TECHNICAL REPORT
2022/23

CONTENTS

COVER

Federico Dimarco keeps an eye on Bernardo Silva during the final

To view video of the screen grabs in this report as well as technical reports from all UEFA competitions, please visit **uefatechnicalreports.com**

TACTICAL TRENDS

UEFA's technical observers tracked the season's tactical and statistical developments thanks to detailed analysis of every game

This review of the 2022/23 Champions League provides a record of the 125 matches between the start of the group stage in September 2022 and the final at Istanbul's Atatürk Olympic Stadium on 10 June. The 24th Champions League technical report of its kind, it assesses the action with the input of UEFA's Technical Observers' Panel and the support of its performance analysis team.

A member of the observers' group analysed every fixture from Matchday 1 onwards to ensure in-depth coverage of the group stage while, for the knockout rounds, there was an observer present at every fixture. The resulting insights have provided the substance for the talking points in the report, as well as informing the assessment of the tactical approach of all 32 clubs.

UEFA's team of technical observers for 2022/23 comprised: David Adams (Wales), Wayne Allison (England), Packie Bonner (Republic of Ireland), Cosmin Contra (Romania), Frank de Boer (Netherlands),

Corinne Diacre (France), Dušan Fitzel (Czechia), Frans Hoek (Netherlands), David James (England), Robbie Keane (Republic of Ireland), Stefan Kuntz (Germany), Hans Leitert (Austria), Roberto Martínez (Spain), Ginés Meléndez (Spain), Michael O'Neill (Northern Ireland), Mixu Paatelainen (Finland), Marians Pahars (Latvia), Vera Pauw (Netherlands), Stipe Pletikosa (Croatia), Gus Poyet (Uruguay), 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 meaningful 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

SSC Napoli
(NAP)

Liverpool FC
(LIV)

AFC Ajax
(AJA)

Rangers FC
(RAN)

GROUP B

FC Porto
(POR)

Club Brugge
(BRU)

Bayer 04
Leverkusen
(LEV)

Club Atlético
de Madrid
(ATL)

GROUP C

FC Bayern
München
(BAY)

FC Internazionale
Milano
(INT)

FC Barcelona
(BAR)

FC Viktoria
Plzeň
(PLZ)

GROUP D

Tottenham
Hotspur FC
(TOT)

Eintracht
Frankfurt
(FRA)

Sporting
Clube de
Portugal
(SPO)

Olympique de
Marseille
(MAR)

GROUP E

Chelsea FC
(CHE)

AC Milan
(MIL)

FC Salzburg
(SAL)

GNK Dinamo
Zagreb
(DIN)

GROUP F

Real Madrid CF
(RMA)

RB Leipzig
(LEI)

FC Shakhtar
Donetsk
(SHA)

Celtic FC
(CEL)

GROUP G

Manchester
City FC
(MCI)

Borussia
Dortmund
(DOR)

Sevilla FC
(SEV)

FC Copenhagen
(COP)

GROUP H

SL Benfica
(BEN)

Paris Saint-
Germain
(PAR)

Juventus
(JUV)

Maccabi Haifa
FC
(MHA)

CITY CLAIM
THE PRIZE

A second-half strike from Rodri gave Manchester City their first title and Pep Guardiola his third as a coach, though Inter pushed them all the way in Istanbul

Manchester City midfielder Rodri slots in the only goal of the final

INTER'S BRAVE CENTRE-BACKS STIFLE CITY

"It was quite brave," said Frank de Boer, one of the UEFA observers at the final on 10 June. "They weren't afraid to play one against one."

De Boer was describing the approach of the Inter central defenders who, though set up in their usual 1-3-5-2 formation, had a pressing role to play against Manchester City which was as unexpected as it was influential. To be specific, the Inter centre-backs on the right and left sides, Matteo Darmian and Alessandro Bastoni respectively, were given the task of stepping up to put Kevin De Bruyne and İlkay Gündoğan under pressure in the half-spaces where they typically look to work their magic. It was bold and it was brave as it meant that the middle centre-back, Francesco Acerbi, was left at times to mark Erling Haaland on his own.

"The players who dealt with the No10s were the centre-halves and for me that was a real surprise," said Roberto Martínez, another member of the observers' group in Istanbul. "The two centre-halves were ready to jump and this is brave as you then have the strongest No9 in European football one-v-one in front of your box."

Inter coach Simone Inzaghi's ploy largely paid off. City, despite technically having four men in midfield compared to Inter's three, could not gain superiority in the centre of the pitch and found their build-up play disrupted. As an illustration, they recorded a final-third pass completion rate of 77.8%, notably lower than their season average of 86.4%.

In the first clip, viewable in the digital report, we see Darmian go all the way into the City half to press De Bruyne before Bastoni does likewise on the left. This ensured that Inter's midfielders could focus on other marking duties. As Martínez added: "They had players in clear man-marking roles and other players who had to jump and these were the two centre-halves."

In the second clip, Bastoni steps into the City half to close down John Stones; then Darmian, anticipating a potential ball to De Bruyne down the City left, gets tight to the Belgian once more.

Inter's approach made it difficult for City to create clear openings, limiting them to a total of seven shots – their lowest number of the season. Inzaghi praised his team's aggression, organisation and determination afterwards and said: "We gave away very little. I remember there was one chance for Phil Foden but they didn't have clear chances." To highlight the point, only against Borussia Dortmund at home and Real Madrid away did Guardiola's men record a lower xG than the 0.99 they posted in the final. By comparison, Inter's xG was 1.68.

Inter centre-backs in position to press Kevin De Bruyne and İlkay Gündoğan

Inter centre-back Bastoni stepping into midfield to apply pressure on Manchester City's John Stones

INTER SET TEST FOR RODRI

A consequence of the Inter centre-backs pressing in the No10 spaces was that Inter's midfielders could focus their attentions elsewhere – not least on trying to limit the impact of City's midfield pivot, Rodri. "They always had one midfielder jumping on Rodri," said Martínez. Guardiola himself admitted afterwards: "We didn't expect [Hakan] Çalhanoğlu jammed to Rodri."

Rodri himself, despite having scored the only goal of the final and earned the award for Player of the Match, expressed the view that he "wasn't good in the first half".

This clip, which can be watched in the digital report, offers an example of how Inter sought to frustrate him, showing a vigilant Marcelo Brozović in the vicinity of Rodri, the Croatian keeping close to the City midfielder as his team-mates work the ball back to Ederson. The goalkeeper, rather than look to Rodri, plays a longer ball to Stones instead.

Guardiola admitted afterwards: "In the first half we had trouble reading the free man in midfield. I said to Rodri [at half-time], 'Relax, you've been the best midfielder in Europe by some distance. Don't rush it – read where the free man is.'"

Inter were always in touching distance to Rodri throughout the game, which caused Manchester City problems in the first half

Rodri ended the final having completed more passes than any player (61 of 66 attempted) yet – to show the impact of Inter's efforts – this was his third-lowest number of completed passes in a Champions League match this season in which he had played the full 90 minutes. Only in both legs of the quarter-final against Bayern did City's metronome manage fewer. And, for the record, only in those two matches did the champions have less possession than the 55.4% they recorded in Istanbul.

Hakan Çalhanoğlu kept Rodri under wraps for long periods

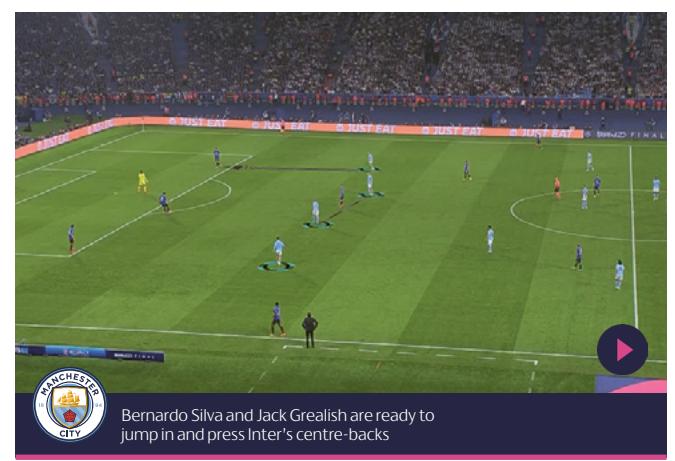Erling Haaland's first-half shot is blocked by André Onana

Federico Dimarco behind him and escaped behind the Inter player with a lovely, light-footed turn before carrying the ball into the box and unleashing a low shot. "Foden is different, he's direct," said one of the final observers when assessing the substitute's impact, albeit as with every City attacking player, it was limited by the excellence of Inter's defensive organisation.

City's biggest chance in the first half came after a possession sequence where Erling Haaland timed his run brilliantly behind Inter's defence

CITY CONNECT THEIR ATTACKING PLAYERS … BUT LESS THAN USUAL

Man City had scored 31 goals on the path to Istanbul yet at the Atatürk Olympic Stadium they created few clear opportunities. As the UEFA Technical Observers' Panel reflected, only a couple of times did they open up Inter as they normally would an opposition defence, by getting their playmakers into the half-spaces and playing Haaland in behind.

The obvious example in the first half was in the 27th minute when Rodri found space in the centre-circle and fed Gündoğan in a pocket of space between Inter's defensive and midfield lines. Although Darmian stepped out to press, Gündoğan was too quick for him, laying the ball off to De Bruyne, free between the lines, to release Haaland, whose angled run took him across Bastoni and into a position to test André Onana. However, it was one of only two touches in the Inter box for the Norwegian that night. City, in possession, set up in a 1-3-4-2-1 and, at the start of the match, had Gündoğan at the top of their midfield diamond, with Rodri at the base, and John Stones and De Bruyne on the right and left respectively.

After De Bruyne's first-half withdrawal with a hamstring injury, Gündoğan shifted to the left with Phil Foden, the Belgian's replacement, occupying the space behind Haaland. City's adjusted set-up was clear to see when they created a scoring opportunity for the substitute after 77 minutes. Gündoğan, on the left of midfield, played the ball inside to Rodri and the Spaniard passed forward to Foden who cleverly anticipated the movement of

CITY WINGERS LEAD PRESS

City's pressing game was another interesting feature of the final as Guardiola's men repeated the ploy seen in the quarter-final against Bayern München. "In the past you see City pressing a lot but now they stay in a high mid-block, waiting for the right moments," said Giovanni van Bronckhorst, pointing out that when City did press high, it was the two wide attackers, Jack Grealish and Bernardo Silva, who led the press, looking to force the ball to the sides or long.

Within a 1-4-2-4 shape, City's central attackers focused on screening the space in front of the Inter holding midfielder. We see this in the first clip, viewable in the digital report, here as Marcelo Brozović finds himself flanked by Haaland and De Bruyne as Inter build from the back. Bernardo is the player who steps up into the Inter box to press Bastoni and he does the same in the second clip too, which can be seen by pressing the image in the digital version of the report, in which Grealish then closes down Darmian on the other side as De Bruyne and Haaland shut down the space around Brozović once more. This was a tactic that City had previously used to good effect in the second half of their quarter-final home win over Bayern (see Quarter-final review). Van Bronckhorst added: "They didn't press high, but more mid-to-high, and when they did it was the wide players jumping as against Bayern in the second half at home."

Bernardo Silva and Jack Grealish are ready to jump in and press Inter's centre-backs

AKANJI BREAKS THE LINES

On paper, City had a defensive line in Istanbul comprising four players commonly considered centre-backs by trade. If that pointed to a greater degree of pragmatism from Pep Guardiola, it was only part of the story. For a start Stones, an England centre-half, was filling with distinction a hybrid full-back/midfield role.
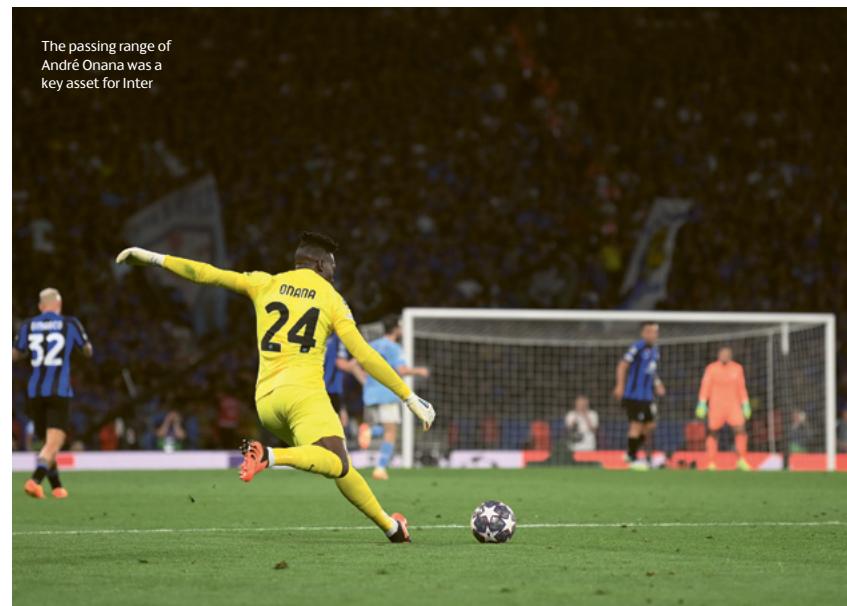

Manuel Akanji stepping forward before progressing the ball behind Inter's defensive line leading to City's winner

As for Manuel Akanji he ranked third for line-breaking passes in the 2022/23 campaign with 137 – two more than team-mate Rúben Dias. In addition, the Swiss international's total included 17 passes within the attacking third and his last such pass of the season will feature in replays for years to come as it was the ball which freed Bernardo Silva in the Inter box to cut the ball back for Rodri's winning strike.

In the 74-second possession sequence leading up to the goal, Akanji had earlier had possession but had Lautaro Martínez sticking tight to him. This time he was unhindered by the Argentinian and so advanced with the ball, a movement which led to Alessandro Bastoni stepping out to challenge which, in turn, opened up the space for Silva to step into behind the Inter defender. Cue the pass from Akanji which dissected two defenders and freed Bernardo on the right of the box. Guardiola might have had four men at the back with power and height but they could pass a ball too.

Manuel Akanji escapes the attentions of Lautaro Martínez

The passing range of André Onana was a key asset for Inter

ONANA'S PASSING FROM DEEP
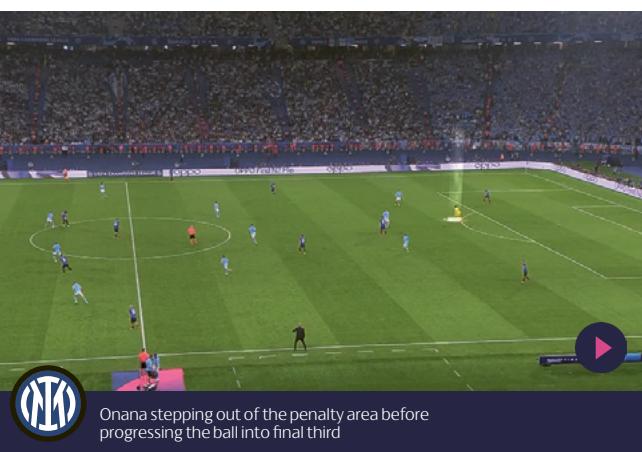
Akanji was not the only defensive player in the final who showcased his eye for a pass. Inter goalkeeper André Onana impressed the UEFA observers too. As Pep Guardiola said of the Cameroonian afterwards: "They put the incredible Onana to play in the positions of a holding midfielder."

In an era when goalkeepers are increasingly involved in making the play, Onana's efforts embodied that trend on a night he displayed the passing range of a deep midfielder. The first video clip (when you click on the screengrab below in the digital version of the report) shows him carry the ball outside his box and then taking out six City players with a forward ball into the opposition half to Martínez who supplies Lukaku for a shot on goal. "An amazing pass" was the verdict of Frank de Boer.

The Cameroonian produced another excellent pass in the second clip (which can be accessed via the digital report) a measured ball along the ground to the feet of Lukaku, who turns and feeds substitute Henrikh Mkhitaryan in another dangerous late attack.

This was one of five matches in this European campaign in which Onana completed 30 or more passes. And with 32 of his 44 attempted passes completed, he ranked sixth among his Inter colleagues for successful passes in the final. Incidentally, he can use his hands too: the Inter keeper ranked first among goalkeepers in the 2022/23 competition in the 'goals prevented' category with 7.84 – two ahead of Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois (5.85).

Onana stepping out of the penalty area before progressing the ball into final third

MATCH STATISTICS

Istanbul 23
FINAL

MANCHESTER CITY

1-0

INTER

SATURDAY 10 JUNE 2023
Atatürk Olympic Stadium, Istanbul

GOAL
Rodri 68

REFEREE
Szymon Marciniak (Poland)

MANCHESTER CITY		
🟨 EDERSON	**31**	
AKANJI	**25**	
RÚBEN DIAS	**3**	
AKÉ	**6**	
STONES ⇄ 2 Walker 82'	**5**	
RODRI	**16**	
BERNARDO SILVA	**20**	
DE BRUYNE ⇄ 47 Foden 36'	**17**	
GÜNDOĞAN (C)	**8**	
GREALISH	**10**	
🟨 HAALAND	**9**	

UNUSED SUBSTITUTES

ORTEGA	**18**
CARSON	**33**
PHILLIPS	**4**
LAPORTE	**14**
ÁLVAREZ	**19**
GÓMEZ	**21**
MAHREZ	**26**
PERRONE	**32**
PALMER	**80**
LEWIS	**82**

COACH
PEP GUARDIOLA

	INTER
24	ONANA 🟨
36	DARMIAN ⇄ 33 D'Ambrosio 84'
15	ACERBI
95	BASTONI ⇄ 8 Gosens 76'
2	DUMFRIES ⇄ 12 Bellanova 76'
23	BARELLA 🟨
77	BROZOVIĆ (C)
20	HAKAN ÇALHANOĞLU ⇄ 22 Mkhitaryan 84'
32	DIMARCO
10	MARTÍNEZ
9	DŽEKO ⇄ 90 Lukaku 57' 🟨

UNUSED SUBSTITUTES

1	HANDANOVIČ
21	CORDAZ
5	GAGLIARDINI
6	DE VRIJ
11	CORREA
14	ASLLANI
37	ŠKRINIAR

COACH
SIMONE INZAGHI

MANCHESTER CITY		INTER
1	GOALS	0
55	POSSESSION (%)	45
7	TOTAL ATTEMPTS	14
4	ON TARGET	6
3	OFF TARGET	7
2	BLOCKED	0
0	WOODWORK	1
2	CORNERS	4
2	YELLOW CARDS	4
0	RED CARDS	0
512	PASSES ATTEMPTED	394
443	PASSES COMPLETED	325
112.9 km	DISTANCE COVERED	114.2 km

BACK
ON TOP

After years of yearning, Pep Guardiola reflects on how he led Manchester City to their first Champions League title in a monumental campaign forever etched in history

Twelve years after winning the second of his two UEFA Champions League titles as Barcelona coach, Pep Guardiola got his hands on the trophy once more on 10 June.

For the 52-year-old it was a feat which, from an individual perspective, placed him alongside Bob Paisley and Zinédine Zidane in a triumvirate of coaches with three European Cups to their name. Only Carlo Ancelotti, with four, has more.

In seven seasons as Manchester City manager, Guardiola has overseen five Premier League triumphs, yet this was one step beyond – a first European crown for the club. As he reflects: "We had worked towards this competition for years."

There had been two semi-final defeats in that time and a final reverse against Chelsea in 2021. What was different this time? The presence of an out-and-out centre-forward in Erling Haaland was one factor, and we will return to the competition's top scorer later. Another

The agony and ecstasy of a final

Rúben Dias blocks a shot to prevent a Bayern goal

> **"AS COACHES, WE ADAPT TO THE QUALITY OF OUR PLAYERS. IT'S NOT ABOUT HOW I WANT THEM TO PLAY"**

John Stones inverts during Man City's build-up

– in Guardiola's eyes – was his side's outstanding work in their own penalty box.

City's line-up for the final contained four centre-backs: Manuel Akanji, John Stones, Rúben Dias and Nathan Aké. And though his team produced just as many clean sheets (eight) in their 2020/21 European campaign, Guardiola believes their defending of their own area was never better than in 2022/23.

"I'd say that this team is the best one at defending our box," he says. "They are centre-backs, they know the role inside out.

"I've always believed that we've defended really well. If you look at the stats, which I'm not a very big fan of, and at the number of goals we've conceded throughout my tenure, the figure has always been very, very low. We've been very solid as a team. In the box, however, it's a matter of defending a cross, winning the duel, preventing a shot or blocking it. This season has been our best one because of our defenders' quality."

To single out one defender, Stones and his creative gifts were in plentiful evidence too as his role shifted

during the season. From stepping up alongside Rodri as City built the play, the England centre-back ended up occupying a hybrid full-back/midfield role, operating on the right side of a midfield diamond when City were in possession during the final.

"I've known John for seven years," says Guardiola. "I know exactly what he can do, and he knows what we look for. We sometimes need to shift positions and John has the ability to play as a midfielder. He has the ability to play further forward, and we saw this not only against Inter, but in previous matches too.

"As coaches, we adapt to the quality of our players. It's not about how I want them to play; if a player can't play in the role, then it's a non-starter. John has the ability. We have previously tried with full-backs – with Fabian Delph, Oleksandr Zinchenko, João Cancelo, Rico Lewis, who did really well. We've tried it with many players who I knew could play that role, and John is one of them. Nothing changed, his quality as a player allows him to do it."

If that was the defence, how about the man leading the attack? In City's previous Champions League final

Erling Haaland takes it all in (left); Manchester City bring home the trophy they wanted most

appearance, they had Kevin De Bruyne in the role of a false nine. By contrast, this City side had a pure number nine in Haaland whose numbers confirm the size of his impact – 12 goals in Europe together with 40 in the English domestic competitions.

How much did City have to adjust their game to accommodate their prodigious Norwegian newcomer? "It was more about helping Erling adapt to the team and vice versa," explains Guardiola. "When you have a player with such ability – just as Julian Álvarez – he has to play. It was more about them connecting with each other, rather than changing the principles we have based our game on all this time. It came down to Haaland starting to train, play matches, getting to know his team-mates, and everything else came naturally."

That may be so, but things come less naturally amid the pressures of a final, and this is something else that Guardiola dwells on – the inevitable tension which such an occasion brings. Before his first UEFA Champions League final as a coach with Barcelona in 2009, he prepared a seven-minute motivational video using the music from the film Gladiator. Not this time.

"I didn't say anything, anything at all," Guardiola begins. "Time has taught us that the team is more relaxed when there are little-to-no external distractions for the players. We have played together for eight years and we know each other pretty well. We all knew we wanted it, as we had worked towards this competition for years, especially the last three or four in which we have reached the semi-finals and a final. It was about keeping up the hard work we had done through the year.

"We knew how difficult the opposition would be – and that was the case. We knew about the tension we would experience, which we couldn't get rid of completely. The first time you win a Champions League is always an emotionally challenging situation. This would probably change a bit, if we have the chance to play in another final in the years to come. We knew that day would be emotionally difficult and so it was, but thankfully, we did it."

Guardiola continues: "In general, the match didn't flow but that's normal because of the tension of it being a final. In the second half, we were really good before and after we scored, and we got the players we needed on the ball more. Bernardo Silva was outstanding as usual in these kinds of games and, in the end, we managed to score."

Even then, Guardiola was taking nothing for granted. "I had negative thoughts towards the end when we weren't able to close out the match, and when they brought on Romelu Lukaku and put in more balls into the box; they started to get Nicolò Barella on the ball and Henrikh Mkhitaryan too, but especially Lukaku and Lautaro Martínez."

This brings us to one other City player: Ederson. A coach can devise plans, he can fine tune patterns of play, but ultimately, he is reliant on players to produce big moments in big matches.

Guardiola pays credit to his goalkeeper as he says: "They brought on some very fresh players, and we suffered a lot towards the end because they really pressured us. They had two clear chances where Ederson was brilliant. From my experience on and off the pitch, in order to win a final – and I've witnessed so many of them – your goalkeeper has to make that save or those two saves. If he doesn't, you don't win. And Ederson saved them this year, so he led us to victory."

And with it, he also led Guardiola to the peak of the European club game once more.

Alphonso Davies
keeps a step ahead
of Achraf Hakimi

TACTICAL ANALYSIS

From Manchester City's strength down the middle to
Bayern München's use of width and why patience paid
off for Real Madrid, UEFA's technical observers highlight
some of the key talking points on the road to Istanbul

GROUP STAGE

Building from the back is a tactical tendency which was prominent once again in 2022/23 and the group stage provided plentiful examples. UEFA's match observers saw sides routinely try to play out from the back, often through two central defenders and one central midfielder. A common strategy was for teams to use possession in and around their own penalty box to draw the opposition on to them, inviting pressure and then looking to beat the first line of the press.

SHAKHTAR UNPICK LEIPZIG'S PRESS

This tactic did not just apply with the most accomplished teams: on Matchday 1, Shakhtar Donetsk offered a case in point in their striking 4-1 win at Leipzig as they purposely encouraged their hosts to press and then picked the right moments to play forward quickly, exploiting the wide areas with overloads.

Shakhtar's build-up to their second goal at Leipzig was an impressive example of a team working their way to the opposition goal from their own penalty box – a 37-second sequence in which they moved the ball patiently around in their defensive third before finding the space to play out, beating the press and releasing Mykhailo Mudryk out on the left, who sped forward and fed Marian Shved to score.

Shakhtar invite pressure from Leipzig and then bypass their high press

DEFENCE TO MIDFIELD PROGRESSION

Overall, 21 of the 32 clubs participating in the group stage attempted more passing progressions from defence to midfield than from their midfield to the final third. Bayern München, the only team to win all six group games, registered the most successful progressions from defence to midfield (264) followed by Dinamo Zagreb (244) and a Club Brugge side (239) who made history by advancing from the group stage for the first time. The club with the highest ratio of success in progressing from back to middle were holders Real Madrid (86%). Carlo Ancelotti's men actually attempted more progressions from midfield to attack (375) but their attempts to progress from the back were certainly profitable, with 193 successful progressions from 224 attempts.

BAYERN	264
DINAMO ZAGREB	244
CLUB BRUGGE	239
DORTMUND	230
NAPOLI	226
SHAKHTAR	224
SEVILLA	223
TOTTENHAM	212
INTER	211
AJAX	208
SPORTING CP	203

Thibaut Courtois on the ball against Leipzig

BACK TO FRONT

Which team was most effective at working the ball out from the back? Among the 16 sides to qualify from the group stage, Group F winners Real Madrid had the best ratio of successful attempts (86.2%) while at the other end of the scale were Eintracht Frankfurt (55.8%). The other clubs sat somewhere between the 60-80% mark, with Benfica managing to get the ball into the midfield in exactly two-thirds of their attempted progressions from the back.
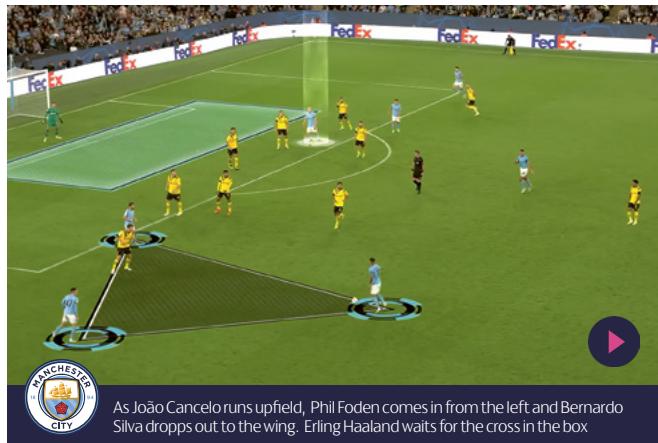
CITY BUILD FROM THE CENTRE

Focusing on Manchester City, they were impressive in their efforts to build in the centre of the field, with UEFA's observers citing the way they used rotations and passing triangles to create space in the 2-1 home win against second-placed Dortmund. The City full-backs that night, João Cancelo and John Stones, moved high and inside as the midfield players around them dropped out wide or into deeper pockets.

To pinpoint one specific example of a triangle, the match observer noted the sequence captured here in which Cancelo made a run upfield at the same time as Phil Foden came in from the left and Bernardo Silva dropped out to the wing.

As Guardiola explained later that evening, City were mindful of Dortmund's ability to defend the pockets of space and so "trained on these movements and patterns before the game". One purpose of their rotational play was for "Kevin [De Bruyne] to attack the right channel so we could come to more crossing situations", and likewise Cancelo on the left.

According to UEFA observer Giovanni van Bronckhorst, City's efforts to build through the middle have a clear logic. "I always, as a coach, want to have the ball central because it gives you more options. Once you are on the side you can only stay on that side or go inside."

Hence, with City, "you can see once they build up from the side, they always want to go inside – they go to Rodri or to Stones or they go with a straight pass to [Erling] Haaland, who will drop it to one of the midfield players and then they switch to the sides so you create more space and more possibilities to attack opponents."

As João Cancelo runs upfield, Phil Foden comes in from the left and Bernardo Silva dropps out to the wing. Erling Haaland waits for the cross in the box

Chelsea's wing-backs support in the final third

WING-BACKS KEY FOR CHELSEA

Another team cited for their work in the middle third were Chelsea. The fact they ranked third for most possession on average (64%) is worth noting and, in their case, a significant part of their work was focused on switches of play in the middle third along with quick play involving both wing-backs.

In their home victory against AC Milan, the then Chelsea manager, Graham Potter, remarked on their "good width in the attacking phase", and the match observer saw the Italian side struggle to cope with Reece James and Ben Chilwell, the wing-backs in their 1-3-4-3 structure. That week, James featured among the top five full-backs for passes made in the final third (23), with Potter declaring, "Reece can play in any side in Europe." He would end the group stage in the top ten for most crosses from open play (20), while Chilwell ranked fifth for completed crosses (10).

Van Bronckhorst, himself an accomplished left-back in his day, had the following reflection on the role of the wing-back today: "Most of the time, your wing-backs are attack-minded and it's complicated – you have to know when to support the attack, know when to defend, and to keep your position well."

Kevin De Bruyne whips in a cross

MAKING PROGRESS

Eleven clubs in the group stage attempted more progressions from their midfield to the final third than from their defence to midfield. These were: Manchester City, Barcelona, Marseille, Real Madrid, Chelsea, Atlético de Madrid, Juventus, Liverpool, Leipzig, Paris Saint-Germain and Salzburg.

PEP'S POSSESSION PLAY

Manchester City, unbeaten at the top of Group G, provide another example worth considering. Pep Guardiola's team had the most progression attempts from midfield to attack (481) and this was a consequence of having so much possession – an unsurpassed average share of 66% in the group stage – and thereby so much of the ball in the midfield and final third. Given their style of play, it will surprise few people that the same went for Barcelona (65% possession), with 426 attempted progressions to the final third and 225 from defence to midfield.

A factor here could be that opposition sides retreat further back against these above-mentioned clubs. To quote one experienced coach, when teams drop deep in a 1-5-4-1 or 1-5-3-2 system, "your build-up is already in the opponents' half of the field".

ROUND OF 16

How do Europe's elite club sides progress the ball from the centre of the pitch into the attacking third? This was a question posed by UEFA's Technical Observer Panel and the round of 16 provided some intriguing responses.

BAYERN MÜNCHEN V PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

By attacking the wide areas and stretching the pitch, Bayern got their goal at Paris via a ball to the back post

Serge Gnabry fires at goal against Paris

WIDTH WORKS FOR BAYERN

In their victory over Paris Saint-Germain, Bayern excelled with their penetration out wide. The fact that they scored the only goal of the first leg in Paris when one wing-back, Alphonso Davies, supplied a cross for the other, Kingsley Coman, highlighted how Bayern sought to stretch the game against opponents playing in a narrow 1-4-4-2 formation.

On the wing-back role, UEFA observer Giovanni van Bronckhorst said: "Most teams will overload the central areas, make sure the ball goes wide and protect the middle area so it means a lot of times the build-up goes to the wing-backs. Then you have to have the right pass, the right movement – it is quite an important role."

And in Bayern's case, having such attacking players in these positions had a clear virtue, according to Van Bronckhorst. "The positive when you put wingers at wing-back is that when you create one-against-ones they can create more danger than a full-back because attackers most of the time are better in one-v-ones."

As Bayern's then coach, Julian Nagelsmann, put it, their analysis both beforehand and at half-time had told the visitors "there could be a big chance in the second half to have more deep runs from our wingers as we see when we scored the first goal – it was important to have some good deep runs behind the defence and make some crosses to the second post."

KIMMICH'S PENETRATIVE PASSING

It is worth adding that Bayern benefitted also from the presence of Joshua Kimmich, whose eye for a pass from midfield was pivotal. Of all the players in action in the round of 16, Kimmich supplied the most line-breaking key passes (three). When it came to line-breaking passes into the attacking third, over the two legs he produced 17 – almost twice as many as the nine recorded by the players with the next-best tally, Bayern colleague Benjamin Pavard and Borussia Dortmund's Jude Bellingham.

Gareth Southgate said of Kimmich's passing ability: "I don't think that is a very common skillset because what I see a lot are players who can retain the ball but quite often retaining the ball means sideways or backward [passes]. It is a really high-level player who can, firstly, see the opportunity to play forward, then be brave enough to do it, then have the skills to execute that well – whether that is into a player's feet or into space."

BAYERN'S EFFECTIVE COUNTER-PRESS

Another point to make about Bayern's display that night was their effective counter-pressing. If Nagelsmann might have preferred his team to be more aggressive in their attacking in a first period when they defended deeper, they were impressive in denying their hosts a single first-half attempt until a Lionel Messi free-kick in added time. And for the record it was not just at the Parc des Princes that they counter-pressed well; after 61 recoveries in the first leg, they managed 67 in the return – the highest tally of the round of 16.

| **3** | Joshua Kimmich supplied the most line-breaking key passes in the round of 16 | **17** | Kimmich's line-breaking passes into the attacking third (nearly double the next highest) | **128** | Bayern had the most recoveries against Paris Saint-German |

Julian Brandt (circled) drops into midfield and Karim Adeyemi moves into his own half to create an overload for Dortmund

DORTMUND'S NUMERICAL OVERLOADS

Borussia Dortmund also warrant some reflection for the way they broke into the final third after creating numerical overloads in midfield. There were abundant examples in their 1-0 first-leg home victory over Chelsea as both full-backs regularly pulled out wide and one of the wingers – either the right-sided Julian Brandt or Karim Adeyemi on the left – dropped centrally to give the hosts a numerical superiority there. Within this structure there was a free role for Bellingham, who looked to get on the ball and dictate proceedings with that ability to play a line-breaking pass.

In the image shown here above left, as Dortmund play out from goalkeeper Gregor Kobel, we see both full-backs out wide and Brandt dropping into midfield alongside Bellingham and Salih Özcan to produce an overload. Özcan then moves out wide with Adeyemi, the other wide attacker, falling back inside his own half to maintain that central overload against Chelsea's two pivots, Enzo Fernández and Ruben Loftus-Cheek.

Jude Bellingham had a free role in midfield against Chelsea

DORTMUND'S DEFENSIVE BLOCK

Dortmund's approach out of possession merits a mention too. Edin Terzić's team had a plan to block off the space centrally, closing the pockets where the Londoners would look for João Félix and instead forcing Chelsea out wide to Hakim Ziyech; in this example (right) he delivers a cross into the penalty area but there is just one blue shirt there in Kai Havertz. As Terzić reflected afterwards, Dortmund were aware that "if they [Chelsea] cross, they will only have Havertz in the box as the other players don't like to attack the box in the first phase."

Dortmund forced Chelsea wide then packed the central area to defend crosses

"Chelsea look to find João Félix in the pockets and then like him to turn and get runs in behind. This is what we tried to stop – we had a plan to close the centre and to keep them in the wide areas when they had the ball and force them to cross."

EDIN TERZIĆ | DORTMUND COACH

LIVERPOOL V REAL MADRID

MADRID SWITCH PLAY

Another round of 16 tie cited by UEFA's observers was Liverpool v Real Madrid – a repeat of the previous season's final. Between the group stage and the end of the round of 16, Madrid ranked third in the competition for the average length of each spell of possession (30.4 seconds) and in the first leg at Anfield, they combined long passages of controlled passing to draw the sting from Liverpool's fierce pressing with some clever switches of play. Carlo Ancelotti's men had success in drawing opposition players to one side of the field and then transferring the ball out of that pressure to attack the other side.

Eduardo Camavinga keeps Roberto Firmino at bay

Real Madrid drawing Liverpool to one side before opening up the game

Here Luka Modrić, the master of decision-making, points to the left as he instructs Eduardo Camavinga to go crossfield. This leads to a 4v3 situation in their favour and concludes with Vinícius Júnior's first goal.

Luka Modrić demanding the switch of play which led to Real Madrid's first goal

CAMAVINGA'S DRIVING FORCE

On the benefit of having individuals able to not just retain the ball under pressure but advance it, Giovanni van Bronckhorst said: "I always like to have players who can keep the ball under pressure. With players who play one or two touches, it is easier to press because when you play a 6 and he is a passer, you know it's one or two touches and he passes it again so you can see when you can press. But with someone who holds the ball really well, it's difficult especially when they hold it well and keep the ball. Sometimes Camavinga, for example, just goes by players under pressure which is difficult to defend as you don't have pressure on the ball because he is driving with it so you have to step out – and when you step out to press him, there is another player becoming available."
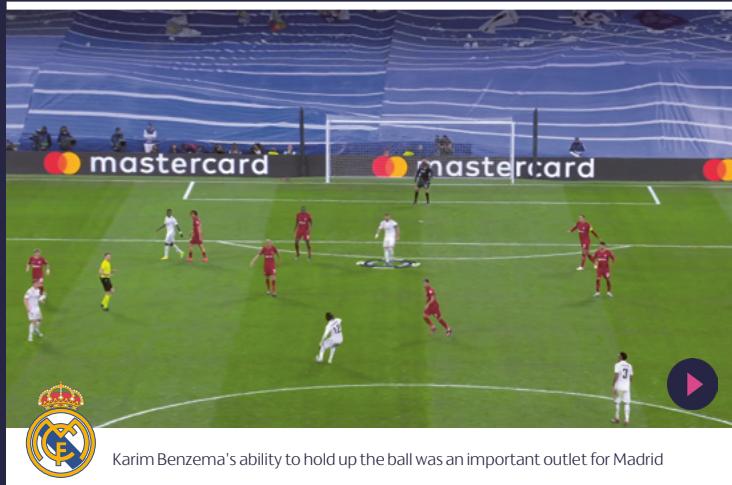
In the lead-up to Benzema's winning strike he drops out to the left and combines with Toni Kroos and Vinícius Júnior before, characteristically, locating exactly the right space, between the two centre-backs, to collect the pass from Camavinga.

Karim Benzema (circled) drops out to the left to collect a defence-splitting pass from Eduardo Camavinga

> "Sometimes Camavinga just goes by players under pressure which is difficult to defend as you don't have pressure on the ball because he is driving with it so you have to step out – and when you step out to press him, there is another player becoming available."
>
> **GIOVANNI VAN BRONCKHORST** | TECHNICAL OBSERVER
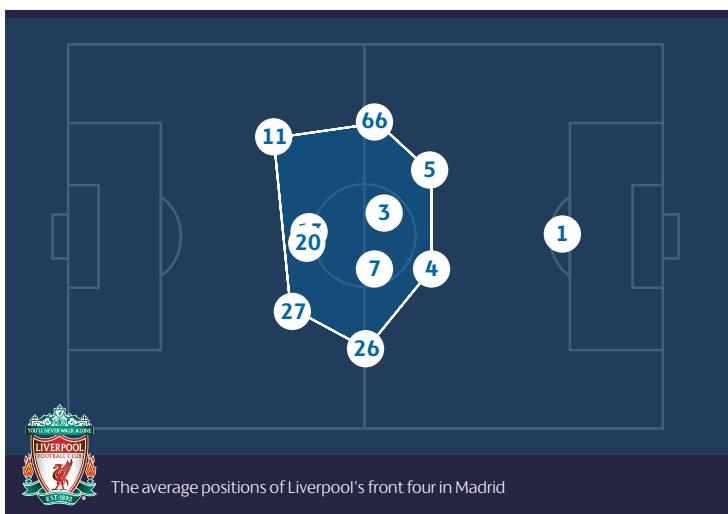
GAME MANAGEMENT

Karim Benzema's ability to hold up the ball was an important outlet for Madrid

Madrid's clever game management was equally evident as they protected their advantage back at home, showing all their experience as they chose the right moments to go forward. In the sequence featured here, there are three Madrid players surrounded by five Liverpool players in their own half. A less experienced team might have played themselves into trouble but they escape the pressure as Modrić pulls away from a red shirt and opens up the game with a crossfield ball. Karim Benzema was pivotal too in this respect for his ability to hold up the ball and help Madrid progress up the pitch. Indeed, in the first leg against Liverpool he produced an outstanding pass completion ratio under high pressure of 88.9%, with his young compatriot Camavinga ranked second among Los Blancos (87%).

REDS' FLUID FRONT FOUR

The average positions of Liverpool's front four in Madrid

If Liverpool ended up succumbing 6-2 on aggregate, they provided an interesting strategy of their own at the Santiago Bernabéu. Jürgen Klopp set them up with a fluid front four, whose intelligent interchanging of positions was at the heart of their attacking efforts. As these average positions show, both Diogo Jota and Cody Gakpo operated centrally as false nines, with Mohamed Salah and Darwin Núñez playing on the wings – and through this set-up, Jota and Gakpo helped create several promising situations from overloads in the first period at the Bernabéu.

RELEASING SALAH

Finally, another tactic of Liverpool's was the controlled passage of play aimed at drawing Madrid up the field before they then sought a ball behind the defensive line for Salah. The focus here may be progressions from midfield to the front, but at this level a varied armoury is vital and Liverpool were able to move the ball backwards and sideways, maintaining possession patiently until Madrid move up – which is the cue for Virgil van Dijk to launch a diagonal ball to Salah.

Liverpool's long possession sequence in their own half entices Real Madrid's defensive line to step up before playing a direct ball in behind

QUARTER-FINALS

Denying space to your opponents can be easier said than done at Champions League level. The quarter-final between Manchester City and Bayern provided an intriguing example, with a first leg in which Bayern found a way of playing through their hosts' press – before City responded with a tactical tweak that was fundamental to their 3-0 victory.

MANCHESTER CITY V BAYERN MÜNCHEN

Manchester City defender Rúben Dias holds off Bayern winger Serge Gnabry

BAYERN SQUEEZED BY CITY PRESS

According to the UEFA technical observer panel, Pep Guardiola successfully adjusted City's pressing game to restrict Bayern space in what proved the defining quarter of the contest, the second 45 minutes in Manchester. During the first 45 minutes, Bayern had succeeded in getting behind the home side's press, troubling a City side who look to push high and force turnovers. The first image here on the right offers an example. City have Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne pushing up on the Bayern centre-backs with İlkay Gündoğan and Rodri getting tight to the pivots and Bernardo Silva and Jack Grealish assigned to the full-backs. Yet there is space to exploit between that front line of the press and the defensive line behind and goalkeeper Yann Sommer's pass finds full-back Benjamin Pavard making a run into it.

Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne pushing up to press Bayern's two centre-backs

Pep Guardiola adjusted City's press in the second half by controlling Bayern's pivots with Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne screening in front of them

Man City's shape out of possession in the first half

Man City's shape out of possession in the second half
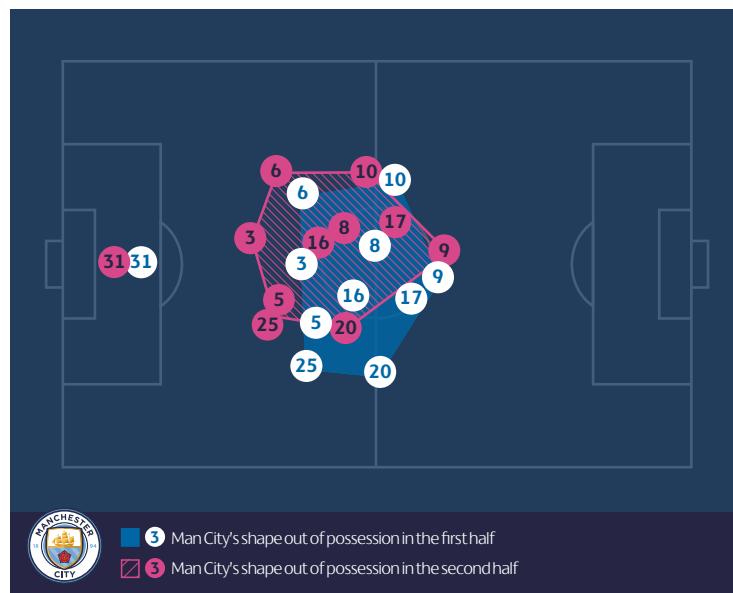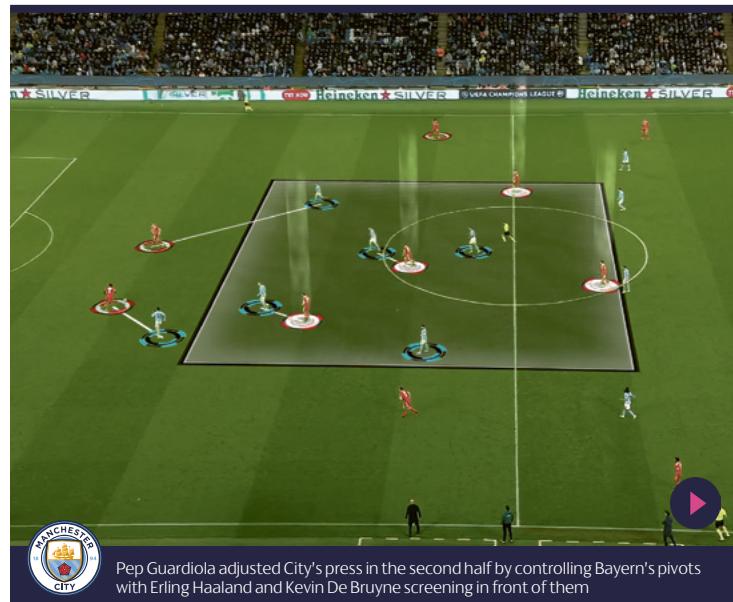
BETWEEN THE LINES

Bayern's ability to find players in the pockets of space between City's defensive and midfield lines is something that Guardiola touched on afterwards when admitting: "We could not control the pockets, especially [Jamal] Musiala and [Serge] Gnabry." That pair dropped into space to allow, for example, Gnabry to receive the ball from Dayot Upamecano, a player whose 37 line-breaking passes over the two legs was the second-highest total by any player in quarter-final action (behind Chelsea midfielder Enzo Fernández). Guardiola's response is worth considering as he adjusted their press in a second half when the home side defended deeper than usual – and ended up scoring twice in the last 20 minutes to secure a 3-0 victory. "We made some changes and our pressing was more effective," said Guardiola, who got Bernardo and Grealish, his wingers, to press diagonally on the Bayern centre-backs rather than his two forwards.

The screenshot on the left shows Bernardo pressing De Ligt and Grealish doing likewise to Upamecano. What this meant was City now had four players in a tight 'box' shape centrally – with Haaland and De Bruyne screening the Bayern pivots and Gündoğan and Rodri watching Musiala and Gnabry. As a consequence, City were now better placed to shut down the passing lanes and their reward came with their second goal – a product of Grealish pressing Upamecano who, with those passing lanes blocked, turned inside and lost the ball in the lead-up to Bernardo heading in from a Haaland centre.

"Bernardo can play everywhere, he understands the game perfectly in every action with and without the ball," said Guardiola of a player who across the quarter-finals made the most tackles (14) of any forward player and featured among the top three attackers for interceptions (three). Guardiola also hailed the defensive work of Grealish, a winger who ranked first among attacking players for recoveries (14) in this round.

REAL MADRID V CHELSEA
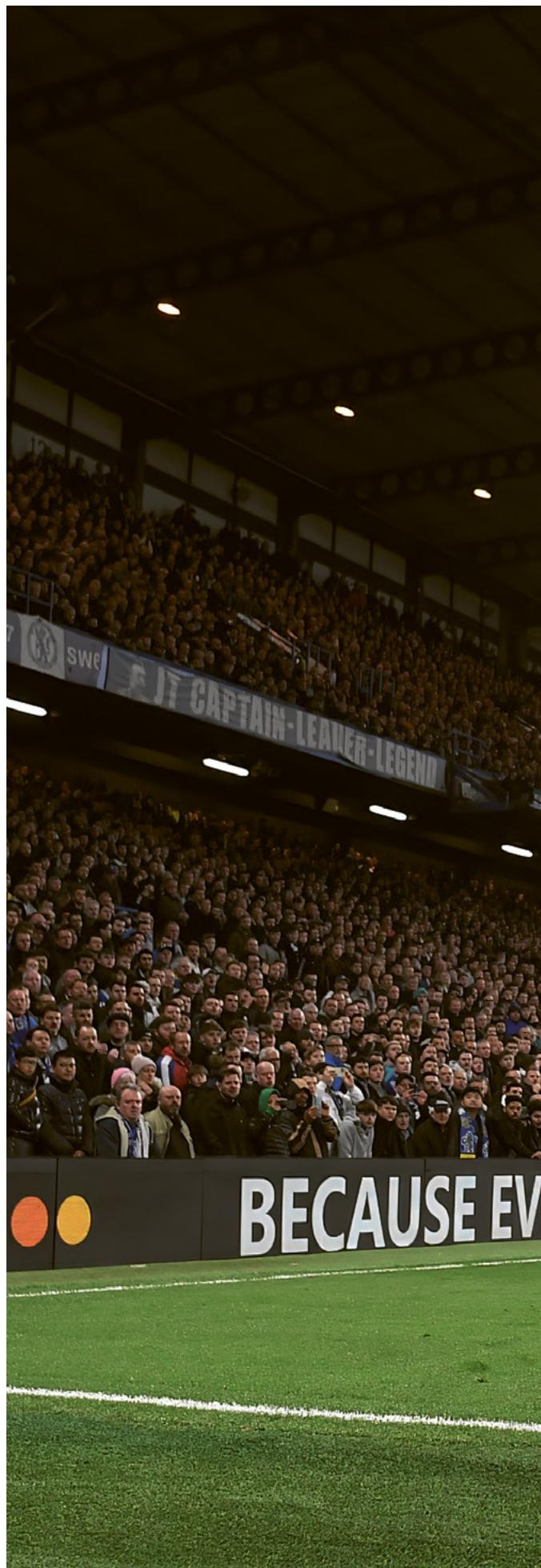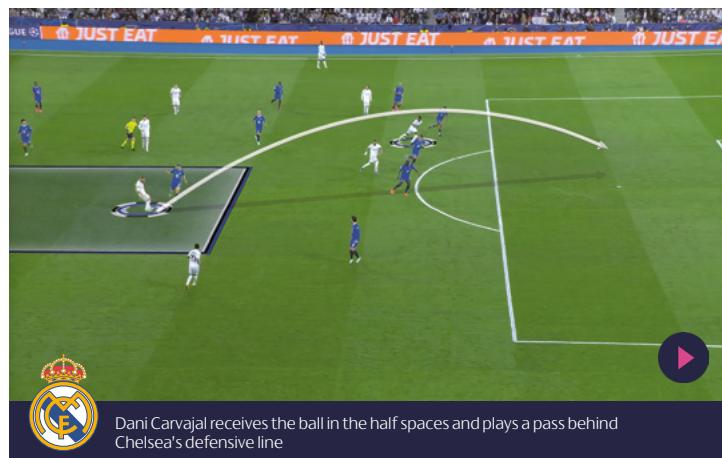
FULL-BACKS FINDING SPACE

Conversely, it was the probing for space – by Dani Carvajal and Eduardo Camavinga, the two Real Madrid full-backs – which produced the defining tactical point of Real Madrid's 2-0 first-leg home win over Chelsea. In this Santiago Bernabéu encounter, the full-backs took up positions inside of wingers Rodrygo and Vinícius Júnior and caught the eye with their passing. Roberto Martínez, the UEFA match observer that evening, explained: "Madrid's free men were the full-backs and they showed great quality and responsibility to create an attacking threat for their team from those positions. Carvajal played the key ball for Vinícius Jr's assist and Camavinga brought a constant threat with the ball."

The top image below shows the two occupying space in the inside-right and inside-left corridors respectively before Camavinga floats a ball through for Karim Benzema. As mentioned by Martínez, Carvajal later stepped into space inside to receive the ball from Toni Kroos and pick out Vinícius Júnior who teed up Benzema for the opening goal.

To underline Carvajal's attacking impact that evening, of all players in quarter-final first-leg action he made the most passes in the final third (29), one more than team-mate Luka Modrić. From a coaching perspective, the offensive work of the home full-backs had extra value in helping to neutralise Chelsea's wing-backs, forcing the visitors into a flat back five and thereby opening up areas in the midfield.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti offered his own analysis afterwards when he explained: "We started with only two at the back with [Éder] Militão and [David] Alaba and Kroos [in front] and they needed more help. The full-backs Camavinga and Carvajal who'd pushed a lot at the start had to stay a bit more inside."

Real Madrid's use of Eduardo Camavinga and Dani Carvajal in the half-spaces at home to Chelsea

Dani Carvajal receives the ball in the half spaces and plays a pass behind Chelsea's defensive line

29

Dani Carvajal (below left) made the
most passes in the final
third in the quarter-final first leg
against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge

SEMI-FINALS

Manchester City's counter-press in their second leg against Real Madrid, Kyle Walker's homework on Vinícius Júnior and Inter's aggressive and disciplined defending were key factors in their sides reaching the final.

REAL MADRID V MANCHESTER CITY

CITY'S INTENSITY TOO MUCH FOR MADRID

"They pressed high from the front and we weren't able to move the ball as usual." This was Carlo Ancelotti's reflection on the difficulty his Real Madrid side faced in the second leg of their semi-final at Manchester City. Such was the intensity of City's counter-pressing that Madrid were able to complete only one pass in the attacking third in the first half-hour, compared to 105 by their hosts.

With City players virtually camped in their opponents' half in the opening period, their players were well placed to counter-press quickly on turnovers, meaning Madrid struggled to play out of the pressure. Indeed, the deposed champions ended the game with 52 passes in the final third – their lowest figure of the 2022/23 campaign.
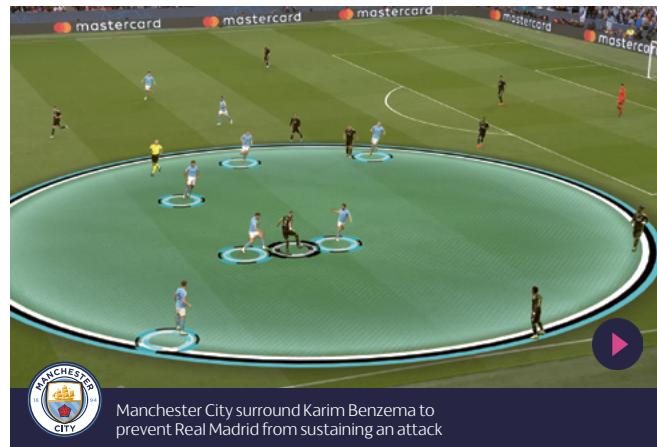
This clip, which can be seen in the digital report, offers an example of City's work in closing down the Madrid players as they tried to play out. First Luka Modrić finds the passing lanes shut down; next Eduardo Camavinga has five opposition players around him, obstructing any progress. At this point Rodri steps in and recovers the ball. It was one of 11 recoveries from Rodri with Kyle Walker (nine), İlkay Gündoğan and Bernardo Silva (seven each) not far behind.

Manchester City surround Karim Benzema to prevent Real Madrid from sustaining an attack

In a second example we see Karim Benzema surrounded by six opposition players following another attempt by Madrid to play out of the pressure and this time Bernardo comes away with the ball.

The UEFA match observer also noted City's willingness to risk going 3v3 at the back in order to push players forward and ensure committed pressure higher up the pitch. Such pressure led to the last goal of a 4-0 victory which represented Madrid's joint-heaviest loss in the competition since 1989. Vinícius Júnior turned into a dead end in the centre of the pitch, trapped by a pack of five City players, and Julián Álvarez came out with the ball. Three passes and nine seconds later, it was in the back of the net.

Manchester City making it difficult for Real Madrid to build their attack from the back

Manchester City setting a high press against Real Madrid to disrupt their build-up play

11 Recoveries by Rodri for City in the second leg

WALKER'S HOMEWORK HELPS STIFLE VINÍCIUS JÚNIOR

Kyle Walker had begun only one Champions League game in 2022/23 prior to the semi-finals but the right-back started both legs against Madrid and excelled, winning eight of his ten duels in the first leg and four out of five in the second. According to Guardiola, speaking after the first leg, he was "exceptional against one of the toughest opponents you can face today worldwide" – namely Vinícius Júnior.

Walker himself shed light on the detailed briefing provided by his club's analysts about the Brazilian's qualities. "The analysts provide me with great clips and I have it on my phone," he explained in an interview with TNT Sports Brazil. "Every time I have a minute I'm watching the clips and seeing different movements he does. He tried to let the ball through his legs in the first half and if I'd not seen that by doing my homework maybe he'd have caught me out as he did against Fernandinho last year."

MADRID SHUT DOWN THE SPACE AROUND HAALAND
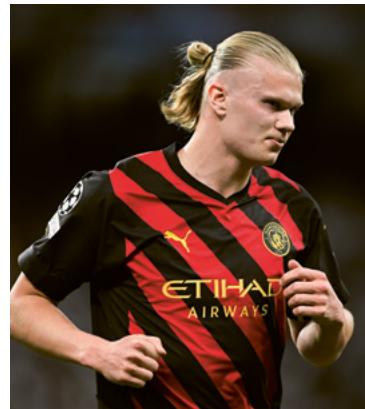
How do you keep Erling Haaland quiet? In the 1-1 first-leg draw at the Santiago Bernabéu, Real Madrid found a better answer than most, limiting the tournament's top scorer to 21 touches – fewer than any other City player.

Madrid's control of the space between the lines was pivotal, according to both coaches. Guardiola said: "The pockets, the distance between the central defenders and full-backs, was occupied by attacking midfielders – by [Luka] Modrić, Toni Kroos or [Fede] Valverde – so there were the twin central defenders close to Erling."

The Spanish side's defensive work in a mid-block was highlighted by the match observer, who noted how the home side did not put pressure on Rodri when he had the ball. Instead Madrid's midfield three were attentive to the two 8s – and in this example, the moment the ball goes to Gündoğan, Valverde steps in to win it back and spark a counterattack.

"I think that we focused on controlling the space between the lines and trying to prevent De Bruyne and Gundögan from exploiting that," said Ancelotti. "They have a lot of touches but the important thing is to close the space between the lines."

This second example highlights how the Madrid centre-backs stayed tight to Haaland with Antonio Rüdiger defending robustly to thwart the striker before Valverde comes in to pinch the ball.

Real Madrid waiting for Manchester City in a defensive mid-block, intercepting the ball then countering

Antonio Rüdiger's back-to-goal pressure on Erling Haaland

21

Erling Haaland was restricted to just 21 touches of the ball during the first leg against Madrid

ROTATIONS LIBERATE CAMAVINGA

Another feature of Madrid's first-leg performance was their rotational play, whereby Camavinga came inside and Modrić or Kroos dropped into his left-back position. This positional manipulation made it harder for City to press Madrid when the hosts built the play as Modrić and Kroos were now deeper.

As already seen in the quarter-final review section, the presence of Camavinga infield helped Madrid's offensive play. Of their 13 shots – including blocks – on that evening, 12 of them came in the second period and Modrić explained: "At half-time the manager wanted us on the ball more and for us to be more creative. That's why we freed Camavinga to push into midfield more often. It went well."

The key to getting Camavinga inside was some clever rotational play and in the first clip of this sequence, viewable in the digital report, we see Kroos drop into the left-back role and Modrić out on the touchline, allowing Camavinga to step into a central area, the full-back receiving a pass between the lines and forcing a foul from Rodri.

In the second video clip, also viewable in the digital report, Modrić is now the man in the left-back position and he can be seen encouraging Camavinga to step up to occupy space in between the lines. Kroos then drops deep on the left side and Camavinga comes back into the midfield pivot position.

Finally, to the last clip which shows Camavinga in a central area with Modrić replacing him out wide. Guardiola spoke afterwards of Madrid's clever switches of play and here is an example: they have five men in close proximity on their left-hand side but with short passes and customary composure, they find a way out of the pressure before switching to the other flank. The sequence ends with a lovely move commenced by Kroos and concluded with a Benzema effort blocked by John Stones.

Eduardo Camavinga, Luka Modrić and Toni Kroos started to rotate positions in the second half

AC MILAN V INTER MILAN

MILAN HAVE NO ANSWER TO INTER'S AGGRESSION

The Milanese derby semi-final was effectively settled inside the first 11 minutes of the first leg when Inter scored the two goals that earned a 2-0 'away' success at the home they share with rivals AC Milan.

It was an evening when Inter performed with impressive intensity and energy according to the match observer, David James, who said "their intense pressing in the central areas, a combination of midfield players and dropping forwards, meant that Milan had very little time to be able to get the ball down and build up play."

Inter's Francesco Acerbi cllimbs above Olivier Giroud

Although Inter's starting shape was 1-3-5-2, when pressing high on Milan's goal kicks, they switched to a 1-3-3-4 with wing-backs Denzel Dumfries and Federico Dimarco pushing high up the pitch. In this example below, Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan has his options restricted by six Inter players pressing high upfield and so picks out Theo Hernández on the left. However, the full-back is closed down by Dumfries and his attempted pass to Ismaël Bennacer leads to a turnover.

By clicking on the video link in the digital report, you will see in the second clip how Inter's relentless approach is rewarded by a goal, namely Henrikh Mkhitaryan's strike which comes at the end of a sequence beginning with Maignan kicking long in the face of the opposition's high press. Olivier Giroud wins the header but the influential Nicolò Barella is first to the loose ball, controlling it with his chest before displaying his impressive vision by volleying the ball to the left wing for Dimarco, one of four Inter players who – as the arrows denote – are on their toes, ready to spring forward. If Barella embodied Inter's energy, another illustration of their defensive efforts was that forward Lautaro Martínez made three interceptions in this first leg – a total surpassed in any of the four semi-final matches only by Toni Kroos.

Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan has his options restricted by six Inter players pressing high upfield

72

Inter produced 22 clearances in the first leg against Milan; with another 23 in the second leg and 27 in the round of 16 draw at Porto, they were the only side to appear three times on the top ten list for most clearances in a knockout match.

INTER KEEP IT TIGHT

With a two-goal lead to protect, Inter were aggressive and disciplined in their defending in the second leg. As highlighted by the observer, they looked to double up on the Milan wingers as we see in this example when two Nerazzurri players are in the vicinity of Junior Messias as he swings over the cross. And although Olivier Giroud wins the back-post header, Inter have two men close to goal to sweep up as Matteo Darmian averts the danger. The tight marking of Inter's centre-backs

is shown again in Clip 2 of the digital report as Giroud finds himself closely monitored by two defenders – and Francesco Acerbi heads clear. The same happens in the third clip with Giroud outnumbered again and Robin Gosens clearing. For all Giroud's prowess in the air, Inter won 55.6% of the aerial duels in this second-leg contest.

Inter looked to double up on Milan's wingers, such as in this example where Junior Messias is put under pressure on the right

ONANA'S HANDY WITH HIS FEET

Another feature which caught the eye of the technical observers was the distribution of André Onana, the Inter goalkeeper who kept eight clean sheets across the season – two of them against Milan. His kicking in the first leg of that tie impressed match observer David James, the former Liverpool, Manchester City and England goalkeeper. "His choice of passes was excellent, knowing when to play short and when to play long – and the accuracy of his long passing was superb," he said.

Onana showed impressive variety in his passing and this is underlined in the clip below where, from his five-metre box, he kicks long to Martínez inside the centre-circle. That is the third clip in a video sequence, which can be accessed via the digital report. In the first example in the sequence, the Cameroon international showcases his vision as he sees Darmian in space on the right and produces a clever chip which eliminates the first line of Milan's press. The second clip then shows Onana drill a terrific pass to Dimarco on the left, this time speeding the ball past a five-man Milan press.

The numbers underscored Onana's involvement in Inter's play as in this match he attempted 46 passes – more than in any of his other knockout stage appearances – with 33 of them completed.

André Onana plays the ball long to Lautaro Martínez

TEAM OF
THE SEASON

Only three clubs were represented in the observers' selection, with winners Manchester City providing no less than seven players

The consistent excellence produced by Manchester City in winning the competition for the first time was reflected by the presence of so many of their players in the UEFA Champions League 2022/23 Team of the Season.

The UEFA Technical Observers' Panel selected seven City players in this best XI, starting with Rodri, the Spanish midfield pivot who was both Player of the Match in the final and the overall Player of the Season.

Right-back Kyle Walker's displays up against Vinícius Júnior in the semi-final were a factor in his inclusion in the defence alongside centre-back colleague Rúben Dias whose powerful, body-on-the-line defending was pivotal in the quarter-final first leg against Bayern München.

Another City centre-back, John Stones, features too, albeit in midfield in recognition of his intelligent work in a hybrid defender/midfielder role as the season progressed. Indeed the UEFA observers selected an all-City midfield which includes Rodri and Kevin De Bruyne, the season's highest assist-maker.

Inevitably, 2022/23's top marksman, Erling Haaland, has a place in the attack following his sensational first campaign in City blue, as does right winger Bernardo Silva, as tireless in his attempts to recover the ball as he was precise in his pass selection with it.

Of the other players selected for this Team of the Season, two come from runners-up Inter: Federico Dimarco, the left wing-back whose crossing was an important feature of his side's attacking efforts, and Alessandro Bastoni, the left-sided centre-back who distributed the ball so productively from the back.

Finally, Thibaut Courtois, goalkeeper of the deposed champions Real Madrid, features for the second season running as does the Madrid wide forward Vinícius Júnior – a vital outlet on the left of Los Blancos' attack for his speed and dribbling ability.

VINÍCIUS JR HAALAND BERNARDO

DE BRUYNE

RODRI STONES

DIMARCO BASTONI DIAS WALKER

COURTOIS

THIS TEAM WAS SELECTED BY UEFA'S TECHNICAL OBSERVER PANEL BASED ON PERFORMANCES IN THE 2022/23 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE.

THIBAUT COURTOIS
GK | REAL MADRID

The Belgian brought stature, assurance and authority, and the metrics show he prevented 5.85 goals.

42
SAVES, SECOND ONLY TO ANDRÉ ONANA

KYLE WALKER
DEF | MAN CITY

Superb semi-final marking job on Vinícius Júnior, showcasing his speed, intensity and experience.

75%
SUCCESS RATE FROM 16 DUELS OVER TWO LEGS v MADRID

RÚBEN DIAS
DEF | MAN CITY

Combined clever distribution with muscular defending – epitomised by five blocks in quarter-final v Bayern.
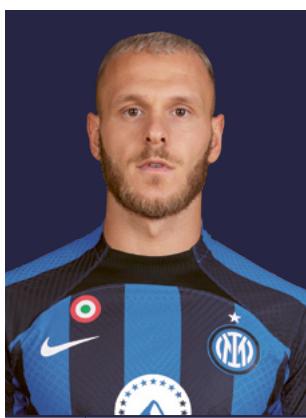
89
LINE-BREAKING PASSES FROM OWN HALF, THE SECOND-BEST IN THE COMPETITION

ALESSANDRO BASTONI

DEF | INTER

Showed an excellent passing range and stepped forward to good effect from defence.

96
LINE-BREAKING PASSES, THE MOST BY AN INTER PLAYER

FEDERICO DIMARCO

DEF | INTER

Wing-back had key attacking role in Inter's 1-3-5-2, ranking joint-second in competition for assists (five).

41
OPEN-PLAY CROSSES, SECOND ONLY TO DE BRUYNE

JOHN STONES

MID | MAN CITY

Showed outstanding tactical understanding and decision-making when stepping into midfield.

89%
PASS PERCENTAGE IN MIDFIELD ROLE IN FINAL

RODRI

MID | MAN CITY

Final hero had most touches of the ball and most passes completed of any player – and invariably made the right decision.

105
BALL RECOVERIES; RANKED FIRST IN COMPETITION

KEVIN DE BRUYNE

MID | MAN CITY

An inspiration with his driving runs, supply of passes to Haaland and unmatched stream of open-play crosses.

7
ASSISTS, THE MOST IN THE 2022/23 COMPETITION

BERNARDO SILVA

FOR | MAN CITY

Clever, tireless and rarely gives ball away; ranked second for line-breaking passes in the attacking third.

286
PASSES IN THE FINAL THIRD WITH 87% ACCURACY

ERLING HAALAND

FOR | MAN CITY

The 12-goal striker gave a new dimension to City's attack with physical presence and penalty-box instincts.

63.4%
OF HIS SHOTS ON TARGET – BEST RATIO AMONG STRIKERS WITH 5 GOALS OR MORE

VJNÍCIUS JÚNIOR

FOR | REAL MADRID

Seven-goal Brazilian also contributed six assists and was Player of the Match in Madrid's 5-2 win at Anfield.

114
TAKE-ONS (41% SUCCESS RATE); THE MOST IN THE COMPETITION

Manchester City's final match-winner Rodri was the observers' pick as Player of the Season, while Napoli's Khvicha Kvaratskhelia took the young player prize after his breakthrough campaign

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
RODRI

At half-time in the UEFA Champions League final, Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola gave Rodri a reminder that he was "the best midfielder in Europe by some distance". It was a pep talk that followed 45 minutes in which Rodri, in his own words, "wasn't good" as he struggled to deal with Inter's man-marking. As Roberto Martínez said: "They always had one midfielder jumping on Rodri."

That close attention can be read as a sign of the Spaniard's importance as City's midfield metronome. His response in a second half in which he scored the winning goal merely underlined that you cannot keep a good man down – certainly not one as good as Rodri.

Here is a player who had the most touches of a football (1,120) in the 2022/23 Champions League. He completed the most passes (910) and performed the most ball recoveries (105). His tally of 135 line-breaking passes was surpassed only by Toni Kroos. In the final no player made more passes into the attacking third than his ten or made more interceptions (three). Little wonder he left Istanbul with both the Player of the Match and the UEFA Champions League Player of the Season awards.

According to the UEFA Technical Observer Panel, this is a player with a formidable tactical understanding: "He breaks the game up and is always in good positions to build the play. He also has exceptional awareness of opposition pressure when receiving the ball."

One thing that Rodri has never been renowned for is his goalscoring. Prior to City's quarter-final against Bayern München he had not scored in Europe since 2016 – for Villarreal against Osmanlıspor in the UEFA Europa League. Yet that changed with his spectacular left-foot strike from outside the box to open the scoring in the first leg against the German champions. Then came an even more significant strike against Inter on 10 June – this time placed low with his right foot. "My first thought was to hit it hard and high but seeing the number of players there, I decided to place it," said a man whose decision-making with a ball at his feet seldom lets him down.

AWARD WINNERS

YOUNG PLAYER
OF THE SEASON
KHVICHA KVARATSKHELIA

In an age when football's talent-finders receive unprecedented support from science and technology, it is surprising that a footballer of the calibre of Khvicha Kvaratskhelia should only turn up in one of western Europe's bigger leagues aged 21. It seems more surprising still given the impact made by Kvaratskhelia in his first season with Napoli. With his outstanding pace and dribbling ability, the now 22-year-old Georgian earned the moniker 'Kvaradona' as he helped Napoli earn a first Serie A title since 1990 as well as reach the Champions League quarter-finals.

Coming in from the left wing, he scored 12 goals and set up ten more in Serie A, an output which earned him the Player of the Season award; in the Champions League there were two goals and four assists.

Prior to joining Napoli from Dinamo Batumi in the summer of 2022, Kvaratskhelia's experience of UEFA club competition was limited to two Europa Conference League qualifying matches with Rubin Kazan, during a three-year stay with the Russian club.

By half-time of his Champions League debut against Liverpool he had highlighted his potential with an involvement in the lead-up to all three first-half goals – notably the third when he beat Trent Alexander-Arnold and Joe Gomez to tee up Giovanni Simeone. His first goal in the competition – a cool finish after a one-two with Giacomo Raspadori – followed on Matchday 3 in the 6-1 drubbing of Ajax in Amsterdam.

The data underlines the value of his dribbling: he ranked third in the 2022/23 Champions League for take-ons with 76, behind only Vinícius Júnior and Rafael Leão. He was similarly placed for ball carries following a 1v1, with 46.

"Kvara is gorgeous, magnificent and delightful," said Luciano Spalletti, the coach who oversaw Napoli's title triumph. "A top player, despite his age. He still has a lot to learn and when he does he will become deadly, a super footballer." If 2022/23 was just a taster, then we really are in for a treat in the years to come.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia wheels away in celebration after scoring against Ajax

HITTING
THE TARGET

Although strikes from range accounted for half of the top ten, the observers' pick as the season's best strike was Erling Haaland's acrobatic close-range finish

Erling Haaland produces a remarkable finish with the outside of his left boot

TOP 10 GOALS

1

ERLING HAALAND
Man City   2-1   Dortmund

Matchday 2, 14/09/2022
Haaland's first home European goal for City – an acrobatic volley with the outside of his left foot as he lunges forward with both feet off the ground.

2

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ
Paris   2-1   Juventus

Matchday 1, 06/09/2022
A world-class one-two with Neymar ends with Mbappé meeting the Brazilian's scooped ball over the defence with an angled volley on the run.

3

LIONEL MESSI
Benfica   1-1   **Paris**

Matchday 3, 05/10/2022
Messi comes in from the right in a slick combination, the ball going to Mbappé then Neymar and back to Messi for a first-time curling finish.

4

DARWIN NÚÑEZ
Liverpool   2-5   Real Madrid

Round of 16 first leg, 21/02/2023
From the right Mohamed Salah slips an incisive low ball into the goalmouth where Núñez, timing his run perfectly, flicks in with his heel.

5

ALEJANDRO GRIMALDO
Benfica   2-0   Maccabi Haifa

Matchday 1, 06/09/2022
From 25 metres, the full-back unleashes a dipping, swerving left-foot strike which lands inside the angle of the near post and crossbar.

6

VINÍCIUS JÚNIOR
Real Madrid   1-1   Man City

Semi-final first leg, 09/05/2023
Eduardo Camavinga carries the ball from his own half and slips it inside to Vinícius Júnior, who takes a touch before powering a shot past Ederson.

7

KEVIN DE BRUYNE
Real Madrid   1-1   **Man City**

Semi-final first leg, 09/05/2023
The Belgian meets a lay-off outside the D with a wondrously clean first-time drive into the bottom right-hand corner.

8

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ
Juventus   1-2   **Paris**

Matchday 6, 02/11/2022
Another piece of Mbappé brilliance as he evades two defenders outside the box then curls a precise shot in off the far post from 20 metres.

9

KARIM ADEYEMI
Dortmund   1-0   Chelsea

Round of 16 first leg, 15/02/2023
Adeyemi gathers a clearance inside his own half and speeds forward, racing past Enzo Fernández then rounding Kepa Arrizabalaga to score.

10

RODRI
Man City   3-0   Bayern

Quarter-final first leg, 11/04/2023
Rodri's first-ever Champions League goal is an exceptional curling shot with his left foot from outside the box.

There were five strikes from outside the penalty box among the top ten selected by UEFA's Technical Observer Panel yet the winner, by Manchester City's Erling Haaland against former club Borussia Dortmund, came inside the five-metre box. That is not to say it was straightforward. Quite the opposite in fact.

The Norwegian said towards the end of the season that a lot of his goals in a City shirt had come from "unreal passes" but this strike in the September home comeback win over Dortmund was even less believable – an acrobatic connection with a João Cancelo cross which was more redolent of Bruce Lee than Francis Lee, the City scoring hero of the 1970s.

As Cancelo's outside-of-the-boot cross dropped towards the far post, Haaland lifted his giant frame off the ground between two defenders and – with his left leg raised high – somehow hooked the ball into the net with the outside of his boot. That Pep Guardiola likened it to the so-called 'phantom goal' scored by Johan Cruyff for Barcelona in 1973 underlined its rare quality.

It is not the only goal that demands repeat viewing in a top ten which includes a magnificently controlled volley on the run by Kylian Mbappé – second on the list – and a lovely Darwin Núñez back-heel. There are eye-catching strikes from distance by the likes of Alejandro Grimaldo, Vinícius Júnior and Kevin De Bruyne and also a thrilling high-speed run by Karim Adeyemi from inside his own half which brought his memorable first Champions League goal for Dortmund.

HAALAND
HITS THE HEIGHTS

Manchester City's
Erling Haaland
surged clear of his
rivals in the race
to be top scorer

Erling Haaland jumps for joys
after scoring one of his five
goals against Leipzig

Erling Haaland finished as top scorer in the 2022/23 Champions League with 12 goals, four more than second-ranked Mohamed Salah.

The Manchester City forward struck five times in the group stage and doubled his season's tally by becoming only the third player to score five goals in a single Champions League match during the round of 16 second leg against Leipzig. He also registered in both legs of the quarter-final triumph against Bayern and, though they were his last goals in the competition, that proved enough for Haaland to take the prize.

HAT-TRICKS

Robert Lewandowski (**Barcelona** 5-1 Plzeň), 07/09/22
Mohamed Salah (Rangers 1-7 **Liverpool**), 12/10/22
Erling Haaland (**Man City** 7-0 Leipzig), 14/03/23

TOP SCORERS

	12	Erling Haaland	Man City
	8	Mohamed Salah	Liverpool
	7	Vinícius Júnior	Real Madrid
	7	Kylian Mbappé	Paris
	6	João Mário	Benfica
	5	Olivier Giroud	Milan
	5	Robert Lewandowski	Barcelona
	5	Victor Osimhen	Napoli
	5	Rodrygo	Real Madrid
	5	Rafa Silva	Benfica
	5	Mehdi Taremi	Porto

MOST GOALS AND ASSISTS

	13	Erling Haaland	Man City
	13	Vinícius Júnior	Real Madrid
	10	Kylian Mbappé	Paris
	10	Mohamed Salah	Liverpool
	9	Kevin De Bruyne	Man City
	8	Lionel Messi	Paris
	8	João Mário	Benfica
	7	Olivier Giroud	Milan
	7	Giacomo Raspadori	Napoli
	7	Rodrygo	Real Madrid
	7	Rafa Silva	Benfica
	7	Mehdi Taremi	Porto

ERLING HAALAND'S SHOT MAP

ERLING HAALAND

GOALS **12**

GAMES **11**

● No goal   ○ Goal

CIRCLES ARE SCALED BY THE EXPECTED GOAL (xG) VALUE OF THE SHOT – THE LARGER THE CIRCLE, THE HIGHER THE xG

FINDING
THE NET

Joël Matip heads Liverpool's 89th-minute winner against Ajax on Matchday 2

Manchester City finished as the top scorers and late goals regularly proved crucial – although scoring first was often the key factor

There were 372 goals scored in the 2022/23 UEFA Champions League at a rate of 2.98 per game. For the first time Manchester City finished as the competition's top scorers, with a total of 32 goals.

The most productive five-minute period for goals in a game was between 46 and 50 minutes when 24 were scored – and the next between 51 and 55 minutes (23 goals). This is a surprise if you consider that it is normally toward the end of each half when players are more likely to suffer lapses in concentration owing to fatigue, and it begs the question to what extent half-time changes of strategy were a factor.

To return to the question of fatigue, it is also worth mentioning that 21 goals came in added time at the end of the second half, compared to six in the equivalent first-half period.
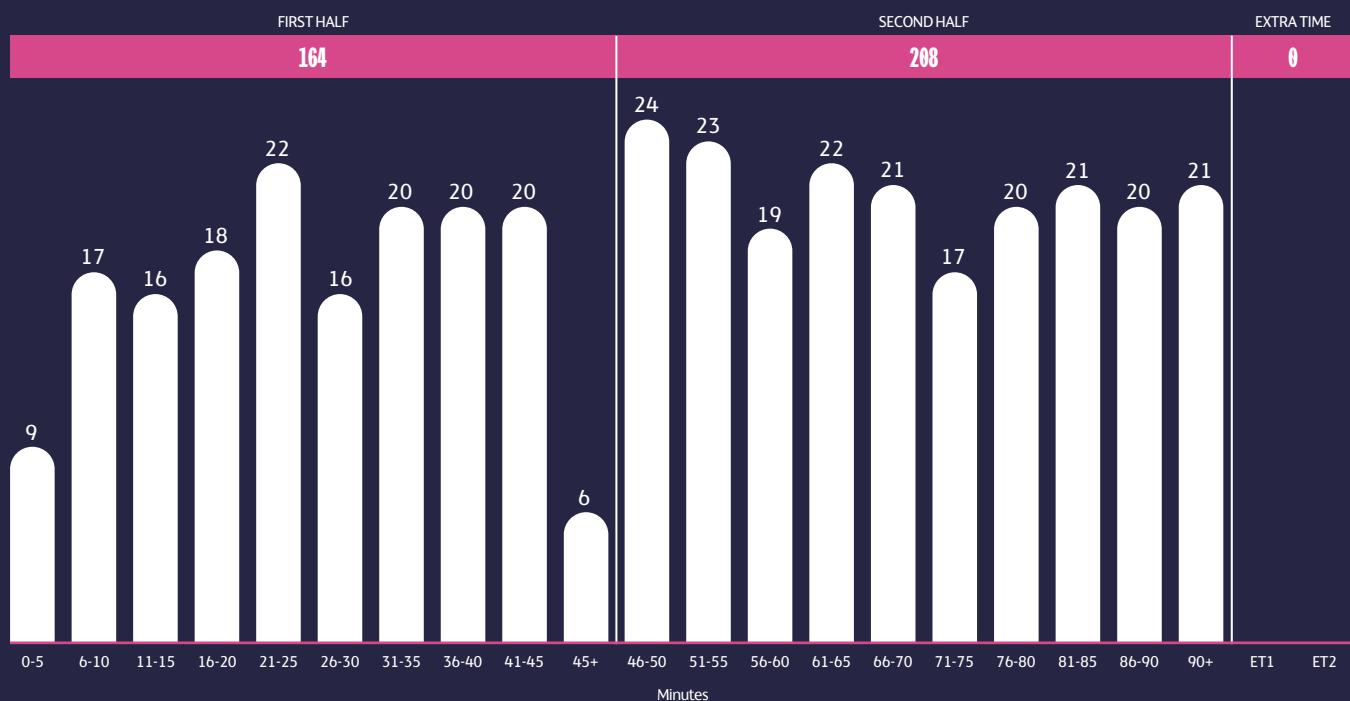
65.6%
Two-thirds of Man City's 32 goals were scored in the second half

22%
More than one-fifth of all goals were scored between the 76th minute and the final whistle

WHEN THE GOALS WERE SCORED

	FIRST HALF	SECOND HALF	EXTRA TIME
	164	208	0

Goals by five-minute interval:

Minutes	Goals
0-5	9
6-10	17
11-15	16
16-20	18
21-25	22
26-30	16
31-35	20
36-40	20
41-45	20
45+	6
46-50	24
51-55	23
56-60	19
61-65	22
66-70	21
71-75	17
76-80	20
81-85	21
86-90	20
90+	21
ET1	
ET2	

LATE WINNERS…

Not for nothing do we talk about the '12th man' of a football crowd – and a breakdown of the matches won by late goals in this campaign offers a case in point. Nine of the ten matches decided by goals from the 76-minute mark onwards were won by the home side – and that Anfield and the Santiago Bernabéu both witnessed two such late interventions is no surprise.

After all, the history of late drama in both stadiums means those crowds have a belief and keep urging their team on, creating a sometimes irresistible momentum. "If it's on a knife edge, you can assume that 12th man, the home crowd, could have an influence at the big stadiums," said Packie Bonner, one of this season's match observers.

It helps to have match-winning talents too, of course, capable of producing the magic to determine the destiny of a contest: Manchester City's comeback against Dortmund, for instance, was sealed by an improbably acrobatic volley by Erling Haaland – the Champions League goal of the season no less.

Of all the late shows, no game could match Atlético de Madrid's victory over Porto for drama with Antoine Griezmann scoring a 101st-minute winner after Mario Hermoso (91) and Matheus Uribe (96) had already traded added-time goals.

LATE GOALS EARNING VICTORY

Liverpool 2-1 Ajax (Matip 89)
Liverpool 2-0 Napoli (Salah 85, Núñez 90+8)
Atlético 2-1 Porto (Hermoso 90+1, Griezmann 90+11)
Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 Atlético (Andrich 84, Diaby 87)
Tottenham 2-0 Marseille (Richarlison 76, 81)
Sporting CP 2-0 Tottenham (Paulinho 90, Arthur 90+3)
Marseille 1-2 **Tottenham** (Højbjerg 90+5)
Real Madrid 2-0 Leipzig (Valverde 80, Asensio 90+1)
Man City 2-1 Dortmund (Stones 80, Haaland 84)
Real Madrid 1-0 Liverpool (Benzema 78)
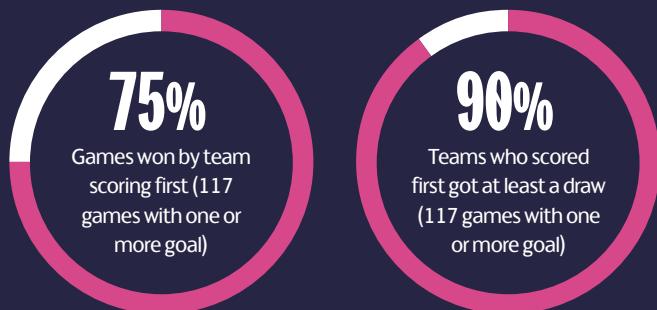
30:39
Average time of first goal

… AND DRAWS TOO

In five games there was an equalising goal after the 75th minute. This means that, together with the matches with a winning goal near the finish, a total of 13.6% of Champions League matches in 2022/23 featured a late twist.

LATE GOALS EARNING DRAWS

Tottenham 1-1 Sporting CP (Bentancur 80)
Shakhtar 1-1 **Real Madrid** (Rüdiger 90+5)
Inter 3-3 **Benfica** (António Silva 86, Musa 90+5)
Bayern 1-1 Man City (Kimmich 83pen)
Napoli 1-1 AC Milan (Osimhen 90+3)

FIRST GOAL (USUALLY) WINS

75%
Games won by team scoring first (117 games with one or more goal)

90%
Teams who scored first got at least a draw (117 games with one or more goal)

This campaign offered further evidence of the importance of the opening goal in elite club football. Of the 117 games featuring one or more goal, the team who scored first earned at least a draw in 90% of them. In 88 matches, they went on to win. Packie Bonner said the first goal was a vital component at this level, elaborating: "It gives the team confidence and the players are freer to go and play their game. They have the psychological edge on their opponents." From the perspective of a coach, he added, the first goal "reinforces" the game plan whereas the team that concedes often has to adapt and can become "vulnerable" as they open up in the pursuit of an equaliser.

Of the 12 comeback victories recorded across the season, it is interesting to note that only one occurred in the knockout stage. Bonner reflects that the best teams are simply less likely to lose their way in a game. "They are such good players when you get to the last 16 of the competition and what you don't want is to give yourself an uphill task against a very good team," he said.

The exception to the rule was Real Madrid's stunning recovery from an early two-goal deficit to win 5-2 at Liverpool in the round of 16. The spark for the fightback was an outstanding individual strike by Vinícius Júnior after an intense start by Liverpool, who scored twice inside 14 minutes.

Analysing what Madrid did that night, the UEFA match observer said: "They had a calmness to stick to their plan and work their way back into the game. At the same time, they were stung by the intense first 20 minutes from Liverpool and were starting to make individual errors but the goal from Vinícius Júnior altered the feel in the stadium and created the first doubt in their opponents' mind. Madrid then worked their way into the game with spells of possession which drew the sting from Liverpool's pressing."

COMEBACK WINS

Ajax 1-6 **Napoli**
Rangers 1-7 **Liverpool**
Marseille 4-1 Sporting CP
Tottenham 3-2 Frankfurt
Sporting CP 1-2 **Frankfurt**
Marseille 1-2 **Tottenham**
Chelsea 2-1 Dinamo Zagreb
Man City 2-1 Dortmund
Juventus 1-2 **Benfica**
Maccabi Haifa 1-3 **Paris**
Man City 3-1 Sevilla
Liverpool 2-5 **Real Madrid**

Richarlison enjoys his late double for Tottenham against Marseille

ONE GOAL BECOMES TWO

Do you know the old line about a team being at their most vulnerable when they've just scored a goal? Well, it isn't true. At least not in the 2022/23 Champions League. Indeed, of the 42 goals scored within five minutes of an earlier goal, 30 of those went to the team who had just found the net. In 12 cases, a team did switch off after scoring and concede but the majority of times it was the other way round. Packie Bonner suggested that at this elite level, where players are so gifted technically and their game plans so well-constructed, the psychological aspect of a goal was significant.

"You are talking about quality players here. Do they get an adrenaline rush from scoring and want to do it again? Do the opposition panic? I'd assume that because of the quality of the players, they're in a positive frame of mind to go on and do it again. They want to kill the game off and capitalise on that adrenaline rush from scoring."

90+11
The latest winning goal, scored by Atlético's Antoine Griezmann against Porto on Matchday 1

KNOCKOUT GOALS FALL

68 2022/23	**83** 2021/22
77 2020/21	**78** 2019/20
91 2018/19	**94** 2017/18
102 2016/17	**67** 2015/16

The total of 68 goals scored in the knockout stage marked a fall of 15 from the previous season and the lowest number recorded since 2015/16.

BUILDING THE PLAY

The creation of overloads was an important tactic for most teams, while Inter excelled at pass progression into midfield

TOP 10 TEAMS AT PROGRESSING FROM DEFENCE TO MIDFIELD

706 579 515 519 480 473 481 464 434
526   300 288
488 397 392 390 373 363 325 312

DEF TO MID ATTEMPTS
PASS PROGRESSION, DEF TO MID

INTER · BAYERN · MILAN · MAN CITY · NAPOLI · REAL MADRID · BENFICA · CHELSEA · CLUB BRUGGE · BORUSSIA DORTMUND

HOW DORTMUND FIND THE EXTRA MAN

Borussia Dortmund exited the competition in the last 16 but in their eight games, they did enough to feature among the top ten sides for most pass progressions from their defensive third into the middle of the pitch (see graphic above). The aspect of their build-up play which captured the attention of UEFA's match observers was the manner in which they created overloads centrally before then switching the ball out wide.

This was apparent in their round of 16 first leg against Chelsea when, as Dortmund coach Edin Terzić said, "there were a few times – particularly in the first half – that we managed to play our way through them". To offer an example of Dortmund's approach that evening, in the first clip in the digital report – viewable online – we see them build from deep with the two centre-backs, supported by holding midfielder Emre Can who drops into the space between them.

TOP 10 PLAYERS AT PROGRESSING FROM DF TO MF

	Games	Progression
Rúben Dias (Man City)	12	91
Dayot Upamecano (Bayern)	10	84
Kim Min-jae (Napoli)	9	78
Brandon Mechele (Club Brugge)	8	74
Eric Dier (Tottenham)	7	70
Alessandro Bastoni (Inter)	12	69
Manuel Akanji (Man City)	11	68
Nicolás Otamendi (Benfica)	9	67
António Silva (Benfica)	10	67
Mathijs de Ligt (Bayern)	7	65

Borussia Dortmund build and create an overload centrally which helps them to progress from the defensive third to the midfield third

To engineer an overload in front of the back three, Julian Brandt, one of their wide attackers, drops deep to give Dortmund a 3 v 2 in that central space – and he receives the pass from the back and pulls away from Enzo Fernández, one of Chelsea's two holding midfielders.

With Fernández drawn upfield, the two Dortmund midfielders, Jude Bellingham and Salih Özcan, are both now in pockets of space with Ruben Loftus-Cheek – Chelsea's other midfielder – caught between the two. Bellingham can duly take advantage by advancing the move into the attacking third of the field – an attack which ends with him sending Sébastien Haller on a run into the penalty box.

It is also worth mentioning the decoy runs by the Dortmund full-backs and an example of this is in the second clip which, like the first, begins with both full-backs highlighted as they stand wide on the touchline. This time, with Can stepping beyond the Chelsea front men and Brandt again coming inside, Dortmund are able to create a 4 v 2 centrally inside their own half.

Borussia Dortmund build and create a 4v2 overload centrally and managed to bypass Chelsea's high press

Giovanni van Bronckhorst said: "You can see the spaces they open up and it's especially difficult for the Chelsea full-backs and two central midfielders to decide who to pick up." His fellow observer David Adams pointed out that Dortmund's fluidity was increasingly typical of teams' build-up play at this level. "The in-possession fixed role is not so apparent – players in the midfield line are playing in the back line, defenders are playing in midfield, full-backs as 6s," he explained.

"There is a lot more interchange of positions and the purpose is to create a numerical superiority either in the defensive line to build or in the mid-line where you are trying to get the ball into the final third in the best possible way."

In addition to creating overloads, adds Adams, the presence of a player like Can in the defensive line "means you have a player much more suited to breaking lines and playing those progression passes. That is a trend we are seeing more and more and it helps teams to get those passes into the second line."

INTER FIRST FOR PASSES INTO MIDDLE THIRD

Runners-up Inter ranked first in the competition for the number of pass progressions from their defensive third into the midfield. Simone Inzaghi's team played against several high-pressing teams, Bayern, Barcelona and Benfica to name three, and this will have been a factor in their total of 706 attempted progressions from defence-to-midfield – over 100 more than any other club – with 488 of them successful.

Inter bypassing Benfica's high press

Inter had the advantage of a goalkeeper, André Onana, who excelled with his distribution. They also had a left-sided centre-back, Alessandro Bastoni, who pushed into the left-back position as Inter built the play, and who, among Inzaghi's players, was second only to Nicolò Barella for passes ending in the opposition half.

Alessandro Bastoni playing a progressive pass into midfield third

Inter were able to mix playing out from the back and going direct to powerful front players. As Packie Bonner, match observer for their quarter-final win at Benfica, said, they benefitted too from having a midfielder happy to receive the ball under pressure in Marcelo Brozović – the player who sat at the base of their 'inverted pyramid' midfield three.

"Brozović controlled the tempo and allowed Inter to link the game from the back through to the front players," said Bonner.

Rúben Dias breaks opposition lines with a pass into Julián Álvarez

When it came to progressing the ball from the defensive third into the centre of the pitch, no player rivalled Manchester City's Rúben Dias in 2022/23. The above clip, viewable online in the digital report, offers a variation in that Dias is actually in the centre-circle when he receives the ball yet his capacity for a forward pass is clear to see. With the passing line to İlkay Gündoğan blocked, he avoids the option out wide and instead plays the ball some 15 metres up the pitch into the feet of Julián Álvarez, taking out in the process the opposition's three-man front pressing line.

David Adams sees a trend for centre-backs to be increasingly comfortable on the ball and cites both Bastoni and City's Manuel Akanji – another player in the table on the facing page – as defenders from this campaign who were able to open up the play down the left side. "You're seeing more left-sided centre-backs who can actually play off their left foot," he said. "In the past some clubs were happy to play a right footer as a left centre-back at the top level but you're not seeing that so frequently as it limits your opportunities to play passes out into the wide areas and to break lines.

"It makes it very predictable for teams to press you and force you on the outside on to your weaker foot. So that's also partly the reason why we are seeing more progression passes from defenders as they are more comfortable playing off their correct foot." In the case of Akanji, he did this better than most: only Toni Kroos and team-mate Rodri managed more than his 132 line-breaking passes.

FINAL-THIRD ENTRIES

Most teams favoured wing play when trying to breaking into the final third – although Inter were a notable exception

Napoli frequently used Khvicha Kvaratskhelia to break into the left lane in the final third

Teams in the UEFA Champions League look predominantly to the wide channels when progressing the ball to the final third. This is the obvious conclusion to draw from an analysis of the lanes most commonly used by sides seeking to progress upfield in the competition's knockout rounds.

Two-thirds of all progressions to the final third occurred out wide – with a 34% average share recorded on the right wing and 32% on the left.

The influence of individual players is an obvious factor with some clubs: 46% of Napoli's progressions came up the left channel where Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was so influential, while 41% of Real Madrid's progressions were on the left side where Vinícius Júnior roamed.

There were similar examples on the right with Benfica particularly productive in the channel where João Mário typically combined with his attacking full-back, Alexander Bah, for 43% of the Lisbon club's progressions. Wing-back Reece James' significance to Chelsea's attacking play was underlined by his club recording 42% of progressions on the right in their round of 16 tie against Borussia Dortmund.

The least popular lane was the middle one though Inter, whose front two operated in more central channels, made considerably more progress there (14%) than was seen on average (9%).

CITY LEAN TO THE RIGHT
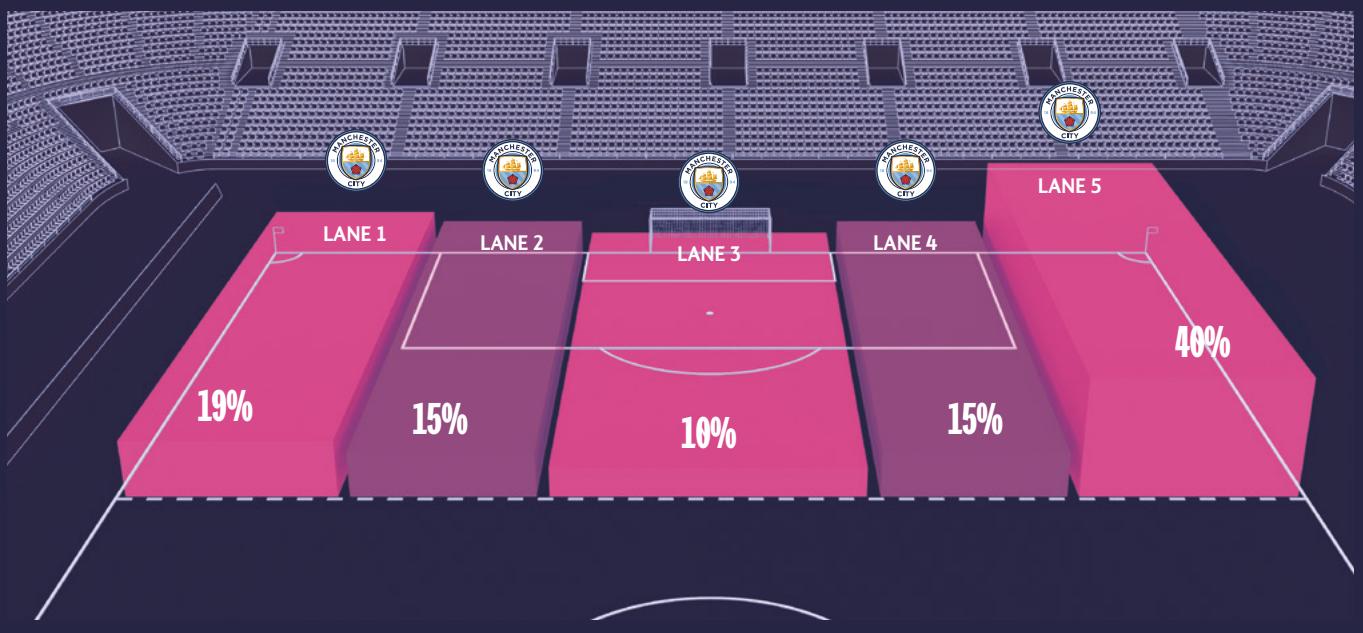
Manchester City looked to the wide-right channel twice as often as they progressed down the left. In fact, lanes 4 and 5 accounted for 55% of their progressions – compared to 34% for the two lanes on the other side of the pitch. The work of Manuel Akanji and Kyle Walker in the full-back positions could be seen as one factor, along with the positioning of John Stones when he stepped into midfield and the craft and industry of Bernardo Silva, their right-sided attacker.

LANE LOCATION OF TEAMS PROGRESSING INTO FINAL THIRD

LANE 1
LANE 2
LANE 3
LANE 4
LANE 5

AVERAGE 32%
AVERAGE 13%
AVERAGE 9%
AVERAGE 12%
AVERAGE 34%

Highest % of their attack	Highest % of their attack	Highest % of their attack	Highest % of their attack	Highest % of their attack
NAPOLI 46% REAL MADRID 41%	BAYERN INTER 16%	INTER 14% MAN CITY 10%	MILAN 17% MAN CITY 15%	BENFICA 43% CHELSEA 42%
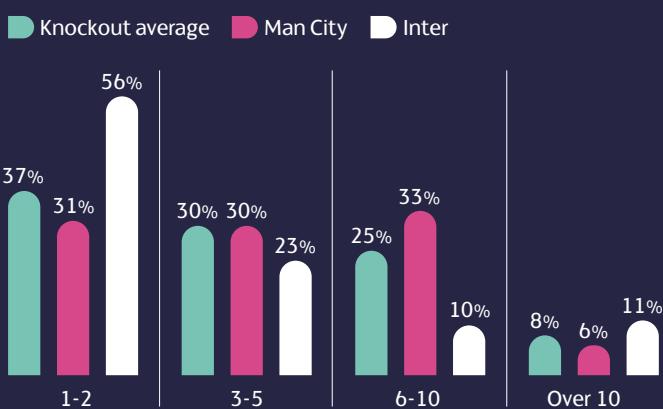
CITY'S LANE LOCATION PROGRESSING INTO FINAL THIRD

LANE 1 — 19%
LANE 2 — 15%
LANE 3 — 10%
LANE 4 — 15%
LANE 5 — 40%

Manchester City engineering their way into final third on the right-hand side

André Onana taking few touches and playing a direct ball into final third

PASSES PRIOR TO ENTERING FINAL THIRD

- ■ Knockout average ■ Man City □ Inter

	Knockout average	Man City	Inter
1-2	37%	31%	56%
3-5	30%	30%	23%
6-10	25%	33%	10%
Over 10	8%	6%	11%

Manchester City taking eight passes between them before breaking into the final third

This graph shows that on two-thirds of the occasions that teams progressed the ball into the final third in the knockout stage, they did so with a maximum of five passes. There was a clear difference between the approach of the two finalists. More than half (56%) of Inter's progressions into the attacking third involved a maximum of two passes, highlighting a more direct approach – often involving the excellent kicking of goalkeeper André Onana, seeking out a target striker.

While City took 0-2 passes for 31% of their final-third entries, the chart shows 33% of the time they advanced to the attacking third with a sequence of 6-10 passes.

It is also interesting to note that Inter had considerably more final-third progressions (11%) with over ten passes than City. UEFA's match observers reflected that in the final there were moments when they seemed happy to circulate the ball, without trying to get it forward quickly. In short, here was a team who could do both things, ranking well above the average for both quick, direct progressions and slower ones too.

PASSES PER POSITION IN FINAL THIRD

Legend: Average · Man City · Inter

Passed to final third

	Goalkeepers	Centre-back	Full-back	Wing-back	Defensive midfield	Central midfield	Winger	Forward
Average	2%	16%	17%	4%	5%	42%	8%	7%
Man City	1%	10%	16%	0%	20%	39%	11%	2%
Inter	3%	24%	0%	20%	0%	36%	0%	17%

Received inside the final third

	Goalkeepers	Centre-back	Full-back	Wing-back	Defensive midfield	Central midfield	Winger	Forward
Average	0%	2%	10%	10%	0%	15%	45%	17%
Man City	0%	5%	2%	0%	2%	24%	56%	10%
Inter	0%	7%	0%	36%	0%	13%	0%	44%

The chart above breaks down the positions of the players passing the ball into the final third – and for Man City, the importance of Rodri is clear with 20% of their passes into the attacking third coming from the defensive midfielder.

Rodri playing the final ball into the final third

According to the competition average for the knockout stage, 42% of passes to the final third came from midfielders and City (39%) were not far off that figure. With the 20% from their defensive midfielder added, City made 59% of their passes into the final third from the midfield positions.

Inter's approach was more varied with almost a quarter of passes (24%) delivered by their centre-backs – something for which Alessandro Bastoni (with 101 line-breaking passes across the whole competition) was noted. Their wing-backs (20%) and forwards (17%) each had a significant share too and this variety meant that Inter could progress from different positions – making it harder for opponents to nullify them.

This graph highlights the players to whom teams looked the most to in the final third – and in Inter's case, 80% of the time they played the ball to either their high wing-backs (36%) or their centre-forwards (44%). For City, the most frequent recipients of passes into the final third were their wingers (56%), namely Jack Grealish and Bernardo Silva who, not coincidentally, ranked fourth and fifth respectively for most touches in the opposition box in the knockout stage.

Wing-back Ben Davies receives the ball in the final third before Tottenham score against Marseille

42% of passes to the final third came from midfielders and Man City (39%) were not far off that figure
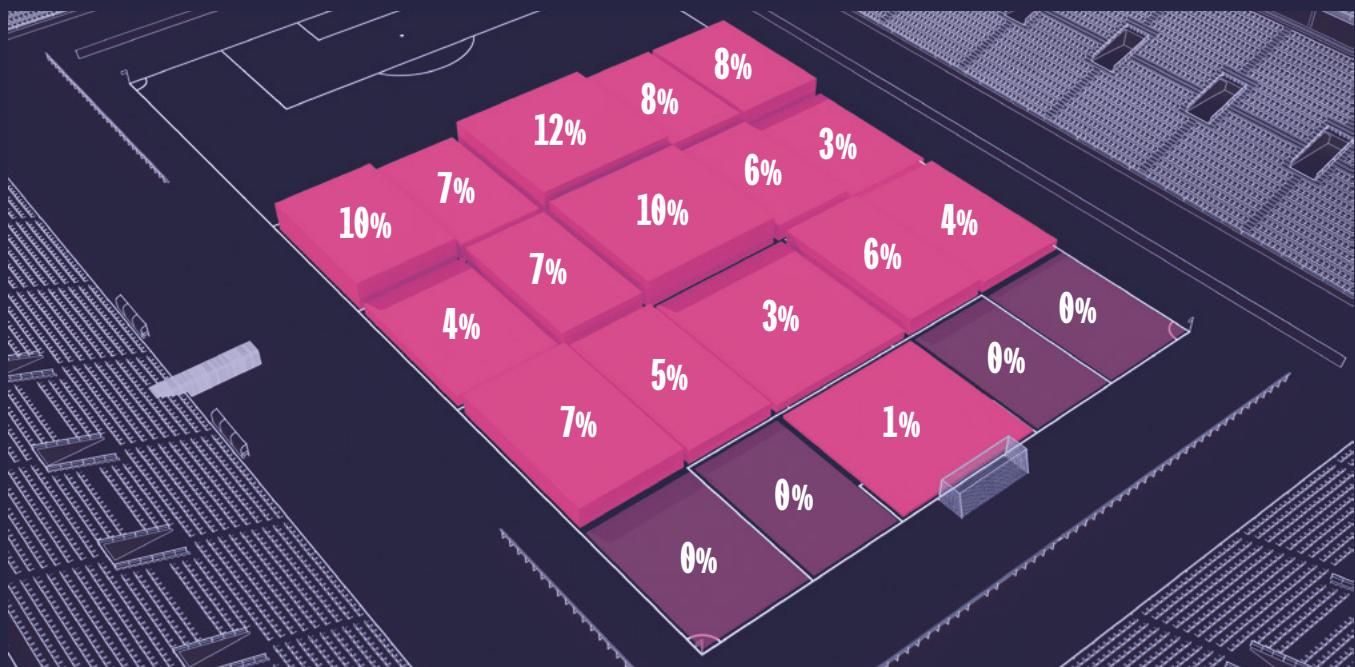
24% Inter's approach was more varied with almost a quarter of passes delivered by their centre-backs

10% 7% 12% 8% 8%
4% 7% 10% 6% 3%
7% 3% 6% 4%
5% 1% 0%
0% 0% 0%
0%
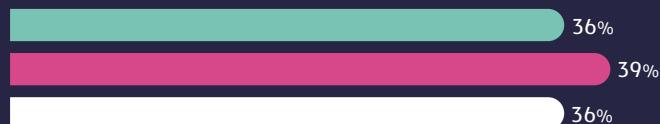
Starting location of the pass that breaks into final third

LEAD ACTION WHEN ENTERING FINAL THIRD

- Average
- Man City
- Inter

Individual action

Average: 36%
Man City: 39%
Inter: 36%

Long ball

Average: 7%
Man City: 1%
Inter: 11%

Non-penetrative pass

Average: 38%
Man City: 39%
Inter: 30%

Penetrative pass

Average: 15%
Man City: 19%
Inter: 20%

Through ball

Average: 3%
Man City: 1%
Inter: 3%
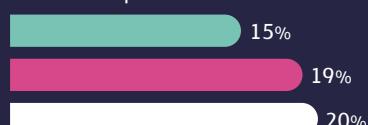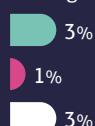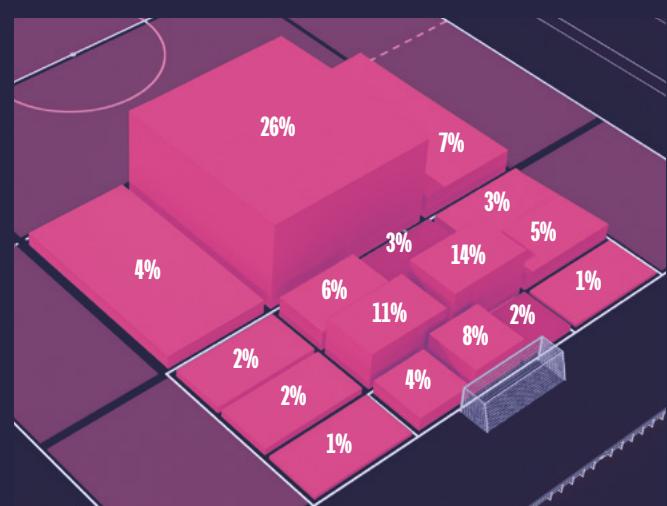
LEAD ACTIONS

To focus on lead actions when entering the final third across the knockout stage, one noteworthy difference between the two final teams was their use of long passes – 11% for Inter and just 1% for Man City.

It is also worth pointing out that City (39%) produced a higher portion of non-penetrative passes than Inter (30%), which would reflect the ability of Pep Guardiola's team to force their rivals into a low block, meaning that when they enter the final third, they do not need to break any opposition lines.

Almost half (45%) of passes advancing the ball into the final third came from the upper part of the middle third of the pitch – inside the attacking half. It is also worth looking at the central channel, which was the source of just over a quarter (26%) of these passes.
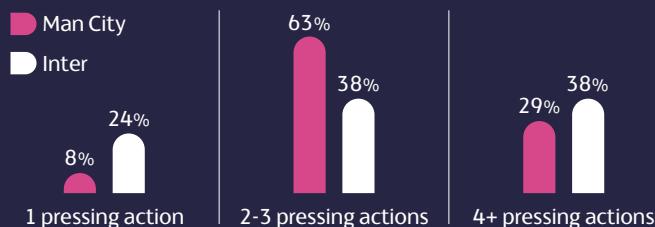
AVERAGE SHOT LOCATION

26% 7%
4% 3% 3% 14% 5%
6% 11% 1%
2% 2% 8% 2%
2% 4%
1%

PRESSING
IN THE FINAL
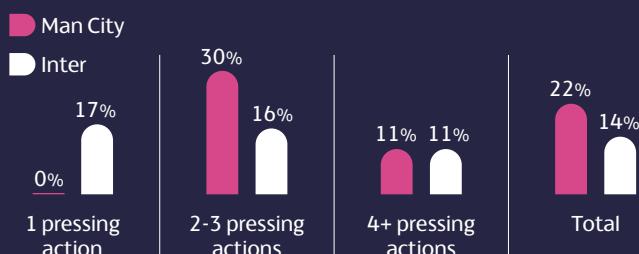
Inter and Manchester City adopted different strategies but it was the English side whose collective approach proved more successful

HOW THE TEAMS PRESSED

- Man City
- Inter

	1 pressing action	2-3 pressing actions	4+ pressing actions
Man City	8%	63%	29%
Inter	24%	38%	38%

The term 'press' can mean a single pressing action yet it can also cover a sequence of four pressing actions or more. The graph above, which breaks down the pressing actions in the Champions League final, shows how the two clubs differed in their approaches. From Inter, during the final there were three times as many incidences of a single pressing action than recorded by Manchester City – 24% from Inter compared to City's 8%. This would suggest either that City were able to overload the area in question and find a way to get out of the press, or that Inter were unable to follow up on their first press. City, for their part, sustained the press on over 90% of the occasions they made an initial action. The next graph (below) will show they were more efficient too. The fact Inter recorded considerably more sequences of four or more pressing actions – 38% to City's 29% – might suggest that Pep Guardiola's team had some success in holding on to the ball under pressure.

SUCCESS RATE OF THE PRESS

- Man City
- Inter

	1 pressing action	2-3 pressing actions	4+ pressing actions	Total
Man City	0%	30%	11%	22%
Inter	17%	16%	11%	14%
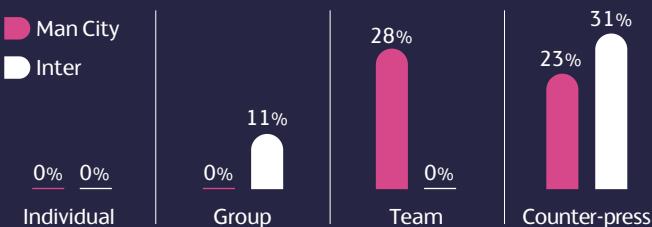
When it came to winning the ball in the opposition half, City had a higher ratio of efficiency (22%) than Inter (14%). The key difference is seen in the category of '2-3 pressing actions' where the English side were almost twice as successful.

TYPE OF PRESS

- Man City
- Inter

	Individual (1 player)	Group (2-4 players)	Team (5+ players)	Counter-press (within 5 seconds of losing the ball)
Man City	2%	16%	51%	32%
Inter	12%	36%	20%	32%

This graph shows another difference between the teams, namely that City pressed half of the time (51%) with five or more players whereas with Inter, it was often a case of pressing in groups of between two and four players (36%). Where the teams did not differ was in the portion of their pressing work given over to attempts to regain the ball in the opposition half – with a figure of 32% each for counter-pressing.
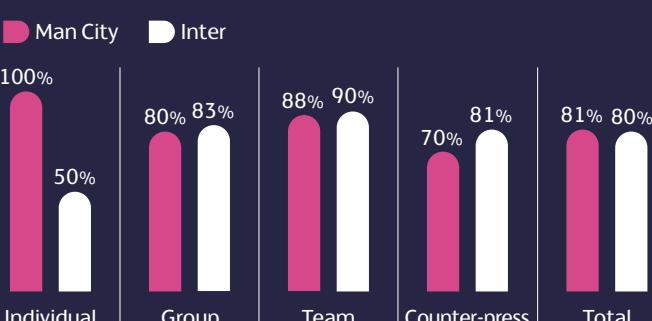
SUCCESS RATE BY PRESSING TYPE

- Man City
- Inter

	Individual	Group	Team	Counter-press
Man City	0%	0%	28%	23%
Inter	0%	11%	0%	31%

This graph applies to winning the ball in the opposition half and it shows that City were quite effective (a 28% success rate) when pressing with the entire team. City were quite effective (28%) when pressing with five or more players. Inter had the most success, meanwhile, when counter-pressing within five seconds of losing the ball (31%).

Inter counter-pressing in the City half
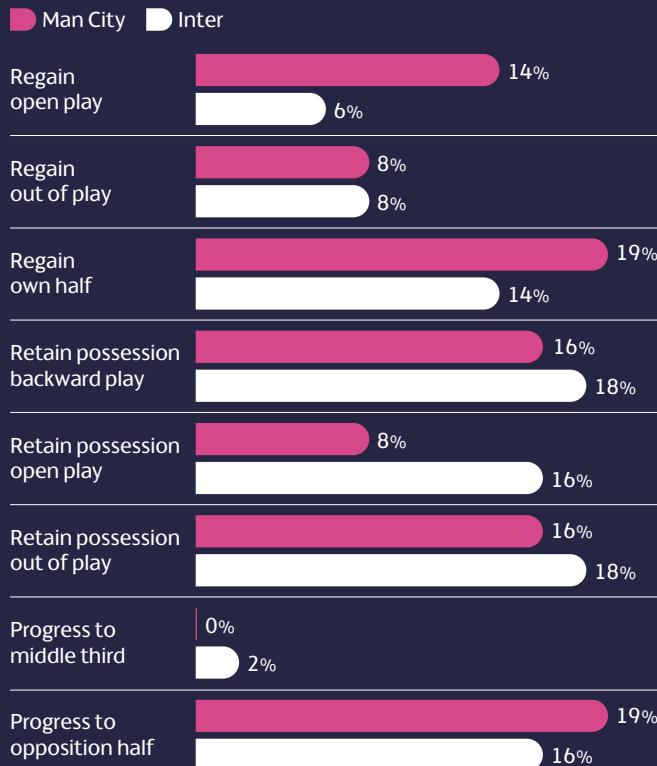
NOT LETTING OPPONENTS PLAY THROUGH

- Man City
- Inter

	Individual	Group	Team	Counter-press	Total
Man City	100%	80%	88%	70%	81%
Inter	50%	83%	90%	81%	80%

Another gauge of efficiency is whether a team's pressing actions stopped the opposition from playing through them. Where previous graphs measure success as winning the ball back, here the focus is on barring the opposition's progress. This graph shows that City were twice as successful as Inter when it came to individual pressing actions in the final. This superiority was mirrored by the fact they also won a higher percentage of duels – 56% to Inter's 44% – and tackles too.
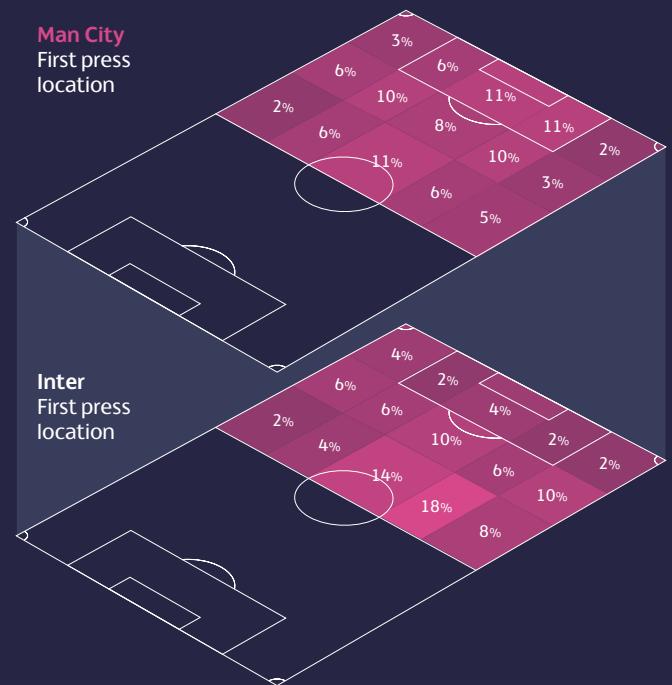
OUTCOME OF PRESSING/COUNTER-PRESSING

🟥 Man City   ⬜ Inter

Regain open play
Man City: 14%
Inter: 6%

Regain out of play
Man City: 8%
Inter: 8%

Regain own half
Man City: 19%
Inter: 14%

Retain possession backward play
Man City: 16%
Inter: 18%

Retain possession open play
Man City: 8%
Inter: 16%

Retain possession out of play
Man City: 16%
Inter: 18%

Progress to middle third
Man City: 0%
Inter: 2%

Progress to opposition half
Man City: 19%
Inter: 16%

Manchester City applying high pressure as they look to regain the ball in the same action

To explain the various categories in the graph above, 'Regain open play' refers to winning the ball while it is in play. 'Regain out of play' means winning the ball as play switches to a dead-ball situation such as a throw-in, free-kick, corner or penalty. 'Retain possession backward play' is when the team in possession are in the middle third of the pitch and respond to being pressed by playing the ball back into their defensive third where they retain possession.

City were more than twice as successful at regains while the ball was in play, with 14% to Inter's 6%. This allowed them to create potentially promising moments quickly. The fact City had more regains in their own half could point to them winning possession following some of Inter's long balls forward, while the retain possession open play category shows that City were the better side at retaining the ball in the face of pressure.

PRESS LOCATIONS

Man City
First press location

Inter
First press location
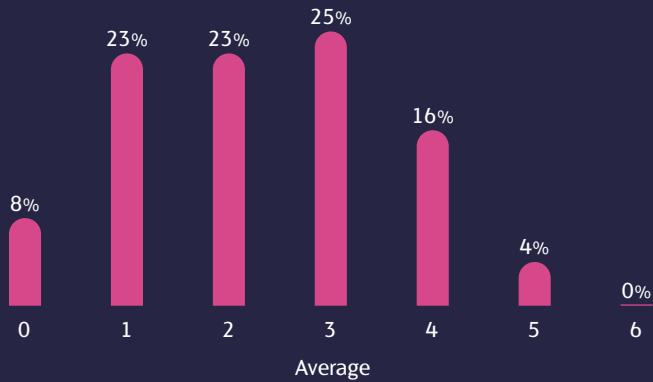
UEFA's technical observers remarked after the final that it was City's wide players who came inside to lead the press and the percentage of first press locations on the right side of the penalty box would support the perception that Bernardo Silva was particularly active. Overall, the opposition penalty box was the location for 28% of City's first presses – compared to 8% for Inter. For the Italian team, the right side of the pitch was a noticeably more productive space for first pressing actions than the left. This breakdown of last press locations highlights another big difference between the teams: where City had the most joy in the middle third, Inter, if less successful generally, were impressively effective at winning the ball back in the top-right corner of the pitch.

Man City
Last press location

Inter
Last press location

DEFENDING CROSSES

While there were usually no more than two attackers in the box for crosses, defending teams often had four or more players back

these tend to occur when crosses are made following a transition or high regain. As for the 8% of occasions when there was not a single attacker in the area, this would apply to situations where there was a delivery from deep or an early cross and no player had had time to get into the penalty box.

DEFENDERS IN THE BOX WHEN CROSS DELIVERED

ATTACKERS IN BOX FOR CROSSES

Teams most often defended with four in the box
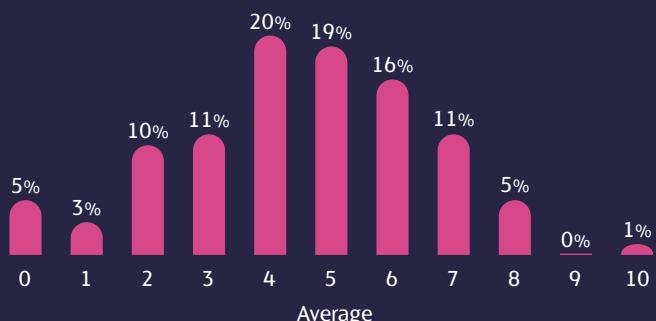
UEFA's analysts produced a study of open-play crosses in the 13 matches played across the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final and the first area to focus on is the number of attacking players in the box. As showed by the graph above, there were no more than two attacking players in the box for more than half of the crosses made (54%). It may surprise some to see little difference between the portion of crosses made to one attacker (23%) and those crosses to three attackers (25%).

In the cases where there were one or two forwards only in the box,

When it came to the number of players getting back into the box to defend crosses, seven times out of ten (72%) there were four defenders or more in the penalty area. The most common occurrence was for a team to have either four (20%) or five (19%) defenders in the box, though the graph above shows that at least once (1%) all ten outfield players were back.

When it came to the two eventual finalists, the graph below shows that, from the quarter-final onwards, Manchester City only defended

DEFENDING CROSSES PER NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN BOX

crosses effectively when they had four or more defenders in the both. Inter were twice as good as City at defending crosses with just three men – achieving a 50% ratio compared to City's 25% – though as would be expected, they too were more effective with more numbers back.
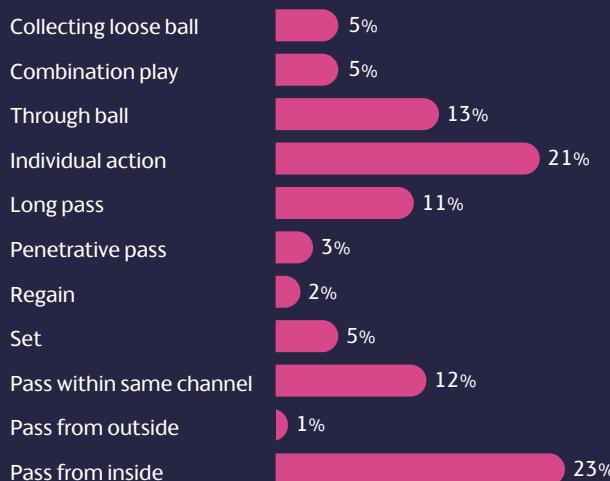
Success here is defined by having a defender (any outfield player from the defending team) or goalkeeper make first contact with the ball after a cross is delivered. Inter were particularly successful when they had five players back (89%) while City were at their most solid with six men back (80%). To offer another illustration of the difference between the sides, in their respective quarter-final ties, Inter won 67% of their aerial duels and City 57%. Adding the semi-finals and final, the teams' average success ratios were closer: 58% for Inter and 53% for City.

FIRST CONTACT BY DEFENDNG TEAM

60% Milan	59% Benfica	57% Bayern	57% Inter
55% Chelsea	50% Napoli	48% Man City	42% Real Madrid
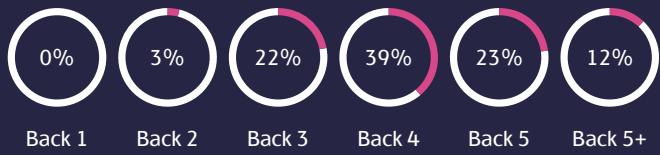
Semi-finalists Milan were the most successful side when it came to making the first contact with a cross in their own penalty box, with either their goalkeeper Mike Maignan or a defender getting first to the box 60% of the time. Maignan caught (five) and punched (three) more crosses than any other goalkeeper who played in any of the quarter-final, semi-final or final ties. We should add that the sample size here is small given that Benfica, Bayern, Chelsea and Napoli only played two matches.

LEAD ACTION PRIOR TO CROSSING

Collecting loose ball	5%
Combination play	5%
Through ball	13%
Individual action	21%
Long pass	11%
Penetrative pass	3%
Regain	2%
Set	5%
Pass within same channel	12%
Pass from outside	1%
Pass from inside	23%

This graph breaks down the principal actions prior to a team crossing the ball – and finds that almost a quarter of crosses (23%) followed a pass from one of the more central channels to an outside lane. There was also a high proportion of individual actions (21%) leading to a crossing opportunity, such as a player running with the ball or dribbling.

(Note: Data is taken from open-play crosses only and does not include blocked crosses.)

BACK-LINE SHAPE

Back 1	Back 2	Back 3	Back 4	Back 5	Back 5+
0%	3%	22%	39%	23%	12%
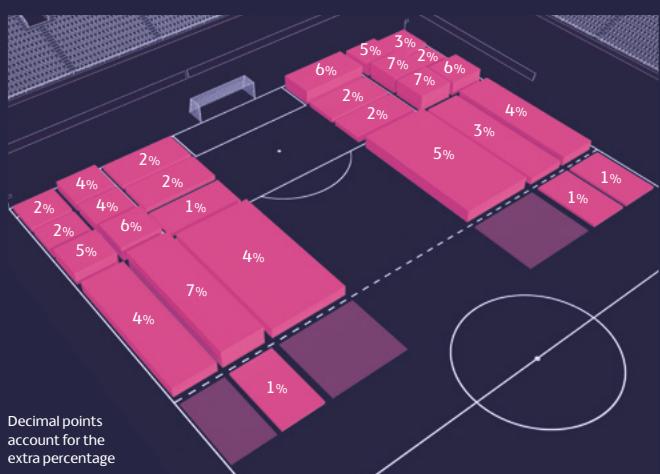
Four was the most commonly seen (39%) number of players making up the back line of teams as they defended crosses from open play. And, as the graph above shows, three-quarters of the time, there were a minimum of four players in the back line. To define the meaning of 'back-line shape', this is how a team's last line looked as a cross was being delivered. If, for example, a team were playing with four defenders but a midfielder had dropped in between the centre-backs as the cross was played, then we counted the five players in the defensive line in that moment.

When defending a cross the most common defensive shape was a back four

CROSS LOCATION

Decimal points account for the extra percentage

This breakdown of the average location of crosses shows that almost a quarter (24%) were struck from inside the width of the penalty box, be it inside or outside the area. The biggest portion of crosses were stuck from the channel just outside the width of the penalty box (45%). By comparison, 29% of crosses came from the channel next to the touchline from where the wingers of old would 'get chalk on their boots' before delivering centres. Finally, it is also worth noting there were marginally more crosses from the right than the left side, so for example more cut-backs inside the box from the right (6%), compared to from the left (2%).

Benfica's Alejandro
Grimaldo fires a free-kick
at the Inter goal
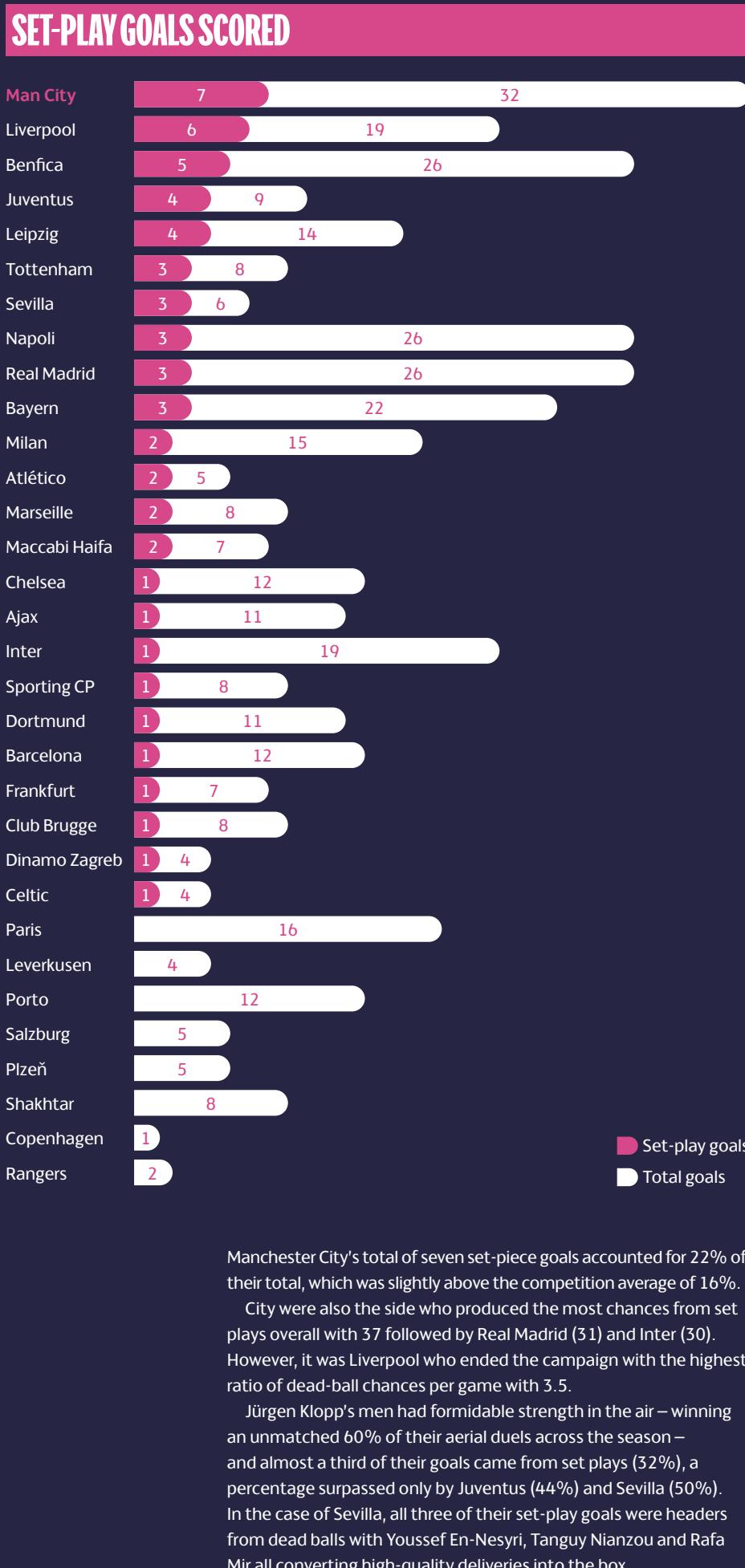
SET
PLAYS

Champions Manchester City led
the way in terms of goals from
set plays, while the overall figure
once again remained constant

There were 59 goals scored from set plays (excluding penalties)
in the 2022/23 season – a figure which accounts for 16% of the
overall total of 372 goals. This percentage figure was the same in the
previous two seasons.

   The side who profited the most from set plays were Manchester
City, who scored seven goals this way. Liverpool, who had hit eight
set-piece goals when reaching the final in 2021/22, were one behind
City with six.

   Penalties accounted for 9% of all the goals scored – marginally down
on the 10% share of 21/22 and 2019/20. The season with the biggest
percentage of penalties (15%) was 2020/21 which was the season
played out largely in front of empty stadiums owing to the pandemic.

GOAL TYPES

279
OPEN PLAY

22/23

59
SET PLAY

34
PENALTIES

281
OPEN PLAY

21/22

62
SET PLAY

37
PENALTIES

257
OPEN PLAY

20/21

57
SET PLAY

55
PENALTIES

301
OPEN PLAY

19/20

48
SET PLAY

37
PENALTIES

266
OPEN PLAY

18/19

66
SET PLAY

34
PENALTIES

SET-PLAY GOALS SCORED

Team	Set-play goals	Total goals
Man City	7	32
Liverpool	6	19
Benfica	5	26
Juventus	4	9
Leipzig	4	14
Tottenham	3	8
Sevilla	3	6
Napoli	3	26
Real Madrid	3	26
Bayern	3	22
Milan	2	15
Atlético	2	5
Marseille	2	8
Maccabi Haifa	2	7
Chelsea	1	12
Ajax	1	11
Inter	1	19
Sporting CP	1	8
Dortmund	1	11
Barcelona	1	12
Frankfurt	1	7
Club Brugge	1	8
Dinamo Zagreb	1	4
Celtic	1	4
Paris		16
Leverkusen		4
Porto		12
Salzburg		5
Plzeň		5
Shakhtar		8
Copenhagen		1
Rangers		2

■ Set-play goals
□ Total goals

Manchester City's total of seven set-piece goals accounted for 22% of their total, which was slightly above the competition average of 16%.

City were also the side who produced the most chances from set plays overall with 37 followed by Real Madrid (31) and Inter (30). However, it was Liverpool who ended the campaign with the highest ratio of dead-ball chances per game with 3.5.

Jürgen Klopp's men had formidable strength in the air – winning an unmatched 60% of their aerial duels across the season – and almost a third of their goals came from set plays (32%), a percentage surpassed only by Juventus (44%) and Sevilla (50%). In the case of Sevilla, all three of their set-play goals were headers from dead balls with Youssef En-Nesyri, Tanguy Nianzou and Rafa Mir all converting high-quality deliveries into the box.

GOING FOR GOAL

Trent Alexander-Arnold for Liverpool against Rangers, Alejandro Grimaldo for Benfica against Maccabi Haifa and Celtic's Jota at Real Madrid were the only players to find the net from direct free-kicks.

Eight clubs of the 32 who participated in the group stage did not manage a single direct free-kick shot attempt (excluding blocks), including finalists Inter.

SET-PLAY GOALS CONCEDED

■ Set-play goals conceded　□ Goals conceded

Club	Set-play goals conceded	Goals conceded
Real Madrid	4	13
Leipzig	4	17
Rangers	4	22
Man City	3	5
Tottenham	3	7
Ajax	3	16
Milan	3	11
Inter	3	11
Paris	3	10
Maccabi Haifa	3	21
Sporting CP	2	9
Benfica	2	13
Porto	2	8
Salzburg	2	9
Napoli	2	8
Dortmund	2	7
Marseille	2	8
Barcelona	2	12
Liverpool	1	12
Chelsea	1	9
Leverkusen	1	8
Sevilla	1	12
Juventus	1	13
Bayern	1	6
Plzeň	1	24
Shakhtar	1	10
Copenhagen	1	12
Dinamo Zagreb	1	11
Atlético		9
Frankfurt		13
Club Brugge		11
Celtic		15

Liverpool's Trent Alexander Arnold bends one in against Rangers on Matchday 3; Rúben Dias celebrates heading in Manchester City's fourth goal against Sevilla on Matchday 1 (bottom right)

Real Madrid, Leipzig and Rangers were the sides who conceded the most set-play goals – four apiece. In the case of semi-finalists Madrid this accounted for almost a third (31%) of their 13 goals conceded.

Man City conceded only five goals across the whole competition but three of them were from corners and another from a penalty, meaning that the champions conceded just one open-play goal in 13 matches.

3 Only three goals came from direct free-kicks

50 Percentage of Sevilla goals scored from set plays

Sevilla and Juventus were the clubs with the best corner-to-goal ratio in 2022/23, averaging nine corners per goal.
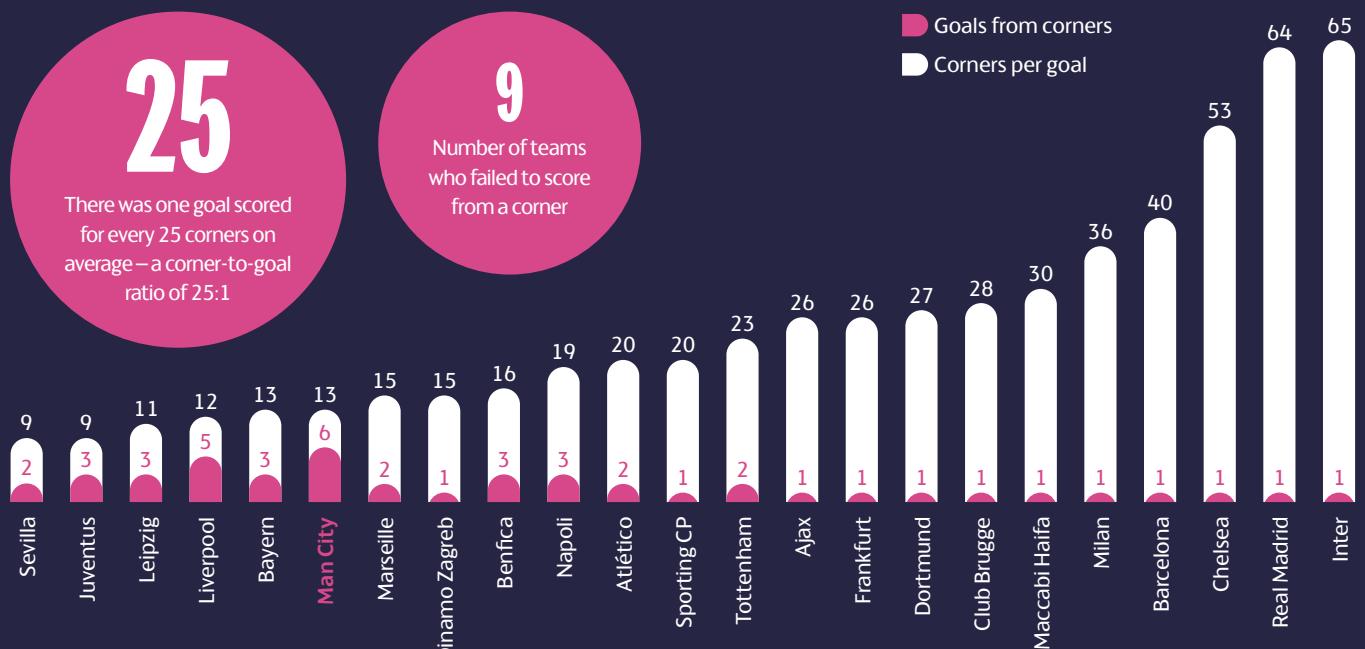
With six, Man City had the highest number of goals scored from corners and, with 78 corners taken, this worked out at one from every 13 – considerably less than the competition-average ratio of one from every 25.

Erling Haaland scored five of City's goals from corners and three came in the round of 16 home win over Leipzig in which he hit five goals. Interestingly, none of the Norwegian's five goals from corners were from first contacts but came rather from knockdowns or second-phase opportunities.

The same applied to Rúben Dias's goal following a corner at Sevilla which meant that City's only goal featuring a connection with a dead-ball delivery was Manuel Akanji's header from a Kevin De Bruyne free-kick against Real Madrid.

CORNERS

25

There was one goal scored for every 25 corners on average – a corner-to-goal ratio of 25:1

9

Number of teams who failed to score from a corner

■ Goals from corners
□ Corners per goal

Team	Corners per goal	Goals from corners
Sevilla	9	2
Juventus	9	3
Leipzig	11	3
Liverpool	12	5
Bayern	13	3
Man City	13	6
Marseille	15	2
Dinamo Zagreb	15	1
Benfica	16	3
Napoli	19	3
Atlético	20	2
Sporting CP	20	1
Tottenham	23	2
Ajax	26	1
Frankfurt	26	1
Dortmund	27	1
Club Brugge	28	1
Maccabi Haifa	30	1
Milan	36	1
Barcelona	40	1
Chelsea	53	1
Real Madrid	64	1
Inter	65	1

DEFENDING CORNERS

Of the teams who did not concede from a corner, Club Brugge and Shakhtar Donetsk defended the highest number successfully – 47 and 46 respectively. This was way above the average of a goal every 25 corners faced and both teams earned praise from UEFA's match observers at different points of the group stage for their defensive focus and organisation.

Among the sides who conceded only once from a corner, Benfica had the best record, that one goal coming from 48 corners faced.

The team who performed worst overall, meanwhile, were Ajax who conceded three goals from 27 corners – averaging a goal for every nine corners faced.

	GOALS CONCEDED FROM CORNERS	CORNERS PER GOAL CONCEDED
Liverpool	○	–
Atlético	○	–
Frankfurt	○	–
Shakhtar Donetsk	○	–
Club Brugge	○	–
Dinamo Zagreb	○	–
Celtic	○	–
Marseille	●	15
Leverkusen	●	29
Sevilla	●	29
Plzeň	●	29
Chelsea	●	33
Juventus	●	33
Copenhagen	●	33
Bayern	●	39
Dortmund	●	39
Benfica	●	48
Salzburg	●●	12
Barcelona	●●	14
Paris	●●	15
Maccabi Haifa	●●	17
Porto	●●	17
Sporting CP	●●	18
Napoli	●●	23
Inter	●●	32
Real Madrid	●●	32
Ajax	●●●	9
Man City	●●●	12
Tottenham	●●●	12
Rangers	●●●	12
Leipzig	●●●	13
Milan	●●●	21

GOALKEEPING

André Onana excelled at both prevention and creation, while the tendency to play short from the back continued to increase

André Onana claims a high ball in the quarter-final against Benfica
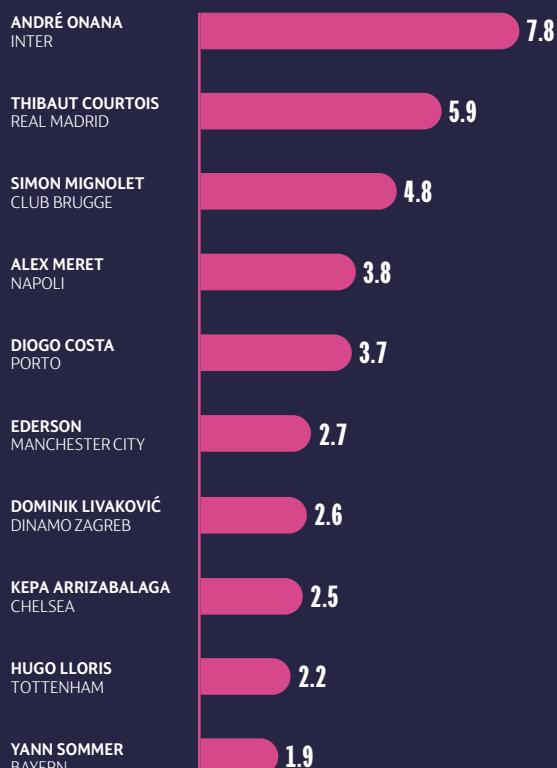
CLEAN SHEETS

Inter goalkeeper André Onana topped the charts for both clean sheets and goals prevented in 2022/23. With regards to the former, the Cameroonian became the second Inter goalkeeper after Francesco Toldo in 2002/03 to keep eight clean sheets over the course of a Champions League campaign, albeit where Toldo played 18 games (including a two-legged qualifying tie), Onana played 13. Club Brugge's Simon Mignolet produced all five of his shut-outs in a group stage in which his side's defence went unbreached in their three away games.

ANDRÉ ONANA
INTER — 8

EDERSON
MANCHESTER CITY — 7

SIMON MIGNOLET
CLUB BRUGGE — 5

THIBAUT COURTOIS
REAL MADRID — 5

ALEX MERET
NAPOLI — 4

DIOGO COSTA
PORTO — 4

KEPA ARRIZABALAGA
CHELSEA — 3

ALISSON BECKER
LIVERPOOL — 3

GOALS PREVENTED

The goals-prevented metric underscores the size of André Onana's contribution during Inter's run to the final. He ranks comfortably first with 7.8 goals prevented and the most memorable example was probably his double save from Zaidu and Mehdi Taremi with the score at 0-0 during Inter's round of 16 home win against Porto. The Taremi follow-up strike would have been scored 67% of the time, statistically. The second-ranked Thibaut Courtois actually prevented more goals in this campaign than in 2021/22 when he was first in this category (4.6).

ANDRÉ ONANA
INTER — 7.8

THIBAUT COURTOIS
REAL MADRID — 5.9

SIMON MIGNOLET
CLUB BRUGGE — 4.8

ALEX MERET
NAPOLI — 3.8

DIOGO COSTA
PORTO — 3.7

EDERSON
MANCHESTER CITY — 2.7

DOMINIK LIVAKOVIĆ
DINAMO ZAGREB — 2.6

KEPA ARRIZABALAGA
CHELSEA — 2.5

HUGO LLORIS
TOTTENHAM — 2.2

YANN SOMMER
BAYERN — 1.9

GOALS CONCEDED PER GAME

0.4
EDERSON
MANCHESTER CITY

0.8
ANDRÉ ONANA
INTER

0.8
ALEX MERET
NAPOLI

0.9
KEPA ARRIZABALAGA
CHELSEA

0.9
MIKE MAIGNAN
AC MILAN

1
YANN SOMMER
BAYERN

1
ALEXANDER MEYER
DORTMUND

1
DIOGO COSTA
PORTO

1
ANTONIO ADÁN
SPORTING

1
HUGO LLORIS
TOTTENHAM

7 Ederson played 11 times for Manchester City in a campaign in which he kept seven clean sheets and conceded a single goal in each of his other four appearances

SAVE PERCENTAGE

88%

EDERSON
MANCHESTER CITY

81%

ANDRÉ ONANA
INTER

79%

MIKE MAIGNAN
AC MILAN

79%

THIBAUT COURTOIS
REAL MADRID

79%

DIOGO COSTA
PORTO

78%

KEPA ARRIZABALAGA
CHELSEA

78%

ANTONIO ADÁN
SPORTING

77%

YANN SOMMER
BAYERN

76%

SIMON MIGNOLET
CLUB BRUGGE

74%

HUGO LLORIS
TOTTENHAM

Ederson saves from
Lautaro Martínez
in the final

IN POSSESSION

The trend for teams to play out from the back is highlighted by the statistic that the ball did not leave the penalty box from 44% of goal kicks taken in 2022/23. Over four seasons this figure has almost doubled since 2019/20, when it stood at 24%.

Napoli goalkeeper
Alex Meret on the ball

GOAL KICKS RECEIVED INSIDE OWN BOX

2022/23	44%
2021/22	39%
2020/21	36%
2019/20	24%

TOP FIVE

	PARIS	72%
	NAPOLI	69%
	CELTIC	66%
	BAYERN	63%
	LEIPZIG	63%

BOTTOM FIVE

	RANGERS	26%
	MARSEILLE	24%
	ATLÉTICO	23%
	PLZEŇ	19%
	COPENHAGEN	11%

KICKING DISTANCES

Inter's kicking from the back was much-changed from the previous season when, with Samir Handanović in goal, they were the team with most goal kicks received in their own box (69%) – a consequence of defenders taking almost half of them.
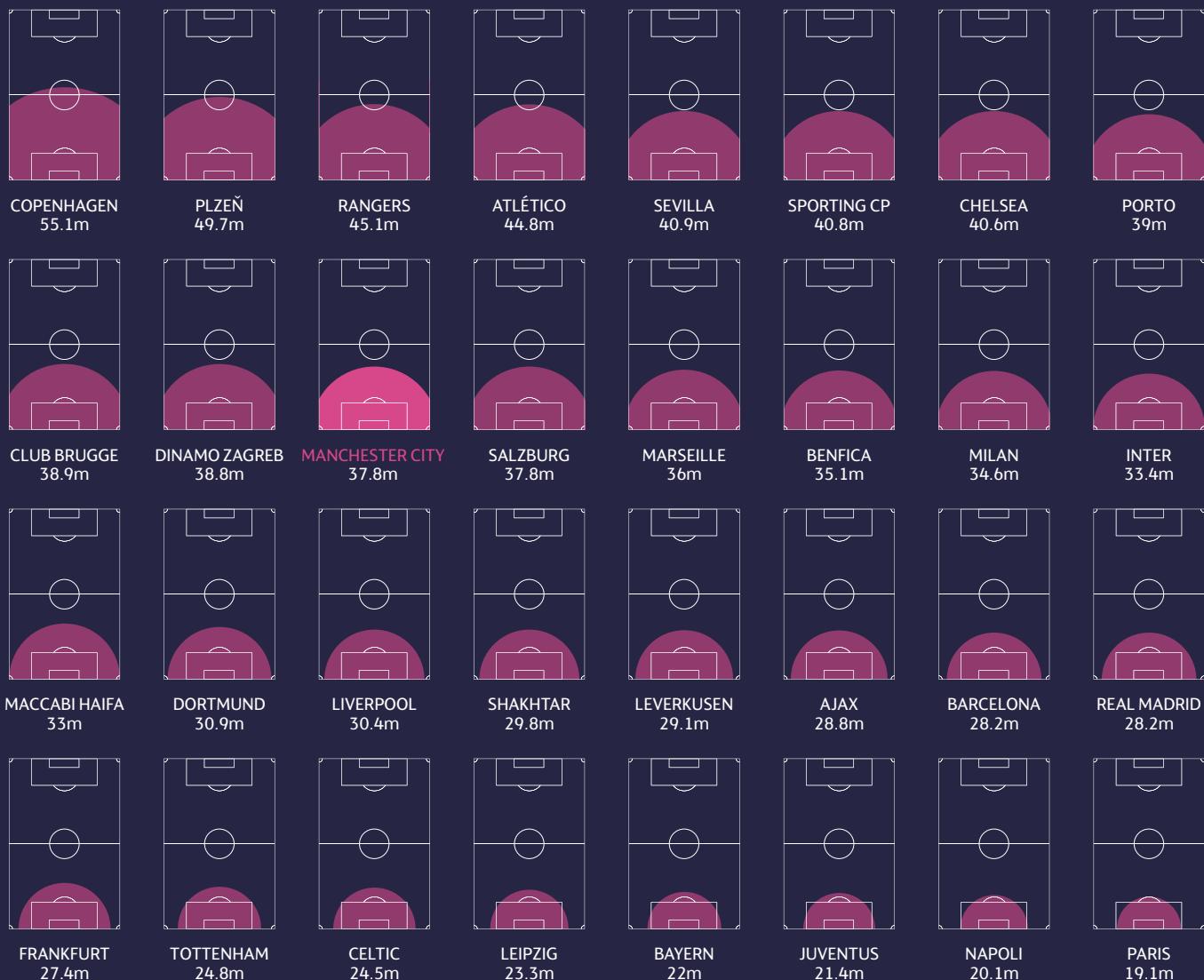
This time they had Onana in goal and he displayed the range of his kicking in a team whose quick, vertical play was noted by the UEFA match observers. Displaying good judgement in his pass selection, Onana would kick short and long, and his range included balls wide to his full-backs or higher up the field. As a result Inter virtually doubled their average pass distance – going from 17.6m, the second-lowest in the competition in 2021/22, to 33.4m.

Onana ranked fourth in the competition for most line-breaking passes from his own half, with 83 – a total surpassed only by Toni Kroos, Rúben Dias and Dayot Upamecano.

The observer at Inter's quarter-final win at Benfica commented on Onana's ability to "break the high press from Benfica to link the play higher up the pitch". In the second leg against Benfica, meanwhile, his kick up the pitch to Edin Džeko was the opening pass in a sequence leading to Inter's first goal.

The correlation between kicking short and keeping the ball is reflected by the fact the three teams who averaged the longest passing distance from goal kicks also had the smallest average share of possession: Viktoria Plzeň, Copenhagen and Rangers.

AVERAGE PASS DISTANCE FROM GOAL KICKS

COPENHAGEN 55.1m	PLZEŇ 49.7m	RANGERS 45.1m	ATLÉTICO 44.8m	SEVILLA 40.9m	SPORTING CP 40.8m	CHELSEA 40.6m	PORTO 39m
CLUB BRUGGE 38.9m	DINAMO ZAGREB 38.8m	MANCHESTER CITY 37.8m	SALZBURG 37.8m	MARSEILLE 36m	BENFICA 35.1m	MILAN 34.6m	INTER 33.4m
MACCABI HAIFA 33m	DORTMUND 30.9m	LIVERPOOL 30.4m	SHAKHTAR 29.8m	LEVERKUSEN 29.1m	AJAX 28.8m	BARCELONA 28.2m	REAL MADRID 28.2m
FRANKFURT 27.4m	TOTTENHAM 24.8m	CELTIC 24.5m	LEIPZIG 23.3m	BAYERN 22m	JUVENTUS 21.4m	NAPOLI 20.1m	PARIS 19.1m

0.4 Goals per game conceded by Ederson

8 Clean sheets by André Onana

11 Crosses caught by Onana

FITNESS AND SPEED

Benfica covered the most distance per game, while Bayern full-back Alphonso Davies recorded the highest speed of the season

BENFICA'S RUNNING MEN

Quarter-finalists Benfica were the team who covered the most distance per game on average, going in excess of 120km in six of their ten games. To put this into the context of their playing style, they had two full-backs who looked to play high up the pitch and three creative midfielders in a 1-4-2-3-1 who rotated positions and provided forward runs in support of centre-forward Gonçalo Ramos.

Rafa Silva, as noted by the observer at the game where they covered the most ground of all – the 2-0 round of 16 win at Club Brugge – was a particularly willing runner in behind.

For their home win over Juventus (fourth on the list below) the observer noted other reasons for the distance covered: fast passing with lots of changing of positions and immediate attempts to regain the ball following turnovers. And with an average possession share of 49% across their ten matches, they had more need to win the ball back than sides who dominated possession.

At the other end of the scale, after two seasons where they ranked last, Paris Saint-Germain were only marginally better as the second-bottom side above Maccabi Haifa.
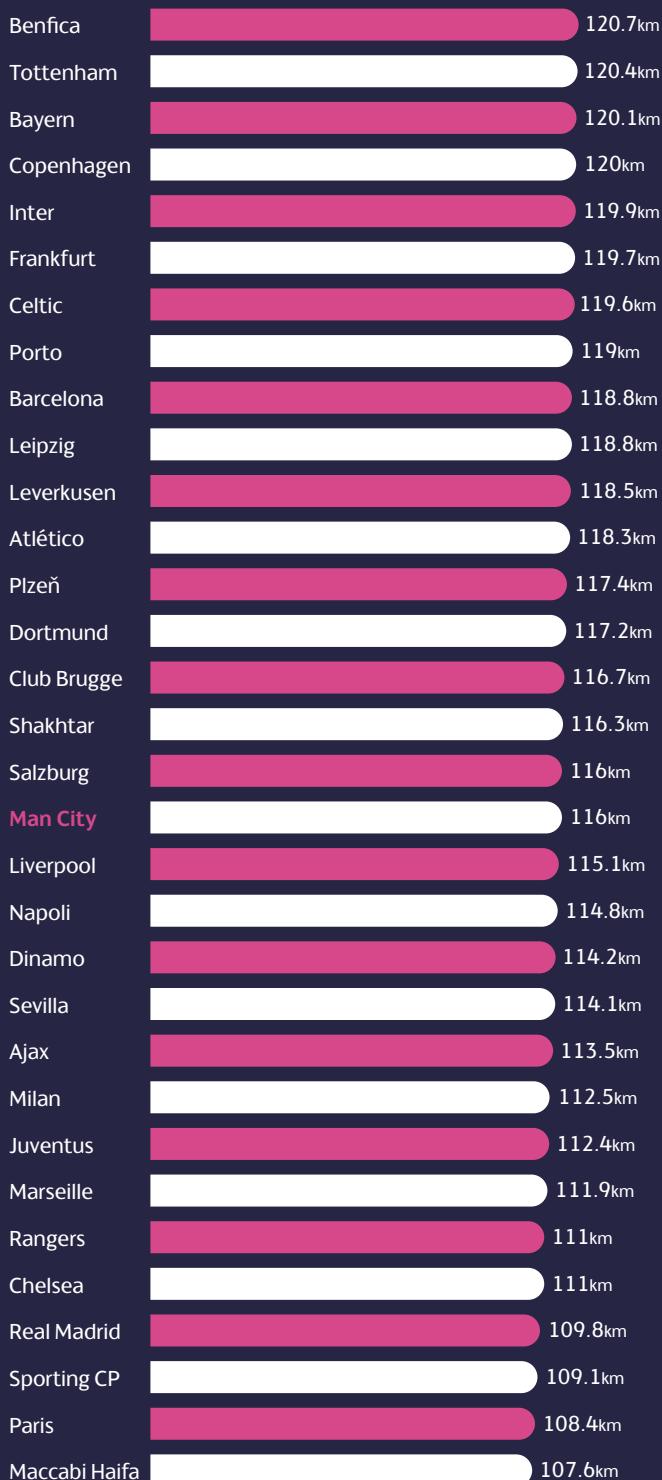
BENFICA AVERAGE DISTANCE (TOP SIX GAMES)

Club Brugge (a)	127.5km	
Inter (a)	126.7km	
Inter (h)	123.2km	
Juventus (h)	122.3km	
Juventus (a)	121.8km	
Maccabi Haifa (a)	120.4km	

COPENHAGEN GO THE DISTANCE

Not coincidentally, the match in which Copenhagen produced the most ball recoveries (62) of their campaign was also the match where they ran the most. Indeed, no other team matched the 131.23km collectively covered by the Danish side in earning a point against Dortmund that evening. As the UEFA observer following that Matchday 2 fixture at Parken remarked, they produced plenty of recoveries in their own half and quick switches from defence to attack, together with rapid forward passes.

AVERAGE DISTANCE PER GAME

Team	Distance
Benfica	120.7km
Tottenham	120.4km
Bayern	120.1km
Copenhagen	120km
Inter	119.9km
Frankfurt	119.7km
Celtic	119.6km
Porto	119km
Barcelona	118.8km
Leipzig	118.8km
Leverkusen	118.5km
Atlético	118.3km
Plzeň	117.4km
Dortmund	117.2km
Club Brugge	116.7km
Shakhtar	116.3km
Salzburg	116km
Man City	116km
Liverpool	115.1km
Napoli	114.8km
Dinamo	114.2km
Sevilla	114.1km
Ajax	113.5km
Milan	112.5km
Juventus	112.4km
Marseille	111.9km
Rangers	111km
Chelsea	111km
Real Madrid	109.8km
Sporting CP	109.1km
Paris	108.4km
Maccabi Haifa	107.6km

Bayern left-back Alphonso Davies was unmatched for speed in 2022/23

MIDFIELDERS WITH MOTORS

Not for nothing is the central part of a football pitch known as the engine room – as reflected by this list of top ten of players to cover the greatest average distance in 2022/23. If Celtic's attacking full-back Greg Taylor sits top with 11.6km, the two men right behind – Nicolas Seiwald and Maurits Kjærgaard – were midfielders in a Salzburg side whose average number of ball recoveries per match (64.8) was second to none. It is worth adding that they had to chase the ball more than most too given that Salzburg's average possession share was 40% – the season's fourth-lowest. That their fellow midfielder Nicolás Capaldo (eighth with 11.2km) also features on this list underlines all the more Salzburg's approach.

Another name to note is Djibril Sow, the player ranked joint-fourth on the list with an average distance run of 11.4km; he played in midfield for an Eintracht Frankfurt side who were joint-first with Salzburg for most recoveries across the campaign. Bayern München's Joshua Kimmich, by contrast, saw plenty of the ball, ranking fourth for the most touches per match on average (93.9), but he was prolific too in terms of kilometres run, ranking among the top six for the third successive season.

SPEED KINGS

Bayern's Alphonso Davies recorded the season's top speed with a sprint speed of 37.1km per hour in his side's group fixture at Inter. Davies was playing at left-back that night and using his speed to advance into attacking positions with Leroy Sané moving inside the pitch. As the match observer said, the Canadian's pace was fundamental to Bayern's excellent attacking transitions.

Davies was also comfortably quicker than the next-ranked pair of Chelsea's Mykhailo Mudryk and Barcelona's Ousmane Dembélé whose top speed was 36.6 km/h. In Mudryk's case he recorded that playing for his previous club Shakhtar in the group stage at Celtic, where he struck the equalising goal on a quick transition and was a danger throughout with his pace and dribbling skills.

Another player worth highlighting is Karim Adeyemi of Borussia Dortmund whose top speed of 36.1km came in the round of 16 home game against Chelsea in which he sprinted from his own half to score a fabulous breakaway goal – prompting his coach, Edin Terzić, to jokingly compare him with the Road Runner cartoon character.

AVERAGE DISTANCE PER MATCH

Greg Taylor	Celtic	11.6km
Nicolas Seiwald	Salzburg	11.6km
Maurits Kjærgaard	Salzburg	11.5km
Djibril Sow	Frankfurt	11.4km
Joshua Kimmich	Bayern	11.4km
Taras Stepanenko	Shakhtar	11.4km
Nicolò Barella	Inter	11.3km
Luis Diaz	Liverpool	11.3km
Nicolás Capaldo	Salzburg	11.2km
Konrad Laimer	Leipzig	11.1km
Artem Bondarenko	Shakhtar	11.1km

Minimum of 3 games played

TOP SPEEDS

Alphonso Davies	Bayern	37.1km/h
Mykhailo Mudryk	Chelsea	36.6km/h
Ousmane Dembélé	Barcelona	36.6km/h
Rafael Leão	Milan	36.5km/h
Gabriel Veron	Porto	36.4km/h
Federico Valverde	Real Madrid	36.3km/h
Nuno Tavares	Marseille	36.2km/h
Moussa Diaby	Leverkusen	36.1km/h
Karim Adeyemi	Dortmund	36.1km/h
Rafa Silva	Benfica	35.9km/h
Dominik Szoboszlai	Leipzig	35.9km/h

AFC AJAX

NED

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

---

COACH — ALFRED SCHREUDER

BORN: 02/11/1972, Barneveld (NED)
NATIONALITY: Dutch
HEAD COACH: from 01/07/2022 to 26/01/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	6	2	0	4	33%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	10	2	4	4	20%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
54%

Max. 75% v Rangers (h)
Min. 43% v Liverpool (a)
UCL rank: 11
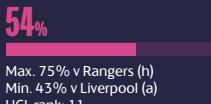
POSSESSION POSITION
First third	33%
Middle third	48%
Attacking third	19%

529
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 808 v Rangers (h)
Min. 375 v Napoli (h)
UCL rank: 11

85%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 92% v Rangers (h)
Min. 73% v Napoli (h)
UCL rank: 15

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	41 (8% of total)	UCL rank: 15
Medium	156 (29%)	UCL rank: 6
Short	332 (63%)	UCL rank: 13

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	11.5	6

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
	Average	UCL rank
	6	3=

DISTANCE COVERED
113.5 km
Max. 117.9 v Rangers (a)
Min. 104.8 v Napoli (h)
UCL rank: 23
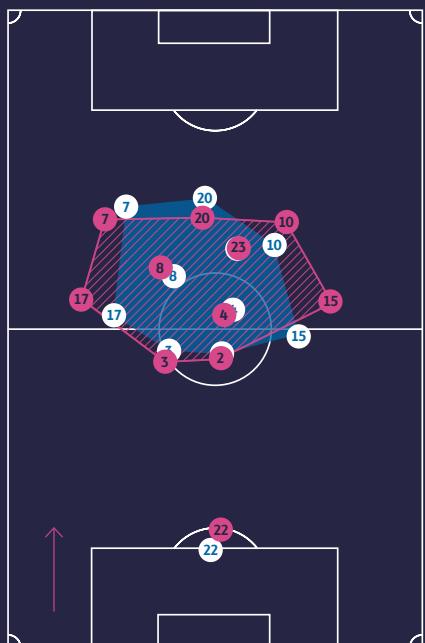
*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%
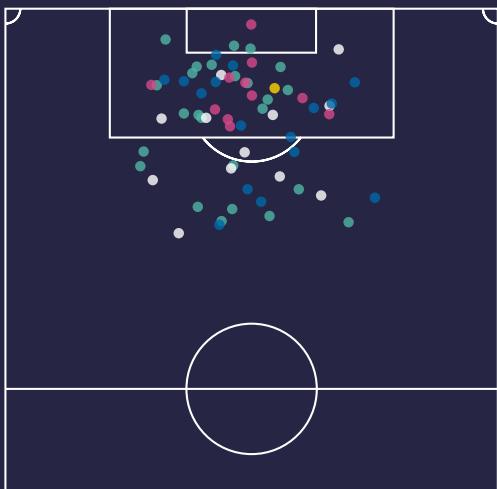
SHAPE

Example: v Rangers (h)

In possession (3) | Out of possession (3)

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
22	Remko Pasveer	6	540		
DEFENDERS					
2	Jurriën Timber	6	530		
3	Calvin Bassey	6	540		1
5	Owen Wijndal	2	76		1
15	Devyne Rensch	4	288		
17	Daley Blind	5	409		
19	Jorge Sánchez	5	268		
25	Youri Baas	3	41		
MIDFIELDERS					
4	Edson Álvarez	6	533	1	
6	Davy Klaassen	5	210	1	
8	Kenneth Taylor	6	420		1
20	Mohammed Kudus	6	451	4	2
21	Florian Grillitsch	5	55		
FORWARDS					
7	Steven Bergwijn	6	522	2	
9	Brian Brobbey	5	114		
10	Dušan Tadić	5	433		1
11	Lucas Ocampos	2	15		
23	Steven Berghuis	6	467	2	2
35	Francisco Conceição	3	14		1

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

---

ATTEMPTS

11 GOALS
1.8 per match; UCL rank: 9

8.5 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.4 per match; UCL rank: 16

65 GOAL ATTEMPTS
10.8 per match; UCL rank: 25

24 ON TARGET
4 per match; UCL rank: 18

GOALS		14%
SAVED		31%
BLOCKED		19%
WOODWORK		1%
OFF TARGET		34%

AVERAGE AGE
25.3

CARDS
15 | **1** | Sent off: Tadić v Napoli (h)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; also 1-3-4-3, 1-4-5-1 when defending
- Build up from back with three players, midfield pivot joining centre-backs
- Full-backs push to increase numbers in midfield and support attacks
- Álvarez key in holding role as fellow midfielders look forward
- Wingers keep width, coming occasionally into pockets to create space for full-backs
- Look for overloads in wide areas, interchanging positions
- Quick transitions notably through Bergwijn – speed and 1v1 threat
- Scoring threat and link-up play of four-goal Kudus

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Mohammed Kudus	4	8	4	1.8
2	Steven Berghuis	2	13	3	1.1
3	Steven Bergwijn	2	10	5	1.8

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Steven Berghuis	2	4	1.0
2	Mohammed Kudus	2	3	0.2
3	Calvin Bassey	1	0	0.1

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Calvin Bassey	427	330	89	56
2	Jurriën Timber	417	355	94	55
3	Edson Álvarez	364	281	86	49

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Calvin Bassey	39	9	7
2	Edson Álvarez	37	8	11
3	Jurriën Timber	28	1	8

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

CLUB ATLÉTICO DE MADRID

ESP

COACH — DIEGO SIMEONE

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

GROUP B

POR	LEV	BRU	BRU	LEV	POR
W 2-1	L 2-0	L 2-0	D 0-0	D 2-2	L 2-1

ROUND OF 16 · QUARTER-FINALS · SEMI-FINALS · FINAL

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

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	95	46	23	26	48%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	123	69	24	30	56%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
57%
Max. 65% v Club Brugge (h)
Min. 50% v Porto (a)
UCL rank: 6

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	24%
Middle third	56%
Attacking third	21%

557
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 652 v Leverkkusen (h)
Min. 461 v Porto (a)
UCL rank: 7

86%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 89% v Leverkusen (h)
Min. 82% v Porto (h)
UCL rank: 10

PASS DISTANCE
Long	48 (9% of total)	UCL rank: 12
Medium	200 (36%)	UCL rank: 11
Short	310 (56%)	UCL rank: 5

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	13.8	16

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
	Average	UCL rank
	6	3=

DISTANCE COVERED
118.3 km
Max. 120.4 v Leverkusen (h)
Min. 116.1 v Porto (a)
UCL rank: 12
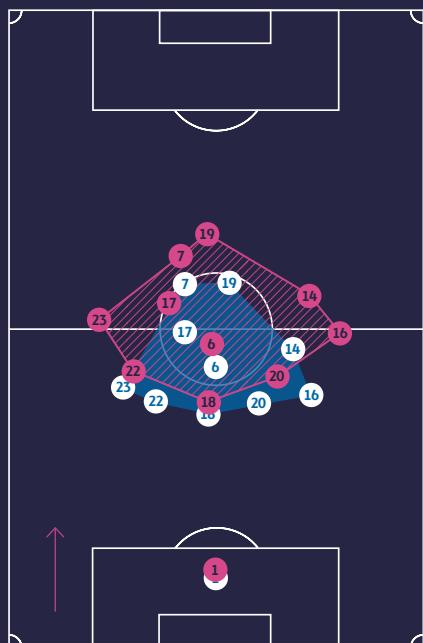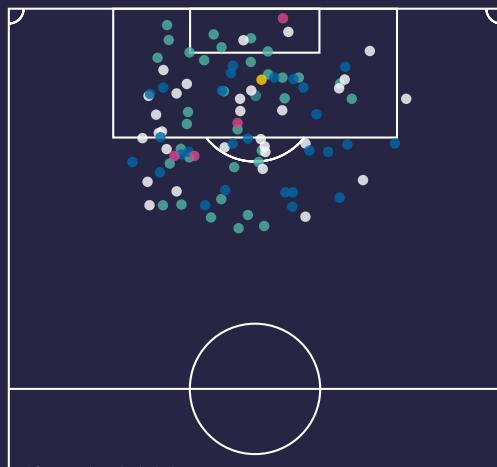
*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Leverkusen (a)

◪ ❸ In possession   ■ ❸ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

*Own goal not included on map

5 **GOALS** (1 own goal*)
0.8 per match; UCL rank: 25=

9.8 **EXPECTED GOALS (xG)**
1.6 per match; UCL rank: 10

97 **GOAL ATTEMPTS**
16.2 per match; UCL rank: 3

35 **ON TARGET**
5.8 per match; UCL rank: 6=

GOALS	5%
SAVED	34%
BLOCKED	26%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	34%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Ivo Grbić	1	90		
13	Jan Oblak	5	450		
DEFENDERS					
2	José María Giménez	5	402		
15	Stefan Savić	3	270		
16	Nahuel Molina	6	467		
18	Felipe	1	90		
22	Mario Hermoso	3	157	1	
23	Reinildo	6	512		
MIDFIELDERS					
4	Geoffrey Kondogbia	3	225		
5	Rodrigo De Paul	5	255	1	
6	Koke	4	330		
11	Thomas Lemar	2	105		
14	Macos Llorente	3	213		
17	Saúl Ñíguez	5	284		
20	Axel Witsel	6	461		1
21	Yannick Carrasco	6	303	1	2
34	Pablo Barrios	1	5		
FORWARDS					
7	João Félix	5	217		
8	Antoine Griezmann	6	406	1	1
9	Matheus Cunha	5	119		
10	Ángel Correa	6	283		
19	Álvaro Morata	5	297		

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

AVERAGE AGE
27.7

CARDS
🟨 **13**   🟥 **0**

KEY FEATURES

• 1-3-5-2 with variations (1-3-4-3, 1-4-5-1); also started in 1-4-4-2
• Tactically flexible with in-game switches between back five and four
• Calm, authoritative figure of goalkeeper Oblak
• Defensive discipline with pressing structure in middle third
• Captain Koke organising and distributing ball well in midfield
• Witsel's capacity to keep possession, link defence and attack; filled in at centre-back
• Ability to combine quick counters with more patient attacking possessions
• Intelligence and movement of Griezmann, receiving between the lines

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Antoine Griezmann	1	21	11	2.5
2	Yannick Carrasco	1	13	6	1.7
3	Rodrigo De Paul	1	5	4	0.2

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Reinildo	350	271	90	32
2	Axel Witsel	343	263	94	26
3	José María Giménez	286	235	88	33

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Yannick Carrasco	2	4	0.3
2	Antoine Griezmann	1	8	0.8
3	Ángel Correa	1	5	0.5

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Reinildo	43	8	5
2	Geoffrey Kondogbia	30	4	7
3	Axel Witsel	29	3	3

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

FC BARCELONA

ESP

GROUP C							ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
PLZ W 5-1	BAY L 2-0	INT L 1-0	INT D 3-3	BAY L 0-3	PLZ W 2-4					

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

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	8	2	2	4	25%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	27	10	9	8	37%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
65%
Max. 76% v Plzeň (h), Plzeň (a)
Min. 52% v Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 1

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	19%
Middle third	55%
Attacking third	25%

623
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 752 v Plzeň (a)
Min. 502 v Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 2

89%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 91% v Plzeň (h), Inter (a), Plzeň (a)
Min. 84% v Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 4

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	42 (8% of total)	UCL rank: 24
Medium	247 (40%)	UCL rank: 3
Short	334 (54%)	UCL rank: 4

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
Average	UCL rank
9.3	1

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
Average	UCL rank
7	2=

DISTANCE COVERED
118.8 km
Max. 126.4 v Inter (h)
Min. 113.1 v Plzeň (a)
UCL rank: 9

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Inter (h)

▨ ❸ In possession | ■ ❸ Out of possession

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Marc-André ter Stegen	5	450		
26	Iñaki Peña	1	90		
DEFENDERS					
2	Héctor Bellerín	2	180		
3	Gerard Piqué	4	257		
4	Ronald Araújo	1	90		
15	Andreas Christensen	3	218		
17	Marcos Alonso	5	405	1	
18	Jordi Alba	2	147		1
23	Jules Koundé	3	247		1
24	Eric García	4	223		1
28	Alejandro Balde	4	168		
MIDFIELDERS					
5	Sergio Busquets	4	292		
8	Pedri	5	403		
19	Franck Kessie	6	273	1	
20	Sergi Roberto	3	207		2
21	Frenkie de Jong	4	235		
29	Marc Casadó	1	23		
30	Gavi	5	331		
32	Pablo Torre	3	94	1	
34	Álvaro Sanz	1	13		
FORWARDS					
7	Ousmane Dembélé	6	415	1	2
9	Robert Lewandowski	5	442	5	
10	Ansu Fati	6	241	1	
11	Ferran Torres	5	184	3	1
14	Memphis Depay	1	15		
22	Raphinha	5	297		2

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

AVERAGE AGE
25.4

CARDS
🟨 10 🟥 0

ATTEMPTS

12
GOALS
2 per match; UCL rank: 7=

9.9
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.7 per match; UCL rank: 8

90
GOAL ATTEMPTS
15 per match; UCL rank: 8

35
ON TARGET
5.8 per match; UCL rank: 6=

GOALS	12%
SAVED	34%
BLOCKED	24%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	29%

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3
- Excel at keeping possession, with fast transitions to attack when possible
- Sweeper-keeper Ter Stegen starts build-up from back
- Back four willing to take risks and go 1v1 with opponent
- Full-backs go high, wide and also inside as playmakers; much rotation
- Press with lots of numbers but high line was exposed v Bayern
- Mobile midfield technicians (Pedri) control play, combine with forwards
- Speed, 1v1 threat of Dembélé – most crosses in group stage (51)
- Lewandowski provides reference point in attack

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Robert Lewandowski	5	24	11	3.2
2	Ferran Torres	3	7	3	1.3
3	Ousmane Dembélé	1	10	5	1.1

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Ousmane Dembélé	2	9	1.9
2	Raphinha	2	7	0.8
3	Sergi Roberto	2	1	0.7

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Marcos Alonso	387	312	91	39
2	Pedri	282	248	89	24
3	Gerard Piqué	242	195	93	29

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Marcos Alonso	42	2	6
2	Pedri	24	2	5
3	Sergio Busquets	23	8	4

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

FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN

GER

		INT	BAR	PLZ	PLZ	BAR	INT	PAR	PAR	MCI	MCI
GROUP C		W 0-2	W 2-0	W 5-0	W 2-4	W 0-3	W 2-0	W 0-1	W 2-0	L 3-0	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

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	55	33	8	14	60%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	74	45	11	18	61%

*Julian Nagelsmann in charge Matchdays 1 to 8

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
56%
Max. 70% v Plzeň (h)
Min. 45% v Paris (h)
UCL rank: 8

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	30%
Middle third	49%
Attacking third	21%

572
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 682 v Plzeň (a)
Min. 470 v Barcelona (a)
UCL rank: 5

88%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 90% vs Inter (h), Paris (a), Man City (h)
Min. 83% v Barcelona (h)
UCL rank: 5

PASS DISTANCE
Long	43 (8% of total)	UCL rank: 19
Medium	242 (42%)	UCL rank: 4
Short	287 (50%)	UCL rank: 10

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	10.5	4

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
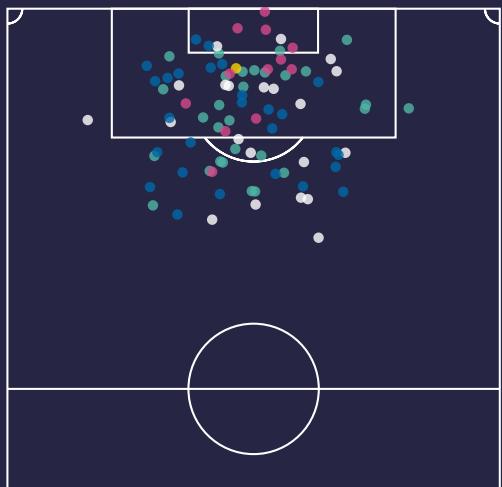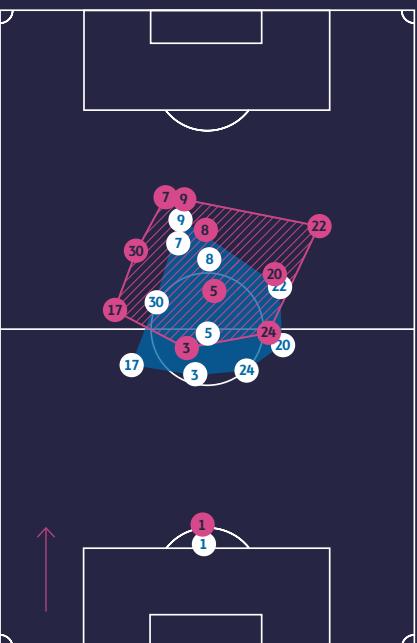|	Average	UCL rank
	7	2=
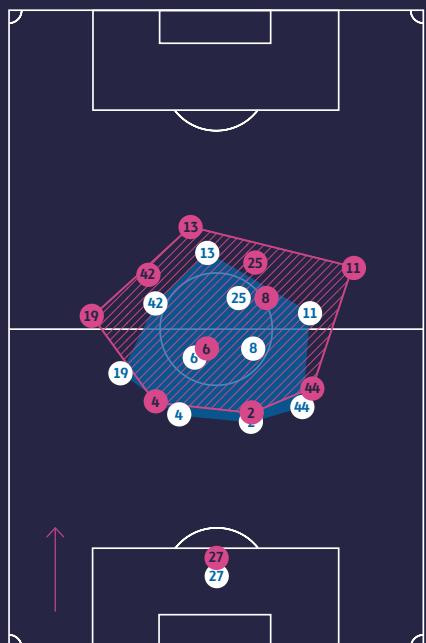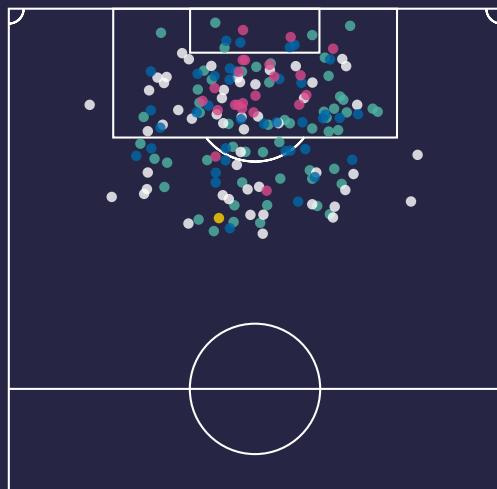
DISTANCE COVERED
120.1 km
Max. 124.9 v Inter (h)
Min. 117.4 v Plzeň (h)
UCL rank: 3

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Paris (h)

🔲 ❸ In possession | ◼ ❸ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

22 GOALS
2.2 per match; UCL rank: 6

19.5 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
2 per match; UCL rank: 3

168 GOAL ATTEMPTS
16.8 per match; UCL rank: 2

75 ON TARGET
7.5 per match; UCL rank: 1

GOALS	12%
SAVED	39%
BLOCKED	19%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	29%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Manuel Neuer	3	270		
26	Sven Ulreich	3	270		
27	Yann Sommer	4	360		
DEFENDERS					
2	Dayot Upamecano	10	715		
4	Matthijs de Ligt	7	615		
5	Benjamin Pavard	9	593	2	
21	Lucas Hernández	2	174	1	
22	João Cancelo	4	122		1
40	Noussair Mazraoui	5	393		
44	Josip Stanišić	8	346		
MIDFIELDERS					
6	Joshua Kimmich	9	810	1	3
8	Leon Goretzka	9	607	2	4
10	Leroy Sané	8	556	4	2
14	Paul Wanner	2	34		
15	Marcel Sabitzer	6	279		
19	Alphonso Davies	9	602		2
38	Ryan Gravenberch	6	250		
42	Jamal Musiala	9	532		2
FORWARDS					
7	Serge Gnabry	8	339	2	3
11	Kingsley Coman	7	538	1	1
13	Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting	7	441	4	
17	Sadio Mané	9	551	3	1
25	Thomas Müller	8	365	1	1
39	Mathys Tel	5	140		

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.5

CARDS
23 🟨 **1** 🟥
Sent off: Pavard v Paris (a)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; attacking at times in a 1-3-4-2-1
- Apply aggressive pressure with 1v1 defending right across pitch
- Line-breaking passes from the back by Upamecano
- Kimmich's reading of game and superb weight of pass in pivot role
- Ability to find players (Musiala) between the lines, e.g. at Man City
- Excellent transitions to attack with lots of movement and energy
- Fluid front line with attacking players exchanging positions going forward
- Quick talented individuals with 1v1 ability (Sané, Coman, Gnabry)

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Leroy Sané	4	18	9	2.5
2	Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting	4	15	8	2.6
3	Sadio Mané	3	15	10	1.9

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Leon Goretzka	4	5	0.7
2	Joshua Kimmich	3	17	1.5
3	Serge Gnabry	3	1	0.4

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Joshua Kimmich	658	539	91%	25%
2	Dayot Upamecano	601	477	91%	32%
3	Benjamin Pavard	539	453	91%	42%

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Alphonso Davies	56	10	8
2	Joshua Kimmich	53	11	20
3	Dayot Upamecano	50	8	14

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

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

![SL Benfica logo]

SL BENFICA

POR

MHA	JUV	PAR	PAR	JUV	MHA	CLB	CLB	INT	INT
W 2-0	W 1-2	D 1-1	D 1-1	W 4-3	W 1-6	W 0-2	W 5-1	L 0-2	D 3-3

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

COACH — ROGER SCHMIDT

BORN: 13/03/1967, Kierspe (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: Since 01/07/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	31	13	11	7	42%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	87	48	20	19	55%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
53%
Max. 60% v Inter (h)
Min. 36% v Paris (h)
UCL rank: 12

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	27%
Middle third	52%
Attacking third	21%

535
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 646 v Inter (a)
Min. 379 v Paris (h)
UCL rank: 10

86%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 91% v Club Brugge (h)
Min. 82% v Paris (h)
UCL rank: 12

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	49 (9% of total)	UCL rank: 10
Medium	196 (37%)	UCL rank: 13
Short	290 (54%)	UCL rank: 8

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
Average	UCL rank
12.3	11

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
Average	UCL rank
6	3=

DISTANCE COVERED
120.7 km
Max. 127.5 v Club Brugge (a)
Min. 115.9 v Club Brugge (h)
UCL rank: 1
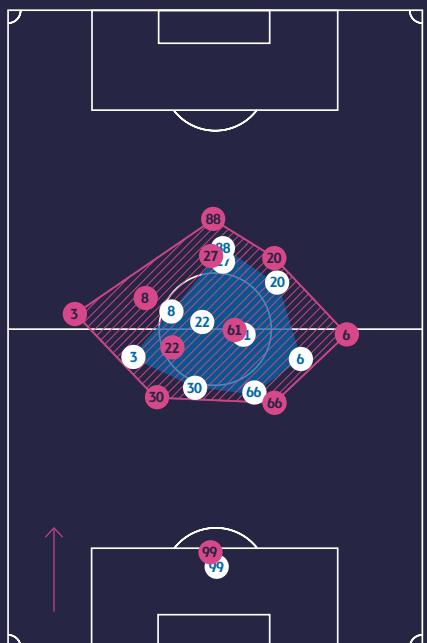
*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Clube Brugge (h)

▨ ❸ In possession | ■ ❸ Out of possession

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
99	Odysseas Vlachodimos	10	900		
DEFENDERS					
2	Gilberto	5	198		
3	Alejandro Grimaldo	10	900	2	4
4	Lucas Verissimo	2	4		
6	Alexander Bah	8	657		2
30	Nicolás Otamendi	9	794		1
66	António Silva	10	896	2	
91	Morato	2	106		
MIDFIELDERS					
8	Fredrik Aursnes	10	618	1	
13	Enzo Fernández	5	429		2
20	João Mário	10	865	6	2
22	Chiquinho	9	404		1
61	Florentino	10	861		
87	João Neves	3	27		1
FORWARDS					
7	David Neres	9	443	3	1
15	Gonçalo Guedes	2	41		
17	Diogo Gonçalves	4	36		
18	Rodrigo Pinho	2	14		
21	Andreas Schjelderup	1	1		
27	Rafa Silva	10	826	5	2
33	Petar Musa	5	125	2	
39	Henrique Araújo	1	8	1	
88	Gonçalo Ramos	10	719	3	1
93	Julian Draxler	3	29		

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

ATTEMPTS

26
GOALS
2.6 per match; UCL rank: 1=

19.5
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
2 per match; UCL rank: 5

138
GOAL ATTEMPTS
13.8 per match; UCL rank: 13

54
ON TARGET
5.4 per match; UCL rank: 10

GOALS	15%
SAVED	32%
BLOCKED	18%
WOODWORK	3%
OFF TARGET	32%

AVERAGE AGE
26.5

CARDS
🟨 19   🟥 0

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; shift to 1-4-4-2 out of possession
- Possession-based team who play through the thirds with quick one and two-touch play
- Well-drilled in and out of possession with quick transitions both ways
- Youthful side with sprinkling of experienced players (Otamendi, João Mário)
- Defensive midfielder Florentino first for interceptions in UCL (27)
- Strong running, vision and passing of Aursnes from midfield
- Talented technician Rafa Silva brings creativity, awareness, 1v1 ability
- Trio in second line of attack rotate positions, providing forward runs to support striker Ramos

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	João Mário	6	12	7	4.7
2	Rafa Silva	5	28	12	4.4
3	Gonçalo Ramos	3	24	12	3.9

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	António Silva	571	433	92	31
2	Alejandro Grimaldo	560	493	85	30
3	Florentino	551	433	89	29

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Alejandro Grimaldo	4	15	2.5
2	João Mário	2	13	2.6
3	Rafa Silva	2	13	1.3

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	João Mário	65	8	5
2	Alejandro Grimaldo	63	10	13
3	Florentino	60	15	27

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

CELTIC FC

SCO

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

COACH

ANGE POSTECOGLU

BORN: 27/08/1965, Athens (GRE)
NATIONALITY: Australian
HEAD COACH: From 10/06/2021 to 06/06/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	6	0	2	4	0%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	20	6	3	11	30%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
44%

Max. 56% v Shakhtar (a)
Min 36% v Real Madrid (h), Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 25

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	25%
Middle third	53%
Attacking third	22%

491
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 615 v Shakhtar (h)
Min. 401 v Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 16

86%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 89% v Shakhtar (h)
Min. 82% v Leipzig (h)
UCL rank: 7

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	26 (5% of total)	UCL rank: 32
Medium	221 (45%)	UCL rank: 5
Short	244 (50%)	UCL rank: 17

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

	Average	UCL rank
	17.1	27

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

	Average	UCL rank
	8	1=

DISTANCE COVERED
119.6 km
Max. 124.5 v Shakhtar (a)
Min. 113.1 v Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 7

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Shakhtar (h)

▨ ③ In possession   ■ ③ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

*Own goal not included on map

4 **GOALS** (1 own goal*)
0.7 per match; UCL rank: 28=

9.2 **EXPECTED GOALS (xG)**
1.5 per match; UCL rank: 12

83 **GOAL ATTEMPTS**
13.8 per match; UCL rank: 11=

30 **ON TARGET**
5 per match; UCL rank: 12

GOALS	4%
SAVED	33%
BLOCKED	21%
WOODWORK	3%
OFF TARGET	38%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Joe Hart	6	540		
DEFENDERS					
3	Greg Taylor	6	540		
4	Carl Starfelt	1	90		
6	Moritz Jenz	6	540		
20	Cameron Carter-Vickers	4	360		
25	Alexandro Bernabei	1	10		
41	Reo Hatate	6	454	1	
57	Stephen Welsh	1	90		
88	Josip Juranović	6	540		
MIDFIELDERS					
9	Sead Hakšabnović	6	228		
11	Liel Abada	5	218		
13	Aaron Mooy	5	152		
16	James McCarthy	1	8		
28	Oliver Abildgaard	2	61		
33	Matthew O'Riley	6	484		
42	Callum McGregor	3	217		
49	James Forrest	3	90		
FORWARDS					
7	Giorgos Giakoumakis	6	245	1	
8	Kyogo Furuhashi	6	361		1
14	David Turnbull	5	99		
17	Jota	4	286	2	
38	Daizen Maeda	6	332		

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

AVERAGE AGE
26

CARDS
🟨 **7**   🟥 **0**

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; also 1-4-5-1 and 1-4-4-2
- Without ball, wingers drop level with midfield; No8 pushes up (1-4-4-2)
- Build from goalkeeper through defenders; lots of movement to open space
- Press high at goal-kicks; instant press when possession lost
- Sitting midfielder provides balance with two centre-backs and inverted full-back
- Fast transitions, using wide players for quick, penetrating runs
- Wingers stay wide while mobile target striker looks to run behind
- 13th for shots on goal (30) and xG (9.21) but only four scored

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

		G	S	OT	xG
1	Jota	2	12	8	0.9
2	Giorgos Giakoumakis	1	10	3	1.7
3	Matt O'Riley	0	16	5	0.9

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

CHANCE CREATION

		A	KP	xA
1	Reo Hatate	1	7	0.4
2	Kyogo Furuhashi	1	1	0.4
3	Jota	0	9	0.8

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

PASSES

		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Moritz Jenz	456	385	93	31
2	Greg Taylor	338	292	85	39
3	Cameron Carter-Vickers	299	245	95	28

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

DEFENDING

		BR	TW	I
1	Josip Juranović	45	7	5
2	Reo Hatate	39	1	3
3	Matt O'Riley	27	7	11

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

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

CHELSEA FC

ENG

GROUP E						ROUND OF 16		QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
DIN	SAL	MIL	MIL	SAL	DIN	DOR	DOR	RMA	RMA		
L 1-0	D 1-1	W 3-0	W 0-2	W 1-2	W 2-1	L 1-0	W 2-0	L 2-0	L 0-2		

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

COACH

FRANK LAMPARD*

BORN: 20/06/1978, London (ENG)
NATIONALITY: English
HEAD COACH: From 06/04/2023 to 28/05/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	16	7	4	5	44%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	17	7	4	6	41%

*Thomas Tuchel in charge Matchday 1; Graham Potter in charge Matchdays 2 to 8

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Kepa Arrizabalaga	9	810		
16	Edouard Mendy	1	90		
DEFENDERS					
6	Thiago Silva	8	641		
14	Trevoh Chalobah	6	437		
21	Ben Chilwell	7	560		
24	Reece James	8	692	1	1
26	Kalidou Koulibaly	7	569		
28	César Azpilicueta	5	259		
32	Marc Cucurella	8	411		
33	Wesley Fofana	5	398	1	
MIDFIELDERS					
5	Enzo Fernández	4	334		
5	Jorginho	6	416	1	
7	N'Golo Kanté	2	165		
8	Mateo Kovačić	8	626	1	
10	Christian Pulišić	5	110		1
12	Ruben Loftus-Cheek	7	280		1
17	Raheem Sterling	9	638	3	1
19	Mason Mount	9	438		2
20	Denis Zakaria	2	73	1	
22	Hakim Ziyech	4	146		
23	Conor Gallagher	8	298		
FORWARDS					
9	Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	6	408	2	1
11	João Félix	4	245		
15	Mykhailo Mudryk	2	94		
18	Armando Broja	5	112		
29	Kai Havertz	10	619	2	

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

AVERAGE AGE 26.9

CARDS 25 | 1
Sent off: Chilwell v Real Madrid (h)

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
57%
Max. 71% v Salzburg (h)
Min. 39% v Dortmund (h)
UCL rank: 4

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	25%
Middle third	53%
Attacking third	22%

553 PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 701 v Milan (a)
Min. 313 v Dortmund (h)
UCL rank: 8

86% PASS ACCURACY
Max. 93% v Milan (a)
Min. 74% v Dortmund (h)
UCL rank: 9

PASS DISTANCE
Long	43 (8% of total)	UCL rank: 20
Medium	202 (37%)	UCL rank: 9
Short	308 (56%)	UCL rank: 6

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
Average	UCL rank
9.4	2

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
Average	UCL rank
7	2=
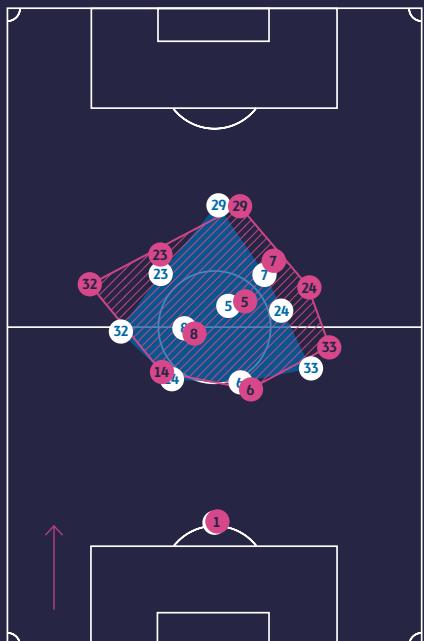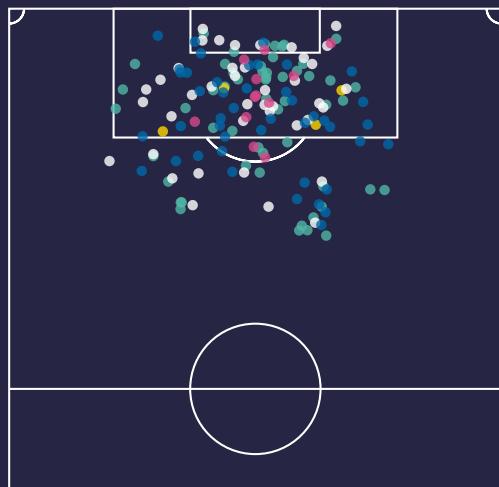
DISTANCE COVERED
111 km
Max. 114.7 v Real Madrid (h)
Min. 105.6 v Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 28

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Real Madrid (h)

3 In possession | 3 Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

12 GOALS
1.2 per match; UCL rank: 19

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

154 GOAL ATTEMPTS
15.4 per match; UCL rank: 7

55 ON TARGET
5.5 per match; UCL rank: 8

GOALS	7%
SAVED	32%
BLOCKED	25%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	34%

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3; also 1-4-2-3-1, 1-4-4-1-1 out of possession
- Thiago Silva's leadership and reading of game in central defence
- Wing-backs provide width when attacking – James joint fifth for open-play crosses
- Out of possession, the ball-side wing-back drops to form back four
- High-energy players press opposition high up pitch
- Midfielder Kovačić mixes defensive ability with composure and athletic forward runs
- Individuals with speed and physicality, equipped to break with speed (v Dortmund)
- Fluid interchange of position from most advanced players

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Raheem Sterling	3	8	4	1.2
2	Kai Havertz	2	25	8	2.6
3	Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	2	15	8	2.3

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Mason Mount	2	11	1.0
2	Reece James	1	8	1.0
3	Raheem Sterling	1	6	0.9

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Mateo Kovačić	494	425	88	30
2	Reece James	434	408	87	25
3	Thiago Silva	432	303	90	34

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Reece James	55	8	7
2	Thiago Silva	47	6	9
3	Mateo Kovačić	40	5	6

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

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

CLUB BRUGGE

BEL

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

COACH

SCOTT PARKER*

BORN: 13/10/1980, London (ENG)
NATIONALITY: English
HEAD COACH: From 31/12/2022 to 08/03/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

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

*Carl Hoefkens was in charge for Matchdays 1 to 6

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

45%

Max 56% v Porto (h)
Min. 35% v Atlético (a)
UCL rank: 23

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	33%
Middle third	52%
Attacking third	15%

438
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 485 v Atlético (h)
Min. 351 v Atlético (a)
UCL rank: 21

86%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 85% v Atlético (h)
Min. 76% v Porto (a), Atlético (a)
UCL rank: 26

PASS DISTANCE

Long	62 (14% of total)	UCL rank: 1
Medium	180 (41%)	UCL rank: 19
Short	195 (45%)	UCL rank: 27

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

	Average	UCL rank
	20.3	29

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

	Average	UCL rank
	4	5=

DISTANCE COVERED
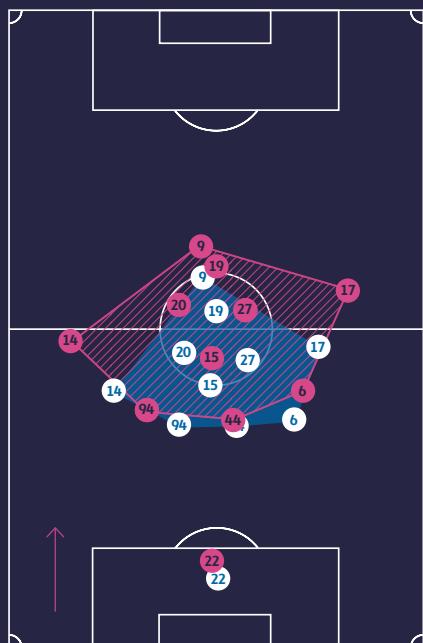
116.7 km
Max. 124.9 v Benfica (h)
Min. 105.4 v Porto (a)
UCL rank: 15

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Atlético (h)

In possession ❸   Out of possession ❸

ATTEMPTS

8
GOALS
1 per match; UCL rank: 21=

8
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1 per match; UCL rank: 25

69
GOAL ATTEMPTS
8.6 per match; UCL rank: 29

22
ON TARGET
2.8 per match; UCL rank: 29

GOALS	10%
SAVED	28%
BLOCKED	27%
WOODWORK	3%
OFF TARGET	33%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
22	Simon Mignolet	8	720		
DEFENDERS					
2	Eduard Sobol	4	107		
5	Jack Hendry	1	90		
6	Denis Odoi	7	524		
14	Bjorn Meijer	8	572	1	1
28	Dedryck Boyata	3	134		
44	Brandon Mechele	8	720		
67	Jorne Spileers	1	1		
77	Clinton Mata	3	159		
94	Abakar Sylla	6	495	1	
MIDFIELDERS					
3	Éder Balanta	4	46		
15	Raphael Onyedika	7	568		
20	Hans Vanaken	8	704		
26	Mats Rits	1	16		
27	Casper Nielsen	8	645		1
89	Lynnt Audoor	1	10		
98	Cisse Sandra	1	7		
FORWARDS					
7	Andreas Skov Olsen	5	298	1	1
9	Ferran Jutglà	8	514	2	2
10	Noa Lang	4	292		
11	Cyle Larin	1	12		
17	Tajon Buchanan	6	521		1
19	Kamal Sowah	7	594	2	
32	Antonio Nusa	4	54	1	
70	Roman Yaremchuk	4	110		

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

AVERAGE AGE

26.3

CARDS

27   **1**

Sent off:
Sowah v Atlético (a)

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

		G	S	OT	xG
1	Kamal Sowah	2	13	5	2.1
2	Ferran Jutglà	2	11	7	1.8
3	Bjorn Meijer	1	5	1	0.4

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

CHANCE CREATION

		A	KP	xA
1	Ferran Jutglà	2	2	0.8
2	Tajon Buchanan	2	1	0.1
3	Andreas Skov Olsen	1	7	0.5

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

PASSES

		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Brandon Mechele	462	347	87	25
2	Hans Vanaken	447	354	84	26
3	Abakar Sylla	307	234	88	37

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

DEFENDING

		BR	TW	I
1	Raphael Onyedika	44	5	6
2	Kamal Sowah	41	7	4
3	Bjorn Meijer	35	9	11

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

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 but back three in possession with 1-3-4-3/1-3-5-2
- Excellent goalkeeper Mignolet: most saves in group stage (30) with 88.2% save percentage
- Defensively disciplined with solid, compact structure (five clean sheets)
- Leadership, drive and decision-making of captain Vanaken in midfield
- Buchanan impressive on wing with speed, energy, 1v1 ability
- Lang in attack caught eye with movement, ability to create space
- Big displays by youngsters Sylla at centre-back; Sowah and Jutglà in attack
- Strong mentality and focus to earn best UCL performance for 30 years

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

FC COPENHAGEN

DEN

DOR	SEV	MCI	MCI	SEV	DOR
L 3-0	D 0-0	L 5-0	D 0-0	L 3-0	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

COACH

JACOB NEESTRUP*

BORN: 08/03/1988, Copenhagen (DEN)
NATIONALITY: Danish
HEAD COACH: Since 20/09/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	4	0	2	2	0%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	4	0	2	2	0%

*Jess Thorup in charge for Matchdays 1 and 2

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
38%

Max. 43% v Sevilla (a)
Min. 25% v Man City (a)
UCL rank: 31

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	37%
Middle third	47%
Attacking third	16%

384
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 446 v Dortmund (h)
Min. 281 v Man City (a)
UCL rank: 29

80%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 85% v Man City (h)
Min. 74% v Sevilla (h)
UCL rank: 7

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	42 (11% of total)	UCL rank: 22
Medium	149 (39%)	UCL rank: 28
Short	193 (50%)	UCL rank: 29

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
Average	UCL rank
18.1	28

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
Average	UCL rank
5	4=

DISTANCE COVERED
120 km
Max. 131.2 v Dortmund (h)
Min. 114 v Sevilla (a)
UCL rank: 4
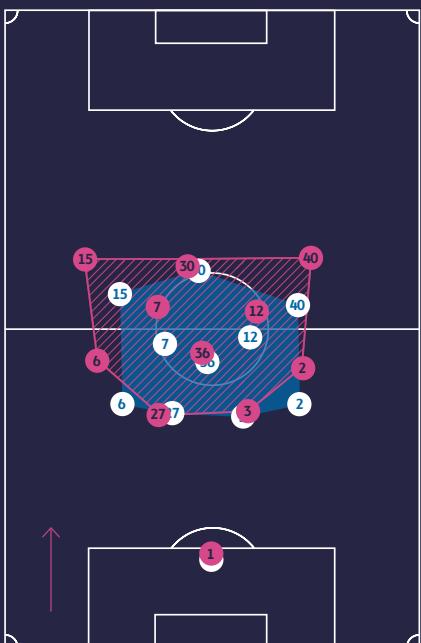
*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%
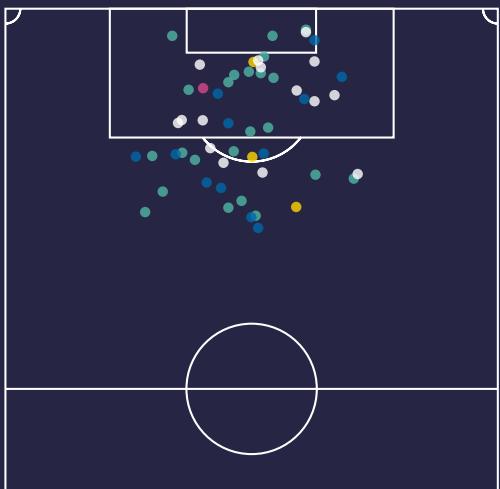
SHAPE

Example: v Dortmund (h)

☑ ③ In possession | ■ ③ Out of possession

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Kamil Grabara	4	360		
51	Mathew Ryan	2	180		
DEFENDERS					
2	Kevin Diks	6	336		
3	Denis Vavro	4	360		
5	David Khocholava	5	431		
6	Christian Sørensen	5	100		
19	Elias Jelert	4	190		
20	Nicolai Boilesen	2	99		
22	Peter Ankersen	1	24		
27	Valdemar Lund	4	305		
34	Victor Kristiansen	6	482		
MIDFIELDERS					
7	Viktor Claesson	6	485		1
8	Ísak Bergmann Johannesson	5	290		
10	Carlos Zeca	2	162		
12	Lukas Lerager	6	450		
15	Mohamed Daramy	6	447		
17	Paul Mukairu	3	42		
30	Hákon Arnar Haraldsson	6	297	1	
35	Marko Stamenic	3	269		
36	William Clem	2	170		
FORWARDS					
14	Andreas Cornelius	2	108		
18	Orri Óskarsson	2	21		
29	Mamoudou Karamoko	1	45		
33	Rasmus Falk	3	189		
40	Roony Bardghji	2	98		

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

AVERAGE AGE
24.5

CARDS
12 **1**

Sent off: Khocholava v Sevilla (a)

ATTEMPTS

1
GOAL
0.2 per match; UCL rank: 32

4.9
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
0.8 per match; UCL rank: 29

54
GOAL ATTEMPTS
9 per match; UCL rank: 28

16
ON TARGET
2.7 per match; UCL rank: 30

GOALS		2%
SAVED		28%
BLOCKED		21%
WOODWORK		5%
OFF TARGET		45%

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-5-1; also 1-4-3-3; back five with two holding midfielders (h) v City
- Defend in compact, deep block, working from side to side
- Good organisation and fighting spirit in draws v Sevilla and City
- Goalkeeper Grabara excelled v City; second-most crosses caught (8) of group stage
- Look to play vertically, with fast switches after winning ball
- Wing play (Daramy) with crosses and clever positional changes
- Clearly rehearsed set pieces with specialist taker Sørensen
- Midfielder Haraldsson clever in forward role v Dortmund; scored their only group stage goal

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Hákon Haraldsson	1	8	4	1.0
2	Lukas Lerager	0	7	4	0.7
3	Viktor Claesson	0	7	3	0.5

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Viktor Claesson	1	6	0.5
2	Mohamed Daramy	0	7	0.7
3	Victor Kristiansen	0	7	0.3

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	David Khocholava	222	173	86	36
2	Victor Kristiansen	205	175	79	46
3	Viktor Claesson	174	135	80	33

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Viktor Claesson	41	8	9
2	Victor Kristiansen	23	6	6
3	Lukas Lerager	21	4	14

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

GNK DINAMO ZAGREB

CRO

CHE	MIL	SAL	SAL	MIL	CHE	ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
W 1-0	L 3-1	L 1-0	D 1-1	L 0-4	L 2-1				

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

COACH

ANTE ČAČIĆ

BORN: 29/09/1953, Zagreb (CRO)
NATIONALITY: Croatian
HEAD COACH: From 21/04/2022 to 06/04/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	11	1	1	9	9%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	36	15	7	14	42%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

47%

Max. 56% v Salzburg (h)
Min. 33% v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 21

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	39%
Middle third	46%
Attacking third	15%

437
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 519 v Milan (h)
Min. 314 v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 22

80%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 86% v Milan (h)
Min. 76% v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 25

PASS DISTANCE

Long	52 (12% of total)	UCL rank: 6
Medium	169 (39%)	UCL rank: 24
Short	216 (49%)	UCL rank: 23

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION	Average	UCL rank
	15.8	24

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD	Average	UCL rank
	2	7=

DISTANCE COVERED

114.2 km
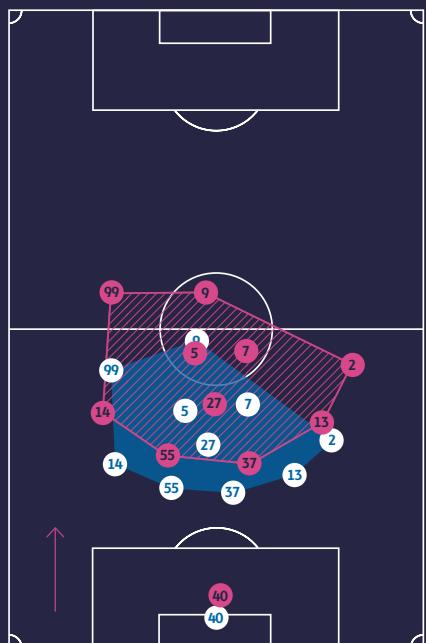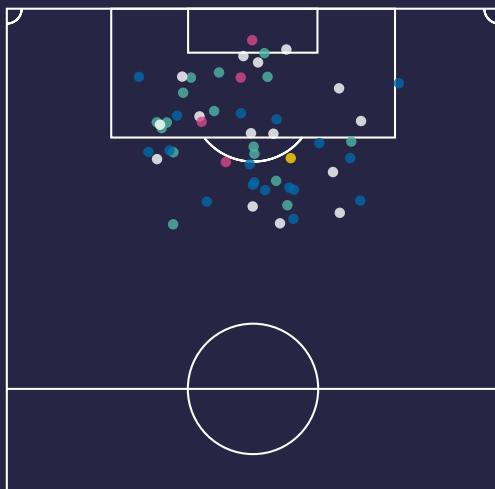
Max. 115.9 v Salzburg (h)
Min. 101.9 v Milan (a)
UCL rank: 21

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Chelsea (h)

▨ **3** In possession   ■ **3** Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

4
GOALS
0.7 per match; UCL rank: 28=

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

55
GOAL ATTEMPTS
9.2 per match; UCL rank: 27

20
ON TARGET
3.3 per match; UCL rank: 27=

GOALS		7%
SAVED		33%
BLOCKED		30%
WOODWORK		2%
OFF TARGET		28%

SQUAD

	App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS				
40 Dominik Livaković	6	540		
DEFENDERS				
2 Sadegh Moharrami	6	410		
6 Rasmus Lauritsen	1	14		
13 Stefan Ristovski	5	374		
28 Kévin Théophile-Catherine	1	76		
37 Josip Šutalo	6	540		
55 Dino Perić	6	540		
MIDFIELDERS				
5 Arijan Ademi	6	475		
7 Luka Ivanušec	6	526		
10 Martin Baturina	5	56		
12 Petar Bočkaj	3	36		
14 Robert Ljubičić	6	540	1	
20 Antonio Marin	1	6		
27 Josip Mišić	6	521		
31 Marko Bulat	3	26		
FORWARDS				
9 Bruno Petković	6	493	1	2
11 Mahir Emreli	1	20		
18 Josip Drmić	6	90		
77 Dario Špikić	6	164		
99 Mislav Oršić	6	494		2

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

AVERAGE AGE
26

CARDS
🟨 **13**   🟥 **0**

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-5-2; 1-5-3-2 defending
- Used compact 1-5-4-1 at times, e.g. defending with mid-block v Chelsea
- Confident goalkeeper Livaković solid with ball at feet, authoritative in air
- Technically strong players, capable of good combination and positional play
- Influential wing-backs Ljubičić and Moharrami support midfield
- Look for quick switches to the wide areas in attacking transitions
- Hold-up play, awareness, movement of centre-forward Petković
- Clever runs by Oršić coming in from left, interchanging with striker

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

		G	S	OT	xG
1	Mislav Oršić	2	13	3	1.1
2	Robert Ljubičić	1	6	1	0.3
3	Bruno Petković	1	2	1	0.5

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

CHANCE CREATION

		A	KP	xA
1	Bruno Petković	2	7	0.7
2	Sadegh Moharrami	0	7	0.5
3	Mislav Oršić	0	4	0.4

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

PASSES

		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Robert Ljubičić	304	253	75	45
2	Dino Perić	303	214	86	37
3	Josip Šutalo	295	211	87	33

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

DEFENDING

		BR	TW	I
1	Robert Ljubičić	47	6	10
2	Josip Šutalo	39	6	9
3	Luka Ivanušec	35	2	6

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

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

GER

COACH | **EDIN TERZIĆ**

BORN: 30/10/1982, Menden (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: Since 01/07/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	GROUP G						ROUND OF 16		QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
COP	MCI	SEV	SEV	MCI	COP	CHE	CHE				
W 3-0	L 2-1	W 1-4	D 1-1	D 0-0	D 1-1	W 1-0	L 2-0				

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

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	12	4	4	4	33%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	12	4	4	4	33%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

47%

Max. 63% v Copenhagen (h)
Min. 27% v Man City (h)
UCL rank: 20

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	34%
Middle third	49%
Attacking third	17%

480
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 673 v Copenhagen (h)
Min. 341 v Man City (h)
UCL rank: 18

83%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 88% v Copenhagen (h)
Min. 80% v Man City (a), Sevilla (a), Chelsea (a)
UCL rank: 20

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	50 (10% of total)	UCL rank: 8
Medium	169 (35%)	UCL rank: 23
Short	261 (54%)	UCL rank: 15

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

	Average	UCL rank
	16.6	26

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
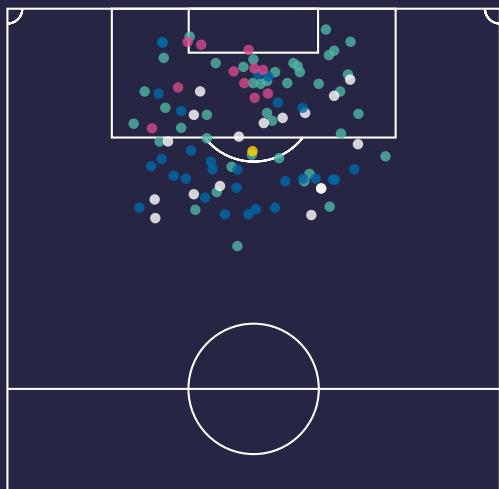
	Average	UCL rank
	4	22=
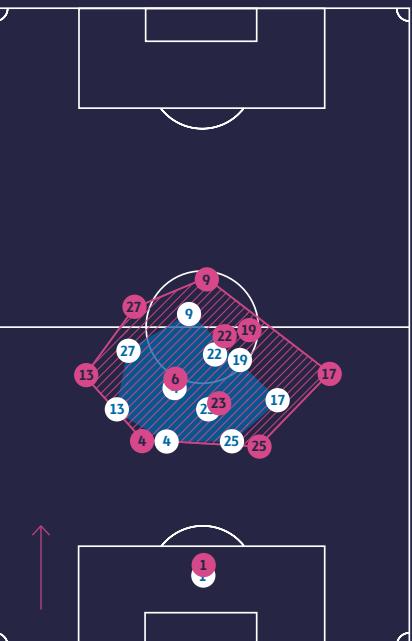
DISTANCE COVERED

117.2 km

Max. 122.6 v Copenhagen (a)
Min. 115.2 v Chelsea (a)
UCL rank: 14

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Chelsea (h)

▨ ❸ In possession | ■ ❸ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

11
GOALS
1.4 per match; UCL rank: 14

10.6
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.3 per match; UCL rank: 21

97
GOAL ATTEMPTS
12.1 per match; UCL rank: 19=

27
ON TARGET
3.4 per match; UCL rank: 25=

GOALS		10%
SAVED		25%
BLOCKED		26%
WOODWORK		1%
OFF TARGET		39%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Gregor Kobel	4	315		
33	Alexander Meyer	5	405		
DEFENDERS					
4	Nico Schlotterbeck	8	559		
13	Raphaël Guerreiro	6	481	2	
15	Mats Hummels	4	315		
23	Emre Can	7	564		
24	Thomas Meunier	4	353		1
25	Niklas Süle	8	675		
26	Julian Ryerson	1	17		
36	Tom Rothe	3	59		
44	Soumaila Coulibaly	1	18		
47	Antonios Papadopoulos	2	8		
MIDFIELDERS					
6	Salih Özcan	7	546		1
7	Giovanni Reyna	6	383		2
10	Thorgan Hazard	5	201	1	
11	Marco Reus	3	264	1	1
17	Marius Wolf	4	175		
19	Julian Brandt	7	477	1	1
22	Jude Bellingham	7	630	4	1
30	Felix Passlack	1	90		1
43	Jamie Bynoe-Gittens	2	37		
FORWARDS					
9	Sébastien Haller	2	145		
18	Youssoufa Moukoko	6	241		2
20	Anthony Modeste	7	338		
21	Donyell Malen	6	245		
27	Karim Adeyemi	6	379	2	

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.3

CARDS
17 🟨 | 0 🟥

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

		G	S	OT	xG
1	Jude Bellingham	4	11	4	1.3
2	Karim Adeyemi	2	11	3	1.8
3	Raphaël Guerreiro	2	6	3	0.7

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

CHANCE CREATION

		A	KP	xA
1	Giovanni Reyna	2	8	0.9
2	Youssoufa Moukoko	2	3	0.2
3	Julian Brandt	1	7	0.8

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

PASSES

		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Niklas Süle	509	392	90	33
2	Nico Schlotterbeck	389	293	87	36
3	Jude Bellingham	328	314	83	27

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

DEFENDING

		BR	TW	I
1	Nico Schlotterbeck	46	8	3
2	Niklas Süle	43	5	6
3	Emre Can	42	12	13

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

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; also 1-3-5-2, 1-4-1-4-1
- Build through centre-backs and Can, the influential midfield pivot
- Strong defensive organisation and discipline
- High pressing and counter-pressing with good attitude and energy
- Width from attacking full-backs, often found via switch of play
- Midfield rotations with wingers coming inside to create overloads centrally
- Dangerous in transition with fast counterattacks using speed of Adeyemi
- Free role for Bellingham, dictating play and finding spaces in final third

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT

GER

| SPO L 0-3 | MAR W 0-1 | TOT D 0-0 | TOT L 3-2 | MAR W 2-1 | SPO W 1-2 | NAP L 0-2 | NAP L 3-0 |

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

COACH

OLIVER GLASNER

BORN: 28/08/1974, Salzburg (AUT)
NATIONALITY: Austrian
HEAD COACH: From 01/07/2021 to 31/05/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 1

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	8	3	1	4	38%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	39	21	8	10	54%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
43%

Max. 54% v Sporting CP (a)
Min. 31% v Napoli (h)
UCL rank: 27

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	32%
Middle third	53%
Attacking third	15%

421
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 516 v Sporting CP (a)
Min. 298 v Napoli (h)
UCL rank: 24

78%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 82% v Sporting CP (a)
Min. 73% v Marseille (a)
UCL rank: 29

PASS DISTANCE
Long	42 (10% of total)	UCL rank: 23
Medium	155 (37%)	UCL rank: 26
Short	224 (53%)	UCL rank: 21

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	14.7	20

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
	Average	UCL rank
	6	3=

DISTANCE COVERED
119.7 km
Max. 122.9 v Tottenham (h)
Min. 114.3 v Tottenham (a)
UCL rank: 6
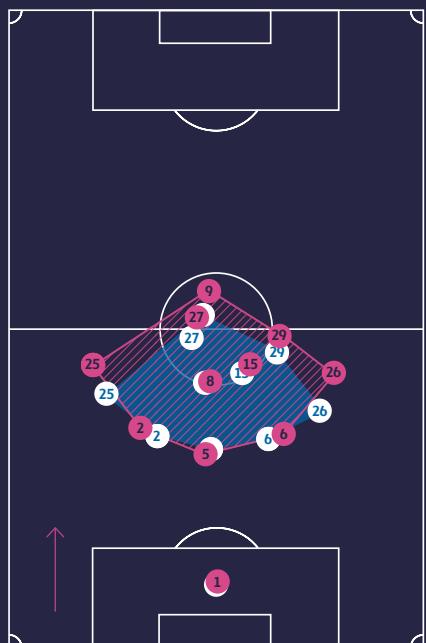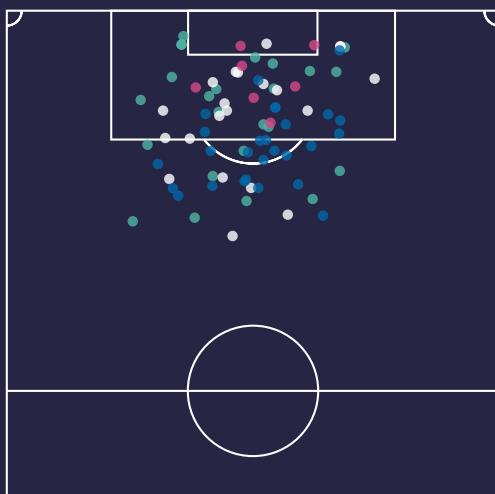
*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Marseille (h)

⬚ ❸ In possession   ◼ ❸ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

7
GOALS
0.9 per match; UCL rank: 24

8.09
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.0 per match; UCL rank: 24

76
GOAL ATTEMPTS
9.5 per match; UCL rank: 26

27
ON TARGET
3.4 per match; UCL rank: 25=

GOALS	8%
SAVED	33%
BLOCKED	31%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	28%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Kevin Trapp	8	720		
DEFENDERS					
2	Evan N'Dicka	8	720		1
5	Hrvoje Smolčić	3	121		
22	Timothy Chandler	1	11		
24	Aurélio Buta	2	159		
25	Christopher Lenz	5	226		
32	Philipp Max	2	112		
33	Luca Pellegrini	4	200		
35	Tuta	7	600		
MIDFIELDERS					
6	Kristijan Jakić	8	619		
8	Djibril Sow	8	720		
15	Daichi Kamada	8	700	3	
17	Sebastian Rode	6	299		1
20	Makoto Hasebe	4	256		
26	Junior Dina Ebimbe	6	240		
27	Mario Götze	7	524		2
29	Jesper Lindstrøm	7	513	1	
36	Ansgar Knauff	6	291		1
FORWARDS					
9	Randal Kolo Muani	7	521	2	
11	Faride Alidou	5	70		1
19	Rafael Borré	8	221		
21	Lucas Alario	2	18		

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.3

CARDS
18   **2**

Sent off:
Tuta v Tottenham (a),
Kolo Muani v Napoli (h)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-2-1, 1-5-4-1 out of possession
- Compact defensive structure with clear identity to break on opposition
- Looked for overloads on flanks with full-backs pushing high
- Defence supported by midfielder Sow – third in UCL for interceptions up to quarter-finals (18)
- Able to play through opposition with combinations, penetrating passes (Kamada)
- Joint first for ball recoveries in group stage with 389
- Creativity of Lindstrøm in final third; runs inside to link with centre-forward
- Hold-up play, power and 1v1 ability of striker Kolo Muani

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Daichi Kamada	3	13	6	3.0
2	Randal Kolo Muani	2	12	7	1.4
3	Jesper Lindstrøm	1	11	4	0.9

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Mario Götze	2	4	0.6
2	Sebastian Rode	1	3	0.5
3	Ansgar Knauff	1	2	0.1

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Djibril Sow	439	326	85	30
2	Evan N'Dicka	408	282	84	42
3	Tuta	330	208	80	47

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Evan N'Dicka	62	7	13
2	Tuta	55	11	8
3	Djibril Sow	52	8	18

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

FC INTERNAZIONALE MILANO

ITA

COACH — SIMONE INZAGHI

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

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	29	13	8	8	45%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	55	25	10	20	45%

GROUP C						ROUND OF 16		QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL
BAY L 0-2	PLZ W 0-2	BAR W 1-0	BAR D 3-3	PLZ W 4-0	BAY L 2-0	POR W 1-0	POR D 0-0	BEN W 0-2	BEN D 3-3	MIL W 0-2	MIL W 1-0	MCI L 1-0

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

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
45%
Max. 71% v Plzeň (a)
Min. 29% v Barcelona (h)
UCL rank: 24

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	37%
Middle third	46%
Attacking third	17%

420
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 687 v Plzeň (a)
Min. 286 v Barcelona (h)
UCL rank: 26

82%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 92% v Plzeň (a)
Min. 68% v Porto (a)
UCL rank: 22

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	53 (13% of total)	UCL rank: 3
Medium	173 (41%)	UCL rank: 22
Short	195 (46%)	UCL rank: 28

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
Average	UCL rank
14	18

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
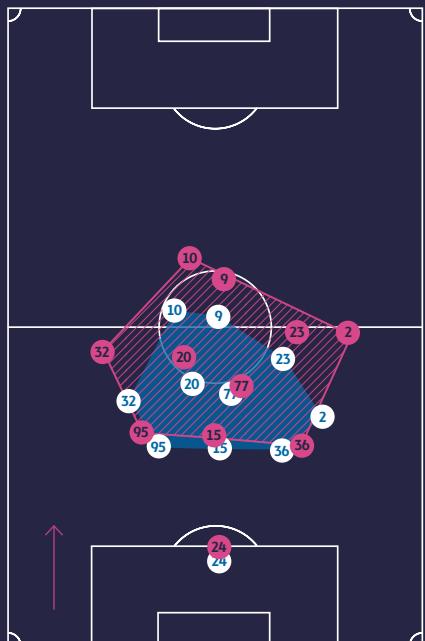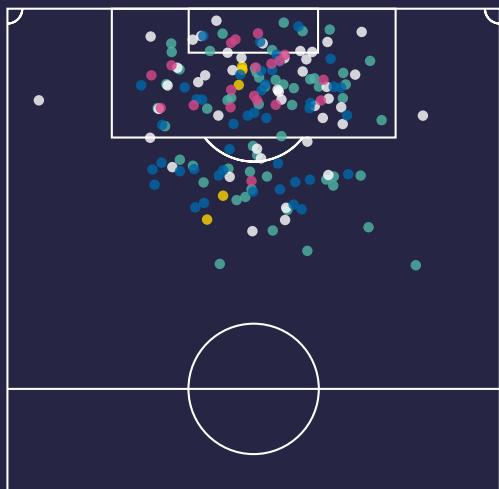| Average	UCL rank
4	5=

DISTANCE COVERED
119.9 km
Max. 127.5 v Porto (a)
Min. 111.9 v Milan (h)
UCL rank: 5

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Manchester City (n)

☒ ❸ In possession | ■ ❸ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

19
GOALS
1.5 per match; UCL rank: 13

18.4
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.4 per match; UCL rank: 17

167
GOAL ATTEMPTS
12.8 per match; UCL rank: 16

64
ON TARGET
4.9 per match; UCL rank: 13

GOALS	10%
SAVED	34%
BLOCKED	23%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	31%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
24	André Onana	13	1170		
DEFENDERS					
2	Denzel Dumfries	12	886	1	
6	Stefan de Vrij	7	298		
12	Raoul Bellanova	3	118		
15	Francesco Acerbi	12	919		
32	Federico Dimarco	11	736		5
33	Danilo D'Ambrosio	6	156		
36	Matteo Darmian	11	822		
37	Milan Škriniar	8	536		
95	Alessandro Bastoni	12	989		3
MIDFIELDERS					
5	Roberto Gagliardini	6	112		
8	Robin Gosens	11	418	1	
14	Kristjan Asllani	5	125		
20	Hakan Çalhanoğlu	12	807	1	2
22	Henrikh Mkhitaryan	13	909	2	
23	Nicolò Barella	12	997	3	
45	Valentin Carboni	1	14		
77	Marcelo Brozović	9	546		
FORWARDS					
9	Edin Džeko	13	832	4	1
10	Lautaro Martínez	13	1002	3	3
11	Joaquín Correa	9	301	1	2
90	Romelu Lukaku	8	177	3	1

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

AVERAGE AGE
28.3

CARDS
28 yellow **1** red
Sent off: Inzaghi v Barcelona (a)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-5-2, shifting to compact 1-5-3-2 out of possession
- Solid structure with defensive discipline and sound organisation
- Influential goalkeeper Onana – most goals prevented in competition (7.84)
- Attacking wing-backs Dumfries and Dimarco – the latter joint second in UCL for assists (5)
- Defend as team e.g. attacking midfielder Mkhitaryan joint second in UCL for recoveries (79)
- Hakan Çalhanoğlu bringing defensive balance in midfield
- Dynamic, box-to-box Barella, working hard defensively and supporting strikers
- Experienced forwards with contrasting qualities in Džeko and Martínez

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Edin Džeko	4	23	11	3.2
2	Lautaro Martínez	3	27	8	2.9
3	Nicolò Barella	3	20	5	1.4

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Federico Dimarco	5	11	2.6
2	Lautaro Martínez	3	15	1.0
3	Alessandro Bastoni	3	8	1.7

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Alessandro Bastoni	568	431	85	36
2	Francesco Acerbi	557	411	88	29
3	André Onana	462	303	75	56

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Henrikh Mkhitaryan	79	17	16
2	Hakan Çalhanoğlu	69	11	8
3	Nicolò Barella	64	14	2

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

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

JUVENTUS

ITA

GROUP H

| PAR | BEN | MHA | MHA | BEN | PAR | ROUND OF 16 | QUARTER-FINALS | SEMI-FINALS | FINAL |
| L 2-1 | L 1-2 | W 3-1 | L 2-0 | L 4-3 | L 1-2 | | | | |

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

COACH

MASSIMILIANO ALLEGRI

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

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	100	45	26	29	45%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	110	50	30	30	45%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
48%

Max. 58% v Maccabi Hafia (a)
Min. 43% v Paris (a)
UCL rank: 17

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	25%
Middle third	54%
Attacking third	20%

470
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 559 v Paris (h)
Min. 402 v Benfica (a)
UCL rank: 19

86%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 91% v Paris (a), Paris (h)
Min. 77% v Benfica (h)
UCL rank: 13

PASS DISTANCE
Long	48 (10% of total)	UCL rank: 11
Medium	199 (42%)	UCL rank: 12
Short	223 (47%)	UCL rank: 22

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION	Average	UCL rank
	13.4	14

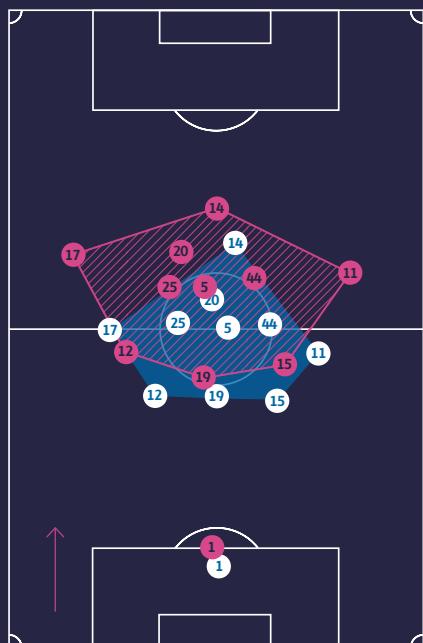| RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD	Average	UCL rank
	6	3=

DISTANCE COVERED
112.4 km

Max. 117.8 v Benfica (a)
Min. 105.5 v Paris (a)
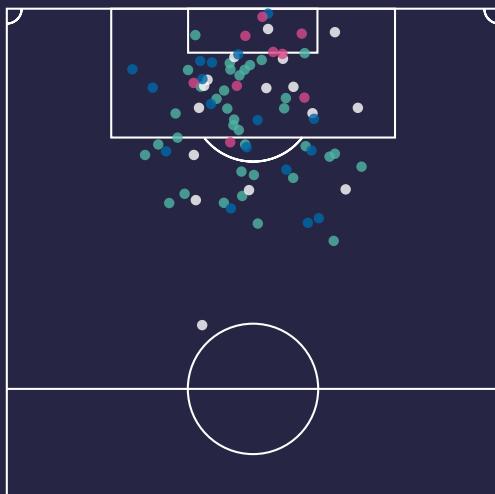UCL rank: 25

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Paris (h)

▨ **3** In possession   ■ **3** Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

9
GOALS
1.5 per match; UCL rank: 11=

8.8
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.5 per match; UCL rank: 13

78
GOAL ATTEMPTS
13 per match; UCL rank: 15

27
ON TARGET
4.5 per match; UCL rank: 16

GOALS	10%
SAVED	31%
BLOCKED	17%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	41%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Wojciech Szczęsny	4	360		
36	Mattia Perin	2	180		
DEFENDERS					
2	Mattia De Sciglio	3	93		
3	Bremer	3	270		
6	Danilo	5	428		
12	Alex Sandro	4	239		
15	Federico Gatti	2	180		
19	Leonardo Bonucci	6	444	1	
24	Daniele Rugani	1	90		
42	Tommaso Barbieri	1	2		
MIDFIELDERS					
5	Manuel Locatelli	5	266		
8	Weston McKennie	5	360	2	
11	Juan Cuadrado	6	436		1
20	Fabio Miretti	5	212		
25	Adrien Rabiot	5	447	2	
32	Leandro Paredes	4	310		1
44	Nicolò Fagioli	2	108		
45	Enzo Barrenechea	1	2		
FORWARDS					
7	Federico Chiesa	1	16		
9	Dušan Vlahović	5	413	1	1
14	Arkadiusz Milik	5	339	2	
17	Fillip Kostić	6	431		1
18	Moise Kean	5	107	1	
22	Ángel Di María	3	146		3
30	Matìas Soulé	3	41		
43	Samuel Iling-Junior	1	20		1

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

AVERAGE AGE	CARDS
26.3	🟨 **14** 🟥 **0**

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Arkadiusz Milik	2	8	5	0.4
2	Weston McKennie	2	4	2	0.6
3	Adrien Rabiot	2	4	2	0.6

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Leonardo Bonucci	297	219	88	37
2	Danilo	247	199	87	37
3	Adrien Rabiot	229	204	87	26

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Ángel Di María	3	4	1.2
2	Fillip Kostić	1	11	0.5
3	Juan Cuadrado	1	9	0.6

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Adrien Rabiot	34	8	5
2	Juan Cuadrado	30	7	8
3	Leonardo Bonucci	30	0	2

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

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-5-2; also 1-3-4-3, 1-4-4-2, 1-4-3-3
- Tactical flexibility, e.g. switching from back three to four out of possession v Paris
- Effective build-up patterns using key individuals, finding players between lines
- When defending deep have threat to counter quickly
- Solid midfielder Rabiot with good timing to get into box
- Creativity and speed of experienced Di María (3 assists)
- Kostić's crossing ability: most open-play crosses of group stage (36)
- Strong, mobile target striker in Vlahović, always looking to threaten the defensive line

RB LEIPZIG

GER

COACH

MARCO ROSE

BORN: 11/09/1976, Leipzig (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: Since 08/09/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	21	9	3	9	43%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	63	32	15	16	51%

*Domenico Tedesco in charge for Match Day 1

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
50%

Max. 68% Shakhtar (h)
Min. 34% v Man City (a)
UCL rank: 16

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	32%
Middle third	49%
Attacking third	19%

516
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 628 v Shakhtar (h)
Min. 332 v Man City (a)
UCL rank: 13

86%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 89% v Shakhtar (a)
Min. 79% v Man City (a)
UCL rank: 8

PASS DISTANCE
Long	39 (8% of total)	UCL rank: 29
Medium	203 (39%)	UCL rank: 8
Short	274 (53%)	UCL rank: 11

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	15.7	23

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
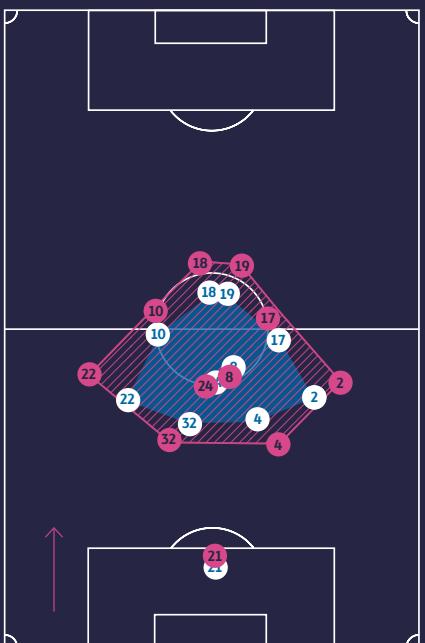|	Average	UCL rank
	5	4

DISTANCE COVERED
118.8 km
Max. 125.5 v Man City (h)
Min. 113 v Real Madrid (a)
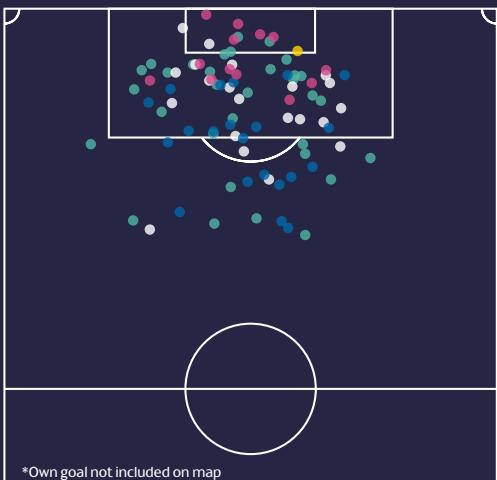UCL rank: 0

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Real Madrid (h)

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

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Péter Gulácsi	3	193		
21	Janis Blaswich	6	527		
DEFENDERS					
2	Mohamed Simakan	7	515	1	3
4	Willi Orbán	8	720		
16	Lukas Klostermann	2	56		
22	David Raum	8	533		
23	Marcel Halstenberg	4	166		1
32	Joško Gvardiol	6	540	2	
37	Abdou Diallo	5	224		
39	Benjamin Henrichs	7	197		
MIDFIELDERS					
8	Amadou Haidara	7	340		
17	Dominik Szoboszlai	8	656	1	3
18	Christopher Nkunku	7	562	3	1
24	Xaver Schlager	7	586		
27	Konrad Laimer	3	262		
38	Hugo Novoa	1	2		
44	Kevin Kampl	5	272		
FORWARDS					
7	Dani Olmo	3	62		1
9	Yussuf Poulsen	5	68		
10	Emil Forsberg	8	403	1	
11	Timo Werner	8	505	2	2
19	André Silva	8	534	3	1

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.3

CARDS
🟨 8 🟥 0

ATTEMPTS

*Own goal not included on map

14 **GOALS** (1 own goal*)
1.8 per match; UCL rank: 10

11.7 **EXPECTED GOALS (xG)**
1.5 per match; UCL rank: 14

88 **GOAL ATTEMPTS**
11 per match; UCL rank: 24

34 **ON TARGET**
4.3 per match; UCL rank: 17

GOALS		14%
SAVED		33%
BLOCKED		20%
WOODWORK		1%
OFF TARGET		32%

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; fluid 1-4-2-2-2 in possession; 1-4-4-2 in defence
- Immediate press on losing ball; 54% success in duels in group stage (first)
- Influential Gvardiol in defence: powerful, disciplined, comfortable on ball
- Midfield aggression of Schlager: first for ball recoveries up to quarter-finals (68)
- Wingers moved inside, creating overloads and making space for full-backs (Simakan)
- Good movement in final third with quick, mobile attacking players
- Nkunku's speed, vision and link-up play in attack
- Strong on transitions; narrow structure means they can be exposed to overloads out wide

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Christopher Nkunku	3	15	8	1.6
2	André Silva	3	15	7	2.1
3	Timo Werner	2	13	6	2.4

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Dominik Szoboszlai	3	10	0.9
2	Mohamed Simakan	3	4	1.7
3	Timo Werner	2	7	0.9

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Willi Orbán	520	411	90	32
2	Joško Gvardiol	473	393	89	36
3	Xaver Schlager	356	272	89	28

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Xaver Schlager	53	7	5
2	Willi Orbán	42	5	8
3	Amadou Haidara	37	9	10

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

BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	3	0	2	1	0%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	11	4	4	3	36%

*Gerardo Seoane in charge for Matchdays 1 to 3

GROUP B

BRU L 1-0	ATL W 2-0	POR L 2-0	POR L 0-3	ATL D 2-2	BRU 0-0

ROUND OF 16 · QUARTER-FINALS · SEMI-FINALS · FINAL

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

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
51%
Max. 64% v Porto (h)
Min. 36% v Atletico (a)
UCL rank: 13

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	29%
Middle third	54%
Attacking third	17%

505
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 617 v Porto (h)
Min. 395 v Atlético (a)
UCL rank: 14

84%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 88% v Porto (h)
Min. 79% v Atlético (a)
UCL rank: 18

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	45 (9% of total)	UCL rank: 16
Medium	187 (37%)	UCL rank: 18
Short	272 (54%)	UCL rank: 12
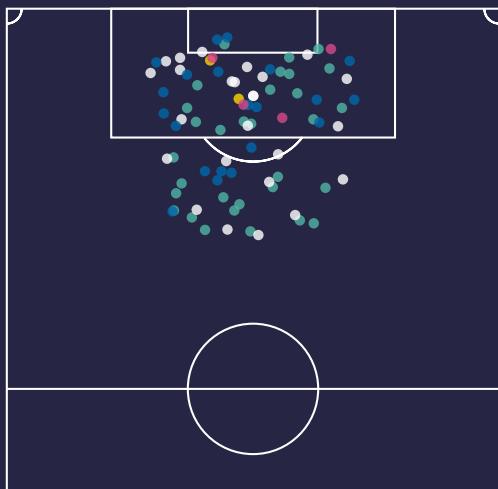
PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	12.8	12

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
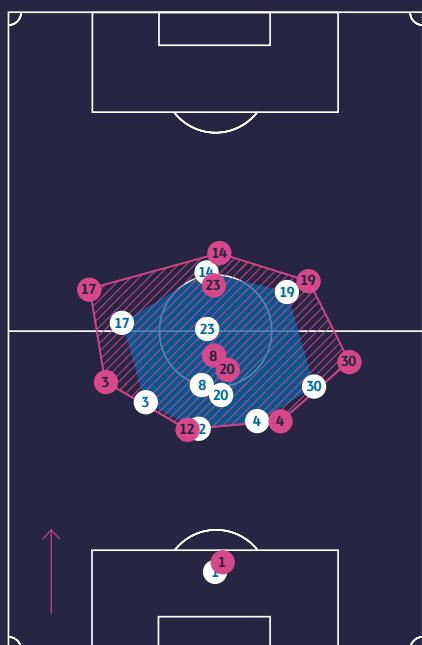|	Average	UCL rank
	6	3=

DISTANCE COVERED
118.5 km
Max. 124 v Atlético (a)
Min. 113.2 v Porto (a)
UCL rank: 11

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Porto (a)

▨ ❸ In possession ■ ❸ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

4
GOALS
0.7 per match; UCL rank: 28=

9.2
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.5 per match; UCL rank: 11

83
GOAL ATTEMPTS
13.8 per match; UCL rank: 11=

29
ON TARGET
4.8 per match; UCL rank: 14=

GOALS	4%
SAVED	33%
BLOCKED	24%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	37%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Lukas Hradecky	6	540		
DEFENDERS					
3	Piero Hincapie	5	450		
4	Jonathan Tah	6	480		
5	Mitchel Bakker	5	338		
6	Odilon Kossounou	5	429		
12	Edmond Tapsoba	5	351		
24	Timothy Fosu-Mensah	3	7		
30	Jeremie Frimpong	5	375		2
MIDFIELDERS					
8	Robert Andrich	5	409	1	
10	Kerem Demirbay	5	266		
11	Nadiem Amiri	5	120		1
20	Charles Aránguiz	4	215		
25	Exequiel Palacios	2	90		
FORWARDS					
7	Paulinho	2	48		
9	Sardar Azmoun	2	5		
14	Patrik Schick	5	448		
17	Callum Hudson-Odoi	6	466	1	
19	Moussa Diaby	6	509		2
21	Amine Adli	4	119		
23	Adam Hložek	6	276		1

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

AVERAGE AGE
24.7

CARDS
🟨 19 🟥 1
Sent off: Frimpong v Porto (a)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; also 1-3-4-3
- Strong midfield pressing and high press at opposition goal kicks
- Quick transitions with balls to attackers and fast supporting runs
- Release wing-backs (Frimpong) early to attack in 1-3-4-3
- Leadership of Andrich in midfield, organising and building play
- Wide forwards vary movement between keeping width and coming inside
- Talented individuals with 1v1 threat e.g. Diaby dribbling, driving forward
- Third-highest tackle success percentage of group stage (48.5%)

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Moussa Diaby	2	16	10	1.7
2	Callum Hudson-Odoi	1	8	2	0.8
3	Robert Andrich	1	5	1	0.3

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Jeremie Frimpong	2	3	0.5
2	Adam Hložek	1	5	0.2
3	Nadiem Amiri	1	2	0.1

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Jonathan Tah	348	255	91	30
2	Odilon Kossounou	294	222	83	49
3	Piero Hincapié	289	212	83	41

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Jonathan Tah	44	6	2
2	Piero Hincapié	37	11	6
3	Odilon Kossounou	31	6	4

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

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

LIVERPOOL FC

GROUP A

NAP	AJA	RAN	RAN	AJA	NAP	RMA	RMA
L 4-1	W 2-1	W 2-0	W 1-7	W 0-3	W 2-0	L 2-5	L 1-0

ROUND OF 16 · QUARTER-FINALS · SEMI-FINALS · FINAL

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

	ALL	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	98	56	15	27	57%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	130	72	26	32	55%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
55%

Max. 64% v Rangers (a)
Min. 46% v Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 3

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	26%
Middle third	52%
Attacking third	22%

528
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 584 v Napoli (a)
Min. 449 v Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 12

84%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 88% v Napoli (a)
Min. 80% v Rangers (a)
UCL rank: 17

PASS DISTANCE
Long	45 (9% of total)	UCL rank: 18
Medium	195 (37%)	UCL rank: 14
Short	289 (55%)	UCL rank: 9

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION	Average	UCL rank
	11.9	8

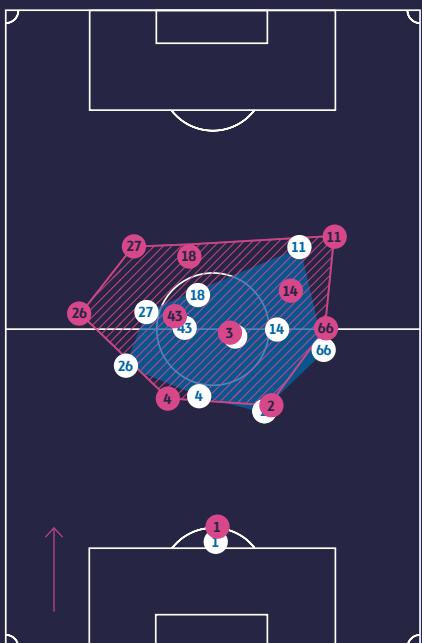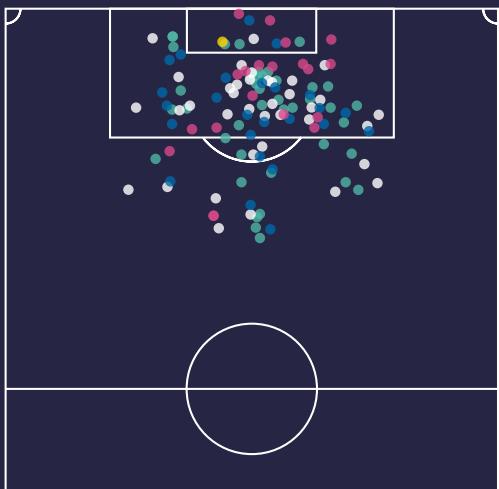| **RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD**	Average	UCL rank
	8	1=

DISTANCE COVERED
115.1 km

Max. 118.3 v Napoli (h), Ajax (a)
Min. 111 v Napoli (a)
UCL rank: 19

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Real Madrid (h)

▨ ❸ In possession | ■ ❸ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

19 **GOALS**
2.4 per match; UCL rank: 4

14.9 **EXPECTED GOALS (xG)**
1.9 per match; UCL rank: 7

127 **GOAL ATTEMPTS**
15.9 per match; UCL rank: 4

57 **ON TARGET**
7.1 per match; UCL rank: 3

GOALS		13%
SAVED		39%
BLOCKED		18%
WOODWORK		1%
OFF TARGET		29%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Alisson Becker	8	720		
DEFENDERS					
2	Joe Gomez	5	299		1
4	Virgil van Dijk	8	720		1
5	Ibrahima Konaté	3	259		
21	Kostas Tsimikas	6	342		2
22	Calvin Ramsay	1	3		
26	Andrew Robertson	5	378		2
32	Joël Matip	4	242	1	
66	Trent Alexander-Arnold	7	626	1	
MIDFIELDERS					
3	Fabinho	8	632		
6	Thiago Alcántara	5	306		
7	James Milner	8	242		
14	Jordan Henderson	4	281		1
15	Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain	1	17		
17	Curtis Jones	2	100		
19	Harvey Elliott	8	394	2	
28	Fabio Carvalho	4	113		
29	Arthur	1	13		
43	Stefan Bajcetic	4	108		
FORWARDS					
9	Roberto Firmino	8	417	2	1
11	Mohamed Salah	8	624	8	2
18	Cody Gakpo	2	153		
20	Diogo Jota	6	263		4
23	Luis Díaz	3	269	1	
27	Darwin Núñez	8	401	4	1

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.3

CARDS
🟨 10 | 🟥 0

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; also 1-4-2-3-1, 1-4-4-2
- Compact defensive structure with a high line
- Intensity of high press and counter-press
- Influential full-backs: Robertson's driving runs, Alexander-Arnold's crossing ability
- Set-piece threat with strong takers and aerial power (five goals from corners)
- Use of diagonal balls to get behind opposition defences out wide
- Fluidity with forwards interchanging positions and wide rotations
- Dangerous attacking transitions with speed, composure of eight-goal Salah

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Mohamed Salah	8	23	13	4.0
2	Darwin Núñez	4	22	14	5.0
3	Harvey Elliott	2	11	6	1.1

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Diogo Jota	4	8	0.5
2	Mohamed Salah	2	11	1.9
3	Kostas Tsimikas	2	9	1.1

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Virgil van Dijk	504	342	87	44
2	Fabinho	457	345	89	25
3	Trent Alexander-Arnold	408	343	81	42

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Trent Alexander-Arnold	57	13	4
2	Fabinho	38	8	9
3	Virgil van Dijk	36	2	4

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

MACCABI HAIFA FC

ISR

COACH — BARAK BAKHAR

BORN: 11/09/1979, Tzrufa (ISR)
NATIONALITY: Israeli
HEAD COACH: From 08/07/2020 to 29/05/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	6	1	0	5	17%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	79	27	18	34	34%

GROUP H

BEN L 2-0	PAR L 1-3	JUV L 3-1	JUV W 2-0	PAR L 7-2	BEN L 1-6	ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL

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

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
43%
Max. 49% v Juventus (a)
Min. 38% v Paris (a)
UCL rank: 26

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	28%
Middle third	55%
Attacking third	18%

413
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 475 v Juventus (a)
Min. 364 v Juventus (h)
UCL rank: 27

83%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 88% v Paris (h)
Min. 76% v Juventus (h)
UCL rank: 21

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	40 (10% of total)	UCL rank: 27
Medium	145 (35%)	UCL rank: 29
Short	229 (55%)	UCL rank: 20

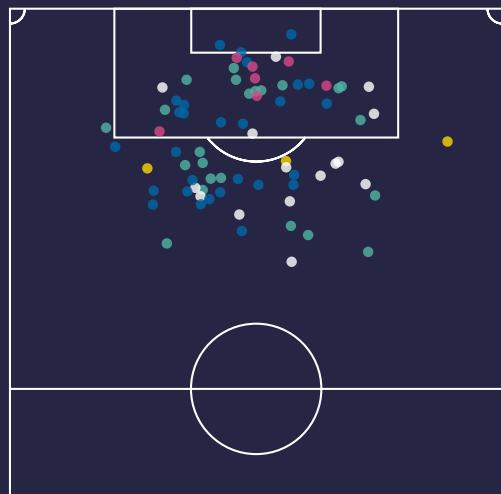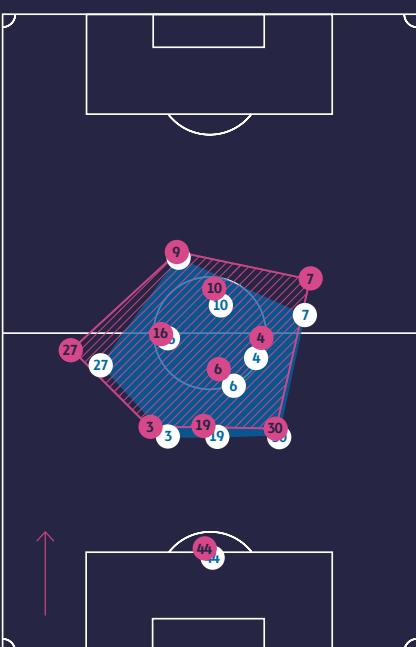|	Average	UCL rank
PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION	13.9	17
RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD	5	4=

DISTANCE COVERED
107.6 km
Max. 110.7 v Benfica (a)
Min. 105.1 v Paris (a)
UCL rank: 32

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Paris (a)

▨ ❸ In possession   ■ ❸ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

7
GOALS
1.2 per match; UCL rank: 20

6.5
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.1 per match; UCL rank: 23

77
GOAL ATTEMPTS
12.8 per match; UCL rank: 17

22
ON TARGET
3.7 per match; UCL rank: 23

GOALS	8%
SAVED	25%
BLOCKED	33%
WOODWORK	3%
OFF TARGET	30%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
44	Joshua Cohen	6	540		
DEFENDERS					
2	Daniel Sundgren	4	325		
3	Sean Goldberg	6	540		
12	Sun Menachem	4	56		
15	Ofri Arad	2	20		
19	Dylan Batubinsika	5	450		
22	Yosef Raz Meir	2	83		
27	Pierre Cornud	5	375		1
30	Abdoulaye Seck	6	396	2	
MIDFIELDERS					
4	Ali Mohamed	5	361		
6	Neta Lavi	6	468		
7	Omer Atzili	6	309	2	1
8	Dolev Haziza	3	210		1
16	Mohammad Abu Fani	6	400		
FORWARDS					
9	Frantzdy Pierrot	6	486	2	
10	Tjaronn Chery	6	540	2	1
11	Mavis Tchibota	4	92		
13	Nikita Rukavytsya	6	43		
17	Suf Podgoreanu	1	12		
21	Din David	6	236	1	

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

AVERAGE AGE
27.6

CARDS
🟨 14   🟥 0

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Tjaronn Chery	2	20	5	1.61
2	Omer Atzili	2	14	7	0.69
3	Abdoulaye Seck	2	4	2	0.38

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Frantzdy Pierrot	2	6	0.2
2	Tjaronn Chery	1	9	0.9
3	Omer Atzili	1	9	0.4

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Neta Lavi	271	199	85	35
2	Sean Goldberg	262	202	86	38
3	Tjaronn Chery	238	214	84	28

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Neta Lavi	39	17	9
2	Abdoulaye Seck	39	7	4
3	Mohammad Abu Fani	35	6	3

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

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3, 1-5-3-2, defensively; also 1-4-3-3
- High-pressing, high-energy approach
- Look to play vertically, with quick forward passes
- Good movement from midfield to front, interchanging positions (h v Juventus)
- Bravery when going 1v1 all over pitch (h v Paris)
- Third in group stage for aerial-duel success (59.6%)
- Influential No10 Chery, driving into gaps, creative and direct
- Direct, disciplined target striker Pierrot able to hold up ball

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

MANCHESTER CITY FC

ENG

GROUP G						ROUND OF 16		QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL
SEV	DOR	COP	COP	DOR	SEV	LEI	LEI	BAY	BAY	RMA	RMA	INT
W 0-4	W 2-1	W 5-0	D 0-0	D 0-0	W 3-1	D 1-1	W 7-0	W 3-0	D 1-1	D 1-1	W 4-0	W 1-0

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

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	161	101	34	26	63%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	168	107	34	27	64%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
60%
Max. 75% v Copenhagen (h)
Min. 42% v Bayern (a)
UCL rank: 2

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	21%
Middle third	54%
Attacking third	25%

633
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 902 v Dortmund (a)
Min. 394 v Bayern (a)
UCL rank: 1

90%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 93% v Copenhagen (h)
Min. 82% v Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 1

PASS DISTANCE
Long	45 (7% of total)	UCL rank: 17
Medium	249 (39%)	UCL rank: 1
Short	339 (54%)	UCL rank: 3

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	13	13

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
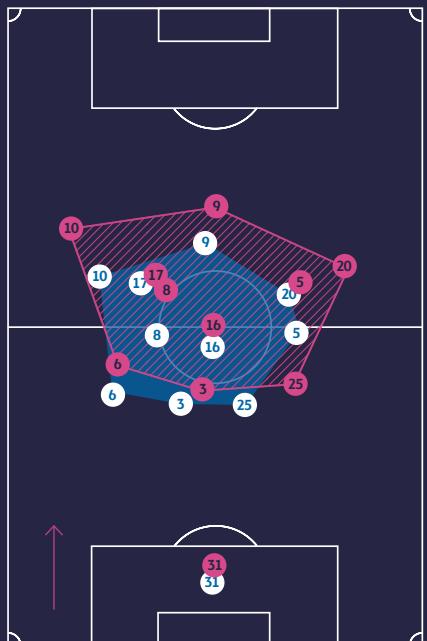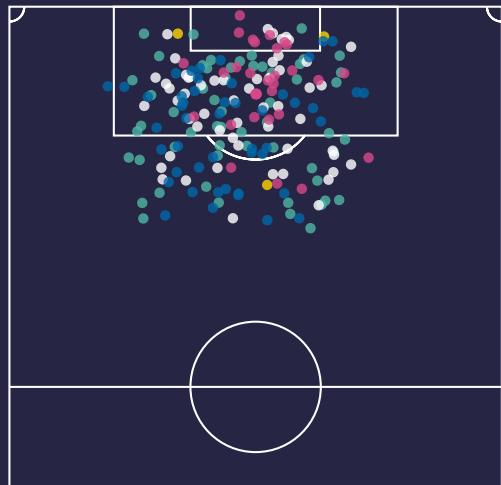|	Average	UCL rank
	8	1=

DISTANCE COVERED
116 km
Max. 121.7 v Bayern (h)
Min. 109.7 v Real Madrid (a)
UCL rank: 18

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Inter (n)

In possession | Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

32
GOALS
2.5 per match; UCL rank: 3

27.1
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
2.1 per match; UCL rank: 2

201
GOAL ATTEMPTS
15.5 per match; UCL rank: 6

91
ON TARGET
7 per match; UCL rank: 4

GOALS	14%
SAVED	39%
BLOCKED	20%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	26%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
18	Stefan Ortega	2	180		
31	Ederson	11	990		
DEFENDERS					
2	Kyle Walker	5	280		
3	Rúben Dias	12	1048	1	1
5	John Stones	8	685	1	1
6	Nathan Aké	8	608		
7	João Cancelo	6	377		4
14	Aymeric Laporte	4	292		
21	Sergio Gómez	5	307		1
25	Manuel Akanji	11	945	1	2
82	Rico Lewis	2	118	1	
97	Josh Wilson-Esbrand	2	44		
MIDFIELDERS					
4	Kalvin Phillips	3	40		
8	İlkay Gündoğan	13	997	1	2
10	Jack Grealish	13	936		1
16	Rodri	12	996	2	
17	Kevin De Bruyne	10	721	2	7
20	Bernardo Silva	13	909	3	1
26	Riyad Mahrez	9	506	3	2
47	Phil Foden	8	381	1	2
80	Cole Palmer	4	137		
FORWARDS					
9	Erling Haaland	11	845	12	1
19	Julián Álvarez	10	468	3	2

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.5

CARDS
22 **1**
Sent off:
Gómez v Copenhagen (a)

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS		G	S	OT	xG
1	Erling Haaland	12	41	26	10.7
2	Julián Álvarez	3	14	7	2.4
3	Riyad Mahrez	3	12	7	3.5

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

CHANCE CREATION		A	KP	xA
1	Kevin De Bruyne	7	16	2.8
2	João Cancelo	4	2	1.0
3	Riyad Mahrez	2	17	1.9

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

PASSES		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Rodri	987	826	92	18
2	Rúben Dias	954	795	95	31
3	Manuel Akanji	802	672	92	33

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

DEFENDING		BR	TW	I
1	Rodri	105	15	13
2	Bernardo Silva	66	10	9
3	İlkay Gündoğan	63	8	7

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

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; 1-3-2-5 in build-up; 1-4-4-2 in defence
- Strong centre-backs able to defend 1v1 at the back
- Stones steps into midfield in build-up to create overload
- Play with full width, threaten with runs behind, probe until gaps or overloads appear
- Gündoğan and De Bruyne play as high 8s, operating in half-spaces
- De Bruyne pivotal with 11 through balls and seven assists
- Grealish's ball-retention skills and 1v1 ability — first for chances created (35)
- Goal threat and power of Haaland, giving option to go long

OLYMPIQUE DE MARSEILLE

FRA

GROUP D

TOT	FRA	SPO	SPO	FRA	TOT	ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
L 2-0	L 0-1	W 4-1	W 0-2	L 2-1	L 1-2				

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

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	6	2	0	4	33%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	30	9	9	12	30%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

59%

Max. 68% v Sporting CP (a)
Min. 50% v Tottenham (a)
UCL rank: 3

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	21%
Middle third	56%
Attacking third	23%

562
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 669 v Tottenham (h)
Min. 448 v Sporting CP (h)
UCL rank: 6

87%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 91% v Sporting CP (a)
Min. 81% v Frankfurt (a)
UCL rank: 6

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	47 (8% of total)	UCL rank: 14
Medium	248 (44%)	UCL rank: 2
Short	267 (48%)	UCL rank: 14

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

	Average	UCL rank
	10.2	3
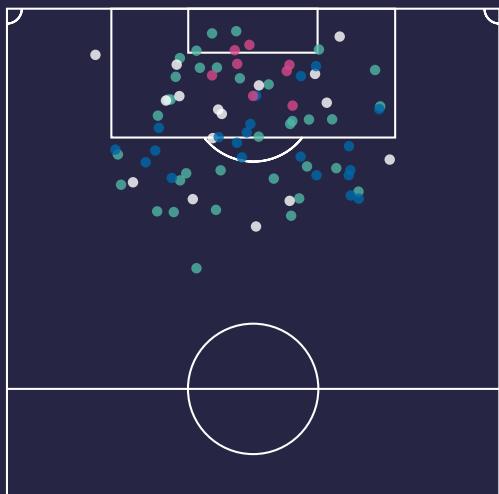
RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD

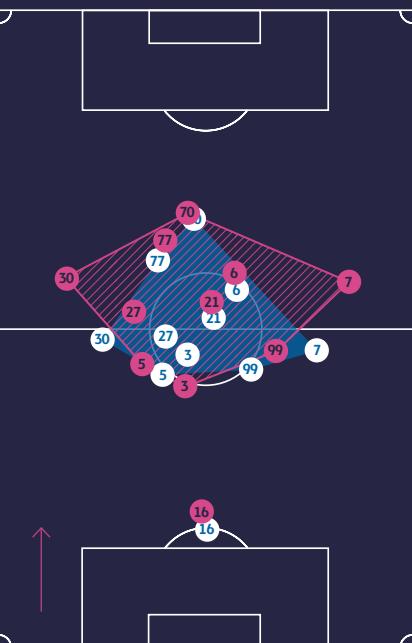|	Average	UCL rank
	5	4=

DISTANCE COVERED

111.9 km

Max. 127.4 v Tottenham (h)
Min. 109.3 v Sporting CP (a)
UCL rank: 26

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Tottenham (h)

▨ ❸ In possession   ■ ❸ Out of possession

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
16	Pau López	6	540		
DEFENDERS					
3	Eric Bailly	5	305		
4	Samuel Gigot	5	249		
5	Leonardo Balerdi	6	490	1	
7	Jonathan Clauss	6	415		1
23	Sead Kolašinac	4	149		
29	Issa Kaboré	4	109		
30	Nuno Tavares	6	540		
99	Chancel Mbemba	5	408	2	1
MIDFIELDERS					
6	Matteo Guendouzi	6	419	2	
8	Gerson	3	122		
21	Valentin Rongier	6	471		
22	Pape Gueye	3	34		
27	Jordan Veretout	6	489		1
77	Amine Harit	6	380	1	2
FORWARDS					
10	Dimitri Payet	2	77		
11	Luis Suárez	4	112		
17	Cengiz Ünder	6	169		
70	Alexis Sánchez	4	419	2	1

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.8

CARDS
11 **1**
Sent off: Mbemba v Tottenham (a)

ATTEMPTS

8
GOALS
1.3 per match; UCL rank: 15=

8.7
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.5 per match; UCL rank: 15

80
GOAL ATTEMPTS
13.3 per match; UCL rank: 14

24
ON TARGET
4 per match; UCL rank: 18=

GOALS	9%
SAVED	27%
BLOCKED	24%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	40%

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

		G	S	OT	xG
1	Alexis Sánchez	2	16	6	2.8
2	Mattéo Guendouzi	2	8	3	1.2
3	Chancel Mbemba	2	4	2	0.4

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

CHANCE CREATION

		A	KP	xA
1	Amine Harit	2	11	0.8
2	Jordan Veretout	1	7	0.6
3	Alexis Sánchez	1	6	0.6

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

PASSES

		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Valentin Rongier	409	328	90	21
2	Jordan Veretout	391	305	91	28
3	Leonardo Balerdi	365	254	88	27

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

DEFENDING

		BR	TW	I
1	Leonardo Balerdi	49	6	13
2	Nuno Tavares	45	8	4
3	Valentin Rongier	39	6	8

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

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-2-1; 1-5-3-2 defensively
- Set up in 1-5-2-2-1 with high press when opposition have ball
- Physically strong, compact in defence, capable of winning ball back (joint-fifth for recoveries)
- Wing-backs give width with front three staying more narrow
- Tavares joint-first for take-ons (56) and joint-second for open-play crosses (32) in group stage
- Two hard-running central midfielders in Rongier and Veretout
- Influential Guendouzi able to get on ball and dictate tempo
- Good movement by front three – dropping deep, running behind, interchanging positions

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

AC MILAN

ITA

SAL	DIN	CHE	CHE	DIN	SAL	TOT	TOT	NAP	NAP	INT	INT	FINAL
D 1-1	W 3-1	L 3-0	L 0-2	W 0-4	W 4-0	W 1-0	D 0-0	W 1-0	D 1-1	L 0-2	L 1-0	

| ROUND OF 16 | QUARTER-FINALS | SEMI-FINALS |

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

COACH — STEFANO PIOLI

BORN: 20/10/1965, Parma (ITA)
NATIONALITY: Italian
HEAD COACH: Since 09/10/2019
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	18	6	4	8	33%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	53	25	14	14	47%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
48%

Max. 65% v Salzburg (a)
Min. 27% v Napoli (a)
UCL rank: 19

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	32%
Middle third	52%
Attacking third	16%

412
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 522 v Dinamo Zagreb (h)
Min. 223 v Napoli (a)
UCL rank: 28

82%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 89% v Dinamo Zagreb (h)
Min. 73% v Napoli (a)
UCL rank: 23

PASS DISTANCE
Long	51 (12% of total)	UCL rank: 7
Medium	160 (39%)	UCL rank: 25
Short	202 (49%)	UCL rank: 26

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION	Average	UCL rank
	12	9

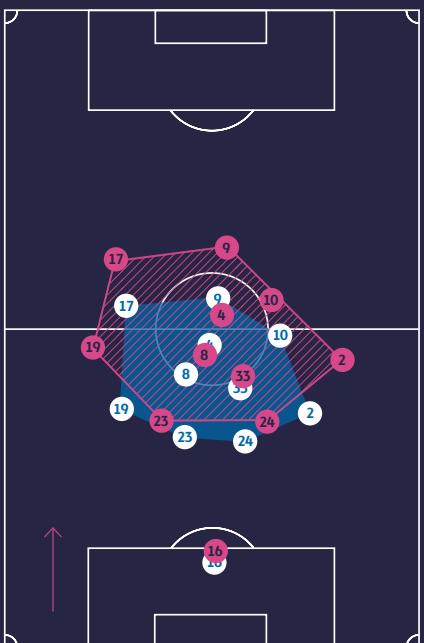| **RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD**	Average	UCL rank
	5	4=

DISTANCE COVERED
112.5 km

Max. 122.5 v Dinamo Zagreb (a)
Min. 106.1 v Chelsea (h)
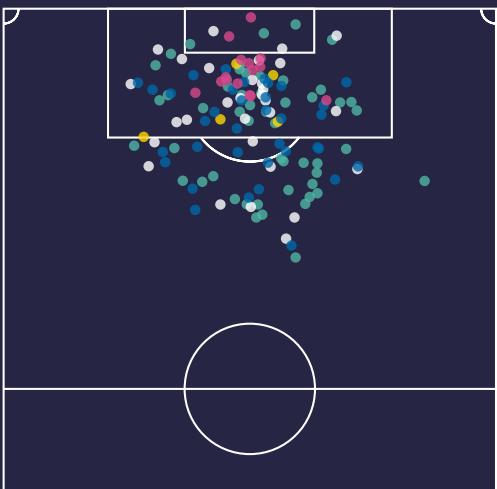UCL rank: 24

Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Napoli (h)

◩ ③ In possession | ■ ③ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

15 GOALS
1.3 per match; UCL rank: 18

16.8 EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.4 per match; UCL rank: 18

138 GOAL ATTEMPTS
11.5 per match; UCL rank: 21

45 ON TARGET
3.8 per match; UCL rank: 22

GOALS	9%
SAVED	28%
BLOCKED	23%
WOODWORK	3%
OFF TARGET	35%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Ciprian Tătărușanu	5	450		
16	Mike Maignan	7	630		
DEFENDERS					
2	Davide Calabria	6	499		
5	Fodé Ballo	4	132		
19	Theo Hernández	11	948		1
20	Pierre Kalulu	10	750		
21	Sergiño Dest	4	188		
23	Fikayo Tomori	10	828		
24	Simon Kjær	6	509		
28	Malick Thiaw	4	275		
46	Matteo Gabbia	4	209	1	
MIDFIELDERS					
4	Ismaël Bennacer	10	592	1	
8	Sandro Tonali	12	1053		2
10	Brahim Díaz	10	608	1	
32	Tommaso Pobega	8	157	1	
33	Rade Krunić	11	823	1	
56	Alexis Saelemaekers	8	371		2
FORWARDS					
9	Olivier Giroud	12	939	5	2
12	Ante Rebić	7	245		
17	Rafael Leão	11	913	1	4
27	Divock Origi	8	147		
30	Junior Messias	9	311	1	
90	Charles De Ketelaere	6	235		

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

AVERAGE AGE
27.1

CARDS
30 | 1
Sent off:
Tomori v Chelsea (h)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1
- Goalkeeper Maignan plays key role in build-up
- Strong defensive unit with good intensity and concentration e.g. Calabria marking Kvaratskhelia in QF
- Aggressive defending on front foot e.g. Hernández in UCL top five for tackles and recoveries
- Tonali's drive and eye for a key pass with 22 chances created (joint third best)
- Technical ability of Díaz to find space in tight areas
- Counterattacking threat of quick, direct Rafael Leão – second in UCL for take-ons (78)
- Experienced target man in Giroud

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Olivier Giroud	5	26	16	5.7
2	Alexis Saelemaekers	2	6	4	0.5
3	Rafael Leão	1	19	3	1.6

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Rafael Leão	4	13	2.9
2	Sandro Tonali	2	20	1.9
3	Olivier Giroud	2	6	0.9

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Fikayo Tomori	511	361	86	32
2	Sandro Tonali	458	351	79	31
3	Pierre Kalulu	456	352	88	38

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Theo Hernández	74	16	6
2	Ismaël Bennacer	65	13	7
3	Fikayo Tomori	57	16	10

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

SSC NAPOLI

ITA

COACH — LUCIANO SPALLETTI

BORN: 07/03/1959, Certaldo (ITA)
NATIONALITY: Italian
HEAD COACH: From 01/07/2021 to 04/06/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	67	29	15	23	43%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	137	70	26	41	51%

Match results

GROUP A						ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS			SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
LIV W 4-1	RAN W 0-3	AJA W 1-6	AJA W 4-2	RAN W 3-0	LIV L 2-0	FRA W 0-2	FRA W 3-0	MIL L 1-0	MIL D 1-1		

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

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
56%
Max. 70% v Frankfurt (a)
Min. 39% v Liverpool (h)
UCL rank: 7

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	29%
Middle third	54%
Attacking third	16%

544 PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 792 v Rangers (h)
Min. 383 v Liverpool (h)
UCL rank: 9

86% PASS ACCURACY
Max. 92% v Rangers (h)
Min. 80% v Rangers (a)
UCL rank: 11

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	37 (7% of total)	UCL rank: 30
Medium	201 (37%)	UCL rank: 10
Short	306 (56%)	UCL rank: 7

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	12.3	10

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
	Average	UCL rank
	6	3=

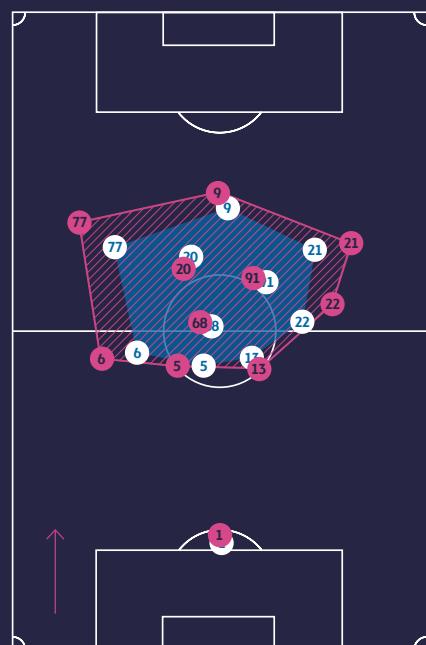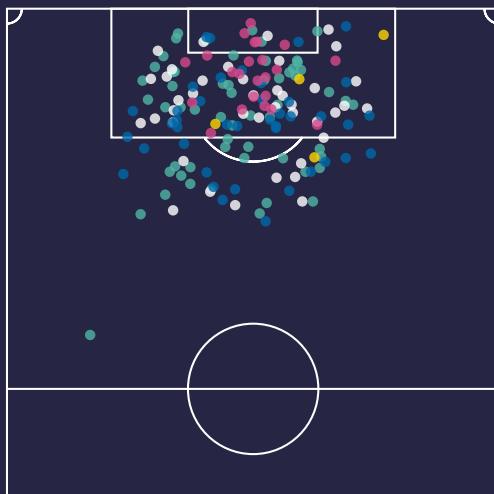### DISTANCE COVERED
114.8 km
Max. 119.4 v Liverpool (a)
Min. 111.1 v Ajax (a)
UCL rank: 20

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Milan (h)

▨ ③ In possession   ■ ③ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

26 GOALS
2.6 per match; UCL rank: 1=

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

175 GOAL ATTEMPTS
17.5 per match; UCL rank: 1

73 ON TARGET
7.3 per match; UCL rank: 2

GOALS	13%
SAVED	36%
BLOCKED	20%
WOODWORK	2%
OFF TARGET	30%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Alex Meret	10	900		
DEFENDERS					
3	Kim Min-jae	9	786		
5	Juan Jesus	3	204		
6	Mário Rui	6	388		1
13	Amir Rrahmani	7	614		
17	Mathías Olivera	8	512		2
22	Giovanni Di Lorenzo	10	890	2	2
55	Leo Østigård	3	197	1	
59	Alessandro Zanoli	2	10		
MIDFIELDERS					
7	Eljif Elmas	10	279		
20	Piotr Zieliński	10	624	4	2
68	Stanislav Lobotka	10	876		
70	Gianluca Gaetano	3	28		
91	Tanguy Ndombélé	9	369	1	1
99	André-Frank Zambo Anguissa	8	653	1	3
FORWARDS					
9	Victor Osimhen	6	424	5	
11	Hirving Lozano	9	466	1	1
18	Giovanni Simeone	7	260	4	
21	Matteo Politano	9	406	1	1
23	Alessio Zerbin	3	54		
77	Khvicha Kvaratskhelia	9	699	2	4
81	Giacomo Raspadori	7	250	4	3

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.5

CARDS
20 🟨 **1** 🟥
Sent off: Zambo Anguissa v Milan (a)

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Victor Osimhen	5	16	8	4.9
2	Piotr Zieliński	4	17	11	4.1
3	Giovanni Simeone	4	15	9	2.9

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Khvicha Kvaratskhelia	4	13	2.1
2	André-Frank Zambo Anguissa	3	7	1.2
3	Giacomo Raspadori	3	3	0.6

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Stanislav Lobotka	629	511	92	25
2	Kim Min-Jae	611	479	88	41
3	Giovanni Di Lorenzo	502	444	86	36

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Stanislav Lobotka	79	11	5
2	Giovanni Di Lorenzo	56	10	12
3	André-Frank Zambo Anguissa	56	8	14

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

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3; 1-4-1-4-1 defensive shape
- Strong centre-backs e.g. Kim – 76.2% aerial duels won, second in UCL for interceptions (22)
- Effective pressing structure, making it difficult for opposition to break
- Mobile team using combinations and width in build-up via full-backs and wingers
- Game intelligence and quality on ball of Zielinski – second in UCL for key passes (21)
- Offensive transitions via quick forward passes or diagonal switch play
- Ability in tight spaces of Kvaratskhelia – third in UCL for take-ons
- Fast, powerful striker Osimhen, stretching defensive lines and excellent with back to goal

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

FRA

GROUP H / ROUND OF 16 / QUARTER-FINALS / SEMI-FINALS / FINAL

JUV	MHA	BEN	BEN	MHA	JUV	BAY	BAY
W 2-1	W 1-3	D 1-1	D 1-1	W 7-2	W 1-2	L 0-1	L 2-0

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

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	14	4	3	7	29%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	58	20	19	19	34%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
57%
Max. 64% v Benfica (a)
Min. 46% vs Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 5

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	29%
Middle third	51%
Attacking third	21%

615
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 701 v Benfica (a)
Min. 508 v Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 3

90%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 93% v Juventus (h), Maccabi Haifa (h)
Min. 87% v Bayern (h)
UCL rank: 2

PASS DISTANCE
Long	34 (6% of total)	UCL rank: 31
Medium	193 (31%)	UCL rank: 16
Short	389 (63%)	UCL rank: 16

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	14.3	19

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
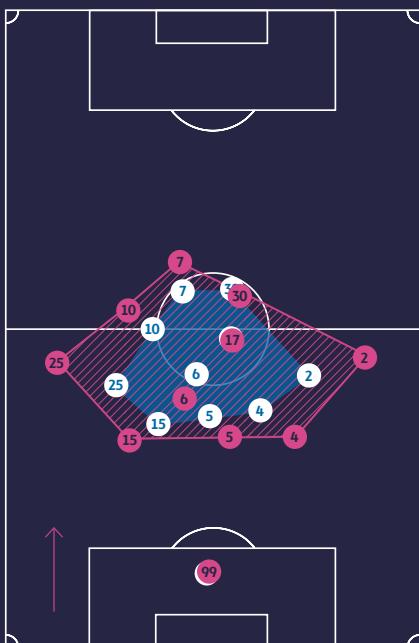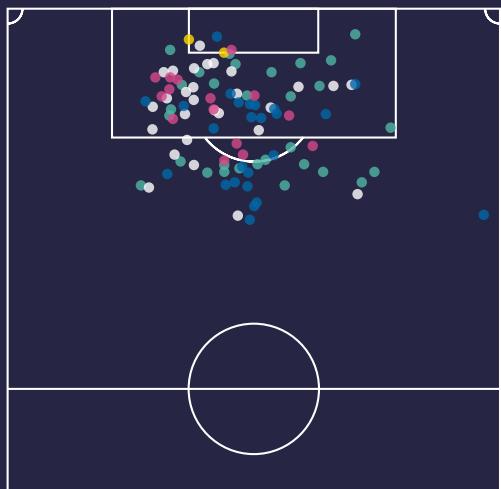|	Average	UCL rank
	4	5=

DISTANCE COVERED
108.4 km
Max. 113.1 v Bayern (a)
Min. 101.7 v Juventus (h)
UCL rank: 31

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Benfica (a)

🔳 ③ In possession | 🟦 ③ Out of possession

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
99	Gianluigi Donnarumma	8	720		
DEFENDERS					
2	Achraf Hakimi	8	580		2
3	Presnel Kimpembe	3	146		
4	Sergio Ramos	8	720		
5	Marquinhos	8	655		
14	Juan Bernat	5	276		
25	Nuno Mendes	6	439	1	
26	Nordi Mukiele	4	109		
31	El Chadaille Bitshiabu	1	45		
MIDFIELDERS					
6	Marco Verratti	7	625		1
8	Fabián Ruiz	7	237		
15	Danilo	7	449		
17	Vitinha	8	589		
18	Renato Sanches	3	140		
28	Carlos Soler	6	155	1	
33	Warren Zaïre-Emery	3	82		
FORWARDS					
7	Kylian Mbappé	8	651	7	3
10	Neymar	6	539	2	3
19	Pablo Sarabia	3	91		
30	Lionel Messi	7	615	4	4
44	Hugo Ekitike	4	58		

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.5

CARDS
14 🟨 | 0 🟥

ATTEMPTS

16
GOALS (1 own goal*)
2 per match; UCL rank: 7=

10.9
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.4 per match; UCL rank: 20

100
GOAL ATTEMPTS
12.5 per match; UCL rank: 18

44
ON TARGET
5.5 per match; UCL rank: 8=

GOALS		14%
SAVED		37%
BLOCKED		20%
WOODWORK		2%
OFF TARGET		27%

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3; also 1-4-4-2 v Juventus, 1-3-5-2 v Bayern
- Balancing act with seven in defence/midfield geared at getting best out of front three
- Defensive leadership from Marquinhos, Ramos
- Verratti closing gaps in screening role, keeping ball moving and making play
- Threat from attacking transitions with world-class trident (Messi, Neymar, Mbappé)
- Pace and penetration of Mbappé – joint first for ball carries of 10m or more in group stage (41)
- Passing and dribbling of Messi; Neymar's dribbling and combination play
- First for take-ons in the group stage with collective total of 145

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Kylian Mbappé	7	26	15	3.6
2	Lionel Messi	4	23	9	2.6
3	Neymar	2	18	6	2.1

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Lionel Messi	4	15	1.9
2	Neymar	3	14	1.4
3	Kylian Mbappé	3	5	1.4

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Marco Verratti	684	554	93	27
2	Sergio Ramos	537	434	94	26
3	Vitinha	433	373	92	21

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Sergio Ramos	55	5	11
2	Marco Verratti	52	18	6
3	Vitinha	51	6	13

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

FC VIKTORIA PLZEŇ

CZE

GROUP C

BAR	INT	BAY	BAY	INT	BAR
L 1-5	L 0-2	L 5-0	L 2-4	L 4-0	L 2-4

ROUND OF 16   QUARTER-FINALS   SEMI-FINALS   FINAL

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

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	6	0	0	6	0%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	35	13	5	17	37%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
29%

Max. 37% v Inter (a)
Min. 24% v Barcelona (a), Barcelona (h)
UCL rank: 32

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	38%
Middle third	45%
Attacking third	18%

266
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 328 v Inter (a)
Min. 206 v Barcelona (h)
UCL rank: 32

75%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 81% v Inter (a)
Min. 70% v Barcelona (a)
UCL rank: 31

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	47 (21% of total)	UCL rank: 13
Medium	95 (42%)	UCL rank: 32
Short	123 (54%)	UCL rank: 32

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	22.9	32

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
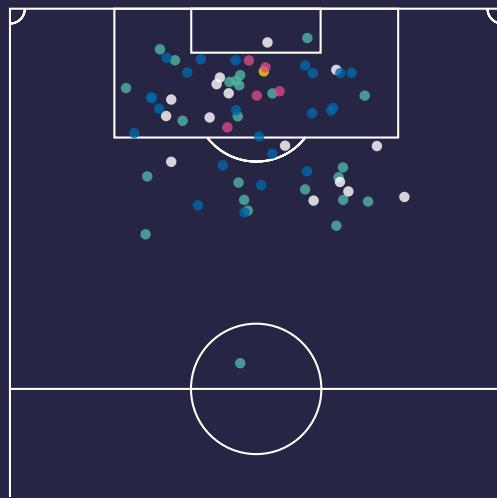|	Average	UCL rank
	4	5=

DISTANCE COVERED
117.4 km
Max. 121.8 v Barcelona (h)
Min. 113 v Inter (a)
UCL rank: 13

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Barcelona (h)

◪ ❸ In possession   ■ ❸ Out of possession

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
13	Marián Tvrdoň	1	90		
36	Jindřich Staněk	5	450		
DEFENDERS					
2	Lukáš Hejda	6	513		
3	Mohamed Tijani	3	168		
4	Luděk Pernica	6	495		
21	Václav Jemelka	5	362		1
24	Milan Havel	6	424		
44	Libor Holík	6	288		1
MIDFIELDERS					
6	Václav Pilař	5	120		
7	Jan Sýkora	2	151	1	
10	Jan Kopic	2	83		
18	Jhon Mosquera	5	434		1
20	Pavel Bucha	5	364		
23	Lukáš Kalvach	6	495		
25	Aleš Čermák	3	29		
77	Erik Jirka	6	262		
88	Adam Vlkanova	6	463	1	1
99	Modou Ndiaye	4	181		
FORWARDS					
9	Jan Kliment	1	45	1	
15	Tomáš Chorý	6	365	2	
30	Adam Kronus	1	2		
90	Fortune Bassey	5	130		

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

AVERAGE AGE
27.6

CARDS
12 **1**
Sent off: Bucha v Inter (h)

ATTEMPTS

5
GOALS
0.8 per match; UCL rank: 25=

5.6
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
0.9 per match; UCL rank: 26

68
GOAL ATTEMPTS
11.3 per match; UCL rank: 22=

20
ON TARGET
3.3 per match; UCL rank: 27=

GOALS	7%
SAVED	27%
BLOCKED	31%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	34%

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; also 1-3-4-2-1, 1-5-4-1
- Mid-game switch to 1-5-4-1 during both matches v Bayern
- Physically strong team with organisation, spirit and set-piece threat
- Defending in low block and seeking fast offensive transitions
- Start attacks with long pass and try to win second balls
- Key role of tall target striker Chorý; two goals v Barcelona
- Creative powers of Vlkanova – passing ability and delivery from free-kicks
- Lowest average possession (29.4%) and fewest touches (2,648) of group stage

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Tomáš Chorý	2	11	4	2.0
2	Adam Vlkanova	1	10	3	0.4
3	Jan Sýkora	1	3	1	0.5

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Adam Vlkanova	1	6	0.5
2	Václav Jemelka	1	2	0.4
3	Jhon Mosquera	1	2	0.4

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Lukáš Kalvach	215	135	75	40
2	Ludek Pernica	136	84	87	46
3	Pavel Bucha	128	97	88	30

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Lukáš Kalvach	46	5	14
2	Adam Vlkanova	35	2	2
3	Jhon Mosquera	26	6	4

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

FC PORTO

POR

ATL	BRU	LEV	LEV	BRU	ATL	INT	INT
L 2-1	L 0-4	W 2-0	W 0-3	W 0-4	W 2-1	L 1-0	D 0-0

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

COACH | SÉRGIO CONCEIÇÃO

BORN: 15/11/1974, Coimbra (POR)
NATIONALITY: Portuguese
HEAD COACH: Since 01/07/2017
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	42	20	7	15	48%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	56	25	10	21	45%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

48%

Max. 67% v Inter (h)
Min. 36% vs Leverkusen (a)
UCL rank: 18

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	36%
Middle third	47%
Attacking third	17%

421
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 606 v Inter (h)
Min. 338 v Club Brugge (a)
UCL rank: 25

79%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 85% v Inter (h)
Min. 73% v Club Brugge (a)
UCL rank: 28

PASS DISTANCE

Long	53 (13% of total)	UCL rank: 5
Medium	154 (37%)	UCL rank: 27
Short	214 (51%)	UCL rank: 24

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION	Average	UCL rank
	13.8	15

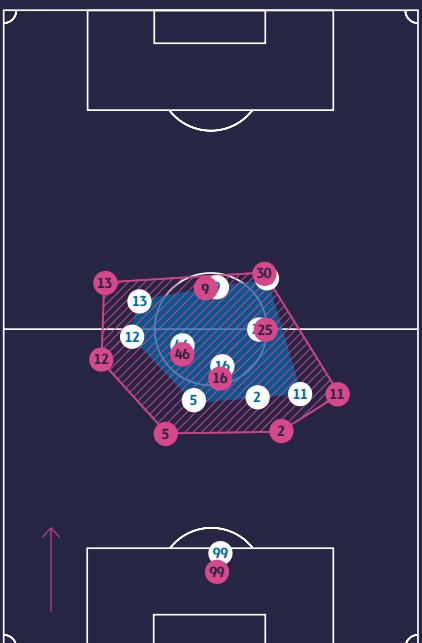| RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD	Average	UCL rank
	6	3=

DISTANCE COVERED

119 km

Max. 128.2 v Inter (h)
Min. 105.9 v Club Brugge (h)
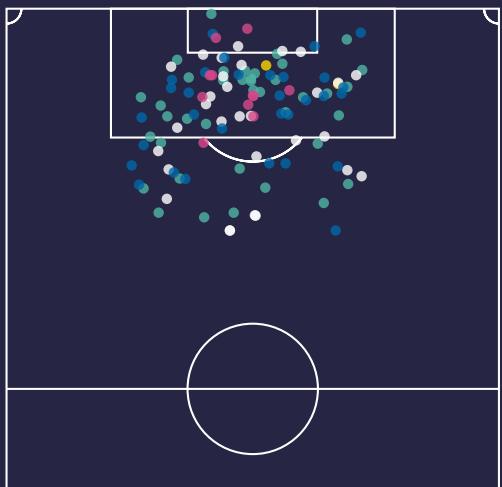UCL rank: 8

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Atlético (h)

☑ ③ In possession | ■ ③ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

12
GOALS
1.5 per match; UCL rank: 11=

15.6
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.9 per match; UCL rank: 4

114
GOAL ATTEMPTS
14.3 per match; UCL rank: 9

42
ON TARGET
5.3 per match; UCL rank: 11

GOALS		9%
SAVED		33%
BLOCKED		24%
WOODWORK		1%
OFF TARGET		32%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
99	Diogo Costa	8	720		1
DEFENDERS					
2	Fábio Cardoso	4	360		
3	Pepe	4	360		
4	David Carmo	5	450		
5	Iván Marcano	3	270		
12	Zaidu	8	588	1	
17	Rodrigo Conceição	2	3		
22	Wendell	6	139		
MIDFIELDERS					
8	Matheus Uribe	7	613	1	
16	Marko Grujić	4	277		
20	André Franco	1	20		
25	Otávio	7	530		2
28	Bruno Costa	3	71		
46	Stephen Eustáquio	7	596	2	
87	Bernardo Folha	2	7		
FORWARDS					
7	Gabriel Veron	3	44		
9	Mehdi Taremi	7	613	5	2
11	Pepê	8	689		
13	Galeno	8	568	2	1
19	Danny Namaso	3	51		
23	João Mário	5	270		
29	Toni Martínez	7	109		
30	Evanilson	8	516	1	1
70	Gonçalo Borges	4	36		

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.3

CARDS
25 **3**
Sent off:
Taremi v Atlético (a),
Otávio vs Inter (a),
Pepê v Inter (h)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2; also 1-4-3-3 in possession, 1-4-2-3-1 in attack
- Solid goalkeeper in Diogo Costa – third for goals saved (3.30) up to quarter-finals
- Compact and disciplined in defence
- Good technical footballers who can play under pressure (Otávio, Grujić)
- Width and movement from wingers and full-backs
- Strong midfield pressing led by Uribe (68 recoveries)
- Dangerous transitions with quick balls to swift wingers (Galeno, Pepê)
- Strong centre-forward play by Taremi

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

		G	S	OT	xG
1	Mehdi Taremi	5	24	12	6.0
2	Galeno	2	15	5	2.8
3	Stephen Eustáquio	2	12	6	1.6

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

CHANCE CREATION

		A	KP	xA
1	Mehdi Taremi	2	12	2.1
2	Otávio	2	12	1.0
3	Galeno	1	8	1.1

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

PASSES

		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Diogo Costa	334	248	70	55
2	Matheus Uribe	314	225	83	34
3	Pepê	270	230	77	38

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

DEFENDING

		BR	TW	I
1	Matheus Uribe	68	9	11
2	Pepê	52	9	5
3	Stephen Eustáquio	35	7	11

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

RANGERS FC

SCO

AJA L 4-0	NAP L 0-3	LIV L 2-0	LIV L 1-7	NAP L 3-0	AJA L 1-3	ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL

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

COACH

GIOVANNI VAN BRONCKHORST

BORN: 05/02/1975, Rotterdam (NED)
NATIONALITY: Dutch
HEAD COACH: From 18/11/2021 to 21/11/2022
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	12	1	0	11	8%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	35	10	5	20	29%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

38%

Max. 47% v Ajax (h)
Min. 26% v Ajax (a)
UCL rank: 30

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	40%
Middle third	47%
Attacking third	13%

370
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 440 v Ajax (h)
Min. 259 v Ajax (a)
UCL rank: 30

77%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 83% v Ajax (h)
Min. 70% v Liverpool (h)
UCL rank: 30

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	47 (13% of total)	UCL rank: 4
Medium	120 (32%)	UCL rank: 30
Short	203 (55%)	UCL rank: 30

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION

	Average	UCL rank
	20.4	30

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
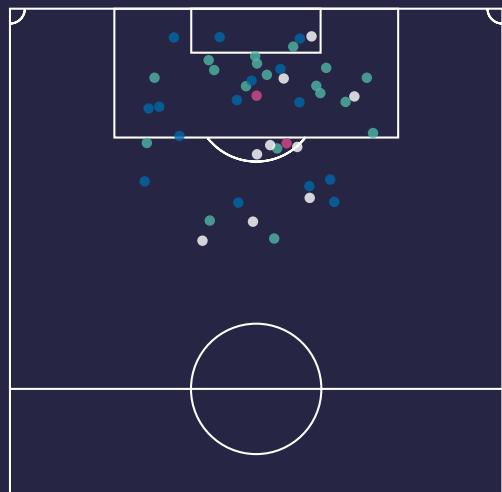
	Average	UCL rank
	4	5=

DISTANCE COVERED

111 km

Max. 114.5 v Napoli (a)
Min. 107.6 v Napoli (h)
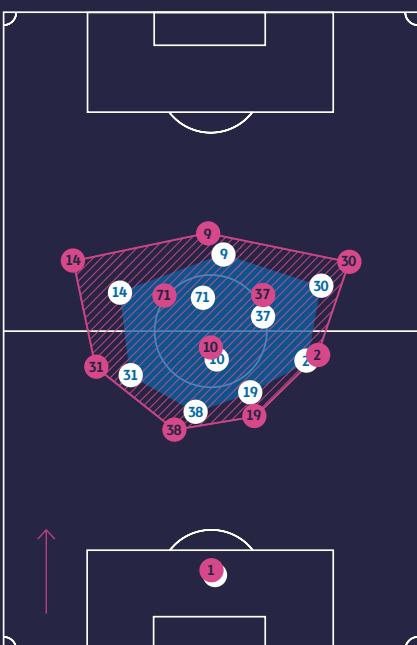UCL rank: 27

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Ajax (h)

▨ ③ In possession   ■ ③ Out of possession

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Allan McGregor	5	450		
33	Jon McLaughlin	1	90		
DEFENDERS					
2	James Tavernier	6	487	1	
3	Rıdvan Yılmaz	1	90		
6	Connor Goldson	4	314		
26	Ben Davies	3	261		
31	Borna Barišić	6	464		
38	Leon King	6	374		
MIDFIELDERS					
4	John Lundstram	5	450		
8	Ryan Jack	4	192		1
10	Steven Davis	5	250		
14	Ryan Kent	6	510		
18	Glen Kamara	4	125		
19	James Sands	4	325		
30	Fashion Sakala	4	235		
37	Scott Arfield	4	268	1	
51	Alex Lowry	1	7		
FORWARDS					
9	Antonio Čolak	6	284		
17	Rabbi Matondo	5	93		
20	Alfredo Morelos	5	256		
23	Scott Wright	4	134		
71	Malik Tillman	5	246		

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

ATTEMPTS

2
GOALS
0.3 per match; UCL rank: 31

4.9
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
0.8 per match; UCL rank: 28

44
GOAL ATTEMPTS
7.3 per match; UCL rank: 32

12
ON TARGET
2 per match; UCL rank: 32

GOALS	4%
SAVED	26%
BLOCKED	30%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	39%

AVERAGE AGE

27.2

CARDS

10 **1**

Sent off:
Sands v Napoli (h)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3, 1-4-5-1, 1-4-2-3-1; also 1-3-5-2, 1-5-4-1
- Look to start home games with intensity, drawing on crowd energy
- Saves of experienced goalkeeper McGregor limited damage at times
- Power and physicality of attacking full-back Tavernier
- Central midfielders had clear roles, one sitting at all times
- Dribbling of left winger Kent (35 take-ons)
- Lowest number of shots on goal (12) and percentage on target (27.3%)
- Worst goal difference recorded in group stage history (-20)

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

		G	S	OT	xG
1	James Tavernier	1	5	3	1.1
2	Scott Arfield	1	5	3	0.6
3	Fashion Sakala	0	7	1	0.5

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

CHANCE CREATION

		A	KP	xA
1	Ryan Jack	1	2	0.0
2	James Tavernier	0	6	1.0
3	Borna Barišić	0	5	0.4

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

PASSES

		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Borna Barišić	210	186	89	48
2	John Lundstram	209	135	82	45
3	James Tavernier	205	165	68	42

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

DEFENDING

		BR	TW	I
1	John Lundstram	41	3	9
2	James Tavernier	32	5	6
3	Ryan Kent	24	3	1

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

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

REAL MADRID CF

ESP

BORN: 10/06/1959, Reggiolo (ITA)
NATIONALITY: Italian
HEAD COACH: Since 01/07/2021
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 8

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	191	108	41	42	57%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	233	132	51	50	57%

GROUP F						ROUND OF 16		QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL
CEL	LEI	SHA	SHA	LEI	CEL	LIV	LIV	CHE	CHE	MCI	MCI	
W 0-3	W 2-0	W 2-1	D 1-1	L 3-2	W 5-1	W 2-5	W 1-0	W 2-0	W 0-2	D 1-1	L 4-0	

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

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
54%

Max. 64% v Celtic (a), Celtic (h)
Min. 41% v Man City (a)
UCL rank: 10

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

594
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 845 v Celtic (a)
Min. 421 v Man City (a)
UCL rank: 4

89%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 93% v Celtic (a)
Min. 83% Man City (a)
UCL rank: 3

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	41 (7% of total)	UCL rank: 26
Medium	193 (32%)	UCL rank: 17
Short	361 (61%)	UCL rank: 26

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
	Average	UCL rank
	14.9	21

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
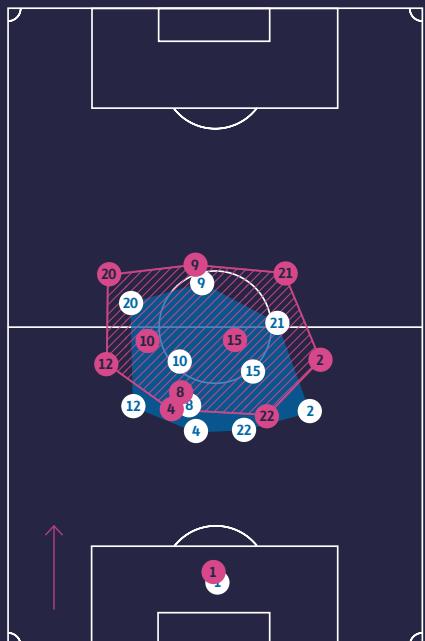|	Average	UCL rank
	5	4

DISTANCE COVERED
109.8 km

Max. 119 v Shakhtar (a)
Min. 104.8 v Celtic (h)
UCL rank: 29

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Man City (h)

▨ ③ In possession | ■ ③ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

26 **GOALS**
2.2 per match; UCL rank: 6

23.2 **EXPECTED GOALS (xG)**
1.9 per match; UCL rank: 6

187 **GOAL ATTEMPTS**
15.6 per match; UCL rank: 5

81 **ON TARGET**
6.8 per match; UCL rank: 5

GOALS	12%
SAVED	38%
BLOCKED	18%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	32%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Thibaut Courtois	10	900		
13	Andriy Lunin	2	180		
DEFENDERS					
2	Dani Carvajal	11	871		2
3	Éder Militão	9	748	1	
4	David Alaba	11	713		
5	Jesús Vallejo	1	17		
6	Nacho	8	439		
22	Antonio Rüdiger	10	676	1	
23	Ferland Mendy	5	347		
MIDFIELDERS					
8	Toni Kroos	12	846		2
10	Luka Modrić	10	750	2	1
12	Eduardo Camavinga	11	721		1
15	Federico Valverde	11	968	2	3
17	Lucas Vázquez	5	201		1
18	Aurélien Tchouameni	10	431		
19	Dani Ceballos	7	81		
FORWARDS					
7	Eden Hazard	3	131	1	1
9	Karim Benzema	10	747	4	1
11	Marco Asensio	12	314	3	1
20	Vinícius Júnior	12	975	7	6
21	Rodrygo	12	824	5	2
24	Mariano Díaz	1	5		

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

AVERAGE AGE
26.5

CARDS
15 | 0

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 in and usually out of possession; 1-4-1-4-1 in high block v Man City
- Assured, experienced goalkeeper in Courtois (5.85 goals prevented)
- Full-backs step inside to find space to play e.g. Camavinga
- Composure in possession with excellent decision-making especially in midfield
- Quick counters and effective combinations in tight areas
- Excellent movement and hold-up play of Benzema
- Impressive link-up between Benzema and young quick wingers
- Directness and speed of Vinícius Júnior: first in UCL for ball carries after 1v1 (68)

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Vinícius Júnior	7	38	21	6.5
2	Rodrygo	5	25	12	4.7
3	Karim Benzema	4	35	19	5.1

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Vinícius Júnior	6	13	2.7
2	Federico Valverde	3	16	2.4
3	Toni Kroos	2	14	1.2

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Toni Kroos	874	719	94	34
2	Luka Modrić	576	518	90	26
3	Federico Valverde	554	522	89	25

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Toni Kroos	54	16	9
2	Federico Valverde	45	7	14
3	Luka Modrić	44	2	7

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

FC SALZBURG

AUT

GROUP E

MIL	CHE	DIN	DIN	CHE	MIL
D 1-1	D 1-1	W 1-0	D 1-1	L 1-2	L 4-0

ROUND OF 16   QUARTER-FINALS   SEMI-FINALS   FINAL

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

COACH
MATTHIAS JAISSLE

BORN: 05/04/1988, Nürtingen (GER)
NATIONALITY: German
HEAD COACH: From 01/07/2021 to 28/07/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	14	4	5	5	29%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	18	7	5	6	39%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
40%

Max. 52% v Milan (a)
Min. 29% v Chelsea (a)
UCL rank: 29

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	27%
Middle third	56%
Attacking third	18%

327
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 438 v Dinamo Zagreb (h)
Min. 230 v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 31

71%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 80% v Dinamo (h), Milan (a)
Min. 50% v Chelsea (h)
UCL rank: 32

PASS DISTANCE
Long	43 (13% of total)	UCL rank: 21
Medium	109 (33%)	UCL rank: 31
Short	175 (54%)	UCL rank: 31

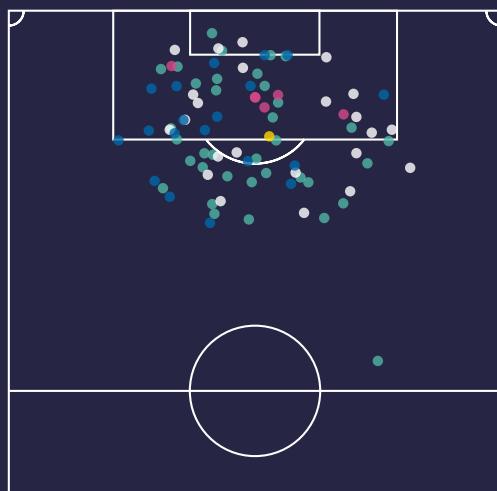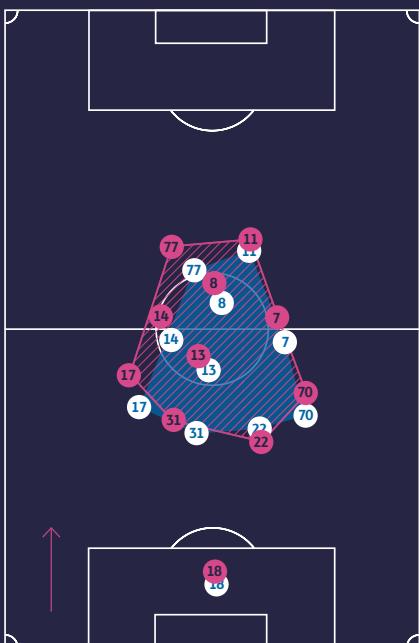|	Average	UCL rank
PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION	10.8	5
RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD	7	2=

DISTANCE COVERED
116 km

Max. 120.1 v Dinamo Zagreb (a)
Min. 110.9 v Milan (a)
UCL rank: 17

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Milan (h)

▨ ③ In possession   ■ ③ Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

5
GOALS
0.8 per match; UCL rank: 25=

8.4
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.4 per match; UCL rank: 19

85
GOAL ATTEMPTS
14.2 per match; UCL rank: 10

29
ON TARGET
4.8 per match; UCL rank: 14=

GOALS	5%
SAVED	32%
BLOCKED	21%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	41%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
18	Philipp Köhn	6	540		
DEFENDERS					
17	Andreas Ulmer	6	374		
22	Oumar Solet	4	267		
31	Strahinja Pavlović	6	540		
39	Maximilian Wöber	3	166		1
70	Amar Dedić	6	540		
95	Bernardo	4	273		
MIDFIELDERS					
7	Nicolás Capaldo	3	270		
8	Dijon Kameri	4	119		
13	Nicolas Seiwald	6	540	1	
14	Maurits Kjærgaard	6	495		
21	Luka Sučić	5	400		
27	Lucas Gourna-Douath	6	315		
77	Noah Okafor	6	470	3	
FORWARDS					
9	Junior Adamu	6	203	1	1
11	Fernando	1	65		1
20	Sékou Koita	2	18		
23	Roko Šimić	2	16		
30	Benjamin Šeško	6	329		

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

AVERAGE AGE
22.3

CARDS
🟨 **11**   🟥 **0**

PLAYER STATISTICS
Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Noah Okafor	3	11	6	1.73
2	Nicolas Seiwald	1	6	3	0.41
3	Junior Adamu	1	5	3	1.31

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Nicolas Seiwald	239	148	77	36
2	Strahinja Pavlović	218	118	70	49
3	Amar Dedić	195	142	65	56

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Maximilian Wöber	1	2	0.44
2	Junior Adamu	1	1	0.22
3	Fernando	1	1	0.01

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Nicolas Seiwald	47	14	8
2	Lucas Gourna-Douath	44	6	4
3	Maurits Kjærgaard	43	11	4

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

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-1-2; 1-4-1-3-2 defensively
- Compact diamond midfield shape; narrow out of possession to force opponent wide
- Immediate pressure on loss of ball; pass it quickly on regain
- Strong displays from young centre-backs Solet and Pavlović
- Tireless work by midfielder Seiwald – 47 recoveries and 14 tackles won
- Counterattack with two strikers and quick support from midfield and full-backs
- Powerful running, awareness, goal threat of Okafor
- First for tackles (154) and joint-first for recoveries (389) in group stage

SEVILLA FC

ESP

MCI	COP	DOR	DOR	COP	MCI
L 0-4	D 0-0	L 1-4	D 1-1	W 3-0	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

COACH

JORGE SAMPAOLI*

BORN: 13/03/1960, Casilda (ARG)
NATIONALITY: Argentinian
HEAD COACH: From 06/10/2022 to 21/03/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	11	5	3	3	45%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	29	13	8	8	45%

*Julen Lopetegui in charge for Matchdays 1 to 3

AVERAGES

POSSESSION

50%

Max. 63% v Copenhagen (a)
Min. 39% v Man City (h), Man City (a)
UCL rank: 14

POSSESSION POSITION

First third	38%
Middle third	46%
Attacking third	17%

492
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 604 v Copenhagen (a)
Min. 372 v Man City (h)
UCL rank: 15

84%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 89% v Copenhagen (h)
Min. 79% v Man City (h)
UCL rank: 16

PASS DISTANCE*

Long	49 (10% of total)	UCL rank: 9
Medium	207 (42%)	UCL rank: 7
Short	236 (48%)	UCL rank: 19

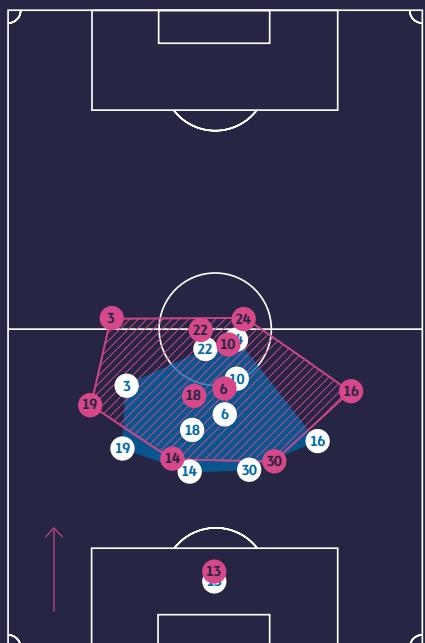|	Average	UCL rank
PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION	16.4	25
RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD	4	24=

DISTANCE COVERED

114.1 km

Max. 118.2 v Copenhagen (a)
Min. 107.6 v Copenhagen (h)
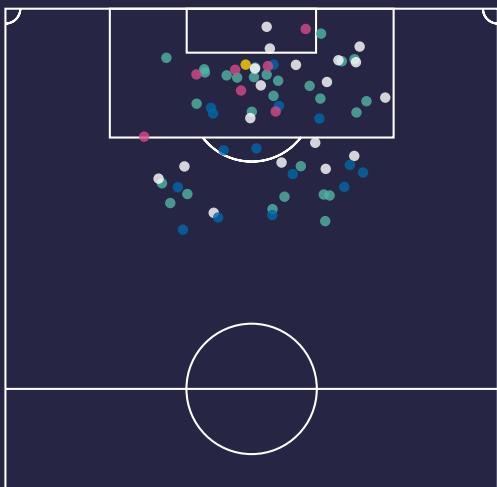UCL rank: 22

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Man City (h)

☑ ③ In possession | ■ ③ Out of possession

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Marko Dmitrović	2	180		
13	Yassine Bounou	4	360		
DEFENDERS					
2	Gonzalo Montiel	4	226	1	
3	Alex Telles	6	391		1
4	Karim Rekik	1	90		
14	Tanguy Nianzou	2	180	1	
16	Jesús Navas	3	224		
19	Marcos Acuña	4	219		1
23	Marcão	3	223		
29	Kike Salas	2	180		
30	José Ángel Carmona	5	450		
MIDFIELDERS					
6	Nemanja Gudelj	6	496		
8	Joan Jordán	6	259		
10	Ivan Rakitić	6	421		1
17	Erik Lamela	5	277		1
18	Thomas Delaney	4	230		
20	Fernando	1	90		
22	Isco	6	402	1	1
FORWARDS					
5	Kasper Dolberg	4	107		
7	Suso	6	237		
11	Adnan Januzaj	3	49		
12	Rafa Mir	3	155	1	
15	Youssef En-Nesyri	4	248	2	
24	Alejandro Gómez	5	246		1

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

AVERAGE AGE
28.4

CARDS
13 | 0

ATTEMPTS

6
GOALS
1 per match; UCL rank: 21=

5.6
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
0.9 per match; UCL rank: 27

68
GOAL ATTEMPTS
11.3 per match; UCL rank: 22=

24
ON TARGET
4 per match; UCL rank: 18=

GOALS	8%
SAVED	32%
BLOCKED	20%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	39%

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1, 1-4-3-3, 1-3-4-3
- Tactical variations included back five at Dortmund and City
- Possession-based approach, looking to build from back
- Width from full-backs, with inverted wingers
- Clever, technical footballers in midfield/attack
- Good movement in attack; vulnerable in defensive transitions
- Set-play deliveries of experienced Rakitić
- Powerful centre-forward play of En-Nesyri

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS

		G	S	OT	xG
1	Youssef En-Nesyri	2	12	6	1.7
2	Isco	1	8	5	0.7
3	Rafa Mir	1	8	3	0.5

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

PASSES

		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Nemanja Gudelj	326	251	90	26
2	José Ángel Carmona	274	235	88	27
3	Ivan Rakitić	239	199	86	27

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

CHANCE CREATION

		A	KP	xA
1	Alejandro Gómez	1	4	0.9
2	Isco	1	4	0.5
3	Alex Telles	1	4	0.4

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

DEFENDING

		BR	TW	I
1	Ivan Rakitić	28	4	4
2	Isco	25	3	5
3	Nemanja Gudelj	22	2	2

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

Rankings on this page may be based on figures before they are rounded up or down

FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK

UKR

COACH | **IGOR JOVIĆEVIĆ**

BORN: 30/11/1973, Zagreb (CRO)
NATIONALITY: Croatian
HEAD COACH: From 14/07/2022 to 01/07/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	6	1	3	2	17%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	10	2	5	3	20%

GROUP F

LEI	CEL	RMA	RMA	CEL	LEI
W 1-4	D 1-1	L 2-1	D 1-1	D 1-1	L 0-4

ROUND OF 16 · QUARTER-FINALS · SEMI-FINALS · FINAL

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

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
42%
Max. 49% v Leipzig (h)
Min. 32% v Leipzig (a)
UCL rank: 28

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	49%
Middle third	43%
Attacking third	8%

462
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 536 v Celtic (a)
Min. 305 v Leipzig (a)
UCL rank: 20

85%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 87% v Celtic (a)
Min. 80% v Leipzig (a)
UCL rank: 14

PASS DISTANCE
Long	42 (9% of total)	UCL rank: 25
Medium	178 (39%)	UCL rank: 21
Short	243 (53%)	UCL rank: 18

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION	Average	UCL rank
	22.1	31

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD	Average	UCL rank
	2	7=

DISTANCE COVERED
116.3 km
Max. 123.6 v Celtic (h)
Min. 109.9 v Leipzig (h)
UCL rank: 16
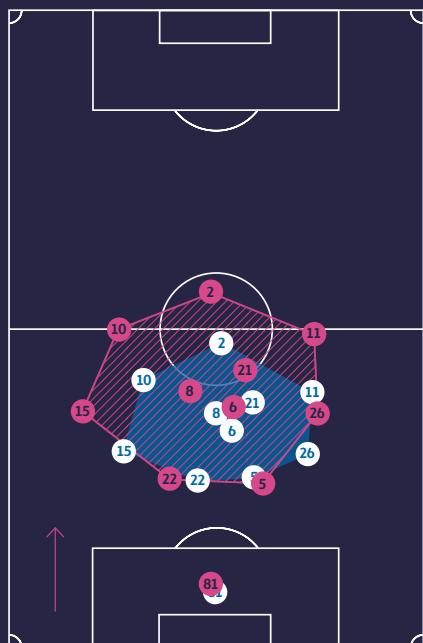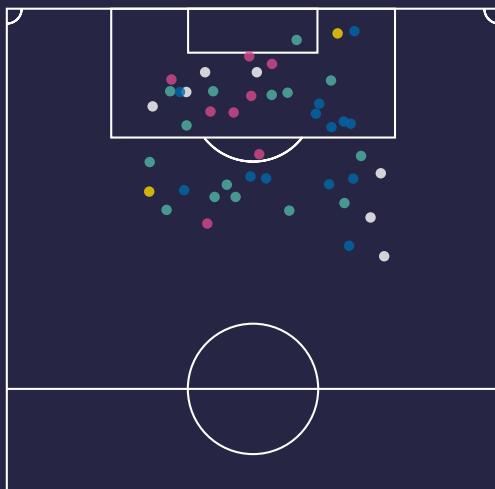
*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Real Madrid (h)

⊠ 3 In possession   ■ 3 Out of possession

ATTEMPTS

8
GOALS
1.3 per match; UCL rank: 15=

3.8
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
0.6 per match; UCL rank: 32

45
GOAL ATTEMPTS
7.5 per match; UCL rank: 30=

15
ON TARGET
2.5 per match; UCL rank: 31

GOALS	15%
SAVED	27%
BLOCKED	24%
WOODWORK	4%
OFF TARGET	31%

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
81	Anatoliy Trubin	6	540		
DEFENDERS					
4	Serhiy Kryvstov	2	5		
5	Valeriy Bondar	6	540		
15	Bogdan Mykhaylichenko	4	360		2
22	Mykola Matviyenko	6	540		
23	Lucas Taylor	5	310		
26	Yukhym Konoplia	5	419		
MIDFIELDERS					
6	Taras Stepanenko	6	534		
7	Andriy Totovytskyi	1	16		
8	Georgiy Sudakov	6	484		2
9	Marian Shved	3	190	2	
10	Mykhailo Mudryk	6	518	3	2
11	Oleksandr Zubkov	5	369	2	
16	Dmytro Kryskiv	1	9		
17	Neven Djurasek	5	86		
21	Artem Bondarenko	6	487		
27	Oleh Ocheretko	1	13		
34	Ivan Petriak	6	176		
FORWARDS					
2	Lassina Traoré	6	244	1	
14	Danylo Sikan	4	101		1

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

AVERAGE AGE
24.4

CARDS
16 **0**

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-1-4-1, 1-4-2-3-1
- Disciplined defensively; low, compact 1-4-5-1 with narrow back four and no space between lines
- Centre-back Bondar's strong 1v1 defending; second-most blocks in group stage (9)
- Skipper Stepanenko sits in front of back four as pivot
- Combination play in midfield, setting up penetrating runs and passes behind back line
- Quick to get ball forward on transition, exploiting pace of Mudryk
- Switches of play to find 2v1 in wide areas, e.g. in 4-1 win at Leipzig
- Box-to-box midfielder Sudakov joint-first for through balls in group stage with Messi and Kane (4)

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Mykhailo Mudryk	3	9	6	1.1
2	Oleksandr Zubkov	2	8	3	1.0
3	Marian Shved	2	7	3	0.4

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Mykola Matviyenko	443	347	89	31
2	Valeriy Bondar	344	285	92	32
3	Georgiy Sudakov	312	286	89	26

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Georgiy Sudakov	2	4	0.6
2	Mykhailo Mudryk	2	3	1.1
3	Bohdan Mykhailichenko	2	0	0.3

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Taras Stepanenko	31	11	12
2	Artem Bondarenko	29	4	7
3	Mykola Matviyenko	27	4	9

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

SPORTING CLUBE DE PORTUGAL

POR

							ROUND OF 16	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL

GROUP D

FRA	TOT	MAR	MAR	TOT	FRA
W 0-3	W 2-0	L 4-1	L 0-2	D 1-1	L 1-2

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

COACH
RÚBEN AMORIM

BORN: 27/01/1985, Lisboa (POR)
NATIONALITY: Portuguese
HEAD COACH: Since 05/03/2020
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	14	5	2	7	36%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	24	8	5	11	33%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
46%

Max. 56% v Frankfurt (a)
Min. 32% v Marseille (h)
UCL rank: 22

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	43%
Middle third	47%
Attacking third	10%

435
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 565 v Tottenham (h)
Min. 284 v Marseille (h)
UCL rank: 23

81%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 87% v Tottenham (h)
Min. 76% v Marseille (a), Marseille (h)
UCL rank: 24

PASS DISTANCE*
Long	54 (12% of total)	UCL rank: 2
Medium	178 (41%)	UCL rank: 20
Short	203 (47%)	UCL rank: 25

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION
Average	UCL rank
15.3	22

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD
Average	UCL rank
3	6
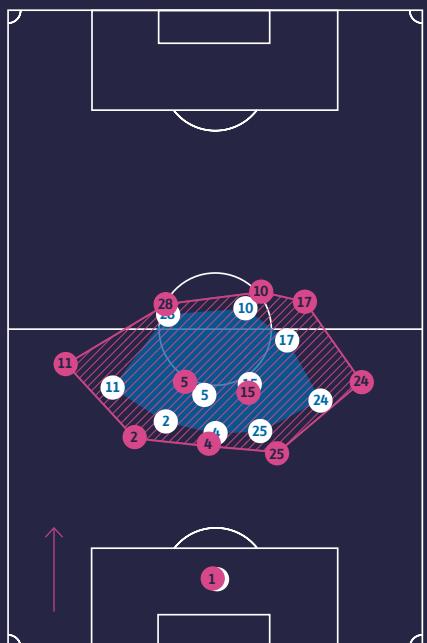
DISTANCE COVERED
109.1 km
Max. 122.3 v Tottenham (a)
Min. 100.1 v Marseille (a)
UCL rank: 30

*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE
Example: v Tottenham (h)

⬚ ③ In possession | ◼ ③ Out of possession

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Antonio Adán	5	383		
12	Franco Israel	2	154		
DEFENDERS					
2	Matheus Reis	6	508		
3	Jeremiah St. Juste	4	190		
4	Sebastián Coates	5	395		
13	Luís Neto	1	38		
24	Pedro Porro	5	391		1
25	Gonçalo Inácio	6	540		
47	Ricardo Esgaio	3	110		
63	José Marsà	2	100		
71	Flávio Nazinho	3	119		
MIDFIELDERS					
5	Hidemasa Morita	5	334		1
6	Sotirios Alexandropoulos	3	119		
15	Manuel Ugarte	6	468		
28	Pedro Gonçalves	5	364		1
82	Mateus	1	29		
84	Dário Essugo	1	27		
FORWARDS					
10	Marcus Edwards	6	357	2	1
11	Nuno Santos	6	297	1	
16	Rochinha	1	17		
17	Francisco Trincão	6	388	2	
18	Fatawu Issahaku	2	87		
20	Paulinho	5	235	1	
33	Arthur Gomes	3	110	2	
77	Jovane Cabral	1	12		

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

AVERAGE AGE
24.5

CARDS
17 **3**

Sent off: Adán v Marseille (a), Esgaio & Gonçalves v Marseille (h)

ATTEMPTS

8
GOALS
1.3 per match; UCL rank: 15=

3.9
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
0.6 per match; UCL rank: 31

45
GOAL ATTEMPTS
7.5 per match; UCL rank: 30=

21
ON TARGET
3.5 per match; UCL rank: 24

GOALS	15%
SAVED	40%
BLOCKED	13%
WOODWORK	0%
OFF TARGET	32%

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3; also 1-5-3-2
- Short, quick passing game with dynamic movement and fast attacking transitions
- From pressing high, switch to deep, compact 1-5-4-1 when defending
- Goalkeeper Adán strong on line and controlling box; first for crosses claimed (11) in group stage
- Key midfield role of Pedro Gonçalves, showing speed to lead transitions
- Attack with width, with tricky wingers (Trincão) high and intelligent movement between lines
- Influence of Edwards with dribbling, receiving in pockets, work rate

PLAYER STATISTICS
Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Francisco Trincão	2	9	4	0.5
2	Marcus Edwards	2	7	5	0.7
3	Arthur Gomes	2	2	2	0.3

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Marcus Edwards	1	4	0.5
2	Pedro Gonçalves	1	4	0.3
3	Pedro Porro	1	3	0.2

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Gonçalo Inácio	376	275	88	35
2	Matheus Reis	316	251	88	31
3	Manuel Ugarte	235	175	85	20

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Manuel Ugarte	43	17	13
2	Pedro Porro	23	10	4
3	Gonçalo Inácio	23	1	5

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

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR FC

ENG

GROUP D					ROUND OF 16			QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL
MAR W 2-0	SPO L 2-0	FRA D 0-0	FRA W 3-2	SPO D 1-1	MAR W 1-2	MIL L 1-0	MIL D 0-0			

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

COACH

ANTONIO CONTE

BORN: 31/07/1969, Lecce (ITA)
NATIONALITY: Italian
HEAD COACH: From 02/11/2021 to 26/03/2023
UEFA CLUB TROPHIES WON: 0

	Matches	W	D	L	Win%
UEFA Champions League (Group stage to final)	42	15	14	13	36%
UEFA club competition (including qualifying)	58	26	16	16	45%

AVERAGES

POSSESSION
50%
Max. 59% v Sporting CP (h)
Min. 36% v Marseille (a)
UCL rank: 15

POSSESSION POSITION
First third	29%
Middle third	54%
Attacking third	17%

488
PASSES ATTEMPTED
Max. 611 v Frankfurt (a)
Min. 382 v Marseille (a)
UCL rank: 17

84%
PASS ACCURACY
Max. 86% v Marseille (h)
Min. 80% v Milan (a)
UCL rank: 19

PASS DISTANCE
Long	39 (8% of total)	UCL rank: 28
Medium	194 (40%)	UCL rank: 15
Short	254 (52%)	UCL rank: 16

PASSES PER DEFENSIVE ACTION	Average	UCL rank
	11.7	7

RECOVERIES IN ATTACKING THIRD	Average	UCL rank
	4	5=

DISTANCE COVERED
120.4 km
Max. 130.7 v Marseille (a)
Min. 115.6 v Sporting CP (a)
UCL rank: 2
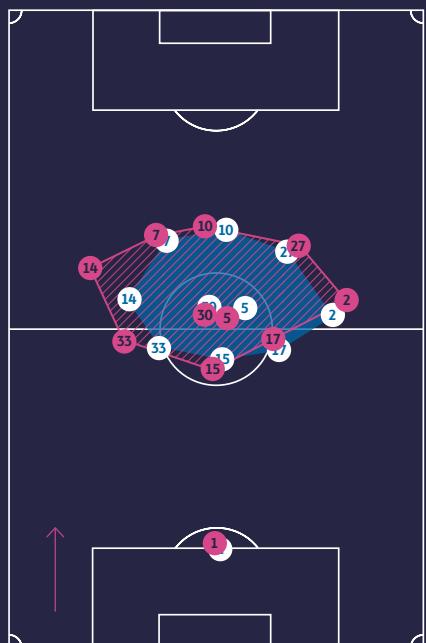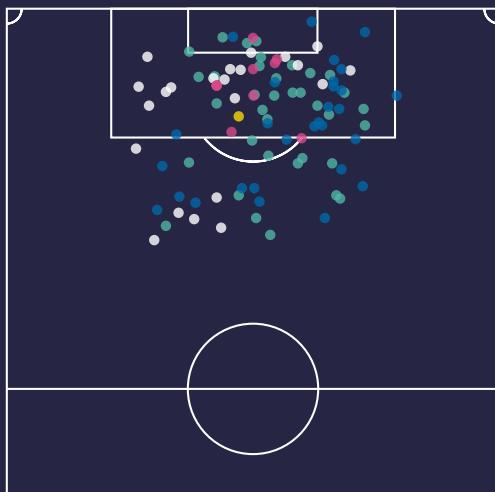
*Decimal points account for the extra/missing 1%

SHAPE

Example: v Sporting CP (h)

▨ ③ In possession   ■ ③ Out of possession

SQUAD

		App	Min	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Hugo Lloris	6	540		
20	Fraser Forster	2	180		
DEFENDERS					
2	Matt Doherty	2	76		
6	Davinson Sánchez	2	19		
12	Emerson	8	545		
15	Eric Dier	7	618		
17	Cristian Romero	7	600		
19	Ryan Sessegnon	3	154		
23	Pedro Porro	1	37		1
25	Japhet Tanganga	1	17		
33	Ben Davies	7	389		
34	Clément Lenglet	7	512	1	
MIDFIELDERS					
4	Oliver Skipp	4	209		
5	Pierre-Emile Højbjerg	7	625	1	
7	Heung-Min Son	8	622	2	2
14	Ivan Perišić	7	574		3
16	Arnaut Danjuma	1	9		
21	Dejan Kulusevski	4	200		
29	Pape Sarr	1	90		
30	Rodrigo Bentancur	6	506	1	
38	Yves Bissouma	3	89		
FORWARDS					
9	Richarlison	6	365	2	
10	Harry Kane	8	720	1	2
11	Bryan Gil	4	37		
27	Lucas Moura	3	175		

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

ATTEMPTS

8
GOALS
1 per match; UCL rank: 21=

10.0
EXPECTED GOALS (xG)
1.3 per match; UCL rank: 22

97
GOAL ATTEMPTS
12.1 per match; UCL rank: 19=

32
ON TARGET
4 per match; UCL rank: 18=

GOALS	8%
SAVED	30%
BLOCKED	26%
WOODWORK	1%
OFF TARGET	35%

AVERAGE AGE
26.3

CARDS
20 **1**
Sent off: Romero v AC Milan (h)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-2-1; 1-5-4-1 defensively
- Compact in defence with counterattacking approach
- Energy and pressing of Højbjerg in midfield – 50 recoveries in group stage
- Box-to-box Bentancur influential with ability to progress the ball
- Power in air: highest percentage of aerial duels won in group stage (63.1%)
- Narrow front three with width from wing-backs
- Crossing of Perišić – third-most completed crosses in group stage (12)
- Intelligent vertical play with balls behind defence looking for fast attackers

PLAYER STATISTICS

Where totals are equal, rank is decided by next value

GOALS
		G	S	OT	xG
1	Heung-Min Son	2	15	8	1.6
2	Richarlison	2	10	3	1.2
3	Harry Kane	1	22	6	3.6

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

CHANCE CREATION
		A	KP	xA
1	Ivan Perišić	3	7	1.8
2	Heung-Min Son	2	11	1.2
3	Harry Kane	2	6	0.7

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

PASSES
		Att	R	S%	PF%
1	Eric Dier	460	339	90	30
2	Pierre-Emile Højbjerg	436	360	89	28
3	Cristian Romero	426	300	90	34

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

DEFENDING
		BR	TW	I
1	Pierre-Emile Højbjerg	57	8	11
2	Cristian Romero	41	9	10
3	Rodrigo Bentancur	41	7	5

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

THE CHAMPIONS

2023	Manchester City FC
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 Bucureşti
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

myclimate neutral Printed Matter
myclimate.org/01-23-270757

MIX Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C019425
www.fsc.org

To view technical reports from all UEFA competitions, please visit
uefatechnicalreports.com

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL