

Assignment 3 - Off ball runs

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I've chosen to analysis **Erling Haaland** in the Champions League final 2023. As Manchester City's striker, Haaland was highly aggressive in this match. Based on Table 1, we can see that he made **12** forward runs, **21** lateral runs, and **0** backward runs, indicating that his movements were mainly focused on the attacking, with almost no defensive retreat. In addition, the high proportion of forward runs when he had possession further highlights that he is a striker with a strong offensive. Furthermore, Haaland frequently moved into the attacking the final third with the ball, showing his active pursuit of goal-scoring opportunities and fulfilling his duties as a striker.

Based on Table 2, we can see that the average direction of Haaland's movements was mostly oriented forward. His average movement direction was forward and leaned towards the lower right of the pitch (see Figure 1a), but a variance of **63.76** degrees suggests that he was constantly adjusting his running patterns during the match to flexibly seek attacking opportunities. When in possession (see Figure 1c), his movements were more direct and forward, showing less variation, which demonstrates his preference for breaking through the opponent's defense. Similar tendencies were seen in his movements in the attacking the final third (see Figure 1e).

Overall, Haaland displayed strong forward and lateral movement capabilities throughout this match, particularly in the attacking the final third, where his runs primarily aimed to create scoring opportunities. The fact that he had 0 backward runs suggests that he spent most of his time in the attacking half. These characteristics align well with his role as a top striker, as he made full use of space and consistently posed a threat to the opponent's goal, demonstrating a strong offensive aggressiveness.

My code is posted at: Github Repository.

	Forward	Lateral	Backward
All runs	12	21	0
In Possession Runs	6	6	0
In Possession Runs (In Final Third)	3	4	0

Table 1: Summary of Runs

	Average	Variation
All runs	-18.36	63.76
In Possession Runs	11.34	43.55
In Possession Runs (In Final Third)	22.24	40.48

Table 2: Summary of Run Directions

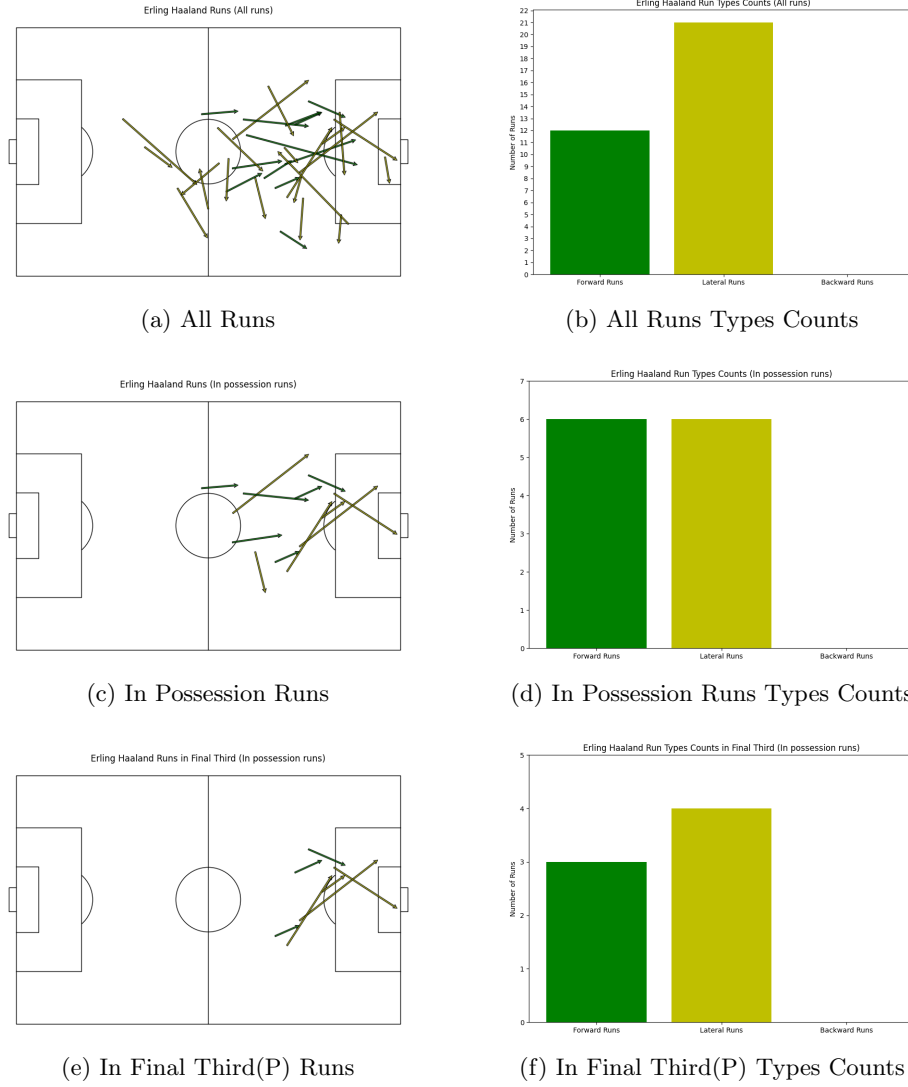


Figure 1: Erling Haaland Runs Analysis