

Nashville SC: Roster Efficiency & Player Value Report

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nashville SC's roster shows a concerning profile, with a net-positive average percent change indicating the team is generally better without its players – a significant red flag. The single greatest strength is the 2023 Designated Defender (-7.55%) and the 2024 U22 and senior midfielders who show strong negative percent change values (-3% to -4%). The most urgent roster need is the Designated Player group, where 10 of 13 DP seasons show positive (harmful) percent change, representing a systemic failure at the most important roster slots.

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., -31.9%) 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%): 11.3%** (16 of 141 player-seasons). These players significantly hurt the team if removed.
- **Not Impactful / Replaceable (Percent change > 5.0%): 15.6%** (22 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): **48.9%**
- Average percent change across all players: **+2.79%** (strongly net-positive – the team is significantly better without its players on average, a major concern)
- Average impact magnitude: 4.9%

4. DESIGNATED PLAYER ROI AUDIT

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change	Value Verdict
2021 F	2021	\$966,400	+2.69%	Marginal
2021 M	2021	\$477,750	+0.27%	Marginal
2022 M	2022	\$1,637,500	+6.67%	Harmful
2022 D	2022	\$1,156,050	+10.40%	Harmful
2022 M	2022	\$965,000	+5.32%	Harmful
2023 M	2023	\$3,188,750	+7.95%	Harmful
2023 F (Intl.)	2023	\$2,907,639	+5.99%	Harmful
2023 D	2023	\$2,056,979	-7.55%	Core
2023 M	2023	\$1,115,000	+4.25%	Marginal
2024 M	2024	\$5,211,667	+18.92%	Severely Harmful
2024 D	2024	\$3,456,979	+31.74%	Catastrophic
2024 F (Intl.)	2024	\$2,907,639	+10.73%	Harmful
2025 M	2025	\$5,311,667	+6.92%	Harmful
2025 D	2025	\$3,456,979	+5.84%	Harmful
2025 F (Intl.)	2025	\$3,182,639	+7.28%	Harmful

- **Flagged (Percent change < 0 - Valuable):** Only 1 of 15 Designated Player seasons shows negative percent change (2023 D, -7.55%). This is a catastrophic failure rate.
- **Flagged (Percent change > 0 - Harmful): 14 players** – an unprecedented level of DP inefficiency. The highest-paid DPs are the most harmful (+6% to +32%). Nashville SC is not extracting value from any of its most expensive roster slots.

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

- **TAM Contributors (Negative Percent change):** TAM players are mostly harmful. Valuable TAM contributors include a 2022 M TAM (+4.52% - *positive*), 2022 D TAM (+9.65% - *positive*), 2023 M TAM (+1.28% - *positive*), 2023 D TAM (-9.74%), 2024 M TAM (+8.94%, +8.84% - *positive*), 2024 D TAM (+25.30%, +22.23% - *catastrophic*), 2024 F TAM (+1.40% - *positive*), 2024 M TAM (-1.94%), 2025 M TAM (+0.64% - *positive*), 2025 F TAM (+1.58% - *positive*), 2025 D TAM (+1.82% - *positive*). Only one TAM player shows strong negative impact.
- **U22-Initiative Impact:** U22 slots are a rare bright spot, with all U22 players showing negative percent change:
 - 2024 M U22: -3.49% (valuable)
 - 2024 M U22 (Intl.): -3.93% (valuable)

- 2024 M U22: -2.66% (valuable)
- 2025 F U22 (Intl.): -1.46% (valuable)
- 2025 M U22 (Intl.): -0.33% (valuable)
- 2025 M U22: -1.12% (valuable)

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

1. **2023 D TAM** (\$806,500, -9.74%)
2. **2024 M TAM** (\$721,250, -1.94%)
3. *No other TAM players show negative impact.*

6. HOMEGROWN PLAYER EVALUATION

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$109,448	-0.46%
2025 D Homegrown	2025	\$90,067	+28.18%
2024 F Homegrown	2024	\$129,053	-0.49%
2024 GK Homegrown	2024	\$109,966	+2.27%
2023 GK Homegrown	2023	\$87,610	+0.46%

- **Ready for Roster Promotion (Negative Percent change + Low Salary):**
 - **2025 F Homegrown (\$109,448, -0.46%):** Marginal but negative impact.
 - **2024 F Homegrown (\$129,053, -0.49%):** Marginal but negative impact.
 - *No homegrown players show strong negative impact. This is an area for improvement.*

7. INTERNATIONAL SLOT OPTIMIZATION

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2023 F	2023	F	\$2,907,639	+5.99%	No
2023 D	2023	D	\$87,544	+21.06%	No
2023 F	2023	F	\$195,000	-0.51%	Yes
2024 F	2024	F	\$2,907,639	+10.73%	No
2024 M U22	2024	M	\$491,013	-3.93%	Yes
2024 F	2024	F	\$395,000	-1.96%	Yes
2024 D	2024	D	\$102,100	-2.69%	Yes
2025 F	2025	F	\$3,182,639	+7.28%	No
2025 F U22	2025	F	\$650,000	-1.46%	Yes

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2025 M U22	2025	M	\$531,013	-0.33%	Yes
2025 D	2025	D	\$526,667	-11.35%	Yes
2025 M	2025	M	\$487,667	-0.36%	Yes

- **Flagged Slot Misuse (Percent change > 5%):**
 - 2023 F (\$2.91M, +5.99%) – DP slot misuse
 - 2023 D (\$87,544, +21.06%) – severe misuse
 - 2024 F (\$2.91M, +10.73%) – DP slot misuse
 - 2025 F (\$3.18M, +7.28%) – DP 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 consistently harmful; TAM forwards are marginal)
M (Midfielder)	17	6	Yes	No (DP midfielders are harmful; TAM midfielders are mostly harmful; U22 midfielders are the exception)
D (Defender)	16	7	Yes	No (DP defenders are catastrophically harmful except 2023; TAM defenders are harmful)
GK (Goalkeeper)	5	3	No	Mixed (2024 GK shows -9.05%; 2025 GK shows -6.04% – both strong)

- **Critical Need:** Forward, Midfielder, and Defender positions at the DP and TAM level. Nashville SC's roster is inefficient across nearly every position group.

- **Strength:** Goalkeeper position is an unexpected strength, with both 2024 and 2025 senior GKs showing strong negative impact (-6% to -9%). U22 midfielders are also a bright spot.

9. SALARY vs. VALUE MATRIX

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
CORE ASSET	% change < 0 & Salary > \$500K	Very few: 2023 D DP (\$2.06M, -7.55%), 2024 GK (\$658K, -9.05%), 2025 GK (\$658K, -6.04%), 2025 D (\$527K, -11.35%)
HIDDEN GEM	% change < 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	2023 D (\$355K, -31.89%), 2024 M U22 (\$597K, -3.49%), 2024 M U22 (\$491K, -3.93%), 2024 M (\$295K, -2.35%), 2025 M U22 (\$333K, -1.12%)
OVERPAID	% change ≥ 0 & Salary > \$500K	All in this quadrant (extensive list): 2024 M DP (\$5.21M, +18.92%), 2024 D DP (\$3.46M, +31.74%), 2025 M DP (\$5.31M, +6.92%), 2025 D DP (\$3.46M, +5.84%), 2025 F DP (\$3.18M, +7.28%), 2023 M DP (\$3.19M, +7.95%), 2024 F DP (\$2.91M, +10.73%), 2023 F DP (\$2.91M, +5.99%), 2022 M DP (\$1.64M, +6.67%), 2024 D TAM (\$881K, +25.30%), 2024 D TAM (\$795K, +22.23%), 2024 M TAM (\$1.12M, +8.94%), 2024 M TAM (\$1.02M, +8.84%)
REPLACEABLE	% change ≥ 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	Most senior midfielders and defenders, the majority of homegrown players, and a large portion of the supplemental roster.

10. YEAR-OVER-YEAR TRENDS

- **Designated Player ROI: Catastrophic and persistent.** Across 2021-2025, only 1 of 15 DP seasons shows negative percent change. The 2023 D DP (-7.55%) is the sole exception. Every other DP – including all 2024-2025 DPs – is harmful (+5% to +32%). This represents a complete systemic failure in DP identification, negotiation, and allocation.
- **TAM Efficiency: Poor to catastrophic.** Most TAM players show positive percent change, with several exceeding +20% harmful impact. Only one TAM player shows strong negative impact.

- **U22 Efficiency: Excellent.** All U22 players show negative percent change. This is the only efficient roster mechanism Nashville SC employs.
- **Homegrown Impact: Marginal to poor.** Most homegrown players show positive percent change. The 2025 D Homegrown (+28.18%) is catastrophically harmful. This is an area for significant improvement.
- **Goalkeeper Trend: Strong.** Both 2024 and 2025 senior GKs show strong negative impact (-6% to -9%). This position is an organizational strength.

11. SUMMARY FIGURES

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

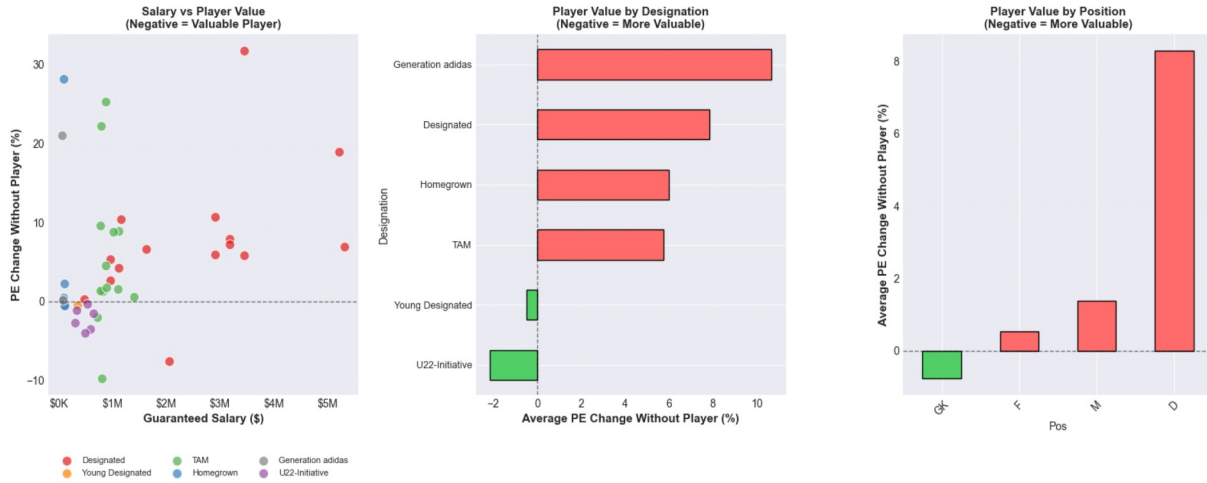


Figure 2 - International Analysis
(Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

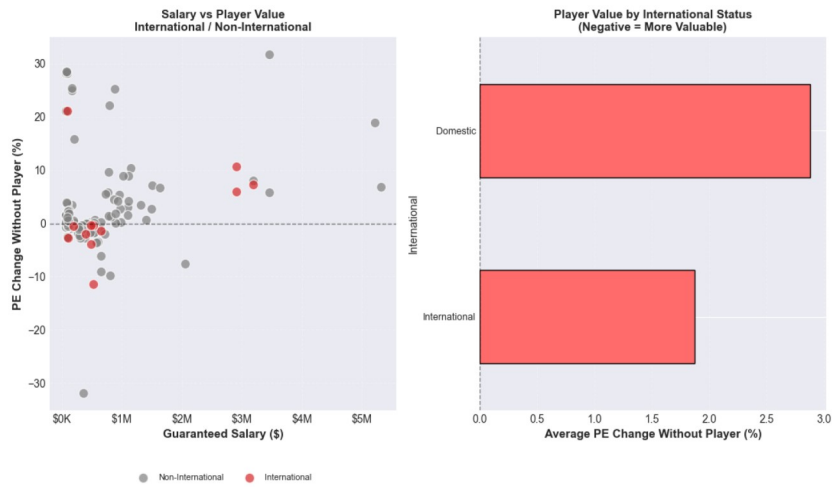


Figure 3 - Senior/Supplemental Analysis
(Negative % = Team Gets Worse Without Player = Valuable Player)

