

Max Dowman

Match Report: UEFA Youth Arsenal U19 League vs Bayern Munich U19

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By Willam Rees

Max Dowman



Current club	Arsenal
Nationality	England
Best position	Attacking Midfielder
Date of birth (age)	31/12/2009 (15)
Height	183cm
Foot	L

Current level

Premier League Substitute

Potential level

Champions League Starter

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.*

- Consistently occupied the right half-space as the free midfielder, positioning himself where he could face forward early and drive at Bayern's back line.
- Dropped into different pockets of space when Arsenal needed control and pushed higher when he saw potential overloads on the right.
- Showed strong signs of wanting the game to run through him, organizing the tempo and settling teammates despite being the youngest player in the team..

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.*

- Outstanding close control in tight spaces; used delicate touches on both the inside and outside of his foot to maneuver through bodies. The ball was almost glued to his foot, which made him extremely difficult to dispossess.
- Frequently manipulated the ball and his body to either roll past opponents or draw fouls — won four fouls in this match due to his balance and movement.
- Had occasional moments where he showed the “traditional” tendencies of a 15 year old, taking one or two extra touches or trying to win “soft” fouls, but overall his ball retention is elite.

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.*

- Progressed play through sharp, clean carries that broke through Bayern's midfield line, using his very high level change of speed to glide past defenders.
- Played with confidence on the ball, he was willing to attempt some ambitious passes and combinations. Most of his effective progression came through dribbling rather than passes, he showed an overall intent to play forward whenever he got the ball.
- Showed brilliant body orientation when receiving, shaping himself to carry into space or combine quickly. Frequently attracted two defenders rather than just one, giving his teammates more time and space.

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.*

- Made smart, delayed runs into the box, highlighted by his first goal when he arrived in the 6-yard area at the right moment to finish first time with his weaker foot.
- Frequently moved into advanced pockets of space, linking with the right winger and striker to create quick combinations around the box.
- Held deeper attacking positions around the D, using that space to receive, shift, and shoot instead of being a "box crasher".

Creating and converting chances - *The ability to get into high-quality scoring positions and using different types of finishing techniques to convert chances relatively often.*

- Created problems consistently through his dribbling, defenders struggled to set their feet because he kept changing speed and direction.
- Picked sensible shooting moments and had a very good ball striking ability, displaying his technique which stands out at this age.
- With the final kick of the game he took the ball from the halfway line before cutting inside, beating multiple defenders and lofting the keeper for the finish, a magnificent solo goal to cap off a strong performance.

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 very high energy and intensity, closing down space quickly and forcing play wide.
- His overall work rate was very impressive, he tracked back hard, recovered long distances, and showed a desire I've rarely seen from young and more attacking players.
- Reacted instantly after losing the ball from a failed outside-the-foot pass, pressing aggressively to win it back on the second ball — a strong example of his intensity after making a mistake.

Positional defending - *Defending more statically, e.g. in a low or middle block, shielding passes towards the most dangerous zones and players in midfield.*

- Recovered quickly after losses of possession, taking up sensible positions to try and limit Bayern's opportunities to counter.
- Put in a serious shift tracking runners and getting back into the structure, doing what was needed even though defending isn't a big part of his game.
- Maintained the right body position when defending, angling his body shape to slow down the ball-carrier rarely needing to commit any excessive tackles.

Conclusion

Max Dowman played exactly like a kid carrying huge expectations and he fully justified them. He was the clear standout player on the pitch, constantly drawing multiple defenders and still finding ways to skip past players with ease. His close control, agility, and ball security are already at a level you normally see in senior players. What elevates him is how much he influences the game for a 15 year old. His work rate was clear, the pressing, the repeated carries through traffic and his two goals were just the final layer on a performance where he looked comfortably above this level. England and Arsenal fans hype him for a reason, and when you watch him closely, it all makes sense. He still needs some physical development and emotional maturity, but the talent is obvious and his impact was real.

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