



**ECHOES BY  
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# APPRENTICESHIP

## Your Unique Average

The average is a number that represents many other numbers in a distribution. The average is not unique because different distributions: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; 2, 3, 4; and 1, 3, 5 can all have the same average. This wouldn't have been a problem if numbers were just numbers. When numbers represent people, then the game becomes complex. To judge different students, the most common average used is the CGPA. Even the CGPA is not without its limitations. Two students can have the same CGPA and yet one is suited better for one task and the other better for another task. If the CGPA isn't effective in signalling one's uniqueness then one has to find a credible signal. It works on a time-tested rule: scarcity in the labour market creates value.

In the labour market, applicants know more about themselves than employers. Usually there's more than 1 applicant for every available post. This creates competition between applicants to send a signal to the employer, 'I am better than others'. Employers believe the signal if all applicants send a similar signal. A similar signal enables employers to screen the quality of the applicants. That similar signal so far has been the CGPA. However, as we've seen before, the CGPA on its own may not be enough to attract the attention of employers. So, what to do to make one's

self scarce and create value? The key is: you know more about yourself than do others.

Students spend their most productive time in the undergraduate when they are 18-23 years old. Parallel to studies, students have a golden opportunity to develop their talents. What talent you have or are good at, only you know. Let's assume you have talent in three areas: film editing; writing; and cooking. Instead of doing an internship that's short-term, let's assume you decide to become an apprentice to a professional firm. You're associated with this firm to learn for fun. If they pay you, you're happy. If they don't pay you, you're still happy because you're learning something that's close to your heart.

As each semester progresses and the years pass by you keep on learning for fun. Even if you haven't been paid, you've gained two vital experiences. First: you've gathered first-hand experience on how an industry works. This experience is almost impossible to learn university courses. Second: you've gathered contacts within that industry.

The time finally approaches that your graduation day has arrived. You are ready to formally enter the job-market like all of your other friends. Like them, you will also sit for competitive exams. However, you



have one edge almost none of your friends do. You've utilized your student days as an apprentice learning the tricks of a trade. You have this apprenticeship as a safety-net should you fail to get absorbed in employment opportunities your friends will be vying for.

Very little of what we learn in the classroom is applied in the workplace. In today's competitive world, a good and high CGPA on its own may not be enough.

Students need to create a credible edge. Apprenticeship could well be the key to signal you are special; you are unique; and better than others when the time comes you have to apply to enter the job-market.

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**FRANTIC FANTASY BY  
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# TO AGUERO

## or not to Aguero

Gameweek 8 and 9 have not been the most ideal for Fantasy Premier League managers, as our most priced assets fetched sorry figures. But one good week for you may turn the leaderboard upside down and hey, what is an FPL manager without hope? Let's see how things might turn in the coming weeks.

### Is Aguero a must?

When the season started, this was a no-brainer. You had to have Sergio Aguero because on paper he is the most prolific scorer who you expect to score week in week out. But he has not been in the best of his forms of late and the emergence of other options elsewhere has posed a question – is he still indispensable?

In the next four games in the league Manchester City will play West Brom, Middlesbrough, Crystal Palace and Burnley. And although only the Middlesbrough game they will play at home, the Argentine is expected to deliver in those four matches.

At 13.1m, he is very, very costly, and if you plan to bolster your midfield with Arsenal or Liverpool players you may

offload the striker. He is probably not a "must have" now, but it is fair to say you may keep him for a while.

### What to do if I sell Aguero

The likes of Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane have only 10.8% and 13.9% ownership respectively. With Liverpool playing none of the big guns in the next nine fixtures, you may double up with their midfielders, given the red hot form they are in.

And if you are one of those crazy gamblers, you may take Philippe Coutinho, Firmino and Mane all together.

### November monthly

Well, lest we forget, there are some superb prizes up for grabs. The Manager of the Month wins for himself a tablet computer, bluetooth speaker, copy of FIFA 17, Nike Ordem 4 match ball and Nike manager jacket, courtesy of the English Premier League. While the top 10 managers each month each bags an FPL goody bag consisting of a rucksack, t-shirt, mug, water bottle, stress ball, pen, pad and key ring.

So it is high time you tweaked your

team considering the November games (Gameweeks 11, 12 and 13).

To make it easier, here is a draft team.

GK: Grant (Stoke), Pickford (Sunderland)

DEF: Valencia (Man United), McAuley (West Brom), Holebas (Watford), Love (Sunderland), Smith (Bournemouth)

MID: Coutinho and Mane (Liverpool), Chadli (West Brom), Sanchez (Arsenal), Shaqiri (Stoke)

STR: Lukaku (Everton), Costa (Chelsea), Defoe (Sunderland)

\* If you want to take Aguero, you may take him in place of Costa and sub Mane out for a mid-priced midfielder.

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