INTRODUCTION

UEFA’s Technical Observers Group met after the final in Baku to analyse the season’s talking points and key trends, with the aim of offering insight to coaches across the continent.

This review of the 2018/19 UEFA Europa League season serves as a record of a campaign that spanned 205 matches, involving 66 clubs from 27 nations, from the opening of the group stage in September 2018 and concluding with the final at the Olympic Stadium in Baku on 29 May 2019. It is a report offering factual and statistical information about the tournament as a whole. The former Slovenia and Crvena zvezda midfielder Milenko Ačimovič also contributed intriguing perspectives on another of the tournament revelations, Slavia Praha’s captivating all-Slovak final victory.

This small group of coaches delivered their observations and analysis 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 Baku on the morning after the final between Chelsea and Arsenal had made it an all-English final, and following the final’s victory, while Jormo Matikainen, head coach of the Estonia national team and head of women’s football development in Estonia, supplied detailed analysis of how the final was won, in addition to fascinating observations regarding the tournament as a whole. The former Slovenia and Crvena zvezda midfielder Milenko Ačimovič also contributed intriguing perspectives on another of the tournament revelations, Eintracht Frankfurt.

Savvas Constantinou, the former Cyprus international goalkeeper and current top level of the club game.

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Savvas Constantinou, the former Cyprus international goalkeeper and current top level of the club game.
Teams from 27 nations took part from the group stage onwards, but only one was represented in the final as two London rivals advanced to the shores of the Caspian Sea.

GROUP STAGE

Eintracht Frankfurt were back in the UEFA Europa League for the first time since reaching the last 32 in 2013/14, but the draw did not appear favourable to their new coach Adi Hütter, who had arrived after leading Young Boys to their first Swiss title in 32 years. A trip to the Stade Vélodrome, the home of 2018 runners-up Marseille, was a tricky first test for the Bundesliga side, but one that they passed with flying colours, a late 2-1 win with only ten men setting a positive tone for their campaign. Five more victories followed - including home and away wins against Lazio - as the German side flew into the last 32. Joining them with a 100% record were Salzburg, who topped Group B ahead of Celtic, Leipzig and Rosenborg, scoring the same number of goals as Frankfurt – 17 – and conceding only six.

It was also a successful group stage for the Spanish contingent, with all three finishing first in their sections. Sevilla turned on the style in their 6-0 competition record-equalling win over Akhisar, Roque Mesa’s opening goal the perfect conclusion to a slick exchange of passes. Though they were beaten by Standard Liège and Krasnodar, they topped their group on goal difference ahead of the Russian club and scored more goals than any other side with 18. Both Villarreal and Real Betis came through tough sections without losing, with AC Milan the eminent victims in Betis’ group as Olympiacos snatched second place thanks to a dramatic 3-1 matchday six win at the Stadio Georgios Karaiskakis. The Rossoneri needed to avoid defeat in Piraeus by more than a one-goal margin to make it through, but on an 81st-minute penalty from Olympiacos captain Kostas Fortounis proved decisive as Milan dropped to third, ahead of the first Luxembourgish club in the group stage, F91 Dudelange.

Arsenal made it through Group E unbeaten, winning five and drawing only once, 0-0 at home to Sporting CP, who joined them in the knockout stages. Together with Betis, the Gunners conceded fewer than any other side in the group stage, their respective goals breached only twice. London neighbours Chelsea shipped only one more, their record of five wins and a draw securing first place in Group L ahead of BATE Borisov, ensuring both English clubs successfully cleared the first hurdle of what would prove to be five as they would ultimately progress together to Baku.

Elsewhere, Dynamo Kyiv edged out Rennes in Group K and Dinamo Zagreb dropped just four points, finishing ahead of Fenerbahçe in Group D in spite of a 1-0 defeat to Slovakian side Spartak Trnava on the final day that condemned winless Anderlecht to bottom spot. Genk kept the flag flying for Belgian football by topping Group I ahead of Malmö, while Zenit emerged triumphant in Group C, Slavia Praha’s closing win over the already-qualified Russian side ensuring they pipped Bordeaux to second. Bayer Leverkusen flexed their muscles to lead Zürich through from Group A.
ROUND OF 32

Eight sides moved across from the UEFA Champions League to join the 24 clubs qualifying from the group stage in February’s round of 32. Intriguing ties were provided by the draw with Lazio facing Sevilla and Frankfurt paired with Shakhtar Donetsk, who had already beaten their Bundesliga rivals Hoffenheim in the UEFA Champions League group stage. A 2-2 draw in Ukraine was the first time Frankfurt had failed to win all season in the UEFA Europa League, but with their unbeaten record still intact, their attacking triumvirate of Sébastien Haller, Luka Jović and Ante Rebić were all on target in a convincing 4-1 second-leg success.

The participation of Frankfurt’s Bundesliga fellows Bayer Leverkusen ended with a 1-1 draw at home to Krasnodar, the Russian side prevailing on away goals thanks to a late free-kick from 19-year-old Magomed Suleymanov. Internazionale eased past Rapid Wien 5-0 on aggregate to extend their unbeaten home record against Austrian opponents to eight matches, and they were joined in the last 16 by Napoli, who completed a 5-1 aggregate win over Zürich with goals from Simone Verdi and Adam Ounas in Naples.

England’s two remaining sides both progressed, although Arsenal had to recover from a 1-0 defeat in the first leg in Belarus to oust BATE Borisov back in London. Chelsea were also in the English capital for their second leg, Olivier Giroud scoring for a fifth straight UEFA Europa League fixture in a 3-0 defeat of Malmö that completed a 5-1 aggregate win. Dinamo Zagreb recovered from losing the first leg 2-1 to beat Viktoria Plzeň 4-2, while there was also a comeback win for Salzburg who, having gone down 2-1 to Club Brugge in Belgium, struck four without reply in Austria.

One of Spain’s four remaining participants was eliminated in dramatic fashion, Betis unable to build on a 3-3 draw at Rennes as they lost the Seville return leg 3-1. That result came 24 hours after the Spanish city had celebrated a now customary victory for Sevilla, who made it seven wins out of seven at home in UEFA club competition home matches in 2018/19 by beating Lazio 2-0, completing a 3-0 aggregate victory. Valencia beat Celtic by the same scoreline over two legs while Villarreal edged out Sporting CP 2-1 on aggregate, benefiting from their 1-0 first-leg win in Lisbon.

Elsewhere, Zenit recovered from a 1-0 loss in Turkey to defeat Fenerbahçe 3-1 in St Petersburg. Benfica successfully defended their 2-1 win at Galatasaray with a goalless draw in the return, Dynamo Kyiv edged out Olympiacos 1-0 in Ukraine and 3-2 overall, and Slavia Praha saved their best for the second leg, coming from a goal behind to beat Genk 4-1 for the same aggregate victory.
**ROUND OF 16**

Slavia’s reward was a last-16 meeting with Sevilla and the Czech club, ranked 153rd in UEFA’s club coefficients at the start of the season compared to the Spaniards’ lofty sixth place, managed to keep the tie alive after a frenetic first 90 minutes at the Estadio Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán. The efforts of goalkeeper Ondřej Kolař and his defence, who coped well with Sevilla’s high press, ensured an upset was still on the cards when the teams travelled to Prague a week later at 0-0. Jindřich Trpišovský was bold in his team selection for the second leg and it paid off as his side took the lead at the Eden Arena. The teams then exchanged penalties before Munir El Haddadi ensured the game went to extra time with a repeat of the first-leg result. Franco Vázquez’s third away goal for Sevilla meant Slavia had to score twice, something which, however, they failed to do as their substitute that made an even greater difference in the additional 30 minutes, Jonas setting up Alex Grimaldo for the third to finish off a Dinamo side reduced to ten men shortly after Férnández had put the hosts in front on aggregate.

Chelsea had a much easier passage to the last eight, Olivier Giroud scoring a hat-trick in Kyiv to move on to nine goals for the season compared to the Spaniards’ one. Both equalled Chelsea and Napoli’s perfect record at home to Russian opponents with a fifth win, former Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanović’s late goal only a consolation in a 2-1 defeat for Zenit.

Extra time was also needed to separate Benfica and Dinamo Zagreb thanks to a Jonás volley 19 minutes from time in the second leg in Lisbon that levelled the tie at 1-1. The Portuguese side made seven changes compared to their 1-0 defeat in the Croatian capital, but it was the impact of their substitutes that made an even greater difference in the additional 30 minutes, Jonás setting up Alex Grimaldo for the third to finish off a Dinamo side reduced to ten men shortly after Férnández had put the hosts in front on aggregate. Chelsea’s reward was a last-16 meeting with Sevilla and the Czech club, ranked 153rd in UEFA’s club coefficients at the start of the season compared to the Spaniards’ lofty sixth place, managed to keep the tie alive after a frenetic first 90 minutes at the Estadio Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán. The efforts of goalkeeper Ondřej Kolař and his defence, who coped well with Sevilla’s high press, ensured an upset was still on the cards when the teams travelled to Prague a week later at 0-0. Jindřich Trpišovský was bold in his team selection for the second leg and it paid off as his side took the lead at the Eden Arena. The teams then exchanged penalties before Munir El Haddadi ensured the game went to extra time with a repeat of the first-leg result. Franco Vázquez’s third away goal for Sevilla meant Slavia had to score twice, something which, however, they failed to do as their substitute that made an even greater difference in the additional 30 minutes, Jonas setting up Alex Grimaldo for the third to finish off a Dinamo side reduced to ten men shortly after Férnández had put the hosts in front on aggregate. Chelsea had a much easier passage to the last eight, Olivier Giroud scoring a hat-trick in Kyiv to move on to nine goals for the season compared to the Spaniards’ one. Both equalled Chelsea and Napoli’s perfect record at home to Russian opponents with a fifth win, former Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanović’s late goal only a consolation in a 2-1 defeat for Zenit.

Valencia also made it through against Russian opponents, although they were forced to work hard in both legs by Krasnodar, who were somehow unfortunate to come away from Mestalla with a 2-1 defeat. Their luck seemed to be turning as they led the return leg 1-0 and were set to progress on away goals until Gonzalo Guedes broke their hearts in the third minute of stoppage time, rewarding the visitors for a valiant response. Valencia may have left it late, but their ability to keep their composure and the gamble of pushing Moutou Diakhaby up front late on paid dividends.

Napoli risked throwing away a 3-0 first-leg win over Salzburg in Austria, which had seen many a stirring performance in Salzburg’s march to the 2017/18 semi-finals. This was no exception as, in scenes reminiscent of their remarkable comeback to beat Lazio in the previous year’s quarter-finals, Salzburg responded to an Arkadiusz Milik opener that had opened up a 4-0 aggregate lead to fall just one goal short of levelling the tie.

There would be only one Serie A side in the quarter-finals for the second year running, however, as Napoli’s league rivals Inter felt the full force of a Frankfurt side backed by a substantial travelling support at San Siro, losing 1-0 on the night and on aggregate with Lukáš Jovič’s sixth-minute strike making the difference. The Nerazzurri perhaps had one eye on the future, though, as they gave Simone Esposito his debut at the age of 16 years and 256 days, making him the fifth youngest player to appear in the UEFA Europa League.

Finally, Arsenal once again had to recover from a first-leg defeat, although their 3-1 loss against Rennes in Brittany – the Gunners’ first defeat away to a French club – left them with a tall order back in London. Alex Iwobi had given Unai Emery’s side the lead in the away leg, but he was back on the bench in north London as Alexandre Lacazette led the line. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang began the comeback just five minutes in at the Arsenal Stadium, with Ainsley Maitland-Niles’ first European goal ten minutes later giving the home side the advantage on away goals. As Rennes pushed for an away goal of their own, Emery did not panic but instead brought on Iwobi rather than making a defensive change. The Nigerian international’s presence and energy disturbed Rennes’ dynamism and helped Arsenal run down the clock, with Aubameyang’s second of the night sealing victory.
QUARTER-FINALS

After the first legs of the quarter-finals in April, it was already possible to get a good indication of who might be moving to within one step of Baku. Chelsea’s 1-0 win at surprise package Slavia set them up nicely for the return at Stamford Bridge, where the Blues had won five out of five in Europe in 2018/19. Arsenal were in the driving seat of their tie with Napoli, with Aaron Ramsey’s last goal for the Gunners ahead of a summer switch to Juventus helping them establish a 2-0 home lead, while Valencia made the short trip home through the Comunidad Valenciana with a 3-1 win at their local rivals Villarreal. Meanwhile, Frankfurt’s campaign also appeared to be over as they fell to a 4-2 defeat at a João Félix-inspired Benfica after playing for 70 minutes with ten men following Evan N’Dicka’s early red card.

Football is a source of fairy tales, however, and Eintracht delivered one at the Frankfurt Stadion a week later. In a meeting of the Eagles, home coach Adi Hütter shifted his entire team forward by a good ten metres, making his intentions abundantly clear. They pressed Benfica high and wasted no time in getting the ball forward to their wingers and strikers, drawing first blood through Filip Kostić before the break. Sebastian Rode added a second midway through the second half, at which point Hütter’s men retreated. It was Benfica’s turn to attack and Frankfurt rode their luck, but held on to prolong their journey towards Azerbaijan.

Their next opponents would be Chelsea, although Maurizio Sarri’s side almost squandered a 4-1 lead with a spirited Slavia fighting back to make it 4-3 on the night, a result that meant Chelsea equaled Atlético de Madrid’s competition record of 15 consecutive games unbeaten. Form was followed in the remaining two ties, Valencia completing a 5-1 aggregate win over Villarreal with a 2-0 triumph at home to set up a semi-final against Arsenal, who beat Carlo Ancelotti’s Napoli 1-0 in Italy thanks to an Alexandre Lacazette free-kick.

1

Arsenal were the only quarter-finalists who reached the same stage in 2017/18

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Benfica made their record fifth appearance in the last eight
When Filip Kostić dribbled his way characteristic down the left wing and delivered a cross for Luka Jović to nod in, Eintracht Frankfurt’s European self-professed “madness” seemed set to continue. It served more as a pungent sting to Chelsea, however, and Pedro’s timely equaliser on the stroke of half-time gave the Londoners the momentum for a second half in which they squandered several opportunities to take an away win back home to Stamford Bridge.

There was a sense that Chelsea may be made to pay for their profligacy and even after Ruben Loftus-Cheek put them ahead on home soil, thoughts of an easy passage into the final crossed very few minds. After Jović levelled, it was Frankfurt’s turn to dominate in the second half and only some desperate defending took Chelsea through to extra time, where they just held on to force penalties. An early miss by César Azpilicueta sent the several thousand visiting fans wild with joy and anticipation, but Martin Hinteregger – so robust and reliable in his defensive duties – had his penalty blocked by Kepa Arrizabalaga, and the pendulum slowly swung back in Chelsea’s favour. Another miss by Frankfurt substitute Gonçalo Paciência allowed Eden Hazard to convert the hosts’ final spot kick and take the Blues through to an all-English final.

Arsenal laid the foundations for their semi-final victory over Valencia with a 3-1 first-leg win in London, thanks to Alexandre Lacazette’s fourth career double in the UEFA Europa League. With the Spanish side forced to score at least two on home soil, Unai Emery expected gaps to present themselves in Spain and his team exploited them ruthlessly with supreme counterattacking quality and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in punishing form, supplying a hat-trick that earned Emery a place in his fourth UEFA Europa League final.

Chelsea’s shoot-out victory against Eintracht was the first time a semi-final was decided on penalties.
Although it was an all-English final, the language of Shakespeare was the mother tongue of only one of the players on the field at kick-off, Arsenal’s Ainsley Maitland-Niles, with the presence of 15 different nationalities in the two starting XIs lending a truly global appeal to this UEFA Europa League final.

Both clubs crossed the continent on their way to the Azerbaijan capital, almost 2,500 miles away from their homes in the English capital, and their preparations varied substantially: while Arsenal arrived four days ahead of kick-off, Chelsea landed in the early hours of Tuesday morning, less than 48 hours before the first sound of Italian referee Gianluca Rocchi’s whistle. That shrill echoed around the Baku Olympic Stadium at 23:00 local time, three hours ahead of the 20:00 kick-off time for the millions watching in the UK. The stadium exterior replicated the orange hue created by the setting sun earlier in the evening with illuminated UEFA Europa League branding reminding everybody where European football’s focal point was that night.

Eden Hazard was at his mesmerising best in his final match for Chelsea, as the Blues proved too strong for Arsenal. Eden Hazard signed off from Stamford Bridge with a starring role in Baku.
through the Arsenal rearguard with a quick exchange of passes following a throw-in to break the deadlock early in the second half. It was the goal the game had been crying out for. “The match needed a goal to bring some movement into the game,” said Thomas Schaaf. “And exactly that happened. We saw a fast goal scored and thanks to that more movement happened on the pitch.” Generally, that movement was a steady flow in the direction of Čech’s goal as Arsenal succumbed to Chelsea’s superior speed in possession as the Gunners’ energy levels slowly started to ebb.

The toils of a tiring, long season may also have left more of a mark on Arsenal than on Chelsea. For the Gunners, this was the 58th competitive fixture of the campaign while Chelsea, who reached a domestic League Cup final, took to the field for the 63rd time. Nevertheless, Ghenadie Scurtul felt that Sarri had been able to rotate players in key positions with greater regularity, without altering the overall shape and structure of his team. This kept Chelsea’s energy levels that little bit higher come the business end of the season, helping them also mount a late surge into the top three of the Premier League, securing UEFA Champions League football, while Arsenal ultimately slipped out of the top four with three defeats in their final five league fixtures.

“Chelsea have a longer substitutes’ bench,” Scurtul said. “The key positions are the same, but especially in the flank positions, the personnel were changed and that makes a big difference because these players are running a lot.” With Willian and Pedro Rodríguez trading places seamlessly, for example, Sarri did not need to alter the shape of his team, just add freshness in key areas. And then there was Hazard.

The sight of five Chelsea players racing forward to receive a deep, angled punt immediately from kick-off proved to be a deceptive sign of attacking intent, however, as both sides soon slipped into a more cautious mode. “The first half was very much about control,” said Jarmo Matikainen, one of UEFA’s technical observers. “I also felt that, interestingly, both teams wanted to defend in the opponents’ half – stepping up but being very cautious.”

The intent to win was therefore being suppressed by the fear of losing that first goal, with both sides trying to avoid mistakes and denying their opponents the chance to create opportunities. Nevertheless, Matikainen added that “while it was 0-0 in the first half, you felt there were goals in the game”.

Aside from that initial Chelsea surge, Arsenal had looked the more enterprising earlier on, with Granit Xhaka conducting affairs from the heart of midfield and seeking out passes to launch attacks. They forged a good opportunity when Maitland-Niles’ cross was punched out to Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, but the Gabon forward screwed his effort wide, while Xhaka took aim from distance and grazed the crossbar with an effort just shy of the half-hour mark. Arsenal’s right wing-back was impressing with his timing and tackling to ensure Eden Hazard was not given any time or space on the ball, with Chelsea using diagonal balls to bypass the Gunners’ high press.

However, trying to keep the Belgian completely out of danger is a futile endeavour and as Hazard slowly started to get his foot on the ball with more frequency, the Blues began to gain authority to add to their control. Off came the shackles too as Maurizio Sarri’s men started stringing passes together and gradually the game started to open up. Hazard’s sumptuous back-heel to flick Jorginho’s pass into the path of Emerson Palmieri saw the Italian sting the palms of Petr Čech, who had to get down low to make a fine one-handed save to deny Olivier Giroud as Chelsea ended the half the stronger. A cutting edge was still lacking, though, and while Arsenal posed a threat when they bypassed the first press and suddenly changed their tempo, they had to wait until after a half-time refreshment to reap their reward.

“Chelsea had the ingredients that were there in the first half but now the final pass and the final move were there too,” said Matikainen, praising the way they tore through the Arsenal rearguard with a quick exchange of passes following a throw-in to break the deadlock early in the second half. It was the goal the game had been crying out for. “The match needed a goal to bring some movement into the game,” said Thomas Schaaf. “And exactly that happened. We saw a fast goal scored and thanks to that more movement happened on the pitch.” Generally, that movement was a steady flow in the direction of Čech’s goal as Arsenal succumbed to Chelsea’s superior speed in possession as the Gunners’ energy levels slowly started to ebb.

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"How do you stop players with the quality like Hazard? That is already a very, very difficult question," said Miroko Ačimovič. "He’s a player who finds freedom, and it’s difficult for me even to say how to stop him; he’s the key of Chelsea’s game, for scoring and winning." After teeing up Pedro to side-foot a second, Chelsea’s No10 stroked home and winning. "He’s clever with the ball, he played the right passes, and in my opinion that was the key why Chelsea won it." Arsenal no longer had the energy or invention to respond once again, and the replacement of Mesut Özil by 19-year-old Joe Willock with 13 minutes to play saw Emery attempt something new. It was a change that carried a degree of inexplicable logic, since Emery’s No10 – a runner-up for Werder Bremen in the last UEFA Cup ten years ago – had struggled to make the sort of impact his opposite number had. His coach for that 2-1 final defeat to Shakhtar Donetsk in Istanbul was Thomas Schaaf, who knows the Germany midfielder better than many. "This player has such extraordinary skills, fantastic abilities," said Schaaf, who chaired UEFA’s Technical Observers Group review panel. "He wants to go forward; he wants to try to find the net, with his acceleration and pace and, with the help of his magic left foot, he wants to dictate a match." Instead, it was the blue No10 who condemned Arsenal to a third UEFA final defeat in a year later. They achieved it as the first team ever to come through an entire UEFA Europe League campaign unbeaten. While Sarri takes an informal approach to his own appearance, religiously sporting a tracksuit on the touchline, he wants elegance and refinement to the football his side displays. Casual off the field, he wants elegance and refinement on it, and few could deny the smart sophistication his team had shown.

Chelsea 4-1 Arsenal

Wednesday 29 May 2019
Baku Olympic Stadium

Chelsea

Goals
1-0 Giroud 49, 2-0 Pedro 60, 3-0 Hazard 65 pen, 4-0 Giroud 78

Chelsea

Kovacic (Barkley 76); Pedro
Emerson; Kanté, Jorginho,
Azpilicueta, Barkley, Zappacosta
Aubameyang,
Čech; Papastathopoulos,
Piabik; Monreal (Guendouzi
66); Maitland-Niles,
Torreira
ński (t.h.)

Arsenal

Coach Unai Emery

Coach Maurizio Sarri

Attendance 51,370

Match statistics

Chelsea

Goals 4
Goalkeeper 48
Possession 72%
Total Attempts 15
Attempts on Target 7
Corners 2
Yellow Cards 0
Red Cards 0
Passes 452
Passes Completed 384
Pass Accuracy 87%
Distance Covered 95,957m

Arsenal

Goals 1
Goalkeeper 1
Possession 52%
Total Attempts 9
Attempts on Target 4
Corners 5
Yellow Cards 0
Red Cards 0
Passes 402
Passes Completed 324
Pass Accuracy 81%
Distance Covered 95,957m
THE WINNING COACH

was finally rewarded in Baku after a long wait to lift a major trophy with football, Maurizio Sarri’s "drop was the first of many of Maurizio’s Serie C1 was followed by an eighth-place fourth flight, where immediate promotion to emerging victorious from 162 clubs. Sarri and his Sansovino team Coppa Italia for Serie D, his Sansovino team and, 12 months later, he crowned his first coaching. That was the summer of 2002 dedicating more than just his evenings to football convinced him he needed to climb the ladder, rung by rung, to get there. Fraternity, although he climbed the ladder, say obsession – eventually earned him a game. His passion and drive – some may say obsession – eventually earned him a place in the world’s most revered coaching fraternity, although he climbed the ladder, rung by rung, to get there.

After guiding Sansovino to promotion from the sixth tier of football to the fifth, one year on the cusp of semi-professional football convinced him he needed to dedicate more than just his evenings to coaching. That was the summer of 2002 and, 12 months later, he crowned his first year as a full-time coach with victory in the Coppa Italia for Serie D. His Sansovino team emerging victorious from 802 clubs. Sarri moved onwards and upwards, taking the reins of Sangiovannese in Serie C2, Italy’s fourth flight, where immediate promotion to Serie C1 was followed by an eighth-place finish in the third tier, and another rise to Pescara in Serie B. Saving them from the drop was the first of many of Maurizio’s masterpieces, followed by another at Arezzo, back in Tuscany. Apointed to replace Antonio Conte – the man he would later succeed at Chelsea – Sarri guided Tuscan side Arezzo to a draw at Juventus, Napoli and Genoa, all of whom would be promoted to Serie A at the end of the season. His team even had AC Milan on the ropes in the Coppa Italia having already knocked out Serie A side Livorno. Carlo Ancelotti’s Rossoneri went on to lift the UEFA Champions League that season and while Sarri was replaced by Conte following a disagreement with club president Piero Mancini, it was not before Mancini had defined Sarri as the “Michelangelo of football”. Sarri’s Italian travels then took in Avellino, Verona, Perugia, Grosseto, Alessandria and Sorrento before he arrived in Empoli in 2012. "He’s one of the best coaches I ever had," former Italy international Francesco Balano, who played under Sarri at Sangiovannese, told Italian daily Il Mattino. "For the way he works on the field and prepares games, I’d say that he’s unique. Sarri needs a club who trust his project and give him a competitive squad and the necessary time for the results to arrive," Empoli reaped their reward for their unshaken belief in their coach, despite a haul of just four points from his first nine games. After missing out on promotion to Serie A via the play-offs in 2013, they were promoted automatically a year later. "I’m getting paid for doing what I’d have done in the evenings, after work and for free," Sarri said when he finally arrived in Serie A as the league’s lowest-paid coach, recalling his banking days when he filled life outside work with football. "I’m a lucky man." After keeping Empoli in the top flight, Napoli appointed Sarri to succeed Rafael Benitez and he took them to the top of Serie A for the first time in 25 years, since the last time they won the Scudetto. He showed an immediate affinity for the UEFA Europa League by guiding the Partenopei to six wins out of six in the group stage, scoring 22 goals and conceding just three – all records for the Serie A outfit. Another club record was set with an eighth straight Serie A victory in February 2016, but despite Napoli’s highest-ever haul of 82 points, from an unprecedented 25 wins and 106 goals in all competitions, they finished second to Juventus. He smashed his own records a year later, with 86 points, 28 wins and 115 goals, and raised the bar even higher in his third season, with 91 points and 28 wins, but Juve proved to be their nemesis each time. All the while, Sarri was winning more and more admirers for his brand of football. "When I was watching Cagliari v Napoli, I got a call from [Pep] Guardiola telling me, ‘Look at how well they play – this Napoli side are spectacular!’ Even he was impressed," Arigo Sacchi told a Neapolitan radio station. Sacchi, one of the world’s greatest coaching innovators, had a tough start when he arrived at AC Milan in 1987, but went on to bring silverware to the club, drawing parallels with Sarri’s season of Chelsea.

"We were in trouble in January and February but we reacted and it’s not easy to react in the Premier League," Sarri said after lifting the UEFA Europa League. "In the end we qualified for the Champions League, won 15 Europa League matches, reached the League Cup final – we deserved this. Since we lost 6-0 to Manchester City we did something different.” Like Sacchi, Sarri’s style did not always earn universal approval in London, but Chelsea now have one more trophy in their cabinet. After ditching his trademark tracksuit on a triumphant night in Baku, Sarri emerged for his post-match media obligations donning a suit he may well have last worn at a crossroads in his life back in 2002. That was when he hung it in the wardrobe, leaving the banking world poorer and the footballing world eminently richer. From the bank to the bench, as Sarri embarks on the next stage of his career back in Italy at Juventus, he now has a trophy to go with his pursuit of beauty.
### RESULTS

**Group D**

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<th>Group D</th>
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### December 2018

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**UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE TECHNICAL REPORT 2018/19**

**September 2018**

**GROUP STAGE**

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**GROUP STAGE RESULTS**

- **September 2018**
  - **Group D**:
    - Dinamo Zagreb 0-0 Anderlecht
    - Spartak Trnava 1-0 Fenerbahçe
  - **Group E**:
    - Anderlecht 2-2 Fenerbahçe
    - Zürich 1-2 AEK Larnaca
    - Zürich 1-0 Ludogorets
  - **Group F**:
    - Leverkusen 1-1 Ludogorets
    - Zürich 3-2 Leverkusen
    - Fenerbahçe 2-0 Spartak Trnava
  - **Group G**:
    - Dinamo Zagreb 4-1 Fenerbahçe
    - Spartak Trnava 1-0 Anderlecht
  - **Group H**:
    - Leverkusen 1-0 Zürich
    - Zürich 3-2 Leverkusen
  - **Group I**:
    - Fenerbahçe 2-0 Spartak Trnava
    - Anderlecht 0-3 Dinamo Zagreb
  - **Group K**:
    - SK Rapid Wien 1-0 Standard Liège
    - Standard Liège 1-3 Rangers
    - Standard Liège 1-3 Rangers
    - Standard Liège 1-3 Rangers
  - **Group L**:
    - Rangers 1-3 Genk
- **December 2018**
  - **Group K**:
    - Rangers 1-3 Genk
  - **Group L**:
    - Rangers 1-3 Genk
- **Final**: Salzburg advanced through the group stage with a 100% record for a record third time. Eintracht Frankfurt also won all of their group games.
Chelsea set a new unbeaten run of 18 UEFA Europa League matches, surpassing the previous best of 15 set by Atlético de Madrid.

Only Radamel Falcao (7) has scored more UEFA Europa League semi-final goals than Arsenal striker Alexandre Lacazette.

BA TE’s Igor Stasevich (above) and Willian of Chelsea provided the most assists with seven.

Teams make their way out Onto the pitch in Baku.

ROUND OF 32
12, 14, 20 and 21 February

- **Rokerbahçe** 1-0 Zenit
- **Zenit** 2-1 Rokerbahçe
- **Zenit** win 3-2 on aggregate

- **Rapid Wien** 0-1 Internationaux
- **Internationaux** 4-0 Rapid Wien
- **Internationaux** win 5-0 on aggregate

- **Stevia Pratx** 0-1 Genc
- **Genc** 1-1 Stevia Pratx
- **Stevia Pratx** win 6-4 on aggregate

- **Krasnodar** 0-0 Leverkusen
- **Leverkusen** 0-1 Krasnodar
- **Krasnodar** win 1-1 on away goal

- **Rennes** 3-5 Real Betis
- **Real Betis** 1-0 Rennes
- **Rennes** win 6-4 on aggregate

- **Olimpiaicos** 2-2 Dynamo Kyiv
- **Dynamo Kyiv** 2-0 Olimpiaicos
- **Dynamo Kyiv** win 5-0 on aggregate

- **Lazio** 0-1 Sevilla
- **Sevilla** 2-0 Lazio
- **Sevilla** win 3-0 on aggregate

- **BATE** 1-0 Arsenal
- **Arsenal** 0-1 BATE
- **BATE** win 3-1 on aggregate

ROUND OF 16
1 and 14 March

- **Golat immediately** 2-2 Benfica
- **Benfica** 0-0 Golat immediately
- **Golat immediately** win 3-1 on aggregate

- **Viktoris Plauks** 3-1 Dynamo Zagreb
- **Dynamo Zagreb** 3-0 Viktoris Plauks
- **Dynamo Zagreb** win 3-0 on aggregate

- **Borussia Dortmund** 4-0 Salzburg
- **Salzburg** 0-0 Borussia Dortmund
- **Borussia Dortmund** win 8-0 on aggregate

- **Chuibi Brugge** 2-1 Salzburg
- **Salzburg** 4-0 Chuibi Brugge
- **Chuibi Brugge** win 6-5 on aggregate

- **Benevento** 3-1 Salzburg
- **Salzburg** 4-0 Benevento
- **Salzburg** win 6-5 on aggregate

- **Sevilla** 2-2 Stevia Pratx
- **Stevia Pratx** 4-0 Sevilla
- **Sevilla** win 6-5 on aggregate

- **Benfica** 3-1 Sparta Prague
- **Sparta Prague** 2-1 Benfica
- **Benfica** win 5-2 on aggregate

- **Rennes** 3-3 Arsenal
- **Arsenal** 0-1 Rennes
- **Arsenal** win 4-3 on aggregate

- **Zenit** 1-3 Villarreal
- **Villarreal** 2-1 Zenit
- **Villarreal** win 5-2 on aggregate

- **Chelsea** 3-0 Dynamo Kyiv
- **Dynamo Kyiv** 0-1 Chelsea
- **Chelsea** win 5-3 on aggregate

- **Eintracht Frankfurt** 1-1 Chelsea
- **Chelsea** 1-1 Eintracht Frankfurt
- **Aggregate 2-2 after extra time; Chelsea win 4-3 on penalties

FINAL
29 May

- **Chelsea** 4-1 Arsenal
- **Arsenal** 0-1 Chelsea
- **Chelsea** win 5-1 on aggregate
TALKING POINTS

As Sarri and Hütter benefited from a positive approach, Slavia showed that the underdog can still have its day – even if two English powerhouses ultimately contested the final.

SARRIBALL REAPS REWARD

Maurizio Sarri's trademark playing style paid off in Baku.

With victory in the final, Chelsea became the first English side to win 32 major European games in a single season. With three draws thrown in, the Blues went unbeaten on their way to a second UEFA Europa League title, and much of the credit for that has to go to their coach Maurizio Sarri, who has only ever lost twice in the competition. The 60-year-old first got a taste of the competition in 2005/06, winning six group games out of six at the Napoli helm, before suffering his first loss in the subsequent round of 32 at Villarreal. A 3-1 reverse to Leipzig in Naples last season was the only other blot on an otherwise outstandingly clean copybook that boasts 20 wins in 25 UEFA Europa League fixtures, and now burns the hallmark of a champion.

He did it in his own, almost inimitable way, with his own style. Indeed Sarriball, or ‘Sarrismo’ – a word that was added to the Treccani Italian dictionary in 2018 – is a philosophy, based on movement, fluidity and, perhaps above all, participation. “Chelsea play their football getting everybody involved – every single one of them,” said Sky Sport Italia pundit Daniele Adani, analysing Chelsea’s final performance, which he added, provided “the most beautiful example this year, certified right at Chelsea’s final performance, which, he added, provided...”

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There was something distinctly familiar about the 2019 UEFA Europa League final. A third of the previous nine edicts since the competition changed its name from the UEFA Cup had featured Unai Emery in one of the dugouts. Emery’s name is inextricably linked with the UEFA Europa League; his success in leading Sevilla to three consecutive titles between 2014 and 2016 almost led to the name being changed again – to the Emery League.

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With an impressive record reading 42 wins and just 15 defeats in 74 UEFA Europa League matches, the 47-year-old certainly knows what it takes to lead a team to the trophy with Chelsea. The high pressing, quick combinations and short passing to open up opponents can only be successful with the right tools, however, and Sarri identified this immediately after arriving in London in 2018, signing Italy international Jorginho from his former club.

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THE EMERY LEAGUE

Arsenal coach’s European nous shines through again

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All England Club

For the first time since the inaugural edition of the UEFA Cup back in 1999/01, when Middlesbrough Hotspur got the better of Wolverhampton Wanderers over a two-legged final, both English sides contested the UEFA Europa League showpiece. That is perhaps where the similarities and also differences in football have come a long way over the intervening 47 years, a notable acceleration in recent seasons.

“Something changed, I think, in the game of the Premier League,” said Savvas Constantinou. “We used to see in Benfica in the first leg of their quarter-final tie may have that solitary strike sufficed at San Siro. A 4-2 defeat at work of Shakhtar Donetsk in the round of 32 before tricky group look simple with six wins from six against by Filip Kostić and Mijat Gaćinović, Frankfurt made a Haller, Luka Jović and Ante Rebić, supported so well on the Frankfurt bench in the 2014/15 season.

UEFA technical observer Thomas Schaaf, who sat on the risked a lot and because they were very active,” said Hütter’s underdogs succeeded thanks to an excellent approach and preparation can take you a long way in the Europa League. “They were really well prepared and in good physical condition,” said Stefan Majewski. “If we look at their team, the forwards and midfielders, how much they ran in their defensive and attacking work, it’s unbelievable.” It was something they adopted no matter who they were playing. Coach Johan “Tsjepelović”, a man earning a reputation locally as the Czech Jürgen Klipp, and not just because he sports a bald head had instilled in level of belief that saw a side ranked 153rd in the UEFA club coefficients emerge from a group featuring Zenit (ranked 16), Kebeñenh (43) and Bordeaux – the club who, inspired by Zinedine Zidane, had ended Steini’siftingIberia” best Europeanman, when Karel Poborý and Vladimír Smicer featured in the team that went at the way to the 1996 UEFA Cup semi-finals. This season, having emerged from their group, Slavia then swept Gan (51) aside with a 4-1 second-leg win in Belgium in the round of 16. As were Eintracht Frankfurt to the last 16, but Sevilla – champions in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and ranked sixth in Europe – were beaten after extra time of an epic anniversary at the Eden Stadium. That set up a clash with Chelsea that made the Blues’ coach Maurizio Sarri particularly wary. He paid no notice of the Czech club’s ranking and, in the role of David, there was nevertheless a touch of Goliath about Slavia. “They are the tale in the Euros,” Sarri said after his side slew the giant-killers in the quarter-final. “I always knew it would be a tough game for us. I was a bit worried because they were still running flat out while we were running out of petrol. “This team were the surprise of the Europa League, the Ajax of the Europa League – extremely tough opponents – so a bit of suffering is fine,” added Sarri other Slavia become one of just four sides to score three or more goals against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in European competition, and the first to do so in the UEFA Europa League. “For me, I have to say, it was a good surprise from Slavia because they are not afraid to build up from their own goal and they play a very positive style,” said Ghenadie Scurtu, who analysed the first leg of that semi-final tie, which Chelsea edged 1-0. “They tried to play with ball possession and, knowing that Sarri is using high pressure, they nevertheless tried to be constructive in the very beginning. “It’s a club philosophy and a good approach for the young football players, also as an example of how maybe you do not have the big stars or famous players, but you can still try to play in a constructive way.” That is precisely what they did in Prague, going for a win even against a side ranked 140 positions higher than them in the club coefficients. “They could have played for 0-0 – I really think so – but at the end of the game they changed that, they wanted to win against Chelsea, a big name. It’s a good sign for other clubs. I think it’s also, more generally, an observation from the Europa League that all teams are trying to play in a very constructive way. Slavia Prague should be congratulated for this beautiful game against Chelsea.”

The Czech club ended the season 73rd in the rankings – a leap of 80 places – but perhaps equally importantly, they brought the best out of talents such as Tomáš Souček and Jan Gregus, who benefited from working under Tsjepelović. “I think it’s part of the philosophy that the coach has,” explained a positive way that develops the player,” noted Scurtu. “Perhaps because these clubs are not so big, they are working more to create their own big clubs, and this constructive way of thinking develops the players as well.”
GOALS OF THE SEASON

Ismaila Sarr’s sweet volley for Rennes stood out from a fine selection of goals

The UEFA Technical Observers Group had their work cut out picking the best ten goals from a total of 565 – a joint second-highest haul for a single UEFA Europa League season, bettered only in 2011/12. When the observers met on the day after the final in Baku, the list had to be whittled down from 50 eye-catching strikes.

After careful consideration, a top ten was identified, with Ismaila Sarr’s strike in the group stage ultimately chosen as the first choice. The Senegalese forward gave Rennes fans a treat half an hour into their opening UEFA Europa League fixture at Roazhon Park, with their first European goal of the season proving to be the pick of the bunch for its outstanding technical value. Cutting in from the left wing, Sarr played a one-two with skipper Benjamin Andre to establish room for a finely struck first-time volley from outside the penalty area that was still rising as it hit the roof of the net. The individual quality in Sarr’s strike was matched by Chelsea’s Pedro Rodriguez, although his goal in Chelsea’s quarter-final win over Slavia Prague caught the eye more for the stunning build-up. The Blues strung together nine passes, mostly one-touch, including a neat back-heel from César Azpilicueta and consecutive one-twos to pave the way for Pedro’s delightful finish. It was one of many mesmerising moments in the 2018/19 UEFA Europa League season.

Clockwise from above: Ismaila Sarr’s powerful volley was judged this season’s best goal; Pedro’s chip over the onrushing goalkeeper ****************************************************************************
SQUAD OF THE SEASON

Finalists Chelsea and Arsenal provide more than half of the observers’ all-star squad, with rising star João Félix also impressing enough to make the final cut.

**GOALKEEPERS**
- **Kevin Trapp** (Eintracht Frankfurt)
- **Kepa Arrizabalaga** (Real Madrid)
- **Alex Grimaldo** (Sevilla)
- **Sead Kolasinac** (Arsenal)
- **Laurent Koscielny** (Arsenal)
- **David Luiz** (Liverpool)
- **César Azpilicueta** (Chelsea)
- **Danilo de Costa** (Bayern Munich)
- **Makoto Hasebe** (Eintracht Frankfurt)

**DEFENDERS**
- **Filip Kostić**
- **Jorginho**
- **N’Golo Kanté**
- **Jérôme Boateng**
- **Sead Kolašinac**
- **Kanté**
- **Luiz**
- **Makoto Hasebe**
- **Kostić**

**DEFENDERS**
- **Kolarov**
- **Pedro Rodríguez**
- **Eden Hazard**
- **Filip Kostić**
- **Ivan Perišić**
- **Jorginho**
- **N’Golo Kanté**
- **Jérôme Boateng**
- **Sead Kolašinac**
- **Kanté**
- **Luiz**
- **Makoto Hasebe**
- **Kostić**
- **Kolarov**
- **Pedro Rodríguez**
- **Eden Hazard**

**FORWARDS**
- **Kepa Arrizabalaga**
- **Alex Grimaldo**
- **Sead Kolasinac**
- **Laurent Koscielny**
- **David Luiz**
- **César Azpilicueta**
- **Danilo de Costa**
- **Makoto Hasebe**
- **Filip Kostić**
- **Jorginho**
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**FORWARDS**
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- **Sead Kolašinac**
- **Kanté**
- **Luiz**
- **Makoto Hasebe**
- **Kostić**
- **Kolarov**
- **Pedro Rodríguez**
- **Eden Hazard**
The tempo of players in transition is very essence when it comes to building up play. Direct styles showing how speed is of the attempts for each of their tournament-high the highest too, with an average of 6.75 than their rivals, their accuracy was among

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Matches</th>
<th>Total attempts</th>
<th>Ave attempts per game</th>
<th>Ave attempts per goal</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Ave goals per goal</th>
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<td>243</td>
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<td>89</td>
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<td>202</td>
<td>13.47</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>202</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<td>179</td>
<td>14.92</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Salzburg</td>
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<td>17.8</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>160</td>
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<td>57</td>
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<tr>
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<td>139</td>
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<td>11.91</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12.9</td>
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<td>8.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dynamo Kyiv</td>
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<td>93</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7.15</td>
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<td>Valencia</td>
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<td>89</td>
<td>11.13</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
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<td>86</td>
<td>14.33</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benfica</td>
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<td>79</td>
<td>13.17</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>8.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zenit</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internazionale</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>12.25</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number Crunching**

The key facts and figures from the 2018/19 campaign, from goal attempts and super subs to possession and passing

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

**Goals from set pieces:**

Among the 565 goals scored, marginally more than a quarter – 147 – came as a result of set pieces, highlighting how important dedicating training time to preparing set pieces was. Most of these set-piece goals come from corners, albeit not in a direct manner. “We’ve seen teams play short corners in order to open up the play, to create a new situation,” said Thomas Schaaf, highlighting the numerous successful examples of sides playing several short passes from a corner, following a carefully planned routine, to create a different route to goal. Slavia Praha, meanwhile, made the most of their height to score with headers: direct from corners against Genk, Sevilla and Chelsea in each of their knockout stages, while Sevilla were spot on with five successfully converted penalties.

**Goals from free-kicks:**

The recent trend of comeback wins was reversed in 2018/19 with the side who got the first goal on the board showing a greater tendency to go on and win. Of 205 matches, the team who scored the opening goal went on to win 136 times, with a score reversal happening only 25 times and 28 games ending in a score draw. While comeback wins in single matches were rare, turnarounds over two legs were not so hard to come by. Arsenal twice overturned first-leg deficits to eliminate BATE Borisov and Rennes, while Salzburg won the second legs of both their knockout fixtures after losing the first leg, although their 3-1 win over Napoli proved insufficient after a 3-0 defeat in Italy. Eintracht Frankfurt came back from a 4-2 defeat at Benfica to win their quarter-final on away goals thanks to a 2-0 home success.

**Why scoring first matters**

The recent trend of comeback wins was reversed in 2018/19 with the side who got the first goal on the board showing a greater tendency to go on and win. Of 205 matches, the team who scored the opening goal went on to win 136 times, with a score reversal happening only 25 times and 28 games ending in a score draw. While comeback wins in single matches were rare, turnarounds over two legs were not so hard to come by. Arsenal twice overturned first-leg deficits to eliminate BATE Borisov and Rennes, while Salzburg won the second legs of both their knockout fixtures after losing the first leg, although their 3-1 win over Napoli proved insufficient after a 3-0 defeat in Italy. Eintracht Frankfurt came back from a 4-2 defeat at Benfica to win their quarter-final on away goals thanks to a 2-0 home success.

**TOP SCORERS**

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It will come as no surprise to see that Chelsea led the way in terms of passes attempted. With 665.13 passes per game – an impressive 89% of which reached their targets – they were averaging almost 75 more than their nearest last-16 rivals Napoli. The legacy Maurizio Sarri left behind in Naples lives on under Carlo Ancelotti, whose Napoli side continued to employ a similar, if perhaps more direct style to the one Sarri had established at the Italian club. The presence of Internazionale ahead of Arsenal and Sevilla in the ranking further suggests how much of an emphasis the Serie A clubs placed on circulating the ball.

As in 2017/18, only three of the sides who boasted the highest average possession reached the last 16, and once again it was Chelsea who ranked the highest among them – just behind Betis – with an average of over 60% per game. It was observed, though, that many comparatively smaller clubs were taking much bolder approaches and not letting their opponents keep the ball for so long without a challenge. “These teams convinced also because they played courageous football,” said Thomas Schaaf. “They pushed forward bravely, took a lot of risks and were very active.”

### 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>Chelsea</td>
<td>665.13</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betis</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leverkusen</td>
<td>600.13</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napoli</td>
<td>590.33</td>
<td>84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marseille</td>
<td>544.83</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAOK</td>
<td>542.97</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internazionale</td>
<td>540.5</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderlecht</td>
<td>536.5</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celtic</td>
<td>535.5</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arsenal</td>
<td>534.6</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Possession average per game (%)

- **63.75%** Chelsea
- **61.8%** Galatasaray
- **60%** Anderlecht
- **60%** Leverkusen
- **58.38%** Genk
- **57.38%** PAOK
- **57.17%** Internazionale
- **56.75%** Napoli
- **56.5%** Slavia Praha
- **56.5%** Dinamo Zagreb

**Possession average per game (%)**
Players used

**Players used**

**Coach**

Unai Emery

**Team shape**

From second leg of semi-final v Valencia

**Key features**

- 1-3-4-3; also 1-4-2-3-1
- Positive impact from fast, powerful forwards
- Excellent passing game; good use of width with forwards and wingers
- Emphasis on attacking deep and well organised chasing game
- Good use of width with forwards and wingers
- Deep and well organised defence
- Emphasis on attacking quickly, often with direct balls
- Great variety and excellent play and set pieces with forwards and wingers
- Quick wingers, confident and effective dribbling the ball
- Excellent passing game; switching the game or playing penetrating passes
- Dangerous from open play and set pieces with penetration and excellent delivery

**Team statistics**

- Goals scored: 13
- Goals conceded: 2
- Attempts on target: 76
- On target: 17
- Cards: 2

**Goals attempted**

- Max. 79% v Dinamo Zagreb (h) Min. 68% v Napoli (a)

**Passing accuracy**

- Max. 85% v Napoli (a) Min. 66% v Dinamo Zagreb (h)

**Averages**

- Possessions: Max. 75% v Wolves Min. 35% v Napoli (a)
- Posses attempted: Max. 35% v Wolves Min. 30% v Napoli (a)
- Season: 03/11/19, Hondarribia (ESP)

**Player statistics**

- 4 goals
- 3 assists
- 1 clean sheet

**Midfielders**

- Lucas Torreira
- Granit Xhaka
- Mohamed Elneny
- Ainsley Maitland-Niles
- Sokratis Papastathopoulos
- Matteo Guendouzi
- Denis Suárez
- Luka Jovic
- Gabriel

**Forwards**

- Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang
- Danny Welbeck
- Alexandre Lacazette
- Aubameyang and Willock

**Defenders**

- Rob Holding
- Nacho Monreal
- Rob Holding
- Sokratis Papastathopoulos
- Gabriel

**Goalkeepers**

- Bernd Leno
- Petr Čech

---

**Players used**

**Coach**

Bruno Lage

**Team shape**

From first leg of QF v Frankfurt

**Key features**

- 1-4-2-2-2, 1-4-2-3-1 and 1-3-4-2-1 when chasing game
- Deep and well organised defence
- Emphasis on attacking quickly, often with direct balls
- Good use of width with forwards and wingers
- Quick wingers, confident and effective dribbling the ball
- Excellent passing game; switching the game or playing penetrating passes
- Dangerous from open play and set pieces with penetration and excellent delivery

**Team statistics**

- Goals scored: 9
- Goals conceded: 0
- Attempts on target: 2
- On target: 1
- Cards: 0

**Goals attempted**

- Max. 68% v Dinamo Zagreb (h) Min. 30% v Frankfurt

**Passing accuracy**

- Max. 817 v Dinamo Zagreb (h) Min. 796 v Wolves

**Averages**

- Possessions: Max. 82% Min. 68%
- Posses attempted: Max. 208 Min. 52

**Player statistics**

- 9 goals
- 1 assist
- 1 clean sheet

**Midfielders**

- Jardel
- Filipe Neves
- Joao Felix
- André Almeida
- Pizzi

**Forwards**

- Gabriel
- Nuno Mendes
- Jaba Fashu
- Jota
- Haris Sferovic

**Defenders**

- Rúben Dias
- Yuri Ribeiro
- Pedro Mendes
- Joao Felix
- Ferri

**Goalkeepers**

- Benfica
- Rúben Dias
- Joao Felix
- Haris Sferovic

---

**Players used**

**Coach**

Unai Emery

**Team shape**

From second leg of semi-final v Valencia

**Key features**

- Dangerous from open play
- Excellent passing game; good use of width with forwards and wingers
- Emphasis on attacking deep and well organised chasing game
- Good use of width with forwards and wingers
- Deep and well organised defence
- Emphasis on attacking quickly, often with direct balls
- Great variety and excellent play and set pieces with forwards and wingers
- Quick wingers, confident and effective dribbling the ball
- Excellent passing game; switching the game or playing penetrating passes
- Dangerous from open play and set pieces with penetration and excellent delivery

**Team statistics**

- Goals scored: 13
- Goals conceded: 2
- Attempts on target: 76
- On target: 17
- Cards: 2

**Goals attempted**

- Max. 79% v Dinamo Zagreb (h) Min. 68% v Napoli (a)

**Passing accuracy**

- Max. 85% v Napoli (a) Min. 66% v Dinamo Zagreb (h)

**Averages**

- Possessions: Max. 75% v Wolves Min. 35% v Napoli (a)
- Posses attempted: Max. 35% v Wolves Min. 30% v Napoli (a)

**Player statistics**

- 4 goals
- 3 assists
- 1 clean sheet

**Midfielders**

- Lucas Torreira
- Granit Xhaka
- Mohamed Elneny
- Ainsley Maitland-Niles
- Sokratis Papastathopoulos

**Forwards**

- Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang
- Danny Welbeck
- Alexandre Lacazette
- Aubameyang and Willock

**Defenders**

- Rob Holding
- Nacho Monreal
- Rob Holding
- Sokratis Papastathopoulos
- Gabriel

**Goalkeepers**

- Bernd Leno
- Petr Čech

---

**Players used**

**Coach**

Bruno Lage

**Team shape**

From first leg of QF v Frankfurt

**Key features**

- 1-4-2-2-2, 1-4-2-3-1 and 1-3-4-2-1 when chasing game
- Deep and well organised defence
- Emphasis on attacking quickly, often with direct balls
- Good use of width with forwards and wingers
- Quick wingers, confident and effective dribbling the ball
- Excellent passing game; switching the game or playing penetrating passes
- Dangerous from open play and set pieces with penetration and excellent delivery

**Team statistics**

- Goals scored: 9
- Goals conceded: 0
- Attempts on target: 2
- On target: 1
- Cards: 0

**Goals attempted**

- Max. 68% v Dinamo Zagreb (h) Min. 30% v Frankfurt

**Passing accuracy**

- Max. 817 v Dinamo Zagreb (h) Min. 796 v Wolves

**Averages**

- Possessions: Max. 82% Min. 68%
- Posses attempted: Max. 208 Min. 52

**Player statistics**

- 9 goals
- 1 assist
- 1 clean sheet

**Midfielders**

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- Jota
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- Yuri Ribeiro
- Pedro Mendes
- Joao Felix
- Ferri

**Goalkeepers**

- Benfica
- Rúben Dias
- Joao Felix
- Haris Sferovic

---
CHELSEA FC

England

Coach
Maurizio Sarri

Team shape
From second leg of QF v Slavia Praha

Group statistics

Goals scored

Attempts On target
Cards

Time scored
*Group stage to final  **Including qualifying
Team ... = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists
1-15 46-6016-30 61-7531-45 76-9045+ 90+ 91-105 106-120

Players used

App Mins G A

Players used

App Mins G A

Player statistics

Shots

Attempts

On target  Cards

Players used

App Mins G A

Player statistics

Shots

Attempts

On target  Cards

CHELSEA FC

Players used

App Mins G A

Goals scored

Attempts On target
Cards

Time scored
*Group stage to final  **Including qualifying
Team ... = Appearances; Mins = Minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists
1-15 46-6016-30 61-7531-45 76-9045+ 90+ 91-105 106-120

Players used

App Mins G A

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Shots

Attempts

On target  Cards

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App Mins G A

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Shots

Attempts

On target  Cards

Player statistics

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Attempts On target
Cards

Time scored
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Attempts

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Player statistics

Shots

Attempts

On target  Cards

Players used

App Mins G A

Player statistics

Shots

Attempts

On target  Cards

Player statistics

**European trophies won:**
From 14/07/2018 to 16/06/2019

Key features

- **1-4-3-3**
- Building up from the back, employing deep-lying midfielder
- Effective short passing and use of triangles
- Calibrated and quick movements of players on and off the ball
- Confident in possession with dynamic movement
- Strong in one against one situations; individuals with good dribbling skills

Team shape

*Group stage to final  **Including qualifying

**Players used:**

**Averages**

Possession

Max: 92% v AEK Athens (a)
Min: 43% v AEK Athens (a)

Passes attempted

Max: 56% v AEK Athens (a)
Min: 41% v AEK Athens (a)

Passing accuracy

Max: 60% v AEK Athens (a)
Min: 41% v AEK Athens (a)

Goals scored

**Time scored**

**Players used**

**Averages**

Possession

Max: 92% v AEK Athens (a)
Min: 43% v AEK Athens (a)

Passes attempted

Max: 56% v AEK Athens (a)
Min: 41% v AEK Athens (a)

Passing accuracy

Max: 60% v AEK Athens (a)
Min: 41% v AEK Athens (a)

**Key features**

- **1-4-2-3-1**, transitioning to 1-4-4-1-1 or 1-4-4-2 in defending
- Very compact, schooled defensive line
- Good midfield and defensive organisation with efficient transitions back to defence
- Used transitions well while maintaining discipline
- Confident and effective counter-attacking game
- Strong, athletic players; successful in high bounces
- Consistent attacking set-play threat with high quality delivery
- Good link-up play through Petković, with strong ability to hold up the ball

**Players used**

**Averages**

Possession

Max: 92% v AEK Athens (a)
Min: 43% v AEK Athens (a)

Passes attempted

Max: 56% v AEK Athens (a)
Min: 41% v AEK Athens (a)

Passing accuracy

Max: 60% v AEK Athens (a)
Min: 41% v AEK Athens (a)

**Key features**

- **1-4-3-3**, transitioning to 1-4-4-1-1 or 1-4-4-2 in defending
- Very compact, schooled defensive line
- Good midfield and defensive organisation with efficient transitions back to defence
- Used transitions well while maintaining discipline
- Confident and effective counter-attacking game
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Passes attempted

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**Players used**

**Groups**

**Defenders**

**Forwards**

**Midfielders**

**Goalkeepers**

**Players used**

**Averages**

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Min: 43% v AEK Athens (a)

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- Good link-up play through Petković, with strong ability to hold up the ball

**Players used**
**FC DYNAMO KYIV**

**Ukraine**

**Players used**

**Goalskeepers**
- Georgiy Bushchan 1-0
- Danny Boyan 0-1

**Defenders**
- Mykola Morozyuk 1-0
- Viktor Tsygankov 2-0
- Serhiy Sydorchuk 3-0
- Donetsk 9-0
- Denis Garmash 3-0

**Midfielders**
- Tchê Tchê 2-0
- Viktor Tyagyanov 3-5
- Oleksandr Andriyevskyi 3-2
- Maxim Shaparenko 3-1
- Artem Shabonov 3-0
- Artem Koldar 3-0

**Forwards**
- Filip Kostić 3-1
- Filip Kostić 3-0
- Filip Kostić 3-0
- Filip Kostić 3-0

**Team shape**
- From first leg of last 16 v Chelsea

**Key features**
- Strong, athletic and hard-working players
- Ball moved forward
- Confident defence, supported by 20 Hasebe players in possession
- Well-organised and solid structure and organisation
- Good cooperation and distances between the lines
- Predominantly attack-minded approach; all times contributing to attacking game
- Moved forward quickly with confident players in possession
- Wing-backs providing consistent support to attack
- Strong, athletic and hard-working players

**Coach**
- Oleksandr Khaskevich
- Born: 15/10/1987, Belarusian
- Nationality: Belarusian
- Head coach since: 05/05/2017

**Team statistics**
- Players used: 19
- Goals scored: 30
- Goals conceded: 24
- Assists: 12
- A = Passes attempted; C = Passes completed

**Averages**
- Possession: 56% v Olympiacos (a)
- Passing accuracy: 66%
- shots: 1-15 46-60 16-30 61-75 31-45 76-90 45+ 90+ 91-105 106-120

**Group H**
- Matches in UEFA Europa League/UEFA Cup:
  - Group stage to final
  - Including qualifying

**Quarter-finals**
- Semi-finals
- Final

**Player statistics**
- Friendly 4-0-3-1 1-4-2-3-1; also 1-4-5-1 or 1-3-4-1-2
- Defensive structure and organisation
- Strong, confident defence
- Good cooperation and distances between the lines
- Well-organised and solid structure and organisation
- Good cooperation and distances between the lines
- Predominantly attack-minded approach; all times contributing to attacking game
- Moved forward quickly with confident players in possession
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- Matches in UEFA Europa League/UEFA Cup:
  - Group stage to final
  - Including qualifying

**Quarter-finals**
- Semi-finals
- Final
### Team statistics

**Players used**

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<th>Goals</th>
<th>Assists</th>
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**Goalkeepers**

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**Midfielders**

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**Forwards**

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**Defenders**

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</table>

### Key features

- **1-4-2-3-1 switch to three-man defence with wing-backs when challenging a team**
- **Tactically flexible, able to react well to in-game situations**
- **Building from the back to goalkeepers, rarely using long balls**
- **Patient build-up with short passing style**
- **Good use of width with wingers (Politano, Perišić) taking advantage to deliver shots or crosses**
- **Defending in numbers, using full-backs to drop behind ball**
- **Intermediate midfield pressing, high defensive press on occasions**
- **Consistent threat from set-pieces and two assists from midfielders**

### Player statistics

**Passes**

- **Total attempts**
- **Passes completed**
- **Passes attempted**
- **Percentages**

**Goals**

- **Goals scored**
- **Goals conceded**
- **On target**
- **Cards**

**Attempts On target**

- **Goals scored**
- **Time scored**

**Possession**

- **Group stage to final**
- **Including qualifying**

### Coach

**Luciano Spalletti**

Born: 02/03/1960, Firenze (IT)
Nationality: Italian
Head coach: 05/06/2017 to 29/05/2019

**Oleg Fonmenko**

Born: 20/03/1976, Moskva (RUS)
Nationality: Russian
Head coach: 04/04/2018 to 30/05/2019

### Group shape

**From first leg of last 16 to semi-finals**

**From first leg of last 16 to Valencia**

**Russia**

**Italy**
### SSC Napoli

#### Players used

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<th>Players used</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Team shape

From first leg of last 16 v Salzburg

#### Team statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group C</th>
<th>UEFA Champions League</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRV</td>
<td>D'O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DO</td>
<td>LIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAR</td>
<td>D2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAR</td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRV</td>
<td>W3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIV</td>
<td>L1-O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Key features

- 1-4-4-2; also 1-4-4-1 when Insigne supported Milik
- Compact defence with Atal and Zieliński looking to clear tactical discipline
- Predominantly patient build-up with Fabián Ruiz and Allan key players in midfield
- Build-up also with vertical passes bypassing the midfield
- Switching play with diagonal balls
- Creative wing play with dangerous crosses
- Quick combinations with rapid transition
- Good play between the lines through Insigne, Callejón, Fabián Ruiz and Zieliński

#### Averages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Posession</th>
<th>Max. 40% v Arsenal 80% Min. 30% v Salzburg 80%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passing accuracy</td>
<td>Max. 60% v Zürich Min. 40% v Salzburg 80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Player statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time scored</th>
<th>31-45</th>
<th>46-60</th>
<th>61-75</th>
<th>76-90</th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>76-90</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>52</td>
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### Stade Rennais FC

#### Players used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Abdoulleye Diaflo</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>210</td>
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<td>Tomed Koulmb</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>630</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Kevin Malcuit</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Stéphane Zoc-pane</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>592</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliaquim Mangala</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>592</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M'Baye Niang</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clément Grenier</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Erwan Benavou</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Damien Da Silva</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myles Taylor</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>530</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jimmy Gelin</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>78</td>
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</table>

#### Team shape

From second leg of last 16 v Arsenal

#### Team statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group K</th>
<th>UEFA Champions League</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAB</td>
<td>AST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W2-D</td>
<td>L2-O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2</td>
<td>L4-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARS</td>
<td>W1-D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBS</td>
<td>W3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTS</td>
<td>L5-O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Key features

- 1-4-2-3-1; also 1-4-4-1 and 1-4-4-2
- Tactical flexibility and ability to adapt to opponents and game situations
- Active early pressing and high defensive line
- Compact, disciplined defence, supported by forward-thinking goalkeeper
- Excellent off-ball movement and recovery skills
- Good occupation of the field and links between lines
- Good use of width with quick transitions and attacks over the wings
- Excellent work ethic throughout team; forwards tracking back to assist midfielders

#### Averages

| Possession | Max. 40% v Antwerp Min. 70% v Betis  |
| Posession | Max. 40% v Antwerp Min. 70% v Betis  |

#### Player statistics

| Théophile Sembouche | 3   | 184  | 1 |   |
| M'Baye Niang | 9   | 542  | 2 |   |
| Hamit Altintop | 9   | 592  | 1 |   |

**Note:** Dark orange = home, yellow = away; see page 5 for full club names.
**Team shape**

From first leg of last 16 vs Napoli

**Team shape**

From second leg of last 16 vs Sevilla F.C.

---

### FC Salzburg

**Coach**
Marco Rose

**Born:** 07/06/1979, Linz, Austria

**Nationality:** Austria

**Head coach:**

06/02/2019 to 30/06/2019

**Group stage to final**

- Including qualifying

---

### Group B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round of 32</th>
<th>Round of 16</th>
<th>Quarter-finals</th>
<th>Semi-finals</th>
<th>Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEI</td>
<td>CEL</td>
<td>RBK</td>
<td>RBK</td>
<td>LEI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Passes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T = Total shots</th>
<th>OT = On target</th>
<th>G = Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>653</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Averages

- **Posession:** 58.7% vs Celtic, 61.5% vs Club Brugge, 61.7% vs Leipzig
- **Posses attempted:** 84% vs Celtic, 91% vs Club Brugge, 95% vs Leipzig
- **Passing accuracy:** 56.2% vs Celtic, 61.1% vs Club Brugge, 66.3% vs Leipzig

### Player statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Team statistics

- **Goals scored:** 25
- **Goals conceded:** 12
- **On target:** 63
- **Cards:** 21

### Key features

1. **1-4-3-4-2 with midfield diamond**
2. **High pressing starting with forwards, opposition defenders**
3. **Good off-ball movement with forwards dropping deep to recover possession**
4. **Very fast transitions to attack, with Schläger and Junuzović dynamic players**
5. **Quick combinations to break through**
6. **Determined, committed and willing players with positive mentality**
7. **Attack-minded philosophy**
8. **Overlapping full-backs, using full width and delivering dangerous crosses**

---

### SEVILLE FC

**Coach**
Pablo Machín

**Born:** 07/04/1975, Madrid, Spain

**Nationality:** Spanish

**Head coach:**

04/10/2019 to 03/05/2019

**Group stage to final**

- Including qualifying

---

### Group J

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round of 32</th>
<th>Round of 16</th>
<th>Quarter-finals</th>
<th>Semi-finals</th>
<th>Final</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAT</td>
<td>W 5-1</td>
<td>KRA</td>
<td>L 2-1</td>
<td>AKH</td>
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### Passes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T = Total shots</th>
<th>OT = On target</th>
<th>G = Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>653</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Averages

- **Possession:** 56.2% vs Standard Liege, 61.5% vs Lazio, 62.4% vs Salzburg
- **Posses attempted:** 92% vs Standard Liege, 98% vs Lazio, 98% vs Salzburg
- **Passing accuracy:** 81.3% vs Standard Liege, 83.2% vs Lazio, 83.6% vs Salzburg

### Player statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>OT</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Team statistics

- **Goals scored:** 26
- **Goals conceded:** 12
- **On target:** 56
- **Cards:** 20

### Key features

1. **1-3-5-2**
2. **Well-organised defence led by Kjær**
3. **High pressing with quick transitions when regaining possession**
4. **Deep-lying player Banega, dropping to build attacks out of defence; providing balance**
5. **Patient build-up from deep, with variety of attacking approaches**
6. **Confident in possession when under pressure; positive mentality**
7. **Determination to control games with variety of attacking approaches**

---

**Players used**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tomás Voukle</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. João Amorim</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sergi Gómez</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Éver Banega</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ibrahim Amadou</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Daniel Carrico</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Roque Mesa</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Vázquez</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Éver Banega</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Mane Caamano</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Reina</td>
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<td>45</td>
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**Players used**

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<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1. Wissam Ben Yedder</td>
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<td>543</td>
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<td>410</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<td>3. Roque Mesa</td>
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<td>410</td>
<td>90%</td>
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**Players used**

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<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Alexander Walke</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Enock Mwepu</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Stefan Lainer</td>
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<td>1</td>
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**Players used**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Marco Rose</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SK SLAVIA PRAHA
Czech Republic

Players used

Goalkeepers
1 Onděj Kafleť 12 110

Defenders
5 Vladimir Coufal 9 403 1 1
15 Jaroslav Zmrhal 1 90
16 Michael Ngadjo-Njogu 9 943 1 1
33 Alex Kral 6 467 1 1

Midfielders
6 Jan Sykora 2 124
7 Jaromír Zmrhal 1 883 3 1
11 Josef Hubaček 7 543 2 1
12 Milosovitch 8 122 8 1
9 Alexander Dovbel 1 60
8 Tomáš Souček 11 1020 2 3
23 Petr Ševčík 3 258 2 1
27 Ibrahim-Benjamin Touné 11 882 1 1
30 Lukáš Masek 5 141

Forwards
9 Peter Oslavzke 9 467
11 Stanislav Tecl 2 108
13 Matúš Kociás 4 177 1
14 Michal Hlavica 4 161 1
15 Milan Vrančič 8 360 2 1

Team statistics

Goals scored
17

Goals conceded
14

Attempts
160°

Time scored
1 2 3 4

On target
57

Cards
30

Team shape

Key features
1-3-5-2; also 1-4-3-1-2

SK SLAVIA PRAHA
Czech Republic

VALENCIA CF
Spain

Players used

Goalkeepers
13 Neto 8 720

Defenders
4 Fabciano Rozental 3 218
5 Gabriel 6 495
12 Mouton-Dokhozy 6 540 1
14 José Gayó 4 360
18 Jordi Alba 4 400 1 1
21 Cristian Piccini 5 346
24 Eziquiel Garay 5 383

Midfielders
6 Geoffrey Kondogbia 2 180
7 Gonçalo Guedes 9 339 1 1
8 Carlos Soler 7 508
9 Denis Cheryshev 7 557 1 1
11 Kevin Gameiro 5 272 1 1
17 Gabriel 6 420
20 Ferrán Torres 4 260

Forwards
9 Kevin Gameiro 8 382
17 Gonzalo Hernández 5 339
19 Rodrigo 5 344 2 2
22 Sandro 6 299
23 Rubén Sobrino 4 227 1 1

Team statistics

Goals scored
14

Goals conceded
10

Attempts
89°

Time scored
1 3 2

On target
3

Cards
32

Team shape

Key features
1-4-2-2 or 1-5-3-2 for first leg of semi-final

VALENCIA CF
Spain

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE / TECHNICAL REPORT 2018/19

53
**VILLARREAL CF**  
Spain

**Players used**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team &amp; Group</th>
<th>Round of 32</th>
<th>Round of 16</th>
<th>Quarter-finals</th>
<th>Semi-finals</th>
<th>Final</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Players used</td>
<td>SCP W:0-1</td>
<td>SCP Z:1-0</td>
<td>Zen W:3-0</td>
<td>Zen Z:2-1</td>
<td>Val W:3-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semi-finals</td>
<td>Final</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Goals scored</strong></td>
<td>Goals conceded</td>
<td>Attempts</td>
<td>On target</td>
<td>Cards</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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**Averages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possession</th>
<th>Passes attempted</th>
<th>Passing accuracy</th>
<th>Posses attempted</th>
<th>Accuracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53%</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>56%</td>
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**Player statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Apps</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Gerard Moreno</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manu Trigueros</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Raba</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordi Alba</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pablo Fornals</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Team shape**

From second leg of last 16 v Zenit

**Key features**

- 1-3-5-2; also 1-4-2-3-1
- Positive team spirit
- Team with good balance
- Good use of width,
- Comfortable in possession
- Patient build-up from the
- well-organised defence
- 1-4-3-3
- 1-3-5-2; also 1-4-2-3-1
- 1-3-5-2; also 1-4-2-3-1
- 1-4-3-3

**Time scored**

1-15 46-60 16-30 61-75 31-45 76-90 45+ 90+ 91-105 106-120

---

**FC ZENIT**  
Russia

**Players used**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team &amp; Group</th>
<th>Round of 32</th>
<th>Round of 16</th>
<th>Quarter-finals</th>
<th>Semi-finals</th>
<th>Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>FCK L:0-0</td>
<td>SLP W:1-0</td>
<td>SLP L:0-0</td>
<td>Val W:3-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-finals</td>
<td>Final</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goals scored</strong></td>
<td>Goals conceded</td>
<td>Attempts</td>
<td>On target</td>
<td>Cards</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
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**Averages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possession</th>
<th>Passes attempted</th>
<th>Passing accuracy</th>
<th>Posses attempted</th>
<th>Accuracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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**Player statistics**

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<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sardar Azmoun</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Víctor Ruiz</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rúben Neves</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luiz Adriano</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferran Torres</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Team shape**

From first leg of last 16 v Villarreal

**Key features**

- 1-4-4-2; also 1-3-4-3
- Experienced, authoritative central defenders
- Applied immediate pressure when losing possession
- Overlapping full-backs with wingers tucking in
- Good attacking support provided by Mak technically gifted player with strong dribbling skills
- Direct approach out of defence, bypassing midfield and targeting Dzyuba
- Dzyuba with excellent aerial ability and hold-up skills; influential player
- Dangerous from set pieces with excellent delivery from Mak

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**Coaches**

**VILLARREAL CF**

- Head coach:
  - Name: Javier Calleja
  - Nationality: Spanish
  - Born: 1962
  - Since: 2005

**FC ZENIT**

- Head coach:
  - Name: Sergei Semak
  - Nationality: Russian
  - Born: 1976
  - Since: 2018

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**Stats**

**VILLARREAL CF**

- Group G
  - Matchday 3: 2-2 D 3-3 W 5-0 D 0-0 D 0-0 W 2-0 W 0-1 D 1-1 W 1-3 W 2-1 L 1-3 L 2-0

**FC ZENIT**

- Group C
  - Matchday 3: 2-2 D 3-3 W 5-0 D 0-0 D 0-0 W 2-0 W 0-1 D 1-1 W 1-3 W 2-1 L 1-3 L 2-0
ROLL OF HONOUR

2019 Chelsea FC
2018 Club Atlético de Madrid
2017 Manchester United FC
2016 Sevilla FC
2015 Sevilla FC
2014 Sevilla FC
2013 Chelsea FC
2012 Club Atlético de Madrid
2011 FC Porto
2010 Club Atlético de Madrid
2009 FC Shakhtar Donetsk
2008 FC Zenit
2007 Sevilla FC
2006 Sevilla FC
2005 FC Shakhtar Donetsk
2004 Valencia CF
2003 FC Porto
2002 Feyenoord
2001 Liverpool FC
2000 Galatasaray AS
1999 Parma FC
1998 FC Internazionale Milano
1997 FC Schalke 04
1996 FC Bayern München
1995 Parma FC
1994 FC Internazionale Milano
1993 Juventus
1992 AFC Ajax
1991 FC Internazionale Milano
1990 Juventus
1989 SSC Napoli
1988 Bayer 04 Leverkusen
1987 FK Partizan
1986 Real Madrid CF
1985 Real Madrid CF
1984 Tottenham Hotspur FC
1983 RSC Anderlecht
1982 FK Drita
1981 Sparta Prague FC
1980 Eintracht Frankfurt
1979 VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach
1978 PSV Eindhoven
1977 Liverpool FC
1976 VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach
1975 Feyenoord
1974 Liverpool FC
1973 Tottenham Hotspur FC
1972 Feyenoord
1971 Liverpool FC