

in Moscow

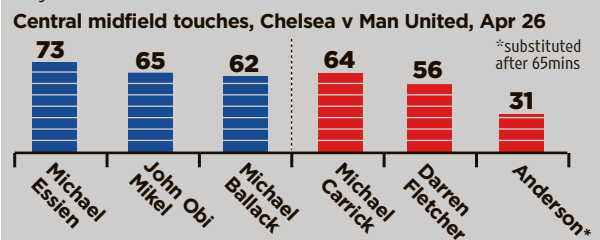


**1 Optimise the talent and goalscoring potential of Cristiano Ronaldo, who occasionally goes missing against top-class defences and has never scored against Chelsea**

● Ronaldo has scored three goals in 11 games (one a penalty) against the other members of the domestic big four over the past two seasons, during which he has managed 64 in 101 games overall

**2 Ensure that Michael Carrick and Paul Scholes set the tempo of the game in central midfield, where at times they are likely to be outnumbered**

● Chelsea dominated central midfield in last month's league win over Manchester United. While their trio touched the ball a combined 200 times from 270 minutes, United's managed only 151 touches in 245 minutes



**3 Defend as they did in both legs of the quarter-final and semi-final, in which Wes Brown and Rio Ferdinand, in particular, excelled**



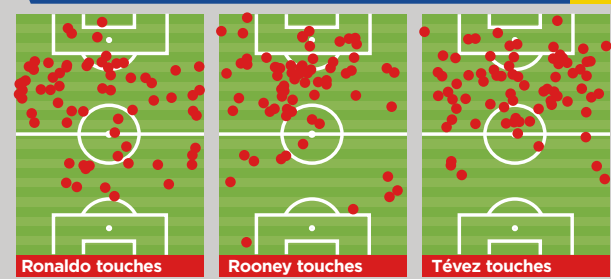
**4 Ride their luck, as they did in the 1999 final against Bayern Munich**

● Bayern Munich twice struck the frame of United's goal near the end of the 1999 final as they sought a 2-0 lead. Mehmet Scholl's chip came back off a post and Carsten Jancker's overhead kick hit the underside of the crossbar

**5 Keep fighting and keep believing to the final whistle, again drawing inspiration from 1999**

● Carlos Tévez scored late goals away from Old Trafford that arguably secured the title and revived their Champions League campaign. His equaliser against Blackburn Rovers meant they could lose to Chelsea but still win the title by beating West Ham United and Wigan Athletic, which is what happened. His equaliser against Lyons in the first knock out round secured a 1-1 draw in the first leg and United progressed 2-1 on aggregate

**1 Track the often mesmeric movement of United's front three, which will require their full backs to be vigilant and provide a stern test of Michael Essien's defensive qualities**

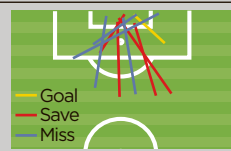


● When United's front three of Ronaldo, Wayne Rooney and Tévez play together they interchange so much it is hard to identify their principal position on the pitch

**2 Replicate the high-tempo opening they produced in home matches against United and Liverpool last month, as when Chelsea start slowly they often struggle to get into the game**

Chelsea first-half shots, home to Liverpool, Champions League, April 30

● Chelsea were quick out of the blocks in their victorious semi-final, second leg against Liverpool at Stamford Bridge, peppering the visiting side's goal in the first half, while Liverpool managed just two efforts at goal



**3 Ensure Didier Drogba summons the hunger of a man playing his last game, which should not be too difficult as it could easily be his final match for Chelsea**

● Drogba's form has dipped at times this term but he has repeated his impressive goalscoring rate of around one per two games last season. In all competitions he has scored 15 goals in 31 matches, compared to 33 in 60 last season

**4 Avram Grant must trust his instinct and make changes as soon as he deems them necessary, as Ferguson will not vacillate in the manner the Israeli occasionally does**

● In Chelsea's Carling Cup final defeat by Tottenham Hotspur, Grant waited until the 70th minute before making his first substitution, even though his team were below par, and then only brought on the in-form Joe Cole eight minutes into extra time

**5 Remember the win bonus and party of a lifetime awaiting in Moscow if they lift the trophy**

Words Bill Edgar, Matt Hughes and Oliver Kay