PREMIER LEAGUE BETTING GUIDE
22/23

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL

POWERED BY **infogol**

PREMIER LEAGUE
BETTING GUIDE
22/23

POWERED BY INFOGOL

Sporting Life harnesses the power of **Infogol's Expected Goals (xG)** model to provide expert, detailed analysis on all 20 clubs in this comprehensive 22/23 Premier League Betting Guide.

From Infogol percentage chance and predictions to detailed expert betting selections, 21/22 Premier League xG stat packs to 22/23 Players to Watch, Tactics Talk to Strength of Schedule, this guide is your one-stop shop for everything Premier League related ahead of the start of the campaign and beyond.

sky bet FAN HOPE SURVEY

Using public opinion company YouGov, Sky Bet polled more than 2,800 Premier League and Championship fans ahead of the new season on a myriad of issues facing both the club they support and the leagues themselves.

**For more detail, visit Sky Bet's Start of Season Hub.**

In this guide, we use the survey to compare fans' opinion to the Infogol xG model when it comes to finishing position.

HOW TO READ THE DATA

> **EXPECTED GOALS PROCESS IS A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE RATE AT WHICH TEAMS CREATE AND CONCEDE CHANCES**

SIX-GAME ROLLING STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

Using Infogol's predicted positions, we have generated a season-long strength of schedule for each team. The higher the point on the graph, the easier the preceding six games are. The lower the point, the more difficult the fixtures.
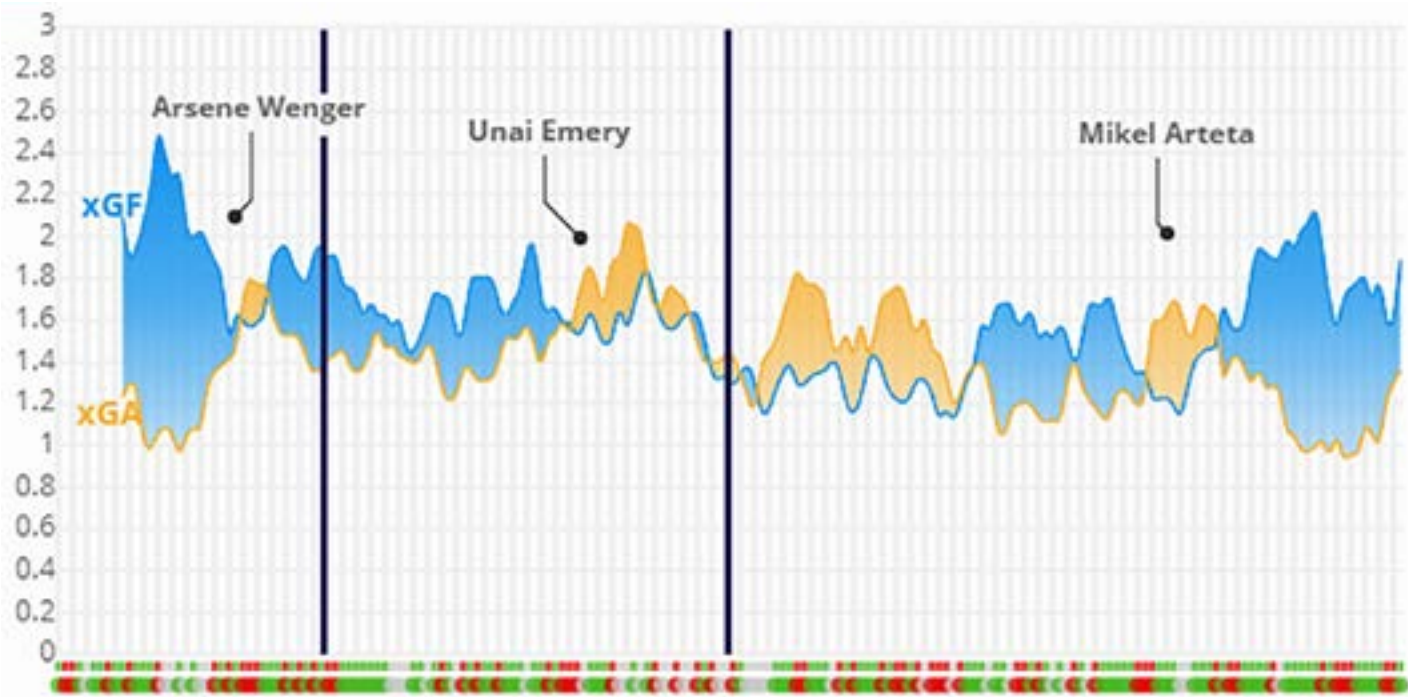

ROLLING FORM

Infogol's rolling form shows a team's xG process over a prolonged period. In simple terms **BLUE = good**. **ORANGE = bad.** Blue shows that the team is out-creating their opponents according to xG, orange shows the opposite.

WHAT IS xG?

Expected Goals (xG) is a simple stat like passes completed, tackles made or shots on target. The shot count is where people naturally tend to look for a gauge of who they think deserved to win – but not all attempts on goal are equal. xG ranks their quality, giving each a probability of being scored, with chances ranked **between 0.01 and 0.99** – from highly unlikely to score, to highly unlikely to miss.

Any football fan knows that a strike from 30 yards does not have the same chance of being scored as a one-on-one. A long-range, speculative strike will have around a 3% chance of being scored, so the xG value is 0.03. A one-on-one will generally have between
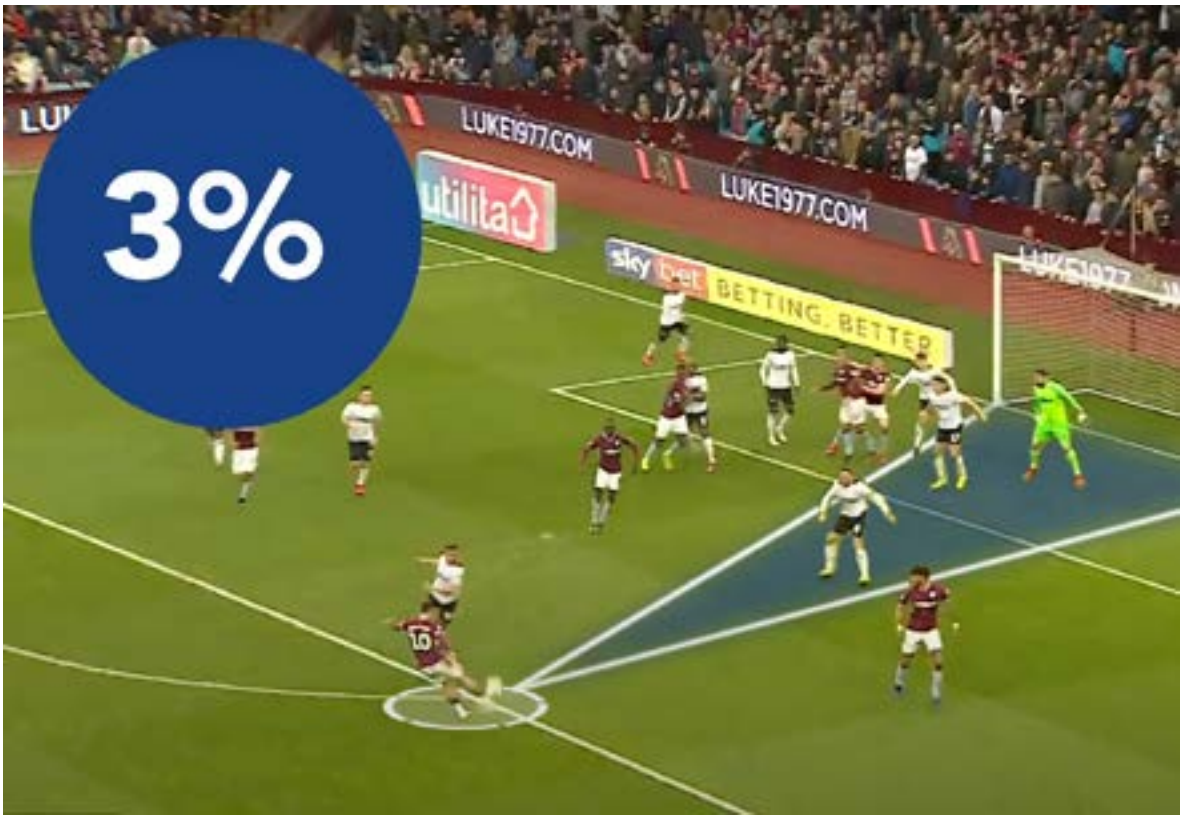
a 35% and 60% chance of being scored, so is given an appropriate **xG value between 0.35 and 0.60**. Adding these values up for every attempt on goal in a game gives you an xG total for a team.

▶ WHAT IS xG?

LAST SEASON'S
SUCCESS

LAST SEASON'S GUIDE
TO 1PT STAKES

+4.3PTS PROFIT
FOR 22%
RETURN ON INVESTMENT

SPORTING LIFE'S
PREMIER LEAGUE
TIPPING RECORD 21/22:

+91.5PTS PROFIT
FOR 12.5%
RETURN ON INVESTMENT

CONTENTS

OUTRIGHT
TOTTENHAM

TOTTENHAM TO FINISH IN THE TOP FOUR takes the crown as my most confident betting selection of the pre-season. Antonio Conte is a genius. It's as simple as that.

With a mediocre squad last season, Conte turned Tottenham's fortunes on their head, with their xGD per game transforming from **-0.55** under Nuno Espirito Santo to **+0.91** under the Italian. By the end of last season, their underlying process was at its highest level since the 2017/18 season, and there is plenty of reason to believe it will only get better.

The signings of Djed Spence, Clement Lenglet, Yves Bissouma, Richarlison and Ivan Perisic strengthen both their starting XI and squad, with all five players perfectly suited to Conte-ball. I'm incredibly excited to see what Spurs can do this term, and think they are a lock for the top four given everything discussed.

Jake Osgathorpe @JAKEOZZ

TOP
4
PREDICTION

PREDICTED RELEGATION

RELEGATION
BOURNEMOUTH

Bournemouth head the relegation market this season and rightly so, but, with short odds-on quotes around them finishing in the bottom three, the value comes in taking **Bournemouth to finish bottom.**

Had Nottingham Forest appointed Steve Cooper a few weeks earlier than they did, there's a strong chance they would have claimed the automatic promotion spot ahead of Bournemouth, and with Fulham well clear of the Cherries in terms of quality and underlying process, ranking Scott Parker's side the worst of the newly promoted trio makes sense. Recruitment has been below par, with Bournemouth yet to really strengthen a mediocre Premier League squad, unlike their promoted counterparts. Expect them to fall short in their bid for survival and prop up the table, especially as there remain question marks around Parker's managerial ability at this level.

TOM CARNDUFF @TOMC_22

TOP SCORER
KAI HAVERTZ

I'm willing to gamble on the big price available for **Kai Havertz to be top goalscorer.**

Romelu Lukaku's departure back to Inter has given Havertz a real opportunity to have the permanent centre forward role and he has demonstrated in the past that he can deliver when playing this position. Havertz featured as a centre forward in 26 games last season, scoring 11 goals and providing a further three assists. That's considerably more than the three goals he scored from 18 games as an attacking midfielder.

During his final season at Bayer Leverkusen in 2019/20, he returned a record of eight goals in eight games as a centre forward. Some may consider him an attacking midfielder but he is more than capable further forward.

TOM CARNDUFF @TOMC_22

TOP SCORER
PREDICTION

READ IN FULL AT SPORTING LIFE
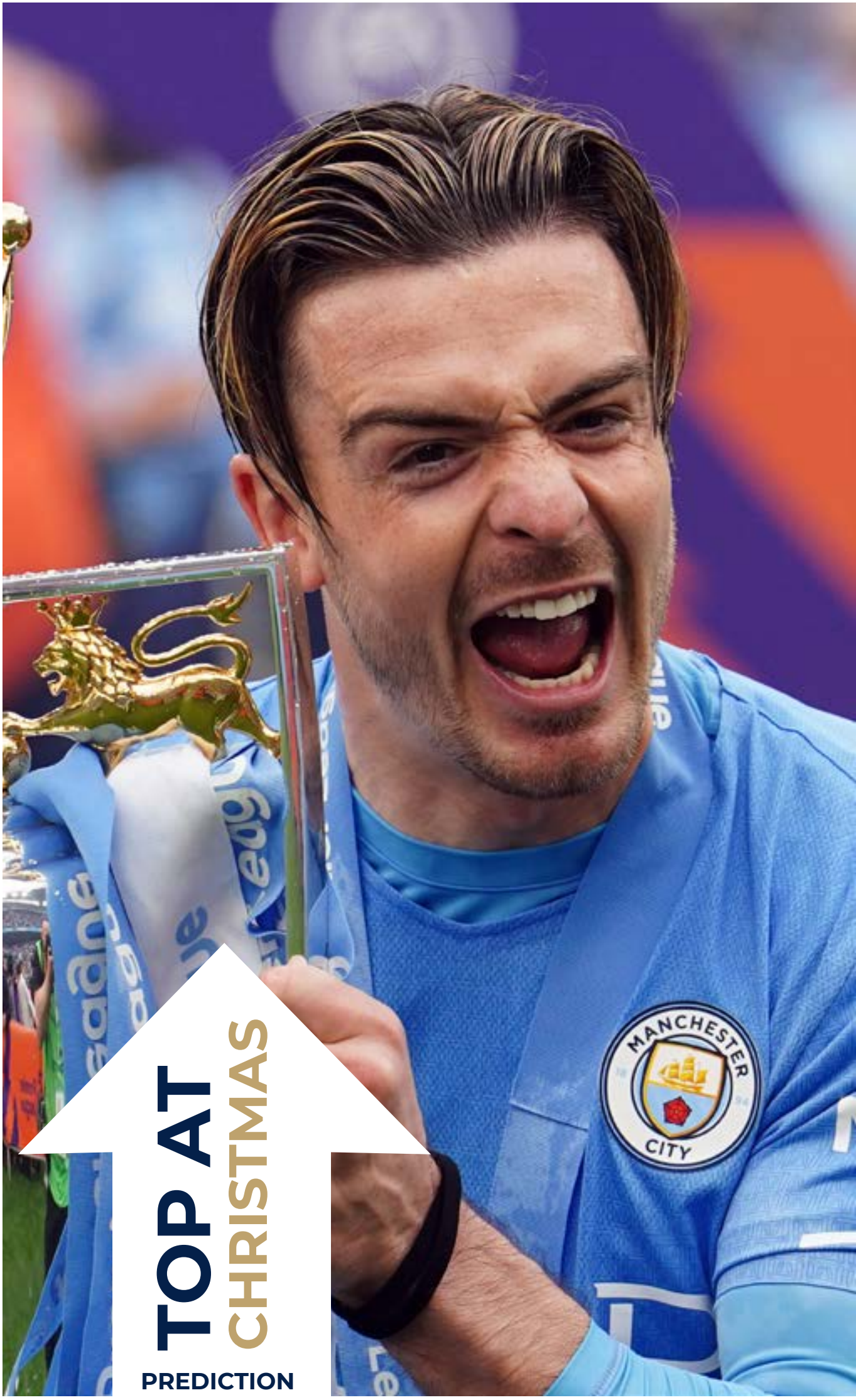
SPECIALS
MAN CITY TOP AT CHRISTMAS

Manchester City's transfer window does nothing but support thoughts that last season's champions are set to dominate again, and it's worth backing them to get off to a smooth start.

Not only do City face a fairly-easy opening six games, but they look set to benefit more than others from a winter World Cup. City play 16 league games before the break, nine at the Etihad. Pep Guardiola's host 'big six' rivals Tottenham and Manchester United during that time, while visits to Liverpool and Arsenal in quick succession might prove their stiffest test.

Crucially, at least for the upcoming bet selection, a tough trip to Stamford Bridge to face Chelsea is one of the three games that comes after the Boxing Day restart of domestic action. It is Manchester City to be top on Christmas Day that makes appeal then.

TOP AT CHRISTMAS
PREDICTION

READ IN FULL AT SPORTING LIFE

LIAM KELLY @LIAMKELLYTTA

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	24%	60%	93%	0%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

TOP 6
% CHANCE

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent

Gameweek

Arsenal's season could hinge on an increasingly difficult schedule from March to May. Navigate that period successfully and the Gunners can look forward to a more favourable run of matches at the campaign's climax when they'll hope to still be in the top-four race.

59%	Best Priced Bookie
60%	Infogol
90%	sky bet Fan Hope Survey

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

Jake Osgathorpe
@JAKEOZZ

Arsenal were very close to finishing in the top four last season, ultimately deserving of finishing behind rivals Tottenham based on underlying numbers, though injuries at the back end of the campaign certainly hurt them. Strengthening this summer should mean for a more consistent Arsenal this term, and if they continue improving at the same rate under Mikel Arteta then they will go close again to securing Champions League football. After all, their **xGD** per game jumped from **+0.22 in 19/20** to **+0.40** in 21/22, and a similar leap forward this term would put them right in the mix. They look to be in a better place than fellow top four rivals Manchester United, and so taking the Gunners in a match bet with the Red Devils looks a strong angle this term.

CLICK HERE TO BACK: ARSENAL TO FINISH ABOVE MANCHESTER UNITED

LAST SEASON'S STATS

1.72	**1.32**	**5**	**5**	**0.56**	**0.22**
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	Aubameyang XG/95 LEADER	Saka XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 17/18 TO PRESENT

The navy lines represent managerial changes. After years of mediocrity, Arsenal's process is on the up under Mikel Arteta.
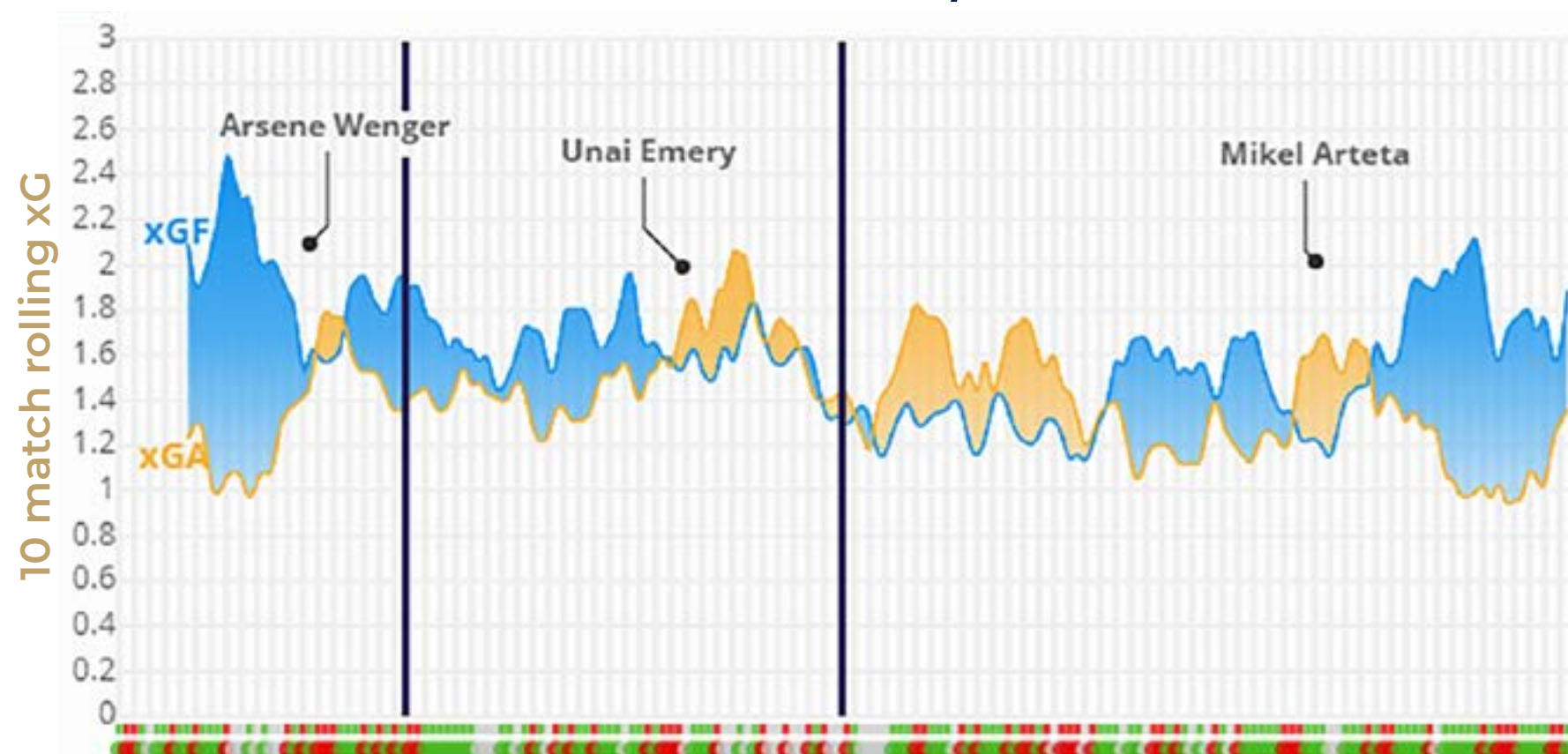
Arsenal's xGD per game of **+0.40** last season was the highest they have recorded since Arsene Wenger left the club in 2018.

SPORTING LIFE FOOTBALL

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PLAYER TO WATCH
GABRIEL MARTINELLI

Gabriel Martinelli, still only 21 years old, has shown flashes of brilliance during his time in England, but has struggled with injuries.

He played over 2000 minutes last season, and his underlying numbers were eye-catching, averaging **0.42 xG/95** – which ranked 19th best in the entire league of players who played more than 800 minutes – and **0.19 xA/95**. As Arsenal continue to lean towards a youthful approach, Martinelli could have a real breakout season in 22/23.

Jake Osgathorpe   @JAKEOZZ

TALKING TACTICS

Exciting, youthful and full of quality in all areas of the pitch, Arsenal will be hoping to build on their strong 21/22 campaign. Mikel Arteta's Gunners will be expected to play a mix of 4-2-3-1 and a 4-3-3, while exhibiting a modern brand of football that features a preference to build out from the back, stretch the pitch and press opponents high. They are capable of hurting opponents in so many ways, boasting a superb array of incisive dribblers, progressive passers and intelligent movers. The excellent additions of Fabio Vieira and Gabriel Jesus aid their chances of a top four finish, and it'll be fascinating to watch how this vibrant, tactically intriguing Arsenal outfit fare.

Edward Stratmann   @EdwardStratmann

ASTON VILLA

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	1%	9%	41%	6%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

BOTTOM HALF % CHANCE

50%	Best Priced Bookie
59%	Infogol
25%	sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent — Gameweek

Villa have been dealt a fairly good hand for the opening three months of the season but where they benefit least from the schedule is post-World Cup, with one of the trickiest runs of any top-flight team according to Infogol's ratings.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

TOM CARNDUFF
@TOMC_22

Aston Villa were unlucky not to finish higher in the 21/22 Premier League, occupying 11th in Infogol's expected table but actually finishing 14th. They improved following Steven Gerrard's appointment at the club – **winning 10 of 27** games following a start of three wins from 11 under Dean Smith.

It's been another positive summer for Villa with Diego Carlos and Boubacar Kamara joining the club alongside the arrival of goalkeeper Robin Olsen and the permanent addition of Philippe Coutinho. They are in a strong position to become the Midlands' top club this season.

CLICK HERE TO BACK: ASTON VILLA TOP MIDLANDS CLUB

| 1.21	1.45	14	11	0.34	0.22
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	WATKINS	BUENDIA
				xG/95 LEADER	xA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 TO PRESENT
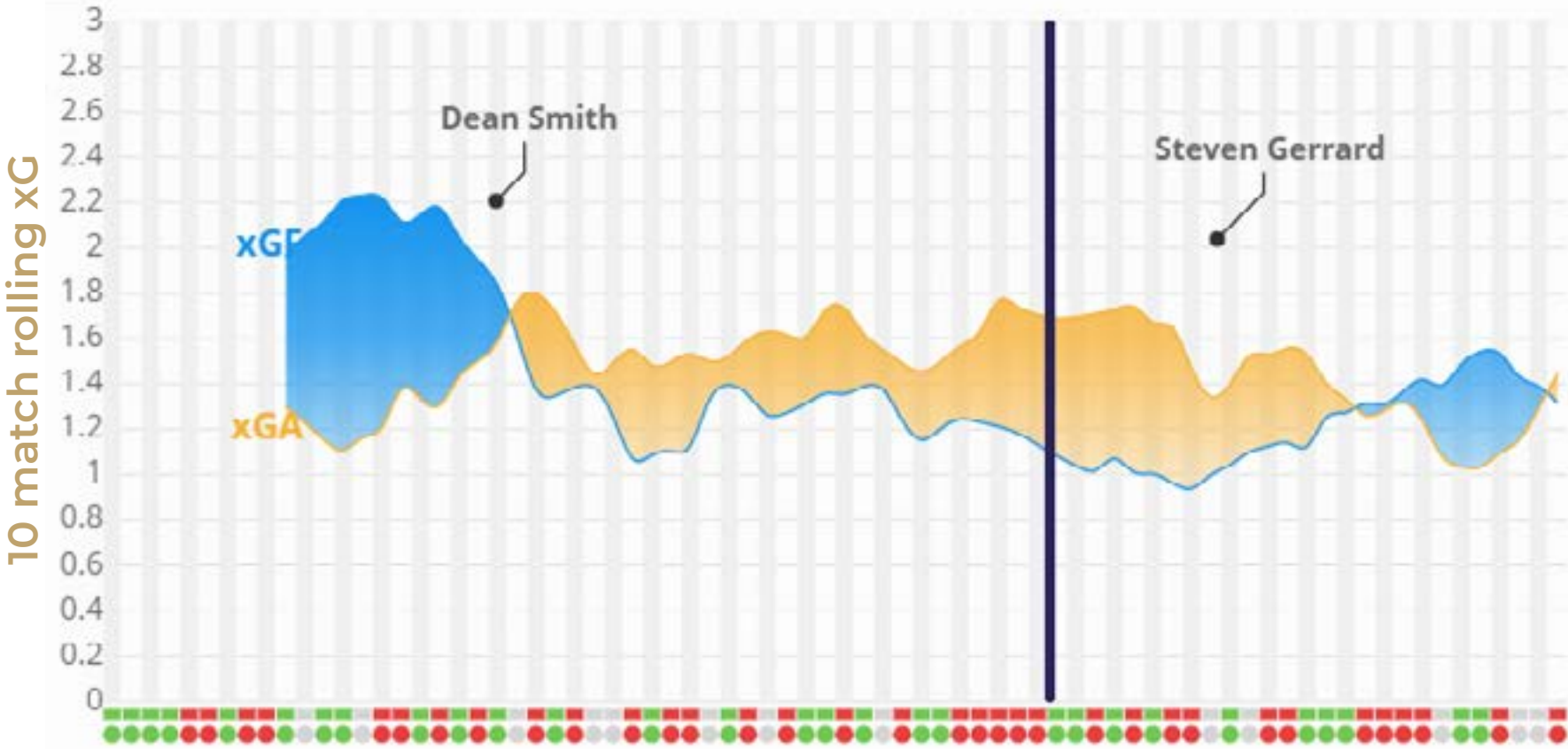
The navy line represents Villa's managerial change. Steven Gerrard had his side playing well at the back end of 21/22

Steven Gerrard improved Aston Villa's defensive process **(xGA per game)** by an impressive **0.29** after being appointed last season.

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL
POWERED BY **infogol**
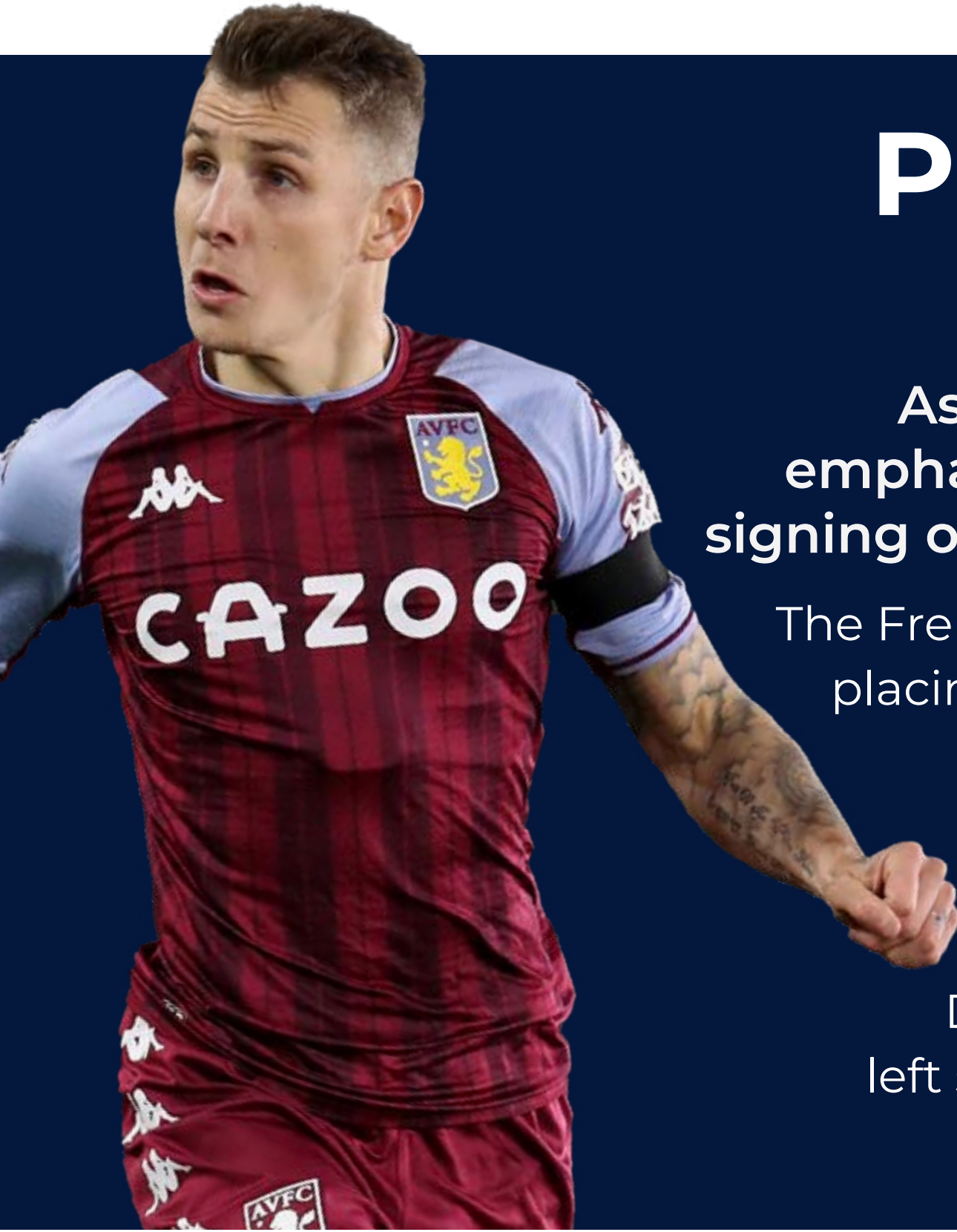
PLAYER TO WATCH
LUCAS DIGNE

As a manager, Steven Gerrard places great emphasis on his full-backs, explaining why the signing of Lucas Digne was prioritised in January.

The Frenchman averaged **3.54** crosses per 95 minutes, placing him among the 92nd percentile for players in his position. With Emi Buendia and Philippe Coutinho likely to be favoured as narrow attacking midfielders behind a central striker for Aston Villa this season, Gerrard will look to Digne to provide width and creativity down the left side, meaning he could be key to their success.

GRAHAM RUTHVEN @GRAHAMRUTHVEN

TALKING TACTICS

Steven Gerrard's summer plans were upended by the departure of his assistant Michael Beale, widely regarded as the ideas man and more than your average number two. He devised the tactical plans and led the training sessions, which suddenly makes Gerrard's Villa an unknown entity. The surprise appointment of Neil Critchley, a promising young manager pulling up trees at Blackpool, is testament to the amount Gerrard delegates to his assistant. Critchley's attacking style and focus on a swarming high press could take Villa to the next level and unleash the underperforming Leon Bailey and Emiliano Buendia.

ALEX KEBLE @ALEXKEBLE

BOURNEMOUTH

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0% TITLE	**0%** TOP 4	**0%** TOP 6	**2%** TOP HALF	**65%** RELEGATION

RELEGATION
% CHANCE

60% **Best Priced Bookie**

65% **Infogol**

8% sky bet **Fan Hope Survey**

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent (y-axis)

Gameweek (x-axis)

Bournemouth's return to the top flight gets off to a difficult start before easing. Post-World Cup, things get much trickier before a decent run of fixtures that could prove key to the survival hopes of Scott Parker's side.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

MARK O'HAIRE
@MARKOHAIRE

Bournemouth are back in the big time after a two-year absence, but the Cherries' top-flight return is bound to be challenging. Scott Parker's side rarely played to their true potential in the Championship, stumbling across the finishing line.

Now a lack of new recruits causes concern, and with at least one newly-promoted club suffering immediate demotion in **27 of the last 30** Premier League seasons, the south coast club are likely to be battling for survival. Parker's risk-averse style and a lack of final-third flair could prove their undoing in what will be a long season for the Cherries, with relegation a major possibility.
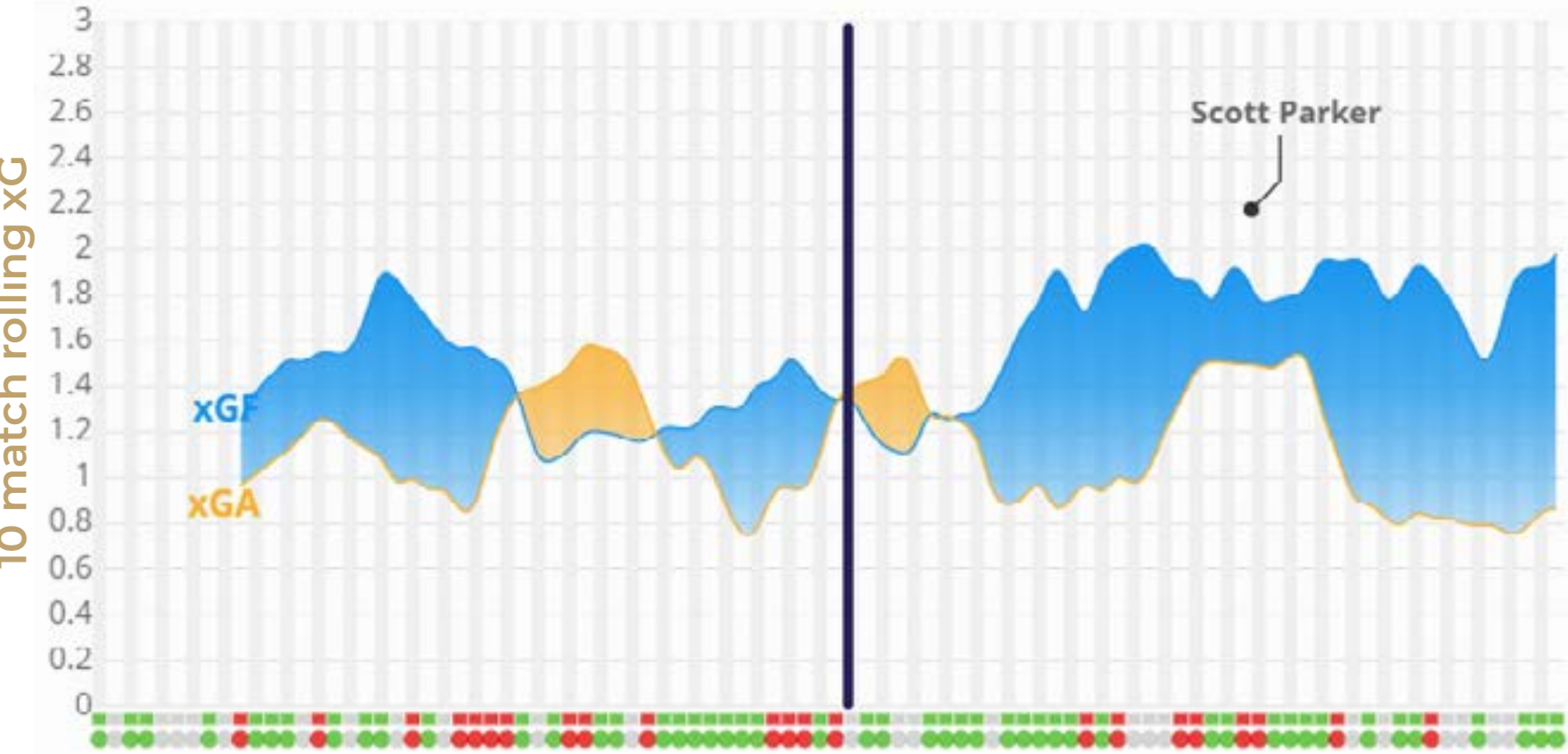
CLICK HERE TO BACK: BOURNEMOUTH TO BE RELEGATED

1.79	1.02	2	2	0.73	0.29
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	SOLANKE XG/95 LEADER	ANTHONY XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM CHAMPIONSHIP SEASONS 20/21 & 21/22

Scott Parker

10 match rolling xG

xGF

xGA

The navy line indicates a change in season. Bournemouth's improvement year on year in the Championship was impressive.

Bournemouth's defence was a key component to their success last season, ranking second best in the Championship based on **xGA (46.9).**

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL

POWERED BY **infogol**

PLAYER TO WATCH
DOMINIC SOLANKE

We can expect another big season from one of Bournemouth's star players last season.

After topping the Cherries' scoring charts in the 20/21 season with 15 goals, Solanke took it to another level last season, netting 29 goals while also contributing seven assists. Only Aleksandar Mitrovic **(0.81)** averaged a better **xG/95** rate than Solanke **(0.73)** last term. It is not only his production that impressed though, as Solanke has grown into the complete forward. At the age of 24 now, he is ready to make the step up.

NINAD BARBADIKAR @NINADB_06

TALKING TACTICS

Scott Parker's team will be keen to translate their fine Championship form into the top division, and although it won't be easy, their preferred 4-2-3-1/4-3-3 mix should hold them in good stead to compete. Often passing out from the back with deeper full-backs and a double pivot, this not only gives them a sound base to beat the press and provoke the opposition to press, but it also ensures they're well placed to recover in case they lose possession. The Cherries will be needing their staunch defensive structure to perform again this season if they are to stay up, but the signs are that Parker's side certainly won't be pushovers in their quest for survival.

EDWARD STRATMANN @EDWARDSTRATMANN

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

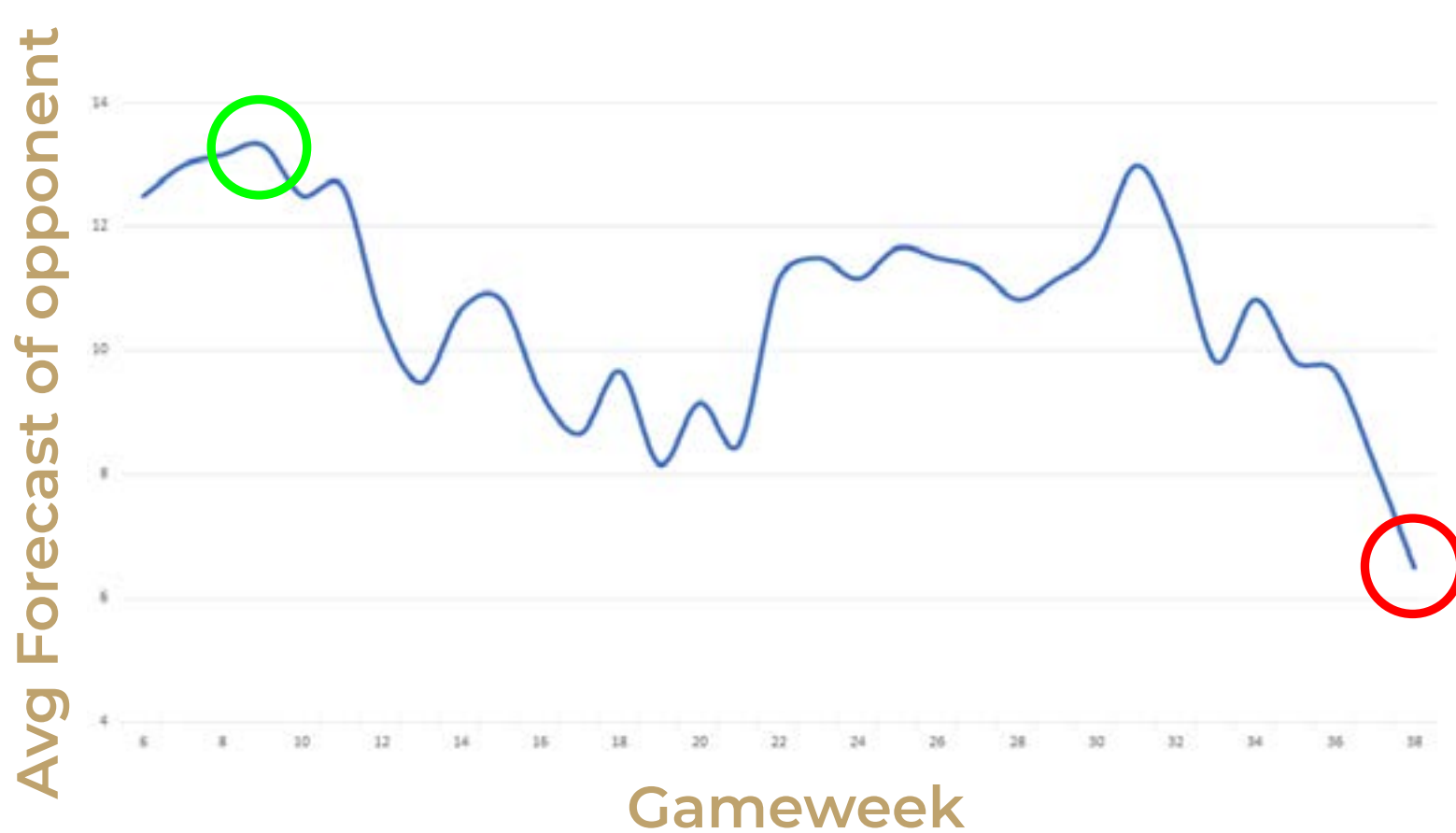| 0%	1%	7%	35%	9%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

SURVIVAL % CHANCE

75% **Best Priced Bookie**

91% **Infogol**

93% **sky bet Fan Hope Survey**

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent

Gameweek

Thomas Frank's side get off to a decent enough start schedule wise, but that's as easy as it gets all season according to Infogol's metrics. They face a difficult stretch from Gameweek 12 to 22 and their finish to the campaign is a shocker. Points on the board early are a must.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

Joe Townsend
@JOESTERT

Brentford's debut Premier League season was impressive. To finish 13th and 11 points clear of the relegation zone is some achievement but **ranking eighth for xPoints, xGF and xGA** is evidence of strong underlying performances. Christian Eriksen's decision to join Manchester United is an undoubted blow, but the Bees' reputation for

Moneyball-style recruitment means they're rarely disrupted by departures. Only four teams are priced longer for a top-half finish but that feels a lot to ask of Thomas Frank's side. Finishing above Wolves however, who propped up the top 10 in 21/22, is very achievable given the contrasting journey Bruno Lage's side are on performance-wise.

CLICK HERE TO BACK: BRENTFORD TO FINISH HIGHER THAN WOLVES

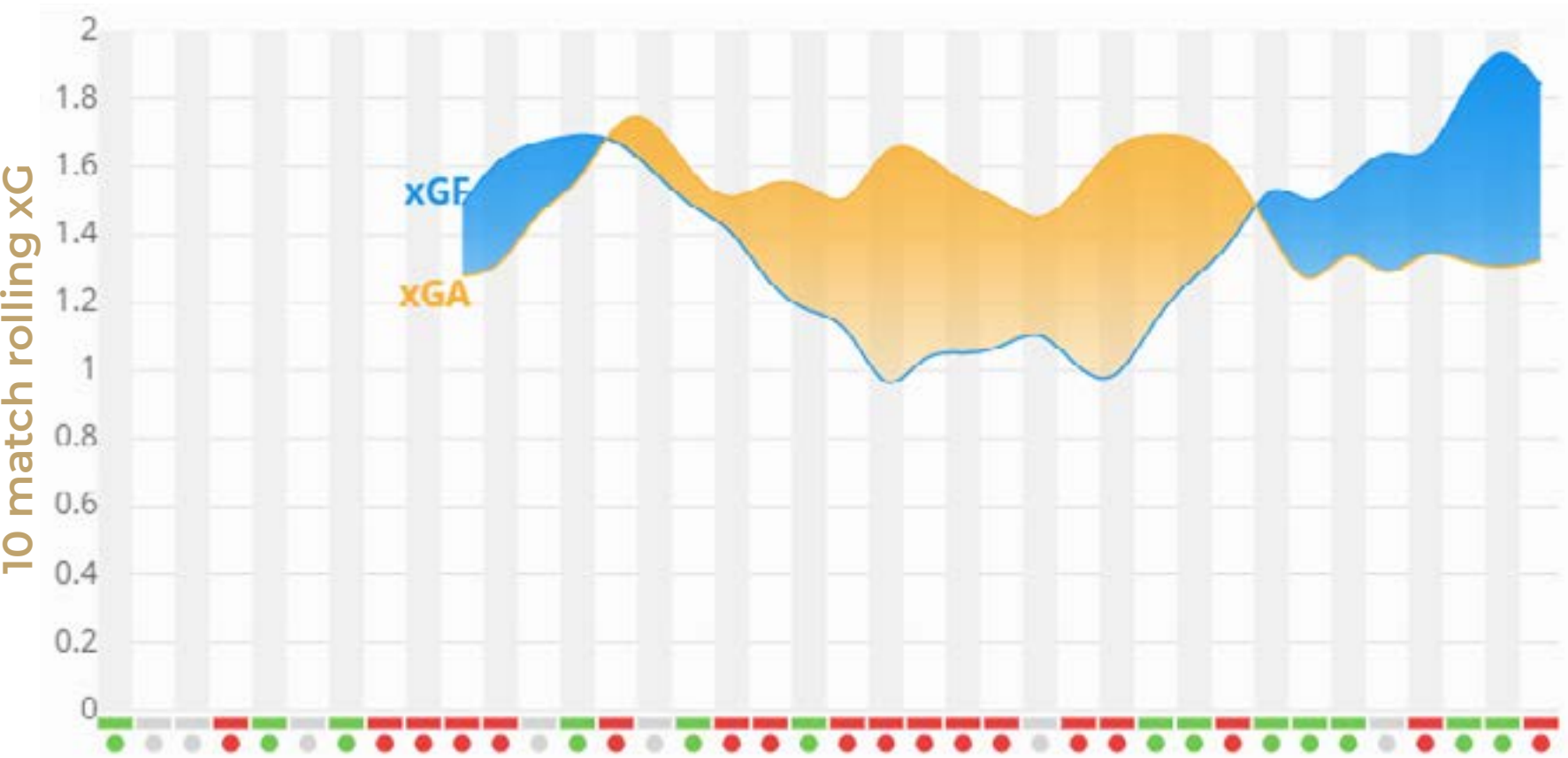| 1.45	1.44	13	8	0.39	0.35
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	TONEY XG/95 LEADER	ERIKSEN XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 21/22 SEASON

Brentford's 21/22 was a rollercoaster, starting well, struggling mid-season and finishing well.

Brentford finished last season with an **xGD of +0.31** which ranked eighth best. Only seven other teams posted a positive process.

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL
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PLAYER TO WATCH
BRYAN MBEUMO

Although Ivan Toney has been regarded as Brentford's best forward, Bryan Mbeumo has played his role in ensuring his partner up front is receiving enough support in attack.

Playing just under 3000 minutes of league football last season, the French international averaged **0.29 xG/95 and 0.11 xA/95**. He will be looking to improve in his second year in the top flight, and the Bees may need him to given the departure of their key creator, Christian Eriksen, this summer.

ASIF NORAT @ASIF9707

TALKING TACTICS

The similarities between Thomas Frank and Chris Wilder – in formation, playing style, and surprise success in their debut Premier League campaigns – is a warning to Brentford fans. The dreaded second season syndrome looms large. Frank's neatly compressed lines, swift positional interchanges out wide, and long balls forward to a bullish pair of strikers were consistently effective throughout 2021/22. The reason for their decline, then dramatic improvement, was losing Ivan Toney to injury and then gaining Christian Eriksen right at the moment Toney recovered. Losing Eriksen is a huge blow. Should Toney leave, Brentford will be in serious trouble.

ALEX KEBLE @ALEXKEBLE

BRIGHTON

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	**4%**	**21%**	**66%**	**2%**
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

TOP HALF
% CHANCE

40% Best Priced Bookie

66% Infogol

70% sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent — Gameweek

Granted, Brighton have an 'easier' start and end to the season by Infogol's metrics but both are short-lived. The rest of their campaign sees a fairly even spread in terms of difficulty – Albion won't be a side harbouring much concern when it comes to their schedule.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

JAKE OSGATHORPE
@JAKEOZZ

Brighton have been one of the most consistent sides in the league over the past few years, and deservedly finished in the top half last term.

They occupied seventh in Infogol's xG table, and in 20/21 they finished fifth based on expected points (xP) despite an actual position of 16th. The smartly

run club have a great manager and a cracking business model that means they punch above their weight. They can build on a solid backline – that ranked the fifth best in the division last term – to make it successive top half finishes.

CLICK HERE TO BACK: BRIGHTON TOP HALF FINISH

LAST SEASON'S STATS

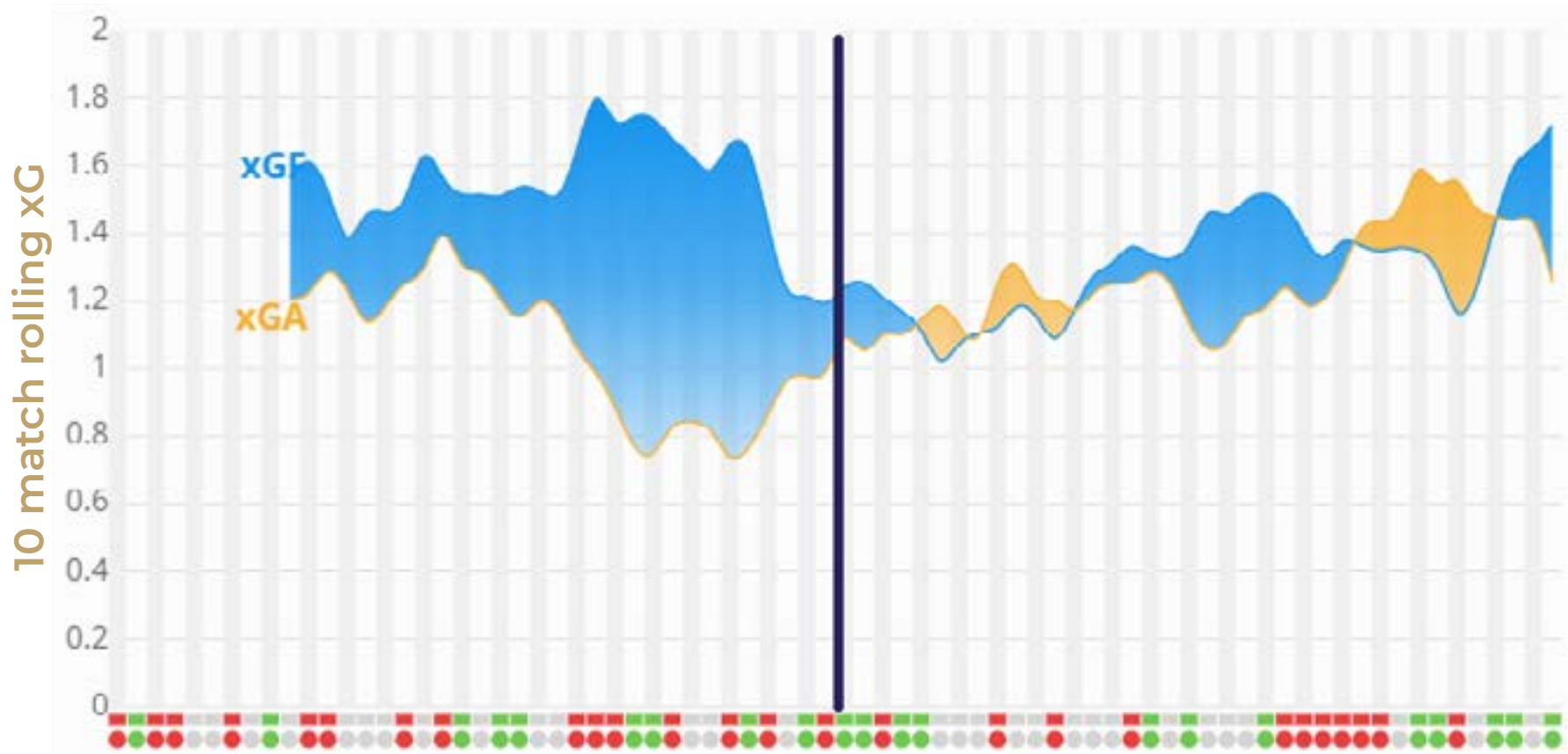| 1.41	1.27	9	7	0.44	0.29
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	WELBECK XG/95 LEADER	GROß XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

The navy line indicates a change in season. Brighton's process was better in 20/21 despite a higher finish in 21/22.

Last season Brighton netted just **42** goals from chances equating to **53.6 xGF**. It was **40** from **56.7 xGF** in 20/21 and **39** from **53.0** in 19/20.

PLAYER TO WATCH
MOISES CAICEDO

Graham Potter asks a lot of his central midfielders, and that means it could be an important season for Moises Caicedo, as he attempts to fill the void left by Yves Bissouma.

Caicedo is a versatile player who offers a lot on both sides of the ball. In possession, he has the technical ability to keep things ticking over, while out of it, he has the physical attributes to press opponents and break up play. The protection he offers to the back four is excellent - he is in the 90th percentile for tackles in the defensive third per 95 minutes (1.5).

EDWARD STRATMANN @EDWARDSTRATMANN

TALKING TACTICS

Graham Potter's Brighton continue to be one of the most entertaining teams to watch in England. Coaching his players superbly and instilling his beliefs into them successfully, the way the Seagulls constantly change formations to adapt to the opponent or game state has been a joy to watch. Combining flexibility with tactical acumen, Potter's outfit have shone in a host of back three and back four systems all while playing a polished brand of possession football and remaining defensively sound. While Potter's continually on the hunt for improvement, given the resources available to him, the job he's done at Brighton has been nothing short of remarkable.
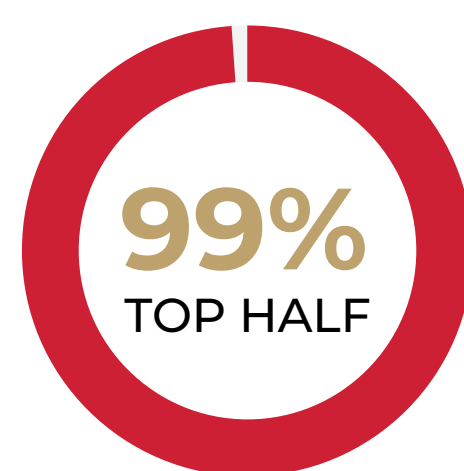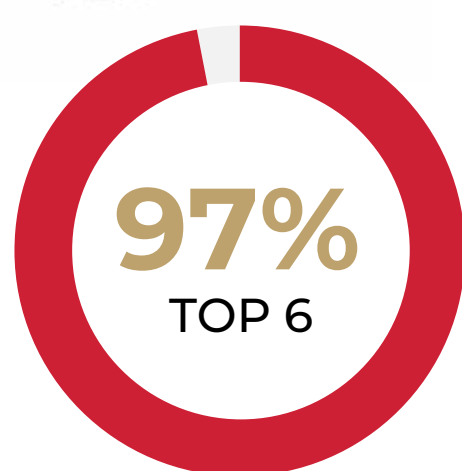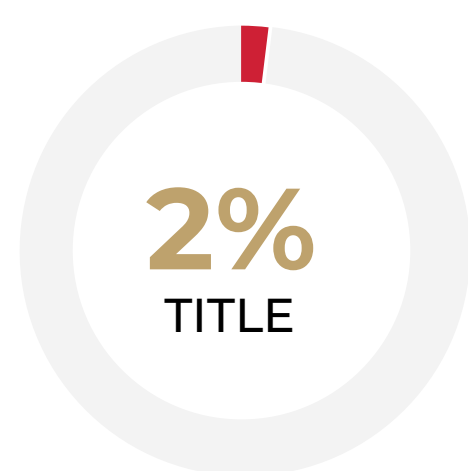
GRAHAM RUTHVEN @GRAHAMRUTHVEN

CHELSEA

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

2% TITLE	80% TOP 4	97% TOP 6	99% TOP HALF	0% RELEGATION

TOP 4 % CHANCE

57%	Best Priced Bookie
81%	Infogol
90%	sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent — Gameweek

Few teams have less variance in their schedule strength than Chelsea, with the difficulty of their fixtures fairly evenly spread. They do have a very favourable start though, aside from home games against Spurs and West Ham, so could make the early running at the top.

SPORTING LIFE EXPERT VIEW

LIAM KELLY
@LIAMKELLYTTA

The second half of Chelsea's 2021/22 season hardly inspires confidence that the Blues can challenge for the title this term. Thomas Tuchel's side won just nine of their last 19 games, posting a **+0.65 xGD** per game average in those matches. That is nowhere near the level required to worry Manchester City, especially with the club being subject to an awful lot of change in the offseason. Spurs and Arsenal will fancy their chances of leapfrogging Chelsea as a result. However, despite the short price available, they should comfortably finish above Manchester United – a club in some disarray.

CLICK HERE TO BACK: CHELSEA TO FINISH ABOVE MANCHESTER UNITED

LAST SEASON'S STATS

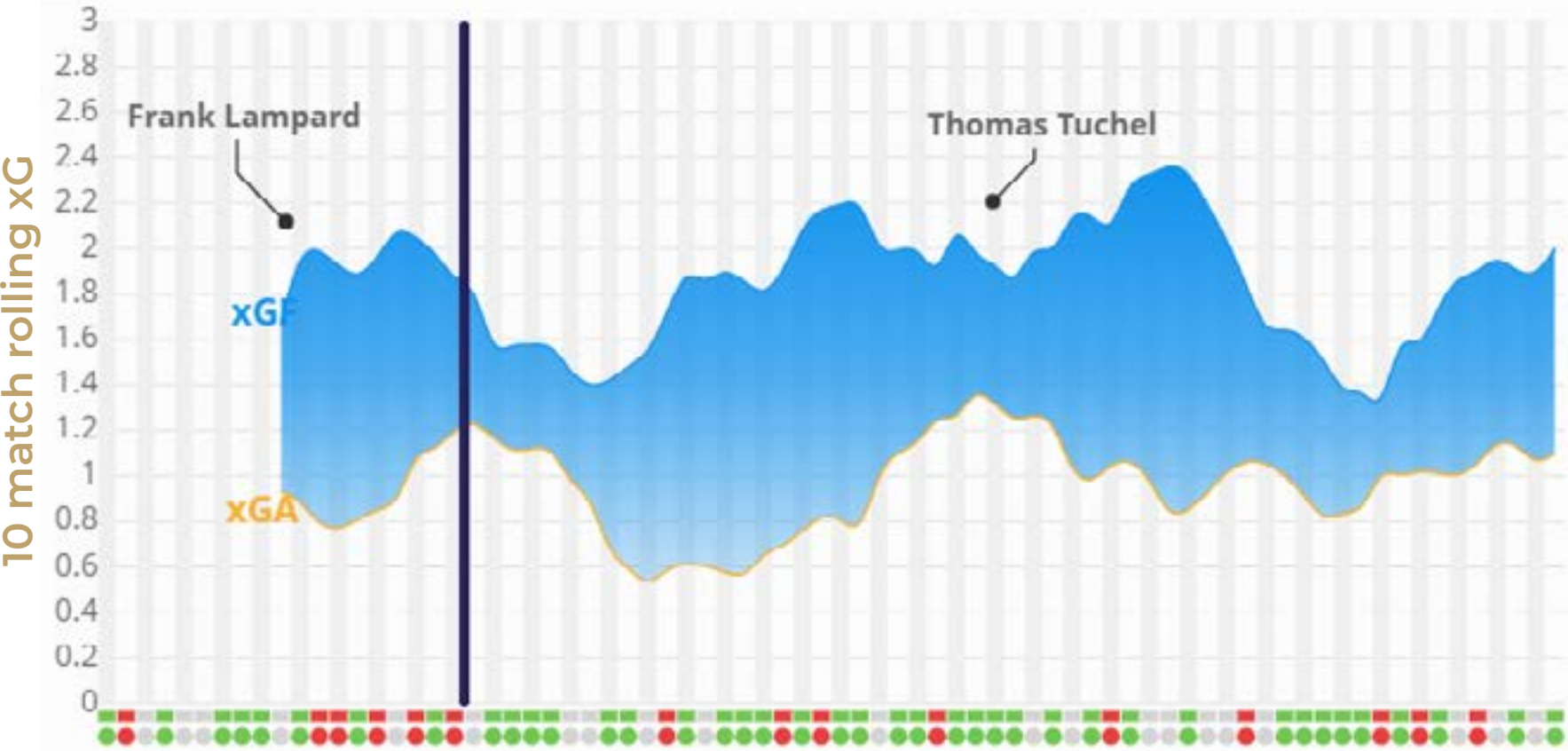| 1.85	1.03	3	3	0.45	0.29
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	HAVERTZ xG/95 LEADER	JAMES xA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

The navy line represents a managerial change. Chelsea improved immediately under Thomas Tuchel, but their levels dropped towards the back end of 21/22.

Chelsea ranked third in every major stat last season; overall points, goals scored, goals conceded, expected points (xP), xGF and xGA.

PLAYER TO WATCH
CONOR GALLAGHER

Conor Gallagher was one of the best players of the 21/22 season while on loan at Crystal Palace.

Utilised as a box-to-box number eight, Gallagher flourished. Now back at Chelsea, given his technical and physical profile as a player, he can operate in advanced areas or even play the role of N'Golo Kante. He contributed at both ends of the pitch, racking up **0.20 xG/95** and **0.11 xA/95**, while averaging **3.61** tackles per 95 with a **success rate of 59%**. That versatility will be a huge bonus for Gallagher as he looks to establish himself in the starting XI this season.

NINAD BARBADIKAR @NINADB_06

TALKING TACTICS

Visit Stamford Bridge and it's impossible not to be distracted by the frantic and furious gestures made by Thomas Tuchel as he screams at his players to be more urgent and vertical. He has no time for sideways possession and appears to find the delicacy of his nimble-footed attackers genuinely infuriating. New chairman Todd Boehly has reportedly handed Tuchel greater power regarding transfers – and it shows. Raheem Sterling is the ferreting, direct, make-stuff-happen forward. Chelsea need to play with Tuchelian energy, while Kalidou Koulibaly is renowned for playing in straight lines. Boehly's backing means that whatever happens this year, Tuchel will succeed or fail on his own terms.

ALEX KEBLE @ALEXKEBLE

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	6%	24%	69%	2%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

TOP HALF
% CHANCE

29% **Best Priced Bookie**

69% **Infogol**

75% **sky bet Fan Hope Survey**

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent

Gameweek

Palace's schedule is the most topsy-turvy in the top flight. A difficult start gets increasingly easier up to the World Cup break. After Qatar their schedule gets extremely difficult again before easing at the end of the campaign. Don't be surprised to see the Eagles go on long winning and winless runs.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

TOM CARNDUFF
@TOMC_22

Crystal Palace enjoyed a strong 21/22 season following Patrick Vieira's arrival at the club, and it could have been even better based on Infogol's expected metrics. Palace ended the campaign in 12th but ranked as the sixth best team according to xG data. However, they managed to stay fit – with the fewest amount of injuries of all 20 clubs. Should that change this season, they will struggle for another top-half push and value can be found in taking other teams to finish above them – most notably rivals Brighton who achieved this in 21/22.

CLICK HERE TO BACK: BRIGHTON TO FINISH ABOVE CRYSTAL PALACE

LAST SEASON'S STATS

1.36	**1.19**	**12**	**6**	**0.47**	**0.34**
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	MATETA xG/95 LEADER	OLISE xA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

Roy Hodgson

Patrick Vieira

xGA

xGF

10 match rolling xG
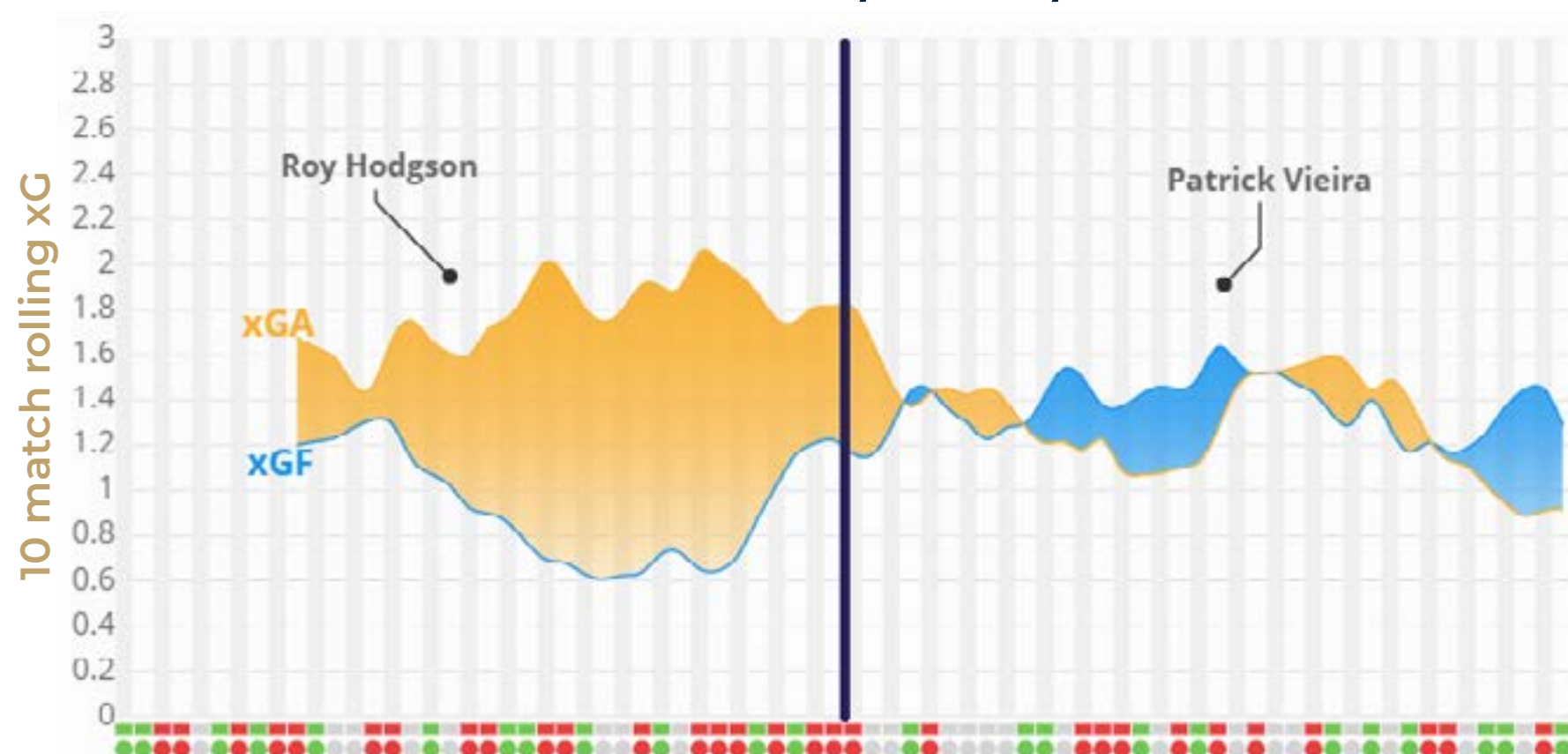
The navy line indicates both a season and managerial change. Patrick Vieira transformed Palace's process.

Patrick Vieira improved Crystal Palace's process by a whopping **+0.92 xGD** per game, the biggest year-on-year increase in the league.

PLAYER TO WATCH
MICHAEL OLISE

Michael Olise was limited with playing time last season (1280 mins), but he still led Palace in terms of xA/95 with 0.34, and that figure ranked him fourth best among all Premier League players to have played 800+ mins.

Not only does he have an eye for a pass, but his dribbling abilities should instil fear in opponents. Olise averaged 9.55 progressive carries per 95 minutes last season, ranking him in the 95th percentile against fellow attacking midfielders and wingers across Europe's big five leagues. Don't take your eyes off him.

JAKE OSGATHORPE @JAKEOZZ

TALKING TACTICS

Crystal Palace will be hoping to push on this term after a successful 21/22. Blessed with plenty of speed and dribbling wizards such as Wilfried Zaha, Michael Olise and Ebere Eze, opponents are always in for a tough day at the office against Palace, for they cannot only hurt opponents in transition but also through methodical build up and when playing long directly towards their towering forwards such as Jean-Philippe Mateta or Christian Benteke. Adding some quality and depth, especially with the signing of Cheick Doucoure from Lens, makes them an even stronger proposition this term, and it will be fascinating to see how high the Eagles can soar this season.

EDWARD STRATMANN @EDWARDSTRATMANN

EVERTON

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	0%	3%	17%	19%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

RELEGATION
% CHANCE

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent

Gameweek

17%	Best Priced Bookie
19%	Infogol
5%	sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Long before their deepest trough in Gameweek 23 Everton have an almost identical dip two months into the season. Chelsea, Liverpool, West Ham, Man Utd, Arsenal and Tottenham in their first dozen games means Frank Lampard could be quickly under pressure.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

MARK O'HAIRE
@MARKOHAIRE

A shambolic 21/22 left Everton teetering on the edge of a first-ever Premier League relegation. The Toffees scrambled to safety in the spring under Frank Lampard, averaging **1.10 points per-game**. This season's aims and aspirations from the blue side of Merseyside are simple to avoid another embarrassing repeat. Injuries and absentees blighted the Blues' campaign, but with little money to spend in the transfer market – Everton have suffered losses of over £100m in each of the last three years – and star man Richarlison departing, the Toffees are shaping up to have a weaker squad this term meaning they could go close to relegation again.
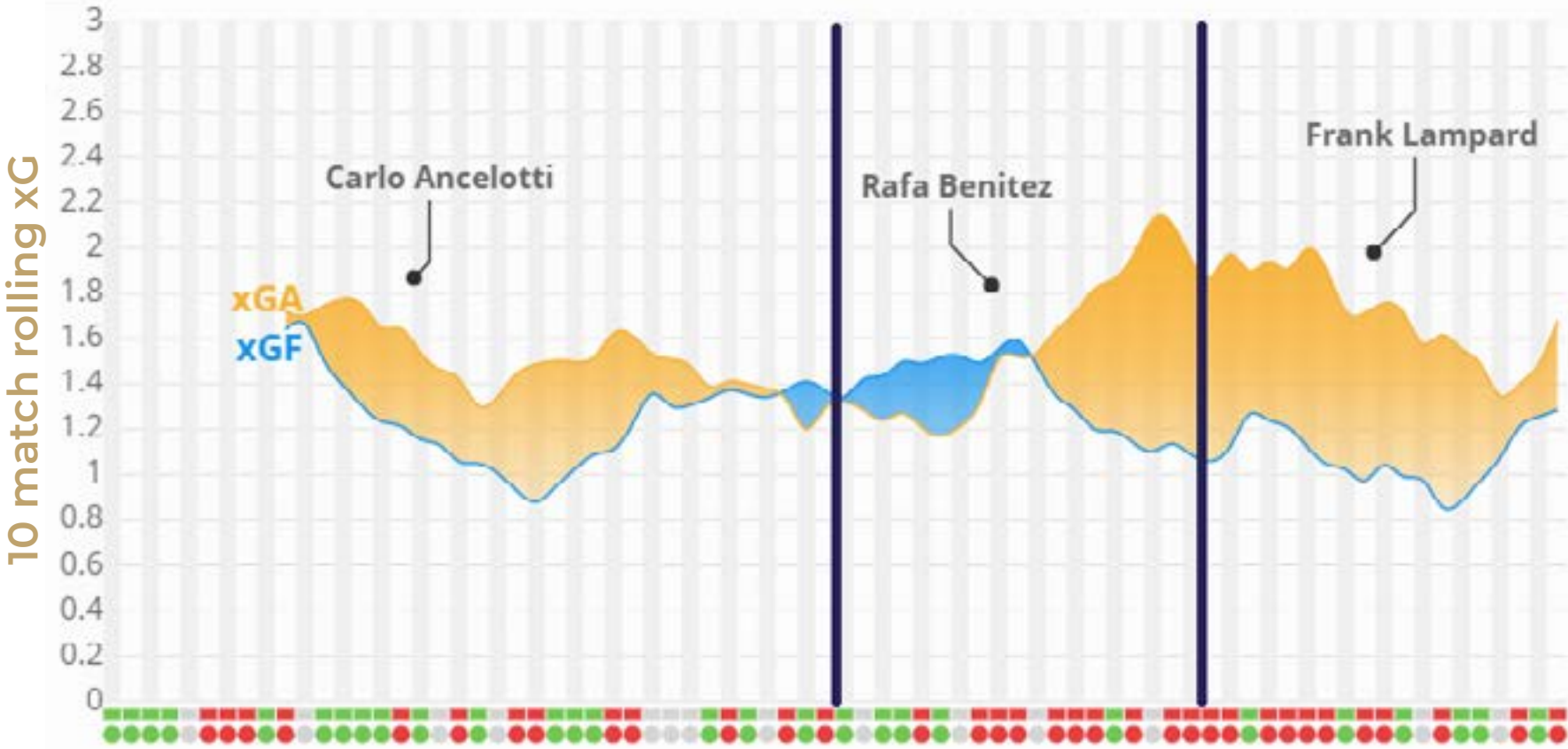
CLICK HERE TO BACK: EVERTON TO BE RELEGATED

LAST SEASON'S STATS

1.22	1.70	16	15	0.41	0.17
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	CALVERT-LEWIN XG/95 LEADER	TOWNSEND XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

The navy lines represent managerial changes. Everton's process was at its worst through the Benitez/Lampard transition, but did improve at the end of 21/22.

Only Norwich posted a worse underlying process when playing away from home last season than Everton **(-1.39 xGD per away game).**

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL
POWERED BY **infogol**

PLAYER TO WATCH
ANTHONY GORDON

Everton did not enjoy many positive moments during the Premier League 2021/22 campaign, though the breakthrough of academy graduate Anthony Gordon is something that Evertonians will strongly cherish.

When compared to the rest of the Everton squad last season, he completed the third most key passes **(35)**, third most successful dribbles **(38)** and fourth most tackles **(54)**, proving himself to be quite effective on both sides of the game. After the exit of Richarlison, the reliance on him performing has only grown, making it a big season for Gordon.

ASIF NORAT @ASIF9707

TALKING TACTICS

Everton's survival last season was secured through desperation, luck, and defensive football. Their form was predicated on a low block, with backs-to-the-wall defending replacing Lampard's instinct for free-flowing attacks. Lampard will now want to implement his expansive possession style. All evidence so far, is that his tactical plans lack complexity or detail.

His moves in the market reflect a simplistic and dated view of the game. James Tarkowski has never played in a progressive team and may struggle with a high line just as former Burnley team-mate Michael Keane has done. Another season of struggle could be on the cards.

ALEX KEBLE @ALEXKEBLE

FULHAM

infogol

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	0%	1%	6%	37%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

SURVIVAL
% CHANCE

- 62% **Best Priced Bookie**
- 63% **Infogol**
- 94% **sky bet Fan Hope Survey**

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent

Gameweek

In recent years Fulham have joined Norwich as a top-flight yo-yo club. Not only do they look better set up for survival than in previous seasons, but they have been handed an exceptionally beneficial schedule, especially in the key period before the World Cup break.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

JAKE OSGATHORPE
@JAKEOZZ

Last season, Fulham were promoted as the best Championship team the Infogol model has ever seen, averaging a **+1.10 xGD** per game, an incredibly dominant campaign. They will be hoping to survive in the top flight this time around, and Marco Silva's side have been quiet on the recruitment front, seemingly focused on using their momentum and good feeling from last term to aid their fight. There is enough quality in the squad already to suggest they won't be relegation fodder this season, and they are expected to outdo their promoted rivals again, with Fulham to be the top promoted club appealing.
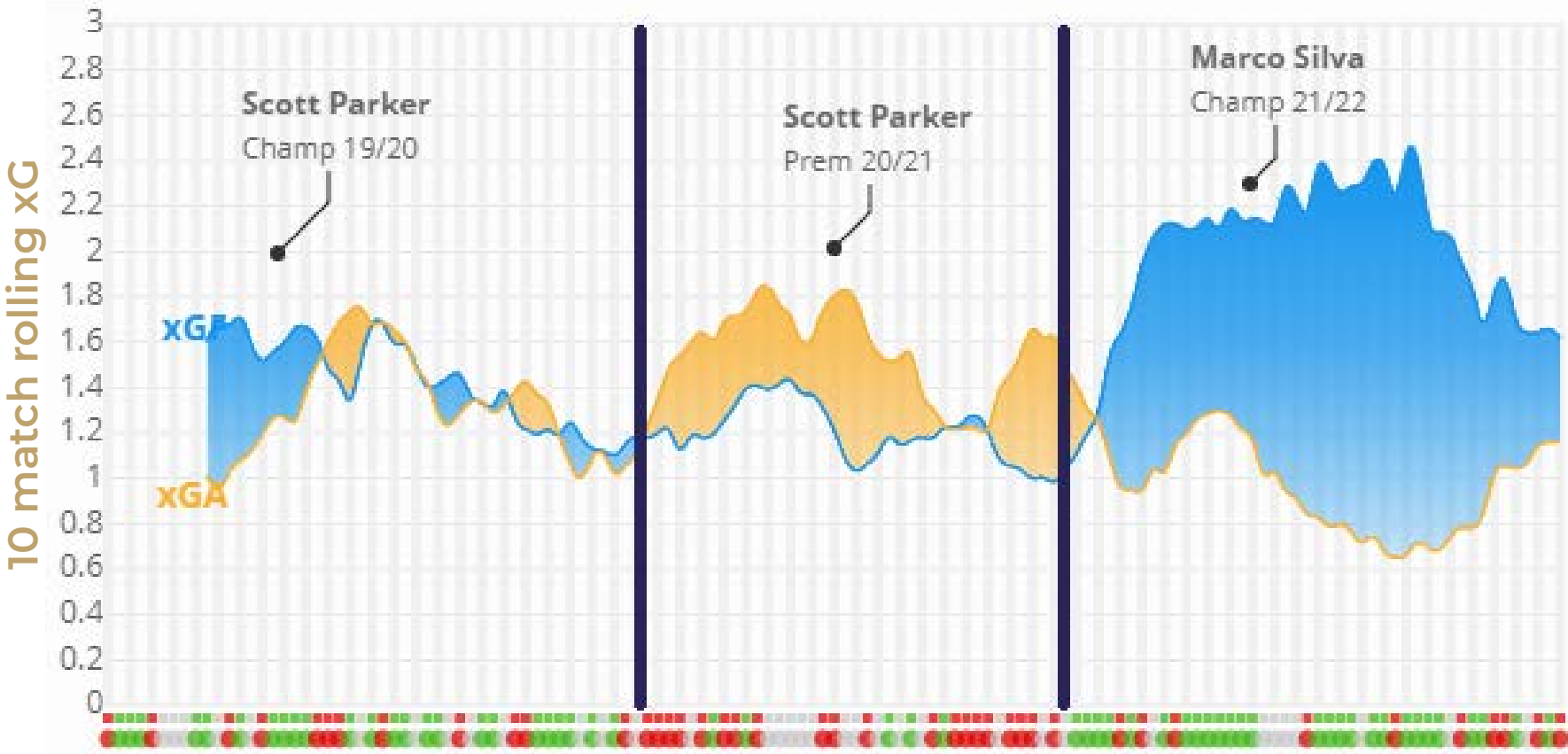
CCLICK HERE TO BACK: FULHAM TOP PROMOTED CLUB

2.04	0.94	1	1	0.81 Mitrovic	0.32 Wilson
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	XG/95 LEADER	XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 19/20 TO PRESENT

The navy lines indicate a change in season. Yo-yoing Fulham's levels last season were streets clear of the last time they were promoted from the Sky Bet Championship.

Last season, Fulham ranked as the best Championship team Infogol has seen since data collection began in 2014, posting an xGD of **+50.6**.

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL
POWERED BY **infogol**

PLAYER TO WATCH
JOAO PALHINHA

Signed from Sporting, Joao Palhinha is one to watch for the Cottagers, with the 27-year-old defensive midfielder likely to provide Marco Silva's side with a great platform in matches.

He is a pure destroyer, someone known for his defensive abilities, shown by the fact he ranked in the **99th** percentile for pressures per 95 last season across Europe's top five leagues **(32.4)**, while also ranking highly in tackles per 95 **(3.04)**. He could be a key cog in Fulham's survival hopes.

JAKE OSGATHORPE @JAKEOZZ

TALKING TACTICS

Can Fulham get enough supply to Aleksandar Mitrovic this season? The Serb scored an eye-watering 43 goals last season playing in the Championship's most prolific attack, and he will be a huge factor as to whether or not they will survive. Crosses into the box are what he thrives upon, and Harry Wilson can supply that quality delivery.

Marco Silva likes to play a 4-3-3 system, with full-backs key to their attacking patterns, so bringing in Joao Palhinha to shore things up and provide a platform for the attack seems a shrewd move, though they may need additions at the full-back position to get the best out of the system.

EDWARD STRATMANN @EDWARDSTRATMANN

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	0%	2%	14%	23%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION
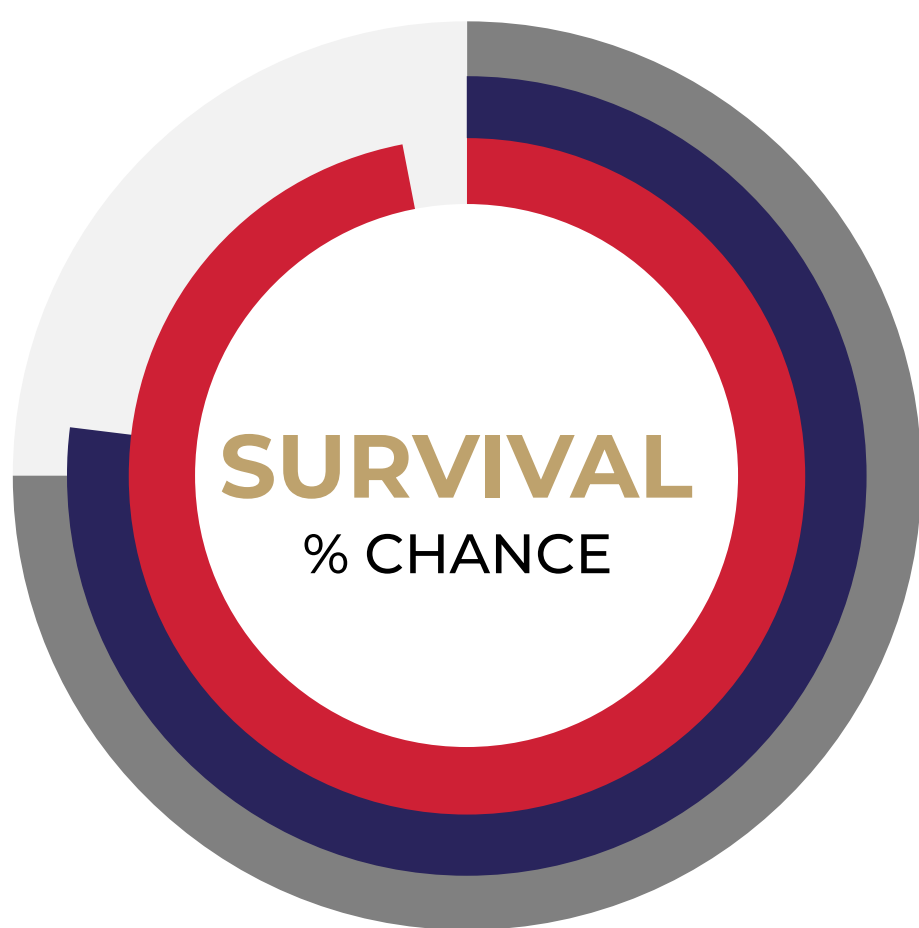
SURVIVAL
% CHANCE

- 75% **Best Priced Bookie**
- 77% **Infogol**
- 97% **sky bet Fan Hope Survey**

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent — Gameweek

Leeds finished last term strongly to secure survival and given they start the new campaign with their second-easiest set of fixtures over the entire season they will be hoping to maintain that momentum. An easier schedule between Gameweeks 19 and 25 could also prove key.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

LIAM KELLY
@LIAMKELLYTTA

Summer signings might indeed have excited Leeds fans, but the outgoings would have brought a nervy bunch back down to earth. Kalvin Phillips and Raphinha were undoubtedly Leeds' best players, so losing both in the transfer window makes it difficult to think anything other than a second successive relegation fight is on the cards.

Questions remain over Jesse Marsch's competence at this level and a defence that allowed an average of **1.90 xGA** per game last term has hardly been strengthened. Subtract the obvious threat that Raphinha provided in attack and Leeds could be candidates for the drop.

CLICK HERE TO BACK: LEEDS TO BE RELEGATED
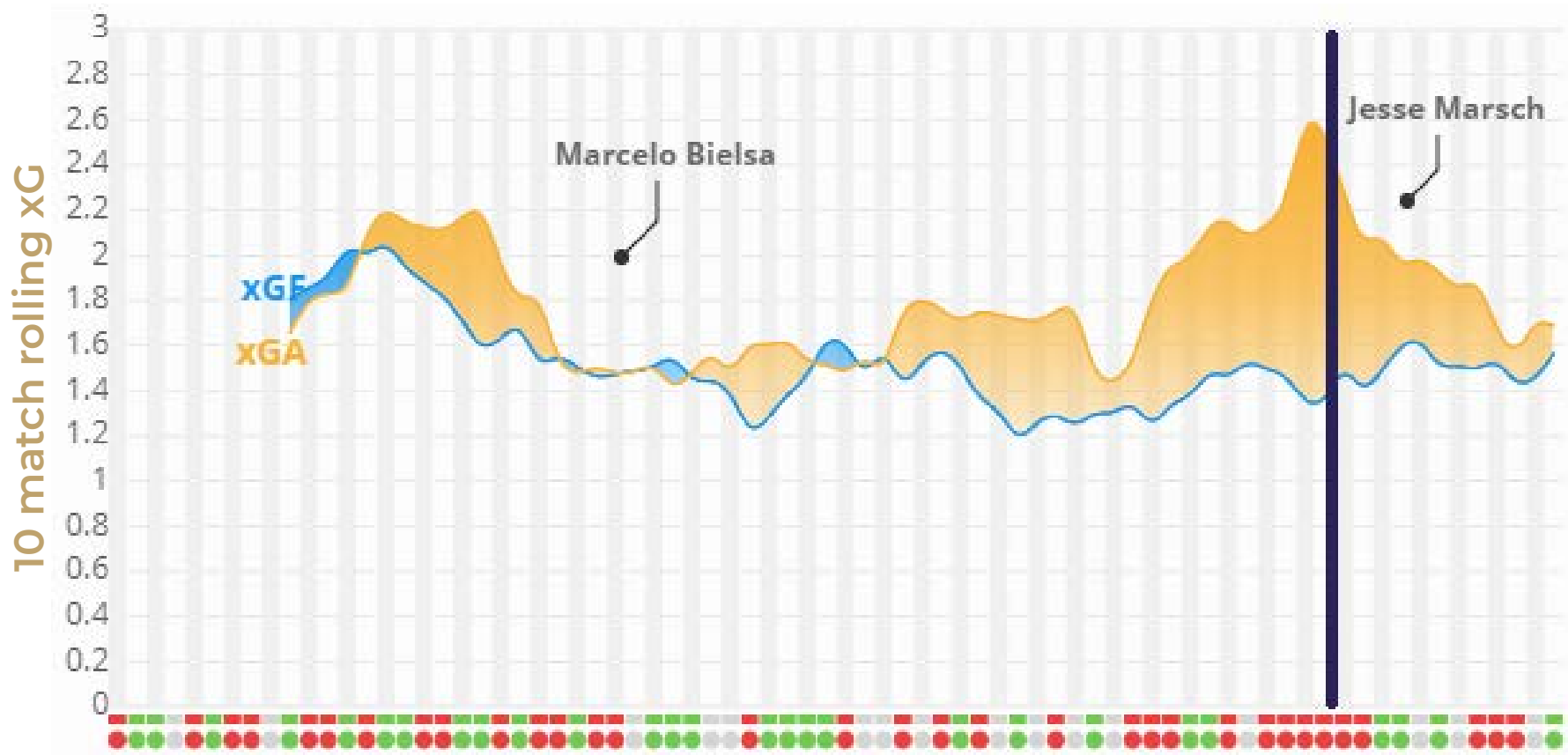
LAST SEASON'S STATS

1.37	**1.90**	**17**	**13**	**0.38**	**0.21**
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	GELHARDT XG/95 LEADER	RAPHINHA XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

The navy line represents a managerial change. Leeds were at their worst level since returning to the Premier League before Marcelo Bielsa was sacked, improving under Jesse Marsch.

Leeds ranked as the **10th best team** in the league last season based on expected points (xP) per game after the appointment of Jesse Marsch.

PLAYER TO WATCH
LUIS SINISTERRA

Raphinha's departure to Barcelona leaves a huge creative gap at Leeds, but the signing of Luis Sinisterra may just fill it.

Sinisterra is a hugely exciting forward with great pace and a 1v1 ability to leave defenders in the dust. His strengths lie in his ability to burst past defenders over shorter distances while also generating shots from counter-attacking situations. In the 21/22 season, Sinisterra averaged **0.33 xG/95** from a very healthy shot volume of **2.95 shots/95**. His **xA/95 of 0.21** may not translate to the Premier League but his offensive attributes make him a huge positive for Leeds.

NINAD BARBADIKAR @NINADB_06

TALKING TACTICS

Jesse Marsch spent the back end of last season trying to normalise Leeds. The man-for-man press was scrapped, the players ran about less manically, and fewer bodies rushed forward in attack. But therein lies the problem: this Championship-level squad radically overachieved under Marcelo Bielsa precisely because they weren't normal. A not-weird

Leeds won't surprise anyone, and Marsch's inexperience – plus the loss of crucial stars – may leave Leeds drifting aimlessly through matches. Then again, a full summer of Marsch's high-intensity training, designed to ready players for a sharp counter-pressing style, could be the cultural reset they need.
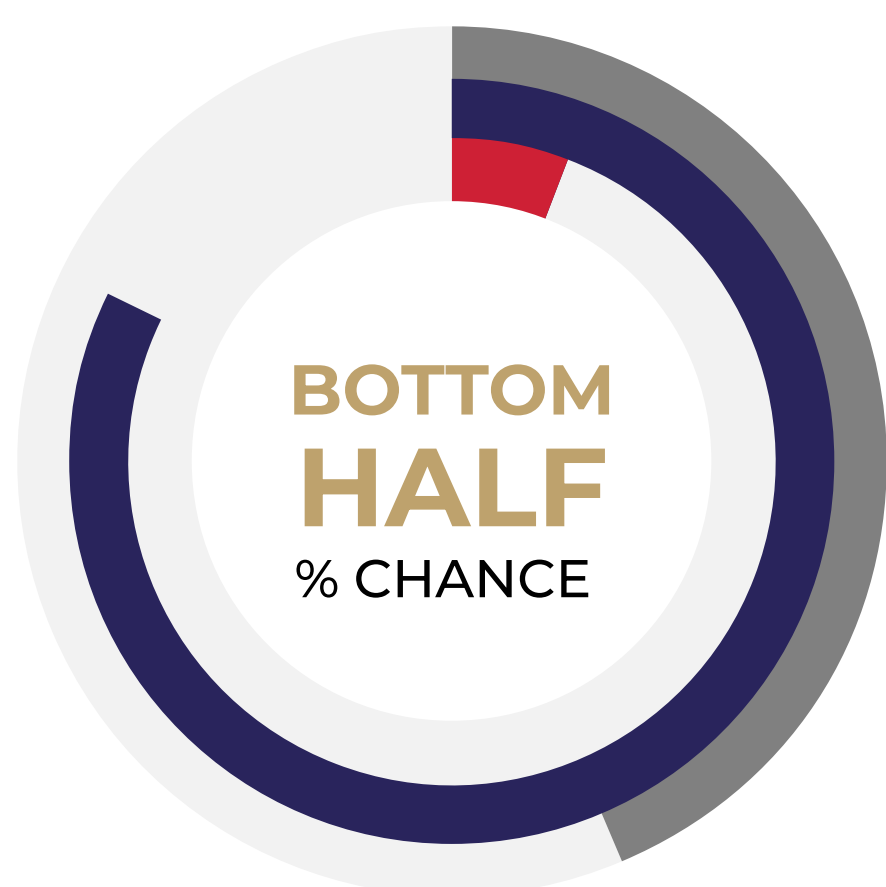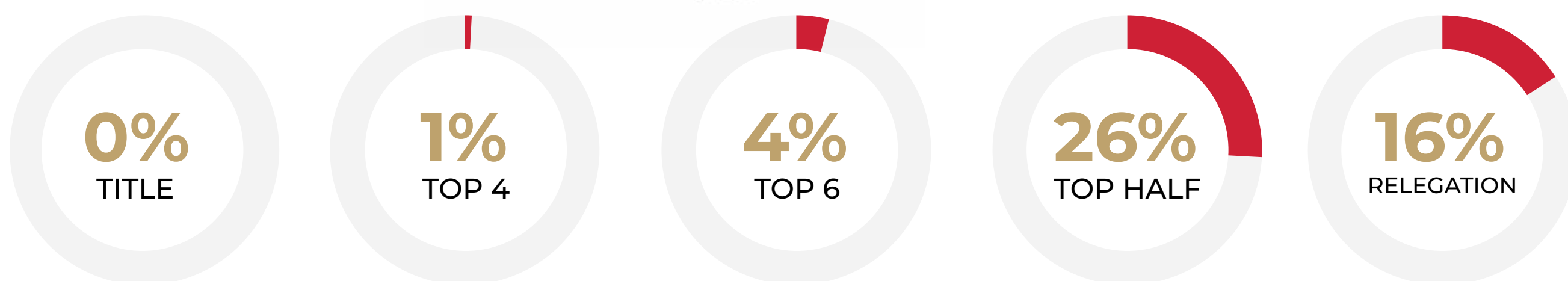
ALEX KEBLE @ALEXKEBLE

LEICESTER

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0% TITLE	1% TOP 4	4% TOP 6	26% TOP HALF	16% RELEGATION

BOTTOM HALF % CHANCE

- **48%** Best Priced Bookie
- **74%** Infogol
- **6%** sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent — Gameweek

Brendan Rodgers' side face a tricky opening 10 games which could spell trouble for a Leicester team fortunate to finish so highly last season according to Infogol's model. Weather that storm and opportunities arise to amass points with a kinder run, as is the case at the back end of the campaign.

SPORTING LIFE EXPERT VIEW

Joe Townsend
@JOESTERT

Brendan Rodgers openly stated last season that Leicester needed a summer overhaul recruitment-wise. That simply hasn't happened. Somehow the Foxes won three of their last four games to finish eighth in 21/22, 10 places higher than Infogol rated them. Injuries certainly played a significant part in them being the third-worst team in the division according to xG, with an often patchwork backline contributing to Leicester recording one of the worst defensive processes in the Premier League, allowing a staggering **1.88 xGA** per game. Despite this, most bookmakers are grouping them alongside reliable West Ham when projecting the 22/23 table – something that feels plainly wrong.

CLICK HERE TO BACK: WEST HAM TO FINISH ABOVE LEICESTER

LAST SEASON'S STATS

1.34	**1.88**	**8**	**18**	**0.45** VARDY	**0.20** MADDISON
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	XG/95 LEADER	XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

10 match rolling xG

xGF
xGA

Leicester accumulated the third fewest expected points **(xP)** last season, while only two sides allowed more **xGA** per game than the Foxes.
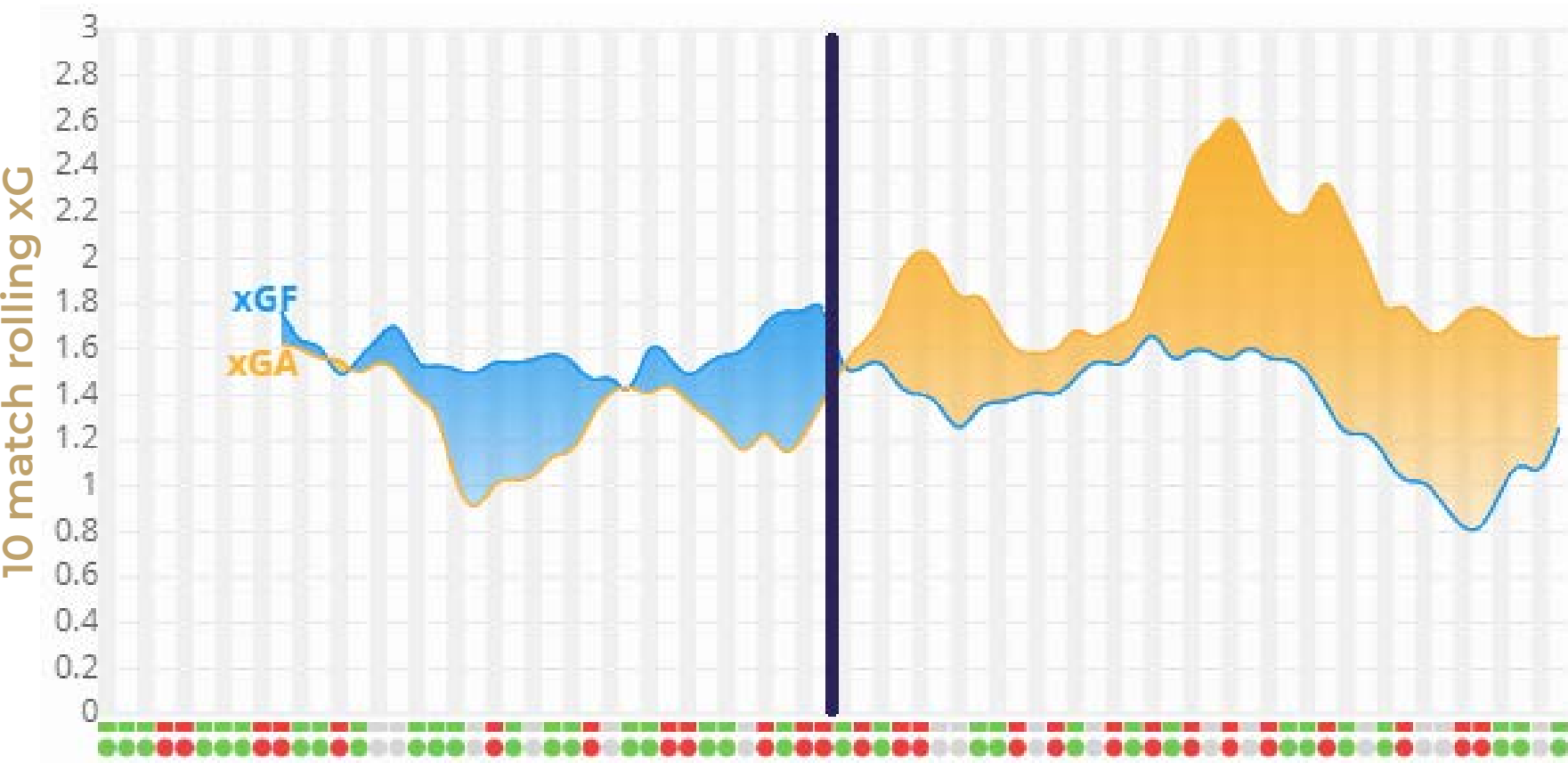
The navy line represents a season change. Leicester's 20/21 and 21/22 seasons couldn't have been more polar opposite. All blue (good) v all orange (bad).

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL
POWERED BY infogol

PLAYER TO WATCH
KIERNAN DEWSBURY-HALL

Last season was a disappointing one for Leicester, however, the emergence of Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall as a first team figure was one of the highlights.

He is expected to become an even more important player for the Foxes this season. Dewsbury-Hall is a creative force, averaging 1.41 key passes and 4.23 progressive passes per 95 minutes. Together with James Maddison, the 23-year-old gives Leicester City a lot of invention and guile around the edge of the box. This pair could be crucial to Brendan Rodgers' plans to evolve the style and approach of his team.

GRAHAM RUTHVEN @GRAHAMRUTHVEN

TALKING TACTICS

After enduring a challenging campaign that was massively impacted by injuries, Leicester will be keen to get back on track this campaign. Brendan Rodgers will probably look to stick to the 4-3-3 that allowed the likes of James Maddison and Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall to shine as dual eights. From here, the talented Englishmen effectively created chances with their imaginative passing from open play and set pieces, supported wide attacks, dovetailed smartly with their nearby wingers and full-backs, helped the lone pivot and wreaked havoc between the lines. However, as a team they need to improve dramatically on the defensive end, conceding 59 goals last term, if they are to challenge for the top four again.
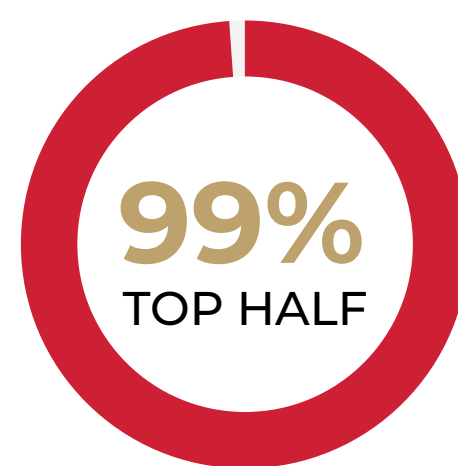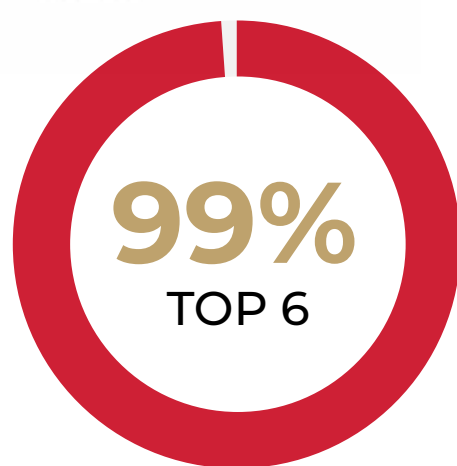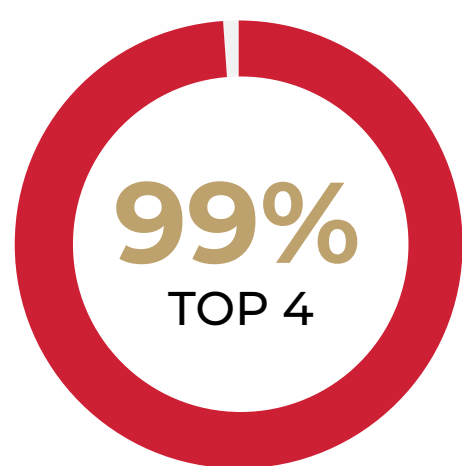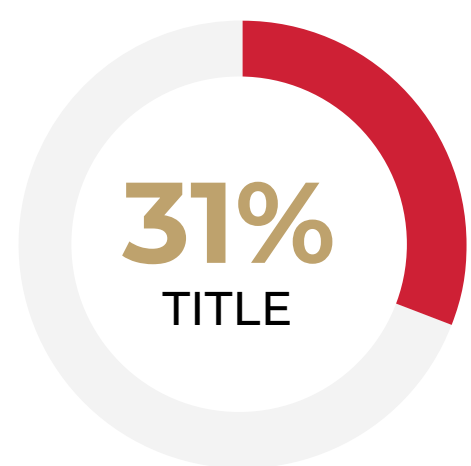
EDWARD STRATMANN @EDWARDSTRATMANN

LIVERPOOL

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

31%	99%	99%	99%	0%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

TITLE WIN
% CHANCE

25% **Best Priced Bookie**

31% **Infogol**

61% **sky bet Fan Hope Survey**

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent

Gameweek

After a reasonably straightforward start Liverpool's schedule gets very tough between Gameweek six and 12, facing Chelsea, Arsenal and Man City as well as awkward pair Brighton and West Ham. If they come through that run in good shape they should be City's main contender as their remaining schedule doesn't peak or trough majorly.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

JAKE OSGATHORPE
@JAKEOZZ

Liverpool are unfortunate to be playing in the same era as the current Manchester City side, who have been just a point better than them in two of the last four seasons. Last year's Reds were the best Liverpool team the Infogol model has seen, averaging **+1.58 xGD per game**. They were the best attacking team in the Premier League **(2.52 xGF per game),** but usually it's the best defensive team that wins the title. That has been the case in four of the last five seasons, with Man City being that side, and will likely be the case again, so a repeat of last season looks on the cards.

LAST SEASON'S STATS

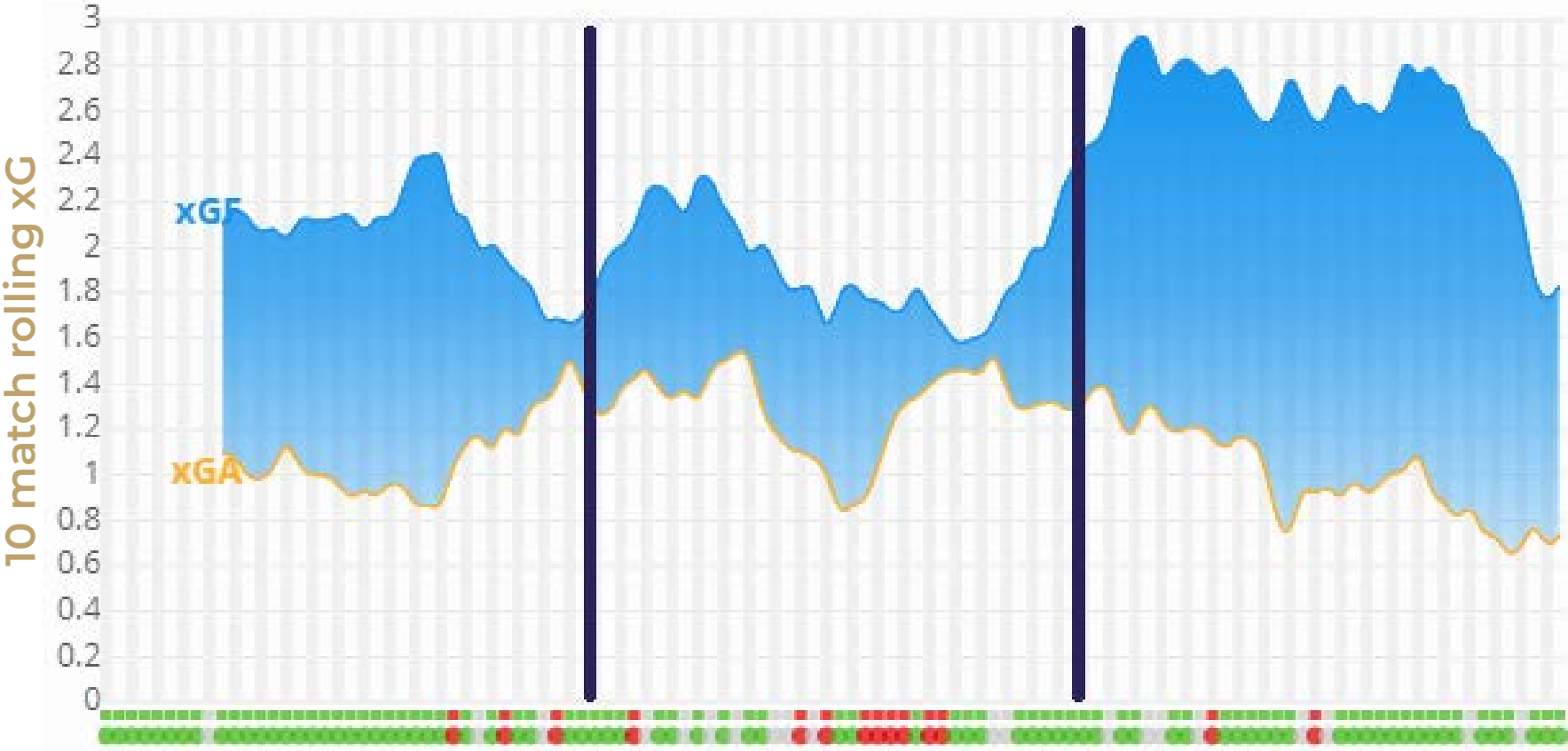| 2.52	0.94	2	2	0.81	0.39
xGF/GAME	xGA/GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	SALAH	ALEXANDER-ARNOLD
				xG/95 LEADER	xA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 19/20 TO PRESENT

10 match rolling xG

xGF
xGA

Liverpool's 21/22 team were the second best attacking team Infogol has seen since data collection began in 2014, averaging **2.52 xGF** per game.
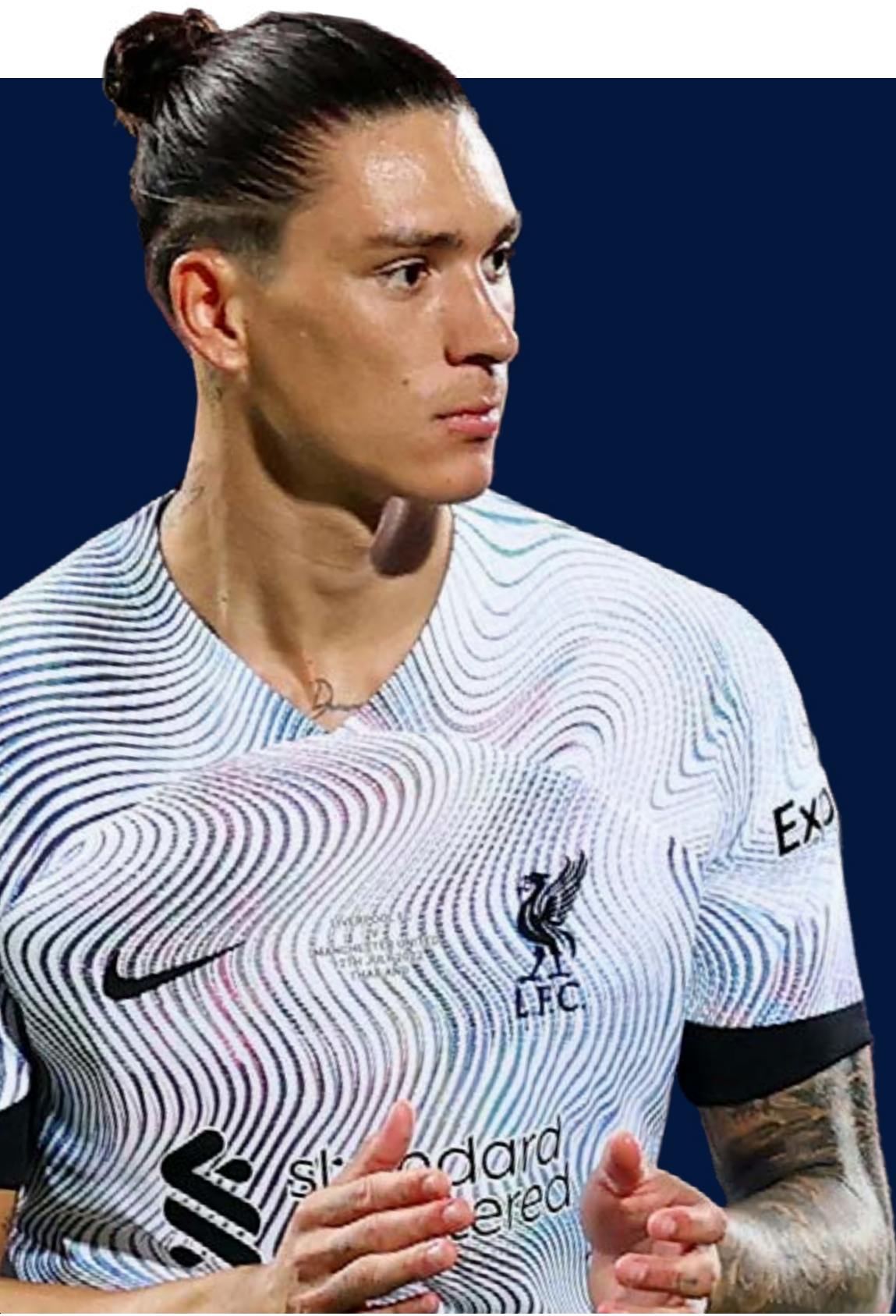
The navy lines show a change in season. Liverpool's process through 21/22 was their best ever in the Premier League, improving drastically on their 20/21 struggle.

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL
POWERED BY **infogol**

PLAYER TO WATCH
DARWIN NUNEZ

Liverpool's new signing Darwin Nunez is a number nine profile who is also able to play on the left when necessary.

The Uruguayan combines a hulking physique with pace and energy to terrorize opposition defences. In the Primeira Liga last season, Nunez top scored with **26 goals, averaging 0.70 xG/95 from 3.78 shots/95.** Erling Haaland joining Manchester City gives Nunez a natural rival to compete against in the league, and with a lot of promise shown already in the Champions League, Nunez's talents will be worth keeping an eye on this season.

NINAD BARBADIKAR @NINADB_06

TALKING TACTICS

Not much has changed tactically at Liverpool this summer, although the configuration of Jurgen Klopp's forward line continues to quietly evolve (as it has done throughout his tenure) to keep opponents on their toes. The only coaching question hanging over Anfield is whether Darwin Nunez can adequately replace Sadio Mane. Nunez is more of a traditional striker than either Mane or Roberto Firmino and Liverpool will have to adapt their game accordingly. Then again, Klopp's reliance on full-backs swinging crosses into the box already suits the new striker, plus Nunez's pace on the shoulder of the last defender will excite Thiago Alcantara.

ALEX KEBLE @ALEXKEBLE

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

66% TITLE	99% TOP 4	99% TOP 6	99% TOP HALF	0% RELEGATION

TITLE WIN % CHANCE

- 60% **Best Priced Bookie**
- 66% **Infogol**
- 78% **sky bet Fan Hope Survey**

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent — Gameweek

Manchester City have a great opportunity to take a stranglehold at the top of the Premier League with a decent schedule to start the season. It's the same just before the World Cup break, and during the home stretch of the campaign; Pep Guardiola can have no complaints about City's schedule.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

MARK O'HAIRE
@MARKOHAIRE

Manchester City have been crowned Premier League champions in four of the past five campaigns and Pep Guardiola's group are again the team to beat. The big-money signing of Erling Haaland gives the Citizens a devastating guarantee of goals and Kalvin Phillips' arrival provides the midfield with ballast and balance.

City have averaged **91.60** points and **97 goals** across their most recent five Premier League seasons, and if Haaland can slot into their system seamlessly, it's difficult to look beyond Pep's posse as firm favourites to win the title, but given the prices and their scoring record, City to score 100+ catches the eye.
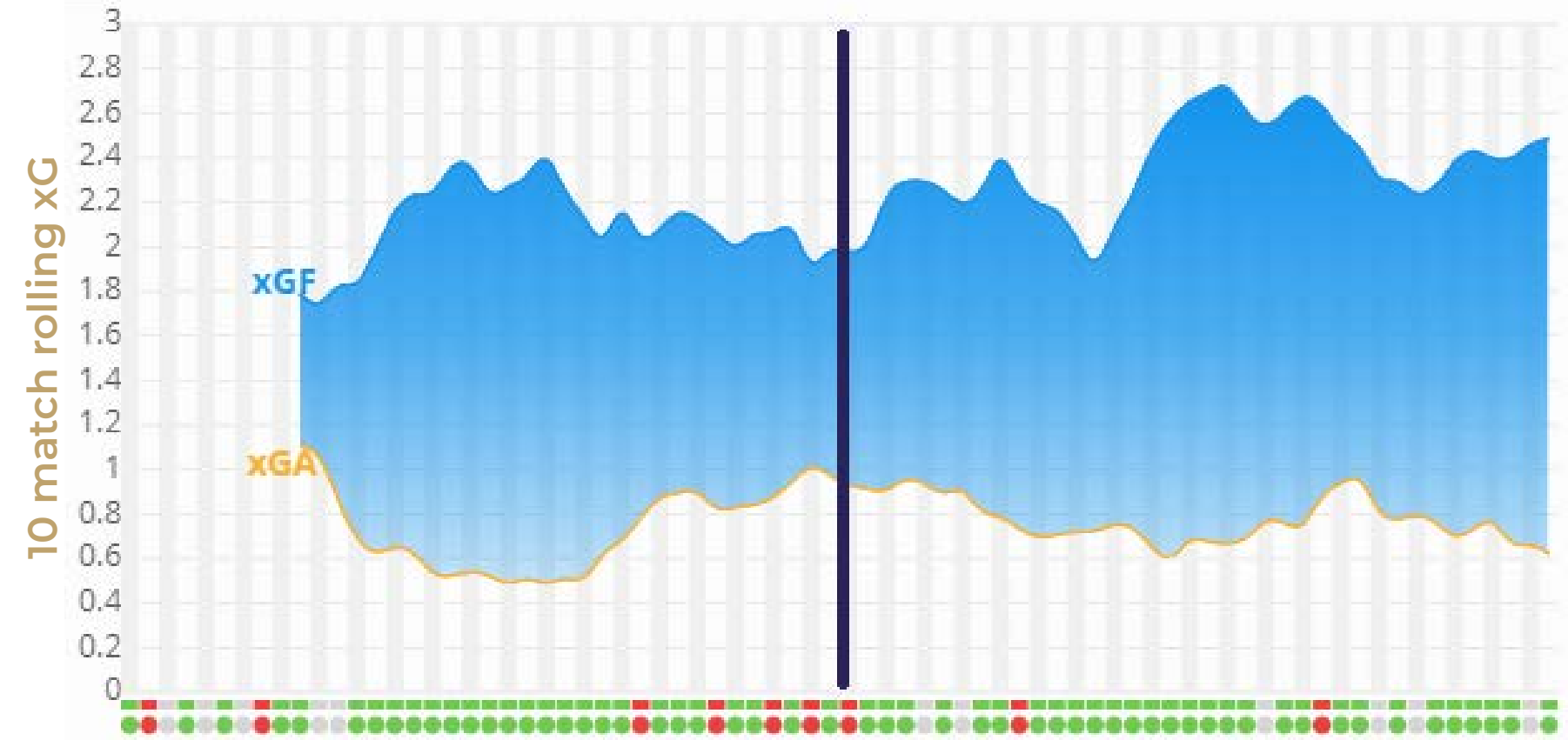
CLICK HERE TO BACK: MAN CITY TO SCORE 100+ GOALS

2.47 xGF/ GAME	**0.72** xGA/ GAME	**1** FINAL POSITION	**1** INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	**0.61** MAHREZ XG/95 LEADER	**0.41** DE BRUYNE XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

10 match rolling xG — xGF / xGA

Since Pep Guardiola arrived at Man City, his team have been the best defensive side in each league season according to xGA per game.

The navy line indicates a change in season. Manchester City are the model of consistency, with a chasm between their blue and orange lines the norm.

SPORTING LIFE FOOTBALL
POWERED BY infogol

PLAYER TO WATCH
JACK GREALISH

A Premier League record price tag of £100m seemed to weigh heavily on Jack Grealish in 21/22.

Indeed, he was something of a stylistic misfit, but the changes made over the summer at the Etihad suggest the champions will now play to Grealish's strengths. The arrival of Erling Haaland will change the dynamic, with Grealish expected to play a more intricate game as a midfield creator around him. He averaged **2.01** passes into the penalty area per 95 minutes last term, while averaging **0.23 xA/95** which ranked fourth best among City players. These stats will certainly increase with the Englishman having someone to feed.

GRAHAM RUTHVEN @GRAHAMRUTHVEN

TALKING TACTICS

Manchester City are again the team to beat this season. Masters at controlling matches and dictating the tempo to constantly keep foes on the back foot, it'll take a special effort to topple this richly assembled and astutely managed side. Their collective cohesion rightfully draws praise, with their precision in their positional play mechanics and ball movement helping them generate numerous quality chances per game. So well drilled and all on the same page, some other mechanics like opposite movements, third man runs, pinning opponents and using the overload to isolate principle amplify their nuisance. They possess hardly any weaknesses now they have signed a truly elite striker in Erling Haaland.

EDWARD STRATMANN @EDWARDSTRATMANN

MAN UNITED

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	25%	61%	93%	0%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

OUTSIDE TOP 4 % CHANCE

62%	Best Priced Bookie
75%	Infogol
50%	sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent (y-axis) vs *Gameweek* (x-axis)

Erik ten Hag's start to his Manchester United career is a tough one, with their schedule difficult to begin with before cratering at Gameweek 14. It gets increasingly easier from there though and is middling for the remainder of the campaign.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

TOM CARNDUFF
@TOMC_22

It's been the needed summer of change with Erik ten Hag taking charge of the team following his switch from Ajax. A lot needs to happen at Old Trafford and they've looked to address that with the additions of Tyrell Malacia, Christian Eriksen and Lisandro Martinez. Frenkie de Jong could be a United player by the start of season, but it feels like this is a campaign of building under Ten Hag. However, they could start strong enough given the fixtures and may well hold a top-four spot at the winter World Cup break.

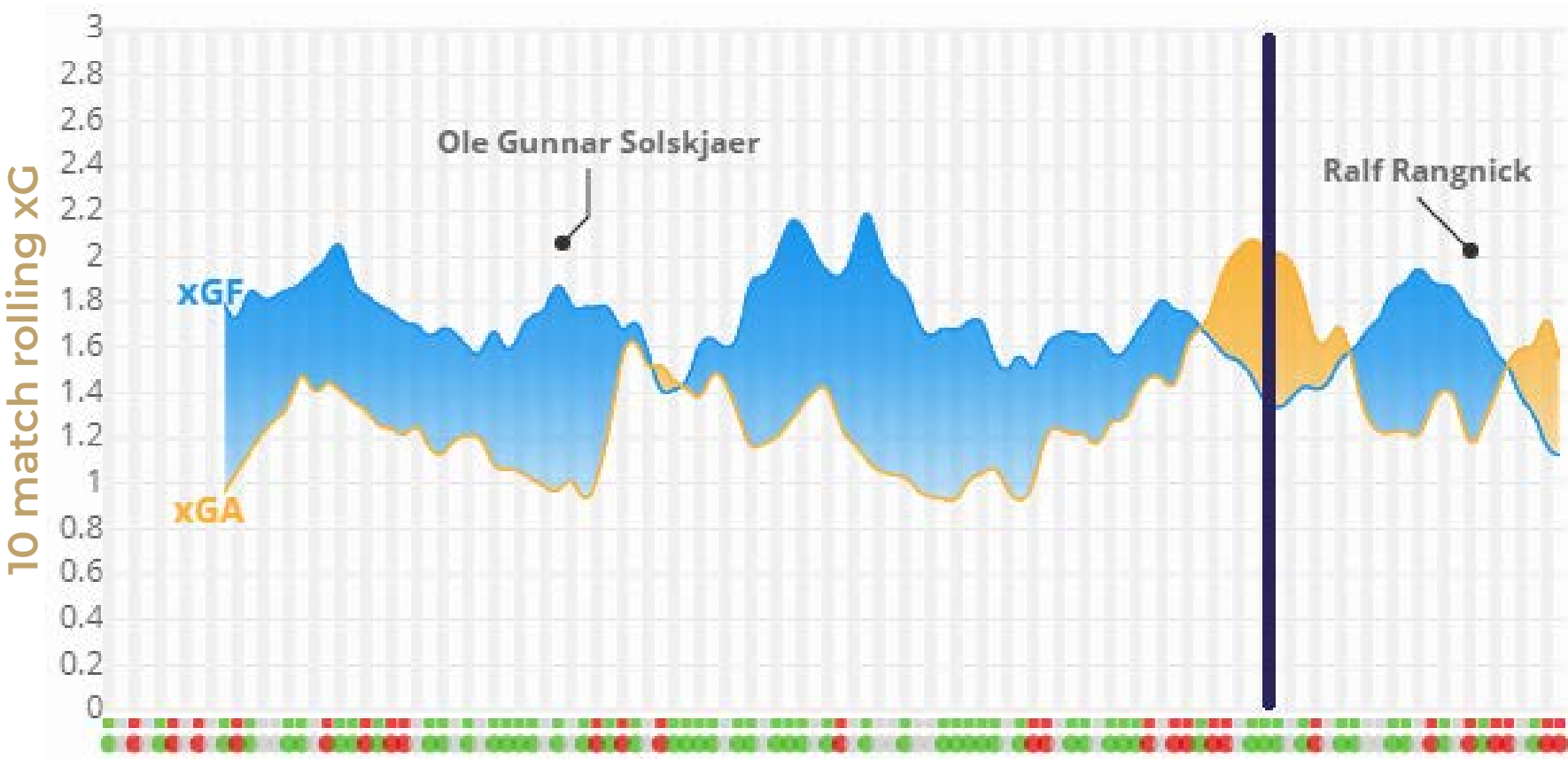**CLICK HERE TO BACK: MAN UTD TOP FOUR AT CHRISTMAS**

LAST SEASON'S STATS

1.55	**1.56**	**6**	**9**	**0.62**	**0.27**
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	RONALDO XG/95 LEADER	FERNANDES XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 19/20 TO PRESENT

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Ralf Rangnick

10 match rolling xG

xGF

xGA

Manchester United's **xGA per game of 1.56** last season was the worst they have recorded since Sir Alex Ferguson left the club in 2013.

The navy line shows a change in manager. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer had two decent seasons of process at United, but they were at their worst levels when he was sacked.

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL

POWERED BY **infogol**

PLAYER TO WATCH
DIOGO DALOT

Erik Ten Hag's style of play consists of attacking-minded full-backs, which could mean Diogo Dalot has an important role to play.

He is a player who is more known for his ability and composure on the ball than for his defensive duties. He ranked in the **91st** percentile for passes in the final third and in the **93rd** percentile for through balls last season when compared with other full-backs across the top five leagues within Europe. It could be a big season for the once out-of-favour full-back.

ASIF NORAT @ASIF9707

TALKING TACTICS

Erik ten Hag succeeded rebuilding Ajax twice, which is good news for United who are in need of a full-scale revolution. The Dutchman mixes classic Ajax traits of possession domination and positional rotation with a modern twist of verticality in the final third. That means Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial can lead a fluid attacking line backed up by a more intelligent and compressed midfield shape. Much rests on whether Frenkie de Jong signs on to anchor the side, because United cannot excel until they disband the McFred partnership. The hardest job in world football will be made slightly easier if Ten Hag can stock the dressing room with Ajax graduates.

ALEX KEBLE @ALEXKEBLE

NEWCASTLE

NEWCASTLE

infogol PREDICTED FINISH 10th

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	3%	11%	45%	7%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

BOTTOM HALF % CHANCE

- **29%** Best Priced Bookie
- **55%** Infogol
- **10%** sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent — Gameweek

Newcastle's season gets under way in a difficult manner with their opening stretch the toughest they face all season, so it will be a challenge to continue last term's momentum. There are no 'easy' periods according to Infogol metrics, with their schedule fairly middling for the remainder.

SPORTING LIFE EXPERT VIEW

LIAM KELLY
@LIAMKELLYTTA

Newcastle's 2021/22 season predictably turned on its head at the January transfer window, finishing in 11th with a flourish following heavy investment. Despite the impressive 34 points gained after that point, underlying numbers show Newcastle performed at a mid-table level during that successful period, posting a **+0.4 xGD** across the 17 games. Eddie Howe's side may well improve further with added depth but keeping up such a high points average will be almost impossible. Cracking the top half will be more difficult than the market suggests with plenty of teams in the mix for that accolade.
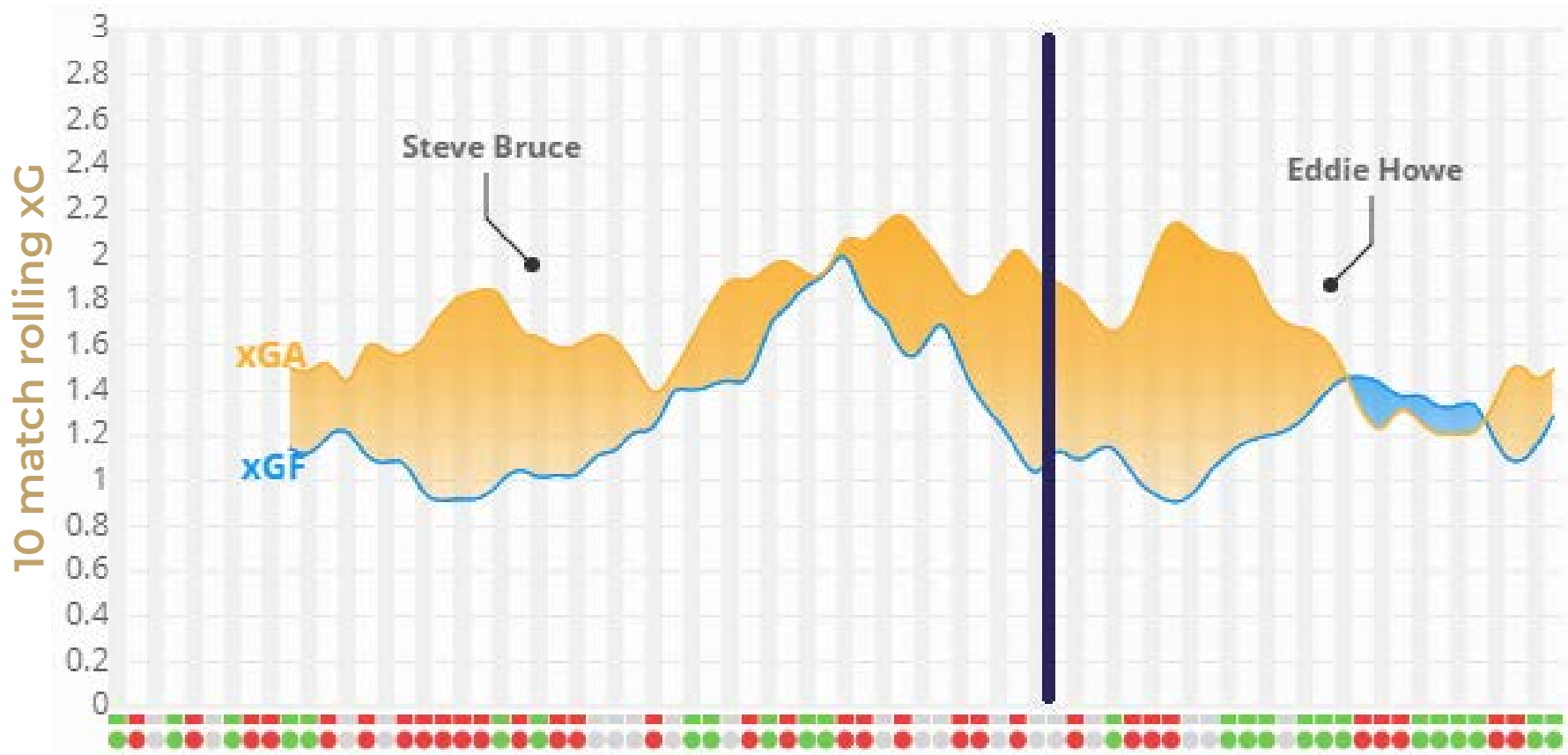
CLICK HERE TO BACK: NEWCASTLE TO FINISH IN THE BOTTOM HALF

1.23 xGF/ GAME	**1.72** xGA/ GAME	**11** FINAL POSITION	**14** INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	**0.47** WILSON XG/95 LEADER	**0.18** RITCHIE XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

Steve Bruce

Eddie Howe

xGA

xGF

10 match rolling xG

Under Eddie Howe, Newcastle collected **0.55 expected points (xP)** per game more than under Steve Bruce, equating to **20.9 xP** more over a full season.

The navy line highlights a managerial change. Newcastle undoubtedly improved under Eddie Howe, though there is still plenty of room for further progression.

SPORTING LIFE FOOTBALL

POWERED BY infogol

PLAYER TO WATCH
SVEN BOTMAN

The Magpies are in the process of gradual improvement and Sven Botman's addition represents a huge positive.

Previously, the defence has been an area of concern, but improvement after the January window should continue with the addition of Botman. Comfortable on the ball, hugely dominant in the air and a threat from set-pieces, Botman will bring stability to that Newcastle backline with his schooling in Dutch football. His composure in possession will allow Howe's side to control games and play out from the back better as well.

NINAD BARBADIKAR @NINADB_06

TALKING TACTICS

Bringing in some fantastic players over the last two windows, Newcastle should be feared this season. Eddie Howe has implemented a far more intense and regimented pressing scheme so they can win the ball back higher up the pitch, with the team moving as one unit to close down spaces and block passing lanes using their cover shadows. Howe also instructs his team to have more possession, to play with verticality and to take more risks, they posed a far bigger threat from their base 4-3-3, resulting in a more attacking brand of football. He has improved the Magpies in almost every department, giving his team a defined identity.

EDWARD STRATMANN @EDWARDSTRATMANN

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0% TITLE	**0%** TOP 4	**0%** TOP 6	**2%** TOP HALF	**70%** RELEGATION

RELEGATION % CHANCE

50%	**Best Priced Bookie**
70%	**Infogol**
9%	sky bet **Fan Hope Survey**

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent

Gameweek

Nottingham Forest's schedule takes the shape of a valley from gameweek 10 to 23. Things get easier after a middling start, but their strength of schedule plummets soon after before recovering to an equally easy level. The fluctuation doesn't end there though, with Forest's finishing stretch a tough one, meaning points on the board could be crucial.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

MARK O'HAIRE
@MARKOHAIRE

Promoted clubs boast a **59% survival rate** in the Premier League over the past 22 renewals, with all bar three of those 22 campaigns seeing at least one newcomer secure safety. Play-off winners Nottingham Forest have the tools to surprise, and showcased their potential last term when ousting both Arsenal and Leicester convincingly in the FA Cup. Forest bring confidence, momentum, aggression, plus an envious balance between defensive solidity and offensive flair. The Tricky Trees have strengthened with a few canny additions and look worthy of an interest to be the top promoted club.

CLICK HERE TO BACK: NOTTINGHAM FOREST TOP PROMOTED CLUB

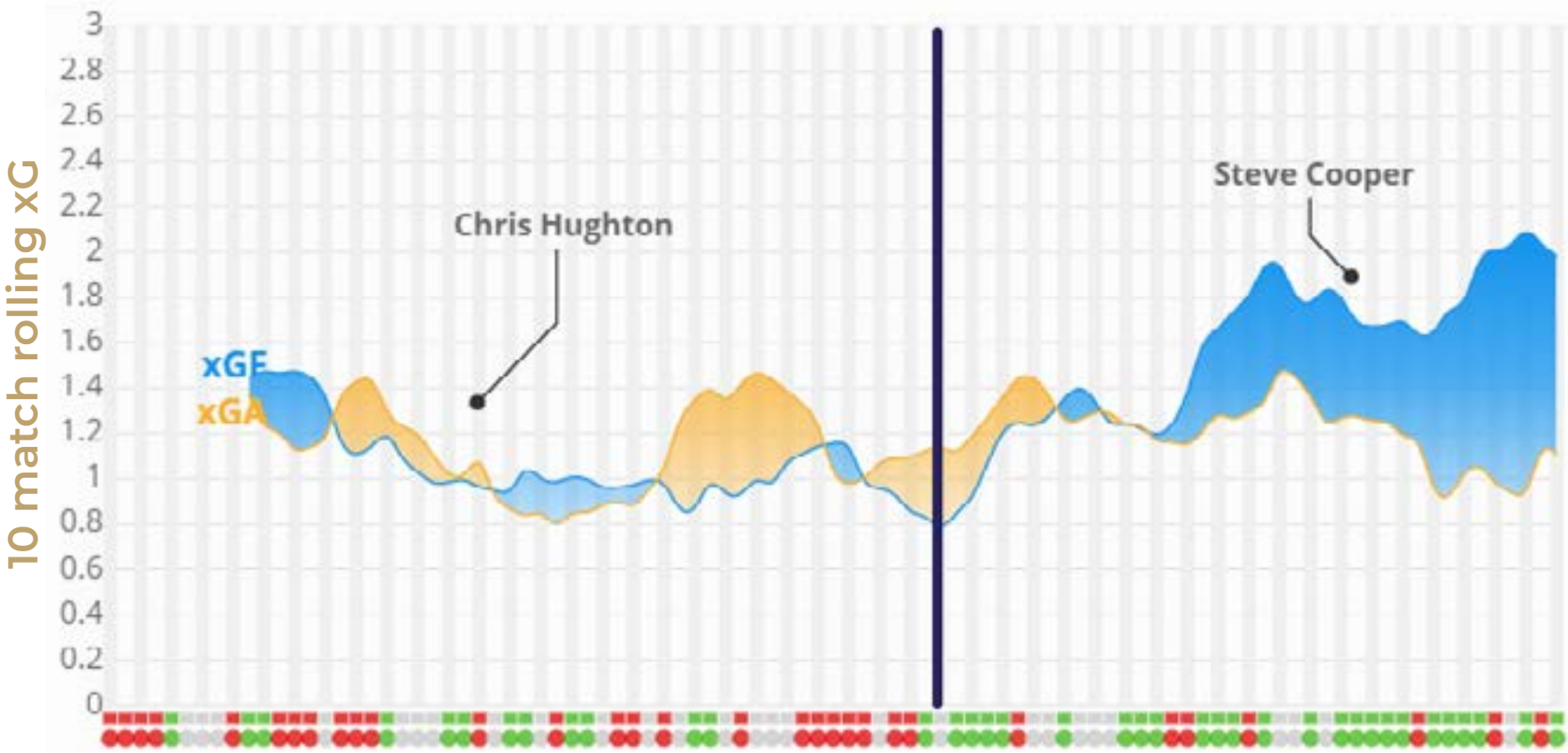| **1.51**	**1.18**	**4**	**6**	**0.56**	**0.26**
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	GRABBAN XG/95 LEADER	DAVIS XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

The navy line indicates a managerial change. Forest went from a bottom half process to a promotion process under Steve Cooper.

Nottingham Forest ranked as the fourth best team in the Championship based on **xGD** per game after appointing Steve Cooper as manager **(+0.49).**

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL
POWERED BY **infogol**

PLAYER TO WATCH
TAIWO AWONIYI

Nottingham Forest's now record transfer Taiwo Awoniyi could be one of the most underrated forwards in the Bundesliga.

The Nigerian finished 21/22 with the fourth best conversion rate in the league, netting 15 goals from **14.3 xG.** His game is all about movement, pace, playing on the shoulder and getting in behind, while he also does his fair share of work, hunting the ball down. He looks to be exactly what Forest need.

LIAM HENSHAW @HENSHAWANALYSIS

TALKING TACTICS

Steve Cooper took the division by storm last term with an unusually complex back-three formation. Cooper's penchant for hard pressing and attacking overloads makes his side ambitious and yet there is no reason to worry about Forest adjusting to Premier League level. In last season's FA Cup run, with wins against Arsenal and Leicester, Forest adapted to play in a deeper block, picking their moments wisely. They have been weakened somewhat by the losses of Djed Spence and James Garner, but optimism is to be found in the upgrades Cooper has made in the wing-back positions. Neco Williams and Omar Richards are Premier League ready.
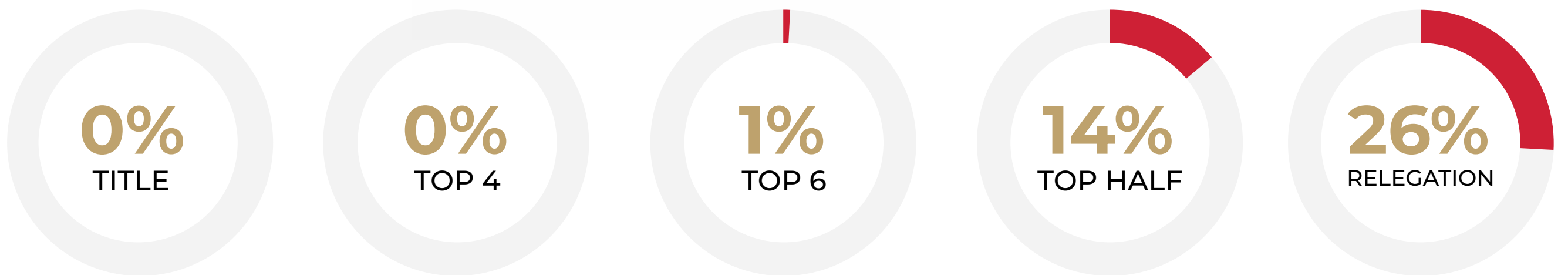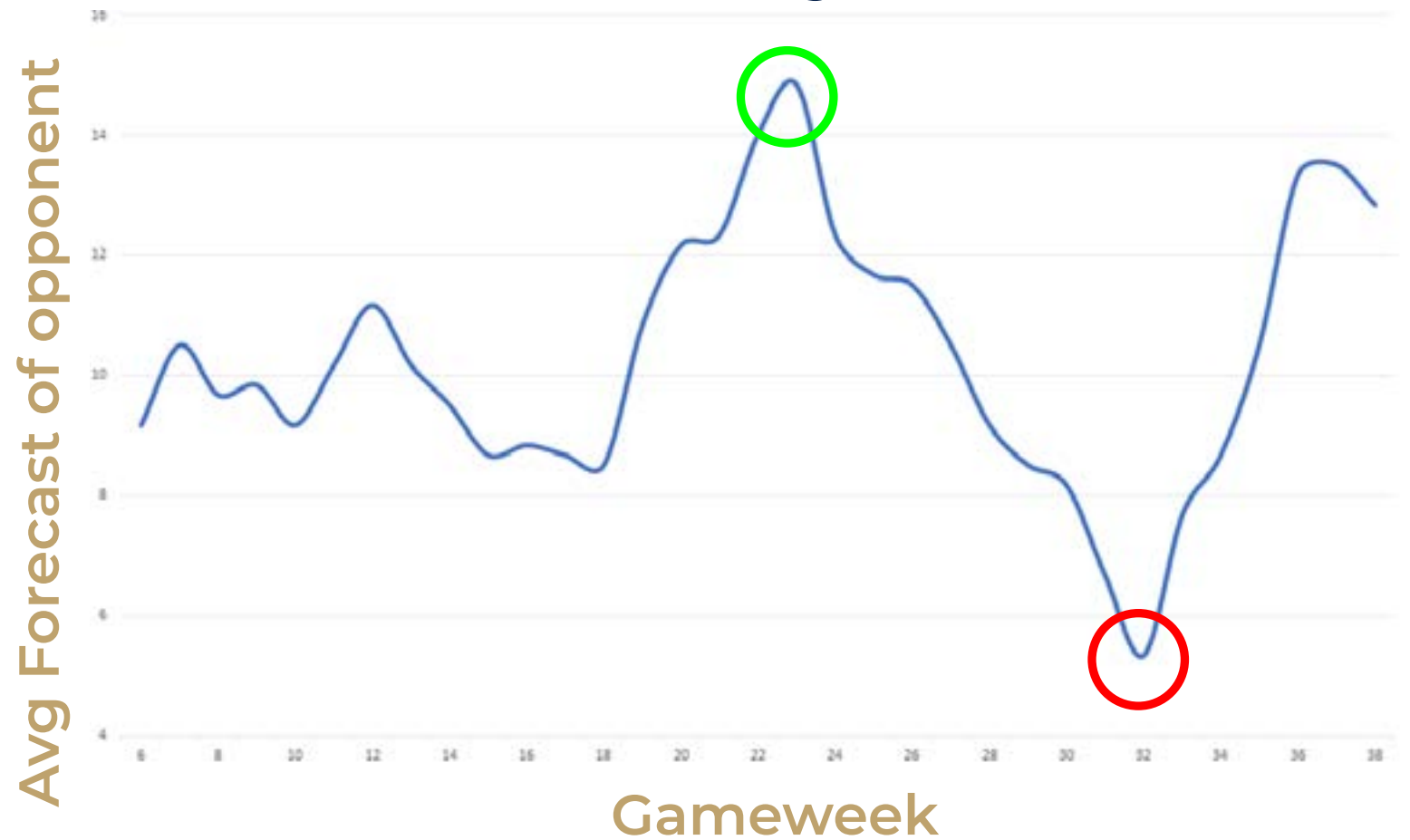
ALEX KEBLE @ALEXKEBLE

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	0%	1%	14%	26%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

RELEGATION
% CHANCE

22%	Best Priced Bookie
26%	Infogol
1%	sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent

Gameweek

Up to the World Cup break, Southampton's schedule is as close to middling as Infogol has seen. Post-tournament, Saints start to see real fluctuation, with things getting easier than average before crashing with the most difficult six-game stretch of any team. Thankfully for Saints fans, they finish the season with a much easier run that could prove pivotal if they are fighting for survival.

SPORTING LIFE
## EXPERT VIEW

TOM CARNDUFF
@TOMC_22

Southampton have been hovering above the relegation places without ever being in real danger in recent seasons, but this could be the campaign that catches up with them. The eyes were on Everton and Leeds in 21/22 but the Saints finished just two points above the latter who survived on the final day. Only the teams who were relegated secured fewer wins across the 38-game season. Ralph Hasenhüttl's side averaged **-0.38 xGD** per game last season, limping to the end of the campaign with a worrying **-1.25 xGD** per outing over their final ten. This could be the year they drop into the Championship.
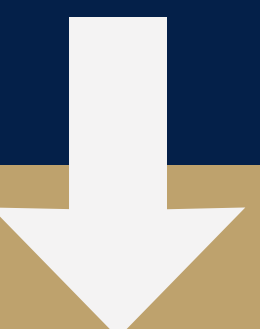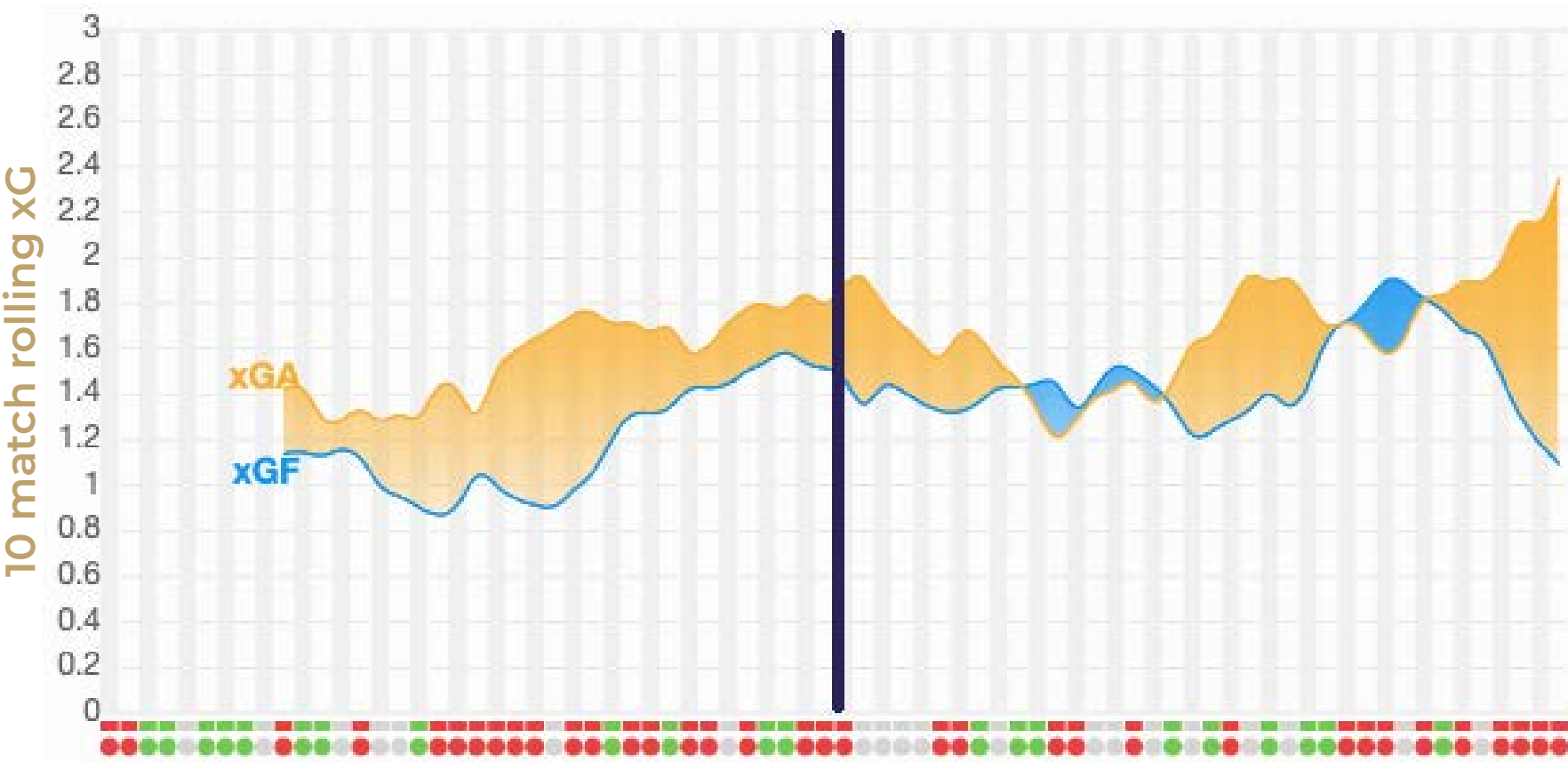
LAST SEASON'S STATS

1.40 xGF/ GAME	**1.78** xGA/ GAME	**15** FINAL POSITION	**12** INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	**0.35** ADAMS XG/95 LEADER	**0.22** REDMOND XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

10 match rolling xG

xGA

xGF

Over the last third of the 21/22 season, Southampton ranked as the second worst team in the league based on **xGD per game (-1.06).**

The navy line shows a season change. Southampton finished 21/22 with their worst levels over the past few seasons.

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL
POWERED BY infogol

PLAYER TO WATCH
MOHAMMED SALISU

Mohammed Salisu could be one dominant season away from a big move.

The 23-year-old has shown his qualities when required, proving that he can defend proactively and also play out from the back with ease, reminding Saints fans of a certain Virgil van Dijk. On top of that, he ranks within the 90th percentile for interceptions **(2.82 per 95)**, the 93rd percentile for clearances **(5.34)** and the 96th percentile for tackles **(2.76)** when compared with other centre-backs across Europe's top five leagues. Expect a big season from Salisu.

ASIF NORAT @ASIF9707

TALKING TACTICS

Ralph Hasenhüttl has a proven record of working with youngsters to fast-track their development, so he will be excited by Southampton's summer business. Renowned for his smartly-devised pressing mechanics and verticality in attack from his customary 4-2-2-2 shape, he'll be hoping to recapture his team's best form, for on their day they're capable of beating anyone.

When they're in full flight, their indented wingers smartly exploit zones between the lines in the half spaces creating room for the marauding full-backs, while they are also capable of unbalancing backlines before smartly targeting runs in behind and down the channels. They need to be at their best this season though.

EDWARD STRATMANN @EDWARDSTRATMANN

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	49%	80%	97%	0%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

OUTSIDE TOP 4 % CHANCE

44%	Best Priced Bookie
52%	Infogol
14%	sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent — Gameweek

Tottenham have one of the league's easier opening stretches. After meandering through mediocrity for much of the campaign their schedule gets increasingly easier again before a very difficult finish which could prove problematic should Spurs still fighting for the top four.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

MARK O'HAIRE
@MARKOHAIRE

Excitement and enthusiasm are building at Tottenham with Spurs under the charge of one of the world's best tacticians in Antonio Conte. The demanding Italian guided them back into the top four having earned the third-most points in the division after his arrival. The additions of Richarlison, Ivan Perisic and Yves Bissouma mean Spurs now appear to boast a squad capable of competing on multiple fronts, and a head coach with a proven track record. A top-four finish should prove popular, as will the 'without Man City and Liverpool' market, but the season handicap looks the place to get Spurs onside.
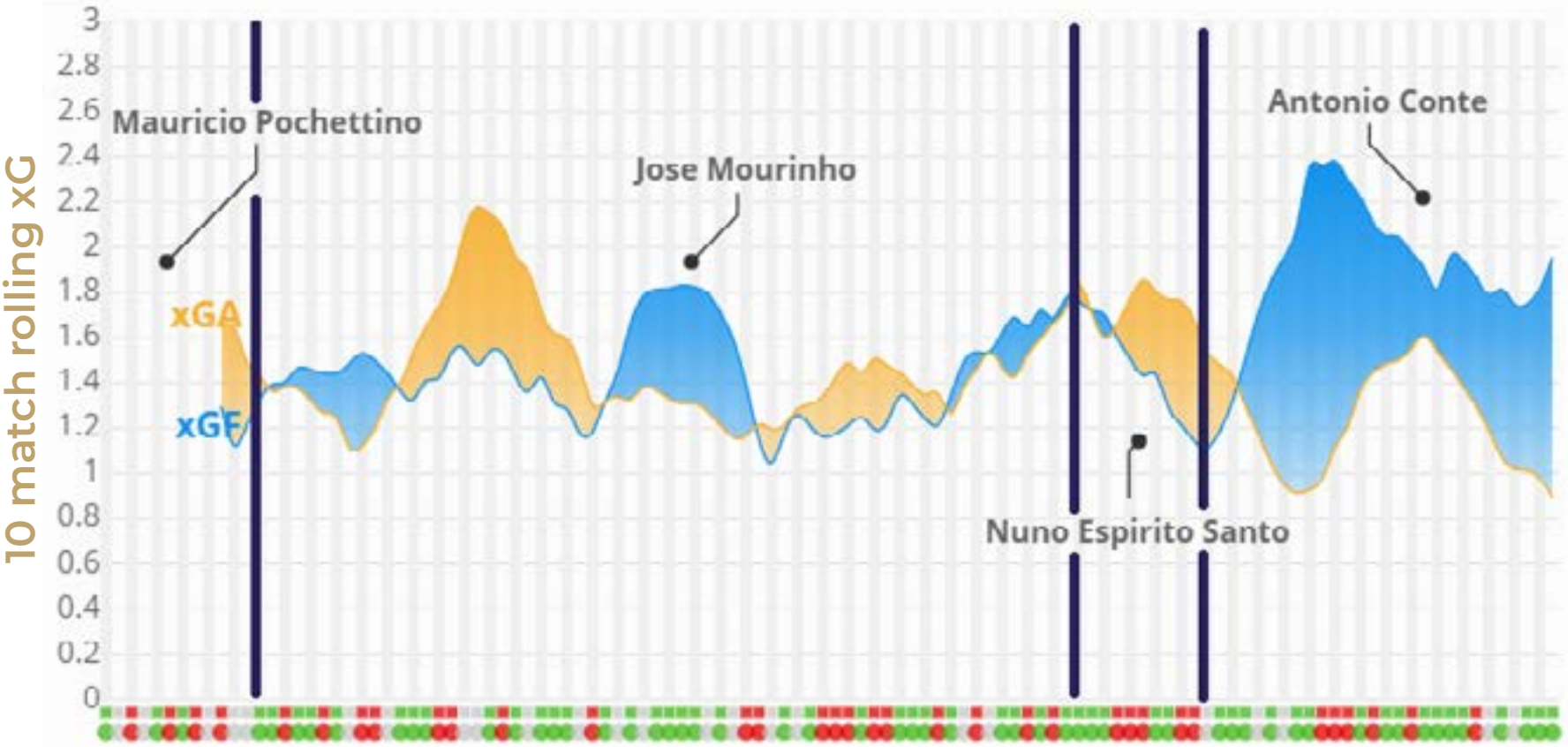
CLICK HERE TO BACK: TOTTENHAM +14 POINTS SEASON HANDICAP

1.80	**1.28**	**4**	**4**	**0.54**	**0.26**
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	KANE	SON
				XG/95 LEADER	XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 19/20 TO PRESENT

Antonio Conte improved Spurs by **1.46 xGD** per game after taking over, with Tottenham collecting **0.75 expected points (xP)** per game more under the Italian.

The navy lines represent managerial changes. After years of mediocrity, Antonio Conte has Tottenham looking more like contenders than they have since 2017.

SPORTING LIFE FOOTBALL

POWERED BY infogol

PLAYER TO WATCH
RODRIGO BENTANCUR

Rodrigo Bentancur could have a profound impact this season.

He has the versatility Antonio Conte looks for in a central midfielder and is capable of playing in a deep role, as part of a double pivot or even as a playmaker in an advanced position. The Uruguayan likes to press high up the pitch (he is in the 92nd percentile for tackles in the attacking third), but is also a useful presence around the edge of his own box. Perhaps most crucially, Bentancur averages **52.4 carries per 95 minutes**, which shows he can handle opposition presses and that he is crucial way Spurs get up the pitch.

GRAHAM RUTHVEN @GRAHAMRUTHVEN

TALKING TACTICS

A full summer of Antonio Conte's hyper-intensive training methods should dramatically improve Spurs – and not just in terms of fitness. Conte is one of the pioneers of "automatisms": attacking moves drilled like American Football set plays. It should make Spurs urgent, unpredictable, and immaculately choreographed. Last season his 3-4-2-1 was held back by a lack of training time, but also by flatness in midfield and weakness at wing-back. Spurs have fixed both problems. Yves Bissouma should allow Spurs to evade the opposition press. Elsewhere Ivan Perisic was converted into a wing-back by Conte, an education Lucas Moura is currently receiving. Both players add a blunt force to the Spurs attack, as does Richarlison.

ALEX KEBLE @ALEXKEBLE

WHAT infogol PREDICTS

0%	4%	17%	58%	3%
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

TOP HALF
% CHANCE

58%	Best Priced Bookie
58%	Infogol
96%	sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent — *Gameweek*

West Ham's start is tough before getting easier. They face other tough stretches before and after the World Cup, followed by a yo-yo finish. The Hammers could have asked for a kinder schedule, with only one 'easier' run of games throughout the whole season.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

**LIAM KELLY**
@LIAMKELLYTTA

West Ham produced another excellent campaign last season, finishing seventh domestically and reaching the Europa League semi-finals. After a sixth-place finish in 2020/21, such consistency in the Premier League should be celebrated, and the Hammers look set to keep it up with little change to their core. Key injuries affected them last term, but much-needed depth has been added to the squad for the upcoming season. With that in mind, it's a surprise to see them at a very backable price to win the Premier League without the 'Big Six' considering the stability of this team.
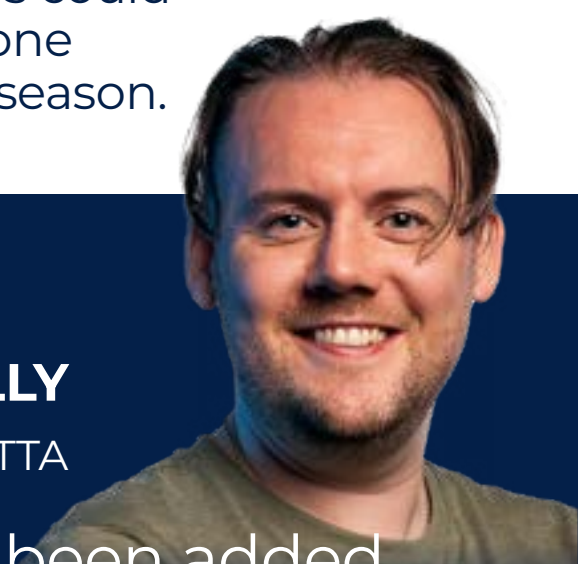
CLICK HERE TO BACK: WEST HAM TO WIN THE LEAGUE W/O 'BIG SIX'

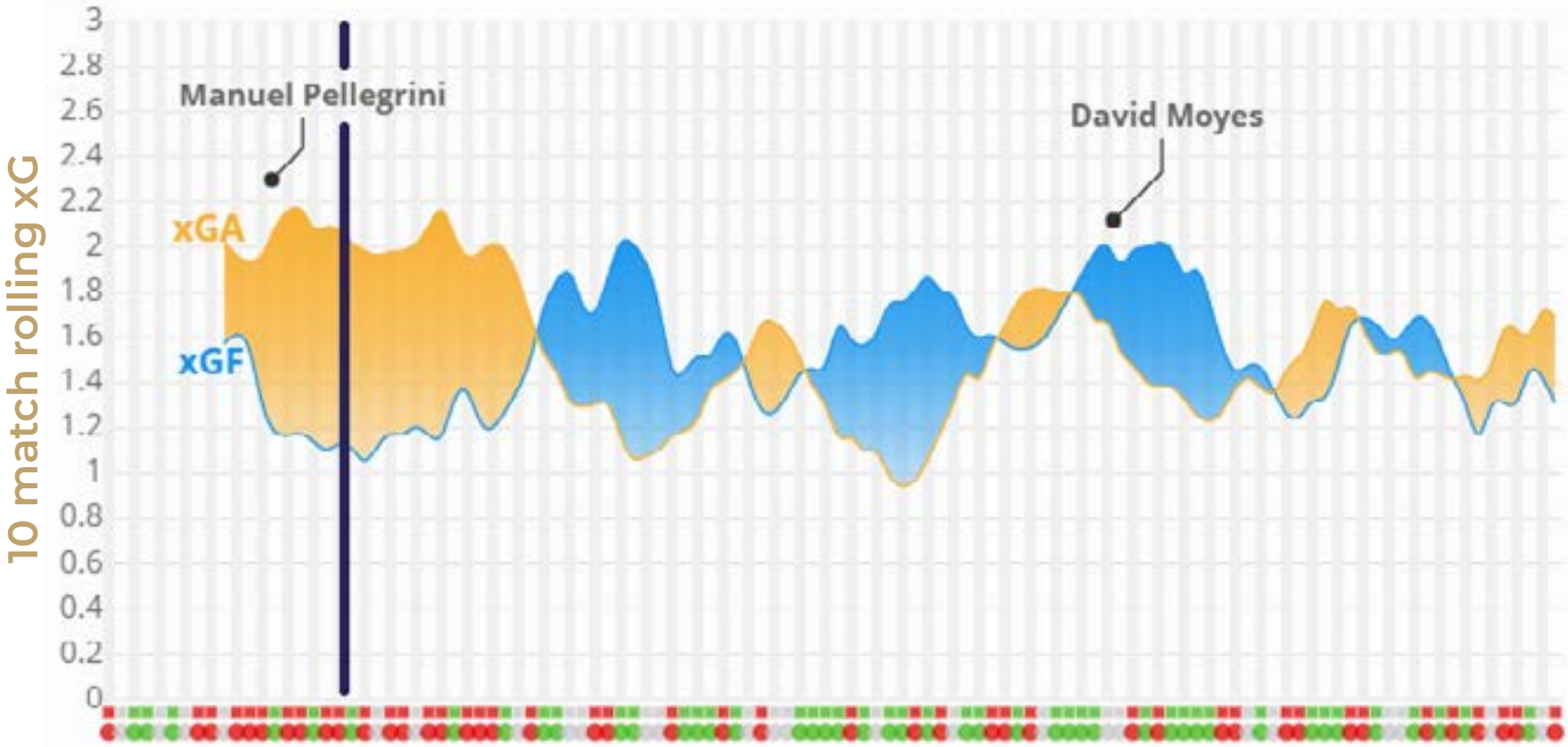| **1.51**	**1.52**	**7**	**10**	**0.39**	**0.19**
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	ANTONIO xG/95 LEADER	FORNALS xA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 19/20 TO PRESENT

Only the traditional 'big six' racked up more **xGF** last season than David Moyes' West Ham side **(57.4)**, though they ranked only 10th best on **xGA (57.6)**.

The navy line shows a managerial change. David Moyes' side are up and down through his tenure, but there is never too much orange - which is a positive.

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL
POWERED BY **infogol**

PLAYER TO WATCH
SAID BENRAHMA

It's difficult to pick out a key player to watch from the West Ham squad, with Declan Rice and Jarrod Bowen clearly known as the side's best players.

However, the 22/23 season could be make-or-break for Said Benrahma, who is yet to consistently perform in the Premier League. Achieving eight goals and six assists in 32 league appearances last season, it could be argued that he needs to kick on to the next level if he is to find a permanent slot in the team. His averages of **0.24 xG/95** and **0.18 xA/95** are a solid base to work from though.

ASIF NORAT @ASIF9707

TALKING TACTICS

Finding the right balance of attacking thrust and defensive solidity from his typical base 4-2-3-1 shape, David Moyes has transformed West Ham into one of the toughest teams to face off with due to their blend of physicality, athleticism, technique and intelligence. The Hammers are capable of playing on the counter attack with their directness and quality, while they can also methodically break down opponents with patient and incisive play. Michail Antonio's ability to hold the ball up and occupy defenders helps to generate room for runs in behind from midfielders, full-backs and their nimble attackers, causing dilemmas for opponents with their movement. Watch out for the Hammers again this term.

EDWARD STRATMANN @EDWARDSTRATMANN

WHAT **infogol** PREDICTS

0%	**0%**	**3%**	**23%**	**15%**
TITLE	TOP 4	TOP 6	TOP HALF	RELEGATION

BOTTOM HALF
% CHANCE
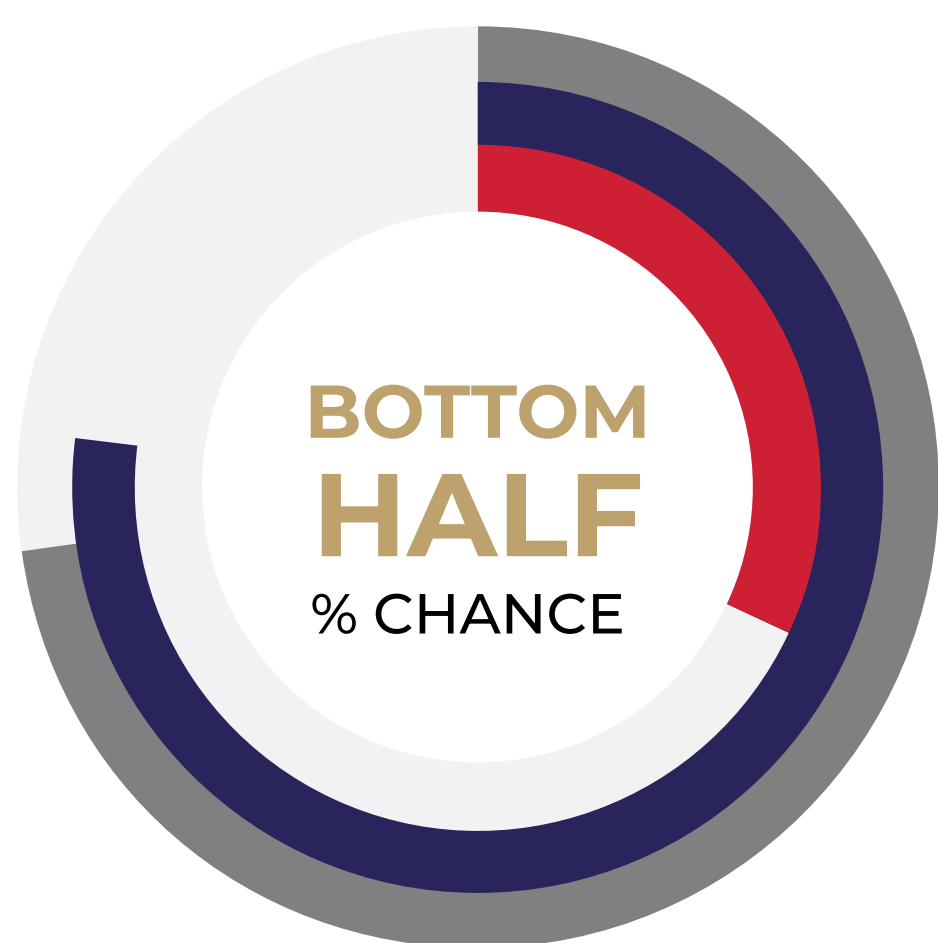
73%	Best Priced Bookie
77%	Infogol
32%	sky bet Fan Hope Survey

Six-Game Rolling Strength of Schedule in 22/23 Premier League season

Avg Forecast of opponent

Gameweek

After the easiest start of any team, things soon get a lot tougher for Wolves. If the Old Gold don't take advantage of their decent opening stretch Bruno Lage could find himself under pressure, with their schedule only taking a real turn for the better at Gameweek 23.

SPORTING LIFE
EXPERT VIEW

Joe Townsend
@JOESTERT

Wolves' 2021/22 was a curious one from a data perspective. Points quickly caught up with performances after a strong start yielded little reward, but just as it seemed the Old Gold were set to challenge for a top-six finish they fell apart on all major metrics. After getting away with it for a while, the data caught up them and Bruno Lage's side delivered just one win from their final nine matches to finish 10th – six places higher than Infogol rated them according to xG. Following a summer that has seen more outs than ins at Molineux, Wolves' period as a side challenging in the 'best of the rest' category could be ending – especially given the impact Patrick Vieira had in his first season at Crystal Palace.

CLICK HERE TO BACK: CRYSTAL PALACE TO FINISH HIGHER THAN WOLVES

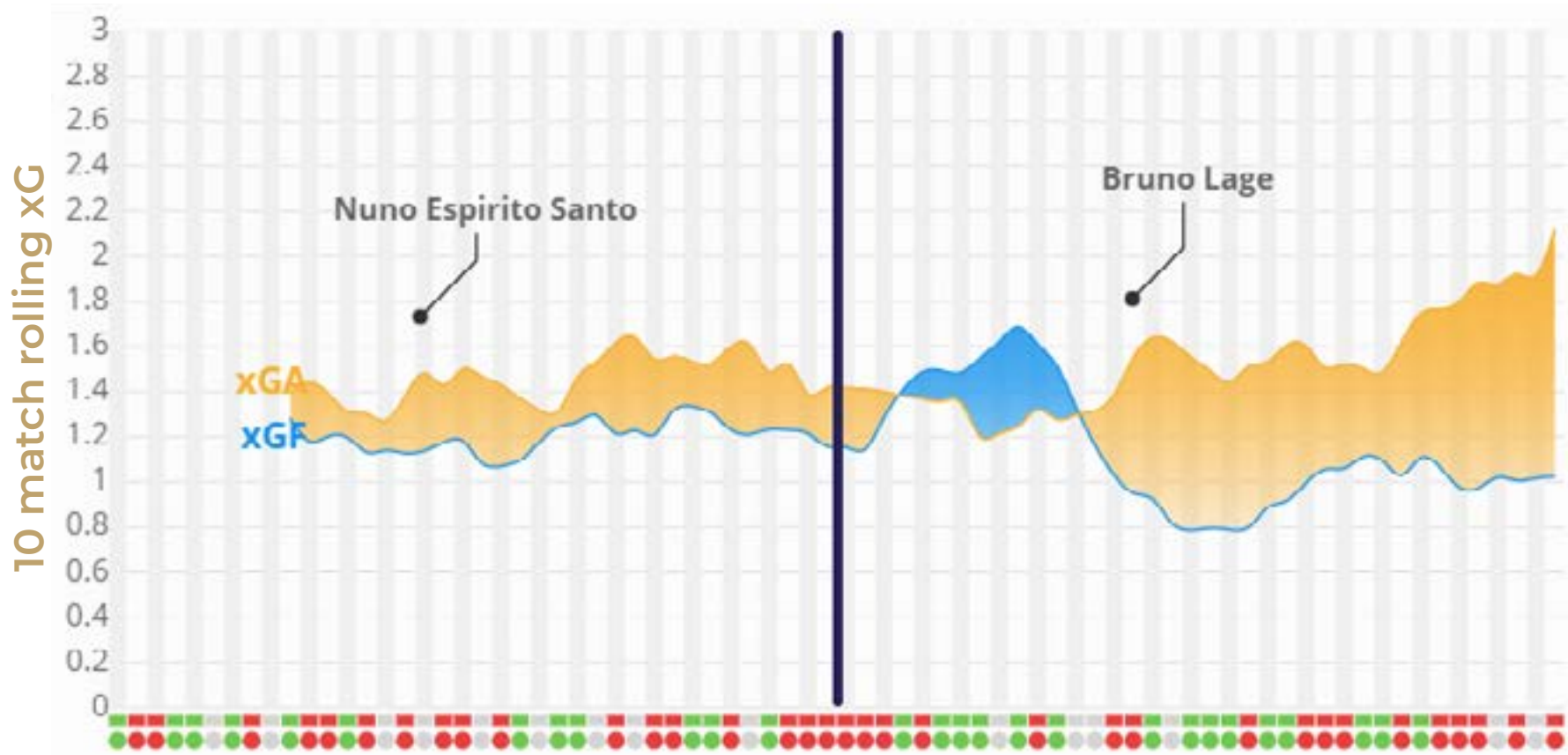| 1.14	1.61	10	16	0.28	0.24
xGF/ GAME	xGA/ GAME	FINAL POSITION	INFOGOL EXPECTED FINISH	TRINCAO XG/95 LEADER	PODENCE XA/95 LEADER

ROLLING FORM FOR 20/21 & 21/22 TO PRESENT

10 match rolling xG

Nuno Espirito Santo

Bruno Lage

xGA

xGF

Wolves were the biggest overperformers in defence last season, conceding just **43** times from chances equating to **61.0 xGA.**

The navy line indicates a managerial and season change. After a good start, Wolves finished the campaign looking like a relegation team based on their process.

SPORTING LIFE
FOOTBALL

POWERED BY **infogol**

PLAYER TO WATCH
NATHAN COLLINS

Acquired from Burnley this summer, Nathan Collins is a player with a big upside.

The centre-back dominated in the air last season by winning **4.44 aerial duels per 95** – ranking him in the **97th** percentile among fellow centre-backs across Europe's top five leagues. Playing in a team that sat deep, it's unsurprising that he ranked in the **98th** percentile for blocks too, **2.60 per 95**. One thing that stands out though is his attacking output. He averaged **0.13 xG/95 and 0.07 xA/95**, ranking in the **92nd and 94th** percentile by that same measure. He's one to watch in the anytime scorer markets.

JAKE OSGATHORPE @JAKEOZZ

TALKING TACTICS

On the surface it might look as though Bruno Lage was a continuation of the Nuno Espirito Santo years; both managers relied largely on quick counter-attacks and sweeping diagonal switches from those brilliant Portuguese midfielders. But Lage is more daring, deploying a higher line and attacking in greater numbers, even if the goals for and against columns don't reflect that. In fact, Lage has perhaps been a little lucky. They finished 10th but occupied **16th in Infogol's xG table**. Wolves have been on the slide for a while, lacking bite or imagination in the final third. Only one signing so far, points to a difficult year for Lage.
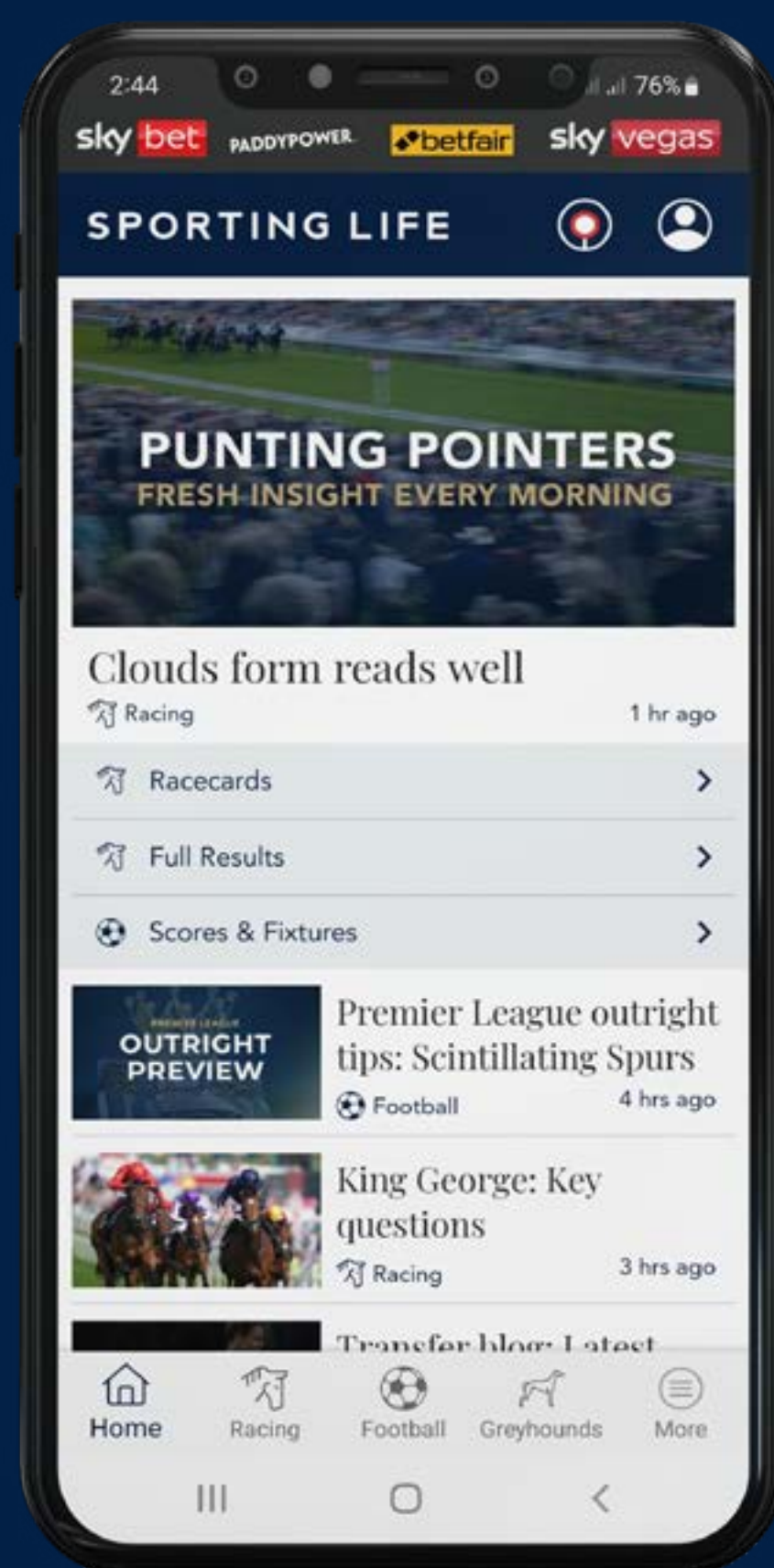
ALEX KEBLE @ALEXKEBLE