

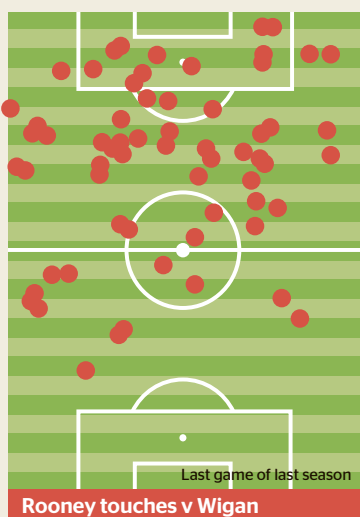
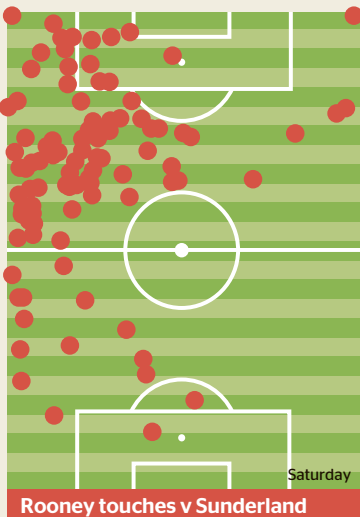
# Tactical Analysis

## Rooney restricted

Dimitar Berbatov's presence in the centre of Manchester United's attack this season has - for better or for worse - restricted the movement

of the team's other forwards. Last season, Wayne Rooney, Cristiano Ronaldo and Carlos Tévez would roam across the front

line when playing together, as against Wigan; on Saturday, Rooney stuck to the left when alongside Berbatov and Tévez



## Evans's air of uncertainty

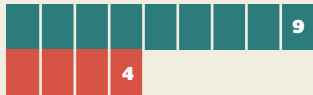
Manchester United's centre backs were tested in the air far more than their Sunderland counterparts - and Jonny Evans struggled a little, notably when up against Kenwyne Jones

### Aerial duels contested by centre backs

**Vidic (Manchester Utd)**



**Evans (Manchester Utd)**



**Davenport (Sunderland)**



**Anton Ferdinand (Sunderland)**

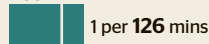


## Daring Dan

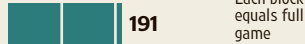
Daniel Agger carried the ball from his centre back position to score for Liverpool against Blackburn Rovers. This chart indicates his tendency to advance deep into opposition territory in open play

Central defenders who have shot most frequently from outside penalty area this season (excludes free kicks)

**Agger (Liverpool)**



**Ben-Haim (Man City)**



Each block equals full game

**Skrテル (Liverpool)**



**Bramble (Wigan)**



**Alex (Chelsea)**



## Long throw, long wait

Rory Delap's dangerous long throw-ins for Stoke City can have the added benefit of wasting time (when his team want that outcome). With Delap taking throws from either flank, he often has to run great lengths to be in position, with more time wasted as he wipes the ball on his shirt and waits for centre backs to reach the penalty area - all of which are indulged by referees. He used up more than ten minutes against Newcastle United, at 24.6sec per throw. A player spending that time over a routine short throw-in might well be penalised for time-wasting

### Most throw-ins in Stoke v Newcastle

Number of throw-ins by Delap

**25**

Total time taken

**10mins, 14secs**

Average time of throw-in

**24.6 seconds**

## Cech outshone

Petr Cech's faltering display in Chelsea's goal against Bolton Wanderers on Saturday was indicative of what has been a disappointing season by the high standards he set in the Jose Mourinho era

**Came for cross but missed ball this season**

