

GENERAL TEAM SCOUTING REPORT

Willam Rees - Match Report on Southampton U21

TEAM REPORTING ON: Southampton U21

DATE: 24/01/25

FIXTURE: Southampton U21 v Chelsea U21

COMPETITION: Premier League 2

SCORE: 2-0

GOAL SCORERS: Romeo Akachukwu (23) and Jay Robinson (45+5)

CONDITIONS: Evening game, good pitch conditions, no rain but looked like a cold night

REFEREE: Callum Walchester

RED CARDS: N/A

PENS: N/A

LINE UPS:



TEAM: Southampton U21

PLAYER	POSITION(S) PLAYED	AGE	HEIGHT	FOOT	COMMENTS FROM GAME
Gavin Bazunu (1)	GK	23	6'2	R	Good height for a keeper, physically imposing in the net, big and strong upper body. Good aerial ability, commanding of his box. Very strong shot stopper, quick reaction time. Gets to ground quickly, strong at his near post. Once again, good in the air and on set pieces, was able to punch the ball clear a few times. Below average distribution, short passes were accurate, but sometimes played to the wrong player at the wrong time. Longer passes were ok, was able to find some of his wide players in behind but also kicked it straight out of play once or twice. Kept a clean sheet in a game as a big underdog and faced lots of pressure. Used to playing with the first team at a higher level, still shows up and puts in a good performance for the 21s. Performance Grade - 7/10 For a dominant team on the ball like Southampton in the Championship, he might not be the best fit. But for a team with less of the ball that faces more shots, he would be a very good shot stopper. CURRENT LEVEL: Championship POTENTIAL LEVEL: Bottom 3 EPL/Top 6 Championship

Jayden Moore (4)	RCB	18	6'3	R	Tall defender with long legs and good upper body strength. Average pace for a defender, unable to turn smoothly and get the first step. His acceleration is poor but at top speed he can manage most attackers. Strong in his duels, set piece threat defensively and offensively. Pass accuracy was inconsistent, particularly with the longer balls Carries the ball from deep into midfield, opting for both short and long passing options. Although he can get caught too high up the pitch in possession, and he doesn't have the recovery pace to deal with counterattacks. Switched on for the full 90 minutes, committed to keeping a clean sheet away from home vs a better team. Looked to be a strong communicator/leader of the team. Performance Grade - 5/10 A PL2 regular for the Saints that still has room for improvement. Good physical attributes for a defender but can improve his first step/burst of pace. CURRENT LEVEL: PL2 POTENTIAL LEVEL: League One/Championship
Joachim Kayi Sanda (5)	CCB	18	6'1	R	Physically imposing, he uses his size and strength to dominate duels and protect space effectively. Quick across short distances, he recovered ground well when defending in transition. His aerial presence was a clear strength, winning headers and offering a threat from set plays. He was composed and confident on the ball, showing good control when receiving under pressure. His passing range appeared fine, keeping possession effectively and using short and mid-range passes to circulate play. He looked very comfortable in possession and in build-up. He showed strong defensive awareness, making the correct decision when to engage in duels or step up. His tactical foul to stop a counterattack showed good game intelligence and understanding of defensive situations. He positioned himself well during set pieces, both attacking and defending, maintaining discipline within the back line.

					He displayed calmness and focus throughout the game, rarely showing signs of panic under pressure. His decision-making was good for his age-group, especially in key defensive moments. The yellow card came from a tactical decision rather than recklessness, reflecting his awareness, he looks mature enough for first team football. Performance Grade - 7/10 Kayi Sanda dominated the game, standing out physically and leading the backline with confidence. He won some key duels and showed real presence throughout the game. CURRENT LEVEL: PL2/Loan to a League One/Two club POTENTIAL LEVEL: Championship
Max Fry (3)	LCB	19	6'3	L	Strong upper body presence and strong in his aerial duels. Showed average pace and mobility but compensated somewhat with strength and balance. Can handle physical duels well but could improve agility over short distances so he is able to recover better against counter-attacks. Left-footed defender comfortable in possession and capable of playing out the back. Looked composed technically but not always aware of the best passing option under pressure. Positioning and defensive awareness were questionable, often giving his opponent too much room to shoot or cross. Might be influenced by his past experience in midfield/fullback roles, as he occasionally stepped higher than needed and was caught out of position. Decision-making and defensive anticipation were inconsistent, suggesting potential lapses in concentration. Tried to stay composed when in possession but sometimes lacked conviction defensively. Performance Grade - 4/10 Left footed defender who can play a few different positions, some good physical traits but needs to play more academy football before he takes the next step. CURRENT LEVEL: PL2

					POTENTIAL LEVEL: League Two/Conference National
Moses Sesay (11)	LWB	18	5'10	L	Tall and lean, showing good pace and mobility when driving forward. However, poor upper-body strength limits him in physical duels, especially when defending 1v1 or holding off pressure. He doesn't use his frame effectively and can be outmuscled too easily. Technically average overall, with a decent left foot and the good ability to carry the ball forward. He often takes the wrong option in the final third, shooting when a cutback or pass is on. His end product was poor, and some of his touches and passes looked overly careless under pressure. Struggled defensively throughout the match, particularly in 1v1 situations and defensive positioning. His timing in challenges was off, he should have conceded a penalty. Offensively, he was direct and looked to progress the ball, but lacked the awareness to make the right final ball. Showed lapses in focus and discipline, with moments of lazy or casual play. His decision-making under pressure was poor, often rushing or choosing the wrong option. Performance Grade - 3/10 Needs to improve physically and improve his 1v1 abilities to reach the next level. CURRENT LEVEL: PL2 POTENTIAL LEVEL: League Two/Conference National
Romeo Akachukwu (8)	CM	19	5'10	R	Romeo is a strong, hard-running midfielder capable of covering the entire pitch for the full 90 minutes. He combines power with fluid movement, making him effective both carrying the ball forward and tracking defensively. His athleticism allows him to press aggressively and recover quickly, though he can occasionally be beaten in tight 1v1s. Technically, he carries the ball well from deep, often gliding past opponents with smooth and close control. He contributes effectively across all three thirds and can finish chances, as shown by his goal. Not overly flashy, his execution under pressure is reliable, and he applies his skills efficiently to maintain momentum and link play.

					He operates box-to-box, understanding when to support attacks and when to close down space defensively. He tracks runners well, narrows passing lanes, and maintains awareness of his positioning out of possession. He shows a high work rate and determination, committing fully to both offensive and defensive tasks. He received a yellow for a tactical foul and was lucky to avoid a second for a poor tackle, indicating moments of over-enthusiasm, but these do not detract from his overall influence on the game. Performance Grade - 7/10 Romeo is a relentless box-to-box midfielder who covers every blade of grass, carries the ball confidently from deep, and contributes across all thirds, making him one of the standout performers. CURRENT LEVEL: Top player in PL2 POTENTIAL LEVEL: Championship
Cameron Bragg (6)	CM	20	5'10	R	Bragg has a balanced physical profile, showing adequate pace and strength to operate in central midfield without being a physical standout. He moves efficiently across the pitch, maintaining energy to support both defensive and attacking phases, though he isn't particularly explosive or dominant in duels. He demonstrates a controlled and intelligent passing range, favoring quick combinations and short one-twos to facilitate ball circulation. Bragg can progress the ball effectively from deep positions and switch play to exploit space, though his creativity in the final third is limited. Set pieces provide an additional contribution, highlighting a level of technical reliability under structured conditions. Positionally aware, he maintains team shape and often finds pockets of space to receive and distribute efficiently. He reads the game well, showing the ability to contribute both offensively and defensively, although he can struggle in tightly contested duels. His work rate out of position ensures he remains a consistent tactical outlet across different phases of play. Bragg works hard throughout the game and stays involved in both attacking and defensive phases. He had a small lapse of judgment when he told the referee to

					give out a booking, but I don't think this reflects his overall focus. Performance Grade - 6/10 Bragg is a composed and efficient central midfielder who controls play well and contributes consistently across the pitch. He shows intelligence on the ball and good work rate, making him one of the stronger performers in the match. CURRENT LEVEL: League Two POTENTIAL LEVEL: Championship
Lewis Payne (2)	RWB	21	5'8	R	Payne has a smaller frame with limited upper-body strength and average pace. He works very hard up and down the flank but can be overpowered in physical duels, particularly in the air. He lacks explosiveness, which limits his ability to beat opponents in 1v1 races or recover defensively. Technically reliable in basic actions, showing a decent crossing ability when given space. However, he struggles to consistently beat his man in 1v1s and doesn't carry much creativity in the final third. More effective when running onto the ball rather than trying to dribble past opponents. Shows a good work rate and tactical discipline, pressing effectively and tracking back well when required. Operates best as an overlapping wing-back who supports play rather than initiates it. Defensively, looks vulnerable in aerial situations and when defending the back post. Displays strong effort and focus, consistently working hard for the team both in and out of possession. However, can appear hesitant in defensive duels and lacks confidence when isolated 1v1. His decision-making is generally safe but not assertive, reflecting a more conservative mindset in the final third. Performance Grade - 5/10 Payne has a top tier workrate both in and out of possession, however he needs to improve in his own third as well as the final third. CURRENT LEVEL: PL2 POTENTIAL LEVEL: League Two/Conference National

Jay Robinson (7)	LW	18	5'9	R	He has good pace and decent upper-body strength, allowing him to hold off defenders and make direct runs into the box. His agility helps him shift his body to create space for shooting opportunities, and he maintains a strong work rate throughout the game. He is comfortable on the ball and favors a direct style, often looking to take on defenders or get a shot away quickly. Jay is a competent set-piece taker, handling corners and some free kicks, and demonstrates clean, effective ball striking in shooting and passing. Positionally, he gets into good scoring areas and operates more as an inside forward than a traditional winger, cutting in to exploit space. He presses well off the ball and contributes to the team's shape, both in and out of possession. Jay worked hard throughout the match and stayed engaged in both attacking and defensive phases. He had a minor lapse in judgement with an unnecessary yellow but remained effective overall. Performance Grade - 7/10 Jay Robinson is a direct, inside-forward who combines pace, agility, and set-piece ability with intelligent movement to get into scoring positions. His ball striking and strong positional awareness make him a dangerous threat in the final third. CURRENT LEVEL: League One POTENTIAL LEVEL: Top 6 Championship
Baylee Dipepa (9)	ST	18	6'0	R	Dipepa shows good upper-body strength, which helps him hold up play and compete in physical duels. His pace is average, but he compensates with his intelligent movement and positioning, allowing him to find space and maintain influence despite acting as a lone striker. Technically, he is strong on the ball, particularly in link-up play and dropping deep to connect midfield and attack. His ball striking is clean and effective, and he shows the composure to lay off or combine with teammates under pressure, similar to a player like Joshua Zirkzee. He understands how to operate back to goal, shielding the ball and creating space for others. Dipepa makes intelligent runs to find scoring positions, though operating as the sole striker against two center-backs

					left him occasionally outnumbered. He presses effectively and contributes to defensive phases when possible. Dipepa works hard both with and without the ball, showing determination to link play and press defenders. He missed a big chance early into the game but remained involved and positioned well, demonstrating his focus and resilience. Performance Grade - 6/10 As a big centre forward he needs to continue to add upper body strength, as well as a loan to gain more experience vs bigger defenders would benefit him in the long run. CURRENT LEVEL: PL2 POTENTIAL LEVEL: Bottom 3 EPL/Top 6 Championship
Samuel Amo-Ameyaw (10)	RW	19	5'9	L	Amo-Ameyaw is an agile winger with excellent balance and a low center of gravity, giving him quick first steps and the ability to maneuver in tight spaces. He lacks upper-body strength and while his acceleration with the ball over short distances is strong, his top-end speed without the ball over longer distances could still be improved. Technically, he is an excellent dribbler with close control with both feet, often carrying the ball into dangerous areas. He sometimes holds the ball longer than ideal, but this reflects his confidence in creating the next pass.. He drifts inside from the right and occasionally drops deep to initiate play, showing good awareness and involvement across phases. His pressing is effective, and he tracks back when needed, though his end product could be higher given the chances he is able to create. Amo-Ameyaw is very confident in his abilities and willing to take responsibility in possession. He can draw fouls and manage pressure well, demonstrating composure and a desire to influence the game, though he can occasionally overcomplicate situations by holding the ball too long. Performance Grade - 8/10 Amo-Ameyaw is a highly technically gifted, confident right-winger who drifts centrally and carries the ball

					effectively. His dribbling and creativity make him one of the standout performers from this game. Improving his end product would elevate his impact further. CURRENT LEVEL: Bottom 3 EPL/Top 6 Championship POTENTIAL LEVEL: Premier League Top 6
SUBS USED					
Princewill Ehibhathiomhan (16) (Subbed in 67th min)	ST	20	6'3	R	He has quick pace making him a threat in behind. He also has very good upper body strength making him an option up front to hold up play, useful off the bench late in the game. Unable to finish a good scoring opportunity late in the game. Occupied both central defenders late in the game as the only forward option. Able to pin his man nicely and hold the ball up when necessary. Out of possession he was ineffective, casually tracking back and not always committed to the press. Out of possession he was a bit casual, which may have to do with the fact they were already winning the game and he was involved that much in possession. Performance Grade - 5/10 An impactful late game sub to cause defenders problems physically. CURRENT LEVEL: PL2 POTENTIAL LEVEL: League Two