

CONFIDENTIAL · REPORT N° 0042 · MAY 2026

A European verdict.

Player J. Silva

FORWARD · 17 YO · TRIAL OBSERVED AT ESTORIL PRAIA

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Sessions observed: 6 · Match minutes analysed: 412
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SECTION 01

Player profile.

	<p>Player J. Silva FORWARD · 17 YO · TRIAL: ESTORIL PRAIA</p>	<p>SAMPLE · REPORT N° 0042</p>
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<p>BORN</p> <p>08 Mar 2009</p>	<p>CITIZENSHIP</p> <p>Portuguese / American</p>	<p>HEIGHT</p> <p>1.78 m</p>
<p>PREFERRED FOOT</p> <p>Right</p>	<p>CURRENT CLUB</p> <p>Barça Residency Academy</p>	<p>CURRENT LEAGUE</p> <p>MLS Next · ECNL</p>

STATED OBJECTIVES

Player and family seek a professional pathway in Europe, with a fallback of NCAA Division I scholarship if European trials do not convert. The trial at Estoril Praia (May 2026) was the first formal European exposure. The family is open to relocation but prefers Iberia for cultural and linguistic reasons.

PRIMARY POSITION & ROLE

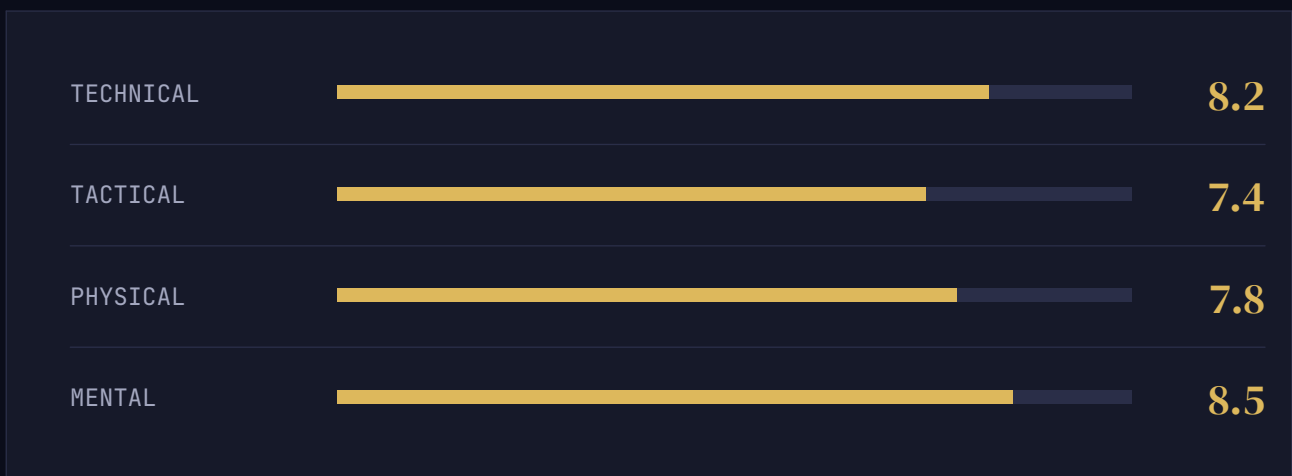
Plays primarily as a centre-forward in a 4-3-3 system, but has logged minutes as a left winger in 4-2-3-1. Comfortable both as a target man and as a runner in behind. The trial sessions tested both profiles.

SECTION 02

Headline assessment.

OVERVIEW

Four-dimension scoring on a 1–10 scale. Scores reflect what was observed across the trial sessions and reference matches submitted. They are benchmarked against expectations for a 17-year-old at European Liga 2 / Liga 3 academy level — not against MLS Next or ECNL standards.



"Composed in possession with sharp first touch. Reads pressing triggers well and stretches the back line vertically. Needs to refine off-ball positioning when the team loses possession in the final third."

– J. LARANJEIRA, SCOUT · SC BRAGA

AT A GLANCE

<p>3 KEY STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + First touch in tight spaces + Off-ball runs into the channels + Mental composure in big moments 	<p>3 KEY DEVELOPMENT AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defensive recovery work - Aerial duels (small frame) - Weak foot finishing
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SECTION 03

Technical evaluation.

Each technical attribute scored on a 1–10 scale, with timestamped reference moments where applicable. Click any timestamp to jump to the exact moment in the submitted match footage.

First Touch Clean, directional, oriented towards next action. Shows confidence under pressure.	8.5
Short Passing Crisp, well-weighted. Plays on first touch when receiving with space.	8.0
Long Passing Inconsistent. Shape of switches improves when given time. Range adequate.	6.8
Dribbling (tight space) Excellent close control. Beats first defender with inside cut or feint regularly.	8.2
Dribbling (open space) Quick acceleration but tendency to over-touch when space opens up.	7.4
Shooting Technique Right-foot shooting mechanically sound. Connection on volleys is notably good.	7.8
Weak Foot Limited use. Avoids left-foot finishes when right is available.	5.2
Heading Body positioning correct but lacks aerial dominance — height and timing limit ceiling.	5.8

SECTION 03 · CONTINUED

Reference moments.

Key technical moments observed in the submitted matches:

MATCH 1 · 18:42	First-time turn under pressure to release the right-back into space.
MATCH 1 · 67:15	Inside cut + low driven shot, far post — composed under physical pressure.
MATCH 2 · 12:08	Long diagonal switch (62m) — well-weighted, played to feet of the winger.
MATCH 2 · 71:30	Failed weak-foot finish from 8m — chose right foot through too narrow an angle.
MATCH 3 · 33:50	Three-touch combination in tight box area, ending with assist for second goal.

SECTION 04

Tactical evaluation.

European scouts weight tactical intelligence very heavily — often more than raw athleticism. This section observes positioning, decision-making, and game reading across the four moments of the game.

0 1	ORGANIZED ATTACK Movement to break lines is intelligent. Recognizes the moment to drop between lines and turn. Could improve creating numerical superiority on the ball-side through third-man combinations.	7.8
0 2	TRANSITION TO ATTACK First instinct is to attack the space behind. Read the timing of vertical runs well in 78% of observed transitions. Excellent off-ball.	8.4
0 3	ORGANIZED DEFENCE Adequate effort but positioning can be passive when not directly involved. Press triggers correctly when set, less so when reacting in real time.	6.6
0 4	TRANSITION TO DEFENCE Recovery work is the weakest area. Tendency to walk back when initial press fails. Track-back distance significantly below European standard.	6.2

"When the player has the ball, they think two seconds ahead. When the team loses the ball, they think one second behind. The gap is what we work on."

— TACTICAL OBSERVATION

SECTION 05

Physical observation.

These observations come exclusively from match footage — not from GPS, force-plate testing, or anaerobic profiling. They are descriptive rather than measured. A laboratory profile is recommended for any decision involving fitness benchmarking.

<p>Acceleration (0–10m) Explosive first 5 metres. Comparable to European U-17 academy peers.</p>	<p>8.0</p>
<p>Top Speed Strong but not exceptional. Estimated mid-30s km/h based on covered distance.</p>	<p>7.4</p>
<p>Endurance / 90' Output Maintains intensity through to ~75', drops slightly in final 15 minutes.</p>	<p>7.6</p>
<p>Strength in Duels Below the standard for a centre-forward at European level. Frame is light.</p>	<p>5.8</p>
<p>Agility / Change of Direction Excellent. Hips are loose. Body shape under pressure remains balanced.</p>	<p>8.4</p>
<p>Recovery Pace Can recover when committed. The issue is often willingness, not capability.</p>	<p>6.6</p>

CRITICAL NOTE

Physical maturity at 17 is not a final state. The frame can still develop 1.5–3 kg of upper body mass with structured strength work. The strength deficit is not a permanent ceiling — it is a 12–18 month project.

SECTION 06

Mental & behavioural.

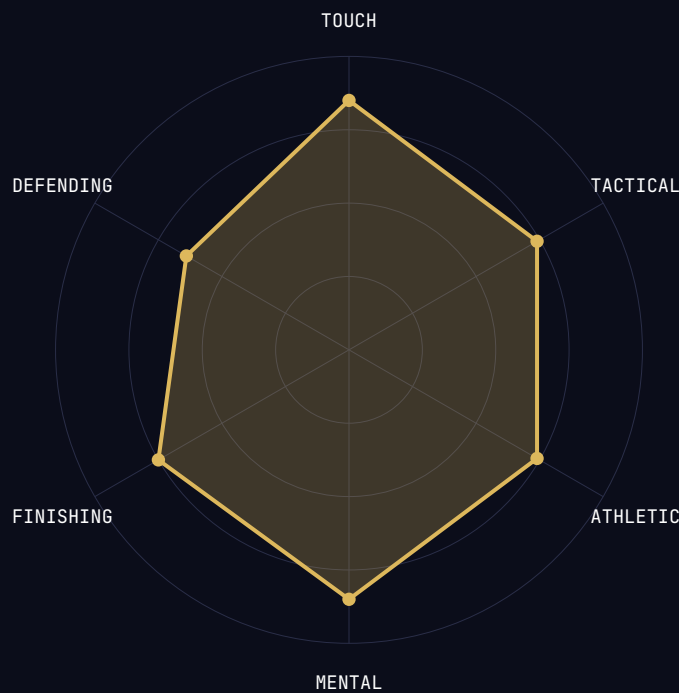
Observations from body language, communication, and reaction patterns across the trial sessions and submitted matches. These are interpretive and not absolute — but they are what professional scouts watch closely.

<p>COMPOSURE UNDER PRESSURE</p> <p>Striking. Body language stays settled even when missing chances. Does not press the panic button. Rare for the age.</p>	9.0
<p>REACTION TO MISTAKES</p> <p>Resets quickly. Does not visibly carry frustration into the next phase. One of the strongest signals observed across the trial.</p>	8.5
<p>COMMUNICATION ON THE PITCH</p> <p>Quiet. Communicates with hand signals more than voice. Acceptable for the role but limits leadership ceiling.</p>	6.5
<p>LEADERSHIP BEHAVIOURS</p> <p>Leads by example, not by voice. Does not demand the ball or organize teammates verbally. Understated.</p>	6.0
<p>COACHABILITY (observed)</p> <p>Receptive to corrections during sessions. Applies coaching point in the next repetition. This is the most important indicator at 17.</p>	8.5
<p>COMPETITIVENESS</p> <p>Sharp when the score is tight. Less consistent in dead minutes of comfortable wins — typical of younger players, not concerning.</p>	8.0

SECTION 07

European benchmark.

How does the player compare to a 17-year-old at a European Liga 2 / Liga 3 academy? This is the question that matters for any European pathway decision. We benchmark against the players we see weekly at SC Braga, Estoril Praia, and other partner clubs.



PERCENTILE VS EUROPEAN U-17 ACADEMY

The player ranks above 72% of the 17-year-olds observed at European Liga 2 / Liga 3 academy level over the past 18 months. Sample base: 84 players from SC Braga, Estoril Praia, Casa Pia, GD Estoril B, and partner academies.

72th

SECTION 08

Development **priorities.**

Three strengths to amplify. Three areas to develop. Specific, actionable recommendations that can be applied across the next 6–12 months.

+ AMPLIFY · KEEP DOING WHAT IS WORKING

First touch in tight spaces

This is the differentiator. Continue training with rondos, 4v2 / 5v3 small spaces, and one-touch combinations. Add deliberate restrictions: receive and play in two touches maximum.

Composure & reset behaviour

Rare quality. Protect it. Avoid environments where the player is constantly being scolded for mistakes — it will erode the asset over time.

Off-ball runs into the channels

Excellent timing. Build on this with specific pattern work — third-man combinations that release the player into the half-spaces.

SECTION 08 · CONTINUED

What to develop.

- DEVELOP · WORK ON THESE NEXT 6 MONTHS

Defensive recovery work

The biggest single ceiling-lifter. Specific intervention: design recovery drills where the player initiates a press, fails, and must sprint 30m to recover position. Make it non-negotiable in every training session.

Weak-foot proficiency

Cannot rise to professional European level with current weak foot. Recommend 15-minute dedicated daily session: passing, shooting, and first touch with left foot only.

Strength & duels

12–18 month strength programme with a qualified S&C coach. Target: +2.5 kg lean mass, focusing on posterior chain and core. Aerial work secondary — frame limits ceiling regardless.

SECTION 09

Scout's summary.

The final assessment, in the scout's own words. Honest, direct, professional. This is what we would write internally for the recruitment department of a European club.

THE HEADLINE

A technically gifted attacker with elite mental composure for a 17-year-old. The combination of first touch, off-ball intelligence, and emotional regulation is uncommon. The ceiling is real.

THE BIGGEST QUESTION

Whether the defensive work-rate can be coached upward. At European Liga 2 level, a forward who does not press is not picked. The player has the physical capacity to recover — what is missing is the habit and the willingness. This is coachable but it is a 12-month project, not a 12-week one.

THE CEILING

If the defensive work-rate develops and the strength programme adds 2–3 kg of lean mass, the player has a realistic profile for Liga 2 / Liga 3 senior football in Portugal within 18–24 months. NCAA Division I is well within reach today.

THE FLOOR

Even without further development, the player would compete for minutes at any Top 30 NCAA Division I programme. The technical level and football intelligence translate immediately.

RECOMMENDED PATHWAY

First option: a one-season trial with a Portuguese Liga 3 academy (Casa Pia, Estoril B, or equivalent), with structured strength and defensive work integrated. Second option: NCAA Division I with explicit summer development plan in Europe between freshman and sophomore seasons. Avoid: showcase tournaments and agent-led pathways without verified destination clubs.

"I would invite this player to a structured trial at SC Braga's B team next season. There is enough here to bet on. The work to be done is clear and the player has the temperament to do it."

— J. LARANJEIRA · MAY 2026

ABOUT THE SCOUT

Who watched.



José Laranjeira works as a scout for SC Braga's first team in the Portuguese Primeira Liga. He has scouted across Portuguese Liga, Liga 2, and Liga 3 academies for the past nine seasons. His work feeds directly into the recruitment decisions of one of Portugal's top six clubs.

José is one of the certified scouts in the ProEye network. Every report is prepared by a scout currently working in European professional football and reviewed by a second scout before delivery.

METHODOLOGY

All ProEye reports follow the same evaluation framework — adapted from the internal scouting protocols of Portuguese Primeira Liga clubs. Each report goes through a quality control review before delivery. Scores are benchmarked against a continuously updated database of European U-17 to U-23 academy players observed by the ProEye scout network.

Questions about this report?

Email hello@proeye.football. We respond within 24 hours. For Professional and Elite tier reports, schedule a 30-minute follow-up call directly with the scout via the link in your delivery email.