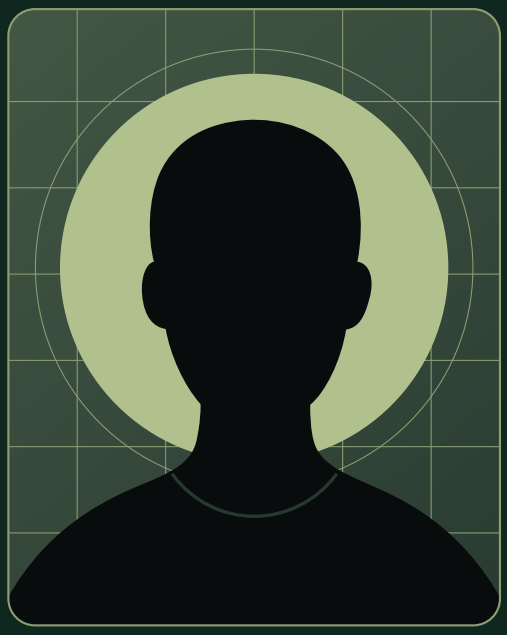
Extended Scouting Report

MARK PETROV

Centre-forward



Material reviewed	Preferred foot	Age at assessment	Level
3 matches	Right	17	Senior football

Scouting summary

A mobile, physically imposing centre-forward with a high work rate off the ball. He presses, competes for difficult passes and pulls defenders away to open space for teammates. His pace and intensity help him win fouls. The biggest areas for improvement are his first touch and the consistency of his finishing after a run or contact.

What he already gives the team

He can keep a difficult ball under pressure and open a lane for a teammate’s run even when he does not receive the pass himself.

The name is fictional. The on-pitch observations come from a real three-match assessment.

Assessment across three matches

The same profile comes through in all three matches: Petrov helps the team with his movement, pressing and willingness to compete for difficult balls. His finishing is less consistent than his work before the ball arrives.

In possession	Uses his pace in open space and can hold up a long pass through contact. What he does next depends on whether his first touch sets up the pass, turn or shot.
Out of possession	Drops to receive, moves wide and varies the direction of his runs. Those movements draw defenders out of the line and open space for teammates.
Pressing and duels	Closes defenders down quickly and keeps pressing after his first attempt. He welcomes contact and wins fouls, but at times gives away a foul when he could keep the move alive.

Current level

At 17, he was playing regularly in senior football. He can handle the tempo, running demands and contact with defenders.

Potential

A step up is realistic. He needs more consistent control and finishing under pressure and a quicker next action after winning a duel.

Role in the team

Suited to a mobile number nine role: he can lead the press, offer an outlet for the first pass and open space for a teammate arriving from deeper.

Playing out	Offers a target for a direct pass. He can receive a difficult ball with his back to goal and ride the first challenge, giving teammates time to move up.
Movement to receive	Drops short to receive or runs in behind. When a centre-back follows him, it opens a lane for a teammate arriving from deeper.
Attacking transition	Uses his pace in open space. Close support is especially useful after a long pass, giving him an option for a lay-off or short pass.
Pressing defenders	Covers ground and goes again after the first press. His intensity is most useful when he steers the opponent wide and stays in the play without unnecessary contact.

Support around the striker

Spot his run in behind early. If the ball goes into his feet or into a duel, one teammate can show for the lay-off while another attacks the space the defender has vacated.

Areas for development

The priority is technique at speed and under pressure: first touch, beating a defender using either foot, and more consistent finishing.

01	**First touch**	Receive balls at different heights with the foot, thigh or chest. Use the first touch to set up a shot, turn or pass before the defender closes him down.
02	**Finishing**	Finishing is inconsistent after a run, contact or an awkward pass. Practise striking with either foot, heading and finishing rebounds.
03	**Technique with both feet**	Work on feints and dribbling in both directions. Take defenders on more often when space is available, then set up a pass or shot with either foot.
04	**Passing after a duel**	Look for nearby support sooner after winning the ball. Practise short passes and one- or two-touch lay-offs.
05	**Coordination and balance**	Improve body control when changing direction and taking contact, so he can stay on his feet and play on straight away.
06	**Managing aggression**	Keep the intensity, but make contact less often when he can force the defender wide or cut off the pass instead.

Development plan

Work through each task with an active opponent in training, then check how it carries over into matches.

01 Finishing on the move

IN TRAINING

Finish in one or two touches after a run, a low cross or contact. Alternate feet and add headers from crosses.

IN MATCHES

Does he finish accurately when the ball is awkward or a defender is close?

02 Receiving and taking players on

IN TRAINING

Receive passes at different heights and take the first touch to the side. Add a feint, dribble right or left, and finish with a pass or shot.

IN MATCHES

Does the first touch set up the next action? Does he take players on when there is space?

03 Balance and short passing

IN TRAINING

Receive with his back to goal under contact: shield the ball, lay it off or turn and play to a teammate.

IN MATCHES

Does he keep the ball through contact and deliver an accurate pass while the teammate is still free?

04 Pressing without needless fouls

IN TRAINING

Close down on an arc to take away one passing option. After the first attempt, press again or recover his position.

IN MATCHES

Does he force play backwards or wide? Can he press again without giving away a foul?

What to compare

Compare his first touch and finishing with time on the ball and with a defender close. The difference shows which actions still need to carry over from training into matches.

Scout’s recommendation

Recommendation: watch again

A candidate for a step up. He handles the pace of senior football and contributes out of possession. Before making a decision, watch him against a quicker, tighter defence.

His pace, pressing and use of the body help him win individual situations. To step up, he needs to turn that advantage into an accurate lay-off, a pass into a teammate’s run or a better-prepared shot more often.

What to watch in the next matches

01	**Receiving under pressure**	After a long or awkward pass, does his first touch keep the ball under control and set up the next action?
02	**Outcome after contact**	Does he keep possession, play an accurate lay-off or give himself time to set up a shot?
03	**Finishing and discipline**	How does he finish with either foot or his head under pressure? Does he sustain the press without fouls that kill the attack?