

Research on the Influence of Football Transfer Behavior on Major Leagues in the 21st Century

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Abstract: Recently, within the global scope, led by the Saudi League and regional clubs such as Manchester City, some teams have relied on solid capital support to purchase many players, affecting the fairness of the league. At the same time, it has also led to a decline in the quality of matches in major leagues. So based on this, this research decide to Discuss some unreasonable transfers in the world of football today and the significance of capital to the development of major leagues and football. The meaning of discussing this issue is that we hope that by discussing this issue, this research hope to find a suitable way to change the trend of using large amounts of capital to buy players to affect the fairness of the game. Our research searched for controversial deals and then compared the impact of these deals on leagues and teams. In conclusion, while the Saudi leagues and Manchester City's spending power is reshaping global football, it is crucial to balance this with the development of local talent and to maintain a competitive balance in international football. The pursuit of money should not over shadow the essence of the sport. Our research believes that the World Football transactions, such as setting up a wage cap and requiring and managing transactions.

Keywords: trade contract, balance and fairness, league quality, financial

1. Introduction

1.1. Overview of the Research Background

First, professional football players' perception of the club environment was significant to organisation commitment. Second, the player's organisational commitment was substantially influential in player transfer. Third, the football club environment player had a significant influence on player transfer [1].

The research confirm that modern professional football is indeed a money game, in which a larger investment spent on the acquisition of talented players generally yields better team performance [2]. Manchester City's spending spree has led to an arms race among top clubs, escalating transfer fees and wages to unprecedented levels. This has created a widening gap between the 'elite' clubs and the rest, threatening the competitive balance that has been a hallmark of the Premier League. In recent times, the football world has seen a shift in power dynamics due to the influence of capital. Clubs like Manchester City and those in the Saudi League have been able to leverage their substantial financial backing to acquire numerous players. This has not only disrupted the fairness of the leagues but also led to a decline in the quality of competition in major leagues. The 21st-century football transfers

have become a significant factor in shaping the landscape of world football. The influx of capital has indeed facilitated the development of leagues and football, but it's crucial to maintain a balance to ensure the sport's integrity and competitive spirit.

The purpose of discussing unreasonable transfers in world football today is to shed light on the growing influence of capital in shaping the dynamics of major leagues. The significance lies in understanding how these financial powers can disrupt the balance and fairness of the game. The influx of capital, as seen in the Saudi League and clubs like Manchester City, has led to a surge in high-profile transfers, often skewing competition. This discussion is crucial to ensure the sustainable development of football, preserving its integrity while accommodating its commercial aspects.

However, although the sport is richer than ever before, this by no means means that it will always generate such high incomes. In an industry where age and injury can force many people to lose their jobs prematurely and permanently, people shouldn't be too harsh on the players who make the hardest bargains. It is clear that there is a certain relationship between the experiences of immigrant players and the broader dynamics of the political and economic aspects of world football. By other professional standards, football players have a short career, almost never over 15 years. During this time, players must strive to make full use of their abilities or physical capital [3].

According to the invariance hypothesis, the allocation of players in sports leagues is the same, regardless of who owns their property rights. However, when a player moves to a new team, the absolute quality of the new team increases while the absolute quality of the former team decreases. This implies that intraconference teams will be willing to bid more for players than interconference teams. However, the asking price for player sales to intraconference teams will be higher than for interconference clubs [4].

And actions of clubs like Manchester City are reshaping the football landscape. It is crucial to ensure that these changes do not compromise the integrity and competitiveness of the sport. What is more, the Saudi league's spending power is reshaping global football; it's crucial to balance this with the development of local talent and to maintain a competitive balance in international football. The pursuit of money should not overshadow the essence of the sport.

Similarly, the purpose of studying this problem is to find some appropriate and effective ways to solve the impact of Manchester City and the Saudi League on the quality and fairness of the league through the capital. The purpose of our research also hope that some effective suggestions can promote the development and spread of football around the world and make the game more enjoyable and have ornamental sex. Player transactions often occur through closed triads, such that clubs tend to make a deal with those who share the same third partners. Additionally, league type and match performance produce stable and significant effects on the formation of transfer ties [5].

1.2. Discussion of the Research Techniques

1.2.1. Case Analysis Method

This research use some Specific cases about capital affecting the quality and balance of the football league. 1) Manchester City: Since being taken over by the Abu Dhabi United Group in 2008, Manchester City has spent heavily on player transfers. This influx of capital has transformed the club into one of the most successful in the English Premier League. However, this has also raised concerns about the competitive balance of the league, as not all clubs can match this level of spending. 2) Paris Saint-Germain (PSG): Similarly, PSG's acquisition by Qatar Sports Investments in 2011 has led to a significant increase in spending, most notably the world-record transfer of Neymar from Barcelona in 2017. This has helped PSG dominate the French Ligue 1 but has also led to concerns about financial fair play. 3) Saudi League: The Saudi Professional League has also seen an influx of capital in recent years, with clubs spending heavily on foreign players to boost their competitiveness. This has

improved the quality of the league but has also led to concerns about the sustainability of this spending and its impact on domestic players.

There are also some methods that can limit the capital to control the trading market so that the balance of the competition can be guaranteed. In recent years, the influence of capital in football transfers has become increasingly prominent, leading to a series of unreasonable transfers and a significant imbalance in the competition of major leagues. Here are some methods that could potentially limit the capital's control over the trading market and ensure a balance in competition: 1) Financial Fair Play (FFP) Regulations: Introduced by UEFA, these regulations aim to prevent clubs from spending more than they earn in the pursuit of success, thereby falling into financial difficulties. They could be further strengthened and adopted globally. 2) Salary Caps: Implementing a salary cap can limit the amount a club can spend on player wages, thereby preventing wealthier clubs from hoarding all the top talent. 3) Transfer Caps: Similar to salary caps, transfer caps can limit the amount a club can spend on new players in a given transfer window. 4) Revenue Sharing: This involves the collective agreement by all clubs in a league to share a portion of their revenues, which can help smaller clubs compete financially. 5) Promotion of Youth Development: Encouraging clubs to invest in their youth development programs can reduce the need for expensive transfers and promote a more sustainable model of success. 6) Taxation: Implementing a luxury tax for clubs that exceed a specific spending limit can discourage excessive spending.

These methods, if implemented and enforced effectively, could help limit the influence of capital in the trading market and ensure a more balanced and competitive football league. However, it's important to note that these measures need to be carefully considered to avoid unintended consequences and to ensure they are fair and effective.

1.2.2. Comparative Analysis Method

By searching for some cases and investigating the quality and enjoyment of the relevant league matches, the method can analyse whether these transactions affect the quality, fairness and enjoyment of the league matches.

Study the structure and framework: Our research first discussed the quality and fairness of Manchester City and PSG in the Premier League and the quality and enjoyment of the Champions League in recent years. The research investigated several controversial deals to compare and discuss.

Secondly, this research discussed the impact of the Saudi league on the development of football on a global scale. With the support of the Saudi consortium, many players at the peak choose to join the Saudi league, which will damage the enjoyment of football competition and the development of football in the world.

Finally, this research analysed the horizontal comparison of the ratings of major leagues in recent years, the evaluation of fans, the number of tickets and other aspects to once again prove that the capital control of players will damage the development of football and the impact of unbalanced severe development.

2. Career Choice After a Highly Competitive Career for Players

Many professional players will choose to go to a new star league at the end of their careers and sign another big contract with their star attributes. For example, Ronaldo last year (2022), the legendary midfielder Xavi who also played in the Middle East, Iniesta in Japan, and Messi who went to Miami in the United States this year (2023). The choice of the players is undoubtedly correct. Everyone has the right to choose where they play. There is no rule in this world that the best players must play in Europe. If they do so, it will promote the development of the whole world's football collective. Development is undoubtedly a great thing. But especially in the summer of this year (2023), many

young players can continue to play an important role in the so-called football mecca-Europe and still choose to follow the "trend" to the Rising Star League-Saudi League to play football [6]. People should respect and believe that the players have made a well-considered decision, but no one can deny that money has played a crucial role. When people are discussing those players who have passed their peak and are no longer tenable in the top European football world, and their competitive status has been greatly reduced, but still have a high reputation, it is no doubt that it is a good thing to go to the minority league to "spend their old age" and promote the development of local football.

But this year (2023), more and more players of relatively strong competitive level are moving to the minor leagues due to irresistible salaries (for example, N'Golo Kanté, Rúben Neves, and Kalidou Koulibaly), making fans very nervous. Will this lead to a significant drop in the standard of European football? Will it change the whole landscape of world football? Will the Big Five leagues no longer exist? There will be many questions like this from people's minds; the arrival of this day has left much foreshadowing. A big part of the reason why a strong team is vital is that the owner behind it has a lot of money. Money can buy strong players, the higher the level of the team's players, the higher the possibility of winning various awards. It may attract more fans and stars to join, and the various consumption of fans will make the team richer [7]. (Like PSG or Manchester City [8]) It's a perfect loop. Compared with the weak team, the owner's money is not so much. There is no way to see which player is vital to buy which, the team's strength can never be greatly improved, and there is no way to absorb new fans, so even if the owner of more money wants to buy a team to consider the probability of weak clubs will be particularly small. It's a very bad vicious circle. Football clubs in the game are originally unfair; because of the huge number of football teams, there is no real way to achieve real "fair". For example, the NBA (National Basketball Association) has relative limits and rules every year to maintain the balance of teams. For example, the salary cap and the team record determine the order of the draft every year (the worse the record, the higher the probability of the draft order), and so on. [9] But there are only 30 teams in the NBA, and there are far more football clubs in Europe. European football clubs come from different countries and regions, and there is no way to replicate this management style compared to the NBA. In this way, the organisation of MLS (Major League Soccer) could be a reference.

3. Types of Players and Salaries of MLS

3.1. Foreign Participants

The 28 clubs will share a total of 224 international roster spots in 2022. Because these roster spots can be traded in full-season increments, different teams may have more or fewer than eight during any one season. There is no cap on the number of international roster spots each team may have, thanks to deals.

The three MLS teams situated in Canada will also be permitted to have three more non-domestic players on their active squads starting in 2022, provided that the conditions below are met.

a. American-based clubs: A player will be deemed an international athlete and have to fill a roster of international players spot on the roster of a U.S. club for the whole season if they do not meet the requirements to be a domestic player in the United States with a club in the United States by the Roster Compliance date (February 25, 2022, at 8 p.m. E.T.). To be clear, if an athlete earns a green card after the Roster Compliance Date (February 25, 2022, at 8 p.m. E.T.), he cannot be changed to a domestic player.

b. Clubs based in Canada: Any player who does not meet the requirements to be a U.S. DOMESTIC PLAYER or a Canadian DOMBLE PLAYER by the Roster Compliance Date (February 25, 2022, at 8 p.m. E.T.) shall be deemed an international player and shall occupy an international roster spot on a Canadian club's roster for the duration of the season. To minimise confusion, an

international player who obtains permanent residency after the Roster Compliance Date (February 25, 2022, at 8 p.m. E.T.) may not be changed to a domestic player.

c. In addition to the international roster slots, each Canadian Club will be allowed to designate up to three (3) international players who have been under contract with MLS and registered with one or more Canadian clubs for at least one year. These international players will not count toward the club's international roster slots. To be eligible, the International Player must have completed the contract and registration requirements by the Roster Compliance date (February 25, 2022, at 8 p.m. E.T.).

3.2. Local Players

The title "Homegrown Player" will be given to players signed using the Homegrown Player process on a club's squad. A club's ability to sign Homegrown Players in any given year is unrestricted. Homegrown players on the Supplemental Roster can earn up to \$125,000 per year in total, more than the Senior Minimum Salary (\$84,000) or the Reserve Minimum Salary (\$65,500), depending on which roster they are on.

MLS and Adidas have collaborated on an initiative called Generation Adidas with the goal of cultivating extraordinary potential in a workplace setting. Every year, the League signs a chosen group of great collegiate freshmen and members of the young national teams, with the vast majority of these players joining the League via the MLS SuperDraft. Generation Adidas players are included on a club's Supplemental Roster until the conclusion of their contract's guaranteed length, which can be up to three years.

3.3. Designated Player

The Designated Player Rule permits clubs to sign up to three players whose total compensation exceeds the Maximum Salary Budget Charge, with the club being financially responsible for the excess of each player's salary over the Salary Budget Charge. The Allocation Ranking List or the Discovery Process may be utilised to bring in new MLS players, or existing players on a club's squad may be re-signed.

Typically, the average of all guaranteed sums payable over the guaranteed term is used to compute a player's Salary Budget Charge and, as a result, his or her position as a Designated Player.

A Designated Player who is at least 24 years old during the League Year in 2022 will incur the Maximum Salary Budget Charge (\$612,500) unless he joins his club after the commencement of the Secondary Transfer Window, in which case his budget charge would be \$306,250.

The following restrictions apply to the trading of Designated Players and U22 Initiative Players by Clubs, who will continue to bear the financial burden of some or all ensuing out-of-pocket expenses.

a. Trades of up to one Designated Player every year (a maximum of two "active" players at any given time)

b. Two U22 Initiative players may be "active" at any given time, with a maximum of one being traded annually.

A player may be traded only after his second MLS season and if one of the two trading teams possesses a roster spot designation (designated player or U22 Initiative).

3.4. Young Designated Player

The following rules apply to Designated Players who are 23 (or younger) during the League Year (the player's age is decided by year of birth rather than date of birth).

Young Designated Player Budget Charge for Salary:

1) For those under 20: \$150,000;

2) Ages 21-23: \$200,000.

If he joins the organisation after the Secondary Transfer Window opens, he will be subject to the \$150,000 Mid-Season Young Designated Player Salary Budget Charge.

Clubs may utilise general allocation monies to "buy down" a designated player's salary budget charge. It is not allowed for the decreased budget fee to be less than \$150,000. Two roster spots for Designated Players will be given to each club. Clubs that already have two Designated Players may add a third by paying the League \$150,000. This sum will be shared among clubs with two or fewer Designated Player positions occupied and used as General Allocation Money in the upcoming MLS season. Every year, when a third Designated Player space is added to the roster, clubs must pay a \$150,000 fee. If a team uses the third Designated Player space to sign a Young Designated Player, it is not necessary to pay the \$150,000 cost. Slots for designated players cannot be traded [10].

All in all, this study still encourage more young players to stay in Europe, which is still the highest level of football, when they are still in peak condition, to hone themselves and not to paralyse themselves for their immediate interests. Make yourself better, and there will be more good things waiting for you. Let's say a player has just made a name for himself in Europe, and then another new league offers big money. Maybe at this stage, they pay salaries that no European football club can do, but if you go, after a few years, the level has slipped, and the public has forgotten you, then you will be faced with a young age without a ball to play. And the football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo will not because people know that his career is near the end, and no matter how bad he is playing now cannot be forgotten by the world; the history of football has been written by him in Europe. Even after he retired, there are still plenty of ways to make money. Therefore, this study still encourage young players to challenge themselves, improve their self-quality, and create greater self-value rather than the current contract, which seems to be a lot of money.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the impact of 21st-century football transfers on major leagues has been significant. The influx of capital has led to a shift in power dynamics, with traditionally fewer dominant teams becoming powerhouses due to financial backing. This has led to an increase in competition but also a disparity in resources among teams. The unreasonable transfers, often driven by financial motives, have also raised questions about the fairness and integrity of the sport. While capital investment has undoubtedly led to the growth and development of major leagues, it's crucial to ensure that it doesn't compromise the competitive balance and spirit of the game.

In addition, there are also some limitations of our research. The first is about Data Availability and Reliability. The transfer market is a complex system with numerous transactions happening every year. The availability and reliability of data on these transactions can limit the depth and accuracy of the analysis. For instance, not all transfer fees are publicly disclosed, and the actual costs can be influenced by various factors such as player salaries, agent fees, and performance-related bonuses.

What's more, the Complexity of the Transfer Market also is another important fact. The transfer market involves numerous stakeholders, including clubs, players, agents, and regulatory bodies. The interactions between these stakeholders can be complex and unpredictable, making it difficult to isolate the impact of transfers on the major leagues.

Finally, the External Factors. The impact of football transfers can be influenced by various external factors, such as economic conditions, regulatory changes, and technological advancements. For instance, the financial crisis of 2008 had a significant impact on the transfer market, as many clubs faced financial difficulties and were forced to sell their star players. Similarly, changes in regulations, such as the introduction of Financial Fair Play rules by UEFA, have also influenced the transfer market.

Authors Contribution

All the authors contributed equally and their names were listed in alphabetical order.

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