

HOW I WILL PLAY ARSENAL IN MOST GAMES, ESPECIALLY THE LOW BLOCKS TEAMS

Little Introduction

Arsenal's probable line-up for the forthcoming season is nothing less than exciting on paper and tactically. At the root of this system lies not only personal ability but a flexible setup in which individuals can easily switch roles depending on the course of the game, the opposition, and the rhythm of the match.

At the head of the line is **Viktor Gyokeres**, a dynamic, energetic striker who excels in counter-attacks and sophisticated build-up play. He provides a physically built option over what has come before him, able to press high and hold up the ball for runners such as **Leao and Saka** to find space behind the lines.

Wings are where **Bukayo Saka and Rafael Leao** bring electrifying speed and unpredictability. **Leao** down the left, always eager to damage with diagonal runs in the box or interchange play with his ball control. **Saka** on the right is Arsenal's creative force, cutting inside onto his powerful left foot or linking up with **Ben White** in the overlap.

In the creative hub of the team, **Eberechi Eze and Martin Odegaard** provide two different flavors according to the opposition. **Odegaard** provides control, vision, and accurate passing in tighter games, while **Eze** provides flair and directness if some disorder is required to get past stiff defences. Either of them, at any rate, plays an important role in linking midfield with attack.

The central midfield partnership of **Declan Rice and Martín Zubimendi** is constructed for balance. **Rice** is the ball-winner and transition-breaker, while **Zubimendi** provides calmness and control, recycling possession and dictating the tempo from deeper areas. Between them, they enable Arsenal to control middle areas and recover promptly when losing possession.

The back four are solid and tactically intelligent. **Calafiori/MLS**, are comfortable in the middle as they are out wide, adding balance when **White or Timber** pushes high up the field. **Gabriel and William Saliba** are a physically dominant and level-headed centre-back partnership, maybe the best in Europe. **Ben White**, meanwhile, gives an under-rated technical edge out wide. His relationship with Saka is still the bedrock of Arsenal's construction play.

At goal, **David Raya** is not only a shot-stopper, he's an 11th outfield player. His comfort on the ball allows Arsenal to press high up the pitch and bring opponents towards them, stretching them out.

What's interesting about this Arsenal side is that it can transform in the course of a game. Out of possession, it becomes a **4-4-2 or 4-5-1** block with **Rice** deep and the wingers getting back to make runs.

In possession, **White** can tuck into midfield, with a **3-2-5** arrangement featuring **Rice and Zubimendi**. **Odegaard or Eze** can ghost into half-spaces, and **Leao and Saka** invert onto wider areas.

This team is built not just for nice football but for adaptability. It has the dynamism, capability, and tactical knowledge to deal with different game situations, whether it's breaking down a low block, counter-pressing against better pressing sides, or defending a narrow lead in the final phases of games.

With this setup, Arsenal are not just **dreaming of trophies**, they're tactically equipped to go after them.

Pros & Cons of the 4-2-3-1

Pros:

- Strong central block and pressing structure.
- Creative overload between lines (Eze/Ødegaard)
- Adaptable to various game states (can defend deep or press high)
- Allows rotation of creators, finishers, and defensive profiles

Cons:

- Needs high chemistry in buildup against deep blocks
- Risk of pivot being overrun if pressed and isolated
- Requires elite positional awareness from fullbacks + pivot

These cons are not issues to the Arsenal squad, we have seen them playing with high chemistry and their fullbacks are elite players with great sense of awareness. The midfield of Zubimendi and Rice is very balanced as well.

Beating Low Blocks & Big Teams Alike

Against low blocks:

1v1s from **Leao**, half-space mastery from **Saka**, and patience from **Odegaard** give Arsenal the tools to break them down. **Leao/Saka** pins full-backs and **Rice/Zubimendi** recycle endlessly.

Against big sides:

Arsenal drop to a **4-5-1** when not in possession, stay compact, and explode on the counter via **Gyokeres'** running and wide speed from **Saka/Leao**.

Depth That Sustains It

This squad doesn't break if one or two stars get injured:

- Jesus and Havertz split striker responsibilities.
- Trossard, Madueke, Martinelli offer threats off the bench.
- Merino, Nørgaard, Timber, Zinchenko offer solidity to the framework.
- Youthful touch: Nwaneri, Lewis-Skelly, Dowman, Nichols, Salmon and Setford are the future, talented and already/ready to be integrated into Arteta's ethos.

Conclusion: Why 4-2-3-1 is Arsenal's Identity

The **4-2-3-1** is no longer a Plan B shape for Arsenal, it's the shape that best reflects their strengths:

- Midfield dominance through Rice and Zubimendi.
- Tactical control and creativity through Ødegaard or Eze.
- Devastating width through Saka and Leão.
- An aggressive, press-leading striker in Gyökeres.
- Solid defense and ball-playing calm through Saliba & Gabriel.
- A deep enough squad to rotate and remain a threat.

This setup makes Arsenal unpredictable, versatile, and threatening in all phases. It leans into their identity of possession, pressing, and positional superiority, and it's set up to win things.