



# MOUSSA **DEMBÉLÉ**







## FUEL FOR FOOTBALL

### Watford FC 2 – 1 Tottenham Hotspur

As a well-known Premier League player, we were already very aware of your talent, especially physically. Saying that, whenever we analyse players from any league and level we still manage to pick out many minor points which they can reflect on to improve for future performances. As such, please understand that our analysis can appear critical when it focuses on errors – our aim is to dissect your game and find areas for improvement, then offer how you can improve them. This is the same reflection-into-development analysis which top players such as Cristiano Ronaldo used to fine tune their game.

### Overview

#### PROs

- Use Of Body
- Strength
- Aggressiveness
- 0 Fouls Made
- Dribbling

#### AOIs

- Decision Making To Pass Off-Balance
- Risk-Reward Decision Making
- Concentration

### Key Points

Your passing throughout the majority of the game was faultless with perfect weight and direction on the ball. There were however, occasions in which you surrendered possession cheaply which we have looked at in more detail.

As a defensive midfielder, you positioned well and looked very strong physically while covering the ball. The way in which you use your body is superb and you are smart with fakes and body movement to lose markers while on the ball. This high level did slow at times during the second half, perhaps due to fatiguing body, but more-so due to allowing your mind to lose focus. This was best examples in one minute early in the second half where you lost the ball twice in quick succession.

As is a staple of your game, on the whole, you performed well in passing, making nearly every other pass in the entire game. It would be beneficial to your team were you to make the more risky pass slightly more – but we can cover this in more detail another time as it is far from a major issue. What is more important is to consider maintaining focus during the crucial moments to improve your performance in future games.



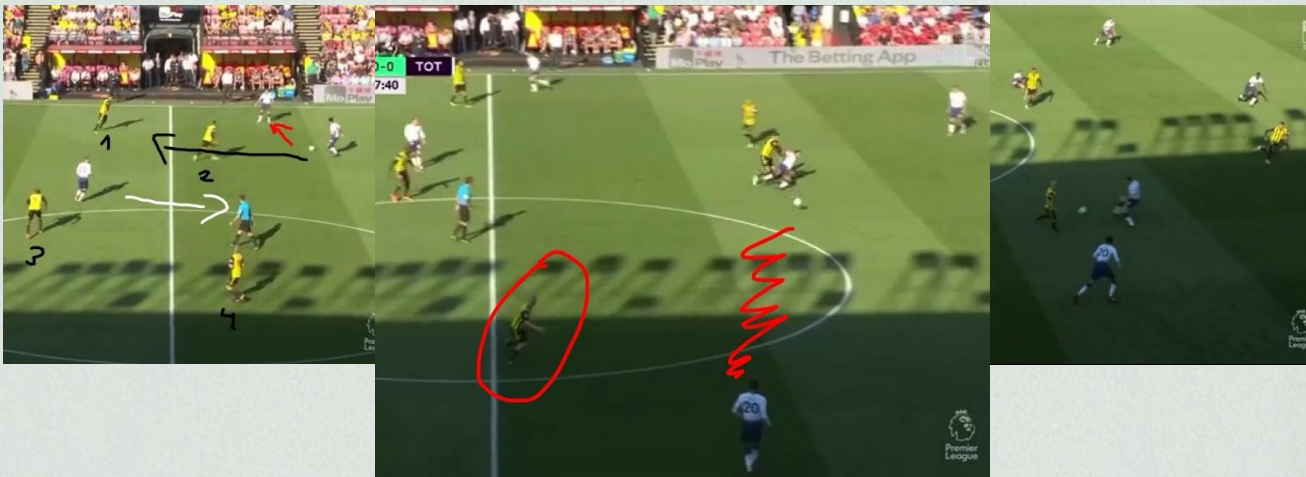


## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

In your first loss of the ball, the pass wasn't precise and therefore was intercepted by a Watford player with space to start a deadly counterattack. Notice that Watford's lines are well positioned so the decision to play into this area would only be acceptable if the pass is perfect. Instead you could have played backwards or gone for a long range ball down the sides.



With your second misplaced pass, you could have initially played back to Trippier and made a forwards run. This would have allowed more space for the side to work with. Instead you dribbled inside, which is fine, but the pass was unnecessary. With the pressure you were put under it is much safer to lay the ball back to your defence and start again. Equally, were you to have caved under the pressure and fallen on to the ball you would have certainly been given the foul you were looking for. Playing a sideways pass under pressure is poor at any level, especially for a player of your calibre.







## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

The same movement we suggested you make earlier, you actually performed multiple times further forwards.



Here you did a great job passing to Dele Alli and made the right movement to create more space and opportunities for your teammates. Don't be afraid to make this movement in your own half – if you are worried about security, make another teammate aware during training and before matches that it is their responsibility to tuck it if you make this forward movement. It is easy to move back into position after you have made the run, if you do not receive the ball.

You did a fantastic job in all duels, on many occasions recovering possession. Your body positioning was perfect, using your left arm to keep the opposing player distanced from the ball. The fake movements you made during duels were also very successful – you should look to do these even more often.







## ▶ GAME ANALYSIS

Defensively, you were well positioned most of the time, however there were some situations in which you should have positioned yourself better such as this situation. It is important that you don't allow yourself to distance from the defensive line, especially when the opposition have midfield runners. In this scenario you allowed your man to get to the second ball before you, which started a Watford break. This is a matter of focus, you know to check the positions of opposition midfielders when there is an aerial duel involving your centre halves – stay alert. It is one thing to fatigue physically, but you cannot allow your mind to go with it.



Lack of concentration gave you the biggest bite when Watford scored their second goal. On this occasion you trusted your teammate to win the header but was not ready for the eventuality in which he missed the header. Even with your teammate going for the header you must be switched on and ready to get to the ball first should he miss, or the header gets skewed.

