THREAD – A short statistical profile on Nicolas Pepe, in comparison to other Right Wingers from Europe’s Top 5 leagues.

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PART 1 - OVERVIEW

Nicolas Pépé (24), who plays as a left-footed right winger for Ivory Coast national team, is set to join Arsenal from LOSC Lille. Fee in the region of €80M.

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In the 2018/19 season, he scored 25 goals, with 13 assists (all competitions). Pepe’s main positions:

1. Right Wing: 20G, 11A, 4418 Minutes played
2. Striker: 5G, 1A, 500 Minutes played

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Out-and-out right winger. Stays in opposition half a lot, and hugs the touchline, providing width. Will open up spaces for Lacazette and Aubameyang.

<pepe\_heat>

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Dots represents Shots on TARGET. 'G' for Goals. Chart for 2018/19 Season (all competitions).

<goals\_scored\_from>

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Pepe’s shooting all seems to pattern. LOW finessed shots into lower-left corner of the Goal, cutting in from the right hand side.

<goal\_location>

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PART 2 – ATTACKING STATS

GOALS

Pepe has 24 goals in Total, 9 of which are penalties. Fair number of non-penalty goals, + proves he is a good penalty taker.

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ASSISTS

Excellent number of Assists too. Shows his intelligence and team-work.

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SHOOTING QUALITY - Shots taken vs on Target %.

Pepe has an excellent Shot Quality. He maintains the accuracy while taking a good number of shots.

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TOUCHES IN BOX

Touches in the box are fairly low. Prefers to hug the touchline more than get into the box. For example, Mahrez likes to dribble and cut inside into the box.

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CROSSING

Crossing is not a strong point for Pepe. He tends to dribble with the ball into the box, and is good at cutbacks, but that’s about it. This will however suit Arsenal’s style of play.

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PART 3 – PASSING STATS

FORWARD PASSING – Fwd passes p90 vs accuracy %

Pepe ranks below average in Forward passing. At Lille, players made Forward passes to him. It remains to be seen how he would fare in this regard at Arsenal.

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FINAL 3rd - Final 3rd passes p90 vs accuracy %.

A bit of a concern here. Arsenal are all about good link up play, and Pepe will have to improve in this regard.

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PENALTY BOX – Passes to penalty box p90 vs accuracy %.

Accuracy of passes if fairly good. Low quantity is due to his nature to cut back the ball after beating his man, rather than just dribbling into the box.

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PART 4 - CONCLUSION:

Pepe is a very good capture for Arsenal. Due to his nature to stick to the byline and dribble, opposition defenders would have to go out to defend, this creating spaces for the likes of Ozil, Lacazette and Aubameyang.

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Once Hector Bellerin returns from injury, Arsenal’s right side could be up there with City and Liverpool.

Personally, I still feel a defender should have been a first priority, but that does not take away from Pepe’s quality.

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THREAD END