

Wingers Inverted Foot Analysis

Insights for scouts, sporting directors and coaches

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Inverted Foot Analysis for Wingers

We took a closer look at over 3'200 wingers with 800+ minutes from leagues around the world, focusing on their preferred foot and how it relates to their main position on the pitch. The dataset covers six different wide attacking roles.

From wingers, wide forwards to wide attacking midfielders.

Dataset: 92 leagues, 25'300 players with 3'200 wingers

Wyscout Positions: **RW, RWF, RAMF, LW, LWF, LAMF**

By breaking down footedness patterns across these roles, we uncovered some interesting trends in player deployment and tactical preferences. Whether it's the rise of right-footed left wingers or the steady use of natural-footed wide midfielders, the data paints a nuanced picture of how modern teams are using wingers. The data is from Wyscout.

Here's what we found...

Insight 1: The **LEFT** wing is clearly the domain of inverted profiles

Across three key left-sided attacking roles Left Winger (LW), Left Wide Forward (LWF) and Left Attacking Midfielder (LAMF) we found an average inverted-foot usage rate of **70%**

Breaking it down:

Left Wide Forwards (LWF) are inverted 78%

Left Attacking Midfielders (LAMF) at 73%

Left Wingers (LW) are inverted 63%

In short: right-footed players on the left flank are no longer a trend.

They're the **standard**. Coaches are clearly favouring inside-oriented wingers who can cut in, shoot, or combine centrally.

Insight 2: The RIGHT Wing is much more Balanced

Unlike the left flank, the right wing shows a much more balanced footedness profile, with an average inverted rate of **33%** across roles.

Breaking it down:

Right Wide Forwards (RWF) are inverted 40%

Right Attacking Midfielders (RAMF) at 34%

Right Wingers (RW) are inverted just 31%

This mix suggests a blend of classic touchline wingers and modern inside forwards. The right flank is clearly more tactically flexible, with teams alternating between natural width and inverted options depending on system and personnel.

Insight 3: Right-Footed Dominance

Our data shows a clear imbalance. **72%** of all wingers are right-footed, while only **28%** are left-footed. This uneven distribution strongly influences how wide players are deployed across the pitch.

The dominance of inverted left wingers is not just a tactical trend but largely a result of player availability, since there simply are not enough natural left-footers to consistently fill right-sided roles.

Coaches adapt by placing the more abundant right-footed players on the left. What starts as a structural imbalance becomes a tactical feature.

Insight 4: Both-Footed Wingers Are Rare but Highly Valuable

Only **2.6%** of wingers in our dataset are flagged as truly both-footed. That makes them exceptionally rare across professional football.

While uncommon, these profiles offer real tactical value. Their ability to operate effectively on either flank opens up greater flexibility in systems that rely on wing rotations, inverted runs or fluid attacking patterns.

A both-footed winger can switch sides mid-game and adjust their style depending on the situation, cutting inside or delivering from wide positions with equal confidence. For managers looking for tactical flexibility and unpredictability, they are a premium asset.

Conclusion & Tactical Takeaways

The significant imbalance between right-footed and left-footed wingers has real implications for recruitment and role allocation. Coaches and sporting directors must factor this into scouting and team-building strategies, especially when looking to fill right-wing roles with genuine left-footers.

Left-footed wingers are not only less common, they are also increasingly in demand. Teams that manage to recruit a strong left-footer for the right flank gain a clear advantage. Identifying and securing such profiles early can be a key differentiator in a competitive market.

Footedness is not just a attribute. It shapes tactics, affects player usage and influences how teams attack across both flanks. Understanding the footedness landscape is essential for building balanced, versatile squads.

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