**Opponent Report on Ipswich Town FC**

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| ***Teams: Ipswich Town vs. Barnsley FC***  ***(Portman Road)***  ***Weather: Cold but dry – Pitch soft***  ***Final Score: 1-1***  ***Scorers’ if any: IT (Murphy 40:25)***  ***BFC (O’Brian 81:20)*** | ***Competition:***  ***League Fixture***  ***(Sky Bet Championship)***    ***Kick Off: 1945***  ***Referee: Andy D’urso*** |
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| ***Date: 1st November 2013*** | ***Scout: Andy Main*** |

***HOW THEY LINED UP: First Half 4-4-2/Second Half 4-5-1***

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| **Formation Information** |
| Ipswich lined from first half 4-4-2 playing very narrow across the midfield. Not using any width only from left back when he made some darting runs down the wing from own half. After 20 minutes the two wide players Tunnicliffe and Anderson started to push out towards their wings making formation more of a standard 4-4-2 formation. Two strikers lined up to together for first 20 minutes. To close together not expanding out from each other. Seemed to getting under each other feet. Once Midfield pulled out more Murphy played more has an Attacking Midfielder going into wider positions. Defence straight back four from start to finish. This not changing in shape at all during play. Only Cresswell going on attacking forward runs but with Skuse in defensive Midfield role he covered any runs forward. Two Central Midfielders dropped more deeper in second half to control threat of Sub O’Brian has his runs left right and centre were a threat. |

Ipswich Line-up Barnsley

22 Gerken 12 Butland

4 Chamber 14 Wisdom

3 Cresswell (Red Card 90-4) 4 Kennedy

5 Smith 34 Fox

6 Berra 21 Mellis (O’Brian)

19 Hyam 22 Mvoto

11 Anderson (Tabb -69) 6 Cranie

8 Skuse 42 McCourt (Etuhu 81)

9 Murphy 11 Perkins

10 McGoldrick 20 Pedersen (Scotland 74)

16 Tunnicliffe 10 O’Grady

**Subs Subs**

1 Loach 30 Dibble

2 Hewitt 2 Hassell

7 Edwards 7 O’Brian

13 Mings 9 Scotland

18 Tabb 16 Jennings

26 Taylor 19 Cywka

35 Nouble 23 Etuhu

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| **Defence Key Points** |
| * Gerkan in Goal not a lot action during first off. Whatever was point in box he caught and distributed at ease. Second half had more to do with some shots coming in from outside 18 yard box and inside area. These were pushed away from corners or caught on ground. * Centre back were strong on ground and in air mainly second half even when Smith went of due to cut to head. * Across back line very solid not going out of position much. Only when Cresswell made some forward runs. They were backup with Skuse who played has a defensive Midfielder a lot during game. * Berra and Smith more and comfortable in the physical tussle in the air and 1 on 1. * Cresswell pushes forward a lot lacks a bit of strength when trying to shrug an opponent. * Play deep has an back four so there is no threat of getting caught behind. * Clear ball mainly by distributed towards centre of pitch. On occasion launched ball away from own area towards front two * At times very bunched up with no show of width for an outlet. |

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| **Midfield Key Points** |
| * Very narrow across all 4 midfielders for both half’s * Tunniclife the more explosive of two wingers. He was more of a winger in the fact he pushed forward and got crosses in when could * Skuse played as Anchor role sitting in front of back four. Side to side picking any forward runs into own last quarter. * At times very bunched up with no show of width for an outlet. * Hyam was box to box making sure he was central to any forward play. * Second half the wide players sat in more to cover threat from sub O’Brian who was going from each side of pitch picking and running with ball. When Tabb came on little bit more wide down left was used. * Played well off front two with some lovely flowing pass and move in opponents half. * Not enough crosses came from wide players due to fact kept coming in from wings and passing to feet. * Taylor on second half brought some pace and guile to right side |

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| **Forward Key Points** |
| * McGoldrick was poor in fact none existent within first 20 Minutes. Show lack of strength, pace and no movement * Balls pumped up were nodded on well at times but with no real aim. * Murphy plenty of movement to receive ball, only to close to McGoldrick causing no rhythm to attack. * The service was not there for both forwards has they would have suited more over the top balls to run onto. * Nouble brought some pace to the game and had some good runs at the defence causing a nuisance. |

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| **Any extra Information** |
| Best Headers within the game - Berra/Smith/Chambers  Any Penalties – None within game only 1 penalty shout 84th minute from Nouble.  Major Players out – Anthony Wordsworth (Injured since February 2013 with serious back injury. No others to note |

**Set Plays**

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| **Attacking Corners**  Left side – Cross in from Cresswell this is out swinging towards penalty spot area or 6 yard box. Have the 4 tallest guys in the box (4,6,5 and 10)With Murphy a late drifter) Chambers the furthest to left of the four in penalty area drags across Barnsley player has does Berra. Has ball floated in Murphy un marked due to confusion comes towards ball and gets head on ball. He did this twice during game getting close on one occasion and scoring on the other. |

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| **Attacking Corners**  Right Side – This time Anderson takes floats balls into penalty spot area each time. McGoldrick Chambers start out side penalty spot area. Once Anderson ready to take corner they move into 12 yard area with Berra going out left to take defence away from them guys. Murphy up unto kick taken stands next keeper. With sharp movement out to 6 yard box once corner lifted in. Big fret is Chambers and Berra has they are best headers of ball going attacking onto the cross. Smith also get involved seem to alternate who the main target for the cross his. |

**Defending Corners**

Right side and Left side Corners – Setup same during defending corners. Both fullbacks mark posts and once ball pushed away move out with others. Berra, Chambers,Skuse and Smith picked up the central spot area where opposition players where zoned. Very tight marking with these three not loosing there man.Gerkan stayed very central on goal line. Tend not to come out to ball this due to control of the defenders marking. Remainder of players picked any other players hanging outside of 18 yard box. McGoldrick was more central on penalty box in marking role.

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| **Free kicks (typical)**  From Right and Left side – Cresswell steps over ball with Hyam next him has decoy. Ball swung mainly above 10 yard wall towards penalty area. Main targets being McGoldrick, Murphy, Berra and Smith. Any free kick what were around middle of 18 yard box Cresswell taken aiming for either top left or right area of the goal? |

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| **Final Assessment**  **Ipswich Town**  Ipswich was slow to get into a rhythm, not much forward play during first quarter of first half. Lots of simple 5 and 10 yard passing for first 20 mins.After that they come into their own with some nice long rang passes catching the Barnsley midfield and defence on short foot. To be honest there was no sufficient threat from Barnsley in first half which made for a quiet half. With no threat from Barnsley attacking players would have thought Ipswich would do opposite and catch them out. Murphy and McGoldrick who usually have caused threats to defence were so static and quiet first half.  A head injury to Smith on 12 mins slowed Ipswich down for a few minutes. Mainly due to Other defenders covering him till returned to pitch. Once Smith back on the shape went back to flat back four. Smith even with cut to head was a force within commanding his area also in air.  Big plus within first half come on 40:25 with headed goal for Murphy. Came from corner from some 3 minutes of pressure on the Barnsley goal. An out swinger from Cresswell aimed towards chambers in centre of goal area 12 yards out. He drew two defenders away with him with flight of ball over chamber and Murphy get clean head on ball. This in turn went into bottom right of goal. After that not much more action.  Second half was a bit livelier with Barnsley change their way of play. Brought on O’Brian who had a bit more guile about him. Ipswich with having a 1-0 lead changed their centre Midfielders more defensive to control O’Brian. Narrowed the wing players and dropped Murphy into Attacking role behind front 1.This gave the attacking force needed also width on plays when wingers cut inside. Lot of play again in middle of park with short passes to front two. About 3 more shots on target during half mainly from Hyam long shooting range.  Defensively sound only threat down right and left wings on couple occations.Which intern were pushed out for throw-ins or cleared up to centre spot areas. Around 50 mins there was threat from Barnsley when big kick from keeper was not taken care of Smith and Pedersen had shot which just went wide.  Last 20 mins possession was gained by the visitors who were playing the more expansive football.  70th minute of game Ipswich considered a goal. Mainly down to lack of concentration from defensive point of view. Came from Barnsley’s Paddy McCourt cross over smith head and put into the back of net from Jim O’Brian.  Overall not a bad result for both seemed to be that substitute for Barnsley of an attacking minded player hurt their style of play. |

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| **Player Comments** |

(22) Dean Gerkan Height - 6ft 4in Position - Goalkeeper

Tall, with a good build, he was confident when coming off his line even though was limited within game. Right footed, he got good distance and accuracy tended to kick out towards wings mainly right side. If thrown out was only close range with under arm motion. Comfortable on the ball within pass back. On corners commanded his area well with confidence from others. Has a good save in him from long range.

(4) Luke Chambers Height – 6ft 1in Position – Right Back

Tall, strong tough tackling defender. More equipped has a centre half due to the lack of pace possesses. Solid game, performing to his strength not beaten a lot down right. Good throw in taker very accurate straight to intend. Good reader of the game sees were he can break up play and supports others. Great in the air especially when up for corners causes a threat.

(3) Aaron Cresswell Height – 5ft 7in Position – Left back

Very pacey left back, with so much ability on the ball. Great guile with ball at feet and creates chances. Likes to put foot in 9 out 10 getting the ball which did during the game. Very fiery character which is a weakness to is game has got Red card for his behaviour towards referee at end of game.

Great crossing ability from his left foot. Seems to be main free kick taker also left sided corner taker. Get caught in possession when spends too much time on ball.

(5) Tommy Smith Height – 6ft 2in ` Position – Centre Back

Strong upper body strength with key eye for an header. Commands the back line very well. air amount of pace that being tracking back or going towards any loose balls. After cutting his head during first half did not faze him into 1 on 1 challenge. A weakness in his direct passing main let down in his game. Can use both foot but is more right than left. With that in mind got caught out a lot when ball went over top of him down left side. moves forward with ball out of defence with some confidence. Played nice balls across his back line involving the central midfield.

(6 ) Christophe Berra Height – 6ft 3 Position - Centre Back

Tall, with broad build very good upper body strength. Lacks in pace which gets caught out on 1 vs. 1 and ball over the top. In the air on headers very good and clean. Big target for corners and free kicks.

Read the game well breaking down forward frets and clearing away. With Smith seems very comfortable with his prescience around. At times took eye of ball and rushed clearances and panics within tackling of opposition. Gives away a lot of offences during game. When loses ball in behind will do a lot of shirt hold and bring opponent down.

(8) Cole Skuse Height – 6ft 1in Position – Def Midfield

What lacks in pace gains in intelligence within the game. Picks up any loose balls and seemed to be source of any build up plays. Tough tackler and has fair amount pace. Good short range passer lacks that long range pass. Had a very good game not putting foot wrong really. Both footed which has the skill both side of the pitch. When dribbling with the ball always made sure others around not dribbling into trouble.

(19)Luke Hyam Height – 5ft 10in Position – Centre Midfield

Slender in build, medium height, he played in the centre of midfield, mostly in box to box role. Right footed, he is a neat and tidy player, who will look to get on the ball, tending to keep his passing short and simple. Has creativity and very technical, he worked hard at closing down and competing for the ball,. Likes to shot from long range and second choose free kick taker. Covered loads of ground and seemed to have that ability in him. Tired near end of game which is a weakness due to stamina levels.

(11) Paul Anderson Height – 5ft 9in Position – Right Midfield

Slender but athletic build, right sided player. Seemed to have a fair amount of pace though didn’t seem to show it to get by the defence. Has good control and good passer of the ball. Crossing not a strength has crosses seemed to lack the height needed to cause a threat.Didnt read the game well has he seemed to play too narrow leaving the threat down the sides. Did not track back on the opponents leaving right back at risk.

(16) Ryan Tunnicliffe Height – 5ft 6in Position – Left Midfield

Stocky build, fair bit of pace about him. Quiet game only attacking from left 3 or 4 times. Tended to come inside and get a cross in. Played some good one on ones with left back which was a good play on his part. Likes to put a tackle in sometimes too hard has picked up a yellow in second half for a lunge.

(9) Daryl Murphy Height – 6ft 2in Position - Striker

Tall, athletic striker with fair amount of pace. Not a bad game was busy getting his self about. Seemed to drop of front man in first half and even deeper second half. Likes ball played to feet not in air. Left footed and has a good strike through the ball. Seemed to control his area of game bringing other into the game. Tracks back well and gets into opportunities to either cross or have attempt on goal. Floats in box on corners and free kicks causing a extra distraction. Took his goal well from an move into ox and heading into net.

(10) David McGoldrick Height – 6ft 1in Position – Striker

Average height and build, he played up front as one of two forwards. Mostly right footed, he has an inconsistent touch and didn’t always retain possession well when coming off defenders. He is suddenly comes alive around the penalty area, but his link up play and lack of composure when running with the ball was disappointing. He also didn’t look to win the ball in the air, tending to back and draw the foul. He has decent pace and movement, but didn’t always look work hard enough to get on the ball.

**Subs Used**

(18) Jay Tabb Height – 5ft 7in Position – Left midfield

Came on at 69th minute with only minimal effect. Two thing did bring to game was a bit more fight in midfield harassing opposition for postion.Also added width on left, increasing crossing possession.

Has far amount of pace with good passing range.

(26) Paul Taylor Height – 5ft 7in Position – Right Attacker

Short but stocky build, has pace and very skilful. When come on forTunnicliffe brought some attacking flair to team. Had some good runs down the right pushing left back to bye line. Linked up well with Murphy on some forward thinking moves. Got two shots on gaol both only being pushed by Barnsley keeper. Didn’t track back to help right back during last couple of minutes of game.

(35) Frank Nouble Height – 6ft 3in Position – Striker

Stocky, powerful runner on ball only lacking the shooting ability. Used his power to get through defence causing some on goal opportunity. Seemed to hold ball up for support from others. Easily brought to ground at full flow with ball. Main occurred late on when a penalty decision went against him.