# **GAME INTELLIGENCE:** PASSING OPPORTUNITIES & EXECUTION



### **GAME INTELLIGENCE**

## Traditional football data provides information about on-the-ball events and outcomes. But on average a player is only on the ball for 3 minutes per game.

How can we evaluate the other 97% of a player's contribution, at scale?

Our new Game Intelligence product takes football insight to the next level, by merging event and tracking data to evaluate the intelligence and effectiveness of key football concepts such as:

- A player's off-the-ball movement
- Their on-ball decision making and passing risk/reward profile
- Their ability to execute when under pressure from opponents

## **PASSING OPPORTUNITIES & EXECUTION**

### Using Game Intelligence you can build up a picture of key concepts such as:

- The volume of passing opportunities a player has when in possession
- The type of off-ball runs a player has the opportunity to pass to
- Passing attempt and completion ratios, to different types of run
- A player's ability to recognise and serve dangerous runs
- The run types that individual players excel at serving
- Synergies between players making runs and players serving passes to them

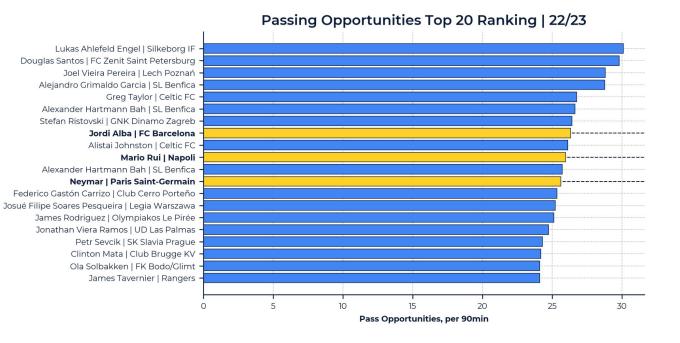
All of this insight is available from more than 75 global leagues and competitions over multiple seasons, helping you to make faster, better, scouting and recruitment decisions.

# DI. PASSING OPPORTUNITIES, ATTEMPTS & COMPLETIONS

## Understanding the runs a player can pass to when in possession of the ball.



## Pass Opportunity rankings highlight players across 43 leagues (out of 75+ that we cover), with only three "big 5" team players in the top 20.

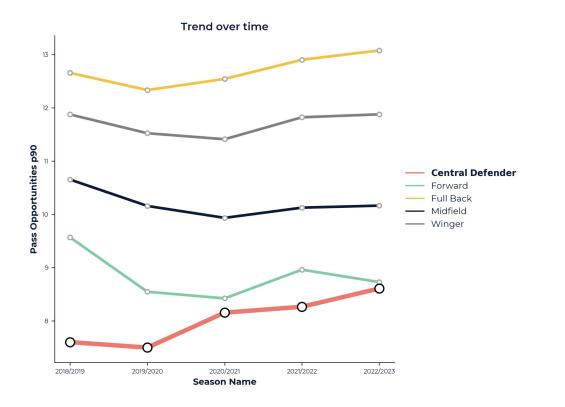


INSIGHT

Across leagues, ball-possession will vary and offer high-possession teams and players more passing opportunities.

Seasons: 2022 & 2022/23 Leagues: 43 Matches: at least 8 Minutes: at least 60 minutes avg

### Full-Backs and Wingers receive the most passing opportunities.



INSIGHT

Wingers and Full-Backs need more support from runs to get the ball out of wider areas.

Seasons: 2018/19-2022/23 Leagues: 37 (only leagues with August-May season) All positions

## Identifying the distribution of runs offered for each position group.

Midfield

18%

35%

(6%)

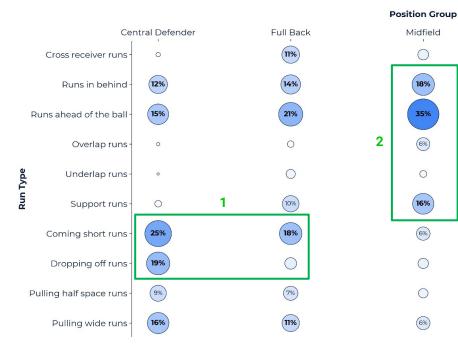
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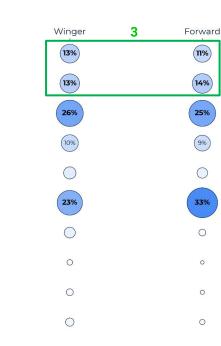
16%

(6%)

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(6%)





### INSIGHT

Identifying key sequences:

1/ Coming-Short runs for defensive players.

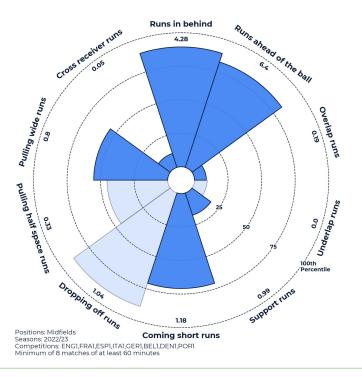
2/ Transition play with Ahead of the Ball and Support Runs for midfielders.

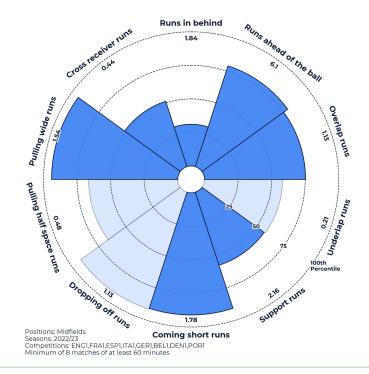
3/ In-Behind and Cross Receiver runs for wingers and forwards.

Analysed run-pass opportunities: 4.4m Seaons: 2018/2019 - 2022/2023 Competitions: 32 Players in sample: 12k Minimum of 8 matches of at least 60 minutes

## Barcelona's direct play style offers Sergio Busquets more Runs Ahead and In Behind, while Declan Rice gets more Wide and Coming Short options.

Sergio Busquets | FCB Pass Opportunities Declan Rice | WHU Pass Opportunities





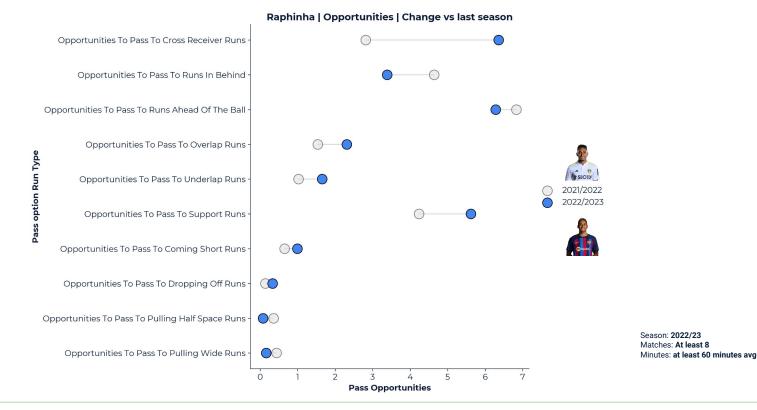
## At Barcelona, Jordi Alba sets his teammates in motion, while midfield-possession runs are triggered most by Pedri.

19.0 Ousmane Dembele - Forward 18.9 Raphinha - Forward Ferran Torres - Forward 14.6 Ansu Fati - Forward 11.1 Robert Lewandowski - Forward -10.8 Pedro Gonzalez - Midfield -16.7 Frenkie de Jong - Midfield -Sergio Busquets - Midfield 12.9 10.2 Pablo Páez Gavira - Midfield -Jordi Alba - Full Back -18.4 Jules Koundé - Full Back 16.8 Alejandro Balde Martínez - Full Back -15.8 Eric Garcia - Central Defender 11.9 Ronald Araujo - Central Defender Season: 2022/23 Andreas Christensen - Central Defender 11.7 Matches: at least 8 Minutes: at least 60 minutes ava 20 0 5 10 15 25

**Pass Opportunities** 

FC Barcelona Squad - Pass Opportunities p90 | Ranked by position group

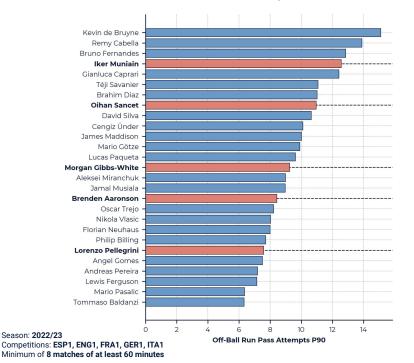
## Raphinha's move to Barcelona gave him more opportunities to serve passes to runs, especially with target man Lewandowski.



Kevin de Bruyne takes risks, whereas Toni Kroos waits for the perfect moment to target off ball runs.

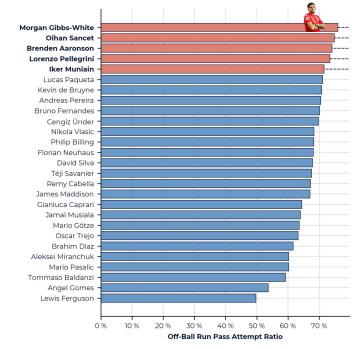


## Morgan Gibbs-White has the highest pass attempts to off-ball runs ratio among attacking midfielders in Europe.

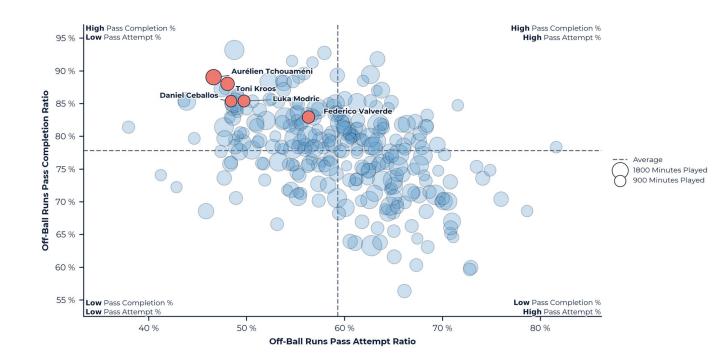


#### Number of Pass Attempts

#### Pass Attempt Ratio



### Real Madrid's midfield is conservative when targeting off-ball runs but has a high pass completion rate.

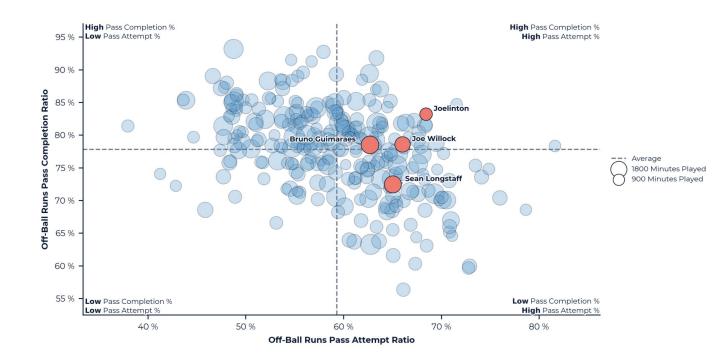


### INSIGHT

Real Madrid players are generally conservative, waiting for the perfect moment to pass.

Season: 2022/23 Competitions: ESP1, ENG1, FRA1, GER1, ITA1 Minimum of 8 matches of at least 60 minutes

## Newcastle United's midfielders are all above average for pass attempt ratio, indicating a direct playing style.

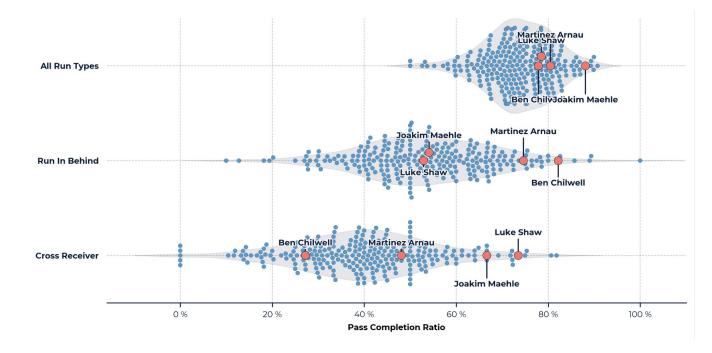


### INSIGHT

Newcastle have aggressive passers that all regularly look to target runners.

Season: 2022/23 Competitions: ESP1, ENG1, FRA1, GER1, ITA1 Minimum of 8 matches of at least 60 minutes

## We can identify run types that players excel at serving. Arnau and Maelhe challenge EPL full-backs as Run in Behind and Cross Receiver specialists.



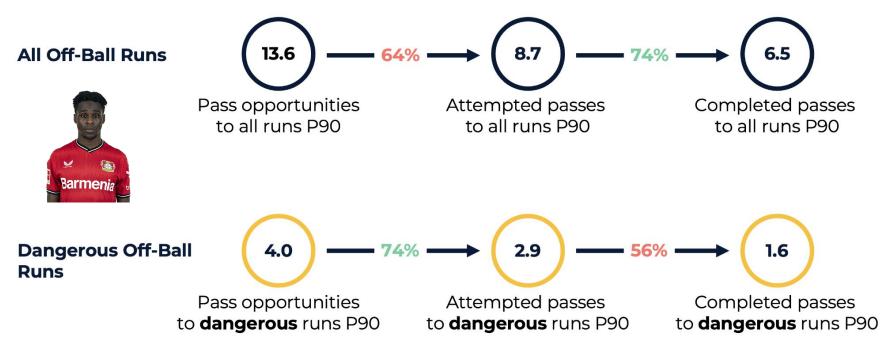
### INSIGHT

Breaking down by run types reveals player performance varies from run type to run type.

Maehle & Shaw rank high for completion % for cross receiver runs but average to runs in behind.

Season: 2022/23 Competitions: ESP1, ENG1, FRA1, GER1, ITA1 Minimum of 8 matches of at least 60 minutes

Frimpong recognizes threat and is more likely to attempt passes to Dangerous Run opportunities

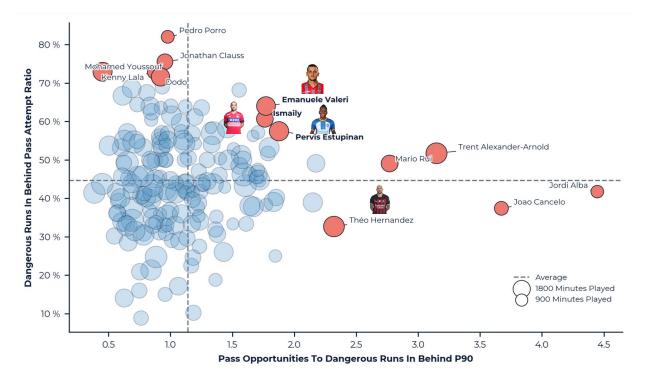


Season: 2022/23 Competitions: ESP1, ENG1, FRA1, GER1, ITA1 Minimum of 8 matches of at least 60 minutes

SKILLCORNER

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## Using opportunities and run-types, we can identify players like Ismaily or Valeri would fit teams making a high volume of Runs in Behind.



### INSIGHT

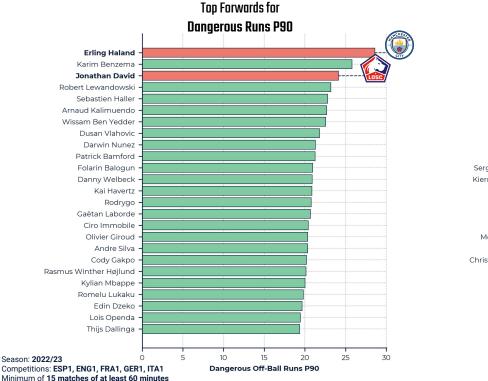
Valeri, Ismaily and Estupinan have above average attempt ratios to Dangerous Runs in Behind.

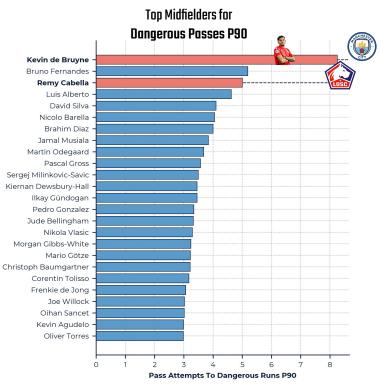
Théo Hernandez has many opportunities to pass to Runs in Behind but a lower attempt ratio.

Season: 2022/23 Competitions: ESP1, ENG1, FRA1, GER1, ITA1 Minimum of 8 matches of at least 60 minutes

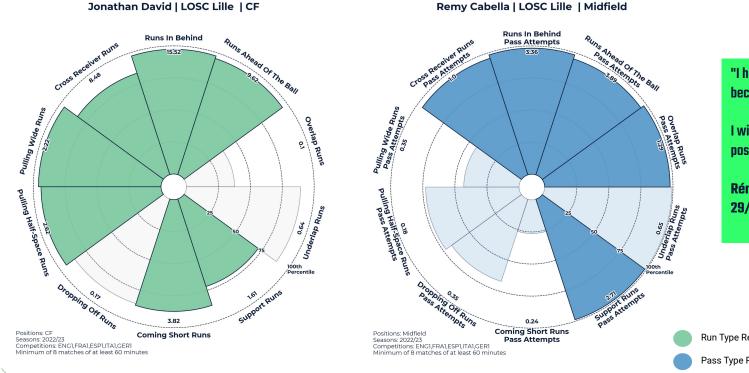
# D2. OFF-BALL RUN & PASSING SYNERGIES

## Combining Off-Ball Run and Passing metrics reveals effective attacking partnerships.





### Rémy Cabella is able to support Jonathan David's variety of different off-ball run types.



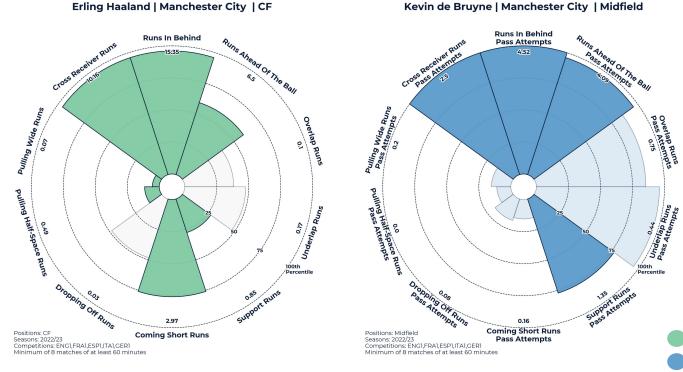
"I hope he will win us matches because he is a great player.

I will try to put him in good positions, that's my role."

Rémy Cabella 29/04/2023

Run Type Relevant For Position/Player Pass Type Relevant For Position/Player

## Erling Haaland makes the direct run types that Kevin De Bruyne heavily focuses on targeting.



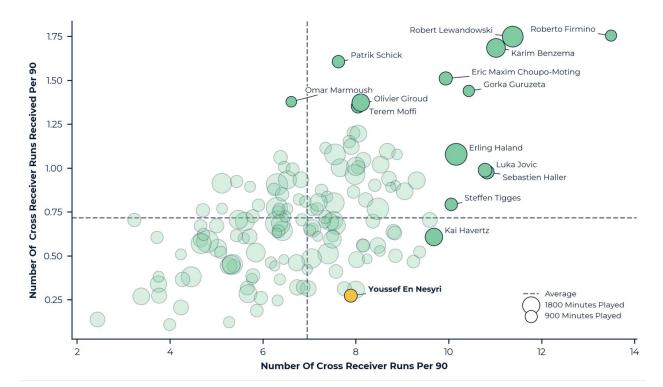
Kevin de Bruyne | Manchester City | Midfield

"I think Kevin needs the runners to do his biggest quality. Erling needs an assist player to make his positive runs...they have a special connection and you can see this."

**Pep Guardiola** 17/04/2023

Run Type Relevant For Position/Player Pass Type Relevant For Position/Player

## Despite making 8 cross receiver runs per 90 minutes, Youssef En-Nesyri is unlikely to receive the ball.



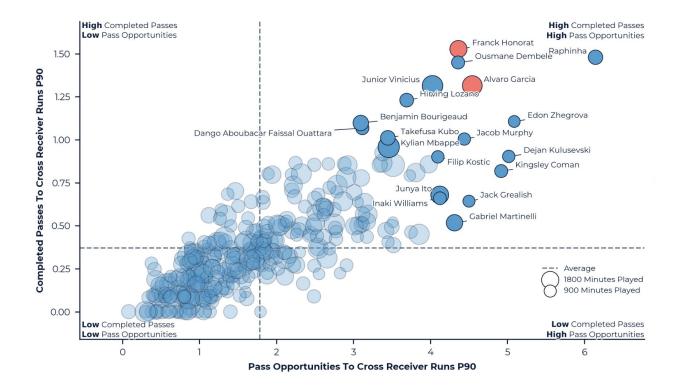
#### INSIGHT

From 8 cross receiver runs Schick, Giroud & Moffi successfully receive the ball at least once per 90 minutes.

With a similar total number of cross receiver runs En-Nesyri only receives the ball 0.25 times P90.

Season: 2022/23 Competitions: ESP1, ENG1, FRA1, GER1, ITA1 Minimum of 8 matches of at least 60 minutes

## Franck Honorat & Álvaro García show elite ability to serve Cross-Receiver runs.

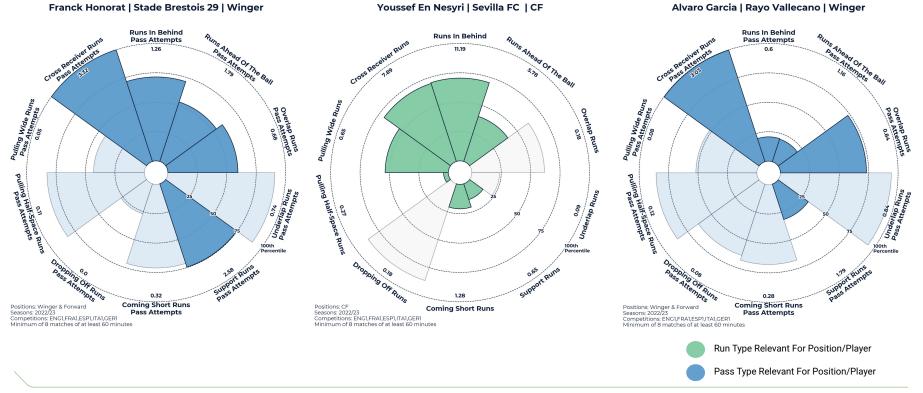


INSIGHT

Honorat & Garcia rank amongst elite wide players for ability to serve cross receiver runs.

Season: 2022/23 Competitions: ESP1, ENG1, FRA1, GER1, ITA1 Minimum of 8 matches of at least 60 minutes

## Both García & Honorat would be high attempt-ratio passers to En-Nesryi's Off-Ball Run profile.



## This is just a snapshot of the insight Game Intelligence can provide across 75+ global leagues and competitions.

In addition to passing execution, Game Intelligence can also help you to evaluate and benchmark a player's off-ball runs and their ability to execute when under pressure from opponents.

We'd be delighted to talk to you about how Game Intelligence could add value to your scouting and recruitment decision-making.

contact@skillcorner.com www.skillcorner.com