Twitter Thread by Peter A. Løhmann

Peter A. Løhmann
@ploehmann

#swfc are finally back in league action tonight 8pm GMT away to Coventry #pusb

A relegation six pointer to kick off our second half of the season with 7 points separating us in 23rd and them in 16th.

A look of our numbers and theirs below and what they can tell us.

[thread]

I looked at the survival prognosis for teams in our position yesterday (https://t.co/rmVT8b5sFl).

Thankfully a prognosis is not a prediction, but it does bear out just how important tonight's game is.

> #swfc Derby's latest win over QPR leaves Wednesday six points adrift of 21st and safety with two matches in hand.
>
> How have teams in those circumstances done in the previous 22 seasons?
>
> [thread] pic.twitter.com/LxENys45wC
>
> — Peter A. L\xf8hmann (@ploehmann) January 27, 2021

Can we quantify match importance then?

Well, @FiveThirtyEight have given it a right good go and how they've done it is explained here: https://t.co/ObjB079Fjw

Their match importance rating ranges from 0 to 100 for a team.

In a game with a high match importance vs. a team with low match importance, a team's likelihood of winning increases: All else being equal, if match importance is 100 for the home team and 0 for the away team, the home team's odds of winning drop from Evens (50%) to 8/11 (58%).

If we look at the combined match importance ratings for both teams, tonight's game ranks 14th of the 317 matches with match importance ratings. Pretty important then!

Of our matches only the win against Bournemouth had a higher combined match importance than tonight's match:
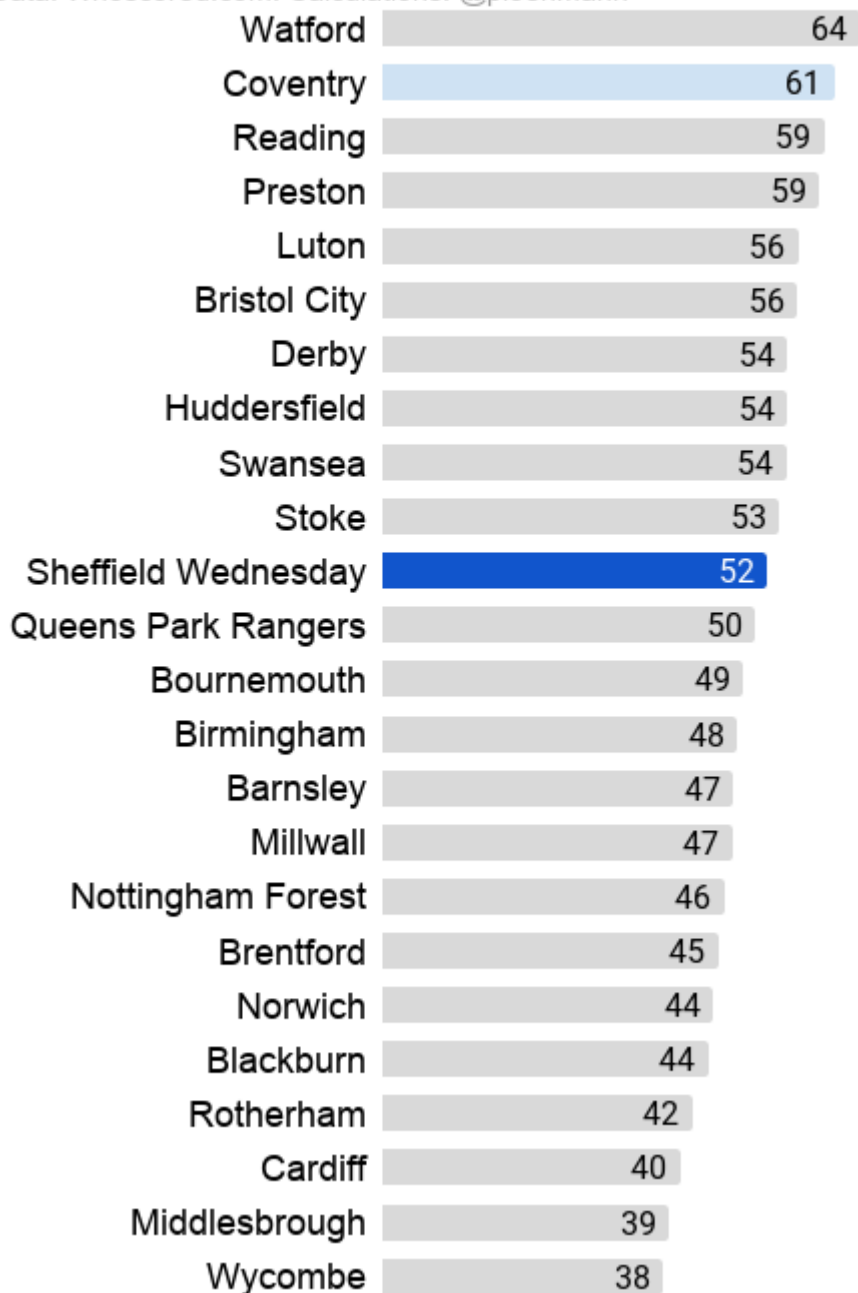
date	team1	team2	importance1	importance2
30/12/2020	Brentford	AFC Bournemouth	81.9	78.6
27/01/2021	Swansea City	Brentford	68.5	78.2
15/12/2020	Watford	Brentford	65.7	58.6
26/12/2020	Watford	Norwich City	52.3	68.4
24/10/2020	Watford	AFC Bournemouth	60.6	60
15/12/2020	AFC Bournemouth	Wycombe Wanderers	68.3	39.4
27/09/2020	AFC Bournemouth	Norwich City	57.6	49.8
30/01/2021	Brentford	Wycombe Wanderers	66.8	36.9
08/12/2020	Swansea City	AFC Bournemouth	39.4	63.9
03/11/2020	Sheffield Wednesday	AFC Bournemouth	43	59.8
15/12/2020	Nottingham Forest	Sheffield Wednesday	51.2	50
30/01/2021	Birmingham	Coventry City	54.9	45.4
02/01/2021	Stoke City	AFC Bournemouth	26.7	72
27/01/2021	**Coventry City**	**Sheffield Wednesday**	**47.3**	**51.1**
24/11/2020	Stoke City	Norwich City	35.4	62.8
02/01/2021	Swansea City	Watford	42.6	55.3
07/11/2020	Norwich City	Swansea City	58.8	38.7
19/01/2021	Derby County	AFC Bournemouth	42.3	54.9
28/11/2020	Norwich City	Coventry City	59.2	37.2
10/02/2021	Reading	Brentford	27.3	68.5
30/01/2021	Norwich City	Middlesbrough	68.2	27.3
19/12/2020	Norwich City	Cardiff City	64.8	29.5
05/12/2020	Norwich City	Sheffield Wednesday	52.1	41.7
29/12/2020	Norwich City	Queens Park Rangers	61.5	31.8
16/01/2021	Derby County	Rotherham United	43.1	49.8
03/11/2020	Brentford	Swansea City	52.8	40
28/10/2020	AFC Bournemouth	Bristol City	61.9	30.4
27/10/2020	Wycombe Wanderers	Watford	37.1	54.9
28/11/2020	Derby County	Wycombe Wanderers	44.5	47.1
16/12/2020	Reading	Norwich City	30	60.6
26/12/2020	Cardiff City	Brentford	31.1	59.5
28/11/2020	Rotherham United	AFC Bournemouth	31.3	59.1
21/11/2020	Wycombe Wanderers	Brentford	46.8	43.4
12/12/2020	Nottingham Forest	Brentford	39	49.8
01/01/2021	Sheffield Wednesday	Derby County	51.6	37.1

Purely from the numbers Coventry seem to not use what little possession they have (47.8%, 17th) well having the division's second highest passes made per key pass.

It's no surprise to see Wycombe, Boro and Cardiff at the other end of that table! #hoof

EFL Championship 2020-21: Passes made per key pass

Data: Whoscored.com. Calculations: @ploehmann

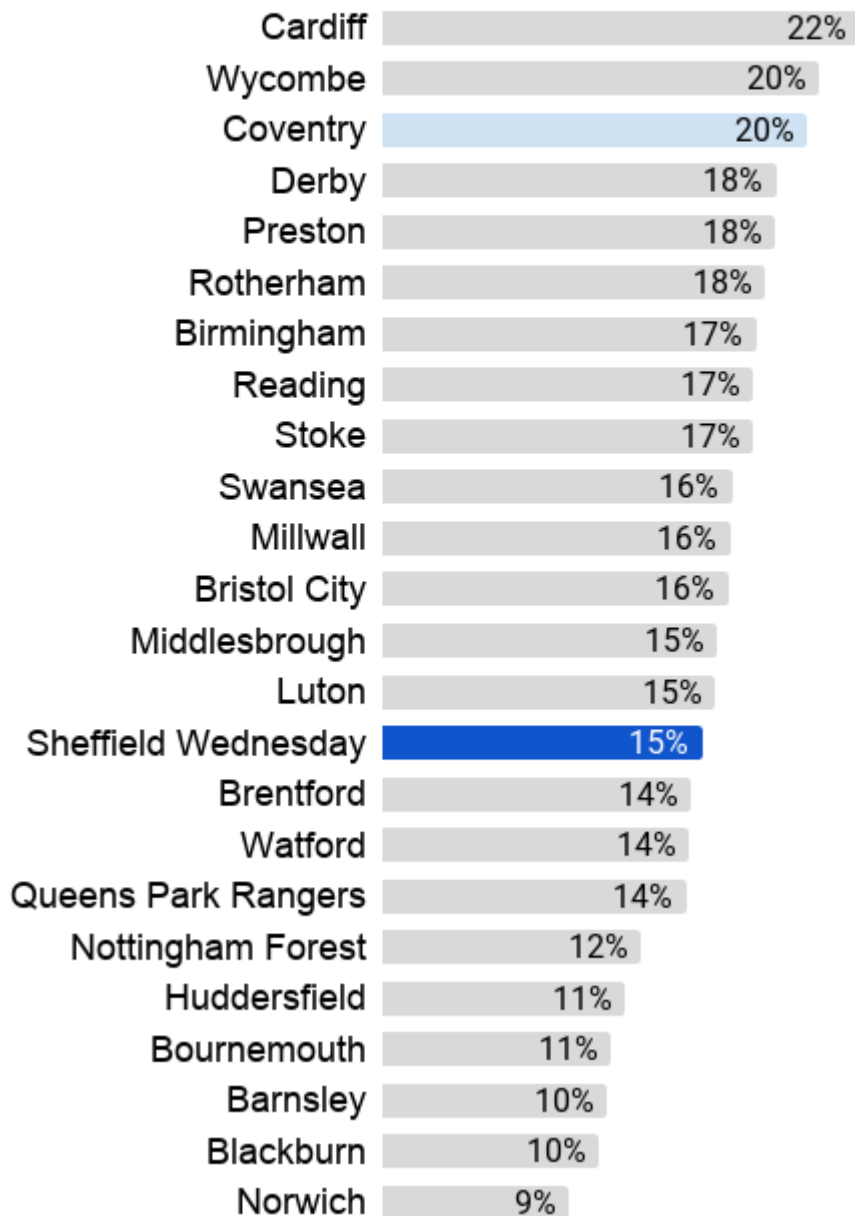| Team	Value
Watford	64
Coventry	61
Reading	59
Preston	59
Luton	56
Bristol City	56
Derby	54
Huddersfield	54
Swansea	54
Stoke	53
Sheffield Wednesday	52
Queens Park Rangers	50
Bournemouth	49
Birmingham	48
Barnsley	47
Millwall	47
Nottingham Forest	46
Brentford	45
Norwich	44
Blackburn	44
Rotherham	42
Cardiff	40
Middlesbrough	39
Wycombe	38

Only Cardiff and Wycombe have created a larger share of their key passes from set pieces than Coventry.

Considering the ease with which Everton scored twice from a corner at the weekend, let's hope we're more adept at dealing with Coventry's dead ball deliveries tonight.

EFL Championship 2020-21: Share of key passes from set pieces (corner, free kick, throw-in)

Team	Share
Cardiff	22%
Wycombe	20%
Coventry	20%
Derby	18%
Preston	18%
Rotherham	18%
Birmingham	17%
Reading	17%
Stoke	17%
Swansea	16%
Millwall	16%
Bristol City	16%
Middlesbrough	15%
Luton	15%
Sheffield Wednesday	15%
Brentford	14%
Watford	14%
Queens Park Rangers	14%
Nottingham Forest	12%
Huddersfield	11%
Bournemouth	11%
Barnsley	10%
Blackburn	10%
Norwich	9%

Although, it has to be said, Coventry haven't converted those dangerous set pieces all that well, but still better than our 4, the second lowest goals total from set pieces:

Championship Situational Statistics

R	Team	Open Play	Counter Attack	Set Piece	Penalty	Own Goal
1	Cardiff	12	3	13	2	0
2	Reading	25	0	9	3	0
3	Rotherham	9	1	9	4	0
4	Stoke	20	0	8	0	3
5	Luton	12	0	8	1	0
6	Derby	6	1	8	1	0
7	Middlesbrough	17	4	7	1	1
8	Birmingham	9	0	7	2	0
9	Millwall	9	1	7	3	1
10	Brentford	24	3	6	4	0
11	Huddersfield	19	2	6	0	2
12	Swansea	19	2	6	1	1
13	Preston	15	5	6	4	1
14	Coventry	13	0	6	1	2
15	Bournemouth	29	2	5	2	0
16	Norwich	22	1	5	6	1
17	Watford	17	0	5	7	1
18	Barnsley	15	1	5	5	1
19	Nottingham Forest	10	1	5	2	2
20	Wycombe	8	0	5	2	1
21	Bristol City	21	0	4	1	1
22	Queens Park Rangers	12	1	4	5	1
23	Sheffield Wednesday	8	0	4	2	1
24	Blackburn	29	5	3	3	0

Coventry, at home, have spent the least time of play in the opposition's third of the pitch in the division, while the same is true for Wednesday away:

Championship Positional Statistics

R	Team	Own Third	Middle Third	Opposition Third
1	Rotherham	24%	43%	34%
2	Middlesbrough	24%	43%	33%
3	Queens Park Rangers	30%	38%	33%
4	Luton	29%	39%	33%
5	Barnsley	28%	40%	33%
6	Wycombe	28%	39%	33%
7	Swansea	26%	42%	32%
8	Millwall	25%	45%	31%
9	Stoke	25%	45%	30%
10	Preston	27%	43%	30%
11	Nottingham Forest	29%	42%	30%
12	Watford	30%	41%	29%
13	Birmingham	28%	42%	29%
14	Norwich	29%	42%	29%
15	Bournemouth	31%	41%	29%
16	Cardiff	26%	44%	29%
17	Derby	27%	45%	28%
18	Sheffield Wednesday	29%	44%	28%
19	Blackburn	32%	40%	28%
20	Brentford	32%	42%	26%
21	Reading	30%	46%	25%
22	Huddersfield	31%	44%	25%
23	Bristol City	29%	45%	25%
24	Coventry	31%	45%	24%

Performance-wise it's two of the division's worst teams.

Despite being about division average in keeping the opposition away from danger areas (non-shot xG against) Coventry's defence has been porous, allowing more quality chances (xG) than all but plucky Wycombe:

		Sheffield Wednesday	percentile	Coventry City	percentile	Difference	Better team	Relative difference in values	Difference in percentiles	
Start date (inclusive):	End date (inclusive):									
2020-09-11	**2021-05-08**									
Goals for		15	0	**22**	28	-7	Coventry City	-47%	-28	Goals for
Goals against		**23**	58	34	13	-11	**Sheffield Wednesday**	-48%	46	Goals against
xG for		17.0	0	**22.0**	23	-5.0	Coventry City	-29%	-23	xG for
xG against		**29.4**	35	35.4	1	-5.9	**Sheffield Wednesday**	-20%	33	xG against
Nonshot xG for		18.7	0	**24.3**	25	-5.5	Coventry City	-29%	-25	Nonshot xG for
Nonshot xG against		34.5	0	**27.3**	57	7.2	Coventry City	21%	-57	Nonshot xG against
xG difference		**-12.4**	3	-13.4	0	1.0	**Sheffield Wednesday**		3	xG difference
Nonshot xG difference		-15.8	0	**-3.1**	46	-12.7	Coventry City		-46	Nonshot xG difference
Shots for		194	0	**234**	19	-40	Coventry City	-21%	-19	Shots for
Shots on target for		60	0	**80**	27	-20	Coventry City	-33%	-27	Shots on target for
Goal % shots for		8%	22	**9%**	41	-2%	Coventry City	-22%	-20	Goal % shots for
Goal % shots on target for		25%	27	**28%**	37	-3%	Coventry City	-10%	-10	Goal % shots on target for
Shots against		287	41	**272**	52	15	Coventry City	5%	-12	Shots against
Shots on target against		**76**	73	100	29	-24	**Sheffield Wednesday**	-32%	44	Shots on target against
Goal % shots against		**8%**	71	13%	23	-4%	**Sheffield Wednesday**	-56%	48	Goal % shots against
Goal % shots on target against		**30%**	38	34%	16	-4%	**Sheffield Wednesday**	-12%	22	Goal % shots on target against
Shots ratio		0.40	2	**0.46**	33	-0.06	Coventry City	-15%	-31	Shots ratio
Shots on target ratio		0.44	32	**0.44**	33	0.00	Coventry City	-1%	-1	Shots on target ratio
xG per shot on target		**0.283**	16	0.275	12	0.009	**Sheffield Wednesday**	3%	4	xG per shot on target
xG per shot on target against		0.387	0	**0.354**	23	0.034	Coventry City	9%	-23	xG per shot on target against
xG ratio		0.37	0	**0.38**	6	-0.02	Coventry City	-5%	-6	xG ratio
Goals for over-/underperformance		88%	29	**100%**	47	-0.12	Coventry City		-18	Goals for over-/underperformance
Goals against over-/underperformance (inverted)		128%	49	**104%**	22	0.24	**Sheffield Wednesday**		27	Goals against over-/underperformance (inverted)
Average percentile			22		27				-5	Average percentile
Percentile of average percentile			**7**		**16**				**-9**	Percentile of average percentile
Position of average percentile		24		22						
Points won (excl. deductions)		25	26	26	29	-1			-3	Points won (excl. deductions)
Position		20		18						
Matches played		23		24						

Percentiles are where the team's value is compared to the other teams in the division. If 0, it means the team's value is the worst in the division; if 100, it means the team's value is the best; 50 is exactly in the middle between the worst and the best.

Data: FiveThirtyEight.com (xG and non-shot xG) and football-data.co.uk (shots data). Calculations: @ploehmann

27/01/2021   Data: FiveThirtyEight.com (xG and NS xG) and football-data.co.uk (shots)   Calculations: @ploehmann

Wednesday have been more successful in denying the opposition shots and keeping those out, but that's coupled with the a lot of division worsts:

Goals for, xG for, non-shot xG for, non-shot xG difference, shots and on target for, xG per shot on target against and xG ratio.

Start date (inclusive): 2020-09-11	End date (inclusive): 2021-05-08								
	Sheffield Wednesday	percentile	Coventry City	percentile	Difference	Better team	Relative difference in values	Difference in percentiles	
Goals for	15	0	**22**	28	-7	Coventry City	-47%	-28	Goals for
Goals against	**23**	58	34	13	-11	**Sheffield Wednesday**	-48%	46	Goals against
xG for	17.0	0	**22.0**	23	-5.0	Coventry City	-29%	-23	xG for
xG against	**29.4**	35	35.4	1	-5.9	**Sheffield Wednesday**	-20%	33	xG against
Nonshot xG for	18.7	0	**24.3**	25	-5.5	Coventry City	-29%	-25	Nonshot xG for
Nonshot xG against	34.5	0	**27.3**	57	7.2	Coventry City	21%	-57	Nonshot xG against
xG difference	**-12.4**	3	-13.4	0	1.0	**Sheffield Wednesday**		3	xG difference
Nonshot xG difference	-15.8	0	**-3.1**	46	-12.7	Coventry City		-46	Nonshot xG difference
Shots for	194	0	**234**	19	-40	Coventry City	-21%	-19	Shots for
Shots on target for	60	0	**80**	27	-20	Coventry City	-33%	-27	Shots on target for
Goal % shots for	8%	22	**9%**	41	-2%	Coventry City	-22%	-20	Goal % shots for
Goal % shots on target for	25%	27	**28%**	37	-3%	Coventry City	-10%	-10	Goal % shots on target for
Shots against	287	41	**272**	52	15	Coventry City	5%	-12	Shots against
Shots on target against	**76**	73	100	29	-24	**Sheffield Wednesday**	-32%	44	Shots on target against
Goal % shots against	**8%**	71	13%	23	-4%	**Sheffield Wednesday**	-56%	48	Goal % shots against
Goal % shots on target against	**30%**	38	34%	16	-4%	**Sheffield Wednesday**	-12%	22	Goal % shots on target against
Shots ratio	0.40	2	**0.46**	33	-0.06	Coventry City	-15%	-31	Shots ratio
Shots on target ratio	0.44	32	**0.44**	33	0.00	Coventry City	-1%	-1	Shots on target ratio
xG per shot on target	**0.283**	16	0.275	12	0.009	**Sheffield Wednesday**	3%	4	xG per shot on target
xG per shot on target against	0.387	0	**0.354**	23	0.034	Coventry City	9%	-23	xG per shot on target against
xG ratio	0.37	0	**0.38**	6	-0.02	Coventry City	-5%	-6	xG ratio
Goals for over-/underperformance	88%	29	**100%**	47	-0.12	Coventry City		-18	Goals for over-/underperformance
Goals against over-/underperformance (inverted)	128%	49	**104%**	22	0.24	**Sheffield Wednesday**		27	Goals against over-/underperformance (inverted)
Average percentile		22		27				-5	Average percentile
Percentile of average percentile		**7**		**16**				**-9**	Percentile of average percentile
Position of average percentile	24		22						
Points won (excl. deductions)	25	26	26	29	-1			-3	Points won (excl. deductions)
Position	20		18						
Matches played	23		24						

Percentiles are where the team's value is compared to the other teams in the division. If 0, it means the team's value is the worst in the division; if 100, it means the team's value is the best; 50 is exactly in the middle between the worst and the best.

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27/01/2021   Data: FiveThirtyEight.com (xG and NS xG) and football-data.co.uk (shots)   Calculations: @ploehmann

If we zoom into the performance numbers of both teams in recent games, there have been some improvement on Wednesday's part to back up 10 points from 12 compared to Coventry's 4 stemming from an inability to turn possession in dangerous areas into good quality attempts on goal:

Start date (inclusive):	End date (inclusive):								
2020-12-18	**2021-05-08**								
	Sheffield Wednesday	percentile	Coventry City	percentile	Difference	Better team	Relative difference in values	Difference in percentiles	
Goals for	**5**	38	2	0	3	Sheffield Wednesday	60%	38	Goals for
Goals against	**2**	90	7	40	-5	Sheffield Wednesday	-250%	50	Goals against
xG for	**4.3**	11	3.8	6	0.5	Sheffield Wednesday	12%	5	xG for
xG against	**5.7**	66	6.8	53	-1.1	Sheffield Wednesday	-20%	13	xG against
Nonshot xG for	2.4	0	**7.0**	66	-4.7	Coventry City	-198%	-66	Nonshot xG for
Nonshot xG against	7.5	27	**4.7**	73	2.8	Coventry City	37%	-45	Nonshot xG against
xG difference	**-1.4**	26	-3.0	12	1.7	Sheffield Wednesday		14	xG difference
Nonshot xG difference	-5.1	0	**2.3**	76	-7.4	Coventry City		-76	Nonshot xG difference
Shots for	34	2	**54**	33	-20	Coventry City	-59%	-31	Shots for
Shots on target for	13	8	**18**	28	-5	Coventry City	-38%	-20	Shots on target for
Goal % shots for	**15%**	74	4%	0	11%	Sheffield Wednesday	75%	74	Goal % shots for
Goal % shots on target for	**38%**	64	11%	0	27%	Sheffield Wednesday	71%	64	Goal % shots on target for
Shots against	64	21	**48**	55	16	Coventry City	25%	-34	Shots against
Shots on target against	**15**	80	18	65	-3	Sheffield Wednesday	-20%	15	Shots on target against
Goal % shots against	**3%**	92	15%	24	-11%	Sheffield Wednesday	-367%	69	Goal % shots against
Goal % shots on target against	**13%**	91	39%	39	-26%	Sheffield Wednesday	-192%	52	Goal % shots on target against
Shots ratio	0.35	0	**0.53**	59	-0.18	Coventry City	-53%	-59	Shots ratio
Shots on target ratio	0.46	42	**0.50**	50	-0.04	Coventry City	-8%	-8	Shots on target ratio
xG per shot on target	**0.329**	35	0.209	1	0.120	Sheffield Wednesday	37%	34	xG per shot on target
xG per shot on target against	0.377	44	**0.377**	44	0.000	Coventry City	0%	0	xG per shot on target against
xG ratio	**0.43**	34	0.36	16	0.07	Sheffield Wednesday	17%	18	xG ratio
Goals for over-/underperformance	117%	55	**53%**	5	0.64	Sheffield Wednesday		49	Goals for over-/underperformance
Goals against over-/underperformance (inverted)	283%	50	**97%**	9	1.86	Sheffield Wednesday		40	Goals against over-/underperformance (inverted)
Average percentile		40		36				5	Average percentile
Percentile of average percentile		41		32				9	Percentile of average percentile
Position of average percentile	18		23						
Points won (excl. deductions)	10	26	4	29	6			-3	Points won (excl. deductions)
Position	7		22						
Matches played	4		5						

Percentiles are where the team's value is compared to the other teams in the division. If 0, it means the team's value is the worst in the division; if 100, it means the team's value is the best; 50 is exactly in the middle between the worst and the best.

Data: FiveThirtyEight.com (xG and non-shot xG) and football-data.co.uk (shots data). Calculations: @ploehmann

Data for the above:
https://t.co/EZE9vMHCqW
(@Whoscored)

https://t.co/xyHaCJ2edZ:
https://t.co/MtnugdLzMF
(@FiveThirtyEight)

https://t.co/w03brdw0TI:
https://t.co/EwF6sShOXb
(@12Xpert)

If you liked what you read, and would like to buy me a virtual pint as a pat on the back or whatever, you can make a small donation here - much appreciated!
https://t.co/iKqPbba5EO

(the 969 new craft beers I've had since May 2011 don't pay for themselves unfortunately! ;-D)

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