

N°50



Pro

BESOCCER



THE ENCYKLOPPEDIA

N-Z



NORMAL. 1. Something that is in its natural state. 2. Habitual or ordinary. 3. Serving as a norm or rule. 4. Something that, by its nature, conforms to certain rules. None of these meanings is applicable to Jurgen Klopp.



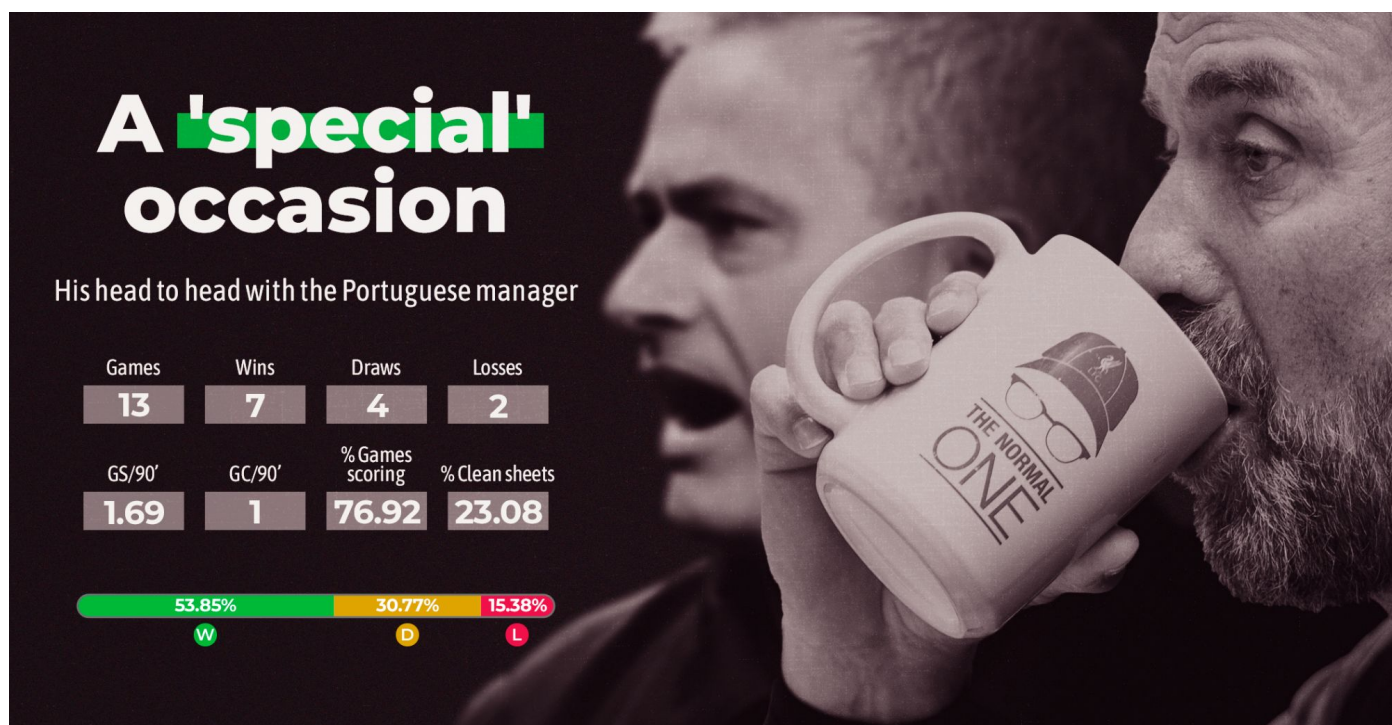
(The) Normal One

Few signings have created as much excitement as that of **Jurgen Klopp** at **Liverpool**. Despite not being a player with a world-class reputation or a manager with brilliant track record, the German's arrival on **Merseyside** sparked the interest of a clearly disenchanted fanbase. The former **Borussia Dortmund** boss was seen as a breath of fresh air, not only for his **exciting model of play**, but also for his **charisma** and **sense of humour**. He seemed, at first glance, the kind of person anyone would want to have in charge of their team.

The city went crazy on 8th October 2015, especially when the coach's private jet landed. He had not yet lifted the **Champions League**, but '**Kloppo**' had certainly endeared himself to European football fans. His long career at first **Mainz** and then **Dortmund** made him the ideal candidate to rebuild the Reds' reputation and start writing a new page in the legendary history of the club, from which a few months earlier a legend of the stature of **Steven Gerrard** had departed.

After a brief visit to what would be - and still is - his place of residence during his time at the club and the signing of the first of his three contracts to date at **Anfield Road**, Klopp went off to rest. One of the most intense days of his professional life awaited him the following day. It had been a long time since the media hype surrounding the club had been so high. The British and German media, for the most part, turned the press room of Anfield into a hive of activity, which made him feel "uncomfortable". **Everyone wanted to get a headline out of him** - and they did!

When questioned about **Jose Mourinho**, who defined himself as **The Special One**, the German was emphatic: "I don't want to define myself". The move, however, backfired. "Does anyone in this room think i can do miracles? No. I'm just a normal guy! I come from the **Black Forest**. My mother is probably watching this on the TV at home, unable to understand a word I'm saying, but very proud. I was a pretty poor player (...) and I just hope I enjoy my job. **I'm The Normal One**," he added. The laughs were widespread.



With those words, '**Kloppo**' achieved the exact opposite of what he intended. It took the marketing department of his new team 24 hours to launch a complete line of **merchandising** with his new nickname. Mugs, T-shirts, key rings... everything! Something that did not, however, influence his understanding of his profession in any way. Where others would have locked themselves away in **Melwood** to start planning the rebuilding of the team, Klopp was visiting some of the best pubs in the city, to the surprise and delight of the Reds fans who bumped into him.

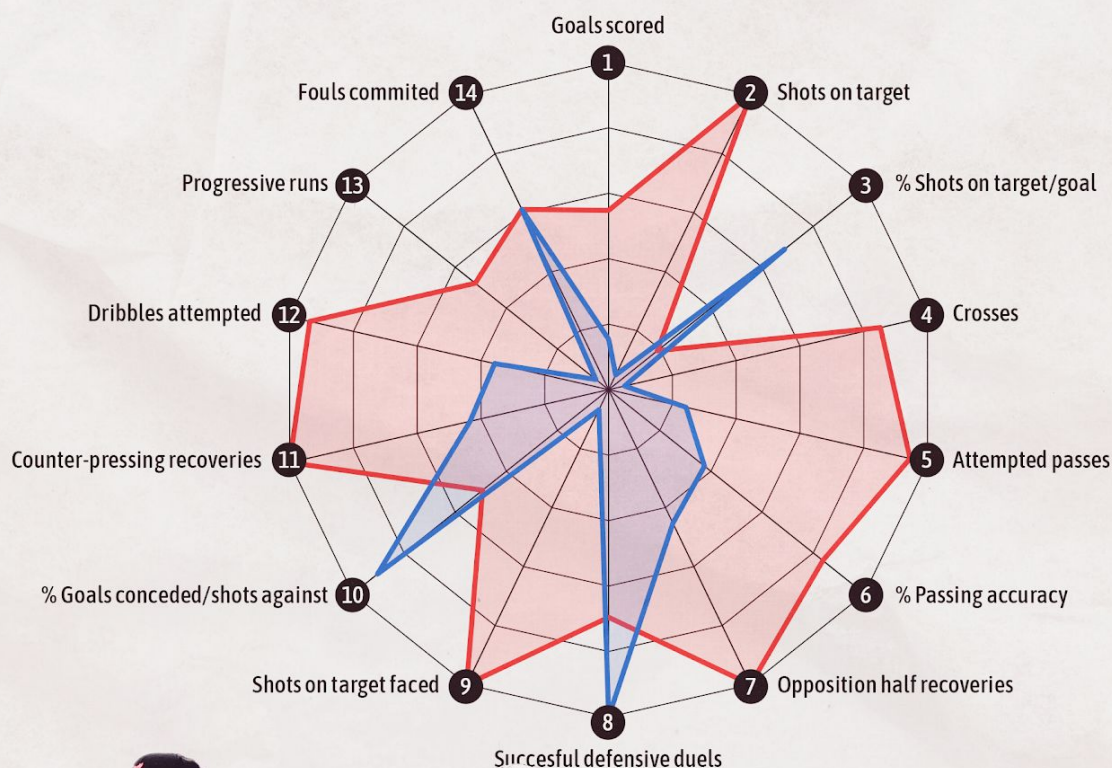
On a footballing level, it was also true that his track record could not compare with that of Mourinho, who was then in the third season of his second spell at **Chelsea** and had **24 titles** to his name compared to Klopp's six, half of which were **German Super Cups**. However, the German manager has been unbeatable against the Portuguese, winning seven (**54.85%**) of the 13 games they have met and scoring in **76.92%** of them. **The Special One** has barely beaten him on a couple of occasions to date.

Results that also support the **advanced stats**, for, the last nine times they faced each other in the Premier League, Liverpool were far better than **Chelsea** (1GP), **Manchester United** (5GP), and **Tottenham Hotspur** (3GP) in **goals** - scored and conceded, **shots on target** - for and against, **passes** - attempted and completed, **recovered balls** in the opposition half and **progressive runs** when **Jose Mourinho** was in charge. It could be said, therefore, that Klopp was a fair winner in those clashes.

Despite never having shown a fierce rivalry - at least not in public - the fact that **Jurgen Klopp** has replaced him as **Pep Guardiola's nemesis** is probably what bothers 'Mou' the most about the German coach.

Unmatched

Klopp frustrates The 'Special One'



KLOPP

MOURINHO

	KLOPP	MOURINHO
1	1.44	0.78
2	6.33	2.33
3	22.81	33.33
4	17.67	9.11
5	584.89	355.11
6	86.46	80.1
7	32.56	22.44
8	40.11	48.67
9	2.56	6.44
10	30.4	24.15
11	31.67	23.78
12	47.56	33.78
13	5.02	2.92
14	11.56	11.56

*Stats from the last 9 Premier League games they faced each other





ORIGI, DIVOCK. Born in **Ostend** on 18th April 1995. A **Belgian** international, he came through the youth ranks at **Genk** before making his professional debut at **Lille**. He played for **Liverpool** between 2014 and 2022.



Origi, Divock

As fond as he is of praising his own players, there are few who **Jurgen Klopp** has defined as legends. The case of **Divock Origi**, in this respect, is truly special, as few regular substitutes would be considered as such by any manager, fan or football specialist. The Belgian, however, has made his mark at **Liverpool** despite his limited playing time compared to **Sadio Mane**, **Roberto Frimino** or **Mohamed Salah**, teammates and rivals for a place in the starting XI over the last five years.

“He is, and always will be for me, a club legend and **one of the most important players I have ever had in my charge**. It sounds really strange considering the (few) games he has played, but it is and has been an absolute pleasure to work with him,” the German coach said emphatically in the run-up to the final **Premier League** game of the 2021-2022 season, a 3-1 win over **Wolverhampton Wanderers** that could have decided the title. The Belgian was unable to play, however, due to injury, which also ruled him out of the **Champions League final** against **Real Madrid** in Kiev. His coach, however, decided to include him in the squad.

Despite the fact that his numbers are not huge compared to those of the strikers who have shared a dressing room with him at **Melwood**, the truth is that **Divock Origi** has shown an unusual love affair with the goal in moments that, in the end, have proved to be key for the team. We are talking, for example, about his brace against **Barcelona** in the semi-finals of the 2018-2019 **Champions League**. Not only did he open the scoring just minutes into the game, but he sealed one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the tournament (4-0) with a cheeky goal from a corner that caught the ‘Cule’ defence off guard. All this as a replacement for **Mohamed Salah**, who watched on from the sidelines due to injury, completely surpassing expectations.

A few weeks later he would score the final 2-0 against **Tottenham** in the final in **Madrid**, sealing the first title of the Klopp era on **Merseyside** and giving the club the **sixth Champions League title** in their history.

But the list of achievements of the Belgian international, who will play for **AC Milan** from the 2022-2023 season following the expiry of his **Liverpool** contract, does not end there. He will always be remembered for his last-gasp goal against **Everton** after the ball bounced twice off the top of the crossbar, misleading **Jordan Pickford**. The striker had been on the pitch for just six minutes - the remaining time when he came off the bench. **36.59%** of his goals for the German have come **in the last fifteen minutes**.

He always played well against the **Toffees**. After the bitter blow he gave them in 2018, a year later, at the start of the season that would end with the Reds winning the **Premier League** three decades later, he would score a vital brace in the title race that would also lead to **Marco Silva's** sacking the following day at **Goodison Park**. More recently, in December 2021, he scored the winning goal against **Wolves** (0-1) in the 94th minute, giving his team three crucial points in the ultimately frustrated fight for the domestic title.

The English have a word that defines **Divock Origi** perfectly, and that is **gamechanger**. That is, someone who completely changes the game with his presence. A gamechanger whose impact far exceeds what is expected of him. After all, the Belgian has played far more games coming off the bench (**104**) than as a starter (**66**) in the Klopp era, with his goalscoring averages also being better as a substitute (**0.74** goals per 90') than starting (**0.51**). He shares with Roberto Firmino the honour of being **Liverpool's** top scorer as a reserve (**12**), although his percentage overall (**29.27%**) far exceeds that of the Brazilian.



I am legend

Origi, a gamechanger like no other

ORIGI'S STATS UNDER KLOPP AT LIVERPOOL

	Games played	Min. earned	Goals scored	% GS	GS/90'
As a starter	66	5.090	29	70.73	0.51
From the bench	104	1.467	12	29.27	0.74

GOALS SCORED FROM 76' TO 90'

15



36.59%

KLOPP'S TOP GOALSCORERS FROM THE BENCH

		%  from the bench
Divock Origi	12	29.27
Roberto Firmino	12	12.24
Daniel Sturridge	8	32
Christian Benteke	6	75
Mohamed Salah	6	3.85
Diogo Jota	5	14.71







PEP GUARDIOLA. Former footballer and football coach born in **Santpedor** in **1971**. Considered by many, including **Jurgen Klopp**, the best coach in the history of world football not only for the **33 titles** he holds, but also for his recognisable footballing style.



Pep

Jurgen Klopp's relationship with **Pep Guardiola** did not start well. The Catalan arrived in Munich in the summer of 2016 to replace **Jupp Heynckes**, who left the club after winning a historic treble and leaving **Borussia Dortmund** pipping to the post in both the **Bundesliga** and **Champions League**. **Mario Gotze**'s departure to **Bayern Munich** had only recently been confirmed following accusations of 'industrial espionage' by the German coach. It wasn't the right time for that to happen. Let's put it this way.

Dortmund would be the ones to give a warm welcome to the man who had conquered everything with **Barcelona**; the man who practically all football fans considered the best coach in the world. His first official match in charge of his new club would be the final of the national Supercup, which took place at the hostile ground of **Signal Iduna Park**. The home win (4-2) was uncontested. Rarely had '**Kloppo**' celebrated his team's goals as he did on that occasion. It would be the first of his **nine victories** to date against his Spanish counterpart and, although nobody could have suspected it, also the beginning of **a beautiful friendship**..

Since then, Klopp and Guardiola have met on a total of **24 occasions**, with the balance being slightly in favour of the German, the only coach to have been the Spanish more times than the Spaniard has beaten him (**8**). The **seven draws** also attest to the close rivalry they have maintained over the years, during which they have not only developed a great admiration for each other, but also a mutual inspiration.

An example of this is **Liverpool**'s progressive evolution from direct, counter-attacking football towards a style that combines both aspects with the **Positional Play** that Pep himself developed so successfully not only in Spain, but also in Germany and, of course, in England. At the helm of **Manchester City**, the Catalan has seen how the influence of his admired Jurgen has greatly influenced his own tactical script. It is no coincidence that the **Cityzens** are currently one of the best counter-attacking teams in the world.



This football rivalry soon overshadowed **Pep Guardiola's** long-standing verbal and media rivalry with **Jose Mourinho**. Unlike the Portuguese, with whom he coincided at **Camp Nou** when he was still a player, the former Spain international shared no past with **Jurgen Klopp**; only the love of the game and the winning mentality that both have always instilled in their players. Gradually, and despite the **high level of pressure** that the games between them began to take on, admiration began to sprout.

However, the closeness of their meetings, in which Klopp's teams have conceded more goals (**1.7**) than they have scored (**1.5**) despite the positive balance of victories (**37.50%**), did not translate into their respective trophies. Pep had a huge advantage as, in his first season in the top flight (2008-2009), he led **Barcelona** to their first ever treble and, by the middle of his second (2009-2010), he had already added three more titles to the **Camp Nou** trophy cabinet. By the time '**Kloppo**' won his first **Bundesliga** in 2011, the Spaniard had already accumulated ten of the 33 currently holds. To date, **the German has won 'only' twelve.**

Curiously, there are few major finals in which they have met. The first of them, in the 2014 **German Cup** (0-2), went Pep's way, as did the last one, the 2019 **Community Shield** (1-1, 4-5 on penalties), a trophy that they will play each other again on 30th July 2022. It will be the perfect appetizer ahead of a new **Premier League** season that looks exciting and the opportunity to break the 'technical tie' they hold in these matches thanks to the **German Super Cups** of 2013 and 2014 that Klopp won.



Clash of the titans

Klopp, Guardiola's worst nightmare

JÜRGEN KLOPP vs PEP GUARDIOLA:

	GAMES	WINS	DRAW	LOSSES	GOALS SCORED / 90'	GOALS CONCEDED / 90'	GAMES SCORING	CLEAN SHEETS
	8	3	1	4	1.4	1.4	62.50%	25.00%
	16	6	6	4	1.6	1.8	81.25%	18.75%
TOTAL	24	9	7	8	1.5	1.7	75.00%	20.83%

37.50%

W

29.17%

D

33.33%

L

MANAGERS* WHO FACED EACH OTHER MOST

P. Guardiola vs J. Mourinho



11 W 26 GP 8 W

C. Ancelotti vs L. Spalletti



8 W 25 GP 12 W

J. Klopp vs P. Guardiola



9 W 24 GP 8 W

M. Pochettino vs P. Guardiola



5 W 24 GP 14 W

*On duty managers from the top European leagues

KLOPP AGAINST OTHER MANAGERS IN OFFICIAL COMPETITIONS

MOST GAMES PLAYED	MOST WINS	MOST LOSSES	MOST GOALS FOR	MOST GOALS AGAINST
Pep Guardiola 24	Dieter Hecking 11	Pep Guardiola 8	Dieter Hecking 45	Pep Guardiola 40
Dieter Hecking 21	Eddie Howe 10	Felix Magath 8	Pep Guardiola 36	Dieter Hecking 28
Thomas Schaaf 19	Pep Guardiola 9	Thomas Schaaf 7	Eddie Howe 31	Felix Magath 28
Thomas Tuchel 19	Thomas Schaaf 9	Carlo Ancelotti 5		
	Thomas Tuchel 9	Dieter Hecking 5		
		Ralf Rangnick 5		



QUOTE. 1. As a verb, it means to repeat or to copy out words from a text or speech written or spoken by another person. **2.** As a noun, it is a quotation from a text or speech. **Jürgen Klopp's** career is plenty of funny (and not so funny) ones.



Quotes

From the moment he had to face questions from the press every week - up to three times on more than one occasion - **Jürgen Klopp** has delighted us with small doses of **humour** and **geniality** through his quotes. There is no shortage of compilations to date of the German coach's **famous quotes** - some of which have already appeared in this report - and we are unlikely to see him ever bite his tongue. He did not so, for example, after the signing of his former pupil, **Shinji Kagawa**, by **Manchester United**.

"Is one of the best players in the world, and he now plays 20 minutes - on the left wing! My heart breaks. Really, **I have tears in my eyes**", declared '**Kloppo**', who wasn't even coaching Liverpool at that time and was already 'hitting out' at the **Red Devils**! And, although his players are the focus of most of his jokes, criticism and praise, there have been more than a few occasions when he has had to talk about himself. He unwittingly proclaimed himself '**The Normal One**' on his first day as **Liverpool** manager, but he has never been one for false modesty.. "I am not saying I am the best manager in the world. **But I'm quite good**", he once said.

His reputation as a group manager was also a topic of conversation at the press conference. "**My biggest skill is common sense**. I understand life", said the German coach at the time, who also admitted that "**crazy players love me** - I don't know why." A born motivator, he delivered one of his greatest quotes in the hours leading up to his first European final, in 2013, which would slip out of his mouth: "**The only way to reach a dream is to do it bravely.**"

His constant praise for **Pep Guardiola**, **Lionel Messi** and **Pele** and his criticism of **FIFA** and **UEFA** are constantly mixed with curious personal and not so personal anecdotes that usually catch journalists by surprise. One of the most talked about is how he knew he could replace Brendan Rodgers. "I heard from my agent that **Liverpool** is interested and I felt immediately, 'Oh God'. **It's like when I met my wife - I saw her and thought 'OK, I marry her'**, and it was like that with the club. It felt right from the first moment."

"Money isn't the most important thing. It is important, of course. I am not Mahatma Gandhi."

"Messi is the best. There must be life out there somewhere, on some other planet. Because he is too good and we are just too bad for him."

"I have no problem if someone wants to hug me – if I know him!"

"When I was a player, I played in empty stadiums – they [fans] were not banned, they were only not interested in the football we played!"

"Only stupid people are changed by success."

"Everybody in the stadium has to be in absolutely top shape. The guys who sell the hot dogs has to be in top shape."

"I have a second pair of glasses, but I can't find them. It's hard to find glasses without glasses!"

Jürgen Norbert Klopp







RENEW. 1. To make something new or to return it to its original state. 2. To re-establish or resume a relationship or something else that has been interrupted. 3. To resume, put back, or replace something. 4. To give new energy to do something.



Renewal

Jurgen Klopp's contract with **Liverpool** has long since become a major issue on the banks of the River **Mersey**. Specifically, since the German and his players ended a thirty-year drought in the **Premier League**. After renewing him for six years, until **2022**, nine months after landing in charge, the owners of the club, **Fenway Sports Group**, offered him another two seasons, until **2024**, just a few months before winning the coveted domestic title. For many Reds, however, a desperate countdown was beginning.

On more than few occasions '**Kloppo**' had made it clear that "I don't plan to retire in a dugout", implying that he would not follow in the footsteps of **Roy Hodgson** or **Claudio Ranieri**, who continued to coach past the age at which any ordinary person would retire. He had managed **Mainz 05** and **Borussia Dortmund** for seven seasons, If he fulfilled his new contract, he would have coached Liverpool for eight and a half seasons. **Was there a chance he would anticipate his farewell?** If he did it in **North Rhine-Westphalia**, when he was no longer considered the ideal man for the job, why wouldn't he also do it at **Anfield**, if it came to that?

There was not a single press conference during the 2021-2022 season in which Klopp was not questioned on the subject. The German was even annoyed on occasions, in fact, despite his usual sense of humour. The insistence was starting to be annoying, but the fans needed to know whether the architect of one of the best **Liverpool** ever would be leaving soon, who would replace him (**Steven Gerrard's** contract with **Aston Villa** expires in 2022) and whether his departure would coincide with that of a generation of excellent players who would, by then, be facing the inevitable final stretch of their football careers. The answers, against all odds, would come soon.

"Are we really leaving here in two years?" was the question **Ulla Sandrock** asked her husband, Jurgen Klopp, one ordinary morning. The writer and the former footballer had found in **Liverpool**, in general, and **Formby**, in particular, the ideal place to make a life for themselves. She wanted to stay longer. He agreed without complaint.



It did not take long for events to develop. After a brief discussion with his wife, according to the media reports at the time, **Jurgen Klopp** called his agent, **Marc Kosicke**, to say that he would be willing to sign a new contract if ther club were willing to do so. The news sent **Fenway Sports Group's** headquarters in **Boston**, Massachusetts, into a frenzy, and they set about making their manager's wishes come true: two more years on his contract (his contact was set to expire in 2024) and **a considerable pay rise... for his coaching staff!** His financial conditions will remain unchanged until the end of his contract in **2026**.

The rumour began to spread in the early hours of the morning of 28th April 2022 on social media. By then, Klopp had already contacted **Peter Krawietz**, **Vitor Matos** and **Pepjin Lijnders** to see if they would like to stay with him another four years, and the answer was a resounding 'yes'. A few hours later, '**Kloppo**' himself spoke to **Liverpool** fans to confirm what had been on the table all day. In an interview a few days later with 'The Athletic', **Tom Werner**, the British club's chairman, admitted that "**I held my breath until it happened**" despite knowing first-hand of the German manager's willingness to extend the adventure he began in October 2015 and which could see him surpass the legendary **Bob Paisley's** time at the club.

"Nobody wants to think about the day when Jurgen Klopp is no longer the coach of this team," Werner told the media, probably aware that the options to replace the German in the medium term are rather limited. For the time being, **the club has four more years** to at least try to do so.

History of Anfield

Most faithful managers to Liverpool

UNTIL 30th JUNE 2022

UNTIL 30th JUNE 2026

	SEASONS	TIME IN CHARGE
🇬🇧 Tom Watson	1896 - 1915	18 years, 9 months
🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿 Bill Shankly	1959 - 1974	14 years, 7 months
🇬🇧 George Kay	1936 - 1951	14 years, 5 months
🇬🇧 Bob Paisley	1974 - 1983	8 years, 11 months
🇬🇧 George Patterson	1928 - 1936	8 years, 5 months
🇩🇪 JÜRGEN KLOPP	2015 - 2022	6 years, 8 months
🇪🇸 Rafa Benítez	2004 - 2010	6 years
🇫🇷 Gerard Houllier	1998 - 2004	5 years, 10 months
🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿 Kenny Dalglish	1985 - 1991	5 years, 7 months
🇬🇧 Don Welsh	1951 - 1956	5 years, 2 months

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🇩🇪 JÜRGEN KLOPP	2015 - 2026	10 years, 8 months
🇬🇧 Bob Paisley	1974 - 1983	8 years, 11 months
🇬🇧 George Patterson	1928 - 1936	8 years, 5 months
🇪🇸 Rafa Benítez	2004 - 2010	6 years
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🇬🇧 Don Welsh	1951 - 1956	5 years, 2 months





SEVILLA FC. One of the two teams that divide Sevillian football. Founded in **1890**, they have dominated the **Europa League**, previously named UEFA Cup, by winning the competition **six times**. They are also the team that have historically been **Jurgen Klopp's** Achilles heel.



Sevilla

Every coach has their achilles heel. **Jurgen Klopp's** finds itself in the lower reaches of Europe. The southern Spanish side, **Sevilla**, have been his bane for years. **Juventus**, **Jahn Regensburg**, **Vlebert** and **Sion** have also never lost to the man from Stuttgart. But, a closer look into the details reveals that they have all only met him once or twice. **The Andalusian club** have been a serious stumbling block: no wins in seven meetings with three different teams, as well as in two different competitions (**Champions League** & **Europa League**).

His most painful loss to the Sevillians was when he was in charge of **Mainz 05**. Klopp's wild card side met Juande Ramos' imperious team in the **Europa League** round of 32. The first leg in **Seville** ended 0-0. However, Mainz fell 0-2 in front at home in the return fixture thanks to a **Kanoute** brace. He has been the German's main tormentor along with **Ben Yedder** (both players with three goals each). Of the three teams that Klopp has managed, his **Mainz** side were the only ones not to score a goal against the Andalusians. The most painful part of this story is the fact that Mainz's hopes of Europa League glory were dashed. Among the players in that squad was **Marco Rose**, the left-back who was already preparing to become a manager - playing in the group stages of Europe's second biggest competition.

This was a pill that **Klopp** would have to swallow five years later. This is despite another home and away tie against **Sevilla** with a stronger **Borussia Dortmund** team. Amongst the squad's armory were players like: **Lewandowski**, Kagawa, Sahin, **Hummels**, Subotic, **Weidenfeller**... The meet occurred in the Europa League group stages, just before the knock-out rounds. With **Paris Saint-Germain** leading the group, the Germans and the Spaniards were battling for the remaining ticket in the **Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan**. Despite Kagawa's early goal (4'), **Romario** and once again, **Kanoute** turned the game around in three minutes. Before the break, Subotic drew level. The match ended 2-2. A result that ultimately served **Gregorio Manzano** better than it did Klopp. In the first leg, in the renamed **Westfalenstadion (Signal Iduna Park)**, the Sevillians won 0-1.

The following dose of 'kryptonite' was the most painful of them all for **Klopp**. After being given the chance to manage **Liverpool**, he looked ready to lift his first title with them seven months later. He faced a side led by a mastermind of the competition, **Unai Emery**, in the **Europa League** final at **St. Jakob-Park**. Again Jurgen took a hammer blow. **Daniel Sturridge** painted the perfect picture after scoring in the 35th minute, but the Sevillians came back to haunt Klopp once more in the second half. **Kevin Gameiro** and a **Coke** brace snatched the trophy from The Reds.

In the 2017/18 Champions League, fate would pair the teams once more. They appeared in a forgiving group with **Spartak Moscow** and **Maribor**. **Klopp's** struggles continued, this time with **Eduardo Berizzo** at the Sevilla helm. However, a 2-2 draw in the first leg and 3-3 result in the second, did not prevent Liverpool from qualifying as group winners. How that tournament ended in **Kiev** is well known amongst Liverpool and football fans alike.

Sevilla have become somewhat of a historical figure for the manager. They are the **third highest scoring team against him** (over at least three matches), with an average of **1.86**/game. The other two are **Greuther Furth** (2.0) and **Bayern Munich** (1.87). Sevilla also rank third on the list of clubs that Klopp's teams have failed to score against across all meetings (**42.86%**). However, considering the quality of Klopp's current team, it is only a matter of time before he **gets his revenge** on Sevilla. Not often do we see a team choke so badly.



Indomitable

Jürgen Klopp's black beast

KLOPP GAMES AGAINST SEVILLA FC

2005/2006

0 0

Europa League
vs Juande Ramos

2005/2006

0 2

Europa League
vs Juande Ramos

2010/2011

0 1

Europa League
vs Gregorio Manzano

2010/2011

2 2

Europa League
vs Gregorio Manzano

2015/2016

1 3

Europa League
vs Unai Emery

2017/2018

2 2

Champions League
vs Eduardo Berizzo

2017/2018

3 3

Champions League
vs Eduardo Berizzo

MOST GOALS SCORED AGAINST KLOPP'S TEAMS

	GP	⚽/90'
Greuther Fürth	12	2
Bayern München	31	1.87
Sevilla	7	1.86
Aston Villa	9	1.78
Stuttgart	20	1.75

MOST DIFFICULT TEAMS TO SCORE

	GP	% sin marcar
Kickers Offenbach FC	3	66.67
Arminia Bielefeld	12	50
Sevilla	7	42.86
Real Madrid	10	40
Alemannia Aachen	11	36.36







TUCHEL, THOMAS. *Ex footballer and now manager, born on 29th August 1973. Current **Chelsea manager** after previous seasons at **Mainz 05**, **Borussia Dortmund** and **PSG**. Injury forced him to hang up his boots earlier than planned. Considered as **Jurgen Klopp's** 'heir'.*



Tuchel, Thomas

As what will occur one day at **Liverpool**, **Jurgen Klopp** broke **Borussia Dortmund** fans' hearts by deciding that he no longer wanted to manage the team. This happened in April 2015. As it is today, the managerial market was thin, and so a perfect replacement for Klopp was hard to find, but not impossible. Because of this, **Michael Zorc**, sporting director of Dortmund, decided to repeat what he had done in signing Klopp seven years previously: place a young talent at the helm. This came in the form of **Thomas Tuchel**.

The young, lesser known **42 year old** manager had led **Mainz 05** to notable success between 2009 and 2014. Before this, he began his playing career in **Augsburg's** academy. However, he was released from the club and his time on the pitch was cut short by a serious injury at 24 years of age when he was playing for **SSV Ulm**. Following this, **Ralf Rangnick**, at the time a young and promising coach, gave Tuchel a second chance in the beautiful game by appointing him as **Stuttgart's** youth team manager in the year 2000. Five years later, he repaid Rangnick's faith and led his youth team side to league champions.

Despite his success and development of players such as **Mario Gomez** and **Holger Badstuber**, among others, the club decided not to renew his contract. However, his complex tactical knowledge caught the attention of **Andreas Retting**, **Augsburg's** sporting director. Tuchel was then named academy coordinator at the club. Three years later, in 2007, he took the reins of the reserve team, in which **Julian Nagelsmann** played. Nagelsmann was promoted to a scout role a year later after suffering a career ending injury.

A number of professional teams expressed great interest in his capabilities, despite him having a notorious character. This in fact led him to **receiving fines on multiple occasions** for criticizing referees. However, this did nothing to impede **Christian Heidel's** decision in making him Mainz 05 head coach. This came after **Jurgen Klopp** had left his team for **Borussia Dortmund**, who had succeeded **Jorn Andersen**, the architect of **Mainz's** return to the **Bundesliga**.

In process

No choice against the master

KLOPP vs TUCHEL:

	GAMES	WINS	% VICTORIES	DRAWS	LOSSES	GS/90'	GC/90'	GAME SCORING	CLEANSHEETS
	10	7	70.00%	2	1	1.80	0.80	80.00%	30.00%
	9	2	22.22%	5	2	1.33	1.33	66.67%	22.22%
TOTAL	19	9	47.37%	7	3	1.58	1.05	73.68%	26.32%

Tuchel improved **Mainz 05's** results whilst Klopp was managing at the heights of German football. He always easily achieved league survival as well as two trips to the **Europa League**. His similarities to his predecessor grew closer still after his arrival at **Signal Iduna Park**. He won the **German Cup** there... but not the hearts of the fans. His bosses, **Michael Zorc** and **Hans-Joachim Watzke**, were not fond of him either and they lost all confidence in Tuchel after he criticized their transfer business. But, with this being said, he earned praise from **Pep Guardiola**, one of his fiercest managerial rivals, and lifted the **Champions League** in 2021.

As far as Klopp is concerned, they are only similar in the clubs they have managed. This is because they had varying degrees of success at **Mainz** and **Dortmund**. This is combined with the fact that in **19** meetings between the two, the **Liverpool** manager has won **47.37%** of them, losing on just three occasions to the man many consider as Klopp's footballing heir. Tuchel's managerial influences can be seen to come from **Ralf Rangnick** and **Pep Guardiola**. Meanwhile, **Klopp** himself has been an example to follow. However, this does not take away from the fact that the Dortmund fans saw, and expected him to be 'the new Klopp'.

However, last season saw Klopp's **Liverpool** sow the seed of what could be a true battle of footballing brains for years to come. The Reds first downed Tuchel's **Chelsea** in the **Carabao Cup** final, and then beat them to the **FA Cup** on penalties for a second time in the same season; both matches at **Wembley**. **The Blues** will now have it in for the current English and European runners up.

Tuchel being capable of taking Klopp's place as **Manchester City's** main rival is a different story.

Shared heritage

Their best common pupils



	MAXELO	GAMES		GOALS	
		KLOPP	TUCHEL	KLOPP	TUCHEL
P. Aubameyang	94	94	95	41	79
M. Reus	91	122	67	53	36
M. Hummels	91	244	50	22	3
L. Piszczek	90	191	77	9	7
H. Mkhitaryan	88	88	52	18	23
M. Ginter	87	20	82	0	4
S. Kagawa	87	109	76	35	19
N. Sahin	86	179	21	22	1
R. Weidenfeller	86	280	25	282*	34*
M. Schmelzer	86	233	86	4	1
N. Subotić	85	281	11	22	0
M. Götze	85	116	16	31	2
I. Gündogan	85	117	40	12	3
Sokratis	84	74	81	3	4
K. Kampl	82	16	3	0	0
N. Noveski	81	133	167	5	4
S. Bender	81	181	43	4	0
L. Karius	79	49	24	47*	31*
J. Hofmann	79	45	14	3	2
A. Ramos	78	29	50	6	13

*Goals conceded



MANCHESTER UNITED FC. Founded on 24th April **1902**, the evolution of **Newton Heath LYR Football Club** and the most lauded club in English football. One half of the Northwest Derby with **Liverpool**. A happy hunting ground for **The Reds** since the arrival of **Jurgen Klopp**.



United, Manchester

When Klopp arrived at **Anfield**, he had a lot of work to do, and the remnants of previous projects to deal with. Another challenge he faced was one that was truly felt in the hearts of Liverpool fans. This being, to be the best in the north-west of England after years of **Manchester United** dominance. The **rivalry** began between workers from the two cities at the start of the 19th century and it soon translated onto the football pitch. Under the current Premier League format (starting in the 92/93 season), the **Red Devils** had the competition by the throat: **thirteen** titles to Liverpool's zero. In the last two decades, **Manchester City** rose to join the fight. However, with the German at the helm, this situation has been flipped on its head.

Considering the Premier League facts and figures before Klopp took charge of Liverpool, **Manchester United** were the team to have beaten The Reds the most times in the competition: **30** out of **55** meets, **54.55%**. To put this into context, **Chelsea** were the other team who had beaten The Reds more times than they lost, but this rivalry was much closer (**26-23**). The arrival of the ex **Borussia Dortmund** manager changed it all. Since he took the reins at Liverpool, he has only lost **twice** in **thirteen** league meetings with United, winning **five** of them. Adding to this an **FA Cup** clash and two **Europa League** meetings, Klopp's record against The Red Devils stands at **three** losses and **six** wins.

The events of last season are a true reflection of how things have changed. In their first meeting, the Liverpudlians inflicted a painful **0-5** defeat on the Mancunians. This was a result that instantly wrote itself into the **North-west Derby** history books. A scoreline that big had never before been achieved. Liverpool proved this was not a fluke in the return match after winning **4-0**. This proves just how much Klopp has uprooted 'the establishment'. Since his first match in the Premier League, Klopp has won a total of **556** points with **The Reds**. United have earned **464**. On average, his Liverpool side have won **13.1** points more in every season he has been manager.

That's all.

Nevertheless, this forward progression in the league has not culminated in many trophies. In fact, **Liverpool** have won 'just one' **Premier League** title since Klopp took over. However, this is still one more than **Manchester United** have managed over the same period. Moreover, The Reds' average league finishing position during Klopp's seven year reign is third. Meanwhile **The Red Devil's** is fourth. Added to this, is the fact that the man from **Stuttgart** has been battling with his good friend Pep Guardiola over the last four campaigns in an intense title fight. One that saw last season's race for first go down to the final day of the season.

In the pre-Klopp era, **Liverpool** scored **1.15** goals and conceded **1.42** in their meetings with their neighbors from **Manchester**. The German's influence has flipped this on its head. Now, it is **1.62** to **0.62**. Klopp's Liverpool side have conceded just one goal against Manchester United in the **Premier League** since he arrived. Highlighting the man from Stuttgart's dominance further, is the fact that four different coaches at United have faced him: **Ole-Gunnar Solskjaer** (6 matches), **Jose Mourinho** (5), **Louis Van Gaal** (1) and **Ralph Rangnick** (1). From this list, only the Portuguese and the Dutchman managed to defeat Klopp in the domestic league. Mourinho did so **2-1** in the 2017/18 season, while Van Gaal managed a **3-1** victory at the start of the 2015/16 campaign.

Solskjaer was the one to be on the receiving end of Klopp's fury the most times. In three out of their six encounters, his United side conceded more than one goal. In total, Klopp's Liverpool **scored twelve goals** in said meetings.



Kings of the North West

Liverpool claim the throne under Klopp

JÜRGEN KLOPP vs MANCHESTER UNITED:

	GAMES	WINS	DRAWS	LOSSES	GOALS SCORED / 90'	GOALS CONCEDED / 90'	GAMES SCORING	CLEAN SHEETS
Premier League	13	5	6	2	1.62	0.62	61.54%	53.85%
Europa League	2	1	1	0	1.5	0.5	100%	50%
FA Cup	1	0	0	1	2	3	100%	0%
TOTAL	16	6	7	3	1.63	0.75	68.75%	50%

37.50%

W

43.75%

D

18.75%

L

JÜRGEN KLOPP vs ENGLISH TEAMS

	GP	WINS	DRAWS	LOSSES	GOALS SCORED / 90'	GOALS CONCEDED / 90'
Arsenal	24	50%	33.33%	16.67%	2.21	1.21
Man. City	21	42.86%	38.1%	19.05%	1.67	1.52
Chelsea	19	31.58%	47.37%	21.05%	1.37	1.11
Southampton	17	58.82%	17.65%	23.53%	2	0.65
Tottenham Hotspur	16	56.25%	37.5%	6.25%	1.63	1.06
Man. Utd	16	37.5%	43.75%	18.75%	1.63	0.75
Leicester	16	56.25%	12.5%	31.25%	1.81	1.31
Everton	15	60%	33.33%	6.67%	1.73	0.67
West Ham	15	60%	20%	20%	2.2	1.07
Crystal Palace	14	85.71%	0%	14.29%	2.71	0.93
Newcastle	12	58.33%	33.33%	8.33%	1.92	0.92
Watford	12	75%	8.33%	16.67%	2.83	0.83
Burnley	12	66.67%	16.67%	16.67%	1.83	0.83
AFC Bournemouth	10	80%	10%	10%	2.7	0.8
Brighton & Hove Albion	10	70%	20%	10%	2.1	0.7
Wolves	10	80%	0.00%	20%	1.8	0.6

*Premier League teams he has faced 10 times at least



2nd English teams he has beaten the least
2nd English team he has drawn against the most
5th English team he has scored against the least





VAN DIJK, VIRGIL. Dutch footballer born in **Breda** on 8th July 1991. International player for **The Netherlands**, he developed on an upward trajectory at the clubs of **Groningen**, **Celtic** y **Southampton**. He is considered as one of the best centrebacks **Premier League** history.



Van Dijk, Virgil

Although **Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool** will mostly be remembered for its front three of **Roberto Firmino**, **Sadio Mane** and **Mohamed Salah**, one of his most important and successful additions to his team was centreback, **Virgil Van Dijk**. It can be safely said that the Dutchman has been to the Anfield outfit what **Robert Lewandowski** was to Klopp's **Borussia Dortmund**: the key piece in the puzzle, the glue that binds everything and everyone together. The risks that the English club took in signing him were not exactly small either.

In summer 2017, the **Premier League** launched an investigation after **Southampton** accused **Liverpool** of making "illegal contact" with the player. The side from **Melwood** quickly played innocent and excused themselves of "any case of misunderstanding" which may have happened. **Michael Edwards** was then forced to stop any transfer dealings ahead of the **2017/18** season. This was in order to avoid the club from being sanctioned. Therefore, keeping their options open to grant both the manager's and the player's wishes in the future.

Six months later, in January 2018, **Virgil Van Dijk** became the most expensive centreback in the history of world football at a cost of **89.05 million euros**. As of today, only **Manchester United's Harry Maguire** came at a higher cost than him, but only by a slight margin. His incorporation ahead of the second half of the season was key in Liverpool's achievement of fourth place. On top of this, the Dutchman helped the Merseyside club reach the first of their three **Champions League** finals that they have reached under **Jurgen Klopp's** direction.

The following season, **Liverpool** finally got their hands on the Champions League trophy after a disappointing domestic campaign. In said season, The **Reds** kept a clean sheet in **50.98%** of their **51 matches** (26) in which Van Dijk played. In the 2021/22 campaign, over the same number of matches, this figure was improved, sitting at **56.86%** (29). This coincided with being **Premier League** and Champions League runners up, as well as winning the **Carabao Cup** and **FA Cup**.



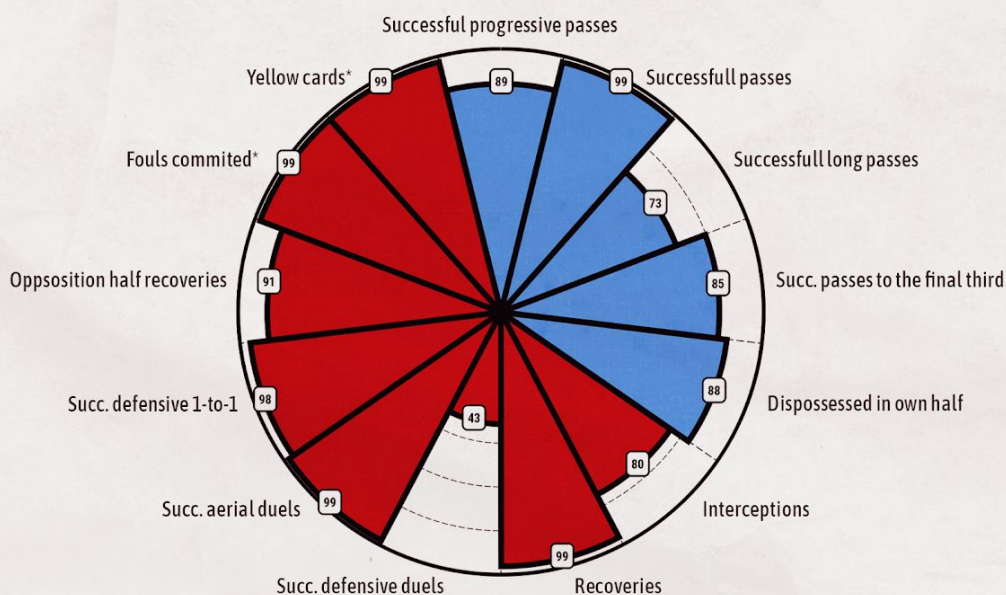
In October 2020, a few months after the team from **Anfield Road** lifted their first domestic league title in thirty years, **Jordan Pickford** inflicted a serious injury on Van Dijk. This caused a chasm in the **Liverpool** back line. Even with **Alisson Becker** between the sticks, The Reds conceded at least one goal in **60%** of their matches. More telling still, was that they conceded in **75%** of their matches in the following season after Van Dijk made his return and **only missed twelve matches**. **Jurgen Klopp** can be thankful for having such a 'beast' in his arsenal. Without him, the team have a **clean sheet** rate of **38.61%**. However, with the '**Giant of Breda**' in the side, this statistic is **45.86%**.

Additional analytics are telling of his influence on Liverpool and the world of football further still. According to **BeSoccer Pro**, **Virgil Van Dijk** has been the best player in his position in terms of **aerial duels won**, number of **recoveries** and **successful passes** per 90 minutes in all competitions since joining the English side. He has also committed the fewest **fouls** and received the fewest **yellow cards**. Added to this, he is not far behind the world leaders in **defensive one on one duels**.

His influence in The **Klopp** System is such that his new teammates instantly saw him as the third captain of the team. And so, the club took no time at all in offering him a long term contract in 2021, which runs until **2025**. This is in line with **Fabinho** (2026), **Alisson Becker** (2027), **Trent Alexander-Arnold** (2025) and club captain, **Jordan Henderson** (2025). His broad vision of play, tactical comprehension, physical power, passing precision and ability to snuff out danger in front of his own goalkeeper have made him a unanimously agreed candidate for the **Premier League's Hall of Fame** in the not so distant future.

The colossus from Breda

His performance in official competitions under Klopp



■ PASSING ■ DEFENSIVE

**Inverted metrics; the higher the percentile, less fouls have been committed and less cards have been shown*







WANDA METROPOLITANO. *New home of Atletico Madrid since 16th September 2017, the date on which they played their first match there. It has a capacity of **68,456** and is a **UEFA** certified venue to host events of the highest order, like the **Champions League** final.*



Wanda Metropolitano

Klopp's greatest work of art appeared in East **Madrid**, in the **Wanda Metropolitano**. On 1st June 2019, Liverpool lifted their sixth **European Cup**; the German manager's first. The 'Holy Grail' Liverpool generation was worthy of such achievement. That day, Klopp also overcame his **stigma of losing** finals, something which had haunted him for years. His team that season (like every season) was more of a crushing machine than a pretty, ball-playing side. However, they did not exactly blow the competition away. They lost four matches on their way to the final, including a **3-0** defeat in the semi-final first leg at the **Camp Nou**. But, they left jaws dropping in the second leg after turning the tie around with a **4-0** win. Without doubt, a **Champions League 'crafted by Klopp'**.

With **Real Madrid** as an exception, there has never been a team to have reached the final of the tournament after losing so many times in the same edition of the competition. Usually, two losses results in elimination. In the final round of group stage fixtures, after having lost three away matches, a last ditch win against **Napoli** saw them reach the round of 16. **Alisson's** save against **Milik** during that game will live long in the memory of any Reds fan. The famous 4-0 against Barcelona will also never be forgotten by Liverpool and football fans alike. It was neither **Salah** nor **Firmino**, but **Wijnaldum** and **Origi** who appeared as heroes that day. One cannot also forget **Alexander-Arnold's** genius from the corner flag in that game.

That was **Liverpool** in a nutshell. However, they also imposed their dominance throughout their journey to the semifinals. They beat **Paris Saint-Germain** 3-2, **Red Star** 4-0, an unforgettable 1-3 result instigated by **Sadio Mane** against his now current club, **Bayern Munich**, and, the famous front three inflicted a 1-4 defeat on **Porto**.

The statistics of that squad reflect just how expertly Klopp was able to conduct his players to **all sing from the same hymn sheet**. His top goalscorer, **Mohamed Salah**, did not get more than five. **Nine other players made up their total of 25** in the tournament: Mane (4), Firmino (4), Origi (3), Wijnaldum (2), Van Dijk (2), Milner (2), Keita and Sturridge.

That **Liverpool** side scored almost two goals a game on average (**1.85**). Their matches were also exciting contests, as they conceded in seven of their thirteen games, an average of **0.92** per duel. Also, during that edition of the tournament, they were the team that **required the fewest shots on goal to score per game** with a figure of just six.

Although Salah was Klopp's top goalscorer, his trump card, as we have seen in the pages previous, was **Divock Origi**. The hero that marked the turnaround against Barcelona averaged **1.24** goals per 90 minutes played and was the best player at opening the scoring (**0.41**). However, the best statistic in terms of match winning goals went to **Roberto Firmino** (**0.12**). Another player who cannot be left out of the offensive figures is **Trent Alexander-Arnold**, a weapon down the right wing and from dead ball situations. He assisted the most goals (**4**), made **0.98** key passes per 90 minutes and completed **2.05** crosses a game in the 2018/19 **Champions League**.

All of this intensity and dominance came to a head in the final at the Metropolitano. However, the scoreline (the 2-0 did not come until the 87th minute) did not reflect this as much as the stats did: **14** shots (**8** on target), **9** from inside the area; **64%** possession ; and **408** passes completed to **Tottenham's 175**. Such dominance in the final may have had something to do with Jurgen Klopp's assistant, **Pepijn Lijnders**, organising a secret friendly against **Benfica B** during the training camp in **Marbella** leading up to the match. They used similar tactics to **Mauricio Pochettino** at the time.



ROAD TO MADRID

2018-2019 Champions League winners' stats

	Total	Average
Games	13	
Wins	8	61.54%
Draws	1	7.69%
Losses	4	30.77%
Goals scored	24	1.85
Goals conceded	12	0.92
Games scoring	9	69.23%
Clean sheets	6	46.15%

Most goals scored

Salah
5


Most assists made

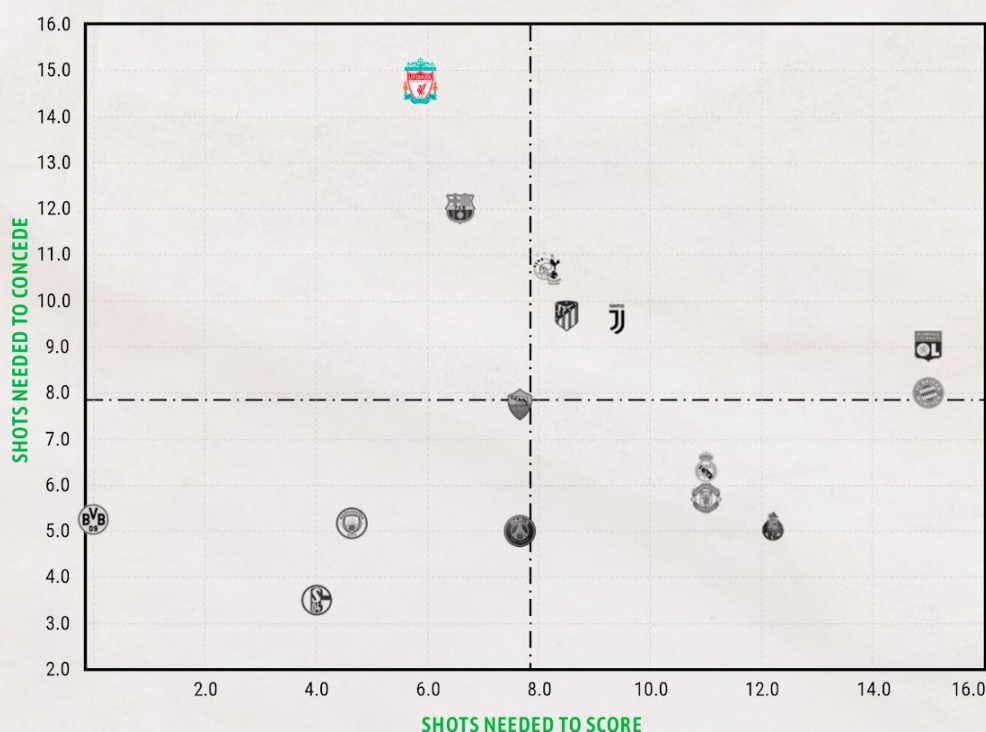
Alexander-Arnold
4


Hard to beat

Fastness led Liverpool to their sixth European Cup

SHOTS NEEDED TO SCORE vs SHOTS NEEDED TO CONCEDE

2018-2019 UEFA Champions League per game stats



2018-2019 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAYERS' STATS

per 90 minutes

GOALS D. Origi 1.24	ASSISTS Alexander-Arnold 0.39	SHOTS IN THE POST M. Salah 0.17	WINNER GOALS R. Firmino 0.12
OPENER GOALS D. Origi 0.41	PENALTY GOALS J. Milner 0.2	SHOTS M. Salah 4.25	SHOTS ON TARGET M. Salah 1.45
KEY PASSES Alexander-Arnold 0.98	SUCC. DRIBBLES N. Keita 4.8	FOULS WON S. Mané 1.72	SUCC. PASSES Joe Gomez 58.85
FOULS COMMITTED Fabinho 2.23	CARDS SHOWN Fabinho 0.37	SUCC. CROSSES Alexander-Arnold 2.05	SUCC. AERIAL DUELS V. Van Dijk 3.42
INTERCEPTIONS J. Matip 8.25	SAVES Alisson 3.54	SAVES PER GOAL Alisson 3.83	% CLEAN SHEETS Alisson 46.2%



UEFA

CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE.





XENOPHILIA. Sympathy for a foreigner or foreigners. In terms of **Jurgen Klopp**, it is a word which can be used to explain how his treatment of foreign players in his **Mainz 05**, **Borussia Dortmund** and **Liverpool** teams has improved each individual's performances.



Xenophilia

Jurgen Klopp embracing **Sadio Mane**, **Robert Lewandowski**, **Thiago Alcantara**. The image has repeated itself throughout recent years and only the predicate has changed. We are of course talking about the special relationship that the German develops with his players. He maintains a special **aura of closeness** with them. This chemistry that he holds with his players has been a constant throughout his time as a manager. It can be said that he has developed a **special ability in dealing with foreign players**. The majority of those who have spent time with him, have seen their performance improve. There are of course exceptions, but they do not take away from the fact that Klopp has a father-like character which is able to capture the heart of a professional player.

To start with, he has worked with **78 players** of differing nationalities to his. **15** footballers at Mainz 05, **23** players at Borussia Dortmund and **30** men at Liverpool. Let's begin by using the best scale in measuring player performance that **BeSoccer Pro** has to offer: the **ELO**. The first insightful statistic is that **22 of those 78** footballers had an inferior ELO from their last match under Klopp in comparison to their first. Three players maintained the same score, while 53 showed an improved score. As always, this is according to our metrics.

Unsurprisingly, nine out of the 'Top 10' players with the highest ELO scores whilst being under Klopp's management, are from his current team, **Liverpool**. Moreover, seven out of said nine will play for him in the 22/23 season with the exceptions of **Wijnaldum** and **Mane**. **Robert Lewandowski** is the only one who sneaks in from another team. The Pole left everyone at **Borussia Dortmund** mourning his absence after he decided to move to Bayern Munich during his prime. In fact, despite this thinking, he has raised his bar of performance even higher in recent seasons. **Mane (94)**, **Salah (94)** and **Robertson (93)** complete the podium. **Alisson (92)** is the next player on the list before Lewandowski breaks the Liverpool streak. From there, **Virgil Van Dijk (91)** is next. Then: **Fabinho (88)**, **Wijnaldum (86)**, **Firmino (84)** and **Joel Matip (82)**.



In searching for the answer to which players have improved the most under Klopp's direction, we need look no further than **Mainz 05**. There, he took **Antonio da Silva**, the Brazilian attacking midfielder, from an ELO of 42, to an ELO of **78**, scored in his final match. He was not the only player who experienced a boost of 30 points or more. The Ukrainian, **Voronin**, also got a taste of this treatment who reached a high of 67 in the 02/03 season, and finished as Klopp's top goalscorer, not just in the team but also in the league. This was pivotal in **Mainz 05** achieving promotion to the **Bundesliga**. The third most improved player by the German manager was **Robert Lewandowski**. The Pole went **from 67 to 91 points** over the course of the four years he spent with him at Dortmund.

In the **Liverpool** ranks, the two full-backs of **Andy Robertson** and **Neco Williams** have experienced the **Klopp** boost the most after improving by **+19** and **+17** respectively. In fact, the Scotsman can be seen as a true reflection of the German's impact on **Anfield**. Klopp has raised many footballers to their best performances and in doing so, increased their value and grown the club. A prime example of this is **Coutinho**. He was sold to Barcelona for a fee of **135 million** euros. This was after the German coach had boosted his ELO score by 10 points, reaching a final value of **91**.

However, there have been a few examples that have gone against the grain. Klopp has experienced the devaluation of a handful of players. A clear example of this is **Xherdan Shaqiri**. He dropped 22 points under Klopp's watch, and **Simon Mignolet**, -21. Other examples are **Dede** (-16) and **Minamino** (-11).

'Kloppers' around the world

His best foreign players

		GAMES	FIRST GAME UNDER KLOPP		LAST GAME UNDER KLOPP		DIFFERENCE	
			ELO	AGE	ELO	AGE	ELO	AGE
 S. Mané		269	86	24	94	30	+8	+6
 M. Salah		254	89	25	94	29	+5	+4
 A. Robertson		224	74	23	93	28	+19	+5
 Alisson		184	86	25	92	29	+6	+4
 R. Lewandowski		187	67	21	91	25	+24	+4
 V. Van Dijk		181	82	26	91	30	+9	+4
 Fabinho		170	84	24	88	28	+4	+4
 G. Wijnaldum		237	84	25	86	30	+2	+5
 R. Firmino		320	74	24	84	30	+10	+6
 J. Matip		166	77	25	82	30	+5	+5
 L. Piszczek		191	71	25	78	29	+7	+4
 N. Sahin		179	65	19	74	26	+9	+7
 N. Noveski		133	57	25	70	29	+13	+4







YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE. Song written by **Richard Rodgers** and **Oscar Hammerstein** in 1945 for a musical. **Gerry & The Pacemakers'** version became **Liverpool's** club song in **1963** at the request of legendary manager and Scotsman, **Bill Shankly**.



You'll Never Walk Alone

The subject of **chemistry** has been handled previously in this report. Specifically, the bond the German creates between himself and others. **Jurgen Klopp** has maintained unity with his clubs, fans and coaching team throughout the years. This is in spite of the large salary differences between himself and the people around him. He has shown a serious **loyal** streak throughout his career. He continued at **Mainz 05** after the relegation, and he ignored the 'cat calls' from **Munich** and **Manchester**, and instead extended his contract with Liverpool until **2026**. He has given his all to the Merseyside club. That is where he feels most comfortable in guiding his harmonious footballing project.

Said contract extension with **Liverpool** is also a gesture of thanks. This is because, in no other post has Klopp felt such loyalty than that of the fans from **Anfield Road**. Through the highs and (not so frequent) lows, the Liverpool supporters have been by his side. A real point to consider is the fact that after so much time at the club, there has not been a slither of doubt from the fans in respect to Klopp's capabilities in directing the team. The tag **#KloppOut** has only ever been used on social media in a sarcastic manner when **The Reds** lost after an extensive run of victories. This is something that cannot be said of **Arsenal** legend, **Arsene Wenger's** final stage at the **London** club.

The death of his 81 year old mother, **Elisabeth**, in January 2021, was a telling time in terms of **Jurgen Klopp's** relationship with his fans. Due to **Coronavirus** restrictions, he was unable to attend his mother's funeral and so, the city of **Liverpool**, and those from **further afield**, wrote banners in support of the German manager at the most difficult of times. All of them expressed the same message: "**Jurgen, You'll Never Walk Alone**". It was without doubt, a watershed moment.

However, the Scousers' idolisation of him was tested after the loss to **Real Madrid** in the final of the last edition of the **Champions League**, which came just a week after also missing out on lifting the **Premier League** title by a single point, again to Pep Guardiola's City...

Jurgen Klopp's system of beliefs was supported to the core after half a million fans lined the streets of Liverpool to celebrate their heroes after yet another historic season. This was in spite of it ending in a week to forget. The scenes, painted with red flairs, confetti rain and world renowned DJ, Calvin Harris, spinning music, created a carnival atmosphere. This showed Klopp the true meaning of what it is to be a part of Liverpool Football Club. The famous line of "You'll Never Walk Alone" rang true whilst the players passed by their fans throughout the party, with everyone coming together in homage of the squad, coaching staff, and everyone else involved with the club.

"Without a shadow of a doubt, no club in the world – this world – that they lost the Champions League final the night before and the people arrive here in the shape they are, the mood they are. Absolutely outstanding. This is the best club in the world – I don't care what other people think!", declared a euphoric Klopp during the parade. His assistant, Pepijn Lijnders, accurately described what was happening along the banks of the Mersey: "Without doubt, there's something more important than winning: fans being proud of you even when you lose".

Although few doubted it, these scenes not only confirmed the Liverpool fans as some of the best in the world, but also Jurgen Klopp as one of the most loved managers at the club in its 130 years of history. Whether or not he reaches the full potential of his talent as a coach in the coming years with his outstanding squad, what seems certain is that he will be backed by the unconditional support of the Liverpool fans who do not want to see anyone else but him directing the team.







ZORC, MICHAEL. *Ex player and Sporting Director. A true example of a **One Club Man** for Borussia Dortmund. He has been a stalwart of the club both on and off the pitch over the last four decades. He handed over his role to **Sebastian Kehl** ahead of the 2022/23 season.*



Zorc, Michael

It would be wrong to end this report without analyzing the impact of **Michael Zorc** not only on **Jurgen Klopp's** managerial career, but also on the history of **Borussia Dortmund**. Dortmund is his boyhood club and the institution to which he has given his heart and soul over the last 41 years of his life. He played his debut for the first team in **1981** and finally, after the conclusion of the 2021/22 season, he left his role as **Sporting Director**. A true **one club man** who brought success to the famous German outfit from North Rhine-Westphalia both on and off the pitch.

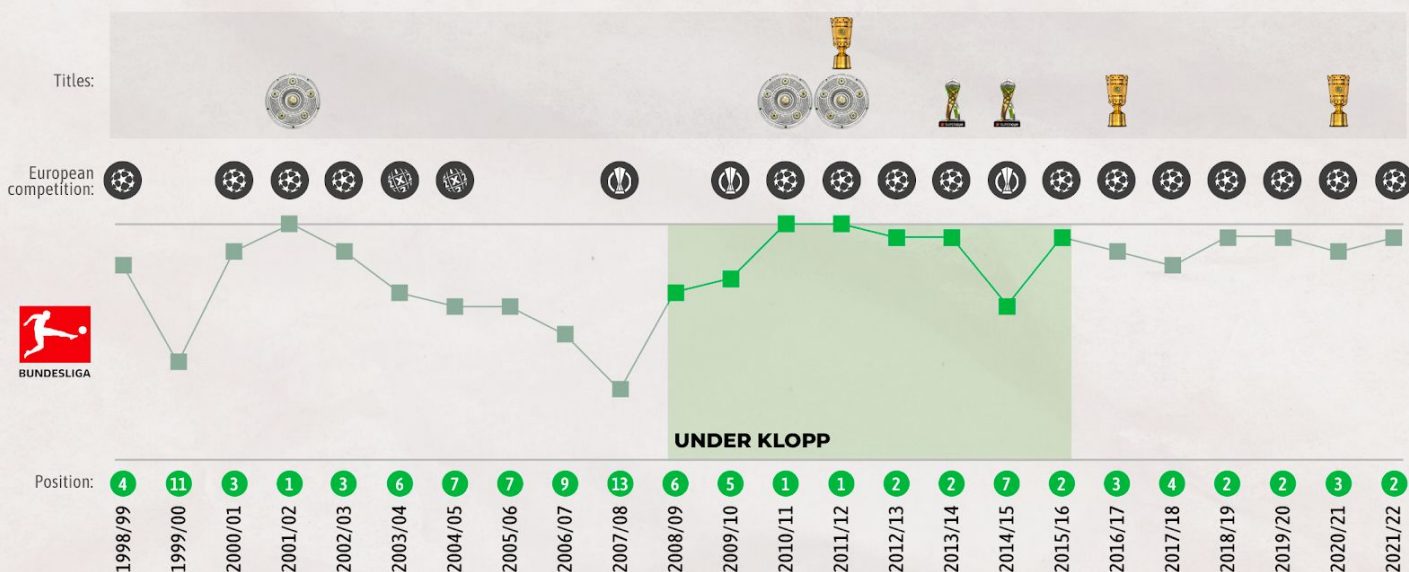
At 59 years old, Zorc has left a true legacy behind him after a long footballing career in **North Rhine-Westphalia**. He played in **463 matches**, scoring a total of **131 goals**. He won two **Bundesligas** with the club, a **German Cup**, two national **Supercups**, the extinct **Intercontinental Cup**, and Dortmund's only **Champions League** title, which currently stands proud in the club museum. His rise as a Dortmund player began at the start of the 1980s, when he was crowned European under 18 champion, as well as winning the under 20 World Cup with his country, for whom he never represented at the highest level.

In **1998**, after hanging up his boots aged 35, **Michael Zorc** gave his services to the club in a different light. He took charge of the Sporting Director role. Everything was going smoothly until **2003** when the results on the pitch began to dwindle. After fighting regularly for the domestic title and playing in Europe's most elite club competition, **Dortmund** saw themselves playing in the lowly **Intertoto Cup** and finishing in mid-table of the Bundesliga. However, it was the financial state of the club that was in real disarray.

In **2004**, due to the club's inability to afford their players' wages, the German outfit received a **loan** worth **two million euros** from arch rivals **Bayern Munich**. The loan was interest free and so it provided just what the club required financially considering the economic dead end it found itself in. At the end of the Noughties, Dortmund were more than **250 million euros** in debt. Zorc's task was therefore a clear one: sign cheap players and sell smartly.

The Zorc effect

Two decades of endless rebuilding



- Champions League
- Europa League
- Intertoto Cup
- Bundesliga
- DFL Pokal
- DFL-Supercup



A 'magician' from the Ruhr

Zorc's operations during the Klopp era

HIS BIGGEST TRANSFERS



HIS BIGGEST SALES



HIS MOST PROFITABLE SALES



*Bayern München activated his release clause. Borussia Dortmund wanted him to stay.



This situation was not unknown to **Jurgen Klopp**. He took the **Dortmund** job on the same wage as he was receiving at **Mainz**, and they were not exactly loaded with money. The pivotal factor however, was that **Mainz 05** played in the second division due to a practically inevitable relegation. The German coach perfectly understood the position the team found itself in and that he would have to lend a helping hand. Zorc was no unknown entity either, after having worked with **Christian Heidel** for many years. Both formed a firm working relationship.

Little by little, with the approval of club treasurer, **Hans-Joachim Watzke**, **Michael Zorc** provided **Klopp** with the tools necessary to improve the results on the football pitch. His work proved to be pivotal, demonstrated by signings such as: **Neven Subotic**, **Felipe Santana**, **Mats Hummels**, **Lucas Barrios**, **Kevin Grosskreutz**, **Shinji Kagawa**, **Lucas Piszczek** and **Robert Lewandowski**. These signings cost just **20 million euros** over the first three years of Klopp's reign at the club. This turned out to be all the time he needed to guide Dortmund's return to the top of the **Bundesliga**.

That title was followed by a 'double' and four qualifications for the **Champions League**, culminating in reaching the 2013 final. This was all thanks to the economic policy and practically faultless technical direction despite the losses of **Mario Gotze** and **Robert Lewandowski**. However, despite the investment gained from such success, Dortmund have still been unable to win the **Bundesliga** in the last decade. But, they have won two **German Cups**. This is a firm foundation that **Sebastian Kehl**, Klopp's ex pupil and signed by Zorc himself, can hope to now move forward with. He has been blessed with the past twenty years' good work and so, has the pressure on him to not take a step back.





FOOTBALL CREATES STATISTICS
STATISTICS CREATE A TOOL

