

Report on the Analysis of Champions League Finals - 4-3-3 Formations and Pressure Events

Introduction

This visualization presents an analysis of Champions League finals, focusing specifically on teams playing with a 4-3-3 formation. The goal is to highlight the impact of high pressing through the recorded "pressure events" during these decisive matches.

Key Observation

One of the major findings is from the 2019 final between Liverpool and Tottenham. Liverpool applied pressure in 250 events, a significant figure that reveals their heavy reliance on high pressing. This is the highest number recorded among the finals analyzed and illustrates how essential pressing is to Liverpool's strategy, especially in the Premier League, where the style of play often revolves around high-intensity defense.

Distribution of Pressure Events

On the pressure map, there is a concentration of events in the higher areas of the pitch. This reflects Liverpool's high pressing strategy, where they maintain constant pressure on the opponent, often regaining possession quickly after losing the ball.

The pressure events are particularly visible around the attacking midfielders and central defenders of the opposing team, indicating that Liverpool aims to disrupt passing lanes and force the opponent to play long balls.

Comparison with Other Teams Using 4-3-3

Compared to other teams that also adopted the 4-3-3 formation, like Ajax in 1972 and 1973, pressing was present but not as intense as Liverpool's in 2019. The pressure was more evenly distributed, with less focus on offensive zones. This difference might be attributed to the tactical evolution over time, especially with the introduction of "gegenpressing" by modern managers like Jürgen Klopp.

Historical Trends

Older teams like Panathinaikos in 1971 and Ajax in 1972 and 1973 show more dispersed pressure maps, suggesting a less aggressive approach to immediate ball recovery.

More recent teams, like Barcelona 2015 and Juventus 2015, exhibit a stronger tendency to apply pressure in offensive and midfield areas, a tactical evolution seen in contemporary football.

Additional Analysis

Pressing and Possession: Modern teams like Liverpool 2019 use high pressing not only to win back the ball but also to maintain possession and control the tempo of the game.

Distribution of Events: Pressure events are often concentrated on the wings, where Liverpool traps opponents and forces mistakes. This contrasts with the 1970s, where pressing was less focused on specific zones.