

LATTE QUARTERLY



Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training, Everything FM | Issue Sixteen

Published: 25 August 2023

Editor's Note

The beautiful thing about reading magazines such as Latte Quarterly is that I am able to find something interesting in all issues. Something is either new or something very familiar, I can always find myself in it.

Reading the Oriundo article by Rock's End FM is like he is in my head and putting my thoughts on paper with his words. In the end, I realised, I'm Oriundo too. If I wasn't, I wouldn't read this magazine, I wouldn't write this editorial, and I wouldn't consider a couple of FM players as friends.

Exploring the world through the Football Manager series has been one of the best things since I started playing the game a long time ago. "How do you know a player from the third Serbian division?". No need to answer this question. The same as why I follow a random Norwegian striker on Instagram, just to know where he is playing now...

The side challenges and scenarios became very important to me in the previous years as well. "Around the Lake" save in Hungary is still one of the best examples I've ever made. The idea to score as many goals as possible can be a great challenge for a long save. My favourite record to beat is usually the most appearances for the club. It's also one of the reasons why I usually try to keep at least one player from the original squad for the whole save. We all have habits like this that keep us interested in the save. And it's also great to read about different scenarios made by others, whether that's a player scoring 500 club goals or a managerial career moving abroad around Europe.

In LQ14, FM Heathen wrote about the "Dynamo" book. His review forced me to buy this book and read it again. This time, FM Patrick reviews another good one. Will I buy it too?

Even if I would not play Football Manager for some time, I would always want to read a new Latte Quarterly magazine. It always offers a great variety of articles, and everyone can find something familiar to their own virtual Football Manager universe. And this edition is no different.

From the first to the last word, thanks to all authors.

Ondrej / FM Rensie

LQ Issue Sixteen:

Oriundo: How FM turns you into a citizen of the world

By Rocks End FM

The 500 Club

By FM Grasshopper, Peter Prickett & Max Burt

New Manager Effect

By Dan Gear

You Cannot Kill an Idea

By FMStag

LQ Book Review: "The Numbers Game"

By FM Patrick



Oriundo:

How FM turns you into a citizen of the world Rock's End FM

When Tony asked me to write something on the whole concept of Oriundi, my honest reaction was "I don't think I'm the right man for the job". The Oriundi being, in the context of football of course, the Latin American natives who represented Italy in the 1934 World Cup. Just by definition they lived lives vastly different from mine. I've hardly been outside my home city, let alone my country.

However, I decided to ponder on the matter, and the issue sort of solved itself after the Sports Interactive Influencers Meeting in June. There, I was lucky enough to meet not only with my favourite writers and content creators from the English-speaking world, but also some from the rest of the world. Among them, I quickly hit it off with Asier and Fernando from Spain, naturally on account of being the sole Spanish-speakers in the building.

It was while talking with them that my "Oriundo" lightbulb turned on. Chatting about the differences between my fellow Latin American content creators and players, and those from Spain, it came about that (in his opinion) Europe-based players are less likely to venture out and manage in the wilderness of the rest of the world. It came as a surprise for me, as I've always thought FM is too big, too colourful a playground to keep to just one or two spots.

Ever since my first save in FM17, I've managed in as varied places as Spain, Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Indonesia, Denmark, Brazil, Wales, Peru, Iceland, Australia, Chile, Scotland, India, Belgium, South Africa, Italy and many more. That's how I've also discovered that my favourite style of save is the journeyman. The wilder, the better, the more leagues and places I can cram into the game without my poor PC dying of exhaustion, the happier I'll be.

To me that's always been one of the best things about FM, how much of the world of football you can get to know through it. The sheer amount of players, clubs and stories I've come to know via the game is hard to explain. I've got all time favourite players who I didn't even know existed (Satria Bagaskara, I'm looking at you), I've talked with people from all corners in the world, and watched games at ridiculous times.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Since I've started playing FM I've fallen in love with a club in Uruguay, met and talked at length with a Chilean, discussed the Indonesian league with an American who used to live there, became an A-League fan and ended up talking to two Englishmen, a Scotsman, two Spaniards and an Italian while eating pizza in London.

I think in a way FM forces you to become an Oriundo, if you let it. It forces you to venture outside, go on an adventure alla-Bilbo Baggins. You can stay put. You can manage your favourite side, in your home league, with the players you know. But if you only let it, the game instantly turns you into a citizen of the world. It gets you to know and dig and meet people and places you may never have expected before, far more than any other thing in my life. In the process, it has broadened my life and my footballing experience.

For that, I can't thank it enough.



Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training...**Everything FM**

Latte Quarterly happily invites submissions from the wider community.
They can be anything from serious analysis, tactical discussion, guides, hints and tips
...or even tongue in cheek humour.

Contact: coffeehousefm.com/lattequarterly | [@LatteQuarterly](https://twitter.com/LatteQuarterly) | tony@coffeehousefm.com



The 500 Club

FM Grasshopper, Peter Prickett
& Max Burt

There are many ways to make a save last longer than 1-2 seasons, and an interesting one that has jumped out at me (FM Grasshopper) is the aim of getting as many goals as possible out of a striker. Did you know that in real life only six players in European leagues have scored more than 300 goals for a single club over the last 30 years (Messi, C.Ronaldo, Lewandoski, Raul, Totti and Benzema), and only one has scored more than 500 (Messi at Barcelona with 672)?

Seeing a player enter The 500 Club is something I would like to do, if the chance presents itself, in FM24 or a future edition. It is important to point out that the stars need to align for it to happen. Firstly, you need a good player...one that matches well against the league opponents' defenders and one who remains relatively injury free. Secondly, you need that striker to arrive at the right time of the save...earlier the better but at a time when the team is at a high point. Lastly, you need a tactical system to help get them there...an average of 33-34 goals over 15 seasons is enough, but that's impressive longevity.

Maximising goals is something that fellow FMer, Author and real life coach Peter Prickett loves to do. So, I've invited him on to today's LQ16 to discuss his exploits with Pele...in Football Manager 2023.

Scoring vast numbers of goals - Peter Prickett

For me that is what Football Manager is all about. Twice I have attempted to emulate Pele by having a player score over 1000 goals. Once on FM19 with Lincoln in Brazil and then with Karim Adeyemi at Liverpool on FM22.

I have to confess that on FM23 I haven't managed to last more than three seasons on a save, so I was never going to attain any 1,000 or even 500 goal achievements. Although I have attempted a high scoring season with Pele using a custom database. It was great fun signing Pele for Inter Milan in an attempt to bring life to one of the chapters of my most recent book; Moments That Could've Changed Football Forever. Pele scored 93 goals in all competitions. He would probably have reached 100 if he had been consistent from the penalty spot (only 5 converted out of 11) and not been

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

injured just before the Champions League final. He hardly missed a game. I rotated Pele out of the starting line up for cup games but would put him on for the last 20 minutes or so which often resulted in a goal or two. I would also play him when he wasn't fully fit but take him off after around an hour, no matter how many goals he had. This was usually enough to get him through to the next game.

Penalties are a vital factor if you are to chase a huge individual goal tally. If the point of your save is to score as many goals as possible with a single player, rather than any other successes, you must put said player on penalties, even if they aren't great at them. The same with free kicks. Of course if you can find a player who is decent (or even better than that) at penalties and free kicks you can get an extra 10 or even 20 goals a season compared to a player who doesn't take them. Also make sure you don't allow players on hat-tricks to take penalties as this will take scoring chances away from your heavy scorer.

In open play the focus should be on feeding the forward, In FM19 I was able to break 1,000 goal target using a straight 4-4-2. On FM22 I did it using a 4-1-3-2. I am not sure that either of these would work on FM23 due to the importance of holding midfielders. For the Pele season I used a form of Christmas Tree formation. The system deployed overlapping fullbacks, a half back, two Segundo volantes on support, an attacking midfielder on support, an Advanced Playmaker on support and Pele as the advanced forward. The only attacking role was the Advanced Forward. Everybody else was being asked to supply Pele, especially the full backs who fed a supply of crosses and the attacking midfield positions with killer passes.

Other systems and roles could work with a single striker. Mezzala on support is a very creative player, any form of attacking full back will feed the forward and Inverted Wingers in support roles will look for those vital assists. If you are playing with a back three you don't need a half back in midfield so can use roles such as the Roaming Playmaker or a Regista to play forward quickly and aggressively. The choice is then the same as with a back four, do you use two attacking midfielders to feed the striker or two wide players? This could depend on what you have available, but FM23 seems to favour fluid, narrow, possession-based play. If I was taking up the challenge, I would lean towards two attacking midfielders.

KEY TIPS

- Get them on free kicks and penalties.
- Make sure they get minutes but pick the moments to rest the player.
- Make sure the heavy scoring player only has to score goals
- Use roles that will feed the forward
- Play a narrow formation

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Who can enter The 500 Club in FM24? - FM Grasshopper

The two most obvious players right now that can score a 500th for their current clubs are PSG's Kylian Mbappé and Man City's Erling Haaland. The former looks destined to leave at some point to Real Madrid, but at the time of writing he is on 212 goals for the Parisian club. He's halfway there, and a mini-challenge in FM24 is to see how quickly the other 288 goals can be scored (IF he is still there on FM24's release that is!). Haaland on the other hand has 52 goals for Man City on the onset of FM24 and 100% committed to City, and if 50 goal seasons are going to be a thing for the next decade...who is brave enough to rule Haaland out of joining The 500 Club by 2030?



The other two who have real potential to do it in FM24 are Real Madrid's Endrick and Barcelona's Vitor Roque (who both are expected to join La Liga in Summer 2024). Two supremely talented teenagers joining Spain's most supported clubs at the same time...is there an engrossing Network Save between two people to see which player enters The 500 Club first? Go on, you know you want to...

Pelé Carnival Book - Q&A with Max Burt

I have just mentioned about the future Brazilian talents and Peter discussed Pelé in the present. But what about Pelé in the past? After all, 'Pelé' has been added to the Portuguese dictionary as an adjective that means 'the best.' A record-breaking goalscorer, with most statisticians agreeing the number being in excess of 1,200 goals... just how good was he?

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Max Burt, a football-crazy Brazilophile investor, and owner of limited edition Carnival; the autobiography of Pelé, is now releasing the last handful of the iconic books to raise money for his mobility-impaired charity, WheelEasy. The 720-page book, first published in 2006, weighs more than 13kgs and contains more than 1700 images, some of which have never been seen.



I sat down with Max to discuss the book, Pelé and Football Manager...

Like yourself, Pelé did so much for charity in his life. Did this factor into your decision when acquiring the remaining copies of his autobiography: 'Carnival'?

I suppose you could say that I bought the books as a fan of Brazil and of football generally, but I am selling them as a motivated fundraiser.

I've been a passionate football fan for as long as I can remember. I grew up next to Highbury, and, naturally, my dad made me follow Arsenal. And I've now been supporting them for over 50 years. I guess I got hooked.

I'm also a huge fan of Brazil. I lived and worked in Rio de Janeiro in 1985/86. I spent two of the happiest years of my life in that country, got to know some lovely locals in Rio, and learnt to speak the language fluently.

I consider myself one of the few foreigners who appreciate the emotions that football provokes in that country, and its importance to the national psyche (as their Football Museum says "football is more than a sport: it is our heritage, part of our culture and our identity").

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Fast forward a few years: I was in a major car accident in 1999. I received large financial compensation – but it didn't really compensate for having to spend life in a wheelchair.

I spontaneously decided to buy all the remaining copies of *Carnival* when the publisher (a friend of mine) told me about this mammoth project. I could afford them; and I saw a thing of beauty in *Carnival*, and something that united my twin passions of Brazil and football.

A few years later, I moved to Sydney with my Australian wife, and created my charity for people with mobility difficulties; WheelEasy. In 2018, we built an Access information web app, because many millions of people get stuck, give up searching for the info they need, and stay in – excluded from society.

Ever since starting WheelEasy, I've known the day would come when I could make my spontaneous heart-led investment benefit my charity. I now really want to use something that stemmed directly from my own personal tragedy, to positively affect the lives of many.

As someone who did so much good over the years, Pelé would have certainly approved of how his celebrity could continue to bring good, after his death.

The Carnival book is when sporting history meets art. Your website states that it is "equally 'at home' on display, as it is 'away' in any bank vault"...what do you think most people will do with it when they are lucky enough to own a copy?

This book is here to be enjoyed and savoured so I hope it will be on display, but treated as anyone would with their most prized possessions. It is transported around in a special protective case, on wheels, due to its size and weight, and the owner will also need to wear gloves when handling it so they may want to rethink about it being part of their coffee table decor.

They should view it as they would their most valuable watch. Worn at special occasions and something to be proud of, but not part of their everyday essentials. For example, I only bring my book out a few times a year when people ask. I do however have the signed photograph framed and hanging above my desk.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Pelé was probably the first true global superstar on colour TVs, combining outrageous flamboyance and skill from his playing days with humility and selflessness post-retirement. Do you think we will ever see somebody stay 'in the game' as a figurehead of the sport for as long as he did again?

Personally, I think that is very unlikely for two reasons:

1. Firstly, Pelé was the best player in the best team ever; a football team which rose to dominate the game like no other has, or may ever do again. As such, he achieved a renown way beyond the world of football. It is hard to see that ever happening again.
2. Secondly, it is probably the case that the overall standard of individuals now is higher than it has ever been. More sophisticated coaching, better diet, and more advanced medical treatment all go to produce a better standard of player. It would be difficult therefore for any player that happened to be as gifted as Pelé to rise above everyone else and to dominate for so long.

Having said that, there are some wonderful and talented players emerging from different nations every year, and at each tournament I am always impressed with the level of skills which keep on getting stronger.

The increased globalisation of football has created a highly visible shop window for Brazilian footballers (some very skillful and hard-working).

Two players for me are the best of the best: Joelinton at Newcastle, and Gabriel Martinelli at Arsenal (who I obviously see week in week out on the telly from here in Australia).

Perhaps the most noticeable change has been in the standard of goalkeeping. Keepers like Alison at Liverpool or Ederson at Manchester City really stand out.

Each team/nation is unique and I would love to think there is someone out there as special and aspirational as Pelé was.

Following on from the above, Football Manager players are constantly looking for the next Brazilian talent in their save worlds. Do you think the shadow of Pelé is a burden for younger Brazilian players in real life OR an inspiration?

Real life inspiration, absolutely. At Christmas the globe grieved over the passing of what was one of the greatest footballers ever to be known, and most recently as his mausoleum has opened, fans are flocking to celebrate their hero, their icon's life. We will only ever remember him as the legend who transformed the beautiful game.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Lastly, which photo from the book is your favourite and why?

The shots that were taken during the 1970 tournament are close to my heart, the passion is so infectious, raw and emotional.

The photos of Pelé performing his ambassadorial role, after his playing career ended, are perhaps the most interesting from a non-footballing perspective. The one with broadest appeal and the most unusual is the gatefold four-page spread of the Andy Warhol images.

But the stand-out for me (and I suspect for most people) is the signed photo of the World Cup winning team in 1970, lined up next to Italy, before playing the final. It's what makes this book so special. No team has ever dominated a tournament in the manner that the Selecao did during that summer. The Brazilians did more than win the tournament. They inspired a generation. There was something almost supernatural about their play.



To register your interest in this sporting collectible, visit: thepelebook.com



The New Manager Effect Dan Gear

Intro - FM Grasshopper

Roy Hodgson and Frank Lampard demonstrate the variedness of The New Manager Effect in-real-life. During the 2022/23 season, one immediately changed the fortunes of their club, building around their interpreted Best XI and the other continued the status quo of inconsistency with chopping and changing players/systems.

But does The New Manager Effect exist in FM? Do humans have an advantage by doing things differently to the AI? I have invited Dan Gear on to this Quarter's Latte Quarterly to write about his FM23 journeyman save and his opinions on The New Manager Effect in Football Manager...

The New Manager Effect - Dan Gear








Is there a new manager bounce in Football Manager? In real life we see sackings of managers in the hope of a new manager bounce to get some vital points on board. On FM23 I'm doing a European Journeyman so in this article I'm going to look at when I took over each of my five new clubs and how the first five games went each time then I'll hand pick some AI manager changes and see how their first five games went to see if there's a new manager bounce.

After that I'll explain what I do when I take over a new club and hopefully share some tips...

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Case Study 1: *Dan Gear @ Frederiksberg Alliancen 2000 aka FA2000, Denmark*

I started off in the Danish fourth division where we took over a side bottom of the table with one win in 14 games, with no knowledge of the team, and playing attributeless I trusted the coach reports and it told me that a 442 would suit the squad. So I went about creating a counter attacking tactic, with form and morale low and the low ability of player needed to be sensible.

 Middelfart	H	4-4-2 2DM		2 - 1
 Dalum	H	4-4-2 2DM		2 - 2
 SfB-Oure FA	A	4-4-2 2DM		6 - 2
 Holstebro	A	4-4-2 2DM		0 - 1
 Vanløse IF	H	4-4-2 2DM		3 - 0

The results from my first 5 games were 3 wins, a draw and a loss.

New manager bounce? I'd say so.

Here I came in and whilst my identity is a defensive manager which probably helped here we made sure we set up the counter to give us a chance to score goals which they weren't doing before I took over.

Case Study 2: *The AI @ VSK Aarhus, Denmark*

Virtual Lasse Holmgaard took over VSK Aarhus on the 13th of May with them in a relegation battle...

 Dalum	H	4-3-3 DM Wide		1 - 1
 Lyseng	A	4-3-3 DM Wide		1 - 1
 SfB-Oure FA	H	4-3-3 DM Wide		4 - 1
 AB Tårnby	A	4-3-3 DM Wide		3 - 0
 FA 2000	H	4-3-3 DM Wide		1 - 2

He started with 2 draws, 2 wins then lost to myself on the final day, which was enough to keep them up.

New manager bounce? I'd say so.










Looking at it he stuck with the same formation as the previous manager, what the players knew and went on to get the points needed.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Case Study 3: Dan Gear @ SKF SERED, Slovakia

Following my time in Denmark I moved to Slovakia and took over Sered who barely survived relegation last season. This time I took over late in pre-season with the squad a mess. We were barely making up numbers for a squad on match day, I had to utilise the youth players.

Going defensive again but a 523 this time.

 Banska Bystrica	H	5-2-3 DM Wide		1 - 2
 Slovan Bratisla...	A	5-2-3 DM Wide		3 - 1
 Komarno	H	5-2-3 DM Wide		1 - 1
 Raca	A	5-2-3 DM Wide		0 - 3
 Pohronie	H	5-2-2-1 DM AM		3 - 2

2 wins, a draw and 2 losses might not look great on paper but for a team who only managed 6 wins the whole previous season I'd say that's a good start.

New manager bounce? I'd say so.

Case Study 4: Al x2 @ Petrzalka, Slovakia

I thought an interesting one to look at here would be Petrzalka as they had 2 new managers in one season so we can see how they both got on. First up was virtual Juraj Sabol...

 Komarno	H	5-3-2 DM WB	
 Raca	A	5-3-2 DM WB	
 Pohronie	H	5-3-2 DM WB	
 Zilina B	A	5-3-2 DM WB	
 Liptovsky Miku...	H	5-3-2 DM WB	

An awful start for Sabol who lost 4 of his first 5 games, who would only be given another 8 games before getting fired. No new manager bounce here.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Next up was virtual Miroslav Nemeč...

 Komarno	A	4-4-2		1-2
 Pohronie	A	4-4-2		1-1
 Raca	H	4-4-2		1-1
 Zilina B	H	4-4-2		2-3
 Liptovsky Miku...	A	4-4-2		0-1

He's changed the tactic from a 532 to a 442 and he's had a poor start, 3 losses and 2 draws in his first 5 games, Nemeč would have been worried about the sack but interestingly he just needed time as he then went on to turn it around and helped them stay up...











 Poprad	A	4-4-2		3-1
 Duslo Sala	H	4-4-2		1-1
 Trencin	H	4-4-2		3-1
 Rohoznik	A	4-4-2		2-0
 Presov	H	4-4-2		1-3
 Puchov	H	4-4-2		5-1
 Sered	A	4-4-2		1-2
 Banska Bystrica	A	4-4-2		2-0
 Trebisov	H	4-4-2		2-0
 Slovan Bratisla...	H	4-4-2		1-4

The switch to 442 seemed to have paid dividends; he just needed time.

New manager bounce? I'd say so, eventually.

Case Study 5: Dan Gear @ GKS TYCHY, Poland

For my third job I headed to Poland to take over recently relegated Tychy, this offered us a different challenge as with the previous two jobs we were weaker sides, here being recently relegated we are expected to win the league, lining up with a 4231 we wanted to start the season on the front foot.

 Wisła Płock	A	4-2-3-1 DM AM...		2-0
 Miedź	H	4-2-3-1 DM AM...		1-1
 Pogoń Siedlce	A	4-2-3-1 DM AM...		2-1
 Stomil	H	4-2-3-1 DM AM...		5-3
 Lechia	A	4-2-3-1 DM AM...		1-0

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

We got off to a flying start in our league winning season with 4 wins and a draw, I gave them a new manager bounce but as a recently relegated side you'd expect us to start strongly.

New manager bounce? I'd say so.

Case Study 6: *The AI @ Lechia, Poland*

Here I've chosen to look at virtual Wojciech Ankowski who had taken over promotion chasing Lechia...




 Resovia	H	4-4-2	●	1-0
 Chojniczanka	A	4-4-2	●	1-1
 Miedź	H	4-4-2	●	2-1
 Stomil	A	4-4-2	●	4-0
 Podbeskidzie	H	4-4-2	●	2-0

4 wins and a draw fired Lechia back into the playoffs and looks like a good decision as they've gotten a new manager to bounce straight away. Again another 442 from the AI paying off.

New manager bounce? I'd say so.

Case Study 7: *Dan Gear @ VFL BOCHUM, Germany*

Another recently relegated side but in financial trouble so a lot of sales over the summer. So, I went with my trusted 4141 tactic.

 Darmstadt	 H	4-1-4-1 DM	●	2-2
 FC Ingolstadt...	 A	4-1-4-1 DM	●	0-1
 Hannover	 H	4-1-4-1 DM	●	3-3
 FC Augsburg	 A	4-1-4-1 DM	●	2-1
 KSC	 H	4-1-4-1 DM	●	1-0




A decent start 2 wins 2 draws and a loss, but not a massive bounce.

However, new manager bounce? I'd say so.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Case Study 8: *The AI @ HSV, Germany*

Elsewhere that season in the Bundesliga 2, virtual Dennis Diekmier took over HSV who were title favourites and had previously underperformed.















 Kiel		H	4-2-3-1 DM AM...		0 - 0
 Heidenheim		A	4-4-2		2 - 1
 VfL Bochum		H	4-4-2		1 - 2
 Paderborn		A	4-4-2		1 - 0
 Sandhausen		H	4-4-2		2 - 0

He started with a 4231 but quickly switched to the AI favourite 442. 3 wins and a draw show this was the right choice and a new manager bounce was delivered. Back with the tagline once more:

New manager bounce? I'd say so.

Case Study 9: *Dan Gear @ SCHALKE, Germany*

This is some great European Journeyman...I'd finally made it to the Bundesliga with Bochum before jumping ship to Schalke, again I stuck with my 4141.

 Borussia M'gladbach		A	4-1-4-1 DM		0 - 3
 Mainz 05		H	4-1-4-1 DM		0 - 0
 Nürnberg		A	4-1-4-1 DM		0 - 1
 Hoffenheim		H	4-1-4-1 DM		3 - 1
 Hertha Berlin		A	4-4-1-1 2DM		0 - 0

For the first time in this save I didn't provide a new manager bounce, 2 losses 2 draws and a win.

No new manager bounce here.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Case Study 10: The AI @ VFL BOCHUM, Germany

Back at Bochum, and for the 10th and final case study, virtual Nana Ampomah followed in my footsteps. He quickly changed from my tactic to a 532..

 Bayer 04	H	5-3-2 DM WB		2 - 2
 FC Bayern		5-3-2 DM WB		0 - 3
 Dynamo Dresd...		4-4-2 Diamond...		0 - 1
 Borussia M'gla...		5-3-2 DM WB		1 - 5
 Mainz 05		4-4-2 Diamond...		2 - 4

An awful start at Bochum with a draw being the only highlight.

No new manager bounce here.

Conclusion

To conclude, is there a new manager bounce in FM?

I believe there is, the majority of the time, obviously other factors are at play but for both the human and AI bringing in a new manager can give an instant bounce. From the 10 case studies above, there were 8 new Manager bounces with only 3 failures.

I wanted to conclude this LQ article by giving some tips on how to be effective when taking over a new Club in FM.

1. KISS - A popular term in football that gets forgotten, Keep It Simple Stupid!

When taking over a new side don't try to change the world overnight, keep it simple, get some wins under your belt, get some job security then change it.

2. Assess current squad

If mid-season don't try to change too much at once, look at who your strongest players are and try to build a tactic around them. Get to the summer then start to stamp your mark on the squad.

Look in the reserves and youth squads, you might find some hidden gems due to AI mismanagement.

3. Use experience

Especially when taking over a relegation threatened team but this applies to top sides too, don't disregard older heads for youth and wonderkids straight away, utilise the talent and experience you have in the squad.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

4. Strongest XI - save it!

Once you have found your strongest XI, save them so they're easy to quick pick with a click of a button using Manager/Save Team Selection.

5. Set training

Get the team training in the tactic and style straight away, If you're going to be a counter attacking side select training programmes that will help you implement this.

6. Set Pieces

Especially if you take over in a relegation battle, set pieces can be a great way to find marginal gains on the pitch.

I've had so much fun playing this European Journeyman save, and you do get that new club feeling a lot more which can make the save feel fresh every few seasons. Maybe it will inspire you to do something similar in FM24?

Thank you for reading,

Dan Gear



"You can kill a man, but you can't kill an idea"

The eloquent Alessandro Baricco once wrote that La Bombonera, the home of Buenos Aires' Boca Juniors while empty is like watching someone you love while they sleep.

Conversely, when rocking and full of passionate Xeneizes, Christopher Thomas Gaffney surmised that the famous stadium does not shake, it beats.

The heartbeat of a football club is often considered to be her fans; but what galvanises them as a mighty throng of matching colours and screaming battle cries?



It is surely those players who don the shirt like it was battle armour and elegantly dance across the pitch conducting play like it was their very own orchestra that lights the fire in the bellies of the revelling hordes. Isn't it?

In the case of Boca Juniors, Xeneizes have had their fair share of iconic talismans, even in modern times. Maradona, Palermo, Riquelme and Tevez all sit atop the numerous 'Boca's greatest players' lists and are unerringly worshipped by vast swathes of the azul y oro-clad masses in La Boca.

But wait.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

Football is a fickle mistress to fall in love with. One gesture towards the fans like discarding a captain's armband like an old rag. Or worse, leaving the club to transfer to play for 'the enemy,' whoever that may be, and talisman status can and often is irrevocably purged. That player no longer hears his name sung by the collective choir as the stadium trembles. He is instead torn from the pages of his club's history in an act of sporting revisionism that reflects fan sentiment more so than actual events.

This begs the question, what makes a talisman in football?



Legendary Uruguayan striker Edinson Cavani is the latest to hold that responsibility at Boca Juniors. El Matador brings a lot more than just a bag filled with winner's medals to Buenos Aires, he represents ambition and progress. Ultimately, Cavani represents an idea. The idea that Boca Juniors are a home for elite winners, the best of the best. His presence alone is aspirational. A lucky charm who gives you hope that we might just score that winner in the dying embers of the game to lift that trophy. That is what makes a talisman.

In a quote widely attributed to Nicholas Patrick Wiseman, it was said that an idea is immortal. In the midst of tempests an idea attains the stature of a giant, and like a diamond shines with a new light at every repercussion. Your team's talismanic idol is that idea.

Sometimes you should let your heart rule your head. It's not all wonderkids and sell-on value. Often the greatest joy from football and Football Manager can come from that iconic player who defies logic and often defies his attributes to win the hearts of your passionate supporters. It's what causes that pulse of excitement when we load up that save and why we just can't let go of that one player who scored that goal and created that critical euphoric moment in the journey of our team. It's what he represents that gets our adrenaline going.

Every club needs a talisman. Who is yours?



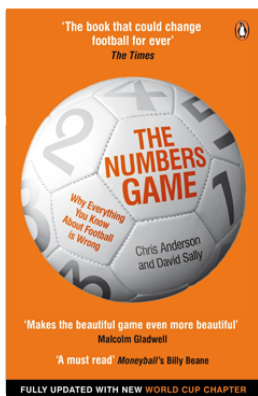
LQ Book Reviews – FM Patrick

"In history, a great volume is unrolled for our instruction, drawing the materials of future wisdom from the past errors and infirmities of mankind."

While Edmund Burke undoubtedly meant this as a philosophical ideal and absolutely nothing to do with winning football matches, this is a pertinent quote. There are many ways in which reading about the rich past of innovative historic tacticians can inspire and motivate us to think differently about the chess match that is every football match we may (virtually) manage in future.

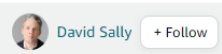
Sometimes the inspiration can even come from books that are not principally about football. In a semi-regular feature for Latte Quarterly, an FM blogger will tell us about a book from their collection. They will let us know a little about the content and its key themes, but most importantly; how a deeper understanding of football or at least how unique lessons picked up from this title influenced how they play Football Manager, and the lessons you could learn too.



Sports, Hobbies & Games › Football › Clubs



The Numbers Game: Why Everything You Know About Football is Wrong Paperback – 5 Jun. 2014

Follow the author



Print length	Language	Publisher	Publication date	Dimensions	ISBN-10
 400 pages	 English	 Penguin	 5 Jun. 2014	 21.6 x 13.8 x 2.4 cm	 9780241963623

Data, data, data. It seems so intrinsic to football now that it bears repeating thrice. The world of Football Manager is, inextricably, linked to that of the sport in its physical, real-life form. Naturally then, the data revolution has penetrated the simulation to which we devote ourselves so keenly to. Possession percentages, expected goals, passes per defensive action – they're all now conveniently located in the game's (relatively) new Data Hub. Most of us see it now as paramount to our enjoyment, that we must abide by the influence of data and use it to become better at the game.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

One of the earlier pieces of footballing literature on the topic is 'The Numbers Game', by Chris Anderson and David Sally. An excellent piece of work, and fans of Sebastian Szymanski and Simon Cooper's 'Soccernomics' will feel right at home. Infused within its detailed, economist style analyses are some delightfully evocative stories. The tale of Prussian soldiers being kicked to death by horses, a local tinsmith competing in the Scottish FA cup, and the regaling tale of Wing Commander Charles Reap furiously scribbling data points on a sheet of wallpaper are among the highlights. These anecdotes provide context to the information being presented, and consequently make the book a thoroughly enjoyable read. Still maintaining relevance to this day, it's easy to forget it was published a decade ago in 2013.

The book claims 'that everything you know about football is wrong' which may be less true today than when it was released. However, there are several points raised which did make me challenge how I thought about the game, and about data in particular. Curiously, rather than encourage me to use the data hub more, I felt it had the opposite effect. To explain why, and to be succinct, I've picked out one key lesson from the book and explained why it made me so pensive. By no means an exhaustive list, but a snippet of insight between the covers, and into my thoughts whilst reading it.

The exchange rate of goals and 'strike price'.

The point which spurred me to write this review, and one which lays the groundwork for other sections of the book, is the concept that no two goals are created equal. To paraphrase extensively, a team is more likely to win a game if they score more goals, and if a team scores five goals then victory is almost certain. However, a team is considerably more likely to pick up points from a game if they score at least two goals, and any further goals provide diminishing returns. Therefore, the order in which a goal is scored results in it having a value. Teams looking to win games need to know not just which players score the most, but which players score the goals which matter most.

"If a team's second goal is the most valuable, and between them the first and second are vastly more valuable than the rest, then it suggests the old technique of simply tallying up a striker's goals as an assessment of his productivity – and a basis for his estimated value – is simply wrong" – page 101.

The impact on playing Football Manager

This was something I'd never really considered before, but it does make sense. Some of the most memorable strikers in the game are those who produce when it really matters. To test the theory, I used La Liga data from my current save to quickly cobble together a spreadsheet to determine the 'marginal points' total of each player. That is, the amount of points that should be earned for their team as a result of them scoring either the first, second, or third goal in a match. Picking from those with a similar amount of goals, I

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

noticed that Lucas Boyé, despite only scoring 15 goals to Landry Dimata's 16, had scored five 'second goals' to Dimata's one. Boyé's marginal points total was 12.6, and Dimata's 12.2. Both were the first-choice strikers for their clubs. It might not seem much of a difference, but marginal gains are just that – marginal. In a game of such fine margins, seemingly small differences can be huge. One point can be the difference between winning the league, achieving European qualification or avoiding relegation. In this case, Dimata's Espanyol were relegated whilst Boyé's Elche managed to clinch survival. I appreciate this is not a big enough dataset to prove anything, but Anderson and Sally had already done that in the book – I just wanted to see how it might look in FM.

One of the commonly cited quandaries against the use of data is its inability to value certain 'intangible' qualities. To an extent, this is true. Opta doesn't have a metric for 'desire' and 'willpower'. That's not a failure of data analysis, to be lauded by 'proper' managers who just 'know' a good player when they see one. Rather, these qualities in themselves are intangible by nature. We can say, for example, that 'person A is braver than person B' (a subjective opinion, but the point stands). We cannot, however, say 'person A is braver than person B by a degree of X'. That doesn't make any sense. There's no number to quantify a character trait, but the trait can guide their actions and therefore impact the numbers. In the case of Dimata and Boyé, the latter was reported to 'enjoy big matches' in his scout report, while the former was not.

This led to further thinking. Juan Medina, a young Chilean who I brought into the team recently, has struggled to fit in. I had thought that speaking Spanish would help, but he's struggled for form and to make friends. Another section of the book discusses the impact of a player's welcoming period, and how making them comfortable will make them perform better. Players who struggle to fit in might not play to the best of their abilities, which is logical. We have access to this information too – your scouts collate a report which tells you how a player might adapt to life at the club, or in a different country.

My head has been tilted by the use of data in recent years, but my outlook on what makes me want to sign a player has changed. The Moneyball-spreadsheet approach is fun to try, but I haven't been able to continue it longer than a couple of seasons. I've incorporated the 'second goal' theory to a degree, and I'm loathe to bring in a player who cannot produce when it matters. More than ever I'm paying closer attention to the more intangible qualities of players – how they might fit in, how they handle pressure, how likely they are to kick up a fuss and upset the squad. Sometimes, the data is all great, but it isn't the answer to everything. Juan Medina was performing great in Chile but has struggled in Spain. There's nothing in his data set to tell you that. Still, that's not a new idea. Any data whizz worth their salt would tell you that a holistic approach of analysis and personality profiling is the way forward. Nothing is a dead cert, but we can minimize the risk.

Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training... Everything FM

To clarify and summarize, I'm not a data sceptic. In fact, I am incredibly supportive of data analysis and believe it adds another intriguing dimension to the Football Manager experience. Nor do I think there's a right or wrong approach. Just because a player has the ability to be good, and has performed well elsewhere, does not necessarily mean they will do the same in another club, league or country. My approach currently is to utilize all the information wholesale. My analyst might flag that a player has overperformed in key statistics for their role, then I'll send a scout to take a better look and find out more about their less tangible characteristics.

Whatever your stance, I'd recommend picking up a copy of *The Numbers Game* and seeing for yourself. It's an intriguing myth-busting romp through the world of football analytics, and in some ways it left me with more questions than answers. It's light-hearted enough to be fun to read, whilst remaining serious and thorough in its research and approach. Despite its age, it retains a lot of relevance, and is definitely one you should have in your collection.

FM Patrick



MUSTERMANN23

A skin that radically changes the way you see and play Football Manager

Available on the SI Forums, at FMScout & sortiouts

LATTE QUARTERLY



Leagues, Analysis, Tactics, Training, Everything FM | Issue Sixteen

Published: 25 August 2023