



Technical report 2012/13





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Introduction

The Technical Report on the 21st season of UEFA Champions League football is the first to be included in an overall review which embraces commercial, marketing, financial and broadcasting aspects of Europe's prime club competition – although it is also being produced as a limited-edition stand-alone technical publication for a small target group of front-line coaches.

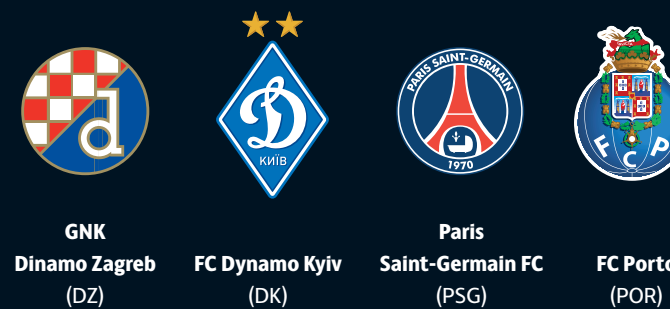
As usual, the Technical Report sets out to provide a permanent record of the 125 matches played during the 2012/13 UEFA Champions League season. The design has

been modified with a view to presenting factual and statistical information in a reader-friendly format. However, in an era when data are more widely available than ever before – notably on UEFA's own website – the focus shifts slightly towards the interpretation of statistics, blended with the input from the team of UEFA technical observers who attended the 29 matches played during the knockout stages of the competition, including the final disputed by two German clubs at Wembley Stadium in London.

This mix of facts and observations seeks to provoke as well as to inform. The objective is to provoke analysis, reflections and debate which, it is hoped, will give technicians food for thought and, by highlighting tendencies and trends at the peak of professional club football, also supply coaches who are active in the development levels of the game with information that may be helpful in terms of working on the qualities which will be needed by the players and coaches who will take leading roles in shaping the UEFA Champions League of the future.



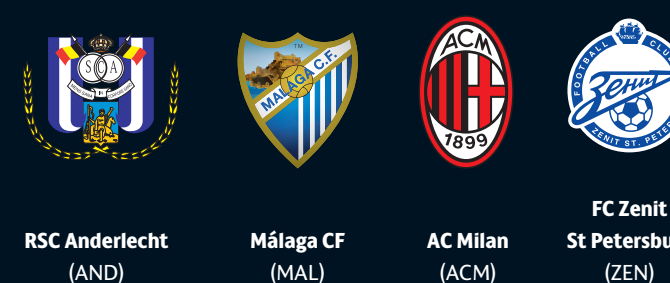
Group A



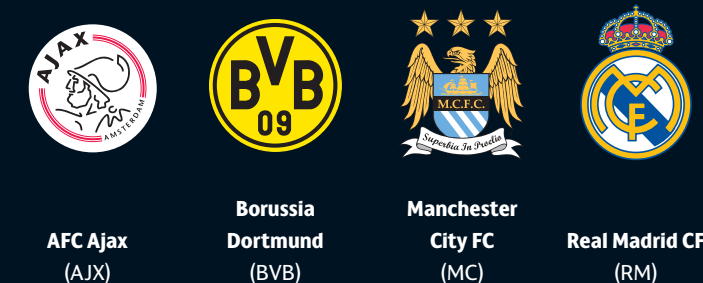
Group B



Group C



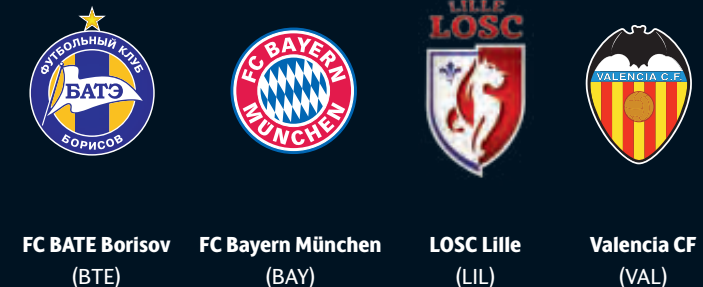
Group D



Group E



Group F



Group G



Group H



Note: The above abbreviations are used for the club names on pages 54 - 87

The way to Wembley

The 2012/13 season was high on entertainment value and low on goalless draws. The 96 matches played during the group stage yielded only four stalemates – two of them involving SL Benfica who, nevertheless, were among the most prolific of the 32 competitors in terms of generating goal attempts.

The final group standings offered further conflicting evidence. Chelsea FC emerged as leading scorers with 16 goals yet refuted the traditional adage that ten points are sufficient to guarantee progress and became the first defending champions to exit the UEFA Champions League before Christmas. The dozen matches played in Group E generated 44 goals – half of them conceded by plucky Danish club FC Nordsjælland who, playing their home games in Copenhagen, approached their debut in the competition with panache against rivals who had all previously lifted UEFA titles.

The group stage was marked by even more conflicting evidence. On the one hand, the fact that only four teams negotiated their

six-match programme without suffering a defeat suggested an elevated degree of competitiveness. On the other hand, the points difference between first and last in the eight groups ranged from seven to 14 points – a statistic which implies clear superiorities. Thirteen of the qualifiers for the knockout stage of the tournament were known before the final matchday. However, the points difference between second and third was zero or one in four of the groups – meaning that the last fixtures in the group stage harboured strong incentives for sides who were keen to progress further in the prime competition or to ensure European continuity by securing the third place which earned a transfer into the UEFA Europa League.





The young Spain winger Isco shone for group-stage newcomers Málaga, scoring twice as they hit the ground running against Zenit



Jack Wilshere helped Arsenal reach the last 16 for the 13th year running

In marked contrast to the previous season (when five teams had qualified for the knockout phase with fewer than ten points), only AC Milan progressed to the last 16 without reaching double figures. Curiously, Massimiliano Allegri's men failed to win a match at San Siro in Group C – and this was a symptom of a widespread trend. No fewer than 51 of the 96 games were not won by the host club – a fact which hints at more adventurous tactical strategies by visitors.

In Group H (featuring Manchester United FC, Galatasaray AŞ, CFR 1907 Cluj and SC Braga), seven of the 12 games were away wins and 19 of the 32 goals were scored by visiting teams. That group also provided one of the comeback scenarios which have become almost a hallmark of sides coached by Fatih Terim. After taking one point from their opening three matches, Galatasaray won their last three fixtures (two of them on foreign soil) to snatch second place from CFR Cluj. The latter were one of six clubs to change their head coach during the six-game group phase and, like Milan, the Romanian team picked up more points on their travels than they did at home – three of their nine goals coming from classic counterattacks.

This speciality also allowed Viktor Goncharenko's FC BATE Borisov to make an eyebrow-raising start to their Group F campaign. Copybook counterattacks coupled with proficient long-range shooting earned an impressive 3-1 victory at LOSC Lille and, in the following fixture in Minsk, BATE became the first of only two sides to beat Jupp Heynckes' FC Bayern München. This alerted the opposition, to the extent that the remaining four matches yielded four defeats for the Belarusian champions, during which 13 goals appeared in the debit column.

In Group C, Málaga CF had embarked on their UEFA Champions League debut with similar momentum by posting 3-0 wins over FC Zenit St Petersburg at home and against RSC Anderlecht in Brussels. Unlike BATE, however, Manuel Pellegrini's team sustained their pace and, by taking four points from Milan, effectively ensured top spot in the group. Much the same applied to Carlo Ancelotti's Paris Saint-Germain FC, who celebrated a long-awaited return to the competition with five Group A victories and a solitary loss at FC Porto. FC Barcelona eased through Group G as expected, but without making too much noise and needing to come from behind to

earn home wins against FC Spartak Moskva and Celtic FC with late goals. The latter had recorded their first victory in 21 away games in the competition with a 3-2 success in Moscow and a return victory in Glasgow on the final matchday allowed the Scottish club to rub elbows with the elite in the last 16 for the first time in five seasons.



Celtic had a famous night against Barcelona, Tony Watt scoring



Dortmund fans keep their eyes on the prize ahead of the quarter-final second-leg match against Málaga



Zlatan Ibrahimović celebrates a goal for a PSG side who finished top of their group on their return to the competition after an eight-year hiatus



Javier Hernández struck twice as Manchester United came from two goals down to beat Braga 3-2 in an exciting contest at Old Trafford



Porto's Nicolás Otamendi holds off Málaga's Isco but the Spanish team came back to eliminate the Portuguese in the last 16



Lionel Messi, who finished the campaign with eight goals, turns away from Riccardo Montolivo during Barcelona's round of 16 first-leg defeat in Milan



Manchester United's round of 16 defeat against Madrid proved to be Sir Alex Ferguson's last tie in the competition

One of Celtic's potential opponents were FC Schalke 04, who had come through Group B unbeaten and who had laid claim to top spot by beating Arsenal FC in London. The Gunners had, at least, survived. England's representation was halved by Chelsea's demise and the failure of Manchester City FC to win a game in a fiercely competitive Group D, where they had to take on AFC Ajax, Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid CF.

'Bayern were confirmed among the favourites with a rampant 3-1 win against Arsenal in London'

When the ball started rolling after the winter break, Madrid emerged as one of just two group runners-up to eliminate a group winner. Their victims were Manchester United who, after a 1-1 draw in Spain, took a 1-0 advantage at home only to concede twice while trying to come to psychological terms with the dismissal of Nani early in the second half. Schalke were the sole other group winners to lose out, despite holding Galatasaray to a draw in Turkey. Terim's team produced another phoenix-from-the-ashes act in Gelsenkirchen to prevail 3-2 but, against Madrid in the quarter-finals, gave their escapology qualities little or no chance after a 3-0 reverse at the Santiago Bernabéu. They displayed enough pride and resilience to come back and win 3-2 at home, but the goals shipped in Madrid proved to be too much ballast.

In the meantime, Málaga were making club history by bouncing back from a pallid performance in Porto to beat Vítor Pereira's side 2-0 at La Rosaleda, where they then played out the only goalless draw of the knockout rounds against Dortmund. The scoreline did not match the quality of the spectacle and a major upset seemed to be on the cards when Pellegrini's team were leading 2-1 in Germany with the 90 minutes completed. Málaga's dreams, however, were rudely shattered by two added-time goals for the hosts, who had previously eliminated Mircea Lucescu's FC Shakhtar Donetsk. PSG maintained their impressive form by hitting Valencia CF hard on the counterattack in Spain and then coming from behind to earn a 1-1 draw in Paris. They subsequently mounted another fightback to draw 2-2 with Barça at the Parc des Princes – and then went 1-0 ahead at the Camp Nou. A reply by Pedro Rodríguez, however, tilted the balance in the Catalan side's favour in one of two knockout ties to be decided by away goals.

The other involved the eventual champions. Bayern prompted observers to confirm them among the favourites with a rampant 3-1 win against Arsenal in London – only to allow their opponents to become the second (and last) team to beat them by succumbing 2-0 in a nervy home leg. There were no such lapses of concentration in the quarter-final against Juventus who, having emphatically ended Celtic's run with home and away victories, fell victim to Bayern's power play, going down 2-0 in both Turin and Munich. The round of 16 had produced six away wins and four draws, but home rule largely prevailed thereafter – the remaining 12 fixtures yielding seven home wins and three stalemates.

The semi-final draw pitted Spaniards against Germans, with the latter staking their claims to a trip to Wembley by striking four times apiece in the home legs. After a stinging 4-0 reverse in Munich, Barcelona's comeback hopes were ended by an Arjen Robben goal soon after the break at the Camp Nou, while Real Madrid's recovery from a 4-1 deficit against Dortmund didn't materialise until the dying minutes at the Bernabéu – their two goals one short of an away-goal miracle. As in the previous season, those who predicted an all-Spanish final had been confounded and, at Wembley, it was to be a case of wondering whether the two Bundesliga teams were about to erase the benchmarks which, at club and national team levels, had been laid by Spanish football.



Pablo Piatti tries to get the ball in as Valencia come up short against PSG



Andrés Iniesta's efforts were in a losing cause as Barcelona lost heavily to Bayern



İlkay Gündogan puts Sami Khedira under pressure as Dortmund overwhelm Madrid in their semi-final first leg

'At Wembley it was to be a case of wondering whether the two Bundesliga teams were about to erase the benchmarks laid by Spanish football'



Bayern win the endgame

The scenario was perfect. The playing surface, impeccably showered and manicured, offered an invitation to play flowing football. The temperature was one of those English irrelevancies somewhere between hot and cold. German voices built a wall of sound. And Wembley Stadium was ablaze with colour: the striking contrast of Borussia Dortmund's black and yellow at one end; the red of FC Bayern München at the other. Expectations were high – and met. With local clocks showing 19.45 sharp, Italian referee Nicola Rizzoli signalled the commencement of a spectacle which somehow blended the ingredients of a game of chess with a James Bond movie. It was all about power, drive and drama at breakneck speed, with all the gadgets of modern football. But, amid the relentless action, the chess masters, Jürgen Klopp and Jupp Heynckes, moved their pieces with assurance and precision.

Both coaches knew surprise factors would be needles in haystacks – and spent no time looking for them. The teams, recent opponents in both Bundesliga and German Cup, enjoyed a familiarity which might have bred many things, but certainly not contempt. The 86,000 spectators might have sensed an air of mutual respect – not that it meant any holds being barred.

As the sides faced up, they saw mirror images. Bayern lined up in a clear 4-2-3-1 formation; Dortmund in similar style with two controlling midfielders but with the proviso that the wide men started deep enough for the structure to bear a 4-4-1-1 label. Both had athletic, adventurous full-backs to contribute to attacking options in the wide areas: Łukasz Piszczek and Marcel Schmelzer were to invest more sprints than any of their team-mates on the Dortmund right and left respectively; on the Bayern flanks, a contrast between Philipp Lahm, a 'veteran' captain of 29 with vast experience at UEFA European Championships and FIFA World Cups, and the exuberant 20-year-old Austrian, David Alaba. Their biographies were different; their contributions were the same

as they assisted two of the team's key figures: the right-footed Franck Ribéry on the left; and the left-footed Arjen Robben on the right.

Between the Frenchman and the Dutchman, Bayern's attack was supported by the ubiquitous Thomas Müller, who covered 12km and provided defensive cover in front of the two screening midfielders, the two-footed Bastian Schweinsteiger and the right-footed Spanish international Javi Martínez. Dortmund's equivalent was the partnership between the athletic, hard-running Sven Bender and the quick feet, low wheel-base and creative skills of İlkay Gündoğan. There had been pre-match speculation about how much Mario Götze would be missed in Dortmund's line of three. With his end-of-season move to Bayern already announced, he had produced an outstanding performance in the semi-final against Real Madrid CF, running and probing tirelessly across the attack. His failure to recover from injury allowed Kevin Grosskreutz to take his place alongside Jakub Błaszczykowski and Marco Reus.

'It was all about power, drive and drama at breakneck speed. But, amid the relentless action, the chess masters, Jürgen Klopp and Jupp Heynckes, moved their pieces with assurance and precision'





Manuel Neuer stops Robert Lewandowski from giving Dortmund tangible reward for their early superiority at Wembley

While the football world was debating the pros and cons of Spanish striker-less formations, the two German sides offered contradictory evidence. They both had spearheads – and sharp ones at that. For Bayern, Mario Mandžukić contributed power runs and intelligent off-the-ball movements aimed at stretching the Dortmund defence and giving depth to the attack. At the other end, Robert Lewandowski, the four-goal hero against Real Madrid, performed an identical role. Like his counterpart, he was far removed from classic images of the static target man whose priority was to ‘stay fresh in the penalty area’. Neither held anything in reserve as they committed themselves to providing an aggressive first line of defence.

Contrary to form books, yellow-and-black shirts were more visible during the opening sequences, where the action took place at speed. In a final notable for the high standards of its goalkeeping, Bayern’s Manuel Neuer was the first to be tested, leaping, reacting and diving to deal with a curving long-range shot by Błaszczykowski, a low close-range effort by Błaszczykowski, a Reus strike, and another curling effort from Bender who had surged forward into a shooting position.

During this phase, it was Dortmund acting; Bayern reacting. Heynckes’ team struggled to deal with intense high pressure from their opponents coupled with swift changes of pace and direction when Dortmund regained possession. The combinations between Reus and Lewandowski were testing the understanding between the Bayern centre-backs, Dante and Jérôme Boateng. The red line was pushed back, with Schweinsteiger often finding himself in among the back four; too deep to exploit his distributive skills to the full. Against their will, Bayern focused on forming a compact defensive block and trying to mix rapid defence-to-attack transitions with patient building from the back based on interchanges between the centre-halves and Schweinsteiger.

Finding no clear signposts towards the Dortmund goal, their first real glimpse of a pathway came when Ribéry was able to cross from the left and Mandžukić rose above Bender to connect with a header that allowed Roman Weidenfeller to start rivaling Neuer for goalkeeping kudos. Schweinsteiger’s deliveries from set plays asked questions of the Dortmund defence, with Martínez back-peddalling and then launching himself forward to outleap Bender and to head a corner on to the roof of the net.



Mario Mandžukić breaks the deadlock for Bayern while (above) both sets of supporters proudly show their colours

After half an hour on the back foot, Bayern produced two moves which were to change the course of the match. First, Müller joined Ribéry and Alaba to overcrowd an area wide on the left and, with the defenders sucked towards him, hit a diagonal pass to Robben, a lone red figure in the right-centre area of the Bayern attack. Weidenfeller again came bravely and resolutely to the rescue at the feet of the Dutch forward.

Then, three minutes before the break, Dante, once again playing patient interchanges with team-mates at the back, lifted his head – and the ball. His long, almost vertical forward pass went narrowly over the head of Mats Hummels but fell awkwardly for Robben. Again, the danger had passed – but not the significance of the fact that Bayern had finally found a way to disturb the Dortmund defence and to map out a route to goal. The ball over the top was to become a valuable weapon in their attacking armoury.

‘The Bayern players who experienced the bitterness of defeat in the previous final seemed determined to sweat to the last drop to exorcise the ghosts of their past’

The curtain came down on a first act dominated by Dortmund. But when it went up again 15 minutes later, it was to reveal a different scenario. Mentally, the seven Bayern players who experienced at first hand the



İlkay Gündoğan’s equaliser earns him a hug from Marcel Schmelzer

bitterness of defeat in the previous final seemed determined to sweat to the last drop to exorcise the ghosts of their past. Ribéry and Robben chased back like men possessed to harry, disrupt and dispossess in their own defensive third. They clipped the wings of Dortmund full-backs Piszczek and Schmelzer, seemingly without doing any clipping of their own attacking potential on the flanks.

Schweinsteiger moved forward a fraction – enough to offer greater scope for his vision and, at the same time, to help Martínez slice through the attacking cord which had, in the first half, linked Reus and Lewandowski.



Jupp Heynckes and Jürgen Klopp issue instructions at Wembley

Gündoğan continued to probe and prompt from his central controlling position but he found that doors had become more difficult to open. Slowly but surely, in the chess game played before a crowd of 86,000, Bayern were advancing their pieces and Dortmund, with the threat of the long ball over the top exerting a deterrent factor, were stretching their lines and losing compactness.

Bayern pronounced ‘check’ in the 60th minute. Dortmund’s pressure high on the left had forced a back pass to Neuer, who delivered the ball to the centre circle. Robben set off on a run through the No10 channel and passed left to Ribéry. It was a four v five situation in favour of the defenders but, when Ribéry cut inside, three of the five were drawn to him like wasps to a honeypot. He slipped the ball to Robben who, with Weidenfeller going to ground at his feet, cut the ball across for Mandžukić to side-foot in from point-blank range. While a swarm of Bayern players did their best to topple an advertising board, Heynckes raised his arms and managed a smile. Klopp was out issuing instructions.

If anything, the tempo increased – to the extent where it became risky to blink. It was a moment of impetuosity which brought Dortmund level eight minutes later. Reus’s control of a pass into the box flipped the ball up high and Dante was drawn into aiming a boot at it while it was still at stomach height and making contact with the Dortmund player’s abdomen. After an agonising wait, Gündoğan kept his cool to clip the penalty neatly into his right-hand corner of the net, with Neuer flying in the other direction.

Stalemate. Or so it seemed. Until the 89th minute, when Boateng, from the centre circle, directed another long ball towards the heart of the Dortmund defence, where minds might have already been straying to thoughts of extra time. Ribéry was allowed to control and execute a back-heeled pass into the path of Robben, who skipped and cut past three defenders to his left and, as Weidenfeller advanced, rolled the ball agonisingly close to the keeper's left hand and into the net.

‘The ball rolled agonisingly close to the keeper’s left hand and into the net’

The coaches, who had made no changes during the 90 minutes, reached for the substitution board four times during additional time and when the Italian referee blew the final whistle, Robben, red wristbands on each arm, covered his eyes with his fists and buried his head on the turf. He and his team-mates had laid to rest the ghosts of two defeats in the previous three finals. That career-shaping experience, the composure and the mental strength had given them the edge in a breathless, all-action final in which Dortmund had won the first half but Robben and Bayern had won the endgame.

Match statistics

Saturday 25 May, Wembley Stadium

Borussia Dortmund 1-2 FC Bayern München

Goals

0-1 Mandžukić 60, 1-1 Gündoğan 68 (P), 1-2 Robben 89

Lineups

Dortmund: Weidenfeller (C); Piszczek, Subotić, Hummels, Schmelzer; Błaszczykowski (Schieber 90), Bender (Şahin 90+2), Gündoğan, Grosskreutz; Reus; Lewandowski

Bayern: Neuer; Lahm (C), Boateng, Dante, Alaba; Martínez, Schweinsteiger; Robben, Müller, Ribéry (Luiz Gustavo 90+1); Mandžukić (Gomez 90+4)

Cards

Yellow: Grosskreutz 73 (Dortmund); Dante 29, Ribéry 73 (Bayern)

Referee

Nicola Rizzoli (Italy)

Attendance

86,298



The moment of truth arrives as Bayern winger Arjen Robben steers the ball beyond Roman Weidenfeller



Thomas Müller (left) screams in celebration as Bayern players pile onto match winner Arjen Robben



Philipp Lahm lifts the European Champion Clubs' Cup as the Bavarians bury the ghosts of recent final defeats

THE WINNING COACH

Jupp Heynckes

The end of an era or the beginning of one? A few minutes after a grinning Jupp Heynckes had been thrown into the Wembley air by his team, the 68-year-old coach was talking to media about FC Bayern München and the players rather than himself. "I'm pleased on behalf of my club," he said, "because we have achieved something that had never been accomplished in the Bundesliga. And it's quite possible that a new era in Europe, under Bayern, might have begun."

They were typically selfless sentiments from a man who, for the second time in a long and illustrious career, had gone into the UEFA Champions League final well aware that his managerial reign was drawing to a close. In 1998 Real Madrid CF released him after he had led them to their seventh European crown in Amsterdam. In London, he completed a unique hat-trick. Three times he has participated in the UEFA Champions League as a coach and three times he has led his side to the final. His 37 matches over the three campaigns produced 26 wins, six draws and five defeats.

Victory at Wembley was a reward for the motivational skills which had persuaded his

squad to bounce back from the traumatic penalty shoot-out defeat by Chelsea FC at Bayern's home ground a year earlier. And he made no secret of the fact that man-management skills were an essential ingredient for success. "Over your career," he commented, "there are titles, highlights and disappointments – and you have to draw strength from all of that. We didn't drop our heads after last season's final. We pushed ourselves further and we worked harder. Right from the start of the season, we've been changing, improving and adapting."

He implemented his strategy for the season in a typically understated fashion – with a tranquillity and elegance which he transmits from the technical area. In a sense, the ultimate accolade came from a figure within the Bayern dressing room: "The team is enjoying its football so much that if he said there was a friendly against an amateur team at two o'clock in the morning, everyone would want to play." Heynckes added: "We had a team spirit and an ability to work together that I had never experienced – a group of top-class professionals who were all equipped to play in the first team. They all pulled their weight."

The UEFA observers at the semi-finals and the final felt that this was epitomised by the way that Franck Ribéry, for example, made enormous efforts to backtrack against FC Barcelona's Daniel Alves and Borussia Dortmund's Łukasz Piszczek – or the way that Arjen Robben did likewise on the other flank to emerge as the player who did the most sprinting in the final. "As a coach, you have to lead a group," Heynckes remarked, "and that means you have to be sensitive and tactful with high-calibre footballers. Without top-class players, you can't play the sort of football that Bayern did. They made me happy because winning the Champions League is the highlight of a coach's career. To be in it three times and win it twice is not something that happens to everybody."

To his credit, he took his players back from Wembley, pulled them out of celebratory mode and restored enough fire to their bellies for them to win the German Cup a week later to round off his memorable achievements at Bayern with an unprecedented treble of Bundesliga, DFB-Pokal and UEFA Champions League trophies.

“We didn’t drop our heads after last season’s final. We pushed ourselves further and we worked harder”

Jupp Heynckes



Goals talk

Net results from a record-breaking season

Statistics and football are not always comfortable bed-fellows. But a goalscoring record cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed. The 2012/13 season offered the public 368 goals at an average of 2.94 per match. It represented a significant 6.67% increase on the previous season and, even taking into account the various changes of format, the average per match was the highest ever registered since the UEFA Champions League was launched two decades ago. The eventual champions, FC Bayern München, led the way with 31 goals in 13 games.

In contrast to the previous four campaigns, Lionel Messi was not the competition's top scorer (that honour went to Cristiano Ronaldo, who claimed 12 of Real Madrid CF's

26 goals) and, although FC Barcelona reached the semi-finals in both seasons, the Catalans' goal tally declined from 35 to 18. Bayern's goals were shared among ten players, while the 24 goals scored by the silver medalists, Borussia Dortmund, bore nine different signatures. The theory that successful teams need to diversify their scoring options was belied by Galatasaray AŞ striker Burak Yılmaz, who hit six of the Turkish cub's seven goals during the group stage. Among the leading marksmen, he and Dortmund's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski could be categorised as target strikers. Ronaldo usually operated wide; much the same could be said of Bayern's Thomas Müller, who broke into scoring areas from a deeper starting position; and Messi

had a deeper-lying central role in Barcelona's striker-less formation. Apart from these five, no other individual scored more than five times.

In 2011/12, the four semi-finalists had provided 35% of the season's goals. In 2012/13, this dropped to 24%, emphasising that the goals were distributed more widely around the competitors. Excluding the three goals scored on neutral territory at Wembley, 202 were netted by the home team and 163 by the visitors.

Inevitably, a degree of personal interpretation creeps into the analysis, but the following goalscoring chart outlines the technical/ tactical actions which led to the 368 goals.

Goal type

Category	Action	Guidelines	2012/13
			No. of goals
Set play	Corners	Direct from / following a corner	32
	Free-kicks (direct)	Direct from a free-kick	11
	Free-kicks (indirect)	Following a free-kick	11
	Penalties	Spot kick (or a follow-up)	20
	Throw-ins	Following a throw-in	1
Open play	Combinations	Wall pass / three-man combination play	48
	Crosses	Cross from the wing	58
	Cutbacks	Pass back from the byline	38
	Diagonals	Diagonal pass into the penalty box	16
	Running with the ball	Dribble and close-range shot / dribble and pass	17
	Long-range shots	Direct shot / shot and rebound	49
	Forward passes	Through pass or pass over the defence	52
	Defensive errors	Bad back pass / mistake by the goalkeeper	7
	Own goals	Goal by the opponent	8
		Total	368

Goals: season by season

Season	Goals	Games	Average
1992/93	56	25	2.24
1993/94	71	27	2.63
1994/95	140	61	2.30
1995/96	159	61	2.61
1996/97	161	61	2.64
1997/98	239	85	2.81
1998/99	238	85	2.80
1999/2000	442	157	2.82
2000/01	449	157	2.86
2001/02	393	157	2.50
2002/03	431	157	2.75
2003/04	309	125	2.47
2004/05	331	125	2.65
2005/06	285	125	2.28
2006/07	309	125	2.47
2007/08	330	125	2.64
2008/09	329	125	2.63
2009/10	320	125	2.56
2010/11	355	125	2.84
2011/12	345	125	2.76
2012/13	368	125	2.94
Total	6,060	2,283	2.65

Open play

Goals scored in open play accounted for a few decimal points short of 80% of the overall goal tally. Among the salient features of the global analysis is the continuing decline of goals attributable to the traditional 'through ball' – the forward pass delivered either through or over the defence. As recently as the 2008/09 campaign, this category had produced 32% of the open-play goals. By 2012/13 this had fallen to 18%. The debating point is whether this can be directly attributed to the trend towards compact defensive blocks with, in many cases, twin screening midfielders coupled with front-line defensive work by support strikers.

The other noticeable feature of the season was a significant increase in goals derived from slick combination moves – epitomised once again by Barcelona. The equaliser at home to Celtic FC was a work of art based on an elaborate build-up, a double wall pass and a magnificent finish by Andrés Iniesta. Two more trademark moves appeared during the 4-0 home win against AC Milan in the round of 16: firstly when a swift combination enabled Messi, surrounded by five opponents, to strike the ball into the roof of the net to open the scoring; and then when an interception by Javier Mascherano led to a combination move rounded off by the left boot of David Villa.



Alex Teixeira's near-post strike against Juventus came at the end of a flowing move from Shakhtar

And the Catalans' last goal in the competition was a high-speed combination between Messi and Villa, who laid the ball back for Pedro Rodríguez to clinch the away-goals victory over Paris Saint-Germain FC in the quarter-finals. The ability to find routes through the defensive block does not carry a Spanish copyright. FC Shakhtar Donetsk, for example, provided some flowing combinations such



David Villa sweeps the ball home to conclude another Barcelona surge in the home win against Milan

as the move completed by Alex Teixeira to earn a 1-1 draw against Juventus in Turin.

The barriers to penetration through the central area meant that supply from the wide areas continued to be a major source of goals. However, the nature of the supply suffered subtle variations during the 2012/13 campaign. The number of successes of the traditional 'crossing and finishing' formula actually fell very slightly (from 62 to 58 / from 23% to 19.8% of the open-play goals). As an aside in this chapter, the number of headed goals (including those scored from indirect free-kicks) was 46. This was in sharp contrast to the figures which had provoked media coverage during UEFA EURO 2012, where headed goals had accounted for 29% of the total. Over the larger sample of the 125 games played in the UEFA Champions League, this figure returned to a less noteworthy 12.5%.

These facts can legitimately be correlated with one of the other statistical trends to appear in 2012/13. The number of goals originating from cutbacks – which had already almost doubled from 2010/11 to 2011/12 – continued to rise sharply, reaching an all-time peak of 38. The season witnessed some wonderful examples, such as the excellent diagonal pass to the right which resulted in a cutback and a finish by Pantelis Kapetanos that put CFR 1907 Cluj 1-0 up at home to Manchester United FC. Galatasaray's 3-2

home win in the quarter-final against Real Madrid offered three more instances, with Sami Khedira and Karim Benzema cutting the ball back for Ronaldo to strike his two goals, while Wesley Sneijder delivered the cutback from the left which invited Emmanuel Eboué to hit an unstoppable shot into the Madrid net.

The other upturn – which can also be related to the prevalence of deep-lying defensive blocks – corresponded to long-range shooting, which accounted for 17% of the open-play goals. Málaga CF were proficient in this area – as illustrated by Isco's effort against FC Porto or Joaquín's in Dortmund. SC Braga's Mossoró was alert and on target after a poor clearance during the home game against Galatasaray. Both Chelsea FC goals in the home draw with Juventus were from distance; Montpellier Hérault SC's Karim Aït-Fana released a stunning strike to open the scoring after a long build-up had prompted the FC Schalke 04 defence to drop deep during the group game in Gelsenkirchen; Luka Modrić reversed the tide at Old Trafford during the first knockout round when, after intervening eight times during the build-up, he struck a bullseye shot off the post and into the Manchester United net to bring Madrid level. The statistics, in addition, don't reflect the number of long-range shots which, thanks to rebounds, resulted in close-range goals.

Set plays



Cristiano Ronaldo managed an unrivalled 12 goals for Madrid but not one was a free-kick

The number of goals derived from dead-ball situations continued the steady downward trend seen in recent seasons. Set plays accounted for almost one-third of the goals scored in the 2005/06 campaign and the figure was still around the 26% mark as recently as the 2008/09 and 2009/10 seasons. During 2012/13, dead-ball situations generated marginally over 20% of the goals. The main reason for the 2% drop in relation to the previous season is a sharp fall in the number of penalties: from 28 to 20. The fact that the number of penalties doubled between the 2009/10 and 2011/12 campaigns was, inevitably, linked to the introduction of the additional assistant referees. However, shades of meaning need to be drawn: the number of penalties which failed to hit the net increased. So like-for-like comparisons indicate that the number of penalties awarded decreased from 35 to 29.

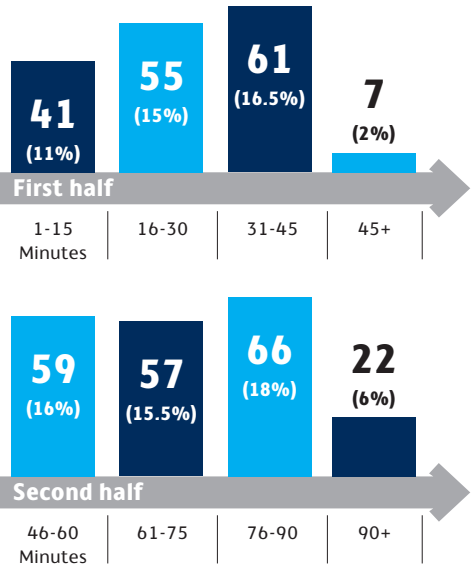
In recent years, the dividends from investment in training-ground rehearsal of corner kicks had steadily dwindled to an average of one goal per 46 corners. During the 2012/13 season, corners led to 32 goals at a ratio of one per 40.5. During the group stage, AFC Ajax scored four of their eight goals from corners, with central defender Niklas Moisander a particular threat. Celtic registered two goals from back-post headers after corners on their right. Juventus scored

one of the best set-play goals with a well-rehearsed corner on the right, while PSG achieved one of their three successes via a short corner on the right which was driven low into the net to open the scoring at home to GNK Dinamo Zagreb. On the other hand, Barcelona had nothing to show from 74 corners (apart from their opening goal in Paris which could be traced back to a corner on the left). The same applies to the 71 taken by Real Madrid, with the codicil that the opener in their 2-2 home draw with Dortmund in the group phase was a back-post header from a left-wing cross; the scorer – centre-back Pepe – was still in the opponents' box in the aftermath of a corner. Of the two finalists, Bayern's two goals from corner kicks were second-ball successes following headers, while Dortmund scored twice (once from each flank) during the last-16 tie against Shakhtar. From that knockout stage on, observation of opponents practically eradicated the surprise factor.

Successes from direct free-kicks rose from eight to 11 but still accounted for only 3% of the goals scored in the competition. There were spectacular one-off strikes (Chelsea's David Luiz v FC Nordsjælland in Copenhagen or the strike by the latter team's Mikkell Beckmann at home to Juve), but very few specialists managed to surprise the wall and the keeper more than once. Bayern were the only side to have two successes – one a direct shot by Bastian Schweinsteiger at home to LOSC Lille and the other an Arjen Robben effort later in the same match which was deflected into the net via the wall. Indirect free-kicks which had, for many years, produced over 20 goals a season, declined to a total of 11 in 2011/12 and held the lower level during the 2012/13 campaign. In other words, free-kicks, of the direct and indirect varieties, yielded 29% of the set-play goals but just 6% of the overall total.

The 2012/13 UEFA Champions League has gone into the record books due to numerical motives. But many of the record-breaking 368 goals were of a spectacular nature which further enhanced the status of the world's premier competition and which highlighted the goalscoring patterns at the apex of the professional game.

When the goals were scored



When UEFA started compiling technical reports in the 1998/99 season, one of the salient features was that 53% of the goals were scored after the 60th minute. It may be an indicator of fitness levels that this figure has now been reduced substantially to 40%. The second halves of games are still more productive (204 goals to 164) but the 2012/13 campaign confirmed the tendency towards cautious starts followed by greater numbers of goals in the closing minutes of each half. Considering that we're talking about periods of three to four minutes, the total of 22 scored in added-time has to be regarded as exceptional.

Top scorers



The best goals

Open play

Selecting ten from 293 is a challenge. Many excellent goals were inevitably left out. But the jury of front-line coaches managed to pick a variety of goals for a variety of reasons. Iniesta's equaliser against Celtic was a breathtaking combination move. Robben's opener for Bayern in Barcelona was not only excellently worked but also was crucial in putting the semi-final beyond Barça's reach. Galatasaray forward Burak had several strikes on the shortlist of candidates, thanks largely to his exceptional ability to angle headers into the net from any position.

Didier Drogba, his attacking accomplice during the knockout rounds, effected a magical piece of technique to back-heel into the Real Madrid net during the return leg of the quarter-final. Málaga's Isco also provided options – and entered the top ten courtesy of the control, body movement and strike which allowed his side to level the KO tie against Porto. Modrić, with a pinpoint shot that the keeper could do nothing about, rounded off an elaborate move that he had run almost single-handed, to bring Madrid back to 1-1 at Old Trafford.

Chelsea's Oscar was rewarded for his vision and the execution of his long-range effort against Shakhtar. The goal scored by Barça's Pedro was chosen not only because of the high-speed combination which preceded it, but also for its value in that it clinched the away-goals victory over PSG. Lewandowski's alertness, speed of reaction, turning ability and sheer striking power were illustrated by the third of his four goals in the home leg of Dortmund's semi-final against Madrid. And the stunning counterattack which capped Barça's 4-0 home win against Milan was remarkable not just for its execution but also for the long high-speed run made by the scorer, Jordi Alba. Not all full-backs would have been mentally or physically prepared to make such a burst with 90+1 on the clock.

Here in alphabetical order are the season's top ten (player's team in bold):

Scorer	Home team	Away team	Time
Jordi Alba	FC Barcelona	AC Milan	90+1
Didier Drogba	Galatasaray AŞ	Real Madrid CF	72
Andrés Iniesta	FC Barcelona	Celtic FC	45
Isco	Málaga CF	FC Porto	43
Robert Lewandowski	Borussia Dortmund	Real Madrid CF	55
Luka Modrić	Manchester United FC	Real Madrid CF	66
Oscar	Chelsea FC	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	40
Arjen Robben	FC Barcelona	FC Bayern München	49
Pedro Rodríguez	FC Barcelona	Paris Saint-Germain FC	71
Burak Yilmaz	SC Braga	Galatasaray AŞ	58



Didier Drogba
Galatasaray v Madrid



Pedro Rodríguez
Barcelona v PSG



Andrés Iniesta
Barcelona v Celtic



Arjen Robben
Barcelona v Bayern



Jordi Alba
Barcelona v Milan



Isco
Málaga v Porto



Robert Lewandowski
Dortmund v Madrid



Burak Yılmaz
Braga v Galatasaray



Oscar
Chelsea v Shakhtar



Luka Modrić
Manchester United v Madrid

Set plays

Here, the task was to choose five from 75. The jury again went for variety. If a curling free-kick was to be rewarded, they felt nobody could bend it like Beckmann – as he did to score Nordsjælland's first-ever goal in the competition against Juventus. The Danish team were on the receiving end of an equally meritorious free-kick struck in a quite contrasting fashion by Chelsea's Luiz. Danny Welbeck's opening goal against Real in Madrid was a prime example of finding space

to connect with a close-range header from a corner, with much the same applying to Felipe Santana's clean header for Dortmund at home to Shakhtar. Another corner, but of very different confection, brought Juve back to 1-1 against Shakhtar in Turin. A well-rehearsed set play was based on a low delivery to the outer area of the box, where Leonardo Bonucci met the technical challenge of finding the correct angle and execution for his low shot into the net.

Here in alphabetical order are the season's top five (player's team in bold):

Scorer	Home team	Away team	Time
Mikkel Beckmann	FC Nordsjælland	Chelsea FC	79
Leonardo Bonucci	Juventus	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	25
David Luiz	FC Nordsjælland	Chelsea FC	79
Felipe Santana	Borussia Dortmund	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	31
Danny Welbeck	Real Madrid CF	Manchester United FC	20



Leonardo Bonucci
Juventus v Shakhtar



Felipe Santana
Dortmund v Shakhtar



Mikkel Beckmann
Nordsjælland v Chelsea



David Luiz
Nordsjælland v Chelsea

Danny Welbeck
Madrid v Manchester United

Importance of scoring first

During the 2012/13 season, 69.2% of the games in which goals were scored resulted in victories for the team that opened the scoring. This represents an increase in relation to the 2011/12 campaign when 62.3% of the teams scoring first emerged victorious. However, the figure is more readily aligned with the 2010/11 season in which the record set in 2004/05 was equalled – no fewer than 72% of the fixtures played were won by the team scoring first. The impact of the opening goal seemed to have lessened when, during the seasons subsequent to that record-setting 2004/05 campaign, the percentage steadily declined – to the extent that, in 2008/09, only 56.8% of matches were won by the side breaking the deadlock.

The overall figure of 27 draws represents a slight downturn in comparison with the 31 stalemates during the 2011/12 season, but is a 'halfway line' between that number and the 23 draws in the previous campaign. Only seven of the drawn games occurred during the knockout rounds.

In a season which broke the UEFA Champions League scoring record, the number of goalless draws dropped from nine to five but, as in 2011/12, just one of them was played during the knockout rounds. And, in this particular case, the 0-0 draw between Málaga CF and

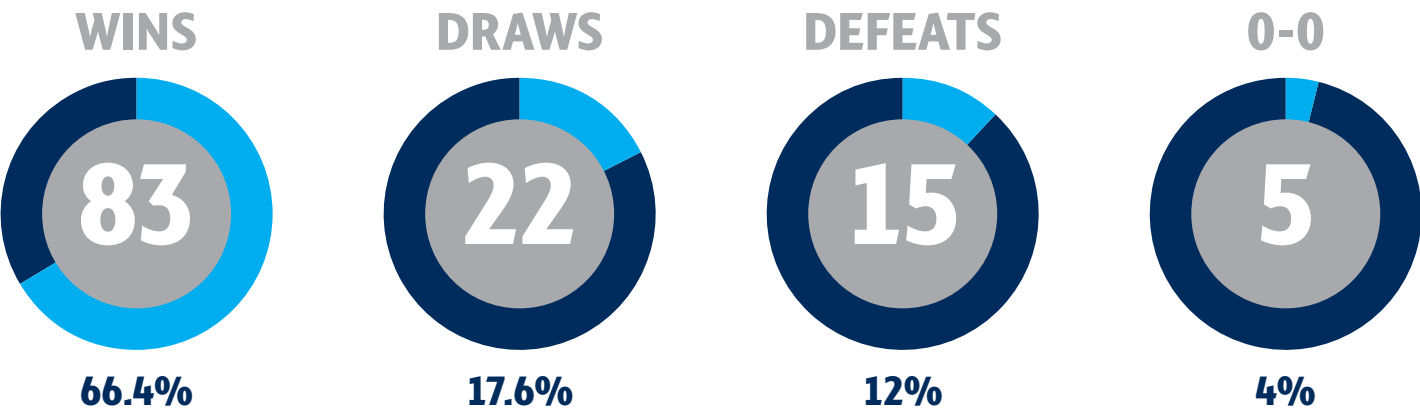
Borussia Dortmund was 'accidental' bearing in mind the adventurous approach adopted by both teams. Ironically, two of the four goalless draws registered during the group stage involved SL Benfica – the irony being that, as mentioned elsewhere in this report, the Portuguese club generated more goal attempts per game than any other participant. The statistic of five goalless draws marks a record low since the UEFA Champions League adopted its current format. By comparison, the 125 matches played in the 2005/06 campaign included 20 fixtures which gave no work to the scoreboard operator.

As in 2011/12, 15 games culminated in victory for the side conceding the opening goal – representing one in eight of the matches which produced goals. Four of these occurred during the knockout rounds – one of which was the win for Real Madrid CF at Old Trafford, with the Spanish club making their comeback after the home team had been reduced to ten men. Fatih Terim's Galatasaray AS were the protagonists of two of the other three cases – fighting back to claim 3-2 victories against FC Schalke 04 in Gelsenkirchen and against Madrid at home. The fourth also ended in a 3-2 scoreline, with two added-time goals giving Dortmund a home success in the quarter-final against Málaga.

The teams who bounced back after conceding the first goal were (in bold):

Montpellier	1-2	Arsenal
Real Madrid	3-2	Manchester City
CFR Cluj	1-2	Manchester United
Montpellier	1-2	Olympiacos
Ajax	3-1	Manchester City
Barcelona	2-1	Celtic
Manchester United	3-2	Braga
Braga	1-3	Manchester United
Nordsjælland	2-5	Shakhtar Donetsk
Braga	1-2	Galatasaray
Olympiacos	2-1	Arsenal
Schalke	2-3	Galatasaray
Manchester United	1-2	Real Madrid
Dortmund	3-2	Málaga
Galatasaray	3-2	Real Madrid

Result of the team scoring first



Gary Hooper scored Celtic's opening goal in both of their Group G victories against Spartak Moskva

The end product

A record total of 368 goals signified an abundance of the ‘end product’. The champions, FC Bayern München, were also the top scorers with 31 goals: 15 in their six group games and 16 in their seven fixtures in the knockout stages. The ‘end product’ can be correlated with previous debating issues based on the relevance of ball possession as a means to an end. The following table sets out the 32 teams’ performances in terms of

generating goal attempts (see ‘average’ per game) and converting them into goals. Some of the figures catch the eye – such as the conversion rates by the two Portuguese clubs who occupy two of the top three places; or the fact that most of Real Madrid CF’s finishing was from outside the penalty area; or that 66% of Borussia Dortmund’s attempts at goal were on target.



James Rodríguez lets fly for Porto against PSG

Club	Attempts	Average	Goals	Attempts on target		Attempts off target	
				Inside box	Outside	Inside box	Outside
SL Benfica	111	18.50	5	28	27	25	31
Real Madrid CF	218	18.17	26	68	67	38	45
SC Braga	99	16.50	7	24	33	19	23
FC Schalke 04	126	15.75	13	36	29	30	31
FC Bayern München	202	15.54	31	62	51	47	42
Juventus	151	15.10	17	47	32	36	36
Chelsea FC	89	18.83	16	36	21	16	16
FC Barcelona	176	14.67	18	55	47	37	37
Manchester United FC	117	14.63	11	44	27	26	21
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	116	14.50	14	49	23	24	20
Galatasaray AŞ	139	13.90	14	33	37	32	37
Borussia Dortmund	174	13.38	24	74	41	33	26
FC Porto	107	13.38	11	30	33	23	21
Montpellier Hérault SC	79	13.17	6	20	21	8	30
LOSC Lille	78	13.00	4	17	23	16	22
AC Milan	102	12.75	9	20	35	26	20
Paris Saint-Germain FC	124	12.40	20	54	22	24	24
FC Zenit St Petersburg	74	12.33	6	21	16	15	22
AFC Ajax	69	11.50	8	17	21	15	16
Manchester City FC	64	10.67	7	29	12	11	12
Olympiacos FC	62	10.33	9	20	15	18	9
RSC Anderlecht	59	9.83	4	15	12	19	13
CFR 1907 Cluj	59	9.83	9	15	11	14	19
Celtic FC	78	9.75	9	20	26	16	16
FC Dynamo Kyiv	58	9.67	6	19	16	9	14
Málaga CF	96	9.60	16	34	24	20	18
Valencia CF	75	9.38	14	25	17	15	18
FC BATE Borisov	53	8.83	9	16	17	12	8
FC Spartak Moskva	53	8.83	7	17	10	9	17
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	49	8.17	1	13	15	10	11
Arsenal FC	64	8.00	13	29	14	12	9
FC Nordsjælland	34	5.67	4	8	12	6	8



Maxi Pereira sets his sights on goal; his Benfica side averaged more attempts per game (18.5) than any other club in the competition

The power and the glory



The success stories of the previous four seasons had seesawed between the benchmark-setting possession play of FC Barcelona and the non-possession-orientated football of FC Internazionale Milano and Chelsea FC. The 2012/13 campaign heralded a return to a middle road via a resurgence of German power play, with two Bundesliga teams ultimately competing for the trophy at Wembley Stadium. The season, however, cannot be reduced to a blinkered analysis of the two finalists. The semi-final draw could just as easily have led to an all-Spanish final, while Galatasaray AŞ, Paris Saint-Germain FC, Málaga CF and Juventus contributed to a rich weave of styles in the quarter-finals. Overall, the campaign provided food for thought in areas such as the profile of strikers, the use of the flanks, the importance of the goalkeeper and the qualities required by today's central defender.

Shaping up for action

Once again, the numbers game proved a risky business, in the sense that team structures had great flexibility. On the other hand, many sides operated with high degrees of positional interchanging superimposed on a stable, if not rigid, team formation. The clear trend towards the 4-2-3-1 system gathered momentum during the 2012/13 season with, if we focus on 'default settings', 18 of the 32 group stage clubs opting for this structure, including eight of the last 16. Only eight sides were deployed in 4-4-2 formation; four in a clear 4-3-3; one (FC Dynamo Kyiv) in a well-defined 4-1-4-1 variation; and Juventus, just as SSC Napoli had been in the previous campaign, were the solitary standard-bearers for a 3-5-2 template.

There were, evidently, many shades of meaning – with some of the variations directly attributable to a change of coach. CFR 1907 Cluj, for instance, switched from 4-4-2 to 4-2-3-1; Valencia CF from 4-2-3-1 under Mauricio Pellegrino to 4-1-4-1 or 4-4-2 with Ernesto Valverde. AC Milan, during a season of volatility in terms of playing staff, alternated 4-2-3-1 with 4-3-3. Málaga's playing shape evolved from 4-4-2 to 4-2-3-1. Real Madrid CF were equally comfortable in 4-2-3-1 or 4-3-3 formations. Manchester City FC operated in 4-4-2 or 4-3-3. And Celtic FC, for example, reacted to the Juventus three-at-the-back structure by going from 4-4-2 to 4-3-2-1.



Zlatan Ibrahimović took the fight to old club Barcelona with the help of strike partner Ezequiel Lavezzi

The continuing trend meant that striking partnerships became a comparative rarity. During the knockout rounds Fatih Terim was able to pair Didier Drogba with Burak Yilmaz at Galatasaray; Carlo Ancelotti deployed Ezequiel Lavezzi to accompany Zlatan Ibrahimović as PSG's two-pronged spearhead; Roberto Mancini linked Sergio Agüero with either Carlos Tévez or Edin Džeko in the Manchester City front line; and Antonio Conte permuted Mirko Vučinić, Fabio Quagliarella, Sebastian Giovinco and Alessandro Matri to form his attacking partnerships.

The solitary man

Away from the clubs mentioned above, teams generally fielded a solitary forward. As Roy Hodgson remarked: "I wonder how this will evolve. There is a danger that this job will become too lonely and too difficult. In many cases, the striker is not just expected to act as a target and to hold the ball up, but also to do a lot of chasing and to work hard as the first line of defence." Conte cited FC Bayern München's Mario Mandžukić as an example of the new breed of striker who possesses extraordinary athletic qualities and is, as he put it, "defensively aggressive and committed with a selfless attitude towards defensive duties". It is significant that Robert Lewandowski, Mandžukić, Ibrahimović,

Jackson Martínez, Hulk, Giorgos Samaras and Burak were all among the leaders in a chart of the players most penalised for fouls in their attempts to pre-empt counterattacks.

The observations about the daunting tasks facing forwards seem to be at odds with a UEFA Champions League campaign which yielded a record haul of goals. But the sheer length of the list of scorers – the 368 goals were shared by 194 different players – offers a clear indication that goals need to be distributed around the side. Of the leading marksmen, Borussia Dortmund's Lewandowski (ten goals including four against Real Madrid in the home leg of the semi-final) and Burak (eight, including six of Galatasaray's goals in the group stage) were the only target strikers. Cristiano Ronaldo registered his 12 goals from a wide starting berth; Lionel Messi got eight from his withdrawn position in Barça's striker-less formation; and Thomas Müller scored the same number coming from deeper, wider areas of the Bayern attack. Nobody else scored more than five goals and, globally, the season produced strong indicators that teams can no longer place great reliance on their main forward for their supply of goals. Last term's technical report asked whether the target striker was a species in danger of extinction. The 2012/13 finalists suggested that his role has simply been redefined.



Diego López caught the eye with his kicking ability

Building from the back

It didn't go unnoticed that, in the Wembley final, the two goalkeepers – Manuel Neuer and Roman Weidenfeller – jointly contributed 85 passes. This was further confirmation that the goalkeeper is, these days, expected to be an integral part of the attack-building process in addition to his traditional shot-stopping duties. Looking for direct attack and counterattacking possibilities forms an important part of their function, with sides such as Galatasaray and PSG placing the emphasis on direct forward passing by the keeper. The majority of the passing by Barcelona's Víctor Valdés in the semi-final against Bayern was of the long variety. The long ball by the keeper obviously affords lower percentages in terms of successful reception by a team-mate, as illustrated by Weidenfeller in the final, where he picked out Lewandowski on seven occasions – but only 11 of his 27 long passes reached a friendly destination, compared with seven out of 15 for Neuer. In terms of the accuracy of long passing, Madrid custodian Diego López was an outstanding performer, with almost 80% getting to a team-mate.

‘These days the goalkeeper is expected to be an integral part of the attack-building process’

However, the emphasis, in the context of building from the back, was for the centre-backs to spread wide and for the two full-backs to advance on the touchlines, with either one or two screening midfielders dropping deep to provide extra cover through the central area. This has accentuated the tendency for the playmaker to operate from much deeper positions than those traditionally occupied by what used to be known as the No10. Andrea Pirlo, for both Juventus and Italy, excelled in the role from a berth just in front of the back line, as did Xabi Alonso for Madrid and, on occasions, David Albelda when fielded in the deeper slot by Valencia. It also signifies that the centre-backs often originate attacking moves or, space permitting, drive into midfield with the ball to create a numerical superiority.

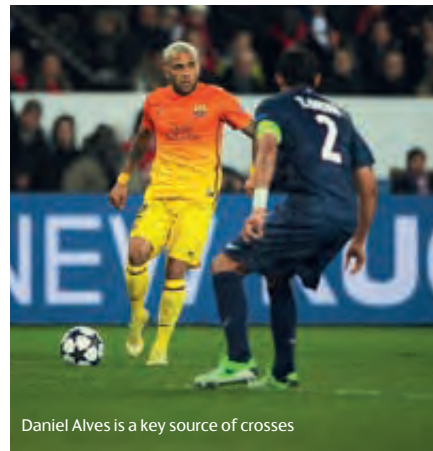
Today's centre-half can no longer restrict himself to a 'stopper' role; he also needs to feel comfortable on the ball. Bayern's Dante ably supplied ammunition for his wide men via accurate long diagonal passes with his left foot. Leonardo Bonucci, the pivotal element in the three-man Juventus defence, gave an impressive illustration of a player who had a strong presence as a defender but was also very composed in possession and pushed confidently into midfield with the ball under control. When discussing creative players, Roy Hodgson observed, "It is no longer possible for a playmaker to drift around behind the attack because there simply isn't space in that area any more." Today's playmaker has to combine hard work and physical commitment with creative skills – Arsenal FC's Jack Wilshere being a valid example of how the role has evolved.

Cross-checking

The season's statistics reveal that goals from cutbacks have more than doubled in the last two years. It could be argued that this tendency stems from a slightly different focus on wing play, stemming from the advanced positions taken up by full-backs when attacks are being built from the back. The modus operandi was summed up by the UEFA observer at a match involving FC Schalke 04: "The centre-backs split wide; the full-backs Marco Höger and Sead Kolasinac moved high; the wide men Jefferson Farfán and Michel Bastos rolled inside; the striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar went long to stretch the play; and a second midfield player or the shadow striker Julian Draxler were able to look for spaces."

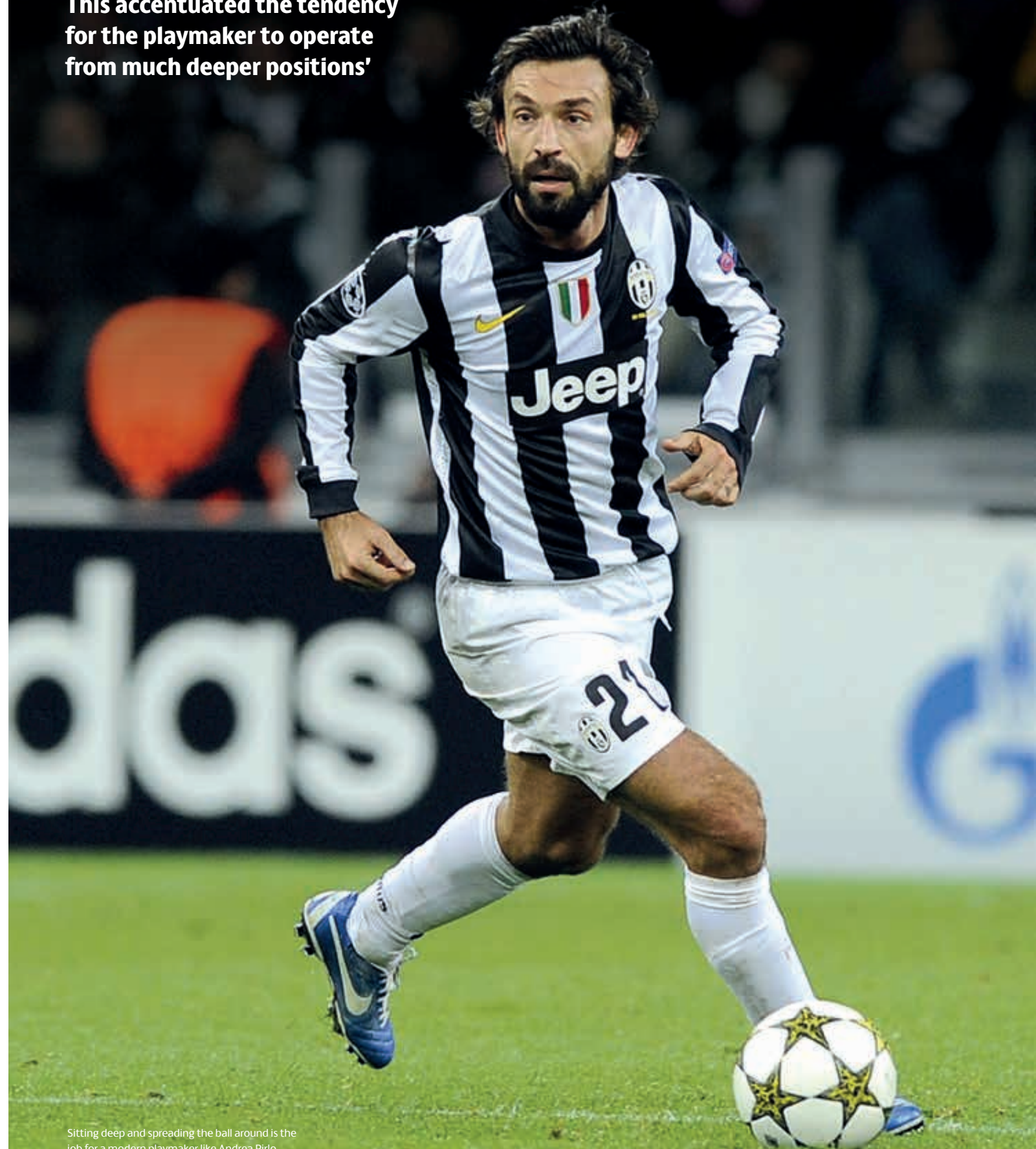
As a direct consequence of this accent on adventurous sorties by full-backs, the wingers or wide players frequently embarked on diagonal inward runs towards the area – a tendency also favoured by the ploy of fielding wingers on their 'wrong' flank – with Arjen Robben and Franck Ribéry being a prime example in the champions' lineup. As a result, many of the crosses from the wings were delivered by the full-backs (witness Barça's Daniel Alves or Dortmund's Marcel Schmelzer), while the runs by the wide men took them into areas towards the sidelines of the penalty box – and enabled the cutback to gain ground as a source of goalscoring opportunities.

In the first technical report on the UEFA Champions League, published at the end of the 1998/99 season, Arsène Wenger was quoted: "It is easier to teach a winger to defend than it is to turn a midfield player into a winger." This has been borne out by the current breed, with former wingers such as Galatasaray's Albert Riera or Barça's Jordi Alba officially relabelled full-backs but retaining their attacking vocation.



Daniel Alves is a key source of crosses

‘Screening midfielders dropped deep to provide extra cover through the central area. This accentuated the tendency for the playmaker to operate from much deeper positions’



Sitting deep and spreading the ball around is the job for a modern playmaker like Andrea Pirlo



Spain's Javi Martínez brought much-needed qualities to Bayern's midfield in his first season in Germany

A balanced approach

"Javi Martínez was just the sort of player we needed." The compliment from one of his Bayern team-mates highlighted that, with a majority of UEFA Champions League sides deploying two screening midfielders, achieving the right balance of qualities becomes a relevant issue. Martínez's power, ball-winning attributes and work ethic provided the right foil to the more creative skills of Bastian Schweinsteiger in the champions' engine-room. At José Mourinho's Madrid, Alonso – the deep-lying playmaker capable of hitting long passes to change the point of attack – was frequently paired with Sami Khedira, an accomplice who was positionally more adventurous and preferred to initiate short-passing interchanges. At FC Shakhtar Donetsk, Mircea Lucescu formed a partnership between the hard-working Tomáš Hübschman and the creative talents of Fernandinho. By contrast, Málaga's Manuel Pellegrini opted for two industrious screening midfielders – Jérémy Toulalan and, usually, Manuel Iturra – to complete a six-man defensive block to underpin the attacking flair of players like Joaquín, Isco, Eliseu or Javier Saviola. Many teams adopted a similar distribution of roles, with six players having defensive priorities and four presenting the main attacking options.



Manuel Iturra sat deep in Málaga's midfield

'Martínez's power, ball-winning attributes and work ethic provided the right foil to the more creative skills of Bastian Schweinsteiger'



Marco Reus leads another lightning counterattack

End to end

During the 2012/13 campaign, 79 goals resulted from counterattacking moves – representing almost 27% of the goals scored in open play. The figures confirm that, even though many sides have now developed counter-measures, the ability to hit opponents on the break is still a valuable weapon to have in the armoury. As Dortmund coach Jürgen Klopp noted: "This is an important facet. The ability to make fast forward moves when space is available is an opportunity to be seized. We get more from counters than we do from corners."

Five of Dortmund's goals could be directly attributed to fast counters, putting them among a group of teams who successfully exploited the art during the season. FC BATE Borisov, for example, obtained four of their nine goals in this manner, including two copybook strikes at LOSC Lille on the opening day of the campaign. CFR Cluj kicked off in similar fashion, with Rafael Bastos rounding off two fast breaks to earn a 2-0 win at SC Braga, the second a solo run after receiving a long pass from goalkeeper Mário Felgueiras. Counters earned Juventus five of their 17 goals, including a three-touch break to clinch a 3-0 home victory over Chelsea, with Giovinco striking from long range past the advancing goalkeeper.

One of the features of the season was that teams are increasingly trying to prevent opponents playing out from the back and to regain possession in advanced positions. In numerical terms, PSG take first place, with Ancelotti's men cashing in seven times – including the counter completed by

Javier Pastore at the Camp Nou, which came close to giving the French side a place in the semi-finals. Madrid, exploiting the pace and intelligent hard running of Ronaldo, scored from six counters during the group stage, but had no further successes against opponents who had done their homework.

FC Porto coach Vítor Pereira commented: "When we talk about counterattacks, we tend to talk about speed. But, basically, we're talking about speed of thinking and decision-making – because success depends on a good pass rather than a quick pass." He is not alone in suggesting that there may be a need to redefine the 'counterattack'. The classic variety (a rapid back-to-front pass) is still alive, but there is a continuing trend of collective counters based on a group of players flooding forward as soon as the ball is won. Traditionally, the term 'counterattacking team' hints at a side that defends deep, draws opponents on to them and then breaks out at pace from their own territory. But the term can now be extended to teams which catch opponents with their guard down by winning the ball in advanced areas and immediately heading for goal. Dynamo Kyiv, for instance, caught GNK Dinamo Zagreb in transition mode with a high interception from the Dinamo goalkeeper and a cross from the left which was turned into his own net by a defender to clinch a 2-0 win for the Ukrainian club. Four of Chelsea's 16 goals derived from fast breaks, with two of them based on advanced ball-winning: the three-pass combination which allowed them to open the scoring against FC Nordsjælland in Copenhagen; and the immediate through pass that permitted Oscar to put the finishing



Ilkay Gündoğan on the run for Dortmund

touch to a 6-1 victory against the same opposition at Stamford Bridge, Juventus capitalised on a high regain of possession to seal a 3-0 success over Celtic in Glasgow, with Mirko Vučinić turning a simple square pass into the net while the hosts' defenders were still trying to change direction.

Conte's team were one of an increasing number who practised Barcelona-style high pressing, with the wing-backs joining in when opponents were trying to break along 'their' flank. Porto and Schalke were among those who consistently exerted high pressure, while others alternated periods of intense forechecking with spells in which the emphasis was on getting eight players behind the ball and retreating into a compact defensive block. As Klopp explained: "If you play a high-intensity game, fatigue becomes a factor and you cannot afford to press too much." Of the 16 sides that participated in the knockout phase, 11 impressed the technical observers with the speed of their attack-to-defence transitions.

'During the 4-1 win against Madrid, Dortmund's outfielders produced 11.6% more than their opponents in terms of high-intensity running'

The intensity factor

"We might have set a new running record. That's what it felt like." Those words were spoken by Dortmund defender Neven Subotić after his club's defeat in the Wembley final. It wasn't, in fact, a record – though his team had recorded the highest figure of the season by collectively covering a distance of just over 127km against AFC Ajax in Amsterdam on the penultimate matchday of the group stage.

Technicians are understandably sceptical about distance-covered statistics, as they are not always reliable indicators of performance or success and, in some cases, can even be symptoms of shortcomings in team organisation. On the other hand, the fact that two hard-running Bundesliga sides disputed the final provided an invitation to glance at data – especially as both Bayern and Dortmund had muscled their way past Spanish opponents, both of them scoring four times in the home leg to virtually secure their trip to London.

During the 4-1 win against Madrid, Dortmund's outfielders produced 11.6% more than their opponents in terms of high-intensity running. Two members of the support trio behind Lewandowski (Mario Götze and Marco Reus) exceeded 4km of high-speed running, while Sven Bender fell only 13m short of that milestone. Three

Madrid players covered 3km at high speed: Alonso (3,097m) and, interestingly, the team's two German internationals, Khedira (3,602) and Mesut Özil (3,507). Seven Dortmund outfielders made in excess of 100 sprints, led by Götze (138) and Reus (134). Three Madrid players did likewise: Khedira (111), Özil (109) and Ronaldo (105).

In Munich, the high-intensity effort was more evenly shared during Bayern's 4-0 triumph over Barcelona, for whom Xavi Hernández once again led the way with 3,608m covered at high speed. Only Müller (3,752) and Schweinsteiger (3,667) bettered his mark. However, Ribéry (110), Müller (105) and Robben (103) broke into three figures in terms of sprints. Barça's top performers in that context were winger Pedro Rodríguez (95) and the two full-backs, Alves (93) and Alba (90). In the return leg, despite Bayern's four-goal cushion, Mandžukić and Müller were the only players on the pitch to cover more than 4km at high intensity.

During the Wembley final – which was an advertisement for attacking power play – ten players (five per team) delivered more than 100 sprints apiece, spearheaded by the Bayern duo of Robben (125) and Müller (123). The 2012/13 UEFA Champions League season therefore raised a question: was it the power that brought the glory?



Arjen Robben produced 125 sprints in the final – and still had the energy to score the late winner

Crossing

One of the technical motifs to emerge from the 2012/13 season was the increase in goals derived from cutbacks, whereas the number resulting from crosses registered a slight decline. To a certain extent, the attacking modus operandi of the participants in the UEFA Champions League can be gauged from the table which shows the number of crosses attempted in each game and the percentage of them successfully received by a team-mate. Seven of the top ten in terms of delivering crosses were eliminated during the group stage.

Club	Crosses	Success %
SL Benfica	20.83	38
RSC Anderlecht	20.33	21
SC Braga	19.83	23
Galatasaray AŞ	19.80	34
LOSC Lille	19.00	23
Montpellier Hérault SC	18.83	17
Chelsea FC	18.67	22
Olympiacos FC	18.50	23
Manchester United FC	18.00	26
FC Schalke 04	17.88	20
FC Porto	17.25	28
Celtic FC	16.88	29
FC Bayern München	16.77	39
Manchester City FC	16.67	18
Valencia CF	16.38	33
Juventus	15.60	38
AFC Ajax	15.50	17
AC Milan	15.50	42
FC Dynamo Kyiv	14.17	17
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	13.50	19
Arsenal FC	13.25	28
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	12.83	11
Real Madrid CF	12.42	37
FC Zenit St Petersburg	12.33	13
Borussia Dortmund	12.08	34
FC Spartak Moskva	11.83	20
Málaga CF	11.60	22
Paris Saint-Germain FC	11.30	35
FC Barcelona	11.00	27
FC Nordsjælland	10.83	12
CFR 1907 Cluj	10.00	8
FC BATE Borisov	7.17	10

In individual terms, the main suppliers were Real Madrid CF winger Ángel Di María (39 crosses in 794 minutes) along with FC Shakhtar Donetsk right-back Darijo Srna (36 in 720) and FC Schalke 04's Jefferson Farfán, who provided 35 crosses. Other chief purveyors were Chelsea FC's Juan Mata (26 in their group games) plus two playmakers: FC Barcelona's Xavi Hernández (31) and his deeper-lying Juventus counterpart, Andrea Pirlo (30). For the champions, Franck Ribéry delivered only 13 traditional 'crosses' and Arjen Robben 15 during the campaign.



Madrid's Ángel Di María delivered a competition-best 39 crosses



Valencia's Tino Costa swings a cross beyond Idrissa Gueye of LOSC



Jefferson Farfán proved an effective supplier from wide areas for Schalke

Going the distance

Is there any footballing significance in the fact that the 2012/13 finalists Borussia Dortmund covered over 12% more ground per game than, for example, Galatasaray AŞ? Or that Jürgen Klopp's team achieved the highest distance-covered statistic of the season by totalling just over 127km (127,106 metres, to be precise) in their 4-1 away victory over AFC Ajax?

The table demonstrates that, during the 2012/13 campaign, most of the contestants were grouped around the overall average of 113,595 metres per match. It also shows that, of the 16 sides who exceeded the average, 11 were eliminated during the group stage. Can the two facts be legitimately related, bearing in mind that the two finalists were among the other five?

Club	Metres
AFC Ajax	122,616
Borussia Dortmund	121,091
Juventus	119,776
FC Nordsjælland	119,355
FC BATE Borisov	119,017
SL Benfica	118,470
FC Spartak Moskva	117,438
CFR Cluj	114,953
Valencia CF	114,667
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	114,628
FC Bayern München	114,527
FC Zenit St Petersburg	114,305
FC Dynamo Kyiv	114,129
Chelsea FC	114,043
Manchester City FC	113,901
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	113,067
FC Porto	112,412
FC Schalke 04	112,291
LOSC Lille	112,277
Real Madrid CF	112,266
Arsenal FC	112,218
SC Braga	112,186
RSC Anderlecht	112,019
Celtic FC	110,835
FC Barcelona	110,113
Montpellier Hérault SC	110,034
Manchester United FC	109,634
Málaga CF	109,376
AC Milan	108,915
Olympiacos FC	108,391
Paris Saint-Germain FC	108,258
Galatasaray AŞ	107,834



Ajax's Christian Eriksen covered more ground than any other group stage player

Individual statistics are not easily calibrated, as the top 20 in terms of greatest distance covered features 13 players from the two finalists, on the simple basis that they played the most games – which confers anecdotal status on the totals achieved by Dortmund left-back Marcel Schmelzer (145,229m) and his attacking team-mate Marco Reus (142,855m). At the end of the group stage, the player who had the most metres 'on the clock' was Ajax's Danish international Christian Eriksen.

More reliable comparisons can be made on the basis of metres covered per minute played and in this category the FC Shakhtar Donetsk midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan catches the eye with an average of 137.64m a minute. Without going through the track records of the 600 or so players who competed in the 2012/13 UEFA Champions League, the table shows a random selection of those who might be considered, literally and figuratively, as the frontrunners on the basis of metres per minute played.

Player	Club	Average
Christian Eriksen	AFC Ajax	144.79
Lewis Holtby	FC Schalke 04	142.68
Henrikh Mkhitaryan	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	137.64
Mario Götze	Borussia Dortmund	136.06
Ilkay Gündogan	Borussia Dortmund	134.27
Bastian Schweinsteiger	FC Bayern München	133.88
Thomas Müller	FC Bayern München	133.02
Marco Reus	Borussia Dortmund	132.52
Andrea Pirlo	Juventus	131.65
Xabi Alonso	Real Madrid CF	128.69
Mesut Özil	Real Madrid CF	127.00
Franck Ribéry	FC Bayern München	124.27
Marcel Schmelzer	Borussia Dortmund	124.13

The figures hint at the degree of athletic preparation which is required to equip players to perform at the highest level in certain playing positions – notably the playmaking screening midfielders or members of support trios in 4-2-3-1 formations. As a debating point, it's worth throwing in the average of 76.75m per minute covered by FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi. Who is the more decisive?

Talking points



Luiz Adriano was banned for one match for his controversial goal against Nordsjælland

Fair play?

The seconds are ticking towards the 26th minute on the electronic scoreboard at the Parken in Copenhagen on the penultimate matchday of the group stage. Debutants FC Nordsjælland are 1-0 ahead against FC Shakhtar Donetsk. While the home team are in possession, the referee stops play after a collision which leaves the Danish club's goalscorer Morten Nordstrand on the ground. He then restarts play with a dropped ball which is not contested by a Nordsjælland player. Shakhtar Donetsk No10 Willian punts the ball upfield, ostensibly to return possession to the Danes. But striker Luiz Adriano runs past passive opponents to put the ball in the net. One-all goes on the scoreboard.

The incident earned extensive media coverage. Shakhtar publicly regretted the episode in a written statement confirming

their commitment to fair play principles; and, ultimately, Luiz Adriano was given a one-match suspension by UEFA's disciplinary body for "violation of the principles of conduct". The case highlighted that the so-called fair play gesture is still a grey area capable of generating misunderstanding and even ill feeling. Further illustration was provided during the game between Valencia CF and Paris Saint-Germain FC in the round of 16. After visiting striker Ezequiel Lavezzi had hit the turf in the 32nd minute, a dispute over kicking the ball out and returning possession led to cautions for Valencia full-back João Pereira and visiting midfielder Marco Verratti. When a fair play gesture provokes yellow cards, it's legitimate to ask whether the world has turned upside down.

Going back to Denmark, the significance of the incident was, to a certain extent, concealed by the ultimate 5-2 scoreline in favour of the visitors. However, the talking

point revolves around taking the situation to its absolute extreme: what if, to stretch the imagination to the limit, this had been the only goal or the decisive goal in the UEFA Champions League final? A stretch of the imagination may also be needed to envisage the repercussions among the media and the public.

The Laws of the Game endorse, step by step, the legitimacy of the events. Any player, they state, may challenge for a dropped ball; and there is no minimum or maximum number of players who can contest it. In addition, the referee is not empowered to decide who competes for a dropped ball. The remainder of the move which led to the goal (the upfield kick and the solo run) was also legally unquestionable. The debating point is therefore whether legislation could – or should – be put in place to allow the referee to disallow a goal scored in these circumstances and to reconcile fair play and justice with the law.

The surveillance factor

The fact that the number of penalties scored during the 2011/12 campaign had doubled in relation to the previous season was regarded as evidence to support the theory that the presence of the additional assistant referee was helping to upgrade the detection of foul play in the penalty area. Hugh Dallas, one of UEFA's three refereeing officers, commented: "It is clear that the players are aware of their presence and are less likely to commit holding, pushing or blocking offences."

However, the 2012/13 season registered a decrease in the number of penalties to 20 – which seems quite a significant drop if expressed as almost 29%. It is only fair to point out that 29 penalties were awarded (compared with 35 in 2011/12), with nine failing to hit the net – all in the group phase, as it happened. The success rate by goalkeepers can legitimately be attributed to the widespread increase of conscientious homework on the modus operandi of penalty-takers. The percentage of saved penalties is also a notable factor, bearing in mind that one of the duties of the additional assistant referee is to advise the referee if the goalkeeper seeks to gain an advantage by advancing off his line.

The success rate from corner kicks during the 2012/13 campaign also offers food for thought. Looking back over the ten seasons played in the competition's current 125-game format, the number of goals originating from corners peaked at 33 in the 2006/07 campaign and then began to decline. In 2012/13, the figure crept back up to 32 (23 during the group phase and nine in the knockout rounds). In point of fact, the figure could be enlarged, as a number of goals came from the aftermath of a corner (for example, a clearance being played back into a crowded box) but couldn't reasonably be attributed directly to the dead-ball situation.

The debating point is to what extent the drop in the number of penalties and the gradual recovery of success rates from corners can be linked to the presence of (and the deterrent effect exerted by) the additional assistant referee?



Gianluigi Buffon under the watchful eye of an additional assistant referee



Santi Cazorla tries to find an Arsenal team-mate from a corner



Olivier Giroud led the line for Arsenal, one of many clubs employing a lone striker

Forward thinking

The magnitude of the task facing the modern striker is among the technical topics which arose during the 2012/13 season. But facts and comments gleaned from events alien to the UEFA Champions League can be blended into a debating cocktail. For example, Ottmar Hitzfeld, winner of the UEFA Champions League with both of the 2012/13 finalists, discussed the role of the striker during an interview with UEFA's chief technical officer, Ioan Lupescu, at a recent Pro licence student exchange course in Nyon. Mulling over the striker-less formations employed by FC Barcelona or Spain (and even Germany, who fielded Mario Götze in the so-called Messi role during a recent friendly against France), the coach stated a clear preference for deploying "at least one striker and two if you can find goal-getters who are good enough". He added: "As a coach, you have to adapt to the quality of the players you have available."

Using his comments as a launching-pad for debate, can the UEFA Champions League trend towards the lone forward be interpreted as an indication that coaches are unable to find sufficient numbers of strikers? The second question is where do you look for them? A glance at the 2012/13 quarter-finalists suggests that they're difficult to find on your doorstep. Robert Lewandowski,

Mario Mandžukić, Didier Drogba, Gonzalo Higuaín, Karim Benzema, Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, Zlatan Ibrahimović, Ezequiel Lavezzi, Javier Saviola, Roque Santa Cruz, Mirko Vučinić... imported attackers are clearly dominant in a list where local produce boiled down to Burak Yılmaz and whichever Italian was chosen by Antonio Conte to support Vučinić at Juventus. Even delving into the last 16 brings similar search results: Robin van Persie, Olivier Giroud, Jackson Martínez, Javier Hernández, Shakhtar's Brazilians... Where were the home-grown strikers?

As it happened, a similar question was asked at the end of the UEFA European Under-21 Championship which was staged in Israel a few weeks after the Wembley final. The top scorer was Real Madrid CF forward Álvaro Morata, who started two of the five games played by Spain on their run to the title. But, behind him on the scoring chart, a vast majority of the names corresponded to midfielders.

It was a question discussed by UEFA's technical observers in Israel, who mentioned the recent resurgence of wingers after a spell of being labelled a species in danger of extinction. "Maybe in five years' time," one of the team remarked, "everyone will want to play with two strikers again." If they want to, will they be able to?

That had emerged as a major issue at the UEFA European U17 Championship in Slovakia, where the goalless final had been played eight days before the showpiece at Wembley. The 15-game final tournament had witnessed a miserly total of 24 goals and the list of scorers revealed that only four players had hit the net more than once: two midfielders; a central defender who moved up for set plays; and a winger who started every game on the bench. Five matches finished goalless and strikers accounted for just five of the goals scored.

In some countries, the issue is already being addressed. In Denmark, for instance, educational material has been prepared to help youth coaches to focus on the development of attacking qualities; and, in Switzerland, academies are obliged to have a specialised 'striker coach' on their staff list. But the U17 tournament highlighted the talking point: if, in five years' time, UEFA Champions League coaches want to reverse the trend towards the solitary forward or the striker-less variation, are we producing enough strikers to satisfy future demands?

STATISTICS

Ball possession

For the ninth successive season, FC Barcelona topped the UEFA Champions League chart in terms of ball possession. But the Catalans scored 18 goals, compared with 35 in the previous campaign. The analysis of possession during the 2012/13 season was, once again, a story of paradox. It is a fact that ten of the leading 16 teams averaged more than 50% of ball possession. But the other six included the silver medallists Borussia Dortmund. Jürgen Klopp's side had only 35% of the ball when they visited AFC Ajax in the group stage – but came away from Amsterdam with a 4-1 win. Their highest possession figure of the campaign was in the home leg of the quarter-final against Málaga CF, which they were within seconds of losing. Manchester United FC had an enormous disparity of possession figures, ranging from 68% away to CFR 1907 Cluj to 45% when they went to Real Madrid CF in the last 16. Much the same applied to José Mourinho's men, who vacillated between 61% and 42% of the ball. In both cases, the percentage of possession

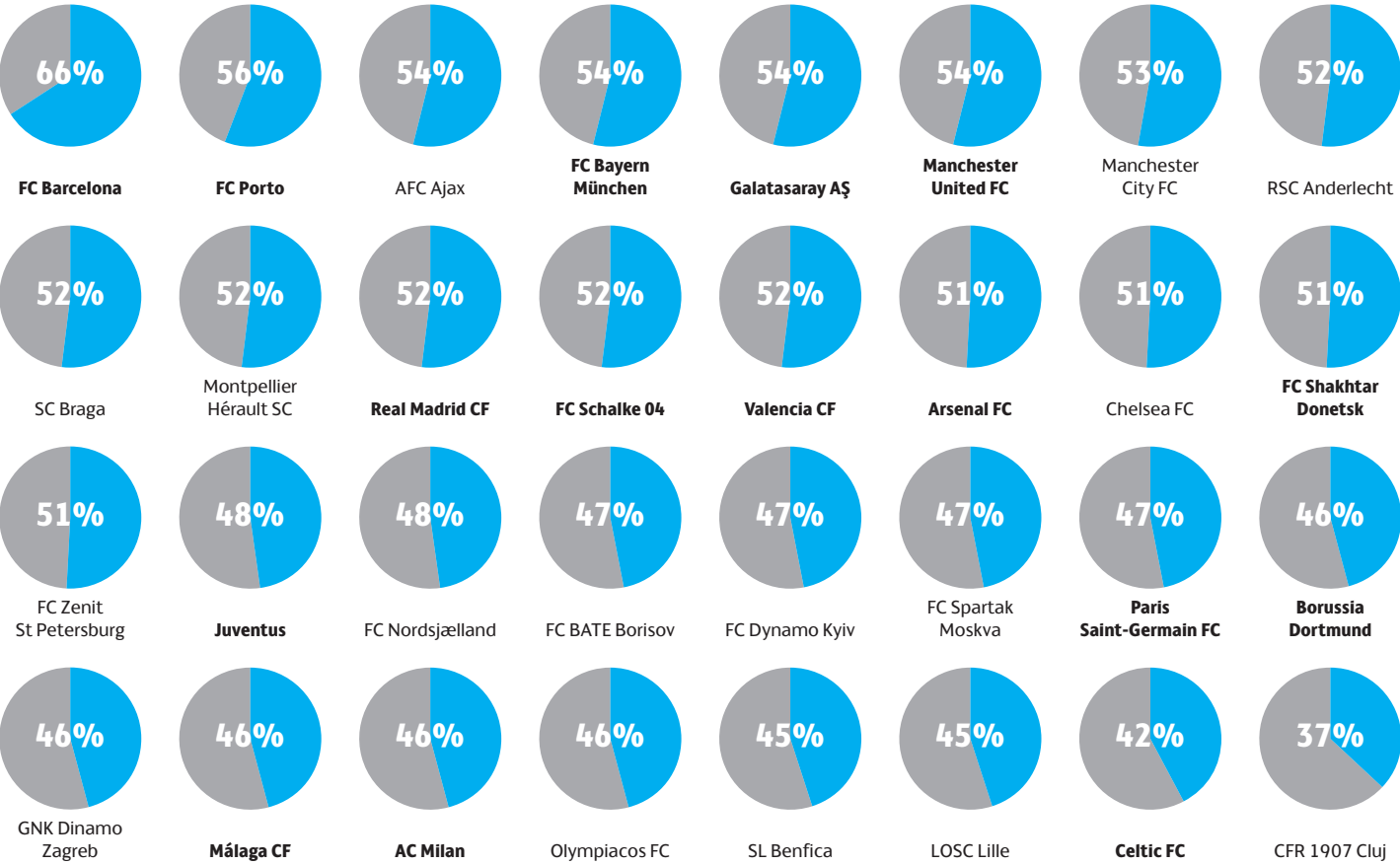
seemed to have a minimal repercussion on the number of goal attempts created. AC Milan added fuel to the debate: they achieved a 50% share of the ball in only three games – and didn't win any of them. As was said of FC Internazionale Milano when they took the title in the 2009/10 season, they were "comfortable without the ball". During the 2012/13 campaign, CFR Cluj took this to an extreme, amassing ten points and winning three matches despite having the ball for just 21 minutes per game.

Mourinho's Inter became champions of Europe in a term where they averaged a mere 45% of possession and, in the final against Louis van Gaal's FC Bayern München, had only 32% of the ball. Bayern's second reverse, against Chelsea FC in the 2012 final, also came despite a record 61% of possession during the first half and 59% during extra time. The only balanced period of play in terms of possession was the second half which registered a 52-48 result in Bayern's favour. The 2013 final at Wembley also

brought together two contrasting styles in that Jupp Heynckes' side were more likely to build patiently from the back with Barcelona-style passing interchanges which fuelled the possession figures. The final balance was 57-43 in Bayern's favour.

Jürgen Klopp's charges were regarded as exponents of a 'positive possession' style based on the immediate use of possession to head for goal in fast-forward mode. Manuel Pellegrini's Málaga, their opponents in a close-run quarter-final, had a similar philosophy in that, although the team were technically accomplished and highly competent in building from the back, the preference for a direct supply to the advanced players meant that attacking moves tended to have a lesser duration and therefore led to lower possession figures. The 2012/13 season maintained the issue as a debating point. Even though the most successful sides tend to be equipped to dominate the ball, how much relevance should be given to possession figures? What is the definition of 'positive possession'?

Bold: clubs qualified for knockout stage





Xavi Hernández completed 88% of his 1,297 passes for Barcelona

STATISTICS

Passing comment

The technical report on the 2009/10 season mentioned that five of the 32 participating clubs had averaged fewer than 400 passes per match and that 24 of the sides had played fewer than 500. The generalised trend towards a passing game has become a notable feature of recent UEFA Champions League campaigns, however – to the extent that, in 2012/13, only one team fell below the 400-pass barrier: CFR 1907 Cluj with a mean of 367 passes a game. As many as 12 of the 16 sides who disputed the knockout rounds of the 2012/13 season based their game on more than 500 passes per match with, once more, FC Barcelona the standard-bearer with an average of 783 a game and a season-high figure of 999 in the away fixture against Celtic FC – which they lost 2-1.

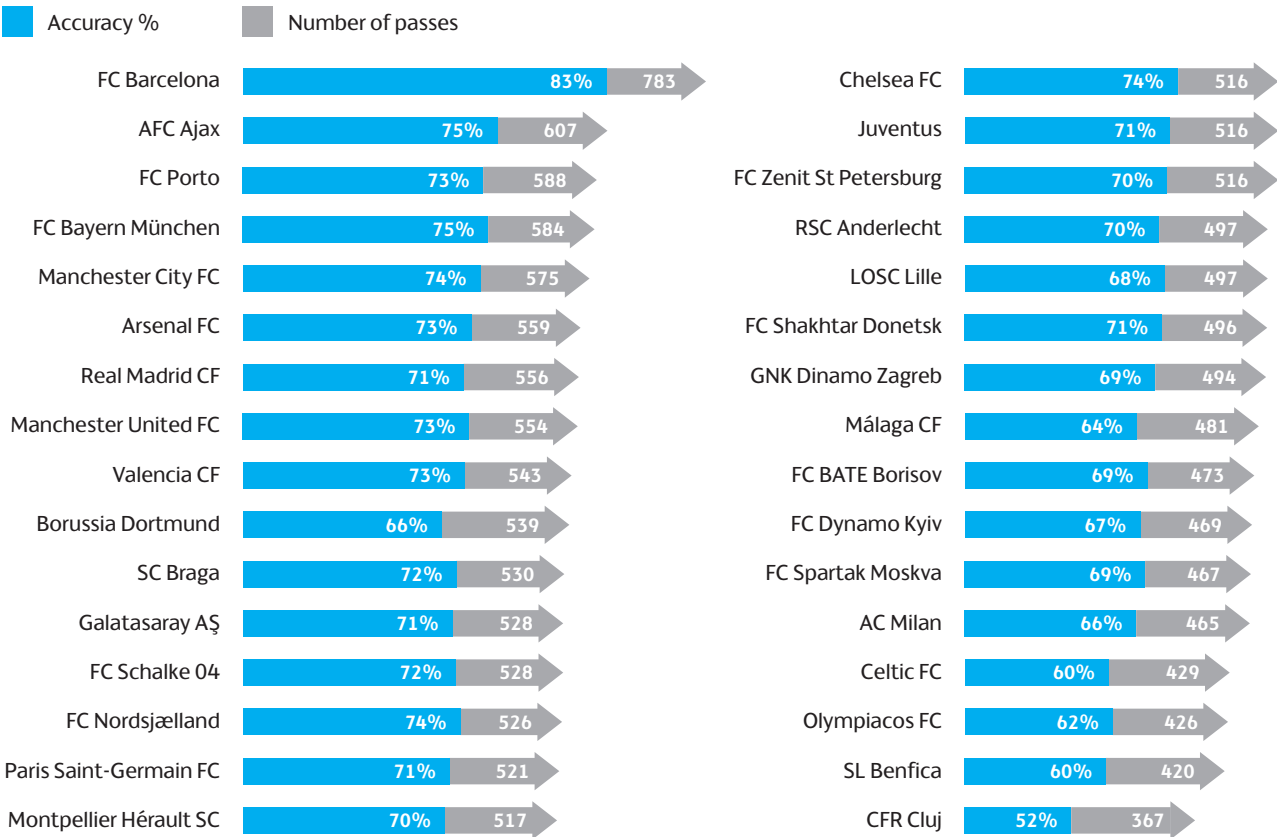
The global view of the campaign reveals that 19 of the 32 participants exceeded 500 passes per match and that, of the 13 who achieved under 500, nine were eliminated in the group stage. Once again,

there was conflicting evidence. AFC Ajax failed to make the cut despite putting together over 600 passes a game in a highly problematical group, whereas Celtic earned a place in the last 16 with an average of 429 per match.

The accuracy of passing also provokes debate. In this department, Barcelona again led the way, though it was noticeable that the quantity and the accuracy of their passing fell away during the knockout rounds. The figures are debatable as a high percentage of accuracy lays itself open to an interpretation of safety-first passing rather than the higher-risk forward passing or crossing associated with a more direct attacking approach. Some defenders accumulate respectable statistics, for example, but deeper analysis demonstrates that a high percentage of their passing was to fellow defenders or the goalkeeper.

In individual terms, Barcelona's master of the pass, Xavi Hernández, was typically outstanding, with 1,143 of his 1,297 passes reaching a friendly destination, at a success

rate of 88%. His henchman in the Barça and Spanish midfield, Andrés Iniesta, successfully delivered 701 of his 845 passes at a completion ratio of 83%, while screening midfielder Sergio Busquets achieved the competition's peak figure with a 90% accuracy rating. Tito Vilanova's side did not, however, win the title and examination of the finalists' passing stats shows that the full-backs Philipp Lahm and Marcel Schmelzer were the main passers of the ball for FC Bayern München and Borussia Dortmund respectively, ahead of the teams' deep-lying playmakers, Bastian Schweinsteiger and Ilkay Gündogan. Significantly, Bayern's attacking support trio registered lower figures which imply higher risk factors. Arjen Robben recorded 68%, Thomas Müller 61% and Franck Ribéry 70%. The figures on the Dortmund side read: Kevin Grosskreutz 64%, Mario Götze 65%, Jakub Blaszczykowski 61%, Marco Reus 56% and Robert Lewandowski 54% – suggesting that Jürgen Klopp's team were more willing to take risks with possession and search for direct pathways to the goal.



In this graph the number of passes refers to the average of passes attempted during a game, while the accuracy rate evidently relates to the percentage of passes received by a team-mate.

The disciplined approach



The 2012/13 season yielded 3,413 fouls at an average of 27.3 per fixture

The technical report on the 2011/12 season highlighted a marked decline in the number of free-kicks awarded since the 2005/06 campaign was punctuated by an average of 35 fouls per game. The question was whether the steady downturn could be related to the introduction of the additional assistant referees and the deterrent effect of the extra pair of eyes adjacent to the penalty area. The 2012/13 season kept this issue alive, with the UEFA Champions League registering a further drop in the number of fouls.

The 2010/11 campaign was the first in which none of the 32 participating teams exceeded 20 fouls per game and the first in which the average number of free-kicks per match dipped below 30. By 2011/12, the figure had fallen even further to 28.1 per game and the trend was continued during 2012/13. The season yielded 3,413 fouls at an average of 27.3 per fixture.

The leading five sides in terms of fouls committed – and eight of the 12 who exceeded 15 per match – were eliminated during the group stage. It was a noticeable feature that more and more teams are aware of the risks inherent in conceding free-kicks

in their own defensive third – and, once again, none more so than FC Barcelona, who are conscious that the physical stature of their side can offer set-play opportunities to their opponents.

As mentioned elsewhere, statistics provide corroboratory evidence for the trend towards the striker being required to act as a first line of defence, pressing aggressively enough to pre-empt counterattacking opportunities for the opposition and, often, breaking up a potential raid by the rival team with an innocuous foul.

Another debating point is whether the additional assistant referees are helping to pick up more offences by attackers in the penalty area. During the 2012/13 campaign, Robert Lewandowski, Mario Mandžukić, Zlatan Ibrahimović, Vitali Rodionov, Jackson Martínez and Hulk were all among the 'leaders' in the fouls-committed chart. With regard to fouls suffered, the list was unsurprisingly led by Cristiano Ronaldo, Lewandowski, Lionel Messi, Franck Ribéry and Ezequiel Lavezzi – the stats evidently influenced by the number of games played.

Club / Fouls per game

FC Spartak Moskva	18.17
CFR 1907 Cluj	16.83
FC BATE Borisov	16.50
LOSC Lille	16.33
FC Zenit St Petersburg	16.33
FC Porto	16.00
Valencia CF	16.00
SL Benfica	15.83
Galatasaray AŞ	15.50
Arsenal FC	15.38
SC Braga	15.33
FC Dynamo Kyiv	15.17
Juventus	14.40
AC Milan	14.00
FC Schalke 04	13.75
Celtic FC	13.63
Málaga CF	13.60
RSC Anderlecht	13.50
FC Bayern München	13.31
Paris Saint-Germain FC	13.20
Olympiacos FC	13.17
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	13.13
Montpellier Hérault SC	12.50
Real Madrid CF	12.50
Manchester City FC	12.33
Borussia Dortmund	12.00
FC Nordsjælland	11.67
Manchester United FC	11.50
Chelsea FC	11.00
AFC Ajax	10.67
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	10.50
FC Barcelona	9.17

This graphic charts the average number of offences committed over the 90 minutes by each of the 32 participants.

Visiting cards

Interestingly, the stats in the previous section strike a discordant note when looking for harmonies between fouls and yellow cards. The 2011/12 season had set an all-time record in terms of yellow cards: a total of 549 cautions at an average of 4.39 per match. This represented a significant increase of 21% on the 453 yellows shown during the previous season. The 2012/13 campaign maintained the higher level with an almost identical final tally: 548.

Four teams averaged three or more bookings a game and three of them (FC Spartak Moskva, LOSC Lille and FC BATE Borisov) were eliminated during the group stage. The other side was Arsenal FC, who received 26 yellow cards in their eight matches, 11 of them, it has to be said, during the first knockout round tie against FC Bayern München. Half of the ten clubs who averaged two cautions or fewer per game were also eliminated in the group phase. Full credit, by the way, to runners-up Borussia Dortmund; they accumulated only 14 yellows during their 13-match campaign.

In individual terms, a quintet of players were cautioned five times and earned two suspensions: AC Milan centre-back Philippe Mexès, the Málaga CF pair of defender Martín Demichelis and midfielder Manuel Iturra, and Real Madrid CF defenders Sergio Ramos and Álvaro Arbeloa. Arbeloa was dismissed twice, collecting two of the season's 20 red cards. This represents an extension to the downward trend in recent campaigns from 27 sendings-off in 2009/10 to 24 in 2010/11 and 22 in 2011/12. As opposed to the previous season, when three players missed the Munich final through suspension, neither finalist had players banned from the 2013 showdown at Wembley.

The discordant note – and the point for discussion – is the fact that the significant drop in the number of fouls was not reflected by the number of bookings. The statistics for 2012/13 reveal that one in every 6.23 fouls was considered a yellow-card offence (as opposed to one per 7.65 in the previous term).

Season	Yellow cards	Yellow/red cards	Red cards	Matches played	Average of yellow cards (per match)
1994/95	192	4	6	61	3.15
1995/96	198	10	8	61	3.24
1996/97	203	3	3	61	3.33
1997/98	283	11	6	85	3.33
1998/99	302	7	8	85	3.55
1999/00	524	14	16	157	3.34
2000/01	567	13	13	157	3.61
2001/02	508	10	11	157	3.24
2002/03	530	8	11	157	3.38
2003/04	415	20	9	125	3.32
2004/05	434	14	25	125	3.47
2005/06	463	19	9	125	3.70
2006/07	477	9	17	125	3.82
2007/08	445	7	9	125	3.56
2008/09	489	11	8	125	3.91
2009/10	472	14	13	125	3.78
2010/11	453	13	11	125	3.62
2011/12	549	15	7	125	4.39
2012/13	548	10	10	125	4.38
Totals	8,054	212	200	2,231	3.61



Montpellier's Garry Bocaly is shown one of the campaign's 20 red cards



Neither Bayern nor Dortmund had players suspended for the Wembley final



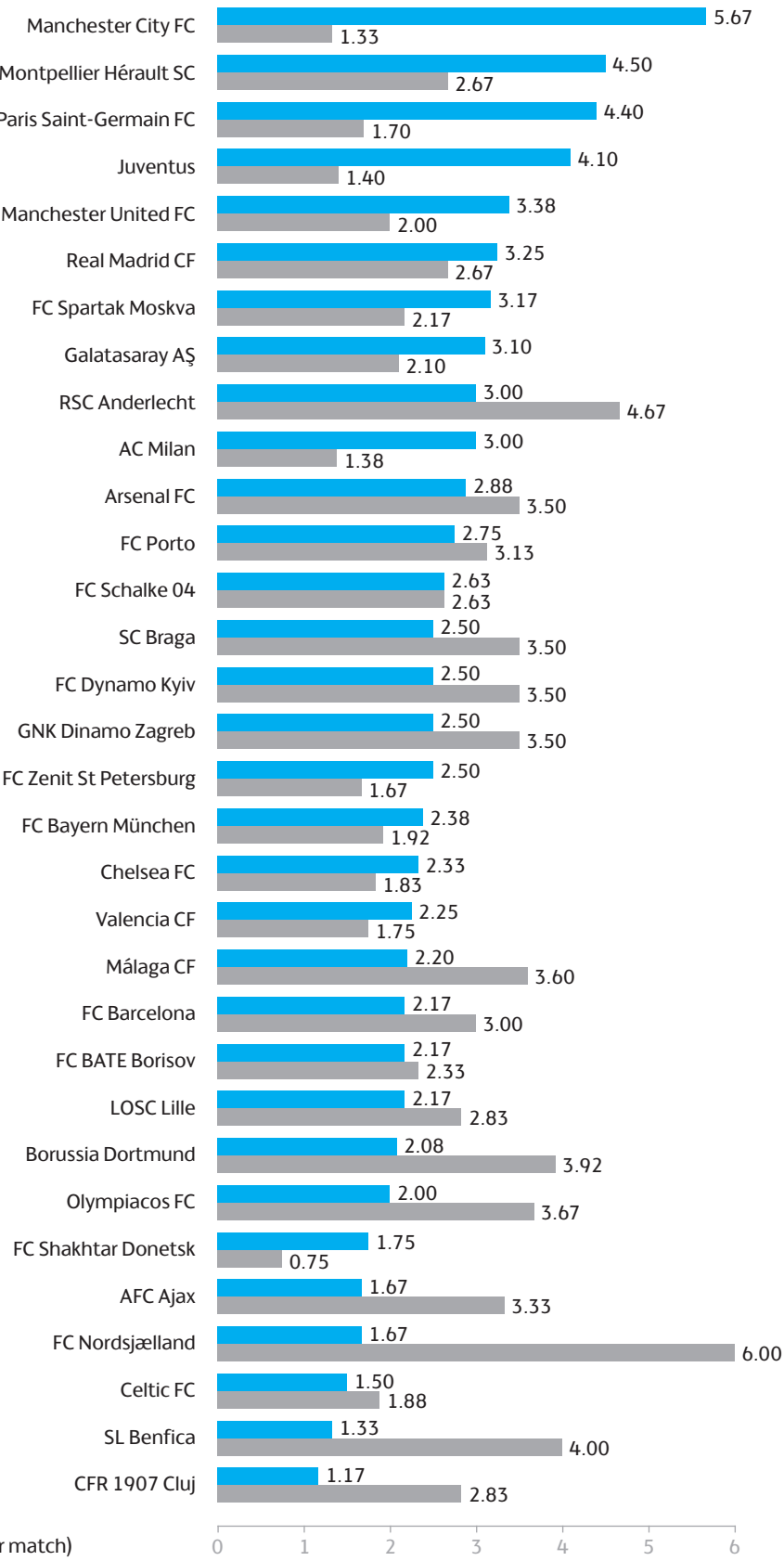
A yellow card was shown for every 6.23 fouls, as opposed to 7.65 in 2011/12

Offsides

The 125-match campaign registered a further marginal decrease in the number of offside decisions: the flag was raised 667 times at an average of 5.34 offside decisions per game. This compares with 678 at an average of 5.42 in the previous season and 696 at 5.57 in 2010/11. The figure has declined since peaking at 724 offsides in the 2008/09 campaign – which represents an invitation for diverse interpretations of the statistics. It could be argued that attackers have become more alert in terms of positioning and the timing of their runs; or, conversely, that the drop in offside decisions is a symptom of deeper defending. Italian clubs, traditionally the frontrunners in this chart, are still among the top ten but this particular trend is evidently being reversed.

Once again, Paris Saint-Germain FC's Zlatan Ibrahimović headed the individual chart, having been flagged 17 times during the season. The Swedish striker had also taken pole position in 2011/12 with 21 offside decisions going against him while at AC Milan – and he was second in the 2009/10 rankings while at FC Barcelona. Burak Yılmaz, who had been flagged ten times in 270 minutes as a Trabzonspor AŞ player in 2011/12, was adjudged offside on 14 occasions for Galatasaray AŞ in 2012/13 – a number equalled by FC Porto's Colombian forward Jackson Martínez. In pro rata terms, however, the leading role was played by Manchester City FC striker Edin Džeko, who strayed offside 12 times during 385 minutes on the field of play. By contrast, Borussia Dortmund attacker Robert Lewandowski was caught nine times during 1,090 minutes on the pitch – in other words, less than once per game.

Seventeen of the 32 contestants trapped their opponents offside more frequently than they were flagged themselves. FC Nordsjælland provided a striking example by falling only ten times into offside territory while luring their opponents into such positions 36 times. At the other extreme, Juventus were flagged 41 times and their opponents a mere 14. Much the same can be said of Manchester City, whose players incurred the wrath of the assistant referee(s) on 34 occasions in their six games, whereas the opponents of Roberto Mancini's side strayed just eight times. The graph opposite shows the average number of times that teams were caught offside per match.



Technical team selection

At the close of a UEFA Champions League season, UEFA's technical observers select a squad of players who, in their opinion, made notable contributions to the campaign. Ultimate victory for FC Bayern München allowed the German club to be represented in every department of the squad – not only on account of the team's performance at Wembley but also for convincing displays and a high standard of football throughout – something which can also be said of their opponents in London, Borussia Dortmund. The jury of coaches had to face the task of selecting a 23-man squad from a shortlist of 58 candidates. There was a certain amount of debate in the goalkeeping section with the ultimate verdict that Diego López, although he had only joined Real Madrid CF during the winter transfer window, had performed outstandingly enough during the knockout rounds to warrant a place.

From a technical point of view, the modern game has blurred definitions of playing positions in the middle-to-front areas. The list of 'midfielders', for example, embraces players of different complexions ranging from Bastian Schweinsteiger and Javi Martínez to their Bayern team-mates Arjen Robben and Franck Ribéry, while Thomas Müller is included in the 'attackers' category. Ditto Real Madrid, where the nominees included screening midfielders Xabi Alonso and Sami Khedira alongside Angel Di María. Or the Málaga CF pairing of Jérémy Toulalan, a controlling, ball-winning midfielder, and the more attacking talents of Isco.

'Bayern were represented in every department of the squad – not only on account of the team's performance at Wembley but also for a high standard of football throughout'



The UEFA technical team lineup at Wembley was (from left to right) Frank Ludolph, Howard Wilkinson, Sir Alex Ferguson, Antonio Conte, Roy Hodgson, Jean-Paul Brigger, Ioan Lupescu



Goalkeepers



Roman Weidenfeller



Manuel Neuer



Diego López

Defenders



Daniel Alves



Philipp Lahm



Dante



Leonardo Bonucci



Thiago Silva



Sergio Ramos

Midfielders



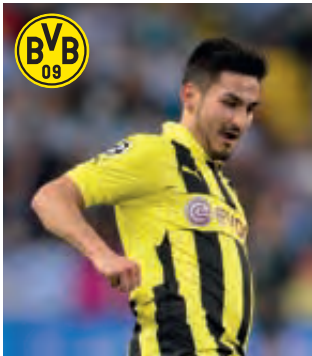
Mario Götze



Andrés Iniesta



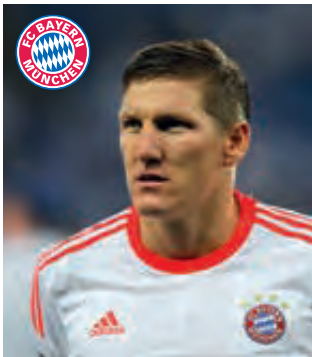
Arjen Robben



İlkay Gündoğan



Andrea Pirlo



Bastian Schweinsteiger

Attackers



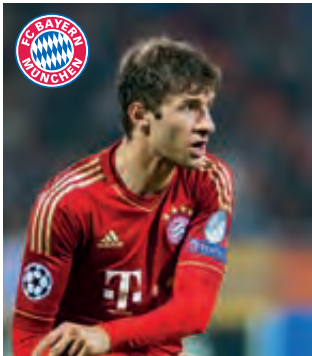
Zlatan Ibrahimović



Robert Lewandowski



Lionel Messi



Thomas Müller



Cristiano Ronaldo



Robin van Persie

Results

PLAY-OFF LEAGUE PATH (Aggregate scores played over two legs)									
Dynamo Kyiv	4	Fenerbahçe	2	Udinese	2	LOSC	2	Panathinaikos	0
Mönchengladbach	3	Spartak Moskva	3	Braga (5-4 penalties)	2	København	1	Málaga	2

GROUP STAGE									
GROUP A									
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Paris Saint-Germain FC	6	5	0	1	14	3	15		
FC Porto	6	4	1	1	10	4	13		
FC Dynamo Kyiv	6	1	2	3	6	10	5		
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	6	0	1	5	1	14	1		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
18/09	Dinamo Zagreb	0-2	Porto	06/11	Dynamo Kyiv	0-0	Porto		
18/09	PSG	4-1	Dynamo Kyiv	06/11	PSG	4-0	Dinamo Zagreb		
03/10	Dynamo Kyiv	2-0	Dinamo Zagreb	21/11	Porto	3-0	Dinamo Zagreb		
03/10	Porto	1-0	PSG	21/11	Dynamo Kyiv	0-2	PSG		
24/10	Porto	3-2	Dynamo Kyiv	04/12	Dinamo Zagreb	1-1	Dynamo Kyiv		
24/10	Dinamo Zagreb	0-2	PSG	04/12	PSG	2-1	Porto		
GROUP B									
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
FC Schalke 04	6	3	3	0	10	6	12		
Arsenal FC	6	3	1	2	10	8	10		
Olympiacos FC	6	3	0	3	9	9	9		
Montpellier Hérault SC	6	0	2	4	6	12	2		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
18/09	Montpellier	1-2	Arsenal	06/11	Schalke	2-2	Arsenal		
18/09	Olympiacos	1-2	Schalke	06/11	Olympiacos	3-1	Montpellier		
03/10	Schalke	2-2	Montpellier	21/11	Arsenal	2-0	Montpellier		
03/10	Arsenal	3-1	Olympiacos	21/11	Schalke	1-0	Olympiacos		
24/10	Arsenal	0-2	Schalke	04/12	Montpellier	1-1	Schalke		
24/10	Montpellier	1-2	Olympiacos	04/12	Olympiacos	2-1	Arsenal		
GROUP C									
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Málaga CF	6	3	3	0	12	5	12		
AC Milan	6	2	2	2	7	6	8		
FC Zenit St Petersburg	6	2	1	3	6	9	7		
RSC Anderlecht	6	1	2	3	4	9	5		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
18/09	Málaga	3-0	Zenit	06/11	Anderlecht	1-0	Zenit		
18/09	Milan	0-0	Anderlecht	06/11	Milan	1-1	Málaga		
03/10	Zenit	2-3	Milan	21/11	Zenit	2-2	Málaga		
03/10	Anderlecht	0-3	Málaga	21/11	Anderlecht	1-3	Milan		
24/10	Zenit	1-0	Anderlecht	04/12	Málaga	2-2	Anderlecht		
24/10	Málaga	1-0	Milan	04/12	Milan	0-1	Zenit		
GROUP D									
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Borussia Dortmund	6	4	2	0	11	5	14		
Real Madrid CF	6	3	2	1	15	9	11		
AFC Ajax	6	1	1	4	8	16	4		
Manchester City FC	6	0	3	3	7	11	3		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
18/09	Dortmund	1-0	Ajax	06/11	Man. City	2-2	Ajax		
18/09	Real Madrid	3-2	Man. City	06/11	Real Madrid	2-2	Dortmund		
03/10	Man. City	1-1	Dortmund	21/11	Ajax	1-4	Dortmund		
03/10	Ajax	1-4	Real Madrid	21/11	Man. City	1-1	Real Madrid		
24/10	Ajax	3-1	Man. City	04/12	Dortmund	1-0	Man. City		
24/10	Dortmund	2-1	Real Madrid	04/12	Real Madrid	4-1	Ajax		
GROUP E									
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Juventus	6	3	3	0	12	4	12		
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	6	3	1	2	12	8	10		
Chelsea FC	6	3	1	2	16	10	10		
FC Nordsjælland	6	0	1	5	4	22	1		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
19/09	Shakhtar	2-0	Nordsjælland	07/11	Juventus	4-0	Nordsjælland		
19/09	Chelsea	2-2	Juventus	07/11	Chelsea	3-2	Shakhtar		
02/10	Juventus	1-1	Shakhtar	20/11	Nordsjælland	2-5	Shakhtar		
02/10	Nordsjælland	0-4	Chelsea	20/11	Juventus	3-0	Chelsea		
23/10	Nordsjælland	1-1	Juventus	05/12	Shakhtar	0-1	Juventus		
23/10	Shakhtar	2-1	Chelsea	05/12	Chelsea	6-1	Nordsjælland		
GROUP F									
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
FC Bayern München	6	4	1	1	15	7	13		
Valencia CF	6	4	1	1	12	5	13		
FC BATE Borisov	6	2	0	4	9	15	6		
LOSC Lille	6	1	0	5	4	13	3		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
19/09	LOSC	1-3	BATE	07/11	Valencia	4-2	BATE		
19/09	Bayern	2-1	Valencia	07/11	Bayern	6-1	LOSC		
02/10	Valencia	2-0	LOSC	20/11	BATE	0-2	LOSC		
02/10	BATE	3-1	Bayern	20/11	Valencia	1-1	Bayern		
23/10	BATE	0-3	Valencia	05/12	LOSC	0-1	Valencia		
23/10	LOSC	0-1	Bayern	05/12	Bayern	4-1	BATE		

ROUND OF 16									
Borussia Dortmund	5-2	FC Shakhtar Donetsk							
First leg 2-2	(agg)	Second leg 3-0							
Málaga CF	2-1	FC Porto							
First leg 0-1	(agg)	Second leg 2-0							
FC Schalke 04	3-4	Galatasaray AŞ							
First leg 1-1	(agg)	Second leg 2-3							
Manchester United FC	2-3	Real Madrid CF							
First leg 1-1	(agg)	Second leg 1-2							
FC Barcelona	4-2	AC Milan							
First leg 0-2	(agg)	Second leg 4-0							
Paris Saint-Germain FC	3-2	Valencia CF							
First leg 2-1	(agg)	Second leg 1-1							
Juventus	5-0	Celtic FC							
First leg 3-0	(agg)	Second leg 2-0							
FC Bayern München (away goals)	3-3	Arsenal FC							
First leg 3-1	(agg)	Second leg 0-2							

PLAY-OFF CHAMPIONS PATH (Aggregate scores played over two legs)									
H. Kiryat Shmona	1	CFR Cluj	3	Celtic	4	Anderlecht	3	Maribor	1
BATE	3	Basel	1	Helsingborg	0	AEL	2	Dinamo Zagreb	3

GROUP STAGE									
GROUP C									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Málaga CF	6	3	3	0	12	5	12		
AC Milan	6	2	2	2	7	6	8		
FC Zenit St Petersburg	6	2	1	3	6	9	7		
RSC Anderlecht	6	1	2	3	4	9	5		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
18/09	Málaga	3-0	Zenit	06/11	Anderlecht	1-0	Zenit		
18/09	Milan	0-0	Anderlecht	06/11	Milan	1-1	Málaga		
03/10	Zenit	2-3	Milan	21/11	Zenit	2-2	Málaga		
03/10	Anderlecht	0-3	Málaga	21/11	Anderlecht	1-3	Milan		
24/10	Zenit	1-0	Anderlecht	04/12	Málaga	2-2	Anderlecht		
24/10	Málaga	1-0	Milan	04/12	Milan	0-1	Zenit		
GROUP D									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Borussia Dortmund	6	4	2	0	11	5	14		
Real Madrid CF	6	3	2	1	15	9	11		
AFC Ajax	6	1	1	4	8	16	4		
Manchester City FC	6	0	3	3	7	11	3		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
18/09	Dortmund	1-0	Ajax	06/11	Man. City	2-2	Ajax		
18/09	Real Madrid	3-2	Man. City	06/11	Real Madrid	2-2	Dortmund		
03/10	Man. City	1-1	Dortmund	21/11	Ajax	1-4	Dortmund		
03/10	Ajax	1-4	Real Madrid	21/11	Man. City	1-1	Real Madrid		
24/10	Ajax	3-1	Man. City	04/12	Dortmund	1-0	Man. City		
24/10	Dortmund	2-1	Real Madrid	04/12	Real Madrid	4-1	Ajax		
GROUP E									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
FC Barcelona	6	4	1	1	11	5	13		
Celtic FC	6	3	1	2	9	8	10		
SL Benfica	6	2	2	2	5	5	8		
FC Spartak Moskva	6	1	0	5	7	14	3		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
19/09	Barcelona	3-2	Spartak	07/11	Benfica	2-0	Spartak		
19/09	Celtic	0-0	Benfica	07/11	Celtic	2-1	Barcelona		
02/10	Spartak	2-3	Celtic	20/11	Spartak	0-3	Barcelona		
02/10	Benfica	0-2	Barcelona	20/11	Benfica	2-1	Celtic		
23/10	Spartak	2-1	Benfica	05/12	Barcelona	0-0	Benfica		
23/10	Barcelona	2-1	Celtic	05/12	Celtic	2-1	Spartak		
GROUP F									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Manchester United FC	6	4	0	2	9	6	12		
Galatasaray AŞ	6	3	1	2	7	6	10		
CFR 1907 Cluj	6	3	1	2	9	7	10		
SC Braga	6	1	0	5	7	13	3		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
19/09	Man. United	1-0	Galatasaray	07/11	CFR Cluj	1-3	Galatasaray		
19/09	Braga	0-2	CFR Cluj	07/11	Braga	1-3	Man. United		
02/10	CFR Cluj	1-2	Man. United	20/11	Galatasaray	1-0	Man. United		
02/10	Galatasaray	0-2	Braga	20/11	CFR Cluj	3-1	Braga		
23/10	Galatasaray	1-1	CFR Cluj	05/12	Man. United	0-1	CFR Cluj		
23/10	Man. United	3-2	Braga	05/12	Braga	1-2	Galatasaray		
GROUP G									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
FC Barcelona	6	4	1	1	11	5	13		
Celtic FC	6	3	1	2	9	8	10		
SL Benfica	6	2	2	2	5	5	8		
FC Spartak Moskva	6	1	0	5	7	14	3		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
19/09	Barcelona	3-2	Spartak	07/11	Benfica	2-0	Spartak		
19/09	Celtic	0-0	Benfica	07/11	Celtic	2-1	Barcelona		
02/10	Spartak	2-3	Celtic	20/11	Spartak	0-3	Barcelona		
02/10	Benfica	0-2	Barcelona	20/11	Benfica	2-1	Celtic		
23/10	Spartak	2-1	Benfica	05/12	Barcelona	0-0	Benfica		
23/10	Barcelona	2-1	Celtic	05/12	Celtic	2-1	Spartak		
GROUP H									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Manchester United FC	6	4	0	2	9	6	12		
Galatasaray AŞ	6	3	1	2	7	6	10		
CFR 1907 Cluj	6	3	1	2	9	7	10		
SC Braga	6	1	0	5	7	13	3		
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away		
19/09	Man. United	1-0	Galatasaray	07/11	CFR Cluj	1-3	Galatasaray		
19/09	Braga	0-2	CFR Cluj	07/11	Braga	1-3	Man. United		
02/10	CFR Cluj	1-2	Man. United	20/11	Galatasaray	1-0	Man. United		
02/10	Galatasaray	0-2	Braga	20/11	CFR Cluj	3-1	Braga		
23/10	Galatasaray	1-1	CFR Cluj	05/12	Man. United	0-1	CFR Cluj		
23/10	Man. United	3-2	Braga	05/12	Braga	1-2	Galatasaray		

ARSENAL FC

England



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

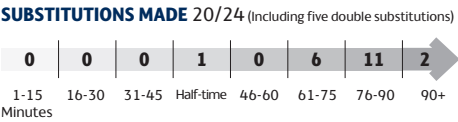
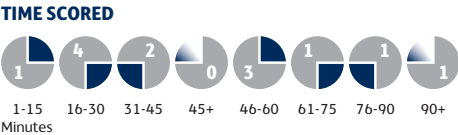
No	Player	Goals	MH (a)	OLY (h)	SCH (h)	SCH (a)	MH (h)	OLY (a)	BAY (h)	BAY (a)
Goalkeepers										
1	Wojciech Szczęsny		I	I	I	I	90	90	90	
21	Łukasz Fabiański									90
24	Vito Mannone	90	90	90	90					
60	James Shea									
Defenders										
3	Bacary Sagna					90	90	I	90	
4	Per Mertesacker	90			90	90	90		90	90
5	Thomas Vermaelen	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
6	Laurent Koscielny	1		90	I	90	90	I	90	90
11	André Santos				90	1↑	I			
18	Sébastien Squillaci							90		
25	Carl Jenkinson	90	90	83↓				90		90
28	Kieran Gibbs	90	90	I	I					90
38	Martin Angha							7↑		
Midfielders										
2	Abou Diaby	90	I	I	I	I	I	I		
7	Tomáš Rosický	1				I	I	45↓	19↑	90
8	Mikel Arteta				90	90	90		90	90
10	Jack Wilshere	1	I	I	I	90	90		90	I
15	Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain			71↓	I	I	70↓	90		18↑
16	Aaron Ramsey	1	14↑	10↑	90	I	20↑	90	71↓	72↓
19	Santi Cazorla		90↓	90	90	90↓	84↓		90	90
22	Francis Coquelin		1↑	90	90	1↑	6↑	90		
47	Serge Gnabry				7↑					
53	Jernade Meade							83↓		
Forwards										
9	Lukas Podolski	4	90↓	80↓	83↓	90↓	90		72↓	
12	Olivier Giroud	2	76↓	10↑	14↑	90	85↓		18↑	90
14	Theo Walcott	1	1↑	19↑	I	90			90	72↓
23	Andrey Arshavin				7↑			45↑		
27	Gervinho	2	90	80↓	76↓	I	5↑	90		18↑
29	Marouane Chamakh							90		

Bold = Started on the bench; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; S = Suspended; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away

KEY FEATURES

- 4-2-3-1, usually with wingers
 - Preference for short-passing possession play
 - Looked for through pass to exploit pace of attackers
 - Low crosses or cutbacks rather than high crosses
- Conservative centre-backs feeding deep-lying midfielder Arteta
 - Fluent positional interchanging in midfield
 - Wilshere the positive-passing playmaker
- Excellent spirit and work ethic
 - Good delivery of set plays, notably Wilshere, Walcott
 - Rapid transition from attack to defence

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
63 (43 on target) = 7.9 (5.4) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 51%
Max: 60% v Olympiacos (h)
Min: 43% v Schalke (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 559
Max: 678 v Bayern (h)
Min: 456 v Bayern (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 112,218 metres
Max: 116,145 v Schalke (a)
Min: 102,649 v Olympiacos (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 73%
Max: 80% v Olympiacos (h)
Min: 65% v Schalke (a), Bayern (a)



TEAM SHAPE V BAYERN (H)



COACH

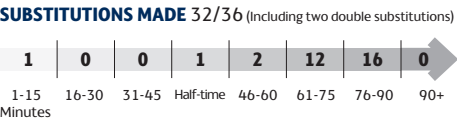
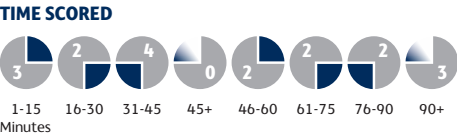
Arsène Wenger
Born: 22/10/1949, Strasbourg (FRA)
Nationality: French
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 152
Head coach from: 28/09/1996

FC BARCELONA

Spain



STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
175 (102 on target) = 14.6 (8.5) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 66%
Max: 75% v Celtic (a)
Min: 56% v Bayern (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 783
Max: 999 v Celtic (a)
Min: 580 v PSG (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 110,113 metres
Max: 116,235 v Spartak (a)
Min: 104,484 v Spartak (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 83%
Max: 89% v Celtic (h)
Min: 77% v Benfica (h)



TEAM SHAPE V MILAN (H)



COACH

Tito Vilanova
Born: 17/09/1968, Bellcaire d'Empordà (ESP)
Nationality: Spanish
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 12
Head coach from: 15/06/2012
Vilanova was replaced on the bench by assistant coach Jordi Roura on matchdays seven and eight because of health reasons.

SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	SPM (h)	SLB (a)	CEL (h)	CEL (a)	SPM (a)	SLB (h)	ACM (a)	ACM (h)	PSG (a)	PSG (h)	BAY (a)	BAY (h)
Goalkeepers														
1	Víctor Valdés		90	90	90	90	90		90	90	90	90	90	90
13	José Manuel Pinto							90						
31	Oier Olazábal													
Defenders														
2	Daniel Alves	1	64↓	90		90	90	I	90	90	90	90	90	90
3	Gerard Piqué		12↓	I	I	18↑	90	24↑	90	90	90	90	90	90
5	Carles Puyol		I	78↓	I	I		90	88↓	13↑	I	I	I	
14	Javier Mascherano		90	90	90	90	90		2↑	77↓	84↓	I	I	
15	Marc Bartra				90	72↓	I			6↑	28↑	90	87↓	
18	Jordi Alba	2	I	90	90	90	87↓		90	90	90	90	90	
19	Martín Montoya						3↑	90						3↑
21	Adriano		90	I	90	I	I	66↓		6↑	I	62↓		90
22	Éric Abidal		I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I				
29	Carles Planas							90						
Midfielders														
4	Cesc Fàbregas	1	90	72↓		19↑	90		62↓		45↑	62↓		90
6	Xavi Hernández	1	90	90	90	90	81↓		90	90	90	90	90	55↓
8	Andrés Iniesta	1	I	18↑	90	90	90		90	90	90	90	90	64↓
11	Thiago Alcántara			I	I	I	I	90						26↑
16	Sergio Busquets		90	88so	S	S	90		90	90	90	90	90	
25	Alex Song¹		78↑	12↑	90	71↓	9↑	90				6↑		90
28	Sergi Roberto							90	I	I	I	I		
30	Rafinha							58↓						
Forwards														
7	David Villa	1	16↑	8↑	10↑	25↑		90		75↓	81↓	84↓	7↑	90
9	Alexis Sánchez	1	26↑	90	80↓	65↓	I	I	28↑	15↑	90		90	35↑
10	Lionel Messi	8	90	90	90	90	90	32↑	90	90	45↓	28↑	90	
17	Pedro Rodríguez	1	90	82↓	76↓	90	85↓		90	84↓	S	90	83↓	90
27	Gerard Deulofeu						5↑	12↑						
37	Cristian Tello	1	74↓		14↑			78↓			9↑			

Bold = Started on the bench; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; S = Suspended; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
¹ = Central defender on matchdays one and two

KEY FEATURES

- 4-3-3 with single midfield screen (usually Busquets)
 - Striker-less formation with only occasional use of Villa as target
 - Possession-based game with elaborate inter-passing
 - Exceptional control, short combinations in opponents' box
- Xavi the fulcrum, distributing and dictating tempo
 - Constant high pressing in response to loss of ball
 - Full-backs key attacking elements; powerful runs and cutbacks
- Iniesta the complete middle-to-front link; outstanding solo skills
 - Messi: speed off mark, unique dribbling skills, vision and finishing
 - Great collective spirit based on established playing philosophy

FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN

Germany



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

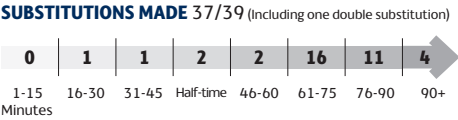
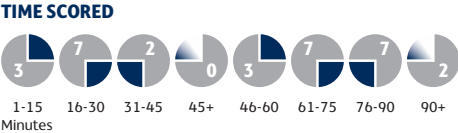
No	Player	Goals	VAL	BTE	LIL	LIL	VAL	BTE	ARS	ARS	JUV	JUV	BAR	BAR	BVB
			(h)	(a)	(a)	(h)	(a)	(h)	(a)	(h)	(h)	(a)	(h)	(a)	(final)
Goalkeepers															
1	Manuel Neuer		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
22	Tom Starke														
Defenders															
4	Dante		90	90	90	90	36↑	90	90	90	90	90			90
5	Daniel Van Buyten							90	90	90	90	35↓		90	
13	Rafinha						90							13↑	
17	Jérôme Boateng		90	90	90	90	51so	S	S		55↑	90	90	90	90
21	Philipp Lahm		90	90	90	90		90	90	90	90	90	77↓	90	
26	Diego Contento		I	I	I		90								
27	David Alaba¹	2	I	I	6↑	90	90	26↑	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
28	Holger Badstuber		90	77↓	90		90	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Midfielders															
7	Franck Ribéry	1	45↓	90	45↓	72↓	79↓	18↑	63↓		90↓	80↓	89↓	90	90↓
8	Javi Martínez		69↓	58↓	90	90	90		90	90	S	90	74↓	90	
10	Arjen Robben	4	90		I	90	I	27↑	90	74↑	90	90	90	90	90
11	Xherdan Shaqiri	1		32↑	45↑	18↑	24↑	90			1↑		1↑		
25	Thomas Müller	8	45↑	90	84↓	61↓	90	54↓	90	90	90	90	83↓	90	90
30	Luiz Gustavo		21↑	90	9↑		I	I	17↑	90	90	10↑	19↑	24↑	1↑
31	Bastian Schweinsteiger	2	90	13↑	90	67↓	90	72↓	90	S	90	90	90	66↓	90
39	Toni Kroos	3	90	90	81↓	29↑	66↓	64↓	73↓	81↓	16↓	I	I	I	I
44	Anatoliy Tymoshchuk			90		23↑	90			9↑				16↑	
Forwards															
9	Mario Mandžukić	3	27↑	75↓	90	I	24↑		78↓	73↓	90↓	83↓		90	90↓
14	Claudio Pizarro	4	63↓	15↑		90	66↓	I				7↑	7↑		
33	Mario Gomez	2	I		I	I	11↑	90	12↑	17↑	1↑		71↓		1↑

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
¹ Played in midfield on matchdays three and six; Own goal by Gerard Piqué v Barcelona (a)

KEY FEATURES

- 4-2-3-1 with outstanding wingers, Robben and Ribéry
 - Technique, athletic prowess, mobility, hard work, team ethic
 - Constructive build-up from back, through midfield
 - Excellent balance Martínez/Schweinsteiger as twin midfield screen
- Optimal use of wide areas with full-backs (Lahm, Alaba) overlapping
 - Dangerous long-range shooting; good at finding players in space
 - Striker Mandžukić a mobile, willing runner to stretch defences
- Counterattacks a weapon in the armoury, especially when ahead
 - Wingers ready to work hard to get back and support full-backs
 - Rapid attack-to-defence transitions with two or three crowding ball-carrier

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS

203 (114 on target) = 15.6 (8.8) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 54%
Max: 63% v Valencia (a)
Min: 37% v Barcelona (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 584
Max: 726 v BATE (h)
Min: 395 v Barcelona (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,527 metres
Max: 121,115 v Arsenal (a)
Min: 111,209 v BATE (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 75%
Max: 82% v BATE (h)
Min: 67% v Lille (a)



TEAM SHAPE V DORTMUND (FINAL)



COACH

Jupp Heynckes
Born: 09/05/1945, Mönchengladbach (GER)
Nationality: German
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 37
Head coach from: 01/07/2011

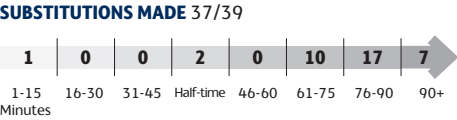
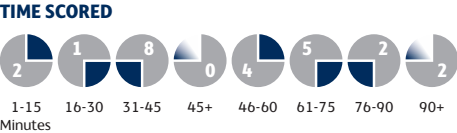


BORUSSIA DORTMUND

Germany



STATISTICS



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	AJX	MC	RM	RM	AJX	MC	SHK	SHK	MAL	MAL	RM	RM	BAY
			(h)	(a)	(h)	(a)	(a)	(h)	(a)	(h)	(a)	(h)	(h)	(a)	(final)
Goalkeepers															
1	Roman Weidenfeller		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
20	Mitchell Langerak														
Defenders															
4	Neven Subotić		90	90	90	90	90	I	I	90	90	90	90	90	90
15	Mats Hummels	1	90	74↓	90	90	90	90			I	4↑	90	90	90
21	Oliver Kirch							88↓			1↑				
26	Łukasz Piszczek		90	90	90	90	90		90	90	90	90	83↓	90	90
27	Felipe Santana	2		16↑				90	90	90	90	90		1↑	
29	Marcel Schmelzer	1	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Midfielders															
5	Sebastian Kehl		90	2↑	90	90	I	I	90	45↑	80↓		8↑	3↑	
6	Sven Bender			90	67↓	16↑	63↓	I	90	45↓	10↑	73↓	90	90↓	90↓
7	Moritz Leitner		1↑			1↑		90	10↑						
8	İlkay Gündoğan	1	89↓	82↓	23↑	80↓	90	90	I	82↓	90	86↓	90↓	90	90
16	Jakub Błaszczykowski	1	73↓	90			20↑	45↑	80↓	70↓	I	72↓	82↓	90	90↓
18	Nuri Şahin									8↑		17↑			1↑
19	Kevin Grosskreutz			8↑	90	90	90	90	I	20↑	90		7↑	76↑	90
32	Leonardo Bittencourt								2↑						
44	Ivan Perišić		17↑		1↑	10↑	27↑	90							
Forwards															
9	Robert Lewandowski	10	90	90	90	90	90	13↑	90	90	90	90	90	87↓	90
10	Mario Götze	2	88↓	88↓	87↓	90↓	70↓		90	90	90↓	90	90	14↓	
11	Marco Reus	4	90	90	90↓	74↓	79↓	45↓	90↓	90	69↓	90	90	90	90
23	Julian Schieber	1	2↑		3↑		11↑	77↓	1↑		21↑	18↑	1↑		1↑

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
Own goal by Álvaro Arbeloa v Madrid (matchday four away)

KEY FEATURES

- 4-2-3-1 with Bender, Gündoğan complementary as midfield screens
 - Attacking vocation based on powerful, direct running
 - Lewandowski the cutting edge; pace, off-ball movement, finishing
 - Athletic, incisive support from Götze, Reus, Błaszczykowski
- Rapid defence-to-attack transitions; three or four-man counters
 - Compact block; ball-winning in midfield; occasional high pressing
 - Good use of wings; wingers cutting in; full-backs breaking forward
- Effective changes of pace and direction in attacking moves
 - Dangerous set plays based on exploiting aerial strength
 - Strong work and team ethics, self-belief and resilience

COACH

Jürgen Klopp
Born: 16/06/1967, Stuttgart (GER)
Nationality: German
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 19
Head coach from: 01/07/2008





SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

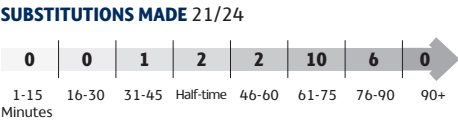
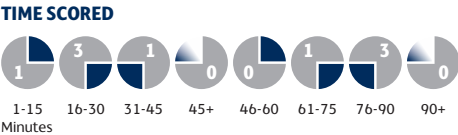
No	Player	Goals	SLB (h)	SPM (a)	BAR (a)	BAR (h)	SLB (a)	SPM (h)	JUV (h)	JUV (a)
Goalkeepers										
1	Fraser Forster		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
24	Łukasz Zającka									
Defenders										
2	Adam Matthews		90	I	I	90	90	19↑	31↑	52↓
3	Emilio Izaguirre		66↓	90	90	I	I	90	90	90
4	Efe Ambrose			90	90	90	90	90	90	45↑
6	Kelvin Wilson		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
23	Mikael Lustig		63↓	90	90	72↓	90	71↓	59↓	
25	Thomas Rogne		27↑			I	I			
Midfielders										
8	Scott Brown		90	90	63↓		64↓	85↓	80↓	
15	Kris Commons	1	90	90	27↑	90	26↑	90	73↓	73↓
16	Joe Ledley		I	10↑	90	90	80↓	5↑		90
21	Charlie Mulgrew		90	80↓	76↓	90	45↓	90	90	90
33	Beram Kayal		I		14↑	11↑	45↑	73↓	10↑	90
67	Victor Wanyama	1	90	70↓	90	90	90	S	90	45↓
Forwards										
7	Miku		90			90				
9	Giorgos Samaras	3	I	90	43↓	79↓	90	90	I	90
11	Lassad Nouioui			I	I	I		17↑		17↑
32	Tony Watt	1				18↑	10↑		17↑	
49	James Forrest		90	20↑	47↑	I	I	I	90	38↑
88	Gary Hooper	2	24↑	90	90	I	90	90	90	90

Bold = Started on the bench; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; S = Suspended; I = Injured/Ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away
Own goal by Dmitri Kombarov v Spartak (a)

KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 4-4-2; switch to 4-3-2-1 v Juventus
 - In group phase, emphasis on deep defence; two compact lines of four
 - Against three-man Juventus defence, switch to aggressive high pressing
- Physically strong team; unflagging work-rate; high intensity
 - Emphasis on direct attacking and counters; Samaras the main link
 - Positional interchanges in front line; strikers good at retaining ball
 - Good use of wide areas; crosses driven hard from the wings
- Dangerous set plays; corners left-footed by Commons on both wings
 - Competent possession play but comfortable without the ball
 - Strong team ethic; commitment to the cause

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
75 (44 on target) = 9.4 (5.5) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 42%
Max: 56% v Juventus (a)
Min: 25% v Barcelona (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 429
Max: 650 v Juventus (a)
Min: 303 v Barcelona (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 110,835 metres
Max: 114,560 v Spartak (h)
Min: 107,095 v Barcelona (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 60%
Max: 75% v Juventus (a)
Min: 44% v Barcelona (h)



Figures exclude matchday five when there was no data from first half v Benfica

TEAM SHAPE V JUVENTUS (H)

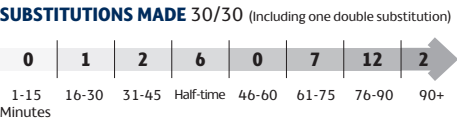
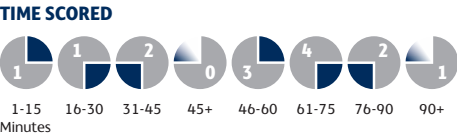


COACH

Neil Lennon
Born: 25/06/1971, Lurgan (NIR)
Nationality: Northern Irish
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 8
Head coach from: 09/06/2010 (Interim from 25/03/2010)



STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
138 (71 on target) = 13.8 (7.1) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 54%
Max: 63% v CFR (a)
Min: 47% v Braga (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 528
Max: 628 v CFR (a)
Min: 417 v Schalke (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 107,834 metres
Max: 115,089 v Manchester United (a)
Min: 99,326 v CFR (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 71%
Max: 77% v Braga (h)
Min: 60% v CFR (h)



Decimal points account for the extra 1%

TEAM SHAPE V SCHALKE (H)



COACH

Fatih Terim
Born: 04/09/1953, Adana (TUR)
Nationality: Turkish
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 40
Head coach from: 07/01/2012



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	MU (a)	SCB (h)	CFR (h)	CFR (a)	MU (h)	SCB (a)	SCH (h)	SCH (a)	RM (a)	RM (h)
Goalkeepers												
25	Fernando Muslera		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
67	Eray İşcan											
86	Ufuk Ceylan											
Defenders												
3	Cris				90							
5	Gökhan Zan								11↑	45↑	90	
11	Albert Riera			90	90	90	90	90	90	83↓	90	
13	Dany Nounkeu		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	S	
22	Hakan Balta		90									
26	Semih Kaya		90	90	90	1↑	90	90	90	79↓	90	90
27	Emmanuel Eboué	1	90	90	68↓	90	90	90	24↑	90	90	80↓
55	Sabri Sarıoğlu				22↑	1↑			83↓			27↑
Midfielders												
4	Hamit Altıntop	1	90	I	39↓	90↓	90	45↓	66↓	90	78↓	45↓
7	Aydın Yılmaz	1	11↑	45↑			I	45↑			I	
8	Selçuk İnan		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
10	Felipe Melo		79↓	76↓	90	S	90	90	90	90	90	90
14	Wesley Sneijder	1							45↓	70↓	45↓	90
35	Yekta Kurtuluş			12↑		89↓						
50	Engin Baytar						27↑				I	I
52	Emre Çolak		27↑	78↓	48↑	90	9↑	69↓				
53	Nordin Amrabat		63↓	45↓	90	14↑	81↓	45↑	45↑	20↑	7↑	45↑
Forwards												
9	Johan Elmander		74↑	14↑	42↓	I	63↓	45↓				10↑
12	Didier Drogba	1							90	90	90	90
17	Burak Yılmaz	8	90	90	51↑	90	90↓	90	90	86↓	90	S
19	Umut Bulut	1	16↓	90	90	76↓	1↑	21↑	7↑	4↑	12↑	63↓

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/Ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away

KEY FEATURES

- 4-4-2; occasional switches to 3-5-2 when behind
 - Direct play from keeper/defence to Drogba
 - Drogba a key presence; holding ball, flick-ons, back to goal
 - Sneijder the cutting edge of midfield diamond in KO rounds
- Melo the deeper of two midfield screening players
 - Selçuk İnan more adventurous; intelligent movement, incisive passing
 - Width provided by full-backs, especially Eboué on right
- Quick transition to defensive block with seven/eight behind ball
 - Movements around ball-carrier offered good options for short-passing moves
 - Excellent team spirit, resilience in adverse situations

JUVENTUS

Italy



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

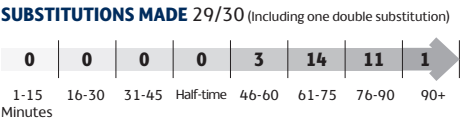
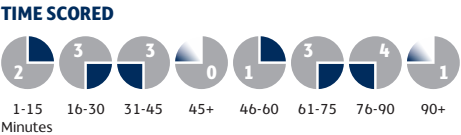
No	Player	Goals	CHL (a)	SHK (h)	FCN (a)	FCN (h)	CHL (h)	SHK (a)	CEL (a)	CEL (h)	BAY (a)	BAY (h)
Goalkeepers												
1	Gianluigi Buffon		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
30	Marco Storari											
Defenders												
2	Lúcio				76↓	21↑	I	I				
3	Giorgio Chiellini		90	90	90	69↓	90	90	S		90	90
4	Martín Cáceres						22↑		90		I	I
11	Paolo De Ceglie				90							
13	Federico Peluso							69↓	59↓	75↓		
15	Andrea Barzagli		90	90		90	90	90	90	90	90	90
19	Leonardo Bonucci	1	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
26	Stephan Lichtsteiner		77↓	90	I	I	68↓	90		90	S	
39	Luca Marrone									90		
Midfielders												
6	Paul Pogba			5↑		37↑	1↑	90	9↑	90	15↑	90
8	Claudio Marchisio	2	90	90	90	90	90	S	90		90	79↓
20	Simone Padoin								21↑	90		69↓
21	Andrea Pirlo		90	90	90	90	90	90	69↓	90	90	90
22	Kwadwo Asamoah		90	90	I	90	90	90	31↑			90
23	Arturo Vidal	3	90	85↓	83↓	53↓	90	90	67↓	90	S	
24	Emanuele Giaccherini				7↑			1↑	21↑		11↑	
33	Mauricio Isla		13↑		90	90			23↑		21↑	
Forwards												
9	Mirko Vučinić	2	88↓	58↓	23↑	I	83↓	88↓	86↓		25↑	90
12	Sebastian Giovinco	2	75↓	32↑	90	61↓	7↑	90↓			25↑	I
17	Nicklas Bendtner				14↑						I	I
18	Nicolas Anelka							4↑				I
27	Fabio Quagliarella	4	15↑	25↑		29↑	89↓			90	65↓	66↓
32	Alessandro Matri	2	2↑	65↓	67↓	90		2↑	81↓	90	65↓	24↑

Bold = Started on the bench; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; S = Suspended; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away
Own goal by Olexandr Kucher v Shakhtar (a)

KEY FEATURES

- 3-5-2 with wing-backs supporting in 5-3-2 defending
 - Three centre-backs close together; good teamwork, aerial power
 - Pirlo the architect, building play in front of back three
 - Quick defence-to-attack transitions; Pirlo launching long passes
- Extremely hard-working central midfield trio, notably Vidal
 - Buffon an influential presence in goal; preferred short distribution
 - Mobility, technique, short combinations in attack, notably Vučinić
- Aggressive man-to-man marking when defending set plays
 - Dangerous set plays in attack; Pirlo the deliverer
 - Experience, composure on ball, strong team ethic

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
152 (79 on target) = 15.2 (7.9) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 48%
Max: 53% v Nordsjælland (h)
Min: 43% v Shakhtar (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 516
Max: 662 v Nordsjælland (h)
Min: 427 v Nordsjælland (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 119,776 metres
Max: 124,239 v Shakhtar (a)
Min: 113,977 v Celtic (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 71%
Max: 78% v Nordsjælland (h)
Min: 65% v Bayern (a)



Decimal points account for the extra 1%

TEAM SHAPE V BAYERN (A)



COACH

Antonio Conte

Born: 31/07/1969, Lecce (ITA)
Nationality: Italian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 10
Head coach from: 22/05/2011

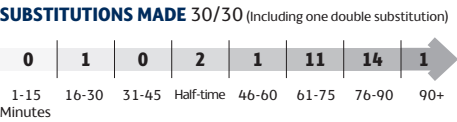
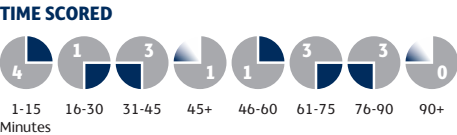


MÁLAGA CF

Spain



STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
96 (58 on target) = 9.6 (5.8) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 46%
Max: 54% v Milan (h)
Min: 38% v Porto (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 481
Max: 602 v Dortmund (h)
Min: 344 v Zenit (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 109,376 metres
Max: 111,649 v Zenit (h)
Min: 106,274 v Porto (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 64%
Max: 72% v Milan (h)
Min: 53% v Porto (a)



TEAM SHAPE V PORTO (H)



COACH

Manuel Pellegrini

Born: 16/09/1953, Santiago (CHI)
Nationality: Chilean
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 40
Head coach from: 05/11/2010



MANCHESTER UNITED FC

England



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

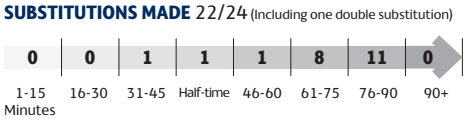
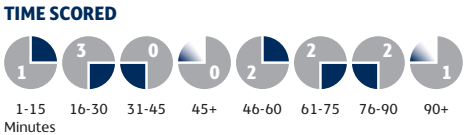
No	Player	Goals	GAL (h)	CFR (a)	SCB (h)	SCB (a)	GAL (a)	CFR (h)	RM (a)	RM (h)
Goalkeepers										
1	David de Gea		90	90	90	90		90	90	90
13	Anders Lindegaard						90			
50	Sam Johnstone									
Defenders										
2	Rafael		90	90	90	17↑	90	I	90	87↓
3	Patrice Evra		90	90		90			90	90
4	Phil Jones		I	I	I	I	90	90	90	
5	Rio Ferdinand			90		33↑			90	90
6	Jonny Evans¹	1	90	79↓	90	57↓			90	
12	Chris Smalling		I	I	I	90		90		
15	Nemanja Vidić		90	I	I	I	I	I		90
28	Alexander Büttner				90		90	90		
31	Scott Wootton			11↑				90		
Midfielders										
7	Antonio Valencia²		90	I	I	90		I	17↑	3↑
8	Anderson			90		90	74↓		6↑	
11	Ryan Giggs			I	11↑	90		86↓	26↑	90
16	Michael Carrick³	1	90	I	90		90		90	90
17	Nani		90		45↑	73↓		I		56so
18	Ashley Young		I	I		16↑				9↑
22	Paul Scholes		79↓				46↑	I		
23	Tom Cleverley			90	90		90	44↓		73↓
24	Darren Fletcher		11↑	90	90		90	4↑	I	I
25	Nick Powell					74↓	73↓			
26	Shinji Kagawa		84↓		45↓	I	I	I	64↓	
Forwards										
10	Wayne Rooney	1	I	90	90	90		90	84↓	17↑
14	Javier Hernández	3	9↑	83↓	79↓	90	90	90		
19	Danny Welbeck	1	6↑	7↑		64↓	85↓	90	73↓	81↓
20	Robin van Persie	3	81↓	90	90	26↑		90	90	90
27	Federico Macheda					16↑		17↑		
41	Joshua King					5↑				

Bold = Started on the bench; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; S = Suspended; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
Own goal by Sergio Ramos v Madrid (h)
¹ Screening midfielder away to Madrid; ² Started as right-back away to Braga; ³ Central defender on matchdays three and five

KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 4-4-2 with, generally, one midfield screen
 - Passing game; quick combinations through midfield
 - Attacking mind-set; always looking for defence-splitting pass
 - Adventurous full-backs providing good supply from wings
- Defensively disciplined; players quick to get behind the ball
 - Dangerous set plays: Vidić, especially, an aerial threat
 - Back four holding a deep line; hardworking midfield
- Looked for quick counters; direct to Van Persie, Rooney, Welbeck
 - Tactical flexibility (e.g. 4-2-3-1 in Madrid)
 - Winning mentality; competitive and resilient

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
116 (71 on target) = 14.5 (8.9) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 54%
Max: 68% v CFR (a)
Min: 45% v Madrid (a)*

PASSES ATTEMPTED 554
Max: 796 v CFR (a)
Min: 386 v Madrid (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 109,634 metres*
Max: 114,844 v Braga (h)
Min: 105,489 v CFR (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 73%
Max: 84% v CFR (a)
Min: 58% v Madrid (h)

* excluding 39%/109,215 metres v Madrid (h) when playing 34 mins with 10



TEAM SHAPE V MADRID (H)



COACH

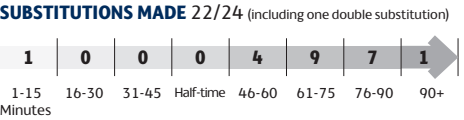
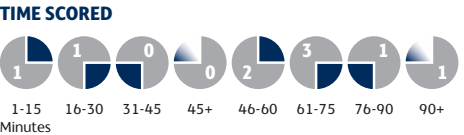
Sir Alex Ferguson
Born: 31/12/1941, Glasgow (SCO)
Nationality: Scottish
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 190
Head coach from: 07/11/1986

AC MILAN

Italy



STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
101 (55 on target) = 12.6 (6.9) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 46%
Max: 57% v Zenit (h)
Min: 34% v Barcelona (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 465
Max: 598 v Zenit (h)
Min: 372 v Anderlecht (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 108,915 metres
Max: 117,102 v Zenit (h)
Min: 101,418 v Anderlecht (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 66%
Max: 74% v Zenit (h)
Min: 58% v Barcelona (h)



TEAM SHAPE V BARCELONA (A)



COACH

Massimiliano Allegri
Born: 11/08/1967, Livorno (ITA)
Nationality: Italian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 26
Head coach from: 25/06/2010

SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	AND (h)	ZEN (a)	MAL (a)	MAL (h)	AND (a)	ZEN (h)	BAR (h)	BAR (a)
Goalkeepers										
1	Marco Amelia				90					
32	Christian Abbiati		90	90		90	90	90	90	90
Defenders										
2	Mattia De Sciglio		90		90	84↑	90	90		
5	Philippe Mexès	1	90		90	90	79↓	S	90	90
13	Francesco Acerbi			I	79↓			90		
15	Djamel Mesbah							65↓		
17	Cristián Zapata			90			11↑	90	90	90
20	Ignazio Abate			90	I	6↓	I	I	90	90
21	Kévin Constant¹		11↑		69↓	90	73↓		90	90
25	Daniele Bonera		74↓	90	90	90	I	I		
76	Mario Yepes		16↑	9↑			90			
77	Luca Antonini		90	90		I	I	I	I	I
Midfielders										
4	Sulley Muntari	1							90	30↑
8	Antonio Nocerino		90	26↑			90			
10	Kevin-Prince Boateng	1	60↓	81↓		28↑	90	90	90	90
12	Bakaye Traoré								2↑	
16	Mathieu Flamini		90					80↓		74↓
18	Riccardo Montolivo		I	90	90	90	90		90	90
23	Massimo Ambrosini				90	90	I	90	90	60↓
28	Urby Emanuelson	1	79↓	64↓	90	80↓	17↑	90		
34	Nigel de Jong		90	90	I	90	90	I	I	I
Forwards										
7	Robinho		I	I	I	10↑		25↑		30↑
9	Pato	2	I	I	21↑	90	23↑	I		
11	Giampaolo Pazzini		90	38↑	90			90	75↓	I
19	M'Baye Niang								15↑	60↓
22	Bojan Krkić			52↓	11↑	90	67↓	90↓		16↑
37	Andrea Petagna							1↑		
92	Stephan El Shaarawy	2	30↑	90	90	62↓	90	10↑	88↓	90

Bold = Started on the bench; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; S = Suspended; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
¹ Midfielder on matchdays one and three; Own goal by Tomáš Hubočan v Zenit (a)

KEY FEATURES

- 4-2-3-1 or 4-3-3 with occasional switches to 4-4-2
 - Compact defensive structure; positional discipline
 - Game based on fast transitions in both directions
 - Subtle attacking combinations (Montolivo, Pazzini...)
- Direct attacks aimed at exploiting pace of El Shaarawy
 - Technical quality the basis of attacking play
 - Boateng providing power and finishing ability in final third
- Great tactical flexibility; extensive rotation of squad
 - Montolivo the distributor; width supplied by the full-backs
 - Deployed single, double or triple screening midfielders

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN FC

France



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

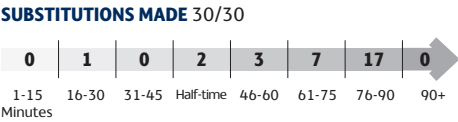
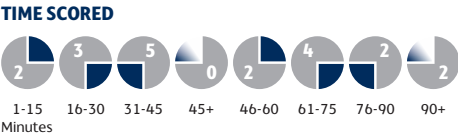
No	Player	Goals	DK (h)	POR (a)	DZ (a)	DZ (h)	DK (a)	POR (h)	VAL (a)	VAL (h)	BAR (h)	BAR (a)
Goalkeepers												
1	Nicolas Douchez											
16	Alphonse Aréola											
30	Salvatore Sirigu		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Defenders												
2	Thiago Silva	2	81↓	90	90	90	90	90	I	90	90	90
3	Mamadou Sakho		I	90	I				90	7↑		
6	Zoumana Camara		9↑		45↑							
13	Alex	2	90		45↓	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
17	Maxwell		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
22	Sylvain Armand						12↑		2↑			
23	Gregory van der Wiel		I	62↓			90	90		63↑		2↑
26	Christophe Jallet		90	28↑	90	90	I	4↑	90	27↓	90	88↓
Midfielders												
4	Mohamed Sissoko				30↑	45↓	68↓					
7	Jérémy Ménez	2	77↓	73↓	77↓	76↓	I	86↓	14↑		24↑	
10	Nenê		13↑	90	I	I	87↓	2↑				
12	Mathieu Bodmer		I		60↓	I	I	I				
14	Blaise Matuidi	2	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	S
20	Clément Chantôme		90	90	I	I	22↑	90	37↑	90		
24	Marco Verratti		90	90	90	45↑	78↓	13↑	90	S	20↑	83↓
25	Adrien Rabiot					90						
27	Javier Pastore	3	90	10↑	90	22↑	3↑	88↓	88↓	90	76↓	90
28	Thiago Motta									58↓	I	90
29	Lucas								53↓	83↓	90	90
32	David Beckham										70↓	7↑
Forwards												
9	Guillaume Hoarau	1			13↑	14↑						
11	Ezequiel Lavezzi	5	17↑	7↑↑	I	68↓	90	77↓	76↓	90	66↓	81↓
18	Zlatan Ibrahimović	3	73↓	90	90	90	90	90	90so	S	90	90
19	Kevin Gameiro									32↑	14↑	9↑

Bold = Started on the bench; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; ↑↓ = replaced after coming on as a substitute; S = Suspended; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off

KEY FEATURES

- 4-4-2 with two screening midfielders
 - Swift transition into compact, eight-man defensive block
 - Excellent defending (positional play, 1v1 abilities, aerial power)
 - Fast collective counters with support from midfielders
- Ibrahimović the attacking beacon; creativity, goals, assists
 - Lavezzi a mobile threat as shadow striker
 - Thiago Silva pillar of defence, organiser, attack-launcher
- Strong athletic qualities; fluency of movement
 - Width provided by full-backs (Jallet, Maxwell)
 - Chances created by individual pace and skill (Lavezzi, Lucas)

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS 124 (76 on target) = 12.4 (7.6) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 47%

Max: 62% v Dinamo Zagreb (h)
Min: 37% v Barcelona (home and away)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 521

Max: 727 v Dinamo Zagreb (a)
Min: 364 v Barcelona (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 108,258 metres

Max: 113,548 v Dinamo Zagreb (a)
Min: 102,677 v Barcelona (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 71%

Max: 78% v Dinamo Zagreb (home and away)
Min: 61% v Valencia (h)



TEAM SHAPE V BARCELONA (H)



COACH

Carlo Ancelotti

Born: 10/06/1959, Reggiolo (ITA)

Nationality: Italian

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 117

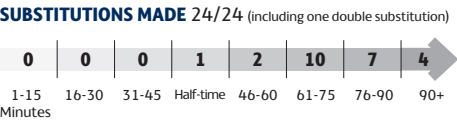
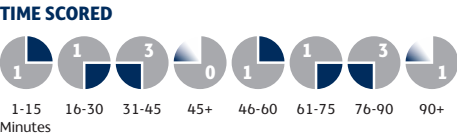
Head coach from: 30/12/2011

FC PORTO

Portugal



STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS 107 (63 on target) = 13.4 (7.9) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 56%

Max: 62% v Málaga (h)
Min: 48% v PSG (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 588

Max: 749 v Dinamo Zagreb (h)
Min: 517 v Dynamo Kyiv (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 112,412 metres

Max: 114,472 v Dynamo Kyiv (a)
Min: 110,136 v PSG (h)*

PASSING ACCURACY 73%

Max: 80% v Dinamo Zagreb (h)
Min: 64% v Málaga (a)

* Excluding 107,386 v Málaga (a) when playing 41 mins with 10.



TEAM SHAPE V MÁLAGA (A)



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	DZ (a)	PSG (h)	DK (h)	DK (a)	DZ (h)	PSG (a)	MAL (h)	MAL (a)
Goalkeepers										
1	Helton		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
24	Fabiano									
Defenders										
2	Danilo			90	90	90	90	90	90	90
4	Maicon		90	90	90	I	I	I		32↑
13	Miguel Lopes		90		1↑					
22	Eliaquim Mangala		2↑	1↑	90	90	90	90	90	90
23	Abdoulaye Ba					90	66↓	4↑		
26	Alex Sandro		90	90	I	I	24↑	86↓	90	70↓
30	Nicolás Otamendi		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Midfielders										
3	Lucho González	2	90	81↓	90	90	75↓	90	90↓	90
6	André Castro					11↑			1↑	
8	João Moutinho	2	90	90	75↓	90	90	90	90	45↓
10	James Rodríguez	1	88↓	90↓	90↓	90↓	90	90	32↑	45↑
15	Marat Izmailov								70↓	
25	Fernando		I	90	90	I	24↑	70↓	90	90
35	Steven Defour	1	90	9↑	15↑	79↓	66↓	20↑		49so
Forwards										
9	Jackson Martínez	3	78↓	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
11	Kléber		12↑			1↑				
17	Silvestre Varela	2	72↓	73↓	64↓	76↓	90	85↓	58↓	58↓
27	Christian Atsu		18↑	17↑	26↑	14↑	15↑	5↑	20↑	20↑

Bold = Started on the bench; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; S = Suspended; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off

KEY FEATURES

- 4-3-3 with two wingers and lone striker
 - Controlled possession game; attacks built on midfield combinations
 - Good balance in midfield with Defour in anchor role
- Moutinho, Lucho the links with attack, bursting into shooting positions
 - Energetic high pressing when ball lost in attacking third
 - Emphasis on creating 1v1 situations on wings
- High levels of technique; able to withstand pressure
 - Quick transitions into well-structured 4-5-1 defensive block
 - Fluent movement, agility, solo skills in attack (e.g. Martínez, Varela)
 - Goalkeeper quick to cover space behind high back line

COACH

Vitor Pereira

Born: 26/07/1968, Espinho (POR)

Nationality: Portuguese

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 14

Head coach from: 21/06/2011

REAL MADRID CF

Spain



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

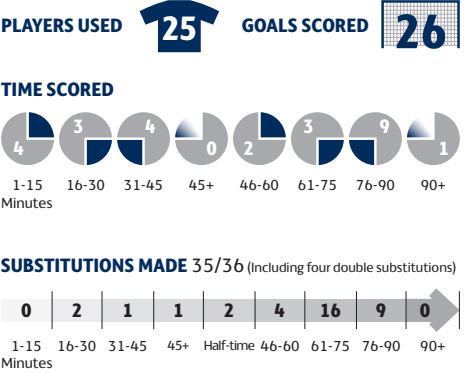
No	Player	Goals	MC	AJX	BVB	BVB	MC	AJX	MU	MU	GAL	GAL	BVB	BVB
			(h)	(a)	(a)	(h)	(a)	(h)	(h)	(a)	(h)	(a)	(a)	(h)
Goalkeepers														
1	Iker Casillas		90	90	90	90	90		I	I	I			
13	Antonio Adán							90						
41	Diego López								90	90	90	90	90	90
Defenders														
2	Raphaël Varane		90		90	90	15↑	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
3	Pepe	1	90	90	90	90	67↑	6↑	19↑	4↑	90	90		
4	Sergio Ramos	1		90	90	90		90	90	90	S	90	90	
5	Fábio Coentrão				I	I	90	23↓	90	90	90	90	90	57↓
11	Ricardo Carvalho							90						
12	Marcelo	1	90	90	I	I	I	I						
17	Álvaro Arbeloa		90	90	I	77↓	73so	S	90	59↓		59↑so	S	
18	Raúl Albiol						3↑						9↑	
24	Nacho								90					
Midfielders														
6	Sami Khedira		73↓	12↑	20↓	I	90	90	90	90	90	90	23↑	
8	Kaká	1		75↓		13↑		72↓		46↑		I	10↑	33↑
10	Mesut Özil	1	25↑	15↑	90	90			90	71↓	80↓	81↓	90	90
14	Xabi Alonso		90	90	90	90		84↓	90	90	S	80↓	67↓	
15	Michael Essien¹		65↓	78↓	90	45↑	I	I			90	31↓	90	
19	Luka Modrić	1	17↑		70↑	45↓	68↓	90	15↑	31↑	10↑	90	68↓	90
21	José Callejón	2		61↓		45↑	22↑	90						
34	Jesé Rodríguez							18↑						
Forwards														
7	Cristiano Ronaldo	12	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
9	Karim Benzema	5	17↑	90	73↓		75↓	80↓	60↓		65↓	17↑	22↑	33↑
20	Gonzalo Higuaín	1	73↓		17↑	45↓	I	I	30↑	90	25↑	73↓	68↓	57↓
22	Ángel Di María		90	29↑	90	90	87↓		75↓	44↓	86↓	90	22↑	90
29	Álvaro Morata													10↑

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
¹Left-back v Dortmund on matchday three; right-back v Galatasaray (h) and Dortmund (semi-final second leg)

KEY FEATURES

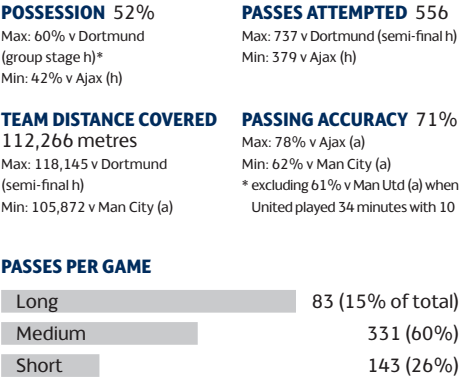
- 4-2-3-1 the default setting; occasional use of 4-3-3, 4-1-4-1
 - Comfortable on ball; calm under pressure at back; good combination play
 - Excellent attacking variations (short passing, diagonals, over the top, crosses...)
- Always dangerous in final third; players running at opponents with ball
 - Quick defence-to-attack transitions, using pace of Ronaldo especially
 - Effective use of width with full-backs ready to support attacks
 - Balanced two-man midfield screen; Alonso the focal point/distributor
- Pace, mobility; strength on bench giving options to change pattern of game
 - Ronaldo a permanent threat; sprints, solo skills, power-finishing, swerving free-kicks
 - Disciplined, committed defending led by Ramos; seven or eight quickly behind ball

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
218 (135 on target) = 18.2 (11.3) per game

AVERAGES:



TEAM SHAPE V DORTMUND (SEMI-FINAL AWAY)



COACH

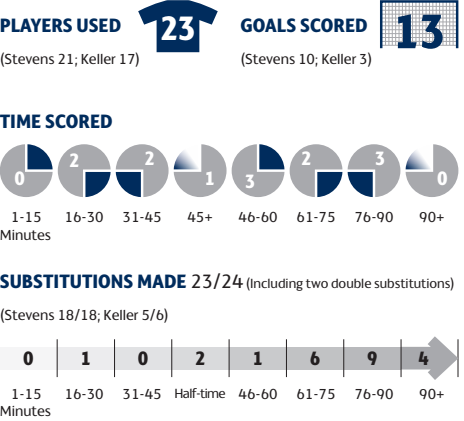
José Mourinho
Born: 26/01/1963, Setúbal (POR)
Nationality: Portuguese
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 107
Head coach from: 31/05/2010

FC SCHALKE 04

Germany

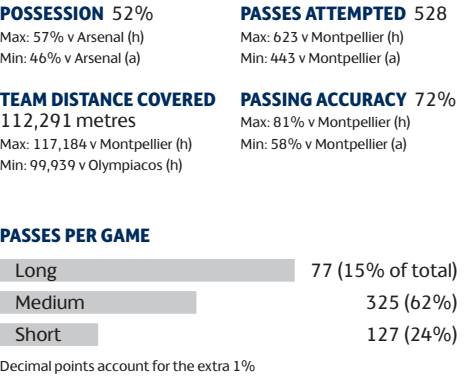


STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
126 (65 on target) = 15.8 (8.1) per game

AVERAGES:



TEAM SHAPE V GALATASARAY (A)



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	OLY	MH	ARS	ARS	OLY	MH	GAL	GAL
			(a)	(h)	(a)	(h)	(h)	(a)	(a)	(h)
Goalkeepers										
1	Ralf Fährmann									
34	Timo Hildebrand							90	90	90
36	Lars Unnerstall		90	90	90	90	90			
Defenders										
4	Benedikt Höwedes	2	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
14	Kyriakos Papadopoulos		90	90	I	24↑	90		I	I
21	Christoph Metzelder		I	I	I	I		90		
22	Atsuto Uchida		I	90	90	25↓	I	90	I	90
23	Christian Fuchs	1	90	90	90	90	90			45↑
32	Joel Matip		90		90	90	90		90	90
35	Sead Kolasinac				90			90	90	90
Midfielders										
9	Michel Bastos	1							90	90
10	Lewis Holtby		90	84↓	65↓	90↓	71↓	90		
11	Ibrahim Afellay	1	11↑	35↑	90	90	I	I	I	I
12	Marco Höger¹		1↑	90	45↓	41↑↑	I	I	90	85↓
13	Jermaine Jones	1	90↓	I	45↑	90	90	18↑	90	S
27	Tranquillo Barnetta		79↓	6↑	25↑	1↑	1↑	72↓	6↑	
29	Max Meyer									5↑
31	Julian Draxler	1	1↑	55↓			89↓	90	84↓	90
33	Roman Neustädter	1	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	45↓
Forwards										
8	Ciprian Marica				2↑		1↑	77↓	I	I
17	Jefferson Farfán	1	90↓	24↑	90	90	90		90	90
19	Chinedu Obasi							6↑		5↑
20	Teemu Pukki			66↓			19↑	84↓	15↑	85↓
25	Klaas-Jan Huntelaar	4	90	90	88↓	90	90↓	13↑	75↓	I

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; ↑↓ = replaced after coming on as a substitute; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away
¹Defender v Galatasaray (a)

KEY FEATURES

- Basically 4-2-3-1 with 4-1-4-1 variations
 - Building with controlled, narrow combinations
 - Attacking width mostly supplied by full-backs
 - Wide midfielders moving inside to create space
- Counterattacks in numbers and at speed
 - Neustädter, Draxler (second striker) the middle-to-front dynamos
 - Huntelaar the target, going long to stretch play
- Preferred high, energetic pressing
 - Compact, narrow back four
 - Dangerous set plays including long throws

COACHES

Huub Stevens
Born: 29/11/1953, Sittard (NED)
Nationality: Dutch
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 18
Head coach from: 27/09/2011 to 16/12/2012

Jens Keller
Born: 24/11/1970, Stuttgart (GER)
Nationality: German
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 2
Head coach from: 16/12/2012

FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK

Ukraine



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

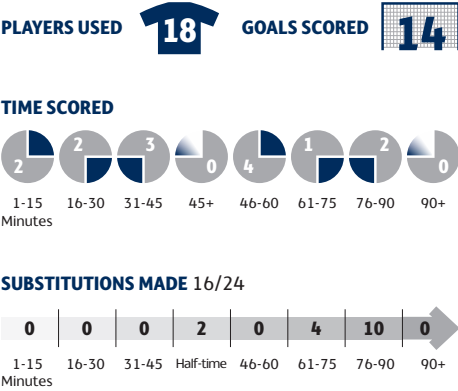
No	Player	Goals	FCN (h)	JUV (a)	CHL (h)	CHL (a)	FCN (a)	JUV (h)	BVB (h)	BVB (a)
Goalkeepers										
30	Andriy Pyatov		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
32	Anton Kanibolotskiy									
Defenders										
5	Olexandr Kucher		90	90	90	90	90	90	S	90
26	Răzvan Raț		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
27	Dmytro Chygrynskiy		I	I	I		I	I	90	
33	Darijo Srna	1	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
44	Yaroslav Rakitskiy		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Midfielders										
3	Tomáš Hübschman		90	90	90	90	I	I	90	82↓
6	Taras Stepanenko						90	90		8↑
7	Fernandinho	1	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
10	Willian	4	81↓	90	88↓	90	86↓	90		
20	Douglas Costa	1	9↑		2↑		12↑		28↑	45↑
22	Henrikh Mkhitaryan	2	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
29	Alex Teixeira	2	20↑	84↓	82↓	78↓	78↓	65↓	84↓	90
77	Ilsinho		70↓	6↑	8↑	12↑	4↑	25↑	I	
Forwards										
9	Luiz Adriano	3	75↓	90	90	90	82↓	S	90	90
11	Eduardo						8↑	45↓	6↑	
18	Marko Dević		15↑					45↑		
28	Taison								62↓	45↓

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/Ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away

KEY FEATURES

- 4-2-3-1 with Fernandinho the more adventurous screening midfielder
 - Effective blend of European qualities and Brazilian creativity
 - Advanced full-backs looking for attacking combination moves
- Good diagonal passing from centre-backs to wide players
 - Quick transition to defensive block; pressing in own half
 - Occasional high pressing when behind on scoreboard
 - Rapid counterattacks based on quick forward passing
- Fluent positional interchanging among front four
 - Three attack-minded midfielders supporting target striker
 - Athletic, energetic game with Mkhitaryan the driving force

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
115 (70 on target) = 14.4 (8.8) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 51%
Max: 57% v Juventus (a)
Min: 44% v Nordsjælland (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 496
Max: 610 v Juventus (a)
Min: 426 v Nordsjælland (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 113,067 metres
Max: 118,885 v Juventus (h)
Min: 105,287 v Juventus (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 71%
Max: 76% v Nordsjælland (a)
Min: 61% v Dortmund (h)



TEAM SHAPE V DORTMUND (H)



COACH

Mircea Lucescu

Born: 29/07/1945, Bucharest (ROU)

Nationality: Romanian

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 83

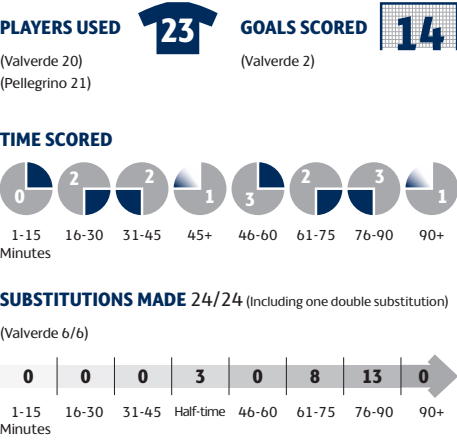
Head coach from: 16/05/2004

VALENCIA CF

Spain



STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
75 (42 on target) = 9.38 (5.25) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 52%
Max: 61% v LOSC (h) and PSG (h)
Min: 37% v Bayern (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 543
Max: 701 v PSG (h)
Min: 378 v Bayern (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,667 metres
Max: 120,338 v BATE (a)
Min: 109,985 v PSG (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 73%
Max: 78% v PSG (h)
Min: 62% v Bayern (h)



TEAM SHAPE V PSG (H)



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	BAY (a)	LIL (h)	BTE (a)	BTE (h)	BAY (h)	LIL (a)	PSG (h)	PSG (a)
Goalkeepers										
1	Diego Alves		90		90					
13	Vicente Guaita			90		90	90	90	90	90
Defenders										
3	Aly Cissokho		90	90	90	90	90	90	I	90
4	Adil Rami	1	90so	S	90	90	90	90	90	
12	João Pereira		90	3↑	90	90	I	I	90	
14	Antonio Barragán	2↑		90	8↑		33so	S	S	90
18	Víctor Ruiz			90				83↓		90
20	Ricardo Costa		90	I	90	90	90	90	90	
22	Jérémy Mathieu		I	I	I	I	I	I	I	90
30	Carlos Delgado			90						
Midfielders										
5	Fernando Gago		I	90	90	90	I	16↑		
6	David Albelda			I	72↓	2↑	10↑	74↓		45↓
8	Sofiane Feghouli	3	90	87↓	82↓	90	90	61↓	84↓	63↓
10	Éver Banega				18↑	23↑	80↓		45↓	45↑
15	Jonathan Viera		19↑					7↑	6↑	
17	Andrés Guardado*		71↓	90	90	88↓	86↓	90	90	
21	Daniel Parejo		90	9↑			75↓		90	90
23	Sergio Canales								45↑	
24	Tino Costa		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Forwards										
7	Jonas	5	63↓	81↓	13↑	67↓	15↑	90	45↓	76↓
9	Roberto Soldado	4	88↓	84↓	77↓	79↓	90	S	90	90
11	Pablo Piatti			I				29↑		27↑
16	Nelson Valdez	1	27↑	6↑		11↑	4↑	90	45↑	14↑

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/Ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
*Left-back v PSG (h)

KEY FEATURES

- Basically 4-2-3-1, 4-1-4-1, 4-4-2 variations under Valverde
 - Emphasis on patient possession play from back
 - Occasional high pressure; ball-winning usually in own half
 - Diverse screening midfielders (Albelda/Banega/Gago)
- Good use of flanks by full-backs (João Pereira, Cissokho)
 - Technical quality throughout; able to play out of pressure
 - Soldado the attacking catalyst; off-the-ball movement and goals
- Slick combinations in final third; Jonas playing off main striker
 - Strong central defenders, moving wide to cover full-backs
 - Dangerous set plays; aerial power of Rami, Ricardo Costa

COACHES

Mauricio Pellegrino

Born: 05/10/1971, Cordoba (ARG)

Nationality: Argentinian

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 5

Head coach from: 07/05/2012 to 01/12/2012

Team delegate Salvador González 'Voro' was on the bench for matchday six

Ernesto Valverde

Born: 09/02/1964, Viandar de la Vera (ESP)

Nationality: Spanish

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 8

Head coach since: 03/12/2012

The other sixteen starters

The salient feature of the 2012/13 group stage was that, for the first time in the 21-season history of the competition, the defending champion was among the 16 clubs whose campaign ended before the turn of the year. With 16 goals, Chelsea FC were the top scorers in the group stage but, along with Romanian challengers CFR 1907 Cluj, belied the traditional theory that ten points are sufficient to gain access to the knockout rounds.

The fact that Cluj amassed the same total (led by two different coaches during the six-match campaign) raises a debating point. The Romanian team had no great pretensions in terms of ball possession, posting the lowest average among the 32 starters of 37%. This was in line with data related to passing where, again, Cluj recorded the lowest average of 367 per game. The efficiency of their direct attacking and counterattacking earned them three victories, two of which were away from home.

However, the trend towards a possession- and-passing philosophy could be backed by statistical evidence. Of the 14 sides who averaged less than 50% of ball possession, nine were eliminated in the group stage. Nine of the 13 clubs that averaged fewer than 500 passes a match were also among the December casualties. The most glaring exception to the rule was provided by AFC Ajax who, drawn into a daunting group alongside the champions of England, Germany and Spain, nevertheless enjoyed

54% of the ball against their illustrious rivals and averaged over 600 passes per game. Another ingredient to blend into an interesting statistical recipe is that Frank de Boer's side also registered the competition's highest average figure of 122,616 metres per match in terms of the distance covered by teams.

In this respect, Danish debutants FC Nordsjælland gave a good account of themselves, turning in an average of 119,355 metres (second only to Ajax among the 16 group fallers). Their athletic efforts, however, led to only 5.8 goal attempts a game – fewer than any other club in the competition. The search for the 'end product' (goals) and the efficiency of finishing unquestionably contribute to success – as illustrated by SL Benfica. During the group stage, the Lisbon side averaged 18.3 goal attempts per game, more than any other team in the UEFA Champions League, yet successfully converted only five of their 110 chances. However, the Eagles went on to score 14 times from 82 attempts in eight UEFA Europa League matches to earn a final against a Chelsea team which had also been among the top five in the UEFA Champions League group stage in terms of attempts at goal. Reaching the Amsterdam final represented a creditable performance by two clubs who are among the few to successfully rebound from the psychological and motivational trauma of premature elimination from the UEFA Champions League.



Anderlecht full-back Behrang Safari tussles with Vladimir Bystrov of Zenit

AFC AJAX
Netherlands

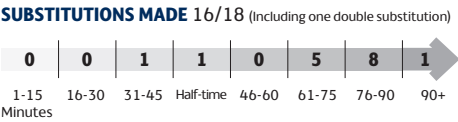
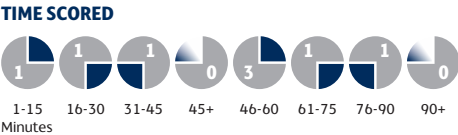


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	BVB (a)	RM (h)	MC (h)	MC (a)	BVB (h)	RM (a)
Goalkeepers								
1	Kenneth Vermeer		90	90	90	90	90	90
22	Jasper Cillessen							
Defenders								
3	Toby Alderweireld		90	90	90	90	90	90
4	Niklas Moisander	2	90	90	90	90	90	90
17	Daley Blind		90	90	90	90	90	90
24	Ricardo van Rhijn		90	90	90	90	90	90
40	Fabian Sporklede			21↑				
Midfielders								
5	Christian Poulsen		90	69↓	90	87↓	45↓	40↓
6	Eyong Enoh		I	I	16↑	12↑	64↓	13↑
7	Miralem Sulejmani		1↑	I	I	I	I	I
8	Christian Eriksen	1	90	90	90	90	90	90
10	Siem de Jong	3	90	90	90	90	90	90
20	Lasse Schöne		11↑		89↓	78↓	45↑	50↑
Forwards								
19	Tobias Sana		89↓	66↓	74↓	1↑		13↑
21	Derk Boerrigter	1	90	90	1↑	90↓	73↓	90
23	Danny Hoesen	1		24↑			26↑	77↓
27	Jody Lukoki			9↑	I	I	90	
39	Viktor Fischer					3↑	17↑	77↓
49	Ryan Babel		79↓	81↓	90	90	I	I

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
69 (38 on target) = 11.5 (6.3) per game

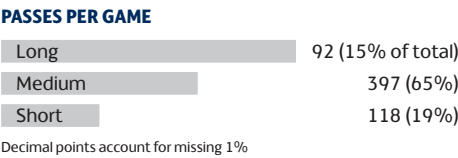
AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 54%
Max: 66% v Dortmund (h)
Min: 47% v Manchester City (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 607
Max: 837 v Dortmund (h)
Min: 509 v Madrid (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 122,616 metres
Max: 125,059 v Dortmund (a)
Min: 118,576 v Madrid (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 75%
Max: 80% v Dortmund (h)
Min: 66% v Manchester City (a)



TEAM SHAPE V DORTMUND (H)



Patterns of team link up:
Most frequently played passes:
(Average position of players during the match)

COACH

Frank de Boer
Born: 15/05/1970,
Hoorn (NED)
Nationality: Dutch
Matches in
UEFA Champions League: 13
Head coach from:
06/12/2010



RSC ANDERLECHT
Belgium

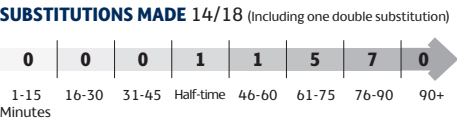
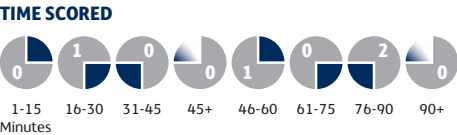


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	ACM (a)	MAL (h)	ZEN (a)	ZEN (h)	ACM (h)	MAL (a)
Goalkeepers								
1	Silvio Proto		90	90	90	90	90	90
13	Thomas Kaminski							
Defenders								
3	Olivier Deschacht		90	90	90	I	90	90
14	Bram Nuytinck		90	90	90	90	70so	5
16	Cheikhou Kouyaté	79↓		90	90	90	90	90
20	Behrang Safari				90	90		90
23	Roland Juhász	11↑						
27	Marcin Wasilewski	90	90	83↓	S			
Midfielders								
5	Lucas Biglia		90	90	90	90	90	90
7	Guillermo Molins			7↑				
19	Sacha Kljestan		90	45↑		90	90	90
26	Dennis Praet	11↑			74↓	79↓	75↓	71↓
30	Guillaume Gillet	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
55	Fernando Canesin						13↑	
70	Ronald Vargas					I	I	5↑
Forwards								
10	Kanu		89↓	90	90	11↑		
11	Milan Jovanović	1	S	59↓	90	90	77↓	85↓
17	Olexandr Yakovenko		1↑	31↑	16↑	18↑	24↑	I
21	Tom De Sutter	1			90		15↑	19↑
25	Dieumerci Mbokani	2	90	90		90	90	90
45	Massimo Bruno		79↓	45↓		72↓	66↓	90

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STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
59 (27 on target) = 12 (9.8) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 52%
Max: 61% v Milan (h)
Min: 48% v Milan (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 497
Max: 556 v Zenit (h)
Min: 398 v Milan (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 112,019 metres*
Max: 118,150 v Zenit (a)
Min: 109,121 v Milan (a)*

PASSING ACCURACY 70%
Max: 72% v Málaga (h)
and v Milan (h)
Min: 69% in Milan and both
games v Zenit

*excluding matchday five v Milan (h) when playing 20 mins with 10



TEAM SHAPE V MÁLAGA (A)



Patterns of team link up:
Most frequently played passes:
(Average position of players during the match)

COACH

John van den Brom
Born: 04/10/1966,
Amersfoort (NED)
Nationality: Dutch
Matches in
UEFA Champions League: 6
Head coach from:
29/05/2012



FC BATE BORISOV

Belarus

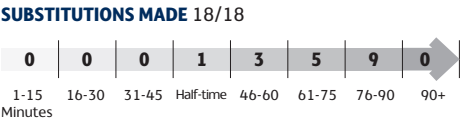
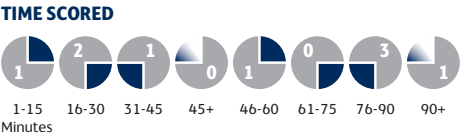


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	LIL (a)	BAY (h)	VAL (h)	VAL (a)	LIL (h)	BAY (a)
Goalkeepers								
30	Aleksandr Gutor							
35	Andrei Gorbunov		90	90	90	90	90	90
Defenders								
5	Aleksandr Yurevich							6↑
14	Artem Radkov		90			90	90	90
18	Maksim Bordachev		90	90	90	90	90	84↓
21	Yegor Filipenko	1		90	90	90	90	90
22	Marko Simić		90	90	90			
33	Denis Polyakov		90	90	90	90	90	69so
Midfielders								
2	Dmitri Likhtarovich		66↓	66↓	53↓	55↓		
7	Artem Kontsevoi					2↑	45↑	58↓
8	Aleksandr Volodko	1	90	90	75↓	90	45↓	90
10	Renan Bressan	2	10↑	6↑	15↑	88↓	90	32↑
15	Aleksandr Hleb		90	90	90	77↓	77↓	90
17	Aleksandr Pavlov	1	80↓	84↓	66↓	S	I	I
23	Edgar Olekhnovich	1	90	90	90		83↓	90
25	Dmitri Baga		I	I	I	90	90	90
32	Mikhail Sivakov		24↑	24↑	37↑	35↑	13↑	
Forwards								
13	Dmitri Mozolevski	1	1↑	3↑	24↑	13↑		
20	Vitali Rodionov	2	89↓	87↓	90	90	90	66↓
78	Roman Vasilyuk						7↑	24↑

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
53 (33 on target) = 8.8 (5.5) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 47%
Max: 58% v LOSC (h)
Min: 38% v Bayern (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 473
Max: 513 v Valencia (h)
Min: 410 v Bayern (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 119,017 metres
Max: 123,990 v LOSC (a)
Min: 114,665 v Valencia (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 69%
Max: 73% v Valencia (h) and Bayern (a)
Min: 64% v Bayern (h)



TEAM SHAPE v BAYERN (A)



COACH

Viktor Goncharenko

Born: 10/06/1977, Khoiniki, Gomel (BLR)

Nationality: Belarusian

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 18

Head coach from: 13/11/2007



SL BENFICA

Portugal



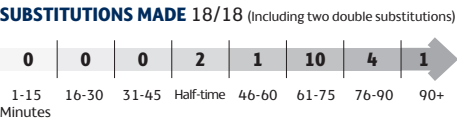
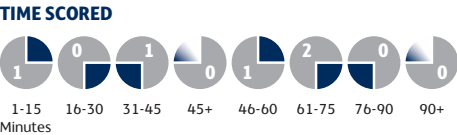
SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	CEL (a)	BAR (h)	SPM (a)	SPM (h)	CEL (h)	BAR (a)
Goalkeepers								
1	Artur		90	90	90	90	90	90
13	Paulo Lopes							
Defenders								
4	Luisão		S				90	90
5	Luisinho		I	I				
14	Maxi Pereira		S	90	90	82↓	12↑	90
24	Ezequiel Garay	1	90	90	90	90	90	90
25	Melgarejo		90	90	90	90	90	90
33	Jardel		90	90	90	90	1↑	
34	André Almeida		90			90	90	16↑
Midfielders								
8	Bruno César		20↑	45↓	65↓	16↑		27↑
9	Nolito		7↑	15↑				63↓
10	Pablo Aimar		63↓	30↑	I	I	I	I
15	Ola John	1			1↑	90	90	90
17	Carlos Martins		I	45↑	I	I	I	I
18	Eduardo Salvio		90	90	90	90	90↓	
20	Nicolás Gaitán		83↓	75↓	25↑	I	15↑	
21	Nemanja Matić		90	90	89↓	S	78↓	90
35	Enzo Pérez		90	60↓	90	90	90	I
89	André Gomes					8↑		90

Forwards								
7	Óscar Cardozo	2	27↑	I	25↑	45↑	90	16↑
11	Lima	1		90	90	74↓	75↓	74↓
19	Rodrigo		70↓		65↓	45↓		74↓

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
110 (55 on target) = 18.3 (9.2) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 45%
Max: 61% v Celtic (h)
Min: 25% v Barcelona (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 420
Max: 503 v Spartak (a)
Min: 306 v Barcelona (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 118,470 metres
Max: 121,761 v Spartak (a)
Min: 113,100 v Celtic (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 60%
Max: 66% v Spartak (h)
Min: 57% v Spartak (a)



TEAM SHAPE v CELTIC (H)



Patterns of team link up: Most frequently played passes: (Average position of players during the match)

COACH

Jorge Jesus

Born: 24/07/1954, Amadora (POR)

Nationality: Portuguese

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 22

Head coach from: 16/06/2009



SC BRAGA
Portugal

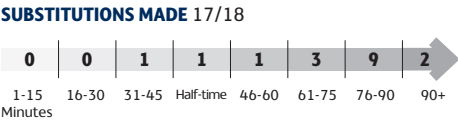
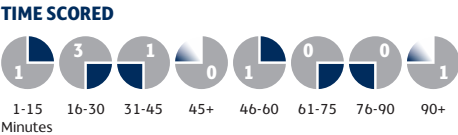


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	CFR	GAL	MU	MU	CFR	GAL
			(h)	(a)	(a)	(h)	(a)	(h)
Goalkeepers								
1	Quim							90
33	Beto		90	90	90	90	90	
Defenders								
4	Nuno André Coelho		90	1↑	90	90	90	90
20	Elderson				90	90↓		90
21	Ismaily		90	84↓			90	90↓
25	Leandro Salino		70↓	90	90	90	33↓	90
26	Paulo Vinícius		90	90	90	I	I	90
44	Douglão			90	I	90	45so	S
Midfielders								
5	Rúben Amorim			90	80↓	85↓	90	90
8	Mossoró	1	90		4↑	4↑	22↑	90
14	Rúben Micael	1	90	90↓	88↓	90	90	
22	Djamal			12↑	I			
27	Custódio		90	90	90	90	90	79↓
30	Alan	5	45↓	90	86↓	90	90	90
45	Hugo Viana		64↓	78↓	90	86↓	68↓	11↑
Forwards								
9	Paulo César		20↑		I	I	I	
10	Hélder Barbosa		45↑	6↑	10↑	5↑	57↑	
17	Éder		90	90	90	90	57↓	86↓
29	Zé Luis		26↑		2↑	1↑	33↑	
83	Carlão		I					4↑

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
↓ = Played in midfield

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
99 (57 on target) = 16.5 (9.5) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 52%
Max: 65% v CFR (h)
Min: 38% v Galatasaray (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 530
Max: 669 v CFR (h)
Min: 363 v Galatasaray (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 112,186 metres*
Max: 115,021 v Manchester United (a)
Min: 108,587 v Galatasaray (h)*
*Excluding matchday five v CFR (a) when playing second half with 10

PASSING ACCURACY 72%
Max: 78% v CFR (h)
Min: 62% v Galatasaray (a)

PASSES PER GAME

Long 79 (15% of total)
Medium 340 (64%)
Short 111 (21%)

TEAM SHAPE V MANCHESTER UNITED (H)



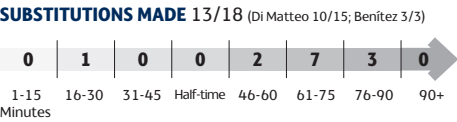
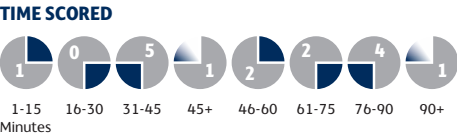
COACH

José Peseiro
Born: 04/04/1960, Coruche (POR)
Nationality: Portuguese
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 6
Head coach from: 01/07/2012

CHELSEA FC
England



STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
90 (58 on target) = 15 (9.7) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 51%
Max: 56% v Nordsjælland (h)
(Benitez in charge)
Min: 44% v Shakhtar (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 516
Max: 643 v Nordsjælland (a)
Min: 348 v Shakhtar (h)

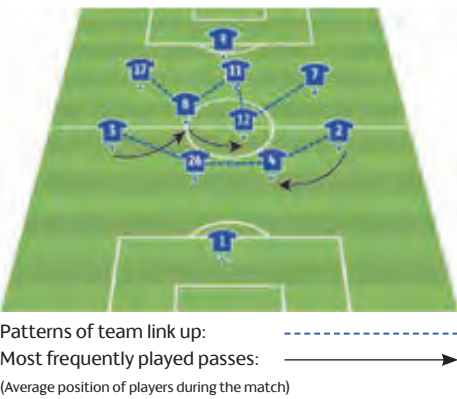
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,043 metres
Max: 118,176 v Nordsjælland (a)
Min: 109,000 v Juventus (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 74%
Max: 80% v Nordsjælland (a)
Min: 68% v Shakhtar (h)

PASSES PER GAME

Long 69 (13% of total)
Medium 324 (63%)
Short 123 (24%)

TEAM SHAPE V JUVENTUS (H)



COACH

Roberto Di Matteo
Born: 29/05/1970, Schaffhausen (SUI)
Nationality: Italian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 11
Head coach from: 04/03/2012 to 21/11/2012
Replaced by Rafael Benítez (Madrid, ESP, 16/04/1960; 83 UCL games) for matchday six

CFR 1907 CLUJ

Romania



SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	SCB (a)	MU (h)	GAL (a)	GAL (h)	SCB (h)	MU (a)
Goalkeepers								
1	Mário Felgueiras		90	90	90	90	90	90
44	Eduard Stăncioiu							
Defenders								
3	Ivo Pinto		90	90	90	90	90	90
8	László Sepsi		90	90	53↓	31↓	I	I
12	Vasile Maftei		S					12↑
13	Felice Piccolo				90	90	90	90
20	Cadú		90	90	90	90	90	90
24	Ionuț Rada		90	90	37↑		90	90
Midfielders								
6	Gabriel Mureșan		90	90	12↑	90	90	90
10	Diogo Valente		I			13↑		
23	Nicolas Godemèche		25↑		90	45↓	7↑	
25	Luís Alberto	1	65↓	66↑	90	90	90	90
30	Rui Pedro	3	11↑				81↓	71↓
31	Matías Aguirregaray		45↑	80↓	28so	S	16↑	19↑
45	Camora		90	90	90	90I	90	90
Forwards								
9	Pantelis Kapetanios	1	90	61↓	78↓	77↓	9↑	1↑
11	Viorel Nicoară			10↑	18↑			
16	Rafael Bastos	2	79↓	90	72↓	59↑	83↓	78↓
19	Saša Bjelanović			29↑	45↑			
99	Modou Sougou	1	45↓	24↓	I	90	74↓	90↓

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
I = Played at left-back; Own goal by Dany Nounkeu v Galatasaray (a)

COACHES

Ioan Andone

Born: 15/03/1960,
Spalnaca (ROU)
Nationality: Romanian
Matches in
UEFA Champions League: 3
Head coach from:
15/04/2012 to 24/10/2012



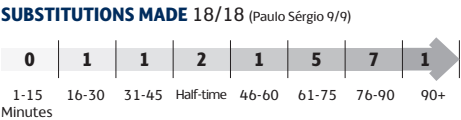
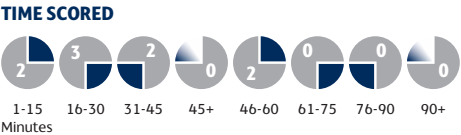
Paulo Sérgio

Born: 19/02/1968,
Estremoz (POR)
Nationality: Portuguese
Matches in
UEFA Champions League: 3
Head coach from:
26/10/2012



STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 19 GOALS SCORED 9
(Paulo Sérgio 18) (Paulo Sérgio 5)

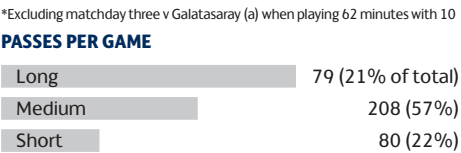


GOAL ATTEMPTS
59 (26 on target) = 10 (4.3) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 37% Max: 40% v Galatasaray (a)
Min: 32% v Manchester United (h)
PASSES ATTEMPTED 367 Max: 408 v Manchester United (a)
Min: 341 v Manchester United (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,953 metres* Max: 117,226 v Manchester United (a)
Min: 111,641 v Manchester United (h)
PASSING ACCURACY 52% Max: 61% v Manchester United (h)
Min: 28% v Galatasaray (a)



TEAM SHAPE V MANCHESTER UNITED (A)



Patterns of team link up:
Most frequently played passes:
(Average position of players during the match)

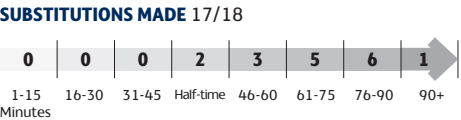
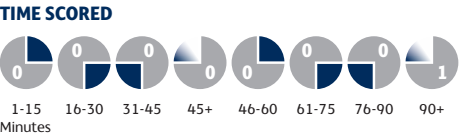
GNK DINAMO ZAGREB

Croatia



STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 19 GOALS SCORED 1



GOAL ATTEMPTS
49 (28 on target) = 8.2 (4.7) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 46% Max: 54% v Dynamo Kyiv (h)
Min: 38% v PSG (h)
PASSES ATTEMPTED 494* Max: 620 v PSG (a)
Min: 408 v Porto (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,628 metres* Max: 119,226 v PSG (h)
Min: 109,223 v Porto (a)
* Excluding matchday six when conditions in Zagreb impeded reliable data gathering



TEAM SHAPE V PORTO (A)



COACH

Ante Čačić

Bom: 29/09/1953, Zagreb (CRO)
Nationality: Croatian
Matches in
UEFA Champions League: 5
Head coach from:
23/12/2011 to 26/11/2012
Replaced by Krunoslav Jurčić
(Ljubuski, BiH, 26/11/1969; seven
UCL matches) for matchday six.



FC DYNAMO KYIV

Ukraine

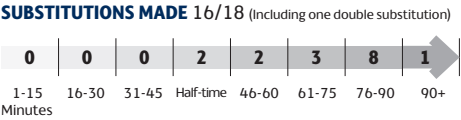
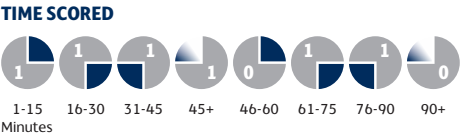


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	PSG (a)	DZ (h)	POR (a)	POR (h)	PSG (h)	DZ (a)
Goalkeepers								
1	Olexandr Shovkovskiy			90	90			
35	Maxym Koval	90				90	90	90
Defenders								
2	Daniło Silva	90	90	I	I	90		
3	Betão	45↑		90	90	90	90	90
17	Taras Mikhalik	45↓	90	90	90	90	I	90
33	Taye Taiwo	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
34	Yevhen Khacheridi	90	90	90	90	90	90	I
Midfielders								
4	Miguel Veloso	1	90	90	90	90	90	90
5	Ognjen Vukojević	37↑	90	84↓	88↓			90↓
9	Andriy Yarmolenko	1	90	80↓	90	90	23↑	90
19	Denys Garmash	53↓	45↑	90			78↓	90
20	Oleh Gusev	2	13↑	83↓	90	90	67↓	I
21	Niko Kranjčar	77↓	45↓	6↑	2↑			I
23	Andriy Bogdanov				I		12↑	1↑
25	Lukman Haruna					32↑	67↓	90↓
99	Dudu						90	82↓
Forwards								
10	Artem Milevskiy		I		I	58↓	23↑	
11	Ideye Brown	1	90	90	90	23↑	90	76↓
13	Admir Mehmedi			10↑				8↑
15	Marco Ruben		I			67↓		14↑
85	Raffael	90	7↑	I	I	I		

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away
Own goal by Josip Pivarić v Dinamo (h)

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
58 (35 on target) = 9.7 (5.8) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 47%
Max: 52% v PSG (h)
Min: 38% v Porto (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 469*
Max: 575 v PSG (a)
Min: 360 v Porto (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,129 metres*
Max: 121,839 v Dinamo Zagreb (h) and v Dinamo Zagreb (h)
Min: 110,603 v Porto (a)
* Averages exclude matchday six when conditions prevented reliable data collection

PASSING ACCURACY 67%*
Max: 74% v PSG (a)
and v Dinamo Zagreb (h)
Min: 52% v Porto (h))



TEAM SHAPE V PORTO (A)



Patterns of team link up:
Most frequently played passes:
(Average position of players during the match)

COACH

Oleh Blokhin
Born: 05/11/1952, Kyiv (UKR)
Nationality: Ukrainian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 5*
Head coach since: 25/09/2012

* Although in charge of the team, he was not on the bench in Porto and did not travel to Zagreb for health reasons
Yuri Semin (Orenburg, RUS, 11/05/1947; 33 UCL matches) was in charge for matchday one

LOSC LILLE

France

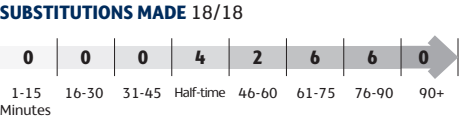
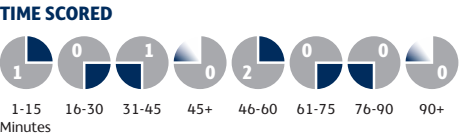


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	BTE (h)	VAL (a)	BAY (h)	BAY (a)	BTE (a)	VAL (h)
Goalkeepers								
1	Mickaël Landreau	90	90	90	90			
16	Steeve Elana						90	90
Defenders								
2	Mathieu Debuchy	85↓	86so	S	90			
3	Lucas Digne	90	8↑	90	I	90	90	90
15	Djibril Sidibé	1	5↑	90			74so	S
18	Franck Béria			90	90	90	I	90
21	Laurent Bonnart						13↑	
22	Aurélien Chedjou	1	90	82↓	90	90	I	90
25	Marko Baša	90	90	I	90	90	90	90
Midfielders								
4	Florent Balmont	90	90	90	90			70↓
5	Idrissa Gueye		90	I	I	90	90	90
10	Marvin Martin	45↓	I	90	18↑	77↓		35↑
14	David Rozehnal			1↑	45↓	90		
17	Benoît Pedretti		90	90↓	90	90	90	S
24	Rio Mavuba	90	I	I	45↑			55↓
Forwards								
7	Dimitri Payet	90	90	34↑	45↓	21↑		20↑
8	Salomon Kalou	1	90	I	56↓	72↓	69+	90
9	Túlio De Melo	45↓	26↑	90	45↑	I	I	I
11	Ryan Mendes	45↑	73↓	13↑	I	I	I	I
19	Gianni Bruno	1					65↓	77↓
20	Ronny Rodelin		17↑			90	90	90
26	Nolan Roux	45↑	64↓	77↓	90	25↑		13↑

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
78 (40 on target) = 13 (6.7) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 45%
Max: 54% v BATE (h)
Min: 38% v Bayern (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 497
Max: 601 v BATE (h)
Min: 435 v Valencia (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 112,277 metres
Max: 118,020 v BATE (h)
Min: 109,395 v Bayern (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 68%
Max: 76% v BATE (h)
Min: 64% v Valencia (a)



TEAM SHAPE V BAYERN (H)



Patterns of team link up:
Most frequently played passes:
(Average position of players during the match)

COACH

Rudi Garcia
Born: 20/02/1964, Nemours (FRA)
Nationality: French
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 12
Head coach from: 18/06/2008

MANCHESTER CITY FC

England

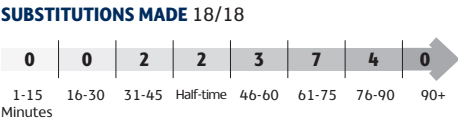
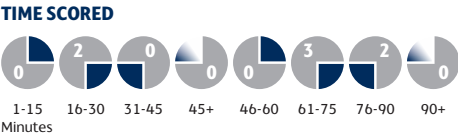


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	RM (a)	BVB (h)	AJX (a)	AJX (h)	RM (h)	BVB (a)
Goalkeepers								
1	Joe Hart		90	90	90	90	90	90
30	Costel Pantilimon							
Defenders								
2	Micah Richards			I	90	I	I	I
3	Maicon	74↓		I			90	90
4	Vincent Kompany	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
5	Pablo Zabaleta	16↑	90			90	90	21↑
6	Joleon Lescott				63↓	I		90
13	Aleksandar Kolarov	1	53↑	33↑	27↑	5↑	45↓	I
22	Gaël Clichy		90	81↓	90	90	I	I
33	Matija Nastasić		90	90		90	90	90
Midfielders								
7	James Milner				78↓	I	2↑	I
8	Samir Nasri	1	37↓	57↓	90	90	60↓	69↓
14	Javi García		90	34↓		45↓	45↑	90
17	Jack Rodwell			56↑				I
18	Gareth Barry		90		71↓	85↓		90
21	David Silva		63↓	90	I	I	90	I
42	Yaya Touré	1	90	90	90	90	90	S
Forwards								
10	Edin Džeko	1	27↑	90	90	24↑	90	64↓
11	Scott Sinclair							57↓
16	Sergio Agüero	2		90	90	90	88↓	33↑
32	Carlos Tévez		90		19↑	66↓	30↑	90
45	Mario Balotelli	1		9↑	12↑	45↑	I	26↑

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS

56 (35 on target) = 9.3 (5.8) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 53%	PASSES ATTEMPTED 575
Max: 61% v Dortmund (h)	Max: 686 v Dortmund (h)
Min: 43% v Madrid (a)	Min: 396 v Madrid (a)
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 113,901 metres	PASSING ACCURACY 74%
Max: 118,449 v Ajax (a)	Max: 77% v Ajax (a)
Min: 107,478 v Madrid (h)	Min: 70% v Ajax (h)



TEAM SHAPE V MADRID (A)



Patterns of team link up:
Most frequently played passes:
(Average position of players during the match)

COACH

Roberto Mancini

Born: 27/11/1964
in Jesi, Ancona, (ITA)
Nationality: Italian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 54
Head coach since: 19/12/2009

MONTPELLIER HÉRAULT SC

France

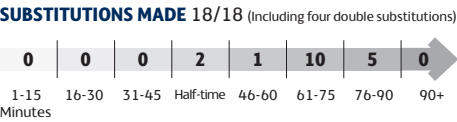
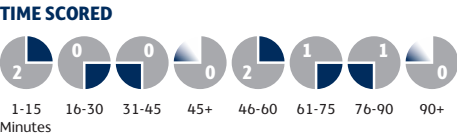


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	ARS (h)	SCH (a)	OLY (h)	OLY (a)	ARS (a)	SCH (h)
Goalkeepers								
1	Laurent Pionnier				90			I
16	Geoffrey Jourden		90	90		90	90	I
30	Jonathan Ligali							90
Defenders								
2	Garry Bocaly		90	52so	S	90		
3	Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa		90	90	90	90	90 ^I	90
4	Hilton		90	90	90	79↓	I	90
5	Henri Bedimo		90		90	90	90	90
12	Daniel Congré			35↑		11↑	90	90
21	Abdel El Kaoutari						90	
22	Benjamin Stambouli		12↑	90	90		I	45↓ ^I
25	Mathieu Deplagne						90	
Midfielders								
6	Joris Marveaux			22↑	5↑	90	10↑	
8	Anthony Mounier		68↓		62↓	62↓	90	67↓
10	Younes Belhanda	2	90	68↓	90	90	90	23↑
13	Marco Estrada		78↓	68↓	28↑		80↓	90
14	Romain Pitau		S	S				45↑
15	Jonathan Tinhan			22↑		28↑		
20	Rémy Cabella		90	90	90	45↓	69↓	90
23	Jamel Saihi		90	90	85↓	90		
28	Jonas Martin						21↑	
Forwards								
7	John Utaka		I	I	90	I	I	23↑
9	Gaëtan Charbonnier	1			68↓	45↑	69↓	
11	Emanuel Herrera	1	12↑				21↑	90
18	Karim Aït-Fana	1	22↑	55↓	I	I	I	I
19	Souleymane Camara	1	78↓	90	22↑	90	S	67↓

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ↓ = Taken off; ↑ = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
^I = played in midfield

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS

79 (41 on target) = 13.2 (6.8) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 52%	PASSES ATTEMPTED 517
Max: 59% v Olympiacos (h)	Max: 548 v Olympiacos (a)
Min: 45% v Arsenal (a) and v Schalke (a)	Min: 453 v Schalke (h)
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 110,034 metres	PASSING ACCURACY 70%
Max: 113,737 v Arsenal (h)	Max: 75% v Schalke (a)
Min: 103,448 v Olympiacos (h)	Min: 60% v Schalke (h)



TEAM SHAPE V OLYMPIACOS (H)



Patterns of team link up:
Most frequently played passes:
(Average position of players during the match)

COACH

René Girard

Born: 04/04/1954,
Vauvert (FRA)
Nationality: French
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 6
Head coach from: 03/06/2009

FC NORDSJÆLLAND

Denmark

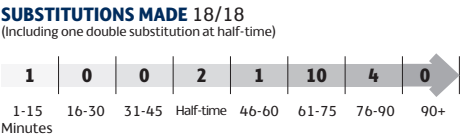
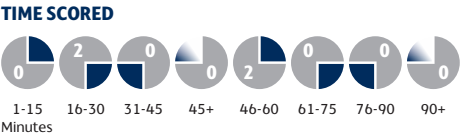


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	SHK (a)	CHL (h)	JUV (h)	JUV (a)	SHK (h)	CHL (a)
Goalkeepers								
1	Jesper Hansen		90	90	90	90	90	90
16	Thomas Villadsen							
25	David Raagaard Jensen							
Defenders								
2	Jores Okore		90	90	90	90	90	I
4	Henrik Kildentoft							29†
8	Patrick Mtiliga		90	90	90	90	90	90
18	Michael Parkhurst		90	90	90	90	90	90
19	Mark Gundelach							90
21	Ivan Runje		90	90	90	90	90	9‡
Midfielders								
5	Anders Christiansen		28†		2†	45†	31†	61‡
6	Enoch Adu		90	90	90	45‡	90	90
7	Nicolai Stokholm		90	90	90	90	90	90
17	Søren Christensen		62‡	15†	19†	45†	59‡	I
20	Kasper Lorentzen	1	72‡	85‡	88‡	90	90	90
23	Mario Tičinović			25†			15†	65‡
24	Kamal Issah							25†
Forwards								
10	Mikkel Beckmann	1	90	75‡	67‡	73‡	I	81‡†
11	Morten Nordstrand	1	18†	65‡	23†	17†	75‡	I
13	Oguzhan Aynaoglu						8†	
15	Joshua John	1	81‡	90	90	90	82‡	90
22	Andreas Laudrup		9†	5†	71‡	45‡	I	

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ‡ = Taken off; † = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away
† = Played centre-back

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
35 (21 on target) = 5.8 (3.5) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 48%
Max: 56% v Shakhtar (a)
Min: 44% v Chelsea (a)

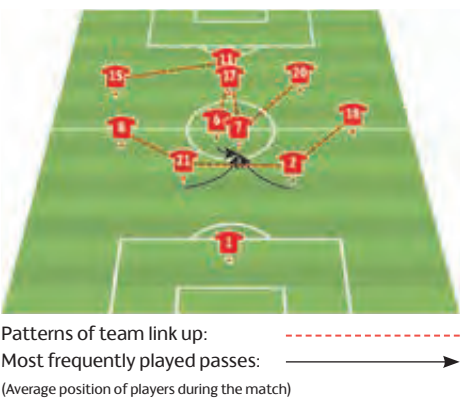
PASSES ATTEMPTED 526
Max: 620 v Juventus (a)
Min: 387 v Juventus (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 119,355 metres
Max: 124,035 v Juventus (h)
Min: 115,999 v Chelsea (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 74%
Max: 79% v Shakhtar (a)
Min: 64% v Juventus (h)



TEAM SHAPE V SHAKHTAR (H)



COACH

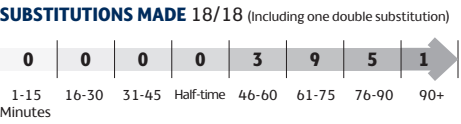
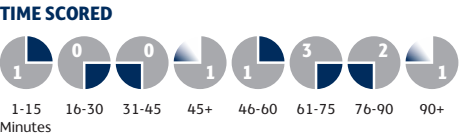
Kasper Hjulmand
Born: 09/04/1972, Aalborg (DEN)
Nationality: Danish
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 6
Head coach from: 08/07/2009

OLYMPIACOS FC

Greece



STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
62 (35 on target) = 10.3 (5.8) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 46%
Max: 53% v Arsenal (h)
Min: 40% v Arsenal (a)

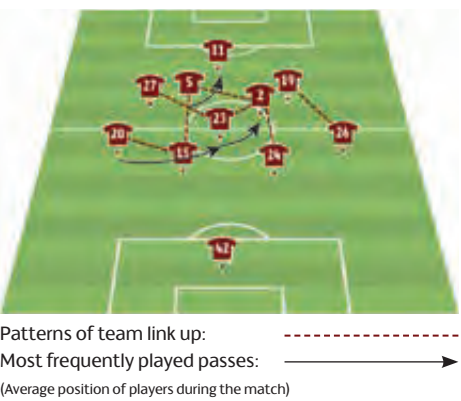
PASSES ATTEMPTED 426
Max: 535 v Arsenal (h)
Min: 364 v Montpellier (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 108,391 metres
Max: 114,244 v Arsenal (a)
Min: 101,095 v Schalke (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 62%
Max: 73% v Arsenal (h)
Min: 52% v Montpellier (a)



TEAM SHAPE V ARSENAL (A)



COACH

Leonardo Jardim
Born: 01/08/1974, Barcelona (VEN)
Nationality: Portuguese
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 6
Head coach from: 05/06/2012

FC SPARTAK MOSKVA

Russia

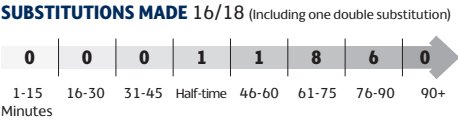
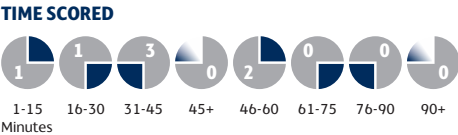


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	BAR (a)	CEL (h)	SLB (h)	SLB (a)	BAR (h)	CEL (a)
Goalkeepers								
30	Sergei Pesyakov			90	I			90
31	Andriy Dykan		90	I			90	
32	Artem Rebrov				90	90	I	I
Defenders								
2	Juan Insaurralde		90	63so	S	90	90	90
3	Sergei Bryzgalov			24†	11†		15†	
5	Nicolas Pareja		I	90	90	76so	S	
7	Kirill Kombarov		45‡		32†	62‡	63‡,†	90
17	Marek Suchý		90		90	11†	90	90
23	Dmitri Kombarov		90	90	90	90	90	90
34	Evgeni Makeev		45†	90	90	90	90	
Midfielders								
6	Rafael Carioca	1		90	90	90	75‡	90
8	Aiden McGeady		90	76‡	I	I	I	29†
19	José Manuel Jurado		12†		90	90	90	90
20	Demy de Zeeuw		S	66‡				
21	Kim Källström		78‡	90	79‡	71‡	90	88so
25	Diniyar Bilyaletdinov				73‡	79‡	I	I
37	Romulo	1	90					I
49	Jano Ananidze				58‡	28†	27†	
Forwards								
9	Ari	1	83‡	87‡	90	90	90	61‡
10	Artem Dzyuba		7†	14†		19†	I	90
11	Welliton				17†		27†	I
22	Aleksandr Kozlov			3†				
29	Emmanuel Emenike	2	90	90	I		63‡	90

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ‡ = Taken off; † = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off
Own goals by Daniel Alves v Barcelona (a) and Jardel v Benfica (h)
† = played as a midfielder

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
53 (27 on target) = 8.8 (4.5) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 47%
Max: 57% v Celtic (h)
Min: 33% v Barcelona (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 467
Max: 600 v Benfica (h)
Min: 340 v Barcelona (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 117,438 metres
Max: 124,297 v Benfica (h)
Min: 111,821 v Barcelona (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 69%
Max: 74% v Celtic (a)
Min: 59% v Benfica (a)



Decimal points account for the extra 1%

TEAM SHAPE V BENFICA (A)



Patterns of team link up:
Most frequently played passes: →
(Average position of players during the match)

COACH

Unai Emery
Born: 03/11/1971 in Fuenterrabia/Hondarrabia (ESP)
Nationality: Spanish
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 19
Head coach from: 13/05 to 25/11/2012
Replaced by Valeri Karpin (Narva, EST, 02/02/1969; seven UCL matches) for matchday six



FC ZENIT ST PETERSBURG

Russia

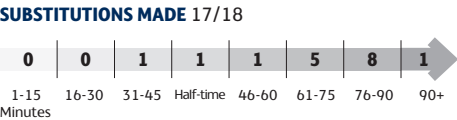
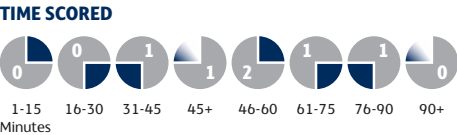


SQUAD (GOALS SCORED AND MINUTES PLAYED)

No	Player	Goals	MAL (a)	ACM (h)	AND (h)	AND (a)	MAL (h)	ACM (a)
Goalkeepers								
16	Vyacheslav Malafeev		90	90	90	90	90	90
30	Yuri Zhevnov							
71	Egor Baburin							
Defenders								
2	Aleksandr Anyukov		90	90	90	90	81‡	90
3	Bruno Alves		90		14†	21†	90	90
4	Domenico Criscito		I	90	90	90	I	I
6	Nicolas Lombaerts		90	90‡	90	69‡	90	90
14	Tomáš Hubočan			90	90	90	90	90
24	Aleksandar Luković		40‡					
82	Michael Lumb		4†					1†
Midfielders								
15	Roman Shirokov	1	86‡	90	76‡	90	72‡	88‡
18	Konstantin Zyryanov		75‡	18†	23†			10†
20	Viktor Fayzulin	1	90	79‡	58‡		18†	I
25	Sergei Semak		I	I	67‡	45‡		90‡
27	Igor Denisov		90			90	90	90
28	Axel Witsel		I	90	90	90	90	90
34	Vladimir Bystrov		50†	72‡	32†	77‡	9† so	S
Forwards								
9	Aleksandr Bukharov				1†			
10	Danny	2	I	I	I	45†	90	90
11	Aleksandr Kerzhakov	1	90	90	90	90	90	
29	Hulk	1	90	90	90	I	90	80‡
77	Luka Djordjević		15†					
99	Maksim Kanunnikov			11†		13†		2†

Bold = Started on the bench; S = Suspended; ‡ = Taken off; † = Brought on; I = Injured/ill; (h) = Home; (a) = Away; so = Sent off

STATISTICS



GOAL ATTEMPTS
74 (37 on target) = 12.3 (6.2) per game

AVERAGES:

POSSESSION 51%
Max: 56% v Málaga (h)
Min: 43% v Milan (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED 516
Max: 605 v Málaga (h)
Min: 436 v Milan (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,305 metres
Max: 118,101 v Milan (a)
Min: 109,589 v Málaga (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 70%
Max: 74% v Málaga (a)
Min: 63% v Milan (a)



TEAM SHAPE V MILAN (H)



Patterns of team link up:
Most frequently played passes: →
(Average position of players during the match)

COACH

Luciano Spalletti
Born: 07/03/1959, Certaldo (ITA)
Nationality: Italian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 42
Head coach from: 11/12/2009



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