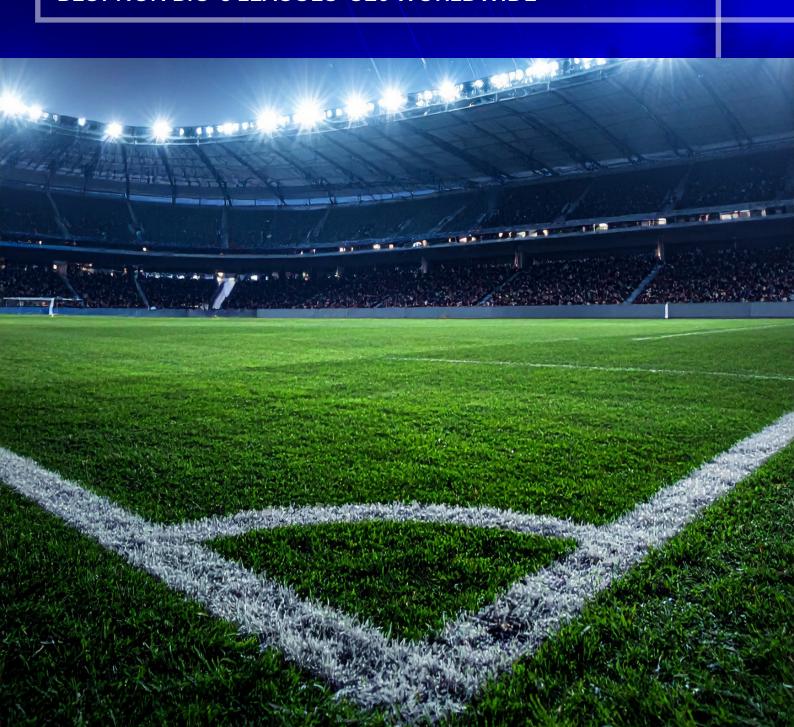


CIES Football Observatory December 2025

SCOUTING REPORT 2025

BEST NON BIG-5 LEAGUES' U20 WORLDWIDE







INTRODUCTION

Based on the exclusive game data meticulously collected by our partners <u>Impect</u>, this report presents the players born in 2006 or later who performed best over the 2025 calendar year (up until December 8).

For outfield players, the rankings were determined using a method detailed in the appendix based on their statistics in eight game areas (air defence, ground defence, build up, orchestration, take on, chance creation, finishing and air attack) during domestic league matches played in 66 championships around the world (not including big-5 leagues).

The sporting level of the matches played in 2025 was taken into account as a weighting factor, along with minutes played in official adult competitions using the capital experience method. For goalkeepers, only these last two criteria were considered to compile the rankings.

The report presents the top 10 for fifteen player categories: one for goalkeepers, three for centre backs, three for wide backs, four for midfielders, two for wingers and two for centre forwards (see illustration).

For outfield players, these categories were established by combining their level of activity in six game areas (aerial play, recovery, distribution, take on, chance creation and finishing) – see also in the appendix – and the position mainly occupied during domestic league matches over the period in question, namely:

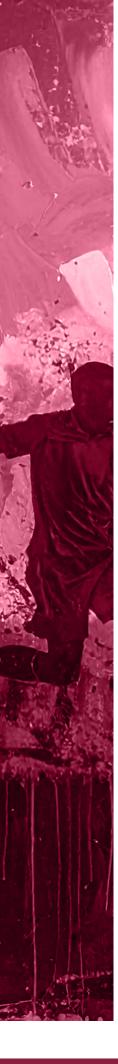




For each player in the top ten of a category, the report also presents their activity rate in the six game areas mentioned above in relation to all players surveyed, with any value above one indicating over-activity and below one under-activity.

For these footballers, also present the player's age, employment club, preferred foot, official minutes played at adult level in 2025, contract duration and estimated transfer value according to the statistical model exclusively developed by the CIES Football Observatory (see this article).

Scouting Report 2025



GOALKEEPERS

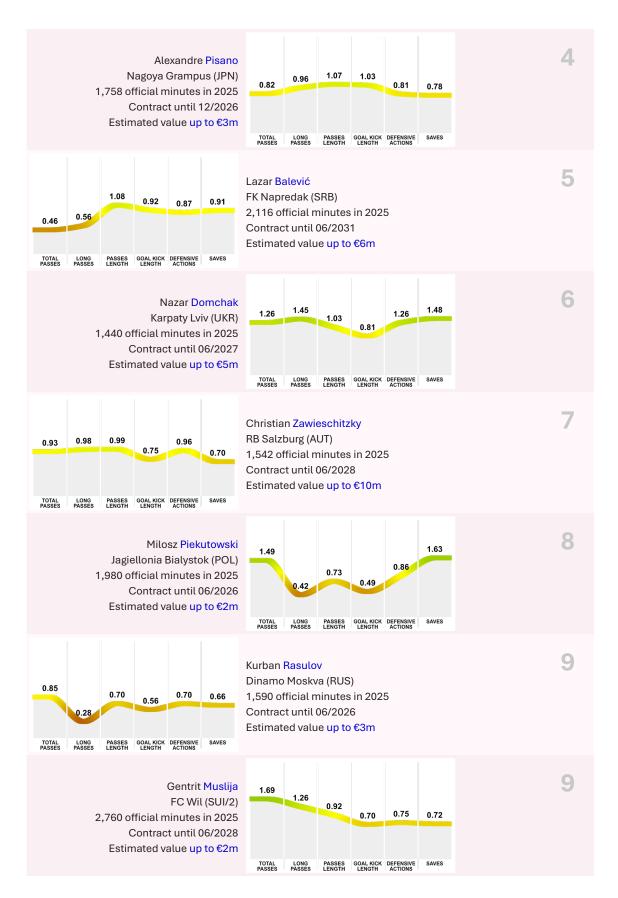
According to the experience capital method for matches played in 2025, the most promising goalkeeper born in 2006 or later is Sweden's **Simon Eriksson** (IF Elfsborg). Recently extended until 2029, this athletic goalkeeper (195 cm) could bring in up to €8m to his team if a big club shows interest. Philadelphia Union's American **Andrew Rick** (also ranked in the top 10 in 2024) and Central Coast Mariners' Australian Dylan **Peraić-Cullen** complete the podium.

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Simon Eriksson	19.6 yrs	IF Elfsborg (SWE)	R	75.6
Andrew Rick	19.9 yrs	Philadelphia Union (USA)	R	75.5
Dylan Peraić-Cullen	19.4 yrs	Central Coast Mariners (AUS)	R	75.3
Alexandre Pisano	19.9 yrs	Nagoya Grampus (JPN)	R	74.8
Lazar Balević	18.3 yrs	FK Napredak (SRB)	R	73.5
Nazar Domchak	18.7 yrs	Karpaty Lviv (UKR)	R	73.4
Christian Zawieschitzky	18.6 yrs	RB Salzburg (AUT)	R	71.3
Milosz Piekutowski	19.6 yrs	Jagiellonia Bialystok (POL)	L/R	70.9
Kurban Rasulov	19.9 yrs	Dinamo Moskva (RUS)	R	69.9
Gentrit Muslija	19.9 yrs	FC Wil (SUI/2)	R	69.9



^{*} as a ratio compared to all goalkeepers





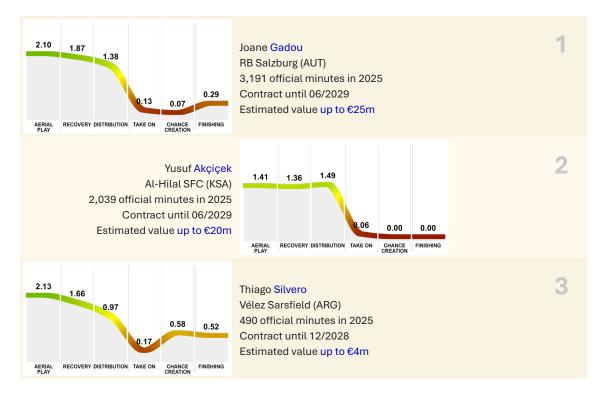
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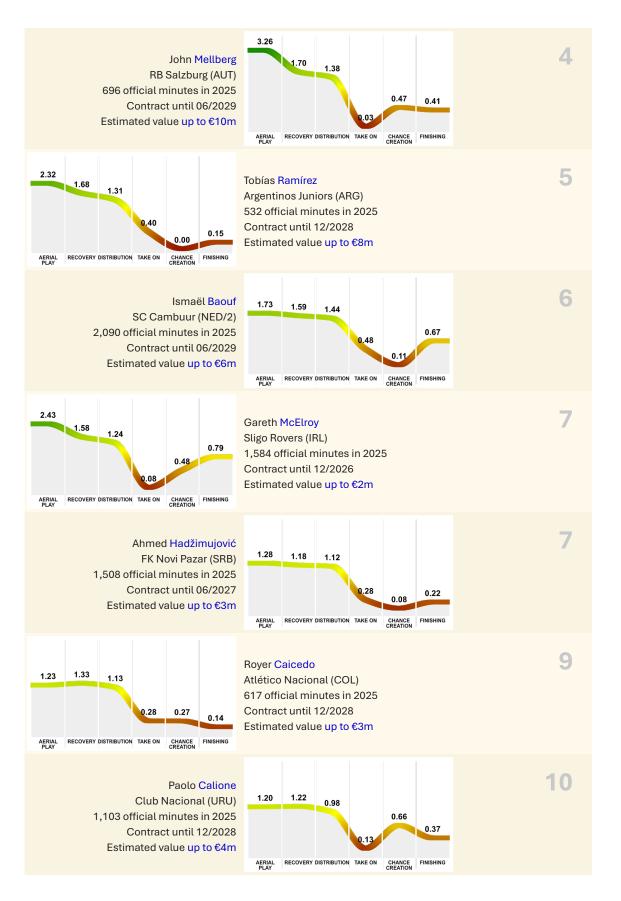
BALL-FIGHTING CENTRE BACKS

Although not yet 19 years old, RB Salzburg's powerful French centre back **Joane Gadou** is the most promising player in the 'ball-fighting' category, with a very high score: 81.3 out of 100. The former PSG academy player, whose transfer value for a major club is already up to €25 million, has great activity rates both in aerial play and recovery. He ranks ahead of Turkey's **Yusuf Akçiçek** (Al-Hilal) and Argentina's **Thiago Silvero** (Vélez Sarsfield).

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Joane Gadou	18.9 yrs	RB Salzburg (AUT)	R	81.3
Yusuf Akçiçek	19.9 yrs	Al-Hilal SFC (KSA)	L	75.4
Thiago Silvero	19.6 yrs	Vélez Sarsfield (ARG)	R	73.0
John Mellberg	19.4 yrs	RB Salzburg (AUT)	L	72.6
Tobías Ramírez	19.1 yrs	Argentinos Juniors (ARG)	R	71.8
Ismaël Baouf	19.2 yrs	SC Cambuur (NED/2)	R	71.3
Gareth McElroy	18.5 yrs	Sligo Rovers (IRL)	R	69.6
Ahmed Hadžimujović	18.3 yrs	FK Novi Pazar (SRB)	R	69.6
Royer Caicedo	19.6 yrs	Atlético Nacional (COL)	L	69.2
Paolo Calione	19.5 yrs	Club Nacional (URU)	R	68.6





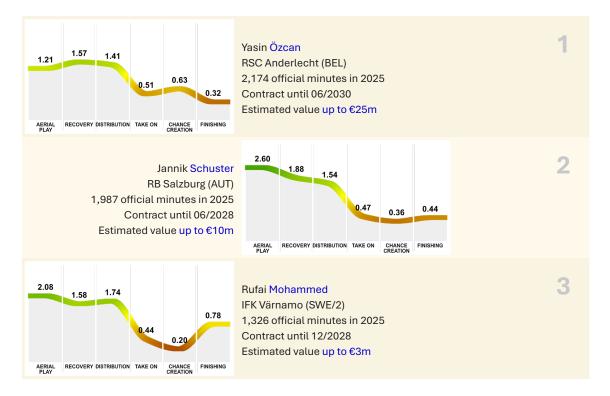




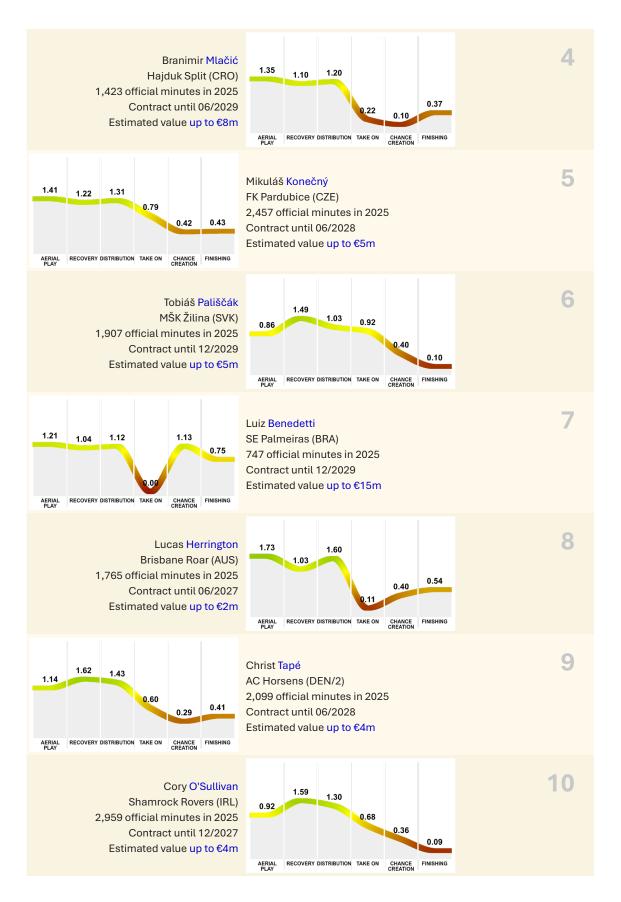
WELL-ROUNDED CENTRE BACKS

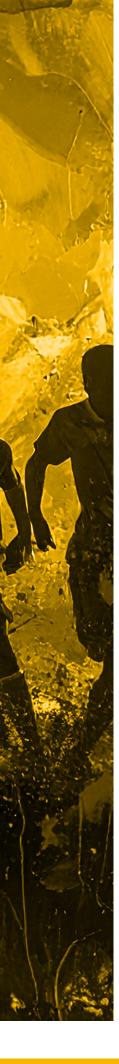
Yasin Özcan tops the rankings among 'well-rounded' centre backs, i.e. those involved both defensively and in distribution. The Turkish player from Anderlecht is already under contract with a big-5 league club: Aston Villa. Austria's **Jannik Schuster** (RB Salzburg) ranks second, ahead of Ghana's **Rufai Mohammed** (IFK Värnamo, on loan from IF Elfsborg). Slovakia's **Tobiáš Pališčák** (MŠK Žilina) is the youngest player in the top 10.

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Yasin Özcan	19.6 yrs	RSC Anderlecht (BEL)	L	77.0
Jannik Schuster	19.6 yrs	RB Salzburg (AUT)	R	75.0
Rufai Mohammed	19.7 yrs	IFK Värnamo (SWE/2)	R	74.0
Branimir Mlačić	18.7 yrs	W Hajduk Split (CRO)	R	72.7
Mikuláš Konečný	19.5 yrs	FK Pardubice (CZE)	R	72.6
Tobiáš Pališčák	18.1 yrs	MŠK Žilina (SVK)	R	71.3
Luiz Benedetti	19.5 yrs	SE Palmeiras (BRA)	L	70.9
Lucas Herrington	18.3 yrs	Brisbane Roar (AUS)	R	70.1
Christ Tapé	19.8 yrs	AC Horsens (DEN/2)	L	70.0
Cory O'Sullivan	19.6 yrs	Shamrock Rovers (IRL)	L	69.1





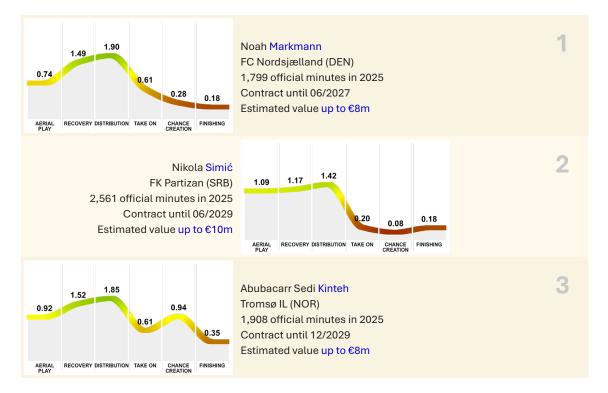




BALL-PLAYING CENTRE BACKS

Noah Markmann from FC Nordsjælland, truly talent factory, ranks first among 'ball-playing' centre-backs, i.e. those heavily involved in distribution. His activity rate in this area of the game is almost twice the average measured for all players (x1.90). The Dane is ahead of Serbia's **Nikola Simić** (FK Partizan) and Gambian full international **Abubacarr Sedi Kinteh** (Tromsø IL). The youngest player in the top 10 is Australia's **Dylan Leonard** (Schalke 04).

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Noah Markmann	18.8 yrs	FC Nordsjælland (DEN)	R	76.6
Nikola Simić	18.7 yrs	FK Partizan (SRB)	L/R	75.4
Abubacarr Sedi Kinteh	19.0 yrs	Tromsø IL (NOR)	L	75.1
Häkon Volden	18.5 yrs	Rosenborg BK (NOR)	R	72.6
Hamza Güreler	19.7 yrs	Başakşehir FK (TUR)	R	72.4
Bleon Kurtulus	18.5 yrs	W Halmstads BK (SWE)	R	71.6
Iván Román	19.4 yrs	Atlético Mineiro (BRA)	R	71.5
Dies Janse	19.9 yrs	FC Groningen (NED)	L	71.5
Vince Osuji	19.7 yrs	Club NXT (BEL/2)	R	71.1
Dylan Leonard	18.3 yrs	FC Schalke 04 (GER/2)	R	70.9







Others (>70)

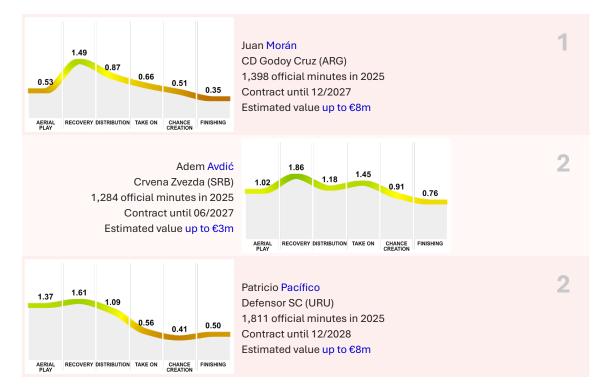
Julius Berthel, 19.5, Odense BK (DEN) / Bastien Meupiyou, 19.7, FC Alverca (POR)



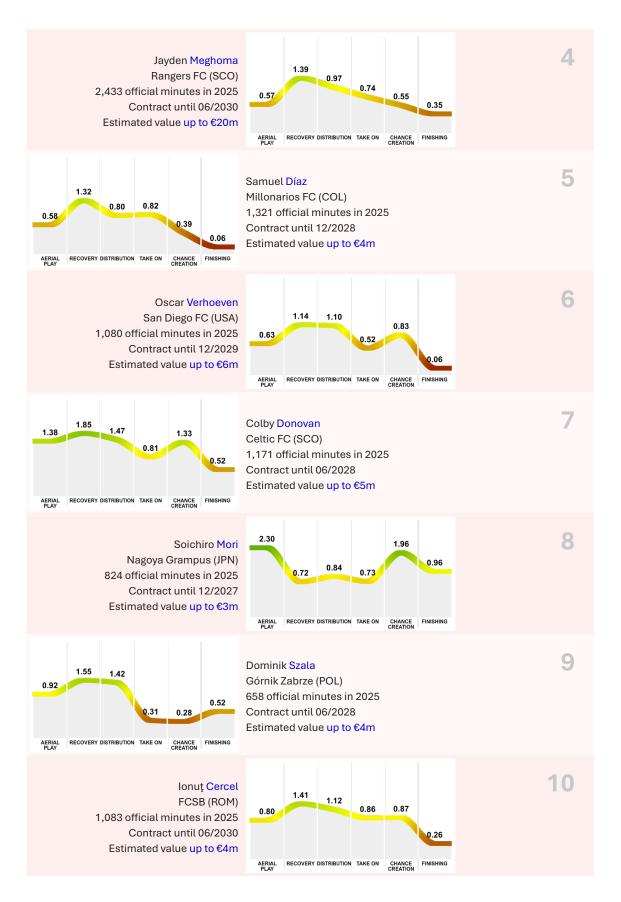
BALL-CHASING WIDE BACKS

The top three 'ball-chasing' wide backs, who are very active defensively, are Argentina's Juan Morán (Godoy Cruz), Serbia's Adem Avdić (Crvena Zvezda), whose profile is not far from that of a 'well-rounded', and Uruguay's Patricio Pacífico (Defensor SC). All three are left-footed talents with a promising future. The youngest player in the top 10 after Adem Avdić is Japan's Soichiro Mori (Nagoya Grampus), who mainly play as a right wing-back.

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
luan Morán	19.4 yrs	CD Godoy Cruz (ARG)	L	75.6
Adem Avdić	18.2 yrs	Crvena Zvezda (SRB)	L	75.2
Patricio Pacífico	19.7 yrs	Defensor SC (URU)	L	75.2
Jayden Meghoma	19.4 yrs	Rangers FC (SCO)	L	73.2
Samuel Díaz	19.9 yrs	Millonarios FC (COL)	R	72.4
Oscar Verhoeven	19.5 yrs	San Diego FC (USA)	R	71.8
Colby Donovan	19.2 yrs	Celtic FC (SCO)	R	71.0
Soichiro Mori	18.4 yrs	Nagoya Grampus (JPN)	R	70.9
Dominik Szala	19.6 yrs	Górnik Zabrze (POL)	R	70.1
Ionuţ Cercel	19.1 yrs	FCSB (ROM)	R	69.4





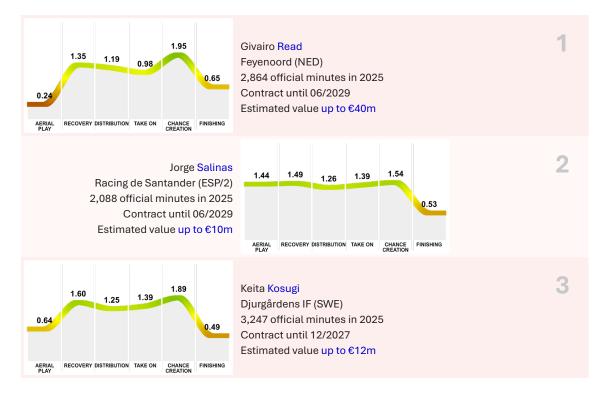




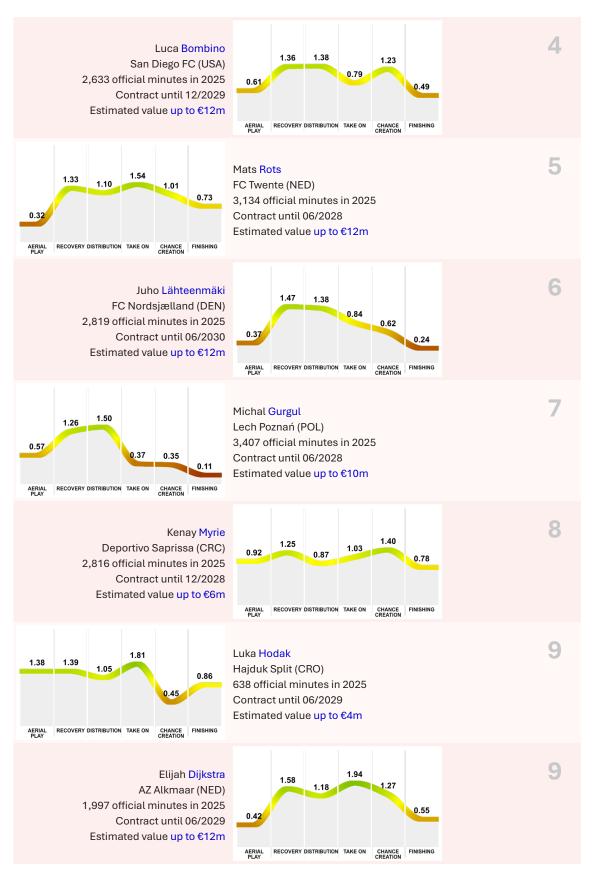
WELL-ROUNDED WIDE BACKS

An already highly experienced player tops the rankings among 'well-rounded' wide backs: **Givairo Read** (Feyenoord). The Dutchman, who is expected to make his international debut soon, has the highest score among all players outside the big-5 born in 2006 or later (85 out of 100). His transfer value for a major club is already €40 million. He is ahead of two other players ready for the big-5: Spain's **Jorge Salinas** (Racing Santander) and Japan's **Keita Kosugi** (Djurgårdens).

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Givairo Read	19.5 yrs	Feyenoord (NED)	R	85.0
Jorge Salinas	18.7 yrs	Racing de Santander (ESP/2)	L	81.5
Keita Kosugi	19.7 yrs	Djurgårdens IF (SWE)	L	79.7
Luca Bombino	19.4 yrs	San Diego FC (USA)	L	79.3
Mats Rots	19.7 yrs	FC Twente (NED)	L	77.0
Juho Lähteenmäki	19.5 yrs	FC Nordsjælland (DEN)	L	76.2
Michal Gurgul	19.9 yrs	Lech Poznań (POL)	L	75.4
Kenay Myrie	19.3 yrs	S Deportivo Saprissa (CRC)	R	75.3
Luka Hodak	19.5 yrs	W Hajduk Split (CRO)	R	73.8
Elijah Dijkstra	19.3 yrs	AZ Alkmaar (NED)	R	73.8

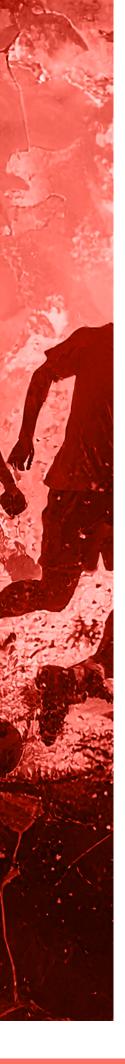






Others (>70)

Sebastián Arancibia, 19.4, Universidad Católica (CHI) / Mats Egbring, 19.2, SC Heerenveen (NED) / Othniël Raterink, 19.6, De Graafschap (NED/2) / Ryunosuke Sato, 19.1, Fagiano Okayama (JPN) / Kaius Simojoki, 19.7, HJK Helsinki (FIN)



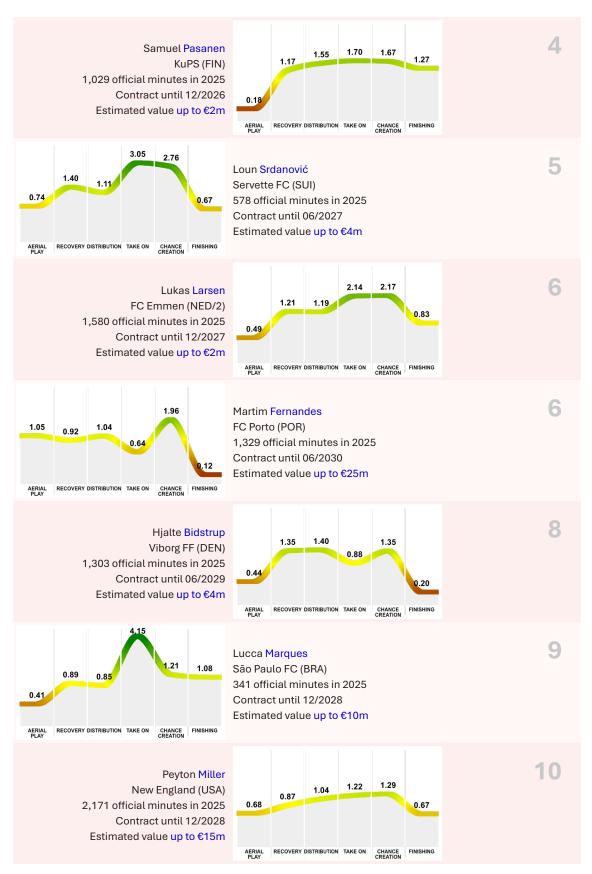
FORWARD-PUSHING WIDE BACKS

Brazilian João Souza (Santos) tops the list of wide backs with high attacking activity. He is ahead of two players with great values in the area of take on: Uruguayan Lautaro Vázquez (Cerro Largo, on loan from Club Nacional) and Englishman Harry Amass (Sheffield Wednesday, on loan from Manchester United). The American Peytor Miller (New England Revolution) is the youngest player in the top 10.

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
João Souza	19.5 yrs	Santos FC (BRA)	L	75.0
Lautaro Vázquez	19.6 yrs	O Cerro Largo (URU)	R	74.7
Harry Amass	18.7 yrs	Sheffield Wednesday (ENG/2)	L	74.7
Samuel Pasanen	19.9 yrs	KuPS (FIN)	R	73.0
Loun Srdanović	19.3 yrs	Servette FC (SUI)	R	72.7
Lukas Larsen	19.7 yrs	FC Emmen (NED/2)	L	71.6
Martim Fernandes	19.9 yrs	FC Porto (POR)	R	71.6
Hjalte Bidstrup	19.8 yrs	Wiborg FF (DEN)	R	71.1
Lucca Marques	18.5 yrs	São Paulo FC (BRA)	R	70.9
Peyton Miller	18.1 yrs	New England (USA)	L	70.7







Others (>70)

Harbor Miller, 18.4, Los Angeles Galaxy (USA) / Moncef Zekri, 17.2, KV Mechelen (BEL)

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BALL-WINNING MIDFIELDERS

With a score of 80.3 out of 100, Lanús' Argentine **Agustín Medina** tops the rankings among 'ball-winning' midfielders, i.e. those who are mainly active defensively. He is ahead of Serbia's **Vanja Dragojević** (FK Partizan) and the very young Finnish player **Matias Siltanen** (Djurgårdens), whose profile is not far from that of a 'playmaking' midfielder. The estimated transfer value of these players for a major club already exceeds €10 million.

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Agustín Medina	19.1 yrs	(ARG)	R	80.3
Vanja Dragojević	19.9 yrs	FK Partizan (SRB)	R	78.3
Matias Siltanen	18.7 yrs	Ojurgårdens IF (SWE)	R	77.8
Ridwan Popoola	19.1 yrs	Kisvárda FC (HUN)	R	74.9
Halam Loboa	19.6 yrs	Independiente Medellín (COL)	R	74.7
Kenan Busuladžić	18.8 yrs	Malmö FF (SWE)	R	73.6
Luca Regiardo	19.1 yrs	Newell's Old Boys (ARG)	R	72.4
Jonathan Shore	18.6 yrs	New York City (USA)	R	72.4
Luis Otávio	18.7 yrs	SC Internacional (BRA)	R	71.8
Andrey Ivlev	19.0 yrs	FK Pari NN (RUS)	R	71.4







Others (>70)

Vasilije Novičić, 17.5, FK IMT (SRB) / Laurits Pedersen, 19.8, Randers FC (DEN)

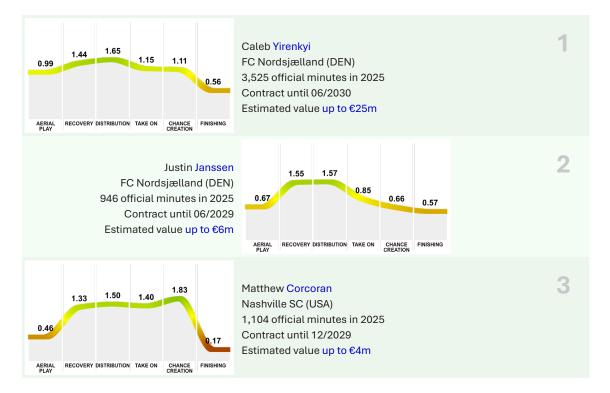
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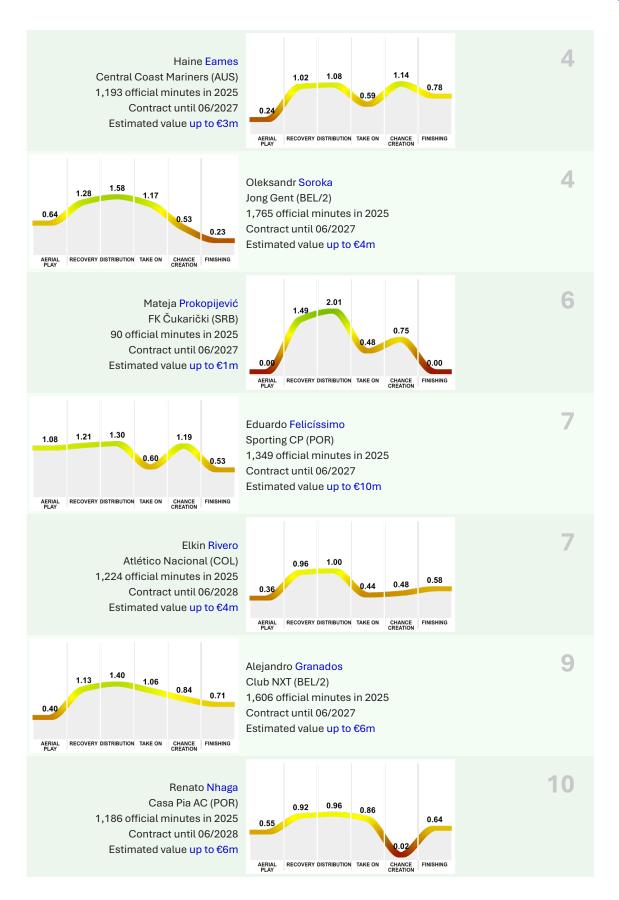
PLAYMAKING MIDFIELDERS

While the playmaking midfielder category regroups the fewest players, the score of the top-ranked footballer, **Caleb Yirenkyi** (FC Nordsjælland), is very high: 82.1 out of 100. Already a Ghanaian international, his estimated transfer value for a big club is up to €25 million. He is ahead of his teammate, Denmark's **Justin Janssen**, reflecting Nordsjælland's taste for technical play and players. Nashville's American **Matthew Corcoran**, whose profile is close to that of a 'well-rounded', completes the podium.

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Caleb Yirenkyi	19.9 yrs	FC Nordsjælland (DEN)	R	82.1
Justin Janssen	19.4 yrs	FC Nordsjælland (DEN)	R	69.9
Matthew Corcoran	19.8 yrs	Nashville SC (USA)	R	69.3
Haine Eames	17.8 yrs	Central Coast Mariners (AUS)	R	69.0
Oleksandr Soroka	18.9 yrs	Jong Gent (BEL/2)	R	69.0
Mateja Prokopijević	18.9 yrs	FK Čukarički (SRB)	R	68.6
Eduardo Felicíssimo	18.9 yrs	Sporting CP (POR)	R	68.4
Elkin Rivero	19.8 yrs	Atlético Nacional (COL)	R	68.4
Alejandro Granados	19.5 yrs	Club NXT (BEL/2)	L	68.1
Renato Nhaga	18.7 yrs	Casa Pia AC (POR)	R	66.6









WELL-ROUNDED MIDFIELDERS

Two full internationals and a third player who is likely to become one soon head the rankings among 'well-rounded' midfielders: **Kees Smit** (AZ Alkmaar), **Victor Froholdt** (Porto, Danish international) and **Christos Mouzakitis** (Olympiacos, Greek international). Their transfer value for a major club is up to €60 million for Froholdt and €30 million for the other two. Three footballers under the age of 18 are ranked in the top 10: **Jorthy Mokio** (Ajax), **Zé Lucas** (Sport Recife) and **Adrian Ladho** (Hammarby).

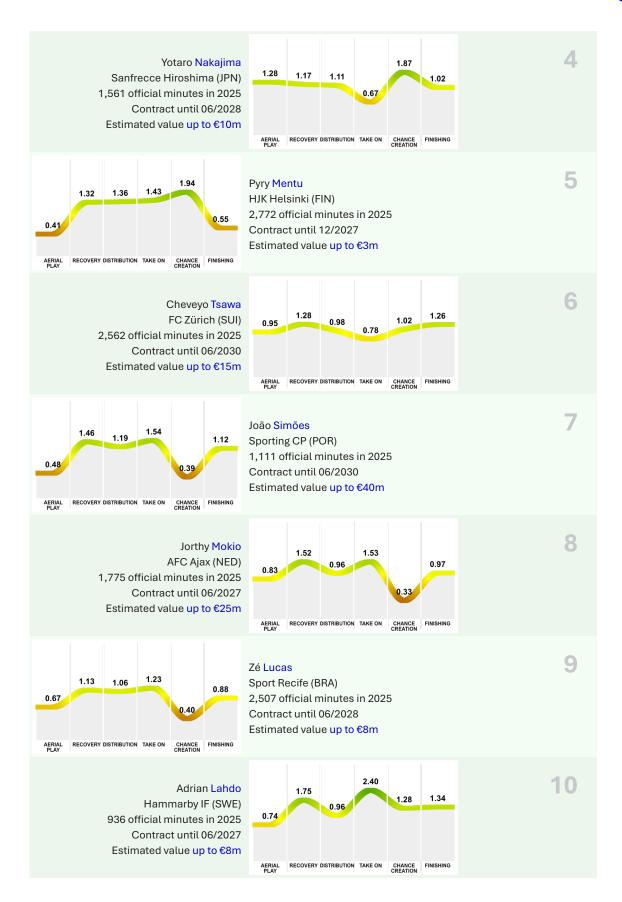
Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Kees Smit	19.9 yrs	AZ Alkmaar (NED)	R	81.8
Victor Froholdt	19.8 yrs	FC Porto (POR)	R	81.0
Christos Mouzakitis	18.9 yrs	Olympiacos FC (GRE)	L	77.5
Yotaro Nakajima	19.6 yrs	Sanfrecce Hiroshima (JPN)	R	74.2
Pyry Mentu	19.1 yrs	HJK Helsinki (FIN)	R	73.8
Cheveyo Tsawa	19.0 yrs	FC Zürich (SUI)	R	73.4
João Simões	18.9 yrs	Sporting CP (POR)	L	73.0
Jorthy Mokio	17.8 yrs	AFC Ajax (NED)	L	72.9
Zé Lucas	17.7 yrs	Sport Recife (BRA)	R	72.8
Adrian Lahdo	17.9 yrs	Hammarby IF (SWE)	R	72.4



Others (>70)

Fredrik Ardraa, 19.1, Strømsgodset IF (NOR) / Harrison Armstrong, 18.8, Preston North End (ENG/2) / Andrej Bačanin, 18.7, FC Basel (SUI) / Nathan De Cat, 17.3, RSC Anderlecht (BEL) / Darwin Guagua, 18.0, Independiente del Valle (ECU) / Taha Habroune, 19.8, Columbus Crew (USA) / David Matei, 19.3, Universitatea Craiova (ROM) /





Fabio Rispoli, 19.1, US Catanzaro (ITA/2) / Dominik Sarapata, 18.1, FC København (DEN) / Lucas Silva, 19.0, FC Luzern (SUI)

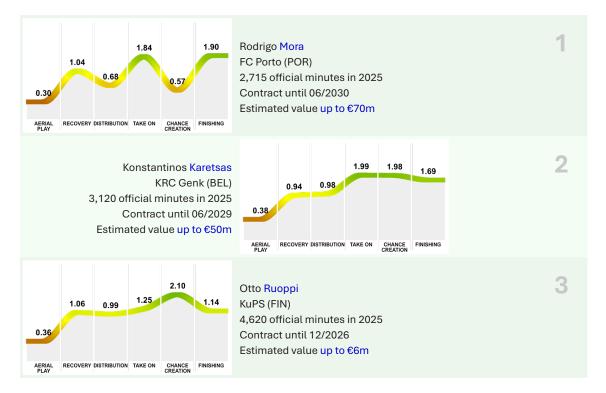
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FORWARD-ORIENTED MIDFIELDERS

Among the midfielders primarily focused on offensive play, the highest score was recorded for the highly talented Portuguese **Rodrigo Mora**. The estimated transfer value of FC Porto's player for a major club is already up to €70 million. This is €20 million more than for the second-ranked footballer: Greek international **Konstantinos Karetsas** (KRC Genk). Another outstanding talent is the youngest in the top 10: Mexico's **Gilberto Mora** (Club Tijuana).

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Rodrigo Mora	18.6 yrs	FC Porto (POR)	R	82.0
Konstantinos Karetsas	18.0 yrs	KRC Genk (BEL)	L	79.8
Otto Ruoppi	19.9 yrs	KuPS (FIN)	R	76.5
Vasilije Kostov	17.6 yrs	Crvena Zvezda (SRB)	R	76.0
Alphadjo Cissé	19.1 yrs	US Catanzaro (ITA/2)	R	75.5
Ognjen Ugresić	19.4 yrs	FK Partizan (SRB)	R	74.8
Filip Rózga	19.3 yrs	Sturm Graz (AUT)	L	74.4
Gilberto Mora	17.1 yrs	Club Tijuana (MEX)	R	74.2
Jonathan Asp Jensen	19.9 yrs	Grasshopper Club (SUI)	R	74.0
Christ Inao Oulaï	19.7 yrs	Trabzonspor (TUR)	R	73.1







Others (>70)

Farouck Adekami, 19.3, Royal Antwerp (BEL) / Saïmon Bouabré, 19.5, Neom SC (KSA) / Justin Lerma, 17.5, Independiente del Valle (ECU) / Jeremy Mejía, 19.2, El Nacional (ECU) / Sverre Nypan, 18.9, Middlesbrough FC (ENG/2) / Mateo Peralta, 19.6, Danubio FC (URU) / Santiago Sandoval, 18.3, Chivas Guadalajara (MEX) / Sean Steur, 17.9, AFC Ajax (NED)

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INFILTRATING WINGERS

Brazilian Pedrinho (FK Zenit) tops the list of wingers with take on as main area of activity. He is ahead of another South American, Argentine Álvaro Montoro (Botafogo), whose score is also above 80. Denmark's Mikel Gogorza (FC Midtjylland) and Argentina's Maher Carrizo (Vélez Sarsfield) are tied for third place, just ahead of the youngest player in the top 10: Poland's Oskar Pietuszewski (Jagiellonia Bialystok).

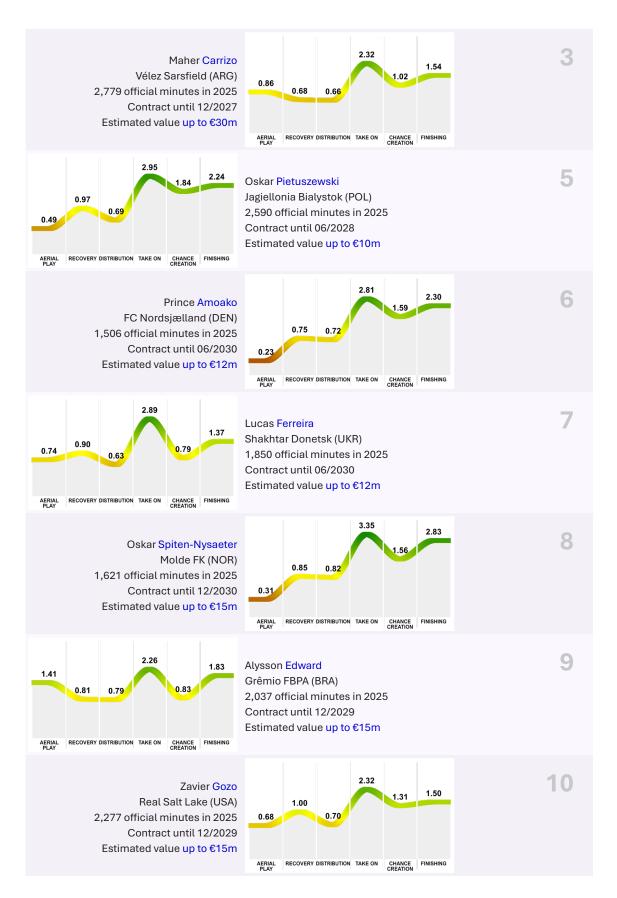
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Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Pedrinho Henrique	19.8 yrs	FK Zenit (RUS)	R	81.8
Álvaro Montoro	18.6 yrs	Botafogo RJ (BRA)	R	81.1
Mikel Gogorza	19.2 yrs	FC Midtjylland (DEN)	R	79.3
Maher Carrizo	19.8 yrs	Vélez Sarsfield (ARG)	L	79.3
Oskar Pietuszewski	17.5 yrs	Jagiellonia Bialystok (POL)	R	77.7
Prince Amoako	18.8 yrs	FC Nordsjælland (DEN)	R	77.4
Lucas Ferreira	19.6 yrs	Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR)	L	77.2
Oskar Spiten-Nysaeter	18.3 yrs	Molde FK (NOR)	R	75.9
Alysson Edward	19.6 yrs	Grêmio FBPA (BRA)	L	75.8
Zavier Gozo	18.7 yrs	Real Salt Lake (USA)	R	75.5



Others (>70)

Ognjen Bondžulić, 18.3, FK Mladost (SRB) / Mathys Detourbet, 18.6, ES Troyes (FRA/2) / Tarik Essakkati, 19.8, Helmond Sport (NED/2) / Jan Faberski, 19.6, PEC Zwolle (NED) / William Gomes, 19.7, FC Porto (POR) / Olti Hyseni, 18.4, SønderjyskE (DEN) / Min-Su Kim, 19.8, FC Andorra (ESP/2) / Santiago López, 19.8, Rosario Central (ARG) /





Francisco Marchant, 19.3, Colo Colo (CHI) / Mikey Moore, 18.3, Rangers FC (SCO) / Douglas Owusu, 19.6, Radnik Surdulica (SRB) / Gianluca Prestianni, 19.8, SL Benfica (POR) / Ian Subiabre, 18.9, River Plate (ARG) / Gennadiy Synchuk, 19.4, CF Montréal (USA) / Ayodele Thomas, 18.3, Jong PSV (NED/2) / Filip Thorvaldsen, 19.6, Vålerenga Fotball (NOR)



WELL-ROUNDED WINGERS

A player already owned by a big-5 league club ranks first among 'well-rounded' wingers: **Geovany Quenda** (Sporting CP, on loan from Chelsea). His score is the second highest among all players (83.6), reflecting his great talent. The Portuguese is ahead of two other very promising players: Brazilian **Rayan Vitor** (Vasco da Gama) and Bosnian **Kerim Alajbegović** (RB Salzburg). Bayer Leverkusen apparently has a buy-back clause for the latter player.

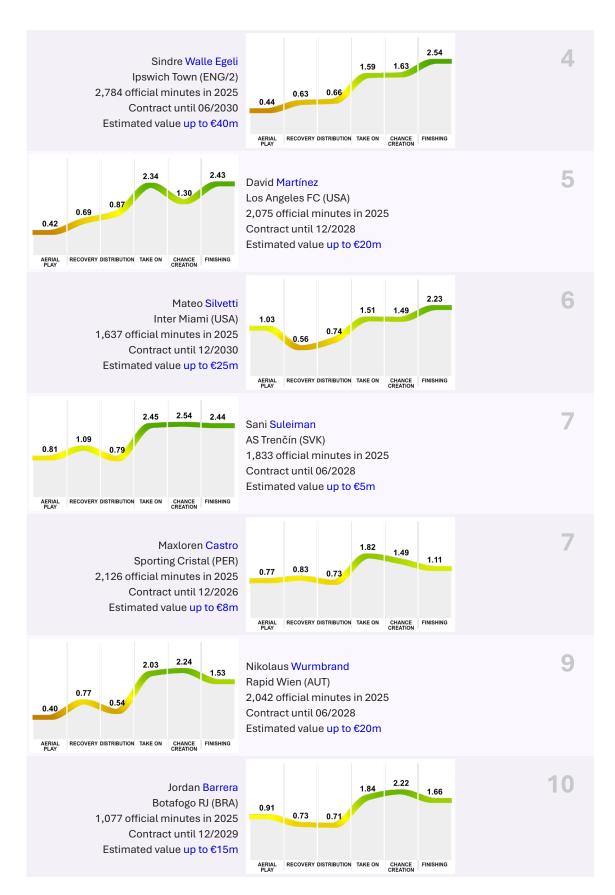
P 10					
Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score	
Geovany Quenda	18.6 yrs	Sporting CP (POR)	L	83.6	
Rayan Vitor	19.3 yrs	Vasco da Gama (BRA)	L	81.6	
Kerim Alajbegović	18.2 yrs	RB Salzburg (AUT)	L/R	79.0	
Sindre Walle Egeli	19.5 yrs	Ipswich Town (ENG/2)	L	78.9	
David Martínez	19.8 yrs	Los Angeles FC (USA)	L	76.4	
Mateo Silvetti	19.9 yrs	Inter Miami (USA)	R	74.7	
Sani Suleiman	19.3 yrs	AS Trenčín (SVK)	R	74.0	
Maxloren Castro	18.0 yrs	Sporting Cristal (PER)	L	74.0	
Nikolaus Wurmbrand	19.9 yrs	Rapid Wien (AUT)	L/R	73.8	
Jordan Barrera	19.7 yrs	Botafogo RJ (BRA)	R	73.7	



Others (>70)

Keny Arroyo, 19.8, Cruzeiro EC (BRA) / Hugo Camberos, 18.8, Chivas Guadalajara (MEX) / Illaijh de Ruijter, 19.2, ADO Den Haag (NED/2) / Owen Elding, 19.7, Sligo Rovers (IRL) / Sayed Abu Farchi, 19.6, Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR) / Jandry Gómez, 19.3, Barcelona SC (ECU) / Bogdan Kostić, 18.8, FK Partizan (SRB) / Kutlwano Lethlaku, 19.7, Mamelodi Sundowns (RSA) / Ayoub Oufkir, 19.9, Sparta Rotterdam (NED) / Dmitri Pestryakov, 19.0, Akron Togliatti (RUS) / Adrian Przyborek, 18.9, Pogoń Szczecin





(POL) / Joel Romero, 19.9, América de Cali (COL) / Luighi Sousa, 19.6, SE Palmeiras (BRA) / Stígur Thórdarson, 19.9, Víkingur Reykjavík (ISL) / Mihai Toma, 18.8, FCSB (ROM) / Rodrigo Villalba, 19.7, Club Libertad (PAR) / Dušan Žagar, 19.1, FK IMT (SRB) / Luka Zarić, 17.1, Crvena Zvezda (SRB) / Jovan Živković, 19.5, Györi ETO (HUN)

WELL-ROUNDED CENTRE FORWARDS

With activity rates above two in all offensive areas, Ghanaian **Edmund Baidoo** (RB Salzburg) leads the way among 'well-rounded' centre forwards. He is ahead of the highly promising Brazilian **Kauã Elias** (Shakhtar Donetsk) and Croatian U21 international **Leon Grgić** (Sturm Graz). Uruguayan **Lautaro Navarro**, from the talent factory that is Defensor SC, is the youngest player in the top 10, ahead of Irishman **Mason Melia** (already signed by Tottenham).

TO	P 10				
	Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
1	Edmund Baidoo	19.9 yrs	RB Salzburg (AUT)	R	78.9
2	Kauã Elias	19.7 yrs	Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR)	R	77.6
3	Leon Grgić	19.9 yrs	Sturm Graz (AUT)	L/R	76.3
4	Andrej Kostić	18.9 yrs	FK Partizan (SRB)	R	76.0
5	Yojhan Garcés	19.5 yrs	América de Cali (COL)	R	74.2
6	Nestory Irankunda	19.8 yrs	Watford FC (ENG/2)	R	73.8
7	Amin Chiakha	19.7 yrs	Vejle BK (DEN)	R	72.8
	Lautaro Navarro	17.8 yrs	Defensor SC (URU)	R	72.8
9	Mason Melia	18.2 yrs	St Pat's FC (IRL)	R	72.7
10	Leo Rimac	19.7 yrs	FC Koper (SVN)	L	72.0







Others (>70)

Jacob Ambaek, 17.6, Brøndby IF (DEN) / Jesse Bal, 19.1, ADO Den Haag (NED/2) / Jerolldino Bergraaf, 19.4, SBV Excelsior (NED) / Mihajlo Cvetković, 18.9, RSC Anderlecht (BEL) / Daniel Dappa, 18.2, Hapoel Tel Aviv (ISR) / Aldin Jakupović, 19.5, NK Bravo (SVN) / Levy Nene, 19.7, FC Nordsjælland (DEN) / Abdoul Karim Traoré, 18.9, OH Leuven (BEL)

OF ELTINGS

AERIAL CENTRE FORWARDS

Icelandic international **Daníel Gudjohnsen** has the best score among aerial centre forwards. Under contract with Malmö FF until 2028, he already has a transfer value of up to €20 million for a major club. His profile is close to that of a 'well-rounded'. His runners-up on the podium, however, have a much more typical profile for this category: **Ricardo Mathias** (SC Internacional) and **Samy Merheg** (Deportivo Pereira).

Player	Age	Current club	Foot	Score
Daníel Gudjohnsen	19.8 yrs	Malmö FF (SWE)	R	78.0
Ricardo Mathias	19.4 yrs	SC Internacional (BRA)	R	76.9
Samy Merheg	19.0 yrs	Deportivo Pereira (COL)	R	73.0
Uroš Sremčević	19.6 yrs	FK Mladost (SRB)	L/R	72.5
Uchenna Ogundu	19.6 yrs	Alanyaspor (TUR)	R	72.3
Jakub Pira	18.0 yrs	Baník Ostrava (CZE)	R	72.3
Gonzalo Petit	19.2 yrs	CD Mirandés (ESP/2)	R	72.0
Leo Östman	19.7 yrs	IF Elfsborg (SWE)	R	70.9
Faustino Barone	19.6 yrs	Olimpia Asunción (PAR)	R	70.5
Yannick Eduardo	19.9 yrs	FC Dordrecht (NED/2)	L	70.4







Others (>70)

Mamadou Doumbia, 19.8, Watford FC (ENG/2)



ANNEXE

Thanks to the partnership with Impect, the CIES Football Observatory research team has developed a sophisticated methodology to objectively measure the performance of outfield players, compare their activity, classify them into position and skill-based categories, and determine their technical profiles.

(1) Performance

In terms of performance, we selected various technical actions frequently performed by players, which were classified into eight areas and combined as follows:

- Air defence: aerial duels won in the first two thirds of the pitch compared to team average and success rate; goals conceded frequency when player on the pitch.
- **Ground defence**: ground duels won in own half compared to team average and success rate; interceptions in own half compared to team average; goals conceded frequency when player on the pitch.
- Build-up: successful passes from own half compared to team average and success rate.
- Orchestration: successful passes from opponent half compared to team average and success rate.
- **Take on:** successful dribbles and success rate; progressive carries of at least eight metres towards the opponent's goal.
- Chance creation: passes leading to a shot weighted by the probability of a goal (xG of shots); passes leaving at most one outfield opponent closer to the goal than the ball; passes received by a teammate in the central rectangle of the opponent's penalty box.
- **Finishing**: number and effectiveness of shots (gap between goals scored and expected); goals frequency.
- Air attack: aerial duels won in the last third of the pitch compared to team average and success rate; headers.

For each area, the values are weighted by the sporting level of the matches played over the period considered according to this method, as well as by the average number of minutes per match played, so as valuing rarely substituted starting 11 players. For greater legibility, the values obtained are rescaled from 30 to 100.

A general performance index is calculated from the scores per area by averaging the maximum value (aerial play areas excluded, except at defensive level for centre backs) and the median value between the most relevant areas per position (six for defenders and midfielders; four for wingers and centre forwards). An adjustment by position ensures the comparability of the index between all players.

A relative performance index is calculated by comparing the player's general performance index value to the average measured across his club, to highlight players who are outperforming their teammates (any value greater than one).

To assess the most influential players in a given competition, whether for specific domain scores or the general performance index, total playing time is sometimes added as a weighting factor.



(2) Activity

To determine player activity, we again selected various technical actions frequently performed by players, which were classified into six game areas and combined as follows:

- Aerial play: aerial duels per minute in possession in the last third of the pitch and out of possession in the first two thirds.
- **Recovery**: ground duels, interceptions and loose balls recoveries per minute out of possession.
- **Distribution**: passes attempted per minute in possession.
- **Take on:** dribbles attempted and progressive carries of at least eight metres towards the opponent's goal per minute in possession.
- Chance creation: passes leading to a shot weighted by the probability of a goal (xG of shots); passes leaving at most one outfield opponent closer to the goal than the ball; passes received by a teammate in the central rectangle of the opponent's penalty box.
- Finishing: shots per minute of possession.

For each area, the activity rate is calculated by dividing the player's value by the average of all players in the sample analysed. A value of 1 indicates activity equal to the average of all players, above 1 over-activity and below 1 under-activity. The area in which the player has the highest ratio is defined as the main area, and so on.

(3) Categories

By combining players' activity levels in the different areas and their main position during the period under review, we have identified 14 categories of players: three for centre backs, three for wide backs, four for midfielders, two for wingers and two for centre forwards.

Ball-fighting centre backs

Centre backs with aerial play and ball recovery as the two main areas of activity, in any order; aerial play or ball recovery as main area and an activity gap of more than 0.5 with respect to any other area; distribution as main area and aerial play and recovery as second and third ones with an activity gap of less than 0.2; except for those with aerial play or recovery as main area and an activity in distribution of at least 1.5 (well-rounded); those with aerial play, recovery and distribution as three main areas, in any order, with an activity gap of less than 0.1 (well-rounded).

Well-rounded centre backs

Centre backs with aerial play or ball recovery as main area of activity and any other area as secondary one with an activity gap of less than 0.5; with aerial play or recovery as main area and an activity in distribution of at least 1.5; with aerial play, recovery and distribution as three main areas, in any order, with an activity gap of less than 0.1.

Ball-playing centre backs

Centre backs with distribution, take on, chance creation or finishing as main area of activity; except for those with distribution as main area and aerial play and recovery as second and third ones with an activity gap of less than 0.2 (ball-fighting); those with an activity gap of less than 0.1 between aerial play, recovery and distribution (well-rounded); those with aerial play, recovery and distribution as three main areas, in any order, with an activity gap of less than 0.1 (well-rounded).



Ball-chasing wide backs

Wide backs with aerial play or ball recovery as main area of activity; with aerial play or recovery as second area of activity after distribution with a value greater than 1, and no offensive value (take on, chance creation, shooting) exceeding 1; except for those with an activity gap of less than 0.4 between at least five areas (well-rounded); those with an offensive area as secondary one with an activity gap of less than 0.2 (well-rounded); those with a value greater than 1 in at least two offensive areas (well-rounded).

Well-rounded wide backs

Wide backs with an activity gap of less than 0.4 between at least five areas; with recovery or aerial play as main area and an offensive one (take on, chance creation or finishing) as secondary one with an activity gap of less than 0.2; with an offensive area as the main one and aerial play or recovery as secondary with an activity gap of less than 0.8; with recovery or aerial play as main area and an activity greater than 1 in at least two offensive areas; with distribution as main area, aerial play or recovery as secondary one and no value except distribution greater than 1.

Forward-pushing wide backs

Wide backs with distribution, take on, chance creation or finishing as main area; except for those with an activity gap of less than 0.4 between at least five areas (well-rounded); those with recovery or aerial play as secondary area with an activity gap of less than 0.8 (well-rounded); those with distribution as main area, aerial play or recovery as secondary one and no value except distribution greater than 1 (well-rounded); those with aerial play or recovery as second area of activity after distribution with a value greater than 1 and no offensive value (take on, chance creation, shooting) exceeding 1 (ball-chasing).

Ball-winning midfielders

Midfielders with recovery or aerial play as main area; except for those with an activity gap of less than 0.4 between at least five areas (well-rounded); and those with take on, chance creation or finishing as secondary area with an activity gap of less than 1 (well-rounded).

Playmaking midfielders

Midfielders with distribution as main area; or as secondary one if the main area is chance creation with an activity gap of less than 1.

Well-rounded midfielders

Midfielders with an activity gap of less than 0.4 between at least five areas; with recovery or aerial play as main area and an offensive one (take on, chance creation or finishing) as the secondary one with an activity gap of less than 1; with an offensive area as the main one and recovery or distribution as secondary area with an activity gap of less than 1; with an offensive area as the main one, a value greater than 1 in at least two domains between distribution, recovery and aerial play and an activity gap of less than 1 between the maximum value and the highest value between recovery and aerial play. Except for those with distribution as main area or secondary one if the main area is chance creation with an activity gap of less than 1 (playmaking).



Forward-oriented midfielders

Midfielders with take on, chance creation or finishing as main area; except for those with an activity gap of less than 0.4 between at least five areas (well-rounded); those with recovery or distribution as secondary area with an activity gap of less than 1 (well-rounded); those with a value greater than 1 in at least two areas between distribution, recovery and aerial play and an activity gap of less than 1 between the maximum value and the highest value between recovery and aerial play (well-rounded); those with chance creation as main area and distribution as the secondary one with an activity gap of less than 1 (playmaking).

Infiltrating wingers

Wingers with take on as main area.

Well-rounded wingers

Wingers with aerial play, recovery, distribution, chance creation or finishing as main area.

Well-rounded centre forwards

Centre forwards with recovery, distribution, take on, chance creation or finishing as main area; except for those with aerial play as secondary area of activity with a value greater than 1, an activity gap of less than 0.5 with respect to the main area, as well as take on and chance creation values lower than 1 (aerial).

Aerial centre forwards

Centre forwards with aerial play as the main area of activity; with aerial play as the secondary area with a value greater than 1, an activity gap of less than 0.5 with respect to the main area, as well as take on and chance creation values lower than 1.

(4) Technical profiles

Players' technical profiles are determined independently of their position by taking into account their two main areas of activity. For example, if a player is most active in finishing and aerial play, he will be defined as a Shooter with aerial ability.

Since its creation in 2005, the Football Observatory research group within the CIES (Centre International d'Étude du Sport) has become a reference point in the demographic and economic study of the football players' labour and transfer markets, the analysis of the clubs' and players' performance (technical, tactical, physical), as well as the scientific estimation of transfer values.

The CIES Football Observatory is regularly mandated by key governing bodies, many of the most reknown clubs worldwide, consulting firms, legal firms, sponsors, data companies, media outlets, intermediaries and other investors involved in the world of football.

The CIES Football Observatory enjoys considerable success. More than 34,000 subscribers receive our weekly newsletters. The website records several hundred thousand visits per year and the group is also present on the main social media, with more than 150,000 followers.

More information: www.football-observatory.com

