UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Season review
2014/15

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Unforgettable moments

The 60th season of what is now the UEFA Champions League provided another series of inspiring, dramatic and unforgettable moments. Neymar's injury-time clincher for FC Barcelona helped them secure a fifth title against Juventus in the fitting and historic setting of Berlin's Olympiastadion.

Congratulations to Luis Enrique and his side, who played a thrilling brand of football that yielded 31 goals, and brought a smile to the faces of many millions of football fans across Europe. Barcelona made history by becoming the first side to claim the treble for the second time, and there is no doubt that they did it with style. Of course it is also appropriate to commend runners-up Juventus, who played their part in a scintillating campaign over several rounds that served to re-emphasise the UEFA Champions League as the benchmark for club competitions around the world.

Eighteen of UEFA's member associations were represented among the 32 entrants to the group stage, which shows that the elite level of European football touches all corners of our continent and is helping to develop our beautiful game in the process. So well done to Barcelona, but also to all of the clubs that took part – from the very first qualifying matches on 1 July 2014 to the moment Xavi Hernández collected the trophy in Germany more than 11 months later.

"Congratulations to Barcelona, who played a thrilling brand of football"

There can only be one club with its name engraved on the silverware, but the experiences of supporters, players and staff have once again combined to ensure that the competition is as absorbing as it is unpredictable. Let us not forget that since the change of format in 1992/93, no club has defended their crown.

In this review of the season, we study the tactical trends and talking points in the technical report, recognising that football is an ever-evolving sport. This is accompanied by an event report that reviews the marketing, broadcasting and organisational aspects that all dovetailed to contribute to a successful year in the competition. We hope you enjoy it.

Michel Platini
UEFA President

"Football contributes to society beyond the boundaries of the pitch"

Hand in hand

The 2014/15 UEFA Champions League was a showcase for diversity and inclusion as well as great football

Clarence Seedorf, UEFA's global ambassador for diversity and change

The No to Racism campaign took centre stage on matchday three

Tolerance and inclusivity were among the key messages as UEFA's social programmes were given due prominence during the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League season.

Football's role in promoting tolerance and diversity on the pitch, in the stands and in society as a whole was highlighted in the No to Racism campaign. Among other notable events, the newly formed UEFA Foundation for Children invited more than 100 children to attend the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League finals, and two players from the 2014 UEFA.com users' Team of the Year presented a UEFA donation to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to contribute to the physical rehabilitation programme for landmine victims in Afghanistan.

UEFA's dedication to education on matters of diversity was underlined in the course of the season by the appointment of four-time UEFA Champions League winner Clarence Seedorf as global ambassador for diversity and change. "I am really honoured to be part of this whole project," said the former Netherlands international at his unveiling in Amsterdam in December 2014. "After I spoke with the [UEFA] President, I felt his passion, and his ideas were very convincing. The leadership that UEFA is showing says a lot about where we want to go, and I am sure that together we can gather enough people to create a great and positive movement."

UEFA's No to Racism message was amplified most in the competition during matchday three, as part of the FARE network Football People action weeks. As well as the on-pitch messaging, an estimated audience in excess of 180 million were exposed to the television spot, in which some of the most popular players in the competition joined forces to add weight to the campaign.

Inclusivity was a theme throughout the season. UEFA held the Respect Diversity conference in Rome in September 2014 to focus on using football as a vehicle for change. Over 200 delegates attended to hear and discuss examples of good practice and to exchange experiences. Meanwhile, the innovative Captains of Change programme and the pioneering Women in Football Leadership Programme both actively sought to develop equality in the game.

Sport's ability to make a difference in society was best underlined by the inauguration in May 2015 of the UEFA Foundation for Children, which will have an impact beyond Europe's borders. Chaired by former European Commission president José Manuel Barroso, the organisation will provide support primarily in the areas of health, education, access to sport, personal development, integration and the defence of the rights of the child. Initial projects include support of the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan and the Just Play programme in the Pacific Islands.

Also in Berlin, UEFA's Respect Your Health campaign promoted the no-smoking policy at the UEFA Champions League final, while the Access for All project – in partnership with CAFE (Centre for Access to Football in Europe) – ensured access to the Olympiastadion for disabled supporters.

Football has also been giving back to society in the immediate term. The fruitful relationship between UEFA and the ICRC was celebrated in Madrid in March when Cristiano Ronaldo and Toni Kroos handed over a donation of €100,000 on UEFA's behalf, having been voted by fans as members of the UEFA.com users' Team of the Year. The funds support a rehabilitation programme in Kabul to help reintegrate landmine victims into society through football. "The UEFA-ICRC partnership has been running for more than 15 years now, and we want this to develop, showing that football contributes to society beyond the boundaries of the pitch, and will continue to do so," said the UEFA President, Michel Platini.

The skills on show in UEFA's competitions continue to captivate fans across the world, but with the work done off the pitch, UEFA is showing that the game can make an impact that lasts well beyond the final whistle.

Technical report

Analysis and debate

UEFA's technical observers met in Berlin to discuss the key trends and talking points from an enthralling season

This review of the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League combines the annual technical report, which has been published for the last 16 seasons, with all the commercial, marketing, financial and broadcasting aspects. Alongside the quality of the entertainment provided on the field of play, these are essential components of a club competition that continues to set benchmarking values in the European and global footballing markets.

As usual, the technical report sets out to provide a permanent record of the 125 matches played during the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League season, and to present factual and statistical information in a reader-friendly format. The focus in this report is to provide an overview based on the presentation and interpretation of factual evidence, blended with the input from the team of UEFA technical observers who attended the knockout matches, culminating in the final in Berlin. The team of observers – captained by UEFA's chief technical officer, Ioan Lupescu – also comprised Jean-François Domergue (France), Dušan Fitzel (Czech Republic), Roy Hodgson (England), Stefan Majewski (Poland), Ginés Meléndez (Spain), Mixu Paatelainen (Finland), Peter Rudbæk (Denmark), Willi Ruttensteiner (Austria), Dany Ryser (Switzerland), Thomas Schaaf (Germany), Ghenadie Scurtul (Moldova), Gareth Southgate (England) and Dušan Tittel (Slovakia).

Paris players swarm around Andrés Iniesta

The objective of the technical report is to provoke analysis, reflections and debate, and thereby give technicians food for thought. By highlighting tendencies and trends at the peak of professional club football, we can also provide development coaches with information that can help bring out the qualities needed by the players and coaches who will play leading roles in shaping the UEFA Champions League of the future. Similarly, the other sections of this season review set out to provide a permanent record of the season's achievements and, at the same time, to sow the seeds for sustained efforts to continually improve the world's most prestigious club competition.

The UEFA technical observers' group in Berlin (from left to right): Jean-François Domergue, Mixu Paatelainen, Ginés Meléndez, Ioan Lupescu, Thomas Schaaf and Frank Ludolph

UEFA coaching ambassador and technical assessor Sir Alex Ferguson contributed to the debate

Group A

Malmö FF (MAL)
Olympiacos FC (OLY)
Club Atlético de Madrid (ATL)
Juventus (JUV)

Group B

FC Basel 1893 (BSL)
Liverpool FC (LIV)
PFC Ludogorets Razgrad (LUD)
Real Madrid CF (RM)

Group C

FC Zenit (ZEN)
AS Monaco FC (MON)
Bayer 04 Leverkusen (LEV)
SL Benfica (BEN)

Group D

Arsenal FC (ARS)
Galatasaray AŞ (GAL)
RSC Anderlecht (AND)
Borussia Dortmund (DOR)

Group E

Manchester City FC (MC)
AS Roma (ROM)
PFC CSKA Moskva (CSKA)
FC Bayern München (BAY)

Group F

Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)
FC Barcelona (BAR)
APOEL FC (APO)
AFC Ajax (AJX)

Group G

Sporting Clube de Portugal (SPO)
Chelsea FC (CHL)
FC Schalke 04 (SCH)
NK Maribor (MRB)

Group H

FC Shakhtar Donetsk (SHK)
FC Porto (POR)
FC BATE Borisov (BATE)
Athletic Club (ATH)

The above abbreviations are used in place of club names on pages 60–93.

Berlin bound

High-scoring Barcelona hit their stride after an early defeat, while Juventus made a compelling case for the defence

At the beginning of the season, Jürgen Klopp remarked: "Every team has qualities that make it difficult to play against them." His Borussia Dortmund team then seemed to contradict him by winning its first four matches, scoring 13 goals and conceding one. Dortmund produced a further contradiction by sliding towards the Bundesliga relegation zone while sailing through Group D of the UEFA Champions League. But Klopp's view that teams were generally difficult to play against was borne out by an opening phase in which, in five of the eight groups, none of the teams was able to remain unbeaten. Chelsea FC, FC Porto and Real Madrid CF were the only three teams to go through the group stage without losing.

True to recent form, just over half of the 96 group matches produced home wins; there was a slight increase in the number of draws, to 21; and there were 26 away victories – a 16% drop on the previous season. However, nine of the away wins were by a margin of three goals or more, among them FC Bayern München's 7-1 victory against AS Roma in the Italian capital. As André Villas-Boas remarked: "One of the interesting phenomena of the Champions League is that you see high scores in matches between strong teams."

Neymar and Daniel Alves celebrate Barça's second goal against Paris Saint-Germain in the quarter-final second leg

Liverpool talisman Steven Gerrard

Differences in strength were reflected by the final standings in which the margin between first and last in each group reached double figures in all but one case – Group C. In that section 12 games yielded only 17 goals, three matches ended goalless, AS Monaco FC claimed top spot despite scoring only four times and only six points separated them and bottom side SL Benfica. In the groups topped by Real Madrid and FC Barcelona, the difference between first and last was 14 points. However, the difference between second and third places was three points or fewer in six of the eight groups. In line with Klopp's assertion, only three teams failed to win: NK Maribor, APOEL FC and Galatasaray AŞ, who dismissed Cesare Prandelli before the conclusion of the group stage.

Olympiacos FC parted company with Míchel during the winter break, having narrowly failed to progress beyond a group which, anecdotally, contained two silver medallists: Club Atlético de Madrid, runners-up in 2013/14, and their eventual successors, Juventus. Both were beaten in Greece, but Olympiacos' hopes were dashed by three away defeats, particularly by surrendering three points to Malmö FF. Juventus claimed second place despite scoring only seven goals.

Shakhtar were big winners in Borisov

Ciro Immobile celebrates scoring against Anderlecht

Both Zenit's wins came at Benfica's expense

In Group B, Real Madrid more than doubled that tally. "It is important to make a good start away from home," their coach, Carlo Ancelotti, said. "It gives confidence in a tournament where quality and competitiveness have steadily improved." His team duly won all three away fixtures and were so dominant that Liverpool FC adopted a cautious 1-4-5-1 formation when they visited the Estadio Santiago Bernabéu. Madrid posted six wins, Brendan Rodgers' team only one – at home to PFC Ludogorets Razgrad. Needing victory in their last game, Liverpool could only draw with FC Basel 1893, allowing the Swiss team to edge into the knockout stage.

In the tight, low-scoring Group C, Benfica's lack of finishing power (one goal at home, one away) was their undoing. Zenit joined them at the exit after losing their final game in Monaco. In Group D, issues had already been settled, Dortmund and Arsenal FC booking their passage with games to spare. Both inflicted heavy defeats on Galatasaray, but both were made to work by RSC Anderlecht, who were beaten only twice. Besnik Hasi's side adopted an adventurous approach, reflected in their recovery from 3-0 down to draw with Arsenal in London.

Cesc z keeps Sporting's William Carvalho at bay

Schalke's Julian Draxler

By contrast to the 17 goals in Group C, Group E produced 39. Roma, drawn alongside the champions of England, Germany and Russia, opened with a 5-1 home win against PFC CSKA Moskva and then failed to win another game. Badly scalded by the 7-1 home defeat against Bayern, they adjusted their game for the return in Munich, in which 23% of their passes were long. In their other five fixtures, this figure had not exceeded 12%. Manchester City FC, with only two points from four games, were staring elimination in the face until they beat Bayern and Roma in their last two fixtures to edge second place.

Barcelona were under a degree of pressure after losing 3-2 away to Paris Saint-Germain on matchday two, and it was only a 3-1 win in the return in the final fixture – when Luis Enrique experimented with three at the back – that allowed them to wrest first place from the French champions. AFC Ajax earned four of their five points against APOEL, and their only win when they entertained the Cypriot club on the final matchday. Chelsea confirmed their status as title contenders by scoring 17 times in Group G, where FC Schalke 04 claimed second place at the expense of Sporting Clube de Portugal with an edgy 1-0 win away to Maribor in their final match.

In Group H, FC BATE Borisov claimed an unwanted record by conceding 24 goals – half of them in the two games against FC Shakhtar Donetsk. Curiously, Mircea Lucescu's team, playing home fixtures in Lviv, did not beat anyone else in a group dominated by Julen Lopetegui's Porto. Athletic Club, taking UEFA Champions League football to Bilbao for the first time in 16 years, won their last two games to claim third place.

Franceso Totti savours a memorable goal at City

Fabian Frei (right) scored Basel's crucial goal at Anfield

David Luiz struck the deciding goal on his return to Stamford Bridge

KNOCKOUT STAGE

When the ball started rolling in the knockout stage, Shakhtar held Bayern to a goalless draw thanks to an effective defend-and-counter game. The return in Munich was transformed when defender Olexandr Kucher was sent off after three minutes and Thomas Müller converted the resulting penalty. For the second time, Pep Guardiola's side scored seven. Other ties were more closely contested, with Atlético needing penalties to overcome Bayer 04 Leverkusen after a brace of 1-0 home wins and a sterile period of extra time. The additional 30 minutes were also required in the tie between Paris and Chelsea, with Zlatan Ibrahimović receiving a red card early in the return at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea, set-play specialists par excellence, were uncharacteristically lax in defending two corners, allowing David Luiz and Thiago Silva to head two equalisers – the second of which, in extra-time, earned the French champions an away-goals victory.

Monaco also sailed close to the wind. Their counterattacks yielded dividends in London, where Arsenal opted for a 1-4-1-4-1 structure. Arsenal went 2-0 down, but raised hopes with a late goal – only to be surprised by another fast break in added time to lose 3-1. In Monaco, the Gunners laid siege to the resolute ASM defence and scored twice, but fell a goal short of a famous comeback. Real Madrid took their eye off the ball after an impressive 2-0 win away to Schalke, a 4-3 home defeat in the return leaving Ancelotti's side just one strike from an away-goal elimination.

Danijel Subašić and João Moutinho share the joy of winning at Arsenal

Dortmund were happy to return from Turin with an away goal in their baggage, but after that 2-1 first-leg defeat by Juventus, they were conclusively beaten 0-3 at home. Massimiliano Allegri's side started in 1-4-3-3 formation and, once ahead, switched to 1-3-5-2. In a repeat of the previous season's confrontation between Barcelona and Manchester City, the Catalan side won away in the first leg then dominated the return at the Camp Nou more clearly than the 1-0 scoreline suggested.

Porto also produced a convincing home display to beat Basel 4-0 after a 1-1 draw in Switzerland. They then sprang the major surprise of the quarter-finals by exploiting three defensive errors to beat Bayern 3-1. Five goals in a devastating first half in the Munich return, however, suggested that Guardiola's side could manage without their injured wingers Arjen Robben and Franck Ribéry. The 6-1 scoreline brought the team's total to 30 goals in ten matches.

Bayern coach Pep Guardiola was back at Barça in the semi-finals

Javier Hernández scored the only goal in the repeat of the 2014 final

Goals were rare in two of the other ties. Juventus needed a penalty to defeat Monaco in Turin and then showed all their defensive qualities during a goalless draw in the principality. The repeat of the 2014 final was a story of defensive resistance by Atlético against a Real Madrid side who pushed their full-backs forward to take a stranglehold on midfield. Even so, it was not until the 88th minute of the return leg – 12 minutes after Arda Turan had been sent off – that 'Chicharito' Hernández struck the only goal of the tie.

Injury-hit Paris found Barcelona's technical and tactical excellence hard to counter and, at the Parc des Princes, suffered a 3-1 defeat. Barça's slick combination play, high pressing and an inspired Andrés Iniesta then contributed to a 2-0 win at the Camp Nou, where Guardiola's Bayern were to be the opponents in the first leg of the semi-final.

Carlos Tévez's penalty gave Juve a semi-final first-leg lead against Madrid

BARÇA AND JUVE MARCH ON

Guardiola made tactical changes for the first leg of the semi-final, starting with a back three, four across the middle and Bastian Schweinsteiger behind the front two. The formation evolved through 1-4-2-3-1 to a final 1-4-4-2 and the tactical and positional variations made for a fascinating contest, which was transformed in the closing stages. Barça's trademark pressure yielded a dividend when Daniel Alves regained high possession and touched the ball to Lionel Messi, who ran it on and beat Manuel Neuer. Within three minutes, Messi received from Ivan Rakitić in the same area, left Jérôme Boateng horizontal and beat Neuer again with a delicate right-footed chip. To rub salt into Bavarian wounds, in an added-time counter, Messi fed Neymar, who ran clear to make the final score 3-0. Bayern's comeback attempt got off to a good start in Munich when Medhi Benatia headed an early opener from a corner. But two moves involving Barça's attacking trident and finished by Neymar left the home team requiring five more goals. To their credit, they persevered to score two but bowed out 5-3 on aggregate.

The other tie opened in Turin, where Álvaro Morata gave Juventus the lead against his former club Real Madrid, only for Cristiano Ronaldo to strike a priceless away goal for the defending champions. When a second-half penalty allowed Juventus to regain the lead, Allegri swapped his 1-4-4-2 for a 1-3-5-2 and played out the result. In Madrid, a 1-0 scoreline would have seen Real through – and this looked likely to be achieved thanks to a Ronaldo penalty during a first half that tested Gianluigi Buffon and his four-man defensive line to the limit. Juve, however, upped the tempo after the break and a move by Arturo Vidal and Paul Pogba culminated in a pass that reached Morata at an awkward height. The striker adjusted his posture to hit powerfully into the ground and over Iker Casillas into the net. The UEFA Champions League jinx had struck again. The champions were unable to defend their title and Juventus would be travelling to Berlin to meet Barcelona in the final.

Brilliant Barça

Juventus's great resistance was ultimately broken by the venomous attacks of an uncontainable Barcelona side

"Midfield is where the game takes shape," commented Luis Enrique on the eve of the final, "whether that's attack or defence. We have to dominate both the offensive and the defensive sides of things." He could hardly have predicted that, just over 200 seconds after Turkish referee Cüneyt Çakır had signalled the start of play, his midfield would deliver the first major blow of a spectacular and absorbing final in the emblematic scenario of the Olympiastadion in Berlin.

Luis Enrique had also stressed that his team would need to "handle the occasion properly" and the opening exchanges hinted that Juventus had more successfully controlled their nervous systems. High pressing with four players provoked edgy ball losses on the left flank of the Barcelona defence and earned the Italian side the first corner of the game. But the early scares delivered a wake-up call to the Catalan team, who quickly settled into their habitual possession game, moving the ball fluently to and fro across the immaculate turf and, with displays of uncommon technique, shrugging aside the high Juventus pressure.

Lionel Messi celebrated his third UEFA Champions League title in Berlin

Álvaro Morata's equaliser put the pressure back on Barça

Lionel Messi, closely patrolled by left-back Patrice Evra and drawing opponents towards him like a vacuum cleaner, emerged from a subdued start by drifting infield. With the inside of his left boot, he hit a deep crossfield pass that was brilliantly cushioned by the overlapping Jordi Alba and neatly dispatched to Neymar, who had drifted infield to take away Stephan Lichtsteiner and open up space for the full-back. The Brazilian's first touch was a shade heavy and took him back out towards Alba, but when he turned, his radar detected Andrés Iniesta breaking speed limits on a run past Arturo Vidal into the box. Neymar's pass was perfectly weighted into his path.

The Barça captain feinted to push on but slipped the ball with the outside of his right boot to Ivan Rakitić, who was required to make no more than a routine side-footed contact to send the ball into the net. The pre-match talk had been about the threat of Barça's attacking trident. But the blow had been delivered thanks to contributions by a full-back and by two midfielders who had advanced deep into the heart of the opponents' penalty area.

At this juncture, the giant inflatable replica of the trophy, erected in the architectural gap behind the goal, began to deflate and crumple, as if in sympathy with the Juventus fans who flanked it on both sides. For the Juve players, the challenge was not to follow suit, but for a while damage limitation was their main priority. Massimiliano Allegri, tactically tied by the injury to defensive lynchpin Giorgio Chiellini, had opted for a 1-4-4-2 structure in front of Gianluigi Buffon.

Vidal led the aggressive high pressure from his position at the apex of the midfield diamond, acting as accomplice to Carlos Tévez in the attempts to close down Sergio Busquets and disturb Barça's building from the back. At the base of the diamond, Andrea Pirlo struggled to unfurl his playmaking qualities, frequently avoiding losses of possession in critical areas by selecting safety-first passes. In the wide areas, right-back Lichtsteiner burned most of his calories in trying to police Neymar, leaving Evra, on the left, to make sporadic upfield sorties to support attacking moves. Claudio Marchisio on the right and Paul Pogba on the left looked threatening but, apart from the former pulling the trigger from long range, did more chasing than creating.

Juventus's priority was to deny space rather than exploit it. Their failure to achieve that objective entailed work for Buffon, whose participation can be gauged by the fact that the experienced goalkeeper made more passes than four of his team-mates.

Tactically, there were no surprises from Barcelona. With humility rather than arrogance, they simply challenged the opposition to find antidotes to their venomous attacking play. The centre-backs, Gerard Piqué and Javier Mascherano, assiduously opened play from the back with diagonal passing. The full-backs, Alba on the left, the irrepressible Daniel Alves on the right, shamelessly disguised themselves as midfielders or wingers, their football based on association with Neymar and Messi. If possession was lost, both full-backs were prepared to launch themselves into regain mode without second thoughts about what might have been going on behind their backs. In the opposite direction, Iniesta systematically

Ivan Rakitić opened the scoring

unstitched Juve's pressure by finding improbable escape routes and worming his way through the compact defensive block. Rakitić was the perfect foil, providing power and stamina. Luis Suárez gave depth to the attack with aggressive running that added purpose to his side's offensive play and avoided any temptation to indulge in sterile possession.

When the teams headed for the dressing room at half-time, Barcelona had enjoyed two-thirds of possession, carved openings and added decibels to the Catalan chorusing. The black-and-white sectors at the other end of the stadium had been subdued. "The game was something like a learning curve for Juventus," remarked Mixu Paatelainen, one of UEFA's technical observer group at the final. "You had the feeling that they could have done better during the first half. They were on the back foot. They had defended deep and looked compact. But they hadn't been good enough to cope with Barcelona."

During the interval, the Juventus supporters were entertained by the work carried out to breathe new life into the replica trophy. Hindsight would allow it to be interpreted as an omen. But, when the two teams re-emerged for the second half, a Juventus resuscitation did not become immediately apparent, with Suárez and Messi either narrowly missing the target or forcing Buffon to reiterate his goalkeeping qualities. But, just under ten minutes into the second period, Lichtsteiner made a rare advance on the right wing and, with Tévez distracting the Barça defence, the low delivery reached the far post, where Álvaro Morata, the former Real Madrid striker, sidefooted into the net. Game on.

Gerard Piqué keeps a grip on Carlos Tévez

The equaliser served to re-inflate Juventus's confidence, even though the absence of Chiellini pre-empted any thought that Allegri might have had about implementing the 1-3-5-2 option. The Italian fans burst into vociferous life, while the voices of the Catalan club's following faded into nervous murmuring. Rising confidence was reflected in greater readiness to try one-touch combinations. Pirlo started to appear in more advanced positions and to associate threateningly with Tévez; Morata, Pogba and Tévez had shots at goal; and Marc-André ter Stegen had to show his positional and shot-stopping qualities after a first half in which he had only been required to control with his feet and launch attacks via sensible distribution, notably to the wide areas.

Barcelona fans in full voice

After long spells of patrolling the technical areas with hands in pockets, the coaches came to life – Allegri to urge his players to maintain their impetus, Luis Enrique to urgently signal positional adjustments. Significantly, Messi was posing questions by drifting infield and looking for spaces between the two lines of defence. With the centre-backs reluctant to move out, his participation level increased and ultimately made the difference. With Barcelona being nudged towards a defend-and-counter policy, Messi found space in the left-hand channel to break clear and hit a cross-shot with his favoured left foot. Buffon, advancing from his line to narrow the angle, threw himself to the left and managed to get two hands to the ball – but not to catch it. Luis Suárez, powering in at top speed, jubilantly struck the rebound high into the unguarded net. Luis Enrique, acknowledging the significance of the reply to the increasing Juventus control, raced and leapt his way along the touchline, punching the air. Allegri looked pensive.

The script for the final act was clear. For Juventus, it was all or bust. For Barcelona, it was a question of regaining composure and control. The question was partially answered by the introduction, with a dozen minutes remaining, of Xavi Hernández to replace Iniesta, who was subsequently selected by the UEFA technical observer group as man of the match. Allegri sent on Roberto Pereyra for the tiring Vidal and, with Fernando Llorente on for Morata, swapped one Spanish striker for another. Finally, he switched to three at the back, removing Evra and sending on Kingsley Coman to join Pogba and Llorente in a three-pronged attack.

Amid the changes of personnel, the game had settled into an exhilarating pattern of Juventus pressure punctuated by searing counters,

Luis Suárez's goal proved to be the winner

which, on one occasion, produced a five-against-three situation resolved in extremis by Buffon. Another break culminated in a Neymar header that, at the behest of the additional assistant referee, failed to appear on the scoreboard because the Brazilian's finish brushed his hand en route to the net.

Luis Enrique shored up his defensive unit with the introduction of defender Jérémy Mathieu for midfielder Rakitić and then, with the clock ticking deep into added time, Pedro Rodríguez for Suárez. Pedro was immediately involved in the umpteenth Barcelona counter, spotting Neymar in space and allowing the Brazilian to clinch victory with a low cross-shot past Buffon into the far corner. With the players leaping barriers to celebrate in front of the fans in the corner and the backroom staff running onto the pitch to share the jubilation, it turned out to be the last kick of the match.

The sight of Pirlo sobbing uncontrollably encapsulated the sorrow among a Juventus side that had offered great resistance and had contributed to a memorable final. But as Xavi, playing his last match for the club, lifted the trophy with a souvenir matchball tucked under his shirt, victory seemed a deserved recompense for an uncontainable Barça.

Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri

Barça celebrate their fourth triumph in ten seasons

Match statistics

Saturday 6 June 2015, Olympiastadion Berlin

Juventus 1-3 Barcelona

Goals

0-1 Rakitić 4, 1-1 Morata 55, 1-2 Suárez 68, 1-3 Neymar 90+7

Lineups

Juventus: Buffon (C); Lichtsteiner, Barzagli, Bonucci, Evra (Coman 89); Pirlo; Marchisio, Pogba; Vidal (Pereyra 79); Morata (Llorente 85), Tévez

Barcelona: Ter Stegen; Daniel Alves, Piqué, Mascherano, Jordi Alba; Rakitić (Mathieu 90+1), Busquets, Iniesta (C) (Xavi Hernández 78); Messi, Suárez (Pedro Rodríguez 90+6), Neymar

Yellow cards

Vidal 11, Pogba 41 (Juventus); Suárez 70 (Barcelona)

Referee

Cüneyt Çakır (TUR)

Attendance

70,422

Statistics

Juventus		Barcelona
39%	Possession	61%
14	Total attempts	18
6	Attempts on target	8
8	Corners	6
343	Passes	570
286	Passes completed	505

Luis Enrique

A single-minded belief in himself, his side and his way of playing proved decisive for Luis Enrique and the Blaugrana

He is champion of Europe yet hardly anybody knows his surname. But there are other ways in which Luis Enrique Martínez García differs from his colleagues in the coaching profession. Not many can match his record in endurance sports. Not many have taken part in Ironman events. Not many have spent six days in the Sahara running the Marathon des Sables. In his book, running, surfing or cycling offer an invaluable counterbalance to the stresses of the job. Even within the coaches' hall of fame, few can equal his record of appearing at three FIFA World Cups, one UEFA European Championship, and some 400 league outings for Real Sporting de Gijón, Real Madrid CF and FC Barcelona, and winning a gold medal at the 1992 Olympics, where he partnered Josep Guardiola in the Spain midfield. Johan Cruyff, Bobby Robson, Louis van Gaal and Vicente del Bosque were among the coaches he played for.

In Berlin, Luis Enrique transmitted a mix of passion and analytical calm. Interestingly, his modus operandi includes the delegation of responsibility for set plays to his goalkeeper coach – and spectators at the Olympiastadion may have noticed that, at dead-ball situations, it was Juan Carlos Unzué who stepped to the edge of the technical area to direct operations.

After the final, which allowed him to conclude his first term with a Liga, Copa del Rey and UEFA Champions League treble, he stressed that the campaign had not been plain sailing. Taking the Barça helm in the post-Guardiola era implied certain challenges. His capacity to meet them and to nurture a playing style attuned to the Barcelona philosophy owed a great deal to his playing days and his first coaching experience in charge of Barça B in the lower divisions from 2008 to 2011. After a year at AS Roma, he had returned to the Liga to coach RC Celta de Vigo, a side he bravely encouraged to embrace Barça-style possession-based football.

> **"I had no doubts about my work, the work of my players, the work of everybody involved with the first team – or the supporters"**

Those close to him acknowledge his success in key areas during a difficult season: his man-management of a squad rich in star performers; his rotation of workloads, which enabled the team to hit the peak of the campaign with freshness intact; his ability to ride media criticism; his single-minded determination to isolate the dressing room during a period of administrative turbulence. It was with equal single-mindedness that the 45-year-old expressed his leadership qualities and his firm belief in a certain way of playing. The technical observers in Berlin signalled his strong personality as a central factor in the performance of a side that steadily improved throughout the season. They also highlighted the effective addition of purposeful counterattacking to the traditional Blaugrana virtues of possession play.

"It's been a difficult year, a transitional year," Luis Enrique accepted after the 6 June final, "and I want to thank all those people who trusted me – the people within the club and my family who supported me. And the team has come together and done things right throughout the season. They've overcome difficulties and tough times together. Together we're stronger and that's when the individual qualities come out. I had no doubts about my work, the work of my players, the work of everybody involved with the first team – or the supporters." Luis Enrique can look back on a campaign in which the 60th game brought a 50th victory – and a European crown to clinch a memorable hat-trick of trophies.

Pressure, intensity and risk

From the rewards of risk-taking and the rise of the counter culture, to the increasing demands of tactical flexibility, 2014/15 provided plenty to ponder

"Throughout the season, Luis Enrique has hammered home the idea of pressing and of trying to keep up a high level of intensity in our game, taking risks in defence, and trying to be compact." The comments made by FC Barcelona defender Javier Mascherano prior to the Berlin final may have specifically referred to the winners of the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League, but they neatly encapsulate some of the qualities required by the teams who aspire to success in the premier club competition.

Juventus captain Gianluigi Buffon

RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Getting the balance right was the difference between success and failure

"Spanish teams have been prominent in both club competitions," said Mixu Paatelainen after the Berlin final. "They are positive, they push their full-backs forward really aggressively, yet they have players like Busquets in front of the centre-backs who are excellent at reading the game. The important thing is that they are prepared to take risks." The top teams in the UEFA Champions League were the ones who found the best balance between risk-taking and risk management. UEFA's technical observers stressed that FC Bayern München and Juventus carefully ensured that three players were engaged in balancing roles while the team was pushing forward, while Real Madrid CF "balanced with four players while attacking to make sure opponents could not get counterattacking possibilities". Pep Guardiola, before the semi-final against Barcelona, stressed the importance of being prepared to take risks in search of the right result. "They might score seven, but my ideas are very clear," he said. Andrea Pirlo summed up the Juventus credo by stating: "We have to be intelligent in our play: be daring but with a degree of caution."

Barça's Marc-André ter Stegen

Risk-taking begins at the back. The semi-final between Bayern and Barcelona showcased two goalkeepers from the modern German school, with Manuel Neuer having accelerated a trend towards risk-taking with his performances at the FIFA World Cup. He and Marc-André ter Stegen, his 23-year-old understudy with the national team, provided examples of the sweeper-keeper who patrols a wide area. Neuer spends only two-thirds of the 90 minutes inside the box and, in consequence, allows his team to hold a high defensive line. The

Andrea Pirlo lines up a free-kick for Juve

2014/15 UEFA Champions League offered a wide variety in terms of defensive positioning, with the likes of Borussia Dortmund, Paris Saint-Germain and FC Porto prepared to hold a high line, whereas deeper defending was generally preferred by Juventus, AS Monaco FC, Club Atlético de Madrid and Bayer 04 Leverkusen.

The trend was clearly flagged during the return leg of the semi-final between Bayern and Barça, where only the Blaugrana full-backs Daniel Alves and Jordi Alba had more contact with the ball than Ter Stegen. Luis Enrique's side, aware of Neuer's role in launching counters and building from the back, restricted his options to the extent that 19 of his 24 passes were delivered to left-back Medhi Benatia or centre-back Jérôme Boateng. Ter Stegen, on the other hand, was able to deliver to nine different outfielders. The need for the modern goalkeeper to be equipped to play with his feet was underscored when, against Juventus in Turin, Iker Casillas had more touches than Gareth Bale and, in the final, Gianluigi Buffon made more passes than four of the Juventus outfielders.

THE PIRLO SPECIES

The traditional playmaker is becoming an increasingly rare breed

The role of Andrea Pirlo at the base of the Juventus midfield diamond often provokes debate on the present and the future of the playmaker. Among the top teams, the most influential distributors of the ball were frequently deployed in the Pirlo position in front of the back four, Xabi Alonso providing a prime example at Bayern, Toni Kroos and Luka Modrić at Real Madrid CF. Indeed, the injury to the latter presented a conundrum to Carlo Ancelotti, prompting him ultimately to field centre-back Sergio Ramos in the screening position for the crucial games in the latter stages of the competition.

Porto's Casemiro is an accomplished striker of long passes, while other teams preferred to hand the screening role to players with anticipation and ball-winning qualities, rather than a Pirlo-like ability to spot and deliver the defence-splitting pass. Roman Neustädter (FC Schalke 04), Nemanja Matić (Chelsea FC), Thiago Motta (Paris) or Fernandinho (Manchester City FC) fell into this category. Teams playing with twin screening midfielders looked for a balance between defensive and attacking virtues though, like Ancelotti, Jürgen Klopp at Borussia Dortmund was not always able to field his first-choice Sven Bender-İlkay Gündoğan combination. Elsewhere, Diego Simeone was forced to make permutations at Atlético, Monaco's Leonardo Jardim was obliged to vary the companion to Geoffrey Kondogbia and Laurent Blanc had to do without Thiago Motta for the quarter-final against Barcelona.

However, as the UEFA President, Michel Platini, maintains: "There are fewer stereotypes than before. The playmaker in the modern game is simply the player with the ball." This emphasises the trend towards players such as Andrés Iniesta, Paul Pogba or Marco Verratti who link lines and act as attacking catalysts rather than sit back and distribute the ball from a more static demarcation. "We have to ask ourselves whether a good launcher of counterattacks is more valuable to the team than a traditional playmaker," Klopp said.

Daniel Alves is the epitome of the modern full-back

WIDTH AND DEPTH
From attacking fulcrum to the first line of defence, full-backs do it all

During the final in Berlin, Daniel Alves combined 23 times with Lionel Messi, and Alba 20 times with Neymar. At the other end of the pitch, Stephan Lichtsteiner and Patrice Evra combined seven and eight times respectively with the Juventus front men, Carlos Tévez and Álvaro Morata. This seems to support the theory that 1-4-3-3 and its variations make it easier to form this type of working relationship in the wide areas than the classic 1-4-4-2. At Real Madrid, Dani Carvajal and Marcelo linked assiduously with Gareth Bale, Cristiano Ronaldo and/or James Rodríguez to exploit the wide areas to maximum effect.

The 2014/15 campaign highlighted the need for the modern full-back to be equipped for proactive participation in the team's attacking strategy. The article on crossing on page 45 of this report highlights the fact that full-backs and midfielders are now the main providers of crosses from the wings, rather than the wingers themselves. It has to be mentioned, however, that the long-term absences of Franck Ribéry and Arjen Robben deprived Bayern of two highly influential exponents of the winger's arts.

As Thomas Schaaf reiterated after watching the full-backs in action in Berlin: "The high positioning of the full-backs means that they are in the right place to try to regain possession as soon as possible." Indeed, Alves provided a prime example of being ready, willing and able to win the ball back and allow Messi to score a crucial goal in the home leg of the semi-final against Bayern.

Linking back to risk management, Barça were among the teams prepared to throw both full-backs forward simultaneously, whereas the more generalised practice is still to keep one in reserve for defensive duties. The job description of the full-back, however, is evolving rapidly. During the final in Berlin, the two Barcelona full-backs covered some 3.4km at high or very high speeds, with Alba peaking at 29.6km/h and Alves at 31.6.

CHAMELEON CULTURE
Tactical flexibility provided a crucial element of surprise

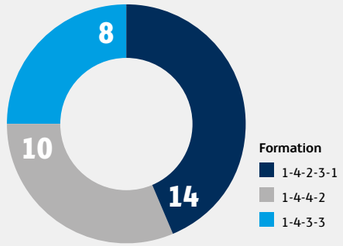
"The trend is for teams to no longer play a rigid system from minute one to minute 90, and there is much greater emphasis on tactical flexibility," commented Ginés Meléndez after watching the final in Berlin. Thomas Schaaf agreed: "When I've been watching games, I've found myself constantly looking for changes of formation and tempo. Teams are constantly trying to surprise the opponents, pose questions and change the match."

It meant that, whereas technical reports of yesteryear were able to clearly define each team's playing formation, the picture became blurred during the 2014/15 season. Only one-third of the participants adhered to a clear structure throughout their campaign. Even Barcelona, normally synonymous with a 1-4-3-3 structure, switched to three at the back for the must-win group game against Paris Saint-Germain at the Camp Nou, when Luis Enrique's side were in pursuit of top spot. The result is that an overview of default settings can be for orientation purposes only. Of the 32 contestants, 14 generally opted for a 1-4-2-3-1 structure, ten for 1-4-4-2 and eight for 1-4-3-3.

As Schaaf and Meléndez stressed, the list of variants is a volume. Schalke, for example, started the season with 1-4-2-3-1 under Jens Keller and evolved to a 1-3-5-2 soon after Roberto Di Matteo took over. At Juventus, Massimiliano Allegri astutely permuted 1-4-4-2 with 1-3-5-2 according to opponents or match situations, to the extent that the ability to switch seamlessly from one to the other was a key element in the Italian side's successful route to the final. The injury to Giorgio Chiellini represented a setback as it pre-empted this strategic move in Berlin. During a season marked by injuries, Jürgen Klopp used 1-4-2-3-1, 1-4-3-3 and 1-4-4-2 at Dortmund. At Liverpool FC, Brendan Rodgers used the same options, plus a 1-4-1-4-1 in Madrid and, against PFC Ludogorets Razgrad away, pushed Steven Gerrard up as shadow striker.

At Galatasaray AŞ, Cesare Prandelli switched from 1-4-4-2 to 1-4-2-3-1 in Dortmund, with Wesley Sneijder just off the front. Rudi Garcia's 1-4-3-3 at AS Roma evolved into 1-4-4-2 away from home and was pushed back into a clear 1-4-1-4-1 in the tough home game against Bayern. With Karim Benzema injured, Carlo Ancelotti moved from 1-4-3-3 to 1-4-4-2 in two knockout games for Real Madrid. At Atlético, Diego Simeone injected 1-4-3-3 and 1-4-5-1 variations into his 1-4-4-2 default setting. Depending on player availability and game plans, Leonardo Jardim permuted 1-4-4-2 and 1-4-2-3-1 with his preferred 1-4-3-3 at AS Monaco FC. At Bayern, Pep Guardiola used 1-4-2-3-1, 1-4-4-2 and 1-3-4-3 as variations on his habitual 1-4-3-3.

Of the 32 contestants, **14** generally opted for a 1-4-2-3-1 structure; **10** for 1-4-4-2; and **8** for 1-4-3-3



Tactical flexibility is, evidently, not achieved with a magic wand. Coaches at Under-17 level, for example, are now stressing the importance of equipping young players to understand the mechanisms of various formations to prepare them to perform in the chameleon-like structures of the top teams.

History makers

After swapping the lead during the course of the season, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi finished the campaign as the European Cup's joint all-time highest scorers on 77 goals, both adding ten to their tallies in 2014/15.

All-time leading scorers

Cristiano Ronaldo	77
Lionel Messi	77
Raúl González	71
Ruud van Nistelrooy	56
Thierry Henry	50
Alfredo Di Stéfano	49
Andriy Shevchenko	48
Eusébio	47
Filippo Inzaghi	46
Didier Drogba	44

Excluding UEFA Champions League qualifying

South American strikers such as Sergio Agüero (above) and Carlos Tévez continue to outnumber their European counterparts at the top of the scoring chart (see p47)

HIGH INTENSITY

With real playing time so high, demands on players are soaring

Players and coaches unhesitatingly signal the sheer intensity of matches as one of the trademarks of the UEFA Champions League, imposing physical and mental demands. But there are different kinds of intensity – and they can be hard to quantify. Before the final in Berlin, Andrea Pirlo commented: "We didn't realise how strong we are. We are a good group and we go for it together. Atlético is the mirror we see ourselves in. That is our road to follow." If the all-Madrid final in 2014 had been regarded as an encounter between two footballing styles, the 2015 edition in Berlin could be seen as a similar meeting between teams with different personalities.

Part of the Barcelona DNA is to respect the ball and to keep it rolling. Symptoms are free-kicks or corners where their general trend is to put the ball down, touch it to a team-mate and allow the possession play and combination moves to roll on. The result is relentless pressure on opponents, reflected in high figures of real playing time. Oddly, the final in Berlin – where the real playing time was 56 minutes and six seconds – was the only Barça game in which the ball was in play for less than an hour. During the two matches against Paris at the Camp Nou (group and quarter-final), the real playing times were 68:35 and 71:39 respectively.

The phenomenon is by no means exclusive to Barcelona, but it may represent one of the features that makes the UEFA Champions League uniquely intense. To provide a statistical basis for this assertion, the 2014 FIFA World Cup might be taken as a benchmark for intensity. In Brazil, the maximum real playing time was the 64:49 registered in a meeting between two European teams: England and Italy. In the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League, 28 matches exceeded that figure. In Brazil, real playing time reached 60 minutes in nine of the 64 games; on the road to Berlin, 75 matches passed that milestone. In Brazil, the ball rolled for less than 50 minutes in eight of the 64 matches, with Brazil v Colombia totalling 39:18. In the UEFA Champions League, only two of 125 fixtures offered less than 50 minutes (Olympiacos CF v Malmö FF at 49:39 and Leverkusen v Atlético at 48:50). For the competition's global audience, this is a guarantee in terms of entertainment value. For coaches, it is a clear indication that players need to be physically and mentally equipped to deal with sustained intensity.

COUNTERS ARE KEY

Even Barça's game moved from control to quick transitions

During the 2014/15 season, 55 goals could be directly attributable to fast counters, representing 20.6% of the goals scored in open play. Fast transitions (in both directions) continued to be a key feature in the intensity of UEFA Champions League football. Thomas Schaaf felt that the addition of direct counterattacks to their game was a major factor in Barcelona's winning equation. "There was a big difference in their transition," he commented. "Before, the idea was to win the ball, control it and wear down opponents until they lost concentration. Now they are faster at playing forward and using their one-on-one abilities." Ginés Meléndez, a guru of Spanish youth development, conceded: "It is an important change because, in Spanish football, the kids' instinct when they win the ball is to keep it and pass it around rather than look for a fast transition."

Barcelona's campaign was rich in examples of effective counterattacking: the fast break and the deep diagonal to Ivan Rakitić that earned the 1-0 win against Manchester City FC; the Pedro-Messi combination that put them 2-0 up away to AFC Ajax; the third goal in the Berlin final. All three late goals in the home win against Bayern in the semi-final – among them the high ball-win by Alves that allowed Messi to break through while the opponents' defenders were moving out – were also counters, as were FC Shakhtar Donetsk's first three goals in the 7-0 away win against FC BATE Borisov. Arsenal hit Dortmund twice on the break (a solo run and a through pass) during the game in London, but were twice caught by fast counters during their 3-1 home defeat by Monaco. Three of Chelsea's six goals against NK Maribor were transitions, leading respectively to a long-range goal, a combination culminated by John Terry and a through ball to Eden Hazard.

Set plays in favour of the opposition can represent opportunities to catch centre-backs out of position and successful examples were provided by Dortmund (a counter from a Galatasaray corner) and Malmö (a solo run and pass in a fast break following an Olympiacos corner).

Clockwise from top: Carlos Tévez; Eden Hazard; Dortmund fans put on a show

20.6% of goals from open play resulted from counters, a total of **55** goals

Claudio Marchisio's neat passing kept Juve moving

Luis Enrique and Xavi Hernández, who kept the match ball after his last game for Barça

Ricardo Quaresma scored twice in the quarter-final first leg against Bayern

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti

THROUGH PASS AND LONG BALL
Short is sweet for an increasing number of sides

"The long ball doesn't really exist any more." This forceful statement by Carlo Ancelotti offered a clear invitation to reflect on whether the long-ball game is now seen in the UEFA Champions League. Indeed, the opposite could be argued in a competition where many teams press high in order to force the opposition to play long.

The high defensive lines frequently seen in the UEFA Champions League are an invitation to play the ball over the top – a ploy attempted by AS Roma on their visit to Munich two weeks after a heavy home defeat by Guardiola's team. No less than 23% of the passing by Rudi Garcia's side was long. But goalkeepers tend to be alert – a factor that can be linked to the decline of goals derived from through passes. From 82 in 2010/11, the number dwindled to 37 in 2014/15.

The long ball, however, is not to be confused with the long pass, which, in this report, is defined as a pass of over 30m – something the likes of Xabi Alonso, Gerard Piqué or Luka Modrić regularly delivered with pinpoint accuracy. The statistics for the 2014/15 season reveal that long passes accounted for only 9% of the passing by six teams (Ajax, Arsenal, Bayern, Leverkusen, Manchester City and Paris) compared, at the other end of the scale, with Monaco (14%), Porto (15%), Shakhtar (16%) or Malmö (17%). The average across the 32 contestants was 11%.

LIFE AT THE TOP
Barcelona continue to show the way

"We started the season with the objective of reaching the quarter-finals, and at the end of the game I thanked the team for a wonderful season," Juventus coach Allegri admitted in Berlin. "We can consolidate and strengthen our game, improve the quality and try to stay among the top eight teams in Europe on a regular basis. That's really important. You win or lose a final and we had a chance to prevent Barcelona from winning the third leg of their treble. But they were extraordinary and we couldn't contain them." For Barcelona, the 50th victory in the 60th game of the season gave the club its fourth UEFA Champions League title in the past decade and, inevitably, strengthened their status as role models. Luis Enrique's side had coped with the pressure and the intensity – and had been prepared to take risks. But what aspects of the Barça game can be copied?

Measured passes

Clubs excelling at a combination-based game were more likely to reach the knockout stage

Toni Kroos made the most passes in 2014/15

Over the previous five seasons, the trend towards a possession-based passing game had been one of the salient features of the UEFA Champions League with, during 2013/14, no fewer than 26 of the 32 starters averaging more than 500 passes per game. In the 2014/15 season, however, terms of comparison were blurred by a review of UEFA's data-gathering mechanisms. The revision served to achieve uniformity between UEFA Champions League data and those collected in the UEFA Europa League, where different criteria had prevailed. The main change is that, in previous UEFA Champions League reports, passing statistics were much more closely related to touches of the ball. The figures for the 2014/15 season differ in that a pass was more clearly defined as a "deliberate attempt to pass the ball from one player to a team-mate". In other words, touches associated with interceptions or hasty clearances, for example, have now been eliminated from the equation, as they were deemed not to contain the element of intention.

The repercussions were twofold. Firstly – because undirected touches were excluded – percentages of passing accuracy registered an increase. Secondly, the statistics for 2014/15 reveal a significant downturn in the number of passes with, as opposed to 26, only nine of the 32 teams in the group stage exceeding an average of 500 per match. Hierarchies, however, remained essentially unaltered, with FC Bayern München and FC Barcelona once again leading the field. The revised statistics also served to underscore the general effectiveness of a combination-based game in that all but one of the teams who reached the 500-mark during the group stage progressed to the knockout rounds – the exception being AFC Ajax. In 2013/14, Celtic FC recorded – by a considerable margin – the lowest average of 418 passes per match. Implementing the revised criteria in 2014/15 meant that, during the group stage, no fewer than 13 clubs posted averages below that figure – and three of them progressed to the last 16.

Attempted passes and accuracy

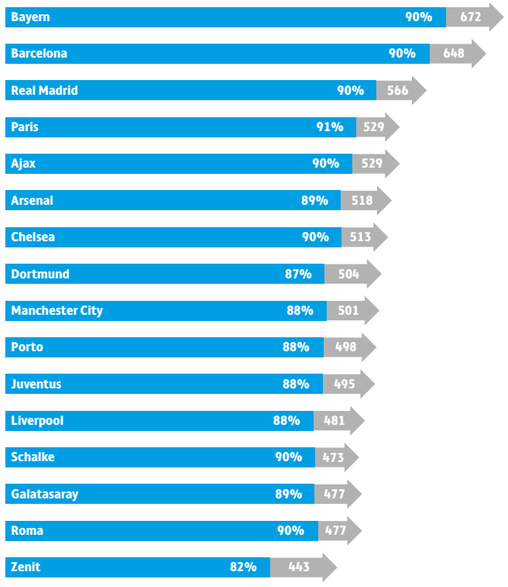
Roma had a difference of over 200% in their passing figures between the home game against CSKA Moskva (720 passes) and the match against Bayern in Munich (279 passes)

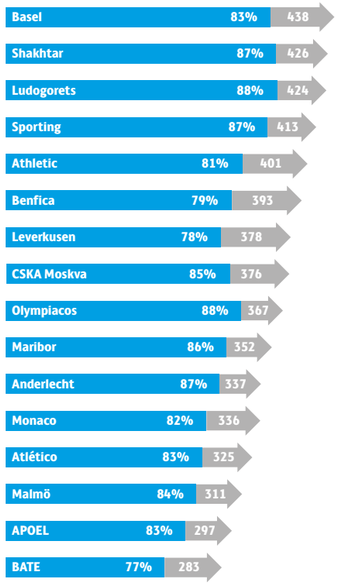
Olympiacos midfielder Pajtim Kasami turns away from Malmö's Isaac Kiese Thelin

Lasse Schöne on the ball for Ajax, the only team of the top ten highest passers not to reach the knockout stage

Although the average figures for passing serve as orientation for comparisons, there were often sub-agendas. The differences between maximum and minimum figures occasionally exceeded 200%, a glaring example being AS Roma's 720 passes during the home game against PFC CSKA Moskva compared with their 279 when they visited Bayern in Munich. Similarly, Ajax made 765 passes when they entertained APOEL FC, as opposed to 338 when they travelled to Barcelona. Olympiacos FC totalled 533 passes against Malmö FF but only 275 at home to Juventus. CSKA Moskva registered 526 passes during their home draw with Manchester City FC but only 238 when they entertained Bayern. In other words, teams aiming to be competitive in the UEFA Champions League need to be prepared to negotiate games where they dominate and games where they are dominated.

Individually, Real Madrid CF's Toni Kroos made more passes (872) than any other player during the season, closely followed by Bayern's Xabi Alonso (867). For the finalists, Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini (837) was his side's chief pass maker, while for FC Barcelona this honour went to Lionel Messi (823), ahead of defenders Daniel Alves (770), Javier Mascherano (761) and Jordi Alba (747).





This graphic gives the average number of passes attempted during a game (passes) and the percentage of passes successfully received by a team-mate (accuracy).

Number of passes attempted

Accuracy

The net result

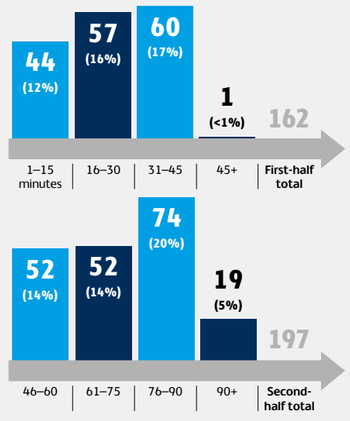
The strike rate kept pace with recent seasons as the goals per game ratio remained near its all-time high

Paris midfielder Marco Verratti in celebratory mood

Three successive seasons of similar goal tallies suggest a degree of stability, with the total number of goals scored in 2014/15 only one short of the 362 scored in 2013/14 and seven behind the record of 368 set in the season before that. Once again, the four semi-finalists accounted for in excess of 100 goals, although the silver medallists, Juventus, were outscored practically two-to-one by FC Bayern München, the season's leading scorers with 33 in 12 games. No fewer than 27 of FC Barcelona's goals were scored by their attacking trio of Neymar, Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez, the cosmopolitan combination illustrating the global nature of a competition in which, during the group stage alone, players from 43 different countries scored.

As usual, more goals were scored in the second half of games than in the first. Excluding the two extra-time goals at Stamford Bridge, 162 hit the net before half-time and 197 after the break – a 22% difference. A greater percentage of goals were scored by home teams: 211 (58.5% of the total compared with 56% in the previous season), while visitors accounted for 146. However, there were striking goal tallies away from home, with FC Shakhtar Donetsk (in Borisov) and Bayern (in Rome) both scoring seven. Group C represented the other side of the coin, offering spectators only two games in which more than two goals were scored, three goalless draws, and four fixtures that ended 1-0.

When the goals were scored



Extra time: 90–105 = **1** (<1%), 106–120 = **1** (<1%)

Decimal points account for the remaining 2%

Goal type

Category	Action	Guidelines	Goals		
			Group stage	Knockout stage	Total
Set-play goals	Corner	Direct from or following a corner	24	7	**31**
	Free-kick (direct)	Direct from a free-kick	9	3	**12**
	Free-kick (indirect)	Following a free-kick	17	1	**18**
	Penalty	Spot kick (or follow-up)	24	7	**31**
	Throw-in	Following a throw-in	2	0	**2**
	Total set-play goals				**94**
Open-play goals	Combination	Wall pass or combination move	50	13	**63**
	Cross	Cross from the wing	39	12	**51**
	Cutback	Pass back from the byline	20	4	**24**
	Diagonal	Diagonal pass into the penalty box	14	5	**19**
	Run with the ball	Dribble and close-range shot or dribble and pass	8	9	**17**
	Long-range shot	Direct shot or shot and rebound	28	8	**36**
	Forward pass	Through pass or pass over the defence	29	8	**37**
	Defensive error	Bad back-pass or mistake by the goalkeeper	12	4	**16**
	Own goal	Goal by the opponent	3	1	**4**
	Total open-play goals				**267**
	Total goals		**279**	**82**	**361**

AS Monaco FC failed to score in six of their 10 matches, which yielded an average of 1.2 goals apiece.

Individual scoring patterns were similarly irregular. The top three players in the scoring chart (Messi, Neymar and Cristiano Ronaldo with 10 goals each) operated from wide starting positions, yet nine of the 16 players who scored five or more played in central attacking roles. Thomas Müller generally operated in the slipstream of the frontrunners in a Bayern lineup where variation was often due to an exceptional injury list. His open-play striking rate also needs to be adjusted to take into account that his total of seven goals included four penalties. Shakhtar striker Luiz Adriano claimed fourth place, though all but one of his nine goals were scored against FC BATE Borisov and the total included three penalties.

Impressions of consistency in the number of goals scored in recent seasons were strengthened by the fact that 2014/15 produced exactly the same number of goals scored from dead-ball situations as in 2013/14. The 94 set-play goals represented 26% of the season's total, with penalties accounting for one-third of that total. There were 55 headed goals – 15% of the total – with Bayern delivering eight of them, Real Madrid CF six, and RSC Anderlecht, Club Atlético de Madrid, Chelsea FC and Paris Saint-Germain four apiece. Ten of the 32 teams did not score a headed goal.

Top scorers 2014/15

10

Lionel Messi (Barcelona)
Neymar (Barcelona)
Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)

9

Luiz Adriano (Shakhtar)

7

Jackson Martínez (Porto)
Thomas Müller (Bayern)
Luis Suárez (Barcelona)
Carlos Tévez (Juventus)

6

Sergio Agüero (Manchester City)
Karim Benzema (Real Madrid)
Edinson Cavani (Paris)
Robert Lewandowski (Bayern)

Luiz Adriano scored eight of his nine goals against BATE

SET-PLAY GOALS

Success from direct free-kicks was up on 2013/14, but still low

The 31 penalties successfully converted is the highest total since the current competition format was introduced in 2003/04. Six penalties were missed during the group stage and one (by Sergio Agüero in Manchester City FC's tie against Barcelona) in the knockout stage. This contrasts sharply with the 2013/14 season, when 17 of 47 penalties were not converted. Overall, the number of penalties awarded dropped sharply from 47 to 38 – not far short of a 20% downturn.

Successful direct free-kicks rose from seven to 12. This sounds dramatic if expressed as a 71% increase, but still represents only 3.3% of the season's goals. There were outstanding strikes from specialists such as Andrea Pirlo (36), Carlos Tévez (31), Xabi Alonso (33), Wesley Sneijder (31) and Steven Gerrard (35) – their ages included here to hint at a shortage of expertise in the generations below them. The use of vanishing spray during the 2014/15 season undoubtedly aided free-kick takers as encroachment was all but eradicated. The success rate was, however, still low.

The number of goals resulting from indirect free-kicks remained stable at the 2013/14 level after two years at the record low level of 11. Some teams reaped dividends for training-ground work, including Roger Schmidt's Bayer 04 Leverkusen who scored an important opening goal against FC Zenit in St. Petersburg thanks to a well-rehearsed move finished off by Son Heung-Min. The aggregate tally of goals derived from direct and indirect free-kicks represented 32% of the set-play goals and 8.3% of the overall total in the competition. The success rate from corners fell away from the record 37 posted in 2013/14. Even though this could be presented as a 16% downturn, corners provided almost one-third of the set-play total and 8.6% of all goals.

Wesley Sneijder winds up to shoot

OPEN-PLAY GOALS

Goals from short-passing combinations are on the rise

Open-play goals accounted for 74% of the season's total, with 7.5% of them attributable to defensive errors or own goals. There was a slight upturn in the number of goals derived from through passes, but the 37 created in this way was the second-lowest tally since the current 125-game format was introduced. This route to goal proved to be 55% less productive than it was in 2010/11. Going further back, the through pass accounted for 26% of open-play goals in the 2005/06 season. In 2014/15 this was pegged back to 13.86%.

Combination moves accounted for

23.6%

of open-play goals, more than any other goal type

The main feature of the 2014/15 season, however, was that it highlighted the trend towards attacking strategies based on neat combination moves. Seen in isolation, the figure of 63 goals resulting from combination play represents 23.6% of the open-play total – significantly higher than any other category. However, the historical context is more interesting. The figure signifies an increase of 12.5% on the previous season and is the highest recorded – even including the 2001/02 and 2002/03 seasons when the second group stage was extant and 157 games were played – since 64 of 449 goals stemmed from combination moves in 2000/01. The steady drift towards combination play in the attacking third can be measured by the fact that the 2014/15 total is three times higher than the figure registered in 2009/10 and practically multiplies the 2005/06 total by four.

Barcelona's successes in recent seasons could inspire teams to seek to replicate this method to create chances. Luis Enrique's team produced masterful examples of short-passing combinations in the seemingly impenetrable central areas of defensive blocks. The opening goal in the final provided a textbook example of combinations that perfectly blended crossfield passing, positional movements that posed a series of problems for defenders, finely tuned one-touch passing and high-speed runs into scoring positions by midfielders. Real Madrid CF's opening goal away to Liverpool FC also provided textbook evidence of how scoring opportunities can be created by combining high-speed runs with the exploitation of seemingly insignificant or inaccessible spaces.

A delighted Ivan Rakitić opens the scoring in Berlin

The shift towards attacking strategies based on combination play could arguably be linked with the decline in the number of goals derived from crosses – 17.7% down in comparison with the previous season to reach the lowest figure recorded since 2005/06. Prior to the 2014/15 season, this category had been a relatively stable source of goals, peaking with 78 in 2008/09 (almost one-third of the open-play goals in that season). In 2014/15, this department yielded only 19% of the open-play goals.

In other categories, the pass back from areas near the byline increased in productivity, without rediscovering the peak registered in the 2011/12 and 2012/13 seasons, when the cutback doubled and practically tripled its effectiveness. Although the 2014/15 figure is 37% down compared with the 2012/13 peak, the total of 24 is still the third-highest since the current format was introduced. It doubles or triples some of the figures registered during the first decade of the century and exceeds the totals posted during the era of two group stages and 157

Edinson Cavani tries to get the better of Thibaut Courtois

games. The cutback has undoubtedly prospered as a source of goals in the modern game, with players increasingly attacking the inner areas of the box rather than adhering to the traditional ploy of heading towards the corner flag and delivering a high cross.

Even though Messi's solo skills provided one of the eye-catching features of 2014/15, the number of goals directly attributable to individual running with the ball registered

Porto sharpshooter Vincent Aboubakar

a 35% descent in comparison with the previous season. However, the 17 goals scored in this way signify a return to exactly the same level as in 2011/12 and 2012/13, which was significantly higher than in the four seasons prior to that. In 2014/15, running with the ball accounted for one in 16 of the season's goals.

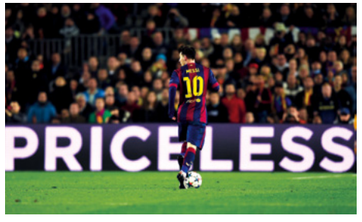
Elsewhere, values bore easy comparison with the previous season, with diagonal passing into the box remaining at the peak figure of 19 – the highest since 2003/04. This fact dovetails with theories that teams are no longer obsessed with reaching the corner-flag area before delivering crosses into the box, but are more prepared to serve the ball to onrushing team-mates from wide areas adjacent to the outer limit of the attacking third.

Long-range shooting still accounted for a sizeable percentage of open-play goals (13.5% – or just over one goal in seven), but has fallen below the ratios achieved during the golden age of the long shot between 2009/10

Goals season by season

Season	Goals	Games	Average
1992/93	56	25	2.24
1993/94	71	27	2.63
1994/95	140	61	2.30
1995/96	159	61	2.61
1996/97	161	61	2.64
1997/98	239	85	2.81
1998/99	238	85	2.80
1999/00	442	157	2.82
2000/01	449	157	2.86
2001/02	393	157	2.50
2002/03	431	157	2.75
2003/04	309	125	2.47
2004/05	331	125	2.65
2005/06	285	125	2.28
2006/07	309	125	2.47
2007/08	330	125	2.64
2008/09	329	125	2.63
2009/10	320	125	2.56
2010/11	355	125	2.84
2011/12	345	125	2.76
2012/13	368	125	2.94
2013/14	362	125	2.90
2014/15	361	125	2.89
Total	6,783	2,533	2.68

and 2012/13. Yet the season produced some outstanding long-range strikes, such as Aaron Ramsey's when the clearance from a corner fell to the Arsenal FC midfielder outside the box, and the two fierce efforts by Vincent Aboubakar that gave the FC Basel 1893 goalkeeper no chance during the first knockout round match in Porto.



Lionel Messi was one of three players to score ten times

The best goals

Open play

Barcelona provided half of the best goals of the season, but it was Cristiano Ronaldo who topped the chart

	Scorer	Match	Minute	Score after goal	Final score
1	Cristiano Ronaldo	Liverpool v **Real Madrid**	23	0-1	0-3
2	Ivan Rakitić	Juventus v **Barcelona**	4	0-1	1-3
3	Lionel Messi	**Barcelona** v Bayern	80	2-0	3-0
4	Luis Suárez	Paris v **Barcelona**	79	0-3	1-3
5	Ivan Rakitić	**Barcelona** v Manchester City	31	1-0	1-0
6	Marco Reus	Galatasaray v **Dortmund**	41	0-3	0-4
7	Karim Benzema	**Real Madrid** v Basel	79	5-1	5-1
8	Lionel Messi	Paris v **Barcelona**	12	1-1	3-2
9	Robert Lewandowski	**Bayern** v Porto	27	3-0	6-1
10	Vincent Aboubakar	**Porto** v Basel	76	4-0	4-0

Cristiano Ronaldo Liverpool v **Real Madrid**

Ivan Rakitić **Barcelona** v Manchester City

Marco Reus Galatasaray v **Dortmund**

Lionel Messi Paris v **Barcelona**

Robert Lewandowski **Bayern** v Porto

The entertainment value of the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League can be gauged by the number of stunning goals, which were pared down to a list of ten by the UEFA technical observers' group. Pride of place went to the technically brilliant build-up and finish that allowed Real Madrid CF to take the lead at Anfield. Cristiano Ronaldo combined with defender Pepe and Karim Benzema before James Rodríguez scooped an exquisitely weighted pass over the Liverpool defence, into a space where the onrushing Ronaldo seemed to be blocked by Martin Škrtel. The Madrid goalscorer, however, showed brilliant technique as he stretched his right leg to clip a half-volley into the far corner of the net.

The second-best goal, FC Barcelona's opener in the final, involved a simpler finish but an outstanding build-up. Lionel Messi hit a crossfield pass from right to left, Jordi Alba then made an excellent first touch, Neymar spotted and fed Andrés Iniesta's high-speed run into the box and the midfielder disguised a lethal pass with the outside of his right boot for Ivan Rakitić to sidefoot his team in front. The bronze medal went to Messi himself for the stunning solo skills and delicately chipped finish that put his side two goals ahead against FC Bayern München at the Camp Nou.

It was the reflection of an outrageously successful campaign that Barcelona provided half of the season's best open-play goals. Among the remainder, Marco Reus claimed a place with a breathtaking long-range shot after the ball had been played from the left across the Galatasaray AŞ defence. Toni Kroos, James Rodríguez and Ronaldo combined to allow Benzema to strike Real Madrid CF's 1,000th European goal. A high ball-win by Philipp Lahm and a nice volley by Thomas Müller allowed Robert Lewandowski to head Bayern's third against FC Porto in Munich and the fierce long-range strike by Vincent Aboubakar was the second of two similarly brilliant goals during the 4-0 home win against FC Basel 1893 in the first knockout round.

Set plays

Masters of the art Steven Gerrard and Andrea Pirlo made their mark, while Son Heung-Min showed why practice makes perfect

As in the previous season, 94 goals resulted from dead-ball situations – but one-third of them were penalties. Top spot went to the well-rehearsed indirect free-kick that allowed Son Heung-Min to shoot Bayer 04 Leverkusen ahead during the match against FC Zenit in St Petersburg. Second place went to an effort which was considerably less rehearsed but equally spectacular, with Arsenal FC's Aaron Ramsey hitting an unstoppable response to a partially cleared corner during his team's group game in Istanbul. Two of the other three were free-kicks struck directly into the net by consummate specialists Steven Gerrard and Andrea Pirlo, while the dead ball hit fiercely into the FC Basel 1893 net by FC Porto's Casemiro was simply unstoppable.

Steven Gerrard Liverpool v Basel

Casemiro Porto v Basel

Son Heung-Min Zenit v Leverkusen

Andrea Pirlo Juventus v Olympiacos

Aaron Ramsey
Galatasaray v Arsenal

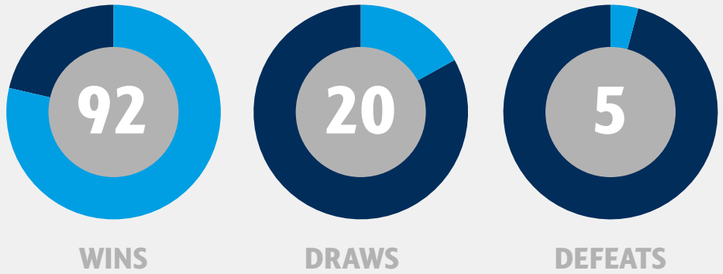
	Scorer	Type	Match	Minute	Score after goal	Final score
1	Son Heung-Min	Free-kick	Zenit v **Leverkusen**	68	0-1	1-2
2	Aaron Ramsey	Corner	Galatasaray v **Arsenal**	29	0-3	1-4
3	Steven Gerrard	Free-kick	**Liverpool** v Basel	81	1-1	1-1
4	Casemiro	Free-kick	**Porto** v Basel	56	3-0	4-0
5	Andrea Pirlo	Free-kick	**Juventus** v Olympiacos	21	1-0	3-2

Gareth Bale and Arda Turan renew acquaintances as Madrid's 2014 finalists met again – this time in the quarter-finals

Making the breakthrough

Opening the scoring was more important than ever, with just 4% of games won by the team conceding first

Result of the team scoring first



Anthony Vanden Borre led Anderlecht's thrilling recovery at Arsenal with a pair of second-half goals

"If you are losing, you are obliged to take the initiative – and if you have to do that, you become more vulnerable and have an even greater chance of losing." In recent years, Arsène Wenger, like many of his coaching colleagues, has been trying to find rational explanations for the fact that, in the UEFA Champions League, the team conceding the first goal so rarely comes back to win. In 2008/09, only 56.8% of matches were won by the team that broke the deadlock. Since then, the percentage has steadily increased.

The 2014/15 season produced eight goalless draws, with AS Monaco FC involved in three of them and Juventus, Club Atlético de Madrid and FC Shakhtar Donetsk two apiece. Of the 117 fixtures which produced goals, teams came from behind to draw on 20 occasions but only five (4.27%) were won by the team that conceded the opening goal.

It means that this particular phenomenon became even more remarkable during 2014/15, bearing in mind that, in the previous season, 14 teams had fought back from a goal down to win. The five comeback victories all took place during the group stage; during the knockout stage, scoring the first goal proved to be a guarantee of avoiding defeat.

Comeback kings

Ludogorets	**Madrid**	1-2
Anderlecht	**Arsenal**	1-2
Schalke	Sporting	4-3
Sporting	Schalke	4-2
Barcelona	Paris	3-1

Teams in **bold** recovered from going a goal down to win

The perennial question is why the success rate is so low when it comes to bouncing back after conceding the opening goal. On only ten occasions was the first goal of the game scored in the closing minutes when there was little or no time to reply – the most extreme being the added-time goal that gave ten-man FC Basel 1893 no time to react in their away fixture against PFC Ludogorets Razgrad. In fact, the scoreboard operator was only required to display 1-0 during the last half-hour on 18 occasions during the 117 matches that produced goals. In 37 games, the first goal hit the net during the opening 15 minutes and 83 of the opening goals (71%) were scored before the teams headed for the dressing room at half-time. There was time to respond. Why were so many teams unable to provide a response?

When the first goals were scored

Attempts on goal

In line with 2013/14, it took on average almost nine attempts to score a goal

During the 2014/15 season, UEFA Champions League teams offered its global audience 3,209 goal attempts at an average of 25.67 per match – a marginal increase of 2.6% over the previous season. Of those, 36.5% (1,170 at an average of 9.36 per fixture) were on target in the sense that they either hit the net or made the goalkeeper work. It is best to put it that way bearing in mind that 25% of all goal attempts were blocked before they reached the keeper.

The graphic below illustrates the major discrepancies among the success rates of the 32 participating clubs. The overall average for the season reveals that almost nine attempts (8.89, to be precise) were required to score a goal. But there was a broad band on either side of that mean figure, the extreme readings being provided by SL Benfica and FC BATE Borisov (who needed 34 and 29.5 respectively to score) or, at the other end of the spectrum, FC Shakhtar Donetsk, FC Porto, Arsenal FC or Chelsea FC, all of whom needed fewer than six attempts to give the scoreboard operator some work. APOEL FC's only success from 30 attempts was from the penalty spot.

These diagrams illustrate the goals and attempts on goal for each team during the 2014/15 season and are ordered by average attempts per game.

Attempts = season total (average per game)
Attempts/goal = average attempts per goal
Blocked = blocked shots
Woodwork = hit the post or crossbar. Attempts striking the woodwork are included in the on-target total if deflected by a goalkeeper or defender and in the off-target total if the attempt struck the woodwork directly.

■ **Attempts on target**
■ **Attempts off target**

Real Madrid

Attempts: **218 (18.2)**
Attempts/goal: **9.08**
Blocked: **57**
Woodwork: **6**

Bayern

Attempts: **210 (17.5)**
Attempts/goal: **6.36**
Blocked: **58**
Woodwork: **4**

Sporting

Attempts: **104 (17.3)**
Attempts/goal: **8.67**
Blocked: **24**
Woodwork: **1**

Barcelona

Attempts: **195 (15)**
Attempts/goal: **6.29**
Blocked: **39**
Woodwork: **6**

Dortmund

Attempts: **119 (14.9)**
Attempts/goal: **7.93**
Blocked: **18**
Woodwork: **3**

Chelsea

Attempts: **118 (14.8)**
Attempts/goal: **5.9**
Blocked: **34**
Woodwork: **1**

Galatasaray

Attempts: **88 (14.7)**
Attempts/goal: **22**
Blocked: **28**
Woodwork: **1**

Leverkusen

Attempts: **112 (14)**
Attempts/goal: **14**
Blocked: **28**
Woodwork: **4**

Schalke

Attempts: **111 (13.9)**
Attempts/goal: **8.54**
Blocked: **31**
Woodwork: **4**

Athletic

Attempts: **80 (13.3)**
Attempts/goal: **16**
Blocked: **21**
Woodwork: **3**

Liverpool

Attempts: **78 (13)**
Attempts/goal: **15.6**
Blocked: **27**
Woodwork: **1**

Porto

Attempts: **130 (13)**
Attempts/goal: **5.2**
Blocked: **22**
Woodwork: **4**

Juventus

Attempts: **166 (12.8)**
Attempts/goal: **9.76**
Blocked: **30**
Woodwork: **4**

Atlético Madrid

Attempts: **126 (12.6)**
Attempts/goal: **8.4**
Blocked: **32**
Woodwork: **2**

Arsenal

Attempts: **99 (12.4)**
Attempts/goal: **5.5**
Blocked: **22**
Woodwork: **4**

Ludogorets

Attempts: **74 (12.3)**
Attempts/goal: **14.8**
Blocked: **16**
Woodwork: **1**

CSKA Moskva

Attempts: **73 (12.2)**
Attempts/goal: **12.17**
Blocked: **18**
Woodwork: **3**

Manchester City

Attempts: **97 (12.1)**
Attempts/goal: **9.7**
Blocked: **24**
Woodwork: **1**

Paris

Attempts: **119 (11.9)**
Attempts/goal: **8.5**
Blocked: **30**
Woodwork: **2**

Olympiacos

Attempts: **71 (11.8)**
Attempts/goal: **7.1**
Blocked: **12**
Woodwork: **0**

Anderlecht

Attempts: **70 (11.7)**
Attempts/goal: **8.75**
Blocked: **21**
Woodwork: **4**

Basel

Attempts: **93 (11.6)**
Attempts/goal: **11.63**
Blocked: **17**
Woodwork: **1**

Ajax

Attempts: **68 (11.3)**
Attempts/goal: **8.5**
Blocked: **21**
Woodwork: **1**

Benfica

Attempts: **68 (11.3)**
Attempts/goal: **34**
Blocked: **26**
Woodwork: **1**

Malmö

Attempts: **67 (11.2)**
Attempts/goal: **16.75**
Blocked: **15**
Woodwork: **1**

Maribor

Attempts: **67 (11.2)**
Attempts/goal: **16.75**
Blocked: **22**
Woodwork: **2**

Zenit

Attempts: **65 (10.8)**
Attempts/goal: **16.25**
Blocked: **28**
Woodwork: **1**

Roma

Attempts: **62 (10.3)**
Attempts/goal: **7.75**
Blocked: **15**
Woodwork: **3**

BATE

Attempts: **59 (9.8)**
Attempts/goal: **29.5**
Blocked: **18**
Woodwork: **1**

Monaco

Attempts: **97 (9.7)**
Attempts/goal: **13.86**
Blocked: **24**
Woodwork: **1**

Shakhtar

Attempts: **75 (9.4)**
Attempts/goal: **5**
Blocked: **13**
Woodwork: **1**

APOEL

Attempts: **30 (5)**
Attempts/goal: **30**
Blocked: **11**
Woodwork: **0**

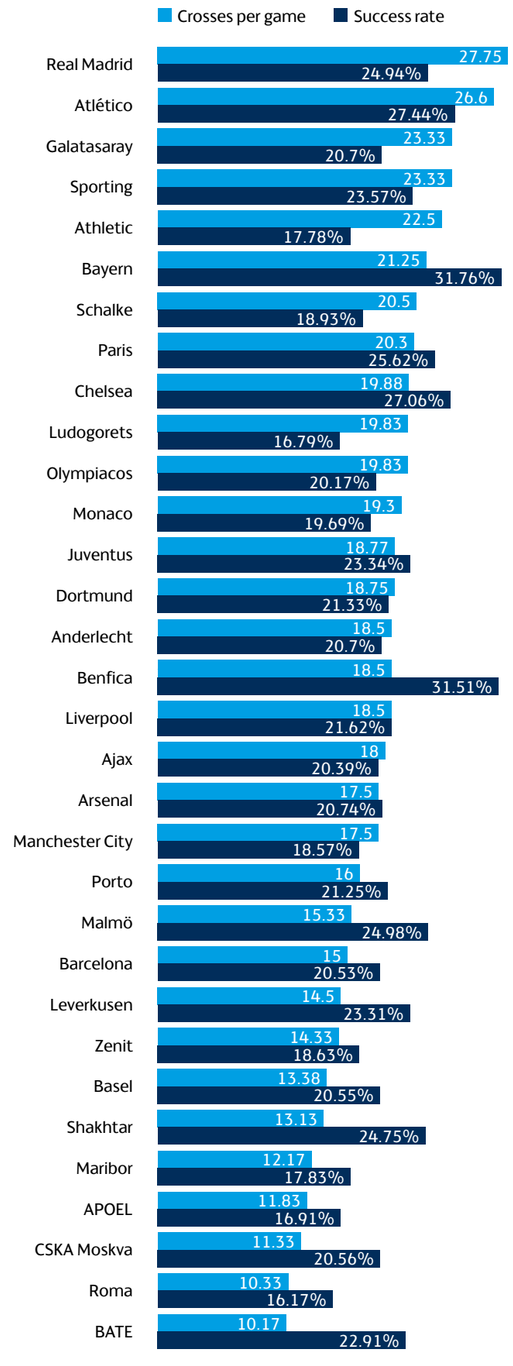
Crossing

A drop in the success rate of crosses raised questions about the quality of delivery and drew attention to defensive prowess

The 2014/15 UEFA Champions League produced 4,537 crosses at an average of 36.3 per game – roughly three for every five minutes of real playing time. Of these, 1,030 reached a team-mate and could therefore be described as successful. In other words, less than one in four crosses (22.7%) were received by a member of the same team. The chart, however, reveals substantial variation around those mean figures, with FC Bayern München and SL Benfica not far short of a one-in-three success rate while other teams were hovering around a ratio of one in six. In 2013/14, only two teams registered success rates below 20%. In 2014/15 nine teams fell below the one-in-five level – a statistic that raises questions about the quality of crossing and/or the quality of defending against crosses.

Among the figures, adjustments to playing styles are clearly reflected – some of them easily traceable to a change of coach. With Paulo Fonseca at the helm, for example, FC Porto averaged 31.67 crosses per game in 2013/14; under Julen Lopetegui, this figure was practically halved. Under Roberto Mancini, Galatasaray AŞ averaged 13.88 whereas, with Cesare Prandelli in charge, the average increased substantially in 2014/15. FC Barcelona, with Gerardo Martino in charge, averaged 21 crosses per game in 2013/14, compared with 15 during the run by Luis Enrique's team to the 2014/15 title. Others, with the same coach, also produced noteworthy variations. Chelsea FC's average, for instance, increased from 13 to almost 20, Club Atlético de Madrid's crossing increased by 33% in relation to the run to the 2013/14 final, and Carlo Ancelotti's defending champions Real Madrid CF hit 62% more crosses in 2014/15 than they had done en route to Lisbon.

The trend away from tradition was highlighted by the scarcity of genuine wingers among the list of players who delivered most crosses during the 2014/15 season. The chief suppliers were Koke (Atlético), Hakan Çalhanoğlu (Bayer 04 Leverkusen), Daniel Alves (Barcelona), Marcelo (Real Madrid), the Juventus pair Stephan Lichtsteiner and, revealingly, Andrea Pirlo, Cesc Fàbregas (Chelsea), João Moutinho (Monaco), James Rodríguez (Real Madrid), Juanfran (Atlético) and Toni Kroos (Real Madrid). Amid all the full-backs and midfielders, only Ricardo Quaresma and Ezequiel Lavezzi could comfortably wear the winger label. Significantly, Lionel Messi delivered 26 crosses – five more than his team-mate Jordi Alba, arguably illustrating that the Barça left-back, when overlapping, preferred to look for short-passing solutions rather than hit the long cross.



Talking points

In the post-final discussions, debate centred on continuity in coaching, and the now annual lament on the dearth of out-and-out strikers from Europe

THE VALUE OF CONTINUITY

Steeped in the Barça philosophy, Luis Enrique was no one-season wonder

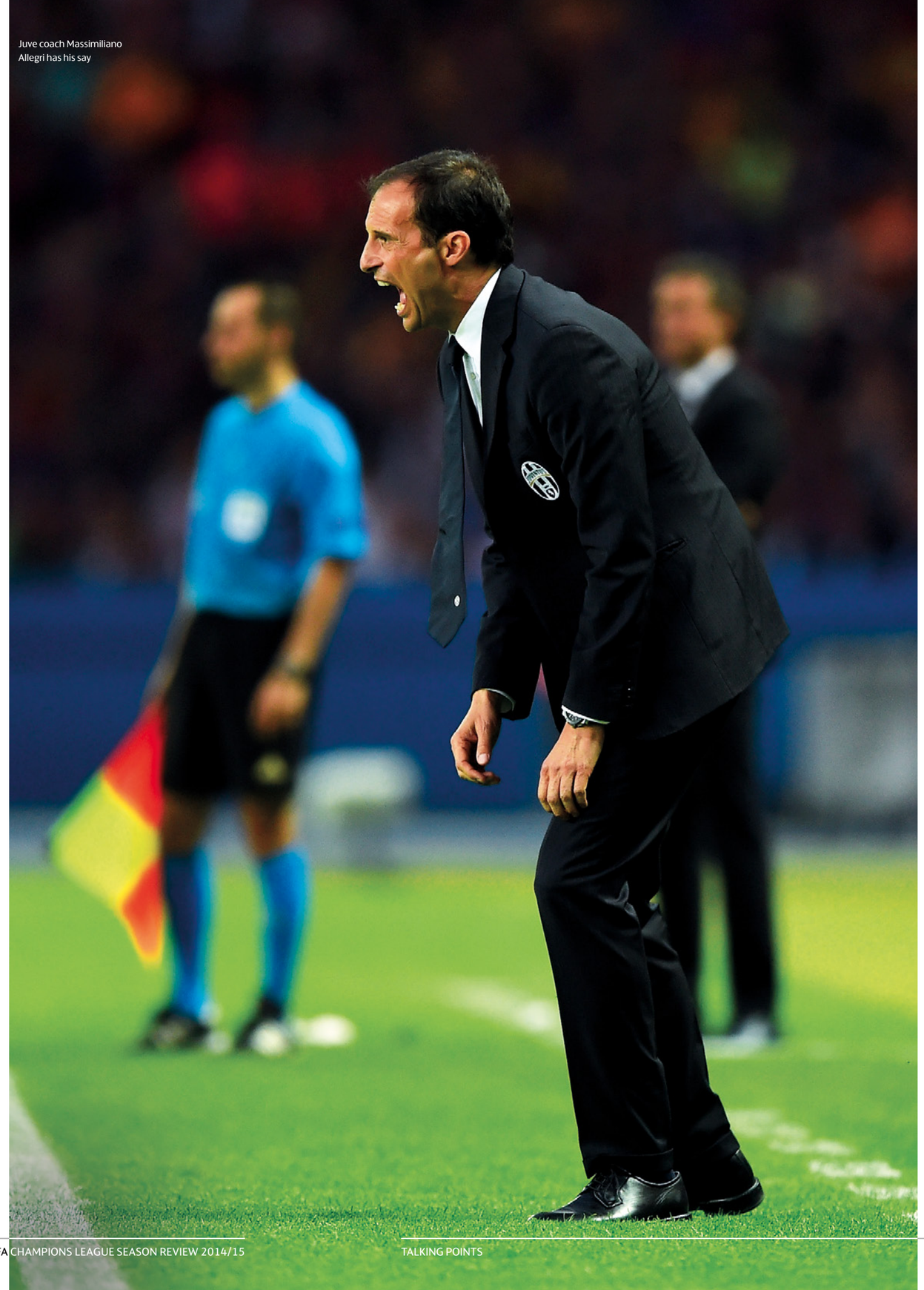
The best foundations for discussion are conflicting statements or apparently contradictory situations. So a starting point could be Sir Alex Ferguson's conviction that continuity gives a club the stability it needs to mount sustainable attempts to win silverware. An era of almost 27 years at Manchester United FC made Sir Alex the epitome of a continuity that served as a platform for unparalleled success at his club. Contradictory evidence was offered by a 2014/15 season that was perfect for fuelling debate. If continuity is a valuable ingredient in the recipe for success, how did Luis Enrique achieve a Liga, Copa del Rey and UEFA Champions League treble at the end of his first campaign, just as Pep Guardiola had done at FC Barcelona six seasons earlier? Sir Alex's place at the head of the longevity chart has been inherited by Arsène Wenger, winner of 14 trophies since he took over at Arsenal FC in October 1996. For the Frenchman, however, continuity can be more about players than coaches. "Sometimes it is more about how much experience the players have in terms of playing together," he said.

The 2014/15 UEFA Champions League was not exactly an ode to longevity. After Wenger, the longest-serving coach was Mircea Lucescu (at FC Shakhtar Donetsk since 2004), followed by Jürgen Klopp (who has since decided to end a reign at Borussia Dortmund that had started in 2008) and two coaches – Leonid Slutski at PFC CSKA Moskva and Jorge Jesus at SL Benfica – who started in 2009. Like Klopp, the latter stood down at the end of the season. Frank de Boer started at AFC Ajax in 2010, but the striking fact is that 24 of the other coaches leading teams into the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League had been appointed in 2013 or 2014. It means that 75% of the coaches had either one season's experience or no previous experience at the club when the ball started rolling in the summer of 2014.

Statistically at least, it was therefore no surprise that the two coaches who reached the final in Berlin were pulling down the curtain on a highly successful first season. Both, incidentally, were leading teams from their native countries, whereas the previous season's all-Madrid final had involved Italian Carlo Ancelotti and Argentinian Diego Simeone. Although the last was as recently as the 2013 final at Wembley (Jupp Heynckes and Jürgen Klopp), the final in Berlin was only the second in the last decade to involve two native coaches.

Going back to the issue of continuity, there are shades of meaning to be drawn. After the victory in Berlin, Luis Enrique was at pains to point out that "in the last ten years, this has been the most successful club in Europe" and that his players had "shown hunger for victory". In other words, he hints at support for Wenger in the thesis that the players, rather than the coach, are the chief purveyors of continuity. From this perspective, Barcelona provide compelling evidence, in that a significant percentage of the squad (half of the names on the team sheet in Berlin) have emerged from the club academy.

This is relevant to notions of continuity, given that the Catalan club has adhered to a playing philosophy which, in the oft-repeated words of senior, respected players such as Xavi Hernández or Andrés Iniesta, is "non-negotiable". The players who arrive in the first-team dressing room from the youth development teams do so with an indelible footballing DNA. But what about the coach? Luis Enrique was not a pupil at the Barça academy – a fact that differentiates him from Guardiola and Tito Vilanova before him. But he had been a Barcelona player and he had coached the youngsters in the Barça B team. In other words, he is steeped in the footballing traditions of the club. How important is this? How important is it for a club to have a clearly defined footballing philosophy? How long does it take a coach to embrace such a philosophy? What is the value of continuity?



Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri has his say

EUROPE'S STRIKING ABSENCE

South Americans continue to dominate the scoring chart

There are moments when editorial concerns can cloud the issue. Editorially, it goes against the grain to repeat a talking point that was raised in the 2013/14 season – and the year before that. Yet, seen from a more detached perspective, an issue which arises season after season is, in logic, a talking point par excellence. Some years have passed since one of UEFA's technical observers at UEFA Champions League matches, Roy Hodgson, mused: "I wonder how this will evolve. There is a danger that this job will become too lonely and too difficult. In many cases, the striker is not just expected to act as a target and to hold the ball up but also to do a lot of chasing and to work hard as the first line of defence." With hindsight, his comment can be interpreted as a prophecy.

After watching the Barcelona attacking trio of Lionel Messi, Luis Suárez and Neymar (122 goals between them during the season) in action at the Berlin final, the UEFA chief technical officer, Ioan Lupescu, renewed debate by remarking: "The reliance on South American strikers is becoming a problem in Europe." Seven of the ten leading scorers in the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League were South American. Only one of the 16 players who scored five goals or more (Thomas Müller) was playing in his native country.

Since Hodgson's original remark, the evolution of attacking play had been marked by successes for the strikerless formations deployed by Barcelona and Spain. As Spaniard Ginés Meléndez commented in Berlin: "It has become noticeable that the youngsters' role models are not the sort of players that they used to be. Nowadays, everybody wants to be Xavi or Iniesta. We're developing lots of midfielders but not many teams play with two strikers." In Berlin, Juventus provided an exception to the trend towards 1-4-2-3-1, fielding Carlos Tévez (Argentina) and Álvaro Morata who, in the previous season, had played 173 UEFA Champions League minutes for Real Madrid CF, his path blocked by Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema. Jean-François Domergue, who apart from his role as technical observer is responsible for UEFA's academy project, stated: "It's becoming clear that we are not developing players who go direct for goal."

"It's a subject that has caused a great deal of debate in Germany," added Thomas Schaaf. "There has been great development in our youth teams in recent years and we see strong, fit, agile forwards. OK, Müller could act as a central striker but, in the main, we are producing players in the Mario Götze mould rather than target strikers. The focus has been

Bayern's Thomas Müller had plenty to shout about

on possession play, technique, transitions. We have players like Mesut Özil or Marco Reus who have lots of qualities and are brilliant at exploiting space, but – let's put it this way – we don't have replacements for Miroslav Klose. You can argue that this is in line with requirements because the game has evolved and static target strikers are easy to mark."

The debating point emerges year after year – and not only in the UEFA Champions League. It is one that, over a number of years, has been steadily permeating the UEFA youth development competitions from Under-17 to Under-21 levels. A couple of weeks before the Berlin final, the 2015 final tournament of the expanded Under-17 competition had, despite a high-scoring final in which France defeated Germany 4-1, yielded 59 goals in 33 games at a miserly average of 1.79 per game. As Jerzy Engel, one of the UEFA technical observers at the tournament in Bulgaria, remarked: "This was not a problem related to the quality of attacking play. There was simply a lack of players with predatory instinct."

Following the Berlin final, Mixu Paatelainen commented: "The fact that so many top strikers come from outside Europe obliges you to ask questions. Are we, as coaches, focusing too much on collective organisation of defensive and attacking play? Has training become too tactically orientated? Are we devoting enough time to practising finishing? Has the time come for us to offer more specific coaching to strikers?" The basic talking point therefore remains unchanged: even though the role of the striker may be evolving, what more can be done to preserve and promote the predatory instinct?

> "The focus has been on possession play, technique, transitions. We have players like Mesut Özil or Marco Reus; we don't have replacements for Miroslav Klose"

Running man

Nine of the sides that covered the most ground fell at the end of the group stage

Debate about the relevance of data related to distances covered was fuelled by the 2014/15 season, in which FC BATE Borisov ran further than any other team and conceded a record 24 goals in finishing at the foot of their group. This season, a survey of the games in which each individual team among the group stage fallers registered its maximum distance reveals that the running led to one victory, six draws and nine defeats. Contradictory evidence was presented by the 16 top teams – the games where they covered the most ground produced 11 wins and five draws.

Nine of the teams in the top half of the table were eliminated in the group stage, while three of the four semi-finalists are tucked away in the bottom half. The average distances may appear to be quite tightly grouped, yet the difference between top and bottom is considerable, BATE covering 22.85% more than the distance run by AS Roma. In 2013/14, the difference between first (Borussia Dortmund) and last (AC Milan) was 16%. Continuing comparisons with the previous season, FC Porto and FC Barcelona added some 4km to their average distance.

The table excludes matches in which the team played 30 minutes or more with ten players – a factor that evidently distorts the team total.

Individual statistics are not easily calibrated, as the generally available data refer to cumulative distances over the entire season – which evidently favours players from the two teams that met in the final. More reliable comparisons can only be made on the basis of metres covered per minute played. The table below is based on sampling rather than an exhaustive analysis of the 600-plus players who competed in the 2014/15 UEFA Champions League.

The marked contrast in relation to the previous season is that, whereas key players from FC Bayern München and Dortmund formed a German hard core at the top of the table, in 2014/15 the nationalities were much more widely spread, with members of German squads occupying only five places among the top 20 players sampled. Predictably, midfielders are the dominant forces in terms of distances covered, while centre-backs are conspicuous by their absence. Using central defenders on show in Berlin as reference points, Gerard Piqué averaged 114.92m covered per minute played, Javier Mascherano 110.21, Leonardo Bonucci 107.90 and Andrea Barzagli 122.71. At the foot of the table, from Andrea Pirlo down, figures for relevant players have been added for reference.

Distance in metres per match

BATE	121,238
Schalke	119,579
Dortmund	119,405
APOEL	118,456
Ludogorets	117,705
Basel	117,166
Porto	117,072
Leverkusen	117,021
Athletic	116,876
Liverpool	116,320
Sporting	115,960
Shakhtar	114,694
Maribor	114,614
Benfica	114,200
Bayern	114,021
CSKA Moskva	113,810
Juventus	113,401
Ajax	113,201
Barcelona	113,026
Arsenal	113,025
Chelsea	112,905
Zenit	112,832
Monaco	112,545
Malmö	112,166
Atlético	111,285
Anderlecht	111,078
Manchester City	110,792
Paris	109,288
Real Madrid	109,157
Olympiacos	108,706
Galatasaray	108,379
Roma	106,826

Metres covered per minute played

Player	Club	Average
Óliver Torres	Porto	142.50
Nabil Dirar	Monaco	142.24
James Milner	Manchester City	138.08
Mikhail Gordeichuk	BATE	137.96
Vinicius	APOEL	137.55
Sven Bender	Dortmund	137.26
Mohamed Elneny	Basel	136.40
Svetoslav Dyakov	Ludogorets	136.39
Héctor Herrera	Porto	135.74
Lars Bender	Leverkusen	135.71
Mikel Rico	Athletic	134.45
Koke	Atlético	133.38
Cesc Fàbregas	Chelsea	133.04
Xabi Alonso	Bayern	131.98
Mario Götze	Bayern	131.54
Nemanja Matić	Chelsea	131.33
Henrikh Mkhitaryan	Dortmund	129.95
Ivan Rakitić	Barcelona	129.95

Player	Club	Average
Claudio Marchisio	Juventus	129.82
Blaise Matuidi	Paris	129.52
Fabian Frei	Basel	129.15
Marco Höger	Schalke	128.97
Marco Verratti	Paris	128.83
Arturo Vidal	Juventus	128.03
Thomas Müller	Bayern	127.86
Jordi Alba	Barcelona	127.50
Javier Pastore	Paris	127.50
Sergio Busquets	Barcelona	127.41
João Moutinho	Monaco	126.87
Andrea Pirlo	Juventus	126.19
Andrés Iniesta	Barcelona	122.07
Gareth Bale	Real Madrid	117.64
Cristiano Ronaldo	Real Madrid	108.02
Lionel Messi	Barcelona	93.51
Marc-André ter Stegen	Barcelona	57.12

Corners

With 38 needed on average to produce a goal, corners provided less of a threat than commonly thought

Bayern midfielder Xabi Alonso takes aim in Rome

Corner kicks provide a clear example of how reality can differ from public perception. The 2014/15 UEFA Champions League illustrated once again that the degree of excitement generated by a corner kick is more about the potential of the set play than about its success rate. Spectators might have cheered 1,191 corners during the season at an average of 9.53 per match. But only 31 of them produced goals. The figures represented a decrease of 16% in relation to the previous season and an approximate return to the level recorded in 2012/13. It means that the success rate during 2014/15 was one goal per 38.42 corners or roughly one per four games.

The figure could be slightly stretched. In their away game against Galatasaray AŞ, for example, the goal that made it 3-0 to Arsenal FC could be traced back to a corner on the left that was cleared out of the box – only for Aaron Ramsey to hit an unstoppable volley.

Thiago Silva rises above John Terry to score from a corner at Stamford Bridge

5 Bayern scored the most goals from corners, but only **1** in every **14** attempts went in

15 teams failed to score from a corner

The goal was attributed to the long-range shot rather than the corner. Borussia Dortmund's fourth in the 4-1 win against Galatasaray was an own goal resulting from a corner from the left. And Chelsea FC's third goal against FC Schalke 04 in Gelsenkirchen stemmed similarly from a corner from the left, which also went down as an own goal.

FC Bayern München, who converted five of their 69 corners at a ratio of just below 1:14, were the most successful club from corners. Chelsea and Real Madrid CF scored four apiece as a result of corners, though the success ratios were substantially different, with 1:12 for the former and 1:21 for the latter. Two of Paris Saint-Germain's three successes came in a single match (against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge). FC Shakhtar Donetsk could also attribute three goals to corners, while FC Basel 1893, Borussia Dortmund, PFC Ludogorets Razgrad and Olympiacos FC each registered two successes. Eight other clubs converted one corner, while 15 of the 32 participants failed to capitalise on this particular set play.

Real Madrid were the frontrunners in terms of winning corners, with an average of seven per game. At the other end of the table, Malmö FF averaged just 2.67 corners per fixture (fewer than any other team) and gave away 6.5 per match (more than any other team).

Corner kicks provided 16 of the season's 56 headed goals (11 in the group stage plus five in the knockout rounds) but, in seven more cases, even though it was not the finishing touch, a header (a nod-on or knock-down) helped to set up the goal.

Keeping the ball

Bayern, Barcelona and Porto enjoyed the most possession again, but for the champions, quicker transitions meant less time on the ball

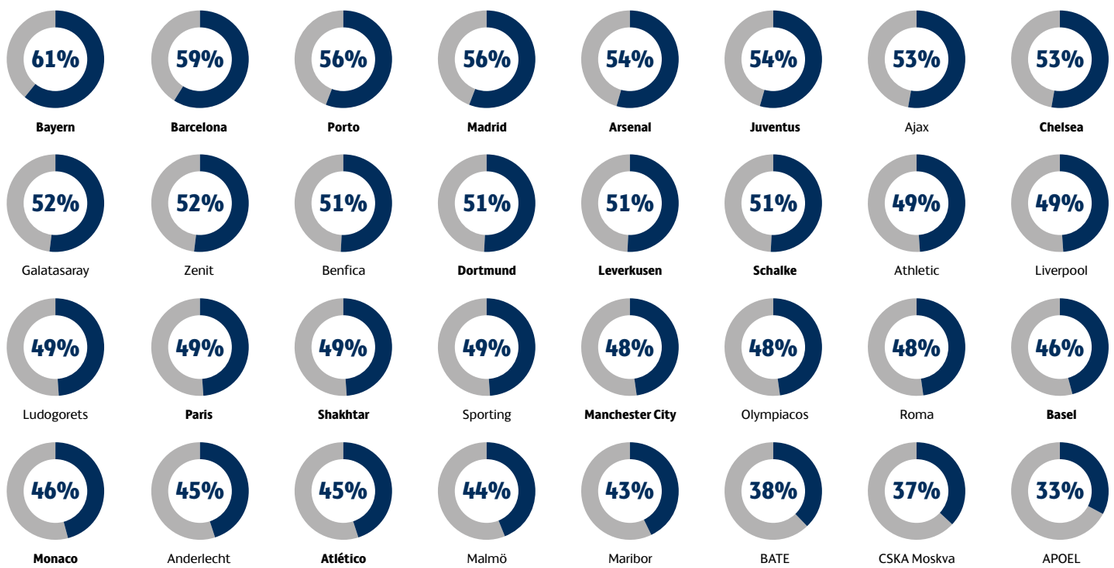
In terms of the ingredients for ultimate success in the UEFA Champions League, recent seasons have provided constant fluctuation between teams who set out to dominate possession and teams who are comfortable without the ball and can deliver fast counterattacks from deep defensive positions. The prime example of the latter is José Mourinho's FC Internazionale Milano, who took the title in 2010 despite having only 32% of the ball in the final against Louis van Gaal's FC Bayern München, and averaged 45% over the season. Inter's play featured 22% long passing, an accuracy percentage of only 69, and an average distance of 103,172m covered per game – parameters far removed from the figures registered by the top teams of 2014/15.

Once again, the ball possession chart was led by Pep Guardiola's Bayern, though with an average four points lower than the 65% registered in 2013/14. FC Barcelona's average was pulled down by an identical margin, not least because the semi-final games between the two sides ended with a 53-47 split in Bayern's favour. Apart from the opening game of the season against APOEL FC, Barcelona consistently had a greater share of the ball on their travels than in front of their home support at the Camp Nou. UEFA technical observer Ginés Meléndez interprets the fact as an indicator of a significant change. "Barcelona have added counterattacking to their dictionary, with three arrows up front and Ivan Rakitić looking for fast transitions rather than controlled possession when they win the ball in the defensive third," he said.

Differences are significantly slimmer than in 2013/14 and some of the most noticeable variations are easily traceable to the luck of the draw. Real Madrid CF's upward move from 51% to 56%, for example, is because Carlo Ancelotti's side had enjoyed only 36% of the ball during the 2013/14 semi-final against Bayern. Paris Saint-Germain's downturn from 58% to 49% is a result of playing Barcelona four times in the 2014/15 campaign. It put them among the six teams who reached the knockout rounds despite averaging under 50% possession.

For the coaches, however, the more pertinent question is how to differentiate between purposeful possession and sterile possession – and to have the ball in the areas that matter. "Even in the attacking third there is no profit in having good possession without posing a threat," comments Guardiola.

Average possession per game



Clubs in **bold** qualified for the knockout stage

Possession per game in the defensive, midfield and attacking thirds

Team	Defence %	Midfield %	Attack %
Atlético	27	47	**26**
Leverkusen	25	50	**25**
Sporting	23	53	**25**
Bayern	22	54	**24**
Manchester City	21	56	**24**
Real Madrid	21	55	**24**
Dortmund	22	55	**23**
Barcelona	23	55	**22**
Galatasaray	25	53	**22**
Chelsea	25	54	**21**
Juventus	28	51	**21**
Monaco	31	48	**21**
Anderlecht	30	50	**20**
Arsenal	28	53	**19**
Athletic	25	56	**19**
Benfica	31	50	**19**

Team	Defence %	Midfield %	Attack %
CSKA Moskva	31	50	**19**
Liverpool	29	52	**19**
Schalke	26	55	**19**
Shakhtar	34	47	**19**
Ludogorets	30	52	**18**
Malmö	32	50	**18**
Paris	31	51	**18**
Porto	28	54	**18**
Zenit	28	54	**18**
Ajax	26	57	**17**
APOEL	35	48	**17**
Olympiacos	31	52	**17**
Basel	33	52	**16**
BATE	39	45	**16**
Roma	31	54	**15**
Maribor	34	52	**14**

Clubs in **bold** qualified for the knockout stage
Decimal points account for the extra 1% for Sporting and Manchester City

Atletico's Mario Mandžukić attempts to hold on to the ball against Leverkusen

Discipline

The trend towards fairer play continued with a further decrease in the numbers of fouls and yellow cards

The 2014/15 season underlined the downward trend in the number of fouls committed, with the overall total of infractions falling by 5.7% from 3,448 to 3,252. This meant that play was punctuated, on average, by 26 free-kicks per match – 26.02, to be precise. It was only four years ago that the average number of fouls per game dropped below 30 for the first time, before that figure fell to 27.58 in the 2013/14 campaign. The 2010/11 season was also the first in which none of the participating clubs committed more than 20 fouls per match. In 2014/15 Bayer 04 Leverkusen strayed close to this figure, but the remaining teams reflected a generalised downward trend. The champions, FC Barcelona, were near the foot of a table in which PFC CSKA Moskva, for the second successive campaign, gave away fewer free-kicks than any other side.

Barcelona provide a clear example of a club whose low number of free-kicks is by design rather than accident. Given the lack of physical stature in their squad in recent years, set plays have become a relevant issue in game strategies – in that gifting free-kicks to the opposition in the defensive third is now frowned upon. Other coaches have been quick to embrace and implant this philosophy, with the result that a changing pattern has emerged. The numerical listing of fouls committed by individual players is evidently misleading in that it is coloured by the number of matches played. Hence the appearance at the head of the list by Arturo Vidal (Juventus) and Daniel Alves (Barcelona), who played more games than players from the other 30 teams.

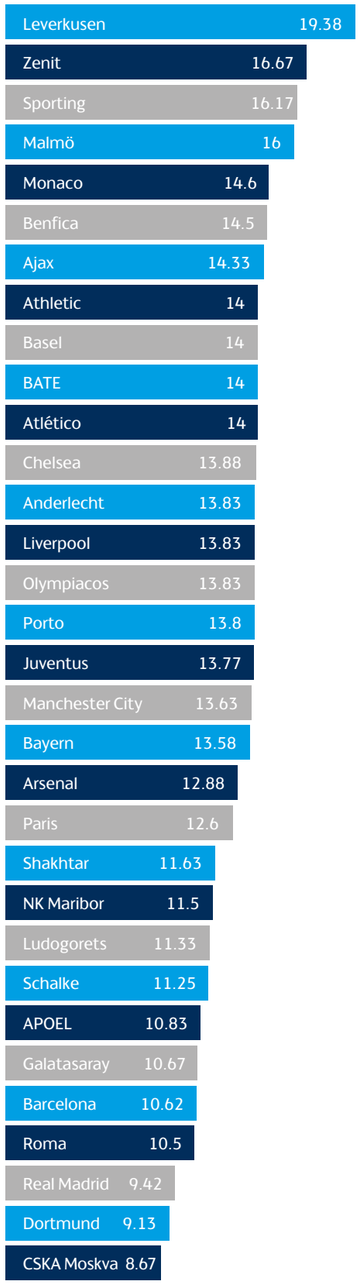
Yet the list provokes reflection, considering the former is an attacking midfielder, the latter an attacking right-back. Only a limited percentage of Alves's fouls can be traced to his defensive area: the majority were derived from his energetic pressing in high areas. The upper portion of the list also features Alex Sandro (FC Porto), Medhi Benatia (FC Bayern München) and the Juventus wing-back Stephan Lichtsteiner. Most, however, are midfielders – generally screening midfielders such as Lars Bender (Bayer 04 Leverkusen), Casemiro (Porto), Nemanja Matić (Chelsea FC), Nabil Dirar (AS Monaco FC), Marco Verratti and Blaise Matuidi (Paris Saint-Germain), and Raúl García and Arda Turan (Club Atlético de Madrid). To offer proof that strikers are required to present a first line of defence, the list also contains Mario Mandžukić (Atlético), Neymar (Barcelona), Fernando Llorente (Juventus), Robert Lewandowski (Bayern) and Jackson Martínez (Porto).

For the second year running CSKA Moskva committed the fewest fouls per game

Another salient feature is that the eye has to travel down to 15th position, level with Verratti and Lewandowski, to find a central defender – Real Madrid CF's Sergio Ramos, who was also deployed by Carlo Ancelotti as a screening midfielder in the latter stages of the season. In other words, the 2014/15 campaign inspired reflection on changing job descriptions and the areas of the field where play is most likely to be interrupted by challenges deemed to be illegitimate.

The graphic opposite charts the average number of offences per match committed by each of the 32 participating sides. As in the previous season, ten of the 16 clubs in the top half of the table were eliminated in the group stage.

Fouls per game



The downturn in the number of infractions was reflected by a marginal drop in the number of yellow cards – down just 1.33% on the last campaign. However, the total represented a 5.48% fall in relation to the figures for 2011/12 and 2012/13. Atlético were alone in exceeding an average of three cautions per game (3.2) though FC Basel 1893 and Galatasaray AŞ reached three. Fifteen of the participating teams posted averages below two yellow cards per match, compared with 12 in the previous season and ten in 2012/13, hinting at a steady trend towards fairer play. Borussia Dortmund received just four bookings in their eight fixtures.

However, the number of dismissals remained constant (28 compared with 27 in 2013/14). Eleven matches were affected by early dismissals: Geoffroy Serey Die (18th minute of Basel's away defeat by PFC Ludogorets Razgrad), Anri Khagush (45+1 during FC BATE Borisov's away loss to FC Shakhtar Donetsk), Benatia (20th minute of Bayern's reverse in Manchester), goalkeeper Artur (18th minute of SL Benfica's home defeat by FC Zenit), Marcelinho (19th minute of Ludogorets' loss to Real in Madrid), Mauricio (33rd minute of Sporting's away reverse to FC Schalke 04) and, most notably, Olexandr Kucher (third minute of Shakhtar's dismantling in Munich). The only 'success story' pertaining to sides playing with ten corresponded to Paris's 2-2 extra-time draw at Chelsea when Zlatan Ibrahimović was dismissed with, as it turned out, almost 90 minutes to play. On average, one in every 6.28 fouls in the 2014/15 season was considered to be a bookable offence.

Cards: season by season

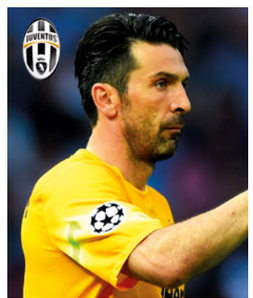
Season	Yellow cards	Yellow/ red cards	Red cards	Matches played	Average yellow cards per match
1994/95	192	4	6	61	3.15
1995/96	198	10	8	61	3.24
1996/97	203	3	3	61	3.33
1997/98	283	11	6	85	3.33
1998/99	302	7	8	85	3.55
1999/00	524	14	16	157	3.34
2000/01	567	13	13	157	3.61
2001/02	508	10	11	157	3.24
2002/03	530	8	11	157	3.38
2003/04	415	20	9	125	3.32
2004/05	434	14	25	125	3.47
2005/06	463	19	9	125	3.70
2006/07	477	9	17	125	3.82
2007/08	445	7	9	125	3.56
2008/09	489	11	8	125	3.91
2009/10	472	14	13	125	3.78
2010/11	453	13	11	125	3.62
2011/12	549	15	7	125	4.39
2012/13	548	10	10	125	4.38
2013/14	525	12	15	125	4.20
2014/15	518	17	11	125	4.14
Totals	**9,095**	**241**	**226**	**2,481**	**3.67**

All-star squad

Barcelona players formed the spine of the all-star squad, showing their individual as well as collective worth to the holders

FC Barcelona had only one name on the teamsheet for the 2013/14 season, but the Catalan club were the dominant force in 2014/15. Luis Enrique's team strung together an impressive sequence of home and away successes en route to taking the title in Berlin, scoring 31 goals in the process, at an average of a tad under 2.4 per game. The inclusion of goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen, the German Under-21 international who kept goal for Barça in two-thirds of their treble (Spain's Copa del Rey and the UEFA Champions League) is perhaps a little unusual, as during the 38 league matches, Claudio Bravo was the first-choice goalkeeper. In defence, Branislav Ivanović and Giorgio Chiellini (the latter cruelly ruled out of the final through injury) performed key roles during the campaign. In midfield, Toni Kroos, Andrea Pirlo and Sergio Busquets operated in the controlling area in front of the defensive line, while the other three played box-to-box roles. In the attacking positions, Álvaro Morata progressed significantly during the season, after joining Juventus from Real Madrid CF in the summer of 2014, and scored crucial goals – not least against his former club – in the latter stages of the competition.

Goalkeepers


Gianluigi Buffon

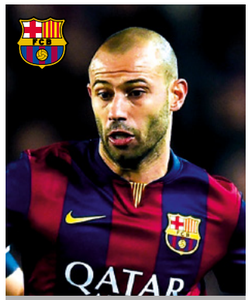
Marc-André ter Stegen

Defenders

Jordi Alba

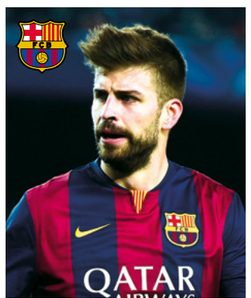
Giorgio Chiellini

Branislav Ivanović


Javier Mascherano

1,170

Gianluigi Buffon and Marc-André ter Stegen played every minute of their teams' campaigns


Gerard Piqué

Midfielders

Sergio Busquets

Andrés Iniesta

Toni Kroos

Claudio Marchisio

Andrea Pirlo

Ivan Rakitić

Attackers

Lionel Messi

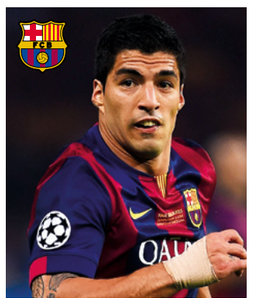
49

Most attempts at goal, by Lionel Messi – three more than Cristiano Ronaldo

Álvaro Morata

Neymar

Cristiano Ronaldo


Luis Suárez

Results

PLAY-OFFS – LEAGUE PATH (Aggregate scores played over two legs; the first-named club was at home in the first leg)

Salzburg	2	FC København	2	Napoli	2	Steaua	1	Beşiktaş	0
Malmö	**4**	**Leverkusen**	**7**	**Athletic Club**	**4**	**Ludogorets** (Win 6-5 on pens)	**1**	**Arsenal**	**1**

GROUP STAGE

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Atlético de Madrid	**6**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**14**	**3**	**13**
Juventus	**6**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**7**	**4**	**10**
Olympiacos FC	6	3	0	3	10	13	9
Malmö FF	6	1	0	5	4	15	3

Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
16/09	Olympiacos	3-2	Atlético	04/11	Malmö	0-2	Atlético
16/09	Juventus	2-0	Malmö	04/11	Juventus	3-2	Olympiacos
01/10	Malmö	2-0	Olympiacos	26/11	Atlético	4-0	Olympiacos
01/10	Atlético	1-0	Juventus	26/11	Malmö	0-2	Juventus
22/10	Atlético	5-0	Malmö	09/12	Olympiacos	4-2	Malmö
22/10	Olympiacos	1-0	Juventus	09/12	Juventus	0-0	Atlético

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid CF	**6**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**16**	**2**	**18**
FC Basel 1893	**6**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**7**	**8**	**7**
Liverpool FC	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
PFC Ludogorets Razgrad	6	1	1	4	5	14	4

Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
16/09	Liverpool	2-1	Ludogorets	04/11	Basel	4-0	Ludogorets
16/09	Real Madrid	5-1	Basel	04/11	Real Madrid	1-0	Liverpool
01/10	Basel	1-0	Liverpool	26/11	Ludogorets	2-2	Liverpool
01/10	Ludogorets	1-2	Real Madrid	26/11	Basel	0-1	Real Madrid
22/10	Ludogorets	1-0	Basel	09/12	Liverpool	1-1	Basel
22/10	Liverpool	0-3	Real Madrid	09/12	Real Madrid	4-0	Ludogorets

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bayern München	**6**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**16**	**4**	**15**
Manchester City FC	**6**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**9**	**8**	**8**
AS Roma	6	1	2	3	8	14	5
PFC CSKA Moskva	6	1	2	3	6	13	5

Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
17/09	Roma	5-1	CSKA Moskva	05/11	Man. City	1-2	CSKA Moskva
17/09	Bayern	1-0	Man. City	05/11	Bayern	2-0	Roma
30/09	CSKA Moskva	0-1	Bayern	25/11	CSKA Moskva	1-1	Roma
30/09	Man. City	1-1	Roma	25/11	Man. City	3-2	Bayern
21/10	CSKA Moskva	2-2	Man. City	10/12	Roma	0-2	Man. City
21/10	Roma	1-7	Bayern	10/12	Bayern	3-0	CSKA Moskva

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Barcelona	**6**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**15**	**5**	**15**
Paris Saint-Germain	**6**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**10**	**7**	**13**
AFC Ajax	6	1	2	3	8	10	5
APOEL FC	6	0	1	5	1	12	1

Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
17/09	Barcelona	1-0	APOEL	05/11	Paris	1-0	APOEL
17/09	Ajax	1-1	Paris	05/11	Ajax	0-2	Barcelona
30/09	Paris	3-2	Barcelona	25/11	APOEL	0-4	Barcelona
30/09	APOEL	1-1	Ajax	25/11	Paris	3-1	Ajax
21/10	APOEL	0-1	Paris	10/12	Barcelona	3-1	Paris
21/10	Barcelona	3-1	Ajax	10/12	Ajax	4-0	APOEL

ROUND OF 16

17 February–18 March

Paris	3-3	Chelsea
First leg 1-1	(agg)	Second leg 2-2 (Paris win on away goals)
Shakhtar	0-7	Bayern
First leg 0-0	(agg)	Second leg 0-7
Basel	1-5	Porto
First leg 1-1	(agg)	Second leg 0-4
Schalke	4-5	Real Madrid
First leg 0-2	(agg)	Second leg 4-3
Manchester City	1-3	Barcelona
First leg 1-2	(agg)	Second leg 0-1
Juventus	5-1	Dortmund
First leg 2-1	(agg)	Second leg 3-0
Arsenal	3-3	Monaco
First leg 1-3	(agg)	Second leg 2-0 (Monaco win on away goals)
Leverkusen	1-1	Atlético
First leg 1-0	(agg)	Second leg 0-1 (Atlético win 3-2 on pens)

QUARTER-FINALS

14–22 April

Atlético	0-1	Real Madrid
First leg 0-0	(agg)	Second leg 0-1
Juventus	1-0	Monaco
First leg 1-0	(agg)	Second leg 0-0
Porto	4-7	Bayern
First leg 3-1	(agg)	Second leg 1-6
Paris	1-5	Barcelona
First leg 1-3	(agg)	Second leg 0-2

PLAY-OFFS – CHAMPIONS PATH (Aggregate scores played over two legs; the first-named club was at home in the first leg)

Maribor	**2**	AaB	1	Slovan Bratislava	1	Standard	**0**	LOSC Lille	0
Celtic	1	**APOEL**	**5**	**BATE**	**4**	**Zenit**	4	**Porto**	**3**

GROUP STAGE

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AS Monaco FC	**6**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**11**
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	**6**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**7**	**4**	**10**
FC Zenit	6	2	1	3	4	6	7
SL Benfica	6	1	2	3	2	6	5

Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
16/09	Monaco	1-0	Leverkusen	04/11	Zenit	1-2	Leverkusen
16/09	Benfica	0-2	Zenit	04/11	Benfica	1-0	Monaco
01/10	Zenit	0-0	Monaco	26/11	Zenit	1-0	Benfica
01/10	Leverkusen	3-1	Benfica	26/11	Leverkusen	0-1	Monaco
22/10	Leverkusen	2-0	Zenit	09/12	Monaco	2-0	Zenit
22/10	Monaco	0-0	Benfica	09/12	Benfica	0-0	Leverkusen

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Borussia Dortmund	**6**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**14**	**4**	**13**
Arsenal FC	**6**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**15**	**8**	**13**
RSC Anderlecht	6	1	3	2	8	10	6
Galatasaray AŞ	6	0	1	5	4	19	1

Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
16/09	Galatasaray	1-1	Anderlecht	04/11	Arsenal	3-3	Anderlecht
16/09	Dortmund	2-0	Arsenal	04/11	Dortmund	4-1	Galatasaray
01/10	Arsenal	4-1	Galatasaray	26/11	Anderlecht	2-0	Galatasaray
01/10	Anderlecht	0-3	Dortmund	26/11	Arsenal	2-0	Dortmund
22/10	Anderlecht	1-2	Arsenal	09/12	Galatasaray	1-4	Arsenal
22/10	Galatasaray	0-4	Dortmund	09/12	Dortmund	1-1	Anderlecht

GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea FC	**6**	**4**	**2**	**0**	**17**	**3**	**14**
FC Schalke 04	**6**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**9**	**14**	**8**
Sporting Clube de Portugal	6	2	1	3	12	12	7
NK Maribor	6	0	3	3	4	13	3

Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
17/09	Chelsea	1-1	Schalke	05/11	Sporting CP	4-2	Schalke
17/09	Maribor	1-1	Sporting CP	05/11	Maribor	1-1	Chelsea
30/09	Sporting CP	0-1	Chelsea	25/11	Schalke	0-5	Chelsea
30/09	Schalke	1-1	Maribor	25/11	Sporting CP	3-1	Maribor
21/10	Schalke	4-3	Sporting CP	10/12	Chelsea	3-1	Sporting CP
21/10	Chelsea	6-0	Maribor	10/12	Maribor	0-1	Schalke

GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	**6**	**4**	**2**	**0**	**16**	**4**	**14**
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	**6**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**15**	**4**	**9**
Athletic Club	6	2	1	3	5	6	7
FC BATE Borisov	6	1	0	5	2	24	3

Date	Home	Score	Away	Date	Home	Score	Away
17/09	Porto	6-0	BATE	05/11	Shakhtar	5-0	BATE
17/09	Athletic	0-0	Shakhtar	05/11	Athletic	0-2	Porto
30/09	Shakhtar	2-2	Porto	25/11	BATE	0-3	Porto
30/09	BATE	2-1	Athletic	25/11	Shakhtar	0-1	Athletic
21/10	BATE	0-7	Shakhtar	10/12	Porto	1-1	Shakhtar
21/10	Porto	2-1	Athletic	10/12	Athletic	2-0	BATE

SEMI-FINALS

5–13 May

Juventus	3-2	Real Madrid
First leg 2-1	(agg)	Second leg 1-1
Barcelona	5-3	Bayern
First leg 3-0	(agg)	Second leg 2-3

FINAL

6 June

Juventus	1-3	Barcelona

Top 16

The 32 clubs on the starting grid for the 2014/15 season included 22 from the previous season. Of those 22, however, only 13 started the campaign with the same head coach – including all four of the 2013/14 semi-finalists and two of the beaten quarter-finalists. Among the nine clubs where there had been a change of coach, six successfully progressed beyond the group stage. Of the top 16 from the previous season, 11 qualified for the knockout stage of the competition once again.

When the knockout rounds kicked off in February, the differences between group winners and runners-up were less flagrant than in the previous season, when the first legs produced six away wins that all but settled the ties. However, the opening eight games yielded only two home victories – for Bayer 04 Leverkusen and Juventus. By winning the return 3-0 in Dortmund, Juve caused the demise of a group winner, as did Paris Saint-Germain, who edged past Chelsea FC thanks to the away goals rule. Away goals also decided the AS Monaco FC-Arsenal FC tie in the French side's favour. Club Atético de Madrid needed a penalty shoot-out to eliminate Leverkusen.

From the quarter-finals onwards, FC Barcelona were the only team to post an away win (in Paris), with eight of the dozen matches played in the quarter and semi-finals ending as home wins. Two of the quarter-final ties yielded only one goal, while the other two were decided by four-goal margins. The following pages offer a data-based summary of each team's performance, with statistics adjusted in cases where a dismissal may have distorted match statistics. In the passing data, a short pass is defined as one of 10m or less, passes of distances between 10m and 30m fall into the medium category, and a long pass is one of over 30m.

Madrid and Juve take to the Santiago Bernabéu stage

ARSENAL FC

England

		G	A	DOR L 2-0	GAL W 4-1	AND W 1-2	AND D 3-3	DOR W 2-0	GAL W 1-4	MON L 1-3	MON* W 0-2
Goalkeepers											
1	Wojciech Szczęsny			90	60↓so	S	90	I	90	0	0
13	David Ospina			0	30↑	I	I	I	I	90	90
26	Emiliano Martínez					90	0	90	0		
Defenders											
2	Mathieu Debuchy			I	I	I	I	I	77↓	I	I
3	Kieran Gibbs	1		90	90	90	90	90		90	7↑
4	Per Mertesacker			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
6	Laurent Koscielny			90	90	I	I	0		90	90
18	Nacho Monreal			I	I	90	90	90	I	0	83↓
21	Calum Chambers		1	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
39	Héctor Bellerín			90	0	0	0	0	90	90	90
73	Stefan O'Connor								13↑		
Midfielders											
7	Tomáš Rosický			0	22↑	0	7↑	0	I	8↑	I
8	Mikel Arteta	1		77↓	I	0	62↓	67↓	I	I	I
10	Jack Wilshere			90	13↑	84↓	I	I	I	I	I
11	Mesut Özil		1	62↓	77↓	I	I	I	I	90	90
16	Aaron Ramsey	3	1	62↓	I	90	90	90	45↓	I	27↑
19	Santi Cazorla		2	28↑	90	90	90	90		82↓	90
20	Mathieu Flamini				90	75↓	28↑	23↑	45↓		0
28	Joel Campbell			0	0	15↑		1↑	90		
34	Francis Coquelin				0					68↓	63↓
35	Gedion Zelalem								45↑		
70	Ainsley Maitland-Niles								45↑		
Forwards											
9	Lukas Podolski	3		13↑	0	6↑	7↑	11↑	90		
12	Olivier Giroud	1		I	I	I	I			60↓	90
14	Theo Walcott			I	I	I	0	I	I	30↑	18↑
15	Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain	2	2	28↑	68↓	15↑	83↓	89↓	90	22↑	
17	Alexis Sánchez	3	1	90	62↓	90	90	90		90	90
22	Yaya Sanogo	1	1	I	I	I	0	79↓	90		
23	Danny Welbeck	3		90	90	75↓	83↓	I		90	72↓

*agg 3-3; lost on away goals

Ryan Huddart, Gabriel, Glen Kamara, Chuba Akpom and Alex Iwobi were unused substitutes

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off

Matches: blue = home; grey = away

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1; occasional use of 1-4-1-4-1 with single holding midfielder
- Constructive one or two-touch short-passing game by technically gifted team
- Good pace, readiness to run at opponents; excellent off-ball movement
- Attacks using width; effective use of full-backs; good crosses
- Intense pressing as from midfield; quick response to loss of ball
- Patient build-up from back through midfield; good links between lines
- Intricate combination play, movement in final third
- Cazorla, Özil the catalysts in interchanging midfield
- Dangerous, well-delivered corners and free-kicks
- Excellent team spirit, attacking vocation, winning mentality

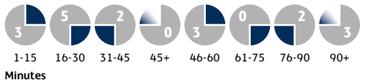
STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 29

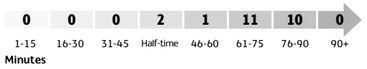
GOALS SCORED 18

GOAL ATTEMPTS 99 (36 on target) =12.4 (4.5) per game

TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTIONS 24/24 (Including four double substitutions)



AVERAGES

POSSESSION 54%
Max. 62% v Anderlecht (h)
Min. 45% v Dortmund (h)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 518
Max. 704 v Monaco (a)
Min. 388 v Dortmund (h)

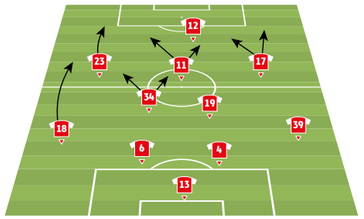
PASSING ACCURACY 89%
Max. 92%v Anderlecht (a)
Min. 85% v Dortmund (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 113,025 metres
Max. 116,315 v Dortmund (h) | Min. 108,457 v Dortmund (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	49 (9% of total)
Medium	327 (63%)
Short	143 (28%)

TEAM SHAPE



COACH

Arsène Wenger

Born: 22/10/1949, Strasbourg (FRA)

Nationality: French

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 179

Head coach from: 28/09/1996

CLUB ATLÉTICO DE MADRID

Spain

		G	A	OLY L 3-2	JUV W 1-0	MAL W 5-0	MAL W 0-2	OLY W 4-0	JUV D 0-0	LEV L 1-0	LEV* W 1-0	RM D 0-0	RM L 1-0
Goalkeepers													
1	Miguel Ángel Moyà			0	90	90	90	90	90	90	23↓	0	0
13	Jan Oblak			90	0	0	0	0	0	0	97↑	90	90
Defenders													
2	Diego Godín	1		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	S	90	90
3	Guilherme Siqueira				1↑	90	90		90	38↓	I	90	0
15	Cristian Ansaldi		2	90	90	I	I	90	I		0		
18	Jesús Gámez			0		0	0	0	0	52↑	120	0	90
20	Juanfran		3	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	90	90
23	Miranda			90	90	90	90	I	I	90	120	90	90
28	Lucas										0		
24	José María Giménez			0	0	0	0	90	90	0	120	0	4↑
Midfielders													
4	Mario Suárez	1		75↓	6↑	90	90	45↑	90	0	120	90	S
5	Tiago			0	90	I	0	45↓	0	76↓so	S	0	86↓
6	Koke	2	4	90	90	90	90	90	90	I	120	83↓	90
8	Raúl García	2		66↓	90	22↑	90	90	90	48↑	75↑	13↑	25↑
10	Arda Turan	1	2	90	89↓	68↓	76↓	66↓	90	64↓	120	90	76↓so
14	Gabi		1	56↓	I	I	90	90	90	90	0	90	45↑
17	Saúl Ñíguez			15↑	53↓	90			0	42↓	I	0	45↓
22	Cani		1							0	45↓		
Forwards													
7	Antoine Griezmann	2		34↑	37↑	72↓	21↑	21↓	0	90	120	77↓	65↓
9	Mario Mandžukić	5		90	84↓	77↓	69↓	69↓	90	90	83↓	90	90
11	Raúl Jiménez				0	0		24↑			0		0
19	Fernando Torres									26↑	37↑	7↑	0
21	Cristian Rodríguez					18↑	14↑	0	0				
22	Alessio Cerci	1		24↑	0	13↑	0	0	0				

*agg 1-1 aet; won 3-2 on pens

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 23 **GOALS SCORED** 15

GOAL ATTEMPTS 126 (42 on target) =12.6 (4.2) per game

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	2	2	0	1	5	3	1

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 25/30

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	2	3	2	9	8	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 44%
Max. 56% v Olympiacos (a)
Min. 32% v Juventus (a)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 325
Max. 520 v Olympiacos (h)
Min. 204 v Leverkusen (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 83%
Max. 91% v Olympiacos (h)
Min. 73% v Leverkusen (h)

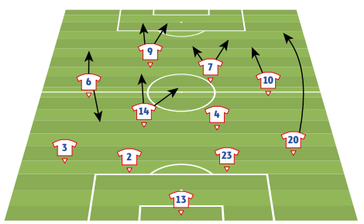
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,285 metres
Max. 118,619 v Malmö (a) | Min. 105,888 v Leverkusen (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	41 (13% of total)
Medium	177 (54%)
Short	107 (33%)

Data for matchday eight v Leverkusen (h) changed pro rata to 90-minute values to facilitate comparisons.

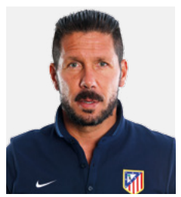
TEAM SHAPE



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 with two screening midfielders; occasional use of 1-4-3-3 or 1-4-5-1
- Build-up based on vertical combination moves; possession not a priority
- High-intensity game; relentless pressure on opposition ball-carrier
- Set plays a major attacking weapon; centre-backs supplying aerial power
- Strong, compact defensive block, quick to drop deep; backed by quality goalkeeping
- Competitive team ethic, determination, will-to-win, mental strength
- Strikers Griezmann, Mandžukić working hard as first line of defence
- Arda Turan the creative free spirit; good technique, vision for decisive pass
- Fast transitions in both directions; counterattacks an important source of goals
- Adventurous hard-running full-backs, notably Juanfran on right; good crosses

COACH



Diego Simeone

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

Nationality: Argentinian

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 22

Head coach from: 23/12/2011

FC BARCELONA

Spain

		G	A	APO W 1-0	PSG L 3-2	AJX W 3-1	AJX W 0-2	APO W 0-4	PSG W 3-1	MC W 1-2	MC W 1-0	PSG W 1-3	PSG W 2-0	BAY W 3-0	BAY L 3-2	JUV W 3-1
Goalkeepers																
1	Marc-André ter Stegen			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
13	Claudio Bravo			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders																
2	Martín Montoya					0						80↓				
3	Gerard Piqué	1		90	0	90	0	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
14	Javier Mascherano		1		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	89↓	90	90
15	Marc Bartra		1	90		90	90	90	90↓		0	0	0	1↑	0	0
16	Douglas			0	I	I	0				I	I				
18	Jordi Alba		1		90	90	90	62↓	0	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
21	Adriano			90	0	I	7↑	28↑	1↑	15↑	1↑	10↑	0	0	0	0
22	Daniel Alves		4	90	83↓	90	83↓	90	S	75↓	90↓	S	90	90	90	90
23	Thomas Vermaelen			I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	0		
24	Jérémy Mathieu			0	90		I	0	90	19↑	90	16↑			18↑	1↑
Midfielders																
4	Ivan Rakitić	1	1	0	69↓	90	80↓	62↓	22↑	71↓	84↓	74↓	90	82↓	72↓	90↓
5	Sergio Busquets				90	I	90	13↑	90	90	I	90	55↓	90	90	90
6	Xavi Hernández			61↓	21↑	0	90	28↑	17↑	0	0	37↑	45↑	8↑	15↑	12↑
8	Andrés Iniesta		4	29↑	90	76↓	I	I	73↓	90	90	53↓	45↓	87↓	75↓	78↓
12	Rafinha		2	11↑	I	14↑	10↑	70↓so	S	0	6↑	0	0	3↑	0	0
20	Sergi Roberto			79↓	0				0	0	0		35↑			
26	Sergi Samper			90		0										
Forwards																
7	Pedro Rodríguez		2		62↓	90	16↑	90	68↓	10↑	0	0	15↑	0	45↑	1↑
9	Luis Suárez	7	3				90	77↓	90	90	90	90	75↓	90	45↓	90↓
10	Lionel Messi	10	5	90	90	67↓	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
11	Neymar	10	1	90	90	62↓	74↓	0	90	80↓	90	90	90	90	90	90
29	Sandro Ramírez	1		22↑	7↑	28↑										
31	Munir El Haddadi			68↓	28↑	23↑	0	0	0							

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 22 **GOALS SCORED** 31 (1 own goal)

GOAL ATTEMPTS 195 (80 on target) = 15 (6.2) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
5	8	5	0	2	2	6	3

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 38/39

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	2	2	17	13	4

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 59%
Max. 74% v APOEL (a)
Min. 47% v Bayern (h), Bayern (a)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 648
Max. 827 v APOEL (a)
Min. 448 v Bayern (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 90%
Max. 94% v Ajax (h), APOEL (a)
Min. 84% v Bayern (h)

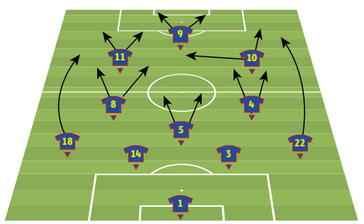
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 113,026 metres
Max. 115,923 v Paris (MD10) | Min. 110,347 v Paris (MD2)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	64 (10% of total)
Medium	398 (62%)
Short	185 (29%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%

TEAM SHAPE



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with three genuine attackers and a single screening midfielder
- Possession-based game with high-tempo ball circulation
- Adventurous full-backs combining constantly with Messi, Neymar
- Technique and ability to play out from back even under intense pressure
- Instant aggressive pressure after loss of ball; counters from high positions
- High defensive line with keeper Ter Stegen active in covering, distributing play
- Excellent balance between industry and creativity in midfield; good support for attacks
- Messi the 'unstoppable force'; solo runs, short combinations, decisive passes
- Suárez a forceful leader of attack; Neymar's dribbling able to create chaos
- Excellent collective virtues, humble approach, team spirit, winning mentality

COACH

Luis Enrique

Born: 08/05/1970 (Gijón, ESP)

Nationality: Spanish

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 13

Head coach from: 01/07/2014

FC BASEL 1893

Switzerland

		G	A	RM L 5-1	LIV W 1-0	LUD L 1-0	LUD W 4-0	RM L 0-1	LIV D 1-1	POR D 1-1	POR L 4-0
Goalkeepers											
1	Tomáš Vaclík			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
18	Germano Vailati			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders											
3	Adama Traoré										0
4	Philipp Degen			I	I	I	0	76↓	0	0	0
5	Arlind Ajeti					15↑				0	0
6	Walter Samuel			64↓	I	I	I	0	2↑	90	90so↓
16	Fabian Schär			90	90	90	90	90	90	S	57↓
17	Marek Suchý	1		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	S
19	Behrang Safari			90	9↓	I	90	90	90	90	90
27	Naser Aliji			0		75↓					
34	Taulant Xhaka			90	90	90	90	I	90	90	90
Midfielders											
7	Luca Zuffi		2	90	1↑	0	90	87↓	88↓	90	90
8	Geoffroy Serey Die				90	18↓so	S				
10	Matías Delgado			7↑	0	I	16↑	0	0	0	I
14	Yoichiro Kakitani			26↑	0	0		3↑			27↑
20	Fabian Frei	1	3	83↓	90	90	81↓	83↓	90	90	63↓
21	Marcelo Díaz			S	S	S	9↑	7↑	7↑		
24	Ahmed Hamoudi				90↓	6↑	0	14↑	0	7↑	
33	Mohamed Elneny			90	90	90	90	90	83↓	90	90
39	Davide Callà			0	9↑	84↓	21↑	0		65↑	13↑
Forwards											
9	Marco Streller	1		73↓	90	I	I	I	74↓	63↓	90
11	Shkelzen Gashi	1		0	0	0	74↓	90	90	83↓	77↓
25	Derlis González	3		90	81↑	87↓	69↓	90	90	25↓	90
30	Giovanni Sio					3↑	0	I	I		
36	Breel Embolo	1	1	17↑	81↓	90	90	90	16↑	27↑	33↑

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 23 **GOALS SCORED** 8

GOAL ATTEMPTS 93 (33 on target) = 11.6 (4.1) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	1	3	0	2	1	0	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 24/24

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	1	0	0	1	8	12	1

Minutes

AVERAGES*

POSSESSION 46%
Max. 56% v Liverpool (h)
Min. 39% v Porto (h)*

POSSESSION POSITION
16%
52%
33%

Decimal points account for the extra 1%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 438
Max. 547 v Ludogorets (h)
Min. 299 v Porto (h)*

PASSING ACCURACY 86%
Max. 91% v Liverpool (h)
Min. 78% v Liverpool (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 117,166 metres
Max. 125,086 v Liverpool (a) | Min. 101,618 v Liverpool (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	51 (12% of total)
Medium	290 (66%)
Short	97 (22%)

*Excluding matchday three v Ludogorets (a) when playing 72 minutes with ten men.

TEAM SHAPE

KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-4-2-3-1 evolving into 1-3-4-3 attacking play
- Compact formation with good links between lines
- High pressing; seeking defence-splitting pass as soon as ball regained
- Possession-based attacks focusing on good use of width
- Mix of elaborate attacks with direct supply to striker; winning second ball
- Effective full-backs, especially Xhaka on right
- Solid defensive block with aerial strength (at both ends of pitch)
- Well-balanced screening midfielders; Frei holding; Elneny more offensive
- Good use of diagonal passing to switch play from flank to flank
- Strong work ethic, emphasis on collective virtues, team spirit

COACH

Paulo Sousa

Born: 30/08/1970, Viseu (POR)

Nationality: Portuguese

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 14

Head coach from: 28/05/2014

FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN

Germany

		G	A	MC W 1-0	CSKA W 0-1	ROM W 1-7	ROM W 2-0	MC L 3-2	CSKA W 3-0	SHK D 0-0	SHK W 7-0	POR L 3-1	POR W 6-1	BAR L 3-0	BAR W 3-2
Goalkeepers															
1	Manuel Neuer			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
22	Tom Starke					I	I	I	I	0		I	I		
23	Pepe Reina			0	0		I	I	I	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Leopold Zingerle					0	0	0	0						
Defenders															
4	Dante			5↑	90	0	0	65↑	90	0	23↑	90	1↑	0	0
5	Medhi Benatia		1	85↓	90	90	90	20↓so	S		0	I	I	90	90
13	Rafinha		2	84↓	9↑	30↑	90	90	0	90	90	90	72↓	90	90
17	Jérôme Boateng		3	90	0	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
18	Juan Bernat		2	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	31↑	90	90	90	90
27	David Alaba[1]		2	90	90	90	81↓	I	I	90	90	I	I	I	I
28	Holger Badstuber		1	I	I	I	I	I	I	20↑	67↓	16↑	90	I	I
Midfielders															
3	Xabi Alonso		2	1	90	90	90	72↓	90	0	65↓so	S	74↓	90	90	90
6	Thiago Alcântara		2	1	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	90	90↓	90	90
7	Franck Ribéry		3		I	I	22↑	90	81↓	45↓	90	59↓	I	I	I	I
8	Javi Martínez				I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	0	3↑
16	Gianluca Gaudino							0	73↓				0	0	0	
19	Mario Götze		4	1	90	77↓	79↓	90	0	90	75↓	90	56↓	86↓	11↑	3↑
20	Sebastian Rode		1		0	0		92↑	25↓	90	0	71↑	34↑	18↑		22↑
21	Philipp Lahm				90	90	90	88↓	I	I	I	0	90	90	90	68↓
24	Sinan Kurt									0						
30	Mitchell Weiser				I					17↑	0		0	4↑	0	0
31	Bastian Schweinsteiger			4	I	I	I	I	9↑	90	90	90	I	0	90	87↓
34	Pierre Højbjerg				0	0	0	2↑	90	90						
Forwards																
9	Robert Lewandowski		6	3	90	90↓	68↓	90	84↓	45↑	15↑	90	90	90	90	90
10	Arjen Robben		2	1	14↑	81↓	90		90	45↑	90	19↓	I	I	I	I
11	Xherdan Shaqiri		1		0	13↑	11↑	18↑	6↑							
14	Claudio Pizarro				6↑	1↑	0	I	I		0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Thomas Müller		7	3	76↓	90	60↓	0	0	45↓	70↓	90	90	90	79↓	87↓

[1]Midfield on matchdays one and four

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 24 **GOALS SCORED** 33

GOAL ATTEMPTS 210 (82 on target) = 17.5 (6.8) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
4	8	7	0	3	4	7	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 32/36 (including two double substitutions)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	2	0	2	3	9	16	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 61%
Max. 73% v CSKA Moskva (a)
Min. 53% v Porto (h), Barcelona (h), Barcelona (a)

POSSESSION POSITION
24%
54%
22%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 672
Max. 926 v CSKA Moskva (a)
Min. 502 v Porto (h)

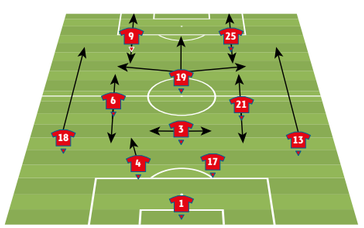
PASSING ACCURACY 90%
Max. 93% v CSKA Moskva (a), Roma (a), Shakhtar Donetsk (h)
Min. 86% v Porto (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,021 metres
Max. 120,869 v CSKA Moskva (h) | Min. 109, 349 v Roma (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	58 (9% of total)
Medium	430 (64%)
Short	183 (27%)

TEAM SHAPE



KEY FEATURES

- Many variations on 1-4-3-3; switches to 1-4-4-2 or three at the back
- Emphasis on possession; patient building with fluent combinations
- Constant threat on wings via solo runs by Robben, Ribéry
- Attack-minded full-backs overlapping, with wingers cutting in
- Game-opening diagonal passes by controlling midfielder Xabi Alonso
- Aggressive high pressing; instant counters after regains in final third
- Variety of creativity, vision, industry among broad choice of midfielders
- Strong support for Lewandowski, the aggressive, athletic leader of attack
- High defensive line with keeper Neuer an influential and active participant
- Attacking philosophy; winning mentality; tactical and positional flexibility

COACH

Josep Guardiola

Born: 18/01/1971, Santpedor (ESP)

Nationality: Spanish

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 75

Head coach from: 01/07/2013

CHELSEA FC

England

		G	A	SCH D 1-1	SPO W 0-1	MRB W 6-0	MRB D 1-1	SCH W 0-5	SPO W 3-1	PSG D 1-1	PSG* D 2-2
Goalkeepers											
1	Petr Čech			0	0	90	90	0	90	0	0
13	Thibaut Courtois			90	90	0	0	90		90	120
33	Mitchell Beeney								0		
Defenders											
2	Branislav Ivanović	1		90	90	90	90	90	0	90	120
3	Filipe Luís			90	90	90	56↓	0	90	0	0
5	Kurt Zouma			0	0	90	90	0	90	0	36↑
6	Nathan Aké		1			30↑			1		
24	Gary Cahill	1	1	90	90	0	0	90	90	90	120
26	John Terry	2	1	90	90	90	90	90		90	120
28	César Azpilicueta			0	0	0	0	90	90	90	120
Midfielders											
4	Cesc Fàbregas	2	4	90	90	60↓	90	79↓	83↓	84↓	120
7	Ramires	1		67↓	1	1	34↑	15↑	16↑	90	91↓
8	Oscar			23↑	71↓	73↓	45↑	75↓	0	6↑	45↓
10	Eden Hazard	3	3	90	84↓	90	90	90		90	120
12	John Obi Mikel	1		0	19↑	1	1	0	90	1	1
14	André Schürrle	1			58↓	1	45↓	11↑	74↓		
17	Mohamed Salah				6↑	0	0		71↓		
21	Nemanja Matić	2	1	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	84↓
22	Willian	1	1	74↓	32↑	90	45↓	90		79↓	75↑
36	Ruben Loftus-Cheek								7↑		
Forwards											
11	Didier Drogba	2	1	74↓	1	74↑	90	24↑	0	0	29↑
18	Loïc Rémy	1		16↑	0	16↓	1		19↑	9↑	0
19	Diego Costa		1	16↑	90	1	45↑	66↓	90	81↓	120
23	Juan Cuadrado									11↑	0
35	Dominic Solanke					17↑					

*agg 3-3 aet; lost on away goals

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 with switches to 1-4-3-3 according to game situation; 1-4-5-1 defending
- Compact, well-organised defensive block; hard to penetrate through middle
- Strong, positionally disciplined central defenders; patient build-up from back
- Extremely quick transitions in both directions; dangerous counters
- Rational attacking, avoiding exposure to opposition counters
- Attacks using the width; wingers ready to cut into shooting positions
- Assured passing game with quick combinations in attacking third
- Controlling midfielders launching attacks with diagonal passes to wings
- Dangerous set plays, exploiting aerial power of defenders
- Strong team ethic with tactical, strategic awareness and flexibility

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 24

GOALS SCORED 20 (2 own goals)

GOAL ATTEMPTS 118 (51 on target) = 14.8 (6.4) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
4	3	4	0	2	1	5	0

Minutes (Extra time: 91-105 = 1; 106-120 = 0)

SUBSTITUTIONS 24/24 (Including two double substitutions)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	0	3	3	9	7	0

Minutes (Extra time: 91-105 = 1; 106-120 = 0)

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 53%
Max. 59% v Maribor (a)
Min. 46% v Paris (a)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 513
Max. 693 v Schalke (a)
Min. 357 v Sporting (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 90%
Max. 93% v Schalke (a)
Min. 89% v Maribor (a), Sporting (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 112,905 metres
Max. 119,327 v Maribor (h) | Min. 104,872 v Paris (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	55 (11% of total)
Medium	323 (63%)
Short	135 (26%)

Data for matchday eight v Paris (h) changed pro rata to 90-minute values to facilitate comparisons.

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

José Mourinho

Born: 26/01/1963, Setúbal (POR)

Nationality: Portuguese

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 121

Head coach from: 03/06/2013

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

Germany

		G	A	ARS W 2-0	AND W 0-3	GAL W 0-4	GAL W 4-1	ARS L 2-0	AND D 1-1	JUV L 2-1	JUV L 0-3
Goalkeepers											
1	Roman Weidenfeller			90	90	90	90	90	0	90	90
22	Mitchell Langerak			0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0
Defenders											
3	Marc Hornschuh							0			
4	Neven Subotić			90	90	90	90	90	90		90
15	Mats Hummels			I	8↑	69↓	I	I		90	90
25	Sokratis Papastathopoulos	1		90	90	90	90	I	I	45↓	90
26	Łukasz Piszczek		3		90	90	90	90		32↓	I
28	Matthias Ginter			45↑	0	35↑	0	90	90	58↑	I
29	Marcel Schmelzer			79↓	90	I	0	90	75↓	90	45↓
35	Jannick Bandowski			0							
37	Erik Durm			90	18↑	I	90	0	90	I	I
Midfielders											
5	Sebastian Kehl		1	45↓	90	90	90	0	I	0	0
6	Sven Bender			90	82↓	55↓	85↓	90	0	I	63↓
7	Shinji Kagawa		2	0	90	82↓	63↓	29↑	84↓	0	0
8	İlkay Gündoğan		1	I	I	21↑	27↑	90	66↓	90	90
10	Henrikh Mkhitaryan			90	I	90	90	90	90	90	63↓
11	Marco Reus	3	1	I	I	90	71↓	I	I	90	90
14	Miloš Jojić			11↑	0	0		12↑	0		
16	Jakub Błaszczykowski			I	I	I	I	I	6↑	14↑	27↑
18	Nuri Şahin		1	I	I	I	I	I	90	90	I
19	Kevin Grosskreutz		1	90	65↓	0	0	78↓	90	I	I
21	Oliver Kirch			I	I	I	I	I	24↑	45↑	45↑
23	Kevin Kampl									I	90
41	Mustafa Amini			0	0						
Forwards											
9	Ciro Immobile	4	1	86↓	72↓	0	19↑	61↓	90	76↓	0
17	Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	3	2	90	90	90	90	61↓	15↑	90	90
20	Adrián Ramos	3		4↑	25↑	8↑	5↑	29↑	0	0	27↑

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 the default setting, with 1-4-3-3, 1-4-4-2 options; 1-4-1-4-1 defending
- High defensive line with keeper quickly covering space behind back four
- Power-play based on strong, athletic, hard-working players
- Emphasis on constructive build-up play from back, through midfield
- Fast defence-to-attack transitions; dangerous counters in numbers
- Effective in wide areas; wingers cutting in to open space for full-backs
- Immediate high or midfield pressure after losing possession
- Gündogan excellent passing link between defence and attack
- Reus tirelessly and cleverly moving freely across whole attacking area
- Well-organised set plays for and against; excellent mental strength, attitude

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 24

GOALS SCORED 15 (1 own goal)

GOAL ATTEMPTS 119 (51 on target) = 14.9 (6.4) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
2	2	3	0	3	2	3	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 24/24 (Including two double substitutions)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	1	3	1	11	8	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 51%
Max. 58% v Anderlecht (h)
Min. 42% v Galatasaray (a)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 504
Max. 642 v Anderlecht (h)
Min. 362 v Arsenal (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 87%
Max. 90% v Anderlecht (h)
Min. 83% v Arsenal (h), Juventus (a)

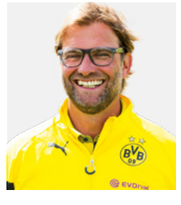
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 119,405 metres
Max. 124,695 v Anderlecht (h) | Min. 111, 689 v Juventus (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	54 (11% of total)
Medium	305 (60%)
Short	145 (29%)

TEAM SHAPE

COACH



Jürgen Klopp

Born: 16/06/1967, Stuttgart (GER)

Nationality: German

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 35

Head coach from: 01/07/2008

JUVENTUS

Italy

		G	A	MAL W 2-0	ATL L 1-0	OLY L 1-0	OLY W 3-2	MAL W 0-2	ATL D 0-0	DOR W 2-1	DOR W 0-3	MON W 1-0	MON D 0-0	RM W 2-1	RM D 1-1	BAR L 1-3
Goalkeepers																
1	Gianluigi Buffon			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
30	Marco Storari			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders																
3	Giorgio Chiellini			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	I
4	Martín Cáceres			90	78↓	I	I	I	I	0	I	I	I	I	I	I
5	Angelo Ogbonna			0	0	77↓	0	0	0	0	0		0			0
15	Andrea Barzagli				I	I	I	I	I	I	63↑	16↑	90	26↑	11↑	90
19	Leonardo Bonucci			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
26	Stephan Lichtsteiner			90↓	89↓	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
33	Patrice Evra		1	90	90	0	I	0	90	90	90	90	89↓	90	90	89↓
Midfielders																
2	Rômulo			1↑	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I			
6	Paul Pogba	1	3	90	90	87↓	90	90	90	90	27↓	I	I	I	89↓	90
7	Simone Pepe						I	I	0		9↑	0		0		
8	Claudio Marchisio		1	90	90	33↑	71↓	83↓		90	90	90	90	90	90	90
20	Simone Padoin			0	0		19↑	90	0	4↑	0	0	1↑	0	0	0
21	Andrea Pirlo	1		I	I	57↓	90	90	90	37↓	I	74↓	90	90	79↓	90
22	Kwadwo Asamoah		1	90	0	90	83↓	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	79↓
23	Arturo Vidal	1		I	83↓	90	90	90	90	86↓	90	90	77↓	90	90	0
27	Stefano Sturaro											3↓	0	64↓	0	
37	Roberto Pereyra		1	S	12↑	13↑	7↑	7↑	90	53↑	90	87↓	13↑	4↑	1↑	11↑
38	Federico Mattiello								0							
Forwards																
9	Álvaro Morata	5	1	4↑	7↑	90	58↓	18↑	0	90	78↓	83↓	69↓	78↓	84↓	85↓
10	Carlos Tévez	7	2	90↓	90	90	90	90	90	89↓	81↓	90	90	86↓	90	90
11	Kingsley Coman			0		0	0	0	I	1↑					0	1↑
12	Sebastian Giovinco			1↑	1↑	3↑	0	0	0							
14	Fernando Llorente	1	1	86↓	90	0	32↑	72↓	90	0	0	0	21↑	12↑	6↑	5↑
32	Alessandro Matri									I	12↑	7↑	0	0		

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 24

GOALS SCORED 17
(1 own goal)

GOAL ATTEMPTS 166 (67 on target) = 12.8 (5.2) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
3	1	1	0	6	3	3	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 35/39 (including one double substitution)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	1	0	2	5	24	2

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 54%
Max. 68% v Atlético (h)
Min. 39% v Barcelona (final)

POSSESSION POSITION
21%
51%
28%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 495
Max. 680 v Atlético (h)
Min. 343 v Barcelona (final)

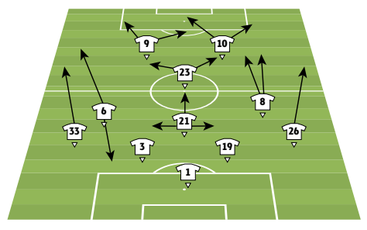
PASSING ACCURACY 88%
Max. 95% v Atlético (h)
Min. 80% v Monaco (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 113,401 metres
Max. 120,875 v Malmö (a) | Min. 104,609 v Atlético (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	59 (12% of total)
Medium	321 (65%)
Short	115 (23%)

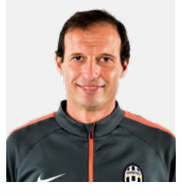
TEAM SHAPE



KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-4-4-2 with frequent switches to 1-3-5-2 structure
- Midfield diamond with playmaker Pirlo at base, Vidal at apex behind strikers
- Emphasis on well-organised deep defence backed by the excellent Buffon
- Fast transitions in both directions with wing-backs operating box-to-box
- Preference for direct attacking rather than possession-based build-ups
- Aggressive pressure on ball-carrier to disturb opposition build-ups
- Marchisio the more advanced playmaker; passes behind the defence
- Pogba providing industry, solo skills and finishing power from left midfield
- Dangerous set plays; Pirlo, Tévez the dead-ball specialists
- Strong collective virtues; self-belief and mental resilience in adverse moments

COACH



Massimiliano Allegri

Born: 11/08/1967, Livorno (ITA)

Nationality: Italian

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 47

Head coach from: 16/07/2014

BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN

Germany

		G	A	MON L 1-0	BEN W 3-1	ZEN W 2-0	ZEN W 1-2	MON L 0-1	BEN D 0-0	ATL W 1-0	ATL* L 1-0
Goalkeepers											
1	Bernd Leno			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120
25	Dario Krešić			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders											
5	Emir Spahić			90	90	60↓	90	90	90	90	120
13	Roberto Hilbert				90	0	0	0	90	90	120
14	Kyriakos Papadopoulos	1		I	I	30↑	I	I	I	90	16↑
16	Tin Jedvaj			65↓		8↑	65↓	0	0	I	I
17	Sebastian Boenisch			90		I	25↑	0	90	0	0
18	Wendell			0	90	79↓so	S	90	0	90	120
21	Ömer Toprak			71↓	90	90	90	90	90↓so	S	120
26	Giulio Donati	1		25↑	8↑	90	90	90		0	
33	Lukas Boeder				0						
Midfielders											
3	Stefan Reinartz			19↑	90	90	I	I	I	0	0
6	Simon Rolfes			I	I	I	I	14↑	83↓	22↑	43↑
8	Lars Bender			75↓	82↓	90	90	76↓	I	68↓	104↓
10	Hakan Çalhanoğlu	2	2	90	90	82↓	90	90	90	87↓	120
15	Levin Öztunali			0	20↑		0				
27	Gonzalo Castro			90	I	I	I	90	90	90	120
35	Vladlen Yurchenko			0	0		0		0		
38	Karim Bellarabi		3	90	70↓	85↓	90	77↓	90	90	120
Forwards											
7	Son Heung-Min	3	1	90	90	90	90	59↓	19↑	90	77↓
9	Josip Drmic			15↑	14↑	0	37↑	31↑	71↓	80↓	69↓
11	Stefan Kiessling	1	1	90	76↓	90	90↓	90	7↑	10↑	51↑
19	Julian Brandt			I	I	5↑	53↓	13↑	45↑	3↑	0
23	Robbie Kruse				0	0	1↑		45↓	I	I

*agg 1-1 aet; lost 3-2 on pens

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 21

GOALS SCORED 8

GOAL ATTEMPTS 112 (37 on target) = 14 (4.6) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	1	0	2	4	0	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 24/24

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	1	3	8	10	1

Minutes

(Extra time: 91-105 = 1; 106-120 = 0)

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 49%
Max. 63% v Atlético (h)
Min. 44% v Benfica (h)

POSSESSION POSITION
25%
50%
25%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 378
Max. 559 v Monaco (h)
Min. 248 v Zenit (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 78%
Max. 87% v Atlético (h)
Min. 69% v Benfica (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 117,021 metres
Max. 122,610 v Benfica (a) | Min. 110,315 v Atlético (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	35 (9% of total)
Medium	200 (53%)
Short	143 (38%)

Data for matchday eight v Atlético (a) changed pro rata to 90-minute values to facilitate comparisons.

TEAM SHAPE

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 with compact defensive block and closely linked lines
- Constructive build-ups mixed with direct supply to front men
- Good off-ball movement; options for player in possession
- Rapid transitions in both directions; direct, dangerous counters
- Effective combinations between striker and shadow striker
- Comfortable in possession under pressure; ability to run with the ball
- Midfield or high pressure immediately after loss of possession
- Aerial dominance; effective set plays at both ends of pitch
- Sustained high-tempo play; determination and intensity
- Strong, hard-working players with team ethic and self-belief

COACH

Roger Schmidt

Born: 13/03/1967, Kierspe (GER)

Nationality: German

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 14

Head coach from: 01/06/2014

MANCHESTER CITY FC

England

		G	A	BAY L 1-0	ROM D 1-1	CSKA D 2-2	CSKA L 1-2	BAY W 3-2	ROM W 0-2	BAR L 1-2	BAR L 1-0
Goalkeepers											
1	Joe Hart			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
13	Willy Caballero			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders											
3	Bacary Sagna			90	0	0	0	68↓	0	12↑	90
4	Vincent Kompany			90	90	90	90	90		90	90
5	Pablo Zabaleta	1		S	90	90	90	22↑	90	90	0
11	Aleksandar Kolarov			2↑	0	90	1	1	1↑		90
20	Eliaquim Mangala			0	0	90	0	90	90	0	
22	Gaël Clichy			90	90	0	90	90	90	74↓so	S
26	Martín Demichelis			90	90	0	90	1↑	90	90	90
38	Dedryck Boyata			0			0	0	0		
Midfielders											
6	Fernando				1	86↓	65↓	90	90	90	0
7	James Milner	1		32↑	45↑	90	90	66↓	90	90	87↓
8	Samir Nasri	1	1	58↓	1	1	45↑	90	89↓	62↓	45↓
15	Jesús Navas			88↓	45↓	18↑	45↓	90	67↓	0	45↑
18	Frank Lampard			0	33↑	1	1	90	0	0	3↑
21	David Silva		1	90	90	78↓	1	1	23↑	78↓	90
25	Fernandinho			90	90	12↑	25↑↓so	S	90	28↑	90
42	Yaya Touré	1		90	90	90	82↓so	S	S	S	72↓
73	George Glendon							0			
Forwards											
10	Edin Džeko		1	74↓	57↓	72↓	25↑	1	78↓	68↓	0
14	Wilfried Bony									22↑	18↑
16	Sergio Agüero	6	1	16↑	84↓	90	90	90↓	1	90	90
35	Stevan Jovetić			1	6↑	4↑	45↓	24↑	12↑		
78	José Ángel Pozo							0			

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 20 **GOALS SCORED** 10

GOAL ATTEMPTS 97 (33 on target) = 12.1 (4.1) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
2	2	1	0	1	1	2	1

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 24/24 (Including one double substitution)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	4	2	9	8	1

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 48%
Max. 62% v CSKA Moskva (h)
Min. 37% v Barcelona (h)

POSSESSION POSITION
24%
56%
21%
Decimal points account for the extra 1%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 501
Max. 677 v CSKA Moskva (h)
Min. 343 v Barcelona (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 88%
Max. 91% v CSKA Moskva (h), Roma (h)
Min. 82% v Barcelona (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 110,792 metres
Max. 115,129 v Bayern (h) | Min. 105,226 v Roma (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	45 (9% of total)
Medium	315 (63%)
Short	140 (28%)

TEAM SHAPE

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-4-2 with either twin strikers or Silva as shadow striker
- Compact defending with four midfielders dropping close to back four
- If immediate high pressure not feasible, rapid retreat into defensive block
- Aerial strength used effectively at set plays in defence and attack
- Preference for possession-based combinations but comfortable without the ball
- Rapid transitions in both directions; keeper launching counters through middle
- Wide midfielders/wingers cutting in to open space for attacking full-backs
- Powerful, athletic team; Kompany, Touré driving forces in defence and midfield
- Silva the creative playmaker; Agüero a constant threat with runs behind defence
- Hardworking players; determination, intensity and mental resilience

COACH

Manuel Pellegrini

Born: 16/09/1963, Santiago (CHI)

Nationality: Chilean

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 58

Head coach from: 14/06/2013

AS MONACO FC

France

		G	A	LEV W 1-0	ZEN D 0-0	BEN D 0-0	BEN L 1-0	LEV W 0-1	ZEN W 2-0	ARS W 1-3	ARS* L 0-2	JUV L 1-0	JUV D 0-0
Goalkeepers													
1	Danijel Subašić			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
16	Maarten Stekelenburg			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders													
2	Fabinho[1]		1	90	90	90	90	7↑	90	90	90	90	90
3	Layvin Kurzawa			90	90	90	90	1	1	8↑	90	90	90
5	Aymen Abdennour		1	1	1	1	0	90	90	90	90	90	90
6	Ricardo Carvalho			90↓	90	90	90	90	S	1	0	90	
13	Wallace			1↑	0	0			90	90	90	0	0
21	Elderson				0	0		90		90	4↑	0	0
24	Andrea Raggi			90	90	90	90	90↓	90	1	1	71↓	90
34	Abdou Diallo									0			
38	Almamy Touré									90	0		
Midfielders													
7	Nabil Dirar		1	4↑	90	90	27↑	83↓	89↓	82↓	86↓	51↓	0
8	João Moutinho	1	2	90	90↓	82↓	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
11	Lucas Ocampos	1		57↓	80↓	62↓	63↓	20↑	1↑				
12	Matheus Carvalho									0	0	3↑	3↑
14	Tiémoué Bakayoko			0	1↑	0	0	90	90	1	1	1	1
15	Bernardo Silva		1	33↑	0	8↑	0	0	1↑	6↑	20↑	39↑	90
22	Geoffrey Kondogbia	1		90	90	90	86↓	0	1	90	90	90	90
25	Alain Traoré									0			
28	Jérémy Toulalan			90	90	90	90	90	90	S	90	1	45↓
37	Abdou Aziz Thiam								0				
Forwards													
9	Dimitar Berbatov	1	1	90	52↓	34↓	1	89↓	56↓	76↓	70↓	19↑	45↑
17	Yannick Ferreira-Carrasco	1	1	86↓	38↑	28↑	90	70↓	90↓	14↑	30↑	90	87↓
18	Valère Germain			0	10↑		4↑	0	0			0	14↑
19	Lacina Traoré			1	1		72↓	1↑	0			1	1
23	Anthony Martial		1	0		56↑	18↑		34↑	84↓	60↓	87↓	76↓

[1]Midfield v Arsenal (a)
*agg 3-3; won on away goals

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 22 **GOALS SCORED** 7

GOAL ATTEMPTS 97 (27 on target) = 9.7 (2.7) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	1	0	1	3	1	1

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 30/30

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	1	1	5	6	14	3

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 46%
Max. 55% v Juventus (h)
Min. 39% v Arsenal (h)

POSSESSION POSITION
21%
48%
31%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 336
Max. 480 v Juventus (h)
Min. 281 v Arsenal (h)

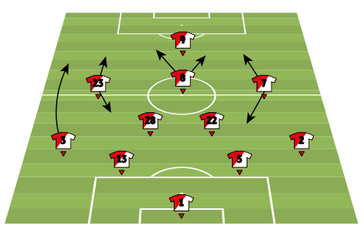
PASSING ACCURACY 82%
Max. 89% v Arsenal (a)
Min. 68% v Leverkusen (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 112,545 metres
Max. 116,721 v Zenit (a) | Min. 108,414 v Juventus (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	47 (14% of total)
Medium	188 (56%)
Short	101 (30%)

TEAM SHAPE



KEY FEATURES

- Variations on 1-4-3-3 and 1-4-2-3-1
- Patient combination play mixed with rapid, effective counterattacks
- Central midfielders good at supporting attacks and covering defensively
- Berbatov, Moutinho the attacking catalysts; experienced, clever, skilful
- Strong, well-organised back four, aggressive on balls played to opposing forwards
- Wide players working hard to recover defensive positions, help full-backs
- Sensible, disciplined pressing – from midfield rather than in attacking third
- Defensively compact; little space between midfield and back four
- Excellent athletic qualities, mobility; fast transitions in both directions
- Aerial dominance; efficiently defending crosses and set plays

COACH

Leonardo Jardim

Born: 01/08/1974, Barcelona (VEN)

Nationality: Portuguese

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 10

Head coach from: 10/06/2014

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

France

	G	A	AJX D 1-1	BAR W 3-2	APO W 0-1	APO W 1-0	AJX W 3-1	BAR L 3-1	CHL D 1-1	CHL* D 2-2	BAR L 1-3	BAR L 2-0
Goalkeepers												
1 Nicolas Douchez			0	0	0	0	I	0	0	0	0	0
16 Mike Maignan							0					
30 Salvatore Sirigu			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	90	90
Defenders												
2 Thiago Silva	1		I	I	90	90	I	90	90	120	21↓	I
5 Marquinhos			90	90	I	0	90	0	90	120	90	90
6 Zoumana Camara			0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0
17 Maxwell			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	90	90
19 Serge Aurier			I	0	0	0	0		I	I	I	I
21 Lucas Digne			0	0	0	0	4↑	0	0	0	0	0
23 Gregory van der Wiel		3	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	2↑	90	90
32 David Luiz	2		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	69↑	90
34 Presnel Kimpembe									0		0	
Midfielders												
4 Yohan Cabaye			0	19↑	20↑	4↑	I	0	I	I	90	66↓
7 Lucas		1	81↓	90↓	89↓	86↓	22↑	90	I	I	25↑	24↑
8 Thiago Motta		2	90	90	90	90	I	90		120		
14 Blaise Matuidi	1	2	90	90	90	90	90	75↓	90	81↓	90	80↓
20 Clément Chantôme				4↑	1↑		15↑					
24 Marco Verratti	1		81↓	71↓	70↓	I	I	62↓	90	81↓	S	90
25 Adrien Rabiot						0	75↓	0	0	39↑	65↓	10↑
27 Javier Pastore		1	9↑	86↓	70↓	90	90	28↑	9↑	118↓	90	90
Forwards												
9 Edinson Cavani	6		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	90	80↓
10 Zlatan Ibrahimović	2	1	90	I	I	I	86↓	90	90	31↓so	S	90
15 Jean-Christophe Bahebeck			0	1↑	20↑	12↑	I	I	0	0	0	0
22 Ezequiel Lavezzi		2	9↑	I	I	78↓	68↓	15↑	81↓	39↑	90	10↑
33 Jean-Kévin Augustin							0					

*agg 3-3 aet; won on away goals

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 19

GOALS SCORED 14 (one own goal)

GOAL ATTEMPTS 119 (45 on target) = 11.9 (4.5) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
4	1	1	0	2	0	5	0

Minutes (Extra time: 91-105 = 0; 106-120 = 1)

SUBSTITUTIONS 24/30 (including four double substitutions)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	0	0	0	9	12	1

Minutes (Extra time: 91-105 = 0; 106-120 = 1)

AVERAGES*

POSSESSION 49%
Max. 67% v APOEL (h)
Min. 37% v Barcelona (h)

POSSESSION POSITION
18%
52%
31%
Decimal points account for the extra 1%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 529
Max. 813 v APOEL (h)
Min. 391 v Barcelona (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 91%
Max. 95% v APOEL (h)
Min. 87% v Barcelona (h)

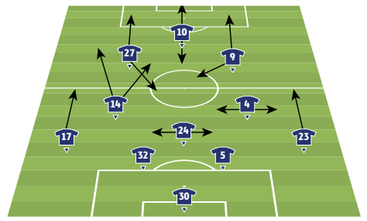
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 109,288 metres
Max. 114,966 v APOEL (a) | Min. 103,605 v Chelsea (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	46 (9% of total)
Medium	328 (62%)
Short	156 (29%)

*Excluding matchday eight v Chelsea (a) when playing 89 minutes with ten men.

TEAM SHAPE



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with single screening midfielder; transition to 1-4-1-4-1 defending
- Technically gifted; composed in possession, able to protect ball under pressure
- Attacks launched via diagonal passes from centre-backs to wide areas
- Quick combinations by two or three players in wide areas; cutback, cross or shot
- Full-backs pushing forward to support attacks, notably Maxwell on left
- Ibrahimović leading and linking attacks with creativity, vision and presence
- Verratti an effective, hard-working, skilful midfield controller/playmaker
- Quick transition to deep defensive block; fast counterattacking in numbers
- Strong back four using aerial power to create danger at attacking set plays
- Disciplined, tactically-aware unit with strong team ethic and mental resilience

COACH

Laurent Blanc

Born: 19/11/1965, Alès (FRA)

Nationality: French

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 36

Head coach from: 25/06/2013

FC PORTO

Portugal

	G	A	BATE W 6-0	SHK D 2-2	ATH W 2-1	ATH W 0-2	BATE W 0-3	SHK D 1-1	BSL D 1-1	BSL W 4-0	BAY W 3-1	BAY L 6-1
Goalkeepers												
1 Helton									0	0	0	0
12 Fabiano			90	90	90	90	90		90	90	90	90
24 Ricardo								0				
25 Andrés Fernández			0	0	0	0	0	90				
Defenders												
2 Danilo	1	1	90	90	90	90	90	I	90	22↓	90	S
3 Bruno Martins Indi			90	90	90	90	90	49↑	0	68↑	90	90
4 Maicon			90	90	90	90	0	90	90	90	90	90
5 Iván Marcano[1]			0	65↓	0	0	90	90	90	90	S	87↑so
13 Diego Reyes											0	33↓
21 Ricardo				0				90				57↑
26 Alex Sandro		1	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	S
Midfielders												
6 Casemiro	1	1	90	I	71↓	90	90	I	90	90	90	90
8 Yacine Brahimi	5	3	59↓	78↓	90	90↓	83↓		61↓	74↓	80↓	67↓
10 Juan Quintero		1	0	25↑	64↓	0	1↑	69↓	9↑	0	0	0
15 Evandro			31↑	0				90	0	79↓	6↑	23↑
16 Hector Herrera	3	3	69↓	90	90	90	90	0	90	90	90	90
28 Kelvin								37↑				
30 Óliver Torres			I	90	8↑	82↓	90	21↑	68↓	0	75↓	90
36 Rúben Neves			0	0	26↑	8↑	0	41↓	22↑	16↑	15↑	45↑
Forwards												
7 Ricardo Quaresma	3		90		19↑	30↑	71↓	90	29↑	11↑	84↓	45↓
9 Jackson Martínez	7		64↓	25↑	90	90	90↓	0	90	I	90	90
11 Cristian Tello	1	2	21↑	90	82↓	60↓	19↑	0	81↓	90	I	I
17 Hernâni											10↑	0
18 Adrián López	1		90	12↑	0	1↑	7↑	53↓				
39 Gonçalo Paciência			I	I	I					0		
99 Vincent Aboubakar	3		26↑	65↓	0	0	0	90	0	90	0	0

[1]Midfield v Shakhtar (h)

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 23

GOALS SCORED 25

GOAL ATTEMPTS 130 (60 on target) = 13 (6) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
4	0	3	0	5	6	6	1

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 30/30 (including one double substitution)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	2	1	3	13	9	1

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 56%
Max. 67% v BATE (a)
Min. 38% v Bayern (h)

POSSESSION POSITION
18%
54%
28%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 498
Max. 629 v BATE (a)
Min. 279 v Bayern (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 88%
Max. 92% v Shakhtar (h), Shakhtar (a)
Min. 80% v Athletic (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 117,072 metres
Max. 123,375 v Basel (a) | Min. 112,976 v Bayern (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	74 (15% of total)
Medium	314 (63%)
Short	110 (22%)

TEAM SHAPE

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with single screening midfielder
- Possession-based combination game underpinned by high level of technique
- Mix of patient build with fast defence-to-attack transitions or long ball from keeper
- Compact defensive block leaving minimal space between lines
- Excellent use of wings; good skills, dribbling, final passes; notably Brahimi on left
- Rational attacking with players behind ball to pre-empt counterattacks
- Martínez a powerful target striker, holding ball up, leading defensive work
- Immediate high pressing after ball loss; direct forward passing if regained
- Strong central defenders; aerial power at defending, attacking set plays
- Determination, ability to dictate rhythm; belief in playing philosophy

COACH

Julen Lopetegui

Born: 28/08/1966, Asteasu (ESP)

Nationality: Spanish

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 12

Head coach from: 06/05/2014

REAL MADRID CF

Spain

		G	A	BSL W 5-1	LUD W 1-2	LIV W 0-3	LIV W 1-0	BSL W 0-1	LUD W 4-0	SCH W 0-2	SCH L 3-4	ATL D 0-0	ATL W 1-0	JUV L 2-1	JUV D 1-1
Goalkeepers															
1	Iker Casillas			90	90	90	90	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	90
13	Keylor Navas			0	0	0	0	90	90	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders															
2	Raphaël Varane			24↑	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
3	Pepe		1	90	0	90	0		0	90	90	0	90	90	0
4	Sergio Ramos[1]			66↓	90	I	90	90	S	I	I	90	90	90	90
5	Fábio Coentrão		1	0	I	I	I	90	60↓		58↓	I	90↓	0	0
12	Marcelo	1	2	90	90	85↓	90	1↑	30↑	90	32↑	90	S	90	90
15	Dani Carvajal		1	I	0	0	I		0	82↓		85↓	90	90	90
17	Álvaro Arbeloa	1		0	90	90	83↓	90	90	8↑	83↓	5↑	1↑	0	0
18	Nacho		1	90	0	5↑	7↑	1↑	90	0	7↑		0		
Midfielders															
6	Sami Khedira			I	I	15↑	I	I	I	I	58↓	0	0		
8	Toni Kroos		3	90	17↑	81↓	90	90	60↓	90	90	90	90	90	90
10	James Rodríguez	1	2	90	14↑	90	62↓	89↓	I	I	I	90	90	90	90
16	Lucas Silva									90			0	0	
19	Luka Modrić		1	74↓	73↓	90	90	I	I	I	32↑	90	I	I	I
23	Isco			0	76↓	90	90	90↓	90	85↓	90	14↑	90↓	63↓	90
24	Asier Illarramendi			16↑	90	9↑	I	19↑	90	5↑	0	0	1↑	0	0
26	Álvaro Medrán	1				0	0	0	7↑	0					
35	Lucas Torro						0	0							
Forwards															
7	Cristiano Ronaldo	10	4	90	90	75↓	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
9	Karim Benzema	6	2	82↓	23↑	90	87↓	71↓	0	78↓	90	76↓	I	I	67↓
11	Gareth Bale	2	1	90	90	I	28↑	90	83↓	90	90	90	I	86↓	90
14	Javier Hernández	1		8↑	67↓	0	3↑	0	90	12↑	0		90↓	27↑	23↑
20	Jesé		1	I					30↑	0	0	0	1↑	4↑	0

[1]Midfield on matchdays ten and 11

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 23

GOALS SCORED 24 (one own goal)

GOAL ATTEMPTS 218 (85 on target) = 18.1 (7.1) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	10	6	0	1	0	6	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 32/36 (including two double substitutions)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	0	4	9	15	4

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 56%
Max. 63% v Atlético (h)
Min. 51% v Schalke (h)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 566
Max. 712 v Liverpool (h)
Min. 481 v Basel (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 90%
Max. 93% v Liverpool (h), Ludogorets (a), Atlético (h)
Min. 85% v Atlético (a)

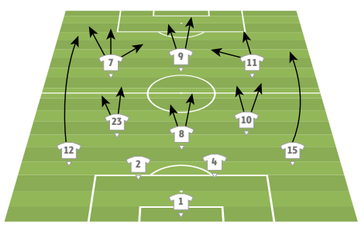
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 109,157 metres
Max. 116,777 v Liverpool (a) | Min. 102,890 v Atlético (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	63 (11% of total)
Medium	354 (62%)
Short	149 (26%)

Decimal points account for the missing 1%

TEAM SHAPE



KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-3-3 with occasional switches to 1-4-4-2; single screening midfielder
- High-tempo passing game with slick one-touch combinations in final third
- Lethal counterattacks exploiting speed and skills of Bale, Ronaldo
- Good use of width with full-backs (Carvajal, Marcelo) constantly overlapping
- Kroos the controlling midfielder; Modric, Isco, James the links with attack
- Four balancing players behind ball to pre-empt opposition counters
- Dangerous set plays exploiting aerial power; good deliveries, crosses from wings
- Aggressive pressure in middle third with intelligent interceptions
- Benzema opening spaces as target striker in prolific hard-punching attack
- High-intensity, dominant game pushing opponents on to back foot

COACH

Carlo Ancelotti

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

Nationality: Italian

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 148

Head coach from: 25/06/2013

FC SCHALKE 04

Germany

		G	A	CHL D 1-1	MRB D 1-1	SPO W 4-3	SPO L 4-2	CHL L 0-5	MRB W 0-1	RM L 0-2	RM W 3-4
Goalkeepers											
1	Ralf Fährmann			90	90	90	90	90	90	I	I
40	Timon Wellenreuther									90	90
Defenders											
2	Marvin Friedrich			0				0	1↑		
3	Jan Kirchhoff			I	I	0	12↑	45↓	90	33↑	I
4	Benedikt Höwedes	1		I	I	90	90	90	90	90	90
5	Felipe Santana			I	I	I	I	90	I		
22	Atsuto Uchida			I	45↑	90	90	90	90	90	9↑
23	Christian Fuchs[2]	1	1	90	90	0	78↓	0	90	0	90
24	Kaan Ayhan		1	90	45↓	90	0		2↑	0	0
32	Joël Matip			I	90		I		I	90	90
33	Roman Neustädter[3]			90	90	90	90	90	90	57↓	90
Midfielders											
7	Max Meyer	1	1	74↓	11↑	25↑	65↓	27↑	34↑	10↑	90
8	Leon Goretzka			I	I	I	I	I	I	I	33↑
9	Kevin-Prince Boateng		1	90	79↓	45↓	25↑	63↓	I	90	S
10	Julian Draxler		1	86↓	90	82↓	I	I	I	I	I
11	Christian Clemens			0	0		0	45↑	0		
12	Marco Höger			90	0	90	90	90	88↓	80↓	57↓
15	Dennis Aogo[1]	1	2	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	I
18	Sidney Sam			78↓	I	8↑	21↑	I	I		
19	Leroy Sané	1						0	0		61↑
27	Tranquillo Barnetta		1	12↑	90	0	0	0	56↓	0	81↓
31	Matija Nastasić									90	90
Forwards											
13	Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting	1		16↑	66↓	45↑	90	90	90	90	29↓
20	Chinedu Obasi	1	1	4↑	24↑	65↓	69↓	I	I	I	I
25	Klaas-Jan Huntelaar	5		90	90	90	90	90	90↓	33↓	90
36	Felix Platte									57↑	

Christian Wetklo, Fabian Giefer, Marcel Sobottka, Thilo Kehrer and Donis Avdijaj were also unused substitutes
[1]Defender on matchdays three and seven; [2]Midfield on matchday eight; [3]Midfield on matchdays seven and eight
Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 26

GOALS SCORED 13 (one own goal)

GOAL ATTEMPTS 111 (37 on target) = 13.9 (4.6 per match)

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	2	2	0	4	2	2	1

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 23/24

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	1	3	3	6	8	1

Minutes

(Extra time: 91-105 = 1; 106-120 = 0)

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 51%
Max. 62% v Sporting (h)
Min. 39% v Real Madrid (h)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 473
Max. 548 v Chelsea (h)
Min. 363 v Real Madrid (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 90%
Max. 93% v Maribor (h), Chelsea (h and a)
Min. 83% v Real Madrid (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 119,579 metres
Max. 127,437 v Maribor (a) | Min. 115,264 v Maribor (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	52 (11% of total)
Medium	310 (65%)
Short	112 (24%)

TEAM SHAPE

KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-5-2 with 1-5-3-2 defending; switches to 1-4-4-2 according to game situation
- Emphasis on attacking in wide areas; Uchida, Aogo major weapons
- Fast transition after winning ball; vertical passing to front-runners
- Hardworking midfielders driving into final third, shooting at goal
- Quick transitions into defensive block with back five
- Incisive off-ball movements; good diagonal runs by strikers
- Creative passer Meyer the key link between defence and attack
- Huntelaar the dangerous target striker with 'killer instinct'
- Direct attacking; defence-splitting passes; unafraid to shoot from long range
- Strong collective spirit, athleticism and mental resilience

COACH

Roberto Di Matteo

Born: 29/05/1970, Schaffhausen (SUI)

Nationality: Italian

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 17

Head coach from: 07/10/2014

Jens Keller (Stuttgart, GER, 24/11/1970) was in charge on matchdays one and two

FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK

Ukraine

		G	A	ATH D 0-0	POR D 2-2	BATE W 0-7	BATE W 5-0	ATH L 0-1	POR D 1-1	BAY D 0-0	BAY L 7-0
Goalkeepers											
30	Andriy Pyatov			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
32	Anton Kanibolotskiy			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders											
5	Olexandr Kucher		1	90	90	90	I	90	S	90	3 so
13	Vyacheslav Shevchuk		2			90	64↓	90	90	90	90
18	Ivan Ordets		1		0	0	90	I			I
31	Ismaily						0				
33	Darijo Srna	1	1	90	90	90	90	90	S	90	90
38	Serhiy Kryvtsov			0	I	I	I	0	90	0	81↑
44	Yaroslav Rakitskiy			90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
66	Márcio Azevedo			90	90	0	I	I	I	0	
77	Ilsinho			0	15↑		I		90	0	20↑
Midfielders											
6	Taras Stepanenko	1		90	90	90	90	90	86↓	S	90
8	Fred			17↑	0	45↑	24↑	13↑	90	90	90
10	Bernard		2	0	11↑	45↑	17↑	19↑	66↓	I	I
11	Marlos			10↑	0	45↑	26↑	22↑	24↑	12↑	
17	Fernando			73↓	90	45↓	66↓	77↓	4↑	90	0
20	Douglas Costa	1	1	90	79↓	45↓	90	68↓	66↓	78↓	79↓
29	Alex Teixeira	3		90	90	90	90	90	90	90	70↓
74	Viktor Kovalenko								0		
89	Dentinho						0	0	0		0
Forwards											
7	Wellington Nem								0	6↑	11↑
9	Luiz Adriano	9	1	89↓	90	90	90	90	S	89↓	90
21	Olexandr Gladkiy			1↑	0	0	0	0	90	1↑	0
28	Taison		2	80↓	75↓	45↓	73↓	71↓	24↑	84↓	9↓

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 20 **GOALS SCORED** 15

GOAL ATTEMPTS 75 (37 on target) = 9.4 (4.6) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	2	4	0	4	0	3	1

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 23/24 (Including one double and one triple substitution)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	0	0	3	0	10	9	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 49%
Max. 66% v BATE (h)
Min. 38% v Porto (h)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 426
Max. 641 v BATE (h)
Min. 234 v Porto (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 87%
Max. 92% v BATE (a)
Min. 82% v Porto (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,694 metres
Max. 119, 080 v BATE (a) | Min. 109, 693 v Bayern (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	67 (16% of total)
Medium	269 (63%)
Short	90 (21%)

TEAM SHAPE

KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-2-3-1 with one defensive and one attack-minded controlling midfielder
- Compact defensive block; strength in depth through central area
- Play based on supplying middle-to-front unit strong on Brazilian flair
- High levels of technique, dribbling skills, strong in 1v1 situations
- Fast counters often based on direct pass to strong, speedy striker Luiz Adriano
- Adventurous full-backs, especially Srna on right; wide men cutting in to create space
- High-tempo passing game, creative combinations in final third
- Fluent positional interchanging in middle-to-front areas
- Well-organised in defending set plays; good free-kick specialists
- Attacking mentality; experience and composure; tactical awareness, team spirit

COACH

Mircea Lucescu

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

Nationality: Romanian

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 121

Head coach from: 16/05/2004

Group stage fallers

Recent seasons had refuted the adage about ten points sufficing to earn a place in the knockout stage. But the 2014/15 campaign signified a return to relative normality, even though Olympiacos FC were eliminated with nine points, while three teams qualified with fewer than that. The Greek champions' tally of 10 goals (from 71 attempts) was also higher than six of the teams that reached the last 16. The form book was also respected in that three-quarters of the teams who failed to progress were those who were less equipped to play a possession-based game. AFC Ajax, the most noticeable exception, had the misfortune to share a group with two accomplished passing teams, FC Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain.

Four teams who averaged more than 50% of ball possession during the group stage – AFC Ajax (53%), Galatasaray AŞ (52%), FC Zenit and SL Benfica (both 51%) – were eliminated.

By and large, however, the fallers were those who saw less of the ball – notably APOEL FC (33%), PFC CSKA Moskva (37%) and FC BATE Borisov (38%). APOEL registered the lowest possession figure of the group stage (26%) in their home game against Barcelona, which meant that the Cypriot side had the ball for 17 minutes. Similarly, CSKA Moskva were in possession for 18:23 of their home fixture against FC Bayern München. An overview of passing patterns among the eliminated teams revealed no striking variations although, to signal the two extremes, 17% of Malmö FF's passing was long (in excess of 30m) whereas the long pass accounted for only 9% of Ajax's repertoire.

A lack of goals provided a simplistic explanation for group stage exits, with APOEL scoring their only goal from the penalty spot. But, in terms of generating scoring opportunities, there were few radical differences between the group fallers and those who progressed to the knockout stage. Indeed, Galatasaray had almost 60% more goal attempts than AS Monaco FC – but scored the same number of goals (four). The efficiency of finishing was evidently a critical factor. Whereas Chelsea FC required no more than six attempts to manufacture a goal, APOEL had their solitary penalty to show from 30 attempts, SL Benfica 1 per 34; BATE had a success ratio of 1 goal per 29 attempts, and Galatasaray 1 per 22. Benfica's tally of two goals can be related to only one in five of their attempts being on target, while APOEL, BATE, CSKA Moskva, Zenit and Ajax joined them in achieving accuracy with less than 30% of their finishing.

Jordan Henderson knocks in Liverpool's second away to Ludogorets

AFC AJAX

Netherlands

		G	A	PSG D 1-1	APO D 1-1	BAR L 3-1	BAR L 0-2	PSG L 3-1	APO W 4-0
Goalkeepers									
22	Jasper Cillessen			90	90	90	90	90	90
33	Diederik Boer			0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders									
2	Ricardo van Rhijn			90	90	90	90	90	90
3	Joël Veltman			90	90	90	71 so	S	90
4	Niklas Moisander			90	90	90	90	0	90
5	Nicolai Boilesen			90	90	I	90	10↓	I
6	Mike van der Hoorn			0				90	0
12	Jairo Riedewald					34↑	18↑	0	22↑
24	Stefano Denswil			0	0	0	10↑	90	0
26	Nick Viergever[1]			45↓	90	90	0	80↑	90
Midfielders									
8	Lerin Duarte			0	0	0			
10	Davy Klaassen	2	1	90	90	90	90	90	90
16	Lucas Andersen	1		90	74↓	90	72↓	90	68↓
20	Lasse Schöne	3	1	82↓	74↓	90	90	90	75↓
25	Thulani Serero			90	90	I	80↓	69↓	90
27	Riechedly Bazoer			I	I				0
32	Niki Zimling			45↑	0	56↓	0	21↑	I
Forwards									
9	Kolbeinn Sigthórsson			61↓	90	73↓	62↓	0	I
11	Ricardo Kishna		2		16↑	45↓	0	90	90
19	Arkadiusz Milik	1	2	8↑	0	45↑	28↑	90	85↓
21	Anwar El Ghazi	1		29↑	16↑	17↑	90	0	15↑
30	Richairo Zivkovic								5↑
34	Queensy Menig					0			

[1] Midfield on matchday two

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 19 **GOALS SCORED** 8

GOAL ATTEMPTS 68 (20 on target) = 11.3 (3.3) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	0	1	2	3	1	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 16/18
(Including one double substitution)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	0	0	2	1	9	3	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 53%
Max. 68% v APOEL (h)
Min. 40% v Barcelona (h)

POSSESSION POSITION
17%
57%
26%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 529
Max. 765 v APOEL (h)
Min. 338 v Barcelona (a)

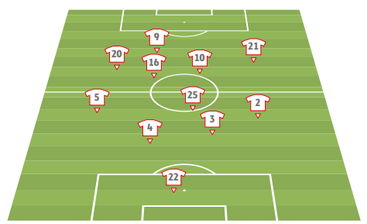
PASSING ACCURACY 90%
Max. 93% v APOEL (h)
Min. 83% v Barcelona (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 113,201 metres
Max. 115,942 v APOEL (a) | Min. 111,209 v Paris (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	48 (9% of total)
Medium	359 (68%)
Short	122 (23%)

TEAM SHAPE



COACH

Frank de Boer
Born: 15/05/1970, Hoorn (NED)
Nationality: Dutch
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 25
Head coach since: 06/12/2010

RSC ANDERLECHT

Belgium

		G	A	GAL D 1-1	DOR L 0-3	ARS L 1-2	ARS D 3-3	GAL W 2-0	DOR D 1-1
Goalkeepers									
1	Silvio Proto			S	90	90	90	90	90
26	Nicaise Kudimbana			0					
33	Davy Roef			90	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders									
2	Fabrice N'Sakala			S	I	I	I	I	90
3	Olivier Deschacht			90	90	90	90	90	90
12	Maxime Colin			0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Bram Nuytinck			23↓	90	I	I	I	I
18	Frank Acheampong[1]			90	17↑	90	90	90	90
22	Chancel Mbemba	2		90	90	90	53↓	90	90
24	Michael Heylen				0		0		1↑
39	Anthony Vanden Borre	2	1	I	I	90	90	90	90
Midfielders									
7	Andy Najar[2]	1	1	90	90	90	90	90	I
10	Dennis Praet	1	2	78↓	90	88↓	90	84↓	90
16	Steven Defour			90	90	90	I	45↓	I
19	Sacha Kljestan		1	24↑	0	0	90	6↑	69↓
20	Ibrahima Conté			90	73↓	90	45↓	90	79↓
31	Youri Tielemans			90	90	90	90	90	21↑
32	Leander Dendoncker			12↑		2↑	37↑	0	90
38	Andy Kawaya		1				45↑	45↑	0
Forwards									
9	Matías Suárez			67↑	82↓	7↑	I	I	I
15	Cyriac			0	8↑	83↓	62↓	1↑	11↑
42	Nathan Kabasele			0	8↑	0	0	0	0
45	Aleksandar Mitrović	2		66↓	82↓	0	28↑	89↓	89↓

[1] Midfield on matchday six; [2] Defender on matchdays one and two

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 21 **GOALS SCORED** 8

GOAL ATTEMPTS 70 (25 on target) = 11.7 (4.2) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	1	0	1	3	3	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 17/18
(including one double substitution)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	0	2	1	4	9	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 45%
Max. 51% v Dortmund (h)
Min. 38% v Arsenal (a)

POSSESSION POSITION
20%
50%
30%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 337
Max. 397 v Dortmund (h)
Min. 259 v Arsenal (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 87%
Max. 90% v Dortmund (h)
Min. 84% v Dortmund (a), Galatasaray (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,078 metres
Max. 114,140 v Dortmund (a) | Min. 105,944 v Galatasaray (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	43 (13% of total)
Medium	220 (65%)
Short	74 (22%)

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Besnik Hasi
Born: 25/12/1971, Gjakova (KOS)
Nationality: Albanian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 6
Head coach since: 10/03/2014

APOEL FC

Cyprus

		G	A	BAR L 1-0	AJX D 1-1	PSG L 0-1	PSG L 1-0	BAR L 0-4	AJX L 4-0
Goalkeepers									
22	Dionisios Chiotis			0	0	0	0	0	0
78	Urko Pardo			90	90	90	90	90	90
Defenders									
3	João Guilherme			90	90	90	90	84 so	S
5	Carlão			90	90	90	90	90	90
6	John Arne Riise			I	I	49↑	I	0	I
15	Marios Antoniades			90	90	41↓	I	90	90
23	Tasos Papazoglou			I	I	I	0	0	90
28	Mário Sérgio			90	90	90	90	90	90
44	Nicholas Ioannou						90		0
73	Kaká			0	0	0	I		0
Midfielders									
4	Kostakis Artymatas			0			0		18↑
7	George Efrem				11↑	90	90	45↑	65↓
8	Tiago Gomes			61↓	71↓	90	45↓	90	90
10	Constantinos Charalambides			11↑	0		I	I	I
11	Nektarios Alexandrou			0		0	0	0	90
16	Vinicius			90	90	90	90	74↓	90
26	Nuno Morais			90	90	80↓	90	90	72↓
46	Stathis Aloneftis			90	90	I	26↑	45↓	25↑
Forwards									
9	Cillian Sheridan			75↓	82↓	67↓	45↑	90	65↓
20	Pieros Sotiriou				0	0	I	I	25↑
21	Gustavo Manduca	1		29↑	79↓	90	59↓	63↓	0
30	Tomás De Vincenti			79↓	19↑	10↑	31↑	27↑	I
79	Rafik Djebbour			15↑	8↑	23↑	64↓	16↑	

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 21 **GOALS SCORED** 1

GOAL ATTEMPTS 30 (6 on target) = 5 (1) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 18/18
(Including one double substitution)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	1	2	1	10	4	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 33%
Max. 39% v Paris (h)
Min. 26% v Barcelona (h)

POSSESSION POSITION
17%
48%
35%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 297
Max. 369 v Paris (h)
Min. 205 v Barcelona (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 83%
Max. 87% v Paris (h), Paris (a)
Min. 76% v Barcelona (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 118,456 metres
Max. 122,077 v Paris (h) | Min. 112,449 v Ajax (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	35 (12% of total)
Medium	182 (61%)
Short	80 (28%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Giorgos Donis
Born: 22/10/1969, Frankfurt-am-Main (GER)
Nationality: Greek
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 10
Head coach since: 11/10/2013

ATHLETIC CLUB

Spain

		G	A	SHK D 0-0	BATE L 2-1	POR L 2-1	POR L 0-2	SHK W 0-1	BATE W 2-0
Goalkeepers									
1	Gorka Iraizoz			90	90	90	90	90	90
13	Iago Herrerín			0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders									
3	Jon Aurtenetxe					0			0
4	Aymeric Laporte			90	90	90	90		90
6	Mikel San José[1]	2		0	90	45↓	90	90	90
12	Unai Bustinza					I	0	0	
15	Andoni Iraola			0	77↓	0	45↑	0	76↓
16	Xabier Etxeita				0	90	0	32↓	I
18	Carlos Gurpegi			90	0	17↑	90	58↑	S
24	Mikel Balenziaga			90	90	90	90	90	90
Midfielders									
5	Erik Morán			0				0	0
7	Beñat		2	64↓	90	45↑	45↓	90	I
8	Ander Iturraspe			90	90	90	0	90	90
10	Óscar de Marcos[2]			90	45↑	90	90	90	90
11	Ibai Gómez			90	45↓		73↓		87↓
14	Markel Susaeta	1	1	26↑	45↑	90	45↓	65↓	90
17	Mikel Rico			90	45↓	73↓	90	90	90
19	Iker Muniain		1	75↓	90	45↑	45↑	88↓	0
23	Ager Aketxe			15↑	I	I	I	I	I
29	Unai Lopez							2↑	14↑
Forwards									
2	Gaizka Toquero				13↑				
20	Aritz Aduriz	1		77↓	90	45↓	I	25↑	12↑
21	Borja Viguera		1			0	17↑	90	3↑
22	Guillermo Fernández	1		13↑	0	90	90	I	78↓

[1] Midfield on matchday four; [2] Defender on matchdays one, three and five
Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 20 **GOALS SCORED** 5

GOAL ATTEMPTS 80 (23 on target) = 13.3 (3.8) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 18/18
(including three double substitutions, all at half-time)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	1	6	0	5	6	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 49%
Max. 61% v BATE (h)
Min. 42% v Shakhtar (a)

POSSESSION POSITION
19%
56%
25%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 401
Max. 553 v BATE (h)
Min. 347 v Porto (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 81%
Max. 85% v BATE (a)
Min. 78% v Porto (h), Shakhtar (a)

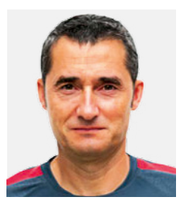
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 116,876 metres
Max. 120,133 v Shakhtar (h) | Min. 113,330 v Porto (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	57 (14% of total)
Medium	253 (63%)
Short	91 (23%)

TEAM SHAPE

COACH



Ernesto Valverde
Born: 09/02/1964, Viandar de la Vera (ESP)
Nationality: Spanish
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 18
Head coach since: 20/06/2013

FC BATE BORISOV

Belarus

		G	A	POR L 6-0	ATH W 2-1	SHK L 0-7	SHK L 5-0	POR L 0-3	ATH L 2-0
Goalkeepers									
16	Sergei Chernik			90	90	90	90	90	0
34	Artem Soroko			0	0	0	0	0	90
Defenders									
3	Vitali Gayduchik					45↑	90	90	0
14	Anri Khagush			90	90	90	45↓so	S	90
21	Egor Filipenko			90	90	I	I	I	90
22	Filip Mladenović			90	90	90	90	72↓	I
23	Edgar Olekhnovich[1]			62↓	1↑	0	45↑	90	90
33	Denis Polyakov	1		90	90	90	90	0	I
55	Nemanja Tubić			0	0	45↓		90	90
Midfielders									
2	Dmitri Likhtarovich			53↓	I	45↓			7↑
5	Evgeni Yablonski				90	90	59↓	90	77↓
7	Aleksandr Karnitski	1		28↑	86↓	90	90	67↓	90
8	Aleksandr Volodko			90	90		90	90	60↓
9	Ilya Aleksievich			90	0	45↑	0	18↑	0
17	Aleksandr Pavlov				0	0		0	I
25	Dmitri Baga			0		15↑	0	23↑	13↑
42	Maksim Volodko			0	81↓	90	31↑	90	90
77	Andriy Yakovlev			37↑	9↑	0	45↓	0	0
Forwards									
13	Nikolai Signevich		1	19↑	90	75↓	70↓	15↑	30↑
15	Vladislav Klimovich						0		
20	Vitali Rodionov			71↓	4↑	I	20↑	75↓	83↓
62	Mikhail Gordeychuk			90	90↓	90	90	90	90

[1]Midfield on matchday one

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 20 **GOALS SCORED** 2

GOAL ATTEMPTS 59 (15 on target) = 9.8 (2.5) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 18/18
(including one double substitution at half-time)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	3	3	7	4	1

Minutes

AVERAGES*

POSSESSION 38%
Max. 44% v Athletic (h)
Min. 33% v Porto (h)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 283
Max. 326 v Shakhtar (h)
Min. 226 v Porto (h)*

PASSING ACCURACY 77%
Max. 83% v Shakhtar (h)
Min. 65% v Athletic (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 121,238 metres
Max. 125,961 v Porto (h) | Min. 118,559 v Porto (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	37 (13% of total)
Medium	164 (58%)
Short	82 (29%)

*Excluding matchday four v Shakhtar (a) when playing 45 minutes with ten men.

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Aleksandr Ermakovich

Born: 21/01/1975, Luninets (BLR)

Nationality: Belarusian

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 13

Head coach since: 14/10/2013

SL BENFICA

Portugal

		G	A	ZEN L 0-2	LEV L 3-1	MON D 0-0	MON W 1-0	ZEN L 1-0	LEV D 0-0
Goalkeepers									
1	Artur			18↓so	S	90	0	0	90
12	Bruno Varela				0				
13	Paulo Lopes			70↑	I	0			0
20	Júlio César			I	90	I	90	90	
Defenders									
2	Lisandro López			0	0	76↓so	S		90
4	Luisão			90	90	90	90	90↓so	S
14	Maxi Pereira		1	90	45↑	90	90	90	
19	Eliseu			90	90	90	I	I	
23	Loris Benito						0	0	90
28	Sílvio			I	I	I	I	I	0
33	Jardel			90	90	I	90	90	0
34	André Almeida[1]			16↑	90	90	90	90	90
37	César					12↑	0	0	90
Midfielders									
7	Andreas Samaris			74↓	13↑	3↑	62↓	82↓	S
10	Nicolás Gaitán			90	90	78↓	90↓	90	
18	Eduardo Salvio		1	90	90	90	90	90	
21	Pizzi				0	0	0	0	90
24	Bryan Cristante			0	45↓		4↑	0	90
30	Talisca		1	20↓	45↓	68↓	90	70↓	28↑
35	Enzo Pérez			90	77↓	87↓	90	90	
97	João Teixeira								3↑
Forwards									
9	Derley		1	16↑	90	0	86↓	20↑	76↓
11	Lima			74↓	45↑	90	28↑	90	62↓
15	Ola John			0	0	I	I	8↑	90
16	Nélson Oliveira								14↑
32	Tiago			0		22↑	1↑		87↓
78	Gonçalo Guedes					0			0

[1]Midfield on matchdays two and three

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 24 **GOALS SCORED** 2

GOAL ATTEMPTS 68 (16 on target) = 11.3 (2.7) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 17/18
(including two double substitutions, one of which at half-time)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	0	2	0	6	7	1

Minutes

AVERAGES*

POSSESSION 51%
Max. 56% v Leverkusen (a)
Min. 49% v Leverkusen (h), Monaco (a)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 393
Max. 435 v Leverkusen (h)
Min. 307 v Monaco (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 79%
Max. 86% v Monaco (a), Zenit (h)
Min. 68% v Leverkusen (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,200 metres
Max. 119,394 v Leverkusen (h) | Min. 110,640 v Leverkusen (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	39 (10% of total)
Medium	251 (64%)
Short	103 (26%)

*Excluding matchday one v Zenit (h) when playing 72 minutes with ten men.

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Jorge Jesus

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

Nationality: Portuguese

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 37

Head coach since: 16/06/2009

PFC CSKA MOSKVA

Russia

		G	A	ROM L 5-1	BAY L 0-1	MC D 2-2	MC W 1-2	ROM D 1-1	BAY L 3-0
Goalkeepers									
1	Sergei Chepchugov			0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Igor Akinfeev			90	90	90	90	90	90
Defenders									
2	Mário Fernandes			90	90	90	90	90	90
4	Sergei Ignashevich			90	90	90	90	90	90
6	Aleksei Berezutski			0	90	45↓	0	I	I
14	Kirill Nababkin			45↓	0	0	0	0	90
24	Vasili Berezutski	1		90	90	90	90	90	90
42	Georgi Schennikov			45↑	90	90	90	90	
91	Nikita Chernov			0				0	0
Midfielders									
3	Pontus Wernbloom			S	S	S	90	I	90
7	Zoran Tošić			53↓	78↓	69↓		9↑	24↑
10	Alan Dzagoev			S	S	S	86↓	90	90
15	Dmitri Efremov			37↑	12↑	21↑	4↑	0	1↑
18	Ahmed Musa	1	1	90	90	90	90	81↓	90↓
19	Aleksandrs Cauņa				I	1↑	0	64↓	0
23	Georgi Milanov			90	90	90	24↑	26↑	8↑
25	Roman Eremenko		1	66↓	90	90	90	90	82↓
66	Bebras Natcho	1	2	90	66↓	90	90	90	66↓
Forwards									
8	Kirill Panchenko			24↑		I	I		
31	Vitinho			I	I	I		0	0
71	Konstantin Bazelyuk			0	0	0	0		
88	Seydou Doumbia	3		90	24↑	45↑↓	66↓	90	90

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 18 **GOALS SCORED** 6

GOAL ATTEMPTS 73 (21 on target) = 12.2 (3.5) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	0	1	0	0	1	2	1

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 15/18

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	2	1	6	6	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 37%
Max. 45% v Man City (h)
Min. 27% v Bayern (h)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 376
Max. 526 v Man City (h)
Min. 238 v Bayern (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 85%
Max. 90% v Man City (h)
Min. 73% v Bayern (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 113,810 metres
Max. 116,885 v Bayern (h) | Min. 108,102 v Roma (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	40 (11% of total)
Medium	228 (61%)
Short	108 (29%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%.

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Leonid Slutski
Born: 04/05/1971, Volgograd (RUS)
Nationality: Russian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 27
Head coach since: 26/10/2009

GALATASARAY AŞ

Turkey

		G	A	AND D 1-1	ARS L 4-1	DOR L 0-4	DOR L 4-1	AND L 2-0	ARS L 1-4
Goalkeepers									
1	Fernando Muslera			90	90	90	90	90	
38	Sinan Bolat			0	0	0	0	0	90
67	Eray İşcan								0
Defenders									
13	Alex Telles			79↓	90	62↓	0	90	90
21	Aurélien Chedjou		1	90	90	90	90	90	
22	Hakan Balta	1		0	0	0	90	I	90
26	Semih Kaya			90	90	90	90	90	90
40	Emre Can Çoskun							0	
77	Tarık Çamdal			11↑	0	90	90	90	45↓
88	Veysel Sarı			90	68↓			0	0
Midfielders									
3	Felipe Melo			90	90	90	90	90	90
4	Hamit Altıntop				45↑	61↓	82↓	90↓	45↑
6	Blerim Dzemaili			90	90	29↑	90	S	I
8	Selçuk İnan			72↓		90	90	83↓so	S
10	Wesley Sneijder	1	1	90	90	90	90	90	90
11	Bruma			33↑	22↑		0	75↓	77↓
20	Furkan Özçal							1↑	0
23	Yasin Öztekin					28↑	8↑	0	45↑
29	Olcan Adın			0	0		0	0	13↑
35	Yekta Kurtuluş			0	45↓	0	0		0
52	Emre Çolak					12↑			90
Forwards									
9	Umut Bulut			18↑	22↑	0	85↓	15↑	90
17	Burak Yılmaz	2		90	90	90	5↑	90	45↓
19	Goran Pandev			57↓	68↓	78↓			

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 22 **GOALS SCORED** 4

GOAL ATTEMPTS 88 (23 on target) = 14.7 (3.8) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 16/18
(including two double substitutions, one of which at half-time)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	3	1	6	6	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 52%
Max. 58% v Dortmund (h)
Min. 47% v Dortmund (a)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 477
Max. 589 v Arsenal (h)
Min. 415 v Dortmund (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 89%
Max. 92% v Anderlecht (a)
Min. 86% v Anderlecht (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 108,379 metres
Max. 111,209 v Arsenal (a) | Min. 103,167 v Anderlecht (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	51 (11% of total)
Medium	309 (65%)
Short	117 (25%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%.

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Cesare Prandelli
Born: 19/08/1957, Brescia (ITA)
Nationality: Italian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 23
Head coach from: 03/07/2014 to 28/11/2014

Replaced by Hamza Hamzaoğlu (Komotini, GRE, 15/01/1970) for matchday six

LIVERPOOL FC

England

		G	A	LUD W 2-1	BSL L 1-0	RM L 0-3	RM L 1-0	LUD D 2-2	BSL D 1-1
Goalkeepers									
1	Brad Jones			0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Simon Mignolet			90	90	90	90	90	90
Defenders									
2	Glen Johnson			I	I	90	0	90	90
3	José Enrique			0	90		I	I	45↓
4	Kolo Touré			0	0	0	90	90	
6	Dejan Lovren			90	90	90		0	90
17	Mamadou Sakho			90	I	I	I	I	0
18	Alberto Moreno		1	90	0	90	90	8↑	45↑
19	Javi Manquillo			90	90	0	90	90	
37	Martin Škrtel			I	90	90	90	90	90
Midfielders									
8	Steven Gerrard	2		90	90	90	21↑	90	90
10	Coutinho			68↓	70↓	68↓	15↑	0	16↑
14	Jordan Henderson	1		90	90	67↓	0	90	90
20	Adam Lallana			67↓	20↑	45↑	90	0	0
21	Lucas			22↑	0		69↓	90	74↓
23	Emre Can			S	I	23↑	75↓	0	0
24	Joe Allen			I	I	90	90	90	90
30	Suso			0			I	I	
31	Raheem Sterling		1	90	90	90	21↑	82↓	90
50	Lazar Marković			S	81↓	22↑	69↓		15↑so
Forwards									
9	Rickie Lambert	1		0	9↑	0		90	45↓
29	Fabio Borini			23↑	0		90	0	
45	Mario Balotelli	1		90	90	45↓	0	I	I

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 21 **GOALS SCORED** 5

GOAL ATTEMPTS 78 (26 on target) = 13 (4.3) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 14/18
(including two double substitutions, one of which at half-time)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	3	0	9	2	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 49%
Max. 58% v Basel (h), Ludogorets (h)
Min. 43% v Real Madrid (a)

POSSESSION POSITION
19%
52%
29%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 481
Max. 582 v Basel (h)
Min. 322 v Basel (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 88%
Max. 92% v Real Madrid (h)
Min. 84% v Basel (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 116,320 metres
Max. 120,840 v Real Madrid (h) | Min. 109,766 v Basel (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	48 (10% of total)
Medium	309 (64%)
Short	124 (26%)

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Brendan Rodgers
Born: 26/01/1973, Carnlough (NIR)
Nationality: Northern Irish
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 6
Head coach since: 01/06/2012

PFC LUDOGORETS 1945

Bulgaria

		G	A	LIV L 2-1	RM L 1-2	BSL W 1-0	BSL L 4-0	LIV D 2-2	RM L 4-0
Goalkeepers									
1	Emil Gospodinov			0					
21	Vladislav Stoyanov			S	90	90	90	90	90
26	Milan Borjan			90	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders									
5	Alexandre Barthe			I	I	I		0	
15	Aleksandar Aleksandrov			90	90	0	69↑	0	0
16	Brayan Angulo			0	0	0	90		I
25	Yordan Minev	1		90	90	90	S	90	90
27	Cosmin Moți		1	90	90	90	21↓	90	90
55	Georgi Terziev	1		I	I	90	90	90	90
80	Júnior Caiçara			90	90	90	90	90	90
Midfielders									
7	Mihail Alexandrov			90	82↓	81↓	90	72↓	61↓
8	Fábio Espinho			5↑	82↓	90	64↓	81↓	63↓
12	Anicet Abel			90	8↑	0	26↑	0	27↑
17	Dani Abalo	2		18↑	90	77↓	90	69↓	90
18	Svetoslav Dyakov		1	85↓	90	90	90	90	90
23	Hristo Zlatinski			0	0	I	0		0
84	Marcelinho	1	1	90	70↓	90	90	90	19↑so
88	Wanderson			0	20↑	9↑	0	18↑	29↑
Forwards									
9	Roman Bezjak			86↓	90	68↓	45↓	I	I
11	Júnior Quixadá							21↑	18↑
93	Virgil Misidjan			72↓	8↑	13↑	0	90	72↓
99	Younes Hamza		1	4↑	0	22↑	45↑	9↑	0

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 19 **GOALS SCORED** 5

GOAL ATTEMPTS 74 (27 on target) = 12.3 (4.5) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 18/18
(including one double substitution)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	0	1	0	9	7	0

Minutes

AVERAGES*

POSSESSION 49%
Max. 62% v Basel (h)
Min. 41% v Real Madrid (h)

POSSESSION POSITION
18%
52%
30%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 424
Max. 530 v Basel (h)
Min. 289 v Real Madrid (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 88%
Max. 92% v Basel (h)
Min. 81% v Liverpool (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 117,705 metres
Max. 120,848 v Liverpool (a) | Min. 114,224 v Liverpool (h)*

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	51 (12% of total)*
Medium	265 (63%)*
Short	108 (26%)*

Decimal points account for the extra 1%.
*Excluding matchday six v Real Madrid (a) when playing 71 minutes with ten men.

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Georgi Dermendjiev
Born: 04/01/1955, Plovdiv (BUL)
Nationality: Bulgarian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 9
Head coach since: 01/08/2014

MALMÖ FF

Sweden

		G	A	JUV L 2-0	OLY W 2-0	ATL L 5-0	ATL L 0-2	JUV L 0-2	OLY L 4-2
Goalkeepers									
25	Robin Olsen			90	90	90	90	90	90
27	Zlatan Azinovic			0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders									
2	Matias Concha						0	0	0
3	Anton Tinnerholm		1	90	90	90	90	85↓	90
4	Filip Helander			90	90	90	90	90	90
18	Johan Hammar			0	0	0		I	
20	Ricardinho			I	90	90↓	90	90	90
21	Erik Johansson			90	90	90	64↓	89↓so	S
32	Pa Konate			90	0	1↑	0	0	57↓
Midfielders									
6	Markus Halsti			90	90	90	90	90	90
7	Magnus Eriksson			81↓	75↓	87↓	90	90	75↓
8	Enock Adu			90	90	90	90	90	90↓so
11	Simon Thern			I	I	3↑	4↑	0	15↑
14	Simon Kroon	1		17↑	0	24↑	26↑		33↑
15	Pawel Cibicki		1	0	15↑	0		20↑	10↑
22	Amin Nazari			0					
31	Erdal Rakip			9↑	1↑		0	5↑	0
33	Emil Forsberg		1	90	90↓	66↓	86↓	90	90
Forwards									
9	Markus Rosenberg	3		53↓	90	90	90	90	90
24	Isaac Kiese Thelin			73↓	90	90	90	70↓	80↓
26	Agon Mehmeti			37↑	0	0	0	0	0

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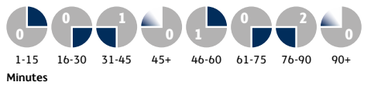
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

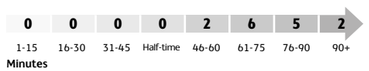
PLAYERS USED 17 **GOALS SCORED** 4

GOAL ATTEMPTS 67 (24 on target) = 11.2 (4) per match

TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTIONS 15/18



AVERAGES

POSSESSION 44%
Max. 55% v Atlético (h)
Min. 35% v Juventus (a)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 311
Max. 395 v Atlético (h)
Min. 173 v Juventus (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 84%
Max. 88% v Atlético (h)
Min. 78% v Juventus (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 112,166 metres
Max. 117,042 v Juventus (h) | Min. 104,571 v Olympiacos (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	52 (17% of total)
Medium	190 (61%)
Short	69 (22%)

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Åge Hareide
Born: 23/09/1953, Hareid (NOR)
Nationality: Norwegian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 27
Head coach since: 09/01/2014

NK MARIBOR

Slovenia

		G	A	SPO D 1-1	SCH D 1-1	CHL L 6-0	CHL D 1-1	SPO L 3-1	SCH L 0-1
Goalkeepers									
1	Aljaž Cotman			0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Jasmin Handanovic			90	90	90	90	90	90
Defenders									
4	Marko Šuler			I	90	90	0		0
7	Aleš Mejač[1]		1	0	90	90	I	90	0
24	Dejan Trajkovski						0		
26	Aleksander Rajčevič			90	90	90	90	90	90
28	Mitja Viler		1	90	90	57↓	90	0	90
30	Petar Stojanovič			90	I	90	90	90	76↓
36	Žiga Živko			0				0	
44	Arghus			90	0	0	90	90	90
Midfielders									
5	Željko Filipović			90	90	90	90	90	90
6	Welle Ndiaye			I	10↑	0	1↑	0	0
8	Sintayehu Sallalich			58↓	8↑	0	90↓	69↓	65↓
21	Amir Derviševič			0					
22	Dare Vršič			81↓	67↓	33↑	0	45↓	14↑
23	Dino Hotič				0				
39	Damjan Bohar	1		32↑	82↓	90	1↑	21↑	90
70	Aleš Mertelj			90	80↓	90	90	90	90
Forwards									
9	Tavares			84↓	90	72↓	90	90	90
10	Agim Ibraimi	1		90	90	68↓	90↓	45↑	83↓
11	Luka Zahovič	1		9↑	0	22↑	73↓	76↓	7↑
14	Jean-Philippe Mendy			6↑	23↑	18↑	17↑	14↑	25↑

[1] Midfield on matchday three

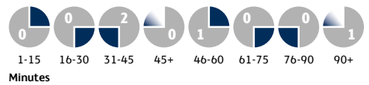
Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

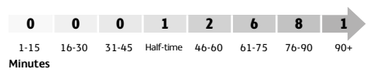
PLAYERS USED 17 **GOALS SCORED** 4 (one own goal)

GOAL ATTEMPTS 67 (20 on target) = 11.2 (3.3) per match

TIME SCORED



SUBSTITUTIONS 18/18



AVERAGES

POSSESSION 43%
Max. 49% v Sporting (a)
Min. 39% v Schalke (a)

POSSESSION POSITION

PASSES ATTEMPTED 352
Max. 451 v Chelsea (a)
Min. 265 v Sporting (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 86%
Max. 89% v Sporting (a)
Min. 80% v Sporting (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 114,614 metres
Max. 121,017 v Schalke (h) | Min. 108,965 v Sporting (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	40 (11% of total)
Medium	223 (63%)
Short	89 (25%)

Decimal points account for the missing 1%.

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Ante Šimundža
Born: 28/09/1971, Maribor (SVN)
Nationality: Slovenia
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 13
Head coach since: 30/09/2013

OLYMPIACOS FC

Greece

		G	A	ATL W 3-2	MAL L 2-0	JUV W 1-0	JUV L 3-2	ATL L 4-0	MAL W 4-2
Goalkeepers									
16	Roberto			90	90	90	90	90	90
42	Balázs Megyeri			0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders									
3	Alberto Botía	1	1	90	90	90	90	90	90
14	Omar Elabdellaoui			90	90	90	90	90	90
20	Kostas Giannoulis			6↑	0	1↑	I	I	I
22	Éric Abidal			90	90	90	90	90	90
23	Dimitris Siovas			I	I	I			1↑
24	Tassos Avlonitis			0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Arthur Masuaku	1		90	90	90	90	90	90
30	Leandro Salino				I		0	0	
Midfielders									
2	Giannis Maniatis		1	90	90	90	83↓	45↓	90
5	Luka Milivojević			90	90	90	90	90	I
6	Ibrahim Afellay	2	1	69↓	79↓	21↑	90	45↓	13↑
8	Delvin N'Dinga	1		21↑	57↓	90	77↓	90	90
9	Jimmy Durmaz			0	21↑	0	I	I	I
10	Alejandro Domínguez	1	1	57↓	33↑	85↓	72↓	72↓	90↓
11	Pajtim Kasami	1	3	84↓	69↓	90↓	13↑	45↑	90
18	Andreas Bouchalakis				0		0	18↑	0
19	David Fuster	1		33↑	I	5↑	18↑	45↑	77↓
Forwards									
7	Kostas Mitroglou	2	1	90	90	69↓	90	90	88↓
17	Dimitris Diamantakos			0	11↑	0	7↑	0	0
27	Jorge Benitez			I	I	I	I		2↑

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Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 19 **GOALS SCORED** 10

GOAL ATTEMPTS 71 (33 on target) = 11.8 (5.5) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	2	2	0	0	3	2	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 18/18
(including one double substitution at half-time)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	0	0	2	2	5	8	1

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 48%
Max. 62% v Malmö (a)
Min. 42% v Juventus (a)

POSSESSION POSITION
17%
52%
31%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 367
Max. 533 v Malmö (h)
Min. 275 v Juventus (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 88%
Max. 92% v Malmö (a)
Min. 83% v Juventus (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 108,706 metres
Max. 111,267 v Atlético (h) | Min. 104,394 v Juventus (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	46 (12% of total)
Medium	232 (63%)
Short	89 (24%)

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Miguel González 'Míchel'

Born: 23/03/1963, Madrid (ESP)

Nationality: Spanish

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 14

Head coach from: 01/02/2013 to 06/01/2015

AS ROMA

Italy

		G	A	CSKA W 5-1	MC D 1-1	BAY L 1-7	BAY L 2-0	CSKA D 1-1	MC L 0-2
Goalkeepers									
12	Gianluca Curci				0			I	0
26	Morgan De Sanctis			90	I	90	0	90	90
28	Łukasz Skorupski			0	90	0	90	0	I
Defenders									
2	Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa			14↑	90	90	90	I	90
3	Ashley Cole			0	90	45↓	45↑	0	
13	Maicon	1		90	89↓	I	I	I	78↓
23	Davide Astori			90	I	0	I	90	0
25	José Holebas				7↑	45↑	45↓	90	90
35	Vasilis Torosidis			90	1↑	90	90	I	I
44	Kostas Manolas			76↓	90	90	90	90	90
50	Michele Somma						0	0	
Midfielders									
4	Radja Nainggolan		2	90	90	90	90	83↓	90
6	Kevin Strootman			I	I	I	I	7↑	0
7	Juan Manuel Iturbe	1	2	26↓	18↑	90	74↓	13↑	23↑
15	Miralem Pjanić			90	90	79↓	32↑	3↑	90
16	Daniele De Rossi			S	I	90	90	90	0
20	Seydou Keita			90	90	I	90	90	90
24	Alessandro Florenzi[1]			64↑	83↓	45↑	58↓	90	12↑
Forwards									
8	Adem Ljajić			19↑	0	11↑	0	87↓	67↓
10	Francesco Totti	2		90	72↓	45↓	0	90	70↓
22	Mattia Destro			0	0	0	90	0	20↑
27	Gervinho	3	1	71↓	90	90	16↑	77↓	90

[1] Defender on matchday five

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 20 **GOALS SCORED** 8 (one own goal)

GOAL ATTEMPTS 62 (28 on target) = 10.3 (4.7) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
2	2	2	0	1	1	0	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 18/18
(including one double substitution at half-time)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	0	3	1	5	8	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 48%
Max. 64% v CSKA Moskva (h)
Min. 34% v Bayern (a)

POSSESSION POSITION
15%
54%
31%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 477
Max. 720 v CSKA Moskva (h)
Min. 279 v Bayern (a)

PASSING ACCURACY 90%
Max. 95% v CSKA Moskva (h)
Min. 77% v Bayern (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 106,826 metres
Max. 112,614 v CSKA Moskva (a) | Min. 100,951 v Bayern (h)

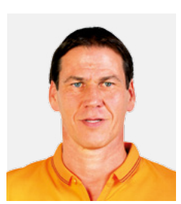
PASSES PER MATCH

Long	56 (12% of total)
Medium	289 (61%)
Short	132 (28%)

Decimal points account for the extra 1%.

TEAM SHAPE

COACH



Rudi Garcia

Born: 20/02/1964, Nemours (FRA)

Nationality: French

Matches in UEFA Champions League: 19

Head coach since: 12/06/2013

SPORTING CLUBE DE PORTUGAL

Portugal

		G	A	MRB D 1-1	CHL L 0-1	SCH L 4-3	SCH W 4-2	MRB W 3-1	CHL L 3-1
Goalkeepers									
1	Rui Patrício			90	90	90	90	90	90
22	Marcelo			0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders									
3	Maurício			90	64↓	33↓so	S	90	90
4	Jefferson	1	2	90	0		90	90	I
26	Paulo Oliveira			0	26↑	90	90	90	90
29	Naby Sarr	1		90	90	52↑	90	0	0
33	Jonathan Silva	1			90	90	0	0	90
41	Cédric		1	90	90	90	90	90	S
47	Ricardo Esgaio			0					90
81	André Geraldes								0
Midfielders									
8	André Martins			45↓	0	0	0	8↑	20↑
14	William Carvalho			90	90	90	90	90	61↓
17	João Mário		1	45↑	90	38↓	82↓	82↓	70↓
23	Adrien Silva	2		90	81↓	90	90	90	90
24	Oriol Rosell		1		0	0	8↑		0
Forwards									
9	Islam Slimani	2		90↓	90	25↓	90	75↓	90
10	Fredy Montero			1↑	9↑	65↑	0	15↑	29↑
11	Diego Capel			0	9↑	1↑	1↑	0	61↓
18	André Carrillo		1	66↓	81↓	89↓	22↑	24↑	90
36	Carlos Mané	1		24↑		0	68↓	66↓	29↑
77	Nani	4	2	90	90	90	89↓	90	I

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 19 **GOALS SCORED** 12

GOAL ATTEMPTS 104 (40 on target) = 17.3 (6.7) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	2	1	0	2	3	2	1

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 18/18
(including two double substitutions)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	1	1	0	8	6	1

Minutes

AVERAGES*

POSSESSION 49%
Max. 59% v Maribor (a)
Min. 44% v Chelsea (a)*

POSSESSION POSITION
25%
53%
23%
Decimal points account for the extra 1%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 413
Max. 464 v Maribor (a)
Min. 319 v Chelsea (h)*

PASSING ACCURACY 87%
Max. 90% v Chelsea (h), Schalke (a)
Min. 86% v Chelsea (a), Maribor (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 115,960 metres
Max. 118,809 v Chelsea (a) | Min. 112,181 v Chelsea (h)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	47 (11% of total)
Medium	251 (61%)
Short	115 (28%)

*Excluding matchday three v Schalke (a) when playing 57 minutes with ten men.

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

Marco Silva
Born: 12/07/1977, Lisbon (POR)
Nationality: Portuguese
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 6
Head coach since: 21/05/2014

FC ZENIT

Russia

		G	A	BEN W 0-2	MON D 0-0	LEV L 2-0	LEV L 1-2	BEN W 1-0	MON L 2-0
Goalkeepers									
1	Yuri Lodygin			90	90	90	90	90	90
16	Vyacheslav Malafeev			0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders									
2	Aleksandr Anyukov			45↑	88↓	90	90	90	0
4	Domenico Criscito			90	90	90	90	90	90
6	Nicolas Lombaerts			90	90	90	90	23↓	90
13	Luís Neto			0	0	0	0	67↑	0
19	Igor Smolnikov			45↓	24↑	0	I	0	79↓
24	Ezequiel Garay			90	90	90	90	90	90
Midfielders									
5	Aleksandr Ryazantsev		1	0			11↑	65↓	11↑
8	Pavel Mogilevets			14↑	0		0		
17	Oleg Shatov		1	90	66↓	28↑	87↓	25↑	22↑
20	Viktor Fayzulin			S	90	62↓	I	32↑	68↓
21	Javi García			90	90	90	90	58↓	90
28	Axel Witsel	1		90	I	82↓	90	90	90
35	Danny	1	1	90	90	90	79↓	90	90
44	Anatoliy Tymoshchuk			I	0	0	0	0	0
Forwards									
7	Hulk	1	1	85↓	90	90	90	90	90
10	Andrey Arshavin			5↑	2↑	0	3↑	0	0
11	Aleksandr Kerzhakov			0	15↑	8↑	79↓	I	I
23	José Rondón	1		76↓	75↓	90	11↑	90	90

Numbers in the squad list refer to minutes played; G = Goals; A = Assists; ↓ = taken off; ↑ = brought on; 0 = unused sub; I = injured/ill; S = suspended; so = sent off
Matches: blue = home; grey = away

STATISTICS

PLAYERS USED 18 **GOALS SCORED** 4

GOAL ATTEMPTS 65 (20 on target) = 10.8 (3.3) per match

TIME SCORED

1-15	16-30	31-45	45+	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0

Minutes

SUBSTITUTIONS 16/18
(including one double substitution)

1-15	16-30	31-45	Half-time	46-60	61-75	76-90	90+
0	1	0	1	1	5	8	0

Minutes

AVERAGES

POSSESSION 52%
Max. 56% v Benfica (a)
Min. 48% v Benfica (h)

POSSESSION POSITION
18%
54%
28%

PASSES ATTEMPTED 443
Max. 577 v Benfica (a)
Min. 348 v Benfica (h)

PASSING ACCURACY 84%
Max. 90% v Benfica (a)
Min. 74% v Leverkusen (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 112,832 metres
Max. 117,892 v Monaco (h) | Min. 108,725 v Leverkusen (a)

PASSES PER MATCH

Long	48 (11% of total)
Medium	280 (63%)
Short	115 (26%)

TEAM SHAPE

COACH

André Villas-Boas
Born: 17/10/1977, Porto (POR))
Nationality: Portuguese
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 17
Head coach since: 18/03/2014

Event report

"Floodlit evening games, the stadiums always full. It's why we wanted to become professional players, why we want to play football. That's why the UEFA Champions League is always special"

Toni Kroos

Best of the best

Woven into the fabric of each match, the UEFA Champions League brand is at the heart of football's greatest club competition

The best of the best on the ultimate stage – the brand essence of the UEFA Champions League focuses on a simple message, which is endorsed by the players themselves. "You are playing against great teams and great players," says Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba. "When you face great players, that's when you discover how good you are."

From the immediately identifiable starball and stadium motifs to the iconic anthem, the brand is woven into the fabric of each match. Its strength has helped the UEFA Champions League establish itself as football's premier club competition, promoting key values such as passion, inspiration and excellence. Being at a UEFA Champions League match, with the stadium decked out in competition livery, is a unique experience – as is playing on that ultimate stage.

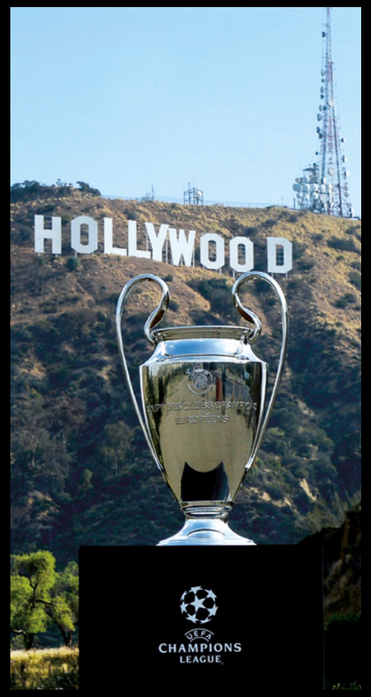
"It's always something special – floodlit evening games, the stadiums always full," Real Madrid CF midfielder Toni Kroos says. "As a player you look forward to matches like that. It's why we wanted to become professional players, why we want to play football. That's why the UEFA Champions League is always special."

The UEFA Champions League brand is complemented each season by the final brand. This concentrates on the city where the final is held, and begins to grow in prominence during the knockout rounds as the remaining teams set their sights on the final itself. In 2015, Berlin promoted the concept Champions Unite – the best of the best coming together on the ultimate stage to vie for the UEFA Champions League trophy.

Within the final design, the coveted trophy – a powerful symbol of excellence itself – now takes prominence, sharing centre stage with the host city. Berlin is emblematic of European unity, the Brandenburg Gate representing a unified Germany and Europe; on 6 June the Olympiastadion was the ultimate stage, uniting fans around the world to watch the most prestigious club fixture in world football.

Heart of the action

The UEFA Champions League's six official partners benefited from the competition's prestige, excellence and global reach, while bringing fans closer to the action



Heineken

Heineken kicked off its Champion the Match campaign at the start of the knockout stage, with former stars tweeting live analysis during games and engaging directly with supporters via Twitter videos. Building on the success of campaigns in recent seasons, Heineken focused on key matches each week, with the likes of Rio Ferdinand (in the Netherlands, below), Ruud van Nistelrooy (in Mexico) and Ruud Gullit (in Switzerland) sharing their insight from cities around the world. Champion the Match was also the theme of the UEFA Champions League Trophy Tour, presented by Heineken. The tour took place in the United States, with the trophy visiting New York (including the Empire State Building), Dallas and Los Angeles, accompanied by former winners Éric Abidal, Patrick Kluivert and Michel Salgado. Thousands of fans were photographed with the trophy and a lucky few also met their footballing heroes, who were on tour to share their own experiences of the competition. Heineken's campaign culminated in Ibiza on the night of the final, with former winner Roberto Carlos joining fans outdoors to watch the match on a giant screen, while tweeting his thoughts on the game to supporters around the world.

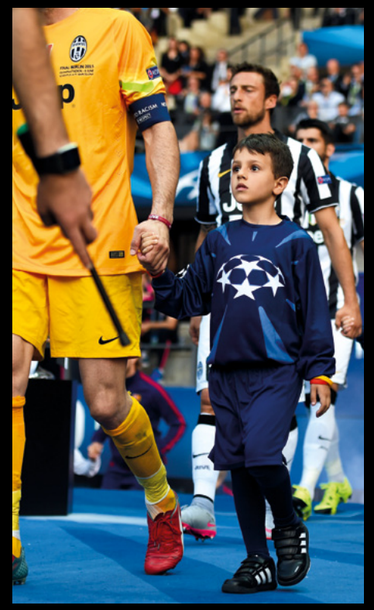
UniCredit

The UEFA Champions League helped bring the European bank closer to its clients, and the UEFA Champions League Trophy Tour, presented by UniCredit, was a particular success. The tour took in Bratislava, Vienna (right), Zagreb and Belgrade, with over 35,000 people visiting the UniCredit-branded exhibitions and having their photo taken with the trophy. A further 49 million were reached via UEFA's social media channels. Innovations for the 2014/15 campaign included new, colourful LED boards at Juventus matches to promote one of UniCredit's Italian banking products. In Germany, meanwhile, the Road to Berlin final campaign was used to promote the HypoVereinsbank brand. This included the launch of the HVB arena concept, where private screenings presented by popular hosts at key branches helped highlight its new, modern banking concept.

Nissan

New partner Nissan's UEFA Champions League Engineers of Excitement programme enlisted the help of ambassadors Andrés Iniesta, David Silva, Yaya Touré and Max Meyer to spread its message that innovation is the key to success. They featured in a series of broadcast sponsorship idents and television adverts as well as making personal appearances at events and promoting the campaign on social media.

Nissan also sponsored the popular goal of the week feature on UEFA.com. Fans voted for their favourite goal each matchweek with great prizes up for grabs, from match tickets to Nissan cars. Over 250,000 votes were registered in total. Nissan supplied cars for each venue during the season – a logistical challenge involving over 1,000 vehicles. The car manufacturer also brought a large fleet of electric vehicles to the final to transport guests around Berlin.



MasterCard

Priceless Surprises was MasterCard's main brand activation themed around the UEFA Champions League. In the Turkish market, for example, an orchestra flash mob staged an impromptu rendition of the UEFA Champions League anthem in an Istanbul shopping centre. MasterCard also joined forces with broadcasters and other UEFA Champions League partners, working with adidas on their pan-European Road to Berlin e-commerce card promotion, which offered MasterCard holders 20% off when using their card at the adidas online store. On its Priceless Surprises microsite, meanwhile, quiz prizes included UEFA Champions League final tickets. MasterCard's final activities centred on its My Final app. Fans in Berlin deciphered a series of clues to find a golden ball, among other prizes. At the UEFA Champions Festival, MasterCard's Sharing Box allowed fans to 'score for their team', while guests at the final were given a MasterCard that doubled as their match ticket and pass to the Champions Village. MasterCard also continued their ever-popular player escort programme, giving thousands of children the opportunity to take to the pitch with the stars of the UEFA Champions League.

Gazprom

The global nature of Gazprom's partnership with the UEFA Champions League, coupled with promotions directly engaging supporters, ensured brand awareness increased still further. Gazprom's main promotion, Ticketmania, offered tickets to quiz winners at www.gazprom-football.com, while its on-site sole and exclusive promotion – Fan of the Match – involved interviewing fans about their love for their clubs in Gazprom booths at stadiums, before encouraging them to get their friends to vote for their video. Final tickets were up for grabs for the overall winner. The Gazprom Football Club presented various activities to further engage with fans and keep them entertained. Rock, Paper, Scissors allowed registered users to take on FC Zenit and Chelsea FC players and even Franz Beckenbauer (below left) at the popular game. Tickets were again available as prizes, plus the chance to compete in fan matches the day after UEFA Champions League games. Gazprom also ran its Football for Friendship project, with 670 children from 24 countries across the world taking part under the slogan: "Earth is a ball. Football drives the planet." The latter stages were held on the morning of the final at the UEFA Champions Festival (below) for the first time.

PlayStation

Continuing its strong partnership with the UEFA Champions League, PlayStation became the number one brand in the majority of markets with its PS4 console. The PS4 was promoted across all platforms, with visibility assured on site via digital media and in Champions Matchday magazine. PlayStation also teamed up with Nissan for a joint promotion that featured Gran Turismo gaming pods in various Champions Clubs, while PlayStation's Top Five game formed an integral part of the UEFA Champions League Fantasy Football app and was promoted digitally on UEFA.com and social media. Ahead of the final, the PlayStation Experience offered visitors to the UEFA Champions Festival an array of incentivised activities. Fans were able to play PES 2015 or test themselves at table football to win tickets to the showpiece. Finally, PlayStation Plus subscribers got to experience the very latest in virtual reality entertainment with Project Morpheus. PlayStation further added to the festival buzz by inviting German DJ Robin Schulz to play in front of a crowd of thousands.

Starring role

adidas and HTC were crucial players in their position as official suppliers to the UEFA Champions League

adidas strengthens ties

adidas's iconic Finale ball designs are integral to the UEFA Champions League's allure. First introduced in 2001, the starball motif is as closely associated with the competition as the UEFA Champions League anthem. Two unique starballs grace the pitches each season – one for the group stage and another for the knockout matches in the lead-up to the final. The brightly coloured Finale Berlin, launched for the round of 16, ensured the high standard was maintained for 2014/15. adidas's presence at matches was further highlighted by the official match ball carrier, who handed the match ball to the referee before every game.

For those watching at home, adidas's YouTube programme Gamedayplus, which aired each Monday before UEFA Champions League matches, brought fans closer to the stars. Seventeen episodes were broadcast in 2014/15, including interviews and features with the likes of Lionel Messi, Gareth Bale and Manuel Neuer, fascinating insight into the latest adidas innovations, and opportunities to win exclusive prizes.

In the build-up to the final, adidas delivered its new UEFA Champions League Trophy Home Tour in the host city, with an innovative activation allowing three lucky customers the chance to have the trophy at their home for a day in the company of some top players. The trophy was also displayed at the German preliminaries of the UEFA Young Champions tournament, at the local final – which was held at adidas's new street football hub, aimed at young players – and at the company's flagship Berlin store.

The UEFA Champions League final was the stage for the launch of adidas's biggest and most revolutionary football campaign to date, with the company's well-established footwear range replaced with two brand new designs, X and Ace. These were introduced on the pitch at the Olympiastadion decider.

HTC signs off in style

In its final season as a UEFA Champions League supplier partner, HTC built on its momentum from the previous two campaigns. Photography remained a key focus, with many fans getting up close and personal to the match action via the HTC Fan Photographer experience. This was an opportunity for a supporter to become an 'official photographer' at the side of the pitch during player warm-ups and the team lineups for UEFA Champions League matches.

By offering a unique experience to fans, HTC was able to collaborate with official broadcasters in certain markets to amplify the promotion.

In March, HTC launched its new smartphone, the HTC One M9. This is the third flagship device from the One series and was intrinsic to HTC's campaign leading up to the final. Once on site in Berlin, HTC's UEFA Champions Festival activation used 60 of these devices to create an amazing 360° photo for visitors.

Licensing

The UEFA Champions League licensing programme expanded into new areas during 2014/15, offering new high-quality official licensed products as well as established favourites carrying the competition's popular brand. Its success has provided a great platform to develop and expand the programme during the 2015–18 cycle and promote the competition through many engaging events and initiatives.

adidas came on board in 2014/15, producing a UEFA Champions League-branded male grooming range, which helped extend the brand further in retail. Other developments included the launch of a new concept store – The UEFA Champions League Experience (below, top) – in Abu Dhabi prior to the final. As well as a retail space, the store houses a museum and restaurants where customers can watch UEFA Champions League matches live.

Konami and PlayStation continued their relationship by hosting the PES Virtual UEFA Champions League tournament at the Champions Festival in Berlin. The two eventual finalists were given the incredible opportunity to play each other pitchside at the Olympiastadion (bottom) in the run-up to the final.

Trophy replica products were again very popular with the public and sponsors, as were other key products such as the official sticker album and branded football tables, which also featured at the Champions Festival.

Berlin puts on a show

Fans gather outside the Olympiastadion (above) and at the Brandenburg Gate (right)

The German capital rose to the occasion as it hosted the final for the first time

"I'm so happy to be here," enthused Nicolò De Marchi, a Juventus fan with a difference. One of the tens of thousands of supporters to descend on Berlin for European football's showpiece, the 22-year-old had shown unique dedication to make it to the festivities, arriving in the German capital on foot after walking and cycling 1,000km from Turin. "Once I got to Berlin," he smiled, "the pain disappeared."

While few could match De Marchi for perseverance, his fellow fans of both teams were no less determined to add their own colour to the occasion, as Berlin welcomed supporters from across the globe. FC Barcelona may have been contesting their fourth decider in ten years, but the thrill of attending a UEFA Champions League final never wanes, and the Catalan club's faithful were out in force around the city's landmarks, enjoying soaring temperatures that reminded them of home.

Five art installations spread around the capital added to the sense of anticipation, with each one commemorating a legendary moment from the competition's past – as voted for by fans themselves in the months leading up to the tournament's climax. As the 60th edition of the final approached, history was very much in the air and, at a special event on the eve of the final, the UEFA President, Michel Platini, presented a framed plaque containing the original handwritten draft notes for the competition to all 22 clubs to have lifted the trophy.

Thoughts turned to the future as well, and UEFA donated a new maxi-pitch to Berlin at the Am Koppenplatz primary school, ensuring a lasting grassroots legacy for the city long after the Olympiastadion decider. "We hope that the children who start playing football here will one day sign up at a club," said Willi Hink, football development director at the German Football Association (DFB), during a ceremony also attended by UEFA ambassador Cafu. "Maybe a future star will start here on this pitch."

Star names were certainly not thin on the ground in the week of the final, and many of them paraded their skills at the UEFA Champions Festival, a four-day celebration of the game held at Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate. An estimated 320,000 visitors attended the festival to see the likes of Zinédine Zidane and Michael Ballack up close, and sample the packed programme of events and entertainment – but, once Saturday evening came, there was only one place to be.

Originally built for the 1936 Olympic Games and reminiscent of arenas in ancient Greece, the Olympiastadion offered a spectacular venue for the match everyone had been waiting for. It was the eighth time Germany had hosted the final but a first for Berlin, and supporters steadily gathered in the shadows of the 'Marathontor' (Marathon Gate) and 'Glockenturm' (Bell Tower) as the clock ticked down to kick-off. They then set the tone for a thrilling final with two stunning fan mosaics, the Barcelona contingent spelling out the team's 'Més que un club' (More than a Club) motto while their Juve counterparts formed two hands reaching out for the trophy.

The silverware ultimately eluded their heroes, but Juve's supporters contributed fully to a magnificent atmosphere inside the ground, raising the volume levels when Álvaro Morata brought the sides level in the second half. Luis Suárez and Neymar ensured that Barça would prevail on the day, but the respect between the two finalists was palpable and had only increased by the time the final whistle was blown, with both teams forming a guard of honour as their rivals walked up to collect medals. As walks went, it was nothing compared to De Marchi's epic trek across the continent, but everyone – players and fans alike – left Berlin changed by an unforgettable experience.

Party time

The iconic setting, legendary players and Old Big Ears itself pulled in the crowds in the build-up to the final

When the club crests of FC Barcelona and Juventus beamed in the Berlin night sky from the top of the Brandenburg Gate, it was impossible not to be swept up in the excitement ahead of the UEFA Champions League final. Just one highlight from the UEFA Champions Festival at the city's world-famous landmark, that memorable moment showed once again why the festival has become such an integral accompaniment to the showpiece itself.

Running from 4 to 7 June, and boasting more entertainment, music and footballing activities than ever, the ninth edition of the Champions Festival kicked off with the arrival of the trophy on the Thursday before the Olympiastadion decider, with two-time UEFA Champions League winner Christian Karembeu helping to officially open the event.

An estimated 320,000 visitors streamed into the venue over the four days of festivities, taking advantage of splendid weather to immerse themselves in the atmosphere, have their photo taken with the UEFA Champions League trophy or see some of the biggest names in the game up close.

As ever, the Ultimate Champions match on the festival mini-pitch proved the biggest draw on the eve of the final, but former stars were also fully involved in various competition sponsor activations, with Karembeu taking on international freestyler David Grubl in a penalty shoot-out, former Germany captain Michael Ballack offering young players advice as part of a skills clinic, and France legend Zinédine Zidane showing off his undiminished talent at the adidas hub.

It was by no means just the legends who got to parade their abilities either. As part of UEFA's football and social responsibility programme, blind footballers, amputee players and representatives from Special Olympics also staged matches in front of enthusiastic crowds. "It was a great experience," said Mateusz Widłak of the European Amputee Football Federation. "The atmosphere is special and it's a great advertisement for our sport."

The entertainment came thick and fast away from the pitch as well, with some of the best DJs, bands and artists from Berlin, Germany and beyond performing on the Champions Festival stage, including Robin Schulz, Tyla Durden and The New Roses, AKA, the Blue Man Group and the Flying Steps Dance Academy. An hour-long Facebook Live TV show also took place on the stage on the morning of the final, when Juventus great David Trezeguet made a guest appearance. Meanwhile, cinema enthusiasts were treated to the inaugural Champions Festival open-air film night, where the film Champions was the main attraction – yet another highlight from a wonderful celebration of the UEFA Champions League.

Past masters

The Ultimate Champions match has become the annual high point of the Champions Festival and this year was no exception, with the stands packed as a World All-Stars team coached by Peter Schmeichel and Ruud Gullit took on Zico's Juve & Barça Legends. Some of the greatest players in UEFA Champions League history were involved, as past winners such as Clarence Seedorf, Edwin van der Sar and Fabrizio Ravanelli rolled back the years to the delight of the crowd. The game produced some other great stories as well: adidas Young Champion Paxton Pomykal looked far from out of place among the Legends after winning his place in the side, while Tom Kinstler – winner of UEFA.com's #UltimateChampion competition – flew in all the way from Johannesburg, South Africa, and was barely able to contain his emotions after appearing alongside his Juve heroes.

Entertainment at the UEFA Champions Festival included the Ultimate Champions match (top), live music and interviews on the main stage and the chance to have your photo taken with the trophy itself; action on the mini-pitch included matches involving amputee, blind and Special Olympics teams

Picture perfect

A huge media presence swelled the ranks of people working at the Olympiastadion to deliver a faultless final

As fans flocked to Berlin for the final, so did the media in huge numbers. There were 1,625 broadcast personnel on site, with rights holders having access to 130 TV and radio commentary positions – with a further 34 non-rights holders also covering the game for television and radio. In addition, 550 accredited written press representatives attended the match, as well as 200 photographers, photo editors and technicians. A small army of people, meanwhile, was involved in making sure the game passed without a hitch. UEFA, local organising committee and German Football Association staff totalled 480, and the numbers swelled still further thanks to the 420 volunteers and 170 drivers, the latter ferrying workers between the stadium, the festival and hotels.

Photographers swarm around the celebrating Barça players

Centre stage

The eyes of the world turned their gaze on Berlin as fans played their part in the final like never before. Here we take our pick of the key facts and figures that confirmed the UEFA Champions League's status as the world's most watched annual sporting event.

UEFA.COM

104m SEASON VISITS TO THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WEBSITE

2m VISITORS ON FINAL DAY

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FACEBOOK

500,000,000+

season engagements
(likes, comments or shares)

45.6m page likes

30%+ Page growth during the season

TOP MATCHNIGHT POST

Reach **15.7m**

Engagements
630,000+
1.6m+ clicks

FINAL DAY FACTS

Reach
60.5m+

People engaged
9.5m+

THE FINAL ON FACEBOOK

28m people drove 76m interactions

MOST TALKED ABOUT PLAYER

NEYMAR

Top moment: the Brazilian scores Barça's third goal in added time

Top six countries buzzing about the match

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TWITTER

8.6m followers of @ChampionsLeague (51% growth during season)

Top post (800,000 impressions)

108m impressions during final week

Instagram

500,000 people followed the final on the official competition account

THE FINAL ON TWITTER

#UCLfinal

1.9m+ mentions of the official UEFA hashtag

TOP MOMENTS

1. @neymarjr scores
2. @FCBarcelona win #UCLfinal
3. @AlvaroMorata equalises

UEFA CHAMPIONS FESTIVAL

300,000 visitors

15,000 fan photos taken with the UEFA Champions League trophy

17m Facebook Live pre-final show reach

Final ambassador Karl-Heinz Riedle parades the trophy during the opening ceremony

Top billing

UEFA's broadcast partners descended on Berlin to provide optimum coverage of the final to viewers in every market

The beIN France studio is decked out with the finest silverware

The sheer size of the broadcast operation at the Olympiastadion final was staggering. Nearly 1,700 broadcast personnel were on site – up 125 on the 2014 final in Lisbon – from 76 broadcast partners covering 109 countries around the world. Twenty-three of those broadcasters had their own unilateral on-site productions, sending customised programming from pitch level to their viewers back home, including Japan's Sky Perfect and 2BE – from Belgium – for the first time.

In all, 125 broadcast partners are affiliated with the UEFA Champions League. Forty-seven come from outside Europe and that interest – from Australia to Venezuela – is a clear reflection of the insatiable global appetite for world football's premier club competition. Mexico is a prime example, and the efforts made in promoting coverage there once again paid off in exceptional viewing figures. Live coverage of the final on the free-to-air channels was watched by 3.3 million on TV Azteca and 2.4 million on Canal2. Fox Mexico hosted a successful public screening of the final, while ESPN Mexico extensively advertised their final coverage through a series of nationwide promotions including branded buses and electronic billboards.

In Italy, Mediaset and Heineken worked together during the season to produce a programme involving players answering questions from fans as part of Heineken's Champion the Match campaign. Viewers were requested to send in videos of themselves asking football-related questions, three of which were selected each matchnight, projected onto a Heineken-branded environment and answered by a player.

The initiative was a positive example of the drive to bring fans closer to the UEFA Champions League. beIN France, meanwhile, made use of three of the best possible props – the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Super Cup trophies – to decorate their TV studio for their Club du Dimanche programme.

Europe

Albania	SuperSport, TV Klan
Armenia	Armenia TV
Austria	PULS 4, Sky Austria
Azerbaijan	AZ TV
Belarus	Belarus TV
Belgium	2BE, Belgacom, RTL
Bosnia & Herzegovina	BHRT, OBN TV, Telekom Serbia
Bulgaria	bTV Media Group
Croatia	HRT, Telekom Croatia
Cyprus	CYTA, Sigma TV
Czech Republic	Czech TV, Prima COOL
Denmark	Viasat
Estonia	Viasat
Finland	MTV3, YLE
France	beIN Sports, Canal+
FYR Macedonia	MKRTV, Telekom Macedonia
Georgia	Georgian Public Broadcaster, Global Media Group (GMG), Rustavi 2
Germany	Sky Deutschland, ZDF
Greece	ERT, NovaSports
Hungary	DIGI Sport, Sport1 Hungary
Iceland	365 Media
Ireland	RTE, Setanta Sports, TV3
Israel	The Sports Channel
Italy	Mediaset, Sky Italia
Kazakhstan	KTK
Latvia	Viasat
Lithuania	Viasat
Malta	GO, PBS
Moldova	Prime TV
Montenegro	RTCG, Telekom Serbia
Netherlands	NOS, Sport1
Norway	Viasat
Poland	ITI
Portugal	Sport TV, TVI Portugal
Romania	DIGI Sport, Dolce Sport, TVR
Russia	NTV, NTV Plus
Serbia	RTS, Telekom Serbia
Slovakia	Slovak TV
Slovenia	SportKlub, Telekom Slovenia
Spain	Canal+, TVE, TV3
Sweden	Viasat
Switzerland	SRG, Teleclub
Turkey	Dogan Group
United Kingdom	BSkyB, ITV
Ukraine	1+1 Ukraine, Media Group Ukraine
Pan-European	Eurosport

Outside Europe

Australia	ESPN, SBS
Bolivia	Unitel Bolivia
Brazil	ESPN Brazil, Esporte Interativo, TV Globo
Canada	Sportsnet
China	CCTV, QQ, Sina
Costa Rica	Repretel
Ecuador	Canal UNO TV
El Salvador	Canal 4
Guatemala	Radio Television Guatemala
Honduras	Televicentro
Hong Kong	i-Cable
Indian subcontinent	Ten Sports
Indonesia	SCTV
Japan	Sky Perfect TV
Kyrgyzstan/Ukbekistan Tajikistan/Turkmenistan	StanSport
Latin America	ESPN, Fox Sports, OTI
Macau	TDM
Malaysia/Brunei	Astro
Mexico	Televisa, TV Azteca
Middle East	beIN Sports
Mongolia	Channel 1
Myanmar	S Media
Nicaragua	Ratensa
Panama	TVN Panama
Paraguay	Paravision
Peru	ATV Peru
Philippines	Balls
Singapore	SingTel
South Africa	eTV
South Korea	SPO TV
Sub-Saharan Africa	Canal+ Afrique, Star Times, SuperSport
Suriname	STVS
Taiwan	ELTA TV
Thailand/Laos/Cambodia	True Visions
USA	Fox Sports
Venezuela	Meridiano TV
Vietnam	VSTV, VTV

World view

With an estimated global average audience of 180 million across 200 countries, the Berlin final rivalled records set in Lisbon in 2014

200+
countries aired the final

Brazil 17m

More people than ever watched the UEFA Champions League final in Brazil, with TV Globo posting a record average audience of 17 million for their live coverage, fittingly culminating in local hero Neymar firing in FC Barcelona's third.

Spain 8.5m

In Spain, 8.5 million people watched FC Barcelona's final victory across La1, TV3 and Canal + Liga de Campeones. Along with Barça's semi-final victory against FC Bayern München, the final was one of the two most watched UEFA Champions League broadcasts on TV3 since 2012/13.

400m
Estimated global unique viewer reach

Netherlands ↑12%

The final attracted an average 2.4 million viewers on NPO3 – an audience share of 39.7%. This represented an increase of 12% on the 2014 final in Lisbon.

Germany ↑29%

German fans may not have had a team of their own to cheer on in Berlin, but the match was still a massive draw, with more viewers tuning in for this final than any other not involving a German side. With 10.1 million viewers, the figures were up 29% up the 2014 final and drew a 38.1% share across ZDF and Sky. And they did get to see a German, Marc-André ter Stegen, lift the trophy.

Europe 47.1m

The final generated a cumulative audience of 47.1m in the top six markets – France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. This represented 26% of the projected global audience and was up 6% on 2014.

Italy 14m

With 14 million viewers, Berlin was the most watched final in Italy since 2010, when FC Internazionale Milano won the UEFA Champions League in Madrid. The match also attracted 25% more viewers than the Coppa Italia final between Juventus and SS Lazio, which had aired on Rai 1 on 20 May. The final two matchnights of the season also drew the highest free-to-air audiences in Italy since AC Milan defeated Liverpool FC in the 2007 final.

180m
Estimated global average audience for the final

Maximum exposure

Embracing new technology has kept UEFA Champions League broadcasting ahead of the game

UEFA continues to be at the forefront of broadcasting innovation, and while the Berlin final brought a hugely successful three-year broadcaster rights cycle to a close, it also provided an opportunity to showcase the next-generation services that UEFA Champions League broadcasters will receive during the 2015/16 campaign.

Changing viewing habits present both challenges and opportunities, and UEFA is meeting the evolving landscape head-on with a range of services that were comprehensively piloted across the 2014/15 season. The offerings for the new cycle were also presented at a special Olympiastadion showroom, where UEFA broadcast partners were given a chance to see how fans will be able to access even more of the television content produced on and off-venue across all platforms.

UEFA's investment in 4K production continues as well, and the Berlin match became the first UEFA Champions League final to be broadcast live in 4K. Twelve 4K cameras were installed to capture the action in stunning 3840x2160 resolution, and UEFA TV Production specifically brought in 4K director Knut Fleischmann to oversee the most comprehensive final coverage ever.

While the TV landscape may be shifting, the nearly 80-year-old Olympiastadion posed a unique challenge for host broadcaster ZDF. TV match director Andreas Lauterbach managed a complex production plan that included 40 cameras around the venue, ranging from a helicam and aerial spidercam system to mini-cameras in the goal and goal-line cameras fixed on catwalks high above the stadium.

Working within a national monument and listed building, UEFA likewise elected to install a series of non-invasive temporary TV structures, including a 96m-long cable bridge to hold over 600m of TV cabling. With no stand directly behind the left goal, ZDF took the additional decision to use a large crane camera to provide a unique viewpoint of the match. However, despite the challenges, the 23 visiting broadcasters and nearly 1,700 broadcast personnel were provided with 130 TV and radio commentary positions, 17 pitchside presentation positions, 16 flash interview positions, eight studios with panoramic pitch views from the Marathon Gate, and three indoor studios to ensure cutting-edge coverage.

Throughout the season, broadcasters were also supplied with even more additional programming than before. Promotional trailers, club and city profiles, matchnight profiles, 32 magazine shows and dedicated footage for the final were all made available. In addition, a one-off video – 60 Years of the UEFA Champions League – provided a fitting end to the season and cycle.

As the dramatic final reached its climax, back in Nyon the UEFA quality control team were once again on hand at the match command centre to review every minute of the action, as they had been doing all season, ensuring a quality of broadcast and additional programming that befitted the exciting, changing landscape of UEFA Champions League coverage.

Social scene

With rapid growth across the board, UEFA's social media campaigns hit the target in 2014/15

The 2015 UEFA Champions League final underlined the fixture's status as the world's most watched sporting event, and some equally remarkable figures ensured it was also the most successful occasion in UEFA social media history. In June 2014 UEFA developed its new social media strategy for the UEFA Champions League with one of its objectives being for it to become the most followed competition in the world. After a thrilling UEFA Champions League final in Berlin, the numbers indicated that target had been hit.

Social media coverage of the final captured the imagination of fans worldwide. Instagram tours of the Olympiastadion and the one-hour live pre-final Facebook show from the UEFA Champions Festival – featuring David Trezeguet live and interviews with Lionel Messi, Xavi Hernández, Zinédine Zidane and Gianluigi Buffon among others – reached 17 million people. The Brandenburg Gate was also lit up in the colours of both finalists after Juventus and FC Barcelona fans rose to the challenge of 5,000 retweets per team set by @ChampionsLeague Twitter. Some 28 million people had 76m Facebook interactions about the final, while there were almost 2m mentions on Twitter of the competition's official hashtag: #UCLfinal. Having enjoyed growth in excess of 30% during the season, the UEFA Champions League Facebook page was firmly on course to be the first league or association page to reach 50 million followers.

Those impressive statistics were the culmination of a productive year-long campaign in which the UEFA Champions League Facebook page swelled from 31.6 million to 45.8 million fans and the Twitter account almost doubled in size, from 4.8 million to 8.7 million followers. Rapid growth was spurred by a focus on shareable behind-the-scenes images, videos, archive footage, facts and statistics, and exclusive content offering supporters a truly unique experience. The YouTube and Google+ accounts were merged and rebranded as UEFA.tv, providing an exciting new hub for videos that made the most of UEFA Legacy's footage in a topical and engaging way. By the end of the season there were more than 123,000 subscribers.

The implementation of bespoke infographics added an essential shareable element to timely and engaging posts. This boosted reach and also benefited competition sponsors, whose logos reached almost 30 million people on Facebook via one graphic alone during the semi-final draw.

A focus on exclusive behind-the-scenes content has spurred growth

UEFA Champions League partners gained from the creative freedom of social media. A UEFA social team member was present for the Heineken trophy tour in the United States, for example, delivering exclusive behind-the-scenes content and running interviews with ambassadors in a series of tour stops that reached over 43 million fans on Facebook and attracted thousands on the ground.

Meanwhile, the creation of exclusive campaigns, such as UEFA.com users' Team of the Year and Legendary Moments, enabled the social media channels to become a starting point for conversation and allowed fans' voices to be heard. Clubs shared this content, encouraging their own supporters to participate, and an initiative that brought employees of the last 16 clubs to UEFA headquarters in Nyon for a social media workshop proved particularly fruitful in this regard.

Clubs have since publicly interacted with each other and used the UEFA Champions League account handles and hashtags where possible, while also making players available to UEFA for exclusive social media Q&A sessions. David Luiz, Thibaut Courtois and Gerard Piqué were among the big names to take fans' questions in activations that proved very popular. New audiences were reached in spontaneous interactions with players such as Gareth Bale and celebrities such as One Direction band members throughout the season, while over 150 followers with 1 million-plus followers of their own kept track of events via @ChampionsLeague Twitter.

The hugely increased follower counts are testimony to the impact that a refocused social media strategy had on reach and engagement. The creativity of the social and graphic teams increased audience participation, with the UEFA Champions League Facebook page alone enjoying more than half a billion engagements (likes, shares or comments) over the course of the season. The challenge now is to go one step further in 2015/16.

Facebook

Barcelona's guard of honour at the final became the first post on the UEFA Champions League Facebook page to receive more than 1m likes.

23m People reached

1.3m Likes

32k Shares

Twitter

The Barcelona emblem lit up the Brandenburg Gate after fans responded to a challenge set by the UEFA Champions League Twitter account.

7.1k Retweets

3.1k Favourites

Instagram

Brazilian legend Zico's successful pre-match prediction proved a massive hit with followers of the UEFA Champions League Instagram account.

29k Likes

Legendary moments

From Manchester United's stirring comeback in 1999 to Real Madrid winning 'La Décima', fans voted on their favourite UEFA Champions League moments

While the action unfolded in 2014/15, UEFA tapped into the UEFA Champions League's rich history to grow the tournament brand via the Legendary Moments campaign. A digital-led initiative, Legendary Moments proved a huge success as it set out to engage a global audience, inspire new fans and leave a positive legacy.

Launched to coincide with the knockout stage and running all the way up until the final in Berlin, supporters were encouraged to vote in a global poll to decide the top five legendary moments in European Cup history, with an initial list of 60 iconic events selected from the competition's first six decades.

The poll resulted in more than 712,000 site visits to UEFA.com and over 2.8m page views, with more than 163,000 unique voters registering an average of 1.75 votes each. The campaign was also heavily promoted on the UEFA Champions League Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, while clubs including FC Barcelona, Chelsea FC and Paris Saint-Germain urged their fans to take part.

Ole Gunnar Solskjær celebrates his winning goal, which was recreated as an art installation in Berlin (opposite)

The five most popular moments proved to be Manchester United FC's comeback (1999), Zinédine Zidane's volley (2002), Liverpool FC's fightback (2005), Didier Drogba's parting gift (2012) and Real Madrid CF completing 'La Décima' (2014) – all of which were commemorated in short films on UEFA.com featuring interviews with the protagonists and current stars.

Towards the end of April, a high-profile city tour was then organised in Berlin to unveil art installations capturing each of the top five moments, in the presence of former German international Arne Friedrich and tennis ace Sabine Lisicki. This received extensive coverage in the press and generated media value of close to €1.3m.

Television presenter Palina Rojinski and Arne Friedrich parade the trophy during the city tour

Branded Nissan vehicles displaying the Legendary Moments and UEFA Champions League logos, and playing the competition anthem, also spread the message in Berlin, where a Legendary Moments trophy photo experience at the Champions Festival heightened the experience and helped further build UEFA's fan database. Lastly, a few lucky supporters got to play in the Fan Match the day after the final – the final act of a highly successful promotion.

Frankfurt back on top

Frankfurt captain Kerstin Garefrekes lifts the UEFA Women's Champions League trophy

The German side collected a record fourth title in a dramatic final in Berlin

Deep into added time, substitute Mandy Islacker pounced on a loose ball in the area and flicked it brilliantly on the half-volley with the outside of her left foot to score the goal that earned 1. FFC Frankfurt a dramatic 2-1 victory against Paris Saint-Germain and the UEFA Women's Champions League crown.

It was Frankfurt's fourth European title, and the game at the Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark in Berlin had turned their way when Célia Šašić headed in her competition-equalling 14th goal of the season in the 32nd minute. Paris were contesting their first final, but having knocked out holders VfL Wolfsburg in the semi-finals, had already served notice of their strength. They drew level five minutes before the break when Marie-Laure Delie got on the end of Kenza Dali's cross to power in a header at the far post.

Frankfurt were on top in a tight second half watched by 18,300 spectators, and victory came in the second minute of added time when Islacker struck. German sides have now won nine of the 14 UEFA women's club titles, with Frankfurt the most successful team following triumphs in 2002 – the first edition of the UEFA Women's Cup – 2006 and 2008.

BOQUETE SHOWS THE WAY

UEFA ambassador for women's football Verónica Boquete was leading by example as she helped push Frankfurt to victory in the UEFA Women's Champions League final. The Spanish international was appointed to the role in February through the UEFA Women's Football Development Programme, and works alongside Camille Abily, Laura Georges – the Paris defender who appeared as a second-half substitute in Berlin – and Lotta Schelin to offer guidance and inspiration to women players across Europe.

After losing to a late goal in the 2014 final with Tyresö FF in Lisbon, lifting the European title for the first time was extra special for forward Boquete. "It means the world," she said. "I've been fighting so long to win this trophy, and after last year's loss with Tyresö, this was more special. You always have to come back and keep trying and dreaming big."

It is the perfect advice from the ambassador who earlier in the year had visited Croatia to impart her wisdom to players at a UEFA international development tournament for Under-16 girls. "The majority of us – including us ambassadors – didn't know it was possible to become a professional player when we were young," said Boquete. "It's a fantastic project because it's an opportunity to motivate younger girls by showing them what's possible." What better way to do that than by winning a European final?

Making the grade

A thrilling second season supported the decision to make this development competition a regular fixture

"It's a great experience," said Izzy Brown in summing up Chelsea FC's victorious UEFA Youth League campaign. The Chelsea captain had scored twice in the 3-2 final win against FC Shakhtar Donetsk and was one of many players across the continent to applaud a competition that, following a two-year trial period, has become a permanent fixture in the UEFA calendar.

It is not hard to see why. Brown was among a group of Chelsea UEFA Youth League players who stepped up to the senior squad in 2014/15. Two of them, Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Dominic Solanke – the UEFA Youth League's 12-goal leading marksman – even made UEFA Champions League debuts.

Chelsea may have lifted the Lennart Johannson trophy, but they are not alone in seeing the benefits of participation in this European Under-19 competition. "It certainly gave us a lot, being able to measure ourselves against other players of our age, from different nations, different football cultures," said AS Roma defender Arturo Calabresi, whose side lost out to Chelsea in the semi-finals. "We're working to get to the top of our profession, and getting this far is something we and the whole club should be proud of."

Throughout Europe the story is the same. In just two seasons, 31 teenagers have graduated from UEFA Youth League to UEFA Champions League, fulfilling one of the competition's goals of helping bridge the gap between youth and senior football. Players are learning what it takes to reach the top off the pitch as well, with 76% of UEFA Youth League teams travelling with the seniors during the group stage.

"It's an important experience, those hectic weeks playing Wednesdays then Saturdays," said FC Basel 1893 striker Breel Embolo, a UEFA Champions League debutant in 2014/15 having sparkled in the UEFA Youth League 12 months before. "It was great to fly with the first team, get to know them better, get a few tips from them. There was a lot of communication. They were always asking how we were doing."

Cooperating with youth academies around Europe also offers UEFA an excellent opportunity to impart key educational messages to the youngsters – early lessons that will aid them as their careers progress. In 2014/15 classes were given to squads on match-fixing prevention, the Laws of the Game – with UEFA's chief refereeing officer, Pierluigi Collina – and anti-doping, among other topics.

For the players, the greatest memories will be of the matches themselves. None of the RSC Anderlecht squad will forget their run to the semis given they twice played in front of record crowds. A new competition record 13,162 attendance at the Constant Vanden Stock Stadium in Brussels witnessed Anderlecht's quarter-final victory against FC Porto, highlighting how the UEFA Youth League has captured the imagination of fans keen to see the next generation come through the ranks.

That passion was fully evident during the semi-finals and final at the Colovray Sports Centre on UEFA's campus in Nyon, Switzerland. Some 10,800 spectators watched the three games over two sun-drenched days in April – the community in Canton Vaud getting behind the sides, and local children enjoying the chance to see such talented prospects on their doorstep.

Key to the success of final week was the high standard of football, and from 2015/16 more clubs will have the opportunity to take part. For its first two seasons, the UEFA Youth League was open to the U19 teams of the 32 clubs involved in the UEFA Champions League; from 2015/16 that number will double to 64 to incorporate domestic youth champions too. After a UEFA Youth League campaign of drama, quality and excitement, the expanded format will provide plenty more of the same.

Anderlecht take on Shakhtar in the semi-finals

Izzy Brown celebrates scoring in the UEFA Youth League final

Return to Milan

The Stadio Giuseppe Meazza will stage the final for a fourth time

The Stadio Giuseppe Meazza is steeped in European Cup history. It was here in 1965 that Jair scored the solitary goal that allowed holders FC Internazionale Milano to reclaim the trophy on home soil; in 1970 Ove Kindvall's extra-time strike took the trophy to the Netherlands for the first time as Feyenoord defeated Celtic FC 2-1; and in 2001 Oliver Kahn's shoot-out heroics ensured FC Bayern München edged Valencia CF in a cagey final.

The 'Scala del Calcio' – so called after the famous Milan opera – has been the focus of city's footballing drama since it opened in 1926. It underwent significant renovations in 1955, when the second tier was completed, and ahead of the 1990 FIFA World Cup to create the magnificent 80,000-capacity arena that Inter and AC Milan compete in today. Its towering stands, curling stairways in each corner and translucent roof are synonymous with cutting-edge Milanese design, and it will have another facelift before the 2016 UEFA Champions League final, the ninth to be held in Italy, further modernising the iconic venue.

Formerly known as the San Siro after the district where it is located, the stadium was renamed in 1980 in honour of Italy's 1934 and 1938 World Cup winner who played for both Milanese teams. Between them, the Rossoneri (seven) and Nerazzurri (three) have won the European Cup ten times, a feat for one city matched only by Madrid. Inter and Real Madrid CF (in 1957) are the only two sides to have lifted Old Big Ears on home turf.

2015

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
PLAY-OFFS	**GROUP STAGE**			
FIRST LEG 18th / 19th SECOND LEG 25th / 26th GROUP STAGE DRAW 27th	MATCHDAY ONE 15th / 16th MATCHDAY TWO 29th / 30th	MATCHDAY THREE 20th / 21st	MATCHDAY FOUR 3rd / 4th MATCHDAY FIVE 24th / 25th	MATCHDAY SIX 8th / 9th ROUND OF 16 DRAW 14th

2016

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
ROUND OF 16		**QUARTER-FINALS**	**SEMI-FINALS/FINAL**
FIRST LEG 16th / 17th FIRST LEG 23rd / 24th	SECOND LEG 8th / 9th SECOND LEG 15th / 16th QUARTER-FINAL DRAW 18th	FIRST LEG 5th / 6th SECOND LEG 12th / 13th SEMI-FINAL DRAW 15th SEMI-FINALS FIRST LEG 26th / 27th	SECOND LEG 3rd / 4th FINAL 28th

Roll of honour

2015 FC Barcelona
2014 Real Madrid CF
2013 FC Bayern München
2012 Chelsea FC
2011 FC Barcelona
2010 FC Internazionale Milano
2009 FC Barcelona
2008 Manchester United FC
2007 AC Milan
2006 FC Barcelona
2005 Liverpool FC
2004 FC Porto
2003 AC Milan
2002 Real Madrid CF
2001 FC Bayern München
2000 Real Madrid CF
1999 Manchester United FC
1998 Real Madrid CF
1997 Borussia Dortmund
1996 Juventus
1995 AFC Ajax
1994 AC Milan
1993 Olympique de Marseille
1992 FC Barcelona
1991 FK Crvena zvezda
1990 AC Milan
1989 AC Milan
1988 PSV Eindhoven
1987 FC Porto
1986 FC Steaua Bucureşti
1985 Juventus
1984 Liverpool FC
1983 Hamburger SV
1982 Aston Villa FC
1981 Liverpool FC
1980 Nottingham Forest FC
1979 Nottingham Forest FC
1978 Liverpool FC
1977 Liverpool FC
1976 FC Bayern München
1975 FC Bayern München
1974 FC Bayern München
1973 AFC Ajax
1972 AFC Ajax
1971 AFC Ajax
1970 Feyenoord
1969 AC Milan
1968 Manchester United FC
1967 Celtic FC
1966 Real Madrid CF
1965 FC Internazionale Milano
1964 FC Internazionale Milano
1963 AC Milan
1962 SL Benfica
1961 SL Benfica
1960 Real Madrid CF
1959 Real Madrid CF
1958 Real Madrid CF
1957 Real Madrid CF
1956 Real Madrid CF

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