SC Freiburg - 2025/2026 Scouting Report
Elliot Thom

Bundesliga

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

🧭 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.*

🧩 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](#))
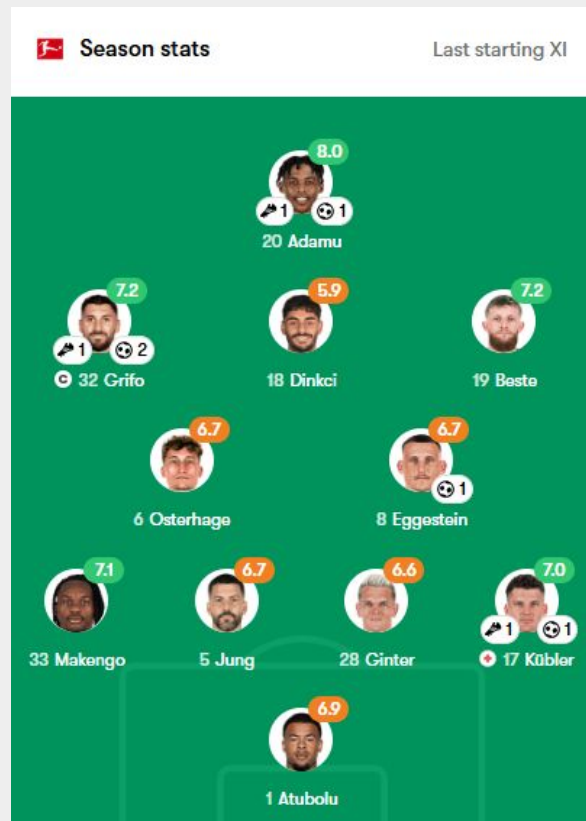
Defensive Shape: 4-3-3
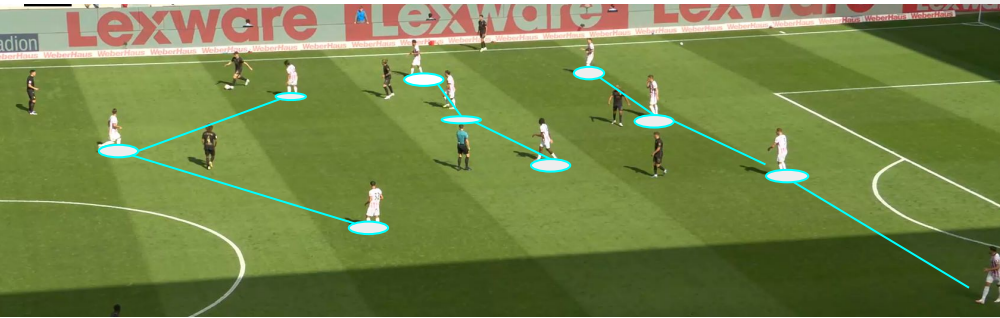
Low Block 5-4-1
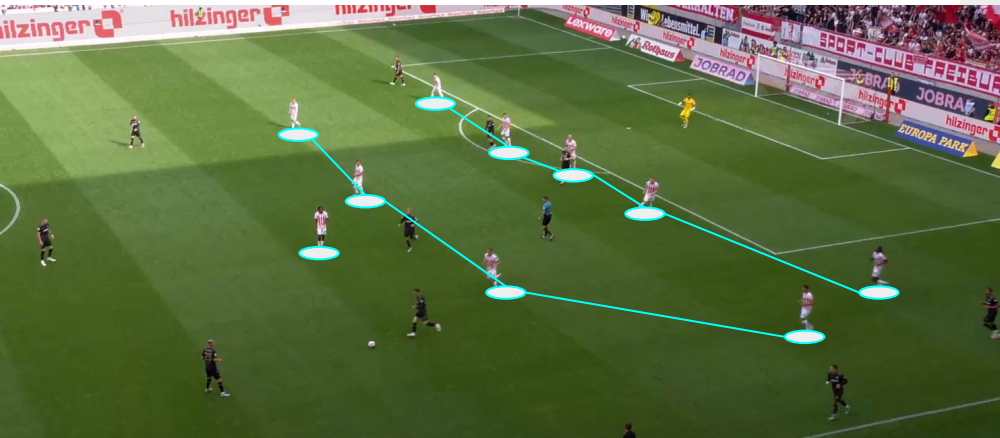
Style & Philosophical Adjustments

- **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](#))
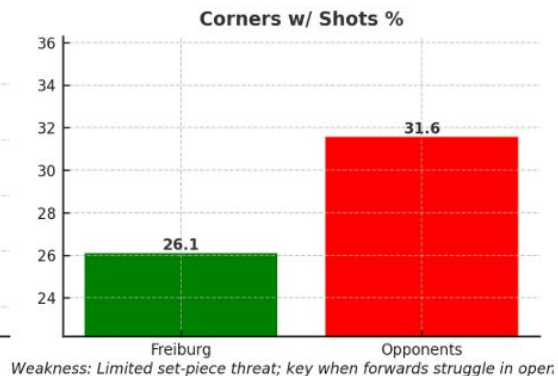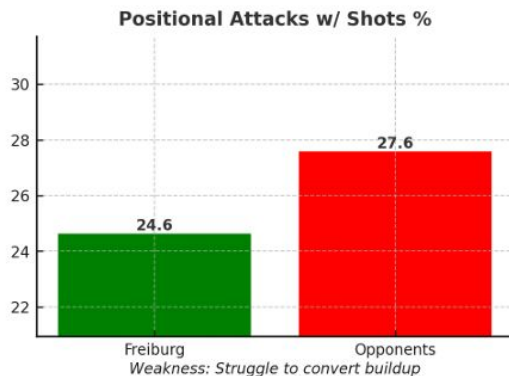
Build Shape: 2-2-3-3
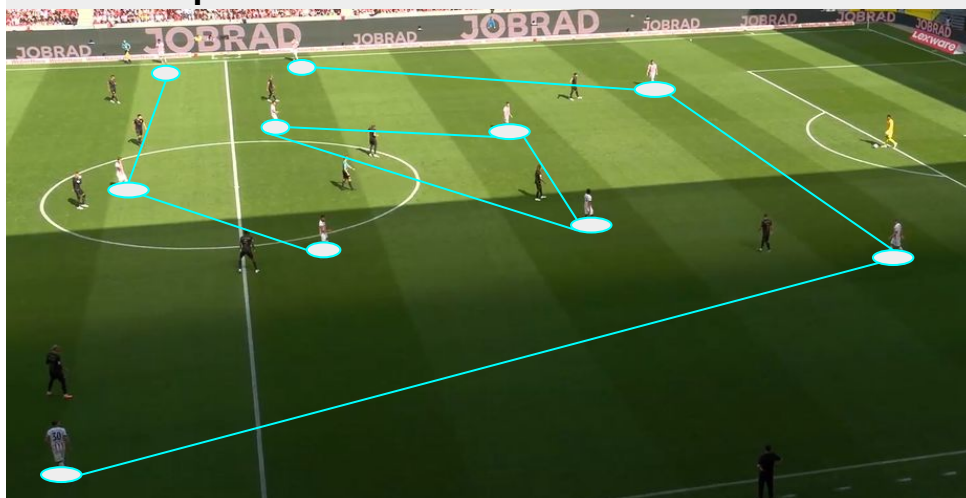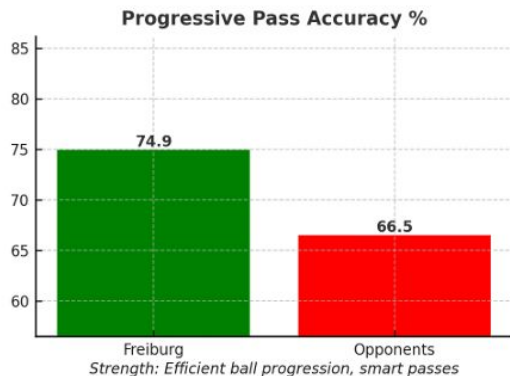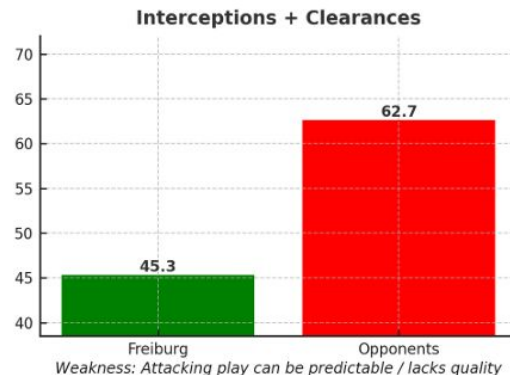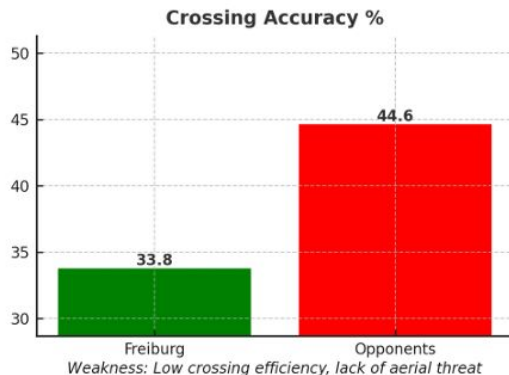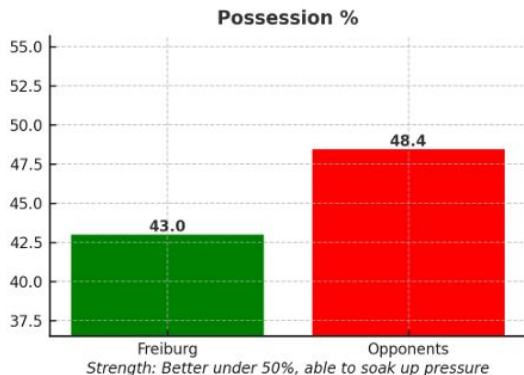
ATTACKING PHASE (5 Channels)
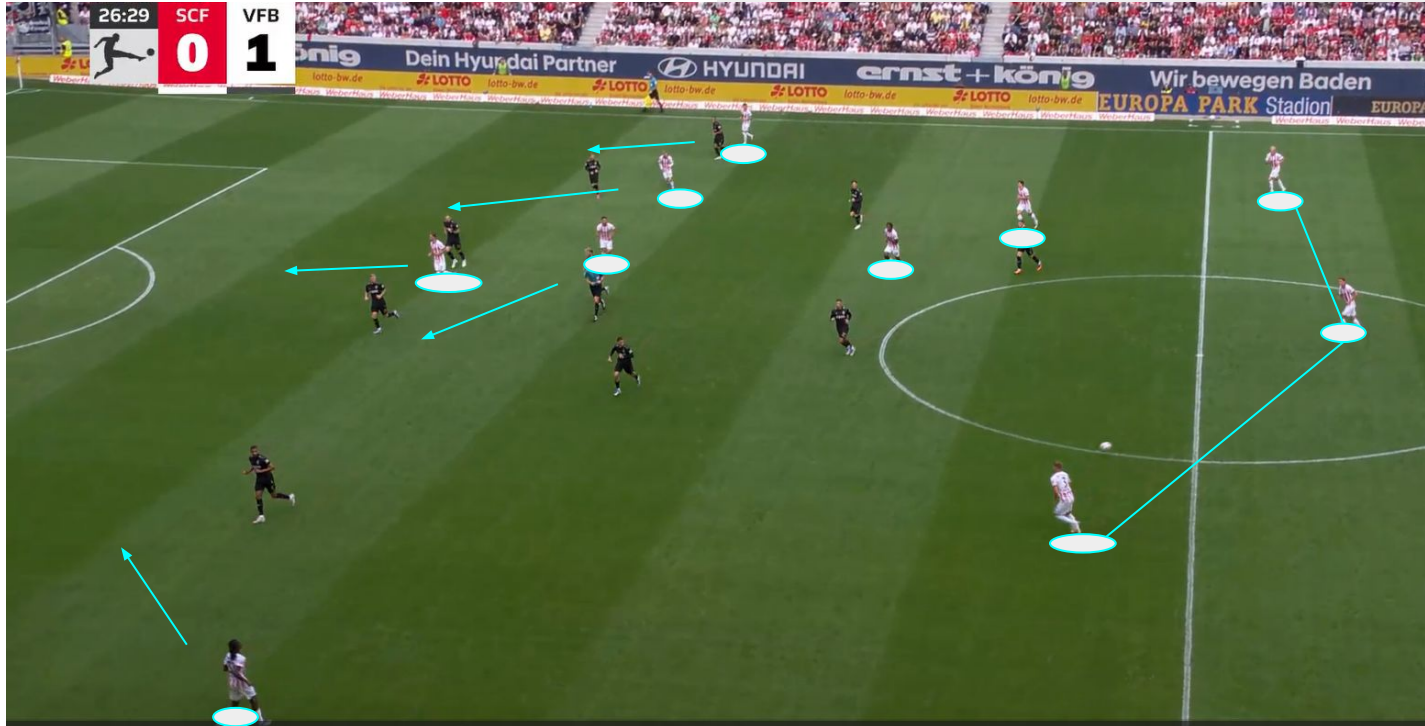
SC Freiburg Scouting Report (2025/26)

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

Possession %
Freiburg: 43.0 | Opponents: 48.4
Strength: Better under 50%, able to soak up pressure

Crossing Accuracy %
Freiburg: 33.8 | Opponents: 44.6
Weakness: Low crossing efficiency, lack of aerial threat

Interceptions + Clearances
Freiburg: 45.3 | Opponents: 62.7
Weakness: Attacking play can be predictable / lacks quality

Progressive Pass Accuracy %
Freiburg: 74.9 | Opponents: 66.5
Strength: Efficient ball progression, smart passes

Positional Attacks w/ Shots %
Freiburg: 24.6 | Opponents: 27.6
Weakness: Struggle to convert buildup

Corners w/ Shots %
Freiburg: 26.1 | Opponents: 31.6
Weakness: Limited set-piece threat; key when forwards struggle in open

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).
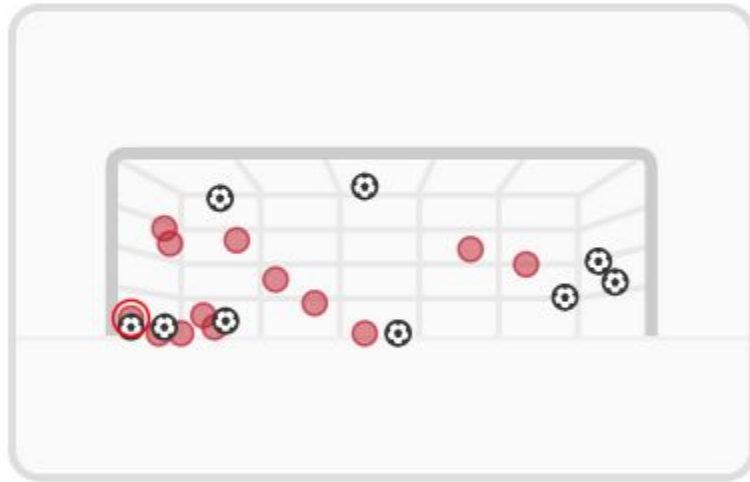
Season shot map
Save percentage: 59%

22	9	9.15
Shots faced	Goals conceded	xGOT faced

Noah Atubolu
🛡 Freiburg

6'3"	1	Position
Height	Shirt	**Primary**
		Keeper
23 years	Right	
May 25, 2002	Preferred foot	
🇩🇪 Germany	$18M	
Country	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.
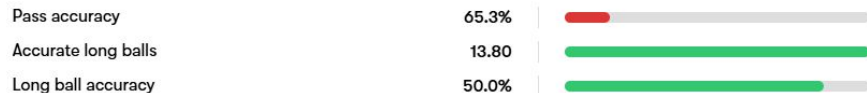
Season performance

		Total	**Per 90**

Goalkeeping

		Rank ⓘ
Saves	2.60	
Save percentage	59.1%	
Goals conceded	1.80	
Goals prevented	0.04	
Clean sheets	0.20	
Penalties faced	0.20	
Penalty goals conceded	0.00	
Penalty saves	0.20	
Error led to goal	0.00	
Acted as sweeper	0.60	
High claim	1.00	

Distribution

Pass accuracy	65.3%	
Accurate long balls	13.80	
Long ball accuracy	50.0%	

⚠️ 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	**Position**	
		Primary Left Winger	
32 years Apr 7, 1993	**Right** Preferred foot	**Others** Left Midfielder	
🇮🇹 **Italy** Country	🇩🇪 **2025/2026** **Bundesliga** ▼		

Season shot map
On target: 33%
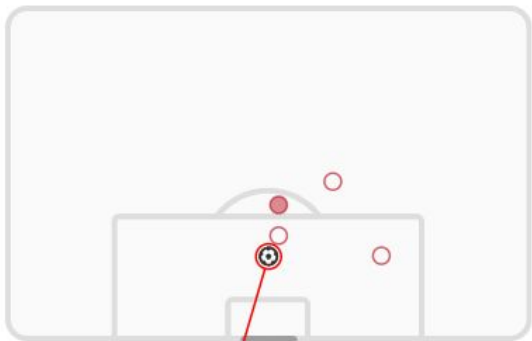
6	2	1.77
Shots	Goals	xG

✅ 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.
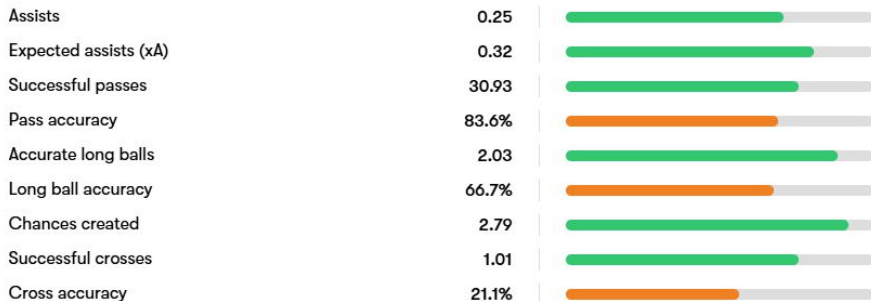
Season performance
Minutes played: 355

Total | **Per 90**

Shooting

		Rank ⓘ
Goals	0.51	
Expected goals (xG)	0.46	
xG on target (xGOT)	0.50	
Penalty goals	0.51	
Non-penalty xG	0.06	
Shots	1.52	
Shots on target	0.51	

Passing

|		
Assists	0.25	
Expected assists (xA)	0.32	
Successful passes	30.93	
Pass accuracy	83.6%	
Accurate long balls	2.03	
Long ball accuracy	66.7%	
Chances created	2.79	
Successful crosses	1.01	
Cross accuracy	21.1%	

⚠️ **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.

Momentum

0'　　　　　　HT　　　　　　FT
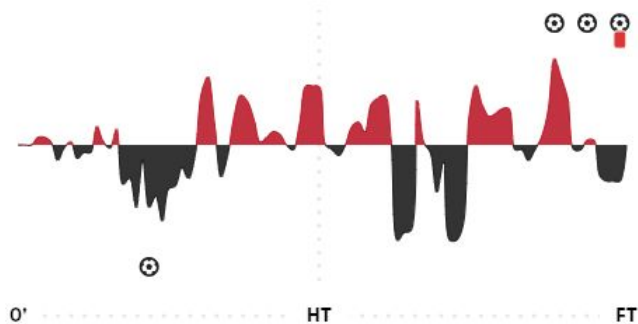
Shot Map

	GOALS	
3	GOALS	1
14	SHOTS	7
6	SOT	2
25	PEN ENTRY	15
46%	POSS %	54%
77%	PASSES %	83%
10%	CROSSES %	43%
1.55	xG	0.53
0.14	xG SP	0.07

CHANCES CREATED

LONG | THRU | CROSS | COMBO | T>A

6 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 3

Corners

Duels

49	Duels won	50
29 (57%)	Ground duels won	22 (43%)
20 (42%)	Aerial duels won	28 (58%)
5 (42%)	Successful dribbles	4 (29%)