

Full Match Scouting Report
Italy U16 vs Germany U16 (24 March 2025)

Tom Walz (Stuttgart u17)

24.01.2009 – right footed

Position: GK

Nationality: Germany

Match contribution: C

Potential level: C

Walz had an important role in the build-up phase, acting as the starting point for most of Germany's possessions. He often stepped high with the ball at his feet, sometimes even reaching 35 meters from his own goal when Italy's forwards chose not to press him. He looked calm under minimal pressure and showed good footwork and distribution, playing accurate passes short and long to initiate attacks.

Defensively, Walz wasn't tested too often throughout the game, but he did make a key save in the first half during a 1v1 situation, reacting quickly and using his foot to block the shot in a style reminiscent of classic German goalkeeping. Besides that, he had relatively little to do in terms of shot-stopping.

He conceded one goal from a well-placed finish from the edge of the box into the far corner. Although the shot wasn't particularly powerful, it's difficult to place clear blame on Walz, as it was well-placed and not a clear goalkeeper error. Overall, his most notable contribution came through his calm presence and involvement in Germany's buildup play.

Noah Probst (Leverkusen u17)

7.05.2009 – right footed

Position: CDM (CB on Transfermarkt)

Nationality: Germany

Match contribution: B

Potential level: B

Probst played as the lone holding midfielder in front of the back line in Germany's 4-3-3 setup and also wore the captain's armband. He showed an exceptional level of calmness and composure on the ball, rarely rushing his decisions. He is difficult to dispossess and tends to keep things simple and effective, often opting for quick, clean passes to maintain the team's rhythm rather than attempting anything unnecessarily complicated.

Defensively, Probst covered a lot of ground, positioning himself well to cut passing lanes and support both centre-backs and interior midfielders. He displayed a positive form of aggression – engaging in duels with confidence and strength, but without fouling recklessly. His timing in tackles and interceptions was impressive, and he showed good awareness of the space around him, both in and out of possession.

Probst was recently signed by Bayer Leverkusen's academy from Fortuna Düsseldorf during the summer. His leadership on the pitch, combined with his tactical discipline and mature decision-making, makes him a standout figure in Germany's U16 setup.

Leeron Danioko (Bayern u17)

16.05.2009 – right footed

Position: CM/RW

Nationality: Germany

Match contribution: C

Potential level: B

Danioko played as the right-sided central midfielder in Germany's 4-3-3 formation. He showed excellent technical ability throughout the match, controlling even difficult passes

with ease and precision. His body orientation when receiving the ball was very good, and he consistently scanned the pitch before receiving, demonstrating good awareness. He was also vocal and confident, frequently directing his teammates – suggesting early signs of leadership on the pitch.

On the ball, Danioko often attempted individual actions in midfield, relying on quick acceleration from a standing position. He typically pushed the ball past his opponent and used his body positioning to protect possession. His dribbling style is based more on sharp movements and quick feet than elaborate tricks. He also contributed to the attacking transitions, helping progress the ball into the final third.

Defensively, he showed effort by tracking back and initiating pressing actions, especially when Germany lost possession high up the pitch. However, when his attempts to recover the ball failed, he sometimes lost focus and showed frustration through gestures instead of quickly reengaging. This is a minor area for growth, but overall, Danioko stood out through his technique, confidence, and ability to dictate play in central areas.

Ahmad Najdi (Dortmund u19)

4.02.2009 – right footed

Position: RW

Nationality: Germany/Lebanon

Match contribution: C

Potential level: B

Najdi played as a right winger in Germany's 4-3-3 setup and stood out through his excellent technical qualities. He has quick feet, fine touches, and shows a high level of coordination between body and ball. He's hard to dispossess thanks to his strong balance, acceleration, and intelligent use of his body – especially when shielding the ball under pressure. He is comfortable receiving with his back to goal, controlling the ball calmly, and turning explosively to attack forward.

His ball control is clean, and he demonstrates confidence when carrying the ball at his feet. Najdi consistently looked to advance vertically, combining pace and finesse. His decision-making shows promise – he often made the right choice in terms of intent – but the execution of his final pass or shot in the final third was lacking throughout the game. He often got into good positions through central areas, but failed to deliver precise actions

once near the opponent's box. Despite that, he remained involved and showed the ability to influence the game from deeper areas.

Najdi was mostly active far from goal and wasn't particularly dangerous inside the penalty area, lacking clear scoring chances or decisive final actions. However, considering his age and technical baseline, there is strong potential for growth if his end-product improves. Notably, during the summer of 2025, he was promoted from Dortmund's U17 side to the U19 squad — despite only turning 16 this year — which reflects the club's confidence in his long-term potential.

Simone Cannizzaro (Leverkusen u17)

13.01.2009

Position: ST

Nationality: Germany

Match contribution: C

Potential level: D

Cannizzaro is a mobile and active striker who showed good involvement in the first 20–25 minutes of the match. He constantly looked to get involved in link-up play, finding pockets of space in and around the box to receive and turn. He was aggressive in pressing and recovered a ball in the final third, which led to a blocked shot attempt from the edge of the box. His movement in the penalty area was intelligent early on, frequently trying to create angles for shooting or combining with teammates.

After a strong start, his influence dropped significantly, and he became largely invisible for the remainder of the first half. However, just before halftime, he managed to score thanks to some fortunate circumstances. A teammate took a weak shot from outside the box, which unintentionally turned into a pass. Cannizzaro controlled the ball – albeit with a slightly heavy first touch – and, despite being under pressure from a defender, retained possession and finished well with his right foot from about 7–8 meters out.

He recently transferred from Köln U17 to Bayer Leverkusen's U17 team, a move that reflects the potential seen in him at youth level. While his consistency across the match was questionable, his early involvement and ability to capitalize on loose situations inside the box suggest solid striker instincts that could be further developed with time.

Fadi Zargelain (Dortmund u19)

3.04.2009 – right footed

Position: LW

Nationality: Germany/Morocco

Match contribution: C

Potential level: C

Zargelain is a technically gifted winger with good close control, decent pace, and sharp agility, though he appears physically fragile. He's quick in his movements, with fast changes of direction and body orientation, allowing him to adjust under pressure. In the first half, he had a well-taken shot from outside the box that was saved by the goalkeeper. He doesn't seem particularly tall or powerful, but his ability to turn quickly and shift direction makes him slippery in tight spaces.

He showed glimpses of creative intent in the final third, attempting a few key passes and combinations, though his executions were inconsistent. Compared to some of his teammates, he was less involved in the overall play. He didn't make bad decisions when on the ball, but much of his involvement came from the natural flow of the game rather than through active movement or demand for the ball. His body language suggested a slightly passive presence at times, rather than an assertive desire to influence the game.

Zargelain scored after capitalizing on a blocked shot from a teammate, reacting quickly and finishing with a placed low strike from the edge of the box. While the finish was clean, the goalkeeper could have done better, as the shot went in at his near post. He was recently promoted from Dortmund's U17s to the U19 squad, despite only turning 16 this year.

Isaiah Seretis (Wolfsburg u17)

1.03.2009 – right footed

Position: LW/RW

Nationality: Germany/Angola

Match contribution: D

Potential level: C

Seretis came on at half-time and played about 20 minutes as a left winger before switching to the right wing for the final part of the game. Although right-footed, he attempted a left-footed shot after a cut-inside from the right, which clearly showed his weaker foot. From the moment he stepped onto the pitch, he was highly involved in the game, showing energy and willingness to take initiative both in and out of possession.

One of his key strengths lies in his off-the-ball movement. He reads space well, makes intelligent runs, and constantly looks to attack open areas – although several of his good runs went unrewarded due to lack of service. He showed he can receive the ball with his back to goal, even under pressure from defenders, and quickly play it one-touch to a teammate. This highlights his awareness and good combination play in tight spaces.

Despite not having an imposing physical frame, Seretis displayed strong core strength and balance. He managed to shield the ball effectively in duels and was rarely pushed off it easily. His ability to use his body well under pressure, combined with his dynamism and quick passing, makes him a promising wide player with good spatial awareness.

Djibril Diallo (Parma u18)

9.03.2009 – right footed

Position: CB

Nationality: Italy/Guinea

Match contribution: C

Potential level: C

Diallo entered the game at half-time and immediately brought more presence and stability to Italy's back line. He played as a centre-back on both the left and right sides during the second half. Physically, he stands out with his height, strength, and imposing frame. He

looked calm and confident from the start, taking control of his area and offering a sense of security.

On the ball, Diallo showed composure and reliability. He did not panic under pressure and was comfortable playing short passes out from the back. Defensively, he displayed good positioning, awareness, and timing in duels. He rarely lunged in unnecessarily, instead preferring to delay his opponent and wait for the right moment to intervene, making him hard to beat in 1v1 situations. His anticipation and reading of the game helped Italy keep better defensive shape throughout the half.

He did have one slightly shaky moment near the end of the match, when he misjudged a high ball after a clearance from the opposing goalkeeper. He rose to head it but ended up sending the ball backwards toward his own goal, causing a moment of confusion in Italy's defence. Despite that, his overall performance was calm, physical, and tactically mature.

Jeffrey Baffoh (Sassuolo u17)

2.04.2009 – left footed

Position: CM/CDM

Nationality: Italy/Ghana

Match contribution: C

Potential level: C

Baffoh played as a central midfielder in a 4-3-1-2 system. A left-footed player with excellent technical ability for his age, he showed good composure on the ball and was heavily involved in Italy's build-up play. He constantly scanned his surroundings before receiving the ball and helped dictate the tempo of the game with calm, well-weighted passes. Rather than forcing the ball forward unnecessarily, he showed good decision-making and often acted as a stabilizing presence in midfield. He also gave instructions to teammates and demonstrated early signs of leadership.

He combined well in central areas and made several accurate ground passes under pressure, helping Italy bypass Germany's pressing lines. He was able to find the free man and kept the ball circulating smoothly. His intelligence in possession, along with his composure, made him a reliable link between defense and attack. His scanning habits and confidence on the ball are well developed for his age.

Defensively, Baffoh showed good anticipation and awareness, often reading the opponent's next move and positioning himself to cut passing lanes. Physically, he held his own well and demonstrated impressive vertical leap for his age, winning multiple aerial duels in midfield. Overall, he left the impression of a composed, technically-gifted, and tactically intelligent midfielder with leadership traits and strong all-round potential.

Kenneth Mensah (Leeds u18)

5.01.2009 – right footed – 1.73m

Position: CM

Nationality: Italy/England

Match contribution: D

Potential level: D

Mensah played as a right-sided central midfielder in a 4-3-1-2 system. Physically, he appears quite lean and fragile, and doesn't seem particularly tall or strong. In the first half, he was largely uninvolved, with limited touches and no significant impact on the game. He seemed overwhelmed at times by Germany's pressing and lacked assertiveness in duels.

After halftime, however, his performance improved noticeably. He became more active, energetic, and aggressive in midfield. He linked up better with teammates through quick combinations in tight spaces and showed a decent understanding of Italy's positional play. He also managed to win back possession a few times through anticipation and applied pressure in higher areas of the pitch.

That said, his main weakness remains the physical side of the game. He was overpowered in several 1v1 duels and, in some cases, gave up the chase after being beaten physically. Mensah is a technical midfielder, but he will need to develop his physical resilience and defensive persistence to compete consistently at higher levels.

Thomas Corigliano (Juventus u17)

20.01.2009 – left footed

Position: CAM

Nationality: Italy

Match contribution: B

Potential level: B

Corigliano played as the attacking midfielder in Italy's 4-3-1-2 system, operating just behind the two strikers. He is also the team captain. Physically, he is short and appears very fragile, but compensates with good agility and solid technical ability. He is comfortable receiving the ball in tight spaces and shows courage in possession when given time and space. However, he struggles significantly in physical duels and often gets pushed off the ball with ease. His low center of gravity helps him accelerate quickly with the ball and make sharp turns.

He scored Italy's equalizer in the first half through an impressive individual action. He picked up the ball near the halfway line on the left side, carried it forward while maintaining close control, cut inside toward the right, and placed a low, accurate shot with his right foot from the edge of the box into the far corner. It was a composed and well-executed finish that showed his attacking instinct and technical quality in isolated moments.

Early in the second half, he created another shooting opportunity for himself after a clever movement to open up space, but his effort from outside the box went over the bar. Overall, Corigliano is a technically gifted playmaker with strong ball control and confidence in 1v1 attacking situations, but his limited physicality and inability to hold his own in duels remain notable weaknesses.

