

## Roland Sallai at the Euros 2021

In group F of the Euros 2021, **Hungary** were the clear underdogs in their group, being drawn against **Germany**, the current World Cup holder **France**, and the then current European Champion **Portugal**. Nonetheless they almost managed to qualify out of their group by drawing against France and Germany, leading them both in the process.

Although this was undoubtedly a team effort, I want to focus on one player, Center Forward **Roland Sallai**. Assisting two of Hungary's three goals was certainly impressive, but even more was his ability to **keep the ball while being pressured** by his opponents.

### Roland Sallai Passes

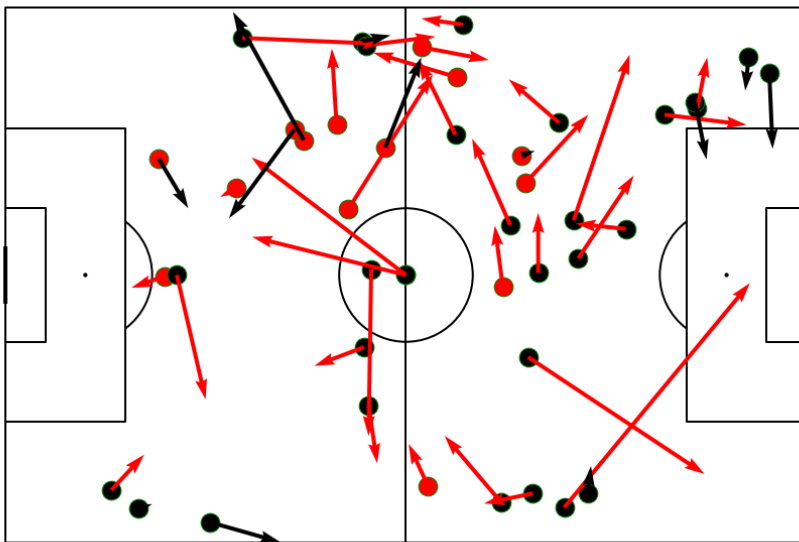


Figure 1 - red dots = under pressure, black dots = no pressure, red arrows = completed passes, black arrows = incomplete passes

Sallai was **pressured for 14** of his **44 live ball passes**. His **pass completion rate for non-pressured passes** was at **76.6%**. When **pressured**, his performance took a small dip to **64.3%**. Although a noticeable difference, it's still a respectable value for an attacking player in a low possession side.

### Roland Sallai Carries

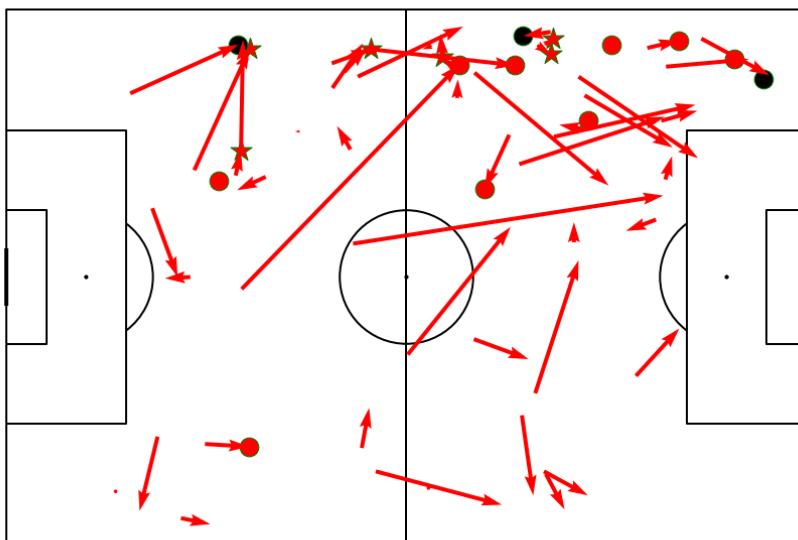


Figure 2 - stars = dribbles, red dots = fouls drawn, black dots = dispossessed

But **carrying the ball** was, where **Sallai** really shined. Being **dispossessed only three times** with **6 successful dribbles** and **drawing 9 fouls** it showed very difficult to separate him from the ball.

Additionally, the position of his passes and carries show that

while technically playing as a **Center Forward**, **Sallai** often **drifted wide**, especially on the **left side**. Makes one think if he may be more suitable to be played as a **winger**.