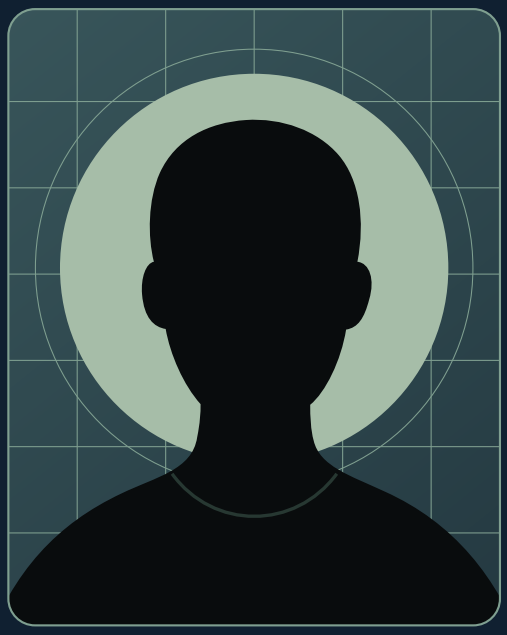
Standard Scouting Report

IVAN IVANOV

Centre-back



Material reviewed	Preferred foot	Height	Team role
1 match	Right	Average	Captain

Scouting summary

A centre-back who reads play well and rarely rushes into a tackle. He times his challenges, uses his body to hold position and helps organise the back line. He is reliable in build-up, with room to spot forward passes earlier and execute them more accurately under pressure.

What would take him forward

A sharper burst over the first few metres would help him close opponents down sooner. A better first pass would give his team another way to play out under pressure.

The name is fictional. The on-pitch observations come from a real scouting report.

Playing profile

Ivanov positions himself well in relation to the ball, the opponent and his teammates. That gives him time to decide whether to step in for a tackle or hold the line.

Out of possession	Gets into position early and holds the line unless there is a reason to step out. As captain, he communicates with teammates and keeps the defence organised.
In duels	Times his challenges and gets his body between the opponent and the ball. The next step is to hold his ground more consistently through firm contact.
In possession	Keeps possession calmly with a simple pass. Under pressure, he needs to assess his options earlier and find teammates beyond the first line of the press more consistently.

Current level

A dependable centre-back who takes up good positions and carries out the core defensive tasks consistently.

Potential

Good potential. The biggest gains would come from sharper acceleration and a stronger contribution when playing out under pressure.

Strengths and development areas

Strengths

01 **Positional sense**
Positions himself well in relation to the ball, the opponent and his teammates.

02 **Tactical reliability**
Stays composed and makes sound decisions in routine defensive situations.

03 **Timing of tackles**
Picks the right moment to tackle and does not dive in when holding position is the better option.

04 **Use of the body**
Holds position through contact and makes it harder for opponents to reach the ball.

05 **Leadership**
Takes responsibility for his area, communicates and organises the back line.

Areas for development

01 **First 3-5 metres**
Improve initial acceleration to cover runs in behind and get to the ball sooner.

02 **Strength and balance**
Stay on his feet more consistently through contact and recover his position quicker after a duel.

03 **Decision before receiving**
Check where the pressure is coming from and who is available before the ball arrives.

04 **Passing out from the back**
Improve grounded passes between the lines and longer passes into space when the short option is closed.

05 **Left foot**
Develop his left-footed passing, shooting and dribbling so he can escape pressure either way.

06 **Covering space in behind**
Manage the gap to the next defender and cover the space behind the line earlier when shifting across.

First priority

Sharper first steps and a better first pass: close the space quicker without the ball and find the free teammate sooner after receiving.

Development plan

Four tasks to work on in training and assess in the next matches.

01 Acceleration and stability

IN TRAINING

Accelerate over 5-10 metres from a standing start and after a turn. Then practise holding position through shoulder-to-shoulder contact.

IN MATCHES

Does he get across to cover the run and keep his position after contact?

02 First pass under pressure

IN TRAINING

Check over the shoulder before receiving. In two or three touches, choose a short pass, a line-breaking pass or a longer switch into space.

IN MATCHES

Does he see the forward pass when it is on? How often does his first pass beat the press?

03 Using the left foot

IN TRAINING

Start with passes to a target, changes of direction on the dribble and shots with the left foot. Then add a time limit and pressure.

IN MATCHES

Does he use his left foot when it helps him play quicker or get away from an opponent?

04 Spacing and communication

IN TRAINING

When the line shifts, track the gap to the next defender, check for runs in behind and communicate early.

IN MATCHES

Does he cover the space behind him when shifting across? Do teammates have time to adjust to his call?

What to check in the next match

Focus on receptions under pressure: does Ivanov spot the forward option before the ball arrives, and can he find it without an extra touch?