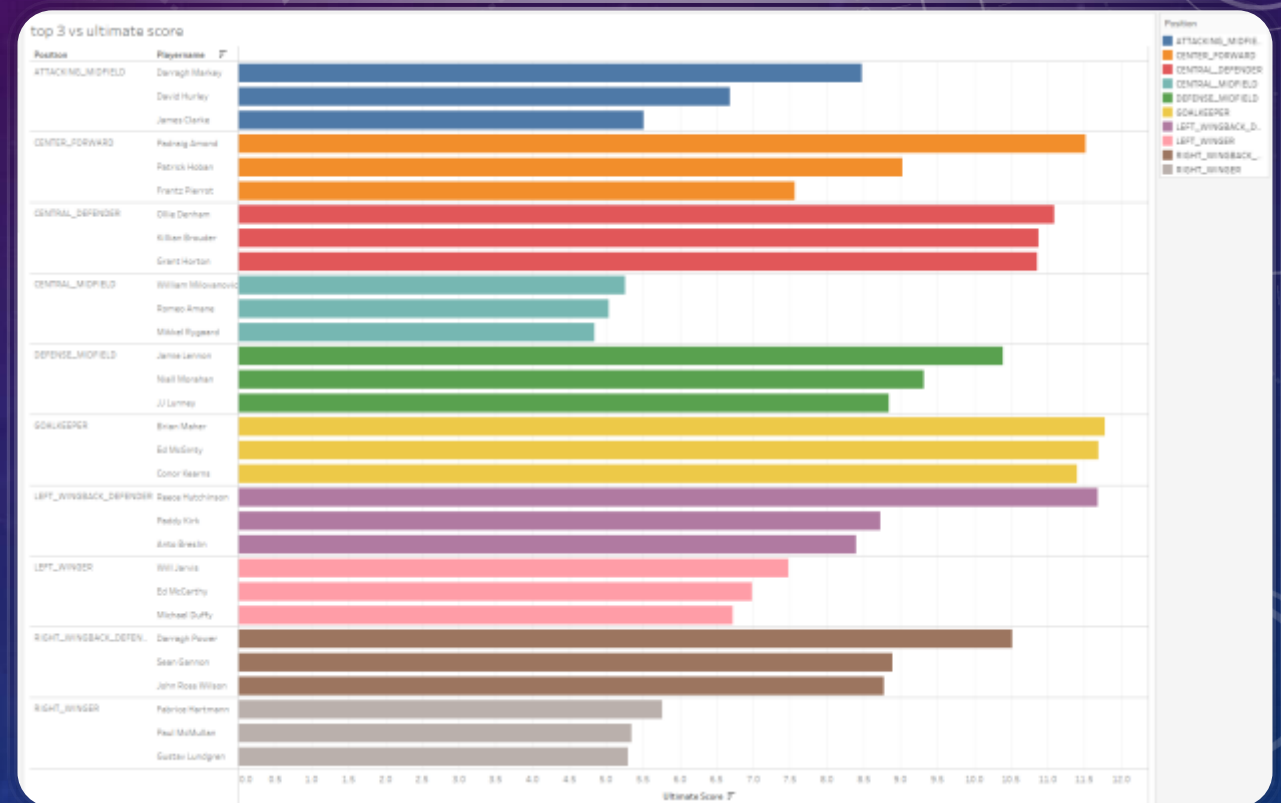






# PLAY DURATION VS MATCH SHARE

# TOP THREE VS ULTIMATE SCORE



# FINAL PLAYER RECOMMENDATIONS

## Top 3 Recommended Players 🌟

- 📊 The top three players for each position category will be showcased in the following slides

## Selection Criteria 📋

- **High Ultimate Score** 📈  
Prioritized based on performance metrics.
- **Key Metrics** 🔍  
Includes Play Duration and Match Share.
- **Position-Specific Needs** ⚽  
Tailored to fit team requirements.



# GOALKEEPERS

## 1. Brian Maher

➤ ✨ Ultimate Score: 11.78

## 2. Ed McGinty

➤ ⬆<sub>TOP</sub> Ultimate Score: 11.69

## 3. Conor Kearns


➤ ⚔ Ultimate Score: 11.40





# CENTRAL MIDFIELDERS

## 1. William Milovanovic

➤  Ultimate Score: 5.26

## 2. Romeo Amane

➤  Ultimate Score: 5.04

## 3. Mikkel Rygaard

➤  Ultimate Score: 4.84



# RIGHT WINGBACK DEFENDERS



## 1. Darragh Power

➤ ⚡ Ultimate Score: 10.52

## 2. Sean Gannon

➤ ⬆️ Ultimate Score: 8.89

## 3. John Ross Wilson

➤ 🏆 Ultimate Score: 8.77





# LEFT WINGBACK DEFENDERS



## 1. Reece Hutchinson

➤ ⚡ Ultimate Score: 11.68

## 2. Paddy Kirk

➤ ⬆️ Ultimate Score: 8.73

## 3. Anto Breslin

➤ 🏆 Ultimate Score: 8.40



# DEFENSE MIDFIELDERS



## 1. Jamie Lennon

➤ ⚡ Ultimate Score: 10.39

## 2. Niall Morahan

➤ ⬆️ TOP Ultimate Score: 9.32

## 3. JJ Lunney

➤ 🏆 Ultimate Score: 8.84





# CENTER FORWARDS



## 1. Padraig Amond

➤  Ultimate Score: 11.51

## 2. Patrick Hoban

➤  Ultimate Score: 9.02

## 3. Frantz Pierrot

➤  Ultimate Score: 7.57



# ATTACKING MIDFIELDERS




## 1. Darragh Markey

➤  Ultimate Score: 8.48

## 2. David Hurley

➤  Ultimate Score: 6.68

## 3. James Clarke

➤  Ultimate Score: 5.51



# CENTRAL DEFENDERS

## 1. Ollie Denham

➤ ⚡ Ultimate Score: 11.09

## 2. Killian Brouder

➤ ↑<sub>TOP</sub> Ultimate Score: 10.88

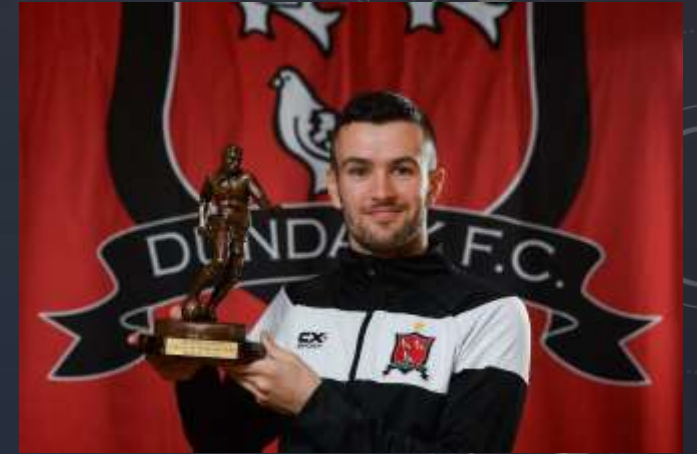
## 3. Grant Horton

➤ 🏆 Ultimate Score: 10.86





# LEFT WINGERS ✨



## 1. Will Jarvis

➤ ⚡ Ultimate Score: 7.48

## 2. Ed McCarthy

➤ ⬆️ TOP Ultimate Score: 6.98

## 3. Michael Duffy

➤ 🏆 Ultimate Score: 6.73





# RIGHT WINGERS ✨



## 1. Fabrice Hartmann

➤ ⚡ Ultimate Score: 5.76

## 2. Paul McMullan

➤ ⬆️ Ultimate Score: 5.35

## 3. Gustav Lundgren

➤ 🏆 Ultimate Score: 5.30



SIDE MIDFIELDER or  
DEFENSIVE WINGER

# CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

## Summary:

- Data-driven approach to identify top talent.
- Key insights from the analysis.

## Next Steps:

- Further validation with scouting.
- Possible additional analysis based on more data.

# THANK YOU!



## Questions? 🤔

- Feel free to ask!

## Contact Info: ✉️

- [arjunsridhar445@gmail.com](mailto:arjunsridhar445@gmail.com)
- <https://arjunsridhar.journoportfolio.com>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/arjun-sridhar-6466751b7>
- <https://github.com/smooth-glitch>

## Project repository: 📁

- <https://github.com/smooth-glitch/charltonFC>

Looking forward to discussing my recommendations further! 😊