QUEENS PARK RANGERS

RECRUITMENT DOCUMENT - SUMMER 2024



PREPARED BY
GREG SPIRES

Introduction

The 2023/2024 Championship season has recently drawn to a close, with Queens Park Rangers finishing in 18th position, securing their place in the competition for next season. As a QPR fan, I've a vested interest in seeing the club progress and find their clear playing style on the pitch, which can be supported by a definitive and concentrated recruitment strategy and long-term vision for the sustainability and success of the club.

This document is an analysis of the current QPR squad, the upcoming contract situations of our squad and an insight into whom we should to acquire this summer to improve our chances of finishing higher up the table next season and replenishment of the squad.

This document is in no way affiliated with QPR FC and I am creating this recruitment plan in order to share my own analysis of the club's current situation.

I hope that you gain insight and feel that my analysis is valuable in your understanding of the club and the situation entering the 2024/25 Championship season. If you have any feedback on this report, please feel free to let me know - I am always looking to develop and refine my work.
Enjoy!

Greg Spires
Football Analyst

@GREG_SPIRES

HTTPS://MEDIUM.COM/@GREG.SPIRES

GREG SPIRES

Contents

Part A - Current Situation

1. Current Squad Composition
2. Loan Deals
3. 2023/24 Player Performances
4. 2023/24 Team Performance
5. Cifuentes' Style of Play

Part B - Off-season Changes

6. QPR's Development Squad Prospects
7. QPR's Financial Situation
8. Contract Situation - June 2024
9. Expected Squad for 2024/2025 Season

Part C - Recruitment Strategy

10. Transfer Restrictions & Criteria
11. Player Profiling
12. Players to Target - Long Lists
13. Players to Target - Shortlist
14. Considerations & Context

Part D - Final Remarks

15. Personal Opinions & Perspectives
16. Reflections
17. Conclusions



1. Current Squad Composition

QPR's 1st XI Squad currently have the following players in the squad, as of the 1st May 2024, including loanees:

Asmir Begovic
Jordan Archer
Joe Walsh

Reggie Cannon
Osman Kakay
Jimmy Dunne
Steve Cook
Jake Clarke-Salter
Morgan Fox
Kenneth Paal
Ziyad Larkeche

Elijah Dixon-Bonner
Sam Field
Isaac Hayden
Joe Hodge
Jack Colback
Taylor Richards
Lucas Andersen
Paul Smyth
Albert Adomah
Ilias Chair
Chris WIllock
Rayan Kolli

Sinclair Armstrong
Lyndon Dykes
Michael Frey

There are several other players who have featured for QPR previously but are contracted to the u21 team:

Murphy Mahoney
Alex Aoraha
Rafferty Pedder
Rayan Kolli
Lorent Talla

The average age of the 1st XI squad, as of May 7th 2024 was 26.67, which placed QPR as the 7th oldest in the Championship.

The average age of the club's most common starting XI was 27.4 years, placing QPR as the 2nd oldest starting XI in the Championship.

QPR have 5 members of the squad that are 31 or older and have just 3 players under the age of 23 that have featured more than 15 times this season.

Further information on the squad composition is in the table below:

Age Range	No. of Players	% of Squad
16-21	4	16%
22-25	5	20%
26-30	11	44%
31-35	3	12%
36-40	2	8%

As you can see, there is a distinct lack of players under the age of 25 within the squad and I would imagine this is a priority area for the club as they look to find future stars & mould young players to be a success at QPR & beyond.

2. Loan Deals

QPR brought in 2 players on loan in January on deals until the end of the season and a large pool of fringe and under 21 players leaving on loan, either for the season or for months at a time. I believe QPR avoided loan deals in the summer of 2023 due to being unable to find appropriate players who fit within the wage structure alongside a belief by the manager at the time, Gareth Ainsworth and his staff, that the current squad had good enough depth and fringe players to compete in the Championship.

Loans In

Isaac Hayden - from Newcastle United
Joe Hodge - from Wolves

Success of Loan Spells

- Hayden featured in almost every match since arriving on loan in January, playing a key role in midfield as we enjoyed an upturn in form in February & March
- Hodge struggled for consistent game time at QPR, starting just 4 games and appearing 4 times off the bench since arriving in January

Loaned Out

Andre Dozzell - to Birmingham - since January
Charlie Kelman - to Wigan - since January
Joe Gubbins - to Accrington Stanley - season long
Joe Walsh - to Accrington Stanley - 2 months
Murphy Mahoney - to Swindon - season long
Stephen Duke-McKenna - to Sutton United - since January

Success of Loan Spells

- Dozzell was loaned out after falling out of favour, getting 10 apps with 1 goal whilst at Birmingham but has failed to impress as Birmingham were relegated.
- Kelman has managed to amass 4 goals & 1 assist in 14 appearances in League One.
- Gubbins has failed to impress despite playing 39 games in League Two.
- Walsh conceded 9 goals in 9 games, a decent showing before his return to QPR in January.
- Mahoney has conceded 44 goals & keeping 4 clean sheets in 23 games, with fairly inconsistent performances before suffering a season-ending hamstring injury.
- Duke-McKenna has registered 4 goal contributions in 16 appearances in League Two, a decent return.

3. 2023/2024 Performances - Goalkeepers



Asmir Begovic

Games Played: 45
Clean Sheets: 13
Goals Conceded: 57
Goals Prevented: -7.8
Save Percentage: 68.3%

Begovic was the undisputed no.1 this season, playing 45/46 league games. He made some excellent saves that kept QPR in games although there was evident deterioration in his awareness and agility that caused us to concede a handful of costly goals over the season. Mixed season for the Bosnian who rode the rollercoaster of a campaign we had.



Joe Walsh

Games Played: 1
Clean Sheets: 0
Goals Conceded: 1
Goals Prevented: 0.91
Save Percentage: 83.3%

Walsh made his QPR debut in the final game of the season vs Coventry. A good display for the young goalkeeper, making some smart saves and distributing the ball well. Rightly so, he's now in negotiations with the club to sign a new contract.



Jordan Archer

Games Played: 0
Clean Sheets: 0
Goals Conceded: 0
Goals Prevented: N/A
Save Percentage: N/A

Archer only featured for 45 minutes in the Carabao Cup this season and has been a cup GK for QPR in previous seasons. A capable goalkeeper that provided solid back-up but ultimately not good enough to be a no.1 here. Will be leaving the club at the end of June as his contract expires.

3. 2023/2024 Performances - Full-Backs



Osman Kakay

Games Played: 23
Goals Conceded: 29
Crossing Accuracy: 17.6%
Interceptions: 12
Tackle Win Percentage: 66.7%
Goal Contributions: 0

Kakay featured prominently at the start of the season and was tasked with playing RB, RWB and CB at times - showing willingness to do a job for the team. An underwhelming campaign as QPR shipped goals in 2023 & Kakay failed to feature for the club beyond January 2024. Leaving the club at the end of June.



Reggie Cannon

Games Played: 21
Goals Conceded: 17
Crossing Accuracy: 14.3%
Interceptions: 27
Tackle Win Percentage: 53.5%
Goal Contributions: 0

Cannon featured sporadically after being brought to the club in September. He was defensively solid at times, contributing to 5 clean sheets. Struggled for game time after February but was able to provide decent width and create turnovers for the defence when he did feature. Yet to convince as a starter but a good squad player.



Jimmy Dunne

Games Played: 29
Goals Conceded: 30
Crossing Accuracy: 18.8%
Interceptions: 23
Tackle Win Percentage: 54.2%
Goal Contributions: 2

Dunne transitioned to RB in February of this season, as the team went on to win 5 of the next 8 games - with Dunne integral to that. His aerial dominance made him a great outlet for our defenders and Dunne was crucial in keeping some of the league's best players quiet against Leeds & Leicester. Significant improvement in his confidence & quality this year.

3. 2023/2024 Performances - Full-Backs



Kenneth Paal

Games Played: 44
Goals Conceded: 53
Crossing Accuracy: 21.5%
Interceptions: 47
Tackle Win Percentage: 58.8%
Goal Contributions: 5

Paal was ever-present this season & while he struggled in the first portion of the season, he improved quickly and was given a bit more attacking freedom by Cifuentes. Paal popped up with some crucial goals and was often found in advanced areas to whip balls into the box. A solid season from QPR's best full-back & I hope he continues to improve.



Morgan Fox

Games Played: 20
Goals Conceded: 18
Crossing Accuracy: 18.2%
Interceptions: 12
Tackle Win Percentage: 64%
Goal Contributions: 1

Fox featured at LB and CB this season, proving to be a reliable back-up during tough periods of fixture congestion. Fox is solid in the air and strong in the tackle, able to meet the high standards set by the regular starters. He featured in 5 clean sheets this season. A decent player who has been able to contribute when called upon & had a solid season.



Ziyad Larkeche

Games Played: 20
Goals Conceded: 7
Crossing Accuracy: 6.2%
Interceptions: 2
Tackle Win Percentage: 61.5%
Goal Contributions: 0

Larkeche featured from the bench quite often this season, so his minutes were limited. Larkeche is still gaining experience at first team level and he looked capable in the times he was called upon this season. Look forward to seeing how he can progress next year & if he gets more minutes or a loan elsewhere for gametime.



3. 2023/2024 Performances - Centre-Backs



Steve Cook

Games Played: 36
Goals Conceded: 36
Aerial Duels Won: 71.5%
Interceptions: 41
Tackle Win Percentage: 70%
Goal Contributions: 2

Cook's dominant displays and leadership earnt him the Player of the Year award, as voted by QPR fans. A rock at the back and composed on the ball, Cook was phenomenal in tightening up QPR's defence under Cifuentes. He popped up with 2 match-winning goals when we needed results. He was an integral part of our strong defensive campaign, long may his good form continue.



Jake Clarke-Salter

Games Played: 33
Goals Conceded: 36
Aerial Duels Won: 67.1%
Interceptions: 32
Tackle Win Percentage: 63.1%
Goal Contributions: 2

Clarke-Salter was a mainstay in the team from December, remaining fit for the crucial periods of the season & starting the most matches in a season in his career. He showed his quality on the ball, staying composed when pressed and was able to defend valiantly alongside Cook throughout the season. Amazing year that has seen some interest from bigger clubs.

3. 2023/2024 Performances - Central Midfielders



Isaac Hayden

Games Played: 17
Goals Conceded: 15
Aerial Duels Won: 76%
Interceptions: 21
Tackle Win Percentage: 65.4%
Goal Contributions: 0

Hayden joined the club at the end of January and was a prominent figure, strengthening QPR's defence in the process. He was a calming influence and an experienced head that gave the team belief in a tough period where we needed results. Hayden was excellent this year & I hope to see him at W12 next season.



Jack Colback

Games Played: 29
Passing Accuracy: 88.9%
Dribbling Success: 21.7%
Interceptions: 37
Tackle Win Percentage: 58.3%
Goal Contributions: 4

Colback had a varied role, sometimes starting and being tasked with man-marking & sometimes being brought of the bench to up the intensity/tempo of the game. Some important goal contributions that got us extra points too. Colback is a good player that contributed when called upon but at 34, his USP may lose its effect soon.



Andre Dozzell

Games Played: 25
Passing Accuracy: 80.3%
Dribbling Success: 58.3%
Interceptions: 20
Tackle Win Percentage: 42.9%
Goal Contributions: 3

Dozzell featured quite often for QPR at the beginning of the season & also when Cifuentes became manager. Dozzell wasn't fancied and was loaned out to Birmingham in January. He showed glimpses of quality on the ball but it felt that his inability to handle physicality & his inconsistency made him replaceable. Leaving the club at the end of June.

3. 2023/2024 Performances - Central Midfielders



Sam Field

Games Played: 43
Passing Accuracy: 77%
Dribbling Success: 50%
Interceptions: 63
Tackle Win Percentage: 65.3%
Goal Contributions: 6

Field was a crucial player to QPR's battle to fight off relegation. Strong in the air and in the tackle, he provided good defensive support. He showed an improved range of passing and his effectiveness in the press this season too. Good season for a key player, I look forward to seeing if we can find a long-term partner for him.



Joe Hodge

Games Played: 8
Passing Accuracy: 78.5%
Dribbling Success: 80%
Interceptions: 4
Tackle Win Percentage: 90%
Goal Contributions: 1

Hodge arrived at the end of January, on loan from Wolves. He barely featured so it's hard to judge him based off just 357 minutes of play time. A tidy looking footballer but a victim of our upturn in form & desire to maintain the starting XI that was getting results. Don't think we should pursue a permanent deal.



Stephen Duke-McKenna

Games Played: 5
Passing Accuracy: 62.2%
Dribbling Success: 42.9%
Interceptions: 5
Tackle Win Percentage: 33.3%
Goal Contributions: 0

Duke-McKenna featured a handful of times under Ainsworth when the squad felt at its thinnest. He had flashes of quality on the ball but ultimately, he was loaned out to Sutton United to get more first team football. Leaving the club at the end of June when his contract expires.

3. 2023/2024 Performances - Attacking Midfielders



Ilias Chair

Games Played: 44
Dribble Success Rate: 54.2%
Shot Creating Actions/90: 4.22
Shots on Target: 37
Goals: 7
Assists: 8

Chair was, once again, a standout attacker for QPR this season. Often found on the LW, he was one of the best creative threats & ball-carriers in the league when given space. He managed 15 goal contributions, the most of any QPR player. Incredibly important player for the club who I hope to see in W12 next season.



Lucas Andersen

Games Played: 16
Dribble Success Rate: 45%
Shot Creating Actions/90: 4.85
Shots on Target: 6
Goals: 1
Assists: 4

Andersen arrived in February from one of Cifuentes' former clubs. He started strong, showing great technical quality that got fans excited about his ability. Andersen was played more sporadically towards the end of the season but still contributed with some crucial assists & goal this season. Look forward to seeing him continue to showcase his quality next year.



Taylor Richards

Games Played: 4
Dribble Success Rate: N/A
Shot Creating Actions/90: N/A
Shots on Target: N/A
Goals: 0
Assists: 0

Richards managed just 57 minutes in the Championship this year, all coming under Ainsworth at the start of the season. Shown good quality on the ball at times but has failed to find any consistency. Issues in his personal life are rumoured to have kept him from performing his best and being involved as much as he'd liked.

3. 2023/2024 Performances - Wingers



Chris Willock

Games Played: 39
Dribble Success Rate: 57.1%
Shot Creating Actions/90: 2.87
Shots on Target: 16
Goals: 4
Assists: 4

Willock showed quality in his ball-carrying & ability to beat defenders in 1v1 situations. With his contract expiring, some would argue his performances were putting himself in the shop window towards the end of the season. I think Willock had an above average season but wasn't outstanding but will monitor his situation this summer.



Paul Smyth

Games Played: 44
Dribble Success Rate: 43.8%
Shot Creating Actions/90: 2.34
Shots on Target: 13
Goals: 3
Assists: 1

Smyth featured heavily this season, sometimes starting but also being tasked with trying to stretch tired defences off the bench. Smyth added some goals and assists, that are evidence of his technical improvements that he was missing in his previous spell at QPR. Good player to have in the squad & an excellent character who works tirelessly.



Rayan Kolli

Games Played: 10
Dribble Success Rate: N/A
Shot Creating Actions/90: 2.11
Shots on Target: 2
Goals: 0
Assists: 1

Kolli featured off the bench on all 10 occasions, mostly under Ainsworth too. He is highly regarded by staff within the club and I hope he can get more minutes next season or get a loan to a lower EFL team so he can gain first team experience.

3. 2023/2024 Performances - Strikers



Lyndon Dykes

Games Played: 41
Aerial Duel Success: 46%
Shot Creating Actions/90: 1.28
Shots on Target: 20
Goals: 6
Assists: 1

Dykes was utilised as a target man, lone striker this year and was excellent at hold-up play and winning duels. However, his struggles in front of goal were evident, scoring just 6 times. I'd argue there was a lack of service, especially in the first 1/3 of the season which contributed to his poor return. I think he provides a valuable outlet for the team and plays a pivotal role for QPR.



Sinclair Armstrong

Games Played: 39
Aerial Duel Success: 46.3%
Shot Creating Actions/90: 1.92
Shots on Target: 122
Goals: 3
Assists: 3

Armstrong showed an improvement from last season, getting more game time and adding more goal contributions. I think there are areas he can refine to become a more prolific goalscorer but his pace & strength remain a real threat for defenders. A promising year from Armstrong and hopefully he'll extend his stay at W12 beyond this summer.



Michael Frey

Games Played: 9
Aerial Duel Success: 54.5%
Shot Creating Actions/90: 2.43
Shots on Target: 3
Goals: 1
Assists: 0

After joining the R's in January, Frey featured sporadically in our relegation battle. He showed great strength and hold-up ability when he did feature although he lacks in agility & the capability to stretch defences. A capable striker in there but don't think he'll ever be a prolific striker for the club.



(All stats from FBRef.com)

4. 2023/2024 QPR's Team Performances

GOAL STATISTICS

Goals for: 47 (21st in Championship)
xG: 44.6 (20th in Championship)
xG Performance: +2.4 (16th in Championship)
Goals scored from set-pieces: 11 (17th in Championship)
Penalties: 1/2 (50% success rate)
Goals per shot: 0.08 (20th in Championship)
Goals per shot on target: 0.26 (23rd in Championship)
Shot on Target %: 32.2% (12th in Championship)

POSSESSION & ATTACKING STATISTICS

Average Possession per game: 46.3% (16th in Championship)
Successful Take-Ons: 361 (9th in Championship)
Success % for Take-Ons: 49.2% (1st in Championship)
Progressive Passes: 1333 (18th in Championship)
Progressive Passes Received: 1306 (18th in Championship)
Fouls Drawn: 488 (10th in Championship)
Miscontrols: 676 (4th in Championship)
Dispossessed: 381 (13th in Championship)

As evidenced above, there was a distinct lack of clinical finishing and a lack of combination play that sees us progress through the lines, which makes sense due to our more counter-attacking, direct approach by Cifuentes to get results. Therefore, I am looking for new signings who can improve our goalscoring & can play progressively to break through teams.

4. 2023/2024 QPR's Team Performances continued...



(All stats from FBRef.com)

GOALS CONCEDED STATISTICS

Goals Conceded: 58 (8th in Championship)
xG Against: 51.4 (7th in Championship)
xG Performance: -6.6 (18th in Championship)
Goals conceded from set-pieces: 16 (T23rd in Championship)
Penalties Conceded: 1/1 conceded

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Tackles Won: 460 (16th in Championship)
% of Dribblers Tackled: 55.1% (3rd in Championship)
Blocks: 507 (17th in Championship)
Interceptions: 442 (T8th in Championship)
Clearances: 983 (8th in Championship)
Errors leading to a shot for opponent: 7 (T2nd in Championship)
Aerial Duels Won: 829 (5th in Championship)
Aerial Duel Win %: 52.3% (8th in Championship)
Yellow Cards: 99 (10th most in Championship)
Red Cards: 4 (T2nd most in Championship)
Fouls Committed: 551 (8th most in Championship)

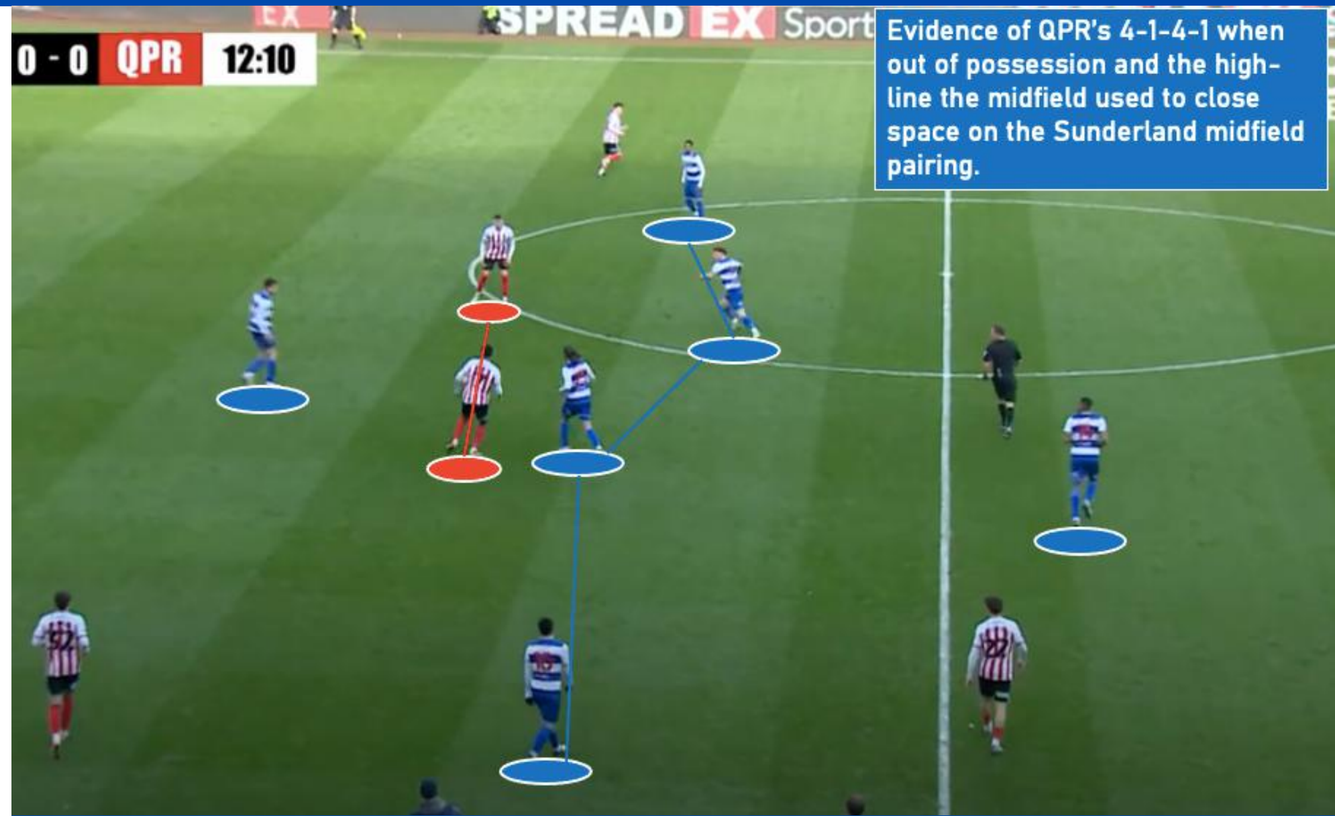
QPR were strong in many defensive areas and hopefully this can continue with good unity, bravery & intelligent positioning. Defending from set-pieces is an area where we need to improve massively and our discipline was lacking too. I hope to find players that can help us to improve in these areas and can be the future of the defence too.

5. Cifuentes' Style of Play

Martí Cifuentes was cherry-picked by QPR to be the new manager back in October 2023 but had been monitored by the club long before that. The now CEO Christian Nourry was working at football consultancy firm, Retexo, where he worked diligently on the project to find a manager that played a style that suited QPR's needs & could meet the likely challenges at the club. Cifuentes' record at Hammarby IF was strong, finishing 3rd in the league and qualifying for the European Conference League in the process. Eventually Cifuentes joined QPR in October 2023, and he spent a few months analysing the best way to get results with the team with mixed success initially, before finding a winning formula in 2024 as QPR went on a good run that saw us steer clear of relegation.

Out-of-Possession

The 4-3-3, or a variation of a 4-2-3-1, is what brought Cifuentes success in Scandinavia and has been the set formation for QPR since his arrival. Having a 4-3-3 allows the wingers to track back to create a 4-1-4-1 when out-of-possession - as highlighted to the right. Cifuentes' major priority when arriving at QPR was to make the team defensively sound and more compact to prevent conceding excessively and this system has been implemented to good effect. Having 3 midfielders centrally, it's easier to create a mid-block that ensures opponent's cannot play directly through the lines and gives us an opportunity to intercept. I'd expect to see the same resilient, defence-first approach next year.

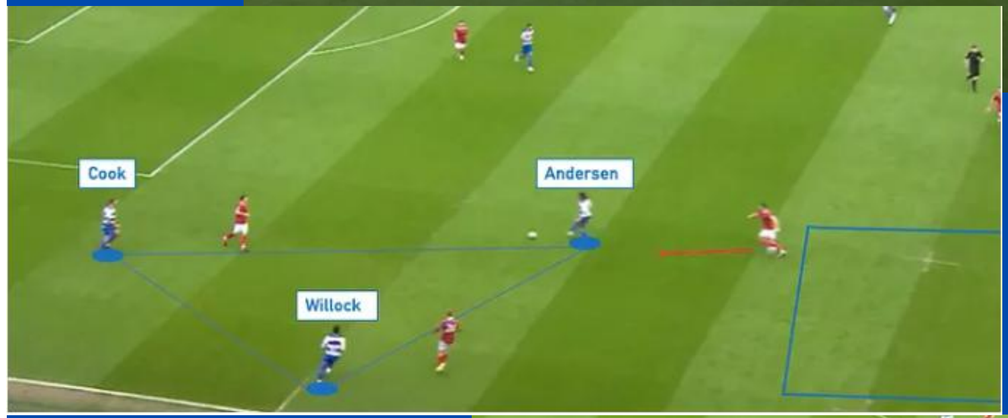


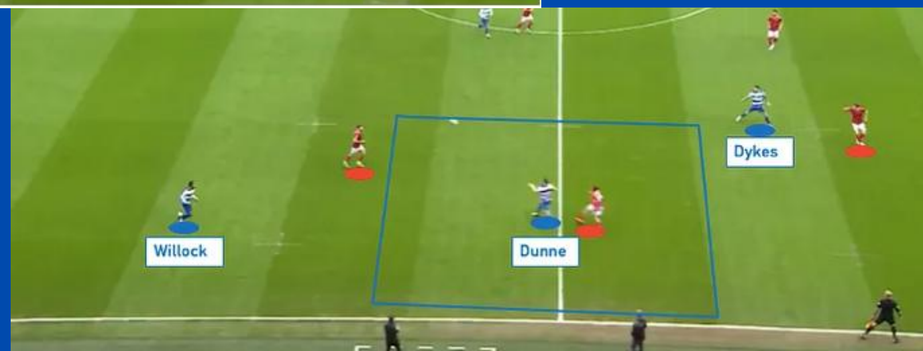
5. Cifuentes' Style of Play

In-Possession

When in possession, the deepest lying central midfielder often drops deep between the two centre-backs, who spread out towards the edge of the box. The other 2 central midfielders tend to move towards either full-back, in order to create a triangle of potential passing pathways between CB, FB and CM. QPR often use this sequencing to play out from the back and to move the ball quickly away from attackers who often press aggressively. These patterns of passing often lead to an opportunity to play the ball to a winger, who can then turn and take on a defender 1v1, or play a longer pass straight to the striker and get our wingers to support him as he holds the ball up. A rather direct style that uses shorter, crisp passing combinations and longer passes to a target player - it's been an effective gameplan that saw QPR's form improve upon its implementation. QPR have also utilised Jimmy Dunne's height when moved to RB and played clipped passes up to him, allowing him to win flick ons and duels for us to transition forward. I think we will see these approaches used again but might see some more patterns & combination play to create attacks from more dynamic movement of our forwards.







OFF-SEASON CHANGES



6. QPR Youth Team Prospects

A large portion of the Development Squad have not had their contracts renewed beyond June 2024. The ruthless approach has left the Development Squad with fewer than 10 players contracted beyond the summer.

The following players from the Development Squad, that are contracted beyond 2024, have been named in a QPR 1st XI squad in friendlies, cup games or league games:

- Rayan Kolli
- Lorent Talla

I would expect to see Rayan Kolli involved in the 1st XI squad more next season, if he isn't loaned out for some guaranteed football at a lower level. Bala & Talla are more unknown entities from my perspective, but I think they could be the other 2 retained players that are closest to breaking through into the 1st XI squad.

With very few players contracted beyond this summer, there is likely to be a shift to recruiting talented young players under the age of 20 who can play at Development Squad level initially and then be utilised in the 1st XI squad in the medium to long-term. We have seen this in action already with the signings of Daniel Bennie, Kieran Morgan and Rohan Vaughan. The club has struggled to sign and develop players from this squad into the first team, outside of 2/3 notable names like Ebere Eze, Ilias Chair and Osman Kakay, so a fresh approach feels necessary.

7. QPR's Current Financial Situation

QPR published their most recent accounts from the 2022/23 season in February 2024 and here is a brief summary of the main components of the reports and what it means for QPR's financial position heading in to the 2024/25 season.

QPRs accounts from the 2022/23 season showed:

- An operating loss of £21.4m, our 3rd consecutive year of losing over £20m
- £12m expenditure towards building and improving training facilities (which does not count towards FFP regulations)
- There remains £10.2m outstanding in our FFP fine that was agreed back in 2018
- The club is spending £109 for every £100 of revenue generated,on wages
- Revenue grew by £1.5m and gate receipts increased by £100k too
- Staff wages were reduced by £2.2m compared to the 2021/22 season
- Other expenses rose by £1.4m in the past year
- As we enter a new cycle with FFP in the summer of 2024, the signings of Stefan Johansen, Charlie Austin, Andre Dozzell, Jordy De Wijs & Sam Field will no longer count towards our FFP 3 year rolling cycle – allowing the club more opportunities to spend

The following players are rumoured to be earning comfortable Championship wages, so will free up considerable room:

Asmir Begovic
Albert Adomah
Andre Dozzell
Chris Willock
Osman Kakay

The club may have an increased capacity to spend on wages to revamp the squad during the summer of 2024 - a welcomed thought as we have a new CEO and manager who may wish to recruit in their own way, with a more strategic approach to squad building.

8. Contract Situations for June 2024

The following players have contracts at QPR expiring on 30th June 2024:

- Asmir Begovic (36)
- Jordan Archer (31)
- Joe Walsh (22)
- Aaron Drewe (23)
- Osman Kakay (26)
- Joe Gubbins (22)
- Andre Dozzell (24)
- Elijah Dixon-Bonner (23)
- Albert Adomah (36)
- Chris Willock (26)
- Stephen Duke-McKenna (23)
- Charlie Kelman (22)
- Sinclair Armstrong (20) - club option for 1+ year available

The majority of these players are likely to leave at the end of June due to being sub-standard for the Championship. It's already been announced that Archer, Dozzell, Kakay, Duke-McKenna, Gubbins, Drewe & Adomah are being released upon the expiry of their contracts. Dunne has had his contract extension triggered, but we are waiting to hear about Armstrong's decision. I would like to see Walsh and Dixon-Bonner return to the club as they can offer good depth to the squad next season whilst not being huge earners too - both have been offered new deals at the club.

The following are notable u21 players who also have expiring contracts on 30th June 2024:

- Murphy Mahoney (22)
- Matteo Salamon (20) - club option for 1+ year available
- Henry Hawkins (20)
- Trent Rendall (22)
- Deon Woodman (21)
- Alex Aoraha (21)
- Rafferty Pedder (22)
- Steven Bala (20)
- Micah Anthony (20)
- Hamzad Kargbo (22) - club option for 1+ year available
- Alfie Lloyd (20)
- Nathan Jeche (18)

With my limited knowledge of the Development Squad, it's much harder to understand how the club view the quality of these players. Alfie Lloyd is highly regarded and recently re-signed with the Development Squad. Hawkins has captained the development squad this season, making 22 appearances - earning him a new deal with the club. Woodman has already announced that he is leaving QPR in June and has signed with Wealdstone already. Rafferty Pedder, Nathan Jeche, Hamzad Kargbo, Trent Rendall & Micah Anthony are amongst the 11 players mentioned in the recent announcements by QPR that they're being released.

8. Contract Situations for June 2024 continued...

Highlighted below is what the squad will look like if all players with expiring contracts in June 2024 were to leave and no other departures or arrivals occurred.

	Dykes Frey		
Chair Kolli	Andersen T.Richards		Smyth
	Colback	Field	
Paal Fox Larkeche	Cook	Clarke-Salter	Dunne Cannon

Clearly we're fortunate enough to have some of the more crucial players still contracted such as Chair, Cook, Paal etc. However, there are still some key contributors and squad players that won't be at QPR next season - or at least look unlikely to be. I think that Cifuentes will be keen to give minutes to young players where he sees fit too. There are clearly holes at multiple positions, especially in our depth, some of which could be filled by a few development squad players if required but ideally, we'd see a few new signings to improve the strength in depth.

Personally, I'd like to see Armstrong have the 1 year extension in his contracts triggered to provide greater depth and a chance to maintain continuity in the squad. Also, I think Joe Walsh would be worth re-signing for good depth and professionalism, fitting into the squad well and challenging for the no. 1 GK spot. Perhaps less popular but I think Elijah Dixon-Bonner has provided some decent depth when asked to this season and wouldn't mind seeing him return for another season.

Chris Willock has been an integral player for QPR in the past few years but it seems that he's keen to try his luck elsewhere when his contract expires - with QPR set to explore the market to find his replacement. Asmir Begovic has been a decent servant this year, keeping QPR level or ahead with some crucial saves. However, with declining ability in some areas of his game and being 36 years of age, he's likely to leave W12 in the summer too.

I would expect the remaining players who are out of contract to depart the club and find somewhere to play more regular football. There has already been announcements about some players and would expect a significant clearout.

9. QPR's Projected Squad for 2024/25 Season

Dykes
Armstrong
Frey
Kolli

Chair*
Kolli

Andersen
T.Richards

Smyth
Bennie

Colback
Dixon-Bonner

Field
Aoraha

Paal
Fox
Larkeche

Cook
Clarke-Salter
Dunne
Fox

Walsh

Dunne
Cannon

*assuming legal case is concluded in his favour

= contracted beyond 2024

= ongoing negotiations to re-sign

= player's 2nd position they cover

9. QPR's Projected Squad for 2024/25 Season continued...

Looking at how the squad is shaping up, there are a plenty of areas that the club need to address:

- Goalkeeper
- Right-Back
- Centre-Back
- Defensive Midfield
- Central Midfield
- Attacking Midfield
- Right Wing
- Left Wing
- Striker







I will be reviewing players in the following positions, due to the fact that I view them as the most pressing issues to address within the squad:

Goalkeeper
Right-Back
Defensive Midfield
Central Midfield
Right Winger
Left Winger
Attacking Midfield
Striker

While we have quality players starting in several of the aforementioned positions, there is a need to find greater depth in the squad and to find suitable replacements for the key squad members that are departing. I estimate the squad would benefit from between 5-8 new signings to be competitive & hopefully finish in the top half of the Championship next season.



RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

10. Transfer Restrictions & Criteria

When considering transfers and the composition of QPR's squad, it's important to understand the restrictions and compliance requirements for squads in the EFL Championship. Here's a brief overview of what is expected of all Championship squads for the upcoming season:

- Maximum squad size of 25 players
- Players under the age of 21 do not need to be registered as a member of the 25-man 1st Team Squad
- Overseas signings must meet newly introduced GBE requirements to be given a visa & registered with EFL - to be eligible for GBE, a player must have played at least once for a nation's youth or international team that's ranked in the top 50, or at least 5 times for a country ranked outside the top 50
- EFL Championship clubs can sign up a maximum of 4 overseas players per season whom DO NOT meet the GBE requirements, where they will be classed as an ESC player.

Therefore, when considering players to be recruited by QPR, we need to understand how likely players with foreign nationality and from foreign leagues are to be accepted as a GBE player or as an ESC player. With this in mind, it makes certain players with international experience & pedigree more attractive and realistic while making others less attainable for a club like QPR.

Furthermore, with FFP restrictions allowing a maximum loss of £68m over 3 consecutive years on a rolling basis in the Championship, there are still financial restrictions to what QPR are able to spend on transfers and wages. This also factors in to the decision behind some of the selections relative to QPR's financial position.

11. Player Profiling

I believe that the Goalkeepers we are looking for should be within the following profile:

- Ideally aged 24-30
- Wages under £15,000 per week ideally
- Pedigree to be the number 1 GK
- Strong shot-stopping ability
- Comfortable with ball at his feet
- Able to play a variety of passes & distribute accurately
- Strong athleticism

I believe that Defenisve Midfielders should be within the following profile if they're to be realistic for QPR:

- Aged 23-30
- Ability to play as a single DM in a 3 man midfield
- Ability to play through the press of other teams
- Physically strong
- Capability to win duels on ground & aerially
- Broad passing range with good quality passing
- Intelligent defensive positioning
- Good anticipation & reading of the game

Right-Backs that would suit the club should be within the following profile:

- Ideally aged 20-26
- Capable of being a substitute or starter
- Ability to get forward & contribute in attacks
- Can defend 1v1
- Good ball-carrying/dribbling ability
- Strong work ethic
- Good pace and ability to change direction sharply
- Can cross with good accuracy

I think Central Midfielders should be within the following profile:

- Aged between 20-25, preferably right footed
- Happy to be used as a sub or starter in midfield 2 or 3
- Great range of accurate passing
- Strong ball-carrying/dribbling ability
- Has good athleticism and stamina
- Anticipates & reads the game well
- Shows creativity with dribbling or passing
- Can contribute in the final 3rd

11. Player Profiling

For Wingers, I think this profile of player would be best for QPR to target:

- Aged 20-25, can use both feet ideally
- Wages under £10,000
- Ability to cross with consistency and quality
- Ability to take defenders on in 1v1 scenarios
- Has pace and good athleticism
- Takes up good positions & can find space often
- Can contribute with both goals & assists
- Good placement on shots



For the Attacking Midfielder position, I think players that would suit QPR should fit the following profile:

- Aged 20-25
- Wages under £8,000
- Happy to be an understudy to Andersen initially
- Can create from a variety of angles
- Able to be a strong ball-carrier & link play too
- Can contribute with goals in the final third
- Ability to finish when under pressure & from different distances and angles
- Intelligent attacking positioning & movement
- Tactical understanding and awareness to find space

I think the following profile would be ideal for QPR to add to the squad this summer as a Striker:

- Aged 21-27, preferably left-footed
- Wages under £10,000 ideally
- Ability to affect the game as a substitute or starter
- Above average athleticism and physical attributes
- Capability of playing back-to-goal
- Ability to facilitate attacks & create chances
- Good shooting placement and clinical finishing
- Anticipation and reading of the game
- Tactical awareness to find space & stretch defences



12. Players to Target - Long Lists

Long List - Goalkeepers

When considering new goalkeepers that would suit QPR, I aimed for players between the ages of 24 and 30 with experience of being a 1st choice goalkeeper. I tried to prioritise and include goalkeepers that have contracts expiring in 2026 or earlier, with those expiring in June 2024 being elevated in my selection process due to the lack of transfer fee required to sign them. Other factors such as expected wages were considered, as well as their likelihood to want to move to London & play at Championship level compared to their current club's location and level. With the loss of Asmir Begovic and/or Jordan Archer expected - these goalkeepers were selected as having potential to be QPR's first choice goalkeeper as of the 2024/25 season.

The goalkeepers selected through this vetting process are as follows:

1. Marek Rodak - 27 - Fulham, Premier League - Contracted until 30th June 2024, club option for extra year
2. Ron Thorben-Hoffmann - 25 - Eintracht Braunschweig, 2. Bundesliga - Contracted until 30th June 2024
3. Nicolas Kristof - 24 - Elversberg, 2. Bundesliga - Contracted until 30th June 2025
4. Viktor Johansson - 24 - Rotherham, Championship - Contracted until 30th June 2025
5. Pelle Boevink - 25 - SC Padernborn, 2. Bundesliga - Contracted until 30th June 2025
6. Daniel Grimshaw - 26 - Blackpool, League One - Contracted until 30th June 2025, club option for extra year
7. Lukas Jensen - 25 - Lincoln City, League One - Contracted until 30th June 2025
8. Zach Hemming - 24 - St Mirren, Scottish Premiership (loaned from Middlesbrough) - Contracted until June 2026
9. Oliver Dovin - 21 - Hammarby, Swedish Allsvenskan - Contracted until June 2026
10. Alex Paulsen - 21 - Wellington Phoenix, Australian A-League - Contracted until June 2027

Long List - Right-Backs

When considering new right-backs that would suit QPR, I aimed for players between the ages of 20 and 26 with plenty of potential to elevate their game and improve. I tried to prioritise and include players that have contracts expiring in 2024 or 2025 to minimise transfer fees required to sign them. Other factors such as expected wages were considered, as well as their likelihood to want to move to London & play at Championship level compared to their current club's location and level. The club's current right-backs lack significant pace and attacking threats and with 2 of our current depth players in this position leaving, there is room to sign a player to be a back-up and learn for a year with a longer-term view to them becoming a starter for QPR.

The right-backs selected through this vetting process are as follows:

1. Jadel Katongo - 19 - Peterborough, League One (loaned from Man City u21's) - Contracted until 30th June 2024
2. Lasse Sorensen - 24 - Lincoln City, League One - Contracted until 30th June 2024
3. Nathan Ferguson - 23 - Crystal Palace, Premier League - Contracted until 30th June 2024
4. Danny McNamara - 25 - Millwall, Championship - Contracted until 30th June 2024
5. Siebe Horemans - 26 - Excelsior, Eredivisie - Contracted until 30th June 2024
6. Valgeir Lunddal Fridriksson - 22 - FC Häcken, Allsvenskan - Contracted until 30th June 2024
7. Isaac Ogundere - 22 - AFC Wimbledon, League Two - Contracted until May 2025, club option for extra year
8. Lewis Miller - 23 - Hibernian, Scottish Premiership - Contracted until May 2025, club option for extra year
9. Thibaut Vargas - 23 - Stade Lavellois, Ligue 2 - Contracted until May 2025, club option for extra year
10. Ethan Galbraith - 24 - Leyton Orient, League One - Contracted until 30th June 2025
11. Liam Bennett - 22 - Cambridge United, League One - Contracted until 30th June 2025
12. Julian Lelieveld - 26 - RKC Waalwijk, Eredivisie - Contracted until 30th June 2025
13. Thijmen Goppel - 27 - SV Wehen Wiesbaden, 2. Bundesliga - Contracted until 30th June 2025
14. Tom Hamer - 24 - Burton Albion, League One - Contracted until 30th June 2025

Long List - Defensive Midfielders

When considering new defensive midfielders that would suit QPR, I aimed for players between the ages of 23 and 30 with plenty of quality as well as decent physical attributes. If Isaac Hayden does not return for next season, a player of similar quality will be difficult to find but we will have to find a player with strong short passing, solid tackling and strong defensive acumen & with the ability to play as a lone DM too. I prioritised players that have contracts expiring in 2024 or 2025 to minimise transfer fees required to sign them. With Hayden unlikely to return but Sam Field able to play in a defensive role, this position is of a medium priority to the club - therefore, i've included some options that could be immediate starters and some longer term targets.

The defensive midfielders selected through this vetting process are as follows:

1. Connor Barron - 22 - Aberdeen, Scottish Premiership - Contracted until 30th June 2024
2. Willity Younoussa - 22 - FC Rodez, Ligue 2 - Contracted until 30th June 2024
3. Ousmane Diakite - 23 - TSV Hartberg, Austrian Bundesliga - Contracted until 30th June 2024
4. Julian Baas - 22 - Excelsior, Eredivise - Contracted until 30th June 2024
5. Miguel Atienza - 25 - Burgos CF, La Liga 2 - Contracted until 30th June 2024
6. Malthe Hojholt - 23 - Aalborg, Danish 1st Division - Contracted until December 2024
7. Jordan Brown - 22 - Leyton Orient, League One - Contracted until June 2025
8. Loreintz Rosier - 25 - Fortuna Sittard, Eredivisie - Contracted until June 2025
9. Nohan Kenneh - 22 - Shrewsbury, League One (loaned from Hibernian) - Contracted until June 2025
10. Hector Kyprianou - 22 - Peterborough, League One - Contracted until June 2025
11. Pelle Mattsson - 22 - Silkeborg, Danish Superligaen - Contracted until December 2026
12. Tesfadelt Tekie - 26 - Hammarby, Allsvenskan - Contracted until December 2026
13. Daniel Svensson - 22 - Nordsjaelland, Danish Superligaen - Contracted until 2027
14. Mees Hoedemakers - 26 - NEC Nijmegen, Eredivisie - Contracted until 2027

Long List - Centre-Midfielders

When considering new central midfielders that would suit QPR, I aimed for players between the ages of 20 and 25 with room to improve, but can also contribute as a squad player straight away. I tried to prioritise and include players that have contracts expiring in 2024 or 2025 to minimise transfer fees required to sign them. With a high-energy, physically demanding system when out-of-possession and a need for creativity and quality when in-possession, I've selected and vetted players based off fitting this criteria. QPR require some extra depth and quality in midfield, with someone that can add goal involvements to fill the void from central-midfield & is stronger on their right-foot to complement the 2/3 left-footed CMs in the squad currently.

The central midfielders selected through this vetting process are as follows:

1. Robin Heußer - SV Wehen Wiesbaden, 2. Bundesliga - Contracted until 30th June 2024
2. Jérémy Gelin - 26 - Amiens, Ligue 2 - Contracted until 30th June 2024
3. Jensen Weir - 21 - Port Vale, League One (loaned from Brighton) - Contracted until 30th June 2024
4. Stefan Teitur Thórdarson - 25 - Silkeborg, Danish Superligaen - Contracted until December 2024
5. Frankie Amaya - 23 - New York Red Bulls, MLS - Contracted until December 2024
6. Marc Leonard - 22 - Northampton Town, League One (loaned from Brighton) - Contracted until June 2025
7. Michaël Cuisance - 24 - VFL Osnabrück, 2. Bundesliga (loaned from Venezia) - Contracted until June 2025
8. Welat Cagro - 24 - Beerschot, Belgian 2nd Division - Contracted until June 2025
9. Mathijs Tielemans - 21 - Vitesse Arnhem, Eredivisie - Contracted until June 2026
10. Melker Widell - 21 - Aalborg, Danish 1st Division - Contracted until June 2026
11. Nicolas Madsen - 24 - KVC Westerlo, Jupiler Pro-League - Contracted until June 2026
12. Enzo Leopold - 23 - Hannover 96, 2. Bundesliga - Contracted until June 2026
13. Luca Connell - 22 - Barnsley, League One - Contracted until June 2027, club option for extra year
14. Michele Collocolo - 24 - Cremonense, Serie B - Contracted until June 2027
15. Silas Gnaka - 25 - FC Madgeburg, 2. Bundesliga - recently signed contract in Jan 2024, unconfirmed length

Long List - Wingers

When considering new wingers that would suit QPR, I aimed for players between the ages of 20 and 25 that can add some much needed pace, creativity and goal-scoring threat to our attacks. I tried to prioritise and include players that have contracts expiring in 2024 or 2025 to minimise transfer fees required to sign them. With Willock yet to sign a new contract and likely to leave and Chair's future undecided, there's a need to bring in a young winger as a contingency plan should neither of those players be at the club in 12 months time. I've targeted players that can score, create with both feet and are able to offer defensively from wide midfield too.

The wingers selected through this vetting process are as follows:

1. Ian Poveda - 24 - Sheffield Wednesday, Championship (loaned from Leeds) - Contracted until 30th June 2024
2. Daniel Raba - 28 - Leganes, La Liga 2 - Contracted until 30th June 2024
3. Pryzemyslaw Pacheta - 26 - Swansea, Championship - Contracted until 30th June 2024
4. Ruel Sotirou - 23 - Leyton Orient, League One - Contracted until 30th June 2024
5. Lasso Coulibaly - 21 - Randers FC, Danish Superliga (loaned from Nordsjaelland) - Contracted until June 2024
6. Wikelman Carmona - 21 - New York Red Bulls, MLS - Contracted until December 2024
7. Bongokuhle Hlongwane - 23 - Minnesota United, MLS - Contracted until December 2024
8. Aaron Keller - 19 - SpVgg Unterhaching, 3. Bundesliga - Contracted until June 2025 (club option for +1 year)
9. Jayden Fevrier - 20 - Colchester United, League Two - Contracted until June 2025
10. Thibaud Verlinden - 24 - Beerschot, Belgian 2nd Division - Contracted until June 2025
11. Jacobo Gonzalez - 27 - Alcorcón, La Liga 2 - Contracted until June 2025
11. Nordine Kandil - 22 - FC Annecy, Ligue 2 (loaned from Lorient) - Contracted until June 2025
12. Camiel Neghli - 22 - Sparta Rotterdam, Eredivisie - Contracted until June 2026, club option for extra year

Long List - Wingers continued...

When considering new wingers that would suit QPR, I aimed for players between the ages of 20 and 25 that can add some much needed pace, creativity and goal-scoring threat to our attacks. I tried to prioritise and include players that have contracts expiring in 2024 or 2025 to minimise transfer fees required to sign them. With Willock yet to sign a new contract and likely to leave and Chair's future undecided, there's a need to bring in a young winger as a contingency plan should neither of those players be at the club in 12 months time. I've targeted players that can score, create with both feet and are able to offer defensively from wide midfield too.

The wingers selected through this vetting process are as follows:

13. Pablo Pagis - 21 - Stade Lavellois, Ligue 2 (loaned from Lorient) - Contracted until June 2026
14. Luke Thomas - 25 - Bristol Rovers, League One - Contracted until June 2026
15. Filip Bilbija - 23 - Paderborn, 2. Bundesliga - Contracted until June 2026
16. Svante Ingelsson - 24 - Hansa Rostock, 2. Bundesliga - Contracted until June 2026
17. Ross McCausland - 20 - Rangers, Scottish Premiership - Contracted until 2027
18. Viktor Djukanovic - 20 - Hammarby, Allsvenskan - Contracted until December 2027
19. Jesurun Rak-Sakyi - 21 - Crystal Palace, Premier League - Contracted until 2027
20. Sontje Hansen - 21 - NEC Nijmegen, Eredivisie - Contracted until 2027

Long List - Attacking Midfielders

When considering new attacking midfielders that would suit QPR, I aimed for players between the ages of 20 and 25 that can add some creativity, quality on the ball and goal-scoring threat to our attacks. I tried to prioritise and include players that have contracts expiring in 2024 or 2025 to minimise transfer fees required to sign them. Andersen has been great since joining but is nearly 30 years old and with Taylor Richards yet to convince, a strong understudy who can grow and learn would be ideal this summer. With changes in tactical trends in recent years, there are fewer attacking midfielders being used and more commonly we're seeing fluid attacking players - hence the shorter list for attacking midfielders.

The attacking midfielders selected through this vetting process are as follows:

1. JJ McKiernan - 22 - Morecambe, League Two - Contracted until 30th June 2024
2. Joel Randall - 22 - Peterborough, League One - Contracted until June 2025
3. Juninho Bacuna - 25 - Birmingham, Championship - Contracted until June 2025
4. Rami Al Hajj - 22 - Odense, Danish Superliga - Contracted until June 2026
5. Ilan Kebbal - 25 - Paris FC, Ligue 2 - Contracted until June 2026
6. Jack Rudoni - 22 - Huddersfield, Championship - Contracted until June 2026, club option for extra year
7. Karamoko Dembele - 21- Blackpool, League One (loaned from Stade Brestois) - Contracted until June 2026
8. Jack Moylan - 22 - Lincoln City, League One - signed for them in Jan 2024, contract length undisclosed

Long List - Strikers

When considering new strikers that would suit QPR, I aimed for players between the ages of 21 and 27 that can find the back of the net or have strong underlying statistics. QPR's strikers have struggled in front of goal this season, adding goals will be a priority for the club this summer. I tried to prioritise and include players that have contracts expiring in 2024 or 2025 to minimise transfer fees required to sign them. If there's a position where we have to pay transfer fees, it'll absolutely be at striker - with any goalscorer going for a premium at the moment. QPR have a certain profile of striker at the moment so a left-footed attacker who can offer something different stylistically would be ideal.

The strikers selected through this vetting process are as follows:

1. Tom Bradshaw - 31 - Millwall, Championship - Contracted until 30th June 2024
2. Stephen Humphrys - 26 - Wigan, League One - Contracted until 30th June 2024
3. Mike Biereth - 20 - Sturm Graz, Austrian Bundesliga (loaned from Arsenal u21's) - Contracted until 30th June 2024
4. Willy Agada - 24 - Sporting Kansas City, MLS - Contracted until 30th June 2024, club option for extra year
5. Jacen Russell-Rowe - 21 - Columbus Crew, MLS - Contracted until 30th June 2024, club option for 2 extra years
6. Isaac Nuhu - 22 - KAS Eupen, Jupiler Pro League - Contracted until June 2025
7. Rayan Phillipe - 23 - Eintracht Braunschweig, 2. Bundesliga - Contracted until June 2025, club option for extra year
8. Tim Lemperle - 22 - Greuther Furth, 2. Bundesliga (loaned from Köln) - Contracted until June 2025
9. Troy Parrott - 22 - Excelsior, Eredivisie (loaned from Tottenham) - Contracted until June 2025
10. Joao Klauss - 27 - St Louis City, MLS - Contracted until December 2025
11. Kilian Corredor - 23 - Rodez AF, Ligue 2 - Contracted until June 2026
12. Jusef Erabi - 20 - Hammarby, Swedish Allsvenskan - Contracted until June 2026
13. Alex Forés - 22 - Villarreal B, La Liga 2 - Contracted until June 2026
14. Tairyk Arconte - 20 - Rodez AF, Ligue 2 (loaned from Stade Brestois) - Contracted until June 2026
15. Anosike Ementa - 20 - Viborg, Danish Superligaen - Contracted until December 2026
16. Shuto Machino - 24 - Holstein Kiel, 2. Bundesliga - Contracted until 2027
17. Max Dean - 20 - MK Dons, League Two - Joined them in Jan 2023, contract details undisclosed

13. Players to Target - Shortlists



GOALKEEPERS

Option 1: Best option
Option 2: A Realistic option
Option 3: Outside shout

Honourable Mentions:

- Oliver Dovin
- Lukas Jensen



MAREK RODAK

SHORTLIST - GOALKEEPERS - OPTION 1



Age - 27
Team - Fulham
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2024

RECENT SEASON:

5 appearances (all in cup competitions), 5 goals conceded, 1 clean sheet and 4 wins.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

Won the Championship with Fulham in 2021/22 and was promoted with them in 2018/19 via the playoffs, making 33 appearances in both seasons.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Made his debut for Slovakia aged 23 back in 2020 and has made a total of 20 appearances.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'4"
Weight - 81kg
Injury History - Good. Just the 1 finger injury - missed 11 days in 2021.



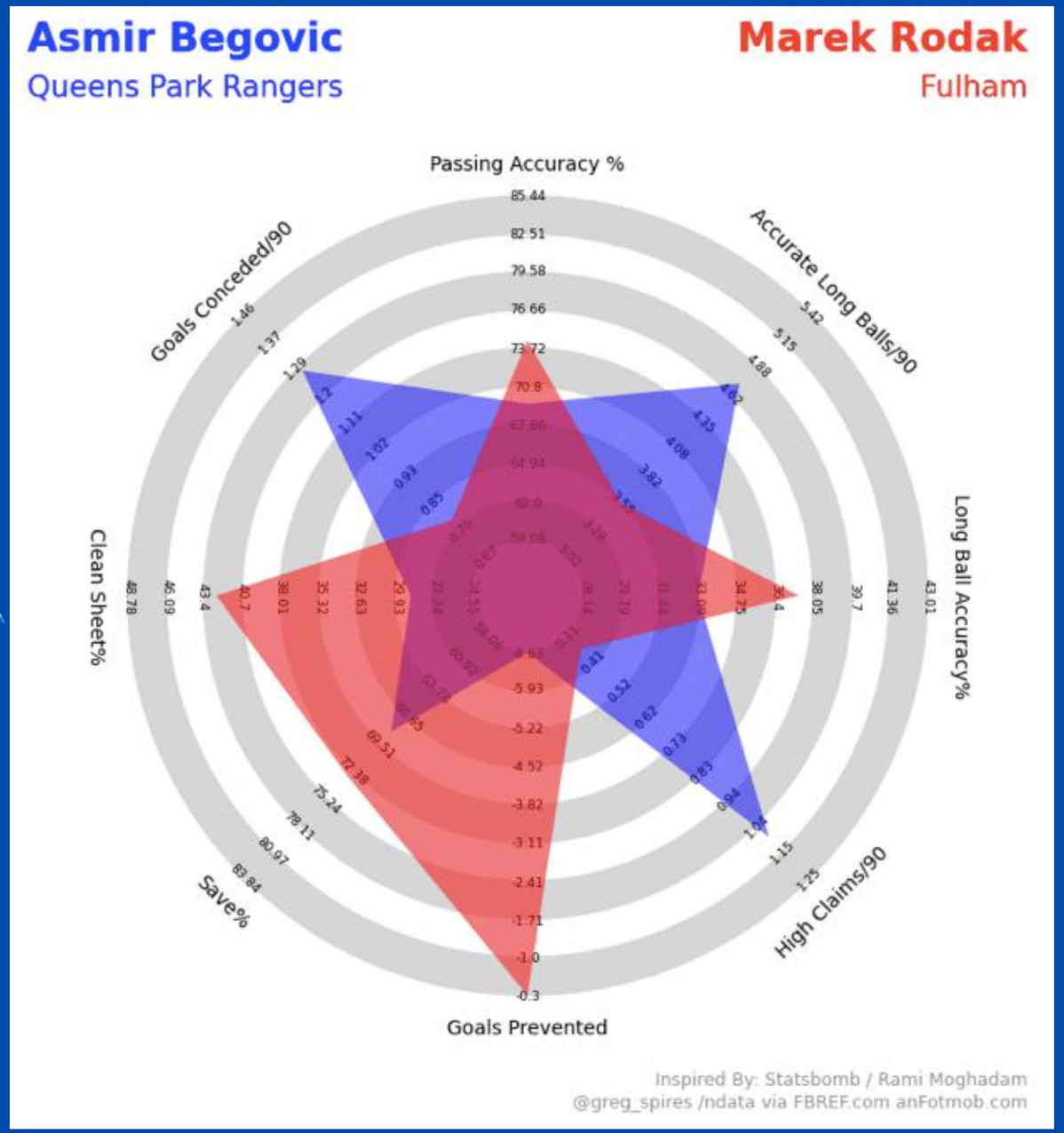
Playing Style:

Rodak constantly checks his surroundings to adjust his positioning and is a pro-active goalkeeper when it comes to moving his feet. He has great positioning and covers his near post really well. He's a quality diver and a powerful shot stopper who is commanding & a big presence in goal. Rodak has history of playing in possession-dominant teams and it shows in his accurate passing. Able to be a part of build-up phases but doesn't always show the desired composure on the ball.

MAREK RODAK



SHORTLIST – GOALKEEPERS – OPTION 1



Comparison to Begovic:

I used Rodak's 2021/22 Championship winning season stats due to lack of playing time recently. He had a great season, keeping clean sheets in 42.4% of games that year, making some excellent saves. Begovic's claiming of crosses is superior but Rodak is better at accurately distributing the ball as well as saving, compared to Begovic.

Justification for signing:

Strong player with Premier League pedigree and has won promotion from the Championship twice. Rodak is an excellent shot-stopper and competent with the ball at his feet, so won't have any need for major playing style adjustment. He's still young for a goalkeeper and the geography of the move would work for Rodak because he wouldn't have to move house if he moved to QPR. We could also offer the opportunity to be the no.1 which could be enticing for Rodak.

DANIEL GRIMSHAW

SHORTLIST – GOALKEEPERS – OPTION 2



Age - 26
Team - Blackpool
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2025

RECENT SEASON:

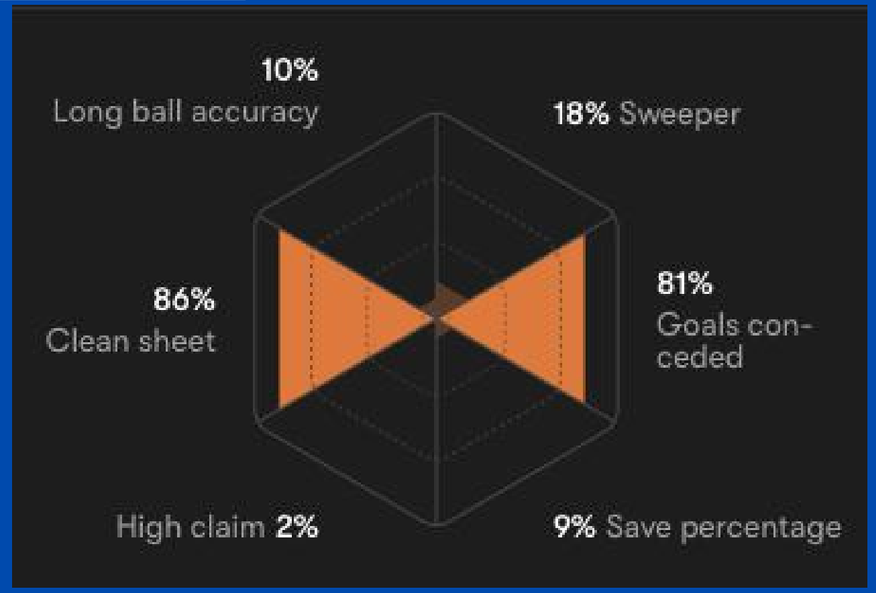
45 appearances, 18 clean sheets and just 47 goals conceded in League One. Captained a league game vs Oxford United in October.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

League Cup Winner as part of Manchester City's squad in 2019.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'0"
Weight - 77kg
Injury History - Average. Missed 3 games with thigh problem in 2020, missed 6 games in 2021 with calf injury & missed 3 games in 2022 with thumb injury.



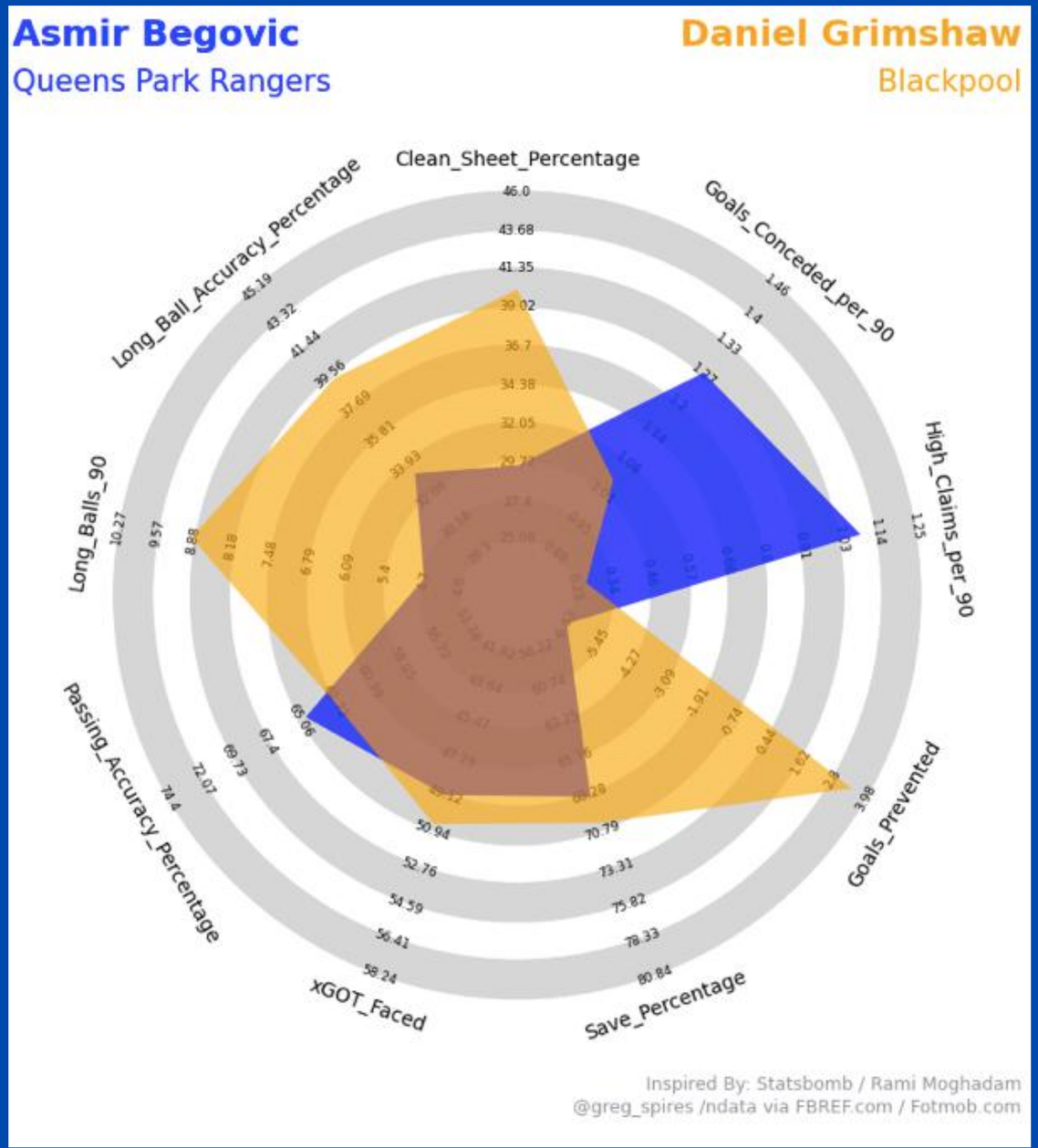
Playing Style:

Grimshaw gets down quickly to save low shots and cuts off his front post well by shifting his positioning quickly when the angle of the ball changes - he adapts well. He makes himself big in close quarters scenarios and often makes good saves thanks to his positioning and good feet. Grimshaw has proven himself to be a composed and capable goalkeeper at League One level. Distribution isn't noticeably strong.

DANIEL GRIMSHAW



SHORTLIST – GOALKEEPERS – OPTION 2



Comparison to Begovic:

Grimshaw is proven as one of the best GKs in League One. Grimshaw is a decent distributor of the ball, although he prefers longer passes. He had a great season when it comes to saves and preventing goals for Blackpool, statistically far superior to Begovic in some of those categories. Begovic has a longer reach and claims more high balls though.

Justification for signing:

He's a talented player who has a season of experience in the Championship alraedy. A very capable goalkeeper with good athleticism, command of his box and capability to play with the ball at his feet too. A player that will likely want to test himself at Championship level again, I'm sure he'd be open to taking the step up and moving to London may be attractive for him and his family. Very affordable transfer and wage demands too.

RON-THORBEN HOFFMANN

SHORTLIST - GOALKEEPERS - OPTION 3



Age - 25
Team - Eintracht Braunschweig
Current Contract - Expires 30th June 2024

RECENT SEASON:

7 clean sheets and 52 goals conceded in 33 appearances in the league this year.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

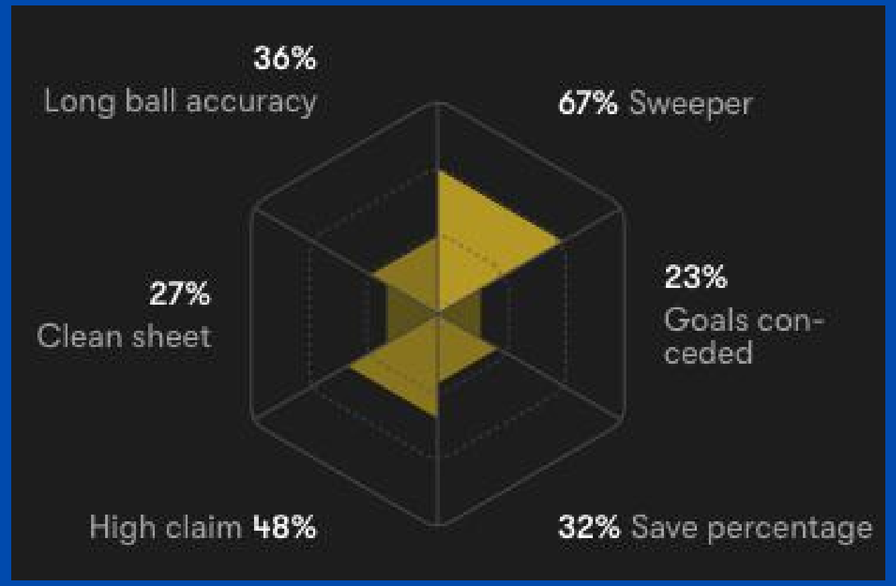
2 caps for Germany's under 18 team.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

1x Champions League, 4x Bundesliga titles, 2x DFB Pokal winner and many more as part of Bayern Munich's squad between 2018 and 2021.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'3"
Weight - 86kg
Injury History - Good. Missed 6 games in 2021 with knee injury & also missed 6 games with illness or COVID since 2018.



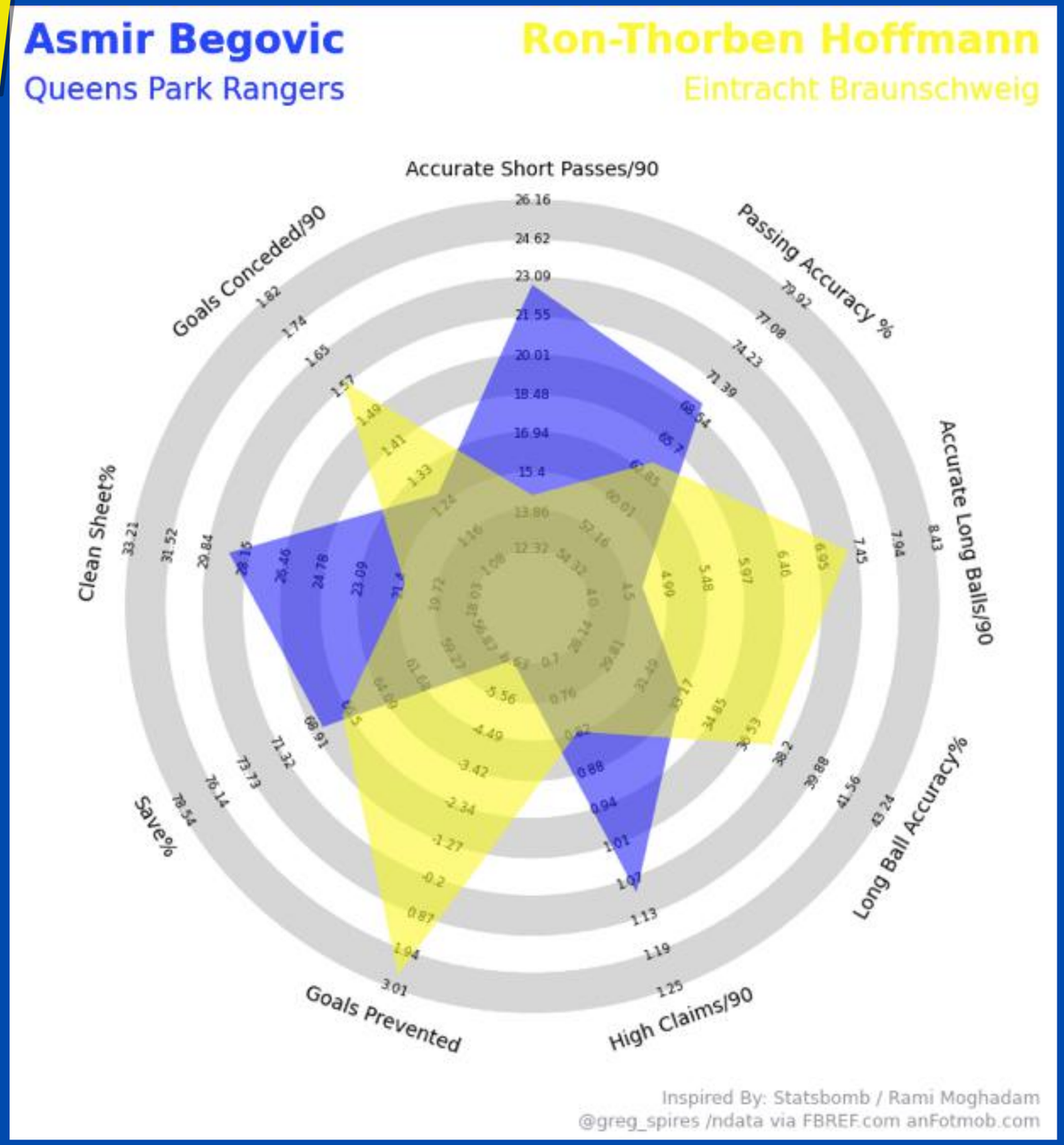
Playing Style:

Hoffmann is able to get down and stop well with his feet, reacting well to save in close range interactions. He also has a great wingspan with his height, able to claim crosses & make saves that others can't. Very athletic and excellent at making diving saves, he's an acrobatic saver which can sometimes overshadow his poor footwork. He has a big kick on him and looks competent to use his feet to distribute, although he isn't a standout in this area.

RON-THORBEN HOFFMANN

SHORTLIST - GOALKEEPERS - OPTION 3





Comparison to Begovic:

Hoffmann is inferior to Begovic statistically when it comes to passing short but Hoffmann was significantly better at distributing longer. Hoffmann's ability to make saves was similar to Begovic but he had a much better 'Goals Prevented' statistic, showing that he was a great contributor for his team.

Justification for signing:

Hoffmann is a tall, strong goalkeeper that has a great ability to react quickly and save well down low. A very agile and athletic goalkeeper who has done well for a struggling side. He has already played in England before, with a season at League One Sunderland under his belt. He is available on a free transfer this window, so would suit QPR's financial situation & is a capable no.1 at Championship level.

RIGHT-BACKS

Option 1: Best option
Option 2: A Realistic option
Option 3: One for the future

Honourable Mentions:

- Julian Lelieveld
- Jadel Katongo



LEWIS MILLER

SHORTLIST - RIGHT-BACKS - OPTION 1



Age - 23
Team - Hibernian
Current Contract -
Expires 31st May 2025

RECENT SEASON:

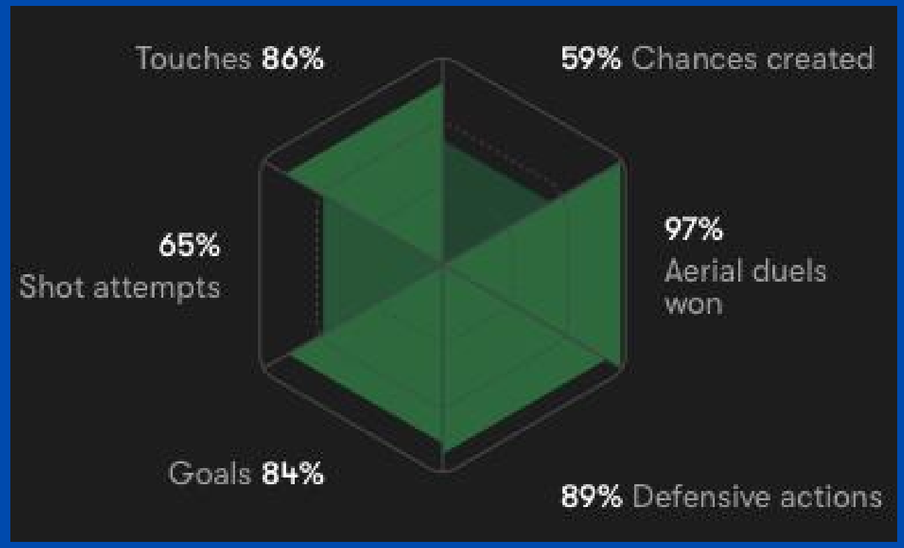
21 league appearances with 2 goals and 1 assist, as well as contributing to 6 clean sheets.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Has 4 caps for Australia after debutising in October 2023.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'1"
Weight - 86kg
Injury History - Good. Just a Hamstring injury in 22 where he missed 13 games.



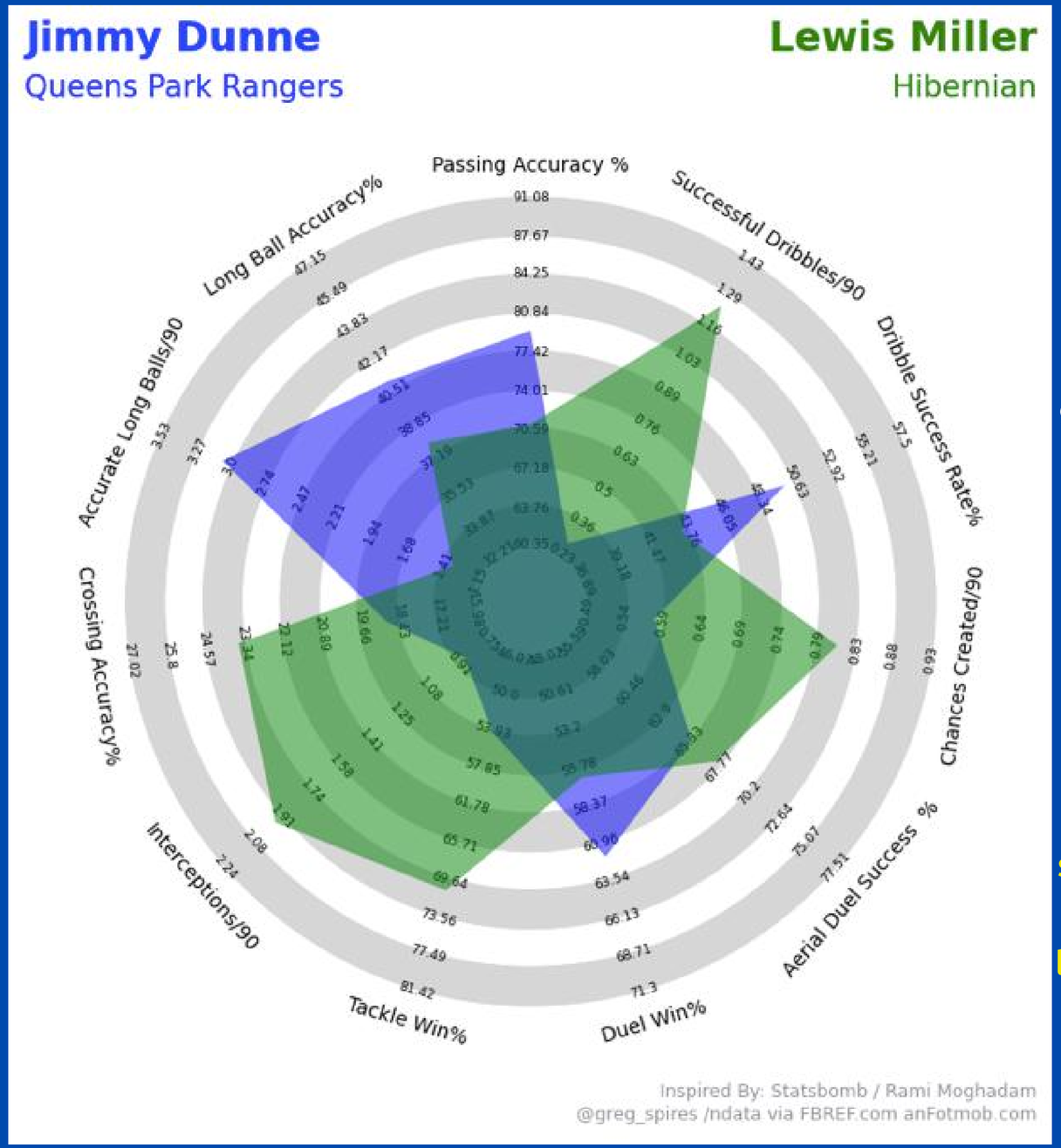
Playing Style:

Miller has the capability to track his runners fairly well and is constantly scanning to check his positioning relative to teammates & the goal. He's a decent crosser & comfortable taking players on 1v1. His defensive positioning is strong and he enjoys the aerial aspect of defending, using his build and height to challenge often & tussle for the ball. Not the most composed looking dribbler but is often effective at getting into the final third and holding the touchline. He can provide a combination of attacking threat and defensive solidity, breaking up play frequently.

LEWIS MILLER



SHORTLIST – RIGHT-BACKS – OPTION 1



Comparison to Dunne:

Miller is a better dribbler, crosser and general creator from the right flank than Dunne. Also, Miller has superior tackling, interceptions and aerial duel winning statistics compared to Dunne - all of which we would consider to be Dunne's strengths. Dunne has a better ability to distribute with good passing at a variety of ranges. Miller is a capable ball-carrier & keeps width more than Dunne too.

Justification for signing:

Miller is a good defender, with impressive physical attributes similar to Jimmy Dunne. A strong player that would slot in to the Championship without looking out of place. He is entering the last year of his contract this summer so may be relatively cheap. A chance to play in England & for a club in London would likely be enticing for him. A young player at just 23, he could be a contributor in the short and medium term for the club.

ETHAN GALBRAITH

SHORTLIST - RIGHT-BACKS - OPTION 2



Age - 22
Team - Leyton Orient
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2025

RECENT SEASON:

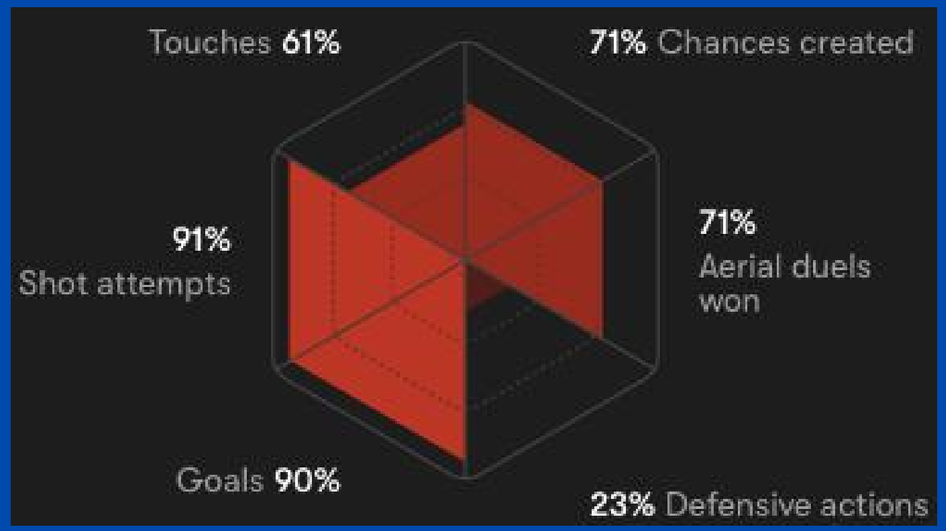
39 appearances in League One, scoring 4 goals and registering 2 assists. Received 9 yellow cards & 2 red cards, as well as playing a part in 11 clean sheets.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Has 2 caps for Northern Ireland u21s.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'8"
Weight - 67kg
Injury History - Excellent. No serious injuries registered.



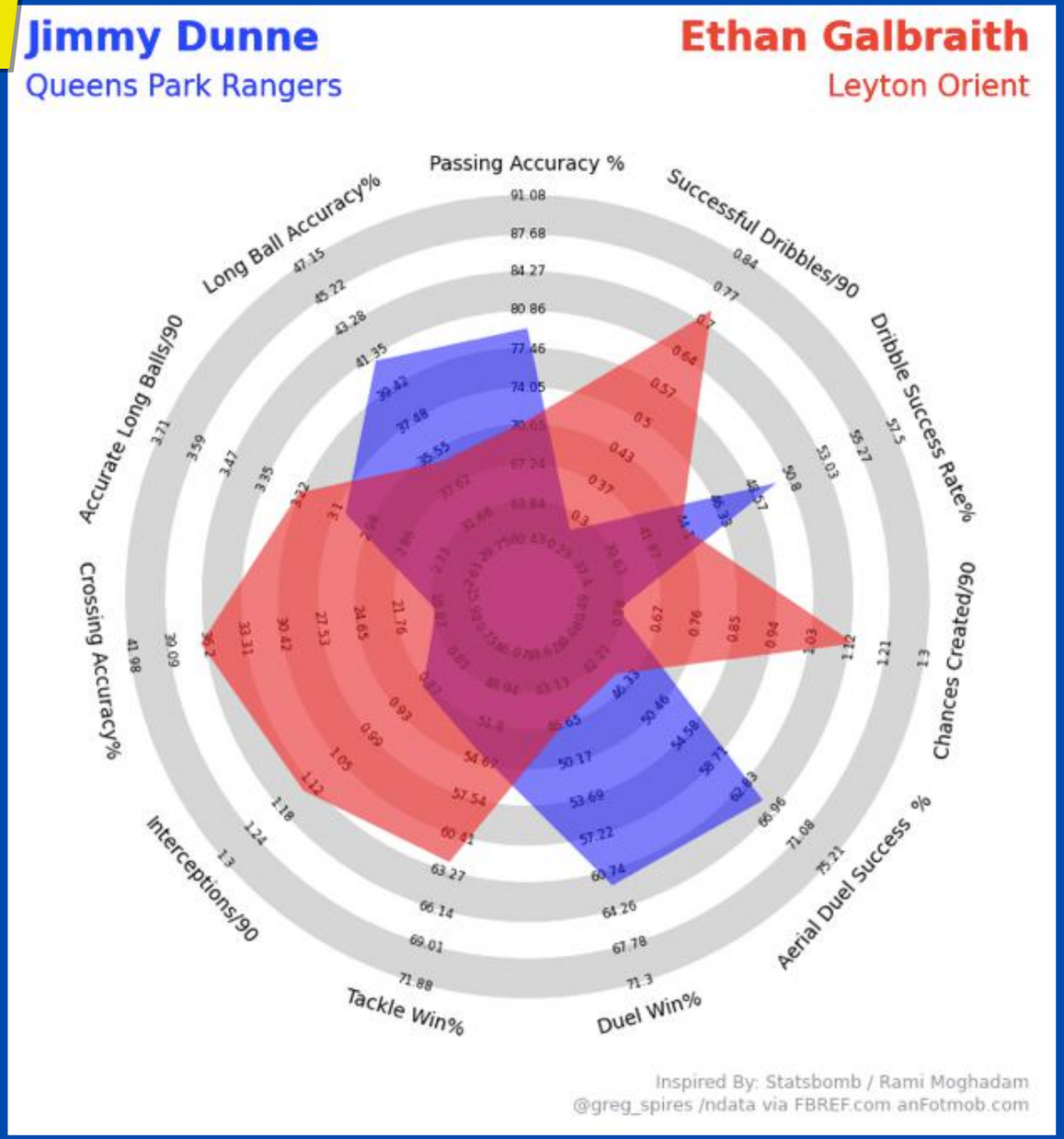
Playing Style:

Galbraith has a history of playing in central midfield and this explains how he has developed good on-ball skills (good control, ball-carrying, vision & ability to anticipate). He has the capability to invert, which he did in some games for Leyton Orient last season. He reads the game well with good anticipation and is a competent ball carrier whom is often around the edge of the opposition's box when the team attacks. He would suit a more attacking RB role, with chances to invert & push up which QPR may desire to create more dynamism relative to Dunne and Cannon.

ETHAN GALBRAITH

SHORTLIST - RIGHT-BACKS - OPTION 2





Comparison to Dunne:

Dunne is far better at physical challenges and duels, as well as passing long. Galbraith is superior at crossing, dribbling and being able to intercept the ball with good anticipation & spatial awareness. Two very different types of players, but Galbraith is technically strong in a number of areas & more of an attacking threat relative to Dunne.

Justification for signing:

Galbraith is an excellent player, very well rounded and can invert into midfield - which is something that Cifuentes may desire for tactical flexibility. Has some room to grow and improve but could be a realistic signing. He would be relatively easy to acquire due to QPR offering him a chance to play at a higher level and he is entering the final year of his contract in the summer.

LIAM BENNETT

SHORTLIST - RIGHT-BACKS - OPTION 3



Age - 22
Team - Cambridge United
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2025

RECENT SEASON:

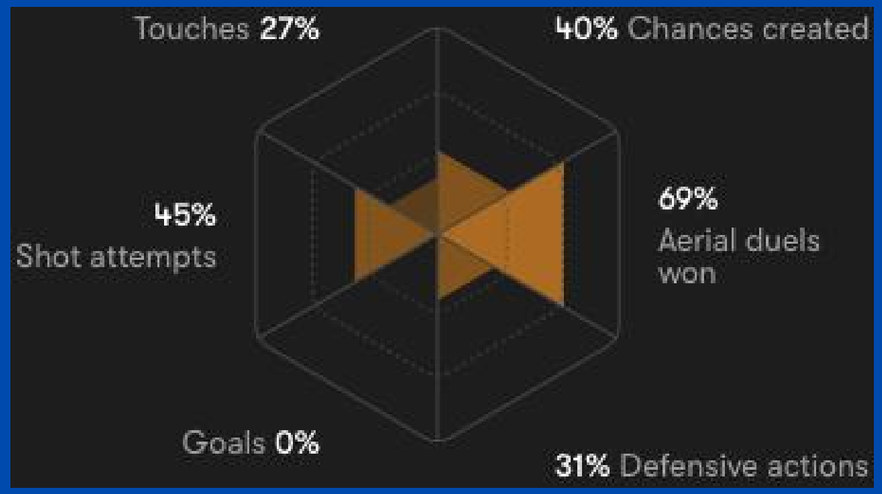
46 appearances in League One, registering 2 assists and receiving 3 yellow cards. He played a part in keeping 14 clean sheets this year.

CAREER STATS:

114 appearances, 1 goal, 4 assists, 9 yellow cards. Most appearances in League One.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'7"
Weight - 70kg
Injury History - Excellent. No serious injuries registered.



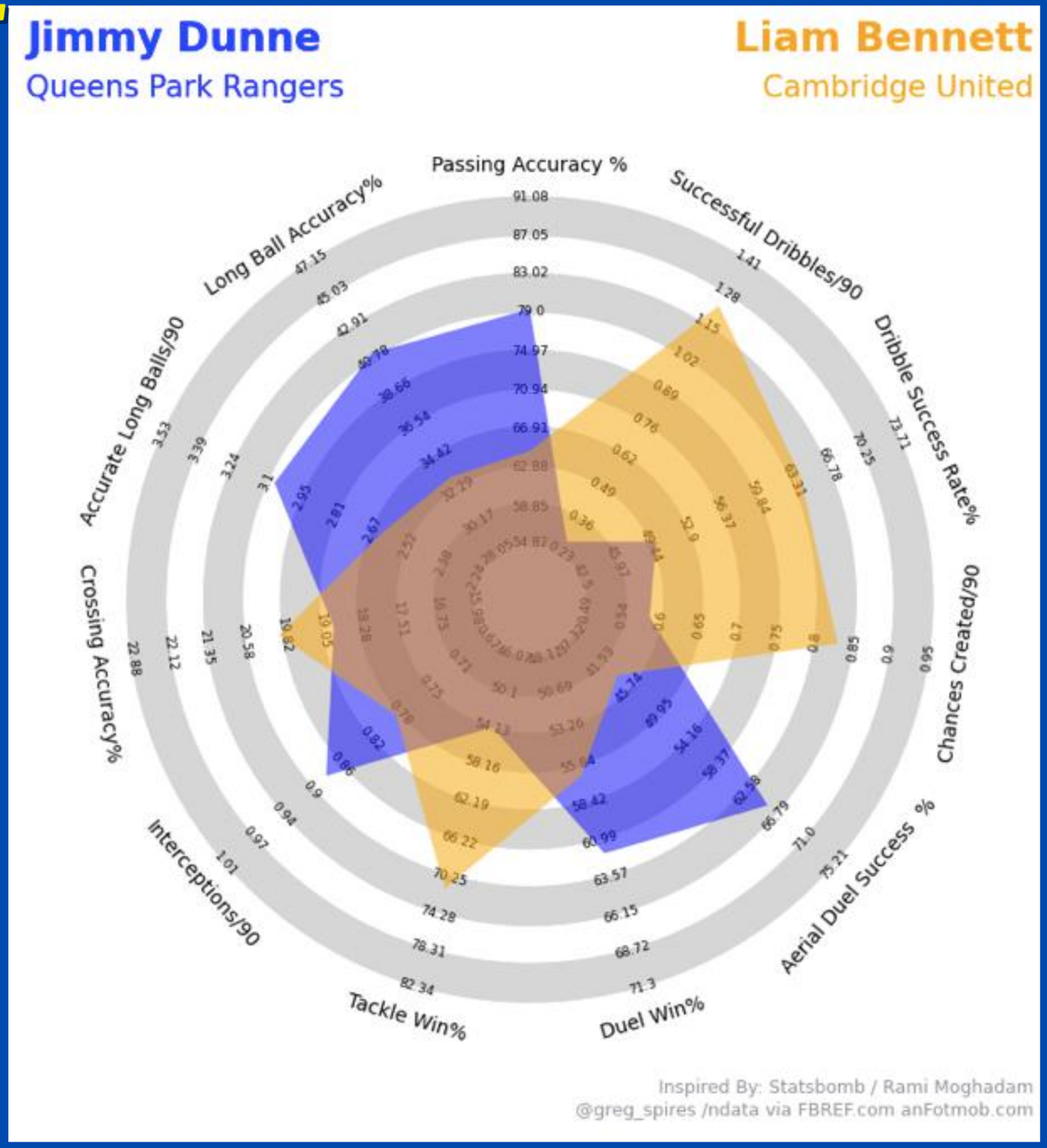
Playing Style:

Bennett is a strong ball carrier and aggressively targets space when going forward with the ball. He uses link up play and quality passing to get himself or a teammate in-behind defenders, in to the final third, to cross into the box. He has sharp reactions and plays with a noticeable intensity in a sometimes laboured Cambridge team. Bennett has good delivery on his crosses that are well placed and hit from a deeper position quite often. A capable full-back with good energy & stamina, who needs a little bit of technical refining & improved tactical understanding.

LIAM BENNETT



SHORTLIST - RIGHT-BACKS - OPTION 3



Comparison to Dunne:

Bennett is an excellent dribbler and a strong crosser, hence his relatively high numbers for chances created. Dunne is a stronger, more physical defender which is emphasised by his duel success rate, as well as being a strong distributor for longer passing. Bennett is a capable defender though with a high tackle success rate percentage.

Justification for signing:

A promising young defender, Bennett has been playing well in League One. A tenacious player that works hard between both boxes, Bennett shows the right attitude & mindset that QPR desire. He could be a cheap acquisition as he enters the final year of his contract and would provide good competition for places at the RB spot. Has a great base level of technique and good athleticism which would bring a different type of full-back profile to QPR. One for the longer-term rather than to make an immediate impact.

DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDERS

Option 1: Best option
Option 2: A Realistic option
Option 3: Outside Shout

Honourable Mentions:

- Jordan Brown
- Miguel Atienza



LOREINTZ ROSIER

SHORTLIST - DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER - OPTION 1



Age - 25
Team - Fortuna Sittard
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2025

RECENT SEASON:

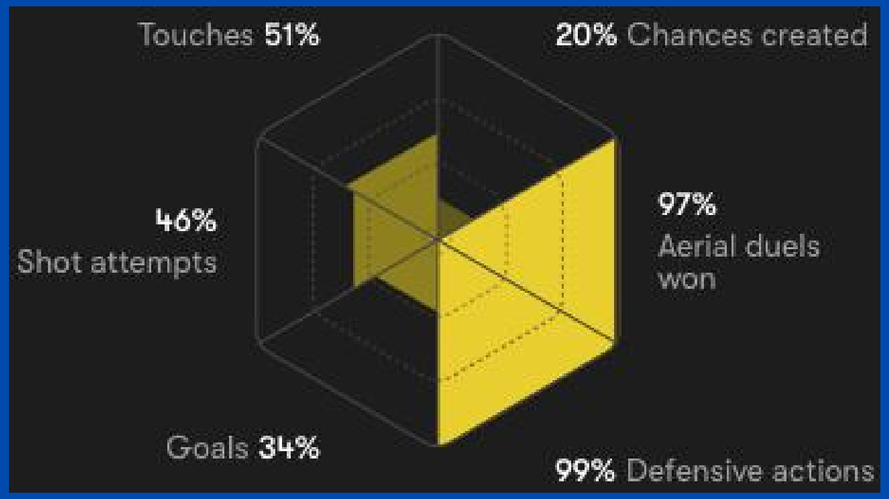
31 appearances in all competitions with 1 goal and 5 yellow cards across the season.

CAREER STATS:

145 appearances, 10 goals, 2 assists and received 20 yellow cards & 1 red card. Most appearances in Liga Portugal.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'3"
Weight - 82kg
Injury History - Average. He missed 5 games over 2 periods with an 'unknown' injury this season.



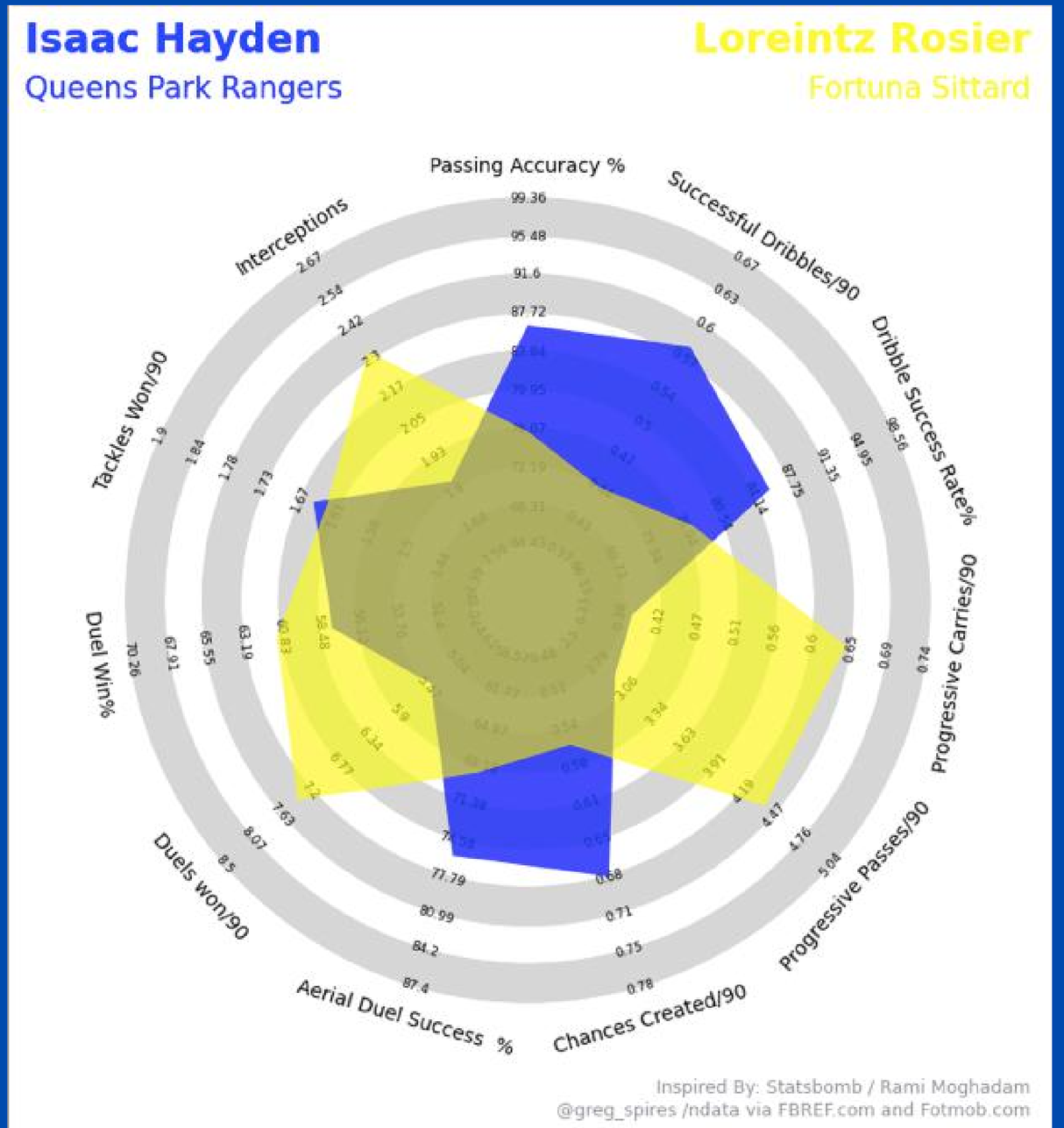
Playing Style:

Rosier is an athletic and physically strong defensive midfielder that wins a high number of duels in the air and on the ground too. His ability to anticipate and intercept are at a high level and he has good zonal and spatial awareness of his teammates and the opponent too. Rosier has the technical ability to carry the ball or pass his way out of danger, with competent use of both feet to break into space. He has a great combination of physical and technical traits that make him an effective defensive midfielder.

LOREINTZ ROSIER



SHORTLIST - DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER - OPTION 1



Comparison to Hayden:

As you can see, Rosier is capable of progressing the ball with forward passes or with ball-carrying. Rosier is also slightly better at winning duels compared to Hayden - making me confident that he's a great replacement. Rosier has played as a lone DM before so is capable of doing so. An excellent player that has sound defensive capabilities just like Isaac Hayden.

Justification for signing:

Rosier's athleticism is impressive and he is a dominant duel winner that would be able to fill the role of a lone DM well. He's a competent passer and aerial threat, which would make him an asset in many facets of QPR's dynamic midfield. Would be available relatively cheap due entering the final year of his contract & he still has room to grow and develop aged just 25.

HECTOR KYPRIANOU

SHORTLIST – DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER – OPTION 2



Age - 22
Team - Peterborough
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2025

RECENT SEASON:

54 total appearances at club level this season, with 8 goals and 1 assist as well as 11 yellow cards.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

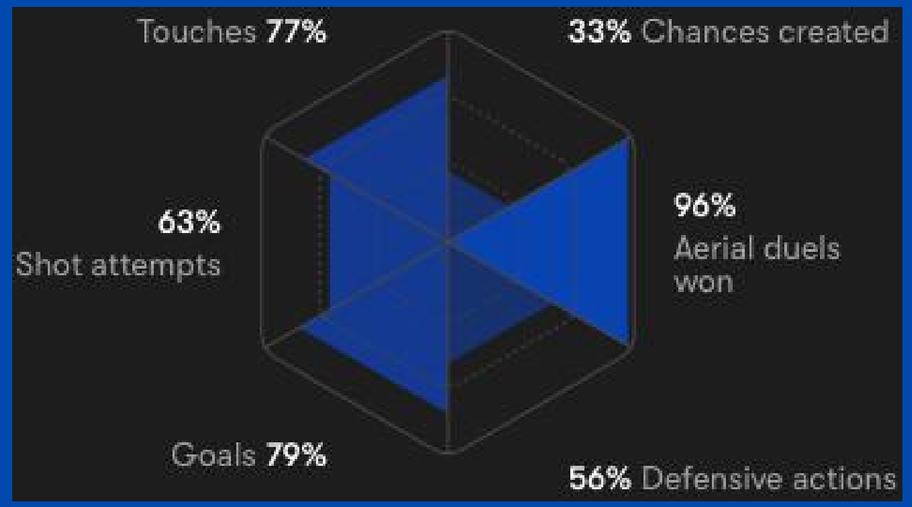
Football League Trophy winner in 2023/24 with Peterborough.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Made his debut in October 2023 and has 6 appearances for Cyprus.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'2"
Weight - 82kg
Injury History - Excellent. No significant injuries registered.



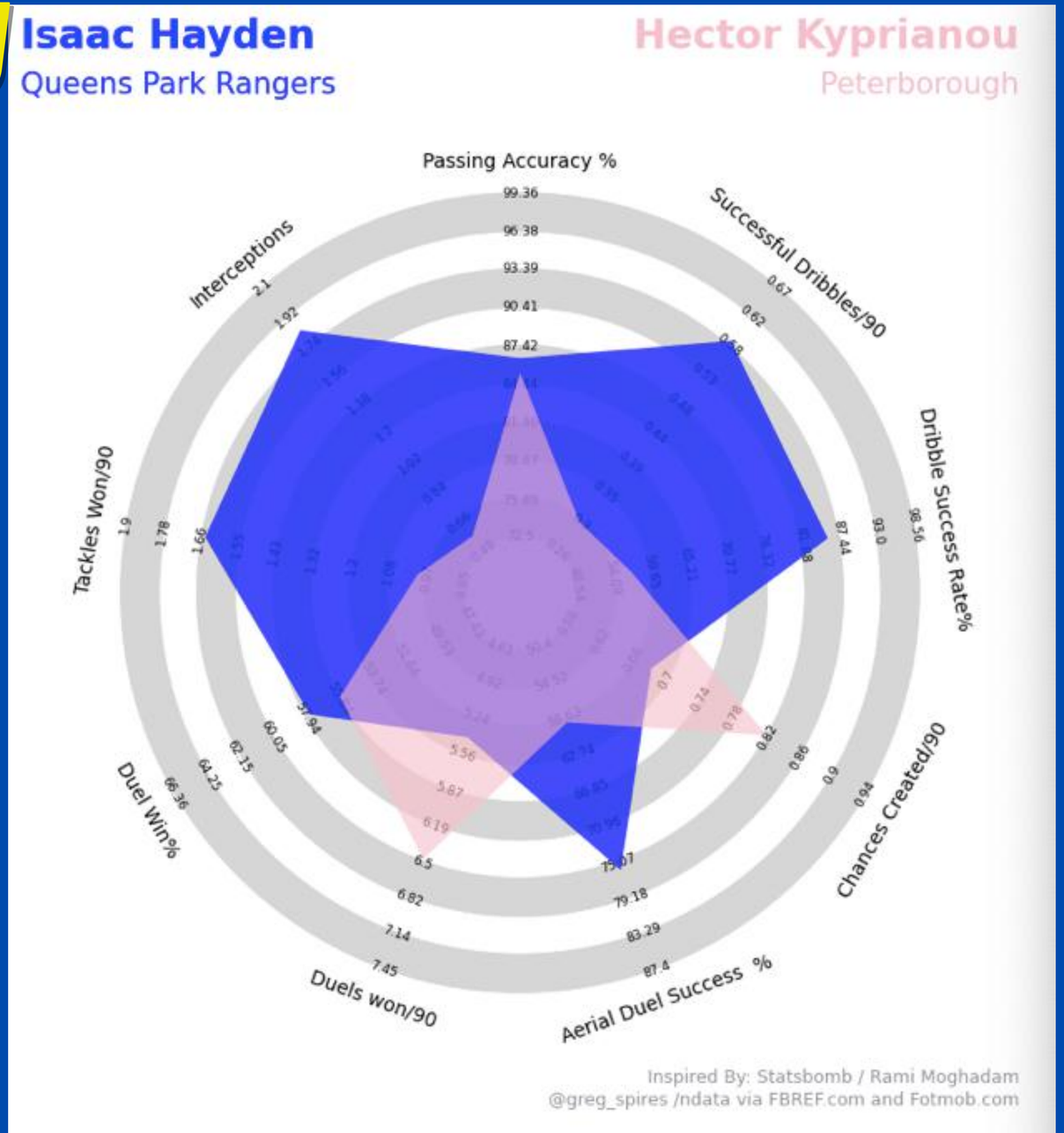
Playing Style:

Kyprianou is a tall & athletic, midfielder that is good in the air and uses his positional intelligence & anticipation to position himself well defensively. He has intelligent movement and is an active creator from deep, with a quality first touch and excellent range of passing to unlock defences & play through the lines. Is very effective at beating the press and launching attacks from deeper positions. He is highly intelligent at using his body to create space or draw in defenders. Able to play as a 6 or an 8 in a more box-to-box role too.

HECTOR KYPRIANOU



SHORTLIST – DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER – OPTION 2



Comparison to Hayden:

Kyprianou has great tools to be creative & can be effectively press-resistant at times. He had a strong season for winning duels and creating chances, but Hayden is superior in a number of defensive areas, such as intercepting and tackling. Hayden plays in a more defensive-minded role than Kyprianou and the stats show this.

Justification for signing:

Kyprianou is best placed to play in a double-pivot & create from deep and I think, if paired alongside Sam Field in this role, he could thrive at QPR. He's got a great combination of defensive and technical skills, as well as size & stamina. Would likely cost upwards of £1m but would be a worthwhile investment in a talented 22 year old with a high floor.

PELLE MATTSSON

SHORTLIST - DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER - OPTION 3



Age - 22
Team - Silkeborg
Current Contract - Expires 31st Dec 2026

RECENT SEASON:

34 total appearances, with 3 goals and 1 assist this season & was involved in 9 clean sheets.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

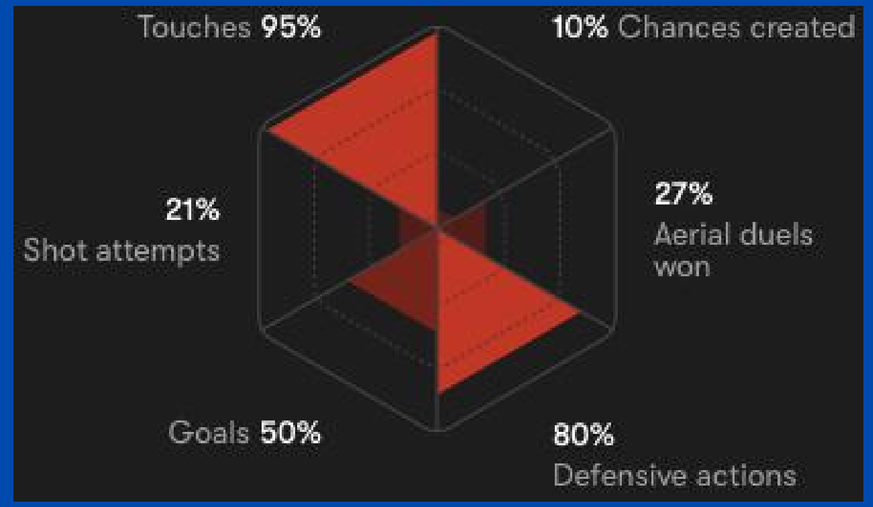
Danish 2nd Division winner in 2019 & 2023/24 Danish Cup Winner with Silkeborg.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Made 3 appearances for Denmark u19s.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'0"
Weight - 75kg
Injury History - Good. Has missed just 5 games between 2019 and 2020 with 2 separate unspecified injuries.



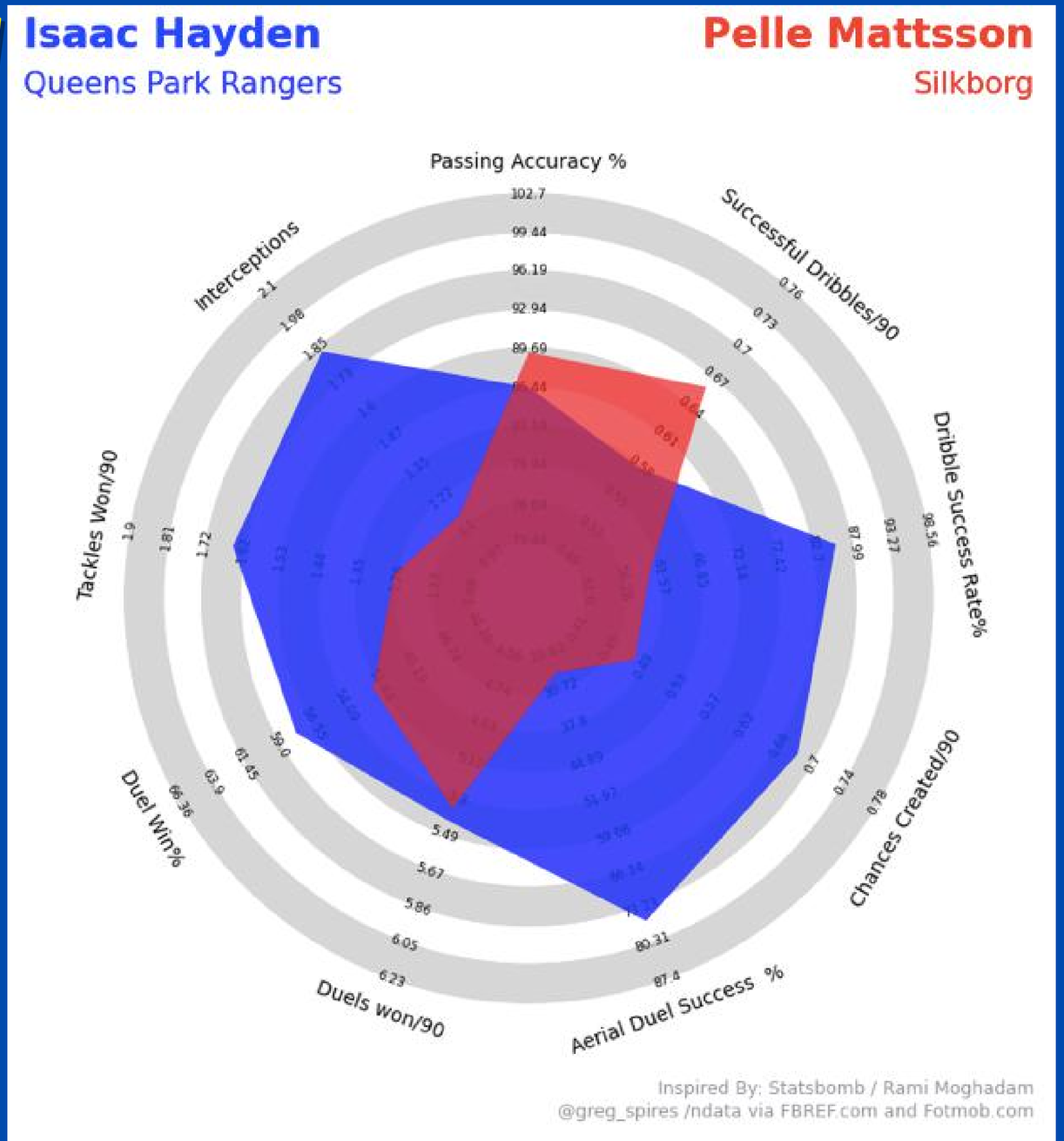
Playing Style:

Mattsson is a progressive passer who does all the basics well, with a high floor technically. He is great at using his body to protect the ball and tussle for it back when required. Mattsson is fantastic at making forward runs & bursting into space in other areas of midfield, sometimes occupying the half-spaces on the left hand side. He has good vision and movement in the opposition's half - making him a flexible, left-footed midfield option. A well-rounded player that is capable of maintaining tempo of play in midfield.

PELLE MATTSSON

SHORTLIST – DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER – OPTION 3





Comparison to Hayden:

Mattsson is a constant presence in midfield, showing great tenacity & work rate. His statistics are inferior to Hayden's in a large number of areas, despite Mattsson proving to be a more accurate passer & more successful dribbler. Hayden is much more physically dominant than Mattsson however.

Justification for signing:

More of a deep lying playmaker than a disruptor, he can provide good creativity from deep. Mattsson would be a young addition to a midfield unit that is ageing and could be a Colback successor. I'd imagine that he would be available for relatively cheap due to the league position of Silkeborg. Long contract makes it a bit tougher to negotiate the fee down but I think he could be worth a gamble.

CENTRAL MIDFIELDERS

Option 1: Best option
Option 2: A Realistic option
Option 3: Outside shout

Honourable Mentions:

- Michael Cuisance
- Marc Leonard



ROBIN HEUSSER

SHORTLIST - CENTRAL MIDFIELDER - OPTION 1



Age - 25
Team - SV Wehen Wiesbaden
Current Contract - Expires 30th June 2024

RECENT SEASON:

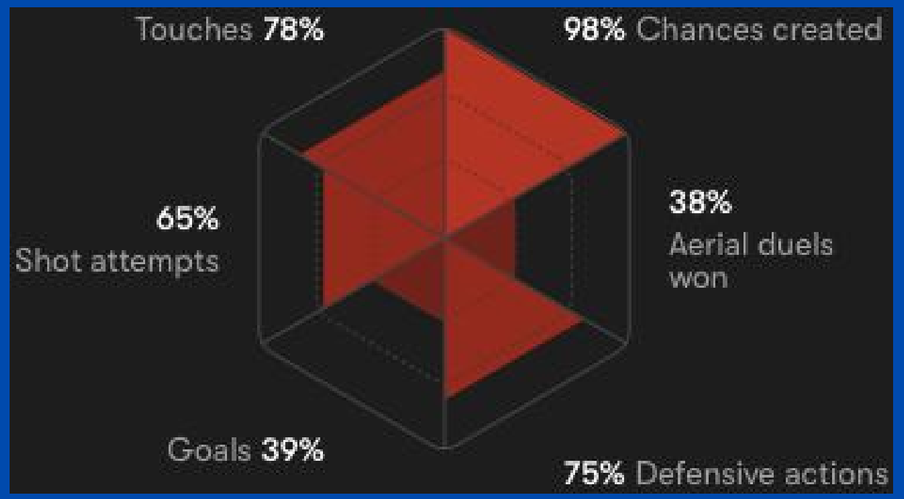
37 total appearances with 2 goals and 9 assists as well as 3 yellow cards this year.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

Wurttemburg Trophy winner in 2019/20 and 2020/21 with SSV Ulm 1864.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'6"
Weight - 73kg
Injury History - Average.
Missed 4 games with an ankle ligament tear in 2022 & 6 games with a shoulder injury in 2023.



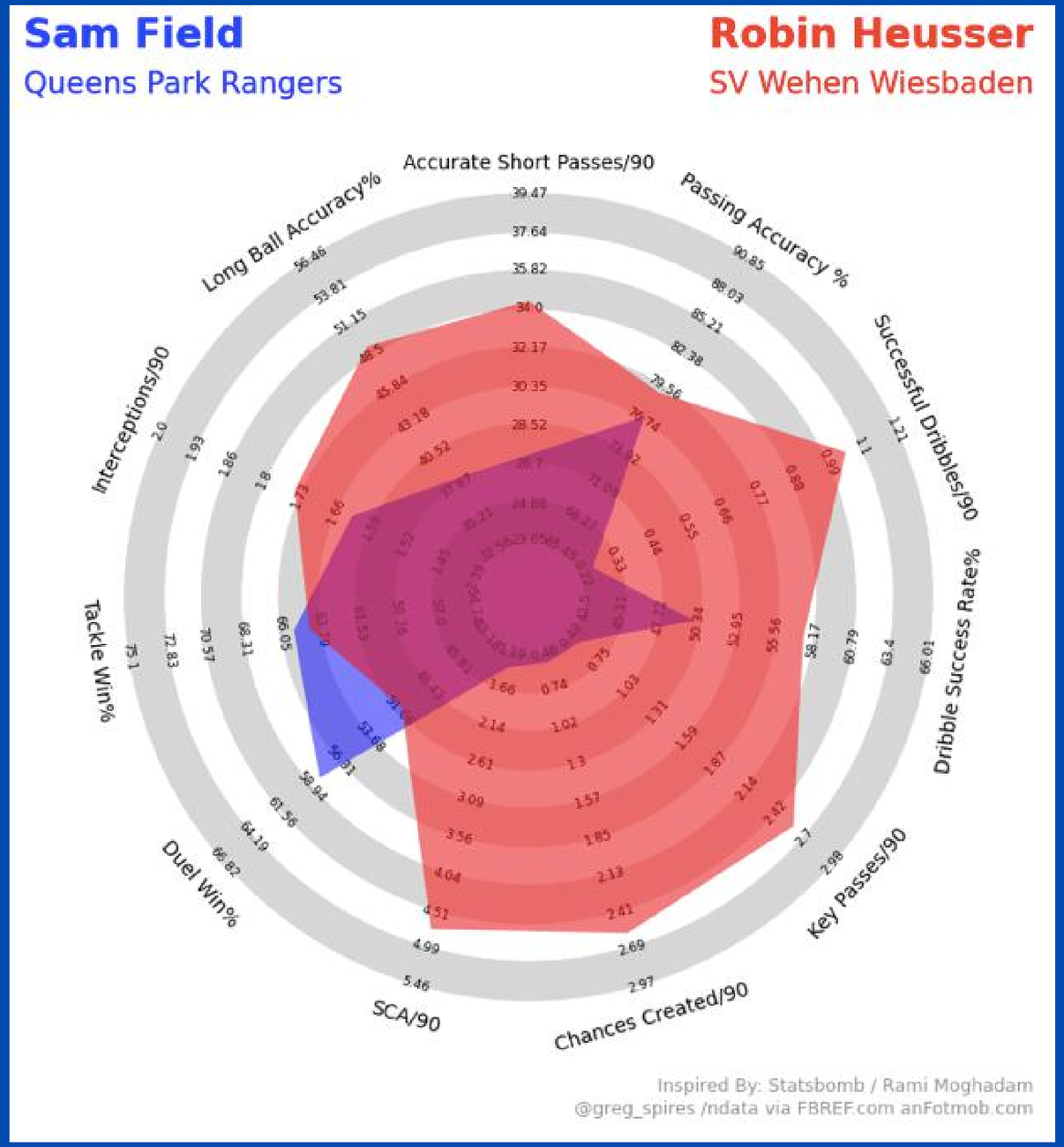
Playing Style:

Heußer often drops deeper to collect the ball & has the quality to take it on the half-turn and then play through the press. Uses both feet really well and can get out of tight spaces with good footwork & close control. Shows impressive hustle and work rate in both directions and in transitions. An excellent progressive passer, set-piece taker and ball striker - Heußer is a quality technical player. He's also a game manager in the middle of the park, often communicating with teammates to orchestrate attacks and defensive transitions. Played most of the season in a midfield pairing in front of a back 3 & he has the ability to play as a 6 or an 8 in my opinion.

ROBIN HEUSSER



SHORTLIST - CENTRAL MIDFIELDER - OPTION 1



Comparison to Field:

Heußer is a well-rounded, technical player that has far better stats than Field - showing him to be a great no.8. He has better ball-carrying ability, chance creating and passing accuracy relative to Field. However, Field is better in physical contests and at winning duels but Heusser is still quality at winning the ball back and doing defensive work too.

Justification for signing:

Heußer is an all-action midfielder, who has often played in a midfield pairing and covered all areas of the pitch. Heußer is strong on his right-foot and capable in all phases of play - making him highly attractive. Available on a free transfer this summer due to his contract expiring, he could be a great compliment to Field in midfield & may want a new challenge in English football.

LUCA CONNELL

SHORTLIST - CENTRAL MIDFIELDER - OPTION 2



Age - 23
Team - Barnsley
Current Contract - Expires 30th June 2027

RECENT SEASON:

24 appearances in League One, contributing 1 goal and 1 assist & involved in keeping 2 clean sheets.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

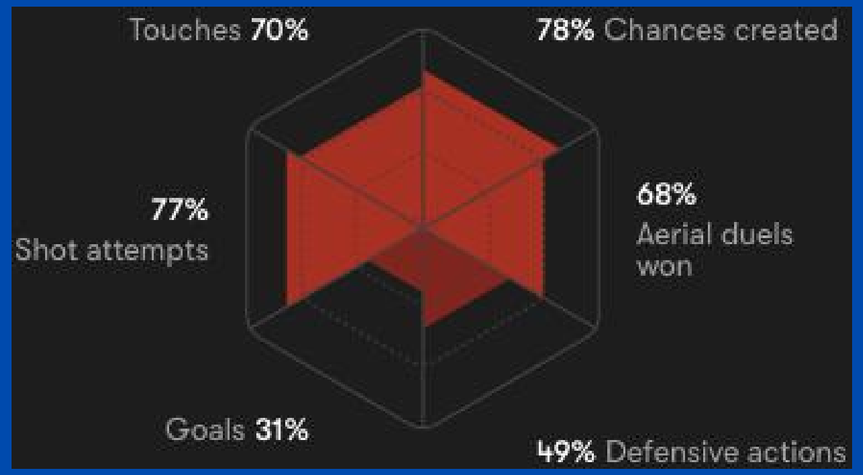
Scottish 4th Divsion Champion with Queen's Park FC in 2020/21.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Has 3 caps for Republic of Ireland's under 23s.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'10"
Weight - 75kg
Injury History - Excellent. Missed just 1 game with hamstring injury in 2019.



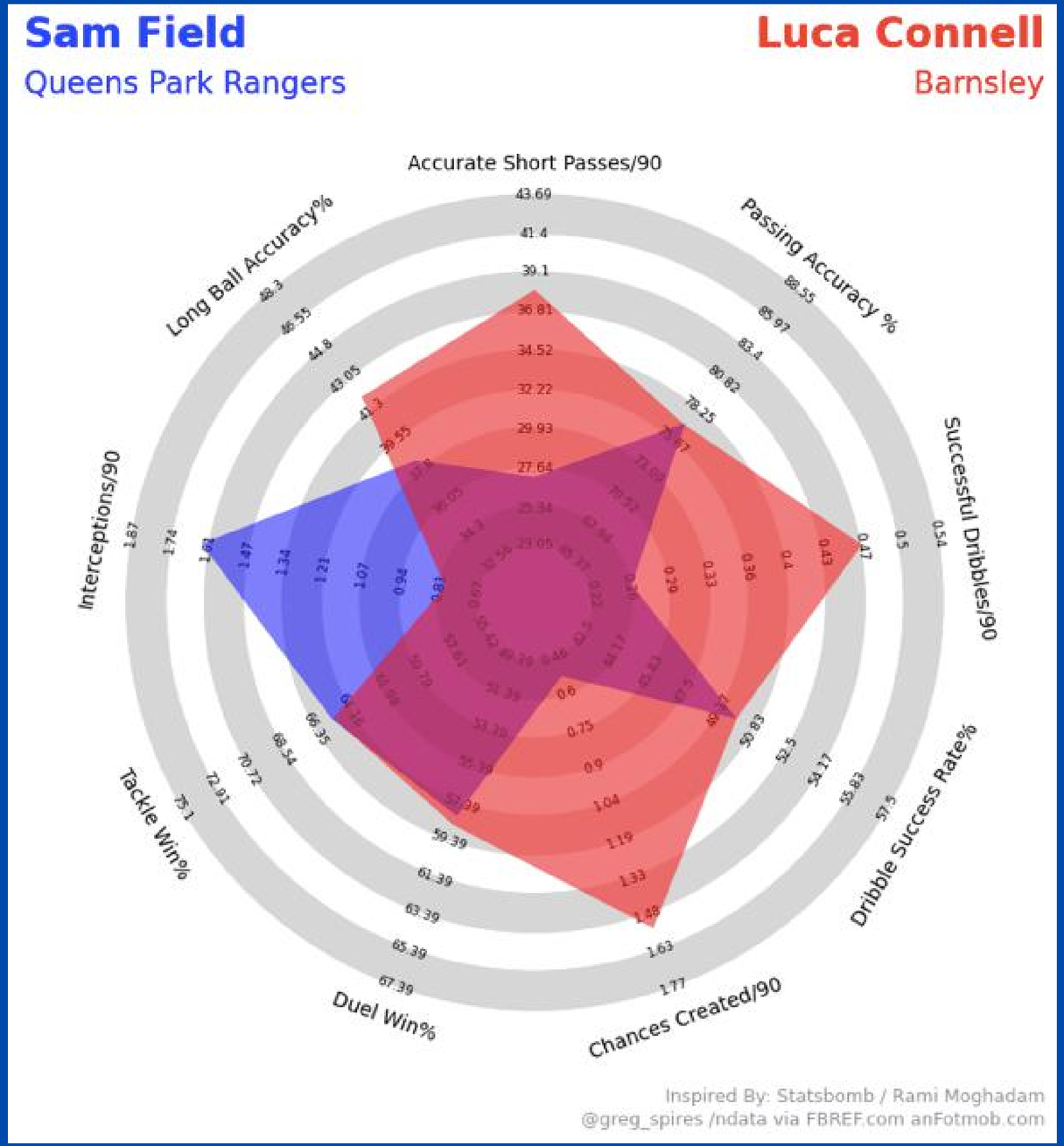
Playing Style:

Connell has excellent technique and is strongly left-footed. He is capable of delivering consistently good crosses & takes corners for Barnsley too. He strikes the ball cleanly and plays some excellently weighted passes to advancing teammates' feet to break through the lines. Has good energy and work rate to his game, with the capability to play a variety of central midfield roles which makes him highly attractive. Character is desirable, managing games through constant communication and even captaining on one occasion this season.

LUCA CONNELL



SHORTLIST - CENTRAL MIDFIELDER - OPTION 2



Comparison to Field:

Connell is a superior ball-carrier and is a creative threat at a more consistent rate than Field - albeit they are tasked with different roles for their teams. Field is a better defensive disruptor and intercepts & tackles more often than Connell, despite them having similar success rates. Connell can play as a 6, 8 or 10 which is a wider range of roles than Field but I believe he'd be a good complement in skillset to Field.

Justification for signing:

Connell has a fantastic left-foot and it would be smart business to sign him as a successor for Jack Colback on the left-hand side of a midfield pair. Just 23 and experienced in England & Scotland, he could be keen to step up to the Championship & test himself. Strong technique and impressive character for a young player, he would be worth targeting to fill out our squad with more quality & depth.

STEFAN TEITUR THÓRDARSON

SHORTLIST - CENTRAL MIDFIELDER - OPTION 3



Age - 25
Team - Silkeborg
Current Contract -
Expires 31st Dec 2024

RECENT SEASON:

36 total appearances with 11 goals and 2 assists in all domestic competitions this year.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

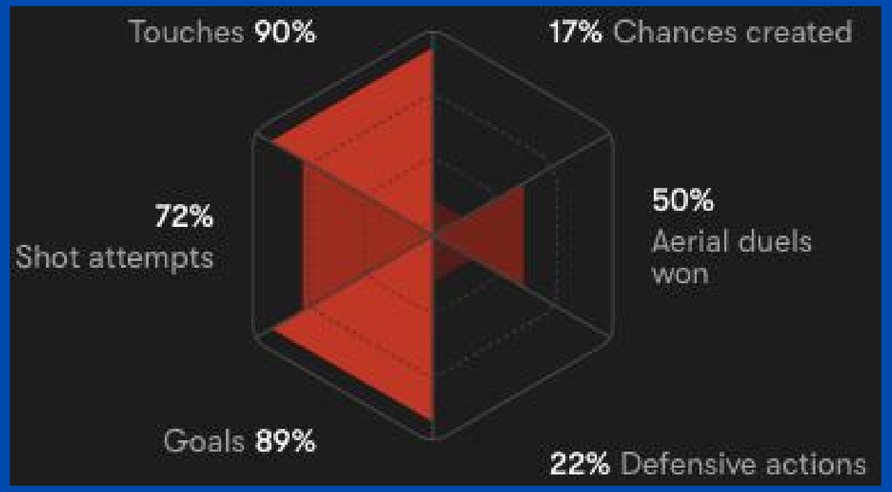
Danish Cup Winner in 2023/24 with Silkeborg.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Has 19 caps and 1 goal for Iceland's national team.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'2"
Weight - 76kg
Injury History - Excellent. Only missed 6 games with COVID in October 2019.



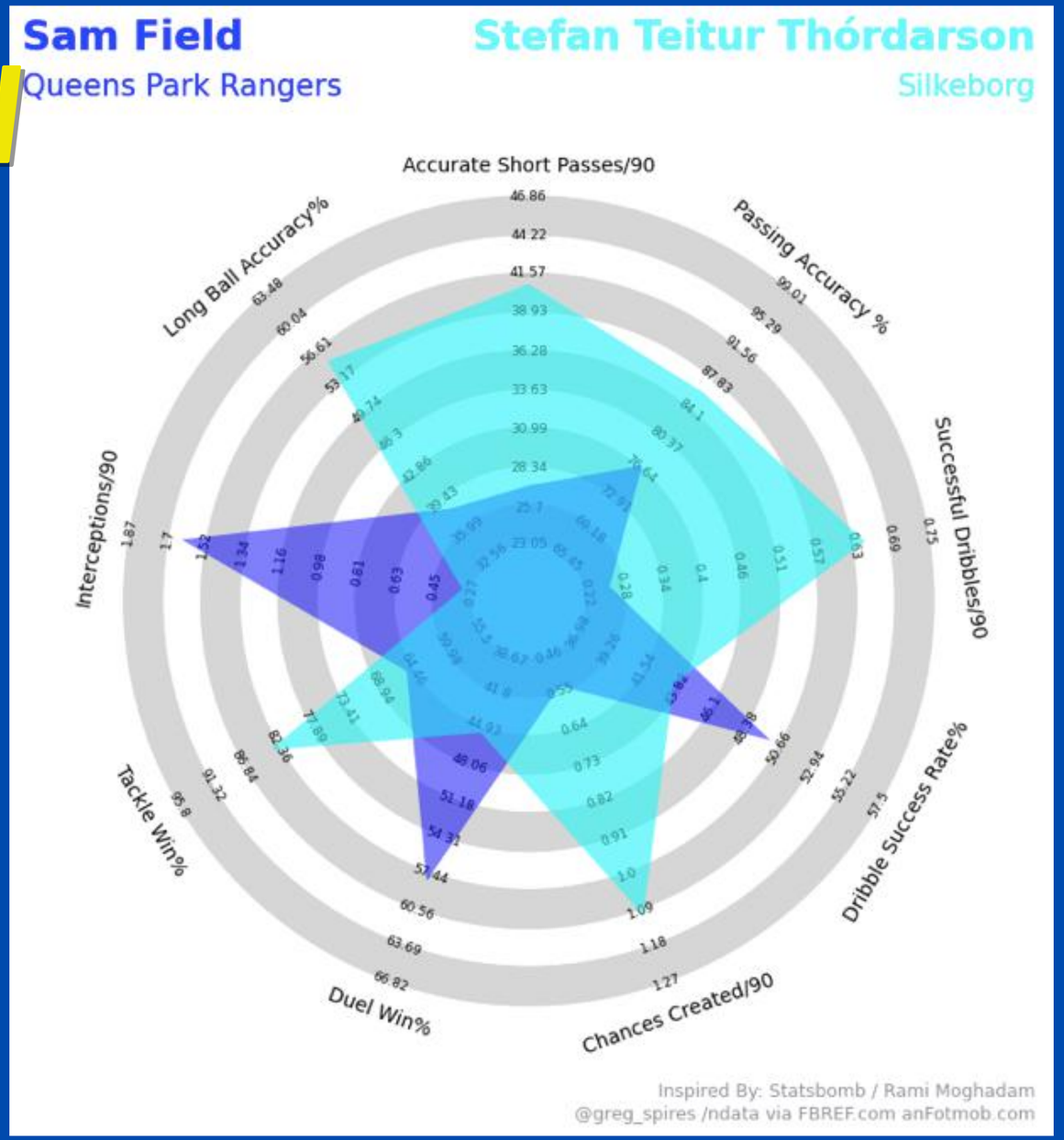
Playing Style:

Thórdarson can strike it well from distance, with good technique when shooting to get power on his shots. He has a good range of passing & impressive vision to find teammates at a variety of angles & anticipate their runs. An excellent ball carrier and intelligent forward runner, he's extremely capable of linking up play in a variety of scenarios, showing quality in his close control and first touch too. His technical qualities hide some of his physical weaknesses and he is confident to attempt to take defenders on, with mixed success. Able to play as an 8, 10 or on the left - he's a versatile option.

STEFAN TEITUR THÓRDARSON



SHORTLIST - CENTRAL MIDFIELDER - OPTION 3



Comparison to Field:

Thórdarson is a brilliant passer, with greater accuracy than Field. Field is a more defensive minded CM so has superior interception & duel winning stats but Thordarson is better at creating chances, ball-carrying etc. Thordarson is an 8 or 10 so this was to be expected & he's had a good statistical season for Silkeborg.

Justification for signing:

Thórdarson is a technically strong footballer who is a progressive ball carrier. He can create from the 8 position and could bring more goal contributions from midfield. I think he would be relatively cheap to acquire due to being on lower wages and being in the final year of his contract. A cheaper, more intriguing option to add to the squad that still has room to develop at 25.

RIGHT & LEFT WINGERS

Option 1: Best option
Option 2: Strong option
Option 3: Realistic option
Option 4: Realistic option
Option 5: Outside shout

Honourable Mentions:

- Thibaud Verlinden
- Sontje Hansen
- Camiel Neghli



VIKTOR DJUKANOVIC



Age - 20
Team - Hammarby
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2026

SHORTLIST - WINGERS - OPTION 1

RECENT SEASON:

15 total appearances so far this season with 3 goals and 1 assist.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

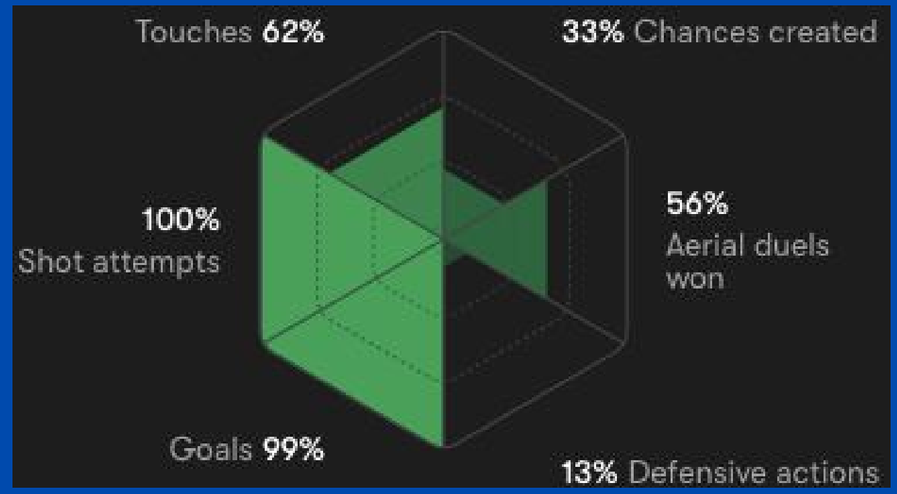
2x Montenegrin Champion with Buducnost Podgorica in 2020/21 and 2022/23. 2x Montenegrin Cup winner with Buducnost Podgorica in 2020/21 & 2021/22 - being the top scorer in the 2021/22 competition.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Has 4 caps for Montenegro, making his debut in June 2022.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'0"
Weight - 78kg
Injury History - Great. Missed just 2 games in October 2023 with a muscle injury.



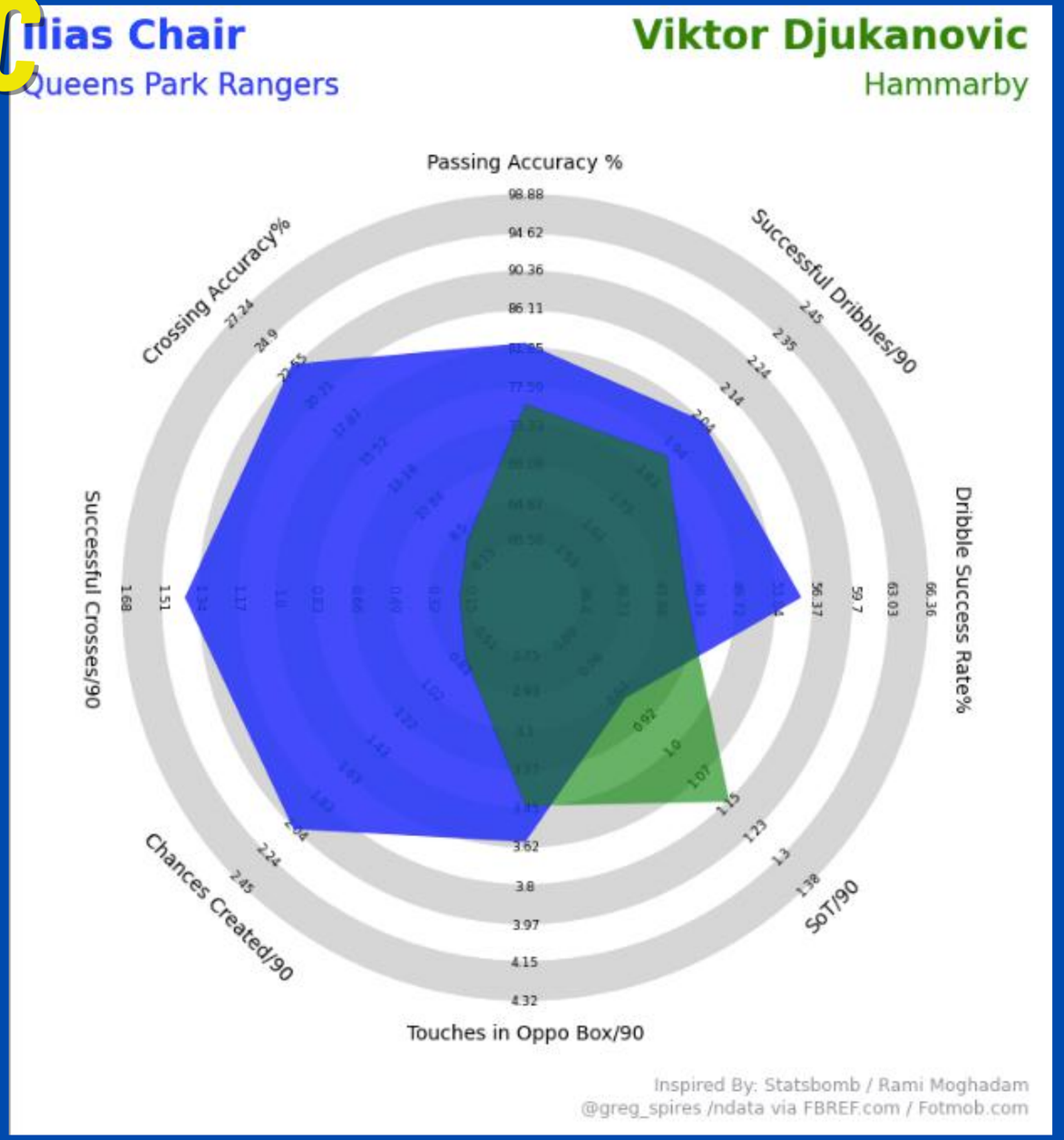
Playing Style:

Has great pace and is a direct ball carrier, often cutting in onto his right-foot from the left-hand side. He likes to stay wide and collect the ball before driving inbounds and shooting of his right foot - like Ilias Chair. Djukanovic can work hard defensively and isn't afraid to make tackles. He uses his pace well to get in behind full-backs & showed willingness to play intricate passes to get in-behind when required too. An explosive player who can strike powerfully at goal from distance.

VIKTOR DJUKANOVIC

SHORTLIST - WINGERS - OPTION 1





Comparison to Chair:

Chair is hard to compare to because he's one of the best in the league. Djukanovic is a more frequent, more accurate shot taker, judging from the stats. Dribbling with almost the same success is a credit to Djukanovic's threatening ball-carrying style. He is not as efficient at being creative as Chair is but can offer good physicality & speed on the wing.

Justification for signing:

Djukanovic is a very quick and direct winger that is confident enough to take shots at goal from a variety of angles. A good player that has capacity to improve and at just 20, there's a lot of sell-on value for the club. He would likely cost a couple of million so might be outside of QPR's budget but getting a starting calibre winger that has a high ceiling, this could look a bargain in the near future.

AARON KELLER

SHORTLIST – WINGERS – OPTION 2



Age - 19
Team - SpVgg Unterhaching
Current Contract - Expires 30th June 2025

RECENT SEASON:

38 total appearances this season with 9 goals, 4 assists and 7 yellow cards.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Has 1 cap and 1 goal for Switzerland's u21s.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'11"
Weight - 78kg
Injury History - Excellent. No significant injuries registered.

23/24

Teams	League	Apps	Starts	Goals	Assists	Yellow cards
Unterhaching	German 3.Liga	37	30	9	2	7
Unterhaching	German Cup	2	1	0	0	0
Switzerland U...	UEFA European U21 Championship qualification	1	0	1	0	0

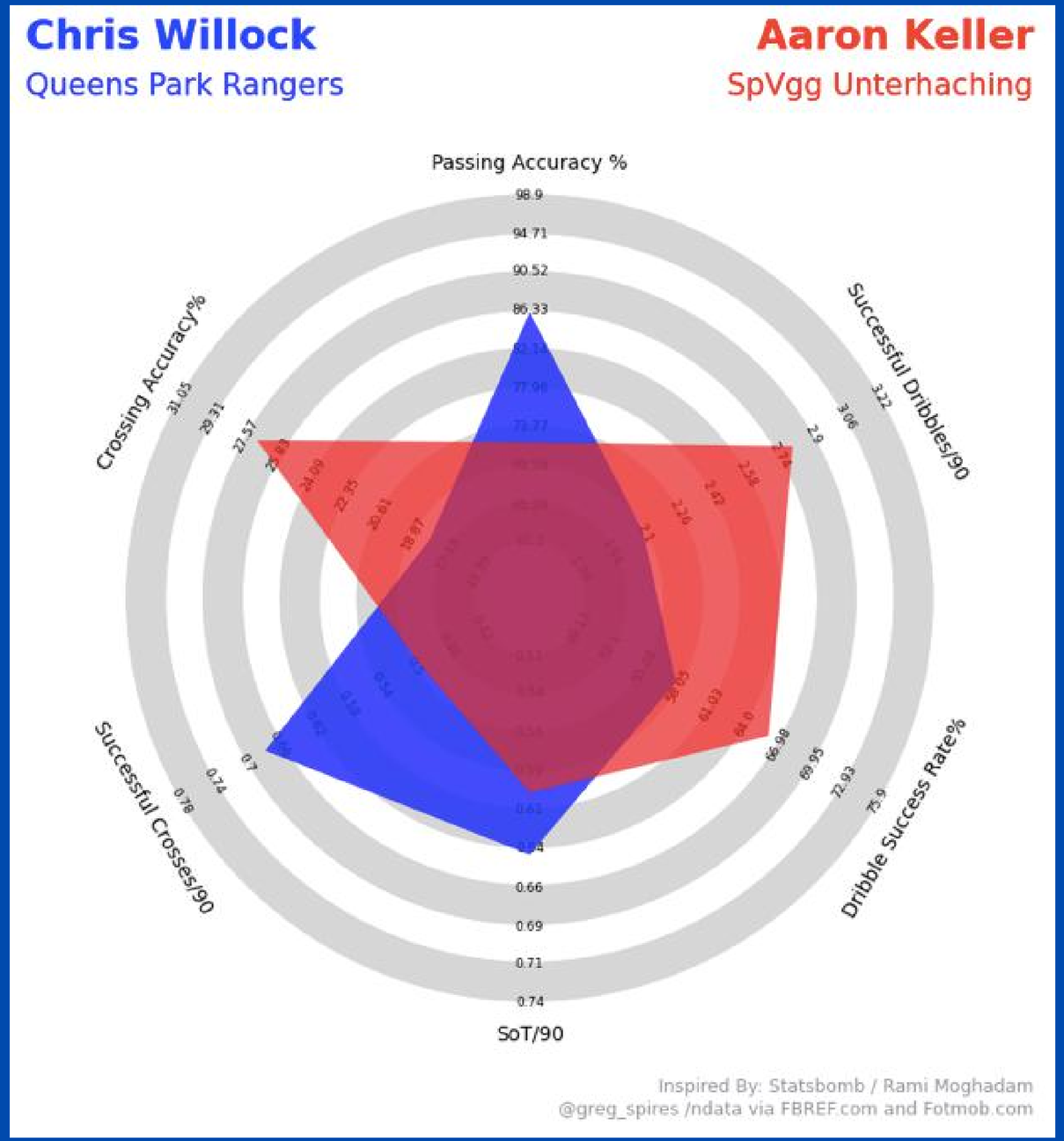
Playing Style:

Keller makes good use of quick feet and problem solving skills including balance, vision etc. to find teammates in the final third. Quick winger and he can hit the ball with power when in stride - a particularly difficult skill. He shows good awareness of what runs to make and when, taking away a defender or creating an angle for a teammate to find him in space. He likes to cross from the wing rather than cut in - but uses great shifts in balance to create good angles to cross and shot from when he is central. Capable of playing on either wing and takes up best positions available in the final third.

AARON KELLER



SHORTLIST – WINGERS – OPTION 2



Comparison to Willock:

Keller is a better ball-carrier than Willock - with a more direct style that is determined & aggressive. Willock is a better facilitator of attacks, capable of taking up better positions & being a bit more fluid than Keller. Keller is capable of using both feet well, which is similar to Chris Willock. Keller is more confident at taking the ball in stride whereas Willock prefers to control and then drive with the ball.

Justification for signing:

Keller has pace and is a great athletic winger who is qute direct. He would provide a real threat, off either wing, if given space to run at defenders. If bought, he would have a lot of sell-on value and at 19 & playing in the German 3rd tier, he may be attainable. QPR is an attractive club, playing at a good level & in a major city so would be attractive to him. Could be a contributor straight away which would make him very attractive for QPR.

NORDINE KANDIL

SHORTLIST - WINGERS - OPTION 3



Age - 22
Team - FC Annecy (on loan from Strasbourg)
Current Contract - Expires 30th June 2025

RECENT SEASON:

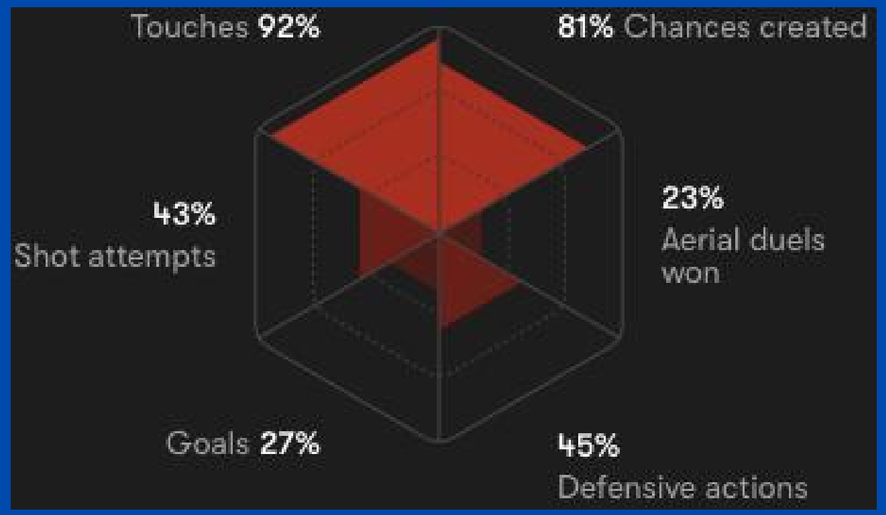
38 total appearances with 4 goals and 8 assists as well as receiving 3 yellow cards this year..

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Has 2 caps for Morocco's u23 team.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'5"
Weight - 58kg
Injury History - Excellent. No significant injuries registered.



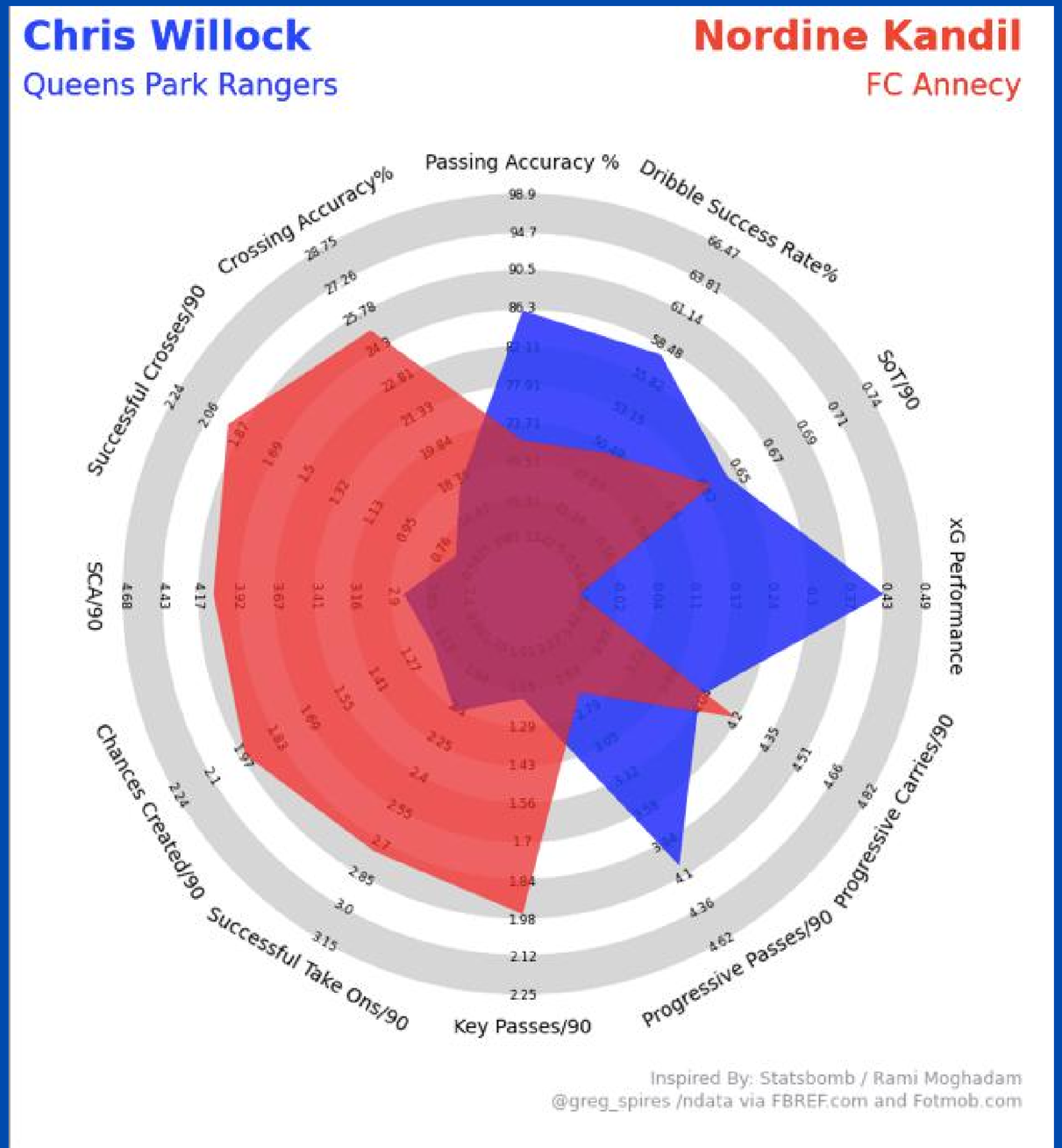
Playing Style:

Kandil noticeably works hard in the press, showing good energy and pace. He shows composure in front of goal at times and had some impressive first-time finishes this season, emphasising hitting the ball to corners or high and away from the GK when shooting. He uses his strength to protect the ball well despite his size, as well as showing good agility on the ball. Kandil is a left-footed corner taker who can float them in or hit them with power and venom in a dangerous, flat trajectory.

NORDINE KANDIL



SHORTLIST – WINGERS – OPTION 3



Comparison to Willock:

Kandil is a superior crosser to Willock and is confident to take on defenders, with great success. A wide playmaker that has quality ball-carrying capabilities and makes smart forward runs from the right-wing. Willock has superior combination play though & is a more accurate passer. As Kandil gains more experience he could suprass Willock's talent.

Justification for signing:

Kandil is a small, tricky winger that is a consistent attacking threat. He can create chances in a variety of ways and would be a suitable Willock replacement. Likely to be surplus to requirements at Strasbourg, he could be available relatively cheap for a player of his talent. Still young & unpolished but QPR can give him minutes & good coaching to improve.

RUEL SOTIRIOU



Age - 23
Team - Leyton Orient
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2024

SHORTLIST - WINGERS - OPTION 4

RECENT SEASON:

Made 47 appearances last season, scoring 12 goals and 5 assists as well as receiving 10 yellow cards too.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

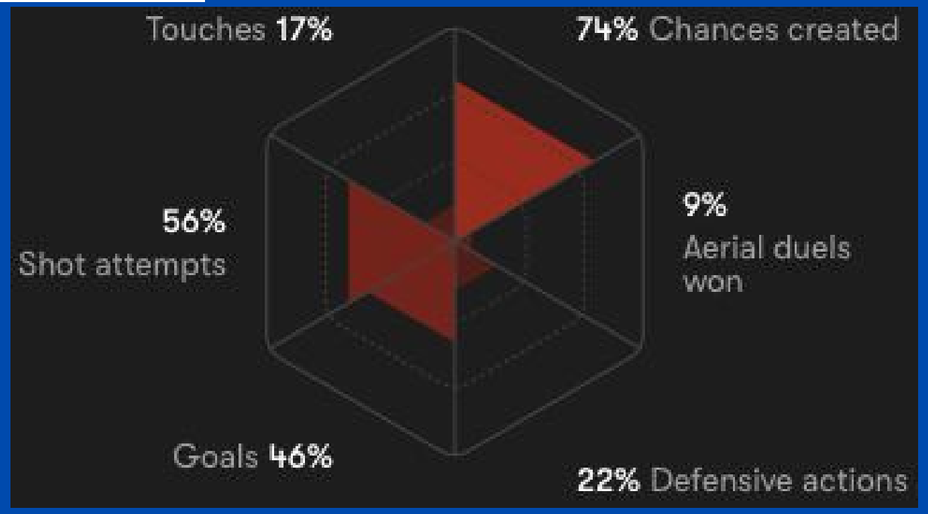
League Two champion with Leyton Orient in 2022/23 season.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Has 1 cap for Cyprus, making his debut in March 2024.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'8"
Weight - 71kg
Injury History - Excellent. No significant injuries registered.



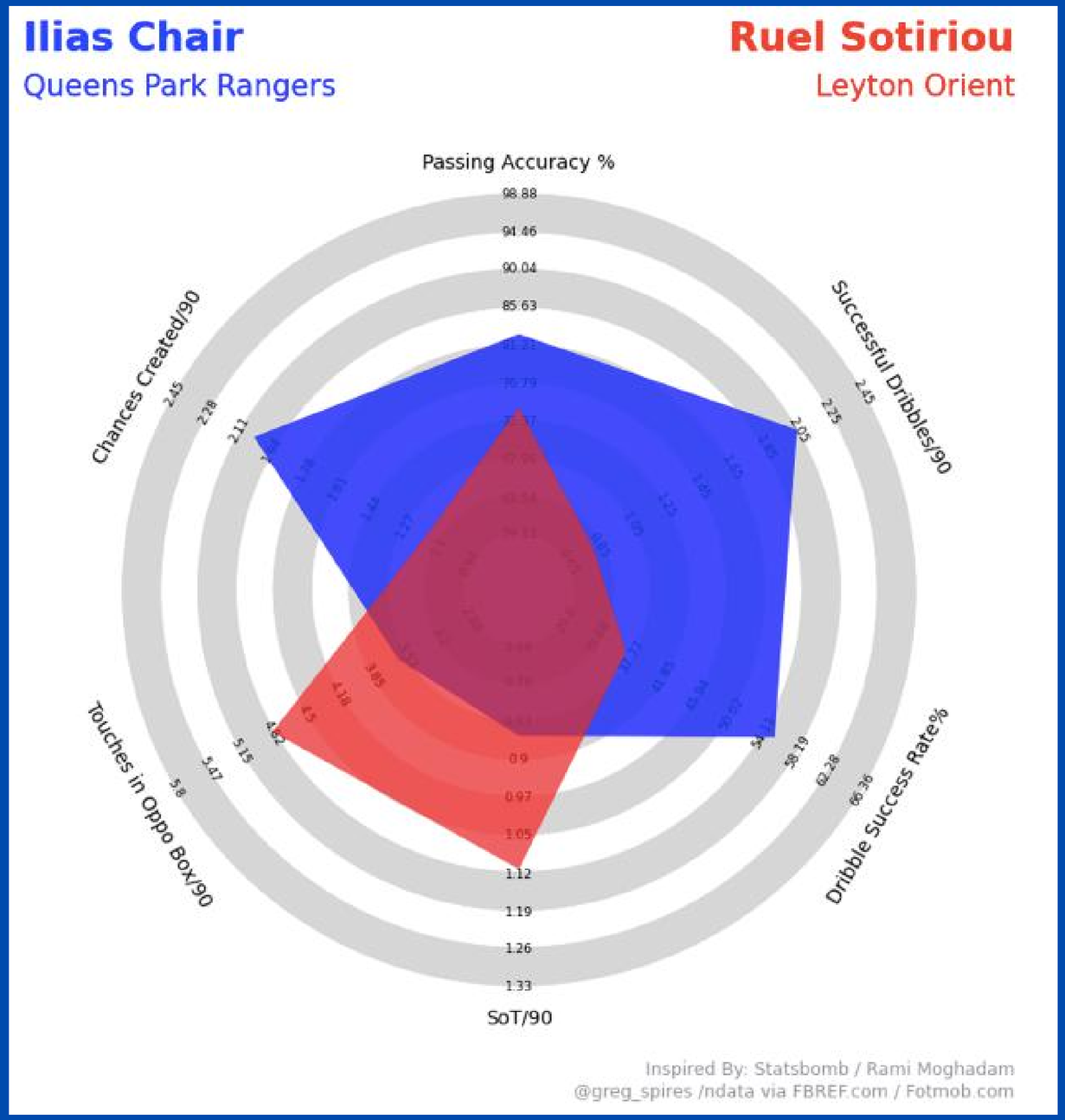
Playing Style:

Sotiriou can drift into central areas and has quite a fluid role in Orient's attack. Showed great placement on some of his finishes this season. He has a good first touch and often drops deep to receive and then drive at defenders - similar to Ilias Chair. He works hard in the press & when out-of-possession too. Has impressive close control & selflessness at times in the final third - helping him to boost his goal contribution tally. Capable of driving at defenders, as well as playing with his back-to-goal when playing centrally.

RUEL SOTIRIOU



SHORTLIST – WINGERS – OPTION 4



Comparison to Chair:

Sotiriou can play as a ST or LW and is capable of ball-carrying with quality. His statistics show that he is a superior attacking box threat than Chair, but an inferior chance creator and ball-carrier. Hard to compare against Chair because of his elite dribbling, but Sotiriou is a confident winger who takes defenders on & has produced quality in the final 3rd.

Justification for signing:

Sotiriou has the capability to play in a variety of positions & roles - a big plus for QPR. Still young at 23, he could have time to develop & adjust to Championship intensity and then have sell-on value. Contract has expired and currently discussing an extension at Orient - it's a player to monitor as he could be a real asset from the left.

SIMEN BOLKAN NORDLI

SHORTLIST - WINGERS - OPTION 5



Age - 24
Team - Randers FC
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2026

RECENT SEASON:

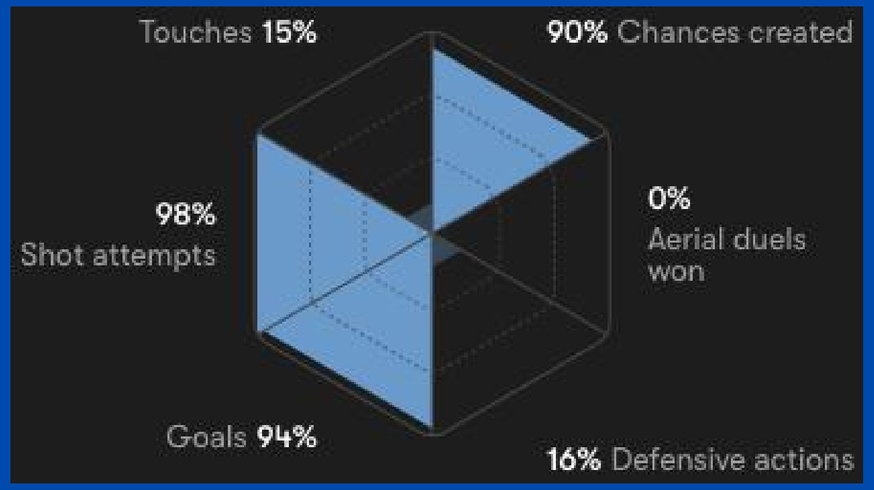
27 total appearances so far with 6 goals and 1 assist this season.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Has 2 caps for Norway's under 21 team.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'11"
Weight - 78kg
Injury History - Excellent. No major injuries registered.



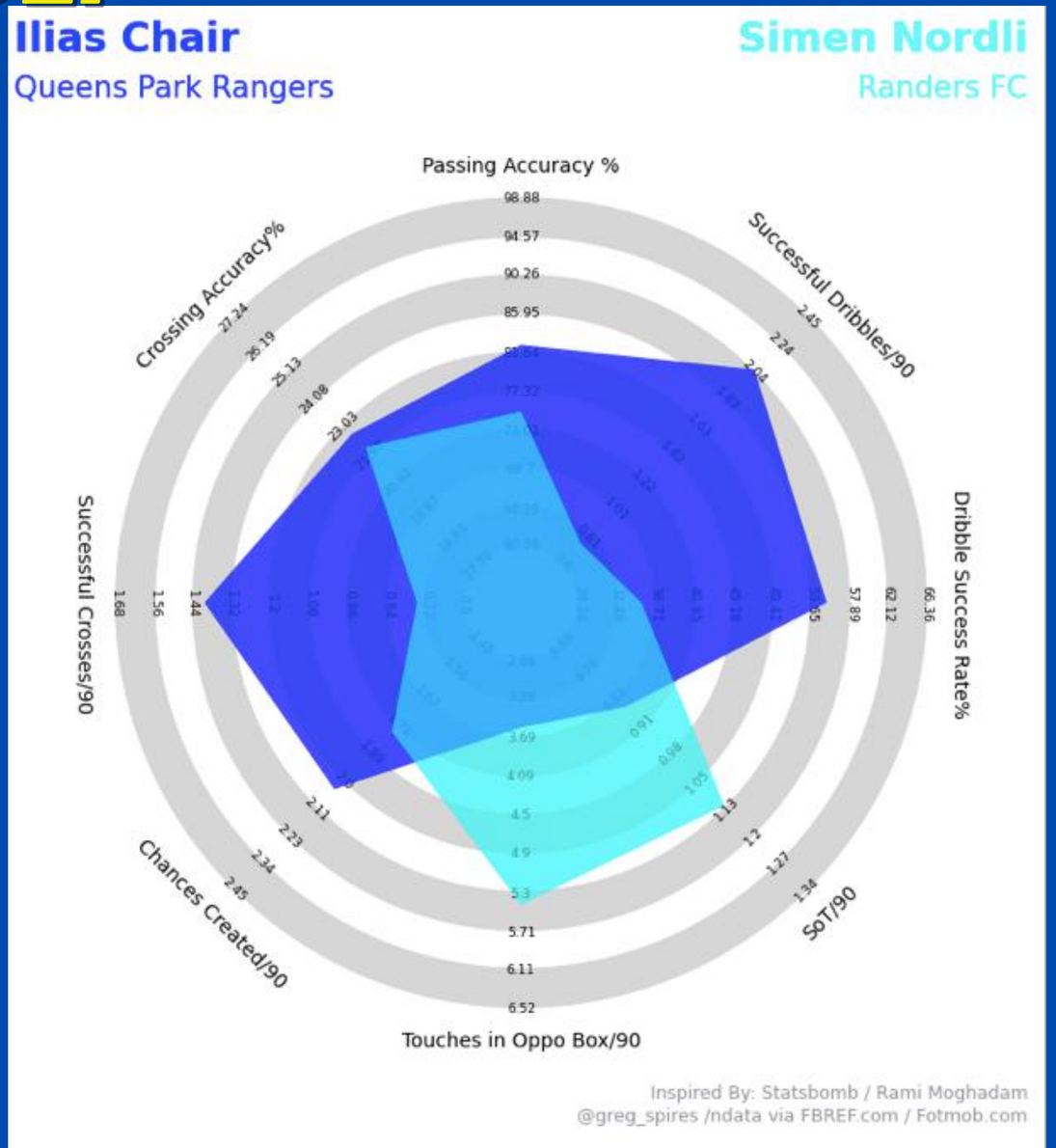
Playing Style:

Nordli has excellent spatial awareness, dropping into half spaces and playing off the back 4. He's often found playing short passes in combinations to get in-behind & unlock defences. He is heavily left footed but has good pace, work rate and is a capable finisher too. Nordli is more a creative wide midfielder than a 'traditional' winger but he can occupy spaces between opposition defenders and find ways around tough defences. Able to play centrally at times as a no.10 or as a second striker too.

SIMEN BOLKAN NORDLI

SHORTLIST - WINGERS - OPTION 5





Comparison to Chair:

Nordli is a very different type of winger to Chair. He's able to occupy the back line & combine really well, alongside being in the box at the right time - emphasised by his SoT and touches stats. Not as good at ball-carrying or crossing relative to Chair, but creates more centrally than Chair usually does. Different players stylistically but Nordli is a source of creativity from the left or centrally.

Justification for signing:

Nordli is a talented player, with good technical skills and can play in a variety of roles. He would provide a different type of wide playmaker to Chair & playing in England may be an attractive challenge for him. With a contract until 2026, he won't be available that cheaply but could be one to monitor as he would suit the Championship well.

ATTACKING MIDFIELDERS

Option 1: Best option
Option 2: A Realistic option
Option 3: One for the future

Honourable Mentions:

- Karamoko Dembele
- Juninho Bacuna



JOEL RANDALL

SHORTLIST - ATTACKING MIDFIELDERS - OPTION 1



Age - 24
Team - Peterborough
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2025

RECENT SEASON:

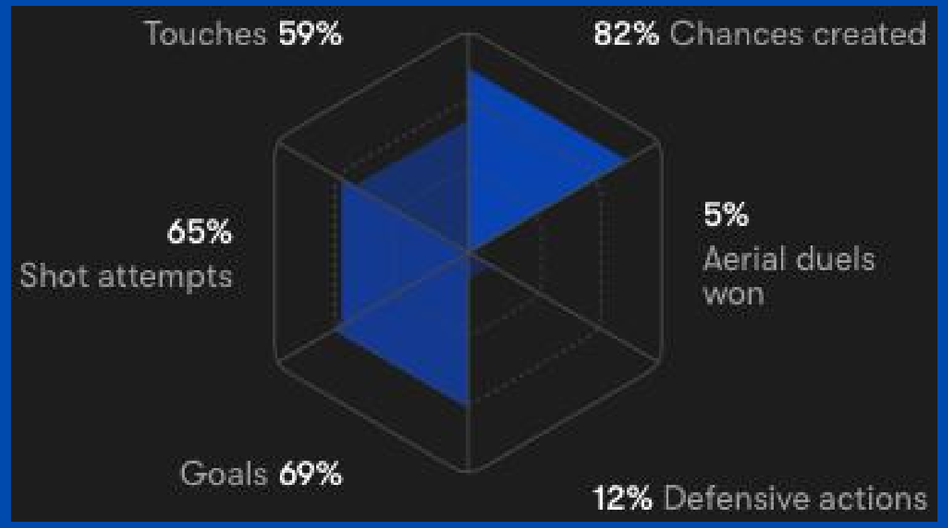
Made 56 appearances last season, scoring 12 goals and 11 assists as well as receiving 3 yellow cards too.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS:

Football League Trophy winner with Peterborough in 2023/24.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'10"
Weight - 66kg
Injury History - Good. Missed 11 games in 2021 with a hamstring injury but this is his only registered injury.



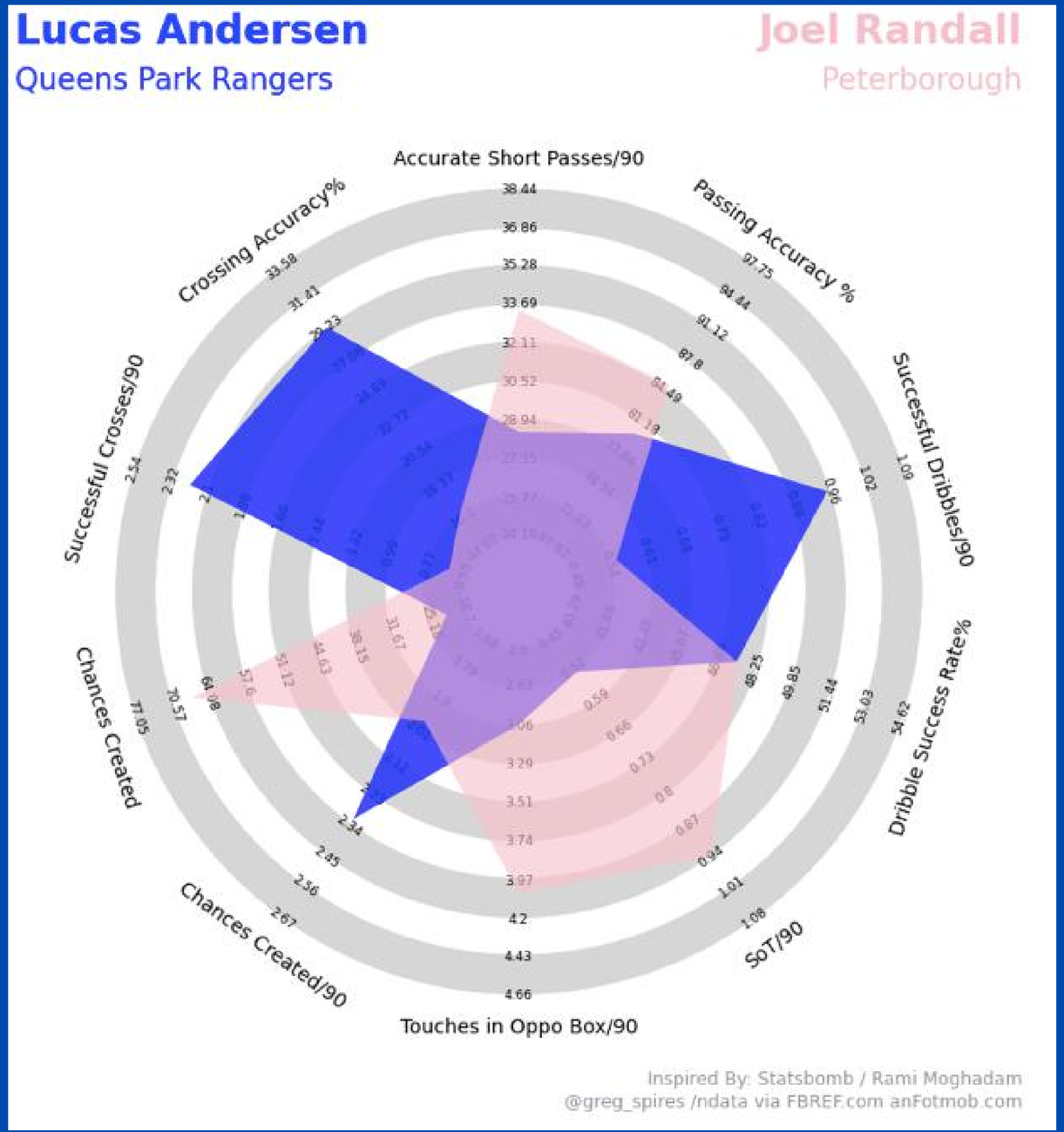
Playing Style:

Randall does really well to find space inside the box and other congested areas, making lots of forward runs. He has great balance and shiftiness, using quick feet and close control to evade defenders & break into space well. Works hard when out-of-possession and in the press. A talented passer who facilitates his team's moves into the final third with his broad range of passing. Technically talented with good finishing instincts too - contributing goals from midfield.

JOEL RANDALL



SHORTLIST – ATTACKING MIDFIELDERS – OPTION 1



Comparison to Andersen:

Randall is a superior attacking threat in the box to Andersen - with more SoTs & touches in the box. He's a really smooth playmaker that links midfield and attack so well with quality passing & great close control. Andersen is a superior ball-carrier and crosser than Randall. I'm a big fan of Randall's technical qualities that I think can progress to be similar to Andersen's level.

Justification for signing:

Randall is an excellent playmaker that can link play incredibly well & could be the successor to Andersen. Would likely be attainable as we can offer a step up in level & pay rise for him. Would demand a fee but think he'd be a real success here if given time to adapt to Cifuentes' plans.

JACK RUDONI

SHORTLIST - ATTACKING MIDFIELDERS - OPTION 2



Age - 22
Team - Huddersfield
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2026

RECENT SEASON:

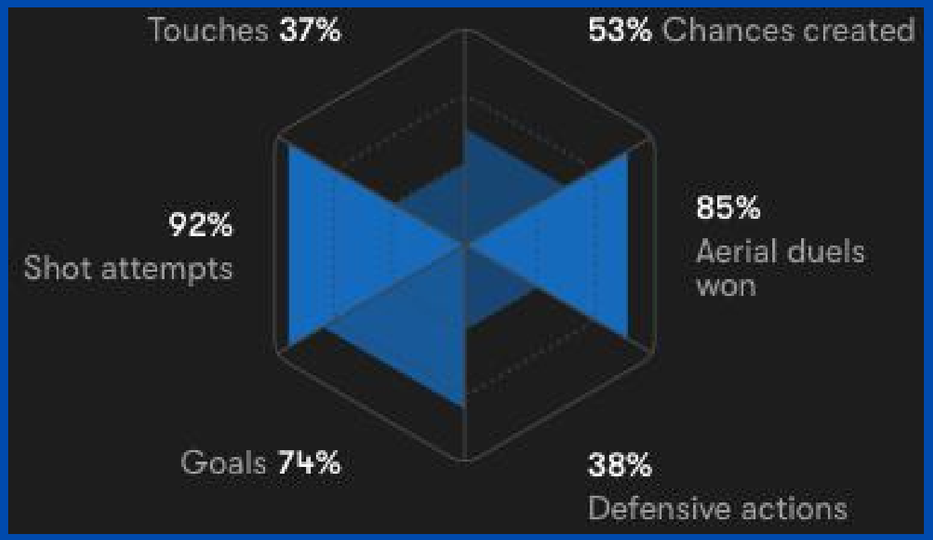
Scored 5 goals and registered 3 assists in 35 appearances as Huddersfield were relegated from the Championship.

CAREER STATS:

194 appearances, 24 goals, 21 assists and 31 yellow cards received. Most appearances in League One.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

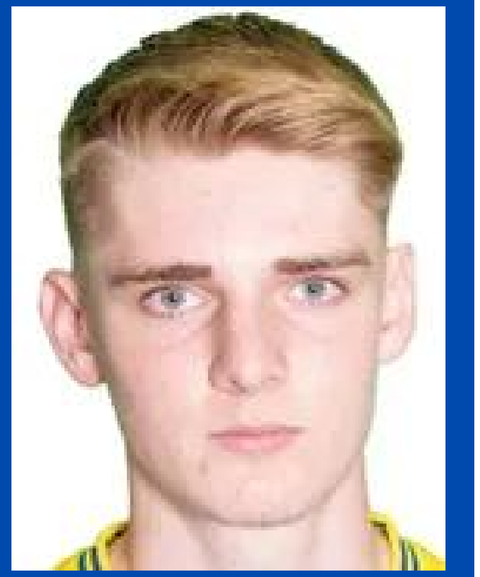
Height - 6'0"
Weight - 77kg
Injury History - Excellent. No significant injuries registered.



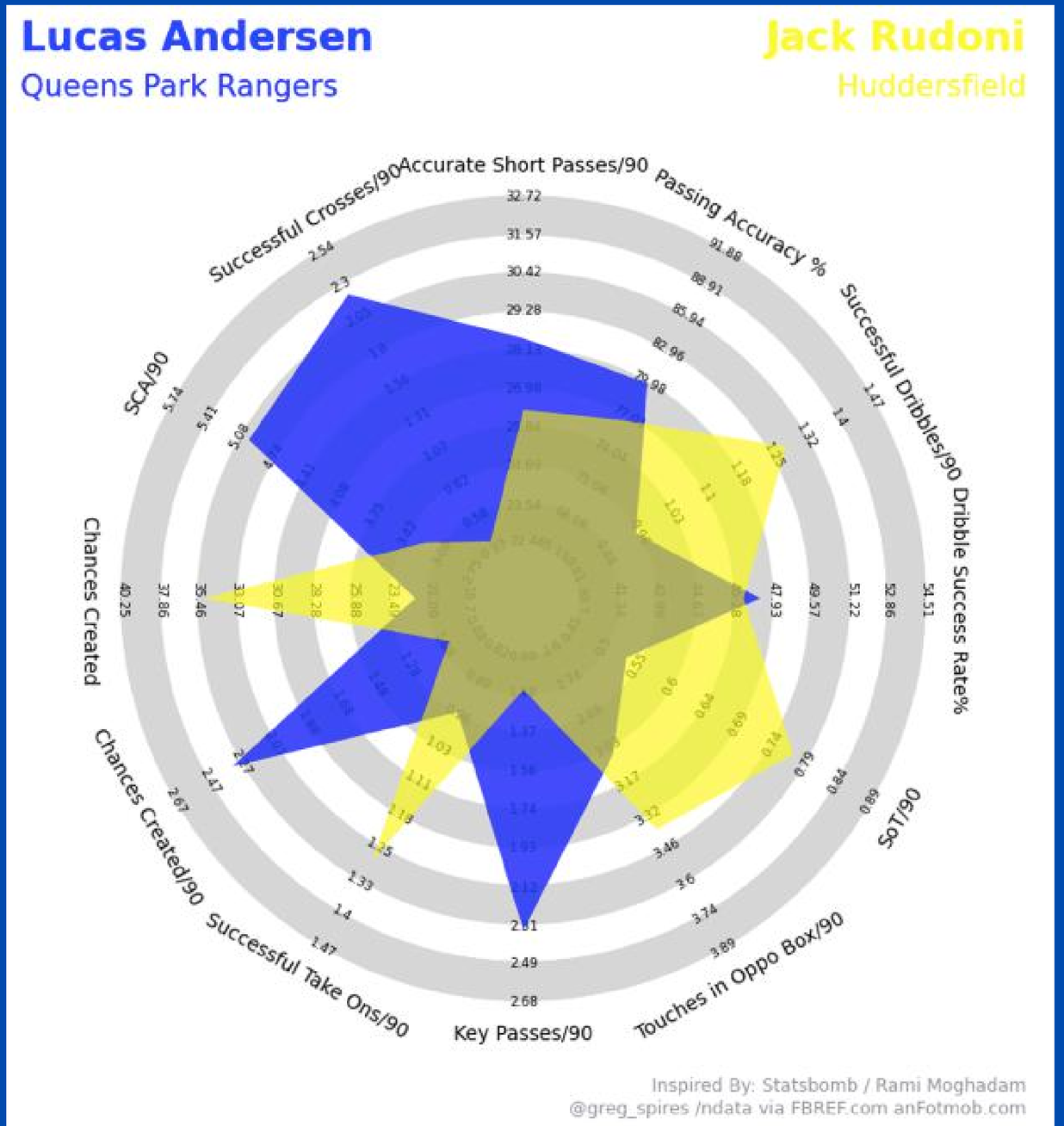
Playing Style:

Rudoni has excellent anticipation of teammates' movements and forward runs. Obviously an intelligent player who drifts around between the wider areas, central areas, half spaces and inside the box too. He is heavily reliant on his left foot but looks dangerous when using combination play to break lines and get round full-backs. Has a brilliant first touch & is capable of playing as an 8 or 10 in my opinion.

JACK RUDONI



SHORTLIST – ATTACKING MIDFIELDERS – OPTION 2



Comparison to Andersen:

Rudoni has a great ability to control the ball & turn out of tight spaces that's better than Andersen's. Also, Rudoni is a superior threat in the box judging by the stats here & a more successful ball-carrier. Andersen is superior statistically at crossing, creating and using passing to break lines in the opposition's half. Rudoni has quality technique on his touch and some of his passing which is promising.

Justification for signing:

Rudoni was a standout for relegated Huddersfield and is probably keen to remain at this level. An opportunity to come and contribute in a solid team with good coaching & leaders - QPR feels an attractive option. Likely to be relatively cheap to acquire due to Huddersfield's relegation but will have many suitors.

JJ MCKIERNAN

SHORTLIST - ATTACKING MIDFIELDERS - OPTION 3



Age - 22
Team - Morecambe
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2024

RECENT SEASON:

Made 33 appearances in all competitions, scoring 7 goals and 1 assist as well as receiving 7 yellow cards too.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

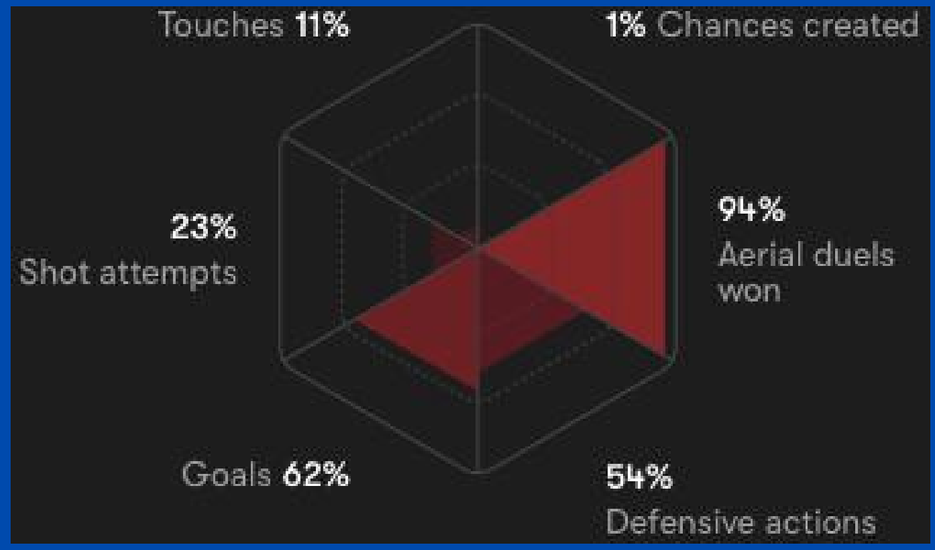
Has made 3 appearances for Northern Ireland under 21s.

CAREER STATS:

78 appearances, 11 goals, 1 assists, 13 yellow cards. Most appearances in National League.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'0"
Weight - 75kg
Injury History - Excellent. No major injuries registered.



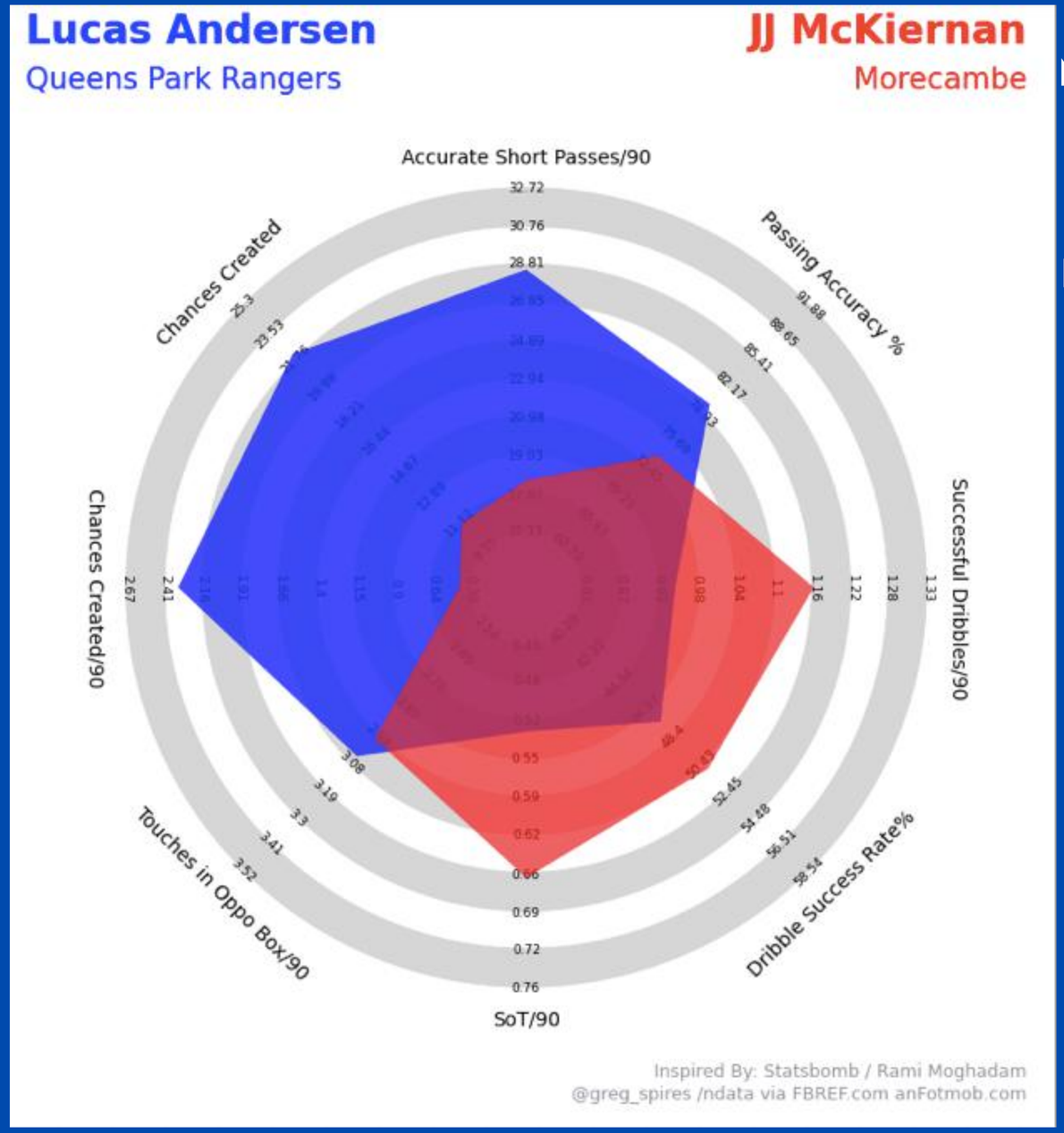
Playing Style:

McKiernan has impressive work rate and decent speed for someone who is quite tall, making him useful in the press. He likes to run the channels and often makes well-timed, instinctive runs into the box too. He has a good first touch and is able to battle & win the ball back too, showing admirable determination. Impressive link up play and decent finisher when on the run - he is a good attacking threat from the 10 position.

JJ MCKIERNAN

SHORTLIST – ATTACKING MIDFIELDERS – OPTION 3





Comparison to Andersen:

McKiernan had a good season for Morecambe, able to create from deeper as well as wider areas too. He actually had superior dribbling stats to Andersen, likely because of the space he has due to his tendency to drift wide to receive. Andersen remains a better creator and often does so in tighter spaces too, with stronger passing accuracy.

Justification for signing:

McKiernan's first campaign in senior football was impressive in League Two. Would be a player for the long-term and needs refining with some technical aspects & movement, but picking him up now could prove we're a step ahead. Out of contract this summer & talks ongoing with Morecambe so it's worth monitoring his situation & trying to sign him before he properly breaks out.

STRIKERS

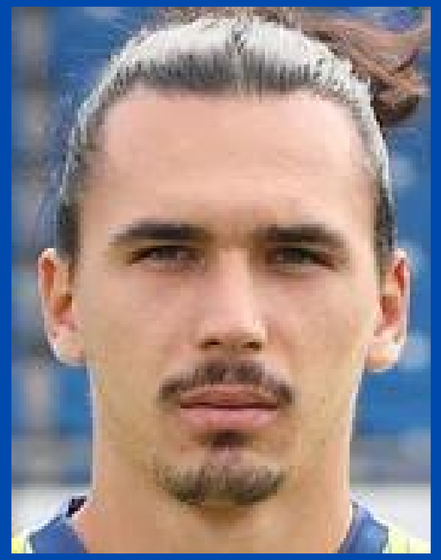
Option 1: Best option
Option 2: A Realistic option
Option 3: Outside shout

Honourable Mentions:

- Troy Parrott
- Mika Biereth



RAYAN PHILIPPE



Age - 23

Team - Eintracht Braunschweig

Current Contract - Expires 30th June 2026

SHORTLIST - STRIKERS - OPTION 1

RECENT SEASON:

Featured 25 times this season, scoring 8 goals and registering 5 assists for a struggling Eintracht Braunschweig team.

CAREER STATS:

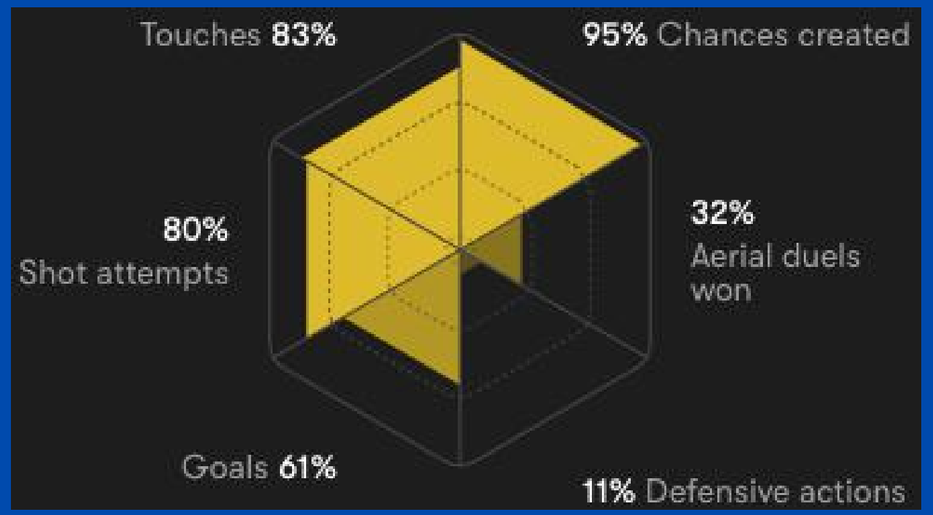
114 appearances, 57 goal, 37 assists and just 5 yellow cards. Most appearances in Luxembourg Premier Division.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'11"

Weight - 78kg

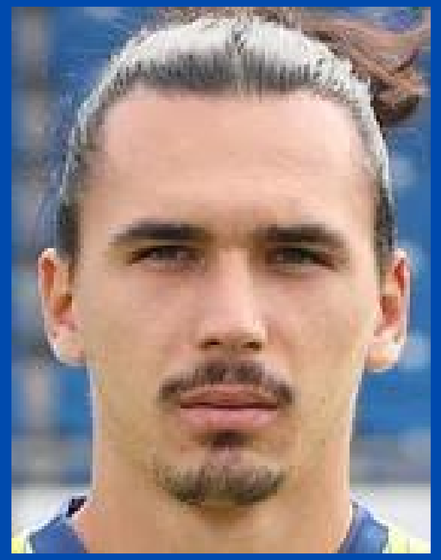
Injury History - Good. Missed just 1 game with an ankle injury in September 2023. No other major injuries registered.



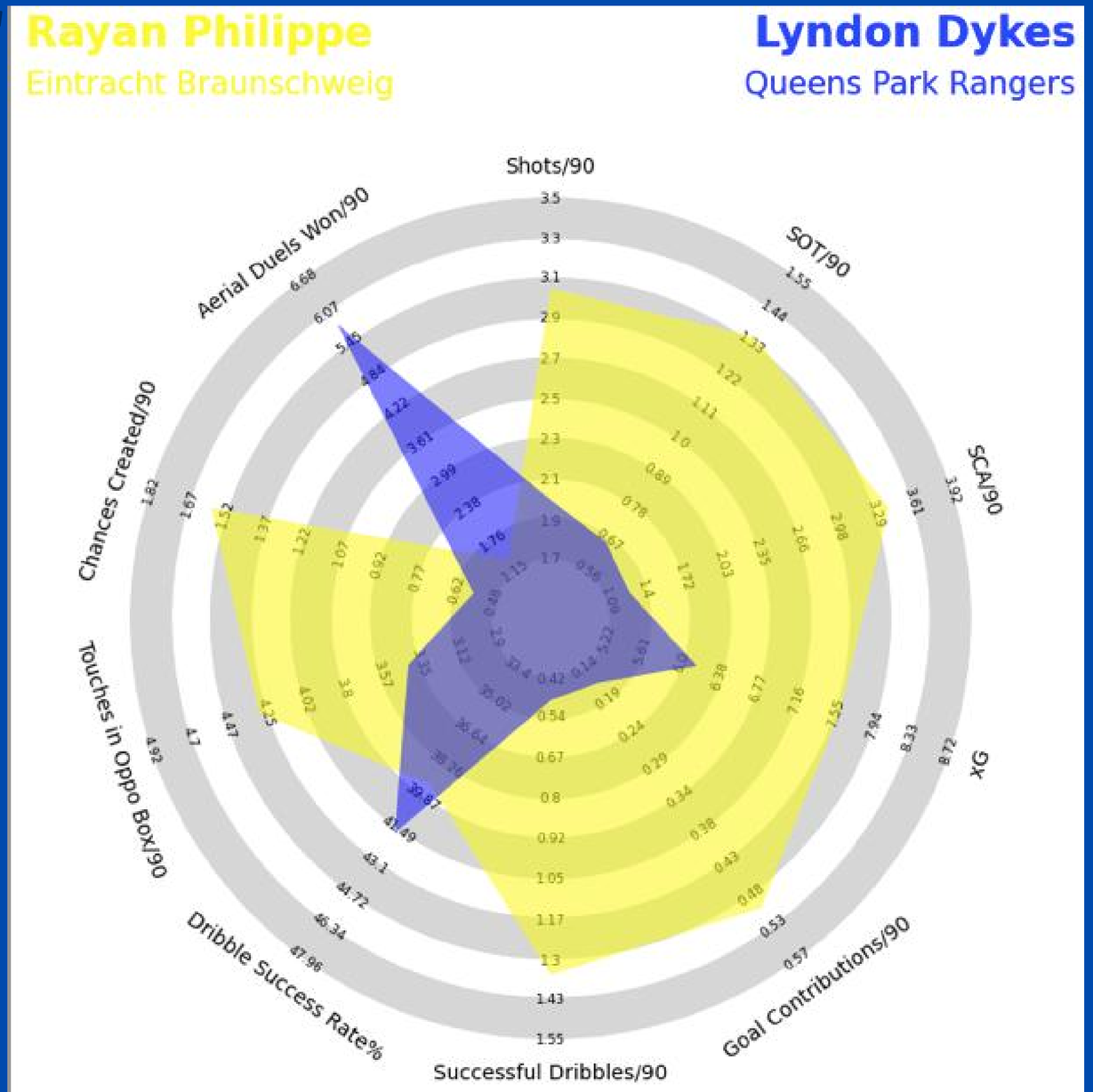
Playing Style:

Philippe is a predominantly left-footed attacker with great pace, energy and a determined attitude. He is a capable ball-carrier and can often be found in half-spaces or making runs into channels. Great ability to identify space and time runs into the spaces, especially behind the defensive line. Good at receiving on the half-turn and facilitating attacks with good movement. Strong finisher who hits the ball hard and low most of the time, he was quite clinical this season.

RAYAN PHILIPPE



SHORTLIST – STRIKERS – OPTION 1



Comparison to Dykes:

Philippe had a pretty successful season, showcasing his ability to be quite clinical in front of goal. He created more chances and had more touches in the box than Dykes, showcasing that he was able to create & support attacks as well as lead the line. Dykes is impressive aerially and more successful/suited to playing back-to-goal relative than Philippe.

Justification for signing:

Philippe is a technically good striker that links play well with others and offers a different profile to Dykes & Frey. May want to leave a struggling team and could potentially be enticed by living in London & testing himself at Championship level. Contract until 2026 so fee would need to be involved but is a quality attacker who would offer a dynamic option for Cifuentes & QPR.

KILLIAN CORREDOR

SHORTLIST – STRIKERS – OPTION 2



Age - 23
Team - Rodez AF
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2026

RECENT SEASON:

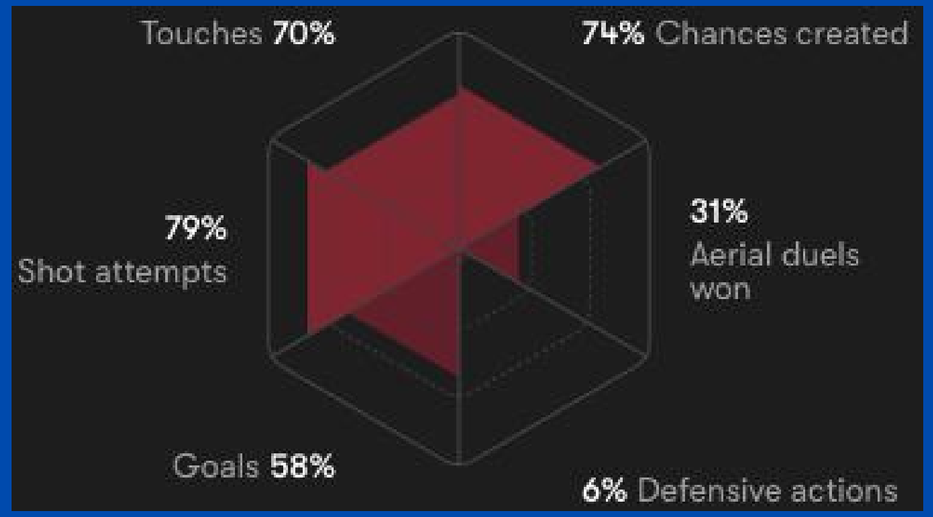
43 total appearances so far this season with 19 goals and 8 assists as well as receiving 2 yellow cards this year.

CAREER STATS:

133 appearances, 37 goals, 18 assists and just 6 yellow cards. Most appearances in Ligue 2.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 6'0"
Weight - 72kg
Injury History - Excellent. No major injuries registered.



Playing Style:

Corredor is a confident striker that is intelligent when it comes to his movement inside the box. He's a good runner of channels but can hold the ball up with his strength - although playing back-to-goal isn't his best role in my opinion. A good finisher who can place the ball well into corners and react well, adjusting his body and pouncing on loose balls to score a variety of goals. Composed when through on goal & is an instinctive finisher. Often plays in a front 2 which leaves question marks about adapting to QPR's system.

KILLIAN CORREDOR



SHORTLIST – STRIKERS – OPTION 2



Comparison to Dykes:

Corredor is a different style of striker to Dykes, with the Scot proving to be far superior at aerial duels. Corredor is capable of creating opportunities with ball-carrying or short-passing & also able to finish in a variety of ways. Corredor had a far better season than Dykes statistically, as you can see by the comparison here.

Justification for signing:

Corredor is well-rounded and an instinctive finisher in the box. He would likely cost over £1m due to his contract expiring in 2026 and Rodez having a thin attacking unit. He could be a clinical finisher if given a chance to prove himself in the Championship, perhaps most effective off the bench to begin with. Has capability to be a consistent goalscorer though.

ALEX FORÉS

SHORTLIST – STRIKERS – OPTION 3



Age - 23
Team - Villarreal B
Current Contract -
Expires 30th June 2026

RECENT SEASON:

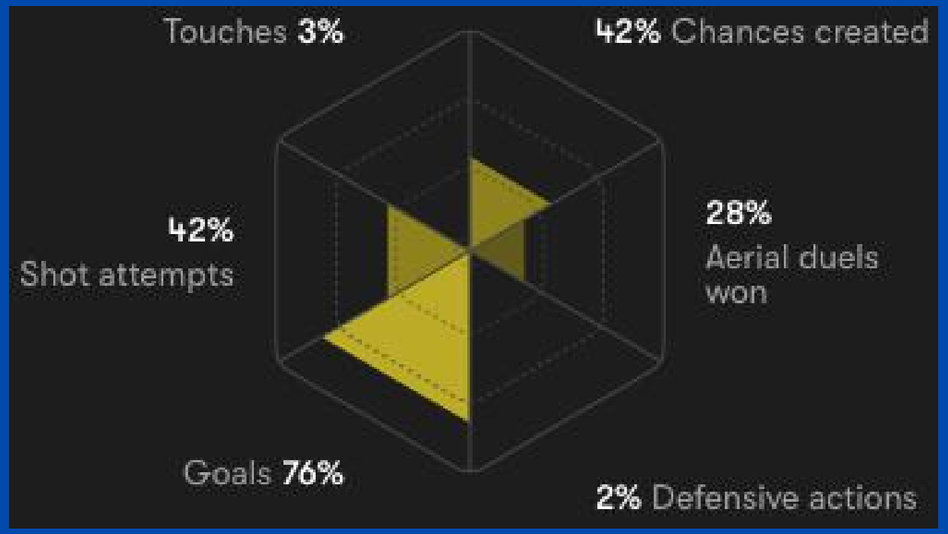
Scored 16 goals and registered 1 assist in 39 appearances for a Villarreal B team that were relegated from La Liga 2.

CAREER STATS:

110 appearances, 24 goals, 5 assists and just 4 yellow cards. Most appearances in La Liga 2.

PHYSICAL PROFILE:

Height - 5'10"
Weight - 68kg
Injury History - Good. Currently recovering after suffering a broken tibia in right leg - expected to be out until winter 2024. No other injuries registered.



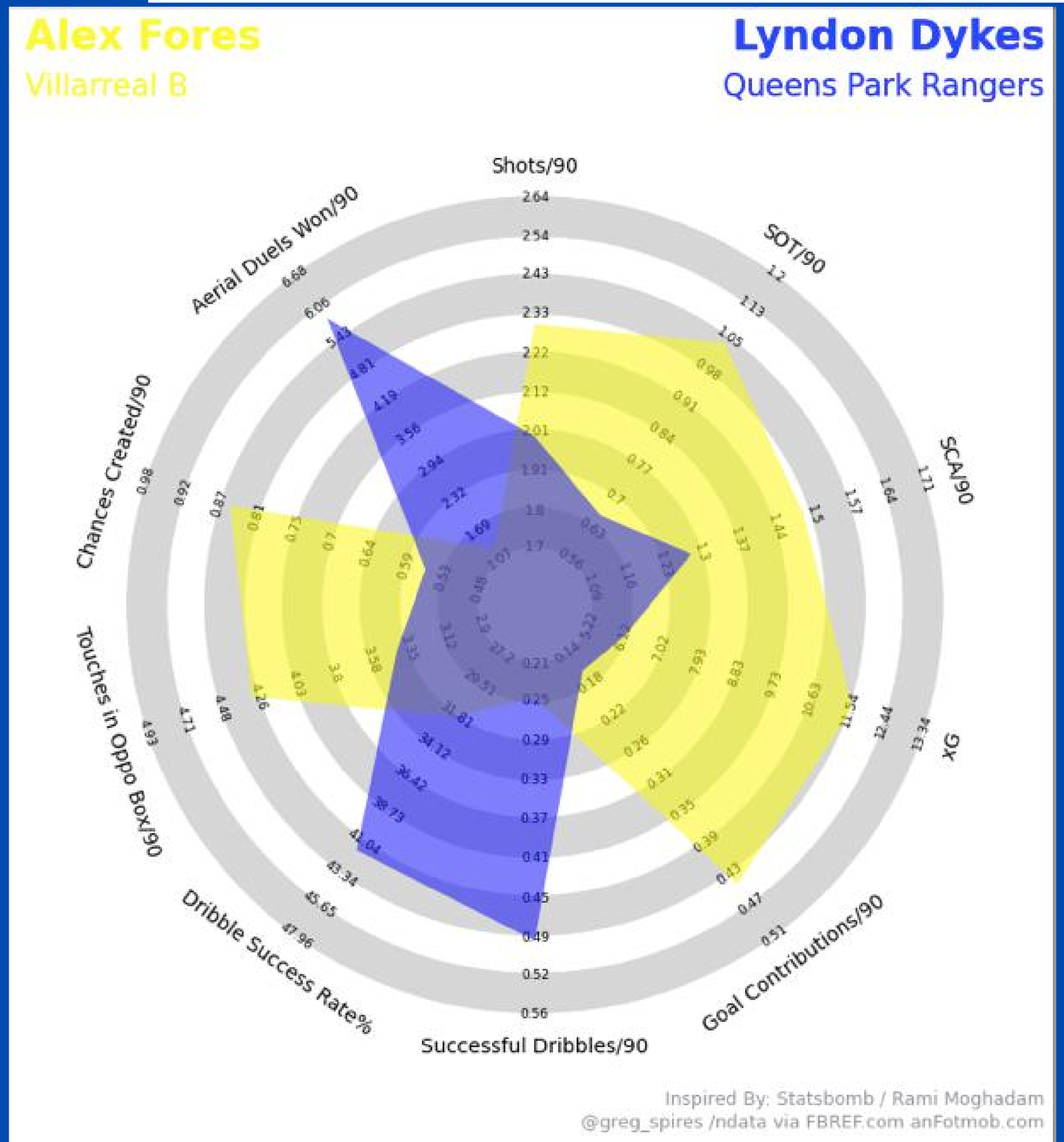
Playing Style:

Fores had an impressive year, showing his intelligence & spatial awareness to consistently find space inside the box. He's a very strong first time finisher from within the box, capable of scoring from a variety of angles. He has good close control and is a threatening dribbler too, carrying into the box and getting out of tighter areas when forced to play back-to-goal. Quite strong technically and a real instinctive nature in the box.

ALEX FORES



SHORTLIST – STRIKERS – OPTION 3



Comparison to Dykes:

Fores had a strong year statistically when it comes to goalscoring. He massively outperformed Dykes in his shots on target, xG, goal contributions and shots/90. Fores facilitates attacks at a similar consistency to Dykes although Fores is technically superior at creating attacks rather than just being a target man/an outlet like Dykes is at QPR.

Justification for signing:

Fores is sadly coming off a leg break that makes clubs less likely to want to sign him. However, a good finisher & technically sound player who is a poacher - enabling QPR to score more from loose balls & tight angles. Would be available cheaply due to club scenario at Villarreal & Villarreal B team - making him attractive and perhaps low risk if he can be acquired cheaply or for free.

14. Considerations & Context

Having suggested a multitude of signings that would suit QPR, it's integral to acknowledge that a lot of the players mentioned come from leagues considered to be of lower intensity, physicality or overall quality. It's important to caveat that their statistics may stand out compared to QPR's players but the Championship is widely regarded as a more 'difficult' division than League One or 3. Bundesliga for example.

Furthermore, some players have been a regular starter at their club but their team has struggled in the league this season. While that makes them more likely to be within QPR's financial range and the player may want to engineer a move away, it can hinder a player's opportunities to showcase their skillset in its entirety. We know that Alex Forés has shone in a Villarreal B team that got relegated & a handful of players mentioned have been battling relegation this season - meaning their statistics perhaps don't reflect their full range of qualities and how much they can affect the game.

In addition to this, there are other factors that are extremely difficult to quantify such as leadership, communication etc. and these intangibles have been omitted from my representation of the players' qualities. This is mostly because QPR already have several older players that bring experience & leadership to the dressing room and therefore, I prioritised highlighting technical and tactical qualities over social attributes of the players.

Finally, it's important to highlight that I don't think all of the recommended signings suit the way that QPR set up last season but I think that Cifuentes will be less pragmatic in his set-up and approach to matches this upcoming season. Therefore, some of the recommended signings might suit the club more or less than originally intended but they offer Cifuentes tactical flexibility & opportunities to mould players to specific roles that he desires in the team.

FINAL REMARKS



15. Personal Opinions & Perspectives

I believe that the depth in the squad is limited after allowing so many players to leave at the expiration of their contracts. Of the suggestions that I've made, I think there are many options who could continue to raise the bar in terms of quality of player and character within QPR, something that is crucial in the culture change behind the scenes that began with the appointments of Cifuentes & Nourry.

Having mentioned at the beginning of the document, I think the club needs between 5 and 8 signings for the first team squad in order to be competitive and compete in the top half of the Championship. I consider the order of priorities by positions to be:

- Goalkeeper
- Defensive Midfielder
- Winger (2 required)
- Striker
- Central Midfielder
- Right-Back
- Attacking Midfielder

With a greater flexibility to sign players due to FFP cycles, I would like to see QPR remain somewhat conservative in their spending as to become more sustainable. There will be wages to pay and some transfer fees of course, but the opportunity to sign players with a longer-term strategy will lay foundations and allow us to be a competitive but financially stable club for many years. I hope that our recruitment this off-season is the first block in creating that platform for the future of the club and that the fans are patient with the project that's currently underway with the club.

Many clubs that run more sustainable recruitment models and make big profits on players have one thing in common - finding replacements for key players **prior** to them being star players. Finding a successor before the star player hits their peak is crucial and this is something QPR ***need*** to begin doing. From the moves made so far, we can tell that Nourry & Cifuentes are being ruthless and are keen to create a squad together that reflects strong principles & will enable the club to be competitive. This is an extremely promising sign and I can't wait to see how it continues to pan out, with a hope that QPR can begin to sign players hungry to prove themselves at this level & willing to work hard for the club as well as their own careers.

15. Personal Opinions & Perspectives continued...

In an ideal world, the 5-8 additions to the current squad would leave our squad (not including under 21 players) looking something like this for the 24/25 Championship season:

Left-Wingers		Strikers		Right-Wingers
Djukanovic		Dykes		Keller
Chair		Philippe		Smyth
Kolli		Armstrong		
		Frey		
		No. 10		
		Andersen		
		Randall		
		Richards		
	DM/No.6		CM/No.8	
	Field		Heußer	
	Colback		Dixon-Bonner	
Left-Back	Left-CB		Right-CB	Right-Back
Paal	Clark-Salter		Cook	Miller
Larkeche	Fox		Dunne	Cannon
		Goalkeeper		
		Rodak		
		Walsh		

This is a stronger squad than what we had at the beginning of the 2023/24 season and I think this squad would give us a great chance to compete at the top half of the Championship. This squad would provide dynamic, technically strong players who can give Cifuentes greater flexibility in his tactical approaches to different opposition formations and tactics.

Furthermore, the gutting of the Development Squad since the end of the season will no doubt bring some fresh faces into the team for next season and some of those players may impress enough to merit a place in the squad at times.

	Indicates contract longer than 2024
	Indicates attempts to re-sign the player
	Indicates new signing needed

16. Reflections

After having some time to reflect on my scouting and analysis process to produce the document, there have been a few things to point out.

1. While I have scouted and evaluated over 100 players in this process, I wish I could have reviewed more players and been able to make more recommendations. I've learnt a lot about my scouting process & am now more conscious of the balance between being thorough in evaluating players and evaluating a large number of players.
2. There is still capacity for QPR to sign an extra centre-back, especially a younger CB and/or a replacement for Jake Clarke-Salter who may move to the Premier League, should the club receive a suitable offer. Sadly I didn't have the time to complete enough player evaluations to do the position justice in this document, so decided to omit this. I hope to create some content on the centre-backs once i've completed my analysis & scouting of all those I had shortlisted.
3. After completing all the player profiles for the suggested signings, I wish that I could've included more detail about how the player would fit into QPR's system and provide more in-depth analysis of their playing styles/roles. Sadly, with the length of the document already, had I included this I felt it would be almost unreadable at almost 140 pages. To keep it concise, i've omitted the more visual analysis but have learnt that perhaps this should be prioritised in the future to create a more appealing argument of how the player can fit in at QPR and with what Cifuentes wants.

17. Conclusions

If QPR were to sign some of the recommended signings mentioned in this document, I feel the club would be in a stronger position to be tactically flexible, have greater depth and an ability to future-proof the squad with some young, hungry players. The need for players under the age of 25 to get minutes at Loftus Road is integral to the sustainable nature of the club and i've recommended enough young talents from British & European leagues that could provide quality, as well as potential sell-on value for the club too.

Evidently, the change in recruitment strategy by QPR is likely to bring some surprise signings and moves before the start of the 2024/25 season. The signing of Daniel Bennie from Perth Glory is a signing that will get R's fans excited and is a sign that the club are targeting players that we can develop and will be successful here, as well as having potential to be sold on for a fee in the future. There are huge reasons to be optimistic about the recruitment work that QPR are conducting and the staff that are working tirelessly to prepare the club for a successful campaign next season.

I hope you have taken value from reading this recruitment document and if you have any feedback or suggestions, please get in touch!

Greg Spires,
Football Analyst

@GREG_SPIRES

GREG SPIRES

Medium

HTTPS://MEDIUM.COM/@GREG.SPIRES