

Scouting report

Luca

Williams-Barnett

**Match Report from UEFA Youth
League vs AS Monaco U19**

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By Willam Rees

Luca Williams-Barnett



Current club

Tottenham Hotspur

Best position

Attacking Midfielder

Date of birth (age)

1/11/2008 (17)

Height

175cm

Current level

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.*

- Constantly searching for the ball, scanning early, drifting between lines to create pockets for himself.
- Took smart receiving angles, particularly on the half-turn.
- Dropped into deeper pockets to start attacks, not limited to the half-spaces.
- Moved like a natural number 10: he wants to be the hub and dictate where possession flows.

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.*

- Extremely secure in tight spaces: ball rolls, feints, and small touches to escape pressure. Manipulates his body well to shield the ball and draw contact.
- Rarely takes unnecessary touches; good feel for when to keep it and when to release.
- Drew multiple fouls because he's so comfortable holding players off and inviting pressure.

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.*

- High-level ball carrier; accelerates with the ball faster than most accelerate without it. Drives at defenders with real confidence, able to go both inside and outside.
- Uses disguise—subtle shifts of his body shape to send defenders the wrong way.
- Strong distribution across all ranges of passes with good weight and clean ball striking on both feet.

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.*

- Constantly involved in the final third, popping up centrally, wide, and in tight combinations. Found himself in positions around the box to create chances and linked play with his forwards.
- Delivered a sharp low cross for his assist and should've left with more than one goal contributions, robbed of two other assists.
- Frequently willing to receive anywhere on the pitch and carry the ball at full speed into space.

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.*

- Very productive technically: one-twos, quick exchanges, and clean touches in tight areas. Uses both feet at a very high level, high volume of created chances in the final third.
- Good awareness of gaps and timing around the box, even if the end product didn't fully reflect his involvement in this game.
- Looked to be a natural chance-creator through carries and disguised passes.

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.*

- The intensity to his pressing was inconsistent, he had moments where he closed sharply and then others where he just went through the motions. He was often slow to react in the first step toward the ball-carrier.
- Didn't always decelerate well when closing, arriving a bit passive at times.
- At his best when he presses to then receive quickly in transition, but that's more about wanting possession than defensive urgency in my opinion.

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

- Defensive detail was clearly the weakest part of this performance.
- Left players too much space, slow to get tight, and did a fair bit of walking OOP.
- Tracking back improved when he Spurs took the lead, looks like he sensed he could be the outlet to carry the next attack, not necessarily to win the ball back.
- Not physically imposing, lacks upper-body strength, but was able to ride challenges when he has the ball.
- Body language wasn't great at times: visible frustration, arms up, slow to reset.

Conclusion

This was a strong showing from Luca Williams-Barnett and a pretty accurate snapshot of where he's at right now. With the ball, he was one of the most influential players on the pitch — constantly available, sharp on the half-turn, breaking lines, and linking everything in the final third. His dribbling, coordination, both-footed quality, and ability to manipulate defenders all stood out. He carried attacks forward at speed and played with a confidence that clearly separates him at this level. The weaknesses were almost entirely without the ball. His pressing lacked consistency, his reactions in defensive moments were slow, and he switched off too easily when play went past him. There were also a few moments of poor body language that reinforced the same theme. None of it is unfixable, but it was noticeable compared to how clean he was in possession. Overall, he delivered a strong performance and showed real potential as an attacking-minded midfielder. His technical floor is very high, the athletic tools are there, and he has the ability to run games when his team has possession.