



Premier League Predictor

2021-2022 1st Quarter Review

November 19, 2021

2021-2022 PLP 1st Quarter Review

Hey everyone - we are officially 11/38ths through the 2021/2022 Premier League season! So I thought it would be a good time to check in with everyone and review the 1st Quarter of the year. I want to do this a few times during the year so that everyone has a chance to take a look at where we stand as the season progresses. My goal is that the quarterly reviews will be helpful to those of you who aren't able to pay close attention to the Premier League on a week-by-week basis. Maybe this will be helpful to some of you, maybe not, but I hope some of you might find some use for this - enjoy!

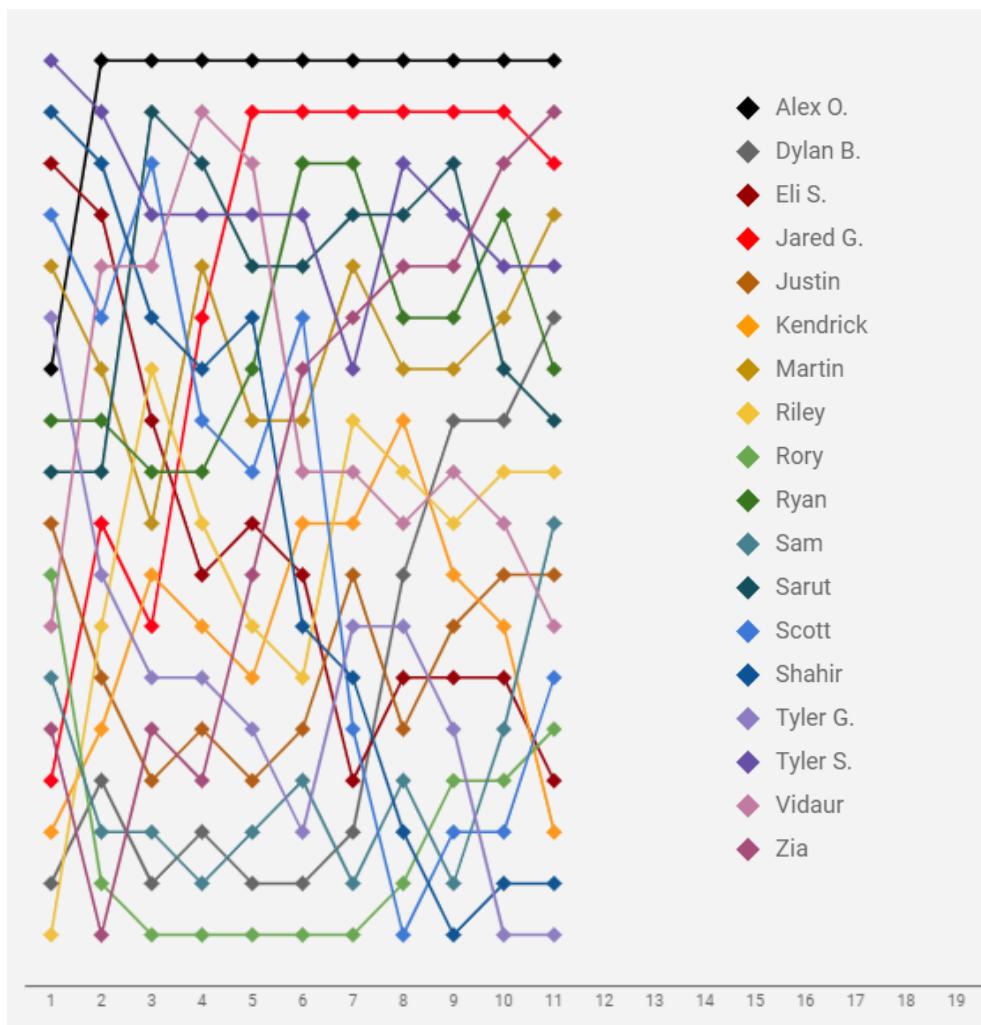
After 11 weeks of the PLP season, Alex O. continues to lead the standings with a solid 3,024 points on 59 correct picks! Alex has held the top spot since Week 2 and is putting up an impressive average of 275 points per week. The PLP scores from the first 11 weeks of the 2021/22 season are comparable to last season, and our leader Alex is actually outpacing last year's leader at this point in the season by about 5 more points per week.

Here are the PLP Standings after Week 11:

PLP Standings	2021-22 Regular Season Points	Correct Picks	Championship Probability (%)	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Total Podium Results
1 Alex O.	3,024	59	13.7	1	1		2
2 Zia C.	2,858	55	19.3	2	1	3	6
3 Jared G.	2,698	55	10.0	1	2		3
4 Martin B.	2,689	54	8.3		1	3	4
5 Tyler S.	2,618	68	3.0	1		1	2
6 Dylan B.	2,562	51	8.9	2	1		3
7 Ryan V.	2,559	52	4.5			1	1
8 Sarut J.	2,497	63	7.6	1	1		2
9 Riley W.	2,430	49	4.6	1		1	2
10 Sam V.	2,273	41	3.0	1		1	2
11 Justin T. E.	2,262	51	0.7				0
12 Vidaur D.	2,251	47	5.7		1	1	2
13 Scott P.	2,237	52	2.9				0
14 Rory L.	2,190	51	3.4	1			1
15 Eli S.	2,182	49	0.2		1	1	2
16 Kendrick C.	2,060	48	0.9				0
17 Shahir A.	1,965	42	1.6		1		1
18 Tyler G.	1,857	44	1.8		1		1

While we are talking about our current leader, Alex, I must mention his improvement from this stage last season. Last year after Week 11, Alex was sitting in last place with just 1,988 points! He has made an incredible improvement so far during the 2021/22 season, and hopefully he can keep his run of form for the rest of the year!

I have seen some great turnarounds in seasons past, and we can't talk about turnarounds this season without mentioning Zia C.! Zia was sitting in last place after Week 2, but he has put up some great scores over the past few weeks to improve up to 2nd place after Week 11. And the new PLP metric - the **Championship Probability** model - is taking note of Zia's great scores! Although Zia currently sits in 2nd place in the PLP Standings, the Championship Probability gives Zia the greatest chance to win the PLP regular season competition - a 19.3% chance!



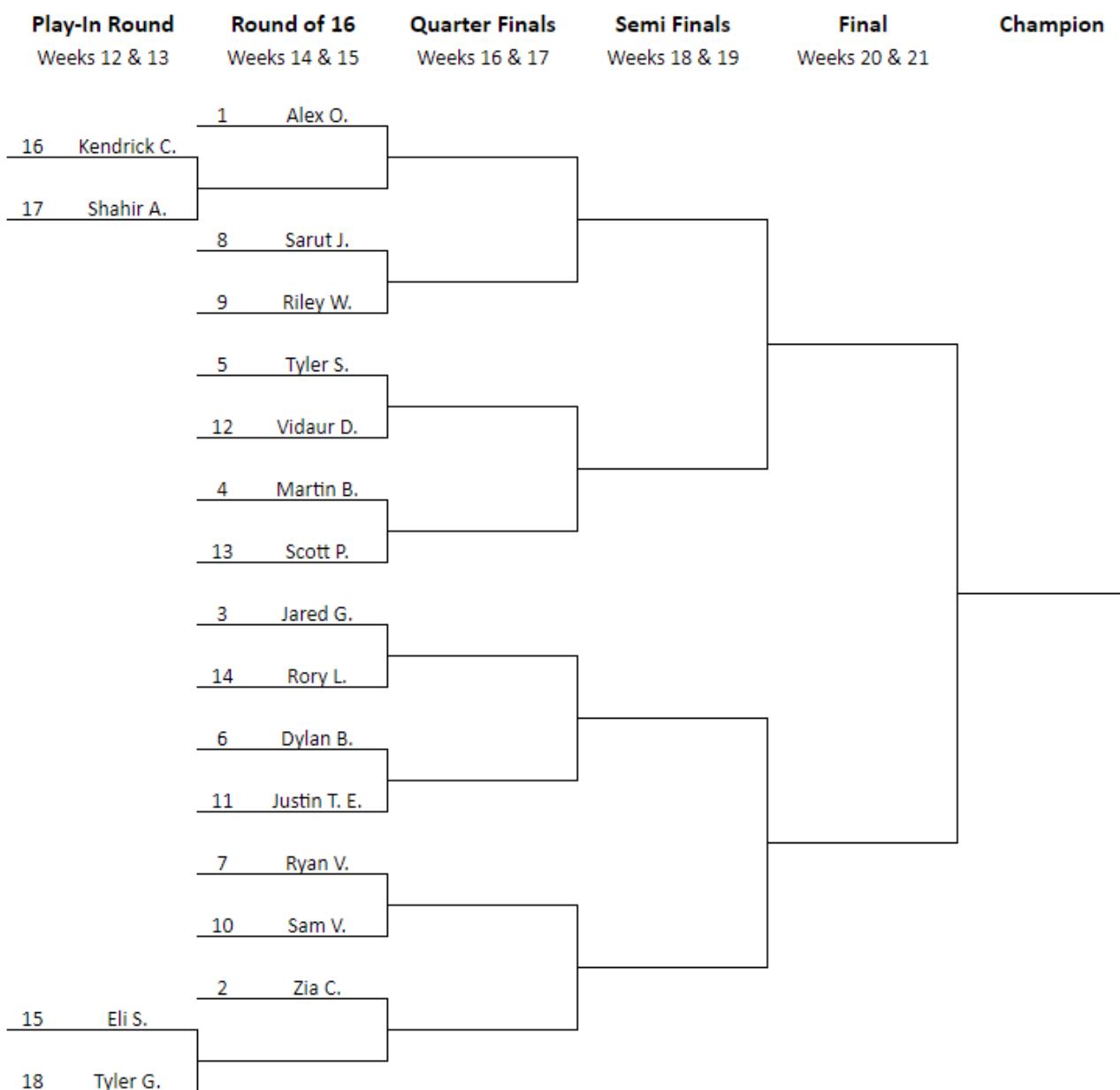
The rest of us are forming a highly-competitive midpack - the gap between 3rd place and 14th place is only 500 points! There is a lot of season left to go - and I have seen people make aggressive moves up the Standings during the Premier League's Holiday Period.

PLP Holiday Tournament

Speaking of the Premier League's daunting holiday period, the PLP Holiday Tournament kicks off this weekend, Week 12, with two Play-In matches! The PLP Holiday Tournament historically corresponds with the period between Thanksgiving and New Years' Day, when the Premier League crams in a ton of matches. It is usually a fun, jam-packed time in the Premier League season and the PLP competition!

The Holiday Tournament is a single-elimination tournament, with each match taking place over a two-week period. In order to advance, you must outscore your opponent over the two weeks. A champion will be awarded in Week 21 after the New Year's Day slate of matches! Here is the 2021/22 PLP Holiday Tournament bracket:

PLP Holiday Tournament



Premier League Table

After the first 11 weeks of the Premier League Season and 110 total matches played, here is the current Premier League Table:

Club	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Last 5
1  Chelsea	11	8	2	1	27	4	23	26	✓✓✓✓✓
2  Man City	11	7	2	2	22	6	16	23	✗✓✓✓✓
3  West Ham	11	7	2	2	23	13	10	23	✓✓✓✓✗
4  Liverpool	11	6	4	1	31	11	20	22	✗✓✓✓✓
5  Arsenal	11	6	2	3	13	13	0	20	✓✓✓✓✓
6  Man United	11	5	2	4	19	17	2	17	✗✓✗✗✓
7  Brighton	11	4	5	2	12	12	0	17	✗✗✗✓
8  Wolves	11	5	1	5	11	12	-1	16	✗✓✓✓✓
9  Tottenham	11	5	1	5	9	16	-7	16	✗✗✗✓✓
10  Crystal Palace	11	3	6	2	15	14	1	15	✓✓✓✓✓
11  Everton	11	4	3	4	16	16	0	15	✗✗✗✗✓
12  Leicester City	11	4	3	4	16	18	-2	15	✗✗✓✓✓
13  Southampton	11	3	5	3	10	12	-2	14	✓✓✓✓✓
14  Brentford	11	3	3	5	13	14	-1	12	✗✗✗✗✓
15  Leeds United	11	2	5	4	11	18	-7	11	✗✓✓✓✓
16  Aston Villa	11	3	1	7	14	20	-6	10	✗✗✗✗✗
17  Watford	11	3	1	7	12	19	-7	10	✗✗✓✗✗
18  Burnley	11	1	5	5	11	17	-6	8	✗✓✓✓✓
19  Newcastle	11	0	5	6	12	24	-12	5	✗✗✗✗✗
20  Norwich City	11	1	2	8	5	26	-21	5	✓✗✗✗✓

Chelsea, Manchester City, and Liverpool look like the true title contenders so far, but it will be exciting to see what impact West Ham United, Manchester United, and Arsenal can have at the top of the table!

My (subjective) 1st Quarter Premier League Awards

Match of the 1st Quarter: Liverpool: 2, Manchester City: 2 (Week 7)

The best match in the first 11 weeks of the 2021/22 Premier League featured two of the league's best teams and many of its greatest players. And the match did not disappoint. There were, of course, some other great matches that have taken place so far this season, but I ultimately felt like this was the greatest matchup between the best Premier League players. And the match lived up to its hype, because the four goals scored in this match were all incredible goals. The game was highlighted by potentially the goal of the season, a solo masterpiece by Mo Salah. Although the match ended in a draw, it was exciting and competitive, and showed that there is not much between two of the best teams in the league. Hopefully, the competition between these teams continues on the entire season!

Honorable Mention: Brentford: 3, Liverpool 3 (Week 6)
Leicester City 4, Manchester United 2 (Week 8)
West Ham 3, Liverpool 2 (Week 11)

Upset of the 1st Quarter: Manchester City: 0, Crystal Palace: 2 (Week 10)

According to FiveThirtyEight predictions, Crystal Palace had only a 4% chance to beat Manchester City at the Etihad. However, a red card reduced City down to 10 men, and Crystal Palace capitalized on the advantage. Palace held on to their 1-0 lead following Wilfred Zaha's 6th minute goal, and added another in the 88th minute to cement their lead.

Honorable Mention: Brentford: 2, Arsenal: 0 (Week 1)
Tottenham: 1, Manchester City: 0 (Week 1)

Team of the 1st Quarter: West Ham United

West Ham United is off to its best start in the club's history and they have won some incredible matches so far this year. Posting 7 wins in its first 11 matches, West Ham currently sits in 3rd place just three points behind 1st place Chelsea. West Ham has wins over Liverpool, Spurs, and Leicester City. Michail Antonio leads the Hammers with 6 goals and 3 assists, and it seems like the attitude has shifted around the club. There is a lot of positivity reverberating throughout the Olympic Stadium right now!

Honorable Mention: Chelsea; Brighton & Hove Albion; Brentford

Player of the 1st Quarter: Mohamed Salah (Liverpool) Apps: 11, Goals: 10, Assists: 7

Mo Salah has simply been amazing in the first 11 weeks of the season. He has scored some incredible goals, including a couple of solo goals that looked impossible. He leads the league in goals and assists and is leading the most prolific attacking line in the Premier League - Liverpool has scored 31 goals so far this year. Right now, Salah is dominating the competition and is without a doubt the best player of the 1st Quarter.

Honorable Mention: Eduard Mendy (6 Clean Sheets)
Michail Antonio (6 Goals, 3 Assists)

2nd Quarter Outlook

The Premier League schedule speeds up during the Holiday Period - we will fit in 100 matches over the next 45 days! The Holiday Period usually brings some crazy and surprising results. The teams are forced to rotate squads, injuries pick up, players fatigue, and some of the powerhouse teams get surprised during this run of matches. So don't be surprised if there are a few upsets over the holidays!

We are in for an exciting fight for the Premier League title and the Champions League spots - we will surely see this continue over the next 10 weeks! I look for Chelsea, Manchester City, Liverpool, Manchester United, West Ham United, and Arsenal to continue to compete for the Top 4 spots.

Here are some of the best Premier League matches that I wanted to highlight over the next 10 weeks:

- Week 12: Leicester City v Chelsea
 Liverpool v Arsenal
- Week 13: Manchester City v West Ham United
 Chelsea v Manchester United
- Week 14: Everton v Liverpool
 Manchester United v Arsenal
- Week 15: West Ham United v Chelsea
 Wolves v Liverpool
- Week 16: Manchester City v Wolves
 Brighton v Tottenham Hotspur
- Week 17: Brentford v Manchester United
 Arsenal v West Ham United
 Chelsea v Everton (El Blazerico)
- Week 18: Manchester United v Brighton
 Wolves v Chelsea
 Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool
- Week 19: Manchester City v Leicester City
 Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace
- Week 20: Arsenal v Wolves
 Leicester City v Liverpool
- Week 21: Arsenal v Manchester City
 Chelsea v Liverpool
 Manchester United v Wolves

Conclusion

This wraps up the PLP 2021/22 1st Quarter Review! Although I know it is not a lot, hopefully this provides a good summary of the season so far. And hopefully it helps you make your picks going forward into the holiday period and the PLP Holiday Tournament! Remember, the Holiday Tournament provides the first chance to win prizes for this season - \$100 to our 1st place finisher, and \$50 to the runner-up.

I wanted to say thanks to everyone for the participation so far this year! We have a great competition going on, and I hope that the competition continues as strong during the next couple of months.

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

