How PSG beat Bayern 5 – 4.

We ran the broadcast through our tracking pipeline, fed the data to our models, and asked one question: which mechanisms actually decided the match?

PSG
5

BAYERN
4

POSSESSION
42.6% / 57.4%

◆ THE PARADOX

PSG had less of the ball. They had fewer passes. They won 5–4.

POSSESSION
42.6%
▼ Bayern 57.4%

PASSES
371
▼ Bayern 504

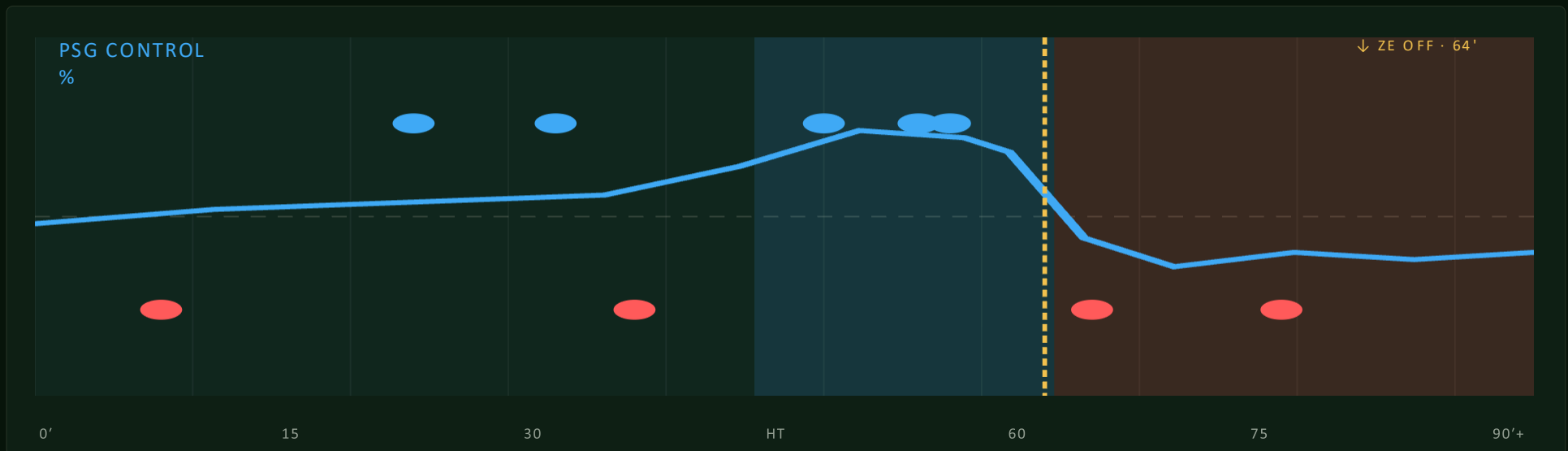
PROGRESSIVE %
25%
▲ Bayern 15%

GOALS
5
▲ Bayern 4 · 62.5% finishing

Classical metrics don't explain the result. The model does. What follows is what it actually saw.

◆ONE MATCH, THREE DIFFERENT MATCHES

The pitch-control timeline tells the whole story.



ACT I·0–45'

Contested dominance

PSG edge it 53% control · already 2-1 ahead at the break.

ACT II·45'+5 TO 58'

Parisian peak

3 goals in 13 minutes. Pitch control 58%. xT trough −0.42.

ACT III·64' →

Bavarian reversal

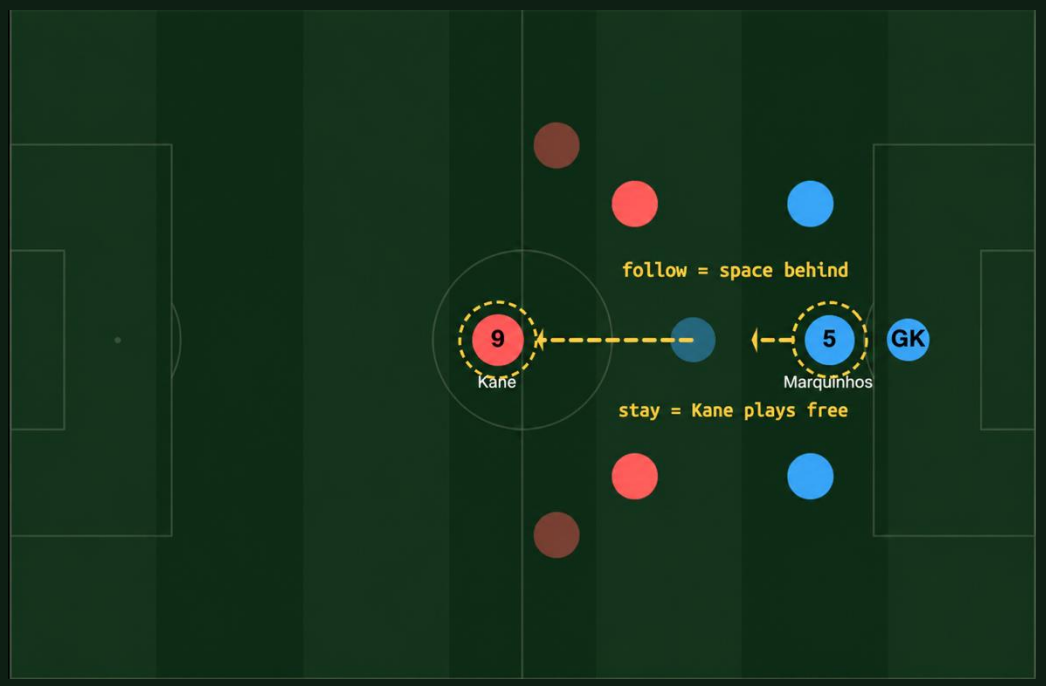
Zaïre-Emery off, Ruiz on. Press collapses. Bayern score twice in 5'.

◆THE SINGLE MOST DANGEROUS MECHANISM

Kane plays as a #9 . On Tuesday he played as a #6.

31% of the match , Kane operated 35–55 m from his own goal — defensive midfielder territory. Marquinhos has a binary choice, both bad. The model ranked this as the **#1 key factor**for Bayern dominance.

THE TRAP



TIME SPENT AT #6 ZONE

31%

35–55 m from own goal

AVG KANE–MARQUINHOS

13.8 → 19.2 m

1st half → 2nd half · gap doubled

IMPORTANCE RANK FOR BAYERN

#1

Above Olise, Díaz, Kimmich

RETURN-LEG LEVER

Track him

Recommendation: Zaïre-Emery, not Ruiz

◆SHAP · WHAT ACTUALLY DECIDED THE MATCH

Possession was the worst predictor.

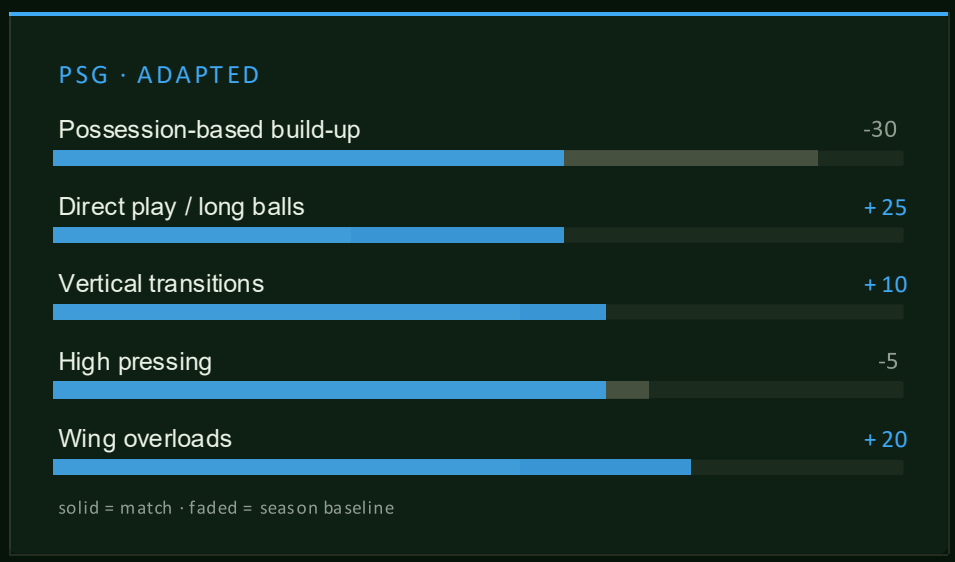
Each bar = how many **percentage points of win probability** this feature shifts when it moves from a Bayern-friendly to a PSG-friendly value. The story is mechanical, not territorial.



◆THE INVISIBLE KEY

Bayern played their game. PSG adapted against Bayern.

We compared each team's match-day style to their season baseline. Bayern's bars are nearly identical: same identity, no concessions. PSG's adapted their game to Bayern's tactics **+25 on direct play, +10 on vertical transitions, +20 on wing overloads.** A game plan engineered for the opponent.





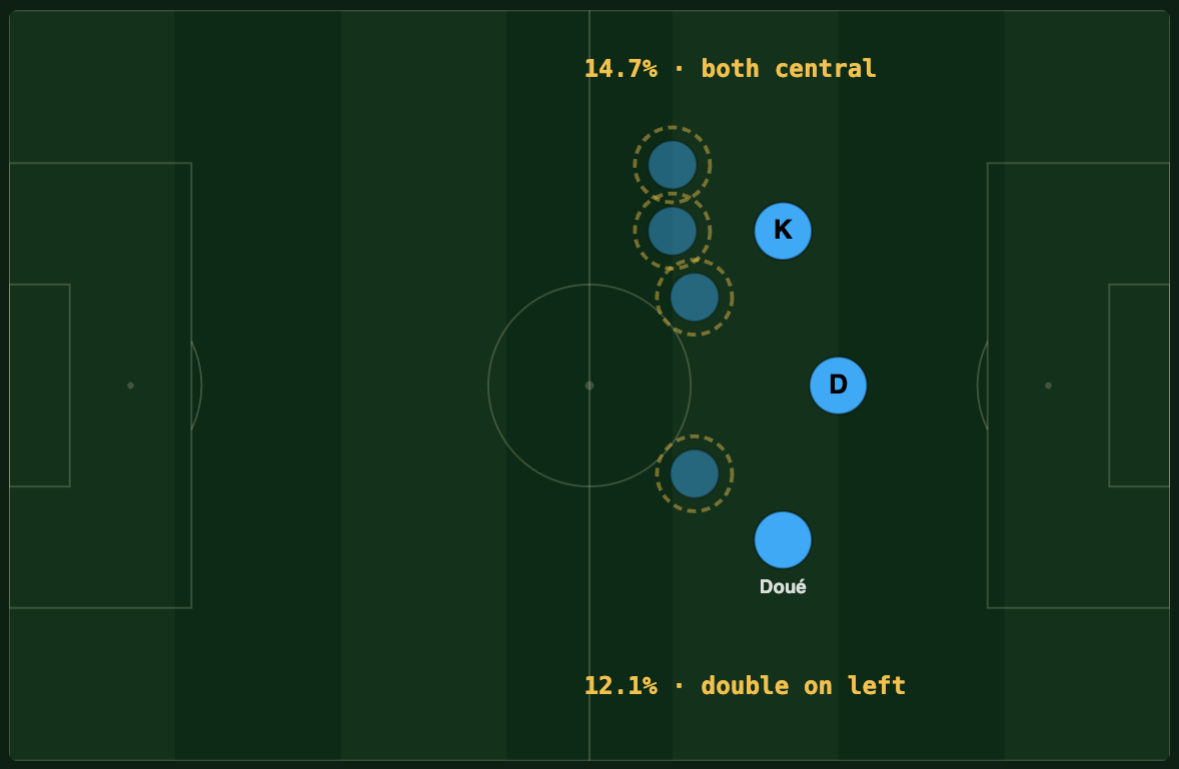
Luis Enrique's stated philosophy: *"For fast transition football to work, the opponent must choose to press high."* Bayern obliged.

◆WHY THE BAYERN BACK-LINE NEVER SET UP

Three forwards. 47 position swaps.

Dembélé, Doué and Kvara rotated **2.5× more than the European semi-final average** . The "nominal" shape : Kvara left, Dembélé central only existed 31% of the time.

CONFIGURATIONS · TIME SPENT



SIGN CHANGES (D-D-K CURVES)

47

2.5× the European semi-final mean

NOMINAL CONFIG

31%

The shape on paper · the rest is improv

BOTH FORWARDS CENTRAL

14.7%

Instant superiority on Tah/Upamecano

BOTH ON STANIŠIĆ'S FLANK

12.1%

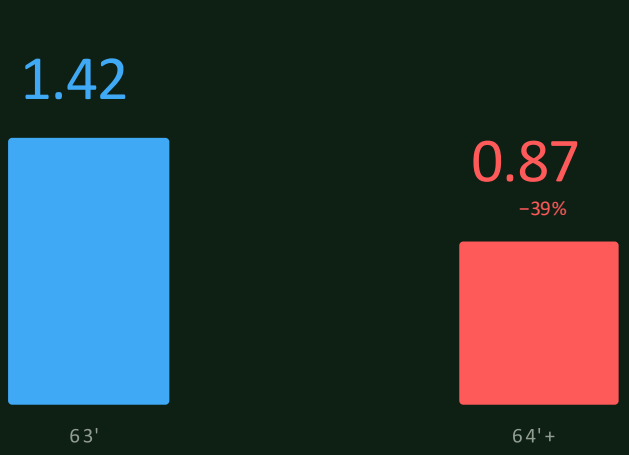
Right-back of Bayern crushed by overload

◆WHERE THE MATCH NEARLY FLIPPED

One sub. Two goals in five minutes.

Zaïre-Emery off, Fabián Ruiz on. The metric that snapped the match wasn't tactical — it was **physical** . PSG's pressing efficiency dropped from 1.42 to 0.87 the instant Ruiz came on.

PRESSING EFFICIENCY · BEFORE VS AFTER 64'



Defenders within 10 m of ball-carrier · ratio

WHY RUIZ WASN'T READY

WhoScored rating Tue lowest among PSG subs	6.01
Pressing eff. · 20' window vs 1.42 before sub	0.31
Distance covered proj. 8.3 km/90' · norm 10.5–11	2.4 km / 26 min
Context Kneecap fissure · returned 16 Apr	3-month lay-off

◆ Recommendation: start Zaïre-Emery in Munich.

◆THE PLAN FOR MUNICH

What is needed to go in the Final :

Stop chasing the ball. Wait for it.

PSG don't need to win. We ran MCTS models to understand what is needed to qualify recommends a compact mid-block, conceded possession, and surgical transitions.

RECOMMENDED SHAPE · 4-3-3 → 5-4-1 FINISH



1 **Cede possession**
Aim 40% · mid-block at X = 50 m

2 **Press in windows**
First & last 6′ of each half only

3 **Track Kane via ZE**
Not Ruiz · physical readiness > tactical fit

4 **Long balls in behind**
Vitinha/Neves → Dembélé · 0.42 xG/leg

5 **Target Stanišić**
Lost 7/13 duels Tue · keep pressure right

6 **Stagger subs · close to 5-4-1**
Final 10′ · finish like a back five

◆THE FULL REPORT · 14 PAGES · OPEN METHODS

64% chance of qualifying.

If PSG accept 60% opposing possession, defend in a compact mid-block, track Kane via Zaïre-Emery, and close in a back five over the final 20 minutes : the model gives them a clear edge. Using Tuesday’s tactic at the same intensity, and qualification falls close to 50/50.

HOW PSG BEAT BAYERN MUNICH

Tactical Analysis & Recommendations for the Return Leg

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