

Analysis of Julian Alvarez World Cup 2022



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1. INTRODUCTION

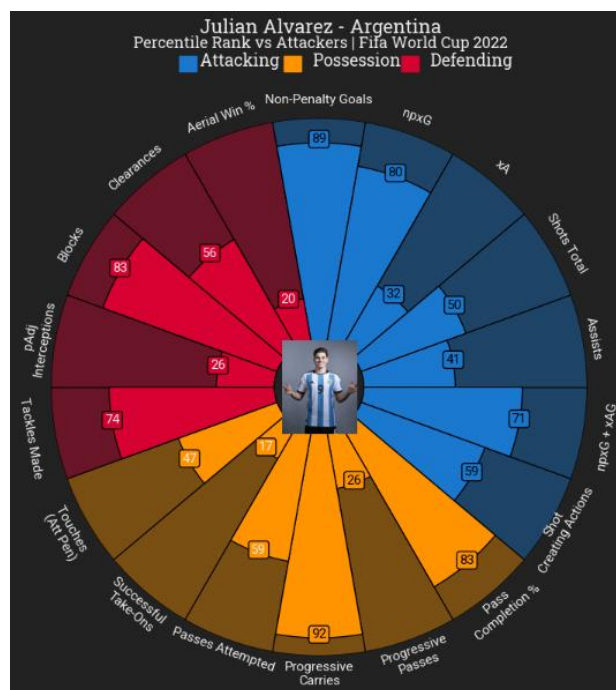
Julián Álvarez born 31 January 2000) is an Argentine professional footballer who plays as a forward or attacking midfielder for Premier League club Manchester City and the Argentina national team. He is known for his aggressive pressing, dynamic scoring ability, and link-up play. He is considered as one of the best young talents in football.

Álvarez began his career at River Plate in his native country. He was a key member of the Argentina team that won the 2022 FIFA World Cup and the Manchester City side that won the continental treble in the 2022–23 season, becoming the first player to win a treble and a World Cup in the same season.

2. STATISTICS ANALYSIS WORLD CUP 2022

Argentina can utilize both possession or transition-based football with the amount of talent that they possess.. However, the biggest impact in their campaign came from Lionel Scaloni's crucial tactical change, using the 4-3-3 with Julian Alvarez on the left. Julian Mostly played as left wing or second striker with Messi. He started 5 of 7 games Argentina played in the World Cup, benching the likes of Lautaro Martinez, Angel Di Maria, Paulo Dybala, etc. In Fig 1 I have plotted the comparison of statistics between Alvarez and other attackers in World Cup.

Fig 1: Stats Comparison vs Attacker World Cup 2022



1. Goal-Scoring Prowess

Non-Penalty Goals: Julián Álvarez's knack for scoring non-penalty goals sets him apart, contributing significantly to Argentina's success. His 80% percentile in non-penalty expected goals underscores his clinical finishing ability.

Shot-creating actions: His impressive shot-creating actions percentile (59%) highlights his role as a creator in addition to being a goal-scorer. Álvarez's ability to craft goal-scoring opportunities for his teammates adds a valuable dimension to his attacking prowess.

2. Playmaking Skills

Pass Completion Rate: With an 83% pass completion rate, Álvarez showcases his proficiency in passing, a crucial aspect of his game. His ability to link up play and maintain possession further bolsters Argentina's attacking strategy.

Progressive Runs: Álvarez's remarkable solo goal against Croatia in the semi-final exemplifies his prowess in progressive runs (92%). These runs not only stretch opposition defenses but also open up spaces for his teammates.

But Julian needs to improve his ability to assist for the goals which was less(41%) for a winger and total shots(50%) and expected assist(32%) number was also less which I think will improve over time looking at his age and experience

3. Defensive Contributions

Versatile Defender: Beyond his attacking duties, Álvarez proves to be an exceptional defender. His impressive blocking rate (83%), clearance rate (56%), and tackling rate (74%) underline his versatility and willingness to contribute defensively.

In Fig 2 and 3 we can analyze data of Argentina and Julian against Croatia which was the best match for both.

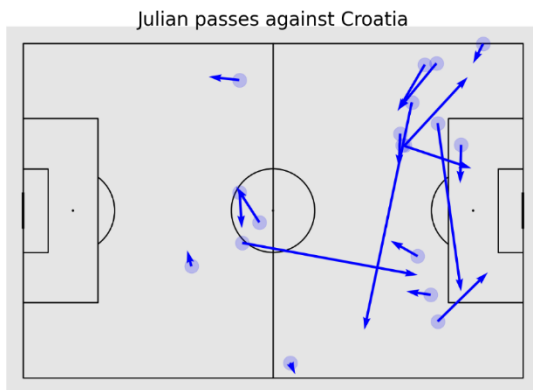


Fig 2: Julian Passes vs Croatia

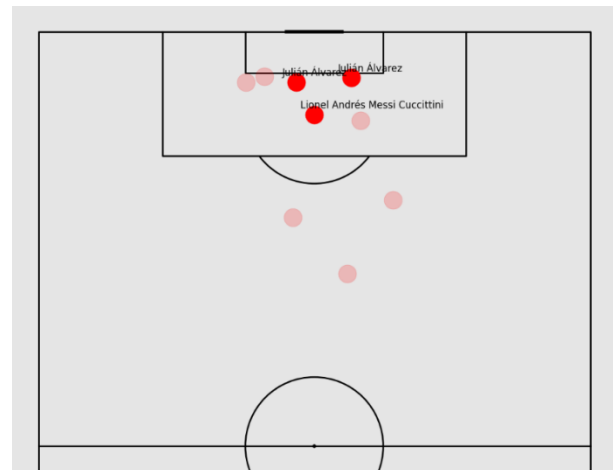


Fig 3: Argentina Shots vs Croatia

Looking at Fig 2 we can observe that most of the passes Julian made were around the opposition box making him a continuous attacking threat for opposition defenders throughout the game. Another interesting stat was as shown in Fig 3, all the goals were scored inside the box and in all the 3 goals Julian was crucial, with his brilliant finishing scoring 2 of them and winning the penalty for Messi in the first goal with his brilliant run. Fig 3 also shows the exceptional positioning of Julian when he scored the goals showing his ability to read the game well as a forward.

3. CONCLUSION

A Rising Star: Julián Álvarez's performance in the 2022 FIFA World Cup showcases him as a rising star in the world of football. His ability to combine goal-scoring, playmaking, and defensive contributions makes him a well-rounded player with immense potential.

By dissecting Álvarez's statistics and contributions in various aspects of the game, my analysis provides insights into why he became an integral part of Argentina's triumphant World Cup campaign and his future prospects in the sport.

