

# A Study on Motivating Factors that Encourage European Football Players to move from Home Club to Rival Club

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**Abstract**— Football is the most loved and most followed sport in the world. Every club's reputation and brand image is a direct reflection on the quality of players playing for the club. Players move from one club to another for a variety of reasons such as Wages hike, prestige of the club, springboard factor, friend's network, etc. In this paper, we analyse the performance of players who moved from home club to rival club for two reasons such as Wages Hike and Springboard factor. Secondary data were collected from official football club websites and football association reports. One way ANOVA analysis proves that springboard factor has a significant impact on performance of the players.

**Keywords:** Wages Hike, springboard factor, performance, one way ANOVA analysis, rival club

## 1. INTRODUCTION

There are more than one million professional football clubs. Player usually move from one club to another during two transfer windows such as summer and winter. Summer transfer window is for a period of two months and winter transfer window for a period of one month. Transfer will only happen only when both the club and the player accept the offer from the other club which wants to buy that player. Players will be having negotiating agents to deal with transfer so that they will be concentrating on the matches. Players moving to rival is considered as a traitor by the fans and the club. Players who moved to other club considered factors like money, prestige, lack of play time, availability of friends in the new club. Other major reason for the switch to rival club is because of the dispute with the home club and the fans. Players chooses the club that he wants to move based on the fame and prestige. Presence of friends in the new club will also encourage the player to switch to the rival club. This will increase the ease of adaptability of the player in the new club.

Top football club in Europe will always monitor the performance of the player match by match. They have a well-established scout network around the world so that it would be easy to track down the players. The player value depends on the club he currently plays, age and the form. Players with age 18 – 25 will be having more transfer value than the other player because these people have the potential to grow.

Rival clubs are those which share similar geographic background basically. Rivals means one who does something in order to attempt or surpass another competitor who pursue and share similar goals for fulfilment. Rival clubs are most evident in football than any other sport. Also, apart from this there are clubs even though they dint share same demographics there are also clubs who share rivalry because of their historical reasons. For example, Liverpool FC and Manchester United FC are from two different geographies but still share rivalry because of their historical roots. Similar is the case of Real Madrid and Barcelona. There is a strong hold amongst fans to follow their football club kith and kin. Almost no fans accept the players playing for the club they support to get transferred to their rival club. Luis Figo was severely opposed by the Barcelona fans when he moved from Barcelona to their fierce rival Real Madrid. The fans went so intense that they threw a pig face at him when he about to take a corner kick. Such is the state of mind amongst the fans when it comes to such transfer issues. Beyond this there are many cases which has involved players moving between two rival clubs. Few famous cases are those which involves in such transfers are Fernando Torres, Luis Figo, Carlos Tevez, Emmanulle Adebeyor, Robin Van Persie, Mario Gotze, Robert Lewandoski, Ashley Cole etc.

There are various reasons behind such transfers. Some of the major factors are discussed in this paper. Factors such as

### 1.1 Wages

Wages seems to be crucial factor for switching to many people not only in football but also in reality. Everyone have an unavoidable attraction towards money. In football, wages play an important role. More the money offered by the club to the player has more chance of player accepting the offer.

Few clubs will be rich enough to pay the wages to players in order to attract them from their parent club otherwise called as their current/present club. In that case a player may be tempted to move from one club to another based-on wage alone. Increase in wages alone has factored in many transfer throughout the history from one club to their rival especially. In many cases the players have also openly admitted that wages have been the sole reason for their transfer from their parent club to their rival. Fans even though tag such player's snakes, rats etc. such transfers still happen even today. Recent example is the case of Raheem Sterling who had a huge dispute with his parent club, Liverpool regarding his wage demands. This not only ended there but resulted in the transfer of the player to a richer club called Manchester City just because his wage demands were not met in his parent club. The fans were immensely disappointed with such a move for the player. Even today the fans have an attitude to disrespect the player whenever he returns to play for his current club Manchester City at Liverpool's home ground Anfield. Similar cases can be attributed to players such as Samir Nasri, Gael Clichy, Fernando Torres, N'golo Kante etc.

Wages is an important role in deciding the player whether he will stay in his current club or he will leave the present club for higher money.

### *1.2 Springboard Factor:*

Another issue is the play time. Let me give you an example. Paul Pogba is a wonderful example even though he never moved across cross town rivals or historic rivals. It is just a curious case where the player moved just because he was not provided with ample playtime he anticipated and thus had to move from one club to another. He played for Manchester United till 2012. After that as he was not provided with enough playtime he neither extended his contract with United nor he stayed. He left for Juventus FC for free in the summer of 2012. After four years in the summer of 2016 Manchester United brought him back for a record transfer fee of 90 million pounds which is highest fee payed for a player to move from one club to another in the history of entire football. This case doesn't highlight the fact that he moved between clubs which are not considered to be rivals. The underlying fact that playtime plays an important factor in the transfer of player from one club to another reminds undisputed and inevitable.

### *1.3 Performance:*

The performance of the player depends on the goals and the assists that he makes every match. Up next let us consider the example of Robin Van Persie who played for arsenal between 2004 – 2012. He joined Arsenal in 2004 as a youth potential at the age of 21. He grew out to be one lethal poachers of the game. He was the premier league top scorer for two consecutive years but he never won any trophies at Arsenal. His performance was so impressive that many rival clubs were interested in signing Van Persie. Then he was signed by rival club Manchester United solely based upon his performance.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

John Kennan and James R. Walker in a journal paper said that how an individual income will affect the migration decision. People will look for better opportunities and salary. Bodvarsson and Van den Berg did a research on why people are migrating and in the end, they suggested that money is one of the major factor that influences people to make decisions. Letycja Sołoducho-Pelc (2015) said people look for opportunities to enhance their careers and also suggested that people plan, prioritise and then form strategies to execute them. Nurazlina Abu Bakar et al (2016) suggested that people move to better location where there are more opportunities. İrge Şener et al (2015) found that good network of friends can attract a player towards a place where they are currently. Michael S. Dahl et al (2009) people move toward the place where they have known people and they would prefer to work at the place where the known people are there. Fahimeh Chegini et al (2016) suggested that people prefer better brands and prestige and they always want to switch to better ones.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

### *3.1 Sample*

The study is quantitative in nature. 40 European players from top football club who moved from home club to rival club during the period 2000 – 2017 were selected randomly. Wages, Playtime and Points per match data before and after the switch to the rival club for each of the players were taken from the official websites.

### *3.2 Data Collection*

Data is normally collected from official sources like Transfer market websites where the player values by year wise it will be given. The player performance will be compared with the year before and after the player has moved to the rival club.

The wages of the player will be in dollars or in Euros. Since the player movement to rival club is considered then there is no need to convert the Dollars to Euros. The players are taken from countries like Spain, England, France, Germany and Italy.

The playtime is also taken in the form of minutes. The average play time per season determines the minute he played during the season.

The performance of the player is measured in points. The performance depends on the goals, assists, successful passes etc... The maximum points that a player can attain a maximum will be around 500 per match.

### 3.3 Analysis

One way ANOVA analysis was used to analyse the data. The variables will be wages hike and the spring board variable and the dependant factor will be performance.

#### 3.3.1 Points per Match before the Switch for Wages

H0 Hypothesis: Wages Increased does not have significant impact on Points per Match (Before the switch)

H1 Hypothesis: Wages Increased have significant impact on Points per Match (Before the switch)

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	10408.335	1	10408.335	4.334	.044
Within Groups	91251.040	38	2401.343		
Total	101659.375	39			

Results suggest that wages increased have a significant impact on the Points per Match (Before the switch)

#### 3.3.2 Points per Match after the Switch for Wages

H0: Wages Increased does not have significant impact on Points per Match (After the switch)

H1: Wages Increased have significant impact on Points per Match (After the switch)

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	4192.327	1	4192.327	2.873	0.098
Within Groups	55457.573	38	1459.410		
Total	59649.900	39			

Results suggest that wages increased does not have a significant impact on the Points per Match (After the switch)

#### 3.3.3 Points per Match before the Switch for Springboard

H0: Springboard factor does not have significant impact on Points per Match (Before the switch)

H1: Springboard factor Increased have significant impact on Points per Match (Before the switch)

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	83.848	1	83.848	.031	.860
Within Groups	101575.527	38	2673.040		
Total	101659.375	39			

Results suggest that Springboard does not have a significant impact on the Points per Match (Before the switch)

#### 3.3.4 Points per Match after the Switch for Springboard

H0: Springboard factor does not have significant impact on Points per Match (After the switch)

H1: Springboard factor Increased have significant impact on Points per Match (After the switch)

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1120.310	1	1120.310	.727	.399
Within Groups	58529.590	38	1540.252		
Total	59649.900	39			

Results suggest that Springboard does not have a significant impact on the Points per Match (After the Switch)

From the analysis, it is evident that the player who moved for money have a negative impact in the performance. The player who moved for pride and more play time has a positive impact in the performance. The significance of the ANOVA table clearly shows that significance of the player performance increases if the player moves for play time rather than money.

#### 4. DISCUSSION AND LIMITATIONS

The above analysis shows us that springboard factor has a significant impact on the players' performance after shifting from home club to away club. However, players who moved to rival club for wages does not have a significant impact on the performance. Future research can be done by considering more factors like prestige of club, network of friends, etc...

#### 5. CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

We could infer from the above study that players should consider playtime as an important factor for moving to a rival club as it enhances their performance. It could also be inferred that wages as a motivation do not significantly contribute to player's performance. On the retrospect, the football clubs might as well improve playtime opportunities for the players as it is an important motivator for shifting. If the player gets more time on the field per match the performance of the player goes up along with the club performance in the league.

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