

Who is Lucas Lima?

Posted on @June 21, 2017 7:26 PM by Yazdan Basir

Lucas Lima is a creative midfielder playing for Santos in the Brazilian league, previously dating Neymar Jr.'s sister and recent reports (Fox Sports Brazil) have suggested that FC Barcelona has reached an agreement with him, with the player set to join the club in January 2018. Neymar Jr's father is the 26-year-old's agent/advisor and an agreement has been reached to sign a deal with the Catalan giants the day Lima's Santos contract has 6 months left on it, enabling him to move on a free. Here's a bit about him:

The Brazilian midfielder has an incredible passing range, with the ability to pick out teammates with pinpoint precision. He likes to play deep, spraying long balls to his teammates and creating chances that way or picking up the pace and dribbling past players to create some space for that final through ball to another player. Lima also has decent defensive contribution because of his preference to lie deep and play out from the back, signs he can fit into a Barcelona system. He's made 10 interceptions with 23 tackles won in just 17 appearances which are signs of active involvement from an attacking midfielder, sometimes acting as a rapid attacking pivot. The ability to fit into a Barcelona system can be seen from his passing range and the numbers behind that (around 50 passes per game with a good 81% completion) and that extra chemistry with Neymar Jr. may be pretty useful during counters and more importantly open play and space creation.

While Barcelona has been playing with controllers like Xavi and creators like Iniesta, an explosive, hot to handle, seemingly box-to-box midfielder like Lima may add to that sudden burst in the attack that Messi and Neymar offer. He's one of Brazil best's creators and that's exactly what the Catalan side need in a player to allow Messi to move back up front rather than having to drop deep to create. With 31 chances created this season in the league along with 30 key passes, Lucas Lima will be a huge loss for Santos as the club expected the player's future to be with them.

However, he may not turn out to be the player Barcelona need or may not perform in a different system or league. Since he'll be arriving when he's 27, the club will not be able to work on him or develop him as they would do with a younger player,

but instead Lima will be expected to perform from Day 1, having played for a significant time now and earning 14 caps for the national side as well. The club will have another dynamic player and a much-needed indirect set piece specialist.

The fact that he'll be 27 means his case will be binary – either he'll be a good transfer or he won't. But because of his price tag, it'll be fine if the transfer doesn't work out as expected and so the club won't lose money if the player has to move on. I personally am a fan of Lucas Lima's playing style (I'm quite the optimist when it comes to transfers) as he likes to put on some magical displays with his creation and destruction of the backline. And now I'm looking forward to what he can offer us (if there is anything, which is the real question) and how he can grow from playing like in a team like Barcelona. However, the nature of this deal with Barcelona (suggestions made by Neymar) is a worrying sign of an individual players' influence on the board and even more worrying as the board set their priority to a free transfer rather than pursuing the players the club really needs (i.e. Semedo and Verratti). This deal basically highlighting our board's tendency to go for the easy option and get deals done in quantity rather than quality and satisfy individual player wishes which they shouldn't be listening to.

(Image

source: [http://images.performgroup.com/di/library/Goal_Brasil/4d/55/lucas-
lima-santos-america-mg-brasileirao-
11122016_1e85au5qtq43k1fqpt2kr57j10.jpg?t=-275202336\)](http://images.performgroup.com/di/library/Goal_Brasil/4d/55/lucas-lima-santos-america-mg-brasileirao-11122016_1e85au5qtq43k1fqpt2kr57j10.jpg?t=-275202336)