



UEFA
EURO2016
FRANCE

TECHNICAL REPORT





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TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED

From the expanded 24-team format to the value of extra time, UEFA EURO 2016 provided plenty to ponder for UEFA's technical team



"UEFA EURO 2016 was a memorable tournament, and I congratulate Fernando Santos and his Portuguese squad on a well-deserved victory which underlined the importance of organisation, teamwork and togetherness in football"

Ángel María Villar Llona
UEFA first vice-president

'Expect emotions' – the official slogan of UEFA EURO 2008 – seems to have been permanently written into the script of European Championship final tournaments. The first 24-team edition was certainly no exception, opening as it did a great window of opportunity for greater numbers of players, coaches and supporters to enjoy the EURO experience and the emotional rollercoaster it represents. The teams were certainly quick to applaud the atmosphere at the ten venues across France, where stadium attendance totalled 2,427,303.

On the pitch, UEFA EURO 2016 provided a unique opportunity for nations further down the international rankings to write tales of the unexpected, with the supporters of Iceland and Wales in particular cheering their teams all the way to the quarter and semi-finals respectively. And, of course, the tournament had a sting in its tail. After their three group games had failed to produce a win, few would have predicted that Portugal would lift the trophy for the first time – especially bearing in mind that, in order to do

so, they had to beat France at the Stade de France in the final.

It is quite pertinent that the last of the 51 games was decided in extra time. It was one of five knockout matches that required an additional half-hour – three of them involving Portugal. The fact that the Portuguese were the only team to score during extra time added fuel to a talking point that surfaced during the 2015/16 UEFA Champions League, the final of which had also required extra time and a penalty shoot-out. At our meeting in Paris the day after the UEFA EURO 2016 final, Sir Alex Ferguson summed up the debate quite neatly: on the one hand, he said, extra time offered a lot of excitement; on the other hand, was it fair to expect the Portuguese players to cope with three periods of extra time on the back of a season in which some of them had competed in high on 70 games?

Éder's goal was the first to be scored during a full 30-minute period of extra time since the USSR won the first-ever final with a goal

by Viktor Ponedelnik against Yugoslavia in the 113th minute. That was 56 years before Éder's shot hit the net. In the 40 years since Antonín Panenka's legendary penalty for Czechoslovakia settled the first shoot-out, 23 EURO ties have gone to extra time, and on 17 occasions it has failed to produce goals. The question, therefore, is whether extra time is worth playing.

This technical report addresses those questions and more. Accompanied by additional digital material on the event, it sets out to provide a permanent and meaningful record, from a coaching perspective, of the first 24-team finals. Through the reactions of UEFA's technical observers, it offers analysis, reflections and debating points which we hope will also be of value to coaches who are active at the development levels of the game, helping them to work on the skills and qualities needed by the elite performers of the future.

Ioan Lupescu
UEFA chief technical officer

GROUP A

FRANCE (FRA)

SWITZERLAND (SUI)

ALBANIA (ALB)

ROMANIA (ROU)

GROUP B

WALES (WAL)

ENGLAND (ENG)

SLOVAKIA (SVK)

RUSSIA (RUS)

GROUP C

GERMANY (GER)

POLAND (POL)

NORTHERN IRELAND (NIR)

UKRAINE (UKR)

GROUP D

CROATIA (CRO)

SPAIN (ESP)

TURKEY (TUR)

CZECH REPUBLIC (CZE)

GROUP E

ITALY (ITA)

BELGIUM (BEL)

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (IRL)

SWEDEN (SWE)

GROUP F

HUNGARY (HUN)

ICELAND (ISL)

PORTUGAL (POR)

AUSTRIA (AUT)

UEFA's technical observers in France (from left to right):
Ginés Meléndez, Peter Rudbæk, Jean-Paul Brigger, Gareth Southgate, Thomas Schaaf, Ioan Lupescu, Sir Alex Ferguson, David Moyes, Savo Milošević, Packie Bonner, Mixu Paatelainen, Jean-François Domergue and Alain Giresse

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UEFA EURO 2016 TECHNICAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

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ROAD TO THE FINAL

Hosts France rose to the challenge, but more teams led to more surprises and, as holders Spain faltered, Portugal dug in for the long haul



GROUP A

Payet gets the party started



“There’s so much passion and fervour behind the national team and the players are aware of that. It’s not mentally easy to manage.” These words by France coach Didier Deschamps could have been applied right across a tense group in which the hosts, although ultimately proving the form book correct, were made to battle for every point. The six matches produced only nine goals, with three of the four scored by France hitting the net after the 88th minute.

Deschamps initially favoured a 1-4-3-3 formation with Dimitri Payet operating behind an attacking partnership of Olivier Giroud and Antoine Griezmann. The former headed in a Payet cross to open the scoring in the second half of the opening match, only for a Bogdan Stancu penalty to bring Romania back to parity eight minutes later. With Anghel Iordănescu’s 1-4-2-3-1 formation moving smoothly into stout 1-4-5-1 defending, the hosts waited until the second half to register their first on-target attempt. But when frustration was biting deep, Payet stole the points with an unstoppable left-footed shot from long range in the 89th minute.

Romania’s hopes were kept alive when another penalty earned them a 1-1 draw with Switzerland at the Parc des Princes, although Iordănescu had hoped for more. “We controlled the ball and the game for some time,” he said.

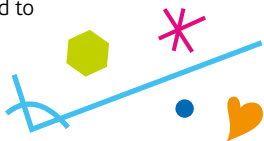
“We had chances and missed them. I told the players to get the second goal and protect the result, but we couldn’t do it.” The Swiss, despite a 62-38 domination of the ball and constant second-half pressure, could only find an equaliser, a stunning left-footed shot by wide midfielder Admir Mehmedi in the 57th minute.

Vladimir Petković had stressed the psychological aspects of Switzerland’s opener against debutants Albania. “We handled the emotion of the occasion better,” he said, “and we used the nervous energy very positively.” Centre-back Fabian Schär gave the Swiss a perfect start by heading in a corner in the fifth minute and Albania’s uphill task hit a steeper gradient when captain Lorik Cana was dismissed nine minutes before the break. With Etrit Berisha performing creditably between the posts, Gianni De Biasi’s team refused to raise the white flag – but were defeated by the single early goal.

Against France, there was a similar refusal to surrender. Deschamps switched to a 1-4-3-2-1 structure with Kingsley Coman and Anthony Martial combining with Payet to support lone striker Giroud. But Albania’s resolute 1-4-5-1 defending and rapid counterattacking remained unfazed when the France coach reverted to 1-4-3-3 after the interval. The clock was ticking its way through the final minute when substitute Griezmann headed in a cross from the right and it read 90+6 when Payet doubled the lead to send the hosts into the final 16.



Gareth Bale scores for Wales against Slovakia



Romania’s defenders can only watch as Dimitri Payet earns France the points

But there were issues in the pending tray until the final matchday. In Lille, Deschamps decided to rest the influential N’Golo Kanté and introduce Yohan Cabaye as controlling midfielder. But this and other changes of personnel did not affect the 1-4-3-3 formation. Unusually, France had only 42% of the ball in a game that yielded four on-target goal attempts – all of them by the French and all of them competently dealt with by the composed Yann Sommer. While that goalless draw was being played out, Romania and Albania were locking horns in a fixture that produced 30 attempts but only one goal. Two minutes before half-time, a throw-in by Andi Lila allowed Ledian Memushaj to cross from the right and striker Armando Sadiku to head into the net from beyond the far post. Romania’s pressure failed to produce a reply, leaving Iordănescu’s team heading home without an open-play goal to their name. Albania recorded a historic victory but, in the final reckoning, three points and a goal difference of -2 was not enough to secure progress from an unexpectedly competitive group.

GROUP B

Bale leads Wales’ charge to the last 16



As they had done in Group A, a lack of goals, late goals and set plays combined to shape Group B. England manager Roy Hodgson ended it by talking of “frustration and disappointment”, while Russia head coach Leonid Slutski said “I’d like to apologise to the Russian supporters for our performances” and “as we had time to find and prepare players, it really is my mistake”.

Russia were under pressure throughout their opening game against England yet, after falling behind to a well-struck free-kick by Eric Dier, salvaged a draw when centre-back Vasili Berezutski headed home with 90+2 on the clock. It was only their second on-target goal attempt of the game. A similar late rally against Slovakia, however, failed to stave off defeat, an 80th-minute goal from substitute Denis Glushakov insufficient to cancel out the 2-0 deficit from a first half in which Igor Akinfeev was beaten by a brace of fierce right-footed shots from his right into the far corner. “After we went behind,”

“Wales leapfrogged over England and, against all the pre-tournament predictions, celebrated a history-making first place in the group”

Slutski said, “we had to change our game plan and our system in midfield.”

The strikes by Vladimír Weiss and Marek Hamšík helped to sweeten the bitter aftertaste of an opening 2-1 defeat by Wales. After conceding a Gareth Bale free-kick, Ján Kozák’s team had fought back through substitute Ondrej Duda but, when pushing forward for a win, had allowed Welsh substitute Hal Robson-Kanu to latch on to a through pass in the 81st minute and clinch the three points.

Russia, with a single point to show from two games, had a final throw of the dice against Wales in Toulouse. Despite making four

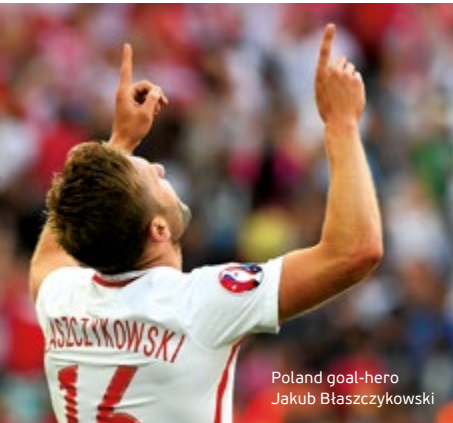


changes, Slutski remained loyal to his 1-4-2-3-1 formation. But a dispirited team offered Wales opportunities to play passes through the middle and set Bale free to make his trademark high-speed runs at the back four. This fragility, and losing the ball in a key area, led to a conclusive 3-0 defeat, the apology by Slutski and a premature trip home. "We were poor; we deserved to lose; and we were bad in every area," was his verdict. "After a tournament like this you need someone else in charge."

Bale's neat chip over Akinfeev took him to the top of the scoring chart after a repeat of his long-range free-kick success against Slovakia had also beaten Joe Hart to put Wales 1-0 ahead against England three minutes before the break. That prompted Hodgson to send Daniel Sturridge and Jamie Vardy out after the interval to replace Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane – and within 11 minutes he reaped his dividends, Vardy turning in a backward header by Welsh captain Ashley Williams. The clock again showed 90+2 when Sturridge poked in the winner.

Hodgson made six changes to his line-up for the final match against Slovakia, while remaining faithful to his 1-4-3-3 set-up. As they had done in the two previous games, England enjoyed the lion's share of possession, beating Slovakia 28-5 on goal attempts and 11-0 on corners, but failing to beat them on the scoreboard. Only five of their attempts were on target and, for all the neat approach play, there was a shortfall in penetrations in the final third. Slovakia, pushed deeper and deeper with the wide players tracking back to mark England's overlapping full-backs, resorted to fast counters based on long deliveries by the goalkeeper or diagonal passes to the wide areas by the centre-backs.

Slovakia's defensive resilience was rewarded with the point that secured third place and a berth among the top 16. England's inability to break them down allowed Chris Coleman's Wales to leapfrog over them and, against all the pre-tournament predictions, celebrate a history-making first place in the group.



Poland goal-hero
Jakub Blaszczykowski



Daniel Sturridge celebrates
England's late winner against Wales

GROUP C

World champions quick to hit their stride



For Germany and Poland, the positive was not conceding any goals; for Ukraine, the negative was not scoring any. For Northern Ireland, a place in the knockout stage represented the ultimate reward for a team who in the words of head coach Michael O'Neill after their 1-0 defeat by world champions Germany, "hung in there and defended great". "We don't have any players in our squad who have played European football," he said, acknowledging that collective spirit had been the crucial factor.

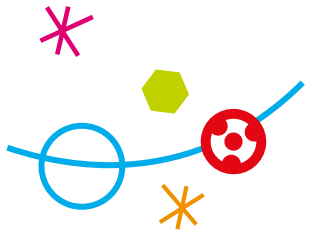
The other side of the coin was a Ukraine team much richer in experience. Midfielder Ruslan Rotan, UEFA's man of the match in the Ukrainians' 1-0 defeat by Poland, admitted to having to "work on our psychological level. Maybe we don't have the right mentality." An opening fixture against the world champions tested their mentality to the full. Mikhailo Fomenko set up his team in a 1-4-2-3-1 formation but, with only 37% of possession, long periods were dedicated to deep 1-4-4-1-1 defending punctuated by sporadic dangerous counters on the flanks. But, after conceding from a free-kick, they consummated their 2-0 defeat by allowing Germany to score from a

copybook counterattack in response to a corner in favour of Ukraine.

Their second game, against Northern Ireland in Lyon, was arguably the pivotal fixture of the group. Fomenko made only one change (the target striker) and, in contrast to the Germany match, saw his team have 66% of the ball. But cutting edge was lacking and, once again, a free-kick allowed the opposition to break the deadlock early in the second half. O'Neill's team, focusing on deep 1-5-4-1 or 1-4-5-1 defending, had the ball for just over 18 minutes but sealed a 2-0 win when the Ukrainians, as they had done against Germany, lost concentration during added time and allowed substitute Niall McGinn to add to Gareth McAuley's headed opener. The result meant that Fomenko's team was the first to be eliminated.

Poland, in the meantime, had been impressive. But, like many other teams, they were winning on points rather than delivering knockout punches – this aspect typified by striker Robert Lewandowski, a constant threat yet more notable for his contributions to the collective effort than for his efficiency in front of goal. Adam Nawalka praised his team's discipline and tactical awareness as they opened their account with a 1-0 win over Northern Ireland and held Germany to

"For the teams here for the first time this is the tournament of their lives. They fight to the end, defend with ten and wait for their chances"



a goalless draw. "Germany took the initiative but we gave it to them consciously, to allow us space to hit them on the counterattack," he said. Although Nawalka's initial 1-4-2-3-1 evolved into more of a 1-4-1-4-1 structure, his team's counterattacking style remained unchanged, and earned them a closing 1-0 victory over Ukraine despite them having only 36% of the ball.

Joachim Löw used the group stage to tinker with his line-up without wavering from his 1-4-2-3-1 template. Happy with his team's defence-to-attack transitions yet a little concerned that an average 66% of possession – more than

any other team in the tournament – was not readily translated into goals, he fielded Mario Gomez in the final fixture against Northern Ireland as "a real nine instead of a false nine". After the draw with Poland he had admitted that the world champions "simply couldn't impose [them]selves on the game" and "needed to attack better". But he was not surprised by the miserly goal tally. "For the teams here for the first time," Löw said, "this is the tournament of their lives. They fight to the end, defend with ten and wait for their chances. The group stage is always attritional but, in the knockout rounds, it opens up."



Mesut Özil prises a way
through the packed
Northern Irish defence





Ivan Perišić's late winner against Spain clinched top spot for Croatia in Group D

GROUP D

Croatia pounce on Spanish lapses



A rollercoaster Group D resulted in the Czech Republic, quarter-finalists in 2012, and Turkey, semi-finalists in 2008, both travelling home earlier than they would have wished and Spain, bidding for a third successive title, not winning the top spot. Patterns were difficult to find in a group that went to the wire.

Turkey opened their campaign with a 1-0 defeat by Croatia – the only goal coming when Luka Modrić followed up a partially cleared corner to volley in from long range. Despite the slim margin of defeat, Fatih Terim was displeased with the performance: "I thought we'd have more possession. I didn't expect us to drop so much in the second half or lose the ball so easily. We should run and fight more. And our big players have to deliver." His displeasure was intensified by a further defeat against Spain in the first match of the tournament to be decided by a three-goal margin. "Tonight I saw a team that I don't like," he said afterwards. "One that gives up and accepts defeat."

Having opted for a 1-4-3-3 formation during the two defeats, Terim made three changes

and positional permutations in switching to a 1-4-2-3-1 structure for the final game against the Czech Republic, with the promising Emre Mor starting in a wide right position. Mor cut the ball back for Burak Yilmaz to score the team's first goal of the tournament, with Ozan Tufan then following up a free-kick to clinch a 2-0 victory. Given the four goals previously conceded, that was not enough to avoid elimination on goal difference.

The result also eliminated their opponents. Czech Republic coach Pavel Vrba admitted that Petr Čech's goalkeeping had kept them alive until the 87th minute of a contest in which Spain had 67% of the ball. It was centre-back Gerard Piqué who headed in a cross from the left to earn the three points. Vrba was then exasperated by losses of possession that allowed Croatia to go two goals ahead in their second game. "At half-time," he admitted, "I told the players that if they didn't want to play football they had no place in the tournament." The response was a headed goal by substitute striker Milan Škoda and, after the Croatians had been distracted by flares thrown onto the pitch by their own supporters, a late penalty that earned them an unlikely 2-2 draw. Their glimmer of hope, however, was extinguished by the 2-0 reverse against Turkey.

Croatia, with Modrić pulling the strings as one of the controlling midfielders in Ante Čačić's 1-4-2-3-1 formation, had produced some fluent attacking with Ivan Perišić a disruptive element on the left flank and Ivan Rakitić threatening from a position behind target striker Mario Mandžukić. The latter, along with Modrić, were among the five players rested for the final game against Spain, who had showcased their best combination play during the 3-0 win against Turkey, including multiple-pass build-ups which led to the second and third goals by Nolito and Álvaro Morata.

The flow seemed set to continue when Morata put Spain ahead in the seventh minute of the final game. But, even though Vicente del Bosque's team had 60% of the ball, the tide was stemmed when Nikola Kalinić equalised on the stroke of half-time and, only three minutes before time, a lapse of concentration resulted in Perišić cutting in from the left and delivering a shot that was deflected past David de Gea at his near post. The comeback victory – only the second of the group stage – sent Croatia to the top of the group and consigned Spain to a repeat of the 2012 final against Italy. "We had the game under control," reflected Del Bosque, "and this wasn't the path we wanted to take."

GROUP E

Joyous Irish prise open path to last 16



Group E featured 3 of the 15 teams who finished with more points than goals – including Italy, who, like all the other group winners, won their opening game. What is more, it was against the opponents who, according to the FIFA rankings, seemed likely to give them their sternest test. Antonio Conte, alone in adopting a 1-3-5-2 structure as his default setting, attributed the 2-0 victory over Belgium to "a very good spirit in the squad". Runs behind the Belgium defence from midfield, notably by Emanuele Giaccherini, posed constant threats – and it was the Bologna

midfielder who first forced open the Belgium defence, with a fast counter allowing Graziano Pellè to volley home a second during added time. On the darker side of the moon, defeat prompted an uncomfortable period of angst for Marc Wilmots and his squad.

Italy revealed themselves as a well-organised and tight unit in which all the components defended with great discipline. Attacking play was channelled through striker Pellè or the wing-backs, Matteo Darmian and Antonio Candreva. Conte's team disrupted their opponents' combination play so efficiently that the normally influential players were unable to make their mark on the match.

The early shoot-out between the group's big guns offered opportunities for Sweden and the Republic of Ireland to sneak in on the blind side. But their 'battle of the 1-4-4-2s' ended in stalemate, with an own goal by Ciaran Clark cancelling out Wes Hoolahan's opener. Martin O'Neill switched to 1-4-2-3-1 for the second game against the hyper-motivated Belgians and admitted "their first goal was vitally important and it came from our attack. As we started to chase the game, we got caught a few times ..." A comprehensive 3-0 scoreline, with two goals for striker Romelu Lukaku, put Wilmots' side back on track but condemned the Irish to a battle for points against Italy.



Robbie Brady powers in the Republic of Ireland's late winner against Italy

"Irish intensity and impetus were rewarded when Robbie Brady headed in. Martin O'Neill had successfully shuffled his pack and four points meant that his team had made the cut"



A late goal for Italy against Sweden worked in Ireland's favour. It came in the 88th minute of a tightly fought contest in Toulouse, when a solo run and shot by Éder snatched a 1-0 win. With six points in the bag, Conte was prompted to make eight changes for the third and final group match. With the new look, Italy enjoyed a greater share of the ball than their opponents, this time in a game when, as Conte put it, "there were a lot of second balls, challenges and loose balls thrown into the mixer". Irish intensity and impetus were rewarded when Robbie Brady headed in a cross from the right in the 85th minute. O'Neill had successfully shuffled his pack into a 1-4-1-4-1 formation to counter Italy's three-at-the-back structure – and four points meant that his team had made the cut.

"They had to open up and that's why we defended deeper. If you open up against us, the odds are that you will be punished"

Sweden were unable to do so. Erik Hamrén's team had implemented the country's classic 1-4-4-2 concept in coordinated and disciplined fashion, with well-rehearsed collective movement and fast transitions in both directions. However, the lack of Swedish names on the tournament's goalscoring chart was symptomatic of the difficulties encountered in the final third, despite the efforts of Zlatan Ibrahimović, who was taking his final bow in international football. "Our last couple of games weren't too bad," rued Hamrén, "but, unfortunately, we couldn't take our chances." After a cutback by Eden Hazard had allowed midfielder Radja Nainggolan to volley a spectacular winner in the 84th minute against Belgium, Wilmots pointed out: "They had to open up and that's why we defended deeper. If you open up against us, the odds are that you will be punished." It was a fitting epitaph for a group in which teams had rarely felt obliged to open up and expose themselves to counters.

Zlatan Ibrahimović could not prevent an early exit for Sweden



Iceland fans and players savour their historic victory against Austria



GROUP F

Iceland steal the show



Last throws of the dice led to an avalanche of nine goals on the final matchday, putting Group F in pride of place as the highest scoring of the six groups. But the previous four matches had yielded just six goals in total and four of the six games ended in draws. The only two 'results' were defeats for Austria, condemning Marcel Koller's side to an early exit. Iceland, on the other hand, red-lettered their debut in the final tournament by marching unbeaten into the round of 16.

Austria's fate was shaped by an opening defeat against Hungary, who, according to coach Bernd Storck, "couldn't have played better".

Koller, pitting a 1-4-2-3-1 against Hungary's compact 1-4-1-4-1 formation, said: "We started well but, further into the game, we became unsettled. We lost our shape and we lost the ball too often." A through pass allowed striker Ádám Szalai to open the scoring in the 62nd minute and a similar penetration set substitute Zoltán Stieber free to chip the keeper with three minutes left.

The result put Hungary unexpectedly into the driving seat after Portugal – despite a 66% share of the ball and 27 goal attempts to 4 – let a 1-0 advantage slip against Iceland, conceding an equaliser early in the second half when Birkir Bjarnason turned in a cross from the right at the back post. Fernando Santos' preferred structure was 1-4-4-2 with Nani accompanying Cristiano Ronaldo up front, permuting to 1-4-3-3 with

the introduction of winger Ricardo Quaresma. For all their attacking potential, the team took time to get into a goalscoring stride. A similar script (a massive share of possession plus a 23-3 domination in goal attempts) failed to produce a win against Austria, with Ronaldo striking a penalty against a post during the goalless draw. Three hours earlier, Iceland had been more successful from the penalty spot to take the lead against Hungary, only to surrender points with an own goal in the 88th minute. The combination of results meant that all four places were open on the final matchday.

In unlikely fashion, Austria grabbed the place they least wanted. Koller started with a 1-3-5-2 structure, pushing the full-backs high into midfield. But, after conceding an early goal to a long throw-in on the Icelandic right and failing to convert a penalty, he made two changes during the break, withdrawing David Alaba into a controlling midfield role and switching to 1-4-2-3-1. The reward was a 60th-minute equaliser by substitute Alessandro Schöpf – but it was scant reward for constant pressure. Attacks frequently fizzled out at the edge of the Iceland box or shots were intercepted by heroic blocking. As the clock ticked down and a winner seemed inevitable, it came at the other end. Austria, throwing everything forward, left the back door open and a long solo run on the right by Elmar Bjarnason ended with fellow substitute Arni Traustason turning the ball in at the back post, the sheer drama intensifying Icelandic celebration and Austrian despair.

In the meantime, Portugal and Hungary were playing out a see-saw match in Lyon. Santos set up a 1-4-4-2 formation with William Carvalho and João Moutinho at the base and apex of a midfield diamond. With 1-1 on the scoreboard at half-time, he replaced Moutinho with Renato Sanches and switched to a flatter midfield. However, Hungary – with a corner and two free-kicks at the origin of their three goals – kept putting their noses in front, only for Ronaldo to finally rediscover his scoring touch as Portugal repeatedly came from behind to earn a 3-3 draw. That sufficed to guarantee Portugal progress despite failing to produce a win and finishing behind Hungary and Iceland in the final placings.

ROUND OF 16

Penalties, free-kicks, throw-ins, counterattacks, own goals, overhead kicks, resignations ... the round of 16 had a bit of everything. But Joachim Löw's prediction that the additional knockout round would "open up the tournament" took time to prove itself correct.

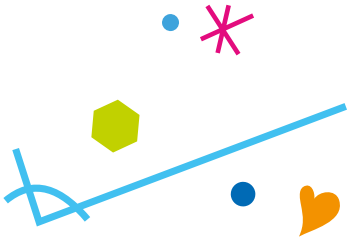
Switzerland 1-1 Poland (aet)

Poland win 5-4 on penalties

When Switzerland and Poland took to the ring in Saint-Etienne, more than two hours of sparring preceded the knockout punch, and with the teams mirroring each other's 1-4-2-3-1 structures, the first telling blow was a counterpunch. Poland keeper Łukasz Fabiański launched a 40m throw which quickly led to a cross from the left and, with a run-over that got the ball to the far side of the box, a cool finish by Jakub Błaszczykowski. Switzerland had 51 minutes to reply but, even though they dominated possession and took firm control, they needed until eight minutes from time to draw level. As the game moved into extra time, Xherdan Shaqiri's breathtaking overhead kick seemed to have swung the psychological pendulum in their favour. But mental momentum and a total of 29 attempts failed to produce a further goal, and when Granit Xhaka sent his spot kick wide, it ultimately proved enough for Poland to win a shoot-out in which the other nine penalties all hit the net.



Poland rush to congratulate Grzegorz Krychowiak for his shoot-out winner against Switzerland



France 2-1 Republic of Ireland

The drama unfolded as soon as the curtain went up in Lyon the next day. The clock was ticking into the second minute when Robbie Brady's penalty hit the net to put the Republic of Ireland ahead against the hosts. Martin O'Neill's team then went into 1-4-1-4-1 defending mode, springing out with relative frequency to scare the France defence. Didier Deschamps, however, made a shrewd tactical change at half-time, adding winger Kingsley Coman to the attacking equation and subtracting holding midfielder N'Golo Kanté from the defensive set-up. Within little over a quarter of an hour, a cross and a through ball had allowed Antoine Griezmann to score twice. When Shane Duffy was then dismissed, the writing was on the wall for the tiring Irish, three days behind their opponents in terms of rest and recovery since their previous game.

Ashley Williams outjumps Kyle Lafferty



Wales 1-0 Northern Ireland

And so to the Parc des Princes, where Wales and Northern Ireland turned deaf ears to Löw's prediction. As chief technical officer Ioan Lupescu remarked: "It was a typical British game, mostly about hard work and bravery." Michael O'Neill's team, pitting a 1-3-5-2 against a Welsh 1-3-4-2-1, used a numerical advantage in midfield to snuff out the attacking flair of Aaron Ramsey and Gareth Bale, and it was not until the 75th minute that the latter shook off the shackles with a deep run on the left and delivered a low cross that centre-back Gareth McAuley redirected into his own net. O'Neill immediately switched to 1-3-4-3 as a last-ditch measure but, after the cruelty of a shoot-out earlier in the day, the second game was decided by the cruelty of an own goal.



Croatia 0-1 Portugal (aet)

Hours later, there was a similar sting in the tail in Lens, where Group D winners Croatia, on the back of victory against Spain, took on a Portugal side that had yet to win a match. Fernando Santos made significant changes to his line-up, among them the injection of Adrien Silva to push up on Luka Modrić. The Croatia playmaker produced another outstanding performance nonetheless but, with Portugal focusing on defending well, the 90 minutes came to an end without either side delivering a shot on target. Santos had, however, made what UEFA observer Gareth Southgate regarded as "a key tactical switch", bringing on Renato Sanches in the 50th minute and "giving the team energy and drive while keeping defensive stability". Comfortably in control for most of the evening, Croatia were caught by a fast break three minutes from the end of extra time – a cross from the left giving Ronaldo a shooting opportunity and Ricardo Quaresma heading in the rebound off the keeper.



Luka Modrić's acrobatics keep Adrien Silva at bay



The introduction of Kingsley Coman turned the tide for France against the Republic of Ireland





Unlike in the 2008 quarter-final and the 2012 final, Spain were unable to find a way past Italy

"Germany produced a complete performance with strength in every category"



Germany 3-0 Slovakia

Another early dead-ball situation allowed Germany to break the deadlock against Slovakia in Lille, Jérôme Boateng volleying in from long range after a partially cleared corner. This heralded "a complete performance with strength in every category," as Southgate put it. A tactical switch to a narrower midfield at half-time kept Slovakia compact and allowed them to exert greater pressure on Germany's key players. Ján Kozák's team fought bravely until the end but could not contest the justice of the 3-0 scoreline.

Hungary 0-4 Belgium

Hungary coach Bernd Storck had more reasons to feel aggrieved after his 4-0 defeat by Belgium in Toulouse. Again, a set play broke the deadlock as early as the 10th minute but as the game went into its last quarter of an hour, the Hungarians were still only one goal adrift, having produced impressive wing play, crosses and (fruitless) goal attempts. But, as they opened up for a final onslaught, Belgium's counterattacking machine eased into top gear, a flurry of three late goals producing that eye-catching result.

Italy 2-0 Spain

The two games the following day produced two of the tournament's major surprises. First, the champions were knocked out. Italy took the match by the scruff of the neck, pressing Spain high and hard enough to oblige them to forsake their combination game and play long towards their front three. Italy's 1-3-5-2 gave them numerical superiority in midfield and allowed them to use those numbers in and around the Spain box during a first half which could be regarded as a tactical masterclass. Vicente del Bosque's team fought hard for an equaliser, only to be caught by a late counter. The goal by Graziano Pellè at 90+1 ended Spanish hopes of a hat-trick of titles.



Germany's Mats Hummels and Julian Draxler



Eden Hazard turned on the style against Hungary

England 1-2 Iceland

The final round of 16 match in Nice provided another tale of the unexpected. Yet again, the proceedings opened with an early dead-ball goal. But no sooner had Wayne Rooney's penalty seemed to confirm England's status as favourites against Iceland than the underdogs bit back. Within two minutes, a trademark long throw from the right wing produced an equaliser and, a dozen minutes later, a neat combination allowed Kolbeinn Sigthórsson to give the Icelanders a scent of victory – albeit a distant whiff, with 72 minutes still to play. But, as UEFA observer Ginés Meléndez said: "The

victory was a tribute to the work done by the coaching staff. The system is a simple one but its implementation approached perfection, with attention to every tiny detail of the mechanism." While accepting the plaudits, Iceland's co-coach Lars Lagerbäck said: "Coaching is not the easiest profession and one of the reasons I am sitting here is thanks to two English coaches: Roy Hodgson and Bob Houghton. I would like to express my respect for them." Hodgson's immediate resignation at the stadium in Nice rounded off a knockout round which had provided joy for some and had been cruel to others.

"The victory was a tribute to the work done by the coaching staff. The system is simple, but its implementation approached perfection"



Joy and despair: Iceland celebrate as England crash out



QUARTER-FINALS

Germany triumph in their heavyweight clash while France flex their muscles



Poland 1-1 Portugal (aet)

Portugal win 5-3 on penalties

There were more extremes of emotion when the quarter-finals kicked off at the Stade Vélodrome in Marseille. Against Poland, Portugal adhered to their counterattacking preferences, without undue interest in possession and relying on the pace of João Mário and the vivacity of Renato Sanches to strike sparks. Poland based their attacking arguments on direct passing to the front men and fast attacks along the flanks. But the game had no time to settle into a pattern before the deadlock was broken. A diagonal switch of play and a cutback from the left allowed Robert Lewandowski to score his first goal of the tournament and prompt the Poles to sit a tad deeper. They paid a price, however, when a neat combination with Nani set up Renato Sanches for a long-range equaliser in the 33rd minute. Another 90 minutes of play – both teams enduring extra time in the second successive game – failed to yield further goals and the issue was instead resolved when Rui Patrício saved Poland’s fourth spot kick to tee up a 5-3 shoot-out win for Santos’ side.

Wales 3-1 Belgium

Belgium, after a handsome victory against Hungary, seemed set to hit the replay button against Wales when Radja Nainggolan’s long-range bullet hit the target in the 13th minute. But permitting unmarked defender Ashley Williams to head in an equaliser from a corner was a psychological blow that was compounded by a knockout punch after the interval, when a brace of crosses from the right allowed Hal Robson-Kanu and his replacement Sam Vokes to seal a win for the pre-match underdogs and send Marc Wilmots’ team home.



Clockwise from above: Manuel Neuer leads the celebrations after Germany’s shoot-out win against Italy; France coach Didier Deschamps; Hal Robson-Kanu in mid-Cruyff turn before putting Wales ahead against Belgium; Portugal’s Renato Sanches and Ricardo Quaresma



Germany 1-1 Italy (aet)

Germany win 6-5 on penalties

Billed as a heavyweight contest between two world champions, the confrontation between Germany and Italy in Bordeaux featured a great deal of sparring but, in two hours of intense tactical tussling, only six on-target strikes – one every 20 minutes. Germany’s respect for their opponents was reflected in a change of structure, Löw opting to mirror Italy’s three-at-the-back formation, with Joshua Kimmich and Jonas Hector in the wing-back roles. A deflected cutback allowed Mesut Özil to put Germany ahead midway through the second half, only for a handball by Boateng to concede an equaliser from the penalty spot. It was a sign of things to come. The same penalty mark was used 18 times during a rollercoaster shoot-out in which seven penalties (including six of the first ten) failed to hit the net. Italy’s four failures ushered Germany into the final four.

"During a rollercoaster shoot-out 7 of 18 penalties failed to hit the net. Italy’s four failures ushered Germany into the final four"



France 5-2 Iceland

There was greater respect for the pre-tournament form book at the Stade de France, where the hosts raced into a 4-0 lead before half-time, exploiting uncharacteristic lapses by Iceland’s high defensive line and the attacking panache of Olivier Giroud, Dimitri Payet and Griezmann. To their credit, Iceland outscored France in the second half but, while the players were exchanging farewells with their noisy supporters, French heads were already turning towards a semi-final against Germany.



SEMI-FINALS

France took their chances as Germany missed theirs, while Wales' incredible run was finally brought to an end

Germany 0-2 France

As France celebrated reaching the semi-finals, German heads turned towards thoughts of absent friends – one in each line. Mario Gomez's injury robbed Löw of his reference point in attack, Sami Khedira's obliged him to draft the unblooded Emre Can into midfield, and Mats Hummels' suspension prompted a readjustment in the back line. Deschamps fielded the eleven who had successfully implemented his 1-4-2-3-1 formula against Iceland. Initially, it was successful against the Germans. Some 15 minutes of high pressing threatened to inflict damage while Löw's reshuffled pack was falling into place. But Germany gradually tightened their grip on the ball, controlling the tempo, building fluently from the back and threatening on the right, where Kimmich and Özil buzzed like wasps. But they struggled to deliver the sting. And when the sting finally came, during added time at the end of the first half, it was self-inflicted. The ball hit Bastian Schweinsteiger's hand as he jumped with Patrice Evra to contest a high ball, prompting referee Nicola Rizzoli to point to the penalty spot. Griezmann converted, allowing France to go in with an advantage after a period when they had been at the mercy of their opponents.

That goal led to a more balanced second half in which German frustrations were compounded by three excellent saves by Hugo Lloris and an injury to Boateng. Minutes later, and just after Deschamps had sent on Kanté for Payet in a bid to strengthen the midfield, Paul Pogba forced his way to the byline and his cross was palmed by Manuel Neuer to Griezmann, who thrust his studs at the ball and dispatched it into the net. Löw sent on Mario Götze and Leroy Sané for midfielders Can and Schweinsteiger but Germany's difficulties in the final third remained unaltered. France were into 'their' final.

Antoine Griezmann hits home his – and France's – second of the night to earn a place in the final



Cristiano Ronaldo flies high to head Portugal in front

Portugal 2-0 Wales

The form-book prediction that France's opponents would be Portugal was proved correct, Fernando Santos' side having booked their place in the final the previous day. Their giant-killing potential limited by the suspensions of Ben Davies and Ramsey, Wales fought valiantly against opponents prepared to sit back, entice them forward and strike like cobras. The match was settled in a three-minute spell

early in the second half. First, after a short corner, a cross from the left gave Ronaldo the opportunity to showcase his levitation skills and connect with an unstoppable header. Then, while the stadium was still rocking, a Ronaldo shot from long range was deflected into the net by the onrushing Nani. Chris Coleman brought all his attacking guns to bear but failed to hit the target. Portugal were to take on the hosts at the Stade de France.



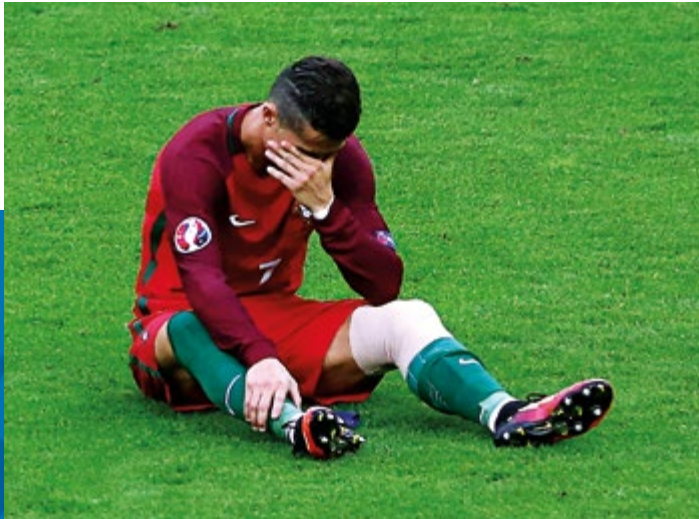
THE FINAL

A perfect blend of patience,
pragmatism and passion earned
Portugal their first major title

Team-mates rush to
congratulate Portugal's
match winner, Eder

With hindsight, the spectacular pageantry of the pre-match ceremony concealed an omen. The massive audience at the Stade de France got their first glimpse of the Henri Delaunay Cup as it was placed on its plinth by Xavi Hernández, whose combination of black suit and white trainers drew attention to the dancing feet that had epitomised the technical wizardry underpinning the possession play that Spain had made a hallmark of European football in the previous two finals, in Vienna and Kiev. Little did the audience realise at the time that he was symbolically handing over a baton. The event labelled Le Rendez-Vous seemed destined to end in a meeting between the cup and the hosts. The gods of football, however, are not obedient servants to pre-conceived ideas.

Supporters of Les Bleus were initially afforded a sense of security. They were familiar with Didier Deschamps' unchanged line-up, with the 1-4-2-3-1 set-up that



Clockwise from above: Cristiano Ronaldo is forced off by injury; André-Pierre Gignac hits the post as the clock ticks down; Moussa Sissoko strives to hold off Renato Sanches



"Fernando Santos was relieved to head into the dressing room at 0-0 at half-time with a chance to reanimate his team after the traumatic loss of their skipper"



had laid the foundations for France's most convincing performances thus far, and with the powerful start that jangled Portuguese nerves sufficiently for the Reds to direct a succession of passes innocuously into touch. Blaise Matuidi, operating alongside Paul Pogba in the controlling midfield positions, added muscle mass to the early France momentum, with vigorous ball-winning and a power run through the heart of Portugal's defensive block. His recipe appealed to Moussa Sissoko, again preferred by Deschamps to occupy the wide-right berth and to gravitate towards the centre, allowing right-back Bacary Sagna to run the line. Sissoko's muscular slaloms through the corridor adjacent to William Carvalho were France's main threats during the opening act of the drama.

Fernando Santos, in the meantime, was distraught, gesturing and cajoling players into position as he watched his midfield being outmanoeuvred. He had opted to deploy the youthful enthusiasm of Renato Sanches on the right, João Mário on the left and Adrien Silva in the central area, where Matuidi and Pogba were ruling the roost. His other concern was his captain. Cristiano Ronaldo had gone down after a challenge from Dimitri Payet and, after twice limping off the pitch for treatment to his left knee, made it third time unlucky after barely 25 minutes. One of the game's great artists had been removed from the arena.

The immediate response by the Portugal coach was to send on Ricardo Quaresma to play wide right, leave Nani alone up front, move Renato Sanches alongside Silva to quench the fires being stoked by Matuidi and Pogba, and add fluency to Portugal's transfer play through the central area. In possession, it was 1-4-3-3; defending, it quickly evolved into 1-4-5-1. In the meantime, the last line, emphatically marshalled by the outstanding Pepe, was holding firm. Goalkeeper Rui Patrício had flown to his right to turn a header by Antoine Griezmann over the bar and then performed well to take a firm hold on a header by striker Olivier Giroud after a corner. After a turbulent first half, Santos was relieved to head into the dressing room with 0-0 on the scoreboard and a chance to reanimate his team after the traumatic loss of their skipper.

France emerged for the second half with the same dynamics as in the first. Portugal's preference for defending with a middle-to-low block allowed them to build from the back. Aware of Portugal's countering potential, they nevertheless tended not to commit too many players forward, with the full-backs mainly echoing Matuidi and Pogba in preferring to support from behind. Counting on the solo abilities of Griezmann and Payet, they created chances through individual play or by capitalising on mistakes rather than elaborately manufactured passing moves. Defensively, they



limited Portugal to very few opportunities (a single attempt on target in the 90 minutes), with the back four staying compact and enjoying good protection from the rest of the team.

But, as if they had expended too much emotional energy during the semi-final against Germany, Deschamps' team suffered a gradual extinguishing of their creative flames. Griezmann, unmarked, headed a cross from the left fractionally over the bar, and everything that fell beneath it was competently dealt with by the impeccable Rui Patrício. Portugal refused to invest calories in undue chasing and pressing, which made their well-positioned defensive block difficult to play through. And they were quick to counter, posing threats in the wide areas through Quaresma and, even more so, Raphael Guerreiro. The young left-back was excellent in 1v1 defending, was good at positional covering and broke forward with pace and purpose, coupled with good quality on the ball. Hugo Lloris, barely tested, suddenly had to cope with a cross-shot that he palmed beyond the back post, and recovered in time to catch an overhead shot by Quaresma. Portugal, although on the back foot, were still capable of inflicting damage.

Deschamps sought to unbalance the Portugal defence by sending on Kingsley Coman to replace Payet and by replicating, minute for minute, his semi-final substitution of André-Pierre Gignac for Giroud. Santos removed the tiring Silva and the incorporation of João Moutinho into central midfield allowed his Xavi-like skills at twisting and turning to increase Portugal's flagging ball possession and fight more fires in the France engine room. His next move was to replace Renato Sanches with Éder (a striker whose previous cameo contributions had totalled just 13 minutes), allowing Nani and Quaresma to occupy the flanks. It was France, though, who came closest to breaking the deadlock in normal time when Gignac, receiving the ball close to the corner of the goal area, turned cleverly to strand his marker, only for his shot to bounce in slow motion off the inside of the post and back out again. When English referee Mark Clattenburg signalled the end of normal time, Portugal had suffered but survived – and had recovered a degree of control.

Apart from the golden goals that abruptly decided the 1996 and 2000 titles, the only goal scored during a full 30 minutes of extra time dated back to the first final, in Paris, in 1960. Expectations were therefore exceeded in the thrilling half-hour that ensued. With Ronaldo out on the touchline spelling out how to take a free-kick, Guerreiro struck a superb shot which, after beating Lloris, smacked against the crossbar. Yet few could have expected the knockout punch to arrive in the way it did.



Moutinho, latching on to the ball in the space between the centre circle and the left touchline, nudged a simple forward pass to Éder. The substitute striker turned his marker to face goal and cut inside without opponents closing him down enough to restrict his freedom of movement. He opted to hit a low right-footed drive, which was sufficiently strong and accurate to beat Lloris at his right-hand post: 1-0 to Portugal; 11 minutes to play.

Deschamps immediately replaced Sissoko with an extra forward – Anthony Martial – but to no avail. When the final whistle sounded,

the Portugal bench swarmed on to the pitch, Renato Sanches hitching a ride on the base of the giant replica of the Henri Delaunay Cup as it was being wheeled towards the centre circle. When the real thing was lifted by a jubilant Ronaldo, the baton had been passed – from the Spanish possession game to the Portuguese approach to defending as an art form and counterattacking with purpose. They had won only one game in the regulation 90 minutes, but their cocktail of pragmatism, tactical discipline and passion had earned them the right to lift the trophy for the first time.

MATCH STATISTICS

PORTUGAL 1-0 FRANCE (aet)
10 July 2016, Stade de France, Saint-Denis

GOAL
1-0 Éder 109

PORTUGAL
Rui Patrício; Cédric, Pepe, Fonte, Guerreiro; W. Carvalho; Renato Sanches (Éder 79), Adrien Silva (Moutinho 66), João Mário; Nani, Ronaldo (C) (Quaresma 25)

Yellow cards Cédric 34, João Mário 62, Guerreiro 95, W. Carvalho 98, Fonte 119, Rui Patrício 120+3

Coach Fernando Santos

FRANCE
Lloris (C); Sagna, Koscielny, Umtiti, Evra; Pogba, Matuidi; Sissoko (Martial 110), Griezmann, Payet (Coman 58); Giroud (Gignac 78)

Yellow cards Umtiti 80, Matuidi 97, Koscielny 107, Pogba 115

Coach Didier Deschamps

REFEREE
Mark Clattenburg (ENG)

ATTENDANCE
75,868

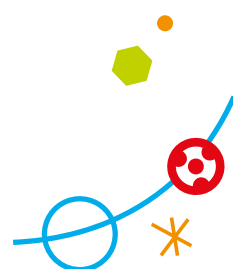
			
PORTUGAL		FRANCE	
1	Goals	0	
47%	Possession	53%	
9	Total attempts	18	
3	On target	7	
5	Off target	7	
1	Blocked	4	
1	Against woodwork	1	
5	Corners	9	
12	Fouls committed	13	
6	Yellow cards	4	
575	Passes	710	
496	Passes completed	644	
143.7km	Distance covered	138.1km	





THE WINNING COACH

Portugal's triumph echoed Greece's victory in 2004, when the Seleção were beaten on home soil



"I don't see a need to justify our style. It is designed to play to our strengths. If we spend time defending it is because other teams push us back. But we are always ready to bounce forward again." These were not the words of Fernando Santos. This is what Otto Rehhagel said when Greece defied the form books to beat Portugal 1-0 in the final of UEFA EURO 2004. Santos may not relish all comparisons with Rehhagel's footballing credo, but he will surely identify with the German's winning mentality after engineering a similar against-the-odds triumph in France.

Six years and nine days previously, he had taken over from Rehhagel at the head of the Greece national team – on the back of a spell at PAOK FC, where Theo Zagorakis, Greece captain and UEFA's player of the tournament in 2004, was director of football. This was by no means Santos' first Greek connection. He left FC Porto in 2001 to join AEK Athens FC and later moved across the city to join rivals Panathinaikos FC, before returning to AEK and then moving north to Thessaloniki to coach PAOK. At the helm of the Portugal national team since September 2014, he arrived in France enriched by big-tournament experience with Greece at UEFA EURO 2012 and the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

"Fernando deserves all the congratulations," said Ginés Meléndez, technical director at the Royal Spanish Football Federation and UEFA technical observer in France. "In the youth and senior teams, Portugal have a long history of 1-4-3-3 and he had the courage to change

that." Santos tinkered with it during the group stage which failed to yield a win. He switched personnel and then switched to a flatter midfield when he decided to inject the youthful spark of Renato Sanches at half-time in the last game against Hungary, after having experimented with João Moutinho at the apex of a diamond.

Other bold decisions were to introduce William Carvalho, player of the tournament at the previous year's European Under-21 Championship finals, as the screening and

thighs in frustration and giving vent to Rehhagel-like passion. But above the apparent emotional turmoil was a cool head. Once again, well-drilled defending and tactical discipline were the keystones. And his changes were shrewd and providential. As the clock ticked down on extra time, he stoically endured the verbal and physical intrusions of his injured captain Ronaldo and, when the final whistle heralded his ultimate success, he took refuge in the tunnel, emerging two minutes later to embrace his staff.

"Sometimes you have to be pragmatic. It would be nice to play pretty but that's not always how you win tournaments"

balancing element in front of the back four. And to opt for an attacking partnership of Nani and Cristiano Ronaldo – neither of them a target striker. "They play too far apart to link up," UEFA technical observer Gareth Southgate said after watching them against Croatia. "It's more of a defensive move by the coach, but looking to exploit transitions at every opportunity."

Whatever his decisions and no matter how successful they proved to be, Santos never appeared to be overly happy about them. On the touchline during the final, he seemed to radiate pent-up fury, pointing at players, slapping his



	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
France	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Albania	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Romania	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

France 2-1 Romania

Stade de France, Saint-Denis, 10 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Giroud 57, 1-1 Stancu 65 (p), 2-1 Payet 89
France Lloris (C); Sagna, Rami, Koscielny, Evra; Pogba (Martial 77), Kanté, Matuidi; Griezmann (Coman 66), Payet (Sissoko 90+2); Giroud
Romania Tătărușanu; Săpunaru, Chiricheș (C), Grigore, Raț; Pintilii, Hoban; Popa (Torje 82), Stanciu (Chipciu 72), Stancu; Andone (Alibec 61)
Yellow cards Giroud 69 (France); Chiricheș 32, Raț 45, Popa 78 (Romania)
Man of the match Payet
Referee Kassai (HUN); **AR** Ring, Tóth;
AAR Bognar, Farkas; **FO** Kuipers (NED)
Attendance 75,113

Albania 0-1 Switzerland

Stade Bollaert-Delelis, Lens Agglo, 11 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Schär 5
Albania Berisha; Hysaj, Cana (C), Mavraj, Agolli; Kukeli; Roshi (Çikalleshi 74), Abrashi, Xhaka (Kaçe 62), Lenjani; Sadiku (Gashi 82)
Switzerland Sommer; Lichtsteiner (C), Schär, Djourou, Rodríguez; Behrami, Xhaka; Shaqiri (Fernandes 88), Džemajli (Frei 76), Mehmedi (Embolo 62); Seferović
Yellow cards Cana 23, Kaçe 63, Kukeli 89, Mavraj 90+2 (Albania); Schär 14, Behrami 66 (Switzerland)
Yellow-red card Cana 36 (Albania)
Man of the match Granit Xhaka
Referee Velasco Carballo (ESP); **AR** Alonso, Yuste;
AAR Gil Manzano, Del Cerro; **FO** Van Boekel (NED)
Attendance 33,805

Romania 1-1 Switzerland

Parc des Princes, Paris, 15 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Stancu 18 (p), 1-1 Mehmedi 57
Romania Tătărușanu; Săpunaru, Chiricheș (C), Grigore, Raț (Filip 62); Prepelîță, Pintilii (Hoban 46); Torje, Stancu (Andone 84), Chipciu; Keșerü
Switzerland Sommer; Lichtsteiner (C), Schär, Djourou, Rodríguez; Behrami, Xhaka; Shaqiri (Tarashaj 90+1), Džemajli (Lang 83), Mehmedi; Seferović (Embolo 63)
Yellow cards Prepelîță 22, Chipciu 24, Keșerü 37, Grigore 76 (Romania); Xhaka 50, Embolo 90+4 (Switzerland)
Man of the match Xhaka
Referee Karasev (RUS); **AR** Golubev, Kalugin;
AAR Lapochkin, Ivanov; **FO** Kulbakov (BLR)
Attendance 43,576

France 2-0 Albania

Stade Vélodrome, Marseille, 15 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Griezmann 90, 2-0 Payet 90+6
France Lloris (C); Sagna, Rami, Koscielny, Evra; Kanté, Matuidi; Coman (Griezmann 68), Payet, Martial (Pogba 46); Giroud (Gignac 77)
Albania Berisha; Hysaj, Ajeti (Veseli 85), Mavraj, Agolli (C); Kukeli (Xhaka 74); Lila (Roshi 71), Abrashi, Memushaj, Lenjani; Sadiku
Yellow cards Kanté 88 (France); Kukeli 55, Abrashi 81 (Albania)
Man of the match Payet
Referee Collum (SCO); **AR** MacGraith (IRL), Connor;
AAR Madden, Beaton; **FO** Oliver (ENG)
Attendance 63,670

Romania 0-1 Albania

Stade de Lyon, 19 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Sadiku 43
Romania Tătărușanu; Săpunaru, Chiricheș (C), Grigore, Mățel; Prepelîță (Sănmărtean 46), Hoban; Popa (Andone 68), Stanciu, Stancu; Alibec (Torje 57)
Albania Berisha; Hysaj, Ajeti, Mavraj, Agolli (C); Basha (Cana 83); Lila, Memushaj, Abrashi, Lenjani (Roshi 77); Sadiku (Balaj 59)
Yellow cards Mățel 54, Săpunaru 85, Torje 90+3 (Romania); Basha 6, Memushaj 85, Hysaj 90+4 (Albania)
Man of the match Ajeti
Referee Královec (CZE); **AR** Slyško (SVK), Mokrusch;
AAR Ardeleanu, Paták; **FO** Sidiropoulos (GRE)
Attendance 49,752

Switzerland 0-0 France

Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille Métropole, 19 June 2016

Switzerland Sommer; Lichtsteiner (C), Schär, Djourou, Rodríguez; Behrami, Xhaka; Shaqiri (Fernandes 79), Džemajli, Mehmedi (Lang 86); Embolo (Seferović 74)
France Lloris (C); Sagna, Rami, Koscielny, Evra; Cabaye; Sissoko, Pogba; Griezmann (Matuidi 77), Coman (Payet 63); Gignac
Yellow cards Rami 25, Koscielny 83 (France)
Man of the match Sommer
Referee Skomina (SVN); **AR** Praprotnik, Vukan;
AAR Jug, Vinčić; **FO** Fritz (GER)
Attendance 45,616

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Wales	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
England	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Slovakia	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Russia	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

England 2-1 Wales

Stade Bollaert-Delelis, Lens Agglo, 16 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Bale 42, 1-1 Vardy 56, 2-1 Sturridge 90+2
England Hart; Walker, Cahill, Smalling, Rose; Alli, Dier, Rooney (C); Lallana (Rashford 73), Kane (Vardy 46), Sterling (Sturridge 46)
Wales Hennessey; Gunter, Chester, A. Williams (C), Davies, Taylor; Ramsey, Ledley (Edwards 67), Allen; Robson-Kanu (J. Williams 72), Bale
Yellow cards Davies 61 (Wales)
Man of the match Walker
Referee Brych (GER); **AR** Borsch, Lupp;
AAR Dankert, Fritz; **FO** Jug (SVN)
Attendance 34,033

Russia 0-3 Wales

Stadium de Toulouse, 20 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Ramsey 11, 0-2 Taylor 20, 0-3 Bale 67
Russia Akinfeev; Smolnikov, V. Berezutski (A. Berezutski 46), Ignashevich, Kombarov; Glushakov, Mamaev; Kokorin, Shirokov (C) (Golovin 52), Smolov (Samedov 70); Dzyuba
Wales Hennessey; Gunter, Chester, A. Williams (C), Davies, Taylor; Allen (Edwards 74), Ledley (King 76); Ramsey, Bale (Church 83); Vokes
Yellow cards Mamaev 64 (Russia); Vokes 16 (Wales)
Man of the match Ramsey
Referee Eriksson (SWE); **AR** Klasenius, Wärnmark;
AAR Johannesson, Strömbergsson; **FO** Orsato (ITA)
Attendance 28,840

Slovakia 0-0 England

Stade Geoffroy Guichard, Saint-Etienne, 20 June 2016

Slovakia Kozáčik; Pekarík, Škrtel (C), Ďurica, Hubočan; Kucka, Pečovský (Gyömbér 67), Hamšík; Mak, Duda (Švento 57), Weiss (Škriniar 78)
England Hart; Clyne, Cahill (C), Smalling, Bertrand; Henderson, Dier, Wilshere (Rooney 56); Sturridge (Kane 76), Lallana (Alli 61); Vardy
Yellow cards Pečovský 24 (Slovakia); Bertrand 52 (England)
Man of the match Kozáčik
Referee Velasco Carballo (ESP); **AR** Alonso, Yuste;
AAR Gil Manzano, Del Cerro; **FO** Damato (ITA)
Attendance 39,051

Wales 2-1 Slovakia

Stade de Bordeaux, 11 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Bale 10, 1-1 Duda 61, 2-1 Robson-Kanu 81
Wales Ward; Gunter, Chester, A. Williams (C), Davies, Taylor; Allen, Edwards (Ledley 69), Ramsey (Richards 88); J. Williams (Robson-Kanu 71), Bale
Slovakia Kozáčik; Pekarík, Škrtel (C), Ďurica, Švento; Kucka, Hrošovský (Duda 60), Hamšík; Mak, Ďuriš (Nemec 59), Weiss (Stoch 83)
Yellow cards Hrošovský 31, Mak 78, Weiss 80, Kucka 83, Škrtel 90+2 (Slovakia)
Man of the match Allen
Referee Moen (NOR); **AR** Haglund, Andås;
AAR Johnsen, Edvartsen; **FO** Kulbakov (BLR)
Attendance 37,831

England 1-1 Russia

Stade Vélodrome, Marseille, 11 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Dier 73, 1-1 V. Berezutski 90+2
England Hart; Walker, Cahill, Smalling, Rose; Alli, Dier, Rooney (C) (Wilshere 78), Lallana, Kane, Sterling (Milner 87)
Russia Akinfeev; Smolnikov, Ignashevich, V. Berezutski (C), Schennikov; Neustädter (Glushakov 80), Golovin (Shirokov 77); Kokorin, Shatov, Smolov (Mamaev 85); Dzyuba
Yellow cards Cahill 62 (England); Schennikov 72 (Russia)
Man of the match Dier
Referee Rizzoli (ITA); **AR** Di Liberatore, Tonolini;
AAR Orsato, Damato; **FO** Sidiropoulos (GRE)
Attendance 62,343

Russia 1-2 Slovakia

Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille Métropole, 15 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Weiss 32, 0-2 Hamšík 45, 1-2 Glushakov 80
Russia Akinfeev; Smolnikov, V. Berezutski (C), Ignashevich, Schennikov; Neustädter (Glushakov 46), Golovin (Mamaev 46); Kokorin (Shirokov 75), Shatov, Smolov; Dzyuba
Slovakia Kozáčik; Pekarík, Škrtel (C), Ďurica, Hubočan; Kucka, Pečovský, Hamšík; Mak (Ďuriš 80) Duda (Nemec 67), Weiss (Švento 72)
Yellow cards Ďurica 46 (Slovakia)
Man of the match Hamšík
Referee Skomina (SVN); **AR** Praprotnik, Vukan;
AAR Jug, Vinčić; **FO** Eriksson (SWE)
Attendance 38,989

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Germany	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Poland	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
Northern Ireland	3	1	0	2	2	2	3
Ukraine	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

Poland 1-0 Northern Ireland

Stade de Nice, 12 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Milik 51
Poland Szczęсны; Piszczek; Glik, Pazdan, Jędrzejczyk; Błaszczykowski (Grosicki 80), Krychowiak, Mączyński (Jodłowiec 78), Kapustka (Peszko 88); Milik, Lewandowski (C)
Northern Ireland McGovern; McLaughlin, Cathcart, McAuley, J. Evans, Ferguson (Washington 66); McNair (Dallas 46), Baird (Ward 76), Norwood; Davis (C); Lafferty
Yellow cards Kapustka 65, Piszczek 89 (Poland); Cathcart 69 (Northern Ireland)
Man of the match Krychowiak
Referee Hațegan (ROU); **AR** Șovre, Gheorghe;
AAR Tudor, Colțescu; **FO** Sidiropoulos (GRE)
Attendance 33,742

Germany 2-0 Ukraine

Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille Métropole, 12 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Mustafa 19, 2-0 Schweinsteiger 90+2
Germany Neuer (C); Höwedes, Boateng, Mustafa, Hector; Khedira, Kroos; Müller, Özil, Draxler (Schürrle 78); Götze (Schweinsteiger 90)
Ukraine Pyatov; Fedetskiy, Khacheridi, Rakitskiy, Shevchuk (C); Sydorchuk, Stepanenko; Yarmolenko, Kovalenko (Zinchenko 73), Konoplyanka; Zozulya (Seleznyov 66)
Yellow cards Konoplyanka 68 (Ukraine)
Man of the match Kroos
Referee Atkinson (ENG); **AR** Mullarkey, Child;
AAR Oliver, Pawson; **FO** Madden (SCO)
Attendance 43,035

Ukraine 0-2 Northern Ireland

Stade de Lyon, 16 June 2016

Goals 0-1 McAuley 49, 0-2 McGinn 90+6
Ukraine Pyatov; Fedetskiy, Khacheridi, Rakitskiy, Shevchuk (C); Sydorchuk (Garmash 76), Stepanenko; Yarmolenko, Kovalenko (Zinchenko 83), Konoplyanka; Seleznyov (Zozulya 71)
Northern Ireland McGovern; Hughes, Cathcart, McAuley, J. Evans; Norwood; Ward (McGinn 69), C. Evans (McNair 90+3), Davis (C), Dallas; Washington (Magennis 84)
Yellow cards Seleznyov 40, Sydorchuk 67 (Ukraine); Ward 63, Dallas 87, J. Evans 90+5 (Northern Ireland)
Man of the match McAuley
Referee Kráľovec (CZE); **AR** Slyško (SVK), Mokrusch;
AAR Ardeleanu, Paták; **FO** Sidiropoulos (GRE)
Attendance 51,043

Germany 0-0 Poland

Stade de France, Saint-Denis, 16 June 2016

Germany Neuer (C); Höwedes, Boateng, Hummels, Hector; Khedira, Kroos; Müller, Özil, Draxler (Gomez 71); Götze (Schürrle 66)
Poland Fabiański; Piszczek, Glik, Pazdan, Jędrzejczyk; Błaszczykowski (Kapustka 80), Krychowiak, Mączyński (Jodłowiec 76), Grosicki (Peszko 87); Milik, Lewandowski (C)
Yellow cards Khedira 3, Özil 34, Boateng 67 (Germany); Mączyński 45, Grosicki 55, Peszko 90+3 (Poland)
Man of the match Boateng
Referee Kuipers (NED); **AR** Van Roekel, Zeinstra;
AAR Van Boekel, Liesveld; **FO** Orsato (ITA)
Attendance 73,648

Ukraine 0-1 Poland

Stade Vélodrome, Marseille, 21 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Błaszczykowski 54
Ukraine Pyatov; Fedetskiy, Khacheridi, Kucher;Butko; Rotan (C), Stepanenko; Yarmolenko, Zinchenko (Kovalenko 73), Konoplyanka; Zozulya (Tymoshchuk 90+2)
Poland Fabiański; Cionek, Glik, Pazdan, Jędrzejczyk; Jodłowiec, Krychowiak; Milik (Starzyński 90+3), Zieliński (Błaszczykowski 46), Kapustka (Grosicki 71); Lewandowski (C)
Yellow cards Rotan 25, Kucher 38 (Ukraine); Kapustka 60 (Poland)
Man of the match Rotan
Referee Moen (NOR); **AR** Haglund, Andås;
AAR Johnsen, Edvartsen; **FO** Göçek (TUR)
Attendance 58,874

Northern Ireland 0-1 Germany

Parc des Princes, Paris, 21 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Gomez 30
Northern Ireland McGovern; Hughes, Cathcart, McAuley, J. Evans; Norwood; Ward (Magennis 70), C. Evans (McGinn 84), Davis (C), Dallas; Washington (Lafferty 59)
Germany Neuer (C); Kimmich, Boateng (Höwedes 76), Hummels, Hector; Khedira (Schweinsteiger 69), Kroos; Müller, Özil, Götze (Schürrle 55); Gomez
Cards None
Man of the match Özil
Referee Turpin (FRA); **AR** Cano, Danos;
AAR Bastien, Fautrel; **FO** Vinčić (SVN)
Attendance 44,125

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Croatia	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Spain	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Turkey	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Czech Republic	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

Turkey 0-1 Croatia

Parc des Princes, Paris, 12 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Modrić 41
Turkey Volkan Babacan; Gökhan Gönül, Mehmet Topal, Hakan Balta, Caner Erkin; Ozan Tufan, Selçuk İnan, Oğuzhan Özyakup (Volkan Şen 46); Hakan Çalhanoğlu, Arda Turan (C) (Burak Yılmaz 65); Cenk Tosun (Emre Mor 69)
Croatia Subašić; Srna (C), Čorluka, Vida, Strinić; Brozović, Modrić, Badelj, Perišić (Kramarić 87); Rakitić (Schlindenfeld 90); Mandžukić (Pjaca 90+3)
Yellow cards Cenk Tosun 31, Hakan Balta 48, Volkan Şen 90+1 (Turkey); Strinić 80 (Croatia)
Man of the match Modrić
Referee Eriksson (SWE); **AR** Klasenius, Wärnmark;
AAR Johannesson, Strömbergsson; **FO** Collum (SCO)
Attendance 43,842

Spain 1-0 Czech Republic

Stadium de Toulouse, 13 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Piqué 87
Spain De Gea; Juanfran, Piqué, Ramos (C), Jordi Alba; Fàbregas (Thiago Alcántara 70), Busquets, Iniesta; Silva, Morata (Aduriz 62), Nolito (Pedro 82)
Czech Republic Čech; Kadeřábek, Sivok, Hubník, Limberský; Darida, Plašil; Gebre Selassie (Šural 86), Rosický (C) (Pavelka 88), Krejčí; Necid (Lafata 75)
Yellow cards Limberský 61 (Czech Republic)
Man of the match Iniesta
Referee Marciniak (POL); **AR** Sokolnicki, Listkiewicz;
AAR Raczkowski, Musiał; **FO** Kulbakov (BLR)
Attendance 29,400

Czech Republic 2-2 Croatia

Stade Geoffroy Guichard, Saint-Etienne, 17 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Perišić 37, 0-2 Rakitić 59, 1-2 Škoda 76, 2-2 Necid 89 (p)
Czech Republic Čech; Kadeřábek, Sivok, Hubník, Limberský; Darida, Plašil (Necid 86); Skalák (Šural 67), Rosický (C), Krejčí; Lafata (Škoda 67)
Croatia Subašić; Srna (C), Čorluka, Vida, Strinić (Vrsaljko 90+3); Brozović, Modrić (Kovačić 62), Badelj, Perišić; Rakitić (Schlindenfeld 90+2); Mandžukić
Yellow cards Sivok 72 (Czech Republic); Badelj 14, Brozović 74, Vida 88 (Croatia)
Man of the match Rakitić
Referee Clattenburg (ENG); **AR** Beck, Collin;
AAR Taylor, Marriner; **FO** Sidiropoulos (GRE)
Attendance 38,376

Spain 3-0 Turkey

Stade de Nice, 17 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Morata 34, 2-0 Nolito 37, 3-0 Morata 48
Spain De Gea; Juanfran, Piqué, Ramos (C), Jordi Alba (Azpilicueta 81); Fàbregas (Koke 71), Busquets, Iniesta; Silva (Bruno 64), Morata, Nolito
Turkey Volkan Babacan; Gökhan Gönül, Mehmet Topal, Hakan Balta, Caner Erkin; Ozan Tufan, Selçuk İnan (Yunus Mallı 70), Oğuzhan Özyakup (Olca Şahan 62); Hakan Çalhanoğlu (Nuri Şahin 46), Arda Turan (C); Burak Yılmaz
Yellow cards Ramos 2 (Spain); Burak Yılmaz 9, Ozan Tufan 41 (Turkey)
Man of the match Iniesta
Referee Mažić (SRB); **AR** Ristić, Djurdjević;
AAR Grujić, Djokić; **FO** Kulbakov (BLR)
Attendance 33,409

Czech Republic 0-2 Turkey

Stade Bollaert-Delelis, Lens Agglo, 21 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Burak Yılmaz 10, 0-2 Ozan Tufan 65
Czech Republic Čech (C); Kadeřábek, Sivok, Hubník, Pudil; Pavelka (Škoda 57); Plašil (Kolář 90), Darida; Dočkal (Šural 71), Krejčí; Necid
Turkey Volkan Babacan; Gökhan Gönül, Mehmet Topal, Hakan Balta, İsmail Köybaşı; Ozan Tufan, Selçuk İnan; Emre Mor (Olca Şahan 69), Arda Turan (C), Volkan Şen (Oğuzhan Özyakup 61); Burak Yılmaz (Cenk Tosun 90)
Yellow cards Plašil 36, Pavelka 39, Šural 87 (Czech Republic); Köybaşı 35, Balta 50 (Turkey)
Man of the match Burak Yılmaz
Referee Collum (SCO); **AR** MacGrraith (IRL), Connor;
AAR Madden, Beaton; **FO** Lapochkin (RUS)
Attendance 32,836

Croatia 2-1 Spain

Stade de Bordeaux, 21 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Morata 7, 1-1 N. Kalinić 45, 2-1 Perišić 87
Croatia Subašić; Srna (C), Čorluka, Jedvaj, Vrsaljko; Pjaca (Čop 90+2), Rog (Kovačić 82), Badelj, Perišić (Kramarić 90+4); Rakitić; Kalinić
Spain De Gea; Juanfran, Piqué, Ramos (C), Jordi Alba; Fàbregas (Thiago Alcántara 84), Busquets, Iniesta; Silva, Morata (Aduriz 67), Nolito (Bruno 60)
Yellow cards Rog 29, Vrsaljko 70, Srna 70, Perišić 88 (Croatia)
Man of the match Perišić
Referee Kuipers (NED); **AR** Van Roekel, Zeinstra;
AAR Van Boekel, Liesveld; **FO** Kassai (HUN)
Attendance 37,245

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Italy	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Belgium	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Republic of Ireland	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Sweden	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Republic of Ireland 1-1 Sweden

Stade de France, Saint-Denis, 13 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Hoolahan 48, 1-1 Clark 71 (o.g.)
Republic of Ireland Randolph; Coleman, O'Shea (C), Clark, Brady; McCarthy (McGeady 85), Whelan, Hendrick; Hoolahan (Keane 78), Walters (McClean 64), Long
Sweden Isaksson; Lustig (Johansson 45), Lindelöf, Granqvist, Olsson; Larsson, Lewicki (Ekdal 86), Källström, Forsberg; Berg (Guidetti 59), Ibrahimović (C)
Yellow cards McCarthy 43, Whelan 77 (Republic of Ireland); Lindelöf 61 (Sweden)
Man of the match Hoolahan
Referee Mažić (SRB); **AR** Ristić, Djurdjević;
AAR Grujić, Djokić; **FO** Jug (SVN)
Attendance 73,419

Belgium 0-2 Italy

Stade de Lyon, 13 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Giaccherini 32, 0-2 Pellè 90+3
Belgium Courtois; Ciman (Carrasco 76), Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen; Nainggolan (Mertens 62), Witsel; De Bruyne, Fellaini, Hazard (C); R. Lukaku (Origi 73)
Italy Buffon (C); Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini; Candreva, Parolo, De Rossi (Motta 78), Giaccherini, Darmian (De Sciglio 58); Pellè, Éder (Immobile 75)
Yellow cards Vertonghen 90+2 (Belgium); Chiellini 65, Éder 75, Bonucci 78, Motta 84 (Italy)
Man of the match Giaccherini
Referee Clattenburg (ENG); **AR** Beck, Collin;
AAR Taylor, Marriner; **FO** Del Cerro (ESP)
Attendance 55,408

Italy 1-0 Sweden

Stadium de Toulouse, 17 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Éder 88
Italy Buffon (C); Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini; Florenzi (Sturaro 85), Parolo, De Rossi (Motta 74), Giaccherini, Candreva; Pellè (Zaza 60), Éder
Sweden Isaksson; Lindelöf, Johansson, Granqvist, Olsson; Larsson, Ekdal (Lewicki 79), Källström, Forsberg (Durmaz 79); Guidetti (Berg 85), Ibrahimović (C)
Yellow cards De Rossi 69, Buffon 90+3 (Italy); Olsson 89 (Sweden)
Man of the match Éder
Referee Kassai (HUN); **AR** Ring, Tóth;
AAR Bognar, Farkas; **FO** Turpin (FRA)
Attendance 29,600

Belgium 3-0 Republic of Ireland

Stade de Bordeaux, 18 June 2016

Goals 1-0 R. Lukaku 48, 2-0 Witsel 61, 3-0 R. Lukaku 70
Belgium Courtois; Meunier, Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen; Witsel, Dembélé (Nainggolan 57); Carrasco (Mertens 64), De Bruyne, Hazard (C); R. Lukaku (Benteke 83)
Republic of Ireland Randolph; Coleman, O'Shea (C), Clark, Ward; Hendrick, Whelan, McCarthy (McClean 62), Brady; Hoolahan (McGeady 71); Long (Keane 79)
Yellow cards Vermaelen 49 (Belgium); Hendrick 42 (Republic of Ireland)
Man of the match Witsel
Referee Çakır (TUR); **AR** Duran, Ongun;
AAR Göçek, Şimşek; **FO** Bastien (FRA)
Attendance 39,493

Italy 0-1 Republic of Ireland

Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille Métropole, 22 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Brady 85
Italy Sirigu; Barzagli, Bonucci (C), Ogbonna; Bernardeschi (Darmian 60), Sturaro, Motta, Florenzi, De Sciglio (El Shaarawy 81); Zaza, Immobile (Insigne 74)
Republic of Ireland Randolph; Coleman (C), Duffy, Keogh, Ward; McCarthy (Hoolahan 77); Hendrick, Brady; Murphy (McGeady 70), McClean; Long (Quinn 90)
Yellow cards Sirigu 39, Barzagli 78, Zaza 87, Insigne 90+1 (Italy); Long 39, Ward 73 (Republic of Ireland)
Man of the match Brady
Referee Hăgegan (ROU); **AR** Şovre, Gheorghe;
AAR Tudor, Colţescu; **FO** Sidiropoulos (GRE)
Attendance 44,268

Sweden 0-1 Belgium

Stade de Nice, 22 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Nainggolan 84
Sweden Isaksson; Lindelöf, Johansson, Granqvist, Olsson; Larsson (Durmaz 70), Ekdal, Källström, Forsberg (Zengin 82); Berg (Guidetti 63), Ibrahimović (C)
Belgium Courtois; Meunier, Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen; Nainggolan, Witsel; Carrasco (Mertens 71), De Bruyne, Hazard (C) (Origi 90+3); R. Lukaku (Benteke 87)
Yellow cards Ekdal 33, Johansson 36 (Sweden); Meunier 30, Witsel 45+1 (Belgium)
Man of the match Hazard
Referee Brych (GER); **AR** Borsch, Lupp;
AAR Dankert, Fritz; **FO** Jug (SVN)
Attendance 34,011

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Hungary	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
Iceland	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Portugal	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Austria	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

Portugal 0-0 Austria

Parc des Princes, Paris, 18 June 2016

Portugal Rui Patrício; Vieirinha, Pepe, R. Carvalho, Guerreiro; Quaresma (João Mário 71), W. Carvalho, Moutinho, André Gomes (Éder 83); Nani (Rafa Silva 89), Ronaldo (C)
Austria Almer; Klein, Prödl, Hinteregger, Fuchs (C); Baumgartlinger, Ilsanker (Wimmer 87); Sabitzer (Hinterseer 85), Alaba (Schöpf 65), Arnautović; Harnik
Yellow cards Quaresma 31, Pepe 40 (Portugal); Harnik 47, Fuchs 60, Hinteregger 78, Schöpf 86 (Austria)
Man of the match Moutinho
Referee Rizzoli (ITA); **AR** Di Liberatore, Tonolini;
AAR Orsato, Damato; **FO** Tudor (ROU)
Attendance 44,291

Iceland 2-1 Austria

Stade de France, Saint-Denis, 22 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Bødvarsson 18, 1-1 Schöpf 60, 2-1 Traustason 90+4
Iceland Halldórsson; Sævarsson, Árnason, R. Sigurdsson, Skúlason; Gudmundsson (Ingason 86), Gunnarsson (C), G. Sigurdsson, B. Bjarnason; Sighthórsson (Traustason 80), Bødvarsson (E. Bjarnason 71)
Austria Almer; Prödl (Schöpf 46), Dragović, Hinteregger; Klein, Baumgartlinger, Ilsanker (Janko 46), Fuchs (C); Sabitzer (Jantscher 78), Alaba, Arnautović
Yellow cards Skúlason 36, Sighthórsson 51, Árnason 78, Halldórsson 82 (Iceland); Janko 70 (Austria)
Man of the match Árnason
Referee Marciniak (POL); **AR** Sokolnicki, Listkiewicz;
AAR Raczkowski, Musiał; **FO** Clattenburg (ENG)
Attendance 68,714

Hungary 3-3 Portugal

Stade de Lyon, 22 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Gera 19, 1-1 Nani 42, 2-1 Dzsudzsák 47, 2-2 Ronaldo 50, 3-2 Dzsudzsák 55, 3-3 Ronaldo 62
Hungary Király; Lang, Juhász, Guzmics, Korhut; Elek, Gera (Bese 46); Lovrencsics (Stieber 83); Pintér, Dzsudzsák (C); Szalai (Németh 71)
Portugal Rui Patrício; Vieirinha, Pepe, R. Carvalho, Eliseu; W. Carvalho; João Mário, Moutinho (Renato Sanches 46), André Gomes (Quaresma 61); Nani (Danilo 81), Ronaldo (C)
Yellow cards Guzmics 13, Juhász 28, Gera 34, Dzsudzsák 56 (Hungary)
Man of the match Ronaldo
Referee Atkinson (ENG); **AR** Mullarkey, Child;
AAR Oliver, Pawson; **FO** Kulbakov (BLR)
Attendance 55,514

ROUND OF 16

Switzerland 1-1 Poland (aet)

Poland win 5-4 on penalties

Stade Geoffroy Guichard, Saint-Etienne, 25 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Błaszczykowski 39, 1-1 Shaqiri 82

Penalty shoot-out (Switzerland started) 1-0 Lichtsteiner, 1-1 Lewandowski, 1-1 Khaka (wide), 1-2 Milik, 2-2 Shaqiri, 2-3 Glik, 3-3 Schär, 3-4 Błaszczykowski, 4-4 Rodríguez, 4-5 Krychowiak
Switzerland Sommer; Lichtsteiner (C), Schär, Djourou, Rodríguez; Behrami (Fernandes 77), Khaka; Shaqiri, Džemajli (Embolo 58), Mehmedi (Derdiyok 70); Seferović

Poland Fabiański; Piszczek, Glik, Pazdan, Jędrzejczyk; Krychowiak, Mączyński (Jodłowiec 101); Błaszczykowski, Milik, Grosicki (Peszko 104); Lewandowski (C)

Yellow cards Schär 55, Djourou 117 (Switzerland); Jędrzejczyk 58, Pazdan 111 (Poland)

Man of the match Shaqiri

Referee Clattenburg (ENG); **AR** Beck, Collin;

AAR Taylor, Marriner; **FO** Sidiropoulos (GRE)

Attendance 38,842

Wales 1-0 Northern Ireland

Parc des Princes, Paris, 25 June 2016

Goals 1-0 McAuley 75 (o.g.)

Wales Hennessey; Chester, A. Williams (C), Davies; Gunter, Allen, Ramsey, Ledley (J. Williams 63), Taylor; Bale; Vokes (Robson-Kanu 55)

Northern Ireland McGovern; Hughes, Cathcart, McAuley (Magennis 84), Evans, Dallas; Davis (C), Evans, Norwood (McGinn 79); Ward (Washington 69), Lafferty

Yellow cards Taylor 58, Ramsey 90+4 (Wales); Dallas 44, Davis 67 (Northern Ireland)

Man of the match Bale

Referee Atkinson (ENG); **AR** Mullarkey, Child;

AAR Oliver, Pawson; **FO** Brych (GER)

Attendance 44,342



Wales coach
Chris Coleman

Croatia 0-1 Portugal (aet)

Stade Bollaert-Delelis, Lens Agglo, 25 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Quaresma 117

Croatia Subašić; Srna (C), Čortuka (Kramarić 120), Vida, Strinić; Modrić, Badelj; Brozović, Rakitić (Pjaca 110), Perišić; Mandžukić (Kalinić 88)

Portugal Rui Patrício; Cédric, Pepe, Fonte, Guerreiro; W. Carvalho; João Mário (Quaresma 87), Adrien Silva (Danilo 108), André Gomes (Renato Sanches 50); Nani, Ronaldo (C)

Yellow cards W. Carvalho 78 (Portugal)

Man of the match Renato Sanches

Referee Velasco Carballo (ESP); **AR** Alonso, Yuster;

AAR Gil Manzano, Del Cerro; **FO** Kassai (HUN)

Attendance 33,523

France 2-1 Republic of Ireland

Stade de Lyon, 26 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Brady 2 (p), 1-1 Griezmann 58, 1-2 Griezmann 61

France Lloris (C); Sagna, Rami, Koscielny, Evra; Matuidi, Kanté (Coman 46) (Sissoko 90+3), Pogba; Griezmann, Payet; Giroud (Gignac 73)

Republic of Ireland Randolph; Coleman (C), Duffy, Keogh, Ward; McCarthy (Hoolahan 71); Hendrick, Brady, McClean (O'Shea 68); Long; Murphy (Walters 65)

Yellow cards Kanté 27, Rami 44 (France); Coleman 25, Hendrick 41, Long 72 (Republic of Ireland);

Red card Duffy 66 (Republic of Ireland)

Man of the match Griezmann

Referee Rizzoli (ITA); **AR** Di Liberatore, Tonolini;

AAR Orsato, Damato; **FO** Kulbakov (BLR)

Attendance 56,279



Ricardo Quaresma
struck Portugal's late
winner against Croatia

Germany 3-0 Slovakia

Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille Métropole, 26 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Boateng 8, 2-0 Gomez 43, 3-0 Draxler 63

Germany Neuer (C); Kimmich, Boateng (Höwedes 72), Hummels, Hector; Khedira (Schweinsteiger 76), Kroos; Özil, Müller, Draxler (Podolski 72); Gomez

Slovakia Kozáčik; Pekarič, Škrtel (C), Ďurica, Gyömbér (Saláta 84); Hrošovský, Škriniar, Hamšík; Kucka, Ďuriš (Šesták 64), Weiss (Greguš 46)

Yellow cards Kimmich 46, Hummels 67 (Germany); Škrtel 13, Kucka 90+1 (Slovakia)

Man of the match Draxler

Referee Marciniak (POL); **AR** Sokolnicki, Listkiewicz;

AAR Raczkowski, Musiał; **FO** Kuipers (NED)

Attendance 44,312

Hungary 0-4 Belgium

Stadium de Toulouse, 26 June 2016

Goals 0-1 Alderweireld 10, 0-2 Batshuayi 78, 0-3 Hazard 80, 0-4 Carrasco 90+1

Hungary Király; Lang, Guzmics, Juhász (Böde 79), Kádár; Nagy, Gera (Elek 46); Lovrencsics, Pintér (Nikolić 75), Dzsudzsák (C); Szalai

Belgium Courtois; Meunier, Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen; Nainggolan, Witsel; De Bruyne; Mertens (Carrasco 70), R. Lukaku (Batshuayi 76), Hazard (C) (Fellaini 81)

Yellow cards Kádár 34, Lang 47, Elek 61, Szalai 90+2 (Hungary); Vermaelen 67, Batshuayi 89, Fellaini 90+2 (Belgium)

Man of the match Hazard

Referee Mažić (SRB); **AR** Ristić, Djurdjević;

AAR Grujić, Djokić; **FO** Eriksson (SWE)

Attendance 28,921



Jérôme Boateng fires Germany in front against Slovakia

Italy 2-0 Spain

Stade de France, Saint-Denis, 27 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Chiellini 33, 2-0 Pellè 90+1

Italy Buffon (C); Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini; Florenzi (Darmian 84), Parolo, De Rossi (Motta 54), Giaccherini, De Sciglio; Éder (Insigne 82), Pellè

Spain De Gea; Juanfran, Piqué, Ramos (C), Jordi Alba; Fàbregas, Busquets, Iniesta; Silva, Morata (Lucas Vázquez 70), Nolito (Aduriz 46) (Pedro 81)

Yellow cards De Sciglio 24, Pellè 54, Motta 89 (Italy); Nolito 41, Busquets 89, Jordi Alba 89, Silva 90+4 (Spain)

Man of the match Bonucci

Referee Çakır (TUR); **AR** Duran, Ongun;

AAR Göçek, Şimşek; **FO** Atkinson (ENG)

Attendance 76,165

England 1-2 Iceland

Stade de Nice, 27 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Rooney 4 (p), 1-1 R. Sigurdsson 6, 1-2 Sigthórsson 18

England Hart; Walker, Cahill, Smalling, Rose; Alli, Dier (Wilshere 46), Rooney (C) (Rashford 87); Sturridge, Kane, Sterling (Vardy 60)

Iceland Halldórsson; Sævarsson, Árnason, R. Sigurdsson, Skúlason; Gudmundsson, Gunnarsson (C), G. Sigurdsson, B. Bjarnason; Sigthórsson (E. Bjarnason 76), Bödvarsson (Traustason 89)

Yellow cards Sturridge 47 (England); G. Sigurdsson 38, Gunnarsson 65 (Iceland)

Man of the match R. Sigurdsson

Referee Skomina (SVN); **AR** Praprotnik, Vukan;

AAR Jug, Vinčić; **FO** Velasco Carballo (ESP)

Attendance 33,901



Italy captain
Gianluigi Buffon

QUARTER-FINALS

Poland 1-1 Portugal (aet)

Portugal win 5-3 on penalties

Stade Vélodrome, Marseille, 30 June 2016

Goals 1-0 Lewandowski 2, 1-1 Renato Sanches 33

Penalty shoot-out (Portugal started) 1-0 Ronaldo, 1-1 Lewandowski, 2-1 Renato Sanches, 2-2 Milik, 3-2 Moutinho, 3-3 Glik, 4-3 Nani, 4-3 Błaszczykowski (saved), 5-3 Quaresma

Poland Fabiański; Piszczek, Glik, Pazdan, Jędrzejczyk; Błaszczykowski, Krychowiak, Mączyński (Jodłowiec 98), Grosicki (Kapustka 82); Milik, Lewandowski (C)

Portugal Rui Patrício; Cédric, Pepe, Fonte, Eliseu; W. Carvalho (Danilo 96); João Mário (Quaresma 80), Renato Sanches, Adrien Silva (Moutinho 73); Nani, Ronaldo (C)

Yellow cards Jędrzejczyk 42, Glik 66, Kapustka 89 (Poland); Adrien Silva 70, W. Carvalho 90+2 (Portugal)

Man of the match Renato Sanches

Referee Brych (GER); AR Borsch, Lupp;

AAR Dankert, Fritz; FO Mažić (SRB)

Attendance 62,940

Wales 3-1 Belgium

Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille Métropole, 1 July 2016

Goals 0-1 Nainggolan 13, 1-1 A. Williams 31, 2-1 Robson-Kanu 55, 3-1 Vokes 86

Wales Hennessey; Chester, A. Williams (C), Davies; Gunter, Allen, Ledley (King 78), Taylor; Bale, Ramsey (Collins 90); Robson-Kanu (Vokes 80)

Belgium Courtois; Meunier, Alderweireld, Denayer, J. Lukaku (Mertens 75); Nainggolan, Witsel; Carrasco (Fellaini 46), De Bruyne, Hazard (C); R. Lukaku (Batshuayi 83)

Yellow cards Davies 5, Chester 16, Gunter 24, Ramsey 75 (Wales); Fellaini 59, Alderweireld 85 (Belgium)

Man of the match Robson-Kanu

Referee Skomina (SVN); AR Praprotnik, Vukan;

AAR Jug, Vinčić; FO Rizzoli (ITA)

Attendance 45,936

Germany 1-1 Italy (aet)

Germany win 6-5 on penalties

Stade de Bordeaux, 2 July 2016

Goals 1-0 Özil 65, 1-1 Bonucci 78 (p)

Penalty shoot-out (Italy started) 1-0 Insigne, 1-1 Kroos, 1-1 Zaza (wide), 1-1 Müller (saved), 2-1 Barzagli, 2-1 Özil (post), 2-1 Pellè (wide), 2-2 Draxler, 2-2 Bonucci (saved), 2-2 Schweinsteiger (wide), 3-2 Giaccherini, 3-3 Hummels, 4-3 Parolo, 4-4 Kimmich, 5-4 De Sciglio, 5-5 Boateng, 5-5 Darmian (saved), 5-6 Hector

Germany Neuer (C); Höwedes, Boateng, Hummels; Kimmich, Khedira (Schweinsteiger 16), Kroos, Hector; Müller, Özil; Gomez (Draxler 72)

Italy Buffon (C); Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini (Zaza 120+1); Florenzi (Darmian 86), Sturaro, Parolo, Giaccherini, De Sciglio; Éder (Insigne 108), Pellè

Yellow cards Hummels 90, Schweinsteiger 112 (Germany); Sturaro 56, De Sciglio 57, Parolo 59, Pellè 91, Giaccherini 103 (Italy)

Man of the match Neuer

Referee Kassai (HUN); AR Ring, Tóth;

AAR Bognar, Farkas; FO Marciniak (POL)

Attendance 38,764

France 5-2 Iceland

Stade de France, Saint-Denis, 3 July 2016

Goals 1-0 Giroud 12, 2-0 Pogba 20, 3-0 Payet 43, 4-0 Griezmann 45, 4-1 Sigthórsson 56, 5-1 Giroud 59, 5-2 B. Bjarnason 84

France Lloris (C); Sagna, Koscielny (Mangala 72), Umtiti, Evra; Pogba, Matuidi; Sissoko, Griezmann, Payet (Coman 80); Giroud (Gignac 60)

Iceland Halldórsson; Sævarsson, Árnason (Ingason 46), R. Sigurdsson, Skúlason; Gudmundsson, Gunnarsson (C), G. Sigurdsson, B. Bjarnason; Bödvarsson (Finnbogason 46), Sigthórsson (Gudjohnsen 83)

Yellow cards Umtiti 75 (France); B. Bjarnason 58 (Iceland)

Man of the match Giroud

Referee Kuipers (NED); AR Van Roekel, Zeinstra;

AAR Van Boekel, Liesveld; FO Mažić (SRB)

Attendance 76,833

SEMI-FINALS

Portugal 2-0 Wales

Stade de Lyon, 6 July 2016

Goals 1-0 Ronaldo 50, 2-0 Nani 53

Portugal Rui Patrício; Cédric, Fonte, Bruno Alves, Guerreiro; Danilo; Renato Sanches (André Gomes 74), Adrien Silva (Moutinho 79), João Mário; Nani (Quaresma 86), Ronaldo (C)

Wales Hennessey; Collins (J. Williams 66), A. Williams (C), Chester; Gunter, Allen, Ledley (Vokes 58), Taylor; King, Bale; Robson-Kanu (Church 63)

Yellow cards Bruno Alves 71, Ronaldo 72 (Portugal); Allen 8, Chester 62, Bale 88 (Wales)

Man of the match Ronaldo

Referee Eriksson (SWE); AR Klasenius, Wärnmark;

AAR Johannesson, Strömbergsson; FO Marciniak (POL)

Attendance 55,679

Germany 0-2 France

Stade Vélodrome, Marseille, 7 July 2016

Goals 0-1 Griezmann 45+2 (p), 0-2 Griezmann 72

Germany Neuer; Kimmich, Boateng (Mustafi 61), Höwedes, Hector; Schweinsteiger (C) (Sané 79), Kroos; Can (Götze 67), Özil, Draxler; Müller

France Lloris (C); Sagna, Koscielny, Umtiti, Evra; Pogba, Matuidi; Sissoko, Griezmann (Cabaye 90+2), Payet (Kanté 71); Giroud (Gignac 78)

Yellow cards Can 36, Schweinsteiger 45+1, Özil 45+1, Draxler 50 (Germany); Evra 43, Kanté 75 (France)

Man of the match Griezmann

Referee Rizzoli (ITA); AR Di Liberatore, Tonolini;

AAR Orsato, Damato; FO Skomina (SVN)

Attendance 64,078

FINAL

Portugal 1-0 France (aet)

Stade de France, Saint-Denis, 10 July 2016

Goal 1-0 Éder 109

Portugal Rui Patrício; Cédric, Pepe, Fonte, Guerreiro; W. Carvalho; Renato Sanches (Éder 79), Adrien Silva (Moutinho 66), João Mário; Nani, Ronaldo (C) (Quaresma 25)

France Lloris (C); Sagna, Koscielny, Umtiti, Evra; Pogba, Matuidi; Sissoko (Martial 110), Griezmann, Payet (Coman 58); Giroud (Gignac 78)

Yellow cards Cédric 34, João Mário 62, Guerreiro 95, W. Carvalho 98, Fonte 119, Rui Patrício 120+3 (Portugal); Umtiti 80, Matuidi 97, Koscielny 107, Pogba 115 (France)

Man of the match Pepe

Referee Clattenburg (ENG); AR Beck, Collin;

AAR Taylor, Marriner; FO Kassai (HUN)

Attendance 75,868

TECHNICAL TOPICS

More teams meant greater variety in formations and approaches, but for those intent on attack, beating the defensive block proved an uphill challenge

LOCKING AND UNLOCKING THE DOOR

Two clear strategies dominated – defence versus attack

The expansion of the final tournament gave the event a richer texture in terms of footballing cultures and personalities. The search for patterns amid the multicoloured threads could legitimately focus on the different approaches adopted by established powers and by contestants who had made less frequent appearances – if any – on the EURO stage. Looking back over England's campaign, defender Gary Cahill commented: "We tried, we tried – time and time again. But they shut the door in our face. We had the majority of possession. We dominated play from start to finish, really. But we couldn't unlock the door." In contrast, after France had hit back with two second-half goals to eliminate the Republic of Ireland, defender Seamus Coleman reflected: "The second half was always going to be tough for us and we just couldn't keep the door closed for long enough."

The tournament was rich in contests between teams who set out to prise doors open and those who were more concerned about keeping the bolt across. And tactical contests between coaches seeking to stifle the opposition and encouraging their own teams to exploit their qualities. Portugal coach Fernando Santos, for example, said after the win against Croatia: "It was a very tactical match. Portugal tried to take over, but Croatia didn't let us. Then Croatia tried to take over but we didn't let them win either."

After his team's opening defeat against Germany, Ukraine coach Mykhailo Fomenko admitted: "Our priority was to prevent the Germans from scoring and we weren't able to do that." Northern Ireland manager Michael O'Neill said after the 1-0 defeat by Wales: "We changed the shape as we thought Ramsey was a threat." His opposite number Chris Coleman admitted after Wales had struggled to impose themselves: "They make it very difficult for their opponents and we weren't allowed to play our normal game." After the tense quarter-final in which Germany switched to a three-at-the-back structure, Joachim Löw said: "Italy are strong through the spine of the team but we denied them." Meanwhile, Antonio Conte reflected: "The fact that the world champions changed their style of play to face us shows that they respected us a great deal."

Iceland spearheaded the campaign by teams who were 'difficult to play against'. As Alain Giresse, one of UEFA's team of technical observers at the tournament, commented: "It was a tournament where teams were tactically well organised, where there were no easy matches, and where the emphasis was on shutting down spaces, keeping your shape at the back and looking for opportunities to counterattack."

Mario Götze looks for a way through Ukraine's midfield





Zoltán Stieber seals victory for Hungary against Austria

COUNTER PRODUCTIVE

The danger posed by the quick break is fast becoming a thing of the past

At UEFA EURO 2008, 46% of the open-play goals stemmed from counterattacks. Since then, awareness of the damaging potential of fast transitions has reshaped match strategies among the coaching fraternity. By UEFA EURO 2012, the effectiveness of fast breaks had been halved to 23% and, in France, this lower level was consolidated. What is more, the statistics are somewhat deceptive in that a high percentage of the fruitful counterattacks occurred while the clock was ticking down. Examples include the run and cross by Mesut Özil that allowed Bastian Schweinsteiger to seal Germany's 2-0 win against Ukraine, the cross from the right and the Graziano Pellè finishes that gave Italy identical added-time outcomes against Belgium and Spain, the 87th-minute through-pass goal by Zoltán Stieber that gave Hungary their 2-0 win over Austria, the 90+4 break on the right and cross to the far post that

earned Iceland second place in Group F and a chance to make history, Portugal's 117th-minute winner against Croatia, and the two late counters that clinched Belgium's 4-0 victory over Hungary. In other words, most of the successful counterattacks can be traced back to late-game scenarios where opponents were pushing forward in search of a result. Very few broke the deadlock: Turkey's opener against the Czech Republic, Poland's against Switzerland and one by Belgium, which riled Republic of Ireland manager Martin O'Neill: "It came from our attack. It was our free-kick, the ball's played in the penalty area, they've broken on us and scored. That goal was very, very important because then, as we started to chase the game, we were caught a few times." In general, risk-management strategies focused on pre-empting opposition counters.

"As expected, Portugal played on the counterattack. But we controlled it and didn't allow them a chance until almost the end of the 120 minutes," Croatia coach Ante Čačić said. "We were ready for them," said his opponent, Fernando Santos, "and we set up to resist their strengths. We didn't allow them to counterattack." After the Group C game, Poland coach Adam Nawalka remarked: "There were times when Germany took the initiative but we gave it to them consciously to allow ourselves space to hit them on the counterattack." "We didn't allow Poland to play to their strengths, to hurt us on the counterattack," Löw responded. In France, most of the contestants had counterattacking as an important weapon in their armoury – but wounds were usually inflicted only when a game situation obliged the opposition to open up.

STRUCTURAL CHANGES

More formations were used than in 2012, with the role of the striker evolving

While UEFA EURO 2016 confirmed the status of 1-4-2-3-1 as the most fashionable team structure, the 24 teams on the starting grid generated greater diversity than at UEFA EURO 2012. In Poland and Ukraine, the 16-team field opted for 1-4-2-3-1 (seven teams), 1-4-3-3 (five) and 1-4-4-2 (four), with Italy alone in adopting a 1-3-5-2 structure (for their opening two games). In France, ten teams deployed 1-4-2-3-1 as their default setting, while four operated a 1-4-3-3. Among these 14, France and Turkey oscillated between the two, the hosts generating media debate by finding the net more frequently when operating the 1-4-2-3-1 system with Antoine Griezmann navigating in the wake of striker Olivier Giroud. Albania and Northern Ireland favoured a 1-4-5-1 system, with the latter adopting a 1-3-5-2 in their opener against Poland and their last-16 match against Wales. Italy were the other exponents of the latter, with Antonio Conte basing his defensive structure on Andrea Barzagli, Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini, who, as Juventus team-mates, were familiar with the mechanisms. Wales provided the closest approximation to that format, their 1-3-4-3 structure featuring Aaron Ramsey and Gareth Bale in supporting positions behind the

main striker – either Hal Robson-Kanu or Sam Vokes. Germany, when taking on the Italians in the quarter-finals, switched to 1-3-4-3, pushing Joshua Kimmich and Jonas Hector forward into wing-back roles. Going back to the four-man defensive lines, Hungary preferred a 1-4-2-3-1 formation – a formula also adopted by Poland, while Martin O'Neill's Republic of Ireland went with 1-4-1-4-1 as a variant on the 1-4-4-2 also used by Iceland and Sweden. Portugal, meanwhile, took a somewhat less classical approach to that structure, changing the complexion of the team according to the personalities of the wide midfielders/wingers deployed in support of Nani and Cristiano Ronaldo. This meant that Fernando Santos' team was one of a handful who relied on attacking partnerships rather than a lone target striker. The others were Iceland, Sweden (with Zlatan Ibrahimović off the front), Poland (Arkadiusz Milik in association with Robert Lewandowski), Italy (with Éder and Pellè) and, occasionally, the Republic of Ireland, when O'Neill opted to team up Shane Long with Daryl Murphy or, in the first match, Jon Walters. No fewer than 18 of the 24 coaches therefore led their attack with a single striker – or, in the

specific case of Germany, with none until Löw decided, for the final group game against Northern Ireland, to "play a real nine instead of a false nine" – only for Mario Gomez to be ruled out through injury after the quarter-final. The lack of goals by strikers during the group stage emerged as a talking point, with Poland coach Adam Nawalka, for instance, feeling obliged to point out after matchday three: "That Lewandowski has not yet scored is no problem whatsoever. He's doing a lot of hard work and has had a big influence on how we have played." Ginés Meléndez spoke for many of his colleagues in the UEFA technical team when he remarked: "We have seen some very good attackers in this tournament. But they work hard for the team rather than operate as the more traditional 'selfish striker' role." Alain Giresse commented: "This is a fundamental question when coaches are writing job descriptions for their players. Is the No9 there to score goals? Or does he give priority to other missions?" Jean-François Domergue sketched further shades of meaning: "Gomez gave Germany a focal point when they attacked in numbers. But in some teams, the striker had to cope with a very different scenario if he was 30 or 40m ahead of the block."



Burak Yilmaz finds space to score Turkey's opener against the Czech Republic

BACK TO FRONT

The long forward pass was a key weapon in piercing the defensive block

“There were the odd exceptions,” said Peter Rudbæk, “but, in the matches I saw, most teams wanted to play out from the back.” David Moyes, technical observer for a different set of games, countered: “On the other hand, not many successfully played out from the back.” Mixu Paatelainen added: “In many games the opponent was able to dictate whether teams could play out from the back or not.”

The Spain v Italy encounter in the first knockout round provided a graphic illustration. During the first half, Antonio Conte’s team exerted high collective pressing, successfully disrupting Spain’s construction from the back. Goalkeeper David De Gea, after totalling 20 long passes in the entire group stage, was obliged to play long on 19 occasions against the Italians. The technical observers’ overview was that most teams engaged in energetic pressure on the



"It was incredible to see how quickly Germany reached their opponents' area and in such a variety of ways – quick passing, good crosses, combinations, through balls"

opposition ball carrier with sufficient physical presence to disturb, unbalance or otherwise blur the opportunities for accurate passing from the back. Moyes and Gareth Southgate agreed that “the level of pressure was enough to persuade opponents to go for low-risk solutions”. That was frequently the long pass from back to front. At the same time, they were anxious not to equate long passing with bad passing. “It was incredible to see how quickly Germany reached their opponents' area,” said Southgate, “and in such a variety of ways – quick passing, good crosses, combinations, through balls. They were possession-oriented but, in my opinion, they penetrated more than any other team.”

The observers’ general impression was that, after years of focusing on the possession play of Spain, of FC Barcelona or of Pep Guardiola’s FC Bayern München, deep defensive blocks are currently encouraging teams to revert to more direct attacking solutions. This is borne out by statistics. At UEFA EURO 2012, 5 of the 16 teams – in other words, 31% – could argue that long passes accounted for less than 10% of their total. In France: none.

In 2012, the Republic of Ireland (19%) and Ukraine (18%) had the most frequent recourse to long passing. In 2016, four teams exceeded those totals. In 2012, long passes accounted for 12.8% of the total made over the entire tournament. In France, the average across the 24 teams was 15.88%. In other words, the use of long passes increased by 24%, underlining the countertrend towards the use of direct back-to-front play as a method of surprising defensive blocks before they have time to assemble. Goalkeepers evidently had a role to play in the use of long distribution – a facet illustrated in the section of this report dedicated to the keepers.

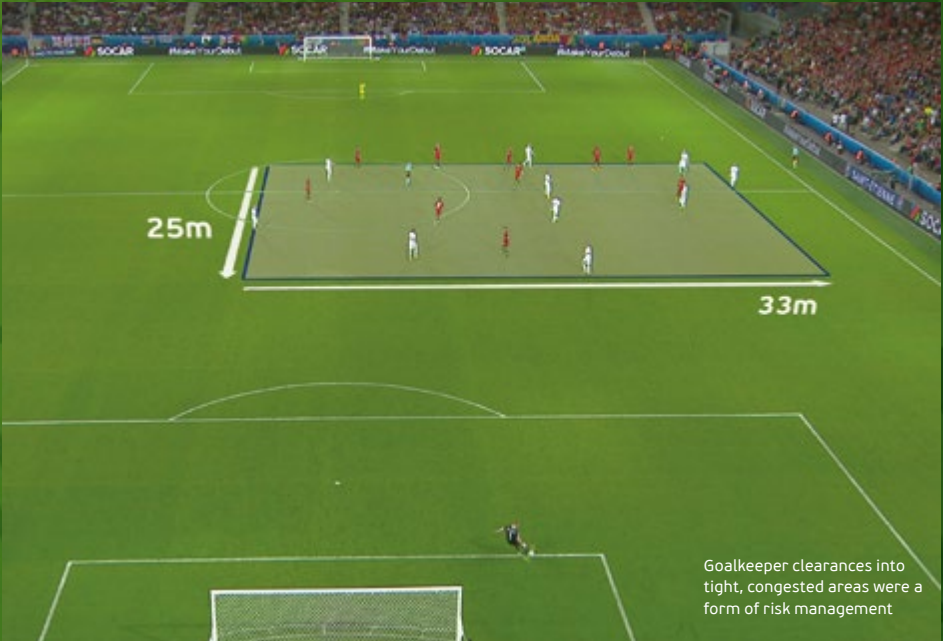
LONG PASSES

Northern Ireland	28%
Iceland	22%
Republic of Ireland	21%
Czech Republic	20%
Wales	18%
Albania	17%
Turkey	17%
Hungary	16%
Romania	16%
Russia	16%
Slovakia	16%
Sweden	16%
Croatia	15%
Italy	15%
Poland	15%
Ukraine	15%
Austria	14%
Belgium	14%
Portugal	13%
England	12%
Germany	12%
Switzerland	12%
France	11%
Spain	10%

SAFETY FIRST

Minimising risk was a hallmark of the tournament

The use of the long pass as a low-risk solution also applied to other aspects of the game. As the goalkeeper shaped up to take a goal kick, for example, it was relatively common practice to see almost the entire workforce of outfield players packed into an area of approximately 30m x 25m between the centre circle and a touchline. The delivery of the ball into the crowd rarely paid dividends in terms of attacking play. On the other hand, the density of the population in such a limited area meant that opponents, even if they won first-ball or second-ball possession, were rarely able to launch a direct counterattack. In other words, the play was among the risk-management features that marked the tournament in France.



CROSS
QUESTIONING

Crosses were up as teams strove to find a way around the defensive block

The diversity of team shapes at UEFA EURO 2016 did little to obscure a common denominator. In midfield, Sergio Busquets (Spain), Eric Dier (England), Milan Škriniar (Slovakia), William Carvalho (Portugal) and, more often than not, Oliver Norwood (Northern Ireland) supplied comparatively rare examples of single screening midfielders. Other teams preferred to use two controlling midfielders to protect the back line and provide a blend of creative and defensive qualities to abort opposition attacks and launch their own. Screening midfielders were often quick to add their presence to a back line that in some matches totalled six.

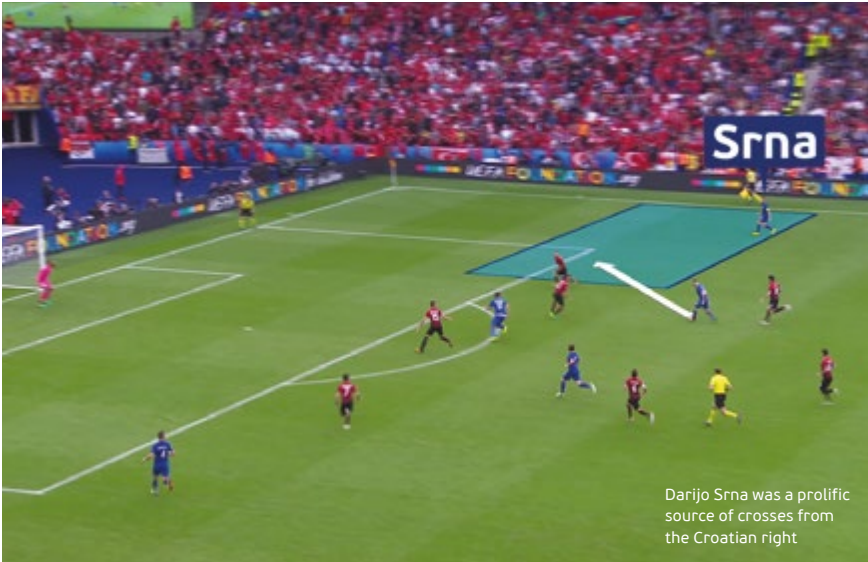
“The preference for such a compact, deep defensive block, coupled with really fast transitions, made it difficult to find space to play in behind defences,” Southgate said. “So the choice of attacking players and attacking methods became one of the key decisions the coaches had to make.” Thomas Schaaf pointed out: “Centre-backs clearly focused on closing off routes through the middle, and opponents, even when they threw players forward, were often reluctant to penetrate through the centre because there was a greater risk element attached to loss of the ball in that area.” Mixu Paatelainen added: “We saw a lot of teams operating well-organised narrow defending and this underlined the need to find a way around the block, bearing in mind the difficulties of playing through it. I think that’s why we saw a greater number of crosses.”

His assessment was endorsed by the statistics. With 24 teams, there were evidently more crosses in France than at the 16-team finals in 2012. Averages, however, make for more reliable comparisons. UEFA EURO 2012 yielded 811 crosses at 26.16 per match, versus 2,079 crosses at 40.76 per match in 2016. There can be no argument that an increase of 56% represents a significant trend in terms of teams’ preference for channelling their attacking along the flanks. This mirrors the trend in the UEFA Champions League, where the 2015/16 season featured a 24% increase in the number of goals from crosses and, including cutbacks, 35% of the open-play goals had their origin in deliveries from the wide areas. In France, a high percentage of the scoring chances clearly came from crosses.

Although the numerical totals of Croatia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Switzerland and, above all, Portugal are affected by the amount of extra time these teams played, the data provide an indication of the average number of crosses per match and the percentage of successful contact with a team-mate.



Kevin De Bruyne delivered in excess of 10 crosses per game, with 37% reaching a Belgium team-mate



Darijo Srna was a prolific source of crosses from the Croatian right

CROSSES			
	Total attempted	Average per match	Success rate
Iceland	40	8	32.5%
Croatia	113	28.3	29.2%
Spain	93	23.3	28.0%
France	174	24.9	26.4%
Wales	84	14	26.2%
Belgium	143	28.6	25.9%
England	107	26.8	25.2%
Romania	44	14.7	25.0%
Italy	73	14.6	24.7%
Republic of Ireland	73	18.3	24.7%
Switzerland	98	24.5	24.5%
Portugal	204	29.1	24.0%
Hungary	66	16.5	22.7%
Slovakia	27	6.8	22.2%
Ukraine	73	24.3	21.9%
Northern Ireland	57	14.3	21.1%
Sweden	76	25.3	21.1%
Germany	179	29.8	20.1%
Russia	67	22.3	19.4%
Poland	76	15.2	18.4%
Turkey	34	11.3	17.6%
Austria	70	23.3	15.7%
Albania	52	17.3	15.4%
Czech Republic	56	18.7	12.5%

Inswinging crosses delivered with the ‘wrong’ foot emerged as a valuable asset in terms of delivering the ball into the twilight area between defenders and keeper. The value of this manoeuvre was highlighted by the Wes Hoolahan cross from the right that allowed Robbie Brady to head in the vital winner against Italy and spring one of the surprises of the tournament, sending his team into the knockout stage. A similar left-footed delivery from the right set up Birkir Bjarnason at the far post to earn Iceland a precious draw against Portugal. And a right-footed delivery from the left by Andrés Iniesta was met by the head of Gerard Piqué to give Spain a belated breakthrough in the defending champions’ opening match against the Czechs. “What has changed from the past,” says Southgate, “is the areas from which crosses

are delivered and the type of crosses. There have been a number of inswinging crosses, which tallies with teams increasingly playing opposite-footed wingers, while cutbacks have also become more and more part of the game, as you don’t see so many wingers running to the byline and crossing from those wider areas.” In individual terms, Italy wing-back Antonio Candreva set the benchmark by delivering 22 crosses from the right in two games before injury ruled him out of the tournament. Kevin De Bruyne delivered in excess of 10 crosses per game, the Belgium forward posting one of the highest success rates of the tournament: 37% of his crosses were received by a team-mate. Similar figures were posted by Croatia right-back Darijo Srna, the supplier of 43 crosses in four games, with a success rate of 35% – way

ahead of his England and Spain counterparts. Kyle Walker and Juanfran registered 14% and 12.5% respectively. A low success rate was a salient feature of Germany’s wing play. Toni Kroos emerged as the most prolific, with 42 crosses at a success rate of 21%, while Thomas Müller (12.5%) was midway between the two full-backs Joshua Kimmich (23%) and Jonas Hector (6%). “Full-backs and wingers were obviously the main suppliers of crosses,” Rudbæk remarked, “with an emphasis on wide players cutting in to open up spaces for the full-backs to run into. But the quantity of crosses is one thing and quality is another. So, as coaches, we need to pay attention to developing their ability to deliver good crosses at the end of their runs, as this is now fundamental to the team’s attacking potential.”



GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

A direct approach was the most effective way to score, but goals were scarce and long in coming

After UEFA EURO 2012 produced an average of 2.45 goals per game and the two previous EUROs both yielded a very similar figure of 2.48, the eye-catching statistic to emerge from the first 24-team final tournament was that only 69 goals were scored in the 36 group matches, producing an average of 1.92 per game. "The group stage is always attritional," Germany coach Joachim Löw commented, "but in the knockout rounds it opens up." He was proved right when 39 goals in 15 knockout games hoisted the tournament average to 2.12 per match. The late recovery nonetheless failed to mask a downturn of 13.5%.

accounted for 29 goals, midfielders 32 and defenders 6. With forwards accounting for 12 of the tournament's last 20 goals, the final balance read: 47 by forwards, 45 by midfielders and 13 by defenders. The other 3 were own goals.

Of the 21 goals scored by wingers/wide midfielders, the left flank supplied 17 and the right only 4. Only one goal was scored by a full-back: Neil Taylor of Wales during the 3-0 win against Russia. Left-footed shots accounted for 37 goals (13 of them shared by France and Wales), versus 47 with the right foot.

The number of headed goals fell sharply from the record level of 29% set at UEFA EURO 2012

"When the objective was not to finish last in the group, the focus was often on very good, well-organised defending. It wasn't easy for attackers"

"The group phase allowed us to see some great coaching, especially from the benches of the 'smaller' countries," said former striker Savo Milošević. "Those teams were very well prepared to fight against bigger opposition. But, as a striker, I have to lament the low number of goals." Fellow technical observer Peter Rudbæk added: "When the objective was not to finish last in the group, the focus was often on very good, well-organised defending. It wasn't easy for attackers."

One of the salient features of the group stage was that no fewer than 19 of the 69 goals were scored from the 80th minute on; 15 of those were after the 85th minute, and 7 of them fell into the 90+ bracket – all of which added up to the highest percentage of late goals in the tournament's history. The fact that so many of the goals were late contributed to another eyebrow-raising statistic: 14, or 20%, were scored by substitutes, with five more adding their names to the list during the knockout rounds. It was a substitute who scored the last goal of the tournament and the one that earned Portugal the title. This could be used as a pretext for congratulating coaches on shrewd substitutions or as an argument that the general policy was to keep the powder dry until there was a need for an explosive late effort to achieve a result. The same slant could be given to the fact that across the whole tournament only 42 goals were scored during the first half, compared with 66 after the interval.

The tournament's goals were scored by 76 different players. It was sometimes difficult to categorise players clearly, as the roles of some middle-to-front players, especially in the wide areas, blurred the definitions of forward and midfielder. During the group stage, forwards

to 22% in France. Of the 24 headed goals scored at UEFA EURO 2016, five had their origins in corner kicks, four came from free-kicks, and the remainder from crosses or cutbacks.

As mentioned elsewhere, crossing emerged as one of the salient features of the tournament. Crosses and cutbacks led to 42% of the open-play goals, including the three own goals – all of them resulting from crosses delivered from close to the byline.



Armando Sadiku hits Albania's winner against Romania

↓ **13.5%**

Goals were down 13.5% on UEFA EURO 2012

42%

Crosses and cutbacks led to 42% of the open-play goals

↓ **7%**

The percentage of headed goals fell from 29% at UEFA EURO 2012 to 22% in France

19

19 of the 69 group stage goals were scored from the 80th minute on

15

15 group stage goals were scored after the 85th minute

7

7 group stage goals were scored in added time

↓ **17.6%**

Substitutes were responsible for 17.6% of all goals

Neil Taylor is swamped by his team-mates after scoring in Wales' 3-0 win against Russia



Luka Modrić's sumptuous volley for Croatia broke the deadlock against Turkey

HOW THE GOALS WERE SCORED

Direct attacks were a feature of UEFA EURO 2016, with fewer passes and less time on the ball needed to score than in 2012

Suggestions that there was a slight tendency towards more direct attacking at UEFA EURO 2016 are supported by the statistics. The average number of seconds needed in possession to produce each of the 108 goals scored in France was down nearly 11% on the UEFA EURO 2012 tally, and the average number of passes in the successful build-ups also fell marginally.

However, from a historical perspective, both sets of 2016 statistics remained significantly higher than at previous tournaments. The average number of passes in successful build-ups was 53% higher than when the final tournament was expanded to eight teams in 1980 and 60% higher than the average when the 16-team format was introduced in 1996. The number of seconds in possession was also 34% up on 1980 and 32% up on 1996. The figures from the last three EUROs further point towards more possession-based tendencies.

The statistics could also be used to support theories that high pressing is producing greater dividends, with 47% of the goals scored in France stemming from possession gained in the final third, in contrast with 35% at UEFA EURO 2008. At the same time, there has been a downward trend in successful build-ups originating in the middle third, which resulted in 45.5% of the goals scored in 2008, 38% in 2012 and 33% in 2016 – a decline that suggests teams may be increasingly focusing on putting high pressure on the ball carrier and/or rapid transitioning into a defensive block.

Meanwhile, the fact that almost 20% of the goals scored at UEFA EURO 2016 stemmed from possession gained in the defensive third can be seen as a symptom of greater facility for playing through the thirds – including counterattacks. At UEFA EURO 2000, for example, only 8% of the goals originated in the ball being won in the defensive third.

GOALSCORING FROM 1996 TO 2016



	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016
Total number of goals	64	85	77	77	76	108
Number of games played	31	31	31	31	31	51

HOW THE BALL WAS WON IN THE BUILD-UP TO GOALS

Opposition mistake	1	5	4	2	4	3
Opposition clearance	5	8	4	5	8	14
Aerial duel	2	3	1	4	1	1
Ground duel	3	5	2	2	2	1
Second ball from clearance	2	1	1	1	1	6
Opposition shot blocked	0	0	1	0	0	1
Save	1	0	1	0	0	1
Own kick-off	0	1	0	1	0	0
Goalkeeper clearance blocked	1	0	1	0	0	0
Defender tackle	3	5	7	7	6	5
Opposition cross	2	1	2	2	2	3
Rebound from blocked cross	0	1	1	0	1	0
Rebound from blocked pass	1	1	0	0	4	1
Rebound from blocked shot	1	3	1	1	2	1
Rebound from woodwork	0	2	0	2	2	0
Rebound from save	3	2	4	5	2	3
Corner	5	3	9	5	6	8
Goal kick	1	1	0	1	1	2
Throw-in	1	6	4	5	5	8
Free-kick	9	10	12	10	9	15
Penalty	6	8	7	4	3	8
Loose ball	7	12	7	7	3	16
Loose pass by opposition	6	5	7	10	9	9
High pressing	1	1	0	0	0	1
Interception	3	1	1	3	5	0

WHERE THE BALL WAS WON IN THE BUILD-UP TO GOALS

Defensive third	9	7	12	15	14	21
Middle third	24	37	25	35	29	36
Final third	31	41	40	27	33	51

Average number of passes in the build-up	2.33	2.41	2.77	3.43	3.87	3.73
Average number of seconds in possession	8.13	7.91	8.90	10.92	12.05	10.77



SET-PLAY GOALS

With teams so hard to break down, set plays often made the difference

Dead-ball successes registered a notable increase on the UEFA EURO 2012 figure of 21%, and their significance was highlighted by the fact that no fewer than 19 of the crucial opening goals were scored as a result of set plays. “In tight matches – as games at a major championship are – teams are well organised defensively and tend not to expose themselves to counterattacks at the beginning,” remarked UEFA technical observer Gareth Southgate. “So attention to the detail of scoring from set plays and being able to defend them is very important.”

Even though 4 of the tournament’s 12 penalties were not converted, 32 goals resulted from set plays – a few decimal points below 30% of the total. The notable novelty in this category stemmed from Iceland’s effective use of the long throw-in – a feature which re-emerged in France as a useful weapon. While captain Aron Gunnarsson was requesting a clean, dry ball from a ballboy, his team-mates took up positions normally associated with the delivery of a free-kick or a corner. His deliveries into the box facilitated the opening goal against Austria, the crucial equaliser against England, and, when the ball was directed back to him and re-crossed, even Iceland’s first goal in the quarter-final against France (although this goal was assigned to the ‘cross’ rather than ‘throw-in’ category).

The lack of free-kick specialists had been a talking point in other UEFA competitions, but in France Gareth Bale struck the opening goals against Slovakia and England from long range. Eric Dier’s well-struck effort opened England’s account against Russia. Hungary’s Balázs Dzsudzsák put his side 2-1 ahead against Portugal with a deflected free-kick, and later put 3-2 on the scoreboard after another free-kick had been charged down. However, there were no more successes beyond the group stage.

Methods of defending set plays offered the technical observers a number of debating points.



Eric Dier scores from a free-kick against Russia

HEADED GOALS PER EURO			
	Headed goals	Total goals	Percentage
1996	11	64	17.2%
2000	15	85	17.6%
2004	17	77	22.1%
2008	15	77	19.5%
2012	22	76	28.9%
2016	24	108	22.2%

One of them focused on the growing tendency towards holding a high line at the edge of the box when defending free-kicks. Attackers frequently took up ‘offside’ positions out of the defenders’ line of vision – and thus demanded some high-precision work from assistant referees. The ploy obviously opened up an invitingly wide area between defenders and keeper – a zone exploited by Northern Ireland, for example, when a Gareth McAuley header allowed Michael O’Neill’s team to open the scoring against Ukraine.

Corners accounted for a dozen goals, with

many of them derived from a partial clearance opening up a shooting opportunity from around the edge of the box – such as Luka Modrić’s volley against Turkey or Jérôme Boateng’s against Slovakia. Outstanding examples of the classic corner + header formula were Paul Pogba’s goal for France against Iceland and the equaliser for Wales against Belgium by Ashley Williams – both of them clean, conclusive finishes after marking systems had been outmanoeuvred. The overall success rate for corners was 1:45 – an improvement on the 1:57 in 2012 and 1:64 in 2008.

GOAL TYPE

SET-PLAY GOALS				
ACTION	GUIDELINES	GROUP STAGE	KNOCKOUT STAGE	TOTAL
Corner	Direct from or following a corner	6	6	12
Direct free-kick	Direct from a free-kick	4	0	4
Indirect free-kick	Following a free-kick	3	3	6
Penalty	Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty)	4	4	8
Throw-in	Following a throw-in	1	1	2
		18	14	32
OPEN-PLAY GOALS				
ACTION	GUIDELINES	GROUP STAGE	KNOCKOUT STAGE	TOTAL
Combination	Wall pass or combination move	5	2	7
Cross	Cross from the wing	14	6	20
Cutback	Pass back from the byline	6	3	9
Diagonal	Diagonal pass into the penalty box	2	1	3
Run with the ball	Dribble and close-range shot or dribble and pass	8	1	9
Long-range shot	Direct shot or shot and rebound	6	6	12
Forward pass	Through pass or pass over the defence	7	4	11
Defensive error	Bad back-pass or mistake by the goalkeeper	1	1	2
Own goal	Goal by the opponent	2	1	3
		51	25	76
TOTAL		69	39	108

OPEN-PLAY GOALS

After crosses, long-range shooting was the most productive source of open-play goals

As mentioned elsewhere, deliveries from the wide areas accounted for a high percentage of the open-play goals in France. In other categories, running with the ball seems productive, yet successful solo runs tended to be associated with counterattacking rather than elaborate construction. Ivan Perišić’s goals for Croatia against the Czech Republic and Spain, the run by Eden Hazard that allowed Romelu Lukaku to make it 3-0 for Belgium against the Republic of Ireland, and the long run on the right by Elmar Bjarnason that set up Iceland’s crucial winner against Austria are all examples of this.

Dimitri Payet’s long-range shooting was an important weapon in the France armoury. But he was not alone in exploiting unoccupied spaces in the proximity of the box as defences dropped deep. Radja Nainggolan also produced spectacular strikes for Belgium against Sweden and Wales.

The compact nature of defensive blocks was underlined by the low number of goals achieved via combination moves. The number of goals attributable to through passes might appear to belie the theory that teams found it difficult to find central routes through defensive blocks, but only seven goals were derived from this source in the 36 group matches, and two of the successes in the knockout rounds came when the Iceland back four were caught high and flat in the first half against France. This marks a significant downturn in relation to 2012.



Radja Nainggolan opened the scoring for Belgium against Wales with a spectacular strike from distance



WHEN THE GOALS WERE SCORED

Of the 108 goals scored, less than a fifth came in the first half-hour of play



Italy forward Graziano Pellè strikes in added time against Spain

Of the tournament total of 108 goals, 61% hit the net after the half-time interval – a figure which surpasses the 58% registered at UEFA EURO 2012. But the salient feature to emerge from the breakdown is that, in most matches, doors were kept firmly closed during the first half-hour of play: the first third of playing time produced only 19% of the goals. The nine goals scored in added time included seven during the group stage, with Belgium's fourth against Hungary and Graziano Pellè's volley for Italy against Spain the only two that were scored in the 15 knockout matches.

Many in France acknowledged the importance of the first goal. "If the plan we had at the beginning had been executed and if we had scored the first goal, it would have been a different game," Russia coach Leonid Slutski said after his side's 2-1 defeat by Slovakia. "After we went behind, we had to change our plan, especially the system in midfield." After Austria's opening defeat by Hungary, midfielder David Alaba said: "I think we were the better team but the first goal against us was a massive blow." Wales manager Chris Coleman told a similar tale after the quarter-finals: "When you play against a team as good as Belgium, what you don't want to do is to fall behind early on. You know if you

have too many bodies forward they're going to hurt you." Wales, in the event, bounced back to beat Marc Wilmots' team 3-1 – one of the five comeback victories of the tournament. The Welsh had been on the receiving end against England, who themselves were beaten after taking the lead against Iceland; Croatia recovered to beat Spain, and France ditto against the Republic of Ireland. But of the 47 games that produced goals, 32 (68%) were won by the team that scored first. By way of comparison, this is lower than in the 2015/16 UEFA Champions League, when 74% of matches were won by the team that scored first.

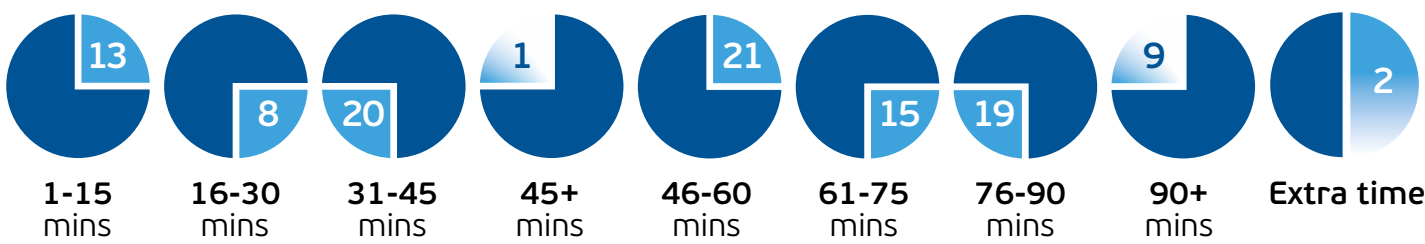
As Gareth Southgate pointed out: "Apart from the huge psychological advantage of scoring first, there is a tactical advantage as well. You don't have to commit people forward; you can protect the lead and don't have to risk additional bodies." Generally, there was time to fight back – as the data demonstrates. The opening goal hit the net after the 75th minute in only seven games, with Portugal's winners against Croatia and France during the second period of extra time providing the most extreme examples of minimal time to reply.

COME-FROM-BEHIND WINS		
Only five matches were won by the team conceding first		
England	2-1	Wales
Croatia	2-1	Spain
France	2-1	Republic of Ireland
England	1-2	Iceland
Wales	3-1	Belgium

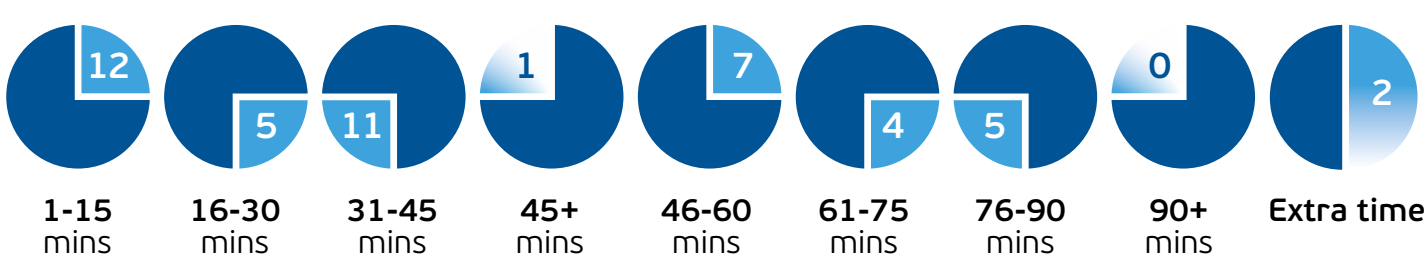
WHERE THE GOALS WENT IN			
7	2	2	6
13	10	2	7
17	7	10	25

This diagram represents where the 108 goals scored at UEFA EURO 2016 crossed the line, with the bottom right and left corners the most rewarding spots to aim for.

GOAL TIMES



OPENING GOALS



CATCHING THE EYE

A tribute to the men who made their mark in France, from the team and player of the tournament to the best of the goals and each man of the match

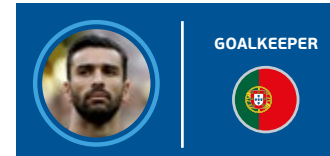
The following award winners were selected by the UEFA EURO 2016 technical team, captained by chief technical officer Ioan Lupescu. At least two members of the technical team were present at each of the 51 matches. They selected the man of the match, usually taking into account the opinion of the 'legend' in attendance – one of a team of former international players who travelled around the venues in ambassadorial roles. The winners of the other awards, including the team of the tournament, were decided when the complete technical team met in Paris the morning after the final.



TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

Four Portuguese players and three from Germany formed the spine of the all-star selection

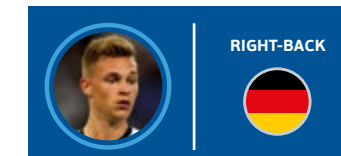
For the first time, UEFA's technical observers selected a team of the tournament rather than an all-star squad. The brief was to select a team with eyes, nose and mouth – a starting XI with recognisable features that could, in theory, be coachable as a real team. In line with the default setting most frequently seen in France, the technical team opted for a 1-4-2-3-1 structure. The selection process was far from easy and it was agreed that the likes of Gianluigi Buffon, Luka Modrić, Andrés Iniesta, Leonardo Bonucci and many others besides would have been candidates had their teams progressed further.



GOALKEEPER

Rui Patrício

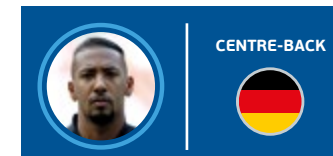
Big saves in crucial games; good reception of crosses; sensible build-up; good all-round goalkeeping



RIGHT-BACK

Joshua Kimmich

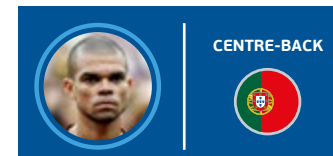
Young, positive and energetic; disciplined defending; strong work ethic; active in attack



CENTRE-BACK

Jérôme Boateng

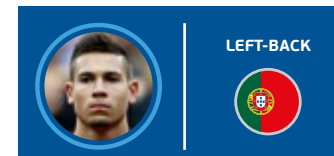
Mature defending with strength and power; excellent distribution with diagonal passing



CENTRE-BACK

Pepe

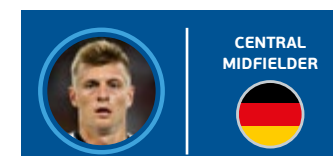
The main man in the Portugal defence; experienced and efficient with leadership qualities



LEFT-BACK

Raphael Guerreiro

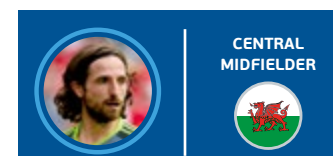
Technique, pace, 1v1 skills, defensive covering, passing, good temperament and attitude



CENTRAL MIDFIELDER

Toni Kroos

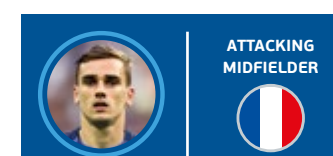
Experienced, influential player; control; full range of passes; long-range shooting



CENTRAL MIDFIELDER

Joe Allen

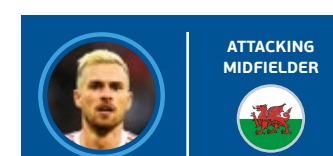
Prototype midfielder; active; consistent; able to control tempo and develop attacking moves



ATTACKING MIDFIELDER

Antoine Griezmann

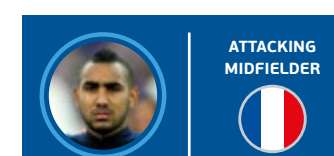
Creative, fluent movement across attack, finding blind sides around the box; killer instinct inside the box



ATTACKING MIDFIELDER

Aaron Ramsey

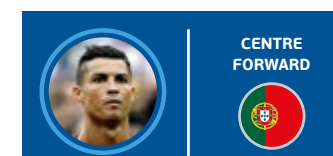
Fantastic reading of game, coverage of ground and timing of runs; top-quality passing and finishing



ATTACKING MIDFIELDER

Dimitri Payet

Exceptional technique; drifting off line to shooting positions; excellent set-play deliveries; key performer



CENTRE FORWARD

Cristiano Ronaldo

Great finisher; exceptional heading ability; one of the tournament's most dangerous attackers

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Antoine Griezmann may not have lifted the trophy, but his six goals, terrific work-rate and team ethic singled him out for special praise

Six years after featuring in UEFA's team of the tournament at the 2009/10 UEFA European Under-19 Championship finals in Caen, Antoine Griezmann was voted the player of the tournament at UEFA EURO 2016. He also took away the adidas Golden Boot, his six goals (and two assists) making him the highest scorer at a final tournament since Michel Platini struck nine, also in France, in 1984.

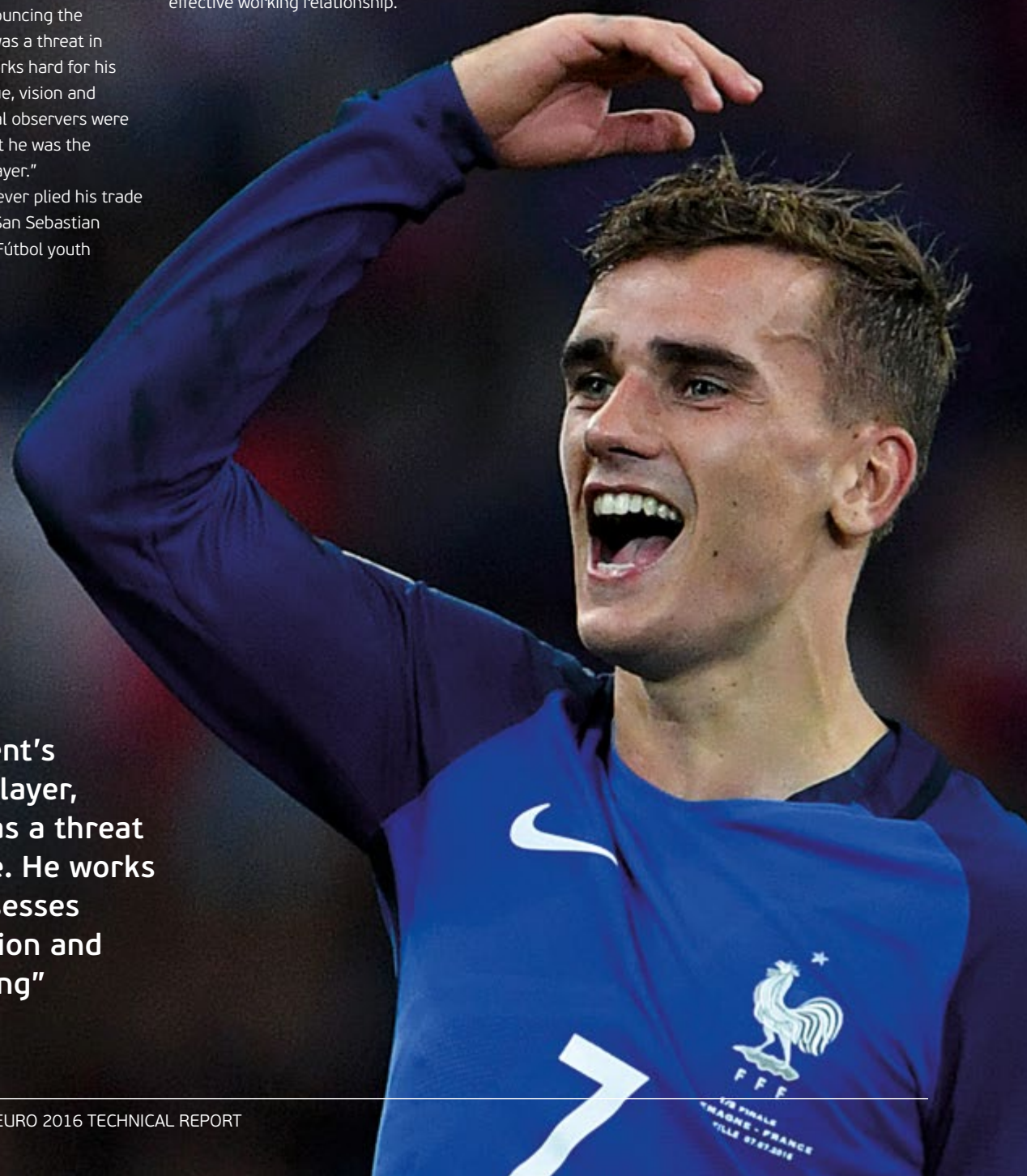
This accolade did not simply hinge on the number of times he ruffled the opposition's net, however. As chief technical officer Ioan Lupescu observed when announcing the award: "Antoine Griezmann was a threat in every game he played. He works hard for his team and possesses technique, vision and quality finishing. The technical observers were in unanimous agreement that he was the tournament's outstanding player."

Curiously, Griezmann has never plied his trade in France, having headed to San Sebastian to join the Real Sociedad de Fútbol youth

academy, initially receiving his education across the border in Bayonne. After making his UEFA Champions League debut with the Basque club in 2013, his move to Diego Simeone's Club Atlético de Madrid a year later allowed him to extend his international experience and mature as an all-round athlete with a winning mentality. His club's successes meant that he opened his UEFA EURO 2016 campaign against Romania not even two weeks after contesting the UEFA Champions League final in Milan.

He grew into the tournament, roaming right across the France front line. Initially starting on the right, he would drift in off the line to receive deep or in interior channels. Didier Deschamps then realised that he could be more effective in a central role behind Olivier Giroud, with whom he quickly established an effective working relationship.

"The tournament's outstanding player, Griezmann was a threat in every game. He works hard and possesses technique, vision and quality finishing"



"He brought energy and drive to the team, while keeping defensive stability. He had surprising maturity, tactical awareness and great physical attributes"

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Mature beyond his 19 years, Renato Sanches provided the drive and momentum that helped steer Portugal to their first major trophy

New for UEFA EURO 2016, the young player of the tournament award was presented in conjunction with SOCAR, one of the official tournament partners. To be eligible, players had to have been born on or after 1 January 1994. Only two squads had no players in this age category: the Czech Republic and the Republic of Ireland. Another interesting fact from a youth development perspective was that 58% of the candidates were listed as midfielders.

The shortlist for the award included France winger Kingsley Coman, Germany's Joshua Kimmich and Poland's Arkadiusz Milik, but it was Renato Sanches (one of only five players at the tournament to have been born as recently as 1997) who was selected by the UEFA technical team.

Initially not a starter for Fernando Santos, he made his mark when injected as a 50th-minute substitute in the round of 16 contest against Croatia. Gareth Southgate, at the game as a UEFA technical observer, reported: "It was a key moment. He brought more energy and drive to the team, while keeping defensive stability. He had surprising maturity, tactical awareness and great physical attributes." Operating in a variety of roles across the Portugal midfield, Renato Sanches never looked back.



MAN OF THE MATCH

Seven players won two man of the match awards, but Pepe picked up the accolade for the final

The man of the match award was presented in conjunction with Carlsberg and announced over the PA system just after the final whistle had sounded. Even though some playing formations blurred the distinctions between attackers and wide midfielders, a broad-brushstroke picture of the 51 awards reveals that 30 of them went to midfielders, 10 to forwards, 8 to defenders (including Pepe in the final) and 3 to goalkeepers.

Pepe savours Portugal's triumph

Dimitri Payet, Granit Xhaka, Andrés Iniesta, Cristiano Ronaldo, Antoine Griezmann, Renato Sanches and Eden Hazard all won two man of the match awards



MATCH

PLAYER

GROUP STAGE

France v Romania	Dimitri Payet	
Albania v Switzerland	Granit Xhaka	
Wales v Slovakia	Joe Allen	
England v Russia	Eric Dier	
Turkey v Croatia	Luka Modrić	
Poland v Northern Ireland	Grzegorz Krychowiak	
Germany v Ukraine	Toni Kroos	
Spain v Czech Republic	Andrés Iniesta	
Republic of Ireland v Sweden	Wes Hoolahan	
Belgium v Italy	Emanuele Giaccherini	
Austria v Hungary	László Kleinheisler	
Portugal v Iceland	Nani	
Russia v Slovakia	Marek Hamšík	
Romania v Switzerland	Granit Xhaka	
France v Albania	Dimitri Payet	
England v Wales	Kyle Walker	
Ukraine v Northern Ireland	Gareth McAuley	
Germany v Poland	Jérôme Boateng	
Italy v Sweden	Éder	
Czech Republic v Croatia	Ivan Rakitić	
Spain v Turkey	Andrés Iniesta	
Belgium v Republic of Ireland	Axel Witsel	
Iceland v Hungary	Kollbein Sigthórsson	
Portugal v Austria	João Moutinho	
Romania v Albania	Arlind Ajeti	
Switzerland v France	Yann Sommer	

Russia v Wales	Aaron Ramsey	
Slovakia v England	Matúš Kozáčik	
Ukraine v Poland	Ruslan Rotan	
Northern Ireland v Germany	Mesut Özil	
Czech Republic v Turkey	Burak Yilmaz	
Croatia v Spain	Ivan Perišić	
Iceland v Austria	Kári Árnason	
Hungary v Portugal	Cristiano Ronaldo	
Italy v Republic of Ireland	Robbie Brady	
Sweden v Belgium	Eden Hazard	

ROUND OF 16

Switzerland v Poland	Xherdan Shaqiri	
Wales v Northern Ireland	Gareth Bale	
Croatia v Portugal	Renato Sanches	
France v Republic of Ireland	Antoine Griezmann	
Germany v Slovakia	Julian Draxler	
Hungary v Belgium	Eden Hazard	
Italy v Spain	Leonardo Bonucci	
England v Iceland	Ragnar Sigurdsson	

QUARTER-FINALS

Poland v Portugal	Renato Sanches	
Wales v Belgium	Hal Robson-Kanu	
Germany v Italy	Manuel Neuer	
France v Iceland	Olivier Giroud	

SEMI-FINALS

Portugal v Wales	Cristiano Ronaldo	
Germany v France	Antoine Griezmann	

FINAL

Portugal v France	Pepe	
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GOALS OF THE TOURNAMENT

Switzerland midfielder Xherdan Shaqiri's fantastic overhead kick against Poland was the pick of an impressive bunch

It required casting votes to separate the leading contenders when the UEFA technical team met on the morning after the final to select the best goals of UEFA EURO 2016, but pride of place ultimately went to the technically perfect overhead kick by Xherdan Shaqiri that earned Switzerland 30 minutes of extra time against Croatia in the round of 16. Second place went to Wales striker Hal Robson-Kanu, whose skilful turn in the box wrong-footed the Belgium defence and allowed him to beat Thibaut Courtois to put his side 2-1 ahead in their quarter-final. Another left-footed shot – by Dimitri Payet, from long range on the right – secured victory for the hosts in the opening game against Romania and earned the France attacking midfielder a place on the podium, with fourth place going to Marek Hamšík's emphatic right-footed shot from the left which smacked off the far post into the Russia net to put Slovakia 2-0 ahead.

Next came Cristiano Ronaldo with the only goal he did not score with his head, when – in the 3-3 Group F draw with Hungary – he dragged a cross from the right into the far corner of the net, diverting the ball with the inside of his right heel

to bring Portugal level at 2-2. Another Portugal goal – the long-range shot by Éder that won the Portuguese the final – made No6 in the list. This was followed by the through pass by Paul Pogba which Olivier Giroud ran over to leave Antoine Griezmann a clear run at Iceland keeper Hannes Halldórsson – a move he finished off with an impeccable chip – and Ronaldo's extraordinary levitation that allowed him to head Portugal into a 1-0 lead in the semi-final against Wales.

Belgium dominated the remainder of the list, with the Eden Hazard goal that put them 3-0 ahead against Hungary rounding off a superb counter, and another copybook counter against the Republic of Ireland when Hazard ran free on the right to set up the 3-0 for Romelu Lukaku. The stunning long-range shot by Radja Nainggolan that had seemed to put Belgium on track for victory against Wales narrowly missed out on a place in the top ten.



Marek Hamšík thunders in Slovakia's second against Russia

TOP TEN GOALS OF UEFA EURO 2016

1	Xherdan Shaqiri		Switzerland v Poland	Round of 16
2	Hal Robson-Kanu		Wales v Belgium	Quarter-finals
3	Dimitri Payet		France v Romania	Group stage
4	Marek Hamšík		Russia v Slovakia	Group stage
5	Cristiano Ronaldo		Hungary v Portugal	Group stage
6	Éder		Portugal v France	Final
7	Antoine Griezmann		France v Iceland	Quarter-finals
8	Cristiano Ronaldo		Portugal v Wales	Semi-finals
9	Eden Hazard		Hungary v Belgium	Round of 16
10	Romelu Lukaku		Belgium v Republic of Ireland	Group stage

Xherdan Shaqiri keeps his eyes on the ball before acrobatically pulling Switzerland level against Poland



IN FOCUS

Goalkeeping trends, possession analysis, distance covered and UEFA EURO 2016's pacemen all come under the microscope

SPEED

Kingsley Coman was UEFA EURO 2016's fastest man, but defenders accounted for a surprisingly high percentage of the tournament's quickest players

France winger Kingsley Coman topped the speed chart with 32.8km/h, closely followed by Belgium's Yannick Carrasco (32.3km/h) and Sweden's Erik Johansson (32.1km/h). The most interesting feature, however, is that of the top three speed merchants per team (three ties for third place expanded the list from 72 to 75), 32 were defenders. Jérôme Boateng, for instance, edged ahead of Thomas Müller and Mesut Özil in Germany's sprint finish, and three of Croatia's back four appeared on the list. Midfielders accounted for 28, while Coman was one of the 15 players who could be labelled attackers, along with France team-mate Antoine Griezmann. Jamie Vardy was one of the few target strikers to appear and many of those who did, like the England player, usually started on the bench. Others included Italy's Simone Zaza and Spain's Aritz Aduriz.

The champions, incidentally, were not the strongest on pace, their best sprinters being Nani (31km/h) and right-back Cédric (30.3km/h). On the other hand, they could not be faulted for endeavour. Portugal reached their peak in terms of physical output during their round of 16 match against Croatia, when full-backs Cédric and Raphael Guerreiro totalled 119 sprints and covered 2,726m at very high speed over 120 minutes. During the final, they clocked up 89 sprints and 2,184m – figures that provide an indicator of the physical parameters required by the modern full-back. Controlling midfielder William Carvalho covered greater distances (14,885m v Croatia and 14,144m in the final) but considerably less at high speed and with only half the amount of sprinting.

Portugal's data were evidently coloured by the extra time played in three of their four knockout games. For France, the box-to-box play of Blaise Matuidi required the most high-intensity effort, his sprint totals ranging from 36 (v Iceland) to 55 (v Republic of Ireland). Griezmann, after a quieter group stage, generated 40-50 sprints per match in the knockout rounds.

Germany's physical output was reflected by impressive percentages of time spent at high or very high speed, with left-back Jonas Hector regularly exceeding the 10% at high speed mark. During the semi-final against France, where Germany's production fell short of previous games, the two full-backs – Hector and Joshua Kimmich – topped the sprints list, sharing 79 between them.

Even without any bouts of extra time to boost their figures, the data show that semi-finalists Wales had players equipped to maintain a high-tempo game. Midfielder Aaron Ramsey provided a striking example, regularly playing 10 or 11% of his game at high speed and with his sprints tally ranging from 45 against Slovakia to 63 in the quarter-final against Belgium (the exception being against Northern Ireland, when he was effectively limited to 34 by Michael O'Neill's team).

Looking across the board, this could be bettered in normal playing time only by wing-back Antonio Candreva, who contributed 65 sprints on the right flank during Italy's opening win against Belgium. Ramsey's record was equalled by Croatia midfielder Marcelo Brozović against the Czech Republic in the group stage.

At the other end of the scale, Iceland's compact defending meant that, although they matched the rest in terms of high-tempo physical intensity, none of their players produced more than 43 sprints in a single game (Gylfi Sigurdsson against Portugal). Defending champions Spain were at a similar level, with only full-backs Juanfran and Jordi Alba and midfielder Cesc Fàbregas topping 40 sprints in a game.

TOP SPEEDS

1	Kingsley Coman	France	32.8km/h
2	Yannick Carrasco	Belgium	32.3km/h
3	Erik Johansson	Sweden	32.1km/h

65

Italy wing-back Antonio Candreva produced the most sprints in normal time in one game – 65 against Belgium

63

Aaron Ramsey (below) produced 63 sprints against Belgium, a tally matched by Croatia midfielder Marcelo Brozović against the Czech Republic



POSSESSION

After two EUROS where Spain's possession game paid dividends, control of the ball was no longer a guarantee of success

AVERAGE POSSESSION

Germany	63%
Spain	61%
England	59%
Switzerland	58%
Ukraine	56%
Hungary	54%
Russia	53%
France	52%
Portugal	52%
Sweden	52%
Austria	51%
Belgium	51%
Croatia	51%
Turkey	48%
Wales	48%
Poland	46%
Romania	46%
Italy	45%
Republic of Ireland	45%
Slovakia	45%
Czech Republic	43%
Albania	42%
Northern Ireland	37%
Iceland	36%

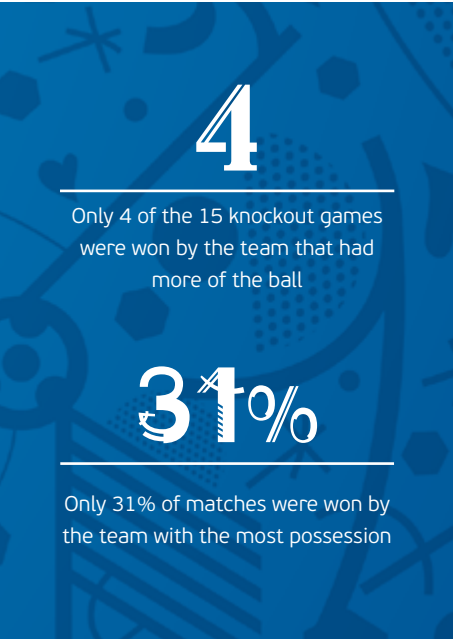
Only 15 of the 51 matches at UEFA EURO 2016 were won by the team that enjoyed a greater share of possession. This trend extended right through to the final, which Portugal won with 47% of the ball. Of the 15 knockout games, only 4 were won by the team that had more of the ball. With two of the group games producing a 50-50 split, this means that possession translated into victory in only 31% of the matches in France. After two successive EUROS in which Spain's possession-based game had prevailed, this was a thought-provoking departure from the recent norm. As UEFA's chief technical officer, Ioan Lupescu, commented on the day after final: "The tournament could be viewed as a contest between possession play and the ability to defend well and hit the target. In a way, it was a case of getting back towards pragmatism and reality."

In the four years since UEFA EURO 2012, the value of ball possession has prospered as a debating point in the UEFA Champions League, where the trophy has regularly oscillated between teams who prize possession and those who are comfortable without the ball. The 2015/16 season refuelled the debate, with a narrow margin of 53 wins for teams that dominated possession and 43 for those that took a lesser share, coupled with victories for the more direct approach of Club Atlético de Madrid against both FC Barcelona and FC Bayern München – two possession-based teams par excellence. UEFA EURO 2016 endorsed the theory that having more of the ball offers no guarantee of results and left a few question marks hanging over the trend towards a possession-based style of play.

"I would say that only Germany, Spain and England genuinely wanted the ball," commented technical observer Peter Rudbæk. "Italy certainly weren't concerned about possession and quite a few of the other teams were quite happy to focus on counterattacking." Lupescu took up the topic of Antonio Conte's team, who finished near the foot of the table in terms of ball possession. "Italy brought something new to the tournament with their tactical approach," he said. "But the

foundations of their game were good defending and effective high pressing. They didn't care about possession – they underlined the realities of the game. And they could easily have reached the final had they not lost that penalty shoot-out."

In terms of debating points, the tournament provided contrasting evidence. Whereas Switzerland were among the front-runners in terms of possession (to the extent of enjoying 58% of the ball against France), Iceland's run to the quarter-finals was based on having control of the ball for just over 21 minutes of each match. Portugal painted their campaign in chiaroscuro, Fernando Santos' side clearly dominating possession (between 58% and 66%) in their three group games, only for their share to drop into the 40s as they switched to counterattacking mode in the knockout matches against Croatia, Poland, Wales and France. Their tournament average of 52% is therefore deceptive, as it conceals a clear change of strategy.



Germany midfielder Toni Kroos



Andrés Iniesta on the ball for Spain

PASSING JUDGEMENT

Effective delivery into the final third is what matters most, not possession for possession's sake

Possession = passing. This simple equation was borne out by the passing patterns registered at UEFA EURO 2016, with Spain (641 passes attempted on average per game) and Germany (639) at the head of the field. At the other end of the spectrum were the Republic of Ireland with 280, Iceland with 259 and Northern Ireland with 230. Although below the Republic of Ireland in the possession chart, Albania and the

"Only Germany, Spain and England genuinely wanted the ball. Italy certainly weren't concerned about possession"

Czech Republic used their time on the ball to make a greater number of passes (351 and 317 respectively). Match-by-match breakdowns and the ratio of long to medium to short passes can be found on the team pages.

The perennial talking point, however, is how to translate possession into positive possession. In France, Germany converted their 63% of the ball into a per game average of 76 deliveries into the final third and 15 into the penalty area. Spain had fewer deliveries into the final third (66) but more (17) into the box. England, third in the possession chart, averaged only 50 deliveries into the final third – one-third less than Germany. Switzerland posted similar figures: 51 into the final third and 15 into the box. The champions, Portugal, were a middle-of-the-table team. Bearing in mind that, in terms of minutes on the pitch, Fernando Santos' team played the equivalent of eight games, their totals can be broken down into just over 40 deliveries into the final third and 10 into the box, on average.

By way of contrast, Iceland averaged 22 deliveries into the final third (as did Slovakia) and 7 into the penalty box (only 4 for Slovakia) but could arguably be considered equally or more successful than the passing teams. On the other hand, the fact that the top possession/passing teams ticked so many boxes in terms of their approach work raises another debating point: is it simply about the quality of finishing? As Thomas Schaaf remarked in Paris: "I thought that Germany were the best all-round team. But they could not score goals."



GOALKEEPING

From tactical awareness to ability on the ball, the demands on the modern goalkeeper are increasing at a rapid rate

"The profile of the goalkeeper has continued to evolve," commented Packie Bonner, "and EURO 2016 made it apparent that he must now be an effective all-rounder in his speciality to perform at major competitions in the international arena." Bonner is the first goalkeeping specialist to be included in UEFA's technical team, and the former Republic of Ireland international was collecting data and impressions not only for this report, but also with a view to offering future assistance to the coach educators currently implementing the UEFA Goalkeeper A licence right across Europe.

"The job description is changing," he said, "but it has always been recognised that the first priority for the goalkeeper is to defend his goal. And it became very apparent during the tournament that traditional defending qualities were decisive in the outcome of many of the matches." He highlighted examples ranging from Switzerland keeper Yann Sommer's 86th-minute 1v1 save against Albania substitute Shkelzen

Gashi in the second game of the tournament, to Michael McGovern's last-gasp saves in the Northern Ireland goal, when he defied numerous Germany attempts almost single-handedly, to the similar heroics by Austria's Robert Almer to keep a clean sheet against Portugal. And so on, right through to the final, where Rui Patrício emerged as one of the key performers by producing outstanding saves at crucial moments. "Unfortunately, the final product always defines the life of the keeper," Bonner added, "and some of the mistakes in the earlier games were also crucial in deciding the final outcome."

One of the salient statistics to emerge from UEFA EURO 2016 was confirmation that the majority of the actions by the modern goalkeeper are with his feet. The average was around 60%, with Germany keeper Manuel Neuer, for example, using his feet for 85% of his actions. Gianluigi Buffon was Italy's sixth most prolific passer during the games against Spain and Germany, and Łukasz Fabiański was

Poland's fourth-highest passer against Portugal. Gábor Király made more passes than any of his team-mates during Hungary's 3-3 draw with the eventual champions. Ditto Almer during Austria's game against Iceland. UEFA EURO 2016 emphasised that the keeper, nowadays, needs to be equipped to become one of his side's key pass-makers.

The keepers' *modus operandi* in terms of distribution varied considerably. During the group stage, they tended to adhere to minimum-risk strategies, playing a more direct game to the front players when high pressure was applied, bypassing defenders and midfielders.

.....
"The goalkeeper must be able to read the game and be equipped to become one of the key tactical components in the team"

There were, nevertheless, notable exceptions. Germany, Hungary and Spain preferred to build through defence and midfield. Iceland, Italy and Poland tended to play short to defenders from restarts to entice the opposition forward and exploit the resulting space higher up the pitch, with a number of short penetrating passes or quick, direct medium-range passes to the front.

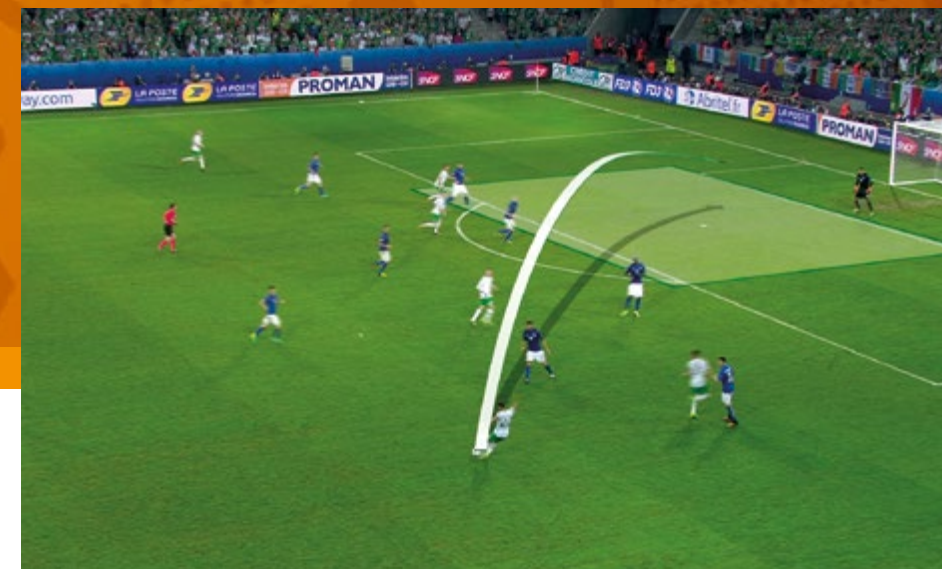
However, as the tournament progressed, changes emerged. "There was a notable shift towards building to defenders and midfielders," Bonner observed. "This appeared to be a tactical strategy by coaches looking to dictate the pace and tempo of the game. What was evident was that coaches treated the distribution by the goalkeeper as one of the key components. The trick, however, is to ensure that the goalkeeper's distribution translates into effective possession. And the statistics indicated that the longer the pass, the less likely it becomes to maintain good possession." The statistics, indeed, bear out Bonner's view – as clearly indicated by the

success rates from long deliveries.

"One of the biggest changes was the considerable increase in the crossing opportunities created," Bonner said. "They were not always successful, but, when delivered with precision, resulted in 32% of the open-play goals. This figure rises to 35% if cutbacks are included, but these pose different problems for the goalkeeper. Notable examples of successful crossing were the Republic of Ireland's winner in the final group game against Italy – a precise cross/pass delivered by Wes Hoolahan. Or Gerard Piqué's goal for Spain against the Czechs. Or Vasili Berezutski's header for Russia against England, both from perfectly flighted crosses. Or Birkir Bjarnason's back-post volley for Iceland against Portugal. Or Cristiano Ronaldo's virtually unstoppable header against Wales in the semi-final, when he ran and jumped to head an inswinging cross into the net."

Apart from noting the increase in crossing, Bonner reflected on what it signified to goalkeepers. "The striking piece of data," he said, "was that it certainly did not result in keepers coming off their goal line more frequently to collect the crosses." He throws down the glove to goalkeeper coaches, offering various debating points: "Are crosses sometimes impossible to defend? How can goalkeepers respond to crosses delivered with excellent technique and with different trajectories and pace – coupled with good movement by other opponents? Are goalkeepers taking more advanced positions, anticipating the outswinging cross to the near-post area and leaving the middle-to-far-post area for defenders to deal with? Is it that some goalkeepers and defenders are not adjusting their positions quickly enough when the wide opposition player moves to the inside and delivers the quick inswinging cross? The challenge is for the coaching staff to find solutions and tactics to help goalkeepers and defenders to reduce the scoring potential of quality crossing."

UEFA EURO 2016 underlined the qualities required by the modern keeper. Stature and agility to span the distance for shots that,



Cross wires

Crossing was an important weapon in the attacking armoury and a constant threat for goalkeepers. Wes Hoolahan's cross for Robbie Brady to score the Republic of Ireland's winner against Italy (top) and Vasili Berezutski's late equaliser for Russia off Georgi Schennikov's ball in against England (above) highlighted the problems goalkeepers face up against pinpoint deliveries into the box.

KEEPING IT LONG

Goalkeepers showed a surprising reliance on the long pass out from the back

Does the goalkeeper focus on initiating build-ups from the back? Or does he direct supply to the front? UEFA EURO 2016 covered the entire spectrum, with Michael McGovern and Manuel Neuer at opposite ends. The Northern Ireland goalkeeper preferred long clearances on almost nine out of ten occasions; his German counterpart opted for the long solution for one pass in four (based on the UEFA norm of attaching the 'long' label to passes of 30m or more). "There was definitely more direct play from the back," said Bonner, "and it was a surprise to see the keepers of teams like Belgium or France – who you'd normally expect to focus on building from the back – playing long in certain circumstances."





Michael McGovern was a crucial last line of defence for Northern Ireland, notably against Germany

The statistics support Bonner’s reference to circumstances, with figures oscillating according to match situation and game plan. Hugo Lloris, for instance, nudged 60% with his average of long passing but opted for the long-distance solution only four times against Albania. Rui Patrício, selected for UEFA’s team of the tournament, provided an interesting statistical breakdown. He played short in Portugal’s group games but during the knockout rounds on the run to the final his use of long passing soared from 21% to 70% – a reflection of his team’s strategic change from a possession-based approach to a more direct counterattacking style.

David de Gea’s percentage practically doubled, from 32% to 63%, in the round of 16, when Italy pressed Spain high in

Saint-Denis. Of Neuer’s 49 passes in the quarter-final against Italy, 30 were long – and 25 of those accurate. The Germany keeper had totalled only 17 long passes in the previous four matches, and reverted to his previous modus operandi during the semi-final against France, when he took the long option on only 3 out of 33 occasions.

Neuer was in a class of his own in terms of the accuracy of his long distribution – well, almost. He was given a close run by Hungary’s experienced keeper Gábor Király, whose success rate also approached three out of four passes. England’s Joe Hart, although among those who most infrequently exercised the long option, also achieved a high rate of accuracy.

This contrasts with cases where two-thirds of long passes from the goalkeeper signified

an immediate surrender of possession to the opposition. However, even these statistics cannot be automatically interpreted negatively. The numbers need to be nuanced according to differences in game plan and strategic approach, with some teams set up to be efficient in second and third-ball winning after (planned) long deliveries from the keeper.

In terms of regular involvement in team play, Király again claimed second place – but this time behind Poland keeper Łukasz Fabiański. The latter’s passing figures were, however, inflated by two periods of extra time – and the same applies to Rui Patrício, whose average can be toned down to 27 passes per game if his 90 minutes of extra time are removed from the equation.

DISTANCE COVERED

The amount of ground covered had little discernible bearing on a team’s fortunes in France

Data related to distances covered are of debatable value. In the pros column, the figures can arguably be used to gauge fitness. In the cons column, it could equally be argued that they reveal which teams had to chase the ball, maybe due to structural imbalances. The rankings are therefore open to interpretation. Three of the top six teams went home after the group stage – but so did four of the bottom six. A variation of 11% between top and bottom is certainly a significant

difference, yet most of the other teams are tightly grouped – with both finalists tucked in mid-table.

To make for meaningful comparisons, each team’s average is based exclusively on normal playing time (extra time excluded), but other conditioning factors must be borne in mind. Albania’s average, for instance, was dragged down by playing for almost an hour with ten men in their opening match against Switzerland.



Antonio Conte’s passionate leadership kept Italy moving

AVERAGE DISTANCE COVERED	
Italy	114,656m
Ukraine	112,133m
Czech Republic	112,112m
Germany	112,000m
Iceland	110,304m
Russia	110,002m
Slovakia	108,968m
Northern Ireland	108,516m
Poland	108,343m
Switzerland	108,300m
Portugal	107,881m
England	107,859m
Spain	107,628m
Hungary	107,227m
Austria	107,115m
Croatia	107,028m
France	106,550m
Wales	105,823m
Sweden	105,354m
Albania	104,744m
Belgium	104,381m
Turkey	104,164m
Romania	103,311m
Republic of Ireland	103,192m





KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-5-1 or 1-4-1-4-1, switching to 1-4-2-3-1 or 1-4-3-3 when attacking
- Zonal defending; well-synchronised back four
- Fast defence-to-attack transitions with direct passing to striker
- Single holding midfielder in sweeper role in front of back four
- Wide midfielders quick to drop back into deep-lying defensive block
- Centre-back Ajeti strong in tackling, 1v1 defensive skills
- Rapid attack-to-defence transitions into compact block
- Emphasis on direct attacking through central zone
- Three zonal defenders at corners; seven marking man-to-man
- Hard-working, well-organised team play with outstanding spirit

HEAD COACH



Gianni DE BIASI Born: 16/06/1956

Coaching assistants Paolo Tramezzani, Erjon Bogdani, Ervin Bulku; GK Ilir Bozhiqi; Fitness Alberto Belle

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Switzerland	45%	102,704m	414	88%
France	41%	107,526m	357	76%
Romania	41%	104,002m	281	78%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 58 (17%)
Medium 188 (54%)
Short 105 (30%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%

	Born	G	A	SUI L 0-1	FRA L 2-0	ROU W 0-1	Club
GOALKEEPERS							
1 Etrit Berisha	10/03/1989			90	90	90	SS Lazio
12 Orges Shehi	25/09/1977						KF Skënderbeu
23 Alban Hoxha	23/11/1987						FK Partizani
DEFENDERS							
2 Andi Lila	12/02/1986				71↓	90	PAS Giannina FC
4 Elseid Hysaj	20/02/1994			90	90	90	SSC Napoli
5 Lorik Cana	27/07/1983			36 SO	S	7↑	FC Nantes
6 Frédéric Veseli	20/11/1992				5↑		FC Lugano
7 Ansi Agolli	11/10/1982			90	90	90	Qarabağ FK
15 Mërgim Mavraj	09/06/1986			90	90	90	1. FC Köln
17 Naser Aliji	27/12/1993						FC Basel 1893
18 Arlind Ajeti	25/09/1993				85↓	90	Frosinone Calcio
MIDFIELDERS							
3 Ermir Lenjani	05/08/1989			90	90	77↓	FC Nantes
8 Migjen Basha	05/01/1987					83↓	Como Calcio
9 Ledian Memushaj	17/12/1986		1		90	90	Pescara Calcio
13 Burim Kukeli	16/01/1984			90	74↓	S	FC Zürich
14 Taulant Xhaka	28/03/1991			62↓	16↑		FC Basel 1893
20 Ergys Kaçe	08/07/1993			28↑			PAOK FC
21 Odise Roshi	22/05/1991			74↓	19↑	13↑	HNK Rijeka
22 Amir Abrashi	27/03/1990			90	90	90	SC Freiburg

FORWARDS							
10 Armando Sadiku	27/05/1991	1		82↓	90	59↓	FC Vaduz
11 Shkëlzen Gashi	15/07/1988			8↑			Colorado Rapids
16 Sokol Çikalleshi	27/07/1990			16↑			İstanbul Başakşehir
19 Bekim Balaj	11/01/1991					31↑	HNK Rijeka

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Abrashi 109 ➡ 14 to Hysaj
Kukeli 92 ➡ 17 to Abrashi
Mavraj 90 ➡ 19 to Agolli

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

21 Hysaj to Abrashi



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 with switch to initial 1-3-2-3-2 structure v Iceland
- Emphasis on combination play, building through thirds
- Ilsanker and Baumgartlinger the controlling midfielders and playmakers
- Alaba versatile component in variety of midfield and attacking roles
- Good use of wide areas with full-backs pushing up (notably Fuchs on left)
- Compact defensive block with positional discipline
- Some quality crossing (but unrewarded), combinations through middle
- Out of possession, quick transitions to deep 1-4-4-2 defending
- Threatening at set plays; Alaba dangerous at direct free-kicks
- Attacking philosophy; will-to-win, commitment and mental resilience

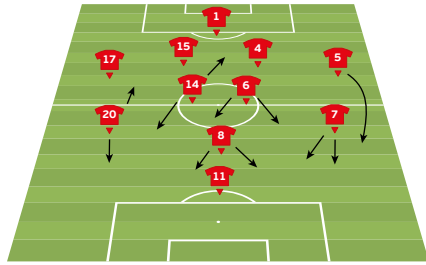
HEAD COACH



Marcel KOLLER Born: 11/11/1960

Coaching assistant Thomas Janeschitz; GK Klaus Lindenberger; Fitness Roger Spry, Gerhard Zallinger

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Hungary	50%	106,270m	402	81%
Portugal	41%	108,809m	335	81%
Iceland	63%	106,268m	630	88%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 65 (14%)
Medium 277 (61%)
Short 133 (25%)

	Born	G	A	HUN L 0-2	POR D 0-0	ISL L 2-1	Club
GOALKEEPERS							
1 Robert Almer	20/03/1984			90	90	90	FK Austria Wien
12 Heinz Lindner	17/07/1990						Eintracht Frankfurt
23 Ramazan Özcan	28/06/1984						FC Ingolstadt 04
DEFENDERS							
3 Aleksandar Dragović	06/03/1991			66 SO	S	90	FC Dynamo Kyiv
4 Martin Hinteregger	07/09/1992			90	90	90	VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach
5 Christian Fuchs	07/04/1986			90	90	90	Leicester City FC
13 Markus Suttner	16/04/1987						FC Ingolstadt 04
15 Sebastian Prödl	21/06/1987				90	45↓	Watford FC
16 Kevin Wimmer	15/11/1992				3↑		Tottenham Hotspur FC
17 Florian Klein	17/11/1986			90	90	90	VfB Stuttgart
MIDFIELDERS							
2 György Garics	08/03/1984						SV Darmstadt 98
6 Stefan Ilsanker	18/05/1989				87↓	45↓	RB Leipzig
8 David Alaba	24/06/1992	1		90	65↓	90	FC Bayern München
10 Zlatko Junuzović	26/09/1987			59↓	I	I	SV Werder Bremen
11 Martin Harnik	10/06/1987			77↓	90		VfB Stuttgart
14 Julian Baumgartlinger	02/01/1988			90	90	90	1. FSV Mainz 05
18 Alessandro Schöpf	07/02/1994	1		13↑	25↑	45↑	FC Schalke 04
20 Marcel Sabitzer	17/03/1994			31↑	85↓	78↓	RB Leipzig
22 Jakob Jantscher	08/01/1989					12↑	FC Luzern

FORWARDS							
7 Marko Arnautović	19/04/1989			90	90	90	Stoke City FC
9 Rubin Okotie	06/06/1987			25↑			TSV 1860 München
19 Lukas Hinterseer	28/03/1991				5↑		FC Ingolstadt 04
21 Marc Janko	25/06/1983			65↓		45↑	FC Basel 1893

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Baumgartlinger 159 ➡ 28 to Hinteregger
Hinteregger 145 ➡ 40 to Fuchs
Dragović 126 ➡ 26 to Hinteregger

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

40 Hinteregger to Fuchs





KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 with switch to three at back late in group game v Italy
- Technique-based game but with emphasis on vertical attacking
- Fast counterattacks via De Bruyne and Hazard a permanent threat
- Balanced attack/defence contributions by controlling midfielders
- De Bruyne linking middle-to-front play; support runs to edge of box
- Hazard a major disruptive element; fast solo runs from wide left
- Wing play energetically supported by full-backs on both sides
- Build-up from back through Witsel, Nainggolan, De Bruyne triangle
- Excellent shot-stopping by Courtois; 63% of distribution long
- Strong target strikers (Lukaku, Batshuayi, Benteke and Origi); aerial power

HEAD COACH



Marc WILMOTS Born: 22/02/1969
Coaching assistant Vital Borkelmans; GK Erwin Lemmens; Fitness Mario Innaurato

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Italy	56%	107,991m	529	85%
Rep. Ireland	54%	101,975m	455	89%
Sweden	50%	101,785m	344	83%
Hungary	45%	105,227m	395	87%
Wales	52%	104,928m	494	88%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 60 (14%)
Medium 269 (61%)
Short 114 (26%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%

	Born	G	A	ITA L 0-2	IRL W 3-0	SWE W 0-1	HUN W 0-4	WAL L 3-1	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Thibaut Courtois	11/05/1992		90	90	90	90	90	Chelsea FC
12	Simon Mignolet	06/08/1988							Liverpool FC
13	Jean-François Gillet	31/05/1979							KV Mechelen

DEFENDERS

2	Toby Alderweireld	02/03/1989	1	90	90	90	90	90	Tottenham Hotspur FC
3	Thomas Vermaelen	14/11/1985		90	90	90	90	S	FC Barcelona
5	Jan Vertonghen	24/04/1987		90	90	90	90	I	Tottenham Hotspur FC
15	Jason Denayer	28/06/1995						90	Galatasaray AŞ
16	Thomas Meunier	12/09/1991	1		90	90	90	90	Club Brugge KV
18	Christian Kabasele	24/02/1991							KRC Genk
21	Jordan Lukaku	25/07/1994						75↓	KV Oostende
23	Laurent Ciman	05/08/1985		76↓					Montreal

MIDFIELDERS

4	Radja Nainggolan	04/05/1988	2	1	62↓	33↑	90	90	90	AS Roma
6	Axel Witsel	12/01/1989	1		90	90	90	90	90	FC Zenit
7	Kevin De Bruyne	28/06/1991	2		90	90	90	90	90	Manchester City FC
8	Marouane Fellaini	22/11/1987			90		9↑	45↑	90	Manchester United FC
10	Eden Hazard	07/01/1991	1	4	90	90	90↓	81↓	90	Chelsea FC
11	Yannick Carrasco	04/09/1993	1		14↑	64↓	71↓	20↑	45↓	Club Atlético de Madrid
19	Mousa Dembélé	16/07/1987				57↓				Tottenham Hotspur FC

FORWARDS

9	Romelu Lukaku	13/05/1993	2		73↓	83↓	87↓	76↓	83↓	Everton FC
14	Dries Mertens	06/05/1987			28↑	26↑	19↑	70↓	15↑	SSC Napoli
17	Divock Origi	18/04/1995			17↑		1↑			Liverpool FC
20	Christian Benteke	03/12/1990				7↑	3↑			Liverpool FC
22	Michy Batshuayi	02/10/1993	1					14↑	7↑	Olympique de Marseille

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Hazard 233 → 43 to De Bruyne
Witsel 233 → 48 to Hazard
Alderweireld 191 → 36 to Meunier

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

48 Witsel to Hazard



KEY FEATURES

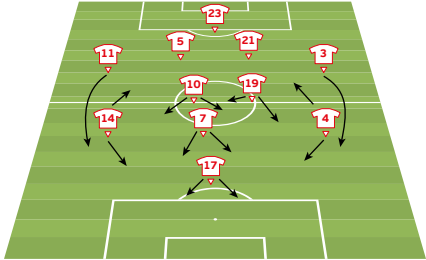
- 1-4-2-3-1 with rapid transitions to 1-4-5-1 when defending
- Compact, well-balanced unit with optimal distance between lines
- Emphasis on patient build-up; centre-backs comfortable on ball
- Good short/medium-distance distribution by keeper, rarely long
- Effective occasional use of direct supply to striker Mandžukić
- Modrić the playmaker/ screener, linking lines, distributing to wings
- Rakitić making dangerous runs into box from zone behind striker
- Wide players available to receive on touchline or moving inside
- Attacks supported by full-backs, especially Srna on the right
- Technique, tactical awareness, strength; individuals with good team ethic

HEAD COACH



Ante ČAČIĆ Born: 29/09/1953
Coaching assistants Ante Miše, Josip Šimunić; GK Marjan Mrmić; Fitness Leonard Sovina, Miljenko Rak

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Turkey	49%	104,582m	344	79%
Czech Rep.	56%	108,859m	390	83%
Spain	40%	106,444m	290	84%
Portugal	59%	108,225m ¹	535 ¹	88%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

¹ 142,566m covered and 676 passes overall (90-minute values recorded for sake of comparisons)

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 60 (15%)
Medium 238 (61%)
Short 92 (24%)

	Born	G	A	TUR W 0-1	CZE D 2-2	ESP W 2-1	POR L 0-1*	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Ivan Vargić	15/03/1987						HNK Rijeka
12	Lovre Kalinić	03/04/1990						HNK Hajduk Split
23	Danijel Subašić	27/10/1984		90	90	90	120	AS Monaco FC

DEFENDERS

2	Šime Vrsaljko	10/01/1992			1↑	90		US Sassuolo Calcio
3	Ivan Strinić	17/07/1987		90	90↓		120	SSC Napoli
5	Vedran Ćorluka	05/02/1986		90	90	90	120↓	FC Lokomotiv Moskva
6	Tin Jedvaj	28/11/1995				90		Bayer 04 Leverkusen
11	Darijo Srna	01/05/1982		90	90	90	120	FC Shakhtar Donetsk
13	Gordon Schildenfeld	18/03/1985		1↑	1↑			GNK Dinamo Zagreb
21	Domagoj Vida	29/04/1989		90	90		120	FC Dynamo Kyiv

MIDFIELDERS

4	Ivan Perišić	02/02/1989	2	1	87↓	90	90↓	120	FC Internazionale Milano
7	Ivan Rakitić	10/03/1988	1		90↓	90↓	90	110↓	FC Barcelona
8	Mateo Kovačić	06/05/1994			28↑	8↑			Real Madrid CF
10	Luka Modrić	09/09/1985	1		90	62↓	I	120	Real Madrid CF
14	Marcelo Brozović	16/11/1992	1		90	90		120	FC Internazionale Milano
15	Marko Rog	19/07/1995				82↓			GNK Dinamo Zagreb
18	Ante Ćorić	14/04/1997							GNK Dinamo Zagreb
19	Milan Badelj	25/02/1989		90	90	90	120		ACF Fiorentina

FORWARDS

9	Andrej Kramarić	19/06/1991			3↑		1↑	1↑	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim
16	Nikola Kalinić	05/01/1988	1	1			90	32↑	ACF Fiorentina
17	Mario Mandžukić	21/05/1986			90↓	90		88↓	Juventus
20	Marko Pjaca	06/05/1995			1↑		90↓	10↑	GNK Dinamo Zagreb
22	Duje Čop	01/02/1990			S		1↑		Málaga CF

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played *aet

TOP PASSERS

Ćorluka 201 → 41 to Modrić
Modrić 185 → 47 to Srna
Badelj 182 → 28 to Ćorluka

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

47 Modrić to Srna





KEY FEATURES

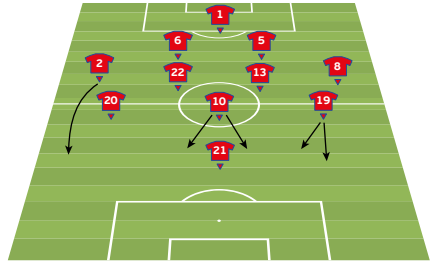
- 1-4-2-3-1 with switch to 1-4-3-3 in last game v Turkey
- Initially high defensive line 30m from goal
- Quick transitions to deep 1-4-5-1 or 1-4-4-1-1 when defending
- Balanced screening midfielders: Plašil holding, Darida pushing up
- Key shot-stopping by Čech; emphasis on long clearances to striker
- Strong centre-backs building with long diagonals to wings
- Full-backs supporting attacks, especially Kadeřábek on right
- Wide midfielders cutting in to support target striker
- Quick combinations, fluent movements, but limited possession
- Powerful athletic team with will-to-win and mental strength

HEAD COACH



Pavel VRBA Born: 06/12/1963
Coaching assistants Karel Brückner, Karel Krejčí, Zdeněk Svoboda; GK Jan Stejskal; Fitness Michal Rukavička

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Spain	33%	109,998m	240	74%
Croatia	44%	113,858m	331	79%
Turkey	51%	112,479m	380	82%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 62 (20%)
Medium 172 (54%)
Short 83 (26%)

	Born	G	A	ESP L 1-0	CRO D 2-2	TUR L 0-2	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1 Petr Čech	20/05/1982			90	90	90	Arsenal FC
16 Tomáš Vaclík	29/03/1989						FC Basel 1893
23 Tomáš Koubek	26/08/1992						FC Slovan Liberec

DEFENDERS

2 Pavel Kadeřábek	25/04/1992			90	90	90	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim
3 Michal Kadlec	13/12/1984						Fenerbahçe SK
5 Roman Hubník	06/06/1984			90	90	90	FC Viktoria Plzeň
6 Tomáš Šivok	15/09/1983			90	90	90	Bursaspor
8 David Limberský	06/10/1983			90	90		FC Viktoria Plzeň
11 Daniel Pudil	27/09/1985					90	Sheffield Wednesday FC
17 Marek Suchý	29/03/1988			S			FC Basel 1893

MIDFIELDERS

4 Theodor Gebre Selassie	24/12/1986			86↓			SV Werder Bremen
9 Bořek Dočkal	30/09/1988					71↓	AC Sparta Praha
10 Tomáš Rosický	04/10/1980	1		88↓	90	I	Arsenal FC
13 Jaroslav Plašil	05/01/1982			90	86↓	90↓	FC Girondins de Bordeaux
14 Daniel Kolář	27/10/1985					1↑	FC Viktoria Plzeň
15 David Pavelka	18/05/1991			2↑		57↓	Kasımpaşa SK
18 Josef Šural	30/05/1990			4↑	23↑	19↑	AC Sparta Praha
19 Ladislav Krejčí	05/07/1992			90	90	90	AC Sparta Praha
20 Jiří Skalák	12/03/1992					67↓	Brighton & Hove Albion FC
22 Vladimír Darida	08/08/1990			90	90	90	Hertha BSC Berlin

FORWARDS

7 Tomáš Necid	13/08/1989	1		75↓	4↑	90	Bursaspor
12 Milan Škoda	16/01/1986	1			23↑	33↑	SK Slavia Praha
21 David Lafata	18/09/1981			15↑	67↓		AC Sparta Praha

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Darida 123 ➡ 19 to Kadeřábek
Šivok 94 ➡ 20 to Hubník
Hubník 88 ➡ 20 to Darida

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASSES OVERALL

20 Šivok to Hubník
20 Hubník to Darida



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with transitions to 1-4-4-2 or 1-4-5-1 when defending
- Possession-based game with patient passing through thirds
- Strong, athletic centre-backs; aerial power in set plays at both ends
- Emphasis on building from back; accurate distribution by keeper Hart
- Good passing, reading of game by screening midfielder Dier
- Constant overlaps, crosses by full-backs, notably Walker on right
- Rooney dropping deep to act as catalyst for attacking play
- Neat high-tempo combinations opening play to wide areas
- Varied attacking options (Sterling, Sturridge, Lallana, Vardy and Rashford)
- Youthful, committed, energetic team; technique in all departments

HEAD COACH



Roy HODGSON Born: 09/08/1947
Coaching assistants Ray Lewington, Gary Neville; GK Dave Watson; Fitness Chris Neville

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Russia	52%	110,766m	426	87%
Wales	64%	105,622m	493	88%
Slovakia	57%	109,811m	557	92%
Iceland	63%	105,235m	525	86%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 59 (12%)
Medium 313 (63%)
Short 128 (26%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%

	Born	G	A	RUS D 1-1	WAL W 2-1	SVK D 0-0	ISL L 1-2	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1 Joe Hart	19/04/1987			90	90	90	90	Manchester City FC
13 Fraser Forster	17/03/1988							Southampton FC
23 Tom Heaton	15/04/1986							Burnley FC

DEFENDERS

2 Kyle Walker	28/05/1990			90	90		90	Tottenham Hotspur FC
3 Danny Rose	02/07/1990			90	90		90	Tottenham Hotspur FC
5 Gary Cahill	19/12/1985			90	90	90	90	Chelsea FC
6 Chris Smalling	22/11/1989			90	90	90	90	Manchester United FC
12 Nathaniel Clyne	05/04/1991					90		Liverpool FC
16 John Stones	28/05/1994							Everton FC
21 Ryan Bertrand	05/08/1989					90		Southampton FC

MIDFIELDERS

4 James Milner	04/01/1986			3↑				Liverpool FC
8 Adam Lallana	10/05/1988			90	73↓	61↓		Liverpool FC
14 Jordan Henderson	17/06/1990					90		Liverpool FC
17 Eric Dier	15/01/1994	1		90	90	90	45↓	Tottenham Hotspur FC
18 Jack Wilshere	01/01/1992			12↑		56↓	45↑	Arsenal FC
19 Ross Barkley	05/12/1993							Everton FC
20 Dele Alli	11/04/1996	1		90	90	29↑	90	Tottenham Hotspur FC

FORWARDS

7 Raheem Sterling	08/12/1994			87↓	45↓		60↓	Manchester City FC
9 Harry Kane	28/07/1993			90	45↓	14↑	90	Tottenham Hotspur FC
10 Wayne Rooney	24/10/1985	1		78↓	90	34↑	87↓	Manchester United FC
11 Jamie Vardy	11/01/1987	1			45↑	90	30↑	Leicester City FC
15 Daniel Sturridge	01/09/1989	1			45↑	76↓	90	Liverpool FC
22 Marcus Rashford	31/10/1997				17↑		3↑	Manchester United FC

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Dier 236 ➡ 36 to Rooney
Rooney 201 ➡ 41 to Rose
Cahill 194 ➡ 34 to Dier

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

42 Smalling to Cahill






KEY FEATURES

- Initially 1-4-3-3; 1-4-2-3-1 v Albania, Ireland, Germany and Portugal
- Technique-based game; powerful running with the ball
- Narrow, compact defence; wide players disciplined in dropping back
- Quick defence-to-attack transitions; direct supply to striker Giroud
- Varied options in wide areas (Payet, Sissoko, Coman, etc.)
- Griezmann providing pace and finishing power in all areas of attack
- Pogba and Matuidi providing ball-winning, box-to-box power
- Top-class set-play deliveries and long-range shooting by Payet
- Aggressive pressing as from halfway line; quick use of ball when won
- Support and good crosses from full-backs when in 'winger-less' formation

HEAD COACH

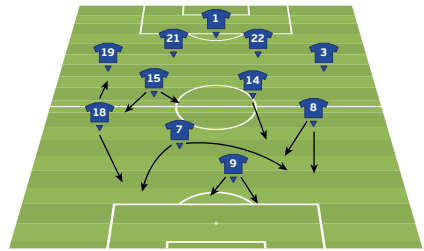


Didier DESCHAMPS

Born: 15/10/1968

Coaching assistant Guy Stéphan; GK Franck Riviot; Fitness Éric Bédouet

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Romania	59%	104,985m	502	84%
Albania	59%	106,662m	529	88%
Switzerland	42%	106,422m	334	87%
Rep. Ireland	60%	107,155m	494	90%
Iceland	59%	106,058m	651	91%
Germany	35%	108,821m	299	84%
Portugal	53%	105,749m ¹	586 ¹	91%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy
¹ 138,146m covered and 710 passes overall (90-minute values recorded for sake of comparisons)

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 52 (11%)
Medium 313 (65%)
Short 120 (25%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%

Born	G	A	ROU	ALB	SUI	IRL	ISL	GER	POR	Club
			W 2-1	W 2-0	D 0-0	W 2-1	W 5-2	W 0-2	L 1-0*	

GOALKEEPERS										
1	Hugo Lloris	26/12/1986		90	90	90	90	90	120	Tottenham Hotspur FC
16	Steve Mandanda	28/03/1985								Olympique de Marseille
23	Benoît Costil	03/07/1987								Stade Rennais FC

DEFENDERS										
2	Christophe Jallet	31/10/1983								Olympique Lyonnais
3	Patrice Evra	15/05/1981		90	90	90	90	90	120	Juventus
4	Adil Rami	27/12/1985	1	90	90	90	90			Sevilla FC
13	Eliaquim Mangala	13/02/1991					18†			Manchester City FC
17	Lucas Digne	20/07/1993								AS Roma
19	Bacary Sagna	14/02/1983	1	90	90	90	90	90	120	Manchester City FC
21	Laurent Koscielny	10/09/1985		90	90	90	72↓	90	120	Arsenal FC
22	Samuel Umtiti	14/11/1993					90	90	120	Olympique Lyonnais

MIDFIELDERS										
5	N'Golo Kanté	29/03/1991	1	90	90		45↓	19†		Leicester City FC
6	Yohan Cabaye	14/01/1986				90		1†		Crystal Palace FC
8	Dimitri Payet	29/03/1987	3	2	90↓	90	27†	90	80↓	West Ham United FC
12	Morgan Schneiderlin	08/11/1989								Manchester United FC
14	Blaise Matuidi	09/04/1987	1	90	90	13†	90	90	120	Paris Saint-Germain
15	Paul Pogba	15/03/1993	1	77↓	45†	90	90	90	120	Juventus
18	Moussa Sissoko	16/08/1989		1†		90	1†	90	110↓	Newcastle United FC
20	Kingsley Coman	13/06/1996		24†	68↓	63↓	45†↓	10†	62†	FC Bayern München

FORWARDS										
7	Antoine Griezmann	21/03/1991	6	2	66↓	22†	77↓	90	90	90↓
9	Olivier Giroud	30/09/1986	3	2	90	77↓		73↓	60↓	78↓
10	André-Pierre Gignac	05/12/1985	1		13†	90	17†	30†	12†	42†
11	Anthony Martial	05/12/1995		13†	45↓					10†

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; † = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played *aet

TOP PASSERS

Pogba 389 → 53 to Matuidi
Matuidi 345 → 74 to Payet
Koscielny 307 → 62 to Umtiti

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

→ 53 to Matuidi
→ 74 to Payet
→ 62 to Umtiti

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL


74 Matuidi to Payet



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 ('strikerless' or Gomez as target) or 1-4-3-3; 1-3-4-3 v Italy
- Kroos and Khedira the controlling and distributing midfielders
- High-tempo possession football with full-backs extremely high
- Özil the creative linking element; Müller roaming width of attack
- Quick diagonal switches of play to move opponents' defence
- Compact high lines create platform for aggressive high pressing
- Neuer sweeping behind high back line; accurate distribution
- Quick, varied routes to opponents' box; passes, crosses, combos, etc.
- Dangerous set plays and long-range shooting; aerial power in both boxes
- Tactically mature; strong on leadership; able to dictate pace of game

HEAD COACH

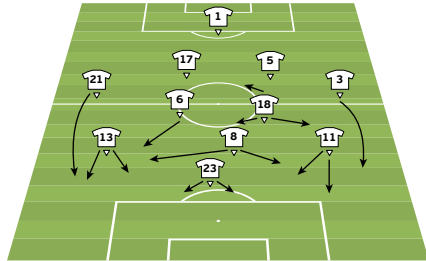


Joachim LÖW

Born: 03/02/1960

Coaching assistants Thomas Schneider, Marcus Sorg; GK Andi Köpke; Fitness Yann-Benjamin Kugel, Nicklas Dietrich

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Ukraine	63%	113,584m	677	92%
Poland	63%	109,649m	585	89%
N. Ireland	71%	110,944m	704	92%
Slovakia	59%	112,268m	601	89%
Italy	59%	112,061m ¹	628 ¹	90%
France	65%	113,494m	637	90%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy
¹ 145,656m covered and 815 passes overall (90-minute values recorded for sake of comparisons)

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 72 (12%)
Medium 423 (66%)
Short 141 (22%)

Born	G	A	UKR	POL	NIR	SVK	ITA	FRA	Club
			W 2-0	D 0-0	W 0-1	W 3-0	D 1-1*	L 0-2	

GOALKEEPERS									
1	Manuel Neuer	27/03/1986		90	90	90	90	120	90
12	Bernd Leno	04/03/1992							
22	Marc-André ter Stegen	30/04/1992							

DEFENDERS									
2	Shkodran Mustafi	17/04/1992	1	90				29†	
3	Jonas Hector	27/05/1990	1	90	90	90	90	120	90
4	Benedikt Höwedes	29/02/1988		90	90	14†	18†	120	90
5	Mats Hummels	16/12/1988		I	90	90	90	120	S
16	Jonathan Tah	11/02/1996							
17	Jérôme Boateng	03/09/1988	1	90	90	76↓	72↓	120	61↓
21	Joshua Kimmich	08/02/1995			90	90	120	90	

MIDFIELDERS									
6	Sami Khedira	04/04/1987		90	90	69↓	76↓	16↓	I
7	Bastian Schweinsteiger	01/08/1984	1	1†		21†	14†	104†	79↓
8	Mesut Özil	15/10/1988	1	1	90	90	90	120	90
9	André Schürrle	06/11/1990		12†	24†	35†			
11	Julian Draxler	20/09/1993	1	1	78↓	71↓		72↓	48†
14	Emre Can	12/01/1994							67↓
15	Julian Weigl	08/09/1995							
18	Toni Kroos	04/01/1990	1	90	90	90	90	120	90
19	Mario Götze	03/06/1992		90↓	66↓	55↓		23†	
20	Leroy Sané	11/01/1996							11†

FORWARDS									
10	Lukas Podolski	04/06/1985					18†		
13	Thomas Müller	13/09/1989	1	90	90	90	90	120	90
23	Mario Gomez	10/07/1985	2		19†	90	90	72↓	I

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; † = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played *aet; won 6-5 on penalties

TOP PASSERS

Kroos 608 → 90 to Hector
Boateng 399 → 51 to Hummels
Özil 383 → 72 to Kroos

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

→ 90 to Hector
→ 51 to Hummels
→ 72 to Kroos

MOST FREQUENT PASSES OVERALL

90 Hector to Kroos
90 Kroos to Hector





KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1, switching to 1-4-3-3 v Iceland and 1-4-4-2 v Portugal
- Compact unit with athletic, disciplined, hard-working players
- High-tempo passing with off-ball movement, triangular construction
- Central midfielder Nagy the organiser and architect of attacking play
- Rapid transitions in both directions; fast counters an effective weapon
- Wide players cutting in to create space for overlapping full-backs
- Good diagonal switches of play (e.g. left-back Kádár to Lovrencsics on right)
- Excellent deliveries of corners and free-kicks
- Szalai a fast striker, well-supported from midfield, notably by Kleinheisler
- Aggressive pressing and defending; strong collective spirit

HEAD COACH



Bernd STORCK Born: 25/01/1963
Coaching assistants Andreas Möller, Zoltán Szélesi; GK Holger Gehrke; Fitness Zoltán Holanek, Victor Moore

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Austria	50%	110,131m	387	82%
Iceland	67%	107,146m	606	89%
Portugal	42%	104,566m	308	83%
Belgium	55%	107,065m	475	90%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 73 (16%)
Medium 274 (62%)
Short 97 (22%)

Born	G	A	AUT W 0-2	ISL D 1-1	POR D 3-3	BEL L 0-4	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1 Gábor Király	01/04/1976	90	90	90	90	Szombathelyi Haladás
12 Dénes Dibusz	16/11/1990					Ferencvárosi TC
22 Péter Gulácsi	06/05/1990					RB Leipzig

DEFENDERS

2	Ádám Lang	17/01/1993	90	90	90	90	Videoton FC
3	Mihály Korhut	01/12/1988			90		Debreceni VSC
4	Tamás Kádár	14/03/1990	90	90		90	KKS Lech Poznań
5	Attila Fiola	17/02/1990	90				Puskás Akadémia FC
16	Ádám Pintér	12/06/1988	1↑		90	75↓	Ferencvárosi TC
20	Richárd Guzmics	16/04/1987	90	90	90	90	Wisła Kraków
21	Barnabás Bese	06/05/1994			45↑		MTK Budapest
23	Roland Juhász	01/07/1983		84↓	90	79↓	Videoton FC

MIDFIELDERS

6	Ákos Elek	21/07/1988			90	45↑	Diósgyőri VTK	
8	Ádám Nagy	17/06/1995		90	90	90	Ferencvárosi TC	
10	Zoltán Gera	22/04/1979	1	90	90	45↓	45↓	Ferencvárosi TC
14	Gergő Lovrencsics	01/09/1988			83↓	90	KKS Lech Poznań	
15	László Kleinheisler	08/04/1994	1	79↓	90	I	I	SV Werder Bremen
18	Zoltán Stieber	16/10/1988	1	11↑	66↓	7↑		1. FC Nürnberg

FORWARDS

7 Balázs Dzsudzsák	23/12/1986	2	90	90	90	90	Bursaspor
9 Ádám Szalai	09/12/1987	1	69↓	6↑	71↓	90	Hannover 96
11 Krisztián Németh	05/01/1989		89↓		19↑		Al-Gharafa
13 Dániel Böde	24/10/1986			24↑		11↑	Ferencvárosi TC
17 Nemanja Nikolić	31/12/1987	1		24↑		15↑	Legia Warszawa
19 Tamás Priskin	27/09/1986	1	21↑	66↓			ŠK Slovan Bratislava

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Kádár 175 → 25 to Nagy
Guzmics 169 → 47 to Kádár
Lang 161 → 28 to Dzsudzsák

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

50 Juhász to Kádár



KEY FEATURES

- Classic, compact 1-4-4-2 with lines of four close together
- Tight, initially narrow defending; synchronised movements towards ball
- Initially high defensive line (35m) but dropping deep without loss of shape
- Well-coached implementation of system; clear job descriptions
- Comfortable, hardworking without the ball; spaces effectively shut down
- Non-possession game; keeper and defenders preferring to play long
- Quick defence-to-attack transitions; direct supply to striker Sigthórsson
- Powerful, resolute defending; aerial power at both ends of pitch
- Dangerous set plays, including very long throw-in by Gunnarsson
- Excellent collective virtues; team coached to exploit its strengths

HEAD COACHES



Heimir HALLGRÍMSSON Born: 10/06/1967
Lars LAGERBÄCK Born: 16/07/1948
GK Gudmundur Hreidarsson

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Portugal	34%	112,493m	185	73%
Hungary	33%	110,398m	207	71%
Austria	37%	110,486m	272	73%
England	37%	109,147m	243	71%
France	41%	108,998m	388	88%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 58 (22%)
Medium 140 (54%)
Short 61 (24%)

Born	G	A	POR D 1-1	HUN D 1-1	AUT W 2-1	ENG W 1-2	FRA L 5-2	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1 Hannes Halldórsson	27/04/1984	90	90	90	90	90	FK Bodø/Glimt
12 Ögmundur Kristinsson	19/06/1989						Hammarby Fotboll
13 Ingvar Jónsson	18/10/1989						Sandefjord Fotball

DEFENDERS

2	Birkir Sævarsson	11/11/1984	90	90	90	90	90	Hammarby Fotboll	
3	Haukur Heidar Hauksson	01/09/1991						AIK Solna	
4	Hjörtur Hermannsson	08/02/1995						IFK Göteborg	
5	Sverrir Ingason	05/08/1993			4↑		45↑	KSC Lokeren OV	
6	Ragnar Sigurdsson	19/06/1986	1	90	90	90	90	FC Krasnodar	
14	Kári Árnason	13/10/1982	2	90	90	90	90	45↓	Malmö FF
19	Hordur Magnússon	11/02/1993							AC Cesena
21	Arnor Ingvi Traustason	30/04/1993	1			10↑	1↑		IFK Norrköping
23	Ari Skúlason	14/05/1987	1	90	90	90	90	90	Odense BK

MIDFIELDERS

7 Johann Gudmundsson	27/10/1990	1	90↓	90	86↓	90	90	Charlton Athletic FC
8 Birkir Bjarnason	27/05/1988	2	90	90	90	90	90	FC Basel 1893
10 Gylfi Sigurdsson	08/09/1989	1	1	90	90	90	90	Swansea City AFC
16 Rúnar Már Sigurjónsson	18/06/1990							GIF Sundsvall
17 Aron Gunnarsson	22/04/1989	90	65↓	90	90	90	90	Cardiff City FC
18 Elmar Bjarnason	04/03/1987	1	1↑		19↑	14↑		AGF Aarhus
20 Emil Hallfredsson	29/06/1984			25↑				Udinese Calcio

FORWARDS

9	Kolbeinn Sigthórsson	14/03/1990	2	81↓	84↓	80↓	76↓	83↓	FC Nantes	
11	Alfred Finnbogason	01/02/1989		9↑	21↑	S		45↑	FC Augsburg	
15	Jón Dadi Bödvarsson	25/05/1992	1	1	90	69↓	71↓	89↓	45↓	1. FC Kaiserslautern
22	Eidur Gudjohnsen	15/09/1978			6↑			7↑		Molde FK

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

G. Sigurdsson 118 → 29 to Skúlason
Gunnarsson 112 → 21 to R. Sigurdsson
R. Sigurdsson 110 → 19 to B. Bjarnason

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

34 Halldórsson to Sigthórsson





KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-5-2 with rapid transitions to 1-3-3-4 when attacking
- Wing-backs quick to slot into compact five-man defensive line
- High pressing, high-energy game = counterattacking in numbers
- Threatening runs from midfield (notably by Giaccherini) behind defence
- Looked to build from back; outstanding defending and distribution by Bonucci
- Street-wise defenders comfortable in possession, even under pressure
- As a team, comfortable without the ball, waiting for opportunities
- Two forwards combining in close passing; Pellè the main target man
- Solid, hard-working midfield core, giving close support to attacks
- Clear pattern of play implemented with belief and strong team spirit

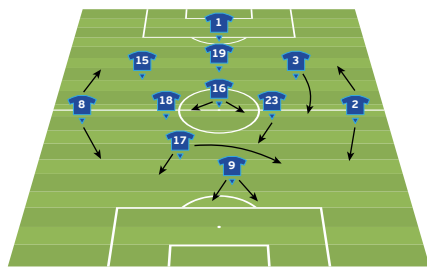
HEAD COACH



Antonio CONTE Born: 31/07/1969

Coaching assistants Angelo Alessio, Massimo Carrera, Mauro Sandreani, Gianluca Conte; GK Gianluca Spinelli; Fitness Paolo Bertelli, Costantino Coratti

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Belgium	44%	119,702m	422	78%
Sweden	47%	113,605m	445	84%
Rep. Ireland	54%	103,891m	372	84%
Spain	41%	117,858m	387	81%
Germany	41%	118,226m ¹	425 ¹	84%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy
¹ 152,993m covered and 511 passes overall (90-minute values recorded for sake of comparisons)

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 63 (15%)
Medium 266 (65%)
Short 82 (20%)

	Born	G	A	BEL	SWE	IRL	ESP	GER	Club
				W 0-2	W 1-0	L 0-1	W 2-0	D 1-1*	

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gianluigi Buffon	28/01/1978		90	90		90	120	Juventus
12	Salvatore Sirigu	12/01/1987				90			Paris Saint-Germain
13	Federico Marchetti	07/02/1983							SS Lazio

DEFENDERS

2	Mattia De Sciglio	20/10/1992		32↑		81↓	90	120	AC Milan
3	Giorgio Chiellini	14/08/1984	1	90	90		90	120↓	Juventus
4	Matteo Darmian	02/12/1989	1	58↓		30↑	6↑	34↑	Manchester United FC
5	Angelo Ogbonna	23/05/1988				90			West Ham United FC
15	Andrea Barzagli	08/05/1981		90	90	90	90	120	Juventus
19	Leonardo Bonucci	01/05/1987	1	1	90	90	90	120	Juventus

MIDFIELDERS

6	Antonio Candreva	28/02/1987	1	90	90	I	I	I	SS Lazio
8	Alessandro Florenzi	11/03/1991			85↓	90	84↓	86↓	AS Roma
10	Thiago Motta	28/08/1982		12↑	16↑	90	36↑	S	Paris Saint-Germain
14	Stefano Sturaro	09/03/1993			5↑	90		120	Juventus
16	Daniele De Rossi	24/07/1983		78↓	74↓		54↓	I	AS Roma
18	Marco Parolo	25/01/1985		90	90		90	120	SS Lazio
21	Federico Bernardeschi	16/02/1994				60↓			ACF Fiorentina
23	Emanuele Giaccherini	05/05/1985	1	1	90	90		90	Bologna FC

FORWARDS

7	Simone Zaza	25/06/1991	1		30↑	90		1↑	Juventus
9	Graziano Pellè	15/07/1985	2		90	60↓		90	Southampton FC
11	Ciro Immobile	20/02/1990		15↑		74↓			Torino FC
17	Éder	15/11/1986	1		75↓	90		82↓	FC Internazionale Milano
20	Lorenzo Insigne	04/06/1991					16↑	8↑	SSC Napoli
22	Stephan El Shaarawy	27/10/1992					9↑		AS Roma

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played
*aet; lost 6-5 on penalties

TOP PASSERS

Barzagli 238
Bonucci 216
Chiellini 190

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

→ 72 to Bonucci
→ 66 to Chiellini
→ 50 to Bonucci

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

72 Barzagli to Bonucci



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-1-4-1 the default setting; 1-5-3-2 v Poland and Wales
- Emphasis on compact defending and direct counterattacking
- Goalkeeper opening play with long upfield kicking
- Good second-ball support by central midfielders Davis and C. Evans
- Runs by target striker aiming to get behind opponents' back line
- When ball lost, immediate high pressing by middle-to-front players
- Conservative full-backs careful to deny counterattacking possibilities
- When ball won in defence, frequent early pass to Davis or C. Evans
- Very dangerous set plays in attack based on aerial power
- Strong team ethic, commitment to cause, discipline, mental strength

HEAD COACH



Michael O'NEILL Born: 05/07/1969

Coaching assistants Jimmy Nicholl, Stephen Robinson; GK Maik Taylor

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Poland	40%	103,413m	254	74%
Ukraine	34%	114,185m	205	64%
Germany	29%	112,629m	176	64%
Wales	45%	103,773m	285	78%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 64 (28%)
Medium 115 (50%)
Short 52 (23%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%

	Born	G	A	POL	UKR	GER	WAL	Club
				L 1-0	W 0-2	L 0-1	L 1-0	

GOALKEEPERS

1	Michael McGovern	12/07/1984		90	90	90	90	Hamilton Academical FC
12	Roy Carroll	30/09/1977						Linfield FC
23	Alan Mannus	19/05/1982						Saint Johnstone FC

DEFENDERS

2	Conor McLaughlin	26/07/1991		90				Fleetwood Town
4	Gareth McAuley	05/12/1979	1	90	90	90	84↓	West Bromwich Albion FC
5	Jonny Evans	03/01/1988		90	90	90	90	West Bromwich Albion FC
6	Chris Baird	25/02/1982		76↓				Fulham FC
15	Luke McCullough	15/02/1994						Doncaster Rovers FC
17	Paddy McNair	27/04/1995		45↓	1↑			Manchester United FC
18	Aaron Hughes	08/11/1979			90	90	90	Melbourne City FC
20	Craig Cathcart	06/02/1989		90	90	90	90	Watford FC
22	Lee Hodson	02/10/1991						Milton Keynes Dons FC

MIDFIELDERS

3	Shane Ferguson	12/07/1991		66↓				Millwall FC
8	Steven Davis	01/01/1985		90	90	90	90	Southampton FC
13	Corry Evans	30/07/1990			90↓	84↓	90	Blackburn Rovers FC
14	Stuart Dallas	19/04/1991	1	45↑	90	90	90	Leeds United FC
16	Oliver Norwood	12/04/1991	1	90	90	90	79↓	Reading FC
19	Jamie Ward	12/05/1986		14↑	69↓	70↓	69↓	Nottingham Forest FC
21	Josh Magennis	15/08/1990		6↑	20↑	6↑		Kilmarnock FC

FORWARDS

7	Niall McGinn	20/07/1987	1		21↑	6↑	11↑	Aberdeen FC
9	Will Grigg	03/07/1991						Wigan Athletic FC
10	Kyle Lafferty	16/09/1987		90		31↑	90	Birmingham City FC
11	Conor Washington	18/05/1992		24↑	84↓	59↓	21↑	Queens Park Rangers FC

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Davis 104
J. Evans 93
Norwood 86

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

→ 15 to Norwood
→ 17 to Davis
→ 21 to Davis

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

21 Norwood to Davis





KEY FEATURES

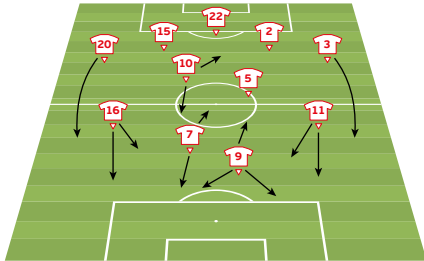
- 1-4-2-3-1 or 1-4-1-4-1 with rapid transitions to 1-4-4-1-1 when defending
- Goalkeeper Fabiański playing almost exclusively long towards striker
- Krychowiak the orchestrator, dropping deep to initiate construction
- Well-organised, compact, narrow, deep defending; movement as block
- Full-backs up at every opportunity, into space vacated by wide players
- Lewandowski working right across the attack; first line of defence
- Milik making penetrating runs from shadow-striker area
- Immediate high pressing after ball loss; fast counters when ball won
- Błaszczykowski dangerous runs from wide and disciplined defending
- Powerful, athletic, hardworking players with strong team ethic

HEAD COACH



Adam NAWAŁKA Born: 23/10/1957
Coaching assistant Bogdan Zająć;
GK Jarosław Tkocz; Fitness Remigiusz Rzepka

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
N. Ireland	60%	104,698m	487	88%
Germany	37%	112,324m	237	78%
Ukraine	36%	111,100m	267	73%
Switzerland	45%	107,140m ¹	358 ¹	85%
Portugal	54%	106,451m ²	501 ²	86%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy
¹ 137,418m covered, 476 passes overall; ² 139,881m, 650 passes overall (90-minute values recorded for comparisons)

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 57 (15%)
Medium 224 (61%)
Short 89 (24%)

Born	G	A	NIR	GER	UKR	SUI	POR	Club
			W 1-0	D 0-0	W 0-1	D 1-1*	D 1-1*	

GOALKEEPERS

1	Wojciech Szczęsny	18/04/1990						AS Roma
12	Artur Boruc	20/02/1980						AFC Bournemouth
22	Łukasz Fabiański	18/04/1985		90	90	120	120	Swansea City AFC

DEFENDERS

2	Michał Pazdan	21/09/1987		90	90	90	120	120	Legia Warszawa
3	Artur Jędrzejczyk	04/11/1987		90	90	90	120	120	Legia Warszawa
4	Thiago Cionek	21/04/1986			90				US Città di Palermo
14	Jakub Wawrzyniak	07/07/1983							KS Lechia Gdańsk
15	Kamil Glik	03/02/1988		90	90	90	120	120	Torino FC
18	Bartosz Salamon	01/05/1991							Cagliari Calcio
20	Łukasz Piszczek	03/06/1985		90	90		120	120	Borussia Dortmund

MIDFIELDERS

5	Krzysztof Mączyński	23/05/1987		78↓	76↓		101↓	98↓	Wisła Kraków
6	Tomasz Jodłowiec	08/09/1985		12↑	14↑	90	19↑	22↑	Legia Warszawa
8	Karol Linetty	02/02/1995							KKS Lech Poznań
10	Grzegorz Krychowiak	29/01/1990		90	90	90	120	120	Sevilla FC
11	Kamil Grosicki	08/06/1988	2	10↑	87↓	19↑	104↓	82↓	Stade Rennais FC
16	Jakub Błaszczykowski	14/12/1985	2	1	80↓	80↓	45↑	120	ACF Fiorentina
17	Sławomir Peszko	19/02/1985		2↑	3↑		16↑		KS Lechia Gdańsk
19	Piotr Zieliński	20/05/1994					45↓		Empoli FC
21	Bartosz Kapustka	23/12/1996		88↓	10↑	71↓	S	38↑	MKS Cracovia Kraków
23	Filip Starzyński	27/05/1991				1↑			Zagłębie Lubin

FORWARDS

7	Arkadiusz Milik	28/02/1994	1	1	90	90	90↓	120	120	AFC Ajax
9	Robert Lewandowski	21/08/1988	1		90	90	90	120	120	FC Bayern München
13	Mariusz Stępiński	12/05/1995								Ruch Chorzów

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played
*aet; won 5-4 on penalties; **aet; lost 5-3 on penalties

TOP PASSERS

Krychowiak 233
Glik 233
Pazdan 191

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

→ 51 to Glik
→ 42 to Krychowiak
→ 44 to Krychowiak

MOST FREQUENT PASSES OVERALL

51 Krychowiak to Glik
51 Błaszczykowski to Piszczek



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 with single midfield screen; occasional switches to 1-4-3-3
- Attacking play based on combination play in wide areas and crosses
- W. Carvalho screening defensive space; ball-winning, sensible passing
- Renato Sanches the spark in midfield; Ronaldo the finisher
- Effective fast counters to Nani-Ronaldo attacking pair
- High defensive line with three players exerting high pressure
- Compact defence marshalled by Pepe; aerial power at both ends
- Patient build-up from centre-backs to midfield; keeper mostly playing short
- Full-backs up at same time to support wing play; Guerreiro incisive on left
- Tactical maturity; varied attacking options (Quaresma, João Mário, etc.)

HEAD COACH



Fernando SANTOS Born: 10/10/1954
Coaching assistants João Carlos Costa, Ilídio Vale;
GK Fernando Justino

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Iceland	66%	111,417m	605	92%
Austria	59%	107,851m	512	86%
Hungary	58%	99,680m	517	90%
Croatia	41%	112,347m ¹	373 ¹	81%
Poland	46%	107,355m ²	443 ²	87%
Wales	46%	106,310m	406	83%
France	47%	110,206m ³	461 ³	86%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy
¹ 148,291m covered and 460 passes overall; ² 140,536m, 558 passes overall; ³ 143,734m, 575 passes overall (90-minute values recorded for comparisons)

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 63 (13%)
Medium 293 (62%)
Short 117 (25%)

Born	G	A	ISL	AUT	HUN	CRO	POL	WAL	FRA	Club
			D 1-1	D 0-0	D 3-3	W 0-1*	D 1-1**	W 2-0	W 1-0*	

GOALKEEPERS

1	Rui Patrício	15/02/1988		90	90	90	120	120	90	120	Sporting Clube de Portugal
12	Anthony Lopes	01/10/1990									Olympique Lyonnais
22	Eduardo	19/09/1982									GNK Dinamo Zagreb

DEFENDERS

2	Bruno Alves	27/11/1981						90			Fenerbahçe SK
3	Pepe	26/02/1983		90	90	90	120	120	I	120	Real Madrid CF
4	José Fonte	22/12/1983					120	120	90	120	Southampton FC
5	Raphael Guerreiro	22/12/1993	1	90	90		120		90	120	FC Lorient
6	Ricardo Carvalho	18/05/1978		90	90	90					AS Monaco FC
11	Veirinha	24/01/1986		90	90	90					VfL Wolfsburg
19	Eliseu	01/10/1983				90		120			SL Benfica
21	Cédric	31/08/1991					120	120	90	120	Southampton FC

MIDFIELDERS

8	João Moutinho	08/09/1986	1	71↓	90	45↓		47↑	11↑	54↑	AS Monaco FC
10	João Mário	19/01/1993	1	76↓	19↑	90	87↓	80↓	90	120	Sporting Clube de Portugal
13	Daniilo	09/09/1991		90		9↑	12↑	24↑	90		FC Porto
14	William Carvalho	07/04/1992			90	90	120	96↓	S	120	Sporting Clube de Portugal
15	André Gomes	30/07/1993	1	84↓	83↓	61↓	50↓		16↑		Valencia CF
16	Renato Sanches	18/08/1997	1	19↑		45↑	70↑	120	74↓	79↓	SL Benfica
18	Rafa Silva	17/05/1993				1↑					SC Braga
23	Adrien Silva	15/03/1989					108↓	73↓	79↓	66↓	Sporting Clube de Portugal

FORWARDS

7	Cristiano Ronaldo	05/02/1985	3	3	90	90	90	120	120	90	25↓	Real Madrid CF
9	Éder	22/12/1987	1		6↑	7↑					41↑	LOSC Lille
17	Nani	17/11/1986	3	1	90	89↓	81↓	120	120	86↓	120	Fenerbahçe SK
20	Ricardo Quaresma	26/09/1983	1	1	14↑	71↓	29↑	33↑	40↑	4↑	95↑	Beşiktaş JK

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played
*aet; **aet; won 5-3 on penalties

TOP PASSERS

W. Carvalho 312
Pepe 279
João Mário 249

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

→ 34 to Moutinho
→ 40 to W. Carvalho
→ 32 to Guerreiro

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

41 Guerreiro to João Mário





KEY FEATURES

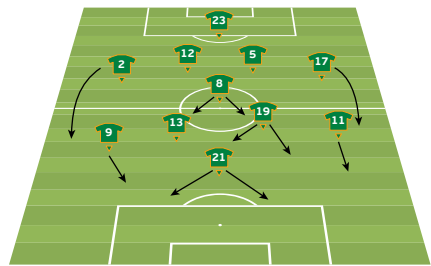
- 1-4-1-4-1 or 1-4-4-2 with occasional use of diamond structure in midfield
- Non-possession game; direct attacking rather than build-up from back
- Out-of-possession game focused on shutting down spaces
- Goalkeeper launching attacks with long ball towards target striker
- Strong second-ball support with midfielders breaking forward
- Frequent use of ball behind back four and immediate high pressure
- Strong, compact defensive block; aerial power in attack and defence
- Hoolahan and Hendrick the main creators of chances with solo abilities
- Right-back Coleman ready to push forward and deliver quality crosses
- Outstanding work ethic, team spirit, never-say-die attitude

HEAD COACH



Martin O'NEILL Born: 01/03/1952
Coaching assistants Roy Keane, Steve Guppy, Steve Walford; GK Seamus McDonagh; Fitness Dan Horan

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Sweden	47%	101,760m	279	70%
Belgium	46%	103,182m	337	82%
Italy	46%	103,096m	277	81%
France	40%	104,732m	226	76%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 60 (21%)
Medium 153 (55%)
Short 67 (24%)

Born	G	A	SWE	BEL	ITA	FRA	Club
			D 1-1	L 3-0	W 0-1	L 2-1	

GOALKEEPERS

1	Keiren Westwood	23/10/1984					Sheffield Wednesday FC
16	Shay Given	20/04/1976					Stoke City FC
23	Darren Randolph	12/05/1987	90	90	90	90	West Ham United FC

DEFENDERS

2	Seamus Coleman	11/10/1988	1	90	90	90	90	Everton FC
3	Ciaran Clark	26/09/1989		90	90			Aston Villa FC
4	John O'Shea	30/04/1981		90	90	22↑		Sunderland AFC
5	Richard Keogh	11/08/1986				90	90	Derby County FC
12	Shane Duffy	01/01/1992				90	66 SO	Blackburn Rovers FC
15	Cyrus Christie	30/09/1992						Derby County FC
17	Stephen Ward	20/08/1985		90	90	90		Burnley FC

MIDFIELDERS

6	Glenn Whelan	13/01/1984		90	90			Stoke City FC
7	Aiden McGeady	04/04/1986		5↑	19↑	20↑		Sheffield Wednesday FC
8	James McCarthy	12/11/1990		85↓	62↓	77↓	71↓	Everton FC
11	James McClean	22/04/1989		26↑	28↑	90	68↓	West Bromwich Albion FC
13	Jeff Hendrick	31/01/1992		90	90	90	90	Derby County FC
18	David Meyler	29/05/1989						Hull City AFC
19	Robbie Brady	14/01/1992	2	90	90	90	90	Norwich City FC
20	Wes Hoolahan	20/05/1982	1	1	78↓	71↓	13↑	Norwich City FC
22	Stephen Quinn	01/04/1986					1↑	Reading FC

FORWARDS

9	Shane Long	22/01/1987		90	79↓	90↓	90	Southampton FC
10	Robbie Keane	08/07/1980		12↑	11↑			LA Galaxy
14	Jon Walters	20/09/1983		64↓	I	I	25↑	Stoke City FC
21	Daryl Murphy	15/03/1983				70↓	65↓	Ipswich Town FC

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Hendrick 114 → 19 to Coleman
Brady 93 → 19 to Hendrick
Whelan 78 → 18 to Hendrick

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASSES OVERALL

19 Hendrick to Coleman
19 Brady to Hendrick
19 Hoolahan to Brady



KEY FEATURES

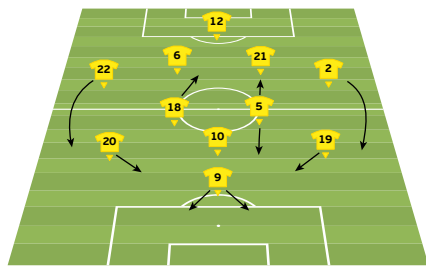
- 1-4-2-3-1 setting out to maintain high defensive line
- Emphasis on building from back, often through controlling midfielder
- Good diagonal distribution from centre-backs to wide areas
- Attacks supported by two adventurous full-backs
- Wide players cutting inside to open spaces for overlaps
- Main striker looking constantly for runs behind defence
- Immediate high pressure on ball-carrier when ball was lost
- Good balance of attacking/defensive qualities between central midfielders
- Hard-working forwards the front line in compact defensive work
- Strong team ethic and spirit; attack-minded approach

HEAD COACH



Anghel IORDĂNESCU Born: 04/05/1950
Coaching assistants Viorel Moldovan, Daniel Isaila, Ionut Badea; GK Dumitru Moraru; Fitness Marian Lupu

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
France	41%	105,747m	280	71%
Switzerland	38%	103,110m	237	76%
Albania	59%	101,077m	522	85%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 56 (16%)
Medium 193 (56%)
Short 97 (28%)

Born	G	A	FRA	SUI	ALB	Club
			L 2-1	D 1-1	L 0-1	

GOALKEEPERS

1	Costel Pantilimon	01/02/1987				Watford FC
12	Ciprian Tătărușanu	09/02/1986	90	90	90	ACF Fiorentina
23	Silviu Lung	04/06/1989				FC Astra Giurgiu

DEFENDERS

2	Alexandru Mățel	17/10/1989			90	GNK Dinamo Zagreb
3	Răzvan Raț	26/05/1981	90	62↓	I	Rayo Vallecano de Madrid
4	Cosmin Moți	03/12/1984				PFC Ludogorets Razgrad
6	Vlad Chiricheș	14/11/1989	90	90	90	SSC Napoli
15	Valerică Găman	25/02/1989				FC Astra Giurgiu
16	Steliano Filip	15/05/1994		28↑	I	FC Dinamo București
21	Dragoș Grigore	07/09/1986	90	90	90	Al-Sailiya SC
22	Cristian Săpunaru	05/04/1984	90	90	90	CS Pandurii Târgu Jiu

MIDFIELDERS

5	Ovidiu Hoban	27/12/1982	90	45↑	90	Hapoel Beer-Sheva FC
7	Alexandru Chipciu	18/05/1989	18↑	90		FC Steaua București
8	Mihai Pintilii	09/11/1984	90	45↓	I	FC Steaua București
10	Nicolae Stanciu	07/05/1993	72↓		90	FC Steaua București
11	Gabriel Torje	22/11/1989	8↑	90	33↑	Osmanlıspor
17	Lucian Sânmărtean	13/03/1980			45↑	Al-Ittihad
18	Andrei Prepeliță	08/12/1985		90	45↓	PFC Ludogorets Razgrad
19	Bogdan Stancu	28/06/1987	2	90	84↓	Gençlerbirliği SK
20	Adrian Popa	24/07/1988	82↓		68↓	FC Steaua București

FORWARDS

9	Denis Alibec	05/01/1991	29↑		57↓	FC Astra Giurgiu
13	Claudiu Keșerü	02/12/1986		90		PFC Ludogorets Razgrad
14	Florin Andone	11/04/1993	61↓	6↑	22↑	Córdoba CF

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Chiricheș 99 → 27 to Grigore
Grigore 98 → 20 to Chiricheș
Hoban 82 → 14 to Stanciu

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

27 Chiricheș to Grigore





KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 with various players in screening midfielder role
- Patient build-up; passing interchanges between centre-backs
- Competent shot-stopping by goalkeeper Akinfeev
- Frequent use of long supply from keeper to striker
- Otherwise medium-tempo construction through thirds
- Quick attack-to-defence transitions; pressing from midfield
- Wide midfielders generally staying wide; cautious full-backs
- Dzyuba fast, strong and skilful in leading front line
- Direct approach in final third; ready to shoot from long range
- Aerial power in attacking and defending set plays

HEAD COACH



Leonid SLUTSKI Born: 04/05/1971
Coaching assistants Sergei Balakhnin, Sergey Semak; GK Sergey Ovchinnikov; Fitness Paulino Granero

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
England	48%	109,904m	406	80%
Slovakia	62%	112,458m	548	89%
Wales	48%	107,643m	434	85%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 76 (16%)
Medium 295 (64%)
Short 92 (20%)

	Born	G	A	ENG D 1-1	SVK L 1-2	WAL L 0-3	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1 Igor Akinfeev	08/04/1986			90	90	90	PFC CSKA Moskva
12 Yuri Lodygin	26/05/1990						FC Zenit
16 Guilherme	12/12/1985						FC Lokomotiv Moskva

DEFENDERS

2 Roman Shishkin	27/01/1987						FC Lokomotiv Moskva
3 Igor Smolnikov	08/08/1988			90	90	90	FC Zenit
4 Sergei Ignashevich	14/07/1979			90	90	90	PFC CSKA Moskva
6 Aleksei Berezutski	20/06/1982					45↑	PFC CSKA Moskva
14 Vasili Berezutski	20/06/1982	1		90	90	45↓	PFC CSKA Moskva
21 Georgi Schennikov	27/04/1991		1	90	90		PFC CSKA Moskva
23 Dmitri Kombarov	22/01/1987					90	

MIDFIELDERS

5 Roman Neustädter	18/02/1988			80↓	45↓		FC Schalke 04
7 Artur Yusupov	01/09/1989						FC Zenit
8 Denis Glushakov	27/01/1987	1		10↑	45↑	90	FC Spartak Moskva
11 Pavel Mamaev	17/09/1988			5↑	45↑	90	FC Krasnodar
13 Aleksandr Golovin	30/05/1996			77↓	45↓	38↑	PFC CSKA Moskva
15 Roman Shirokov	06/07/1981			13↑	15↑	52↓	PFC CSKA Moskva
17 Oleg Shatov	29/07/1990		1	90	90	I	FC Zenit
18 Oleg Ivanov	04/08/1986						FC Terek Grozny
19 Aleksandr Samedov	19/07/1984					20↑	FC Lokomotiv Moskva
20 Dmitri Torbinski	28/04/1984						FC Krasnodar

FORWARDS

9 Aleksandr Kokorin	19/03/1991			90	75↓	90	FC Zenit
10 Fedor Smolov	09/02/1990			85↓	90	70↓	FC Krasnodar
22 Artem Dzyuba	22/08/1988			90	90	90	FC Zenit

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

V. Berezutski 189 ➡ 53 to Ignashevich
Ignashevich 168 ➡ 61 to V. Berezutski
Smolnikov 106 ➡ 27 to V. Berezutski

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

19 Ignashevich to V. Berezutski



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3, switching to 1-4-2-3-1 during game v Wales
- Fast transitions to 1-4-1-4-1 when defending; pressing from halfway line
- Extensive use of long passing from keeper to midfielder Kucka or striker
- Good second-ball support and running at opposition defence
- Build-up through central midfield trio or diagonals from centre-backs
- Wide players back-tracking opposition full-backs with great discipline
- Fast defence-to-attack transitions using pace of Weiss, Švento and Mak, among others
- Hamšík the attacking catalyst; composed on ball, passing vision
- Kucka linking in midfield; aerial presence; shooting at set plays
- Tactical and positional discipline; resilience when under pressure

HEAD COACH



Ján KOZÁK Born: 17/04/1954
Coaching assistants Martin Rusnak, Štefan Tarkovič; GK Miroslav Seman

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Wales	56%	109,643m	510	85%
Russia	38%	110,912m	294	80%
England	43%	105,919m	365	82%
Germany	41%	109,399m	397	85%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 61 (16%)
Medium 224 (57%)
Short 108 (28%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%

	Born	G	A	WAL L 2-1	RUS W 1-2	ENG D 0-0	GER L 3-0	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1 Ján Mucha	05/12/1982							ŠK Slovan Bratislava
12 Ján Novota	29/11/1983							SK Rapid Wien
23 Matúš Kozáčik	27/12/1983			90	90	90	90	FC Viktoria Plzeň

DEFENDERS

2 Peter Pekarík	30/10/1986			90	90	90	90	Hertha BSC Berlin
3 Martin Škrtel	15/12/1984			90	90	90	90	Liverpool FC
4 Ján Ďurica	10/12/1981			90	90	90	90	FC Lokomotiv Moskva
5 Norbert Gyömbér	03/07/1992					23↑	84↓	AS Roma
14 Milan Škriniar	11/02/1995					12↑	90	UC Sampdoria
15 Tomáš Hubočan	17/09/1985				90	90		FC Dinamo Moskva
16 Kornel Saláta	24/01/1985						6↑	ŠK Slovan Bratislava
18 Dušan Švento	01/08/1985			90	18↑	33↑	I	1. FC Köln

MIDFIELDERS

6 Ján Greguš	29/01/1991						45↑	FK Jablonec
7 Vladimír Weiss	30/11/1989	1	1	83↓	72↓	78↓	45↓	Al-Gharafa
8 Ondrej Duda	05/12/1994	1		30↑	67↓	57↓		Legia Warszawa
10 Miroslav Stoch	19/10/1989			7↑				Bursaspor
13 Patrik Hrošovský	22/04/1992			60↓			90	FC Viktoria Plzeň
17 Marek Hamšík	27/07/1987	1	1	90	90	90	90	SSC Napoli
19 Juraj Kucka	26/02/1987			90	90	90	90	AC Milan
20 Róbert Mak	08/03/1991	1		90	80↓	90	I	PAOK FC
22 Viktor Pečovský	24/05/1983				90	67↓		MŠK Žilina

FORWARDS

9 Stanislav Šesták	16/12/1982						26↑	Ferencvárosi TC
11 Adam Nemec	02/09/1985			31↑	23↑			Willem II
21 Michal Ďuriš	01/06/1988			59↓	10↑		64↓	FC Viktoria Plzeň

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Hamšík 138 ➡ 31 to Weiss
Škrtel 172 ➡ 47 to Ďurica
Ďurica 140 ➡ 37 to Škrtel

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

47 Škrtel to Ďurica





KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with very high defensive line and intense high pressure
- Possession/control game; short-passing combinations through thirds
- Patient build-up but with high-tempo ball circulation
- Exceptional technique in all departments; ability to play under pressure
- Busquets the composed single controlling and balancing midfielder
- Attacking full-backs, especially the hard-running Alba on left
- Iniesta the artist, infiltrating opposition lines with passing or solo runs
- Morata the attacking reference giving depth to construction options
- Penetrating combination play right through the final third
- 'Wrong-footed' wide men: Silva cutting in from right, Nolito from left

HEAD COACH



Vicente DEL BOSQUE Born: 23/12/1950
Coaching assistant Toni Grande; GK José Manuel Ochotorena; Fitness Francisco Javier Miñano

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Czech Rep.	67%	107,051m	694	91%
Turkey	57%	109,087m	674	93%
Croatia	60%	104,374m	655	94%
Italy	59%	109,999m	539	86%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 62 (10%)
Medium 398 (62%)
Short 181 (28%)

Born	G	A	CZE W 1-0	TUR W 3-0	CRO L 2-1	ITA L 2-0	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1 Iker Casillas	20/05/1981						FC Porto
13 David de Gea	07/11/1990		90	90	90	90	Manchester United FC
23 Sergio Rico	01/09/1993						Sevilla FC

DEFENDERS

2 César Azpilicueta	28/08/1989			9↑			Chelsea FC
3 Gerard Piqué	02/02/1987	1	90	90	90	90	FC Barcelona
4 Marc Bartra	15/01/1991						FC Barcelona
12 Héctor Bellerín	19/03/1995						Arsenal FC
15 Sergio Ramos	30/03/1986		90	90	90	90	Real Madrid CF
16 Juanfran	09/01/1985		90	90	90	90	Club Atlético de Madrid
17 Mikel San José	30/05/1989						Club Atlético de Madrid
18 Jordi Alba	21/03/1989	1	90	81↓	90	90	FC Barcelona

MIDFIELDERS

5 Sergio Busquets	16/07/1988		90	90	90	90	FC Barcelona
6 Andrés Iniesta	11/05/1984	1	90	90	90	90	FC Barcelona
8 Koke	08/01/1992			19↑			Club Atlético de Madrid
10 Cesc Fàbregas	04/05/1987	1	70↓	71↓	84↓	90	Chelsea FC
14 Thiago Alcántara	11/04/1991		20↑		6↑		FC Bayern München
19 Bruno Soriano	12/06/1984			26↑	30↑		Villarreal FC
21 David Silva	08/01/1986		90	64↓	90	90	Manchester City FC

FORWARDS

7 Álvaro Morata	23/10/1992	3	62↓	90	67↓	70↓	Juventus
9 Lucas Vázquez	01/07/1991					20↑	Real Madrid CF
11 Pedro Rodríguez	28/07/1987		8↑			9↑	Chelsea FC
20 Aritz Aduriz	11/02/1981		28↑		23↑	36↑↓	Athletic Club Bilbao
22 Nolito	15/10/1986	1 1	82↓	90	60↓	45↓	RC Celta de Vigo

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Iniesta 327 → 61 to Alba
Ramos 295 → 72 to Alba
Busquets 281 → 56 to Iniesta

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

72 Ramos to Alba



KEY FEATURES

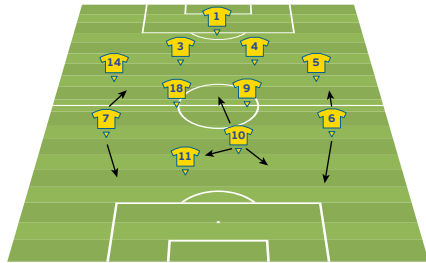
- Classic 1-4-4-2 with two flat lines of four
- Well-oiled mechanisms; confident implementation of system
- Play based on quick transitions in both directions
- Strong, compact, athletic defensive block; good in 1v1
- Ibrahimović the free spirit in wide area behind main striker
- Varied attacking; direct supply to front or more patient build-up
- Strong central midfielders controlling tempo of passing
- Use of wings by full-backs; Olsson delivering crosses from left
- Aerial power at both ends; man-to-man defending at set plays
- Competitive, attack-minded team with strong collective spirit

HEAD COACH



Erik HAMRÉN Born: 27/06/1957
Coaching assistants Peter Wettergren, Reine Almqvist, Marcus Allbäck; GK Lars Eriksson; Fitness Paul Balsom

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Rep. Ireland	53%	101,466m	385	78%
Italy	53%	108,322m	448	85%
Belgium	50%	106,266m	358	83%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 64 (16%)
Medium 232 (58%)
Short 101 (25%)

Decimal points account for the missing 1%

Born	G	A	IRL D 1-1	ITA L 1-0	BEL L 0-1	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1 Andreas Isaksson	03/10/1981		90	90	90	Kasımpaşa SK
12 Robin Olsen	08/01/1990					FC København
23 Patrik Carlgren	08/01/1992					AIK Solna

DEFENDERS

2 Mikael Lustig	13/12/1986		45↓			Celtic FC
3 Erik Johansson	30/12/1988		45↑	90	90	FC København
4 Andreas Granqvist	16/04/1985		90	90	90	FC Krasnodar
5 Martin Olsson	17/05/1988		90	90	90	Norwich City FC
13 Pontus Jansson	13/02/1991					Torino FC
14 Victor Lindelöf	17/07/1994		90	90	90	SL Benfica
17 Ludwig Augustinsson	21/04/1994					FC København

MIDFIELDERS

6 Emil Forsberg	23/10/1991		90	79↓	82↓	RB Leipzig
7 Sebastian Larsson	06/06/1985		90	90	70↓	Sunderland AFC
8 Albin Ekdal	28/07/1989		4↑	79↓	90	Hamburger SV
9 Kim Källström	24/08/1982		90	90	90	Grasshoppers Club Zürich
15 Oscar Hiljemark	28/06/1992					US Città di Palermo
16 Pontus Wernbloom	25/06/1986					PFC CSKA Moskva
18 Oscar Lewicki	14/07/1992		86↓	11↑		Malmö FF
21 Jimmy Durmaz	22/03/1989			11↑	20↑	Olympiacos FC
22 Erkan Zengin	05/08/1985				8↑	Trabzonspor AŞ

FORWARDS

10 Zlatan Ibrahimović	03/10/1981	1	90	90	90	Paris Saint-Germain
11 Marcus Berg	17/08/1986		59↓	5↑	63↓	Panathinaikos FC
19 Emir Kujovic	22/06/1988					IFK Norrköping
20 John Guidetti	15/04/1992		31↑	85↓	27↑	RC Celta de Vigo

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Källström 137 → 36 to Olsson
Granqvist 117 → 34 to Olsson
Lindelöf 100 → 27 to Johansson

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

36 Källström to Olsson





KEY FEATURES

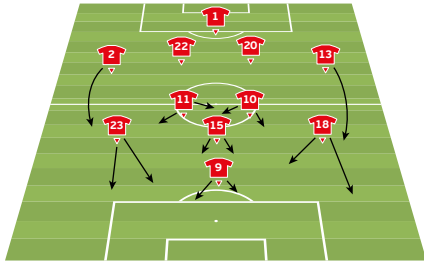
- 1-4-2-3-1 with minimal changes to starting line-up
- Possession game based on patient build-up from back
- Khaka the main pass-maker, bringing composure to the team
- Khaka and Behrami effectively screening the back four; good ball-winning
- Goalkeeper Sommer sweeping behind defence; important 1v1 saves
- Good movement in line of three, giving passing options for Khaka and Behrami
- Wide midfielders cutting in to receive, give space to overlapping full-backs
- Dangerous combinations in final third; passes slid into side-of-box channels
- Shaqiri the attacking 'wild card' challenging opponents with 1v1 skills
- Solid, all-round, competent team equipped to dominate matches

HEAD COACH



Vladimir PETKOVIĆ Born: 15/08/1963
Coaching assistant Antonio Manicone; GK Patrick Foletti; Fitness Markus Tschopp, Oliver Riedwyl

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Albania	55%	108,658m	553	92%
Romania	62%	106,818m	522	88%
France	58%	107,769m	492	92%
Poland	55%	109,953m ¹	476 ¹	90%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy
¹ 140,113m covered and 587 passes overall (90-minute values recorded for comparisons)

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 63 (12%)
Medium 331 (65%)
Short 117 (23%)

Born	G	A	ALB W 0-1	ROU D 1-1	FRA D 0-0	POL D 1-1*	Club
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GOALKEEPERS							
1	Yann Sommer	17/12/1988	90	90	90	120	VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach
12	Marwin Hitz	18/09/1987					FC Augsburg
21	Roman Bürki	14/11/1990					Borussia Dortmund

DEFENDERS							
2	Stephan Lichtsteiner	16/01/1984	90	90	90	120	Juventus
3	François Moubandje	21/06/1990					Toulouse FC
4	Nico Elvedi	30/09/1996					VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach
5	Steve von Bergen	10/06/1983					BSC Young Boys
6	Michael Lang	08/02/1991		7↑	4↑		FC Basel 1893
13	Ricardo Rodríguez	25/08/1992	90	90	90	120	VfL Wolfsburg
20	Johan Djourou	18/01/1987	90	90	90	120	Hamburger SV
22	Fabian Schär	20/12/1991	1	90	90	90	TSG 1899 Hoffenheim

MIDFIELDERS									
8	Fabian Frei	08/01/1989	14↑						1. FSV Mainz 05
10	Granit Xhaka	27/09/1992	90	90	90	120			VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach
11	Valon Behrami	19/04/1985	90	90	90	77↓			Watford FC
14	Denis Zakaria	20/11/1996							BSC Young Boys
15	Blerim Džemaili	12/04/1986	76↓	83↓	90	58↓			Genoa CFC
16	Gelson Fernandes	02/09/1986	2↑		11↑	43↑			Stade Rennais FC
23	Xherdan Shaqiri	10/10/1991	1	1	88↓	90↓	79↓	120	Stoke City FC

FORWARDS								
7	Breel Embolo	14/02/1997	28↑	27↑	74↓	62↑	FC Basel 1893	
9	Haris Seferović	22/02/1992	90	63↓	16↑	120	Eintracht Frankfurt	
17	Shani Tarashaj	07/02/1995		1↑			Everton FC	
18	Admir Mehmedi	16/03/1991	1	62↓	90	86↓	70↓	Bayer 04 Leverkusen
19	Eren Derdiyok	12/06/1988	1			50↑		Kasımpaşa SK

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played
*aet; lost 5-4 on penalties

TOP PASSERS

Khaka 364
Schär 245
Djourou 235

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

→ 59 to Rodríguez
→ 54 to Khaka
→ 75 to Rodríguez

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

75 Djourou to Rodríguez



KEY FEATURES

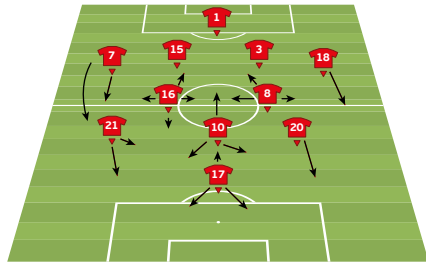
- 1-4-2-3-1 or a 1-4-3-3 with flatter midfield structure
- Extensive use of long ball from goalkeeper to target striker
- Build-ups initiated by centre-backs or central midfielder Selçuk İnan
- Combination play mixed with direct supply to striker Burak Yılmaz
- High-tempo passing game with emphasis on penetration in wide areas
- Selçuk İnan the driving force; Ozan Tufan his hardworking accomplice
- High levels of individual technique, skills in 1v1 situations
- Immediate high pressure on ball-carrier after loss of possession
- Remainder of team into compact, aggressive defensive block
- Passionate approach; tactical flexibility; will to win

HEAD COACH



Fatih TERIM Born: 14/09/1953
Coaching assistant Levent Şahin; GK Ömer Boğuşlu; Fitness: Scott Piri

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Croatia	51%	101,946m	370	81%
Spain	43%	105,523m	421	87%
Czech Rep.	49%	105,022m	319	75%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 62 (17%)
Medium 199 (54%)
Short 109 (29%)

Born	G	A	CRO L 0-1	ESP L 3-0	CZE W 0-2	Club
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GOALKEEPERS						
1	Volkan Babacan	11/08/1988	90	90	90	İstanbul Başakşehir
12	Onur Kivrak	01/01/1988				Trabzonspor AŞ
23	Harun Tekin	17/06/1989				Bursaspor

DEFENDERS						
2	Semih Kaya	24/02/1991				Galatasaray AŞ
3	Hakan Balta	23/03/1983	90	90	90	Galatasaray AŞ
4	Ahmet Çalık	26/02/1994				Gençlerbirliği SK
7	Gökhan Gönül	04/01/1985	90	90	90	Fenerbahçe SK
13	İsmail Köybaşı	10/07/1989			90	Beşiktaş JK
15	Mehmet Topal	03/03/1986	1	90	90	Fenerbahçe SK
18	Caner Erkin	04/10/1988	90	90		Fenerbahçe SK
22	Şener Özbayraklı	23/01/1990				Fenerbahçe SK

MIDFIELDERS						
5	Nuri Şahin	05/09/1988		45↑	I	Borussia Dortmund
6	Hakan Çalhanoğlu	08/02/1994	90	45↓		Bayer 04 Leverkusen
8	Selçuk İnan	10/02/1985	90	70↓	90	Galatasaray AŞ
10	Arda Turan	30/01/1987	65↓	90	90	FC Barcelona
11	Ölcay Şahan	26/05/1987		28↑	21↑	Beşiktaş JK
14	Oğuzhan Özyakup	23/09/1992	45↓	62↓	29↑	Beşiktaş JK
16	Ozan Tufan	23/03/1995	1	90	90	Fenerbahçe SK
19	Yunus Mallı	24/02/1992		20↑		1. FSV Mainz 05
20	Volkan Şen	07/07/1987	45↑		61↓	Fenerbahçe SK

FORWARDS						
9	Cenk Tosun	07/06/1991		69↓	1↑	Beşiktaş JK
17	Burak Yılmaz	15/07/1985	1	25↑	90↓	Beijing Guoan FC
21	Emre Mor	24/07/1997	1	21↑	69↓	FC Nordsjælland

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Selçuk İnan 137
Mehmet Topal 117
Arda Turan 100

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

→ 20 to Gökhan Gönül
→ 25 to Selçuk İnan
→ 17 to Caner Erkin

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

25 Mehmet Topal to Selçuk İnan





KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 with fast transitions to 1-4-4-2 defending
- Compact defensive work with wide midfielders dropping back
- Front two working hard to disturb opponents' build-up from back
- Intense, energetic pressure on ball-carrier from midfield
- Fast counters; pace of Yarmolenko and Konoplyanka a threat
- Tried to build from back via centre-back or holding midfielder
- Emphasis on passing game (but disturbed by German high pressing)
- Good combinations between full-backs and wingers in wide areas
- Keeper preferred to build; sometimes forced by pressing to play long
- Neatly worked approach play unrewarded in final third

HEAD COACH



Mykhailo FOMENKO Born: 19/09/1948
Coaching assistants Volodymyr Onyshchenko, Andriy Shevchenko; GK Yuriy Syvukha; Fitness Vitaliy Shpaniuk

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Germany	37%	115,096m	288	79%
N. Ireland	66%	109,588m	511	87%
Poland	64%	111,716m	547	87%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 65 (15%)
Medium 274 (61%)
Short 106 (24%)

Born	G	A	GER L 2-0	NIR L 0-2	POL L 0-1	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1 Denys Boyko	29/01/1988					Beşiktaş JK
12 Andriy Pyatov	28/06/1984		90	90	90	FC Shakhtar Donetsk
23 Mykyta Shevchenko	26/01/1993					FC Zorya Luhansk

DEFENDERS

2 Bohdan Butko	13/01/1991				90	FC Amkar Perm
3 Yevhen Khacheridi	28/07/1987		90	90	90	FC Dynamo Kyiv
5 Olexandr Kucher	22/10/1982				90	FC Shakhtar Donetsk
13 Vyacheslav Shevchuk	13/05/1979		90	90		FC Shakhtar Donetsk
17 Artem Fedetskiy	26/04/1985		90	90	90	FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk
20 Yaroslav Rakitskiy	03/08/1989		90	90		FC Shakhtar Donetsk

MIDFIELDERS

4 Anatoliy Tymoshchuk	30/03/1979				1↑	FC Kairat Almaty
6 Taras Stepanenko	08/08/1989		90	90	90	FC Shakhtar Donetsk
7 Andriy Yarmolenko	23/10/1989		90	90	90	FC Dynamo Kyiv
9 Viktor Kovalenko	14/02/1996		73↓	83↓	17↑	FC Shakhtar Donetsk
10 Yevhen Konoplyanka	29/09/1989		90	90	90	Sevilla FC
14 Ruslan Rotan	29/10/1981				90	FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk
16 Serhiy Sydorchuk	02/05/1991		90	76↓		FC Dynamo Kyiv
18 Serhiy Rybalka	01/04/1990					FC Dynamo Kyiv
19 Denys Garmash	19/04/1990			14↑		FC Dynamo Kyiv
21 Olexandr Zinchenko	15/12/1996		17↑	7↑	73↓	FC Ufa
22 Olexandr Karavaev	02/06/1992					FC Zorya Luhansk

FORWARDS

8 Roman Zozulya	17/11/1989		66↓	19↑	90↓	FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk
11 Yevhen Seleznyov	20/07/1985		24↑	71↓		FC Shakhtar Donetsk
15 Pylyp Budkivskiy	10/03/1992					FC Zorya Luhansk

G = goals; A = assists; SO = sent off; I = injured; S = suspended; ↑ = brought on; ↓ = taken off; numbers = minutes played

TOP PASSERS

Stepanenko 143 → 23 to Rakitskiy
Khacheridi 124 → 18 to Rakitskiy
Rakitskiy 101 → 19 to Shevchuk

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

23 Stepanenko to Rakitskiy



KEY FEATURES

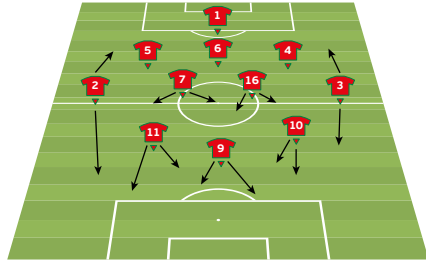
- Variations on 1-3-4-3 (1-3-4-2-1) with fast transitions to 1-5-3-2 when defending
- Ramsey offering flexibility, linking with Bale to form attacking trio
- Holding midfielders Allen and Ledley form defensive block with three centre-backs
- Keeper played long in group games; more supply to centre-backs in knockout rounds
- Chester and A. Williams the main passers from the back; Allen the midfield link
- Good possession from regains; quick forward passing when ball won
- Bale the fleet-footed catalyst; solo runs, diagonal switches, well-struck set plays
- Ramsey the middle-to-front animator; skill, passing, presence at edge of box
- Important contributions by wing-backs; transitions in both directions
- Well-organised unit built on resolute defence, endeavour and team spirit

HEAD COACH



Chris COLEMAN Born: 10/06/1970
Coaching assistant Osain Roberts; GK Martyn Margetson; Fitness Ryland Morgans

TEAM SHAPE



MATCH STATISTICS

OPPONENTS	POSSESSION	DISTANCE COVERED	PA	ACC
Slovakia	44%	109,404m	352	79%
England	36%	105,516m	201	72%
Russia	52%	106,637m	455	88%
N. Ireland	55%	100,173m	384	80%
Belgium	48%	109,961m	422	88%
Portugal	54%	103,248m	517	89%

PA = passes attempted; ACC = accuracy

AVERAGE PASSES ATTEMPTED

Long 70 (18%)
Medium 230 (59%)
Short 90 (23%)

Born	G	A	SVK W 2-1	ENG L 2-1	RUS W 0-3	NIR W 1-0	BEL W 3-1	POR L 2-0	Club
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GOALKEEPERS

1 Wayne Hennessey	24/01/1987		I	90	90	90	90	90	Crystal Palace FC
12 Owain Fôn Williams	17/03/1987								Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC
21 Danny Ward	22/06/1993		90						Liverpool FC

DEFENDERS

2 Chris Gunter	21/07/1989		1	90	90	90	90	90	Reading FC
3 Neil Taylor	07/02/1989		1	90	90	90	90	90	Swansea City AFC
4 Ben Davies	24/04/1993		90	90	90	90	90	S	Tottenham Hotspur FC
5 James Chester	23/01/1989		90	90	90	90	90	90	West Bromwich Albion FC
6 Ashley Williams	23/08/1984		1	90	90	90	90	90	Swansea City AFC
15 Jazz Richards	12/04/1991		2↑						Fulham FC
19 James Collins	23/08/1983						1↑	66↓	West Ham United FC

MIDFIELDERS

7 Joe Allen	14/03/1990		1	90	90	74↓	90	90	90	Liverpool FC
8 Andy King	29/10/1988					14↑		12↑	90	Leicester City FC
10 Aaron Ramsey	26/12/1990		1	4	88↓	90	90	90	90↓	S Arsenal FC
14 David Edwards	03/02/1986			69↓	23↑	16↑				Wolverhampton Wanderers FC
16 Joe Ledley	23/01/1987			21↑	67↓	76↓	63↓	78↓	58↓	Crystal Palace FC
20 Jonathan Williams	09/10/1993			71↓	18↑		27↑		24↑	Crystal Palace FC
22 David Vaughan	18/02/1983									Nottingham Forest FC

FORWARDS

9	Hal Robson-Kanu	21/05/1989	2		19↑	72↓		35↑	80↓	63↓	Reading FC
11	Gareth Bale	16/07/1989	3	1	90	90	83↓	90	90	90	Real Madrid CF
13	George Williams	07/09/1995									Fulham FC
17	David Cotterill	04/12/1987									Birmingham City FC
18	Sam Vokes	21/10/1989	1				90	55↓	10↑	32↑	Burnley FC
23	Simon Church	10/12/1988					7↑			27↑	Milton Keynes Dons FC

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TOP PASSERS

Chester 277 → 48 to Gunter
Ramsey 212 → 40 to Bale
Allen 211 → 39 to Ramsey

MOST FREQUENT COMBINATION

MOST FREQUENT PASS OVERALL

57 A. Williams to Chester



ROLL OF HONOUR

2016 Portugal
2012 Spain
2008 Spain
2004 Greece
2000 France
1996 Germany
1992 Denmark
1988 Netherlands
1984 France
1980 West Germany
1976 Czechoslovakia
1972 West Germany
1968 Italy
1964 Spain
1960 USSR

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