

SCOUTING REPORT

Rio Hillen

Centre Back

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CB

PREPARED BY

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Rio Hillen

Centre Back · Left Centre Back



BEST POSITION Left Centre Back	AGE 23	HEIGHT 1.87 m
PREFERRED FOOT Left	CURRENT CLUB NAC Breda	TEMPLATE In-depth CB

CURRENT LEVEL	7.8	POTENTIAL LEVEL	8.2
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PHYSICALLY

Rio Hillen is a 1.87m left-footed central defender whose game is built on aerial strength and reading the play. Explosive over short distances, agile enough to turn and spin past opponents and strong in the body, he covers ground well despite only an average top speed that he sustains rather than bursts.

IN POSSESSION

On the ball with time he is comfortable, most often looking for a lofted pass into the centre, which he plays well. He can dribble out to progress and has the vertical pass between the lines in his range, but chooses neither often; his default is the safe ball to the side, or a high ball forward, which may be his own preference or a team instruction.

Limitations: under pressure his execution and first touch don't help him, and he tends to play safe, rarely looking for vertical passes or quick combinations.

OUT OF POSSESSION

He is excellent in the air, winning long balls and crosses through anticipation and body positioning as much as leap, and takes up very good defensive positions, reading vertical passes early and stepping in to cut them out before they reach the runner — he scans a lot and sees the game well. He is a

willing and effective presser who reads when to step up, though his timing there can occasionally cost a foul or see him beaten.

Limitations: his 1v1 defending is conditional: strong when he controls the duel, against a static opponent or when he presses first and gets there in time, but exposed when a quicker, direct opponent attacks him with space. He sometimes also misjudges the distance to keep, getting too tight and failing to adjust his footwork, which allows the opponent to get past him.

IN-DEPTH ATTRIBUTE GRADES

ATTRIBUTE	GRADE
IN POSSESSION	
Building Up Under Pressure	C
Building Up With Space and Time	B
OUT OF POSSESSION	
Defending Long Balls	B
Defending Through Passes	B
Defending Crosses	A
1v1 Defending	C
Leaving Position Forward or Sideways	C

Percentile vs. centre backs of similar level · A: top 20% · B: 60–80% · C: 40–60% · D: 20–40% · E: bottom 20%

SUMMARY

Strengths: aerial dominance against long balls and crosses; reading and cutting out vertical passes early; constant scanning and awareness; short-distance explosiveness and body strength; timing when stepping up to press; lofted passing when given time.

Weaknesses: 1v1 defending against quick, direct opponents with space; distance and footwork when defending the duel; execution and first touch under pressure; conservative, safe choices in build-up; average top speed when a runner gets in behind.

ATTRIBUTE DETAIL

IN POSSESSION

Building Up Under Pressure

C

Under pressure he still sees good passes and movements, usually centrally or into the forwards with good deep balls. Sometimes he commits well. But other times, even when he sees them, he is not solid and the execution suffers: with an opponent closing he loses his body position or the weight the pass needs. His first touch does not help him either — he has not made it a tool to relieve pressure, attempting it only rarely. And at times, even with good options to progress, he clears it away or plays the ball back to the goalkeeper.

Building Up With Space and Time

B

With time and space he contributes well. He scans the pitch thoroughly before receiving, and when unpressured he plays good vertical passes, can dribble out and progress the ball, and has combined successfully at times. He has even worked himself into a shooting position, with one off-balance effort drifting just wide. That said, he often prefers the safe option, choosing the deep, lofted ball even when free teammates are available vertically who a simple ground pass would reach more easily — though this may be a team instruction rather than his own choice.

OUT OF POSSESSION

Defending Long Balls

B

One of his clearest strengths. His height, strength and a good jump make him reliable against long balls: he takes up strong positions and wins the majority of these duels against his man. On occasion his jump timing is off, but as a first line against the long ball he is a major asset.

Defending Through Passes

B

Also one of his qualities. He recognises vertical passes early, positions himself well, and consistently steps in to cut them out before they reach the runner. His explosiveness over the first few metres and, above all, his awareness drive this — he continuously scans the space around him and the opponents nearby, allowing him to read the danger before it develops. His acceleration speed is only average, though, which limits him when he doesn't read it in time and the runner gets in behind with space to attack.

Defending Crosses

A

More than reliable and active in the box. He positions himself well, checks his surroundings before the ball arrives, and stays in contact with his man, controlling him physically inside the area. On crosses he usually clears the danger through his positioning and jump, but he is not limited to heading it away — he also blocks with his feet and gets across in front of his man to reach the ball first. He is proactive rather than reactive in the box, and most of the time his clearance takes the danger away cleanly, with only a few occasions where it doesn't fully clear the situation.

1v1 Defending

C

He has the raw tools for it: good pace and strength, and he often reaches the ball first with good timing to win it cleanly. There is, however, a clear pattern to when he succeeds and when he doesn't. He is effective when he controls the duel — against a static opponent, a man playing with his back to goal, or when he gets there first and presses proactively, he closes well and often wins the ball. It is when the opponent has pace or space to attack that he struggles: reacting to a moving, direct opponent, he doesn't keep the right distance and sometimes he is too committed, doesn't adjust his feet to a change of direction, and gets beaten, at times conceding a foul or allowing a cross or goal. Against good ball-carriers or opponents quicker than him, his performance is average at best.

Leaving Position Forward or Sideways

C

Broadly he makes the right decisions here, knowing when to step up and press high and covering with sound judgement. At times, though, he over-commits in duels or fails to hold the right distance, which either leaves the opponent with space or, when he goes too tight, lets a quicker opponent beat him with pace or a change of direction.