Northampton Town January Recruitment Plan

Harry Whitworth



Transfer Briefing & Squad Overview



Overview & Objectives Of The Window

- Morton to return to Salford due to season ending injury
- Dibley-Dias return to Fulham due to not working out
- Extend contracts of Guiness-Walker and Eyoma
- Recall Max Dyche from his loan at Woking
- 1 Central Midfielder in the mould of a Sowerby/ Chouchane
- 1 Right/Left Winger with pace and directness
- 1 Striker who likes to be on the shoulder of the last man
- Use the loan market efficiently
- Make sure the squad has the quality to get themselves out of the relegation battle
- Signings must be able to make an instant impact on the team
- Look for hidden gems in the market

How Will I Identify Players?

- I will use KPI's that I believe are important for each position after watching how Northampton try to play. The first stage of the process will be a data driven stage to identify players Northampton should try and recruit in my opinion.
- The second stage of the process will be using video scouting and using the 'eye test' to see how perform in games. Following this I will write a small and concise overview of the player and what I think of them after these two stages.
- I would like to put on note due to limited amount of data and software I am able to use, I will be using data from SofaScore and Fbref predominately and turning the data into per 90 stats. All data is collected up until boxing day and nothing after that is taken into consideration.

Deep Lying Playmaker

Player Specification

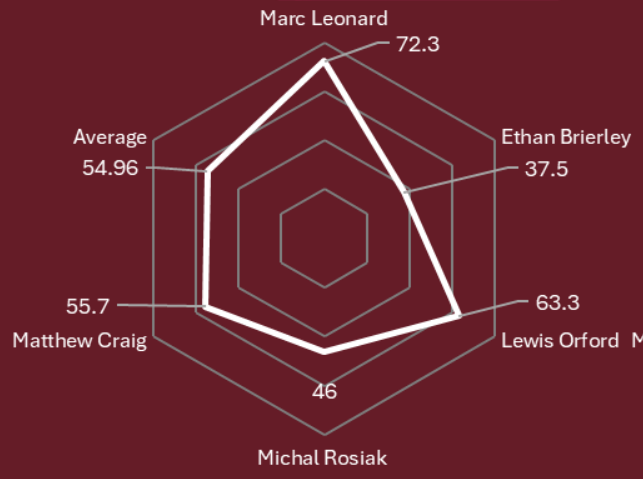
- Comfortable at picking the ball up from deep
- Wants to progressive with the ball
- Not injury prone
- A confidence with the ball and has a wide range of passes
- High Football IQ
- Transfer Type: Permanent / Loan

Why do Northampton need this?

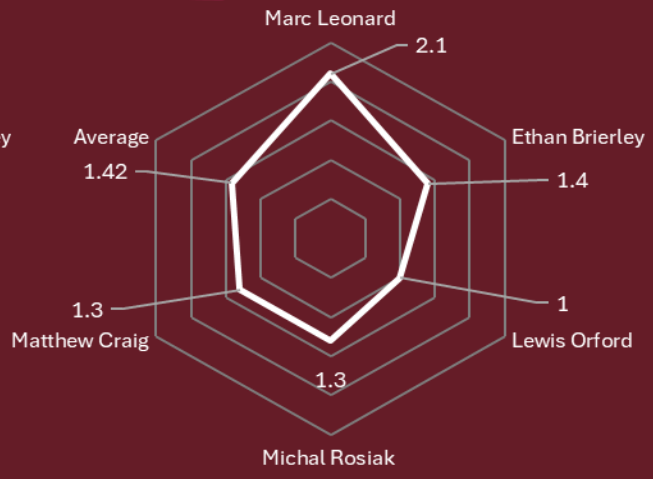
- They have struggled to create goal scoring chances, having the least can of shots in the division
- Have a lack of reliable depth in this mould of midfielder with Sowerby being consistently injured
- To add unpredictability to the attacks, so they can play out or go direct
- Competition for Chouchane could boost his performance levels

How The Midfielders Compare

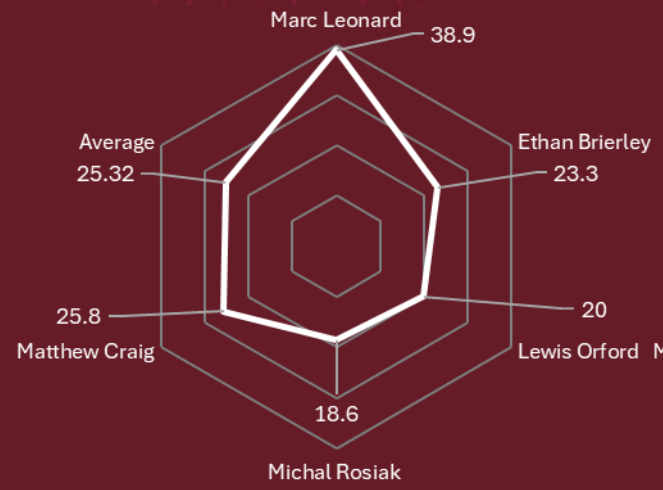
Accurate Passes Per 90



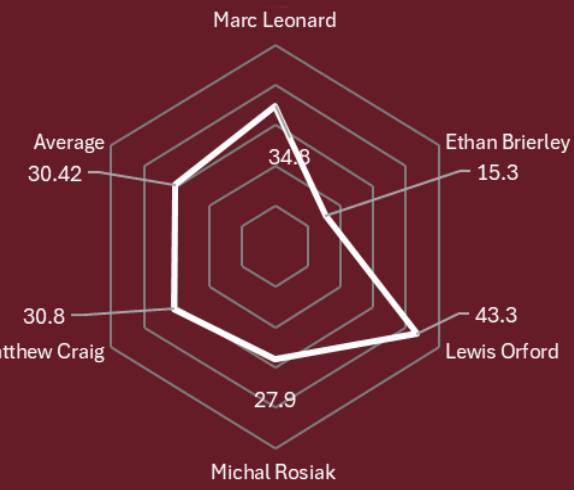
Key Passes Per 90



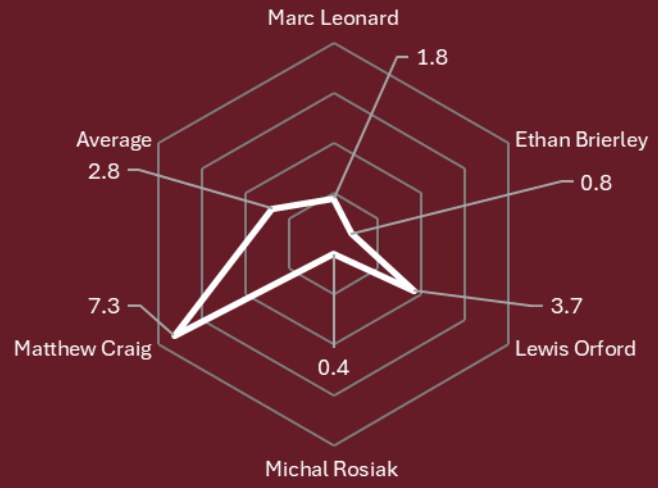
Accurate Passes Opposition Half Per 90



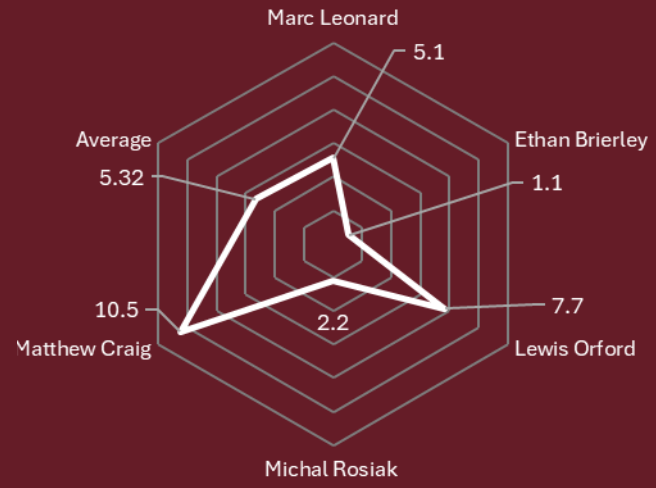
Accurate Passes Own Half Per 90



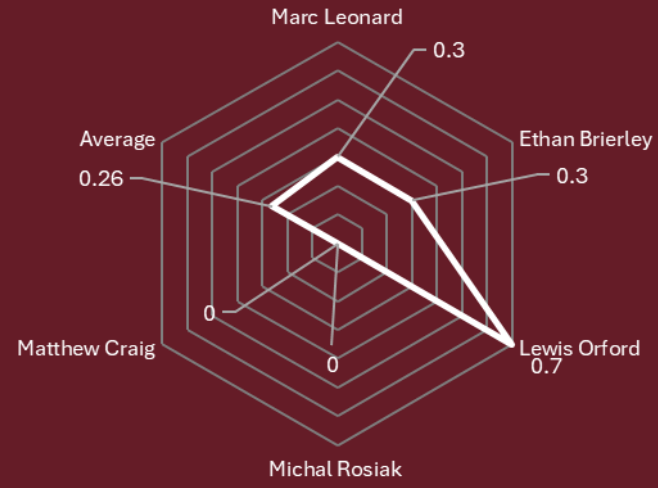
Tackles Per 90



Total duels Per 90



Shots On Target Per 90





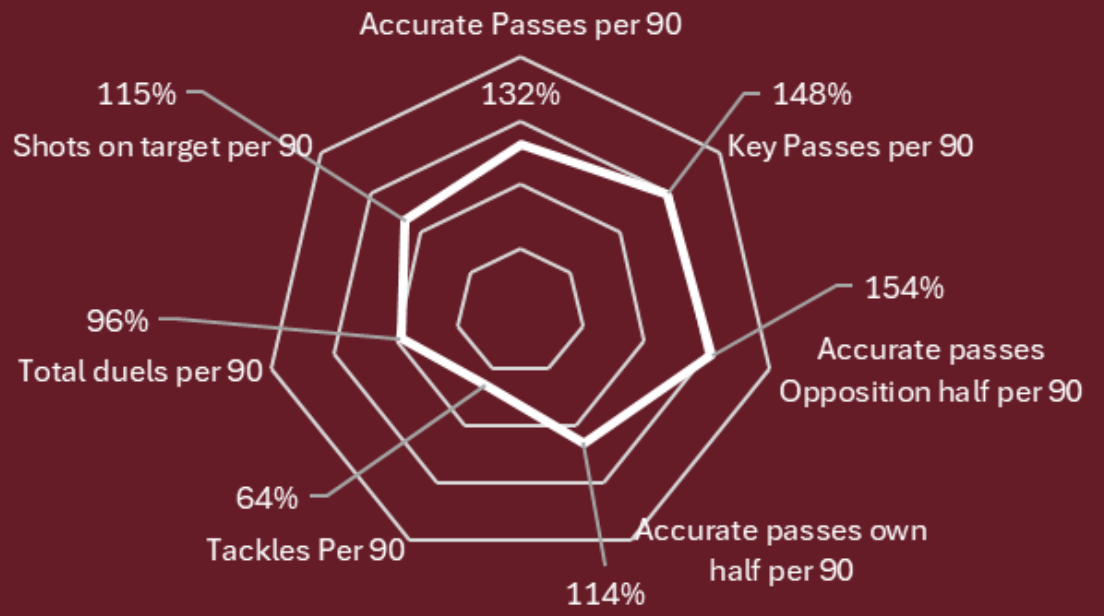
Current Club: Birmingham City
Age: 22
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 21
Height: 5’10
Type of Transfer: Loan

Marc Leonard

Summary

Leonard is known well by most people involved in the football club following a 2-year loan spell. This would seem to be an ambitious attempt to bring him back to Sixfields for the remainder of the season with potential cost implications that would come about should an opportunity arise. Despite a limited number of minutes since joining blues, he has still shown the skillset he has to offer. He has been making 72.3 successful Passes per 90 minutes which is far greater than anybody else on the list. As we know, Leonard will greatly help us build out of the first phase of play and allows us different options to beat an oppositions on coming press due to his willingness to get on the ball deep and play forward. Out of possession, he is aggressive and his desire to want to win the ball back and keep attacks alive is top class and is something that was really under appreciated during his time at Sixfields. Off the pitch he is a great person and gets along with everyone, being a really valued member of the Birmingham City and Northampton Town dressing rooms. He would have no issue with coming in and hitting the ground running should he sign at the club again.

Percentiles Compared To The Average From All Players Selected





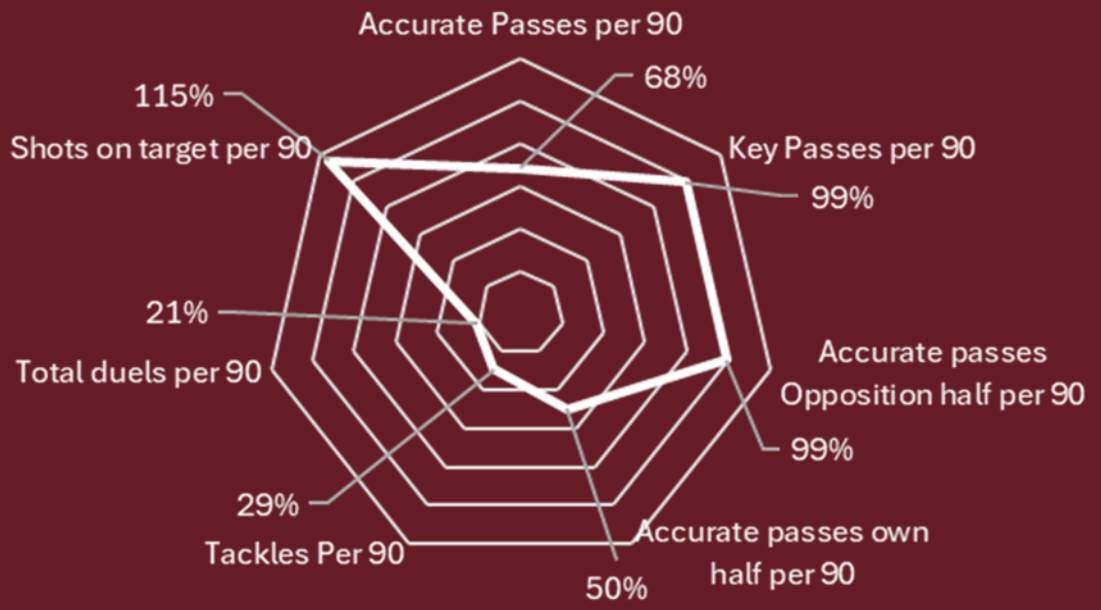
Current Club: Brentford
Age: 21
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 0
Height: 5’6
Type of Transfer: Loan

Ethan Brierley

Summary

Ethan is an inexperienced player in men's football, with most of his football played at competitive level came a few years ago in League Two for Rochdale in the 22/23 campaign. Has shown for Brentford B that he has the ability to score goals from midfield, scoring on multiple occasions for them this season. In games he will move the ball quickly and progressively, trying to be that creative spark often from deep, is very press resistant and receives the ball extremely well under pressure. Should be able to compete physically regardless of his lack of height, has a great engine and work ethic. He would really help the team retain the ball and create better chances in front of goal, something that has been a massive issue throughout the first half of the season, with the team having the least number of shots on goal per 90 minutes in the whole league with 8.9 shots per 90. The potential risk of signing Ethan is that he doesn’t get up to speed with League One football straight away and due to his lack of men’s football, he could struggle. With the club needing players to kick on and make an impact straight away, this could be a potential concern, however on the face of it I believe Ethan would be a good fit for the club.

Percentiles Compared To The Average From All Players Selected





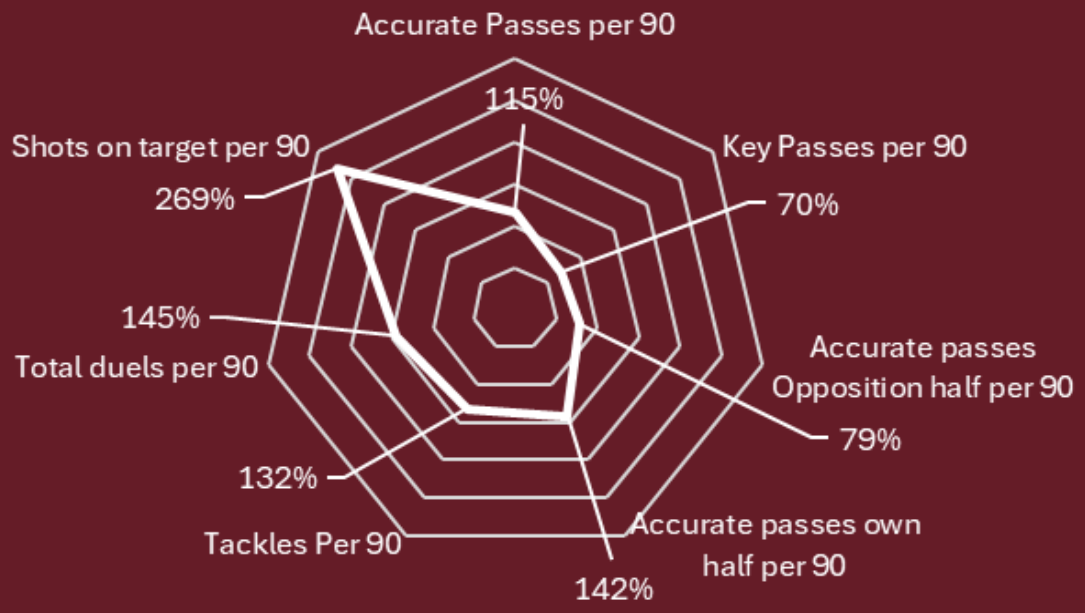
Current Club: West Ham
Age: 18
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 5
Height: 6’0
Type of Transfer: Loan

Lewis Orford

Summary

Lewis is another player who lacks minutes in men's football, he has gained experience against men's opposition for West Ham under 21’s in both the Vertu Trophy and National League Cup, in which he has performed exceptionally well. He is aggressive out of possession, reads the game superbly, which leads to him winning the ball up high, has the quality on the ball to make the difference in games. The England Under 19’s international range of passing with both feet is incredible for someone of his age, has shown in games against League opposition he is not afraid to get stuck in and make challenges. His vision and execution of diagonal balls allows attacking players with pace and trickery to run into space and isolate the oppositions full back 1v1. In my opinion he is the best player on this list and would have no issues in transitioning from youth football to men's football. He will not be short of suitors and many clubs at this level and potentially the level above will be interested. The club’s standout development of youth players when they come on loan may make this a deal that can be done.

Percentiles Compared To The Average From All Players Selected





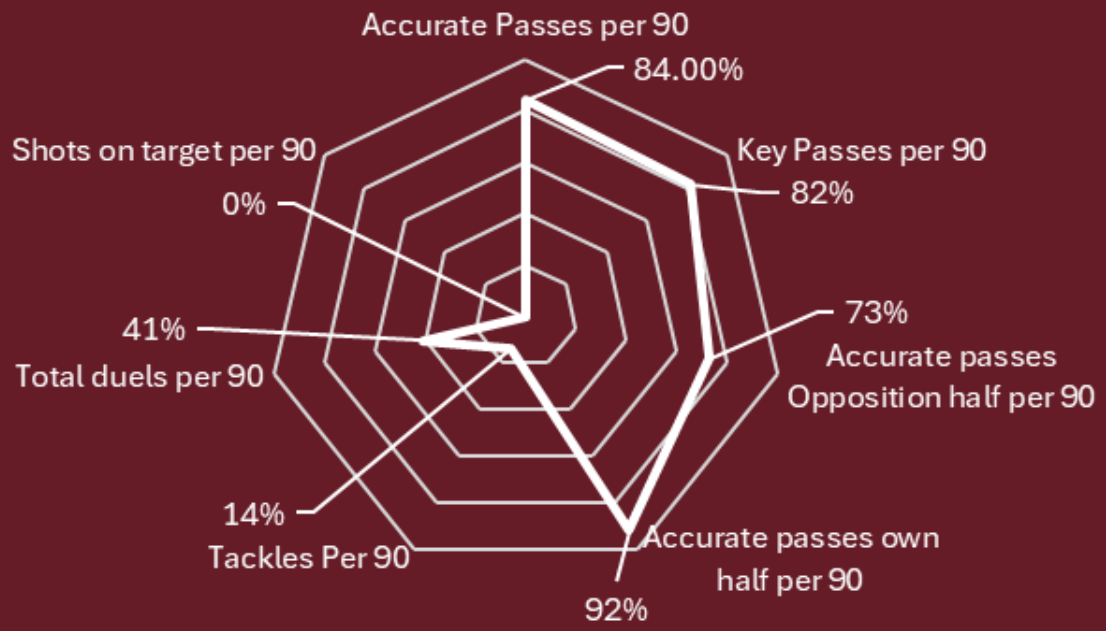
Current Club: Arsenal
Age: 19
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 3
Height: 5’11
Type of Transfer: Loan

Michal Rosiak

Summary

Michal Rosiak is a versatile player who can play as an 8 or a 6 but can even play in at Right Back, which given the current injury issues at the club, someone that can play in multiple positions would come at a lot of use for the team for the remainder of the season. He has a brilliant set piece and consistently delivers quality balls from set piece scenarios. His Passing range and vision similar to Orford is next level and creates some great chances from deep areas. He likes to cross the ball from a deep right position and often does with quality and in good areas for attackers to get on the end of. He is a good 1v1 defender in wide areas. His decision making and his choice of passes is usually very good but can be guilty of trying a ‘Hollywood’ pass even if it isn’t really on and a simple pass is the better option. He has been in and around the first team training after signing a professional contract recently. Based off the small sample of data collected from the Vertu Trophy games he has played in this season, he isn’t one to try and get stuck into a tackle and seems to be a lot more of a technical player, who wants to make the difference on the ball.

Percentiles Compared To The Average From All Players Selected





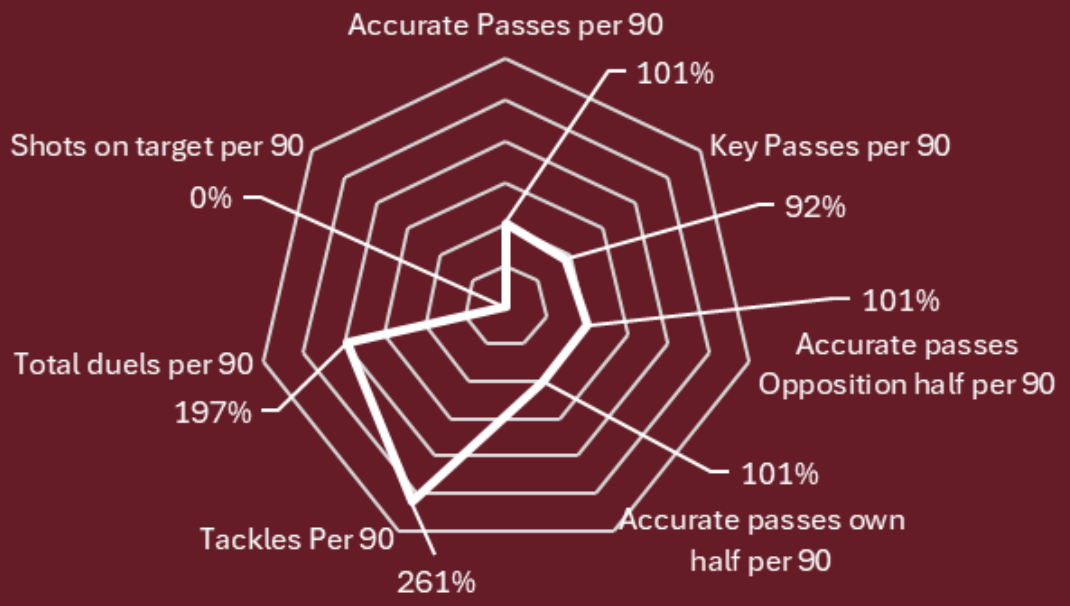
Current Club: Tottenham (Barnsley on loan)
Age: 21
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 16
Height: 6’0
Type of Transfer: Loan

Matthew Craig

Summary

Matthew has shown undeniable quality on both of his loan spells, especially his first one at Doncaster rovers in 23/24. He has struggled for minutes at Barnsley and a break in that season long loan may be a real possibility. He is an all-action midfielder, who will get involved in big tackles and duels but in possession he looks after the ball superbly and wants to try and play in the opposition's half. He dictates the tempo of the game and will happily pick the ball up in deep areas and be the one to progress the ball up the field himself. More than good enough for the level and would be a massive asset for a lot of clubs in this league from now until the end of the season. He can be at times caught of position due to being sucked into the ball and losing out and hasn’t really got the legs to bail himself when he is caught out of possession. He is one of the few players on this list to have experience at men's football, and particularly League One level, which is a massive bonus as he knows what to expect and should be able to come in and kick on straight away. This is a deal that could be done as he is expected to be recalled from his current loan spell at Barnsley.

Percentiles Compared To The Average From All Players Selected



Left / Right Winger

Player Specification

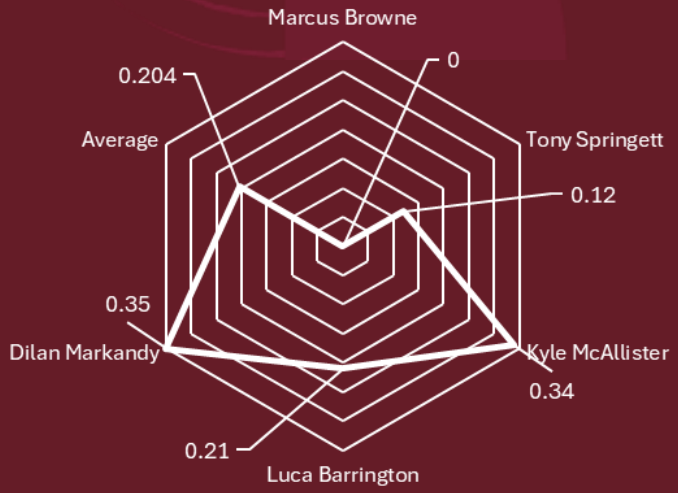
- Wants to make runs in behind
- Preferably a high resell value if permanent
- Good movement and has a turn of pace
- Willing to the hard yards off the ball
- Has a lot of quality in the final third
- Is a creative spark
- Can operate across two or more positions
- Transfer Type: Permanent / Loan

Why do Northampton need this?

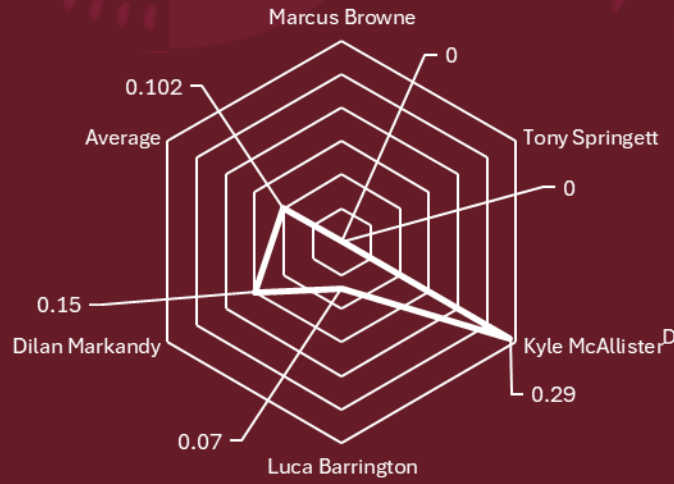
- Too add pace to a slow front line
- Too add more depth to the wide areas
- Make the attack less predictable and give us more options
- The team are struggling to create chances
- Added competition for Pinnock and Hoskins could boost their performance levels

How The Wingers Compare

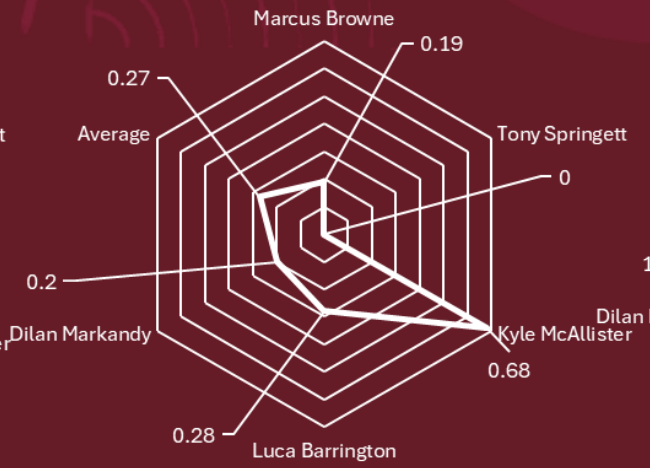
Goals per 90



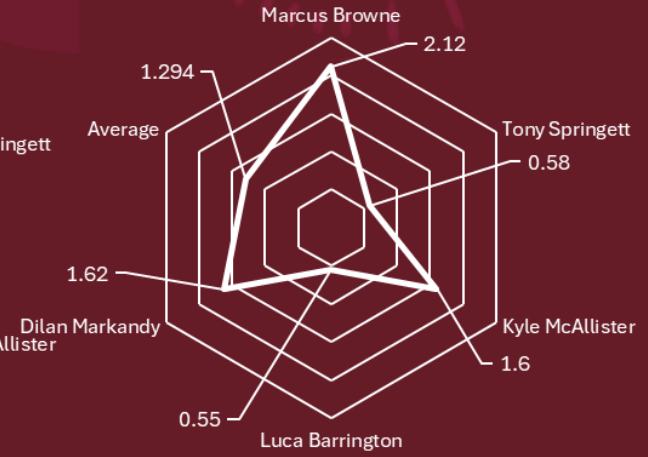
Assists per 90



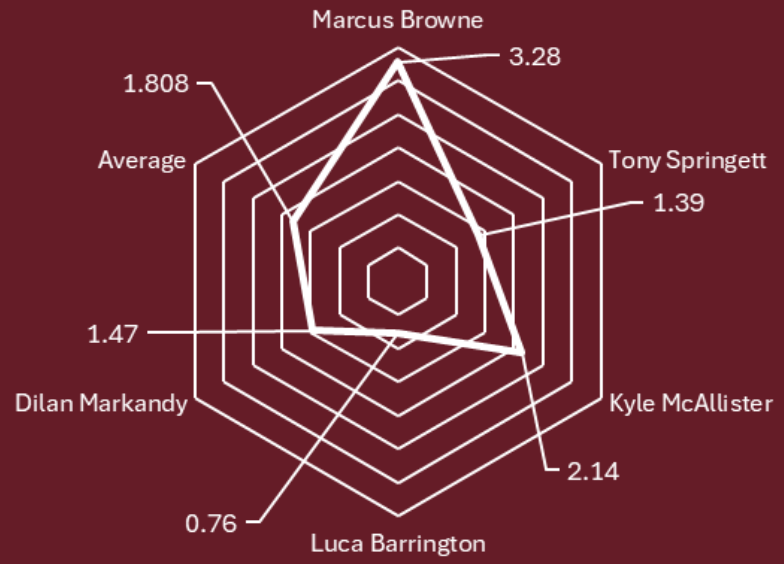
Big Chances Created per 90



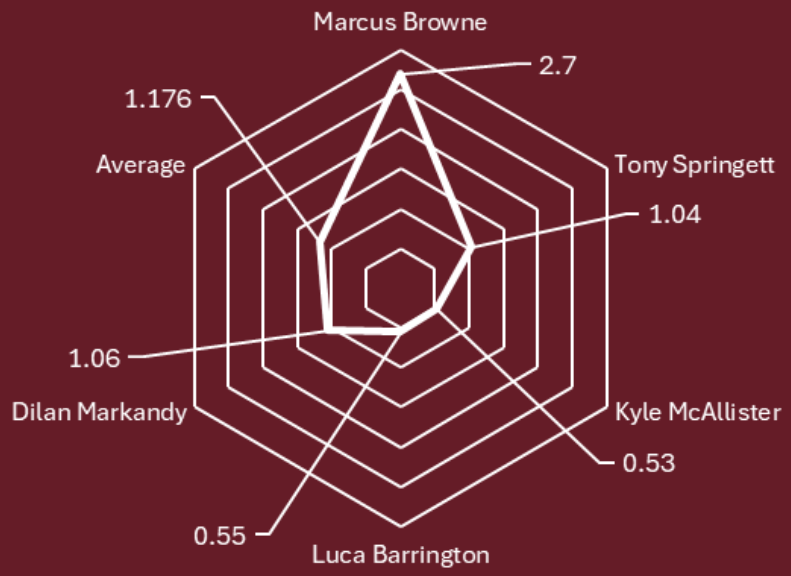
Key Passes per 90



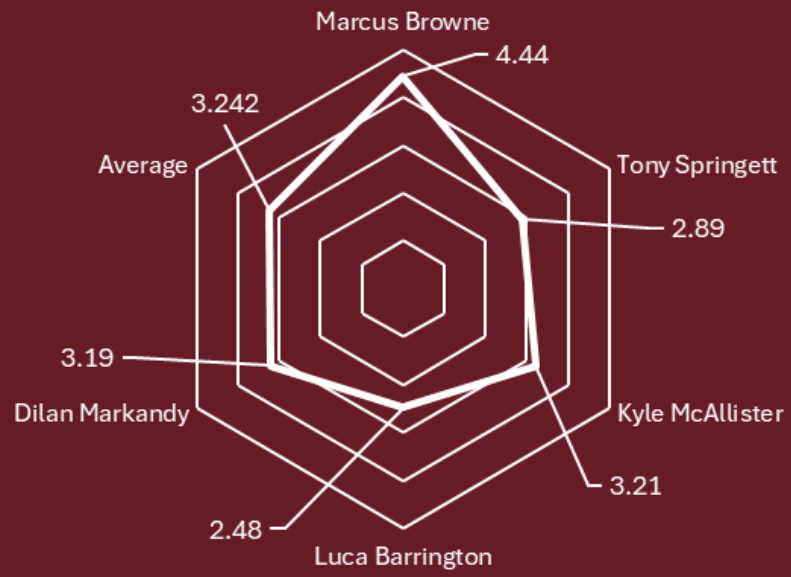
Successful Dribbles per 90



Was Fouled per 90



Balls Recovered per 90





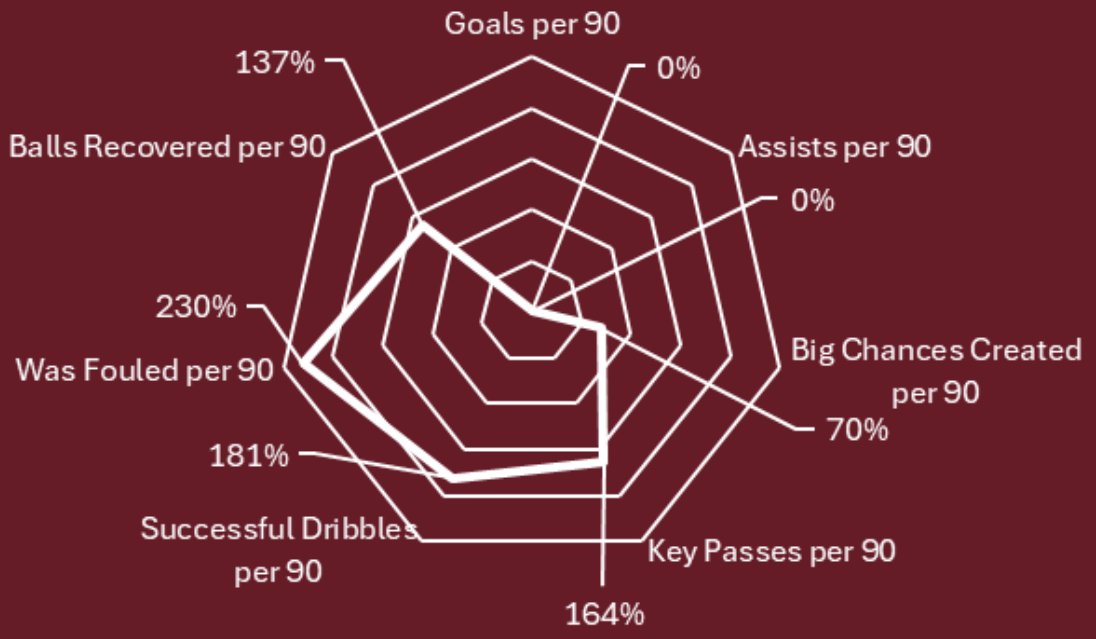
Current Club: Free Agent
Age: 27
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 23/24: 12
Height: 5’10
Type of Transfer: Permanent

Marcus Browne

Summary

Marcus is potentially one of the riskier signings from the list of wingers due to his lack of sharpness and game time, which could limit the number of minutes and time he could have to make a difference. He is however a very experienced player at this level and knows what a successful team looks like in League One. His output is the only concerning data from the data at hand but he is a very creative player that will help get the team into key areas of the pitch, whether this is with his quality of passing or his excellent close control dribbling. He is a player that works hard off the ball to help his teammates, which when in a relegation battle especially is important that the players as a collective work hard all over the pitch to defend. Another massive positive to Browne is his age and the fact he can play on either wing and even in the number 10 where he can be effective. He has been playing for Oxford United for several years, meaning the location of the club shouldn’t be an issue and will hopefully be an easy deal to be made should the club to make a move.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





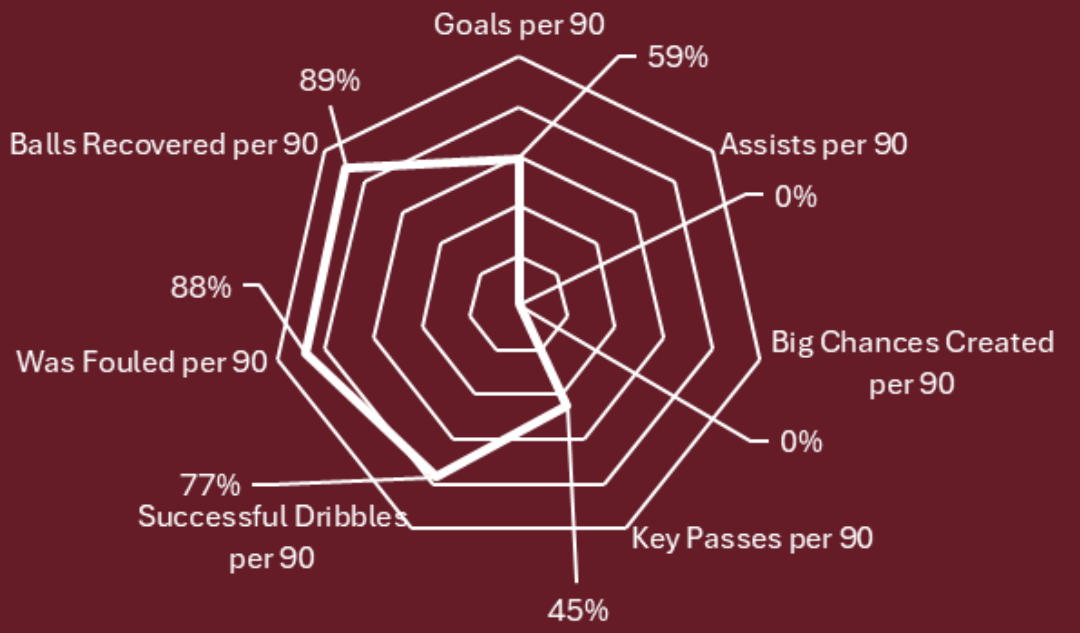
Current Club: Norwich City
Age: 22
Foot: Left
Competitive Games Played 23/24: 26
Height: 5’10
Type of Transfer: Loan

Tony Springett

Summary

Tony was on loan at the club last season, he had limited minutes and didn’t have much of an opportunity to impress. He is an aggressive player which will give his all to do the hard work off the ball. As he was here last season, that experience of being in and around the club and some of the players in the dressing room which would help him massively come in and kick on. He struggled with creating chances last season for both Norwich and Northampton when he played, which is concerning as you would like your attackers to have more of an output, however with a lack of minutes and rhythm to find form this can be taken into consideration. He is a direct winger who likes to isolate the oppositions defenders 1v1, which with the quality of Eaves who can bring players like him into play more often, he can be effective in helping the team for the second half of the season.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





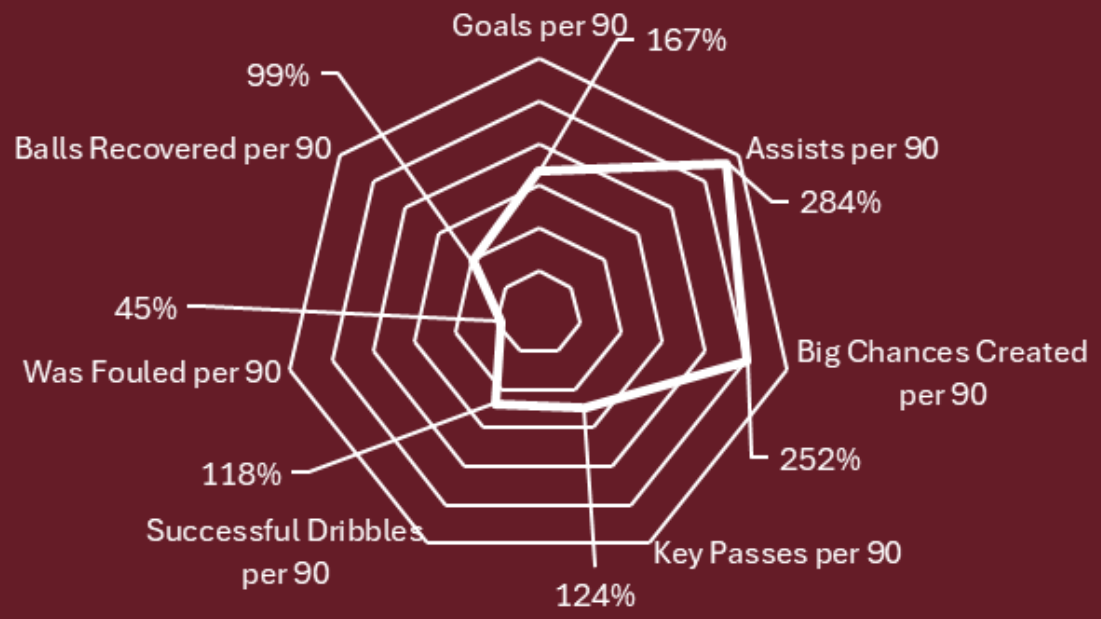
Current Club: Forest Green Rovers
Age: 25
Foot: Left
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 22
Height: 5’9
Type of Transfer: Permanent

Kyle McAllister

Summary

Kyle is one of the standout options on the list, regardless of the fact he is currently playing in the National League. His output across his last two seasons in League Two and the National League has been impressive and is something that we could really add to the current squad. He would require a small fee as his contract is up at the end of the season, I would expect FGR would be reluctant to let him leave as they are in an ongoing promotion battle. He is a super dribbler of the ball and helps the team massively get up the pitch. Forest Green similarly keep limited amounts of possession and rely on quick transitions to make chances and score goals, so stylistically I believe he would be a good fit. He is at a good age and is entering his prime years and if he kicked on further at the club, we would benefit from his performance levels and would potentially make a profit should he leave on a transfer fee based off a successful time at the club. Kyle will come to the club in superb form and with high levels on confidence, which is something the squad is desperate for, as going into the January window, they severely lack.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





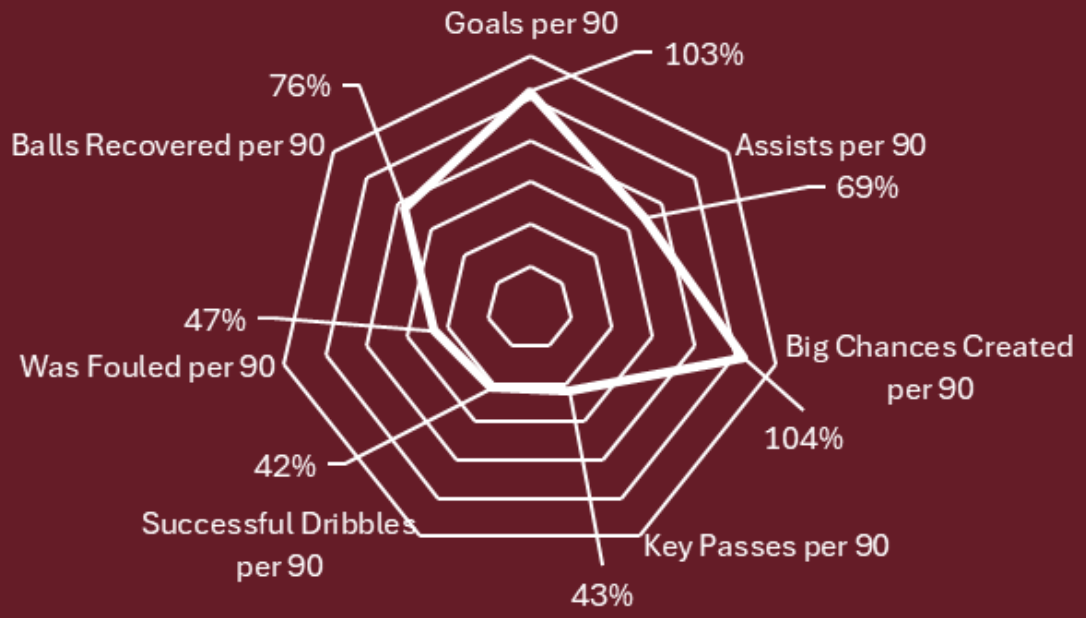
Current Club: Brighton (Grimsby on loan)
Age: 20
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 25
Height: 5'9
Type of Transfer: Loan

Luca Barrington

Summary

Luca is probably one of the weaker players on the list but has shown a lot of ability in patches in the 4th tier. He can play on either wing, but this season has operated primarily on the left wing. He uses directness and trickery to beat defenders but could be braver in the middle and final third to use his ability to make things happen. He is a similar mould of winger to Tariqe Fosu where his combination play and ball carrying ability is right up there as his best attributes. He has created 0.28 big chances per 90 minutes and has got the ability to do this more often. Stylistically this would be a good fit as he flourishes and come to life in attacking transitions. This would all be down to opportunity and whether Brighton would want to terminate his loan and move him up a league but it is definitely one I think could have an impact on the second half of the season if he can produce his best football.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





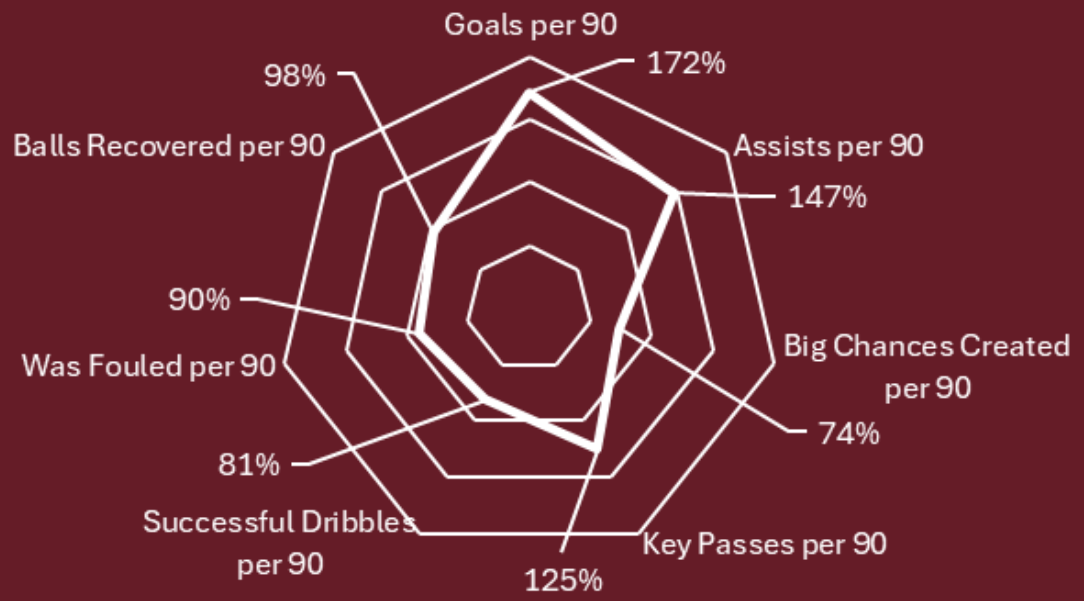
Current Club: Blackburn (Chesterfield on loan)
Age: 23
Foot: left
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 23
Height: 5’10
Type of Transfer: Loan

Dilan Markandy

Summary

This is potentially the most optimistic signing of the lot and is a player who has shown some real quality and consistency this season for Chesterfield. He has started every league fixture this season for Chesterfield and is a key reason for Chesterfields play off push. Dilan is an all-round winger and has impressive numbers, his goal and assists per 90 are right up there in the best in the list, he recovers ball very well and works hard for his teammates. His versatility is a massive reason why this transfer would be deemed as one of the best the club could get, he is able to play on both wings and in the 10 if he was required to do so. Similarly to Luca Barrington this would require Blackburn believing that a loan up the leagues to the club is the best option for his development. As with all loan deals the club make, there USP is their reputation for developing young talent and getting the best out of them, so this mixed with a transfer to a higher league, could make this deal possible.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected



Striker

Player Specification

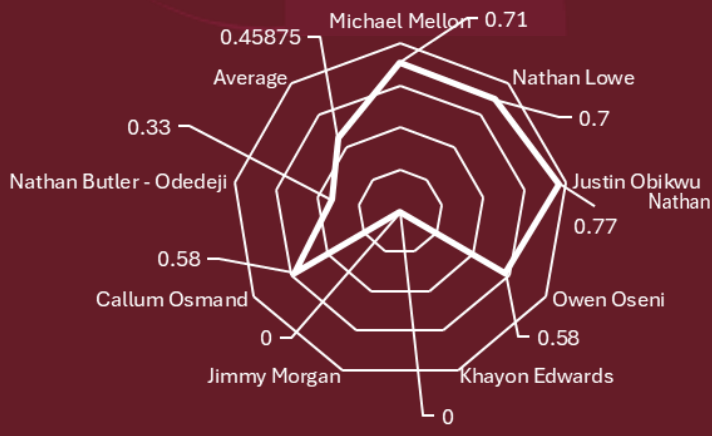
- Wants to make runs in behind and play off the last man
- Good in the box
- High resell value if permanent
- Good movement and has a turn of pace
- Has a variety of finishes in their locker
- Goal scorer
- Willing to the hard yards off the ball
- Transfer Type: Permanent / Loan

Why do Northampton need this?

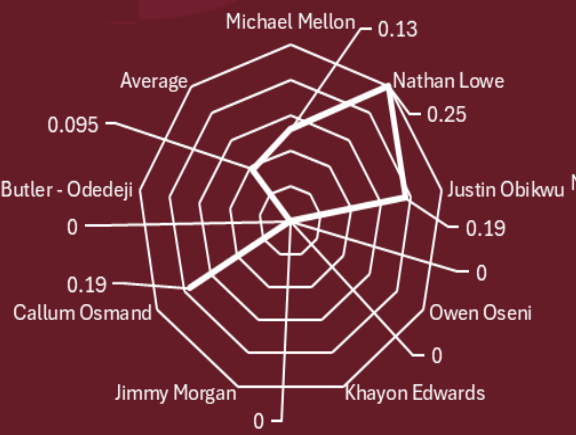
- Too add pace to a slow front line
- Too add more goals to the side
- A goal scorer could be the difference between relegation and survival
- Enables us to be less predictable and can change things up with a different type of striker

How The Strikers Compare

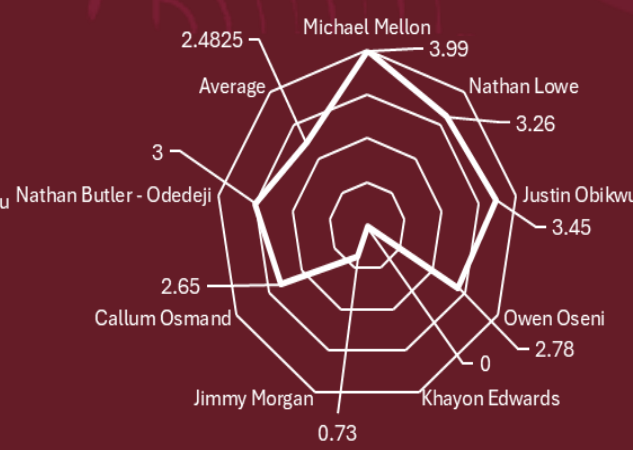
Goals Per 90



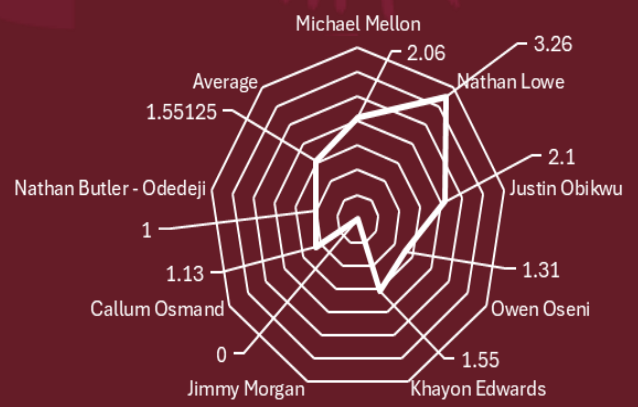
Assists Per 90



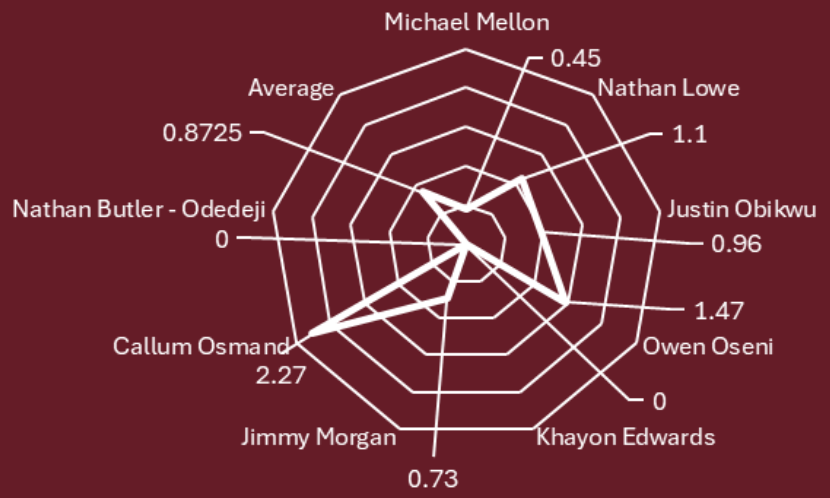
Shots per 90



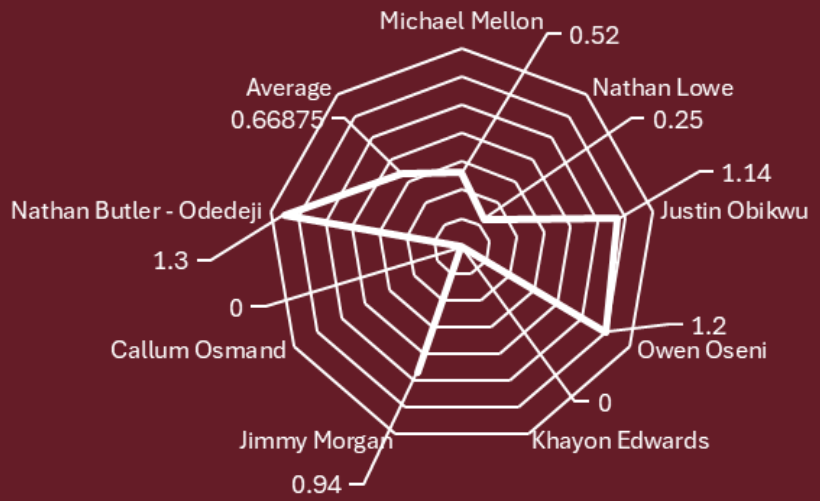
Balls Recovered per 90



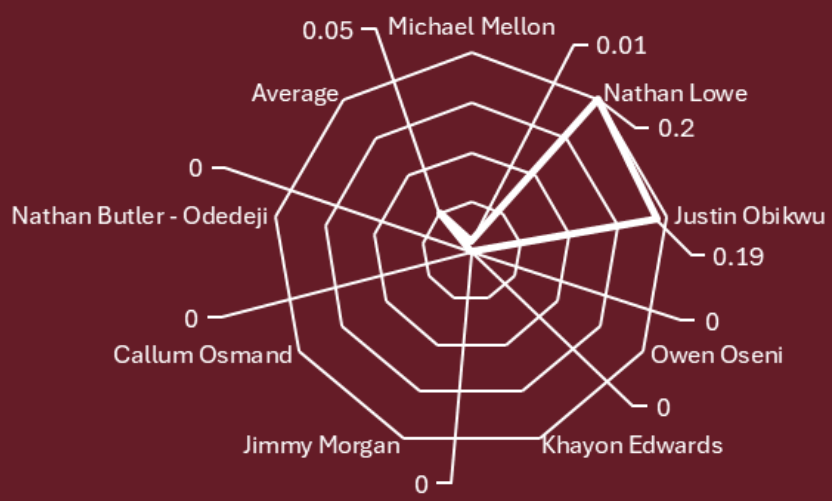
Successful Dribbles per 90



Offsides per 90



Big Chances Created per 90





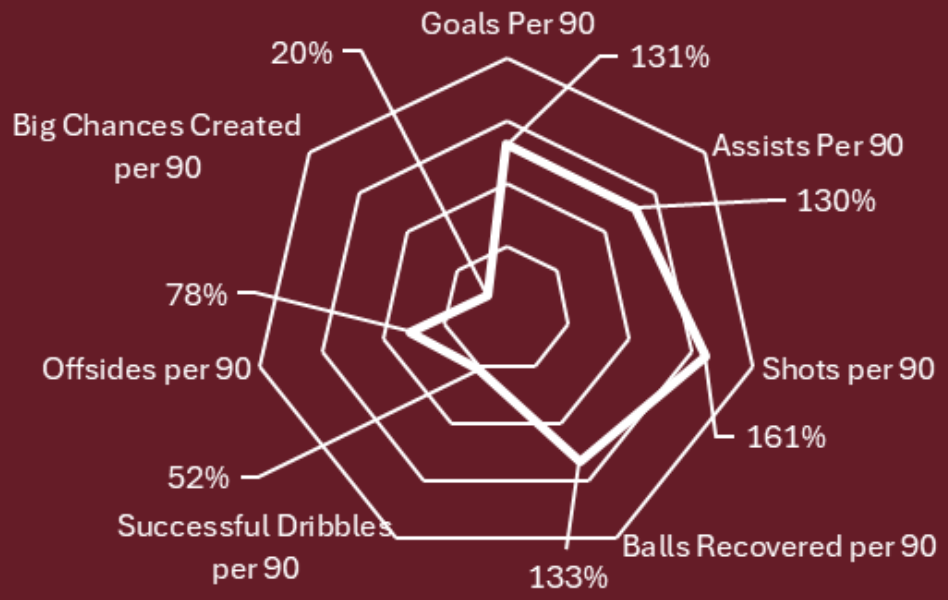
Current Club: Burnley (Stockport on loan)
Age: 21
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 3
Height: 6'1
Type of Transfer: Loan

Michael Mellon

Summary

Michael Mellon is an exciting striker when fully fit, he has had had an injury hit season so far and struggled for game time since returning from injury. I have used his 23/24 stats from his spell at both Morecambe and Dundee due to his lack of minutes this season. Offers exactly what the club need right now, often has defenders running facing their own goal with his quick bursts of pace in behind. Has shown in the previous season his excellent finishing ability, having one of the best goal per 90 stats out of the players on the list. Getting him fully up to speed would be a potential issue that we could face if he was bought in, he has however been back in full training at Stockport for a while and appeared in a few games since returning so it wouldn't be a huge issue to contend with. He has struggled to take minutes off players like Louie Barry who is set to return to Aston Villa in the new year but there has been rumours that Mellon is going to be recalled and sent back on loan to another EFL club regardless of this.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





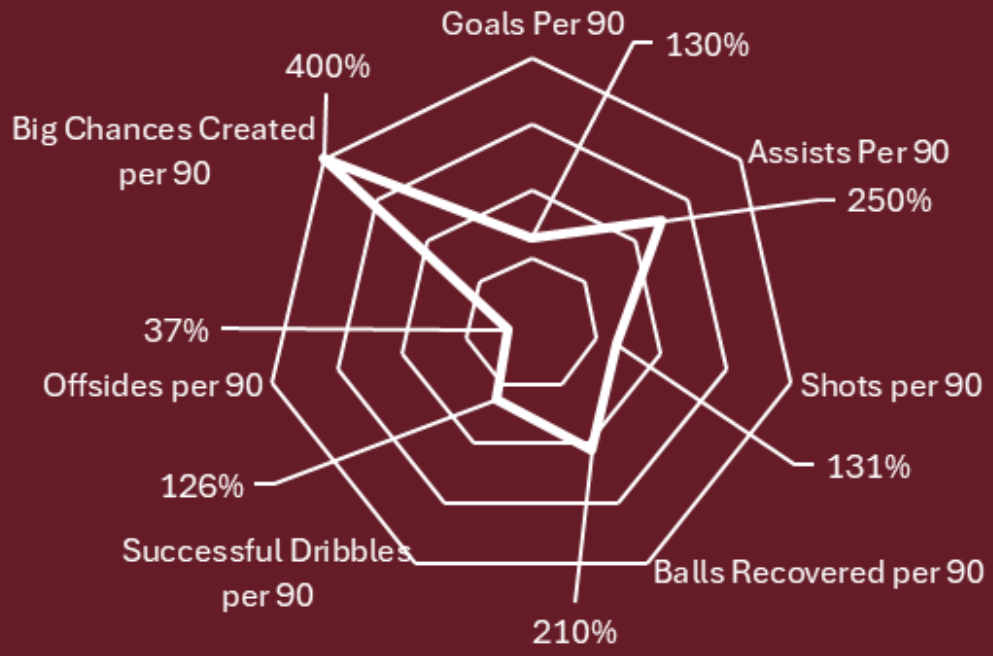
Current Club: Stoke City (Walsall on loan)
Age: 19
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 24
Height: 6'4
Type of Transfer: Loan

Nathan Lowe

Summary

Nathan is a tall, powerful but pacey centre forward who has shown during the first half of the season at Walsall he has a brilliant eye for goal and links up play superbly. As well as being an option in behind he also offers 18-yard 18-yard out ball that will help the team get up the pitch in games where they may be under sustained pressure. He has a range of finishes within the 18-yard box, especially in his locker. He is a relatively weak dribbler/ carrier of the ball when he is in 1v1 situations vs defenders. This deal may be hard to make as it would require Stoke to recall the player and feel like he would progress more at League One level in a struggling side than a promotion candidate in the division below. He is a provider as well as a clinical goal scorer, producing 5 assists in all competitions this season, which is the most out of everyone on the list. The confidence he carries with him you would hope would be bought into the second half of the season and he would continue to score vital goals. As stated, before this is a bit optimistic but the league the club are in could be a massive factor to lure Lowe to the club.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





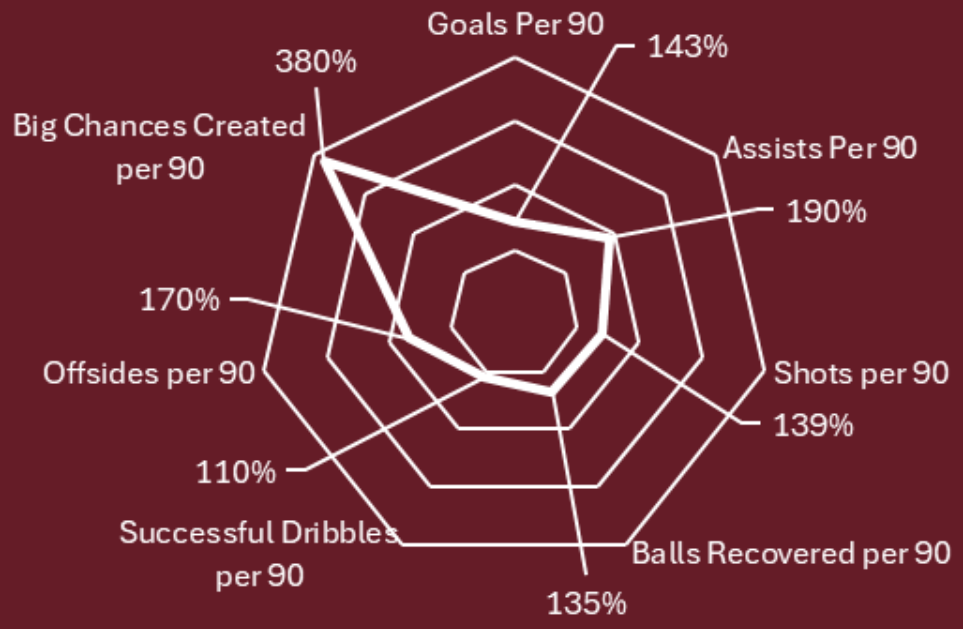
Justin Obikwu

Current Club: Coventry City (Grimsby on loan)
Age: 20
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 11
Height: 6'1
Type of Transfer: Loan

Summary

Justin has been limited to minutes due to an existing hip injury but has been very effective when he has played, using his pace and athleticism up front to cause defences issues. He is a clinical centre forward with 0.77 goals every 90 minutes, which compared to the players on this list is very high. This move would require Obikwu to take a step up in his development, but I believe he has the attributes and skill set to come in offer competition at the very minimum to Tom Eaves. He offers good movement and a cool head in front of goal which he has shown on multiple occasions during his first full senior campaign. He presses high and allows the team to get up the pitch both in and out of possession. The only issue for Obikwu is his reliability in terms of injuries as this has really limited his minutes this season but if he can get a run of games under his belt, I think he could be a real issue in the 3rd tier.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





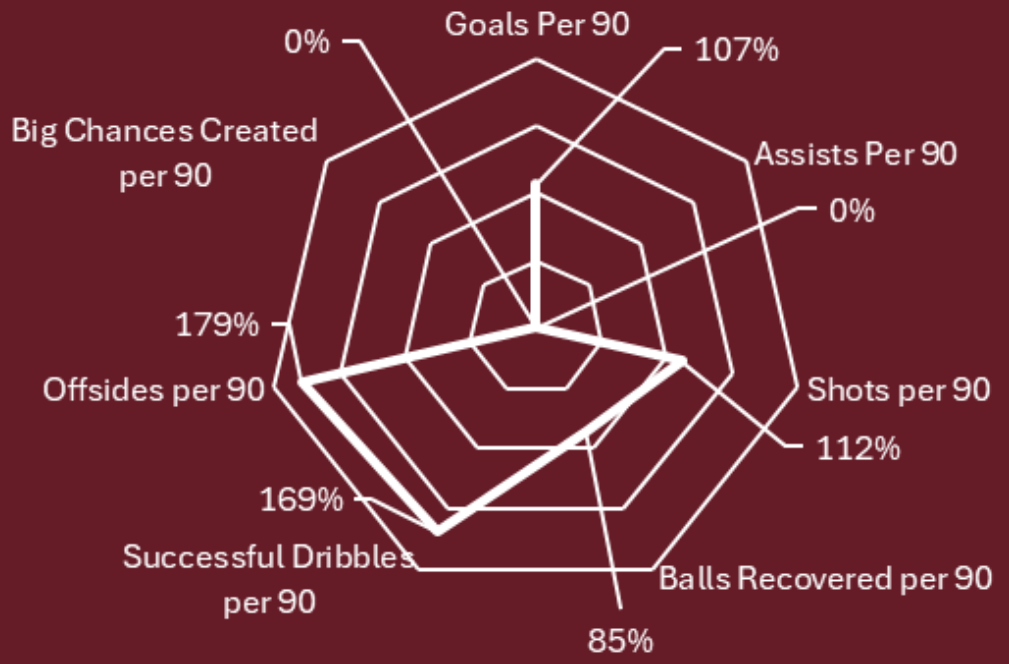
Owen Oseni

Current Club: Gateshead
Age: 21
Foot: Left
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 25
Height: 5'11
Type of Transfer: Permanent

Summary

Owen is another one who is a striker in the mould of being quick and physical. He has left a great impression for Gateshead in the national league scoring an impressive number of goals. He has impressed multiple clubs in England and Scotland who are rumoured to be making a move for him this window. A lot his goals have come from his superb movement and knack of knowing where to be in and around the 18-yard box, he has a good range of finishes in his locker but is very left footed and doesn't look to comfortable using his weaker foot. He leads the line excellently and as the cobblers are a team that will have limited amounts of possession it is vital there is number 9 make the ball stick and get the team up the pitch as often as possible. Although this a two league step up and he has not played football in the EFL, I think he would be more than capable to come to League One level and kick on and continue his impressive form in the second half of the season.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





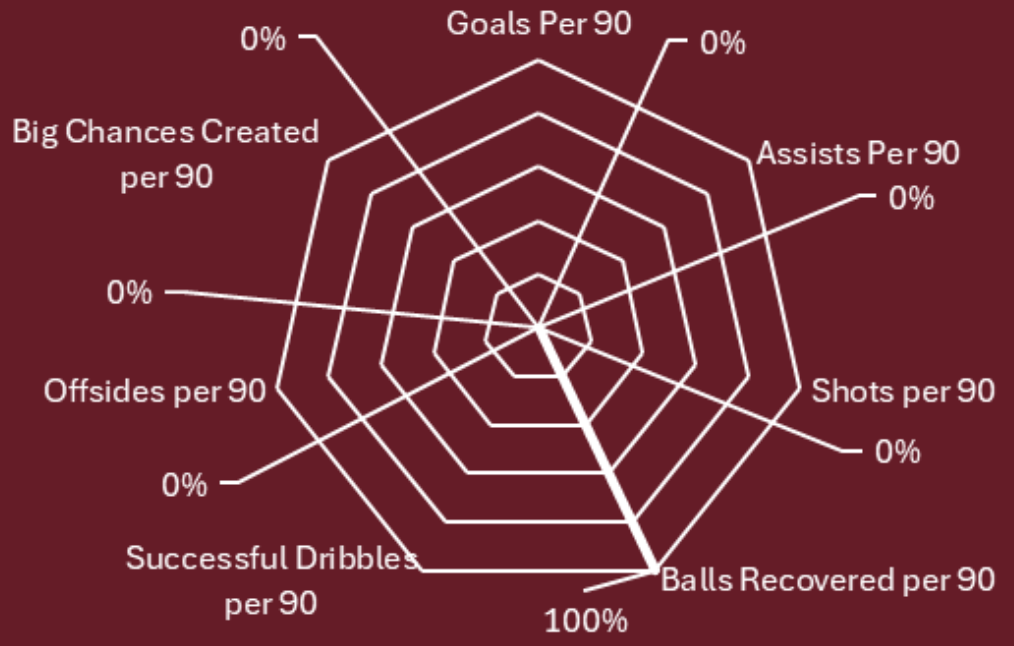
Current Club: Arsenal
Age: 21
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 3
Height: 5’10
Type of Transfer: Loan

Khayon Edwards

Summary

Khayon Edwards statistics may look very poor, they are from a limited number of minutes across 3 games in the vertu trophy. However, at Under 21 level he has shown he has a lot of talent and a real knack of scoring goals, hitting 5 goals in 7 games in the PL 2. He had his first senior loan at League One Level last season at Leyton Orient and was limited to minutes playing 317 minutes. He did not hit the back of the net in for the O’s which will of course bring doubts that he can offer what the club need for the second of the season. However, watching how powerful and intelligent he is and the fact he can draw from previous experience to improve on his last loan spell gives him a lot of the attributes to be a success at this level. He can link play together and brin the midfield and wide men into play which is an absolute must if the club want to survive this season in League One. There are of course some doubts about Edwards and him having another go at this level before dropping down but for me he is definitely worth a go and should be hungrier than ever to be a success.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





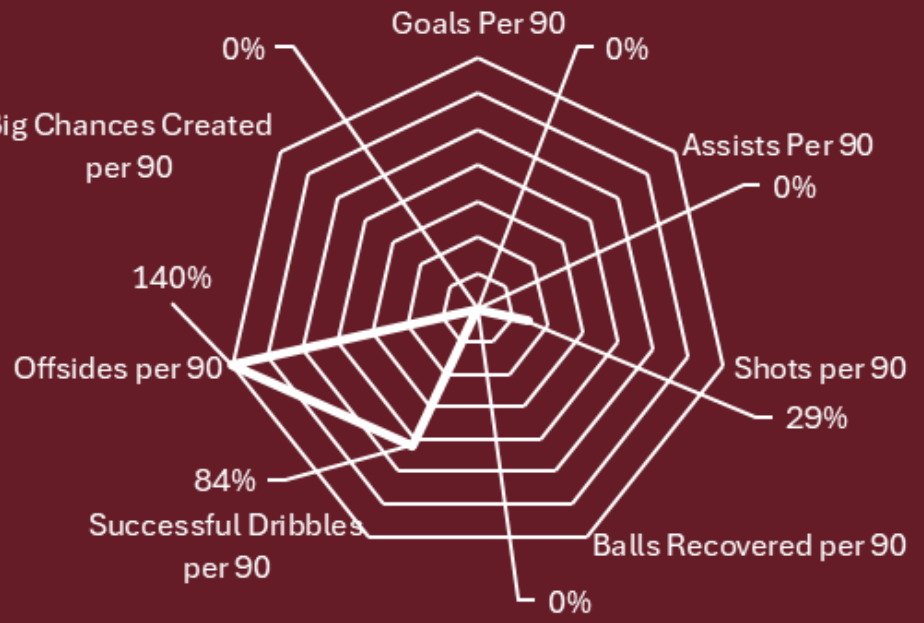
Current Club: Chelsea
Age: 18
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 3
Height: 5’11
Type of Transfer: Loan

Jimmy-Jay Morgan

Summary

Jimmy is probably one of the bigger risks on the list considering is limited experience against men's opposition as well as his age. He has competed well and been fearless on the ball with the minutes he has had in the Vertu Trophy. He has however been in fine goal scoring form in the PL 2, bagging 5 goals in 8 games. He had a productive 23/24 season at under 21 level as well scoring 16 goals, the next step would be a senior loan. He is a clinical finisher who can finish with either foot and a top header of the ball. There will continue to be games this season where the cobblers will have limited chances in games and they will need to take more of them to get themselves out of trouble, So for that reason I believe he would be effective because of his confidence and ability when he is in and around the 18-yard box. He is a hard worker off the ball that likes to do the hard yards and put pressure on the ball. He will be keen to impress and make a real impact so he can continue to develop and reach his potential later down the line in his promising career.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





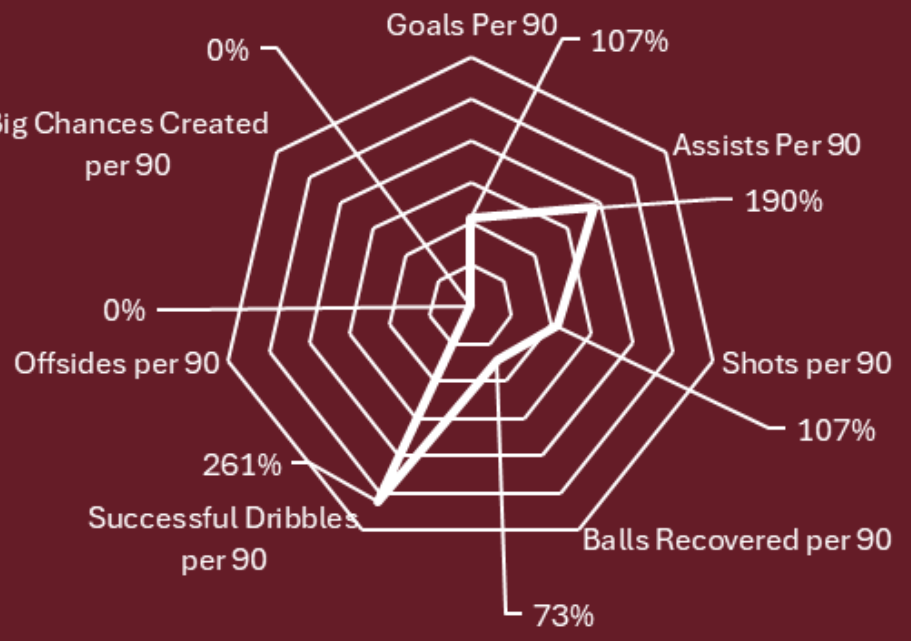
Current Club: Fulham
Age: 18
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 5
Height: 5’10
Type of Transfer: Loan

Callum Osmand

Summary

Callum has shown many real strengths to his game against both senior and Under 21 opposition with one of them being his close dribbling and rapid acceleration what makes him incredibly hard to stop once he gets going. He likes to play right on the last mans shoulder and get in behind the defence, his movement and confidence in front of goal gives defences real problems. His instinctive and precise shooting is one of his main assets which gives goalkeepers real problems, this would help cover up the issues in front of goal in terms of shots taken the team have struggled with during the season. Similar to Jimmy Jay Morgan, Callum has had limited amounts of minutes against men's opposition so may struggle to adapt to doing this consistently which would be an issue as the club need players to kick on and make an impact instantly. I do think he would be worth the risk and offers something that nobody in the squad bar Sam Hoskins offers in terms of finishing as this is where the club are limited across the whole squad.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected





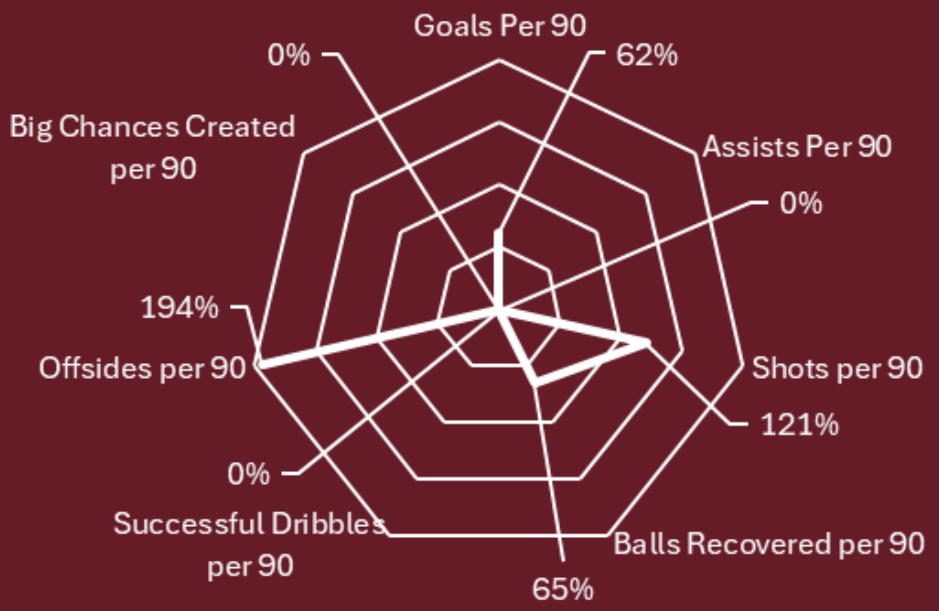
Current Club: Arsenal
Age: 21
Foot: Right
Competitive Games Played 24/25: 3
Height: 5’10
Type of Transfer: Loan

Nathan Butler - Oyedeji

Summary

Nathan has had two loan spells at League One level, where he struggled to score goals and make an impact in the attacking front of the team. However, during the 24/25 season, he has been in fine goalscoring form for Arsenal's U21s and seems to have rediscovered his confidence in front of goal. He is a skilful striker with a frightening turn of pace, and with confidence, he can be a real handful for defenders. He would provide the option to play two up front alongside Tom Eaves, as his style would complement Eaves well. I can see them working brilliantly together. Nathan has experience at this level and understands what it takes to succeed. He has undoubtedly improved since his last spell, having trained consistently with Arsenal’s first team and benefitted from elite coaching during that time. Similar to Khayon Edwards, Nathan’s record against senior opposition can raise concerns, but the experience he has gained in such matches provides him with a solid platform to build on and make an immediate impact. Additionally, he is capable of playing on either wing, offering a great deal of versatility for the squad. This adaptability would be a crucial factor to consider, especially given the current injury crisis.

Percentile Compared To The Average Of All Players Selected



Transfer & Squad Summary



Summary of the Window

These are the three positions where I believe the club needs additions for this January window. Additionally, bringing Max Dyche back from his loan would give the squad a bit more strength in depth for the second half of the season.

In midfield, the club has a range of talented players, but they have not necessarily been reliable throughout the season due to injuries. On top of this, they have lacked creativity and control in the middle of the park so far this campaign. Having a player with a bit of creative spark and confidence on the ball would massively contribute to making the team a bigger threat in the final third.

In my eyes, the squad needs a bit more pace and creativity among the front line, as well as some versatility to help cover for further injuries. This would enable the coaching staff to be more flexible and less predictable tactically in games. Some of the suggestions, or the type of player being discussed, could help achieve this.

The January window is always hard to predict in terms of the opportunities that might arise in the market, as it is more reactive than the summer window. However, if Northampton's recruitment aligns with what has been discussed, I firmly believe this would significantly boost their chances of survival.



Thank You For Reading

Northampton Town 24/25 January Recruitment Plan By Harry Whitworth