



EDEN PRAIRIE SOCCER CLUB

Match Scouting Guide

Key Categories:

- Team Formation
- Goalkeeper
- Defensive Strategy
- Midfield Shape
- Forwards
- Key Players
- Set Plays
- Game Strategy and General Observations

Team Formation:

How many forwards does the team employ? Usually indicative of midfield shape and central midfield roles (side-by-side pivot, attacker/stopper, box, triangle). Team formation is closely related to midfield shape below.

How does team initiate attack? Do they try to get around, go over, or play through to the attacking third? May give insight into how to defend against their preferred method of penetrating the defense.

Goalkeeper:

Strengths/Weaknesses of the GK. Is the GK stronger with saves on one side over the other? Is there aggressiveness to close angles, or a tendency to stay back on the line? Does the GK give up any rebound opportunities? What positions does the GK take during corner kicks or similar set plays?

Defensive Strategy:

Does the defense play with high pressure into the opponents half, or are they more conservative and play deeper into their defensive third? Which key player anchors the fullbacks and organizes the defense?

Midfield Shape:

The team that controls the middle third generally enjoys more success in the game. Closely examine the players that occupy the central midfield positions. What formation do they use? How do they interact with the others also in central roles? Do the central players remain exclusively in the middle of the pitch, or do they make overlapping runs or switch with wing midfielders? What are the strengths/weaknesses of the wing players?

Forwards:

What are the tactical, physical, and technical qualities of the attacking players? Are they big and powerful, or small and skillful? Do the strikers come back for the ball or do they look for it to be played into space behind the defenders to run on to?

Key Players:

Who are the scoring threats? Who takes the leading role on defense? Who controls the midfield?

Set Plays:

Does the team organize quickly and effectively for corners or free kicks? Are corners in-swinging or out-swinging? Driven, chipped, or lofted? Who takes the free kicks? Corners?

Game Strategy and General Observations:

How effective are the teams transitions from attack/defend? Defend/attack? Does the team tend to attack from the same side continually, or is there balance?