

Kiano Dyer

Match Report: Wales vs England U19 Euro Championship Elite Round

28-11-2025

By Willam Rees

Kiano Dyer

Current club

FC Volendam

Best position

Central midfielder

Date of birth (age)

21/11/2006 (19)

Height

178cm

Foot

Right



Current level

Eredivisie

Potential level

Top 5 Leagues

Movement and positioning to receive - *The ability to take up positions to be able to receive the ball by finding spaces and adapting to an open body position.*

- Positioned himself well in a two-man midfield, constantly scanning and adjusting his angles so he could receive in tight spaces without being exposed physically. His awareness helped him compensate for size limitations.
- Showed good body orientation when receiving, opening up onto his left or right depending on pressure and shaping himself early to escape into safer zones.
- Played in all three thirds and moved intelligently to create passing options, often dropping in to help build play.

Ball retention - *The ability to keep the ball in the team and escape high pressure situations by finding teammates in open spaces or dribbling away from the pressure.*

- Excellent close control and delicate touches. Despite his small frame, he protected the ball well by shifting his body at the right moments and using balance to stay grounded. Press resistant midfielder.
- Rarely took unnecessary touches, keeping the rhythm of England's play and consistently finding solutions when pressed. His scanning helped him anticipate pressure before it arrived.
- Showed strong resistance in duels where he could use technique rather than strength, weaving through midfield congestion with quick changes of direction.

Ball progression – *The ability to enter higher-value zones on the pitch with dribbles, short passes and longer passes with the objective of getting closer to the opposition goal.*

- Looked to progress the ball whenever possible, combining forward carries with sharp passes to break into the next line.
- Played several accurate diagonals and longer passes, showcasing his good range of passes. The weight on some passes was slightly off, though the pitch conditions likely contributed.
- Involved in all three phases — dropping deep to take the first pass, driving forward when he found gaps, and helping England connect into the final third with quick combinations.

Infiltration – *The ability to push up to link with the forwards, to make runs in behind the defensive line, and to enter the box when crosses come in.*

- Rotated well with teammates to offer support to wide overloads, providing an extra option for combinations even if he didn't make many deep box entries in this match.
- His forward involvement came more through progressing play than through penetrative runs.

Defensive dueling – *Winning different types of defensive duels, such as aerial duels, frontal 1v1's, side-to-side duels and (sliding) tackles.*

- Showed good technique in his tackles, stepping in cleanly when he judged the timing was right and getting enough contact on the ball to break up play.
- Physically he can be outmatched — especially aerially — but his awareness often allowed him to get to the ball first or angle his body to limit contact.
- Showed good timing when stepping into challenges, often winning the ball through quick footwork rather than relying on physical strength.

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Dynamic pressing - *The ability to correctly decide when to apply pressure and to correctly do so with a high approach speed, good deceleration and correct use of the body.*

- Showed a strong awareness of when to step forward and engage, reacting quickly to triggers and working hard out of possession.
- Sometimes over-accelerated into challenges and struggled to decelerate, allowing opponents to roll past him.
- Despite physical limitations, he pressed with energy and intent, contributing to England's attempts to close down the midfield.

Positional defending - *Defending the most dangerous zones and players in the midfield by showing spatial awareness, blocking passing lanes, and maintaining defensive compactness.*

- England were outnumbered in midfield for long stretches, which made the game much more difficult, but he stayed disciplined with his positioning and held central areas.
- Read developing situations well and used his awareness to block lanes or guide opponents wide rather than engaging in unfavourable physical duels.
- Covered a huge amount of ground in a two-man midfield, tracking back to support defensive transition and stepping forward when England needed pressure higher.

Conclusion

Kiano Dyer put in a busy, intelligent performance in a match where he was often outnumbered and forced to cover large spaces. His technical level stood out immediately — clean touches, tight ball control, and the ability to manipulate his body in crowded areas. He progressed the ball well, linked play in all three thirds, and showed good awareness both in possession and without it. His physical limitations were visible at times, especially in aerial moments and when he over-accelerated into presses, but his anticipation and balance helped him work around these challenges. Overall, this was a strong showing in difficult circumstances, highlighting his technical quality, game understanding, and willingness to take responsibility across all three phases of play.

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