Celtic Recruitment Plan - Summer 2024

Data-led approach by @StewartRoss89



Monday 3 June 2024

Introduction

This recruitment plan will first review the 2023/24 Celtic squad. The review will include a general analysis of each player's season accompanied by data visualisations, for those who have played at least 700 league minutes.

Players out on loan will also be reviewed with recommendations made on their current and future ability to be first-team Celtic players. Again, those with a reasonable number of minutes played will have a data visualisation shown alongside.

Following these reviews, potential transfer targets for positions needing attention ahead of the 2024/25 season will be presented.

This will be data-led and targets will be realistic, and hopefully within the club's transfer and wage budget.

This work is not affiliated with Celtic Football Club in any way.

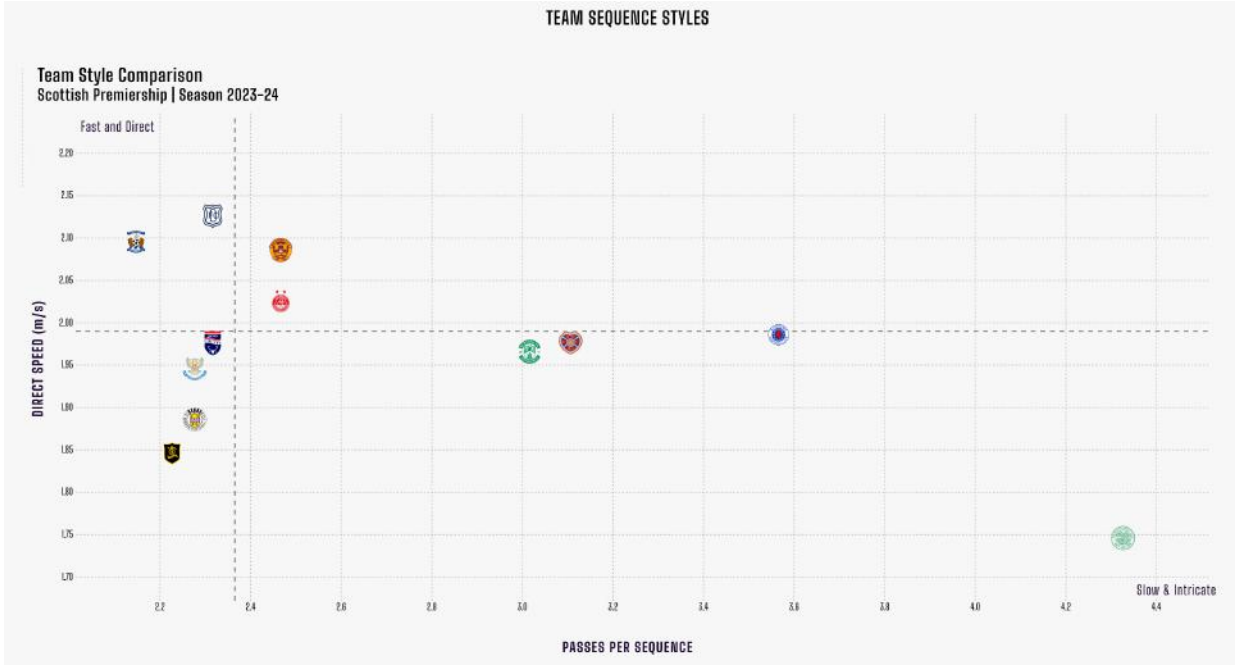
2023/24 Season Background

Ange Postecoglou departed as Celtic manager last June after winning a domestic treble at the end of 2022/23, his second season in charge. Postecoglou was replaced by Brendan Rodgers who returned for a second spell in charge after winning eight trophies in his first (2016-2019).

Under Rodgers, Celtic have largely continued to favour a 4-3-3 initial set-up with the midfield structure remaining a single pivot (no. 6) and two no. 8s. They have altered to more of a 4-2-3-1 at times and build-up play has been more deliberate, akin to Rodgers' first spell. In general, there has not been too much change in terms of playing style though.

However, performance levels have been much less consistent in what has felt like a transition season. This has been compounded by injuries to key players for significant periods throughout the season and underwhelming recruitment last summer.

Despite those challenges, Rodgers did an excellent job, particularly in the season's closing months, guiding the team to a healthy 93-point league campaign, eight ahead of their nearest rivals. A double was then secured with a 1-0 win over Rangers in the Scottish Cup final in May.



Opta Analyst (20 May 24)

Summer Recruitment 2023

Last summer's recruitment saw the arrival of ten players for an estimated total spend of £22m. Including the departures of Liel Abada and David Turnbull in January, player sales have exceeded £40m in the last year with most of the total incoming made up of Jota's £25m move to Al-Ittihad last July. Carl Starfelt, a mainstay alongside Cameron Carter-Vickers in defense over Postecoglou's two seasons, was also sold. The Swede joined La Liga side Celta Vigo for around £4m.

Each of last summer's arrivals will be reviewed individually later in this plan, but it is fair to say none have had the impact desired. Two further signings were made in January 2024, each of whom contributed in the second half of the season. Again, these will be evaluated in greater detail later.

However, the general consensus has been that recruitment in recent times has not reached levels of the early windows in Postecoglou's era. The club's Head of Recruitment Mark Lawwell subsequently left his post in March 2024.

Changes have been ongoing in the recruitment team since Lawwell's departure but for this plan, we will stick, roughly anyway, to the clubs' recent model. That is bringing in younger players from lesser markets who may then have the potential to be sold on at a profit in a few seasons.

That said, some of Rodgers' on-the-record vision for reshaping the squad since his return, including adding more pace and power, and bringing in more experience in one or two positions, will also be a consideration throughout.

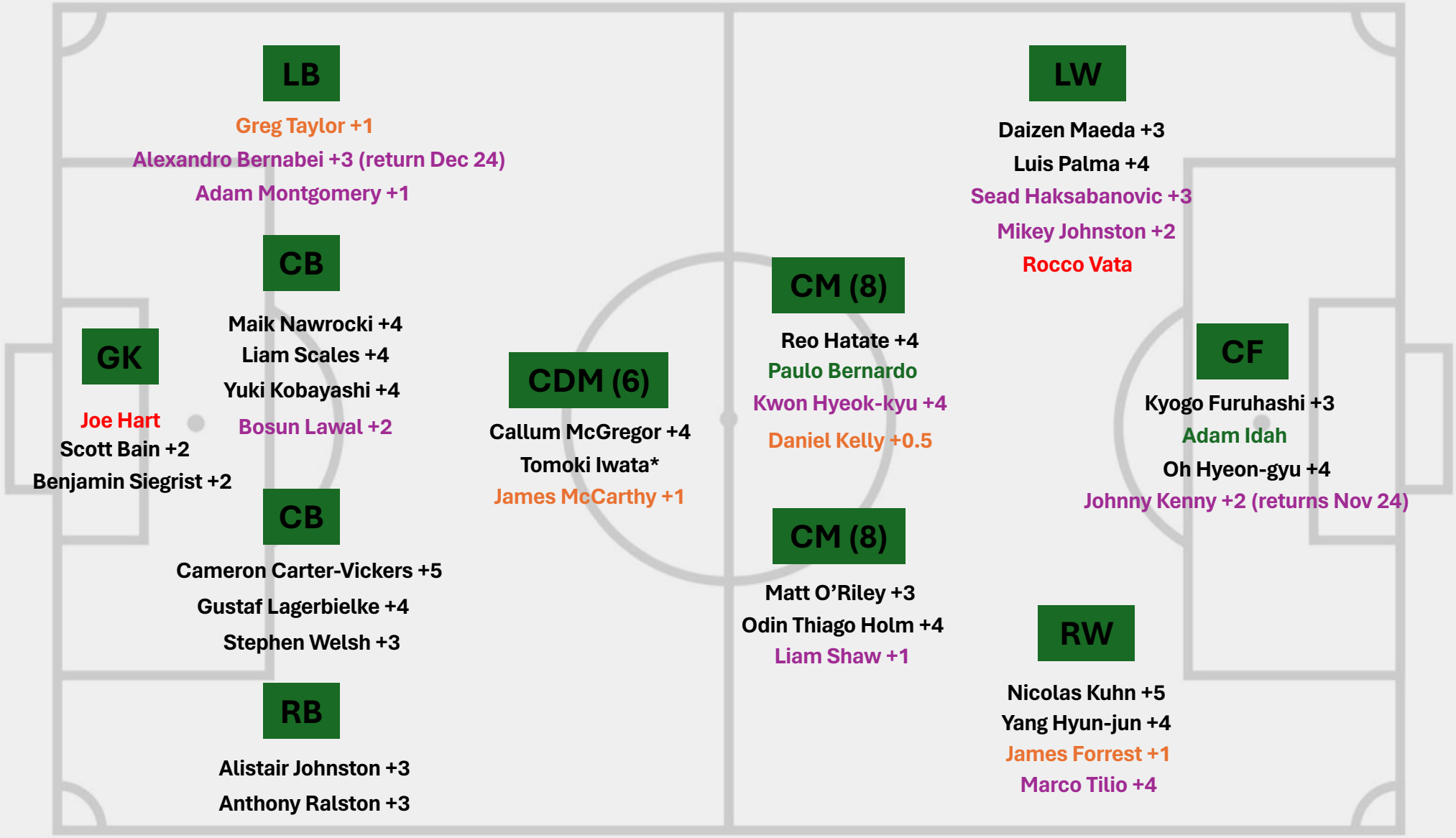
ARRIVALS

Compact | Detailed

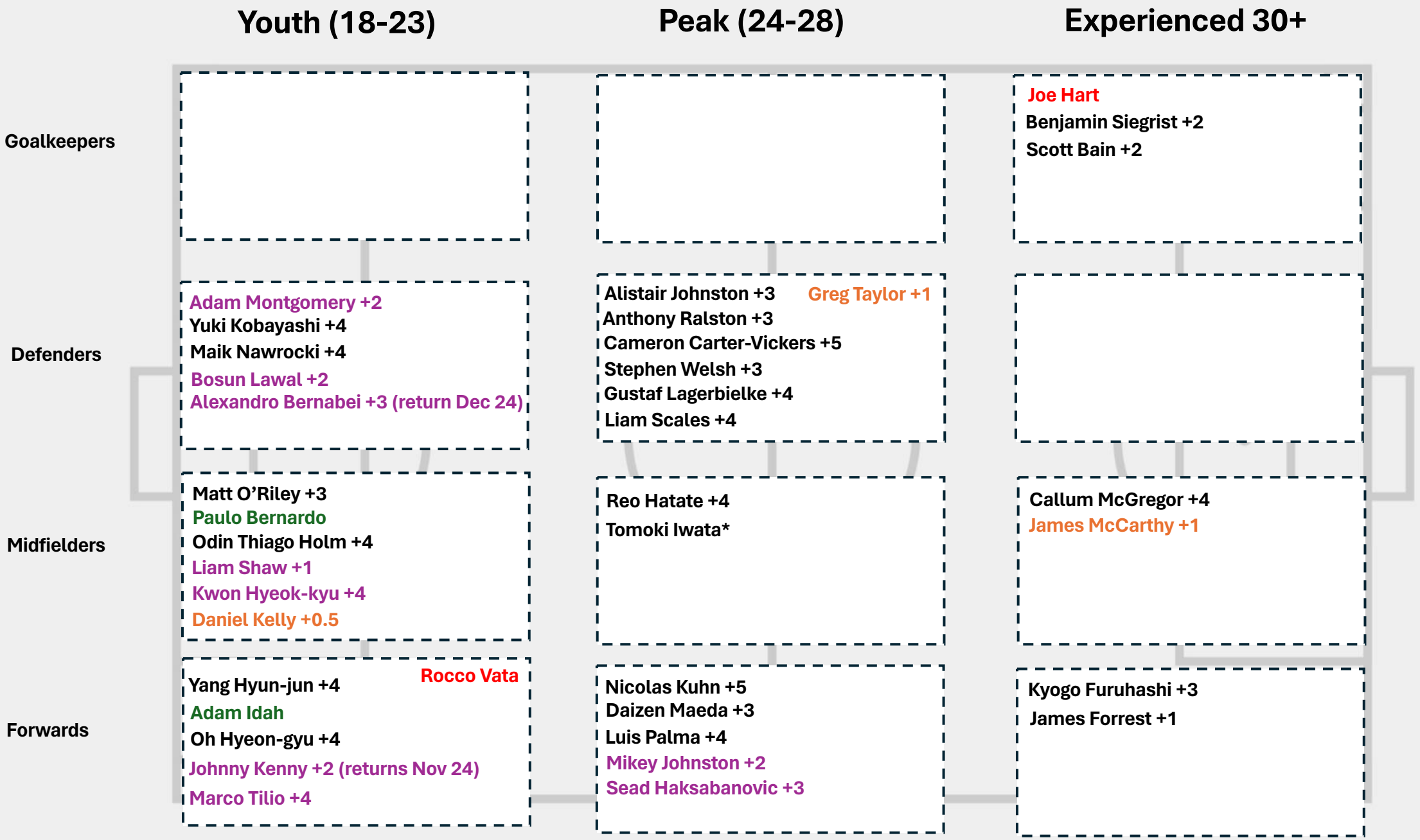
Player	Age	Nat.	Left
Maik Nawrocki Centre-Back	22		Legia Warszawa Ekstraklasa
Luis Palma Left Winger	23		Aris Saloniki Super League 1
Gustaf Lagerbielke Centre-Back	23		Elfsborg Allsvenskan
Odin Thiago Holm Central Midfield	20		Vålerenga Eliteserien
Hyun-jun Yang Right Winger	21		Gangwon FC K League 1
Marco Tilio Right Winger	21		Melbourne City A-League Men
Hyeok-kyu Kwon Defensive Midfield	22		Busan IPark K League 2
Tomoki Iwata Defensive Midfield	26		Yokohama F. M. J1 League
Nathaniel Phillips Centre-Back	26		Liverpool Premier League
Paulo Bernardo Central Midfield	21		Benfica Liga Portugal

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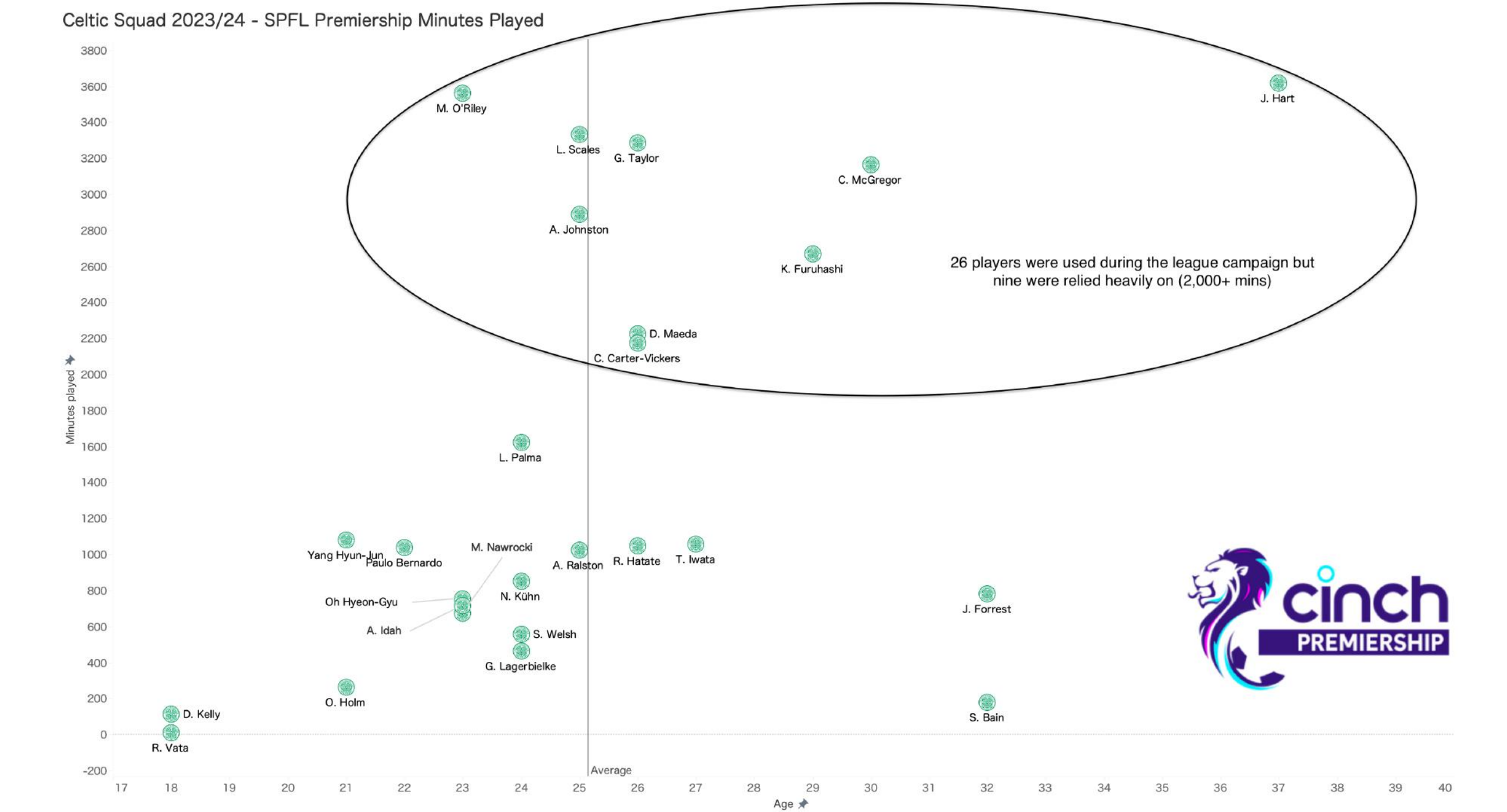
Celtic Squad Depth



Player name plus years left on contract as of this summer | One year left | Out of Contract/Retiring | Loan departing | loan returning | *contract undefined



Player name plus years left on contract as of June 2024 | One year left | Out of Contract/Retiring | Loan departing | loan returning | *contract undefined


Celtic Squad 2023/24 - SPFL Premiership Minutes Played
Minutes played
Age
Average
M. O'Riley
J. Hart
L. Scales
G. Taylor
C. McGregor
A. Johnston
K. Furuhashi
26 players were used during the league campaign but
nine were relied heavily on (2,000+ mins)
D. Maeda
C. Carter-Vickers
L. Palma
Yang Hyun-Jun
Paulo Bernardo
M. Nawrocki
A. Ralston
R. Hatate
T. Iwata
N. Kühn
Oh Hyeon-Gyu
A. Idah
S. Welsh
G. Lagerbielke
J. Forrest
O. Holm
D. Kelly
R. Vata
S. Bain
cinch
PREMIERSHIP
All Celtic players who played any SPFL Premeirship minutes in 2023/24 | Data: Wyscout | Graphic: @StewartRoss89



23/24 Squad Review



Goalkeepers – Joe Hart, Scott Bain & Benjamin Siegrist

With 2023/24 undisputed number one Joe Hart – a fine servant over three seasons – retiring, there is little point in spending too much time reviewing his performances from this season.

GK Verdict: A **new number one** is a top priority. A second goalkeeper may be required too, should third-choice Siegrist leave.

One of the youth keepers, Josh Clarke or Tobi Oluyamemi, could potentially take this spot in the squad.

For this plan, we will focus on a new number one.



Centre Back - Cameron Carter-Vickers

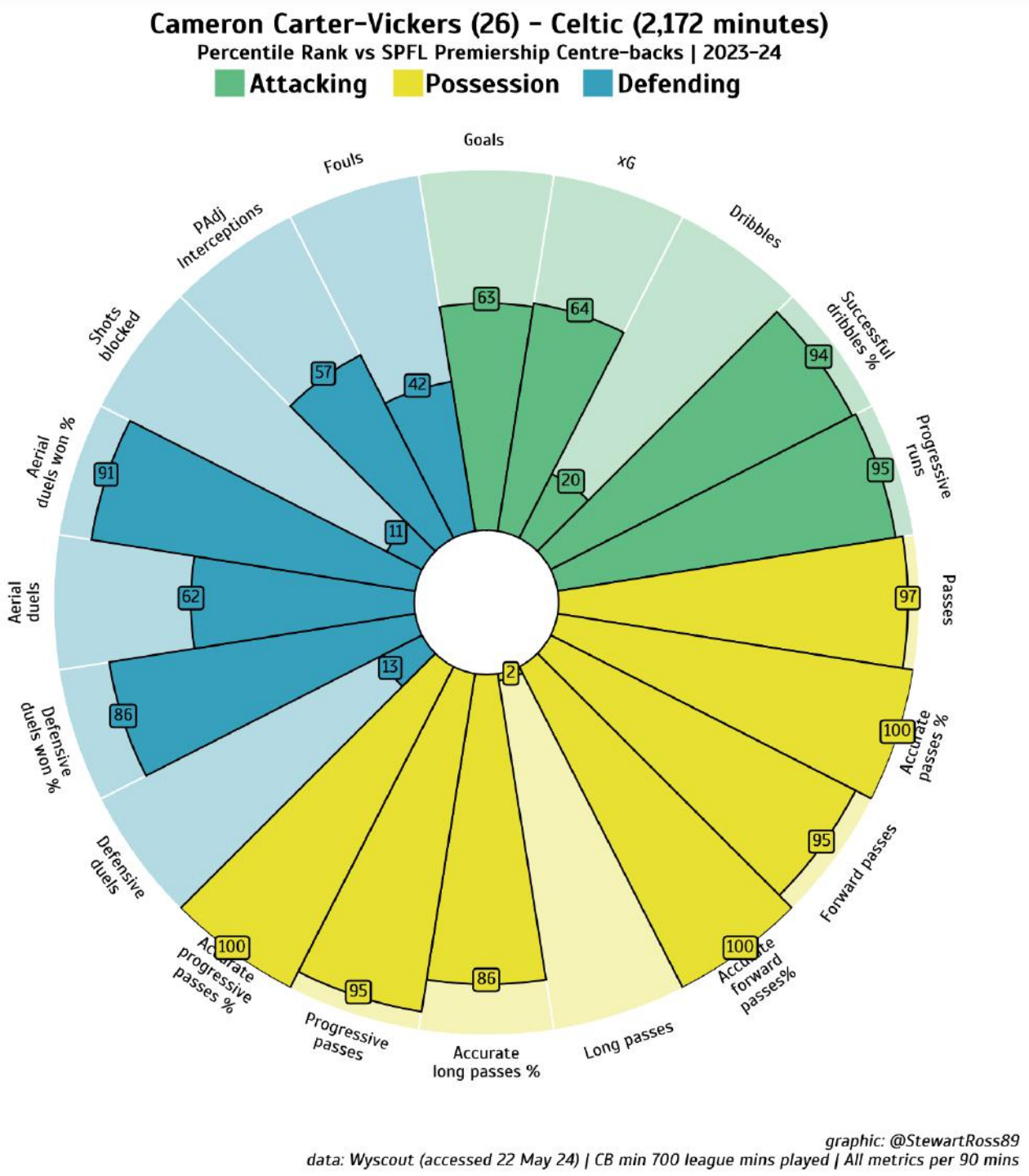
The USMNT international underwent knee surgery last summer, missing much pre-season before picking up several injuries throughout the campaign (he managed just 54% of the minutes available in the 33 pre-split fixtures).

Although Celtic managed to get by in the opening months without him, Carter-Vickers' presence at the back was badly missed at other points in the season. His return to full fitness towards the end of the season was vital in securing the league and cup double.

Simply put, he is by far the club's best centre-back. Dominant in duels, especially aerially, his ability to progress the ball effectively is clear in his chart (100th percentile for accuracy of both forward and progressive passes/95th percentile for progressive runs). Tying him down to a new five-and-a-half-year deal in January was excellent business.

One of the more experienced players in the squad now, his leadership will be even more important at the back next season with a new goalkeeper coming in.

Rodgers will hope the club can fend off any potential interest (his injury issues this season may almost work for Celtic in this regard, as well as his new long-term deal of course). Ideally remains a key figure in defence for several seasons to come.



Centre Back - Liam Scales

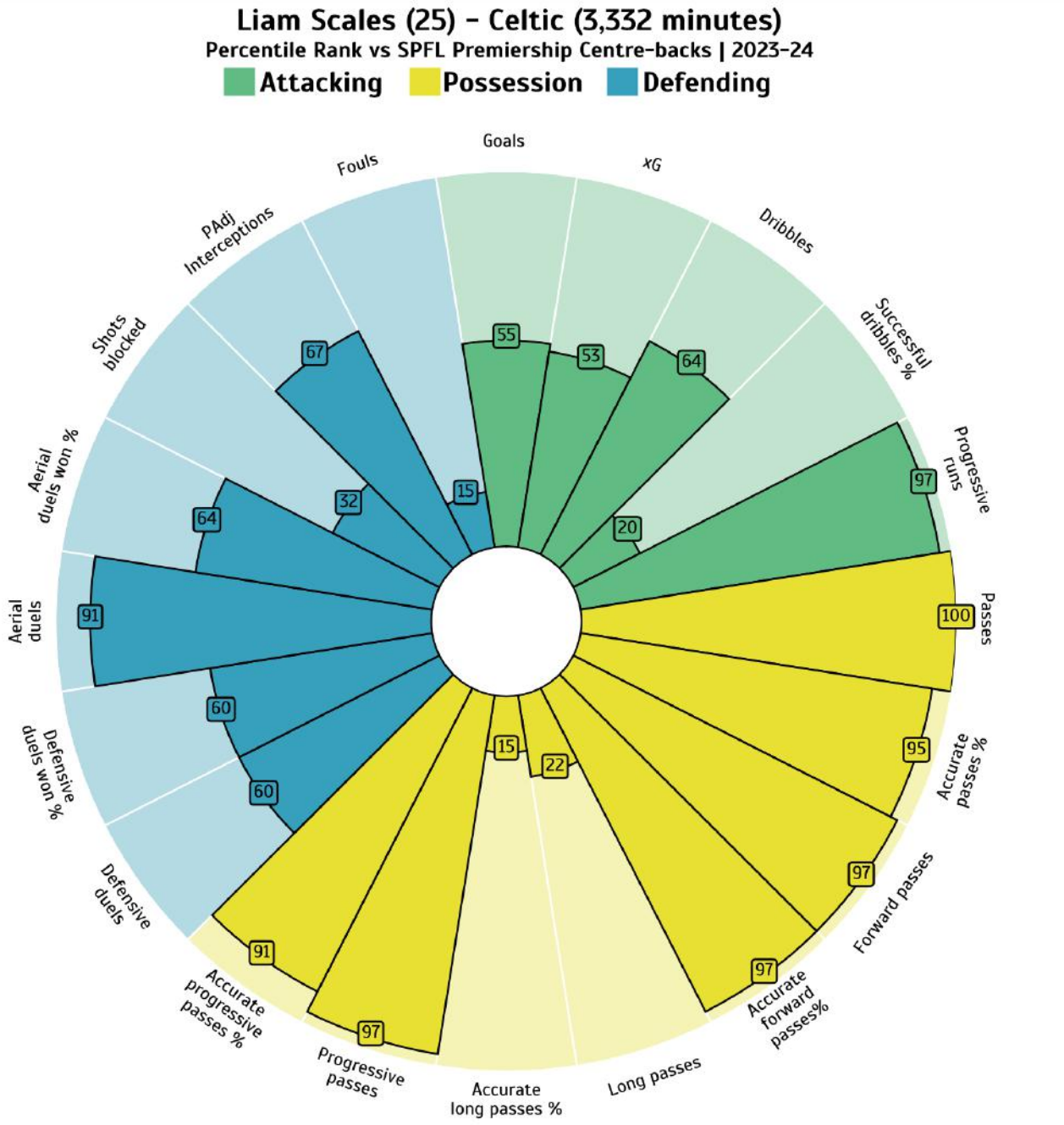
Close to making his season-long loan move to Aberdeen in 2022/23 a permanent one last summer, Scales was thrown into the starting eleven due to a combination of the sale of Starfelt and then what seemed like a never-ending series of centre-back injuries in the early months of the season.

Scales grasped his opportunity and remained ever-present throughout the season, starting 33 of the 38 league games. A natural left-footer, Scales offers balance on the left side of the CB paring and was generally steady, if unspectacular. Crucially, given the fitness problems in the position, he was reliable.

However, some of Scales' issues are captured in his chart here. Mainly he only comes in just above average for an SPFL Premiership centre-back when it comes to his aerial duel win percentage and while his possession metrics are, unsurprisingly given Celtic's ball dominance, in line with what you would expect from a Celtic centre-back, he does often look awkward and ponderous on the ball – something the data here can't quite capture.

Now a full international with the Republic of Ireland and having signed a new four-year contract towards the end of the season, Scales will feel he can cement his place alongside Carter-Vickers again next season.

If Celtic are to make an impact in the new Champions League though, as reliable enough as Scales has been, bringing in a higher-quality option next to Carter-Vickers will be required.



Centre Back - Maik Nawrocki

Celtic's biggest outlay last summer at £4.3m from Legia Warsaw, Nawrocki started the first two league games next to Carter-Vickers. However, a hamstring injury in the League Cup defeat at Kilmarnock in August kept him out for a significant period and he was subsequently left out of the Champions League squad.

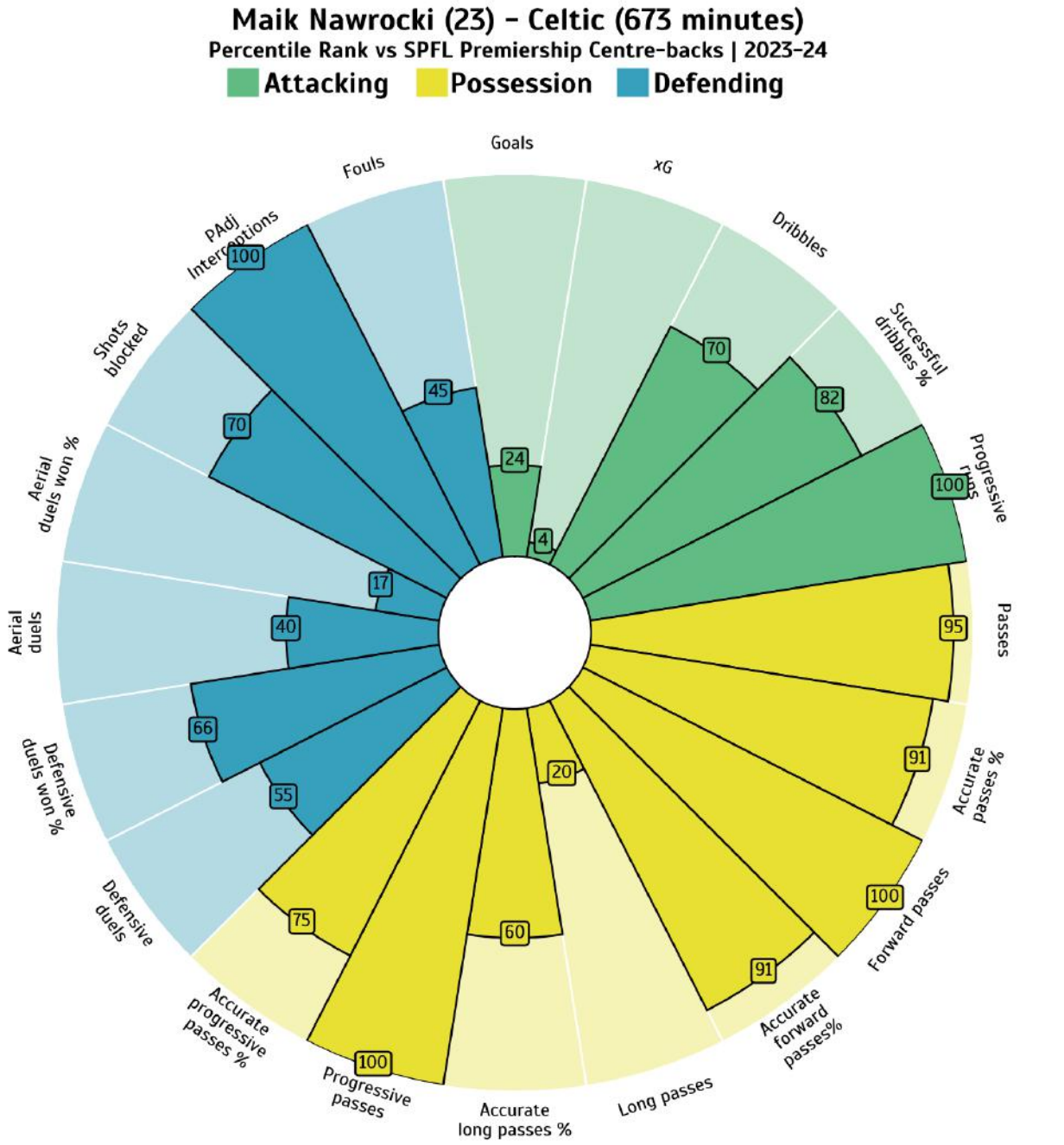
Nawrocki's next appearance didn't come until the New Year Derby when he replaced the injured Stephen Welsh. Opportunities were limited in the second part of the season and Nawrocki mostly played a third-choice role behind Carter-Vickers and Scales.

Due to this Nawrocki came in under the 700-minute cut at 673 minutes but was included anyway as his profile chart. As much as it is a small sample, it is representative of some of what we have seen from him so far – both good and bad.

Keeping the small sample in mind, no other centre-back in the Premiership (min 700 minutes) averaged more progressive runs or progressive passes than Nawrocki per 90, although his accuracy in the latter was not at the level of Carter-Vickers/Scales.

He was also top for PAdj interceptions per 90, underling his encouraging reading of the game. One major issue is his low aerial duel win rate, in the bottom quartile, and he has seemed to struggle with the pace and physicality of the Scottish game at times.

Still feels like there is potential there with Nawrocki though.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 22 May 24) | CB min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Centre-back – Gustaf Lagerbielke & Stephen Welsh

Gustaf Lagerbielke (24)

Signed alongside Nawrocki last summer, the £3m buy from Elfsborg was thrown into the heart of defense alongside Scales in the opening weeks after injuries to Carter-Vickers, Nawrocki and emergency loan signing Nat Phillips. However, after being taken off in Celtic's late win at Motherwell in late September, Lagerbielke only made four other league matchday squads, clocking just 30 minutes of domestic football from that point on.

Although he has his strengths, such as his impressive long-range passing and a decent success rate in duels, his deficiencies in shorter passing and lack of pace to play a high-line seemed unsuited to the profile of a Celtic CB – rumors of an agent recommendation surrounded his arrival.

Well down the manager's pecking order, a January move to Serie A fell through but it seems certain he will depart after just one season. He will always have that cameo against Feyenoord in the Champions League that included the winner to end the club's 15-match winless streak in the competition though!

Stephen Welsh (25)

Academy graduate would have been hoping to kick on under Rodgers after only making six appearances in all competitions under Postecoglou in 22/23. Signed a new deal through to 2027 at the start of the season but other than a 45-minute cameo at Aberdeen in August, endured an injury-hit campaign – like almost every other Celtic centre-back.

Started some big games, such as that Feyenoord win at Celtic Park and the New Year Debry, underlining that Rodgers does have trust in him. Only managed just over 400 league minutes though. His last appearance in the final league game of the season was not exactly his greatest game in a Celtic shirt either, giving away a penalty after misjudging a long ball and then going off with a recurrence of a shoulder problem, the latter summing up his lack of luck on the injury front.

Centre-back - Yuki Kobayashi + CB Verdict

Yuki Kobayashi (23)

Another foray into the J-League market by former manager Postecoglou saw Kobayashi join from Vissel Kobe in January 2023. Mainly a back-up to Carter-Vickers and Starfelt in the second part of 22/23, he had opportunities, playing just under 600 minutes in his first six months.

A left-sided progressive, cultured centre-back, he showed some impressive abilities on the ball but struggled with the intensity and physicality of the Premiership. Although the league was already long wrapped up, his performance in the 3-0 derby defeat post-split seemed to seriously damage his Celtic career – Iwata was subsequently favoured at centre-back over him for the Scottish Cup final shortly after. That was possibly a bit unfair given he was playing alongside a team of other fringe players at Ibrox that day rather than regular starters. Either way, clear Rodgers does not see him as part of his first-team plans either with Kobayashi only making one match-day squad under him.

CB Verdict: As mentioned, Carter-Vickers is undoubtedly the club's first-choice centre-back. Scales contribution, from almost being out the door, has been commendable. His run in the side perhaps says more about the clubs' recruitment in the position last summer than Scales himself though.

With Carter-Vickers established on the right side, an **upgrade for the left-sided CB** position should be a priority this summer with Scales and Nawrocki as third and fourth choices next season. Hopefully, with a full pre-season and further acclimatisation to Scottish football, Nawrocki can build on his promising points and tidy up those other areas of his game to strongly push the prospective new centre-back for the spot.

Lagerbielke and Kobayashi should be moved on permanently while Welsh could be kept as a fourth/fifth choice. When fit, which has been his biggest issue for most of his Celtic career, he has been a decent enough backup. He also ticks the homegrown status box. He may, understandably, look to move on to further his career though and there is reported to be plenty of interest in him. In that case, another option may be required to retain depth in the position. A first-choice left-sided partner for Carter-Vickers will be the priority for this recruitment plan.

Right Back - Alistair Johnston

A replacement for the excellent Josip Juranovic, Johnston slotted in seamlessly following his arrival from MLS in January 2022.

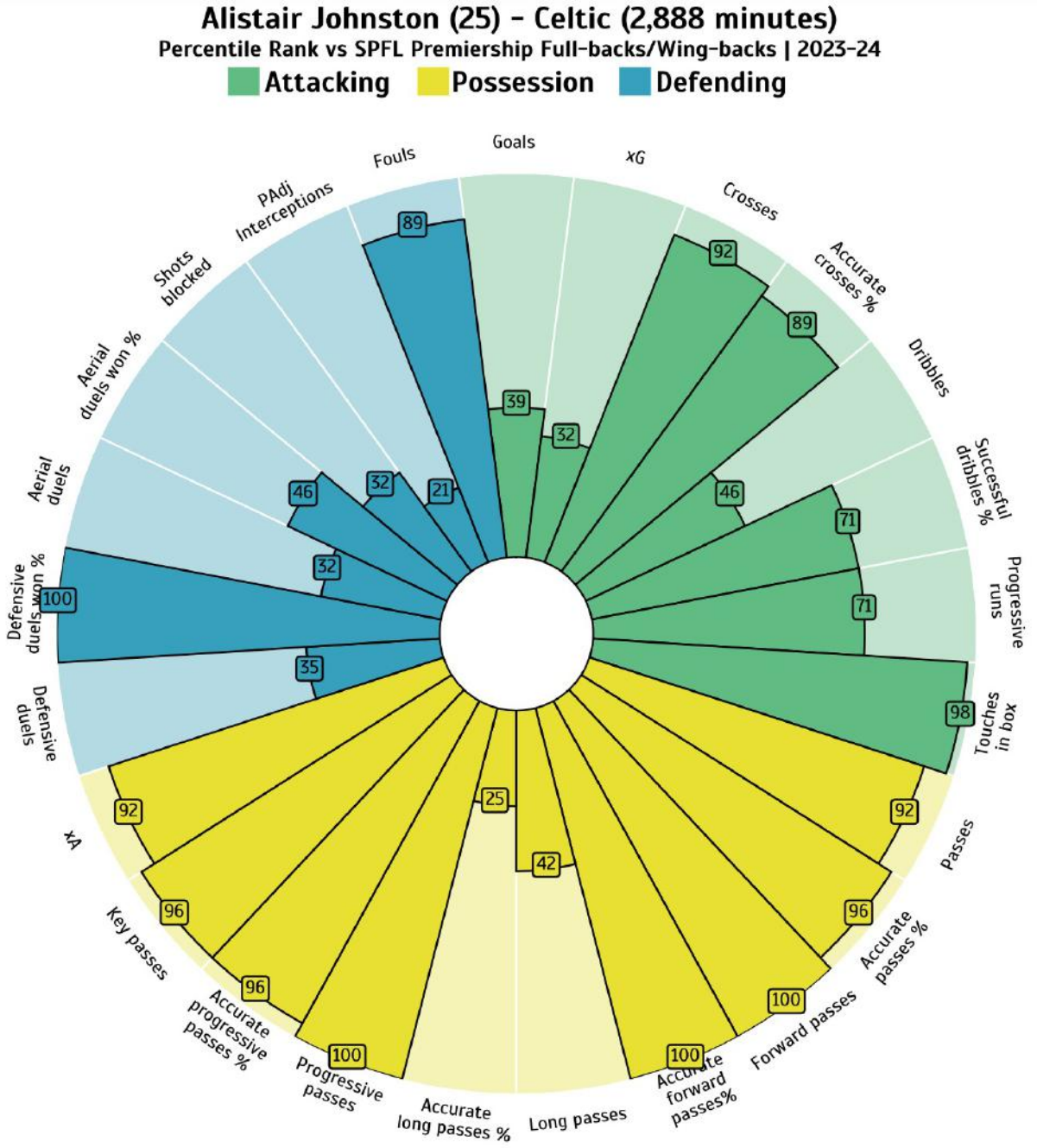
Maybe didn't hit the heights of his initial six months in hoops, in the first months of this season, but he did miss a chunk of pre-season due to an ankle injury that required surgery.

The constant changes at centre-back due to the injury issues there would not have helped either but the likeable Canadian came onto a game after returning from a nasty head knock at Easter Road in February.

Athletic and combative, Johnston's crossing accuracy stands out in his chart, and he ended the league season on 0.23 xA per 90, fifth highest in the squad and almost twice as much as Greg Taylor on the opposite side (0.12 per 90). He also boasted the highest rank for his defensive duel win rate versus all his full-back peers in the league.

Aerial duel win rate could be better and there were a few games he was caught out at the back post with crosses in some of the bigger games – Atletico Madrid away in the Champions League and a few of the derbies for example.

That is one, relatively, minor issue though. Profiling as a Rodgers-type full-back (pace and power), expect Johnston to remain a key figure for the manager going forward.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | RB/RWB/LB/LWB min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Right Back -
Anthony Ralston + RB Verdict

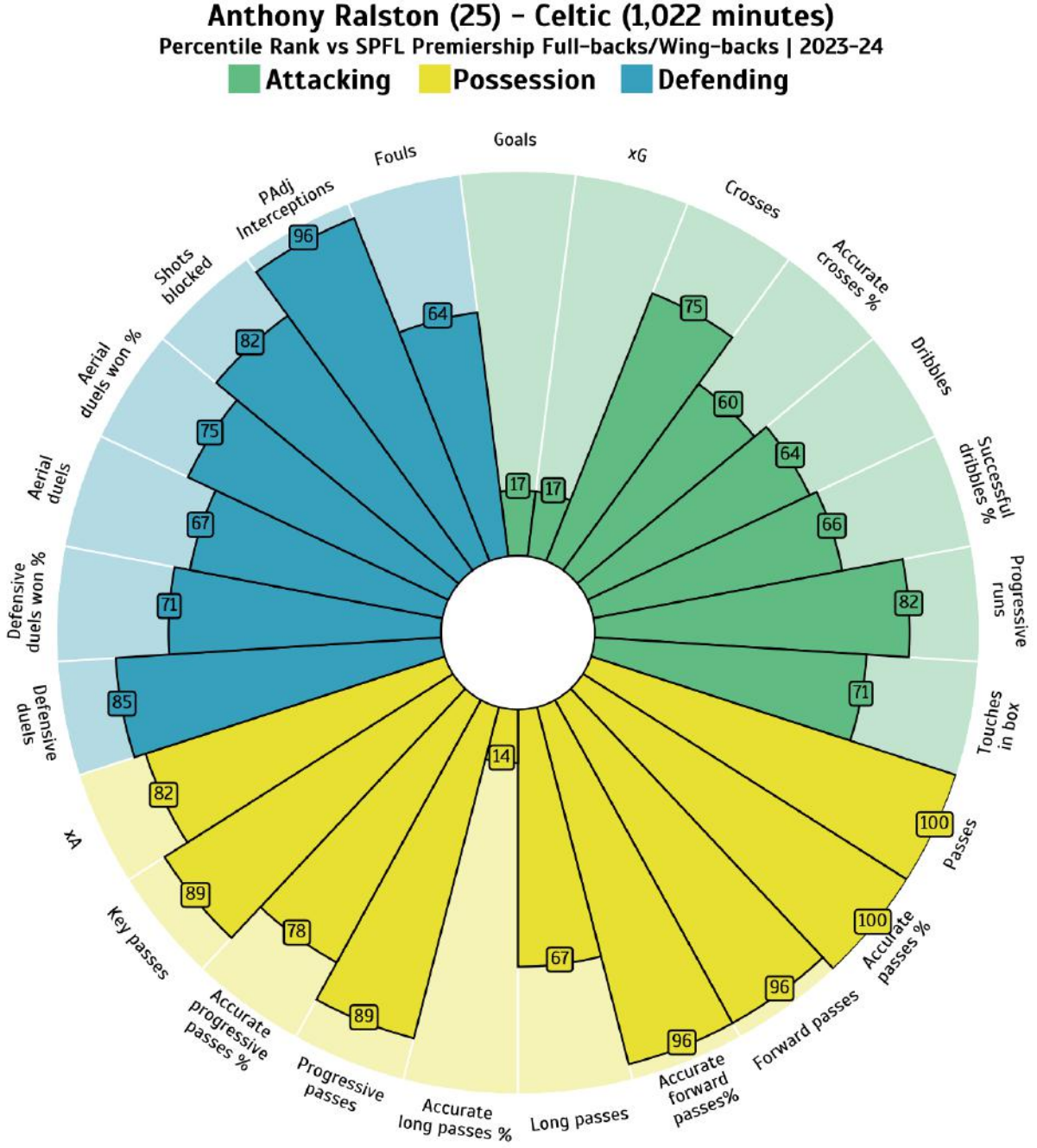
Brought back into the fold under Postecoglou, academy graduate Ralston has again been a reliable backup. Stepped in on a few occasions this season due to Johnston's injuries and rarely let anyone down.

As his chart shows, Ralston does a bit of everything and is generally steady across the board. Johnston is still the favoured first choice but that does not diminish Ralston's important role in the squad.

With a few injuries in the Scotland squad, Ralston may find himself playing at this summer's Euros in Germany. You would not put it past a man who has been written off so often to be a reliable performer for his country on the biggest international stage too.

RB Verdict: Johnston has been a more than solid presence at right-back since his arrival 18 months ago. He could perhaps benefit from increased competition, but Ralston is an able backup when called upon and is also club-trained.

Both have three years remaining on their contracts and are at a good age too. With other positions in need of addressing more urgently, right-back is one position where no immediate attention is required.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | RB/RWB/LB/LWB min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Left Back -
Greg Taylor + LB Verdict

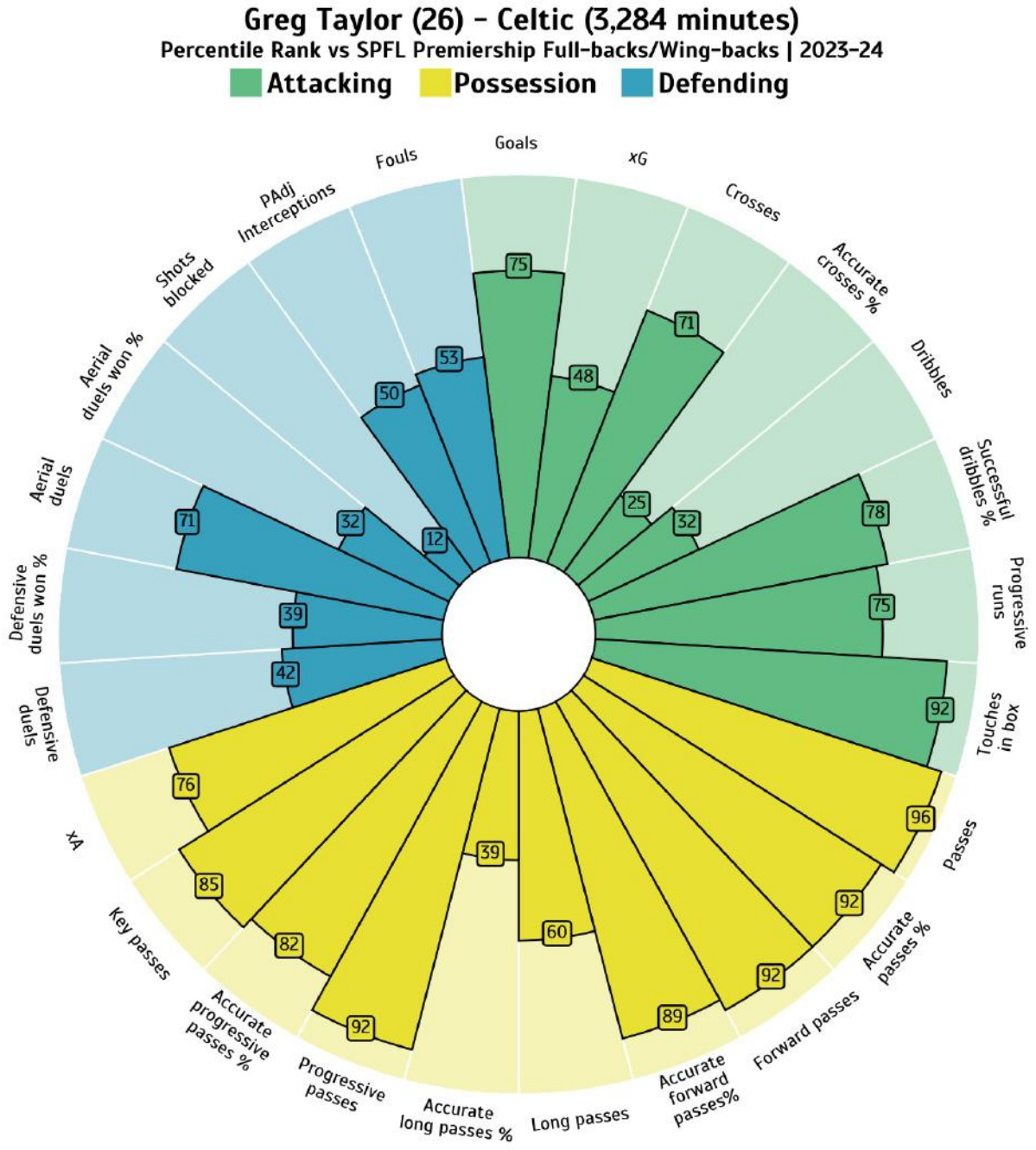
Taylor endured a difficult start to his fifth season at the club. Unsettled by talk of a new left-back coming in towards the end of the window, his form suffered in the opening weeks. The transfer deadline passed without another left-back arriving though and, with Alexandro Bernabei again struggling to offer much competition (for reasons discussed later in this plan) the position was Taylor's for the rest of the season.

He seemed to settle thereafter and (rather importantly given Bernabei was shipped out on loan in March too) remained fit. With Rodgers not deviating too much from Postecoglou's system as the season went on, Taylor was again at his best when aiding ball progression, through both passes and carries, and still often inverted infield to do so.

His deficiencies were exposed again too though with the 5'8" Taylor often targeted by opponents with aerial balls. Compounded by Scales being on his side at centre-back, this was again an issue that was magnified in Europe, as too again was Taylor's general lack of athleticism.

LB Verdict: Taylor is currently the only out-and-out left-back in the squad so **another left-back** is a priority. A more athletic option, like Johnston, should be the kind of profile desired.

As one of the more experienced players in the squad, an extension should be offered to Taylor too though. His effort for the cause is rarely in question and, despite those deficiencies mentioned, he has shown to be a capable enough operator at the domestic level.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | RB/RWB/LB/LWB min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Central Midfield (no. 6)
Callum McGregor

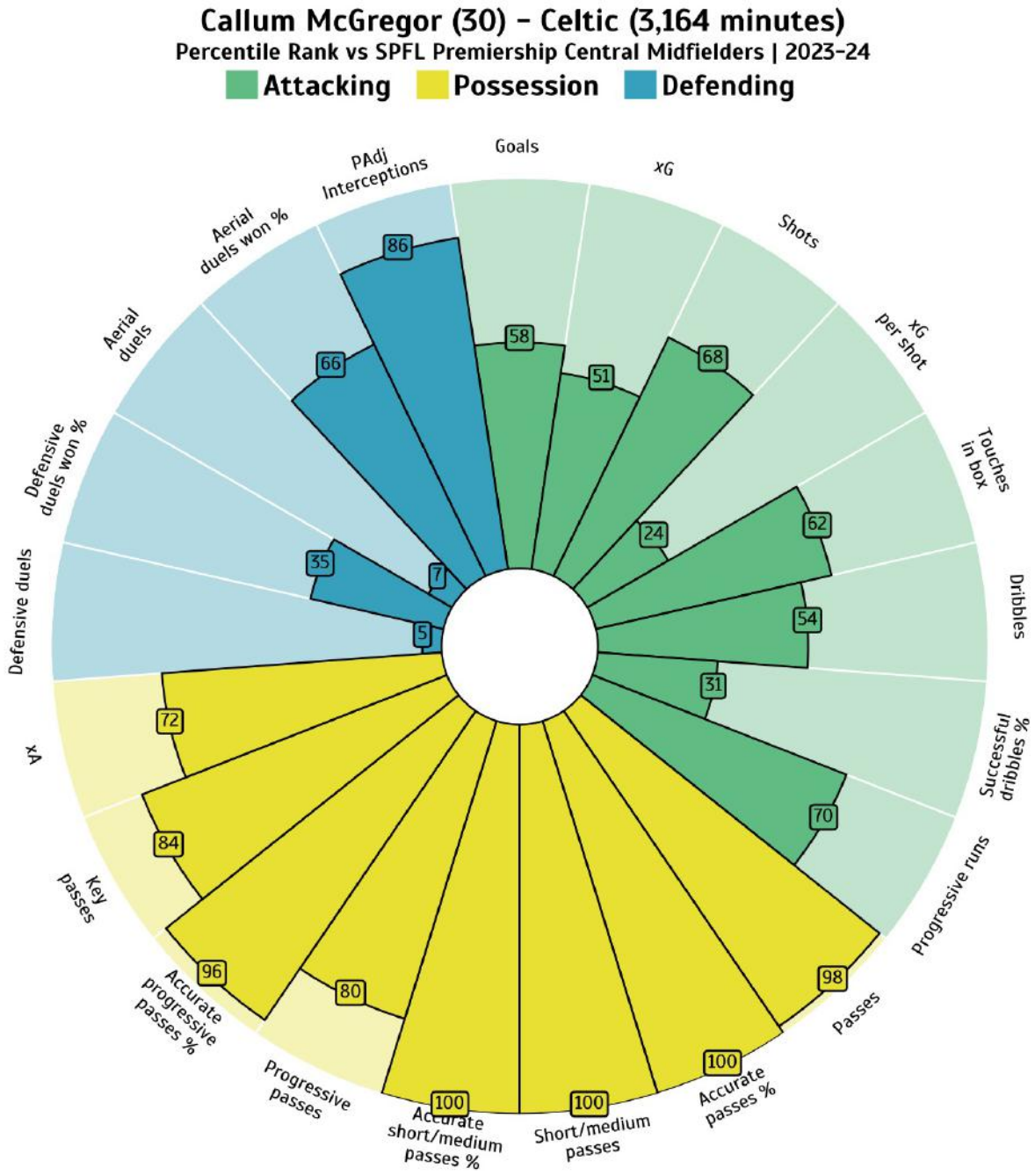
The Celtic captain continues to be a hugely influential figure. Cited by Rodgers as part of his reason for returning for a second spell as manager last summer, McGregor has again been the heartbeat of the side in the single pivot role at the base of midfield.

No other player in the squad can replicate the academy graduate's volume and quality of ball progression. Despite not being at the level of his predecessor as skipper out of possession, Scott Brown, he still does his bit without the ball too.

Although he had a few patches of poor form, some influenced by carrying injuries, McGregor's importance, both in terms of his average performance levels and his leadership qualities, cannot be understated.

Given his injury issues, particularly towards the end of the campaign, and the fact he is likely to be a key player for Scotland in Germany this summer, his minutes should be managed carefully going forward (will turn 31 in November).

More often than not, he will still play in the short to medium term, but longer-term planning to 'replace' McGregor/aid his longevity should be a key consideration over the next 12-24 months.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | CDM/CM min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Central Midfield (no. 6)
Tomoki Iwata

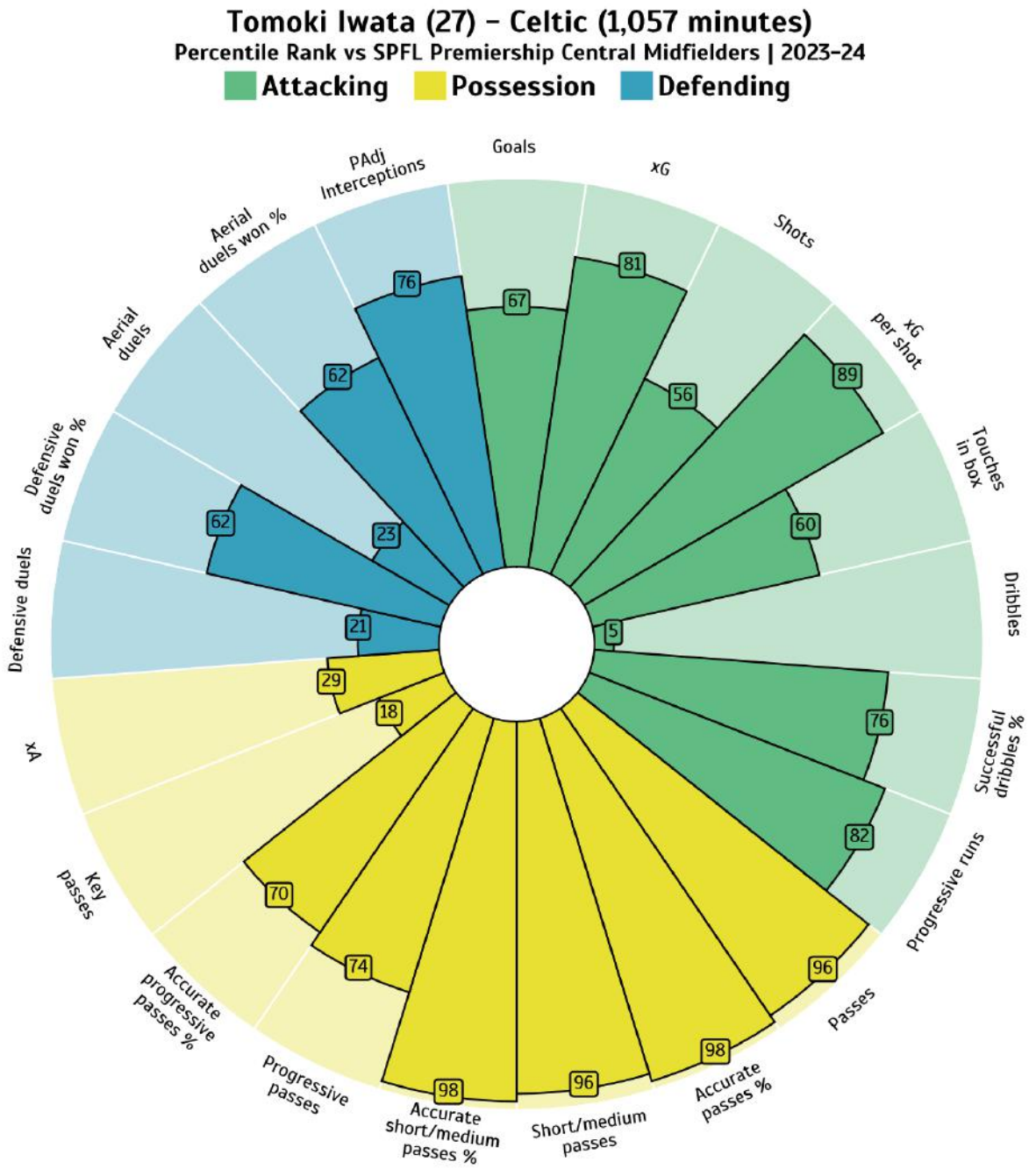
Iwata arrived in January 2023 from Yokohama F Marinos, initially on loan before signing a longer-term deal last summer. A versatile player, he played mostly as a centre-back in the J-League, where he was named Player of the Year. Also played as a defensive midfielder and that seemed to be the position Postecoglou saw Iwata in for Celtic.

Filled in at centre-back a few times in his first six months and Rodgers utilised him at right-back in pre-season but he has mostly been used as cover for McGregor in the no. 6 position in midfield again this season.

Safer in his passing, he doesn't offer the same quality in terms of ball progression as McGregor. Brings physical presence and defensive solidity though – of the five central midfielders included in the dataset for their percentile rank charts, O'Riley is the only other, alongside Iwata, to rank above average for both their defensive and aerial duel win percentages.

This, coupled with his secure passing, has seen him used to effectively solidify the midfield and help Celtic retain control later in games.

Like Ralston at right-back, he might not be able to bring what the first-pick brings to the position. Does a fine job for the team when required though and has utility from the bench. Will likely remain a key squad player for Rodgers next season.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | CDM/CM min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Central Midfield (no. 8)
Matt O’Riley

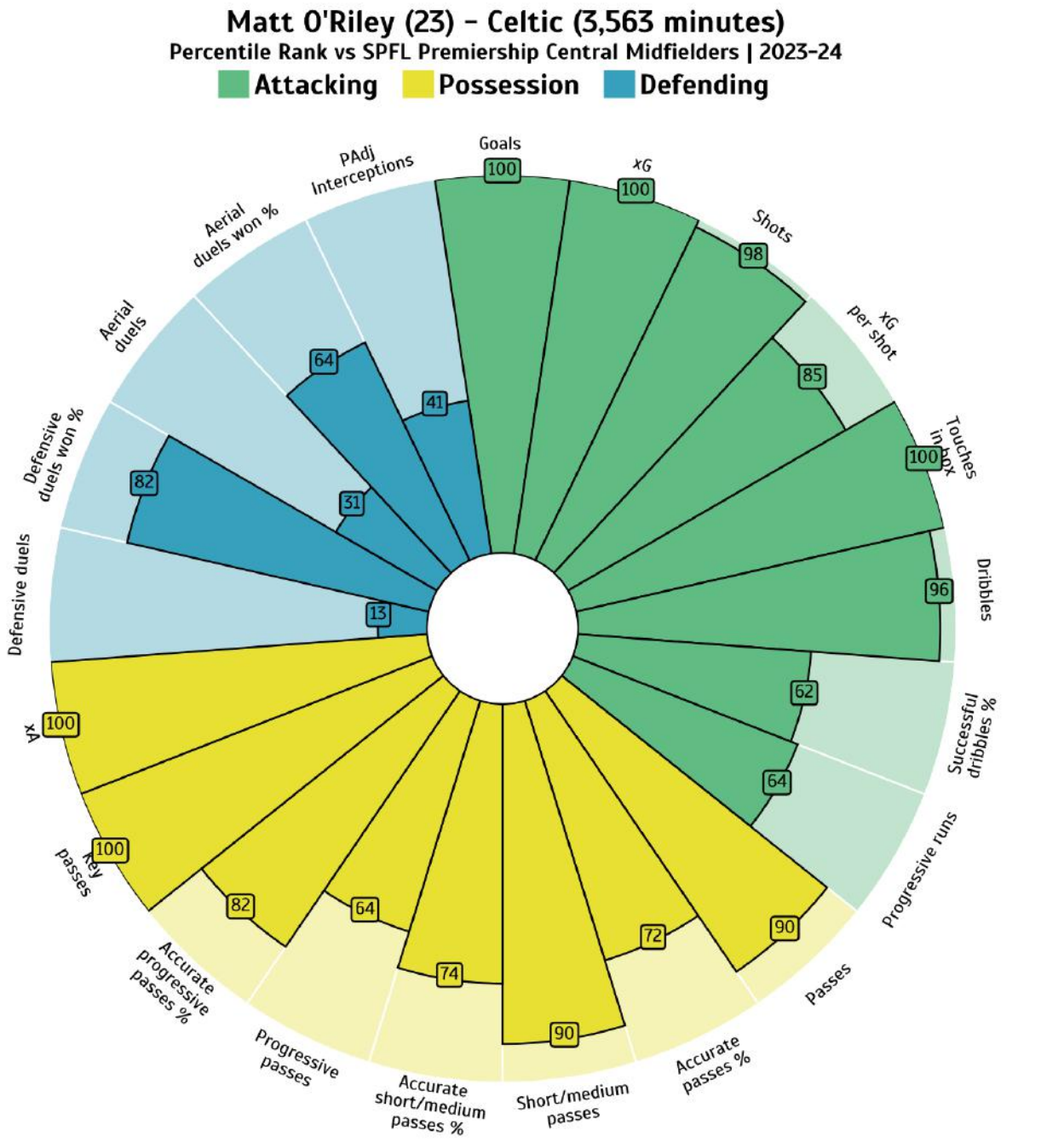
Where to even start? A truly outstanding campaign from O’Riley which culminated in being named the club’s Player of the Year and being shortlisted for the Premiership Player of the Season.

A player with undoubted potential when he arrived from MK Dons in January 2022, the now full Danish international has blossomed into an all-round central midfielder. Excellent off-the-ball and has a high level of technical quality on it, he has been creator-in-chief again this season, racking up the highest total xA in the league within the Celtic squad 10.54/0.27 per 90. Led to 12 league assists.

Added goals to his game this season too, netting 18 times in the Premiership, second most behind league the top scorer, Hearts’ Lawrence Shankland, and four ahead of the next most in the Celtic squad, Kyogo. Shone on the Champions League stage as well, laying on three goals in his six appearances (0.27 xA per 90 there too).

The club did well to fend off interest last summer and then further advances from the likes of Atletico Madrid and Inter in January but seems almost certain to move on.

Having signed a new deal to 2027 last October though, coupled with his standout form and the fact he is England association trained (likely to further entice Premier League clubs), O’Riley could well become the club’s record sale this summer.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | CDM/CM min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Central Midfield (no. 8)
Reo Hatate

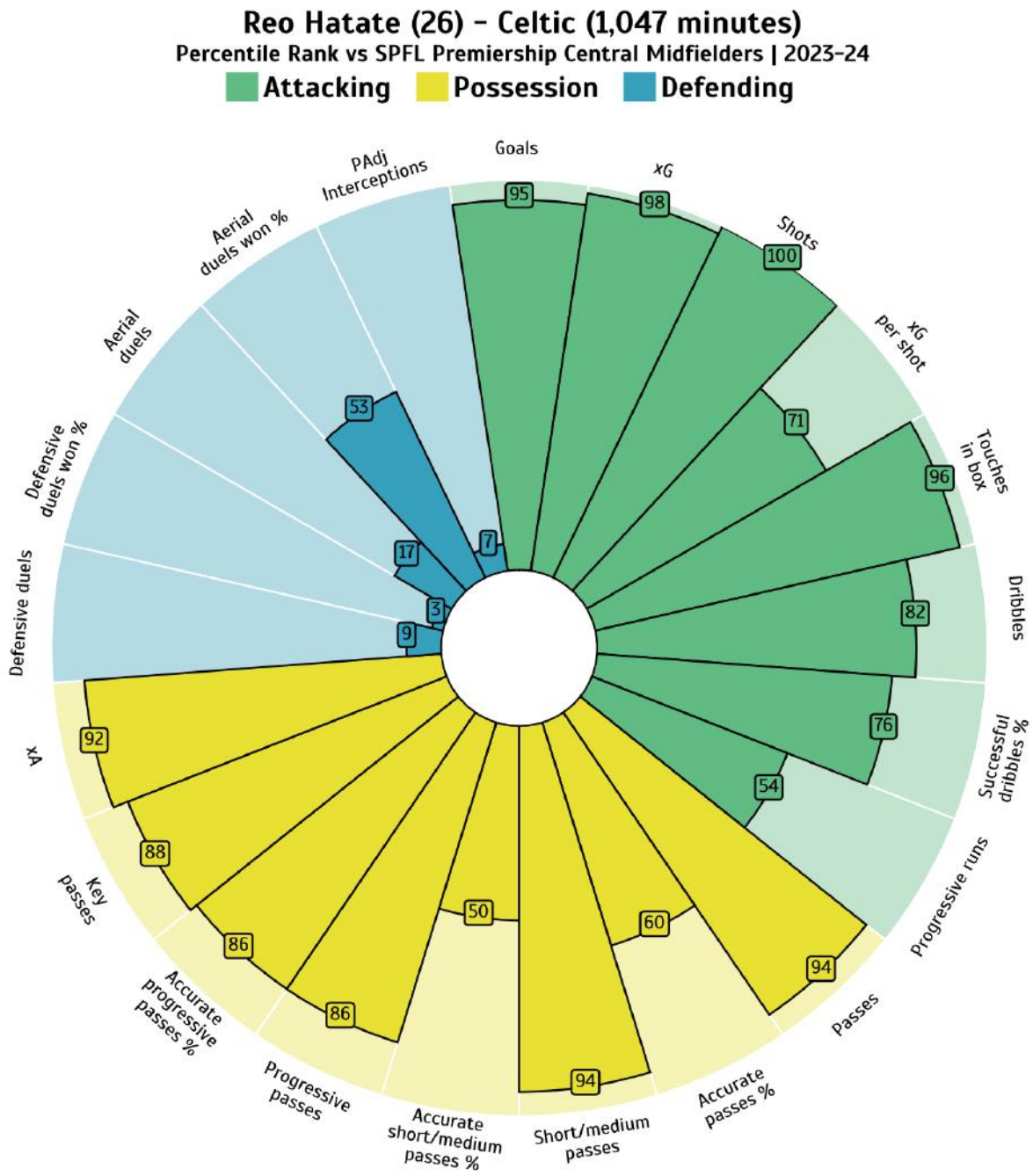
A challenging campaign for Hatate, mostly down to injuries that meant we didn't see the best of him until the closing weeks of the campaign.

Also found himself out of the side at the start of the season when fit, Rodgers preferring David Turnbull for the opening few league games. Injury then kept him out of the first derby. He was back in action later in September but a hamstring injury in the Champions League in October followed by a calf issue at the Asian Cup in January kept him out until March.

Return did coincide with Celtic's best run of form towards the end of the season. However, Rodgers was critical of his use of the ball in the second half of the last league derby. Amongst the poorer performers on the day in the Scottish Cup final too.

Offers a level of guile and creativity in the middle of the park that very few in the squad can replicate but, as the defensive part of his chart hints at, his work off the ball – as well as that occasional sloppiness on the ball – leaves a bit to be desired.

A talent no doubt, Hatate needs to show a bit more in some of those areas of his game on a more consistent basis. His creativity may be even more important next season, if O'Riley does move on, so crucial he has a good pre-season and stays injury-free.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | CDM/CM min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Central Midfield (no. 8)
Paulo Bernardo

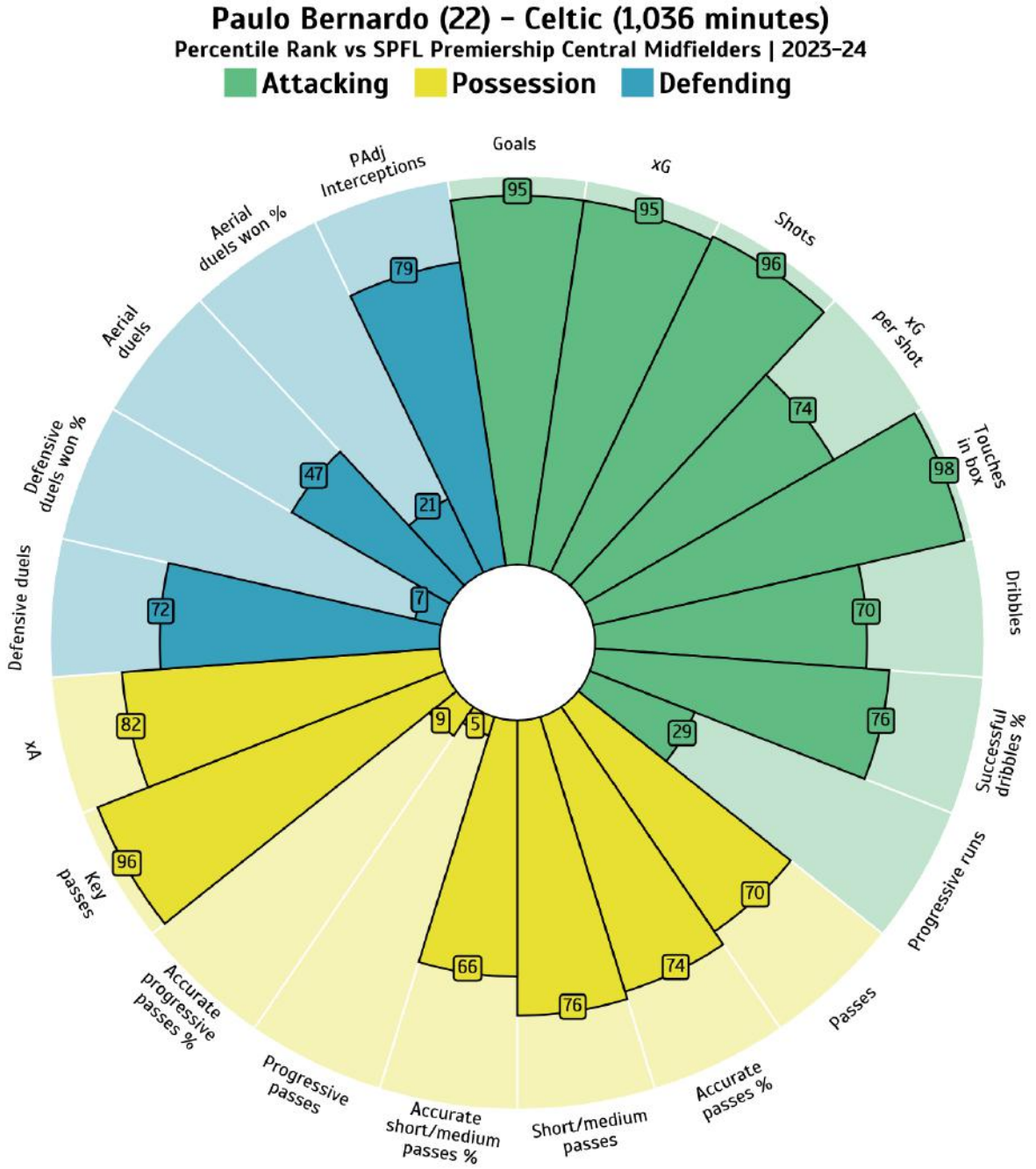
One of the later pieces of business last summer, Bernardo was brought in on a season-long loan with an option-to-buy from Benfica on deadline day.

Took a bit of time to get his opportunity and didn't make his first start until the 2-2 draw with Atletico in late October. Seemed to be preferred more for Europe but did get a more consistent run in the team domestically towards the end of the year and scored a crucial goal in the New Year derby.

Portuguese under-21 international was more bit-part again towards the end of the season as Hatate returned to the fold but still produced a few big moments from the bench during the run-in including setting up Adam Idah at Ibrox in the 3-3 draw in April. Driving run and shot led to the Scottish Cup winner too.

Athletic and gets around the pitch well (likely why he was preferred in Europe), he ranks highly for interceptions and volume of duels, his success rate in the latter needs to improve of course. Needs to offer more in possession too – often too safe (low ranks for progressive passing in his chart perhaps underline this). Has shown flashes of creativity and offers a goal threat though.

£6m (the reported option-to-buy fee) is steep for a player who only made 11 league starts but has shown signs of potential and is still only 22.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | CDM/CM min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Central Midfield - Odin Thiago Holm & Daniel Kelly

Odin Thiago Holm (21)

Last summer's first signing, Holm arrived with over 50 games in Norway's topflight with Valarenga and was named on the 100-man Golden Boy shortlist, the award which recognises the biggest young talents in European football. Highly-regarded, Holm was in and around the first team in the opening months but was hardly spotted in the second part of the season. An ill-timed challenge which resulted in a red card just ten minutes after coming on in the Champions League opener away to Feyenoord severely blotting his copybook in those early months. Only made two appearances from the end of November onwards, a start in the Scottish Cup win over Highland League outfit Buckie Thistle at Celtic Park and a 15-minute cameo in a 3-1 win over St Johnstone in March.

A bit concerning he was unable to force himself into the manager's plans more in his first season. Talent was shown in his fleeting appearances though. Technically very good, he has good composure on the ball and agility too, allowing him to escape pressure effectively. Played more as one of the no. 8s since his arrival but his skillset looks more suited to the deepest midfielder role where he can dictate play – this was where he was utilised for Valarenga. An O'Riley departure may present further opportunities for Holm but still see him best suited no. 6 position. Loan deal to get more consistent minutes may be the best next step for a young player who still has plenty of potential.

Daniel Kelly (18)

A regular with the B team, Kelly was handed his first-team debut in February, scoring in the 7-1 win over Dundee at Celtic Park. Other appearances were fleeting but he was named in nine league matchday squads, keeping the likes of Holm out. Highly regarded, inside and outside the club, a new four-year deal has been offered to Kelly amid interest from Bayer Leverkusen (previously linked with Premier League clubs when just 15). His current deal runs out later this year so would be free to discuss terms with other clubs this summer. The turnover in midfield may offer him further opportunities next season so he can hopefully be convinced to sign a new deal.

Central Midfield – James McCarthy + CM Verdict

James McCarthy (33)

A free signing in Postecoglou's first window, McCarthy arrived on a four-year deal but only managed just over 500 minutes in all competitions in 21/22 and has been rarely seen since. 85 minutes of first-team football followed in 22/23 and this season he has been completely absent from matchday squads – two games for the B team in the Lowland League were his only 'appearances'. Reported to be on circa £14k, hopefully a deal to pay the final year can be struck this summer.

CM Verdict: Club captain McGregor will remain the team's fulcrum at the base of midfield with Iwata offering solid cover. As mentioned, longer-term planning for this position will be needed. With that in mind, a season-long loan for Holm to show whether he does have the potential to be a long-term answer and just to get more minutes should be sought.

For the no. 8s, O'Riley seems certain to depart so the option-to-buy on Bernardo could be taken up. If there is room for manoeuvre on the fee that would be ideal as £6m seems steep, given what he showed. A midfield three of him, Hatate and McGregor would perhaps offer some balance but not enough creativity so another more naturally creative player should be brought in.

With **two other no. 8 brought in** (one potentially being Bernardo), that would still leave enough minutes to offer Kelly further first-team opportunities as a fourth/fifth pick, should he sign a new deal. This also leaves space for Lawal (assessed in the upcoming loan section) to make a claim too. Depending on how things develop for both Kelly and Lawal over pre-season/first half next season, should their chances be limited, development loan deals should be sought for both – provided there is adequate cover. Kwon (also assessed in the upcoming loan section) should be loaned again too.

The trio of McGregor, Hatate and O'Riley has been consistent for a while now so, with the latter's predicted departure, central midfield is an area where there will no doubt be quite a bit of change in the coming months as the club attempt to replace the significant contribution of the Danish international.

Right-wing
Nicolas Kuhn

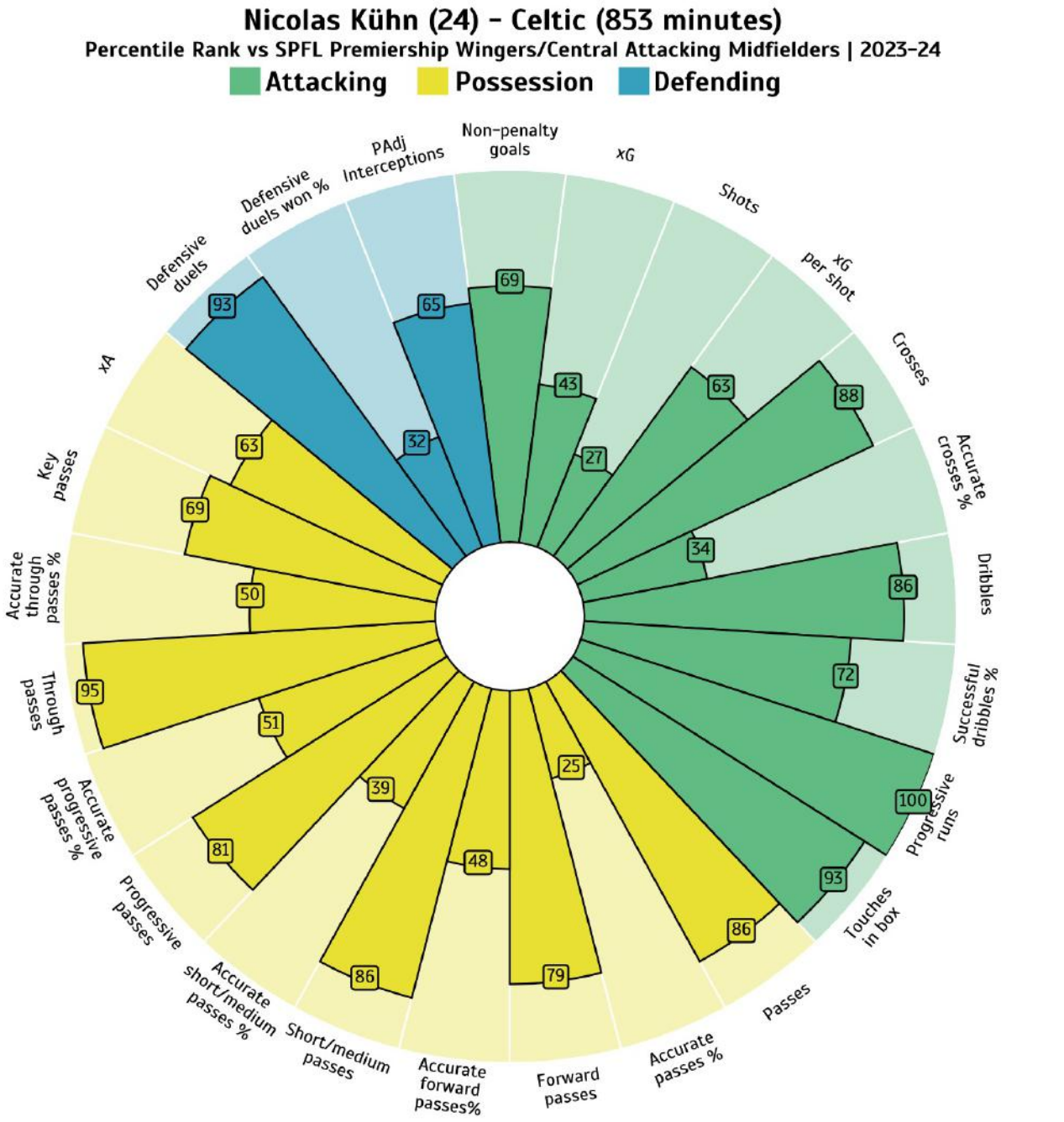
One of two winter arrivals, Kuhn joined for a fee of around £3m from Austrian side Rapid Vienna in January.

Had a slow start, mostly due to a dental issue when he arrived, but settled into things thereafter. Looked a bit stronger and provided a decent threat from the right in the second half of the season.

More a creator than a goal threat, Kuhn is a good ball carrier who can go inside or outside his man. His main threat is cutting in from right onto his stronger left. Contributes pretty well off-the-ball too but output, in an albeit small sample of less than 900 minutes, 0.17 xA per 90 could be better.

Essentially, Kuhn needs to impose himself more on games. Has a lot of good attributes and might be a confidence thing with him as much as anything else.

Hopefully, with a full pre-season under his belt this summer, he will be able to kick on next season. Potential there.



Right-wing
James Forrest

The ‘veteran’ winger was limited to a handful of appearances until the latter part of the season.

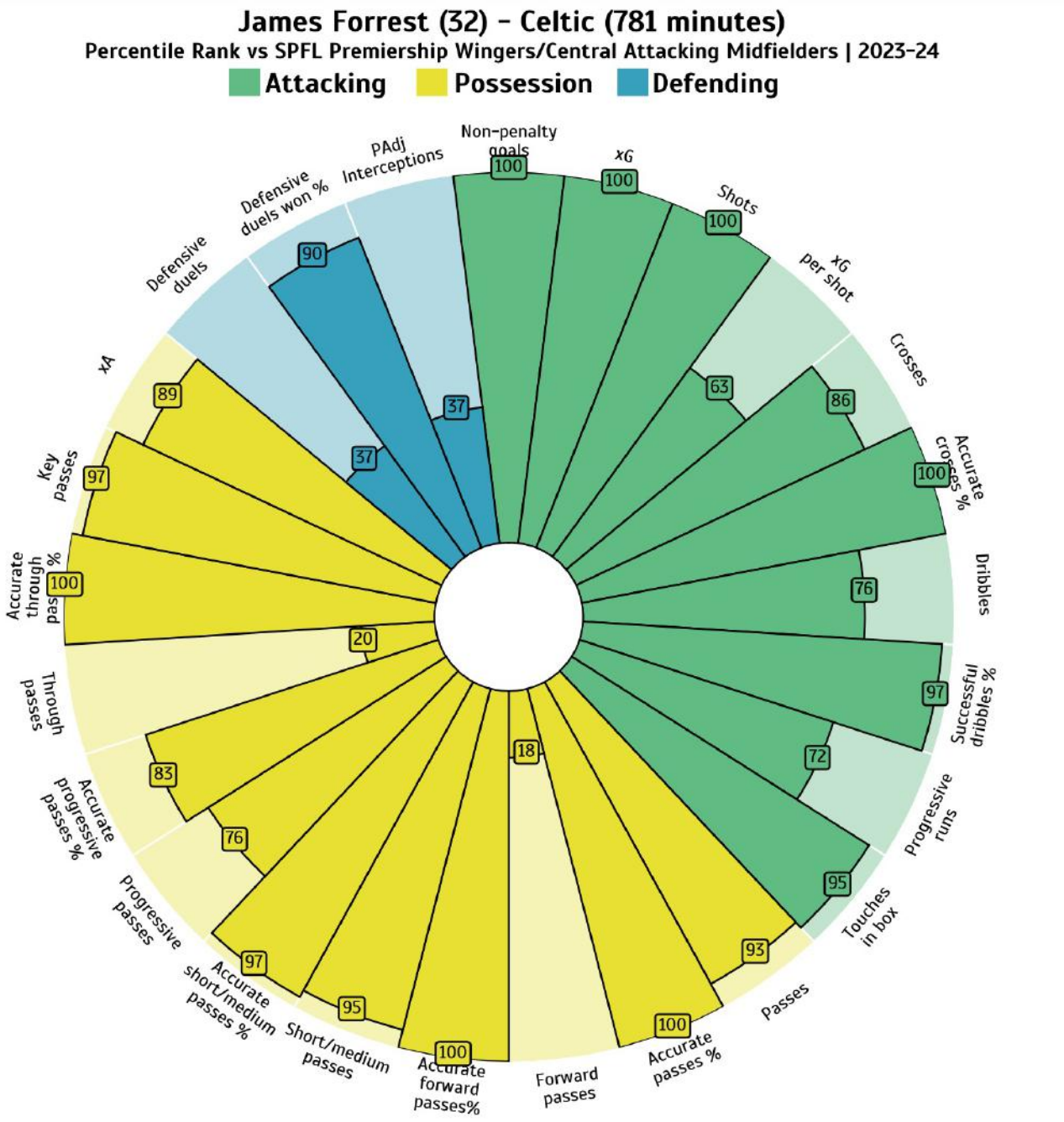
Came into the team to great effect though, making some telling contributions that helped the team over the line in the league and the Scottish Cup, including a goal from the bench against Aberdeen in the cup semi-final and a double in the first post-split fixture away at Dundee.

Described by Rodgers as the club’s ‘best winger’ during the campaign, Forrest doesn't have the dynamism he had at his peak. What he can still bring is intelligence and good decision-making.

As the chart hints, with high ranks for his possession accuracy metrics, Forrest is less likely to turn the ball over compared to some of the inexperienced, more inconsistent, wingers in the squad.

Offered a more consistent goal threat than others and his experience was key in the closing weeks of the campaign as he picked up his 24th piece of silverware to become the club’s second most decorated player. His late-season form also earned him a spot in Steve Clarke’s provisional Scotland squad for the Euros.

With so many questions around most of Celtic’s winger options, Forrest could still play a similar significant, if albeit limited, role again next season.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 24 May 24) | RM/RW/LW/LM/CAM min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Right-wing
Yang Hyun-jun

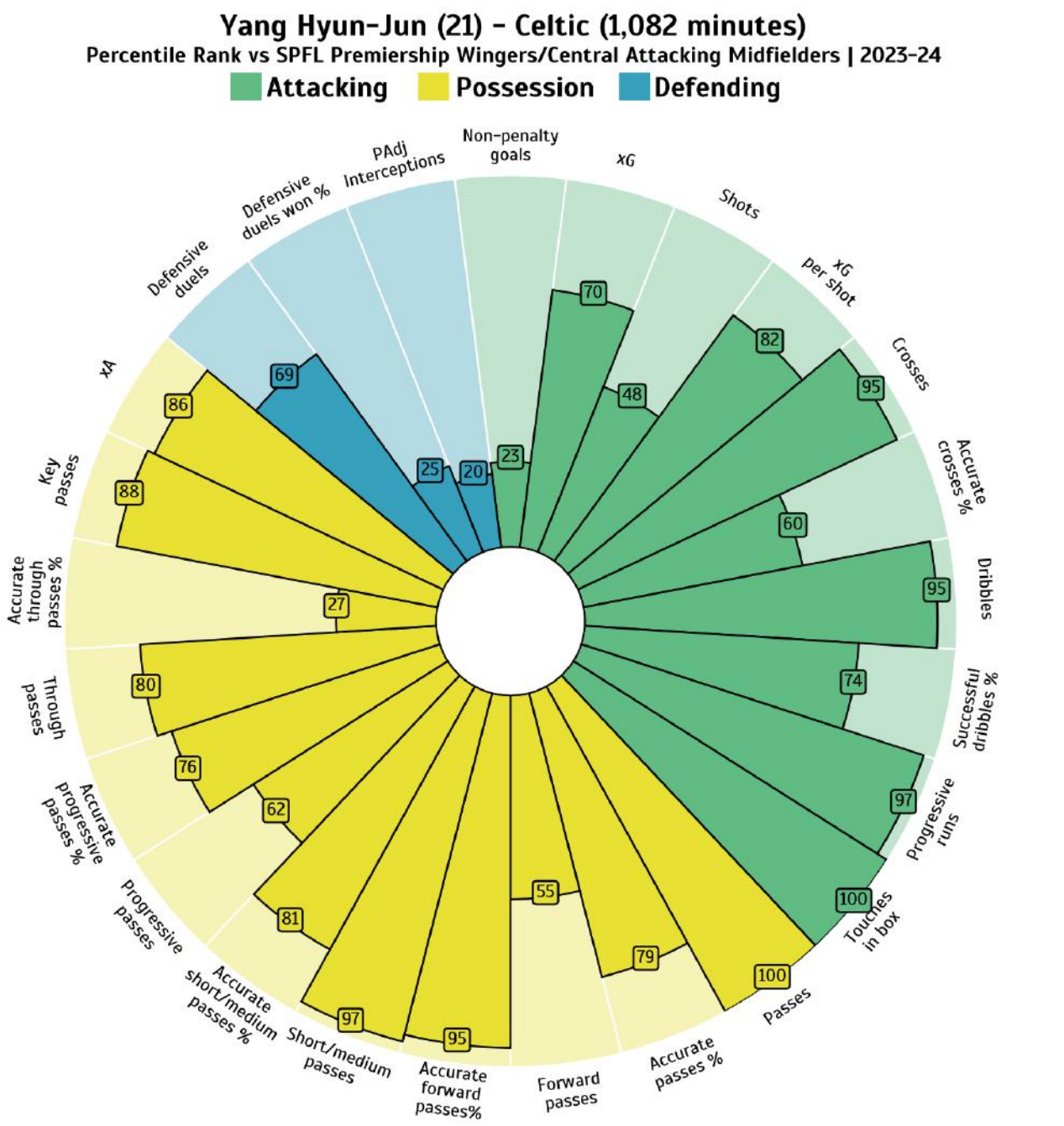
The club returned to the K-League market last summer to pick up 21-year-old Yang to add to the winger pool.

Highly rated in South Korea, the former Gangwon FC attacker has shown flashes of potential. Direct and good in 1v1s, he can play off either wing and had a run of impressive performances before the Asian Cup. A man-of-the-match display in the 7-1 rout of Dundee in February was his most complete performance.

Far too inconsistent (understandable to an extent of course given he is a young player coming from the other side of the world).

Final product has not been good enough either though and looks like he has too many areas of his game (decision-making, tactical awareness etc.) that he needs work if he is to stake a more consistent claim for regular minutes.

Perhaps a loan – maybe to a top-six SPFL Premiership side – would be best at this stage. Is talent there.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 24 May 24) | RM/RW/LW/LM/CAM min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Left-wing
Daizen Maeda

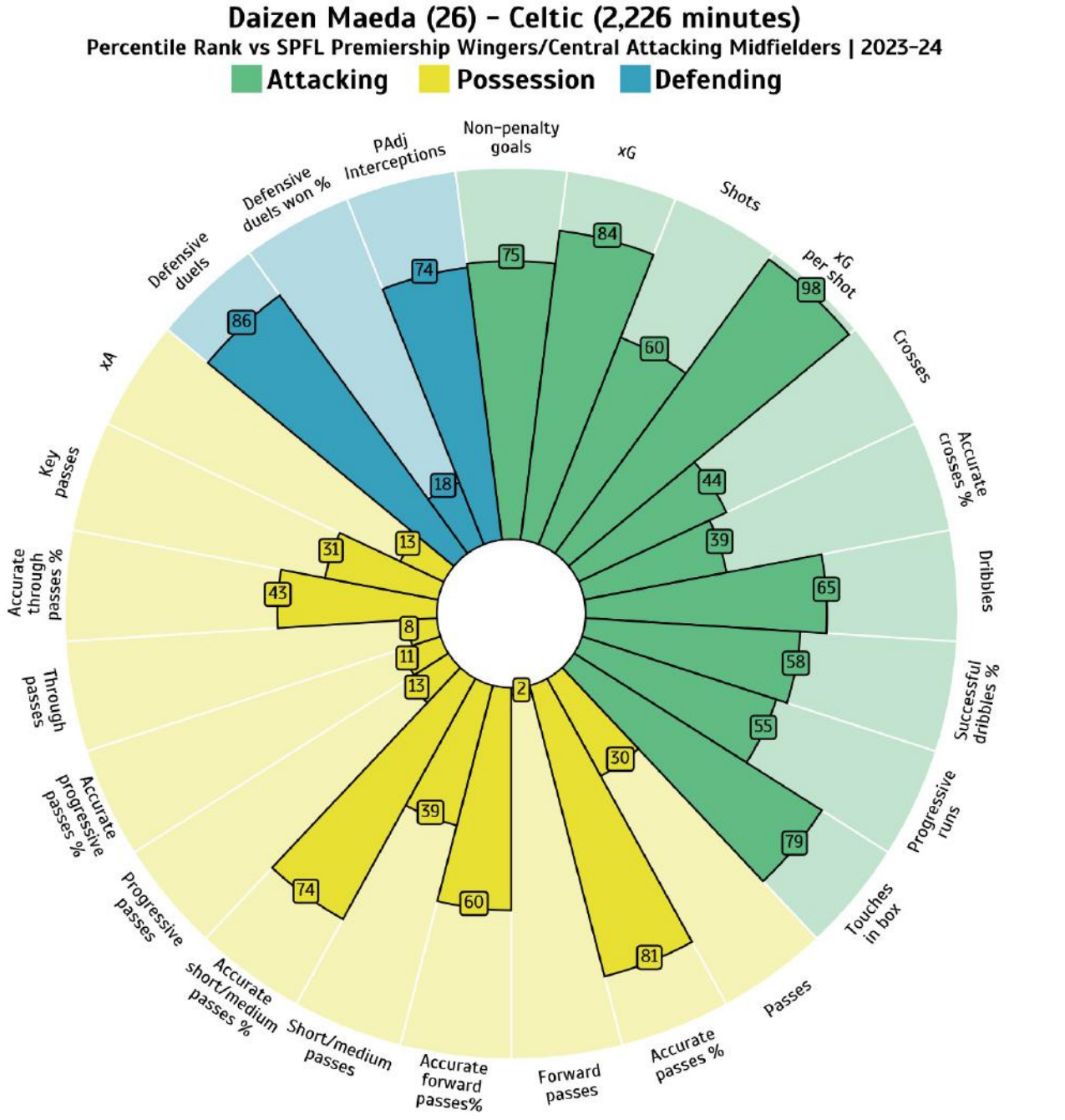
‘Duracell Daizen’ further endeared himself to the Celtic support in his second full season, producing some classic Maeda performances.

Rodgers initially tried the former Yokohama Marinos attacker as a centre-forward in pre-season, a position he plays for Japan and one his skillset is potentially more suited to. Returned to the position he was used in under Postecoglou though, in the wide areas, mostly on the left but also on the right when required to.

As is clear in his chart, he doesn't offer anywhere near the level of creative output as other wingers at the club. However, Maeda’s superhuman pressing abilities and general work-rate are so vital to the overall function of the team – particularly important in Europe and derby matches (he caused Rangers right-back James Tavernier no end of problems again this season). The defensive section of his chart here does not really do justice to his efforts off-the-ball.

Not simply a pressing machine though, he does offer a threat in behind thanks to his pace and well-timed runs. Gets into dangerous areas and to high-quality chances (high rank for xG per shot). The final bit, whether that be finishing or finding his man can be either sensational or terrible, nothing in between. However, that is almost part of the appeal of a player who has become something of a cult hero.

Offers balance to the attack and covers so much ground. Will be a key figure for Rodgers again if Celtic are to make any mark on the new-look Champions League.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 24 May 24) | RM/RW/LW/LM/CAM min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Left-wing
Luis Palma

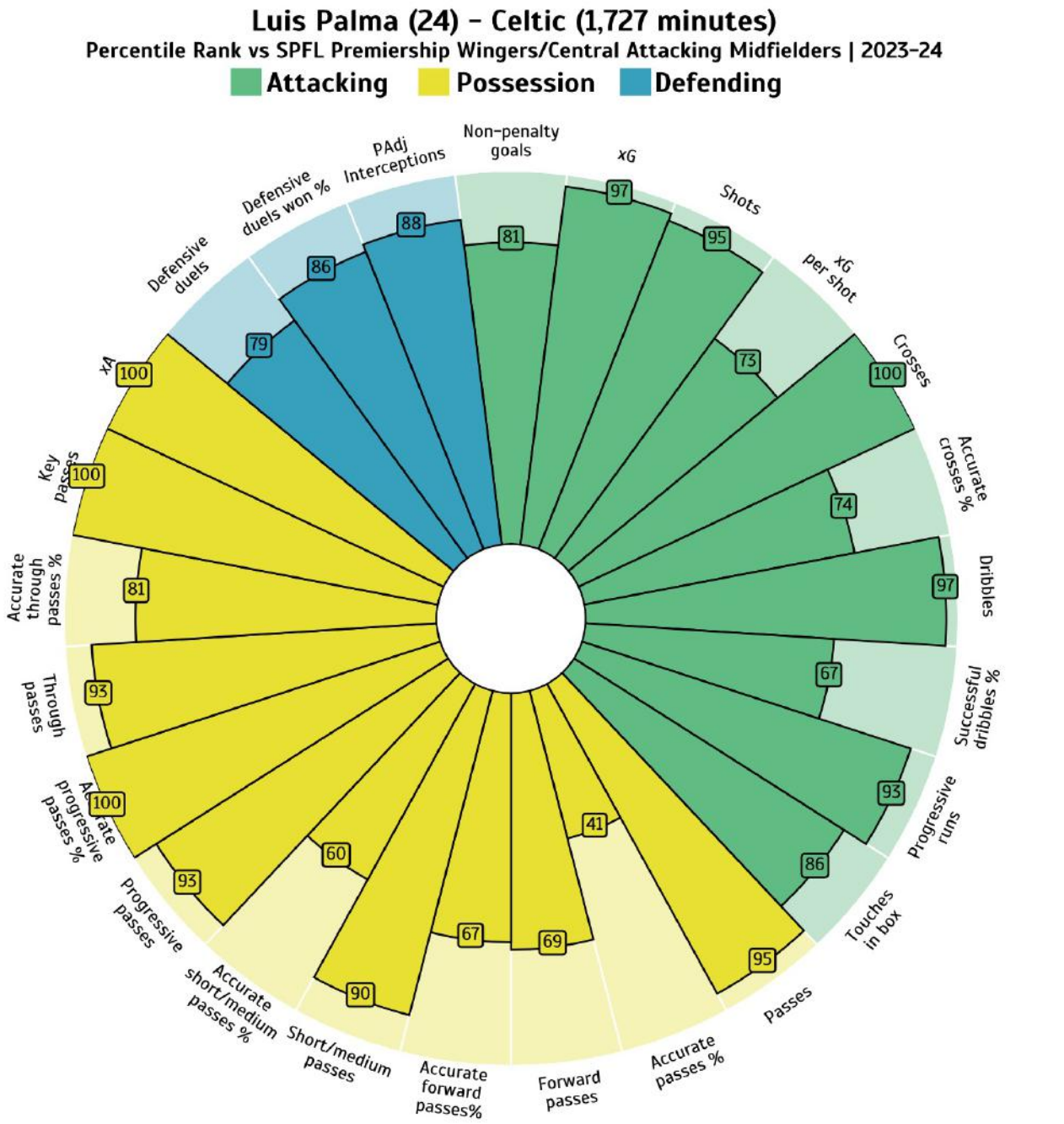
Honduran international Palma arrived from Greek side Aris for around £4m last August and produced some impressive attacking numbers, on the surface anyway – 0.26 np goals per 90 from 0.53 xG per 90/0.36 per 90 assists from 0.42 xA per 90.

Technically good and an excellent ball striker, he has been more quantity over quality though. Takes on a lot of shots, crosses and passes but the average quality of chance he takes on and the quality of chances he provides for others have generally been quite low. Some of his volume numbers are also inflated by set pieces (dead balls have generally been good, admittedly).

Operating primarily on the left, he lacks pace and has often been guilty of slowing play down, taking the sting out of developing attacks. Does contribute fairly well off the ball.

An argument to be made that he would be an effective no. 10 in 4-2-3-1 or a similar shape that utilises a more natural 10. With the system unlikely to deviate too much, Palma has still shown enough that he can be an important player on that left side.

Needs to improve his decision-making and contribute more in general play though. Whether, already at 24, those aspects can be improved to a level where is he then viewed as an automatic first pick remains to be seen.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 24 May 24) | RM/RW/LW/LM/CAM min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Wingers - Rocco Vata + Winger Verdict

Rocco Vata (19)

The Republic of Ireland under-21 international has been highly regarded for several years now. Made four appearances off the bench in 22/23 but only managed 11 league minutes under Rodgers. He did score his first Celtic goal in the Scottish Cup win over Buckie Thistle in January and bagged 12 goals in 15 appearances in the Lowland League for the B team. Given Celtic's struggles out wide, perhaps surprising he wasn't given more of an opportunity to show what he could do.

Out of contract, a decision will be made either way this summer. Seems likely he will move on with teams in Serie A reported to be keen. However, like Kelly, Celtic have tabled a new offer so if he were to sign on again then would expect to see more of him next season.

Winger Verdict:

Celtic's lack of quality wing play was a theme of the season. Despite the club bringing in three new wingers last summer, the loss of Jota last July and Liel Abada earlier this year, have led to a drop-off in threat from the wide areas.

At least **one new winger** should be brought in to enhance the quality level again. Most of the current crop of wingers have been played on both sides but if we work on the assumption that Maeda and Palma are the two options on the left, Kuhn and Forrest on the right, then any new winger should have the ability to cover either wing to provide optimum flexibility. Yang should be loaned out for the season (ideally to a top-six side in the Premiership), perhaps with an option to recall January if shows good form/there are any significant injuries to wingers at the time.

Centre-forward
Kyogo Furuhashi

A mixed campaign for fan favorite Kyogo who cut a frustrated figure at times. 34 goals in all competitions last season but just 19 this season. Dropped from 0.99 league goals per 90 to 0.47 per 90.

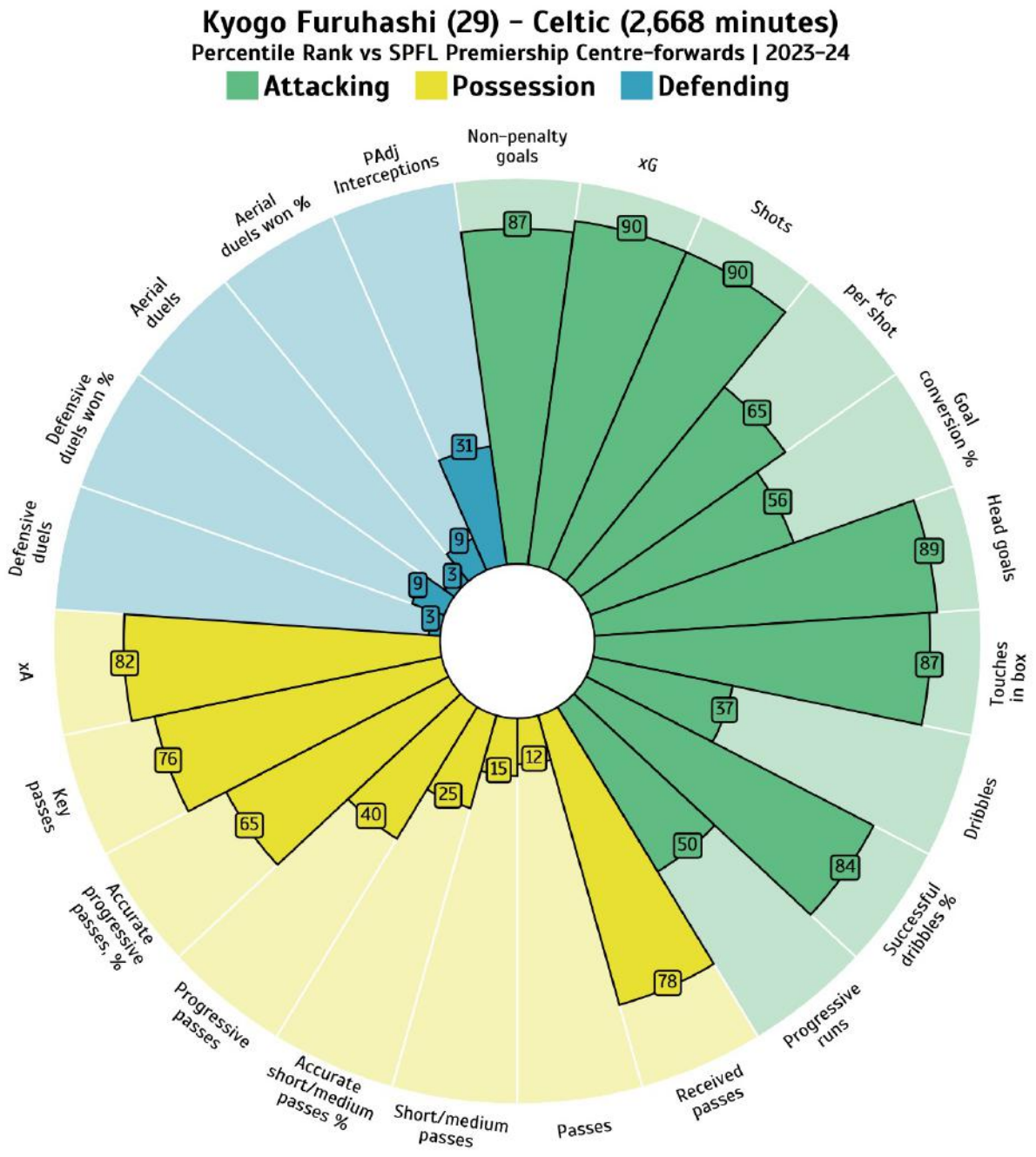
Lack of quality service, particularly from those wide areas, an issue (his lower xG per shot this season highlighting this). Role of course had much to do with this with the tweak to the centre-forward role one of the few changes Rodgers did implement.

While Postecoglou utilised Kyogo on the last line, solely a finisher between the posts, Rodgers' preference is for a 'complete forward', one who is more involved in the build-up, able to run channels, etc.

Some of these are not exactly Kyogo's strong suit and this is what led to the arrival of Idah in January. However, as Celtic form improved in the latter months of the season (i.e. creating better quality chances on a more consistent basis) Kyogo looked more like his old self and he still (mostly) remained first-pick with Idah then coming on to affect games from the bench.

Grabbed his first Champions League goals this campaign and tormented rivals Rangers once more by adding another two derby goals to his collection, his second in the New Year derby from outside the box on his weaker left was the club's goal of the season.

The club's most natural goal scorer, as long as the quality of service provided is there, Kyogo will continue to plunder goals, certainly in a domestic setting anyway.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | CF min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Centre-forward
Adam Idah

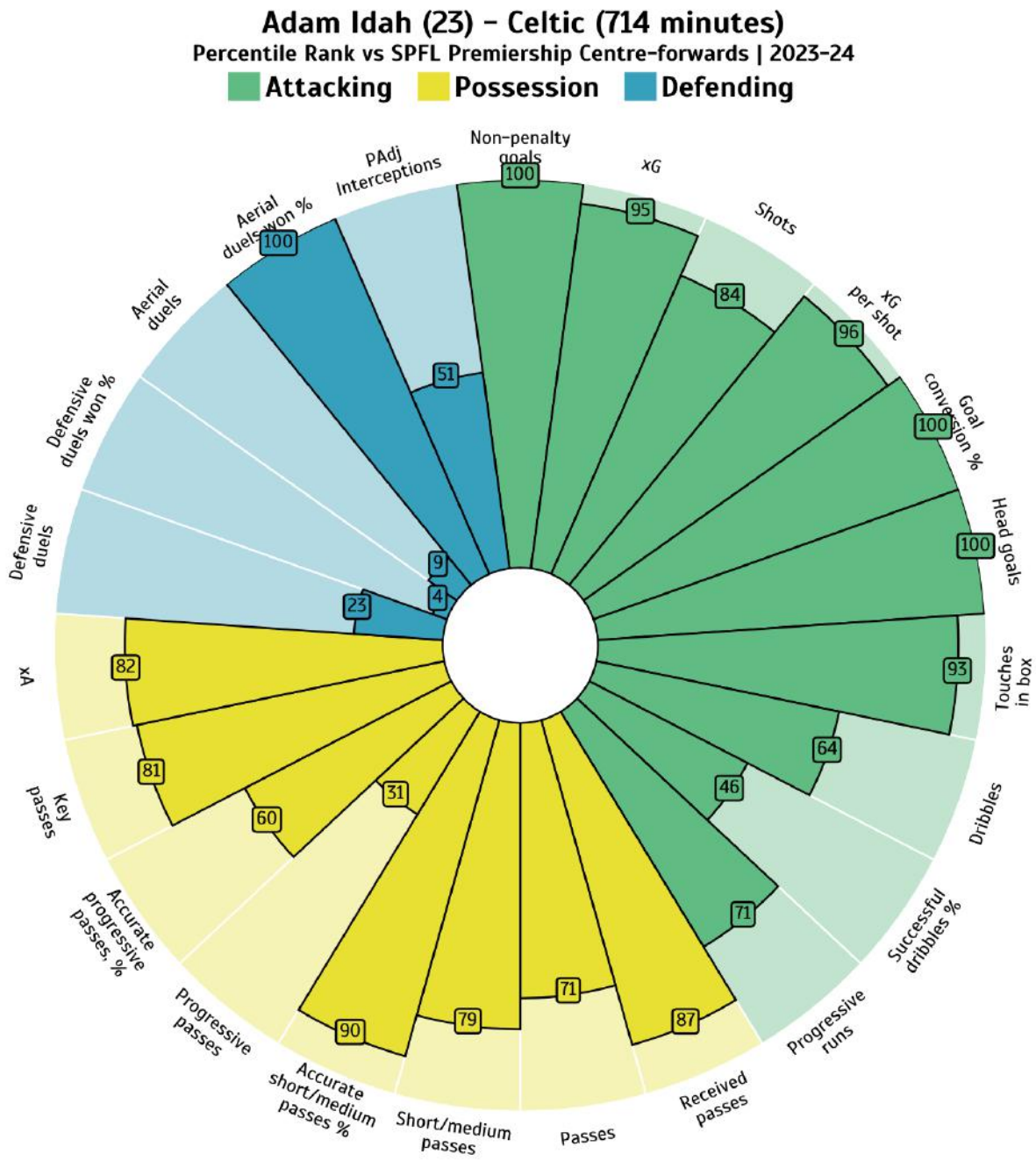
A six-month loan signing in January, few were convinced by the short-term deal for Idah from Norwich City. The club's only other piece of mid-season business after Kuhn's arrival.

Made a huge contribution though, scoring vital league goals at Easter Road, Fir Park and Ibrox before netting a 90th-minute winner in the cup final.

Quite an impression by the Republic of Ireland international who certainly profiles as the Rodgers 'complete forward' who can act as a 'reference point' for the team.

Averaged 0.76 np goals per 90, posted the best short/medium passing accuracy of the three Celtic centre-forwards who played over 700 minutes and won more aerial duels than any other in the Premiership centre-forward, again min 700 mins played. Worth noting he was involved in a lot fewer aerial duels though.

A small sample size of course, it is easy to see why Rodgers, who described Idah as the 'catalyst' for Celtic's strong second half of the season, is keen to bring him on board permanently this summer.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | CF min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Centre-forward
Oh Hyeon-gyu + CF Verdict

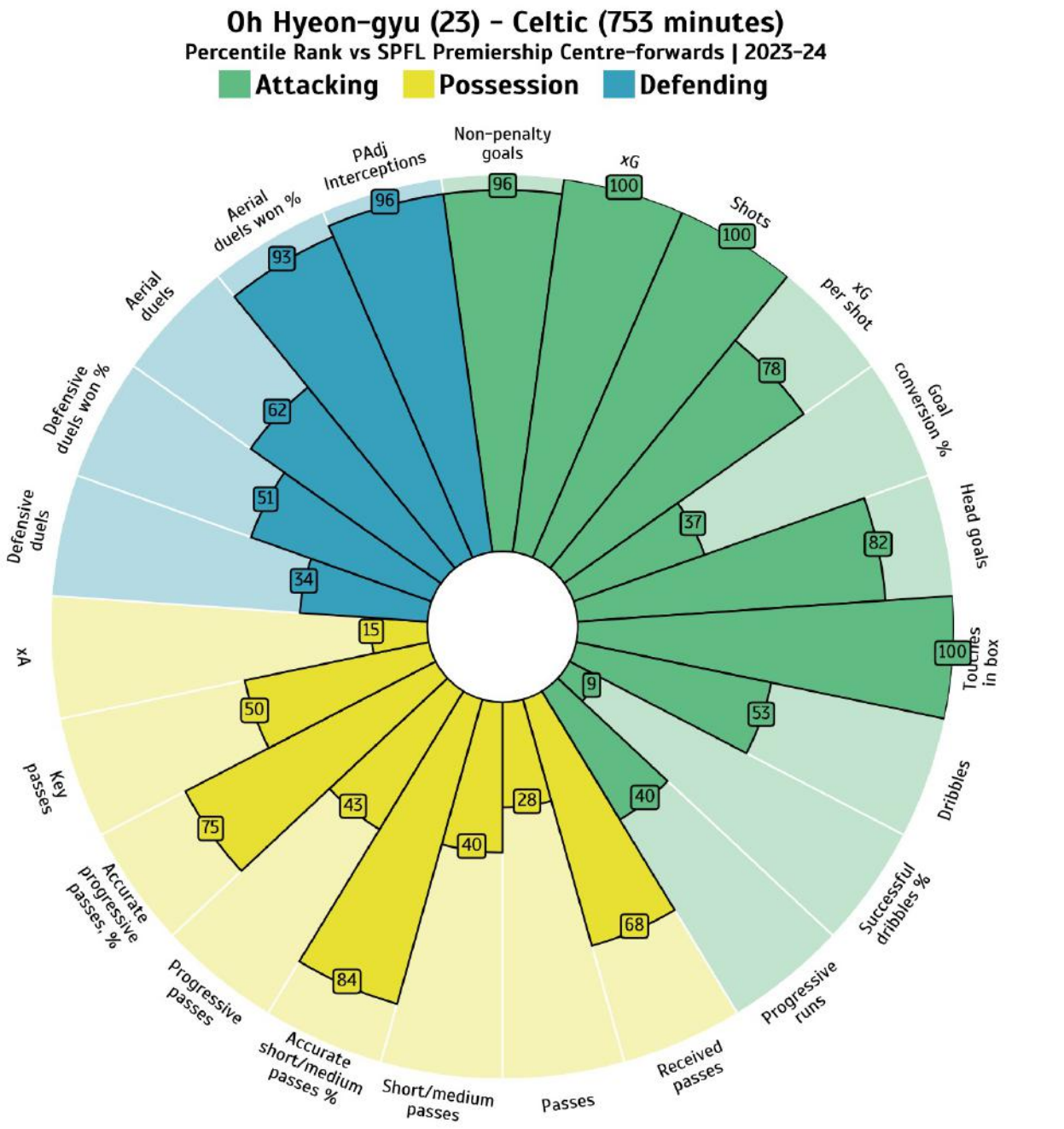
Brought in to replace Giakoumakis, Oh has never been able to hold down the single striking berth to any great extent and found himself third-choice behind Idah for the second half of the season.

A similar profile to Idah, strong and mobile, he has shown he can finish (0.6 np goals per 90/0.88 xG per 90). His strike rate was even better last season too (0.96 np goals per 90) and he arguably has an edge over Idah when it comes to work off-the-ball.

CF Verdict: Despite his leanest season to date, Kyogo remains the club's top centre-forward. Idah's impact has been very impressive as a second choice. However, Oh profiles very similarly to the Norwich loanee and is already contracted, so some may question whether spending £6m/£7m on Idah represents the best use of resources, given the other highlighted priority areas.

Proven in the league, and clearly favoured by the manager over Oh, if a deal could be struck that sees Idah return, then he and Kyogo would complement each other well, in terms of offering those different profiles. If a deal can't be agreed then **another centre-forward**, one who is more of that 'complete forward'/bigger physical presence than Kyogo should be targeted.

In either scenario, a decision would have to be made on Oh, whether he stays and fights for the second spot or seeks a loan/permanent move. Whatever the outcome, a loan would be preferred as he could still have something to offer in the future. Maeda can then provide cover as a 'third-choice' centre-forward.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 23 May 24) | CF min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins



Loan Players



Mikey Johnston
West Bromwich Albion

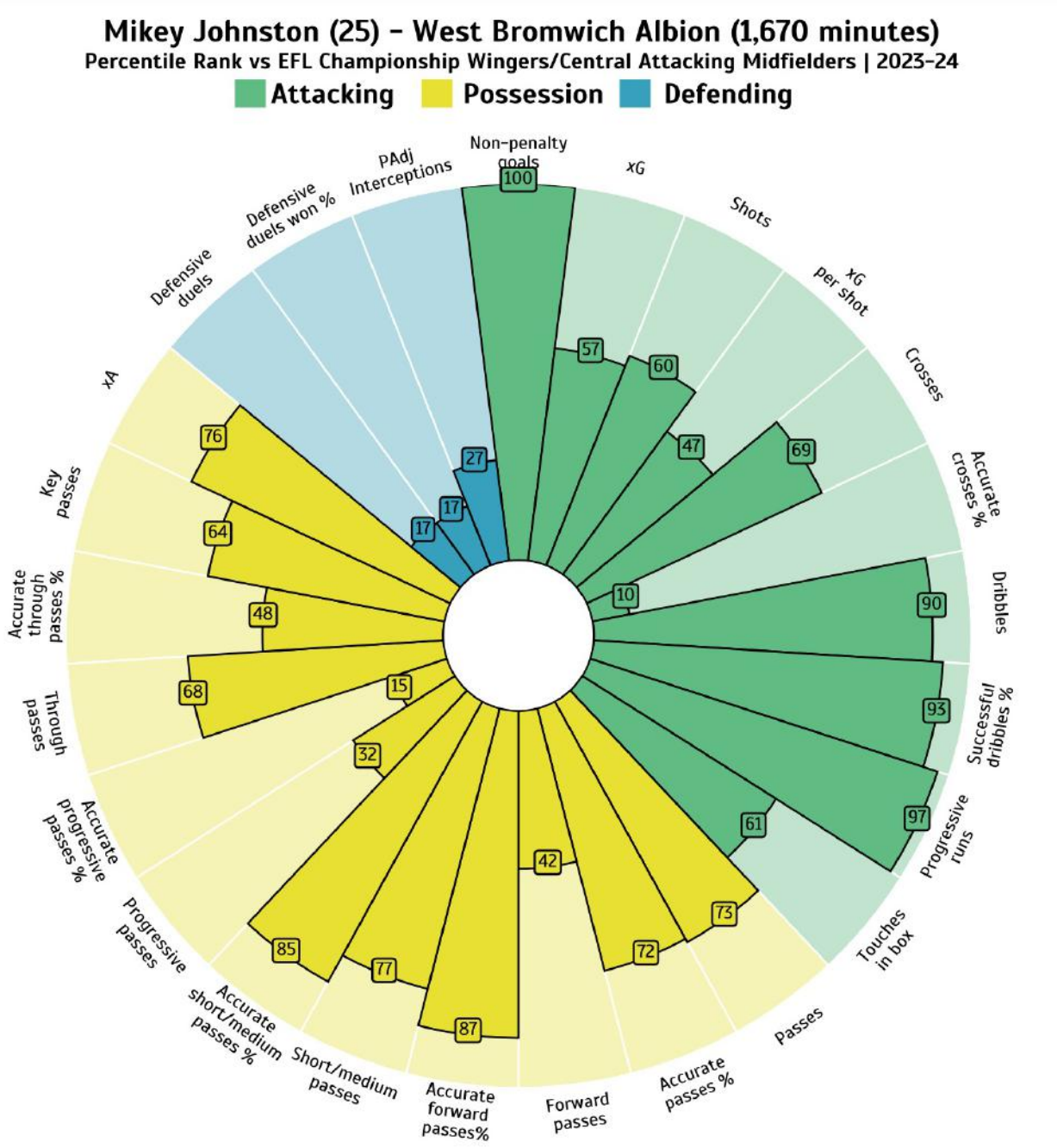
A player that has divided fan opinion more than any other in recent times, Johnston returned from a season-long in Portugal with Vitoria Guimaraes last summer.

With the return of the manager who gave him his debut in 2017, who also described him as one of the best talents to come out of the academy, Johnston would have felt this was his time to finally fulfil his potential at his boyhood club.

However, he didn't make his first appearance until late October and, despite a few promising showings, including a double at Dens Park on Boxing Day, was loaned out again in the January window.

Started on fire at West Brom with six goals in his first nine appearances and helped push the Baggies to a play-off spot. Ended the season with 7G/1A as they lost out in the play-off semi-finals.

Verdict: After many opportunities, it seems like it will just not happen for Johnston at Celtic. With his stock as high as it has ever been after a fine six months in England's second tier, a permanent move would make sense for all involved.



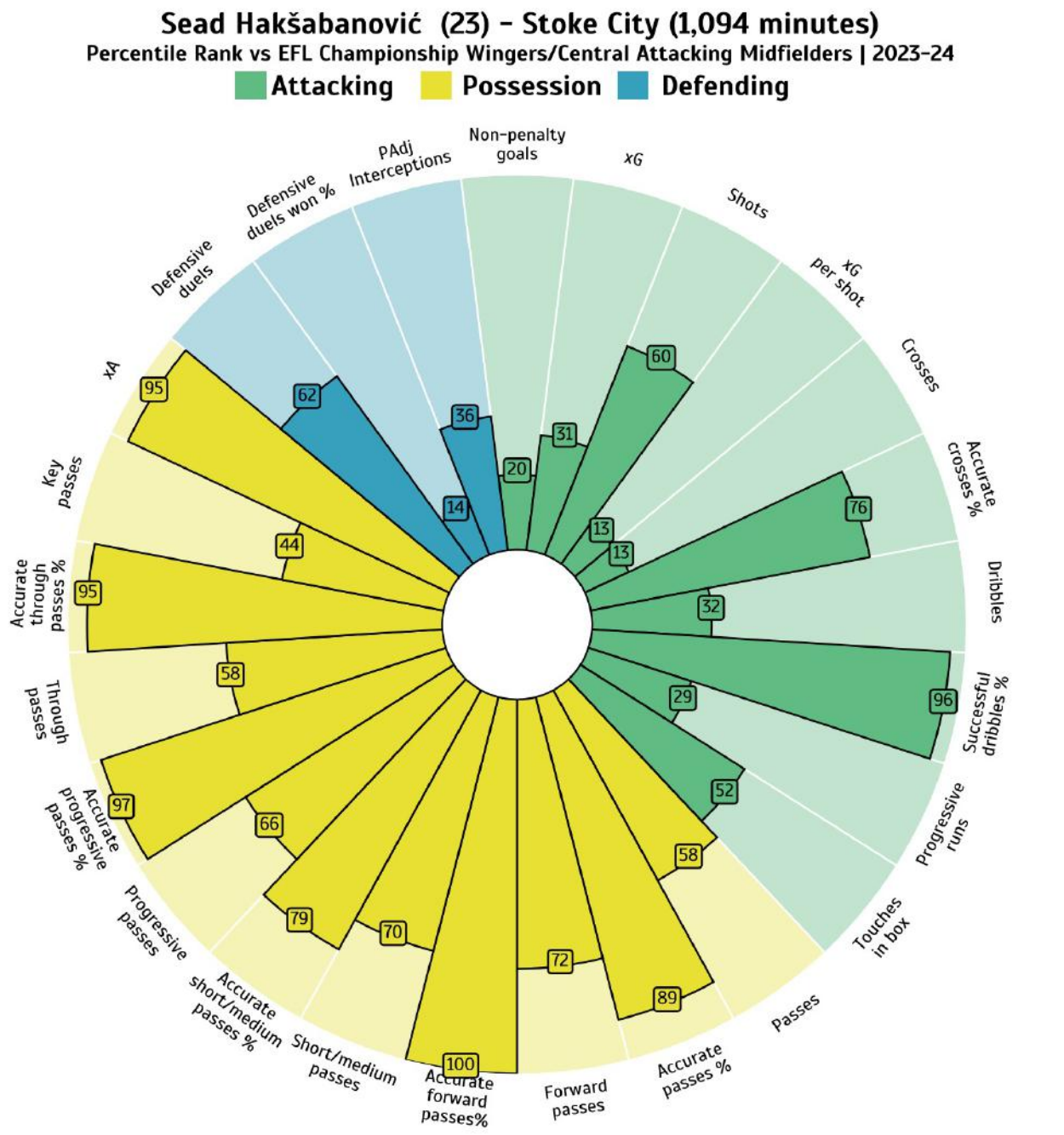
Sead Haksabanovic
Stoke City

Signed for around £1.7m from Rubin Kazan in August 2022, Montenegrin international Haksabanovic played a mostly bit-part role in 22/23, clocking just over 1,200 minutes (5G/4A).

He was given an opportunity to impress under Rodgers last summer but a social media outburst about not being valued late in August saw him quickly shipped out to Stoke City on a season-long loan before the deadline.

Like his time at Celtic, he has shown occasional flashes of promise but he has generally underwhelmed in his spell in the English Championship. Injuries have admittedly hampered him again but Stoke will reportedly not look to make his loan permanent.

Verdict: Celtic should be able to recoup most of the fee paid (reported to be interest in him from clubs in Serie A). Potential to be effective in the right system, probably more as a 10 than a winger given his lack of pace. A mixture of fitness and attitude problems are seemingly holding him back more than anything though.



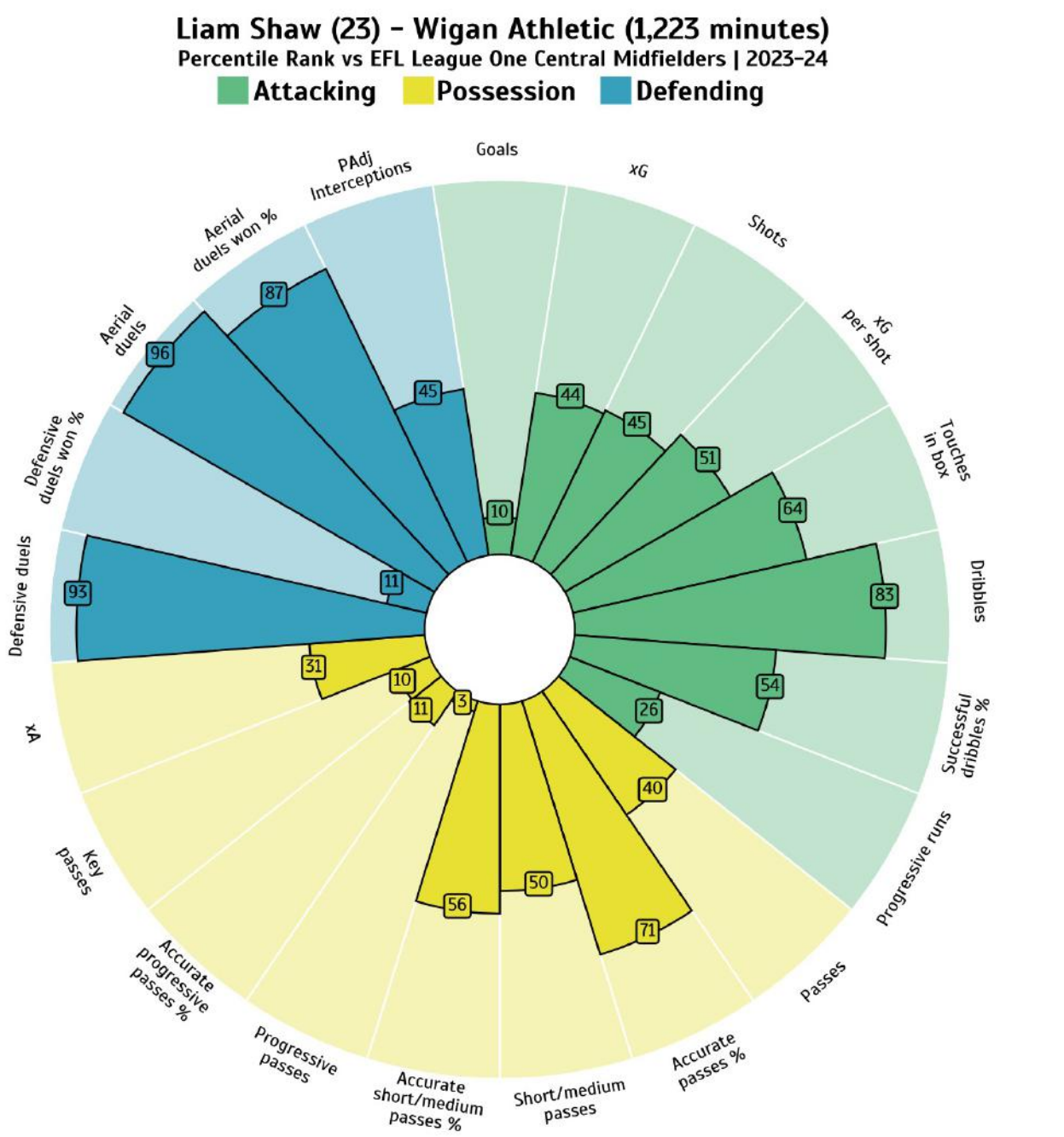
graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 18 May 24) | RM/RW/LW/LM/CAM min 1,000 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Liam Shaw
Wigan Athletic

Signed on a free alongside Sheffield Wednesday teammate Osaze Urhoghide in July 2021, before Postecoglou was in post, Shaw has had a nomadic Celtic career. Despite the squad overhaul in Postecoglou's early months, he managed just 16 minutes of action before being loaned out to Motherwell for the second half of the season.

The defensive midfielder then spent last season on loan at Morecambe before joining Wigan for the 22/23 campaign. Has has injury issues as well but failed to make much of an impact as Wigan ended the season midtable in League One.

Verdict: Shaw and Urhoghide will rank among the strangest signings of recent times. Clearly not at the required level, look to move on/pay up the last year of his deal.



Bosun Lawal
Fleetwood Town

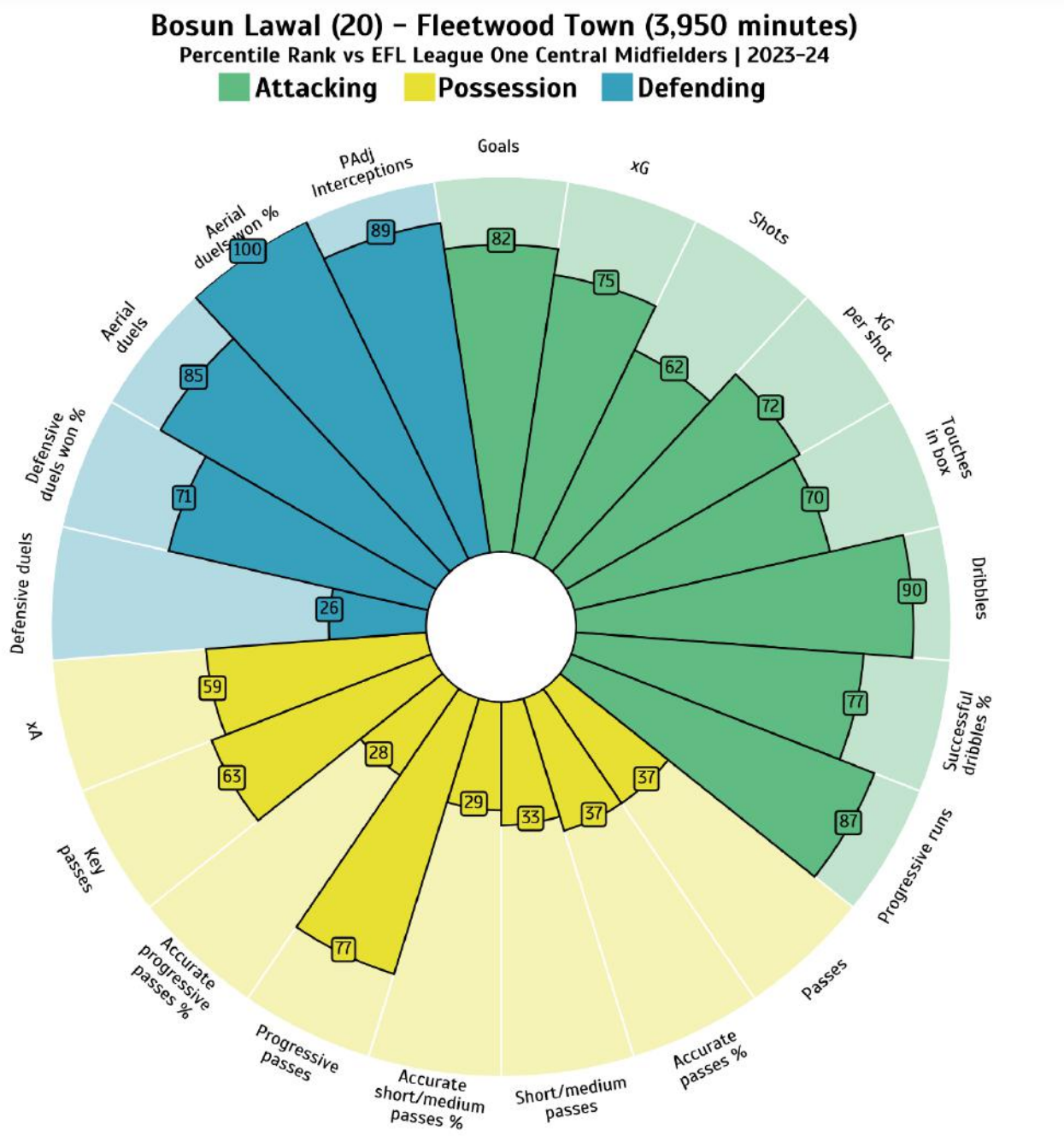
Former Watford academy prospect Lawal enjoyed a highly productive loan spell in League One with Fleetwood Town. Despite playing under three separate managers, including former Celtic captain Scott Brown who brought him to Fleetwood, and ending the season being relegated, Lawal was a standout for The Cods.

Used initially as CB, as he had been with Celtic B and in his first-team appearances in friendlies last summer, Lawal was deployed as a box-to-box midfielder for most of his in his first full professional season.

The 6' 3" Republic of Ireland under-21 international flourished in his more advanced position, demonstrating excellent ball-carrying abilities and creative passing. Provided 6G/3A and posted some very impressive defensive numbers too.

Verdict: An athletic, powerful midfielder, Lawal could have a high ceiling, based on his first season in professional football. Given could lose one or two midfielders, Lawal should be given the opportunity to impress in pre-season.

If Rodgers still feels he isn't ready yet then another loan, perhaps to the English Championship to further develop would be best. Contracted to 2026 a new, longer-term deal should also be explored. Potential to be a big asset in the future.



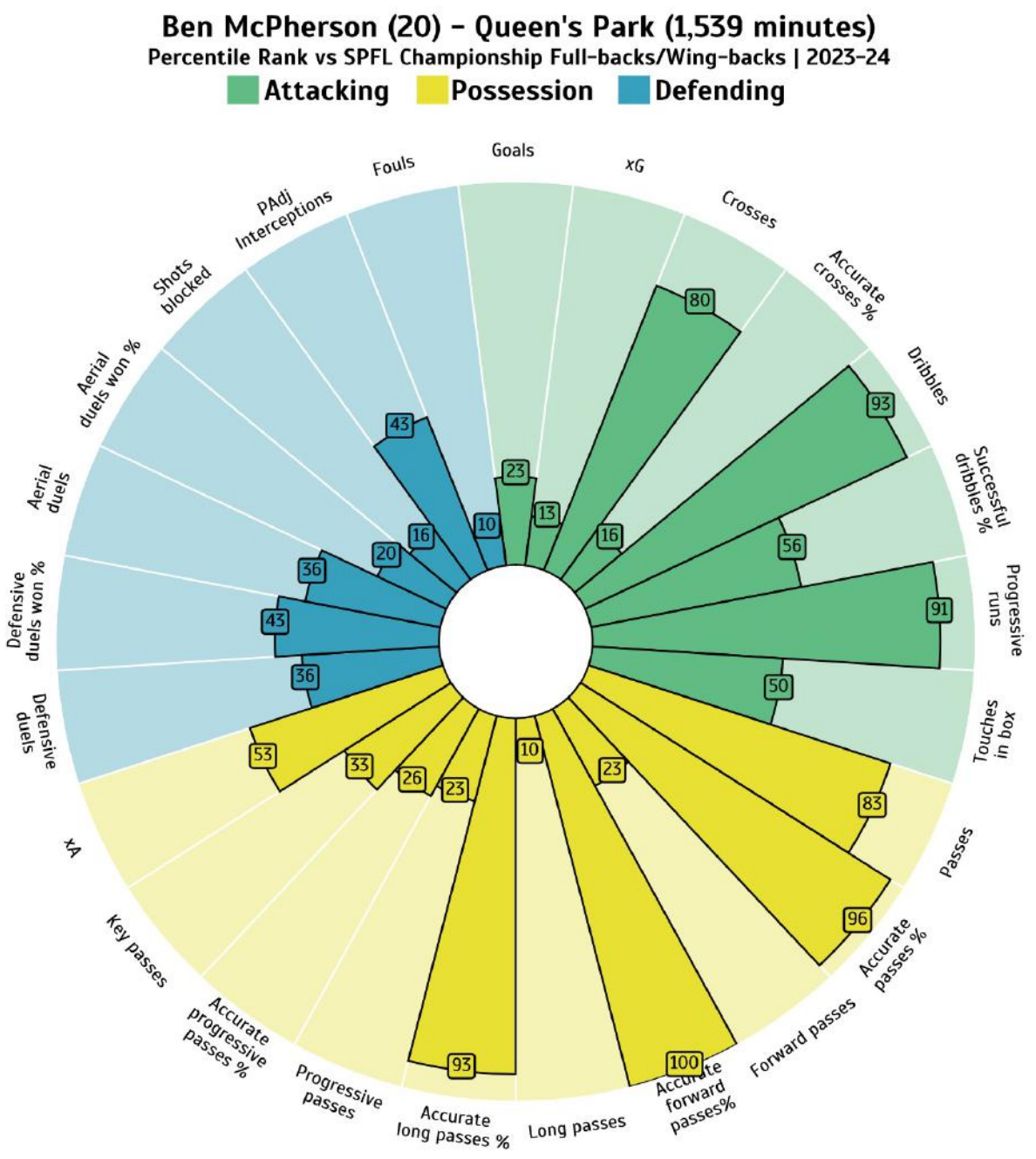
graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 18 May 24) | CDM/CM min 1,000 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Ben McPherson
Queen’s Park

Right-back made two appearances in pre-season, against Yokohama Marinos and Wolves, before being loaned out to ambitious Championship side Queen’s Park, who just missed out on promotion to the Premiership at the end of 22/23.

Despite Queen’s Park not enjoying as successful a season this time, they finished in 8th spot, the Scotland under-21 international was a steady performer, particularly in the first half of the season under Robin Veldman. Did not feature quite as much under Callum Davidson towards the end of the campaign.

Verdict: Out of contract this summer, McPherson would have a difficult task displaying Ralston as backup. Could be offered an extension with a view to another loan but may be best just to move on.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 30 May 24) | RB/RWB/LB/LWB min 1,000 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

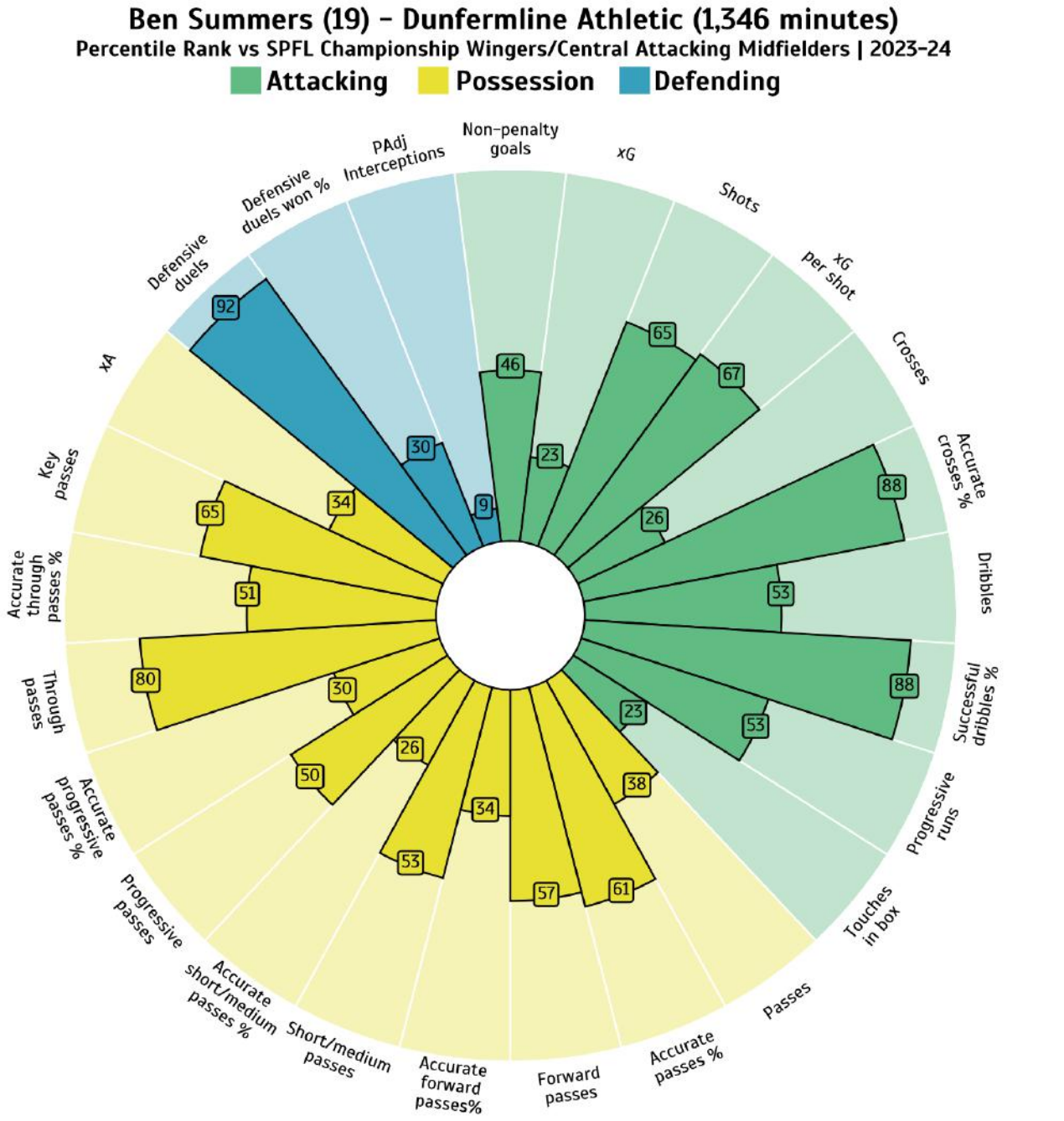
Ben Summers
Dunfermline Athletic

Handed his first-team debut by Postecoglou in April 2023, Summers made six other squads, including another appearance off the bench in 22/23.

Involved in pre-season in the summer too, Summers then joined newly promoted Championship side Dunfermline on loan for the season.

Wasn't always a first pick for James McPake's side but made a decent impact, playing either as a 10 or off the left, as the Pars finished midtable on their return to the second tier. Perhaps not quite the standout campaign Summers would have been hoping for though.

Verdict: A player with undoubted talent, his contract to 2026 underlines the club's belief in Summers. Needs to make his next loan move count if he is to force his way into the first-team picture in the future though.



Josh Clarke
Ayr United

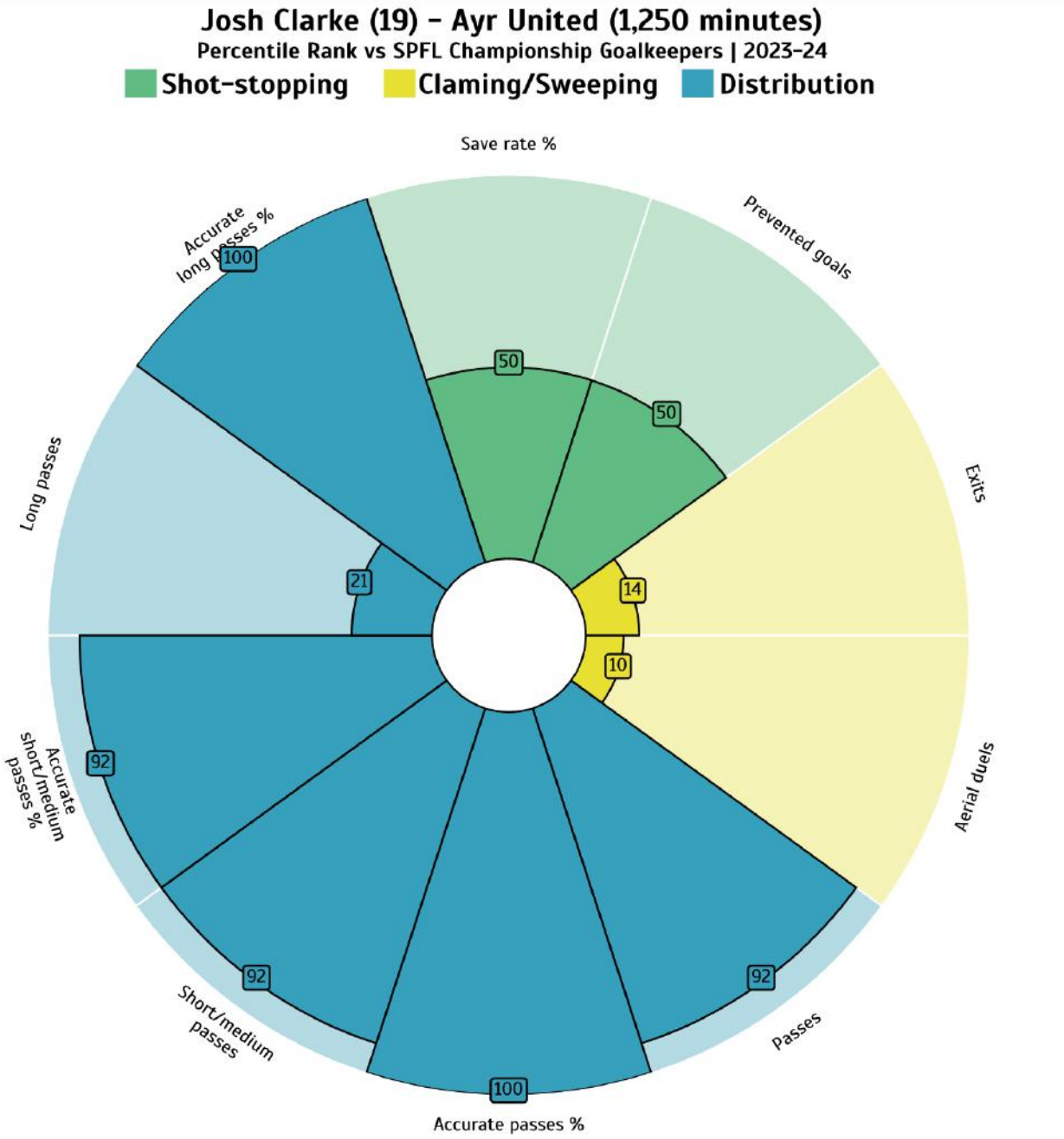
Former Chelsea and Bournemouth youth keeper was the B team's number one for the first half of the season before joining Ayr United for the remainder of the campaign.

The Northern Ireland under-21 international kept the more experienced Charlie Albinson out of the team during his loan spell, making 13 league appearances in Ayrshire.

A short, but albeit impressive loan spell, the 19-year-old helped the Honest Men finish 7th in the SPFL Championship, demonstrating some steady shot-stopping and impressive distribution.

Verdict: Another out of contract this summer but should be offered a new deal after an encouraging loan spell in the second tier.

As mentioned, if Siegrist moves on there will likely be a third goalkeeper spot in the squad available. A year in and around the first-team may benefit Clarke with another loan potentially later in the season to gain more first-team minutes.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 30 May 24) | GK min 1,000 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Matthew Anderson
Admira Wacker

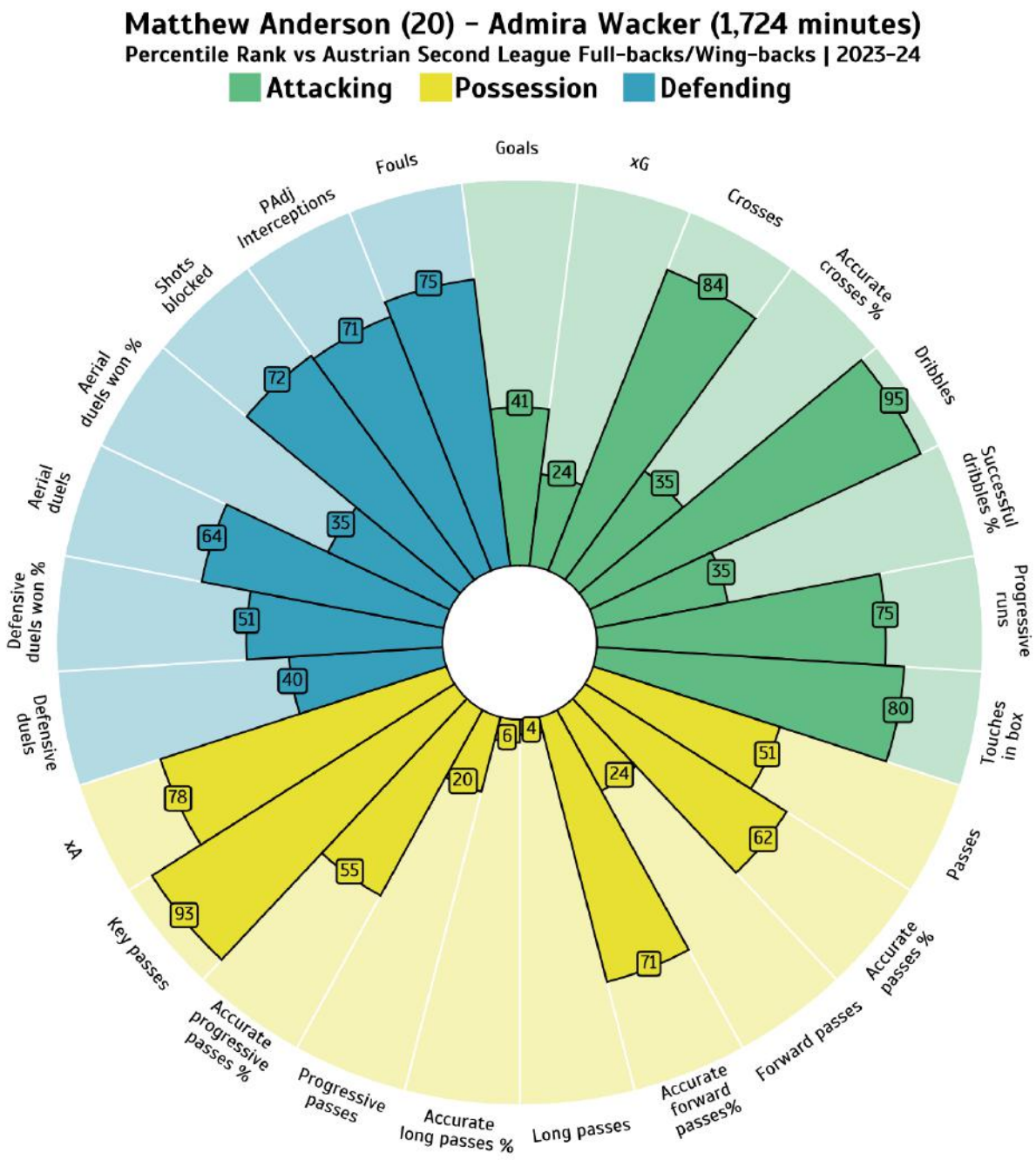
Left-back Anderson joined the Austrian second-tier side for the season following a recent partnership agreement between Celtic and Admira.

The agreement, signed last summer, will see Celtic send prospects to Austria as part of their development. 20-year-old Anderson, alongside goalkeeper Tobi Oluwayemi, were the first to head over there to get game time at a level above what they would be playing at with the B team in the Lowland League.

It has been a productive endeavour so far, judging by Anderson's season anyway, culminating in the left-back being named in the league's team of the year.

Verdict: An impressive spell in Austria's second tier, may get an opportunity to impress in pre-season, particularly given the current lack of options at left-back.

If not at the required level to make a first-team impact, a contract extension (his current deal expires in 2025) should be offered before another loan, at a higher level again (perhaps League One in England or a bottom-six SPFL Premiership side). This would allow Anderson a platform to take his development to the next stage.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 30 May 24) | RB/RWB/LB/LWB min 1,000 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Tobi Oluwayemi
Admira Wacker

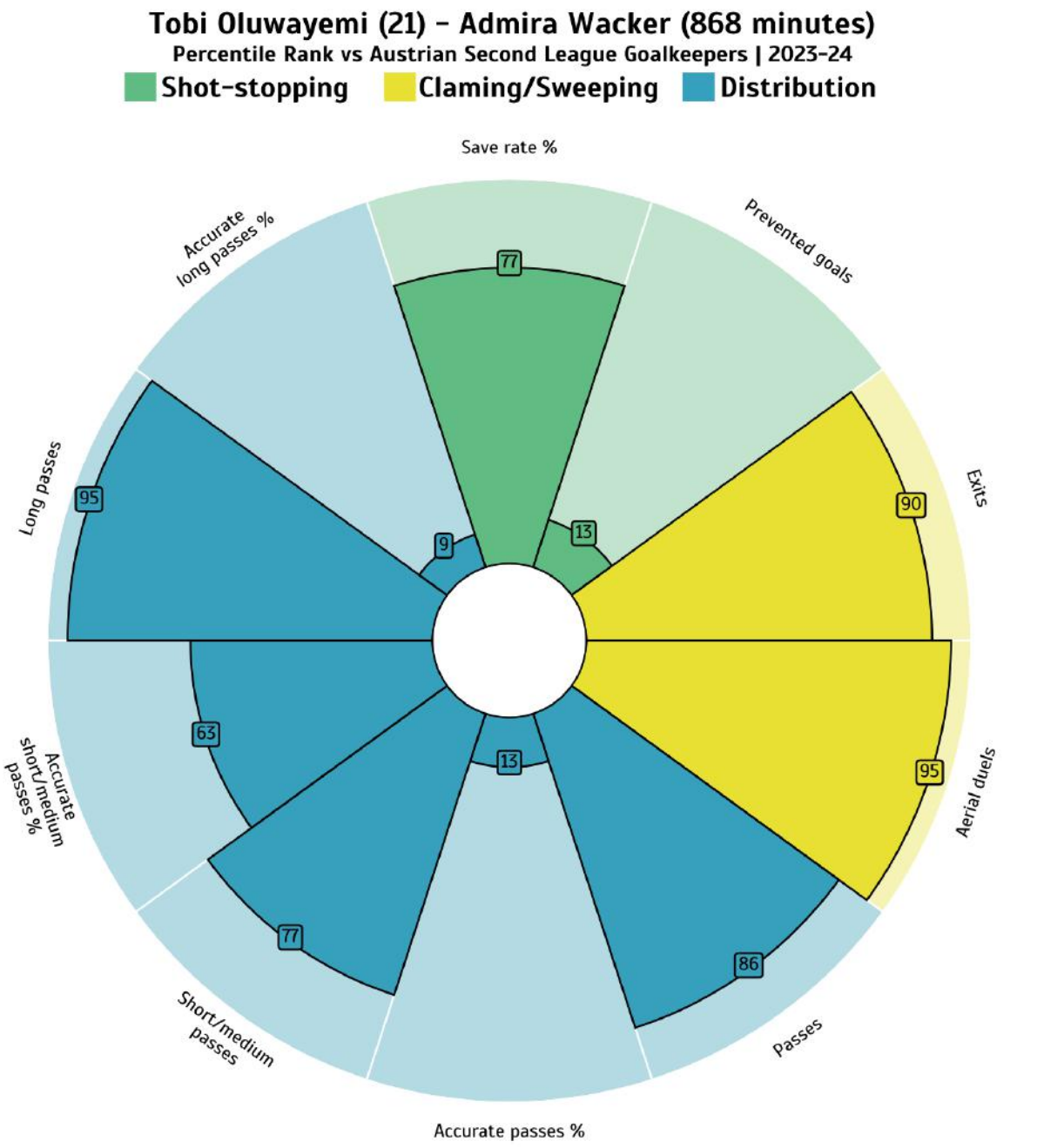
Highly-rated former England under-19 goalkeeper was brought into the first-team fold under Postecoglou in 22/23 but joined Anderson in Austria for the season.

Did not play as much as Anderson and, albeit in a small sample, ranked quite low compared to other goalkeepers in the league when it came to his prevented goals (-0.2 per 90). Low ranks for the accuracy of his distribution too.

Still a young keeper and like Anderson, will no doubt have benefitted from his experience.

Verdict: Like fellow goalie Clarke, Oluwayemi's contract has expired at the end of the season with no confirmation (at the time of writing) whether a new deal has been offered.

If he does sign a new deal then, like Clarke, there may be an opportunity to stake a claim for that potential third goalkeeper spot. If not, another loan seems sensible, if he does indeed sign a new deal.



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 30 May 24) | GK min 700 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins

Alexandro Bernabei, Kwon Hyeok-kyu & Marco Tilio

Alexandro Bernabei (23)

A £3.75m signing from Lanus in June 2022, the Argentine full-back was brought in to provide competition for Greg Taylor. Played over 1,200 minutes last season but failed to do enough to dislodge Taylor with 23/24 following a similar pattern. Played just over 500 minutes before, despite being the only senior cover for Taylor, joining Internacional in March just 20 months into his five-year deal.

Verdict: Has some good attributes - pacey and aggressive. Far too suspectable to turning the ball over and his defensive positioning leaves a lot to be desired too. Another with questionable discipline off the pitch as well. Loan in Brazil runs until later this year when a more permanent solution should be sought. Hopefully can impress between now and then so the club can recoup some of the fee paid.

Kwon Hyeok-kyu (23)

Signed from K League 2 side Busan IPark, 6' 2" defensive midfielder Kwon joined at the same time as Yang last summer. South Korean U23 international was handed his debut against Wolves in Dublin friendly but a poor first-half showing against Athletic Bilbao a few days later seemed to bring his Celtic career to a halt before it had even begun. Yet to make a competitive appearance, he was loaned to St Mirren for the remainder of the campaign. Played just under 600 minutes for the Paisley side and seemed to make an impression before injury curtailed his season.

Verdict: Profiled as a destructive ball-winning midfielder who was limited in possession before his arrival and showed signs of these traits in his loan spell. Perhaps not an ideal profile for a Celtic midfielder, other than perhaps in Europe, a season-long loan to develop further would be optimum before a more definitive decision on his future is made next summer.

Marco Tilio (23)

Another of the ten signed last summer, the Australian international was hampered by injury in the early months of his Celtic career. But when fit he also found game time limited with Rodgers saying the former Melbourne City winger had found the transition, particularly physically, from the A-League to Scottish football difficult. Loaned back to Melbourne in January, Tilio has again had his injury issues and only managed 200-odd minutes for his old club.

Verdict: Looked like he could be an exciting addition at the time but seems to have a big task on his hands if he is to convince Rodgers he has what it takes to make an impact. Given the fee of just £1.5m may be one that the club have to take the hit on. A permanent move back to Australia is potentially best for all parties.

Adam Montgomery, Johnny Kenny & Mackenzie Carse

Adam Montgomery (23)

After a productive season-long loan with St Johnstone in 22/23, the academy graduate joined Fleetwood Town alongside Lawal last summer. The left-back/left wing-back failed to make the same kind of impact as Lawal for the Cods, partially due to injuries. He joined Motherwell on loan in January but then picked up a hamstring injury after just one appearance and returned to the club for treatment.

Verdict: Has talent and signed a one-year extension in May but Montgomery's future probably lies away from Celtic. May get a chance in pre-season given the lack of options at left-back but another loan seems likely. No matter what, hopefully puts injuries behind him and can get his career back on track.

Johnny Kenny (20)

Started a second season-long loan with Shamrock Rovers in decent goal-scoring form. The young Irish striker has not had a look in at first-team level with Celtic since joining from Sligo Rovers in January 2022 though.

Verdict: Will be into the last 18 months of his deal when returns in November. Loan to a Scottish Premiership team/top Scottish Championship side for the second part of next season may offer a chance to assess more closely if he has the potential to make an impact in future.

Mackenzie Carse (20)

Central midfielder Carse joined McPherson at Queen's Park on loan in January after scoring seven times in 18 appearances for the B team in the Lowland League in the first half of the season. One of the standouts in the B team for a few years now, Carse struggled for game time with the Spiders though, with eight of his nine appearances coming off the bench

Verdict: Scotland under-21 international has another year on his deal but is reported to be leaving the club this summer.



Transfer Targets



Transfer Briefing

With a full squad review now complete we can move on to addressing positions needing reinforcements this summer, presenting three or four potential transfer targets for each.

It is likely that the club may need to bring in more than the seven below, especially if more outgoings than anticipated occur. However, for this plan, we will focus on the following priority positions:

- Goalkeeper
- Centre-back (left-sided)
- Left-back
- x2 Central midfielders (no. 8)
- Winger (capable of playing left and right)
- Centre-forward

For most positions, we will stick to the club's current model of bringing in younger players (19-23) but in some positions, such as goalkeeper, centre-back and striker, the age bracket has been upped slightly to bring a bit more experience in those positions.

Note: All contract dates and transfer values are taken from www.transfermarkt.co.uk.



Goalkeeper

Brief – First choice to replace retiring Hart



Anthony Racioppi

Age: 25
Club: Young Boys
Nationality: 🇨🇭
Height: 6ft 2”
Preferred foot: Right

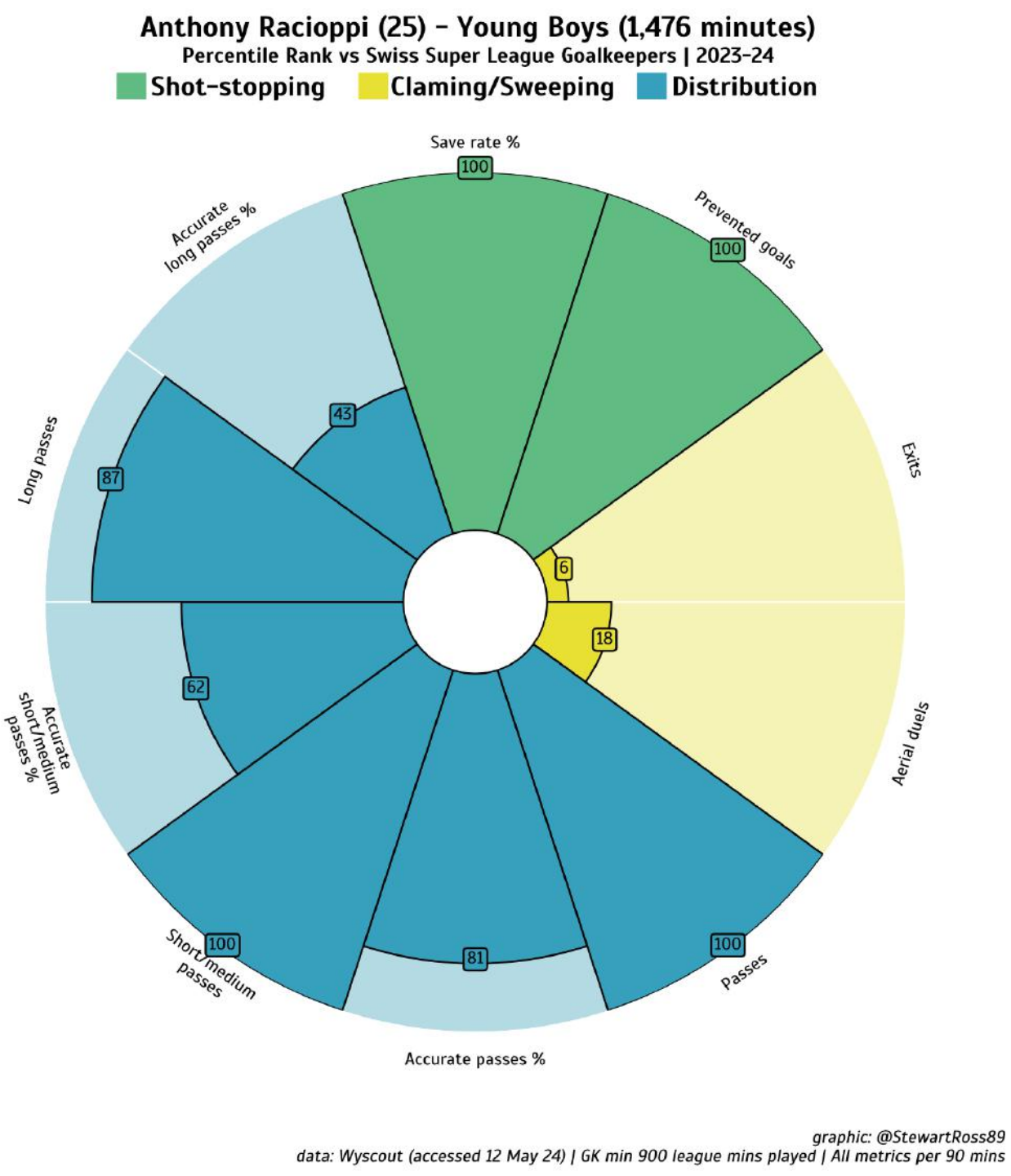
Est Market Value: £1.5m
Contact expires: Jun 2025

Positives ✅

- Top shot-stopper
- Used to playing in high-possession system
- Going into last year of contract
- UCL experience

- **Negatives** ❌

- Only just above average short/medium passing accuracy for Swiss Super League GK





Angus Gunn

Age: 28
Club: Norwich City
Nationality: 🏴
Height: 6ft 4”
Preferred foot: Right

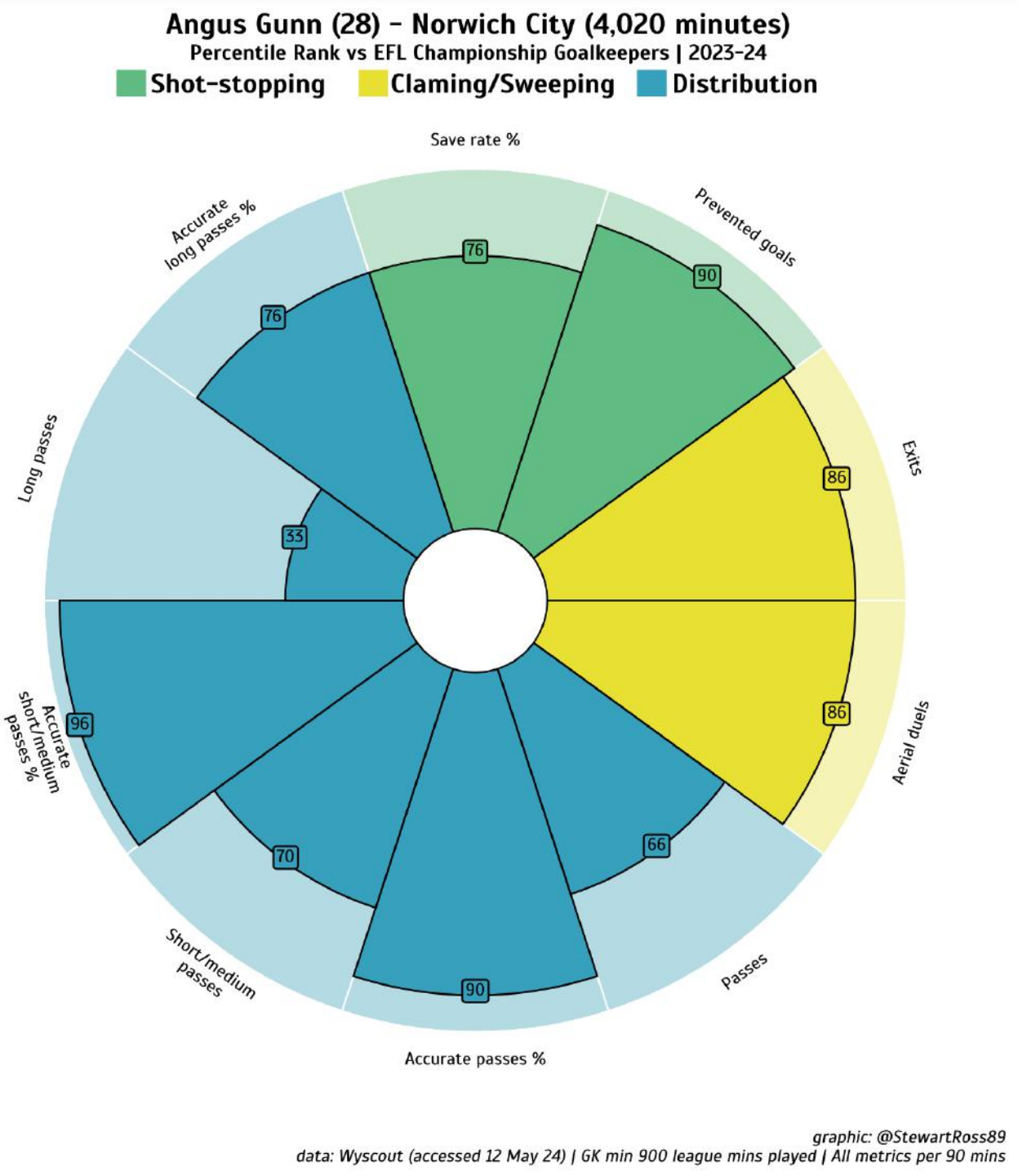
Est Market Value: £2.2m
Contact expires: Jun 2025

Positives ✅

- Excellent shot-stopping season
- 2nd best short/medium passing accuracy of Championship GKs
- Entering peak years for GKs

Negatives ❌

- Only a year left on deal but Norwich likely to still demand high fee, especially if impresses at Euros with Scotland





Radoslaw Majecki

Age: 24
Club: Monaco
Nationality: 🇵🇱
Height: 6ft 3”
Preferred foot: Right

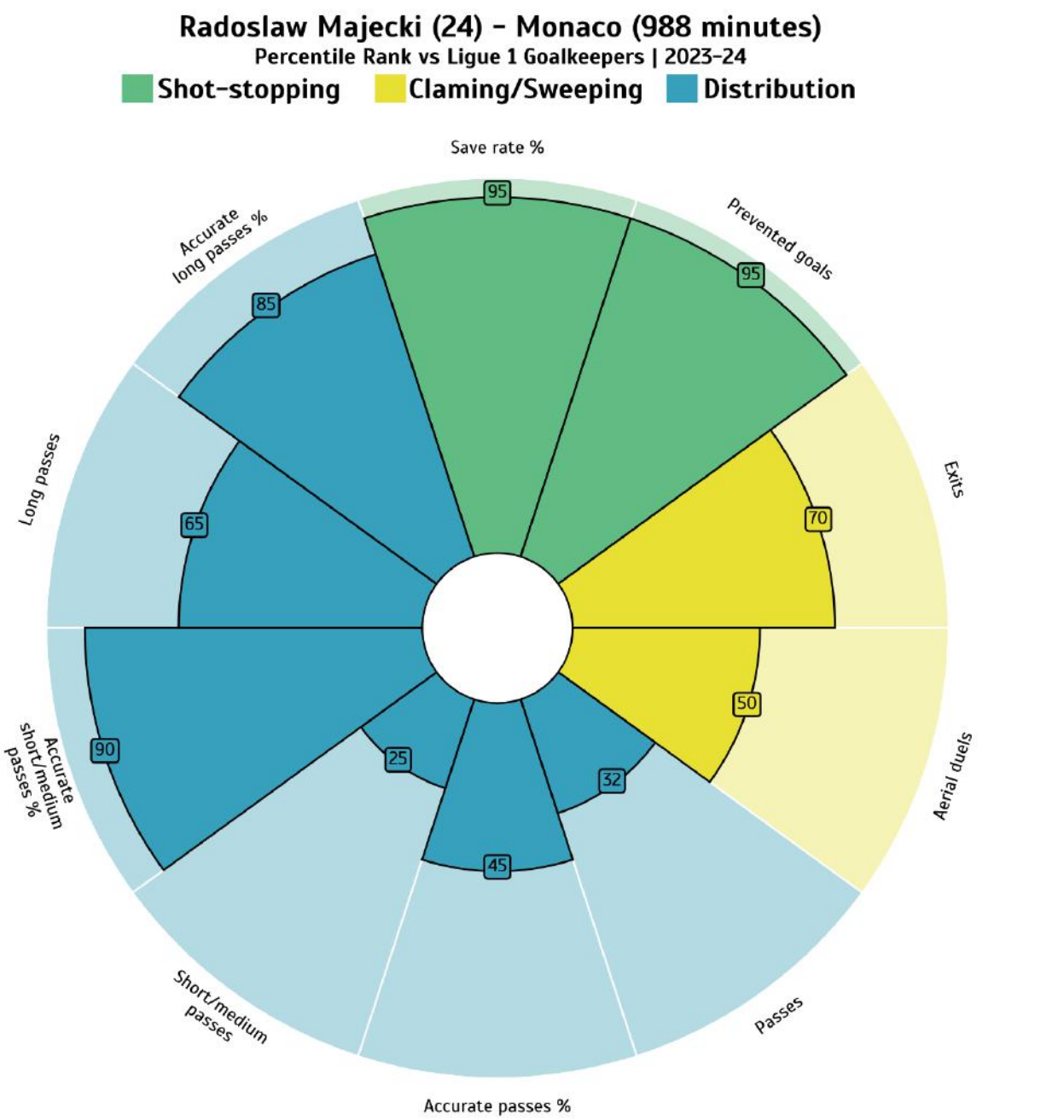
Est Market Value: £2.6m
Contact expires: Jun 2028

Positives ✅

- Strong stot-stopper
- Good shot/medium passing accuracy
- High/above average for claiming/sweeping

Negatives ❌

- Established himself as number one midway through season and recently signed a new deal







Centre-back

Brief – Left sided partner for Carter-Vickers



Derek Cornelius

Age: 26
Club: Malmo
Nationality: 🇨🇦
Height: 6ft 2”
Preferred foot: Left

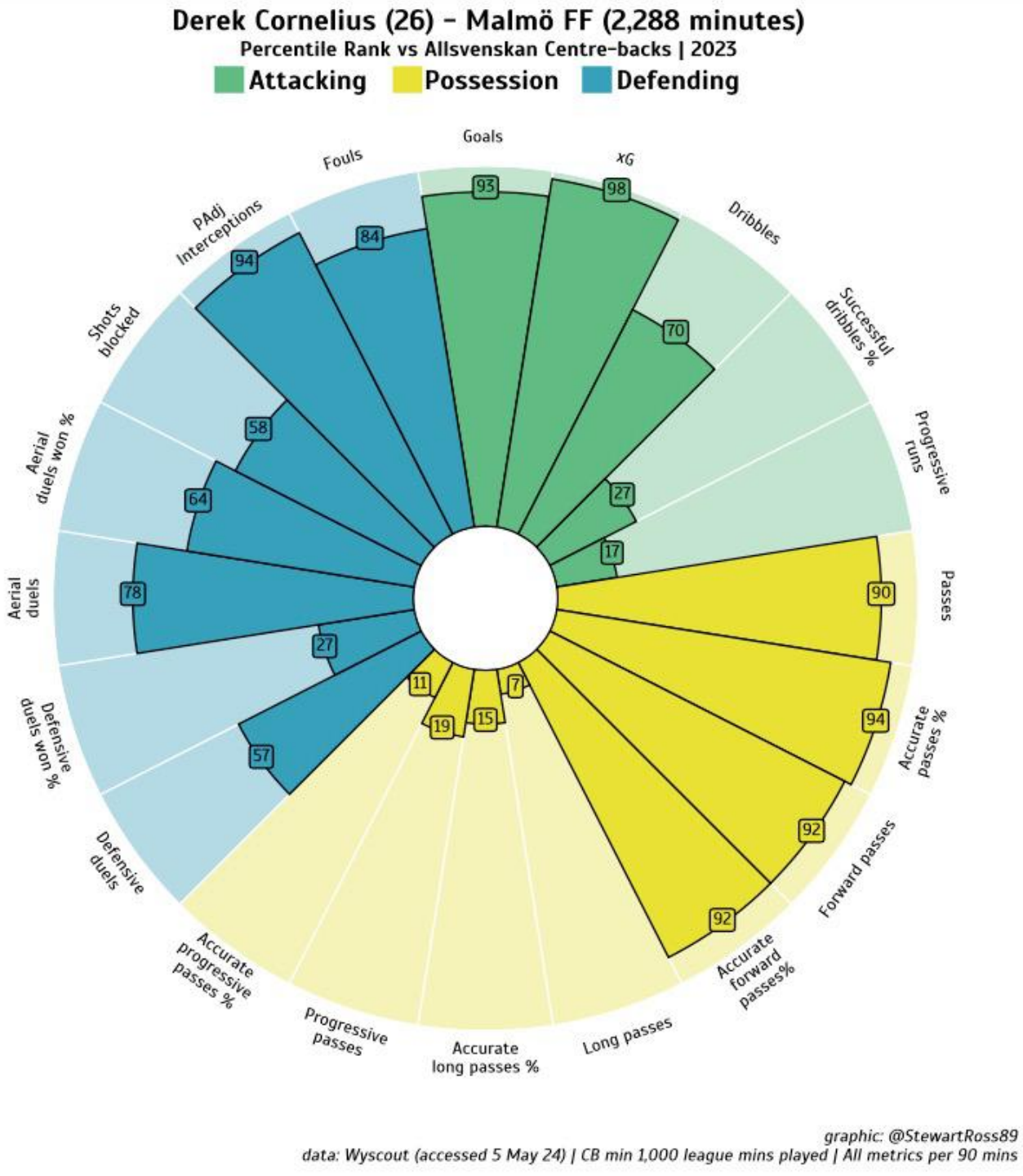
Est Market Value: £2.2m
Contact expires: Dec 2026

Positives ✅

- Natural left-footer with excellent forward passing
- Good anticipation
- Decent aerial win rate
- Provides set-piece threat

Negatives ❌

- Poor accuracy for longer, more progressive passes
- Below-average defensive duel win rate/high foul rate
- Interest from Ajax and Feyenoord will increase fee





Scott McKenna

Age: 27
Club: Copenhagen (on loan from Nottingham Forest)
Nationality: 🏴
Height: 6ft 2”
Preferred foot: Left

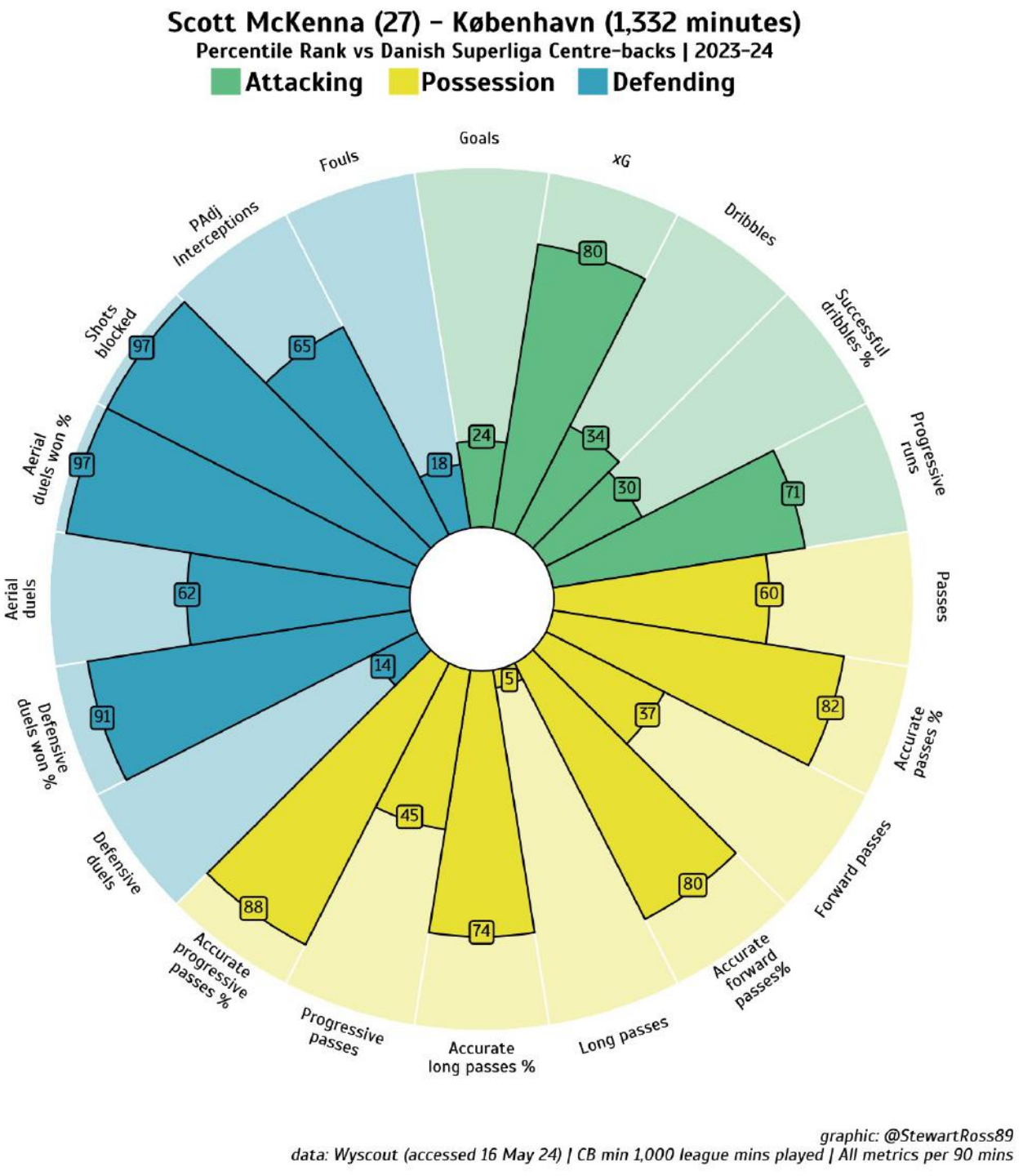
Est Market Value: £8.5m
Contact expires: Jun 2024

Positives ✅

- Solid defensively, impressive duel win rates
- Natural left-footer
- Accomplished in possession
- Homegrown status
- Available on free

Negatives ❌

- Potentially high wages
- Likely to have plenty of offers as free agent





Dennis Hadzikadunic

Age: 25
Club: Hamburg (on loan from Rostov)
Nationality:
Height: 6ft 3”
Preferred foot: Right

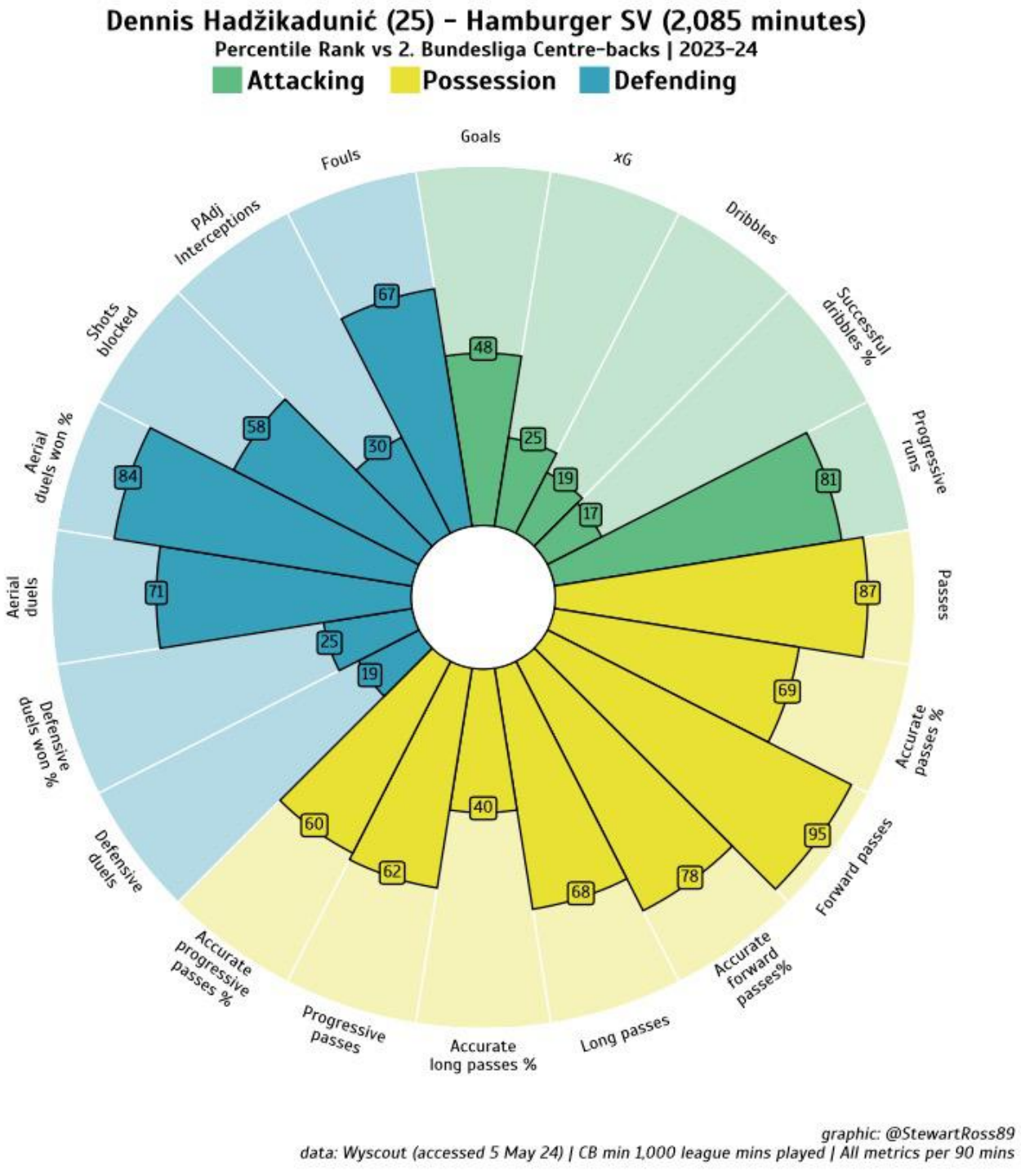
Est Market Value: £1.5m
Contact expires: May 2026

Positives ✅

- Progressive ball-playing CB, capable of progressing through carries and passing
- Strong in aerial duels
- Likely to be available again in summer, either on another loan or on a permanent

Negatives ❌

- Poor defensive duel win percentage
- Above average foul rate





Harold Moukoudi

Age: 26
Club: AEK Athens
Nationality: 🇨🇲
Height: 6ft 3”
Preferred foot: Right

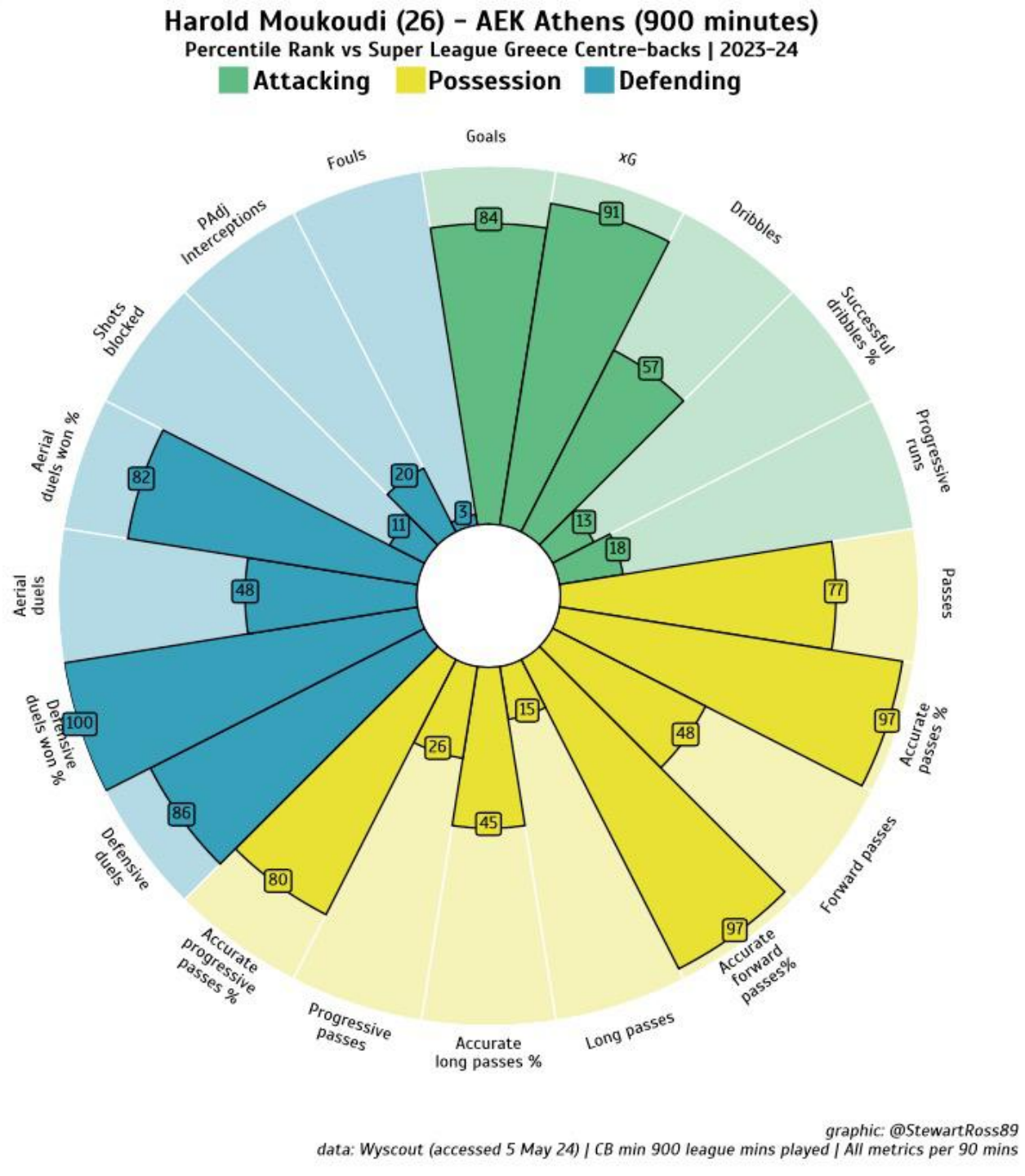
Est Market Value: £4.3m
Contact expires: Jun 2026

Positives ✅

- Big physical presence, exceptional in duels, especially defensive
- High accuracy in forward and progressive passes
- Low foul rate

Negatives ❌

- Not overly progressive through carries
- AEK likely to command high fee





Left-back

Brief – More athletic option, capable of being first choice



Bartłomiej Wdowik

Age: 23
Club: Jagiellonia Bialytock
Nationality: 🇵🇱
Height: 6ft 0”
Preferred foot: Left

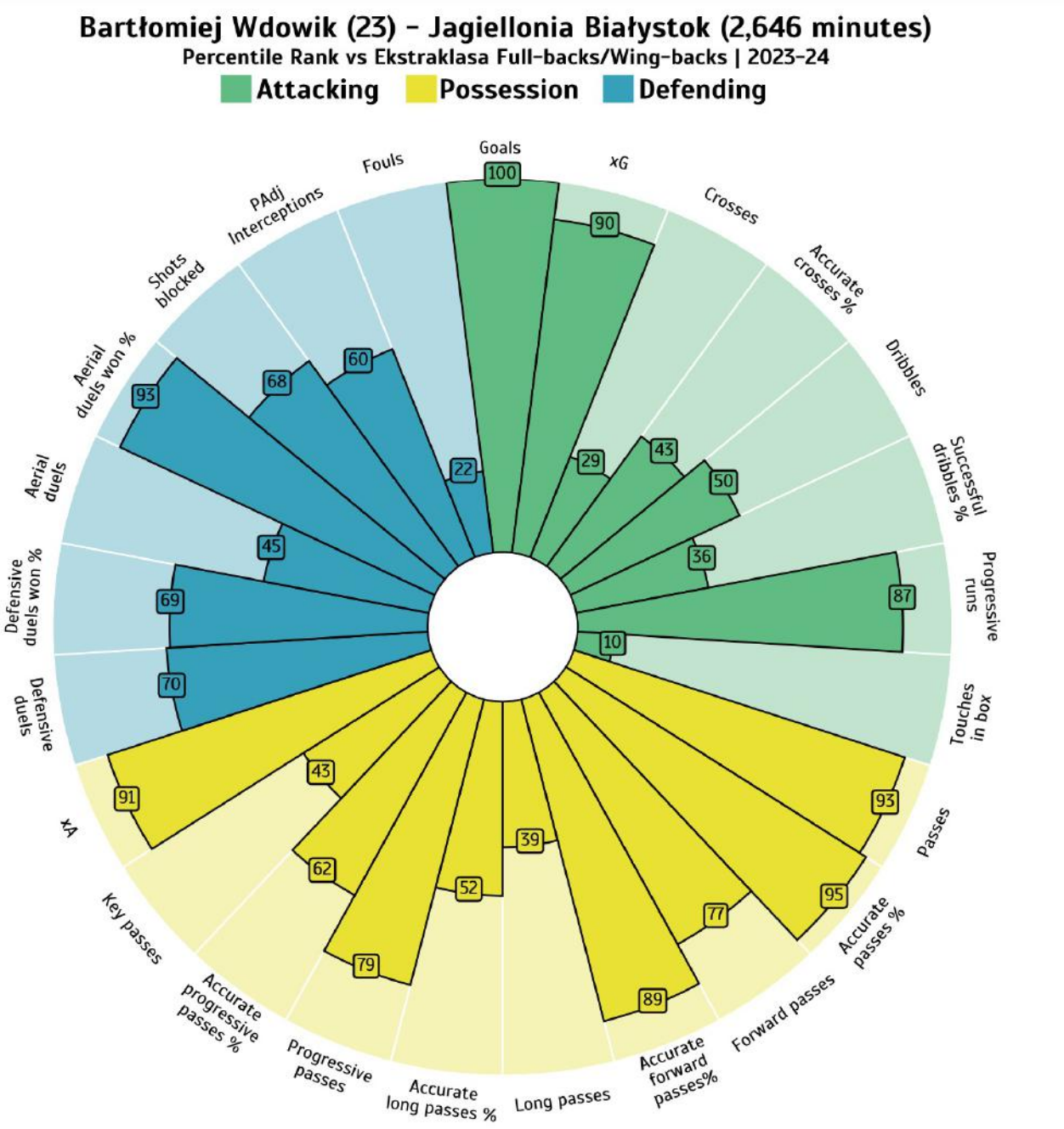
Est Market Value: £3m
Contact expires: Jun 2025

Positives ✅

- Threat from set-pieces
- Accomplished in possession
- Strong in duels, especially aerial
- Entering the final year of his contract

Negatives ❌

- Overly reliant on set-pieces for chance creation
- Long passing accuracy



graphic: @StewartRoss89
data: Wyscout (accessed 15 April 24) | RB/RWB/LB/LWB min 1,000 league mins played | All metrics per 90 mins



Kostyantyn Vivcharenko

Age: 21
Club: Dynamo Kyiv
Nationality: 🇺🇦
Height: 5ft 10”
Preferred foot: Left

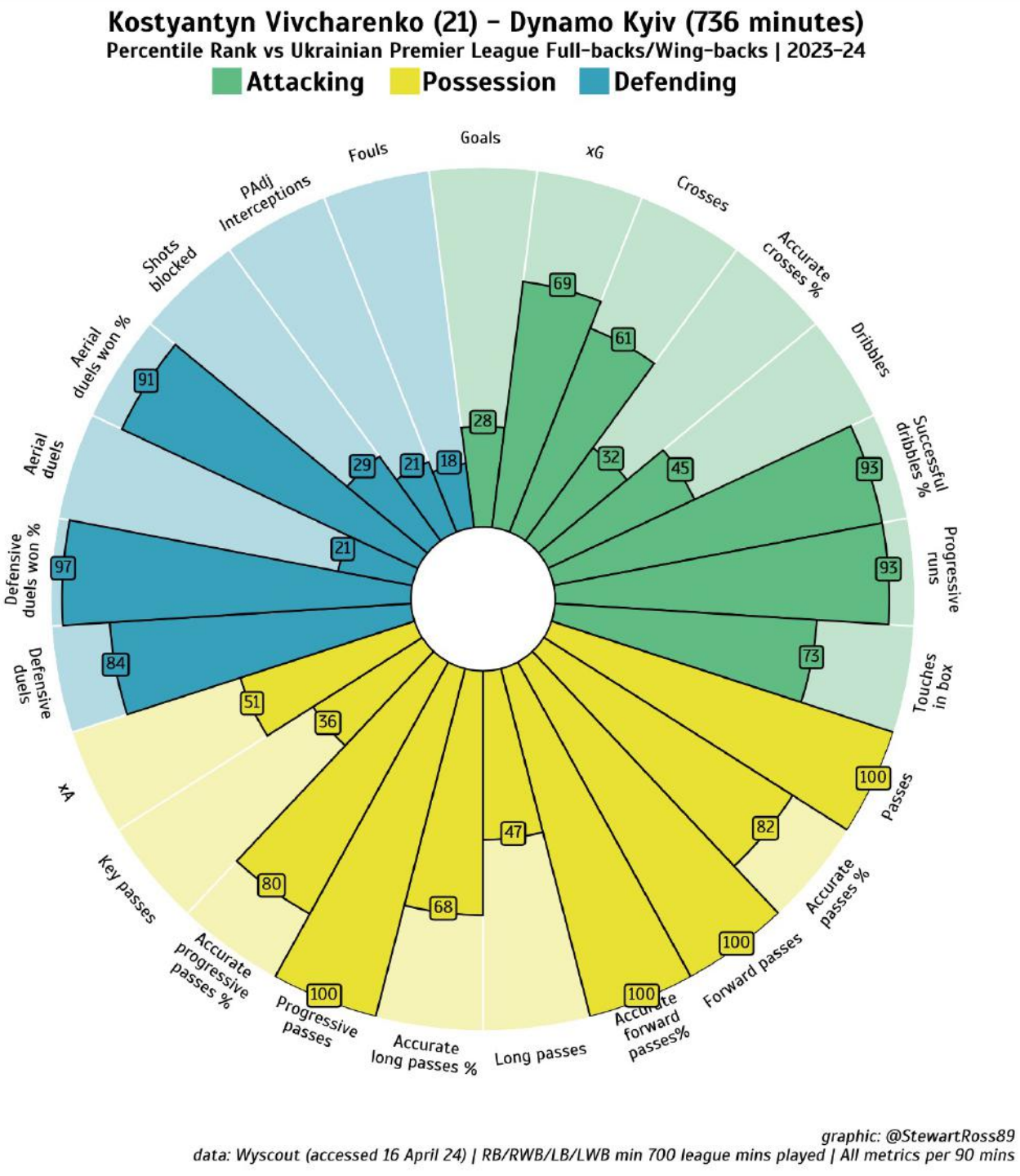
Est Market Value: £1.5m
Contact expires: Dec 2025

Positives ✅

- Excellent ball carrier
- Heavily involved, and effective, in build-up
- Very strong in duels

Negatives ❌

- Average creativity
- Reported interest from Porto, Burnley likely to drive up potential fee





Kristoffer Lund

Age: 21
Club: Palermo
Nationality: 🇺🇸/🇩🇰
Height: 6ft 1”
Preferred foot: Left

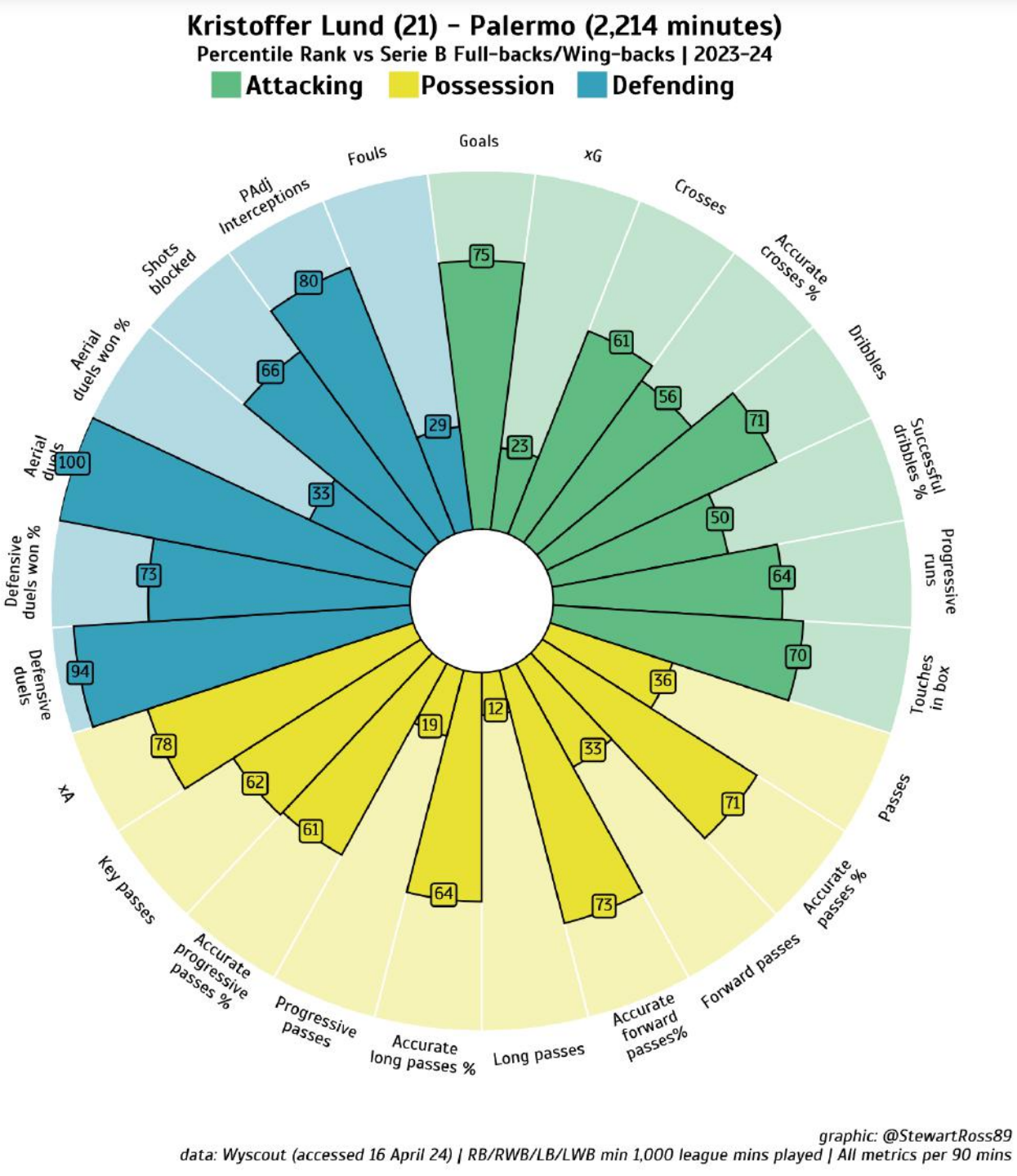
Est Market Value: £2.5m
Contact expires: Jun 2027

Positives ✅

- Quick and strong
- Not on the ball often but efficient when is
- Decent attacking output
- Strong in defensive duels

Negatives ❌

- Low aerial duel win percentage
- Only one year into a 4-year contract





Central Midfielder (no. 8)

Brief – Creative types to replace likely departure of O'Riley



Daniel Svensson

Age: 22
Club: FC Nordsjaelland
Nationality: 🇸🇪
Height: 5ft 10”
Preferred foot: Left

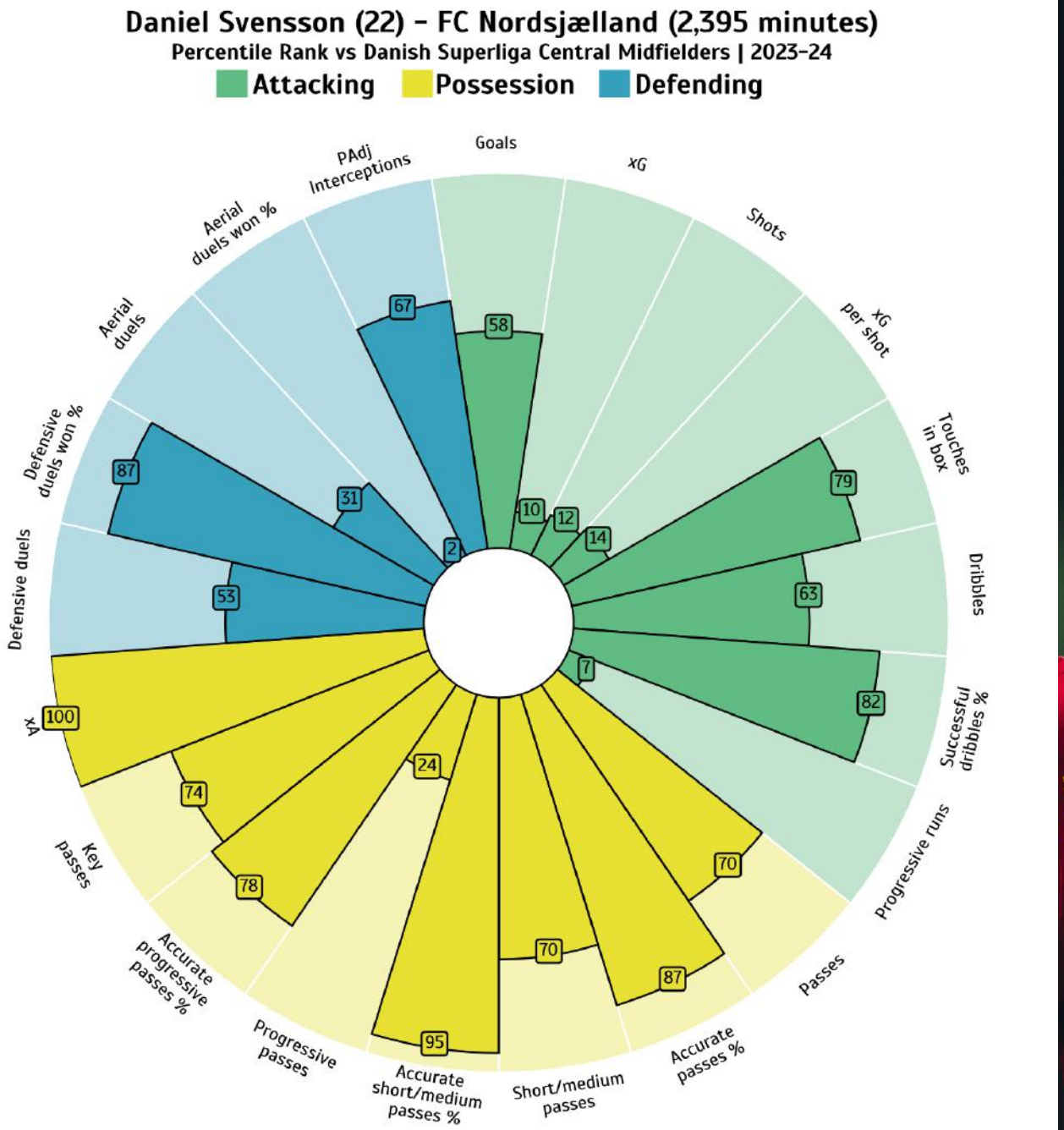
Est Market Value: £2.1m
Contact expires: Jun 2027

Positives ✅

- Dynamic, high-energy
- Accomplished in possession
- High level of creativity
- Versatility, can also play LB

Negatives ❌

- Little goal threat
- Low aerial duel win rate





Adem Zorgane

Age: 24
Club: Charleroi
Nationality: 🇩🇿
Height: 6ft 0”
Preferred foot: Right

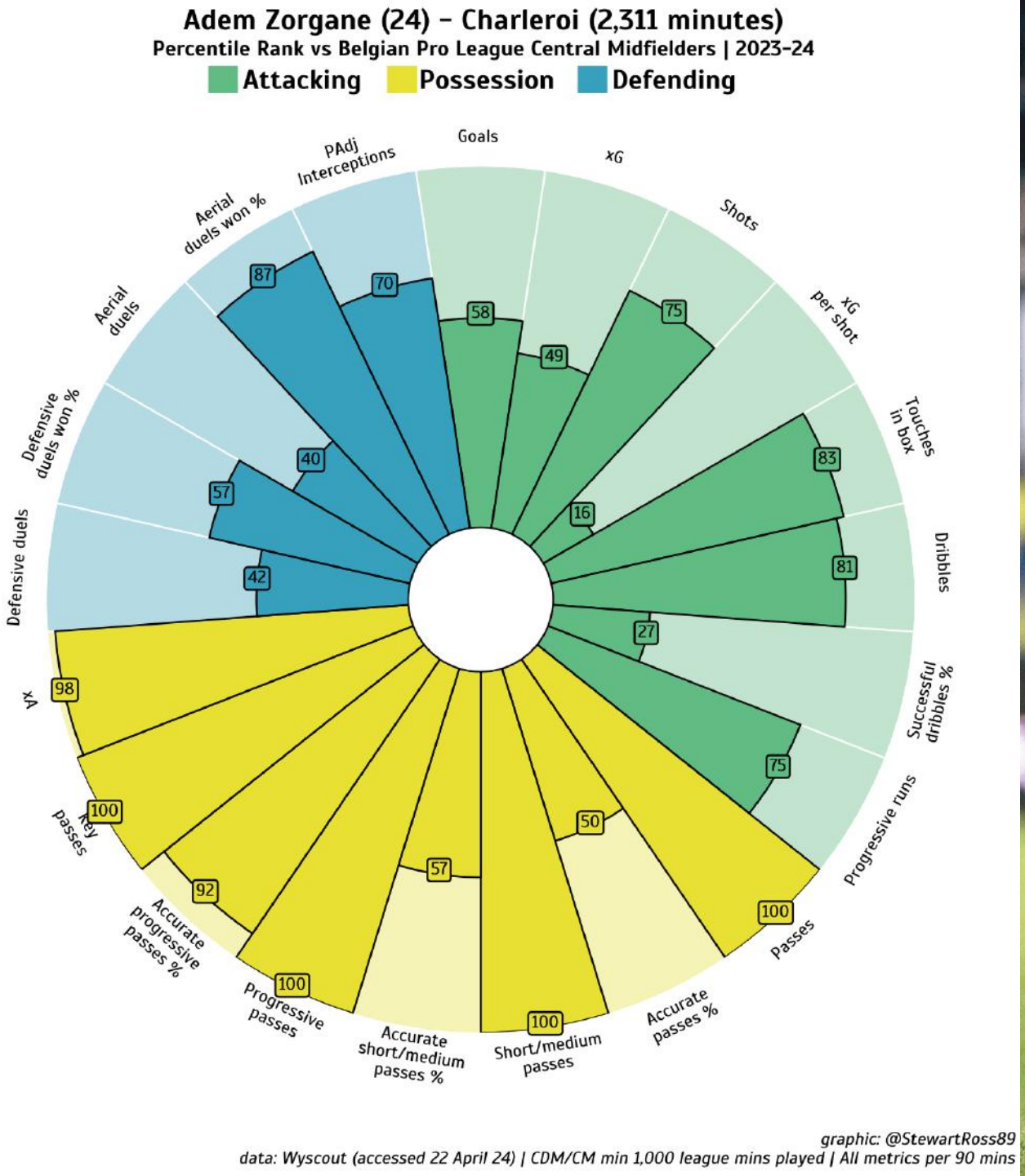
Est Market Value: £4.2m
Contact expires: Jun 2027

Positives ✅

- Excellent technical ability
- Very creative
- Physicality and athleticism
- Aerially dominant

Negatives ❌

- Poor shot selection
- Lacks speed





Connor Barron

Age: 21
Club: Aberdeen
Nationality: 🏴
Height: 5ft 9”
Preferred foot: Right

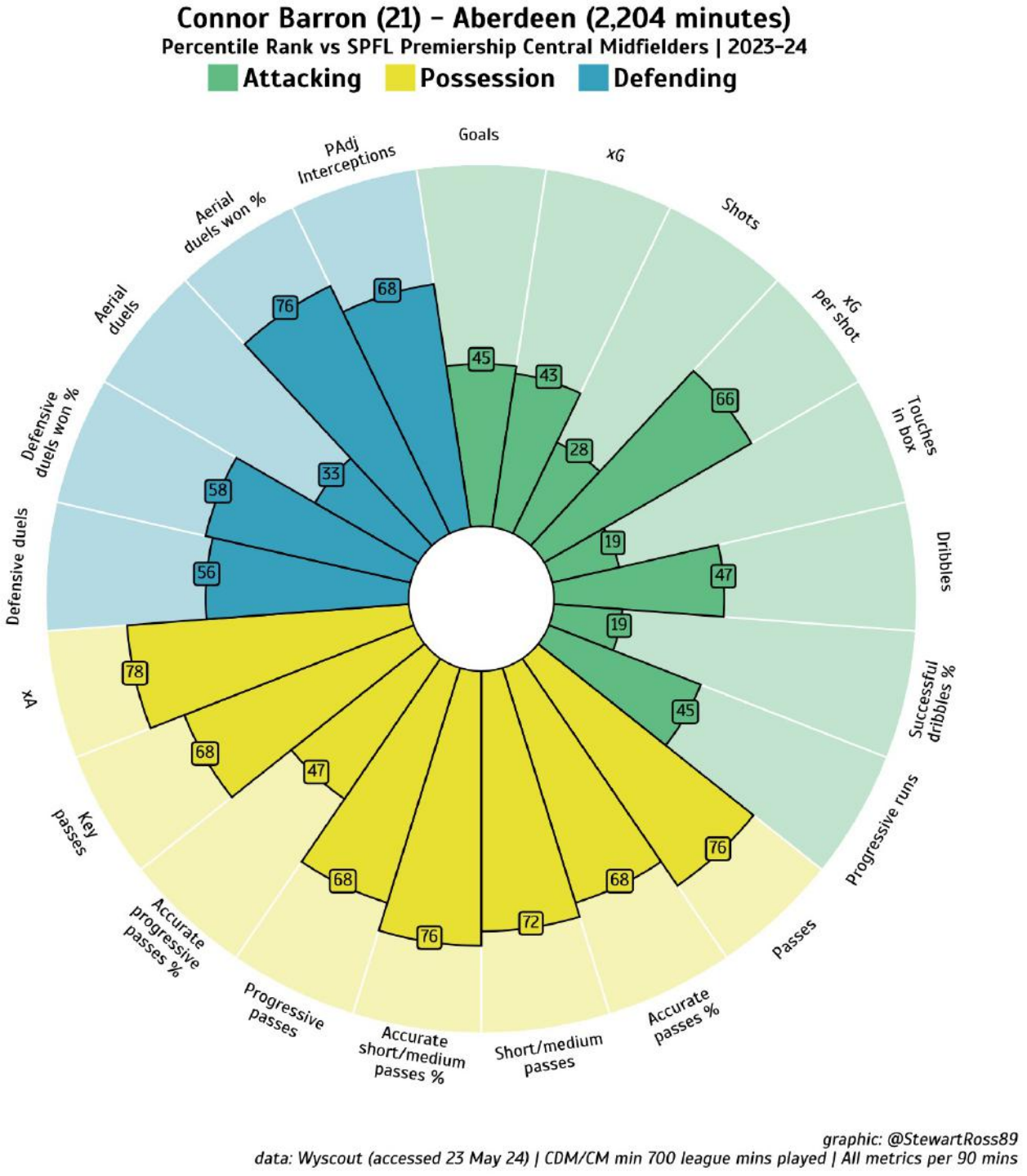
Est Market Value: £600k
Contact expires: Jun 2024

Positives ✅

- Accomplished in possession, decent creative output
- Tenacious without the ball, good duel win rates
- Homegrown status
- Available on free

Negatives ❌

- Not huge goal threat
- Likely to have plenty of offers given out of contract (reported interest from Serie A clubs)





Marko Bulat

Age: 22
Club: Dinamo Zagreb
Nationality: 🇭🇷
Height: 5ft 10”
Preferred foot: Right

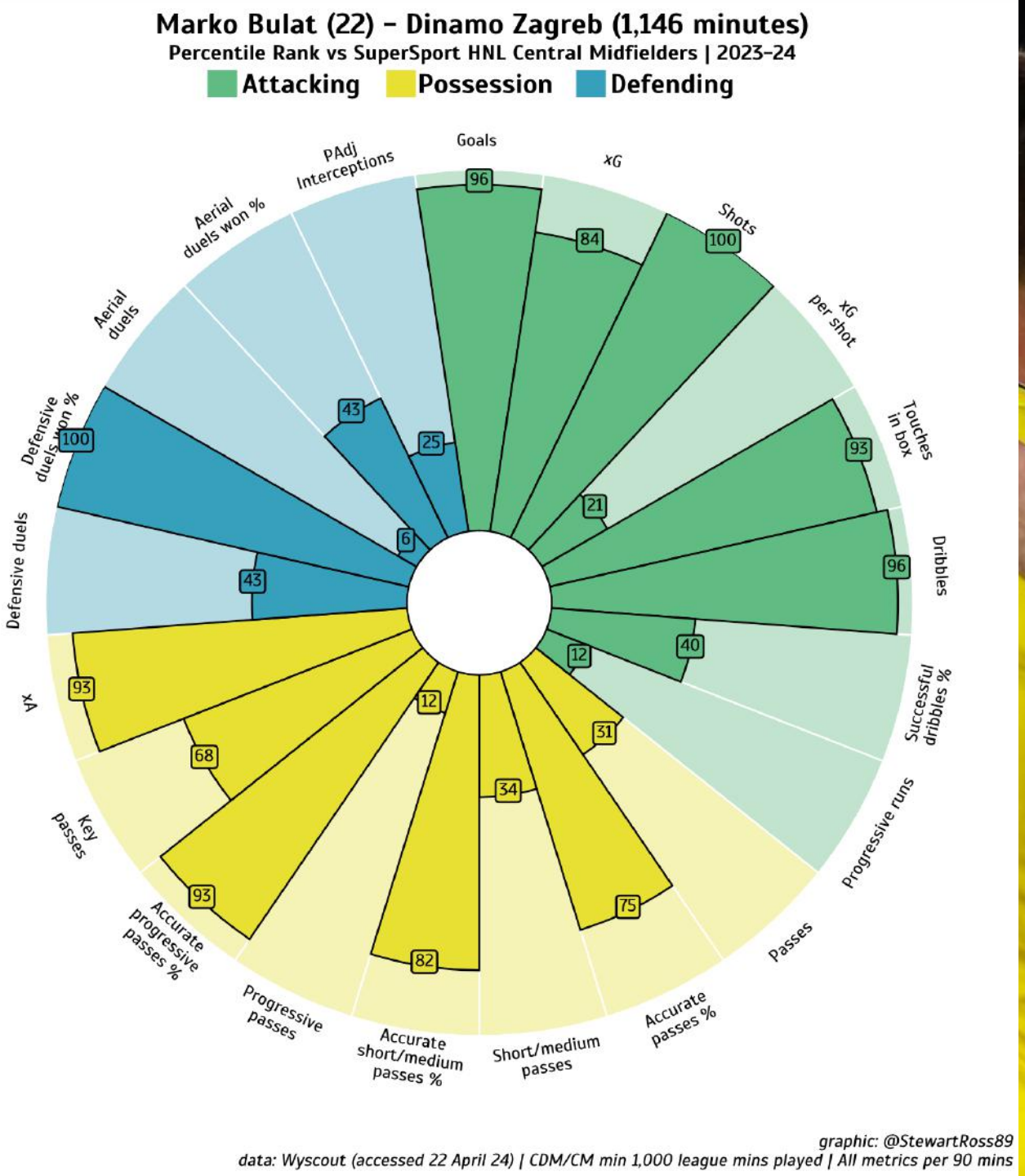
Est Market Value: £3.0m
Contact expires: Jun 2028

Positives ✅

- Goal threat
- Effective ball progressor through passes
- Creative
- Defensive duel win rate unmatched for CM in domestic league

Negatives ❌

- Not as effective progressing via carries
- Recently signed a new long-term deal







Winger

Brief – Additional option to enhance quality level, ideally capable of playing both wings



Sebastian Nanasi

Age: 21
Club: Malmo
Nationality: 🇸🇪
Height: 5ft 10”
Preferred foot: Right

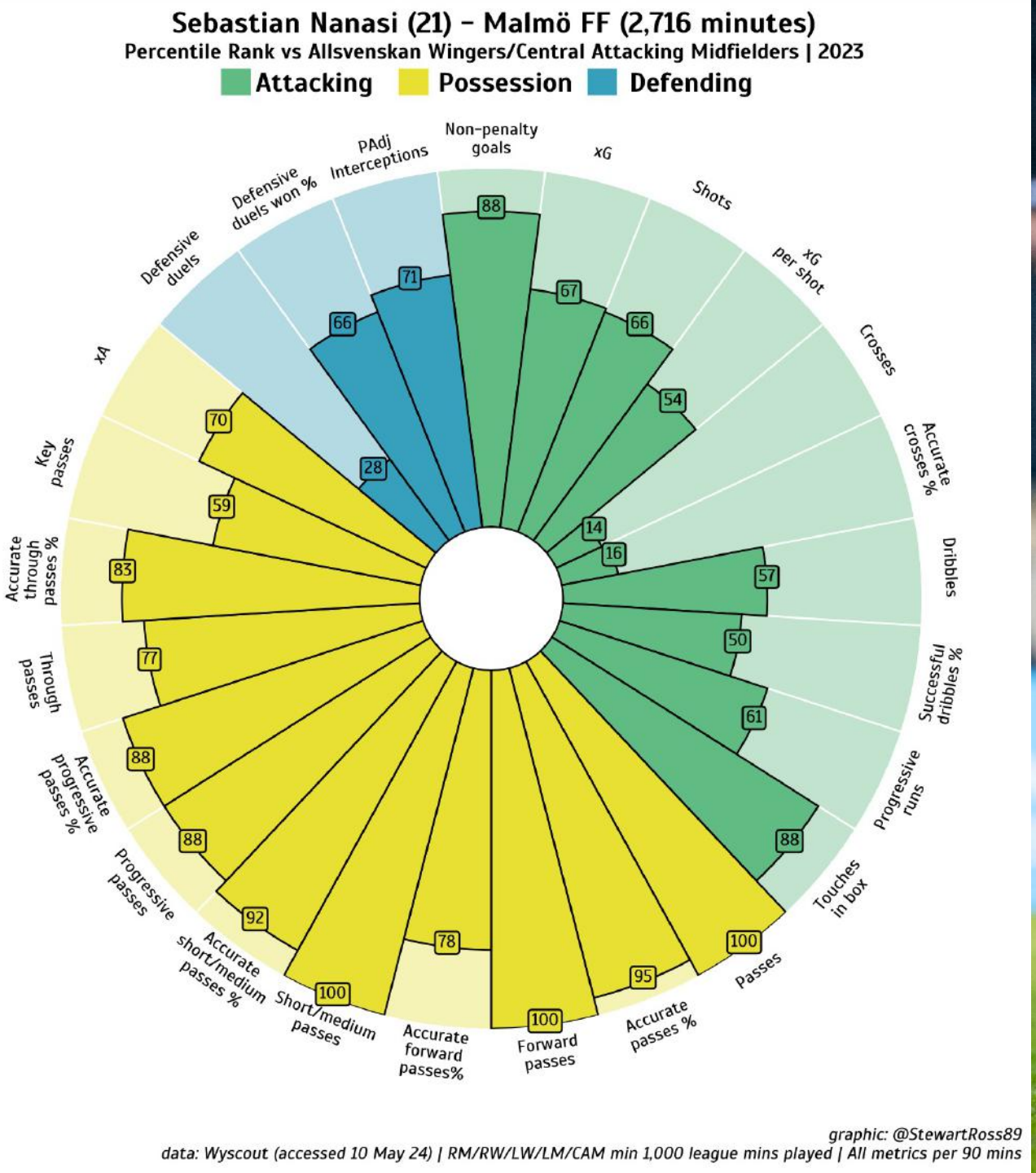
Est Market Value: £4.3m
Contact expires: Dec 2025

Positives ✅

- Versatile, can operate on either side and through the middle
- Agility and pace
- Excellent technically, high chance creation
- Good work rate off-the-ball

Negatives ❌

- Low crossing accuracy percentage
- Big interest from clubs around Europe





Oguz Aydin

Age: 23
Club: Alanyaspor
Nationality: 🇹🇷
Height: 6ft 0”
Preferred foot: Right

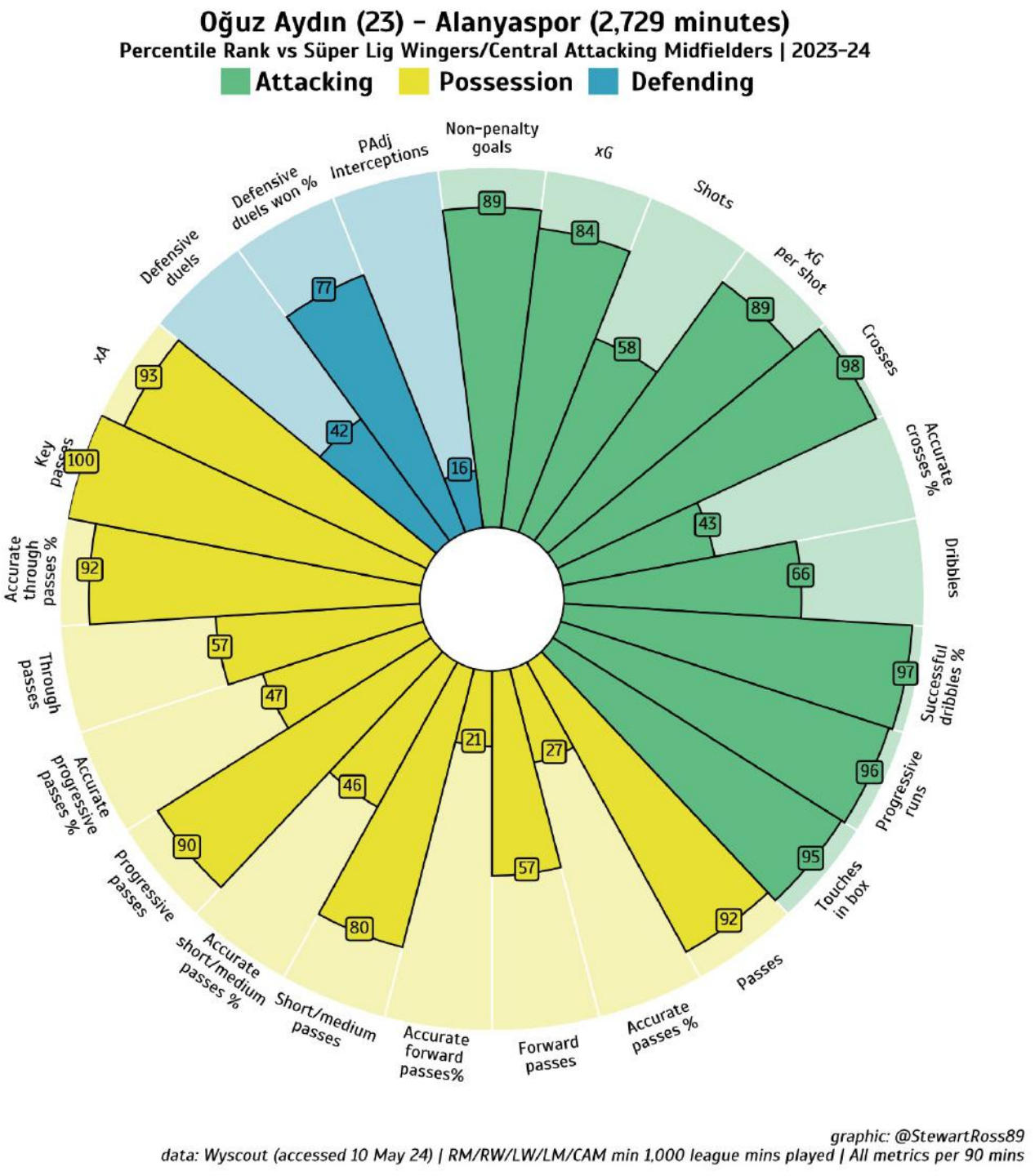
Est Market Value: £2m
Contact expires: Jun 2026

Positives ✅

- Goal threat who gets to high-quality chances
- Very effective dribbler
- High-volume chance creator
- Good defensive duel win rate

Negatives ❌

- Not as effective in possession in deeper areas
- Being closely monitored by Galatasaray/Nice





Marin Petkov

Age: 20
Club: Levski Sofia
Nationality: 🇧🇬
Height: 5ft 10”
Preferred foot: Left

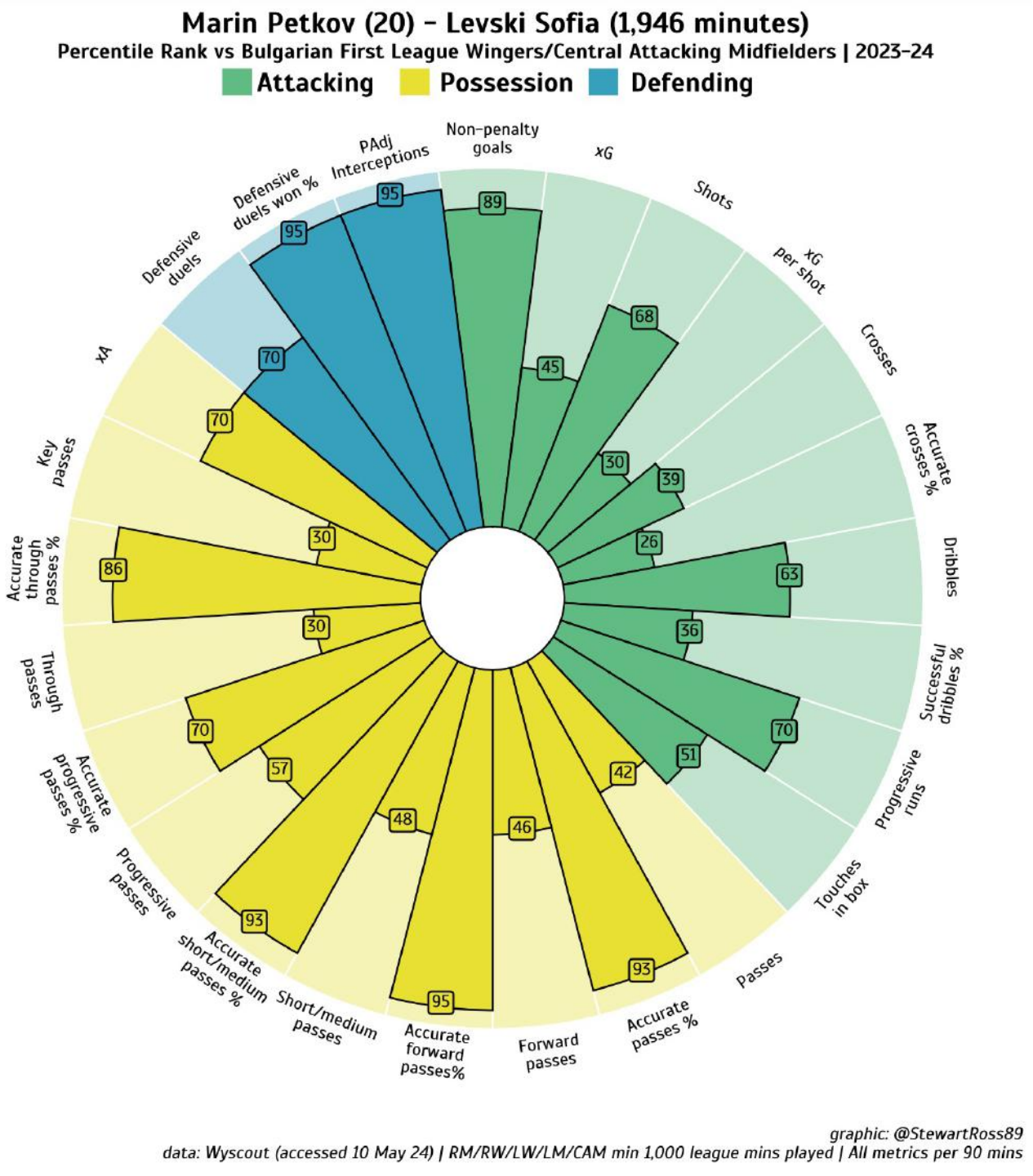
Est Market Value: £1.3m
Contact expires: Jun 2025

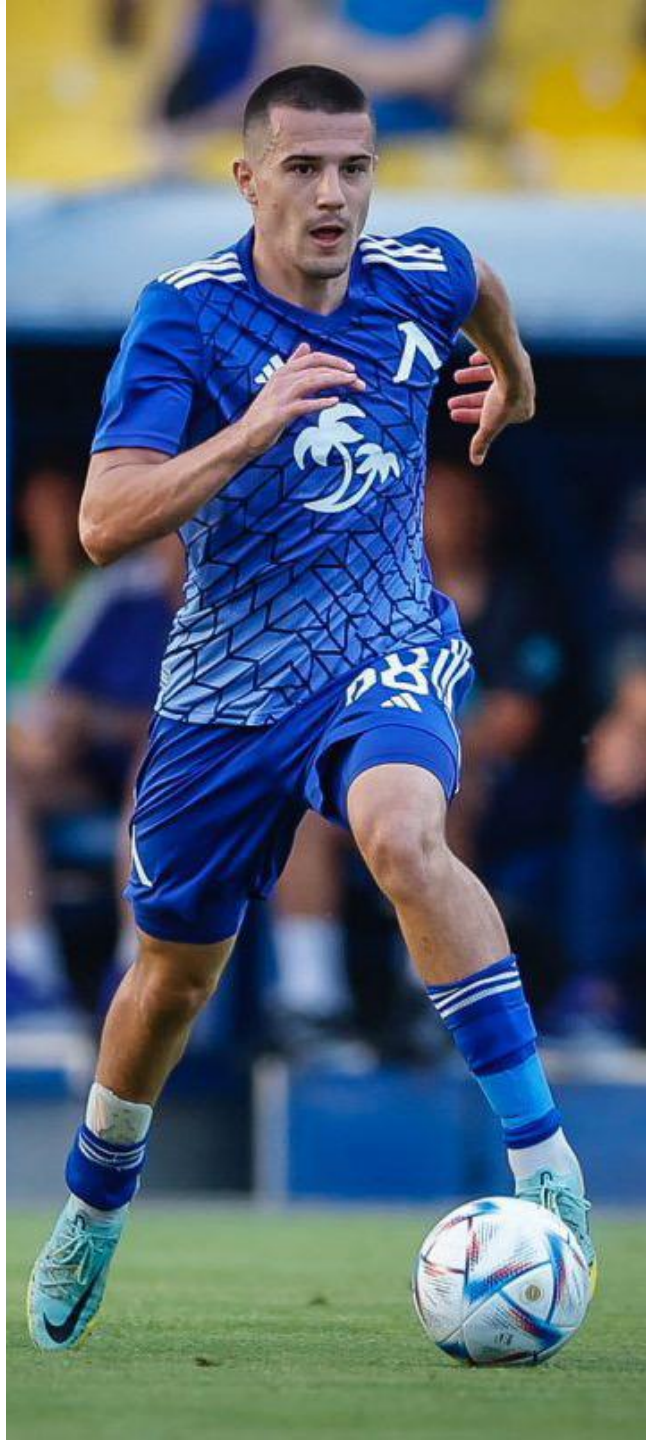
Positives ✅

- Impressive completion percentages across passing metrics
- Decent volume chance creation, good dribbler
- Effective off-the-ball
- Likely available for a low fee

Negatives ❌

- Untested in higher-quality league
- Possibly too similar profile to Kuhn







Centre-forward

Brief – More ‘complete forward’ profile, offers a physical presence, capable of competing with Kyogo



Matheus Saldanha

Age: 24
Club: Partizan
Nationality: 🇧🇷
Height: 6ft 1”
Preferred foot: Left

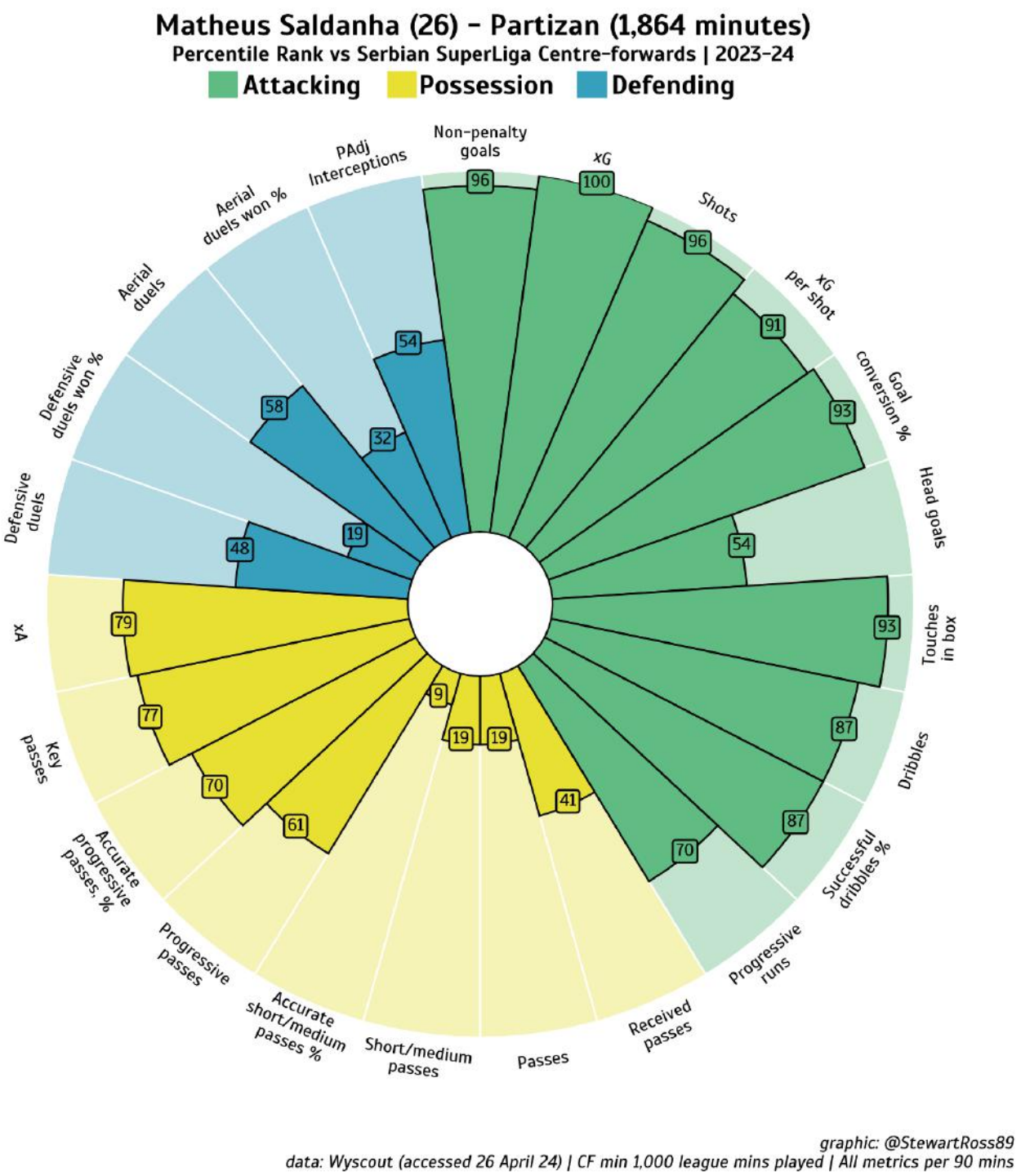
Est Market Value: £6.8m
Contact expires: Jun 2027

Positives ✅

- Capable of a variety of finishes
- Strong ball carrier, able to hold the ball up and bring others into play
- Flair and creativity

Negatives ❌

- Low duel win rates
- Low accuracy rates for shorter passing
- Potentially high fee





Tolu Arokodare

Age: 23
Club: Genk
Nationality: 🇳🇬
Height: 6ft 6”
Preferred foot: Right

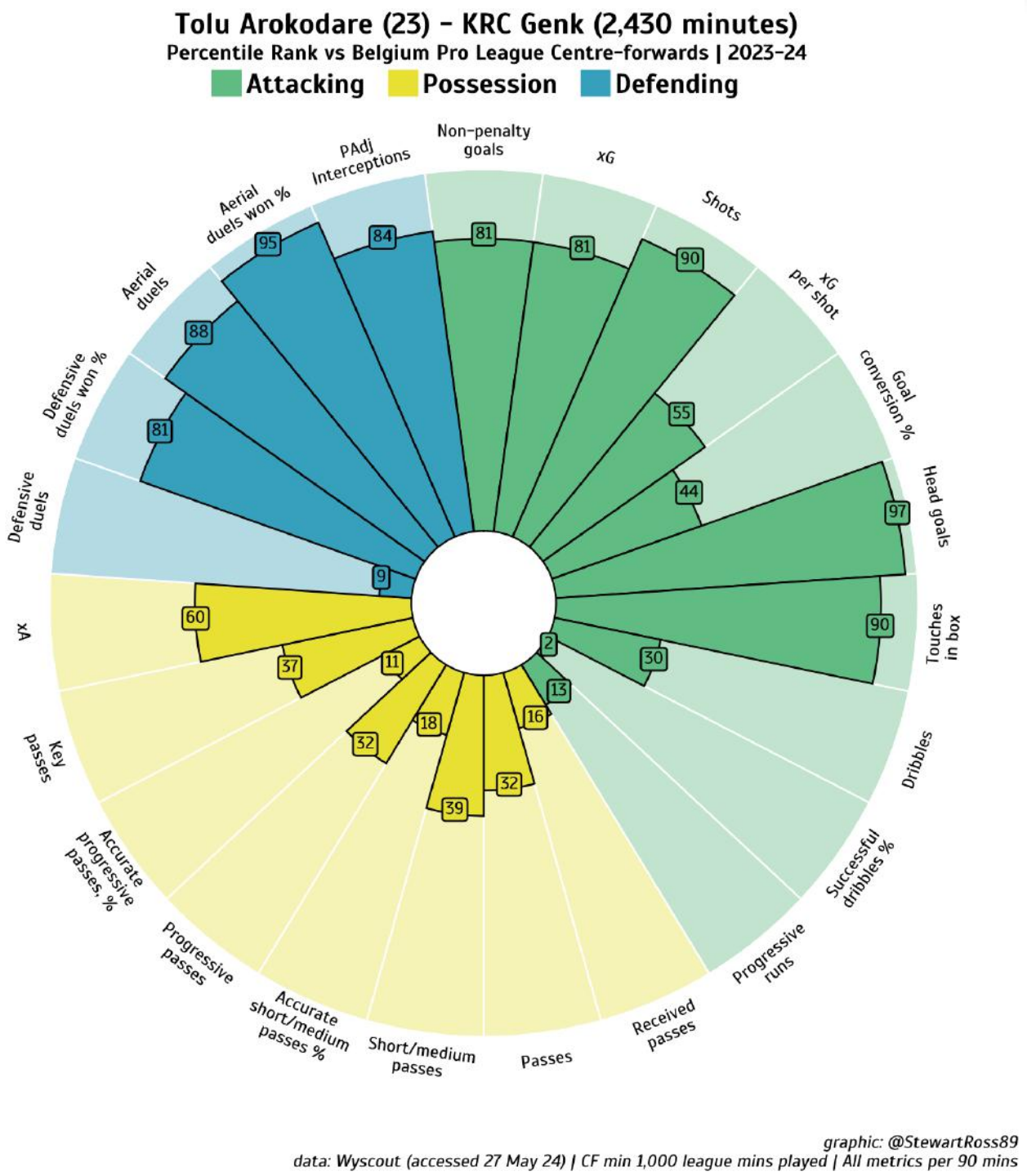
Est Market Value: £3.5m
Contact expires: Jun 2027

Positives ✅

- Big presence, dominant in duels, especially aerially
- Reliable finisher
- Threat in the air

Negatives ❌

- Not very effective in build-up
- Little defensive contribution
- Only just moved to Genk last summer for fee of over £4m



Zan Celar

Age: 25
Club: Lugano
Nationality: 🇸🇮
Height: 6ft 1”
Preferred foot: Right

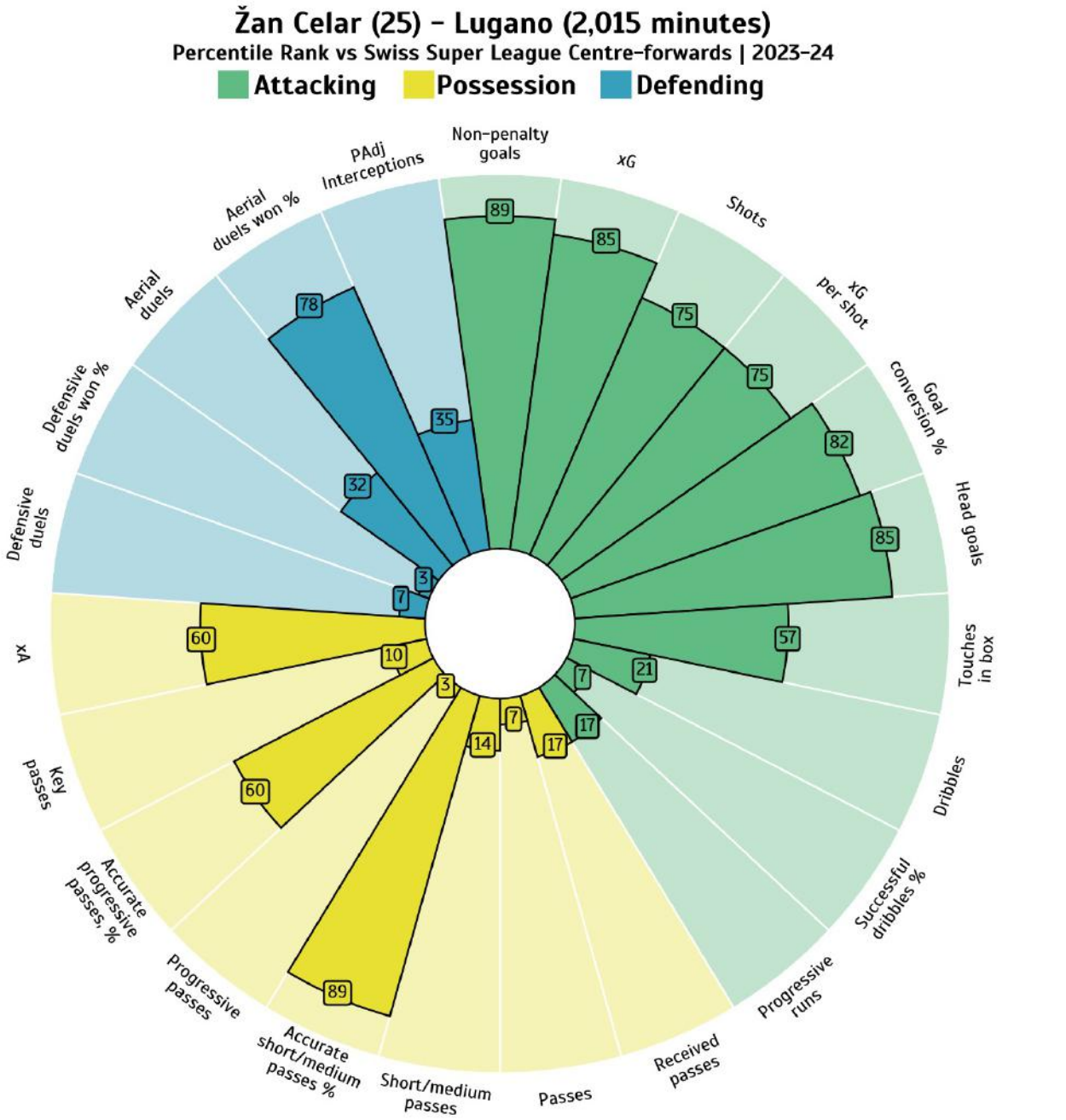
Est Market Value: £3.4m
Contact expires: Jun 2025

Positives ✅

- Strong and mobile, good focal point
- Reliable finisher
- Excellent in the air
- Entering final year of contract

Negatives ❌

- Not much creativity
- Limited dribbler
- Low defensive duel win rate





Tobias Lauritsen

Age: 26
Club: Sparta Rotterdam
Nationality: 🇳🇴
Height: 6ft 4”
Preferred foot: Right

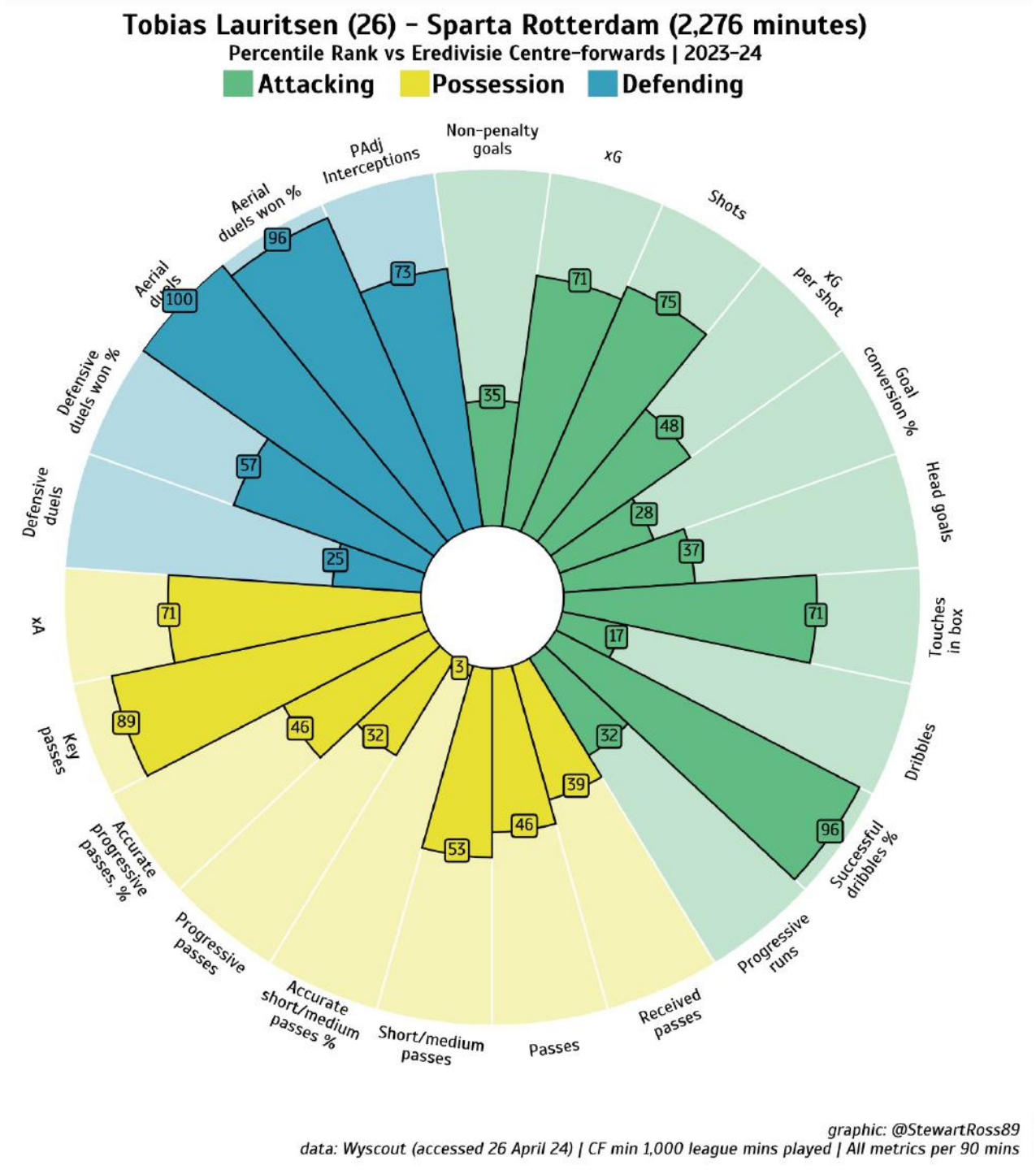
Est Market Value: £2.5m
Contact expires: Jun 2025

Positives ✅

- Aerially very dominant, good focal point too
- Works hard off the ball
- Entering the final year of his contract

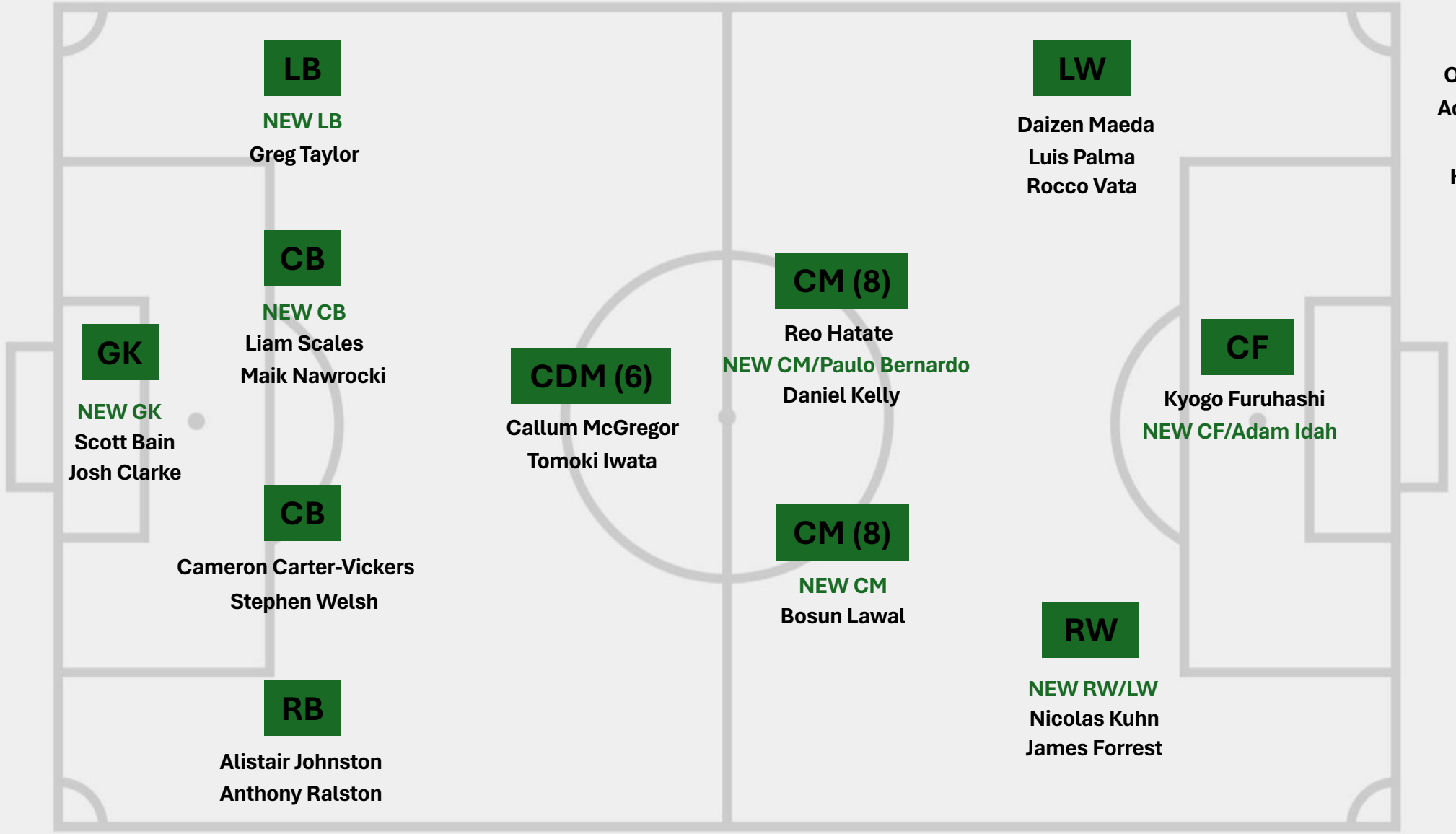
Negatives ❌

- Underperformed xG for two seasons
- Doesn't offer too much in possession





Potential Celtic Squad 24/25



LOANED OUT

Odin Thiago Holm

Adam Montgomery

Yang Hyun-jun

Kwon Hyeok-kyu

Oh Hyeon-gyu

Conclusion

If you've made it this far, thank you!

If you've enjoyed reading this plan, you can find weekly scouting/analysis articles from me on The Celtic Way and you also can find me on X/LinkedIn.

I am also open to freelance or consultancy scouting/analysis work, for any enquiries email stewart.ross.1989@hotmail.co.uk

