

Scouting report

Floyd Samba

**Match Report from UEFA Youth
League vs Napoli U19**

24-11-2025

By Willam Rees

Floyd Samba



Current club

Manchester City

Best position

Central midfielder

Date of birth (age)

15/01/09 (16)

Height

183cm

Current level

U18s/PL2

Potential level

Premier League

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.*

- Drifted intelligently between the lines and consistently found good pockets of space to receive the ball.
- Often appeared in advanced spaces, operating more in the final third than his own which reflects his instinct to join attacks and arrive in areas where chances can develop.
- Showed good timing when receiving in tight spaces, especially before his goal, where he took a brilliant touch under pressure and turned sharply to escape his marker.

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.*

- Protected the ball well for a 16-year-old playing up multiple age groups, using his strong frame, balance, and low centre of gravity to hold off pressure.
- Rarely took unnecessary touches and showed good judgement on when to release the ball, keeping play circulating and avoiding risky passages of play.
- Had a few slightly heavy passes, but overall showed clean control and the ability to secure possession in busy central areas.

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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.*

- The game state meant City rarely needed him to have many ball carries from deep, but he still contributed by taking clean touches between Napoli's midfield lines and helped progress the team forward.
- Displayed his good technical ability by receiving on different angles, using his body to protect the ball and roll pressure before playing the ball forward.
- Showed he is capable of shifting past light pressure and move play into better zones, even if the match situation didn't demand heavy progression.

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.*

- Joined attacks early and linked well with players around him.
- He took up advanced positions naturally, often stepping past the opposition midfield to connect with City's forwards and support combinations around the box.
- Continually arrived in dangerous zones, getting on the end of opportunities and showing a natural instinct to push into the final third whenever City established control.

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

- Strong and physically advanced for a 16 year old, able to initiate contact early and prevent opponents from turning when receiving to feet.
- Competed well in aerial duels and used his broad frame to win and protect the ball in tight defensive moments.
- Showed good recovery effort after losing the ball high up the pitch, sprinting all the way back to his own box to try and regain possession.

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.*

- Pressed with real energy and intensity, consistently closing space quickly and showing good deceleration when arriving.
- Tracked back with commitment when City lost possession even though most of his involvement came higher up due to City's dominance with the ball.
- Worked hard throughout the 80 minutes he played, constantly engaging in defensive actions despite City spending long stretches in possession.

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

- Didn't have to defend deep often due to City's control over the game, but showed good instincts in the few situations where he was required to recover.
- Reads the man-to-ball distance well, stepping tight at the right moments to stop the turn and force play backwards.
- His physical profile, tall, powerful, and stable — gives him a strong base when defending central spaces, even against more experienced opposition.

Conclusion

Floyd Samba put in a really impressive performance for a 16 year old making his Youth League debut. He looked completely comfortable in City's midfield, showed real confidence receiving between the lines, and he has a physical presence most players his age just don't have yet. His energy out of possession stood out, pressing aggressively, closing space quickly, and recovering hard when needed. In possession he kept things tidy and picked good moments to arrive in the final third. He took his goal brilliantly after a great turn before lashing it into the top corner with his weak foot. A memorable debut for the 16 year old and definitely a player worth following closely.