



Everton F.C.

Pre-Match Analysis

Expected Line-up:

Manager: **David Moyes**

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



Injured and Unavailable Players List ¹

Injured Players

- #08 Orel Mangala (Knee)
- #29 Jesper Lindstrøm (Hernia)
- #09 Dominic Calvert-Lewin (Hamstring)
- #06 James Tarkowski (Hamstring)

Unavailable Players

- #22 Armando Broja (Parent Club)

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](#), unless otherwise specified.

Phase 1: Build-up

Everton vary their build-up play style based on the opponent's pressing intensity. However, they play **long balls to their attacking players** more often than playing short.

- The long balls can be played directly from goalkicks, or after initially playing short to their central defenders, attracting a press and opening space in the midfield third for the target players.
- If playing long, **Everton's central defenders and goalkeeper look to find their wide players on the flanks.**
 - Against an opposition who keeps a high line, their long balls are played over the defensive line for their striker, **Beto (#14)** to run onto.
- If Everton choose to play short from goalkicks, **they move the ball wide, using short one-touch passes** between their attacking midfielders and full-back to play through the opposition players.
 - Center-backs split and the two pivot players drop deep to support short build-up through the middle.
 - **I. Ndiaye (#10)** moves into the half-space and drops slightly deeper into midfield to providing an additional passing option.

Table 1:
Everton: Goalkeeper Passing [Data Source: [FBRef](#)]

Metric	Value	EPL Ranking (high → low)
GK open-play passes: Launch Rate	51.8%	2 nd
GK open-play passes: Average Length	40.1 yards	2 nd
Goalkicks: Launch Rate	54.7%	4 th
Goalkicks: Average Length	43.7 yards	3 rd

Additionally, Everton attempt the most long balls per game among Premier League teams, averaging 72 attempted passes over 30 yards per 90. Comparatively, they rank bottom in the league in terms of short passes attempted (144.8 per 90) and attempt the second lowest medium-length passes (132.8 per 90).

Phase 2: Progression

Everton **progress the ball aerially** through either of the two center-backs, **aiming for their wide players close to the touchline.**

- *On the right flank*, **Jack Harrison (#11)** stays close to the touchline to receive passes from his center-backs and drive forward with the ball.
- *On the left flank*, **Iliman Ndiaye (#10)** drifts into the left-sided pocket while the left back, **Vitalii Mykolenko (#19)**, positions himself on the touchline to receive the long balls.

Phase 3: Penetration

Figure 1:
Everton Attack Sides



[Data Source: [WhoScored.com](https://www.whoscored.com)]

Everton primarily **attack down the flanks**, often **crossing the ball into the box from deep positions**.

Everton attempt 16.6 crosses per 90, ranking 7th highest in the Premier League this season.

Everton players usually deliver their crosses to the far post, looking for runs from the centre forward, attacking midfielder, and the opposite-end wide midfielder.

- *On the right flank*, **Jack Harrison (#11)** prefers cutting back onto his stronger left foot and delivering whipped crosses. However, he can dribble past his opposing full-back and deliver a floated cross from his right foot as well.
- *On the left flank*, **Vitalii Mykolenko (#19)**, delivers early crosses from a slightly deeper position.

Beto (#14) often plays on the shoulder of the defender, **making runs behind the opposition defensive line to receive through balls**.

Phase 4: Finishing the Attack

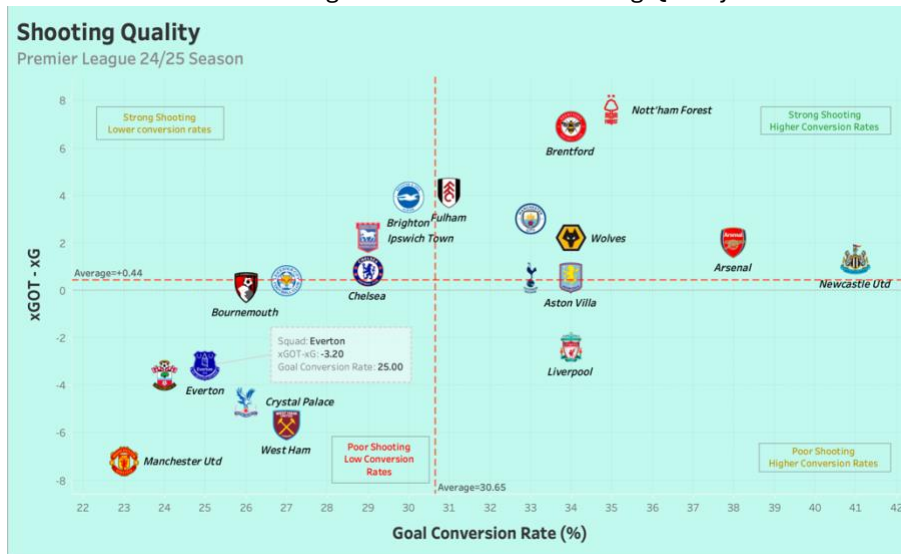
Everton have seen an improvement in front of goal since the arrival of David Moyes. However, they still rank as one of the weaker attacking teams in the Premier League this season.

Table 2:
Everton: Attacking Metrics

[Data Source: [FBRef](https://fbref.com)]

Metric	Value Pre-Moyes	Value Post-Moyes	EPL Ranking (high → low)
Goals per 90	0.68	1.29 ↑	14 th
xG per 90	0.95	1.27 ↑	13 th
Shots on Target per 90	3.32	3.79 ↑	15 th
Goal Conversion Rate	21%	30% ↑	10 th

Figure 2:
Premier League 24/25 season: Shooting Quality



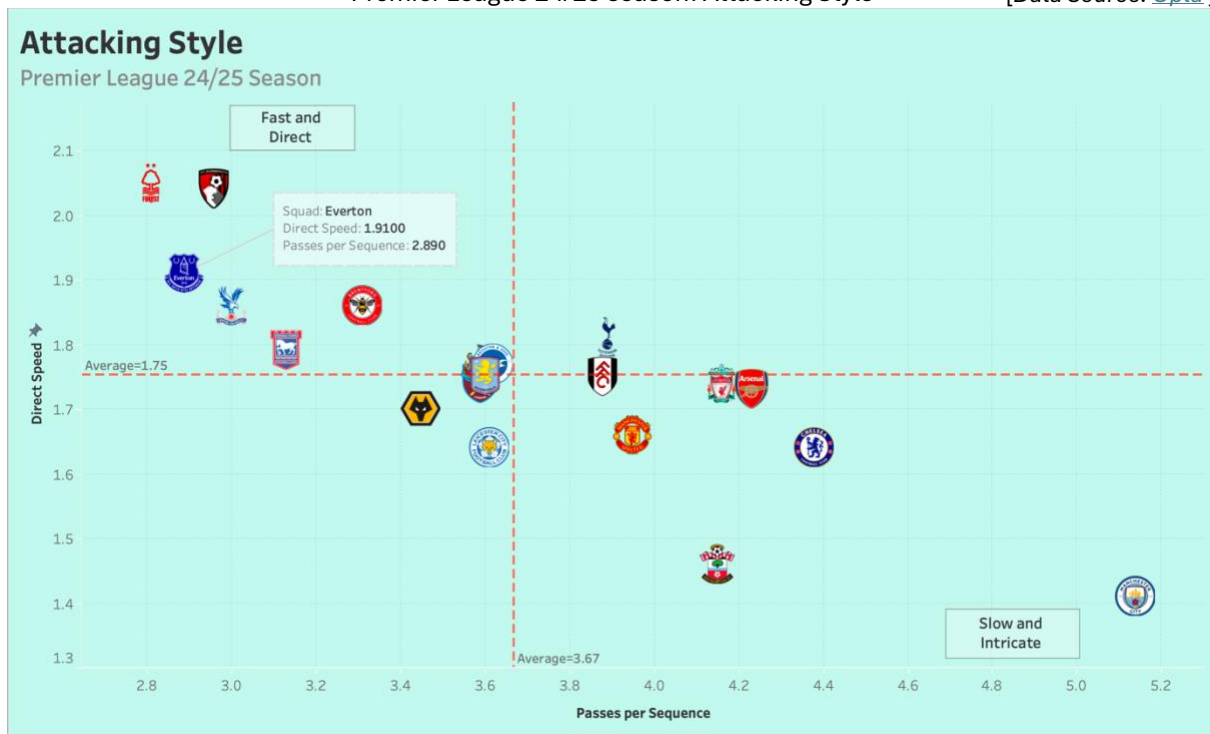
Everton have been poor in front of goal all season, with lower than average goal conversion rates as well as having poor shooting quality

Attacking Transitions

Everton use **Fast Breaks** in attacking transition, often playing through the middle to counter-attack after periods of absorbing pressure from the opposition.

Figure 3:
Premier League 24/25 season: Attacking Style

[Data Source: [Opta](#)]



A fast and direct style of attack, with high direct speed and lower passes per sequence clearly indicates Everton's preference of counter-attacking in attacking transitions.

Out-of-Possession Tactics

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

Defensive Shape: 4-4-2 Low-Block



Everton are quick to settle into a **low block** once they lose possession, getting numbers behind the ball and overloading their defensive third to prevent the opposition from creating chances.

→ Everton have the second-lowest average possession in the league at 40.8%.

Once they move into their 4-4-2 defensive shape, they attempt to **cover passing lanes, especially those through the middle** that allow the opposition's creative players to receive possession inside Everton's defensive third.

Since the arrival of David Moyes, Everton have improved defensively as well, conceding fewer chances and goals per game.

Table 3:
Everton: Defensive Metrics

[Data Source: [FBRef](#)]

Metric	Value Pre-Moyes	Value Post-Moyes
Goals Against per 90	1.32	1.07 ↓
xGA per 90	4.37	3.71 ↓
Shots on Target Against per 90	1.41	1.05 ↓

Pressing Approach: Low-Intensity Press

Everton rarely press aggressively against teams, and are often prepared to absorb pressure from the opposition in their defensive half.

Table 4:
Everton: Pressing Metrics

[Data Source: [FBRef](#)]

Metric	Value	EPL Ranking (high → low)
PPDA ²	15.1	2 nd
Opposition Touches in Defensive Third per 90	196.75	2 nd
Opposition Touches in Midfield Third per 90	268.24	1 st

Everton's pressing trigger is backward passes that are loose or difficult to get under control. They press with their wide midfielders and/or their 2 players up front, trying to force the opposition to move further back under pressure.

Notable Player Instructions:

- **I. Gueye (#27)** is usually tasked with marking the movements of the opposition's primary creative threat in midfield. He is expected to mark Cole Palmer in their game against Chelsea.
- Once the opposition breaks through the midfield line and is able to hold possession close to the penalty box, **A. Doucouré (#16)** tracks back into the midfield line to cover passing options, effectively making it a 4-5-1 shape.

Defensive Transitions

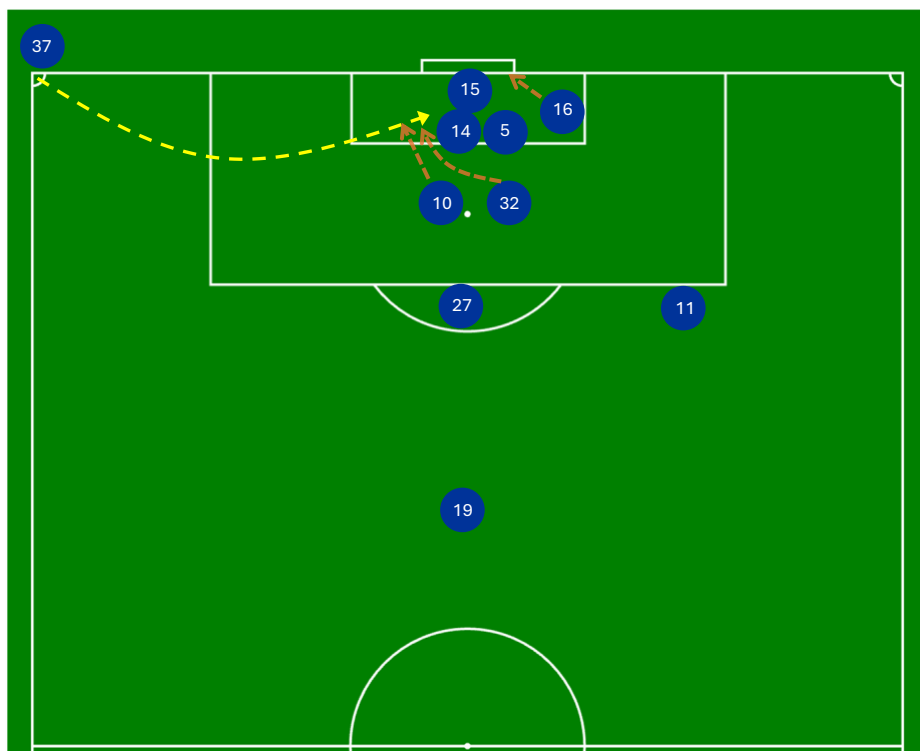
Everton attempt to **fall back** quickly after losing possession, **aiming to retain their defensive shape as soon as possible** and get as many players behind the ball before the opposition can counter-attack against them.

Set-Piece Tactics

- **Jack Harrison (#11)** is Everton's designated set-piece taker.
 - He is responsible for taking deep-positioned free-kicks, putting floated crosses towards the far post.
 - Everton's players aim to head the ball back towards the center from the far post area to find a runner who can convert the 2nd ball into a goal.

² Data Source: <https://theanalyst.com/eu/competition/premier-league/stats>

Attacking Corners:

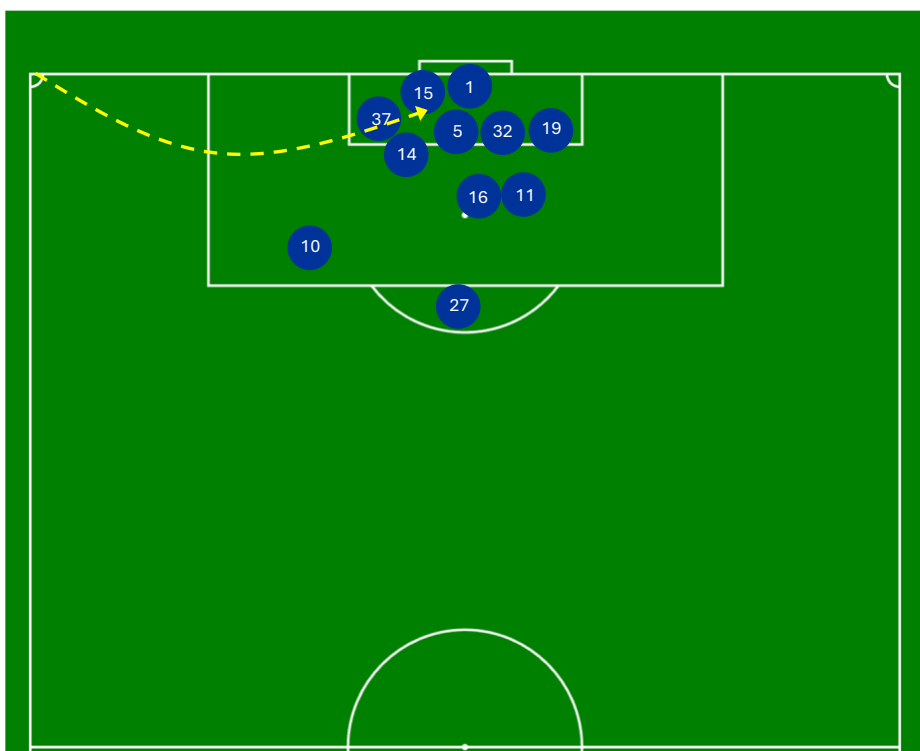


Everton use in-swinging deliveries from corners. The delivery is usually floated into the box, with Everton's primary attacking threats crowding the 6 yard box with their runs.

V. Mykolenko (#19) is left behind to protect Everton against a counter-attack, while **Jack Harrison (#11)** is positioned to support him in such situations.

Jack Harrison (#11) is responsible for taking an in-swinging corner from the right side.

Defending Corners:



Everton use a Zonal marking system to defend corners, overloading the 6 yard box with their aerially strong players.

They have 6 players within the 6 yard box, in addition to the goalkeeper. **A. Doucouré (#16)** and **Jack Harrison (#11)** are usually positioned around the penalty-spot, following the runs of opposition players. **I. Gueye (#27)** is positioned at the edge of the box, while **I. Ndiaye (#10)** moves to cover any short passing option.