

UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

**Dribbling vs. Chance Creation:
Jeremy Doku at Euro 2024**

Efstathios Papadopoulos
Uppsala University
September 12, 2025

Introduction

Having observed Jeremy Doku prior to the Euro 2024 tournament, as well as closely analyzing his performances during the competition, it is evident that he is an elite dribbler. His ability to bypass opponents with ease stems not only from the frequency of his dribble attempts but also from his exceptional body mechanics and explosive first-step acceleration.

However, it has also been observed that he does not consistently convert these individual skills into meaningful offensive contributions for his team. This report aims to examine this observation quantitatively by analyzing Doku's dribbles in relation to his passes into the opposition box—a metric indicative of chance creation in the final third—and comparing his performance to that of other wingers in the tournament.

Data and Methods

The analysis utilizes event data from StatsBomb's open dataset, covering all Euro 2024 matches. Key variables extracted include:

- **Dribbles per 90:** completed dribbles, normalized per 90 minutes.
- **Passes into opposition box per 90:** completed passes that end inside the opposition penalty box, normalized per 90 minutes.
- **Passes into opposition box per dribble:** ratio between completed dribbles and subsequent passes into the penalty area.

In order to contextualize Jeremy Doku's performance, the metric of *passes into the box per dribble* is further evaluated by calculating his percentile rank among all wingers in the tournament. This allows us to measure not only his absolute output, but also how effectively he converts his dribbling actions into chance-creating passes compared to his peers.

The analysis focuses on wingers who played at least 90 minutes in the tournament and recorded more than one completed dribble and one pass into the penalty box. This selection allows us to benchmark Doku against his positional peers more effectively.

Results

Doku's action map

To illustrate, we present visualizations of Doku's dribbles and his passes into the opposition penalty area. The left figure demonstrates his frequent engagement in one-versus-one situations, with a relatively high success rate in bypassing opponents (just over 50%). The right figure shows the distribution of his passes into the penalty area. It is noteworthy that four of his completed dribbles occurred inside or in close proximity to the penalty area, indicating his capacity to progress the ball even in densely congested spaces. In addition, most of his completed passes were directed towards the penalty area, a zone that is conventionally associated with the creation of the most threatening goal-scoring opportunities.

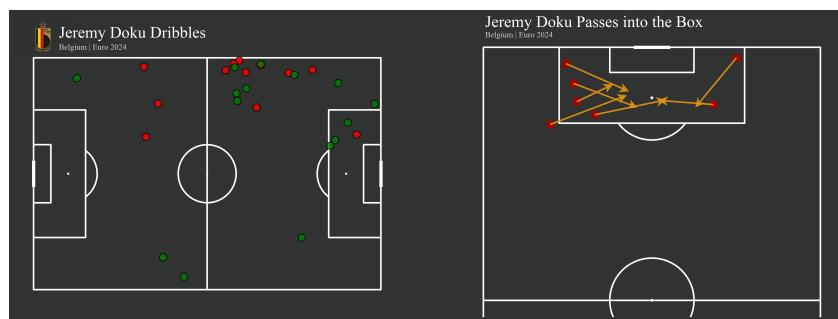


Figure 1: Jeremy Doku's Dribbles and Passes into the opp Box at Euro 2024.

Doku compared to other wingers in the tournament

To illustrate his performance relative to other wingers, the graph below plots players in two dimensions: Completed Dribbles per 90 on the x-axis and Passes into the Opposition Box per 90 on the y-axis. Jeremy Doku stands out as the clear leader in dribbles per 90 and is positioned above average in terms of passes into the box. The visualization shows that he is located far to the right—indicating that he completes more dribbles than any other winger—while his output in passes into the box, though above average, lags slightly behind that of some other elite wingers.

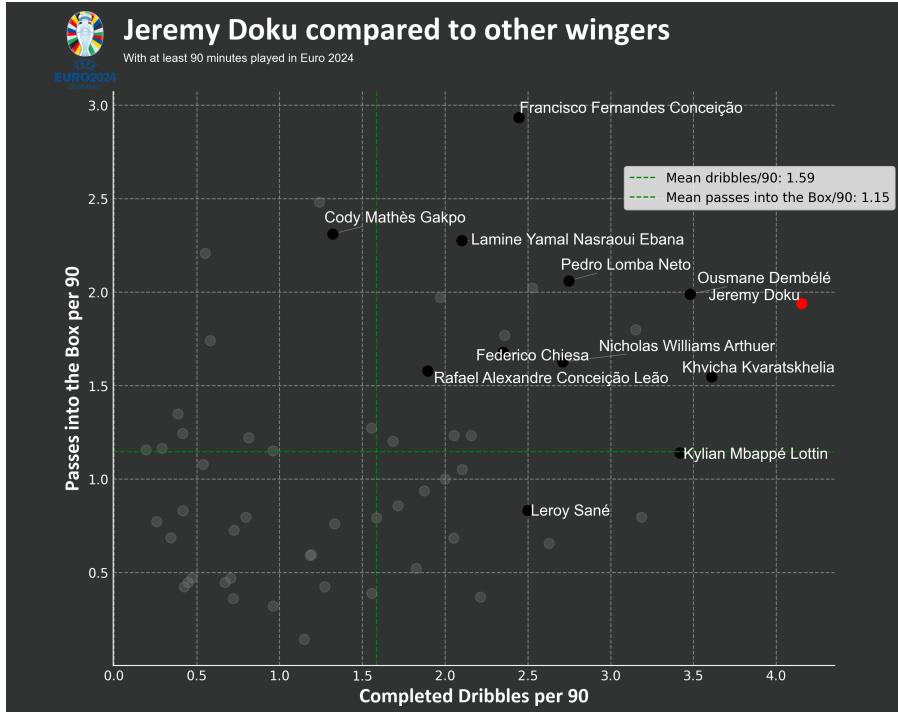


Figure 2: Dribbles per 90 vs. Passes into opp Box per 90 for Euro 2024 wingers, with Jeremy Doku highlighted.

Beyond visual inspection though, we introduce a derived statistic—*passes into the opposition box per dribble*—to quantify how effectively his dribbling translates into end product for his teammates. According to this metric, Doku is positioned at the 22.41st percentile, meaning he outperforms only about 22% of his positional peers while trailing roughly 78%. Although not an established measure of dribbling effectiveness, it provides a useful proxy for assessing how individual ball progression contributes to meaningful chance creation. This finding aligns with the qualitative observation that, while Doku is an elite dribbler, his actions rarely culminate in penetrative passes into the penalty area.

Conclusion

Jeremy Doku was the tournament's most prolific dribbler, while also ranking above average in passes into the opposition box. However, his dribbling superiority does not appear to be fully reflected in the creation of threatening opportunities. Although our initial hypothesis—that he failed to convert his outstanding dribbling ability into chance creation—may not be entirely accurate, as he performed well relative to his peers, the analysis indicates that there possibly is room for him to more effectively translate his individual ball progression into meaningful offensive contributions for his team.