Attacking Midfielders for Everton FC (2017-2018)

Juan Bautista

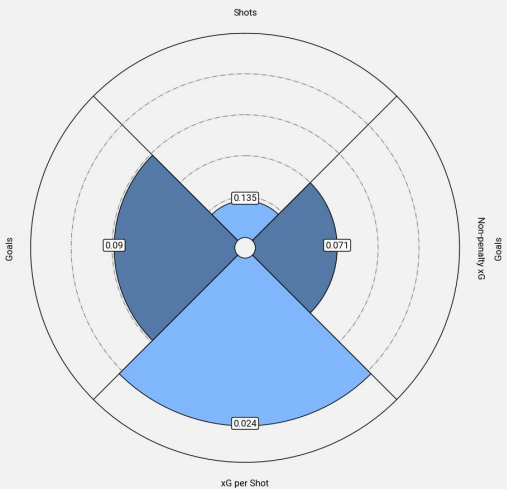# Context

- ➢ Position at the end of the season: 8th
- ➢ Lowest goal difference (top 10 teams): -14
- ➢ 44 goals in 38 matches ≈ 1.15 goals/match (third to last in top 10 teams)

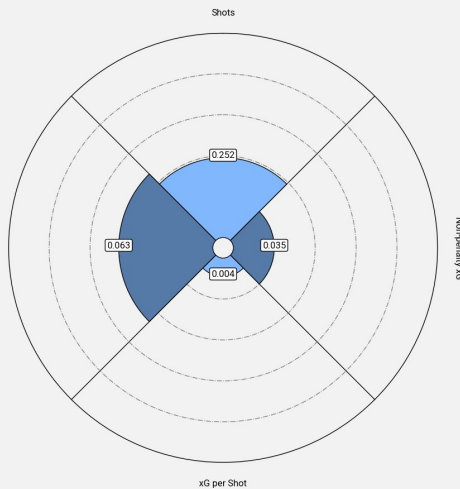| Pos	Nat	Player	Premier League	
			Apps	Goals
FW	ENG	Wayne Rooney	27+4	10
FW	SEN	Oumar Niasse	9+12	8
FW	TUR	Cenk Tosun	12+2	5
MF	ISL	Gylfi Sigurðsson	25+2	4
FW	ENG	Dominic Calvert-Lewin	18+14	4

Question:

Are Everton's midfielders generating enough *scoring opportunities* and/or *contributing* to the attack?

"Attack" Radars
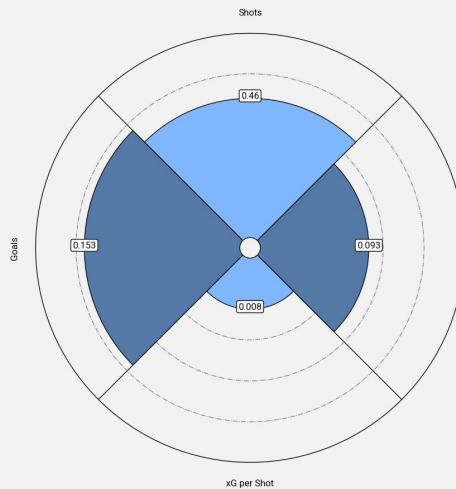
- Shots
- Goals
- Non-penalty xG
- npxG per Shot

➤ Only Sigurdsson and Tom Davies above 50th percentile in more than one metric
➤ xG low except for Tom Davies although he doesn't shoot that much
➤ Schneiderlin → 2224 minutes played didn't contribute much for each metric.
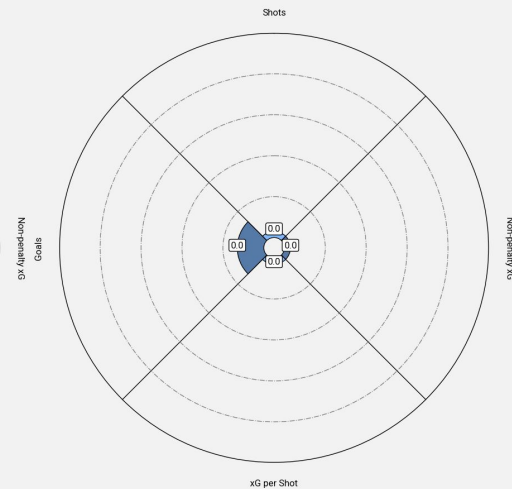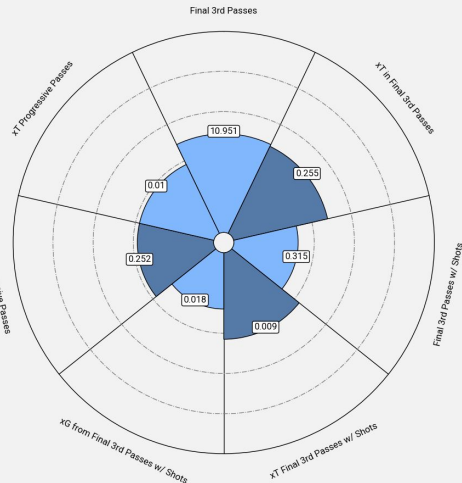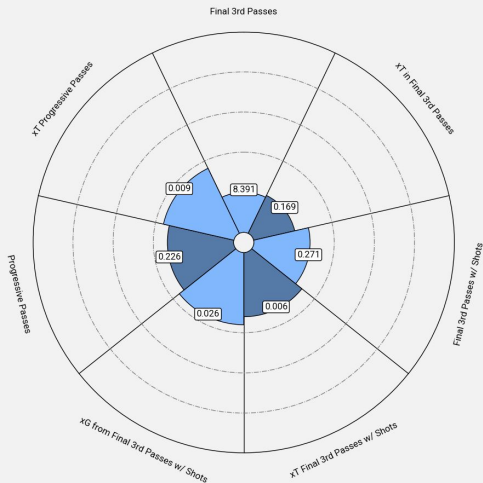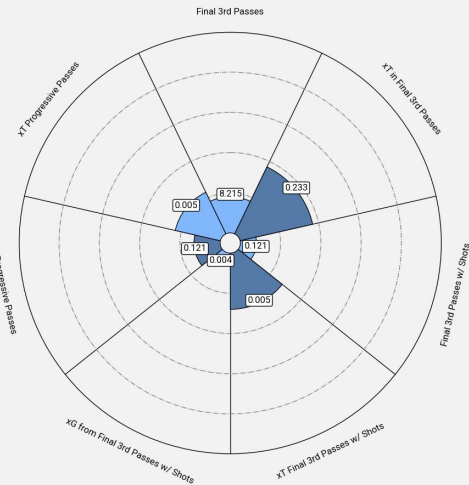
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➢ Gueye most "balanced" in all metrics. Passes into final 3rd ending in shots maybe not the best due to low xG generated from those shots
➢ Sigurdsson: generates passes ending in higher xG shots
➢ All low in progressive passes

"Creativity" Radars

➢ Final 3rd Passes
  ○ xT in Final 3rd Passes
➢ Final 3rd Passes ending in Shots
  ○ xT Final 3rd Passes ending in Shots
  ○ xG from Shots coming from Final 3rd Passes
➢ Progressive Passes (10 yds closer to goal, or to box)
  ○ xT from Progressive Passes

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M. Lanzini (per 90) - West Ham United
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Midfielders | Season 2017-18

Shots
0.677
Goals 0.212
Non-penalty xG 0.15
xG per Shot 0.009

L. Narsingh (per 90) - Swansea City
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Midfielders | Season 2017-18

Shots
0.671
Goals 0.134
Non-penalty xG 0.143
xG per Shot 0.029

R. Fraser (per 90) - AFC Bournemouth
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Midfielders | Season 2017-18

Shots
0.56
Goals 0.215
Non-penalty xG 0.093
xG per Shot 0.007

R. Pereyra (per 90) - Watford
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Midfielders | Season 2017-18

Shots
0.684
Goals 0.263
Non-penalty xG 0.211
xG per Shot 0.016

➤ Narsingh and Pereyra → greater number of shots with higher xG
➤ Fraser and Lanzini → shoot more than Everton's midfielders but xG is not great.
➤ All of them generate more goals.

"Attack" Radars for potential candidates

➤ Manuel Lanzini - €20.000.000*
➤ Luciano Narsingh - €5.000.000
➤ Ryan Fraser - €6.000.000
➤ Roberto Pereyra - €10.000.000

*transfermarkt.com values as of May 28, 2018

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M. Lanzini (per 90) - West Ham United
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Midfielders | Season 2017-18

L. Narsingh (per 90) - Swansea City
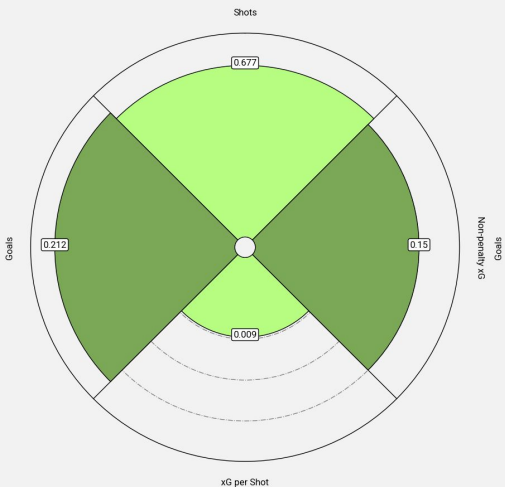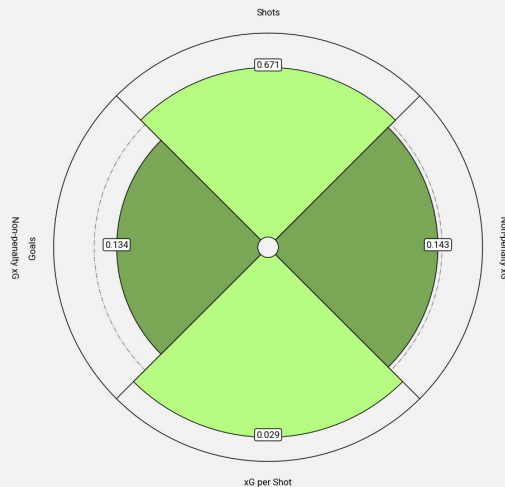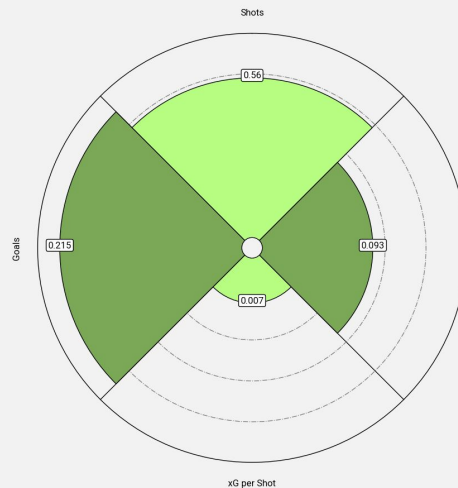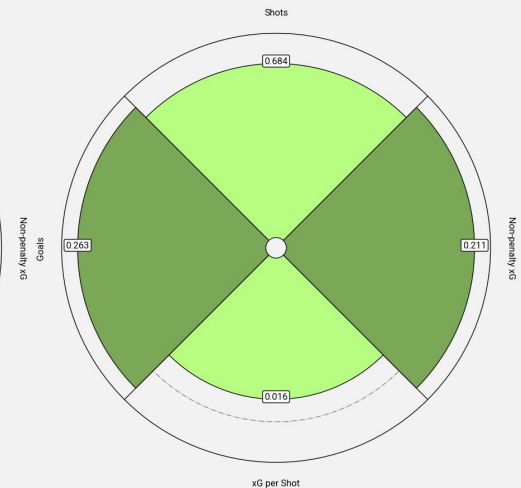Percentile Rank vs Premier League Midfielders | Season 2017-18

➤ Lanzini → best overall. Above 60th percentile in most metrics

➤ Narsingh → very low final 3rd passes in general with very low xT. Still more progressive than Everton's midfielders

➤ Fraser → second best, very balanced overall. More Final third passes ending in shots and high number of progressive passes.

➤ Pereyra → similar to Everton's midfield but generates more progressive passes.

"Creativity" Radars for potential candidates

➤ Manuel Lanzini - €20.000.000*
➤ Luciano Narsingh - €5.000.000
➤ Ryan Fraser - €6.000.000
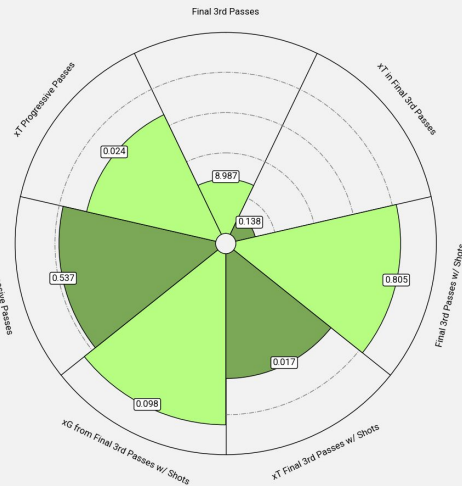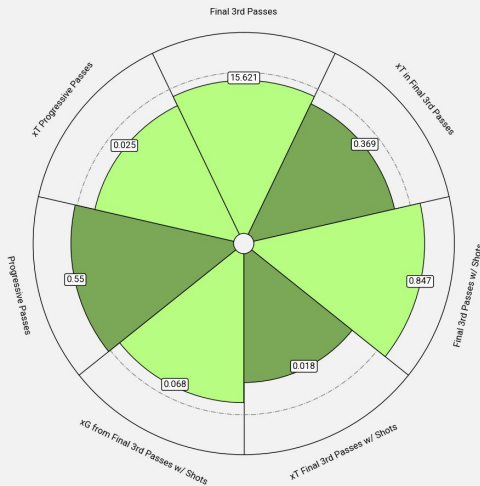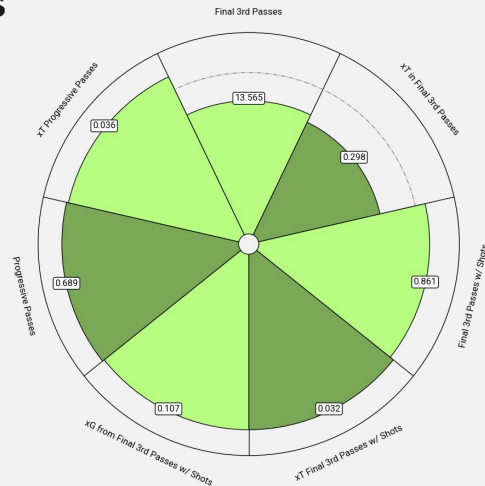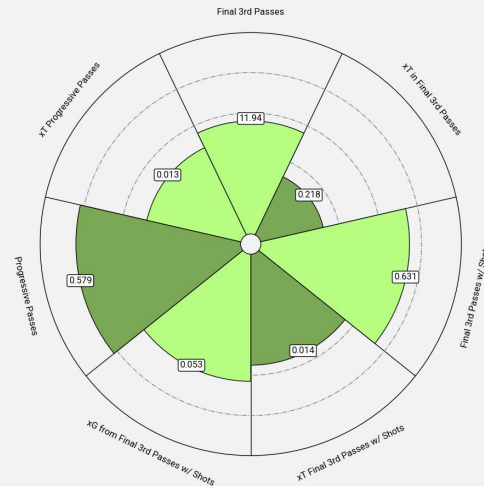➤ Roberto Pereyra - €10.000.000

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R. Fraser (per 90) - AFC Bournemouth
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Midfielders | Season 2017-18

R. Pereyra (per 90) - Watford
Percentile Rank vs Premier League Midfielders | Season 2017-18

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Main takeaways

➤ **Main targets → Lanzini and Fraser**
- ○ Low xG from shots balanced out with **threat generated from final 3rd passes and progressive passes**.
- ○ Lanzini price significantly higher than Fraser's (€20M to €6M, respectively).
- ○ Ages very similar (24 and 23 years old, respectively).

➤ **High in attack, poor in creativity → Pereyra and Narsingh**
- ○ **Generate high xG** compared to other midfielders but **"creativity" lower** than average.
- ○ Older than Lanzini and Fraser → closer to peak age.

➤ **Other option → tradeoff between both target groups**
- ○ One from each group. **One player with high scoring statistics** and **one player good at creating opportunities** and generating threat.
- ○ Best in value as the maximum price could rise up to €16M.