

World Cup 2018 Team Stats

by Thomas Tang

Create a Tableau Story

Design:

I primarily wanted to explore which team stats were good predictors of successful teams at the 2018 World Cup. I am not a soccer fan so I started with using the data to determine which teams advanced to the Semi-Finals and called this the “Final 4 Teams”. Obviously, goals per game would be the easier indicator, but I wanted to explore “what else”. I primarily used bar charts to explore each team stat because I wanted to see how the Final 4 Teams compared with the Other Teams. A sorted bar graph, with colours differentiating the Final 4 Teams made it easy to visually see the differences between the teams. The horizontal layout made it easier to read the team names. I also added a couple scatterplots to confirm possible correlations and I was surprised by the strength of the correlations.

Final Draft:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/thomas.t7330#!/vizhome/WorldCup2018TeamStats/Story1>

Findings:

The final 4 teams averaged more goals per game than other teams. This is not surprising.

Surprisingly, the final 4 teams generally performed less tackles and did not dominate ball possession, as one may expect. Three of the Final 4 Teams averaged less than the median average number of tackles per game. World Cup winning France averages the least number of tackles per game.

First Draft:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/thomas.t7330#!/vizhome/WorldCup2018TeamStats-FirstDraft/Story1>

Feedback from First Draft:

I asked a couple soccer fans for feedback and below were their questions:

Besides obvious stats like goals-scored, shots and passes, what other team stat did successful teams excel in?

- I reviewed all the other team stats and found that number of tackles was inversely related to team success at the 2018 World Cup

Could we highlight another team, instead of just the top 4 teams? (Germany-fan)

- Added a Dashboard highlighting a team of the user’s choice