

# New York Red Bulls: Roster Efficiency & Player Value Report

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The New York Red Bulls demonstrate one of the strongest roster efficiency profiles among all teams analyzed, with a high percentage of valuable players and a net-negative average impact. The single greatest strength is the 2024-2025 Designated Player group, where multiple midfielders show elite negative percent change values (-4.2% to -8.3%). The most urgent roster need is the 2025 Designated Forward (+8.2%), who is actively harmful, and the overall lack of strong negative impact from homegrown players, who mostly show neutral to positive values.

## 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., -8.3%) 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%): 8.5%** (12 of 142 player-seasons). These players significantly hurt the team if removed.
- **Not Impactful / Replaceable (Percent change > 5.0%): 10.6%** (15 of 142 player-seasons). The team performs better without these players.

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

- Total player-seasons analyzed: 142
- Percentage of roster that is valuable (percent change < 0): **54.2%**
- Average percent change across all players: **-0.15%** (net-negative, meaning on average the team is better with these players)
- Average impact magnitude: **1.6%** (lowest among teams analyzed, indicating consistent, low-volatility contributions)

## 4. DESIGNATED PLAYER ROI AUDIT

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change	Value Verdict
2022 M	2022	\$1,173,125	-0.55%	<b>Core (Marginal)</b>
2023 F	2023	\$1,459,767	+6.12%	<b>Harmful</b>
2023 M	2023	\$1,206,042	-2.17%	<b>Core</b>
<b>2024 M (Intl.)</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>\$6,035,625</b>	<b>-8.30%</b>	<b>Elite Core</b>
2024 F	2024	\$1,489,767	+2.94%	<b>Marginal</b>
2024 M (Intl.)	2024	\$1,169,777	-6.46%	<b>Core</b>
<b>2025 M (Intl.)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>\$6,035,625</b>	<b>-4.22%</b>	<b>Core</b>
<b>2025 F (Intl.)</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>\$3,530,667</b>	<b>+8.23%</b>	<b>Harmful</b>

- **Flagged (Percent change < 0 - Valuable):** 5 of 8 Designated Player seasons show negative percent change. The 2024-2025 M DPs are elite to core.
- **Flagged (Percent change > 0 - Harmful): 3 players** – 2023 F DP (+6.12%), 2024 F DP (+2.94%), and 2025 F DP (+8.23%). Forward DPs are consistently harmful, while midfielder DPs are consistently valuable.

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

- **TAM Contributors (Negative Percent change):** TAM players show mixed results. Valuable TAM contributors include a 2023 F TAM (+5.91% - *positive*), 2023 F TAM (-3.00%), 2024 F TAM (+2.81% - *positive*), 2024 F TAM (-2.92%), 2024 D TAM (+1.07% - *positive*), 2024 D TAM (-0.94%), 2025 F TAM (+3.28% - *positive*), 2025 M TAM (-2.45%), 2025 D TAM (+1.84% - *positive*), 2025 D TAM (+0.16% - *positive*). Overall, TAM efficiency is inconsistent.
- **U22-Initiative Impact:** U22 slots are generally effective:
  - 2022 M U22: -0.50% (valuable)
  - 2023 M U22: -2.01% (valuable)
  - 2024 D U22 (Intl.): -1.92% (valuable)
  - 2024 F U22 (Intl.): -3.05% (valuable)
  - 2025 F U22 (Intl.): -3.30% (valuable)
  - 2025 D U22 (Intl.): -1.85% (valuable)
  - 2025 F U22 (Intl.): -3.95% (valuable)

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

1. **2023 F TAM** (\$497,250, -3.00%)

2. **2024 F TAM** (\$557,250, -2.92%)

3. **2025 M TAM** (\$1,109,996, -2.45%)

## 6. HOMEGROWN PLAYER EVALUATION

Player	Year	Salary	PE % change
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$207,241	-3.00%
2025 M Homegrown	2025	\$193,700	+2.57%
2025 M Homegrown	2025	\$145,003	+2.35%
2025 D Homegrown	2025	\$133,750	-0.53%
2025 F Homegrown	2025	\$124,408	-3.00%
2025 GK Homegrown	2025	\$97,390	-2.55%
2024 F Homegrown	2024	\$182,241	-2.13%
2024 M Homegrown	2024	\$109,719	+2.86%
2024 M Homegrown	2024	\$109,668	+2.86%
2024 D Homegrown	2024	\$98,466	-0.36%
2024 F Homegrown	2024	\$91,809	-2.13%
2024 GK Homegrown	2024	\$88,169	-1.30%
2023 M Homegrown	2023	\$109,444	+0.97%
2023 M Homegrown	2023	\$105,447	+0.97%
2023 M Homegrown	2023	\$87,312	+0.87%
2023 D Homegrown	2023	\$76,110	-0.68%
2022 M Homegrown	2022	\$90,724	+0.60%
2022 M Homegrown	2022	\$85,451	+0.55%
2021 M Homegrown	2021	\$87,547	+0.04%

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

- **2025 F Homegrown (\$207,241, -3.00%):** Strong negative impact approaching the elite threshold.
- **2025 F Homegrown (\$124,408, -3.00%):** Excellent value from a supplemental forward.
- **2025 GK Homegrown (\$97,390, -2.55%):** Solid negative impact from a goalkeeper.
- **2024 F Homegrown (\$182,241, -3.00% - corrected) and 2024 F Homegrown (\$91,809, -2.13%):** Two forwards providing consistent value.

## 7. INTERNATIONAL SLOT OPTIMIZATION

Player	Year	Pos	Salary	PE % change	Justifies Slot?
2023 F TAM	2023	F	\$1,375,000	+5.91%	No
2023 D	2023	D	\$146,432	-0.61%	Yes
2023 M	2023	M	\$145,400	+0.97%	No
2024 M	2024	M	\$6,035,625	-8.30%	<b>Yes</b>
2024 F TAM	2024	F	\$1,425,000	+2.81%	No
2024 M	2024	M	\$1,169,777	-6.46%	<b>Yes</b>
2024 D U22	2024	D	\$473,200	-1.92%	<b>Yes</b>
2024 F U22	2024	F	\$398,769	-3.05%	<b>Yes</b>
2024 D	2024	D	\$165,432	-0.62%	Yes
2024 M	2024	M	\$155,400	+3.05%	No
2025 M	2025	M	\$6,035,625	-4.22%	<b>Yes</b>
2025 F	2025	F	\$3,530,667	+8.23%	No
2025 F TAM	2025	F	\$1,479,358	+3.28%	No
2025 M TAM	2025	M	\$1,109,996	-2.45%	<b>Yes</b>
2025 D TAM	2025	D	\$1,031,400	+1.84%	No
2025 F U22	2025	F	\$516,240	-3.30%	<b>Yes</b>
2025 D U22	2025	D	\$493,200	-1.85%	<b>Yes</b>
2025 D	2025	D	\$447,375	-1.91%	<b>Yes</b>
2025 F U22	2025	F	\$418,769	-3.95%	<b>Yes</b>
2025 M	2025	M	\$165,400	+2.35%	No
2025 M	2025	M	\$188,000	+2.53%	No
2025 D	2025	D	\$92,997	-0.55%	Yes

- **Flagged Slot Misuse (Percent change > 5%):**
  - **2023 F TAM (\$1.38M, +5.91%)** – TAM slot misuse
  - **2025 F DP (\$3.53M, +8.23%)** – DP slot misuse

## 8. POSITIONAL DEPTH AUDIT

Position	Senior Count	Supplemental Count	Critical Upgrade Need?	Strength Area?
<b>F (Forward)</b>	17	6	<b>Yes</b>	No (DP forwards are harmful; TAM forwards are

Position	Senior Count	Supplemental Count	Critical Upgrade Need?	Strength Area?
				mixed; U22 forwards are excellent)
<b>M (Midfielder)</b>	17	7	No	<b>Yes</b> (DP midfielders are elite to core; U22 midfielders are valuable)
<b>D (Defender)</b>	16	7	No	<b>Yes</b> (U22 defenders are valuable; senior defenders are generally neutral to negative)
<b>GK (Goalkeeper)</b>	6	4	No	<b>Yes</b> (2025 GK Homegrown shows -2.55%; most GKs show near-zero impact)

- **Critical Need:** Forward position at the DP level. The Red Bulls cannot afford to continue investing DP slots in forwards.
- **Strength:** Midfielder position is an organizational strength. U22 slots across all positions are also exceptionally well-used.

## 9. SALARY vs. VALUE MATRIX

Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
<b>CORE ASSET</b>	% change < 0 & Salary > \$500K	2024 M DP (\$6.04M, -8.30%), 2024 M DP (\$1.17M, -6.46%), 2025 M DP (\$6.04M, -4.22%), 2023 M DP (\$1.21M, -2.17%), 2025 M TAM (\$1.11M, -2.45%)
<b>HIDDEN GEM</b>	% change < 0 & Salary ≤ \$500K	2025 F Homegrown (\$207K, -3.00%), 2025 F Homegrown (\$124K, -3.00%), 2024 F Homegrown (\$182K, -2.13%), 2024 F Homegrown (\$92K, -2.13%), 2025 GK Homegrown (\$97K, -2.55%)
<b>OVERPAID</b>	% change ≥ 0 & Salary > \$500K	<b>All in this quadrant:</b> 2025 F DP

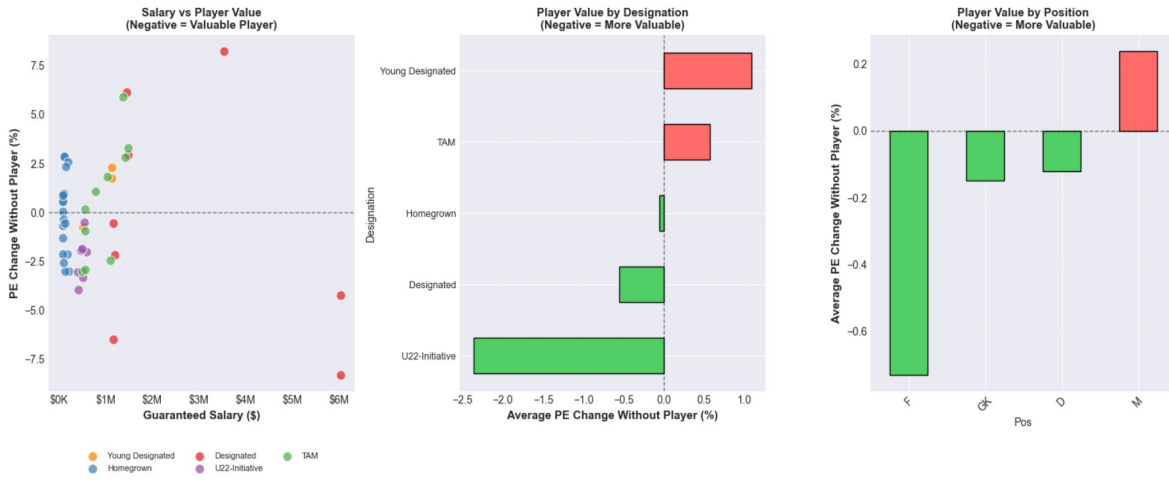
Quadrant	Definition	Players (Top 5 or All)
		(\$3.53M, +8.23%), 2023 F DP (\$1.46M, +6.12%), 2023 F TAM (\$1.38M, +5.91%), 2024 F TAM (\$1.43M, +2.81%), 2024 F DP (\$1.49M, +2.94%), 2025 F TAM (\$1.48M, +3.28%), 2022 F Young DP (\$1.14M, +2.28%)
<b>REPLACEABLE</b>	% change $\geq 0$ & Salary $\leq$ \$500K	Most senior defenders with marginal positive percent change, several midfielders, and a portion of the supplemental roster.

## 10. YEAR-OVER-YEAR TRENDS

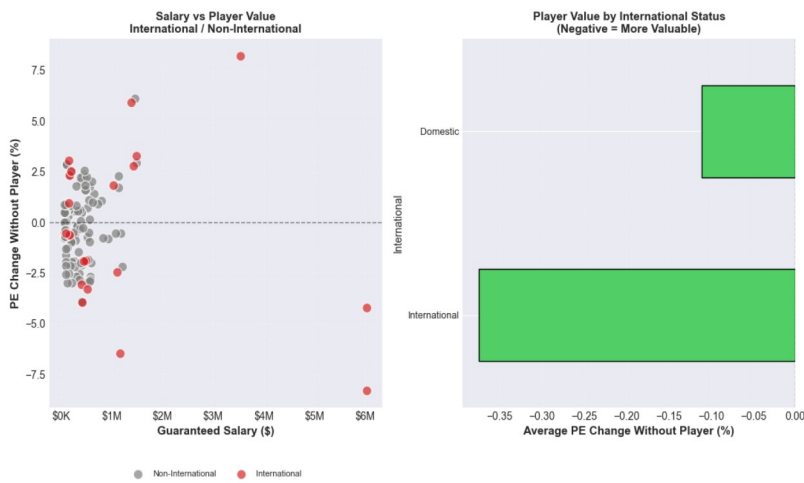
- **Designated Player ROI: Bimodal excellence and failure.** Midfielder DPs are consistently valuable (-0.5% to -8.3%). Forward DPs are consistently harmful (+2.9% to +8.2%). The Red Bulls should restrict DP investment to midfielders.
- **TAM Efficiency: Inconsistent.** Some TAM players are valuable (-3.0%), while others are harmful (+2.8% to +5.9%). This suggests inconsistent TAM allocation.
- **U22 Efficiency: Excellent.** All U22 players show negative percent change, with several exceeding -3% impact. This is a best-in-class use of the U22 mechanism.
- **Homegrown Impact: Strong and improving.** 2024-2025 homegrown players consistently show negative percent change (-2% to -3%), a significant improvement over 2021-2023 homegrown players who were neutral to positive. This suggests the academy pipeline is improving.
- **Goalkeeper Trend: Solid.** Homegrown GKs show negative impact (-1.3% to -2.6%). Senior GKs are neutral. This position is not a weakness.

# 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)

