



SC Freiburg - 2025/2026 Scouting Report
Elliot Thom



Bundesliga

- In his first season Julian Schuster/Freiburg finished **5th** in the Bundesliga, qualifying for the Europa League, and narrowly missed out on Champions League.
- **After 5 games:** Freiburg sit even with 2 wins, 1 draw, and 2 losses.
- **Goal difference:** Level at 0 (9 scored, 9 conceded).
- **Season outlook:** Success depends on discipline and teamwork, taking points against direct rivals.
- **Tough fixtures:** Bayern, Dortmund, Leipzig, and Frankfurt remain difficult opponents.
- **Perspective:** *Harry Kane has scored 10 goals in five games...more than Freiburg's entire team. No player has ever scored more after five Bundesliga matches.*



Bundesliga

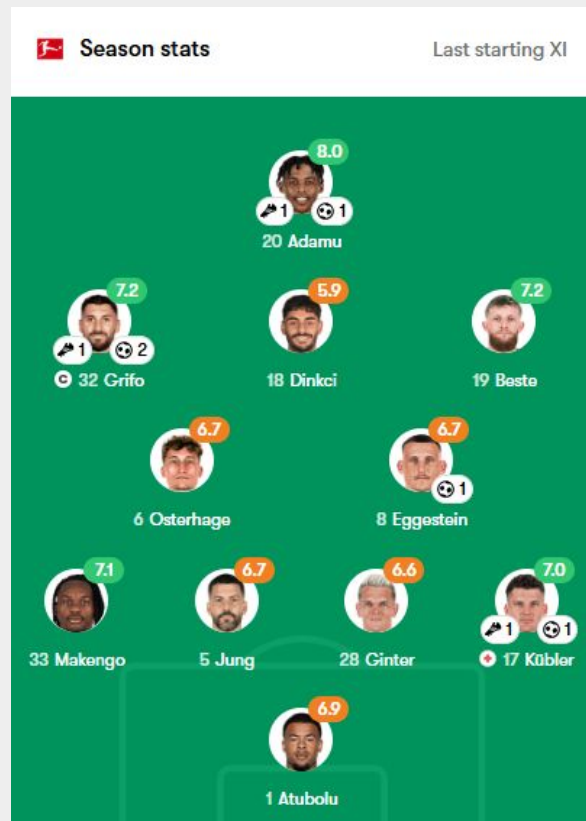
#		PL	W	D	L	+/-	GD	PTS	Form	Next
1	Bayern München	5	5	0	0	22-3	+19	15		
2	Borussia Dortmund	5	4	1	0	11-3	+8	13		
3	RB Leipzig	5	4	0	1	7-7	0	12		
4	Eintracht Frankfurt	5	3	0	2	17-13	+4	9		
5	VfB Stuttgart	5	3	0	2	7-6	+1	9		
6	Bayer Leverkusen	5	2	2	1	10-8	+2	8		
7	1. FC Köln	5	2	1	2	10-9	+1	7		
8	Freiburg	5	2	1	2	9-9	0	7		
9	St. Pauli	5	2	1	2	8-8	0	7		
10	Hoffenheim	5	2	1	2	9-11	-2	7		
11	Union Berlin	5	2	1	2	8-11	-3	7		
12	Wolfsburg	5	1	2	2	7-7	0	5		
13	Hamburger SV	5	1	2	2	2-8	-6	5		
14	Mainz 05	5	1	1	3	5-6	-1	4		
15	Werder Bremen	5	1	1	3	8-14	-6	4		
16	Augsburg	5	1	0	4	8-12	-4	3		
17	FC Heidenheim	5	1	0	4	4-10	-6	3		
18	Borussia Mönchengladbach	5	0	2	3	5-12	-7	2		



Tactical & Style Observations under Schuster (so far)

Formation & Structural Setup

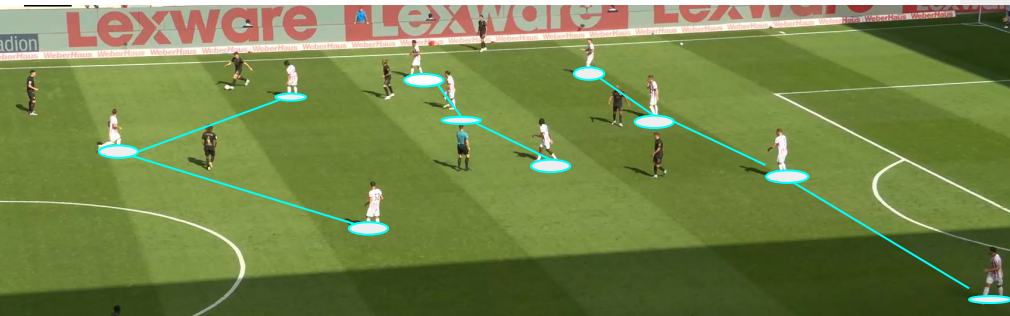
- Multiple analysts expect Schuster to use a **4-2-3-1** as his base formation. ([Bulinews](#))
- In some matches (e.g. early cup games), he has adopted a **compact 4-2-3-1** that may lean more defensive, aiming to keep shape and reduce vulnerability. ([Yahoo Sports](#))
- There is talk of flexibility: the attack line has deeper variation, and there is more willingness to rotate attacking players to find the right mix. ([Bulinews](#))





Style & Philosophical Adjustments

Defensive Shape: 4-3-3



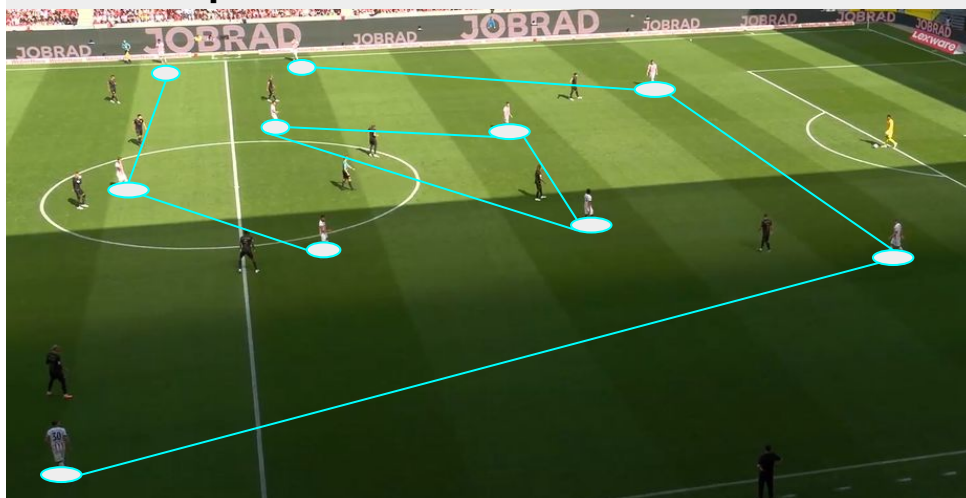
- **More ambition / freedom** in possession: Compared to Streich's later years, Schuster is credited with injecting a bit more attacking flair and daring forward movement. ([Bundesliga](#))
- **Balancing stability and evolution:** He seems careful not to discard the club's traditional identity in exchange for flashy tactics. Instead, the shift is evolutionary, not revolutionary. ([ZDFheute](#))
- In interviews, Schuster emphasizes **honesty, clarity, and strong internal alignment**. For example, in "*Wir haben richtig Lust*" he speaks of integrating youth, maintaining structure, and ensuring the "rules" of how the team operates are well-understood. ([SC Freiburg](#))
- He also stresses that new players must not only fit tactically but embed into the **club culture**. ([SC Freiburg](#))



Strengths & Challenges Underlined

- **Overperformance under constraints:** Despite doubts about inexperience, Freiburg under Schuster has been punching above weight. ZDF writes that under Schuster, skepticism has faded — the team is in contention for the top packs. ([ZDFheute](#))
- **Striker / forward issue:** A recurring critique is that Freiburg's forwards are underperforming. Many of the goals come from midfielders or even defenders, rather than the nominal strikers. For instance, *Bild* reports that of 36 goals in a season, only six came from forwards. ([BILD](#))
- **Defensive lapses when shape is disrupted:** In matches where the structure is broken (e.g. high-pressure, quick transitions from the opponent), Freiburg have shown vulnerability. In a 1-4 defeat vs Dortmund, changes to fullback positions backfired, and the defense was exposed. ([BILD](#))

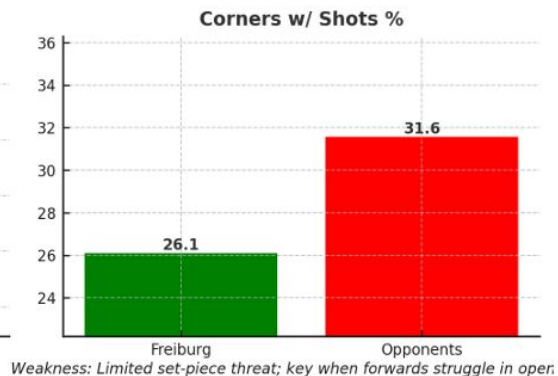
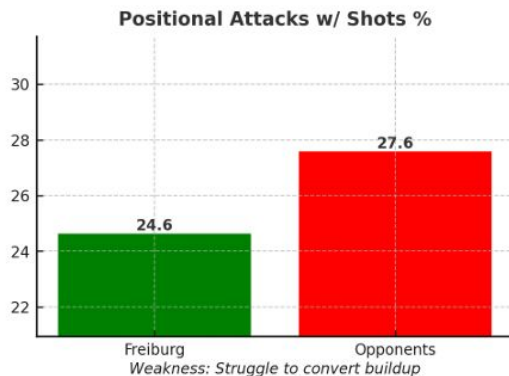
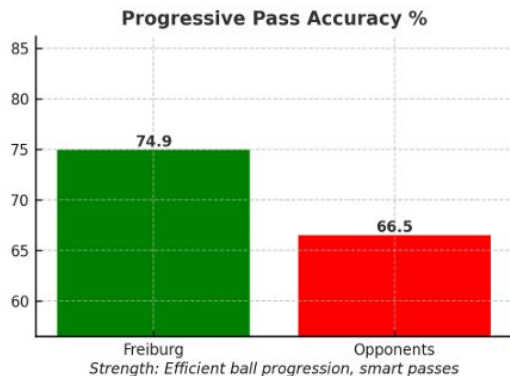
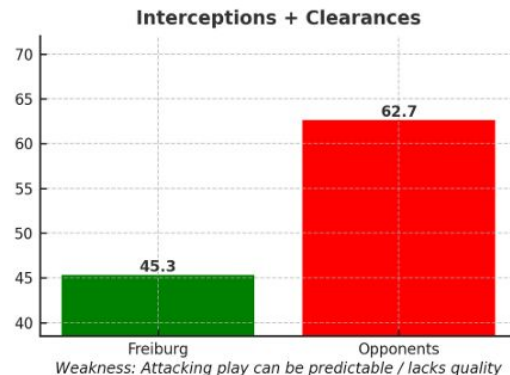
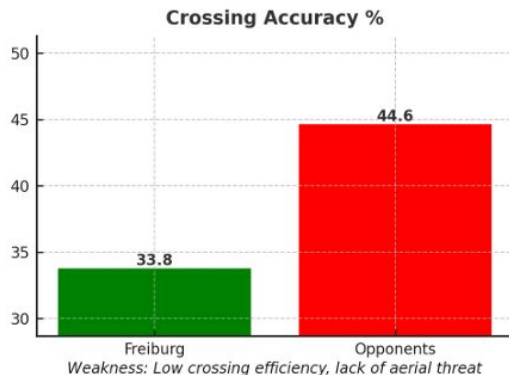
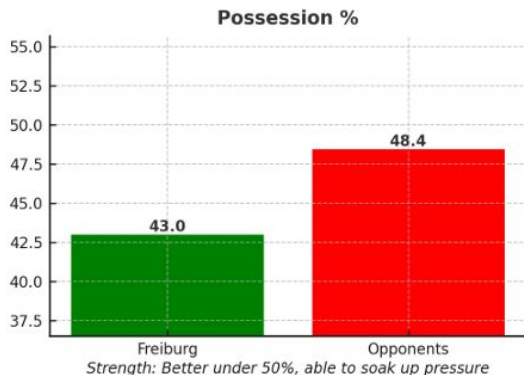
Build Shape: 2-2-3-3





SC Freiburg Scouting Report (2025/26)

Freiburg (green) vs Opponents (red) | Strength/Weakness noted beneath each chart



Summary: Freiburg are most effective with lower possession and excel at progressive passing. Areas to improve: crossing efficiency, unpredictability in attack (as seen in interceptions/clearances), turning buildup into shots, and set-piece output (corners).



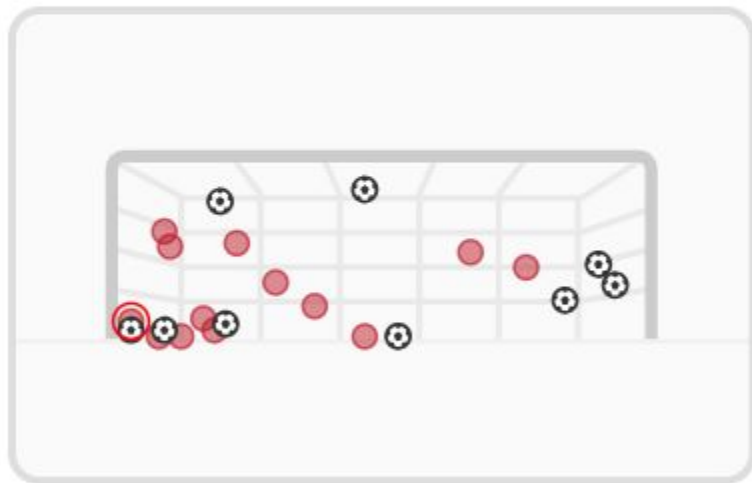
2025/2026

Bundesliga



Season shot map

Save percentage: 59%



22

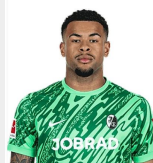
Shots faced

9

Goals conceded

9.15

xGOT faced



Noah Atubolu



Freiburg



6'3"

Height

1

Shirt

Position

Primary

Keeper

23 years

May 25, 2002

Right

Preferred foot



Germany

Country

\$18M

Market value



Strengths

- **Reflexes / shot-stopping:** This is his standout quality — quick reactions, strong one-on-one presence, and generally good handling.
- **Aerial ability:** At 6'3", he's capable of claiming high balls and relieving pressure, even if he isn't yet as dominant as older keepers.
- **Sweeper instincts:** He comes off his line aggressively, which fits Freiburg's need for a proactive GK.



Season performance

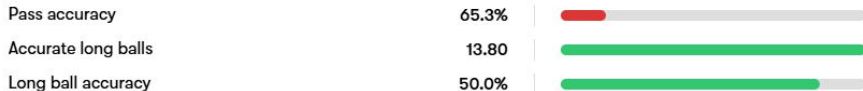
Total

Per 90

Goalkeeping



Distribution



! Areas to Improve

- **Footwork under pressure:** While he attempts a high number of passes, his **passing accuracy and decision-making when pressed are inconsistent**. He sometimes opts for risky short passes or panicked clearances.
- **Distribution balance:** He can hit accurate long balls, but Freiburg often ask him to build patiently from the back — here, his technique and calmness still lag behind elite “ball-playing” Bundesliga keepers (e.g. Neuer, Kobel).
- **Consistency:** Still only 23, he’s developing, and his ball-playing weakness is something many young GKs refine over time.



Vincenzo Grifo

Freiburg

5'11"

Height

32

Shirt

32 years

Apr 7, 1993

Right

Preferred foot

Position

Primary

Left Winger

Others

Left Midfielder

Italy

Country



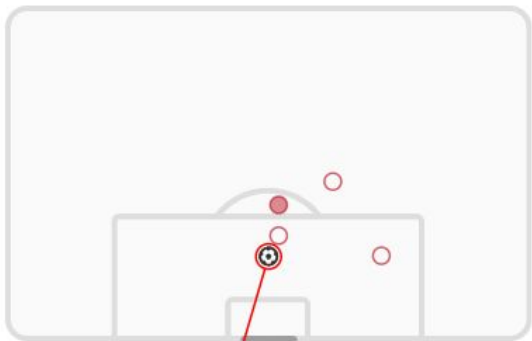
2025/2026

Bundesliga



Season shot map

On target: 33%



6

Shots

2

Goals

1.77

xG



Bundesliga 2025/2026



2

Goals

1

Assists

5

Started

5

Matches

355

Minutes played

7.20

Rating

0

Yellow cards

0

Red cards



Strengths

- **Set-piece specialist:** One of the best dead-ball players in the Bundesliga — his free-kick and penalty technique is elite, often deciding close matches.
- **Chance creation:** A creative hub for Freiburg, Grifo consistently ranks near the top for **key passes, expected assists, and shot-creating actions**.
- **Delivery & vision:** Excellent crossing and final-third passing, particularly from the left half-space, allowing him to dictate tempo and supply strikers.
- **Leadership:** As Freiburg's captain, he sets the tone with composure, maturity, and a strong connection to the club.



Season performance

Minutes played: 355

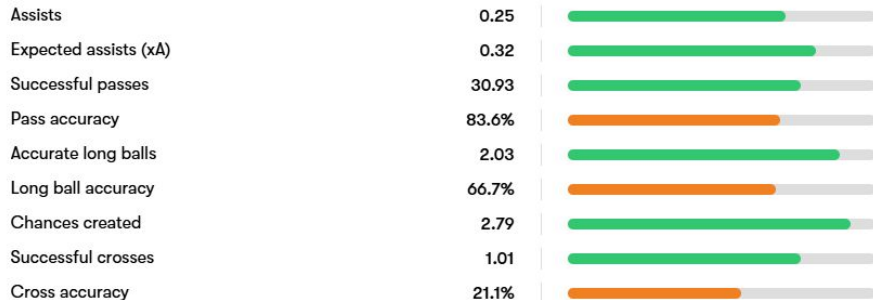
Total

Per 90

Shooting



Passing



! Areas to Improve

- **Defensive contribution:** Grifo does track back, but his defensive work rate and pressing intensity are below Freiburg's more industrious midfielders.
- **Pace & dribbling:** Not the fastest winger — relies more on technique and intelligence than beating defenders one-on-one.
- **Dependence:** Freiburg's attack can look predictable at times because so much funnels through him. When he's off-form or tightly marked, the team struggles to generate chances.