

MARKUS SCHUBERT:



Dynamo Dresden's goalkeeper destined for the Bundesliga limelight

BY MATT KARAGICH // [@MatthewKaragich](#)

Over the past decade, Germany has been graced with an abundance of goalkeeping talent. Manuel Neuer springs to mind as arguably one of the best goalkeepers of this millennium, someone who transcended the position and forced a shift in how the current day shot stopper needs to be if they want to succeed. Marc-André ter Stegen is the heir to the German throne without question and is an elite shot stopper for one of the best clubs in the world. The likes of Bernd Leno, Kevin Trapp and to a lesser extent now Ron-Robert Zieler have all represented Die Mannschaft which begs the question of who are the next generation of goalkeepers?

Alexander Nübel is arguably the most promising of the bunch, a first team regular for Schalke with the likes of Bayern Munich eager for his services. Julian Pollersbeck was heavily touted after his excellent performances at the U21 European championships back in 2017. However, his game has remained stagnant with Hamburg and for the meantime his appeal has dropped off somewhat. Markus Schubert could be another answer in the future.

Native of Freiberg, Schubert started at youth level with SV Lok Nossen and SC Riesa until joining Dynamo Dresden's youth set up at the age of 13. From joining Dynamo, it was evident that Schubert had the attributes to become an elite level goalkeeper in the German game and it's shown. Schubert has represented Germany at all levels from the U16 upwards with the exception of the first team.

THE RISE IN DRESDEN

Entering the current campaign, Schubert had made only 10 first appearances in league play. He made his first team debut as a 17-year-old in the 3. Liga against Preußen Münster and became the second youngest

player to earn a start for Dynamo Dresden. Only defender Torsten Wude, in April of 1983, was younger when deputising. He awaited his opportunity to Marvin Schwäbe, who was the number one prior to this, before moving to Brøndby IF in the summer.

Dresden were busy in the summer bringing in Fortuna Köln goalkeeper Tim Boss as competition for Schubert. From early impressions, Uwe Neuhaus was favouring the newcomer as the boss between the sticks over Schubert. However, an injury to Boss during preseason helped Schubert secure the number one status.

From that moment on, Schubert has held complete control of the number one spot despite Dresden's turbulent season.

AGGRESSIVE OFF THE LINE

A trademark of the modern goalkeeper is someone who doesn't sit idly on their line and Schubert is no exception. In fact, Schubert can be overly aggressive at times when either collecting possession, punching the ball clear from the danger area or closing down the space between the striker and the goal. It's quite a joy, from a goalkeeping standpoint, to see the custodian between the sticks take such risks to ensure his opponents fail to find the back of the net.



Erzgebirge Aue have delivered the ball into the 18-yard box, it's congested in the area as the

Dresden defence is unable to clear. Schubert remains on his line but, with the tendency of getting cold feet and need to clear, the shot stopper awaits the right time to make his move.



As the ball remains aerial in the box, Schubert makes a beeline for the ball at full tilt with no regard for the safety of himself or those around him. Even though the distance between Schubert and the ball is still considerable, by aggressively making a play at the ball he has the best chance of clearing the danger.



Despite there being three players around the ball, nothing was going to stop Schubert from getting the ball as he punches it clear. Even with Dresden having a numerical advantage, the ball wasn't leaving the area in any hurry. To dispel any potential of conceding, Schubert ensures that this isn't possible.

Here is another example of Schubert taking the aggressive route. This time closing down the angle and making himself large to ensure the striker doesn't have a clear avenue to goal. This is goalkeeper 101 when an opposing striker is in on goal, but completing the process without conceding is also pivotal.



In this scenario against Sandhausen, the hosts are on the move and have a potential goal scoring opportunity after Andrew Wooten plays Kevin Behrens in. The starting position from Schubert is on the line of the six-yard box, with Behrens bearing down on goal he knows it's imperative to close the space.



As the situation progresses, Schubert has made himself relatively large. Behrens has broken the tackle from the Dresden defender and is in a strong position to score. Schubert has closed the near post angle down forcing Behrens to either dribble around him or score into the far corner.



Behrens is forced out wide by Schubert's good positioning, this ensures a tighter angle to

score from. Schubert makes a good save with the ball trickling out for a corner. Positioning is a very important part of goalkeeping and what might seem a routine stop for some, to others each save is as important as the last. A situation which could've seen Dresden go a goal down is defused by sound, fundamental goalkeeping by Schubert.

INACCURACIES GOING LONG

An expectation of goalkeepers, from an analytical stand point, is for players in that position to be more than just shot stoppers. They have to be confident with their feet and distribution is becoming ever more important. Whilst being very strong at playing simple, short passes to teammates, it's his inability to find teammates going long which is one of the weaknesses holding Schubert back. This season Schubert has only completed 54.9% of long passes in 2. Bundesliga play which simply won't cut it in the first tier.



In the early phases of an Ost Derby with Union Berlin, a side which isn't possession orientated, Schubert has possession with Sebastian Andersson pressing. There are two options at play; the first would see Schubert play the ball to Linus Wahlqvist and keep the ball. Or conversely, Schubert can move the ball long where a couple of Dresden players are moving towards the near side of the ground.



Schubert opts to go long and not chance a wayward short pass leading to a goal scoring opportunity. Whilst it fails to hit a Dresden player and results in Union Berlin winning back possession, the idea wasn't the problem, the execution was what let Schubert down.



Against Bochum, down 2-0 midway through the first half we see a different scenario. From a Bochum corner Schubert has gained possession and is looking to move the ball quickly. He see's two Dresden attackers making long runs into their attacking half of the ground.



However, Bochum have the numerical advantage and with the kick from Schubert being unfavourable to his teammates, the visitors win possession back. In the previous picture, Schubert had two Dresden players to roll the ball out to and control possession,

instead of blazing away to a disadvantage.

For Schubert to succeed going forward, he must clean up his distribution. Whilst there are only two examples on display, it has been a common theme going long that Schubert has been unable to find a target on a regular basis.

LESS IS MORE

A common theme of Schubert's goalkeeping is that he likes to be really aggressive to remove any kind of danger from his sacred space. However, his eagerness to clear the ball has caused multiple issues where he has either completely missed the ball and is fortunate to get away with it or it has led to a goal for the opposition. When challenging in the air, it's imperative for the keeper to get something on the ball. Against Jahn Regensburg and Hamburg we saw the ugly side of Schubert's aggressive nature.



In the first scenario against Jahn Regensburg, Oliver Hein is about to send a long ball towards the edge of the area. Schubert sits just ahead of the six-yard line and could be in play if the ball creeps closer to the penalty spot. What is certain is that once the ball is delivered by Hein, Schubert must decide whether to come or stay.



Schubert opts to come at the ball and influence the contest at the edge of the area. A bold choice as there wasn't any danger which could've seen Dresden concede. Schubert misses the ball all together and resulting play is a goal kick. Whilst the end product didn't see a goal, it was an unnecessary situation for Schubert to come and contest.



Against Hamburg, a dire 0-0 with only moments remaining in the match. Dresden are on for a vital point as they have struggled throughout the calendar year. Gideon Jung hits the ball towards the edge of the area. Once again, Schubert has made his way from the edge of the six-yard box to come and collect. However, there is no need to collect straight away with no Hamburg players set to influence the play.



With Schubert coming and Oliver Kreuzer also making a play, Dresden get in a muddle as Schubert takes possession. As he tries to clear, Lewis Holtby does enough to stop the ball dead in its track before scoring the one and only goal in the game. Had Schubert gone sideways initially or allowed Kreuzer to play back to him from further away, it's likely that Dresden wouldn't have conceded.

It's good to have a keeper who has the confidence to come away from his line to clear the dispelling danger. However, Schubert needs to have a better understanding of when to come out and when to stay at home. The two situations shown above saw a goal kick for Dresden with the latter leading to a Hamburg goal. Had Dresden still been fighting to avoid the drop, the situation would've been magnified exponentially.

MOVING TOWARDS THE LIMELIGHT

In a surprising move before the conclusion of the season, Schubert announced that he would be leaving Dynamo Dresden at the end of the season. This was music to the ears of

multiple Bundesliga clubs who are need of a talented young goalkeeper to play between the sticks. Most notably Augsburg, a club which has been in a goalkeeper crisis since the departure of Marwin Hitz at the end of last season. Three different options including on loan Hoffenheim goalkeeper Gregor Kobel who isn't likely to return at the end of the season. Schubert would be a very good fit for Martin Schmidt's side.

Clubs like Schalke, Bayer Leverkusen and RB Leipzig have also been rumoured to be interested but it wouldn't be in his best interest to join a club which has an undisputed number one. Due to his ties to Dresden, a move to Leipzig is very unlikely and even if it was possible, he would be the club's third choice at best.

As a footballer, Schubert has quite a number of significant flaws which, with the right tutoring, can be amended as time goes on. What is certain is that in the distant future Schubert will be putting his hand up for a national team call. However, his next club of choice could be the catalyst between being a success and thriving in the limelight, or faltering to a role on the bench. We will be watching with anticipation.

