

Scouting report

Jesse Derry

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By Willam Rees

Jesse Derry

Current club

Chelsea

Best position

Winger

Date of birth (age)

June 30th 2007 (18)

Height

176cm



Current level

PL2

Potential level

Premier League

Dribbling and carrying – *The ability to progress towards goal by dribbling past opponents in 1v1 and 1v2 situations and to carry the ball into better zones on a high tempo.*

- Extremely direct ball-carrier who immediately commits his fullback and drives at them with purpose. Strong close control at pace; manipulates the ball well with subtle hip/shoulder feints and sharp inside–outside cuts.
- Beats his man both ways because he’s comfortable with both feet, which prevents defenders from showing him onto a “weaker” side.
- One of those touchline wingers who isolates 1v1, slows the defender down, then bursts past with a quick change of pace. Good agility, balance and ability to catch defenders flat-footed, leads to him drawing lots of fouls
- Thin upper body frame — can get nudged off carries when absorbing contact.
- Occasionally holds onto the ball too long, but even then he tends to turn those sequences into fouls won or moments that destabilize the block.

Playmaking – *The ability to find pockets of space in between the lines, receive in an open body position, combine with teammates and use short passes to progress the ball into better zones.*

- Strong final-ball: good weight to his passes, sees slips into the channel and cutbacks early, and is comfortable releasing with either foot. Crossing quality stands out — both whipped deliveries on the move and lofted crosses from slower moments.
- Comfortable receiving in tight pockets and playing out of pressure; doesn’t panic and can link with midfielders around him. Takes set pieces (corners and free kicks) from both sides, displaying clean ball striking and reliability on dead balls.

Runs in behind - *The ability to make well-timed, high speed runs in behind to receive the ball in behind the defensive line.*

- Picks smart starting positions on the touchline before darting diagonally behind the fullback when the space opens.
- Times back-post arrivals well; tends to appear unmarked because of his delayed, controlled movements.
- Not an off-the-shoulder specialist, but when he recognizes open space he commits early and is able to stretch the defensive line.

Final pass - *The ability to create high-quality opportunities for teammates with accurate final passes by using crosses, short passes and through passes.*

- Weight of pass is a standout trait — rarely overhits.
- Sees runners early and adapts the pass shape depending on the picture (cutback, whipped cross, slide pass).
- Decision-making improving; still has moments where he carries one or two touches too long, but his actions usually still end in territory gained or a foul won.

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.*

- Good ball striking off both feet and willing to shoot from difficult angles or distance.
- Arrives well at the back post; good timing on second balls, rebounds, and loose-play situations inside the box.
- When he gets into advantage situations, he produces: cuts inside with threat, delivers quality crosses, or drives to the byline for pullbacks/crosses
- Generates danger through repeated 1v1 wins — forces defensive units to commit a spare defender, opening passing lanes for teammates.
- Could improve consistency in the final action (shot selection, quicker release), but overall has a strong sense of chance-creation.

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.*

- Hard to fully judge from this sample, but his pressing actions looked coordinated.
- Angles his pressure well, tries to steer play toward touchlines, and doesn't over-commit, able to cause turnovers in the opposition's half/third
- When he did press, he showed quick acceleration over short distances and an understanding of when to jump versus when to hold shape.

Tracking back - *The willingness to support the own fullback, to sprint back once the ball is played past, and the ability to defend 1v1 and track overlapping or underlapping opposition fullbacks.*

- Works hard OOP — tracks fullbacks all the way to his own third when needed.
- Willing to make recovery runs and even slide tackles when needed.
- Shows commitment to defending wide zones and helping his fullback in 2v2 situations.
- Doesn't switch off after losing the ball; reacts quickly and usually gets back into shape.

Conclusion

Jesse Derry recently completed a move to Chelsea, leaving Crystal Palace after being named their U18 Player of the Season in 2023/24. He's also broken onto the international stage, representing England U19, which highlights his potential as a big player. Derry is a dynamic winger with a lethal mix of direct dribbling, two-footed play and high technical quality. He excels at carrying the ball, creating chances from wide areas, and delivering dangerous crosses or shots, while also showing a strong work ethic in his defensive duties. His threat in 1v1s, combined with his ability to manipulate defenders and impact the final third, makes him a high potential player to watch out for.