

# **Data Analyst - Application Project**

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## Exercise 2

**Fast forward to the 2022 MLS season, and the opening of the summer transfer window – Nashville SC is looking to bring in reinforcements on the flanks. With a fluid system between 5-3-2 and 4-2-3-1, the team is looking for a versatile player that can play a variety of positions on the right and/or left side. The General Manager has asked you for the following:**

**1. Identify a shortlist of 5 players in MLS that fit the requested profile: a versatile winger with attacking and defending 1v1 abilities, effective crossing in open play and set pieces, and consistent fitness levels.**

*All red metrics are per 90*

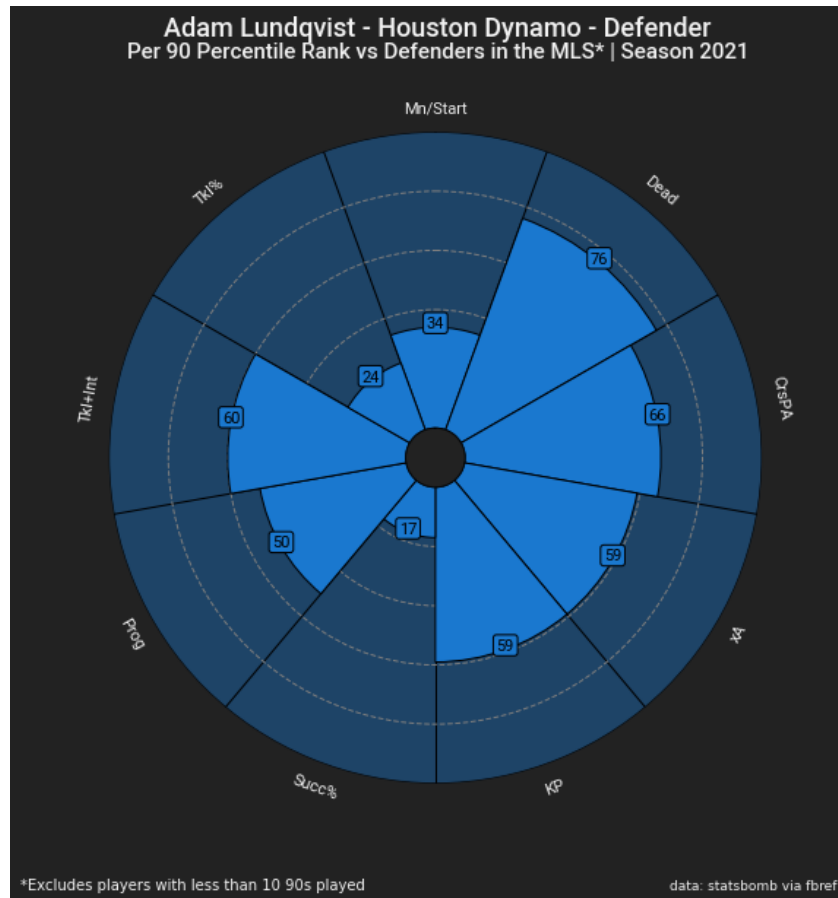
Player	Squad	Pos	Age	90s	Min/Start	Dead Ball Passes	Crs to Penalty Area	xA	KP	Succ Dribbles %	Prog Carries	Tkl+Int	Tkl%
Adam Lundqvist	Houston Dynamo	DF	26	21.6	84	9.49	1.29	0.11	1.04	55.2	4.65	3.81	40.5
Luís Martins	Sporting KC	DF	28	32.8	88	10.8	0.58	0.1	1.4	70	7.09	2.56	47.1
Alex Roldan	Seattle	DF	24	25.2	87	7.02	0.63	0.11	0.78	45.5	5.94	3.91	56.3
Ema Twumasi	FC Dallas	DF	23	18.9	87	7.2	0	0.25	5	50	5	5	
Milton Valenzuela	Columbus Crew	DF	22	9.7	70	7.63	0.43	0.11	0.87	54.5	6.77	2.36	30

**2. What are the key data points that suggest each player fits the profile? Where do they rank relative to other players?**

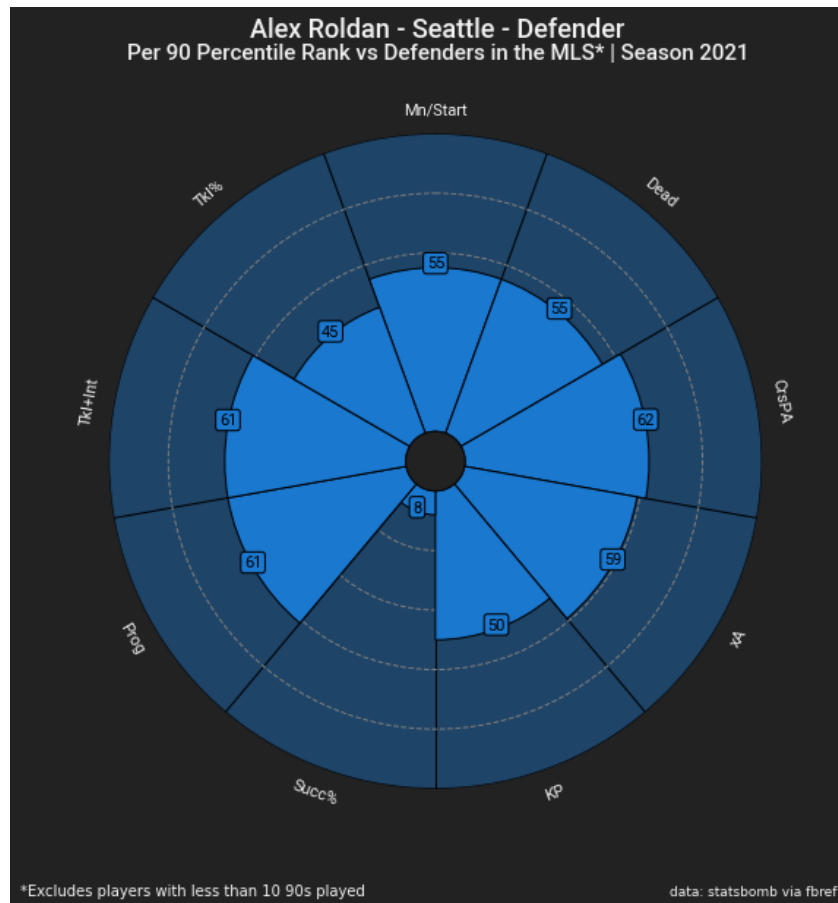
The key data points that suggest each player fits the profile are below:

- Min/Start: Minutes played per game started
- Dead Ball Passes
- Crosses to Penalty Area
- Expected Assists
- Key Passes
- Successful Dribbles %: Percent of successful Dribbles Completed
- Progressive Carries
- Tackles + Interceptions
- Tkl%: Percent of Dribblers tackled successfully

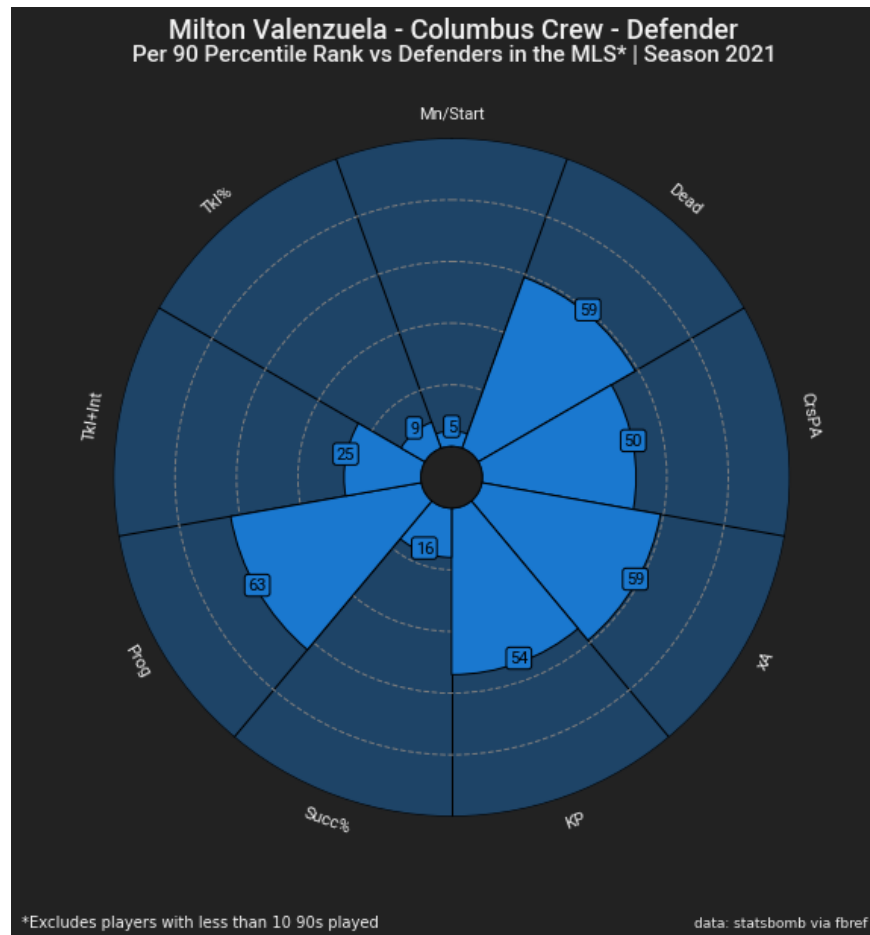
*Percentile rankings below:*



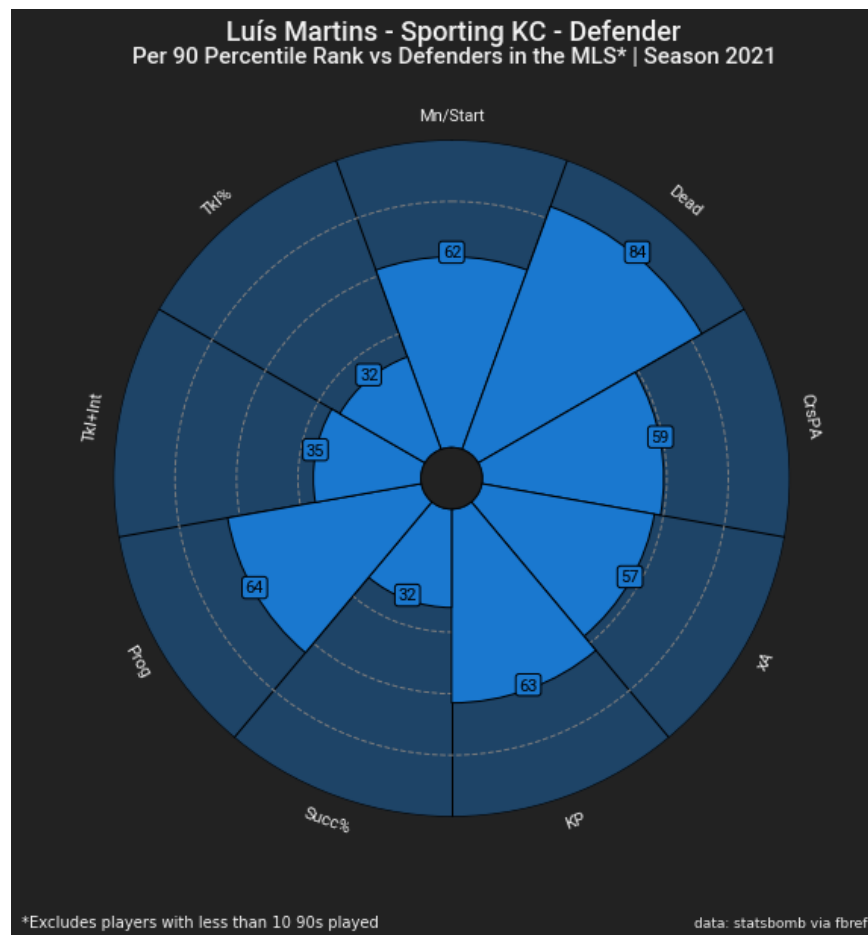
Lundqvist's best attribute are dead ball passes but also ranks in the 66th percentile of all MLS defenders in crosses played into the penalty area. Lundqvist struggles on 1v1's both offensively and defensively as he ranks pretty low in percent of dribblers tackled and successful dribbles completed.



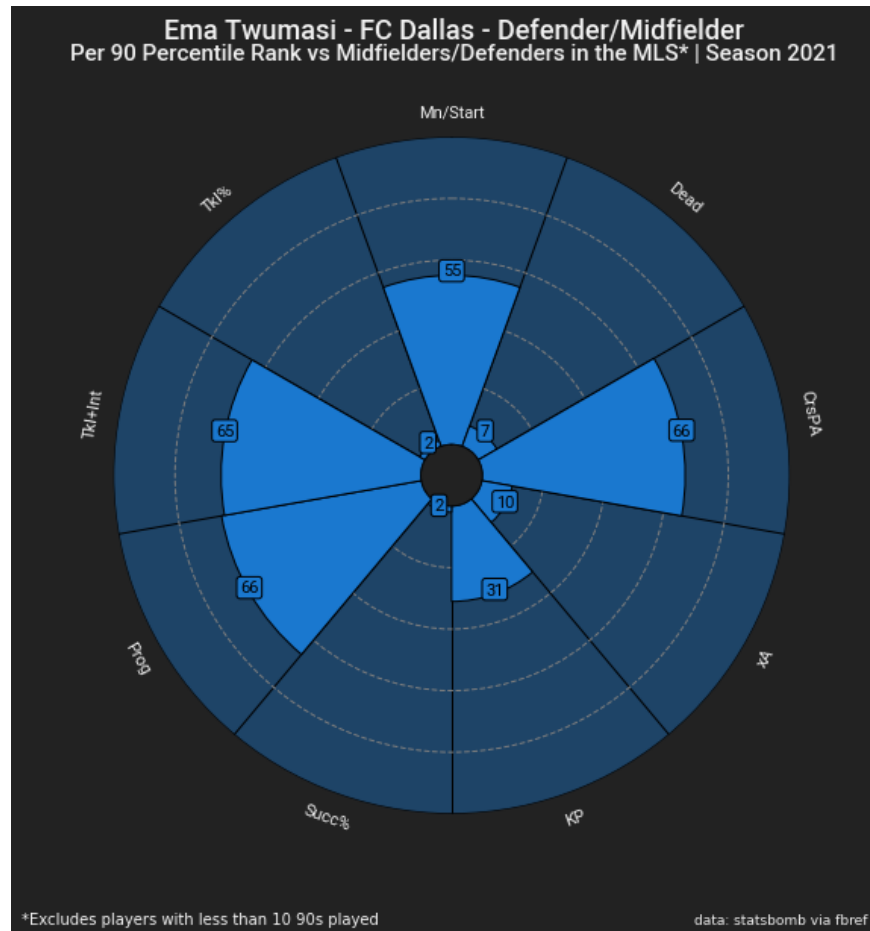
Roldan is well rounded as he ranks either close to or above the median in all but one of the attributes. He is a solid player, though he does not excel significantly compared to his peers. He does struggle in completing dribbles.



Valenzuela struggles relative to his peers in tackles and interceptions. He ranks close to the median in all other categories. Valenzuela also ranks very low in minutes played per start which raises questions about his fitness and ability to fill the role.



Luís Martins also takes a lot of dead balls and ranks in the 84th percentile of defenders who take set pieces. His attacking attributes are close to the median while he struggles to dribble by players and in defensive categories relative to peers. Though he struggles to take on players, he does rank moderately high in progressive carries



Twumasi's best attributes are progressing the ball forward with carries and crossing the ball into the penalty area. Although he ranks favorably in crossing into the penalty area, he is lagging his peers in key passes generated. Lastly Twumasi ranks in the 66th percentile regarding tackles and interceptions, suggesting solid defensive numbers.

***3. What are the gaps in the player's abilities/behaviors that need consideration? How confident are you in your analysis?***

There are a few gaps in the analysis as these players did not rank as highly as I expected in both the offensive and defensive attributes. However, Luis Martins and Alex Roldan are both well rounded suggesting versatility in both defensive and offensive situations. Lundqvist could also be a good option, although his fitness and ability to tackle dribblers drag him down.

***4. What are other considerations in the player's profile? How will they fit in the current Nashville SC squad?***

Other considerations in the player's profile include their age as well as passing and pressing attributes. Luis Roldan and Martins fit in well to the current Nashville SC squad given their versatility across most attributes explored.