

Evaluating Bruno Fernandes' Passes and Assists in EURO 2024

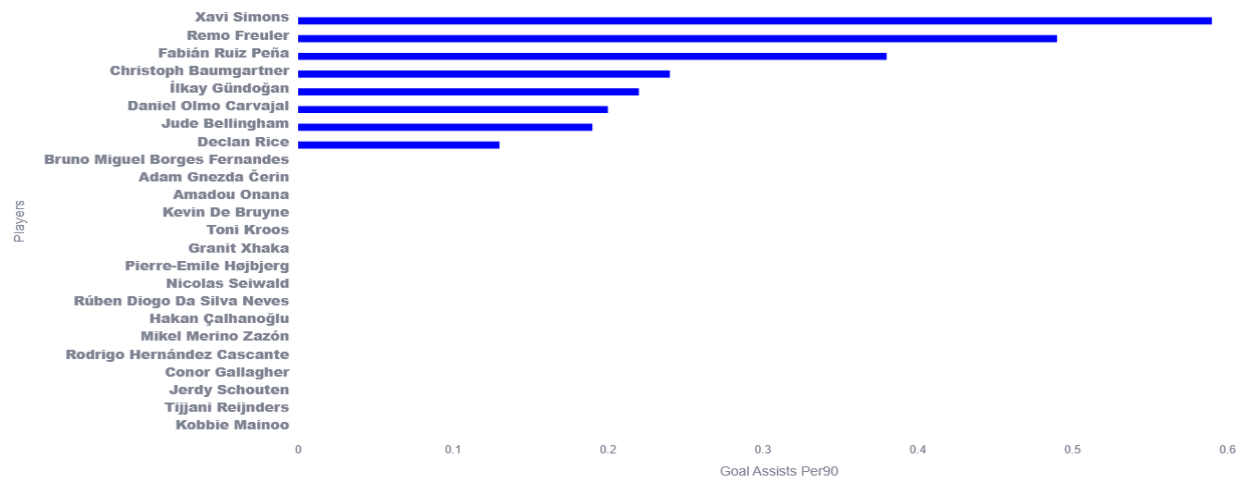
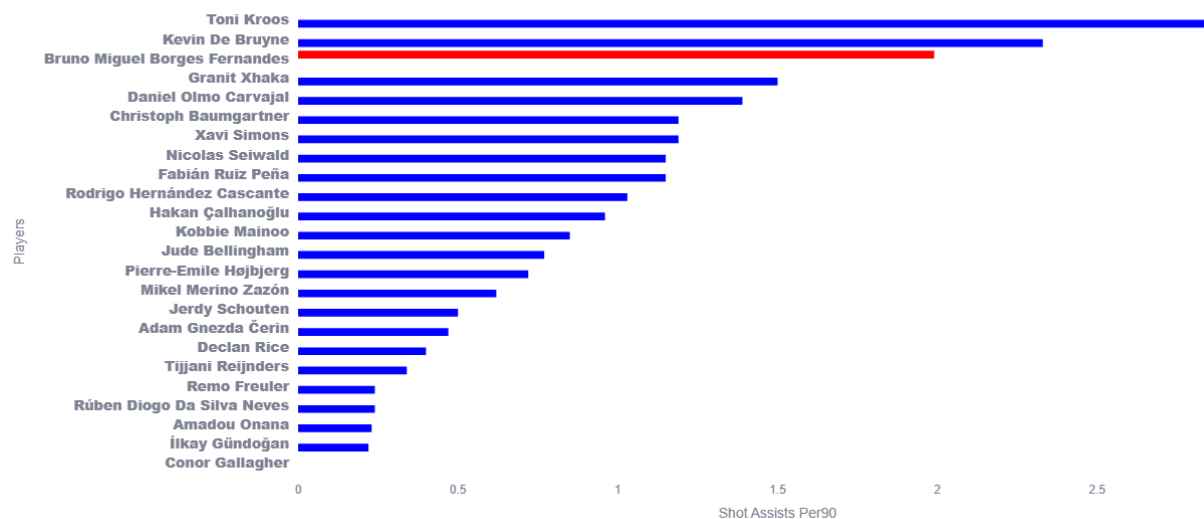
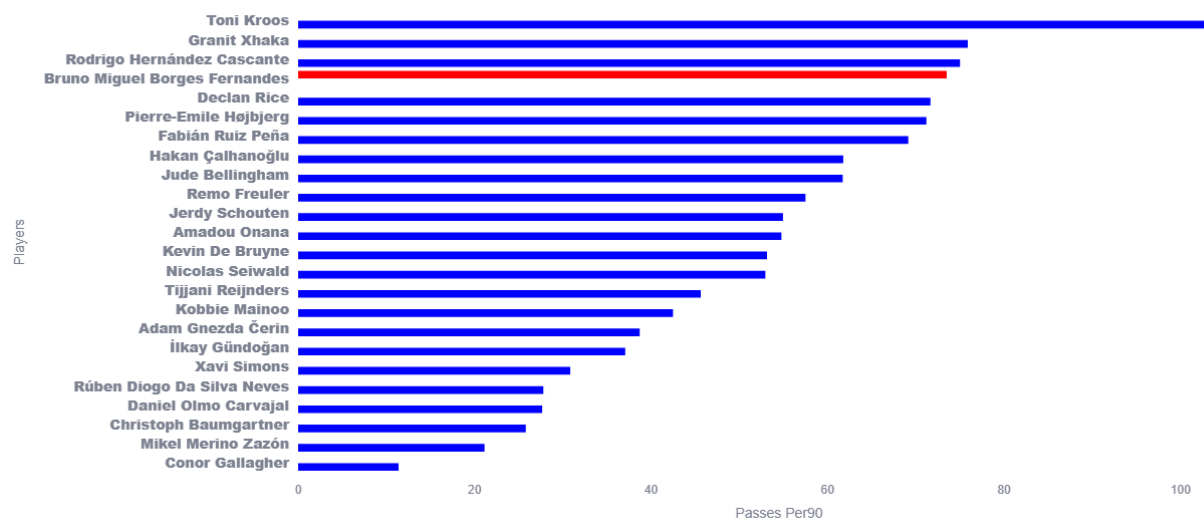
In a 2020 Reddit thread titled “Which playmaker do you think is better, Bruno Fernandes vs Kevin De Bruyne”, fans debated who is the superior playmaker. Some described Bruno as “a breath of fresh air,” while others argued he is not yet “on that level” due to his lower assist numbers. This paper examines where he currently ranks based on his passes and assists in the EURO 2024 tournament.

Portugal played five matches in the tournament, starting against Czechia and ending with the quarter-final loss to France. Bruno participated in four of these matches, and his passes and assists are visualized below.

Bruno Fernandes: Pass Map (Portugal's goal is on the left)



Evaluating an attacking midfielder requires more than counting goals. It also involves measuring the opportunities they create, such as shot assists and goal assists. While a single tournament cannot fully define a player, comparing Bruno’s assists with those of other midfielders in EURO 2024 provides perspective. Considering players who played at least 360 minutes (rounded down from the average of the maximum and minimum minutes played by midfielders) and adjusting the statistics to show what they would achieve in a full 90-minute match, we find that Bruno ranks fourth in total passes and third in shot assists. However his goal assist is disappointing with none recorded despite him scoring goals. The bar charts below illustrate the comparison of Bruno versus other midfielders in EURO 2024, based on their per 90-minute normalized stats of passes, shot assists, and goal assists respectively.



References

- Reddit. (2020). “Which playmaker do you think is better, Bruno Fernandes vs Kevin De Bruyne?”,
https://www.reddit.com/r/football/comments/k77yc5/which_playmaker_you_think_is_better_bruno/
- StatsBomb. (2024). StatsBomb Open Data.
<https://github.com/statsbomb/open-data?tab=readme-ov-file>