
Soccer

MLS and Europe

A Presentation by the Soccer Group



Background & Introduction

- Soccer has two levels - Club and National
- Most prolific and prestigious clubs ---> Europe
 - Players that play in “big 5” are deemed higher level
- For USMNT, critics argue that MLS (Canada and the US) players are lower caliber than players who play in Europe
- Does this distinction hold true?



How does USMNT player performance differ between players who compete in Major League Soccer and those who play in Europe's Big Five leagues?

Project Question

Methods

Data Collection

- Collected Data from Kaggle
- Data Scraped USMNT website

Data Cleaning

- Used Python/R to cleanse data of irregularities

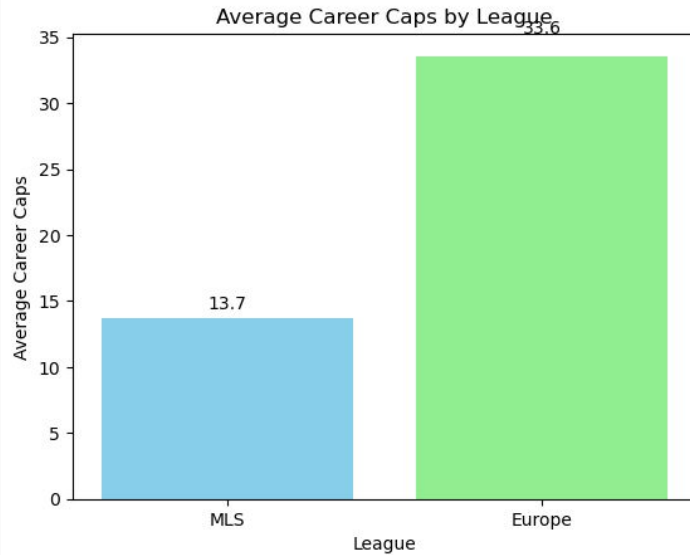
Statistics/Graphs

- Generated appropriate figures
- Ran appropriate tests

Statistical Analysis

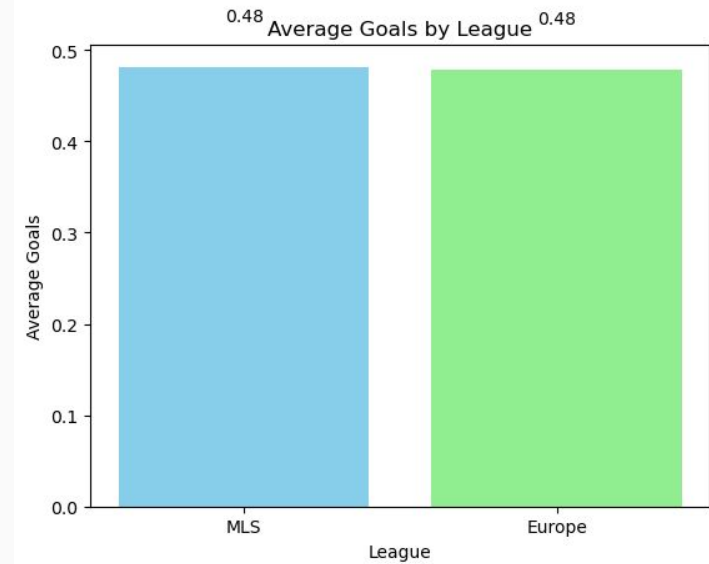
- Interpreted Results
- More holistic analysis rather than individual

Results - Caps & Goals



T-statistic: 3.7806

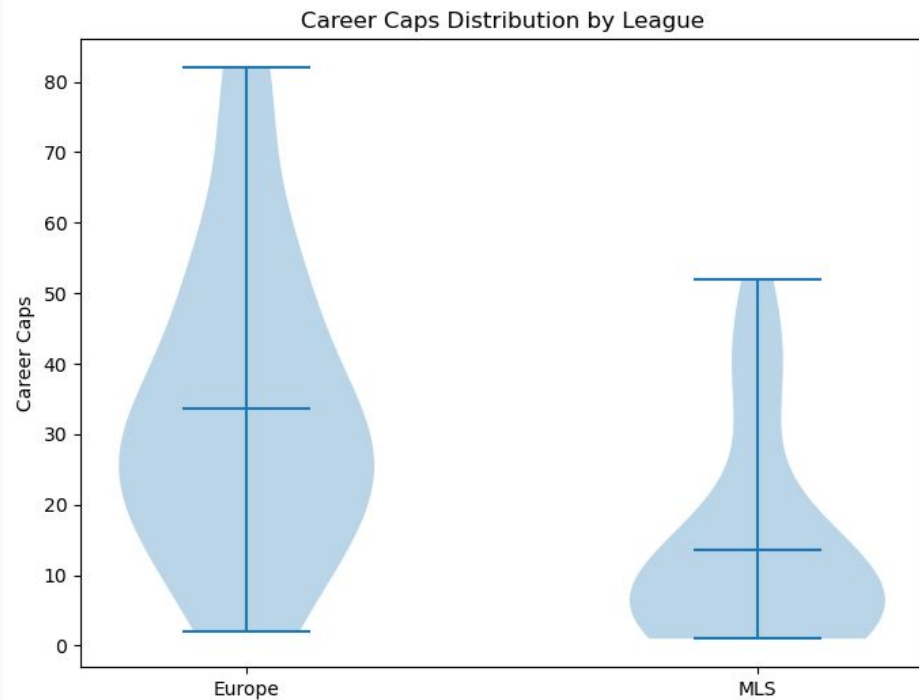
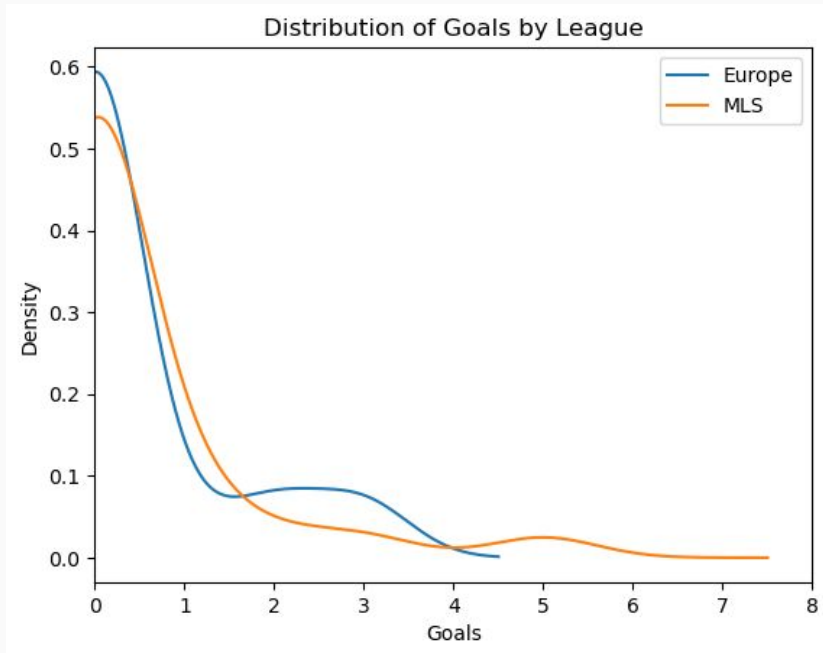
P-value: 0.0005



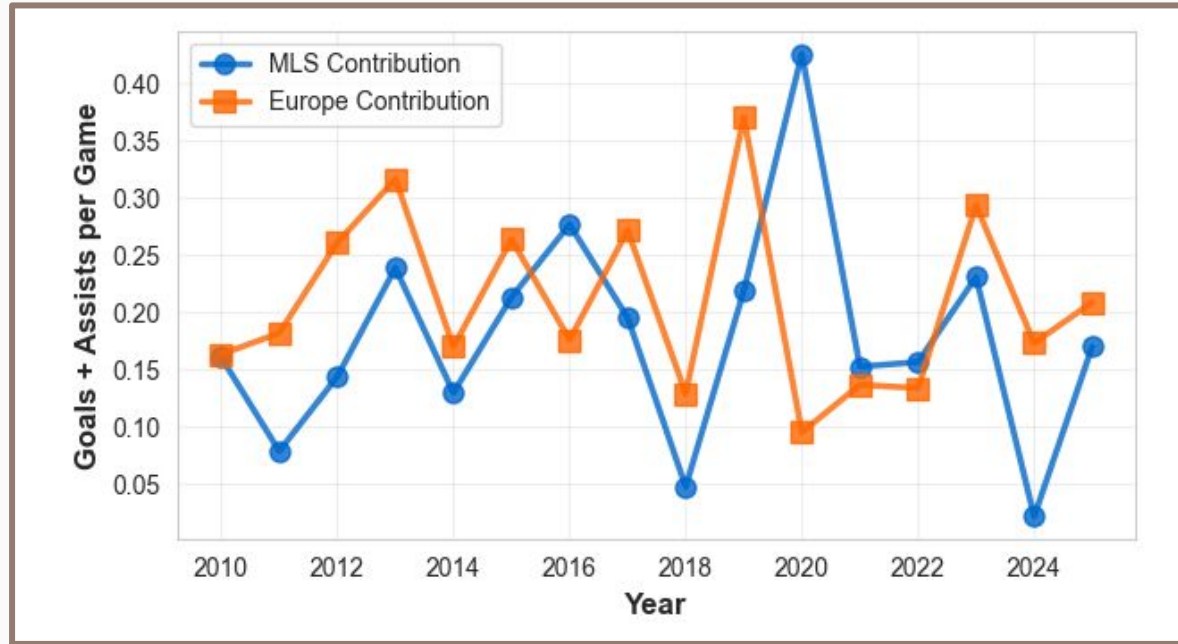
T-statistic: -0.0106

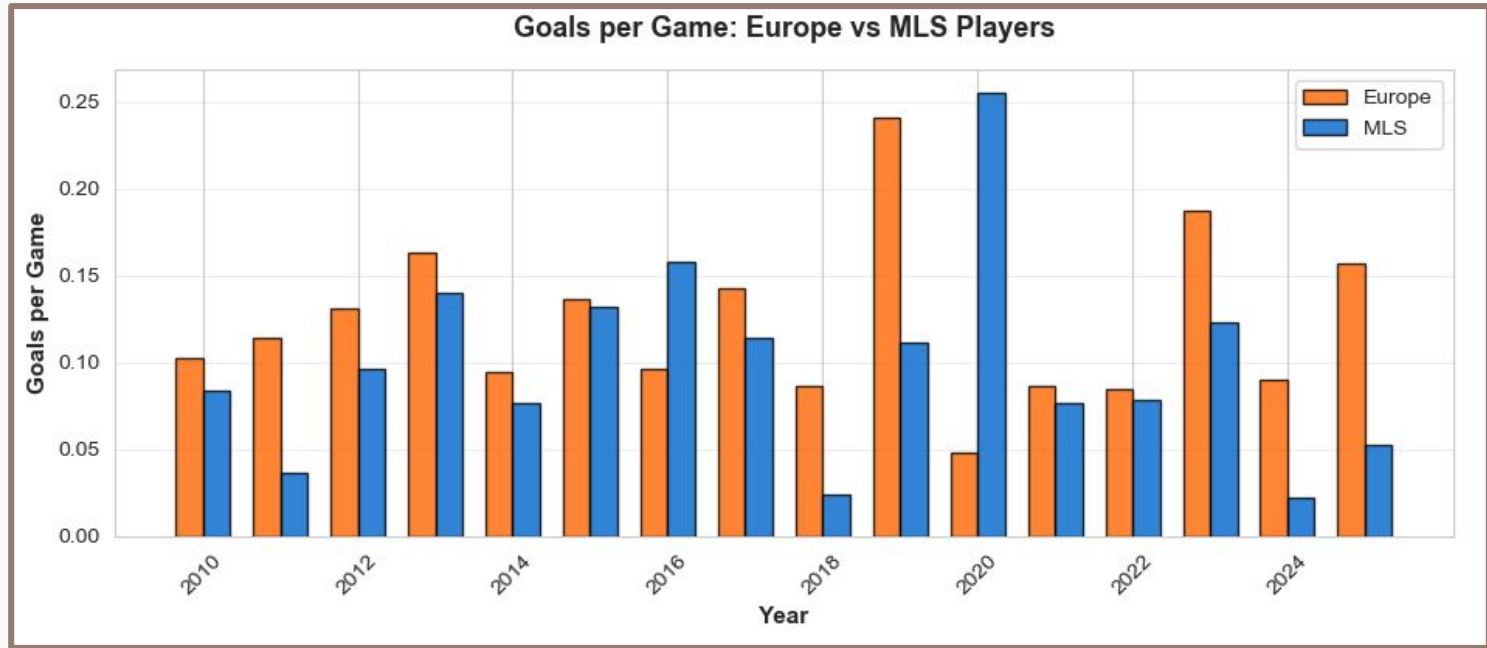
P-value: 0.9916

Results - Caps & Goals

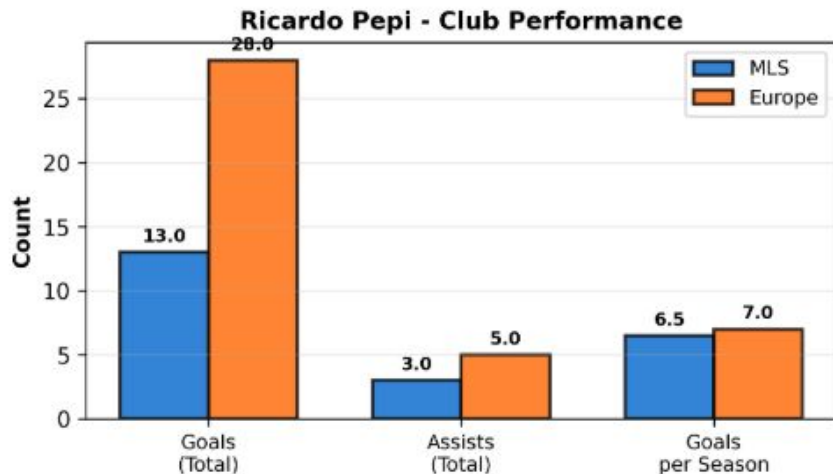


Results - Comparing Yearly USMNT Contributions





Player Spotlight



MLS Period

- $\text{Goals} + \text{Assists} / 90 \text{ min} = 0.38$

Europe Period

- $\text{Goals} + \text{Assists} / 90 \text{ min} = 0.35$

MLS Period

- $\text{Goals} + \text{Assists} / 90 \text{ min} = 0.90$

Europe Period

- $\text{Goals} + \text{Assists} / 90 \text{ min} = 0.84$



Discussion

- Players in Europe have longer international careers than those in the MLS
- Average goals (and goals + assists) per game is nearly identical
- Players who play in Europe tend to, on average, have more consistent performances over longer periods of time, but MLS players show spikes in certain years



Discussion & Conclusion

Limitations

- Finding advance metrics for only the national team, rather than club or aggregate performances
- Lacking advanced data on player performance
 - Data primarily provided at club level

Future Steps:

- Consider more individual metrics
 - Which players perform best in certain metrics?
- Divide analysis among position
 - Consider defenders, midfielders, etc.
- Analyze player performance for club and compare it to performance for USMNT



Thank You

