

ESTAC Troyes: Club Analysis

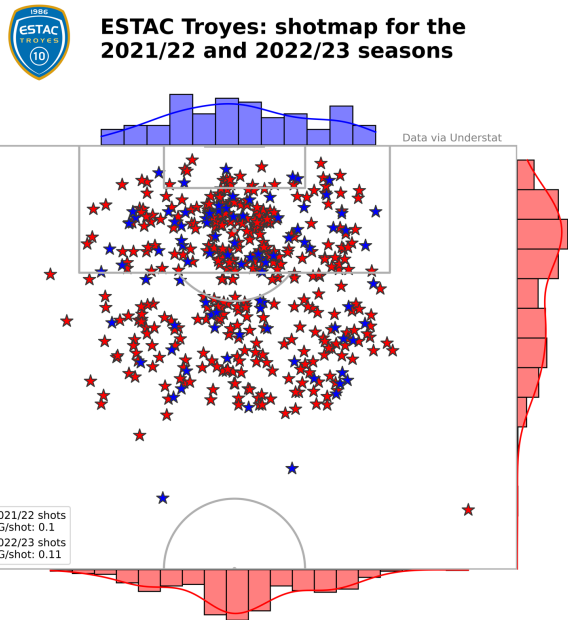
Data as at 16/09/2022

Ed Morris



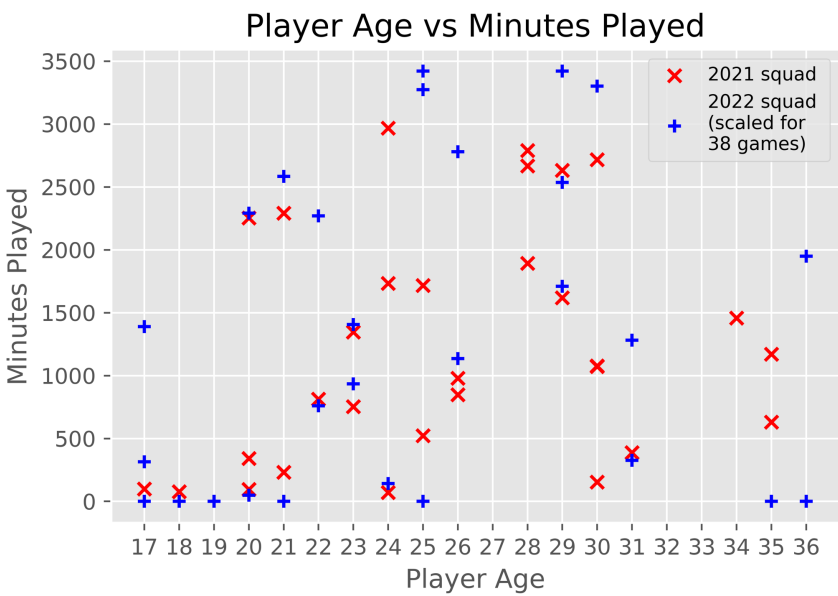
Current Season: Successes

Attacking performance



- Current xG/shot = 0.11, up 10% on last season, quality of shooting opportunities has improved
- Averaging 13.1 shots/game, up 28% on last season, number of shooting opportunities has improved
- Projecting this to the end of the season gives xG of 54.8, compared to xG of 38.8 across last season which is a huge improvement
- Maintained a similarly high proportion of shots being taken between the 6-yard box and the penalty spot (high xG areas), as seen in the histograms on left and right of the graphic
- **Strong improvements made to quality of shots produced and frequency of these shots compared to last season**

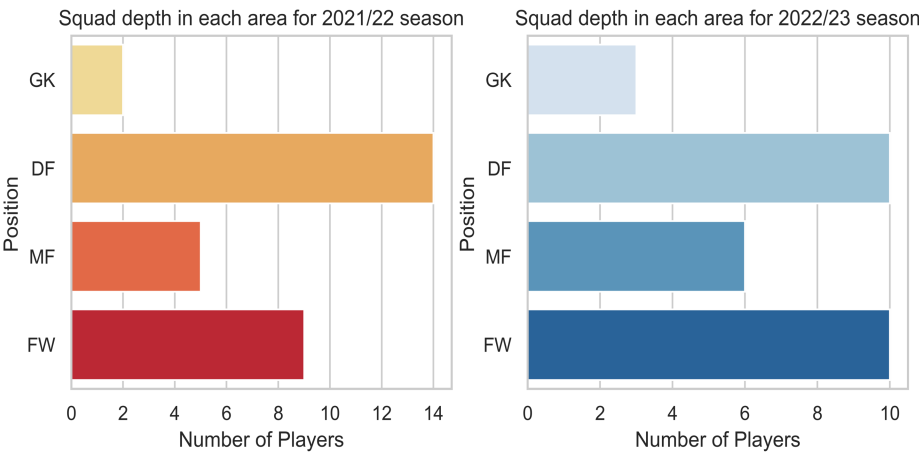
Squad age



- Expecting a roughly similar distribution of player ages vs minutes played across the current season when scaled up compared to last year's squad
- Minute-Weighted-Average-Age (MWAA) decreased from 26.7 in 2021/22 to 25.9 for the 2022/23 squad
- Fewer minutes played for players over the age of 30 in 2022/23 squad
- Relying more on performance/development of younger talent, ensuring a sustainable/profitable approach taken
- A successful example of this is approach from last season is Giulian Biancone (22), bought for £2.25m and sold to Nottingham Forest for 4x this price (£9m) one year later after a solid breakout season in Ligue 1
- Summer transfer arrivals (permanent) have an average age of 20.8, further demonstrating this approach
- **Reduced the average age of the squad, increasing potential future profitability/sustainability of the squad if younger players perform well this season**

Squad rebalancing

Distribution of squad depth for 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons

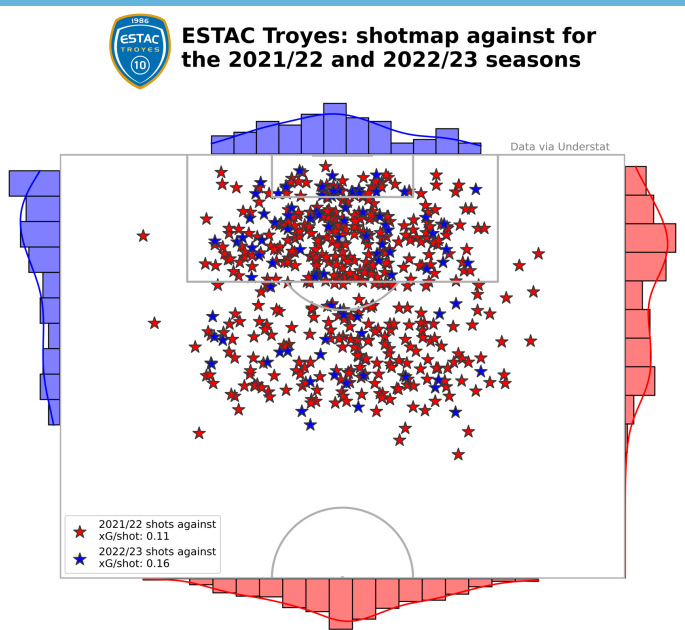


- Rebalanced the squad compared to last season
- Added a much needed third GK for squad depth (providing cover for injuries and rotation for cup competitions)
- Reduced the number of defenders (14 was excessive, even when utilising a 5-man defence in their frequently used 5-4-1/3-4-3)
- Swapped out 4 DFs for a GK, MF and FW, creating more depth across the pitch for the team's favoured 5-4-1/3-4-3
- Some of the FWs are versatile and can be played as attacking MFs, meaning the large number of FWs can be utilised in a 5-4-1/3-4-3
- **Redistribution of squad depth across the positions was a natural progression which was required to provide appropriate cover for each area of the team**



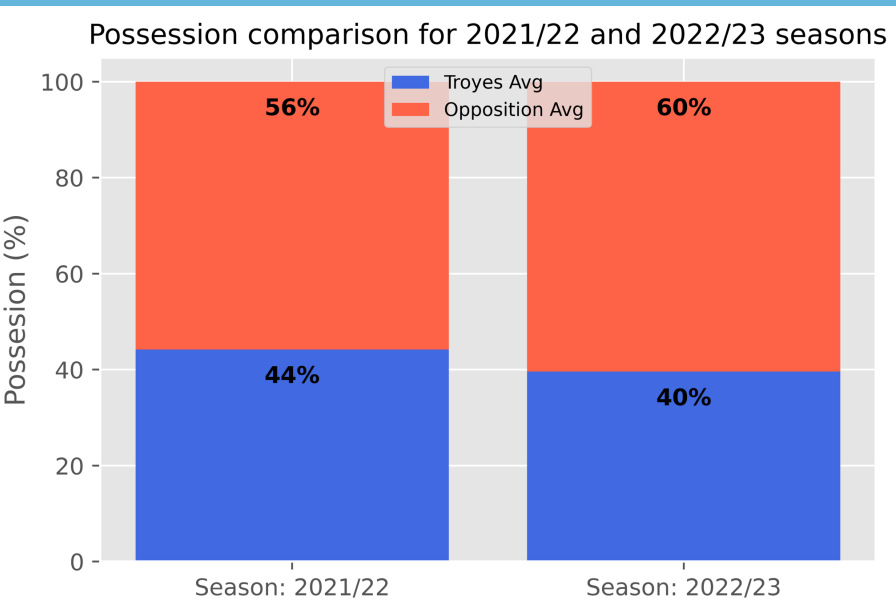
Current Season: Areas for Improvement

Defensive performance



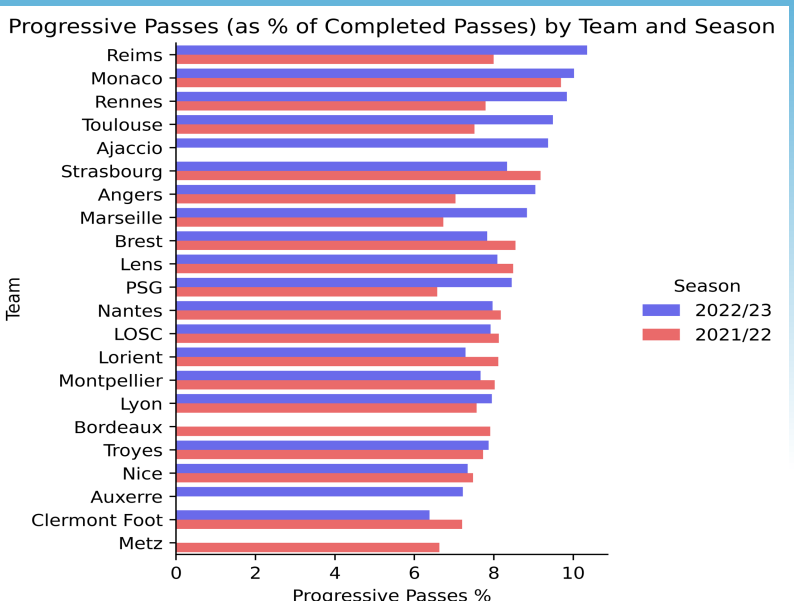
- Current xG/shot against = 0.16, up 45% on last season
- Averaging 12.7 shots/game against, up 4% on last season
- Projection across the season gives xGA of 77.2, compared to 51.0 across last season
- Projected xGD for the season of -22.4, worse than previous season's actual performance (-16), potentially pushing them into the relegation fight
- Improved attacking performance is cancelled out by the worsening defensive performances
- Conceding more shots closer to goal this season (seen in top-skew of left histogram)
- **Conceding higher quality shots on average than last season with a slightly increased frequency, therefore likely to concede more goals**

Off-ball performance



- Pressures per 90 have dropped by 20.7% compared to last season, from 156.5 to 124.1
- This is emphasised by a decrease in average possession per 90, dropping by 9.1% from 44% to 40%
- We would expect a decrease in possession to lead to an *increase* in pressures if the same intensity is maintained
- Pressures are a key part of defending across the whole pitch in the modern game; a decrease in pressures per 90 gives opposition players more time to make better decisions and create better chances, as seen in the defensive performance analysis
- On the other hand, this could be due to a tactical change such as moving from a gegenpress/mid-block to a mid-block/low-block, i.e. applying pressure to the opposition closer towards their own goal
- **Reduction in number of pressures per 90 shows either a drop in intensity out of possession to win the ball back, or a tactical change**

Progressive passing performance



- Were 11th in Ligue 1 for highest percentage of progressive passes played last season
- Down to 13th in Ligue 1 this season
- Teams with less possession typically play with a higher percentage of progressive passes in order to utilise possession when they have it (e.g. via counter-attacks)
- Average possession has decreased this season, so would expect percentage of progressive passes to at least remain the same or increase
- **Progressive pass percentage improved slightly compared to last year in absolute terms, but has fallen against the league average this season**



Data sources

Shot data:

- <https://understat.com/team/Troyes/2022>

Squad statistics, pass and possession data:

- <https://fbref.com/en/squads/54195385/Troyes-Stats>

Transfer data:

- https://www.transfermarkt.co.uk/estac-troyes/transfers/verein/1095/plus/?saison_id=2022&pos=&detailpos=&w_s=s

Glossary

xG:

- Expected Goals

xGA:

- Expected Goals Against

xGD:

- Expected Goal Difference

MWAA:

- Minute-Weighted-Average-Age; calculates the average age of the squad giving more credit to players' ages who have played more minutes