

Nicoló Barella's Tacking Data CL-Final 22/23

By Arin Rahim

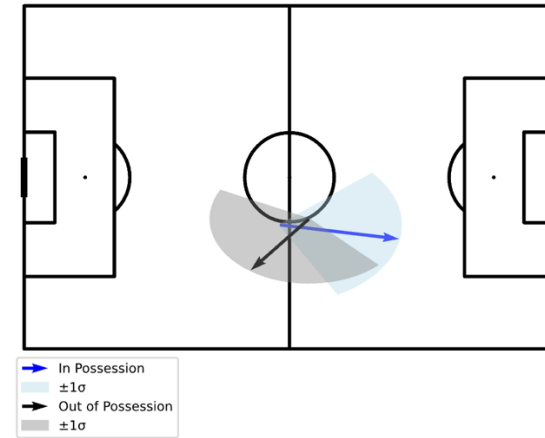
During the Champions League Final 22/23, Nicoló Barella played as the right central midfielder in Inter Milan's 3-5-2 formation setup by their coach Simone Inzaghi. To visualize his involvement, tracking data was studied, and while it showed that most of his runs were on the right side of the pitch, further evaluation was done by looking at his mean direction, variation of direction, and his specific runs during possession chains leading to an increase of xG to gain a more in-depth understanding of his movement.

Barella made a total of 43 runs during the game in various directions. The first plot in figure (1) illustrates the mean direction and variation in his runs both in and out of possession. The blue arrow represents his mean direction when Inter had possession, while the black arrow shows his movement when Inter was out of possession. The shaded area shows the extent of directional variation in both cases. When Inter was in possession, his movement was mostly towards the goal. Out of possession, his movement were more spread out across the pitch, specifically on the right side.

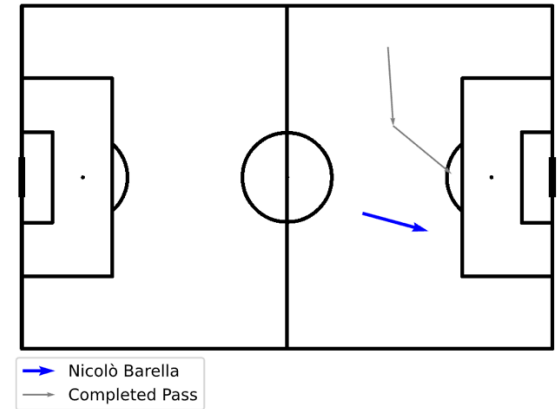
The other plots in figure (1) are specific sequences from the match where Barella made a run during possession chains that increased the xG. The blue arrow represents the length of his run and the direction, while the grey arrows represent completed passes during the possession chain. All his runs are directed towards the penalty box, showing his intent to contribute offensively by attacking the box.

Barella tended to make runs forward when Inter was in possession, often directed toward the opponent's penalty box. However, his movement out of possession were more varied, suggesting he needed to adapt to the opponent's attacks. Unfortunately, Inter lost the game against Manchester City by 1-0 but Nicoló Barella is an interesting player, and his movement showed great determination both defensively and offensively.

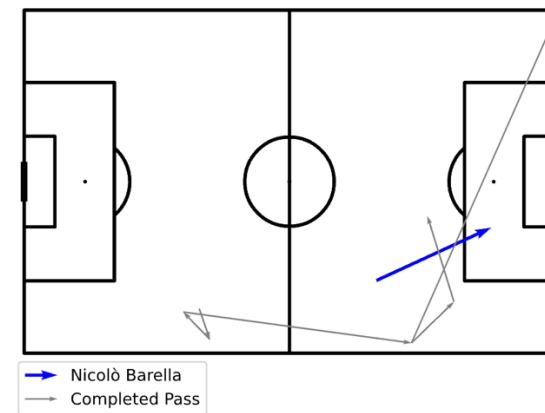
Nicolò Barella's Mean Direction and Variation of Direction in CL-final 2023



Nicolò Barella's Run During Inter Possession from 19:15 to 19:25



Nicolò Barella's Run During Inter Possession from 09:32 to 09:43



Nicolò Barella's Run During Inter Possession from 44:17 to 44:32

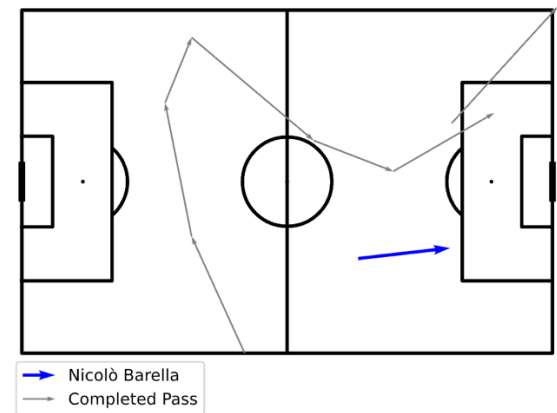


Figure 1. Nicoló Barella's mean direction, variation of direction, and runs during possession chains leading to increased xG.