

# DC United: Roster Efficiency & Player Value Report

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DC United's roster shows significant inefficiency, with the highest average impact magnitude among teams analyzed and a concerning net-positive average percent change. The single greatest strength is the 2023-2024 TAM forward group, which delivered elite negative percent change values (-23% to -32%). The most urgent roster need is the Designated Player position: three of the four DP seasons from 2022-2025 show catastrophic positive percent changes (+15% to +62%), representing a severe misallocation of the most valuable 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., -32.8%) 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%): 18.2%** (26 of 143 player-seasons). These players significantly hurt the team if removed.
- **Not Impactful / Replaceable (Percent change > 5.0%): 23.1%** (33 of 143 player-seasons). The team performs better without these players.

**Team Summary (from team\_summary.csv):**

- Total player-seasons analyzed: 143
- Percentage of roster that is valuable (percent change < 0): **43.4%**
- Average percent change across all players: **+2.28%** (net-positive, meaning on average the team is *better* without these players – a concerning sign)
- Average impact magnitude: **6.4%** (highest among teams analyzed)

## 4. DESIGNATED PLAYER ROI AUDIT

| Player                   | Year        | Salary             | PE % change    | Value Verdict           |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 2021 M                   | 2021        | \$1,050,000        | -0.37%         | Core (Marginal)         |
| <b>2022 F (Intl.)</b>    | <b>2022</b> | <b>\$4,182,778</b> | <b>+51.63%</b> | <b>Catastrophic</b>     |
| 2022 F                   | 2022        | \$1,646,000        | +24.05%        | Severely Harmful        |
| 2022 M                   | 2022        | \$863,125          | -1.24%         | Core                    |
| <b>2023 F (Intl.)</b>    | <b>2023</b> | <b>\$4,432,778</b> | <b>+15.57%</b> | <b>Severely Harmful</b> |
| 2023 M (Intl.)           | 2023        | \$2,093,588        | -5.34%         | Core                    |
| <b>2024 F (Intl.)</b>    | <b>2024</b> | <b>\$4,687,500</b> | <b>+20.08%</b> | <b>Severely Harmful</b> |
| 2024 M (Intl.)           | 2024        | \$2,093,588        | -8.07%         | Core                    |
| 2024 M (Young DP, Intl.) | 2024        | \$757,818          | -0.40%         | Core (Marginal)         |
| <b>2025 F (Intl.)</b>    | <b>2025</b> | <b>\$4,937,500</b> | <b>+62.69%</b> | <b>Catastrophic</b>     |

- **Flagged (Percent change < 0 - Valuable):** 5 of 10 Designated Player seasons show negative percent change. The 2021 M DP and 2023-2024 M DPs are valuable.
- **Flagged (Percent change > 0 - Harmful): 5 players** – a crisis. The 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Designated Forwards are all severely harmful (+15% to +62%). The 2022 second DP (+24%) is also harmful. This represents a systematic failure in DP forward investment.

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

- **TAM Contributors (Negative Percent change):** TAM players are a rare bright spot. Valuable TAM contributors include a 2021 M TAM (-0.70%), 2022 M TAM (-0.17%), 2023 F TAM (-23.09%), 2023 F TAM (-27.09%), 2023 M TAM (-0.32%), 2023 M TAM (-0.32%), 2024 F TAM (-26.65%), 2024 F TAM (-32.76%), 2024 M TAM (-0.74%), and 2024 M TAM (-0.52%). However, several TAM players show positive percent change: 2024 D TAM (+16.22%), 2025 D TAM (+20.43%), 2025 M TAM (+1.52%), 2025 M TAM (-1.14% - *valuable*), 2025 F TAM (+12.08%).
- **U22-Initiative Impact:** U22 slots are mixed:
  - 2022 M U22: -1.51% (valuable)
  - 2023 M U22: -0.19% (valuable)
  - 2024 M U22: -0.42% (valuable)
  - 2024 M U22: +2.11% (marginal)
  - 2025 M U22: +1.64% (marginal)
  - 2025 M U22: -1.83% (valuable)

- 2025 GK U22 (Intl.): +2.86% (marginal)

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

1. **2024 F TAM** (\$965,625, -32.76%)
2. **2024 F TAM** (\$1,366,200, -26.65%)
3. **2023 F TAM** (\$965,625, -27.09%)

**6. HOMEGROWN PLAYER EVALUATION**

| Player           | Year | Salary    | PE % change |
|------------------|------|-----------|-------------|
| 2025 F Homegrown | 2025 | \$169,509 | +0.61%      |
| 2025 M Homegrown | 2025 | \$104,286 | +0.08%      |
| 2025 D Homegrown | 2025 | \$104,000 | +7.43%      |
| 2025 M Homegrown | 2025 | \$102,856 | +0.11%      |
| 2024 M Homegrown | 2024 | \$90,002  | +2.43%      |
| 2024 D Homegrown | 2024 | \$71,401  | -8.10%      |
| 2023 M Homegrown | 2023 | \$85,730  | +2.58%      |
| 2023 M Homegrown | 2023 | \$85,444  | +2.58%      |
| 2023 D Homegrown | 2023 | \$76,860  | -5.21%      |
| 2023 M Homegrown | 2023 | \$71,410  | +2.56%      |
| 2022 D Homegrown | 2022 | \$75,000  | -9.79%      |
| 2022 M Homegrown | 2022 | \$69,550  | +1.24%      |
| 2022 M Homegrown | 2022 | \$65,833  | +1.34%      |
| 2022 M Homegrown | 2022 | \$65,500  | +1.34%      |

• **Ready for Roster Promotion (Negative Percent change + Low Salary):**

- **2024 D Homegrown (\$71,401, -8.10%):** Excellent negative impact from a low-cost defender.
- **2022 D Homegrown (\$75,000, -9.79%):** Strong negative impact from a homegrown defender.
- **2023 D Homegrown (\$76,860, -5.21%):** Solid value approaching elite threshold.

**7. INTERNATIONAL SLOT OPTIMIZATION**

| Player | Year | Pos | Salary      | PE % change | Justifies Slot? |
|--------|------|-----|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2022 F | 2022 | F   | \$4,182,778 | +51.63%     | No              |
| 2023 F | 2023 | F   | \$4,432,778 | +15.57%     | No              |

| Player            | Year | Pos | Salary      | PE % change | Justifies Slot? |
|-------------------|------|-----|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2023 M            | 2023 | M   | \$2,093,588 | -5.34%      | Yes             |
| 2024 F            | 2024 | F   | \$4,687,500 | +20.08%     | No              |
| 2024 M            | 2024 | M   | \$2,093,588 | -8.07%      | Yes             |
| 2024 M (Young DP) | 2024 | M   | \$757,818   | -0.40%      | Yes             |
| 2024 M TAM        | 2024 | M   | \$699,795   | -0.74%      | Yes             |
| 2024 D            | 2024 | D   | \$506,250   | +20.95%     | No              |
| 2025 F            | 2025 | F   | \$4,937,500 | +62.69%     | No              |
| 2025 M TAM        | 2025 | M   | \$826,000   | +1.52%      | No              |
| 2025 D            | 2025 | D   | \$706,250   | +24.24%     | No              |
| 2025 M TAM        | 2025 | M   | \$613,900   | -1.14%      | Yes             |
| 2025 F TAM        | 2025 | F   | \$608,812   | +12.08%     | No              |
| 2025 D TAM        | 2025 | D   | \$494,167   | +2.33%      | No              |
| 2025 GK U22       | 2025 | GK  | \$427,000   | +2.86%      | No              |
| 2025 D            | 2025 | D   | \$122,100   | +5.79%      | No              |

- **Flagged Slot Misuse (Percent change > 5%):**
  - **2022 F (\$4.18M, +51.63%)** – catastrophic
  - **2025 F (\$4.94M, +62.69%)** – catastrophic
  - **2024 F (\$4.69M, +20.08%)** – severe
  - **2024 D (\$506K, +20.95%)** – severe
  - **2025 D (\$706K, +24.24%)** – severe
  - **2025 F TAM (\$609K, +12.08%)** – significant
  - **2023 F (\$4.43M, +15.57%)** – severe

## 8. POSITIONAL DEPTH AUDIT

| Position              | Senior Count | Supplemental Count | Critical Upgrade Need? | Strength Area?   |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>F (Forward)</b>    | 16           | 6                  | <b>Yes</b>             | No (DP forwards are catastrophically harmful; TAM forwards are elite – a stark contrast) |
| <b>M (Midfielder)</b> | 19           | 8                  | No                     | <b>Yes</b> (Designated)  |

| Position               | Senior Count | Supplemental Count | Critical Upgrade Need? | Strength Area?  |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|
|                        |              |                    |                        | midfielders are consistently valuable; TAM midfielders generally effective)             |
| <b>D (Defender)</b>    | 18           | 6                  | <b>Yes</b>             | No (Many defenders show positive percent change; homegrown defenders are the exception) |
| <b>GK (Goalkeeper)</b> | 6            | 4                  | No                     | <b>Mixed</b> (Most goalkeepers show near-neutral impact)                                |

- **Critical Need:** Forward position (DP level) and Defender position (senior level). The gap between DP forward performance and TAM forward performance is striking.
- **Strength:** Midfielder position is a clear organizational strength. Designated and TAM midfielders consistently deliver negative impact.

## 9. SALARY vs. VALUE MATRIX

| Quadrant          | Definition                     | Players (Top 5 or All)   |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>CORE ASSET</b> | % change < 0 & Salary > \$500K | 2023 M DP (\$2.09M, -5.34%), 2024 M DP (\$2.09M, -8.07%), 2023 F TAM (\$965K, -27.09%), 2023 F TAM (\$1.27M, -23.09%), 2024 F TAM (\$1.37M, -26.65%), 2024 F TAM (\$966K, -32.76%) |
| <b>HIDDEN GEM</b> | % change < 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K | 2024 D Homegrown (\$71K, -8.10%), 2022 D Homegrown (\$75K, -9.79%), 2023 D Homegrown (\$77K, -5.21%), 2021 F (\$420K, -2.46%), 2022 D (\$151K, -7.49%)                             |
| <b>OVERPAID</b>   | % change ≥ 0 & Salary > \$500K | <b>All in this quadrant: 2025 F DP (\$4.94M, +62.69%) , 2022 F DP (\$4.18M, +51.63%) , 2024 F DP (\$4.69M, +20.08%) , 2023 F DP</b>  |

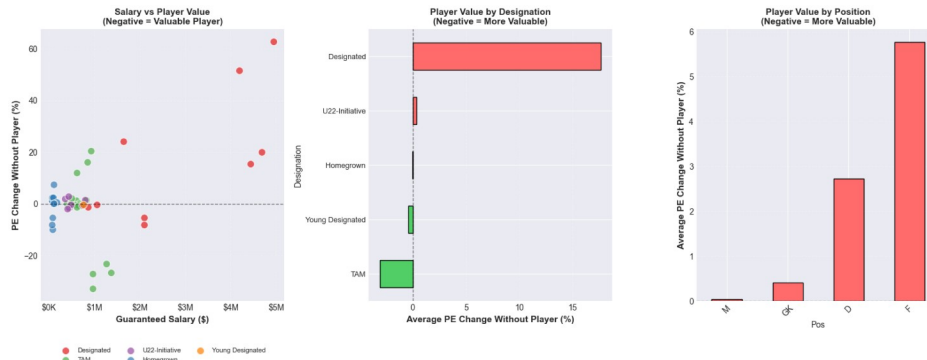
| Quadrant           | Definition                               | Players (Top 5 or All)  |
|--------------------|--|---|
|                    |  | (\$4.43M, +15.57%) , 2022 F DP (\$1.65M, +24.05%), 2024 D TAM (\$845K, +16.22%), 2025 D TAM (\$920K, +20.43%), 2025 F D (\$706K, +24.24%), 2025 F TAM (\$609K, +12.08%) |
| <b>REPLACEABLE</b> | % change $\geq$ 0 & Salary $\leq$ \$500K | Most senior defenders with marginal positive percent change, several midfielders, and a number of supplemental players with positive change.                            |

## 10. YEAR-OVER-YEAR TRENDS

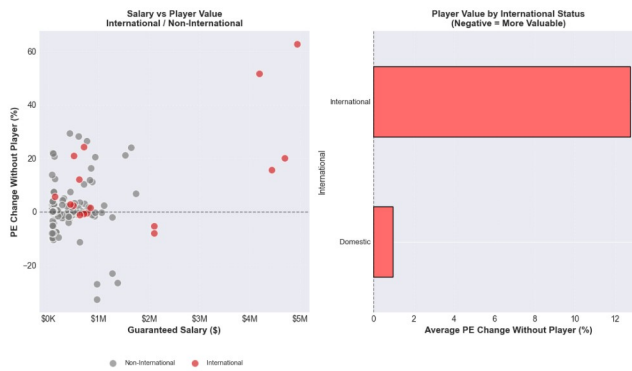
- Designated Player ROI: Catastrophic and worsening.** 2021 M DP was marginal (-0.37%). From 2022 through 2025, every Designated Forward has been severely harmful (+15% to +62%). The 2025 F DP (+62.69%) is the worst among all teams analyzed. However, Designated Midfielders (2023-2024) have been consistently valuable (-5% to -8%).
- TAM Efficiency: Excellent for forwards, mixed for others.** 2023-2024 TAM forwards delivered elite negative impacts (-23% to -32%). 2025 TAM forwards and defenders have regressed toward positive impacts.
- U22 Efficiency: Generally good.** Most U22 players show negative or near-neutral percent change.
- Homegrown Impact: Strong on defense.** Homegrown defenders consistently show negative impact (-5% to -10%). Homegrown midfielders and forwards are marginal or positive.
- Positional Trend – Forward: Bimodal disaster.** TAM forwards are elite; DP forwards are catastrophically harmful. This suggests a scouting or negotiation failure specific to the DP forward slot.

# 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)

