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INTRODUCTION

ANALYSIS, REFLECTION AND DEBATE

UEFA’s Technical Observers Group met in Cardiff to discuss the main trends and talking points from the 2016/17 UEFA Champions League season. This Technical Report sets out to provide a permanent record of the 125 matches played in the group stage and the knockout rounds of the 2016/17 UEFA Champions League season and to present factual and statistical information in a reader-friendly format. The report, given the evident limitation of not being able to enter into great detail about individual matches, aims to provide an overview based on the presentation and interpretation of facts and figures, backed by input from the team of UEFA technical observers who attended the matches played during the knockout stages of the competition, culminating with the Final in Cardiff. UEFA’s technical director Ioan Lupescu captained a team of observers comprising Ryan Giggs (Wales), Ginés Meléndez (Spain), Mixu Paatelainen (Finland), Peter Rudbæk (Denmark), Willi Ruttensteiner (Austria), Thomas Schaaf (Germany) and Gareth Southgate (England). At the Final in Cardiff they were joined by Sir Alex Ferguson (Scotland), Fabio Capello (Italy), Mircea Lucescu (Romania) and Roy Hodgson (England). The objective of the Technical Report is to supply analysis, reflections and debating points that, it is hoped, might contribute useful material to the continued professional development of more than 200,000 coaches who currently hold a UEFA licence. By highlighting tendencies and trends at the peak of professional club football, the aim is to provide a meaningful tool to coaches who are active in the development levels of the game, in the form of information that may be helpful when working on the qualities needed by the players and coaches who will play roles in shaping the UEFA Champions League of the future.

THE CONTENDERS
COMPETITION OVERVIEW

It took time for Real Madrid and Juventus to hit top gear, but once they did there was no looking back.

UEFA’s coaching ambassador Sir Alex Ferguson is regularly asked, when he addresses his colleagues at UEFA Coach Education events, to name the qualities required by today’s top technicians. After listing them, his bottom line is invariably: “Don’t forget, everyone needs a bit of luck along the way.”

Eight years have passed since Sir Alex, in an interview for UEFA’s coaching publication, The Technician, said of the UEFA Champions League: “The speed of transitional play is definitely quicker now. In addition, coaching qualities have improved and, through sports science and technology, you are able to examine your opponents more thoroughly. This has had an impact on tactical operations.”

With this aspect of the game maintaining its momentum and several clubs meeting regularly in the UEFA Champions League, accidents, incidents or key moments often shape the competition.
Although the group stage was respectful with the form book, even the heavyweights had their groggy moments. After 89 minutes of their title defence, Real Madrid were 1-0 down to Sporting CP at the Estadio Santiago Bernabéu – only for Cristiano Ronaldo and Álvaro Morata (90+4) to reverse a scoreline that might have given Group F a different complexion. Zinédine Zidane's side then let a 2-0 advantage slip against Legia in Warsaw and needed another late goal to salvage a 3-3 draw. Borussia Dortmund hit Madrid with 87th and 88th-minute goals to grab a brace of 2-2 draws and take top spot in a group where, with Thomas Tuchel's side running up a record 8-4 win against Legia, 51 goals were scored.

Other groups were contested with lesser degrees of flamboyance – notably Group H, which yielded 23 goals, two goalless draws and four 1-0 results. Juventus won all three away games, among them a 5-1 win in Seville coloured by the 34th-minute dismissal of Franco Vázquez when Jorge Sampaoli's side were 1-0 ahead. Despite the setback, Sevilla ground out a 0-0 draw in Lyon on matchday six to clinch second place and eliminate the French side, who paid a high price for profligate finishing.

In a Group G that also produced two goalless draws, debutants Leicester City, going four games without conceding, clinched qualification with a game to spare and, with Claudio Ranieri making eight changes for the visit to Porto, were hammered 5-0, meaning Nuno Espírito Santo’s team nudged out København.

Group B went closest to the wire, although Napoli looked to be comfortably on track with six points from two games. But Maurizio Sarri’s side, fighting back from 0-1 and 1-2, missing a penalty in the process, conceded a late goal to lose 3-2 at home to Brøndby. The Istanbul club’s only victory, allied with four draws, sent them to Kiev on matchday six needing a win. But, down to ten after 29 minutes and nine after 56, they were beaten 6-0 by Dynamo to allow Benfica to sneak past the cut with a modest total of eight points.

By contrast, Groups A and C enjoyed a relatively tranquil final matchday. But, in the former, Ludogorets provided a twist in the tail with a 2-2 draw at Paris Saint-Germain to edge themselves into the UEFA Europa League ahead of Basel and consign Unai Emery’s team to second place – Arsenal’s 4-1 win at Basel thrusting them into top place. Barcelona, launching their campaign with a 7-0 demolition of Celtic, had a blip during the second half at Manchester City but won the other five, scoring 20 times in the process. The victory for Pep Guardiola over his former club was one of only two for City – both of them at home. Debutants Rostov opened with a heavy 5-0 defeat in Munich but, to the credit of Ivan Daniliants’ side, suffered only two further defeats to finish third in Group D, ahead of PSV Eindhoven. The top two, Bayern München and Atlético Madrid, traded punches with the former’s 3-2 defeat in Rostov consigning Carlo Ancelotti’s team to second place. In a low-scoring Group E – a quarter of the goals were recorded on the last matchday – Tottenham Hotspur’s entertainment of visitors at Wembley Stadium provided insufficient home comfort, seeing Monaco and Bayer Leverkusen qualify with a game to spare. When the curtain came down on the group stage, 278 goals had been, unusually, evenly shared between the first and second halves of games – and a field of 32 starters from 17 national associations had been whittled down to 16 from six.
COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The round was also rich in comebacks of a less heroic nature. Real Madrid recovered from being 1-0 down in both legs to defeat Napoli twice by a 3-1 margin. Despite an early lead, Manchester City needed to come back from 1-2 and 2-3 at home to Monaco (who also missed a penalty) to win 5-3. However, lapses when defending set plays proved decisive as Leonardo Jardim’s side recorded a 3-1 second-leg victory. Dortmund, opting for a defensive line of three and wing-backs, also needed a minor comeback to get the better of Benfica who, even though Tuchel’s team carved out more chances, won 1-0 in Lisbon. In Germany, however, one-way traffic led to a conclusive 4-0 victory.

The foundations for another conclusive victory were laid when Atlético Madrid’s counterattacking potential was a key weapon during a 4-2 away win against Leverkusen. To their credit – and despite the upheaval of Tayfun Korkut replacing Roger Schmidt on the bench between the two matches – the German team built dangerously through the central area during the return leg and switched play ready to the wings to stretch Atlético’s defending and goalkeeping skills to the limit. But they could do no more than earn a 0-0 draw.

ROUND OF 16

Whereas the group stage affords greater scope for damage to be repaired, the knockout rounds show less mercy. A poor match, a poor half, a poor spell of play can be enough to extinguish burning ambitions. But not always. At the Parc des Princes, Unai Emery might have won design awards for his tactics as Paris Saint-Germain produced a strong performance against Barcelona in terms of aggressive pressing, defending, counterattacking and, above all, hunger. Interchanging, the midfield trio of Adrien Rabiot, Marco Verratti and Blaise Matuidi excelled in ball-winning, giving speed to attacks, counterattacking and, generally, controlling the game. Barcelona had 57% of possession but had few complaints about a 1-0 defeat. At the Camp Nou, Luis Enrique switched to three at the back and threw everything at PSG in what was practically a 1-3-5-4 formation with high pressing and varied attacking via short and long passes, which succeeded in creating scenes of chaos in the PSG box. Barça took a three-goal lead, but when Ederson Casain made it 3-1 after 62 minutes, logic suggested the game was over – especially when the scoreboard showed 87 minutes and the same scoreline. But, with Gerard Piqué up as target man, PSG suffered a mental blackout. During the closing minutes, they made seven passes – three of them to No. 9 Edinson Cavani – and despite the upheaval of Tayfun Korkut replacing Roger Schmidt on the bench between the two matches – the German team built dangerously through the central area during the return leg and switched play ready to the wings to stretch Atlético’s defending and goalkeeping skills to the limit. But they could do no more than earn a 0-0 draw.

Sergi Roberto’s close-range finish five minutes into added time sealed the most remarkable comeback in UEFA Champions League history.

In the meantime, Leicester City wrote another piece of club history. Forced on to the back foot in Seville, they were nevertheless thrown a lifeline by a late goal from Jamie Vardy that limited damage to a 2-1 defeat. With Craig Shakespeare replacing Ranieri between the two matches, they then capitalised on compact 1-4-5-1 defending and rapid transitions to overturn the deficit – a free-kick and a cross from the right producing the only two goals of a game when goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel proved decisive. As he had done in the first leg, he saved an 85th-minute penalty in Leicester that could have extended the tie into extra-time.

The other two ties were more profoundly influenced by ‘accidents and incidents’. Porto were reduced to ten only after 27 minutes of their home leg against Juventus, obliging Nuno to adopt a damage-limitation 1-4-5-1 formation – only to be beaten by two second-half goals. After 40 minutes of the return in Turin, Maxi Pereira was red-carded, allowing Juve to go further ahead from the penalty spot in a tie where Porto played only one-third 11 v 11. Arsenal, despite ending the first half at 1-1 against Bayern in Munich, managed only a single goal attempt in the second half, compared with 14 by Carlo Ancelotti’s side. Four of them hit the net. In London, Arsène Wenger’s team were 1-0 ahead when centre-back Laurent Koscielny was dismissed. With hopes of raising a phoenix from the ashes dowsed, Arsenal conceded five – the first of ten goals for Ancelotti’s side. This was the most impressive performance against an opponent they had been 1-0 down to. 

Arsenal’s unexpected loss and the German team’s performance at the Parc des Princes triggered the public’s burning ambition for damage to be repaired. But not always. At the Parc des Princes, Unai Emery might have won design awards for his tactics as Paris Saint-Germain produced a strong performance against Barcelona in terms of aggressive pressing, defending, counterattacking and, above all, hunger. Interchanging, the midfield trio of Adrien Rabiot, Marco Verratti and Blaise Matuidi excelled in ball-winning, giving speed to attacks, counterattacking and, generally, controlling the game. Barcelona had 57% of possession but had few complaints about a 1-0 defeat. At the Camp Nou, Luis Enrique switched to three at the back and threw everything at PSG in what was practically a 1-3-5-4 formation with high pressing and varied attacking via short and long passes, which succeeded in creating scenes of chaos in the PSG box. Barça took a three-goal lead, but when Ederson Casain made it 3-1 after 62 minutes, logic suggested the game was over – especially when the scoreboard showed 87 minutes and the same scoreline. But, with Gerard Piqué up as target man, PSG suffered a mental blackout. During the closing minutes, they made seven passes – three of them to No. 9 Edinson Cavani – and despite the upheaval of Tayfun Korkut replacing Roger Schmidt on the bench between the two matches – the German team built dangerously through the central area during the return leg and switched play ready to the wings to stretch Atlético’s defending and goalkeeping skills to the limit. But they could do no more than earn a 0-0 draw.
With the draw keeping teams from the same country apart, the quarter-finals kicked off with Juventus entertaining Barcelona in a rematch of the 2015 final. A blend of dynamic attacking—especially through the wide areas—and aggressive defending allowed Massimiliano Allegri’s team to take a two-goal advantage in the first half of the home leg, while Barça were re-running the below-par performance level that had spelt disaster in Paris. A brighter start to the second half was truncated when Giorgio Chiellini headed home a corner and, switching to a 1-3-4-3 formation for the final minutes, Juve closed down a 3-0 scoreline. This time there was to be no miracle at the Camp Nou. For periods, Luis Enrique’s team had the visitors penned into their defensive third. But the Juventus game plan was based on a well-organised, compact defensive unit, offering very little space between the lines for Barça’s flair players. The quality of the visitors’ individual and collective defending earned a goalless draw and a semi-final place.

The other Spanish clubs enjoyed better luck. Playing a compact 1-4-4-2 that metamorphosed into 1-4-2-3-1 defending, Leicester City relied on direct counterattacking via direct supply to Jamie Vardy at the Estadio Vicente Calderón. But Atlético could muster just four attempts on target (the visitors had none) and their only success came from the penalty spot. A header by Saúl Ñíguez gave Diego Simeone’s side a vital away goal early in the return and, although Shakespeare’s two half-time substitutions changed the complexion of the game—and laid the foundations for an equaliser—they fell two goals short of victory.

For the first time since they reached the final in 2004, Monaco were through to the last four.
SEMI-FINALS

MADRID RIVALS MEET AGAIN

Memories of the 2014 and 2016 finals justified forecasts of a tense, closely fought derby when the two Madrid clubs were again paired in the draw. But Real, starting with a 1-4-4-2 structure and only reverting to 1-4-3-3 when Isco was substituted midway through the second half, produced a rampant performance, dominating in all departments with a mix of patient construction and direct attacking supported by two exuberant full-backs. Although favoured by rebounds, Zidane’s team were not flattered by a two-goal advantage, with an 86th-minute textbook defence-to-attack transition completing a Cristiano Ronaldo hat-trick.

The return – the last UEFA Champions League match to be played at the Estadio Vicente Calderón – burst into life when a corner and a penalty allowed Atlético to pull two goals back within 16 minutes. An amazing piece of individual magic by Karim Benzema, however, enabled Isco to dampen Atlético’s optimism just before half-time. The French striker somehow invented a route past three defenders on the byline and cut the ball back to Toni Kroos. Jan Oblak repelled his point-blank finish, only for Isco to screw the ball into the net from close range. The goal required three replies from Atlético and, although they manfully pursued the target, Real had the better of a second half that extended their title defence into the final.

JUVE KEEP MONACO AT BAY

The other semi-final gave Juventus another opportunity to exhibit the defensive choreography that had sent them past Porto and Barcelona without conceding a goal. In Monaco, their proficiency at high ball-winning and direct counterattacking earned them a 2-0 advantage, with Paulo Dybala exuberantly linking middle-to-front moves and Dani Alves providing two inspirational assists for striker Gonzalo Higuaín. Alves was again the detonator in Turin, crossing for Mario Mandžukić to slide in with his left foot and then writing his own name on the scoresheet after a corner on the left. The same corner flag signalled the origin of Monaco’s reply in the second half, with a tussle of the byline allowing Kylian Mbappé, one of the young revelations of the competition, to obligé Gianluigi Buffon – 21 years his senior – to pick the ball out of his net for the first time since he had done so in Seville on 22 November. Buffon’s unbeaten run of 600 minutes provided a starting block for Juve’s run to their second final in three seasons and, in Cardiff as in Berlin, Spanish opponents awaited them.
A masterpiece of a goal gave Juventus hope, but Real Madrid’s belief, artistry and power ensured they became the first team to retain the UEFA Champions League title.
After Real Madrid’s 4–1 win over city rivals Atlético in 2014, Roy Hodgson had remarked “There’s always a temptation to start at the final result and work your way back from there.” The former England manager could easily have pressed the ‘replay’ button as he and the other UEFA technical observers made their way out of the National Stadium in Cardiff. The same scoreline and the same winner might have tempted onlookers to talk about one-way traffic. But the scoreboard, as it had done three years earlier in Lisbon, displayed a distorted image. As Hodgson said in Cardiff: “The final gave us an hour of wonderfully competitive football – and then, suddenly, it was all over.”

When the technical team reassembled on the following morning, Sir Alex Ferguson was the first to express a general view that they had been witnesses to “the best final in quite a while”. He added: “The pace of the game was incredible and unreleenting.”

As the teams lined up for the first final to be played under a closed roof, the 65,842 spectators might have been forgiven for wondering if the football would equal the spectacular pre-match pageantry. But doubts were erased as soon as German referee Felix Brych signalled the start of play.

Teamsheets had failed to raise eyebrows. Zinedine Zidane’s purple-shirted team featured Ronaldo, Gareth Bale, Isco at the cutting edge of a midfield diamond, with N’Golo Kanté and Casemiro anchoring the base and profiled by the presence of Luka Modrić. Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini returned in a 1–4–2–3–1 structure. With Miralem Pjanić and Sami Khedira in the midfield, Massimiliano Allegri’s selection offered an outward appearance of 1–3–5–2. But, as the action resumed after the interval, was ticking its way into the 17th minute before Brazil’s Marcelo, “for long periods,” Hodgson said, “gave us an hour of wonderfully competitive football – and then, suddenly, it was all over.”

Roy Hodgson

“You grabbed the initiative and they created a list of problems for Dani Carvajal with Alex Sandro and Mario Mandžukić combining well along the left. At the same time, I feel that Real Madrid maybe showed them too much respect.”

Despite their continual positional interchanging, Madrid’s two front-runners were starved of supply. But, ironically, the first effective combination on the right flank produced a game-changing moment. Cristiano Ronaldo, dropping deep to receive, fed a pass into the path of the onrushing Carvajal, whose cut-back, hit first time by Ronaldo, brushed Bonucci and beat Gianluigi Buffon at his far post. The question was whether the against-the-tide goal would drive a needle into the Juventus balloon.

The question was answered, within seven minutes, by one of the most spectacular goals ever to grace a UEFA Champions League Final. The technical masterpiece was sketched when Bonucci hit a long lofted pass wide to the left. A brilliantly cushioned first-touch volley by абсолюта Higuaín, who then flicked it towards Mandžukić. The big Croatian launched himself into the air, spinning, to chest the ball on the bounce. The result, as soon as the action resumed after the interval, was a dramatic change of scenery, even though the statistical parameters of a 56% ball-share favourable to Madrid remained constant. Zidane’s team held a higher line, allowing favourable to Madrid remained constant. Zidane’s team held a higher line, allowing

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progress into a winning position with no more than a right-handed punch that barely disturbed the air. Had he been in a boxing ring, it would have been a short jab just above the belt. Alligi, maybe feeling that deflections and carelessness had hit his team below the belt, introduced Juan Cuadrado in a wide right position, dropping Alves into a more classic right-back role. Claudio Marchisio then replaced the flagging Pirlo in midfield and, finally, Mario Lemina came on for the dispirited Dybala as Juventus sought a reply. Any hopes of a response, however, were snuffed out when Cuadrado, following contact with Ramos out on the touchline, was red-carded after a contribution limited to 18 minutes and four passes. Allegri manfully saw out the remaining minutes in 1-4-2-3 formation.

With his side totally in control and dictating the pace of the game, Zidane introduced Gareth Bale but, by withdrawing Benzema, without disturbing the winning structure. The young forward took the ball from Isco at the cutting edge of the midfield diamond and, with the clock ticking down, the coach granted Kroos a standing ovation from the crowd by sending on Alvaro Morata as a third attacker. With the Madrid supporters giving full voice to their victory chants, the knife was twisted in Juventus wounds when a Ronaldo free-kick, cannoning off the wall, spun out to the left. Marcelo, catching on to it and dribbling along the byline, cut the ball back for substitute Asensio to score his team’s 32nd goal of the 13-match campaign and seal a conclusive 4-1 scoreline that underscored Juve’s inability to sustain the tempo during a second half when they were overrun.

“Two of the very best teams played one of the best finals,” said Peter Rudbæk. “It was also interesting that, at this high level, three of the goals came from cut-backs – two of them by the full-backs.” “The higher line in the second half proved decisive,” said Paatelainen. “Madrid played some wonderful football. And when you give them half the pitch and let them play, there can only be one winner.”

“The second half was an exhibition of their passing, vision and control,” said Hodgson. “And when you’ve got Ronaldo in the vicinity there can only be one winner.”

The result was a lengthy period of sustained pressure, with purple shirts flooding the technical areas, mostly with hands in pockets. Zidane had celebrated Madrid’s 1-0 lead with power and conviction, clipped Khedira’s pass through to Benzema with orange gloves and boots – to the limit but beyond the reach of Buffon’s field of vision. The Juventus keeper, unable to sustain the tempo during a second half when they were overrun, had propelled them to the first successful finals,” said Peter Rudbæk. “It was also instructive that, at this high level, three of the goals came from cut-backs – two of them by the full-backs.” “The higher line in the second half proved decisive,” said Paatelainen. “Madrid played some wonderful football. And when you give them half the pitch and let them play, there can only be one winner.”

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As the trophy was lifted in Cardiff, Zinédine Zidane went into the annals of the UEFA Champions League as the first coach to successfully defend the title and the first to achieve back-to-back victories in his first two seasons in charge since his Real Madrid ‘ancestor’ José Villalonga had strung together two European Champion Clubs’ Cup victories six decades previously. The Frenchman, however, is neither addicted to record books nor a believer in dwelling on the past. While the streamers were still lying on the pitch at the National Stadium, he had no compunction about putting his thoughts into fast forward. “Next year is going to be even harder and we’re going to have to work very, very hard to win it again.” As an afterthought, he did concede that, in Cardiff, “we showed we’re a very good team”, and admitted that victory had made him want to dance.

The rest was all about his squad. “I’m very happy and grateful to this great club for giving me an opportunity to coach these fantastic players. The key to success is that everyone has felt important during the season. Everyone has made a contribution and consider myself as just part of a team.” The calm, balanced attitude, reminiscent of his predecessor and mentor Carlo Ancelotti, is the dividend that he draws from time invested in meditation and self-assessment. Combined with his riches in terms of pinnacle-level experience as a player, his attention to mindfulness has given him the man-management skills required at a club with a sky-high media profile and a dressing room packed with ambitious world-class players. These have been vital assets in steering him through his first full season as head coach of Real Madrid. “A coach is judged by how his team performs on the pitch,” Fabio Capello said in Cardiff. “And I rate him a very good trainer because he has created a strong collective spirit among a group of very talented individuals. In the final, you could see that illustrated by the way they set about the high pressing and the way the team set about collective transitions to defensive play.” “Our passing and movement in the second half were fantastic,” Zidane acknowledged. “It’s not easy to score four goals against Juventus.”

“I would focus on three points,” Roy Hodgson added. “First, he has embraced the Real Madrid philosophy. Second, he has given confidence to the top players and I consider myself as just part of a team.” Zidane was certainly determined that the pomp and circumstance surrounding the world’s greatest club final should not affect his approach to the match. “We’re going to talk about the game, but that’s all. Nothing changes. We’re going to try to do things the way we always have done. We know all about pressure at Real Madrid and we also know that what everyone who likes football wants to see is a great final between great teams.”

“I admire his demeanour on the touchline,” said Sir Alex Ferguson. “Everyone has their own style and his is a contrast to, say, the energy of Diego Simeone or Unai Emery. He was a great player and it seems to be in his nature to exude confidence.” Praise indeed for the man who, in Cardiff, quietly and modestly made his way into the record books.
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### RESULTS

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When the group stage kicked off nine weeks after Portugal’s victory at UEFA EURO 2016, one of the questions was whether the giant-killing ingredient at the national team event would also flavour the club competition menu. Another was whether the risk management that had marked the summer tournament would promote, as the technical report on UEFA EURO 2016 put it, “tactical contests between coaches seeking a balance between stifling the opposition and encouraging their own teams to exploit their qualities”.

In the UEFA Champions League, however, giants generally remained unscathed until thrust into duels among themselves. And the team that lifted the trophy in Cardiff was the one that had scored the most goals in a season when goalscoring records were shattered. When the team of UEFA technical observers met on the morning after the final, Peter Rudbæk commented: “It is good for the fans to see goals and it was good for football that two of the best teams reached the final.” “It was refreshing to see so many teams playing high-tempo football with great changes of play,” added Thomas Schaaf. “At the EURO,” remarked Roy Hodgson, “there were games that were practically attack versus defence, with one team not really attacking and hurting the opposition, but challenging them to break them down. The Champions League final demonstrated that when the two teams have the confidence to take each other on, it becomes a good game.”

As usual, there were nuances. At half-time in Cardiff, many would have bet on a win for Juventus, whose defensive acumen had allowed Gianluigi Buffon to remain unbeaten through five games of the knockout rounds until Monaco’s second-half goal in the return leg of the semi-final. And many pundits would maintain that it was the team from the principality who provided the giant-killing element. “I enjoyed watching Monaco,” said Ryan Giggs. “They had pace and power throughout the team. Falcao supplied the goalscoring instinct with younger legs all around him. Their physicality and offensive vocation were most impressive.” Schaaf added: “And the 1v1 skills of Kylian Mbappé made for some interesting matches. The fans want to see 1v1 skills and fast attacking and I think a lot of games during the season provided that.”
ATTACKING AND DEFENSIVE STRUCTURES

Tactical flexibility is more important than ever as coaches are quick to adapt to changing circumstances.

Efficient transitional play signified degrees of structural flexibility that created difficulties in selecting the default settings illustrated on the team pages of this report. The graphics generally reflect the teams’ shapes in attacking modes. However, as has become the norm in recent seasons, coaches have varied their structures according to opponents and circumstances – the champions, Real Madrid, providing a prime example. After negotiating most of the season with changing circumstances, Mauricio Pochettino organised Tottenham in 1-4-2-3-1 formation, gravitated towards 1-4-4-1-1 when Craig Shakespeare replaced Claudio Ranieri as Leicester manager in the home leg of the semi-final against Monaco, switched to 1-4-4-2 for the must-win match in Monaco. Borussia Mönchengladbach resorted to a defensive line of five against Barcelona. Brugge, Lyon and PSV were among the teams who occasionally fielded a trio of centre-backs and, among the teams who progressed to the knockout rounds, this structure was also implemented by Dortmund and by runners-up Juventus, albeit during the closing stages of matches with a view to closing down a favourable result. Leicester, having started the campaign in 1-4-2-3-1 formation, gravitated towards 1-4-4-1-1 when Craig Shakespeare took the baton from Claudio Ranieri.

“I interpret this as another symptom of the trend in the Champions League towards flexibility,” Rudbæk remarked. “I think this is good for the players and good for the competition. And good for the coaches, as it stresses the importance of having a coach who not only reads the game well but also reads his players well, in terms of setting them up to get the best out of each individual and finding a good team against any type of opposition.”

FAST FORWARD

The first thought upon winning the ball is to attack to try and catch the opponent off balance.

The flow of goals in the 2016/17 season contradicted the theory that today’s exhaustive levels of scouting and match analysis might encourage coaches to focus on pre-empting the opponent’s attacking play. “We are certainly seeing an evolution,” Fabio Capello said in Cardiff. “In that the teams who opt for the Barcelona possession-based style that set the trends a few years ago, now seem to be running into difficulties. This is normal. Any successful model – the elements implemented by Arigo Sacchi, Johan Cruyff or Pep Guardiola, for example – is analysed in depth. I would say that, now, the trend is that if you win the ball you immediately run at the opponents while they are out of balance and can be surprised. The key is to win the ball quickly and then mount direct collective attacks, entering the penalty area quickly.”

Juventus, he added, had based their run to the final on proficient defending and quick transitions into attacking mode. Over the season, a few decimal points below 20% of the goals scored in open play could be directly attributed to counterattacking. In addition, fast defence-to-attack transitions led to four of the converted penalties and two goals scored from direct free-kicks.
WIDE AND WISE

The role of the playmaker is evolving as screening midfielders are allowing their more creative team-mates to assume wider roles.

“Putting Isco on the left-hand side gave Juventus a real problem,” said Sir Alex after the final in Cardiff. “Alves in the first half had been comfortable going and pressing the ball against Marcelo, who really had one of his quieter games. But, in the second half, the right centre-back Andrea Barzagli was uncomfortable going up towards Isco, who really took control.”

Real Madrid’s campaign – and the final in particular – cast a spotlight on the effective use of wide areas. Initially, the front line of Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and Bale put Zidane’s side on a par with Barça’s trident of Lionel Messi, Luis Suárez and Neymar, Paris’s Angel Di María, Edinson Cavani and Julian Draxler, Bayern’s Arjen Robben, Robert Lewandowski and Franck Ribéry or Manchester City’s Raheem Sterling, Sergio Agüero and Leroy Sané. Zidane’s switch to the midfield diamond allowed him to use Isco as a wild card while, to compensate for the lack of manpower on the flanks, Ronaldo and Benzema split wide rather than operate as a genuine attacking partnership.

“Looking at Real Madrid,” Rudbæk reflected, “what I found interesting is that, in my opinion, the true playmakers of the team are Toni Kroos and Luka Modrić. And they are not playing in what we used to call the No6 role. They are playing wider, where they can find and exploit space to dictate the match. It’s interesting to discuss whether it is a general trend for the playmakers to drift away from the central areas – unlike the No10s that we were seeing 10 or 15 years ago. Kroos and Modrić are the suppliers of creative passing but they are not just playmakers. Remember the high-speed run that Kroos made for the first goal in the final. And, for goal number three, Modrić breaking through the back line, getting to the goal line and delivering the cross. The playmaker now is not just a distributor of passes. He does that some of the time but is flexible enough to contribute something else.”

The Madrid set-up, with Casemiro as the balancing element in central midfield sweeping behind the wider playmakers mirrored structures at other top teams. For instance, the balancing work by Sergio Busquets at Barcelona, where Ivan Rakitić and Andrés Iniesta act as the playmakers in wider areas; Xabi Alonso at Bayern München providing the controlling element behind Arturo Vidal and Thiago Alcántara – the catalysts, playmakers and linking players, Fernandinho’s role at Manchester City as the central anchor behind the playmaking endeavours of Kevin De Bruyne and David Silva in the wider channels or the Paris triangle formed by Marco Verratti, Blaise Matuidi and Adrien Rabiot or Thiago Motta.

Robert Lewandowski (centre) celebrates scoring from the spot with his Bayern team-mates against Arsenal in London.

Pep Guardiola deep in thought during a City training session.
At the same time, the final illustrated that the 1-4-4-2 structure did not entail a ‘partnership’ as such, with Benzema and Ronaldo splitting wide and rarely striking sparks off each other. Among the 494 passes completed by Zidane’s side during the final, there were three by Benzema to Ronaldo and none in the reverse direction. Much the same could be applied to the two-pronged attack of Monaco, where Falcao and Mbappé formed an effective partnership in terms of their movement but without indulging in combination play as a duo. During the three hours of the semi-final against Juventus, they exchanged four passes.

The København and Atlético Madrid line-ups were among others who seemingly featured twin strikers with, in the case of the latter, either Fernando Torres or Kevin Gameiro linking with Antoine Grizmann. André Silva sometimes combined with Diego Jota at the forefront of the Porto attack while Gelson Martins, for example, linking with André Silva at Benfica. But the more general pattern was for a lone striker to receive support from in-cutting wide players (the relationships between Messi and Neymar with Suárez at Barcelona providing a high-profile example) or for danger to emerge from a cluster of middle-to-front players (the relationships between Messi and Dembélé, Sadio Mané and Griezmann at Dortmund) grouped behind the advanced attacker.

As mentioned in the goalscoring analysis section of this report, the competition’s scoring chart was dominated by strikers who occupied the central positions. “The season was really refreshing,” Thomas Schaaf summed up. “We experienced so many interesting moments and situations and all of us who are fascinated by football could see lots of duels, one-on-one situations, deep running, fast vertical attacking and an emphasis on creating chances. We saw lots of goals and I hope that this is a trend that will continue.”
A record high of 380 goals were scored as the average per game passed three for the first time.

For the first time in the UEFA Champions League’s 25-year history, the goal scoring average topped three per game in 2016/17. The record total of 380 goals, at 3.04 per game, equated to one goal per 31 minutes of play. The goal total represented an increase of 9.5% in comparison with the previous season, but the goalscoring pattern registered an unusual variation. The group stage produced two goals fewer than in 2015/16, but the season ended with record breaking figures because nets were ruffled on 102 occasions during the knockout rounds, compared with 67 in the previous season – a massive increase of 52%.

Curiously, there were similarly striking patterns in goal times. During the group stage, the 278 goals were evenly shared between the first half and the second. This pattern changed radically in the round of 16, in which the second half yielded 20 goals more than the opening 45 minutes. The final balance tilted 178-202 in favour of the second half. The most productive 15-minute segment was the period immediately after the half-time interval, followed closely by the bracket between the 16th and 30th minutes. The 14 goals scored in added time after the 90 minutes nevertheless paved the way for statistics to be distorted. It could therefore be argued that 21% of goals were scored after the 75th minute. The goalscoring, in point of fact, evened out. The total scored after the interval was only 11% higher than in the first half compared with a 33% difference in the previous season.

The champions were the highest scorers, although Real Madrid’s average of 2.77 goals per game left them closely by the bracket between the 16th and 30th minutes. The final balance tilted 178-202 in favour of the second half. The goal total after the 75th minute. The goalscoring, in point of fact, evened out. The total scored after the interval was only 11% higher than in the first half compared with a 33% difference in the previous season.

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SET PLAYS

In percentage terms goals from set pieces remained constant, though there was a marked increase in the success rate from indirect free-kicks.

INDIRECT FREE-KICKS

Dead-ball scenarios accounted for 91 goals in 2016/17 – 10 more than in the previous season. In percentage terms, however, the balance registered a minimal variation: 24% of the goal total compared with 23% in 2015/16 and 26% in 2014/15. The most significant gain was in the category of indirect free-kicks. Dortmund accounted for four of the 19 successes – three times in the two games against Legia. Monaco’s three goals included two in the games against Manchester City, with the tie-winning goal coming from a free-kick curled in from the right with the left foot. Dortmund, it has to be said, were also on the receiving end during their group game against Sporting in Lisbon – the home team’s goal stemming from a comparative rarity, a back pass adjudged to have been handled by the goalkeeper.

DIRECT FREE-KICKS

Successes from direct free-kicks totalled just 13, one more than in 2015/16, but included some spectacular strikes, such as Neymar’s efforts against Celtic and Paris, Ricardo Quaresma’s shot that put Beşiktaş 1-0 ahead against Dynamo Kyiv, the delivery by Riyad Mahrez that gave Leicester a 2-0 advantage in Belgium against Brugge, or the spectacular free-kick by Talisca that earned Benfica a 1-1 draw in the third minute of added time at home to Beşiktaş. Christian Noboa’s winner for Rostov in the 3-2 win against Bayern resulted from a free-kick earned by a dangerous counterattack.

Ricardo Quaresma scored a sensational free kick for Beşiktaş against Kyiv.

PENALTIES

The total of set-play goals was, however, inflated by 34 penalties. This represented an increase of seven in comparison with the previous season even though 18 spot-kicks failed to hit the net. Some of the missed penalties proved to be decisive moments – notably when Sevilla (who had also failed to convert during the group game at home against Lyon) saw Kasper Schmeichel make saves in both legs of their tie against Leicester. Arturo Vidal’s penalty just before half-time in the home leg against Real Madrid, if he had converted it, would have given Bayern a 2-0 advantage and, arguably, changed the course of the tie. Overall, one in three penalties (33%) to be exact) were missed.

CORNERS

Although corners accounted for 26% of the set-play goals, the 2016/17 total declined by 20% from 30 to 24 and represented a 35% decline in relation to the total of 37 that had been posted in the 2013/14 season. The debating point is whether the number of saved penalties and the plummeting success rate from corners can legitimately be attributed to better analysis of opponents by the continent’s top clubs.
OPEN PLAY

Although more goals than ever were scored, combination moves as a source were down as teams struggled to get around the defensive block.

**COMBINATIONS AND FORWARD PASSES**

A total of 289 open-play goals represented a significant increase on the figures of 266, 267 and 268 in the three previous seasons. Curiously, the most striking numerical upturn referred to those officially registered as own goals. As mentioned elsewhere, some of these resulted directly from set plays and/or counterattacks. On the negative side, there was a fall in the number of goals derived from combination moves—a formula that had tripled in terms of success rate over the previous six seasons. Barcelona continue to set benchmarks and, with 10 successes, provided 18% of the season’s total, with the champions, Real Madrid, and Pep Guardiola’s Manchester City also punching their weight in this category. Dortmund also inflated the numbers with a series of combination moves during the record-breaking 8-4 home win over Legia.

Combination play remains among the most fertile sources of goal scoring, but, with the number of goals stemming from through passes also registering a decline, there are reasons to hint at growing difficulties when it comes to finding central routes through compact defensive blocks.

**CUT-BACKS AND DIAGONAL PASSES**

This theory could be reinforced by the solid increases in goals originating in supply from the wider areas. The goals in the Cardiff final rounded off a season in which crosses, cut-backs and diagonal passes into the box accounted for 43% of the open-play goals—a figure which could, for the sake of argument, be increased to 47% if defensive errors and own goals are removed from the equation. Even the lower figure of 43% represents a significant increase on the 34% registered in 2015/16.

**RUNNING WITH THE BALL**

Individual skills came to the fore during the knockout rounds where, after solo runs had generated only 17 goals during 66 group games, individual efforts led to 11 goals in the 29 knockout fixtures. There were some outstanding examples. The counterattacking run by Radamel Falcao that put Monaco 3-2 ahead against City in Manchester, the individual incursion by Saúl Ñíguez that gave Atlético Madrid a 1-0 advantage in Leverkusen, the run that allowed Theo Walcott to put Arsenal 1-0 up at home to Bayern, the amazing solo skill by Karim Benzema that left three Atlético Madrid defenders stranded on the goal-line in the move that led to Isco scoring the critical away goal in the return leg of the semi-final, and the stunning run by Kylian Mbappé that secured a 3-1 advantage for Monaco during the first leg of the quarter-final in Dortmund—another fast counterattack that earned a crucial goal.

Likewise the two examples of countering by running with the ball that allowed Real Madrid to clinch their 4-2 extra-time victory over 10-man Bayern—the dribbling skills being supplied by Marcelo and substitute Marco Asensio. That pair also combined to seal their team’s 4-1 win in the final in Cardiff, when the former managed to squeeze his way along the Juventus goal-line and cut the ball back for the latter to side-foot home.

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**GROUP STAGE**

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ANALYSIS

TOP TEN GOALS OF THE SEASON

1. MARIO MANDŽUKIĆ
   JUVENTUS - 1-4 REAL MADRID
   Final
   An unforgettable acrobatic finish in the biggest game of the season.

2. CASEMIRO
   REAL MADRID - 3-1 NAPOLI
   Round of 16, First Leg
   A beautiful, full-volleyed finish from distance completed the scoring.

3. THOMAS DELANEY
   KØBENHAVN - 4-0 BRUGGE
   Group Stage
   A powerfully struck volley high into the top corner.

4. ARJEN ROBBEN
   BAYERN - 5-1 ARSENAL
   Round of 16, First Leg
   Patient build-up and an excellent curling strike.

5. GONZALO HIGUAÍN
   MONACO - 0-2 JUVENTUS
   Semi-Final, First Leg
   Higuaín’s first of two goals followed an incisive attack featuring a skilful flick, an astute back-heeled assist and a composed finish.

6. MESUT ÖZIL
   LUDOGORETS - 2-3 ARSENAL
   Group Stage
   A wonderful solo effort to beat the goalkeeper and multiple defenders before finishing coolly.

7. ANTOINE GRIEZMANN
   ATLÉTICO - 2-1 ROSTOV
   Group Stage
   Griezmann’s first of the night was an instinctive adaptation to the flight of the ball and a wonderful agile finish.

8. DANI ALVES
   JUVENTUS - 2-1 MONACO
   Semi-Final, Second Leg
   Another brilliant volley from outside the area.

9. CRISTIANO RONALDO
   REAL MADRID - 2-1 SPORTING
   Group Stage
   A splendid dead-ball strike to spark a late comeback win.

10. ALEXIS SÁNCHEZ
    ARSENAL - 6-0 LUDOGORETS
    Group Stage
    A deftly chipped finish at the start of a resounding victory.

On the morning after the final, UEFA’s Technical Observers Group in Cardiff assembled in front of a giant screen to whittle a ‘short’ list of 56 goals down to a top ten. The fact that 26 goals received a vote reflected a very healthy diversity. Some goals missed out very narrowly: the counterattacking solo run by Radamel Falcao that put Monaco 3-2 up at Manchester City; the Neymar-Messi combination that gave Barcelona a 2-0 lead at home to Celtic; the Neymar free-kick that made it 4-1 against Paris Saint-Germain at Camp Nou; or the quick turn and finish by Paulo Dybala that opened the scoring for Juventus against Luis Enrique’s team in the first leg of their quarter-final.

In terms of taking the breath away, the season produced some outstanding strikes from long distance – and four of them made their way into the top ten. The volleys by Casemiro, Dani Alves and Thomas Delaney were joined by the curling finish from Arjen Robben that rounded off an elaborate build-up.

Alves also provided the cute back-heel that allowed Gonzalo Higuain to put Juventus 2-0 up during the semi-final in Monaco. Antoine Griezmann’s one-touch finish was a technical masterpiece in response to a through ball after an Atlético corner had been partially cleared. Mesut Özil’s cheeky solo finish rounded off a nice transition and through pass, while his team-mate Alexis Sánchez also made the list with a delightfully chipped finish to a solo run.

The only set piece was the Cristiano Ronaldo free-kick that threw Real Madrid a late lifeline during the match when they were trailing 1-0 at home to Sporting CP – a score that, if it had stood, might arguably have changed the complexion of the competition. Pride of place, however, had to go to the Mario Mandžukić equaliser in the final. In Cardiff, nobody argued with that.

GOALS OF THE SEASON

The best was saved for last as Mario Mandžukić’s stunning overhead kick took the top spot in an impressive list of goals.

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TALKING POINTS

New technology, the rise and rise of the Brazilian wing-back and the prospect of match duration being measured in real playing time topped the agenda.
ANALYSIS: TALKING POINTS

As ever, the UEFA Champions League season was rich in thrills, spills and watershed moments. Occasionally, teams shed their rationality, allowing the competition’s culture of injustice (whether justified or not) to play a part. Afterwards, some moments had gone against them. So, among the debating points when the teams of technical observers met in Cardiff was the question of whether they would advocate the introduction of the currently experimental Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system in the UEFA Champions League.

“I think it’s totally wrong that a team can lose because of a mistaken decision,” said Sir Alex Ferguson. Fabio Capello agreed: “Games shouldn’t be decided by referees’ mistakes.” “It’s something that we should approach with an open mind rather than blind negativity,” added Roy Hodgson. “There was a lot of resistance to goal-line technology but now it is totally accepted.”

There were, however, some ifs and buts. “In principle, I’m definitely in favour,” said Miss Paatelainen. “But not if it means we convert football into a stop-start game. I’m a little bit concerned about the amount of time it takes to reach a decision. I’ve seen some instances when it has taken about four minutes—and that is definitely not good for the players or for the game.” “We also need to think about the referee’s authority,” said Thomas Schaaf. “If I remember rightly, there was some experimentation in Germany and about 50 out of 80 decisions were overturned.”

“I’d like to think it could also help us to cut out cheating and simulation,” added Sir Alex. “I know this is something that is not available to smaller clubs but, when it comes to the UEFA Champions League, I see no reason why not.” Do you agree?

GROWING WINGS

The preponderance of Brazilian full-backs raised the question of why more European talent was not rising to the top.

One of the details that did not pass unnoticed at the final in Cardiff was that three of the four full-backs were Brazilian. On the Juventus left, Alex Sandro covered more ground than any other player on the pitch, with 12% of his running at top speed. On the other flank, his compatriot Dani Alves took 20km/h. On the other hand, his team-mate Dani carvajal heads what might be called the Spanish School of attack-minded full-backs, along with the likes of Jordi Alba and, incidentally, the Arsenal pair of Hector Bellerin and Nacho Monreal. The top teams in the UEFA Champions League did not feature too many home-grown pairings like Nilson Seno of Porto (with Uruguay’s Maxi Pereira on the other flank). Canaviel heads what might be called the Spanish School of attack-minded full-backs, along with the likes of Jordi Alba and, incidentally, the Arsenal pair of Hector Bellerin and Nacho Monreal. The top teams in the UEFA Champions League did not feature too many home-grown pairings like Nilson Seno of Porto (with Uruguay’s Maxi Pereira on the other flank).

It’s something that we should approach with an open mind rather than blind negativity,” added Roy Hodgson. “There was a lot of resistance to goal-line technology but now it is totally accepted.”

Such switches raise the debating point: are we full-backs expected to be attacking weapons, are defensive qualities being overlooked? As Miss Paatelainen said in Cardiff: “If, at the development levels, we expect the full-backs to be up all the time, we run the risk of producing players who are not so good at 1v1 defending.” What qualities do the Brazilian full-backs have that we are not nurturing in Europe?

KEEP THE BALL ROLLING

Does real playing time reflect a team’s success and should it measure a match’s duration?

When Barcelona entertained Benfica and Leicester in the group stage, the ball was in play for 73 minutes and 57 seconds. Bayern v PSV registered a real playing time of 71'58. The figures were all the more striking because they contradicted so sharply with the real playing times at UEFA EURO 2016, where, during the group stage, only nine of the 36 fixtures exceeded 60 minutes. Narrowly. The top figure was 62'58 at Spain v Turkey. During the round of 16, none of the matches reached the hour-mark.

In the 2016/17 UEFA Champions League, there could be no questions about value for money, with 82 of the 125 games offering spectators more than 60 minutes of real playing time. A survey of the teams who disputed the knockout rounds, however, offers conflicting data. Bayer Leverkusen and Manchester City consistently fell below the 60-minute mark (in six of their eight fixtures). So did semi-finalists Monaco – in eight of their dozen games. Benfica and Leicester also fell short of an hour of action in five of their matches. On the other hand, teams like Arsenal, Atlético Madrid, Napoli and Paris regularly surpassed 60 minutes, as did Benfica, Dortmund, and Atletico Madrid during the group phase (but not in their four knockout games).

As a talking point, there are two angles. In recent times, it has been mooted that football should maybe switch to a fixed amount of real playing time—with 60 minutes often put forward as a ballpark figure. First, is a fixed ball-in-play movement duration a good idea? If so, would 60 minutes be appropriate, bearing in mind that most UEFA Champions League matches already offer the public more than that? Curiously, at the final in Cardiff, the ball was in play for 56'45—one of the lowest figures of the season for a final in Cardiff. At the first game, against France and England—to name but two—could also point to promising talent in the full-back department. But that raises a further debating point: if a cream of talent is being developed, why is it not rising to the top? Or, in a climate where the full-backs are expected to be attacking weapons, are defensive qualities being overlooked? As Miss Paatelainen said in Cardiff: “If, at the development levels, we expect the full-backs to be up all the time, we run the risk of producing players who are not so good at 1v1 defending.” What qualities do the Brazilian full-backs have that we are not nurturing in Europe?
### ANALYSIS: ALL-STAR SQUAD

**GOALKEEPER**
- **Gianluigi Buffon** (Juventus)
  - Excellent performances.
  - A talisman for his team.

**Goalkeeper**
- **Jan Oblak** (Club Atlético de Madrid)
  - Outstanding shot-stopping underlined by a high number of saves made.

**Defender**
- **Leonardo Bonucci** (Juventus)
  - Keymember of Juventus’s back three. Combined good defending with vision and range of passing.

**Defender**
- **Dani Carvajal** (Real Madrid CF)
  - Like his team-mate Carvajal, an outstanding contributor.

**Defender**
- **Toni Kroos** (Real Madrid CF)
  - Assured in possession, positionally aware. Complete midfield performances.

**Midfielder**
- **Antoine Griezmann** (Club Atlético de Madrid)
  - Goalscoring, link-up play and work rate were an example to forwards everywhere.

**Midfielder**
- **Luka Modrić** (Real Madrid CF)
  - Excellent quick-tempo passing and incisive attacking play kept Madrid ticking.

**Midfielder**
- **Isco** (Real Madrid CF)
  - Attacking midfield performances of the highest level. Can dribble, pass and score from left, right or centre.

**Midfielder**
- **Mirel Rădoi** (Juventus)
  - Integral to his side on their run to the final. Quality deep-lying midfield play.

**Midfielder**
- **Tiemoué Bakayoko** (AS Monaco FC)
  - Important defensive midfield performances for an impressive Monaco team.

**Midfielder**
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** (Real Madrid CF)
  - Top scorer for the fifth consecutive season and man of the match in the final. Decisive performances throughout knockout phase.

**Midfielder**
- **Bernardo Silva** (Monaco)
  - Versatile attacking midfield play.

**Midfielder**
- **Robert Lewandowski** (FC Bayern München)
  - The outstanding young player in an outstanding team of young players. Excellent forward play throughout.

**Midfielder**
- **Marcelo** (Real Madrid CF)
  - Like his team-mate Carvajal, an outstanding contributor.

**Forward**
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** (Juventus)
  - Top scorer for the fifth consecutive season and man of the match in the final. Decisive performances throughout knockout phase.

**Forward**
- **Lionel Messi** (FC Barcelona)
  - Second top scorer and always capable of creating goals for himself and his team-mates.

**Forward**
- **Kylian Mbappé** (AS Monaco FC)
  - The outstanding young player in an outstanding team of young players. Excellent forward play throughout.

**Forward**
- **Sergio Ramos** (Real Madrid CF)
  - The captain and key defender for the UEFA Champions League winners.

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  - Versatile attacking midfield play.

**Defender**
- **Robert Lewandowski** (FC Bayern München)
  - Another who performed very well, scoring goals and linking play in a dangerous Bayern team.

### SQUAD OF THE SEASON

Eleven of the 18 players chosen by the Technical Observers Group came from the two Madrid sides, with the champions providing eight of them.

With only six coaches using fewer than 20 players during the campaign, the cupboard was packed with material for the select squad of the season. By the time the play of UEFA technical observers met in Cardiff however, the search had inevitably honed in on the top clubs. However, there were still 50 candidates on the short list and the challenge was to draft a teamsheet that would offer cover in all positions and could, conceivably, be called together to play a match.

As usual, there were some near misses, such as Neymar, Monaco’s duo of Bernardo Silva and Benjamin Mendy and Bayern Munchen’s Thiago Alcantara and Arturo Vidal. But the champions took pride of place, with no fewer than eight Real Madrid players in the squad, along with a further eight who had been either winners or losers in the semi-finals. The players from teams who failed to make the top four are both attackers – Bayern’s Robert Lewandowski and Barcelona’s Lionel Messi.
Two years ago, one of the debating points to emerge from the review of the season was that only five of the 125 fixtures had been won by the team conceding the first goal. In 2015/16, debate was curtailed when the figure was tripled to 15 – and the upward trend was continued in the 2016/17 season, when a team bounced back from 0-1 to win on 17 occasions.

Twenty-three of the 115 games that produced goals ended as score draws, meaning that the season produced a tally of 92 wins. In 81.5% of these, victory was for the team that had scored first.

To play fair with the teams who fought back from 0-1 to draw, the friendlier statistic is that, over the season, 65% of the matches that produced goals were won by the team scoring first. Comparing this with the previous season’s figure of 74% generates debate about whether attitudes to falling behind are gradually changing and whether teams are gaining in mental fortitude.

On the other hand, 12 teams bounced back from 0-1 down compared to 11 in the previous season. Some of the comebacks were in special circumstances. Rostov’s 3-2 win against Bayern München came when Carlo Ancelotti’s side had already secured its passage to the knockout rounds; Tottenham’s was against CSKA Moskva when both teams were out. The Juventus revival in Seville was against ten men, as were Bayern München’s against Arsenal and Real Madrid’s against Bayern.

Another talking point is sparked by the fact, in 97 of the 115 games that produced goals (84%), the first goal hit the net before half-time and therefore gave the opposition ample time to find a reply. In fact, in 43 games, the first goal was scored while there were at least 75 minutes still to play.

The salient feature, however, was that the season’s champions produced five of the 17 comebacks – and spiced those up with a bizarre match in Warsaw, where they raced into a 2-0 lead, allowed Legia to equalise, and rebounded to score a late equaliser themselves in the 3-3 draw. UEFA technical observer Thomas Schaaf also saw the return leg of the semi-final derby, in which Real Madrid surrendered two of their three-goal cushion within 16 minutes of the last UEFA Champions League game to be played at the Estadio Vicente Calderón.

“The same way that Juventus tried to play in the final. It was extraordinary to see how calm Real Madrid remained – and that was one of the decisive factors. They refused to be shaken out of their game and they, very calmly, kept going about their business and performing their tasks.”

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Though attempts on goal fell by 10%, total goals scored were up by nearly the same number, suggesting increased efficiency in front of goal.
The trend towards more direct attacking approaches continued in 2016/17

The record number of goals scored during the 2014/15 season found its way into the net after an average of 10.62 seconds of ball possession and a move of 3.72 passes. The statistics endorse the downward trend since the 2014/15 season – in which FC Barcelona won the title – when the averages registered 3.94 passes and 11.66 seconds in charge of the ball. Superficially, the differences appear to be somewhat less than spectacular. But debate about a trend towards more direct attacking can call on statistical evidence of a 7.7% decline in the number of seconds in possession, and a 5.6% drop in the number of passes. Statistics also support general impressions about playing styles. Over the last five UEFA Champions League seasons, for example, Barcelona’s goal-scoring moves have averaged 6.15 passes and 12.44 seconds. A glance at the equivalent figures for Atlético Madrid reveals figures of 3.94 passes and 10.95 seconds – differentials in excess of 50% that emphasise playing philosophies. During the 2014/15 season, Diego Simone’s side averaged 2.3 passes and 7.3 seconds in their goal-scoring moves. Champions Real Madrid, incidentally, fell between the two, with a five-year mean of 4.29 passes and 12.44 seconds in the manufacture of their goals. On their way to the 2016/17 title, Zinedine Zidane’s team averaged 5.03 passes in their successful attacks, with a mean duration of 14.31 seconds. By way of comparison, the Barcelona team that denied them the crown in 2015 had scored 11 goals and registered an average of 21.32 seconds in possession and 7.19 passes.

Although Luis Enrique’s side made good use of Luis Suárez to blend more direct attacking and counterattacking into the possession-play tradition, Barcelona continued to string together exceptional goal-scoring moves. The best example was when Lionel Messi put his side 1-0 up against Celtic, finishing a 60-pass move stemming from a throw-in that spanned 22 seconds. The nearest rival, in passing, was the 35-pass move, following the interception of a clearance in midfield, that allowed Arjen Robben to put Bayern 1-0 ahead against PSV after interchanges that lasted 86 seconds. There were few surprises among the clubs capable of stringing together sustained attacking combinations. Mesut Özil culminated a 19-pass, 61-second attack by Arsenal against Ludogorets’ Robben, again, finished 18 passes and 57 seconds against Arsenal, ditto Edinson Cavani (21 passes, 56 seconds) v Arsenal; Leonardo Bonucci (21 passes, 56 seconds) v Arsenal; Cristiano Ronaldo (18 passes, 56 seconds) to Real Madrid from 2-1 win in Munich; or even the Lars Stindl goal for Borussia Mönchengladbach after a 14-pass, 39-second attack against Celtic. On the other hand, 43 goals (including set pieces) were timed at one second.

The high ball-win

If goal-scoring moves – including the set plays such as penalties and free-kicks – are traced back to their origin, no fewer than 184 goals stemmed from ball-winning in the attacking third. This figure represents almost half of all the goals scored and underlines the trend towards high collective pressing or, at least, aggressive pressure on the opposition ball-carrier in advanced areas. The exact figure was 44.4% of goals, compared with 43% in the previous season. A total of 134 goals resulted from possession regained in midfield – 35% compared with 40% in 2015/16. And, once again, a relatively low percentage (16% = 62 goals) resulted from a build-up or counterattack after the ball had been won in the defensive third, down from the 17% registered in the previous season.

Real Madrid provided something of an exception to the general average by scoring eight times after winning possession in the defensive third and 15 after regains in midfield. Only 13 (19%) stemmed from ball-winning in the attacking third. By contrast, only one of Atlético Madrid’s goals had its origin in ball-winning at the back – the remainder evenly spread between regions in midfield and the final third. Barcelona scored 15 of their 26 goals (58%) after high ball-wins; ditto Bayern with 15 of their 27. Silver-medallists Juventus, less prolific in terms of goal-scoring, had 15 goals (58%) after high ball-wins in the attacking third; 13 in midfield; 15 in the defensive third; and only one in the attacking third – hinting at considerably safer passing by the opposition in their own defensive area. Only 16 goals were attributed to interceptions and, maybe significantly, one-third of these corresponded to Real Madrid.
Athletic conditioning appears to be evening itself out at the highest level.

The average distance covered by teams in the 2016/17 season rose marginally, from 109,049m per game to 110,224. In other words, 10km per player, including goalkeepers who, incidentally, tended to cover between three kilometres (like Casillas, 3,251m and Keylor Navas, 3,557m) and five (Regis Lodeiro and Caicedo. Boxe’s 5,085m) spread. By and large, teams were grouped within a couple of kilometres of the mean figure for the season.

On the other hand, there was a 12.7% difference between Real Madrid at the top of the chart and Celtic at the foot. Not a great differential, it has to be said, in comparison with the 26.5% margin between first and last in 2015/16 and the 22.58% in the season before that. There is therefore statistical evidence to support the theory that annual preparation is evening itself out at a high level.

However, comparing like with like is, statistically, not a simple task. Raw figures from the season’s database can be misleading.

The distance-covered stats for Real Madrid and Bayern Munich, for example, were inflated by the extra half-hour they played at the Santiago Bernabéu (where, despite the dismissal of Arsenio Vilal, both sides covered around 135km).

Other teams’ averages were artificially deflated by injuries – such as Beşiktaş, in Konya, Sevilla at home to Juventus and Porto in both matches against the Italian team. The figures in the graph have therefore been adjusted with a view to ironing out these anomalies and presenting a true indication of each team’s performance.

There were only two instances of teams covering fewer than 100km in normal circumstances: Barcelona’s 99.872km during their 3-0 defeat at Anfield and, curiously, the 99.257m covered by Beşiktaş during their 3-2 victory in Naples. At the other end of the spectrum, Diego Simone’s Atlético Madrid covered 124,032m during their match against Bayern in Munich – which they lost. In these cases, there was a 25% difference between the most and least distance covered.

The individual data for the season throws the spotlight once again on Atlético Madrid. Their midfielder Koke covered more than 142km during his team’s dozen matches at an average of 12.332km per match. Misguiding challenger was team-mate Antoine Griezmann, who covered almost 133km. Even though they played two hours less than city rivals Real Madrid, Diego Simone’s team had seven players among the season’s top 13.

The chart is evidently affected by the number of matches played and, in order to enable comparisons, the only legitimate formula is to calculate the average number of metres covered per minute played during the season. The table highlights random examples rather than a ‘league table’ and focuses on players who made substantial contributions over the season.
The teams eliminated in the group stage averaged 444 passes per game. Those who qualified for the knockout rounds 534. The top teams in terms of passing accuracy. As the long ball continues its comeback, debate focused on how far a passing game can be equated with success — or equate them. During Real Madrid’s run to the final, Toni Kroos and Luka Modrić jointly made 1,644 passes, with success rates of 94% and 92% respectively. Across the Spanish capital at Atlético, Koke and Gabi executed 1,736 passes from the team’s engine room with 86% and 87% accuracy. “They remind me of the old football saying, ‘Tell me how good you are,’” said UEFA Technical Director Jérémy Lambert.

After the final in Cardiff, Thomas Schaaf said: “We all want to see vertical, fast-moving play with passes into the deep – quick moves finished as quickly as possible.” In this respect, the data on the team pages of this report highlighting the main passers in the final third make interesting reading, with focusing exclusively on the finalists, full-backs Marcelo and Dani Alves, along with Dani Carvajal, making significant contributions to their team’s meaningful passing play in the key attacking areas.

As usual, debate can also weigh quantity against quality — or equate them. During Real Madrid’s run to the title, Toni Kroos and Luka Modrić jointly made 1,644 passes with success rates of 94% and 92% respectively. Across the Spanish capital at Atlético, Koke and Gabi executed 1,736 passes from the team’s engine room with 86% and 87% accuracy. “They remind me of the old football saying, ‘Tell me how good you are,’” said UEFA Technical Director Jérémy Lambert.

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POSSESSION

Teams are no longer interested in ball possession as an end in itself.

During the 2016/17 season, only three teams had the majority share of possession in every game they played: Barcelona, Borussia Dortmund and Tottenham Hotspur. With a degree of generosity, this could be expanded to a quartet by including Bayern München, whose only momentary slip was a drop to 46% of possession when playing with ten during the home leg of the quarter-final against Real Madrid. In other words, only one in eight of the participants could legitimately be described as ‘possession teams’. The counter-balance was provided by an equal number of teams (Benfica, Dinamo Zagreb, Legia Warszawa and Rostov) who never had more than 50% of the ball. Despite their low share of possession, Benfica made it through to the knockout stage, albeit with a modest tally of eight points from their six matches, since the heyday of Pep Guardiola’s Barcelona, there have been perennial discussions about the difference between possession and purposeful possession. In Cardiff, Sir Alex Ferguson said: “Teams started to try to copy that style and the risk was that we would see sides squaring their passes, squaring their passes, squaring their passes … but with no penetration. I think the final showed that this is changing. It was great to see attacking football – that’s the football that I’m sure the fans want to see.”

The overview of the 2016/17 season undoubtedly demonstrated that teams were not obsessed with ball possession as an end in itself. Statistical evidence supports the theory, as, within the teams’ overall averages for the season, the extremes show ample variations, as the maximum and minimum figures on the team pages of this report will corroborate. Although a few teams operated on a narrow waveband (Dynamo Kyiv between 50-56%, for example, or Napoli’s 46-55%), most were required to find solutions in games where they required to find solutions in games where they had huge portions of the ball or were starved of it. Atlético Madrid, PSV and Sevilla, for instance, had at least 10% differences between their maximum and minimum possession figures, alongside the runners-up, Atlético Madrid and Monaco, who had huge portions of the ball or were starved of it. Atlético Madrid, PSV and Sevilla, for instance, had at least 30% differences between their maximum and minimum possession figures, alongside the runners-up, Atlético Madrid and Monaco, who had huge portions of the ball or were starved of it. Atlético Madrid, PSV and Sevilla, for instance, had at least 30% differences between their maximum and minimum possession figures, alongside the runners-up, Atlético Madrid and Monaco, who had huge portions of the ball or were starved of it. Atlético Madrid, PSV and Sevilla, for instance, had at least 30% differences between their maximum and minimum possession figures, alongside the runners-up, Atlético Madrid and Monaco, who had huge portions of the ball or were starved of it.

The champions scraped in among them. Real Madrid enjoyed 61% of the ball during the 3-0 semi-final home win against neighbours Atlético, but had only 41% during their group-stage visit to Dortmund. Zinedine Zidane’s team had a lesser share of the ball on four occasions and, interestingly, drew two of them (against Dortmund and lost a third – they had only 47% during the 90 minutes at home to Bayern, which ended with a scoreline of 1-2 in favour of Carlo Ancelotti’s team. Real Madrid’s only victory with a lesser share of the ball was against Napoli. Juventus dominated possession in all of their group games and, after continuing in the same vein against ten-man Porto in both legs of the round of 16, they then had to live without the ball against Barcelona, Monaco and, in the final, Real Madrid. Interestingly, the beaten semi-finalists, Atlético Madrid and Monaco, also figured in the lower half of the ball possession pecking order, of course.

The table, nonetheless, indicates each team’s average over the season and reveals that of the top teams in terms of ball possession, all but five progressed into the knockout rounds of the competition. UEFA Euro 2016 had thrown a cat among the pigeons by twisting up 15 wins in 51 games for the team with a lesser share of possession. The UEFA Champions League did not equal that level. But, despite the teams that dominated the ball offered further fuel for debate – and further evidence that possession = victory is an unreliable equation. One of the season’s most eye-catching contradictions was that André Winger’s Arsenal team had a 43% share of the ball during their home fixtures against Ludogorets – and won 6-0. Among the debating points attached to the question of ball possession is the area in which domination is exercised. Possession stats, after all, are easily inflated by low-tempo passing interactions in the defensive third against opponents who do not push up to press but rely on rapid transitions into compact, defensive blocks. Legia Warszawa, Rostov and Dinamo Zagreb were the teams who spent the greatest slices of their possession time in their defensive third, while PSV Eindhoven, Basel, Paris Saint-Germain and Rostov reaped the highest percentages of possession in the middle third. The table assembles data from the individual team pages, arranged in a pecking order based on the percentage of ball possession in the most meaningful area – the opponent’s defensive third. When Dinamo travelled from Zagreb to Lyon on the opening day of the season and when Ludogorets entertained Basel, the matchday five, they spent under four minutes in the opposition’s defensive third.
CROSSES

The number and success rate of crosses remained on trend with recent seasons

### CROSSES PER MATCH

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<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Crosses per game</th>
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<td>København</td>
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<td>Leicester</td>
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</table>

### SUCCESSFUL CROSSES

- Highest success rate by Juventus wing-back Dani Alves: 48.2%
- Most crosses delivered by København left-back Ludwig Augustinsson: 73

One of the trends to have emerged from UEFA EURO 2016 was a striking 5% increase in the number of crosses per match compared with the previous (EURO in Poland and Ukraine). UEFA observer Thomas Schaaf commented that “even when teams threw players forward, they were often reluctant to push the ball through the centre because there was a greater risk element attached to ball-losses in that area”. His colleague Mário Paula Marques added that “well organised, narrow defending” underlined the need to find a way round the block, bearing in mind the difficulties of playing through it. Thus, we see a greater number of crosses. UEFA EURO 2016 registered 2,079 crosses at an average 40.75 per match. This was some way in excess of the 2015/16 UEFA Champions League, where the average was 37.

The 2016/17 season served to corroborate this trend. The 2016/17 season served to corroborate this trend. The number and success rate of crosses remained on trend with recent seasons. On average, 50% of the crosses attempted were met by team-mates. Only eight teams reached a success rate of 30% or more; Real Madrid were the highest at 41%.

The only exception was Real Madrid and Bayern München, who were both boosted by the extra half hour during their quarter-final. But this, evidently, didn’t affect the success rate. The table shows the average number of crosses per game and the percentage of them received by a team-mate.

In individual terms, København were prominent again, with left-back Ludwig Augustinsson delivering, in just six matches, more crosses (73) than any other player in the competition. And posting a success rate of 52.9%. In numerical terms, he was closely followed by Monaco’s left-side midfielder Thomaï Zerm and the Napoli left-back Faouzi Ghoulam, though their success rates were considerably lower (24.4% and 22.5%, respectively). The most taking success rate (62.7%) was achieved by Jan Vertonghen at the right-back wing-back Dani Alves, while Sporting right-winger Geison Martins registered 44.1%. Real Madrid midfielder Toux Koundi illustrated the tendency to work the wide areas by delivering 61 crosses, most of which (61) were assisted by team-mates. The reply was also among the highest at 41.4%.

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The geographical spread of the last 16 was trimmed down to six national associations, compared with ten in the previous season. But, once again, nine of the clubs who started the ball rolling in February 2017 had done likewise in 2016. The most notable among the seven ‘newcomers’ was competition debutant Leicester City – though the English champions handed the coaching baton from Claudio Ranieri to Craig Shakespeare between the away and home legs of the club’s first knockout tie against Jorge Sampaoli’s Sevilla.

The benefits of topping groups were underlined by six victories for group-winners in the first round of knockout football. The exception was provided by Real Madrid, who eliminated the Group B winners Napoli by a more emphatic 10-2 scoreline. Those ties were underlined by six victories for group-winners in the second behind Borussia Dortmund in Group F, who dismissed Arsenal by an even seven ‘newcomers’ was competition debutant Leicester City – though the English champions handed the coaching baton from Claudio Ranieri to Craig Shakespeare between the away and home legs of the club’s first knockout tie against Jorge Sampaoli’s Sevilla.

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**TEAM SHAPE**

**COACH**

Diego Simone
Born: 26/04/1970, Báscones (Guipúzcoa), Spain
Nationality: Argentine
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 1
Head coach: Since 24/05/2011

**TEAM PROFILES**

**GROUP STAGE**

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<tr>
<th>Club</th>
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<th>L</th>
<th>GF</th>
<th>GA</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SQUAD**

**PSV**

Miguel Ángel Moyà 1 90
Filipe Luís 11 870 1
Antonio Santamaria 11 829 1
Dennis Praet 11 950 1
Jesse Lingard 11 900 1
Samuel Umtiti 11 960 1
Marc-André ter Stegen 11 950 1
Toni Kroos 11 950 1
Luis Suárez 11 960 1
Javier Mascherano 11 950 1
Fernando Torres 11 960 1
Gerard Piqué 11 950 1
Koke 11 950 1

**BAY**

Miguel Ángel Moyà 1 90
Filipe Luís 11 870 1
Antonio Santamaria 11 829 1
Dennis Praet 11 950 1
Jesse Lingard 11 900 1
Samuel Umtiti 11 960 1
Marc-André ter Stegen 11 950 1
Toni Kroos 11 950 1
Luis Suárez 11 960 1
Javier Mascherano 11 950 1
Fernando Torres 11 960 1
Gerard Piqué 11 950 1
Koke 11 950 1

**ROSL**

Miguel Ángel Moyà 1 90
Filipe Luís 11 870 1
Antonio Santamaria 11 829 1
Dennis Praet 11 950 1
Jesse Lingard 11 900 1
Samuel Umtiti 11 960 1
Marc-André ter Stegen 11 950 1
Toni Kroos 11 950 1
Luis Suárez 11 960 1
Javier Mascherano 11 950 1
Fernando Torres 11 960 1
Gerard Piqué 11 950 1
Koke 11 950 1

**MIDFIELDERS**

- **FORWARDS**
  - 1 Antoine Griezmann 25 12 6 1
  - 2 Yannick Carrasco 19 11 2
  - 3 Saúl Ñíguez 15 7 4
- **DEFENDERS**
  - 3 Koke 72
  - 2 Gerard Piqué 604 561 93
  - 1 Samuel Umtiti 653 617 94
  - 3 Javier Mascherano 558 529 95
- **GOALKEEPERS**
  - 1 Miguel Ángel Moyà 1 90
  - 31 Jan Oblak 1 90

**PLAYER STATISTICS**

**SHORT**

- 10 Antoine Griezmann 25 12 6 1
- 2 Yannick Carrasco 19 11 2

**LONG**

- 3 Saúl Ñíguez 15 7 4

**MATCH AVERAGES**

**POSSESSION**

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

**ATTACKING AREA**

- 1 1-15 16-30 31-45 45+ 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+
  - 1 1-15 at 55%
  - 2 1-15 at 60%
  - 3 1-15 at 65%

**POSSESSION POSITION**

- 1 1-15 16-30 31-45 Half-time 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+
  - 1 1-15 at 55%
  - 2 1-15 at 60%
  - 3 1-15 at 65%

**TEAM SHAPE**

**COACH**

Luis Enrique
Born: 08/05/1970, Buenos Aires (ARG)
Nationality: Spanish
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 5
Head coach: Since 19/05/2017

**TEAM PROFILES**

**GROUP STAGE**

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**SQUAD**

**PSG**

Luis Suárez 18 10 3 1
Javier Mascherano 13 10 1
Lionel Messi 13 10 1
Benjamin Mendy 13 10 1
ivas 13 10 1
Toni Kroos 13 10 1
Luis Suárez 18 10 3 1
Javier Mascherano 13 10 1
Lionel Messi 13 10 1
Benjamin Mendy 13 10 1
ivas 13 10 1
Toni Kroos 13 10 1

**BAY**

Luis Suárez 18 10 3 1
Javier Mascherano 13 10 1
Lionel Messi 13 10 1
Benjamin Mendy 13 10 1
ivas 13 10 1
Toni Kroos 13 10 1
Luis Suárez 18 10 3 1
Javier Mascherano 13 10 1
Lionel Messi 13 10 1
Benjamin Mendy 13 10 1
ivas 13 10 1
Toni Kroos 13 10 1

**ROSL**

Luis Suárez 18 10 3 1
Javier Mascherano 13 10 1
Lionel Messi 13 10 1
Benjamin Mendy 13 10 1
ivas 13 10 1
Toni Kroos 13 10 1
Luis Suárez 18 10 3 1
Javier Mascherano 13 10 1
Lionel Messi 13 10 1
Benjamin Mendy 13 10 1
ivas 13 10 1
Toni Kroos 13 10 1

**MIDFIELDERS**

- **FORWARDS**
  - 1 Lionel Messi 31 15 11 1
  - 2 Luis Suárez 18 10 3 1
  - 3 Andreix 18 10 3 1
- **DEFENDERS**
  - 3 Gerard Piqué 604 561 93
  - 2 Gerard Piqué 604 561 93
  - 1 Samuel Umtiti 653 617 94
- **GOALKEEPERS**
  - 1 Michel Donadoni 18 10 3 1
  - 31 Jan Oblak 1 90

**PLAYER STATISTICS**

**SHORT**

- 1 Lionel Messi 31 21 9 1
- 2 Luis Suárez 18 10 3 1
- 3 Andreix 18 10 3 1

**LONG**

- 3 Saúl Ñíguez 15 7 4

**MATCH AVERAGES**

**POSSESSION**

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

**ATTACKING AREA**

- 1 1-15 16-30 31-45 45+ 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+
  - 1 1-15 at 55%
  - 2 1-15 at 60%
  - 3 1-15 at 65%

**POSSESSION POSITION**

- 1 1-15 16-30 31-45 Half-time 46-60 61-75 76-90 90+
  - 1 1-15 at 55%
  - 2 1-15 at 60%
  - 3 1-15 at 65%

**KEY FEATURES**

** Exceptional short combinations in central areas of attack; great finishing**

**Adventurous playing philosophy, prepared to take risks; composed creative play**
**Team Profiles**

**Bayer 04 Leverkusen**

**COACH**

**TEAM SHAPE**

**GROUP STAGE**

**ROUND OF 16**

**QUARTER-FINALS**

**SQUAD**

**TEAM STATISTICS**

**PLAYER STATISTICS**

**MATCH AVERAGES**

**KEY FEATURES**

**Squad**

**GROUP STAGE**

**ROUND OF 16**

**QUARTER-FINALS**

**SQUAD**

**TEAM STATISTICS**

**PLAYER STATISTICS**

**MATCH AVERAGES**

**KEY FEATURES**

---

**Bayern Munich**

**COACH**

**TEAM SHAPE**

**GROUP STAGE**

**ROUND OF 16**

**QUARTER-FINALS**

**SQUAD**

**TEAM STATISTICS**

**PLAYER STATISTICS**

**MATCH AVERAGES**

**KEY FEATURES**

---

**UEFA Champions League Technical Report 2016/17**

**Bayer 04 Leverkusen**

**Germany**

**Bayern Munich**

**Germany**

---

**Notes:**

- BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN
- FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN
- **TA** = Team appearance; **OT** = On target
- **G** = Goals;
- **Mins** = Minutes played;
- **A** = Assists
- **Tactically mature; positional flexibility; Wingers good in 1v1; collective high pressing; ball-winning in advanced areas; Target striker ( Lewandowski); Making deep runs to stretch opposition; Wings good in 2v1; collective high pressing; bad winning in advanced areas**

---

**Notes:**

- TOT = Total appearance; **FS** = On target; **G** = Goals
- **CARDS** = Cards:
  - Yellow:
  - Red:
  - Yellow-Red:
  - Red-Card:

---

**Notes:**

- MATCH AVERAGES:
  - **POSSESSION**:
  - **POSSESSION POSITION**:
  - **PASSES PER MATCH**:
  - **TIME SCORED**:
  - **TOUCHES COMPLÉTÉES**:
  - **SUBSTITUTIONS**:
  - **BALLS RECOVERED**:

---

**Notes:**

- **CARDS**:
  - **YELLOW**:
  - **RED**:
  - **YELLOW-RED**:
  - **RED-CARD**:

---

**Notes:**

- **GROUP STAGE**:
  - **ROA** = Round of 16; **ATM** = Atletico Madrid; **PSV** = PSV Eindhoven; **ROS** = Rosenborg; **ARS** = Arsenal
  - **TEAM STATISTICS**:
    - **TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**:
    - **TEAM POSSESSION**:
    - **TEAM TIME SCORED**:

---

**Notes:**

- **PLAYER STATISTICS**:
  - **PASSES**:
  - **PASSES COMPLETED**:
  - **PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD**:
  - **TARGETED PASSES**:
  - **PASSING ACCURACY**:
  - **PASSING ATTEMPTS**:
  - **TOTAL ATTEMPTS**:
  - **GOAL ATTEMPTS**:
  - **GOALS**:
  - **SHOTS**:

---

**Notes:**

- **TA = Total appearance; **OT** = On target;

---

**Notes:**

- **GROUP STAGE**:
  - **ROA** = Round of 16; **ATM** = Atletico Madrid; **PSV** = PSV Eindhoven; **ROS** = Rosenborg; **ARS** = Arsenal
  - **TEAM STATISTICS**:
    - **TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**:
    - **TEAM POSSESSION**:
    - **TEAM TIME SCORED**:

---

**Notes:**

- **PLAYER STATISTICS**:
  - **PASSES**:
  - **PASSES COMPLETED**:
  - **PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD**:
  - **TARGETED PASSES**:
  - **PASSING ACCURACY**:
  - **PASSING ATTEMPTS**:
  - **TOTAL ATTEMPTS**:
  - **GOAL ATTEMPTS**:
  - **GOALS**:
  - **SHOTS**:

---

**Notes:**

- **TA = Total appearance; **OT** = On target;

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**Notes:**

- **GROUP STAGE**:
  - **ROA** = Round of 16; **ATM** = Atletico Madrid; **PSV** = PSV Eindhoven; **ROS** = Rosenborg; **ARS** = Arsenal
  - **TEAM STATISTICS**:
    - **TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**:
    - **TEAM POSSESSION**:
    - **TEAM TIME SCORED**:

---

**Notes:**

- **PLAYER STATISTICS**:
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  - **PASSES COMPLETED**:
  - **PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD**:
  - **TARGETED PASSES**:
  - **PASSING ACCURACY**:
  - **PASSING ATTEMPTS**:
  - **TOTAL ATTEMPTS**:
  - **GOAL ATTEMPTS**:
  - **GOALS**:
  - **SHOTS**:

---

**Notes:**

- **TA = Total appearance; **OT** = On target;
**TEAM PROFILES**

**TEAM SHAPE**

- **GROUP STAGE**
- **ROUND OF 16**
- **QUARTER-FINALS**
- **SEMI-FINALS**
- **FINAL**

---

**SL BENFICA**

**PORTUGAL**

**COACH**

- Rui Vitória
  - Born: 15/04/1970, Alenquer de Belas (POR)
  - Nationality: Portuguese

**TEAM COMPOSITION**

- **FORWARDS**
  - 9 Raúl Jiménez
  - 11 Kostas Mitroglou
  - 17 Andrija Živković
  - 22 Franco Cervi
  - 9 Emre Mor
  - 20 Gonçalo Guedes
  - 22 Christian Pulisic
  - 32 Dzenis Burnic
  - 21 André Schürrle

- **MIDFIELDERS**
  - 4 Luísão
  - 27 Rafa Silva
  - 1 Pizzi
  - 3 Łukasz Piszczek
  - 33 Julian Weigl
  - 29 Marcel Schmelzer
  - 37 Erik Durm

- **DEFENDERS**
  - 5 Nélson Semedo
  - 50 Nélson Semedo
  - 9 Victor Lindelöf
  - 22 Sokratis Papastathopoulos
  - 23 Ousmane Dembélé

- **GOALKEEPERS**
  - 38 Roman Bürki
  - 31 Aleksandar Stevanović

**GROUP STAGE**

- **MATCH ATTENDANCE**
  - Earliest attendance: 55,000
  - Latest attendance: 60,000

**TEAM STATISTICS**

- **TIME SCORED**
  - 2016/17: 111,012m

- **PASSES PER MATCH**
  - Min. 283 v Dortmund (h)
  - Max. 515 v Napoli (h)

- **PASSES ATTEMPTED**
  - Min. 13 Raphaël Guerreiro
  - Max. 14 30 Felix Passlack

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**
  - Min. 84% v Sporting (a) & Monaco (h)
  - Max. 93% v Legia (a)

- **POSSESSION**
  - Min. 48% v Real Madrid (a)
  - Max. 56% v Benfica (h)

**KEY FEATURES**

- **Attacking**: High ball possession, pressure on loose, dynamic movement.
- **Defending**: Compact structure, aggressive pressing, strong aerial presence.

**SUBSTITUTIONS**

- 23/24

**TEAM PROFILES**

**TEAM SHAPE**

- **GROUP STAGE**
- **ROUND OF 16**
- **QUARTER-FINALS**
- **SEMI-FINALS**
- **FINAL**

---

**BORUSSIA DORTMUND**

**GERMANY**

**COACH**

- Thomas Tuchel
  - Born: 24/06/1973, Herford (GER)
  - Nationality: German

**TEAM COMPOSITION**

- **FORWARDS**
  - 9 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang
  - 20 Adrián Ramos
  - 22 Christian Pulisic
  - 31 Aleksandar Stevanović

- **MIDFIELDERS**
  - 30 Felix Passlack
  - 32 Dzenis Burnic
  - 21 André Schürrle

- **DEFENDERS**
  - 3 Sokratis Papastathopoulos
  - 31 Alejandro Grimaldo

- **GOALKEEPERS**
  - 33 Roman Bürki
  - 31 Aleksandar Stevanović

**GROUP STAGE**

- **MATCH ATTENDANCE**
  - Earliest attendance: 55,000
  - Latest attendance: 60,000

**TEAM STATISTICS**

- **TIME SCORED**
  - 2016/17: 112,791m

- **PASSES PER MATCH**
  - Min. 293 v Benfica (h)
  - Max. 515 v Napoli (h)

- **PASSES ATTEMPTED**
  - Min. 30 Felix Passlack
  - Max. 37 Erik Durm

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**
  - Min. 35% v Real Madrid (a)
  - Max. 69% v Legia (h)

**KEY FEATURES**

- **Attacking**: High ball possession, pressure on loose, dynamic movement.
- **Defending**: Compact structure, aggressive pressing, strong aerial presence.

**SUBSTITUTIONS**

- 29/30

---

**SQUAD**

**FORWARDS**

- 20 Gonçalo Guedes
- 22 Franco Cervi
- 21 André Schürrle
- 33 Julian Weigl
- 22 Christian Pulisic
- 17 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang
- 9 Emre Mor
- 26 Badou Nabi

**MIDFIELDERS**

- 3 Łukasz Piszczek
- 29 Marcel Schmelzer
- 37 Erik Durm
- 5 Marc Bartra
- 5 Lucas Piazon

**DEFENDERS**

- 2 Sokratis Papastathopoulos
- 1 Sokratis Papastathopoulos
- 3 Ousmane Dembélé
- 31 Alejandro Grimaldo
- 37 Erik Durm

**GOALKEEPERS**

- 38 Roman Bürki
- 31 Aleksandar Stevanović
- 1 Roman Weidenfeller
- 23 Ousmane Dembélé
- 1 Julian Weigl

**PLAYERS**

- 25 25 25 25

---

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **POSSESSION**
  - Min. 48% v Real Madrid (a)
  - Max. 56% v Benfica (h)

**TEAM STATISTICS**

- **PASSES PER MATCH**
  - Min. 283 v Dortmund (h)
  - Max. 515 v Napoli (h)

- **PASSES ATTEMPTED**
  - Min. 13 Raphaël Guerreiro
  - Max. 14 30 Felix Passlack

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**
  - Min. 84% v Sporting (a) & Monaco (h)
  - Max. 93% v Legia (a)

**KEY FEATURES**

- **Attacking**: High ball possession, pressure on loose, dynamic movement.
- **Defending**: Compact structure, aggressive pressing, strong aerial presence.

**SUBSTITUTIONS**

- 23/24

---

**SQUAD**

**FORWARDS**

- 20 Gonçalo Guedes
- 22 Franco Cervi
- 21 André Schürrle
- 33 Julian Weigl
- 22 Christian Pulisic
- 17 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang
- 9 Emre Mor
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**DEFENDERS**

- 2 Sokratis Papastathopoulos
- 1 Sokratis Papastathopoulos
- 3 Ousmane Dembélé
- 31 Alejandro Grimaldo
- 37 Erik Durm

**GOALKEEPERS**

- 38 Roman Bürki
- 31 Aleksandar Stevanović
- 1 Roman Weidenfeller
- 23 Ousmane Dembélé
- 1 Julian Weigl

**PLAYERS**

- 25 25 25 25

---

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **POSSESSION**
  - Min. 48% v Real Madrid (a)
  - Max. 56% v Benfica (h)

**TEAM STATISTICS**

- **PASSES PER MATCH**
  - Min. 283 v Dortmund (h)
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- **PASSES ATTEMPTED**
  - Min. 13 Raphaël Guerreiro
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**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**
  - Min. 84% v Sporting (a) & Monaco (h)
  - Max. 93% v Legia (a)

**KEY FEATURES**

- **Attacking**: High ball possession, pressure on loose, dynamic movement.
- **Defending**: Compact structure, aggressive pressing, strong aerial presence.

**SUBSTITUTIONS**

- 23/24
**Juventus**

**Team Profile**

- **Coach:** Massimiliano Allegri
- **Squad**:
  - **Goalkeepers**:
    - Gianluigi Buffon, 12, 1000: 25:1:1
    - Andrea Barzagli, 12, 115: 1
  - **Defenders**:
    - Giorgio Chiellini, 9, 725: 1
    - Medhi Benatia, 9, 781: 1
    - Alex Sandro, 10, 854: 1
    - Andrea Barzagli, 11, 715: 1
    - Leonardo Bonucci, 11, 968: 1
    - Daniele Rugani, 24, 180: 1
    - Stephan Lichtsteiner, 17, 650: 1
  - **Midfielders**:
    - Miralem Pjanić, 10, 886: 1
    - Claudio Marchisio, 8, 528: 1
    - Hernanes, 11, 95: 1
    - Miralem Pjanić, 10, 886: 1
    - Hernanes, 11, 95: 1
  - **Forwards**:
    - Paulo Dybala, 11, 797: 3
    - Gonzalo Higuaín, 9, 1039: 5
    - Álvaro Morata, 4, 94: 1
    - Paul Pogba, 6, 90: 2
  - **Unused Substitutes**:
    - None

**Team Statistics**

- **Possession**: 59%
- **Possession Position**: 40%
- **Goals**: 44%
- **Goals Scored**: 22
- **Attacking**: 48%
- **Passing Accuracy**: 87%
- **Passing Accuracy (Per Match)**: 85%
- **Passes Attempted**: 340
- **Passes Completed**: 279
- **Passes Completed in the Final Third**: 182
- **Ball Recovered**: 71
- **Attempts on Goal**: 9
- **Goals per Match**: 1.7

**Key Features**

- 1-4-2-3-1 with 1-3-1-3-1 formation
- Buffon as influential figure; excellent goalkeeping, positional sense, distribution
- Emphasis on direct attacks/counters
- Physique and strength at back; aerial ability in both boxes
- Wide players complementing each other

---

**Leicester City**

**Team Profile**

- **Coach:** Craig Shakespeare
- **Squad**:
  - **Goalkeepers**:
    - Kasper Schmeichel, 1, 720: 26
    - Robert Huth, 8, 720: 0
    - Ben Hamer, 2, 90: 4
  - **Defenders**:
    - Danny Drinkwater, 12, 868: 1
    - Andy King, 10, 253: 1
    - Matty James, 12, 751: 1
    - Christian Fuchs, 11, 93: 1
    - Wes Morgan, 11, 90: 2
    - Danny Drinkwater, 12, 868: 1
    - Andy King, 10, 253: 1
  - **Midfielders**:
    - Riyad Mahrez, 9, 772: 2
    - Ahmed Musa, 7, 214: 1
    - Christian Fuchs, 11, 93: 1
    - Wes Morgan, 11, 90: 2
  - **Forwards**:
    - Jayden Stockley, 10, 272: 3
    - Hédi Chibane, 3, 41: 0
    - Gary Madine, 17, 14: 0
  - **Unused Substitutes**:
    - None

**Team Statistics**

- **Possession**: 56%
- **Possession Position**: 60%
- **Goals**: 44%
- **Goals Scored**: 11
- **Attacking**: 69%
- **Passing Accuracy**: 87%
- **Passing Accuracy (Per Match)**: 86%
- **Passes Attempted**: 290
- **Passes Completed**: 233
- **Passes Completed in the Final Third**: 157
- **Ball Recovered**: 60
- **Attempts on Goal**: 9
- **Goals per Match**: 1.7

**Key Features**

- april on 1-4-2-2 with Okazaki as shadow striker behind Vardy
- Compact, disciplined 1-4-5-1 defending
- Wide players complementing each other
- Wide runners through channels by Mahrez, Fuchs, especially dangerous long chases
- Wide runners through channels by Mahrez, Fuchs, especially dangerous long chases
- Good overlapping, underlapping runs on left by Fuchs, dangerous long chases
- Influential goalkeeper Schmeichel; preference for long passes to Vardy
- Winning crosses by Albrighton
- Physically strong at back, aerial ability in both boxes

---

**Shakhtar Donetsk**

**Team Profile**

- **Coach:** Paulo Fonseca
- **Squad**:
  - **Goalkeepers**:
    - Andriy Pyatov, 1, 720: 10
    - Oleksandr Karavaev, 1, 720: 1
    - Oleksandr Karavaev, 1, 720: 1
  - **Defenders**:
    - Denys group, 8, 751: 1
    - Davydov, 2, 90: 1
    - Morozan, 3, 41: 1
    - Hanus, 1, 6: 0
  - **Midfielders**:
    - Maksym Medvedev, 10, 868: 1
    - Andriy Zamaraev, 1, 65: 0
    - Oleksandr Karavaev, 1, 720: 1
    - Andriy Pyatov, 1, 720: 1
  - **Forwards**:
    - Danylo Yaremchuk, 18, 272: 3
    - Yaroslav Rusnak, 10, 272: 3
    - Mykola Shitria, 2, 90: 1
    - Oleksandr Karavaev, 1, 720: 1
  - **Unused Substitutes**:
    - None

**Team Statistics**

- **Possession**: 42%
- **Possession Position**: 24%
- **Goals**: 44%
- **Goals Scored**: 26
- **Attacking**: 67%
- **Passing Accuracy**: 87%
- **Passing Accuracy (Per Match)**: 85%
- **Passes Attempted**: 227
- **Passes Completed**: 182
- **Passes Completed in the Final Third**: 122
- **Ball Recovered**: 60
- **Attempts on Goal**: 9
- **Goals per Match**: 1.7

**Key Features**

- April on 1-4-2-2 with Okazaki as shadow striker behind Vardy
- Compact, disciplined 1-4-5-1 defending
- Wide players complementing each other
- Wide runners through channels by Mahrez, Fuchs, especially dangerous long chases
- Winning crosses by Albrighton
- Physically strong at back, aerial ability in both boxes
- Great tactical discipline; team with strong work ethic, commitment to cause

---

**Sevilla**

**Team Profile**

- **Coach:** Jorge Sampaoli
- **Squad**:
  - **Goalkeepers**:
    - Sergio Rico, 1, 720: 12
    - David Soria, 1, 720: 1
    - Julio César, 2, 90: 1
  - **Defenders**:
    - Joan Verdu, 11, 751: 1
    -90: 1
    -90: 1
    -90: 1
  - **Midfielders**:
    - Pablo Sarabia, 11, 968: 1
    - Lucas Ocampos, 10, 90: 1
    - Lucas Ocampos, 10, 90: 1
  - **Forwards**:
    - Wissam Ben Yedder, 11, 90: 1
    - Pablo Sarabia, 11, 968: 1
    - Lucas Ocampos, 10, 90: 1
  - **Unused Substitutes**:
    - None

**Team Statistics**

- **Possession**: 42%
- **Possession Position**: 24%
- **Goals**: 44%
- **Goals Scored**: 26
- **Attacking**: 67%
- **Passing Accuracy**: 87%
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- **Goals per Match**: 1.7

**Key Features**

- April on 1-4-2-2 with Okazaki as shadow striker behind Vardy
- Compact, disciplined 1-4-5-1 defending
- Wide players complementing each other
- Wide runners through channels by Mahrez, Fuchs, especially dangerous long chases
- Winning crosses by Albrighton
- Physically strong at back, aerial ability in both boxes
- Great tactical discipline; team with strong work ethic, commitment to cause
**MANCHESTER CITY FC**

**ENGLAND**

**COACH**

Josep Guardiola
Born: 18/02/1971, Santpedor (ESP)
Nationality: Spanish
Manager: UEFA Champions League: 6; FA Cup: 4; Premier League: 3; Carabao Cup: 2

**TEAM SHAPE**

![Manchester City FC Diagram](image)

**SQUAD**

**FORWARDS**

- Vincent Kompany, Jose Tasende
- Sergio Agüero (9 goals)
- Borja Mayoral (8 goals)
- John Stones (7 goals)
- David Silva (5 goals)
- Bernardo Silva (4 goals)
- Raúl Jiménez (3 goals)
- Gabriel Jesus (2 goals)
- Kévin N'Doram
- Fabinho
- Nicolas Otamendi
- John Stones
- Fernandinho
- Ederson
- Claudio Bravo

**KEY FEATURES**

- **Dangerous front five:** three attackers
- **Full-backs tucking inside to give support**
- **Wide players on touchlines to open**
- **High defensive line with goalkeeper**
- **High-tempo combination play, building transitions to 1-4-1-4-1 defending**

**TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**

- **Max:** 112,401m v CSKA Moskva (a)  |  **Min:** 100,136m v Juventus (a)

**TEAM STATISTICS**

- **Goals:** 119 (Per match)
- **Assists:** 85 (Per match)
- **Passes completed:** 83% (Per match)

**PLAYER STATISTICS**

- **Goals scored:** 26 (Per match)
- **Goals conceded:** 15 (Per match)
- **Passes attempted:** 120 (Per match)

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **Minutes:** 110,413 (Per match)
- **Passes completed:** 86% (Per match)
- **Passing accuracy:** 87% (Per match)

**TEAM PROFILES**

- **Squad**: Manchester City FC
- **Manager**: Josep Guardiola
- **Champions League**: 6 matches
- **FA Cup**: 4 matches
- **Carabao Cup**: 2 matches

---

**AS MONACO FC**

**FRANCE**

**COACH**

Leonardo Jardim
Born: 01/08/1974, Barcelos (POR)
Nationality: Portuguese
Manager: UEFA Champions League: 2; Ligue 1: 4

**TEAM SHAPE**

![AS Monaco FC Diagram](image)

**SQUAD**

**FORWARDS**

- Kylian Mbappé (15 goals)
- Falcao (6 goals)
- Mbappé
- Nabil Dirar
- Thomas Lemar
- Kylian Mbappé
- Ferland Mendy
- Tiemoué Bakayoko
- Djibril Sidibé
- Fabri

**KEY FEATURES**

- **1-4-4-2 with, generally, Bakayoko in midfield;**
- **Goalkeeper preferring to start moves with short passes play; played long when needed**
- **Wide players on touchlines to open spaces, maximising 1v1 skills**

**TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**

- **Max:** 106,757m v CSKA Moskva (h)  |  **Min:** 100,136m v Juventus (a)

**TEAM STATISTICS**

- **Goals:** 101 (Per match)
- **Assists:** 64 (Per match)
- **Passes completed:** 82% (Per match)

**PLAYER STATISTICS**

- **Goals scored:** 25 (Per match)
- **Goals conceded:** 18 (Per match)
- **Passes attempted:** 184 (Per match)

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **Minutes:** 106,757 (Per match)
- **Passes completed:** 81% (Per match)
- **Passing accuracy:** 85% (Per match)

**TEAM PROFILES**

- **Squad**: AS Monaco FC
- **Manager**: Leonardo Jardim
- **Champions League**: 2 matches
- **Ligue 1**: 4 matches

---

**GROUP STAGE**

- **MGB**
- **CEL**
- **BAR**
- **DOR**

**ROUND OF 16**

- **MC**
- **CEB**

**QUARTER-FINALS**

- **MC**
- **MC**

**SEMI-FINALS**

- **MC**
- **MC**

**FINAL**

- **MC**
- **MC**

---

**GROUP STAGE**

- **TOT**
- **LEV**
- **CSKA**
- **MC**

**ROUND OF 16**

- **CSKA**
- **MC**

**QUARTER-FINALS**

- **MC**
- **MC**

**SEMI-FINALS**

- **MC**
- **MC**

**FINAL**

- **MC**
- **MC**
**TEAM SHAPE**

**GROUP STAGE**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**QUARTER-FINALS**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**KEY FEATURES**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**DATE**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**TEAM SHAPE**

**GROUP STAGE**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
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  - **Goals Conceded**

**QUARTER-FINALS**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**KEY FEATURES**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
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  - **Goals**
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  - **Passes Completed**
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  - **Goals Conceded**

**TEAM SHAPE**

**GROUP STAGE**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
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**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
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**QUARTER-FINALS**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
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  - **Goals Conceded**

**KEY FEATURES**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**

**DATE**

- **Goals**
  - **Goals**
  - **Passes Attempted**
  - **Passes Completed**
  - **Accuracy**
  - **Ball Recovered**
  - **Goals Conceded**
TEAM SHAPE

**SQUAD**

### FORWARDS
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** 13 1200 6 4
- **Karim Benzema** 9 954 5 2
- **Gareth Bale** 8 509 2 2
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** 13 1200 6 4
- **Pepe** 3 199
- **Raphaël Varane** 10 900 2
- **Fábio Coentrão** 2 96
- **Luka Modrič** 11 983 1
- **Casemiro** 9 827 2 2
- **Marcelo** 11 1001 3
- **Lucas Vázquez** 10 366 1 1
- **Toni Kroos** 19 588 1
- **Kiko Casilla** 13 381 1

### MIDFIELDERS
- **Kaká** 12 1110
- **Keylor Navas** 12 1110
- **Sergio Ramos** 11 1001 1 3
- **Casemiro** 9 827 2 2
- **Pepe** 3 199
- **Raphaël Varane** 10 900 2
- **Fábio Coentrão** 2 96
- **Luka Modrič** 11 983 1
- **Casemiro** 9 827 2 2
- **Pepe** 3 199
- **Raphaël Varane** 10 900 2
- **Fábio Coentrão** 2 96
- **Luka Modrič** 11 983 1
- **Toni Kroos** 19 588 1
- **Kiko Casilla** 13 381 1

### GOALKEEPERS
- **Iker Casillas**
- **Keylor Navas** 12 1110
- **Sergio Ramos** 11 1001 1 3
- **Casemiro** 9 827 2 2
- **Pepe** 3 199
- **Raphaël Varane** 10 900 2
- **Fábio Coentrão** 2 96
- **Luka Modrič** 11 983 1
- **Casemiro** 9 827 2 2
- **Pepe** 3 199
- **Raphaël Varane** 10 900 2
- **Fábio Coentrão** 2 96
- **Luka Modrič** 11 983 1
- **Toni Kroos** 19 588 1
- **Kiko Casilla** 13 381 1

### MATCH AVERAGES

- **GOAL ATTEMPTS** 108 (35)
- **PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD** 26%
- **PASSING ACCURACY** 85%
- **POSSESSION** 50%
- **POSSESSION POSITION**
  - Short: 114 (25%)
  - Medium: 285 (61%)
  - Long: 66 (14% of total)
- **TIME SCORED (Per match)**
  - 1-15: 17
  - 16-30: 52
  - 31-45: 108
  - Half-time: 1
  - 46-60: 65
  - 61-75: 19
  - 76-90: 35
  - 90+: 2
- **CARDS**
  - 4 (2 own goals)

### KEY FEATURES
- 1-4-2-3-1 to 1-4-2-1-1 with two or single screening midfielder
- Defend the main anchor man in front of back four in both systems
- Compact deep defending with entire team in own half
- Excellent discipline in tracking opponents, keeping defensive shape
- Goalkeeper aiming to play short to defenders, long when defenders under pressure
- Extensive use of direct passes from defenders to strikers' feet
- Strikers working as a post, dropping deep in turn to receive passes
- Good nous, solo skills by winger Ibrahim; also defended with real discipline
- Wide players often move inside to support, a cue for full-backs to push forward
- Quick defence-to-attack transitions; immediate supply to strikers

### TEAM DISTANCE COVERED
- **Min. 16,542m v Atlético (h)**
- **Max. 35,079m v Barcelona (a)**

### PASSING
- **Max. 157,961m v Atlético (h)**
- **Min. 101,353m v Juventus (h)**
- **Max. 227m v Juventus (h)**
- **Min. 77% v København (a)**
- **Max. 64% v Leicester (h)**
- **Passing Accuracy**
  - **Max. 50% v Atlético (h)**
  - **Min. 64% v København (a)**
  - **Passing Accuracy**
  - **Max. 89% v Atlético (h)**
  - **Min. 77% v København (a)**

### POSSESSION
- **Max. 89% v Atlético (h)**
- **Min. 64% v København (a)**
- **Possession Position**
  - Short: 0 (14% of total)
  - Medium: 82 (50%)
  - Long: 17 (26%)

### TEAM STATISTICS

- **Ball Recovered**
  - **Min. 469 v Atlético (h)**
  - **Max. 1,078 v Barcelona (a)**
- **Passes* A C %**
  - **Short: 154 (26%)***
  - **Medium: 355 (60%)*
  - **Long: 66 (14% of total)**

### KEY FEATURES
- High pressing a key weapon for ball build-up
- Full-backs Carvajal, Marcelo key elements in construction of attacks
- After ball winning, vertical counted/taken wherever possible
- Goalkeeper aiming to play short; centre-backs then finding wide areas
- Centre-backs, one full-back, central midfielder ready to ready the counter
- Outstanding power in attack spearheaded by Benzema

### TEAM PROFILES

- **Nuno Espírito Santo**
  - Born: 23/01/1977, São Tomé (STP)
  - Nationality: São Toméan
  - Head coach: from 25/06/2015 to 20/03/2017

- **Zinedine Zidane**
  - Born: 23/06/1972, Marseille (FRA)
  - Nationality: French
  - Manager in UEFA Champions League: 2
  - Head coach: since 09/05/2017

- **FC Porto**
  - Portugal
  - Champions League: 8
  - Semi-finals: 2
  - Round of 16: 2
  - Quarter-finals: 1
  - Semi-finals: 1

- **Real Madrid CF**
  - Spain
  - Champions League: 8
  - Semi-finals: 2
  - Round of 16: 2
  - Quarter-finals: 1
  - Semi-finals: 1

- **Middlesbrough**
  - England
  - Champions League: 0
  - Semi-finals: 0
  - Round of 16: 0
  - Quarter-finals: 0
  - Semi-finals: 0

- **Spurs**
  - England
  - Champions League: 0
  - Semi-finals: 0
  - Round of 16: 0
  - Quarter-finals: 0
  - Semi-finals: 0

- **Juventus**
  - Italy
  - Champions League: 0
  - Semi-finals: 0
  - Round of 16: 0
  - Quarter-finals: 0
  - Semi-finals: 0

- **Barcelona**
  - Spain
  - Champions League: 0
  - Semi-finals: 0
  - Round of 16: 0
  - Quarter-finals: 0
  - Semi-finals: 0

- **Bayern Munich**
  - Germany
  - Champions League: 0
  - Semi-finals: 0
  - Round of 16: 0
  - Quarter-finals: 0
  - Semi-finals: 0
SEVILLA FC

SPAIN

COACH

Jorge Sampaoli
Born: 15/08/1960, Calebés, Santa Fe (ARG)
Nationality: Argentinean
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 12
Finals: 0
Lost: 1

TEAM SHAPE

GROUP STAGE

GROUP STAGE RESULTS

JUV 3:0 LYO 1:0 DZG 1:0
DZG 0:0 JUV 3:0
LYO 1:0 LEI 1:0
LEI 1:0 DZG 0:0

TEAM STATISTICS

MATCH AVERAGES

POSSESSION 18%
Max. 16% vs Ajax Min. 4% vs Lyon

PASSES ATTEMPTED 33`
Max. 115,031m vs Zagreb Min. 104,129m vs Juventus

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 109,984m
Max. 846m vs Zagreb

PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD

Short 51% (99)
Medium 39% (73)
Long 10% (17)

POSSSESSION POSITION

Max. 80 vs Lyon Min. 39 vs Leverkusen

PASSES PER MATCH

68 (11% of total)

HIGH PRESSURE

COMPACT, DISCIPLINED HIGH DEFENSIVE LINE

1-4-4-2 WITH SINGLE SCREENING midfielder or 1-4-2-3-1 WITH TWO wide players making strong dribbling runs into inside channels

UNITS AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE

A close-knit and flexible three-man midfield

KEY FEATURES

Seven teams bowed out of the competition without a win to their credit, two former champions of Europe among them — though it has to be said that 50 and 29 years had elapsed since the trophy had graced, respectively, the cabinets of Celtic and PSV Eindhoven. It could be argued that the early exit of Premier League high flyers Tottenham Hotspur was a lack of respect for the pre-season form book. However, a conditioning factor was the exile to Wembley Stadium, where two successive ‘home’ defeats effectively spelled elimination.

As usual, there were incongruent statistics that might have left fans of some eliminated clubs feeling aggrieved. Rennes fans, for instance, were eliminated with nine points whereas Manchester City progressed with the same total and Benfica with one point less.

Seven teams bowed out of the competition, the group phase by only Bayern Munich and Barcelona. Their compatriots, Leicester City, on the other hand, made a 43% share of the ball compatible with first place in their group. Dinamo Zagreb (the only team who failed to score a goal) and Rostov propped up the ball-possession chart with an average of 34% apiece, with the latter also control the ball during only 17 minutes of their opening game against Bayern in Munich. Barcellona Mönchengladbach completed the trio whose share of the ball was below 40%.

The ability to create and convert scoring chances can, evidently, spell the difference between progress to the knockout rounds and a pre-Christmas exit. Only Bayern and Real Madrid bettered Lyon’s average of 17.17 goal attempts per game, but only one in three hit the target and the net from 105 attempts by Bruno Génésio’s team was five goals. Tottenham Hotspur’s finishing accuracy was 30% (Atlético-Madrid). It has to be said, posted the same average and Pochettino’s team needed 81 attempts to score six goals. Similarly, Sporting scored five from 73 attempts and Basel three from 65. For the sake of comparison, 57% of Barcelona’s finishing was on target during the group phase, when 69 attempts yielded 20 goals.

GROUP STAGE FALLERS

Making chances is one thing but, as ever, it was efficiency in front of goal that determined who advanced.
**TEAM PROFILES**

**TEAM SHAPE**

**ROUND OF 16**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FC Basel</td>
<td>v Ludogorets</td>
<td>L 1-4 (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>v Paris</td>
<td>D 0-0 (a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEMI-FINALS**

<table>
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<th>Match</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FC Basel</td>
<td>v Benfica</td>
<td>L 6-0 (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>v Napoli</td>
<td>D 3-3 (a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUARTER-FINALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FC Basel</td>
<td>v Napoli</td>
<td>W 2-3 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>v Benfica</td>
<td>W 2-3 (h)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FC Basel</td>
<td>v Benfica</td>
<td>L 3-0 (a)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**TEAM SHAPE**

**GROUP STAGE**

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<td>v Benfica</td>
<td>W 3-0 (h)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>v Napoli</td>
<td>D 0-0 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>v Ludogorets</td>
<td>L 1-4 (a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PLAYER STATISTICS**

- **FC Basel**
  - Vincent Aboubakar: 13 goals, 7 assists
  - Ricardo Quaresma: 12 goals, 5 assists
  - Kevin Tausen: 11 goals, 4 assists
- **Beşiktaş JK**
  - Ricardinho: 9 goals, 5 assists
  - Adel Taşalı: 8 goals, 4 assists
  - Cenk Tosun: 7 goals, 3 assists

**TEAM STATISTICS**

- **FC Basel**
  - Team distance covered: 110,055m
  - Match averages: Possession 45%, possession position 55%
- **Beşiktaş JK**
  - Team distance covered: 106,672m
  - Match averages: Possession 50%, possession position 55%

**COACH**

- Urs Fischer (FC Basel)
- Şenol Güneş (Beşiktaş JK)
**Celtic FC**

**Team Profile**

**Brendan Rodgers**
- Born: 24/12/1973, Caterham (GB)
- Nationality: Northern Irish
- Matches in UEFA Champions League: 12
- Head coach since: 20/12/2016

**Quarter-Finals**
- 21 App
- 85 Mins

**Squad**

- **Forward**: 9 Leigh Griffiths
  - 66 Appearances
  - 5 Goals
  - 0 Assists

- **Midfielder**: 11 James Forrest
  - 49 Appearances
  - 5 Goals
  - 3 Assists

- **Defender**: 5 Jozo Simunovic
  - 15 Appearances
  - 2 Goals
  - 1 Assists

**Player Statistics**

- **Goals Attempted**: 49
- **On Target**: 17 (9)

**Team Statistics**

- **Total Attempts**: 54
- **On Target**: 17

**Match Averages**

- **Possession**: 45%
- **Possession Position**: 55%

**Team Shape**

**Club Brugge KV**

**Team Profile**

**Michel Preud’homme**
- Born: 24/05/1965, Ougrée (BEL)
- Nationality: Belgian
- Matches in UEFA Champions League: 12
- Head coach since: 19/05/2015 to 30/06/2017

**Quarter-Finals**
- 22 App
- 88 Mins

**Squad**

- **Forward**: 10 Moussa Dembélé
  - 88 Appearances
  - 3 Goals
  - 5 Assists

- **Midfielder**: 21 Dion Cools
  - 71 Appearances
  - 2 Goals
  - 0 Assists

- **Defender**: 63 Kieron Tierney
  - 271 Appearances
  - 10 Goals
  - 8 Assists

**Player Statistics**

- **Goals Attempted**: 51
- **On Target**: 20

**Team Statistics**

- **Total Attempts**: 54
- **On Target**: 20

**Match Averages**

- **Possession**: 49%
- **Possession Position**: 55%

- **Goals Scored**: 54
- **Cards**: 22

- **PASSES ATTEMPTED**: 438
- **PASSING ACCURACY**: 83%
- **TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**: 104,268m
- **POSSESSION**: 49%
- **PASSING ACCURACY**: 85%
- **TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**: 106,248m
- **POSSESSION**: 49%
PFC CSKA MOSKVA
RUSSIA

TEAM SHAPE

COACH
Leonid Slutski
Born: 09/03/1955
Nationality: Russian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 15
Head coach from 2010/2011 to today

GROUP STAGE

ROUND OF 16
QUARTER-FINALS
SEMI-FINALS
FINAL

MATCH AVERAGES

GOAL ATTEMPTS 272
PASSING ATTEMPTED 328
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,420m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 480
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,420m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 372
PASSING ACCURACY 76%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 449
PASSING ACCURACY 75%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m

TEAM STATISTICS

PASSING ACCURACY 76%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,420m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 480
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PASSING ACCURACY 76%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 449
PASSING ACCURACY 75%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m

SQUAD

Goalkeepers

App Mins G A
53 Igor Akinfeev  b 540
35 Pontus Wernbloom  5 450

Defenders

App Mins G A
2 Mário Fernandes  5 450
4 Sergei Ignashevich  b 360
6 Aleksandr Golovin  4 289  2
14 Kirill Nababkin  2 91
24 Valeri Berezutski  6 405
19 Denys Garmash  3 270 1
10 Alan Dzagoev  3 263 2
11 Aleksei Ionov  3 213  1
72 Astemir Gordyushenko  2 34
66 Bibras Natcho  5 378 1
25 Roman Eremenko  2 90
25 Derlis González  5 322 1
19 Danilo Silva  1 90
32 Valeriy Fedorchuk  1 90
9 Lacina Traoré  6 368 1
63 Fedor Chalov  2 135
48 Pavlo Orikhovskiy  2 37
77 Artem Gromov  1 3

Midfielders

App Mins G A
2 Domagoj Vida  6 540
3 Antunes  4 360
24 Georgi Schennikov  6 540
15 Viktor Tyagyanov  6 360
7 Zoran Tošić  4 289  2
8 Georgi Milanov  6 364
10 Antunes  5 263 2
11 Alekssei Ionov  5 213 1
17 Aleksandr Golovin  6 95
20 Oleh Gusev  1 7
27 Yevhen Makarenko  5 322 1
9 Olexandr Gladkiy  3 25
26 Mykyta Burda  1 90
15 Viktor Tyagyanov  6 360
10 Andriy Yarmolenko  5 450 1
16 Serhiy Sydorchuk  5 357 1
1 Yevhen Khacheridi  5 389 3
7 Olexandr Gladkiy  3 25
72 Astemir Gordyushenko  2 34

Forwards

App Mins G A
7 Olexandr Gladkiy  3 25
2 Domagoj Vida  6 540
19 Denys Garmash  3 270 1
20 Oleh Gusev  1 7
9 Lacina Traoré  6 368 1
10 Antunes  5 263 2
11 Alekssei Ionov  5 213 1
17 Aleksandr Golovin  6 95
20 Oleh Gusev  1 7
27 Yevhen Makarenko  5 322 1
9 Olexandr Gladkiy  3 25
26 Mykyta Burda  1 90
15 Viktor Tyagyanov  6 360
10 Andriy Yarmolenko  5 450 1
16 Serhiy Sydorchuk  5 357 1
1 Yevhen Khacheridi  5 389 3
7 Olexandr Gladkiy  3 25
72 Astemir Gordyushenko  2 34

unused substitutes:

Unused substitutes:

PLAYER STATISTICS

TIME SCORED
GOAL ATTEMPTS 70
PASSING ATTEMPTED 372
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 449
PASSING ACCURACY 75%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 449
PASSING ACCURACY 75%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m

PLAYER STATISTICS

TIME SCORED
GOAL ATTEMPTS 70
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COACH
Leonid Slutski
Born: 09/03/1955
Nationality: Russian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 15
Head coach from 2010/2011 to today

FC DYNAMO KYIV
UKRAINE

TEAM SHAPE

COACH
Serhii Rabinov
Born: 02/01/1985
Nationality: Ukrainian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 1
Head coach from 07/08/2016 to today

GROUP STAGE

ROUND OF 16
QUARTER-FINALS
SEMI-FINALS
FINAL

MATCH AVERAGES

GOAL ATTEMPTS 270
PASSING ATTEMPTED 370
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,420m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 480
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TEAM STATISTICS

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TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m

SQUAD

Goalkeepers

App Mins G A
72 Artur Rudko  5 450
35 Igor Akinfeev  b 540

Defenders

App Mins G A
2 Danilo Silva  1 90
5 Antunes  4 360
9 Mykolai Morozov  3 270
24 Domagoj Vida  6 540
26 Mykyta Burda  1 90

Midfielders

App Mins G A
15 Viktor Tyagyanov  6 360
16 Serhiy Sydorchuk  5 357 1
17 Aleksandr Golovin  6 95
20 Oleh Gusev  1 7
27 Yevhen Makarenko  5 322 1
34 Yevhen Khacheridi  6 540

Forwards

App Mins G A
10 Andriy Yarmolenko  5 450 1
1 Yevhen Khacheridi  5 389 3
7 Olexandr Gladkiy  3 25

unused substitutes:

Unused substitutes:

PLAYER STATISTICS

TIME SCORED
GOAL ATTEMPTS 70
PASSING ATTEMPTED 372
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 449
PASSING ACCURACY 75%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 449
PASSING ACCURACY 75%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m

PLAYER STATISTICS

TIME SCORED
GOAL ATTEMPTS 70
PASSING ATTEMPTED 372
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,420m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 480
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,420m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 372
PASSING ACCURACY 76%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m
PASSES ATTEMPTED 449
PASSING ACCURACY 75%
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED 111,445m

COACH
Serhii Rabinov
Born: 02/01/1985
Nationality: Ukrainian
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 1
Head coach from 07/08/2016 to today

Dynamo forward Andriy Yarmolenko
**GROUP STAGE**

**CROATIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>GROUP STAGE</th>
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<th>SEMI-FINALS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>LYO</td>
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<td>LYO</td>
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**DENMARK**

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<td>BRU</td>
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<td>POR</td>
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**TEAM SHAPE**

**COACH**

- **GNK Dinamo Zagreb**
  - Nigyo Petev
  - Born: 06/07/1935, Zadar (CRO)
  - Nationality: Croatian
  - Matched in UEFA Champions League: 4
  - Head coach: 04/06/2016 to 13/07/2017

- **FC København**
  - Ståle Solbakken
  - Born: 27/12/1960, Kongsvinger (NOR)
  - Nationality: Norwegian
  - Matched in UEFA Champions League: 2
  - Head coach: 21/09/2013

**SQUAD**

**GOALKEEPERS**

- **GNK Dinamo Zagreb**
  - 40. Danijel Subašić
  - 98. Adrian Šemper

- **FC København**
  - 19. Anders Lindegaard
  - 1. Kasper Kusk

**DEFENDERS**

- **GNK Dinamo Zagreb**
  - 19. Josip Pivarčić
  - 2. Leonardo Sigali
  - 14. Amer Gojak
  - 22. Leonardo Sigali
  - 25. Bojan Knežević

- **FC København**
  - 19. Jonas
  - 8. Domagoj Antolić
  - 18. Domagoj Pavičić
  - 23. Gordon Schildenfeld
  - 26. Filip Benković
  - 37. Petar Stojanović

**MIDFIELDERS**

- **GNK Dinamo Zagreb**
  - 5. Primus Ivica
  - 8. Domagoj Antolić
  - 19. Josip Pivarčić
  - 22. Leonardo Sigali
  - 23. Gordon Schildenfeld
  - 14. Amer Gojak
  - 25. Bojan Knežević
  - 77. Alexandru Măţel

- **FC København**
  - 5. Jonas
  - 8. Thomas Delaney
  - 17. Kasper Kusk
  - 23. Andrija Pavlović
  - 33. Rasmus Falk
  - 22. Peter Ankersen
  - 35. Borna Sosa
  - 37. Petar Stojanović
  - 55. Dino Perić
  - 77. Alexandru Măţel

**FORWARDS**

- **GNK Dinamo Zagreb**
  - 11. Andreas Cornelius
  - 2. Gordon Schildenfeld
  - 33. Rasmus Falk
  - 2. Josip Pivarčić
  - 12. Mario Šitum
  - 2. Josip Pivarčić
  - 1. Leonardo Sigali
  - 5. Erik Johansson
  - 15. Mikael Antonsson
  - 22. Peter Ankersen
  - 25. Mathias Jørgensen
  - 35. Aboubakar Keita
  - 18. Domagoj Pavičić
  - 32. Danny Amankwaa

- **FC København**
  - 11. Andreas Cornelius
  - 19. Federico Santander
  - 17. Kasper Kusk
  - 26. Youssef Toutouh
  - 5. Jonas
  - 12. Mario Šitum
  - 33. Rasmus Falk
  - 77. Alexandru Măţel
  - 35. Borna Sosa

**PLAYER STATISTICS**

- **GNK Dinamo Zagreb**
  - 11. Andreas Cornelius
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  - 5. Jonas
  - 12. Mario Šitum
  - 33. Rasmus Falk
  - 77. Alexandru Măţel
  - 35. Borna Sosa

**TEAM STATISTICS**

- **GNK Dinamo Zagreb**
  - Possession: 34%
  - Passing accuracy: 81%
  - Short: 98 (30%)
  - Medium: 178 (54%)
  - Long: 51 (16% of total)

- **FC København**
  - Possession: 52%
  - Passing accuracy: 84%
  - Short: 135 (27%)
  - Medium: 281 (57%)
  - Long: 208 (46% of total)

**MATCH AVERAGES**

- **GNK Dinamo Zagreb**
  - Substitutions: 18/18
  - Used Players: 6 (No double substitutions)

- **FC København**
  - Substitutions: 16/18
  - Used Players: 7 (Including one double substitution)

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**GROUP STAGE**

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**OLYMPIQUE LYONNAIS**

**COACH**
Bruno Génésio  
Born: 01/05/1966, Lyon (FRA)  
Nationality: French  
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 6  
Head coach: Since 07/05/2015

**TEAM SHAPE**

**GROUP STAGE**  
DZG 6-0 SEV 1-0 JUV 3-1 DZG 6-0 SEV

**QUARTER-FINALS**  
JUV 3-1 SEV

**SEMI-FINALS**  
DZG 2-1 JUV

**FINAL**  
LYON 2-1 SEV

**TEAM STATISTICS**

**MATCH AVERAGES**  
Possession 52%  
Possession Position 53%  
On Target 18

**TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**  
110,507m

**PASSING ACCURACY**  
88%

**POSSESSION POSITION**  
52%

**PASSES ATTEMPTED**  
509

**TIME SCORED**  
2 (0-0)

**SQUAD**

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<th>App</th>
<th>Mins</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>A</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Lopes 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corentin Tolisso 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan Ferri 3</td>
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<td>Nicolas Nkoulou 4</td>
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| Andre Schubert Born: 04/07/1971, Kassel (GER)  
Nationality: German  
Matches in UEFA Champions League: 6  
Head coach: Since 19/09/2015

**TEAM SHAPE**

**GROUP STAGE**  
MC 0-0 BAR 0-0 CEL 0-0 CEL 0-0 BAR 0-0

**QUARTER-FINALS**  
CEL 0-0 CEL

**SEMI-FINALS**  
MC 0-0 BAR

**FINAL**  
MC 2-0 BAR

**TEAM STATISTICS**

**MATCH AVERAGES**  
Possession 39%  
Possession Position 57%

**TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**  
114,524m

**PASSING ACCURACY**  
85%

**POSSESSION POSITION**  
39%

**PASSES ATTEMPTED**  
444

**TIME SCORED**  
2 (0-0)

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<td>Lewis Holtby 7</td>
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<td>Mahmoud Dahoud 4</td>
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<td>249</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nico Schulz 2</td>
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**TEAM SHAPE**

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MC 0-0 BAR 0-0 CEL 0-0 CEL 0-0 BAR 0-0

**QUARTER-FINALS**  
CEL 0-0 CEL

**SEMI-FINALS**  
MC 0-0 BAR

**FINAL**  
MC 2-0 BAR

**TEAM STATISTICS**

**MATCH AVERAGES**  
Possession 39%  
Possession Position 57%

**TEAM DISTANCE COVERED**  
114,524m

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**PLAYER STATISTICS**

**PASSES**

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<tr>
<td>Maxime Gonalons</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>299</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corentin Tolisso</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
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**PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corentin Tolisso</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffael</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergio Rico</td>
<td>67</td>
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**BALLS RECOVERED**

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**ATTEMPTS ON GOAL**

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**Team Profiles**

**PSV EINDHOVEN**

- **COACH**: Phillip Cocu (Born: 26/10/1973, Eindhoven (NED))
- **Nationality**: Dutch
- **Matches in UEFA Champions League**: 16
- **Head coach since**: 01/07/2015

**Team Statistics**

- **Goals Attempted**: 20
- **Goals Scored**: 19
- **Cards**: 1

**Match Averages**

- **Possession**: 55%
- **Possession Position**: 55%
- **Passes Completed**: 80%
- **Passes Attempted**: 357
- **Passes on Target**: 52
- **On Target**: 48
- **Goal Attempts**: 35
- **Goals**: 15
- **Cards**: 1

**Squad**

- **Goalkeepers**
  - 1 Jan Živojinović
  - 22 Remko Pasveer
- **Defenders**
  - 2 Nicolas Isimat-Mirin
  - 5 Halit Özcan
  - 4 Santiago Arias
  - 3 Héctor Moreno
  - 15 Jeroen Zoet
  - 22 Remko Pasveer
- **Midfielders**
  - 7 Gastón Pereiro
  - 10 Siem de Jong
  - 11 Luciano Narsingh
  - 27 Steven Bergwijn
- **Forwards**
  - 9 Luuk de Jong
  - 18 Andrés Guardado

**Player Statistics**

- **PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD**
  - Gastón Pereiro: 70
  - Siem de Jong: 55
  - Steven Bergwijn: 82

**Team Shape**

- Phillip Cocu
- **Team Profile**

**FC ROSTOV**

- **COACH**: Ivan Danilants (Born: 20/02/1953, Archangelsk (RUS))
- **Nationality**: Austrian
- **Matches in UEFA Champions League**: 16
- **Head coach since**: 01/05/2017

**Team Statistics**

- **Goals Attempted**: 50
- **Goals Scored**: 27
- **Cards**: 18

**Match Averages**

- **Possession**: 58%
- **Possession Position**: 58%
- **Passes Completed**: 87%
- **Passes Attempted**: 357
- **Passes on Target**: 53
- **On Target**: 41
- **Goal Attempts**: 37
- **Goals**: 17
- **Cards**: 18

**Squad**

- **Goalkeepers**
  - 30 Olexandr Zinchenko
- **Defenders**
  - 3 Dmitri Poloz
  - 2 Timofei Kalachev
  - 16 Andrés Guardado
  - 28 Andrei Prepeliţă
- **Midfielders**
  - 20 Sardar Azmoun
  - 15 Jetro Willems
  - 44 César Navas
- **Forwards**
  - 11 Aleksandr Bukharov
  - 16 Christian Noboa

**Player Statistics**

- **PASSES COMPLETED IN THE FINAL THIRD**
  - Dmitri Poloz: 170
  - Andrei Prepeliţă: 129
  - Sardar Azmoun: 150

**Team Profile**

- Ivan Danilants

---

**Notes**

- *Unused substitutes:* Florian Jozefzoon, Hidde Jurjus, Simon Poulsenn
- *Unused substitutes:* Khoren Bayramyan, Papa Gueye, Nikita Medvedev
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### TEAM SHAPE

**SPORTING CLUBE DE PORTUGAL**

**COACH**
Jorge Jesus  
*Born: 24/07/1954, Alcácer do Sal (POR)  
*Nationality: Portuguese  
*Matches in UEFA Champions League: 5  
*Head coach: Since 06/07/2015

**TEAM SHAPE**

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**MATCH AVERAGES**

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<tr>
<td><strong>PASSES ATTEMPTED</strong></td>
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**USED PLAYERS**

**COACH**
Mauricio Pochettino  
*Born: 20/03/1972, Rosario (ARG)  
*Nationality: Argentinian  
*Matches in UEFA Champions League: 5  
*Head coach: Since 27/09/2014

**TEAM SHAPE**

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| 47 | Ricardo Esgaio | 1 | 52 |
| 5 | Lewis Baker | 3 | 232 |
| 11 | Erik Lamela | 3 | 232 |
| 12 | Victor Wanyama | 5 | 428 |
| 16 | André | 3 | 47 |
| 20 | Luc Castaignos | 1 | 45 |
| 28 | Bas Dost | 6 | 481 |

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**USED PLAYERS**
ROLL OF HONOUR

2017 REAL MADRID CF
2016 REAL MADRID CF
2015 FC BARCELONA
2014 REAL MADRID CF
2013 FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN
2012 CHELSEA FC
2011 FC BARCELONA
2010 FC INTERNAZIONALE MILANO
2009 FC BARCELONA
2008 MANCHESTER UNITED FC
2007 AC MILAN
2006 FC BARCELONA
2005 LIVERPOOL FC
2004 FC PORTO
2003 AC MILAN
2002 REAL MADRID CF
2001 FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN
2000 REAL MADRID CF
1999 MANCHESTER UNITED FC
1998 REAL MADRID CF
1997 BORUSSIA DORTMUND
1996 AVENTIUS
1995 AC AIX
1994 AC MILAN
1993 OLYMPIQUE DE MARSEILLE
1992 FC BARCELONA
1991 FC CRVENA ZVEZDA
1990 AC MILAN
1989 AC MILAN
1988 REAL MADRID CF
1987 FC PORTO
1986 FC STEAUA BUCUREŞTI
1985 AVENTIUS
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 FEYENOORD
1970 AC MILAN
1969 MANCHESTER UNITED FC
1968 REAL MADRID CF
1967 FC INTERNAZIONALE MILANO
1966 FC INTERNAZIONALE MILANO
1965 AC MILAN
1964 SL BENFICA
1963 SL BENFICA
1962 REAL MADRID CF
1961 REAL MADRID CF
1960 REAL MADRID CF
1959 REAL MADRID CF
1958 REAL MADRID CF
1957 REAL MADRID CF
1956 REAL MADRID CF

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Sergio Ramos lifts the
European Champion Clubs’
Cup as Real Madrid celebrate
their 12th triumph

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TECHNICAL REPORT 2016/17

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UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TECHNICAL REPORT 2016/17