

FC Cincinnati: Roster Efficiency & Player Value Report

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FC Cincinnati's roster shows a high percentage of valuable players overall, but recent Designated Player investments have yielded concerning positive percent change values. The single greatest strength is the TAM and Defender groups, which have consistently delivered elite negative percent change values across multiple seasons. The most urgent roster need is the 2024-2025 Designated Player group, where three of four DP seasons show positive percent change (+8% to +29%), representing a significant decline in DP efficiency.

2. PLAYER ABSENCE IMPACT METRIC

The *Player Absence Impact* metric, derived from the Lasso regression model, quantifies an individual player's marginal contribution to team performance. The process simulates the team's Pythagorean Expectation (PE) score with the player on the roster and then recalculates it after removing that single player.

The resulting **percent change** (% change) is the key indicator:

- **Negative percent change** (e.g., -31.6%) means the team's PE score *decreases* without the player, identifying a **valuable** asset.
- **Positive percent change** means the team's PE score *increases* without the player, identifying a **replaceable** or potentially harmful contract.

This metric allows the front office to evaluate roster construction efficiency by isolating each player's true on-field impact.

3. ROSTER HEALTH OVERVIEW

- **Genuinely Impactful (Percent change < -5.0%): 24.1%** (34 of 141 player-seasons). These players significantly hurt the team if removed.
- **Not Impactful / Replaceable (Percent change > 5.0%): 17.7%** (25 of 141 player-seasons). The team performs better without these players.

Team Summary (from team_summary.csv):

- Total player-seasons analyzed: 141
- Percentage of roster that is valuable (percent change < 0): **51.1%**
- Average percent change across all players: **-0.29%** (net-negative, meaning on average the team is better with these players)
- Average impact magnitude: **6.8%**

4. DESIGNATED PLAYER ROI AUDIT

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change	Value Verdict
2021 F	2021	\$1,206,750	+12.46%	Harmful
2021 M	2021	\$1,134,000	+31.36%	Severely Harmful
2022 F (Young DP)	2022	\$2,218,600	-3.20%	Core
2022 M	2022	\$1,254,000	+10.96%	Harmful
2022 M	2022	\$1,028,100	-1.86%	Core (Marginal)
2023 M (Intl.)	2023	\$1,289,400	+20.99%	Severely Harmful
2023 F	2023	\$1,127,600	-0.26%	Core (Marginal)
2024 M	2024	\$4,216,413	+17.55%	Severely Harmful
2024 M (Intl.)	2024	\$1,444,400	+28.93%	Severely Harmful
2025 M	2025	\$4,736,411	+9.18%	Harmful
2025 F (Intl.)	2025	\$3,810,000	+8.22%	Harmful

- **Flagged (Percent change < 0 - Valuable):** 4 of 11 Designated Player seasons show negative percent change. The 2022 F Young DP and 2022 M DP are the only recent valuable DPs.
- **Flagged (Percent change > 0 - Harmful): 7 players** – a serious concern. The 2024-2025 DPs are all harmful (+8% to +29%), representing a significant decline from the 2022 DPs. The 2021 DPs were also severely harmful.

5. ALLOCATION MONEY EFFICIENCY (TAM / U22-INITIATIVE)

- **TAM Contributors (Negative Percent change):** TAM players are an exceptional strength. Valuable TAM contributors include a 2022 D TAM (-31.57%), 2023 D TAM (-29.80%), 2023 M TAM (-7.58%), 2024 D TAM (-13.00%, -11.59%, -13.66%), 2024 M TAM (-10.06%), 2024 F TAM (-2.55%, -2.24%), and 2025 D TAM (-36.25%, -35.02%), 2025 F TAM (-2.96%, -3.09%, -1.40%, -0.84%), and 2025 M TAM (-9.14%). However, several TAM players show positive percent change: 2023 F TAM (+4.70%), 2024 F TAM (+5.34%, +6.18%, +8.83%), 2025 M TAM (+24.66%).
- **U22-Initiative Impact:** U22 slots are generally effective:
 - 2024 F U22: +4.83% (marginal)
 - 2024 M U22: -11.63% (valuable)
 - 2025 F U22 (Intl.): -0.89% (valuable)
 - 2025 M U22: -8.85% (valuable)
 - 2025 F U22: +5.01% (marginal)

- 2025 D U22 (Intl.): +9.69% (harmful)

Top 3 TAM "Steals" (Most Negative Percent change):

1. **2025 D TAM** (\$1,650,171, -36.25%)
2. **2025 D TAM** (\$1,575,000, -35.02%)
3. **2022 D TAM** (\$1,464,000, -31.57%)

6. HOMEGROWN PLAYER EVALUATION

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$121,542	+1.09%
2025 GK Homegrown	2025	\$111,967	-5.11%
2025 M Homegrown	2025	\$104,000	+0.41%
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$95,402	+1.15%
2024 M Homegrown	2024	\$89,716	-10.24%
2024 F Homegrown	2024	\$88,943	-2.23%
2023 F Homegrown	2023	\$88,981	-7.37%
2023 F Homegrown	2023	\$84,902	-7.35%
2023 GK Homegrown	2023	\$75,327	-1.91%
2023 M Homegrown	2023	\$67,360	-7.35%
2022 F Homegrown	2022	\$69,037	-1.55%
2021 F Homegrown	2021	\$67,084	-7.69%

- **Ready for Roster Promotion (Negative Percent change + Low Salary):**
 - **2025 GK Homegrown (\$111,967, -5.11%)**: Strong negative impact from a goalkeeper, crossing the elite threshold.
 - **2024 M Homegrown (\$89,716, -10.24%)**: Excellent value from a supplemental midfielder.
 - **2023 F Homegrown (\$88,981, -7.37%) & (\$84,902, -7.35%)**: Two forwards providing strong negative impact at low salaries.
 - **2021 F Homegrown (\$67,084, -7.69%)**: Consistent homegrown forward production.

7. INTERNATIONAL SLOT OPTIMIZATION

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2023 M	2023	M	\$1,289,400	+20.99%	No
2024 M	2024	M	\$1,444,400	+28.93%	No

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2024 F TAM	2024	F	\$854,952	+6.18%	No
2024 M TAM	2024	M	\$498,782	-10.06%	Yes
2025 F	2025	F	\$3,810,000	+8.22%	No
2025 F TAM	2025	F	\$1,110,000	-2.96%	Yes
2025 F TAM	2025	F	\$943,950	-3.09%	Yes
2025 F TAM	2025	F	\$780,312	-0.84%	Yes
2025 F U22	2025	F	\$735,500	-0.89%	Yes
2025 M TAM	2025	M	\$523,778	-9.14%	Yes
2025 D U22	2025	D	\$411,664	+9.69%	No
2025 F TAM	2025	F	\$354,800	+4.94%	Marginal

- **Flagged Slot Misuse (Percent change > 5%):**
 - **2023 M (\$1.29M, +20.99%)** – severe misuse
 - **2024 M (\$1.44M, +28.93%)** – severe misuse
 - **2024 F TAM (\$854,952, +6.18%)** – TAM slot misuse
 - **2025 F (\$3.81M, +8.22%)** – DP slot misuse
 - **2025 D U22 (\$411,664, +9.69%)** – U22 slot misuse

8. POSITIONAL DEPTH AUDIT

Position	Senior Count	Supplemental Count	Critical Upgrade Need?	Strength Area?
F (Forward)	16	7	Yes	No (DP forwards are harmful; TAM forwards are generally valuable – a stark contrast)
M (Midfielder)	16	7	Yes	No (DP midfielders are severely harmful; TAM midfielders are mixed)
D (Defender)	18	6	No	Yes (TAM defenders are elite; homegrown and supplemental defenders provide consistent negative)

Position	Senior Count	Supplemental Count	Critical Upgrade Need?	Strength Area?
				impact)
GK (Goalkeeper)	7	5	No	Yes (Homegrown GK shows -5.11%; supplemental GKs provide value)

- **Critical Need:** Forward and Midfielder positions at the DP level. The gap between DP performance and TAM performance at forward is striking. DP midfielders have been consistently harmful.
- **Strength:** Defender position is an organizational strength. TAM defenders deliver elite negative impact. Homegrown and supplemental defenders also contribute value.

9. SALARY vs. VALUE MATRIX

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
CORE ASSET	% change < 0 & Salary > \$500K	2025 D TAM (\$1.65M, -36.25%), 2025 D TAM (\$1.58M, -35.02%), 2022 D TAM (\$1.46M, -31.57%), 2023 D TAM (\$1.50M, -29.80%), 2024 D TAM (\$1.58M, -13.00%)
HIDDEN GEM	% change < 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	2024 M Homegrown (\$90K, -10.24%), 2021 F Homegrown (\$67K, -7.69%), 2023 F Homegrown (\$89K, -7.37%), 2023 F Homegrown (\$85K, -7.35%), 2023 M Homegrown (\$67K, -7.35%)
OVERPAID	% change ≥ 0 & Salary > \$500K	All in this quadrant: 2024 M DP (\$4.22M, +17.55%), 2025 M DP (\$4.74M, +9.18%), 2025 F DP (\$3.81M, +8.22%), 2024 M DP (\$1.44M, +28.93%), 2023 M DP (\$1.29M, +20.99%), 2021 M DP (\$1.13M, +31.36%), 2021 F DP (\$1.21M, +12.46%), 2022 M DP (\$1.25M, +10.96%)
REPLACEABLE	% change ≥ 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	Several senior defenders and midfielders with marginal positive percent change, some TAM players, and a number of supplemental players with

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
		positive change.

10. YEAR-OVER-YEAR TRENDS

- Designated Player ROI: Declining and problematic.** 2021 DPs were severely harmful (+12% to +31%). 2022 showed improvement with two valuable DPs (-3.2%, -1.9%). 2023-2025 have reverted to harmful (+8% to +29%). This inconsistent performance suggests scouting or contract structure issues.
- TAM Efficiency: Excellent, particularly on defense.** 2022-2025 TAM defenders consistently deliver elite negative impacts (-29% to -36%). TAM forwards are also generally valuable. TAM midfielders are mixed.
- U22 Efficiency: Generally good.** Most U22 players show negative percent change, with several exceeding -8% impact.
- Homegrown Impact: Strong and consistent.** Across 2021-2025, homegrown players consistently show negative percent change, with several exceeding -5% impact. This is a clear organizational strength.
- Goalkeeper Trend: Improving.** 2025 GK Homegrown (-5.11%) is a strong contributor. Supplemental GKs also provide value.

11. SUMMARY FIGURES

Figure 1 - Designation Analysis
 (Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

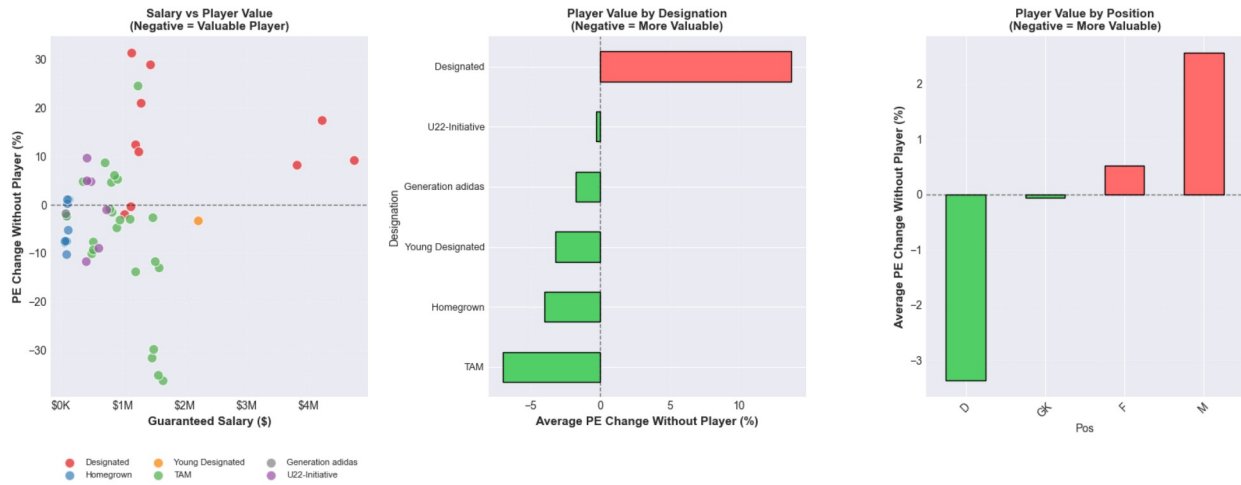


Figure 2 - International Analysis
 (Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

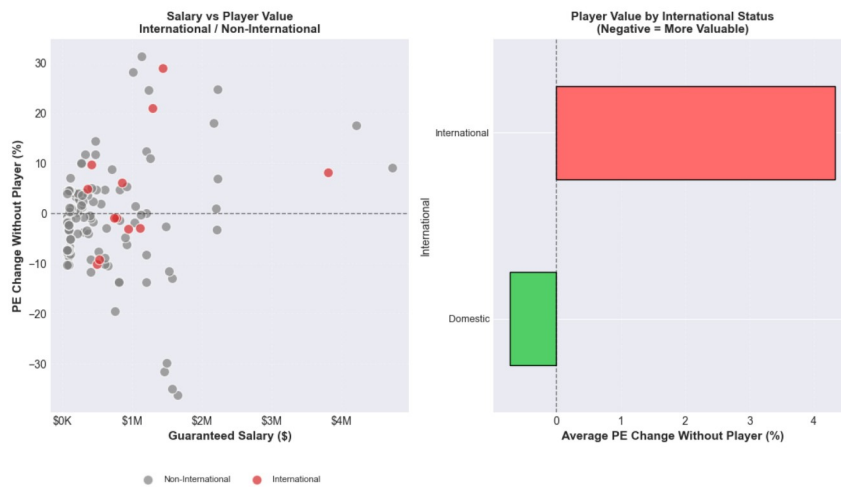


Figure 3 - Senior/Supplemental Analysis
 (Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

