

GENERAL TEAM SCOUTING REPORT

TEAM REPORTING ON: Southampton U21

DATE: Friday, Jan 24, 2025

FIXTURE: Chelsea U21 vs Southampton U21

COMPETITION: Premier League 2

SCORE: 0-2

GOAL SCORERS: R. Akachukwu (23') J. Robinson (45'+4)

CONDITIONS: Good pitch and weather conditions

REFEREE: Callum Walchester

RED CARDS: None

PENS: None

LINE UP



TEAM:

PLAYER	POSITION S PLAYED	AGE	HEIGHT	FOOT	COMMENTS FROM GAME
Gavin Bazunu (1)	GK	23	6' 2	R	- Good size for GK, athletic, quick reactions, strong aerial presence. - Played proactively as a modern GK. Showed excellent distribution, consistently looking to find strikers running in behind. Commanded his area well, highlighted by an outstanding save from a corner situation. - Reliable and confident performance, contributed positively to build-up and prevented a goal at a key moment. PERFORMANCE GRADE: 6 Above-average goalkeeping display. Reliable shot-stopping and good distribution added to the team's build-up. A modern GK profile suited to possession-based teams that expect the goalkeeper to initiate attacks.
Jayden Moore (4)	CB	19	6'3	R	- Average build centre back, not particularly athletic and appeared slightly nervous throughout the match. - Comfortable in possession, showing good vision and the ability to play safe passes, as well as technically sound long balls. - Positional awareness inconsistent, often caught out of position and slow to adjust when play shifted. - Struggled defensively, particularly against Mheuka, failing to control him throughout the match. Tackling was often sloppy and poorly timed. - Decision-making lacked conviction, especially under pressure, which affected defensive reliability.

					PERFORMANCE GRADE: 4 Technically capable centre back but defensively unreliable. Needs improvement in positioning, aggression, and confidence when defending direct opponents.
Joachim Kayi Sanda (5)	CB	19	6'1	R	- Strong, athletic centre back with good mobility and physical presence. Comfortable stepping into midfield areas. - Positive defensive contribution, dealt well with McNeilly and Mheuka and was proactive in engaging attackers. - Very good passing technique and range, consistently looking to play forward and find runners in behind. - Shows good vision and composure, particularly when progressing possession under pressure. - Confident stepping high, although this will require tactical discipline at higher levels. PERFORMANCE GRADE: 6 Above-average defensive display with strong passing qualities. Reliable centre back profile suited to a progressive, ball-playing defensive system.
Max Fry (3)	LB	19		R	- Tall and physically strong defender, capable of dominating opponents in close contact. Lacks recovery pace and can be exposed by quick attackers in open space. - Attempts to progress play from the back, showing good passing technique and range, particularly with longer balls, although accuracy was inconsistent.

					- Defensive decision-making questionable, with risky tackles and poor timing when engaging opponents. Struggled badly against pace and was outplayed in wide and transitional situations. - Uses physical superiority effectively when tight to opponents, but less effective when forced to defend facing his own goal. - Too many misplaced passes PERFORMANCE GRADE: 4.5 Below-average display. Physical tools are evident, but lack of pace, poor tackling technique, and inconsistent decision-making limited his effectiveness. Best suited to a low defensive block where space in behind is minimised.
Lewis Payne (2)	RWB	21	5' 8	R	- Quick, agile full back with good acceleration from a standing start. Relatively good upper-body strength and aerial presence, also shows decent recovery pace when caught high. - Attack-minded profile, regularly looking to overlap and provide width on the right side. Comfortable receiving on the move and capable of delivering early crosses, contributing a well-timed assist. Shows confidence striking the ball with power when shooting. - Technically competent in the final third, with crossing being his standout attribute. Able to support attacks consistently and stretch the opposition's defensive line. - Pretty good defending 1v1, doesn't lose opponents easily PERFORMANCE GRADE: 6.5

					Positive attacking performance with good output going forward. Provided width, energy, and an assist. Best suited to a wing-back role or an attack-minded system where defensive responsibilities are shared and his crossing can be maximised.
Cameron Bragg (6)	CM	20	5'10	R	- Agile central midfielder with good balance and competitiveness. Average physical profile but comfortable operating in tight areas. - Acts as a connector in midfield, regularly receiving under pressure and attempting vertical passes between the lines. - Risk-taking passer, occasionally disrupting possession, but capable of breaking defensive lines. - Strong defensive timing, showing good awareness in tackles and interceptions. - High technical output, highlighted by a perfectly timed assist and an excellent set-piece delivery (53'). - Discipline needs improvement, picked up an unnecessary yellow card due to complaints to the referee. PERFORMANCE GRADE: 6.5 Influential midfield performance. Creative, brave in possession, and decisive in key moments. Well suited to a possession-based midfield role.
Romeo Akachukwu (8)	CM	19	5'10	R	- Tall, powerful midfielder with strong athletic profile, good pace over distance, and physical dominance in duels. - Operates as a box-to-box, supporting both attacking and defensive phases.

					Showed good energy and willingness to recover and support the defensive line. - Effective ball carrier, able to drive forward through midfield using stride length and strength. Comfortable engaging opponents 1 v 1 and capable of creating space for himself. - Technically secure in attacking moments, scoring an excellent goal by timing his movement well in behind and finishing decisively without taking a first touch. - Was outplayed by Dier in direct midfield battles, particularly in tight central areas, but responded well by increasing defensive contribution. PERFORMANCE GRADE: 7 Strong all-round midfield display. Influential physically, contributed defensively, and delivered a decisive attacking moment. Capable of decisive moments but consistency and awareness under pressure need improvement. Best suited to a box-to-box role with space to attack. One of Southampton's top performers on the day. Suited to a high-intensity box-to-box role where his physicality and ball-carrying can be maximised.
Moses Sesay (11)	LWB	18	5'9	L	- Strong, athletic wide player with good stamina and aggression. - High defensive work rate, regularly dropping deep to support the back line. - Effective 1 v 1 attacker when driving forward, though does not consistently exploit his pace. - Passing generally safe, prioritising ball retention over risk.

					- Very aggressive defensively, sometimes overly physical, but showed good sliding tackle technique. PERFORMANCE GRADE: 6.5 Energetic and committed performance. Defensive contribution strong, attacking output steady rather than decisive.
Samuel Amo-Ameyaw (10)	RW	19	5'7	L	- Small, lightweight attacker with good pace and agility. Lacks physical strength but very mobile. - Drops deep to receive, operating effectively in pockets between the lines. - Strong ball-carrying ability, though tends to over-hold possession at times. - Creative technically, highlighted by an excellent outside-of-the-foot pass (29'). - Inconsistent first touch early on, but grew into the game and consistently drew fouls due to close control. PERFORMANCE GRADE: 6 Bright creative performance with flashes of quality. Needs to improve efficiency and decision-making to maximise his attacking impact.
Baylee Dipepa (9)	ST	18	6'0	R	- Physically imposing centre forward with a tall, wide frame and excellent use of his body. Strong lower-body strength allows him to protect the ball effectively, pin centre backs, and win contact situations consistently. - Clear focal point of the attack, operating as the reference point in possession. Comfortable receiving with his back to goal, bringing others into play, and giving

					the team a platform to progress up the pitch. - Outstanding technical ability for his size, showing an excellent first touch, soft control under pressure, and confidence receiving both into feet and in behind the defensive line. - High tactical intelligence, recognising when to drop into midfield to overload central areas and when to stretch the back line. Regularly occupied central defenders, creating space for runners around him. - Very strong link-up play and vision, consistently selecting the right option rather than forcing shots. Demonstrated unselfishness and awareness when setting up a teammate for the second goal, a key moment in the game. - Effective ball carrying, able to drive forward through central areas using long strides, close control, and physicality to ride challenges. - Active and intelligent presser, leading the press well and disrupting opposition build-up with his reach, timing, and willingness to engage. - Flair and confidence evident, comfortable attempting creative actions while maintaining efficiency and composure. PERFORMANCE GRADE: 8 Man of the Match performance. Dipepa was the clear attacking focal point and Southampton's most influential player, combining physical dominance, technical quality, and intelligent decision-making. He dictated attacking rhythm, enabled teammates to play higher, and directly contributed to key goal-scoring actions. Outstanding striker performance combining physicality, technique, and intelligence. Well suited to a single-striker system or a front two requiring strong link-up play.
--	--	--	--	--	---

Jay Robinson (7)	LW	18	5'7	R	- Agile, athletic attacking player with good acceleration, balance, and coordination. Not overly physical but compensates with sharp movement, quick feet, and strong body control at speed. - Highly effective between the lines, consistently finding pockets of space and offering angles to receive. Demonstrated strong game intelligence in when to drop deep to link play and when to drive forward aggressively. - Excellent ball-carrying ability, capable of progressing play through central areas at pace. Regularly committed defenders and showed confidence taking players on 1 v 1 using body feints, changes of direction, and close control. - Strong link-up play, combining well with midfielders and forwards and helping maintain attacking momentum. Frequently set up teammates with well-weighted passes. - End product good, highlighted by a very good finish for his goal and the creation of several dangerous moments. Created a high-quality chance at 72' by driving through the middle past two players; execution and technique were good, unlucky with the final outcome. - Good awareness in transition, regularly recovering to support the defence and tracking runners, particularly during counterattacks. - Plays with confidence and personality, comfortable taking responsibility in attacking phases and influencing the tempo of play. PERFORMANCE GRADE: 7.5 Excellent attacking display and second most influential player on the pitch behind Dipepa.

					Robinson consistently progressed play, created chances, and delivered decisive moments while maintaining a strong work rate off the ball. Well suited to a free attacking midfield role or an inverted wide role in a high-tempo, possession-based system that encourages ball carrying and combination play.
SUBS USED					
Princewill Ehibhatiomhan (16)	ST	20	6'2	R	- Fast, powerful striker with strong physical presence and good acceleration. - Immediately stretched the defence, making runs in behind and occupying central defenders. - Uses his body well to protect the ball and support teammates in possession. - Created danger quickly, with two strong chances including a powerful effort off the crossbar (72'). - Finishing inconsistent PERFORMANCE GRADE: 6 Very effective impact substitute. Physical dominance and movement caused problems, unlucky not to score. Suited to a direct attacking role off the bench.

Top 3 Performers

Dipepa (9) - Dominant, complete striker performance combining physicality, technique, and intelligence.

Robinson (7) - Creative, dynamic, and decisive in attacking phases.

Akachukwu (8) - Powerful box-to-box midfielder with strong defensive support and decisive goal contribution.