



# Premier League Predictor

2020-2021 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Review  
November 18, 2020

## 2020-2021 PLP 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Review

We are just about a quarter of the way through the 2020-21 Premier League season, so it's time for me to release the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Review! The purpose of this review is to summarize the first 8 weeks of the Premier League Predictor season and to provide some helpful information to those who haven't been able to pay close attention to the Premier League matches so far this year.

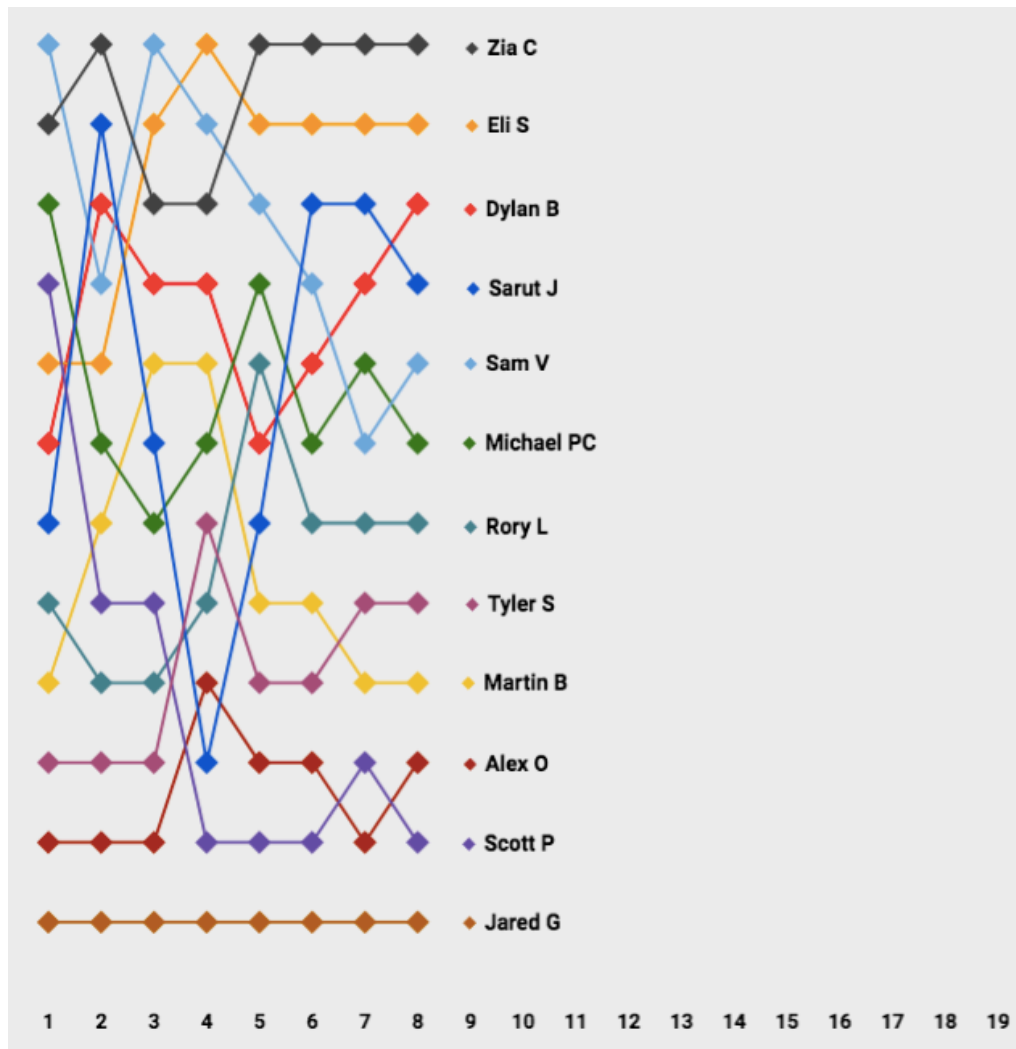
Here are the PLP Standings after the first 8 weeks of the season:

Participant Name	<u>Season</u>		<u>Matchweek 8</u>		+/-
	Total Points	Correct Picks	Total Points	Correct Picks	
1. Zia C.	2,320	49	263	6	-
2. Eli S.	2,183	48	210	5	-
3. Dylan B.	2,104	41	299	6	+1
4. Sarut J.	2,038	41	204	5	-1
5. Sam V.	1,906	34	256	5	+1
6. Michael PC.	1,828	39	166	4	-1
7. Rory L.	1,805	40	180	5	-
8. Tyler S.	1,801	42	275	6	-
9. Martin B.	1,789	40	288	6	-
10. Alex O.	1,657	33	275	6	+1
11. Scott P.	1,586	39	171	5	-1
12. Jared G.	1,514	29	288	6	-

Zia is off to a great start, and leads the PLP standings so far with a total score of 2,320 points on 49 correct picks in his first PLP season! We have had 3 players sit in first place so far this year, but Zia has held on to the top spot for the last 4 weeks.





















There is a tight midfield group forming, with 4<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> place separated by only 381 points. With this in mind, we know that there is going to be a lot of movement in the standings still to come in the final 30 weeks of the season.

Here is the PLP Week-by-Week Standings Graph after the first 8 weeks of the season:



## Premier League Table

After the first 8 matchweeks, and 78 total matches, here is the current Premier League Table:

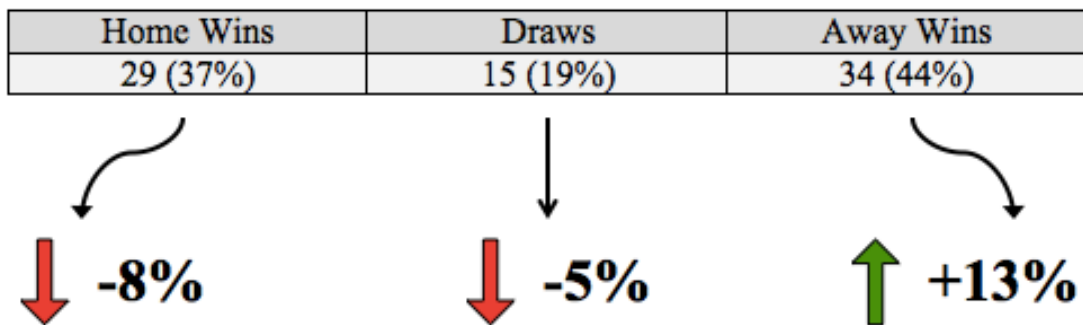
Club	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Last 5
1  Leicester City	8	6	0	2	18	9	9	18	✓✓✓✓✗✗
2  Tottenham	8	5	2	1	19	9	10	17	✓✓✓✓-✓
3  Liverpool	8	5	2	1	18	16	2	17	-✓✓✓-✗
4  Southampton	8	5	1	2	16	12	4	16	✓✓✓✓-✓
5  Chelsea	8	4	3	1	20	10	10	15	✓✓-✓-✓
6  Aston Villa	7	5	0	2	18	9	9	15	✓✗✗✓✓
7  Everton	8	4	1	3	16	14	2	13	✗✗✗-✓
8  Crystal Palace	8	4	1	3	12	12	0	13	✓✗✓-✗
9  Wolves	8	4	1	3	8	9	-1	13	✗✓-✓✓
10  Man. City	7	3	3	1	10	9	1	12	-✓-✓-✓
11  Arsenal	8	4	0	4	9	10	-1	12	✗✓✗✗✓
12  West Ham	8	3	2	3	14	10	4	11	✓✗-✓-✓
13  Newcastle	8	3	2	3	10	13	-3	11	✗✓-✗✓
14  Man United	7	3	1	3	12	14	-2	10	✓✗-✓✗
15  Leeds United	8	3	1	4	14	17	-3	10	✗✗✓✗-
16  Brighton	8	1	3	4	11	14	-3	6	-✗-✓-✗
17  Fulham	8	1	1	6	7	15	-8	4	✗✓✗-✗
18  West Brom	8	0	3	5	6	17	-11	3	✗✗-✓-✗
19  Burnley	7	0	2	5	3	12	-9	2	-✗✗-✗
20  Sheffield United	8	0	1	7	4	14	-10	1	✗✗✗-✗

I think that we have had an exciting start to the 2020-21 Premier League season. I have been particularly impressed by some of the teams that have risen to the top of the table – and some of the victories have been driven by incredibly exciting football. The current Top 6 – Leicester City, Spurs, Liverpool, Southampton, Chelsea, and Aston Villa – are all playing exhilarating, attacking, high-scoring football.

Liverpool has struggled to find its dominant form from last season, but champions continue to find ways to score points when they aren't playing their best football. And even though Liverpool hasn't seemed on top of their game so far this season, they are still sitting just one point off the top spot.

Manchester City, a title favorite this season, and certainly the top challenger for the title against Liverpool, has struggled so far this season. They currently sit in 10<sup>th</sup> place with a match in hand.

Obviously, one of the top stories of the season so far is how the coronavirus is impacting the Premier League. The virus's impact stretches to many aspects of the game. First, the lack of fans. Of course, having fans in stadiums is what the game is all about, but we need to ask the question: does the lack of fans have an impact on the results of the matches? Based on the 2019-20 Premier League results, here are the differences in expected home wins, away wins, and draws:



The initial answer is “yes”. After 78 matches, there have been 10 extra “away wins” than what is expected during the course of the season. The lack of fans in the stadiums is certainly having an impact on home teams. Manchester United has lost 3 matches at Old Trafford so far this season, including a 6-1 loss to Tottenham Hotspur.

Second, the coronavirus is impacting the health of the players. So far this season, 52 players have tested positive for the coronavirus, including Mo Salah. If the numbers continue to grow, who knows how the Premier League will have to react. The coronavirus has impacted the scheduling for the season, causing shorter breaks between matches and fixture congestion that leads to fatigue and injury. Currently, there are 99 Premier League players out injured – when it comes down to it, a championship team will likely be a healthy team!



## **My (subjective) 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Premier League Awards**

### **Match of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:** Liverpool: 4, Leeds United: 3 (Week 1)

The season got off to a rocking start between the 2019-20 champions of the Premier League and the 2019-20 Championship winners. And Liverpool showed they were up to the challenge that they knew they were going to face each week as the title favorites. Leeds also showed that they could attack and score against the best Premier League defenses, even if they were a newly promoted side.

Check out the highlights here: <https://youtu.be/myfO8IXiOuE>

### **Upset of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:** Aston Villa: 7, Liverpool: 2 (Week 4)

Aston Villa didn't just beat the reigning Premier League champions, they put 7 goals past Liverpool. Ollie Watkins announced his presence in the Premier League with his first hat trick of the season, and he currently has 6 goals on the year.

Check out the highlights here: [https://youtu.be/Ew6\\_twTL3zg](https://youtu.be/Ew6_twTL3zg)

### **Team of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:** Southampton

Since the Premier League resumed play during "Project Restart" in June of this year, Southampton has won 9 of its last 16 matches, including victories this season over Everton and Aston Villa, and a 3-3 draw against Chelsea. Southampton will have trouble keeping up this form during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, however, because their star scorer Danny Ings recently underwent knee surgery to repair ligament damage.

### **Surprise Team of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:** Aston Villa

Aston Villa currently sits in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Premier League and has 5 wins out of their first 7 matches. Their star player, Jack Grealish, is playing great football and has led his team to victories over Liverpool, Arsenal, and Leicester City. Their season has been highlighted by a huge 7-2 victory over the champions Liverpool – the most goals ever scored against defending champions. Aston Villa has a relatively soft schedule in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of the season and will hope to keep up their strong form.

### **Manager of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:** José Mourinho (Tottenham Hotspur)

When José Mourinho was appointed as manager of Tottenham Hotspur, many people were uncertain if he still had what it took to lead a turnaround at a major Premier League club. After a year in charge of the club, and with support shown to him by owner Daniel Levy during the transfer window, José has led Tottenham Hotspur to a strong start to this season, where they currently sit in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with quality wins over Manchester United and Southampton. Spurs' season will all hinge on the next few weeks, when they face the following teams in order: Manchester City, Chelsea, Arsenal, Crystal Palace, Liverpool, Leicester City, and Wolves.

**Player of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:** Harry Kane

Matches: 8, Goals: 7, Assists: 8

Harry Kane is a player that people either love or they hate. However, his performance so far this season cannot be argued. Kane has embraced a new role at Spurs, a true #10 position, and has sparked a powerful attack for Jose Mourinho's squad. He has dropped in some beautiful passes for assists to Son, and continues to be a force in front of goal. Currently, Kane leads the Premier League with 8 assists and sits one goal behind the league leaders with 7 goals.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Outlook**

As we head into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the season, we are about to head into what some people consider the most exciting stretch of the Premier League season. In Week 10, we enter the famous Premier League "holiday period" where the Premier League manages to squeeze 8 Matchweeks between Thanksgiving and the New Year. From November 28<sup>th</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup>, a period of 37 days, there will be a total of at least 80 Premier League matches. (This is obviously all dependent on the coronavirus outbreak and possible shutdowns.) Here are some of the matches that I wanted to highlight over the next 9 weeks:

Week 9: Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City  
Wolves v Southampton  
Liverpool v Leicester City

Week 10: Arsenal v Wolves  
Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur  
Southampton v Manchester United

Week 11: Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal  
Liverpool v Wolves

Week 12: Everton v Chelsea  
Manchester United v Manchester City  
Aston Villa v Wolves

Week 13: Arsenal v Southampton  
Leicester City v Everton  
Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur

Week 14: Crystal Palace v Liverpool  
Southampton v Manchester City  
Chelsea v West Ham United  
Tottenham Hotspur v Leicester City

- Week 15: Wolves v Tottenham Hotspur  
Arsenal v Chelsea  
Leicester City v Manchester United  
Aston Villa v Crystal Palace
- Week 16: Crystal Palace v Leicester City  
Manchester United v Wolves  
Everton v Manchester City  
Chelsea v Aston Villa
- Week 17: Manchester United v Aston Villa  
Chelsea v Manchester City  
Southampton v Liverpool

### **Premier League Predictor Competitions**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the Premier League season saw us complete the first two rounds of the Premier League Predictor Cup. The PLP Cup takes a break until Week 19, when it returns with the first “elimination matches” of the tournament. The full bracket has been updated on the website, so make sure that you check out the progress online!

As the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of the Premier League season begins, we turn our attention to the PLP Holiday Tournament. The Holiday Tournament was my first side-competition idea, because I wanted to create an additional competition during the hectic run of matches during the Premier League holiday period.

The seeding for the PLP Holiday Tournament will be finalized after Week 9, and the tournament begins Week 10 and runs through Week 17. Check out the tournament bracket and rules on the website!

### **Premier League Predictor Prizes**

The 2020-21 PLP season has brought some new changes to the game. First, we increased the entry fee to \$40.00, and everyone has paid. Second, the 2020-21 PLP season now consists of four different competitions. Along with the PLP 38-week regular season, three tournaments are spread out over the course of the season. Each competition will have different prizes for the winners – which brings us to another change to the PLP game: prize distribution. Here is the official prize announcement for the different competitions and the overall PLP game:

The total prize pool for the 2020-21 PLP season is **\$520**. Prizes will be awarded for all competitions as described below.

<b>Regular Season:</b>	Champion: \$160	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: \$80	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: \$40
<b>PLP Cup:</b>	Champion: \$60	Runner-up: \$20	
<b>Holiday Tournament:</b>	Champion: \$60	Runner-up: \$20	
<b>End-of-Season Playoffs:</b>	Champion: \$60	Runner-up: \$20	

Other Prizes: Additional, “non-monetary” prizes may be announced or awarded at a later time. In previous season, these prizes have been posters or books that I have been able to find related to the Premier League.

Prize “Cap”: I have decided to implement a “cap” on total prize money that one person can win during a single Premier League Predictor season. The 2020-21 prize money cap is **\$280** – which is equal to 7x the entry fee. In the event that a person wins more than the prize money cap, the additional funds will be distributed to the top 4 finishers in the PLP Regular Season. There are numerous reasons for the implementation of the prize money cap:

1. First, doing research on other fantasy sports leagues, the usual 1<sup>st</sup> prize is not more than 4x or 5x the entry fee. Other calculations included an average 1<sup>st</sup> prize of 40%-50% of the total prize pool. The PLP prize money cap is equal to 7x the entry fee and 54% of the total prize pool, which is still greater than most fantasy sports leagues.
2. Second, although the PLP Regular Season and the PLP Cup, Holiday Tournament, and PLP End-of-Season Playoffs are all separate competitions, there is a clear overlap in the results of the competitions because the PLP Regular Season runs concurrently to all of the PLP tournaments. Because the competitions run concurrently, this means that scoring well in one competition automatically means positive results in the concurrent competition. This means that participants who perform well in the Regular Season will perform well in the tournaments, and vice versa. This leads to many of the same participants being in contention for multiple prizes.
3. Finally, I want to encourage participation throughout a long 38-week season. I want to reward positive results for people throughout the season and I do not want to discourage participation for those participants who may be struggling at some point during the season. By ensuring that prize money is available to be spread between a few different participants, this will promote competition throughout this full season, and future seasons.



## Conclusion

This wraps up the PLP 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Review! Hopefully it provides some greater insight on the first 8 weeks of the Premier League season. And, hopefully it gives you some new information that helps you make picks during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of the season and on. I am looking forward to the Holiday Tournament and to giving out the first prizes of the season!

If for some reason the season is postponed or delayed due to the coronavirus, we will plan to postpone the PLP season to correspond with the Premier League season. This happened last season and we made it through to the end. If there are cancellations or something more extreme, we will have to figure out what we are doing at that time.

At this time, we continue on. As always, let me know if you have any questions or suggestions to make the game better. Thanks for your participation so far this season, and good luck!

-Tyler

