



# Ipswich Town F.C.

## Pre-Match Analysis

### Expected Line-up:

Manager: **Kieran McKenna**

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



### Injuries and Suspensions list

#### Injured Players

- #21 Chiedozie Ogbone (Achilles)
- #07 Wes Burns (Knee)
- #23 Samuel Sxmodics (Ankle)
- #01 Arijanet Muric (Shoulder)

#### Possible returns from Injury

- #03 Leif Davis (Achilles)
- #22 Conor Townsend (Knock)
- #07 Omari Hutchinson (Hamstring)

#### Suspended Players

None

## ***In-Possession Tactics***

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

### ***Phase 1: Build-up***

Ipswich play **long balls towards their attacking players** during build-up.

- They can sometimes choose to play short during goalkicks, circulating the ball between their defensive unit and the two pivot players, before eventually attempting a long pass.
  - This is often used to tempt an opposition high press, creating space in the middle of the pitch for their attacking midfielders to recover possession.
  - Their attacking midfielders rank the highest among their teammates in terms of loose ball recoveries made (see *appendix figure 1*).
- Their long balls are **targeted to Liam Delap**, who looks to win his aerial duel and lay the ball off to the three midfielders behind him.

*Table 1:*

Ipswich Town: Goalkeeper Passing

[Data Source: [FBRef](#)]

Metric	Value	EPL Ranking (high → low)
GK open-play passes: Average Length	35.2 yards	6 <sup>th</sup>
Goalkicks: Average Length	40.8 yards	6 <sup>th</sup>
Goalkicks: Launch Rate	53.5%	5 <sup>th</sup>

In situations where Ipswich Town are able to keep controlled possession in their defensive half without pressure from the opponents, they look to move the ball centrally, often **attempting to play line-breaking passes to their attacking midfielders**.

- Julio Enciso plays an important roles in such situations, often dropping to receive passes from Ipswich's central defenders.

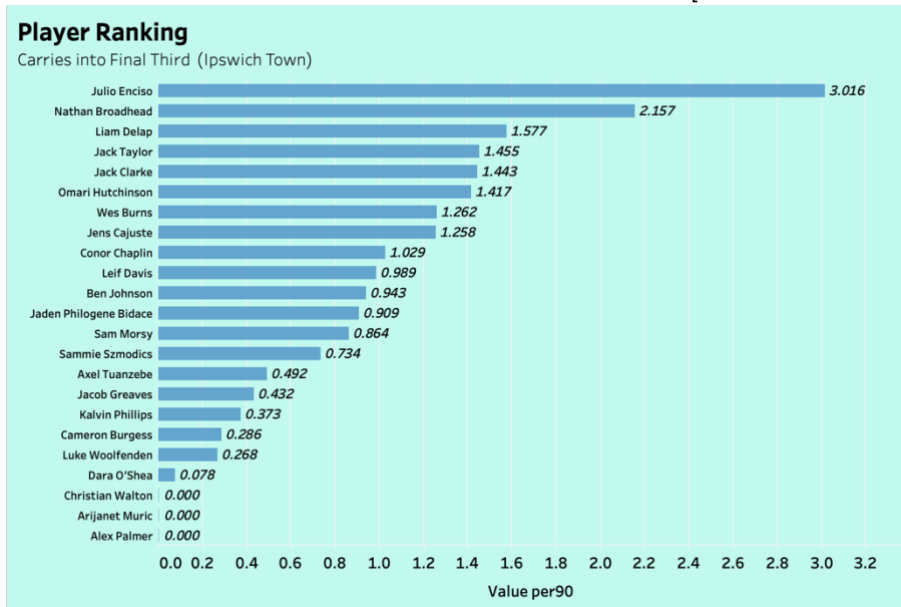
## **Phase 2: Progression into Final Third**

Ipswich's build-up play usually aims to get the ball to their technical attacking midfielders, who are then tasked with **carrying the ball into the final third**.

- Their attacking midfielders are strong in receiving passes under pressure and turning away from their defender.

*Figure 2:*

Premier League: Shooting Quality [Data Source: [FBRef](#)]



Julio Enciso (#9) and Nathan Broadhead (#33) rank at the top among their teammates in terms of carries into the final third.

## **Phase 3: Final Third**

### **Ipswich Town's Attacking Shape**



Ipswich's left-back usually joins the attack on the left-wing while the left midfielder inverts into the half-spaces.

**Ipswich attack with speed and intent**, looking to quickly move the ball into the penalty box once their attacking midfielders have possession.

- They like to move the ball out wide and use **underlapping runs** to move the ball into the box.
- Once they are in the half-spaces, Ipswich players use **cut-backs or grounded crosses** to create goal-scoring opportunities.

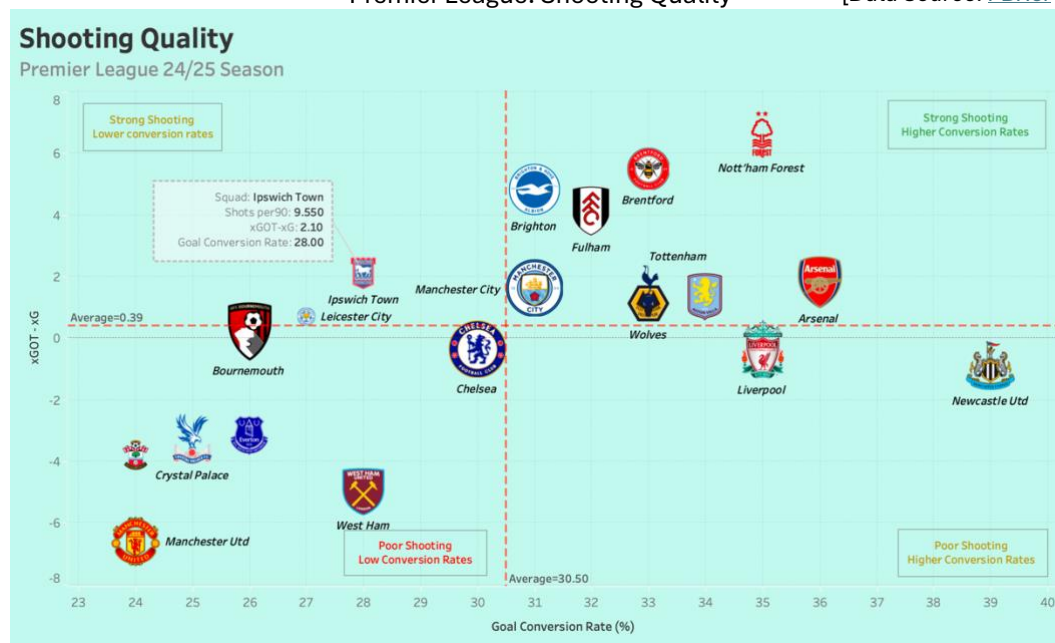
## Ipswich's poor attacking threat

Ipswich's attacking statistics have been poor compared to the rest of the teams this season.

Figure 2:

Premier League: Shooting Quality

[Data Source: [FBRef](#)]



Sizes of the crests in the above chart are proportionate to the number of shots per 90 by each team

- They shoot less frequently than other teams (9.03 shots per 90, rank: 18<sup>th</sup>), while also taking shots from lower xG positions (0.09 non-penalty xG per shot, rank: 19<sup>th</sup>).
- While their shooting quality is just above average, they are not able to convert their shots into goals as often as other teams (26% goal conversion rate, rank: 15<sup>th</sup>).

Moreover, they have recorded below average numbers in chance creation as well, often failing to move the ball into the penalty box.

Table 2:







Ipswich Town: Chance Creation

[Data Source: [FBRef](#)]

Metric	Value	EPL Ranking (high → low)
Key Passes per90	6.84	19 <sup>th</sup>
Shot-Creating Actions per90	16.10	18 <sup>th</sup>
Touches in Attacking Box per90	15.16	20 <sup>th</sup>
Passes into Penalty Area per90	4.13	20 <sup>th</sup>
Crosses into Penalty Area per90	1.29	20 <sup>th</sup>
Carries into Penalty Area per90	3.94	16 <sup>th</sup>

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

*Table 3:*  
Attacking Player Contributions

PLAYER	 Liam Delap #19	 Julio Enciso #9	 Nathan Broadhead #33	 Ben Johnson #18	 Leif Davis #3	 Omari Hutchinson* #20
90s	25.8	4.8	6.6	12.6	27.5	24.7
Goals (Total)	0.46 (12)	0 (0)	0.15 (1)	0 (0)	0.04 (1)	0.12 (3)
xG	0.35	0.14	0.23	0.07	0.03	0.09
Assists (Total)	0.08 (2)	0.42 (2)	0.00 (0)	0.08 (1)	0.07 (2)	0.08 (2)
xAG	0.07	0.21	0.1	0.05	0.16	0.1
Shots	1.01	1.04	0.91	0.16	0.07	0.65
SCA	2.29	3.75	2.58	1.43	3.05	2.59
Key Passes	0.78	1.46	0.91	0.56	1.93	0.93
Passes into Penalty Area	0.23	1.04	0.61	0.08	0.95	0.81
Crosses into Penalty Area	0	0	0	0.08	0.4	0.36
Carries into Penalty Area	1.05	0.83	0.61	0.24	0.36	1.21

\* Injured

Attack

Chance Creation

## Out-of-Possession Tactics

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

### Ipswich Expected Defensive Shape vs Chelsea



### Defensive Shape: 5-2-3

Ben Johnson (#18) is often instructed to track back and join the defensive line, essentially operating as a right wing-back and adjusting Ipswich's defensive shape to a back 5.

## **Pressing Approach:** Mid-Block with Pressing Triggers

Ipswich usually deploy a mid-block that aims to prevent the opposition from playing through the middle.

- The two holding midfielders, Jens Cajuste (#12) and Sam Morsy (#5), are instructed to **mark the opposition's pivot players**, forcing the opposition to play out wide.
- Passes to wide areas trigger a press for Ipswich led by the attacking midfielder.
  - Liam Delap (#19) blocks the passing lane to the central defender
  - Ipswich's two holding midfielders cut-off forward passing lanes and create an overload in the wide area.

## **Ipswich's poor defensive numbers**

Ipswich have struggled to prevent the opposition from creating goal-scoring opportunities, allowing several shots from high xG positions and close distances.

*Table 3:*  
Ipswich Town: Defensive Metrics

[Data Source: [FBRef](#)]

Metric	Value	EPL Ranking (high → low)
Goals Against	65	3 <sup>rd</sup>
xGA	61.8	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Shots Against per90	13.9	5 <sup>th</sup>
Opposition: Average Shot Distance	16.4	12 <sup>th</sup>
Opposition Touches in Attacking Box per90	27.26	5 <sup>th</sup>

Ipswich are also prone to making defensive errors. They have made 32 errors leading to a shot this season, 12 of which have resulted in a goal. Chelsea, Aston Villa, and Southampton are the only teams that have recorded higher numbers.

## **Transition Tactics**

### **Defence to Attack Transition:** Fast Breaks

Upon winning possession, Ipswich look to attack quickly against the opposition.

- They play long balls to Liam Delap who holds-up play and involves the two attacking midfielders who make up the front 3 in Ipswich's defensive line.

### **Attack to Defence Transition:** Retreat into defensive shape

Since Ipswich move the ball through the middle of the pitch, losing possession often leads to dangerous counter-attacks against them.

- Their rest defence is formed by the two central defenders, right-back and the two pivot players.
- The pivot players, left back and right midfielder retreat back into their defensive shape quickly after losing possession.

## **SWOT Analysis**

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### **Ipswich Town Strengths:**

- Liam Delap is a top-quality striker with strengths in hold-up play, aerial duels as well as strong shooting.

### **Ipswich Town Weaknesses:**

- Prone to making defensive errors.
- Defence can lose focus after conceding a goal.
- Defensive transitions can be exploited in wide areas.

### **Opportunities for Chelsea:**

- Hitting Ipswich Town on fast breaks.
- Creating overloads in midfield to dominate possession.
- Positions and movements of Cole Palmer and Enzo Fernandez can be vital in creating gaps within Ipswich's defence.

### **Threats for Chelsea:**

- Liam Delap's involvement and high work rate can cause issues at the back for Chelsea.

## APPENDIX

Figure 1:  
Ipswich Town Players (>450 minutes): Loose Ball Recoveries

