

The FIFA logo is displayed in a white, angular shape against a dark blue background. It consists of the word "FIFA" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

TECHNICAL REPORT

FIFA CONFEDERATIONS CUP
RUSSIA 2017





CONFEDERATIONS CUP
RUSSIA 2017

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THE EXPERTS, IN CONVERSATION



Wynton Rufer (New Zealand), Gabriel Calderón (Argentina), Marco van Basten (FIFA), Rodrigo Kenton (Costa Rica)

There are just two games remaining at the FIFA Confederations Cup Russia 2017, giving the Technical Study Group (TSG) the perfect opportunity to gather together and assess the tournament's most notable trends.

Headed up by Marco van Basten, FIFA Chief Officer for Technical Development, the members of the TSG, which has been analysing FIFA tournaments since 1966, expressed their delight at the attacking football played by the teams taking part at Russia 2017. Also catching their eye have been the impressive number of goals scored per match so far (2.8 after the semi-finals) and the tactical astuteness of teams such as Chile.

FIFA.com picks out the highlights of a fascinating discussion involving Van Basten, Gabriel Calderon of Argentina, Rodrigo Kenton of Costa Rica and Wynton Rufer of New Zealand.

Marco van Basten: What tactical innovations have you seen at the tournament?

Gabriel Calderon: There's a clear trend, with the attacking philosophy seen in the last few tournaments being continued here. That's why we've seen so many goals scored here to date (39 in 14 matches). The match average is really good! Teams have been playing the ball out from the back and then passing their way up the pitch towards the opposition goal. That's something that needs to be pointed out.

Rodrigo Kenton: We've seen a couple of very clearly defined types of formations, such as the ones used by Russia and Germany, who've switched between a three-man and a five-man defence, depending on whether they're attacking or defending. Chile have been tactically aggressive too. They're a hungry side who play a dynamic game for the whole 90 minutes.

Van Basten: You can tell that they've come here with the very definite intention of winning the tournament.

Kenton: Absolutely. Germany and Mexico have also played with a lot of intensity, but they've not been as consistent. Chile have got some big-game players in (Arturo) Vidal, (Alexis) Sanchez and (Eduardo) Vargas. They're match-winners.

Wynton Rufer: The forwards press a lot, that's for sure. And that's good because it forces the midfielders and defenders to push further up the pitch to support that pressure. Look at New Zealand, for example, who made up for the technical gap between them and the rest by playing a high-intensity game. Every team's got some very good players and you can't afford to give them anything.

Van Basten: Talking of which, the average number of goals scored from

„THERE'S A CLEAR TREND, WITH THE ATTACKING PHILOSOPHY.“

set-pieces has been pretty low. What can we read into that?

Kenton: That coaches and defenders have really done their homework because they don't want to get caught out. A case in point is Mexico, who are very good at dead-ball situations. They've only scored one goal from them here (Hector Moreno against Portugal), and that's a clear indication that all the teams have put an emphasis on the passing game as an attacking weapon.

Van Basten: The VAR has been another topic of interest. What do you make of its introduction here?

Calderon: I think it's been a very good first step. We all have to get used to it, and it's only natural that there's going to be a bit of confusion at the start. It was hardly used in the semi-finals, though, and we saw some dynamic football.



Van Basten: So we're heading in the right direction then?

Rufer: Obviously it's going to take time. It's one thing to plan it all, hold meetings and training sessions, but quite another to take it all out to the pitch, which is the moment of truth. You have to be patient, but it's looking positive to me. It has a vital role to play when big mistakes are made.





FINAL STANDINGS

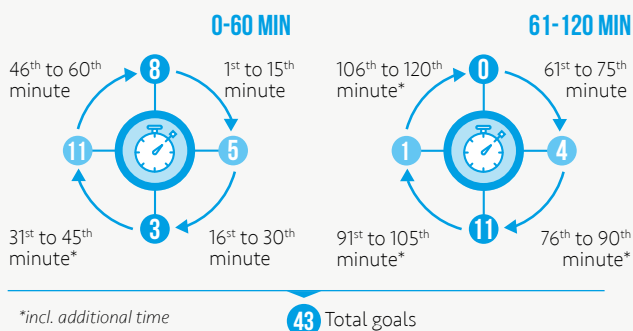
1. Germany
2. Chile
3. Portugal
4. Mexico
5. Russia
6. Australia
7. Cameroon
8. New Zealand



STATS

628,304 Total attendance	39,269 Average attendance
43 Goals 2.69 Goal average	5 (11.63%) in the first 10 min. 10 (23.26%) in the last 10 min. 5 (11.63%) by substitutes
5 Penalties	4 Converted, 1 missed
56 Yellow cards (avg. game 3.5) 4 Red cards (avg. game 0.25)	3 2 nd yellow card 1 Direct red card

WHEN THE GOALS WERE SCORED



WHO SCORED THE GOALS

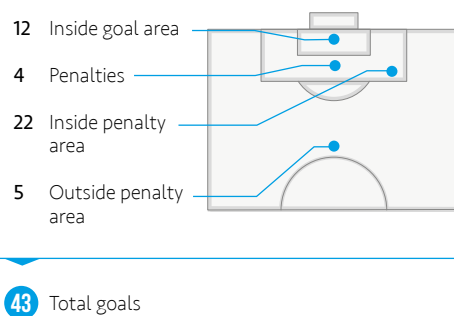


TOP 3 GOALSCORERS



PLAYER	(COUNTRY/NO.)	GOALS	ASSISTS	MINUTES PLAYED	MATCHES PLAYED
1. Timo WERNER	(GER, 11)	3	2	292	4
2. Leon GORETZKA	(GER, 8)	3	0	336	4
3. Lars STINDL	(GER, 13)	3	0	336	4

GOALS FROM



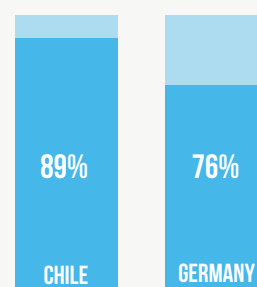
THE FINAL

0-1 (0-1)
Saint Petersburg Stadium
in Saint Petersburg

Referee: Milorad MAŽIĆ (SRB)
0-1 20' Lars STINDL

CHILE	V.	GERMANY
0	Goals	1
21	Shots	8
8	Shots on goal	3
5	Shots blocked	2
0	Penalties awarded	0
61	Ball possession %	39
474	Passes completed	215
9	Corners	4
13	Fouls committed	20
4	Yellow cards	3
0	Second yellow cards	0
0	Red cards	0

PASS ACCURACY



THE FINAL

LINE-UPS

■ (GK) Claudio BRAVO (C)	1	90'
(DF) Mauricio ISLA	4	
(FW) Alexis SÁNCHEZ	7	
■ (MF) Arturo VIDAL	8	59'
(MF) Pablo HERNÁNDEZ	10	
▼ (FW) Eduardo VARGAS	11	75' 81'
(DF) Jean BEAUSEJOUR	15	
(DF) Gary MEDEL	17	
■ (DF) Gonzalo JARA	18	65'
▼ (MF) Charles ARÁNGUIZ	20	81'
▼ (MF) Marcelo DÍAZ	21	53'

(GK) Marc-André TER STEGEN	22	
(DF) Shkodran MUSTAFI	2	
(DF) Jonas HECTOR	3	
(DF) Matthias GINTER	4	
(MF) Julian DRAXLER (C)	7	
▼ (MF) Leon GORETZKA	8	90'+2
▼ (FW) Timo WERNER	11	79'
⚽ (MF) Lars STINDL	13	20'
(DF) Antonio RÜDIGER	16	
■ (DF) Joshua KIMMICH	18	59'
■ (MF) Sebastian RUDY	21	90'+2

CHILE



SUBSTITUTES

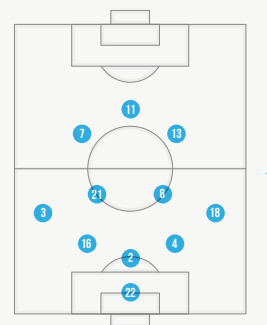
(DF) Eugenio MENA	2	
(DF) Enzo ROCO	3	
(MF) Francisco SILVA	5	
(MF) José FUENZALIDA	6	
▲ (FW) Ángelo SAGAL	9	81'
(GK) Christopher TOSELLI	12	
(DF) Paulo DÍAZ	13	
(MF) Felipe GUTIÉRREZ	14	
(FW) Martín RODRÍGUEZ	16	
▲ (FW) Leonardo VALENCIA	19	53'
▲ (FW) Edson PUCH	22	81'
(GK) Johnny HERRERA	23	

COACH Juan Antonio **PIZZI** (ESP)

(GK) Kevin TRAPP	1	
(DF) Marvin PLATTENHARDT	5	
(DF) Benjamin HENRICHS	6	
(FW) Sandro WAGNER	9	
(MF) Kerem DEMIRBAY	10	
(GK) Bernd LENO	12	
▲ ■ (MF) Emre CAN	14	79' 90'
(MF) Amin YOUNES	15	
▲ (DF) Niklas SÜLE	17	90'+2
(MF) Julian BRANDT	20	
(MF) Leroy SANÉ (absent)	19	
(MF) Diego DEMME (absent)	23	

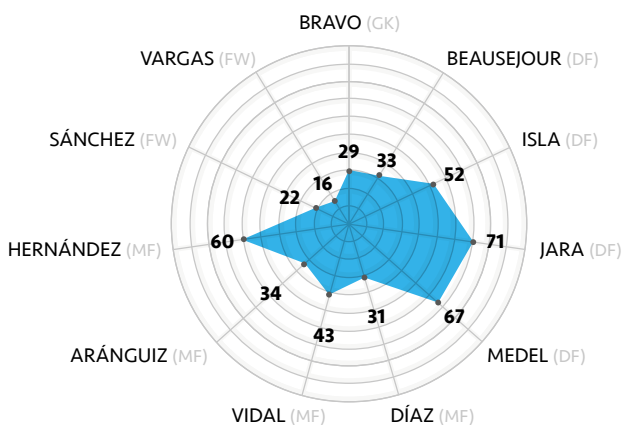
COACH Joachim **LÖW** (GER)

GERMANY

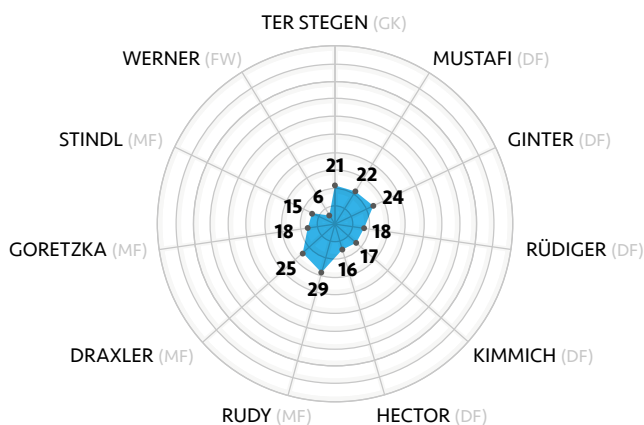


TEAM PASSES COMPLETED (STARTING 11)

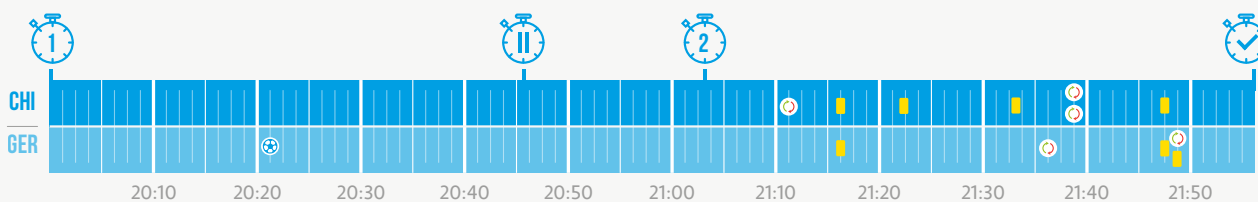
CHILE (458)



GERMANY (211)



EVENTS



- Yellow card
- ⚽ Goal
- ↻ Substitution
- 🕒 Start of 1st half
- 🕒 Start of 2nd half
- 🕒 Half-time whistle
- 🕒 Final whistle

CHI

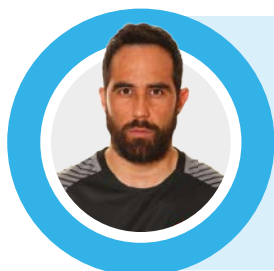
53' Substitution	81' Substitution
59' Yellow card	81' Substitution
65' Yellow card	90' Yellow card
75' Yellow card	

GER

20' Goal	90' Yellow card
59' Yellow card	90+2' Substitution
79' Substitution	90+2' Yellow card

PLAYER STATISTICS FROM THE FINAL

CLAUDIO BRAVO, 1

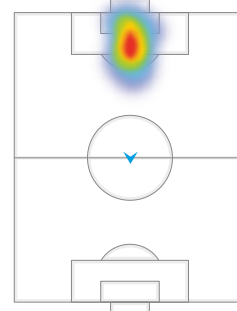


Goalkeeper (GK)
 Chile
 13 April 1983
 Manchester City FC, ENG
 International debut:
 Paraguay v. Chile on 11 July 2004
 adidas Golden Glove winner

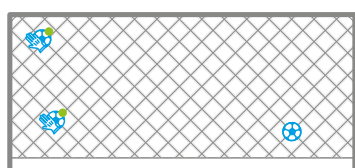
GOALS CONCEDED/SAVES



HEATMAP (POSITION)



GOALS AND SAVES



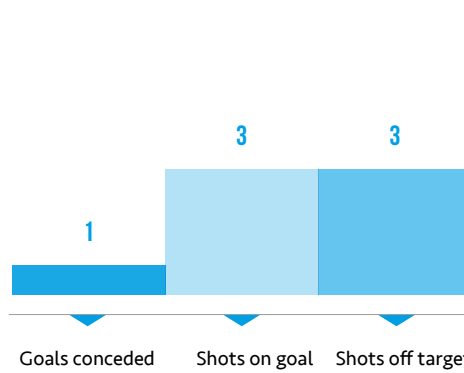
- Goal
- Save

SAVES



- Total claims 2
- Total punches 0
- Set-piece saves 0
- Open-play saves 2

SHOTS FACED

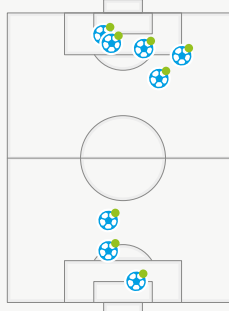


MARC-ANDRÉ TER STEGEN, 22

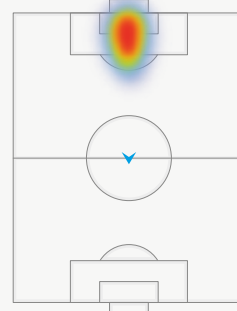


Goalkeeper (GK)
 Germany
 30 April 1992
 FC Barcelona, ESP
 International debut:
 Switzerland v. Germany on 26 May 2012
 Man of the match in final

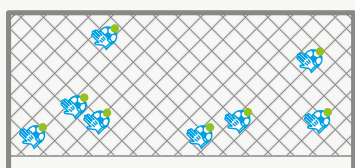
GOALS CONCEDED/SAVES



HEATMAP (POSITION)



GOALS AND SAVES



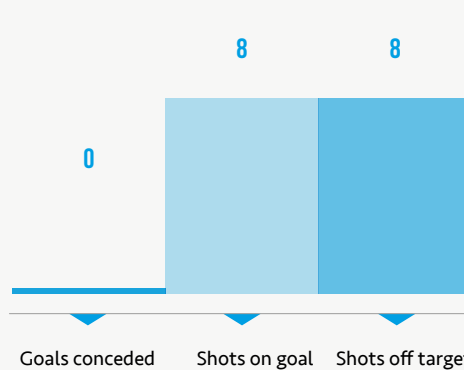
- Goal
- Save

SAVES



- Total claims 8
- Total punches 0
- Set-piece saves 0
- Open-play saves 8

SHOTS FACED





GARY MEDEL, 17



Defender (DF)
 Chile
 3 August 1987
 FC Internazionale, ITA
 International debut:
 Argentina v. Chile on 18 April 2007

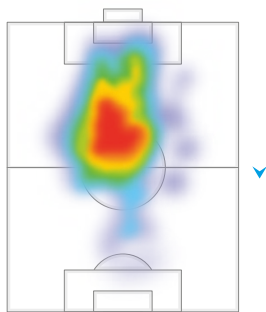
DUELS



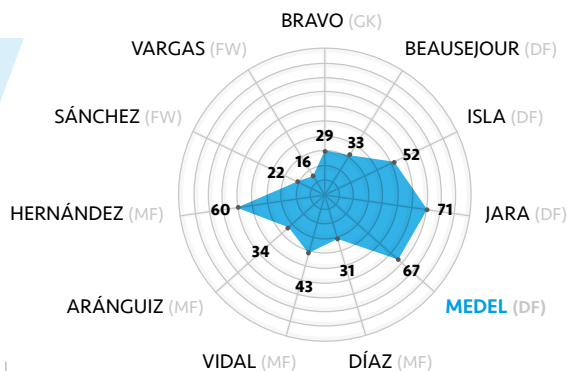
- Possession lost 2
- Possession regained 9

- 🟡 Yellow 0
- 🟡 Second yellow 0
- 🔴 Direct red 0

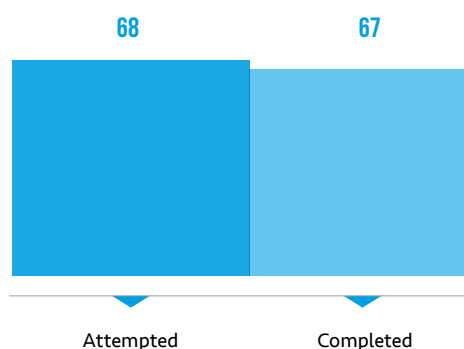
HEATMAP (POSITION)



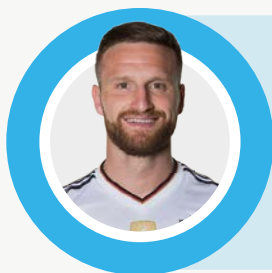
TEAM PASSES COMPLETED (STARTING 11)



PASSES



SHKODRAN MUSTAFI, 2



Defender (DF)
 Germany
 17 April 1992
 Arsenal FC, ENG
 International debut:
 Germany v. Poland on 13 May 2014

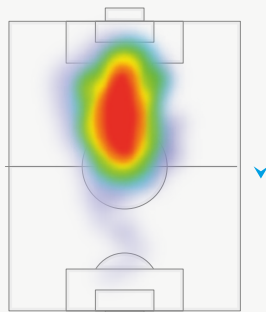
DUELS



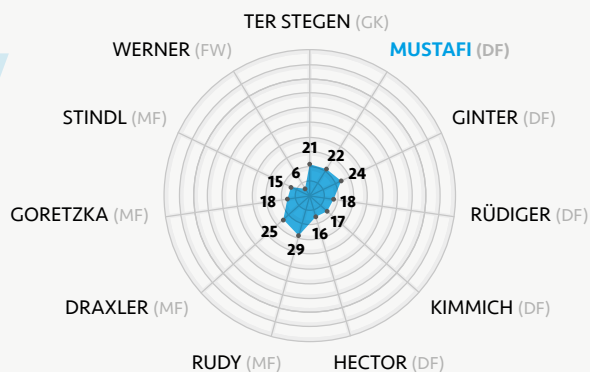
- Possession lost 4
- Possession regained 5

- 🟡 Yellow 0
- 🟡 Second yellow 0
- 🔴 Direct red 0

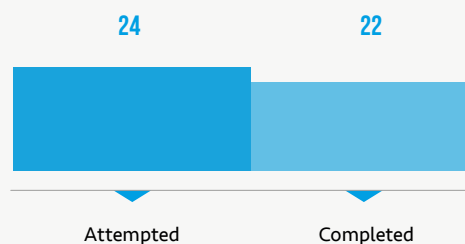
HEATMAP (POSITION)



TEAM PASSES COMPLETED (STARTING 11)



PASSES



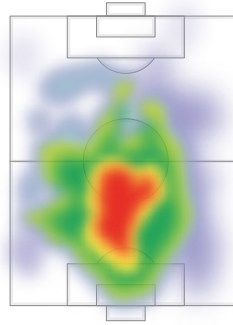


ARTURO VIDAL, 8

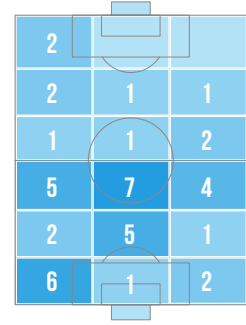


Midfielder (MF)
 Chile
 22 May 1987
 FC Bayern München, GER
 International debut:
 Venezuela v. Chile on 7 February 2007

HEATMAP (POSITION)



PASSES BY ZONE



DUELS



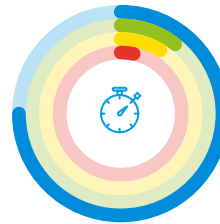
- Possession lost 12
- Possession regained 5
- Yellow 1
- Second yellow 0
- Direct red 0

SHOTS



- On goal 3
- Off target 2
- Blocked 1
- Total shots 6**
- Shot accuracy (50%)

TIME ACTIVITY



- Low 79%
- Medium 9%
- High 8%
- Very high 4%

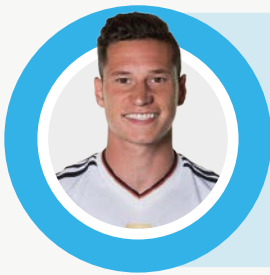
DISTANCE ACTIVITY



- Low 52%
- Medium 17%
- High 18%
- Very high 13%

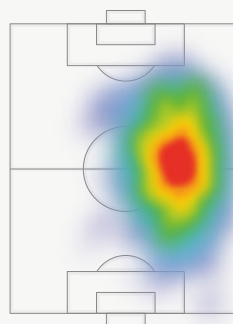
Low: <10km/h
Medium: >=10km/h and <15km/h
High: >=15km/h and <20km/h
Very high: >20km/h

JULIAN DRAXLER, 7

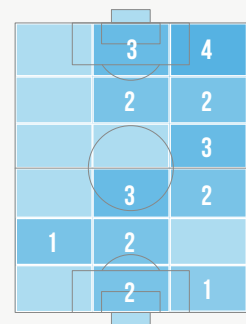


Midfielder (MF)
 Germany
 20 September 1993
 Paris Saint-Germain FC, FRA
 International debut:
 Switzerland v. Germany on 26 May 2012
 adidas Golden Ball winner

HEATMAP (POSITION)



PASSES BY ZONE

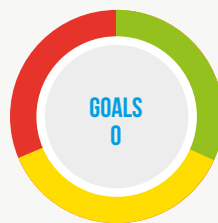


DUELS



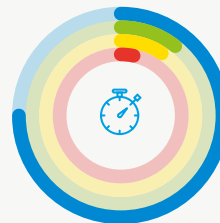
- Possession lost 9
- Possession regained 7
- Yellow 0
- Second yellow 0
- Direct red 0

SHOTS



- On goal 1
- Off target 1
- Blocked 1
- Total shots 3**
- Shot accuracy (33%)

TIME ACTIVITY



- Low 78%
- Medium 10%
- High 9%
- Very high 3%

DISTANCE ACTIVITY



- Low 52%
- Medium 18%
- High 19%
- Very high 11%

Low: <10km/h
Medium: >=10km/h and <15km/h
High: >=15km/h and <20km/h
Very high: >20km/h

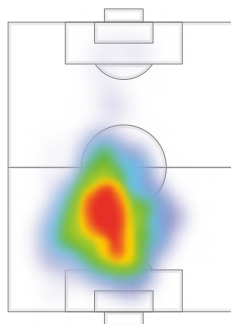


EDUARDO VARGAS, 11

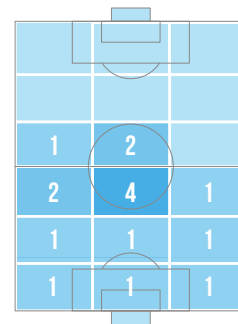


Forward (FW)
 Chile
 20 November 1989
 Tigres UANL, MEX
 International debut:
 Chile v. Paraguay on 4 November 2009

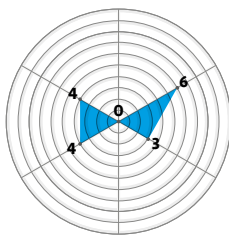
HEATMAP (POSITION)



PASSES BY ZONE

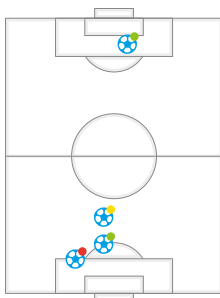


SHOTS FROM MIDFIELDERS AND FORWARDS (STARTING 11)



- 0 DÍAZ (MF)
- 3 ARÁNGUIZ (MF)
- 6 VIDAL (MF)
- 4 SÁNCHEZ (FW)
- 4 VARGAS (FW)**
- 0 HERNÁNDEZ (MF)

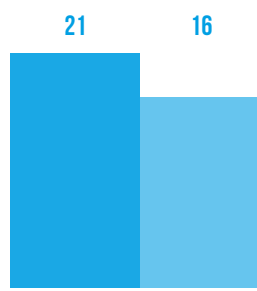
GOALS/SHOTS



GOALS/SHOTS BLOCKED

- Goals 0
- Off target 1
- On goal 2
- Blocked 1

PASSES



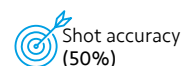
Attempted Completed



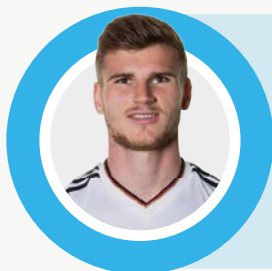
SHOTS



- On goal 2
 - Off target 1
 - Blocked 1
- Total shots 4**

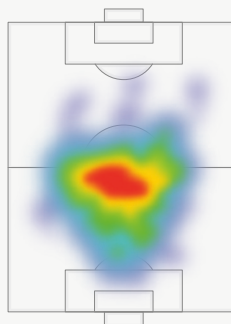


TIMO WERNER, 11

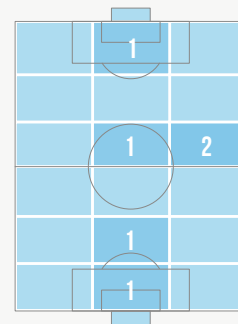


Forward (FW)
 Germany
 06 March 1996
 RB Leipzig, GER
 International debut:
 Germany v. England on 22 March 2017
 adidas Golden Boot winner

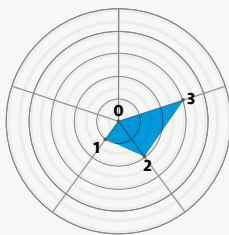
HEATMAP (POSITION)



PASSES BY ZONE

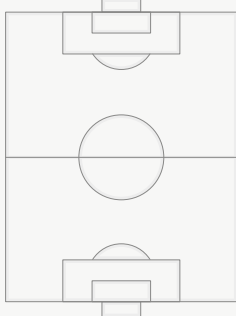


SHOTS FROM MIDFIELDERS AND FORWARDS (STARTING 11)



- 0 RUDY (MF)
- 1 STINDL (MF)
- 3 DRAXLER (MF)
- 0 WERNER (FW)**
- 2 CORETKZA (MF)

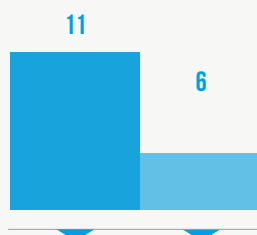
GOALS/SHOTS



GOALS/SHOTS BLOCKED

no shots, no goals

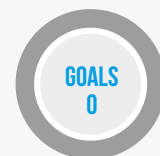
PASSES



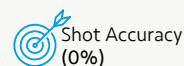
Attempted Completed



SHOTS



- On goal: 0
 - Off target: 0
 - Blocked: 0
- Total shots 0**





COMPARISON

COMPARISON BETWEEN BRAZIL 2013 AND RUSSIA 2017



NUMBER OF GOALS SCORED:

RUS 2017
43 Average goals per match **2.69**

BRA 2013
68 Average goals per match **4.25**

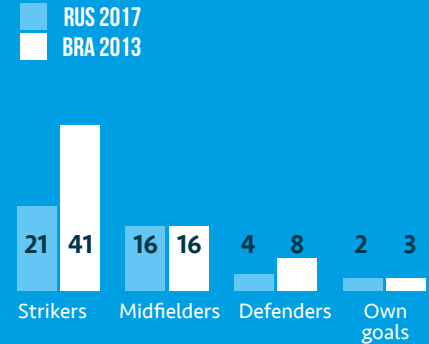


NUMBER OF WINS:

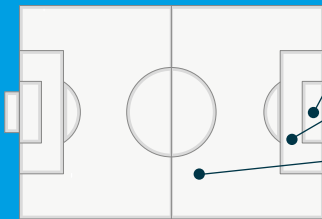
RUS 2017
10

BRA 2013
14

WHO SCORED THE GOALS:



FROM WHAT DISTANCE THE GOALS WERE SCORED:



	RUS 2017	BRA 2013
Inside goal area	12	19
Inside penalty area	22 (+4)	36 (+4)
Outside penalty area	5	9

(+) penalties

HIGHEST-SCORING MATCH:

RUS 2017	BRA 2013
2-3 AUS v. GER	10-0 ESP v. TAH
4-1 GER v. MEX	

	RUS 2017	BRA 2013
NUMBER OF DRAWS:	4	0
NUMBER OF WINS IN EXTRA TIME:	1	0
NUMBER OF PENALTY SHOOT-OUTS (PSO):	1	2
NUMBER OF PENALTIES AWARDED/CONVERTED:	5/4	9/4
NUMBER OF GOALS SCORED BY SUBSTITUTES:	5	8
NUMBER OF MATCHES WON BY NUMERICALLY INFERIOR TEAMS:	0	1
NUMBER OF WINS AFTER CONCEDED 1 ST GOAL:	3	1
ACTUAL PLAYING TIME (EXCLUDING EXTRA TIME):	906:27	909:26
AVERAGE ACTUAL PLAYING TIME (EXCLUDING EXTRA TIME):	56:39	56:50
TOTAL ATTENDANCE:	628,304	804,659
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:	39,269	50,291
YELLOW CARDS:	56	46
RED CARDS (INDIRECT):	3	3
RED CARDS (DIRECT):	1	1



ADIDAS GOLDEN BALL
RUS 2017
 Julian DRAXLER (GER, 7)
BRA 2013
 NEYMAR (BRA, 10)



ADIDAS GOLDEN BOOT
RUS 2017
 Timo WERNER (GER, 11)
BRA 2013
 Fernando TORRES (ESP, 9)



ADIDAS GOLDEN GLOVE
RUS 2017
 Claudio BRAVO (CHI, 1)
BRA 2013
 JÚLIO CÉSAR (BRA, 12)

TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL ANALYSIS AND TRENDS IN THE GAME

The key theme in the group stage of the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 was high intensity: 34 goals were scored from all angles, leading to an overall total of 43 during the whole tournament, delighting the watching public. The average number of goals per match (2.69) was not quite as abundant as the admittedly exceptional 2013 edition in Brazil (68 goals at a rate of 4.25 per match) or South Africa in 2009 (2.75 per match).

Chile, Portugal and Russia joined the ranks in the history books, making very respectable debut appearances, playing in the vast and impressive stadiums, which hosted an average of 39,269 fired-up fans supporting their teams over the 16 matches of the competition.

Main systems of play

Of the eight teams, Germany, New Zealand and Russia opted for a 3-5-2 system, employing three central defenders who would form part of a defensive five when on the back foot, while the remainder

of the teams went for a 4-4-2 set-up with four across the back, one or two pressing midfielders (Chile, Mexico and Portugal) and two or three attacking players, depending on their options.

Three central defenders, with one pushing forward to close down space or tracking back depending on the opposing team's attacks; midfielders that were at once attacking-minded and able to defend; attackers that checked their opposite numbers as they tried to play the ball out of defence... there is still a clear trend of all players shouldering both defensive and attacking duties. Among them, Leon Goretzka of Germany (8) and Arturo Vidal of Chile (8) stood out for just how comprehensively they performed tasks in defence-attack transitions and vice versa. In attacking phases, hosts Russia used their tandem of Alexander Samedov (19) and Yury Zhirkov (18) within a 3-5-2 system to great effect by exploiting the channels and playing





crosses into the penalty spot towards the figure of Fedor Smolov (9).

Quick attacking transitions

Some teams would retreat to the midfield in order to quickly recover the ball with a defensive wall: once they had ball back, they would launch an attacking transition with well organised fast counter-attacking and attacking moves. In the matches between Cameroon and Chile (0-2) and Portugal and Mexico (2-2), there were several occasions when Chile, Mexico and Portugal clearly employed this style of play, passing quickly in the transition from defence to attack and creating a variety of options and goals that thrilled the fans.

Using one or two creative wingers

In terms of attacking creativity, teams were always able to benefit from having destabilising creative players who would use their individual talent and imagination to unlock defences in the final third. In the case of Chile, that role was filled by Arturo Vidal, who roamed free around the pitch and clearly thrived in fulfilling both creative and defensive functions; Portugal had both Bernardo Silva (10) and Cristiano Ronaldo (7) in that role; for Germany, it was Leon Goretzka and Julian Draxler (7), with the latter crowning a great tournament by winning the adidas Golden Ball.

Pressing and quick recovery of possession

Following the first outing for the teams' well-defined defensive and attacking set-ups, it became clear that all teams would have to press and recover possession quickly in the following scenarios:

Scenario 1

Teams with great physical and athletic prowess, such as Chile (Marcelo Díaz [21], Charles Aranguis [20], Alexis Sánchez [7], Arturo Vidal), Portugal (William [14]), and Germany (Jonas Hector [3], Benjamin Henrichs [6], Timo Werner [11], Leon Goretzka), which put pressure on their opponents in the area where they wanted to recover the ball, with the aim of unsettling the player on the ball and not give him the chance to play it out or start an attack from his own half (Germany conceded for the first time only when Chile scored in the sixth minute of the eighth game of the competition). Having exerted that pressure, they would form a defensive or attacking unit, organising themselves in their own or in the opponents' half, always seeking to keep the player on the ball in front of them (closing the passing lines).

Australia's first goal against Chile in the 42nd minute, in what was possibly the finest performance in the tournament by a losing team, came after the Socceroos pressed and took the game to the favourites.

Scenario 2

When being pressed (in a defensive transition) with the opponents in their own half, teams must strive to close down space in vulnerable areas, making sure their opponents cannot get in round the back, press the midfield and, from there, quickly launch a counter-attack in order to get a chance at goal. Several teams were able to do this with a good deal of control and balance (Germany, Chile, Mexico and Portugal).

Outstanding players and leaders on the pitch

It is clear that the final third is where teams risk the most and depend more on individual ability. It is where the genius of an Arturo Vidal for Chile, a Cristiano Ronaldo for Portugal, or an Andres Guardado (18) or a Carlos Vela (11) for Mexico really stand out. For the Germans, Leon Goretzka, Antonio Rüdiger (16) and captain Julian Draxler were the figures the team looked to for inspiration and imagination, a morale-boost, courage and encouragement to fight on, sticking to the tactical plan and pushing each member of the team to fulfil his particular duties in his position, and, of course, driving them on to continue performing regardless of the score.

Set plays (set pieces)

There were not a great number of organised set pieces or prepared moves: it will continue to be important for those teams that specialise in set plays that can come at any time or in any part of the pitch during a match; the signal, the kick taker, the dummy runners and the finishers in the set piece are all elements that make the difference between reaching the final and lifting the cup or getting there and thinking "if only...". Dead-ball situations brought about 25-35% of the goals in other major FIFA tournaments, while in Russia they produced just 14%, possibly due to the better tactical preparation of the rival teams or the ineffectiveness of those carrying out the set plays.

Top men between the sticks

Goalkeepers became the protagonists once more during the tougher moments for some teams, such as Chile's keeper and captain, Claudio Bravo (1). During their game against Portugal, Mexico's Guillermo Ochoa (13) managed to withstand Cristiano Ronaldo's many attempts on goal. For the Russians, Igor Akinfeev (1) was always alert and made great use of his cat-like reflexes, which served to frustrate the opponents every time. Rui Patrício's (1) level-headedness, stability and presence were key for Portugal.

Cameroon's Fabrice Ondoa (1) was one of the few keepers who ventured

out of his area to act as a sweeper or defender for his team and, as well as displaying his skills between the sticks, took risks and brought an element of excitement to the tournament.

Wing backs dominating along the touchlines

Wide defenders on both left and right are a vital part of their teams' defensive and attacking play: Russian right-back Fedor Smolov was involved in several moves that were decisive in his team's results, whether assisting or creating a goal; Portugal, meanwhile, could rely on left-back Eliseu (19) and his key contributions; Chile had Jean Beausejour (15); Cameroon, left-back Collins Fai (19) with his fast acceleration and changes of pace down the left; not to mention the German wing backs Jonas Hector on the left and Benjamin Henrichs or Joshua Kimmich (18) on the right, who were lethal weapons out wide whenever Germany attacked their opponents.

Trends

The FIFA Confederations Cup in Russia allowed certain teams, such as the hosts, to realise their true sporting potential at competitive level.

Some tactical approaches adopted a flexible 3-5-2 set-up, which would become a 5-2-3 in defence and a 3-2-5 when the team sought to exploit the wide spaces in attack, as Germany's Jonas Hector, Benjamin Henrichs or Joshua Kimmich did, all of them players with great physical and tactical ability to fulfil such a demanding





Javier Hernández (14). Teams also found success with their energetic wing backs pushing forward from the back, such as Russia with Alexander Samedov, Germany with Jonas Hector and Benjamin Henrichs behind and Timo Werner further forward, and Portugal with Cristiano Ronaldo and Bernardo Silva.

High Pressure

The standout features on the pitch were greater aggressiveness and technical-tactical preparation – requiring astonishing physical condition in order to recover possession as quickly as possible in the opponents' half: Chile, pressing their opponents with the inherent tactical risks and inevitable tiredness; Mexico, whenever they went behind against several opponents; Portugal, New Zealand and Russia, when seeking an equaliser or get back into the game.

Playing high up the pitch at high intensity

It is clear that Portugal and Mexico both gave it all in their group game (2-2), which proved to be one of the most high-energy matches until the final. Other particularly intense matches included Portugal-Chile (0-0, ending 0-3 on penalties), Germany-Chile (1-1) and Mexico-Russia (2-1), with no thought for conserving energy.

Video assistant refereeing (VAR)

Contentious moments on the pitch involving dubious goals are a thing of the past, given that VAR takes only a few seconds to verify whether or not the ball has crossed the goal line. Uncompromised justice on the football pitch, as in the case of Cameroon-Chile, in which a goal against Cameroon was subsequently ruled out due to a Chilean offside; and Portugal-Mexico, when a goal by Portugal was disallowed when their forwards were also clearly offside. The "phantom goal" will no longer be a source of controversy in football: attackers will know whether they are justified or whether the referees are wrong as VAR will not leave any doubt.

role and proving that it is still highly effective.

Meanwhile, Chile opted for a traditional 4-4-2 with a four-man defence, two central midfielders in Gary Medel (17) and Gonzalo Jara (18), and two wide men in Mauricio Isla (4) and Jean Beausejour. In the transition to attack, though, there were always players who were able to use their qualities to devastating effect.

Defence-to-attack transition, pressing in the opposition half

From match one, some teams played attacking, high-intensity football, unsettling their opponents when playing the ball out from defence, making them lose control of their own ideas and fail to play their normal game.

Some attackers showed a more aggressive streak when marking opposition defenders and recovering the ball in the opposition half, as was the case with Chile.

Other teams, such as Germany, frequently dominated the wings, the channels and the centre ground.

At this tournament, many teams showed that attacking down the wings continues to produce opportunities for rapid transitions from the back and that elusive target men or wing backs can still catch opponents unaware. Attackers were used to great effect on the wings, as evidenced by Cameroon with Christian Bassogog (13), Chile with Alexis Sánchez, New Zealand with Chris Wood (9) and Mexico with

OFFICIAL FIFA AWARDS

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ADIDAS GOLDEN BALL

This award goes to the best player in the final competition on the basis of a ranking compiled by the FIFA Technical Study Group. A Silver Ball and a Bronze Ball are awarded to the second and third best players.



Julian Draxler (GER, 7)

ADIDAS SILVER BALL: Alexis Sanchez (CHI, 7)

ADIDAS BRONZE BALL: Leon Goretzka (GER, 8)



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ADIDAS GOLDEN BOOT

Timo Werner (GER, 11)

ADIDAS SILVER BOOT:
Leon Goretzka (GER, 8)

ADIDAS BRONZE BOOT:
Lars Stindl (GER, 13)

This award is given to the top goalscorer of the FIFA Confederations Cup Russia 2017. Assists were included if two or more players were equal on goals scored. The FIFA Technical Study Group, which was represented at each match, decided whether an assist was to be counted. If two or more players remained equal, the player who had played fewer matches in the final competition was ranked first.



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ADIDAS GOLDEN GLOVE

The top goalkeeper award at the FIFA Confederations Cup Russia 2017 is given by the FIFA Technical Study Group based on performances throughout the final competition.



Claudio Bravo (CHI, 1)

FIFA FAIR PLAY TROPHY

The FIFA Fair Play Trophy is awarded to the team with the best fair play record, according to a points system and criteria specified in the competition regulations.

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IS FAIR PLAY

Germany

