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Analysis, reflection and debate

UEFA’s Technical Observers Group met after the final in Lyon to discuss the season’s key trends. Their thoughts form the basis of this report.

This review of the 2017/18 UEFA Europa League campaign serves as a record of a season that spanned 205 matches, from the opening of the group stage in September to the final at the Stade de Lyon on 16 May. It is a report offering factual and statistical information about the ninth season of the UEFA Europa League in its present format, with the aim of providing a deeper analysis of the action on the field of play through the interpretations of UEFA’s Technical Observers Group.

This small group of coaches delivered their input on every match from the round of 16 onwards and their reports and reflections provided the substance for the discussion that took place when they met together in Lyon on the morning after the final between Olympique de Marseille and Club Atlético de Madrid.

Thomas Schaaf, the coach who guided Werder Bremen to the final of this competition in 2009, chaired this review panel alongside Frank Ludolph, UEFA’s Head of Football Education Services, and they heard some fascinating insights about the tactical approaches and trends witnessed from the experienced coaching figures in attendance.

Jerzy Engel, the former Poland national team coach, together with his compatriot Stefan Majewski, formerly a Poland international defender and now sport director of the Polish Football Association (PZPN).

Mixu Paatelainen, the national coach of Latvia who has played and coached in five different countries around Europe, provided some illuminating observations, and there were equally valuable contributions from Ghenadie Scurtul, technical director of the Moldovan Football Federation (FMF), and the former Slovenia and Crvena zvezda midfielder Milenko Aćimović.

The end product is a report that intends to provide coaches across the continent with food for thought. It will be made available to members of the coaching family throughout Europe and, hopefully, will help development coaches stay aware of the prevailing styles and strategies at the top end of the club game.
Road to Lyon

From qualifying to the final, 190 clubs took part in the 2017/18 UEFA Europa League, with two familiar names going the distance.
Round of 32

One of eight arrivals from the UEFA Champions League, Atlético suffered an early stumble on their return to the competition after a five-year absence, falling behind to Viktor Fischer’s 15th-minute goal at København. Within six minutes, though, Saúl Ñíguez had drawn them level – and by the finish Atleti had a 4-1 advantage in a tie they eventually won 5-1. For the other Spanish contenders there were mixed fortunes. Athletic overcame Spartak Moskva with the help of a 3-1 first-leg success in Russia where an Aritz Aduriz double showed the enduring predatory powers of a striker who had turned 37 four days earlier. Atlético’s Basque rivals Real Sociedad succumbed to Salzburg (3-4 aggregate), and Villarreal’s campaign closed early too, the Group A winners beaten home and away by Olympique Lyonnais. Another of the group winners, Braga, lost at the hands of another French side with sights set on the final – Marseille – as Rudi Garcia’s men seized control of the tie at home where Valère Germain (2) and Florian Thauvin scored in a 3-0 first-leg victory.

The third of the group winners to fall, Atalanta, could count themselves highly unfortunate. After succumbing to a 91st-minute goal in a 3-2 first-leg reverse in Dortmund, they were on course to advance on away goals until the Bundesliga club struck late once more through Marcel Schmelzer. Arsenal ended Östersund’s adventure, winning 3-0 in Sweden before Graham Potter’s outsiders gave 5,000 of their fans one last night to remember with a 2-1 triumph in London. Arguably no club issued a bigger statement of intent than Leipzig, in their first season of UEFA competition, they had arrived here after UEFA Champions League elimination, and responded with a 3-1 win at the Stadio San Paolo against Napoli, Timo Werner scoring twice. Although Napoli fought back strongly to win 2-0 in Germany it was not enough for the eventual Serie A runners-up, who had also parachuted in from the UEFA Champions League.

Italy’s two other contenders, Lazio and AC Milan, both progressed, beating FCSB and Ludogorets respectively. There was success too for three of the four Russian clubs. Aside from Spartak’s aforementioned demise, Lokomotiv Moskva beat Nice with the help of a 3-2 comeback victory in France courtesy of a Manuel Fernandes hat-trick – the midfielder’s second treble of the campaign after he hit three in the opening 10 minutes of the group game against Zln. Meanwhile, CSKA and Zenit – UEFA Cup winners in 2005 and 2008 respectively – got the better of two former European champions in Crvena zvezda and Celtic. Like neighbours Crvena zvezda, who had waited 26 years to play European football into the new year, Partizan lost their way with defeat by Plzeň. As a reflection of the historic names participating in the 2017/18 competition, there were 14 former European trophy winners involved in the round of 32, including Dynamo Kyiv, who ousted undefeated AEK on away goals, and Sporting, who ended Astona’s run.
Round of 16

Lyon's dream of appearing in the final in their home stadium evaporated with an away-goals reverse against CSKA Moskva. They had looked set fair after prevailing 1-0 in Moscow through Marcelo's headed goal, but Aleksandr Golovin, Ahmed Musa and Pontus Wernbloom earned the Russian visitors a 3-2 victory in France – and progression on the away-goals rule.

Marseille's home form, by contrast, was increasingly assured: Lucas Ocampos (2) and Dimitri Payet secured a 3-1 home win against Athletic, and Aritz Aduriz's away goal (his eighth overall) counted for nothing in the end as OM triumphed in northern Spain too, Ocampos and Payet both scoring again in a 2-1 success.

There was an even more emphatic aggregate success for Marseille's eventual final opponents Atlético, who overwhelmed Lokomotiv Moskva 8-1 over the two legs. After a spectacular Saul Niguez strike had sparked a 3-0 home win, they triumphed 5-1 in Moscow where Fernando Torres hit his final two European goals for the club in his farewell season.

A scorer in the 2017 final for Manchester United, Henrik Mkhitaryan claimed his first goal as an Arsenal player to pave the way for a 2-0 first-leg victory at Milan for the Gunners, who went on to shrug off an early Hakan Çalhanoğlu goal for the Rossoneri in London where they won the return 3-1, Danny Welbeck scoring twice.

Salzburg's success in reaching their first quarter-finals since finishing as UEFA Cup runners-up in 1994 owed everything to a 3-0 first-leg win in Dortmund, where Valon Berisha struck twice. There was also a key win on the road for Lazio, who followed up a home draw with Dynamo Kyiv with a 2-0 victory in Ukraine.

As in the previous round Bruma and Timo Werner delivered vital goals for Leipzig, scoring in the 2-1 home win over Zarži; Domenico Criscito's free kick pulled a goal back on the night, but the German side duly earned a 1-1 draw in St Petersburg.

There was no more dramatic a finish than in the Czech Republic where Plzeň cancelled out their two-goal first-leg deficit against Sporting through a Marek Bakalíč double, then saw their goalkeeper, Aleš Hruška, stop a Bas Dost spot kick in added time. If they felt it was going to be their night, Rodrigo Battaglia's extra-time header decided otherwise. Plzeň's fifth straight home win was in vain.
Quarter-finals

Atlético’s power at home provided the platform for victory over Sporting. Antoine Griezmann adding to a Koke goal after just 22 seconds in their 2-0 first-leg victory. For Sporting, Fredy Montero’s first-half riposte in Lisbon was not enough as they failed to breach Atleti’s defence a second time.

Marseille also suffered a 1-0 away loss, in their first leg at Leipzig, and when Bruma doubled the German club’s aggregate lead two minutes into the return, OM had work to do. Yet driven on by their impassioned supporters, Rudi Garcia’s men conjured a thrilling response, summed up by an exceptional individual goal by skipper Dimitri Payet – the home team’s fourth in their eventual 5-2 triumph.

There was drama too in Salzburg where Lazio seemed poised for the semi-finals when Ciro Immobile’s 55th-minute opening effort increased the aggregate lead of Simone Inzaghi’s side, 4-2 winners a week earlier in Rome. Even when Munas Dabbur struck a minute later, a Salzburg comeback looked unlikely but three goals in a sensational five-minute spell between the 72nd and 76th minutes – from Amadou Haidara, Hee-Chan Hwang and Stefan Lainer – turned the tie on its head.

After conceding four first-half goals away to Arsenal, CSKA Moskva threatened another fight-back when Fedor Chalov and Kirill Nababkin scored in the second leg, yet a Danny Welbeck strike and Aaron Ramsey’s third goal of the tie slammed the door shut.

Lazio’s Ciro Immobile scored in both legs against Salzburg to reach eight goals overall.

The year an Austrian side had last reached the last four of a major UEFA club competition.
Despite losing Šime Vrsaljko to a tenth-minute red card and falling behind to an Alexandre Lacazette goal, Atlético made Arsenal suffer for a defensive lapse when Antoine Griezmann snatched an equaliser on a first-leg night in London memorable for the hosts’ profligacy – and Jan Oblak’s brilliant save from Aaron Ramsey.

Atlético punished another lapse back in Madrid as Diego Costa’s solitary goal on the counter ended the dream of a first European trophy for the visitors’ outgoing manager, Arsène Wenger – and meant Atlético did not concede a home goal en route to the final.

In the other semi-final, Dimitri Payet was once more the inspiration for Marseille as he set up goals for Florian Thauvin and Clinton Njie in the 2-0 first-leg win over Salzburg. Marco Rose’s men undid that deficit back in Austria through Amadou Haidara’s solo strike and a Bouna Sarr own goal, yet they had no comeback when Rolando grabbed a goal from a corner in the 116th minute to push Marseille over the line – and into their first final since 2004.
Atletico masterclass

Tactical knowhow and a cutting edge allow Atletico’s quality to shine through

"Atleti Forever" read the giant banner at one end. At the other, a massive blue cross on a white backdrop bore the battle cry "Allez L’OM!". This was the Stade de Lyon on Wednesday 16 May, and a meeting of two famous old clubs, Atletico de Madrid and Marseille, who had reached this destination after compelling, contrasting, journeys.

For Atletico, it was their fifth European final of the decade; for Marseille, the first since 2004. The Spaniards had already lifted this trophy twice before; Marseille had lost two finals. Atletico had entered the competition in February following UEFA Champions League elimination; Marseille’s campaign had begun the previous July in the third qualifying round. The teams had displayed different approaches also, Atletico with their organisation and discipline and killer touch on the counter; Marseille with the attacking flair that had lit up their road to a final played some three hours north of home in Lyon.

One thing that the clubs had in common was a hunger for the trophy that Eric Abidal, the former Lyon, Barcelona and France defender, carried on to the field before kick-off. Another was the presence of a French talisman in each line-up – Atletico’s Antoine Griezmann and Marseille’s Dimitri Payet. They exchanged words moments before kick-off, Payet patting his international colleague on the head, unaware that the evening would hold dramatically diverging fortunes for the pair.

It was Marseille who opened the contest, with forward Valere Germain delivering a rugby-style kick into touch in Atletico territory to a big cheer from the French fans filling three-quarters of the stadium. In the words of Thomas Schaaf, one of UEFA’s technical observers at the match, it was a statement of intent from a side eager to take the game to Atletico as they pursued a first European prize since their UEFA Champions League triumph 25 years earlier. "They were trying to make a statement and say, ‘We want to go forward, we want to put pressure on our opponents’," said Schaaf. "They started with a lot of intensity."

The noisy OM fans greeted the early opposition touches with a screech of whistles. The volume would have risen a notch or two higher but for a wayward finish by Germain in the fourth minute. He had a golden opportunity, fashioned by the fantastic feet of Payet. Gathering the ball in the centre-circle, the Marseille skipper exchanged passes with Florian Thauvin then slipped the ball through to Germain, breaking clear on Jan Oblak’s goal. Yet the shot flew high and wide. A pivotal moment. Marseille, at this early stage, were profiting from the presence of Payet, a drifting No10 able to find pockets of space. Soon Atletico survived another scare as Adil Rami’s strike on the half-turn flew past the far post. During this bright opening from the Ligue 1 side, winger Lucas Ocampos offered further encouragement with his long-legged
Griezmann, with exceptional calmness, had succeeded where Germain had failed in the opening minutes.
first-half caution meant he did not return for the second period, the veteran Juanfran replacing a player who had been red-carded in the semi-final at Anderlecht.

It had begun to rain as the action resumed and for Atlético a second goal was in the offing. Correa found space more than once when moving in from the flank and the Argentinian might have got a goal after a superb turn in the box but his failure to summon an instant shot allowed Sarr time to slide as he shot and it flew over. If Germain thumped the ball into the box but the ever-reliable Godín flew in to head clear. When a ball did fall to Sanson in the area, he slid as he shot but the ever-reliable Godín headed it on to Griezmann. The Atleti players enjoy the moment.

The Atleti players enjoy the moment.

As Griezmann whipped the ensuing corner to his team-mates, thumping his chest to enforce the point. To little apparent avail.

The Atleti players enjoy the moment.

To their credit the OM fans sent a fresh wave of noise rolling around the ground.

The Atleti players enjoy the moment.

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The Atleti players enjoy the moment.
The powerful bond between Diego Simeone and his players, and the coach’s drive to succeed have underpinned a golden era for Atlético.
### Group stage

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### UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

September 2017

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<td>SK Austria Wien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/11</td>
<td>Young Boys</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>Dynamo Kyiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/11</td>
<td>Partizan</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>SK Austria Wien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/11</td>
<td>Young Boys</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>Dynamo Kyiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/11</td>
<td>Partizan</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>SK Austria Wien</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Combined number of spectators who witnessed Crvena zvezda’s first European group stage home matches in a decade.

143,403
With a 20-game European campaign, Salzburg equalled the record set by Bordeaux (1995/96) and Basel (2012/13).

AEK Athens did not lose any of their ten games, qualifiers included, but drew eight of them.

The number of UEFA Europa League goals scored by Athletic’s Aritz Aduriz over the past two seasons.
Atleti and the ‘lost art’

’Simplicity and aggression’ crucial for Simeone’s side

The flood of goals in the latter stages of the 2017/18 European club competitions prompted some observers to argue that the current focus on attacking football had damaged the art of defending, with the demand to deliver entertaining, attractive football forcing shifts in strategy – such as the vogue for attacking full-backs – which leave defences exposed.

The sight of SS Lazio, an Italian team, taking a 5-2 overall lead early in the second half of their quarter-final second leg against Salzburg yet still ending up eliminated was one notable example. Yet that high-scoring round – which featured aggregate results of 5-3, 6-3 and 6-5 – had one exception in Atlético’s 2-1 aggregate scoreline against Sporting CP. This was no surprise to the UEFA technical observers who saw Diego Simeone’s men in action.

“T o be on the safe side and not take risks is what they do,” said Ghenadie Scurtul. The statistics underline this view. In 81 games in UEFA competition, running from Simeone’s appointment in December 2011 to the final in Lyon, Atlético kept 43 clean sheets and conceded only 53 goals – a ratio of 0.65 per game.

Elaborating on their approach, Mixu Paatelainen said: “The bottom line for me is Simeone’s philosophy is not to concede a goal, not to lose, be hard to beat. Therefore he puts a lot of emphasis on defending, on being organised, on being together, on being the way he was as a player – showing fighting spirit and being aggressive. The whole team are so disciplined it’s unbelievable. Every player has that mentality, which is instilled by Simeone – we will not concede.

‘Of course they have quality players defensively as well – [Diego] Godín has been there a long time, the goalkeeper is fantastic – but it’s the collective spirit that means they’re the best defensive team in Europe.”

According to Jerzy Engel, one of the keys to the Madrid side’s success is the way they press the ball. “It’s very difficult to play against them because of the pressing they do,” he said. “When they lose the ball, they immediately go for a very high and strong press.”

What happens next, Paatelainen added, is “if they don’t win the ball, the discipline they show and how they come back to their shape making two banks of four is fantastic. They don’t press in midfield. They let the opponents have it in their midfield area. They make sure there’s no gap between the defence and the midfield. They’re so compact, they’re so organised, and everybody knows their job. I think Atlético’s secret – and Simeone has to be saluted for this – is simplicity and aggression.”

Talking points

Discipline, desire and the importance of planning for the long term were three keys to success that the technical team focused on during their post-final discussions in Lyon.

Benefits of big-game experience

Streetwise Atlético made their knowhow count

Going into the final, Atlético’s starting XI had 647 appearances in European competition compared to Marseille’s 408. Not a huge difference but when it came to big-game experience, the gap grew considerably.

Eight of the Atlético players who appeared in the final, either from the first whistle or from the bench, had played in the 2016 UEFA Champions League final. For Marseille, only two – Adil Rami and Luiz Gustavo – had experienced a European showpiece before.

Mixu Paatelainen said: “I had the impression we were dealing with a team, in the case of Marseille, that played like a young team, an inexperienced team, against a grown-up team which knew exactly what to do in which situation.”

This informed the way Atlético grew into the game, according to Ghenadie Scurtul. “In the first half, we saw that they didn’t try too many counterattacks so as not to lose their compactness. Slowly, when Marseille’s fitness went down and they also lost their key player [Dimitri Payet], Atlético took the initiative into their own hands.” In addition, Scurtul cited the “one-touch play” of the Spanish club, whose experienced players did a job for their team without trying too hard or overcomplicating things on the big occasion.

“They have very good players but they don’t do too much dribbling when they don’t need to,” he argued. “We saw that Marseille’s players sometimes wanted to do too much individually, especially from the flanks.”
One intriguing aspect of Marseille’s European adventure was the fact they won eight of nine home matches on route to the final – but managed just one victory on the road. The Stade Vélodrome is one of European football’s great theatres and Marseille’s players felt the benefits of the backing received there. For all the systems and science in the modern game, footballers are human beings, and can be swayed by a stadium’s swirls of noise and emotion. “Of course, it lifts players,” says Mixu Paatelainen.

“Of course, it lifts players,” says Mixu Paatelainen. “It’s absolutely incredible the atmosphere a player gets to play in front of such a crowd. It’s absolutely incredible the atmosphere there.” Of course, it can affect the away side too as Ghenadie Scurtul observed of Salzburg’s struggles at the Vélodrome when losing 2-0 in the first leg of their semi-final: “There it had an influence on Salzburg, because they’re a young team. Maybe they are not very familiar with this environment.”

Schaaf’s suggestion that home advantage is not as important in European competition as it once was, is an argument bolstered by the number of away wins in the equivalent stage of the UEFA Cup in the 1987/88, 1997/98 and 2007/08 seasons nine, 11 and 16 respectively.

That said, Schaaf acknowledged that with younger players in particular, it could be significant. “For teams such as Marseille or Salzburg who are developing and haven’t reached their full potential yet, they go through phases where they actually need the support of their fans. And if they find it in their home stadium, they can lean on that, and rely on that extra enthusiasm and that really helps them to push further.” In Marseille’s case, their results show that they struggled to achieve a consistent level of performance over 90 minutes on the road, where they lost five times. Schaaf suggested home advantage for a team like Marseille can add “20%” to a player’s performance. “I don’t think that every player gets to play in front of such a crowd. It’s absolutely incredible the atmosphere there.” Of course, it can affect the away side too as Ghenadie Scurtul observed of Salzburg’s struggles at the Vélodrome when losing 2-0 in the first leg of their semi-final: “There it had an influence on Salzburg, because they’re a young team. Maybe they are not very familiar with this environment.”
Route to goal

Goals were down slightly year on year, but the total of 556 was still the third-highest recorded in the UEFA Europa League.

There was a total of 556 goals scored in the 2017/18 UEFA Europa League from the first night of the group stage to the final in Lyon. This was nine fewer than the number for 2016/17, but still the third-highest total in the UEFA Europa League era – a rate of 2.71 per match.

The second half of matches again produced more goals than the first – 309 to 245. The most productive 15-minute period for goalscoring in each half was the middle section, although if we add to the 76-90 minute period the goals struck in added time at the finish, then this raises the total scored from 76 minutes onwards to 108 – or 19.4% of all goals, so underlining the impact of fatigue on defences in the closing stages of a contest. The scoring analysis in this review is based on the 175 goals struck during the knockout-stage matches.

Goals from open play

Crosses were the source of more than a quarter of the 139 knockout-round goals scored in open play – 37 of them, or 26.6%. There were another 18 goals scored from cutbacks, highlighting the significance of productive wing play.

Goals from set plays

Of the 175 goals struck in the knockout rounds, there were 35 scored from set plays – or 20%. This included 12 penalty kicks.

Goals from free kicks

Just as in 2016/17, there were four goals scored from direct free kicks in the knockout rounds. They came from Lokomotiv Moskva’s Manuel Fernandes at Nice; Real Sociedad’s Adnan Januzaj against Salzburg; Zenit’s Domenico Criscito at Leipzig; and CSKA’s Aleksandr Golovin at Arsenal.

Goals per UEFA Europa League season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Matches</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/16</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Goals per knocking round

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round of 32</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round of 16</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter-finals</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-finals</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When the goals were scored (full season)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First half</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-15 minutes</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-30 minutes</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-45 minutes</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-60 minutes</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second half</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-60 minutes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-75 minutes</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-90 minutes</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90+ minutes</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra time</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-105 minutes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105-120 minutes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Just as in the previous season, there were 40 goals (7.19% of the overall total) in added time at the end of the two halves.

Number of goals scored from outside the penalty area from the last 32 onwards. There were also 14 goals following corners, including two in the same match from Lazio to earn a 2-2 draw at Dynamo Kyiv in the round of 16.
Goals of the season

Dimitri Payet’s stunning solo effort for Marseille against Leipzig was the pick of the season’s top goals

The UEFA Technical Observers Group selected a top ten from the 556 goals scored in the 2017/18 campaign – not an easy task given the quality of strikes to choose from.

The first choice was a goal thrilling in its execution and vital for its impact – Dimitri Payet’s magnificent solo effort that moved Marseille into an aggregate lead in the second leg of their quarter-final against Leipzig. Here was a highly talented footballer producing a piece of brilliance when it mattered. The lead-up was eye-catching enough – Payet played a one-two with Florian Thauvin before bursting into the box, effecting a stepover as he carried the ball past Stefan Ilsanker and then delivering the coup de grâce: an outstanding outside-of-the-foot strike to spear the ball high into the top corner.

Semi-finalists Arsenal contributed another, this time a more straightforward contribution was a more straightforward semi-final goal. Aaron Ramsey’s effort against CSKA featured in the top ten – a brilliantly worked set-piece routine at Zenit with Juan Felipe’s corner floated out to Blazevski waiting on the edge of the box and, with more of a caress than a kick, he dinked the ball up over the goalkeeper and down into the net. The roles were reversed with the other Vardar goal featured in the top ten – a brilliantly worked set-piece routine at Zenit with Juan Felipe’s corner floated out to Blazevski waiting on the edge of the box and the striker applying a superbly controlled volley.

Sporting’s Bruno Fernandes was one of the brightest young talents on view in the 2017/18 competition and he highlighted his shooting ability against Astana when he collected a short lay-off from a free-kick nearly 40 metres from goal, took two steps forward and unleashed a ferocious shot that dipped and swerved and then dropped into the far corner of the net. Turkish veteran Emre Belözoğlu’s contribution was a more straightforward set-piece, a left-foot free-kick that kissed the underside of the crossbar on its way into the goal.

Last but not least, the top ten included Amedou Haidara’s exciting, wriggling run that left four Marseille men in his wake before he stabbed the ball past Steve Mandanda for Salzburg in the semi-final second leg.

Visit UEFA.com to see all the goals.
Squad of the season

Not surprisingly, the spine of Atlético Madrid’s UEFA Europa League winners features prominently in the technical observers’ selection.

Goalkeepers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goalkeeper</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan Oblak</td>
<td>No. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rui Patrício</td>
<td>No. 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Oblak
| Patrício |

Defenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defender</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leonardo Bonucci</td>
<td>No. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefan Lainer</td>
<td>No. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diego Godin</td>
<td>No. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luiz Gustavo</td>
<td>No. 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bouna Sarr</td>
<td>No. 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Midfielders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Midfielder</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruno Fernandes</td>
<td>No. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naby Keïta</td>
<td>No. 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Koke
| Saul Niguez |
| Godin
| Gabi |
| Arribas
| Diadie Samassékou |
| Gilas | Timo Werner |

Forwards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forward</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Koke</td>
<td>No. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saul Niguez</td>
<td>No. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godin</td>
<td>No. 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Gabi
| Diadie Samassékou |
| Gilas | Timo Werner |
| Ciro Immobile | No. 7 |
| Ante Rebic | No. 9 |

One of the tasks of the UEFA Technical Observers Group, meeting in Lyon on the morning after Atlético’s final triumph, was to select their UEFA Europa League squad of the season. Their 15 man selection contained players from seven different clubs, with winners Atlético represented by half a dozen key figures drawn from the spine of Diego Simeone’s experienced, accomplished side – from goalkeeper Jan Oblak via defensive leader Diego Godín through to forward Antoine Griezmann, man of the match in the final.

Runners-up Marseille were represented by three players, including Dimitri Payet, the creative talisman whose final display – an injury-enforced early withdrawal – did not diminish the memory of some brilliant goals and key assists along the road to Lyon. The squad of the season included a significant number of exciting young talents too, such as Naby Keïta and Timo Werner from quarter-finalists Leipzig, and the dynamic midfielder Diadie Samassékou from semi-finalists Salzburg. Two of the three sporting players chosen were also aged 23 or under – midfield Bruno Fernandes and winger Ciro Immobile.

There was room too for the more experienced figures who had made their mark, notably the Italian duo of centre-back Leonardo Bonucci and tournament joint-top scorer ‘Turbo Timo’ Timo Werner.粥
The statistics show that in their final campaign under Arsène Wenger, semi-finalists Arsenal combined a passing style with progress in the competition as well as anybody. Villarreal highlighted the consistency of their approach as the only team from last season’s overall top ten to feature once again.

Only three of the ten teams ranked in the top ten for average possession per match reached the last 16. Eventual winners Atlético underlined that possession is no guarantee of success as they had less of the ball than their opponents in every game from the quarter-finals onwards.

Arsenal ended the campaign as the 30-goal top scorers though they were not the most efficient team – that was Zenit who scored at a rate of a goal every 4.86 attempts. It is no surprise that the next most efficient side was Atlético (a 5.55 attempts-per-goal ratio) – followed by Lazio (5.85), who had the competition’s joint-top scorer in Ciro Immobile.

Nicé’s high completion rate was again no guarantee of success. They lost in the last 32, having last season fallen at the group stage despite a 92% rate.

Milan had the highest pass completion rate among the last 16 (88%).

Four of the last 16 featured in the top ten for most attempted passes per match.

**Possession**

Only three of the ten teams ranked in the top ten for average possession per match reached the last 16. Eventual winners Atlético underlined that possession is no guarantee of success as they had less of the ball than their opponents in every game from the quarter-finals onwards.

Arsenal posted the highest possession figure of any team in the knockout stage at home v Atlético.

**Average possession (overall)**

**Goal attempts**

Arsenal ended the campaign as the 30-goal top scorers though they were not the most efficient team – that was Zenit who scored at a rate of a goal every 4.86 attempts. It is no surprise that the next most efficient side was Atlético to 5.55 attempts-per-goal ratio – followed by Lazio (5.85), who had the competition’s joint-top scorer in Ciro Immobile.

25

Athletico’s 37-year-old striker Aritz Aduriz was the UEFA Europa League’s top scorer in 2015/16 and with a joint-best total of eight this season has reached a quarter-century of goals overall in the competition in the past three campaigns – 27 if qualifiers are included.

2017/18 campaign, from passing and possession to goals and comebacks

The key facts and figures from the 2017/18 campaign, from passing and possession to goals and comebacks

### Passing

The statistics show that in their final campaign under Arsène Wenger, semi-finalists Arsenal combined a passing style with progress in the competition as well as anybody. Villarreal highlighted the consistency of their approach as the only team from last season’s overall top ten to feature once again.

### Top ten teams (overall)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Attempted passes per match</th>
<th>Completion rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nice</td>
<td>691.13</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napoli</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Sociedad</td>
<td>696.13</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arsenal</td>
<td>620.71</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villarreal</td>
<td>594.7</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celtic</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporting</td>
<td>549.67</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dortmund</td>
<td>540.5</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milan</td>
<td>539.9</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>København</td>
<td>505.5</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

91% Nicé’s high completion rate was again no guarantee of success. They lost in the last 32, having last season fallen at the group stage despite a 92% rate.

88% Milan had the highest pass completion rate among the last 16 (88%).

4 Four of the last 16 featured in the top ten for most attempted passes per match.

How the last 16 compared

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Attempted passes per match</th>
<th>Completion rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arsenal</td>
<td>620.71</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporting</td>
<td>549.67</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dortmund</td>
<td>540.5</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milan</td>
<td>539.9</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luzac</td>
<td>498.67</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporting</td>
<td>496.83</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlético</td>
<td>487.44</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyon</td>
<td>481.9</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leipzig</td>
<td>476.5</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marseille</td>
<td>449.8</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lokomotiv</td>
<td>442.9</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosen</td>
<td>441.7</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salzburg</td>
<td>438.97</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zenit</td>
<td>390.3</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic</td>
<td>384.8</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamo Kyiv</td>
<td>344.1</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top scorers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ciro Immobile</td>
<td>Lazio</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aritz Aduriz</td>
<td>Atlético</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Moriba</td>
<td>Dynamo Kyiv</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antoine Griezmann</td>
<td>Atlético</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleksandr Kokorin</td>
<td>Zenit</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mario Balotelli</td>
<td>Nice</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emiliano Rigoni</td>
<td>Zenit</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andra Silva</td>
<td>Milan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuel Fernandes</td>
<td>Lokomotiv</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average possession (overall)**

- Real Sociedad (64.58%)
- Celtic (62%)
- Villarreal (57.63%)
- Arsenal* (57.14%)
- Dortmund* (57%)

**Goal attempts**

- Arsenal posted the highest possession figure of any team in the knockout stage at home v Atlético.
- Of the 47 knockout round games that ended in wins, 22 of them, or 44.89%, were won by the team with less possession.
- Zenit defeated Celtic 3-0 in their round of 32 home leg despite the Scottish champions limiting them to just 37% possession.

- **72%**
- **44.89%**
- **37%**
Real Sociedad averaged most attempts on target per game, prior to their round of 32 elimination.

Zenit finished as the group stage top scorers with 17 goals as well as ending the competition as the most efficient side in front of goal.

Arsenal had 10 of their 84 attempts on target in the home leg vs Atlético, but could score only once.

**Goal attempts (Round of 16 teams)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Matches</th>
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<th>Ave attempts per match</th>
<th>On target</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Ave attempts per goal</th>
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<td>48</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>9.6</td>
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</tbody>
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## The importance of scoring first

Recent seasons have witnessed a trend for more comebacks in UEFA’s club competitions. In the UEFA Europa League, the number of wins by a team conceding first has risen in each of the last five seasons: from 17 wins in 2012/13 to 57 in 2017/18. That figure is for the competition overall, yet the picture changes in the knockout rounds where scoring first remains significant.

Of the 58 matches in the knockout phase that produced goals, 42 were won by the side scoring first – and just seven by the team who lost the first goal. Scoring first offered an 87.8% chance of avoiding defeat. There were exceptions. In the round of 32 Lokomotiv Moskva came from two goals down to defeat Nice 3-2 with a Manuel Fernades hat-trick. On a dramatic quarter-final second-leg night Marseille and Salzburg each conceded the first goal in their home leg – to fall behind by two and three goals respectively overall – but fought back to triumph.

The team scoring first has won the trophy in 16 of the 19 one-off UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League finals in which goals were scored – an 84.21% success rate.

There were seven knockout round fixtures in which teams came back to win having conceded first.

### 2017/18 knockout stage comeback victories

- 5-2
- 4-1
- 3-1
- 2-3
- 1-4
- 1-3
- 2-3

## Comeback victories per season since 2012/13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Comebacks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>85</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Group stage to final*
**ARSENAL FC**

**Coach**

![Coach](image)

*Born: 23/10/1965, Strasbourg (FRA)  Nationality: French  Head coach: From 05/10/2004 to 13/05/2018  ALL W 0 L*

*Matches in UEFA Europa League/UEFA Cup*: 31; 17; 7

*Matches in European competition**: 250; 30; 16; 88

**Group stage to final:** Including qualifying

---

**Forwards**

- Jeff Reine-Adélaïde
- Chuba Akpom
- Josh Dasilva

---

**Midfielders**

- Laurent Koscielny
- Per Mertesacker
- Mathieu Debuchy
- Gabriel Paulista
- Nacho Monreal

---

**Defenders**

- Eddie Nketiah 5 50 3
- Danny Welbeck 10 760 3
- Theo Walcott 5 424 3 4
- Alexandre Lacazette 4 331 3
- Alexis Sánchez 1 90 1
- Henrikh Mkitharyan 6 416 1 2
- Joe Willock 5 273
- Reiss Nelson 8 315
- Marcus McGuane 2 12
- Mohamed Elneny 12 839 1 2
- Granit Xhaka 6 495 1
- Alex Iwobi 6 335 1
- Mesut Özil 7 609 1 4
- Aaron Ramsey 6 540 3
- Ander Iturraspe 25 9 3
- Aaron Ramsey 22 21 15 3
- Xabi Alonso 2 15 3
- José Angel Ziga

---

**Squad**

*Average age: 26.3  App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists*

---

**Key features**

- 1-4-2-3-1; also 1-4-1-4-1
- Patient build-up; fluent passing game with options for man in possession
- Deep defensive block, allied with deep-lying playmaker (Ramsey) 75% v Atlético (a)
- Technical proficiency of players, comfortable in possession under pressure
- Good wing play and crosses, with overlapping full-backs promoting
- Fluid attack, interchanging positions; wide forwards (Ozil, Welbeck) cutting infield with deep-lying playmaker (Ramsey)
- Good link-up play in an attack blessed with speed and dribbling skills
- Dangerous forward runs of Ramsey, breaking into box

---

**ATHLETIC CLUB**

**Coach**

![Coach](image)

*Born: 01/06/1966, Lanzarote (ES)  Nationality: Spanish  Head coach: From 28/05/2007 to 20/05/2018  ALL W 0 L*

*Matches in UEFA Europa League/UEFA Cup*: 34; 8; 7

*Matches in European competition**: 30; 14; 10; 6

**Group stage to final:** Including qualifying

---

**Forwards**

- Aritz Aduriz
- Unai Nuñez

---

**Midfielders**

- Mikel Rico 6 363
- Iñigo Lekue 9 741
- Iñigo Córdoba 9 462 1
- Ander Iturraspe 25 9 3
- Xabier Etxeita 6 868
- Óscar de Marcos 4 360
- Unai Nuñez

---

**Defenders**

- Iñaki Williams
- Unai Nuñez

---

**Squad**

*Average age: 26.6  App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists*

---

**Key features**

- 1-4-2-3-1
- High pressing on losing the ball
- Decent on-the-ball movement; good options for man in possession
- Wing play featuring effective use of full-backs
- Excellent passing game, with game-opening diagonal balls
- Players with athleticism and strong individual technique
- Experienced players with an eye for goal (Aduriz, García)
- Good link-up play in an attack blessed with speed of Williams

---
CLUB ATLÉTICO DE MADRID
Spain

Coach
Diego Simeone
Born: 26/04/1970, Buenos Aires (ARG)
Nationality: Argentine
Head coach: Since 29/03/2013
European trophies won: 3
ALL: W D L
Quarter-finals
Semi-finals
Team shape
Example versus Marseille (Final)
Team statistics
Goals scored
Attempts
On target
Cards
Time scored
Averages
1-5 10-30 31-45 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+
Substitutions
25-29 (including one double substitution)
(Age)
Goals
10:1
App
9
Mins
545
G
1
A
1

Key features
• 1-4-2-also 1-4-4-1 when defending and 1-4-2-3-1, 1-4-3-3
• Compact defending; good organisation and discipline; aerial power (Godín)
• Leadership down spine starting with goalkeeper Oblak
• Apply instant pressure on losing ball to regain possession
• Full-backs provide attacking width; use full width of pitch
• Swift transition, speed on ball to regain possession
• Deep-lying Natcho starts combination play under open game
• Long passes to moves; other midfielders
• Excellent goalkeeper (Akineev) with good positioning and confidence leaving line
• Strong organisation at set plays; aerial power

Team statistics
Goals scored
Attempts
On target
Cards
Time scored
Averages
1-5 10-30 31-45 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+
Substitutions
25-29 (including one double substitution)
(App)
Goals
10:4
App
9
Mins
544
G
7
A
3

Key features
• 1-5-3-2, morphing to 1-3-4-3
• Experienced goalkeeper (Akineev)
• Strong organisation at set plays; aerial power
• Deep-lying Natcho starts moves; other midfielders
• Speed and strength in t1 situations (Golovin)

Squad
Average age: 26.7
App
9
Mins
544
G
7
A
3

Goalskeepers
Antoine Griezmann
20
9
1
1

Midfielders
Fedor Chalov
269
234
87%
1

Forwards
63 Fedor Chalov
269
234
87%
1

Unused substitutes:
Alex Dos Santos, Antonio Montero, Juan Morro, Borja Ojeda, Miguel Saltos Broto
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

PFC CSKA MOSKVA
Russia

Coach
Viktor Goncharenko
Born: 10/01/1977, Brest (BLR)
Nationality: Belarusian
Head coach: Since 07/10/2016
European trophies won: 0
ALL: W D L
Quarter-finals
Semi-finals
Team shape
Example versus Lyon away
Team statistics
Goals scored
Attempts
On target
Cards
Time scored
Averages
1-5 10-30 31-45 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+
Substitutions
20-24 (including one double substitution)
(App)
Goals
10:0
App
9
Mins
540
G
2
A
3

Key features
• 1-5-3-2, morphing to 1-3-4-3
• Experienced goalkeeper (Akineev)
• Strong organisation at set plays; aerial power
• Deep-lying Natcho starts moves; other midfielders
• Speed and strength in t1 situations (Golovin)

Squad
Average age: 26.8
App
9
Mins
540
G
2
A
3

Goalskeepers
Igor Akinfev
20
9
1
1

Midfielders
Antoine Griezmann
20
9
1
1

Forwards
63 Fedor Chalov
269
234
87%
1

Unused substitutes:
Ilya Ponomarev, Timur Zhamaletdinov
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

CLAUSO UCB IN LA LIGA 2017/18
Statistics on UEFA Europa League only
Statistics on UEFA Europa League only
**BORUSSIA DORTMUND**

**Coach**

Born: 11/04/1966, Vienna (AUT)
Nationality: Austrian
Head coach: From 10/12/2017 to 12/05/2018

**Team shape**

Example at home to Salzburg

**Squad**

Age range: 25.9
App: Appearances; Mins: Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Goalkeepers</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.1</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>360</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Defenders</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
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<td>330</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sokratis Papastathopoulos</td>
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<td>310</td>
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<td>14</td>
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**Team statistics**

Players: 24
Goals scored: 21
Attempts: 5
Shots: 19
Cards: 3

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---

**Key features**

- **1-4-2-3-1; switch to 1-4-4-1-1**
- Rapid transition to defence, with immediate pressure on losing ball
- Effective wing play, with real width from full-back Pivarić, Júnior Moraes
- Scoring threat of seven-goal organisation, teamwork and discipline
- Diagonal balls and good crosses
- Strong finishing from Júnior Moraes
- Effective wing play, with real width from full-back Pivarić
- Scoring threat of seven-goal Júnior Moraes

---

**Statistics**

Goals scored: 12
Attempts: 7
Shots: 15
Cards: 3

---

**Group stage to final**

Playing style and movement in 1v1s

---

**Team shape**

Example at home to Salzburg

---

**FC DYNAMO KYIV**

**Coach**

Born: 10/10/1973, Minim (BLR)
Nationality: Belarusian
Head coach: Since 03/05/2017

**Team shape**

Example versus Lazio away

**Squad**

Age range: 27.1
App: Appearances; Mins: Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
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<td>Artur Rudko</td>
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**Team statistics**

Players used: 24
Goals scored: 18
Attempts: 5
Shots: 26
Cards: 3

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<th>At home</th>
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</tbody>
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---

**Key features**

- **1-4-2-3-1; switch to 1-4-4-1-1**
- Deep defensive block; good organisation, teamwork and discipline
- Rapid transition to defence, with immediate pressure on losing ball
- Effective wing play, with real width from Júnior Moraes
- Use of game-opening diagonal balls and good crosses
- Effective wing play, with real width from full-back Pivarić
- Scoring threat of seven-goal Júnior Moraes

---

**Statistics**

Goals scored: 12
Attempts: 7
Shots: 15
Cards: 3

---

**Group stage to final**

Playing style and movement in 1v1s

---

**Team shape**

Example versus Lazio away

---

**Group stage**

**Squad**

Average age: 26.9
App: Appearances; Mins: Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player</th>
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<th>Mins</th>
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<th>A</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Roman Bürki</td>
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<td>290</td>
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<td>Nuri Şahin</td>
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**Team statistics**

Players: 24
Goals scored: 18
Attempts: 5
Shots: 36
Cards: 3

<table>
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<th>At home</th>
<th>Away</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Key features**

- **1-4-2-3-1; switch to 1-4-4-1-1**
- Deep defensive block; good organisation, teamwork and discipline
- Use of game-opening diagonal balls and good crosses
- Effective wing play, with real width from full-back Pivarić
- Scoring threat of seven-goal Júnior Moraes

---

**Statistics**

Goals scored: 12
Attempts: 7
Shots: 15
Cards: 3

---

**Group stage to final**

Playing style and movement in 1v1s

---

**Team shape**

Example at home to Salzburg

---

**Team statistics**

Players: 24
Goals scored: 18
Attempts: 5
Shots: 36
Cards: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At home</th>
<th>Away</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

---

**Key features**

- **1-4-2-3-1; switch to 1-4-4-1-1**
- Deep defensive block; good organisation, teamwork and discipline
- Use of game-opening diagonal balls and good crosses
- Effective wing play, with real width from full-back Pivarić
- Scoring threat of seven-goal Júnior Moraes

---

**Statistics**

Goals scored: 12
Attempts: 7
Shots: 15
Cards: 3

---

**Group stage to final**

Playing style and movement in 1v1s
**SS LAZIO**

**Coach**: Simone Inzaghi  
**Born**: 20/06/1979, Ravenna, Italy  
**Nationality**: Italian  
**Head coach since**: 20/06/2016

**Team shape**  
Example at home vs Zulte Waregem

**Group K**

Dark green = home, light green = away; see page 5 for full club names

**Squad**

**Average age**: 26.4  
**App**: Appearances  
**Mins**: Minutes played  
**G**: Goals  
**A**: Assists

**Goalkeepers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Strakosha</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivan Vargić</td>
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**Defenders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Jordan Lukaku</td>
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**Midfielders**

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<td>Marco Parolo</td>
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<td>Luis Alberto</td>
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**Forwards**

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ciro Immobile</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luis Alberto</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felipe Caicedo</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: 98</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Key features**

- 1-3-4-4; also 1-3-1-4-1; 1-5-3-2 in defence
- Compact defence with high line; goalkeeper covers space behind well
- Experience and composure of Lucas, screening midfield, connecting the lines
- Well-organised at set pieces; strong delivery from Luis Alberto
- Players able to run with ball (Felipe Anderson, Luis, Lukaku)
- Good use of width; wings cutting in, excellent at 'v' balls
- Attacking variety with fast counters via penetrating passes from deep
- Goal threat of Immobile, freed from defending, ready to spring on counter

**Team statistics**

**Players used**: 26  
**Goals scored**: 29  
**Attempts**: 59 (1.3 per match)  
**On target**: 12 (1.0 per match)  
**Cards**: 0  
**Time scored**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>1-15</th>
<th>16-30</th>
<th>31-45</th>
<th>46-60</th>
<th>61-75</th>
<th>76-90</th>
<th>90+</th>
<th>90+</th>
<th>91-105</th>
<th>106-120</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Averages**

**Possession**: 59%  
Max. 60% v Zulte Waregem  
Min. 40% v Salzburg

**Passes attempted**: 499  
Max. 500 v Zulte Waregem  
Min. 350 v Salzburg

**Passing accuracy**: 84%  
Max. 85% v Zulte Waregem  
Min. 70% v Salzburg

**Player statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ciro Immobile</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luis Alberto</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felipe Caicedo</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: 98</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Goalkeepers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>A</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Strakosha</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivan Vargić</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unused substitutes**: Nicolò Armini, Guido Guerrieri  
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

**RB LEIPZIG**

**Coach**: Ralph Hasenhüttl  
**Born**: 09/08/1967, Großostheim, Austria  
**Nationality**: Austrian  
**Head coach since**: 09/08/2016

**Team shape**  
Example at home vs Marseille

**Group G**

Dark green = home, light green = away; see page 5 for full club names

**Squad**

**Average age**: 23.5  
**App**: Appearances  
**Mins**: Minutes played  
**G**: Goals  
**A**: Assists

**Goalkeepers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Gulacsi</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

**Defenders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bernardo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will Orban</td>
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<td>Dayot Upamecano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ibrahima Konate</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lukas Klostermann</td>
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**Midfielders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>A</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Marcel Sabitzer</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
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<td>Naby Keïta</td>
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<td>1</td>
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**Forwards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Timo Werner</td>
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<td>Jean-Kevin Augustin</td>
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<td>342</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Key features**

- 1-4-4-2 with flexibility
- High pressing; rapid transition to defence with intense press on losing ball
- Centre-backs drop back quickly together; midfield blocking passes
- Break quickly, with penetrating vertical balls behind defence (Kalulu)
- Danger from attacking set pieces of Forsberg
- Wide midfielders come inside, find pockets; full-backs create overloads (Laimer)
- Young, fast players with 1v1 ability
- Scoring threat of pacy Werner; clever movement and combinations

**Team statistics**

**Players used**: 18/18  
**Goals scored**: 21  
**Attempts**: 47 (3.0 per match)  
**On target**: 19 (1.1 per match)  
**Cards**: 0  
**Time scored**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>1-15</th>
<th>16-30</th>
<th>31-45</th>
<th>46-60</th>
<th>61-75</th>
<th>76-90</th>
<th>90+</th>
<th>90+</th>
<th>91-105</th>
<th>106-120</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substitutions</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Averages**

**Possession**: 52%  
Max. 55% v Zenit  
Min. 40% v Marseille

**Passing accuracy**: 83%  
Max. 85% v Zenit  
Min. 80% v Marseille

**Player statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timo Werner</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruno</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naby Keïta</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: 98</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
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</table>

**Goalkeepers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Gulacsi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unused substitutes**: Dominik Kaiser, Yvon Mvogo, Benno Schmitz  
App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists

**Statistics are UEFA Europa League only**
**FC LOKOMOTIV MOSKVA**

**Russia**

**Coach**
- Yuri Semin
  - Born: 11/05/1960, Cherven (Bulgaria)
  - Nationality: Russian
  - Head coach: Since 28/06/2016

**Team shape**
- Example: at home to Atlético de Madrid
- Example: versus CSKA Moskva away

**Quarter-finals**
- Round of 16
- Team shape

**Squad**

**Average age:** 28.7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Apps</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
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<td>369</td>
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<tr>
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<td>29 Lucas Tousart</td>
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<td>765</td>
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</table>

**Key features**

- **Two screening midfielders**
- **Influential goalkeeper**
- **Good organisation at set pieces; aerial strength of Marcelo**
- **Rapid transition from defence to attack, with game-opening attacking power of Ndombale**

**Stats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shots</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attempts**

- 1.4-2-3-1-5-4-1
- 51%

**Possession**

- Min. 36% v Atlético (a)
- Max. 61% v Atalanta (h)

**Passing accuracy**

- Min. 36% v Atlético (a)
- Max. 614 v Nice (a)

**Team statistics**

- A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed
- A = Goals scored; G = Goals

**Unused substitutes:** Alan Kasaev

**COBESK**
- 14.9 per match

**OLYMPIQUE LYONNAIS**

**France**

**Coach**
- Bruno Génésio
  - Born: 01/08/1966, Lyon (FR)
  - Nationality: French
  - Head coach: Since 26/10/2016

**Team shape**
- Example: versus CSKA Moskva away

**Quarter-finals**
- Round of 16
- Team shape

**Squad**

**Average age:** 24.8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Apps</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>684</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Mouctar Diakhaby</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Marcelo</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>900</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14 Nabil Fekir</td>
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<td>17 Myziane Maolida</td>
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</table>

**Key features**

- **1-4-2-3-1-5-4-1**
- **Influential goalkeeper Lopes reads game well**
- **Compact defence; use of deep block**
- **Good organisation at set pieces; aerial strength of Marcelo**
- **Rapid transition from defence to attack, with game-opening diagonal passes**
- **Attack using width; good wing play and crosses**
- **Positional intelligence and attacking power of Ndombale**
- **Quick attackers with dribbling skills (Correa)***

**Stats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shots</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attempts**

- 1.4-3-3; also 1-4-2-3-1 and 1-4-4-1
- **51%**

**Possession**

- Min. 46% v Málaga CF
- Max. 60% v Leverkusen

**Passing accuracy**

- Min. 36% v Atlético (a)
- Max. 614 v Nice (a)

**Team statistics**

- A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed
- A = Goals scored; G = Goals

**Unused substitutes:** Pope Chérif, Matthieu Gorgelin, Blaise Matamore, Miljko Živković

**COBESK**
- 8.4 per match
## OLYMPIQUE DE MARSEILLE

### Squad

**Average age:** 26.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Goals scored</th>
<th>Averages</th>
<th>Team statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 Yohann Péel</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Steve Mandanda</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>630</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Team shape

Example at home to Salzburg

### Coach

Rudi Garcia
Born: 20/10/1964, Narbonne (FR)
Nationality: French
Head coach: Since 20/10/2016

### Key features
- **Experienced, authoritative centre-backs (Rami, Luiz Gustavo)**
- Excellent passing, assured combination play, rapid transitions
- Attacking variety, both through middle and via wide wing play
- **Catalyst Poyet with vision and ability to dissect defences in open play and with dead balls**
- Technical players with dribbling ability (Thauvin)
- Entertaining attacking football, and strong team spirit

### Defenders

- 2 Hiroki Sakai 10 765 1 1
- 4 Boubacar Kamara 6 556 2
- 6 Rolando 9 759 1
- 13 Aymen Abdennour 2 180
- 18 Jordan Amavi 12 1011 1
- 21 Patrick Éva 2 148
- 23 Adil Rami 14 1582 1

### Midfielders

- 5 Lucas Ocampos 13 964 4 1
- 8 Morgan Sanson 13 1067 2
- 10 Dimitri Payet 12 811 3 7
- 17 Bouna Sarr 15 1000 1
- 19 Luiz Gustavo 12 1326 3
- 26 Florian Thauvin 12 762 3 2
- 27 Maxime Lopez 13 957 1 2
- 29 André Zambo Anguissa 14 585

### Forwards

- 11 Clinton Njie 11 446 1 1
- 29 André Zambo Anguissa 14 585

### Used substitutes

Henri Bedimo, Dória, Florian Escales, Christopher Rocchia, Yann Sommer, Gregory Sertic

**A = Passes attempted; G = Goals; A = Assists**

### RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>16-30</td>
<td>31-45</td>
<td>46-60</td>
<td>61-75</td>
<td>76-90</td>
<td>90+</td>
<td>91-105</td>
<td>106-120</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Team statistics

**Shots**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shot</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Lucas Ocampos</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Valère Germain</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Dimitri Payet</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Possession**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Min.</th>
<th>75% v Salzburg (a)</th>
<th>Max. 91% v Vitória SC (h)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key features**

- **Excellent passing; assured play**
- High pressing; fast transition
- **Strong wing play; full-backs (Rami, Luiz Gustavo)**
- Exceptional organisational play behind (Rami, Luiz Gustavo)
- **1-4-2-3-1; 1-4-4-2**
- **Vision and game intelligence**
- **1-4-2-3-1**
- **Solid front three**
- **Tactically astute, especially in dead ball situations**
- **Strong transition movement, with positional sense and linking ability**
- **Strong pressing high pressure transition to winning ball with assured combinations**
- **Solid wing play, full-backs (Rodi) excellent in transition, supplying width**
- **Catalyst Poyet with vision and ability to dissect defences in open play and with dead balls**
- **Technical players with dribbling ability (Thauvin)**
- **Entertaining attacking football, and strong team spirit**

---

## AC MILAN

### Squad

**Average age:** 25.9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Goals scored</th>
<th>Averages</th>
<th>Team statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Marco Storari</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1065</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 Antonio Donnarumma</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1065</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99 Gianluigi Donnarumma</td>
<td>8 720</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>683</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Team shape

Example at home to Arsenal

### Coach

Gennaro Gattuso
Born: 26/01/1982, Concorezzo (MI)
Nationality: Italian
Head coach: Since 27/05/2017

### Key features

- **1-4-2-3-1**
- **Defence takes high line; good organisation at set pieces**
- Leadership of Bonucci, with positional sense and tackling ability
- High pressing fast transition on winning ball with assured combinations
- **Good wing play, full-backs (Rodi) excellent in transition, supplying width**
- **Catalyst Poyet with vision and ability to dissect defences in open play and with dead balls**
- **Technical players with dribbling ability (Thauvin)**
- **Entertaining attacking football, and strong team spirit**

### Defenders

- 18 Riccardo Montolivo 3 270
- 19 Leonardo Bonucci 9 726 1 1
- 20 Ignazio Abate 5 346
- 22 Matteo Musacchio 5 376 1
- 29 Gabriel Paletto 1 90
- 31 Luca Antonelli 3 196 1
- 22 Mateo Musacchio 5 376 1
- 29 Gabriel Paletto 1 90
- 31 Luca Antonelli 3 196 1
- 68 Ricardo Rodríguez 7 544 2 2

### Midfielders

- 4 José Mauri 2 53
- 5 Giacomo Bonaventura 6 345
- 7 Lucas Biglia 5 450
- 4 José Mauri 2 53
- 5 Giacomo Bonaventura 6 345
- 7 Lucas Biglia 5 450

### Forwards

- 2 Alessio Romagnoli 535 500 93%
- 3 Lucas Biglia 361 328 91%
- 2 Alessio Romagnoli 535 500 93%
- 3 Lucas Biglia 361 328 91%

### Used substitutes

Matteo Gabbia, Andrea Conti, Jordan Veretout, Riccardo Montolivo

**A = Passes attempted; G = Goals; A = Assists**

**A = Passes attempted; G = Goals; A = Assists**

### RESULTS

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</tbody>
</table>

### Team statistics

**Shots**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shot</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Patrick Cutrone</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 André Silva 25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Possession**

Min. 46% v Arsenal (a), Ludogorets (h) | Max. 68% v Austria Wien (a) Ludogorets (h)

**Averages**

- Max. 93% v Austria Wien (a)
- Min. 46% v Arsenal (a), Ludogorets (a)
- Max. 683 v Austria Wien (a) Ludogorets (h)
- Min. 59% v Arsenal (a), Ludogorets (h)
- Max. 68% v Austria Wien (a) Ludogorets (h)
- Min. 59% v Arsenal (a), Ludogorets (h)

**Key features**

- **1-4-2-3-1**
- **Defence takes high line; good organisation at set pieces**
- Leadership of Bonucci, with positional sense and tackling ability
- High pressing fast transition on winning ball with assured combinations
- **Good wing play, full-backs (Rodi) excellent in transition, supplying width**
- **Catalyst Poyet with vision and ability to dissect defences in open play and with dead balls**
- **Technical players with dribbling ability (Thauvin)**
- **Entertaining attacking football, and strong team spirit**

---

### Squad average:

**Goalkeepers**

- 25.9

**Defenders**

- 29

**Midfielders**

- 18

**Forwards**

- 31

---

### Squad average:

**Goalkeepers**

- 25.9

**Defenders**

- 29

**Midfielders**

- 18

**Forwards**

- 31
**UEFA Europa League Technical Report 2017/18**

**Group G**

**Coach:** Pavel Vrba  
Born 06/12/1963, Přerov (CZE)  
Nationality: Czech  
Head coach since 08/01/2007

**Dark green = home, light green = away; see page 5 for full club names**

**Team shape**  
Example versus Sporting away  
Example at home to Marseille

**Quarter-finals**  
9  
Final

**Round of 32**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squad</th>
<th>Average age</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
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<td>Goalkeepers</td>
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<td>Defenders</td>
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<td>Midfielders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forwards</td>
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**Team statistics**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Squad</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Players used</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals scored</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On target</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Defenders**

- Matúš Kozáčik  
- Marek Bakoš  
- Tomáš Chorý  
- Daniel Kolář  
- Patrik Hrošovský  
- Martin Zeman  
- Tomáš Hořava  
- Milan Havel  
- David Limberský  
- Lukáš Hejda

**Unused substitutes:** Matúš Kozáčik

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squad</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempts</td>
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<tr>
<td>On target</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Midfielders**

- Václav Pilíř  
- Tomáš Hořava  
- Martin Zeman  
- Jan Kopíč  
- Milan Patráša  
- Patrik Hrošovský  
- Jan Kovařík  
- Anež Cermák  
- Daniel Kolář  
- Diego Živulić  
- Tomáš Hájek  
- Milan Havel  
- David Limberský  
- Lukáš Hejda

**Unused substitutes:** Patrick Farkas, Luca Meisl, Carlos Miguel, Enock Mwepu, Stefan Stangl

**Shots**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squad</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan Kopíč</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Krmčík</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

**Team shape**

**Example versus Sporting away**

**Example at home to Marseille**

**Key features**

- 1-4-2-3-1, becoming 1-3-4-3
- Purposeful, possession-based approach; short and medium-passing game
- Strong full-back play (Lainer); Mobile screening midfielder (Walke)
- Rapid transitions; effective passing game
- Good movement, technique also 1-4-3-2-1

**Forwards**

- Cican Đorđević  
- Alexander Walke  
- Daniel Kolář  
- Patrik Hrošovský  
- Milan Havel

**Unused substitutes:** Patrick Farkas, Luca Meisl, Carlos Miguel, Enock Mwepu, Stefan Stangl

**Shots**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squad</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>G</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Munas Dabbur</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Team shape**

**Example at home to Marseille**

**Key features**

- 1-4-4-2, with midfield diamond; also 1-4-3-2-1
- Experianced, influential goalkeeper in Walke
- Purposeful, possession-based approach; short and medium-passing game
- Strong full-back play (Lainer); dribbling and crossing
- Mobile screening midfielder Samassékou strong in passing, Walke
- Rapid transitions; effective pressing and move ball quickly once in possession
- Fast, hard-working players with impressive intensity and energy
- Good movement, technique from attacking players (Dabbur, Hwang)
- Focus and determination in losing situation (Laliz)

**Midfielders**

- Amadou Haidara  
- Reinhold Yabo  
- Duško Samassékou  
- Marc Rzatkowski  
- Amadou Haidara  
- Reinhold Yabo  
- Duško Samassékou  
- Marc Rzatkowski  
- Amadou Haidara

**Unused substitutes:** Patrick Farkas, Luca Meisl, Carlos Miguel, Enock Mwepu, Stefan Stangl

**Shots**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Forwards**

- Cican Đorđević  
- Alexander Walke  
- Daniel Kolář  
- Patrik Hrošovský  
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**Unused substitutes:** Patrick Farkas, Luca Meisl, Carlos Miguel, Enock Mwepu, Stefan Stangl

**Shots**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cican Đorđević</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Passes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squad</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan Kopíč</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomáš Hořava</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Kopíč</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Passing accuracy**

- Min. 314 v Real Sociedad (a)  
- Max. 522 v Konyaspor (h)

**Averages**

- Possession: Max. 42% v Lugano (a), Min. 35% v Lugano (h)
- Passes attempted: Max. 94% v Partizan (h), Min. 34% v Lugano (h)
- Passes completed: Max. 82% v Lugano (a), Min. 23% v Lugano (h)

**Player statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squad</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tomáš Hořava</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrik Hrošovský</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Goals scored**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squad</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tomáš Hořava</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milan Havel</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**App Mins G A**
SPORTING CLUBE DE PORTUGAL

Jorge Jesus

Born: 26/07/1964, Amadora (POR)
Nationality: Portuguese
Head coach from: 01/07/2015 to 05/06/2018

Team shape

Example at home to Viktoria Plzeň

Squad

Average age: 26.1

Players used

Goals scored

Attempts On target Cards

1-15 Half-time 16-30 31-45 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+ 91-105

Players statistics

Key features

1. 1-4-3-3 and 1-5-4-1; becoming 1-3-4-3 when attacking
2. Patient build-up from back to middle
3. High pressing; applying pressure in moment after losing ball
4. Fast transitions; threatening on counterattack
5. Good wing play with effective use of full-backs and plenty of crosses
6. Wide players move inside, find space behind centre-forward
7. Influential midfielder Fernandes providing passing vision and positioning
8. Quick, skillful Martins a danger when cutting inside with 1v1 ability

Passing accuracy

Min. 483 v Atlético (h)
Max. 612 v Plzeň (h)

Possession

Min. 222 v Real Sociedad (a)
Max. 566 v Vardar (h)

Averages

Posession Max. 43% v Anton (h) Min. 25% v Plzeň (h)

Substitutions 18/18 (No double substitutions)

Round of 16

Semi-finals

Final

Team statistics

Passes attempted

Max. 62% v Astana (a)
Min. 59% v Vardar (h)

Possession

Max. 88% v Vardar (h), Rosenborg (h) Min. 70% v Real Sociedad (d)

Averages

Team shape

Example at home to Leipzig

FC ZENIT

Roberto Mancini

Born: 21/07/1954, Leu (OM)
Nationality: Italian
Head coach from: 01/07/2017 to 13/05/2018

Team shape

Example at home to Víctor Bizeli

Squad

Average age: 27.1

Players used

Goals scored

Attempts On target Cards

1-15 Half-time 16-30 31-45 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+ 91-105

Players statistics

Key features

1. 1-4-4-2, or 1-4-4-1-1; 1-4-2-3-1
2. Use of deep passes to forward runners; diagonal balls to switch play
3. Compact midfield block; wide midfielders marking opposing full-backs
4. Rectalized into own half in away leg v Leipzig, just one forward upfield
5. Experienced Zhirkov working well in both directions
6. Attacked full-back Cristo bringing leadership as well as crossing ability
7. Parades the playmaker; controlling presence in midfield, switching play
8. Good set-piece options with both Parades and Cristo

Passing accuracy

Min. 91% v Vardar (h), Rosenborg (h) Max. 97% v Real Sociedad (d)

Scores are UEFA Europa League only

Statistics are UEFA Europa League only

Unused substitutes: Maksim Karpov, Aleksei Kuznetsov, Ivan Novoseltsev, Dimitri Fagoe, Maksim Korobkov

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

Unused substitutes: Duško Bijedić, Rafet Belčer, Roman Golub, Rodolfo Tavarez

App = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists
Editors
Ioan Lupescu, David Gough, Simon Hart

UEFA technical observers
At the final: Milenko Alimović, Jerzy Engel, Stefan Majewski, Misi Podolski, Thomas Schaaf, Ghenadie Scurtul
During the season: Milenko Alimović, Cristian Chivu, Savvas Constantinou, Jerzy Engel, Stefan Majewski, Jarmo Matikainen, Misi Podolski, Jean-Marie Papin, Willibrord Buttelmeister, Thomas Schaaf, Ghenadie Scurtul, László Szalai

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