



Liverpool F.C.

Pre-Match Analysis

Expected Line-up:

Manager: **Arne Slot**

Formation: **4-2-3-1**



Injured and Unavailable Players List¹

Injured Players

#02 Joe Gomez (Hamstring)
#84 Conor Bradley (Knock)

Unavailable Players

None

¹ Source: <https://www.premierleague.com/latest-player-injuries>

In-Possession Tactics

All charts and tables in the following section are created using data obtained from [FBRef](#) via [Opta](#).

Phase 1: Build-up

Liverpool **play short from goalkicks**, building from the back using 4 defenders and 2 pivot players.

- With split centre-backs and wide full-backs, Liverpool progress the ball out of their defensive third using wide channels.
- Against teams that don't have high pressing intensity, one of the pivot players push into a more attacking midfield role while the other operates as the sole pivot player.

Liverpool have recorded some of the lowest goalkeeper launch rates in the Premier League this season, indicating their preference to play out from the back during their build-up phase.

Table 1:

Liverpool: Goalkeeper Passing

[Data Source: [FBRef](#)]

Metric	Value	EPL Ranking (high → low)
GK open-play passes: Launch Rate	26.1%	16 th
GK open-play passes: Average Length	26.5 yards	18 th
Goalkicks: Launch Rate	21.6%	17 th
Goalkicks: Average Length	24.6 yards	17 th

Phase 2: Progression

Liverpool play with **high verticality** in-possession – moving the ball into the opposition half with speed and intent. They make some of the highest number of progressive passes per game, with their ball-playing defenders playing a major role in this phase.

Table 2:

Liverpool: Progressive Passes

[Data Source: [FBRef](#)]

Metric	Value	EPL Ranking (high → low)
Progressive Passes per 90	42.38	2 nd
Progressive Pass Distance	2343.97 yards	1 st

What player(s) are frequently involved in this phase?

→ **V. Van Dijk** (#4) and **T. Alexander Arnold** (#66) have been instrumental in this phase, making several **long balls to wide areas for Liverpool's wide players to run onto**.

VIRGIL VAN DIJK		
Ball-Playing Stats compared to other centre-backs		
Statistic	Per 90	Percentile
Passes Attempted	76.68	92
Pass Completion %	91.8%	88
Pass Completion % (Short)	96.2%	96
Pass Completion % (Medium)	95.7%	91
Pass Completion % (Long)	68.0%	81
Passes into Final Third	7.21	96
Progressive Passes	4.81	83
Progressive Passing Distance	513.78	98
Through Balls	0.04	53
SCA (Live-ball Pass)	0.97	78
GCA (Live-ball Pass)	0.09	69
Through Balls	4.0%	53

Source: Opta via FBRef



Accuracy

Progressive

Chance Creating



TRENT ALEXANDER-ARNOLD		
Ball-Playing Stats compared to other full-backs		
Statistic	Per 90	Percentile
Passes Attempted	70.84	96
Pass Completion %	74.2%	21
Pass Completion % (Short)	89.4%	49
Pass Completion % (Medium)	78.2%	28
Pass Completion % (Long)	48.8%	47
Passes into Final Third	7.4	99
Progressive Passes	8.17	99
Progressive Passing Distance	416.59	99
Through Balls	0.29	98
Switches	1.18	99
SCA (Live-ball Pass)	2.64	96
GCA (Live-ball Pass)	0.29	83
Through Balls	29.0%	98

Source: Opta via FBRef



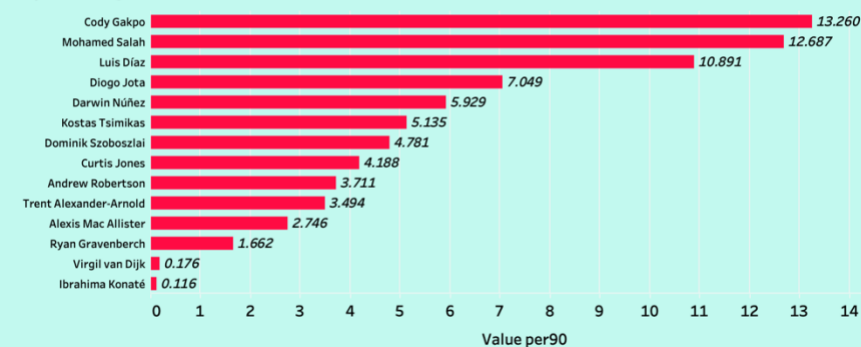
Accuracy

Progressive

Chance Creating

Progressive Passes Received (Liverpool Players)

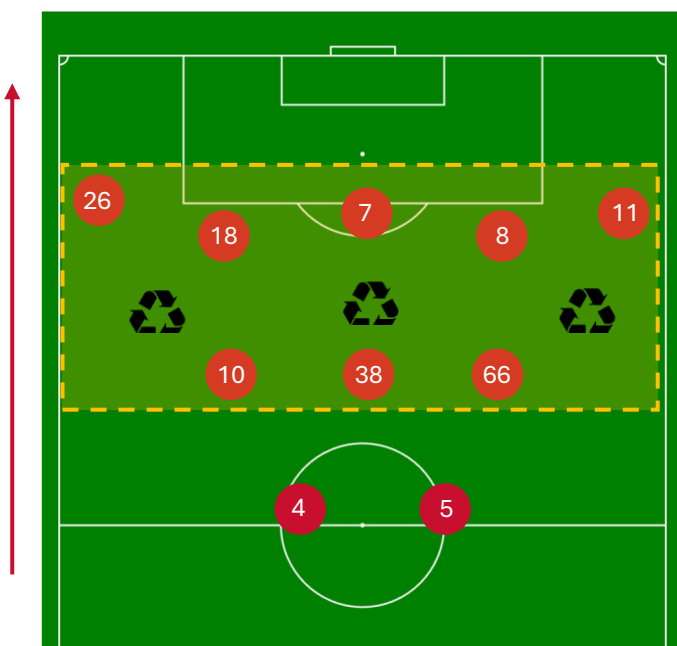
Player Ranking



Liverpool's wide players – **C. Gakpo** (#18), **M. Salah** (#11), and **L. Diaz** (#7) receive the most progressive passes at the club.

→ **R. Gravenberch's** (#38) role as pivot is also important to the way Liverpool play, with his ability to keep possession and turn away from pressure an instrumental role in creating space in midfield to progress the ball forward.

Phase 3: Final Third



Liverpool attack in a 2-3-5 shape once they have possession in the opposition half.

The three midfielders and five attackers create a **fluid attacking system** that relies on individual player skills and player rotations to break the opposition defence and to create chances.

Liverpool attack the opposition defence from **wide areas**, with **C. Gakpo (#18)** and **M. Salah (#11)** both looking to **cut inside onto their stronger foot**.

Liverpool tactics are focused on allowing their wide players to have possession in the half-spaces and on their stronger foot, which is where they are very dangerous. Additionally, **the movement of their players in the attacking third** has been crucial in producing the strong attacking numbers they have recorded this season, while their **positional rotations** make it hard for the opposition defence to keep track of runners into the box.

Liverpool's Positional Rotations in the Final Third:

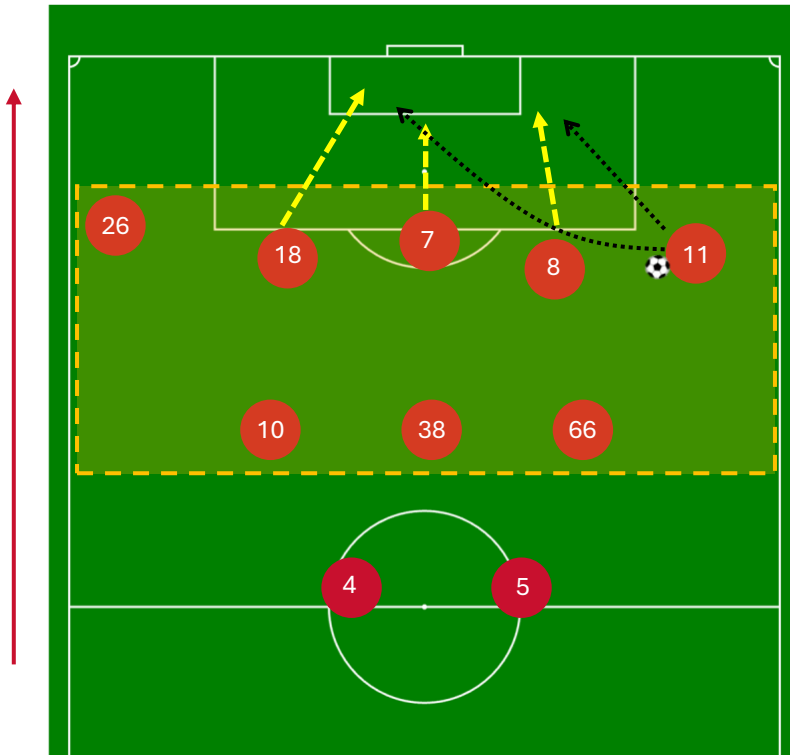
Any of Liverpool's 'midfield three' can join the attack, with either the full-backs or central attacking midfielder responsible for covering their positions in such situations. The pitch map below indicates positions that can be occupied by Liverpool's player rotations in attack.



Liverpool's players are often rotating their positions while maintaining their 2-3-5 shape, with a fluid system of players understanding their roles and having the awareness to cover positions when the midfielders and full-backs join the attack.

Liverpool Final Third Movements:

- When midfielders – **D. Szoboszlai (#8)**, **R. Gravenberch (#38)**, and **A. Mac Allister (#10)** join the attack, they do so by making **underlapping runs into the half-spaces**.
- When full-backs – **T. Alexander-Arnold (#66)** and **A. Robertson (#26)** – join the attack, they do so by making **overlapping runs on the flanks**.



Mohamed Salah (#11) has had one of his best seasons in a Liverpool shirt this season, playing a crucial role in not just scoring goals but also creating chances from the right wing and half-space.

He often cuts inside onto his left foot, from where he has been able to play **line-breaking passes** to create chances for Liverpool. If passing options are unavailable, he has the quality to **take-on defenders and score a goal himself**.

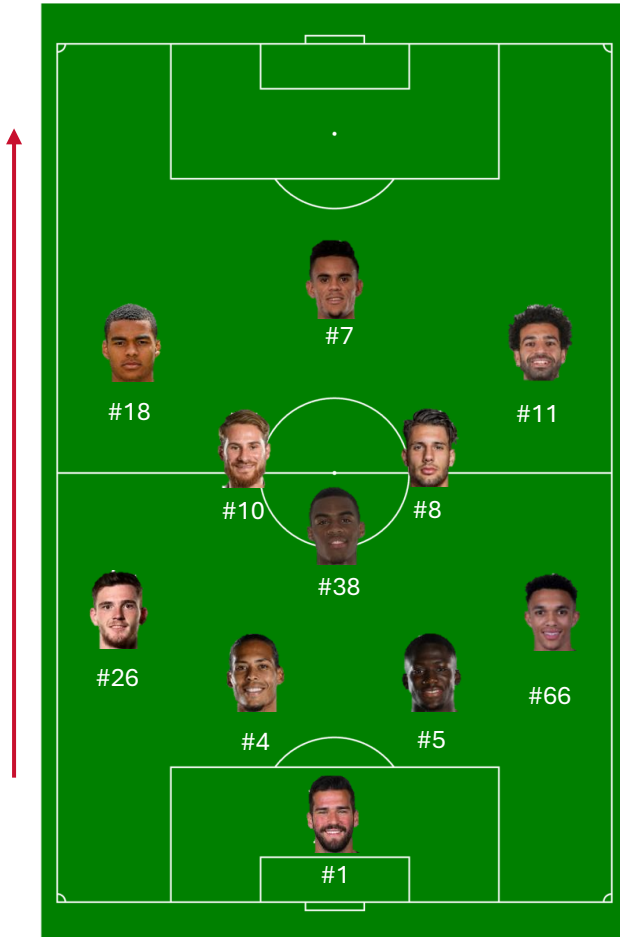
Cody Gakpo (#18) operates in a similar way on the left flank.

All 5 of Liverpool's attackers make runs into the box when anticipating a cross or pass from the wide channels. The midfielders offer support at the edge of the box, usually providing options for cut backs.

Out-of-Possession Tactics

All charts and tables in the following section are created using data obtained from [FBRef](#) via [Opta](#).

Defensive Shape: 4-3-3



Liverpool defend in a 4-3-3 shape, with the attacking midfielder often tracking back to provide an extra man in midfield.

- This support is usually provided on the right wing, allowing M. Salah to stay forward and not track back as often as his teammates.

Liverpool's midfielders are often aggressive in recovering possession, focused on preventing the opposition from progressing the ball into the final third.

- **R. Gravenberch (#38)** and **A. Mac Allister (#10)** make the most ball recoveries at the club, while **R. Gravenberch (#38)** has the highest number of tackles and interceptions made by Liverpool players this season.

Pressing Approach: High Press

Liverpool use a high pressing, man-marking approach when opponent's attempt to build-out from the back.

- Backward passes normally trigger a more intense press for Liverpool, with the Liverpool player closest to the ball pressing high while covering the passing lane for a rebound pass.

Table 3:
Liverpool: Pressing Statistics

[Data Source: [FBRef](#)]

Metric	Value	EPL Ranking (high → low)
PPDA	10.2	17 th
Opposition Errors leading to Shots	34	2 nd

Transition Tactics

Defence to Attack Transition: Counter-Attack

Liverpool have been one of the most efficient counter-attacking teams in the premier league this season, recording 62 shots and scoring 14 goals from fast breaks this season, higher than any other team in the Premier League.

→ **M. Salah (#11)** has been particularly dangerous in counter-attacking situations for Liverpool.

Attack to Defence Transition: Counter-Press

Liverpool aim to win the ball back quickly and keep sustained pressure against the opposition defence. A counter-press in wide areas is often triggered by the three midfielders in their attacking shape, aiming to reduce space and time for opposition players on-the-ball.