Bazoumana Touré

Match Report: Bayer Leverkusen vs TSG Hoffenheim

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By Willam Rees

Bazoumana Touré



Current club	TSG Hoffenheim
Nationality	Ivory Coast
Best position	Left Winger
Date of birth (age)	02/03/2006 (19)
Height	175cm
Foot	L

Current level **Mid Table in a Top 5 League**

Potential level **Top 4 in a Top 5 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.*

- His ball carrying threat is built around his lightning quick pace, when he attacks space early, he's extremely difficult to stop; when carries extend beyond a few touches, his control can loosen and his actions become harder to manage.

- His touch can get heavy at top speed, particularly on longer carries from deeper zones.

- Most effective when receiving with space to attack immediately rather than in static 1v1 situations. When static, he does have a quick first step, so he is still able to beat his man in this way, just less efficient.

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.*

- His involvement between the lines was limited; most of his touches came wide and facing forward rather than in pockets where he could combine repeatedly.

- The assist came from a single, high-quality action — opening his body to disguise one option before slipping a pass between the defence.

- For this competency to develop, he needs to receive more centrally, improve his scanning frequency, and show comfort linking play under pressure, rather than relying on his pace.

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

- This is where he is at his best, his acceleration and first step allow him to threaten space in behind consistently, especially when positioned wide and attacking the space behind fullbacks.

- His best actions came when he could run onto balls played into space, rather than receiving to feet.

- His profile suits attacking from the byline and space beyond the defence more than cutting inside into more congested zones.

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

- When he beat his man or attacked the byline, his actions were decisive and successful. 2/2 on his crosses and an assist via a pass he slipped through the defence.

- More comfortable cutting the ball back or slipping simple passes than attempting complex final-third distribution.

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.*

- He found himself in threatening positions by using his pace and directness. Took a near-post shot from the left when crossing wasn't on, striking the ball cleanly from a tight angle forcing a save from the keeper.

- His chance generation came from transitions, pressing moments, and runs in behind.

- He contributed with an assist which was good end product from someone who took what was given.

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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.*

- Pressing intent was good, particularly in the first phase, where he closed ground quickly and forced rushed decisions from members of Leverkusens backline..

- He had one notable pressing action on the goalkeeper, where he showed a good sense of anticipation, even though he arrived a fraction late.

- His pressing is energy-driven and effective when used in short bursts.

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.*

- Defensive contribution was quite limited for much of the game, with little need for extended defensive work in Hoffenheim's own half.

- Notably improved once Hoffenheim began defending a lead late on, where he showed better engagement, willingness to duel, and higher defensive energy.

Conclusion

Touré showed what kind of winger he is at this stage: a lightning fast, touchline-oriented winger whose game is built on his acceleration, deep runs, and direct actions. His best moments came when he could attack space early, press aggressively, or arrive onto the ball with minimal touches. He contributed with an assist created through a sharp body feint and disguised pass slipped between the defence. When asked to be a ball carrier over longer distances or operate in tighter situations, his ball control became a bit hectic, highlighting his biggest weakness, tight space, this is a player who needs to be running into space in behind.. Defensively, his involvement was limited for much of the game but improved noticeably once Hoffenheim started protecting their lead. Overall, this was a strong reference performance for understanding Touré's profile: he is raw, but very explosive, and dangerous when given space to run onto.

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