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2026 RECRUITMENT STRATEGY: FORWARD SUCCESSION PLAN

IDENTIFYING THE TACTICAL SUCCESSOR FOR LUDMILA

COMPARE 50+ BUNDESLIGA FORWARDS AGAINST LUDMILA'S 2025 PERFORMANCE PROFILE.

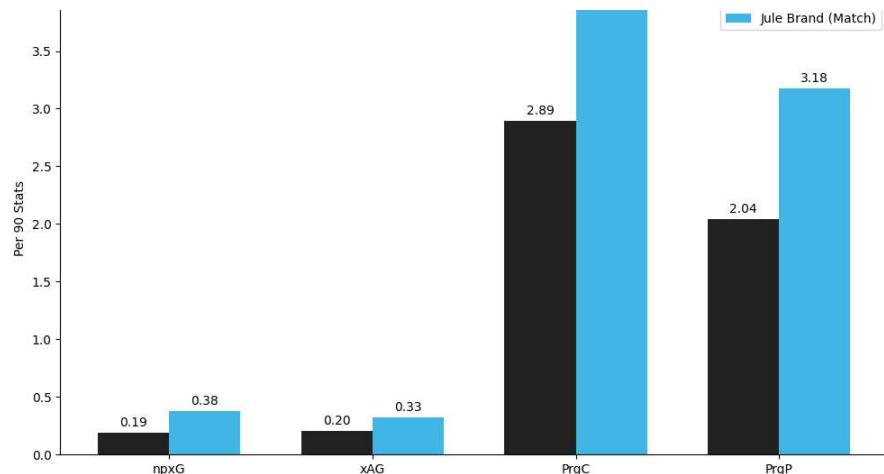
JANUARY 26, 2026





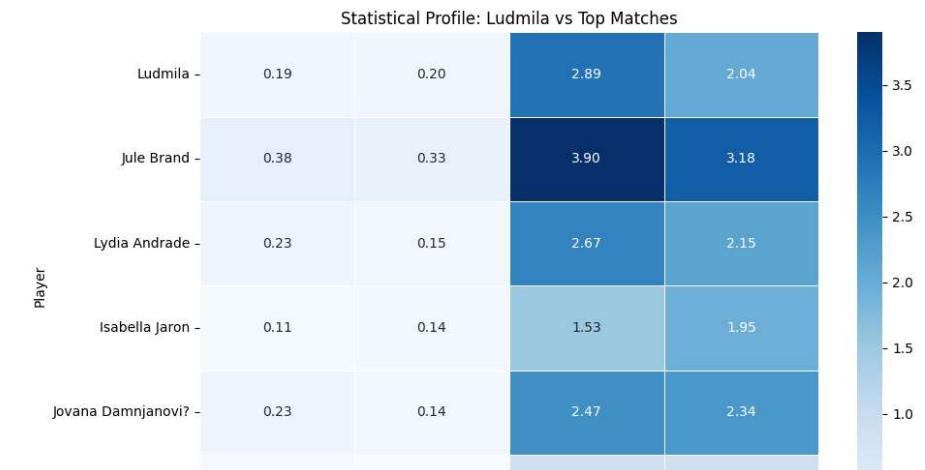
JULE BRAND(21 YEARS OLD)

01 | THE TACTICAL MIRROR



Primary Recommendation: Jule Brand (VfL Wolfsburg) 21 years old

- Matches Ludmila's signature "Speed Merchant" playstyle with a **99.1% similarity rating**
- **The Statistical Upgrade:** While maintaining the same style, Brand provides a massive surge in production:
 - **Elite Ball Progression:** Records **3.90 Progressive Carries** per 90, consistently bypassing defensive lines.
 - **High-Volume Threat:** Delivers **0.71 npxG+xAG** per 90—effectively doubling the creative and scoring output of the previous role
- **21 years old**, Brand offers an elite, 8+ year competitive window for the Red Stars.

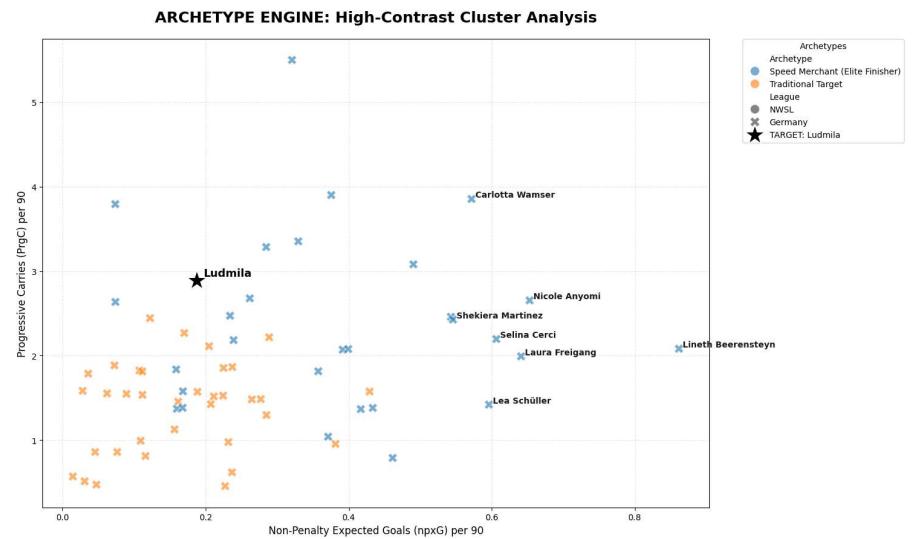
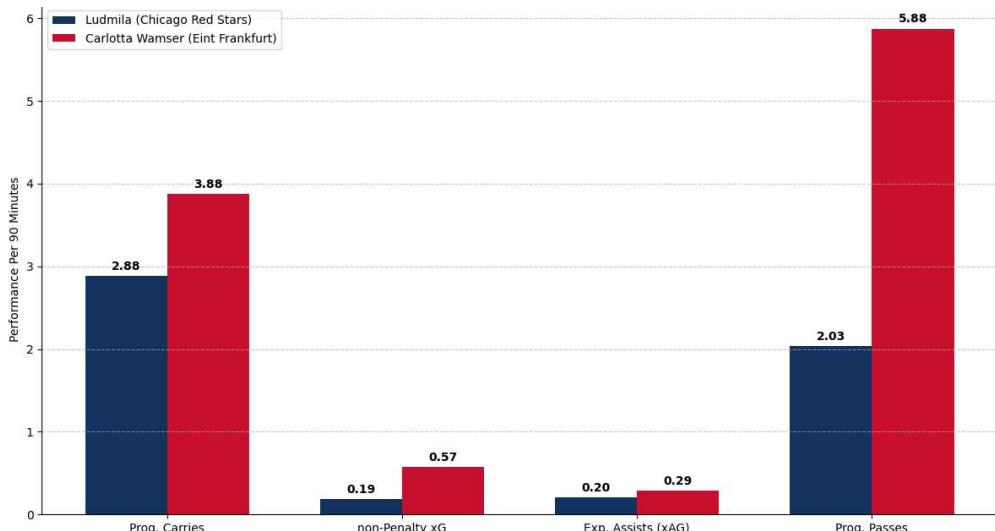




CARLOTTA WAMSER (20 YEARS OLD)

THE GENERATIONAL SUCCESSION PLAN

- Primary Identification: **Carlotta Wamser** (Eintracht Frankfurt) 20 years old
- **Cluster-Leading Progression:** Demonstrates the most dominant underlying verticality metrics in the entire targeted scouting cluster:
 - **Passing Range:** Distributes **5.84 Progressive Passes per 90**, facilitating a higher rate of pitch-advancement than any other candidate.
 - **Ball Carrying Volume:** Records **3.85 Progressive Carries per 90**
- **Tactical "Verticality" Specialist:** Moves the ball up the pitch at a higher frequency than all other peers in the "Speed Merchant" family, offering an immediate boost to Chicago's transition speed.
- **Decade-Long Stability:** Represents a long-term strategic solution to lock down the attacking flank for the next **10+ years**.

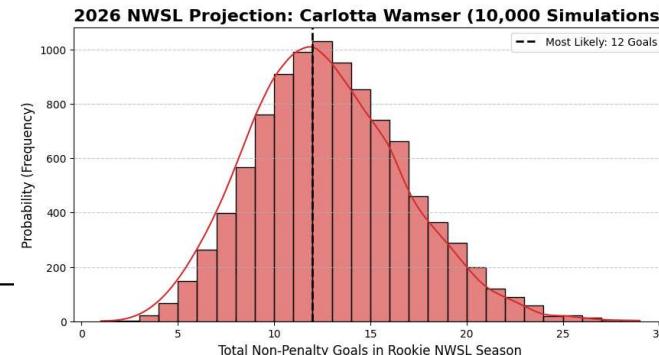
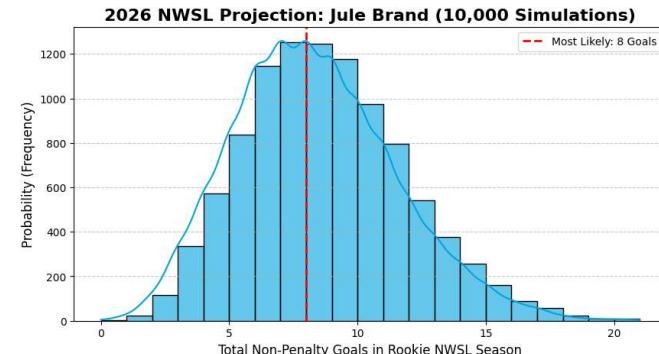


10,000 NWSL SEASON SIMULATIONS

STRATEGIC RISK ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE PROJECTIONS

we ran 10,000 Simulations to predict their performance in NWSL, applying a % "NWSL Transition Tax.", depending on the case. Outcomes are modeled across Worst-Case (Floor), Standard (Most Likely), and Best-Case (Ceiling) scenarios.

Category	Jule Brand (VfL Wolfsburg)	Carlotta Wamser (Eintracht Frankfurt)
Success Probability	21.0% (Tier 1)	13.0% (Elite Prospect)
Most Likely Goals	8 Goals (Team Leader Level)	12 Goals (Golden Boot Level)
90% Confidence Range of Goals	4 (Floor) — 14 (Ceiling)	6 (Floor) — 20 (Ceiling)
Ball Progression (PrgC)	3.83 / 90 (Ludmila Replicated)	3.79 / 90 (Redefines Position)
Franchise Window	8+ Year Horizon	10+ Year Horizon
EXECUTIVE VERDICT	LOW RISK: Guaranteed floor; immediate NWSL starter.	HIGH UPSIDE: Generational signing; highest scoring potential.



STRATEGIC VALIDATION — PERFORMANCE VS. AGE

The "Age Myth" Busted (R-Squared Comparison)



Proven Success: High-volume carriers like Ludmila have a **statistically significant** impact on winning games.



The Mandate: Replacing this specific "Speed Merchant" trait is a mathematical requirement to maintain our 2026 goal output.



The Verdict: Age has zero impact on goal production ($p=0.36$). We can sign 20-year-old Carlotta Wamser with full confidence.

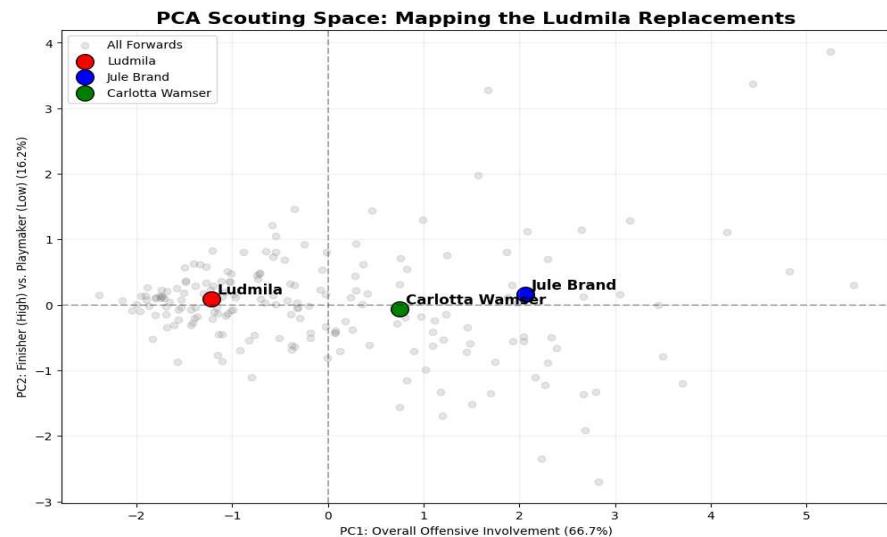
Proven Success Drivers (Multiple Regression)

- **Winning Formula:** Ball-carrying ($p=0.0014$) and Expected Goals ($p=0.0000$) are the metrics that truly predict NWSL Attacking success.
- **Strategic Need:** Replacing Ludmila's carries is a mathematical requirement to maintain our win rate.

Metric	League Average Prospect	Jule Brand (Age 21)	Carlotta Wamser (Age 20)
Success Rate	12.4%	21.0%	13.0%
Probability Lift	Baseline	+69% Above Average	High-Upside Project

Successful players are considered the ones that could play 1500+ during the season

THE TACTICAL MAP — PCA LOADING ANALYSIS



- The X-Axis (Volume):
 - **Higher score (Engine Player):** constantly touches, carries, and passes the ball.
- The Y-Axis (Style):
 - **High Score (The "Finisher"):** focused on shots and goals
 - **Low Score (The "Playmaker"):** focused on progressive passing and assists.

Ludmila The Surgical Transition Threat	Low volume ($X < -1$) Pure Finisher ($Y > 0$). Specialized transition threat; lethal in high-impact, low-touch moments. Didn't need the ball to be dangerous; purely focused on ending moves.
Jule Brand The High-Volume Engine	Elite volume ($X > 2$) Pure Finisher ($Y > 0$). The "Upgrade." Replicates Ludmila's finishing but with double the activity. Same scoring instincts as Ludmila, but involved in every phase of the attack.
Carlotta Wamser The Tactical Prototype	Steady volume ($X = 0.7$) Hybrid Role ($Y = 0$). The "Safe Bet." Perfectly balanced between playmaking and goal-scoring. Versatile technician; more active than Ludmila and provides a steady bridge to our midfield.

MARKET STRATEGY — THE "GERMANY ADVANTAGE"

Why Germany?



Bundesliga prospects are **22.2% more likely** to become elite NWSL starters than domestic draft picks.



Market Reliability: German youth success rate (30.1%) significantly beats the U.S. college baseline (24.6%).



Proven Predictor (OR = 1.317): Statistics prove that German league experience is a significant positive indicator for success in America.

Specialist Recruiting (Individual View)

- **Specialized Targets:** While the market average is high, we selected **Brand (21%)** and **Wamser (13%)** for their rare "Speed Merchant" traits.
- **The Verdict:** Jule Brand's 21% probability is elite for an international, matching the reliability of high-end domestic veterans.

Risk Shield (The "League Tax")

- **Conservative Math:** All percentages are **NWSL-Adjusted**. We already discounted their European stats to account for the physical jump to America.