

Columbus Crew Wingers and Left Back Analysis

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My Process for Finding Players

- I went about finding these ten players by first looking at prior players acquired by the Crew and organizing my search based off that
- For wingers I found that these players excelled at :
 - Crossing - mainly attempting crosses with not as much accuracy
 - Dribbling - not attempting a lot but completing them at a high rate
 - Recovering the ball - in general and inside the opponents half
 - Drawing fouls
 - Attempting a lot of passes within the final third and in the penalty area
- For left backs I found that they excelled at :
 - Crossing - mainly completing a high percentage of crosses
 - Defensive Duels - winning a large percentage and attempting a good amount
 - Attempting a lot of passes within the final third
 - Attempting a lot of forward passes

Player: Brian Ocampo

Position: RW

Team: Club Nacional

Age: 22

League: Uruguay Primera Division

Transfermarkt Value: \$4.4M



- Crossing
 - Attempts a cross very often (~5 per 90) and completes them at an average rate (~32%)
- Dribbling
 - Takes on defenders a lot (~9 per 90) and completes his dribbles at an above average rate (54.5%)
- Recovering the Ball
 - Recovers the ball often (~4.5 per 90) and a good amount in the opposing half (~2.35 per 90)
- Drawing Fouls
 - Draws fouls frequently (~2.4 per 90), Pedro Santos and Luis Diaz average around (~2.8 per 90)
- Playmaking
 - Attempts a lot of passes into the penalty area (about 15% of his passes), but his passes also come with a purpose, as he averages an assist every 230 minutes
 - Also advances the ball very well, as he averages ~3.1 progressive runs per 90
- While Ocampo currently plays for Nacional, his contract expires on December 30, 2021
 - Although Ocampo plays in a relatively weak league, he is only 22 so he has time to adjust to the level of MLS

Player: Filippo Falco

Position: RW

Team: Red Star Belgrade

Age: 29

League: Serbian Super League

Transfermarkt Value: \$3.85M



- Crossing
 - Attempts a lot of crosses (~4.25 per 90) and completes at a high rate (~36.9%)
- Dribbling
 - Attempts a lot of dribbles (~8.6 per 90) and gets by defenders a good amount of the time (58%)
- Recovering the Ball
 - Recovers the ball a decent amount of time (~3.55 per 90) but a lot in the opponent half (~2.5 per 90)
- Drawing Fouls
 - Fouled very frequently (2.8 per 90)
- Playmaking
 - Large volume of passes to the final third and the penalty area (~11.3% and ~12.5% of total passes respectively)
 - Surprisingly, completes a high percentage of these passes (~78.7% completed to the final third) and (~58.3% completed into the penalty area)
- Joined Red Star from Lecce nearly a year ago for \$1.3M and contract runs out in June 2023, so a bid of \$3M or \$4M could draw him to the Crew
 - Has experiences in the Champions and Europa Leagues, Serie A, and Coppa Italia so he should be able to adjust to MLS

Player: Mohammad Ounnajem

Position: RW

Team: Zamalek

Age: 29

League: Egyptian Premier League

Transfermarkt Value: \$1.32M



- Crossing
 - Attempts a lot of crosses (~5 per 90) and completes them at an average/below average rate (~31%)
 - However, last season, completed his crosses at a very high percentage (37.5%)
- Dribbling
 - Attempts dribbles at a fairly high clip (7.7 per 90) and completes them at an average rate (52.4%)
- Recovering the Ball
 - Slightly above average at recovering the ball (3.6 total per 90) and (2.2 per 90 in opponent's half)
- Drawing Fouls
 - Frequently draws fouls (3 per 90)
- Playmaking
 - Very talented playmaker as he averages an assist about every three games and completes a large percentage of his passes into the final third (~72.5%) while attempting a lot of passes into the penalty area (~13% of his total passes)
- Also, Ounnajem was rumored to want to leave Zamalek about a year ago, and his current contract runs until June 2022
 - He could struggle with acclimating to MLS because of his age and current competition

Player: Tariqe Fosu-Henry

Position: LW

Team: Brentford

Age: 26

League: English Premier League

Transfermarkt Value: \$2.75M



- Crossing
 - Does not attempt many crosses (~2.45 per 90) and completes them at a very low rate (~23.4%)
- Dribbling
 - Attempts a good amount (~8.5 per 90) and completes at an average/below average rate (~51%)
- Recovering the Ball
 - Recovers the ball very often (~5.25 per 90) and a good amount in the opponent half (~3 per 90)
- Drawing Fouls
 - Draws a large amount of fouls (~2.6 per 90)
- Playmaking
 - Attempts a slightly above average amount of passes into the final third (10.7% of total passes) and penalty area (10.2% of total passes), however very little accuracy (~65% in final third) and (47.5% in penalty area)
 - Decent amount of progression runs (2.25 per 90) and touches in penalty area (~3 per 90) but not a lot of assists (700 min per assist)
- Bought by Brentford a year ago for \$800K and has played little since promotion, so a bid of \$2.75M could prompt a transfer
 - With some experience in the Championship and English Cups as well as international duty for Ghana, Fosu should have little issue adjusting to MLS

Player: Federico Cartabia

Position: RW

Team: N/A

Age: 29

League: N/A

Transfermarkt Value: \$1.32M



- Crossing
 - Attempts crosses at a high rate (~3.5 per 90) and completes at an average-below average clip (~30.8%)
- Dribbling
 - Attempts dribbles at a high rate (~8.5 per 90) and completes at an extremely high rate (64%)
- Recovering the Ball
 - Recovers the ball very well in general (~4.8 total per 90) and in the opponent's half (~2.8 per 90)
- Drawing Fouls
 - Also draws fouls at a high rate (2.7 per 90)
- Playmaking
 - Averages an assist every four games, progresses the ball fairly well (~3 per 90), and completes a large percentage of his passes into the final third (78%), while his passes to the penalty area are average (~53%)
- Possibly the easiest player to acquire on this list, Fede is currently a free agent and still has some good years ahead of him, so I think he could definitely be a steal
 - Fede should have no issues adjusting to MLS, as he has experience in Spain with Valencia and Deportivo de la Coruna

Player: Francesco Di Mariano

Position: LW

Team: Lecce

Age: 25

League: Italian Serie B

Transfermarkt Value: \$880K



- Crossing
 - Attempts crosses frequently (~3.5 per 90) and completes a fair amount of attempts (~34.2%)
- Dribbling
 - Does not attempt dribbles very frequently (~5.9 per 90) but converts them at a high rate (~60.3%)
- Recovering the Ball
 - Above average at recovering the ball (~3.6 total per 90) but below average at recovering in the opponent's half (~1.9 per 90)
- Drawing Fouls
 - Very good at drawing fouls (~3.7 per 90)
- Playmaking
 - Not very accurate at passing into the final third with little attempts and the penalty area with a large amount of attempts (~63.1% and ~45.6% respectively)
 - Rarely registers assists (one every ~990 minutes) and little progressive runs (~2.2 per 90)
- Just signed for Lecce but only for \$200K so a bigger bid could tempt him out of Italy
 - Should have no issue with adjusting to MLS from experience in Serie B and Coppa Italia and fairly young. Needs to work on recovering the ball and playmaking

Player: Enzo Diaz

Position: LB

Team: CA Talleres

Age: 26

League: Argentina Liga Profesional

Transfermarkt Value: \$4.95M



- Crosses
 - Attempts average/below average amount of crosses (~2.6 per 90) and completes a good amount of these crosses (~33%)
- Defensive Duals
 - Wins a large amount of duals (~67%) and attempts about 10 duals per 90, which is very high
- Passes to the Final Third
 - Attempts a large amount of passes into the final third (~16.6%) but completes very few of these passes ~(64.6%)
- Forward Passes
 - Attempts a lot of forward passes (~40% of total passes) but completes very few of his passes (68.8%)
- Contract expires on December 31, 2022, so it may be easier to acquire him now or at a future date
 - In my personal opinion, I think Diaz would fit in the MLS fairly well, as the Liga Profesional in Argentina is a solid league and he's a fairly young player

Player: Diego Palacios

Position: LB

Team: LAFC

Age: 22

MLS

Transfermarkt Value: \$3.85M



- Crosses
 - Attempts a lot of crosses (~4 per 90) but at an average/below average rate (~30.7%)
- Defensive Duals
 - Wins an immense amount of defensive duals (~66%) and encounters duals often (~9.2 per 90)
- Passes to the Final Third
 - Attempts a good amount of passes to the final third (~12.3% of total passes) and completes them at average/below average amount
- Forward Passes
 - A large part of his passes are forward passes (~35%) and he completes them at an average rate
- Contract runs out in December 2023 so he could be harder to get than others on this list
 - However, Palacios has played in MLS for a couple of years so we know what he can do in this league and he fits all the criteria to be a good LB for the Crew
 - So for slightly under \$4M, I think that's a good deal

Player: Aleksa Terzic

Position: LB

Team: Fiorentina

Age: 22

League: Italian Serie A

Transfermarkt Value: \$2.2M



- Crosses
 - Attempts a large amount of crosses (~5.15 per 90) and completes a very large percentage (~37.6%)
- Defensive Duals
 - Also attempts a large amount of defensive duals (~9 per 90) and completes a great amount (~65.2%)
- Passes to the Final Third
 - Slightly below average with his passes to the final third (11.2%) and completes a very low percentage of his passes in this area (65.5%)
 - However, attempts a lot of passes into the penalty area (~9.7%) and completes a solid amount of his passes into this area (47.8%)
- Forward Passes
 - Attempts a good amount of forward passes (34.7% of total passes) and completes very few (~69%)
- Terzic's contract runs until 2024, however he has played sparingly for Fiorentina and they've let him go on loan in the past
 - I think Terzic could adjust to MLS pretty well as he is young and plays in the Serie A

Player: Malte Amundsen

Position: LB

Team: NYCFC

Age: 23

League: MLS

Transfermarkt Value: \$1.32M



- Crosses
 - Good volume of crosses (~3.5 per 90) at a great rate (36%)
- Defensive Duals
 - Wins a lot of defensive duals (~63.5%) with a large quantity (~8.1) per 90
- Passes to the Final Third
 - Attempts a large volume of passes into the final third (16.9% of total passes) but completes at a very low rate (58.6%)
- Forward Passes
 - Similar to passes to the final third, Amundsen attempts forward passes very frequently (~42.2% of total passes) but completes them at a very low rate (66.6%)
- Contract runs out June 29, 2022 so NYCFC may be willing to sell him in the winter, rather than lose him for nothing in the summer
 - Similar to Palacios, Amundsen has played for a year in the MLS, so we have a decent idea of what he can provide for the team
 - I think at \$1.3M, Amundsen would be great value and as he ages, I would expect him to pick up his efficiency on his forward passes and passes to the final third