



CATENACCIO REPORT



DARKO LEMAJIC



Darko Lemajic is a 25-year-old striker of Riga FC. The Serbian player is very tall (198 cm) and massive (92 kg): these qualities favor him in duels with the opposition defenders. Lemajic has a pretty good duel winning rate for a striker (37% won of 34 duels, the average in top 5 leagues is 34%). He has very impressive numbers of winning aerial duels (48%, numbers comparable do Dzeko, Benteke or Giroud). Another impressive key parameter is the number of first goals in match scored during this year (7, better than 90% of strikers in top 5 leagues). He is a complete striker who can score with right, left foot or his head, having a very good goal conversion rate (21%) though assists, crosses or smart passes aren't his strongest side.

Darko is very strong as well is his defensive contribution: he's making 4.4 defensive duels per match (average is 3.7), as well as 1.96 counterpressing recoveries (average is 1.51), which also suggests his awareness of the game and readiness to work for the team. Very good numbers on speed (32 km/h max speed and 6.5% on average of high speed running out of 10.8 km per match) prove his solid physical shape.

Dribbling isn't his stronger side (he managed to get only 33% of his dribbles past the opponent, total number of successful dribbles is 0.49 with an average of 1.43): he's more suited to a direct play or finishing the opportunities created by teammates. However, this is what he excels at!

Darko is the first choice as the striker for Riga FC and the team looks very different when he's on pitch. He's adding aggression, tempo and impact to the attack. He's incredibly hard-working, the first one to go in a tackle attempt in a transition to defense: a quality that allows our midfielders and defenders to better position themselves. He's the one that is fulfilling most faithfully the objectives set to him by the coach, he understood really well the tasks for his position which allowed the team to create goal opportunities. He's a natural leader, not afraid of taking responsibility, very honest, having a positive vibe and always ready to help his teammates. I think his potential lies much higher than the Latvian league.
























Victor Skripnik

Riga FC head coach
























FORMATION ADAPTABILITY

Though Lemajic can play with two forwards, he really shines when he's playing the target man, so a formation with either a single attacker or a very assisting 10 is highly recommended.

		4-2-3-1	4-1-4-1	4-4-2	4-3-3
	Vancouver Whitecaps	19.4%	26.2%	37%	0.9%
	Chicago Fire	41.5%	3.8%	3.9%	16.1%
	Rapid Wien	74.7%	4.4%	7%	-
	Gent	59.7%	12.9%	4.5%	1.2%
	Dynamo Kyiv	64.6%	9%	2.7%	6.2%
	Ferencváros	26.1%	15.8%	27.5%	5%
	Basel	65.1%	3.5%	6.1%	-
	Toronto	1.7%	7.3%	15.6%	9.7%
	Sparta Praha	23.4%	-	33.9%	6.5%
	Vitesse	46.4%	5.4%	4.2%	15.8%
	Willem II	51.8%	-	4.4%	14.5%
	Austria Wien	9%	20.1%	2.1%	21.6%
	Pafos	-	9.1%	6.1%	51.5%
	Zürich	36.8%	-	9.4%	1.3%
	Sydney	-	-	74.7%	3.3%
	Lugano	1.7%	6.1%	0.3%	29.3%
	Brøndby	-	-	14%	3.3%
	Anderlecht	2.4%	1.6%	7.8%	-
	Budapest Honvéd	-	2%	-	3.1%
	Fastav Zlín	0.3%	-	2.4%	0.3%
	Midtjylland	-	-	0.4%	-



TEAM STYLE

		Match tempo	Challenge intensity	PPDA	Possession
	Riga with Lemajic	11.4	3.6	6.9	54.4%
	Vancouver Whitecaps	9.8	2.9	13.8	47.1%
	Lugano	10.2	2.8	11.4	50.3%
	Chicago Fire	10.8	2.9	13.0	49.3%
	Sparta Praha	10.2	3.5	6.4	56.2%
	Willem II	10.3	3.1	11.1	49%
	Vitesse	10.8	3.3	9.2	51.1%
	Rapid Wien	11.7	3.6	8.9	56.8%
	Budapest Honvéd	10.3	3.0	9.7	50%
	Gent	11.4	3.3	8.1	56.3%
	Brøndby	12.3	3.4	8.3	55.1%
	Ferencváros	12.1	3.0	8.9	53.5%
	Toronto	12.5	2.8	11.5	52.3%
	Fastav Zlin	10.3	3.1	9.2	49.2%
	Pafos	11.5	3.1	11.4	49.1%
	Midtjylland	11.4	2.8	9.2	51.1%
	Sydney	12.5	3.3	9.8	51.1%
	Austria Wien	11.2	3.4	7.9	49.9%
	Zürich	10.5	3	8.5	48.4%
	Basel	10.9	2.8	10.4	47.4%
	Anderlecht	11	4.1	6.1	58.8%
	Dynamo Kyiv	16.0	5.0	6.8	58.5%

The logo of Chicago Fire, featuring a stylized 'C' with a flame inside, surrounded by a circular pattern of stars.

TOP RECOMMENDATION

Chicago Fire

Chicago Fire finished the season of 2018 on the 10th place, in the bottom part of the table of Eastern Conference in MLS. Previous season a formation with one forward ahead was the most used.

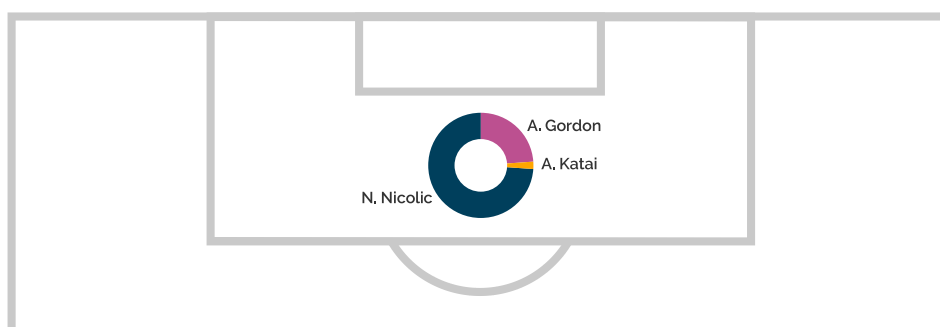
A 30-year-old Serbian forward Nikolić was their main option in attack the previous season (2822 minutes and 19 goals in all competitions). Alan Gordon (37 years old, 4 goals) and Marcos Ureña (28 years old, 2 goals) were another two strikers mostly preferred as an alternative solution for the offensive line. Nikolić has impressive stats during his career, being also the main forward in a teams like Legia Warsaw (91 matches, 56 goals) and MOL Vidi (217 matches, 112 goals). Comparing Nikolić and Lemajic, the latter, while not yet having a comparable career goal output, brings a lot more skill in defensive play, plus an impressive height can narrow this gap. Being more successful in ball recoveries, defending and pressing duels, Lemajic is helping the team in defense as well as in attack, and can be a hidden weapon against top possession teams. Being a very tall forward he can bring more advantage in playing high balls, transforming him in a real threat in the opposition penalty area, which is reflected in the number of head goals (4 vs 2) and the percentage of air duels won (48% vs 16%).

Alan Gordon, another forward of Chicago Fire, seems to be at the finish of his football career. A 37-year-old striker shows the same style of play as Lemajic. Both are tall and massive strikers, able to fight for high balls and are confident in shoulder to shoulder duels. Though Gordon has more experience of play in MLS, Lemajic is superior in almost every regard.



Marcos Ureña, another forward of Chicago Fire, can be regarded as a more “creative” striker. Being not so tall (1,79 m), he is feeling more confident in dribbling (65% success). Making more touches in box he increases the coefficient of expected assists (4,74 touches per 90 mins and 4 assists in the last season). However, the Costa-Rican striker, while really not capable as a finisher (just 2 goals in 1291 minutes in 2018), would form a perfect partnership with Lemajic (reminiscent of his pair with Wondolowski at SJ Earthquakes in 2017).

In summary, Chicago Fire through Darko Lemajic can have a striker that will contribute to both goal-scoring and defense, giving more confidence in play against top possession teams.



RUNNER-UP

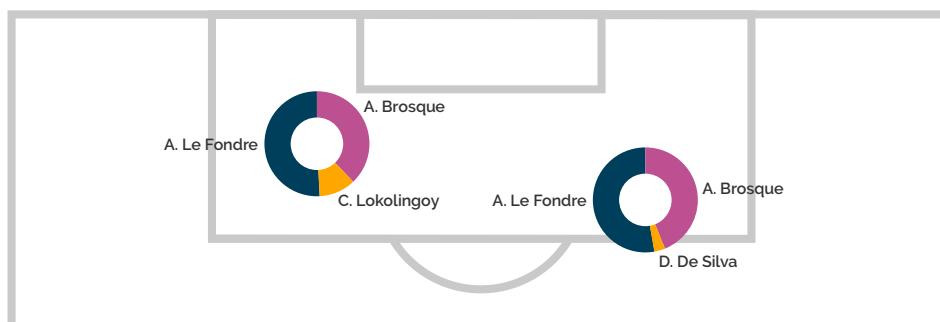
Sydney FC

The Australian club lies in the third place after 9 match days played in A-League. The most used formation is with two strikers ahead where Adam Le Fondre (32 years old) and Alex Brosque (35 years old) are playing almost all the matches in the starting lineup (96%).

Taking in consideration that both forwards are at the end of the edge curve and the team doesn't have a younger striker with experience that would be able to replace them, this makes the centre-forward position a priority for the current and next season. Being much taller, Lemajic is more dangerous in the box (4 head goals vs. 1 for Brosque and 0 for Le Fondre), reflected in an impressive 48% of winning air duels, a huge difference in comparison with the average percentage showed by current Sydney's strikers (44% in sum for both forwards). Due to his age (25 years old), Lemajic has enough capability to combine his good results in attack (15 goals this season) with defensive tasks, providing significant contribution to the team ball recovery and successful defensive actions (8,61 for Lemajic against 7 together for Le Fondre and Brosque).

Since Sydney do in average 16 crosses and 5 corners per match, the aerial ability of Lemaic would help a lot to score more goals. He scored 4 head goals last season, again, equal with amount of both Sydney strikers.

Lemajic can be a very good option for Sydney, being an universal striker. Being useful in attack and in defense, young and tall, Lemajic can bring good results for his team in terms of goals and defensive work.



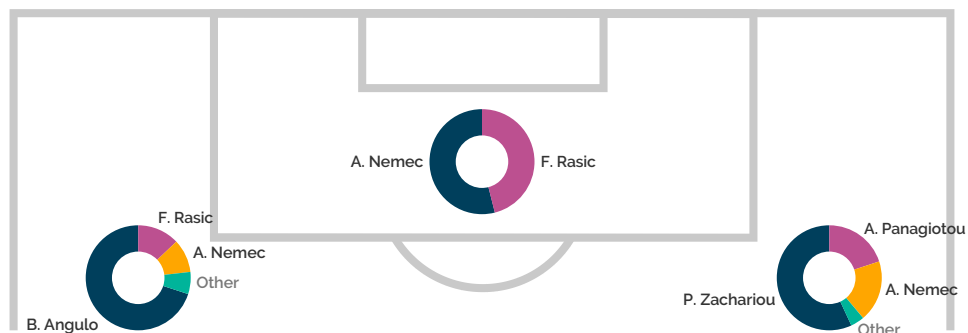
RUNNER-UP

Pafos FC

Paphos lie currently in the 10th place of Cyprus 1st Division. The team mostly uses a 4-3-3 formation. Having a similar style of play Darko Lemajic could be seen a good substitution of current striker Adam Nemec (33 years old) or a strong competitor for Ivan Federico Rasic (26 years old).






















The Slovakian striker still has a good performance in goals and assists (7 goals and 2 assists in 15 matches of current season) and is a key element in the attack. His physical data makes him a heavy weapon in the box and a big threat for opposite defenders. From the other side, Lemajic is much younger then Nemec and can be a good long-term option while maintaining the same attack style. Being more aggressive in the final third, reflected by the average number of attacking duels per 90 mins (11 vs 6,7) and aerial duels (13 vs 11), Lemajic can increase the pressure against opposite defenders and bring more head goals after crosses (4 vs 1).

Rasic and Lemajic could be seen as strong competitors for the position in attack. Both of them are tall and have good aerial abilities, in the same time displaying good skills in defense. However, Lemajic is much effective in attack confirmed by the number of the goals in this season (15 vs 1), a huge difference that can be considered a very important advantage for Lemajic.





OVERALL RATING

 Chicago Fire	★★★★★
 Sydney	★★★★★
 Pafos	★★★★★
 Willem II	★★★★★
 Lugano	★★★★★
 Vancouver Whitecaps	★★★★
 Brøndby	★★★★
 Midtjylland	★★★★
 Rapid Wien	★★★
 Budapest Honvéd	★★★
 Gent	★★★
 Ferencváros	★★★
 Fastav Zlin	★★★
 Austria Wien	★★★
 Zürich	★★★
 Sparta Praha	★★★
 Toronto	★★★
 Vitesse	★★★
 Dynamo Kyiv	★★★
 Basel	★★★
 Anderlecht	★★★