

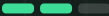
INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION · PLAYER

Alexander Isak — Match Report

Liverpool v Manchester City · Premier League · 11 October 2026

ATLAS READ

You arrive in this match producing both volume and quality: 15 shots have generated 3.36 xG, and your four goals are slightly ahead of that chance value. Manchester City have conceded relatively little in their opening five matches, but they have still allowed 3.20 big chances per game; the opportunity is to turn your limited possessions into the same high-value attempts you have already been finding. Do not force the game through repeated duels: City's available defensive sample contains several strong duel winners, while your edge has come from the quality of the shots you take.

 Confidence **medium** — conclusions are supported, but the sample calls for confirmation

— IN THIS DOCUMENT

— The essentials

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By the numbers

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02 City limit overall damage, but they have not removed the opening

03 Choose the contest rather than letting the contest choose you

— Sources

Sample, limits and provenance

WHAT CAN MAKE IT HARD FOR YOU

- R1** City can restrict the number of clean chances, so low-quality attempts are unlikely to be enough.
They concede **1.11** xG and **11.80** shots per match across five league games.
- R2** Direct physical contests may be an inefficient route into the match if they become your main involvement.
You have won **13** of **27** duels; Marc Guéhi has won **25** of **33** recorded duels and Rúben Dias **19** of **36**.
- R3** The goalkeeper has added protection to a defence that already limits expected goals.
Gianluigi Donnarumma has prevented **0.84** xG per match in his three appearances.

WHERE YOUR CHANCE IS

- O1** Your recent shot selection gives you a genuine route through a defence that has conceded chances despite its results.
Your xG per shot is **0.22**; City have allowed **3.20** big chances per match.
- O2** Stay alert immediately after the restart, when City's concessions have been concentrated so far.
They have conceded two of their five goals between minutes **46** and **60**, and none after minute **75**.
- O3** Your ability to create as well as finish can make your involvement harder to contain.
You have produced three key passes alongside four goals in five starts.

WHAT THIS ASKS OF YOU

- A1** When the chance arrives, favour a composed first finish over adding an extra action: your 0.22 xG per shot has been the foundation of your output.
- A2** Use short combinations when a direct duel is not cleanly available. You already have three key passes, while City's leading defenders have produced strong duel and tackle numbers.
- A3** After losing the ball, reset quickly rather than trying to recover it through a second forced action. You have lost possession 36 times and been dispossessed five times in five matches.
- A4** Stay switched on through the opening phase of the second half. Two of City's five conceded goals have come between minutes 46 and 60.

Action points are guidance built from the evidence in this report. They are not behaviour observed on the pitch: the decision to adopt each one belongs to whoever knows the day-to-day context.

HOW FAR THIS READ GOES

   Confidence **medium** — conclusions are supported, but the sample calls for confirmation
4 sample windows · 6 stated limits — see Sources

— BY THE NUMBERS

Alexander Isak in the matches observed

415'

Minutes played

5 matches, 5 starts

0.73

xG per 90 minutes

3.36 in total

3.3

Shots per 90

0.22 xG per shot

48%

Duels won

27 duels contested

01 Your shooting has been the clearest strength

Your first five starts have given Liverpool a reliable source of high-value shooting. You have taken 15 shots for 3.36 xG, an average of 0.22 xG per shot; that means the chances you have taken have generally carried meaningful scoring value rather than being speculative volume. Four goals from that 3.36 xG is a positive return, but the priority is to preserve the quality of the chances rather than chase another overperformance.

The match-by-match record also shows that the output has not depended on one single game. You recorded at least two shots in each of the five matches, and scored in three. Against Newcastle, you generated 1.55 xG from four shots without scoring; that is a useful reminder that the process has been stronger than the result on every occasion.

Chance quality and shot execution, match by match

Both lines use the same unit and scale



When the lower line is above the upper one, the shot was executed better than the chance warranted; when it is below, the finish fell short. Matches without a shot on target do not have a second point.

02 City limit overall damage, but they have not removed the opening

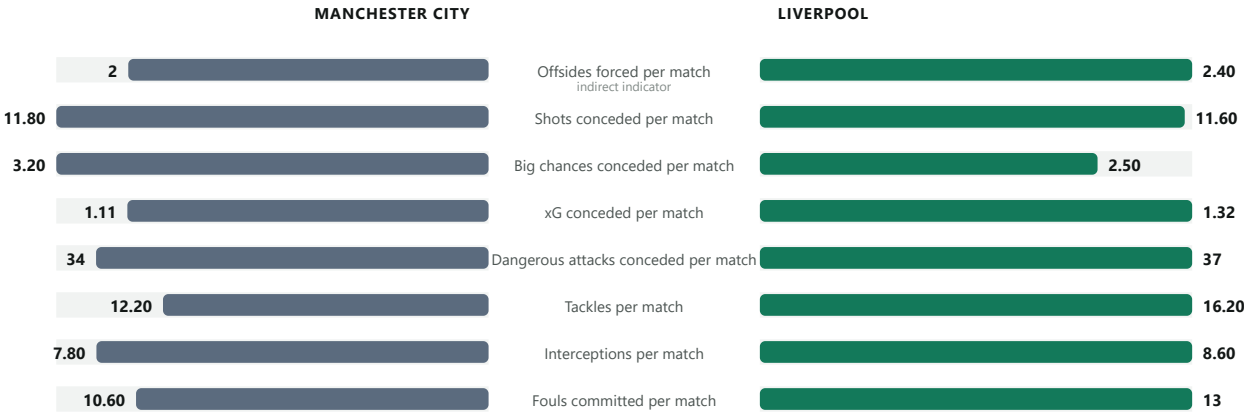
Manchester City are first with five wins from five, and their defensive record deserves respect: they have conceded 1.11 xG and 11.80 shots per match. That is the main challenge for you—there may not be many repeated looks at goal. Their goalkeeper's 0.84 xG

prevented per match across three appearances adds another reason to make the first clean attempt count.

But the defence is not impenetrable. City have conceded 3.20 big chances per match, close to Liverpool's 2.25 created in the four matches for which that measure is available. The reading is not that chances will come easily; it is that one well-executed chance can matter more than a high number of forced attempts.

How Manchester City defend

Average per match, with your team as the scale reference



Your team's column is used to give scale to the numbers, not to compare quality: the two samples are from different matches.

The goalkeeper

Gianluigi Donnarumma

Most-used goalkeeper
5 matches, 450 minutes

14

Saves
5 goals conceded

0.84

xG prevented per match
in his 3 matches with this data; a positive value indicates saving above what would be expected from the quality of the shots

03 Choose the contest rather than letting the contest choose you

Your work has been concentrated on decisive actions: 3.25 shots and 0.65 key passes per 90 minutes from 26.02 touches per 90. That profile can suit this game if you stay available for the moments that lead to a final action. It also means each lost possession carries more weight: you have lost the ball 36 times and been dispossessed five times in 415 minutes.

City's recorded defenders offer different levels of resistance, but the available sample flags strong duel output from Marc Guéhi, Josko Gvardiol and Rúben Dias. Guéhi has lost only eight of 33 recorded duels, while Gvardiol has made 11 tackles in 435 minutes. This suggests that repeatedly trying to win the same kind of isolated contest is less promising than using your first control, combination play and finishing timing to create the better action.

Manchester City's defensive line

Defenders used in the current season, combined totals

PLAYER	STARTS	MIN	DUELS WON	DUELS LOST	AERIAL DUELS WON	DRIBBLED PAST	TACKLES	FOULS
Rúben Dias	—	450	19	17	15	3	1	6
Marc Guéhi	—	450	25	8	13	1	4	2
Josko Gvardiol	—	435	32	22	11	2	11	3
Abdukodir Khusanov	—	269	15	4	5	1	8	2
Matheus Nunes	—	213	10	3	3	2	3	1
Nico O'Reilly	—	165	8	16	2	4	3	3
Rico Lewis	—	57	3	7	1	1	—	1

'Dribbled past' counts the times an opponent got past him with the ball. The source does not indicate in which area of the pitch each action occurred.

SOURCES

- Manchester City — 2026/2027 season: 5 matches (23/08/2026 to 20/09/2026). Every main metric in this report comes from here.
- Manchester City — 2025/2026 season: 5 matches (04/05/2026 to 24/05/2026). Used only as context, never added to the current season.
- Liverpool — 2026/2027 season: 5 matches (23/08/2026 to 20/09/2026). Every main metric in this report comes from here.
- Liverpool — 2025/2026 season: 5 matches (25/04/2026 to 24/05/2026). Used only as context, never added to the current season.

WHAT THIS REPORT DOES NOT COVER

- There is no positional or tracking data. Nothing in this document describes where players were on the pitch, distance covered, measured defensive line height or space occupation.
- The recorded formations show the starting line-up shape, not observed behaviour. They indicate who played and in which role, not the team's organisation in possession.
- There is no map of passes, recoveries or shots by zone. The volume and type of each action are available; its location is not.
- The current-season evidence covers only five matches, so it supports a read on early form rather than a firm season-long pattern.
- No probable starting line-ups are available, so the defensive-player data identifies possible opponents rather than confirming who you will face.
- Goalkeeper prevention data covers three of Manchester City's five matches only.

ABOUT THE MEASURES

Dangerous attacks and the pressure index are proprietary indicators of the data provider, and the exact calculation behind each is not published. In this document they support the read and never carry it alone. Score, goals, shots, possession and expected metrics (xG) have known definitions.

Every number in this document was taken directly from ATLAS sources before writing and is not estimated. Where the source did not measure, the document records absence, not zero. Interpretations and hypotheses are identified as such in the text.