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SPOTTING THE TRENDS

UEFA's technical observers met after the final in Kyiv to debate the season's main talking points

The Technical Report on the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League is the 19th of its kind. It aims to provide a permanent record of the 125 matches played in the group stage and the knockout rounds and, although space does not permit analysis of individual matches, to present an overview based on factual information and interpretation of statistics.

The report is backed by input from the team of UEFA technical observers who attended the matches played during the knockout stages of the competition, culminating in the final in Kyiv. The team pages related to the top 16 teams therefore contain additional remarks about playing styles and formations.

UEFA's team of technical observers during the 2017/18 season was formed by Cristian

Chivu (Romania), Jerzy Engel (Poland), Stefan Majewski (Poland), Ginés Meléndez (Spain), Michael O'Neill (Northern Ireland), Peter Rudbæk (Denmark), Willi Rutensteiner (Austria), Thomas Schaaf (Germany) and Gareth Southgate (England). David Moyes (Scotland) and Mixu Paatelainen (Finland) joined the team of observers at the final in Kyiv.

By highlighting tendencies and trends at the peak of professional club football, the aim is to provide a meaningful tool to the more than 160,000 coaches who hold a UEFA licence. It is hoped that the report may be helpful to coaches active in the development levels of the game in terms of working on the qualities needed by the players and coaches who will play roles in shaping the UEFA Champions League of the future.



UEFA's head of football education services, Frank Ludolph (left), with six of the UEFA technical observers in Kyiv: Jerzy Engel, David Moyes, Peter Rudbæk, Thomas Schaaf, Mixu Paatelainen and Cristian Chivu

GROUP A



Manchester United FC
(MU)



FC Basel 1893
(BSL)



PFC CSKA Moskva
(CSKA)



SL Benfica
(BEN)

GROUP B



Paris Saint-Germain
(PSG)



FC Bayern München
(BAY)



Celtic FC
(CEL)



RSC Anderlecht
(AND)

GROUP C



AS Roma
(ASR)



Chelsea FC
(CHE)



Club Atlético de Madrid
(ATM)



Qarabağ FK
(QAR)

GROUP D



FC Barcelona
(BAR)



Juventus
(JUV)



Sporting Clube de Portugal
(SCP)



Olympiacos FC
(OLY)

GROUP E



Liverpool FC
(LIV)



Sevilla FC
(SEV)



FC Spartak Moskva
(SPM)



NK Maribor
(MBR)

GROUP F



Manchester City FC
(MC)



FC Shakhtar Donetsk
(SHK)



SSC Napoli
(NAP)



Feyenoord
(FEY)

GROUP G



Beşiktaş JK
(BJK)



FC Porto
(POR)



RB Leipzig
(LEI)



AS Monaco FC
(MON)

GROUP H



Tottenham Hotspur FC
(TOT)



Real Madrid CF
(RM)



Borussia Dortmund
(DOR)



APOEL FC
(APO)

Liverpool forward
Mohamed Salah hurdles
the challenge of Spartak
Moskva's Georgi Dzhikiya



THE ROUTE TO KYIV

Goals galore, stunning strikes and some unexpected early exits reinforced the UEFA Champions League's capacity to surprise, but ultimately two giants of the competition came to the fore



Talisca celebrates one of his four goals that helped Beşiktaş to first place in Group G

A season of prolific, record-setting goalscoring served to enhance the global appeal of the UEFA Champions League still further. It was therefore no surprise that the 96 group games included only four goalless draws. The element of surprise was that all four occurred in matches involving Spanish clubs: Barcelona twice and Atlético de Madrid twice. With Sevilla also playing out a brace of 0-0 results in the knockout rounds, Spain accounted for six of the season's seven fixtures that failed to change the numerals on the scoreboard.

If eyebrows were raised by the statistic related to the country that has provided an unsurpassed total of 16 finalists over the last 25 years, they were also raised by the early elimination of Atlético de Madrid, finalists and semi-finalists in recent seasons. When the ball started rolling in September 2017, few would have predicted that Diego Simeone's side would emerge victorious from only one of their six games, nor that they would score only five goals – two of them from dead-ball situations. Their two draws against Qarabağ allowed the



Barcelona great Andrés Iniesta bowed out as a four-time winner of the UEFA Champions League



Manchester United's Romelu Lukaku jumps for joy after scoring against Basel (left); Paris's new attacking trident (below) helped the French side to a record 25 group stage goals

debutants from Azerbaijan to earn their first two points in the competition. They also opened the door for Chelsea and Roma to claim the top two places in Group C. To their credit, Atleti dusted themselves down and re-asserted their quality and status by winning the UEFA Europa League. The group stage, usually fairly respectful with the form book, showed less regard for it in 2017/18, raising – Atleti apart – a variety of further questions starting with, “Who would have thought...?”

Who would have thought, for example, that Borussia Dortmund, finalists under Jürgen

Klopp in 2013, would fail to win a game? Or that Napoli, performing strongly in Serie A, would not progress? Or that Monaco, semi-finalists in the previous season, would finish at the foot of Group G without a win and leaking 16 goals in the process – five of them in Porto on the final matchday, when the 5-2 win allowed Sérgio Conceição's side to claim second place ahead of RB Leipzig? Or that the winner of a group involving clubs from France, Germany and Portugal would be – with a degree of comfort – Beşiktaş of Turkey? Above all, who would have thought that Benfica, European champions of yesteryear, would navigate through Group A without netting a point and scoring only one goal – albeit a brilliant one? That goal by Haris Seferović against CSKA Moskva in the opening fixture was followed by 490 sterile minutes.

It meant that the difference between first and last in Group A was 15 points – a huge margin in an 18-point campaign. Tottenham Hotspur, one of only four contestants to end the group phase unbeaten, were not far behind, winning Group H 14 points ahead of APOEL. In Group D, Barcelona finished 13 points up on Olympiacos, while the gap was 12 in three other groups. The difference only dropped into single figures in Groups C and E, where the high number of draws sliced the margin to nine points. Differences between second and third ranged from three to a dozen – the latter case occurring in Group B, where Celtic and Anderlecht beat each other to tie on three points while Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern München were doing likewise to finish level on 15. This was one of only two groups where first and second were level on points – the other being Group C where head-to-head performances had to separate Chelsea and Roma.

Eusebio Di Francesco's Roma were one of three teams to qualify with nine goals from six games, along with Shakhtar Donetsk and the usually prolific Barcelona, who, on this occasion, scored only once away from the Camp Nou. In the same group, Juventus took second place despite scoring only seven times. At the other end of the spectrum, Unai Emery's Paris scored 25 times, while Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool, having come through the play-offs to reach the group stage, hit 23 goals – 12 at Anfield and 11 on the road. Even so, having surrendered advantages (notably a 3-0 in Seville), they drew three games and required a win in the last game against Spartak Moskva to ensure progress. They shaded



It was no surprise that the 96 group games included only four goalless draws ... the surprise was that all four occurred in matches involving Spanish clubs

it 7-0 – the second time they had posted that scoreline in six games.

It was one of many issues that went to the wire – the notable exception being provided by Pep Guardiola's Manchester City, whose run of five straight wins propelled them into the knockout rounds with time to spare. The seemingly comfortable ride for their neighbours was jolted by United's late-goal defeat at Basel and José Mourinho's side needed to come back from a 1-0 half-time deficit at Old Trafford to secure top spot at the expense of CSKA Moskva.

When the curtain came down on the group stage, 306 goals had been scored, compared with 278 in the previous season. Although home goals dominated by 173 to 133, the hosts did not find it easy to impose home rule. Fewer than half of the 96 group matches were home wins – 45 to be precise. There were 20 draws, even though three groups failed to supply any, and 31 matches were won by visiting teams, some of them by handsome margins, including Liverpool's 7-0 win at Maribor, Real Madrid's 6-0 at APOEL or Paris's 5-0 at Celtic.

Real Madrid finished second behind Tottenham Hotspur. However, the defending champions had demonstrated in the previous season that the runner-up spot in the group stage was no barrier to ultimate success.

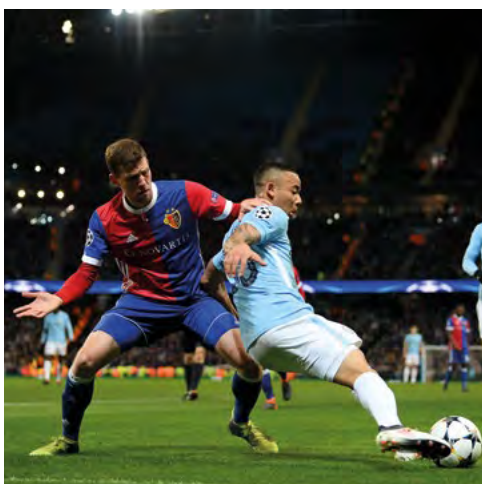
ROUND OF 16

Real Madrid faced a problematic draw against Paris Saint-Germain with the first match in Spain, and Adrien Rabiot's 33rd-minute goal after a cross from the right seemed to add to their complexity. But a penalty and two goals from cutbacks from the left allowed Zinedine Zidane's team to travel to France with a degree of comfort. Playing a 1-4-4-2 with an unusual midfield of Lucas Vázquez, Casemiro, Mateo Kovačić and Marco Asensio, they thwarted the home team by dominating possession, starving the Paris attack and counterattacking fast. They were good value for a 2-1 win.

Juventus, 2-0 up at home to Tottenham, may have felt that the penalty missed by Gonzalo Higuaín would prove anecdotal. But Mauricio Pochettino's team, with good ball circulation and great density in midfield, came back to draw. After taking the lead in London, they were caught by



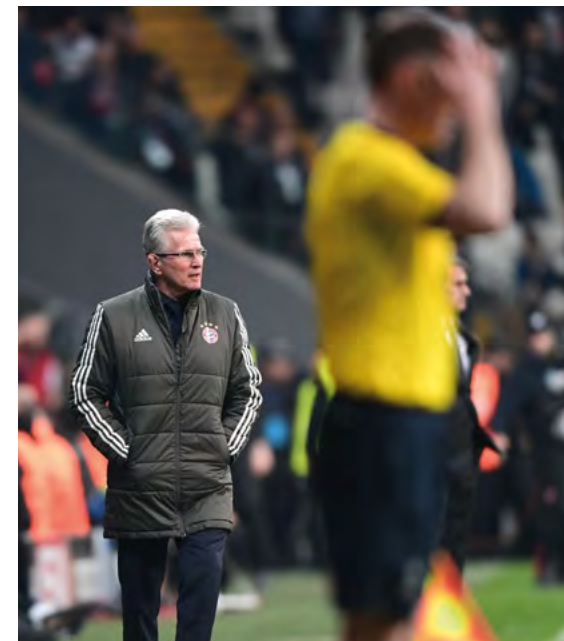
Wissam Ben Yedder came off the bench to fire Sevilla to a famous victory at Manchester United



Manchester City (left) and Barcelona both eased through the last 16

Coach Vincenzo Montella made a telling change deep into the second half, injecting Wissam Ben Yedder into the Sevilla attack. Within six minutes he had scored twice

Jupp Heynckes (below) had a sudden impact on his return to Bayern



two goals in three second-half minutes that undid the good football they had displayed throughout the competition. Manchester United experienced similar problems after a goalless draw in Seville had left them vulnerable to away-goal damage at Old Trafford. After a first half that yielded three on-target attempts, coach Vincenzo Montella made a telling change deep into the second half, injecting Wissam Ben Yedder into the Sevilla attack. Within six minutes he had scored twice and United's late reply provided insufficient consolation. José Mourinho's team were out.

There was also a close call for Roma. Shakhtar Donetsk came back from 0-1 to prevail 2-1 at home, the winner coming from a direct free-kick. Paulo Fonseca's team played neat football in Rome but struggled to create openings against a well-organised home team. A single goal from an elaborate combination move was enough to send Roma through. But not all the ties were so closely contested. After a confident start in Munich, a 16th-minute red card obliged Beşiktaş to set up a deep 1-4-4-1 defence against a rampant Bayern, who rattled in five goals and, in a formality of a return match in Istanbul, completed the task with a further 3-1 victory.

A square pass at the edge of their box proved to be Chelsea's undoing in the home leg against Ernesto Valverde's Barça, Andrés Iniesta racing in to steal possession and cut the ball back for Lionel Messi to equalise the long-range strike by Willian. Even though Chelsea hit the Camp Nou woodwork, they stumbled against an inspired Messi, the key figure in a 3-0 home win. But home victories were not cheap. Basel set out to stop Manchester City playing through the middle, their 1-3-4-2-1 structure often condensing into deep 1-5-4-1 defending. But a corner, a cutback and two long-range shots condemned them to a 4-0 defeat insufficiently remedied by a 2-1 victory in Manchester that left Guardiola complaining that his team had "forgotten to attack". Liverpool went one better. Their direct attacking and counterattacking produced a 5-0 win in Porto followed by – unusually, bearing in mind the rest of their campaign – a goalless draw at Anfield.

The round had produced seven away wins and 25 goals for visitors, compared with 22 for home teams. The quarter-finals were to involve three teams from Spain, two from Italy, one from Germany, and two English sides who were drawn against each other.



Juventus defender Alex Sandro in acrobatic action against Tottenham



Virgil van Dijk (centre) was a commanding addition to the Liverpool defence

QUARTER-FINALS

Based on their domestic league positions, Manchester City were justifiably regarded as favourites when the ball started rolling at Anfield. Just over half an hour later, predictions were being revised. Two counterattacks (the first from a corner for City) and a long-range strike had put Liverpool 3-0 up, with their well-timed, well-choreographed high pressing disrupting City's passing patterns and pre-empting any reply to the early advantage. Throwing players forward in 1-3-5-2 formation, City's revival hopes were fuelled by a second-minute goal in the return leg, only for a slick combination with a rebound off the keeper, followed by a defensive error, to provide two away goals. There was to be no comeback.

But, elsewhere, there were. Sevilla's direct attacking along the flanks and fast transitions



Cristiano Ronaldo and Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon embrace after the Real Madrid star's spectacular display in Turin

Bayern's Arjen Robben tries a shot at home to Sevilla



Kostas Manolas wheels away after crowning Roma's remarkable comeback against Barcelona



Roma were richly rewarded for their determined, aggressive, attacking play as Di Francesco's team achieved their miracle on away goals

asked questions of Jupp Heynckes' Bayern – and earned the Spanish club a deserved 1-0 first-half advantage. The Germans rallied after the break and, committing seven or eight players to attacking moves, scored two precious away goals. It allowed them to adopt a conservative approach to the return in Munich, where the visitors struggled to breach a solid formation.

Roma could feel aggrieved about the severity of a 4-1 first-leg defeat in Barcelona. A good all-round display was undermined by two own goals, a rebound and, after they had come back to 3-1 down, a defensive error that rounded off the scoreline. In Rome, however, they were richly rewarded for determined, aggressive attacking play – a through pass, a penalty and a header from an inswinging corner allowing Di Francesco's team to achieve their miracle on away goals.

The other tie also seemed to have been settled by a conclusive first-leg scoreline. A masterful display in Turin gave Real Madrid a 3-0 win against Juventus, thanks to three outstanding goals: the first a cutback from the left by Isco; the second an overhead kick by Cristiano Ronaldo after a misunderstanding between Giorgio Chiellini and Gianluigi Buffon; and the third a great interior run and finish by left-back Marcelo. The return in Madrid was, however, a tale of the unexpected. Encouraged by a second-minute goal, Juventus exerted pressure on the full-backs and overpowered a midfield that worked more efficiently when Zinedine Zidane pushed Isco forward in the second half and resorted to an attack in which Ronaldo was abetted by Marco Asensio and Lucas Vázquez. Even so, Juventus were good value for their epic comeback to 3-0 and were seemingly stronger (with substitutions in hand) as extra time approached – only for their endeavours to be undone by a last-minute penalty.

SEMI-FINALS

MADRID PUSHED TO THE LIMIT

There was angst at the Estadio Santiago Bernabéu when Real Madrid took on Bayern in the semi-finals. Once again, Madrid wrote the script for a placid return with an accomplished away result. After right-back Joshua Kimmich had given Bayern the lead, the home team squandered chances and allowed the visitors to plunder a result thanks to a long-range shot and a counterattack following a corner in Bayern's favour – a square pass and untimely slip allowing Marco Asensio to strike the winner.

In Madrid, there was a touch of déjà vu as Kimmich again gave Bayern the lead. Although a

Karim Benzema header restored parity, Madrid's 1-4-4-2 formation led to them being regularly outnumbered in midfield areas, with improvised right-back Lucas Vázquez put under enormous pressure by David Alaba and Franck Ribéry. A switch to 1-4-3-3 redressed the balance but it took a bizarre slip by goalkeeper Sven Ulreich for Madrid to edge ahead, Benzema tapping the ball into an unguarded net. Bayern showed great determination to find an equaliser and, with crosses a permanent threat, attacked constantly in search of the goal that would take them to Kyiv – but failed to find it.

Madrid held Bayern at bay at the Bernabéu



Jürgen Klopp applauds the Liverpool fans in Rome after winning through to the final

LIVERPOOL HOLD OFF ROMA

In Liverpool, Roma had the upper hand for the opening 20 minutes, their 1-3-4-1-2 structure giving them numerical advantage in midfield. But, once again, the home team's direct running, power-play intensity and counterattacking potential began to overwhelm their opponents. Between the 36th and 69th minutes, they scored five. But Roma, switching to 1-4-3-1-2 in search of goals, found a couple – a neat through pass to Edin Džeko on the left of the box and a late penalty. It left them requiring a repeat of their 3-0 against Barcelona – a result that became impossible when a defensive error

allowed Sadio Mané to strike after nine minutes. After a freak own goal (a clearance hitting James Milner in the face and rebounding into the net) had produced an equaliser, a corner set up Liverpool's second. With nothing to lose, Roma's 1-4-3-3 gave way to 1-2-4-4 attacking, which was rewarded with three goals. The last, however, was a penalty when the clock showed 90+4, and a valiant revival had fallen one goal short of forcing extra time. After needing to dig deep into mental resources to combat determined comebacks, Liverpool and Real Madrid were on their way to Kyiv.

MADRID COMPLETE HISTORIC TREBLE

Substitute Gareth Bale lit up Kyiv as Real Madrid claimed a historic third successive title, and 13th overall, with a 3-1 victory against Liverpool

The contrast in emotions is evident as Real Madrid's Lucas Vázquez and captain Sergio Ramos celebrate at the final whistle, while Sadio Mané of Liverpool looks dejected

There were elements of déjà vu from start to finish. From the time when Zinédine Zidane handed in the teamsheet he had presented in Cardiff a year earlier to the moment when Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos offered the trophy to the heavens. Between the two events, the outcome, as it had been in Real Madrid's previous two finals, was decided by actions that those spectators carrying traditional timepieces might have measured in movements of the second hand.

Those decisive moments sliced the final into, as UEFA technical observer Peter Rudbæk put it, "3 x 30 minutes". The first half-hour was a tactically absorbing contest. Jürgen Klopp remained loyal to his 1-4-3-3 structure, whereas Zinédine Zidane had again opted for a 1-4-4-2 with Isco a free-ranger across the width from his starting area behind Cristiano Ronaldo and the hardworking Karim Benzema, generous in his efforts to exploit the wide areas and find spaces to receive. The scope of Isco's running obliged Liverpool's No 14 Jordan Henderson to patrol wide areas in front of his back four while, at the other end of the NSC Olimpiyskiy Stadium, his numerical counterpart Casemiro performed similar duties in front of Ramos and Raphaël Varane.

The opening skirmishes highlighted the contrasting credos. Liverpool, with Sadio Mané and Mohamed Salah at the cutting edge and Roberto Firmino dropping off to receive, challenged the Madrid defence with powerful running at the back line. This enabled their trademark high pressing, aimed at preventing the defending champions from playing out from the back. The technical quality of their opponents, however, meant that the aim was not wholly achieved. But, while the ball belonged mostly to the Whites, the more threatening attacking came from the Reds. Direct, lofted mid-to-front passing threatened to eliminate Toni Kroos and Luka Modrić from the equation and it was not until they dropped deeper to get boots to ball that they muscled their way into the game – the latter was even seen dribbling his way out of areas close to Dani Carvajal's corner flag. As Peter Rudbæk remarked: "The Liverpool midfield could not match Modrić and Kroos as playmakers, but they knew how to supply the ball to the front players."

The curtain began to come down on the first act when, after 25 minutes, Salah was wrestled to the ground by Ramos – and stayed there. After running repairs and a return to the



Gareth Bale races away after his 83rd-minute goal – his second of the match after coming on as a substitute

Zidane turned from the edge of his technical area towards the bench, shaking a wrist in disbelief at Bale's celestial display of technique

previous rounds. Madrid's relentless combination play pushed a defused Liverpool into their shell yet, when Serbian referee Milorad Mažić pointed to the dressing rooms, neither goalkeeper had been unduly troubled.

The second act opened with strong speeches by Madrid's midfield trio while Liverpool tried to run off the debilitating effects of the Salah injury that had sliced their 1v1 potential in the final third. Yet, when the breakthrough came, barely six minutes into the second half, it was an unscripted line, far removed from coaching lexicons. Loris Karius, with the ball safely in his gloves, shaped to make an underhand throw to his right. Benzema, reading his intention and running across him, intercepted with the outside of his right boot. Planet Liverpool watched aghast as the ball trickled into the unguarded net.

To their credit, Liverpool dug deep into mental resources to find an almost-immediate reply. After winning a corner, James Milner urged the substantial red army behind the Madrid goal to increase the decibels. His deep dead-ball delivery from the right was pushed goalwards by centre-back Dejan Lovren for Mané to apply a finishing touch at close range. The second 30-minute period came to an end with stalemate restored.

At this point, Zidane, realising that Isco's attempts to create overloads in the wide areas were not bearing fruit and that Ronaldo's manoeuvres were being well-read by the Liverpool defence, opted to throw Gareth Bale into the fray, switching to the 1-4-3-3 structure that, until Bale's long-term injury, had been the norm. Within three minutes, the Welshman rendered a tribute to his boss's wisdom. Just as Zidane himself had converted a pig's ear of a cross by Roberto Carlos into a silk purse of a goal with the volley that won the 2002 final, Bale



Cristiano Ronaldo offers comfort to the injured Mohamed Salah



Sadio Mané knocks in Liverpool's equalising goal

fray, the Egyptian striker went to ground again and, clutching a shoulder, left the stage for good. Suddenly, after half an hour, Liverpool's play was psychologically de-energised by the loss of their prolific and iconic goalscorer. Adam Lallana, a replacement restricted by injury to less than 90 minutes throughout the UEFA Champions League campaign, struggled to get into the game, while Mané's switch to the right flank did not prevent Marcelo from making trademark contributions to his team's attacking manoeuvres, with Ramos quick to close any windows of opportunity in the spaces behind him. When Carvajal also limped towards the bench with an injury, Zidane, conscious of Liverpool's attacking and counterattacking potential, opted to replace the right-back with Nacho, a centre-back with greater defensive-specific gravity than Lucas Vázquez, his choice in



“It was a great final played with pace and intensity, but as a coach you can't do anything about injuries or individual errors”
Thomas Schaaf

threw his legs skywards to meet a delivery from Marcelo's less-scuffed right boot. After the overhead kick had hit the net, Zidane turned from the edge of his technical area towards the bench shaking a wrist in disbelief at the celestial display of technique.

Bale's work of art gave Liverpool another psychological mountain to climb. What's more, their defence had to adjust its modus operandi to deal with the blistering pace of the Welsh attacker. Whereas their policy had been to sit tightly on Isco, Bale's acceleration obliged them to stay looser and give themselves a margin. Coupled with the

obligation to push for a second equaliser, the result was a more stretched formation that allowed Modrić and Kroos to orchestrate with a degree of comfort and for Marcelo to persist with his upfield runs with the ball. Ronaldo, frustrated for most of the balmy Kyiv evening, began to find openings for runs between centre-backs and full-backs – one promising example thwarted by the untimely intervention of a pitch invader.

Liverpool, backed by the vocal assurances from their supporters that they would never walk alone, stuck valiantly to the uphill task against the sober, positionally disciplined Madrid



Champions again, the Real Madrid players (left) take the plaudits in Kyiv; Zinedine Zidane (above) indicates how many times he has won the competition as a coach

centre-backs. That is until Bale, with seven minutes to play, received possession in the ever-growing space between the attacking and defensive units of the Liverpool team. Running the ball on his left foot, he struck at goal from an exorbitant distance. He was probably as surprised as anybody when it squirmed out of Karius's gloves into the roof of the net. Game over.

When the referee signalled that the contest had, indeed, come to its conclusion, the Liverpool keeper prostrated himself on the Kyiv turf, head in hands. Nacho led a line of Madrid players who, creditably, interrupted celebrations of a historic hat-trick of titles to offer consolation. Thomas Schaaf, who headed the UEFA team of technical observers in Kyiv, had reasons to commiserate with his friend and compatriot Jürgen Klopp. “It was a great final played with pace and intensity,” he reflected, “by two teams who were intent on imposing their own style of play. The frustrating thing is that, as a coach, no matter how well you might have prepared the game, you can't do anything about injuries or individual errors.”

MATCH STATISTICS

REAL MADRID 3-1 LIVERPOOL
Saturday 26 May 2018
NSC Olimpiyskiy Stadium, Kyiv

GOALS
1-0 Benzema 51, 1-1 Mané 55, 2-1 Bale 64, 3-1 Bale 83

REAL MADRID
Navas; Carvajal (Nacho 37), Varane, Ramos (C), Marcelo; Modrić, Casemiro, Kroos; Isco (Bale 61); Benzema (Asensio 89), Ronaldo

Unused substitutes: Casilla, Theo Hernández, Lucas Vázquez, Kovačić

Yellow cards: None

Coach: Zinedine Zidane

LIVERPOOL
Karius; Alexander-Arnold, Lovren, Van Dijk, Robertson; Milner (Can 83), Henderson (C), Wijnaldum; Salah (Lallana 31), Firmino, Mané

Unused substitutes: Mignolet, Clyne, Klavan, Moreno, Solanke

Yellow cards: Mané 82

Coach: Jürgen Klopp

REFEREE
Milorad Mažić (SRB)

ATTENDANCE
61,561

REAL MADRID		LIVERPOOL	
3	GOALS	1	
61	POSSESSION %	39	
12	TOTAL ATTEMPTS	12	
5	ON TARGET	2	
6	OFF TARGET	3	
1	BLOCKED	7	
0	AGAINST WOODWORK	0	
9	CORNERS	5	
0	YELLOW CARDS	1	
0	RED CARDS	0	
648	PASSES	351	
590	PASSES COMPLETED	280	
102.6km	DISTANCE COVERED	110.7km	

'I ALWAYS REMAINED FAITHFUL TO MY FOOTBALLING PHILOSOPHY'

After leading Real Madrid to a hat-trick of UEFA Champions League titles, Zinédine Zidane reflects on the keys to his extraordinary success

The celebratory songs were still echoing round the streets of Madrid when Zinédine Zidane, with his customary elegance and aplomb, announced that it was "time for another voice to be heard in the dressing room". His departure added a new dimension to expressions about leaving at the top. No coach, not even during Real Madrid's run of five successive titles when the competition was launched in the 1950s, had ever achieved a hat-trick of victories. Foundations for unparalleled success had been laid in 2014

when he sat on the Madrid bench in the Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica as assistant to Carlo Ancelotti. After his first solo success two years later, the technical report commented: "The debutant's impact can be traced to man-management rather than tactical issues." Zidane himself insisted: "It's all about unity, effort, companionship and, when the time comes to play, quality and leaving everything on the field." This interview provides confirmation that he remained loyal to those principles.



Which of the three titles are you most proud of, and why?

All three titles were fantastic. They were all special for different reasons. The first stands out because it was my first as a coach; the second was both symbolic and intense – with us facing Juventus and turning in an exceptional second-half performance. And the third topped off my three seasons as coach of Real Madrid.

Your third title, in 2017/18, was a result of some highly effective and very solid away performances against top-class opponents.

What, in your view, was the key to that success?

I always remained faithful to the footballing philosophy that I had conveyed to my players, regardless of who our opponents were.

In contrast, you were more vulnerable at home.

Do you know why that was? Do you think that away teams were a bit bolder in this season's UEFA Champions League?

Very often, we managed to achieve very good performances away from home, which might explain a slight loss of concentration during the subsequent return legs. At the same time, I never had the impression that the team were panicking. When you work with high-quality players, they know how to manage those periods of games when you're not playing well, and they get things back on track very quickly. My job was to keep people calm!

What do you think of Tottenham, who beat you and topped your group?

They're a good young team – well-balanced and very committed. We didn't manage to get our game going or deal with the periods where we were on the back foot. Ultimately, however, that poor performance helped to make us stronger, as we made sure that we learned lessons from it as a team.

And what about Juventus – the only other team that beat you?

That was definitely a case of us thinking that we already had the tie sewn up. That's the beauty of football, even at the highest level. You have to remember that a tie is never over until it's over, even if it looks like you have a comfortable cushion. You have to make sure that you avoid any loss of concentration by focusing on your game plan.

Was it difficult to select a team and decide on tactics for the final? Your starting 11 was the same as in Cardiff, but the team seemed to be set up in a different way. To what extent were your instructions different from last year?

Our game plan was indeed different. We didn't play in a diamond formation, like we did in

Zidane heads down the tunnel after triumph in Kyiv; a few days later, he brought an end to his time at Real Madrid



Cardiff. I asked Isco to drop into midfield, and we played with two forwards. We also sought to occupy space by pushing Marcelo up. He had a lot of freedom to go forward, with Sergio Ramos providing defensive cover on his side.

The same 11 players started the final in Cardiff in 2017, and nine of those players had also started the final in Milan in 2016. Are stability and big-match experience key assets in your eyes? To what extent?

There's no doubt about that. Experience always makes the difference in major competitions, as the players find it easier to take a step back.

People watching your matches praised the balance that Casemiro, Modrić and Kroos gave you in the middle of the pitch. Can you tell us a little more about their respective roles?

I asked Kroos and Modrić to defend by pushing up and trying to deny our opponents space, while Casemiro gave us balance across the pitch by providing cover for those pressing midfielders. His role was key – both on the ground and in the air.

How would you define a modern forward? Benzema is often criticised, but what did you think of the work he did for the team?

Karim was important for the balance of the side in terms of how I wanted the team to attack. He helped to implement our possession game by playing his team-mates in. He makes himself available and is a real team player.

Is possession important?

When you have the ball, you're not trying to win it back, so you're normally in less danger. You can also make your opponents run and tire them out. Knowing that my players had the necessary skill set, I felt an obligation to strengthen our identity as a possession-based team – not possession for possession's sake, but possession for the purposes of attacking our opponents. At the same time, having possession is no guarantee of victory!

To what extent do you rely on analysis – both of opponents and of your own team? How do you communicate that analysis to your players? How much time do you spend talking about what your opponents might do?

At Real Madrid, my coaching staff and I used to spend time on team-level analysis, but we limited what we passed on, as I wanted our team to remain focused on our own game. However, I spent time on individual analysis during the week, and I had a word with each player before each match.

Liverpool brought a bit of fresh blood to the competition. What, in your view, are the strengths of their style of play? What problems did you think that Liverpool would pose in the final?

They're a counterattacking team that do a lot of pressing and are very quick to get the ball up to their three forwards when they win possession. They're also a team that never give up.

Did you give Marcelo and the rest of the defence special instructions before the match on account of Liverpool's three forwards, particularly Mohamed Salah?

Not at all! Our game was always the same, regardless of who we were facing. However, we

told players about the individual characteristics of opposing players, so that they were aware of specific things that those players did. I didn't want to do too much of that, as I wanted my players to focus primarily on our own game.

Over the last few seasons, people watching Real Madrid's games have often praised and commented on the performances of Marcelo and Dani Carvajal and highlighted their importance for the team. How important are full-backs in general, and how important were those two players for your team?

They were a very important part of our system, as they had that ability to do something unexpected and create uncertainty in the minds of our opponents. When the ball went out on to the wing, there was always the possibility of something happening. Indeed, we often managed to break teams down by keeping hold of the ball and then launching moves from out on the wing.

In Ronaldo and Sergio Ramos, you had two extraordinary players at opposite ends of the pitch. Can you tell us a little more about each of them – about their leadership qualities, and about their importance for their team-mates, and for you, as their coach, both on and off the pitch?

They are both players with a lot of energy and influence within the squad. Sergio Ramos is a natural leader and a big presence in the dressing room, and Cristiano Ronaldo is a leader on the pitch who inspires his team-mates. They complement each other well.

To what extent is the job of a coach different in the UEFA Champions League? Are the challenges the same as in La Liga?

For me, there is no difference. I have always prepared for all matches with the same level of application. In any event, when you're coaching Real Madrid, you have to win everything, while maintaining a certain standard of play – that's my philosophy.

What were the main lessons that you learnt during your three title-winning campaigns?

When you're working with talented and experienced players, the most important thing is to keep them calm. That's what I needed when I was a player, so that's the approach that I try to adopt.

Some people play golf, while others read. How do you escape the stresses of life as a coach?

I play sport, and I like to read. I also spend time with my family; that's very important to me.

“With talented and experienced players, the most important thing is to keep them calm. That’s what I needed when I was a player”

Zinédine Zidane

RESULTS

PLAY-OFFS – LEAGUE PATH (Aggregate scores played over two legs; the first-named club played at home in the first leg)														
İstanbul Başakşehir		3	Young Boys		0	Napoli		4	1899 Hoffenheim		3	Sporting CP		5
Sevilla		4	CSKA Moskva		3	Nice		0	Liverpool		6	FCSB		1

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A				P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United FC				6	5	0	1	12	3	15
FC Basel 1893				6	4	0	2	11	5	12
PFC CSKA Moskva				6	3	0	3	8	10	9
SL Benfica				6	0	0	6	1	14	0
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away			
12/09	Man. United	3-0	Basel	31/10	Man. United	2-0	Benfica			
12/09	Benfica	1-2	CSKA Moskva	31/10	Basel	1-2	CSKA Moskva			
27/09	CSKA Moskva	1-4	Man. United	22/11	CSKA Moskva	2-0	Benfica			
27/09	Basel	5-0	Benfica	22/11	Basel	1-0	Man. United			
18/10	Benfica	0-1	Man. United	05/12	Man. United	2-1	CSKA Moskva			
18/10	CSKA Moskva	0-2	Basel	05/12	Benfica	0-2	Basel			

GROUP B				P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris Saint-Germain				6	5	0	1	25	4	15
FC Bayern München				6	5	0	1	13	6	15
Celtic FC				6	1	0	5	5	18	3
RSC Anderlecht				6	1	0	5	2	17	3
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away			
12/09	Celtic	0-5	Paris	31/10	Celtic	1-2	Bayern			
12/09	Bayern	3-0	Anderlecht	31/10	Paris	5-0	Anderlecht			
27/09	Anderlecht	0-3	Celtic	22/11	Paris	7-1	Celtic			
27/09	Paris	3-0	Bayern	22/11	Anderlecht	1-2	Bayern			
18/10	Bayern	3-0	Celtic	05/12	Celtic	0-1	Anderlecht			
18/10	Anderlecht	0-4	Paris	05/12	Bayern	3-1	Paris			

GROUP E				P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool FC				6	3	3	0	23	6	12
Sevilla FC				6	2	3	1	12	12	9
FC Spartak Moskva				6	1	3	2	9	13	6
NK Maribor				6	0	3	3	3	16	3
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away			
13/09	Liverpool	2-2	Sevilla	01/11	Liverpool	3-0	Maribor			
13/09	Maribor	1-1	Spartak	01/11	Sevilla	2-1	Spartak			
26/09	Spartak	1-1	Liverpool	21/11	Spartak	1-1	Maribor			
26/09	Sevilla	3-0	Maribor	21/11	Sevilla	3-3	Liverpool			
17/10	Maribor	0-7	Liverpool	06/12	Liverpool	7-0	Spartak			
17/10	Spartak	5-1	Sevilla	06/12	Maribor	1-1	Sevilla			

GROUP F				P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester City FC				6	5	0	1	14	5	15
FC Shakhtar Donetsk				6	4	0	2	9	9	12
SSC Napoli				6	2	0	4	11	11	6
Feyenoord				6	1	0	5	5	14	3
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away			
13/09	Shakhtar	2-1	Napoli	01/11	Shakhtar	3-1	Feyenoord			
13/09	Feyenoord	0-4	Man. City	01/11	Napoli	2-4	Man. City			
26/09	Man. City	2-0	Shakhtar	21/11	Napoli	3-0	Shakhtar			
26/09	Napoli	3-1	Feyenoord	21/11	Man. City	1-0	Feyenoord			
17/10	Feyenoord	1-2	Shakhtar	06/12	Shakhtar	2-1	Man. City			
17/10	Man. City	2-1	Napoli	06/12	Feyenoord	2-1	Napoli			

ROUND OF 16			13 February – 14 March		
Basel	2-5	Man. City			
First leg 0-4	(agg)	Second leg 2-1			
Juventus	4-3	Tottenham			
First leg 2-2	(agg)	Second leg 2-1			
Real Madrid	5-2	Paris			
First leg 3-1	(agg)	Second leg 2-1			
Porto	0-5	Liverpool			
First leg 0-5	(agg)	Second leg 0-0			
Bayern	8-1	Beşiktaş			
First leg 5-0	(agg)	Second leg 3-1			
Chelsea	1-4	Barcelona			
First leg 1-1	(agg)	Second leg 0-3			
Shakhtar Donetsk	2-2	Roma			
First leg 2-1	(Roma win on away goals)	Second leg 0-1			
Sevilla	2-1	Man. United			
First leg 0-0	(agg)	Second leg 2-1			

QUARTER-FINALS			3 – 11 April		
Juventus	3-4	Real Madrid			
First leg 0-3	(agg)	Second leg 3-1			
Sevilla	1-2	Bayern			
First leg 1-2	(agg)	Second leg 0-0			
Liverpool	5-1	Man. City			
First leg 3-0	(agg)	Second leg 2-1			
Barcelona	4-4	Roma			
First leg 4-1	(Roma win on away goals)	Second leg 0-3			

PLAY-OFFS – CHAMPIONS PATH (Aggregate scores played over two legs; the first-named club played at home in the first leg)									
Qarabağ (win on away goals) 2		APOEL 2		Olympiacos 3		Celtic 8		Hapoel Beer-Sheva 2	
København 2		Slavia Praha 0		Rijeka 1		Astana 4		Maribor (win on away goals) 2	

GROUP STAGE

GROUP C							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AS Roma	6	3	2	1	9	6	11
Chelsea FC	6	3	2	1	16	8	11
Club Atlético de Madrid	6	1	4	1	5	4	7
Qarabağ FK	6	0	2	4	2	14	2
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
12/09	Roma	0-0	Atlético	31/10	Roma	3-0	Chelsea
12/09	Chelsea	6-0	Qarabağ	31/10	Atlético	1-1	Qarabağ
27/09	Qarabağ	1-2	Roma	22/11	Qarabağ	0-4	Chelsea
27/09	Atlético	1-2	Chelsea	22/11	Atlético	2-0	Roma
18/10	Qarabağ	0-0	Atlético	05/12	Roma	1-0	Qarabağ
18/10	Chelsea	3-3	Roma	05/12	Chelsea	1-1	Atlético

GROUP G							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beşiktaş JK	6	4	2	0	11	5	14
FC Porto	6	3	1	2	15	10	10
RB Leipzig	6	2	1	3	10	11	7
AS Monaco FC	6	0	2	4	6	16	2
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
13/09	Porto	1-3	Beşiktaş	01/11	Beşiktaş	1-1	Monaco
13/09	Leipzig	1-1	Monaco	01/11	Porto	3-1	Leipzig
26/09	Monaco	0-3	Porto	21/11	Beşiktaş	1-1	Porto
26/09	Beşiktaş	2-0	Leipzig	21/11	Monaco	1-4	Leipzig
17/10	Leipzig	3-2	Porto	06/12	Porto	5-2	Monaco
17/10	Monaco	1-2	Beşiktaş	06/12	Leipzig	1-2	Beşiktaş

GROUP D							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Barcelona	6	4	2	0	9	1	14
Juventus	6	3	2	1	7	5	11
Sporting Clube de Portugal	6	2	1	3	8	9	7
Olympiacos FC	6	0	1	5	4	13	1
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
12/09	Olympiacos	2-3	Sporting CP	31/10	Olympiacos	0-0	Barcelona
12/09	Barcelona	3-0	Juventus	31/10	Sporting CP	1-1	Juventus
27/09	Juventus	2-0	Olympiacos	22/11	Sporting CP	3-1	Olympiacos
27/09	Sporting CP	0-1	Barcelona	22/11	Juventus	0-0	Barcelona
18/10	Barcelona	3-1	Olympiacos	05/12	Olympiacos	0-2	Juventus
18/10	Juventus	2-1	Sporting CP	05/12	Barcelona	2-0	Sporting CP

GROUP H							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham Hotspur FC	6	5	1	0	15	4	16
Real Madrid CF	6	4	1	1	17	7	13
Borussia Dortmund	6	0	2	4	7	13	2
APOEL FC	6	0	2	4	2	17	2
Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
13/09	Tottenham	3-1	Dortmund	01/11	Tottenham	3-1	Real Madrid
13/09	Real Madrid	3-0	APOEL	01/11	Dortmund	1-1	APOEL
26/09	APOEL	0-3	Tottenham	21/11	Dortmund	1-2	Tottenham
26/09	Dortmund	1-3	Real Madrid	21/11	APOEL	0-6	Real Madrid
17/10	Real Madrid	1-1	Tottenham	06/12	Tottenham	3-0	APOEL
17/10	APOEL	1-1	Dortmund	06/12	Real Madrid	3-2	Dortmund

SQUAD OF THE SEASON

Competition for places in the all-star team was fierce, but Real Madrid dominated the observers' final choice

The number of players who impressed UEFA's technical observers at individual matches added up, by the time they assembled in Kyiv, to a shortlist that was a total misnomer. To complicate life even further, they juggled with additional names, with the result that they had to select a teamsheet from four goalkeepers, 27 defenders, 23 midfielders and 27 attackers of varying descriptions, ranging from out-and-out target strikers to occupants of the wide positions in the line that generally supported them.

But there was a surprising level of consensus when it came to picking the 'winners'. Bearing in mind the déjà vu nature of the teamsheet – and the outcome – in Kyiv, it was maybe not surprising that six of the eight Real Madrid players who had featured in the squad of the 2016/17 campaign were on the teamsheet again in 2018, along with Lionel Messi. As usual, there were some near misses, such as Sevilla FC's Steven N'Zonzi or the FC Barcelona duo of Marc-André ter Stegen and Andrés Iniesta, the latter playing his final UEFA Champions League match in a quarter-final exit at AS Roma.

 <p>KEYLOR NAVAS REAL MADRID CF</p> <p>GK</p> <p>2017/18 11 APPS</p> <p>Steady campaign and made saves when required; collected third consecutive winner's medal.</p> <p>67 SAVES 2 CLEAN SHEETS</p>	 <p>ALISSON BECKER AS ROMA</p> <p>GK</p> <p>2017/18 12 APPS</p> <p>Excellent en route to the semi-finals. Numerous saves away to Shakhtar kept his team in the tie.</p> <p>5 CLEAN SHEETS IN 12 GAMES</p>	 <p>JOSHUA KIMMICH FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN</p> <p>DEF</p> <p>2017/18 11 APPS 4 GOALS</p> <p>Energetic full-back key in the run to the semis, where two excellent goals gave his team belief.</p> <p>89 CROSSES FROM THE RIGHT</p>	 <p>SERGIO RAMOS REAL MADRID CF</p> <p>DEF</p> <p>2017/18 11 APPS 1 GOAL</p> <p>The defensive talisman of the competition winners won his fourth UEFA Champions League title.</p> <p>663 PASSES 83 REGAINS</p>	 <p>MARCELO REAL MADRID CF</p> <p>DEF</p> <p>2017/18 11 APPS 3 GOALS</p> <p>Provided width and an incredible attacking threat from left-back.</p> <p>570 PASSES 67 CROSSES</p>	 <p>GIORGIO CHIELLINI JUVENTUS</p> <p>DEF</p> <p>2017/18 7 APPS 0 GOALS</p> <p>The key defender at the heart of brilliant team defensive displays in London and in Madrid.</p> <p>32.6 KM/H FASTEST CENTRE-BACK</p>
 <p>VIRGIL VAN DIJK LIVERPOOL FC</p> <p>DEF</p> <p>2017/18 6 APPS 0 GOALS</p> <p>Arrived in January and provided composure and stability at the back in the knockout stage.</p> <p>32 SPRINTS PER GAME</p>	 <p>RAPHAËL VARANE REAL MADRID CF</p> <p>DEF</p> <p>2017/18 11 APPS 1 GOAL</p> <p>Ramos's younger central defensive partner, the Frenchman is outstanding in his own right.</p> <p>483 PASSES 76 REGAINS</p>	 <p>KEVIN DE BRUYNE MANCHESTER CITY FC</p> <p>MID</p> <p>2017/18 8 APPS 1 GOAL</p> <p>The complete midfield player, with the technical and athletic ability to play in any midfield role.</p> <p>COVERED 132M PER MINUTE PLAYED</p>	 <p>CASEMIRO REAL MADRID CF</p> <p>MID</p> <p>2017/18 12 APPS 1 GOAL</p> <p>The anchor man of the champions' immaculately balanced midfield trio.</p> <p>589 PASSES 85 REGAINS</p>	 <p>LUKA MODRIĆ REAL MADRID CF</p> <p>MID</p> <p>2017/18 11 APPS 1 GOAL</p> <p>Always available to receive; very important to how the three-in-a-row champions want to play.</p> <p>96% PASSING ACCURACY IN FINAL</p>	 <p>TONI KROOS REAL MADRID CF</p> <p>MID</p> <p>2017/18 12 APPS 0 GOALS</p> <p>Composure on the ball and metronomic passing. He and Modrić generate attacking fluidity.</p> <p>COVERED 127M PER MINUTE PLAYED</p>
 <p>JAMES RODRÍGUEZ FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN</p> <p>MID</p> <p>2017/18 12 APPS 1 GOAL</p> <p>Performed excellently in the knockout stage, notably in the second leg against Real Madrid.</p> <p>43 SPRINTS PER GAME</p>	 <p>EDIN DŽEKO AS ROMA</p> <p>FWD</p> <p>2017/18 12 APPS 8 GOALS</p> <p>Brilliant volleyed finish against Chelsea. The forward led the line and his team to the semi-finals.</p> <p>76 PASSES IN FINAL THIRD</p>	 <p>ROBERTO FIRMINO LIVERPOOL FC</p> <p>FWD</p> <p>2017/18 13 APPS 10 GOALS</p> <p>Combined incredible work rate, technical quality and fierce competitiveness, scoring ten goals.</p> <p>7 ASSISTS 53 SPRINTS PER GAME</p>	 <p>LIONEL MESSI FC BARCELONA</p> <p>FWD</p> <p>2017/18 10 APPS 6 GOALS</p> <p>Barcelona's key attacker was the difference-maker in both round of 16 games against Chelsea.</p> <p>202 PASSES IN THE FINAL THIRD</p>	 <p>CRISTIANO RONALDO REAL MADRID CF</p> <p>FWD</p> <p>2017/18 13 APPS 15 GOALS</p> <p>The competition's top scorer for the sixth year running and scorer of the observers' goal of the season.</p> <p>15 GOALS FROM 84 ATTEMPTS</p>	 <p>MOHAMED SALAH LIVERPOOL FC</p> <p>FWD</p> <p>2017/18 13 APPS 10 GOALS</p> <p>The Egyptian had an incredible season. His departure changed the outlook of the final.</p> <p>33.8 TOP SPEED (KM/H)</p>

BALANCE OF POWER

Whatever the item up for debate in Kyiv, the conversation soon came back to the importance of getting the balance right within a team

THE MODERN WAY

Pace and pressing reaped rewards for Liverpool – as it did for Monaco last season

“They had pace and power throughout the team. Their physicality and offensive vocation were most impressive.” The quotation could easily be thrown into the ‘fake news’ basket, as the comment was made by Ryan Giggs, one of UEFA’s team of technical observers during the 2016/17 season, after watching the eventual semi-finalists Monaco. Poetic licence has been brought into play as his remark could equally well apply to Liverpool’s contribution to the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League. In both cases, critics were ready to label them ‘breaths of fresh air’.

“When we talk about 1-4-3-3,” David Moyes commented when the group of UEFA observers met on the morning after the Kyiv final, “we tend to think of the Dutch 4-3-3 with wingers and wide players. I think that Liverpool’s 4-3-3 is completely different. Apart from the two full-backs, nearly all the players concentrate their efforts into a central area – as if we extended the outside lines of the penalty boxes from end to end. At first, it seems quite easy to coach against it. But the Liverpool system allows them to press very easily with their three forwards. This covers your defensive players very quickly, whether you’re playing with a back four or a back three. Also, on the counterattack, they’re extremely fast – they have fast individual dribblers. They’re all happy to run in behind without the ball and not always receive it to feet. I think Liverpool summed up a lot of modern-day trends.”

In few words, his comments raised a number of issues. As Thomas Schaaf added: “The decisive points are waves of attack, quick changes of play and speed. The system requires speed going forward, players with pace who are prepared to do a lot of high-intensity running.” Over the season, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mané averaged 53 high-intensity sprints per match; Mohamed Salah 46.

Anthony Martial shoots at goal in Manchester United’s 3-0 group stage home win against Basel

HIGH AND WIDE

With full-backs pushing ever higher, the space they leave behind has become a key battleground

Putting on the brakes and going back to the first point raised by David Moyes, Liverpool's narrow attacking front emphasised the importance of full-backs in exploiting the wide areas in the modern game. The pages featuring statistics on crossing offer ample confirmation. Among the top teams of the season, Bayern München provided an exception to the general rule by fielding two wingers. Even Barcelona frequently opted to depart from their traditional default setting and operate a 1-4-4-2 with Lionel Messi in a free-spirit role behind Luis Suárez – and no wingers. Real Madrid, during the knockout rounds, preferred to adopt a similar style with Karim Benzema and Cristiano Ronaldo leading the front line in a winger-less formation.

“This is why we are seeing so many wingers being converted into full-backs,” Jerzy Engel commented at the meeting in Kyiv. “They are becoming more and more important in organising attacks from the sides.” The feeling was that the 2017/18 season had vindicated the view expressed by Ryan Giggs a year earlier that “wingers are definitely going out of the game. Full-backs are now the wingers, no matter what system you play.”

Going back to Bayern, statistics reveal that, despite the presence of Arjen Robben and Franck Ribéry, the main purveyors of crosses were Joshua Kimmich and David Alaba. For Real Madrid, it was Marcelo on the left and, with Dani Carvajal's campaign restricted by injury to eight matches, Toni Kroos stepping in as the main supplier from the right, albeit generally from positions deeper than the overlapping full-back. James Milner emerged as Liverpool's main crosser of the ball due to permutations at full-back, while Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andrew Robertson were establishing themselves as the season wore on.

The evolving job description for full-backs has developed into a perennial talking point – not only at UEFA Champions League level but also at the age-limit tournaments where the emphasis is more clearly on player development. “In the old days,” Peter Rudbæk commented with a wry smile, “the left-back needed to be quick and to have a good left foot. Marcelo's cross for Gareth Bale in the final was an example that he has to be good with his wrong foot as well.”

The debating point is whether the attacking slant in the job description is encouraging teams to set themselves up to exploit the full-backs' defensive weaknesses – or at least the space behind them. “We saw in the final,” Mixu Paatelainen remarked, “how quickly Sergio Ramos was out to cover the spaces left by Marcelo. I think Real Madrid achieved a very good positional balance in the full-back areas.”

“The attacking full-backs carry a risk element,” Thomas Schaaf added, “so they have to be taught how to stay compact and to deal with shifts of play. I saw quite a few goals during the season where a player started wide to receive in the space behind the full-back and then cut in to score.”



Full-back Joshua Kimmich supplied crosses and goals as Bayern reached the semi-finals

AVALANCHE OF GOALS

With the emphasis increasingly on attack, defenders are being tested to the maximum

The eyebrows raised when Josep Guardiola first started fielding Messi on the right now remain firmly lowered as the use of wrong-footed wingers has proliferated to the point of almost becoming the norm. Selecting the best goals in a season that set a new scoring record was a process that revealed how many successful strikes were as a result of a wrong-footed winger cutting inside to strike to the far corner of the net. “I think that in the Champions League every coach now has to be attacking,” David Moyes said. “And I think we saw that, to be an attacking coach, you need to work on top-quality defending by top-quality defenders. Teams like Liverpool or Real Madrid who operate with three forwards who have limited defensive responsibilities obviously rely on fewer players to defend. So creating the best balance is the coach's priority.”

“More and more coaches seem to be telling the front three players to ease off once the ball has passed them,” Peter Rudbæk added, “so, in one way, you could argue that it's easier to attack now than it was some years ago. Looking back, I would say that the last time a defending team won the Champions League it was Inter Milan. Since then, attacking teams have dominated.”

PRESSING MATTERS

Aggressive pressing is shifting momentum away from the trend to build from the back

The three forwards' defensive responsibilities may have been limited in terms of zonal play and distances to be covered. But the observers noted the spread of what one of them described as “the Guardiola effect”, based on everybody pushing forward with or without the ball and exerting aggressive high pressure after ball losses and, in the process, making it difficult for opponents to counterattack with clarity. Liverpool's modus operandi provided a prime example of effective, high-intensity, collective pressing by a compact block.

“The trend towards forward tracking and high pressing has a significant effect,” Jerzy Engel argued. “Before, teams had more space to start their game from the back. Now the pressure is so high that teams are being forced into a lot of defensive errors that, at this level, lead to goals.” Thomas

Schaaf reflected: “I think we're seeing a development where teams have developed strategies to play against possession football and to make themselves dangerous against opponents like Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester City or Paris Saint-Germain. Liverpool gave us a good example of a team equipped to try to suffocate the opponent's build-up play.”

This provided one of the talking points while the season was being reviewed in Kyiv: whether the trend towards – not to say the obsession with – building from the back is now being undermined by the tendency towards aggressive high pressing. The season's statistics reveal that just over 50% of goals were scored as a result of ball-winning in the attacking third, whereas only 12% resulted from regains in the defensive third.

PLAY SCHOOLS

Three tactical approaches held sway – pressing, possession and safety first

One of the views was that the competition had, in very broad brush strokes, brought together three schools of thought. One of them could carry a German label based on the playing styles of Borussia Dortmund, RB Leipzig, Bayern since Guardiola departed and Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool – an advanced pressing game with players suffocating opponents



Manchester City players celebrate on their way to a 4-0 first-leg victory at Basel in the round of 16

by swarming around ball-carriers. At the same time, they are set up to retreat when they have to into a compact block and bring another important weapon to bear – the lightning-fast counterattack with players flooding forward.

The second school carries a Spanish label, with Real Madrid and Barcelona operating variations on the theme that could also be applied to Manchester City, Sevilla, Paris and even Tottenham. Possession play is the priority, allied with an ability to attack with and without the ball. When possession is lost, there are immediate attempts to regain it with high pressure but, once it is won, the brilliant ball skills in tight situations allow them to retain it and then launch combination attacks.

The third group also carries a Latin label, based on a more rational, cautious style associated with Italy or Portugal but, in the UEFA Champions League, extendable not only to Juventus or Porto but also to teams such as Manchester United, Chelsea or even Atlético Madrid, who step away from the Spanish norm. The emphasis is on not losing the ball and on rational thinking about the number of players behind the ball, in possession and out of possession.

“I think that’s an interesting theory,” Mixu Paatelainen said. “We talk about attacking football but, when you attack, how do you get the right balance? How many players do you leave below the ball? These are key questions for any coach.”

A COMEBACK FOR THE COMEBACK?

Both in individual games and two-legged ties, holding a lead is getting tougher every year

For many years, technical reports have highlighted the importance of scoring the first goal – and proved the point with strong statistical evidence. But, since the number of comebacks for teams conceding the first goal hit rock bottom in 2014/15 with a not-so-grand total of five, there has been a steady ascent of this particular mountain. From 15 in 2015/16 to 17 in 2016/17. The upward trend was continued in 2017/18, when 20 of the 99 games that produced results were won by a team rebounding from a 0-1 deficit. In other words, one in five victories for the team conceding first.

Among the dozen comeback results during the group stage, the most spectacular was Paris’s return from being a goal down to beat Celtic 7-1 at home, followed by the two corners and two counterattacks that allowed Manchester City to record a valuable 4-2 away win against SSC Napoli. Seven of the comebacks were by visiting teams.

Interestingly, the incidence of rebound results was much higher in the knockout rounds, where eight of the 27 matches to produce goals resulted in victory for the team conceding first – five of them in favour of away teams. As the issue goes beyond a numbers game, so much for statistics. Theories about teams becoming mentally better equipped to deal with adverse situations can be supported by other matches, such as the comeback from 2-0 down that earned Roma a 3-3 draw with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. Or the fightback that salvaged an identical result for Sevilla after trailing 3-0 at half-time at home to Liverpool. Or, moving into the group



Paris’s teenage sensation Kylian Mbappé looks for a way past Celtic’s Jozo Šimunović

Twenty of the 99 games that produced results were won by a team rebounding from a 0-1 deficit ... or one in five victories for the team conceding first

COMEBACK VICTORIES AFTER CONCEDED THE FIRST GOAL

GROUP STAGE			
	BENFICA	1-2	CSKA MOSKVA
	ATLÉTICO DE MADRID	1-2	CHELSEA
	FEYENOORD	1-2	SHAKHTAR
	MONACO	1-2	BEŞİKTAŞ
	JUVENTUS	2-1	SPORTING
	BASEL	1-2	CSKA MOSKVA
	NAPOLI	2-4	MANCHESTER CITY
	SHAKHTAR	3-1	FEYENOORD
	DORTMUND	1-2	TOTTENHAM
	PARIS	7-1	CELTIC
	MANCHESTER UNITED	2-1	CSKA MOSKVA
	FEYENOORD	2-1	NAPOLI

stage, Tottenham’s response to being 2-0 down to Juventus after just nine minutes – a situation in which many teams would have folded.

“I saw that game in Turin,” Cristian Chivu commented, “and I was impressed not only by the way they reacted but the way they did so by playing well. Credit to Mauricio Pochettino because it’s about how we manage the players, how we take pressure off them and how we give them the right motivation.”

The outstanding feature, however, was the number of aggregate comebacks after conceding the first leg rather than the first goal. After the 4-1 defeat at the Camp Nou, Jerzy Engel observed that, in the return, Roma achieved their 3-0 turnaround by “changing the system to 1-3-5-2 with Schick supporting Džeko in attack. The pair worked together to hold up direct passes along the flanks and to absorb the attention of the Barcelona stoppers. Florenzi and Kolarov worked very hard as wing-backs, while De Rossi spread the game from midfield. They held a high line, pressed the goalkeeper and the three defenders avoided mistakes and won the aerial battles that Barcelona were forced into.”

Needing the same result after losing 5-2 in Liverpool, Eusebio Di Francesco preferred a 1-4-3-3 approach against Jürgen Klopp’s three-pronged front line, switching to 1-4-2-4 attacking when chasing the comeback in the second half.

Juventus offered similar storylines but in reverse order – playing return legs away from home. The observer at the 2-2 home draw with Tottenham remarked: “2-0 up after ten minutes, the home team adopted a defensive interpretation of the game, with ten men below the ball and few options for fast transitions.” In the return at Wembley, Massimiliano Allegri pushed Alex Sandro forward to effectively defend with a line of three and, as Thomas Schaaf explained, “decided the game in their favour at key moments within ten minutes, even though Tottenham put in a great performance.” He then expected a formality in Madrid after a superb performance in Turin had given Real a 3-0 advantage. An equally outstanding display by Juventus came within a whisker of forcing extra time.

In a similar vein, it could be added that, in the knockout rounds, there were more victories for visitors than for home teams – symptom of a more ambitious approach to away

KNOCKOUT ROUNDS			
	REAL MADRID	3-1	PARIS
	SHAKHTAR	2-1	ROMA
	TOTTENHAM	1-2	JUVENTUS
	MANCHESTER CITY	1-2	BASEL
	SEVILLA	1-2	BAYERN
	MANCHESTER CITY	1-2	LIVERPOOL
	BAYERN	1-2	REAL MADRID
	ROMA	4-2	LIVERPOOL



Winning team in silver

fixtures? Real Madrid's campaign was built on impressive performances on the road plus anxiety at the Estadio Santiago Bernabéu. They went into away games with self-confidence, concentration and, of course, quality. They had strong game plans and they implemented them.

On one side of the coin there is praise for teams' mental fortitude in adverse situations, for their ambition and for their will to win. On the other side of the coin is a provocative question: are teams only prepared to come out and play when they really have to?

"In my opinion," said Cristian Chivu, "teams who know they have fewer possibilities show better quality because they are under less pressure. In situations where you have nothing to lose, players tend to do things differently."

FINDING KEEPERS

From shot-stopping to ball-playing, demands on goalkeepers have never been higher

One of the difficulties encountered by the technical team while selecting their squad of the season was the choice of goalkeepers. "We mustn't forget that the goalkeeper's main job is to defend the goal, not to play the ball," Cristian Chivu said. "I wonder how many dominated both aspects during the whole season."

"We've been analysing the goalkeeper position over the past few years," Thomas Schaaf commented, "and, in my opinion, the first and foremost is to stop the ball going in. If that doesn't work, it doesn't matter how well the keeper plays. The coach has to link him with the style of play. For example, Marc-André ter Stegen was an integral part of build-up play and was required to have technical ability." Finally, Roma's Alisson Becker was selected alongside Keylor Navas because, as Cristian Chivu put it, "he's a keeper with good positioning and good attitude. He's very relaxed and he gives confidence to everybody."

Goalkeeping performances, however, were linked to game plans and the steadily increasing implementation of high pressing. To quote an example, when Roma, 4-1 down from the first leg, decided to press Marc-André ter Stegen in the return match, the Barcelona keeper was unable to play a short pass and was obliged to play long on 34 occasions. Only 13 of those deliveries were received by team-mates – and it cannot be said that Barça are set up as a second-ball team. By way of comparison, in the away leg of the previous round against Chelsea, Ter Stegen had played long on only seven occasions – four of them going successfully to a team-mate.

Fellow German Loris Karius provided a further example of a goalkeeper with a role to play with his feet. In the home leg against Manchester City, for instance, he made 46 passes – a total narrowly surpassed by only the Liverpool full-backs Trent Alexander-Arnold (48) and Andy Robertson (47). However, of the 33 long passes by Karius, one-third reached a team-mate. In Rome, during the second leg of the semi-final, six of his 32 long passes were delivered to friendly recipients. On the other hand, it has to be said that Liverpool have greater second-ball expertise.

THE TOUCH OF MAGIC

Does individual brilliance or collective quality provide the most consistent route to goal?

"If we don't develop players with dribbling skills, I don't know how many spectators we will have in ten years' time." The remark by Peter Rudbæk provoked debate at the meeting in Kyiv, amid general acknowledgement that, as one of the coaches put it: "The best coaching philosophies often don't deliver the end product unless they have a touch of magic from Latin America." Once again, the upper echelons of the scoring chart were dominated by non-Europeans.

One of the charms of the UEFA Champions League is that the competition showcases the world's best players. But, from a development standpoint, what is being done in other continents, particularly South America, to produce such talented attackers and finishers? And what more could be done in Europe?

The counter-argument is that collective virtues have greater importance. In a recent interview, Mauricio Pochettino, manager of the Tottenham side who were one of two opponents to defeat Real Madrid (and finish ahead of them in Group H), said: "We don't rely on exceptional 1v1 skills. We have a lot of quality in our squad, but our main virtues are to associate with each other and to combine to create. We have enough tactical flexibility to react to different situations and I would say that we are disciplined but we try to generate chaos to disorganise our opponents."

TITLES TALK

Madrid showed how getting the balance right makes all the difference

Three successive titles – the second and third with the same starting line-up – inevitably prompted the technical observers to discuss the qualities that had earned a position of such prominence. "To try to paint the big picture," Peter Rudbæk added, "the team is good because they have good players. But they are also clever in their interpretation of the game. Modrić and Kroos defend five or ten metres ahead of Casemiro, who protects the centre-backs. But, in possession, when they start to build up, it's often the other way round. Casemiro moves forward and the other two drop down into the area where they have space to act as playmakers."

Mixu Paatelainen concluded: "Real Madrid are a great example of a well-balanced team. It's not a case of, 'you five attack; you five defend.' They keep their positions and they're difficult to play against when they lose the ball because Kroos and Modrić are higher, leaving Casemiro to do the job of protecting through the middle. They have their structure in place all the time. The whole team is balanced all the time." For Real Madrid, balance is power.



Real Madrid's Keylor Navas punches clear under pressure against Bayern

CELEBRATION TIME

The upward trend continued as more than 400 goals hit the net for the first time in a 125-game campaign

The 2016/17 UEFA Champions League raised the goal standard with an average that, for the first time in the competition's history, exceeded three goals per game. The 2017/18 season prolonged that trend by boosting the average to 3.21 per match and nudging past the benchmark of 400 goals for the first time since the reduction to a 125-game format in 2003/04. The increase could be traced back to a group stage that was adorned with 28 goal celebrations more than in the previous campaign. Fittingly, the 400-mark was reached when the spectacular overhead kick by Gareth Bale hit the Liverpool net in Kyiv.

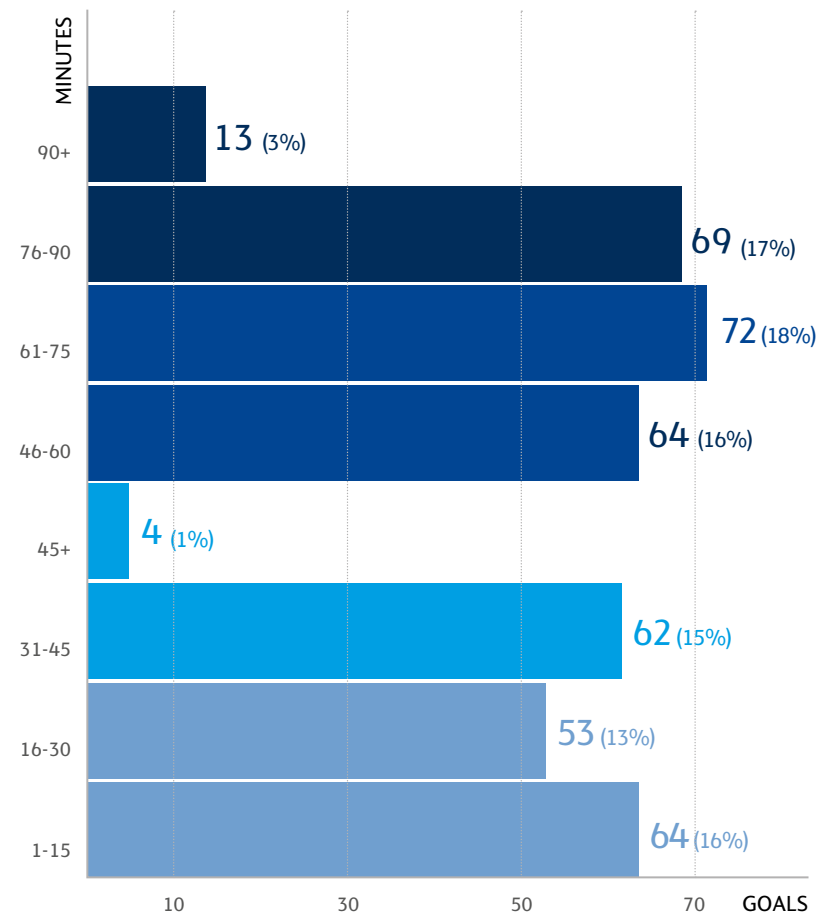
The two finalists were the competition's leading scorers, although Paris Saint-Germain achieved the highest average per game, by dint of scoring 25 of their 27 goals during the group stage. The 13 matches involving Liverpool offered the public 57 goals – 14% of the season's total. They were among the seven teams who reached a mean of two goals per game – four of them English. Barcelona, normally prolific, fell short of this landmark with 17 goals in their 10 games. Another Spanish contestant, Atlético de Madrid, had reached the semi-finals in the previous season with an average of 1.25 goals per game and, in 2017/18, were among the group fallers with a mean of 0.83 per match.

The trend for goalscoring to even itself out over the 90 minutes of UEFA Champions League football continued in 2017/18, when 14% more goals hit the net after the interval than before the break – with the longer periods of added time at the end of the second half a conditioning factor. Two seasons previously, the difference had been 33%. The most productive quarter-hour was the middle period of the second half – but by a minimal margin. In consequence, the statistics do not support theories about fatigue factors.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, the 2017/18 season halted the trend towards home rule. In the previous season, 61% of goals were scored by home teams. This time round, the share was sliced to 55% (52% in the knockout rounds). The search for similar figures goes back to the 56% recorded during the 2013/14 campaign. The number of goalless draws dropped from ten to seven, with Spanish clubs involved in six of them. The seventh was Liverpool's home draw with Porto after their 5-0 victory in the away leg.

The record total of goals was shared by 188 players, with 71 of them scoring more than once. The scoring chart reveals a strong Liverpool presence, with Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mané and Roberto Firmino claiming equal shares in a joint tally of 30. Behind them, Philippe Coutinho, before his

2017/18 GOAL TIMES



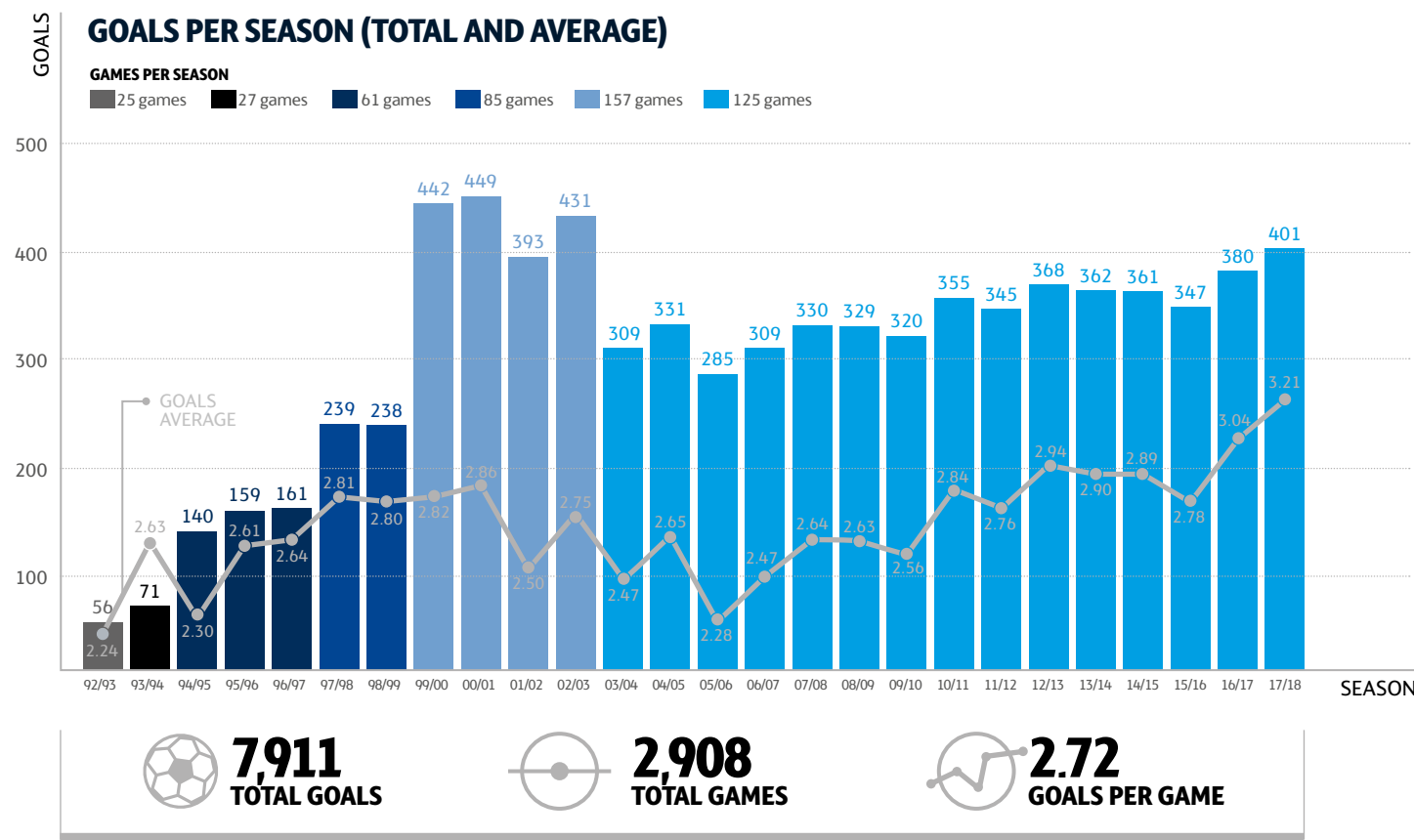
Decimal points account for 1% discrepancies

401
Record for most goals scored in a 125-game season

3.21
Average goals per game in 2017/18 was a record high

14%
of all goals scored were in games involving Liverpool

Roberto Firmino (centre) celebrates scoring away to Manchester City in the quarter-final second leg

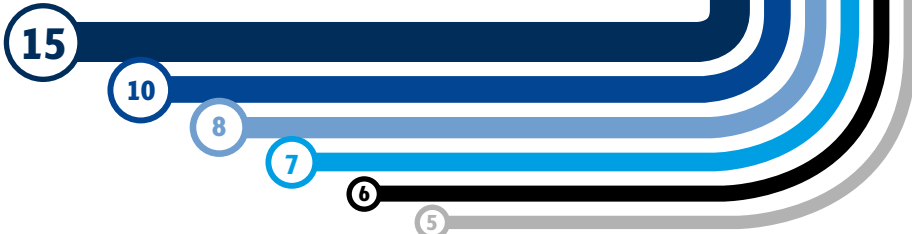


winter move to Barcelona, had also contributed five with a frequency of one per 70 minutes.

Headers accounted for 65 of the season's goals – 16% of the overall total – with 41 from open play and 24 from dead-ball situations. To be more precise, seven stemmed from free-kicks and 17 from corners. In open play, 14 had their origins in crosses from the left and 18 from the right – the remainder coming from diagonals into the box, lofted cutbacks and headers which rounded off combination moves. No fewer than 26 of the 32 contestants registered headed goals, with Feyenoord relying on them for four of their five goals. Possession teams such as Bayern (six) and Manchester City (five), er, headed the chart, with Liverpool also heading five of their 41 goals.

The statistics could be amplified by goals involving a header prior to the finishing touch. Liverpool's equaliser in the Kyiv final, for example. The Juventus equaliser against Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley. Napoli's opener against Feyenoord in Rotterdam. Bayern's equaliser against Anderlecht in Brussels. Roma's first in the home win against Chelsea. In recent years, the lack of headed goals often emerged as a talking point from UEFA's age-limit tournaments, whereas the UEFA Champions League season made a clear statement that aerial abilities deserve attention at development levels of the game.

TOP SCORERS



10%
Average passes needed to score

16%
Average time it takes to score

Average passes and time it takes to score

2017/18
4.03 passes per goal over 12.26 seconds

2016/17
3.72 passes per goal over 10.62 seconds



2017/18
4.36 passes per goal over 12.39 seconds

2016/17
5.03 passes per goal over 14.31 seconds

8%
Final-third goalscoring moves increased from 43% in 2015/16 to 51% in 2017/18

96
of all open-play goals came from latching on to a loose ball or a loose pass by an opponent, up from 69 in 2016/17

Goals stemming from phases of possession beginning in:

Attacking third

51%

Midfield third

35%

Defensive third

14%

QUICK THINKING

The average time per goalscoring move was surprisingly slower than in 2016/17, despite the continued increase in scoring moves initiated in the attacking third



In the aftermath of UEFA EURO 2016, there had been much ado about a trend towards more direct attacking, which could be underpinned by statistical evidence. The underpins were, however, removed by the patterns of the 2017/18 season, in which the average number of passes in scoring moves was 4.03 over a time-span of 12.26 seconds. This represented increases of 10% and 16% respectively compared to the previous season, setting the highest figures of the current decade and hinting at a move away from direct attacking. Or did it?

The season's script was written in a series of paradoxes. Barcelona's goals were scored after 3.88 passes as opposed to 6.15 in 2016/17. Real Madrid's dropped from 5.03 and 14.31 seconds to 4.36 and 12.39 respectively. Juventus's successes were based on 6.64 passes in 19.14 seconds compared with 3.36 in 11.36 in the previous season. Bayern München averaged 5.96 passes over 17.35 – far in excess of their averages under Josep Guardiola, while the Catalan coach's Manchester City were scoring goals after 2.8 passes and 8.10 seconds. The disconcerting stats invite discussion about high pressing and the ability to strike rapidly after regains in the attacking third. This dovetails neatly with one of the other eye-catching statistics to emerge in 2017/18.

Over half of the season's goals were scored in phases of possession that began in the final third. To complete the figures, 35% of goalscoring moves were initiated from the middle third of the pitch and only 14% resulted from playing through the opposition from the defensive third. That represented a further drop from 16% in an ongoing tendency

also reflected in the fact that, as a starting point for goalscoring moves, tackling by defenders dropped dramatically to one-third of the level registered in 2016/17.

The stats spell out a steady increase in the percentage of final-third goalscoring moves from 43% in 2015/16 to 51% in 2017/18. As an argument in favour of the dividends to be obtained from high pressing, 96 of the 323 open-play goals (compared with 69 in the previous season) had their origin in latching on to a loose ball or a loose pass by an opponent.

Liverpool's haul of 41 goals encapsulates the statistical paradoxes. The direct attacking by Jürgen Klopp's team resulted in their scoring moves averaging 2.56 passes in 7.68 seconds. No fewer than 26 scoring moves were launched in the final third and only three from the back – a solitary example in the knockout rounds when an intercepted Roma cross allowed them to surge upfield and take a 2-0 advantage at Anfield. Their statistics were distorted by three long moves totalling 38 passes in 104 seconds when ahead in high-scoring games against Maribor and Spartak Moskva in the group stage and when 3-0 to the good in the home leg against Roma. If the search is restricted to Liverpool's opening goals, the result is an average of 1.67 passes in 4.5 seconds in the build-up to goals. This gives credence to the theory that the top teams are the ones who can find an effective balance between direct attacking when looking to inflict damage before defensive blocks can be assembled and adopting a more elaborate approach when the match situation makes it more appropriate to retain possession.

SET-PLAY GOALS

There was a big drop in goals scored from set pieces

PENALTIES

The number of goals derived from dead-ball situations provided one of the striking statistics to emerge from the season. In the previous three years, set plays had accounted for 24%, 23% and 26% respectively of the overall goal tally. In 2017/18, the figure dropped to 19.5%. Penalties generally account for a large slice of the dead-ball successes and this sector produced a downturn of six in comparison with the previous season's 34 successful spot kicks.

DIRECT FREE-KICKS

The most significant reduction, however, was related to free-kicks. Indirect successes were down by 32%, while direct strikes into the net were practically halved. They were few enough to list. Fernando's opener for Spartak Moskva at home to Liverpool; the Marcus Rashford effort for Manchester United in Lisbon (gathered by the keeper but carried into his own net); Neymar's effort for Paris during their visit to Anderlecht; the Lionel Messi strike that put Barcelona 2-0 up at home to Olympiacos; Miralem Pjanić's equaliser for Juventus at home to Sporting CP; Christian Eriksen's equaliser for Tottenham against Juve in Turin; and Fred's winner for

Shakhtar Donetsk at home to Roma – a goal that UEFA's technical team voted into the top ten of the season. The theory that levels of scouting practically eliminate the surprise factor can be supported by the fact that, during the group stage, there were no successful direct free-kicks after the third matchday. And there were only two direct strikes in the knockout rounds – none after the round of 16. The takers were dominated by South Americans (three Brazilians and Messi) – a fact which inevitably raises questions about the development of free-kick specialists in Europe.

INDIRECT FREE-KICKS

Indirect free-kicks tell a similar story. The only success in the knockout rounds was a technical gem executed by Juventus in the second minute of their home leg against Tottenham, Gonzalo Higuaín volleying home a well-rehearsed free-kick which also earned a place among the season's top ten. In other words, the last six matchdays of the competition failed to produce another goal.

CORNERS

Although corners can be presented as a significantly more fruitful source of goals by mentioning that they accounted for 36% of the set-play strikes compared with 26% the previous season, their importance was artificially enhanced by the shortfalls in the other dead-ball sectors. Numerically, goals attributable to corner kicks increased by four from 24 to 28. In other words, they accounted for only 7% of the season's total.

Lionel Messi passed 100 UEFA Champions League goals in 2017/18



OPEN-PLAY GOALS

A record 323 goals were scored from open play in 2017/18

COMBINATIONS AND FORWARD PASSES

For the first time, the total of open-play goals passed the 300-mark. The 2016/17 season had heralded an upward movement to 289 after surprisingly stable figures of 266, 267 and 268 in the previous three campaigns. Amid the generalised increases in the record total of 323, combination moves provided the most striking increase, although it has to be said that the category could be sub-divided into quick combinations after high ball-winning or the sort of much more elaborate moves which led to goals for teams such as Dortmund, Barcelona or Paris.

RUNNING WITH THE BALL

Further food for thought was served by the figures related to individual running with the ball. At the end of the group stage, the statistics were not far out of line with the previous season. They revealed an increase from 17 to 21. But, in 2016/17, solo runs had accounted for 11 goals in the knockout rounds whereas, in 2017/18, this figure fell dramatically to two, leaving the overall total five short of the previous year. This could, again, be thrown onto the debating table alongside the extent to which in-depth study of opponents is prevalent in the modern game. Or maybe pegged to injuries to solo artists such as Neymar, Arjen Robben or Gareth Bale.

GOAL TYPE

CATEGORY	ACTION	GUIDELINES	GROUP STAGE	KNOCK-OUT	TOTAL
SET PLAY	Corners	Direct from/following a corner	21	7	28
	Free-kicks (direct)	Direct from a free-kick	5	2	7
	Free-kicks (indirect)	Following a free-kick	12	1	13
	Penalties	Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty)	22	6	28
	Throw-ins	Following a throw-in	2	0	2
OPEN PLAY	Combinations	Wall pass/combination move	56	22	78
	Crosses	Cross from the wing	53	12	65
	Cutbacks	Pass back from the byline	28	9	37
	Diagonals	Diagonal pass into the penalty box	9	5	14
	Running with the ball	Dribble and close-range shot/dribble and pass	21	2	23
	Long-range shots	Direct shot/shot and rebound	26	8	34
	Forward passes	Through pass or pass over the defence	32	8	40
	Defensive errors	Bad back pass/mistake by the goalkeeper	9	6	15
	Own goals	Goal by the opponent	10	7	17
TOTAL			306	95	401

HEAD OVER HEELS

When the team of technical observers sat down to select the top goals of the season on the morning after the final in Kyiv, by and large the votes went to actions of individual brilliance rather than collective passing moves or copybook counterattacks that could earn space in coaching manuals.

Gareth Bale's overhead finish a few hours earlier was a case in point – one of three outstanding bicycle kicks that even had opposition fans on their feet applauding. That was certainly the case for Cristiano Ronaldo in Turin in the first leg of the quarter-finals. Ronaldo was running away from goal, with three Juve defenders in close proximity, when he leapt to meet Dani Carvajal's cross from the right with an astonishing, acrobatic strike.

It takes something special to beat Roma goalkeeper Alisson Becker and Antoine Griezmann produced just that to score Atlético de Madrid's second goal in a 2-0 win in the group stage, the French striker jumping horizontally to the ground to powerfully volley in Ángel Correa's cutback from the left.

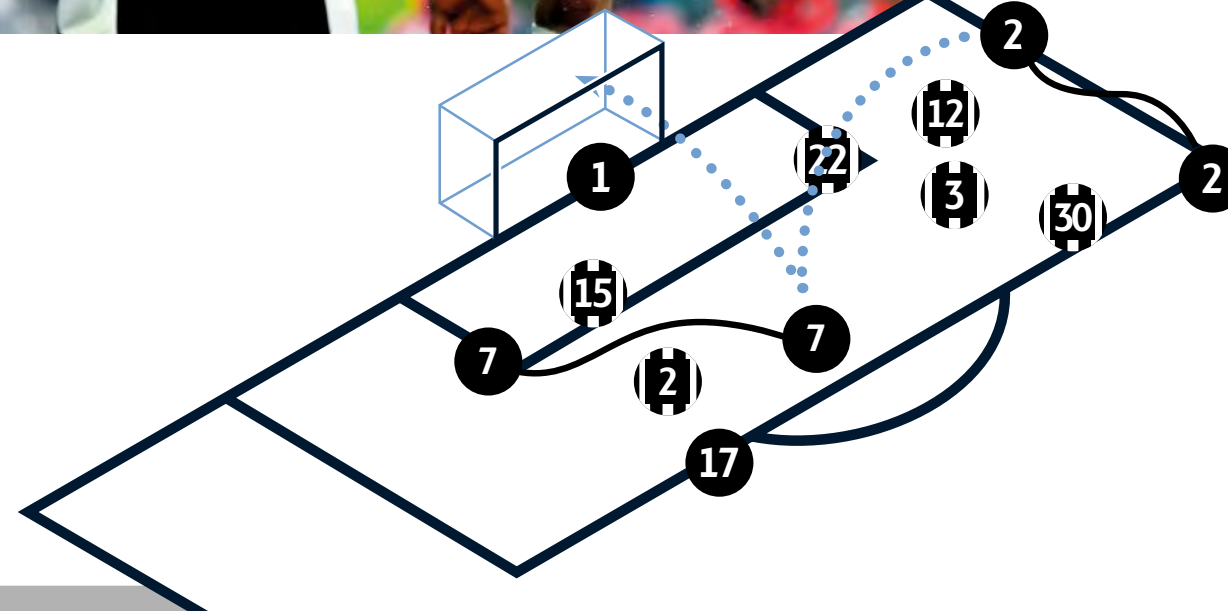
Bale's final strike continued the trend for the spectacular and stretched the technical observers' long list of goals to 44 candidates. They added up to a colourful cocktail of diverse ingredients, ranging from the explosive one-touch action of a direct free-kick to a couple of patient, elaborate attacks by Borussia Dortmund: the 22-pass, 74-second move that culminated in Raphaël Guerreiro putting the German team 1-0 ahead against APOEL and the 16-pass combination from a free-kick in the defensive third that allowed Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to give them the lead against Tottenham Hotspur.

Just over half of the candidates – 23 to be precise – received one vote or more and, as ever, there were some near misses. For example, Bernard's right-footed shot from the left that put Shakhtar Donetsk ahead against Manchester City in Kharkiv. Or Harry Kane's solo run from the left that gave Tottenham Hotspur a 2-1 lead against Borussia Dortmund at Wembley. But the jury delivered its verdict with surprising clarity. No casting votes were required to determine the top ten.



'MY BEST GOAL'
Ronaldo's blast in Turin

Ronaldo drifts in from the left and cuts between Juventus defenders Mattia De Sciglio and Andrea Barzagli before reacting quickest to Dani Carvajal's cross from the right, darting back away from goal and propelling himself to meet the ball. "It was amazing, probably the best of my career," Ronaldo said.



..... BALL MOVEMENT
——— PLAYER MOVEMENT

TOP TEN GOALS

1	Cristiano Ronaldo Juventus 0-3 Real Madrid
	Ronaldo's second goal was a brilliant display of technique and athleticism.
2	Gareth Bale Real Madrid 3-1 Liverpool
	The crucial second goal in the final and another brilliant acrobatic finish.
3	Gonzalo Higuaín Juventus 2-2 Tottenham
	A technical gem, making a tough finish to a pre-planned free-kick look easy.
4	Antoine Griezmann Atlético 2-0 Roma
	A spectacular bicycle kick after Ángel Correa's cross from the left.
5	Edin Džeko Chelsea 3-3 Roma
	A superb lofted through pass is met by Džeko's even better volleyed finish.
6	Gareth Bale Dortmund 1-3 Real Madrid
	An excellent side-footed volley to spectacularly convert a ball from the left.
7	Fred Shakhtar 2-1 Roma
	A perfectly precise free-kick that gave Alisson Becker no chance.
8	Kevin De Bruyne Manchester City 2-0 Shakhtar
	A great long-range shot to break the deadlock early in the second half.
9	Lorenzo Insigne Napoli 3-0 Shakhtar
	A wonderful finish from distance to set Napoli on their way to victory.
10	Cristiano Ronaldo Real Madrid 3-2 Dortmund
	A powerful curling shot from distance, struck with minimal back-lift.

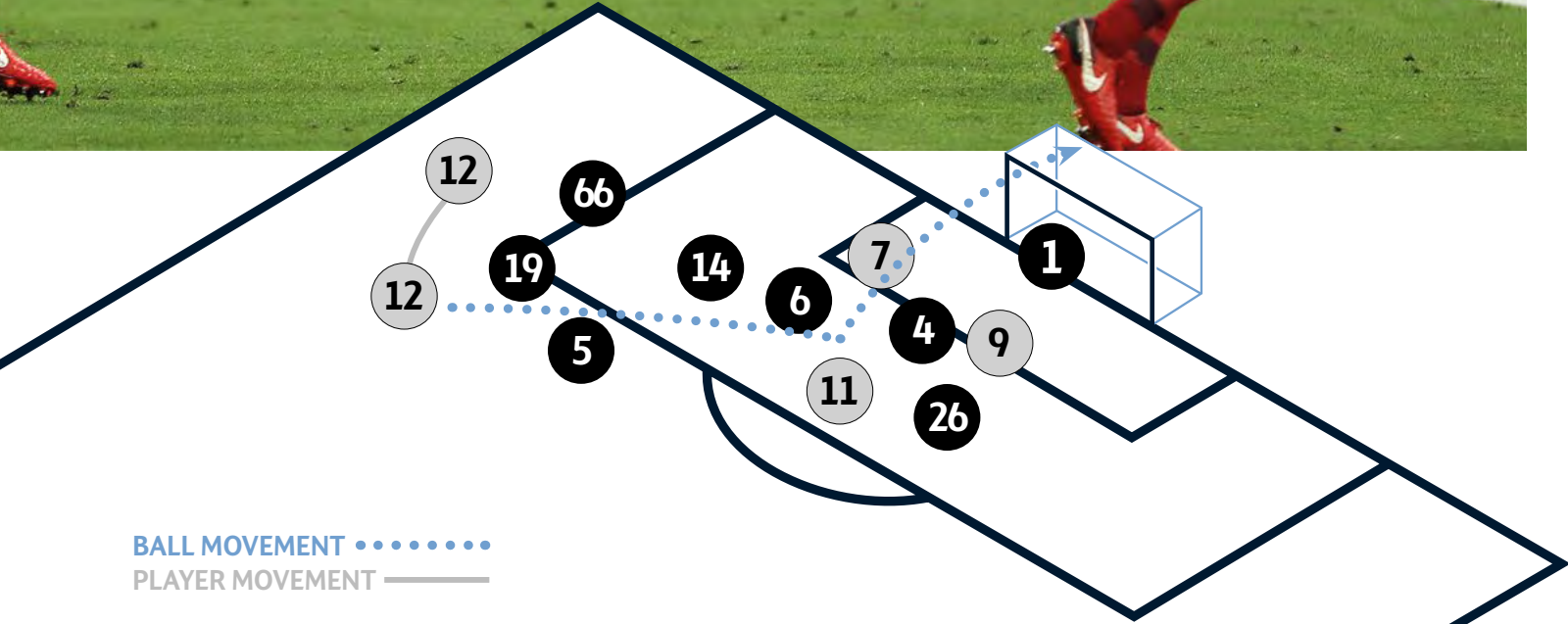


“To score a goal like that on the biggest stage in world football is a dream come true. I remember Marcelo clipping the ball and it was just at the right height. It was great to get the right connection and see it hit the back of the net”

Gareth Bale

SUDDEN IMPACT
Bale's Kyiv final stunner

Gareth Bale had only been on the pitch for three minutes when he scored one of the goals of the season. Marcelo cuts back on the left wing and delivers a dipping ball into the box with his right foot. It is slightly behind Bale but he adjusts his run to meet it with a stunning left-foot strike.



SEASON BY NUMBERS

Key facts and figures from the 2017/18 campaign

47 Liverpool's goal total (play-offs included) set a new season record



13

Liverpool's 7-6 semi-final win on aggregate set a new goals record for a knockout tie



61:40
Average time the ball was in play



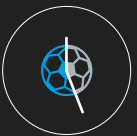
94:36
Average length of a match in minutes



1:09
Average added time at the end of the first half



3:27
Average added time at the end of the second half



28
Average minutes per goal



3.21
Goals per game (most since this format began in 2003/04)

MOST PASSES

990

Éver Banega

86% completion rate



903

Toni Kroos

94% completion rate



830

Sergio Busquets

95% completion rate



25



New group stage goals record for Paris Saint-Germain. Liverpool (23 goals) also surpassed the previous total of 21

19



Barcelona won their group for a record 19th time – and were unbeaten in the group stage for the 11th time

3



Roma became only the third team to win a tie after a first-leg loss by three goals or more

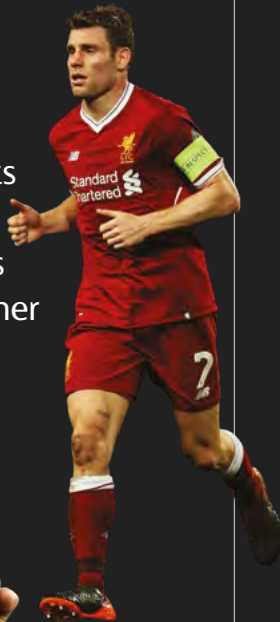


100

Lionel Messi scored his 100th goal in the round of 16 against Chelsea

9

New assists record for Liverpool's James Milner



12

Successive victories for Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes, a competition record



10

Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mané all scored ten goals – the first time three players from the same team reached double figures



6

Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score in all six group games



7

Consecutive seasons in which Cristiano Ronaldo has scored ten goals or more

11

Successive games in which Cristiano Ronaldo scored – a new record

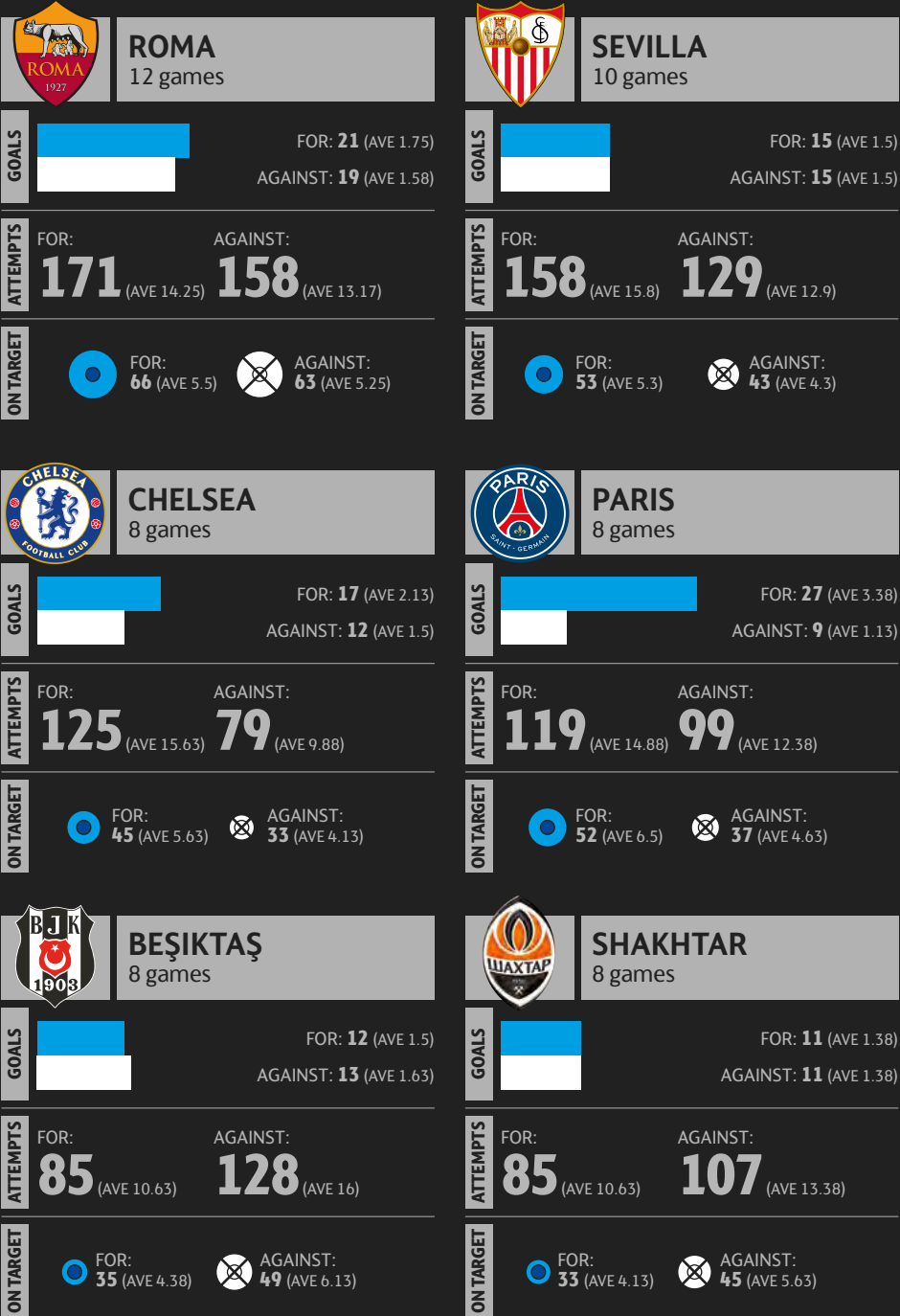
ATTEMPTS ON GOAL

As well as winning rave reviews for their attack, Liverpool allowed the fewest shots on target per game

From the 16 sides who came through the group stage, Bayern München were the most successful in terms of creating chances; the German club mustered an average of 18.25 goal attempts per game, more than any other club in the 2017/18 competition. Eventual champions Real Madrid managed 16.92 attempts per game, although their average of seven on target was the joint-highest – along with the side they beat in the final, Liverpool. Of the sides who made it through to the knockout rounds, Basel found creating chances hardest to come by with an average of 10.38 shots per match, while Porto had four shots on target on average – both fewer than any other side to have reached the last 16.

RESTRICTING OPPORTUNITIES

Of the teams who reached the last 16, eventual runners-up Liverpool – whose attacking football had caught the eye down the other end – had the most efficient defence in terms of shots on target conceded, at an average of just 3 per game. Barcelona were close behind with 3.2 shots on target against per match. Both Manchester City and Bayern München (both 3.5 shots on target against per match) proved more effective in terms of overall shots on goal against; City allowed only 8.5 per game, and Bayern 9.5, the two lowest averages in the competition. Beşiktaş allowed an average of 6.13 shots on target per game, and 16 on goal altogether – both the highest totals among the sides who made it as far as the round of 16. Among the arts of defending, shot-blocking continued to gain in relevance during the 2017/18 season, when 808 goal attempts (25% of the total) were thwarted by defenders able to throw boots or bodies in the way.



*Average per game, knockout stage teams

CROSSES

Playing on the flanks pays off when married to quality delivery

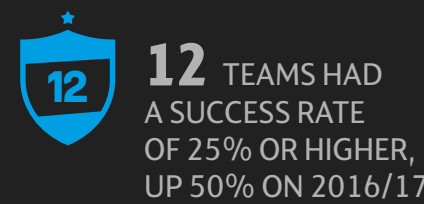
The relevance of wing-play in circumventing compact defensive blocks was, once again, underlined by the 2017/18 season. The global balance after the 125 matches was a total of 4,180 crosses at an average of 33.44 per game – figures that represent a modest downturn in comparison with the previous season, when the stats were 4,329 and 34.6 respectively. On the other hand, the success rate climbed fractionally from 22.7% to 23.37%, meaning that the ratio of crosses met by team-mates of the suppliers was one per 4.28. For the sake of argument, the shortfall could be linked to Liverpool – the competition’s most prolific scorers, yet no more than modestly reliant on traditional crossing of the ball.

Whereas only eight clubs had achieved a 1-in-4 success rate during 2016/17, a dozen teams reached this milestone in 2017/18. Paradoxically, teams who generated low quantities of crosses were among the highest in quality. There were very modest figures returned by possession teams such as Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona, both on the low side in terms of quantity and quality. Dani Alves, who had achieved an extraordinary success rate of 48.2% as Juventus wing-back in the previous season, returned significantly lower figures at Paris.

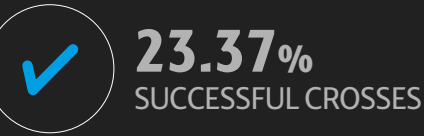
The highest individual success rate corresponded to the Porto left-back Alex Telles, whose performance could be cited as evidence in perennial debates at age-limit tournaments, where observers wonder if full-backs, although encouraged to be key components in attacking along the flanks, are sufficiently well-coached in the art of delivering crosses.

CLUBS	CROSSES PER GAME	SUCCESS RATE %
Porto	14.25	29.82
Shakhtar	11.88	27.37
Roma	21.08	27.27
Juventus	15.70	26.75
Bayern	31.33	25.80
Chelsea	14.00	25.00
Manchester City	15.80	24.68
Real Madrid	25.62	24.62
Manchester United	14.00	24.29
Liverpool	18.38	22.18
Basel	10.25	21.95
Tottenham	15.25	21.31
Beşiktaş	15.75	20.63
Sevilla	20.10	18.91
Barcelona	13.00	17.69
Paris	15.88	16.54

* Clubs in knockout stage only



PLAYERS	CROSSES PER GAME	SUCCESS RATE %
Alex Telles	7.14	32.00
David Alaba	5.14	30.56
Éver Banega	6.22	28.57
Christian Eriksen	4.67	28.57
Alessandro Florenzi	3.50	28.57
José Callejón	5.33	28.13
Kevin De Bruyne	4.50	27.78
Aleksandar Kolarov	7.58	27.47
Marcelo	6.09	26.87
Toni Kroos	4.42	26.42
Diego Perotti	4.78	25.58
Thomas Müller	4.70	25.53
James Milner	4.45	24.49
Trent Alexander-Arnold	4.10	21.95
Joshua Kimmich	8.09	21.35
James Rodríguez	6.50	20.51



POSSESSION

Teams are finding more ways to win without dominating the ball

“We reached a point where it seemed old-fashioned if you didn’t focus on building from the back and retaining possession,” David Moyes commented after the final in Kyiv. “Maybe excessively – and teams were being caught out. But we might be coming through that period and teams are beginning to change a bit.” Peter Rudbæk added: “The possession teams can play beautiful football. But other teams have read the book. They know how they play and, if these teams are not top-class in their defending, they can run into problems.” Thomas Schaaf agreed: “I think we’re seeing a trend where teams have developed strategies to play against possession football and to make themselves dangerous against opponents like Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester City or Paris Saint-Germain.”

Their reflections were borne out by a season in which 36 UEFA Champions League matches were won by the team that had a lesser share of possession. Basel supplied an extreme example. Raphael Wicky’s team only won when they had less of the ball. The most spectacular case occurred in Manchester when, against Pep Guardiola’s possession-based style, they defeated City 2-1 with a 28% share of the ball.

The season’s averages reveal that 17 teams occupied a relatively narrow band between 46% and 54%. The table shows the teams who fell above or below those rungs on the possession ladder, but only two teams (Manchester City and Barcelona) could genuinely claim to be ‘possession teams’ by having the lion’s share of the ball in every game they played.

POSSESSION (HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEAMS)



Clubs in bold qualified for knockout stage

GAINING GROUND

The breakdown of possession into thirds suggests a greater emphasis on using possession in the middle third as a launching pad, and lesser use of possession play in the final third. In 2016/17, 19 teams had 20% or more possession in the attacking third; in 2017/18 this figure was reduced to 13, implying a trend towards a more direct approach in the attacking area. During the final, Real Madrid laid the foundations for their win with 58% of possession in the middle third and 20% in attack, while Liverpool were registering figures of 50% and 21% in those two areas of the pitch.

POSSESSION AREAS (AVERAGE %)

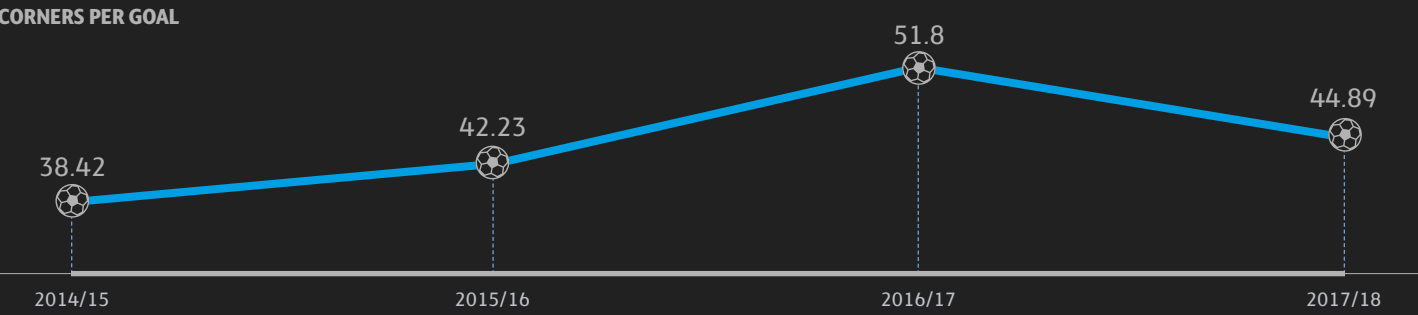
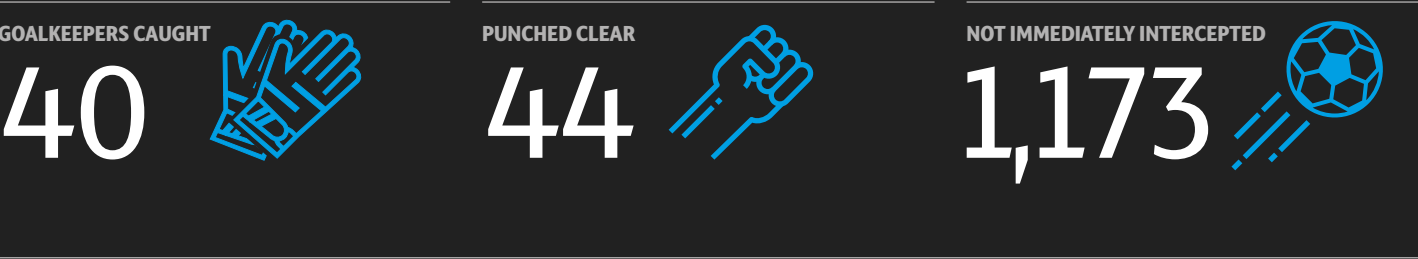
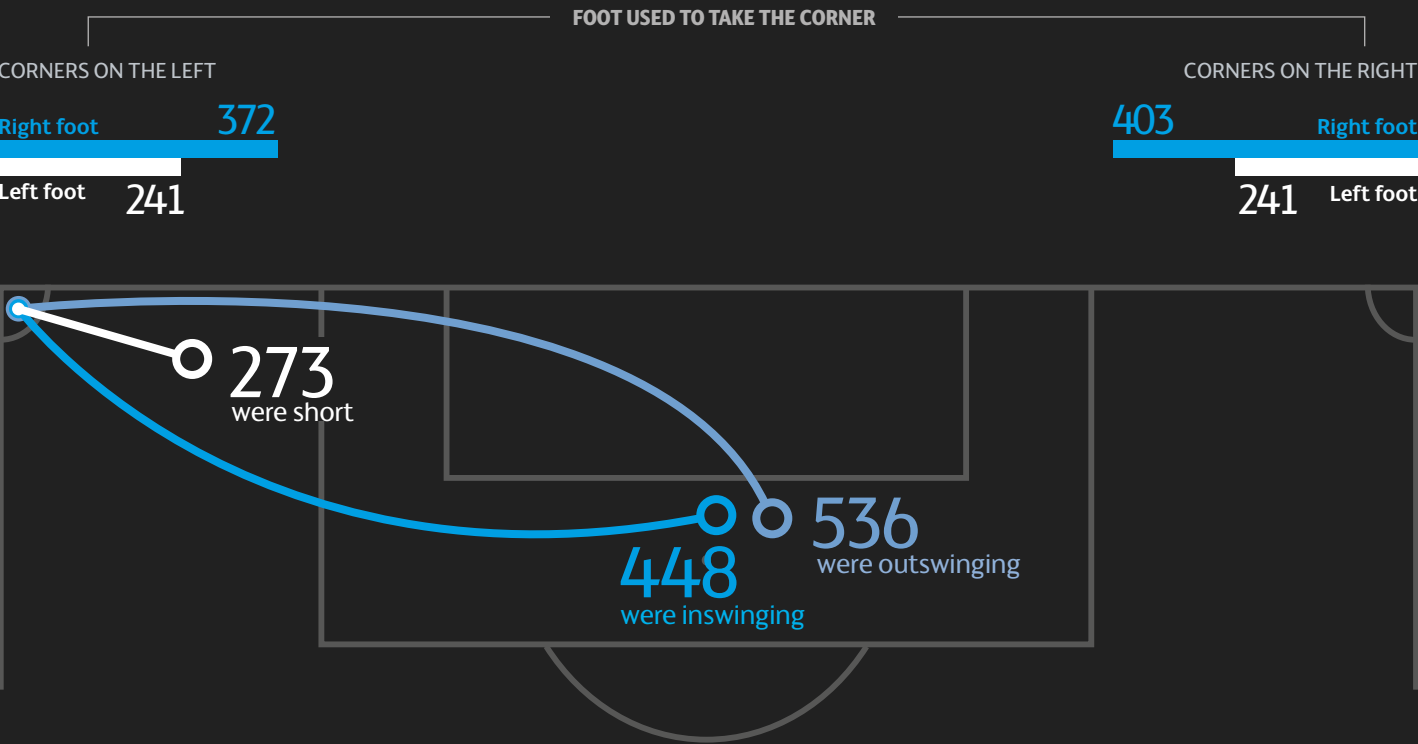
TOP 6	Defence	Midfield	Attack
Bayern München	24	50	26
Atlético de Madrid	23	52	25
Real Madrid	23	53	23
Chelsea	29	48	23
Sevilla	24	55	22
Tottenham	27	52	21

BOTTOM 6	Defence	Midfield	Attack
APOEL	37	48	15
Basel	36	50	15
Maribor	40	46	14
Feyenoord	44	44	13
Qarabağ	34	54	12
Celtic	40	49	11

Clubs in bold qualified for knockout stage; decimal points account for 1% discrepancies

CORNERS

Goals were on the rise, but only one corner in 45 led to a goal, with the quality of delivery influencing the success rate



The clock is ticking towards the 55-minute mark in Kyiv. Liverpool, anxious to rebound from the blow of Real Madrid's soft opening goal, open play to James Milner on the left. His inswinging right-footed cross is nudged by the head of Raphaël Varane just over Roberto Firmino, racing in at the far post. Milner waves his hands at the crowd, urging them to give more vocal support as he makes his way to take the corner on the Liverpool right. His delivery is met by Dejan Lovren, connecting with his head between Sergio Ramos and Casemiro. Sadio Mané pokes the ball into the net from close range to equalise. It was the last of the season's 28 successful corners.

The 2017/18 total of 1,257 corners meant that the average was a smidgen over 10 per game. Supporters in Germany arguably did the most shouting, with Bayern München topping the chart with an average of 8.25 corners, followed by Borussia Dortmund with 7.67. Real Madrid, with 7.62, took the bronze medal in this specialised category. Whereas those numbers of corner kicks could justify training-ground investments in rehearsals, the coaches of the nine clubs who earned three per game or fewer might easily have entertained doubts. And, at the 17 clubs who conceded more than they earned, there might easily have been excuses to practise defensive mechanisms – among them, surprisingly, Tottenham Hotspur and, more especially, Paris Saint-Germain who won 33 and had to deal defensively with 55.

The corners converted into movements on scoreboards signified a success rate of one goal per 44.89 deliveries – significantly better than the one per 51.8 in 2016/17 but worse than the 42.23 and 38.42 registered in the 2015/16 and 2014/15 seasons respectively. Just over half of the contestants (17) enjoyed success from corners, led by Liverpool with five, plus Sevilla and Manchester City with four apiece.

To be fair, the total could be inflated. CSKA Moskva's equaliser at Benfica was a penalty originating in handball at a corner. Porto's equaliser at home to Beşiktaş was a corner turned into an own goal. Roma's opener away to Qarabağ was a diagonal into the box after a corner. Napoli pulled level at home to Manchester City with a penalty after a corner had been cleared. Barcelona went 2-0 ahead at home to Roma with an own goal turned in from a corner on the right. Paris's second goal against Anderlecht in France was a Neymar run after a corner on the left. Chelsea's

equaliser at home to Atlético Madrid was an own goal derived from a cross following a corner on the left. And Willian's long-range opener against Barça came after a short corner on the left.

The short corner became more of a strategic option with 21.72% of the season's total being executed in this fashion. Josep Guardiola's teams have frequently preferred to take a short corner, retain possession and maintain the pressure on opponents, rather than call a halt while centre-backs trundle up to the box. In attacking terms, the short corner can entice opponents out of position and offer possibilities to cross the ball from a different angle. In defensive terms, retaining possession with a short corner can reduce vulnerability to counterattacks while central defenders may be out of position. Guardiola's Manchester City illustrated both facets during the season. Against Feyenoord in Rotterdam, they broke the ice with a short corner in the second minute, and the subsequent cross was headed home by centre-back John Stones, who had moved up for the set play. At Napoli, they took a 3-2 advantage thanks to a solo counterattack after a Napoli corner. In Munich, Real Madrid similarly secured a priceless winner in the first leg of the semi-finals with a counterattack after a Bayern corner.

When discussing the traditional longer version, Sir Alex Ferguson's motto was "delivery is everything". Quality in this specialism is difficult to assess but statistics can offer some sort of gauge. If we accept that a 'successful' delivery is one that is touched first by a team-mate, 44.55% ticked the box – which evidently means that a majority did not. Among the 42 players who took 10 or more corners during the season, 11 had a success rate in excess of 50%, led by Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne with 72.26% and Chelsea's Cesc Fàbregas with 75%. Behind them: Real Madrid's Marco Asensio (69.23%), Bernard of Shakhtar Donetsk and Roma's Diego Perotti (both 66.67%). In numerical terms, Real Madrid's Toni Kroos led the field with 55 corners with a success rate of 50.91%. At the other end of the scale, none of the 12 corners taken by Borussia Dortmund's Andriy Yarmolenko was received by a team-mate.

In terms of execution, the trend towards wrong-footed corners continued during a season when 241 of the 644 corners on the attacking team's right were taken left-footed and 372 of the 613 corners on the left were delivered with the right foot.

LED DIRECTLY TO GOAL ATTEMPTS

175

DID NOT LEAD TO GOAL ATTEMPTS

1,082

DIRECTLY CLEARED BY DEFENDING TEAM

504

WERE NOT CLEARED BY DEFENDING TEAM

753

FIRST TOUCH FROM A CORNER

560 by a team-mate

697 by an opponent

FITNESS

Liverpool players topped the charts for both distance covered and top speed

LONG DISTANCE

Different job descriptions within the team framework mean that the only reasonably reliable comparisons on distance covered are the number of metres per minute played. Perhaps not surprisingly, the majority of the players who covered

the highest average distance in the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League were midfielders, along with full-backs or wing-backs such as Marcos Alonso or Joshua Kimmich, whose job descriptions required them to cover a lot of ground.

AVERAGE DISTANCE COVERED (METRES PER MINUTE)

James Milner	Liverpool	142.6
Mohamed Elyounoussi	Basel	137.4
Cesc Fàbregas	Chelsea	133.5
Pablo Sarabia	Sevilla	133.1
Kevin De Bruyne	Manchester City	131.9
Fred	Shakhtar	131.4
Jordan Henderson	Liverpool	130.8
Taras Stepanenko	Shakhtar	130.5
Kevin Strootman	Roma	129.7
Marcos Alonso	Chelsea	129.5
Joshua Kimmich	Bayern	127.9
James Rodríguez	Bayern	127.3
Toni Kroos	Real Madrid	126.7
Daniele De Rossi	Roma	126.4
Diego Perotti	Roma	126

Average minutes per match of 75 or more

MOST SPRINTS

AVERAGE SPRINTS PER MATCH

58.04	José Callejón	Napoli
57.55	Joaquín Correa	Sevilla
57.00	Dries Mertens	Napoli
55.16	Jordi Alba	Barcelona
54.32	Joshua Kimmich	Bayern München
53.08	Roberto Firmino	Liverpool
52.84	Sadio Mané	Liverpool
52.50	Mohamed Elyounoussi	Basel
51.41	Pablo Sarabia	Sevilla
50.00	Aleksandar Kolarov	Roma
49.65	Nacho	Real Madrid
49.32	Gelson Martins	Sporting
49.20	Serge Aurier	Tottenham
49.14	Sergi Roberto	Barcelona
49.00	Kyle Walker	Manchester City

As with distance covered, midfielders also feature prominently in the average number of sprints – although seven of the 15 players who made the highest average were deployed at full-back for at least some of the season. Of the remaining eight players in the top 15, six were usually used in midfield by their clubs, with Liverpool pair Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mané the only forwards to feature. The high-octane style favoured by Jürgen Klopp means Liverpool players figure prominently at the top of each of the three lists – for distance covered, average number of sprints, and fastest sprints. Perhaps not surprisingly, centre-backs are entirely absent from the top of the most-sprints list.

At least six games played, average of 75 minutes or more

AT TOP SPEED

The 2017/18 season featured 307 sprints in excess of 30km/h compared with 288 in the previous season. The top speed of 2016/17 (32.6km/h) was bettered by five sprints in 2017/18 – two of them by Manchester United's Marcus Rashford. Top place on the podium went to Liverpool striker Mohamed Salah with a sprint of 33.8km/h during the home leg of the quarter-final against Manchester City. The list of explosive performers differs substantially from the list of players who covered the most distance. And, among the top sprinters, midfielders make rarer appearances than wingers and full-backs. The tendency to underestimate the speed of centre-backs – these days encouraged to be positionally more conservative than the wide defenders – was belied by the likes of Kostas Manolas and Giorgio Chiellini.

FASTEST SPRINTS (IN KM/H)

Mohamed Salah	Liverpool	33.8
Marcus Rashford	Manchester United	33.5
Kyle Walker	Manchester City	33.3
Ousmane Dembélé	Barcelona	33.3
Kostas Manolas	Roma	33.1
Lukasz Piszczek	Dortmund	32.6
Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain	Liverpool	32.6
Giorgio Chiellini	Juventus	32.6
Rafinha	Bayern	32.6
Andy Robertson	Liverpool	32.6
Stephan El Shaarawy	Roma	32.6
Renato Steffen	Basel	32.5
Dimitri Oberlin	Basel	32.5
Thomas Lemar	Monaco	32.5
Davinson Sánchez	Tottenham	32.5



RSC ANDERLECHT

BELGIUM

GROUP B



COACH

Hein Vanhaezebrouck

Born: 16/02/1964, Kortrijk (BEL)

Nationality: Belgian

Head coach: Since 03/10/2017

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	12	4	1	7
Matches in European club competition**	30	11	7	12

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

René Weiler was in charge for matchday 1;
Nicolás Frutos was interim coach for matchday 2

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Celtic away



GROUP STAGE

BAY	CEL	PSG	PSG	BAY	CEL
L 3-0	L 0-3	L 0-4	L 5-0	L 1-2	W 0-1

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

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QUARTER-FINALS

--	--

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

--	--



CLUB ATLÉTICO DE MADRID

SPAIN

GROUP C



COACH

Diego Simeone

Born: 28/04/1970, Buenos Aires (ARG)

Nationality: Argentinian

Head coach: Since 23/12/2011

European trophies won: 3

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	53	29	15	9
Matches in European club competition**	78	49	16	13

*Group stage to final ** Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: at home to Roma



GROUP STAGE

ASR	CHE	QAR	QAR	ASR	CHE
D 0-0	L 1-2	D 0-0	D 1-1	W 2-0	D 1-1

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

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QUARTER-FINALS

--	--

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

--	--

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 26.2

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Matz Sels	3	270
23	Frank Boeckx	3	270

DEFENDERS

2	Josué Sá	3	89
3	Olivier Deschacht	4	326
4	Serigne Mbodji	5	391
5	Uroš Spajić	5	359
12	Dennis Appiah	6	514
37	Ivan Obradović	3	181

MIDFIELDERS

7	Andy Najar	1	26
8	Pieter Gerkens	5	404
10	Nicolae Stanciu	3	103
20	Sven Kums	5	338
25	Adrien Trebel	6	540
32	Leander Dendoncker	6	540
94	Sofiane Hanni	6	471

FORWARDS

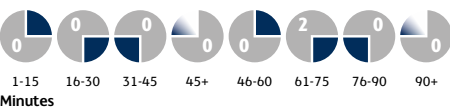
9	Henry Onyekuru	6	405
11	Alexandru Chipciu	2	180
17	Massimo Bruno	4	49
91	Łukasz Teodorczyk	6	388
99	Hamdi Harbaoui	2	14

Unused substitutes: Robert Berić, Emmanuel Adjey Sowah,
Albert-Mboyo Sambu Lokonga
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

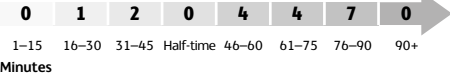
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Adrien Trebel	393	331	84%
2 Sven Kums	299	283	95%
3 Leander Dendoncker	285	258	91%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Adrien Trebel	80
2 Dennis Appiah	57
3 Sven Kums	56

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Adrien Trebel	44
2 Leander Dendoncker	34
3 Serigne Mbodji	32

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Łukasz Teodorczyk	11	4	0
2 Sofiane Hanni	9	7	1
3 Adrien Trebel	8	4	0

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

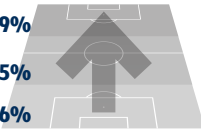
MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 58% v Celtic (a)
Min. 32% v Bayern Munich (a)

POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 697 v Celtic (a) | Min. 239 v Bayern (a)

468

LONG 69 (15%) MEDIUM 276 (59%) SHORT 123 (26%)

PASSING ACCURACY 83%

Max. 91% v Celtic (a) | Min. 69% v Bayern (a)

108,371m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 115,847m v Paris (a)

Min. 103,249m v Bayern (a)



Anderlecht
veteran Olivier
Deschacht

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 26.7

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

13	Jan Oblak	6	540
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DEFENDERS

2	Diego Godín	4	360
3	Filipe Luís	6	540
5	Stefan Savić	3	268
16	Šime Vrsaljko	1	90
19	Lucas Hernández	3	270
20	Juanfran	3	270
24	José María Giménez	4	272

MIDFIELDERS

5	Thomas Partey	6	435	1
6	Koke	4	333	
8	Saúl Ñíguez	6	540	1
10	Yannick Carrasco	5	269	
11	Ángel Correa	6	254	1
12	Augusto Fernández	1	58	
14	Gabi	5	347	
22	Nicolás Gaitán	4	123	

FORWARDS

7	Antoine Griezmann	6	529	2	2
9	Fernando Torres	5	207	1	
17	Luciano Vietto	2	69		
21	Kevin Gameiro	3	164	1	

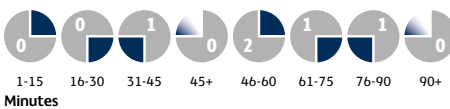
Unused substitutes: Miguel Ángel Moyá

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

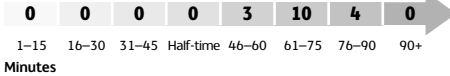
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (Including one double substitution)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Filipe Luís	375	327	87%
2 Gabi	328	295	90%
3 Saúl Ñíguez	316	276	87%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Filipe Luís	115
2 Gabi	105
3 Thomas Partey	83

BALLS RECOVERED

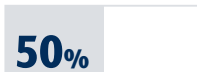
1 Filipe Luís	42
2 Saúl Ñíguez	39
3 José María Giménez	30

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Saúl Ñíguez	19	5	1
2 Antoine Griezmann	18	5	2
3 Ángel Correa	9	5	0

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

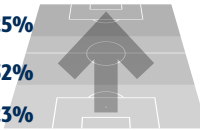
MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 55% v Qarabag (h)
Min. 48% v Chelsea (h)

POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 563 v Chelsea (a) | Min. 470 v Roma (h)

514

LONG 54 (10%) MEDIUM 317 (62%) SHORT 144 (28%)

PASSING ACCURACY 86%

Max. 88% v Chelsea (a), Qarabag (h) | Min. 84% v Roma (h)

112,879m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 117,186m v Chelsea (a)

Min. 110,896m v Qarabag (a)



Antoine Griezmann on the run against Chelsea



FC BASEL 1893

SWITZERLAND

GROUP A



COACH

Raphael Wicky



Born: 26/04/1977, Leuggern (SUI)
Nationality: Swiss
Head coach: From 01/07/2017 to 26/07/18

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	8	5	0	3
Matches in European club competition**	8	5	0	3

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Manchester City away



GROUP STAGE

MU	BEN	CSKA	CSKA	MU	BEN	MC	MC						
L 3-0	W 5-0	W 0-2	L 1-2	W 1-0	W 0-2	L 0-4	W 1-2						

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 24.6 App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Tomáš Vachík	8	720		
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DEFENDERS

3	Léo Lacroix	2	180		
5	Michael Lang	8	720	3	1
17	Marek Suchý	8	720		
23	Éder Balanta	6	530		
25	Blás Riveros	5	287	1	1
36	Manuel Akanji	6	540	1	

MIDFIELDERS

6	Fabian Frei	2	180		
7	Luca Zuffi	7	630	1	
11	Renato Steffen	6	537	1	
14	Valentin Stocker	2	93		
15	Alexander Fransson	3	12		
20	Geoffroy Serey Dié	5	287		
24	Mohamed Elyounoussi	8	641	2	2
28	Raoul Petretta	5	414	1	
33	Kevin Bua	5	102		
34	Taulant Xhaka	6	523	1	1

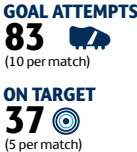
FORWARDS

9	Ricky van Wolfswinkel	3	172	1	
19	Dimitri Oberlin	8	529	4	
22	Albian Ajeti	3	99		
30	Cédric Itten	1	6		

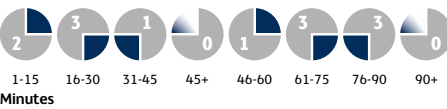
Unused substitutes: Mirko Salvi, Omar Gaber, Yves Kaiser, Neftali Manzambi, Dominik Schmid, Davide Callà

App = Appearances; **Mins** = Minutes played; **G** = Goals; **A** = Assists

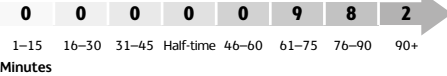
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Éder Balanta	288	211	73%
2 Marek Suchý	285	244	86%
3 Luca Zuffi	280	233	83%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Mohamed Elyounoussi	45
2 Michael Lang	44
3 Luca Zuffi	40

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Marek Suchý	59
2 Éder Balanta	54
3 Manuel Akanji	50

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**

	TA	OT	G
1 Mohamed Elyounoussi	23	12	2
2 Dimitri Oberlin	15	7	4
3 Renato Steffen	11	4	0

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

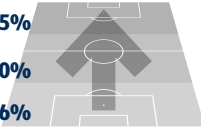
MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION

39%

Max. 50% v CSKA Moskva (h)
Min. 29% v Manchester City (a)

POSSESSION POSITION*



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 507 v CSKA Moskva (h) | Min. 308 v Manchester United (h)



LONG 60 (16%) MEDIUM 216 (58%) SHORT 98 (26%)

PASSING ACCURACY 77%

Max. 83% v Manchester United (a) | Min. 72% v CSKA Moskva (a)

114,470m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 119,306m v Manchester City (a)
Min. 108,483m v Manchester United (h)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-2-1 in possession with two holding players in midfield
- Quick transitions to deep defending, mostly in 1-5-4-1 formation
- Disciplined, well-organised out-of-possession play
- The two advanced midfielders spreading to defend wide areas
- Drew opponents on to try counterattacks from deep areas
- Elyounoussi the key transition player, attacking with long-distance runs
- Rarely built from back; keeper preferring medium-to-long distribution
- Hard-working, compact, speedy, efficient collective unit

*Decimal points account for the 1% discrepancy



FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN

GERMANY

GROUP B



COACH

Jupp Heynckes



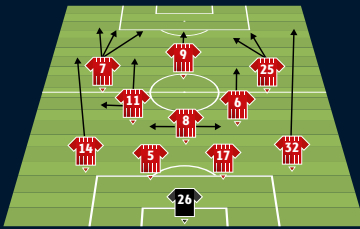
Born: 09/05/1945, Mönchengladbach (GER)
Nationality: German
Head coach: From 09/10/2017 to 20/05/2018
European trophies won: 2

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	47	33	8	6
Matches in European club competition**	175	108	33	34

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying
Carlo Ancelotti was in charge for matchdays 1 and 2

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Sevilla away



GROUP STAGE

AND	PSG	CEL	CEL	AND	PSG	BJK	BJK	SEV	SEV	RM	RM		
W 3-0	L 3-0	W 3-0	W 1-2	W 1-2	W 3-1	W 5-0	W 1-3	W 1-2	D 0-0	L 1-2	D 2-2		

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 27.5 App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Manuel Neuer	1	90		
26	Sven Ulreich	11	990	1	

DEFENDERS

4	Niklas Süle	9	644		
5	Mats Hummels	9	678	1	1
13	Rafinha	8	507		
14	Juan Bernat	1	45		
17	Jérôme Boateng	9	677	1	
19	Sebastian Rudy	5	346		
27	David Alaba	7	625	3	
32	Joshua Kimmich	11	897	4	3
34	Marco Friedl	1	90		

MIDFIELDERS

6	Thiago Alcántara	10	608	3	
7	Franck Ribéry	8	574	2	
8	Javi Martínez	10	740	1	
10	Arjen Robben	9	494	1	
11	James Rodríguez	12	778	1	2
23	Arturo Vidal	8	475		
24	Corentin Tolisso	8	494	3	2
29	Kingsley Coman	6	389	2	3

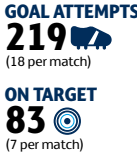
FORWARDS

2	Sandro Wagner	3	51	1	
9	Robert Lewandowski	11	955	5	2
25	Thomas Müller	10	734	3	2

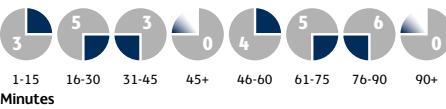
Unused substitutes: Tom Starke, Christian Früchtl, Niklas Dorsch, Lars Lukas Mai, Manuel Wintzheimer

App = Appearances; **Mins** = Minutes played; **G** = Goals; **A** = Assists

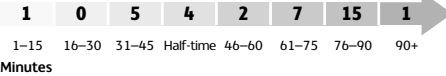
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (Including one double substitution)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Joshua Kimmich	626	558	89%
2 James Rodríguez	624	555	89%
3 Thiago Alcántara	589	542	92%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 James Rodríguez	195
2 Arjen Robben	168
3 Joshua Kimmich	160

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Jérôme Boateng	59
2 Javi Martínez	57
3 Mats Hummels	55

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**

	TA	OT	G
1 Robert Lewandowski	44	17	5
2 Thomas Müller	23	7	3
3 James Rodríguez	21	9	1

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

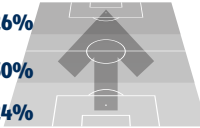
MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION

56%

Max. 68% v Anderlecht (h)
Min. 49% v Beşiktaş (a), Paris (h)

POSSESSION POSITION*



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 772 v Anderlecht (h) | Min. 462 v Sevilla (h)



LONG 72 (12%) MEDIUM 377 (63%) SHORT 148 (25%)

PASSING ACCURACY 88%

Max. 90% v Anderlecht (h), Paris (a) | Min. 83% v Beşiktaş (a)

110,780m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 117,216m v Real Madrid (a)
Min. 104,082m v Beşiktaş (h)

KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-4-3-3 with single or twin controlling midfielders
- 1-4-5-1 defending; collective pressing looking for high regains
- Purposeful possession game; fast one or two-touch combination play
- Excellent wing play; high full-backs delivering quality crosses
- 6 or 7-man attacking; one or two midfielders back to screen centre-backs
- Diagonal switches of play to exploit pace and 1v1 skills of the wingers
- Fast transitions in both directions; good use of direct supply to Lewandowski
- Compact unit able to sustain high tempo, technical ability in all areas



GROUP A



GROUP G





BORUSSIA DORTMUND

GERMANY

GROUP H



COACH

Peter Bosz

Born: 21/11/1963, Apeldoorn (NED)
Nationality: Dutch
Head coach: From 06/06/2017 to 10/12/2017

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	6	0	2	4
Matches in European club competition**	29	9	8	12

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus APOEL away



GROUP STAGE

TOT	RM	APO	APO	TOT	RM
L 3-1	L 1-3	D 1-1	D 1-1	L 1-2	L 3-2

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

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QUARTER-FINALS

--	--

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

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CELTIC FC

SCOTLAND

GROUP B



COACH

Brendan Rodgers

Born: 26/01/1973, Carnlough (NIR)
Nationality: Northern Irish
Head coach: Since 20/05/2016

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	18	2	5	11
Matches in European club competition**	48	18	11	19

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Anderlecht away



GROUP STAGE

PSG	AND	BAY	BAY	PSG	AND
L 0-5	W 0-3	L 3-0	L 1-2	L 7-1	L 0-1

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

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QUARTER-FINALS

--	--

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

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SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 25.9 App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Roman Weidenfeller	1	1
38	Roman Bürki	6	540

DEFENDERS

2	Dan-Axel Zagadou	2	88
4	Neven Subotić	1	90
5	Marc Bartra	4	350
13	Raphaël Guerreiro	3	252 1
15	Jeremy Toljan	4	271
25	Sokratis Papastathopoulos	5	450 1
26	Łukasz Piszczek	2	180
29	Marcel Schmelzer	4	271 1
36	Ömer Toprak	6	338

MIDFIELDERS

8	Nuri Şahin	3	215
19	Mahmoud Dahoud	3	192
22	Christian Puljić	5	374
23	Shinji Kagawa	5	402 2
27	Gonzalo Castro	3	132 1
33	Julian Weigl	5	325

FORWARDS

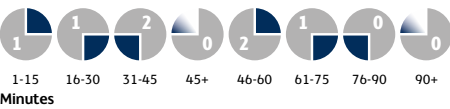
9	Andriy Yarmolenko	6	378 1 1
10	Mario Götze	5	370 1
14	Alexander Isak	1	8
17	Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	6	540 4
20	Maximilian Philipp	3	172
21	André Schürrle	1	3

Unused substitutes: None
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (including one double substitution)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Sokratis Papastathopoulos	384	364	95%
2 Ömer Toprak	352	341	97%
3 Julian Weigl	282	255	90%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Shinji Kagawa	78
2 Mario Götze	77
3 Andriy Yarmolenko	57

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Sokratis Papastathopoulos	41
2 Marc Bartra	33
3 Ömer Toprak	29

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	23	10	4
2 Shinji Kagawa	11	1	0
3 Andriy Yarmolenko	9	3	1

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

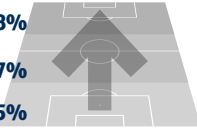
MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 71% v APOEL (h)
Min. 38% v Real Madrid (a)

POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 814 v APOEL (h) | Min. 465 v Real Madrid (a)

629

LONG 71 (11%) MEDIUM 390 (62%) SHORT 168 (27%)

PASSING ACCURACY 88%

Max. 93% v APOEL (h) | Min. 83% v Tottenham (h)

113,470m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 118,577m v Real Madrid (a)
Min. 106,580m v APOEL (h)



Mario Götze holds off Harry Kane

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 24.8 App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Craig Gordon	6	540
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DEFENDERS

5	Jozo Šimunović	4	360
12	Cristian Gamboa	1	90
20	Dedryck Boyata	5	450
23	Mikael Lustig	6	463
56	Anthony Ralston	1	90
63	Kieran Tierney	6	540 1

MIDFIELDERS

6	Nir Bitton	3	187
7	Patrick Roberts	3	233 1
8	Scott Brown	6	520
11	Scott Sinclair	5	379 1
14	Stuart Armstrong	4	234
18	Tom Rogic	6	296
21	Olivier Ntcham	5	384 2
42	Callum McGregor	4	295 1
49	James Forrest	6	307 1
88	Eboué Kouassi	1	21

FORWARDS

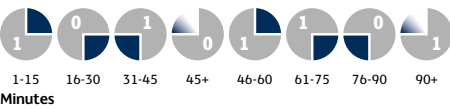
9	Leigh Griffiths	5	248 1
10	Moussa Dembélé	4	266 1
22	Odsonne Edouard	2	37

Unused substitutes: Dorus de Vries, Kristoffer Ajer, Jonny Hayes
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

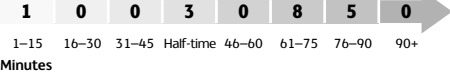
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (including two double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Scott Brown	358	347	97%
2 Mikael Lustig	327	291	89%
3 Dedryck Boyata	282	265	94%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Olivier Ntcham	50
2 Kieran Tierney	45
3 Callum McGregor	30

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Kieran Tierney	37
2 Mikael Lustig	36
3 Dedryck Boyata	34

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Olivier Ntcham	8	2	0
2 Moussa Dembélé	8	2	1
3 James Forrest	6	2	0

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

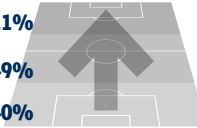
MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 62% v Anderlecht (a)
Min. 40% v Paris (h)

POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 602 v Anderlecht (a) | Min. 388 v Paris (h)

487

LONG 55 (11%) MEDIUM 335 (69%) SHORT 97 (20%)

PASSING ACCURACY 88%

Max. 89% v Anderlecht (a), Bayern (a) | Min. 86% v Bayern (h), Paris (h)

111,187m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 114,255m v Bayern (a)
Min. 106,016m v Paris (a)



Captain Scott Brown on the ball against Bayern



CHELSEA FC

ENGLAND

GROUP C



COACH

Antonio Conte

Born: 31/07/1969, Lecce (ITA)
Nationality: Italian
Head coach: From 01/07/2016 to 13/07/2018

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	18	6	6	6
Matches in European club competition**	26	11	8	7

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: at home to Barcelona



GROUP STAGE

QAR W 6-0	ATM W 1-2	ASR D 3-3	ASR L 3-0
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ROUND OF 16

QAR W 0-4	ATM D 1-1	BAR D 1-1	BAR L 3-0
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QUARTER-FINALS

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SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

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Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 26.2

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

13	Thibaut Courtois	8	720
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DEFENDERS

2	Antonio Rüdiger	6	388	
3	Marcos Alonso	7	598	1
21	Davide Zappacosta	5	353	1
24	Gary Cahill	6	448	
27	Andreas Christensen	6	454	
28	César Azpilicueta	8	705	1
30	David Luiz	4	327	1

MIDFIELDERS

4	Cesc Fàbregas	8	691	1	1
6	Danny Drinkwater	3	40		
7	N'Golo Kanté	6	498		
10	Eden Hazard	8	611	3	4
11	Pedro Rodríguez	7	388	1	2
14	Tiemoué Bakayoko	5	361	1	1
15	Victor Moses	4	337		
22	Willian	8	429	3	1

FORWARDS

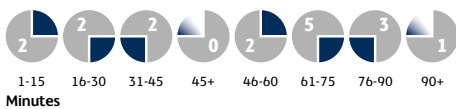
9	Álvaro Morata	7	383	1	
18	Olivier Giroud	1	67		
23	Michy Batshuayi	4	122	2	1

Unused substitutes: Willy Caballero, Kenedy, Callum Hudson-Odoi, Emerson Palmieri, Kyle Scott, Dujon Sterling
App = Appearances; **Mins** = Minutes played; **G** = Goals; **A** = Assists

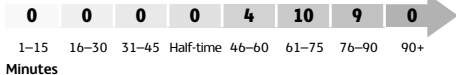
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (Including two double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Cesc Fàbregas	549	458	83%
2 César Azpilicueta	506	453	90%
3 N'Golo Kanté	283	261	92%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Cesc Fàbregas	171
2 Eden Hazard	117
3 N'Golo Kanté	86

BALLS RECOVERED

1 César Azpilicueta	55
2 N'Golo Kanté	50
3 Cesc Fàbregas	36

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**

	TA	OT	G
1 Eden Hazard	22	9	3
2 Álvaro Morata	21	9	1
3 Willian	16	5	3

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 53% v Qarabag (h)
Min. 32% v Barcelona (h)

POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 621 v Qarabag (h) | Min. 329 v Barcelona (h)

498



PASSING ACCURACY 86%

Max. 91% v Qarabag (a) | Min. 79% v Barcelona (h)

112,664m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 115,780m v Atlético (h)
Min. 109,380m v Roma (a)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-4-3 in possession with both wing-backs pushing high
- Kanté a key element in fast transitions to mid-to-low 1-5-4-1 defence
- Compact defensive block leaving little space for opposition between lines
- Build-up with passing interchanges at back; then diagonals to wing-backs
- Attacking alternatives with central striker or Hazard as false 9
- Immediate, threatening counters after regains high up the pitch
- Fàbregas the linking element, distributing from deep central midfield
- Dangerous set plays; aerial power and long-range strikes by Willian



PFC CSKA MOSKVA

RUSSIA

GROUP A



COACH

Viktor Goncharenko

Born: 10/06/1977, Khoyniki (BLR)
Nationality: Belarusian
Head coach: Since 12/12/2016

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	24	7	4	13
Matches in European club competition**	85	34	24	27

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Benfica away



GROUP STAGE

BEN W 1-2	MU L 1-4	BSL L 0-2	BSL W 1-2	BEN W 2-0	MU L 2-1
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Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 26.8

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

35	Igor Afinfeev	6	540
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DEFENDERS

2	Mario Fernandes	6	540	1
4	Sergei Ignashevich	4	315	
5	Viktor Vasin	6	540	1
6	Aleksei Berezutski	3	270	
14	Kirill Nababkin	2	130	
24	Vasili Berezutski	5	450	
42	Georgi Schennikov	5	410	1

MIDFIELDERS

3	Pontus Wernbloom	5	450	1
8	Georgi Milanov	3	89	
10	Alan Dzagoev	5	368	1
11	Vitinho	6	468	2 1
17	Aleksandr Golovin	6	537	1
66	Bibras Natcho	4	238	2
72	Astemir Gordyushenko	2	31	
80	Khetag Khosonov	1	1	
89	Konstantin Kuchaev	6	222	1

FORWARDS

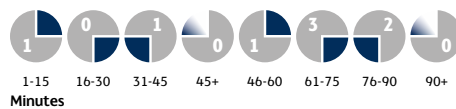
63	Fedor Chalov	3	145	
75	Timur Zhamaletdinov	5	132	1
99	Aaron Olanare	1	67	

Unused substitutes: Ilya Pomazun, Aleksandr Makarov
App = Appearances; **Mins** = Minutes played; **G** = Goals; **A** = Assists

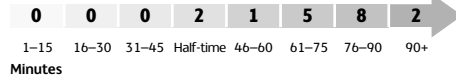
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Aleksandr Golovin	311	259	83%
2 Viktor Vasin	310	269	87%
3 Vasili Berezutski	228	200	88%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Aleksandr Golovin	81
2 Mario Fernandes	70
3 Alan Dzagoev	56

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Viktor Vasin	52
2 Mario Fernandes	43
3 Vasili Berezutski	42

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**

	TA	OT	G
1 Vitinho	21	7	2
2 Alan Dzagoev	9	7	1
3 Aleksandr Golovin	8	1	0

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 57% v Basel (h)
Min. 35% v Benfica (a)

POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 550 v Basel (h) | Min. 276 v Benfica (a)

442



PASSING ACCURACY 80%

Max. 83% v Manchester United (h) | Min. 74% v Benfica (a)

112,446m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 117,994m v Manchester United (a)
Min. 108,889m v Benfica (a)



Defender Vasili Berezutski



FEYENOORD

NETHERLANDS

GROUP F



COACH

Giovanni van Bronckhorst

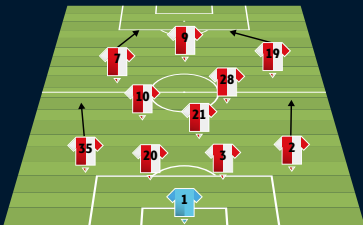
Born: 05/02/1975, Rotterdam (NED)
Nationality: Dutch
Head coach: Since 18/05/2015

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	6	1	0	5
Matches in European club competition**	12	3	1	8

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: at home to Napoli



GROUP STAGE

MC L 0-4	NAP L 3-1	SHK L 1-2	SHK L 3-1	MC L 1-0	NAP W 2-1
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Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

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QUARTER-FINALS

--	--

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

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SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 25.8 App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Kenneth Vermeer	1	90
25	Brad Jones	5	450

DEFENDERS

2	Bart Nieuwkoop	4	245
3	Sven Van Beek	4	269
4	Jeremiah St. Juste	5	374 1
5	Ridgeciano Haps	4	360
6	Jan-Arie van der Heijden	1	90
17	Kevin Diks	3	180
18	Miquel Nelom	1	90
33	Eric Botteghin	1	90
35	Tyrell Malacia	1	90

MIDFIELDERS

8	Karim El Ahmadi	4	360
10	Tonny Vilhena	6	533 2
14	Bilal Başacıkoğlu	2	29
20	Renato Tapia	4	330
21	Sofyan Amrabat	6	528 1
28	Jens Toornstra	5	323

FORWARDS

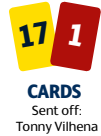
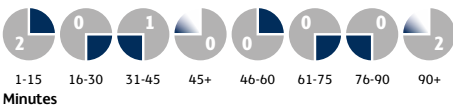
7	Jean-Paul Boëtius	6	519
9	Nicolai Jørgensen	4	258 2
11	Sam Larsson	6	157
19	Steven Berghuis	6	465 1 2
29	Michiel Kramer	2	84
34	Dylan Vente	1	19

Unused substitutes: Justin Bijlow, Emil Hansson, Lutsharel Geertruida
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

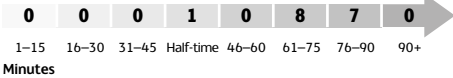
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Sofyan Amrabat	253	216	85%
2 Jeremiah St. Juste	233	218	94%
3 Karim El Ahmadi	201	181	90%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Steven Berghuis	39
2 Jean-Paul Boëtius	38
3 Sofyan Amrabat	26

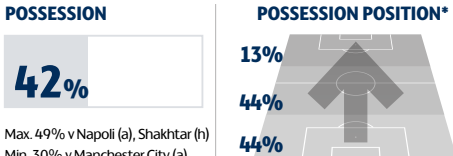
BALLS RECOVERED

1 Sofyan Amrabat	35
2 Renato Tapia	35
3 Ridgeciano Haps	31

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Steven Berghuis	14	7	1
2 Jean-Paul Boëtius	9	2	0
3 Nicolai Jørgensen	8	4	2

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH 412
Max. 509 v Napoli (a) | Min. 283 v Manchester City (a)

LONG 76 (18%) MEDIUM 234 (57%) SHORT 103 (25%)

PASSING ACCURACY 81%
Max. 86% v Napoli (a) | Min. 67% v Manchester City (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 110,773m
Max. 111,960m v Manchester City (a)
Min. 108,678m v Manchester City (h)



Midfielder Sofyan Amrabat

*Decimal points account for the 1% discrepancy



JUVENTUS

ITALY

GROUP D



COACH

Massimiliano Allegri

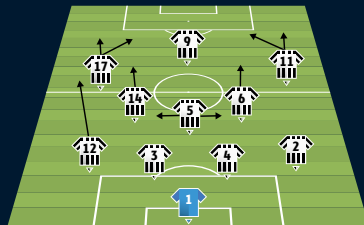
Born: 11/08/1967, Livorno (ITA)
Nationality: Italian
Head coach: Since 16/07/2014

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	76	34	24	18
Matches in European club competition**	78	35	25	18

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Real Madrid away



GROUP STAGE

BAR L 3-0	OLY W 2-0	SCP W 2-1	SCP D 1-1	BAR D 0-0	OLY W 0-2
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

TOT D 2-2	TOT W 1-2
--------------	--------------

QUARTER-FINALS

RM L 0-3	RM W 1-3
-------------	-------------

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

--

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 26.8 App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gianluigi Buffon	9	810
23	Wojciech Szczęsny	2	91

DEFENDERS

2	Mattia De Sciglio	6	393
3	Giorgio Chiellini	7	630
4	Medhi Benatia	8	565
12	Alex Sandro	10	900 1
15	Andrea Barzagli	8	655
24	Daniele Rugani	2	110
26	Stephan Lichtsteiner	2	102 1

MIDFIELDERS

5	Miralem Pjanić	8	634 1 1
6	Sami Khedira	8	633 2
8	Claudio Marchisio	1	19
14	Blaise Matuidi	9	494 1
22	Kwadwo Asamoah	3	100
27	Stefano Sturaro	5	235
30	Rodrigo Bentancur	5	291
33	Federico Bernardeschi	5	136 1
38	Fabrizio Caligara	1	3

FORWARDS

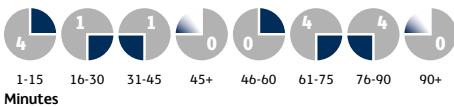
7	Juan Cuadrado	6	410 1 1
9	Gonzalo Higuaín	10	830 5 1
10	Paulo Dybala	8	661 1 1
11	Douglas Costa	10	719 1
17	Mario Mandžukić	6	457 4

Unused substitutes: Carlo Pinsoglio, Leonardo Merio, Simone Muratore
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

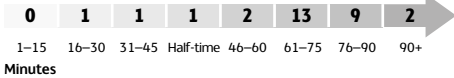
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (Including one double substitution)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Andrea Barzagli	511	483	94%
2 Alex Sandro	481	417	87%
3 Giorgio Chiellini	459	390	86%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Alex Sandro	100
2 Paulo Dybala	94
3 Miralem Pjanić	80

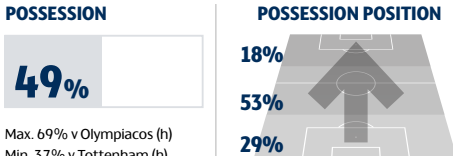
BALLS RECOVERED

1 Giorgio Chiellini	67
2 Andrea Barzagli	54
3 Alex Sandro	47

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Paulo Dybala	33	10	1
2 Gonzalo Higuaín	26	13	5
3 Mario Mandžukić	14	11	4

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH 507
Max. 735 v Olympiacos (h) | Min. 289 v Tottenham (h)

LONG 63 (12%) MEDIUM 324 (64%) SHORT 120 (24%)

PASSING ACCURACY 87%
Max. 91% v Olympiacos (h), Sporting (a) | Min. 76% v Tottenham (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,830m
Max. 120,308m v Real Madrid (a)
Min. 106,348m v Barcelona (a)

KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-4-4-2; 1-3-4-3 or 1-4-1-4-1 options according to game situation
- Compact, efficient defensive block denying opponents space between lines
- Fast defence-to-attack transitions with direct supply from centre-back to striker
- Patient construction through thirds; Pjanić and Khedira the forward passers
- Dybala a linking element in wake of mobile target striker Higuaín
- Cautious advances by full-backs depending on match situation
- Danger on flanks; Costa with pace, 1v1 skills on right; Mandžukić in from left
- Set plays well delivered by Dybala and Pjanić; Buffon an influential keeper



RB LEIPZIG

GERMANY

GROUP G



COACH

Ralph Hasenhüttl

Born: 09/08/1967, Graz (AUT)
Nationality: Austrian
Head coach: From 01/07/2016 to 16/05/2018

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	6	2	1	3
Matches in European club competition**	12	5	2	5

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: at home to Porto



GROUP STAGE

MON D 1-1	BJK L 2-0	POR W 3-2	POR L 3-1	MON W 1-4	BJK L 1-2
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 23.5

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

32 Péter Gulácsi	6	540
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DEFENDERS

3 Bernardo	3	115	
4 Willi Orban	6	476	1
5 Dayot Upamecano	5	450	
16 Lukas Klostermann	6	463	
23 Marcel Halstenberg	6	471	1
33 Marvin Compner	1	19	

MIDFIELDERS

7 Marcel Sabitzer	5	395	3
8 Naby Keita	5	419	2
10 Emil Forsberg	5	412	2
13 Stefan Ilsanker	3	262	
17 Bruma	5	273	
24 Dominik Kaiser	1	16	
27 Konrad Laimer	1	11	
31 Diego Demme	4	325	
44 Kevin Kampl	6	416	1

FORWARDS

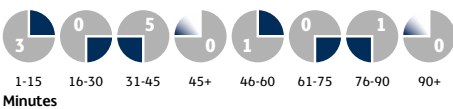
9 Yussuf Poulsen	4	199	1
11 Timo Werner	6	330	3
29 Jean-Kévin Augustin	5	341	1

Unused substitutes: Yvon Mvogo, Ibrahima Konaté
App = Appearances; **Mins** = Minutes played; **G** = Goals; **A** = Assists

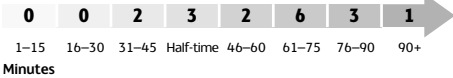
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (Including one double substitution)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Diego Demme	321	281	88%
2 Dayot Upamecano	319	276	87%
3 Willi Orban	285	237	83%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Kevin Kampl	66
2 Diego Demme	58
3 Bruma	54

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Dayot Upamecano	59
2 Marcel Halstenberg	43
3 Willi Orban	42

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Marcel Sabitzer	13	4	0
2 Naby Keita	13	4	2
3 Timo Werner	12	7	3

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 58% v Porto (h)
Min. 48% v Beşiktaş (h)

POSSESSION POSITION*



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 558 v Monaco (h) | Min. 443 v Monaco (a)

507

LONG 54 (11%) MEDIUM 286 (56%) SHORT 167 (33%)

PASSING ACCURACY 79%

Max. 83% v Porto (a) | Min. 79% v Porto (h)

109,649m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 114,902m v Beşiktaş (h)
Min. 105,372m v Beşiktaş (a)



Timo Werner was Leipzig's top scorer

*Decimal points account for the 1% discrepancy



LIVERPOOL FC

ENGLAND

GROUP E



COACH

Jürgen Klopp

Born: 16/06/1967, Stuttgart (GER)
Nationality: German
Head coach: Since 08/10/2015

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	48	23	10	15
Matches in European club competition**	79	39	20	20

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: at home to Manchester City



GROUP STAGE

SEV D 2-2	SPM D 1-1	MBR W 0-7	MBR W 3-0	SEV D 3-3	SPM W 7-0
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 25.1

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1 Loris Karius	13	1170
----------------	----	------

DEFENDERS

2 Nathaniel Clyne	2	10	
4 Virgil van Dijk	6	540	
6 Dejan Lovren	12	1050	1
12 Joe Gomez	5	371	
17 Ragnar Klavan	7	297	
18 Alberto Moreno	8	563	3
26 Andy Robertson	6	540	
32 Joël Matip	6	465	
66 Trent Alexander-Arnold	10	820	1 1

MIDFIELDERS

5 Georginio Wijnaldum	12	850	1 2
7 James Milner	11	874	9
10 Philippe Coutinho	5	347	5 2
14 Jordan Henderson	10	868	
16 Marko Grujić	1	5	
20 Adam Lallana	2	149	
21 Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain	7	320	2
23 Emre Can	8	533	1

FORWARDS

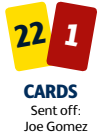
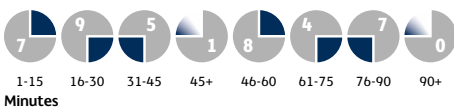
9 Roberto Firmino	13	1056	10 8
11 Mohamed Salah	13	930	10 4
15 Daniel Sturridge	5	83	1 2
19 Sadio Mané	11	940	10 2
28 Danny Ings	4	54	1
29 Dominic Solanke	3	36	

Unused substitutes: Simon Mignolet, Jon Flanagan, Conor Masterson, Ben Woodburn
App = Appearances; **Mins** = Minutes played; **G** = Goals; **A** = Assists

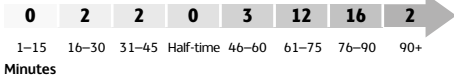
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (Including two double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Dejan Lovren	652	580	89%
2 Jordan Henderson	596	515	86%
3 James Milner	579	503	87%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 James Milner	151
2 Roberto Firmino	131
3 Mohamed Salah	126

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Jordan Henderson	78
2 Dejan Lovren	67
3 Trent Alexander-Arnold	67

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Mohamed Salah	43	23	10
2 Roberto Firmino	42	18	10
3 Sadio Mané	33	15	10

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

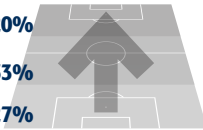
MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 68% v Maribor (h)
Min. 35% v Sevilla (a)

POSSESSION POSITION*



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 846 v Maribor (h) | Min. 304 v Manchester City (a)

527

LONG 70 (13%) MEDIUM 342 (65%) SHORT 114 (22%)

PASSING ACCURACY 84%

Max. 93% v Maribor (h) | Min. 70% v Sevilla (a)

113,298m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 120,829m v Manchester City (h)
Min. 107,690m v Spartak Moskva (h)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 in possession and out of possession; compact unit
- Passing game in own half; direct, purposeful penetration in attack
- Extremely fast counters; regains based on well-coordinated high pressing
- Very athletic, industrious midfield trio linking the lines effectively
- Three incisive forwards making powerful runs behind opposition back line
- Firmino and Salah combining with neat touches at high speed
- High defence with wide players quick to exert pressure on centre-backs
- High-energy, high-intensity game played with determination and belief



MANCHESTER CITY FC

ENGLAND

GROUP F



COACH

Josep Guardiola

Born: 18/01/1971, Santpedor (ESP)
Nationality: Spanish
Head coach: Since 01/07/2016
European trophies won: 5

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	103	62	22	19
Matches in European club competition**	110	67	23	20

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Basel away



GROUP STAGE

FEY	SHK	NAP	NAP
W 0-4	W 2-0	W 2-1	W 2-4

ROUND OF 16

BSL	BSL	LIV	LIV
W 0-4	L 1-2	L 3-0	L 1-2

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 25.5 App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Claudio Bravo	1	90
31	Ederson	9	810

DEFENDERS

2	Kyle Walker	7	630	2
3	Danilo	6	368	
4	Vincent Kompany	2	180	
5	John Stones	5	450	3
14	Aymeric Laporte	3	270	
15	Eliaquim Mangala	2	180	
18	Fabian Delph	5	383	
22	Benjamin Mendy	1	90	1
24	Tosin Adarabioyo	2	91	
30	Nicolás Otamendi	8	720	1

MIDFIELDERS

7	Raheem Sterling	8	495	4	2
8	İlkay Gündoğan	9	503	2	2
17	Kevin De Bruyne	8	667	1	4
19	Leroy Sané	9	653	1	
20	Bernardo Silva	9	563	1	2
21	David Silva	7	426	2	
25	Fernandinho	8	682		
35	Olexandr Zinchenko	1	90		
42	Yaya Touré	3	255		
47	Phil Foden	3	194		
55	Brahim Díaz	3	53		

FORWARDS

10	Sergio Agüero	7	440	4	1
33	Gabriel Jesus	9	619	4	

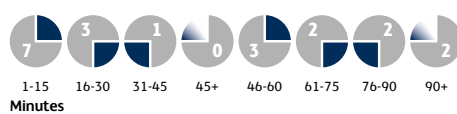
Unused substitutes: Demeaco Duhaney

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

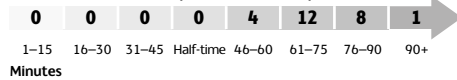
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Nicolás Otamendi	809	760	94%
2 Fernandinho	710	645	91%
3 Kevin De Bruyne	600	497	83%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Kevin De Bruyne	184
2 Leroy Sané	136
3 Bernardo Silva	126

BALLS RECOVERED

1 David Silva	62
2 Raheem Sterling	44
3 Benjamin Mendy	42

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Sergio Agüero	24	9	4
2 Kevin De Bruyne	18	5	1
3 Leroy Sané	16	4	0

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 72% v Basel (h)
Min. 54% v Shakhtar (h), Napoli (a)

POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 1,096 v Basel (h) | Min. 613 v Napoli (a)

785

LONG 62 (8%) MEDIUM 526 (67%) SHORT 197 (25%)

PASSING ACCURACY 90%

Max. 93% v Basel (h) | Min. 84% v Liverpool (h)

112,261m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 115,774m v Basel (h)
Min. 109,764m v Shakhtar (a)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with 1-2-3-3-2 in attacking mode; occasional use of 1-3-5-2
- Patient, possession play, short passing; strong technique in all areas
- Ederson brave keeper with outstanding range of passing to any line
- Emphasis on building from centre-backs with excellent positional play
- Wide players hold high positions; striker high, linking only in final third
- Aim to unbalance opponents; then quick transfer to exploit 1v1 skills
- Instant high pressure after ball loss; full-backs in to keep defensive shape
- Flowing attacking philosophy with five up in final third



MANCHESTER UNITED FC

ENGLAND

GROUP A



COACH

José Mourinho

Born: 26/01/1963, Setúbal (POR)
Nationality: Portuguese
Head coach: Since 27/05/2016
European trophies won: 4

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	135	73	34	28
Matches in European club competition**	166	91	40	35

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: at home to Sevilla



GROUP STAGE

BSL	CSKA	BEN	BEN	BSL	CSKA
W 3-0	W 1-4	W 0-1	W 2-0	L 1-0	W 2-1

ROUND OF 16

SEV	SEV
D 0-0	L 1-2

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 25.9 App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	David de Gea	6	540
20	Sergio Romero	2	180

DEFENDERS

2	Victor Lindelöf	5	450		
3	Eric Bailly	3	270		
5	Marcos Rojo	1	90		
12	Chris Smalling	8	720		
17	Daley Blind	6	540	1	1
23	Luke Shaw	1	90		
25	Antonio Valencia	4	329		
36	Matteo Darmian	3	203		
38	Axel Tuanzebe	1	18		

MIDFIELDERS

6	Paul Pogba	5	278	1
8	Juan Mata	6	411	1
14	Jesse Lingard	6	243	
18	Ashley Young	4	337	1
21	Ander Herrera	6	376	
22	Henrikh Mkhitaryan	4	285	1
27	Marouane Fellaini	3	221	1 1
31	Nemanja Matić	7	564	1
39	Scott McTominay	4	204	

FORWARDS

7	Alexis Sánchez	2	165		
9	Romelu Lukaku	8	704	5	
10	Zlatan Ibrahimović	1	16		
11	Anthony Martial	8	343	1	3
19	Marcus Rashford	8	344	3	1

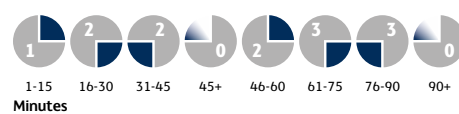
Unused substitutes: Joel Pereira, Phil Jones, Michael Carrick

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

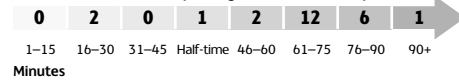
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (Including one double substitution)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Nemanja Matić	513	459	89%
2 Chris Smalling	440	409	93%
3 Daley Blind	370	321	87%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Nemanja Matić	71
2 Juan Mata	66
3 Henrikh Mkhitaryan	61

BALLS RECOVERED

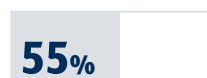
1 Chris Smalling	62
2 Ander Herrera	44
3 Daley Blind	42

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Romelu Lukaku	26	13	5
2 Marcus Rashford	21	8	3
3 Anthony Martial	13	6	1

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

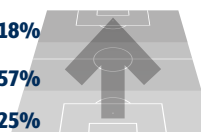
MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 62% v Basel (a)
Min. 46% v Sevilla (a)

POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 735 v CSKA Moskva (a) | Min. 401 v Sevilla (a)

590

LONG 76 (13%) MEDIUM 351 (59%) SHORT 164 (28%)

PASSING ACCURACY 85%

Max. 88% v Basel (h), Basel (a), CSKA Moskva (a) | Min. 79% v Sevilla (h)

106,174m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 111,769m v Basel (h)
Min. 101,729m v Basel (a)

KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-4-3-3 with rapid transitions to 1-4-5-1 defending
- Patient build-up from back; mostly advances via full-backs and wingers
- Long pass to Lukaku a frequent option; rarely built through centre-backs
- Extensive use of diagonal balls into box from deeper wide areas
- Defended in mid-to-low block; rarely pressed high and collectively
- Dangerous counterattacks; midfielders flooding forward to support Lukaku
- Incisive wing play by Rashford a major attacking threat
- Threatening set plays; aerial power in both penalty areas



COACH

Maurizio Sarri

Born: 10/01/1959, Naples (ITA)
Nationality: Italian
Head coach: From 12/06/2015 to 23/05/2018

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	14	5	2	7
Matches in European club competition**	26	14	3	9

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: at home to Feyenoord



GROUP STAGE

SHK L 2-1	FEY W 3-1	MC L 2-1	MC L 2-4	SHK W 3-0	FEY L 2-1
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Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

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QUARTER-FINALS

--	--

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

--



COACH

Takis Lemonis

Born: 13/01/1960, Colonus (GRE)
Nationality: Greek
Head coach: From 25/09/2017 to 04/01/2018

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	23	5	6	12
Matches in European club competition**	35	9	10	16

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

Besnik Hasli was in charge for matchday 1.

TEAM SHAPE

Example: at home to Barcelona



GROUP STAGE

SCP L 2-3	JUV L 2-0	BAR L 3-1	BAR D 0-0	SCP L 3-1	JUV L 0-2
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

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QUARTER-FINALS

--	--

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

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SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 26.9 App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

25	Pepe Reina	6	540
----	------------	---	-----

DEFENDERS

6	Mário Rui	2	30	
11	Christian Maggio	4	233	
19	Nikola Maksimović	1	90	
21	Vlad Chiricheș	1	90	
23	Elseid Hysaj	6	520	
26	Kalidou Koulibaly	5	450	
31	Faouzi Ghoulam	4	301	
33	Raúl Albiol	5	450	1

MIDFIELDERS

5	Allan	6	307	
8	Jorginho	2	162	1
17	Marek Hamšík	6	465	
20	Piotr Zieliński	5	353	2
30	Marko Rog	4	75	
37	Adam Ounas	3	36	
42	Amadou Diawara	5	370	1

FORWARDS

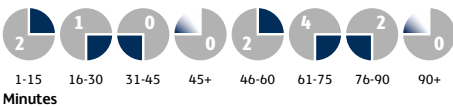
7	José Callejón	6	507	1	
14	Dries Mertens	6	480	2	3
24	Lorenzo Insigne	5	391	3	
99	Arkadiusz Milik	1	90	1	

Unused substitutes: Luigi Sepe, Emanuele Giaccherini
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

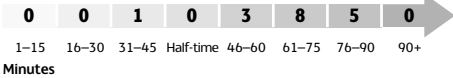
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Kalidou Koulibaly	434	397	91%
2 Marek Hamšík	405	353	87%
3 Raúl Albiol	398	362	91%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Marek Hamšík	93
2 Lorenzo Insigne	67
3 Elseid Hysaj	52

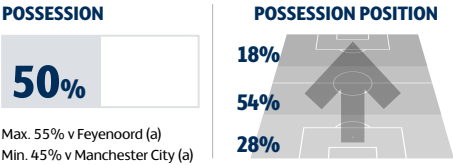
BALLS RECOVERED

1 Elseid Hysaj	46
2 Kalidou Koulibaly	45
3 Raúl Albiol	40

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Lorenzo Insigne	17	8	3
2 Dries Mertens	17	8	2
3 Marek Hamšík	9	1	0

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 646 v Feyenoord (a) | Min. 558 v Manchester City (a)

611

LONG 55 (9%) MEDIUM 352 (58%) SHORT 205 (33%)

PASSING ACCURACY 88%

Max. 91% v Shakhtar (a) | Min. 85% v Manchester City (a)

114,715m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 116,196m v Manchester City (h)
Min. 112,835m v Shakhtar (h)



Lorenzo Insigne was Napoli's top scorer with three goals

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 26.6 App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

24	Silvio Proto	5	450
27	Stefanos Kapino	1	90

DEFENDERS

3	Alberto Botía	3	270	
14	Omar Elabdellaoui	4	360	
23	Leonardo Koutris	5	450	
40	Björn Engels	5	450	
43	Dimitris Nikolaou	3	270	1
77	Diogo Figueiras	4	360	2

MIDFIELDERS

4	Alaixys Romao	6	540	
6	Panagiotis Tachtsidis	3	245	
7	Kostas Fortounis	6	245	1
8	Vadis Odjidja	6	414	1
10	Marko Marin	3	137	
13	Guillaume Gillet	4	250	
32	Thanasis Androutsos	1	90	
33	Mehdi Carcela-González	4	267	
44	Saša Zdjelar	3	212	
90	Felipe Pardo	6	300	2
92	Sebá	3	180	

FORWARDS

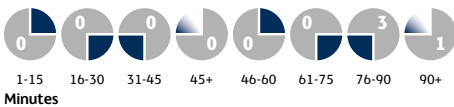
9	Uroš Djurdjević	5	207
29	Emmanuel Emenike	2	116
31	El Fardou Ben Nabouhane	2	37

Unused substitutes: Lefteris Choutesiotis, Jagoš Vuković
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

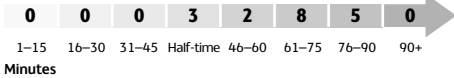
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Alaixys Romao	242	209	86%
2 Björn Engels	189	175	93%
3 Vadis Odjidja	184	149	81%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Vadis Odjidja	41
2 Marko Marin	35
3 Omar Elabdellaoui	35

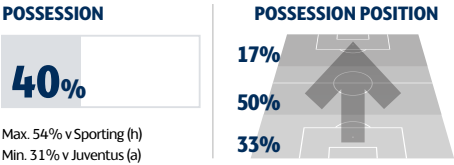
BALLS RECOVERED

1 Björn Engels	37
2 Leonardo Koutris	31
3 Alaixys Romao	29

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Felipe Pardo	7	3	2
2 Vadis Odjidja	7	3	1
3 Diogo Figueiras	5	0	0

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 550 v Sporting (h) | Min. 229 v Juventus (a)

383

LONG 62 (16%) MEDIUM 225 (59%) SHORT 96 (25%)

PASSING ACCURACY 82%

Max. 87% v Sporting (h) | Min. 67% v Juventus (a)

105,333m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 108,338m v Juventus (h)
Min. 101,744m v Sporting (a)



Felipe Pardo fires at goal



QARABAĞ FK

azerbaijan

group c



COACH

Gurban Gurbanov



Born: 13/04/1972, Zaqatala (AZE)
Nationality: Azerbaijani
Head coach: Since 01/07/2008

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	6	0	2	4
Matches in European club competition**	78	32	22	24

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Atlético de Madrid away



GROUP STAGE

CHE	ASR	ATM	ATM
L 6-0	L 1-2	D 0-0	D 1-1

ROUND OF 16

CHE	ASR
L 0-4	L 1-0

QUARTER-FINALS

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SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

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Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 27.4

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

13 Ibrahim Šehić	6	540
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DEFENDERS

5 Maksim Medvedev	6	521
14 Rashad F. Sadygov	5	359
25 Ansi Agolli	4	360
32 Elvin Yunusadə	3	126
52 Jakub Rzeźniczak	5	379
55 Badavi Hüseynov	3	270

MIDFIELDERS

2 Gara Garayev	6	520
8 Míchel	6	533 1
10 Pedro Henrique	4	281 1
20 Richard Almeida	6	540
22 Afran Ismayilov	2	77
77 Donald Guerrier	6	354 1
91 Joshgun Diniyev	2	65
99 Dani Quintana	4	39

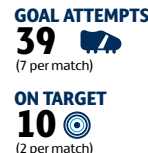
FORWARDS

9 Dino Ndlovu	5	425 1
11 Mahir Madatov	5	321
18 Tarik Elyounoussi	3	32
44 Agabala Ramazanov	1	5
90 Ramil Sheydaev	2	77

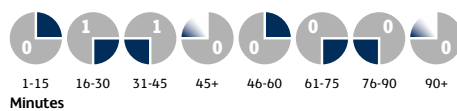
Unused substitutes: Anton Kanibolotskiy, Arif Dashdemiroy, Abbas Huseynov, Rahid Amirguliyev

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

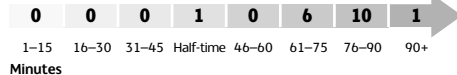
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (including one double substitution)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Richard Almeida	424	381	90%
2 Gara Garayev	345	313	91%
3 Míchel	256	210	82%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Richard Almeida	49
2 Míchel	43
3 Maksim Medvedev	42

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Maksim Medvedev	38
2 Míchel	30
3 Jakub Rzeźniczak	30

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Dino Ndlovu	9	2	0
2 Pedro Henrique	7	3	1
3 Míchel	6	2	1

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 52% v Chelsea (h)
Min. 39% v Roma (a)

POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 641 v Chelsea (h) | Min. 359 v Roma (a)

466

LONG 64 (14%) MEDIUM 277 (59%) SHORT 124 (27%)

PASSING ACCURACY 84%

Max. 90% v Chelsea (h) | Min. 75% v Roma (a)

106,400m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 110,619m v Chelsea (a)
Min. 101,437m v Roma (h)



Qarabağ midfielder Míchel celebrates



REAL MADRID CF

spain

group h



COACH

Zinédine Zidane



Born: 23/06/1972, Marseille (FRA)
Nationality: French
Head coach: From 04/01/2016 to 31/05/2018
European trophies won: 5

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	33	22	7	4
Matches in European club competition**	35	24	7	4

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Liverpool



GROUP STAGE

APO	DOR	TOT	TOT
W 3-0	W 1-3	D 1-1	L 3-1

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

PSG	PSG
W 3-1	W 1-2

QUARTER-FINALS

JUV	JUV
W 0-3	L 1-3

SEMI-FINALS

BAY	BAY
W 1-2	D 2-2

FINAL

LIV
W 3-1

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 26.8

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1 Keylor Navas	11	990
13 Kiko Casilla	2	180

DEFENDERS

2	Dani Carvajal	8	644	3
3	Jesús Vallejo	1	90	
4	Sergio Ramos	11	990	1
5	Raphaël Varane	11	938	1
6	Nacho	8	595	1
12	Marcelo	11	958	3 3
15	Theo Hernández	3	131	1
19	Achraf Hakimi	2	180	

MIDFIELDERS

8	Toni Kroos	12	952	1	
10	Luka Modrić	11	958	1	1
11	Gareth Bale	7	296	3	2
14	Casemiro	12	944	1	
17	Lucas Vázquez	10	544	1	2
18	Marcos Llorente	1	21		
20	Marco Asensio	12	474	1	1
22	Isco	11	736	2	
23	Mateo Kovačić	7	257	1	
24	Dani Ceballos	4	82		

FORWARDS

7 Cristiano Ronaldo	13	1170	15 2
9 Karim Benzema	9	600	5
21 Borja Mayoral	4	141	1 1

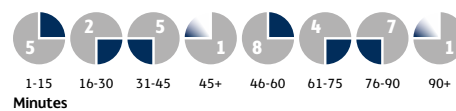
Unused substitutes: Mohamet Ramos

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

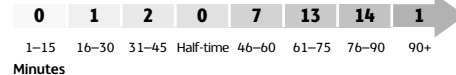
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (including three double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Toni Kroos	903	854	95%
2 Sergio Ramos	743	700	94%
3 Marcelo	738	602	82%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Toni Kroos	226
2 Isco	224
3 Marcelo	204

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Sergio Ramos	98
2 Casemiro	85
3 Raphaël Varane	76

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Cristiano Ronaldo	84	33	15
2 Isco	23	10	0
3 Karim Benzema	18	11	5

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 64% v APOEL (a)
Min. 41% v Bayern (a)

POSSESSION POSITION*



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 878 v Dortmund (h) | Min. 400 v Bayern (h)

624

LONG 75 (12%) MEDIUM 372 (60%) SHORT 176 (28%)

PASSING ACCURACY 89%

Max. 92% v Juventus (h) | Min. 84% v Bayern (h), Bayern (a)

108,333m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 114,790m v Dortmund (h)
Min. 102,585m v Liverpool (h)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 or 1-4-4-2 sometimes with Isco at apex of midfield diamond
- Fluent positional attacking; skills to construct even when under intense pressure
- Emphasis on midfield control; Casemiro holding, Kroos and Modrić building
- Full-backs Carvajal and Marcelo bursting forward, delivering crosses
- Benzema working hard across front line, dropping wide to receive
- Centre-back Ramos the dominant force in back four and team leader
- Aggressive pressure from midfield; instant counters after regains
- Tactical maturity, big-match experience; quality squad with many options

*Decimal points account for the 1% discrepancy

SQUAD					
AVERAGE AGE 27.5		App	Mins	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Alisson Becker	12	1080		
DEFENDERS					
5	Juan Jesus	6	517		
11	Aleksandar Kolarov	12	1080	1	2
20	Federico Fazio	11	922	1	
25	Bruno Peres	6	462		
44	Kostas Manolas	11	914	2	
MIDFIELDERS					
4	Radja Nainggolan	11	959	2	2
6	Kevin Strootman	11	839	1	
7	Lorenzo Pellegrini	8	296	1	
16	Daniele De Rossi	10	776	1	1
17	Cengiz Ünder	5	236	1	1
21	Maxime Gonalons	6	309		
24	Alessandro Florenzi	10	708		
30	Gerson	6	220		
FORWARDS					
8	Diego Perotti	9	729	3	1
9	Edin Džeko	12	1078	8	3
14	Patrik Schick	3	208		
23	Gregoire Defrel	5	166		
48	Mirko Antonucci	1	15		
92	Stephan El Shaarawy	10	359	2	2

Unused substitutes: Łukasz Skorupski, Héctor Moreno
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

TEAM STATISTICS

21

GOALS SCORED

(1 own goal)

171

GOAL ATTEMPTS

(14 per match)

66

ON TARGET

(6 per match)

TIME SCORED



Minutes

20

PLAYERS USED

33/36

SUBSTITUTIONS

17 1

CARDS

Sent off: Bruno Peres

SUBSTITUTION TIME (Including one double substitution)

0 0 0 1 3 16 13 0

Minutes

1-15 16-30 31-45 Half-time 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+

PLAYER STATISTICS			
PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Aleksandar Kolarov	658	532	81%
2 Federico Fazio	590	518	88%
3 Daniele De Rossi	556	486	87%
PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD			
1 Edin Džeko		76	
2 Federico Fazio		38	
3 Kostas Manolas		33	
BALLS RECOVERED			
1 Kostas Manolas		79	
2 Federico Fazio		69	
3 Aleksandar Kolarov		68	
ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**			
1 Edin Džeko	45	17	8
2 Radja Nainggolan	25	11	2
3 Diego Perotti	18	8	3

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION

51%

Max. 61% v Qarabag (h)
Min. 40% v Shakhtar (h)

POSSESSION POSITION

20%

52%

28%

PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 601 v Qarabag (h) | Min. 343 v Shakhtar (h)

488

PASSING ACCURACY 84%

Max. 89% v Qarabag (a) | Min. 73% v Barcelona (h)

110,409m

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 115,100m v Shakhtar (a)
Min. 102,042m v Qarabag (a)

KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-4-3-3 or 1-3-4-1-2 when chasing result
- Compact, well-organised, aggressive deep defending the default setting
- Able to effectively switch to a more offensive approach when required
- Fast counterattacking with direct supply to striker, runs along flanks
- Džeko the powerful target striker; well-timed runs, work between lines
- Passing moves initiated by centre-backs distributing to wide areas
- Dangerous set plays; aerial power; deliveries by Kolarov and Perotti
- Strong work ethic, commitment; mental resilience in adverse situations

*Decimal points account for the 1% discrepancy

SQUAD					
AVERAGE AGE 27.5		App	Mins	G	A
GOALKEEPERS					
1	Sergio Rico	8	720		
13	David Soria	2	180		
DEFENDERS					
2	Sébastien Corchia	3	104		
4	Simon Kjær	6	540	1	
5	Clément Lenglet	9	810	1	
18	Sergio Escudero	10	900	2	
21	Nicolás Pareja	2	180		
25	Gabriel Mercado	8	693		
MIDFIELDERS					
7	Michael Krohn-Dehli	3	140		
10	Éver Banega	9	792	1	2
11	Joaquín Correa	8	626	1	3
12	Johannes Geis	2	91		
14	Guido Pizarro	9	502	1	
15	Steven N'Zonzi	8	675		
16	Jesús Navas	8	426		
17	Pablo Sarabia	10	739	1	2
19	Ganso	1	31	1	
22	Franco Vázquez	7	495	1	
FORWARDS					
9	Wissam Ben Yedder	9	651	8	
20	Luis Muriel	8	252	1	
24	Nolito	5	315		
99	Sandro Ramírez	3	37		

Unused substitutes: Guilherme Arana, Roque Mesa, Daniel Carriço
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

TEAM STATISTICS

15

GOALS SCORED

158

GOAL ATTEMPTS

(16 per match)

53

ON TARGET

(5 per match)

TIME SCORED



Minutes

22

PLAYERS USED

28/30

SUBSTITUTIONS

19 1

CARDS

Sent off: Joaquín Correa

SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)

0 0 1 1 1 9 16 0

Minutes

1-15 16-30 31-45 Half-time 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+

PLAYER STATISTICS			
PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Éver Banega	990	851	86%
2 Steven N'Zonzi	642	607	95%
3 Sergio Escudero	557	476	85%
PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD			
1 Éver Banega		248	
2 Pablo Sarabia		131	
3 Joaquín Correa		119	
BALLS RECOVERED			
1 Clément Lenglet		75	
2 Sergio Escudero		63	
3 Gabriel Mercado		57	
ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**			
1 Wissam Ben Yedder	24	14	8
2 Pablo Sarabia	21	4	1
3 Joaquín Correa	19	6	1

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION

56%

Max. 67% v Maribor (a)
Min. 42% v Bayern (h)

POSSESSION POSITION*

22%

55%

24%

PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 856 v Maribor (a) | Min. 423 v Bayern (h)

606

PASSING ACCURACY 86%

Max. 90% v Maribor (a), Maribor (h) | Min. 80% v Liverpool (a)

111,152m

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 115,997m v Bayern (h)
Min. 106,745m v Spartak Moskva (h)

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 with emphasis on passing patiently through thirds
- Centre-backs Kjær and Lenglet feeding central midfielders and full-backs
- Banega and N'Zonzi the organisers; mix of long and short passing
- Good use of wide areas; full-backs up; switches from wing to wing
- Fast, well-coordinated transitions in both directions
- Rarely pressed high; emphasis on well-organised mid-third block
- Building with centre-backs spread; controlling midfielders deep; six up
- Strong, well-balanced, hard-working unit; ball skills, power, commitment

*Decimal points account for the 1% discrepancy

84

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TECHNICAL REPORT 2017/18

TEAM PROFILES

85



FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK

UKRAINE

GROUP F



COACH

Paulo Fonseca

Born: 05/03/1973, Nampula (MOZ)
Nationality: Portuguese
Head coach: Since 31/05/2016

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	14	6	2	6
Matches in European club competition**	40	22	6	12

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: at home to Roma



GROUP STAGE

NAP W 2-1	MC L 2-0	FEY W 1-2	FEY W 3-1	NAP L 3-0	MC W 2-1
---------------------	--------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	--------------------

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

ASR W 2-1	ASR L 1-0*
---------------------	----------------------

*Roma win on away goals

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 27.3

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

30 Andriy Pyatov	8	720		
------------------	---	-----	--	--

DEFENDERS

2 Bohdan Butko	7	630	1	
4 Serhiy Kryvtsov	1	45		
5 David Khocholava	4	105		
18 Ivan Ordets	8	661		
31 Ismaily	8	694	1	
33 Darijo Srna	1	90		
44 Yaroslav Rakitskiy	7	615	1	
66 Márcio Azevedo	1	26		

MIDFIELDERS

6 Taras Stepanenko	8	684	1	
7 Taison	8	720	1	
8 Fred	8	720	1	1
9 Dentinho	5	34		
10 Bernard	8	681	3	
11 Marlos	8	668	2	2
21 Alan Patrick	3	54		
34 Ivan Petriak	1	1		
59 Oleksandr Zubkov	1	1		
74 Viktor Kovalenko	5	43		

FORWARDS

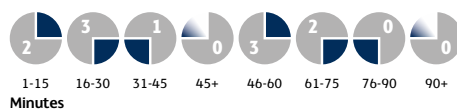
19 Facundo Ferreyra	8	703	3	2
---------------------	---	-----	---	---

Unused substitutes: Mykyta Shevchenko, Oleh Kudryk, Gustavo Blanco Leschuk
App = Appearances; **Mins** = Minutes played; **G** = Goals; **A** = Assists

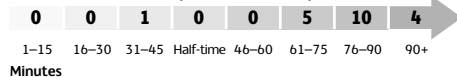
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Fred	486	426	88%
2 Andriy Pyatov	409	318	78%
3 Ivan Ordets	385	353	92%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Taison	114
2 Bernard	95
3 Marlos	95

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Bohdan Butko	50
2 Fred	43
3 Taras Stepanenko	41

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Facundo Ferreyra	20	5	3
2 Taison	17	6	1
3 Marlos	13	8	2

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 60% v Roma (a)
Min. 38% v Manchester City (h)

POSSESSION POSITION*



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 589 v Roma (a) | Min. 386 v Manchester City (h)

497



PASSING ACCURACY 86%

Max. 88% v Napoli (h), Napoli (a), Feyenoord (h) | Min. 82% v Manchester City (a)

112,584m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 116,370m v Manchester City (a)
Min. 109,223m v Feyenoord (a)

KEY FEATURES

- Classic 1-4-2-3-1 formation with two disciplined controlling midfielders
- In-possession play based on two very attack-minded full-backs
- Wide players cutting in to make room for their overlapping runs
- Taison the creative element; narrow attacking trio with wide midfielders
- Ferreyra the lone target striker
- Centre-back Rakitskiy the main initiator of combination moves
- Plenty of quality in middle-to-front areas
- Dangerous set plays, delivery of free-kicks; aerial power at the back

*Decimal points account for the 1% discrepancy



FC SPARTAK MOSKVA

RUSSIA

GROUP E



COACH

Massimo Carrera

Born: 22/04/1964, Sesto San Giovanni (ITA)
Nationality: Italian
Head coach: Since 05/08/2016

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	8	1	4	3
Matches in European club competition**	10	2	5	3

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: at home to Sevilla



GROUP STAGE

MBR D 1-1	LIV D 1-1	SEV W 5-1	SEV L 2-1	MBR D 1-1	LIV L 7-0
---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

ROUND OF 16

--	--

QUARTER-FINALS

--	--

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

--

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 28.2

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

32 Artem Rebrov	2	158		
57 Aleksandr Selikhov	5	382		

DEFENDERS

3 Marko Petković	2	83		
5 Serdar Tasci	5	450		
14 Georgi Dzhikiya	5	420		
16 Salvatore Bocchetti	3	270		
23 Dmitri Kombarov	4	360	1	
29 Ilya Kutepov	3	270		
38 Andrei Eschenko	5	440	1	

MIDFIELDERS

8 Denis Glushakov	5	336	1	1
10 Quincy Promes	5	430	2	2
11 Fernando	6	540	1	1
19 Aleksandr Samedov	4	191	1	
25 Lorenzo Melgarejo	6	210	1	1
47 Roman Zobnin	2	107		
50 Mario Pašalić	6	353		
71 Ivelin Popov	5	242		

FORWARDS

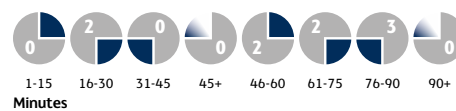
9 Zé Luís	3	159	2	
12 Luiz Adriano	6	540	1	
99 Pedro Rocha	1	1		

Unused substitutes: Aleksandr Maksimenko, Denis Davydov, Artem Samsonov, Konstantin Scherbakov, Zelimkhan Bakayev
App = Appearances; **Mins** = Minutes played; **G** = Goals; **A** = Assists

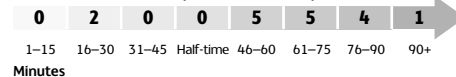
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Fernando	427	376	88%
2 Serdar Tasci	245	232	95%
3 Mario Pašalić	233	201	86%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Fernando	76
2 Quincy Promes	67
3 Dmitri Kombarov	51

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Fernando	40
2 Serdar Tasci	34
3 Salvatore Bocchetti	31

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Quincy Promes	18	6	2
2 Mario Pašalić	9	0	0
3 Denis Glushakov	7	4	1

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

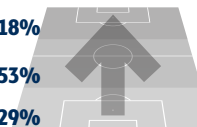
MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



Max. 56% v Maribor (a)
Min. 40% v Liverpool (h)

POSSESSION POSITION*



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 607 v Maribor (a) | Min. 329 v Liverpool (h)

472



PASSING ACCURACY 85%

Max. 90% v Maribor (a) | Min. 74% v Liverpool (h)

111,320m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 117,420m v Maribor (a)
Min. 105,944m v Liverpool (a)



Luiz Adriano played every minute of Spartak's six matches



SPORTING CLUBE DE PORTUGAL

PORTUGAL

GROUP D



COACH

Jorge Jesus

Born: 24/07/1954, Amadora (POR)
Nationality: Portuguese
Head coach: From 01/07/2015 to 05/06/2018

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	43	14	8	21
Matches in European club competition**	123	59	25	39

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Olympiacos away



GROUP STAGE

OLY	BAR	JUV	JUV	OLY	BAR
W 2-3	L 0-1	L 2-1	D 1-1	W 3-1	L 2-0

ROUND OF 16

--	--

QUARTER-FINALS

--	--

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

--

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR FC

ENGLAND

GROUP H



COACH

Mauricio Pochettino

Born: 02/03/1972, Murphy (ARG)
Nationality: Argentinian
Head coach: Since 27/05/2014

	TOTAL	W	D	L
Matches in UEFA Champions League*	14	7	3	4
Matches in European club competition**	36	17	9	10

*Group stage to final **Including qualifying

TEAM SHAPE

Example: versus Juventus away



GROUP STAGE

DOR	APO	RM	RM	DOR	APO
W 3-1	W 0-3	D 1-1	W 3-1	W 1-2	W 3-0

ROUND OF 16

JUV	JUV
D 2-2	L 1-2

QUARTER-FINALS

--	--

SEMI-FINALS

--	--

FINAL

--

Matches: Blue = home, white = away; See page 5 for full club names

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 26.1

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Rui Patrício	6	540
---	--------------	---	-----

DEFENDERS

3	Jonathan Silva	4	209		
4	Sebastián Coates	5	450	1	
5	Fábio Coentrão	4	267		
6	André Pinto	2	180		
13	Stefan Ristovski	4	143		
22	Jérémy Mathieu	5	437		
55	Tobias Figueiredo	1	13		
92	Cristiano Piccini	5	445		

MIDFIELDERS

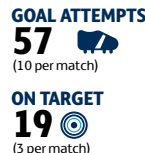
8	Bruno Fernandes	6	537	1	1
9	Marcos Acuña	5	433		1
11	Bruno César	5	253	2	
14	William Carvalho	5	450		
16	Rodrigo Battaglia	6	537		
21	Matheus	1	1		
25	Radosav Petrović	1	1		
66	João Palhinha	2	40		
77	Gelson Martins	6	463	1	3

FORWARDS

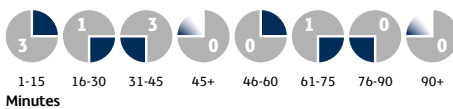
10	Alan Ruiz	1	45		
28	Bas Dost	6	379	2	
88	Seydou Doumbia	4	119	1	1

Unused substitutes: Romain Salin, Daniel Podence
App = Appearances; **Mins** = Minutes played; **G** = Goals; **A** = Assists

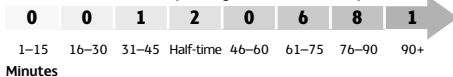
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (including one double substitution)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 William Carvalho	297	264	89%
2 Bruno Fernandes	284	221	78%
3 Rodrigo Battaglia	242	211	87%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Bruno Fernandes	78
2 Gelson Martins	57
3 William Carvalho	38

BALLS RECOVERED

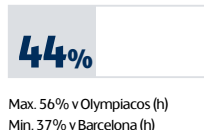
1 Rodrigo Battaglia	34
2 Cristiano Piccini	34
3 Sebastián Coates	33
4 Jérémy Mathieu	33

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Bruno Fernandes	20	5	1
2 Bas Dost	9	4	2
3 Gelson Martins	8	3	1

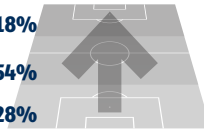
*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 569 v Olympiacos (h) | Min. 322 v Juventus (h)

407



PASSING ACCURACY 82%

Max. 86% v Olympiacos (h) | Min. 79% v Juventus (a), Juventus (h)

106,876m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 109,880m v Barcelona (a)
Min. 104,573m v Olympiacos (a)



Gelson Martins on the fly for Sporting

SQUAD

AVERAGE AGE 26.5

App Mins G A

GOALKEEPERS

1	Hugo Lloris	7	630
13	Michel Vorm	1	90

DEFENDERS

2	Kieran Trippier	3	270	3
3	Danny Rose	3	170	
4	Toby Alderweireld	4	294	1
5	Jan Vertonghen	6	540	
6	Davinson Sánchez	8	720	
21	Juan Foyth	1	90	
24	Serge Aurier	6	507	2
33	Ben Davies	5	450	
37	Kyle Walker-Peters	1	20	

MIDFIELDERS

11	Erik Lamela	2	105		
12	Victor Wanyama	1	1		
14	Georges-Kévin N'Koudou	2	105	1	
15	Eric Dier	7	614	1	
17	Moussa Sissoko	6	341	1	
19	Moussa Dembélé	6	328		
20	Dele Alli	5	428	2	3
23	Christian Eriksen	6	535	2	1
27	Lucas	1	1		
29	Harry Winks	5	426		
42	Anthony Georgiou	1	6		

FORWARDS

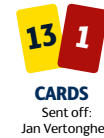
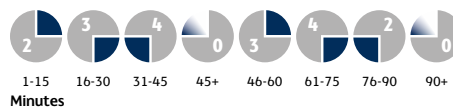
7	Heung-Min Son	7	426	4	
10	Harry Kane	7	597	7	1
18	Fernando Llorente	7	225	1	1
54	Kazaiah Sterling	1	2		

Unused substitutes: Paolo Gazzaniga, Luke Amos, Tashan Oakley-Boothe
App = Appearances; **Mins** = Minutes played; **G** = Goals; **A** = Assists

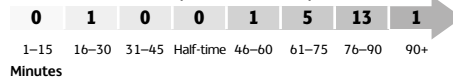
TEAM STATISTICS



TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTION TIME (No double substitutions)



PLAYER STATISTICS

PASSES*	A	C	%
1 Davinson Sánchez	432	408	94%
2 Eric Dier	362	305	84%
3 Harry Winks	345	324	94%

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

1 Christian Eriksen	95
2 Dele Alli	62
3 Harry Winks	57

BALLS RECOVERED

1 Jan Vertonghen	46
2 Davinson Sánchez	44
3 Serge Aurier	38

ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**	TA	OT	G
1 Harry Kane	32	16	7
2 Heung-Min Son	26	9	4
3 Christian Eriksen	19	6	2

*A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed; **TA = Total attempts; OT = On target; G = Goals

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION



POSSESSION POSITION



PASSES ATTEMPTED PER MATCH

Max. 704 v APOEL (h) | Min. 324 v Real Madrid (a)

503



PASSING ACCURACY 86%

Max. 91% v APOEL (h) | Min. 77% v Dortmund (h)

114,926m TEAM DISTANCE COVERED

Max. 121,016m v Real Madrid (h)
Min. 109,000m v Juventus (a)

KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-4-4-2 with quick transitions to compact 1-4-4-1-1 defending
- Flexible attacking; often 1-3-5-2 with Dier dropping alongside centre-backs
- Construction via high-tempo ball circulation; patient build in midfield
- Eriksen the attacking catalyst; movement, passing, dead-ball expertise
- Wide midfielders cutting in to make space for two adventurous full-backs
- Alli near screening midfielders to defend; near striker when attacking
- Kane a very mobile striker, combining fluently with support attackers
- High-intensity game played with strong team ethic, mental strength

Roll of honour

2018 **REAL MADRID CF**
2017 **REAL MADRID CF**
2016 **REAL MADRID CF**
2015 **FC BARCELONA**
2014 **REAL MADRID CF**
2013 **FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN**
2012 **CHELSEA FC**
2011 **FC BARCELONA**
2010 **FC INTERNAZIONALE MILANO**
2009 **FC BARCELONA**
2008 **MANCHESTER UNITED FC**
2007 **AC MILAN**
2006 **FC BARCELONA**
2005 **LIVERPOOL FC**
2004 **FC PORTO**
2003 **AC MILAN**
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1998 **REAL MADRID CF**
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1979 **NOTTINGHAM FOREST FC**
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1977 **LIVERPOOL FC**
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1975 **FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN**
1974 **FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN**
1973 **AFC AJAX**
1972 **AFC AJAX**
1971 **AFC AJAX**
1970 **FEYENOORD**
1969 **AC MILAN**
1968 **MANCHESTER UNITED FC**
1967 **CELTIC FC**
1966 **REAL MADRID CF**
1965 **FC INTERNAZIONALE MILANO**
1964 **FC INTERNAZIONALE MILANO**
1963 **AC MILAN**
1962 **SL BENFICA**
1961 **SL BENFICA**
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1959 **REAL MADRID CF**
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1957 **REAL MADRID CF**
1956 **REAL MADRID CF**

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Real Madrid's Karim Benzema shields the ball from Virgil van Dijk of Liverpool in the final in Kyiv





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