



TECHNICAL REPORT

2021/22





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ROLL OF
HONOUR

Cover image: Vinicius Júnior
(right) keeps Trent-Alexander
Arnold at bay in the final

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UP FOR DISCUSSION

UEFA'S TECHNICAL OBSERVERS' GROUP ANALYSED EVERY GAME DURING THE 2021/22 SEASON TO PICK UP ON THE KEY TRENDS AND TALKING POINTS AT THE PINNACLE OF THE EUROPEAN GAME

This review of the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League season serves as a record of a campaign that spanned 125 matches between the start of the group stage in September 2021 and the final at the Stade de France on 28 May 2022.

The 23rd UEFA Champions League technical report of its kind, it aims to offer a meaningful analysis of the action through the input of UEFA's Technical Observers' Group. For the first time, a member of this group analysed every fixture from Matchday 1 onwards – covering in depth the group stage as well as the knockout rounds – and their insights provided the substance for the talking points in the report, as well as informing the assessment of the tactical approach of all 32 clubs, which is found in the team profiles section.

UEFA's team of technical observers for 2021/22 comprised: Packie Bonner (UEFA technical adviser, Republic of Ireland), Tim Cahill (Australia), Cosmin Contra

(Romania), Frank de Boer (Netherlands), Corinne Diacre (France), Jean-François Domergue (France), Dušan Fitzel (Czech Republic), Steffen Freund (Germany), Frans Hoek (Netherlands), David James (England), Aitor Karanka (Spain), Robbie Keane (Republic of Ireland), Marcel Koller (Switzerland), Claude Makélélé (France), Roberto Martínez (Spain), Mixu Paatelainen (Finland), Vera Pauw (Netherlands), Peter Rudbæk (Denmark), Willi Ruttensteiner (Austria), Willy Sagnol (France), Thomas Schaaf (Germany), Gareth Southgate (England) and Giovanni van Bronckhorst (Netherlands).

The report is backed by statistical analysis and with the trends identified, UEFA seeks to provide a beneficial tool for coaches across Europe. It will be made available to members of the coaching family and, hopefully, will help inform development coaches about the prevailing styles and strategies, as well as the qualities needed, at the elite end of European club football.



GROUP A



Manchester City FC (MC)



Paris Saint-Germain (PAR)



RB Leipzig (LEI)



Club Brugge (BRU)

GROUP B



Liverpool FC (LIV)



Club Atlético de Madrid (ATL)



FC Porto (POR)



AC Milan (ACM)

GROUP C



AFC Ajax (AJX)



Sporting Clube de Portugal (SCP)



Borussia Dortmund (BVB)



Beşiktaş JK (BJK)

GROUP D



Real Madrid CF (RM)



FC Internazionale Milano (INT)



FC Sheriff Tiraspol (SHE)



FC Shakhtar Donetsk (SHK)

GROUP E



FC Bayern München (BAY)



SL Benfica (BEN)



FC Barcelona (BAR)



FC Dynamo Kyiv (DK)

GROUP F



Manchester United (MU)



Villarreal CF (VLR)



Atalanta BC (ATL)



BSC Young Boys (YB)

GROUP G



LOSC Lille (LIL)



FC Salzburg (SAL)



Sevilla FC (SEV)



VfL Wolfsburg (WOL)

GROUP H



Juventus (JUV)



Chelsea FC (CHE)



FC Zenit (ZEN)



Malmö FF (MAL)



Karim Benzema runs to the crowd to celebrate with Vinicius Júnior after scoring Madrid's decisive third goal against Manchester City in the semi-final second leg



KEEP BELIEVING

A REFUSAL TO ADMIT DEFEAT – AND KARIM BENZEMA'S GOALS – PROPELLED REAL MADRID TO A RECORD 17TH FINAL AGAINST FAMILIAR FOES ALSO KNOWN FOR THEIR MENTAL RESILIENCE

GROUP STAGE

Real Madrid offered a taste of things to come in their opening match, a 1-0 victory at Inter Milan secured by substitute Rodrygo's 89th-minute goal. That said, the first late twist the Santiago Bernabéu witnessed was an unhappy one: a 90th-minute Sébastien Thill goal which gave Sheriff, the newcomers from Moldova, an historic first victory on a night Madrid had 75.1% of possession and 31 shots and Giorgos Athanasiadis, the visiting goalkeeper, made ten saves.

Carlo Ancelotti's men recovered with four straight victories in Group D, a section from which Inter also advanced. Three Player of the Match awards – a total matched only by Karim Benzema in the group stage – highlighted the influence of Inter midfielder Marcelo Brozović, pivotal for his ability to receive the ball in tight spaces and find the right pass, as he showed in the 3-1 win at Sheriff when he scored one goal and set up two more. With that result Inter took a big step towards their first last-16 participation since 2011/12. As for Sheriff, by the time spring arrived, their coach, Yuriy Vernydub, was back in his native Ukraine having enlisted with his country's army following Russia's invasion.

Liverpool won Group B in impressive fashion, becoming the first English club to

achieve six straight group wins. There was an early scare as they trailed 2-1 at half-time to an AC Milan team back in the group stage after eight years, yet Jordan Henderson's first European goal since 2014 completed a comeback and Liverpool then stamped their authority on the section with away wins at Porto (5-1) and Atlético de Madrid (3-2), Mohamed Salah scoring twice each time.

While Liverpool qualified with two games to spare, Atlético had to mine their reserves of mental toughness to take second place, both their victories coming through added-time winners at Milan and, on Matchday 6, Porto, Antoine Griezmann scoring in both games. Porto were left to rue having made the most errors leading to goals (four) of the group stage.

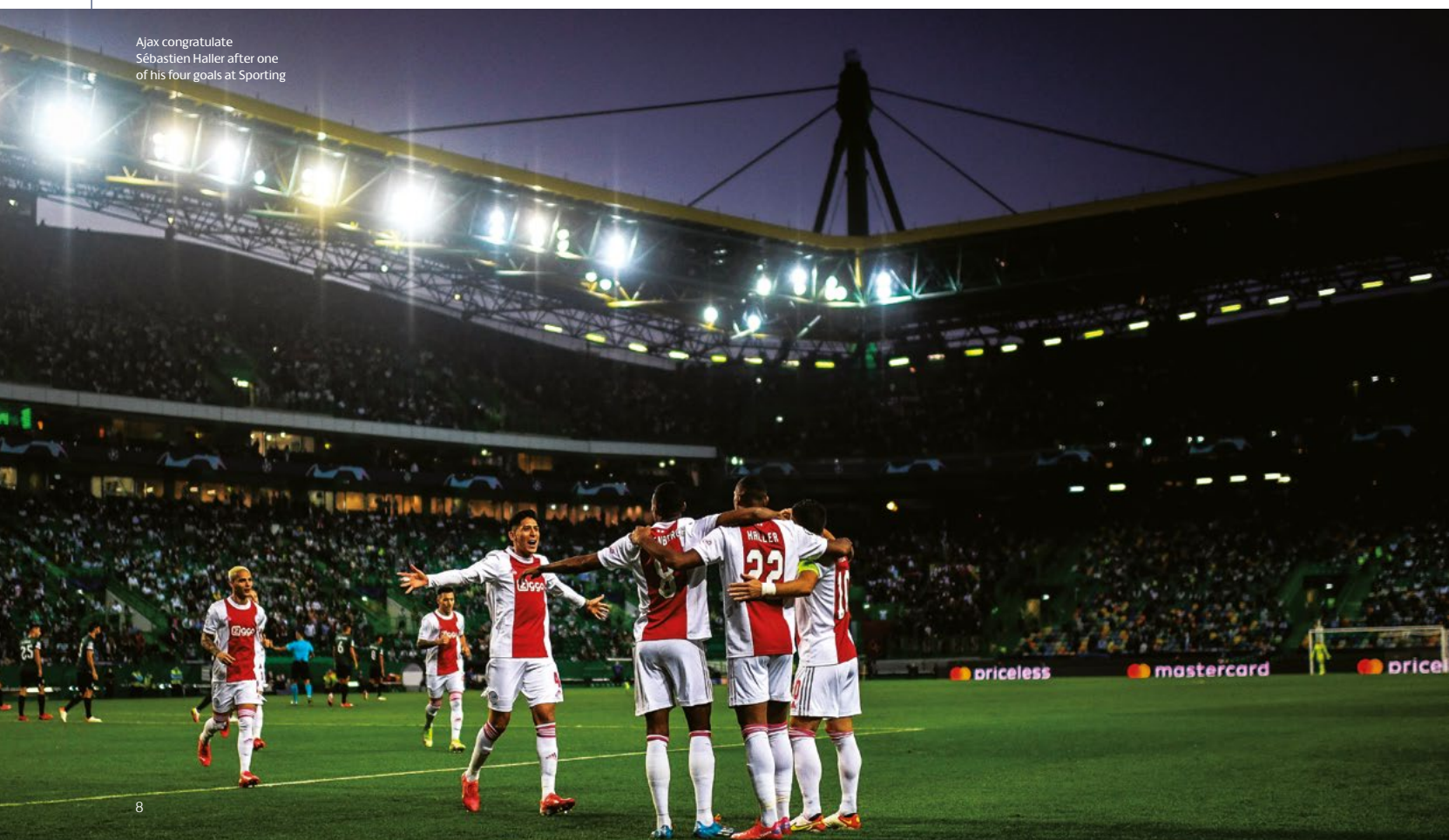
Ajax and Bayern München joined Liverpool in achieving a 100% record. Pivotal to Ajax's six straight wins were the ten goals of Sébastien Haller. At 27, the Ivory Coast international was new to the competition but hit the ground running with four goals in a 5-1 success at Sporting. The goals continued to flow, at least one in every Group C fixture as he flourished alongside creative talents Antony and Dušan Tadić – the latter producing the most key passes in the group stage (18).

As for a Sporting side coached by 36-year-old Rúben Amorim, they recovered to reach the last 16 for the first time since 2008/09, helped by a 3-1 home win over Borussia Dortmund on a night Pedro Gonçalves shone with his movement, awareness and two goals. For Dortmund, there was an obvious hindrance in the fact Erling Haaland was only fit to start twice.

Bayern dominated Group E, advancing as the team with most goals (22) and fewest conceded (three, along with Madrid). They started and finished with 3-0 wins over a Barcelona side who, for the first time since 2000/01, were out before Christmas. Ronald Koeman oversaw their first three matches, interim coach Sergi Barjuan their fourth and Xavi Hernández the last two.

“SÉBASTIEN HALLER
FLOURISHED
ALONGSIDE CREATIVE
TALENTS ANTONY
AND DUŠAN TADIĆ”

Ajax congratulate Sébastien Haller after one of his four goals at Sporting





1

Sébastien Thill's winner for Sheriff at the Bernabéu was the first Champions League goal by a Luxembourger.

15

Number of nations represented in the group stage.

17

Karim Benzema and Lionel Messi became the first players to score in 17 successive Champions League seasons.

181

Cristiano Ronaldo reached 181 Champions League appearances, surpassing Iker Casillas' record of 177 matches on Matchday 2. He also took his competition-record goal tally to 140.

297

There were 297 goals scored in the group stage, an average of 3.1 per match.



Callum Hudson-Odoi hits the net for Chelsea at home to Juventus

Barcelona, who managed just two goals overall, failed to score in both of those, paying the price for a Matchday 5 stalemate with Benfica whose point at the Camp Nou was pivotal in seizing second place.

The highest-scoring game came in England on Matchday 1 as the 2021 runners-up Manchester City put six past a Leipzig side for whom Christopher Nkunku hit a hat-trick. City's next match was a 2-0 loss at Paris Saint-Germain illuminated by Lionel Messi's first Champions League goal for his new club. The English champions would still end top of Group A with the help of a 2-1 victory in the return fixture against Paris – an evening when Bernardo Silva excelled as a false nine, roaming to create overloads wide and deep.

With his clever runs, Charles De Ketelaere, 21, was another player to catch the eye against Paris when helping Club Brugge hold the French champions in September; come Matchday 6, though, Kylian Mbappé underlined that he remains the standard-bearer for young players, striking twice in a 4-1 defeat of Brugge to reach the competition's 30-goal mark at 22 years and 352 days.

There was another scoring milestone for Cristiano Ronaldo, meanwhile, as back at Manchester United, he became the first player to score in each of an English club's opening five games in a European Cup/Champions League campaign. His goals, including late Old Trafford winners

against Villarreal and Atalanta, were worth five extra points for a United side who began the autumn with Ole Gunnar Solskjær in charge and ended it with Ralf Rangnick as interim manager. Below them, Villarreal claimed second place with a 3-2 win at Atalanta on the last day.

Sevilla posted the group stage's third-highest average share of possession (60.6%) and most recoveries (391) but – with striker Youssef En-Nesyri largely absent – scored only five goals as they finished third in Group G, where all four teams were in contention until the last game. LOSC Lille and Salzburg – teams with quick, dynamic young forwards – ended up first and second. Salzburg's Karim Adeyemi was a case in point, his speed having won three penalties in the first half of their opening draw at Sevilla. Salzburg finished the group stage with the most tackles (131) and the fourth-best passes per defensive action score (8.12), the metric for measuring pressing intensity.

In Group H holders Chelsea inflicted on Juventus their heaviest European Cup defeat since 1958 – 4-0 at Stamford Bridge – yet still finished second behind the Bianconeri, who had earlier beaten them in Turin. In a game where Juventus had 27.7% of possession, winger Federico Chiesa shone with his pace and close control and scored the only goal. Sadly he would miss the knockout rounds because of an ACL injury.



7

Number of away victories in the round of 16, from a total of 11 matches won.

15

Crosses by Juan Cuadrado for Juventus at home to Villarreal, the joint-most in any match.

18

Minutes it took Karim Benzema to score his hat-trick against Paris.

22

Champions League away games without defeat for Bayern.

151

Salzburg's completed passes at home to Bayern, the fewest in any match.

ROUND OF 16

A "hidden force" was how Roberto Martínez, the UEFA match observer at Real Madrid's round of 16 second leg against Paris Saint-Germain, described the power source that Carlo Ancelotti's men plugged into for the first of a series of extraordinary fightbacks at the Santiago Bernabéu.

Certainly the first leg at Parc des Princes, when Madrid managed not a single shot on goal, was all about Paris – and visiting goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, whose eight saves included stopping a Lionel Messi penalty. The home side sought a high tempo with quickly taken throw-ins and free-kicks and they profited from coach Mauricio Pochettino's deployment of Danilo on the right of the midfield where he sought to limit the playmaking of Toni Kroos and, moreover, cover for right-back Achraf Hakimi as he moved forward, guarding against the threat of Vinícius Júnior on the counter.

Kylian Mbappé eventually found a way through in the 94th minute – and then sped away down the left to double the aggregate lead in the first half at the Bernabéu. But Karim Benzema's ability to sniff out opportunities brought a tie-turning moment in the 61st minute: his pressing of Gianluigi Donnarumma forced a weak kick by the goalkeeper and the Frenchman was then in the right place to convert Vinícius Júnior's ensuing low cross. Seventeen minutes later Benzema had a hat-trick, his second and third goals coming in the 76th and 78th minutes – the third after a loose touch by Marquinhos put the ball on a plate to him. At 34 years and 80 days, Benzema had become the oldest player to score a Champions League hat-trick. Yet he and Madrid were only warming up.

Another Spanish surprise came from Unai Emery's Villarreal. They made a terrible start

to their tie with Juventus, Dušan Vlahović marking his Champions League debut with a goal after only 33 seconds. Yet Dani Parejo, showing strong leadership, inspired a second-half rally and volleyed the equalising goal. In Turin, Villarreal stayed compact and disciplined as they defended in a deep block, falling back into a 1-5-4-1 as Giovanni Lo Celso dropped into midfield and Yeremi Pino into a full-back position. After a reprieve when Vlahović rattled the crossbar, they hit three late goals to inflict Juventus's joint-heaviest European home loss. Gerard Moreno and Arnaut Danjuma each converted a penalty either side of centre-back Pau Torres's first Champions League goal – a decisive action in the other box from a defender who made seven clearances and won all four of his duels.

Atlético de Madrid also advanced with an away victory following a 1-1 home draw – in their case against Manchester United. Atlético felt short-changed when Anthony Elanga's first Champions League goal, from Bruno Fernandes' seventh assist of the campaign, negated an early diving header by João Félix on a night when Geoffrey Kondogbia's energy and aggression typified a home effort which yielded a tackle success ratio of 73.7% – the highest by any team in 2021/22.

At Old Trafford, Renan Lodi's first-half header brought reward for the visitors' early attacking intent; both Lodi and Marcos Llorente moved up alongside the front two from their wide positions and with Koke stepping between the lines to prompt attacks, Atlético were outnumbering United in the hosts' defensive third. Then they dropped into a deeper block to hold on to their lead in the second half.

If United were out, England's other three teams all prospered – with the help of away



victories. Liverpool overcame the challenge of Inter thanks to a first-leg success at San Siro which demonstrated their set-piece power. Substitute Roberto Firmino headed in from Andy Robertson's corner in the 75th minute and the Reds' ability to win most of the second and third balls from set plays yielded the second goal, scored by Mohamed Salah. At Anfield, Inter took a bold approach, applying high pressure as Liverpool looked to play out, with their wing-backs pushed on to the home full-backs. It bore fruit when an Ivan Perišić interception led to a spectacular Lautaro Martínez strike, but the single goal was not enough.

Defending champions Chelsea were home and away winners against a LOSC Lille side playing at this stage for the first time in 15 years. A Player of the Match performance by N'Golo Kanté inspired their 2-0 home

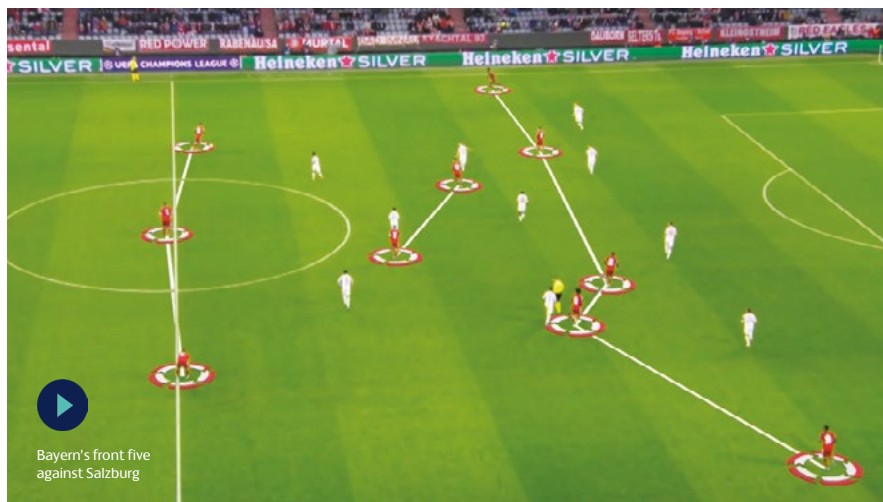
first-leg success, his 60m run setting up the second goal, scored by Christian Puljić. In northern France, Burak Yilmaz's spot kick gave LOSC hope but Puljić struck again before César Azpilicueta added the winner with his first European goal since November 2019 ... against the same opponents.

As for Manchester City, they did the hard work against Sporting CP in the first half of the first leg, building a four-goal lead en route to a 5-0 victory. Bernardo Silva, once of Benfica, led the way with two goals and some mesmerising movement, initially in a false-nine role that was later filled with similar intelligence by Phil Foden, who also found the net. The second leg finished goalless.

Lisbon's other representatives, Benfica, were now led by Nélon Veríssimo following Jorge Jesus's departure, and they came back twice to draw 2-2 against Ajax in a home leg

featuring a goal at both ends by Sébastien Haller. Benfica troubled Erik ten Hag's team at times with their vertical passing in quick transitions to attack, yet Ajax would end up ruing Édson Álvarez's shot against the post at 1-2 in Portugal and a lapse of concentration in the 77th minute in Amsterdam when goalkeeper André Onana was beaten to a corner by the head of Darwin Núñez. It was Benfica's sole attempt on target but enough to beat opponents who, despite 38 crosses (the joint-highest number in any game), could find no cutting edge.

Another team who sought a swift route to goal were Salzburg. In their home leg against Bayern München, Matthias Jaissle's team completed just 151 passes – the season's smallest total – yet earned a 1-1 draw. A key figure was Mohamed Camara who would pick up the ball from his centre-backs and look to go long with some excellent vertical passes. One deep diagonal ball sent Karim Adeyemi away down the right to help set up Junior Adamu's goal, the Austrian youngster's first in the Champions League. However, Kingsley Coman's 90th-minute equaliser rescued Bayern and back in Bavaria, they overwhelmed Salzburg with their high pressure and the ability of their front five to generate menace between the lines. If the impact of a Covid outbreak in the Salzburg camp between the two legs was a possible mitigating factor, on the pitch Robert Lewandowski was simply too strong in his individual battles with the Salzburg centre-backs, his hat-trick inside the first 23 minutes opening the floodgates for a 7-1 victory.



QUARTER-FINALS

There were 3-1 away victories for Liverpool and Real Madrid in the first leg of their respective quarter-finals, but two very different second-leg denouements.

Liverpool's win at Benfica was arguably most noteworthy for the work of January signing Luis Díaz. After Ibrahima Konaté's header from a corner, Díaz, an ex-Porto man back on Portuguese soil, teed up Sadio Mané to score before adding a third in a contest he lit up with his speed and dribbling powers.

From a team perspective, Liverpool's excellent counterpressing – starting from their narrow front trio and continuing with their midfield three with contributions from the full-backs too – brought 75 recoveries as they got bodies around the ball-carrier to force turnovers.

That said, Benfica rallied impressively in the second period when Darwin Núñez made it 1-2. With his height, pace and ability to run with the ball, the Uruguayan was a formidable outlet for a team who sought quick transitions to attack and profited from vertical passes and powerful runs.

Back at Anfield, Liverpool lifted their total of set-play goals to eight as Konaté headed in from another corner and Roberto Firmino struck from an indirect free-kick. For Benfica, Jan Vertonghen's passing from the back was a factor in two of their goals as they rescued a draw having trailed 3-1, Núñez equalising against the club he would join soon after the season's conclusion.

Real Madrid's second leg against Chelsea was goal-filled too – and packed with drama. First things first, though, and an opening leg in London memorable for Karim Benzema's second hat-trick in as many Champions League games. Madrid made 41 passes in the attacking third to Chelsea's 188 but could call on the clinical touch of Benzema

whose first – the competition's goal of the season – was a magnificent header that concluded a 59-second passing sequence. The second was another header, wonderfully cushioned, after he had stolen space behind Thiago Silva. The third, a minute after the restart, was the product of anticipation as he capitalised on a poor pass by Edouard Mendy to Antonio Rüdiger, stealing the ball and restoring his team's two-goal advantage following Kai Havertz's effort before the break.

Another feature of Madrid's success was the work of Fede Valverde who, while selected on the right of the Madrid attack, played a significant role in helping Dani Carvajal shut down Chelsea's left side as Madrid's shape shifted from a 1-4-3-3 to a 1-5-3-2 without the ball.

The second leg was another story. Chelsea were aggressive in all departments, pressing hard and posting 28 shots – the most by any away side in the campaign – as they built a three-goal lead through Mason Mount (a constant menace with his movement), Rüdiger and Timo Werner. When, after 75 minutes, the dangerous Werner kept a cool head to finish following Mateo Kovačić's pinpoint pass, the momentum was all Chelsea's.

But then the coolest head of all stepped forward. Luka Modric, at 36, covered the third-most ground of any Madrid player that night (11.96km) but moreover, he kept his calm throughout and when David Alaba intercepted N'Golo Kanté's loose pass, Modrić seized his opportunity: with the outside of his boot from 25m, he picked out substitute Rodrygo to score and bring that deep-rooted belief to the fore. Into extra time, another substitute, Eduardo Camavinga, intercepted Thiago Silva's pass, Vinícius Júnior crossed and Benzema was in the perfect position to nod the crucial goal.

0

Goal attempts by Atlético at Manchester City.

1

Real Madrid's victory at Stamford Bridge was their first over Chelsea at the sixth attempt.

4

Karim Benzema became only the fourth player to score a hat-trick in successive Champions League games.

31

Bayern failed to score for the first time in 31 Champions League matches when losing at Villarreal.

48

Clearances by Villarreal in their second leg at Bayern.

75

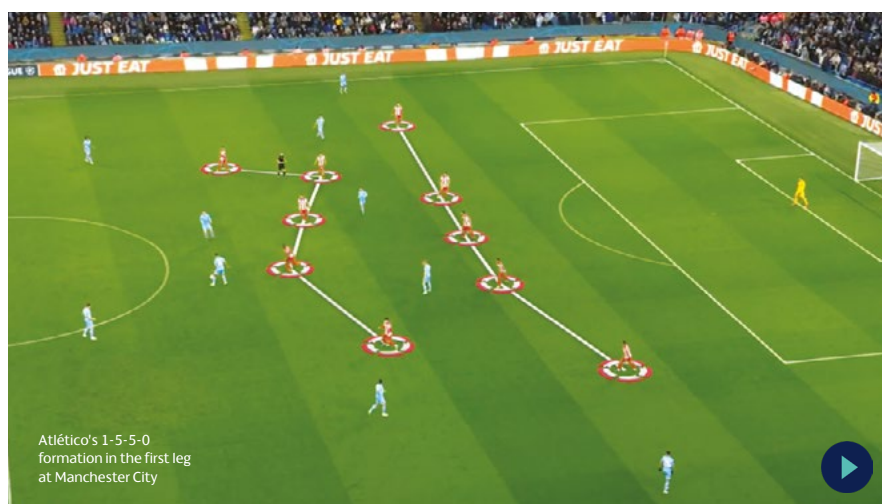
Liverpool recovers in their first-leg win at Benfica.



Fede Valverde's role out of possession for Madrid in the first leg against Chelsea



“WITH THEIR FIRST ATTEMPT ON TARGET, VILLARREAL HAD THEIR TICKET TO THE LAST FOUR”



Atlético's 1-5-5-0 formation in the first leg at Manchester City



Villarreal pair Gerard Moreno and Raul Albiol celebrate victory at home to Bayern

There was a contrasting fate for the other side from the Spanish capital, Atlético de Madrid, who succumbed 1-0 on aggregate against Manchester City. In Manchester, Atlético's 1-5-3-2 defensive formation soon became a 1-5-4-1 and even, at times, a 1-5-5-0. With Atlético players so deep, their defensive third became congested and City did not manage an attempt on target in the first half. In the 70th minute, though, Kevin De Bruyne found a gap. The Belgian had been occupying space between the full-back and centre-back on either side and was positioned between Reinildo and Renan Lodi when substitute Phil Foden collected a pass from Rodri. As Reinildo stepped out, Foden had the awareness to release De Bruyne into the space and the Belgian delivered a typically composed finish.

The second leg saw a different Atlético. Diego Simeone's men defended with aggression and intensity in the middle third, disrupting City's flow. In the second half, driven on by a raucous Metropolitano, they advanced their line of high press and upped their attacking intent: after one shot in the first half, they had 13 in the second. However, the game finished with home centre-back Felipe dismissed and City holding on to a fourth straight clean sheet, their defensive focus embodied by John Stones at centre-half.

Another defensive masterclass came from Raúl Albiol, the 36-year-old Villarreal defender who took the Player of the Match award as the Spanish underdogs eliminated Bayern München. Villarreal had begun the tie with a 1-0 success at La Cerámica, achieved through Arnaut Danjuma's superbly-worked eighth-minute goal – the least Villarreal merited on an evening the influential Gerard Moreno struck the goalframe.

If that ended Bayern's 22-match unbeaten away run in the Champions League, Villarreal still had a job to do in Munich and Albiol led the way with his authority both in the air and in one v one situations. He made 13 of Villarreal's 48 clearances – the most by a team in 2012/22 – as the visitors kept a deep, compact block out of possession, shutting down the passing lanes and limiting Bayern, for the second game running, to four shots on goal.

Their transitional play included rapid counterattacks, via vertical or diagonal passes and though Bayern did score – Lewandowski's 13th goal of the campaign after an interception by Kingsley Coman – in the 88th minute Villarreal pounced on the break, exploiting the space left by home defenders pushing high for a winner. Moreno got behind them on the right and crossed for Samu Chukwueze to equalise. With their first attempt on target, Villarreal had their ticket to the last four.



Jordan Henderson celebrates after Liverpool break the deadlock against Villarreal

SEMI-FINALS

The word “miracle” popped up in more than one newspaper headline the morning after Real Madrid had overcome Manchester City in an outstanding semi-final contest. After their escape acts against Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea, Madrid did it again in the most remarkable manner yet.

They trailed City 5-3 on aggregate entering the 90th minute of the second leg at the Santiago Bernabéu, but then everything changed: two Rodrygo goals after 90 and 91 minutes forced extra time and five minutes into that Karim Benzema's penalty put them into the final as 6-5 aggregate victors.

What made it so stunning was the fact that for long spells, even of the second leg, City looked the likelier winners. To begin with the first match, they flew into a 2-0 lead inside 11 minutes through Kevin De Bruyne and Gabriel Jesus, the latter profiting from uncertain defending by David Alaba, doubtful beforehand with a muscle injury and withdrawn at half-time.

City had De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva pushing high into No8 territory, two high-and-wide wingers in Riyad Mahrez and Phil Foden, and a No9 in Gabriel Jesus. As the UEFA observer noted, their attacking shape was a

2-3-5 with the inverted full-backs played from behind the ball and inside in the half-spaces.

Their pressing high up the pitch and the quality of their passing were pivotal. De Bruyne was leading the defence-to-attack transitions with that ability to move at speed with the ball and Bernardo caught the eye too with his pressing, his forward runs to dislodge Madrid, and his precise passing (25 passes in the final third with a 92.3% accuracy).

Without the injured Casemiro in midfield, Madrid were stretched to breaking point at times yet stayed in the game – the product of both exceptional resilience and world-class individuals capable of making things happen. Benzema's volley to make it 2-1 was their first shot on goal. When Foden headed a third City goal, Vinícius Júnior broke from halfway to score two minutes later. And when Bernardo drove in a fourth with an excellent early strike



Manchester City's inverted full-backs and high and wide wingers in a 1-2-3-5 shape in possession



Rodrygo strikes late against City

from the edge of the box, Benzema had the last word, converting a penalty, Panenka-style, after Aymeric Laporte's handball.

City had ten shots on goal in the return leg – more than in any other match – and they looked bound for a second straight final when Mahrez swept a shot past Thibaut Courtois in the 73rd minute. Indeed City could have added more goals, substitute Jack Grealish foiled by Courtois' foot and Ferland Mendy's goal-line block.

But then came the sudden Lazarus act. As against Chelsea, Ancelotti had thrown on young players to bring fresh energy – replacing Toni Kroos with Rodrygo to add penetration on the right, with Fede Valverde dropping back. The changes bore glorious fruit. Eduardo Camavinga, introduced in place of Luka Modrić, picked out Benzema's run to the back post and the captain hooked the ball across the five-metre box where Rodrygo, with fantastic anticipation, got in front of Ederson to finish. Just 91 seconds later, Rodrygo met a Dani Carvajal cross from the right with a flashing header. Cue those miracle headlines as England's champions went the way of the French league leaders and the holders.

There was a memorable fightback in Liverpool's semi-final with Villarreal too, though only after a one-sided first leg in which the Reds had a 72.9% share of possession – the season's third-highest total. Villarreal, in only their second Champions League semi-final, set out to frustrate Liverpool, with their back four protected by defensive midfielders Dani Parejo and Etienne Capoue, and with Giovanni Lo Celso stepping back from right midfield to support right-back Juan Foyth (a strategy seen in Munich in the previous round). That said, they struggled to

retain possession in the face of Liverpool's high-tempo pressing and missed the outlet provided by injured forward Gerard Moreno.

Liverpool responded to their narrow defensive formation with a series of crossfield passes and, in the 53rd minute, a move from left to right brought their opening goal as Jordan Henderson swung over a cross deflected in by Pervis Estupiñán. Two minutes later Sadio Mané, set up by Mohamed Salah's turn and surge into the box, added a second.

Villarreal responded magnificently at home, Boulaye Dia and Francis Coquelin levelling the aggregate score by half-time. For 45 minutes they pressed at an impressive tempo: Parejo pushed on to Fabinho to put him under pressure and force Liverpool into playing longer with Capoue challenging for the second balls and winning duels. Yet Villarreal could not sustain it on a night which showed again the importance of players in reserve. While the not-fully-fit Moreno ran out of gas before his 68th-minute withdrawal, Jürgen Klopp sent on Luis Díaz who, in the words of Albiol, "changed the way they played". On top of his direct running (all four of the Colombian's take-ons were successful), he headed the equalising goal from a Trent Alexander-Arnold cross, Fabinho having already shot through the legs of Gerónimo Rulli. A misjudged dash out of his area by Rulli then allowed Mané to roll the ball into an empty goal to complete the turnaround.

If Madrid's mental powers had warranted praise, the same applied to Liverpool whose players had delivered on Klopp's pre-match message to show that "the mentality monsters were in town". They had now won ten matches in a single European campaign for the first time in their club's illustrious history.

1

For the first time Madrid won a European Cup semi-final after losing the first leg.

2

Villarreal were competing in a Champions League semi-final for the second time.

3

Manchester City have conceded three goals on seven separate occasions across five losses in knockout ties (final excluded) in the Guardiola era.

6

In winning at Villarreal, Liverpool became the first side to win all six away games from group stage to final.

9

This was Pep Guardiola's record ninth semi-final as a coach.

10

Benzema's three goals against Manchester City meant he equalled Cristiano Ronaldo's record of ten in a single knockout campaign.



Vinícius Júnior celebrates his match-winning goal



VINÍCIUS MAKES MADRID MASTERS OF EUROPE AGAIN

VINÍCIUS JÚNIOR'S ANTICIPATION
AND THE TACTICAL ACUMEN
OF CARLO ANCELOTTI EARNED
MADRID THEIR 14TH TITLE

The morning after the 67th final of the European Cup/Champions League, Roberto Martínez offered the following précis of how Real Madrid had struck gold: "They knew they'd be under pressure for long spells but they never lost that killer aspect. They only need one chance to score a goal."

That was Madrid in a nutshell – in previous matches and again on the final night at the Stade de France where their magnificent goalkeeper, Thibaut Courtois, was the Player of the Match and Vinícius Júnior's goal came from their only shot on target.

With his goal, the Brazilian answered decisively the pre-final question of who would prevail in the duel between him and Trent Alexander-Arnold, the Liverpool right-back. As for Mohamed Salah, the Liverpool forward injured and defeated

when these sides met in the 2018 final and hoping for "revenge time" – as he had put it – he found no way past Courtois in what proved the final's key individual contest.

Inevitably with these two great clubs, history enhanced the lustre of this encounter. Some 15km away at the Parc des Princes, Liverpool had beaten Madrid in the 1981 final. At the Stade de France itself Madrid had triumphed in the 2000 final against Valencia. Raúl González, a scorer in that showpiece, joined Liverpool legend Ian Rush in carrying the trophy on to the field beforehand. Liverpool's past glories were recalled in a large flag bearing the image of the Cup with a silver '6' shining above. At the Madrid end, spectators displayed the same giant tifo – 'Hasta el Final, Vamos Real!' – which had followed the team to finals in Lisbon, Milan, Cardiff and Kyiv, all won.

THE FINAL

For all the colour inside, this was a final whose kick-off was delayed for 36 minutes amid distressing scenes for supporters outside. The impact on players who had to leave the dressing rooms for a second warm-up prior to the eventual kick-off was a moot point.

What was clear was the plan of Ancelotti's Madrid: defend deep and strike on the counter. "Don't give them space behind the defence to run into" is how Ancelotti himself would later sum up the strategy, with Casemiro, his midfield pivot, dropping back almost as a third centre-back at times.

The counterattacking part was centred on Vinícius Júnior, the left-sided attacker. With the game still settling, Fede Valverde and Éder Militão each aimed a long pass out to the Brazilian. On the second occasion, Alisson Becker raced out of his box to head away before Alexander-Arnold tidied up further, one of his final-best 14 recoveries. Fabio Capello observed that, with this ploy, if Madrid did lose the ball, it would be "far from their own box" with their defenders well positioned.

"ANTICIPATING PERFECTLY, THE MADRID FORWARD APPLIED THE DECISIVE TOUCH"

For Liverpool, meanwhile, the selection of Ibrahima Konaté as right-sided centre-back offered some insurance against Vinícius Júnior exploiting space behind Alexander-Arnold when the full-back moved into pockets of space more centrally. On 15 minutes, Konaté gave an illustration when, with Vinícius Júnior running at him, he stood his ground then stuck out a foot and toed the ball away before shepherding the Madrid man to the touchline and coming away with the ball – to a roar from the Liverpool supporters.

In the first half-hour there was arguably no more influential a figure for Liverpool than Thiago Alcántara. Passed fit despite an Achilles problem, he began finding his range as the Reds pushed for a breakthrough. After 16 minutes Thiago arrowed a ball to the right edge of the penalty box where Jordan Henderson nodded it back to Alexander-Arnold who checked inside Vinícius Júnior and then thrust beyond Casemiro and Ferland Mendy before cutting the ball back. Salah, on the edge of the five-metre box, flicked the ball goalwards but Courtois got down to save.

"Henderson goes more wide and they try to play in the gaps in between," said Frank de Boer of the wide rotation displayed in that action, with Henderson on the right and Salah and Alexander-Arnold working inside.

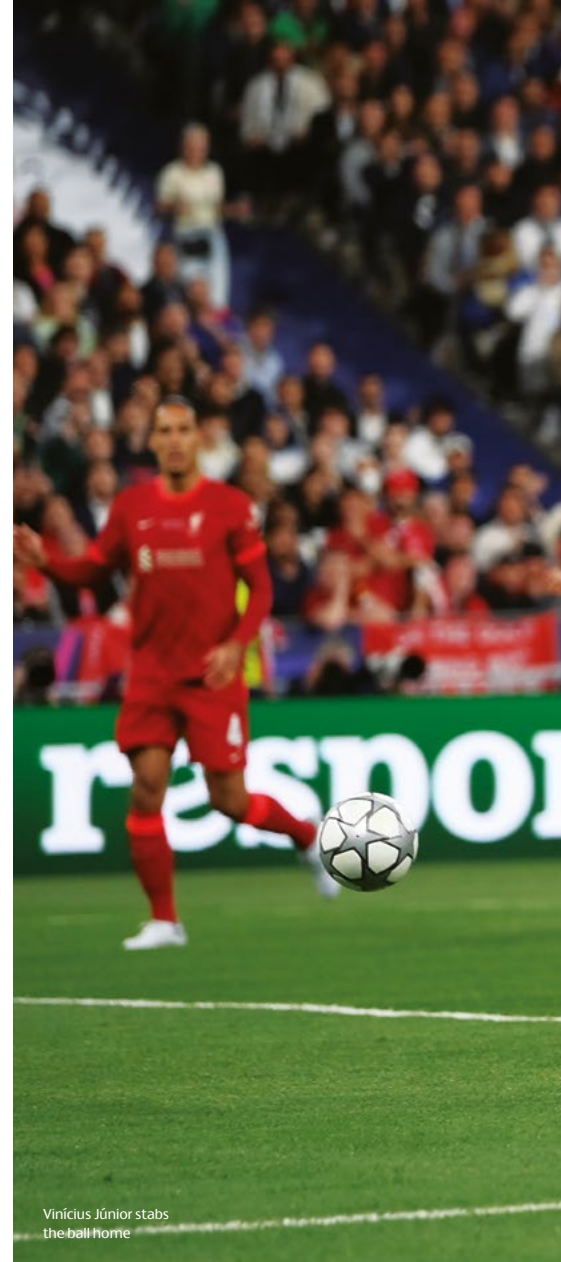
That opportunity was the first of Salah's six goal attempts. It was also the first in a run of five saves by Courtois in as many minutes. Thiago and Salah both struck shots straight at the Belgian before Sadio Mané drew a wonderful save. After Thiago found him on the edge of the box, Mané wriggled past Casemiro then stepped inside Militão before unleashing a hard, low shot. Courtois – using "every centimetre of the two metres I have" – stretched to palm the shot on to his right-hand post and then landed on the loose ball before Salah could pounce.

Thiago's fitness problems had necessitated a pre-game warm-up under a physio's gaze but his influence at this stage was strong according to David James. "In that first half, when Thiago got the ball early, things started happening," said the former Anfield goalkeeper. "It was 15 minutes before he really got on the ball and then we saw a number of good opportunities."

The view of UEFA's technical observers was that Liverpool were also performing well defensively, pressing in a 1-3-1-4-2 with Mané and Salah leading, followed by four men behind in Luis Díaz, Thiago, Henderson and Alexander-Arnold. Martínez said: "In the first half they stopped Luka Modrić getting on the ball as Liverpool had an extra man [in midfield] because of Alexander-Arnold." Indeed the Croatian made only two passes in the final third before the break yet this became harder to sustain as their pressing intensity lessened. By way of example, after gaining possession five times in the attacking third up to the 27th minute, Liverpool would win it there only once thereafter – in the 73rd minute.

All the same, Madrid were relying on the excellence of their defenders. Right-back Dani Carvajal shone in his duel with Díaz, as highlighted six minutes before the break when Liverpool's left winger twisted and turned on halfway and accelerated forward yet Carvajal responded brilliantly, matching him for speed and winning the ball back. A minute later it was Militão's turn to excel as Mané twisted into space to unleash a shot from the corner of the five-metre box and the tall centre-back made a block to deflect the ball behind, earning a chest bump from David Alaba. From the resulting set piece, Liverpool had their only goal attempt from any of their six corner kicks as Henderson drilled a shot wide from outside the box.

On this point, UEFA's observers praised the work of Madrid who had their tall defenders at the near post for inswinging deliveries and



Vinícius Júnior stabs the ball home

Courtois ready to attack any which travelled further. "Ancelotti prepared everything," said Capello, while Willi Rutensteiner added: "In these duels, the defenders of Madrid were better, attacking the ball faster and winning duels." Madrid ended the night with a 73.7% share of aerial duels won.

At the other end, in the 43rd minute, the Spanish champions showed again their knack of striking when least expected, albeit, after a long VAR check, referee Clément Turpin annulled Karim Benzema's effort for offside. Alaba was the source with a lovely angled ball for Benzema, running behind the defence. The rest was rather messy. Cutting back inside Andy Robertson, Benzema paused then prodded the ball across the five-metre box where a mix-up between Alisson and Konaté allowed Valverde to get a touch before Fabinho deflected the ball back to Benzema who swept it in.

After that let-off, Liverpool resumed the flow towards Madrid's goal on the restart. Carvajal made a superb back-post intervention to stop Díaz getting his head to an Alexander-



Arnold cross. Liverpool's playmaking full-back then produced an incisive pass to Salah, cutting across the box to attempt two shots, both blocked. But then, with their first shot of the half, Madrid got their goal.

Liverpool might have halted the move more than once. Thiago let Carvajal pass him as the full-back carried the ball inside to Casemiro. Then Modrić, driven back towards his final third by Robertson, was able to turn and direct the ball 10m upfield to Carvajal who, in turn, threaded it between Thiago and Fabinho to Casemiro. Cue a pass out to Valverde on the right who advanced into the space vacated by Robertson. As the Uruguayan reached the right edge of the box, Virgil van Dijk, the nearest centre-back, stood off and Valverde profited by firing the ball on a low diagonal course towards the back post.

With Konaté following Benzema's run to the front post, Alexander-Arnold was not alert to Vinicius Júnior at the back and the Madrid forward, anticipating perfectly, applied the decisive touch with

his right foot. After two goals against Liverpool in the 2021 quarter-final, Vinicius Júnior had punished them again, fulfilling predictions about the significance of his head-to-head with Alexander-Arnold. "It is a complicated situation because it's fast but I don't know if he knows he is there," said Frans Hoek of the full-back's failure to spot the danger behind him.

As for Valverde, whose attempted shot had become the crucial cross, his role in surging upfield – on one of those light-footed advances which explain his 'Little bird' nickname – typified his performance on an evening he registered the highest average carry distance of 8.5m. And he was at it again soon after when, covering on the right, he beat Díaz to the ball and burst past Henderson before Fabinho caught his right ankle to collect the final's only yellow card.

The technical observer panel wondered whether a long campaign spent challenging on four fronts (and yielding two domestic cups), had finally told in Liverpool's 63rd

73.7

Percentage of aerial duels won by Madrid.

24

Shots by Liverpool.

14

Madrid's total of European Cups/Champions Leagues.

9

Saves by Courtois, the Player of the Match.

4

Champions League wins for Carlo Ancelotti as a coach.

3

Final defeats for Jürgen Klopp.

1

This was the third consecutive final to end 1-0, the longest such sequence since 1978–83.

THE FINAL

match. "I saw Liverpool not as fast," said Capello, noting how "the ball was moved slowly". Martínez concurred: "I didn't see their normal energy and they didn't have the space for the front three." It was not just their passing: of their 11 interceptions, Liverpool made eight in the first half but only one after the 50th minute. Madrid, by contrast, made eight of their 14 interceptions in the second half.

De Boer paid credit to the game management of a Madrid side featuring three players appearing in their fifth final victory: Benzema, Carvajal and Modrić. "That's the quality of Madrid – they recognise those moments," he said. "In the first half when they had the ball, they tried to play directly to Vinícius. In the second, they could play in between. The second half was more controlled by Madrid and after the goal it was, 'We've done our job – now you try to score.'"

Liverpool certainly did try. In the 64th minute Salah cut in from the right and curled a left-foot shot that Courtois, at full stretch, got his right hand to. His next save was with his knee to foil Salah again when the Egyptian met substitute Diogo Jota's looping header with a flick of his left boot at the back post.

Jota himself was next to try, deflecting goalward a Salah shot that Courtois scrambled behind. From the corner that

followed Alexander-Arnold drove the ball low to the near post – echoing Divock Origi's goal against Barcelona in the 2019 semi-finals – but Madrid were alert, Benzema getting there ahead of the red shirts. Two other substitutes, Firmino and Naby Keïta, conjured the Reds' next threat: the Brazilian hit three Champions League goals off the bench in 2021/22 but here he was provider, cutting the ball back from the byline but Keïta, in space on the edge of the box, shot high and wide. For all Liverpool's persistence, the precision was not always there. "The chances they created were not all clear-cut chances," reflected Martínez.

And the feeling that this was not their night intensified with nine minutes remaining as Courtois denied Salah one last time. Fabinho lifted a ball over the Madrid back line and the Egyptian brought it down beautifully with his left foot. Running outside Mendy, he drove a shot across Courtois with his right foot only

**"IF HE DOESN'T
MAKE THOSE TWO
INCREDIBLE SAVES
LIVERPOOL WIN
THE GAME"**

for the goalkeeper to throw out his right arm and flick the ball wide of the far post. Salah, head in hands, sank to the turf and smacked it in frustration. A grateful Alaba jumped into the arms of his goalkeeper. "If he doesn't make those two incredible saves Liverpool win the game and we have a completely different discussion here," said James.

Conversely, as the clock ticked down, Madrid's threat on the counter grew. Casemiro had already missed an excellent opportunity when a Toni Kroos free-kick found him unmarked and rather than shoot, he sought to square the ball to a team-mate and miscued.

More openings, all originating down Madrid's left, followed yet either the decision-making or the final ball was awry. Vinícius Júnior cut in but, rather than feed Benzema, he looked to beat Konaté and lost their duel. Carvajal overhit a through pass in a three v two breakaway. Then Benzema sent Dani Ceballos away behind the Liverpool defence but the substitute was dispossessed by Robertson.

Only when another replacement, Eduardo Camavinga, fired over – in the 93rd minute – did Madrid have their first shot since scoring. It did not matter. The chant from their fans was already growing louder: "Así gana Madrid." That's how Madrid win. They find a way. And, in the biggest club match of all, they had done so once more.



Thibaut Courtois keeps out Mohamed Salah's shot



MATCH STATISTICS



LIVERPOOL

PARIS FINAL 2022



REAL MADRID

0-1

SATURDAY 28 MAY 2022

Stade de France, Saint-Denis

GOAL

Vinícius Júnior 59'

REFEREE

Clément Turpin (France)



ALISSON 1

ALEXANDER-ARNOLD 66

KONATÉ 5

VAN DIJK 4

ROBERTSON 26

HENDERSON
8 Keïta 77' 14

FABINHO 3

THIAGO ALCÁNTARA
9 Firmino 77' 6

SALAH 11

MANÉ 10

DÍAZ
20 Jota 65' 23

UNUSED SUBSTITUTES

KELLEHER 62

MILNER 7

GOMEZ 12

OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN 15

JONES 17

MINAMINO 18

TSIMIKAS 21

MATIP 32

ELLIOTT 67

COACH

JÜRGEN KLOPP

1 COURTOIS

2 CARVAJAL

3 ÉDER MILITÃO

4 ALABA

23 MENDY

MODRIĆ
19 Ceballos 90' 10

14 CASEMIRO

8 KROOS

VALVERDE
25 Camavinga 86' 15

9 BENZEMA

VINÍCIUS JÚNIOR
21 Rodrygo 90+3' 20

UNUSED SUBSTITUTES

13 LUNIN

6 NACHO

7 HAZARD

11 ASENSIO

12 MARCELO

17 VÁZQUEZ

18 BALE

22 ISCO

24 DÍAZ

COACH

CARLO ANCELOTTI

LIVERPOOL		REAL MADRID
0	GOALS	1
56	POSSESSION (%)	44
24	TOTAL ATTEMPTS	4
9	ON TARGET	1
6	OFF TARGET	2
9	BLOCKED	0
0	WOODWORK	0
6	CORNERS	2
1	YELLOW CARDS	0
0	RED CARDS	0
592	PASSES ATTEMPTED	514
524	PASSES COMPLETED	425
114.33 km	DISTANCE COVERED	110.97 km

MAN WITH THE MIDAS TOUCH

EXCEPTIONAL MAN-MANAGEMENT
SKILLS AND "THE MAGIC OF BERNABÉU"
ONCE AGAIN PROVIDED A WINNING
BLEND FOR CARLO ANCELOTTI

The record books will tell only how 2021/22 ended for Carlo Ancelotti. They will note that with Real Madrid's triumph over Liverpool at the Stade de France, he became the first coach to have won the European Cup/Champions League four times. They will add the fact that this was the season when the Italian became the first coach to have won the top-flight title in each of the five leagues commonly regarded as Europe's strongest – England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France.

Ancelotti had prevailed at home with AC Milan, in the Premier League with Chelsea, in Ligue 1 with Paris Saint-Germain and in the Bundesliga with Bayern München. And now, at the end of April 2022, in La Liga with Madrid ... with the Champions League to follow 28 days later.

He can be forgiven, therefore, a wry smile – and a raised eyebrow too, perhaps – at the memory of the mood at the season's outset when, as he puts it, "people believed it was going to be a year of transition for Real Madrid".

It was on 1 June 2021 that Ancelotti made his return to the club he had coached previously between 2013 and 2015. His 62nd birthday was nine days away. His last trophy, the DFL Supercup

with Bayern, had come in August 2017. Looking back a year, he admits: "No one expected such great results – myself included, to be quite honest. Many people think I'm getting too old for this job ... as in, I've been coaching for many years now, and the last two teams I'd managed before returning to Real Madrid – Napoli and Everton – had no hopes of winning [titles], although those experiences were just as valuable to me."

It was, moreover, a summer in which centre-backs Sergio Ramos and Raphaël Varane had left the Santiago Bernabéu. David Alaba, a new centre-back, had arrived on a free transfer. The only transfer fee paid was for Eduardo Camavinga, an 18-year-old midfielder.

And yet here were are, 12 months on, digesting another European conquest, another crown to add to those won by Ancelotti with AC Milan in 2003 and 2007 and with Madrid in his first spell as coach of Los Blancos in 2014. Factor in his feats as a player, his 1989 and 1990 triumphs as a Milan midfielder, and there are six in total.

Not surprisingly, he says that "coming back to Real Madrid has been extremely gratifying for me". All the more so for the fact his side



WINNING COACH



Carlo Ancelotti enjoys the moment with his players after victory in Paris

surpassed those relatively modest autumn expectations. “In 2014, La Décima [Madrid’s tenth continental title] was probably more predictable, because the team had been close to achieving it so many times already.

“[Gareth] Bale had just joined us, and we were favourites to win the title from the start whereas this year we were anything but favourites. But we still managed to win, thanks to the great cohesion and quality of the team. I think the key factors were the humility and experience of the older players, complemented by the energy and enthusiasm of the younger ones.”

To this, we must add Ancelotti’s ability to blend the two, via his exceptional management skills. To quote one former colleague, players “will do anything for him because he makes them feel so good about themselves”. This capacity to build relationships, to find the right words – even a light-hearted comment – to put people at ease, extends to club owners and directors,

though the most potent illustrations observable by the public involved his players.

An outstanding example came during the semi-final against Manchester City as he consulted veterans Toni Kroos (whom he had substituted) and Marcelo in his technical area over his extra-time changes. Another example, less serious but still worthy of note, involved the players at the other end of the age scale who were dancing with delight after the final defeat of Liverpool when their sexagenarian coach suddenly popped up and joined them in throwing a move or two.

To build on that first example, Ancelotti has spoken many times about the importance of senior players setting the tone in a dressing room. In his book *Quiet Leadership*, he recalls an incident during his first spell at the Bernabéu when an unnamed player left the training pitch citing his unhappiness over one particular team-mate’s lack of effort. Ancelotti’s response was to tell him to use Cristiano Ronaldo as his benchmark. He added:

“Why don’t you watch the players who are world-class professionals on the pitch?”

Madrid’s midfield offered a case in point in 2021/22 with the experienced trio of Casemiro, Luka Modrić and Kroos – players who went into the final with more than 300 Champions League appearances between them. As Ancelotti attested in an interview before the final: “You’re talking about high-level players, not only on a technical level but also on a professional level. They’re the first to accept and understand the coach’s decisions. You don’t even need to talk with them, to explain your choices. That’s why I say coaching great players is the easiest thing.” Above all, these are the players who “give shape to the work ethic and professionalism of the group”.

On their on-field influence, in providing the perfect support for youngsters like Fede Valverde and Camavinga, who excelled when called on, Ancelotti adds: “I believe that the experience and knowledge that Casemiro, Modrić and Kroos have of playing in this



"THERE'S SO MUCH UNITY AMONG THE YOUNGER LADS AND THE VETERANS. THAT ALLOWED US TO NEVER LOSE HOPE"

tournament has definitely made a difference as well as Valverde's role in some games, and the fresh energy that Rodrygo and Camavinga brought when they stepped on to the pitch."

Reflecting more broadly on the right ingredients required to conquer Europe, Ancelotti continues: "Winning the Champions League doesn't just come down to one reason; there are many different components which come together. The Champions League is the hardest competition in the football world, and winning it means you have combined all those different components well."

"First of all, you need quality players. Secondly, they need to have some degree of experience in this tournament. Thirdly, all the enthusiasm the younger players pour into this tournament. Fourthly, the chemistry we were able to create in the dressing room throughout our journey."

"We were able to turn things around in plenty of games thanks to the great atmosphere in the squad. There's so much unity among the younger lads and the veterans, the older ones. That allowed us to never lose hope, to always believe we could make it."

Always? Prior to the final Ancelotti admitted that, from the outside at least, "everything seemed lost" in the semi-final second leg against City when Madrid trailed 5-3 on aggregate entering the 90th minute. With the dust settled, he considers anew the question of whether there was ever a moment he thought Madrid's prospects had diminished to nil.

"I would say no. Well, of course, when you're watching from the outside, especially if you're a coach, you may think it's getting tricky, but we never felt like we couldn't turn things around."

"We played all three second-leg games against Paris Saint Germain, Chelsea and Manchester City at home, so we always thought our fans' support could make a difference. We enjoyed great support from the people, from our fans, during those games and that allowed us to tap into all our energy on the pitch."

As highlighted in the Talking Points section of this report, it helps that the Madrid support can draw on a deep-set belief which is the product of decades of success and it created,

says Ancelotti, "a very special chemistry with the supporters and the stadium". He termed it another way after the quarter-final fightback against Chelsea – "the magic of the Bernabéu" – though Ancelotti acknowledges that this psychological factor went hand in hand with the actions of some world-class individuals.

"I believe one of the greatest assets of this team is that it includes both the best striker [Karim Benzema] and the best goalkeeper [Thibaut Courtois] in the world," he remarks, by way of example. "I think we managed to win by combining their strengths with everyone else's."

In attack, this meant that as well as coaxing the most prolific campaign out of the 34-year-old Benzema, he also instilled the necessary confidence in Vinicius Junior, Los Blancos' final hero. "I would say Benzema and Vinicius applied the finishing touches to the great work put in by the entire team ... Benzema, for example, made the difference against Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Manchester City. Vinicius did the same against Liverpool."

In that final against Liverpool, Ancelotti played his part with the winning game plan. "The strategy for the final was to defend well, to not leave any space for Liverpool to exploit. And to control the game when in possession, not make stupid mistakes, and try to convert our chances." It was a pragmatic approach from a man who, with Milan, had lost the 2005 final against Liverpool despite "the best performance of any team I've coached in a final".

It worked out perfectly, helped by the brilliance of Courtois in goal and some stubborn defensive work – including at set pieces as Madrid limited Liverpool to one attempt (off target) from their six corner kicks. This is believed to be the domain of Ancelotti's son, Davide, who is his assistant coach. "In general, we've defended well against set plays throughout the season," says Ancelotti Sr. "We use a zonal-marking system and, more importantly, we can count on quality players, like Casemiro and [Éder] Militão, along with players who all know how to defend their area."

Knowhow. It really does count. And when it comes to winning Champions Leagues, nobody has more of it than the man they call Don Carlo.

EUROPEAN CUP TROPHY HAUL

As coach

2003 (Milan), 2007 (Milan), 2014 (Madrid), 2022 (Madrid)

As player

1989, 1990 (both Milan)

PLAYER OF THE SEASON KARIM BENZEMA

For an example of a footballer in a state of grace, you could do worse than watch Karim Benzema's 2021/22 highlights reel. Aged 34, he produced his finest season in a Real Madrid shirt, responding magnificently to the returning Carlo Ancelotti's publicly stated challenge to him to hit 50 goals. The most he had managed before in his club career was 32 in 2011/12 – a total including seven in the Champions League. A decade later, he eclipsed it with 44 in 46 games, including 15 in his 12 Champions League appearances. Add six for France and he surpassed the 50-mark.

His own favourite, as he told UEFA in an interview in May, was the first of his two fabulous headers at Chelsea in the quarter-final first leg, chosen for the "beautiful play" in the build-up. A response which points to his appreciation of work done outside the penalty box – hardly a surprise given his own approach to centre-forward play. As Frank de Boer said: "He was a real leader on the pitch, working very hard defensively and always the first target to play to when they have possession."

On that same night at Chelsea, Benzema combined his appetite and aptitude for graft – pressing the opposition – with the exceptional awareness that makes him such a menace as he nicked the ball off the toe of Antonio Rüdiger after a misplaced Edouard Mendy pass to complete his hat-trick. It was not the first time he had scored such a goal in this competition – as goalkeepers Loris Karius, Sven Ulreich and, in this season's last 16, Gianluigi Donnarumma could all testify. As his team-mate Dani Carvajal said of this last example when he chased down Donnarumma: "It all came from good pressure by Karim as he was sure that PSG's goalkeeper would mess up his clearance, and that's what happened."

Benzema has spoken of feeling "more confidence, more responsibility" on taking over the captain's armband at Madrid. Perhaps the clearest exhibit of this confidence was his 'Panenka' penalty at Manchester City. Six days earlier he had missed two spot kicks against Osasuna. Now, eight minutes from the end of a semi-final first leg, and with his side trailing 4-2, he stepped up and dinked one down the middle. "I had been trying for a long time and I was waiting for the right time," said a man for whom any time was the right time in 2021/22.



PLAYERS OF THE SEASON

KARIM BENZEMA AND
VINÍCIUS JÚNIOR WERE THE
TECHNICAL OBSERVERS' PICK
OF THE PLAYERS IN 2021/22



YOUNG PLAYER OF THE SEASON VINÍCIUS JÚNIOR

His transfer to Real Madrid was announced in May 2017 when he was still 16 years old. He officially left Flamengo and became a Madrid player on his 18th birthday in July of the next year. It's fair to say, though, that Vinícius Júnior truly came of age in the famous white shirt in the season after turning 21.

With his goal at the Stade de France on 28 May, Vinícius Júnior wrote his name in the record books as a Champions League final match – winner – and, at 21 years and 320 days, the second-youngest Madrid scorer in the final of this competition.

In truth, his entire campaign merited plaudits. In the Liga, Vinícius Júnior struck 17 goals – compared with three in the previous season – and provided 13 assists as Madrid won the title. In the Champions League there were four goals and six assists (along with a competition-best 25 key passes). Five of

those assists were for Karim Benzema, underlining his exceptional link-up play with his captain.

All of which highlights the value of the mentoring he is said to have received from Carlo Ancelotti as the young Brazilian went from peripheral player under Zinedine Zidane to a crucial cog under the Italian. His development, which meant he ended the campaign with a leading role with his national team too, can also be illustrated by his total of 84 take-ons (with an 38.1% success rate) - the Champions League's highest and almost double his previous year's tally of 45. He was also the player with most carries following a 1 v 1, with 40 – five more than Bayern München's second-ranked Kingsley Coman.

On top of his speed, he showed the composure to pick the right option at key moments, such as when teeing up Benzema for vital first goals against Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea. And, of course, when putting the ball in the net himself. As Ancelotti said after his decisive final strike: "You need to take your time, be cold-blooded, and that's what Vinícius has done over the course of this season. Today he put the cherry on top of a brilliant season."



TEAM OF THE SEASON

FINALISTS REAL MADRID AND LIVERPOOL EACH PROVIDED FOUR PLAYERS FOR THE TECHNICAL OBSERVERS' SELECTION

When UEFA's Technical Observer Panel met the morning after the final, one of their tasks included selecting the UEFA Champions League 2021/22 Team of the Season – and a fascinating discussion followed.

Thibaut Courtois was an obvious choice in goal in the wake of his Player of the Match performance the night before – not to mention the excellence with which he had accumulated the highest number of saves across the season.

Courtois was one of four Madrid players chosen, along with midfield wizard Luka Modrić, Player of the Match in their quarter-final second leg against Chelsea, and the forward pair of Karim Benzema – the competition's top scorer – and Vinicius Júnior, the 21-year-old who blossomed for Los Blancos in 2021/22.

The full-back positions were filled by the Liverpool duo of Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andrew Robertson, both crucial to their side's attacking play – as reflected by the fact they ended 2021/22 with six assists between them.

Also in the team were two men pivotal to Liverpool's defensive work in Virgil van Dijk – a centre-back whose speed helped him win 80.4% of his ground duels – and midfielder Fabinho, the Brazilian who steps back and shields the Reds' back four.

Chelsea's Antonio Rüdiger's ability to break the lines was the reason for his selection as the second centre-back in the Team of the Season – indeed only three players completed more passes than the German. It is worth noting that the observers had praise for other central defenders not included in the XI, such as Raúl Albiol, veteran leader of unexpected semi-finalists Villarreal.

Making up the Team of the Season were Kevin De Bruyne, the midfield driving force of semi-finalists Manchester City, and Paris Saint-Germain's Kylian Mbappé, whose six goals included two terrific efforts against eventual champions Madrid.



THIBAUT COURTOIS

GK

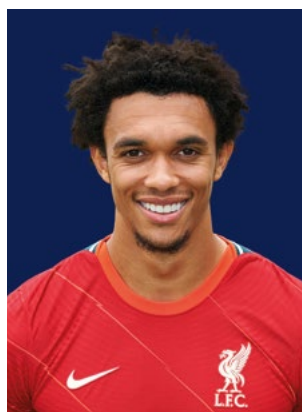
REAL MADRID

13 APPS | 5 CLEAN SHEETS

The Belgian's 59 saves included a parried Messi penalty in the last 16 and superb stops from Mané and Salah in the final.

81%

SAVE PERCENTAGE; FIRST AMONG KEEPERS WITH MORE THAN ONE APPEARANCE



TRENT ALEXANDER-ARNOLD

DEF

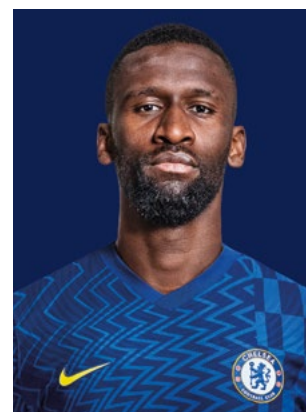
LIVERPOOL

9 APPS | 3 CLEAN SHEETS

The playmaking full-back shone for the quality of his passes – with the most played into the final third – and set pieces.

943

TOUCHES; RANKED FIRST IN COMPETITION



ANTONIO RÜDIGER

DEF

CHELSEA

9 APPS | 5 CLEAN SHEETS

In his last season in London he combined forceful defending with composure on the ball on his regular advances into midfield.

572

CARRIES; MOST BY A CHELSEA PLAYER



VIRGIL VAN DIJK

DEF

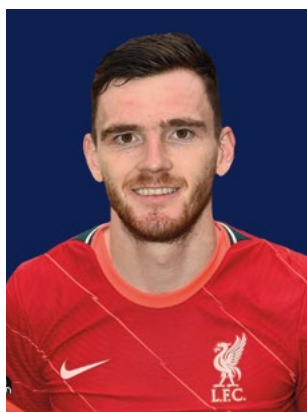
LIVERPOOL

9 APPS | 3 CLEAN SHEETS

The fit-again Dutchman was key to Liverpool's 2021/22 resurgence with his pace on the ground and power in the air.

82.9%

AERIAL DUELS WON;
FIRST AMONG PLAYERS
WITH 25 DUELS OR MORE



ANDY ROBERTSON

DEF

LIVERPOOL

10 APPS | 3 CLEAN SHEETS

The marauding left-back was second only to team-mate Alexander-Arnold for crosses (58) in the entire competition.

25

CHANCES CREATED;
JOINT THIRD BEST
IN COMPETITION



KEVIN DE BRUYNE

MID

MANCHESTER CITY

10 APPS | 2 GOALS

A joy to watch for his ability to run at speed with the ball and the outstanding quality of his final pass and crossing.

22

KEY PASSES;
JOINT THIRD BEST
IN COMPETITION



FABINHO

MID

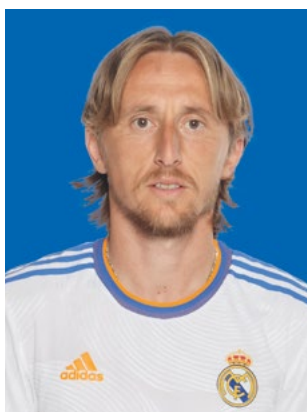
LIVERPOOL

13 APPS | 1 GOAL

With the most recoveries (79) in the Reds team, the screening midfielder showed once more his expert reading of the game.

60

POSSESSIONS WON IN
MIDDLE THIRD; RANKED
FIRST IN COMPETITION



LUKA MODRIĆ

MID

REAL MADRID

13 APPS | 4 ASSISTS

Always available for the ball and conjured Madrid's pass of the season for Rodrygo's goal v Chelsea – one of four assists.

707

PASSES COMPLETED;
RANKED THIRD
IN COMPETITION



KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

FOR

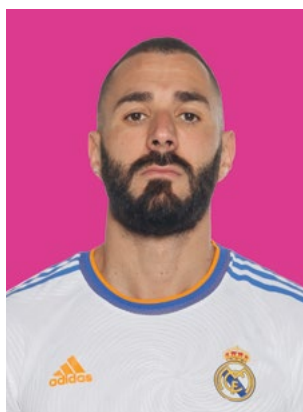
PARIS

8 APPS | 6 GOALS

A constant threat with his speed and ability to beat defenders, combined with clinical finishing.

36.7km/h

TOP SPEED RECORDED IN
SECOND LEG V REAL MADRID;
RANKED FIRST IN COMPETITION



KARIM BENZEMA

FOR

REAL MADRID

12 APPS | 15 GOALS

To work rate, leadership and clever hold-up play, add the world-class finishing that brought hat-tricks v Paris and Chelsea.

8.37

EXPECTED
GOALS TOTAL



VINÍCIUS JUNIOR

FOR

REAL MADRID

13 APPS | 4 GOALS

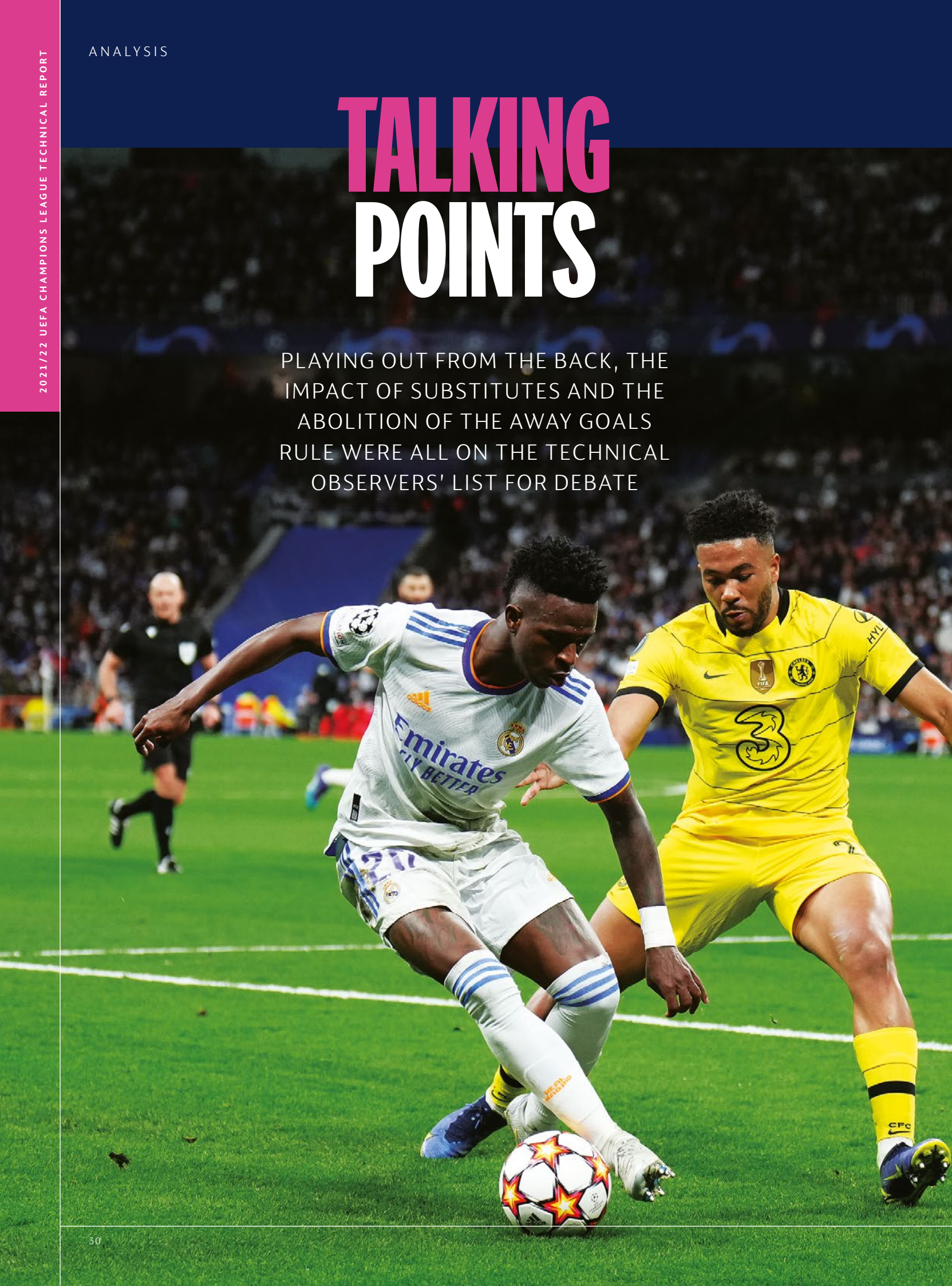
The final hero's one-v-one skills down the left helped yield six assists along with his four goals.

14

TAKE-ONS V PARIS HOME;
MOST IN ANY MATCH

TALKING POINTS

PLAYING OUT FROM THE BACK, THE IMPACT OF SUBSTITUTES AND THE ABOLITION OF THE AWAY GOALS RULE WERE ALL ON THE TECHNICAL OBSERVERS' LIST FOR DEBATE





Vinicius Junior looks to evade Chelsea's Reece James



THE BERNABÉU FACTOR

Belief and a winning mentality keep Madrid going

"Ninety minutes at the Bernabéu are very long." It is an old quote from Juanito, a Real Madrid forward of the 1970s and 80s, but it felt more pertinent than ever on Los Blancos' run to the final. Madrid's remarkable revivals against Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Manchester City had commentators searching for reasons, with one Spanish sports daily, AS, even suggesting that paranormal forces were at work: "Here the toast never lands butter-side down."

The manner in which Madrid clawed their way back from the cliff's edge in each knockout round certainly defied the momentum that had been building against them in all of their home games. In the second leg against Chelsea, for example, the London side had 1,000 touches and 23 chances, yet Madrid's players showed a rock-like resilience and the Santiago Bernabéu a formidable collective belief born out of similar past triumphs from the now 14-times winners.

On the psychological forces at work on these nights, Aitor Karanka, a member of Madrid's 2000 UEFA Champions League-winning side, observed: "It's not about tactics. At the end of day it is Real Madrid and it means a winning mentality. It's difficult for me to explain. It's something you take on when you wear that shirt. Some of these players have won five Champions Leagues. They go on to the pitch believing."

It meant that Madrid did not panic. And, conversely, the fact they scored three times between 61 and 78 minutes against Paris and three times between 90 and 95 minutes against City suggested a "loss of emotional control" on the part of their opponents, as Roberto Martínez termed it. The challenge for any team in that situation is how to regain a foothold in the face of the storm, with Martínez suggesting trying to holding on to the ball for a short period or force a break in play.

LIFE AFTER THE AWAY GOAL

More open games add to the spectacle

This was the first season without the away goals rule in more than 50 years and the shared view of UEFA's technical observer panel is that the change has had a positive effect. Time alone will tell the longer-term impact but the immediate impression, to quote Frank de Boer, is that the first-leg matches in 2021/22 were "more attractive" as a consequence of home teams no longer being so concerned about the cost of conceding.

While the rule was established to encourage attacking football from wary away sides – at a time when continental expeditions were much more of a voyage into the unknown – the common view was that it had ended up making home teams play more cautiously. Now, by contrast, games were less chess-like and "more open" according to De Boer.

Debating the change after the quarter-finals, Roberto Martínez said it was more fair than previously, when away goals 'counted double'. "Before it was unfair – if you played the second leg away from home you had an advantage because the last 20 minutes of the game

you could go crazy, score two goals and then you're through because of the away goals rule," he argued.

For his part, Packie Bonner discerned a mood shift among spectators when an away goal went in. "There is more of a calmness," he said. "If the away team does score then the home team still has a chance, so the crowd has reacted differently and that affects the environment and the players on the pitch."

This season's knockout rounds actually continued the pattern seen in six of nine seasons before the pandemic (2010–19) with more goals in the second-leg matches than the first, albeit a single season provides too small a sample for any meaningful conclusions.

The highest-scoring game in the knockout rounds was the first leg between Manchester City and Real Madrid which, incidentally, ended up as the only tie which would have been decided by away goals under the old rule: Madrid would have gone through without the need for extra time, with the teams tied at 5-5 on aggregate.



Éder Militão looks to clear at Manchester City



Lautaro Martínez celebrates after scoring Inter's winner at Anfield

RISK v REWARD

Taking your chances playing out from the back

"The level of risk v reward in this competition is a lot higher than any other competition you see around the world." So said Roberto Martínez when reflecting after the quarter-finals on the vogue of playing out from the back – and the balancing act it entails.

To illustrate the point, ten sides conceded goals when moves originating at the back with the goalkeeper broke down (with eight teams, conversely, scoring from such moves). Even Liverpool saw the downside of this approach. Their only defeat before the final came when they conceded a goal against Inter Milan in the round of 16 after a loss of possession when building up from the back. Inter had pressed throughout with at least five players within 35m of the Liverpool goal as the home team played out and this tactic bore fruit when Ivan Perišić intercepted Joël Matip's pass up the right touchline. Within six seconds, Lautaro Martínez had flashed a shot high past Alisson Becker.

"The problem is if you lose the ball in that area it's almost immediately a chance or even a goal



Inter go man-for-man at the back and press Liverpool high from goal kicks in the round of 16 second leg

for the opposition," said Frans Hoek, who warned that "you should not build up to build up".

On a development note, Martínez believes it is important to train young footballers to play this way even if they end up working in a different system in senior football. "We football people should impose the obligation to play from the back and taking a risk otherwise the player is not developed," he said. "At professional level, it depends on philosophy of the club and the goal of your job."



BACK FIVES

One concept, different approaches

The technical report for UEFA EURO 2020 highlighted a trend for national teams to play with a back three and wing-backs. In the Champions League campaign that followed, 17 teams started at least one match with a back three or five though the most common formations were 1-4-3-3, 1-4-2-3-1 and 1-4-4-2 (with all four semi-finalists playing with a back four).

Of the teams who played a back three/five regularly, Atlético de Madrid prompted the most lively debate among UEFA's observers. In Atlético's quarter-final first leg at Manchester City, their 1-5-3-2 formation became a 1-5-5-0 at times. In the process they limited City to two shots on goal.

One view was that this was a damage-limitation exercise from a team who came alive as an attacking force only in the second half of the second leg (on a night when City had only one shot on goal). Atlético, according to Roberto Martínez, spent three-quarters of the tie "zonally waiting for City to make that difficult pass so they could win the ball back but in the second half in Madrid they were a different team. So often we speak about tactical systems and very often we forget a defensive system with a very different behaviour has a completely different effect."

A mitigating view from Willy Sagnol was that Diego Simeone's men had reserved their energy for the last



Atlético de Madrid's Felipe heads clear after Manchester City pressure (above); Antonio Rüdiger snuffs out another attack against Zenit (right)

"IN ATLÉTICO'S QUARTER-FINAL FIRST LEG AT MANCHESTER CITY, THEIR 1-5-3-2 FORMATION BECAME A 1-5-5-0 AT TIMES"

45 minutes of the tie because to sustain that intensity for any longer against City might be "impossible". For her part, Vera Pauw pointed out that Atlético had showed much more positive intent during the first half of their previous visit to Manchester, the 1-0 victory at Old Trafford in the round of 16, when "both full-backs played almost as strikers in the build-up".

If Atlético favoured a deep block, Benfica took a different approach with their willingness to push their centre-backs up the pitch when fielding a back five in the group stage under Jorge Jesus. One of the three centre-backs would leave the defensive line to challenge an opposition midfielder in an attempt to disrupt the opponents' build-up. With this their system became a 1-4-3-3 and it was a ploy that Jan Vertonghen, in particular, carried out effectively.

"In the opposition half, one centre-back was allowed to go all the way and they were very well synchronised," said Martínez, who explained why this tactic was advantageous. "If the opposition fix your wing-backs and you have a back five, it's difficult to press successfully as you are missing a player." Here, though, was a solution.

When it came to the role of the centre-backs in possession, reigning champions Chelsea provided a good example, catching the observers' attention for the way that César Azpilicueta and Antonio Rüdiger – the outside centre-backs within their 3-4-2-1 set-up – would step forward to support attacks.

Indeed Rüdiger ended the season ranked third in the entire competition for passes into the final third with 109 (two more than fourth-ranked Bayern centre-back Lucas Hernández). Corinne Diacre noted how against opponents in a low block there was space for centre-backs like Rüdiger to use in front of them. When one of the Chelsea centre-backs did step up, Jorginho would drop back to cover the gap.





Leroy Sané lifts the ball over Salzburg's Philipp Köhn in the round of 16

FRONT FIVES

Bayern's high-wire act yields goals – but holds peril

With a firm commitment to attacking football in Julian Nagelsmann's first campaign as coach, Bayern München ended the season as the 31-goal top scorers and posted the biggest victory with their 7-1 unpicking of Salzburg in the round of 16.

The match observer that night praised their "incredibly bold, offensive" approach within a 1-3-2-5 attacking shape – the so-called 'Five Lanes' framework. They had five attacking players at work in the final third – two wingers, two attackers between the lines, and Robert Lewandowski at the tip – and as their goals' total shows, this approach gave them the option to play through or around their opponents.

The flipside noted by the UEFA observer was a measure of defensive vulnerability on losing the ball – as seen inside two minutes when Salzburg broke with a two-on-one in the Bayern box. Willy Sagnol, the ex-Bayern defender and UEFA observer,

saw that "if they lose the ball on the right or left side they have problems in defensive transition".

This risk factor ultimately told in their quarter-final second leg against Villarreal. Chasing a second goal to win the tie, they pushed men forward to such an extent that all ten outfield players were within 35m of the visitors' goal when Villarreal sprung forward on the break to snatch an equaliser.

"BAYERN HAD FIVE ATTACKING PLAYERS AT WORK IN THE FINAL THIRD WHICH GAVE THEM THE OPTION TO PLAY THROUGH OR AROUND THEIR OPPONENTS"



CITY'S HALF-SPACES

Guardiola's side thrive in between the lines

That Manchester City end up in a similar shape as Bayern – 1-2-3-5 in their case – when attacking is no surprise given Pep Guardiola's predilection for positional play. If their starting formation is 1-4-3-3, this morphs into a 1-2-3-5 in possession with a line of two centre-backs followed by the single pivot Rodri and full-backs alongside him, playing inside in the half-spaces.

Further upfield, their talented attacking players thrive within this framework with City making more passes in the final third (1,955) and attempting more through-balls (28) than any team. Their pair of No8s – most commonly, Kevin De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva – operated in between the lines and in the words of Robbie Keane, "are brilliant at getting either side of the opposition midfield players".

Another group stage observer, Giovanni van Bronckhorst, cited the way these two No8s kept their positions high up to pin the opposition midfielders and then, when the ball was switched to their side, would quickly seek an overload with the wide attacker on the touchline or look to make runs behind the defence in the area between the full-back and central defender. Alternately if either No8 dropped, this had the effect of dragging an opposition centre-half out to create space for a winger to run into.

If Bayern's approach raised questions about their defensive balance, City's use of inverted full-backs within their 1-2-3-5 structure offered some defensive insurance according to Roberto Martínez. "Sometimes we think the inverted full-back is to give the extra line of pass but it is not," he said. "It's to be ready if you lose the ball as you can defend the ball quicker in a central area and stop the opposition."

For a team not in control of a game, though, the inverted full-back can lead to difficulties: Shakhtar Donetsk used this tactic against Real Madrid but were left exposed down the sides of the centre-halves.



Manchester City's 1-2-3-5 shape in possession and No8s in the half-spaces at home to Leipzig



MADRID STAY DEEP

Pragmatic Ancelotti plays to his strengths

If Bayern's boldness in playing so high brought goals but ultimately a quarter-final exit, Real Madrid won the final with a pragmatic, deep-sitting approach. As Aitor Karanka said, their approach at the Stade de France was "deep defence, ball to Vinícius Júnior".

Overall, there was minimal risk in their play and seldom did they play through the centre of the pitch, Packie Bonner remarking: "Sometimes Luka Modrić dropped into the full-back position, or Toni Kroos a little bit on the left also as Ferland Mendy pushed forward to allow them to control the game a little bit, but they took no real risk. When the pressure came on, they played long."

Madrid midfielder
Luka Modrić

LOOKING LONG

Salzburg and Madrid offer contrasting approaches

If Real Madrid looked for searching passes to Vinícius Júnior in the final, that was an exception to the norm for Carlo Ancelotti's men whose average percentage of forward passes was 27.9% – lower than every team bar Manchester City and Barcelona.

The team who profited the most from getting the ball up the pitch quickly were Salzburg, who carried a threat with their speed and directness. In their 1-0 home win over Sevilla, 54% of their passes went forward – a ratio surpassed in the entire competition only when Matthias Jaissle's men then drew 1-1 with Bayern in their round of 16 home tie. On that night 57.2% of their passes went forward. UEFA's match observer Willi Ruttensteiner noted how they played long balls to the strikers to avoid Bayern's strong press and also played rapid, vertical passes through the middle on transitions to attack.

The top ten above shows a number of teams who recorded good results with this approach – though, equally, Salzburg also lost 7-1 at Bayern. One team not on that list who carried a threat with quick vertical passing was Benfica. In their round of 16 tie against Ajax, when the Amsterdam side lost possession Benfica would look for quick balls forward and Rafa Silva, on

HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF FORWARD PASSES PER GAME

57.2%	SALZBURG	1-1	BAYERN
54%	SALZBURG	1-0	SEVILLA
50.3%	CLUB BRUGGE	2-1	LEIPZIG
50.2%	CHELSEA	4-0	MALMÖ
48.8%	ATALANTA	2-3	VILLARREAL
47.9%	BAYERN	7-1	SALZBURG
47.4%	SHERIFF	2-0	SHAKHTAR
47.1%	MALMÖ	0-1	CHELSEA
47%	LEIPZIG	5-0	CLUB BRUGGE
46.9%	BAYERN	1-1	VILLARREAL

22.6% VILLARREAL HAD THE FEWEST FORWARD PASSES PER GAME IN THEIR 2-0 HOME LOSS TO MANCHESTER UNITED

the right, caused particular problems getting behind left-back Daley Blind. Against Liverpool in the quarter-finals, they had some success defending in a deep block, looking for long balls to the target man Darwin Núñez and countering with quick passes up the pitch.

Benfica forward Darwin Núñez was a consistent nuisance for defenders





Paris' Neymar battles to hold off Real Madrid's Eduardo Camavinga

38%

Percentage of knockout games in which a substitute scored.

28

Players used by Liverpool, the second-highest number behind Manchester United (31).

3.6

Average number of changes per match by Pep Guardiola.

SUBS MAKE THEIR MARK

Ancelotti reaps the reward of changing things up

Substitutes made a considerable impact in the 2021/22 Champions League. Indeed, of the 29 matches in the knockout, stages there was a scoring substitute in 11 of them. No substitute made so dramatic an entrance as Real Madrid's Rodrygo when, with his first touch, he volleyed his side back into the tie against Chelsea within two minutes of his introduction.

Overall this was the second full season in which teams could make five substitutions and Liverpool were among those with the most replacements, their average of 4.8 per match surpassed only by Inter, Porto and Sporting CP. Of Liverpool's 60 changes overall, 27 were midfielders coming on to re-energise their efforts centrally.

Any discussion of substitutes must mention Real Madrid. Carlo Ancelotti was not afraid of bold changes, such as taking off Toni Kroos for Eduardo Camavinga against Chelsea and then, against City, sending on the young Frenchman for Luka Modrić in the 75th minute. Camavinga, 19, would provide the ball to Karim Benzema in the lead-up to Rodrygo's first goal.

Roberto Martínez said: "Ancelotti has been the example this season for having players who are super-important like [Toni] Kroos, Casemiro, Modrić and then having younger guys who come in – Rodrygo scores

goals, Camavinga gives assists. It's not about how long you play but the quality of your playing time.

"That comes from what the coach creates in the dressing room, an environment where everybody is important and that is essential. If you can create that environment then five subs is positive."

Fabio Capello concurred, saying: "The most important thing for me is the respect between every player – that when you make a substitution, you have the respect for the other one that enters. Real Madrid have really good young players because the oldest players put respect in the mind of these younger ones."

Ancelotti's role, as coach, in fostering that culture should be highlighted too. The fact he was seen consulting with Kroos and Marcelo over which changes to make in extra time against City illustrated powerfully this environment of respect.

PROS AND CONS

Debating the merits of five substitutes

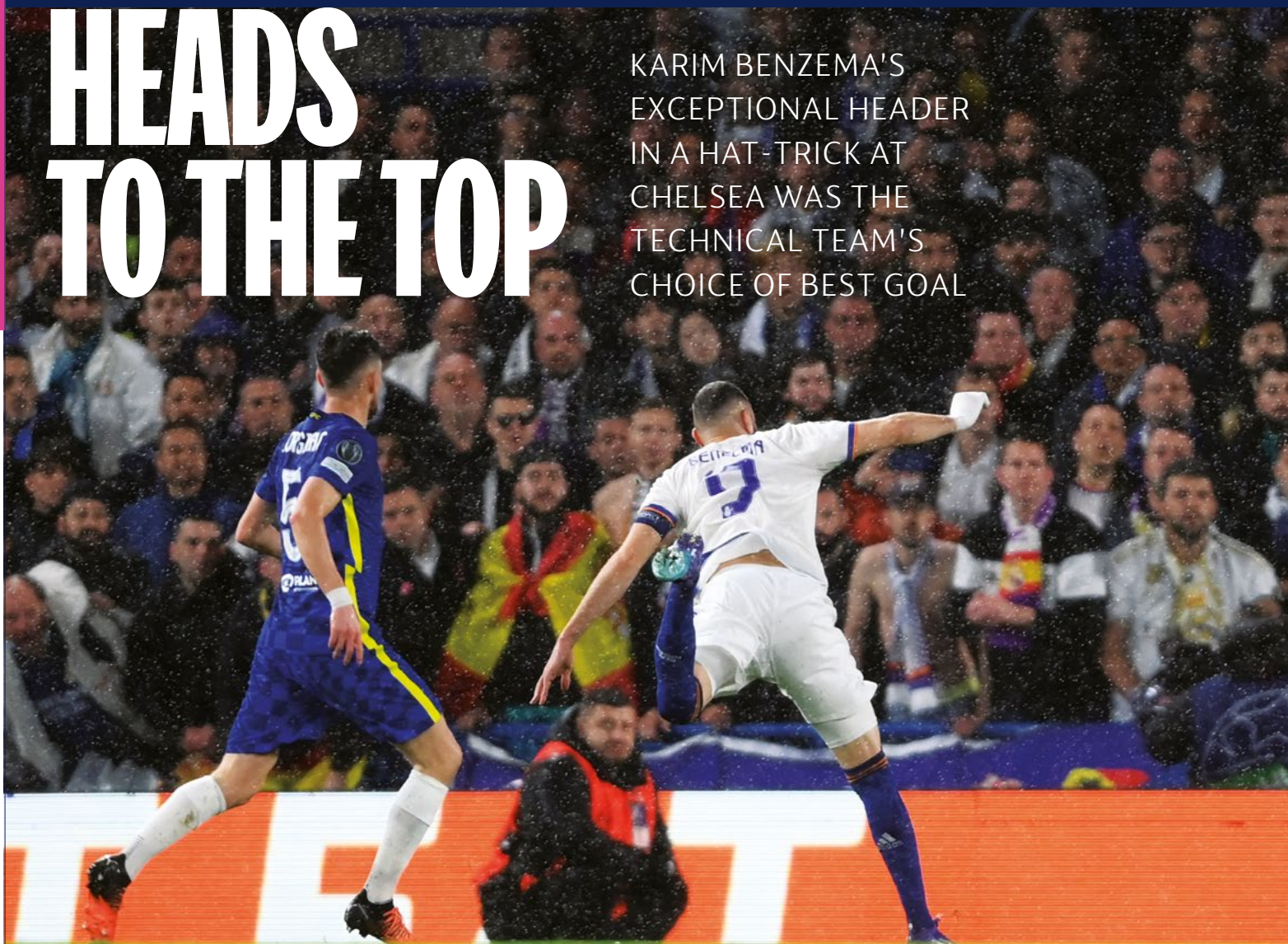
There were different opinions aired in a more general discussion among the technical observers on the merits of five substitutes. One offered a reminder that there was always a risk of mistakes from newly introduced players as they adjusted to the tempo of a match. Another suggested that five substitutes brought the potential for disruption and it was interesting to see that Pep Guardiola at Manchester City averaged only 3.6 changes per match – the fourth-lowest figure among the 32 teams who participated between the group stage and final. This begged two questions: whether Guardiola did not want to spoil his side's flow and if he feels he has the same quality of specialists on his bench for the very specific demands he asks players to fill. Overall, the City manager used 26 players – the joint-fifth highest number – showing a preference to rotate his players rather than change them mid-match.

Aitor Karanka offered another angle when speculating how the expanded number of substitutes might impact on squad-building. "Instead of 20 or 22 players, maybe 18 is better as they're going to have more chances and it's going to be easier to build a relationship where everybody feels 'I can play'," he said.

Packie Bonner observed that rather than simply making like-for-like changes, a manager can "set out your bench to have a real impact on game". Vera Pauw elaborated on the greater possibilities that coaches have now to tweak their strategy mid-game. "You can respond to what the other coach is doing and still have the opportunity to change strategy at the end of the game," she said. "With three subs that was impossible as you always had to keep a sub back for the later stage of the game to guard against a player getting cramp, for example. You have more scenarios you can prepare for because there is more flexibility. It's amazing to see how coaches now can respond to another coach's move."

BENZEMA HEADS TO THE TOP

KARIM BENZEMA'S EXCEPTIONAL HEADER IN A HAT-TRICK AT CHELSEA WAS THE TECHNICAL TEAM'S CHOICE OF BEST GOAL



A mixture of goals featured among the ten chosen by UEFA's panel of technical observers as their favourites of the 2021/22 campaign. There were dribbles and drives from distance – which we will come to shortly – yet it was a header which earned first place on the list, namely Karim Benzema's opening goal on the quarter-final night he got three at Stamford Bridge.

It was a goal preceded by an example of Benzema's work outside the penalty box: first an exchange of passes with Toni Kroos around halfway and then a quick combination with Vinícius Júnior, as he received a pass from the Brazilian before sending him racing down the left with a flicked first-time pass. Cue a powerfully hit cross to which Benzema responded brilliantly, summoning the necessary power and control to head the ball past Edouard Mendy, Chelsea's goalkeeper, at the near post.

"The ball was at full speed and a little behind him," said Frank de Boer. "For me it was so difficult but he still put power in the header." David James concurred, praising "the run by Vinícius, the quality of the cross and the quality of the finish".

Vinícius Júnior himself took second place for his solo effort at Shakhtar Donetsk on Matchday 3. "An exceptional solo goal with brilliant technique," said Packie Bonner of the wide attacker's second goal of Madrid's group stage visit to Ukraine. Picking up the ball in the inside-left channel, he evaded one defender with a couple of stepovers before leaving Shakhtar captain Serhii Kryvtsov wrong-footed in the box and thrashing a left-foot shot high inside the near post.

After those two Madrid goals, Kylian Mbappé occupied third place with his late goal against the Spanish side which earned Paris Saint-Germain victory



TOP 10 GOALS

1

KARIM BENZEMA

Chelsea 1-3 Real Madrid

Brilliantly controlled header from a Vinícius Júnior cross.

2

VINÍCIUS JÚNIOR

Shakhtar Donetsk 0-5 Real Madrid

Beats two men on run into box and delivers fierce near-post finish.

3

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

Paris 1-0 Real Madrid

Coming in from left, Mbappé cuts between two white shirts before low strike.

4

ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI

Dynamo Kyiv 1-2 Bayern

An overhead kick in the snow is the pick of the Pole's 13 goals.

5

MARCO ASENSIO

Real Madrid 2-0 Inter

Two minutes after coming on, Asensio arrows a shot in off the post.

6

ALEX TELLES

Manchester United 2-1 Villarreal

The full-back meets Bruno Fernandes's chipped free-kick with a left-foot volley.

7

SÉBASTIEN THILL

Real Madrid 1-2 Sheriff

The Luxembourger makes history for Sheriff with a clean-as-a-whistle half-volley.

8

RODRYGO

Real Madrid 2-3 Chelsea

Luka Modrić's sublime chipped pass is met with a composed volleyed effort.

9

LIONEL MESSI

Paris 2-0 Manchester City

Messi breaks from halfway, combines with Mbappé and strikes from the D.

10

THIAGO ALCÁNTARA

Liverpool 2-0 Porto

Thiago's laser-guided shot from 30 metres flies into the bottom corner.

in the first leg of their last-16 meeting. It was an individual action from the Frenchman who, from a left-wing position, created something out of nothing. Approaching the box, he suddenly turned the speed dial as he darted between Lucas Vázquez and Éder Militão and unleashed a low shot which – aided by a touch off Fede Valverde – flashed between the legs of Thibaut Courtois and into the far corner of the net.

Robert Lewandowski's fourth-ranked goal in the snow of Kyiv was a different kind of spectacular, the Pole responding acrobatically when the ball flew up off Illya Zabarnyi in the home penalty box and fashioning a brilliant bicycle kick which sent the orange ball down into the turf and beyond goalkeeper Heorhiy Bushchan.

The next three goals were all left-foot strikes from outside the box. Madrid's Marco Asensio displayed wonderful technique when space opened up for him on the edge of the area against Inter, the substitute unleashing a shot that was as clean as it was powerful on its diagonal course from the right and smacking the far post on its way into the goal.

The only set-play effort among the top ten, Alex Telles's first Manchester United goal followed a rehearsed move whereby Bruno Fernandes took a free-kick from close to the byline on the right. With other United players heading towards the front post, Bruno chipped the ball across to Telles, waiting outside the box on the left and he caught it superbly to volley low past Villarreal goalkeeper Gerónimo Rulli. "It's a really difficult strike," said an admiring Fabio Capello of Telles' technique.

Sébastien Thill's 90th-minute winner for Sheriff at the Santiago Bernabéu was just as eye-catching as the ball bounced up for him and, on the half-volley, he arrowed a precise shot into the top corner of Courtois' net. Bernabéu regulars will doubtless have enjoyed somewhat more Rodrygo's quarter-final goal against Chelsea which the observers placed eighth on the list. The architect was Luka Modrić who conjured an outstanding ball with the outside of his foot, lifting it over the head of Thiago Silva to the far post where Rodrygo, two minutes after his introduction, showed impressive composure to execute a precise low volley.

Lionel Messi's goal against Manchester City, his first in the competition for Paris, meant he featured in the top ten for the fourth year running. Collecting the ball just inside City's half on the right, Messi headed infield, helped by Achraf Hakimi's decoy run up the wing to distract João Cancelo. Approaching the box, Messi slipped the ball up to Mbappé in a give-and-go, with his team-mate's touch teeing him up for a shot from the D. The Argentinian maestro did the rest, guiding the ball expertly past Ederson.

Last but not least was Thiago Alcántara's exceptional 30-metre drive against Porto at Anfield in November. When a free-kick into the Porto box was headed out, Thiago caught the ball sweetly on the half-volley, sending it on a low flight into the far corner of the goal. "His control was fantastic," said Bonner of the midfielder's first European goal for Liverpool. In a subsequent fan vote on UEFA.com, it was chosen as users' favourite goal of the campaign.

IN THE BACK OF THE NET

BAYERN WERE TOP SCORERS FOR A THIRD STRAIGHT SEASON, JULIAN NAGELSMANN'S SIDE SETTING THE EXAMPLE IN ANOTHER HIGH-SCORING CAMPAIGN ACROSS THE BOARD

There were 380 goals scored in the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League at a rate of 3.04 per game. This total was the joint third highest since the competition's current 125-game format was established in 2003/04, and surpassed only by the 401 registered in 2017/18 and the 386 in 2019/20.

For the third year running Bayern München were the competition's top scorers. Julian Nagelsmann's men hit 31 goals at a rate of 3.1 per game. The team with the next-best ratio were Ajax (2.75), scorers of 22 goals in their eight matches.

For the first time since 2018, the most productive period for scoring was between the 61st and 75th minutes. The number of goals scored in second-half added time, meanwhile, rose from 18 to 25. The fact that 12 of those 25 goals came from substitutes highlights the importance for coaches of shuffling their pack at the right moment, especially with the five-substitute rule now presenting them with more possibilities to alter the course of a contest in its latter stages.



8.7%

Percentage of goals scored in added time at the end of the two halves.

23%

Nearly a quarter of goals were scored between the 76th minute and the end of the second half (added time included).

48%

Percentage of wins (10 from 21) in the knockout stage achieved with a goal from 70 minutes onwards.



Head over heels:
Robert Lewandowski
scores an acrobatic
goal against Dynamo

50%

Manchester United scored half of their 12 goals after the 75th minute.

90+7 mins

Luis Suárez's penalty for Atlético de Madrid at AC Milan was the latest winning goal.

5

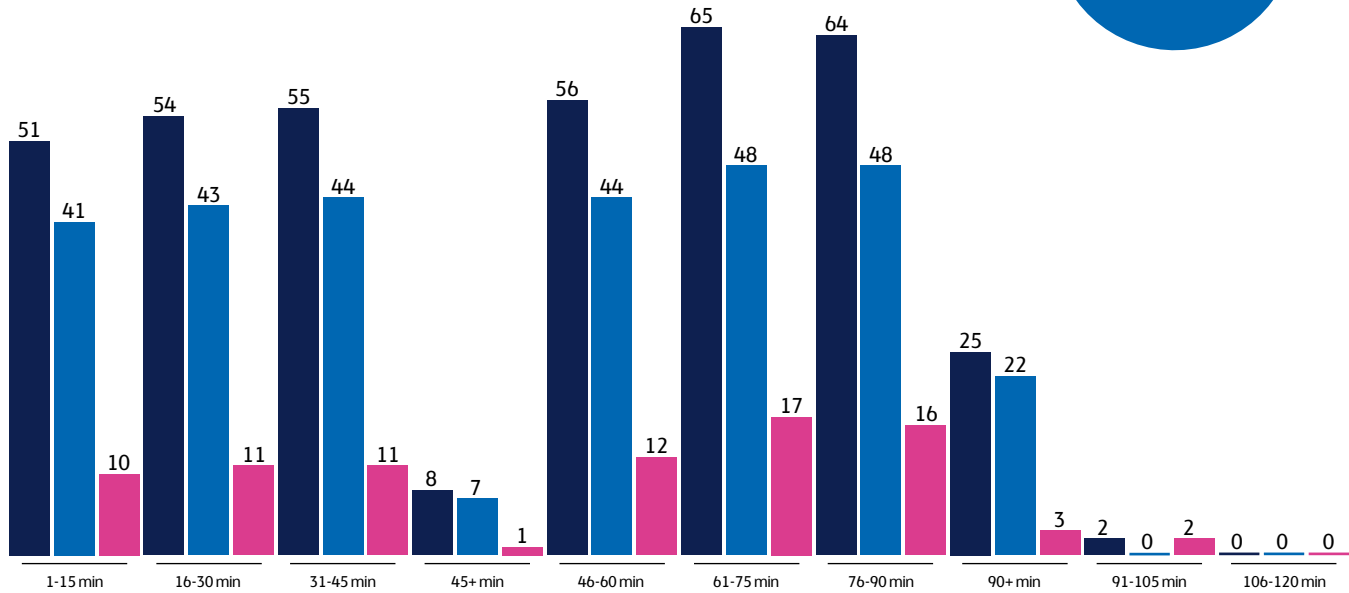
Real Madrid forward Rodrygo scored four of his five goals from the 80th minute onwards (80, 89, 90, 90+1).

ANALYSIS

GOAL TIMES (2021/22)

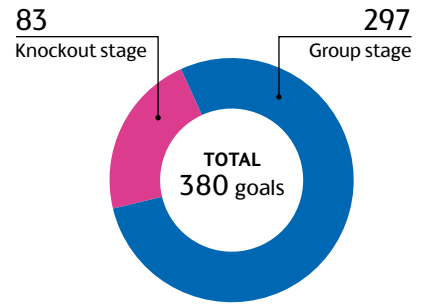
FIRST HALF	168
SECOND HALF	210
EXTRA TIME	2

■ FULL SEASON ■ GROUP STAGE ■ KNOCKOUT STAGE



GOAL TIME

GOAL SPLIT



THE ADVANTAGE OF SCORING FIRST

As a rule, the first goal remained crucial to victory – unless you had a Real Madrid badge on your shirt

In the UEFA Champions League, it pays to score the first goal. This is a customary conclusion in the competition's annual report and 2021/22 was no different: across the campaign, the team who scored first earned at least a draw in 88% of the 117 matches that featured one goal or more. Meanwhile, the first-scoring side went on to win on 72% of those occasions.

Real Madrid produced the most talked-about comebacks with their home turnarounds against Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City. However, both Liverpool and Ajax overturned deficits twice away from home, with the Anfield side's 3-2 success at Villarreal the season's sole instance of a team fighting back from two goals down to win.

The only team who retrieved a two-goal deficit to draw were Benfica at Liverpool in their quarter-final second leg when they levelled at 3-3 after trailing 3-1. Finally, AC Milan, on their first group stage appearance since 2013/14, were the only side to surrender the lead twice in defeats on home turf.

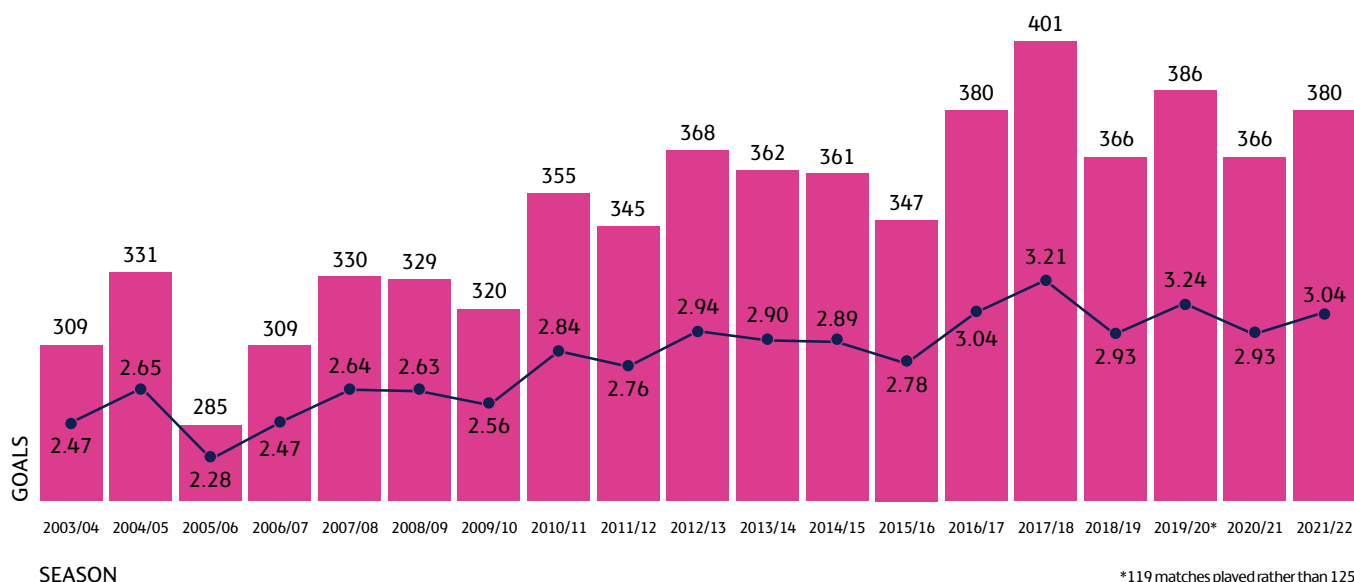
Cristiano Ronaldo scored the come-from-behind winner against Atalanta





GOALS PER SEASON

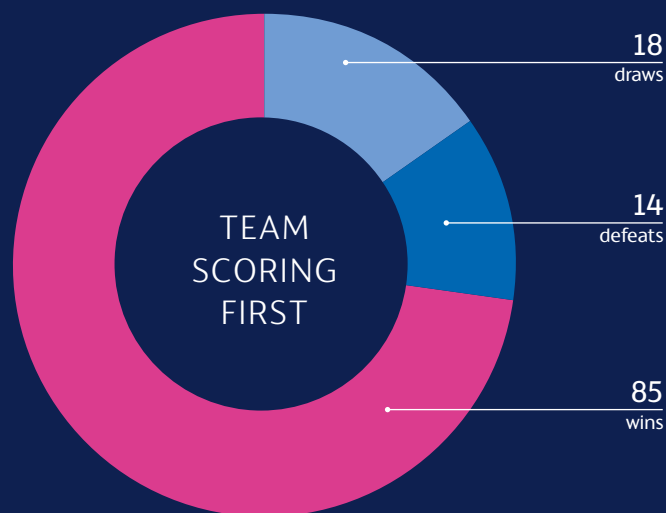
■ GOALS PER SEASON — AVERAGE GOALS PER GAME



"THE 2021/22 TOTAL OF 380 GOALS WAS THE JOINT THIRD HIGHEST SINCE THE COMPETITION'S CURRENT 125-GAME FORMAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2003/04"

COMEBACK WINS

YOUNG BOYS	2-1	MANCHESTER UNITED
LEIPZIG	1-2	CLUB BRUGGE
MANCHESTER UNITED	2-1	VILLARREAL
AC MILAN	1-2	ATLÉTICO DE MADRID
MANCHESTER UNITED	3-2	ATALANTA
SEVILLA	1-2	LOSC LILLE
DORTMUND	1-3	AJAX
BEŞİKTAŞ	1-2	AJAX
MANCHESTER CITY	2-1	PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN
AC MILAN	1-2	LIVERPOOL
LOSC LILLE	1-2	CHELSEA
REAL MADRID	3-1	PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN
REAL MADRID	3-1	MANCHESTER CITY
VILLARREAL	2-3	LIVERPOOL



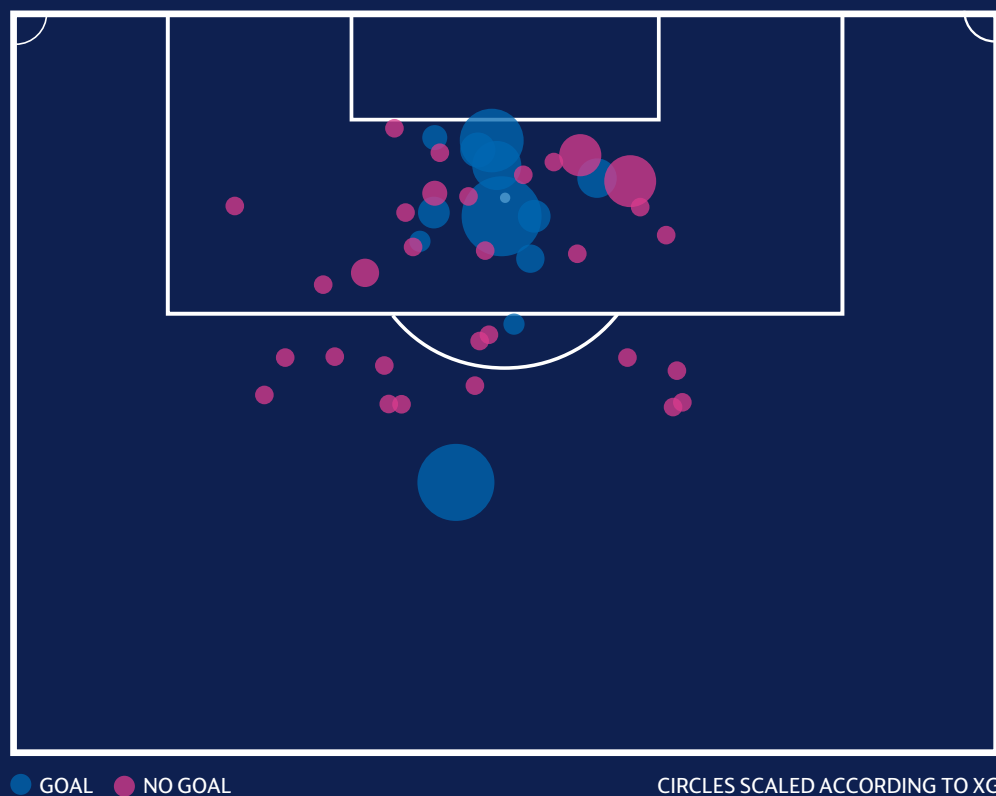
8

There were eight 0-0s in 2021/22, the most in a season since 2016/17.

TOP SCORERS

	Goals	xG	Shots	Shots on target	Shot conversion	Minutes per goal
KARIM BENZEMA	15	8.37	46	23	32.6	73.7
ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI	13	10.27	31	19	41.9	67.4
SÉBASTIEN HALLER	11	9.38	24	14	45.8	60.7
MOHAMED SALAH	8	9.01	43	22	18.6	126.1
RIYAD MAHREZ	7	6.81	37	18	18.9	141
CHRISTOPHER NKUNKU	7	3.83	17	11	41.2	75.9
LEROY SANÉ	6	4.3	34	14	17.6	133
ARNAUT DANJUMA	6	5.11	25	14	24	151
KYLIAN MBAPPÉ	6	5.6	27	15	24	151
CRISTIANO RONALDO	6	2.93	22	12	27.3	101.8
DARWIN NÚÑEZ	6	3.11	17	8	35.3	102.2
ROBERT FIRMINO	5	1.79	12	6	41.7	64.4
SADIO MANÉ	5	4.49	21	8	23.8	164.8
LIONEL MESSI	5	5.3	26	10	19.2	126
RODRYGO	5	2.81	23	10	21.7	100.8

BENZEMA'S SHOT LOCATIONS



46

Shots by Karim Benzema, more than any other player.

45.8%

Shot conversion rate of Sébastien Haller.

58.5%

Percentage of shots outside the box by Leroy Sané.



BENZEMA HITS THE HEIGHTS

The Real Madrid striker equalled the knockout record to finish top of the scoring charts

At the age of 34, Karim Benzema ranked first in the Champions League scorers' chart for the first time in 2021/22. The Real Madrid centre-forward did so thanks to a purple patch in the knockout stage, scoring in five consecutive games between the round of 16 second leg against Paris Saint-Germain and the semi-final second leg against Manchester City. His ten goals in the knockout stage were the joint-most by a player in the Champions League era – a record shared with former Madrid colleague Cristiano Ronaldo. Benzema struck almost half of his goals – seven of 15 – from shots from inside the penalty area, along with three headers, two shots from outside the box and three penalty kicks.

The quality of his finishing is underlined by the gap between his total of 15 scored and his xG of 8.37. Of the players listed below him, all of whom scored five goals or more, only Ronaldo and Roberto Firmino produced goal tallies more than double their xG figures – six to 2.93 in Ronaldo's case, and five to 1.79 for Firmino. Benzema's feats in front of goal meant there was a thirty-something top scorer for the sixth time in seven seasons. Robert Lewandowski, at 33, ranked second with 13 goals and of all

the leading forwards the Pole had the highest percentage of shots from inside the box (91.7%). Lewandowski's shot conversion rate of 41.9%, meanwhile, was second only to Ajax's Sébastien Haller whose splendid first season in the Champions League ended with 11 goals scored from 24 shots – a conversion rate of 45.8%. Haller struck five goals from inside the five-metre box (and another two from the edge of it) and of the players listed, he achieved the best goals-per-minute rate with one every 60.7 minutes. Second in that category was Liverpool's Firmino who started only two games alongside his five substitute appearances yet had a goal for every 64.4 minutes on the field.



9

Bayern München goals following combinations.

4

Real Madrid goals from shots outside the box.

ROUTE TO GOAL

Crosses and cut-backs were still the most effective form of attack

Crosses and cut-backs were the most popular route to goal in the 2021/22 Champions League with a combined total of 89, representing 23% of the overall number scored. These figures suggest that last season's reduced portion of goals from crosses/cut-backs (19.7%) was a blip given the figure in each of the three preceding campaigns had been more than 25%. The second-most popular category was combinations (61) while 41 goals came from through passes and 23 from long or diagonal passes.

Ajax, Chelsea, Real Madrid and Manchester City all scored six goals from crosses, with Ajax, Madrid and City also each claiming an additional cut-back goal. In Ajax's case they could call on Dušan Tadić, who had a 40.4% rate of completed crosses, and Antony. The latter set up two Sébastien Haller goals in the Matchday 1 win at Sporting CP – one ball was angled in beautifully with the outside of his left foot; another was a more simple pass across the box after goalkeeper Remko Pasveer's long kick upfield had released him inside the opposition full-back.

Antony's low ball for Davy Klaassen's close-range strike at Borussia Dortmund was another from the Brazilian's collection, though UEFA's observers classed this as a combination given the teamwork involved in a move which began with the goalkeeper and involved a crossfield ball to Antony.

The same applied to Manchester City's excellent team goal at Sporting, which featured a 22-pass move

HOW THE GOALS WERE SCORED

OPEN PLAY	283
CROSS	70
CUT-BACK	19
COMBINATION	61
THROUGH PASS	41
LONG/DIAGONAL PASS	23
SHOT OUTSIDE BOX	24
INDIVIDUAL ACTION	18
DEFENSIVE ERRORS	17
OWN GOAL	10
SET PLAY	60
Penalty*	37

*Includes goals scored on the rebound after a saved penalty



which commenced with Ederson and concluded with João Cancelo lifting a pass over the back line for Raheem Sterling to pull the ball back for Bernardo Silva to score.

If City are a team who weave splendid passing moves often culminating in a corner-flag pass followed by a cross or cut-back, they were among the teams to profit also from long/diagonal passes. In their home win over Paris Saint-Germain in the group stage, Rodri's angled pass enabled Kyle Walker to exploit an overload on the right and cross for Sterling to finish. Riyad Mahrez's deep diagonal ball to the back post in the same game led to Bernardo's cushioned lay-off for Gabriel Jesus's winning effort.

Interestingly, for all Bayern München's eye-catching combinations in the final third, they used longer passes to good effect too – to the tune of four goals. One example was the diagonal ball by Benjamin Pavard which Thomas Müller flicked on for Kingsley Coman's late equaliser at Salzburg. Another came in the group stage against Benfica when goalkeeper Manuel Neuer claimed an assist with a ball up the pitch to Robert Lewandowski.

As for more traditional through passes, UEFA's technical observers in previous reports have cited the increased difficulty of playing through teams centrally owing to the presence of a holding midfielder (or two).

This term's total of 41 through balls includes a number of final passes fed to a player coming in from a wider position yet there are also some passes through more central areas close to the penalty box, such as the ball Luka Modrić slipped to Karim Benzema for his second goal against Paris Saint-Germain or Phil Foden's pass to Kevin De Bruyne to finally break Atlético de Madrid's resistance. Also worthy of mention is Ángel Di María's fabulous dinked ball over the Club Brugge back line for Kylian Mbappé in Paris's 4-1 group stage win at the Parc des Princes.



COUNTERATTACKING

The through pass and combination play produced the most goals on the counter

The most common source of counterattacking goals was the through pass in 2021/22. That said, the definition of a counterattack may be changing on the evidence of the analysis of some UEFA match observers during 2021/22.

If the traditional concept is of a team springing from deep, observers classed as counterattacks a number of offensive transitions that began in opposition territory, e.g. Inter's goal at Liverpool.

It will be interesting to monitor this evolution, though the 2021/22 season still produced some thrilling breakaway goals of the old kind.

LOSC Lille's Jonathan Ikoné was the protagonist of one sweeping move which culminated in Burak Yilmaz's goal at Wolfsburg. Just 11 seconds elapsed between goalkeeper Ivo Grbić throwing the ball out and Yilmaz finding the net, with a large share of the credit belonging to Ikoné for his 50m run down the right wing.

Elsewhere, Arnaut Danjuma raced clear from halfway to score for Villarreal at Atalanta while Kylian Mbappé sped from his own half to score similar-looking goals against Leipzig and Real Madrid. In both instances, the Frenchman hared down the left before coming inside and flashing a shot inside the near post. Such was Mbappé's brilliance that, despite the through balls that sent him clear, both goals were classed as individual actions.

Vinícius Júnior was another player who sped from midway to score on the counter – at Manchester City. However, an earlier goal by the Brazilian at Shakhtar Donetsk warranted even more praise for the fact it bucked a trend. Last season's technical report had noted the gradual decline in goals from dribbles yet against Shakhtar, the Real Madrid attacker revived the old art with a couple of stepovers to pass one defender and then a dummy to defeat another before delivering an emphatic finish.



Jonathan Ikoné on the ball for LOSC

GOALS ON THE COUNTER

CROSS	5
CUT-BACK	1
COMBINATION	12
THROUGH PASS	15
LONG/DIAGONAL PASS	6
SHOT OUTSIDE BOX	4
INDIVIDUAL ACTION	5
DEFENSIVE ERRORS	3

SET PLAYS

Two-thirds of the set-play goals came from corners

The main goals breakdown in this report gives the total number from set plays as 60. For the purpose of this analysis, though, we have used a different figure: 62, to take into account two own goals that were scored following set plays – one by Ajax's Sébastien Haller from a Benfica corner, the other by Porto's Chancel Mbemba following an AC Milan free-kick.

Overall, there were six goals scored from direct free-kicks in 2021/22. This total comprised strikes by Burak Yilmaz for LOSC Lille v Salzburg; Sébastien Thill for Sheriff v Inter; Leroy Sané for Bayern v Salzburg; Max Wöber for Salzburg v Wolfsburg; Luis Muriel for Atalanta v Young Boys (the second season running he struck from a dead ball); and David Alaba for Real Madrid v Sheriff.

If this represented a reduction from nine the previous season, there was an even larger drop in the number of penalties scored – from 55 to 37.

Finally, the observers counted two goals coming from throw-ins: Erling Haaland for Borussia Dortmund v Beşiktaş and Vincent Sierro for Young Boys v Atalanta. The former owed everything to clever movement by Jude Bellingham as he darted behind a Beşiktaş defender to reach Raphaël Guerreiro's throw into the box before evading another opponent and then cutting the ball back for Haaland.

GOALS FROM SET PLAYS

DIRECT FREE-KICK	6
INDIRECT FREE-KICK	13
CORNER	41
THROW-INS	2



Sporting were the most clinical side when it came to taking their chances in 2021/22

GOAL EFFICIENCY

Real Madrid were the best at taking the chances that came their way

A look at the xG (expected goals) of each team involved from the group stage onwards would suggest Real Madrid were arguably the team who made the most of their opportunities in front of goal. Carlo Ancelotti's champions had an xG of 21.78 and scored 29 times.

That said, it was actually Sporting who recorded the campaign's best shot conversion rate (17.9%). By contrast, Barcelona had an xG more than three times their number of goals – 6.36 versus the two actually scored. Only Dynamo Kyiv, Shakhtar Donetsk and Malmö managed a lower shot conversion rate than the Catalan club's 3.3%.

MINUTES PER GOAL*

BAYERN MÜNCHEN	29
AJAX	32.7
LEIPZIG	36
MANCHESTER CITY	38.3
LIVERPOOL	39

*Top 5 teams



224

Liverpool had the most shots on goal.

46%

Manchester United ranked first for percentage of shots on target.

17.9%

Sporting had the best shot conversion rate.



Juventus midfielder Adrien Rabiot

SPEED OF SCORING

Quick transitions often paid off, although Real Madrid were willing to wait for their moment

Champions Real Madrid's average scoring sequence in 2021/22 lasted 16.2 seconds and comprised 5.3 passes. As for runners-up Liverpool, they took, on average, a slightly shorter path to goal which entailed three passes across 9.5 seconds.

This table includes the top 16 participants, ranked on average sequence time, and Malmö, the side with the highest average sequence time and passes per sequence, are an obvious outlier as they scored only one goal following a 23-pass move. Had we included every single passing move of the Swedish side, they would have ranked 22nd with an average of three passes per sequence.

Among the teams who reached the knockout stage, Madrid were the highest-placed, having scored seven goals involving nine or more passes. In the case of Karim Benzema's brilliant opening header against Chelsea in the quarter-finals, this actually concluded a 59-second sequence.

After Madrid, Chelsea scored six goals from moves of nine or more passes and Bayern München five. At the other end of the scale, LOSC's swift, direct attacking style meant they were the lowest-placed of the 16 knockout stage participants, posting an average scoring sequence of 0.8 passes and 2.9 seconds.

Meanwhile, Benfica's threat from quick transitions to attack, with the use of vertical passes and the powerful front-running of Dárlwin Núñez, was reflected in the fact they were the lowest-placed of the quarter-final teams with an average sequence of 1.5 passes and 4.9 seconds.

GOAL SEQUENCES

	Average sequence time (s)	Average passes per sequence
MALMÖ	51	23
BORUSSIA DORTMUND	17.6	5.7
SHAKHTAR DONETSK	17	5
REAL MADRID	16.2	5.3
CHELSEA	15.3	5.1
AJAX	14.8	4.5
MANCHESTER CITY	14.6	4.5
ATLÉTICO	12.6	3.6
BAYERN	12.3	4.1
JUVENTUS	11.8	4
CLUB BRUGGE	10.8	3.4
LIVERPOOL	9.5	3
LEIPZIG	9.3	2.8
SPORTING CP	9.1	2
PARIS	8.9	2.5
ATALANTA	8.8	3

ANALYSIS

CROSSING

DELIVERING THE BALL FROM DEEPER POSITIONS OFTEN BROUGHT RESULTS



Inter's Ivan Perišić whips in a cross against Madrid

66

Number of completed crosses by Liverpool; Chelsea and Inter were next with 58 each.

50%

Villarreal's Dani Parejo completed 20 of his 40 crosses.

40

Ivan Perišić of Inter produced the most crosses from open play.



The sight of wingers with chalk on their boots swinging high balls over from the byline is almost as unfashionable in today's game as Brylcreemed centre-partings and baggy shorts. As crossing positions evolve, the most intriguing trend is the ball from the half-space. The graphic below shows the location of the crosses which led to goals in matches in the knockout rounds, and it highlights the number of balls delivered from deeper positions, by players standing behind the 16m line of the penalty box and often 10m or more infield.

An obvious example is Trent Alexander-Arnold, the Liverpool full-back whose passing is so good that he is deployed increasingly inside the pitch by Jürgen Klopp – as a so-called 'false 10'. From these positions he produces wonderful crosses such as the inswinging ball – struck with his left foot – for Luis Díaz to head the second goal at Villarreal in the semi-final second leg.

Alexander-Arnold was in a similar position in the half-space when producing the first of two balls that brought goals in

the home win against Atlético de Madrid in the group stage. For the first he played a pass out wide, where Mohamed Salah and Jordan Henderson combined, and was then in the half-space to receive the ball when it came back inside and duly sweep it to the far post for Diogo Jota to head in. From virtually the same spot (if marginally more infield) he then drove in another ball that Sadio Mané turned home.

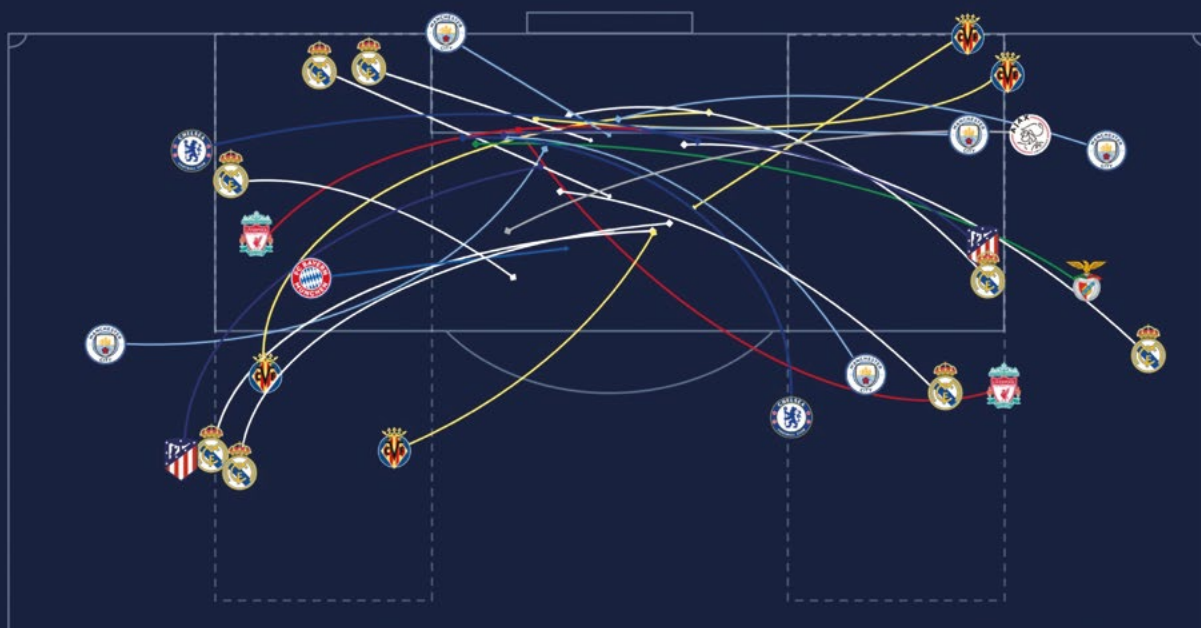
As mentioned, the focus of the graphic is the knockout rounds and the assist locations serve to highlight the blurring of the line between cross and pass. Luka Modrić's outstanding ball for Rodrygo's volley in the Real Madrid-Chelsea match is one such example. Could this really be called a cross given the Croatian's position? It is worth looking too at the position of the Villarreal crest furthest in the left half space of our graphic: it was from here that Pau Torres angled in a lovely ball for Dani Parejo to score with a side-foot volley against Bayern München. A cross? A pass? The trend suggests the grey area is not going away.



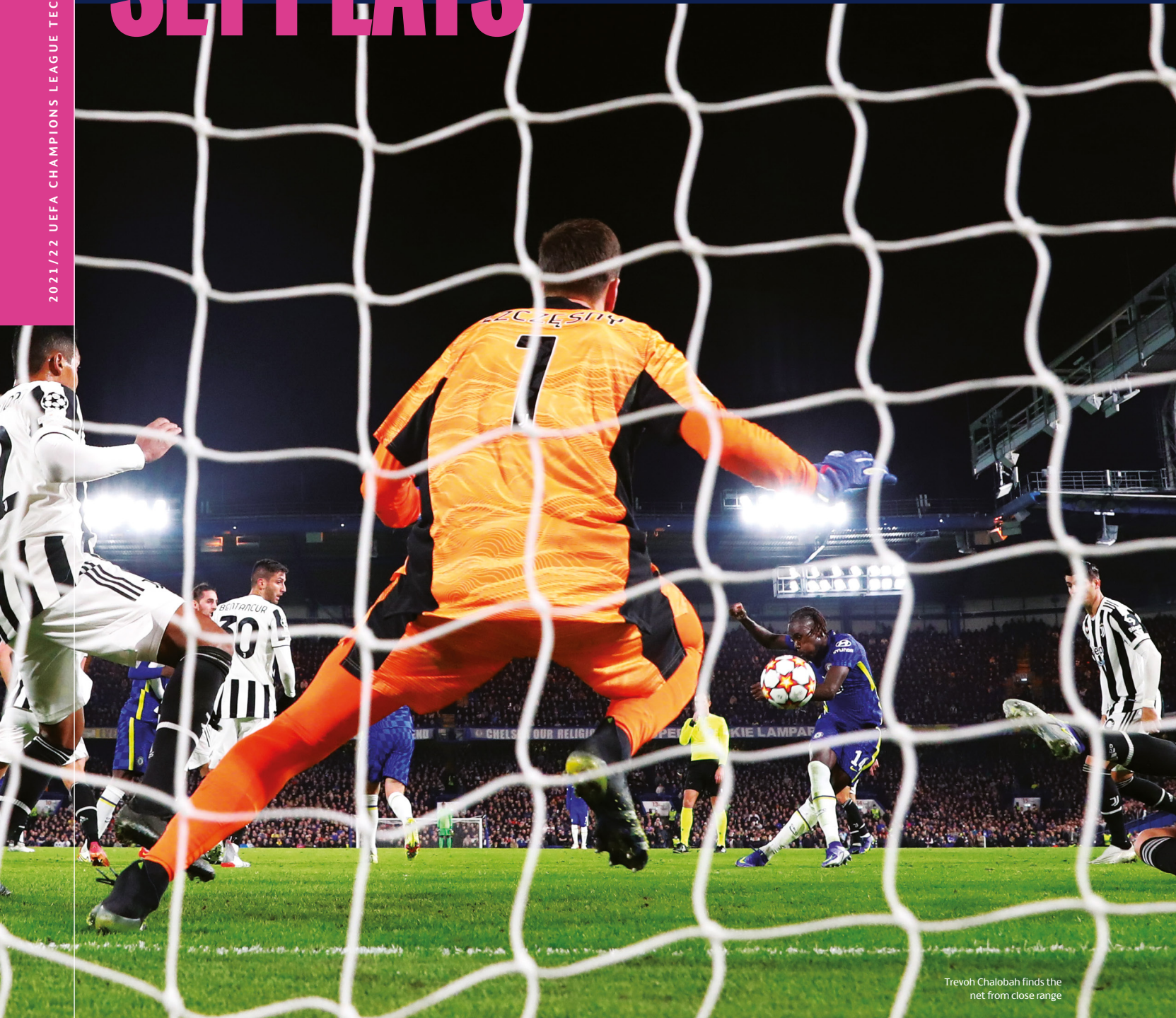
Trent Alexander-Arnold assists Luis Díaz from the right half-space position against Villarreal



ASSIST LOCATIONS FROM OPEN-PLAY CROSSES FROM THE LAST 16 MATCHES ONWARDS



SET PLAYS



Trevoh Chalobah finds the net from close range

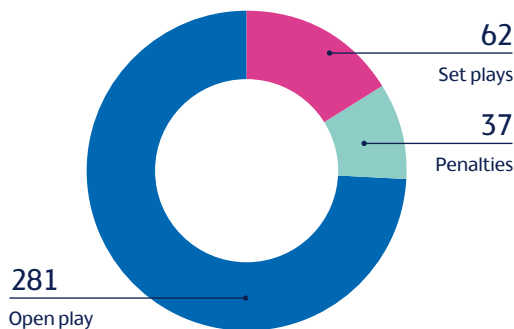
ALTHOUGH THE PERCENTAGE OF SET-PIECE GOALS REMAINED THE SAME, LIVERPOOL AND CHELSEA WERE PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS FROM DEAD BALLS

There were 62 goals sourced from set plays in the 2021/22 Champions League. This figure, which excludes penalties, represented 16.3% of the overall number scored – the same portion as in 2021/21. Forty-one of the set-piece goals were from corners – making up a 10.8% slice of the total. The most productive teams from set-play situations were Liverpool and Chelsea, who hit eight and five goals respectively having generated the most chances (36 and 37 respectively).



Inter ranked third for chances created from set plays with 25 from eight matches. However, they ended the season having conceded the most goals from dead-ball situations, their total of five including the two goals Liverpool scored at San Siro in the round of 16 first leg.

From a defensive viewpoint, six sides managed to avoid conceding from set plays: Barcelona, Chelsea, Club Brugge, Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Sevilla.



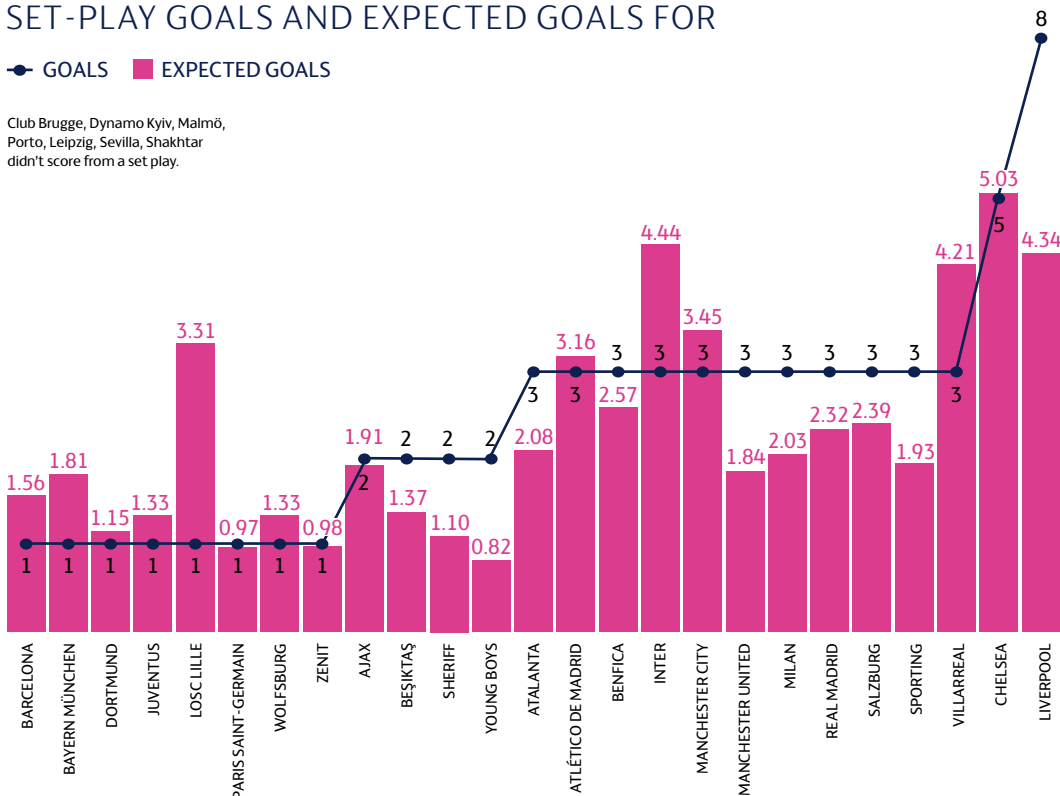
50%

Percentage of free-kicks on target by Manchester City, Inter and Benfica – the highest among the knockout stage participants.

SET-PLAY GOALS AND EXPECTED GOALS FOR

● GOALS ■ EXPECTED GOALS

Club Brugge, Dynamo Kyiv, Malmö, Porto, Leipzig, Sevilla, Shakhtar didn't score from a set play.



27.5%

Percentage of goals from dead balls, penalties included.

8

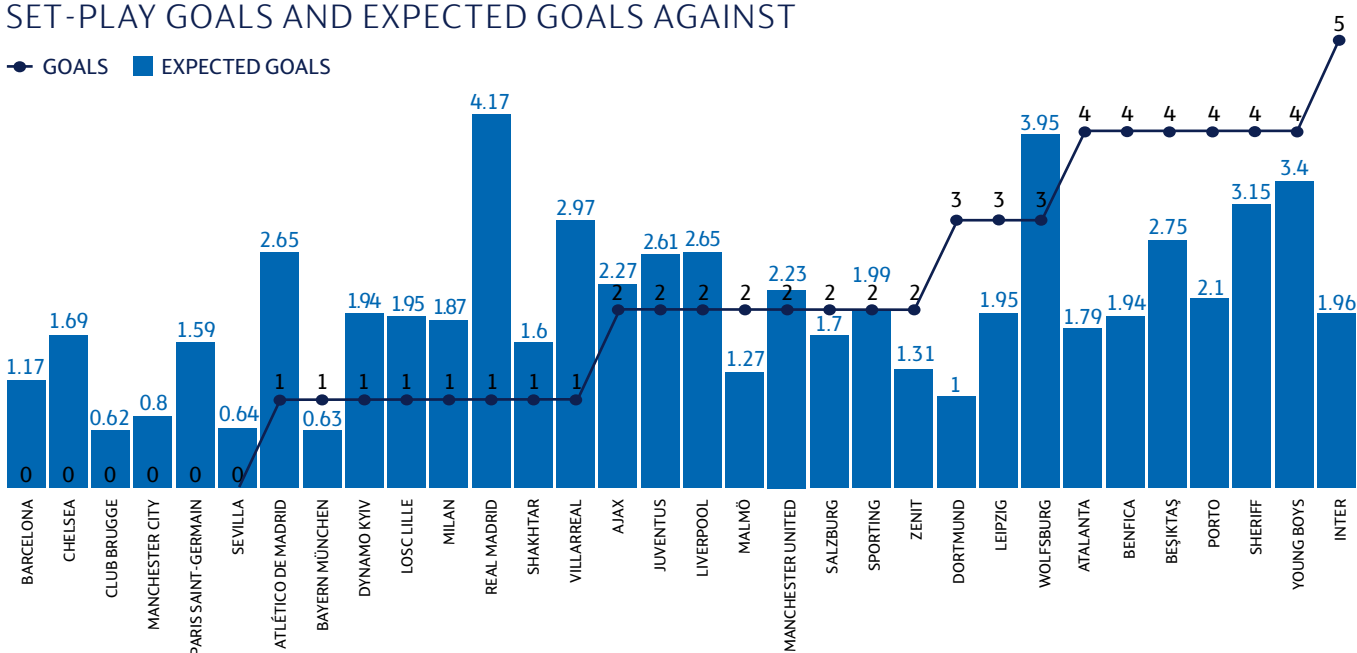
Liverpool's unrivalled number of goals from set plays.

0

Club Brugge and Sevilla neither scored nor conceded from a set piece.

SET-PLAY GOALS AND EXPECTED GOALS AGAINST

● GOALS ■ EXPECTED GOALS



ANALYSIS

CORNERS

Outswingers narrowly prove to be most effective

Which kind of corner is most productive? The data from the 2021/22 Champions League suggests outswinging deliveries – but only just. Outswingers led to 38% of the goals scored from corners, with 35% coming from inswingers. Short corners contributed just 1%. Outswinging corners were marginally more popular too, making up 38% of the total taken (compared with 35% inswingers). Yet, conversely, inswingers actually brought about 50% of all the attempts from corners.

On average it took 28 corners to score a goal in the 2021/22 campaign. For AC Milan it took rather less given they scored twice from their 17 corners, meaning they rank first in the graph to the right, with an average of one goal for every nine corners. Atlético de Madrid are next with one every 11, having scored three from 32. As for Chelsea, they ranked joint-third with Atalanta (14:1) after scoring five times from their 71 corners. Incidentally, Atalanta performed well generally at offensive set pieces, having also registered the highest percentage of free-kicks on target (66.7% along with Sheriff).

Real Madrid excelled defensively at corners, conceding just one goal – to Antonio Rüdiger in their quarter-final with Chelsea – from the 63 corners they faced. Their neighbours Atlético had a formidable record too, shipping a solitary goal from the 43 corners they had to defend.

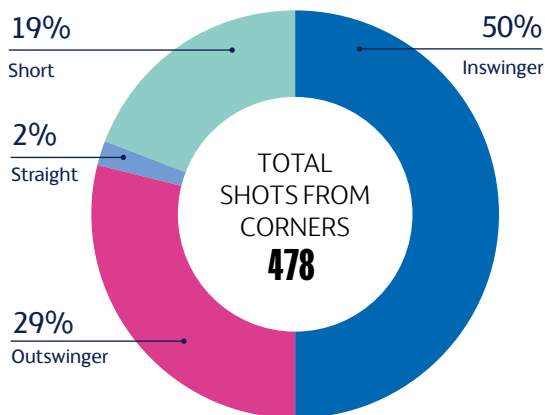
At the other end of the scale, Atalanta's good work with their attacking set plays was not mirrored by their defending of corners as they conceded three times from 28 faced – including two in the same game at Manchester United.



Robert Lewandowski was a marked man against Villarreal

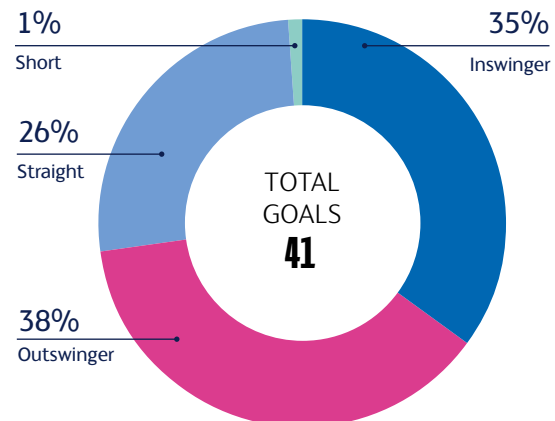
Overall, there were nine teams who did not concede from a corner. Villarreal, with the defensive organisation of Unai Emery and on-field leadership of Raúl Albiol, kept their goal unbreached in the face of 54 corners. For their part, Paris Saint-Germain did not concede from any of the 43 corners they defended.

DELIVERY TYPE OF CORNERS WHICH LED TO SHOTS



2.4 CORNERS PER SHOT – 2.4:1

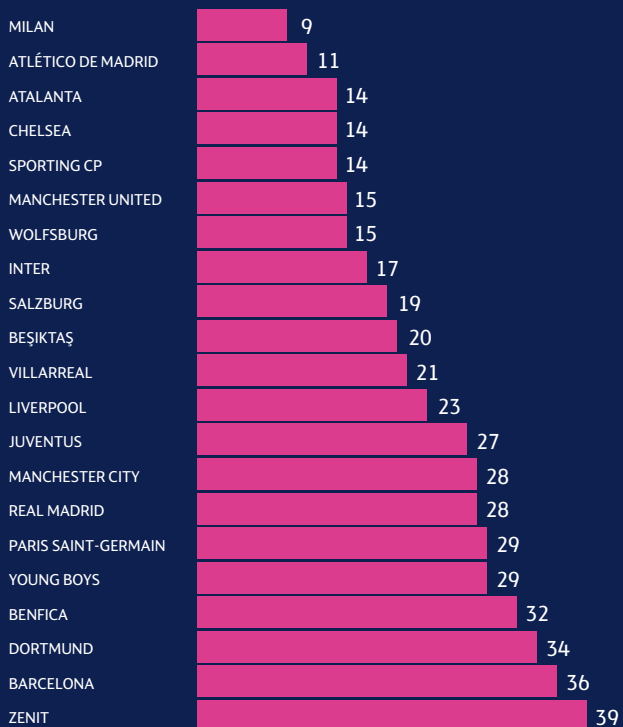
DELIVERY TYPE OF CORNERS WHICH LED TO GOALS



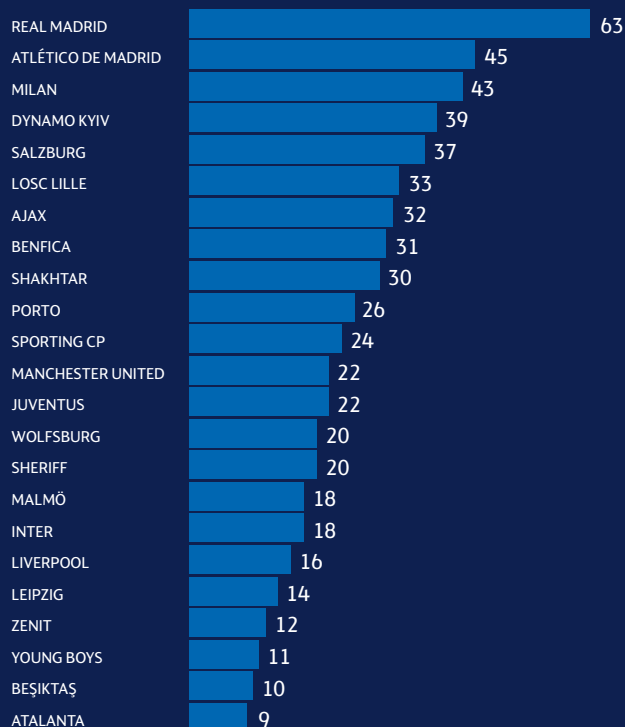
28 CORNERS PER GOAL – 28:1



CORNER TO GOAL RATIO



CORNER TO GOAL RATIO AGAINST



CHELSEA BLOCK BRINGS REWARDS

Thomas Tuchel's team found most joy from corners

The most successful team from corners, Chelsea scored three of their five goals from outswinging deliveries – including the Mason Mount kick that Antonio Rüdiger headed past Thibaut Courtois. Of the other two, one followed a second-phase cross (for Andreas Christensen's goal against Malmö) while another was an inswinging ball against Zenit, converted by Timo Werner (see image).

As the touch map highlights, Thomas Tuchel's team achieved a high amount of their first contacts with the ball around the penalty spot and it was from just beyond there, for example, that Rüdiger scored in Madrid.

Chelsea often started with their tall players (Kai Havertz, Rüdiger, Thiago Silva) on the edge of the box with one other player given the task of blocking the opposition players.

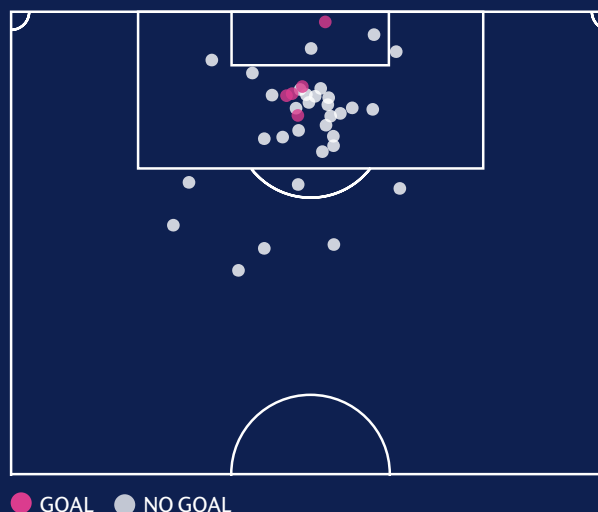
When Chelsea faced a zonal defensive set-up, they tended to employ a blocking strategy whereby a player like César Azpilicueta, Ruben Loftus-Cheek or Jorginho had the responsibility of blocking the tallest player in the opposition's second block (see César Azpilicueta circled). More often than not, this play helped a Blues player win the first contact with the delivery and on three occasions they scored.

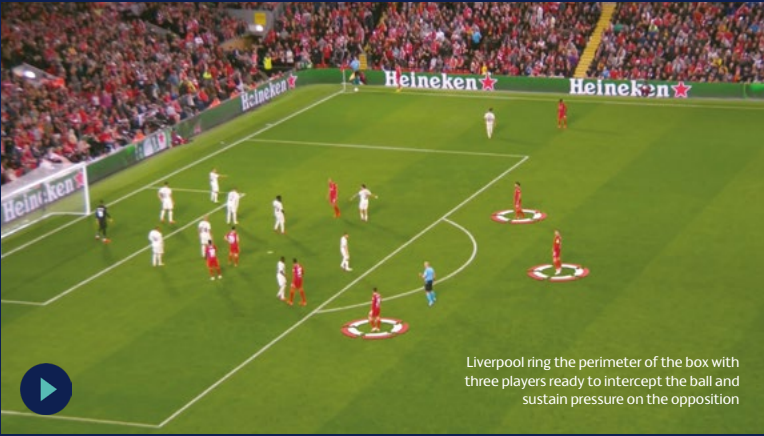
They also employed one player in the front-post zone and another in front of, or in close proximity to, the goalkeeper with the aim of making it difficult for him to claim any balls centrally around the five-metre box.



César Azpilicueta blocks the front-post space allowing Andreas Christensen to win the first contact for Timo Werner to score

CHELSEA'S SHOTS FROM CORNERS





Liverpool ring the perimeter of the box with three players ready to intercept the ball and sustain pressure on the opposition

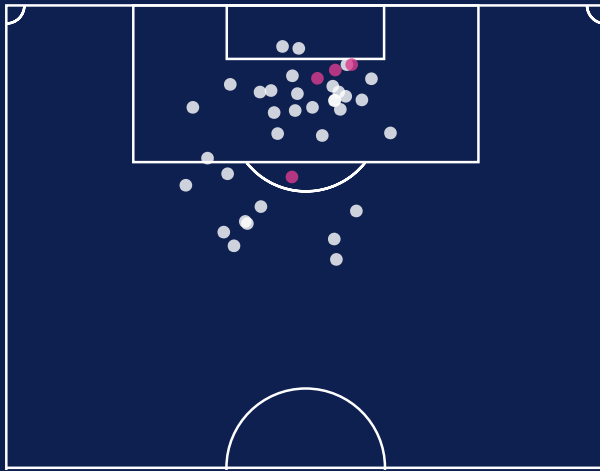
IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...

Liverpool posed a threat from the second phase

There were various factors behind Liverpool's set-piece success in 2021/22. Jürgen Klopp's decision to invite a German neuroscience company to work with his players on set-play situations in pre-season paid dividends. Ibrahima Konaté's arrival at Anfield boosted their aerial power. And they have world-class deliverers of a dead ball. It is also worth mentioning their second-phase threat as they produced ten attempts from outside the penalty box following corners, including Jordan Henderson's goal against AC Milan.

A large proportion of these attempts came from the second-wave attack after they had pinned the opposition into their box. To help achieve this (as the image above left shows), they cover the width of the penalty box with at least three players ready to intercept any second balls, ensuring they can either sustain the attack or thwart a counterattack. When, as can be the case, one of these players is Mohamed Salah, with his prolific left foot, it only adds to the threat.

LIVERPOOL'S SHOTS FROM CORNERS



● GOAL ● NO GOAL

Jordan Henderson celebrates scoring from long range against Milan





Thibaut Courtois looks to gather a Liverpool high ball



Real Madrid's kick-off routine in the semi-final second leg v Manchester City



Real Madrid's kick-off routine in the last 16 second leg v Paris



Dani Carvajal defending the near post for Real Madrid

MADRID KEEP IT OUT

Courtois takes the initiative

Real Madrid's impressive work in defending corners was never more evident than in the final against Liverpool. They faced six corners that evening and UEFA's observers praised a strategy which involved having their tall defenders at the near post for any deliveries and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois ready to attack any which travelled further. "Ancelotti prepared everything," said Fabio Capello, while Willi Ruttensteiner added: "In these duels, the defenders of Madrid were better, attacking the ball faster and winning duels." Indeed they ended the night with a 73.7% share of aerial duels won.

MADRID THREATEN FROM THE START

Even the kick-off was an attacking weapon for Madrid

Are teams now treating even the kick-off as a dead-ball opportunity? This was the question after Real Madrid almost scored ten seconds into the second half of their semi-final home leg against Manchester City with a cleverly rehearsed routine. Luka Modrić, in the centre-circle, took the kick and passed it back to Casemiro, then moved a metre or two upfield before darting back to halfway to collect Casemiro's return pass and lay it off to Toni Kroos, waiting – quarter-back-style – to aim a long diagonal pass behind the City defence on the right. His target, Dani Carvajal, got there as the ball bounced on the right-hand corner of the box and slid it over to the far post where Vinícius Júnior looked poised to complete a brilliant team goal, only to slice wide.

Madrid had previously attempted something similar against Paris Saint-Germain with Modrić the taker once more. Then he played the ball back to Kroos, feinted a forward movement but came back on himself to collect from the German and lay the ball off to Marco Asensio. On this occasion Asensio's pass ran straight through to the goalkeeper, yet Madrid's imagination was laudable nonetheless.

PRESSING

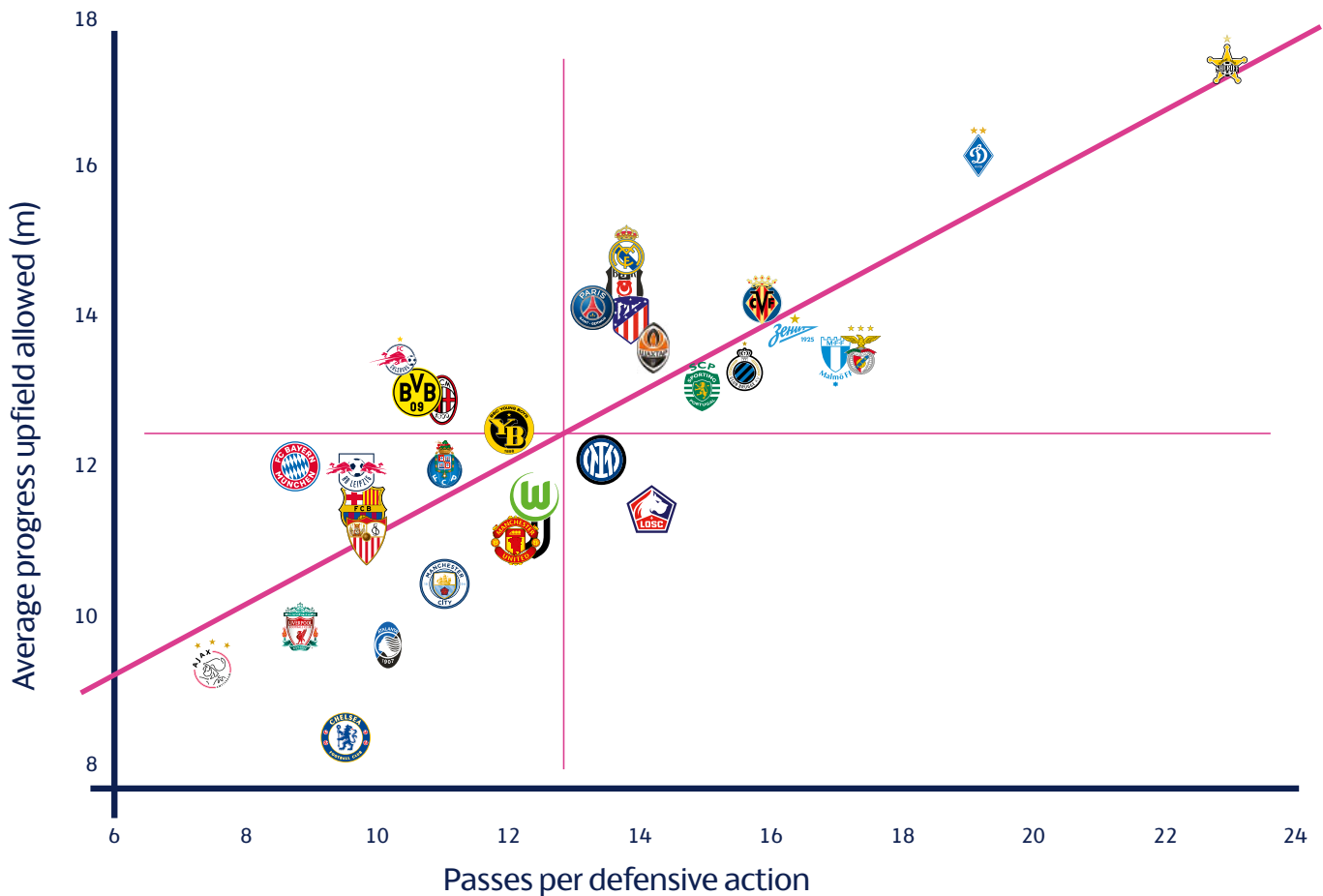


Luis Díaz presses for the ball against Benfica at Anfield

THE SEASON OFFERED MORE EVIDENCE OF THE VALUE OF A HIGH PRESS – ALTHOUGH NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME REAL MADRID BUCKED THE TREND

The link between success and a strong high press has been noted in previous editions of this report and 2021/22 provided further examples. Runners-up Liverpool's PPDA score – the metric for opposition passes permitted per defensive action – was 8.79, leaving them third only to Ajax (7.44) and Bayern (8.77) when it came to frustrating their opponents' attempts to advance up the pitch with the ball. All three sides won all six games in the group stage.

For the similar metric of stopping the opposition progressing up the pitch with the ball, it was quarter-finalists Chelsea who fared best, with their opponents averaging just 8.7m per sequence. That said, the success of Real Madrid is a warning against drawing simplistic conclusions: only Sheriff and Dynamo Kyiv allowed their opponents to progress further upfield with the ball more than the eventual champions



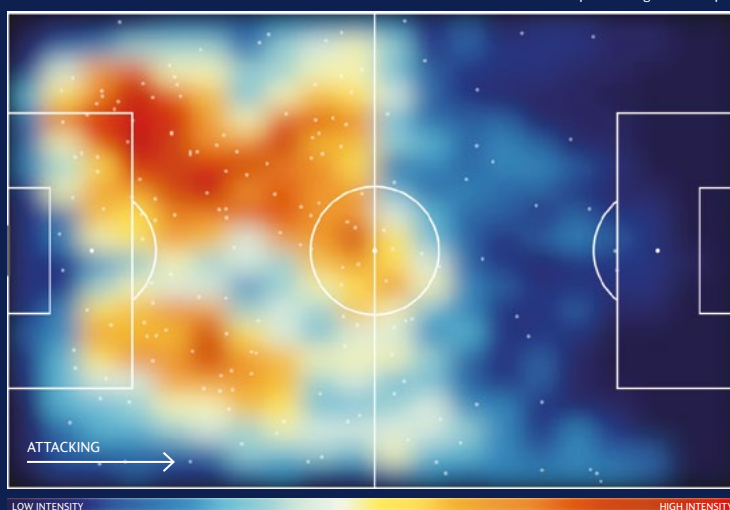


MADRID PLAY PERCENTAGES

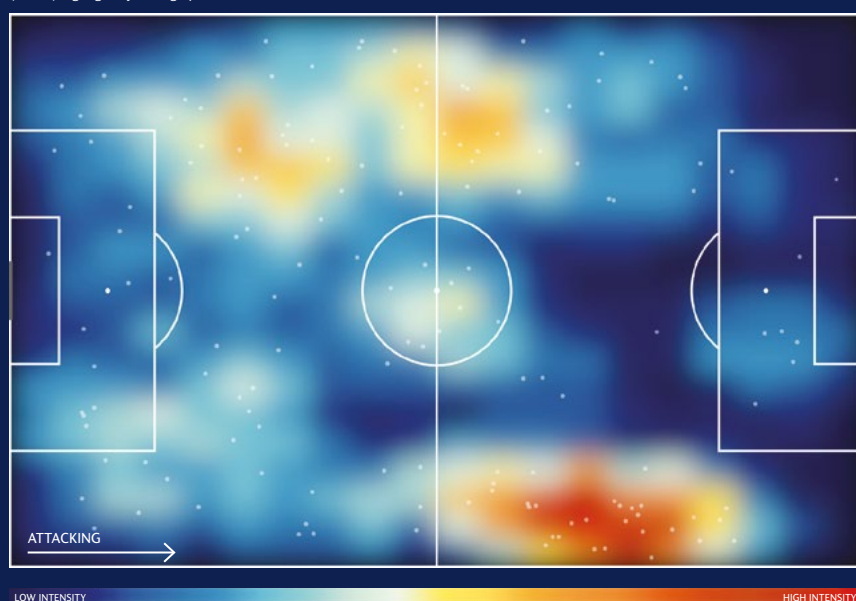
With an aging midfield core, Madrid were happy to sit deep when necessary

Real Madrid were pragmatic in their approach to pressing. Carlo Ancelotti's side deployed an aggressive press in their round of 16 home tie with Paris Saint-Germain, for example, yet they were adaptable and they won the final by sitting deep and taking few risks.

Fabio Capello, the former Madrid coach, reflected that this was a case of Ancelotti understanding the characteristics of his players – "the midfielders are not young, not so fast" – and adjusting accordingly.



Both the image (above) and the heat map (below) highlight Ajax's high press at Benfica



AJAX AIM HIGH

Ajax impressed with their high press in Lisbon

When Ajax began the campaign with a 5-1 victory at Sporting CP, they caught the eye for their aggressive high pressing, which at times saw every outfield player positioned in their hosts' half. This heatmap displays the areas where they applied the most intense pressure on their return visit to Lisbon for the round of 16 match at Benfica. As the accompanying photo shows, they played with a high defensive line as well as using the full width of the pitch and, to quote the UEFA observer, this brought an element of risk but "contributed to a constant high intensity".

ANALYSIS

LEADING FROM THE FRONT

Manchester City and Bayern had the highest defensive lines

Pressing high from the front means leaving space behind but for some of the competition's most successful teams, it is a risk they are willing to take with a high defensive line fundamental to their efforts to sustain pressure on the opposition.

This data, covering clubs in the knockout stage, looks at the average height of each team's back line when out of possession and it shows that the three clubs with the highest defensive line, on average, were Manchester City (45.5m), Bayern (44.4m) and Liverpool (43.6m).

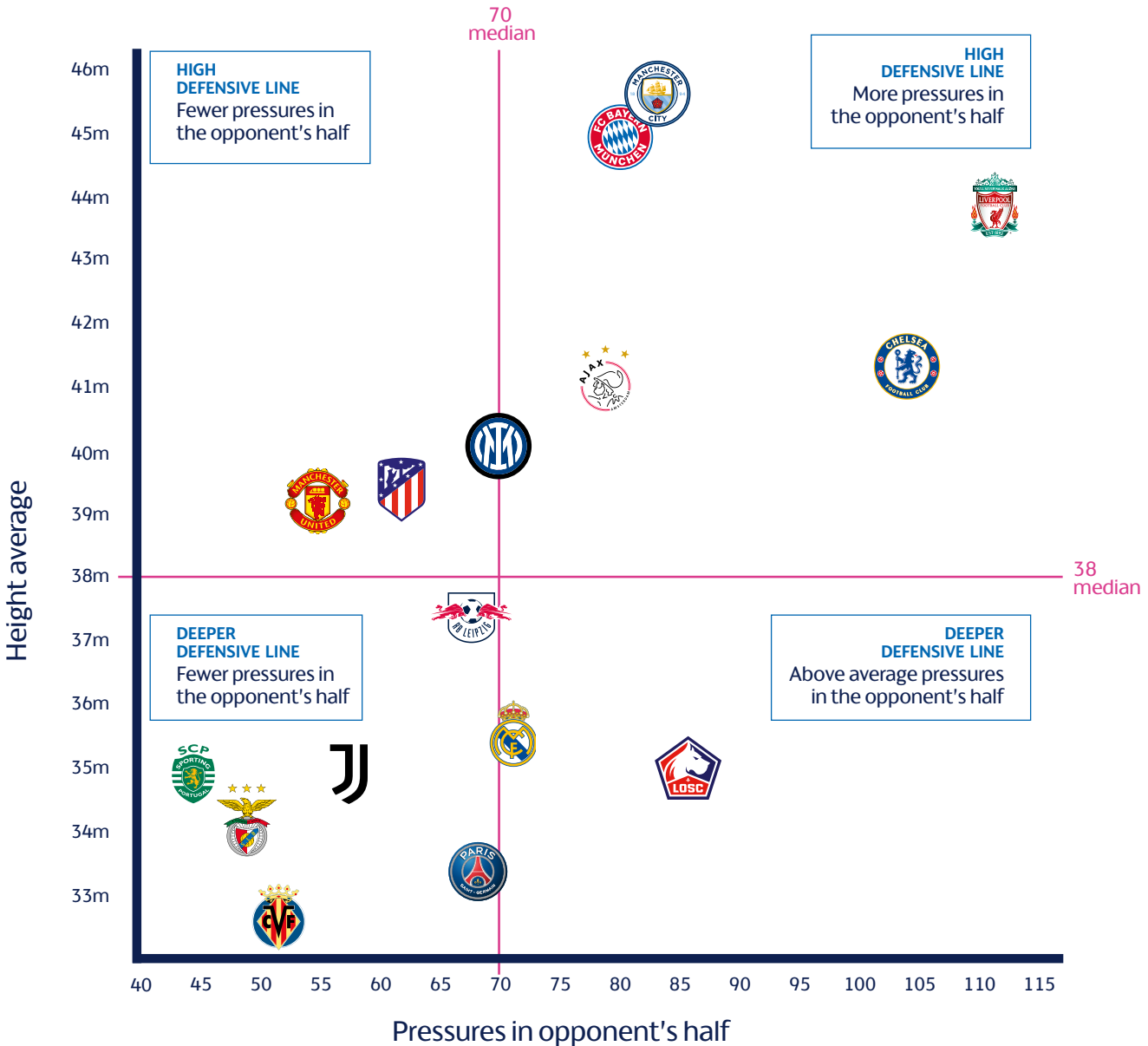
In the case of Liverpool, their high line enabled them to apply more pressures in opposition territory than

any other team, with an average of 112 per match. Chelsea, with a high line of 41.4m, ranked second for most pressures with 104 per match.

Although the height of Real Madrid's defensive line (35.2m) placed them among the bottom half of the 16 teams, they ranked seventh for pressures (71). Paris Saint-Germain, the team with the lowest defensive line (32.9m), averaged 68 pressures though it was the Portuguese pair of Sporting CP (45) and Benfica (48) who ranked lowest for this metric among the knockout stage participants.



HEIGHT AND PRESSURE





Manchester City close in on Atlético's Angel Correa

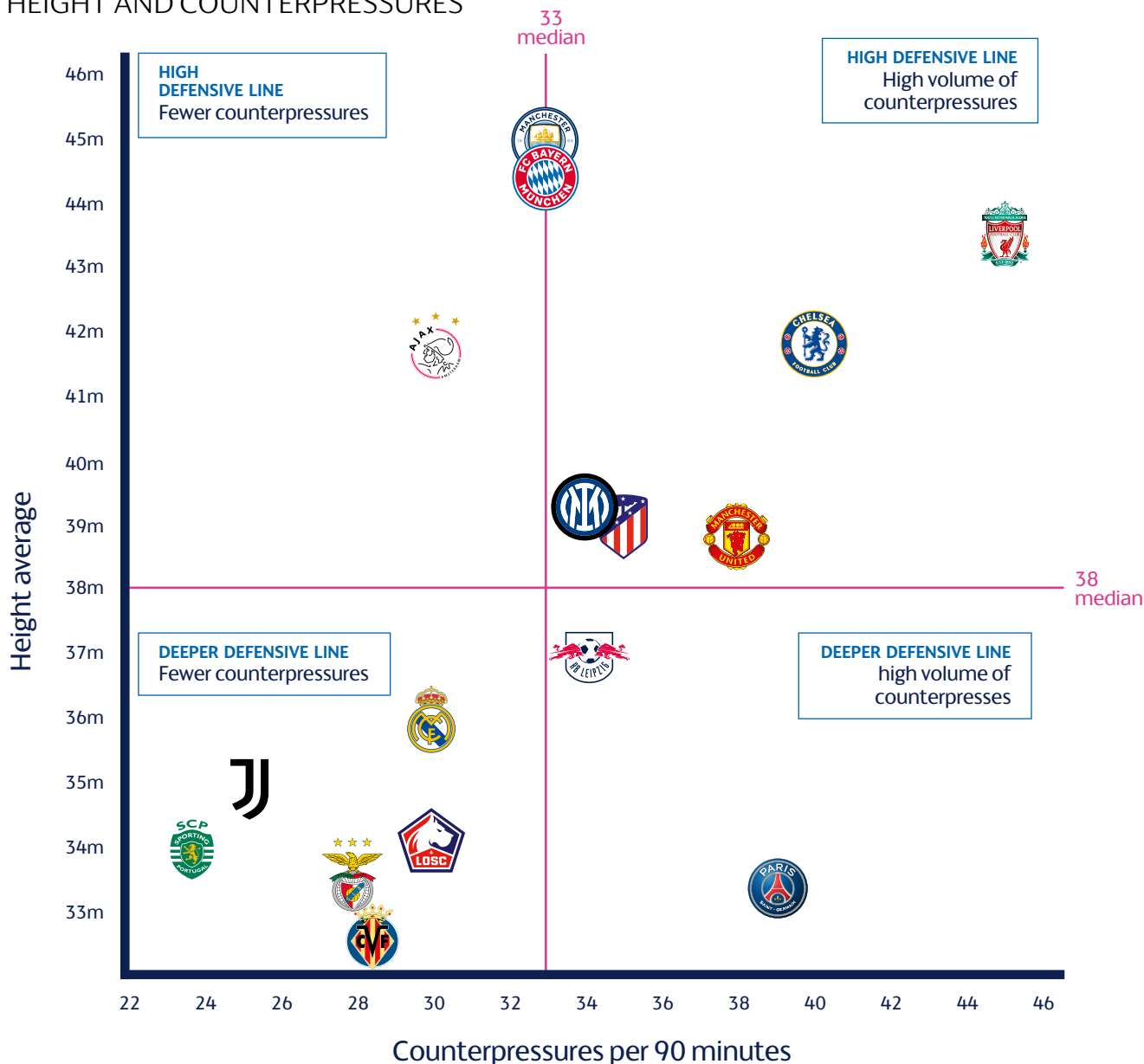
COUNTERPRESSURES

Liverpool were quickest to pounce on losing the ball

Liverpool were also the team who performed the most counterpressures per game in 2021/22. This is the metric for pressures within five seconds of losing the ball and the graph shows that Jürgen Klopp's men were the most successful at marrying a high defensive line (43.6m) with a strong counterpressing strategy, averaging 45 per match. Chelsea (41.4m) were next-best with an average of 40 counterpressures.

It is interesting to note that the two teams with the highest defensive lines, Manchester City (45.5m) and Bayern München (44.4m), achieved only the overall season average total of 33 for counterpressures. Meanwhile, Ajax, with the fifth-highest line (41.3m) ended with a below-average total of 30 counterpressures.

HEIGHT AND COUNTERPRESSURES



GOALKEEPING

THIBAUT COURTOIS WAS THE STAND-OUT KEEPER, WHILE THERE WAS AN INCREASING TREND FOR SHORT GOAL KICKS

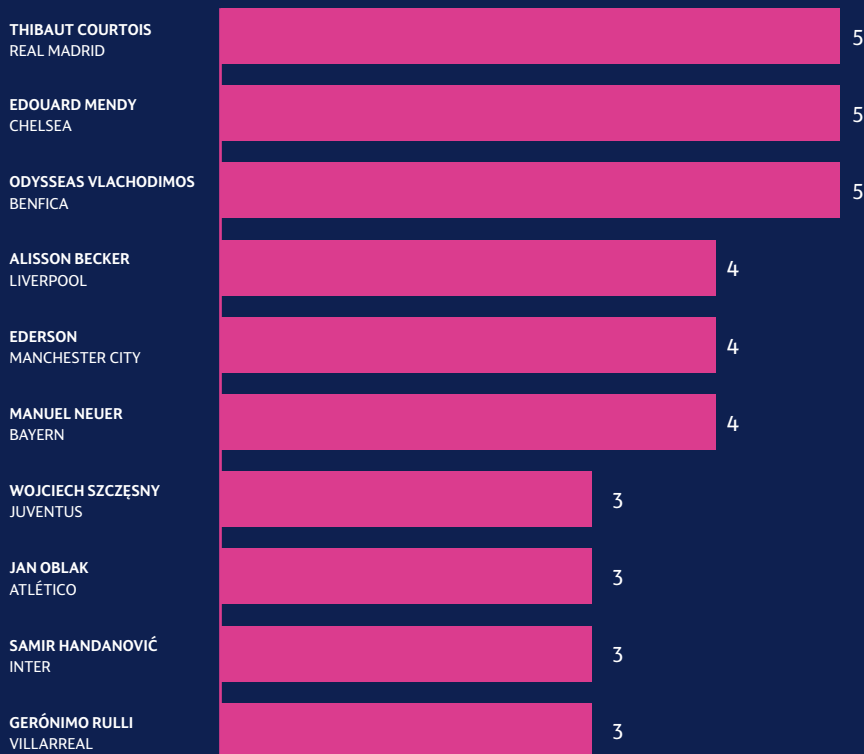
Thibaut Courtois was the goalkeeper who made the most saves (59) in the 2021/22 competition and the measure of his contribution to Real Madrid's success can be seen elsewhere. The goalkeeping statistics show that the Belgian ended the campaign with the most goals prevented (4.63) on top of earning five clean sheets – a figure matched only by Chelsea's Edouard Mendy (the 2020/21 'Clean sheets king') and Odysseas Vlachodimos of Benfica, who ranked second behind Courtois for goals prevented (4.59).



Thibaut Courtois keeps the ball out in the final



CLEAN SHEETS



59

Saves by Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

10

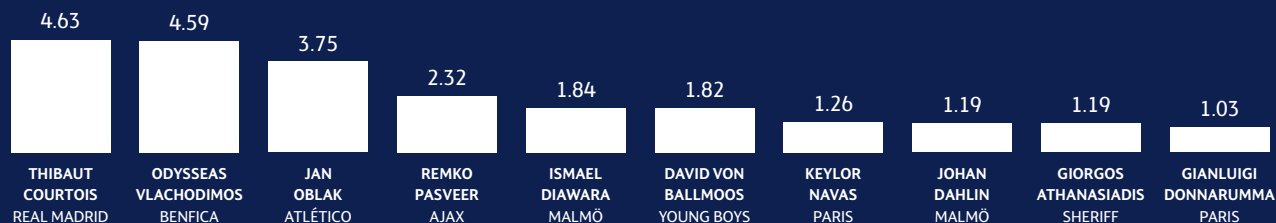
Competition-best number of crosses caught by Villarreal's Gerónimo Rulli.

5

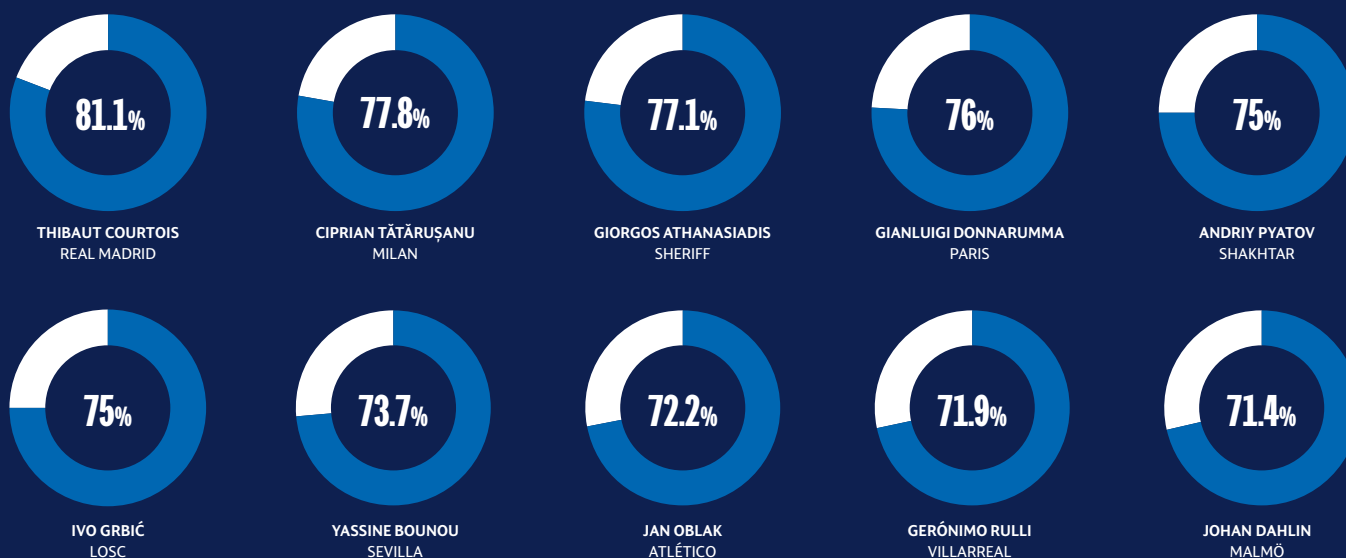
Thibaut Courtois, Edouard Mendy and Odysseas Vlachodimos each kept five clean sheets.

GOALS PREVENTED*

*Goals prevented measures xG on target conceded compared with actual goals conceded, across all games played



SAVE PERCENTAGE*



*Minimum three games played

ANALYSIS

KICKING DISTANCES

Atalanta look to go long

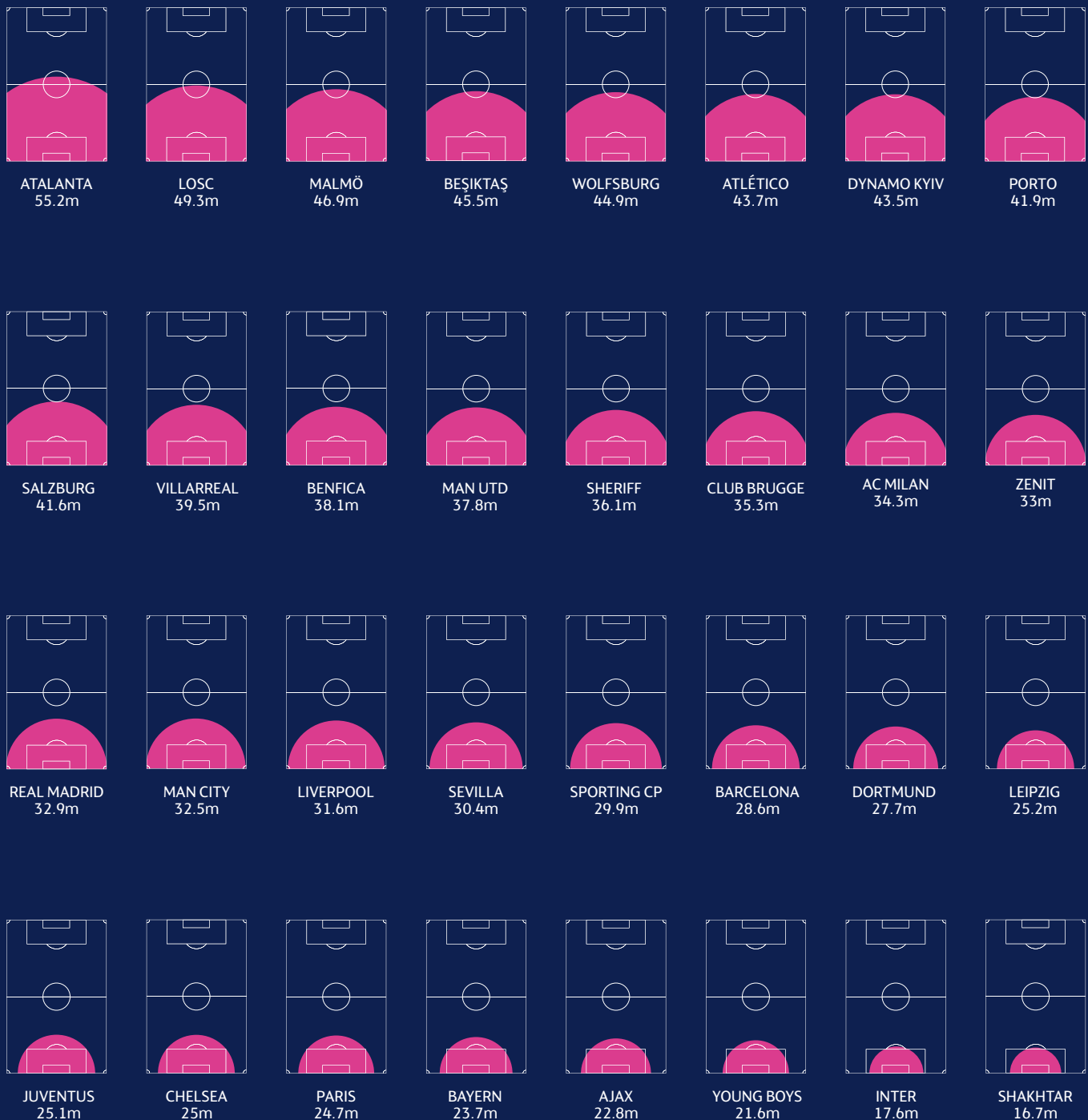
When it came to another aspect of the goalkeeper's job, kicking, the average goal-kick distances of teams varied considerably in 2021/22. At one end of the scale Atalanta ended their campaign with an average distance of 55.2m. By contrast, two sides averaged goal kicks of less than 20m – namely Shakhtar Donetsk (16.7m) and Inter (17.6m).



Atlético goalkeeper Jan Oblak goes long with a goal kick

AVERAGE PASS DISTANCE FROM GOAL KICKS (M)

AVERAGE 33.8M





SHORT GOAL KICKS

Inter in the vanguard

For the second season running Inter were the club who looked most often to the short goal kick, 69% of their kicks not travelling out of their penalty box. They were not the only club with a consistent approach from the year before; Leipzig (64%) featured in the top five for the second year running, and Atalanta (12%) were in the bottom five once more.

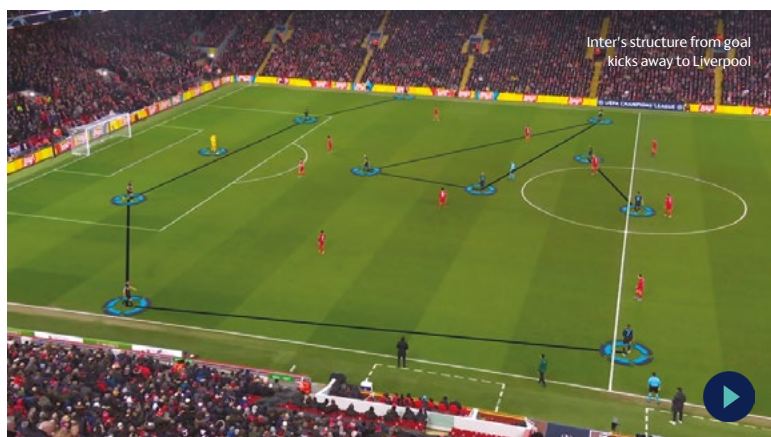
As well as playing short, Inter led the accompanying trend for defenders to take goal kicks: almost half of their goal kicks (47%) were taken by a defender rather than Samir Handanović, the goalkeeper. Shakhtar, second-ranked for short goal kicks, had defenders take 33% of their goal kicks.

According to Packie Bonner, this approach can allow a goalkeeper better angles and options. He explained: "It gives the goalkeeper more time, more composure, more ability to see his pass. It allows the centre-half then to change their position to a favourable position for the goalkeeper to pass to."

Across the competition, there is statistical evidence of a shift in this direction. The percentage of goal kicks taken to a team-mate inside the box has risen from 24% in 2019/20 to 39% in 2021/22. Similarly, where in 2019/20, 100% of goal kicks were taken by the goalkeeper, that figure was 82% in this campaign.

69%

Percentage of Inter goal kicks taken short.



PERCENTAGE OF GOAL KICKS RECEIVED INSIDE THE BOX

2021/22	39%
2020/21	36%
2019/20	24%

PERCENTAGE OF GOAL KICKS TAKEN BY GOALKEEPER

2021/22	82%
2020/21	97%
2019/20	100%

PERCENTAGE OF GOAL KICKS RECEIVED IN THEIR OWN BOX

TOP FIVE

INTER	69%
SHAKHTAR	67%
LEIPZIG	64%
YOUNG BOYS	63%
DORTMUND	61%

BOTTOM FIVE

WOLFSBURG	24%
ATLÉTICO	22%
MALMÖ	16%
LOSC	13%
ATALANTA	12%

VILLARREAL PLAY IT SAFE

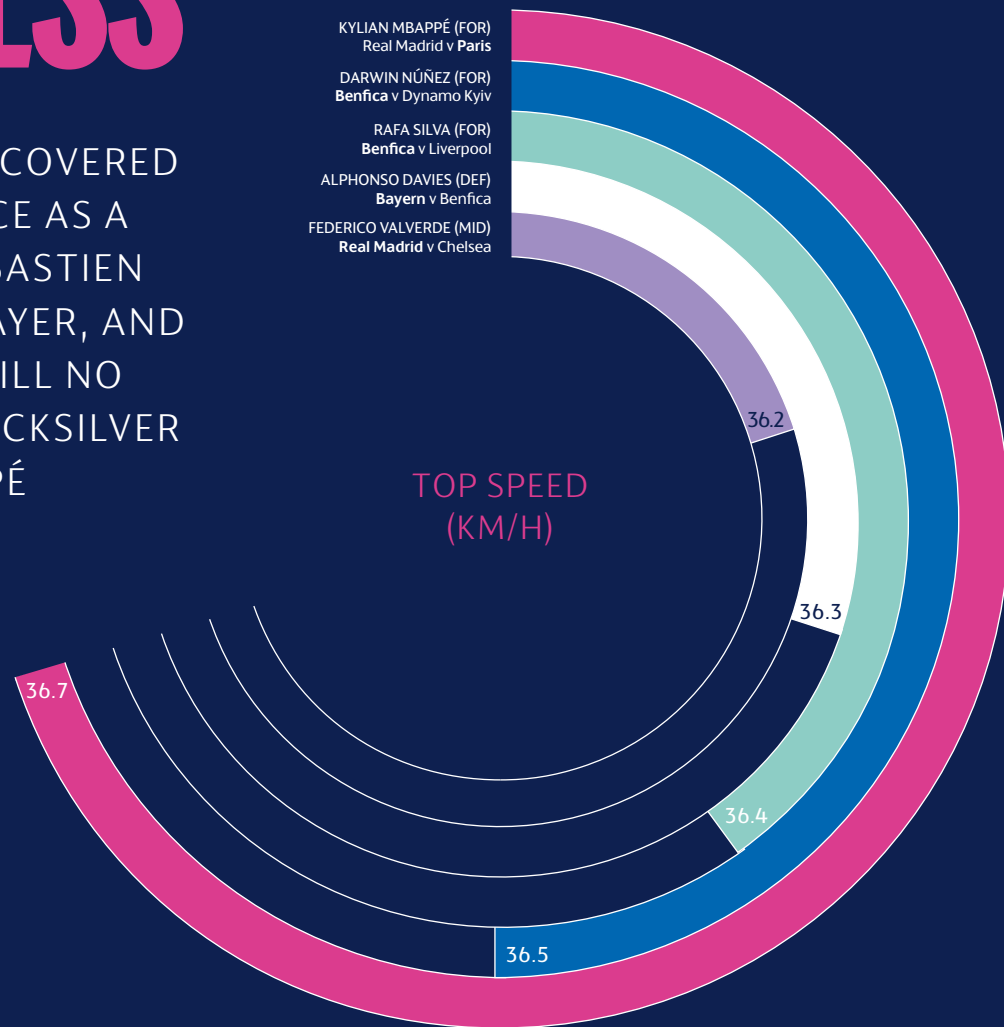
One team who took a less risky approach were Villarreal in their quarter-final against Bayern München with Willi Rutensteiner, the observer for the second leg in Bavaria, identifying a strategy to play an initial pass short from the goalkeeper before then playing the ball over and beyond the press.

"The strategy from Villarreal was to play short to the centre-back or full-back and invite Bayern to come high, then play long past these five offensive players and to get the second ball," Rutensteiner explained. "The coach knew that if he wanted to build up with short passes against Bayern's quality of pressing, they'd lose the ball."

To underline coach Unai Emery's logic, Bayern scored their goal on one of the occasions Villarreal did try to play out.

FITNESS

DYNAMO KYIV COVERED MOST DISTANCE AS A TEAM AND SÉBASTIEN THILL AS A PLAYER, AND THERE WAS STILL NO CATCHING QUICKSILVER KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

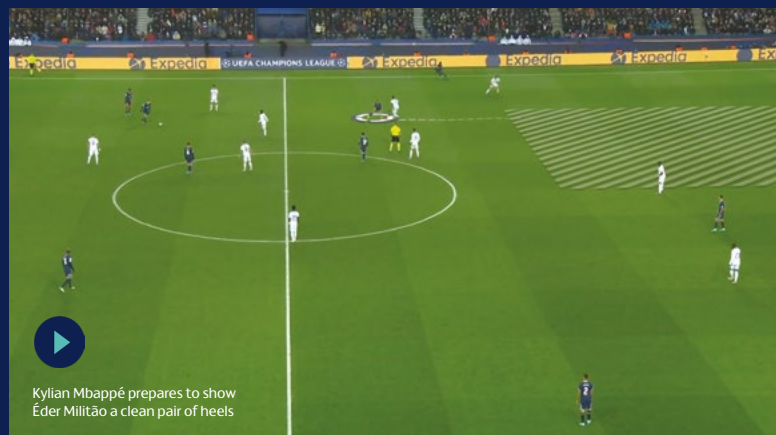


FOOT RACE

Kylian Mbappé reclaimed his crown as the Champions League's fastest player

As in 2019/20, Kylian Mbappé recorded the season's fastest sprint time. The Paris Saint-Germain forward reached his top speed in the round of 16 second leg at Real Madrid during an attacking transition when, sprinting from inside his own half, he latched on to a Neymar pass in a surge up the left wing which ended with him inside the penalty box, drilling across a low ball. It was from a very similar action that he did score later in that match when rather than go outside and cross, he came inside and shot.

Mbappé's menace is the product of both speed and intelligent movement and an intriguing example of the latter came early in the second half of the first leg against Madrid. The image shows him with Éder Militão marking him before a Paris free-kick is taken. To shake off the defender he feints as if to move, pauses and then does make a short dart back towards his own half before



stopping; with Militão back on his shoulder, there are a couple more feints before he then sets off for real, sprinting past the defender on a run to meet Marco Verratti's free-kick. Though Thibaut Courtois gets to the ball first, the ball spills loose and the panic that Mbappé has caused leads to a shooting opportunity for a team-mate.



Dynamo coach
Mircea Lucescu

IN THE ENGINE ROOM

Sébastien Thill covered the most distance on average for Sheriff

Newcomers Sheriff were the team with the least possession on average yet in midfielder Sébastien Thill they had the player who covered the most distance on average (12.81km per match), on top of scoring a couple of eye-catching goals. Of the more familiar names, Bayern München's Joshua Kimmich featured in the top three for the second season running, Club Brugge's Hans Vanaken made this list for the third season in a row and Ajax's Dušan Tadić, now 33, for the fourth.

Overall, nine of the players in the top ten are midfielders, which reflects the requirements of a role in the engine room. It also worth pointing out that five of the 20 players listed overall came from Dynamo Kyiv, whose collective endurance has already been noted.

COVERING THE GROUND

What Dynamo Kyiv lacked in possession, they made up for in stamina

No team covered more ground on average than Dynamo Kyiv, a club whose players were once famed for their powers of endurance under legendary coach Valeriy Lobanovskyi. Those players of the 2021/22 vintage showed plenty of stamina too, with an average collective distance covered of 123.05km per match. The fact they had less than 40% of possession in five of their group matches and ranked among the bottom six teams overall for possession, looking to hit their opponents with quick counters, may have been a factor.

It is interesting to see Chelsea (114.12km) and Liverpool (114.09km) placed 19th and 20th of the 32 teams in this category. Both counterpressed aggressively which enabled them to win the ball back quickly – a strategy which, when successful, ought to mean less chasing back for players.

Finally, for the second campaign running Paris Saint-Germain covered the least distance of the group stage participants, albeit their average aggregate rose from 104.21km to 106.34km.

AVERAGE DISTANCE PER GAME (KM)

TOP 16

DYNAMO KYIV	123.05
YOUNG BOYS	121.26
MANCHESTER CITY	120.57
BAYERN	118.67
ATALANTA	118.15
SALZBURG	117.65
BENFICA	117.45
BARCELONA	117.11
BORUSSIA DORTMUND	117.04
CLUB BRUGGE	116.71
AJAX	116.37
SHAKHTAR DONETSK	116.29
INTER	116.21
SEVILLA	115.62
REAL MADRID	115.38
VILLARREAL	115.24

BOTTOM 16

LEIPZIG	114.91
MANCHESTER UNITED	114.3
CHELSEA	114.12
LIVERPOOL	114.09
PORTO	114
JUVENTUS	113.95
WOLFSBURG	113.93
SPORTING CP	113.75
SHERIFF	113.62
LOSC LILLE	113.5
AC MILAN	113.34
ATLÉTICO	113.21
MALMÖ	112.53
ZENIT	110.69
BEŞİKTAŞ	109.96
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN	106.34

AVERAGE DISTANCE PER PLAYER* (KM PER MATCH)

SÉBASTIEN THILL	SHERIFF	12.81
JULIAN WEIGL	BENFICA	12.49
JOSHUA KIMMICH	BAYERN	12.11
KEVIN KAMPL	LEIPZIG	11.93
VITALIY BUYLSKIY	DYNAMO KYIV	11.7
HANS VANAKEN	CLUB BRUGGE	11.57
SERHIY SYDORCHUK	DYNAMO KYIV	11.52
FRENKIE DE JONG	BARCELONA	11.51
NOA LANG	CLUB BRUGGE	11.49
RÓDRI	MANCHESTER CITY	11.48
MYKOLA SHAPARENKO	DYNAMO KYIV	11.45
BENJAMIN ANDRÉ	LOSC LILLE	11.44
GIOVANI LO CELSO	VILLARREAL	11.44
BRENDEN AARONSON	SALZBURG	11.31
JOÃO CANELO	MANCHESTER CITY	11.3
DUŠAN TADIĆ	AJAX	11.3
VITALIY MYKOLENKO	DYNAMO KYIV	11.29
JOAKIM MÆHLE	ATALANTA	11.29
ILYA ZABARNYI	DYNAMO KYIV	11.19
MARCELO BROZOVIĆ	INTER	11.17

*Minimum three games played



AFC AJAX



COACH

ERIK TEN HAG



BORN: 02/02/1970,
Haaksbergen (NED)
NATIONALITY: Dutch
HEAD COACH: 28/12/2017 to
16/05/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

GROUP C

SCP W 1-5	BJK W 2-0	BVB W 4-0	BVB W 1-3	BJK W 1-2	SCP W 4-2	BEN D 2-2	BEN L 0-1
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ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

FINAL

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

61%

Max. 71% v Beşiktaş (h)
Min. 54% v Sporting CP (a)
UCL rank: 3=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	24%
Middle third	49%
Attacking third	27%

572

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 706 v Beşiktaş (h)
Min. 459 v Sporting CP (a)
UCL rank: 8

87%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 89% v Beşiktaş (h), Dortmund (a)
Min. 83% v Beşiktaş (a)
UCL rank: 6=

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	37 (6% of total)	UCL rank: 29
Medium	224 (39%)	UCL rank: 7
Short	311 (54%)	UCL rank: 7=

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
7.4	1

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
8	2=

DISTANCE COVERED

116.4 km

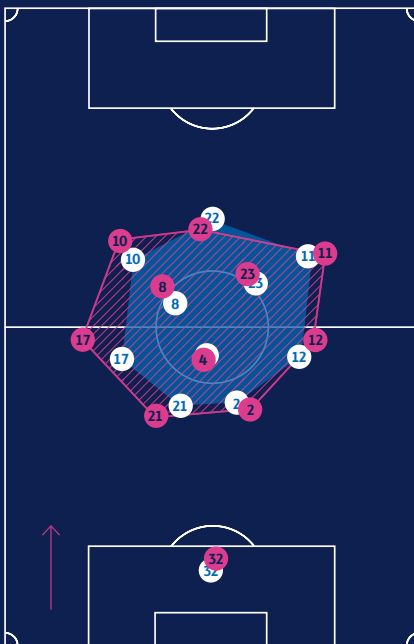
Max. 122.3 km v Dortmund (h)
Min. 112 km v Benfica (h)
UCL rank: 11

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Dortmund (h)

■ 3 In possession | ■ 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

24 André Onana	2	180
32 Remko Pasveer	6	540

DEFENDERS

3 Perr Schuurs	3	146	1
12 Noussair Mazraoui	8	661	2
15 Devyne Rensch	5	71	
17 Daley Blind	8	572	1
21 Lisandro Martínez	8	720	1
31 Nicolás Tagliafico	3	139	1

MIDFIELDERS

2 Jurriën Timber	8	570	
4 Edson Álvarez	7	558	
6 Davy Klaassen	7	232	1
8 Ryan Gravenberch	8	703	1
20 Mohammed Kudus	2	24	
25 Kenneth Taylor	3	38	

FORWARDS

7 David Neres	5	203	1
10 Dušan Tadić	7	630	2
11 Antony	7	577	2
18 Brian Brobbey*	1	9	
22 Sébastien Haller	8	668	11
23 Steven Berghuis	8	628	3
30 Mohamed Daramy	2	52	

*Brian Brobbey also played for Leipzig

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

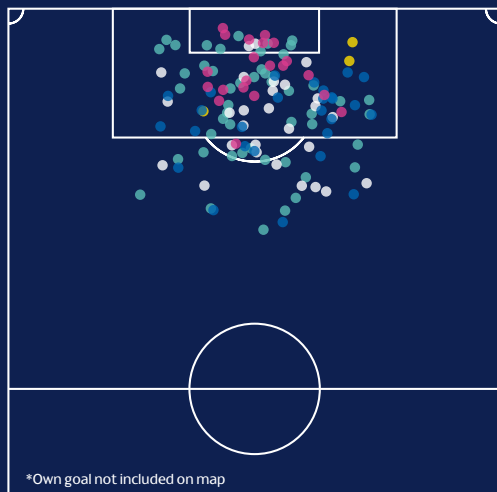
AVERAGE AGE

24.9

CARDS

15 **0**

ATTEMPTS



*Own goal not included on map

22 GOALS (1 own goal*)
2.75 per match; UCL rank: 2

19.1 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
2.4 per match; UCL rank: 2

129 GOAL ATTEMPTS
16.1 per match; UCL rank: 5

50 ON TARGET
6.3 per match; UCL rank: 2=

GOALS	16%
SAVED	41%
BLOCKED	20%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	21%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Sébastien Haller	11	24	14	9.4
2 Steven Berghuis	3	16	5	1.4
3 Antony	2	26	10	2.0

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Lisandro Martínez	699	528	92	33
2 Jurriën Timber	507	399	93	31
3 Daley Blind	432	377	83	46

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Antony	5	6	2.2
2 Dušan Tadić	2	23	3.3
3 Noussair Mazraoui	2	8	1.3

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Sébastien Haller	125	20	0	1
2 Edson Álvarez	123	30	13	4
3 Ryan Gravenberch	110	43	8	6

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; 1-4-2-3-1
- 4 v 3 overload in build-up with three defenders and sitting midfielder Álvarez
- Varied attacking with crosses or quick combinations through middle
- Aggressive out of possession, pressing high up pitch
- Attacking full-backs; wingers coming inside to create overloads
- Speed and crossing ability of wide forwards Antony (five assists) and Tadić
- Playmaker Berghuis influential with passing and movement behind striker
- Height, power, scoring touch of 11-goal target man Haller



ATALANTA BC



COACH

GIAN PIERO GASPERINI



BORN: 26/01/1958,
Grugliasco (ITA)
NATIONALITY: Italian
HEAD COACH: Since
14/06/2016
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP F ROUND OF 16 QUARTER-FINALS SEMI-FINALS FINAL

VLR	YB	MU	MU	YB	VLR
D 2-2	W 1-0	L 3-2	D 2-2	D 3-3	L 2-3

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

52%

Max. 64% v Young Boys (h)
Min. 41% v Young Boys (a)
UCL rank: 11=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	27%
Middle third	49%
Attacking third	24%

482

PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 605 v Young Boys (h)
Min. 339 v Young Boys (a)
UCL rank: 15

82%

PASS ACCURACY
Max. 86% v Young Boys (h)
Min. 76% v Young Boys (a)
UCL rank: 16=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	51 (11% of total)	UCL rank: 8=
Medium	180 (37%)	UCL rank: 15
Short	251 (52%)	UCL rank: 13

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
10.1	8

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
8	2=

DISTANCE COVERED

118.2 km

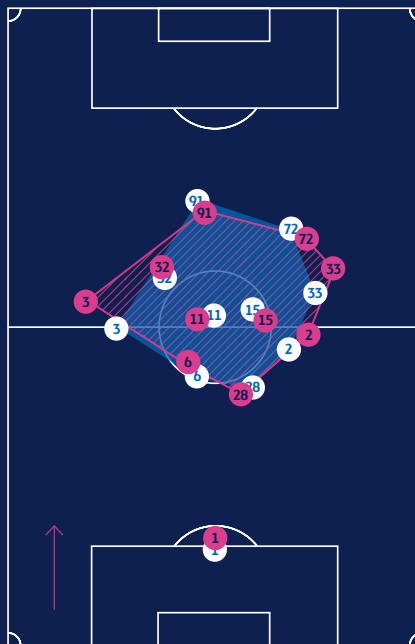
Max. 122.5 km v Man. United (a)
Min. 111.0 km v Villarreal (a)
UCL rank: 5

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Villarreal (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Juan Musso	6	540		
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DEFENDERS

2	Rafael Tolói	4	360		
3	Joakim Mæhle	5	435	1	
6	José Luis Palomino	5	450	1	1
8	Robin Gosens	2	101	1	
13	Giuseppe Pezzella	3	56		
19	Berat Djimsiti	5	260		
28	Merih Demiral	6	370	1	
33	Hans Hateboer	1	90		
66	Matteo Lovato	1	45		
77	Davide Zappacosta	6	405	1	

MIDFIELDERS

7	Teun Koopmeiners	5	210	1	
11	Remo Freuler	6	526	1	1
15	Marten de Roon	6	484		
18	Ruslan Malinovskyi	5	301	1	
32	Matteo Pessina	4	211	1	
59	Aleksei Miranchuk	2	33	1	
72	Josip Iličić	4	249	1	1
88	Mario Pašalić	5	220	1	1

FORWARDS

9	Luis Muriel	5	130	1	
91	Duván Zapata	6	464	3	3

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

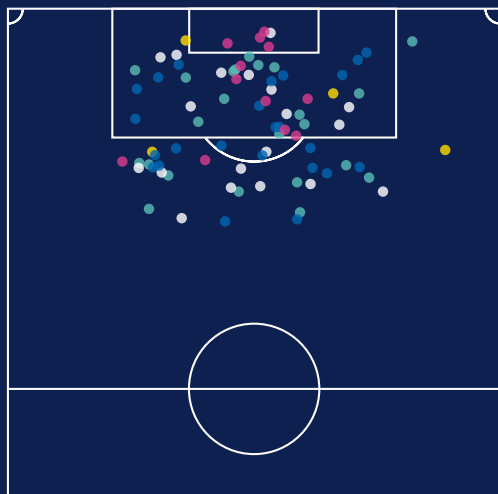
AVERAGE AGE

27.3

CARDS



ATTEMPTS



12 GOALS
2 per match; UCL rank: 8

10.3 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.7 per match; UCL rank: 9=

82 GOAL ATTEMPTS
13.7 per match; UCL rank: 10=

31 ON TARGET
5.2 per match; UCL rank: 8

GOALS	12%
SAVED	42%
BLOCKED	24%
WOODWORK	4%
OFF TARGET	19%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Duván Zapata	3	22	8	3.5
2 Ruslan Malinovskyi	1	11	4	0.4
3 Luis Muriel	1	8	4	0.6

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Duván Zapata	3	5	0.8
2 Josip Iličić	1	10	0.9
3 Remo Freuler	1	5	0.7

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Remo Freuler	366	262	86	34
2 Marten de Roon	296	217	80	41
3 José Luis Palomino	255	146	82	43

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Marten de Roon	88	31	9	15
2 Remo Freuler	82	53	1	7
3 Ruslan Malinovskyi	73	19	6	1

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-2-1, morphing to 1-5-4-1 in defence
- Tactically flexible; switching to back four in possession
- Defend high with man-marking, high-pressing strategy
- Experienced centre-back Palomino winning majority of duels/aerials.
- Use of positional rotations; midfielders drop as wing-backs push up
- Option to go long, looking for deep balls to attackers
- Talented attackers including powerful front man Zapata
- Technical ability and set pieces of Malinovskyi



CLUB ATLÉTICO DE MADRID



COACH

DIEGO SIMEONE



BORN: 28/04/1970,
Buenos Aires (ARG)
NATIONALITY: Argentinian
HEAD COACH: Since
23/12/2011
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 4

GROUP B			ROUND OF 16			QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL	
POR D 0-0	ACM W 1-2	LIV L 2-3	LIV L 2-0	ACM L 0-1	POR W 1-3	MU D 1-1	MU W 0-1	MC L 1-0	MC D 0-0		

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

40%

Max. 64% v Milan (a)
Min. 28% v Liverpool (a)
UCL rank: 28

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	32%
Middle third	50%
Attacking third	18%

358

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 566 v Milan (a)
Min. 251 v Porto (a)
UCL rank: 31

76%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 87% v Milan (a)
Min. 64% v Porto (a)
UCL rank: 28=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	53 (15% of total)	UCL rank: 6
Medium	111 (31%)	UCL rank: 31
Short	194 (54%)	UCL rank: 25

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
13.9	22

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
3.3	28=

DISTANCE COVERED

113.2 km

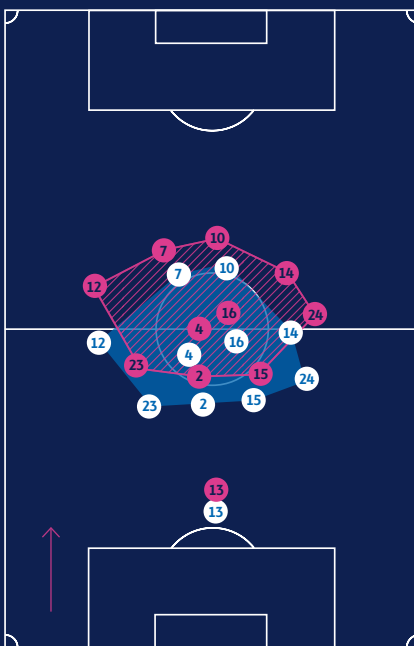
Max. 121.5 km v Man City (h)
Min. 107.2 km v Man Utd (h)
UCL rank: 28

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Manchester United (h)

3 In possession | **3** Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
13 Jan Oblak	10	900		

DEFENDERS

2 José María Giménez	7	585		
12 Renan Lodi	10	478	1	2
15 Stefan Savić	5	450		
18 Felipe	7	472		
22 Mario Hermoso	6	425		
23 Kieran Trippier	3	220		
23 Reinildo*	4	360		
24 Šime Vrsaljko	5	304		

MIDFIELDERS

4 Geoffrey Kondogbia	9	578		
5 Rodrigo De Paul	9	577	1	
6 Koke	9	665	1	
10 Ángel Correa	10	401	1	
11 Thomas Lemar	8	377	1	
14 Marcos Llorente	9	700		
16 Héctor Herrera	4	226		
21 Yannick Carrasco	7	472		
26 Javi Serrano	1	15		

FORWARDS

7 João Félix	8	573	1	1
8 Antoine Griezmann	9	518	4	2
9 Luis Suárez	7	347	1	
19 Matheus Cunha	5	142		

*Reinildo also played for LOSC

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

27.9

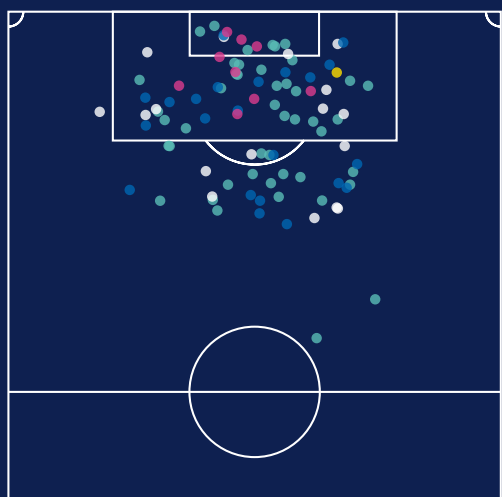
CARDS

25 **4**

Sent off:

Griezmann v Liverpool (h),
Felipe v Liverpool (a), Carrasco
v Porto (a), Felipe v Man. City (h)

ATTEMPTS



9

GOALS

0.9 per match; UCL rank: 24

12.4

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)

1.2 per match; UCL rank: 19=

96

GOAL ATTEMPTS

9.6 per match; UCL rank: 25

28

ON TARGET

2.8 per match; UCL rank: 26=

GOALS	10%
SAVED	44%
BLOCKED	25%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	19%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

	G	S	OT	xG
1 Antoine Griezmann	4	14	6	3.9
2 Rodrigo De Paul	1	13	4	1.1
3 Ángel Correa	1	10	3	0.9

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES

	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Koke	306	240	81	29
2 Rodrigo De Paul	276	232	78	35
3 Jan Oblak	254	88	47	77

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION

	A	KP	xA
1 Antoine Griezmann	2	8	0.8
2 Renan Lodi	2	6	0.6
3 João Félix	1	6	0.7

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING

	P	BR	TW	I
1 Rodrigo De Paul	151	44	12	7
2 Koke	139	45	9	5
3 Geoffrey Kondogbia	128	39	16	14

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-5-2, shifting to 1-5-3-2 without the ball; also 1-4-4-2, 1-4-5-1
- Tactically flexible with in-game switches between back five and four
- Commanding last line of defence in goalkeeper Oblak
- Defending in mid-to-low block; aggressive pressing in mid-third (h) v Man City
- Koke organising and bringing balance in midfield
- Midfield power of Kondogbia (most interceptions) and De Paul
- Switching play with quick attacks in behind via runs of Lodi, Llorente
- Forwards with great technical quality – João Félix, Griezmann



FC BARCELONA



ESP

COACH

XAVI HERNÁNDEZ*



BORN: 25/01/1980,
Terrassa (ESP)
NATIONALITY: Spanish
HEAD COACH: Since
06/11/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP E

BAY L 0-3	BEN L 3-0	DK W 1-0	DK W 0-1	BEN D 0-0	BAY L 3-0
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ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

FINAL

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

58%

Max. 65% v Benfica (h)
Min. 48% v Bayern (a)
UCL rank: 7=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	23%
Middle third	55%
Attacking third	22%

578

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 708 v Dynamo Kyiv (h)
Min. 469 v Bayern (a)
UCL rank: 7

87%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 89% v Dynamo Kyiv (a)
Min. 82% v Bayern (a)
UCL rank: 6=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	40 (7% of total)	UCL rank: 27=
Medium	227 (39%)	UCL rank: 6
Short	311 (54%)	UCL rank: 7=

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
9.7	5=

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
4.5	19

DISTANCE COVERED

117.1 km

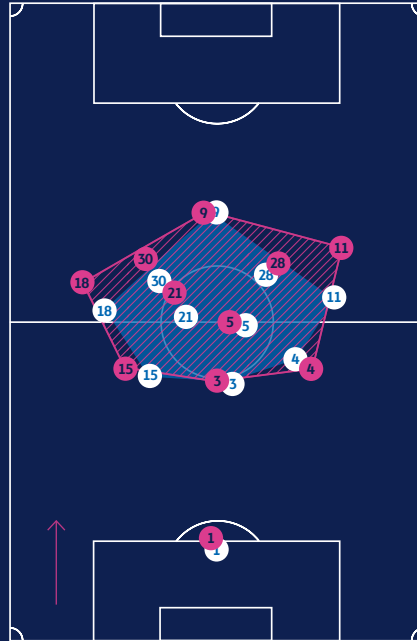
Max. 122.5 km v Benfica (h)
Min. 111.7 km v Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 8

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Benfica (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Marc-André ter Stegen	6	540		
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DEFENDERS

2	Sergiño Dest	4	230		
3	Gerard Piqué	5	393	1	
4	Ronald Araújo	5	367		
15	Clément Lenglet	4	345		
18	Jordi Alba	5	375	1	
22	Oscar Mingueza	5	219		
24	Eric García	4	247		
31	Alejandro Balde	2	19		

MIDFIELDERS

5	Sergio Busquets	6	487		
6	Ricard Puig	1	17		
14	Philippe Coutinho	4	109		
16	Pedri	2	158		
20	Sergi Roberto	3	169		
21	Frenkie de Jong	6	523		
28	Nico González	4	247		
30	Gavi	6	398		

FORWARDS

7	Ousmane Dembélé	3	122		
9	Memphis Depay	6	525		
10	Ansu Fati	3	154	1	
11	Yusuf Demir	3	101		
17	Luuk de Jong	3	179		
19	Sergio Agüero	1	15		

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

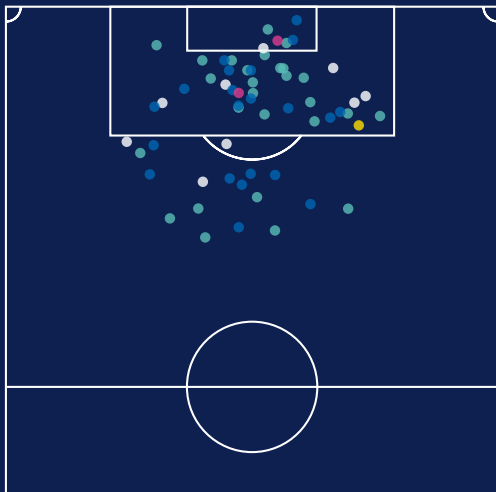
24.8

CARDS

13 1

Sent off:
Eric García v Benfica (a)

ATTEMPTS



2

GOALS

0.33 per match; UCL rank: 29=

6.4

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)

1.1 per match; UCL rank: 25

60

GOAL ATTEMPTS

10 per match; UCL rank: 22

12

ON TARGET

2 per match; UCL rank: 29=

GOALS	3%
SAVED	48%
BLOCKED	33%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	14%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Ansu Fati	1	4	1	0.4
2 Gerard Piqué	1	2	1	0.6
3 Luuk de Jong	0	6	2	1.0

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Jordi Alba	1	4	1.6
2 Memphis Depay	0	17	1.9
3 Frenkie de Jong	0	6	0.5

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Sergio Busquets	383	293	87	29
2 Frenkie de Jong	337	277	90	21
3 Clément Lenglet	320	268	89	38

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Gavi	135	22	6	3
2 Sergio Busquets	115	41	8	11
3 Frenkie de Jong	75	40	4	5

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; also 1-3-4-2-1 under Xavi
- Build game from back and look to keep possession
- Busquets the conductor, controlling play and protecting central defence
- Influential attacking full-back in Jordi Alba (26 open-play crosses)
- Immediate pressure on losing ball to win it back as high as possible
- Strong passers of ball in midfield (De Jong, Pedri)
- Good, quick combination play and diagonal passes to reach attacking third
- Lack of penalty-box precision with 20% of shots on target

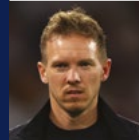


FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN



COACH

JULIAN NAGELSMANN



BORN: 23/07/1987,
Landsberg am Lech (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: Since
01/07/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

GROUP E			ROUND OF 16			QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL	
BAR	DK	BEN	BEN	DK	BAR	SAL	SAL	VLR	VLR		
W 0-3	W 5-0	W 0-4	W 5-2	W 1-2	W 3-0	D 1-1	W 7-1	L 1-0	D 1-1		

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

63%

Max. 72% v Salzburg (h)
Min. 51% v Barcelona (a)
UCL rank: 1

POSSESSION POSITION*

First third	26%
Middle third	50%
Attacking third	25%

618

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 752 v Salzburg (h)
Min. 514 v Barcelona (h)
UCL rank: 2

88%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 91% v Benfica (h)
Min. 85% v Salzburg (a)
UCL rank: 4=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	45 (7% of total)	UCL rank: 21=
Medium	253 (41%)	UCL rank: 1
Short	321 (52%)	UCL rank: 5

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
8.8	2=

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
8.3	1

DISTANCE COVERED

118.7 km

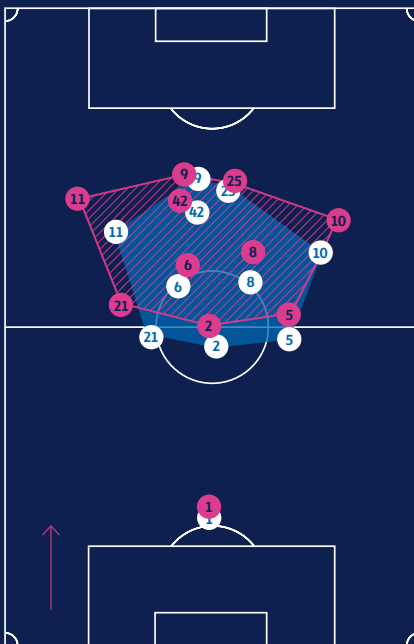
Max. 123.6 km v Dynamo (a)
Min. 115.1 km v Salzburg (a)
UCL rank: 4

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Villarreal (h)

3 In possession | **3** Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 Manuel Neuer	9	810	1	
26 Sven Ulreich	1	90		

DEFENDERS

2 Dayot Upamecano	8	660		
3 Omar Richards	4	52		
4 Niklas Süle	7	515		
5 Benjamin Pavard	10	764	1	
6 Joshua Kimmich	8	702		
19 Alphonso Davies	7	477	2	
20 Bouna Sarr	5	125		
21 Lucas Hernández	8	572		
44 Josip Stanišić	2	21	1	

MIDFIELDERS

7 Serge Gnabry	8	391	3	2
8 Leon Goretzka	6	466		
10 Leroy Sané	10	798	6	6
11 Kingsley Coman	9	632	2	3
18 Marcel Sabitzer	5	133		
22 Marc Roca	4	78		
23 Tanguy Nianzou	4	212		
24 Corentin Tolisso	4	234	1	
40 Malik Tillman	2	18		
42 Jamal Musiala	8	448	1	1

FORWARDS

9 Robert Lewandowski	10	876	13	3
13 Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting	4	49	1	
25 Thomas Müller	10	778	4	3

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

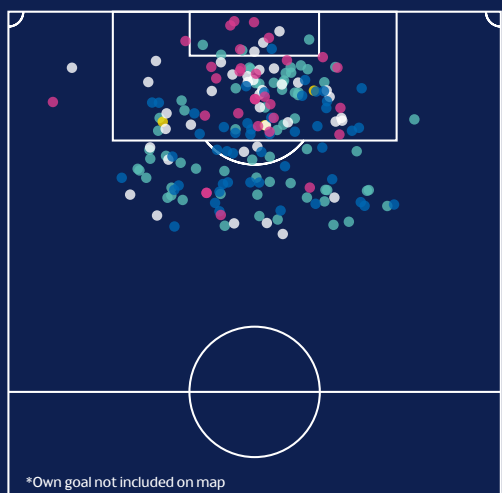
AVERAGE AGE

26.4

CARDS

12 **0**

ATTEMPTS



*Own goal not included on map

31

GOALS (1 own goal*)
3.1 per match; UCL rank: 1

26.7

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
2.7 per match; UCL rank: 1

190

GOAL ATTEMPTS
19 per match; UCL rank: 1

71

ON TARGET
7.1 per match; UCL rank: 1

GOALS	14%
SAVED	42%
BLOCKED	23%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	19%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

	G	S	OT	xG
1 Robert Lewandowski	13	31	19	10.3
2 Leroy Sané	6	34	14	4.3
3 Thomas Müller	4	14	8	1.9

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES

	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Benjamin Pavard	687	579	89	38
2 Joshua Kimmich	645	538	90	28
3 Dayot Upamecano	566	433	91	32

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION

	A	KP	xA
1 Leroy Sané	6	9	1.7
2 Kingsley Coman	3	22	4.1
3 Thomas Müller	3	17	1.7

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING

	P	BR	TW	I
1 Thomas Müller	151	22	2	2
2 Joshua Kimmich	135	49	11	16
3 Leroy Sané	131	58	8	4

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-2-4-1; also 1-4-2-3-1
- Defending with high line, meaning space between defence and Neuer
- High, aggressive pressing to win ball back immediately
- Fast transitions with quick attacking wing-backs
- Clever players working well between the lines, e.g. Müller
- Good positional play with high-quality passing and combinations
- Ability to keep ball with UCL-highest possession average (62.6%)
- Efficiency in penalty box with 13-goal Lewandowski



SL BENFICA



POR

COACH

NÉLSON VERÍSSIMO*



BORN: 17/04/1977,
Vila Franca de Xira (POR)
NATIONALITY: Portuguese
HEAD COACH: Since
28/12/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP E	ROUND OF 16				QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS	FINAL			
DK D 0-0	BAR W 3-0	BAY L 0-4	BAY L 5-2	BAR D 0-0	DK W 2-0	AJX D 2-2	AJX W 0-1	LIV L 1-3	LIV D 3-3		

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

39%

Max. 68% v Dynamo Kyiv (a)
Min. 31% v Ajax (a)
UCL rank: 29

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	35%
Middle third	49%
Attacking third	16%

368

PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 630 v Dynamo Kyiv (a)
Min. 277 v Ajax (a)
UCL rank: 29=

79%

PASS ACCURACY
Max. 89% v Dynamo Kyiv (a)
Min. 65% v Ajax (a)
UCL rank: 23=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	47 (13% of total)	UCL rank: 18=
Medium	136 (37%)	UCL rank: 26
Short	185 (50%)	UCL rank: 28

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
17.2	30

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
3.8	24

DISTANCE COVERED

117.5 km

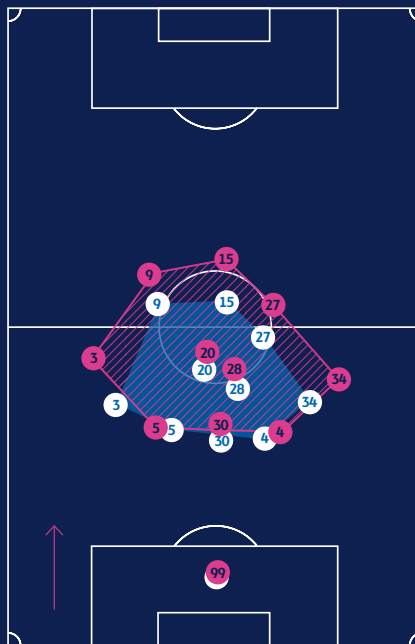
Max. 123.5 km v Barcelona (a)
Min. 112.3 km v Bayern (a)
UCL rank: 7

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Bayern (h)

🟩 3 In possession | 🟦 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

	App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
99 Odisseas Vlachodimos	10	900		
DEFENDERS				
2 Gilberto	9	715	1	
3 Alejandro Grimaldo	10	863		3
4 Lucas Verissimo	3	270		
5 Jan Vertonghen	10	900		1
30 Nicolás Otamendi	9	810		
34 André Almeida	5	236		
91 Morato	2	180	1	
MIDFIELDERS				
7 Everton	9	543		
11 Soualiho Meité	3	155		
17 Diogo Gonçalves	5	131		
20 João Mário	8	493		4
21 Pizzi	6	157		
22 Valentino Lazaro	6	114		
28 Julian Weigl	9	810		
31 Gil Dias	1	1		
49 Adel Taarabt	9	343		
55 Paulo Bernardo	5	39		
FORWARDS				
9 Darwin Núñez	10	613	6	
14 Haris Seferović	1	9		
15 Roman Yaremchuk	10	514	3	
23 Nemanja Radonjić	1	31		
27 Rafa Silva	9	704	1	1
88 Gonçalo Ramos	7	369	1	1

FORWARDS

9 Darwin Núñez	10	613	6
14 Haris Seferović	1	9	
15 Roman Yaremchuk	10	514	3
23 Nemanja Radonjić	1	31	
27 Rafa Silva	9	704	1 1
88 Gonçalo Ramos	7	369	1 1

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

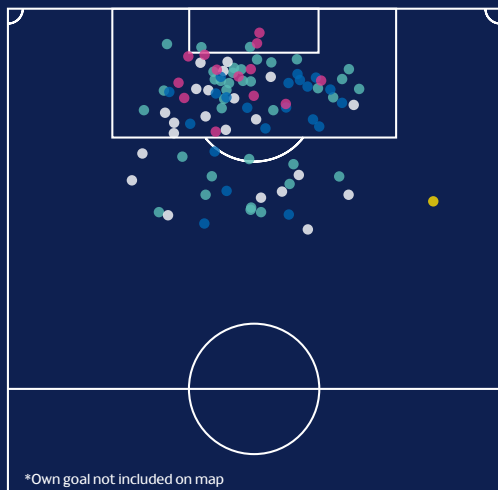
AVERAGE AGE

27.1

CARDS

20 0

ATTEMPTS



*Own goal not included on map

14 GOALS (1 own goal*)
1.4 per match; UCL rank: 15

11.9 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.2 per match; UCL rank: 19=

93 GOAL ATTEMPTS
9.3 per match; UCL rank: 26

36 ON TARGET
3.6 per match; UCL rank: 21

GOALS	13%
SAVED	43%
BLOCKED	21%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	22%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Darwin Núñez	6	17	8	3.1
2 Roman Yaremchuk	3	15	10	3.1
3 Gonçalo Ramos	1	10	2	1.1

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Jan Vertonghen	442	323	80	40
2 Nicolás Otamendi	384	268	84	40
3 Julian Weigl	373	259	88	29

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 João Mário	4	6	1.0
2 Alejandro Grimaldo	3	11	1.1
3 Rafa Silva	1	14	1.1

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Everton	141	23	6	3
2 Alejandro Grimaldo	131	47	12	7
3 Julian Weigl	126	43	8	12

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3, switching to 1-5-4-1; 1-4-2-3-1 in knockout stage
- Fluid approach with one of back three stepping into midfield to track opponents
- Good defensive organisation in compact low block (five away clean sheets)
- Pressure on the ball and aggressive in 1 v 1s
- Leadership and know-how of experienced Vertonghen
- Collective determination: 96 clearances combined by Vertonghen, Otamendi
- Speed on transitions to attack, with vertical passes and powerful runs
- Target man Núñez bringing aerial presence, dribbling ability



BEŞİKTAŞ JK



GROUP C				ROUND OF 16		QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL	
BVB L1-2	AJX L2-0	SCP L1-4	SCP L4-0	AJX L1-2	BVB L5-0						

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

44%

Max. 63% v Sporting CP (h)
Min. 29% v Ajax (a)
UCL rank: 22=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	32%
Middle third	55%
Attacking third	13%

412

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 633 v Dortmund (h)
Min. 287 v Ajax (a)
UCL rank: 21

80%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 88% v Dortmund (h)
Min. 73% v Ajax (a)
UCL rank: 19=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	45 (11% of total)	UCL rank: 21=
Medium	128 (31%)	UCL rank: 28
Short	238 (58%)	UCL rank: 17

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
13.7	20

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
3.7	25

DISTANCE COVERED

110 km

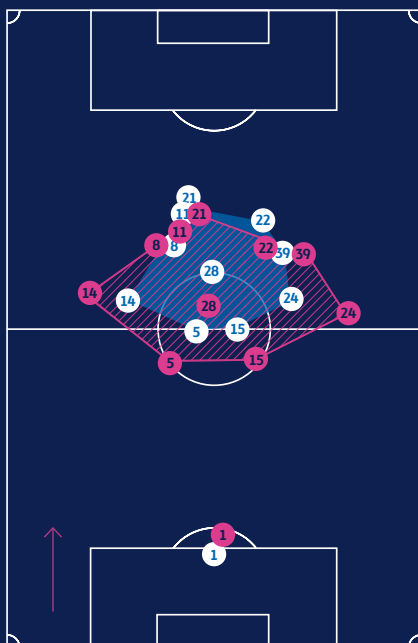
Max. 118.8 km v Dortmund (h)
Min. 103.7 km v Ajax (h)
UCL rank: 31

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Dortmund (h)

3 In possession | **3** Out of possession



COACH

SERGEN YALÇIN



BORN: 05/10/1972,
Istanbul (TUR)
NATIONALITY: Turkish
HEAD COACH: 29/01/2020 to
09/12/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	6	0	0	6	0%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	10	2	1	7	20%

SQUAD

	App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
30 Ersin Destanoğlu	5	450		
34 Mert Günok	1	90		
DEFENDERS				
2 Valentin Rosier	5	405		
3 Ridvan Yılmaz	2	135		
4 Francisco Montero	4	306	1	
21 Fabrice N'Sakala	3	270		
23 Welinton	4	313		
24 Domagoj Vida	2	180		
46 Serdar Saatçı	1	90		
77 Emut Meraş	3	253		
MIDFIELDERS				
5 Souza	5	442		
7 Georges-Kévin N'Koudou	1	90		
8 Salih Uçan	5	109		
10 Oğuzhan Özyakup	2	52		
11 Gökhan Töre	4	75		
12 Can Bozdoğan	4	219		
13 Atiba Hutchinson	4	156		
14 Mehmet Topal	3	261		
15 Miralem Pjanić	3	261	2	
18 Rachid Ghezzal	5	345	1	
20 Necip Uysal	3	189		
62 Berkay Vardar	1	17		
90 Alex Teixeira	3	184		
FORWARDS				
9 Michy Batshuayi	5	383		
17 Cyle Larin	5	354	1	
28 Kenan Karaman	5	264		

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

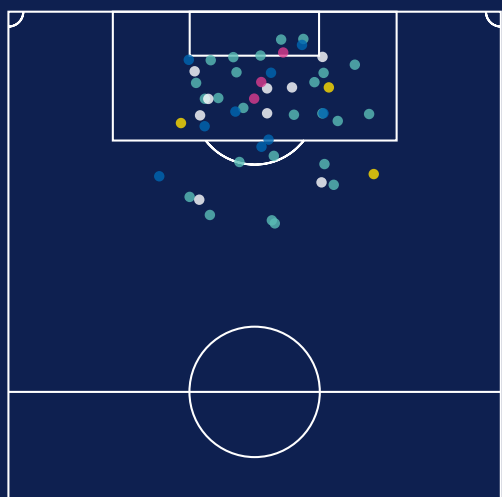
27.7

CARDS

16 **2**

Sent off:
Souza v Sporting CP (a),
Welinton v Dortmund (a)

ATTEMPTS



3 GOALS
0.5 per match; UCL rank: 28

6.3 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.0 per match; UCL rank: 26=

49 GOAL ATTEMPTS
8.2 per match; UCL rank: 28

12 ON TARGET
2 per match; UCL rank: 29=

GOALS	7%
SAVED	43%
BLOCKED	21%
WOODWORK	7%
OFF TARGET	21%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Cyle Larin	1	8	5	1.5
2 Rachid Ghezzal	1	8	2	1.6
3 Francisco Montero	1	1	1	0.3

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Souza	262	192	84	29
2 Miralem Pjanić	207	158	85	36
3 Welinton	179	117	83	52

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Miralem Pjanić	2	8	1.2
2 Rachid Ghezzal	0	6	0.7
3 Can Bozdoğan	0	3	0.7

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Souza	95	47	11	15
2 Valentin Rosier	90	26	6	9
3 Can Bozdoğan	75	12	4	1

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-1-4-1; 1-4-2-3-1
- Play at times in low defensive block; staying compact
- Holding midfielder Souza with team-best 47 recoveries
- Pjanić bringing mobility and passing quality to midfield
- Pressing in middle of pitch; fast transitions to attack
- Wide attackers coming inside, leaving space for full-backs
- Target man Batshuayi offering experience, good movement
- Vulnerability at defending set plays – five goals conceded



CLUB BRUGGE



BEL

COACH

PHILIPPE CLEMENT



BORN: 22/03/1974,
Antwerp (BEL)
NATIONALITY: Belgian
HEAD COACH: 30/06/2019 to
03/01/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP A

PAR D1-1	LEI W1-2	MC L1-5	MC L4-1	LEI L0-5	PAR L4-1
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ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

FINAL

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

38%

Max. 56% v Leipzig (h)
Min. 30% v Man. City (a)
UCL rank: 30=

POSSESSION POSITION*

First third	37%
Middle third	42%
Attacking third	22%

369

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 436 v Leipzig (h)
Min. 312 v Leipzig (a)
UCL rank: 28

75%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 83% v Paris (a)
Min. 63% v Leipzig (a)
UCL rank: 30=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	51 (14% of total)	UCL rank: 8=
Medium	120 (32%)	UCL rank: 30
Short	198 (54%)	UCL rank: 22

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
15.6	26

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
6	11

DISTANCE COVERED

116.7 km

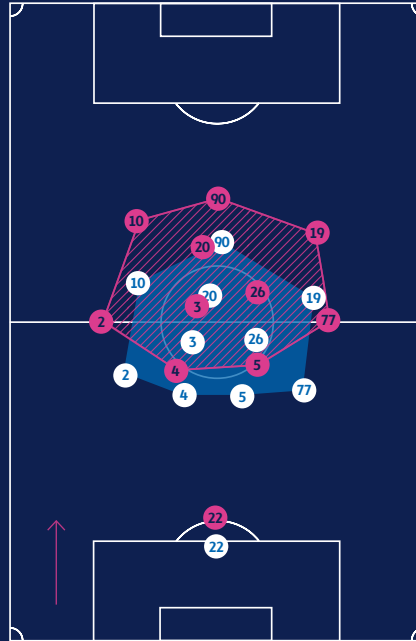
Max. 121.5 km v Man City (a)
Min. 113.6 km v Paris (a)
UCL rank: 10

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Paris (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
22 Simon Mignolet	6	540		

DEFENDERS

2 Eduard Sobol	4	331		1
4 Stanley Nsoki	6	484		
5 Jack Hendry	6	540		
11 Faitout Maouassa	1	1		
18 Federico Ricca	4	164		
28 Ignace Van Der Brempt	5	162		
44 Brandon Mechele	3	131		
72 Noah Mbamba-Muanda	3	55		
77 Clinton Mata	6	528		

MIDFIELDERS

3 Éder Balanta	5	407		
20 Hans Vanaken	6	540	3	1
25 Ruud Vormer	4	156		1
26 Mats Rits	6	417	2	
98 Cisse Sandra	1	56		

FORWARDS

7 Wesley	2	26		
10 Noa Lang	6	528		1
19 Kamal Sowah	5	298		
21 José Izquierdo	1	8		
29 Bas Dost	3	68		
90 Charles De Ketelaere	6	500		1

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

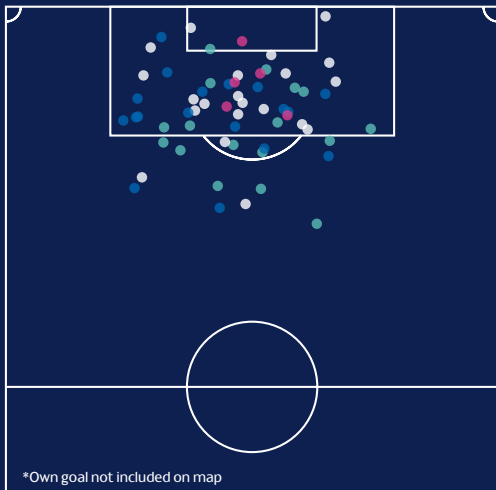
AVERAGE AGE

25.5

CARDS

11 0

ATTEMPTS



*Own goal not included on map

6 GOALS (1 own goal*)
1 per match; UCL rank: 21=

6.2 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1 per match; UCL rank: 26=

61 GOAL ATTEMPTS
10.2 per match; UCL rank: 21

26 ON TARGET
4.3 per match; UCL rank: 17

GOALS	6%
SAVED	47%
BLOCKED	22%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	25%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Hans Vanaken	3	13	7	1.8
2 Mats Rits	2	8	4	1.1
3 Noa Lang	0	10	5	1.1

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Charles De Ketelaere	1	10	1.1
2 Noa Lang	1	6	0.6
3 Hans Vanaken	1	4	0.5

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Hans Vanaken	299	221	81	39
2 Simon Mignolet	204	108	74	68
3 Noa Lang	198	221	70	42

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Éder Balanta	138	48	8	12
2 Charles De Ketelaere	122	14	4	1
3 Hans Vanaken	107	41	4	8

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; 1-4-4-1-1
- Tactically flexible, e.g. 1-3-4-3 in 1st half (h) v Leipzig
- Good transitions to attack; at times left space behind defensive line
- Midfielder Balanta sits in front of defence, organising (48 recoveries)
- Industrious players countering with speed and aggression
- Hard-running, technically gifted Vanaken operating behind forward
- Dribbling winger Lang getting behind defences (33 take-ons)
- De Ketelaere's clever runs across front line and in behind



CHELSEA FC



COACH

THOMAS TUCHEL



BORN: 29/08/1973,
Krumbach (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: Since
26/01/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 2

GROUP H			ROUND OF 16			QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL	
ZEN W 1-0	JUV L 1-0	MAL W 4-0	MAL W 0-1	JUV W 4-0	ZEN D 3-3	LIL W 2-0	LIL W 1-2	RM L 1-3	RM W 2-3*		

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

*After extra time

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

61%

Max. 72% v Juventus (a)
Min. 50% v LOSC (h)
UCL rank: 3=

POSSESSION POSITION*

First third	20%
Middle third	52%
Attacking third	29%

615

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 804 v Zenit (h)
Min. 510 v Juventus (h), LOSC (a)
UCL rank: 3

88%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 92% v Zenit (h)
Min. 83% v Juventus (h)
UCL rank: 4=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	35 (6% of total)	UCL rank: 30
Medium	223 (36%)	UCL rank: 8
Short	357 (58%)	UCL rank: 2

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
9.6	4

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
7.2	7=

DISTANCE COVERED

114.1 km

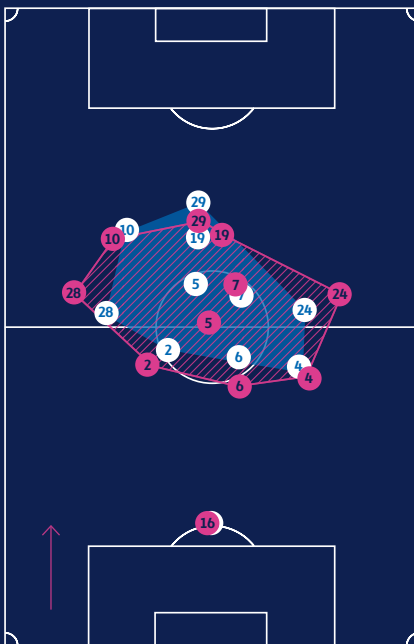
Max. 117 km v LOSC (h)
Min. 95.4 km v Zenit (h)
UCL rank: 19

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Real Madrid (h)

🟢 3 In possession | 🟡 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 Kupa	1	90		
16 Edouard Mendy	9	840		

DEFENDERS

2 Antonio Rüdiger	9	840	1	
3 Marcos Alonso	8	548		
4 Andreas Christensen	8	603	1	1
6 Thiago Silva	9	757		1
14 Trevoh Chalobah	3	175	1	
21 Ben Chilwell	4	188		
24 Reece James	6	505	1	
28 César Azpilicueta	9	679	1	1
31 Malang Sarr	2	100		

MIDFIELDERS

5 Jorginho	8	561	2	2
7 N'Golo Kanté	6	427		1
8 Mateo Kovačić	6	426		
10 Christian Puljišić	7	367	2	1
12 Ruben Loftus-Cheek	8	358		1
17 Saúl Ñíguez	5	159		
18 Ross Barkley	3	96		
19 Mason Mount	7	538	1	2
20 Callum Hudson-Odoi	5	289	1	2
22 Hakim Ziyech	9	446	1	2

FORWARDS

9 Romelu Lukaku	6	320	2	
11 Timo Werner	5	246	4	2
29 Kai Havertz	9	672	3	

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

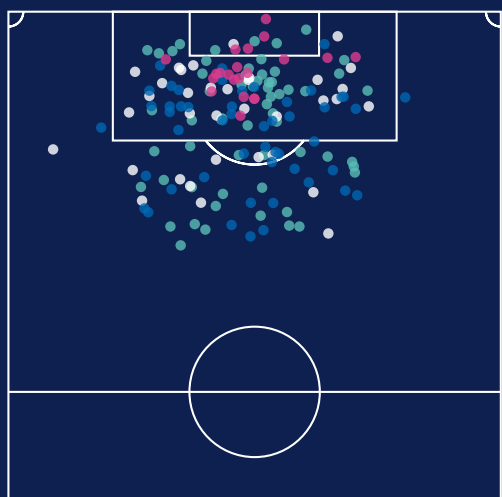
AVERAGE AGE

26.9

CARDS

15 **0**

ATTEMPTS



21 GOALS
2.1 per match; UCL rank: 7

19.2 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.9 per match; UCL rank: 7=

168 GOAL ATTEMPTS
16.8 per match; UCL rank: 3

57 ON TARGET
5.7 per match; UCL rank: 6

GOALS	11%
SAVED	43%
BLOCKED	25%
WOODWORK	5%
OFF TARGET	18%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Timo Werner	4	10	5	2.2
2 Kai Havertz	3	26	11	3.4
3 Romelu Lukaku	2	12	3	2.0

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Antonio Rüdiger	769	635	88	35
2 Thiago Silva	614	468	93	30
3 Andreas Christensen	574	465	92	32

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Mason Mount	2	13	0.9
2 Hakim Ziyech	2	8	1.5
3 Jorginho	2	6	1.4

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Kai Havertz	161	17	2	3
2 Mason Mount	140	23	8	0
3 Jorginho	114	45	6	13

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-2-1, changing to 1-5-4-1 defensively; also 1-4-3-3
- Reading of game and aerial power of Thiago Silva
- Rüdiger stepping out of back three and playing as extra midfielder
- Wide centre-backs looking for diagonal passes to wing-backs
- Compact out of possession, running hard to win ball back
- Quick transitions from defence to attack
- Mount's clever movement, positioning and eye for pass (13 key passes)
- Terrific speed in attack with Havertz and Werner



BORUSSIA DORTMUND



COACH

MARCO ROSE



BORN: 11/09/1976,
Leipzig (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: 01/07/2021 to
20/05/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP C

BJK	SCP	AJX	AJX	SCP	BJK	ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
W 1-2	W 1-0	L 4-0	L 1-3	L 3-1	W 5-0				

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

52%

Max. 70% v Beşiktaş (h)
Min. 31% v Ajax (h)
UCL rank: 11=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third 26%

Middle third 53%

Attacking third 21%

522

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 718 v Beşiktaş (h)
Min. 264 v Ajax (h)
UCL rank: 12=

84%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 89% v Beşiktaş (h)
Min. 72% v Ajax (h)
UCL rank: 13=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	41 (8% of total)	UCL rank: 26
Medium	187 (36%)	UCL rank: 13
Short	294 (56%)	UCL rank: 10

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
10.6	10

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
7.2	7=

DISTANCE COVERED

117 km

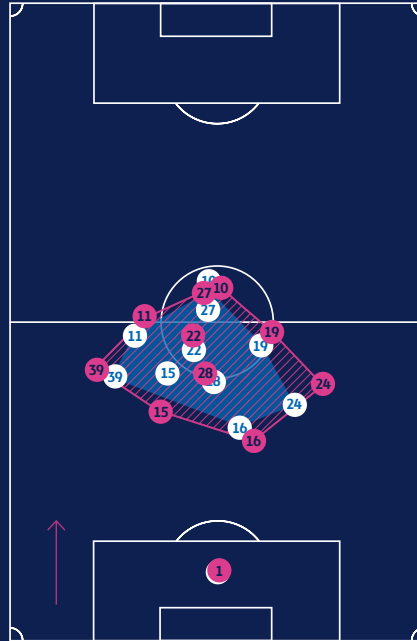
Max. 120.2 km v Ajax (a)
Min. 114.7 km v Ajax (h)
UCL rank: 9

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Ajax (h)

🟩 3 In possession | 🟦 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 Gregor Kobel	6	540		

DEFENDERS

5 Dan-Axel Zagadou	2	97		
13 Raphaël Guerreiro	3	182		
14 Nico Schulz	4	195		1
15 Mats Hummels	5	358		
16 Manuel Akanji	5	450		
24 Thomas Meunier	6	484		1
30 Felix Passlack	2	60		
34 Marin Pongračić	5	170		

MIDFIELDERS

8 Mahmoud Dahoud	4	212		2
10 Thorgan Hazard	3	142		
11 Marco Reus	6	499	3	1
19 Julian Brandt	5	395		
22 Jude Bellingham	6	503	1	3
23 Emre Can	2	74		
28 Axel Witsel	6	471		
39 Marius Wolf	5	170		

FORWARDS

9 Erling Haaland	3	203	3	
18 Youssoufa Moukoko	1	20		
20 Reinier	3	126		
21 Donyell Malen	6	392	3	
27 Steffen Tigges	2	100		
36 Ansgar Knauff	3	20		

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

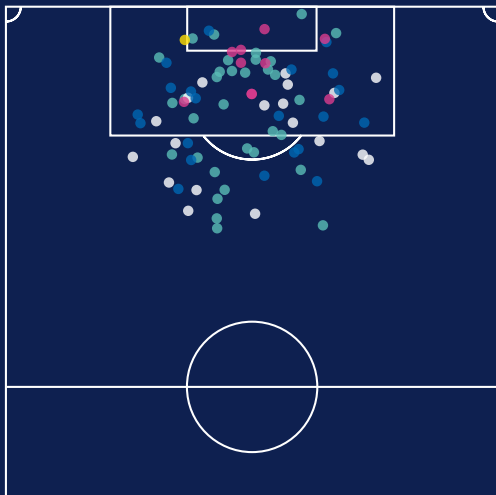
25.1

CARDS

9 2

Sent off:
Hummels v Ajax (h),
Can v Sporting CP (a)

ATTEMPTS



10

GOALS

1.67 per match; UCL rank: 11=

11.8

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)

2.0 per match; UCL rank: 6

85

GOAL ATTEMPTS

14.2 per match; UCL rank: 8

30

ON TARGET

5 per match; UCL rank: 9=

GOALS	11%
SAVED	44%
BLOCKED	23%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	21%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Marco Reus	3	16	9	3.3
2 Erling Haaland	3	12	7	3.3
3 Donyell Malen	3	11	6	1.6

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Jude Bellingham	3	5	1.1
2 Mahmoud Dahoud	2	3	0.5
3 Nico Schulz	1	4	0.4

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Axel Witsel	317	221	92	24
2 Mats Hummels	306	248	89	33
3 Manuel Akanji	293	215	85	39

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Marco Reus	143	23	6	2
2 Jude Bellingham	131	38	8	7
3 Julian Brandt	118	32	4	4

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1, shifting to 1-4-1-4-1 defensively
- Attacking full-backs get up to support narrow front three
- Build from back with short passing game to find midfielders between lines
- Witsel sits deep with other midfielders playing in half-spaces
- Immediate pressing on loss of possession, getting numbers around ball
- Swift transitions to attack with Haaland, when fit, always on move
- Bellingham creating between lines – most assists (3) and take-ons
- Talented individuals in attacking third – Reus, Brandt, Malen



FC DYNAMO KYIV



COACH

MIRCEA LUCESCU



BORN: 29/07/1945,
Bucharest (ROU)
NATIONALITY: Romanian
HEAD COACH: Since
23/07/2020
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 2

GROUP E

BEN D 0-0	BAY L 5-0	BAR L 1-0	BAR L 0-1	BAY L 1-2	BEN L 2-0
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ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

FINAL

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

41%

Max. 63% v Benfica (a)
Min. 32% v Benfica (h)
UCL rank: 26=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	40%
Middle third	42%
Attacking third	18%

413

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 627 v Benfica (a)
Min. 288 v Benfica (h)
UCL rank: 20

82%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 87% v Benfica (a)
Min. 74% v Benfica (h)
UCL rank: 16=

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	48 (12% of total)	UCL rank: 14=
Medium	148 (36%)	UCL rank: 22
Short	217 (53%)	UCL rank: 19

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
19.2	31

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
2.7	32

DISTANCE COVERED

123.1 km

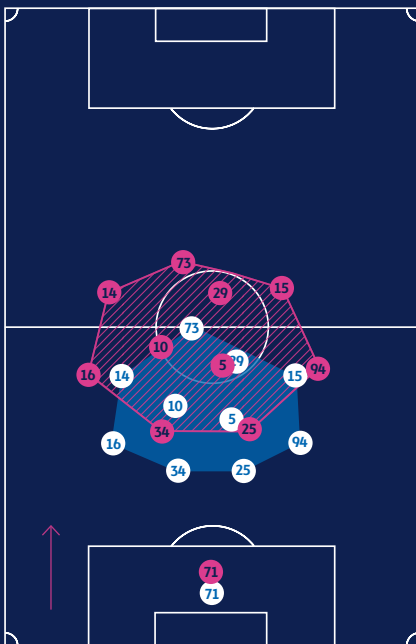
Max. 126.4 km v Bayern (h)
Min. 120.8 km v Barcelona (h)
UCL rank: 1

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Benfica (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Georgiy Bushchan	5	450
71	Denys Boyko	1	90

DEFENDERS

13	Artem Shabanov	1	90
16	Vitaliy Mykolenko	5	450
24	Oleksandr Tymchyk	4	160
25	Illia Zabarnyi	6	540
34	Oleksandr Syrota	5	450
94	Tomasz Kędziora	5	366

MIDFIELDERS

5	Serhiy Sydorchuk	6	536	
7	Benjamin Verbič	3	91	
8	Volodymyr Shepeliev	2	54	
10	Mykola Shaparenko	6	486	
14	Carlos De Pena	6	375	
15	Viktor Tsygankov	6	490	1
17	Bogdan Lednev	1	9	
18	Oleksandr Andriyevskiy	2	94	
19	Denys Garmash	6	325	1
20	Oleksandr Karavaev	6	154	
22	Vitinho	3	93	
29	Vitaliy Buyalskiy	5	436	

FORWARDS

9	Eric Ramirez	2	16
73	Ilya Shkurin	2	104
89	Vladyslav Supryaha	2	81

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

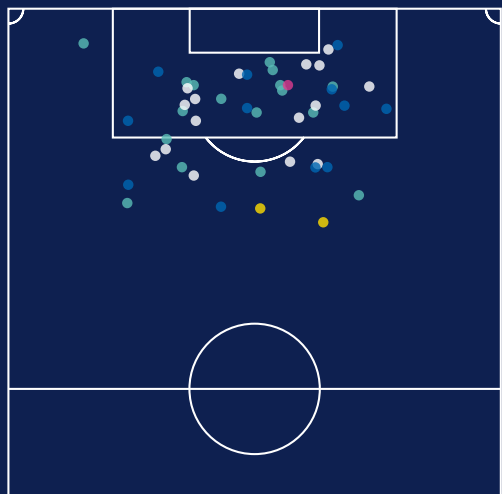
AVERAGE AGE

25.6

CARDS



ATTEMPTS



1 GOALS
0.17 per match; UCL rank: 31=

4.2 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
0.7 per match; UCL rank: 30=

48 GOAL ATTEMPTS
8 per match; UCL rank: 29=

17 ON TARGET
2.8 per match; UCL rank: 26=



PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG	
1	Denys Garmash	1	7	3	0.8
2	Viktor Tsygankov	0	9	2	0.9
3	Mykola Shaparenko	0	7	3	0.7

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%	
1	Mykola Shaparenko	317	248	90	21
2	Serhiy Sydorchuk	296	222	86	31
3	Illia Zabarnyi	241	196	89	36

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA	
1	Viktor Tsygankov	1	5	0.8
2	Vitaliy Buyalskiy	0	6	1.1
3	Mykola Shaparenko	0	4	0.5

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I	
1	Mykola Shaparenko	175	50	9	9
2	Serhiy Sydorchuk	103	44	10	12
3	Viktor Tsygankov	100	34	3	3

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-1-1; 1-4-2-3-1
- Compact and disciplined in defence, with narrow shape (1-4-4-2)
- Counterattacking style with fast transitions to attack
- Full-backs support the attack on counters
- Shaparenko influential as forward-looking midfielder with decent passing
- Attacking players looking to run behind opposition defence
- Buyalskiy linking midfield and attack; marking opponents' sitting midfielder
- Third-fewest chances created (31) and one goal scored



FC INTERNAZIONALE MILANO



COACH

SIMONE INZAGHI



BORN: 05/04/1976,
Piacenza (ITA)
NATIONALITY: Italian
HEAD COACH: Since
03/06/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP D

RM	SHK	SHE	SHE	SHK	RM	LIV	LIV
L 0-1	D 0-0	W 3-1	W 1-3	W 2-0	L 2-0	L 0-2	W 0-1

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

49%

Max. 70% v Sheriff (h)
Min. 34% v Shakhtar Donetsk (a)
UCL rank: 16=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	33%
Middle third	48%
Attacking third	19%

485

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 656 v Sheriff (h)
Min. 328 v Shakhtar Donetsk (a)
UCL rank: 14

86%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 91% v Real Madrid (a)
Min. 79% v Liverpool (a)
UCL rank: 10=

PASS DISTANCE

		UCL rank:
Long	40 (8% of total)	27=
Medium	202 (42%)	10
Short	243 (50%)	14

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
13.4	19

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
5.4	14

DISTANCE COVERED

116.2 km

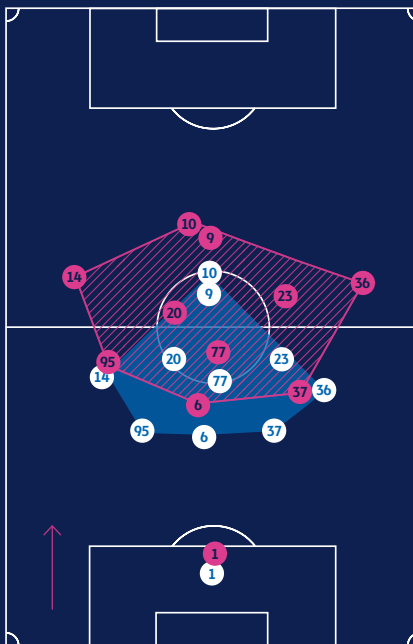
Max. 121 km v Liverpool (h)
Min. 111.2 km v Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 13

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Real Madrid (h)

🟩 3 In possession | 🟦 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 Samir Handanovič	8	720		

DEFENDERS

2 Denzel Dumfries	7	467		1
6 Stefan de Vrij	6	487		1
11 Aleksandar Kolarov	1	5		
13 Andrea Ranocchia	3	98		
32 Federico Dimarco	7	283		
33 Danilo D'Ambrosio	3	147		
36 Matteo Darmian	5	196		
37 Milan Škriniar	8	720	1	
95 Alessandro Bastoni	8	666		

MIDFIELDERS

5 Roberto Gagliardini	5	66		
8 Matías Vecino	4	124		
12 Stefano Sensi	2	9		
14 Ivan Perišić	8	531		1
20 Hakan Çalhanoğlu	6	419		
22 Arturo Vidal	7	409	1	2
23 Nicolò Barella	6	496		
77 Marcelo Brozović	8	635	1	

FORWARDS

7 Alexis Sánchez	6	155	1	1
9 Edin Džeko	7	541	3	1
10 Lautaro Martínez	8	587	1	
19 Joaquín Correa	5	106		

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

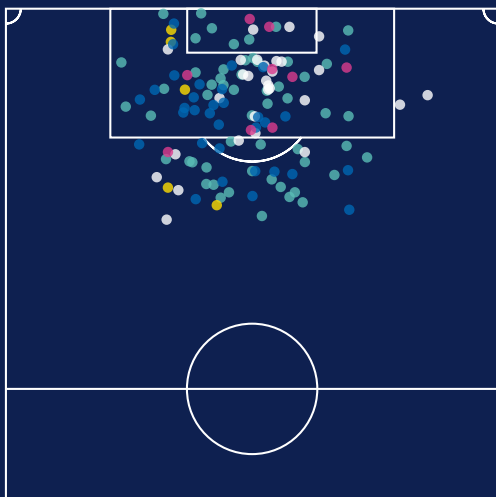
29.6

CARDS

12 2

Sent off:
Barella v Real Madrid (a),
Alexis Sánchez v Liverpool (a)

ATTEMPTS



9

GOALS

1.13 per match; UCL rank: 20

12.9

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)

1.6 per match; UCL rank: 14=

133

GOAL ATTEMPTS

16.6 per match; UCL rank: 4

38

ON TARGET

4.8 per match; UCL rank: 11=

GOALS	6%
SAVED	45%
BLOCKED	24%
WOODWORK	4%
OFF TARGET	21%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Edin Džeko	3	24	11	4.1
2 Lautaro Martínez	1	28	7	2.4
3 Marcelo Brozović	1	11	1	0.4

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Arturo Vidal	2	4	0.6
2 Ivan Perišić	1	13	1.3
3 Edin Džeko	1	6	1.0

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Marcelo Brozović	548	447	90	30
2 Milan Škriniar	449	364	92	31
3 Alessandro Bastoni	435	321	89	35

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Marcelo Brozović	147	55	10	14
2 Alessandro Bastoni	108	45	5	6
3 Arturo Vidal	104	32	13	4

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-5-2, morphing to 1-5-3-2 defensively
- Centre-back Škriniar vital for composed passing, strong defending
- Brozović providing balance in midfield screening role
- Pressing with high defensive line, willing to go 1 v 1 at back
- Build up from back and through midfield; diagonal switches to wing-backs
- Wing-backs Dumfries and Perišić playing high and wide up pitch
- Perišić pivotal with 40 open-play crosses
- Seven goals conceded – second fewest



JUVENTUS



ITA

COACH

MASSIMILIANO ALLEGRI



BORN: 11/08/1967,
Livorno (ITA)
NATIONALITY: Italian
HEAD COACH: Since
28/05/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

GROUP H

MAL W 0-3	CHE W 1-0	ZEN W 0-1	ZEN W 4-2	CHE L 4-0	MAL W 1-0	VLR D 1-1	VLR L 0-3	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
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ROUND OF 16

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

51%

Max. 60% v Malmö (a)
Min. 28% v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 13=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	26%
Middle third	56%
Attacking third	18%

523

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 633 v Malmö (h)
Min. 287 v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 11

87%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 90% v Villarreal (h)
Min. 75% v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 6=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	46 (9% of total)	UCL rank: 20
Medium	214 (41%)	UCL rank: 9
Short	263 (50%)	UCL rank: 12

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
12.3	16

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
4	21=

DISTANCE COVERED

114 km

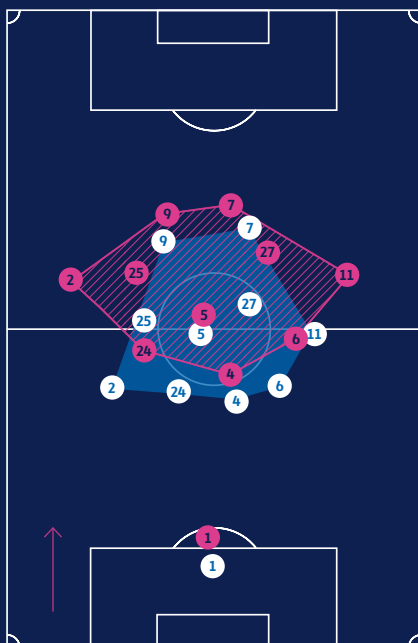
Max. 117.7 km v Malmö (a)
Min. 110.3 km v Chelsea (a)
UCL rank: 22

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Villarreal (h)

In possession | Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

1 Wojciech Szczęsny	7	630
36 Mattia Perin	1	90

DEFENDERS

2 Mattia De Sciglio	4	286	1
3 Giorgio Chiellini	1	7	
4 Matthijs de Ligt	7	627	
6 Danilo	5	450	1
12 Alex Sandro	7	553	1
17 Luca Pellegrini	1	3	
19 Leonardo Bonucci	7	580	
24 Daniele Rugani	4	177	
45 Koni De Winter	2	81	

MIDFIELDERS

5 Arthur	6	264	
8 Aaron Ramsey	2	14	
11 Juan Cuadrado	7	472	
14 Weston McKennie	6	388	
20 Federico Bernardeschi	5	292	2
22 Federico Chiesa	4	336	2
25 Adrien Rabiot	7	536	
27 Manuel Locatelli	7	539	
28 Denis Zakaria	1	9	
30 Rodrigo Bentancur	5	382	1
44 Dejan Kulusevski	5	80	1
47 Fabio Miretti	1	1	

FORWARDS

7 Dušan Vlahović	2	180	1
9 Álvaro Morata	7	520	2
10 Paulo Dybala	5	255	3
18 Moise Kean	6	168	1
43 Marco Da Graca	1	1	

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

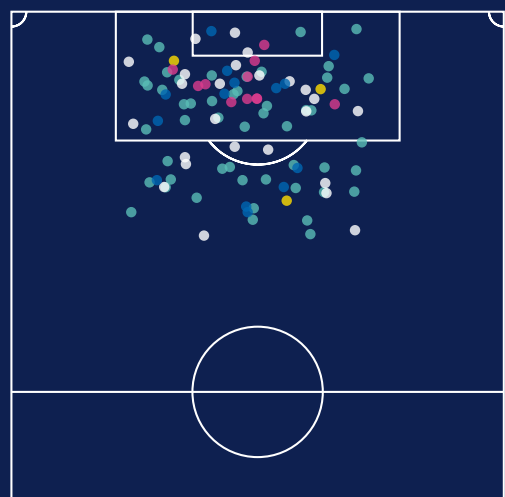
AVERAGE AGE

26.3

CARDS



ATTEMPTS



11

GOALS

1.38 per match; UCL rank: 16

13.4

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)

1.7 per match; UCL rank: 9=

104

GOAL ATTEMPTS

13 per match; UCL rank: 14

38

ON TARGET

4.8 per match; UCL rank: 11=

GOALS	12%
SAVED	42%
BLOCKED	15%
WOODWORK	3%
OFF TARGET	27%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

	G	S	OT	xG
1 Paulo Dybala	3	12	5	2.4
2 Álvaro Morata	2	18	8	3.2
3 Federico Chiesa	2	13	4	0.8

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES

	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Leonardo Bonucci	435	349	88	38
2 Danilo	365	317	90	36
3 Manuel Locatelli	361	294	86	35

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION

	A	KP	xA
1 Federico Bernardeschi	2	8	1.0
2 Paulo Dybala	1	6	0.7
3 Mattia De Sciglio	1	5	0.4

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING

	P	BR	TW	I
1 Adrien Rabiot	141	44	11	7
2 Rodrigo Bentancur	117	24	8	4
3 Manuel Locatelli	109	34	7	9

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-5-2, shifting to 1-5-3-2 defensively; 1-4-4-2
- Tactical fluidity: switching from back five to pressing in 1-4-4-2
- Solid De Ligt leading defence with organisational and build-up ability
- Some direct play with good transitions from defence to attack
- Quick counterattacking key to win v Chelsea (28% possession)
- Good use of width through Cuadrado and Alex Sandro
- Ability to attack with high intensity and fast combinations
- Talented forwards e.g. Chiesa and Vlahović (running, hold-up play)



LOSC LILLE



FRA

COACH

JOCELYN GOURVENNEC



BORN: 22/03/1972,
Brest (FRA)
NATIONALITY: French
HEAD COACH: 05/07/2021 to
16/06/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP G			ROUND OF 16		QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
WOL D 0-0	SAL L 2-1	SEV D 0-0	SEV W 1-2	SAL W 1-0	WOL W 1-3	CHE L 2-0	CHE L 1-2

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

47%

Max. 54% v Salzburg (a)
Min. 39% v Sevilla (h)
UCL rank: 18=

POSSESSION POSITION*

First third	29%
Middle third	55%
Attacking third	17%

418

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 518 v Chelsea (a)
Min. 369 v Sevilla (a)
UCL rank: 19

78%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 82% v Wolfsburg (h)
Min. 73% v Wolfsburg (a)
UCL rank: 25

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	Medium	Short
49 (12% of total)	153 (37%)	216 (52%)
UCL rank: 12=	UCL rank: 19=	UCL rank: 20

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
14.2	23=

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
4.6	18

DISTANCE COVERED

113.5 km

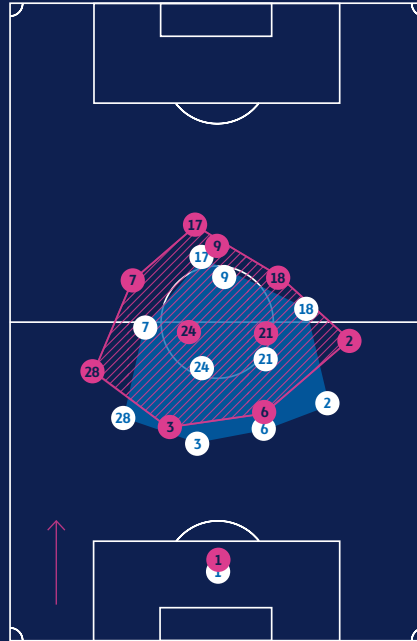
Max. 119.1 km v Sevilla (a)
Min. 108 km v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 26

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Sevilla (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 Ivo Grbić	6	540		
30 Leo Jardim	2	180		

DEFENDERS

2 Zeki Çelik	7	591		1
3 Tiago Djaló	7	533		
4 Sven Botman	5	418		
5 Gabriel Gudmundsson	4	243		
6 José Fonte	8	720		
28 Reinildo*	6	456		
29 Domagoj Bradarić	1	13		

MIDFIELDERS

8 Xeka	7	435		
10 Jonathan Ikoné	5	297	1	2
11 Hatem Ben Arfa	2	22		
18 Renato Sanches	5	407		
20 Angel Gomes	4	168	1	1
21 Benjamin André	7	630		
23 Edon Zhegrov	1	9		
24 Amadou Onana	8	257		

FORWARDS

7 Jonathan Bamba	6	468		
9 Jonathan David	8	679	3	
11 Yusuf Yazıcı	4	47		
17 Burak Yılmaz	7	529	3	
19 Isaac Lihadji	3	23		
22 Timothy Weah	5	255		

*Reinildo also played for Atlético

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

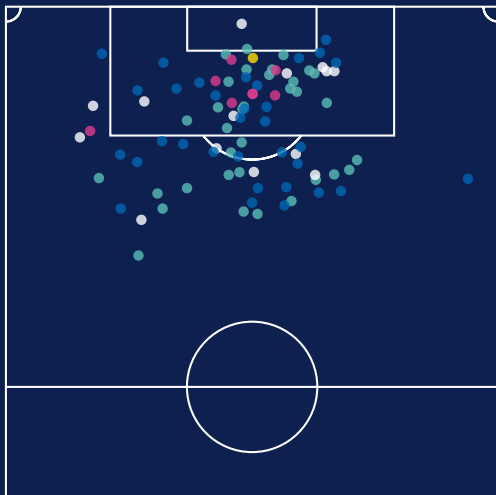
AVERAGE AGE

25.4

CARDS

26 0

ATTEMPTS



8 GOALS
1 per match; UCL rank: 21=

10.6 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.3 per match; UCL rank: 17=

90 GOAL ATTEMPTS
11.3 per match; UCL rank: 16

23 ON TARGET
2.9 per match; UCL rank: 25

GOALS	8%
SAVED	46%
BLOCKED	32%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	14%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Burak Yılmaz	3	25	8	3.4
2 Jonathan David	3	12	5	3.0
3 Jonathan Ikoné	1	11	4	1.2

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Jonathan Ikoné	2	3	0.6
2 Zeki Çelik	1	3	0.3
3 Angel Gomes	1	1	0.4

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 José Fonte	382	248	84	31
2 Benjamin André	377	250	79	37
3 Zeki Çelik	291	253	79	44

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Benjamin André	149	62	8	8
2 Jonathan David	142	25	2	3
3 Xeka	126	26	0	5

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2; also 1-4-5-1, 1-4-3-3
- Fonte leading defence with positional know-how and aerial power
- Disciplined, organised team with well-connected defence and midfield lines
- In defending, switching between going high and dropping in compact block
- Influential midfielders including André (62 recoveries) and Sanches
- Counterattacking ability of talented winger Ikoné
- Power, mobility and set-piece menace of Burak Yılmaz
- Sharp, dynamic forward David – scorer in all three wins



LIVERPOOL FC



COACH

JÜRGEN KLOPP



BORN: 16/06/1967,
Stuttgart (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: Since
08/10/2015
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 2

GROUP B			ROUND OF 16		QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL			
ACM W 3-2	POR W 1-5	ATL W 2-3	ATL W 2-0	POR W 2-0	ACM W 1-2	INT W 0-2	INT L 0-1	BEN W 1-3	BEN D 3-3	VLR W 2-0	VLR W 2-3	RM L 1-0

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

62%

Max. 73% v Villarreal (h)
Min. 52% v Milan (a)
UCL rank: 2

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	23%
Middle third	55%
Attacking third	22%

619

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 778 v Benfica (h)
Min. 427 v Villarreal (a)
UCL rank: 1

86%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 91% v Atlético (h)
Min. 76% v Villarreal (a)
UCL rank: 10=

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	51 (8% of total)	UCL rank: 8=
Medium	238 (38%)	UCL rank: 3
Short	330 (53%)	UCL rank: 4

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
8.8	2=

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
7.9	4

DISTANCE COVERED

114.1 km

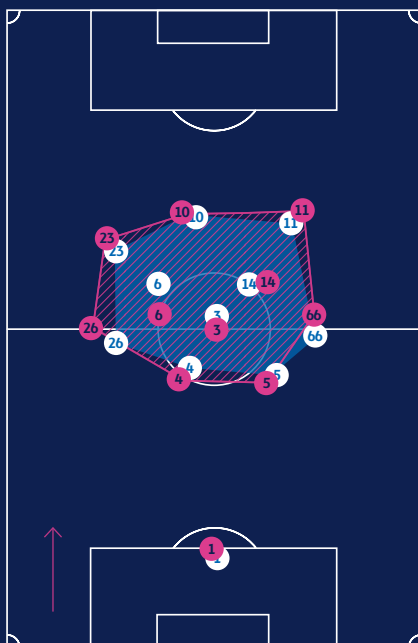
Max. 120.1 km v Benfica (h)
Min. 107.1 km v Atlético (a)
UCL rank: 20

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Real Madrid (n)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

1 Alisson Becker	13	1170
------------------	----	------

DEFENDERS

4 Virgil van Dijk	9	810	1
5 Ibrahima Konaté	8	720	2
12 Joe Gomez	7	245	
21 Kostas Tsimikas	5	344	2
26 Andy Robertson	10	826	2
32 Joël Matip	7	630	
47 Nathaniel Phillips	2	91	
66 Trent Alexander-Arnold	9	794	4
76 Neco Williams	3	180	

MIDFIELDERS

3 Fabinho	13	849	1
6 Thiago Alcântara	10	604	1
7 James Milner	8	211	1
8 Naby Keïta	10	487	1 2
14 Jordan Henderson	12	666	1 2
15 Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain	6	300	1
17 Curtis Jones	4	185	2
67 Harvey Elliott	1	59	
80 Tyler Morton	2	180	
82 Max Woltman	1	1	
84 Conor Bradley	1	1	

FORWARDS

9 Roberto Firmino	7	323	5
10 Sadio Mané	13	822	5 1
11 Mohamed Salah	13	1008	8 2
18 Takumi Minamino	4	215	
20 Diogo Jota	11	578	1 1
23 Luis Díaz*	7	385	2 1
27 Divock Origi	7	187	1 1

*Luis Díaz also played for Porto
App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

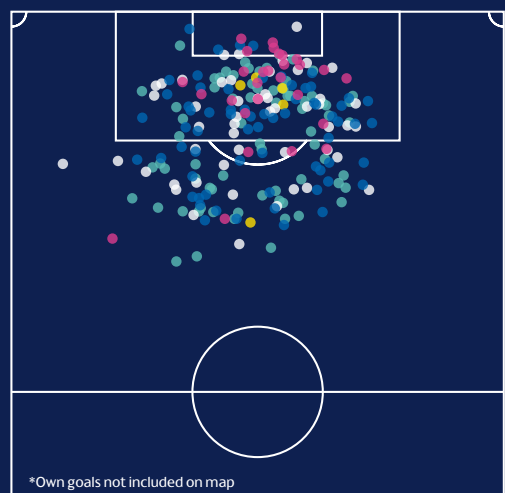
AVERAGE AGE

26

CARDS

15 0

ATTEMPTS



*Own goals not included on map

30 GOALS (2 own goals*)
2.31 per match; UCL rank: 5

27.8 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
2.1 per match; UCL rank: 5

224 GOAL ATTEMPTS
17.2 per match; UCL rank: 2

82 ON TARGET
6.3 per match; UCL rank: 2=



PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Mohamed Salah	8	43	22	9.0
2 Sadio Mané	5	21	8	4.5
3 Roberto Firmino	5	12	6	1.8

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Virgil van Dijk	692	515	91	34
2 Trent Alexander-Arnold	668	603	82	42
3 Fabinho	613	467	91	27

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Trent Alexander-Arnold	4	19	3.1
2 Andy Robertson	2	22	1.5
3 Mohamed Salah	2	21	1.8

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Mohamed Salah	187	27	3	2
2 Diogo Jota	163	29	5	6
3 Fabinho	154	79	18	18

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3
- Centre-backs with aerial authority – Van Dijk's 82.9% success from 42 duels
- Excellent set-play focus, delivery and organisation (eight goals)
- High-tempo pressing yields UCL-best 813 recoveries
- Fluid positioning with midfield rotations, e.g. Henderson moving out right
- Reading of game and precise passing of tempo-setting Thiago
- Good use of long passing and diagonal balls (Alexander-Arnold)
- Speed and finishing of high-class forwards Salah, Mané, Luis Díaz



MALMÖ FF



COACH

JON DAHL TOMASSON



BORN: 29/08/1976,
Copenhagen (DEN)
NATIONALITY: Danish
HEAD COACH: 05/01/2020 to
30/12/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP H	ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
JUV L 0-3	ZEN L 4-0	CHE L 4-0	CHE L 0-1	ZEN D 1-1
JUV L 1-0				

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

38%

Max. 45% v Zenit (h)
Min. 28% v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 30=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	37%
Middle third	53%
Attacking third	10%

368

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 461 v Zenit (a)
Min. 245 v Chelsea (a)
UCL rank: 29=

77%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 86% v Zenit (a)
Min. 61% v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 26=

PASS DISTANCE

		UCL rank:
Long	48 (13% of total)	14=
Medium	126 (34%)	29
Short	195 (53%)	24

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
16.9	29

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
4	21=

DISTANCE COVERED

112.5 km

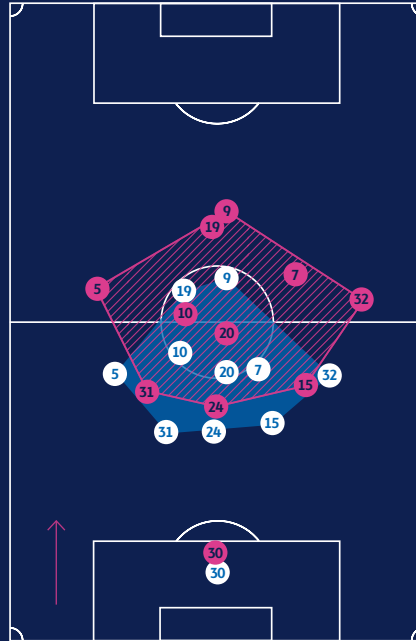
Max. 119.8 km v Juventus (h)
Min. 106.8 km v Chelsea (a)
UCL rank: 29

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Juventus (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
27 Johan Dahlin	4	315		
30 Ismael Diawara	3	225		

DEFENDERS

2 Eric Larsson	4	275		
4 Niklas Moisander	3	187		
13 Martin Olsson	6	284		
15 Anel Ahmedhodžić	5	413		
24 Lasse Nielsen	5	450		
29 Noah Eile	1	3		
31 Franz Brorsson	5	448		

MIDFIELDERS

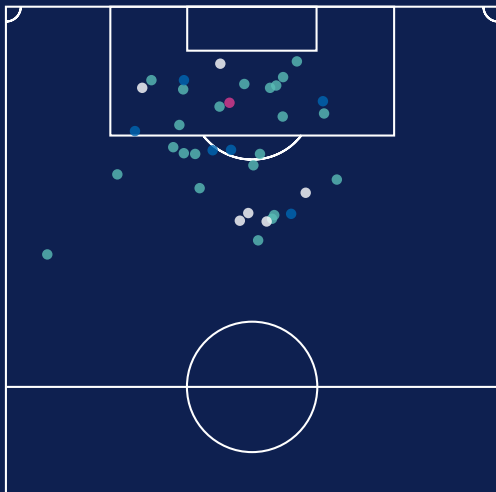
5 Søren Rieks	3	222	1	
6 Oscar Lewicki	2	123		
7 Erdal Rakip	6	273		
8 Sergio Peña	5	281		
10 Anders Christiansen	4	328		
19 Veljko Birmančević	6	356	1	
20 Bonke Innocent	6	496		
22 Adi Nalić	5	83		
37 Sebastian Nanasi	2	89		

FORWARDS

9 Antonio Čolak	6	500		
17 Malik Abubakari	4	116		
32 Jo Inge Berget	5	438		

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

ATTEMPTS



1 GOALS
0.17 per match; UCL rank: 31=

1.7 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
0.3 per match; UCL rank: 32

36 GOAL ATTEMPTS
6 per match; UCL rank: 32

7 ON TARGET
1.2 per match; UCL rank: 32

GOALS	4%
SAVED	48%
BLOCKED	24%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	24%

AVERAGE AGE

27.5

CARDS

15 1

Sent off:
Ahmedhodžić v Zenit (a)

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Søren Rieks	1	3	1	0.2
2 Antonio Čolak	0	8	1	0.4
3 Anders Christiansen	0	5	1	0.3

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Veljko Birmančević	1	2	0.2
2 Antonio Čolak	0	5	0.1
3 Jo Inge Berget	0	4	0.2

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Anel Ahmedhodžić	227	159	83	39
2 Bonke Innocent	220	158	87	21
3 Anders Christiansen	193	165	83	26

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Bonke Innocent	146	31	6	5
2 Antonio Čolak	103	15	1	1
3 Erdal Rakip	94	13	2	0

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-5-3-2; 1-5-4-1; attacking in 1-3-5-2, 1-3-4-3
- Defending in low block; focus on defensive transitions
- Wing-backs (Berget, Rieks) pushed high at times to deliver crosses
- Hard-working screening midfielder Innocent (31 recoveries)
- Mobile Rakip prominent in midfield rotations, linking with forwards
- Playmaking ability of No10 Christiansen, building attacks
- Target striker at times isolated with wingers supporting midfielders
- Fewest chances created (29) and one goal scored



MANCHESTER CITY FC



COACH

JOSEP GUARDIOLA



BORN: 18/01/1971,
Santpedor (ESP)
NATIONALITY: Spanish
HEAD COACH: Since
01/07/2016

UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 5

GROUP A			ROUND OF 16			QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL	
LEI W 6-3	PAR L 2-0	BRU W 1-5	BRU W 4-1	PAR W 2-1	LEI L 2-1	SCP W 0-5	SCP D 0-0	ATL W 1-0	ATL D 0-0	RM W 4-3	RM L 3-1*

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

*After extra time

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

60%

Max. 71% v Club Brugge (h)
Min. 50% v Leipzig (h)
UCL rank: 6

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	21%
Middle third	53%
Attacking third	26%

609

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 796 v Club Brugge (h)
Min. 468 v Leipzig (h)
UCL rank: 4

89%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 93% v Paris (h)
Min. 84% v Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 2=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	44 (7% of total)	UCL rank: 23=
Medium	245 (40%)	UCL rank: 2
Short	320 (53%)	UCL rank: 6

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
11	11=

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
5.7	13

DISTANCE COVERED

120.6 km

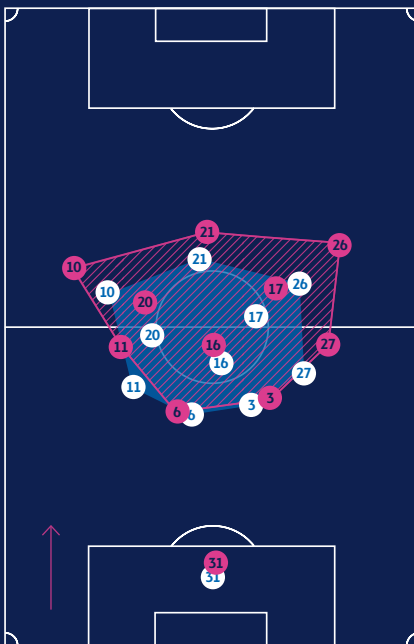
Max. 157.5 km v Real Madrid (a)
Min. 110.8 km v Leipzig (h)
UCL rank: 3

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Leipzig (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
13 Zack Steffen	1	90		
31 Ederson	11	1003		
33 Scott Carson	1	17		

DEFENDERS

2 Kyle Walker	7	577	1	
3 Rúben Dias	8	664		
5 John Stones	8	637		
6 Nathan Aké	6	324	1	
11 Oleksandr Zinchenko	8	501	1	
14 Aymeric Laporte	9	794		
27 João Cancelo	9	840	2	3
56 Conrad Egan-Riley	1	90		
79 Luke Mbete	1	6		

MIDFIELDERS

8 İlkay Gündoğan	10	660	2	
10 Jack Grealish	7	461	1	1
16 Rodri	10	842		
17 Kevin De Bruyne	10	734	2	4
20 Bernardo Silva	11	878	3	3
25 Fernandinho	8	347	2	
26 Riyad Mahrez	12	986	7	2
47 Phil Foden	11	658	3	2
80 Cole Palmer	3	40	1	
87 James McAtee	1	45		

FORWARDS

7 Raheem Sterling	12	581	3	2
9 Gabriel Jesus	8	352	4	1
21 Ferran Torres	1	71		
48 Liam Delap	1	6		

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

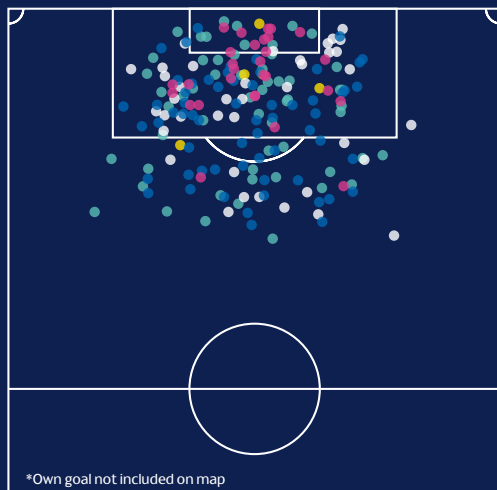
AVERAGE AGE

26

CARDS

23 1 Sent off:
Walker v Leipzig (a)

ATTEMPTS



*Own goal not included on map

29 GOALS (1 own goal*)
2.42 per match; UCL rank: 4

26.9 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
2.2 per match; UCL rank: 4

192 GOAL ATTEMPTS
16 per match; UCL rank: 6

70 ON TARGET
5.8 per match; UCL rank: 4=

GOALS	12%
SAVED	43%
BLOCKED	27%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	16%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Riyad Mahrez	7	37	18	6.8
2 Gabriel Jesus	4	9	7	1.9
3 Phil Foden	3	21	10	3.6

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Rodri	807	667	93	20
2 Aymeric Laporte	713	584	95	33
3 João Cancelo	668	603	86	35

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Kevin De Bruyne	4	22	2.4
2 João Cancelo	3	11	3.7
3 Bernardo Silva	3	10	1.2

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Bernardo Silva	186	39	8	7
2 Riyad Mahrez	169	52	12	8
3 Phil Foden	162	16	4	2

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3/1-4-4-2 out of possession
- Fluid system with players given licence to roam (Cancelo)
- Full-backs narrow in half-spaces, giving 1-2-3-5 attacking shape
- Excellent pressing on loss of the ball as a team
- Rodri bringing balance as pivot; start point for transitions (86 recoveries)
- Offensive awareness, running with ball and quality deliveries of De Bruyne
- 1v1 ability of wingers who stay high and wide
- Superb attacking transitions, led by De Bruyne, Mahrez in particular



MANCHESTER UNITED



COACH

RALF RANGNICK*



BORN: 29/06/1958, Backnang (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: 03/12/2021 to 22/05/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 1**
**includes Intertoto Cup



GROUP F			ROUND OF 16			QUARTER-FINALS			SEMI-FINALS			FINAL		
YB	VLR	ATA	ATA	VLR	YB	ATL	ATL							
L 2-1	W 2-1	W 3-2	D 2-2	W 0-2	D 1-1	D 1-1	L 0-1							

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

54%

Max. 62% v Atlético (a)
Min. 46% v Young Boys (a)
UCL rank: 10

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	27%
Middle third	54%
Attacking third	19%

522

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 573 v Atlético (h)
Min. 410 v Young Boys (a)
UCL rank: 12=

84%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 90% v Villarreal (h)
Min. 79% v Young Boys (a)
UCL rank: 13=

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	54 (10% of total)	UCL rank: 4=
Medium	194 (37%)	UCL rank: 12
Short	273 (52%)	UCL rank: 11

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
12.1	15

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
4.9	17

DISTANCE COVERED

114.3 km

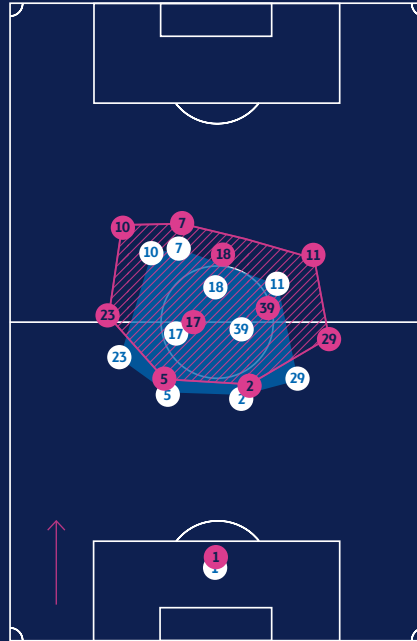
Max. 123.1 km v Young Boys (h)
Min. 102.7 km v Atlético (a)
UCL rank: 18

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Atalanta (h)

🟩 3 In possession | 🟦 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 David de Gea	7	630		
22 Tom Heaton	1	22		
26 Dean Henderson	1	68		

DEFENDERS

2 Victor Lindelöf	5	426		
3 Eric Bailly	2	180		
5 Harry Maguire	6	534	1	
19 Raphaël Varane	5	353		
20 Diogo Dalot	3	233		
23 Luke Shaw	5	397	2	
27 Alex Telles	4	293	1	
29 Aaron Wan-Bissaka	6	419		
43 Teden Mengi	1	29		

MIDFIELDERS

6 Paul Pogba	6	347		
8 Juan Mata	3	96		
14 Jesse Lingard	4	116	1	
16 Amad Diallo	1	68		
17 Fred	6	433		
18 Bruno Fernandes	7	520	7	
25 Jadon Sancho	7	393	1	
31 Nemanja Matić	8	194		
34 Donny van de Beek	4	204		
39 Scott McTominay	5	400		
47 Shola Shoretire	1	22		
72 Charlie Savage	1	1		
73 Zidane Iqbal	1	1		

FORWARDS

7 Cristiano Ronaldo	7	611	6	
9 Anthony Martial	2	67		
10 Marcus Rashford	5	257	1	
11 Mason Greenwood	4	304	1	1
21 Edinson Cavani	4	75		
36 Anthony Elanga	3	172	1	

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

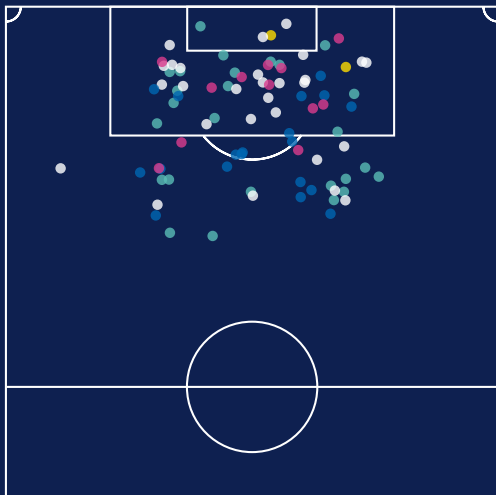
26.1

CARDS

17 1

Sent off: Wan-Bissaka v Young Boys (a)

ATTEMPTS



12 GOALS
1.5 per match; UCL rank: 14

9.6 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.2 per match; UCL rank: 19=

87 GOAL ATTEMPTS
10.9 per match; UCL rank: 19

40 ON TARGET
5 per match; UCL rank: 9=

GOALS	11%
SAVED	44%
BLOCKED	18%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	26%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Cristiano Ronaldo	6	22	12	2.9
2 Marcus Rashford	1	10	2	0.9
3 Jadon Sancho	1	5	3	0.7

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Bruno Fernandes	7	16	1.9
2 Luke Shaw	2	2	0.4
3 Mason Greenwood	1	3	0.9

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Harry Maguire	351	253	88	34
2 Bruno Fernandes	319	305	77	32
3 Victor Lindelöf	283	228	92	30

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Fred	117	43	7	7
2 Bruno Fernandes	116	30	7	2
3 Jadon Sancho	73	27	2	3

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1
- Shot-stopping of De Gea; big saves (h) v Villarreal, Atlético
- Experienced individuals with match-turning qualities
- Penetration and crossing ability of left-back Telles
- Creativity and runs behind defence of Bruno Fernandes (seven assists)
- Energy and ball-winning of Fred (team-best 43 recoveries)
- Threat from attacking transitions with quick forwards
- Cristiano Ronaldo's enduring scoring powers (six goals)



AC MILAN



COACH

STEFANO PIOLI



BORN: 20/10/1965,
Parma (ITA)
NATIONALITY: Italian
HEAD COACH: Since
09/10/2019
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

GROUP B

LIV L 3-2	ATL L 1-2	POR L 1-0	POR D 1-1	ATL W 0-1	LIV L 1-2															
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Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

47%

Max. 57% v Atlético (a)
Min. 36% v Atlético (h)
UCL rank: 18=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	36%
Middle third	50%
Attacking third	14%

399

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 526 v Atlético (a)
Min. 313 v Atlético (h)
UCL rank: 22

79%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 85% v Atlético (a)
Min. 77% v Atlético (h), Porto (h)
UCL rank: 23=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	48 (12% of total)	UCL rank: 14=
Medium	148 (37%)	UCL rank: 22=
Short	203 (51%)	UCL rank: 21

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
11	11=

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
3.5	26=

DISTANCE COVERED

113.3 km

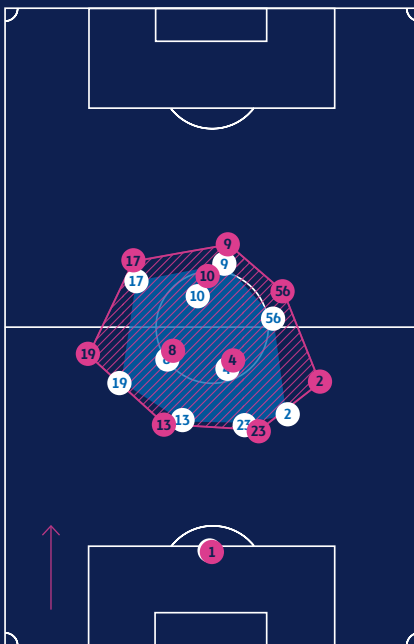
Max. 118 km v Liverpool (h)
Min. 107.3 km v Porto (a)
UCL rank: 27

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Porto (h)

3 In possession | **3** Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

1 Ciprian Tătărușanu	3	270
16 Mike Maignan	3	270

DEFENDERS

2 Davide Calabria	4	315	
5 Fodé Ballo-Touré	2	91	
13 Alessio Romagnoli	5	392	
19 Theo Hernández	5	450	1
20 Pierre Kalulu	5	216	1
23 Fikayo Tomori	5	418	1
24 Simon Kjær	3	270	
25 Alessandro Florenzi	4	88	
41 Tiemoué Bakayoko	3	56	

MIDFIELDERS

4 Ismaël Bennacer	6	376		
8 Sandro Tonali	6	333		
10 Brahim Díaz	5	351	1	1
27 Daniel Maldini	3	20		
33 Rade Krunić	4	252		
56 Alexis Saelemaekers	6	444		
79 Franck Kessié	5	321	1	

FORWARDS

9 Olivier Giroud	5	261		
11 Zlatan Ibrahimović	4	160		
12 Ante Rebić	2	117	1	
17 Rafael Leão	4	294	1	1
30 Messias Junior	2	115	1	

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

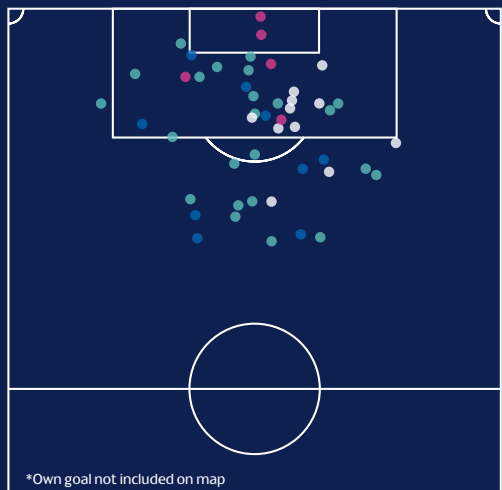
26.7

CARDS

18 **1**

Sent off:
Kessié v Atlético (h)

ATTEMPTS



*Own goal not included on map

6 GOALS (1 own goal*)
1 per match; UCL rank: 21=

5.8 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1 per match; UCL rank: 26=

48 GOAL ATTEMPTS
8 per match; UCL rank: 29=

17 ON TARGET
2.8 per match; UCL rank: 26=

GOALS	11%
SAVED	44%
BLOCKED	20%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	24%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

	G	S	OT	xG
1 Brahim Díaz	1	5	2	1.1
2 Fikayo Tomori	1	3	2	0.8
3 Ante Rebić	1	2	2	1.0

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES

	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Alessio Romagnoli	236	173	85	41
2 Fikayo Tomori	210	144	83	42
3 Theo Hernández	209	196	80	34

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION

	A	KP	xA
1 Theo Hernández	1	6	0.9
2 Brahim Díaz	1	3	0.4
3 Franck Kessié	1	2	0.6

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING

	P	BR	TW	I
1 Alexis Saelemaekers	106	33	5	5
2 Ismaël Bennacer	94	39	8	5
3 Sandro Tonali	84	31	8	3

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; 1-4-4-2 when defending
- Defensive leadership of experienced centre-back Kjær
- Press aggressively; try to defend high and regain by forcing teams inside
- Strong attacking full-back Hernández (196 carries)
- Building from back and through midfield
- Powerful Kessié and Tonali bring midfield drive
- Try to play between lines, using high midfielders
- Creativity of Díaz and Rafael Leão (team-best for take-ons, through balls)



PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN



FRA

COACH

MAURICIO POCHETTINO



BORN: 02/03/1972,
Murphy (ARG)
NATIONALITY: Argentinian
HEAD COACH: 02/01/2021 to
05/07/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP A

BRU	MC	LEI	LEI	MC	BRU	RM	RM
D 1-1	W 2-0	W 3-2	D 2-2	L 2-1	W 4-1	W 1-0	L 3-1

ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

FINAL

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

55%

Max. 64% v Leipzig (h)
Min. 46% v Man. City (a)
UCL rank: 9

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	31%
Middle third	51%
Attacking third	18%

581

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 685 v Club Brugge (a)
Min. 424 v Leipzig (a)
UCL rank: 6

89%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 91% v Real Madrid (h)
Min. 82% v Leipzig (a)
UCL rank: 2=

PASS DISTANCE

		UCL rank:
Long	30 (5% of total)	31=
Medium	179 (31%)	16
Short	372 (64%)	1

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
13.3	18

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
4	21=

DISTANCE COVERED

106.3 km

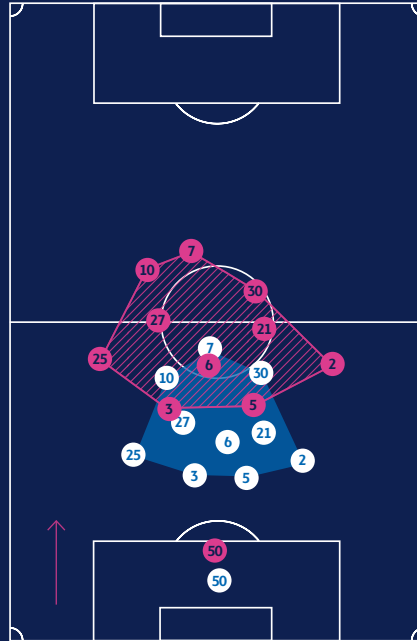
Max. 113 km v Man City (h)
Min. 101.4 km v Leipzig (h)
UCL rank: 32

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Manchester City (h)

🟩 3 In possession | 🟦 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 Keylor Navas	3	270		
50 Gianluigi Donnarumma	5	450		

DEFENDERS

2 Achraf Hakimi	8	718		
3 Presnel Kimpembe	7	630		
5 Marquinhos	8	720	1	
22 Abdou Diallo	2	165		
24 Thilo Kehrer	3	65		
25 Nuno Mendes	8	581		

MIDFIELDERS

6 Marco Verratti	5	431		
8 Leandro Paredes	5	315		
11 Ángel Di María	5	260	1	
15 Danilo	7	362		
18 Georginio Wijnaldum	5	261	2	
21 Ander Herrera	6	326	1	
23 Julian Draxler	4	141		
27 Idrissa Gueye	7	400	1	
28 Junior Dina Ebimbe	1	7		

FORWARDS

7 Kylian Mbappé	8	673	6	4
9 Mauro Icardi	3	47		
10 Neymar	6	468	1	
30 Lionel Messi	7	630	5	

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

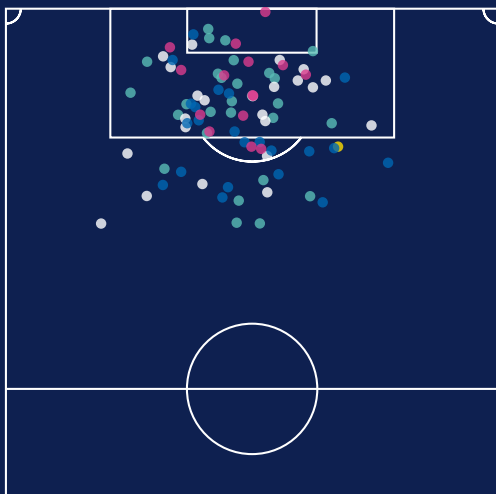
AVERAGE AGE

27.8

CARDS

21 0

ATTEMPTS



15 GOALS
1.88 per match; UCL rank: 9

15.3 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.9 per match; UCL rank: 7=

89 GOAL ATTEMPTS
11.1 per match; UCL rank: 17=

38 ON TARGET
4.8 per match; UCL rank: 11=

GOALS	14%
SAVED	42%
BLOCKED	21%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	22%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Kylian Mbappé	6	27	15	5.6
2 Lionel Messi	5	26	10	5.3
3 Georginio Wijnaldum	2	4	4	1.5

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Kylian Mbappé	4	8	1.3
2 Neymar	1	8	0.7
3 Ángel Di María	1	4	0.9

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Marquinhos	529	418	93	36
2 Marco Verratti	444	372	90	25
3 Lionel Messi	435	443	87	29

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Achraf Hakimi	139	42	6	5
2 Idrissa Gueye	112	22	8	7
3 Marco Verratti	109	33	8	6

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions



FC PORTO



COACH

SÉRGIO CONCEIÇÃO



BORN: 15/11/1974,
Coimbra (POR)
NATIONALITY: Portuguese
HEAD COACH: Since
08/06/2017
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

GROUP B

ATL D 0-0	LIV L 1-5	ACM W 1-0	ACM D 1-1	LIV L 2-0	ATL L 1-3
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ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

FINAL

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

47%

Max. 67% v Atlético (h)
Min. 34% v Liverpool (h)
UCL rank: 18=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	33%
Middle third	48%
Attacking third	19%

384

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 525 v Atlético (h)
Min. 311 v Liverpool (h)
UCL rank: 24

77%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 83% v Atlético (h)
Min. 72% v Liverpool (a)
UCL rank: 26=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	66 (17% of total)	UCL rank: 1=
Medium	132 (34%)	UCL rank: 27
Short	187 (49%)	UCL rank: 27

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
11	11=

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
7.3	5=

DISTANCE COVERED

114 km

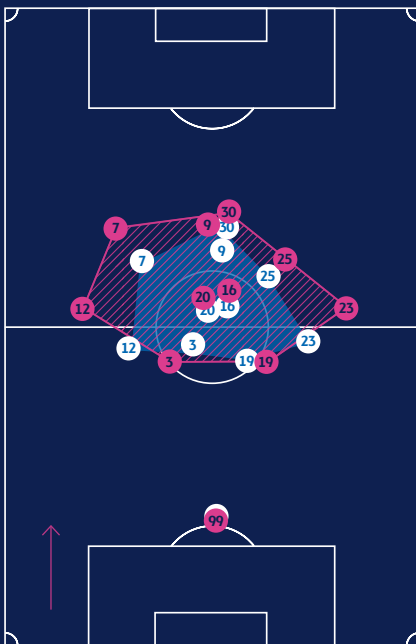
Max. 117.9 km v Milan (a)
Min. 108.5 km v Atlético (h)
UCL rank: 21

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Atlético (h)

■ 3 In possession | ■ 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

99 Diogo Costa	6	540
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DEFENDERS

2 Fábio Cardoso	2	155
3 Pepe	5	349
5 Iván Marcano	2	126
12 Zaidu	6	389
19 Chancel Mbemba	5	450
22 Wendell	4	131

MIDFIELDERS

8 Matheus Uribe	4	289	
16 Marko Grujić	6	320	1
17 Jesús Corona	4	212	
20 Vitinha	6	218	
25 Otávio	6	450	
27 Sérgio Oliveira	6	300	1
28 Bruno Costa	1	11	
50 Fábio Vieira	2	85	1

FORWARDS

7 Luis Díaz*	6	523	2	
9 Mehdi Taremi	6	494	1	1
10 Francisco Conceição	2	37		
11 Pepê	3	34		
23 João Mário	4	351		
29 Toni Martínez	6	144		
30 Evanilson	4	313		

*Luis Díaz also played for Liverpool

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

25.9

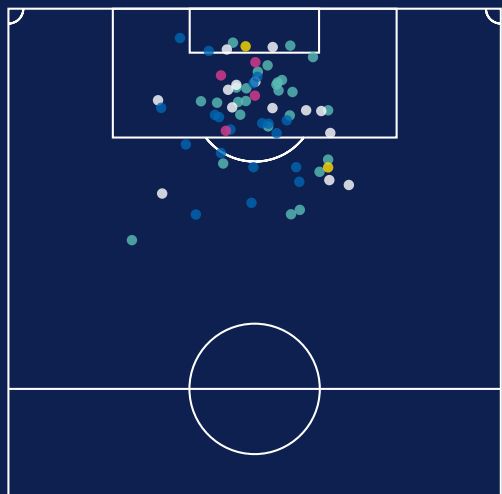
CARDS

17 **3**

Sent off:
Mbemba v Atlético (a),
Wendell v Atlético (h),
Marchesín v Atlético (h)*

*Marchesín was an unused substitute

ATTEMPTS



4 GOALS
0.67 per match; UCL rank: 27

8.1 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.3 per match; UCL rank: 17=

65 GOAL ATTEMPTS
10.8 per match; UCL rank: 20

18 ON TARGET
3 per match; UCL rank: 24



PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Luis Díaz	2	10	4	0.9
2 Mehdi Taremi	1	17	3	2.6
3 Sérgio Oliveira	1	2	1	0.8

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Diogo Costa	254	156	59	65
2 Chancel Mbemba	222	156	87	38
3 Otávio	192	168	73	38

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Mehdi Taremi	1	2	0.2
2 Fábio Vieira	1	1	0.3
3 Marko Grujić	1	0	0.2

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Otávio	118	26	9	1
2 Mehdi Taremi	112	18	4	3
3 Luis Díaz	72	32	4	3

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2
- Well-organised team defensively, keeping compact shape
- Leadership of Pepe: strength in duels and set-play presence
- Good technical ability throughout squad
- High pressing; ability to put rival under pressure in tight space
- Fast transitions to attack with quick, skilful players
- 1 v 1 threat of creative winger Luis Díaz
- Target striker Taremi dropping between front and midfield lines for overloads



RB LEIPZIG



COACH

JESSE MARSCH*



BORN: 08/11/1973,
Racine (USA)
NATIONALITY: American
HEAD COACH: 01/07/2021 to
05/12/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP A

MC	BRU	PAR	PAR	BRU	MC
L 6-3	L 1-2	L 3-2	D 2-2	W 0-5	W 2-1

ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

FINAL

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

49%

Max. 66% v Club Brugge (h)
Min. 36% v Paris (a)
UCL rank: 16=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third 32%

Middle third 46%

Attacking third 22%

449

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 620 v Club Brugge (h)
Min. 334 v Paris (a)
UCL rank: 17

80%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 84% v Man. City (h)
Min. 67% v Club Brugge (a)
UCL rank: 19=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	47 (10% of total)	UCL rank: 18=
Medium	162 (36%)	UCL rank: 18
Short	241 (54%)	UCL rank: 15=

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
9.7	5=

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
7.3	5=

DISTANCE COVERED

114.9 km

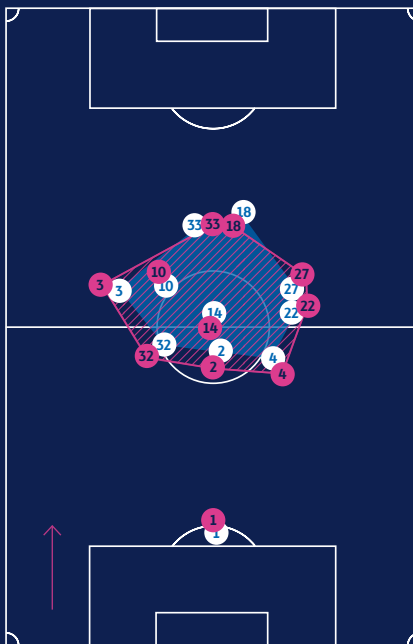
Max. 118.7 km v Club Brugge (h)
Min. 111.8 km v Paris (a)
UCL rank: 17

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Paris (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Péter Gulácsi	5	450
31	Josep Martínez	1	90

DEFENDERS

2	Mohamed Simakan	4	297
3	Angeliño	5	432 3
4	Willi Orbán	4	315
16	Lukas Klostermann	5	357
22	Nordi Mukiele	6	484 1 1
32	Joško Gvardiol	6	334
39	Benjamin Henrichs	4	51

MIDFIELDERS

8	Amadou Haidara	4	182
10	Emil Forsberg	6	385 2 2
14	Tyler Adams	5	292
17	Dominik Szoboszlai	4	209 2
18	Christopher Nkunku	6	531 7
26	Ilaix Moriba	3	60
27	Konrad Laimer	6	405 1
35	Solomon Bonnah	1	10
38	Hugo Novoa	1	24 1
44	Kevin Kampl	3	270

FORWARDS

9	Yussuf Poulsen	4	147 1
21	Brian Brobbey*	4	106
25	Dani Olmo	2	88 1
33	André Silva	6	410 3 2

*Brian Brobbey also played for Ajax

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

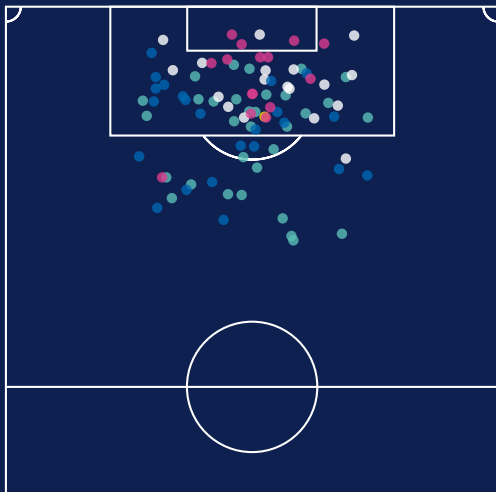
23.8

CARDS

14 1

Sent off:
Angeliño v Man. City (a)

ATTEMPTS



15

GOALS

2.5 per match; UCL rank: 3

13.5

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)

2.3 per match; UCL rank: 3

90

GOAL ATTEMPTS

15 per match; UCL rank: 7

35

ON TARGET

5.8 per match; UCL rank: 4=

GOALS	15%
SAVED	42%
BLOCKED	23%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	19%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG	
1	Christopher Nkunku	7	17	11	3.8
2	André Silva	3	21	10	3.7
3	Emil Forsberg	2	11	4	1.3

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA	
1	Angeliño	3	2	0.9
2	André Silva	2	6	0.7
3	Emil Forsberg	2	5	0.7

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%	
1	Nordi Mukiele	210	161	71	43
2	Joško Gvardiol	200	130	79	50
3	Christopher Nkunku	196	195	86	21

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I	
1	Konrad Laimer	189	32	7	7
2	Christopher Nkunku	142	25	6	4
3	Tyler Adams	94	20	4	2

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 with midfield diamond; 1-4-2-3-1; 1-3-1-4-2
- Fast, mobile team which presses high; immediate pressure on losing ball
- Compact defensive formation with players behind ball, moving in a block
- Lots of rotations, e.g. centre-back Gvardiol stepping up to create overloads
- Defensive midfielder Laimer giving balance
- Influential technical players like Szoboszlai, Silva, Forsberg
- Ball moved quickly in fast transitions; wing-backs providing crosses
- Speed, dribbling ability and seven goals of Nkunku



REAL MADRID CF



COACH

CARLO ANCELOTTI



BORN: 10/06/1959, Reggiolo (ITA)
NATIONALITY: Italian
HEAD COACH: Since 01/06/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 8*
*includes Intertoto Cup

GROUP D ROUND OF 16 QUARTER-FINALS SEMI-FINALS FINAL

INT W 0-1	SHE L 1-2	SHK W 0-5	SHK W 2-1	SHE W 0-3	INT W 2-0	PAR L 1-0	PAR W 3-1	CHE W 1-3	CHE L 2-3*	MC L 4-3	MC W 3-1*	LIV W 1-0
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	---------------	-------------	--------------	--------------

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

*After extra time *After extra time

Matches W D L Win%

UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	179	99	41	39	55%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	227	127	51	49	56%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

51%

Max. 75% v Sheriff (h)
 Min. 41% v Man. City (a)
 UCL rank: 13=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	31%
Middle third	45%
Attacking third	24%

543

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 737 v Sheriff (a)
 Min. 399 v Man. City (h)
 UCL rank: 9

87%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 92% v Shakhtar Donetsk (a)
 Min. 80% v Man. City (h)
 UCL rank: 6=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	50 (9% of total)	UCL rank: 11
Medium	182 (34%)	UCL rank: 14
Short	310 (57%)	UCL rank: 9

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
13.8	21

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
6.5	10

DISTANCE COVERED

115.4 km

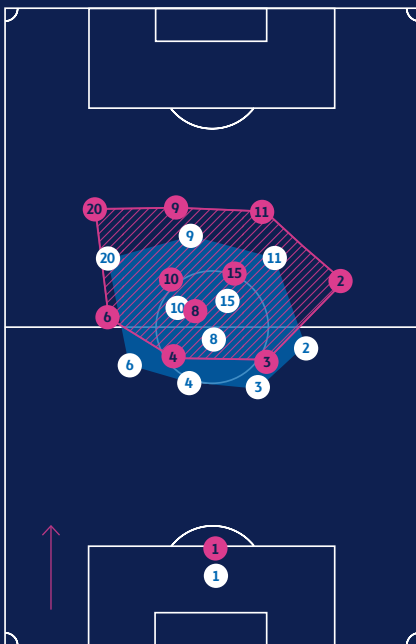
Max. 148 km v Man City (h)
 Min. 104.7 km v Inter (h)
 UCL rank: 15

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Paris (h)

🟩 3 In possession | 🟦 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

1 Thibaut Courtois	13	1230
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DEFENDERS

2 Dani Carvajal	11	959	1
3 Éder Militão	12	1076	
4 David Alaba	12	1040	1
5 Jesús Vallejo	2	8	
6 Nacho	9	574	
12 Marcelo	3	93	
23 Ferland Mendy	10	867	2
35 Miguel Gutiérrez	1	66	

MIDFIELDERS

8 Toni Kroos	12	902	2
10 Luka Modrić	13	1077	4
11 Marco Asensio	8	207	1 2
14 Casemiro	11	914	
15 Federico Valverde	11	804	1
17 Lucas Vázquez	8	349	1
19 Dani Ceballos	5	37	
25 Eduardo Camavinga	10	296	1
27 Antonio Blanco	1	6	

FORWARDS

7 Eden Hazard	3	84	
9 Karim Benzema	12	1106	15 1
16 Luka Jović	3	113	
18 Gareth Bale	2	7	
20 Vinícius Júnior	13	1199	4 6
21 Rodrygo	11	505	5 2
24 Mariano Díaz	1	12	

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

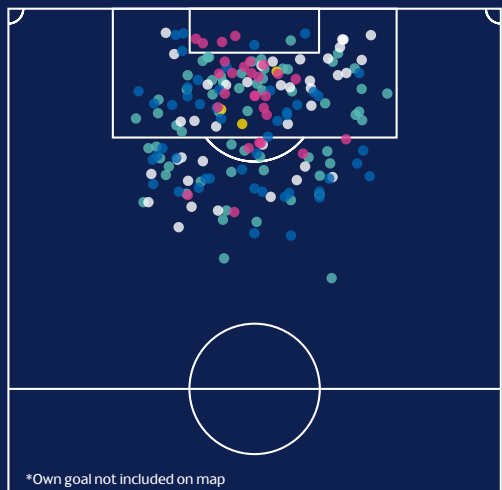
AVERAGE AGE

27.3

CARDS

26 0

ATTEMPTS



29 GOALS (1 own goal*)
 2.23 per match; UCL rank: 6

21.8 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
 1.7 per match; UCL rank: 9=

182 GOAL ATTEMPTS
 14 per match; UCL rank: 9

70 ON TARGET
 5.4 per match; UCL rank: 7

GOALS	13%
SAVED	43%
BLOCKED	23%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	20%

*Own goal not included on map

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Karim Benzema	15	46	23	8.4
2 Rodrygo	5	23	10	2.8
3 Vinícius Júnior	4	27	8	4.1

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Toni Kroos	798	676	94%	27%
2 Luka Modrić	790	677	90%	29%
3 David Alaba	658	559	91%	31%

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Vinícius Júnior	6	25	3.6
2 Luka Modrić	4	10	2.0
3 Rodrygo	2	7	1.5

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Vinícius Júnior	286	50	11	2
2 Toni Kroos	249	55	14	6
3 Casemiro	190	78	20	16

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; 1-4-4-2 defensively with Valverde dropping back
- Brilliance in goal of Courtois with 81% save percentage
- Defensive resilience embodied by Éder Militão (26 interceptions)
- Experienced, technically superb midfielders, led by Modrić
- Speed and 1 v 1 ability of Vinícius Júnior (UCL-best 84 take-ons)
- Goals and all-round centre-forward play of Benzema
- Winning mentality of a group refusing to be beaten
- Impact of young players Rodrygo, Camavinga off bench



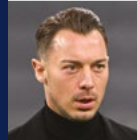
FC SALZBURG



AUT

COACH

MATTHIAS JAISSLE



BORN: 05/04/1988,
Nürtingen (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: Since
01/07/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP G

SEV	LIL	WOL	WOL	LIL	SEV	BAY	BAY
D 1-1	W 2-1	W 3-1	L 2-1	L 1-0	W 1-0	D 1-1	L 7-1

ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

FINAL

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

44%

Max. 58% v Wolfsburg (a)
Min. 28% v Bayern (a)
UCL rank: 22=

POSSESSION POSITION*

First third 32%

Middle third 49%

Attacking third 18%

377

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 549 v Wolfsburg (a)
Min. 257 v Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 27

74%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 81% v Sevilla (a)
Min. 59% v Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 32

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	52 (14% of total)	UCL rank: 7
Medium	141 (37%)	UCL rank: 25
Short	184 (49%)	UCL rank: 29

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
10.3	9

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
7	9

DISTANCE COVERED

117.7 km

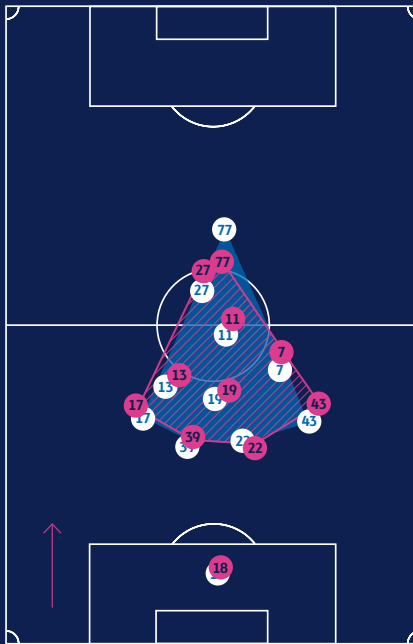
Max. 121 km v Sevilla (h)
Min. 112.4 km v Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 6

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Bayern (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession

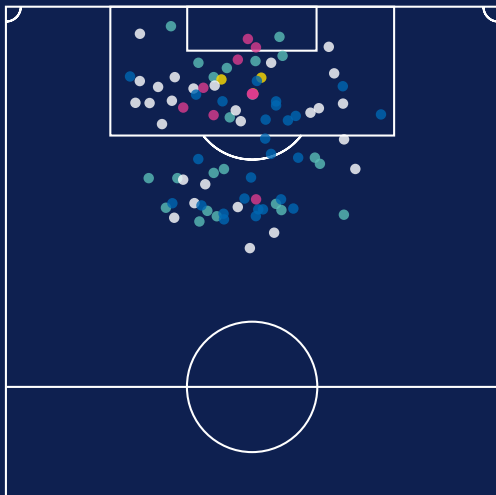


SQUAD

	App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
18 Philipp Köhn	8	720		
DEFENDERS				
4 Kamil Piątkowski	2	84		
6 Jérôme Onguéné	5	437		
17 Andreas Ulmer	8	716		
22 Oumar Solet	5	328		
37 Daouda Guindo	1	4		
39 Maximilian Wöber	7	573	1	
43 Rasmus Kristensen	8	720	1	
95 Bernardo	2	23	1	
MIDFIELDERS				
7 Nicolas Capaldo	7	281		
11 Brenden Aaronson	8	715	2	
13 Nicolas Seiwald	8	649	1	
14 Maurits Kjærgaard	4	38	1	
19 Mohamed Camara	8	672		
21 Luka Sučić	8	516	1	
44 Samson Tijani	1	23		
FORWARDS				
9 Chikwubuike Adamu	8	231	1	
23 Roko Šimić	1	4		
27 Karim Adeyemi	8	607	3	1
30 Benjamin Šeško	6	234		
77 Noah Okafor	6	345	3	

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

ATTEMPTS



10

GOALS

1.25 per match; UCL rank: 17

12.4

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)

1.6 per match; UCL rank: 14=

89

GOAL ATTEMPTS

11.1 per match; UCL rank: 17=

38

ON TARGET

4.8 per match; UCL rank: 11=

GOALS		8%
SAVED		45%
BLOCKED		22%
WOODWORK		3%
OFF TARGET		23%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Karim Adeyemi	3	16	10	4.6
2 Noah Okafor	3	7	5	2.5
3 Luka Sučić	1	12	2	2.0

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Brenden Aaronson	2	11	0.8
2 Nicolas Seiwald	1	9	0.7
3 Karim Adeyemi	1	5	0.7

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Mohamed Camara	371	265	87	35
2 Maximilian Wöber	333	219	79	45
3 Rasmus Kristensen	306	245	65	58

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Brenden Aaronson	216	44	6	2
2 Nicolas Seiwald	212	51	13	4
3 Andreas Ulmer	158	43	10	12

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

AVERAGE AGE

21.9

CARDS

16 0

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-1-2; 1-4-1-2-1-2 with midfield diamond
- High level of teamwork both in defending and attacking
- Immediate pressing after losing the ball with six/seven players
- Intelligent positioning, leadership, playmaking of midfielder Camara
- Fast counters out of deep block with vertical passes down middle
- Avoiding opposition press by going long to striker and winning second ball (v Bayern)
- Aggressive approach in opposition half to deny time and space
- Striker Adeyemi a threat to defences with speed and movement



SEVILLA FC



COACH

JULEN LOPETEGUI



BORN: 28/08/1966,
Asteasu (ESP)
NATIONALITY: Spanish
HEAD COACH: Since
05/06/2019

UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 1

GROUP G			ROUND OF 16			QUARTER-FINALS			SEMI-FINALS			FINAL		
SAL D 1-1	WOL D 1-1	LIL D 0-0	LIL L 1-2	WOL W 2-0	SAL L 1-0									

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

61%

Max. 69% v Wolfsburg (a)
Min. 48% v Salzburg (h)
UCL rank: 3=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	35%
Middle third	47%
Attacking third	18%

532

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 615 v LOSC (a)
Min. 392 v Salzburg (h)
UCL rank: 10

83%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 86% v LOSC (a)
Min. 77% v Salzburg (h)
UCL rank: 15

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	66 (12% of total)	UCL rank: 1=
Medium	234 (44%)	UCL rank: 4
Short	231 (43%)	UCL rank: 18

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
9.8	7

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
5.8	12

DISTANCE COVERED

115.6 km

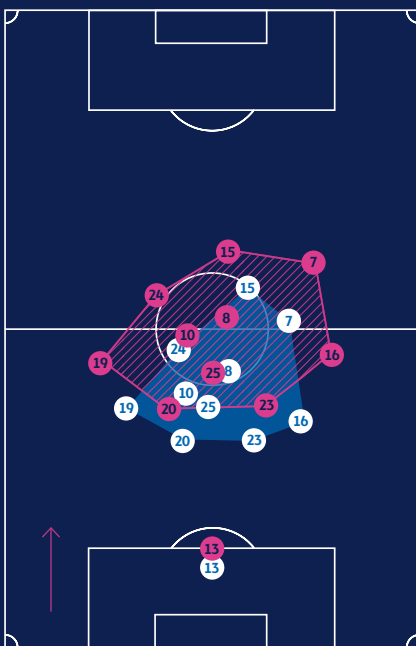
Max. 121 km v LOSC (h)
Min. 109.8 km v Salzburg (h)
UCL rank: 14

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Salzburg (h)

■ 3 In possession | ■ 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

13 Yassine Bounou	6	540
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DEFENDERS

2 Gonzalo Montiel	4	186
3 Ludwig Augustinsson	3	80
4 Karim Rekik	4	125
16 Jesús Navas	4	332
19 Marcos Acuña	5	379
20 Diego Carlos	6	539
23 Jules Koundé	5	450

MIDFIELDERS

5 Lucas Ocampos	6	463	1	1
7 Suso	4	228		
8 Joan Jordán	6	327	1	
10 Ivan Rakitić	5	276	2	1
14 Óscar Rodríguez	1	22		
17 Erik Lamela	4	119		
18 Thomas Delaney	4	200		
21 Óliver Torres	4	168		
25 Fernando	6	540		

FORWARDS

11 Munir	4	204		
12 Rafa Mir	6	271	1	1
15 Youssef En-Nesyri	2	83		
24 Alejandro Gómez	5	322		
36 Iván Romero	1	20		

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

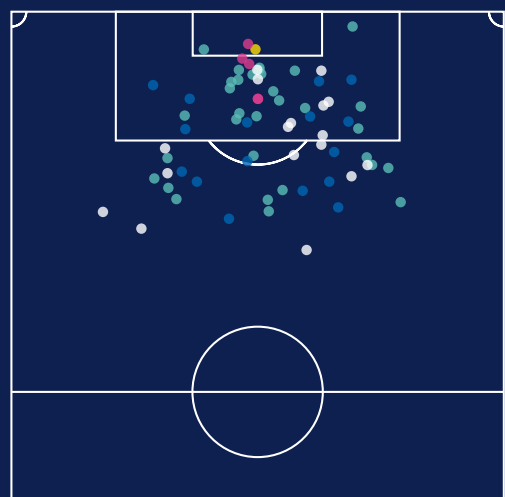
AVERAGE AGE

27.8

CARDS

21 **2** Sent off:
En-Nesyri v Salzburg (h),
Jordán v Salzburg (a)

ATTEMPTS



5 GOALS
0.83 per match; UCL rank: 25=

7.2 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.2 per match; UCL rank: 19=

71 GOAL ATTEMPTS
11.8 per match; UCL rank: 15

23 ON TARGET
3.8 per match; UCL rank: 19=

GOALS	7%
SAVED	46%
BLOCKED	22%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	24%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Ivan Rakitić	2	8	3	1.9
2 Lucas Ocampos	1	12	3	1.5
3 Rafa Mir	1	10	5	1.0

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Diego Carlos	412	310	88	29
2 Jules Koundé	351	240	88	42
3 Fernando	297	199	85	28

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Lucas Ocampos	1	3	0.8
2 Ivan Rakitić	1	3	0.4
3 Rafa Mir	1	3	0.1

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Lucas Ocampos	75	27	3	3
2 Fernando	54	53	3	15
3 Marcos Acuña	53	33	10	7

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3
- Keeping possession (60.6% average) and building from deep
- Good balance in midfield with ability to rotate
- Attacking full-backs, with UCL-best cross average of 25 per game
- Vast European experience of Fernando, Navas, Rakitić
- Strong wing play from Ocampos with energy and ball-carrying skills
- Vulnerable to quick counters in defensive transitions
- Conceded fewest number of goals in the competition – five



FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK



COACH

ROBERTO DE ZERBI



BORN: 06/06/1979,
Brescia (ITA)
NATIONALITY: Italian
HEAD COACH: Since
25/05/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP D						ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
SHE	INT	RM	RM	INT	SHE				
L 2-0	D 0-0	L 0-5	L 2-1	L 2-0	D 1-1				

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

58%

Max. 74% v Sheriff (a)
Min. 42% v Real Madrid (h)
UCL rank: 7=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	24%
Middle third	55%
Attacking third	21%

605

PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 669 v Sheriff (h)
Min. 528 v Real Madrid (h)
UCL rank: 5

90%

PASS ACCURACY
Max. 91% v Sheriff (a)
Min. 88% v Real Madrid (h)
UCL rank: 1

PASS DISTANCE

Long	30 (5% of total)	UCL rank: 31=
Medium	228 (38%)	UCL rank: 5
Short	347 (57%)	UCL rank: 3

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
14.2	23=

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
3.3	28=

DISTANCE COVERED

116.3 km

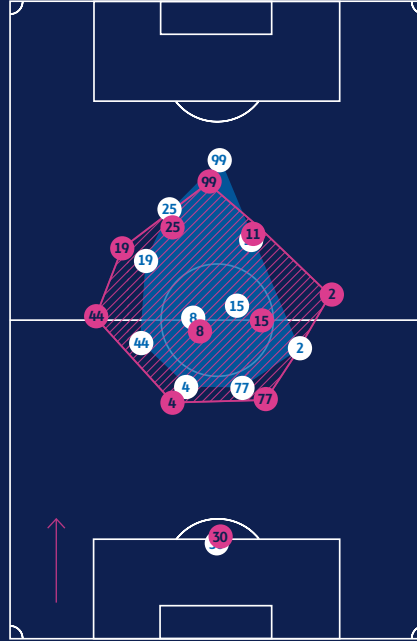
Max. 120.7 km v Sheriff (h)
Min. 108.8 km v Inter (a)
UCL rank: 12

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Sheriff (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 Oleksii Shevchenko	1	4		
30 Andriy Pyatov	3	266		
81 Anatolii Trubin	3	270		

DEFENDERS

2 Dodô	6	540		
3 Vitão	1	90		
4 Serhiy Kryvtsov	3	192	1	
5 Marlon	5	450		
22 Mykola Matviyenko	4	360		
31 Ismaily	5	355		
44 Viktor Korniienko	2	83		
77 Valeriy Bondar	1	90		

MIDFIELDERS

6 Taras Stepanenko	4	225		
7 Maycon	6	473		
8 Marcos Antônio	5	256		
9 Dentinho	1	4		
11 Marlos	6	206		
14 Tetê	6	373		
15 Artem Bondarenko	2	84		
19 Manor Solomon	5	322		
20 Mykhailo Mudryk	6	179		
21 Alan Patrick	4	268	1	
25 Georgiy Sudakov	2	56		
38 Pedrinho	4	343		

FORWARDS

23 Lassina Traoré	2	101		
99 Fernando	5	350	2	

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

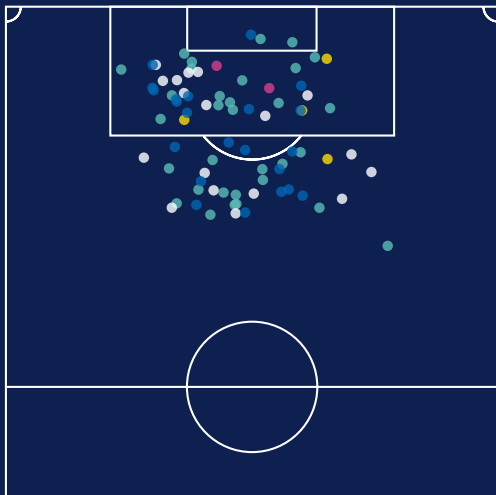
AVERAGE AGE

25.2

CARDS

7 0

ATTEMPTS



2 GOALS
0.33 per match; UCL rank: 29=

6.9 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.2 per match; UCL rank: 19=

79 GOAL ATTEMPTS
13.2 per match; UCL rank: 13

21 ON TARGET
3.5 per match; UCL rank: 22=

GOALS	2%
SAVED	47%
BLOCKED	26%
WOODWORK	5%
OFF TARGET	21%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Fernando	2	12	5	1.6
2 Pedrinho	0	10	3	1.1
3 Tetê	0	8	2	0.4

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Alan Patrick	1	5	0.6
2 Serhiy Kryvtsov	1	0	0.5
3 Maycon	0	11	0.7

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Marlon	446	370	95	40
2 Maycon	404	345	94	24
3 Mykola Matviyenko	360	308	93	32

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Tete	100	10	1	2
2 Maycon	88	30	3	9
3 Dodô	66	51	9	5

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; 1-4-4-1-1 defensively
- Compact in defence with disciplined players
- Technical midfielders able to dictate tempo: Maycon, Marcos Antônio
- Defensive discipline of midfielder Stepanenko, covering full-backs
- Flexibility with full-backs Dodô, Ismaily in attacking spaces including inside
- Play through middle with short passes and combinations
- Threat of wide attackers cutting inside and shooting (Solomon, Mudryk)
- Clear identity yet apparent lack of belief at times



FC SHERIFF TIRASPOL



COACH

YURIY VERNYDUB



BORN: 22/01/1966,
Zhytomyr (UKR)
NATIONALITY: Ukrainian
HEAD COACH: 18/12/2020 to
24/02/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

GROUP D

SHK W 2-0	RM W 1-2	INT L 3-1	INT L 1-3	RM L 0-3	SHK D 1-1
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ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

FINAL

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

30%

Max. 35% v Inter (h)
Min. 25% v Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 32

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	45%
Middle third	40%
Attacking third	15%

276

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 313 v Inter (h)
Min. 228 v Shakhtar Donetsk (h)
UCL rank: 32

76%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 81% v Inter (h)
Min. 70% v Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 28=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	44 (16% of total)	UCL rank: 23=
Medium	100 (36%)	UCL rank: 32
Short	132 (48%)	UCL rank: 32

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
22.9	32

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
3.2	31

DISTANCE COVERED

113.6 km

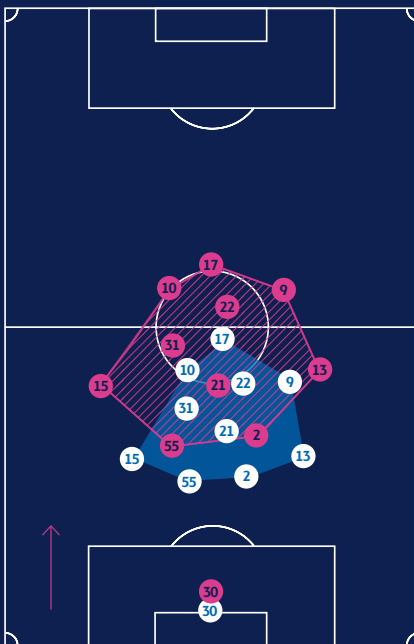
Max. 116.6 km v Shakhtar (a)
Min. 110.8 km v Inter (a)
UCL rank: 25

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Shakhtar Donetsk (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Dumitru Celeadnic	1	90
30	Giorgos Athanasiadis	5	450

DEFENDERS

2	Danilo Arboleda	6	540
6	Stjepan Radeljić	3	79
13	Fernando Costanza	6	540
15	Cristiano	6	540 3
16	Keston Julien	3	52
19	Serafim Cojocar	1	1
55	Gustavo Dulanto	6	540

MIDFIELDERS

9	Adama Traore	6	530	2	1
10	Frank Castañeda	5	357		
20	Boban Nikolov	5	97	1	
21	Edmund Addo	6	491		
22	Dimitris Kolovos	6	405		
31	Sébastien Thill	6	540	2	1
77	Bruno	6	312		
98	Maxim Cojocar	2	15		

FORWARDS

17	Jasurbek Yakhshiboev	3	205	1
99	Momo Yansané	3	156	1

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

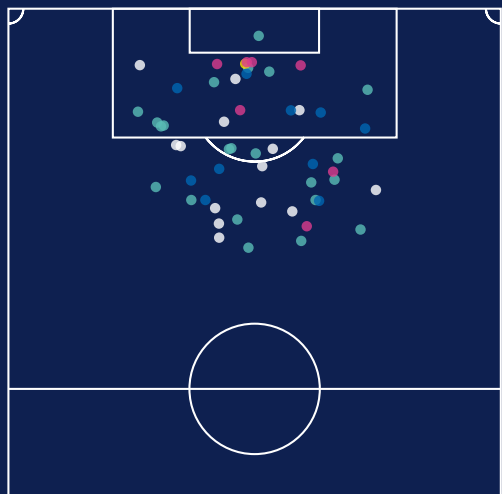
AVERAGE AGE

25.5

CARDS

13 0

ATTEMPTS



7

GOALS

1.17 per match; UCL rank: 18=

4.5

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)

0.7 per match; UCL rank: 30=

54

GOAL ATTEMPTS

9 per match; UCL rank: 27

21

ON TARGET

3.5 per match; UCL rank: 22=

GOALS	13%
SAVED	43%
BLOCKED	18%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	25%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

	G	S	OT	xG
1 Sébastien Thill	2	13	6	0.5
2 Adama Traore	2	11	5	0.6
3 Jasurbek Yakhshiboev	1	4	2	0.4

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES

	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Sébastien Thill	209	171	83	28
2 Gustavo Dulanto	195	147	79	43
3 Giorgos Athanasiadis	156	60	64	60

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION

	A	KP	xA
1 Cristiano	3	1	0.4
2 Sébastien Thill	1	8	1.0
3 Adama Traore	1	1	0.1

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING

	P	BR	TW	I
1 Edmund Addo	136	34	9	11
2 Adama Traore	99	20	6	6
3 Bruno Souza	92	24	4	1

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; 1-4-1-4-1 defensively
- Hard-working side with good team spirit
- Deep and compact defending, closing spaces centrally
- Strong displays from goalkeeper Athanasiadis (77.1% save percentage)
- Big impact of left-back Cristiano with positioning, dribbling, crosses (three assists)
- Influence of Thill with passing quality and set-piece delivery
- Rapid transitions from defence to attack
- Long balls to No9 Traoré, supported by quick wingers



SPORTING CLUBE DE PORTUGAL



COACH

RÚBEN AMORIM



BORN: 27/01/1985, Lisbon (POR)
NATIONALITY: Portuguese
HEAD COACH: Since 04/03/2020
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP C		ROUND OF 16		QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL	
AJX	BVB	BJK	BJK	BVB	AJX	MC	MC		
L 1-5	L 1-0	W 1-4	W 4-0	W 3-1	L 4-2	L 0-5	D 0-0		

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

41%

Max. 58% v Beşiktaş (h)
Min. 32% v Man. City (a)
UCL rank: 26=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	39%
Middle third	50%
Attacking third	11%

380

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 513 v Beşiktaş (h)
Min. 280 v Beşiktaş (a)
UCL rank: 25

80%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 84% v Ajax (a)
Min. 68% v Beşiktaş (a)
UCL rank: 19=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	43 (11% of total)	UCL rank: 25
Medium	147 (39%)	UCL rank: 24
Short	190 (50%)	UCL rank: 26

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
14.9	25

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
3.5	26=

DISTANCE COVERED

113.8 km

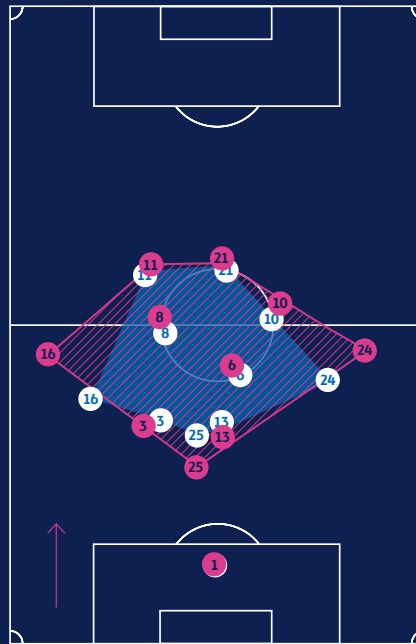
Max. 118.7 km v Man City (h)
Min. 109.3 km v Ajax (h)
UCL rank: 24

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Ajax (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 Antonio Adán	7	630		
31 João Virginia	1	90		

DEFENDERS

2 Matheus Reis	8	611		
3 Zouhair Feddal	6	450		
4 Sebastián Coates	6	540	2	
13 Luís Neto	6	368		
16 Rúben Vinagre	2	63		
24 Pedro Porro	7	529	1	
25 Gonçalo Inácio	7	561	1	
47 Ricardo Esgaio	8	380	2	
71 Flávio Nazinho	2	19		
87 Gonçalo Esteves	1	73		

MIDFIELDERS

6 João Palhinha	6	534		
7 Bruno Tabata	4	201	1	1
8 Matheus Nunes	6	509	2	
15 Manuel Ugarte	4	205		
28 Pedro Gonçalves	5	329	4	2
68 Daniel Bragança	5	131		
84 Dário Essugo	1	9		

FORWARDS

9 Islam Slimani	2	104		
10 Jovane Cabral	3	79		
11 Nuno Santos	7	218	1	
17 Pablo Sarabia	8	510	2	
19 Tiago Tomás	5	162		
21 Paulinho	8	582	3	1
23 Marcus Edwards	1	32		
91 Rodrigo Ribeiro	1	1		

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

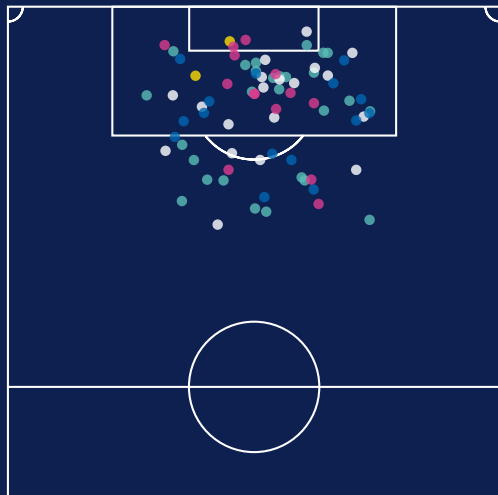
AVERAGE AGE

24.5

CARDS

21 0

ATTEMPTS



14 GOALS
1.75 per match; UCL rank: 10

12.3 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.5 per match; UCL rank: 16

78 GOAL ATTEMPTS
9.8 per match; UCL rank: 23=

33 ON TARGET
4.1 per match; UCL rank: 18

GOALS	16%
SAVED	40%
BLOCKED	18%
WOODWORK	4%
OFF TARGET	22%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Pedro Gonçalves	4	13	7	2.4
2 Paulinho	3	16	8	3.5
3 Sebastián Coates	2	7	2	1.2

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Pedro Gonçalves	2	8	0.6
2 Matheus Nunes	2	3	0.6
3 Ricardo Esgaio	2	1	0.2

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Zouhair Feddal	266	206	84	32
2 Gonçalo Inácio	265	181	88	39
3 Sebastián Coates	234	178	86	35

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 João Palhinha	192	43	13	7
2 Matheus Luiz	128	38	9	7
3 Paulinho	124	17	2	5

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-2-1; 1-5-4-1 defensively
- Systematic build-up from goalkeeper to defenders
- Defensive leadership of Coates, showing power in 1 v 1 duels and air
- Able to keep opposition under pressure, making space tight
- Fast transitions from defence to attack
- Wingers playing narrow, helping to press opponents high up pitch
- Talented wide attackers Pedro Gonçalves (movement, awareness) and Sarabia (speed)
- Target forward Paulinho holding up ball, linking with team-mates



VILLARREAL CF



COACH

UNAI EMERY



BORN: 03/11/1971,
Hondarribia (ESP)
NATIONALITY: Spanish
HEAD COACH: Since
23/07/2020
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 4

GROUP F			ROUND OF 16			QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL	
ATA D 2-2	MU L 2-1	YB W 1-4	YB W 2-0	MU L 0-2	ATA W 2-3	JUV D 1-1	JUV W 0-3	BAY W 1-0	BAY D 1-1	LIV L 2-0	LIV L 2-3

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

43%

Max. 55% v Juventus (h)
Min. 27% v Liverpool (a)
UCL rank: 24=

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	35%
Middle third	45%
Attacking third	20%

398

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 531 v Juventus (h)
Min. 271 v Liverpool (a)
UCL rank: 23

80%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 88% v Man. United (h)
Min. 64% v Atalanta (a)
UCL rank: 19=

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	48 (12% of total)	UCL rank: 14=
Medium	153 (39%)	UCL rank: 19=
Short	196 (49%)	UCL rank: 23

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
15.8	27

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
5.3	15

DISTANCE COVERED

115.2 km

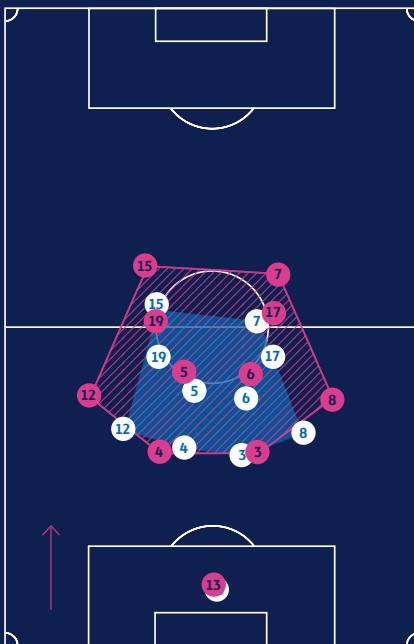
Max. 121.7 km v Atalanta (a)
Min. 108.3 km v Atalanta (h)
UCL rank: 16

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Bayern (h)

■ 3 In possession | ■ 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

13	Gerónimo Rulli	12	1080
----	----------------	----	------

DEFENDERS

2	Mario Gaspar	2	93
3	Raúl Albiol	12	1045
4	Pau Torres	12	1080 1
8	Juan Foyth	10	891
12	Pervis Estupiñán	10	645
18	Alberto Moreno	7	309 1
20	Rubén Peña	2	18
22	Aïssa Mandi	2	24
25	Serge Aurier	5	129 1

MIDFIELDERS

5	Daniel Parejo	12	1055 1 3
6	Étienne Capoue	12	1046 2 4
10	Vicente Iborra	1	10
11	Samu Chukwueze	9	273 2
14	Manu Trigueros	9	330 1
15	Arnaut Danjuma	11	906 6 2
17	Giovani Lo Celso	6	524
17	Daniel Raba	1	11
19	Francis Coquelin	8	463 1
23	Moi Gómez	6	222 1
24	Alfonso Pedraza	10	431 1

FORWARDS

7	Gerard Moreno	7	524 2 4
9	Paco Alcácer	3	73 1
16	Boulaye Dia	8	258 1
21	Yeremi Pino	7	431 1

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

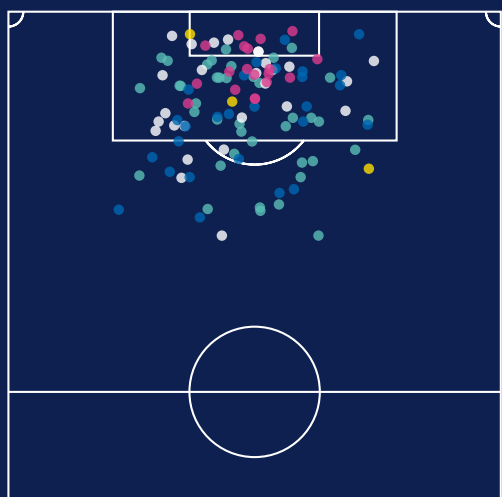
AVERAGE AGE

28

CARDS

26 **2** Sent off:
Coquelin v Atalanta (h),
Capoue v Liverpool (h)

ATTEMPTS



20 GOALS
1.67 per match; UCL rank: 11=

20 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.67 per match; UCL rank: 9=

117 GOAL ATTEMPTS
9.8 per match; UCL rank: 23=

46 ON TARGET
3.8 per match; UCL rank: 19=



PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Arnaut Danjuma	6	25	14	5.1
2 Gerard Moreno	2	21	6	3.3
3 Étienne Capoue	2	10	3	2.4

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Daniel Parejo	624	470	84	32
2 Pau Torres	522	390	88	35
3 Étienne Capoue	491	396	87	22

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Gerard Moreno	4	4	1.5
2 Étienne Capoue	4	3	1.0
3 Daniel Parejo	3	18	2.4

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Juan Foyth	216	61	25	12
2 Daniel Parejo	171	80	9	9
3 Étienne Capoue	170	68	10	24

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2
- Defending at times with back five, e.g. Lo Celso dropping deep v Bayern
- Excellent defensive organisation in deep, compact block
- Leadership of veteran skipper Albiol at back
- UCL's top two players for clearances in Torres (62) and Albiol (60)
- Parejo influential without and without ball – 80 recoveries, 18 key passes
- Quick counterattacks with vertical/diagonal passes
- Moreno providing focal point with hold-up ability, aerial presence



VFL WOLFSBURG



COACH

FLORIAN KOHFELDT*



BORN: 05/10/1982,
Siegen (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: 26/10/2021 to
15/05/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP G

LIL	SEV	SAL	SAL	SEV	LIL	ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
D 0-0	D 1-1	L 3-1	W 2-1	L 2-0	L 1-3				

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

43%

Max. 56% v LOSC (h)
Min. 31% v Sevilla (h)
UCL rank: 24=

POSSESSION POSITION*

First third	39%
Middle third	48%
Attacking third	14%

378

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 461 v LOSC (h)
Min. 265 v Sevilla (h)
UCL rank: 26

75%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 80% v Salzburg (a)
Min. 68% v Sevilla (h)
UCL rank: 30=

PASS DISTANCE**

Long	54 (14% of total)	UCL rank: 4=
Medium	153 (40%)	UCL rank: 19=
Short	171 (45%)	UCL rank: 31

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
12.4	17

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
3.3	28=

DISTANCE COVERED

113.9 km

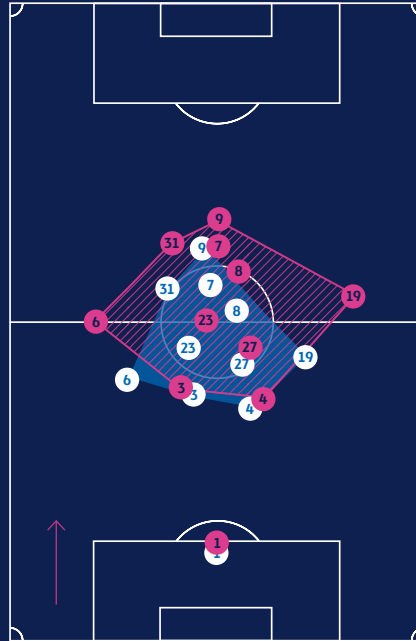
Max. 119.9 km v Sevilla (a)
Min. 110 km v LOSC (a)
UCL rank: 23

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v LOSC (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 Koen Casteels	5	450		
12 Pavao Pervan	1	90		

DEFENDERS

3 Sebastiaan Bornauw	3	204		
4 Maxence Lacroix	6	540		
6 Paulo Otávio	4	171		
15 Jérôme Roussillon	6	362		
19 Kevin Mbabu	6	328		
25 John Brooks	4	331		

MIDFIELDERS

8 Aster Vranckx	4	337		
11 Renato Steffen	5	258	2	
20 Ridle Baku	6	413	1	
22 Felix Nmecha	2	36		
23 Josuha Guilavogui	5	429		
27 Maximilian Arnold	6	540		3
31 Yannick Gerhardt	5	192		1

FORWARDS

7 Luca Waldschmidt	3	119		
9 Wout Weghorst	5	398		
10 Lukas Nmecha	5	322	2	
17 Maximilian Philipp	2	90		
28 Dodi Lukebakio	6	296		
33 Daniel Ginczek	1	2		

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

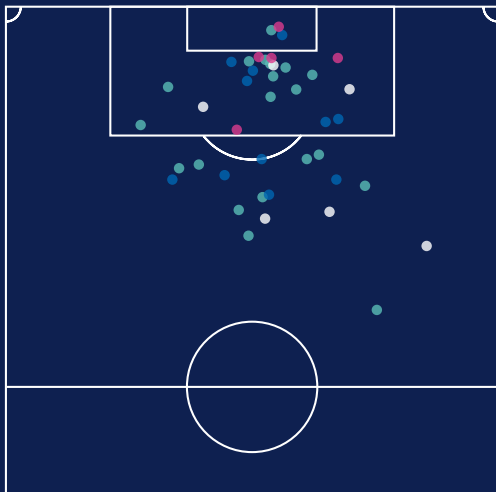
26.3

CARDS

26 2

Sent off:
Brooks v LOSC (a),
Guilavogui v Sevilla (h)

ATTEMPTS



5

GOALS

0.83 per match; UCL rank: 25=

4.9

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)

0.8 per match; UCL rank: 29

42

GOAL ATTEMPTS

7 per match; UCL rank: 31

12

ON TARGET

2 per match; UCL rank: 29=

GOALS	13%
SAVED	44%
BLOCKED	28%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	15%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Lukas Nmecha	2	9	4	1.4
2 Renato Steffen	2	5	2	0.7
3 Ridle Baku	1	2	1	0.6

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Maximilian Arnold	3	7	1.0
2 Yannick Gerhardt	1	3	0.7
3 Wout Weghorst	0	4	0.1

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Maxence Lacroix	298	180	80	44
2 Maximilian Arnold	260	172	80	29
3 Josuha Guilavogui	208	120	84	30

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Maximilian Arnold	122	42	6	5
2 Wout Weghorst	102	13	1	0
3 Aster Vranckx	80	23	8	1

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; also 1-3-4-3 v Salzburg (h)
- Defending in deep block of 1-4-5-1
- Building up with several short passes then going long to striker Weghorst or wings
- Ability to play out from compact block with 1 v 1 skills
- Impressive defensive awareness of young centre-back Lacroix
- Experienced midfielder Arnold adding balance, protecting defence
- Impressive impact of Baku in wing-back role in win v Salzburg
- Wing threat of lively, technical left-sided attacker Steffen



BSC YOUNG BOYS



COACH

DAVID WAGNER



BORN: 19/10/1971,
Frankfurt (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: 01/07/2021 to
07/03/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

GROUP F

MU	ATL	VLR	VLR	ATL	MU
W 2-1	L 1-0	L 1-4	L 2-0	D 3-3	D 1-1

ROUND OF 16

QUARTER-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS

FINAL

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

50%

Max. 59% v Atalanta (h)
Min. 36% v Atalanta (a)
UCL rank: 15

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	36%
Middle third	49%
Attacking third	15%

441

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 502 v Man. United (a)
Min. 341 v Atalanta (a)
UCL rank: 18

82%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 86% v Villarreal (h)
Min. 70% v Atalanta (a)
UCL rank: 16=

PASS DISTANCE

Long	59 (13% of total)	UCL rank: 3
Medium	198 (45%)	UCL rank: 11
Short	183 (42%)	UCL rank: 30

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
12	14

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
5.2	16

DISTANCE COVERED

121.3 km

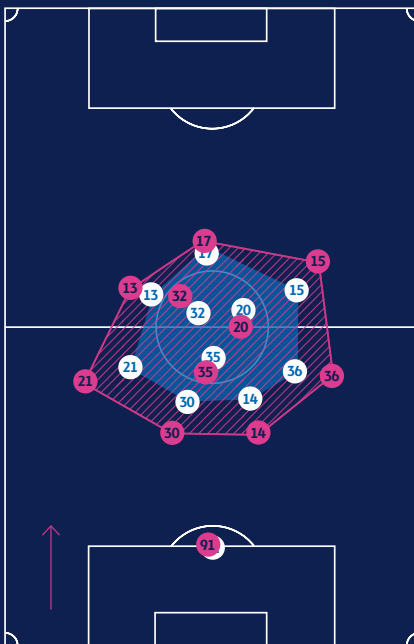
Max. 123.8 km v Man. United (a)
Min. 118.1 km v Villarreal (a)
UCL rank: 2

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Atalanta (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

App Min G A

GOALKEEPERS

26	David von Ballmoos	3	270
91	Guillaume Faivre	3	270

DEFENDERS

4	Mohamed Ali Camara	4	347
5	Cédric Zesiger	1	1
14	Nicolas Bürgy	2	180
21	Ulisses Garcia	5	435
24	Quentin Maceiras	3	113
25	Jordan Lefort	3	167
36	Silvan Hefti	6	386 1 1

MIDFIELDERS

7	Marvin Spielmann	1	8
8	Vincent Sierro	5	240 1
10	Miralem Sulejmani	1	7
13	Nicolas Moumi Ngamaleu	6	532 1 1
16	Christian Fassnacht	3	269
20	Michel Aebischer	6	504 1
22	Nico Maier	1	3
28	Fabian Lustenberger	1	90
30	Sandro Lauper	6	462
32	Fabian Rieder	6	272 1 1
35	Christopher Martins Pereira	5	420

FORWARDS

9	Wilfried Kanga	5	75
15	Meschack Elia	6	489 1
17	Jordan Siebatcheu	6	341 2
19	Felix Mambimbi	4	60

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

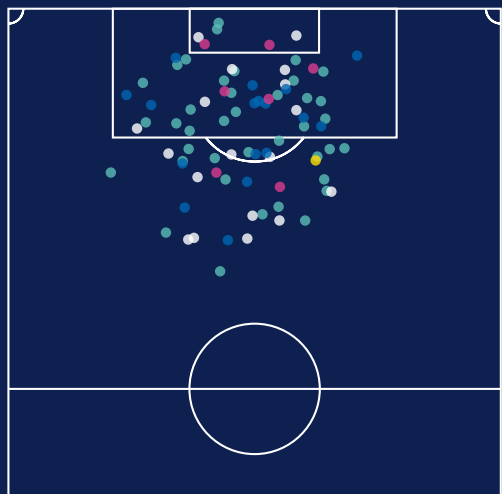
AVERAGE AGE

25.7

CARDS



ATTEMPTS



7

GOALS

1.17 per match; UCL rank: 18=

7.4

EXPECTED GOALS (xG)

1.2 per match; UCL rank: 19=

82

GOAL ATTEMPTS

13.7 per match; UCL rank: 10=

27

ON TARGET

4.5 per match; UCL rank: 15=



PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

	G	S	OT	xG	
1	Jordan Siebatcheu	2	10	3	1.2
2	Meschack Elia	1	10	3	1.5
3	Nicolas Moumi Ngamaleu	1	10	2	0.8

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

PASSES

	Att	R	S%	PF%	
1	Sandro Lauper	358	251	90	31
2	Michel Aebischer	252	204	85	29
3	Silvan Hefti	208	180	72	40

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

CHANCE CREATION

	A	KP	xA	
1	Michel Aebischer	1	7	0.7
2	Nicolas Moumi Ngamaleu	1	6	0.7
3	Silvan Hefti	1	4	0.5

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

DEFENDING

	P	BR	TW	I	
1	Christopher Martins Pereira	89	38	5	10
2	Silvan Hefti	84	30	5	5
3	Nicolas Moumi Ngamaleu	74	40	8	10

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; 1-4-1-4-1; 1-3-5-2 v Villarreal (h)
- Compact and disciplined in defending, with mid-to-low block
- Strong, powerful centre-back Camara
- Fast transitions to defence, closing space centrally
- Early, collective pressure on opponents to win ball back
- Influence and technical ability of Fassnacht on right flank
- Wing play of Ngamaleu (third-most take-ons: 59)
- Long balls to centre-forward Elia staying high, looking deep

COACH

SERGEI SEMAK



BORN: 27/02/1976,
Sychanske (UKR)
NATIONALITY: Russian
HEAD COACH: Since
29/05/2018
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0



GROUP H ROUND OF 16 QUARTER-FINALS SEMI-FINALS FINAL

CHE	MAL	JUV	JUV	MAL	CHE
L 1-0	W 4-0	L 0-1	L 4-2	D 1-1	D 3-3

Matches: Pink = home, white = away, blue = neutral; see page 5 for full club names

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

45%

Max. 55% v Malmö (h)
Min. 34% v Chelsea (a)
UCL rank: 21

POSSESSION POSITION

First third 30%

Middle third 51%

Attacking third 19%

453

PASSES ATTEMPTED

Max. 552 v Malmö (h)
Min. 402 v Juventus (h)
UCL rank: 16

85%

PASS ACCURACY

Max. 90% v Malmö (h)
Min. 82% v Malmö (a)
UCL rank: 12

PASS DISTANCE

Long	49 (11% of total)	UCL rank: 12=
Medium	163 (36%)	UCL rank: 17
Short	241 (53%)	UCL rank: 15=

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

Average	UCL rank
16.3	28

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

Average	UCL rank
4.2	20

DISTANCE COVERED

110.7 km

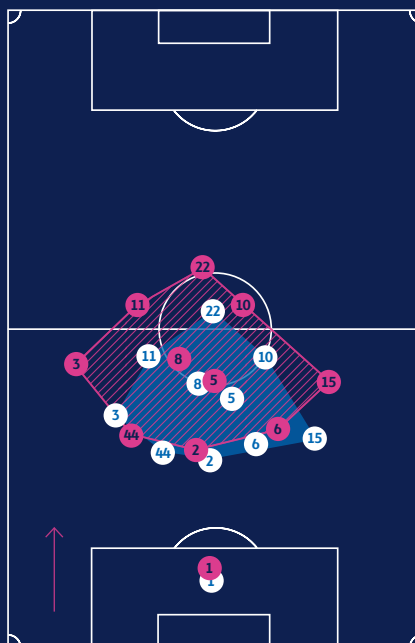
Max. 116.3 km v Juventus (h)
Min. 96.6 km v Chelsea (a)
UCL rank: 30

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Juventus (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession



SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

	App	Min	G	A
1 Stanislav Kritsyuk	4	360		
41 Mikhail Kerzhakov	2	180		

DEFENDERS

2 Dmitri Chistyakov	5	444		
3 Douglas Santos	5	444		2
4 Danil Krugovoi	6	68		
6 Dejan Lovren	4	315		
15 Vyacheslav Karavaev	4	299		1
44 Yaroslav Rakits'kyi	6	497	1	2

MIDFIELDERS

5 Wilmar Barrios	6	540		
8 Wendel	6	484		1
11 Claudinho	6	460		2
14 Daler Kuzyaev	4	257		1
17 Andrei Mostovoy	5	150		
19 Aleksei Sutormin	4	293		1
21 Aleksandr Erokhin	6	104		
27 Magomed Ozdov	1	11		1
64 Kirill Kravtsov	2	14		

FORWARDS

7 Sardar Azmoun	5	303	2	1
10 Malcom	6	434		1
22 Artem Dzyuba	6	277		1
85 Daniil Kuznetsov	1	3		

App = Appearances; Min = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

AVERAGE AGE

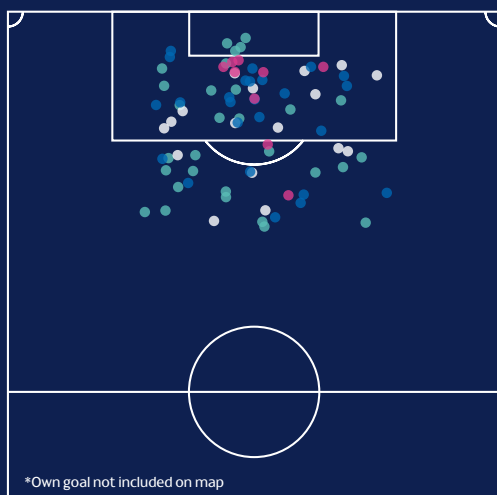
27.2

CARDS

9 1

Sent off:
Chistyakov v Malmö (a)

ATTEMPTS



*Own goal not included on map

10 GOALS (1 own goal*)
1.67 per match; UCL rank: 11=

9.9 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.7 per match; UCL rank: 9=

81 GOAL ATTEMPTS
13.5 per match; UCL rank: 12

27 ON TARGET
4.5 per match; UCL rank: 15=

GOALS	10%
SAVED	45%
BLOCKED	26%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	19%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS	G	S	OT	xG
1 Claudinho	2	13	4	1.3
2 Sardar Azmoun	2	8	6	1.8
3 Wendel	1	7	4	0.9

G = Goals; S = Shots; OT = On Target; xG = Expected Goals

CHANCE CREATION	A	KP	xA
1 Douglas Santos	2	12	1.5
2 Yaroslav Rakits'kyi	2	1	0.6
3 Malcom	1	11	2.0

A = Assists; KP = Key Passes; xA = Expected Assists

PASSES	Att	R	S%	PF%
1 Yaroslav Rakits'kyi	348	257	82	44
2 Wilmar Barrios	297	236	90	32
3 Wendel	291	264	90	25

Att = Attempted; R = Passes Received; S = Successful; PF = Pass Forward

DEFENDING	P	BR	TW	I
1 Claudinho	113	28	5	5
2 Wendel	113	36	6	6
3 Wilmar Barrios	107	50	10	9

P = Pressures; BR = Balls Recovered; TW = Tackles Won; I = Interceptions

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3; 1-3-4-2-1; 1-5-4-1
- Defending well in deep block with 1-5-4-1 shape
- Strong, athletic, well-organised team staying compact and narrow
- Rakitskiy providing diagonal/forward passes from back
- Wendel the link between defence and midfield
- Use of rotations with left-back Douglas moving inside to open space
- Long passes to experienced forward Dzyuba with aim to win second ball
- Skilful wingers Malcom, Claudinho swapping sides, playing around striker

THE CHAMPIONS

2022 Real Madrid CF

2021 Chelsea FC

2020 FC Bayern München

2019 Liverpool FC

2018 Real Madrid CF

2017 Real Madrid CF

2016 Real Madrid CF

2015 FC Barcelona

2014 Real Madrid CF

2013 FC Bayern München

2012 Chelsea FC

2011 FC Barcelona

2010 FC Internazionale Milano

2009 FC Barcelona

2008 Manchester United FC

2007 AC Milan

2006 FC Barcelona

2005 Liverpool FC

2004 FC Porto

2003 AC Milan

2002 Real Madrid CF

2001 FC Bayern München

2000 Real Madrid CF

1999 Manchester United FC

1998 Real Madrid CF

1997 Borussia Dortmund

1996 Juventus

1995 AFC Ajax

1994 AC Milan

1993 Olympique de Marseille

1992 FC Barcelona

1991 FK Crvena zvezda

1990 AC Milan

1989 AC Milan

1988 PSV Eindhoven

1987 FC Porto

1986 FC Steaua București

1985 Juventus

1984 Liverpool FC

1983 Hamburger SV

1982 Aston Villa FC

1981 Liverpool FC

1980 Nottingham Forest FC

1979 Nottingham Forest FC

1978 Liverpool FC

1977 Liverpool FC

1976 FC Bayern München

1975 FC Bayern München

1974 FC Bayern München

1973 AFC Ajax

1972 AFC Ajax

1971 AFC Ajax

1970 Feyenoord

1969 AC Milan

1968 Manchester United FC

1967 Celtic FC

1966 Real Madrid CF

1965 FC Internazionale Milano

1964 FC Internazionale Milano

1963 AC Milan

1962 SL Benfica

1961 SL Benfica

1960 Real Madrid CF

1959 Real Madrid CF

1958 Real Madrid CF

1957 Real Madrid CF

1956 Real Madrid CF

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