2011/12
Technical Report

INTRODUCTION

This technical report sets out to provide a permanent record of the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League – the competition's 20th season. In addition to recording factual and statistical information, it seeks to offer analysis, reflections and debating points which, it is hoped, will give technicians food for thought. By highlighting tendencies and trends at the peak of professional club football, it also sets out to provide coaches who are active in the development levels of the game with information that may be helpful in terms of working on the qualities which will be needed by the UEFA Champions League performers of the future.

A sell-out crowd settles into seats at the Fussball Arena in Munich as the Chelsea FC and FC Bayern München players line up for the competition's 20th final.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The road to Munich

During the 2010/11 season, the form book had been, by and large, respected during the group stage. This was not the c ase during the 2011/12 campaign, which featured 17 clubs who had not been on the starting grid in the previous season. In terms of the coaching profession, there was almost unprecedented stability, in that none of the eliminated teams changed their head coach during the group stage. Curiously, the most notable mid-season changes were registered at clubs which were still in action after the winter break, with FC Basel 1893 and FC Internazionale Milano making managerial substitutions, along with the eventual champions, Chelsea FC. However, the unusually low level of volatility in the technical area was accompanied by a high level on the pitch.

The most striking example was the elimination of the 2011 silver medallists, Manchester United FC, during a period when Sir Alex Ferguson was obliged to shuffle his lineup in order to cope with an extraordinary run of injuries. Much the same applied to Villarreal CF who, unusually for any Spanish competitor, finished the group stage without winning a point. The underlying factor was also a long injury list which often left Juan Carlos Garrido without seven or eight of his starters in contests against FC Bayern München, SSC Napoli and Manchester City FC in an exceptionally tough Group A. Most coaches are aware of the need to rotate their squads in order to cope with UEFA Champions League and domestic demands (the majority use 20 or more different players during the six-game group stage), but the vagaries of the injury list can often signify the difference between success and failure. Villarreal, in fact, were relegated at the end of the season.

In terms of on-the-pitch performances, differences between success and failure were frequently minimal. In Group A, Roberto Mancini's Manchester City FC lost out despite taking ten points, while five teams qualified with fewer. In a Group B which produced five

draws, PFC CSKA Moskva reached the last 16 by beating FC Internazionale in Milan on the final matchday, to pip Turkish debutants Trabzonspor AŞ, who had also won at San Siro on the opening day but failed to win another game. In Group C, Basel, having raised eyebrows with a courageous 3-3 draw at Old Trafford earlier in the campaign, needed to beat Manchester United FC at home in their closing fixture – and did so on a night when very little went right for Sir Alex Ferguson's team. In Group D, where Real Madrid CF were unique among the 32 starters in winning all six group games, the drama was also reserved for the final matchday, when Olympique Lyonnais, having scored twice in their previous five fixtures, scored six in the second half against ten-man GNK Dinamo in Zagreb to edge ahead of AFC Ajax on goal difference.

In the other half of the draw, Chelsea needed to beat Valencia CF at home in their final match – and did so with a convincing 3-0 scoreline. The London club, during the run to the title (in which Andre Villas-Boas was replaced by Roberto Di Matteo after matchday 7) conceded only two goals in six games at Stamford Bridge. In Group F, Didier Deschamps' Olympique de Marseille reached the last 16 thanks to two goals in the last five minutes of their last match, which enabled them to come from 2-0 down to beat Borussia Dortmund 3-2 in Germany. In Group G, where 5 of the 12 games were drawn and a single point separated the top three, APOEL FC claimed first place despite scoring only six goals in as many games. By defeating Olympique Lyonnais in a penalty shoot-out in the next round, the side coached by Serbia's Ivan Jovanović made history by becoming the first Cypriot team to reach the quarter-finals. Group H was unique in that almost all issues were settled before the final matchday, with Pep Guardiola's FC Barcelona scoring 20 and conceding only 4 – all of them scored by second-placed AC Milan. By the end of the group stage, four of the five debutants (Manchester City FC, FC Oțelul Galați, Trabzonspor and FC Viktoria Plzeň) had been eliminated and only SSC Napoli had earned a place among the top 16.
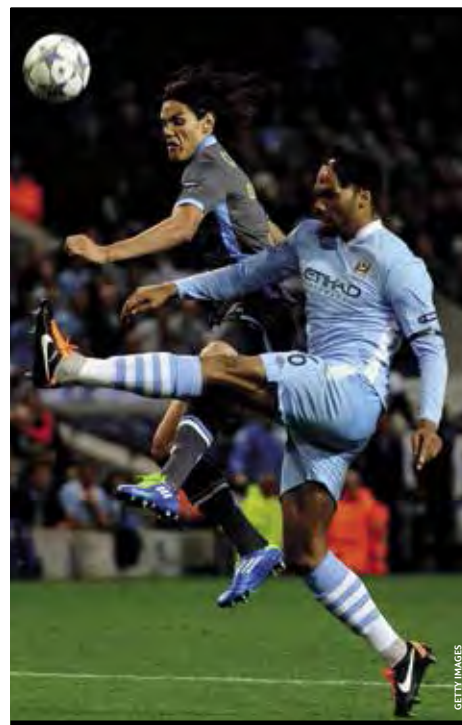
SSC Napoli attacker Edinson Cavani looks anxious as Manchester City defender Joleon Lescott puts a muscular leg in his way during the 1-1 draw in Manchester on matchday 1.

Walter Mazzari's team came close to progressing even further when play resumed in February. A convincing 3-1 home win put them in the driving seat against Chelsea FC, only for the London side to fight back for a 4-1 extra-time victory in London. Olympique de Marseille, whose late goal in Milan eliminated 2010 champions Inter, combined with APOEL's shoot-out victory and two aggregate wins by a single goal, underlined the slimness of success v failure margins. The exceptions were José Mourinho's Real Madrid (4-1 home winners against CSKA after a 1-1 draw in icy Moscow) and Bayern and Barça, who scored seven

Alexander Frei strikes powerfully from the penalty spot to put FC Basel 3-2 ahead during the surprise 3-3 draw with Manchester United FC at Old Trafford.

A despairing lunge by Branislav Ivanović and an attempted interception by John Terry fail to prevent Lionel Messi from shooting at goal during Chelsea FC's 2-2 semi-final draw in Barcelona.

apiece in their home games against Basel and Bayer 04 Leverkusen respectively. Such striking results prompted international critics to confirm the trio as favourites to compete for the title.

Events in the quarter-finals supported this theory, with Real Madrid emphatically ending APOEL's adventure and Bayern equalling them in recording home and away victories (against Olympique de Marseille), while Barcelona were made to work hard for a 3-1 aggregate win against AC Milan in a contest between clubs which had won the title 11 times between them. The semi-final quartet was completed by Chelsea, who, after a 1-0 win in Lisbon, played 50 minutes of the return leg with a one-man advantage after SL Benfica had had captain Maxi Pereira dismissed. Javi García's 85th-minute equaliser for the visitors left Roberto Di Matteo's side one goal from elimination – only for an added-time goal from Raul Meireles to post a deceptively comfortable-looking 3-1 aggregate victory.

The Londoners also teetered on a tightrope during a semi-final against the defending champions, in which Pep Guardiola's Barça had 72% of the ball – even at Stamford Bridge – and dominated 46 to 12 in terms of goal attempts. Chelsea, playing 53 minutes with ten at Camp Nou, relied on deep defending, last-ditch tackling or blocking… and the woodwork, with Lionel Messi striking a penalty against the crossbar in the return leg. Chelsea scored three goals during periods of added time at the end of each half to secure an against-the-odds 3-2 aggregate win.

The other semi-final was also a story of resilience prevailing. The pendulum initially swung in Real Madrid's favour in both legs – in Munich when Mesut Özil struck a precious away goal, only for Mario Gomez to snatch a 2-1 win for Bayern in the 90th minute, and in Madrid after the home side went 2-0 up in 14 minutes at the Santiago Bernabéu. But there were no further goals during the 93 minutes subsequent to Arjen Robben's 27th-minute penalty and, with 3-3 on the aggregate scoreboard, it was ultimately Bastian Schweinsteiger who clinched a 3-1 win for the visitors during a shoot-out in which four penalties failed to hit the net. As Chelsea prepared to travel to Munich to take on Bayern in their own lair, the critics who had predicted an all-Spanish final had been confounded by the narrowest of margins. It had been that sort of season.

Real Madrid CF attacker Cristiano Ronaldo leaps between Paulo Jorge and Kaká to head goalwards during the historic appearance of Cypriot side APOEL FC in the quarter-finals.

THE FINAL

Didier's final touch

It was like a film script. The underdog, against all the odds, triumphing in the end, with a hero having the final say as he drifted off into a glorious sunset. The losers on this occasion were known as FC Hollywood (they acquired the name in the 1990s as a result of their celebrity status), and were viewed by the critics as Oscar winners-in-waiting. It was the Reds against the Blues; FC Bayern München versus Chelsea FC. Bayern had won four previous UEFA Champions League finals, while Chelsea were still searching for their first title at this level. The Bavarians were on home soil in Munich – it was their stage, their supporters (the majority), even their stadium announcer. But football has a habit of being unpredictable, and fate was on hand to deliver an ending that few would have foreseen as they made their way into the Fussball Arena München.

The game started as anticipated, with Bayern taking the initiative and Chelsea showing the kind of caution often displayed by investors operating in the depressed money markets of recent years. The starting shapes were similar (both 4-2-3-1), but the approach was diametrically opposite. UEFA technical team member Gérard Houllier (former boss of Liverpool FC and Olympique Lyonnais) has, from time to time, expressed the view that "some teams keep the ball – some keep the result." On a perfect football night in Munich, the home team wanted both, while the visitors were happy to take the spoils, unconcerned about points for artistic impression. In a first half which resembled a training exercise based on waves of attack, those in red dominated possession (60%), but apart from one driving run and shot by Arjen Robben, which Petr Čech deflected onto the post, their 13 efforts on goal failed

Didier Drogba sends Manuel Neuer the wrong way and converts the penalty which gives Chelsea FC a first-ever UEFA Champions League title.

Chelsea FC defender Gary Cahill prepares for the worst as FC Bayern striker Mario Gomez connects with an overhead kick during the final.

to produce a breakthrough. Chelsea did have one impressive flowing counterattack, which concluded with Salomon Kalou forcing a save from Manuel Neuer at his near post. And Juan Mata did take a free-kick on the edge of the Bayern penalty box, but the end product was disappointing and on a par with much of the finishing by both teams during the first 45 minutes.

The weight of expectation on the German side was palpable and manifested itself in uncharacteristic anxiety when they entered the attacking third of the pitch. This, added to the resolute defending of the Londoners, ensured that the score sheet was blank when Portuguese referee Pedro Proença blew for half-time. Chelsea, without stalwart defenders John Terry

and Branislav Ivanović through suspension, were comfortable playing their contain-and-counter style – the method that had seen them eliminate FC Barcelona in the semi-finals. Meanwhile, Bayern were showing signs of increasing frustration.

The second period started with smoke spreading from the red and white end of the stadium – it was fireworks on the pitch that were required, not in the stands. On the hour mark, Ashley Cole made a brilliant challenge to thwart Arjen Robben. It was another great example

Chelsea left-back Ashley Cole points a boot at the ball to disrupt one of Arjen Robben's trademark runs.

from Chelsea's repertoire of blocks, interceptions and tackles (and the occasional foul), much of which took place in their own half of the pitch. When the Blues did spring forward, Didier Drogba often found himself in isolation, left to his own devices.

Midway through the second half, Bayern earned another corner, their 13th of the game. Robben delivered, and, Chelsea's Ryan Bertrand, making his Champions League debut following the suspension of Ramires, headed the ball behind his own goal. Shortly afterwards, the exhausted youngster gave way to the experienced Florent Malouda. As Chelsea gradually increased their share of possession, Bayern continued to squander chances, although Thomas Müller did hit the target with a solid header, following a left-wing cross from Arjen Robben, but Petr Čech saved comfortably and the match remained goalless.

With 83 minutes gone, Bayern put one hand on the trophy. Thomas Müller's "rehearsal" a few moments earlier was about to prove invaluable. Again, a cross from the left, this time by Toni Kroos. David Luiz, Mario Gomez and Ashley Cole (blue, red and blue) all jumped to make contact with the ball, but they found themselves under its flight. Meanwhile, ghosting in at the back post was Müller – the Bayern No25 headed the ball down, and it bounced up into the roof of the net past a startled Petr Čech. Bayern were ahead and the contest looked like a *fait accompli*!

Fernando Torres replaced Salomon Kalou on the Chelsea right wing, while euphoria engulfed the red and white section of the crowd. David Luiz was yellow carded for a clumsy challenge on Arjen Robben, and Bayern felt confident enough to replace their goalscoring hero, Thomas Müller, with central defender Daniel van Buyten, who had been injured for months and who had played only in a reserve game eight days previously. Anatoliy Tymoshchuk went into his normal midfield role, alongside Bastian Schweinsteiger, in order to let the substitute take his position at right centre-back. Bayern were in control and ready to defend their lead. But the Chelsea players had proved during the campaign that they were resilient and while there was time, there was hope. As Fabio Capello said afterwards : "This Chelsea team never gave up."

Big games need big players in decisive moments, and Didier Drogba was certainly in that category. With two minutes of regulation time remaining, Chelsea's No11 exploded towards the front post area to meet an inswinging corner from Juan Mata. While Frank Lampard inadvertently blocked Drogba's marker, Jérôme Boateng, Chelsea's Ivorian striker powered a header past Manuel Neuer. The Bayern goalkeeper was rooted to the spot,

Chelsea's Frank Lampard and FC Bayern's Bastian Schweinsteiger are almost mirror images as the two midfield dynamos compete for a high ball.

Thomas Müller appeared to have given FC Bayern the title after his strong downward header put the German club 1-0 ahead in the 83rd minute.

THE FINAL

Didier's final touch

unable to take the step forward which would have reduced the target. Suddenly the momentum changed: the phenomenon of losing the lead came into play, where those who have conceded become startled, even nervous. The force was with Chelsea.

With the game tied at 1-1, extra time ensued, and within five minutes, Bayern had the chance to regain the advantage. Drogba, back in his own penalty box, fouled Franck Ribéry and the referee immediately pointed to the spot. Ex-Chelsea player Arjen Robben took the kick only to see Petr Čech read his body movement and make the save to his left-hand side. Scepticism about fate and destiny was beginning to evaporate, but if a penalty shoot-out was to decide the match, the Germans would win – wouldn't they? Bayern substitute Ivica Olić had the chance to score a late winner from a diagonal pass from his captain Philipp Lahm, but the Croatian side-footed the ball past the far post and it was time to face what many describe as the "lottery".

Bayern had history: three previous UEFA Champions League games won on penalties, including the final in 2001. Chelsea, on the other hand, had participated twice and lost both times, including in the 2008 final against Manchester United FC. As the two coaches, Jupp Heynckes and Roberto Di Matteo, made their shoot-out selections, Didier Drogba received intensive massage on his tired calf muscles. Bayern captain Lahm

scored first, Mata missed (to be accurate Neuer saved to his left); then Gomez, Luiz, Neuer and Lampard all found the net. Ivica Olić's effort was saved, before Ashley Cole restored parity with a well-struck, left-footed shot into the corner. And then two remained: Bastian Schweinsteiger hesitated on the run-up and his shot struck the post (the Chelsea goalkeeper appeared to get the slightest of touches on the ball). Bayern's midfield dynamo hid his head inside his jersey. Finally, almost inevitably, Didier Drogba stepped into the spotlight. Chelsea's talisman proceeded to send Manuel Neuer, the Bayern keeper, the wrong way, and the big striker's right-footed shot swept into the unguarded corner of the net. Chelsea, against all the odds, were champions.

The blue and white end of the ground went crazy. The Chelsea players ran to their frenzied fans and threw themselves to the ground in joyous abandonment. Their opponents were already on the turf, prostrate and in despair – this was not the script they had imagined. After the trophy presentation by the UEFA president, Michel Platini, I made the man of the match award to Didier Drogba. As one coaching colleague remarked: "If Drogba had been on Bayern's side, they would have won – such was his impact on the game." While we waited in a packed press conference for the plaque handover to begin, I asked Didier what had been the key moment for him: his headed equaliser or the final penalty? "Definitely, the penalty," he said. Of course, the header had saved the day – the penalty had won

UEFA's technical director Andy Roxburgh presents the UEFA Man of the Match award to Chelsea striker Didier Drogba during the post-match press conference.

it. That decisive act was to be Didier's last in a Chelsea shirt, and he drifted off, Hollywood-style, into the sunset, a "larger-than-life" star and a winner.

Andy Roxburgh
UEFA Technical Director

History is made in Munich as the Chelsea FC squad celebrates the London club's first victory in Europe's premier club competition.

THE FINAL FOUR

Before the start of the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League semi-finals, three out of the four competing coaches had already won gold medals in the competition: Jupp Heynckes (with Real Madrid CF in 1998), Pep Guardiola (with FC Barcelona in 2009 and 2011) and José Mourinho (with FC Porto in 2004 and FC Internazionale Milano in 2010). By the end of the campaign, the fourth, former Italian international Roberto Di Matteo, had joined them in his capacity as interim manager of Chelsea FC. Taking over after the dismissal of André Villas-Boas, he guided the side for the remaining three months of the season, winning both the FA Cup (against Liverpool) and the Champions League by eliminating FC Barcelona in the semis and beating FC Bayern München in the final (4-3 on penalties). On the European stage, Di Matteo's Italian background was evident in the style his Chelsea adopted. Not exactly catenaccio, but drifting in that direction. Like Inter under Mourinho in 2010, his winning formula was based on solid defence, counterattacking and set plays. He also had big-match players, such as Didier Drogba, Frank Lampard and Petr Čech, who proved to be inspirational when it mattered.

Jupp Heynckes, the losing finalist with FC Bayern München, must have thought that he was in line for the title after his team eliminated Real Madrid CF in the semi-finals, and then when he faced a depleted Chelsea team in the final at home in Munich. His confidence must have soared when his side led 1-0 against Chelsea in the final with eight minutes to go, and again when his team went 3-1 ahead in the penalty shoot-out. But football's unpredictability, its capacity for last-minute twists of fate, left the Bayern coach the victim of a hard-luck story.

José Mourinho lost out on penalties to Bayern in the semi-finals, but the Real Madrid boss still remains the hot favourite to be the first coach to win the title three times with three different teams. And Pep Guardiola, the champion of progressive possession football. stepped down from his post at Barcelona at the end of the season, having won 14 titles in four years, including the Champions League, the UEFA Super Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup twice each. He gained the respect of his coaching colleagues for his incredible results, but it was the style which he created that gained him universal admiration. Although his side fell at the penultimate hurdle in the 2011/12 season, his contribution to UEFA's benchmark competition has been extraordinary.

Jupp Heynckes, silver medallist in 2012, had previously lifted the trophy when his Real Madrid CF team beat Juventus in the 1998 final at the Amsterdam ArenA.

WITTERS

Roberto Di Matteo, interim manager of Chelsea FC at the time, jubilantly lifts the cup in Munich.

GETTY IMAGES

José Mourinho lifted the trophy for the second time after FC Internazionale Milano's victory in Madrid in 2010.

GETTY IMAGES

Pep Guardiola proudly displays the trophy spectacularly won by his FC Barcelona side at Wembley in 2011.

GETTY IMAGES

GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

A KING WITHOUT A CROWN

For the fourth season in a row, Lionel Messi of FC Barcelona was the king of the UEFA Champions League goalscoring chart but, because of his club's elimination at the semi-final stage, there was no champion's crown this time for the world's best player. The Argentine goalscorer surpassed himself with 14 goals, two more than Mario Gomez of FC Bayern München, four more than Cristiano Ronaldo of Real Madrid CF, and an increase of two on his previous record total of 12. Barça's diminutive No10 had the distinction of scoring five goals in one match (against Bayer 04 Leverkusen) and, along with Kaká, Karim Benzema, Nicolás Gaitán and Franck Ribéry, was equal top of the assists table with five. His third goal against Bayer 04 Leverkusen (in the round of 16, second leg), a magnificent chip over the advancing goalkeeper using his "weaker" right foot, was voted the third-best open play goal of the season by UEFA's technical team. Team-mate Andrés Iniesta's brilliant inter-play and finish at Camp Nou against FC Viktoria Plzeň was first, and Ivan Perišić's late volley to tie Borussia Dortmund's home match with Arsenal FC was placed second.

Barcelona and Real Madrid were the top-scoring sides of the 2011/12 season with 35 goals each, a remarkable return considering that neither reached the final. Chelsea FC, the champions, and Bayern, the runners-up, scored 25 and 26 respectively. In a season with some high-scoring matches (Barcelona, Olympique Lyonnais, Bayern and Valencia CF all scored seven in a single match), the grand total of 345 goals was 10 short of the previous season, but 25 up on 2009/10. The semi-finalists (Barça, Real, Bayern and Chelsea) accounted for 35% of all goals scored, excluding penalties taken in shoot-outs.

Once again, based on personal interpretation, the following goalscoring chart details the technical and tactical action which led to the 345 goals.

CATEGORY	No	ACTION	GUIDELINES	No GOALS
SET PLAYS	1	Corners	Direct from / following a corner	27
	2	Free-kicks (direct)	Direct from a free-kick	8
	3	Free-kicks (indirect)	Following a free-kick	11
	4	Penalties	Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty)	28
	5	Throw-ins	Following a throw-in	2
OPEN PLAY	6	Combinations	Wall pass / three-man combination play	29
	7	Crosses	Cross from the wing	62
	8	Cutbacks	Pass back from the byline	28
	9	Diagonals	Diagonal pass into the penalty box	8
	10	Running with the ball	Dribble and close-range shot / dribble and pass	17
	11	Long-range shots	Direct shot / shot and rebound	39
	12	Forward passes	Through pass or pass over the defence	64
	13	Defensive errors	Bad pass back / mistake by the goalkeeper	13
	14	Own goals	Goal by the opponent	9
			TOTAL	345

Lionel Messi lobs Bayer 04 Leverkusen keeper Bernd Leno to score his (and his team's) third goal at the Camp Nou, going on to score a record five goals in Barça's 7-1 win.

OPEN PLAY

More than three-quarters of the goals scored during the season (78%) were the result of open play. Over recent years, the pattern of goalscoring in this section has remained fairly stable, particularly in relation to long-range shooting, dribbling and finishing, as well as diagonal balls into the penalty box. The difference in the figures registered for own goals and defensive errors was also negligible.

However, there was a slight decrease in the number of goals emanating from combinations and through/forward passes. But, the drop in this category could not be attributed to the top four sides: Barcelona, Real Madrid, Chelsea or Bayern. Apart from the quantity, each produced, from time-to-time, penetrating passing and collective play of an extraordinary level. Two great examples of this central penetration were Lionel Messi's through-the-eye-of-a-needle pass to Xavi Hernández for the winning goal away to AC Milan in the group stage, and Bayern's intricate combination play which culminated in Mario Gomez scoring his, and his team's, third goal in their home victory against SSC Napoli.

With a number of teams playing on a narrow front, notably the Italians, crossing and finishing was not quite the fertile source of goals it was a few seasons ago, although it did remain one of the top two ways of creating goalscoring opportunities, on a par with incisive passing. But there was an increase, for the third season running, in goals being scored as the result of cutbacks (i.e. getting to the byline and playing the ball back into the path of a supporting player). This was often the end product of effective flank play, the kind highlighted by Chelsea and Real Madrid. Mesut Özil's cutback to Karim Benzema for Madrid's opening goal in the 6-2 victory over GNK Dinamo Zagreb was a fine example of the art, while Chelsea's extra-time winner against SSC Napoli by Branislav Ivanović, from Didier Drogba's assist, illustrated the move to perfection. Interestingly, the delivery in both cases was not from a traditional winger, but an attacking midfielder and a striker respectively. The increased mobility of middle-to-front players and the high quality of overlapping full-backs maintained the importance of flank play in a season when wide players often operated out-to-in, as was seen with Arjen Robben and Franck Ribéry of FC Bayern, Xherdan Shaqiri of FC Basel 1893, Juan Mata and Daniel Sturridge of Chelsea, and Mesut Özil of Real Madrid.

Overall, there was a balance between goals set up from the wings and those originating from central-area attacks. In the latter category, solo play was a factor, with long-range shooting and running with the ball leading to 16% of open-play goals. Shooting from distance was championed by Real Madrid, Napoli, Bayern, Borussia Dortmund and FC Shakhtar Donetsk – Ivan Perišić's volley for Dortmund against Arsenal and David Silva's low drive for Manchester City FC at home to Bayern were two of the best. Meanwhile, Mathieu Valbuena's dribbling run and shot for Olympique de Marseille to beat Olympique de Marseille to beat Dortmund away, and Gonzalo Higuaín's individual effort at Santiago Bernabéu for Real Madrid in their 6-2 defeat of Dinamo Zagreb highlighted the value of those who can single-handedly make and take a chance, particularly in an age of sophisticated, compact defending.

For the second successive season, FC Barcelona provided two of the top three, though AC Milan's Kevin-Prince Boateng was the only player to feature twice in the top ten with a stunning strike against FC BATE Borisov and an equally impressive near-post finish against Barça. Andrés Iniesta claimed top spot with a double wall-pass and a flick over the last FC Viktoria Plzeň defender. Ivan Perišić earned second place with a magnificent volley after a set play had been partially cleared. And Lionel Messi's trademark run culminating in a right-footed chip over the keeper was voted into third place.

CATEGORY		GOALSCORER	HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	TIME
BEST OPEN-PLAY GOALS	1	Iniesta	**FC Barcelona**	FC Viktoria Plzeň	10
	2	Perisić	**Borussia Dortmund**	Arsenal FC	88
	3	Messi	**FC Barcelona**	Bayer 04 Leverkusen	49
	4	Drogba	**Chelsea FC**	SSC Napoli	29
	5	Cardozo	**SL Benfica**	Manchester United FC	24

Arsenal FC goalkeeper Wojciech Szczęsny can only watch as a shot by Ivan Perišić allows Borussia Dortmund to come back to 1-1 in the 88th minute of the group game in Germany.

Andrés Iniesta keeps eyes on the ball and sidefoots home to put FC Barcelona 1-0 up against Czech debutants FK Viktoria Plzeň at the Camp Nou.

GOALSCORING ANALYSIS

SET PLAYS

There was a modest drop in the number of set-play goals (76 in 2011/12), in comparison with the two previous seasons (82 in each). In percentage terms, therefore, the last three campaigns have seen a gradual decrease from 25% to 23% to 22%.

On the other hand, the number of penalty goals, not including those taken during a shoot-out, has risen year on year, from 14 to 24 to 28. This has coincided with the introduction of the additional referees at either end of the pitch, and their influence on refereeing decisions could be part of the reason for this trend. Goals from throw-ins also increased, but this was only from one up to the grand total of two – SL Benfica and Dortmund were the successful exponents of this particular move.

Although the rate of scoring remained stable, the return on investment from corner kicks was again unimpressive. For the second season in a row, it took, on average, 46 corners to produce one goal – i.e. 1,250 efforts to deliver 27 goals. Four times in 125 games, the winning goal came from a corner, four times it contributed to a draw, and nine times it provided a significant contribution to a successful result. Real Madrid even scored twice from corners when they beat Olympique Lyonnais 4-0 at the group stage. As usual, corners were a valuable weapon in some teams' armouries but, in an aspect of the game where delivery of the ball is everything, the figures provided some food for thought. The Munich final was a case in point: Bayern took 20 corners with nothing to show for them, while Chelsea were awarded one and Didier Drogba proceeded to score with a header from an inswinging cross by Juan Mata. A lot of effort goes into preparing corners, but often with little return.

Cristiano Ronaldo of Real Madrid and Hulk of FC Porto were the only players to score twice in the competition from direct free-kicks. The Madrid maestro's 75th-minute strike against APOEL FC in the quarter-final home match was voted the best set-play goal of the season. From wide on the left, the Portuguese international sent the ball, right footed, over everyone in the goalmouth area and into the far corner of the net. Real went on to win 5-2 and 8-2 on aggregate. Only four other players scored directly from a free-kick, the same as in 2010/11 and eight fewer than the 2009/10 total. In addition, goals from indirect free-kicks were fewer than in previous seasons, dropping from 25 to 21 to 11. These trends may only have been a blip, but with intense spying making the element of surprise almost redundant in these situations, the value of a dead-ball specialist was further emphasised.

Both in terms of quality and quantity, goalscoring in the UEFA Champions League, especially in open play, was once again impressive. As Pep Guardiola remarked: "In recent years, we have seen more daring teams and an even better spectacle in the Champions League." Few would argue with his assessment, particularly with the scoring exploits of Messi, Ronaldo, Drogba, Gomez, Boateng, Cardozo and others providing the icing on a very rich cake.

Cristiano Ronaldo's fearsome right-footed strike from the left during Real Madrid CF's quarter-final return leg against APOEL FC was rated the best dead-ball goal of the 2011/12 season. The equally deadly left-footed strike by FC Porto's Hulk earned him second place in the chart, while David Villa – who missed most of Barcelona's campaign with a serious injury – took third place. All were free-kicks, as were seven of the top ten. Didier Drogba's 88th-minute header in the Munich final was the highest-rated goal from a corner, the other two being Edinson Cavani's near-post effort for SSC Napoli and David Fuster's header which rounded off a short corner in Olympiacos FC's match against Arsenal FC.

CATEGORY		GOALSCORER	HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	TIME
BEST SET-PLAY GOALS	1	Ronaldo	**Real Madrid CF**	APOEL FC	75
	2	Hulk	**FC Porto**	FC Shakhtar Donetsk	28
	3	Villa	**FC Barcelona**	AC Milan	50
	4	Dzagoev	**PFC CSKA Moskva**	FC Internazionale	48
	5	Drogba	FC Bayern München	**Chelsea FC**	88

Cristiano Ronaldo beats APOEL FC goalkeeper Urko Pardo from close range during Real Madrid's 5-2 quarter-final home win against the Cypriot side.

In a crowded FC Bayern box, Didier Drogba finds space to head Chelsea FC's late equaliser from a corner.

GOALS SEASON BY SEASON

The 2010/11 season had registered the highest total of goals since the elimination of the second group stage from the fixture list, and although the 2011/12 figures reveal a slight decrease, the scoring rate remained high. The last two seasons occupy first and sixth positions in terms of the all-time goalscoring rankings. However, the 2011/12 campaign was one of peaks and troughs. The 96 matches played in the group stage accounted for only 244 of the goals at an average of 2.54 per game. The mean for the season was pulled up to 2.76 by knockout rounds which yielded 101 goals at 3.5 per fixture, helped by FC Barcelona's and FC Bayern München's seven-goal tallies in their home legs of the round of 16. A total of 38.5% of the season's goals were scored by visiting teams. During the group stage, the percentage was 44%, helped by the final matchday in Group D, when Olympique Lyonnais and Real Madrid

scored ten away goals between them. During the knockout rounds, only 25% of the goals were scored away from home, compared with the 56 : 44 ratio in 2010/11 and 63 : 35 in 2009/10. During the first knockout round, 45 goals were scored by home teams and 11 by visitors. In the first legs of the quarter-finals, no home team managed to score and all four ties were won by the team playing the second leg at home. On the other hand, both semi-finals produced victories for the side playing the first leg at home. Only one knockout tie (Olympique de Marseille v FC Internazionale) was won on away goals.

2.76
Goals
per match

	GOALS	GAME	AVERAGE
1992/93	56	25	2.24
1993/94	71	27	2.63
1994/95	140	61	2.30
1995/96	159	61	2.61
1996/97	161	61	2.64
1997/98	239	85	2.81
1998/99	238	85	2.80
1999/20	442	157	2.82
2000/01	449	157	2.86
2001/02	393	157	2.50
2002/03	431	157	2.75
2003/04	309	125	2.47
2004/05	331	125	2.65
2005/06	285	125	2.28
2006/07	309	125	2.47
2007/08	330	125	2.64
2008/09	329	125	2.63
2009/10	320	125	2.56
2010/11	355	125	2.84
2011/12	345	125	2.76
TOTAL	**5,692**	**2,158**	**2.64**

FC Internazionale Milano defender Walter Samuel leaps head and shoulders higher than LOSC Lille's Rio Mavuba to give the 2010 champions the lead during the group game at San Siro.

TECHNICAL TOPICS

Something old, something borrowed, something new

One of the many charms of the UEFA Champions League is that it provides enough contrasts and shades of meaning to convert it into something akin to a re-education course for members of the coaching profession. There can be no doubt that Josep "Pep" Guardiola's FC Barcelona has been setting benchmarks. But, interspersed with the blaugrana victories in 2009 and 2011 there have been two title winners of a substantially different footballing complexion. Chelsea FC, just as FC Internazionale Milano had done in 2010, demonstrated that there is a not only a place for non-possession-oriented teams amid the diversities of football, but also that the two opposing schools of thought can be equally valid in terms of obtaining results – and titles. However, the 2011/12 season also provided food for thought in areas such as the role of the striker, the qualities required by goalkeepers, the use of wingers, or the adoption by teams such as Barça and Italian debutants SSC Napoli of the three-man defence, which was commonplace a decade ago but has since become an endangered species.

1/ CHANGING SHAPES

The fact that categorical statements about team shapes are becoming increasingly difficult to make offers a clear indication of greater flexibility from game to game and even within the 90 minutes. FC Barcelona, for instance, experimented with three at the back in some games or in some situations within games. As Howard Wilkinson, one of UEFA's technical observers, commented : "There is no doubt that team shapes have become more flexible over the last decade". Analysis

of the entire season therefore focuses on "default settings". Among the top 16, the general trend was towards a 4-3-3 structure, with variations. The default settings of AC Milan, APOEL FC, Barcelona, Inter and FC Zenit St Petersburg were 4-3-3, with six more teams (Arsenal FC, FC Bayern München, Chelsea FC, the two Olympiques (Lyon and Marseille) and Real Madrid CF) usually starting in 4-2-3-1 formation. FC Basel 1893, SL Benfica, PFC CSKA Moskva and Bayer 04 Leverkusen operated an increasingly infrequent 4-4-2 structure though, as discussed later on, attacking partnerships usually featured target and shadow strikers rather than two attackers in tandem. SSC Napoli were alone in using 3-4-3 as their default structure (although it may be significant that Italian champions Juventus operated in a similar formation). However, there are nuances behind the resurgence of "something old". Three-at-the-back systems traditionally relied on three central defenders, with a pair of wing-backs working the flanks. When Pep Guardiola's Barça opted for their Plan B structure, the back three often comprised two full-backs alongside Javier Mascherano, a screening midfielder for much of his professional career. Even with only three defenders, the emphasis was clearly on building from the back.

"The season demonstrated that team shapes matter," commented UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, "and that the top teams are equipped to adapt during games with a view to maintaining a disciplined defensive order and providing the best framework for attacking freedom."

FC Barcelona's central defender Javier Mascherano plays the ball out from the back, undeterred by the proximity of AC Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimović during the second of four meetings between the clubs.

2/ THE PASSING PARADOX

In the 2008/09 season, Barcelona based their title win on 63% ball possession and something between 600 and 700 passes per game. In 2009/10, Inter won the competition with 45% of the ball (only 32% in the final against Bayern) and marginally over 400 passes per game. In 2010/11, Barça reconquered the summit with 68% possession and 791 passes per game. In the 2011/12 season, Chelsea FC borrowed some of Inter's statistics, taking the title with an average of 47% of the ball and 509 passes per match – an average boosted substantially by their tally of 781 passes when they entertained KRC Genk at Stamford Bridge during the group stage.

The trend towards a passing game was highlighted by the fact that 17 of the 32 starters in the UEFA Champions League averaged in excess of 500 passes per match. Pep Guardiola maintains that this is not unrelated to the general improvements in the quality of playing surfaces. "The pitch is a vital element," he insists. "The better the pitch, the better the passing and the better the game as a spectacle." Barça apart, Arsenal and Real Madrid provided prime examples of teams who excelled at high-tempo short passing combinations. However, the alternating victories over the last four seasons suggest that the top-level game is polarising into a duel between positive possession and contain-and-counter philosophies. The three Italian teams – Inter, AC Milan and Napoli – were not averse to direct back-to-front attacking. It would be wrong to associate the victories for Inter and Chelsea with something borrowed from *catenaccio*. But Inter were unequivocally identifiable with an Italian philosophy – and was Chelsea's change of style once Italy's Roberto Di Matteo had taken over a matter of pure coincidence ?

The trend towards a positive possession philosophy was visible in the playing styles of three of the season's four semi-finalists. But Chelsea's ultimate victory provided a reminder that dominating the ball offers no guarantee of success.

3/ PRESSURE GAUGE

Pep Guardiola ventured the opinion that, like his Barcelona side, a greater number of teams in the 2011/12 UEFA Champions League were prepared to hold a high line and adopt a more adventurous approach. The number of attackers among the list of the competition's most-yellow-carded players certainly confirms that forwards were generally expected to be the first line of defence. Nevertheless, the teams opting for a high-pressure game fell short of the majority. Barça apart, Real Madrid, Arsenal, Benfica and Chelsea (during the first part of the season) were equipped to press hard in advanced areas, along with, occasionally, FC Zenit, CSKA and Leverkusen. As Gérard Houllier commented : "A lot of players and teams have learned how to cope with high pressure and to play out of tight situations. So fewer teams are prepared to expend vast quantities of energy on advanced pressing."

Borussia Dortmund attacker Mario Götze tries to thread the ball past Olympique de Marseille's Souleymane Diawara during the matchday 6 confrontation that produced the elimination of the German champions.

The general tendency was to assemble compact defensive blocks as quickly as possible, to draw the opposition into advanced positions, and then to press aggressively with well-coordinated, collective, vertical and horizontal movements aimed at pressing the ball carrier and his immediate vicinity, with an emphasis on cutting off the short passing options and restricting space. Few of the top teams exerted sustained upfield pressure but many of them had the potential to do so tucked away among their weaponry.

4/ THE WING WONDERS

Ten of the top 16 teams operated with wingers. But it would be misleading to allege that APOEL, Arsenal, Basel, Bayern, Barça, Chelsea, Real Madrid, FC Zenit and the two Olympiques used them in the same fashion – or, indeed, that their wingers had similar personalities. Some coaches opted to deploy one winger rather than two, and the trend towards "wrong-footed" wingers became even more prevalent. Apart from FC Barcelona, who initiated the trend by fielding Lionel Messi on the right wing before moving him

into a more central position, Cristiano Ronaldo at Real Madrid, Xherdan Shaqiri at FC Basel, Bruno Cesar at SL Benfica, Daniel Sturridge at Chelsea (and Juan Mata when used in his more advanced role) provided prime examples, along with FC Bayern's pairing of the left-footed Arjen Robben on the right and the right-footed Franck Ribéry on the left.

SL Benfica's Bruno Cesar and FC Basel's yellow-booted Xherdan Shaqiri are left open-mouthed by the trajectory of the ball during the match between the two Group C qualifiers in Switzerland.

This policy has marked a trend away from the wingers' traditional modus operandi of running in more or less straight lines with the corner flag or the byline as the objective. The "wrong-footed" winger starts wide and then cuts inside to create havoc in the danger areas. This movement generally takes the ball on to his stronger foot and opens the door for powerful shooting or a deadly, perfectly weighted pass. The wingers' infield runs also open spaces for the overlapping full-backs who, in many cases, have become the main suppliers of crosses. As Arsène Wenger points out: "The demands on the players in the wing positions have become so great that many of them struggle to sustain the pace over the full 90 minutes." The days of the indolent or under-utilised winger are over.

5/ MOBILITY IN ATTACK

Eleven of the top 16 teams operated with a single striker; the other five fielded two in a 4-4-2 structure – but not with two strikers in parallel. At Basel, Alexander Frei worked in the slipstream of Marco Streller. At Benfica, Pablo Aimar was usually shadow striker behind Óscar Cardozo, as was Alan Dzagoev in relation to Seydou Doumbia at CSKA Moskva. In the Leverkusen attack, André Schürrle alternated the spearhead role with Renato Augusto. However, even though the roles of Didier Drogba and Mario Gomez in the Munich final could inspire debate, the tendency was for teams to veer away from the traditional figure of the target man and to introduce variations and mobility into their front lines.

The trend away from the easily marked target man was highlighted by Sir Alex Ferguson: "The role of the striker these days," he commented, "is more about movement aimed at creating space for runs from deep positions." Twelve of the top 16 teams generally operated with three forwards who attempted to create difficulties for defenders with continuous lateral and back-to-front movements. Napoli provided an outstanding example,

TECHNICAL TOPICS

Something old, something borrowed, something new

SSC Napoli's Marek Hamšik displays his tattoos as he breaks forward during the extra-time 4-1 defeat in the round of 16 which ended the Italian debutants' campaign.

with Marek Hamšik, Edinson Cavani and Ezequiel Lavezzi exceptionally mobile across the attack – to the extent that heat maps of their spheres of operation often show them overlapping in the centre. Much the same could be said of the AC Milan attack, where the mobility of Zlatan Ibrahimović and Robinho created spaces to be exploited by deep running from, for example, Kevin-Prince Boateng.

Barcelona took this trend to the extreme by fielding Lionel Messi in the central attacking role. The Argentinian is obviously light years away from traditional definitions of the target man, and his lateral and vertical movements leave opposing defences without a reference point in terms of marking – which paves the way for penetrating runs into the danger zone by Cesc Fàbregas, Andrés Iniesta and co. If this tendency takes root in future Champions Leagues, is the traditional target striker going to become an endangered species?

6/ BEATING THE BLOCK

The challenge facing many of today's coaches – and this applies right through youth development stages in addition to the peak of the professional pyramid – is to help players to unlock defensive blocks. As Fabio Capello remarks: "When we talk about 'defensive blocks' we're basically talking about everybody dropping back at speed to defend in 9-1 formation." This, evidently, doesn't mean a "flat back nine". But it has become commonplace to see teams making rapid transitions into a 4-5-1 defensive structure when the ball is lost. AC Milan's Massimiliano Allegri comments: "The emphasis is on finding ways of breaking through the block before it can be properly assembled."

This implies proficiency in methods of counterattacking. In the 2011/12 season, all of the top 16 teams were capable of executing fast counters, with Bayern, Real,

Napoli, Inter, AC Milan, Benfica, Chelsea (in the latter stages of the competition), CSKA and, among the eliminated teams, AFC Ajax especially impressive in terms of rapid transitions from defence to attack.

Although the classic counter (via a rapid back-to-front pass) is still very much alive, along with the solo counter (as illustrated by the run from his own half by Raul Meireles during the quarter-final against Benfica) the trend is towards collective counters based on a group of players breaking forward at high speed when the ball is won in midfield or can be sensibly played out from the back after a set play against. In the Champions League, the willingness to offer sprint-speed support to this type of counter was impressive. Barcelona, despite preferring a more patient build-up when the ball is won in the defensive third, are highly accomplished in converting the dividends obtained from their high pressure into immediate scoring opportunities, with lightning-fast reactions to regained possession.

7/ THE MIDFIELD SCREEN

FC Porto's head coach, Vítor Pereira, maintains: "The screening midfielder – the one I call our No6 – has become a key performer within the team. He's the one responsible for intercepting opposition moves, breaking from the back, and acting as the team's playmaker." The search for evidence to support his thesis needs to go back no further than the final in Munich, where Chelsea's John Obi Mikel provided a classic example of a player who excelled at breaking up opposition attacks in a central area and initiating his team's response. He and Frank Lampard also performed vital tasks in covering

FC Bayern midfielder Toni Kroos gets a foot to the ball in a contest with Chelsea FC's screening midfielder John Obi Mikel.

infield runs by the Bayern wingers. The 2012 champions were one of 10 teams among the top 16 to operate with two screening midfielders. Among the six who usually fielded one, the efficiency of the contribution by Sergio Busquets to the FC Barcelona machinery is as valuable as it is unsung by the media. Among the clubs who fielded two, interesting examples of the profiles required by players who occupy the screening positions can be provided by the Real Madrid pair of, usually, Sami Khedira and Xabi Alonso, the latter a major influence not only in breaking up opposition attacks but also in launching counters or sustained attacks, especially via the long diagonal passes he excels at.

8/ TECHNICAL AND EMOTIONAL INTENSITY

Arsène Wenger made the observation: "Running is OK, but understanding of the game is more important". In other words, speed of movement and the tempo of the play are important elements but a high percentage of the speed of the game is in the head. In the Champions League, various types of speed are in the head. Speed of perception needs to be allied with physical speeds and the mental challenges also stretch into the realms of emotional intensity. Big games require big players, and the ability to master emotions becomes a major asset. The 2011/12 season confirmed that one of the basic requirements is above-average mental strength, i.e. the ability to cope with all types of pressure and match situations. The challenge for the coach is to create a never-give-up attitude and to prepare players for all the vicissitudes of top-level competition. Chelsea, the 2012 champions, provided a graphic illustration that resilience and mental toughness can be vital ingredients in recipes for success.

9/ HANDS AND FEET

The final in Munich provided an invitation to reflect on the changing role of the goalkeeper. Post-match statistics revealed that Chelsea's Petr Čech had been required to make six saves during two hours of football and Bayern's Manuel Neuer just two. Neither of them was bombarded with high crosses either. The facts emphasised the need for goalkeepers to be coached in the art of maintaining concentration during periods of inactivity. On the other hand, the minimal need to deal with shots at goal did not signify "inactivity". The modern goalkeeper is expected to be an integral part of attack-building processes and is usually required to take decisions and react quickly in order to fulfil duties as "sweeper" behind the defence. For today's goalkeeper, the traditional virtues of bravery and a safe pair of hands are not enough. There is increasing emphasis on an ability to read the game and to be equipped to make the subtle adjustments, the minute details of movement and awareness which can make the difference when it comes to making the save. Having said that, shot-stopping evidently remains the priority — and this means dealing with matchballs that can swerve and dip when goalbound.

10/ KEEPING THE BALL

It is a blindingly obvious statement that possession play is based on the ability to keep the ball. A former club champion in England, Howard Wilkinson notes the trend towards a ball possession style that is linked to "a significant improvement of technique over the last decade and, especially, the ability to play out of tight situations". UEFA's technical director, Andy Roxburgh, adds: "The standard of combination play, both centrally and on the flanks, has improved beyond recognition."

FC Barcelona have set benchmarks by dominating the UEFA Champions League ball possession charts season

Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Čech is on red alert as FC Bayern striker Mario Gomez goes for an overhead kick during the Munich final.

GETTY IMAGES

after season. The passing, shooting and dribbling abilities of Messi, Xavi Hernández and Iniesta are well known, but one of their less acclaimed virtues is their ability to retain possession by turning, screening the ball and making abrupt changes of direction and pace. As the AFC Ajax coach, Frank de Boer, commented: "It takes guts to keep the ball like Barça do and wait for the passing opportunity to come along." It could be argued that the South American influences which have permeated teams such as Milan, Napoli, Inter, Benfica or APOEL have aided developments in technique — which has also contributed to the trend towards defenders who are technically equipped to play from the back through accurate forward passing and switches of play. Chelsea, although not designed as a possession-oriented team, demonstrated this in the final. In the words of Fabio Capello: "[They] always played the ball when under pressure and looked confident and aware of their technical capabilities."

But the bottom line is that, although coaches try to minimise the possibilities of the chance elements working against them, the outcome of a 2011/12 UEFA Champions League which offered some things old, some things borrowed and some things new, underlined the unpredictable nature of football.

GETTY IMAGES

AC Milan defender Thiago Silva reacts with anxiety as the ball breaks sideways from a tussle with FC Viktoria Plzeň's Daniel Kolar during the group game at San Siro.

TALKING POINTS

THE SPALLETTI MOMENTS

There are some moments in UEFA Champions League football which, although they are seemingly unimportant, offer food for thought. FC Zenit St Petersburg's Italian coach, Luciano Spalletti, supplied a couple of them during the course of the season. When an aggressive supporter, for example, started hammering on the roof of the bench during a game, Luciano's reaction was to come out of the dugout, smile at the fan and shake his hand. The gesture provoked a round of applause in that area of the crowd – and a potentially explosive situation had been very simply defused.

When the Russian club travelled to Lisbon with a 3-2 advantage for the return leg of the round of 16 tie with SL Benfica, Luciano told the English referee, Howard Webb, before that game that he was happy to see top officials appointed for such a game. As it happened, Zenit were defeated 2-0 by goals scored during added time at the end of the first and second halves. Undeterred by the cruel ending and elimination, Luciano shook hands with the English referee and told him that nothing he had seen during the game had changed his mind about the quality of the match officials.

Hats off to Luciano Spalletti for keeping his cool at moments which, in the heat of the fray, could easily have been the straws to break the camel's back. He merits applause for reactions based on respect and fair play which, it has to be said, are not the qualities that always come to the fore when stress and pulse rates are high. Within the coaching profession, where a degree of passion for the game is a *sine qua non*, a question to ask ourselves is whether we have reacted in the same way as Luciano, and whether we think it is feasible to retain a sense of respect and fair play within the high-pressure context of Champions League football.

Further questions emerge from those "Spalletti moments". What is the degree of awareness among top-level coaches of the desirability of adopting role-model behaviour? How many coaches would achieve pass marks if they were examined for the sort of attitudes they try to impart to their players? Footballers are constantly reminded of the need to master the extreme emotions which can be generated during a Champions League season. Should coaches pay the same degree of attention to their mastering of emotions? Who helps them to do so? How many coach education courses prepare students to handle Spalletti moments with the same coolness and class as Luciano?

Luciano Spalletti offers guidance during FC Zenit's 2-0 defeat in Lisbon, where English referee Howard Webb was in charge.

SHUFFLING THE CARDS

Still on the subject of fair play, the fact that no fewer than seven players missed the UEFA Champions League final through suspensions resuscitates the perennial debate on the current disciplinary system. OK, John Terry's direct red card for an off-the-ball foul during the return leg of the semi-final in Barcelona leaves little room for discussion. But one of the unanswerable questions to arise in Munich was to what extent the absences of Ramires, Branislav Ivanović, Raul Meireles, David Alaba, Luiz Gustavo and Holger Badstuber affected the big game as a spectacle – with the last two having had the misfortune to receive their fateful yellow card during extra time in Bayern's semi-final return leg in Madrid, having completed the 90 minutes without mishap.
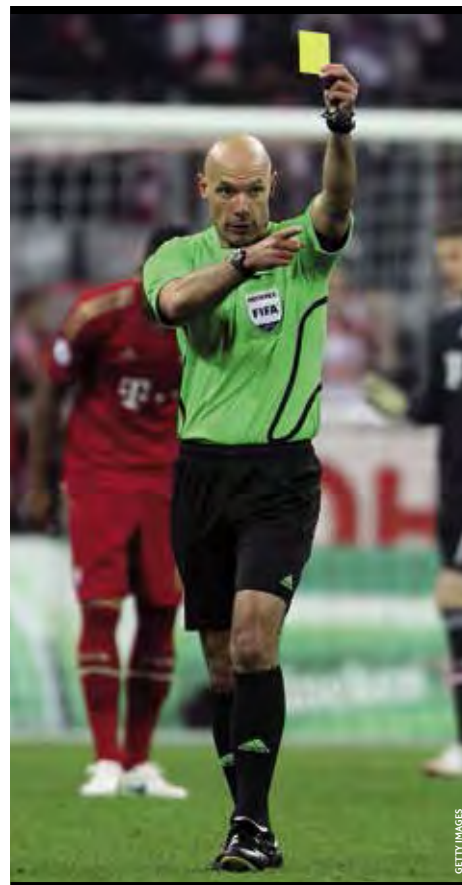
English referee Howard Webb signals the offender and shows the yellow card during the first leg of the semi-final between FC Bayern München and Real Madrid CF.

The cases are difficult to judge by the same yardstick. Ramires, for example, received three yellow cards on matchdays 10, 11 and 12 after seven previous appearances without being cautioned. Alaba played eight full matches and received yellow cards on matchdays 9, 10 and 12. The card shown to Meireles in Barcelona was his fifth of the campaign. On the other hand, Luiz Gustavo had been cautioned on matchdays 6, 9 and 12; Ivanović on matchdays 5, 10 and 12. In other words, they missed the final on account of three yellow cards spread over the 12-match campaign leading to Munich. Is this fair?

HOME ADVANTAGE

Ongoing debate about the topic features a basic question about whether fair play should be encouraged, as opposed to focusing on castigating the lack of it. Should players be offered incentives to "keep a clean sheet" when it comes to cards? Among the proposals is the idea that, if a player goes, say, four games without being cautioned, one yellow card could be removed from his record. This would entail a degree of regulation in terms of how many minutes on the field of play constitute an appearance in order to avoid situations where a player could claim his reward after a few token minutes as sub. It also entails an additional administrative burden. But would it be worth the trouble?

How is it possible to have home advantage in a Champions League final? Is it positive in a tactical sense that the finalists are clearly defined as a home team and an away team? Isn't a final meant to be played at a neutral venue? This is a good topic to provoke debate – and the first point to emphasise is that no criticism of Bayern is implied. The Bavarian club engaged in the 2011/12 campaign with legitimate ambitions to play the final in their home city just as, for example, Real Madrid CF had done in the 2009/10 season which culminated in the final at Estadio Santiago Bernabéu. But the venue for the 2011 and 2013 finals offers a stark contrast in that Wembley Stadium in London is not home to a club side and therefore offers guarantees in terms of neutrality. Should this always be the case? Should the clubs who participate in the Champions League season be barred from staging the final?

There are many counter-arguments, starting with the fact that preparing for the biggest event in world club football implies enormous requirements in terms of advance planning. Those responsible for organising the event would argue that waiting till the end of the previous season for a final decision on the venue would present serious problems. Should there be a Plan B? Should there be a shortlist of venues for the final, with the definitive choice made once the participants are known? Would it be fair for regular participants, such as Bayern, to have their magnificent stadium barred from staging a final?

An image which evokes the awesome atmosphere at the Fussball Arena as play pauses for FC Bayern to take a free-kick on home ground in Munich.

TALKING POINTS

THE FINAL DECISION

Bastian Schweinsteiger's shot cannons off the post; Didier Drogba steps up to convert the winning penalty. Once again, the title was decided by a penalty shoot-out – as have 20% of the finals played since the Champions League was introduced. The shoot-out is undeniably dramatic, but is it football? For many years, alternatives have been sought, notable people within the game have come up with ideas and experiments have been made. But the formula has remained unchanged.

European Championships have been decided via the sudden-death formula of the golden goal – but no goal has ever been scored during extra time in a Champions League final. One school of thought is to adjudicate a winner on the basis of statistics, such as corners or fouls – maybe those committed in the defensive third. Another idea is to raise the bar in terms of difficulty by having an attacker set off from the halfway line with the target of beating one defender and the goalkeeper. The difficulty level would be so high that the winner

would be a hero rather than the unsuccessful penalty-taker, who becomes a villain. Another idea is to share responsibility between two players by making one cross the ball and the other volley it goalwards first time. Or should the penalty shoot-out take place after 90 minutes *before* the 30 minutes of extra time are played?

Game over. FC Bayern had dominated the final but were defeated when Didier Drogba converted the penalty which decided the shoot-out.

TECHNICAL TEAM SELECTION

As has become a tradition at the close of a UEFA Champions League season, UEFA's technical observers selected a squad of players who, in their opinion, had made impressive contributions to the campaign. Ultimate victory, albeit by the narrowest of margins, for Chelsea FC meant that the London club is represented in every department of a squad which highlights the qualities of the four teams which reached the semi-finals, AC Milan's Swedish striker, Zlatan Ibrahimović, the only "intruder". By nationality, Spain is the main provider with six players, while only four play their national team football for non-European countries. Seven of the 2011/12 squad were also selected in the previous season. Continuity at the top of the game is further underlined by the fact that eight of the 2011/12 squad were also named as far back as the 2008/09 season. Special credit is also due to Frank Lampard, who has been a regular in the star squad since the 2005/06 campaign.

GOALKEEPERS

NAME	TEAM
Petr Čech	Chelsea FC
Manuel Neuer	FC Bayern München
Iker Casillas	Real Madrid CF

DEFENDERS

NAME	TEAM
Sergio Ramos	Real Madrid CF
Philipp Lahm	FC Bayern München
Ashley Cole	Chelsea FC
Dani Alves	FC Barcelona
Gerard Piqué	FC Barcelona
Pepe	Real Madrid CF

MIDFIELDERS

NAME	TEAM
Xabi Alonso	Real Madrid CF
Frank Lampard	Chelsea FC
Xavi Hernández	FC Barcelona
Andrés Iniesta	FC Barcelona
Ramires	Chelsea FC
Bastian Schweinsteiger	FC Bayern München

ATTACKERS

NAME	TEAM
Lionel Messi	FC Barcelona
Cristiano Ronaldo	Real Madrid CF
Zlatan Ibrahimović	AC Milan
Robin van Persie	Arsenal FC
Mesut Özil	Real Madrid CF
Didier Drogba	Chelsea FC

Chelsea FC goalkeeper Petr Čech ushers Bastian Schweinsteiger's spot kick on to the post at the critical moment of the penalty shoot-out in Munich.

GETTY IMAGES

RESULTS

GROUP STAGE

Group A

Group A	Pld	W	D	L	GS	GA	Pts
FC Bayern München	6	4	1	1	11	6	13
SSC Napoli	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
Manchester City FC	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Villarreal CF	6	0	0	6	2	14	0

Date	Home	Score	Date	Home	Score
14/09	Man. City – Napoli	1-1	02/11	Bayern M. – Napoli	3-2
14/09	Villarreal – Bayern M.	0-2	02/11	Villarreal – Man. City	0-3
27/09	Bayern M. – Man. City	2-0	22/11	Napoli – Man. City	2-1
27/09	Napoli – Villarreal	2-0	22/11	Bayern M. – Villarreal	3-1
18/10	Man. City – Villarreal	2-1	07/12	Man. City – Bayern M.	2-0
18/10	Napoli – Bayern M.	1-1	07/12	Villarreal – Napoli	0-2

Group B

Group B	Pld	W	D	L	GS	GA	Pts
FC Internazionale Milano	6	3	1	2	8	7	10
PFC CSKA Moskva	6	2	2	2	9	8	8
Trabzonspor AŞ	6	1	4	1	3	5	7
LOSC Lille Métropole	6	1	3	2	6	6	6

Date	Home	Score	Date	Home	Score
14/09	Lille – CSKA Moskva	2-2	02/11	Internazionale – Lille	2-1
14/09	Internazionale – Trabzonspor	0-1	02/11	Trabzonspor – CSKA Moskva	0-0
27/09	CSKA Moskva – Internazionale	2-3	22/11	CSKA Moskva – Lille	0-2
27/09	Trabzonspor – Lille	1-1	22/11	Trabzonspor – Internazionale	1-1
18/10	CSKA Moskva – Trabzonspor	3-0	07/12	Lille – Trabzonspor	0-0
18/10	Lille – Internazionale	0-1	07/12	Internazionale – CSKA Moskva	1-2

Group C

Group C	Pld	W	D	L	GS	GA	Pts
SL Benfica	6	3	3	0	8	4	12
FC Basel 1893	6	3	2	1	11	10	11
Manchester United FC	6	2	3	1	11	8	9
FC Oțelul Galați	6	0	0	6	3	11	0

Date	Home	Score	Date	Home	Score
14/09	Benfica – Man. United	1-1	02/11	Man. United – Oțelul	2-0
14/09	Basel – Oțelul	2-1	02/11	Benfica – Basel	1-1
27/09	Man. United – Basel	3-3	22/11	Man. United – Benfica	2-2
27/09	Oțelul – Benfica	0-1	22/11	Oțelul – Basel	2-3
18/10	Basel – Benfica	0-2	07/12	Benfica – Oțelul	1-0
18/10	Oțelul – Man. United	0-2	07/12	Basel – Man. United	2-1

Group D

Group D	Pld	W	D	L	GS	GA	Pts
Real Madrid CF	6	6	0	0	19	2	18
Olympique Lyonnais	6	2	2	2	9	7	8
AFC Ajax	6	2	2	2	6	6	8
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	6	0	0	6	3	22	0

Date	Home	Score	Date	Home	Score
14/09	Dinamo – Real Madrid	0-1	02/11	Lyon – Real Madrid	0-2
14/09	Ajax – Lyon	0-0	02/11	Ajax – Dinamo	4-0
27/09	Lyon – Dinamo	2-0	22/11	Real Madrid – Dinamo	6-2
27/09	Real Madrid – Ajax	3-0	22/11	Lyon – Ajax	0-0
18/10	Real Madrid – Lyon	4-0	07/12	Dinamo – Lyon	1-7
18/10	Dinamo – Ajax	0-2	07/12	Ajax – Real Madrid	0-3

Group E

Group E	Pld	W	D	L	GS	GA	Pts
Chelsea FC	6	3	2	1	13	4	11
Bayer 04 Levekusen	6	3	1	2	8	8	10
Valencia CF	6	2	2	2	12	7	8
KRC Genk	6	0	3	3	2	16	3

Date	Home	Score	Date	Home	Score
13/09	Chelsea – Leverkusen	2-0	01/11	Valencia – Leverkusen	3-1
13/09	Genk – Valencia	0-0	01/11	Genk – Chelsea	1-1
28/09	Valencia – Chelsea	1-1	23/11	Leverkusen – Chelsea	2-1
28/09	Leverkusen – Genk	2-0	23/11	Valencia – Genk	7-0
19/10	Chelsea – Genk	5-0	06/12	Chelsea – Valencia	3-0
19/10	Leverkusen – Valencia	2-1	06/12	Genk – Leverkusen	1-1

Group F

Group F	Pld	W	D	L	GS	GA	Pts
Arsenal FC	6	3	2	1	7	6	11
Olympique de Marseille	6	3	1	2	7	4	10
Olympiacos FC	6	3	0	3	8	6	9
Borussia Dortmund	6	1	1	4	6	12	4

Date	Home	Score	Date	Home	Score
13/09	Dortmund – Arsenal	1-1	01/11	Arsenal – Marseille	0-0
13/09	Olympiacos – Marseille	0-1	01/11	Dortmund – Olympiacos	1-0
28/09	Arsenal – Olympiacos	2-1	23/11	Arsenal – Dortmund	2-1
28/09	Marseille – Dortmund	3-0	23/11	Marseille – Olympiacos	0-1
19/10	Marseille – Arsenal	0-1	06/12	Dortmund – Marseille	2-3
19/10	Olympiacos – Dortmund	3-1	06/12	Olympiacos – Arsenal	3-1

Group G

Group G	Pld	W	D	L	GS	GA	Pts
APOEL FC	6	2	3	1	6	6	9
FC Zenit St Petersburg	6	2	3	1	7	5	9
FC Porto	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	6	1	2	3	6	8	5

Date	Home	Score	Date	Home	Score
13/09	Porto – Shakhtar	2-1	01/11	Zenit – Shakhtar	1-0
13/09	APOEL – Zenit	2-1	01/11	APOEL – Porto	2-1
28/09	Zenit – Porto	3-1	23/11	Zenit – APOEL	0-0
28/09	Shakhtar – APOEL	1-1	23/11	Shakhtar – Porto	0-2
19/10	Porto – APOEL	1-1	06/12	Porto – Zenit	0-0
19/10	Shakhtar – Zenit	2-2	06/12	APOEL – Shakhtar	0-2

Group H

Group H	Pld	W	D	L	GS	GA	Pts
FC Barcelona	6	5	1	0	20	4	16
AC Milan	6	2	3	1	11	8	9
FC Viktoria Plzeň	6	1	2	3	4	11	5
FC BATE Borisov	6	0	2	4	2	14	2

Date	Home	Score	Date	Home	Score
13/09	Barcelona – Milan	2-2	01/11	BATE – Milan	1-1
13/09	Viktoria – BATE	1-1	01/11	Viktoria – Barcelona	0-4
28/09	Milan – Viktoria	2-0	23/11	Milan – Barcelona	2-3
28/09	BATE – Barcelona	0-5	23/11	BATE – Viktoria	0-1
19/10	Milan – BATE	2-0	06/12	Barcelona – BATE	4-0
19/10	Barcelona – Viktoria	2-0	06/12	Viktoria – Milan	2-2

ROUND OF 16

Date	Match	Score
14/02	Olympique Lyonnais – APOEL FC	1-0
07/03	**APOEL FC** – Olympique Lyonnais	1-0**
14/02	Bayer 04 Leverkusen – FC Barcelona	1-3
07/03	**FC Barcelona** – Bayer 04 Leverkusen	7-1
15/02	AC Milan – Arsenal FC	4-0
06/03	Arsenal FC – **AC Milan**	3-0
15/02	FC Zenit St Petersburg – SL Benfica	3-2
06/03	**SL Benfica** – FC Zenit St Petersburg	2-0
21/02	SSC Napoli – Chelsea FC	3-1
14/03	**Chelsea FC** – SSC Napoli	4-1*
21/02	PFC CSKA Moskva – Real Madrid CF	1-1
14/03	**Real Madrid CF** – PFC CSKA Moskva	4-1
22/02	FC Basel 1893 – FC Bayern München	1-0
13/03	**FC Bayern München** – FC Basel 1893	7-0
22/02	Olympique de Marseille – FC Internazionale Milano	1-0
13/03	FC Internazionale Milano – **Olympique de Marseille**	2-1

* after extra time
** APOEL FC win 4-3 on penalties

QUARTER-FINALS

Date	Match	Score
27/03	APOEL FC – Real Madrid CF	0-3
04/04	**Real Madrid CF** – APOEL FC	5-2
27/03	SL Benfica – Chelsea FC	0-1
04/04	**Chelsea FC** – SL Benfica	2-1
28/03	Olympique de Marseille – FC Bayern München	0-2
03/04	**FC Bayern München** – Olympique de Marseille	2-0
28/03	AC Milan – FC Barcelona	0-0
03/04	**FC Barcelona** – AC Milan	3-1

SEMI-FINALS

Date	Match	Score
17/04	FC Bayern München – Real Madrid CF	2-1
25/04	Real Madrid CF – **FC Bayern München**	2-1**
18/04	Chelsea FC – FC Barcelona	1-0
24/04	FC Barcelona – **Chelsea FC**	2-2

** FC Bayern München win 3-1 on penalties

THE FINAL – SATURDAY 19 MAY 2012
FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN – CHELSEA FC 1-1 (0-0)
AFTER EXTRA TIME; 3-4 IN PENALTY SHOOT-OUT

1-0 Thomas Müller 83, 1-1 Didier Drogba 88
Penalty shoot-out (FC Bayern started) :
1-0 Phillip Lahm, 1-0 Juan Mata (saved), 2-0 Mario Gomez, 2-1 David Luiz, 3-1 Manuel Neuer, 3-2 Frank Lampard, 3-2 Ivica Olić (saved), 3-3 Ashley Cole, 3-3 Bastian Schweinsteiger (post), 3-4 Didier Drogba

ATTENDANCE

6.500 at Fussball Arena München, Munich

YELLOW CARDS

FC Bayern München : Bastian Schweinsteiger 2
Chelsea FC : Ashley Cole 81, David Luiz 86, Didier Drogba 93, Fernando Torres 120

FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN

Manuel Neuer – Philipp Lahm (C), Anatoliy Tymoshchuk, Jérôme Boateng, Diego Contento – Bastian Schweinsteiger, Toni Kroos – Arjen Robben, Thomas Müller (Daniel Van Buyten 87), Franck Ribéry (Ivica Olić 96) – Mario Gomez

HEAD COACH

Jupp Heynckes

UNUSED SUBSTITUTES

Jörg Butt, Rafinha, Nils Petersen, Danijel Pranjic, Takashi Usami

CHELSEA FC

Petr Čech – José Bosingwa, Gary Cahill, David Luiz, Ashley Cole – John Obi Mikel, Frank Lampard (C) – Salomon Kalou (Fernando Torres 84), Juan Mata, Ryan Bertrand (Florent Malouda 73) – Didier Drogba

INTERIM MANAGER

Roberto Di Matteo

UNUSED SUBSTITUTES

Ross Turnbull, Michael Essien, Oriol Romeu, Paulo Ferreira, Daniel Sturridge

REFEREES

REFEREE

Pedro Proença (Portugal)

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Bertino Miranda, Ricardo Santos

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT REFEREES

Manuel De Sousa, Duarte Gomes

FOURTH OFFICIAL

Carlos Velasco Carballo (Spain)

TOP SCORERS

14 GOALS	Lionel Messi (FC Barcelona)
12 GOALS	Mario Gomez (FC Bayern München)
10 GOALS	Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid CF)
7 GOALS	Karim Benzema (Real Madrid CF)
6 GOALS	Didier Drogba (Chelsea FC)
5 GOALS	José Callejón (Real Madrid CF), Edinson Cavani (SSC Napoli), Seydou Doumbia (PFC CSKA Moskva), Alexander Frei (FC Basel), Bafétimbi Gomis (Olympique Lyonnais), Zlatan Ibrahimović (AC Milan), Roman Shirokov (FC Zenit), Roberto Soldado (Valencia CF)

APOEL FC
Cyprus

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	40%
Max.	56% v Zenit (h)
Min.	30% v Real Madrid (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	113,539 METRES
Max.	121,407 v Zenit (a)
Min.	109,062 in Porto

PASSES ATTEMPTED	424
Max.	555 v Zenit (h)
Min.	320 v Real Madrid (h)

PASSING ACCURACY	63%
Max.	78% v Zenit (h)
Min.	46% v Real Madrid (h)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	73 (17% of total)
Medium	251 (59%)
Short	100 (24%)

* For sake of comparisons, figures for game v Olympique Lyonnais (h) converted pro rata to 90-minute values

GOALS SCORED	9
1-15 mins	1
16-30 mins	1
31-45 mins	1
61-75 mins	4
76-90 mins	2

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	30 / 30
1-15 mins	2
Half-time	2
46-60 mins	3
61-75 mins	11
76-90 mins	9
90+	2
Extra time	1

APOEL v Olympique Lyonnais

- 4-2-3-1, defending in 4-5-1 formation
- Strong Brazilian and Portuguese influence
- Technically good, with short-passing build-up
- Defend deep and counter well
- Good combinations and through passes
- Goal threat from Brazilians Ailton and Manduca
- Paulo Jorge, defensive leader and set-play target
- Good use of the flanks
- Determined, disciplined and experienced
- Greek goalkeeper, Chiotis, a key player

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Zen	Don	Por	Por	Zen	Don	OL	OL	Mad	Mad	G
GOALKEEPERS												
22	Dionisios CHIOTIS	90	90	52	I	I	I	90	120	90		
78	Urko PARDO			38	90	90	90				90	
88	Tasos KISSAS											
DEFENDERS												
3	PAULO JORGE Gomes	90	90	I	90	90	90	90	120	90	90	
4	Claudiano Bezerra 'KAKÁ'			90				90	77+	90		
6	MARCELO OLIVEIRA	90	90	90	90	90	90		120	13*	I	
7	Savvas POURSAITIDES	74	90	90	90		90	90	120	90	90	
19	Marios ILIA					45+						
98	William BONAVENTURA	90	90	90	I	I	I	90	120	90	90	
MIDFIELDERS												
5	Sanel JAHIĆ	26	58	18	13	23	90					
10	Costas CHARALAMBIDES		83+	90	90	90	77	82	77	90	90	
14	Tijani BELAID	I	I			30						
17	Marinos SATSIAS										12	
20	Aldo ADORNO			1		1	13	I			22	
21	Gustavo MANDUCA	89	7*	72	89	90	68	8	115	S	68	4
23	Hélio PINTO	90	90	90	90	90	I	90	S	72	78	
26	NUNO MORAIS	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	90	90	
29	Nektarios ALEXANDROU	1		I	1	45*	90		26	45*		
31	Hélder SOUSA							72	94	45+		
77	Athos SOLOMOU	16			90	90						
81	MARCINHO da Silva	64	32	I	I		60	18	43		90	
FORWARDS												
8	AILTON Almeida	90	77	90	77	67	I	67	120	90	70	3
9	Esteban SOLARI		13	5		22	23	74	18	20		1
11	Ivan TRIČKOVSKI	90	90	89	85	89	90	90	46+	90	I	1

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

IVAN JOVANOVIĆ

Date of birth	08/07/1962 in Dojnica
Nationality	Serbian
Matches in UEFA Champions League	16
Head coach since	01/07/2008
Players used	23
Substitutions	30 / 30

ARSENAL FC
England

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	52%
Max.	58% v Dortmund (h)
Min.	47% v Dortmund (a), Milan (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	110,996 METRES
Max.	114,693 in Dortmund
Min.	105,555 v Olympiacos (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	559
Max.	632 in Milan
Min.	462 v Milan (h)

PASSING ACCURACY	72%
Max.	79% in Marseille
Min.	66% in Dortmund

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	75 (13% of total)
Medium	365 (65%)
Short	119 (21%)
(decimal points account for the missing 1%)	

GOALS SCORED	10
1-15 mins	2
16-30 mins	2
31-45 mins	2
46-60 mins	2
76-90 mins	1
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	23 / 24
16-30 mins	1
31-45 mins	1
Half-time	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	10
76-90 mins	9
Including 1 double substitution	

Arsenal v Milan

- 4-2-3-1, usually with wingers
- Outstanding progressive possession play
- Great use of the flanks, including by the full-backs
- Fast ball speed and quick players
- Often a high line and intense pressing
- Van Persie the main threat, also in the air
- Mesmerising combination play
- Very good attitude, mentally strong
- Threat on set plays, with inswinging corners
- Rapid transition on the counter

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Dor	Oly	OM	OM	Dor	Oly	Mil	Mil	G
GOALKEEPERS										
13	Wojciech SZCZESNY	90	90	90	90	90		90	90	
21	Łukasz FABIAŃSKI						25*			
24	Vito MANNONE						65+			
DEFENDERS										
3	Bacary SAGNA	90	90	I	I	I	I	90	90	
4	Per MERTESACKER	90	90	90	90	90		I	I	
5	Thomas VERMAELEN	I	I	I	90	90	90	90	90	
6	Laurent KOSCIELNY	90	I	90		83		44*	90	1
11	André SANTOS	4	90	90	90	90	51	I	I	1
18	Sébastien SQUILLACI	I	I	I	I	I	90	I	I	
20	Johan DJOUROU	I	28		7	90	46+	I		
25	Carl JENKINSON		62	90	I	I	I			
28	Kieran GIBBS	90	7	I	I	I		66	90	
49	Ignasi MIQUEL						39			
MIDFIELDERS										
2	Abou DIABY	I	I	I	I	5		I	I	
7	Tomáš ROSICKÝ	I	90	90	24	I	23	90	90	1
8	Mikel ARTETA	90	90	90	90	90		90	I	
15	Alex OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN		68				90	24	75	1
16	Aaron RAMSEY		22	12	66	90		90	I	1
17	Alexander SONG	90	90	90	90	90		90	90	
19	Jack WILSHERE	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	
26	Emmanuel FRIMPONG	14	90				90			
30	Yossi BENAYOUN	90	I	I		16	90	I	I	1
39	Francis COQUELIN						67	I		
FORWARDS										
9	PARK Ju-Young					62			6	
10	Robin VAN PERSIE	86	19	90	28	90		90	90	4
12	Thierry HENRY						45+			
14	Theo WALCOTT	76	I	67	90	85		45*	84	
23	Andrey ARSHAVIN		83	78	13		90			
27	GERVINHO Yao Kouassi	86		23	77	74			90	
29	Marouane CHAMAKH	4	71				90		15	

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

ARSÈNE WENGER

Date of birth	22/10/1949 in Strasbourg
Nationality	French
Head coach since	28/09/1996
Matches in UEFA Champions League	144
Players used	29
Substitutions	23 / 24

FC BARCELONA
Spain

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	68%
Max.	72% v Plzen, Chelsea (h), v Leverkusen, Chelsea (a)
Min.	60% v Milan - group (a), v Milan ¼-final (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	109,082 METRES
Max.	116,641 v BATE (h)
Min.	100,941 in Milan (¼-final)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	827
Max.	988 v Leverkusen (h)
Min.	554 in Milan (group stage)

PASSING ACCURACY	86%
Max.	91% v Plzen (h)
Min.	80% v Milan ¼-final (h)

PASSES PER GAME :	
Long	66 (8% of total)
Medium	543 (66%)
Short	218 (26%)

GOALS SCORED	35
1-15 mins	3
16-30 mins	4
31-45 mins	9
45+	1
46-60 mins	8
61-75 mins	4
76-90 mins	5
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	34 / 36
16-30 mins	1
31-45 mins	1
46-60 mins	4
61-75 mins	17
76-90 mins	10
90+	1

Barcelona v Leverkusen

- 4-3-3 with Busquets the midfield screen
- Messi magic often makes the difference
- Xavi, the ultimate schemer, dictates the tempo
- Brilliant combination play in central areas, often one touch
- Outstanding counters : dangerous when being attacked
- Constant interchange and incisive through passes
- High-quality direct and indirect free kicks (Xavi Hernández, Messi, Alves)
- Great use of the flanks, especially Alves on the right
- Remarkable quality in personal and collective possession play
- Advanced pressing the norm : a major weapon

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Mil	BAT	Plz	Plz	Mil	BAT	Lev	Lev	Mil	Mil	Che	Che	G
GOALKEEPERS														
1	VÍCTOR VALDÉS	90	90	90	90	90		90	90	90	90	90	90	
13	José PINTO						90							
36	OIER Olazábal													
DEFENDERS														
2	Daniel ALVES	90	90	90	71	S		90	90	90	90	90	64+	
3	Gerard PIQUÉ	I	I	I	90				90	90	75		26*	
5	Carles PUYOL	23	90	I	90	90	I	90		90	90	90	90	
14	Javier MASCHERANO	90	90	90		90		90	90	90	90	90	90	
19	MAXWELL Scherrer	I	21		19		90	-	-	-	-	-	-	
21	ADRIANO Correia		29	90	90	I	I	70	63	I	15	90		
22	Eric ABIDAL	90	61	90	73	90		90	I	I	I	I	I	
24	Andreu FONTÀS							90	I	I	I	I	I	
26	Marc MUNIESA						32	27						
32	Marc BARTRA						90							
35	Martín MONTOYA						90							1
MIDFIELDERS														
4	Cesc FÀBREGAS	51+	30	I	90	80		90	90		78	78	74	1
6	XAVI Hernández	90	60	90		90		I	54	90	63	87	90	1
8	Andrés INIESTA	39	I	85	I	I		61	53	65	90	90	90	3
11	THIAGO Alcántara		90		90	89	90	29	I		27	12		
15	Seydou KEITA	67	90	5	25	90		A	36	90	12		16	
16	SERGIO BUSQUETS	90		90	65	90		90	90	90	90	90	90	1
20	Ibrahim AFELLAY	6	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	
28	Jonathan DOS SANTOS					1	58							
29	Martí RIVEROLA						11							
30	SERGI ROBERTO						79							1
34	Rafael Alcántara RAFINHA						70							
FORWARDS														
7	David VILLA	84	90	88		68	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	3
9	ALEXIS Sánchez	I	I	I	17	22		86	I	76		66	90	2
10	Lionel MESSI	90	90	90	90	90		90	90	90	90	90	90	14
17	PEDRO Rodríguez	90	69	90	I	10	90	20	90	14		24		4
27	GERARD Deulofeu						20							
37	Cristian TELLO							37	25			22		2
39	Isaac CUENCA			2	90		90	4			90	3	68	

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill; A = Absent

2 own goals were scored by BATE's Aleksandr Volodko (in Minsk) and AC Milan's Mark van Bommel (MD5)

HEAD COACH

JOSEP GUARDIOLA

Date of birth	18/01/1971 in Santpedor (Barcelona)
Nationality	Spanish
Head coach since	01/07/2008
Matches in UEFA Champions League	50
Players used	31
Substitutions	34 / 36

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	51%
Max.	63% v Galati (h)
Min.	41% in Munich

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	118,507 METRES
Max	121,813 in Manchester
Min.	114,624 in Munich

PASSES ATTEMPTED	533
Max.	615 v Galati (h)
Min.	483 v Manchester Utd (h)

PASSING ACCURACY	73%
Max.	77% v Galati (h)
Min.	70% in Manchester, Munich

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	89 (17% of total)
Medium	331 (62%)
Short	113 (21%)

GOALS SCORED	12
1-15 mins	3
31-45 mins	2
46-60 mins	2
61-75 mins	1
76-90 mins	4

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	24 / 24
31-45 mins	1
61-75 mins	5
76-90 mins	14
90+	4

Basel v Bayern

- Basically 4-4-2, defending in 4-5-1 structure
- Twin strikers (A. Frei and Streller) – Frei usually deeper
- Left-footed Shaqiri a threat from the right
- Big impact on crosses and cut-backs
- Calmness in possession through midfield (Xhaka)
- Disciplined, resolute and hard-working
- Valuable attacking support from full-backs
- Sometimes long to Streller : good distribution from Sommer
- Attacking mobility and incisive passing
- Good delivery on set plays

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Gal	Man	Ben	Ben	Gal	Man	Mun	Mun	G
GOALKEEPERS										
1	Yann SOMMER	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
23	Massimo COLOMBA									
DEFENDERS										
3	PARK JOO HO	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
4	Philipp DEGEN								20	
6	Aleksandar DRAGOVIĆ	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
16	Taulant XHAKA		1							
19	David ABRAHAM	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
21	Genséric KUSUNGA	I	I		1		2			
27	Markus STEINHÖFER	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	70	
29	Radoslav KOVÁČ	1								
MIDFIELDERS										
8	Benjamin HUGGEL	87	S	85	90	44*	I	90		1
11	Scott CHIPPERFIELD	I	13	5	89	16	7			
14	Valentin STOCKER	I	I	I	I	I	1	24	29	1
17	Xherdan SHAQIRI	S	S	90	90	82	89	83	80	
20	Fabian FREI	89	77	66	90	90	90	66	61	3
24	Adilson Varela CABRAL	90	90	10	9	46+	90	1	90	
31	Jacques ZOUA	12	90	24	89	8		7	10	
34	Granit XHAKA	78	90	80	81	90	83	90	90	
FORWARDS										
9	Marco STRELLER	90	81	90		90	90	90	90	2
13	Alexander FREI	89	89	90		74	88	89	90	5
35	Kwang Ryong PAK	1	9		1					

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

HEIKO VOGEL

Date of birth	21/11/1975 in Bad Dürkheim
Nationality	German
Head coach since	13/10/2011
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used :	20
Substitutions	24 / 24

THORSTEN FINK (Dortmund 29/10/1967) was in charge for the first two matchdays

BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN
Germany

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	44%
Max.	65% v Genk (h)
Min.	28% v Barcelona (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	116,329 METRES
Max.	120,550 at Genk
Min.	110,989 in Valencia

PASSES ATTEMPTED	470
Max.	608 v Genk (h)
Min.	350 v Barcelona (h)

PASSING ACCURACY	69%
Max.	80% at Genk
Min.	59% v Barcelona (h)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	72 (15% of total)
Medium	286 (61%)
Short	112 (24%)

GOALS SCORED	10
16-30 mins	1
31-45 mins	1
46-60 mins	3
61-75 mins	1
76-90 mins	2
90+	2

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	24 / 24
Half-time	1
46-60 mins	3
61-75 mins	7
76-90 mins	10
90+	3
Including 1 double substitution	

Leverkusen v Barcelona

- 4-4-2 or 4-5-1 with zonal back four
- Compact defensive block of eight or nine players
- Effective on crosses and corners
- Frequent back-to-front direct play
- Threatening on indirect frees (Castro) and long throws (Balitsch)
- Good one-two combinations in front third
- Deep, disciplined defending, but sometimes press high
- Capable of classic fast counters
- Hard-working midfield : Rolfes the leader
- Aerial prowess in attack and defence

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Che	Gen	Val	Val	Che	Gen	Bar	Bar	G
GOALKEEPERS										
22	David YELLDELL									
23	Bernd LENO	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
36	Fabian GIEFER									
DEFENDERS										
2	Daniel SCHWAAB			1		57	90	90	90	
3	Stefan REINARTZ	90	90	45*	11		87	90	90	
4	Bastian OCZIPKA					7	17		23	
5	Manuel FRIEDRICH			45+	90	90		90		1
14	Vedran ĆORLUKA	10	25					89	I	
21	Ömer TOPRAK	90	90	90	90	90			90	
24	Michal KADLEC	90	80	90	90	71	73	90	90	1
27	Gonzalo CASTRO	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
MIDFIELDERS										
6	Simon ROLFES	90	90	90	90	90	90	77	90	
8	Lars BENDER	80	90	90	79	90	90	90	55	1
10	Renato AUGUSTO	24	65					90	67	
13	Michael BALLACK	66	10	90	90	90	90	I	I	1
18	Sidney SAM	73	90	89	84	90	90	I	I	1
20	DANNY Da Costa							1		
38	Karim BELLARABI							1	35	1
FORWARDS										
9	Andreas SCHÜRRLE	90	90	90	90	33	68	89	35	1
11	Stefan KIESSLING	90	89	81	77	83	22	13	90	1
19	Eren DERDIYOK	17	1	9	13	19	90	I	55	2
31	Nicolai JØRGENSEN			6		3				

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

ROBIN DUTT

Date of birth	24/01/1965 in Cologne
Nationality	German
Head coach since	01/07/2011
Matches in UEFA Champions League	8
Players used	20
Substitutions	24 / 24

FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN
Germany

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	56%
Max.	64% v Villarreal (h)
Min.	48% v Manchester City (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	113,075 METRES
Max.	117,280 in Basel
Min.	108,434 v Napoli (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	618
Max.	813 v Villarreal (h)
Min.	551 in Villarreal

PASSING ACCURACY	79%
Max.	87% v Villarreal (h)
Min.	73% v Real Madrid (h)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	79 (12% of total)
Medium	412 (67%)
Short	129 (21%)

GOALS SCORED	26
1-15 mins	5
16-30 mins	5
31-45 mins	6
45+	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	4
76-90 mins	4

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	29 / 39
16-30 mins	1
31-45 mins	1
Half-time	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	8
76-90 mins	13
90+	2
Extra time	2

Bayern v Basel

- 4-2-3-1 with double midfield screen
- Outstanding wingers (Robben and Ribéry)
- Brilliant combination play
- Mobility in attack, overlapping full-backs (e.g. Lahm)
- Dangerous long-range shooting and incisive running
- Fast, effective counterattacking
- Top finisher and lone striker Gomez
- Midfield pressing a feature
- Impressive delivery on free-kicks and inswinging corners (e.g. Robben)
- Switch of play to create one-on-one situations

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Vil	ManC	Nap	Nap	Vil	ManC	Bas	Bas	OM	OM	Mad	Mad	Che	G
GOALKEEPERS															
1	Manuel NEUER	90	90	90	90	90		90	90	90	90	90	120	120	
22	Jörg BUTT						90								
DEFENDERS															
5	Daniel VAN BUYTEN	23*	90	90	90	90	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	33	
13	Rafael de Souza RAFINHA	67+	90			90	90	90			61+				1
17	Jérôme BOATENG	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	120	
21	Philipp LAHM	90	90	90	90	90		90	90	90	90	90	120	120	
26	Diego CONTENTO						90							120	
27	David ALABA			1	10	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120		
28	Holger BADSTUBER	90		90	77	S	90	90	90	90	90	90	120		
MIDFIELDERS															
7	Franck RIBÉRY	90	89	89	80	81		71	79	78	90	90	95	96	3
10	Arjen ROBBEN	I	1	I	I	76		90	82	90		90	120	120	4
14	Takashi USAMI					9									
23	Danijel PRANJIĆ				9	90		11	12	23					
30	LUIZ GUSTAVO	9	90	1	90		90		90	90	90	90	120		
31	Bastian SCHWEINSTEIGER	90	90	90	53	I	I	I	20	20	S	61	120	120	
39	Toni KROOS	81	83	90	90	90		89	90	63	67	90	120	120	2
44	Anatoliy TYMOSHCHUK	90	7	90	37	90	90	90	8	27	90			120	
FORWARDS															
9	Nils PETERSEN	45+	1			81									
11	Ivica OLIĆ	I	I			14	90	1			75			24	2
25	Thomas MÜLLER	90	90	90	90	18		19	70	70	39*	29	25	87	2
33	Mario GOMEZ	45*	89	89	90	72		90	90	90	15	90	120	120	12

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

JUPP HEYNCKES

Date of birth	09/05/1945 in Mönchengladbach
Nationality	German
Head coach since	01/07/2011
Matches in UEFA Champions League	24
Players used	21
Substitutions	29 / 39

SL BENFICA
Portugal

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	48%
Max.	65% v Galati (a)
Min.	36% in Manchester

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	115,715 METRES
Max.	120,754 v Zenit (h)
Min.	110,317 v Zenit (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	521
Max.	679 v Galati (a)
Min.	398 in Manchester

PASSING ACCURACY	70%
Max.	80% v Galati (h)
Min.	63% in Manchester

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	68 (13% of total)
Medium	327 (63%)
Short	126 (24%)

GOALS SCORED	13
1-15 mins	3
16-30 mins	3
31-45 mins	1
45+	1
61-75 mins	2
76-90 mins	3

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	30 / 30
16-30 mins	1
46-60 mins	4
61-75 mins	14
76-90 mins	10
90+	1
Including 1 double substitution	

Benfica v Zenit

- 4-4-2 (4-4-1-1) or 4-2-3-1 with midfield screening player
- South American technique and flair
- Luisão the leader of a zonal back four
- Set-play threat: long throw (Maxi Pereira), free-kicks (Cardozo), corners (Bruno Cesar)
- Brilliant combination play, central and wide
- Full-backs provide attacking width
- High back line, often advanced pressing
- Impressive fast breaks, classic and collective
- Varied scoring options: top finishers Cardozo, Nélson Oliveira, Rodrigo
- Great attacking mobility: Bruno César, Witsel and Gaitán from midfield

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Man	Gal	Bas	Bas	Man	Gal	Zen	Zen	Che	Che	G
GOALKEEPERS												
1	ARTUR Moraes Gusmão	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
47	EDUARDO Carvalho											
DEFENDERS												
3	EMERSON da Conceição	90	90	86	S	90	90	90	90	90	90	
4	Anderson da Silva LUISÃO	90	90	90	90	58	I	90	90	90	I	
14	'MAXI' PEREIRA	90	90	78	90	90	S	90	90	90	40	2
24	Ezequiel GARAY	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	I	I	I	
27	MIGUEL VÍTOR			12	26	32		1			I	
33	JARDEL Vieira							90		90	90	I
36	LUIS MARTINS				64							
38	Joan CAPDEVILA									90		
MIDFIELDERS												
5	Ruben AMORIM	56	8	I	I	7	90					
6	JAVI GARCÍA	90	90	90	I	90	90	I	90	81	90	1
8	BRUNO CÉSAR	1	82	90	90	90	56	76	90	69	72	2
10	Pablo AIMAR	75		67	73	83	70	60+	S	69	90	1
20	Nicolás GAITÁN	89	77	90	82	68	90	89	72	90	61	
21	Nemanja MATIĆ	15			90	22	I	90	18	21	90	
28	Axel WITSEL	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
FORWARDS												
7	Oscar CARDOZO	90	90	20	17		78	90	80	90	57	4
9	Manuel Durán 'NOLITO'	34	27	23	8		34	14	28	9		
12	Yannick DJALÓ								I	I	29	
16	NÉLSON OLIVEIRA	I	I						10	33		1
19	RODRIGO Moreno		13	70	90	90	20	30*	62	21	18	1
30	Javier SAVIOLA		63		I	12						

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

1 goal was an own goal by Manchester United's Phil Jones at Old Trafford

HEAD COACH

JORGE JESUS

Date of birth	24/07/1954 in Amadora
Nationality	Portuguese
Head coach since	16/06/2009
Matches in UEFA Champions League	16
Players used	22
Substitutions	30 / 30

CHELSEA FC
England

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	47%
Max.	62% v Genk (h)
Min.	28% in both games v FC Barcelona

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	111,498 METRES*
Max.	119,040 at Genk
Min.	103,186 v Napoli (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	509
Max.	781 v Genk (h)
Min.	297 in Barcelona

PASSING ACCURACY	70%
Max.	84% v Genk (h)
Min.	46% in Barcelona

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	70 (14% of total)
Medium	331 (65%)
Short	108 (21%)

*For sake of comparisons, figures for MD8 v Napoli (h) and the final in Munich converted pro rata to 90-minute values and semi-final 2nd leg v Barcelona (when Chelsea played 53 mins with 10) excluded

GOALS SCORED (AVB) 14		GOALS SCORED (RDM) 11	
1-15 mins	3	16-30 mins	2
16-30 mins	4	45+	2
31-45 mins	1	46-60 mins	1
46-60 mins	2	61-75 mins	2
61-75 mins	2	76-90 mins	1
76-90 mins	1	90+	2
90+	1	Extra time	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE (AVB) 21 / 21		SUBSTITUTIONS MADE (RDM) 16 / 18	
1-15 mins	1	1-15 mins	1
Half-time	1	46-60 mins	2
61-75 mins	12	61-75 mins	3
76-90 mins	7	76-90 mins	8
Including 2 double substitutions		Extra time	2

Chelsea v Napoli

- 4-3-3 or 4-2-3-1
- Highly mobile middle-to-front (Mata and Lampard)
- Top-quality crosses, usually by full-backs
- Very strong, aerially, on set plays: deliveries by Mata and Lampard
- Breaks from the back, especially via David Luiz
- Zonal back four, with Terry the leader
- Imposing goalkeeper (Čech), with good distribution
- Very experienced group: mentally strong
- Slick combination play and incisive passes
- Excellent use of the flanks: goals from cut-backs

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Lev	Val	Gen	Gen	Lev	Val	Nap	Nap	Ben	Ben	Bar	Bar	Mun	G
GOALKEEPERS															
1	Petr ČECH	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	90	90	90	90	120	
22	Ross TURNBULL														
DEFENDERS															
2	Branislav IVANOVIĆ	90		90	90	90	90	90	120	I	90	90	90	S	2
3	Ashley COLE	90	90	45*	90		90	78+	120	90	90	90	90	120	
4	DAVID LUIZ Marinho	76	90	90	90	69	90	90	120	90	90	I	I	120	1
17	José BOSINGWA	90	90	78	90	90		12*	22	10		2	78+	120	
19	Paulo FERREIRA			45+						80					
24	Gary CAHILL								90		30	90	12*	120	
26	John TERRY		90			90	90	I	98	90	60	90	37*	S	1
33	ALEX Rodrigo Dias	14		12		21									
MIDFIELDERS															
5	Michael ESSIEN	I	I	I	I	I	I	20	120						
6	ORIOL ROMEU			90	77		90				I	I	I		
7	RAMIRES Santos	S	66	I	66	90	65	90	120	90	90	88	90	S	3
8	Frank LAMPARD	26	83	68	24	90		20	120	22	90	90	90	120	3
12	John Obi MIKEL	90	90			10	25			90	90	90	90	120	
15	Florent MALOUDA	90	90	90	90	24	7	70	25					47	
16	Raúl MEIRELES	64	24	90	90	80	90	70	S	68	11	90	90	S	2
34	Ryan BERTRAND													73	
FORWARDS															
9	Fernando TORRES	90	72	90	90		12		57+	90	88		10	36	3
10	Juan MATA	90	90	13	66	83	90	95	90	79	74	58	120	2	
11	Didier DROGBA	I			90	78	90	120		2	90	80	120	6	
21	Salomon KALOU		7	22						82	90	16	32	84	2
23	Daniel STURRIDGE	64	I		24	90	90	90	63*	8					
39	Nicolas ANELKA	26	18	90	66										

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

ANDRÉ VILLAS-BOAS	
Date of birth	17/10/1977 in Porto
Nationality	Portuguese
Head coach from	01/07/2011 to 04/03/2012
Matches in UEFA Champions League	7
Players used	22
Substitutions	21 / 21

ROBERTO DI MATTEO	
Date of birth	29/05/1970 in Schaffhausen
Nationality	Swiss/Italian
Head coach from	04/03/2012
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used	20
Substitutions	16 / 18
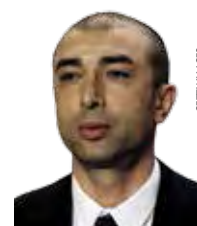
PFC CSKA MOSKVA
Russia

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	47%
Max.	56% v Inter (h)
Min.	39% in Madrid

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	113,765 METRES
Max.	118,934 in Lille
Min.	106,599 in Milan

PASSES ATTEMPTED	446
Max.	561 v Inter (h)
Min.	341 in Trabzon

PASSING ACCURACY	68%
Max.	75% v Inter (h)
Min.	60% in Trabzon

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	80 (18% of total)
Medium	270 (61%)
Short	96 (21%)

GOALS SCORED	11
16-30 mins	1
45+	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	1
76-90 mins	6
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	21 / 24
Half-time	2
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	8
76-90 mins	8
90+	2
Including 1 double substitution	

CSKA v Madrid

- 4-4-2 and variations; 4-5-1 when defending
- Compact block defending, with double screen
- Technically good middle-to-front
- Composed build-up from the back
- Capable of pressing high
- Try to play quickly when deep
- Dangerous soloists (e.g. Doumbia and Vágner Love)
- A threat on free kicks (Dzagoev) and corners (Berezutski)
- Successful combination play in front third
- Outstanding counterattacking options

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Lil	Int	Tra	Tra	Lil	Int	Mad	Mad	G
GOALKEEPERS										
1	Sergei CHEPCHUGOV							90	90	
30	Vladimir GABULOV	90	90	90	90	90	90			
95	Sergei REVYAKIN									
DEFENDERS										
2	Deividas SEMBERAS	1		20	10		77			
4	Sergei IGNASHEVICH	90	90	90	90	75	90	90	90	
6	Alexei BEREZUTSKI	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
14	Kirill NABABKIN	90	90	I	45+	90	90			
24	Vasili BEREZUTSKI	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	1
42	Georgi SCHENNIKOV		I		45*	15	1	90	90	
59	Semen FEDOTOV			90						
MIDFIELDERS										
3	Pontus WERNBLOOM							90	90	1
7	Keisuke HONDA	I	I	I	I	I	I	22	I	
10	Alan DZAGOEV	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	1
17	Pavel MAMAEV	10	68	70	80	90	90	S	45+	
18	Ahmed MUSA							64	60	
19	Aleksandrs CAUNA	67		28	20	87	13	I		1
21	Zoran TOŠIĆ	90	22	62	70	I	I	82	81	1
22	Evgeni ALDONIN	80	90	90	90	90	13	68	45*	
25	Elver RAHIMIĆ			3						
26	Sekou OLISEH	23	90	I	I	90	77	26	30	
FORWARDS										
8	Seydou DOUMBIA	89	90	87	74	S	89	90	90	5
9	VÁGNER LOVE	90	90	90	90	90	90			1
61	Serder SERDEROV			3						
89	Tomáš NECID	I	I	I	I	I	I	8	9	

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

LEONID SLUTSKIY

Date of birth	04/05/1971 in Volgograd
Nationality	Russian
Head coach since	26/10/2009
Matches in UEFA Champions League	15
Players used	23
Substitutions	21 / 24

FC INTERNAZIONALE MILANO
Italy

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	48%
Max.	52% v Trabzonspor (h)
Min.	41% in Lille

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	108,073 METRES
Max.	115,500 in Moscow
Min.	101,555 v Trabzonspor (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	474
Max.	549 v Trabzonspor (h)
Min.	389 in Lille

PASSING ACCURACY	70%
Max.	78% v Trabzonspor (h)
Min.	59% in Marseille

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	78 (16% of total)
Medium	292 (62%)
Short	104 (22%)

GOALS SCORED	10
1-15 mins	1
16-30 mins	4
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	2
76-90 mins	1
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	23 / 24
Half-time	3
46-60 mins	5
61-75 mins	7
76-90 mins	7
90+	1
Including 3 double substitutions	

Inter v Marseille

- 4-3-3, with Sneijder off the front
- Very experienced group : Zanetti a great leader
- Uncompromising at the back (e.g. Lucio and Samuel)
- Major South American influence
- Long passes from deep-lying Stankovic
- Extremely mobile and hard-working up front
- Aerial threat on well-delivered set plays (e.g. Lúcio, Samuel)
- Sneijder, the creator, with incisive passes
- Excellent setup play (Forlán and Milito)
- Good crosses and cut-backs from full-backs or midfielders

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Tra	CSK	Lil	Lil	Tra	CSK	OM	OM	G
GOALKEEPERS										
1	JÚLIO CÉSAR	90	90	90	I	90		90	90	
12	Luca CASTELLAZZI				90		90			
DEFENDERS										
6	LÚCIO Da Silva	90	90	90	90	90	I	90	90	1
13	MAICON Douglas	I	I	90	I	I		45*	90	
16	Luca CALDIROLA				I		45+			
23	Andrea RANOCCHIA	90					90	I		
25	Walter SAMUEL		90	I	90	90	90	90	90	1
26	Christian CHIVU		89	90	90	90	45*	90	S	
42	JONATHAN Moreira	90	6							
55	Yuto NAGATOMO	90	90	90		90	90	45+	90	
MIDFIELDERS										
4	Javier ZANETTI	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
5	Dejan STANKOVIĆ		I	23	90	90		90	90	
8	Thiago MOTTA	I	I	90	90					
10	Wesley SNEIJDER	90	I	67	67	I	I	90	58	
11	Ricardo ALVAREZ	35	84		23	89	20			1
18	Andrea POLI								74	
19	Esteban CAMBIASSO	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	16	1
20	Joel OBI	55	90	27	1		70	26	32	
29	Philippe COUTINHO	13		I	I	21	45*			
37	Marco FARAONI					1	90			
48	Lorenzo CRISETIG		1							
FORWARDS										
7	Giampaolo PAZZINI	55	49	81	11	4			32	3
9	Diego FORLÁN							90	58	
22	Diego MILITO	35	90	9	89	86	90		90	2
28	Mauro ZÁRATE	77	41	63	79	69	45+	64		1

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

CLAUDIO RANIERI

Date of birth	20/10/1951 in Rome
Nationality	Italian
Head coach since	21/09/2011
Matches in UEFA Champions League	40
Players used	25
Substitutions	23 / 24

GIAN PIERO GASPERINI (Grugliasco 26/01/1958) was in charge for the first matchday

AC MILAN
Italy

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	45%
Max.	59% v BATE (a)
Min.	31% in Barcelona (MD1)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	103,457 METRES
Max.	110,584 v Plzen (a)
Min.	97,186 in Barcelona (MD1)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	517
Max.	663 v BATE (a)
Min.	294 in Barcelona (MD1)

PASSING ACCURACY	73%
Max.	80% v Plzen (h)
Min.	64% in Barcelona (MD1)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	79 (15% of total)
Medium	332 (64%)
Short	106 (21%)

GOALS SCORED	16
1-15 mins	2
16-30 mins	2
31-45 mins	3
46-60 mins	5
61-75 mins	2
76-90 mins	1
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	29 / 30
1-15 mins	1
31-45 mins	2
Half-time	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	13
76-90 mins	11

Milan v Arsenal

- Basically 4-3-3, but adaptable (e.g. 4-4-2)
- Exceptional attacking individuals (e.g. Ibrahimović, Robinho)
- In midfield, Van Bommel the leader and screen
- Clever, unpredictable and mobile in attack
- Counterattack in numbers and at speed
- Quick delivery to the front
- Technical quality, cope well with pressure
- Able to change the rhythm
- Width supplied by the full-backs
- Excellent combinations and through passes

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Bar	Plz	BAT	BAT	Bar	Plz	Ars	Ars	Bar	Bar	G
GOALKEEPERS												
1	Marco AMELIA						90					
30	Flavio ROMA											
32	Christian ABBIATI	90	90	90	90	90	I	90	90	90	90	
DEFENDERS												
2	Taye TAIWO	I	12	90	90		89					
5	Philippe MEXÈS	S	I	6		I	90	90	90	90	90	
13	Alessandro NESTA	90	90	84	67	66	I	I		75	90	
15	Djamel MESBAH							89	15			
19	Gianluca ZAMBROTTA	90			90	1						
20	Ignazio ABATE	90	87	90	90	90		90	90	I	90	
25	Daniele BONERA		90	23	24	90			1	90		
33	THIAGO Silva	90	90	I	90	90	50+	90	90	I	I	1
52	Mattia DE SCIGLIO		3				90					
77	Luca ANTONINI		78		I			90		90	90	
MIDFIELDERS												
4	Mark VAN BOMMEL	78	90	90		72	I	90	90	S	I	
10	Clarence SEEDORF	90	71	I	21	90	90	12*	I	90	61	
18	Alberto AQUILANI	12	19	90	69	30	S	I	20	I	29	
22	Antonio NOCERINO	90	90	90	90	18	40*	90	90	90	90	1
23	Massimo AMBROSINI	57+	I		90		90	20	S	90	90	
27	Kevin-Prince BOATENG	33*	I	78	90	90		70	I	67	69	3
28	Urby EMANUELSON	28	90	12			90	78+	90	23		
34	Bryan CHRISTANTE						9					
FORWARDS												
7	Alexandre Rodrigues 'PATO'	90	I	I		45+	90	6	I	I	14	2
11	Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIĆ	I	90	90	90	90		90	90	90	90	5
21	'MAXI' LÓPEZ									I	7	
56	Simone GANZ				7							
70	Robson De Souza ROBINHO	I	I	28	83	45*	81	84	90	52	90	3
92	Stephan EL SHAARAWY							70	38			
99	Alberto CASSANO	62	90	62	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	1

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

MASSIMILIANO ALLEGRI

Date of birth	11/08/1967 in Livorno
Nationality	Italian
Head coach since	25/06/2010
Matches in UEFA Champions League	18
Players used	27
Substitutions	29 / 30

SSC NAPOLI
Italy

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	44%
Max.	49% v Chelsea (h), v Villarreal (a)
Min.	38% v Man City (h), in Munich

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	110,454 METRES
Max.	115,300 v Chelsea (h)
Min.	105,525 v Villarreal (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	438
Max.	507 at Chelsea
Min.	386 in Munich

PASSING ACCURACY	69%
Max.	76% v FC Bayern (h)
Min.	63% v Chelsea (h)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	74 (17% of total)
Medium	276 (63%)
Short	88 (20%)

* For sake of comparison, figures for game at Chelsea converted pro rata to 90-minute values

GOALS SCORED	14
1-15 mins	1
16-30 mins	2
31-45 mins	3
45+	1
46-60 mins	2
61-75 mins	3
76-90 mins	2

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	22 / 24
31-45 mins	2
46-60 mins	2
61-75 mins	2
76-90 mins	12
90+	2
Extra time	2

Napoli v Chelsea

- Generally 3-4-3, with one attacker deeper than the strikers
- Defend with five at the back, including wing-backs
- Quick delivery to the front
- Very talented, dangerous front three
- Extremely hard-working in midfield (e.g. Gargano)
- Good hold-up play and attacking mobility
- Extremely quick to counterattack
- Committed defending and interceptions
- Willing to shoot from long range
- Highly effective on corners and indirect free kicks

APPEARANCES

No	Player	ManC	Vil	Mun	Mun	ManC	Vil	Che	Che	G
GOALKEEPERS										
1	Morgan DE SANCTIS	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	
83	Antonio ROSATI									
DEFENDERS										
2	Gianluca GRAVA						1			
6	Salvatore ARONICA	90	90	90	42*	90	90	90	110	
14	Hugo CAMPAGNARO	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	
21	Federico FERNÁNDEZ				90	1				2
28	Paolo CANNAVARO	90	90	90	S	90	90	90	120	
MIDFIELDERS										
8	Andrea DOSSENA		90		48+	89			83+	
11	Christian MAGGIO	90		90	90	90	90	90	37*	
17	Marek HAMŠIK	89	79	89	90	90	79	82	106	2
18	Juan ZÚÑIGA	90	90	90	70	S	89	90	120	
19	Mario Alberto SANTANA	1	2	1						
20	Blerim DZEMAILI	32		9	84	31	11	16		
23	Walter GARGANO	90	90	90	I	90	90	90	120	
88	Gökhan INLER	90	90	89	90	59	90	90	120	2
FORWARDS										
7	Edinson CAVANI	84	71	81	90	83	82	90	120	5
9	Giuseppe MASCARA		11	1						
16	Eduardo VARGAS							I	10	
22	Ezequiel LAVEZZI	58	88	90	90	90	90	74	120	2
29	Goran PANDEV	6	19	I	6	7	8	8	14	

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

1 goal was an own goal in Naples by FC Bayern München's Holger Badstuber

HEAD COACH

WALTER MAZZARRI

Date of birth	01/10/1961 in San Vincenzo (Livorno)
Nationality	Italian
Head coach since	06/10/2009
Matches in UEFA Champions League	8
Players used	19
Substitutions	22 / 24

OLYMPIQUE LYONNAIS
France

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	52%
Max.	66% in Zagreb
Min.	37% in Madrid

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	113,131 METRES
Max.	120,807 v Ajax (h)
Min.	109,119 in Madrid

PASSES ATTEMPTED	587
Max.	839 in Zagreb
Min.	419 in Madrid

PASSING ACCURACY	75%
Max.	86% in Zagreb
Min.	68% in Nicosia

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	85 (14% of total)
Medium	375 (64%)
Short	127 (22%)

* For sake of comparisons, figures for game v APOEL (a) converted pro rata to 90-minute values

GOALS SCORED	10
16-30 mins	1
31-45 mins	2
46-60 mins	4
61-75 mins	3

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	17 / 24
31-45 mins	1
46-60 mins	2
61-75 mins	7
76-90 mins	6
Extra time	1

Lyon v APOEL

- 4-2-3-1, with Lisandro at the apex
- High back line, with advanced pressing
- Defensive discipline: Cris the leader
- Patient build-up through midfield
- Technical quality with South American influence
- Hard-working, constructive midfielders
- Good combinations, one and two touches
- Individual quality in attack, dribbling and shooting
- Effective use of the flanks: crosses and cut-backs
- A threat on corner kicks

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Ajx	Zag	Mad	Mad	Ajx	Zag	APO	APO	G
GOALKEEPERS										
1	Hugo LLORIS	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	120	
28	Mathieu VALVERDE									
30	Rémy VERCOUTRE					I	I			
DEFENDERS										
3	Cristiano Marques CRIS	I	I	I	90	90		90	120	
4	Bakari KONÉ	90	90	90	52+		90	90	120	1
5	Dejan LOVREN	90	90	90	38*	90	54	I		
13	Anthony RÉVEILLÈRE	90	90	90	90	90		90	120	
14	Mouhamadou DABO			10	90		90			
15	Gueida FOFANA	1		90			90			
20	Aly CISSOKHO	90	90	90	I	90	90	90	120	
MIDFIELDERS										
6	Kim KÄLLSTRÖM	90	90	90	90	90		90	120	
7	Clément GRENIER	90	79		I	I	I			
8	Yoann GOURCUFF	I	I	66	90	90	90	19	I	
10	Honorato Campos EDERSON	I	I	24	84	17	25	71	73	
11	Michel BASTOS	90	90	90	I	90		90	120	
21	Maxime GONALONS	89	90		90		90	90	120	1
24	Jérémy PIED		11	I	I					
FORWARDS										
9	LISANDRO López	I	I	I	I	73	36	90	120	1
17	Alexandre LACAZETTE		27		15	5	65	58	20	1
18	Bafetimbi GOMIS	85	63	80	75	90	90		47	5
19	Jimmy BRIAND	90	90	90	90	85	90	32	100	1
39	Ishak BELFODIL	5			6					

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

RÉMI GARDE

Date of birth	03/04/1966 in l'Arbresle (Rhône)
Nationality	French
Head coach since	22/06/2011
Matches in UEFA Champions League	8
Players used	20
Substitutions	17 / 24

OLYMPIQUE DE MARSEILLE
France

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	48%
Max.	56% v Olympiacos (h)
Min.	42% v FC Bayern (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	108,061 METRES
Max.	119,039 in Dortmund
Min.	102,079 in Milan

PASSES ATTEMPTED	489
Max.	623 in Munich
Min.	365 v Dortmund (h)

PASSING ACCURACY	69%
Max.	78% in Munich
Min.	59% in Dortmund

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	72 (15% of total)
Medium	299 (61%)
Short	118 (24%)

GOALS SCORED	9
16-30 mins	1
45+	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	2
76-90 mins	3
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	29 / 30
Half-time	2
61-75 mins	17
76-90 mins	9
90+	1
Including 1 double substitution	

Marseille v Inter

- 4-2-3-1 with Valbuena off the front
- Very good combination play on the wings
- Technically competent, composed and cautious
- Highly efficient midfield screen (Diarra and Mbia)
- Set-play threat : Azpilicueta long throw and Valbuena frees/corners
- Aerial power (e.g. Diarra, Diawara and Mbia)
- Good delivery on crosses, also from full-backs
- Generally short-passing possession style
- Some impressive shot-stopping and distribution by Mandanda
- Solo solutions from André Ayew, Valbuena or Brandão

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Oly	Dor	Ars	Ars	Oly	Dor	Int	Int	Mun	Mun	G
GOALKEEPERS												
1	Gennaro BRACIGLIANO								1			
16	Elinton ANDRADE									90		
30	Steve MANDANDA	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	89	S	90	
DEFENDERS												
2	César AZPILICUETA	90	90	90			90	80	90	90	90	
3	Nicolas N'KOULOU	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
13	Djimi TRAORÉ	90			90	90						
15	Jérémy MOREL	90	90	90			90	90	90	45*		
21	Souleymane DIAWARA	90	90	90	90		90	90	S	I		
24	Rod FANNI	8	S	S	90			10		90	90	
26	Jean-Philippe SABO		1									
MIDFIELDERS												
4	Alou DIARRA	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	71	S	
7	Benoît CHEYROU	82		87	90	61	45+	84	14	19	90	
8	'LUCHO' González	77	73	73	16	18	67					1
12	Charles KABORÉ	13	90	3		90		6			27	
17	Stéphane MBIA					29	45*	I	90	90	90	
18	Morgan AMALFITANO	90	17	17	21		90	90	90	68	45+	
28	Mathieu VALBUENA		90	90	74	72	17	90	76	90	90	1
FORWARDS												
9	Evaeverson BRANDÃO							73	2	22	74	1
10	André-Pierre GIGNAC			21	6	29		I	I		16	
11	Loïc RÉMY	68	71	69	69	90	73	I	88	90	63	2
20	ANDRÉ AYEW		89	90	90	90	90	90	89	90	90	4
23	JORDAN AYEW	22	19	S	84	61	23	17				

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

DIDIER DESCHAMPS

Date of birth	15/10/1968 in Bayonne
Nationality	French
Head coach since	01/06/2009
Matches in UEFA Champions League	45
Players used	22
Substitutions	29 / 30

REAL MADRID CF
Spain

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	56%
Max.	70% v APOEL (a)
Min.	45% v Ajax (a), Bayern (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	111,197 METRES
Max.	115,844 v Ajax (a)
Min.	109,006 in Zagreb

PASSES ATTEMPTED	647
Max.	838 v APOEL (h)
Min.	492 v CSKA (a)

PASSING ACCURACY	80%
Max.	88% v Dinamo Zagreb (h)
Min.	69% in Munich

PASSES PER GAME :	
Long	83 (13% of total)
Medium	418 (65%)
Short	146 (22%)

* For sake of comparisons, figures for semi-final v FC Bayern (h) converted pro rata to 90-minute values

GOALS SCORED	35
1-15 mins	6
16-30 mins	7
31-45 mins	3
46-60 mins	7
61-75 mins	5
76-90 mins	5
90+	2

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	36 / 36
16-30 mins	1
Half-time	4
46-60 mins	3
61-75 mins	15
76-90 mins	11
Extra time	2

Including 3 double substitutions
+ 1 triple change at half-time

Real Madrid v CSKA

- 4-2-3-1, but can alter (e.g. 4-3-3)
- Exceptional combinations and incisive passes
- Outstanding individualists (e.g. Ronaldo, Özil)
- Very dangerous on set plays : Ronaldo, Xabi Alonso
- Lightning counterattacks
- Great mobility in attack, especially Ronaldo and Özil
- Solid screen in midfield – Alonso the schemer
- Resolute zonal defence with great goalkeeper (Casillas)
- Positive possession : change of tempo
- Excellent use of the flanks, including Marcelo from left-back

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Zag	Ajx	OL	OL	Zag	Ajx	CSK	CSK	APO	APO	Mun	Mun	G
GOALKEEPERS														
1	Iker CASILLAS	90	90	90	90			90	90	90	90	90	120	
13	Antonio ADÁN					90	90							
25	Tomás MEJÍAS													
DEFENDERS														
2	Ricardo CARVALHO	90	90	I	I	I	I			I	I			
3	Kepler Ferreira 'PEPE'	90	I	90	90			90	90	90	90	90	120	
4	Sergio RAMOS	90	90	90	90	45*		90	90	90	90	90	120	1
12	MARCELO Vieira da Silva	73	S	90				90	26	45*	21		120	
15	Fábio COENTRÃO	90	I	29	64	90	90	90	I	64		90		
17	Alvaro ARBELOA	8	90	90	I	I	67	90	90	90		90	120	
18	Raúl ALBIOL			I	26	45+	90	6			25			
19	Raphaël VARANE		90			90	90				90			
MIDFIELDERS														
5	Nuri ŞAHIN	I	I	I	I	90	90			84	90			
6	Sami KHEDIRA	I	90	61	90			90	90	90	I	90	120	1
8	Ricardo Izecson 'KAKÁ'	I	75	24	I		90	15	76	26	90		45+	3
10	Mesut ÖZIL	78	84	66	90	45*		84	88	90		69	111	
11	Esteban GRANERO			I	45+	59		14	6	65		11	9	
14	XABI ALONSO	90	90	90	90	45*	31	90	90	S		90	120	
16	Hamit ALTINTOP	I	6			45+	36	I	I		90			
21	José CALLEJÓN			7	90	90	75		I	45+				5
23	Pedro MENDES							23						2
24	LASSana DIARRA	12			90	90		I	2	I	I			
FORWARDS														
7	Cristiano RONALDO	90	90	90	90			90	90	90	90	90	120	10
9	Karim BENZEMA	82	75	72	71	90	54	16*	21	90		84	106	7
20	Gonzalo HIGUAÍN	12	15	18	19	90	90	74+	69	64	55	6	14	3
22	Angel DI MARÍA	78	15	90	83	I			I	I	35	79	75	2

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

1 goal was an own goal by Hugo Lloris in Lyon on MD3

HEAD COACH

JOSÉ DOS SANTOS MOURINHO

Date of birth	26/01/1963 in Setúbal
Nationality	Portuguese
Head coach since	31/05/2010
Matches in UEFA Champions League	93
Players used	24
Substitutions	36 / 36

FC ZENIT ST PETERSBURG

Russia

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	51%
Max.	63% v APOEL (h)
Min.	42% in Porto

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	115,018 METRES
Max.	117,553 v Benfica (a)
Min.	107,368 v APOEL (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	527
Max.	679 v APOEL (h)
Min.	372 in Donetsk

PASSING ACCURACY	69%
Max.	79% v APOEL (h)
Min.	58% in Porto

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	85 (16% of total)
Medium	315(60%)
Short	127 (24%)

GOALS SCORED	10
16-30 mins	2
31-45 mins	1
45+	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	4
76-90 mins	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	20 / 24
Half-time	3
46-60 mins	3
61-75 mins	4
76-90 mins	9
90+	1

Zenit v Benfica

- 4-3-3 or 4-4-2, usually a lone striker (Kerzhakov)
- Zonal back four, with Denisov the main midfield screen
- Quick transitions – press high when appropriate
- Creative, attacking midfielders (Semak, Shirokov and Zyryanov)
- Accurate long passes, including diagonals
- Dangerous at free-kicks and corners (Lombaerts' aerial power)
- Good setup play and third-man running
- Attacking full-backs – threatening crosses
- Highly competitive, fit and focused team

APPEARANCES

No	Player	APO	Por	Don	Don	APO	Por	Ben	Ben	G
GOALKEEPERS										
16	Vyacheslav MALAFEEV	90	90	90	90	90	90	I	90	
30	Yuri ZHEVNOV							90		
DEFENDERS										
2	Aleksandr ANYUKOV	90	90	I	90	90	90	90	53	
3	BRUNO ALVES	76	S	90			8	90	37	
4	Domenico CRISCITO	90	90	90	90	90	90	I	90	
6	Nicolas LOMBAERTS	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	1
14	Tomas HUBOCAN	89	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
MIDFIELDERS										
15	Roman SHIROKOV	75	90	90	90	87	45*	90	90	5
17	Alessandro ROSINA							1		
18	Konstantin ZYRYANOV	80	86	89	90	55	45+	45*	70	1
20	Viktor FAYZULIN	15	90	90	90	90	58	89	20	1
23	Szabolcs HUSZTI		4							
25	Sergei SEMAK	I	I	1	9		90	45+	90	1
27	Igor DENISOV	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	
34	Vladimir BYSTROV	I	I			35	32	24	45*	
FORWARDS										
8	Danko LAZEVIC	10		16	5	3	82		45+	
9	Aleksandr BUKHAROV	1	1	74	81	90		I	I	
10	Daniel Alves 'DANNY'	90	90	90	85	90	90	I	I	1
11	Aleksandr KERZHAKOV	90	89	I	I	I	I	90	90	
99	Maksim KANUNNIKOV							66		

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

LUCIANO SPALLETTI

Date of birth	07/03/1959 in Certaldo
Nationality	Italian
Head coach since	11/12/2009
Matches in UEFA Champions League	36
Players used	20
Substitutions	20 / 24

THE CLUBS
The other 16 qualifiers

The fact that FC Basel 1893 and APOEL FC made history by reaching the knockout stage provided a clear indication that some of the pre-season favourites had failed to make the cut and, arguably suffering a psychological rebound, none of them went on to prosper in the UEFA Europa League, where Valencia CF were the only UEFA Champions League starters who progressed beyond the last 16.

The 2011/12 campaign belied the traditional theory among UEFA Champions League coaches that ten points offer a guarantee of progress beyond the group stage. Manchester City FC achieved this target but found it insufficient to improve on third place in a strong Group A which featured teams from England, Germany, Italy and Spain. On the other hand, three clubs reached the knockout stage despite taking only half of the 18 points available in the group stage, and two teams advanced with eight points (two wins and two draws) from their six matches. Five of the eliminated teams failed to win a match, three of whom (GNK Dinamo Zagreb, FC Oțelul Galați and injury-hit Villarreal CF) lost all six games.

However, the profile of the pre-Christmas fallers differed substantially in comparison with the 2010/11 season, when one of the salient statistics of the teams that failed to make the cut had been, by and large, those who did not focus on a possession-and-passing philosophy. As the statistics on the following pages will reveal, this no longer prevailed as a clear tendency during 2011/12. The 16 fallers *did* include sides who were not obsessed with possession or elaborate passing combinations (for example, FC Viktoria Plzeň with 39% of the ball and 327 passes per game; KRC Genk with 39% and 396; and FC Oțelul Galați with 40% and 431). On the other hand, seven of the eliminated teams averaged in excess of 500 passes per match (four of them over 600), with Manchester City FC (57% and 697 passes) and Valencia CF (61% and 626) providing the most extreme examples. In other words, domination and possession play were not always readily translated into results. During the 2011/12 group stage, only 3 of the 32 sides (Real Madrid CF, FC Barcelona and FC Bayern München) won more than half of their six group fixtures.

The elimination of the two Manchester clubs (first and second in England's Premier League) along with the champions of Germany, Greece, the Netherlands and Ukraine (FC Shakhtar Donetsk had been quarter-finalists in 2010/11) provides a clear indication of the competitive nature of the UEFA Champions League group stage, in which "taking your eye off the ball" can expose any team to premature elimination.

Wayne Rooney converts the first of the two penalties which earned Manchester United FC a 2-0 away win against Romanian debutants FC Oțelul Galați.
GETTY IMAGES

AFC AJAX
Netherlands

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	55%
Max.	61% v Lyon (h)
Min.	46% in Lyon

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	118,225 METRES
Max.	124,385 in Lyon
Min.	114,517 v Lyon (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	625
Max.	701 v Dinamo Zagreb (h)
Min.	549 in Lyon

PASSING ACCURACY	80%
Max.	85% in Madrid
Min.	73% in Zagreb

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	87 (14% of total)
Medium	419 (67%)
Short	119 (19%)

GOALS SCORED	6
16-30 mins	2
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	1
76-90 mins	1
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	16 / 18
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	6
76-90 mins	8
90+	1

APPEARANCES

No	Player	OL	Mad	Zag	Zag	OL	Mad	G
GOALKEEPERS								
1	Kenneth VERMEER	90	90	90	90	90	90	
22	Jasper CILLESSEN							
DEFENDERS								
2	Gregory VAN DER WIEL	90	90	90	90	67	90	1
3	Toby ALDERWEIRELD	90	90	90	90	90		
4	Jan VERTONGHEN	90	90	90	90	90	90	
5	Vurnon ANITA	20	90	90	90	90	90	
15	Nicolai BOILESEN	90	I	I	I	I	I	
17	Daley BLIND					23	90	
MIDFIELDERS								
6	Eyong ENOH		39	90	90	90	90	
7	Miralem SULEJMANI	85	71	90	72	90	90	1
8	Christian ERIKSEN	90	90	89	80	90	90	1
10	Siem DE JONG	90	90	90	90	I	I	1
11	Lorenzo EBICILIO	5	19		13	85	90	
16	Theo JANSSEN	70	51	90	90	90	76	
25	Thulani SERERO		7					
FORWARDS								
9	Kolbeinn SIGTHÓRSSON	81	90	I	I	I	I	
18	Nicolás LODEIRO		1		10	89	74	1
19	Dmitri BULYKIN	9		20		I	16	
21	Derk BOERRIGTER	90	83	70	77	I	I	1
37	Jody LUKOKI					18	1	
39	Davy KLAASSEN					5	14	

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

FRANK DE BOER	
Date of birth	15/05/1970 in Hoorn
Nationality	Dutch
Head coach from	06/12/2010
Matches in UEFA Champions League	7
Players used	20
Substitutions	16 / 18

FC BATE BORISOV
Belarus

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	43%
Max :.	60% v Plzen (h)
Min.	30% in Barcelona

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	115,027 METRES
Max.	119,561 v Milan (h)
Min.	104,329 v Plzen (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED :	403
Max.	587 v Plzen (h)
Min.	313 v Plzen (a)

PASSING ACCURACY	68%
Max.	76% v Plzen (h)
Min.	59% in Barcelona

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	85 (21% of total)
Medium	239 (59%)
Short	79 (20%)

GOALS SCORED	2
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	18 / 18
46-60 mins	2
61-75 mins	8
76-90 mins	8

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Plz	Bar	Mil	Mil	Plz	Bar	G
GOALKEEPERS								
16	Andrei SCHERBAKOV							
30	Aleksandr GUTOR	90	90	90	90	90	90	
DEFENDERS								
5	Aleksandr YUREVICH	I	I	90	90	90	90	
14	Artyom RADKOV			90	90			
18	Maksim BORDACHEV	90	90	90	90	90	90	
21	Yegor FILIPENKO	90	90	I	I	90	90	
22	Marko SIMIĆ	90	90	90	90	90	90	
MIDFIELDERS								
2	Dmitri LIKHTAROVICH	I		66	63		67	
7	Artyom KONTSEVOI	18	90	90	84	75	90	
8	Aleksandr VOLODKO	90	90	90	90	90	90	
10	RENAN BRESSAN	72	82	77	90	90	77	2
11	Mokhail GORDEYCHUK	83			6	21	26	
17	Aleksandr PAVLOV	I	I	13	14	69	64	
19	Kirill ALEKSIYAN		30					
23	Edgar OLEKHNOVICH	90	90	24	27		23	
25	Dmitri BAGA	90	90	90	76	90	90	
26	Vadim KURLOVICH		8					
29	Maksim VOLODKO	7						
77	Filipp RUDIK	90	60			15		
FORWARDS								
9	Alex PORFIRIO	14						
15	Maksim SKAVYSH		34	19	90	77		
99	Mateja KEZMAN	76	56	71		13	13	

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HEAD COACH

VIKTAR HANCHARENKA

Date of birth	10/06/1977 in Khoiniki (Gomel)
Nationality	Belarusian
Head coach since	13/11/2007
Matches in UEFA Champions League	12
Players used	21
Substitutions	18 / 18

BORUSSIA DORTMUND
Germany

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	51%
Max.	56% v Olympiacos (a), Marseille (h)
Min.	42% at Arsenal

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	121,965 METRES
Max.	124,991 v Arsenal (h)
Min.	116,370 in Marseille

PASSES ATTEMPTED	515
Max.	554 v Arsenal (h)
Min.	420 v Arsenal (a)

PASSING ACCURACY	70%
Max.	72% v Arsenal (h)
Min.	64% v Arsenal (a)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	82 (16% of total)
Medium	314 (61%)
Short	119 (23%)

GOALS SCORED	6
1-15 mins	1
16-30 mins	2
31-45 mins	1
76-90 mins	1
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	18 / 18
16-30 mins	2
31-45 mins	1
Half-time	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	10
76-90 mins	3
Including 2 double substitutions	

APPEARANCES

UNSER TEAM 2011/2012
Echte Liebe.

No	Player	Ars	OM	Oly	Oly	Ars	OM	G
GOALKEEPERS								
1	Roman WEIDENFELLER	90	90	90	90	90	90	
20	Mitchell LANGERAK							
DEFENDERS								
4	Neven SUBOTIĆ	90	90	90	90	I	I	
15	Mats HUMMELS	90	90	90	90	90	90	1
24	Chris LÖWE						90	
26	Lukasz PISZCZEK	90	90	90	90	90	90	
27	Felipe SANTANA				4	90	90	
29	Marcel SCHMELZER	90	90	90	90	90	S	
MIDFIELDERS								
5	Sebastien KEHL	68	90		90	64	32*	
7	Moritz LEITNER			34	86	65+	I	
8	Antônio DA SILVA					58+		
11	Mario GÖTZE	90	90	82	66	29*	45*	
16	Jakub BLASZCZYKOWSKI	22	27	24	15		90	1
19	Kevin GROSSKREUTZ	68	63	8	90	90		1
21	Ilkay GÜNDOGAN			56			90	
22	Sven BENDER	90	90	90		25*	I	
44	Ivan PERIŠIĆ	22	27	90	75	61+	45+	1
FORWARDS								
9	Robert LEWANDOWSKI	90	72	90	90	90	90	1
10	Mohamed ZIDAN	5						
18	Lucas BARRIOS	I	18			26	63	
23	Shinji KAGAWA	85	63	66	24	90	27	1

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

JÜRGEN KLOPP

Date of birth	16/06/1967 in Stuttgart
Nationality	German
Head coach since	01/07/2008
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used	20
Substitutions	18 / 18

FC OȚELUL GALAȚI
Romania

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	40%
Max.	53% v Basel (h)
Min.	35% v Benfica (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	123,178 METRES
Max.	125,334 v Basel (h)
Min.	120,618 v Man Utd (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	431
Max.	569 v Basel (h)
Min.	352 v Man Utd (h)

PASSING ACCURACY	66%
Max.	74% v Basel (h)
Min.	55% v Benfica (h)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	70 (16% of total)
Medium	255 (59%)
Short	106 (25%)

GOALS SCORED	3
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	1
76-90 mins	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	18 / 18
16-30 mins	1
Half-time	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	8
76-90 mins	7

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Bas	Ben	Man	Man	Bas	Ben	G
GOALKEEPERS								
1	Cristian BRANET							
12	Branko GRAHOVAC	90	90	90	90	90	90	
DEFENDERS								
2	Nejc SKUBIČ		90					
3	Cornel RÂPA	90	I	90	90	90	90	
5	Zoran LJUBINKOVIĆ		90				69+	
6	Alexandru BENGA						90	
16	Cristian SÂRGHI				90	90	I	
18	Sergiu COSTIN	90	90	90	90	S		
23	Adrian SALAGEANU	82	S	90	90	90		
55	Milan PERENDIJA	90	90	89	S	90	90	
MIDFIELDERS								
4	Ioan FILIP	86	90	90	90	90	90	
7	Laurentiu IORGA				29	66	90	
8	Liviu ANTAL	90	90	90	61	90	81	1
10	Gabriel PARASCHIV	19	I	I	9	6	90	
11	Sorin FRUNZA	1	25	83	37		9	
14	Silviu ILIE	89		7	53	24	21*	
15	John IBEH	90	45*					
17	Laurentiu BUȘ		65	I	I	I	I	
26	Ionut NEAGU			72	90	67	70	
29	Gabriel GIURGIU	90	90	90	81	90	90	1
37	Gabriel VIGLIANTI	4	45+	3		17		
FORWARDS								
19	Bratislav PUNOŠEVAC		21	87				
27	Marius PENA	71	69	18	90	90	20	1

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HEAD COACH

DORINEL MUNTEANU	
Date of birth	25/06/1968 in Caraș-Severin
Nationality	Romanian
Head coach since	01/07/2009
Matches in UEFA Champions League	9
Players used	22
Substitutions	18 / 18

KRC GENK
Belgium

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	**39%**
Max.	44% v Chelsea (h)
Min.	35% v Valencia (h), Leverkusen (a)
TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	**112,779 METRES**
Max.	117,593 v Chelsea (h)
Min.	105,165 in Valencia
PASSES ATTEMPTED	**396**
Max.	457 in Leverkusen
Min.	276 v Valencia (h)
PASSING ACCURACY	**69%**
Max.	75% in Valencia
Min.	58% v Valencia (h)
PASSES PER GAME	
Long	76 (19% of total)
Medium	243 (61%)
Short	77 (19%)
GOALS SCORED	**2**
16-30 mins	1
61-75 mins	1
SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	**17 / 18**
Half-time	3
61-75 mins	7
76-90 mins	7

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Val	Lev	Che	Che	Val	Lev	G
GOALKEEPERS								
1	Grzegorz SANDOMIERSKI							
26	László KÖTELES	90	90	90	90	90	90	
DEFENDERS								
2	Abel MASUERO			45*	I	I	I	
11	Anthony VANDENBORRE			90	90	90	90	
16	Anele NGONGCA	90	90	90	90	I	90	
17	Jeroen SIMAEYS	90	90	I	I	I	90	
20	José NADSON Ferreira	90	69	I	90	90	90	
23	Mohammed SARR					45+		
33	Daniel PUDIL	90	90	90	S	90	90	
MIDFIELDERS								
6	David HUBERT	90	78	I	I	I	I	
7	Khaleem HYLAND		21	90	90	61	I	
8	Daniel TÖZSÉR	90	90	90	90	90	90	
14	Kevin DE BRUYNE	I	90	90	90	90	I	
15	Fabien CAMUS	5		45+	90	90	90	
19	Thomas BUFFEL	85	90	90	69	90	15	
21	Dugary NDABASHINZE	90		19	21		90	
35	Anthony LIMBOMBE				8	29	75	
FORWARDS								
9	Jelle VOSSEN	80	45*	81	87	45*	81	2
18	Elyaniv BARDA	10	45+	71	3	71	9	
27	Kennedy NWANGANGA	64	12	9	82	19		
31	Marvin OGUNJIMI	26	90		I			

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HEAD COACH

MARIO BEEN	
Date of birth	11/12/1963 in Rotterdam
Nationality	Dutch
Head coach since	29/08/2011
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used	20
Substitutions	17 / 18

LOSC LILLE MÉTROPOLE
France

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	55%
Max.	62% v Trabzonspor (h)
Min.	44% v Trabzonspor (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	114,027 METRES
Max.	120,064 in Moscow
Min.	108,718 v Inter (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	541
Max.	653 v CSKA (h)
Min.	435 in Trabzon

PASSING ACCURACY	76%
Max.	84% v CSKA (h)
Min.	70% in Trabzon

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	81 (15% of total)
Medium	330 (61%)
Short	130 (24%)

GOALS SCORED	6
16-30 mins	1
31-45 mins	1
46-60 mins	2
61-75 mins	1
76-90 mins	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	16 / 18
Half-time	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	5
76-90 mins	8
90+	1

APPEARANCES

No	Player	CSK	Tra	Int	Int	CSK	Tra	G
GOALKEEPERS								
1	Mickaël LANDREAU	90	90		90	90	90	
16	Vincent ENYEAMA			90				
30	Barel MOUKO							
DEFENDERS								
2	Mathieu DEBUCHY	90	90	90	90	90	90	
14	David ROZEHNAL	90	90		90	90	S	
18	Franck BÉRIA	90	90	90	90	90	84	
21	Laurent BONNART						6	
22	Aurélien CHEDJOU	I	I	90	90	90	90	
25	Marko BAŠA	90	90	90	I	I	90	
MIDFIELDERS								
4	Florent BALMONT	90	90	81	I	90	90	
5	Idrissa GUEYE	13	9			90	I	
10	Eden HAZARD	90	90	90	90	89	90	
11	Ludovic OBRANIAK	77	14	16	30		21	
17	Benoît PEDRETTI	77	90	62	90	I	I	1
24	Rio MAVUBA	90	90	90	90	90	90	
26	Joe COLE	13	76	74	71	87	69	
FORWARDS								
7	Dimitri PAYET		I	28	19	3	89	
8	Moussa SOW	86	90	90	60	74	90	3
9	Tulio DE MELO	I	I	I	45+	1	I	1
20	Ronny RODELIN	4					1	
27	Ireneusz JELEN				45*	16		

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

1 goal was an own goal by CSKA's Vasili Berezutski in Moscow

HEAD COACH

RUDI GARCIA

Date of birth	20/02/1964 in Nemours
Nationality	French
Head coach since	18/06/2008
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used	20
Substitutions	16 / 18

MANCHESTER CITY FC
England

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	57%
Max.	62% in Villarreal + Naples
Min.	45% in Munich

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	112,397 METRES
Max.	116,389 v Villarreal (h)
Min.	109,527 in Munich

PASSES ATTEMPTED	697
Max.	794 in Villarreal
Min.	574 in Munich

PASSING ACCURACY	83%
Max.	88% in Villarreal
Min.	80% v Napoli (h), in Munich

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	81 (12% of total)
Medium	445 (64%)
Short	170 (24%)

GOALS SCORED	9
16-30 mins	1
31-45 mins	3
45+	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	2
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	18 / 18
31-45 mins	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	7
76-90 mins	9

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Nap	Mun	Vil	Vil	Nap	Mun	G
GOALKEEPERS								
25	Joe HART	90	90	90	90	90	90	
30	Costel PANTILIMON							
DEFENDERS								
2	Micah RICHARDS		90					
4	Vincent KOMPANY	90	90	90	90	90	90	
5	Pablo ZABALETA	90		90	90	85		
6	Joleon LESCOTT	90		90		90	90	
13	Aleksandar KOLAROV	75	17	90	8	90	I	1
15	Stefan SAVIĆ				90		90	
22	Gaël CLICHY	15	90		90		90	
28	KOLO TOURÉ		90					
MIDFIELDERS								
7	James MILNER		21	10	90	90		
11	Adam JOHNSON	14		40*	25	5	6	
18	Gareth BARRY	90	73	50+			90	
19	Samir NASRI	76	69	80	90	19	90	
34	Nigel DE JONG	I	34	62	90	71	13	
42	YAYA TOURÉ	90	90	90	74	90	81	3
FORWARDS								
10	Edin DŽEKO	81	56	90		81	77	
16	Sergio AGÜERO	90	90	28	16	9	90	1
21	David SILVA	90	90	90	65	90	84	1
32	Carlos TÉVEZ	9						
45	Mario BALOTELLI	S	S	S	82	90	9	2

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

1 goal was an own goal by Villarreal's Carlos Marchena in Manchester

HEAD COACH

ROBERTO MANCINI

Date of birth	27/11/1964 in Jesi (Ancona)
Nationality	Italian
Head coach since	19/12/2009
Matches in UEFA Champions League	48
Players used	20
Substitutions	18 / 18

MANCHESTER UNITED FC
England

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	58%
Max.	64% v Benfica (h)
Min.	47% v Basel (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	108,451 METRES
Max.	112,601 v Basel (a)
Min.	104,856 v Benfica (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	650
Max.	738 v Galati (h)
Min.	531 v Basel (a)

PASSING ACCURACY	79%
Max.	83% v Benfica (a)
Min.	77% v Basel, Benfica (h)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	88 (13% of total)
Medium	401 (62%)
Short	161 (25%)

GOALS SCORED	11
1-15 mins	1
16-30 mins	3
31-45 mins	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	1
76-90 mins	3
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	16 / 18
1-15 mins	1
31-45 mins	1
61-75 mins	6
76-90 mins	8
Including 1 double substitution	

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Ben	Bas	Gal	Gal	Ben	Bas	G
GOALKEEPERS								
1	David DE GEA		90		90	90	90	
34	Anders LINDEGAARD	90		90				
DEFENDERS								
3	Patrice EVRA	90	90	90		90	90	
4	Phil JONES	12	90	14	90	90	90	1
5	Rio FERDINAND		90		90	90	90	
6	Jonny EVANS	90	I	19	89		46+	
12	Chris SMALLING	90		90	I	8	90	
15	Nemanja VIDIC	I	I	66	S	S	44*	
20	FABIO da Silva	78	69	76	90	82	I	
51	Ezekiel FRYERS				1			
MIDFIELDERS								
8	ANDERSON de Abreu		82	90	80	I	I	
11	Ryan GIGGS	90	61		I		90	1
13	PARK Ji-Sung	90	29		10		82	
16	Michael CARRICK	90	90	90		90	S	
17	Luís Almeida 'NANI'	21	21	90	90	90	90	
18	Ashley YOUNG		90		I	90	64	1
24	Darren FLETCHER	69				90		1
25	Antonio VALENCIA	69	90	71	90	80		1
FORWARDS								
7	Michael OWEN				11*	I	I	
9	Dimitar BERBATOV		8		90	90	I	1
10	Wayne ROONEY	90	I	90	90		90	2
14	Javier HERNÁNDEZ	21	I	90	79+	10	I	
19	Danny WELBECK	I	90			I	26	2
27	Federico MACHEDA						8	

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

1 goal was an own goal at Old Trafford by Cristian Sârghi (Oțelul Galați)

HEAD COACH

SIR ALEX FERGUSON

Date of birth	31/12/1941 in Glasgow
Nationality	Scottish
Head coach since	07/11/1986
Matches in UEFA Champions League	182
Players used	24
Substitutions	16 / 18

OLYMPIACOS FC
Greece

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	48%
Max.	55% v Marseille (h)
Min.	44% v Dortmund (h), Marseille (a)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	112,295 METRES
Max.	115,208 at Arsenal
Min.	108,390 v Marseille (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	425
Max.	519 in Dortmund
Min.	324 in Marseille

PASSING ACCURACY	66%
Max.	73% v Marseille (h), Arsenal (a)
Min.	61% v Dortmund (h)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	87 (20% of total)
Medium	249 (59%)
Short	89 (21%)

GOALS SCORED	8
1-15 mins	1
16-30 mins	2
31-45 mins	2
76-90 mins	3

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	18 / 18
31-45 mins	1
46-60 mins	3
61-75 mins	8
76-90 mins	4
90+	2
Including 2 double substitutions	

APPEARANCES

No	Player	OM	Ars	Dor	Dor	OM	Ars	G
GOALKEEPERS								
17	Franco COSTANZO	90	90	90				
42	Balázs MEGYERI				90	90	90	
DEFENDERS								
2	Giannis MANIATIS		I	17		90	90	
3	François MODESTO	90	15	90	90	90	90	2
4	Olof MELLBERG	90	90	90	90	90	90	
6	Tassos PAPAZOGLOU						1	
20	José HOLEBAS	90	90	90	90	75	37*	1
21	Avraam PAPADOPOULOS	90		90	90	90	90	
23	Iván MARCANO		90	90	67	90	90	
35	Vassilis TOROSSIDIS	90	90			90	90	
92	Giannis POTOURIDIS					1		
MIDFIELDERS								
7	Ariel IBAGAZA	23	90	90	79	I	I	
8	Ljubomir FEJSA	67	90		59		I	
18	Giannis FETFATZIDIS	I	I	1		15		1
19	David FUSTER	67	80	I	I	54	64	2
31	Pablo ORBAIZ		75	90	90	I	53+	
33	Francisco YESTE	55			I	36	I	
77	Jean MAKOUN	23		73	31	I	I	
93	Djamel ABDOUN	90	15		23		26	
FORWARDS								
9	Marco PANTELIC		10	3	11			
10	Rafik DJEBBOUR	35	90	87	90	89	89	2
14	Kevin MIRALLAS	90	75	89	90	90	90	

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

ERNESTO VALVERDE

Date of birth	09/02/1964 in Viandar de la Vera (Cáceres)
Nationality	Spanish
Head coach since	07/08/2010
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used	22
Substitutions	18 / 18

FC VIKTORIA PLZEŇ
Czech Republic

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	39%
Max.	52% v BATE (h)
Min.	28% in Barcelona

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	110,001 METRES
Max.	117,396 v Milan (h)
Min.	103,730 v BATE (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	327
Max.	428 in Milan
Min.	207 v Barcelona (h)

PASSING ACCURACY	67%
Max.	70% in Milan
Min.	63% v BATE (a)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	73 (22% of total)
Medium	189 (58%)
Short	64 (20%)

GOALS SCORED	4
31-45 mins	1
45+	1
76-90 mins	1
90+	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	18 / 18
16-30 mins	2
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	6
76-90 mins	8
90+	1

APPEARANCES

No	Player	BAT	Mil	Bar	Bar	BAT	Mil	G
GOALKEEPERS								
24	Marek ČECH	90	90	90	I	90	90	
25	Michal DANEK							
30	Martin TICHÁČEK							
33	Roman PAVLIK	I	I	I	90			
DEFENDERS								
8	David LIMBERSKÝ	78	90	90	90	90	90	
14	Radim REZNIK				12	1		
15	Frantisek ŠEVINSKÝ				66+	90		
18	David BYSTRON	90	90	90	90	90	90	1
27	Frantisek RAJTORAL	90	90	90	90	90	90	
28	Marián ČIŠOVSKÝ	90	90	90	22*	S	90	
MIDFIELDERS								
6	Vaclav PILAR	88	75	75	90	89	84	
7	Petr TRAPP	12						
9	Martin FILLO		15	15		7		
10	Pavel HORVÁTH	90	90	90	78	90	90	
11	Milan PETRŽELA	69	90	86	90	83	90	
16	Vladimir DARIDA		1	4			62+	
20	Petr JIRAČEK	90	90	90	90	90	28*	
26	Daniel KOLÁR	90	89	90	68	90	67	
FORWARDS								
5	Michal DURIŠ	21	23	32	22	11	23	1
17	Jakub HORA	2					6	
23	Marek BAKOŠ	90	67	58	24*	79	90	2

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

PAVEL VRBA

Date of birth	06/12/1963 in Prerov
Nationality	Czech
Head coach since	01/07/2008
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used	19
Substitutions	18 / 18

FC PORTO
Portugal

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	54%
Max.	63% v APOEL (h)
Min.	39% in Donetsk

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	107,643 METRES
Max.	113,166 v APOEL (a)
Min.	102,887 v APOEL (h)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	519
Max.	646 v Shakhtar (h)
Min.	360 in Donetsk

PASSING ACCURACY	71%
Max.	77% v Shakhtar (h)
Min.	63% in Donetsk

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	89 (17% of total)
Medium	323 (62%)
Short	107 (21%)

GOALS SCORED	7
1-15 mins	2
16-30 mins	1
46-60 mins	1
76-90 mins	3

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	18 / 18
31-45 mins	1
Half-time	2
46-60 mins	2
61-75 mins	7
76-90 mins	6
Including 1 double substitution	

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Don	Zen	APO	APO	Don	Zen	G
GOALKEEPERS								
1	HELTON Da Silva	90	90	90	90	90	90	
31	Rafael BRACALI							
DEFENDERS								
4	MAICON Pereira	90				90	90	
5	ALVARO PEREIRA	90	90	90	90	90	90	
13	Jorge FUCILE	90	45*	S	90			
14	ROLANDO Pires	S	90	90	90	90	90	
21	Cristian SAPUNARU	I		90				
22	Eliaquim MANGALA				90			
30	Nicolás OTAMENDI	90	90	90		90	82	
MIDFIELDERS								
6	Fredy GUARÍN	S	S	90	30	I	I	
7	Fernando BELLUSCHI	29	72	21	76		8	
8	João MOUTINHO	90	90	78	90	90	90	
10	CRISTIÁN RODRÍGUEZ					17		
19	JAMES RODRÍGUEZ	90	45*	69	30	81	90	1
23	Josef de SOUZA Dias		45+			2		
25	FERNANDO Reges	61	90	69	60	90	90	
35	Steven DEFOUR	90	18	12	14	88	45*	
FORWARDS								
11	KLÉBER Pinheiro	69	33*	90	90		45+	1
12	Givanildo Vieira 'HULK'	78	90	90	90	90	90	4
17	Silvestre VARELA	12	57+	21	60	9	22	
20	DJALMA Campos	21				73	68	

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

1 goal was an own goal in Donetsk by Razvan Rat

HEAD COACH

VÍTOR PEREIRA

Date of birth	26/07/1968 in Espinho
Nationality	Portuguese
Head coach since	21/06/2011
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used	20
Substitutions	18 / 18

FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK
Ukraine

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	54%
Max.	62% v APOEL (h)
Min.	39% in Porto

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	111,283 METRES*
Max.	113,643 v APOEL (h)
Min.	106,746 v Zenit (h)

* excluding Matchday 1 when Shakhtar played 40 minutes with 10 and 10 with 9

PASSES ATTEMPTED	484
Max.	589 v APOEL (a)
Min.	396 in Porto

PASSING ACCURACY	72%
Max.	80% v APOEL (a)
Min.	63% in Porto

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	89 (18% of total)
Medium	307 (63%)
Short	88 (19%)

GOALS SCORED	6
1-15 mins	2
45+	1
61-75 mins	2
76-90 mins	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	17 / 18
31-45 mins	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	8
76-90 mins	7

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Por	APO	Zen	Zen	Por	APO	G
GOALKEEPERS								
16	Artem TETENKO							
25	Olexandr RYBKA	90	90	90	90	90	90	
30	Andriy PYATOV							
DEFENDERS								
5	Olexandr KUCHER	48+	90	17	90	90	90	
13	Vyacheslav SHEVCHUK				90		90	
26	Razvan RAT	90	90	90		90		
27	Dmytro CHYGRYNSKIY	80	S	90	I	I	I	
33	Darijo SRNA	90	90	90	90	S	90	
36	Olexandr CHYZHOV		90	73	I	I	I	
44	Yaroslav RAKITSKIY	40*	S	S	90	90	90	
MIDFIELDERS								
3	Tomás HÜBSCHMAN	9	90	90	90	90	90	
7	FERNANDINHO Rosa	90	I	90	I	90	90	
8	JADSON Rodriguez	64	81	67		31		1
10	WILLIAN Borges da Silva	81	90	90	90	69	84	1
14	Vasyl KOBIN					87		
20	DOUGLAS Costa		25	75	22	3	78	
22	Henrik MKHITARYAN	90	90	23	90	90	90	
29	ALEX TEIXEIRA	26	65	15	68	21		
FORWARDS								
9	LUIZ ADRIANO	90	76	90	77	90	73	3
11	EDUARDO Alves da Silva	42*	9		90	59	12	
17	Yevhen SELEZNYOV	I	14		13		17	1
99	Marcelo MORENO						6	

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

MIRCEA LUCESCU

Date of birth	29/07/1945 in Bucharest
Nationality	Romanian
Head coach since	16/05/2004
Matches in UEFA Champions League	75
Players used	20
Substitutions	17 / 18

TRABZONSPOR AŞ
Turkey

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	49%
Max.	57% in Moscow
Min.	38% in Lille

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	109,702 METRES
Max.	111,300 v Inter (h)
Min.	106,827 v Inter (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	467
Max.	548 in Moscow
Min.	338 v CSKA (h)

PASSING ACCURACY	71%
Max.	78% v Inter (h)
Min.	56% v CSKA (h)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	71 (15% of total)
Medium	280 (60%)
Short	116 (25%)

GOALS SCORED	3
16-30 mins	1
61-75 mins	1
76-90 mins	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	17 / 18
31-45 mins	1
Half-time	1
61-75 mins	8
76-90 mins	4
90+	3
Including 1 double substitution	

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Int	Lil	CSK	CSK	Int	Lil	G
GOALKEEPERS								
1	Onur KIVRAK	I	I					
29	TOLGA ZENGIN	90	90	90	90	90	90	
91	BORA SEVIM							
DEFENDERS								
5	Marek ČECH	90	82	75	90	90	90	
6	Arkadiusz GLOWACKI	90	90	90	90	90	90	
22	MUSTAFA YUMLU						1	
23	Giray KAÇAR	90	90	90	90	90	90	
28	Ondrej ČELÚSTKA	90	90	90	90	90	33*	1
30	SERKAN BALCI	90	90	90	61	64	90	
MIDFIELDERS								
15	Didier ZOKORA	90	90	90	90	90	90	
20	Gustavo COLMAN	90	90	90	90	90	90	1
24	AYKUT AKGÜN	2		1	9			
25	ALANZINHO Gomes	64	66	45*	29	85	65	
27	Marek SAPARA	26	8	15				
FORWARDS								
9	HALIL ALTINTOP	88	89	89	61	90	90	1
10	Adrian MIERZEJEWSKI	S	24	90	81	26	57+	
11	Robert VITTEK	16	I	I	I	I		
12	PAULO HENRIQUE	74	90	I	29	5	25	
17	BURAK YILMAZ	S	S	S	90	90	89	
32	Pawel BROZEK		1	45+				

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

ŞENOL GÜNES	
Date of birth	01/06/1952 in Trabzon
Nationality	Turkish
Head coach since	01/07/2009
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used	18
Substitutions	17 / 18

VALENCIA CF
Spain

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	61%
Max.	66% at Chelsea
Min.	56% v Chelsea (h)

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	113,611 METRES
Max.	115,609 v Chelsea (h)
Min.	111,598 v Genk (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	626
Max.	740 at Chelsea
Min.	550 v Genk (a)

PASSING ACCURACY	79%
Max.	83% at Chelsea
Min.	73% v Leverkusen (h)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	87 (14% of total)
Medium	401 (64%)
Short	138 (22%)

GOALS SCORED	12
1-15 mins	3
16-30 mins	1
31-45 mins	2
61-75 mins	4
76-90 mins	2

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	18 / 18
16-30 mins	1
Half-time	1
46-60 mins	4
61-75 mins	9
76-90 mins	3
Including 1 double substitution	

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Gen	Che	Lev	Lev	Gen	Che	G
GOALKEEPERS								
1	DIEGO ALVES	90	90	90	90	90	90	
13	Vicente GUAITA							
DEFENDERS								
4	Adil RAMI	90	90	90	90	90	90	1
12	Antonio BARRAGÁN						90	
17	JORDI ALBA		90	65	16		55	
18	VÍCTOR RUÍZ	90	90	90	90	45*	90	
22	Jérémy MATHIEU	90	59	90	90	90	90	
23	MIGUEL Brito García	90	90	90	90	90		
MIDFIELDERS								
5	MEHMET TOPAL	90	I		90	90		
6	David ALBELDA		90	82			90	
8	Sofiane FEGHOULI	69	17	25	59	57	65	
10	Ever BANEGA	90	73	90	24*	I	I	
16	Sergio CANALES	11	90	25	I	I	I	
19	PABLO HERNÁNDEZ	21	73	65	90	90	25	1
21	Daniel PAREJO	74				45+	13	
24	TINO COSTA			I	66+	90	77	1
FORWARDS								
7	JONAS Gonçalves		17	90	74	90	90	3
9	Roberto SOLDADO	90	90	90	90	65	90	5
11	Aritz ADURIZ	16		8		25	35	1
14	Pablo PIATTI	79	31		31	33		

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

UNAI EMERY

Date of birth	03/11/1971 in Fuenterrabia / Hondarribia
Nationality	Spanish
Head coach since	22/05/2008
Matches in UEFA Champions League	14
Players used	19
Substitutions	18 / 18

VILLARREAL CF
Spain

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	44%
Max.	52% v Napoli (a)
Min.	36% in Munich

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	109,428 METRES
Max.	114,472 in Manchester
Min.	102,284 v Napoli (a)

PASSES ATTEMPTED	473
Max.	498 v FC Bayern (h)
Min.	426 v Manchester City (h)

PASSING ACCURACY	75%
Max.	78% v Manchester City (h)
Min.	72% v Napoli (a)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	60 (13% of total)
Medium	291 (62%)
Short	122 (26%)

GOALS SCORED	2
1-15 mins	1
46-60 mins	1

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	18 / 18
31-45 mins	1
Half-time	1
46-60 mins	1
61-75 mins	5
76-90 mins	10
Including 1 double substitution	

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Mun	Nap	ManC	ManC	Mun	Nap	G
GOALKEEPERS								
1	CÉSAR Sánchez							
13	DIEGO LÓPEZ	90	90	90	90	90	90	
DEFENDERS								
2	GONZALO Rodríguez		33*	90	90		14	
3	Joan ORIOL				6	90	90	
4	Mateo MUSACCHIO	90	90	I	90	90	90	
6	ANGEL López	I	I	I	14	69	90	
12	Cristian ZAPATA	90	90	90	I	I	76	
14	MARIO Gaspar	90	8		90	90		
15	José CATALÁ	90	90	90	90	I	I	
MIDFIELDERS								
5	Carlos MARCHENA	90		90	90	90		
8	Jonathan DE GUZMÁN	72	84	89	76	62	90	1
10	Rubén Gracia 'CANI'	45+	90	82	I	I	I	1
11	HERNÁN PÉREZ		6	80	84	90	90	
17	Javier CAMUÑAS	18	57+	I	I	I	26	
18	WAKASO Mubarak		6	10	77	28		
19	Marcos SENNA	45*	84	I	I	21	73	
20	BORJA Valero	S	S	90	90	78		
21	BRUNO Soriano	90	90	90		90	90	
26	MARCOS GULLÓN		1					
FORWARDS								
7	NILMAR Honorato da Silva	58	90	I	I	I	64	
9	MARCO RUBÉN	32	I	I	I	90	90	
22	Giuseppe ROSSI	90	90	90	I	I	I	
23	Gerard BORDÁS				13	I	I	
41	José Luis Moreno 'JOSELU'				90	12	17	

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

JUAN CARLOS GARRIDO	
Date of birth	29/03/1969 in Valencia
Nationality	Spanish
Head coach from	01/02/2010 to 21/12/2011
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used	23
Substitutions	18 / 18

GNK DINAMO ZAGREB
Croatia

STATISTICS

POSSESSION	41%
Max.	46% in Lyon
Min.	36% in Madrid*

TEAM DISTANCE COVERED	113,053 METRES*
Max.	117,235 v Madrid (h)
Min.	107,904 in Lyon

* excluding Matchday 6 when playing 62 minutes with 10

PASSES ATTEMPTED	449
Max.	531 in Amsterdam
Min.	384 v Lyon (h)

PASSING ACCURACY	70%
Max.	77% in Madrid
Min.	65% v Ajax (h)

PASSES PER GAME	
Long	71 (16% of total)
Medium	268 (60%)
Short	110 (24%)

GOALS SCORED	3
31-45 mins	1
76-90 mins	2

SUBSTITUTIONS MADE	18 / 18
Half-time	5
46-60 mins	2
61-75 mins	7
76-90 mins	4
Including 1 double substitution	

APPEARANCES

No	Player	Mad	OL	Ajx	Ajx	Mad	OL	G
GOALKEEPERS								
12	Filip LONČARIĆ							
30	Ivan KELAVA	90	90	90	90	90	90	
DEFENDERS								
3	Luis IBÁÑEZ	90	90	90	90	90	90	
4	Josip ŠIMUNIĆ	S	45+	90	90	I	I	
13	Antonio Nogueira TONEL	90	90	90	I	90	I	
14	Šime VRSALJKO	S	S	S	90	I	90	
24	Domagoj VIDA	90	90	90	90	63	90	
25	Leandro CUFRÉ	I	I			90		
MIDFIELDERS								
5	Adrián CALELLO	87	90	80	45*	90	90	
6	Arijan ADEMI	I	I	I		27	90	
7	Jerko LEKO	90	90	90	90	45+	28*	
8	Mateo KOVAČIĆ	63	45*	45+	90	90	80	1
11	Ivan TOMEČAK	90	45+	10	45+	8		1
16	Milan BADELJ	90	45*	45*	90	90	90	
18	Mario ŠITUM	3			18		35	
20	Mehmed ALISPAHIĆ	I	I	I	I	45*	24	
23	Nikola POKRIVAČ	27	74	20			10	
FORWARDS								
10	SAMMIR Cruz Campos	90	90	90	72	82	66	
21	Fatos BEQIRAJ	15	90	70	34	90	55	1
55	Ante RUKAVINA	75	16	90	56			

G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

HEAD COACH

KRUNOSLAV JURČIĆ

Date of birth	26/11/1969 in Ljubuski (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Nationality	Croatian
Head coach since	27/05/2011
Matches in UEFA Champions League	6
Players used	19
Substitutions	18 / 18

STATISTICS
When the goals were scored

The 2011/12 season consolidated some long-standing tendencies. The opening quarter-hour, after a brief upward surge in 2009/10 which alerted teams to the need to be fully mentally and physically tuned in right from kick-off, returned to its familiar status as the least prolific period of the game. However, goalscoring was otherwise fairly evenly distributed over the 90 minutes. Discounting the solitary goal scored during extra time (by champions Chelsea FC), 54.4% of the goals were scored after the interval. As usual, minutes 76-90 proved to be the most fertile – but only marginally so. The difference between the final quarter-hour and the middle period of each half boiled down to something under 0.6%.

However, one salient feature of the goalscoring patterns which emerged during the season was that almost 10% of the goals were scored during the periods of additional time at the end of each half. It can be argued that goals in this period changed the shape of the competition. Here again, the champions provided an illustration of their relentless pursuit of a result by scoring all three of the goals which eliminated FC Barcelona during a total of 8 minutes and 15 seconds of additional time during the semi-final tie – the winner at Stamford Bridge at the end of the first half; a crucial away goal at Camp Nou in the same period; and the killer blow delivered by Fernando Torres during the 2 minutes 59 seconds of added time at the end of the game.

Individual match situations apart, the statistics demonstrate that any lapses of concentration or physical condition while match officials are consulting their watches are, in the UEFA Champions League, likely to be severely punished by opponents who remained focused from the first whistle to the last.

345
Goals

GETTY IMAGES

FIRST-HALF GOALS

0-15 MINUTES	16-30 MINUTES	31-45 MINUTES	ADDITIONAL TIME
11.88 %	**16.52 %**	**13.62 %**	**3.48 %**
41 goals	**57** goals	**47** goals	**12** goals

SECOND-HALF GOALS

46-60 MINUTES	61-75 MINUTES	76-90 MINUTES	ADDITIONAL TIME	EXTRA TIME
14.49 %	**16.52 %**	**17.10 %**	**6.09 %**	**0.29 %**
50 goals	**57** goals	**59** goals	**21** goals	**1** goal
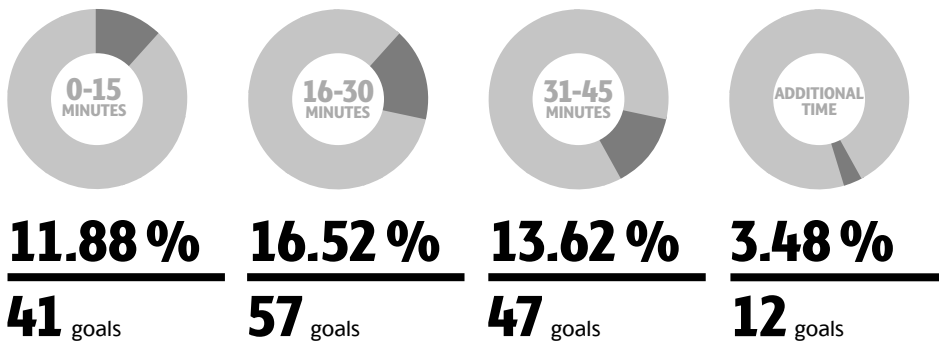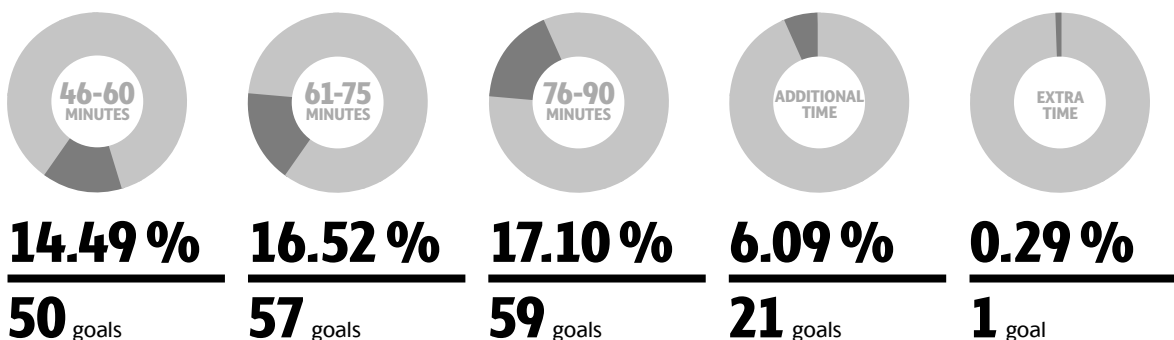
The importance of scoring first

RESULTS FOR TEAMS SCORING FIRST

WINS

63.20 %
79 wins

DRAWS

17.60 %
22 draws

DEFEATS

12.00 %
15 defeats

0-0
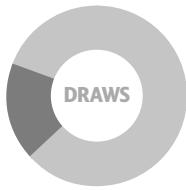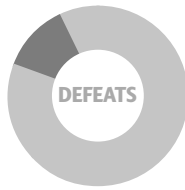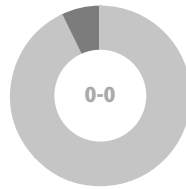
7.20 %
9 matches with final score of 0-0

The 2010/11 season equalled the record set in 2004/05, when 72% of the games played were won by the team scoring first. The 2011/12 campaign registered a noticeable but not spectacular downward trend, even though the graphic clearly illustrates that 63.2% of the 125 games were won by the team scoring first. The seemingly significant decline of almost 9% needs to be qualified by the fact that nine matches failed to produce goals. The adjusted statistic therefore reads that in 68% of the games where goals were scored, the victor was the side which went 1-0 ahead.

Only one of the goalless draws occurred during the knockout rounds – and AC Milan v FC Barcelona could be considered "accidental" bearing in mind the nature of the game at San Siro. FC Zenit St Petersburg and Trabzonspor AŞ registered two 0-0 scorelines in group games, with both matches between AFC Ajax and Olympique Lyonnais also remaining goalless. Of the 15 matches won by the team which went 1-0 down (13% of the games where goals were scored) only two were in the knockout rounds – FC Zenit coming back to beat SL Benfica 3-2 in St Petersburg and SSC Napoli bouncing back to beat Chelsea at home, both in the round of 16. Overall, the number of drawn games rose significantly from 23 to 31 (a 35% increase), which meant that almost a quarter of the games played ended with honours even. Unusually, 5 of the 16 teams who successfully negotiated the group stage did so by winning only two of their six matches.

79
Wins

STATISTICS

Shots at goal

Team		Average per match
Real Madrid CF	97	8.08
Valencia CF	47	7.83
FC Barcelona	92	7.67
FC Bayern München	96	7.38
FC Porto	43	7.17
Manchester United FC	38	6.33
FC Internazionale Milano	50	6.25
Chelsea FC	81	6.23
AFC Ajax	36	6.00
Manchester City FC	36	6.00
LOSC Lille Métropole	36	6.00
SL Benfica	59	5.90
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	34	5.67
Olympique Lyonnais	45	5.63
FC Zenit St Petersburg	39	4.88
Arsenal FC	39	4.88
Olympiacos FC	28	4.67
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	36	4.50
AC Milan	45	4.50
Borussia Dortmund	26	4.33
FC Basel 1893	32	4.00
FC Oțelul Galați	24	4.00
PFC CSKA Moskva	32	4.00
SSC Napoli	31	3.88
Olympique de Marseille	37	3.70
KRC Genk	22	3.67
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	22	3.67
FC Viktoria Plzeň	21	3.50
FC BATE Borisov	18	3.00
Villarreal CF	18	3.00
Trabzonspor AŞ	15	2.50
APOEL FC	25	2.50

AVERAGE PER MATCH

Shots wide

Team		Average per match
FC Barcelona	110	9.17
FC Porto	53	8.83
Olympique Lyonnais	64	8.00
FC Zenit St Petersburg	60	7.50
LOSC Lille Métropole	44	7.33
AFC Ajax	43	7.17
SL Benfica	71	7.10
Manchester City FC	42	7.00
Real Madrid CF	81	6.75
Chelsea FC	86	6.62
FC BATE Borisov	39	6.50
AC Milan	64	6.40
Olympiacos FC	38	6.33
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	38	6.33
FC Viktoria Plzeň	38	6.33
FC Bayern München	82	6.31
Trabzonspor AŞ	37	6.17
Valencia CF	36	6.00
SSC Napoli	47	5.88
Olympique de Marseille	57	5.70
Borussia Dortmund	33	5.50
Manchester United FC	32	5.33
FC Oțelul Galați	30	5.00
PFC CSKA Moskva	38	4.75
Villarreal CF	28	4.67
FC Basel 1893	36	4.50
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	36	4.50
FC Internazionale Milano	30	3.75
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	22	3.67
KRC Genk	19	3.17
Arsenal FC	17	2.13
APOEL FC	21	2.10

AVERAGE PER MATCH

There are two main aspects attached to statistics in this chapter : the number of shooting opportunities created, and efficiency in terms of converting them into results. During 2011/12, FC Barcelona were alone in registering over 200 attempts at goal, of which 46% were on target. Pep Guardiola's team averaged around 17 goal attempts per match, whereas APOEL FC reached the quarter-finals despite carving out only 4.6 goalscoring opportunities per match. Lionel Messi averaged six. Barça's Argentinian attacker had 36 shots on target, plus 31 wide of the mark – which means that, although he once again topped the scoring charts, the accuracy of his finishing was not equal to the 67% success rate he had established in 2010/11. In terms of accurate finishing, a number of teams surpassed Barça's average of 46% on-target attempts per game, including Real Madrid (55%), FC Bayern München (54%) and, most strikingly, Arsenal FC at 70% on target. On the other hand, the London club had an uncharacteristically low average of seven goal attempts per match. Only 29% of Trabzonspor's finishing was on target. Individually, Cristiano Ronaldo was Messi's nearest rival in attempts at goal (30 on target/25 wide), while the two opposing strikers in the Munich final ended the season with contrasting records – FC Bayern's Mario Gomez with a tally of 29/15 and Chelsea FC's Didier Drogba with 10/13. Interestingly, six of the top ten teams in terms of on-target attempts per match were eliminated at the group stage.

Corners

Team		Average per match
LOSC Lille Métropole	53	8.83
AFC Ajax	45	7.50
FC Porto	42	7.00
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	42	7.00
FC Bayern München	83	6.38
FC Barcelona	76	6.33
Valencia CF	38	6.33
KRC Genk	36	6.00
SSC Napoli	47	5.88
Olympique Lyonnais	47	5.88
FC Internazionale Milano	44	5.50
SL Benfica	55	5.50
Real Madrid CF	63	5.25
Borussia Dortmund	29	4.83
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	38	4.75
Manchester United FC	28	4.67
FC Viktoria Plzeň	28	4.67
Arsenal FC	37	4.63
FC Zenit St Petersburg	37	4.63
Olympiacos FC	27	4.50
Olympique de Marseille	44	4.40
Manchester City FC	26	4.33
Trabzonspor AŞ	26	4.33
Chelsea FC	52	4.00
PFC CSKA Moskva	31	3.88
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	23	3.83
FC Basel 1893	30	3.75
Villarreal CF	22	3.67
FC BATE Borisov	21	3.50
AC Milan	34	3.40
FC Oțelul Galați	17	2.83
APOEL FC	27	2.70

AVERAGE PER MATCH

The low conversion ratio of corners into goals is mentioned in the goalscoring analysis on pages 10-13 of this report – and this trend was continued and accentuated at UEFA EURO 2012. The UEFA Champions League success rate was 1 in 37 as recently as the 2007/08 season, declining to 1 in 54 in 2009/10 – a figure which was more in line with the 1 in 64 ratio registered at EURO 2008. The chart for the 2011/12 season confirms the peculiar trend in the UEFA Champions League that the teams whose approach play produces the highest number of corners tend to be eliminated in the group stage. The top four were out before Christmas. It is noticeable that quarter-finalists APOEL FC and AC Milan feature in the bottom three, with the latter averaging significantly fewer corners than the other two Italian representatives. Champions Chelsea FC are also positioned among the bottom ten, with an average of only four corners per game. Yet the Londoners' one and only corner in two hours of football in the Munich final was successfully converted and laid the foundations for ultimate victory. The question, bearing in mind the levels of espionage prevalent in the UEFA Champions League, is whether it is worth investing much time on the training ground in rehearsing manoeuvres which may only work once before opponents get wise to the mechanisms involved.

GETTY IMAGES

STATISTICS
Passing phases

CHELSEA FC

	PASSING FROM \ PASSING TO	1 Petr Čech	2 Branislav Ivanović	3 Ashley Cole	4 David Luiz	5 Michael Essien	6 Oriol Romeu	7 Ramires	8 Frank Lampard	9 Fernando Torres	10 Juan Mata	11 Didier Drogba	12 John Obi Mikel	15 Florent Malouda	16 Raul Meireles	17 José Bosingwa	19 Paulo Ferreira	21 Salomon Kalou	23 Daniel Sturridge	24 Gary Cahill	26 John Terry	33 Alex	34 Ryan Bertrand	39 Nicolas Anelka
1	Petr Čech		20	14	30	1	1	7	9	17	14	40	11	4	12	11	2	6	5	9	14	2	0	5
2	Branislav Ivanović	15		12	54	5	19	27	18	11	27	17	22	15	37	38	1	6	30	16	6	5	0	18
3	Ashley Cole	20	10		40	4	20	24	43	28	52	18	33	55	36	5	0	22	3	4	27	0	3	0
4	David Luiz	40	74	48		4	19	13	26	23	11	9	21	27	25	20	14	3	10	13	54	4	3	4
5	Michael Essien	0	13	2	10		0	6	3	0	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	8	0	0	0
6	Oriol Romeu	0	26	13	29	0		6	13	9	2	2	1	13	22	9	5	0	4	0	2	2	0	3
7	Ramires	2	26	14	24	2	5		19	10	29	14	10	7	21	18	2	7	16	2	15	1	0	3
8	Frank Lampard	4	20	39	33	8	9	24		15	33	11	31	25	15	19	4	6	4	10	20	1	3	8
9	Fernando Torres	0	4	10	5	2	0	11	13		14	3	3	18	11	8	2	2	4	0	2	0	0	6
10	Juan Mata	1	18	38	12	3	0	18	36	20		18	23	22	23	26	2	15	21	2	12	0	4	1
11	Didier Drogba	2	3	7	2	4	2	13	13	5	13		4	1	12	2	0	2	12	1	3	0	2	0
12	John Obi Mikel	7	19	42	21	0	2	14	30	7	35	5		20	21	17	6	8	8	8	27	2	1	0
15	Florent Malouda	0	12	48	18	0	13	4	29	24	26	4	11		23	9	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	5
16	Raul Meireles	3	27	36	26	0	18	19	20	16	19	9	14	27		40	4	3	13	0	14	1	0	16
17	José Bosingwa	5	21	4	20	3	18	17	18	14	27	11	22	12	27		0	6	16	6	12	2	0	31
19	Paulo Ferreira	0	0	0	11	0	1	8	7	4	2	0	2	9	4	0		5	0	0	0	1	0	0
21	Salomon Kalou	0	0	7	3	0	1	2	10	5	19	2	8	4	1	4	2		0	1	2	1	0	2
23	Daniel Sturridge	1	21	2	3	2	2	6	2	2	18	11	7	4	9	7	0	0		0	3	1	0	0
24	Gary Cahill	6	4	5	21	0	0	0	3	9	3	7	1	21	0	1	2	0	5	1		2	0	0
26	John Terry	26	4	39	54	14	1	22	19	5	11	7	15	6	17	21	0	5	1	7		0	0	0
33	Alex	2	4	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	1	1	2	0	0	3		0	0
34	Ryan Bertrand	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		0
39	Nicolas Anelka	1	4	1	4	0	8	7	5	10	4	0	1	3	16	18	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	

The contrast between successive winners of the UEFA Champions League is a topic mentioned elsewhere in this report. Alternating victories with FC Barcelona's passing game, FC Internazionale Milano and Chelsea FC have taken a different route to success, based on direct attacking and counterattacking without overmuch emphasis on possession of the ball. This fact can be underpinned with solid statistical evidence which this comparison between the 2011 and 2012 champions' passing patterns over the entire season reveals.

The figures are influenced by the appearances made by each individual and therefore need to be correlated to the information on pages 26 and 31 of this report. But, on the FC Barcelona chart, three-figure totals appear ten times, while on the Chelsea FC chart there are only six totals in excess of 50. The figures are also of interest in terms of passing patterns and risk management. For example, they reveal that 60% of one Chelsea defender's passes were to Petr Čech or to fellow defenders, whereas Barça right-back Dani Alves made 166 passes to Lionel Messi.

FC BARCELONA

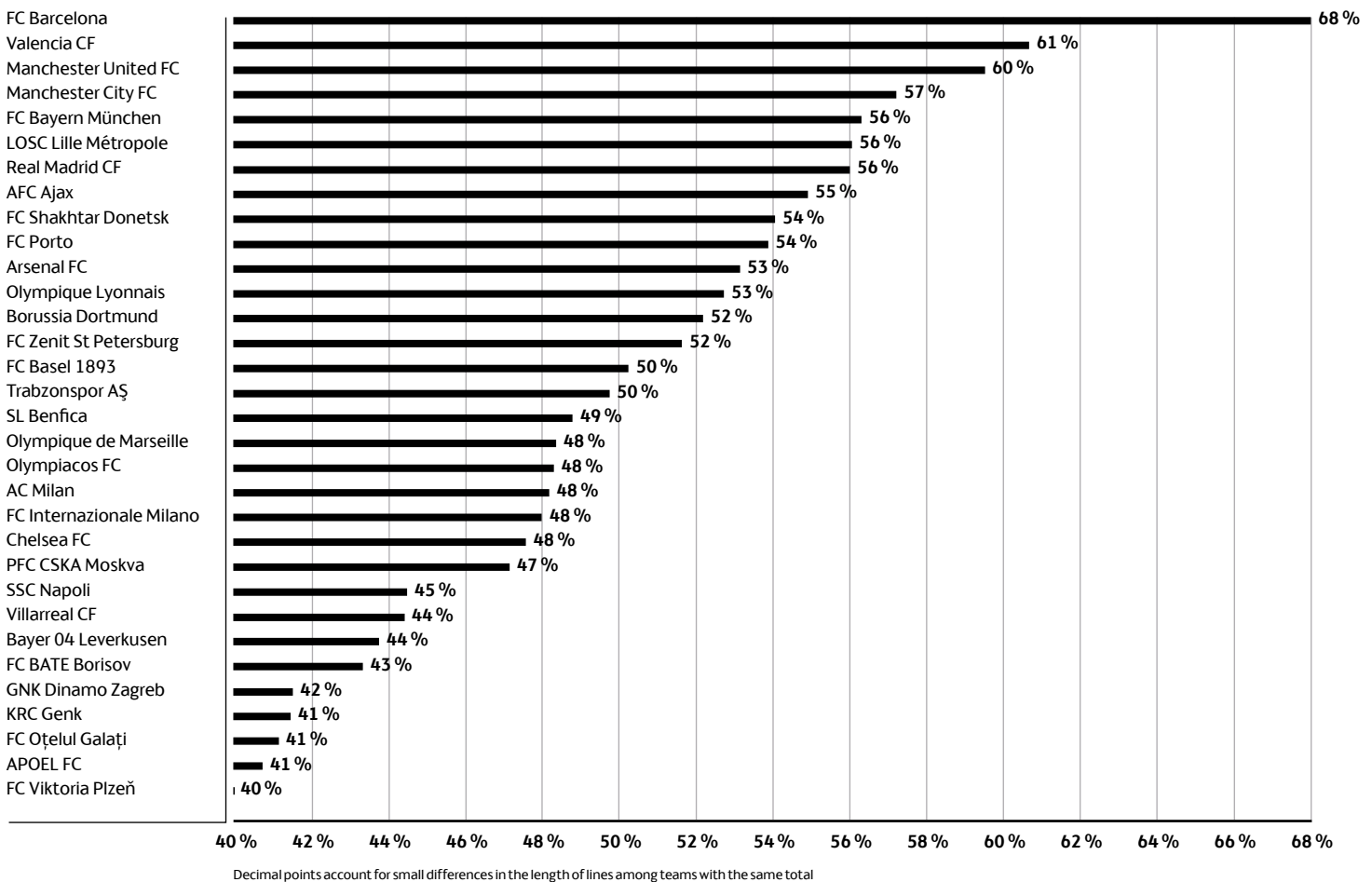|	PASSING FROM \ PASSING TO	1 Víctor Valdés	2 Daniel Alves	3 Gerard Piqué	4 Cesc Fàbregas	5 Carles Puyol	6 Xavi Hernández	7 David Villa	8 Andrés Iniesta	9 Alexis Sánchez	10 Lionel Messi	11 Thiago Alcántara	13 José Pinto	14 Javier Mascherano	15 Seydou Keita	16 Sergio Busquets	17 Pedro Rodríguez	19 Maxwell	20 Ibrahim Afellay	21 Adriano	22 Éric Abidal	24 Andreu Fontàs	26 Marc Muniesa	27 Gerard Deulofeu	28 Jonathan Dos Santos	29 Martí Riverola	30 Sergi Roberto	32 Marc Bartra	34 Rafinha	35 Martín Montoya	37 Tello	39 Isaac Cuenca
1	Víctor Valdés		14	20	5	22	19	1	0	4	2	8	0	60	8	21	1	0	0	6	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Daniel Alves	3		25	76	30	127	12	29	25	166	30	0	37	22	80	51	0	13	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	20
3	Gerard Piqué	19	27		20	18	23	0	7	3	8	5	0	27	13	42	4	0	0	6	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
4	Cesc Fàbregas	3	86	9		18	68	9	44	15	98	19	0	25	23	61	21	4	0	16	17	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	17
5	Carles Puyol	27	27	34	38		44	0	32	6	15	12	0	66	19	55	1	4	0	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
6	Xavi Hernández	3	162	15	67	36		35	94	26	170	43	0	49	40	129	67	0	0	19	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	21
7	David Villa	0	5	0	17	1	31		17	0	19	7	0	3	8	4	5	1	0	6	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Andrés Iniesta	2	31	3	63	30	89	24		8	66	8	0	18	18	54	14	0	42	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	13
9	Alexis Sánchez	1	23	1	11	5	27	0	3		17	3	0	1	4	7	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
10	Lionel Messi	0	102	15	72	18	133	13	72	20		24	0	18	36	66	26	0	0	22	19	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9
11	Thiago Alcántara	1	33	3	24	11	40	6	8	7	32		0	9	20	20	23	23	0	5	16	6	4	3	22	1	10	7	7	15	0	21
13	José Pinto	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0
14	Javier Mascherano	36	53	23	46	43	104	2	31	5	35	22	0		20	91	15	0	17	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
15	Seydou Keita	4	31	13	19	14	52	12	20	8	31	20	0	15		30	5	5	0	8	30	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2
16	Sergio Busquets	10	63	30	70	56	154	10	78	11	104	23	0	74	44		17	0	0	20	26	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	13
17	Pedro Rodríguez	0	51	2	19	1	40	10	11	0	33	31	0	7	4	18		7	0	0	5	2	1	0	5	2	5	1	7	7	0	6
19	Maxwell	0	1	0	1	3	0	4	0	0	1	31	0	1	4	0	5		0	0	0	6	4	1	8	1	0	9	14	8	0	10
20	Ibrahim Afellay	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Adriano	6	10	5	27	4	16	12	56	0	12	8	0	23	2	29	3	0	0		35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
22	Éric Abidal	16	4	5	26	18	42	25	25	1	22	24	0	39	31	32	9	0	0	25		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Andreu Fontàs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	0	0	0	3	16	0	0	0		7	5	5	0	3	17	2	1	0	2
26	Marc Muniesa	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	12	1	6	0	4	0	0	0	4		7	0	0	2	2	6	0	5	0
27	Gerard Deulofeu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	5	0	2		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
28	Jonathan Dos Santos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	3	15	0	0	7	0	0	0	5		3	5	5	12	0	0	7
29	Martí Riverola	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0		0	1	0	1	0	0
30	Sergi Roberto	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	1	1	2	8	0	0	1		3	7	0	5	
32	Marc Bartra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	19	2	8	1	1		4	24	0	0	4
34	Rafinha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	5	9	0	0	5	1	6	4	2		4	0	4				
35	Martín Montoya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	1	0	0	0	14	4	0	0	3	0	0	10	0	12	17	3		0	19	
37	Tello	1	5	1	7	3	9	0	4	0	3	0	0	3	2	7	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0		0
39	Isaac Cuenca	0	25	3	14	2	10	0	14	2	11	13	0	6	4	8	11	8	0	2	0	1	0	0	5	1	2	2	4	13	0	

Ball possession

A glance at the rear-view mirror over the last eight seasons confirms that FC Barcelona's position at the top of the ball possession chart has become one of the UEFA Champions League norms, to the extent that, as discussed elsewhere in this report, coaches increasingly search for antidotes and encourage their players to feel comfortable without the ball against possession-oriented opposition. The result was a dichotomy between playing styles, and increased questioning of the value of possession and the need for it to be a positive foundation for attacking play rather than an objective in itself. One statistic to throw onto the debating table is that 7 of the 14 teams which averaged over 50% of ball possession during the 2011/12 season were eliminated at the group stage, including four of the top six. None of Italy's representatives achieved an even share of the ball. Discussion on the relationship between possession and results was carried right the way through to the Munich final, where Chelsea FC (who had had only 28% of the ball during both legs of their semi-final against Barcelona), faced a much more possession-oriented FC Bayern München. The German hosts had 60% of the ball during the first half and the overall percentages at the end of extra time were 56 to 44 in favour of Jupp Heynckes' team. The fact that the 2011/12 final ended with 1-1 on the scoreboard will allow debate on ball possession to continue unabated.

Team	Possession
FC Barcelona	68 %
Valencia CF	61 %
Manchester United FC	60 %
Manchester City FC	57 %
FC Bayern München	56 %
LOSC Lille Métropole	56 %
Real Madrid CF	56 %
AFC Ajax	55 %
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	54 %
FC Porto	54 %
Arsenal FC	53 %
Olympique Lyonnais	53 %
Borussia Dortmund	52 %
FC Zenit St Petersburg	52 %
FC Basel 1893	50 %
Trabzonspor AŞ	50 %
SL Benfica	49 %
Olympique de Marseille	48 %
Olympiacos FC	48 %
AC Milan	48 %
FC Internazionale Milano	48 %
Chelsea FC	48 %
PFC CSKA Moskva	47 %
SSC Napoli	45 %
Villarreal CF	44 %
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	44 %
FC BATE Borisov	43 %
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	42 %
KRC Genk	41 %
FC Oţelul Galaţi	41 %
APOEL FC	41 %
FC Viktoria Plzeň	40 %

Decimal points account for small differences in the length of lines among teams with the same total

48% for Chelsea

68% for Barcelona

STATISTICS

Fouls committed

Team	Total	Average per match
FC Oțelul Galați	107	17.83
FC Porto	101	16.83
Olympiacos FC	97	16.17
Villarreal CF	97	16.17
FC Bayern München	209	16.08
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	96	16.00
Trabzonspor AŞ	94	15.67
LOSC Lille Métropole	94	15.67
Olympique Lyonnais	125	15.63
SSC Napoli	120	15.00
FC Viktoria Plzeň	90	15.00
APOEL FC	147	14.70
Olympique de Marseille	147	14.70
Borussia Dortmund	88	14.67
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	117	14.63
FC Internazionale Milano	117	14.63
FC Zenit St Petersburg	117	14.63
AC Milan	145	14.50
SL Benfica	145	14.50
PFC CSKA Moskva	114	14.25
Chelsea FC	183	14.08
FC BATE Borisov	83	13.83
Valencia CF	80	13.33
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	77	12.83
Arsenal FC	101	12.63
Manchester City FC	73	12.17
KRC Genk	73	12.17
Real Madrid CF	138	11.50
FC Basel 1893	91	11.38
AFC Ajax	68	11.33
Manchester United FC	63	10.50
FC Barcelona	113	9.42

AVERAGE PER MATCH

Fouls suffered

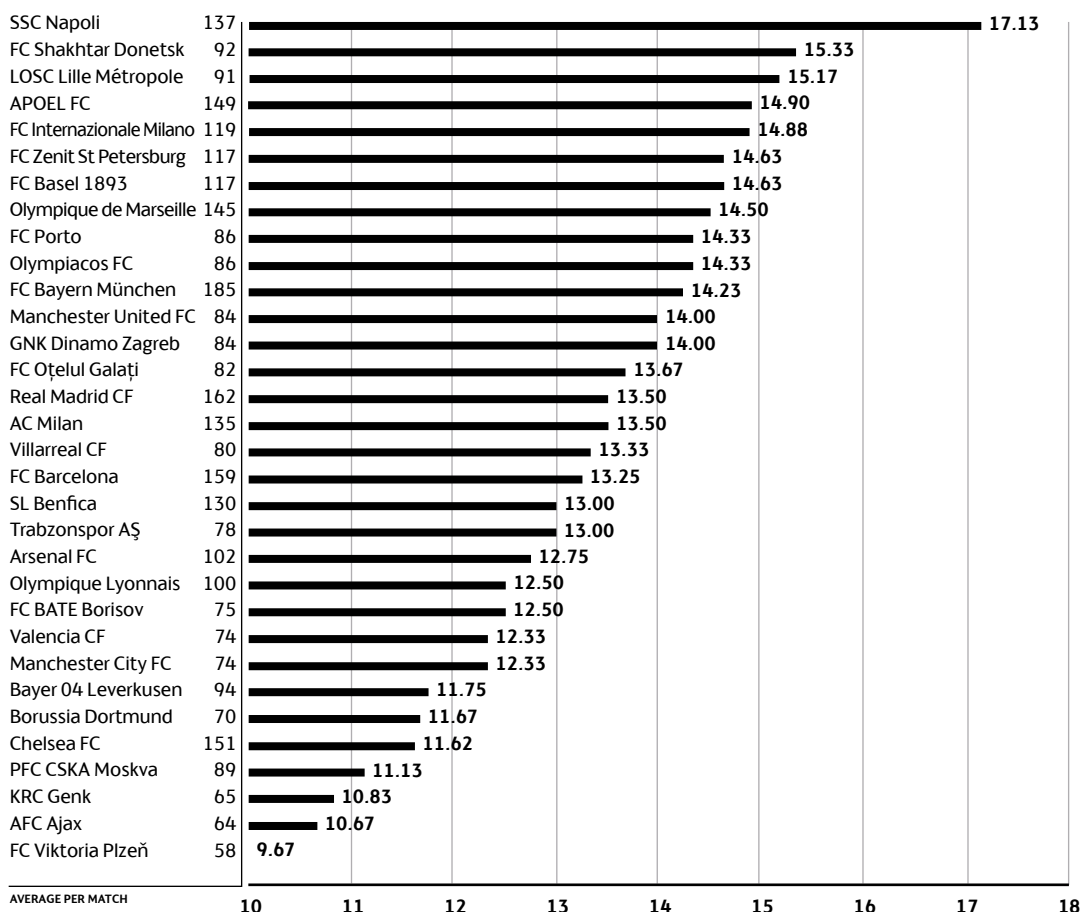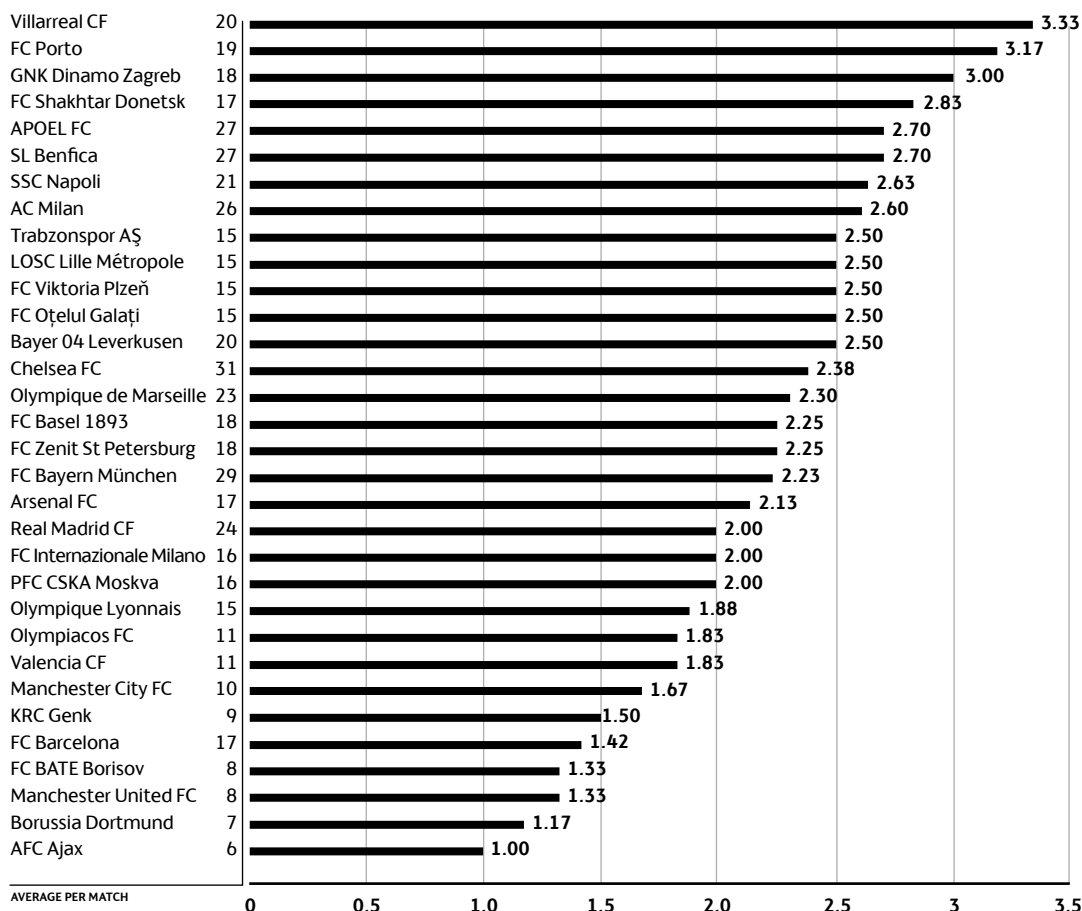| Team	Total	Average per match
SSC Napoli	137	17.13
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	92	15.33
LOSC Lille Métropole	91	15.17
APOEL FC	149	14.90
FC Internazionale Milano	119	14.88
FC Zenit St Petersburg	117	14.63
FC Basel 1893	117	14.63
Olympique de Marseille	145	14.50
FC Porto	86	14.33
Olympiacos FC	86	14.33
FC Bayern München	185	14.23
Manchester United FC	84	14.00
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	84	14.00
FC Oțelul Galați	82	13.67
Real Madrid CF	162	13.50
AC Milan	135	13.50
Villarreal CF	80	13.33
FC Barcelona	159	13.25
SL Benfica	130	13.00
Trabzonspor AŞ	78	13.00
Arsenal FC	102	12.75
Olympique Lyonnais	100	12.50
FC BATE Borisov	75	12.50
Valencia CF	74	12.33
Manchester City FC	74	12.33
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	94	11.75
Borussia Dortmund	70	11.67
Chelsea FC	151	11.62
PFC CSKA Moskva	89	11.13
KRC Genk	65	10.83
AFC Ajax	64	10.67
FC Viktoria Plzeň	58	9.67

AVERAGE PER MATCH

The introduction of experimentation with two additional pairs of refereeing eyes on the goal lines has coincided with a significant decrease in the number of fouls in UEFA Champions League matches. Are the two factors interrelated? The report on the 2010/11 season remarked that, whereas the 2005/06 campaign had yielded 35 fouls per match, a new benchmark had been set in that, for the first time, none of the 32 participating teams had exceeded 20 fouls per game and the average number of free-kicks per match had fallen below 30, also for the first time. In 2011/12, none of the teams averaged above 18 fouls per fixture and the average number of free-kicks had fallen even further to 28.1 per game. The season's statistics offer food for thought – and discussion – about equations between fair play and results. Six of the nine teams which averaged over 15 fouls per game were eliminated at the group stage. Many of the top teams seem to be aware of the dangers inherent to giving away free-kicks in the defensive third, with FC Barcelona (the stature of their team offering further incentives to minimise set-play opportunities for their opponents) leading the way with an average of only 9.42 fouls per fixture. With regard to the finalists, matches involving FC Bayern München produced, on average, just over 30 fouls; those involving Chelsea FC, just under 26. In the individual charts, the tendency (also linked to the presence of additional assistant referees?) for fouls to be committed by attackers rather than defenders was accentuated during the season, with Zlatan Ibrahimović, Franck Ribéry, Marco Streller, Toni Kroos, Didier Drogba and Mario Gomez featuring among the top ten. Just under one-third of the free-kicks awarded against the silver medallists were for fouls committed in advanced areas by that trio of players. Franck Ribéry was also the season's most-fouled player (he won 45 free-kicks), followed by Lionel Messi with 26.

Yellow cards

		AVERAGE PER MATCH
Villarreal CF	20	3.33
FC Porto	19	3.17
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	18	3.00
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	17	2.83
APOEL FC	27	2.70
SL Benfica	27	2.70
SSC Napoli	21	2.63
AC Milan	26	2.60
Trabzonspor AŞ	15	2.50
LOSC Lille Métropole	15	2.50
FC Viktoria Plzeň	15	2.50
FC Oţelul Galaţi	15	2.50
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	20	2.50
Chelsea FC	31	2.38
Olympique de Marseille	23	2.30
FC Basel 1893	18	2.25
FC Zenit St Petersburg	18	2.25
FC Bayern München	29	2.23
Arsenal FC	17	2.13
Real Madrid CF	24	2.00
FC Internazionale Milano	16	2.00
PFC CSKA Moskva	16	2.00
Olympique Lyonnais	15	1.88
Olympiacos FC	11	1.83
Valencia CF	11	1.83
Manchester City FC	10	1.67
KRC Genk	9	1.50
FC Barcelona	17	1.42
FC BATE Borisov	8	1.33
Manchester United FC	8	1.33
Borussia Dortmund	7	1.17
AFC Ajax	6	1.00

AVERAGE PER MATCH

0   0.5   1.0   1.5   2.0   2.5   3   3.5

The 2011/12 season set a new all-time record in terms of yellow cards. The total of 549 cautions at an average of 4.39 per match represented an increase of 21% on the previous season and reversed a downward trend. The 2009/10 campaign yielded 472 yellow cards and the 2010/11 season 453. The three teams who averaged three or more yellow cards per game were eliminated in the group stage – but so were eight of the nine clubs which recorded fewer than two cautions per fixture, the exception being semi-finalists FC Barcelona. The two finalists were "middle-of-the-table" teams. In individual terms, three players were cautioned five times during the season: Holger Badstuber (FC Bayern München), Raul Meireles (Chelsea FC) and Maxi Pereira (SL Benfica). Dismissals dropped slightly (22 compared with 24 in 2010/11 and 27 in 2009/10) and were significantly lower than the tournament record of 39 set in the 2004/05 season. Only seven were direct red cards – the lowest figure since the 125-game format was adopted. Seventeen clubs had between one and three players red-carded during the campaign. Curiously, seven of the dismissals (almost one-third of the season's total) occurred on the opening matchday in September, when match officials were fresh from their pre-season briefing. The debating point is, as mentioned in other chapters of this report, whether the sharp increase in the number of yellow cards can be related to the presence of additional assistant referees on the goal line.

Cards season by season

SEASON	Y	Y/R	R	M	AV	SEASON	Y	Y/R	R	M	AV
1994/95	192	4	6	61	3.15	2005/06	463	19	9	125	3.70
1995/96	198	10	8	61	3.24	2006/07	477	9	17	125	3.82
1996/97	203	3	3	61	3.33	2007/08	445	7	9	125	3.56
1997/98	283	11	6	85	3.33	2008/09	489	11	8	125	3.91
1998/99	302	7	8	85	3.55	2009/10	472	14	13	125	3.78
1999/00	524	14	16	157	3.34	2010/11	453	13	11	125	3.62
2000/01	567	13	13	157	3.61	2011/12	549	15	7	125	4.39
2001/02	508	10	11	157	3.24	**TOTALS**	**7504**	**202**	**190**	**2106**	**3.56**
2002/03	530	8	11	157	3.38						
2003/04	415	20	9	125	3.32						
2004/05	434	14	25	125	3.47						

Y = Yellow Cards, Y/R = Yellow/Red Cards, R = Red Cards,
M = Matches Played, AV = Average of Yellow Cards per Match
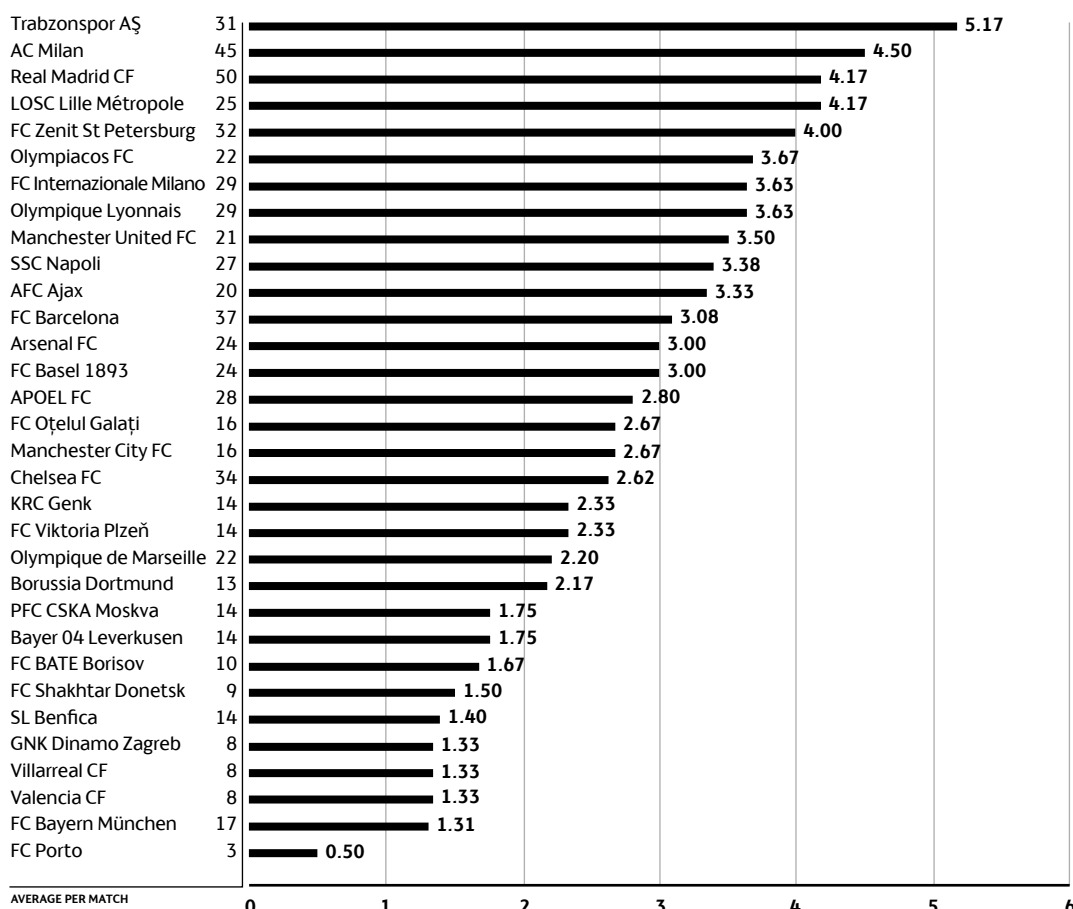
549
Yellow cards

Penalties

During the 2010/11 season, the number of penalties rose by 61% compared with the previous year, and the 2011/12 campaign registered a further 24% increase. Once again, this could be related to the presence, during the last two seasons, of the additional assistant referees. Spot kicks proved to be crucial factors in the final outcome of the competition, with Bayern eliminating Real Madrid CF during a shoot-out at the semi-final stage and then losing the title to Chelsea in another shoot-out. Fortune also smiled on the London club during open play, with Lionel Messi striking a penalty against the crossbar during the return leg of the semi-final at Camp Nou and Petr Čech then saving a penalty from Arjen Robben during the first period of extra time in the Munich final.

	TOTAL	GOALS	MISSED/SAVED
Group stage	23	18	5
Round of 16	4	4	0
Quarter-finals	4	4	0
Semi-finals	3	2	1
Final	1	0	1
TOTAL	**35**	**28**	**7**

STATISTICS

Offsides

Team	Total	Average per match
Trabzonspor AŞ	31	5.17
AC Milan	45	4.50
Real Madrid CF	50	4.17
LOSC Lille Métropole	25	4.17
FC Zenit St Petersburg	32	4.00
Olympiacos FC	22	3.67
FC Internazionale Milano	29	3.63
Olympique Lyonnais	29	3.63
Manchester United FC	21	3.50
SSC Napoli	27	3.38
AFC Ajax	20	3.33
FC Barcelona	37	3.08
Arsenal FC	24	3.00
FC Basel 1893	24	3.00
APOEL FC	28	2.80
FC Oțelul Galați	16	2.67
Manchester City FC	16	2.67
Chelsea FC	34	2.62
KRC Genk	14	2.33
FC Viktoria Plzeň	14	2.33
Olympique de Marseille	22	2.20
Borussia Dortmund	13	2.17
PFC CSKA Moskva	14	1.75
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	14	1.75
FC BATE Borisov	10	1.67
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	9	1.50
SL Benfica	14	1.40
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	8	1.33
Villarreal CF	8	1.33
Valencia CF	8	1.33
FC Bayern München	17	1.31
FC Porto	3	0.50

AVERAGE PER MATCH

Offsides against

Team	Total	Average per match
PFC CSKA Moskva	54	6.75
Villarreal CF	36	6.00
FC Porto	32	5.33
SL Benfica	46	4.60
GNK Dinamo Zagreb	25	4.17
Arsenal FC	33	4.13
Borussia Dortmund	24	4.00
Olympique Lyonnais	25	3.13
Bayer 04 Leverkusen	24	3.00
FC Barcelona	35	2.92
Olympique de Marseille	28	2.80
AC Milan	28	2.80
LOSC Lille Métropole	16	2.67
Real Madrid CF	31	2.58
FC Basel 1893	29	2.50
AFC Ajax	15	2.50
Trabzonspor AŞ	15	2.50
FC BATE Borisov	15	2.50
FC Internazionale Milano	19	2.38
APOEL FC	22	2.20
Valencia CF	13	2.17
Olympiacos FC	13	2.17
Chelsea FC	25	1.92
FC Viktoria Plzeň	10	1.67
FC Bayern München	21	1.62
FC Oțelul Galați	9	1.50
KRC Genk	9	1.50
SSC Napoli	11	1.38
FC Zenit St Petersburg	8	1.00
Manchester United FC	6	1.00
Manchester City FC	6	1.00
FC Shakhtar Donetsk	4	0.67

AVERAGE PER MATCH
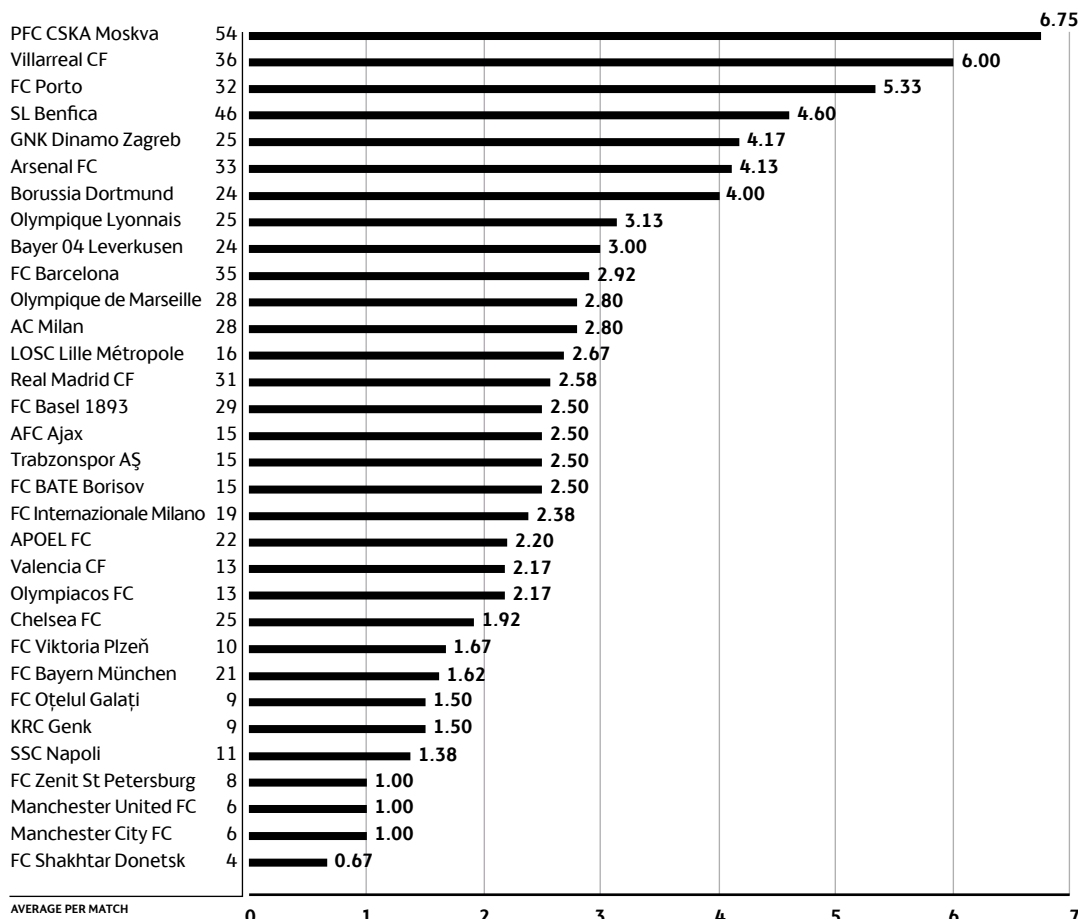
The 125-match campaign registered a slight decrease in the number of offside decisions: the flag was raised 678 times at an average of 5.42 offsides per match, compared with 696 at 5.57 in the previous season. AC Milan, who had headed the chart in 2010/11, were this time surpassed by Turkish debutants Trabzonspor AŞ, whose total of 31 offsides included ten flaggings for Burak Yılmaz in the 270 minutes he played. For the second successive season, Zlatan Ibrahimović topped the individual chart by being flagged 21 times – almost half of AC Milan's total. He was also second in the 2009/10 chart while at FC Barcelona. Gonzalo Higuaín (15) and Karim Benzema (12) provided over half of Real Madrid CF's total, while FC Zenit St Petersburg's Aleksandr Kerzhakov strayed offside 11 times during the 360 minutes that he spent on the field of play. PFC CSKA Moskva were the most adept at luring opponents into their offside trap. Villarreal CF were caught offside only eight times but their opponents were flagged on 36 occasions, while, similarly, FC Porto players fell foul of the offside trap only three times in their entire campaign but caught their opponents on 32 occasions. Despite holding a high line and offering space, the effectiveness of FC Barcelona's high pressing can be measured by the fact that their opponents were flagged offside on an average of only 2.92 occasions per game. Unusually, opponents of the two Manchester clubs were caught offside on an average of once per match. However, one UEFA Champions League tradition was extended during the 2011/12 season: the three Italian clubs were among the top ten in terms of straying most frequently into offside positions.

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