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**Average age on the pitch**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>Last week-end*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serie A</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier League</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liga</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligue 1</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundesliga</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Premier League: 4 matches only

**The most and the least**

1. Lazio (ITA) 30.92
2. Levante (ESP) 30.90
3. Fulham (ENG) 29.93
4. Siena (ITA) 29.80
5. Internazionale (ITA) 29.78
6. Bologna (ITA) 29.65
7. Cesena (ITA) 29.60
8. Osasuna (ESP) 29.57
9. Milan (ITA) 29.50
10. Lecce (ITA) 29.36

**Best players aged 30 or over, per league**

**SHOOTING**

- ESP: Xavi (Barcelona)
- FRA: P.A. Frau (Caen)
- GER: Raúl (Schalke 04)
- ITA: Z. Ibrahimović (Milan)

**CHANCE CREATION**

- ESP: F. Luis García (Zaragoza)
- FRA: C. Barbosa (Evian Thonon)
- GER: K. Boulahrouz (Stuttgart)
- ITA: S. Pellissier (Verona)

**DISTRIBUTION**

- ESP: Xavi (Barcelona)
- FRA: O. Sorlin (Evian Thonon)
- GER: D. Jarolím (Hamburg)
- ITA: A. Pirlo (Juventus)

**RECOVERY**

- ESP: Juanfran (Levante)
- FRA: A. Diarra (Marseille)
- GER: C. Fritz (Bremen)
- ITA: Lúcio (Internazionale)

**TAKE ON**

- ESP: Joaquín (Málagas)
- FRA: C. Barbosa (Evian Thonon)
- GER: T. Hajnal (Stuttgart)
- ITA: D. Maicon (Internazionale)

**GENERAL**

- ESP: Xavi (Barcelona)
- FRA: C. Barbosa (Evian Thonon)
- GER: K. Boulahrouz (Stuttgart)
- ITA: A. Pirlo (Juventus)

---

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* All the data refer to championship matches played from 23rd to 25th March 2012.

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### Average height on the pitch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>Height</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bundesliga</td>
<td>183.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier</td>
<td>182.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serie A</td>
<td>181.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligue 1</td>
<td>181.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liga</td>
<td>181.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### The most and the least

1. Stoke City (ENG) 185.79
2. Leverkusen (GER) 185.77
3. Bolton (ENG) 185.46
4. Nürnberg (GER) 185.05
5. Paris SG (FRA) 184.87
6. Wolverhampton (ENG) 184.53
7. Fiorentina (ITA) 184.50
8. Bilbao (ESP) 184.25
9. Chelsea (ENG) 184.16
10. Hertha Berlin (GER) 184.15
85. Getafe (ESP) 180.28
86. Napoli (ITA) 180.08
87. Siena (ITA) 179.61
88. Lorient (FRA) 179.28
89. Sochaux (FRA) 179.20
90. Gijón (ESP) 178.80
91. Swansea (ENG) 178.29
92. Lille (FRA) 177.81
93. Betis (ESP) 177.05
94. Barcelona (ESP) 176.90

---

### Best players, by league

#### Shooting

- **ENG**: P. Cissé (Newcastle)
- **ESP**: C. Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
- **FRA**: B. Gomis (Lyon)
- **GER**: G. Ramos Vásquez (Hertha Berlin)
- **ITA**: Z. Ibrahimović (Milan)

#### Distribution

- **ENG**: Y. Touré (Man. City)
- **ESP**: T. Alcántara (Barcelona)
- **FRA**: Y. M’Vila (Rennes)
- **GER**: I. Gündoğan (Dortmund)
- **ITA**: A. Pirlo (Juventus)

#### Chance Creation

- **ENG**: H. Ben Arfa (Newcastle)
- **ESP**: J. Gavilán (Getafe)
- **FRA**: A. Regattin (Toulouse)
- **GER**: L. Piszczek (Dortmund)
- **ITA**: R. Pereyra (Udinese)

#### Recovery

- **ENG**: N. Reo-Coker (Bolton)
- **ESP**: A. Damia (Osasuna)
- **FRA**: P. Ninkov (Toulouse)
- **GER**: P. Niemeyer (Hertha Berlin)
- **ITA**: G. Musacci (Parma)

#### Take On

- **ENG**: J. McClean (Sunderland)
- **ESP**: E. Armenteros (Rayo Vallecano)
- **FRA**: F. Monzón (Nice)
- **GER**: A. Hloušek (Nürnberg)
- **ITA**: F. Belluschi (Genoa)

---

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**Club-trained players (% of minutes played)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>% of Minutes Played</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liga</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligue 1</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundesliga</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier League</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serie A</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The most and the least**

1. Bilbao (ESP) 73.4%
2. Real Sociedad (ESP) 56.5%
3. Barcelona (ESP) 51.3%
4. Freiburg (GER) 50.9%
5. Bayern (GER) 49.4%
6. Man. United (ENG) 46.7%
7. Blackburn (ENG) 44.3%
8. Toulouse (FRA) 42.8%
9. Aston Villa (ENG) 39.6%
10. Sochaux (FRA) 39.4%

70. Getafe, Granada (ESP) 0%
71. Lorient, Brest, Dijon (FRA) 0%
72. Augsburg, Bremen, Berlin 0%
73. Nürnberg, Wolfsburg (GER) 0%
74. Norwich, Fulham, QPR, WBA 0%
75. Bolton, M. City, Wigan (ENG) 0%
76. Bologna, Catania, Genoa 0%
77. Lazio, Palermo, Parma 0%
78. Novara, Siena, Udinese 0%
79. Chievo Verona (ITA) 0%

---

**Best players, by league**

**SHOOTING**
- ENG: C. Dempsey (Fulham)
- ESP: C. Vela (Real Sociedad)
- FRA: B. Traoré (Nancy)
- GER: Raul (Schalke 04)
- ITA: L. Muriel (Lecce)

**CHANCE CREATION**
- ENG: Y. Cabaye (Newcastle)
- ESP: J. Gaviñán (Getafe)
- FRA: B. Pedretti (Lille)
- GER: J. Farfán (Schalke 04)
- ITA: G. Giacomazzi (Lecce)

**DISTRIBUTION**
- ENG: P. Scholes (Man. United)
- ESP: Bruno (Villarreal)
- FRA: Y. M’Vila (Rennes)
- GER: B. Dante (M’gladbach)
- ITA: A. Pirlo (Juventus)

**RECOVERY**
- ENG: S. Ranieri (Tottenham)
- ESP: J. Casado (Rayo Vallecano)
- FRA: F. Clerc (Nice)
- GER: I. Vorsah (Hoffenheim)
- ITA: F. Guarin (Internazionale)

**TAKE ON**
- ENG: C. Eagles (Bolton)
- ESP: Romaric (Espanyol)
- FRA: M. Valbuena (Marseille)
- GER: R. Augusto (Leverkusen)
- ITA: A. Candreva (Lazio)

**GENERAL**
- ENG: P. Scholes (Man. United)
- ESP: E. Benat (Betis)
- FRA: B. Traoré (Nancy)
- GER: J. Farfán (Schalke 04)
- ITA: A. Pirlo (Juventus)
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### Players signed at the start or during the season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>% of minutes played</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bundesliga</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liga</td>
<td>32.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier League</td>
<td>35.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligue 1</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The most and the least

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Paris SG (FRA)</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Dijon (FRA)</td>
<td>63.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Zaragoza (ESP)</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Nancy (FRA)</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Atlético Madrid (ESP)</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Aston Villa (ENG)</td>
<td>53.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>QPR (ENG)</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Bremen (GER)</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Levante (ESP)</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Sunderland (ENG)</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Best players, by league

#### Shooting

- **ENG** C. Tevez (Man. City)
- **ESP** K. Benzema (Real Madrid)
- **FRA** J. Cole (Lille)
- **GER** M. Harnik (Stuttgart)
- **ITA** not available

#### Distribution

- **ENG** A. Williams (Swansea)
- **ESP** H. Xavi (Barcelona)
- **FRA** M. Martin (Sochaux)
- **GER** B. Dante (M’gladbach)
- **ITA** not available

#### Chance Creation

- **ENG** D. Silva (Man. City)
- **ESP** S. García (Espanyol)
- **FRA** E. Hazard (Lille)
- **GER** M. Frantz (Nürnberg)
- **ITA** not available

#### Recovery

- **ENG** Rafael (Man. United)
- **ESP** T. Dujmovic (Zaragoza)
- **FRA** B. Stambouli (Montpellier)
- **GER** J. Baumgartlinger (Mainz)
- **ITA** not available

#### Take On

- **ENG** L. Valencia (Man. United)
- **ESP** L. Messi (Barcelona)
- **FRA** K. Chafni (Auxerre)
- **GER** C. Fuchs (Schalke 04)
- **ITA** not available

#### General

- **ENG** C. Tevez (Man. City)
- **ESP** L. Messi (Barcelona)
- **FRA** E. Hazard (Lille)
- **GER** T. Jantschke (M’gladbach)
- **ITA** not available

---

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**Active internationals**
(footballers who played at least one national A-team match during the year 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>% of minutes played</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premier League</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundesliga</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serie A</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liga</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligue 1</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**The most and the least**

**Last week-end**

1. Real Madrid (ESP) 98.3%
2. Man. City (ENG) 90.9%
3. Fulham (ENG) 90.9%
4. Arsenal (ENG) 83.8%
5. Barcelona (ESP) 81.8%
6. Dortmund (GER) 80.1%
7. Chelsea (ENG) 76.5%
8. Schalke 04 (GER) 72.2%
9. Juventus (ITA) 70.5%
10. Mainz (GER) 66.0%

---

**Best players, by league**

**Take on**

- ENG: G. Sigurdsson (Swansea)
- ESP: J. Navas (Sevilla)
- FRA: M. Valbuena (Marseille)
- GER: A. Dejagah (Wolfsburg)
- ITA: L. Ceccarelli (Cesena)

**Chance Creation**

- ENG: Nani (Man. United)
- ESP: C. Martins (Granada)
- FRA: C. Jallet (Paris SG)
- GER: P. Ebert (Hertha Berlin)
- ITA: M. Vucinic (Juventus)

**Recovery**

- ENG: J. Thomas (WBA)
- ESP: A. De la Bella (Real Sociedad)
- FRA: M. Estrada (Montpellier)
- GER: O. Sorg (Freiburg)
- ITA: Matuzalem (Lazio)

**Editors:** Raffaele Poli, Loïc Ravenel et Roger Besson
Big-5 Weekly Post

Big-5 leagues - overall rankings

**Premier League**

**General Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shooting</th>
<th>C. Tevez (Man. City)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chance creation</td>
<td>L. Messi (Barcelona)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take on</td>
<td>A. Pirlo (Juventus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>S. Pienaar (Everton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery</td>
<td>S. Ranieri (Tottenham)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liga**

**General Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shooting</th>
<th>C. Ronaldo (Real Madrid)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chance creation</td>
<td>L. Messi (Barcelona)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take on</td>
<td>A. Sánchez (Barcelona)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>A. Pirlo (Juventus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery</td>
<td>A. Illarramendi (Real Sociedad)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Ligue 1**

**General Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shooting</th>
<th>J. Féret (Rennes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chance creation</td>
<td>A. Traoré (Auxerre)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take on</td>
<td>E. Hazard (Lille)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>A. Traoré (Auxerre)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery</td>
<td>P. Ninkov (Toulouse)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bundesliga**

**General Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shooting</th>
<th>D. Didavi (Nürnberg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chance creation</td>
<td>I. Perišić (Dortmund)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take on</td>
<td>P. Helmes (Wolfsburg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>D. Bonfim (M'gladbach)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery</td>
<td>T. Rincón (Hamburg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Serie A**

**General Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shooting</th>
<th>A. Vidal (Juventus)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chance creation</td>
<td>A. Pirlo (Juventus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take on</td>
<td>M. Vucinić (Juventus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>D. Milito (Internazionale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery</td>
<td>A. Pirlo (Juventus)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Players of the month

April 2012

**Premier League**

- N. Jelavic (Everton)
- S. Pienaar (Everton)
- C. Eagles (Bolton)
- P. Scholes (Man. United)
- S. Ranieri (Tottenham)

**Liga**

- C. Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
- L. Messi (Barcelona)
- J. Féret (Rennes)
- E. Hazard (Lille)
- A. Vidal (Juventus)

**Bundesliga**

- D. Didavi (Nürnberg)
- I. Perišić (Dortmund)
- P. Helmes (Wolfsburg)
- D. Bonfim (M'gladbach)
- T. Rincón (Hamburg)

**Serie A**

- A. Vidal (Juventus)
- A. Pirlo (Juventus)
- M. Vucinić (Juventus)

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Average number of seasons in the club (consecutive seasons in the first team squad)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>Average Seasons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bundesliga</td>
<td>2.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier League</td>
<td>2.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2.75</td>
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The most and the least

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Average Seasons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Real Sociedad (ESP)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Internazionale (ITA)</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Dortmund (GER)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Hannover (GER)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>AS Roma (ITA)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Cagliari (ITA)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Valenciennes (FRA)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Lyon (FRA)</td>
<td>3.82</td>
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</table>

Best players, by league

**SHOOTING**
- ENG R. van Persie (Arsenal)
- ESP L. Messi (Barcelona)
- FRA not available
- GER S. Kiessling (Leverkusen)
- ITA F. Miccoli (Palermo)

**DISTRIBUTION**
- ENG M. Carrick (Man. United)
- ESP T. Alcántara (Barcelona)
- FRA not available
- GER B. Schweinsteiger (Bayern)
- ITA M. Pazienza (Udinese)

**CHANCE CREATION**
- ENG D. Ji (Sunderland)
- ESP Jesús Navas (Sevilla)
- FRA not available
- GER S. Reinhart (Leverkusen)
- ITA G. Migliaccio (Palermo)

**RECOVERY**
- ENG K. Henry (Wolverhampton)
- ESP J. Ramalho (Bilbao)
- FRA not available
- GER I. Gündoğan (Dortmund)
- ITA R. Montolivo (Fiorentina)

**TAKE ON**
- ENG M. Petrov (Bolton)
- ESP Jesús Navas (Sevilla)
- FRA not available
- GER L. Stindl (Hannover)
- ITA S. Giovinco (Parma)

**GENERAL**
- ENG A. Young (Man. United)
- ESP L. Messi (Barcelona)
- FRA not available
- GER M. Reus (M’gladbach)
- ITA F. Miccoli (Palermo)

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* All the data refer to championship matches played from 4th to 6th May 2012.
The Big-5 Weekly Post is a joint project by the CIES Football Observatory and Opta. Throughout the season for the five major European leagues, the Big-5 Weekly Post will present exclusive data on players’ demography and pitch performance.

All of our statistics are carefully reviewed using a detailed methodological approach to ensure academic accuracy. Analysis published in the ‘Big-5 Weekly Post’ is only part of a broader spectrum of data that can also be produced in real-time and be made available to a wide array of parties: broadcasters, websites, newspapers, clubs, leagues, national associations, bookmakers, etc.

If you would like further information on our data, we invite you to register to receive our weekly email alerts by filling in the registration form at the bottom left of the home page at www.football-observatory.com. For more information on our services please email us at football.observatory@cies.ch or info@optasports.com.

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**Big-5 league experience**
(Average number of matches in the big-5 during career)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>Average Matches</th>
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<td>Serie A</td>
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**The most and the least**

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
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<td>Aston Villa (ENG)</td>
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**Best players, by league**

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<th>Take On</th>
<th>General</th>
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<td>ENG J. Walters (Stoke City)</td>
<td>ENG J. Morrison (WBA)</td>
<td>ENG E. Bennett (Norwich)</td>
<td>ENG Y. Touré (Man. City)</td>
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<td>ESP A. Ghezzal (Levante)</td>
<td>ESP G. Higuain (Real Madrid)</td>
<td>ESP A. Cejudo (Osasuna)</td>
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<td>GER not available</td>
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<td>ITA A. Dossena (Napoli)</td>
<td>ITA A. Cassano (Milan)</td>
<td>ITA G. Bonaventura (Atalanta)</td>
<td>ITA C. Seedorf (Milan)</td>
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* All the data refer to championship matches played from 11th to 13th May 2012.
## Big-5 leagues - most productive players (2011/12)

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<th>CHANCE CREATION</th>
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