

Will Rees

Tuesday September 9th, 2025

Abubakr Barry - 190cm - Right footed - Central Midfielder - July 2nd, 2000

Defending

Defensive dueling - **Similar**

Positional defending - **Quite poor**

Dynamic pressing - **Quite good**

Barry's defensive style is based on his mobility, covering large spaces of the pitch and recovering possession quickly. He presses forward with intent and often wins the ball back after turnovers, utilizing his long legs, stride, and reach to disrupt play. His frame allows him to stretch into tackles that others can't, and he closes down ground effectively. However, his positional awareness can be inconsistent, sometimes leaving him in no man's land. He can also overcommit in challenges and lacks the upper-body strength to impose himself in physical duels or aerial battles consistently.

Attacking

Movement/positioning to receive - **Quite good**

Ball retention - **Similar**

Ball progression - **Similar**

Infiltrating - **Quite poor**

Barry contributes by keeping possession simple and effective. He shows good body orientation when receiving, often taking the ball on the half turn and using his frame well to shield under pressure. His long strides allow him to carry the ball from deep through midfield, where he can break lines with pace and power rather than vision. While he has a decent passing range, the weight of his passes can be inconsistent, which slows play. He offers little impact in the final

third, lacking late runs into the box or quality in his final ball, and provides little aerial presence despite his height.

Pros

Barry fits well with Rangers style of high pressing and direct play. His ability to cover ground with long strides and his pressing intensity allow him to disrupt opponents high up the pitch and recover possession. He offers good ball retention, using his frame effectively under pressure, and can carry the ball forward in transition to support quick attacks. Physically, he brings high energy, mobility and presence across midfield, attributes that suit the demands of Scottish football. At 24 and with good experience in Austria and at an international level, there is room for further development.

Cons

Barry's main weaknesses lie in the final third. He lacks consistent involvement around the box, offers little aerial threat despite his size and his final ball can be erratic. Against low blocks, his safe passing and occasional poor weight of pass could slow possession and limit his influence. Defensively, while his reach helps him recover the ball, he can overcommit in duels or mistime challenges, leaving space exposed. Physically, he may also need to adapt to the higher intensity and upper-body demands of Scottish football, where his slim build could be tested more than in Austria.