# Creating shortlist of strikers for FC Arsenal

   Arsenal needs to sign a striker after Aubameyang's transfer to Barcelona and the contract expiration of Lecazette. In this project, I am going firstly to create a longlist and then a shortlist of forwards, that will pass to Arsenal's strategy and style of football.

The first step will be to analyze scorers of top-6 European leagues, excluding no-chance propositions. It is a fact, that last ten seasons Arsenal is trying to come back to football's elite. So, it will be impossible to buy leading players from the best European clubs. Our target is to find strikers, who are ready for the next step in their career or those, who are in the second roles at top clubs and are hungry for becoming a leader at an ambitious project like Arsenal. Let's see at the following longlist:

| name | age | games | goals_21_22 | goals_20_21 | xG_21_22 | xA_21_22 | value_trmarkt_eur | avg_possession | contract |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Raul de Tomas | 27 | 34 | 17 | 23 | 16.96 | 1.63 | 20000000 | 47.00 | 2026-06-30 |
| Enes Unal | 25 | 36 | 15 | 4 | 13.43 | 1.56 | 18000000 | 41.20 | 2025-06-30 |
| Arnaut Danjuma | 25 | 23 | 10 | 17 | 12.39 | 2.01 | 50000000 | 57.00 | 2026-06-30 |
| Alexander Isak | 22 | 32 | 6 | 17 | 10.71 | 4.10 | 40000000 | 54.80 | 2026-06-30 |
| Patrik Schick | 26 | 27 | 24 | 9 | 16.98 | 2.04 | 40000000 | 54.20 | 2025-01-30 |
| Anthony Modeste | 34 | 32 | 20 | 0 | 16.79 | 2.89 | 3000000 | 55.00 | 2023-01-30 |
| Taiwo Awoniyi | 24 | 31 | 15 | 5 | 14.31 | 2.35 | 15000000 | 43.50 | 2026-06-30 |
| Gabriel Jesus | 25 | 28 | 8 | 9 | 9.79 | 5.32 | 50000000 | 68.40 | 2023-06-30 |
| Lautaro Martinez | 24 | 35 | 21 | 17 | 22.90 | 3.52 | 70000000 | 56.60 | 2026-06-30 |
| Tammy Abraham | 24 | 37 | 17 | 6 | 19.45 | 4.17 | 45000000 | 51.00 | 2026-06-30 |
| Giovanni Simeone | 26 | 36 | 17 | 6 | 10.77 | 2.69 | 17000000 | 51.50 | 2024-01-30 |
| Gianluca Scamacca | 23 | 36 | 16 | 8 | 11.28 | 2.40 | 30000000 | 54.90 | 2026-06-30 |
| Victor Osimhen | 23 | 27 | 14 | 10 | 12.08 | 1.98 | 60000000 | 58.40 | 2025-01-30 |
| Wissam Ben Yedder | 31 | 37 | 25 | 20 | 16.89 | 4.71 | 28000000 | 53.70 | 2024-06-30 |
| Moussa Dembele | 25 | 30 | 21 | 1 | 18.73 | 3.41 | 17000000 | 58.60 | 2023-06-30 |
| Andy Delort | 30 | 35 | 18 | 15 | 15.34 | 5.22 | 13000000 | 51.50 | 2024-06-30 |
| Jonathan David | 22 | 38 | 15 | 13 | 13.34 | 2.79 | 50000000 | 50.80 | 2025-06-30 |
| Darwin Nunez | 22 | 28 | 26 | 6 | 15.73 | 5.17 | 40000000 | 62.00 | 2025-06-30 |
| Mehdi Taremi | 29 | 32 | 20 | 16 | 20.66 | 8.26 | 17000000 | 63.20 | 2024-06-30 |
| Sebastien Haller | 27 | 31 | 21 | 14 | 20.82 | 4.28 | 30000000 | 66.30 | 2025-06-30 |

The second step will be in getting deeper into our list. Arsenal is building a team intending to achieve results in the future. That is why our striker must be 27 years or lower. Another important thing in this analytics is the average possession of a potential player's team. Arsenal is trying to play with controlling the ball and their average possession during the season is 55.4%. Let's cut off the list of all players with avg_possession less the 52%. Teams that are trying to control the ball during the game are creating their moments with short passing combinations in compressed space while trying to get through a low defensive line. On the other hand, defending teams, that are playing mostly without the ball are build their counterattacks through long passes on their strikers, who are running to space behind the backs of the high defensive line. The second game style is opposite to Arsenal's and it will be highly risky to invest in a player, who is much out of the system.  In addition to that, we need to consider, that Arsenal's budget is limited. So, if a striker has a long-term contract, his price must be not higher than 40 000 000 EUR, but if his contract will expire in a year or less his transfer fee can be not higher than 50 000 000 EUR. In the second case, it will be possible to buy him for a discount price.
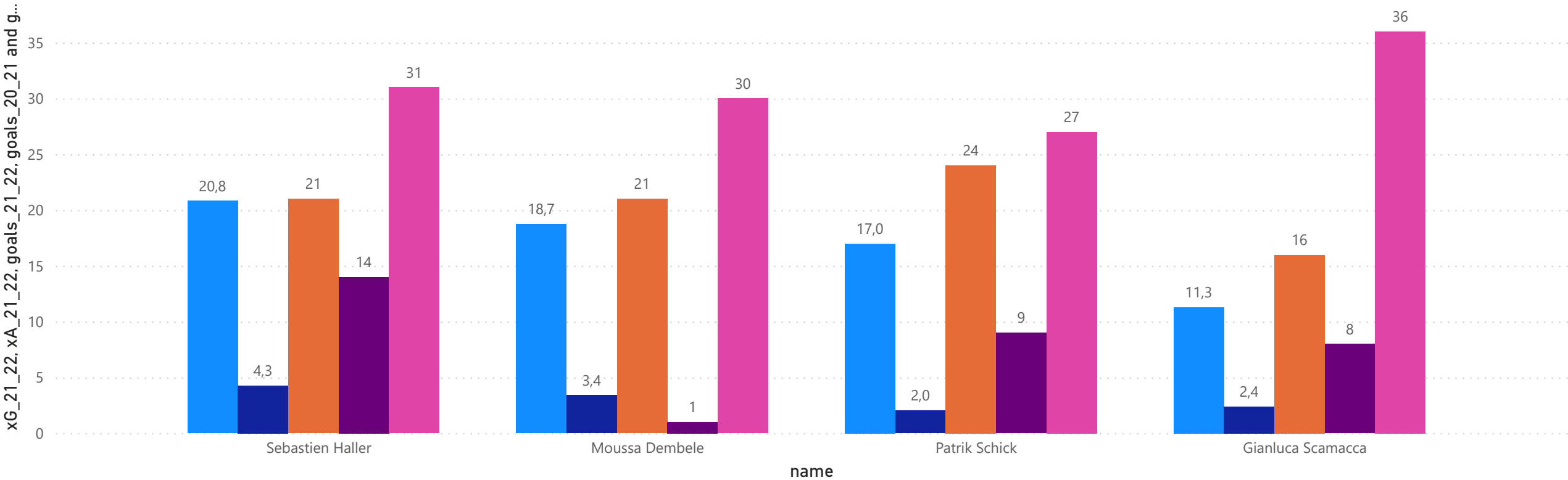
```sql
6  ●     SELECT *
7        FROM arsenal
8        WHERE age <= 27 AND avg_possession > 52
9        AND IF(contract <= '2023-06-30', value_trmarkt_eur <= 50000000, value_trmarkt_eur <= 40000000)
10       ORDER BY (xG_21_22 + xA_21_22) / games DESC;
```

Result Grid | Filter Rows: | Export: | Wrap Cell Content:

| name | age | games | goals_21_22 | goals_20_21 | xG_21_22 | xA_21_22 | value_trmarkt_eur | avg_possession | contract |
|------|-----|-------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------------|----------|
| Sebastien Haller | 27 | 31 | 21 | 14 | 20.82 | 4.28 | 30000000 | 66.30 | 2025-06-30 |
| Darwin Nunez | 22 | 28 | 26 | 6 | 15.73 | 5.17 | 40000000 | 62.00 | 2025-06-30 |
| Moussa Dembele | 25 | 30 | 21 | 1 | 18.73 | 3.41 | 17000000 | 58.60 | 2023-06-30 |
| Patrik Schick | 26 | 27 | 24 | 9 | 16.98 | 2.04 | 40000000 | 54.20 | 2025-01-30 |
| Gabriel Jesus | 25 | 28 | 8 | 9 | 9.79 | 5.32 | 50000000 | 68.40 | 2023-06-30 |
| Alexander Isak | 22 | 32 | 6 | 17 | 10.71 | 4.10 | 40000000 | 54.80 | 2026-06-30 |
| Gianluca Scamacca | 23 | 36 | 16 | 8 | 11.28 | 2.40 | 30000000 | 54.90 | 2026-06-30 |

Finally, let's analyze the personal statistics of our shortlist. Haller has great records but is playing in the weakest league on the list, he is already 27 and has unsuccessful experience in West Ham, another team from EPL. So I will put Haller on #7 in this shortlist. Dembele has another outstanding season in his career but he scored only one goal in season 2020/2021. He might be unstable. Dembele - #6. Schick scored extremely a lot, but his xG shows us overperformance on 7 goals. In addition to that, he had ambiguous experiences at Roma and RP Leipzig. That is why Schick is #5. Scamacca has his first season with such performance on a high level. He scored 16 goals, but his statistically expected goals were only 11.3. He is only 23 years old so he looks very promising but it is still a question if he is ready for the next step. Scamacca - #4. Let's to our top-3 candidates.

## xG_21_22, xA_21_22, goals_21_22, goals_20_21 and games by name

Nunez showed us the perfect season. This young player has a bright future but he also has an almost 10 points difference between xG and actual goals. Furthermore, he wants to come to the club, which is playing in UEFA Champions League. Arsenal was almost there but lost the chance at the end of the season. So it will be hard to convince Darwin to transfer to Arsenal. Nunez - #3. Isak scored only 6 goals in La Liga 2021/2022. On the other hand, he scored 17 goals in season 2020/2021. Also, we can see that his xG last season was 10.7 and his xA statistics are at a high level, so he is great at passing work. I can conclude, that only 6 goals of Isak are accidents, he has the potential to score much more and his underrated statics of this season will positively influence his value. Isak -#2. Jesus is a perfect candidate for Arsenal. He worked with nowadays Arsenal's coach Arteta at Man City. He does not have stunning goal-scoring statistics but it is because of his substitution jocker role at Man City. As a main leading striker he will be good at scoring and passing, he is only 25 years old and his contract expires in one year. That is why it will be easier to find appropriate market value in negotiations with Man City. Jesus is #1 on the shortlist of strikers for Arsenal. However, the final decision will depend on the combination of this report and the work of my video analytics colleagues.

**xG_21_22, xA_21_22, goals_21_22, goals_20_21 and games by name**