

COMPARATIVE SCOUTING REPORT

Tobias Sommer vs Akram Bouras

Tobias Sommer



Age: 24 (27.11.2001)

Position : CDM/CM

Height : 1.86m

Club: Sønderjyske

Nationality: Danish

Dominant foot: Right

Market Value: €1.50m

Role Profile

Tobias Sommer profiles as a possession-oriented holding midfielder whose primary influence comes through his ability to organise possession and control the rhythm of the game from deeper areas. Rather than relying on athleticism or individual actions to progress attacks, he operates as a facilitator, constantly offering passing options, supporting circulation and connecting different phases of build-up. His game is built around positioning, composure and decision-making, making him a profile that suits teams looking to dominate possession through structure rather than intensity.

Physical Profile

Standing at 1.86 metres, Sommer possesses an above-average frame for a defensive midfielder. He combines a lean physique with broad shoulders and a strong upper body, allowing him to compete effectively in physical

duels despite not being an exceptional athlete. His height also provides an advantage when defending aerial situations and contesting long balls.

From an athletic perspective, however, he is more functional than dynamic. His acceleration, agility and change of direction are below average compared to modern high-intensity midfielders, making him appear somewhat rigid when covering larger spaces or reacting quickly to sudden transitions. While he maintains a good work rate throughout matches, his physical profile is better suited to controlling space through positioning rather than relying on recovery speed or explosive actions.

In Possession

Sommer's biggest contribution comes during the build-up phase. He consistently demonstrates intelligent positioning by dropping between the centre-backs or occupying spaces behind the opposition's first line of pressure, ensuring he remains available as a passing option. His movement to receive is supported by frequent scanning and excellent body orientation before receiving possession, allowing him to identify forward passing options early and minimise unnecessary touches.

His ball retention is one of his strongest qualities. He remains composed under pressure, protects possession effectively with his body and rarely loses the ball in dangerous areas. Instead of forcing difficult actions, he prioritises maintaining control while waiting for opportunities to progress play.

Progressive passing represents the standout aspect of his offensive profile. Sommer consistently looks to break opposition lines through vertical passes into midfield or switch play accurately to exploit the weak side. His passing is generally purposeful rather than speculative, reflecting good tactical awareness and an understanding of when to accelerate or slow down possession.

He is considerably less influential as a ball carrier. While technically secure enough to carry the ball over short distances, he rarely eliminates opponents through dribbling and generally prefers progressing attacks through passing combinations rather than individual progression.

Out of Possession

Defensively, Sommer relies primarily on intelligence rather than athleticism. His positioning in front of the defensive line is generally disciplined, allowing him to protect central spaces effectively and disrupt passing lanes before danger fully develops. He anticipates opposition movements well, often recognising runners early and covering spaces vacated by teammates.

He competes strongly in both ground and aerial duels, making good use of his body strength and timing. Despite not possessing elite physical qualities, he rarely avoids physical contact and generally performs reliably when defending crosses or long balls into central areas.

His main defensive limitation appears when asked to defend aggressively away from his position. Due to limited acceleration and agility, he can struggle to close down opponents quickly or recover once bypassed. This is particularly evident during higher pressing situations, where delayed reactions occasionally force him into committing tactical fouls to stop transitions. As a result, his profile is considerably stronger in organised defensive structures than in systems requiring constant front-foot pressing.

Psychological & Tactical Traits

One of Sommer's most impressive qualities is his understanding of the game. His scanning frequency, positional discipline and composure under pressure allow him to make consistently good decisions in possession while maintaining tactical balance for his team. He demonstrates patience during build-up, rarely forcing unnecessary actions, and understands when to circulate possession rather than attempting risky passes.

His defensive game also reflects strong anticipation and tactical awareness, as he frequently positions himself to prevent danger before direct interventions become necessary. While his leadership is difficult to fully assess through video analysis alone, his behaviour suggests a calm, reliable midfielder who contributes organisation and stability to the team's overall structure.

Key Strengths

- Excellent progressive passing through central areas.
- Strong positional intelligence both in and out of possession.
- Consistent movement to receive during build-up.
- Secure ball retention under pressure.
- Intelligent scanning and body orientation before receiving.
- Disciplined protection of the #6 zone.
- Reliable aerial ability and physical competitiveness.

Areas for Improvement

- Limited acceleration and agility.
- Low contribution through dribble progression.
- Inconsistent effectiveness when pressing high.
- Recovery speed can be exposed during defensive transitions.
- Could improve mobility when defending larger spaces.

Current level: 7.9

Potential level: 8.3

Akram Bouras



Age: 24 (23.02.2002)

Position : CM/CDM

Height : 1.84m

Club: Levski Sofia

Nationality: Algerian

Dominant foot: Left

Market Value: €2.00m

Role Profile

Akram Bouras profiles as a dynamic defensive midfielder whose game is built around mobility, intensity and technical ability. Unlike more possession-oriented holding midfielders, he influences matches through his defensive activity, ability to carry the ball into advanced areas and willingness to engage opponents aggressively. His profile suits teams that value high pressing, quick transitions and midfielders capable of covering large spaces both in and out of possession.

Physical Profile

Standing at 1.84 metres, Bouras possesses a well-balanced athletic profile for a defensive midfielder. Although he is not physically dominant in terms of strength, he combines decent acceleration, agility and coordination with a high work rate, allowing him to remain active throughout all phases of the game. His mobility enables him to recover quickly, support pressing actions and cover significant distances when defending transitions.

Despite not having an imposing frame, he competes willingly in physical duels and demonstrates good timing when challenging for aerial balls. His jumping ability allows him to compete above what his stature might suggest, although he can still be outmuscled by stronger opponents in direct physical contests.

In Possession

Bouras is a technically accomplished midfielder who remains comfortable receiving possession under pressure. His close control, body feints and coordination allow him to manipulate opponents and escape pressure in tight spaces, making him capable of progressing attacks through short carries rather than relying exclusively on passing.

Although he possesses the technical quality to break lines with progressive passes, he does not always exploit those opportunities. Instead, he frequently opts for safer passing options, preferring to maintain possession rather than consistently accelerate attacks. While this approach reduces unnecessary turnovers, it can also limit his overall influence during structured build-up phases.

His movement to receive is less consistent than his technical execution. There are moments where he fails to create optimal passing angles for teammates or delays his positioning, making himself harder to find during the first phase of possession. Additionally, he occasionally holds onto the ball longer than necessary, attempting more difficult individual solutions when simpler passing options are available.

When opportunities arise, however, his ability to carry the ball through midfield becomes one of his biggest offensive weapons. His balance, agility and confidence on the ball allow him to eliminate pressure and advance play into more dangerous areas.

Out of Possession

Defensively, Bouras is an energetic and proactive midfielder whose greatest strength lies in his intensity without the ball. He reacts quickly following turnovers, immediately looking to press the ball carrier or recover his defensive position. His mobility enables him to track runners effectively and recover even when play initially bypasses him.

His pressing is one of the defining aspects of his defensive profile. Rather than simply applying pressure, he generally times his challenges well and looks to regain possession cleanly, often winning the ball without relying excessively on fouls. His work rate allows him to sustain repeated defensive actions throughout matches, making him particularly valuable in teams that defend aggressively higher up the pitch.

Positionally, he generally protects the central areas in front of the back line well, although there are occasional moments where his awareness is slightly delayed when adjusting to longer passes or quick switches of play. While he is not dominant aerially, he competes with determination and rarely avoids defensive responsibility.

Psychological & Tactical Traits

Bouras displays an aggressive and proactive mentality throughout matches. He consistently shows the willingness to engage opponents, recover possession and contribute defensively immediately after turnovers. His confidence when receiving under pressure reflects good composure and technical self-belief, while his work rate remains consistently high across different phases of play.

At times, however, his decision-making in possession can become slightly inconsistent. Rather than selecting the quickest solution, he occasionally delays his actions by carrying the ball for too long or attempting technically demanding plays when simpler options would better benefit the team's attacking rhythm.

Key Strengths

- Excellent defensive intensity and pressing.
 - Strong ball carrying through central areas.
 - Comfortable receiving under pressure.
 - Good close control and agility.
 - High work rate and mobility.
 - Effective recovery runs during defensive transitions.
 - Technically secure in possession.
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Areas for Improvement

- More consistent progressive passing.
- Improved movement to receive during build-up.
- Faster decision-making in possession.
- Better timing when releasing the ball after carries.
- Greater physical strength in direct duels.
- More consistent aerial effectiveness.

Current level: 7.7

Potential level: 8.3

Comparative Analysis

Although both players operate in the same position and display a similar current and potential level, they represent two distinctly different profiles of a defensive midfielder.

Tobias Sommer is primarily a possession-oriented controller whose biggest strengths lie in his positional intelligence, composure under pressure and ability to dictate the tempo of possession through progressive passing. Rather than relying on athleticism, he influences the game by consistently offering passing options, protecting possession and organising build-up from deeper areas. Defensively, he compensates for limited mobility through anticipation, positioning and intelligent space occupation, making him particularly effective in structured defensive systems.

Akram Bouras, on the other hand, offers a considerably more dynamic profile. His game is built around mobility, defensive intensity and technical quality under pressure, allowing him to recover possession aggressively and progress attacks through ball carrying. While his passing is generally more conservative than Sommer's despite

possessing the technical ability to attempt more ambitious distributions, his athletic profile enables him to contribute more effectively during transitions and high-intensity defensive phases.

From a possession perspective, Sommer clearly provides greater control of the game's rhythm through his positioning and passing range, whereas Bouras is more likely to influence progression through individual carries and defensive recoveries. Out of possession, Bouras offers superior mobility, pressing and recovery speed, while Sommer provides greater positional discipline and game intelligence when protecting central spaces.

Neither profile can be considered objectively superior, as both players offer qualities that suit different tactical contexts. Sommer appears better suited to teams seeking stability, controlled possession and structured build-up, whereas Bouras is likely to thrive in systems that demand greater defensive intensity, mobility and transitional play from the holding midfielder.

Overall, both players demonstrate the attributes required to perform at a high level, but they arrive at that level through different strengths. Their suitability should therefore be determined by the tactical principles, playing model and specific requirements of the recruiting club rather than by an absolute comparison between the two profiles.

Scouting report by Bogdan Borod