Michael Maclean

Football Data & Recruitment Analyst | MSc Sport Data Analytics (Distinction)
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Profile

MSc Sport Data Analytics graduate (Distinction) from the University of Strathclyde, with a BSc (Hons) in Data Science from the University of Stirling. Recently completed a ten-month recruitment placement with Dundee United FC, testing data-identified targets against Wyscout video and producing concise, trait-scored player reports for decision-makers. Currently scouting and analysing opposition for Brechin City FC and recording live match data for Stats Perform. Build reproducible R and Python pipelines, player valuation models, and dashboards that turn data into clear, practical recruitment insight.

Football Data & Recruitment Experience

Recruitment Analyst Intern - Dundee United FC **Nov 2025 – Aug 2026**

- Conducted weekly due diligence on prospective signings identified through a data-first process, assessing whether Wyscout video supported each player's underlying data profile and scoring defined recruitment traits and overall suitability.
- Benchmarked targets against current squad players, summarising playing style, strengths, and weaknesses in concise written reports for recruitment staff.
- Maintained the department-shared player tracking database with structured assessment fields, handling sensitive recruitment information under strict confidentiality and to departmental deadlines.
- Led a research project into Scottish Premiership throw-in effectiveness, building a StatsBomb API pipeline in R that feeds a 28-KPI Shiny dashboard, and presented the findings to club staff.

Opposition Scout & Match Analyst - Brechin City & Berwick Rangers **Jun 2025 – Present**

- Attend fixtures to assess opposition teams and individual players live, judging current ability and playing style, and feed back clearly to coaching and recruitment staff.
- Produce opposition reports and annotated clip packages covering team shape across phases of play, individual player tendencies, and set-piece routines.
- Built a custom Nacsport tagging panel that turns match footage into a filterable, player-level clip database, so every observation is backed by video evidence.

In-Ground Correspondent - Stats Perform (Opta) **Jul 2026 – Present**

- Record live match data at fixtures across the West of Scotland to strict accuracy and timing standards, maintaining data integrity at the point of collection.

Independent Football Modelling Project **2016 – 2024**

- Built and maintained a Poisson-based match prediction model with a custom recency-weighted form metric, later migrating it from Google Sheets to Python for scalability and automation.

Selected Projects

Points Above Replacement - 55-League Player Valuation Model **2026**

- Built an R pipeline collecting FotMob season data for 19,199 players across 55 leagues (2025 and 2025/26), then valued every player by the league points they add above a replacement-level player in the same league and position.
- Validated at team level: summed player values predict final league points to within ±3.25 points on average across 938 teams (correlation 0.958), with a league-strength adjustment estimated from player careers for cross-league comparison.

Scottish Premiership 2025/26 Throw-In Dashboard **2025 – 2026**

- Built an end-to-end R pipeline on the StatsBomb API, covering extraction, cleaning, feature engineering, and metric computation for every Scottish Premiership throw-in, with a focus on how effective short throw-ins are.
- Delivered an interactive Shiny dashboard with 28 KPIs, filters, and team comparisons, giving Dundee United's recruitment and technical staff league-wide visibility of throw-in tendencies.

Kinovea Angle Export Enhancement **2025**

- Contributed to the Kinovea open-source video analysis tool via GitHub, extending CSV export functionality to include angle measurements for applied sport science analysis.

Recruitment & Analysis Toolkit

- **Recruitment & Scouting:** player due diligence, live and video scouting, written reports, trait scoring, shortlisting, positional benchmarking, and opposition analysis
- **Video:** Wyscout, Nacsport, Veo, Hudl Sportscode (introductory), Kinovea; tagging, on-screen annotation, and clip packages
- **Data & Modelling:** R, Python, SQL; StatsBomb API, FBref, FotMob; web scraping, regression, factor analysis, probability models, and player valuation
- **Platforms & Reporting:** Shiny, Tableau, Git/GitHub, Excel, and Google Sheets

Education

MSc Sport Data Analytics - University of Strathclyde **Distinction (74%)**

- Football data analysis, performance analysis, applied statistics, and reporting workflows in sport, using R, Python, and SQL alongside Nacsport and Hudl Sportscode.

BSc (Hons) Data Science - University of Stirling

- Statistical analysis, data cleaning, and data visualisation. Honours project: added angle measurements to the CSV export of the open-source Kinovea video analysis tool (C#), reviewed and merged into the main repository.

Additional Information

- Glasgow-based, available immediately, and willing to relocate
- Full, clean UK driving licence
- Scottish FA Introduction to Talent Identification 1.1, 1.2, & 1.3 - booked, November 2026
- ISAK Level 1 Kinanthropometry - certified 2026
- Completed Children's Wellbeing in Scottish Football
- Reference details available here
- Full portfolio with case studies and projects at www.michaelmaclean.scot