

Dr Gregory Everett

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Football data scientist currently working at Southampton FC, with a PhD in AI from the University of Southampton and over five years of experience translating advanced machine learning research into actionable insights for professional football. Collaborates daily with analysts, scouts and coaches, delivering models that directly influence recruitment, team performance analysis and on-pitch decision-making. Published first-author at AAAI, AAMAS and the MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference. Combines technical expertise in deep learning and spatiotemporal modelling with the communication skills needed to turn complex models into decisions clubs can act on.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Data Scientist, Southampton Football Club, UK Nov 2025 - Present

- Embedded within the club's analytics function, delivering data-informed insights that help influence decisions in recruitment and on-pitch performance.
- Applying state-of-the-art AI and machine learning to event and tracking data, running end-to-end projects for player evaluation, tactical analysis and decision support from problem framing to deployment.
- Translating complex modelling outputs into clear, actionable recommendations for non-technical stakeholders, including coaches and executive decision-makers.
- Building reproducible pipelines that enable rapid iteration on projects in a fast-paced matchweek environment.

Industry Collaboration (PhD Researcher), Sentient Sports, UK Sept 2021 - Sept 2025

- Multi-year industry partnerships with Sentient Sports, Gradient Sports and Bepro throughout my PhD.
- Led collaborative projects that translated academic research into practical tools, including injury risk and player evaluation models that are grounded in real club data.
- Worked with proprietary tracking and event datasets from StatsBomb, Gradient Sports and Bepro.

Research Internship, Sentient Sports, UK June 2021 – Sept 2021

- 4-month internship with Sentient Sports, developing sports prediction models for real-world deployment.
- Collaborated within an engineering team using Git, Jira and AWS.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

University of Southampton, PhD: Computer Science (AI) 2021 – 2025

- PhD graduate with the Agents, Interaction, and Complexity group at the University of Southampton.
- Completed a thesis titled: "*Models and Algorithms to Optimise Team Performance in Football*".

Research Outputs

- Published five first-author papers, including papers at major AI conferences (AAMAS and AAAI).
- Presented research at leading sports analytics conferences including the MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference.
- Industry collaborations with Sentient Sports, Gradient Sports and Bepro throughout doctoral research.

University of Southampton, Integrated MEng: Computer Science 2017 – 2021

- Achieved a First Class Honours with an average grade of 78%.

Key Modules

- Foundations of Machine Learning (71%)
- Advanced Machine Learning (92%)
- Algorithmic Game Theory (85%)
- Intelligent Systems (92%)
- Computer Vision (81%)
- Group Design Project (80%)
- **Dissertation:** "*A Parrondo Trading Strategy For Betting Exchanges*" (77%)

PROJECTS

GAPP: Evaluating Off-Ball Defending with Graph Attention Networks (*IEEE DSAA 2025*)

- Graph attention network predicting pass receptions with a **6.4% lower loss** compared to baselines, introducing two new metrics for interpretable off-ball defender evaluation.
- **Use case:** Designed for coaches, scouts and recruitment analysts to better assess off-ball defending.

Optimising Spatial Teamwork under Uncertainty (*AAAI 2025*)

- A new method for optimising defensive teamwork using graph neural networks and Monte Carlo Tree Search on spatial tracking data, achieving a **21% reduction in opponent threat** compared to real outcomes.
- **Use case:** Methodology designed for reviewing tactical decision-making in professional football.

The Strain of Success: A Predictive Model for Injury Risk Mitigation and Team Success (*MIT SSAC 2024*)

- Data-driven team selection model that uses Monte Carlo Tree Search to balance injury prediction and long-term performance, showing a **13% reduction in injuries** to key players while maintaining results.
- **Use case:** Decision support framework applicable to professional team squad management and player welfare.

Inferring Player Locations: Multi-Agent Spatial Imputation from Limited Observations (*AAMAS 2023*)

- Novel deep learning model combining graph and recurrent neural networks to estimate tracking data from event data, achieving a **62% reduction in error** (6.88m average) over the strongest baseline.
- **Use case:** Framework designed to improve the accessibility of tracking data analytics to clubs and researchers.

Contextual Expected Threat using Spatial Event Data (*StatsBomb Conference 2022*)

- Spatial extension of Expected Threat using convolutional neural networks, introducing a new 'TAX' metric for evaluating team positioning and reducing ball transition prediction log loss by **19.2%**.
- **Use case:** Methodology designed for on-field performance analysis and player evaluation in football.

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Programming Languages Python, R, SQL, Java, JavaScript, Bash.

Frameworks and Libraries Pytorch, Keras, TensorFlow, PyTorch Geometric, PyMC, Numpy, Pandas, XGBoost.

Software SQL Server, Git, Azure, Latex, Google Colab, AWS, Anaconda, Jira, Powerpoint, Excel.

Techniques Supervised, Deep and Reinforcement Learning, Bayesian Modelling, High Performance Computing.

Dataset Experience Spatiotemporal data (football events and tracking data), tabular data, image data, text data.

KEY SKILLS

Club-facing impact: Currently delivering analytics directly into recruitment and first-team workflows at a professional club, with proven ability to turn models into insights that drive decision-making.

Stakeholder communication: Skilled at presenting technical work to mixed audiences, from data scientists and academics to coaches and executive decision-makers.

Research-to-production: Proven track record translating cutting-edge AI research using football data into deployable apps and tools, both in academia and industry.

Collaboration: Comfortable in multidisciplinary football analysis teams, delivering on tight matchweek timelines.

PUBLICATIONS (MOST RECENT FIRST)

Evaluating defensive influence in multi-agent systems using graph attention networks
2025 IEEE 12th International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA)

Optimising Spatial Teamwork under Uncertainty

Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), 2025.

The Strain of Success: A Predictive Model for Injury Risk Mitigation and Team Success in Soccer

18th Annual MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference (SSAC), 2024.

Inferring Player Location in Sports Matches: Multi-Agent Spatial Imputation from Limited Observations

Proceedings of the 2023 International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS), 2023.

Contextual Expected Threat using Spatial Event Data

StatsBomb Innovation in Football Conference, 2022.