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Flat Roma Falls to Fiorentina, 1-0

bren

51-65 minutes

Missed chances was the order of the day, as Roma came up short when it mattered most, falling to the Viola 1-0.

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For two clubs desperately trying to recapture their form and style, today's tilt between [Fiorentina](#) and Roma could not have gone worse. While there weren't many glaring errors, by Roma standards at least, both sides were lacking that final oomph, as the final pass seemed to go astray for both brightly colored clubs.

Oddly enough, the first half started off rather promising, as both clubs looked to get out and run, pushing the pace rather frantically through the first quarter of an hour. The problem, as we just alluded to, was that it was simply fast moving men and some crisp passing, but very little else; both clubs faltered the closer they got to the

endline.

Each side managed four shots in the first half, with a grand total of one going on target. Accuracy was not the order of the day:

Led by Edin Dzeko's three attempts on goal, Roma was once again found wanting when and where it mattered most, an all too common theme that once again bit them in the ass.

Spalletti opted for no changes coming into the second half, instead waiting until the 67th minute before mercifully pulling [Mohamed Salah](#) off, who did not put in his best performance in a Roma shirt.

Roma's inaccuracy and bad luck on goal reared its ugly head once more as [Radja Nainggolan](#)'s 81st minute attempt hit the woodwork only to carom harmlessly away from the goal.

But the woodwork wasn't done influencing this match just yet.

I mean, what can you say about this one? There was the acres of space afforded to Badelj to begin with, the fact that Kalinic was offside (the ball may have even gone through his legs), and then there was [Wojciech Szczesny](#)'s delayed reaction, but we'll give him the benefit of the doubt and assume he was screened.

This match was just an absolute perfect storm of *Roma* occurrences, but did you really expect anything less?

While this isn't quite as bleak as the dark days of [Rudi Garcia](#), Roma is currently not only plagued by their inability to make the big play, but to simply build up and sustain a normal attack. Suddenly we're begging for penalties again and investing way too heavily in set pieces, except, you know, no Miralem Pjanic anymore, so the chances of success are even less now.

At this point, I'm not quite sure what the solution is, but there is a

glaring lack of play making through the middle. While we touted Diego Perotti as the de facto solution to this—in so far as Roma would create through him at the forward spot in Pjanic's absence—the fact remains, they need a source of inspiration and creativity behind Perotti, because as it stands right now, he's too easily picked out by the defense.

So here we are once again, a tide of malaise is sweeping through the Eternal City, how will the club react this time?

We have three days to figure it out...

This Article has a component height of 19. The sidebar size is long.

There are 211 comments.

Radja is missing his buddy in Juve

Agreed

Ninja is still grieving the loss of Casper!

I dunno about that, he was playing like this last year too

For fuck's sake, Spalletti, Totti is 40, not 60. He can play more than 10 minutes.

Very watchable game but only because both sides were competing on who could make the most mistakes.

Would be nice to see this when Rudiger is back:

Alisson

Rudiger Manolas Fazio

De Rossi

Peres Strootman Ninja Florenzi

Salah SES

I guess, so long as Flo and Peres are a bit further back

Never gunna happen, Poobah is sticking with his 4-3-3 formation.

Get used to it and drink up!



Not good for your heart with this fantasy lineups.

It will happen....when I start up fifa 17



Poobah plays 4-2-3-1 not 4-3-3 if this was a 4-3-3 we may actually counter better. However Pobah has a strange fetish playing Radja as a shadow striker instead of someone creative.

Tequila Sunrise Kits look ok under floodlight.

I don't understand how our attack could lose all confidence and mutual understanding since last season.

When you have one fullback capable of crossing, don't put him on his weak foot. I think Florenzi would lose less of his qualities on the left than Peres does. Poor guy desperately tries to cross with his left, or has to stop and turn.

Totti for 15 minutes is just not enough.

On the positive side, our defense looks far more solid without Jesus.

I was wondering the same thing. Florenzi LB, Peres RB seems at least worth trying.

I don't understand how our attack could lose all confidence and

| mutual understanding since last season.

So much of our attack went through Pjanic. Literally 1/4 of our goals (his assists + his goals), and that's not even including the number of chances he created every game for Dzeko to miss. Impossible to replace that much attacking threat in midfield. Our right flank was the best attacking force in the league last year and it doesn't look nearly as good this year — Salah is totally isolated, has no one to play 1-2's with, send through-balls, etc. Salah is a good player, but he depends on service and he's not getting it at the moment.

I agree about putting Florenzi on the left. I thought Peres+Salah looked good together in the one game they had together.

| Impossible to replace that much attacking threat in midfield

We didn't even need to replace all of that threat, we just needed to replace it with **someone**

ya not repalcing him with anyone is great vision by Saba

That said, he was a much bigger contributor percentage-wise under Garcia. He put up 3 goals, 6 assists in a half season under Spalletti. Nice numbers, but not irreplaceable.

I think we miss Digne (and, at least relative-to-price, Keita) more than Pjanic. Strootman is settling in, and with a more defensively robust midfield, our fullbacks should be able to replace the creativity. But LB has been a total clusterfuck this year, and I don't think it's a coincidence that we're not getting much out of the LW as a result, no matter who we line up there (Perotti and SES). They're being asked to cover too much defensively (see where Perotti was hanging out yesterday) or the spacing doesn't really work with an inverted winger + an inverted fullback (b/c both drift to the same

place on the pitch).

Agree highly with this. This is why our CB pairing need to get settled in and comfortable, and we need Mario Rui. Flo and Peres are great going and getting into the box, but have shown restraint in recent games due to the defensive frailty of our backline. Last season Flo was in and around the box constantly, so far he hasn't even come close to the 18.

Bren, we have three days to figure it out?

What? We play again on Wednesday? Ugh, we can't catch a break here!

Midweek home match against Crotone.

now that I have had time to calm down

I realize this:

It is not Pallotta knowing shit about European business/culture /arrogance thinking hr can run a football team USA style even though it has run 2000 years more history ran through it than his left ball sack and Boston team.

It is not Sabatini that rather overspends on a South American kid that he can jerk off on (Gerson) instead of paying less for a Ziyech or START BUILDING A TEAM NOT DEPENDING ON YOUR FETTISH FOR YOUNG SOUTH AMERICAN BOYS.

It is not Spalletti who is unrecognisable from the one from 10 years ago as NOW he has an ego and starts scuba diving on the sidelines when we miss a chance vs Calgiari and keeps making Mr Bean face impressions as a false substitute for not knowing how to REALLY coach our team midgame and persists in being

pateonizing towards journalists asking the RIGHT questions instead of truly answering them (Rudi 2.0 in the making!) AND always trying to make Totti look like a 'divider' between Roma journalists/fans and Roma management instead of calling him what he is:

The ONLY THING that still makes ALL OF US united for this team and city.

It is not all that....

IT IS NIKE!!

IT IS THAT FUCKING UGLY 3RD KIT THAT MADE US LOSE!!



Take a chill pill



Disagree I like the Third kit, and I will buy it, like the other ones, which I already have

Yeah, I kinda dig it actually

too much whining about kits, most don't even buy the damn things anyway

I like it on the players, but don't think I'd ever buy it.

too each their own, I have almost every one since 98

Perotti was way to the side, I wonder if that was the instruction by spal or just lack of understanding between him and Peres

Peres on the left is such a waste

lol





I think this was the second worst game in this season. I don't know if spaletti identified possession play as Fiorentina's asset and tried to combat it with direct football or the midfield is just weak to construct a good play. Grazie but no grazie Roma

We have to change formation to 4-3-1-2, because right now have no players for a 3 man defense.. The team is totally unbalanced. Finally we put out a relatively good defensive play with almost no offensive one

Dzeko with all his misses at least works and runs and try. Salah is not in form really, neither SeS and Perotti is looks like Iago Falque last year:

dribbles on the left and crossing to the box.

Radja and Strootman works very hard, but cannot do it all. We are wide with our wingers stucked along the line, we are long between defense and offense.

We have no creativity in attack left. Heck, why not try Paredes upfront, if not trusting him as a deep regista? Anything?

We have the same problems since pre-season games. SPalletti is way to passive in doing something,. except blaming all on the players...

He has his part too.

We will have to fight hard for thr 3-6 places. There is no more in this team

Ugh those uniforms are awful.

yea can't stand them also!

Last time Roma had a coach with pedigree or a winning record, we

won the scudetto.

Lippi or Capello are free...

None of those come to Roma, why would they?

Why would I want a coach who hasn't coached in Italy in 10 years, is a traitor, and has sucked balls for a long while, along with just running around for the biggest pay check. Ummm FUCK NO!

Lippi's last gig was China, and he wasn't even going to be coaching if not for the conflict of interest laws which saw him not able to take a role in the FIGC.

Step in the right direction guys!

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Step in the right direction guys!

That made me build fantasy(



To be crushed by Roma) . I'd imagine lippi would play his 4-4-2/4-3-1-2 with this squad and Capello could try the same 4-2-31 or redo his 5-2-2-1 and both way can be the solution for Roma. Capello might happen if sabatini leaves but I don't see him leaving anytime soon

Capello is not coming here, if we are a "poverty" club, where they

going to find the millions in Salary to pay that clown?

I know and Capello won't tolerate Gerson type player and demand a real team. My hope is the CI found motivate Palotta (if we get close to losing it and fall behind) .

Sorry but if we can't spend what does Capello coming here change? You think they would spend all this money for Capello? Not at all.

We spend money but on stupid causes. If sabatini head out that will change.

(Lippi or Capello

You can't be serious

Two of the best coaches the game has produced, why can't I be serious?

Capello era is over, too. Getting these dudes who haven't produced anything in the last decade is a risky business, not a scudetto guarantee.

That time we also had a President and DS who were serious about winning a Scudetto and they did so by picking up the right players and building a proper team and it took them 2-3 odd years to build that team and they did so without dicking around anyone.

So let's first find a president and a DS who is serious about building a team, not a brand or youth camp to generate more money.

I don't completely disagree with you here.

(So let's first find a president and a DS who is serious about building a team, not a brand or youth camp to generate more money.

Saba has to go.

Bad result, better performance.

Quite liked the 3rd kits tbh.

This game was actually not that bad. Sure the profligacy in front of goal happens too much, but this was pretty watchable and that's down to no Jesus at the back. I really think the defense needs a shoutout here as they did rather well today, the goal notwithstanding. Refreshing what they can do when Jesus isn't back there.

Szczesny looked good throughout. Amazing what he can do when he's not making stupid decisions. Florenzi and Peres looked good in patches. Fazio and Manolas were rock solid in the middle. Strootman was easily the best player out there for us in all phases. Nainggolan looked a bit tired and De Rossi was uncharacteristically quiet in all phases of the game. Clearly rotation will be happening for the Crotone game. As for the forwards, Perotti's not the answer from a creative perspective. Not behind 2 strikers. He works better when he's a true false 9 on either side of a pair of wingers in a 4-3-3. More space to work in for all 3 players in that formation, but they were all too close together today. Fiorentina had an easy time tracking him and choking off his ability to feed Salah and Dzeko. The little-man/big-man striker combo also doesn't work either. Totti's has a lot more guile in that CF position which is why he instantly improved our game, especially with El Shaarawy coming on too. Salah showed shades of Gervinho: brainless pace and zero intelligence in possession. I think he's a better player than that and he's shown it. Just not today. All-in-all, I don't like the 4-3-1-2. If we're going to do a 4-3-3, it needs to be a true one. Really think we should try getting from Rakitic from Barca as a clear replacement

for Pjanic next summer. One of the few out there that I think would be a like for like swap. Strootman gives us balance, De Rossi gives us steel and Nainggolan gives us energy, but we need someone to provide a bit of silk. Maybe that's Parades, but not on current evidence.

Not gonna worry about the ref as we should've done much better in front of goal to even prevent having to talk about it to begin with.

Very well said, my thoughts exactly!

Fiore at home is a difficult game for any team and I think we were the better team for the majority of the match. Dzeko missed some chances, but he didn't look useless like last year, so I'm not worried yet (last year he looked useless AND he was missing chances every game which was a very painful combination). However, the team as a whole needs to do more to create scoring opportunities for other players. Crossing to Dzeko every single time we get the ball is getting too predictable. I would like to see our wide players take more initiative to try and attack the 18 yard box from the side (especially Perotti).

Clearly the 29 min foul on Dzeko was a penalty, if that gets called it's a whole different game. Of course, as soon as the game started and I saw Fucking Rizzoli my mood dropped a little bit and I got that sinking feeling in my stomach.

Definitely Strootman's best game so far. Not surprising considering he was rested mid-week. I think it will still take him some time to get back to his best levels and we'll have to be patient while it happens. Realistically it could take him ~6 months or more... it's just too bad he is not coming into an environment where he can take his time to get back to his previous level.

As for Fazio, definitely more good than bad. No doubt he is also feeling a bit rusty, so he has room to improve as well.

About the Dzeko PK non-call, Whittle said it perfectly during the broadcast. He's now the "boy who cried penalty".

Whether the calls are correct or not, the guy is falling over multiple times a game. Roma have won an absurd amount of PKs to start the season, most of them being correct calls, some being borderline soft. We all know the ref culture in Italy. There's now pressure on any ref to think twice when a Roma player falls over in the box.

I would agree with you, if it was more games without calls, with Rizzoli we were never going to get shit, now if the next game this happens again, then I will agree

So much doom and gloom

For the first time we played the whole 90 minutes

The defence looked solid, Fazio apart from a couple of mistakes did well.

Strootman on sky sport said that this was their best game of the season, I don't completely disagree.

There was a clear penalty on Dzeko and the goal was irregular.

So let's all be patient, is just September.

I'm all for being patient but at the end of the day Roma fail to capitalize on Juve losing points and have always done this as long as I can remember. It's very rare that team loses and we clearly missed that target today. Very disappointed in the team and especially Spaletti.

In this very same fixture last year where Juve were losing, we beat Fiorentina to go top of the table. Let's not exaggerate.

(Let's not exaggerate

One time doesn't make it the norm though

Yes but it's clear we can all remember a time when it's happened, which is why saying "always done this as long as I can remember" is an exaggeration.

Why are we worrying about juve losing points? The worrying thing is that despite Inter's awful start and changing managers in august they've caught up with us

in general it was a good game, but perotti, salah, and radja were very poor. add to that dzeko missing an easy chance. really we were the better team for the full 90 minutes but the 4 most advanced players all had their worst game of the season meaning 0 goals.

I agree, and Radja looked really tired he lost lots of challenges. Normally he wins most of those balls.

sanchez made radja his little bitch. he completely nullified him.

not really hard since Ninja has looked like a shell this season

DDR, Strootman and Radja are CDMs. Don't think there are any other team that plays with three CDMs. Paredes needs to start.

There are plenty of teams that play that way. Their creativity comes from other positions. You can field 3 defensive CMs but then we have a target man and an inside forward as forwards and just one playmaker with Perotti.

Germany and Bayern used Lahm as a creative full back to build from the back at Euro 2010. The regular move was to get the ball at the left full back who would pass to Shweiny who will then widen

right to Lahm who is very narrow at the right full back position almost as a DM. The Kroos (from amc) and Yozil/Robben (from amr) would overload the right side and drop back to receive a pass. Beautiful football.

Other teams would line up creative players at the wings to help out. There are many other options such as a false nine and a wing playmaker for example. Ot worst you need a creative AMC.

Bayern used Tiago Alcantra and Germany used ozil

Depth

It has now become apparent to me why we haven't been able to get our offense going this season: Our defense.

The backline has had 0 consistency bar Manolas. Flo and Bruno aren't stellar defenders. JJ is terrible. Vermaelen is injured. Fazio shows promise but still needs to get comfortable. The result? Flo and Bruno don't get that far forward, Stroot and DDR hardly ever leave the hole in front of the centerbacks. And it's killing us.

Last season our fullbacks and DM's were constantly moving; overlapping and pouring into the box on every attacking play. And this aggressive movement pulled defenders and created space for the frontline to exploit. It was the same chaotic magic that TGIP brought to Rome in his first stint.

Right now our lack of movement from the back is crippling our ability to attack up front. We need our defense to settle and gel and allow us to throw bodies forward without leaving ourselves completely exposed.

Strong and Manolas were absolute beasts today. Fazio looks like a

solid option, and is well balanced by the speed of Manolas and Bruno around him. But above all else our front 4 were hopelessly stagnant. The most threatening we looked all game was when our wingers had switched sides and were in the process of switching back, simply because they were forced to leave their defensive shape.

For the love of god keep Perotti in the middle. I can't wait for when Mario Rui and Rudiger return.

If we keep this backline intact I think we'll be seeing TGIP ball in the very near future. Tough loss but a lot to be optimistic about. Fiore look good.

You cannot keep a player in the middle, if he drift by his own will to the left. Spalletti said, that Perotti is drifting to the left alone. And I think it doesn't help that he feels being an automatic starter. He plays what I call alibi football: he is on the pitch, runs, dribble, passes, but he is not really there. He won't to take on him running our attack. Yesterday he should have been replaced much earlier, around the 60 minutes. I think Spalletti should show him some benchtime, if he doesn't do what the team needs from him.

We have a problem that both players who searched to redeem their career at Roma in last season's second half, and with luck pushed is forward, this year are in a different position, and state of mind. And management and fans thought they will continue like last year.

Poor Iturbe wants it so much, he runs and make mistakes because of that huge will to prove himself, and these two lack that fire.

Radja is tired, and needs some air to regroup. Kevin plays each game better, but we cannot play him too much, to keep him healthy. De Rossi is in a limbo, small injuries keeping him to pick up a form.

And I am very disappointed that Spalletti was unable to teach this team yet some simple and clear mechanism in our offensive play. We are not looking like a team, let alone a good team. Sure we have individually great players, they just don't form a team.

I agree with a lot of what you're saying, and I think you're kinda missing my point. You say Perotti keeps drifting to the wing on his own. Well that's exactly what I want him to do, because when he does that, he pulls a central player with him, or at the very least creates space that either a winger or a DM can exploit. Totti is so good at playing in the hole because he hardly ever stays in the hole. My beef is that when Perotti starts as a winger, he moves less, creates less, and benefits the team less. We've already seen the glaring difference in his performances in both roles over multiple games. Just because TGIP said he could play wing doesn't mean he has to only play him there the entire season. I'm saying it's not working, pull the plug.

My beef is with the overall stagnation of our players positionally. I feel it's rooted in the insecurity of our backline, but Perotti moving back to the trequartista role in the 4-2-3-1 will help too. Plus it gets SES on the field, and he's looked threatening the past double of games. More so than Diego.

SES is doing what he has always done in his little career. Massively inconsistent and one heck of an infuriating player because he can do so much more but just doesn't have the head. Very much like Adem – so much talent but just too laid back and easily demotivated.

As for Perotti – he certainly is enjoying his little purple patch with Roma but his biggest problem is that he cannot create magic. He

isn't that player. He cannot dictate the game in the final third on a consistent basis and this is where he just drifts and drifts and puts him in an awkward position where he cannot do much – Now Totti when playing in the hole always drifted as well because he knew what he was doing because all he needed was one final ball to unlock the defense and get his Striker into play and that is something Perotti isn't able to do and obviously it is not fair to ask that from Perotti because he is a limited player and this is where I don't understand why Spalletti isn't giving Totti more minutes especially when Perotti is having one heck of a poor game or screwing up basic moves. I just don't buy that BS anymore about – "we need to handle Totti properly etc etc".

Agreed

Agreed for the most part on SES but in Europa and yesterday something was different. He looked very good in both games IMO and showed a creative spark that our team has been lacking, yet he continues to not get more minutes. Of course it's only been two games but I hope he starts and gets at least 60 min next game.

Agreed on Perotti too. I don't expect him to have the vision or creativity that Totti or Mira has, but I still think he offers a lot offensively by simply playing CAM and drifting wide. Not only does it afford him a second dimension of play (he can go any direction with the ball in the middle, allowing him to rely more on his dribbling prowess than his speed (or lack thereof). The simple act of starting in the middle and leaving that position offers our offense so much in terms of TGIP ball. Perotta was never a Maestro, but he was mobile and hardworking, and his off ball movement freed up a lot of space for a young bombing DDR and a false 9 Totti to exploit.

Eventually I want Flo in this role because his off ball movement in the mid is fantastic but that won't happen until Mario Rui returns and Bruno shifts back over to the right flank.

The simple act of Perotti beating his man in the middle or drifting wide has been so effective in disorienting defenses and creating space for our wingers to exploit. I'm sick of seeing Diego on the wing where he is slower than Salah, less creative than SES, yet still gets 90 min. There was a reason he never shined for Genoa or any other club before coming here. He's just not that good of a winger.

Wrote this elsewhere, but I think our LW problems could be affected by the clusterfuck at LB. We have nobody creating width on the left side — Peres cuts inside, Inverted wingers cut inside, defenses can stay compact.

Agreed. For me all of our problems start at the backline, I just think keeping Perotti in the middle will help as well. Mario Rui getting healthy along with Fazio settling in/Rudiger returning are the best things that can happen to our team right now IMO.

Diego is less creative than Ses? How exactly did you get that idea?

For starters, the Europa league game. SES was making 1 touch flicks over and in behind the opposition's backline that I've never seen Perotti even attempt.

When watching from a camera high above the pitch we get the luxury of being able to see the whole field at once. The players don't. With this in mind my metric for creativeness is when a player does something I wouldn't expect them to do/be able to do even while I'm sitting at home with the whole picture. Totti sets the bar on this because time and time again he does things with the ball that I never thought were possible.

Perotti sometimes stuns me with his ability to round defenders, but idt I've ever seen him make a pass that I didn't see coming, whereas SES has. It's not solid quantitative data and I'm not saying Diego isn't creative at all, I'm just saying SES seems to do things that come closer to the bar Totti sets.

Here's the bar:

Stop with the Totti porn, I'm at work!

I thought it was that funny too

I thought it was that funny too

I thought it was that funny too

I thought it was that funny too

I thought it was that funny too

Based on 1 pass and some Totti clips? I mean really?

The clips are the bar. Nobody ever reaches it. No one baffles me like Totti does. But DDR's one touch redirects give me a taste of that for example.

In both of their Roma careers SES has done more things I wouldn't expect someone to be able to do than Diego has. Neither are close to Totti in that regard, but one is closer than the other, and that's SES.

I saw Ses as second striker with good dribbling (semi Gervinho with better hair and shot accuracy. The stats is also shows it

Yea this is the point of departure for me. SES and Gervie have completely different styles. Salah and Gervie is a better comparison but even that's still thin.

I think Salah main contribution is his work rate, a poor man ribery or Willian if you will.

You don't think it's his speed?

No he travels the pitch more than anyone else

Totti can play between apponent defence and midfield . That way he will attract a defender or midfielder to him. We still need a player in midfield to give him the ball, in the game vs Fiorentina I saw few times when Ninja/strpotman tried and we lost the ball . There are predictions that we start Totti as N10 and paredes along with strootman in double pivot against crotons. In theory that might work but it put too much pressure on defence . I don't know if new found defensive duo can handle that.

Spalletti said not that he could play on the wing, but that Perotti himself is choosing to play there. Its a huge difference, I think Spalletti should not let him. If he does not do what the team needs, he has to sit out a few games. The problem is, that Spalletti won't do that, either because he likes too much the player, or because SeS is so out of form, and he doesn't want Totti to start..

Either way, even against Pielsen Perotti was barely viseable, and disappeared to the left from the start.

Agreed. TGIP needs to put his foot down.

i actually think we played well. although i criticized shez, he played ok. he didnt do anything too stupid. dont think too many keepers would have stopped that goal but maybe my expectations have gone way down.

fazio played better than JJ and was a bit lucky on several occasions. Dzeko could easily have scored with his chances but

was unlucky.

at the end i feel bad for the players

{at the end i feel bad for the players TOTTI

woys distribution was very poor in the second half. kept hoofing the ball to fiorentina players instead of looking for the pass.

I would like to see Totti with Salah on the pitch, every time Totti is introduced with Salah on the pitch, Roma becomes very dangerous (seem Sam game, although Salah did not really score), but his pace with Totti vision is what the doctor ordered.

Well yeah, Salah really just needs a good creator playing behind him. Just takes the right pass to unleash him, just as Totti got into the habit of doing with Gervinho.

That is until the brain farts, that is.

I remember last season when chance is on pjanic always look for salah position before trap the ball. If he release a right ball. more often than not. Its gonna be a clear cut chance for goal. Strootman do have a similar ability but cannot move his body fast enough to make the most of the salah speed

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Strootman is good, but Totti has a genius vision, out of comparison

What's the update on Rudiger?

He seems ahead of schedule. Don't think he's quite back to training

with the team yet, but he resumed individual training 2 weeks ago (roughly).

Pretty disappointing game. We weren't bad, but we weren't great either. The biggest issue that I think we're facing right now, is the clear lack of a creative outlet in midfield. A midfield with DDR, Strootman, and Radja is too workmanlike. That can be mitigated by having a creative player up front (e.g. Totti), but none of Perrotti, Salah, or Dzeko are going to cut it. Spalletti has to figure something out, otherwise we'll continue to struggle. And I don't know how he's going to fix it with what we currently have, with Paredes not looking like he's ready, and it being still too early for Gerson.

This was actually our best performance of the season.

There are a few issues, but I feel that this was a clear illustration that we need a creative MF in the XI at all times. Whether that means dropping Nainggolan back to partner Strootman, and Paredes at #10 I don't know. We controlled the match, but only created 2 clear-cut chances in the first 75' or so (+1 when Totti came on).

And with Dzeko as our striker, we probably need to create 5 chances for him to actually score one.

That actually goes for most strikers bud. The problem is Roma's lack of crossing ability and through balls (Mira anyone?



), and I mean more than one or two per game.

Roma averaged 20.4% conversion rate last season(tops in serie a).

Dzeko had a conversion rate of 9.6% last season.

the midfield is a hot mess. DeRossi is loosing the ball like a geriatric off his meds.

horrible passing. no one in the midfield actually moving through space ... everyone is just standing in one place waiting for a pass rather than running into space opening up avenues to pass into. without Pjanic, the one touch stuff appears much hardere.

i really cannot figure out what the fuck we are doing keeping Dzeko and Iturbe. they are both fairly to completely useless and it was clear they sucked at least by the end of last year. this is just major oversight.

and even though the goal was not so much his fault. i really don't get why Spalletti insists on playing Szczezney when Allison looks way more solid in net.

with this team we are not going to get far.

hopefully we learn our lesson about selling players who it is clear are vitally importnat to this team ... no matter what the fuck they say about wanting to play for someone else. losing Pjanic has come at a big price and Spalletti can only see it now that he is gone. we need professionals who can understand this kind of stuff before it is too late.

Agreed. Last season we had some lovely flowing moves, passing along the ground, one- and two-touch, for 15-20+ passes, and all those moves invariably involved Pjanic to a large degree. Without that midfielder who you can reliably play off (with a good 1st touch, vision and movement), we don't have the confidence to play like that anymore because the players know that it is more likely to result in a turnover.

This season we have been reduced to mainly getting the ball wide, and aimlessly crossing – which obviously is a less successful (and entertaining) ploy.

Makes sense now why we were pushing to get Borja Valero (and later Wilshere), but surely we have to play the only guy who is capable of that stuff in this squad: Paredes

Paredes

He's definitely talented enough but right now he kills the offense more than any other midfielder with his rate of play. If he can adapt then we'll be golden but right now he practically isn't playable.

Ok thoughts on the year so far,

I dont like naingolian playing high, i would like to see a 4 -3-1-2 and play dero,kevin and ninja in the three, i would like to see them playing closer to the defense and play more compact. Peres on the right side, and play perotti in the center right behind elsha and salah, Then change tactics and play a 4-5-1 and with dzeko high with totti underneath.

Peres kostas fazio flo

Kevin daniel ninja

Diego

Salah. Elsha

We really need a ball-playing CB... Hope Verm can come back soon and healthy

Also can we talk about C. Sanchez for a minute? That guy was all over the park last night. Unreal. Never have I seen one player win nearly every single 50-50 against DDR, Strootman, AND Radja.

MOTM for me. Still can't wrap my head around it.

Well...his nickname is La Roca (The Rock) for a reason. But yeah...he was amazing.

I didn't realize how massive he was. That probably helps him win those duels. Just really built for a midfielder, or any soccer player.

But it wasn't only that. It happened on multiple occasions, but none was more indicative of his dominance then when Radja went in for his signature, "There's no chance I don't come out with the ball" sliding challenge, yet instead of meeting his tackle head on, Sanchez had the composure to just let radja's stonewall slide chase the ball right into his feet, at which point he just pushed the ball around Radja and made him look like a fool.

Sanchez kept making our middies look foolish. I've never been so surprised and impressed by an opposing player like that before.

I am satisfied with yesterdays game. Thought we were okay and could have won it with a little more luck. That forentina goal should have been ruled out for offside and the striker did interfere with ball but u win some u lose some. Overall better performance than the previous weeks. Hope fazio and manolas continues, no more juan jesus for crying out loud.

Training lasted two hours today. Totti was the only one who stayed around afterwards. He put in an extra half hour working on finishing with Spalletti

Fucking lazy asshole, retire already!

Totti working on finishing? what the fuck does Dzeko do all day?

Working on not finishing I suppose

Totti misses a chance to win the match from 20something yards out: stays after training to work on finishing.

Dzeko misses 20 sitters from 10 feet out: nada.

Maybe he meant finishing games, after starting them. #TottiFor90

Someone said last year Dzeko was useless, now he gives a try.

Next year? Maybe he will start to score. Who knows..

I can't believe that we are happy with Dzeko 's contribution last month. 4.5 mill for one "penalty guy".

He has 2 goals in 4 games this season along with 1 assist and 1 pen earned. That is not a bad return.

Even if he doesn't score at all for the rest of the season there will still be people here singing his praises.

Post-match thoughts

I keep on saying it, but, our midfield is getting run into the ground,


Flo and **Paredes** need to keep rotating with **DDR** and **Stroots**.

Keep **Peres** on the right and give **Emerson** another shot at the left.

Perotti can't cross the ball or feed the striker for shit lately, not sure what happened to him (or **SES**). Even **Salah** is just relying on his speed now-a-days, even when it doesn't work against certain defenses.

Fazio @ CB > **Jesus** or **Vermaelen** (at least from the evidence presented) even with a few mistakes.

Dzeko is the best striker in the world and all of you haters can eat

a....JK  as difficult as the one decent cross he got the whole

match was, he should have put it away. I've said it before, and I'll say it again, Dzeko needs service, and the last match is a perfect example of not having it. Worked his ass off in the first half and looked like he was running out of steam in the 2nd. He will need more than one decent cross or pass, that's that!

Once Roma gets Luis Suarez or Sergio Aguero, then maybe some of yours highly anal expectations will be met. Until then, please be my guest, use Dzeko as the scapegoat, it really highlights your advanced understanding of football. Lol. Hopefully Spal will figure this out and get it right, season is still early and Juventus lost.



Forza Roma – Daje Dzeko

Different team...Same Story

I don't get it...I just don't get how managers can not see the obvious...

Get rid of Dzeko, the guy is over-rated and whack...we succeeded last season because we actually played football and had chemistry, not this useless go wide and hit and hope football because of their Dzeko reliance...and TBH, as good as Pjanic was, he wasn't crucial to the team, what's missing is a creative midfielder, someone to bridge the gap.

Let me explain:

The three MF's we have are DM at best. Not creative ones, thus Perotti and SES are being forced to track further back or wide in order to get the ball. But with this team we can resolve the problem

easy!

3-4-3 old school Napoli style like Lavezzi – Cavani – Hamsik

Allison_____

_____Manolas—De Rossi—Rudiger_____

-Florenzi-Strootman—Nainggolan-Peres—

—-Salah_____Perotti_____Shaaraway—

- This gives the perfect opportunity for De Rossi to be utilised at his best

- Florenzi and Peres have better opportunity to attack further

- with Strootman and Radja not being needed to defend "as much" due to a three man defence, salah and SES do NOT play as wingers but two CF's if you will, they play a trident of football like we did last season and results will come easy

This is literally Rudi Garcia's 4-3-3 in attack.

Someone sees it!!

It's a miracle. Not surprised it's you, dag.

Not liking how Dzeko and Radja are right next to each other here.

Lot of space between Strootman and Dzeko/Ninja. Not great.

No reason for him to be that far up the pitch.

the positioning i hate the most is salah. he cant always stay on the last defender when the other team are defending cause then he is useless without space. he left florenzi all alone staying high up the pitch forcing flo into long passes. he must only stay that far up when the other team is attacking so we can send him long passes when there is space, otherwise its useless to stay that far up and forcing yourself to always not be involved in the game.

If I had to rank them. Radja, Perotti, then Salah. With a tie for Radja and Perotti for worst. Diego just gets lost drifting out to the wing. Come on Spal, give Diego some Totti 2012 film if you actually want him on the wing for how to do it.

As the plot suggest there weren't many opportunities for Diego to receive the ball in the centre so it's most likely he moved to the place he can receive the ball from Peres. It was painfully obvious that we needed paredes for Ninja and Totti for dzeko

dont think anything is wrong with perrotti. he is the left winger in a 4-2-3-1 so i dont get the "gets lost drifting out to the wing" where exactly do you want a winger to go if not on the wing?. he got the ball many times in dangerous positions which he decided to cross to dzeko (who was surrounded by 2,3 players) instead of working the ball. he cant be faulted either for not working the ball as radja didnt offer any kind of support to either him or salah and just took weird positions waiting for the ball to fall at his feet like an inexperienced pippo inzaghi. there was no one making runs from the midfield either which means perotti was forced to A)take his man on and go for a shot(which he never does), B) cross to dzeko/radja, or C) pass back to peres. just look at the space there is infront of stroot and DDR and no one bothered making runs there to support the wingers. if spal wants to play radja that high, then it is essential for DDR to play box to box and join the attack or florenzi to tuck in and become an extra midfielder. playing radja that high and your 2 midfielders so deep will never work well tactically unless your forwards can produce magic out of their ass. strootman was perfect as the deep playmaker but DDR must join the attack if radja is too play that high.

If anything, Perotti's problem on the wing is that he isn't providing

enough width. He drops deep, then nobody really fills in the space. Strootman made a couple nice runs, as did Dzeko, but for the most part, we ignored the offensive left side.

pastore or fabregas should be our number 1 target for january. at the moment the team has too many "runners" and not enough "passers" which is making the team unbalanced.

pallotta should bring out his chequebook and stop hiding behind FPP.

Not gonna happen, at this point i would be super happy with Valero.

Rakitic is my choice personally. Valero is probably the most feasible, of course. Fabregas isn't enough of a 2-way midfielder for me. Would solve our pass problem, but create a hole defensively. Just look at him at Chelsea. Not worth the money.

Rakitic may be your choice, but he's the least likely name being touted here

"The defenders need to play more games together in order to assimilate the mechanisms and characteristics of their partners, but here were no major problems between Manolas and Fazio."

-Aldair



Pjanic played more like an advanced playmaker, keeping possession and playing one twos on the final third of the pitch, that's what we're missing. Exactly what Borja Valero did against us, keep the ball on the edge of the box and distribute it. Now that paredes has gotten used to playing at regista it would be counter productive to play him as an enganche again. Gerson in theory

could play this position but should not be put under pressure so early into his roman career.

I don't know how this can be fixed but it has to, I knew Pjanic was going to be missed, 10 goals and 10 assists can't be easily replaced

I knew Pjanic was going to be missed, 10 goals and 10 assists can't be easily replaced

Well yeah it is, if you replace him with a player, if you buy nobody at all, then ya it's hard

I honestly misjudged his role in the team, currently Strootman is playing similar to his position last season but he is not playing up to par.

I don't think you were the only one. There was a lot of talk along the lines of "yeah, Pjanic is good, but he's not irreplaceable, except maybe at set pieces."

I'm starting to think my initial instinct was right, and that he was, in fact, critical to our success. Or our almost success. Whatever you want to call it.

I think he wasn't replaceable for Roma only because Sabatini's head is too far in his ass, he can't see anymore so he wasted 16m on a Brazilian teenager who is in shape or form first team material.

Whether he was replaceable or not is debatable for sure. What's clear is that he both was critical and was not, in fact, replaced...

Gerson deal was concluded way before Miralem's move. The stupidity was not for buying Gerson but for neglecting the release clause in Miralem's contract from 2 years before it ran out.

Ultimately we can blame Sabatini all we want, but at the end of the day, Miralem wanted to move and win something and that

Roma can't give to him.

mire was great, but nobody is irreplaceable. You just need to actually, you know, replace them instead of gambling on teenagers honestly it wouldn't have been that bad if we actually got a player to replace him, Strootman isn't a direct replacement, or anyone really, another fuck up my Saba this summer

Was there sometime on the market who would have fit the bill? I don't know enough to say.

I read that we had an agreement for Ziyech (who went to Ajax), but had to pull the plug when Rui went down.

Borja Valero was Spalletti's choice, but then we self destructed out of CL and had no money. The funny thing was those who thought he wouldn't be a starter here

thats the main problem with this team in the transfer market. you know why teams like dortmund are successful? because they already have players lined up as replacements incase one of their players leave. we have no planning and once a player leaves, we start looking at the market for bargains instead of the right player. pjanic was replaceable, but we didnt replace him with a similar player. paredes is a keita replacement and gerson is a forward.

No — our problem this year was that we had 2 starters shred their knees this summer. Any plans went out the window when we were forced to allocate our transfer budget to replacing Rudiger and Rui.

We better hope that Inter won't click because with Napoli will probably secure 2nd with ease. They have better defence and more meaningful depth than us(I think they are more closer to juve).

Then the 3rd place competition will be between Roma and Inter and

probably even sassuolo. I think Roma should be able to ease pass sassuolo but inter is a tricky one.

I said it before, and I'll say it again. If everything goes right I think we'll be lucky to get #4. Unfortunately that's not CL until next season, right?

I think Juve Napoli Inter Roma is pretty likely come next May. Unfortunately.

I think your wrong. I think we've been in what will be the low point of our season. Fazio looked good alongside Manolas. Bruno is getting settled. JJ's initials are being engraved into the bench as we speak. The defense is gelling. Rudiger returns as soon as November; Mario Rui early 2017. Strootman is looking scarily similar to the player that we all fell in love with. SES starting to regain form. Plus we know exactly what to look for in the winter.

Most teams hit their slump/low point midway into the season. We're hitting ours now due to injuries and uncertainty pecking order. Once this team learns to defend again it won't be long before it learns to attack with speed and commitment.

IMO things are looking up.

Injuries can hit at any point throughout the season. The fact that we are already experiencing this when the season has only just started doesn't fill me with confidence

Injuries already have hit

You know the chance of a player getting injured are exactly the same regardless of how many players on his team are already injured, right?

In fact, if you play too much because of squad depth and injuries it's

probably more likely you'll get injured...

Generally speaking the percentages are always the same. There's clubs who always have 15 injured players and there's clubs who always have their fair share. We hit ours every year in the last 5 or so seasons. Indeed, that's a bit stupid to take as a guarantee that nobody will ever get injured this season again because Rudiger already has, but it's something to hope for.

18/19

Have this season and next season before Italy gets 4 spots.

Dont ever dream Roma will win something until Palotta and Co. stop rebuilding squad every fucking season.

We cant keep our best player and replace them with fringe players. Some of Us said not to blame the management. If the players played bad, its up to them not the management. But in some cases the players they bought already bad from the start.

*I hate CDT's new interface

there were quite a few people who knew losing Pjanic was going to be a real issue. i have never understood people who think Strootman is that great. he is is a good passer and quick thinker, but he lacks creativity and without Pjanic's intelligence out there, he is able to make less space around himself in which to maneuver.

as you say, the biggest problem with this team is the stupid carousel of players in and out. no consistency can be had this way. no one can learn and get used to how their teammates play. look at Juve ... their back-line has had years to learn how to work together and for them it becomes second nature. not to mention, not only are we trading our players every year, but we are selling the really

good ones (Pjanic) and keeping the shit (Dzeko and Iturbe) ... it is honestly about as stupid as you can get.

Part of what made Strootman so incredible in our record breaking season was his relationship/understanding with Totti. The way they dictated play together was incredible. Now that Totti is getting less minutes, Strootman will also suffer a bit because of it (understandably – every player gets worse when Totti isn't on the pitch).

I still think Strootman is a great player, but even great players need other players around them to compliment their skill set. No, he's not that creative, but that doesn't make his skill set any less important to the team. We just lack balance at the moment.

Strootman benefited greatly from Totti. But don't forget who benefited the most from playing with Strootman: Gervinho.

The epic 35 min Washing Machine compilation on youtube makes it pretty clear that no one benefited more than Strootman's industrious ball winning than Gervinho did. Gervinho was always available for an outlet pass and Strootman gave him long balls to chase down so he could run at the defense on the counter. Of course, Gervinho often botched the chances, but they existed in the first place because those two worked well together.

I guess my point here is that once our team starts to play cohesively, and not just with a good defense and shite offense, or vice versa, but strong on both sides of the ball, I'm hoping that someone like Salah can benefit in a similar way to Gervinho.

Also shoutout to Balzaretti at LB during those days. May not have been world class but he provided more support down the left side for Stroots than anyone else we've had at LB recently.

Just watch the full replay. Peres is still cooped up in a 2-dimensional space. If the team can't find someone to dictate plays, maybe arrange a tactic that brings the best out of him. Like what Ventura did in Torino, switching to a 3-men backline and let Peres runs freely. It's really a waste right now since he can't defend properly either.

The injury to Rui really messed this up. If he was on the right flank with Manolas behind him, he would be bombing up and down the right side.

More concerned with Ninja's lack of form recently... he's been poor

Ninja's positioning has been particularly concerning. Either he's messing up Spal's instructions, or carrying them out as intended but everyone around him isn't doing their jobs. Singularity posted the passing and positioning network map above. Ninja is waaaay too far forward, and crowding Dzeko's space. My guess is that he is messing up more than the 3 in front of him, but I could be wrong.

I thought that's what we brought Peres for?

Spaletti confirmed Totti might start the game against crotone.

Pulling out the big guns for the really important games...

Last time he said that, the Palermo debacle happened.

Nothing against you – just that you wrote this for like 4th time this season. It'd be nice for Totti to actually fucking start for once.

Roma fans now realizing how big of a hole Judas left. It's really sad how long it took for those to see, this team was Pjanic's. Last season's end game against Milan clearly showed how he made this team tick. Big fucking loss and we didn't replace nor or we blooding the new way of playing with Paredes. Plus Spal seems too

stubborn to go back to Totti.

Hopefully it changes from tomorrow.

Like I said above, the only reason it seems like a big gaping hole, is because they bought nobody to replace him, so sell 10 goals and assists and replace him with 0 goals assists

Roma Probable XI vs Crotone: [4-2-3-1]

Szczesny

Florenzi – Manolas – Fazio – Bruno

Paredes – Strootman

Salah – Totti – El Shaarawy

Dzeko

-No Alisson Becker again , but again no Juan Jesus 

-De Rossi, Nainggolan and Perotti to be deservedly rested especially Ninja.

Spalletti also says De Rossi's captaincy punishment is over.

And also if I might add, according to Il Tempo, this week Antonio Rudiger will start to work with the Primavera. In a couple days he will play with them.

Forza Roma!



some good news, hope TGIP can turn this ship around

I honestly wish Alisson comes out in public and says he's leaving Roma and returning all his money and going to Juve.

Lay off the sauce for a couple of days, drink some water get a good

night's sleep, if you still feel this way bender has a doctor.

would rather not, done with Shez since January

Figured the Captaincy punishment was 3 games just like red card ban. Glad it's over and Dani accepted it. He needs the armband when Totti isn't on, even if I love Flo having it, just not with a DDR or Totti on pitch.

I can't take Dzeko anymore. I don't know how many more decades we have to wait for a proper CF. Bati and Montella were the last ones 15 years ago.

The list of CF's that we've had is pretty lame. Toni and Borriello have been the best ones.

I think Buzz is directing that at Dzeko

Osvaldo as well. Probably the best number 9 Roma have had since Montella. Guy was batshit crazy, but he could score.

Bacca is a one man army for Milan.

If only we had a striker like him.