Xavi's Barcelona have been a breath of fresh air in the sights of the Barcelona faithful, after so many managers hired to take the reigns at the camp Nou, they haven't been able to fulfill the most desired element in the Barcelona way, play our possession football. The brand of football that has come to be the Barcelona way, the DNA, attacking, entertaining and possession based soccer that has brought this club to the pinnacle of football. Today, we take a look at Xavi's Barcelona and how his first full season in charge went.

**Signings**

In terms of signings, generally the right calls were made in signing players like Raphina, who contributed heavily with very important goals during the campaign, Christensen gas turned out to be a surprise package, Kessie, of course scoring the goal that gave them the all important Clasico win that all but won them the title. Another standout signing is Jules Kounde who actually didn't play as much in his best position, Centre Back, but at the position that Barca has not been able to solve for quite some time, right back. The most impactful signing definitely, Robert Lewandoski, Barca's star man and top goalscorer this season.All in all, great transfer business from the financially hurt giants.

**Defense**

This is where Barca won majorly, they racked up the most number of 1-0 victories in the entirety of Europe, they defended with their lives and put it all on the line, another bonus was the return of Marc-Andre Ter Stegen to form. Barcelona majorly played with a back 4, with Ronald Araujo a stalwart in defense, Christensen, when fit occupied the other Centre back position and the explosive Alejandro Balde as left back and Kounde at RB.(drop some stats)

**Midfield**

Xavi showed a lot of growth in tactical ideas and independency to devise a tactical system that catered for their needs by abandoning the 4-3-3 formation as only a formality on paper and using the 4 man box midfield. The midfield gave control to the Blaugrana and ensured better ball circulation by pitting Busquets and De Jong in deeper positions and allowing the brilliant teenagers, Pedri and Gavi to wander in advanced positions. Pedri, when fit, was brilliant and served as a link between both sides of the midfield and still fulfilled his attacking duties and Gavi apart from De Jong is Barcelona’s best ball carrier in terms of moving with the ball and breaking the lines but his aggressiveness still remains a concern for Xavi as he ranks third in most fouls committed in the league. Speaking of De Jong, the Dutchman as certainly earned his stripes and is now an ‘untouchable’, just after a season that almost saw him move to Manchester United in the summer transfer window. De Jong is brilliant in receiving the ball and very efficient in picking out that long through ball, getting that final pass, but he balances his attacking duties like ball carrying well with his defensive duties with smart positioning and vital interceptions and is probably Barcelona’s best all round player.

**Attack**

Xavi's Barcelona also grew in an attacking sense, moving with better fluidity in the early stages of the season, the system was very unsure from the start of the season, with how he should play with his wingers, whether two straight up wingers like Dembele and Raphina on both wings as we saw in the first Clasico of the season at the Bernabeu or one of the aforementioned players on the right wing and a better inside forward like Ansu Fati or Ferran. This were abandoned later on in favour of the four man midfield. Honestly speaking, Barcelona need to find an extra gear in attack if they want to establish continuity and perform in Europe’s biggest competition. In the second part of the season, after the world cup, there was a noticeable drop in the level of output, chances created in the attack and really, the defense took them too the title.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, this is the best version of Barcelona in years and with the project continuing to blossom, it seems that this success will only continue. Visca Barca, Visca Catalunya.

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