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# Spotting when teams over-perform and how to profit

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## Strategy Summary:

We look at how teams across Europe's top divisions have done when occupying a higher position than they finished in last season.

## Spotting when teams over-perform & how to profit

The upper echelons in each of the top leagues around Europe have been dominated by a small selection of teams over the years and typically, they tend to occupy the top slots come the end of the season.

However, throughout the course of the campaign it is usual to see other teams going on good runs and climbing up the table before falling back. This can create profitable situations through a combination of the markets overreacting to their form and teams' focus lapsing as they occupy more comfortable positions than usual.

What we find is that teams who are at least four places higher in the table than they finished the previous season and playing on the road have a terrible record (excluding promoted outfits). Since 1998/99 there have been 1071 such Premier League matches that we have odds for in our database, with the home side winning 49.86% of these matches at a profit of 2.54% (and that is using average odds, which could realistically be improved by about 5% using best prices).

Country	Matches	Home Win	Draw	Away Win	HW ROI	D ROI	AW ROI
ALL	5705	47.62%	27.66%	24.72%	-1.15%	-7.59%	-19.08%
ENG	1071	49.86%	26.80%	23.34%	2.54%	-6.88%	-23.65%
ESP	1161	51.59%	25.84%	22.57%	3.22%	-12.76%	-20.59%
FRA	1323	47.09%	30.01%	22.90%	-0.90%	-4.96%	-22.86%
GER	1103	45.51%	26.02%	28.47%	-2.21%	-9.78%	-8.29%
ITA	1047	43.84%	29.32%	26.84%	-8.96%	-3.59%	-19.30%

\* Away teams 4 places higher than in previous campaign since 1998/99

Although a profit has only been available in England and Spain when replicated across Europe's top five leagues, it's certainly noticeable how disastrous backing the visitors would have been with all but the Bundesliga making northwards of 19% losses. The German top-flight is however largely competitive throughout which may help explain the divergence, while Serie A proved a massive outlier with the 8.96 loss backing the hosts in these situations markedly different from the others.

To optimise this strategy, we shall limit it to away teams that are 4-7 places higher than last season, with teams that are more than seven places better off a little less likely to go under the radar. Moreover, in many cases, these were sides expecting to be battling relegation and opposing them away would mean backing very short-priced favourites with little value.

Country	Matches	Home Win	Draw	Away Win	HW ROI	D ROI	AW ROI
ALL	4107	48.21%	27.10%	24.69%	0.82%	-9.29%	-19.08%
ENG	813	51.29%	25.83%	22.88%	7.41%	-10.52%	-25.55%
ESP	866	51.39%	26.91%	21.71%	4.28%	-10.16%	-23.38%
FRA	776	49.48%	28.22%	22.29%	3.71%	-10.31%	-22.48%
GER	813	45.51%	25.22%	29.27%	-1.74%	-12.11%	-6.10%
ITA	839	43.38%	29.32%	27.29%	-9.36%	-3.52%	-17.79%

\* Away teams 4-7 places higher than in previous campaign since 1998/99

Straight away doing this turns an overall loss into profit, albeit a minimal one, with France joining England and Spain in making gains, while the Germans were also edging in the right direction too. However, limited to just those three profitable leagues, a tidy 5.14% was there to be had, with the Premier League's healthy 7.41% leading the way.

Ignoring the Bundesliga and Serie A which threaten further losses, but also removing encounters where the hosts were below 1.7 at average odds to take the spoils, the profit is increased further. These results are encouragingly consistent, with all three leagues combined or on their own falling into similar outcomes.

Country	Matches	Home Win	Draw	Away Win	HW ROI	D ROI	AW ROI
ALL 3	1916	45.25%	29.02%	25.73%	6.65%	-8.25%	-23.29%
ENG	602	44.19%	27.74%	28.07%	9.63%	-8.98%	-21.42%
ESP	699	45.44%	29.60%	24.96%	5.40%	-6.56%	-25.37%
FRA	645	46.05%	29.61%	24.34%	5.16%	-9.33%	-22.87%

\* Away teams 4-7 places higher than in previous campaign, with minimum odds of 1.7 for the hosts

### Other considerations

Continuing to look at away sides that are at least four places higher than they finished last season, interestingly, the profit was maximized when promoted sides were the hosts. This was true at least in England and Spain where 160 and 175 matches respectively yielded 23.90% and 7.91% returns, while limited to between four and seven places higher, as well as minimum average odds of 1.7, this became a mammoth 39.76% (129 games) and 20.71% (128 games).

Big spending sprees can also skew the results, with some teams expected to do better than in the previous campaign following major investment, with it difficult for the bookies to ascertain a club's true new level. No league is more awash with cash than the Premier League, with the likes of Chelsea and Man City having megabucks invested in their squads. For example, whereas England's top-flight saw a 2.54% profit where away teams were at least four places higher than the previous season overall, during the Roman Abramovich years, going against the Blues would have produced a 50.12% loss, with a 10.68% gain backing them as the away side in these scenarios. With the

proposed takeover of Newcastle appearing likely to go ahead, the Magpies may well be one to exclude from this strategy over the coming seasons.