

# MANCHESTER UNITED SUMMER TRANSFER TARGETS - LB



WILLAM REES

# RECRUITMENT TASK

**FIND MANCHESTER UNITED A NEW LONGTERM LB TO TAKE  
OVER FROM LUKE SHAW**

**MATCH THE POSITIONAL PROFILE AND SUITABILITY TO THE  
CURRENT STYLE OF PLAY**

**FUTURE VALUE AND PLAYER POTENTIAL**

**COMFORTABLE/EXPERIENCED PLAYING IN MULTIPLE  
DIFFERENT SYSTEMS**



# RECRUITMENT PROCESS



# CURRENT SQUAD DEPTH



# ISSUE - DEPTH AT LB

## POSITIONAL DEPTH - LB

Currently contracted to the club in the left-back position are **Patrick Dorgu, Luke Shaw, Tyrell Malacia, and Diego León**. While this gives Manchester United several options on paper, there are still clear concerns over reliability, balance, and readiness within the group. Shaw remains the most experienced natural left-back, but his injury record + expiring contract next summer means he cannot be relied upon as the consistent long-term starter, while Dorgu provides athleticism ball-carrying, but is still developing and should not be overburdened as the main solution. Malacia's long-term role remains uncertain and he will most likely leave the club in the summer, and León is a young player who isn't a frequent member of the first team and is not be expected to carry immediate senior responsibility. As a result, there is still a clear need for a left-back capable of competing for regular minutes while adding stability, defensive reliability, build-up comfort, and the athletic capacity to compete in the Premier League + European competition. This would give United stronger structural balance on the left side, reduce reliance on Shaw's fitness, and allow players like Dorgu and León to develop without being forced into too much responsibility too early.



# POSITIONAL PROFILE LB

## TECHNICAL QUALITIES

- **Ball circulation & progression** – Secure short passing, ability to play down the line or inside, and progressive passes into midfield or wide attacking areas.
- **Crossing & final delivery** – Quality of delivery from wide areas, cutbacks, early crosses, and ability to create chances from the left side.
- **Ball carrying** – Ability to drive forward with the ball, break pressure, and advance play through wide or inside channels.
- **Defensive technique** – Tackling execution, body shape when defending 1v1, timing of challenges, and ability to block crosses.

## TACTICAL QUALITIES

- **Build-up intelligence** – Ability to support first-phase build-up, receive under pressure, and choose when to stay wide, invert, or overlap.
- **Game understanding** – Reads when to hold position, step forward, support attacks, or recover into the defensive line.
- **Attacking movement** – Timing of overlaps, underlaps, and forward runs to provide width or create space for the winger.
- **Positional versatility** – Comfortable playing as a left-back, wing-back, or wider centre-back depending on team structure.

## OUT OF POSSESSION

- **Defensive positioning** – Awareness of the back line, ability to protect the far post, and discipline when defending wide areas.
- **1v1 defensive duels** – Effectiveness in stopping wingers, delaying attacks, forcing play wide, and preventing dangerous deliveries.
- **Press resistance & execution** – Ability to press forward, close space quickly, cover passing lanes, and recover into shape.
- **Box defending** – Ability to defend crosses, track runners, attack aerial balls, and clear danger inside the penalty area.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL

- **Discipline & composure** – Calm decision-making when defending wide areas, avoids rash challenges, and stays focused under pressure.
- **Responsibility & reliability** – Willingness to compete in duels, track runners, cover teammates, and maintain concentration across the match.
- **Competitive mentality** – Intensity in tackles, recovery runs, pressing actions, and repeated defensive efforts.

## PHYSICAL

- **Mobility** – Short and medium-distance acceleration to defend wide spaces, recover behind the line, and support attacks.
- **Endurance** – Capacity to repeat overlapping runs, defensive recoveries, and high-intensity actions across both phases.
- **Strength** – Ability to hold off pressure, compete in shoulder-to-shoulder duels, protect the ball, and defend the back post.



# LONGLIST

**EL HADJI MALICK DIOUF – WEST HAM UNITED (PSM)**

**LEWIS HALL – NEWCASTLE UNITED (THE-TEAM)**

**ADRIEN TRUFFERT– AFC BOURNEMOUTH (CAA STELLAR)**

**QUENTIN MERLIN – STADE RENNAIS (ONE TEAM FOOTBALL)**

**JOAQUIN SEYS – CLUB BRUGGE (FORZA SPORTS GROUP)**

**MAXI ARAÚJO – SPORTING LISBON (GBG)**

**HUGO BUENO – WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (FOOTFEEL ISM)**

**JOSH DOIG – SASSUOLO (PLS)**

**FLÁVIO NAZINHO – CERCLE BRUGGE (GESTIFUTE)**

**MELVIN BARD – OGC NICE (CAA STELLAR)**

**ÁLEX VALLE – COMO (DUPLA PIQUÉ AND DOMÍNGUEZ)**

**DAYAAN METHALIE – TOULOUSE (FAIR SPORT MNG)**

**ARSÈNE KOUASSI – LORIENT (NEW STARS FOOTBALL))**

**JORDAN BOS – FEYENOORD (JB SPORTS2BUSINESS GMBH)**

**NATHANIEL BROWN – FRANKFURT (SOCCER-CONCEPT AG)**



# LONGLIST FILTERING CRITERIA

## 1. Premier League Readiness

Prioritised players who could adapt quickly to Manchester United's level and physical demands, with preference given to players already performing/performed in England.

## 2. Long-Term Starter Potential

Focused on left-backs with the age profile, ceiling, and development pathway to become a future starting option rather than short-term squad filler.

## 3. Tactical Suitability

Filtered for players comfortable as a LB with the ability to support build-up, progress the ball, defend wide spaces, and contribute in various tactical systems.

## 4. Market Opportunity

Considered contract situation, club context, likely availability, and whether the player could become attainable within the realistic transfer window.

## 5. Future Value Protection

Prioritised players whose age, league experience, profile, and resale value make them safer long-term investments for the club.



# SHORTLIST

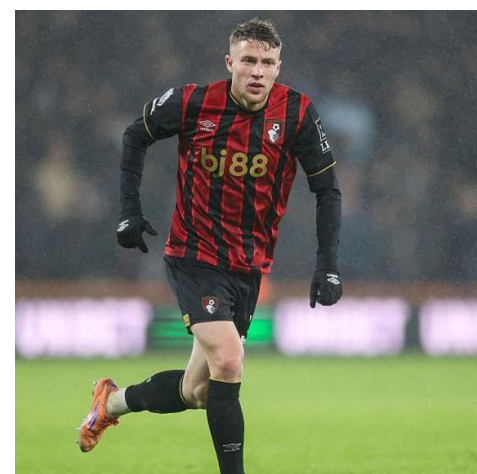
**LEWIS HALL – NEWCASTLE UNITED (THE-TEAM)**



**EL HADJ MALICK DIOUF – WEST HAM UNITED (PSM)**

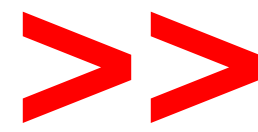


**ADRIEN TRUFFERT – AFC BOURNEMOUTH (CAA STELLAR)**



# RECOMMENDED PLAYER

## LEWIS HALL



# PLAYER DOSSIER - MANCHESTER UNITED



## LEWIS HALL

**AGE:** 21 (08/08/2004)

**HEIGHT:** 179cm / 5'9

**POSITION:** LEFT BACK

**PREFERRED FOOT:** LEFT

**CURRENT CLUB:** NEWCASTLE UNITED

**CONTRACT END:** 30/06/2029

**AGENCY:** THE-TEAM

## PLAYER OVERVIEW

Lewis Hall is a 21-year-old English left-back currently playing for Newcastle United. Developed at Chelsea before joining Newcastle, he is a left-footed modern full-back with strong technical quality, Premier League experience, Champions League exposure, and senior England involvement. He has quickly become one of the most highly rated young left-backs in England.

## POSITIONAL PROFILE/PLAYING STYLE SUITABILITY

Hall operates primarily as a left-back, but his technical background gives him the profile of a modern full-back who can contribute in possession as well as defensively. He is comfortable receiving under pressure, progressing the ball from deeper areas, combining inside with midfielders, and supporting attacks down the left side. His ability to play as both a traditional wide full-back and a more possession-based inverted option makes him tactically valuable for a team that wants control in build-up. Out of possession, he has developed into a more reliable defender, with good recovery ability, improved duel work, and the athletic base to defend wide spaces against Premier League wingers.

## POTENTIAL/FUTURE VALUE

Hall has major long-term value because he has the profile to become one of the best left-backs in world football. He is young, English, Premier League-proven, Champions League-tested, and already close to the England senior setup. His ceiling is extremely high, and he has the potential to become a long-term starting left-back for both club and country if his development continues.

## TRANSFER STATUS

Hall would still be an expensive signing, but Newcastle's current situation makes the deal more interesting. United have already been linked with him, and Newcastle's underwhelming domestic season will leave them without European football next year, which may put pressure on the club to reshape the squad. Newcastle would not want to lose him, but if Hall wants a bigger long-term platform, United could test their position with a serious offer.

## RECOMMENDATION

Hall should be Manchester United's top left-back target. He offers the right mix of current ability, long-term upside, homegrown value, and Premier League readiness. With Luke Shaw entering the final year of his contract, United would have the ideal short-term bridge to integrate Hall gradually before he eventually becomes the long-term starter on the left side.

# PLAYER DOSSIER - MANCHESTER UNITED



## LEWIS HALL

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**CURRENT CLUB:** NEWCASTLE UNITED

**CONTRACT END:** 30/06/2029

**AGENCY:** THE-TEAM

### 2025/2026 OVERVIEW:

Premier League: 27 appearances (21 starts), 1910 minutes, 1 goal, 1 assist

FA Cup: 3 appearances, 231 minutes

EFL Cup: 3 appearances, 196 minutes

Champions League: 10 appearances (6 starts) 648 minutes, 1 assist

### INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES

England National Team: 4 appearances, 187 minutes

England U21 National Team: 7 appearances, 3 assists, 334 minutes

England U20: 6 appearances, 415 minutes

England U19: 6 appearances, 540 minutes

England U18: 9 appearances, 1 goal, 2 assists, 413 minutes

England U16: 7 appearances, 1 goal, 1 assist, 333 minutes

### INJURY HISTORY

Ankle injury Feb 2025 - Aug 2025 (missed 157 days and 25 games)

Hamstring injury Oct 2025 - Nov 2025 (missed 33 days and 9 games)

### RELATIONSHIPS

Mason Mount (ex Chelsea teammate)

Kobbie Mainoo (current England teammate)

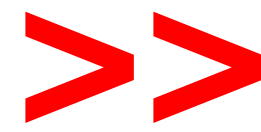
Harry Maguire (current England teammate)

### SUMMARY

Hall is a modern left-back who would add technical security, ball progression, and long-term stability to Manchester United's left side. He can operate as a full-back or wing-back, while also stepping inside to support build-up and combine in possession. With Newcastle unlikely to have European football, Hall could become a more attainable high-upside target who has the quality to develop into United's starting left-back for the next decade.

# RECOMMENDED PLAYER

## EL HADJ MALICK DIOUF



# PLAYER DOSSIER - MANCHESTER UNITED



## EL HADJ MALICK DIOUF

**AGE:** 21 (28/12/2004)

**HEIGHT:** 183cm / 6'0

**POSITION:** LEFT BACK/LEFT WING-BACK

**PREFERRED FOOT:** LEFT

**CURRENT CLUB:** WEST HAM UNITED

**CONTRACT END:** 30/06/2030

**AGENCY:** PSM

### PLAYER OVERVIEW

Malick Diouf is a 21-year-old Senegalese left-back/left wing-back currently playing for West Ham United. He joined from Slavia Prague in July 2025 after previously playing for Tromsø, and he has already built senior experience across the Premier League, European football, and the Senegal national team. He is left-footed, 1.83m, and offers a more athletic, direct left-sided profile.

### POSITIONAL PROFILE/PLAYING STYLE SUITABILITY

Diouf fits the profile of a modern attack-minded LB/LWB. He is strong carrying forward, covers ground quickly, and gives width and running power down the left side. He can support attacks through overlaps, early forward movement, and deliveries from wide areas, while also having the recovery speed to defend space behind him. For United, he would suit a system that asks the left-back to play aggressively, press forward, and provide athletic balance in transition.

### POTENTIAL/FUTURE VALUE

Diouf has strong future value because of his age profile, athletic tools, and ability to impact both sides of the game from left-back. West Ham's relegation situation makes him more interesting as a market opportunity, because their position could weaken their ability to hold onto high-upside players. At a stronger club, his pace, carrying power, and attacking threat could develop further while still leaving room for resale value.

### TRANSFER STATUS

Diouf would usually be difficult to sign because West Ham only brought him in recently and will still see him as an important long-term player. However, their relegation battle changes the situation. If West Ham go down, they may be under more pressure to sell, and Diouf could become more attainable than he would be at a stable Premier League club. That makes him a player United should monitor closely.

### RECOMMENDATION

Diouf should be viewed as a strong opportunity target for Manchester United. He would add athleticism, width, ball carrying, and recovery pace to the left side, while giving United a more explosive option at LB. The deal makes the most sense if United can take advantage of West Ham's potential relegation and avoid paying a full Premier League premium.

# PLAYER DOSSIER - MANCHESTER UNITED



## EL HADJ MALICK DIOUF

**AGE:** 21 (28/12/2004)

**HEIGHT:** 183cm / 6'0

**POSITION:** LEFT BACK/LEFT WING-BACK

**PREFERRED FOOT:** LEFT

**CURRENT CLUB:** WEST HAM UNITED

**CONTRACT END:** 30/06/2030

**AGENCY:** PSM

### 2025/2026 OVERVIEW:

Premier League: 29 appearances (27 starts), 2441 minutes, 5 assists

FA Cup: 1 appearance, 105 minutes

EFL Cup: 1 appearance, 90 minutes

AFCON: 5 appearances (4 starts) 412 minutes

### INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES

Senegal National Team: 18 appearances, 1 goal, 1332 minutes

### INJURY HISTORY

Leg injury Mar 2025 - Apr 2025 (missed 30 days and 5 games)

Ankle injury Apr 2025 - Apr 2025 (missed 16 days and 2 games)

### RELATIONSHIPS

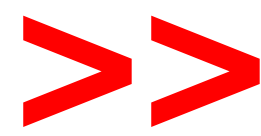
N/A

### SUMMARY

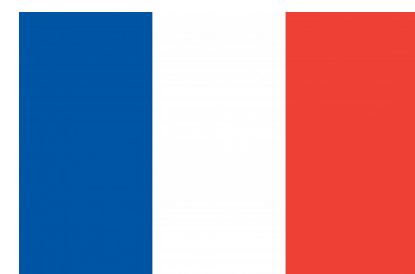
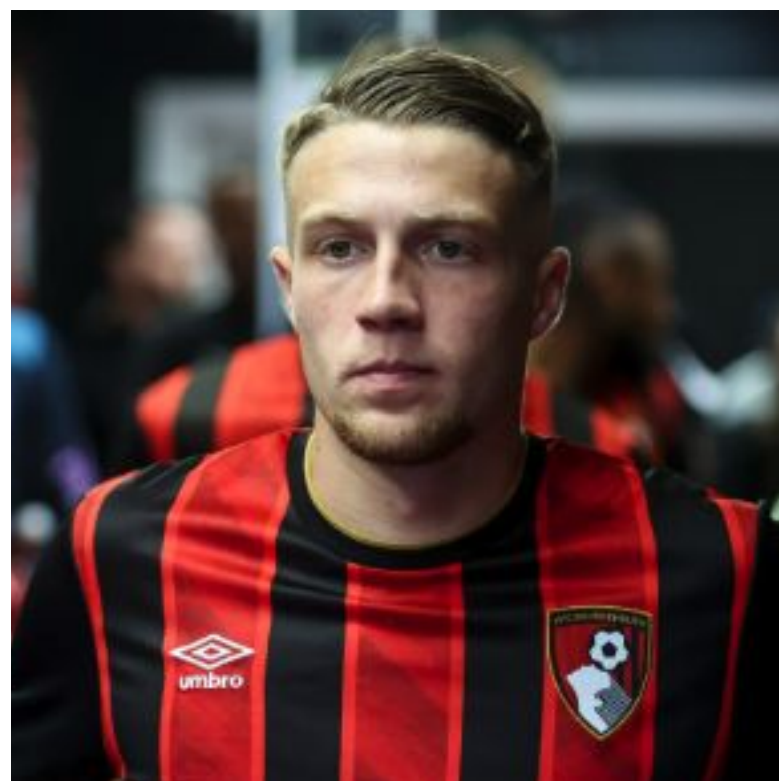
Diouf is a dynamic left-back who would add athleticism, ball carrying, and attacking threat to Manchester United's left side. He can operate as a full-back or wing-back, using his speed and power to drive forward, support attacks, and recover defensively in wide areas. With West Ham in relegation trouble, he could become a realistic market opportunity for United, offering both immediate squad value and long-term upside.

# RECOMMENDED PLAYER

## ADRIEN TRUFFERT



# PLAYER DOSSIER - MANCHESTER UNITED



## ADRIEN TRUFFERT

**AGE:** 24 (20/11/2001)

**HEIGHT:** 176cm / 5'8

**POSITION:** LEFT BACK

**PREFERRED FOOT:** LEFT

**CURRENT CLUB:** AFC BOURNEMOUTH

**CONTRACT END:** 30/06/2030

**AGENCY:** CAA STELLAR

## PLAYER OVERVIEW

Adrien Truffert is a French left-back currently playing for Bournemouth. He joined from Rennes after captaining the club and has adapted well in his first Premier League season. He is left-footed, technically secure, and has quickly become a reliable starter for Bournemouth.

## POSITIONAL PROFILE/PLAYING STYLE SUITABILITY

Truffert fits the profile of a balanced modern left-back. He is comfortable receiving under pressure, progressing play from deep, supporting attacks down the outside, and combining in possession. His first season in England has shown he can handle Premier League intensity, while still offering the technical quality to help United build more cleanly from the left side.

## POTENTIAL/FUTURE VALUE

Truffert has strong future value because he is still in a good age range, has already adapted to England, and plays a position where reliable Premier League-proven options are difficult to find. His first season at Bournemouth has strengthened his profile, as he has shown he can handle the physical and defensive demands of the Premier League.

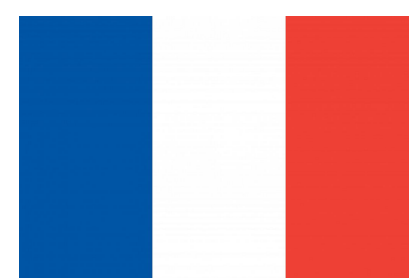
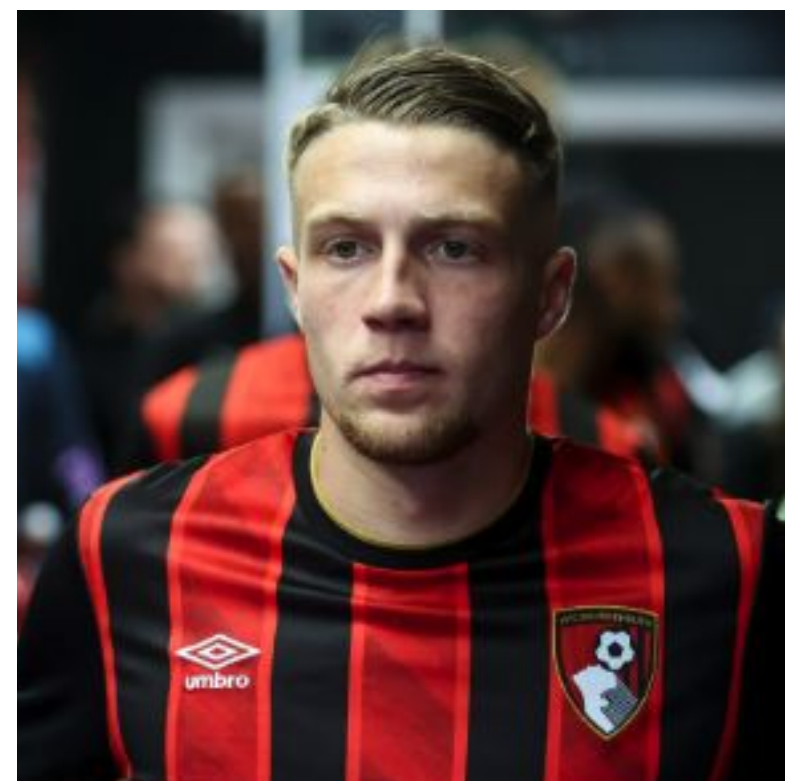
## TRANSFER STATUS

Truffert would be difficult but realistic to sign. Bournemouth have him under a long-term contract and will not need to sell cheaply, especially after a strong first season. However, Bournemouth have shown they are willing to sell players when bigger clubs pay properly, so United could make the deal possible if they decide he is the right left-back profile.

## RECOMMENDATION

Truffert would be a strong left-back target for Manchester United. He would add technical security, Premier League readiness, defensive reliability, and attacking support on the left side. He is not the most explosive option, but he gives United a safer and more balanced profile than a raw upside signing. The deal makes sense if United want a player who can compete for minutes immediately without needing a long adaptation period.

# PLAYER DOSSIER - MANCHESTER UNITED



## ADRIEN TRUFFERT

**AGE:** 24 (20/11/2001)

**HEIGHT:** 176cm / 5'8

**POSITION:** LEFT BACK

**PREFERRED FOOT:** LEFT

**CURRENT CLUB:** AFC BOURNEMOUTH

**CONTRACT END:** 30/06/2030

**AGENCY:** CAA STELLAR

### 2025/2026 OVERVIEW:

Premier League: 35 appearances (35 starts), 3110 minutes, 1 goal, 3 assists  
FA Cup: 1 appearance, 37 minutes

### INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES

France National Team: 1 appearances, 25 minutes  
France U23 National Team: 5 appearances, 2 assists, 334 minutes  
France U21: 15 appearances, 3 assists, 1124 minutes  
France U19: 8 appearances, 3 goals, 1 assist, 552 minutes  
France U18: 5 appearances, 1 goal, 309 minutes  
France Olympic Team: 5 appearances, 453 minutes

### INJURY HISTORY

COVID-19 Sept 2020 - Oct 2020 (missed 15 days and 2 games)  
Ankle injury Mar 2023 - Jun 2023 (missed 88 days and 10 games)

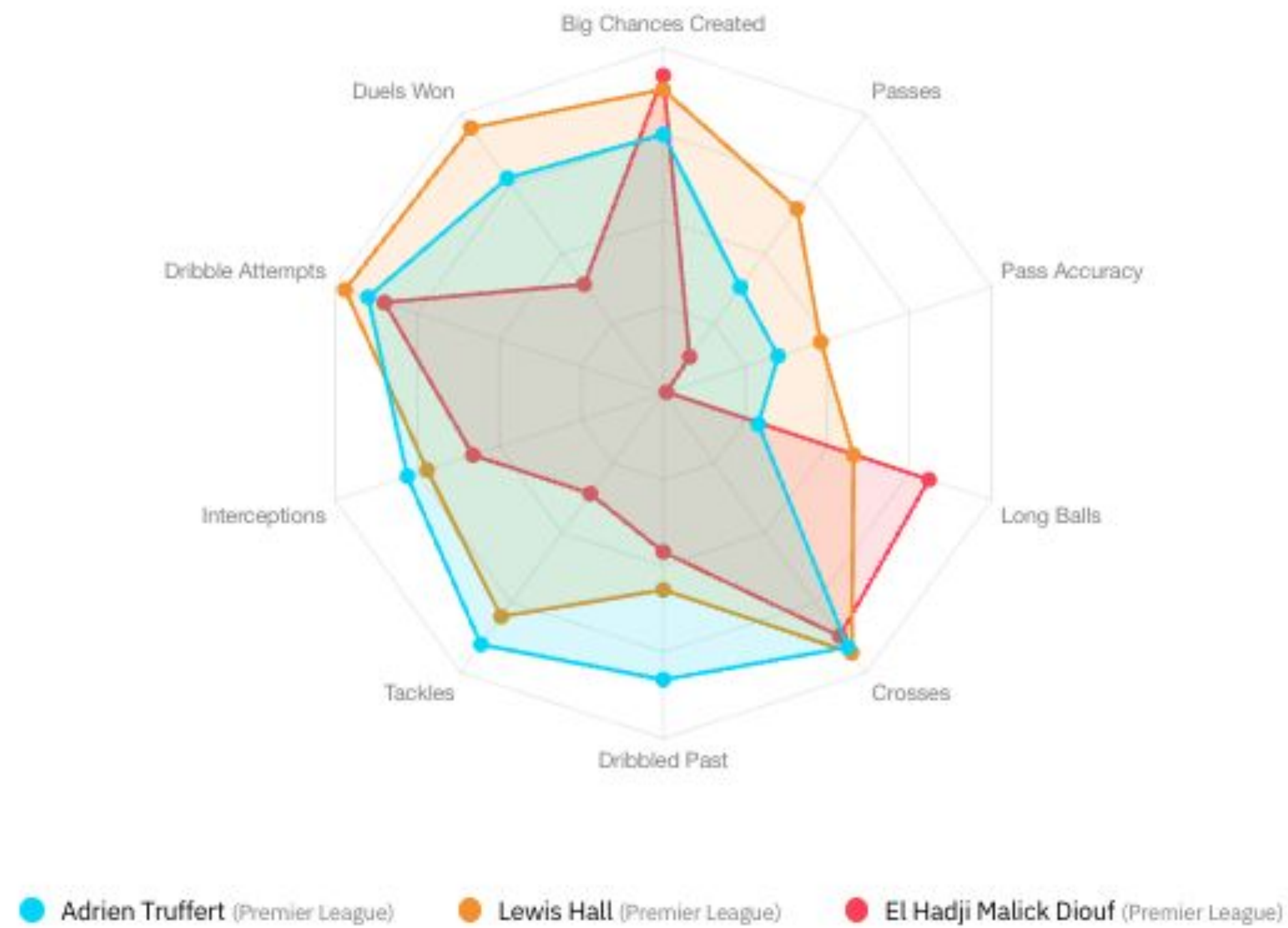
### RELATIONSHIPS

N/A

### SUMMARY

Truffert would be a strong left-back target for Manchester United. He would add technical security, Premier League readiness, defensive reliability, and attacking support on the left side. He is not the most explosive option, but he gives United a safer and more balanced profile than a raw upside signing. The deal makes sense if United want a player who can compete for minutes immediately without needing a long adaptation period.

# PLAYER COMPARISON CHARTS



The comparison chart highlights Hall as the strongest all-round profile, combining technical security, progression, defensive reliability, and long-term upside. Diouf offers the most athletic/transition-heavy profile, while Truffert provides the safest ready-made option.



# DEFENSIVE METRICS COMPARISON

## Interceptions vs Tackles

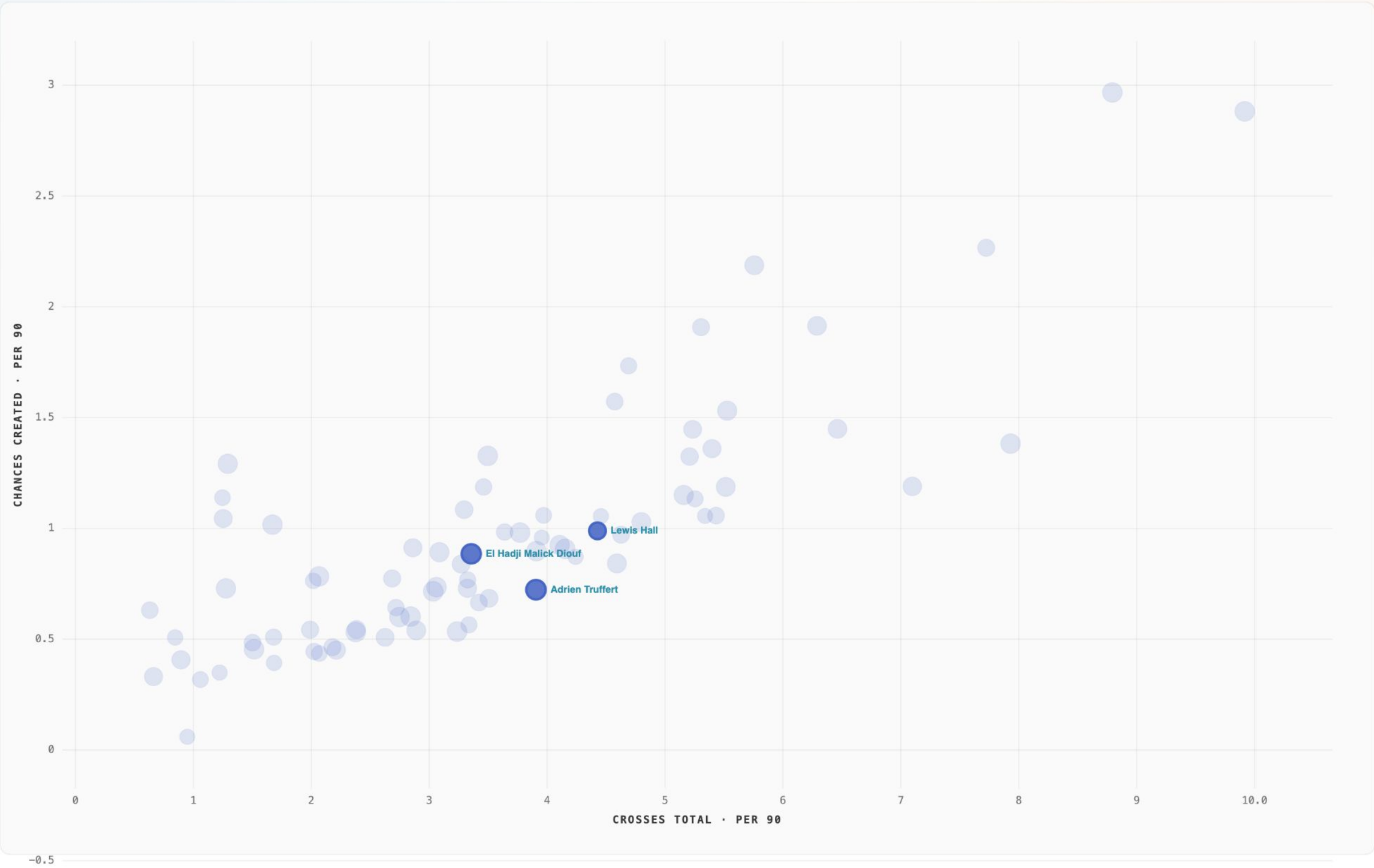
Top 5 Europe · Left Back · 2025/2026 · 80 players



# ATTACKING METRICS COMPARISON

Chances Created vs Crosses Total

Top 5 Europe · Left Back · 2025/2026 · 80 players



# SUMMARY

## **STRATEGY**

BASED ON THE DATA, SCOUTING OBSERVATIONS AND POTENTIAL OF TRANSFER.

## **POSITIONAL**

DATA AND SCOUTING OBSERVATIONS SHOW THESE PLAYERS HAVE THE ABILITY TO PLAY AS A LB IN THE CURRENT MANCHESTER UNITED SYSTEM

## **TEAM**

DEPTH CHART + EUROPEAN FOOTBALL NEXT SEASON DEMONSTRATES THE NEED ACROSS THIS POSITION.

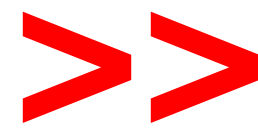
## **NEED**

DATA, SCOUTING OBSERVATIONS AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION INDICATE THESE PLAYERS WOULD BE A VALUABLE ADDITION TO THE SQUAD.



# FINAL RECOMMENDATION

## LEWIS HALL



# WHY LEWIS HALL?

Lewis Hall stands out as the best left-back option because he offers the strongest blend of current quality, long-term potential, and high-level experience. He is already Premier League proven at a young age, has played Champions League football with Newcastle, and has shown he can handle the demands of a top-level environment. His technical quality, composure in possession, and ability to impact the game from left-back give him the profile of a player who could develop into one of the best left-backs in world football.

For Manchester United, Hall would not just be a short-term fix, but a long-term solution on the left side. He has the potential to become England's starting left-back and could hold down his position at club level for the next decade. With his age, homegrown status, tactical flexibility, and room to keep improving, he fits the type of signing United should be targeting: a player ready to contribute now, but with the ceiling to become a key part of the team's future. With Luke Shaw entering the final year of his contract, United would have the ideal short-term bridge to integrate Hall gradually, allowing him to learn the role, compete for minutes, and eventually take over as the long-term starting left-back without being thrown straight into the deep end.



# RISK ASSESSMENT

The main risk beyond the Lewis Hall transfer is not the player himself, but the difficulty of the deal. He is a young, homegrown left-back with Premier League and Champions League experience, so Newcastle see him as a current starter and would have little reason to sell unless a major offer arrives. Signing him from another Premier League club would also create a clear rival-to-rival premium, meaning United may have to overpay compared to similar options abroad. However, the sporting risk is low, as Hall has the quality, mentality, and long-term profile to become a top-level left-back, making the price/negotiations the main concern rather than his ability to succeed as a footballer.



# POTENTIAL SQUAD 2026/2027





THANK YOU