

José's Plan

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Tottenham Hotspur hasn't won a trophy in the last 13 years, since they won the Carling cup in 2008 beating Chelsea at Wembley. For Spurs Chairman Daniel Levy, the most logical move was to bring in a special manager. Someone who has plenty of experience winning trophies and making history.

José Mourinho was appointed Manager and Head Coach of Tottenham Hotspur on 20th November 2019, following the sacking of ex-coach Mauricio Pochettino. In his press conference a week later, he was asked, "Do you think, not winning the final in The Champions League pay a toll in the squad of Mauricio Pochettino ?". José replied, "I don't know, because I've never lost a champions league final." This shows José's mentality and that he was under no pressure. Spurs were 14th when he was appointed. They ended up finishing 6th in the 2019-2020 season, nabbing a Europa League spot from Wolverhampton Wanderers only on goal difference.

Tottenham Hotspur 2020-2021

After a very poor start to the season with a 1-0 loss and a sorry showing against Ancelotti's Everton, José made 3 notable signings. Matt Doherty from Wolves, Pierre Emile Hojbjerg from Southampton and Sergio Reguilon from Real Madrid. He also confirmed the loan of Gareth Bale, who has returned to Spurs after 7 years at Real Madrid. Sergio Reguilon and Doherty has showed their prowess in the left and right back positions respectively, though I believe they have much more to give. The grand return of

Gareth Bale hasn't been what Spurs fans would have dreamt of. Hardly any starts and poor performance from his chances are deeply disappointing. He seems to be very injury prone as well.

José Mourinho has kept Tottenham's conventional counter attack playstyle and combined it with deep defending and quick breaks to make a very balanced team. Spurs have looked very dangerous in their counter attacks this season. The Belgian Toby Alderweireld and midfielder converted defender Eric Dier has proven to become solid centrebacks, even though they do let up once in a while. As of January 5th 2021, Spurs have only conceded 15 goals (second to Manchester City who have played a game less) and of the goals they have conceded, only 3 were from open play this season. This means that 12 goals were from set pieces, penalties or corners. Almost halfway through the season, that is an unbelievably good defensive record. But also shows the lack of discipline at the back of the pack.

Higher up in the midfield, Tanguy Ndombele has been phenomenal. After a rough start to his Spurs career with a poor relationship with Mourinho, he seemed to have completely regained the confidence of his manager. He has started 14 out of the 15 games played by Tottenham in the Premier League this season so far. He has been fearlessly taking on opponents and beating them by dribble and skill. He's also played notable and creative passes, trying to fill a void once left by former Spurs hero, Christian Eriksen. Giovanni Lo Celso, the Argentine, and Moussa Sissoko has also been very strong in their attacking and defensive duties. Hojbjerg has turned out to be a rare, strong and dedicated defensive midfielder. He's had the most number of interceptions and an exquisitely high work rate this season. He drops into the

back line when the full backs join the attack. Interestingly, his aggressive playstyle has lead him to bleed thrice on the pitch this season, but refusing to come off in any of those games till Mourinho forced him to. Harry Winks hasn't quite hit out, but is trying his best to impress the boss. Rather than possession, the spurs midfield has concentrated on moving up the pitch and pressing when possession is lost. Spurs' faliure in scoring one goal and shutting down the game has lead them to become more adventurous, trying to get a second goal before 'Parking the bus'.

There can't be another striker enjoying this season as much as Son Heung Min and Harry Kane has. They have been in the partnership for over 6 years but hasn't shown this level of telekinetic communication and understanding of each other's play styles. The duo has scored 13 goals through their partnership in the Premier league this season, setting up a new record previously held by Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton in the 1994-95 season.

What makes this unbelievable is that not even half of the season is over yet! Harry Kane, previously a Target-man striker, has started to play deeper in the midfield. His passing and through balls has been excellent. However, he has the tendency to try and win freekicks for his team in rather very dangerous ways. Son has been the deadliest of strikers this season. Very pacey and clinical in his movement. He bagged the Puskas Award 2020 for his goal against Burnley last year, which has massively boosted his confidence. All good things aside, a major concern for José Mourinho has been the inconsistency and poor form of his other forwards. Gareth Bale and Eric Lamela are injured half of the time. Steven Bergwijn hasn't hit top gear. Lucas Moura has seems useless in the current style of play. Dele Alli has been nowhere near as good as he used to be, and could be loaned out sometime soon. Carlos

Vinicius is the only rotation striker who could adapt perfectly to José's choice of playstyle. If either Kane or Son gets injured, it seems that the season would be over for Spurs.

They currently stand 3rd in the table and was 1st before Christmas, before clumsily dropping points against Liverpool and Crystal Palace. The title race, I would say, is still on as there has been no run-away leader. Spurs have earned their spot in the Carabao Cup Final, which could earn them their first competitive trophy in 13 years.

Final Verdict :

This could be Tottenham Hotspurs' breakthrough season. If they can avoid injuries and hold onto leads efficiently, I believe it'll all go according to José's Plan.