



PLAYER DOSSIER

James Garner

Multi-match contextual analysis

Premier League, FA Cup & Carabao Cup · 18 Aug 2025 - 24 May 2026

41

MATCHES

4,096

MINUTES

3

ROLES

10

G+A



The short verdict

HEADLINE

A high volume, low error midfielder who holds a solid base in front of the back four and takes on right back or a more advanced role without his output dropping.

87%

Pass accuracy

44.9

Passes / 90

61.2%

Duels won

65.5%

Aerial won

70.5%

Def. duels won

8.9

Recoveries / 90

6.49

Expected assists

7

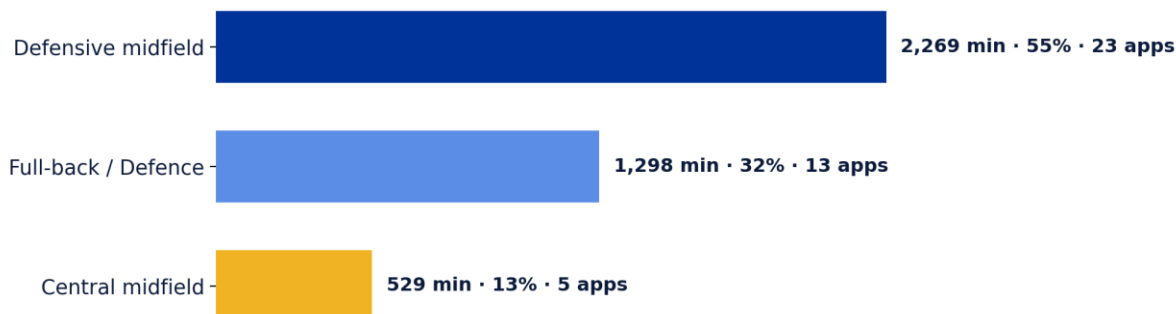
Assists

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS

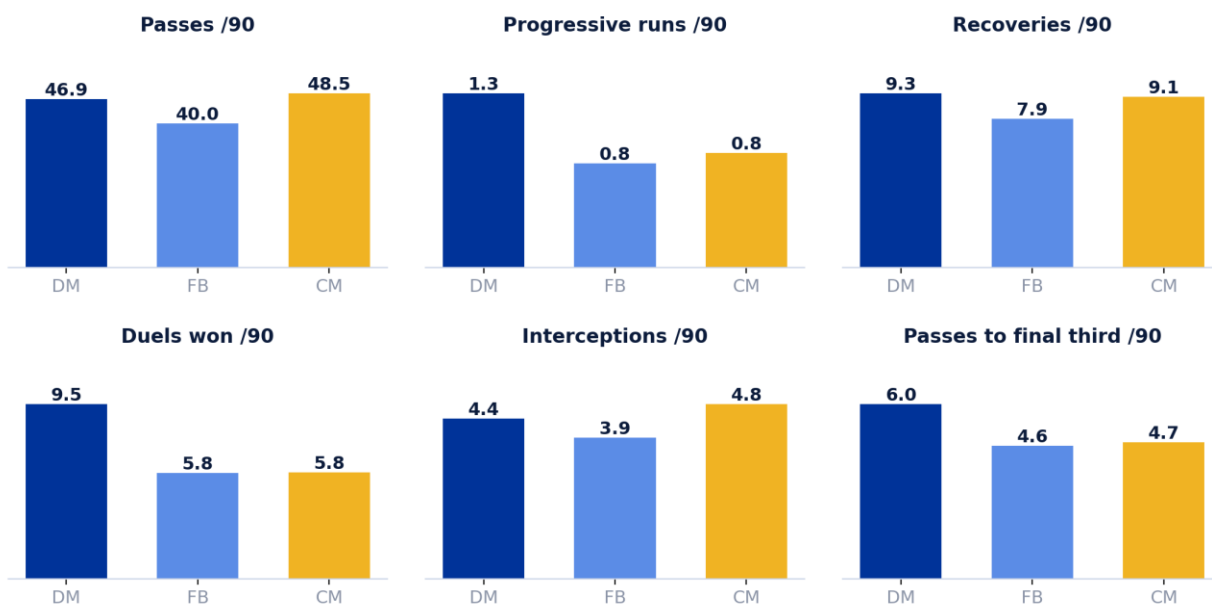
- He played wherever he was asked: 23 starts in defensive midfield, 13 across the back line and 5 in central midfield, averaging 55 minutes an appearance with only 13 yellow cards all season.
- His passing holds up whatever the role. He completed 87% of 44.9 passes per 90, and never dropped below 73% in any single match.
- He wins his contact in both phases, taking 70.5% of defensive duels and 65.5% of aerials, without being an aerial specialist by volume at 0.8 won per 90.
- His creativity is real but modest: 6.49 xA and 7 assists against 3.06 xG, most of it coming from his wider and more advanced roles.
- His index rose from 47.9 in the first half of the season to 52 in the second, so the extra tactical demands did not cost him anything.

Where he played

MINUTES DISTRIBUTION BY DEPLOYMENT



OUTPUT PER 90 BY ROLE

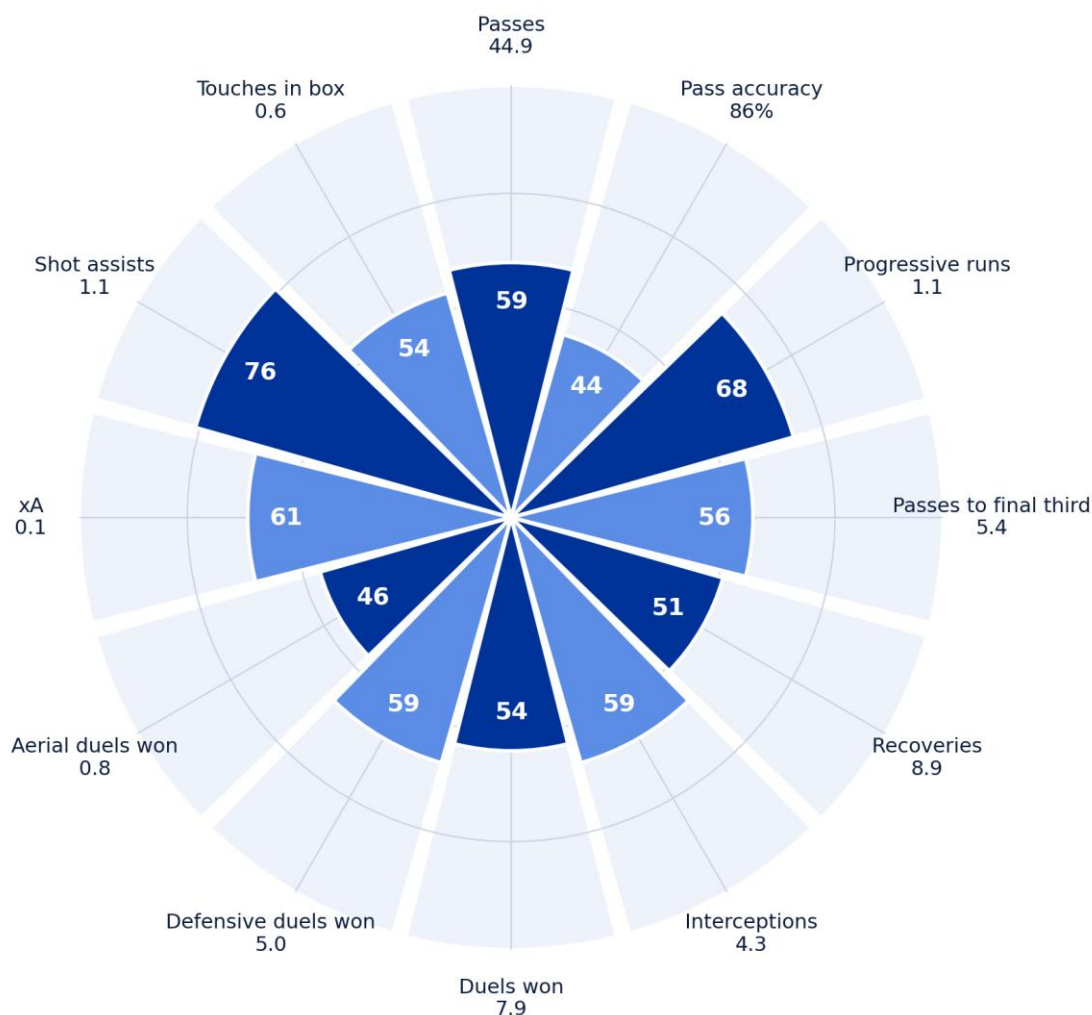


READING IT

- Defensive midfield is his home role, covering 23 appearances and 2,269 minutes, 55% of his season, with the heaviest duel and recovery load at 9.5 and 9.3 per 90.
- Right back is a genuine second position rather than emergency cover: 13 starts at 40.0 passes per 90 with 0.8 progressive carries, the most ball carrying of the three roles.
- Central midfield is the smallest sample at 5 appearances but the most creative, at 0.19 xA per 90 against 0.13 in the deeper role.

Percentile profile

Percentile rank of his season average within his own 41 match distribution. The outer ring is 100. The figure under each label is the raw per 90 value.



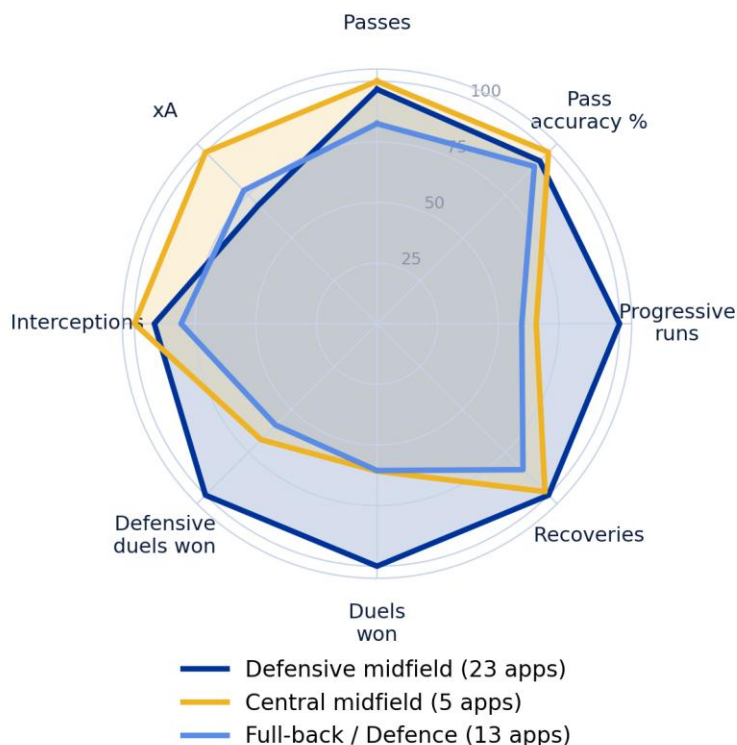
SIGNAL

- Shot assists at 76 and progressive runs at 68 rank strongest, so the creative output rests on a steady baseline rather than one or two standout matches.
- Pass accuracy ranks lowest at 44 because it is his most consistent metric. A tight spread of scores puts the average mid pack, which points to reliability rather than weakness.



Radar by deployment

Each axis is scaled 0 to 100 against the highest of the three role averages, so the shape shows what changes when the job changes.



THREE SHAPES, ONE PLAYER

Defensive midfield

9.3 recoveries and 9.5 duels won per 90, the widest defensive coverage.

Central midfield

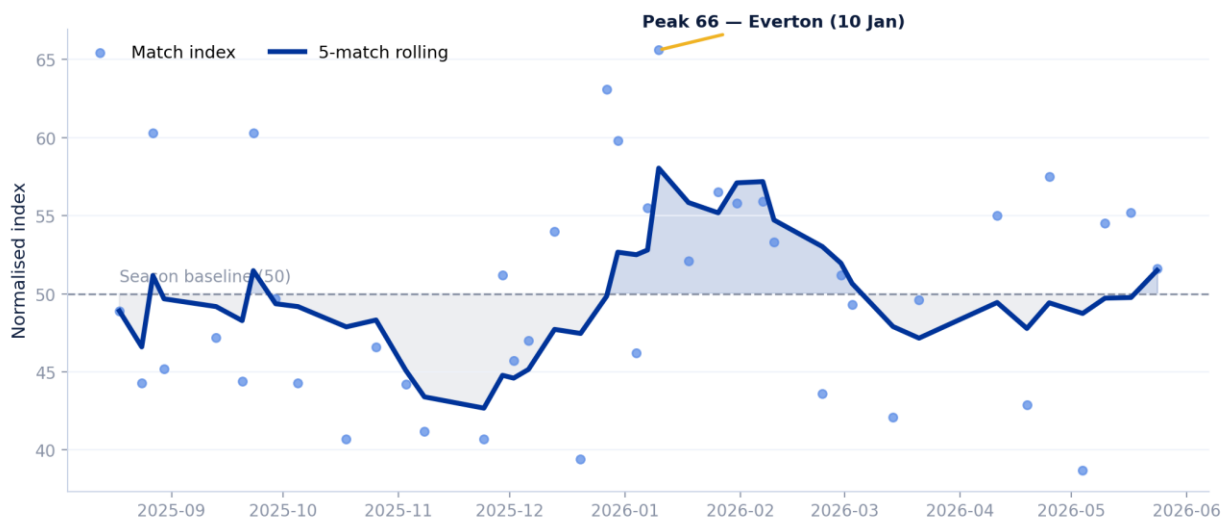
0.19 xA and 4.8 interceptions per 90, the sharpest attacking edge.

Full back / defence

40.0 passes at 83%, the safest and most circulating profile.

Match by match index

Composite index across all 41 appearances. Season mean 50, standard deviation 6.9.



PEAK PERFORMANCES

MATCH	DATE	ROLE	MIN	INDEX	PCTL
Everton v Sunderland 1:1 (P)	10 Jan 26	LCMF, RCMF	128	65.6	100
Burnley v Everton 0:0	27 Dec 25	LDMF	98	63.1	98
Everton v Mansfield Town 2:0	27 Aug 25	LDMF	95	60.3	94
Wolves v Everton 2:0	23 Sep 25	RDMF	97	60.3	94
Nott'm Forest v Everton 0:2	30 Dec 25	LDMF	96	59.8	90

WHERE OUTPUT DIPPED

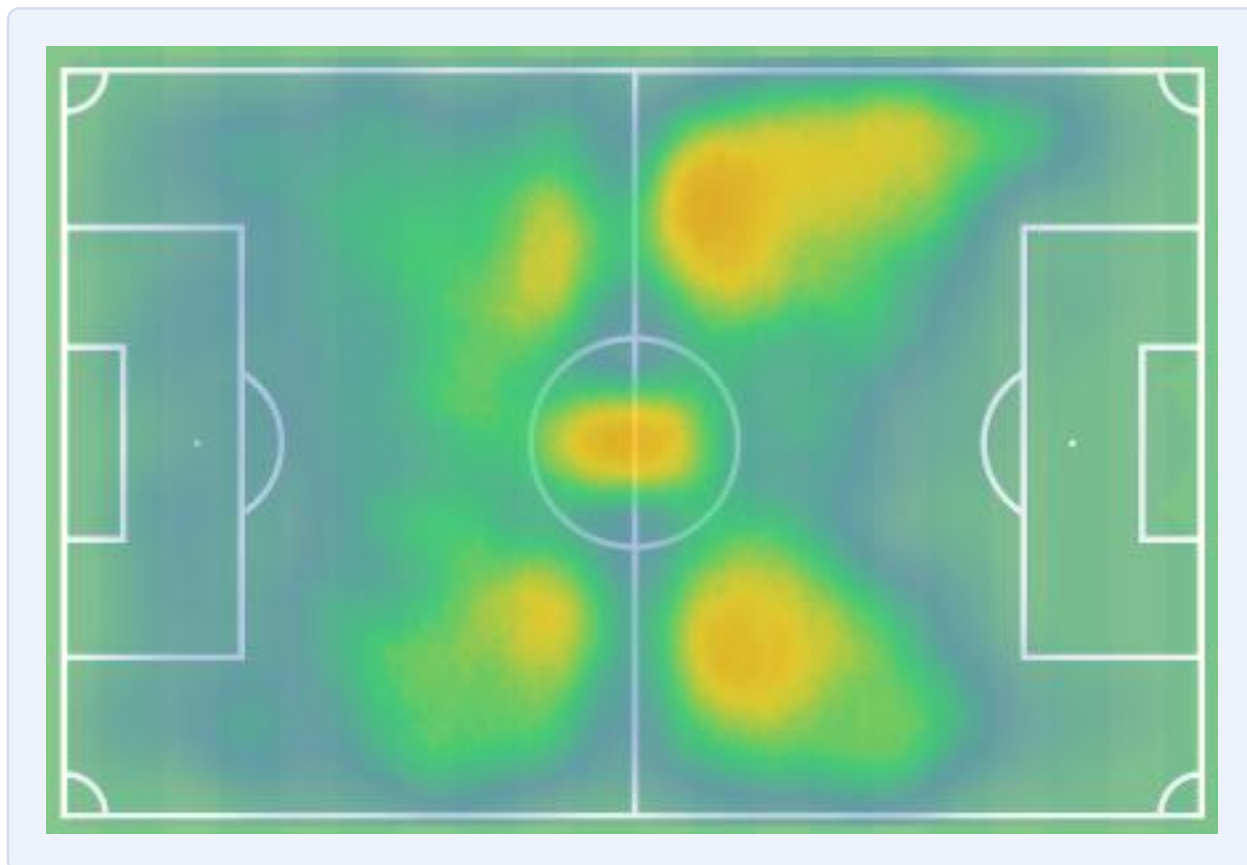
- Everton v Manchester City 3:3 (04 May 26, DMF, LCMF), index 38.7, 2nd percentile.
- Everton v Arsenal 0:1 (20 Dec 25, LCMF), index 39.4, 5th percentile.
- Manchester City v Everton 2:0 (18 Oct 25, RDMF), index 40.7, 9th percentile.

READING THE CONTEXT

- His lowest scores come against City and Arsenal, games where Everton saw little of the ball and passing volume falls away whatever he does. Read them as fixture context.
- His best match, the 128 minute cup tie with Sunderland, came in central midfield, the role he played least.

Season heatmap

CUMULATIVE POSITIONAL FOOTPRINT



Everton attacking left to right

WHAT THE TERRITORY CONFIRMS

- Two dense zones on the right, one deep and one advanced, are the fingerprint of the right back and right sided midfield split covering 21 appearances.
- The central band across the halfway circle is where he screens the back four, a compact zone he occupies again and again.
- The left side is covered but cooler, matching his smaller minutes there and confirming he does his wide work mainly on the right.
- He barely shows in either box, which fits 0.6 box touches per 90. He builds and protects rather than arriving late.



VERDICT

He steadies the side and has a second position worth money

PRIMARY RECOMMENDATION

Keep building the midfield base around him. The defensive midfield sample is the largest, the steadiest and the highest in volume of the three profiles.

SECONDARY VALUE

Right back is a finished alternative rather than a compromise: 40.0 passes per 90 at 83% accuracy, with more progressive carrying than in any other role he played.

WHERE HE CAN IMPROVE

Attacking output is where the headroom sits, at 6.49 xA and 0.6 box touches per 90. His central midfield games suggest a higher ceiling than the deeper role lets him show.

RISK NOTE

Because the index responds to how much of the ball his side has, his measured value dips against the strongest opposition. Read any comparison alongside possession adjusted numbers before putting a price on him.