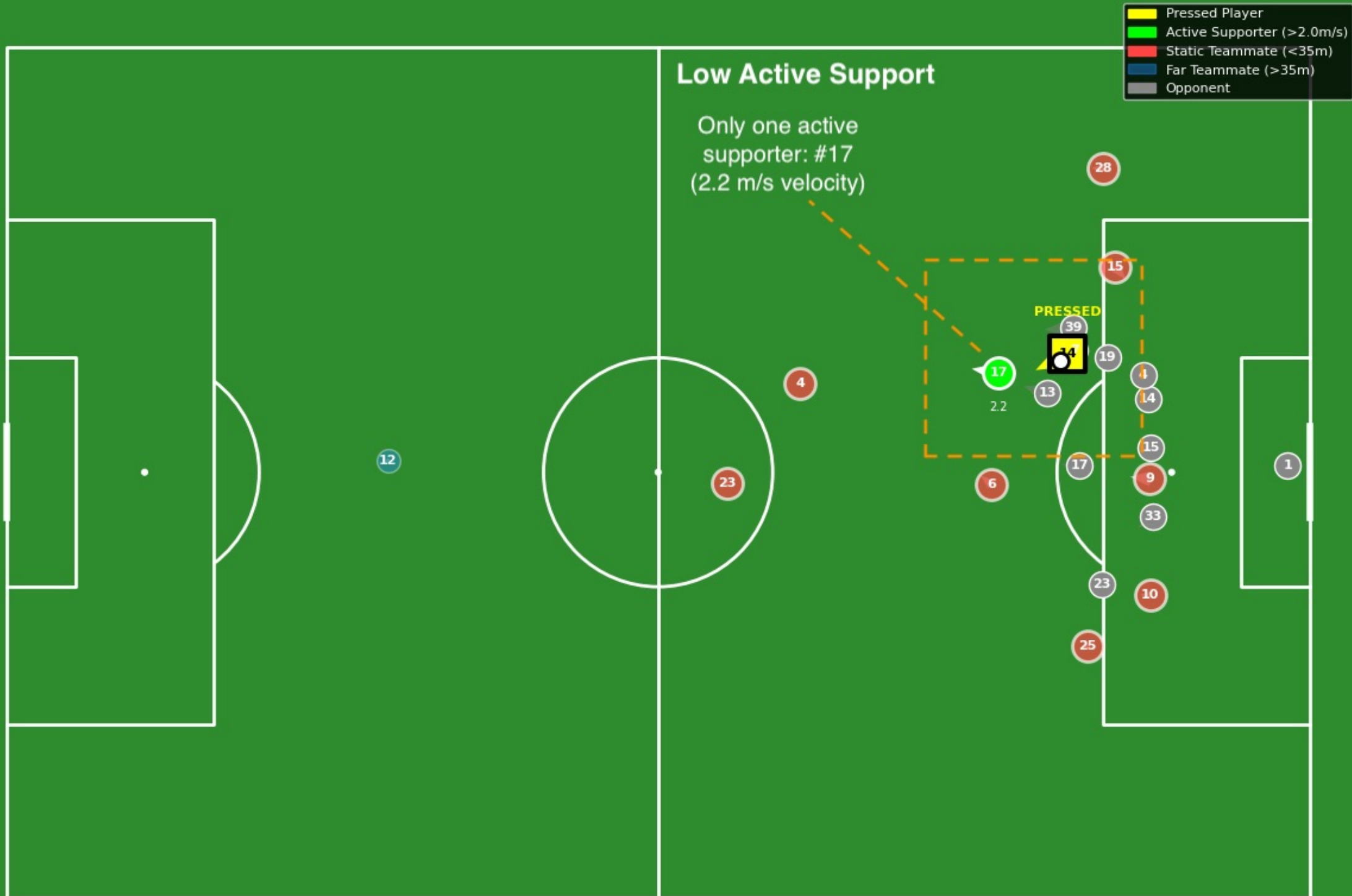


Pressure Event: pressure | Pressed: #14 L. Gillion (Auckland FC)
Active Supporters: 1, Nearby Teammates: 9, Active Support Ratio: $(1/9) = 11\%$
77:50 (2H) | Frame 47507

Auckland FC →

← Newcastle United Jets FC



A Framework for Quantifying Off-Ball Support

The Active Support Index (ASI) is a multi-layered framework designed to analyze support from a single moment to an entire season.

Core Definitions



Active Supporter: A teammate within 35m of the pressed player AND moving >2 m/s.



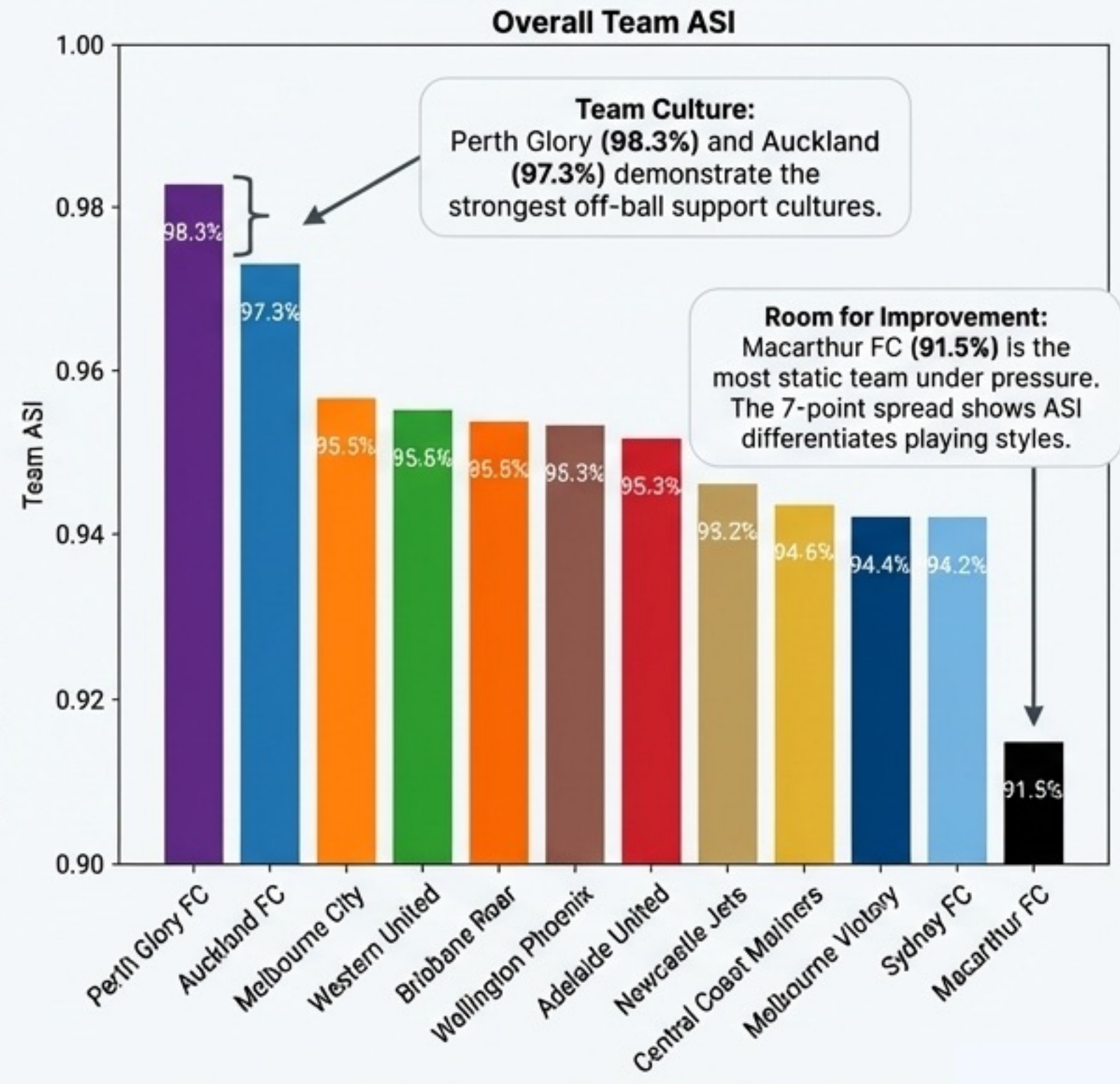
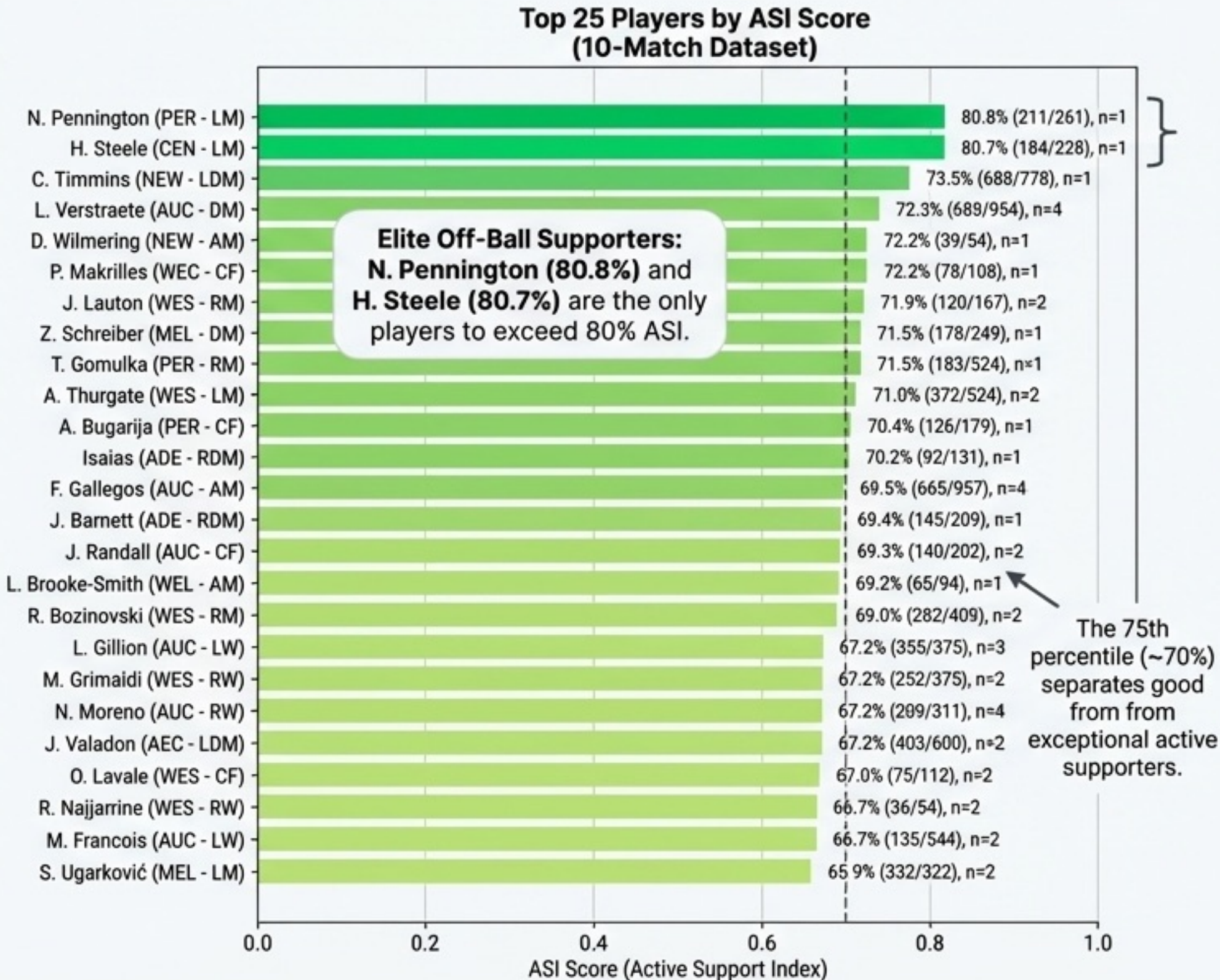
Proximity Threshold (35m): Maximum realistic passing range under pressure.



Velocity Threshold (2 m/s): Boundary separating walking from jogging/running.

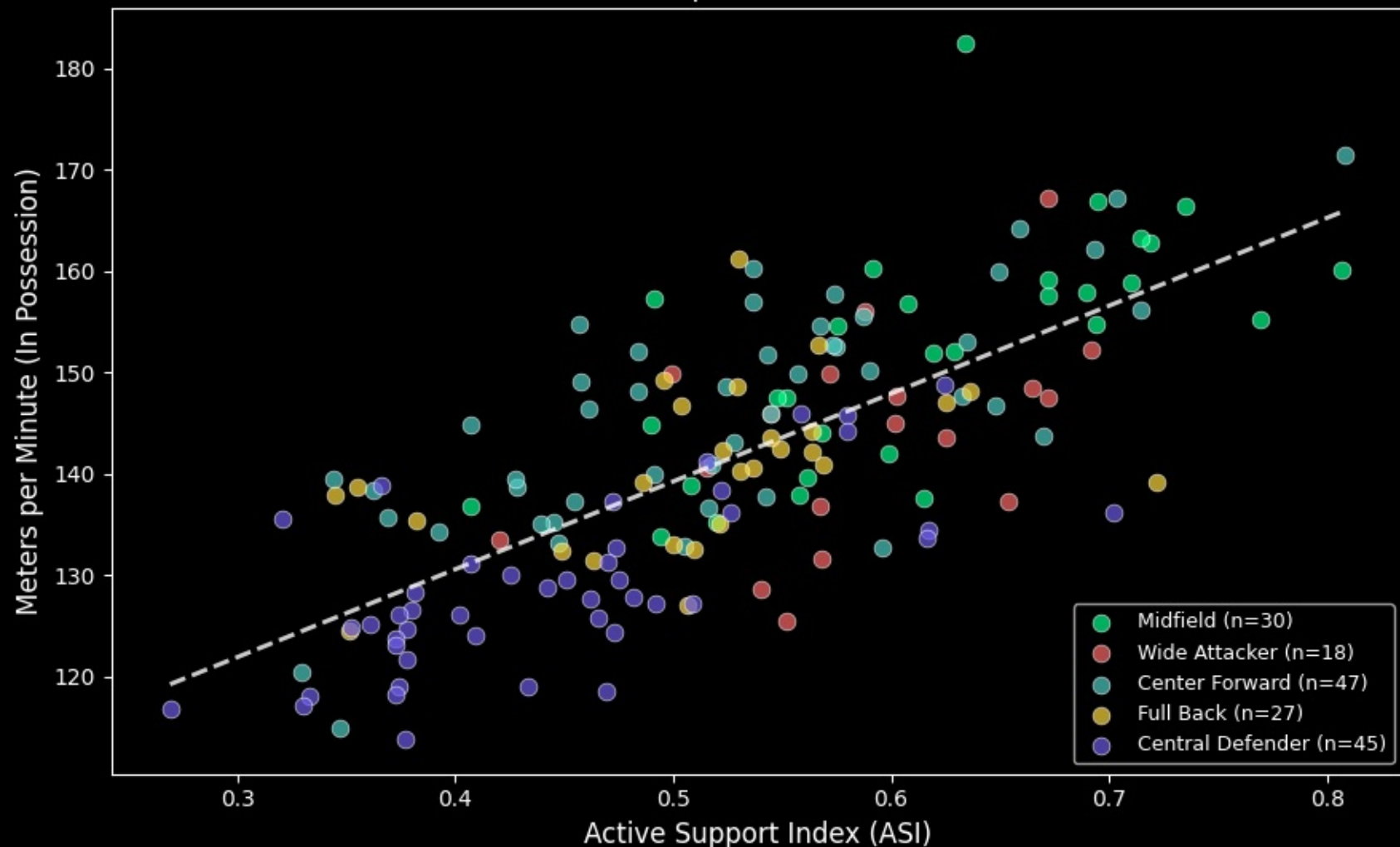
Level	Metric	Formula	Interpretation
Per Event	Active Support Ratio	Active Supporters / Nearby Teammates	Measures support quality in a single pressure moment.
Per Player	Player ASI	Active Support Count / Support Opportunities	Shows how often a player moves to support teammates.
Per Team	Team ASI	1 - Static Rate	Reveals a team's overall off-ball movement culture.

Zoom Level 3: Uncovering Team Styles and League Leaders

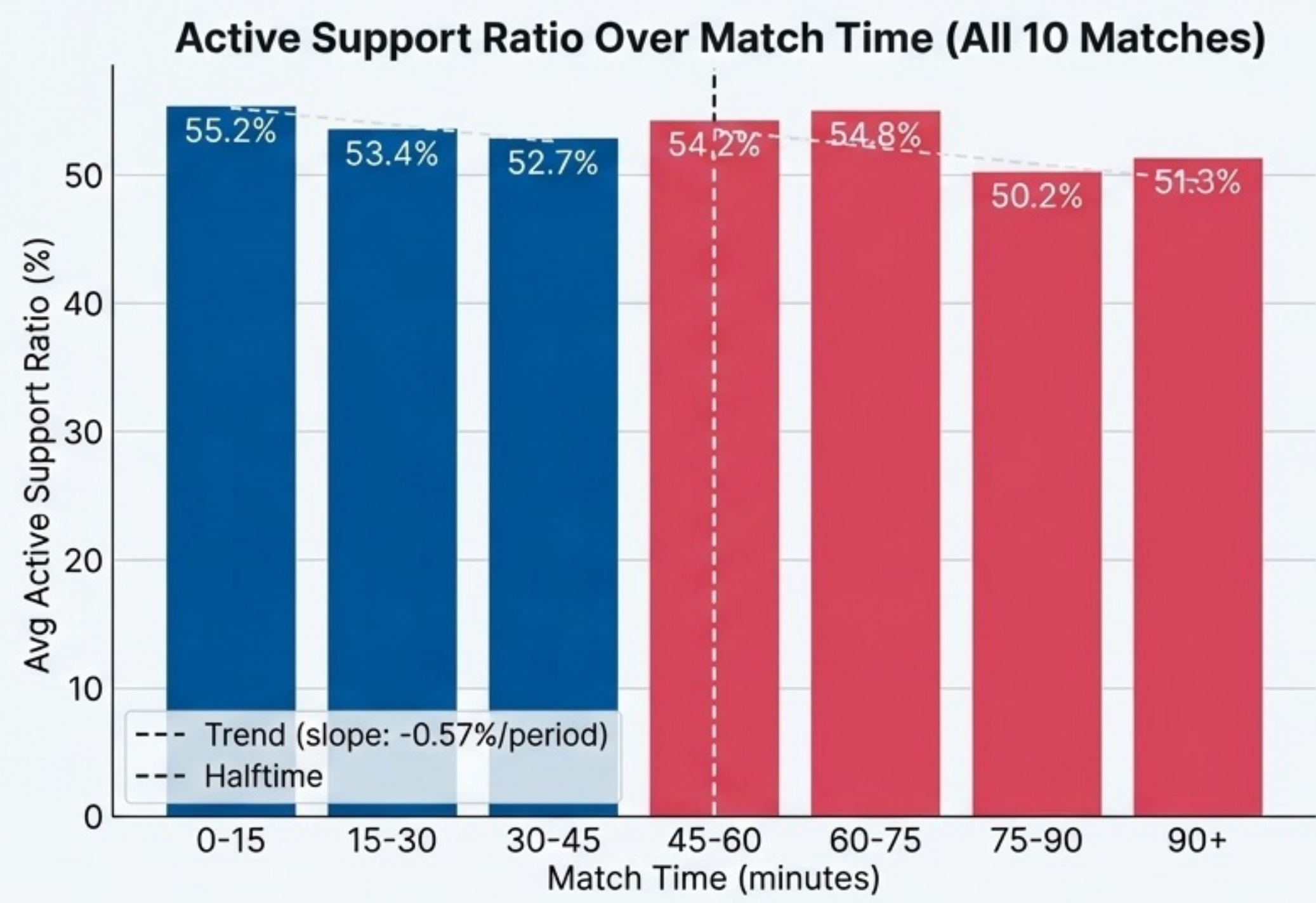


ASI vs Work Rate During Possession

$r = 0.74$, $p < 0.001$ ($n=167$)



Deeper Insights: Tracking Active Support and Fatigue Over Time



Primary Observation

Active support shows a slight downward trend within each half, with the lowest values appearing in the final 15 minutes of play (**50.2%**).

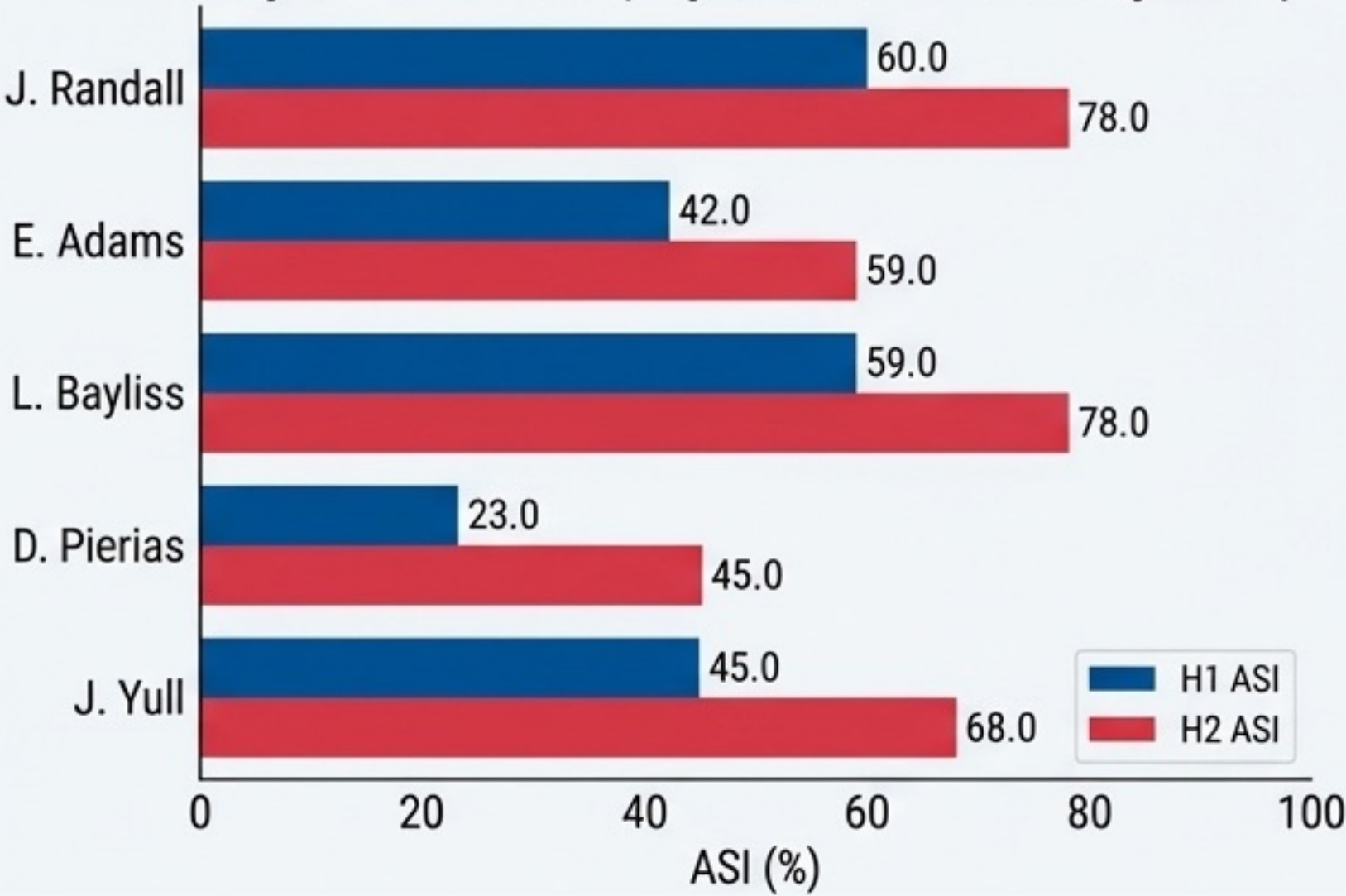
Statistical Nuance

While the overall first-half vs. second-half difference is not statistically significant ($p = 0.46$) with this dataset, the pattern suggests fatigue-related decline warrants further investigation with more matches.

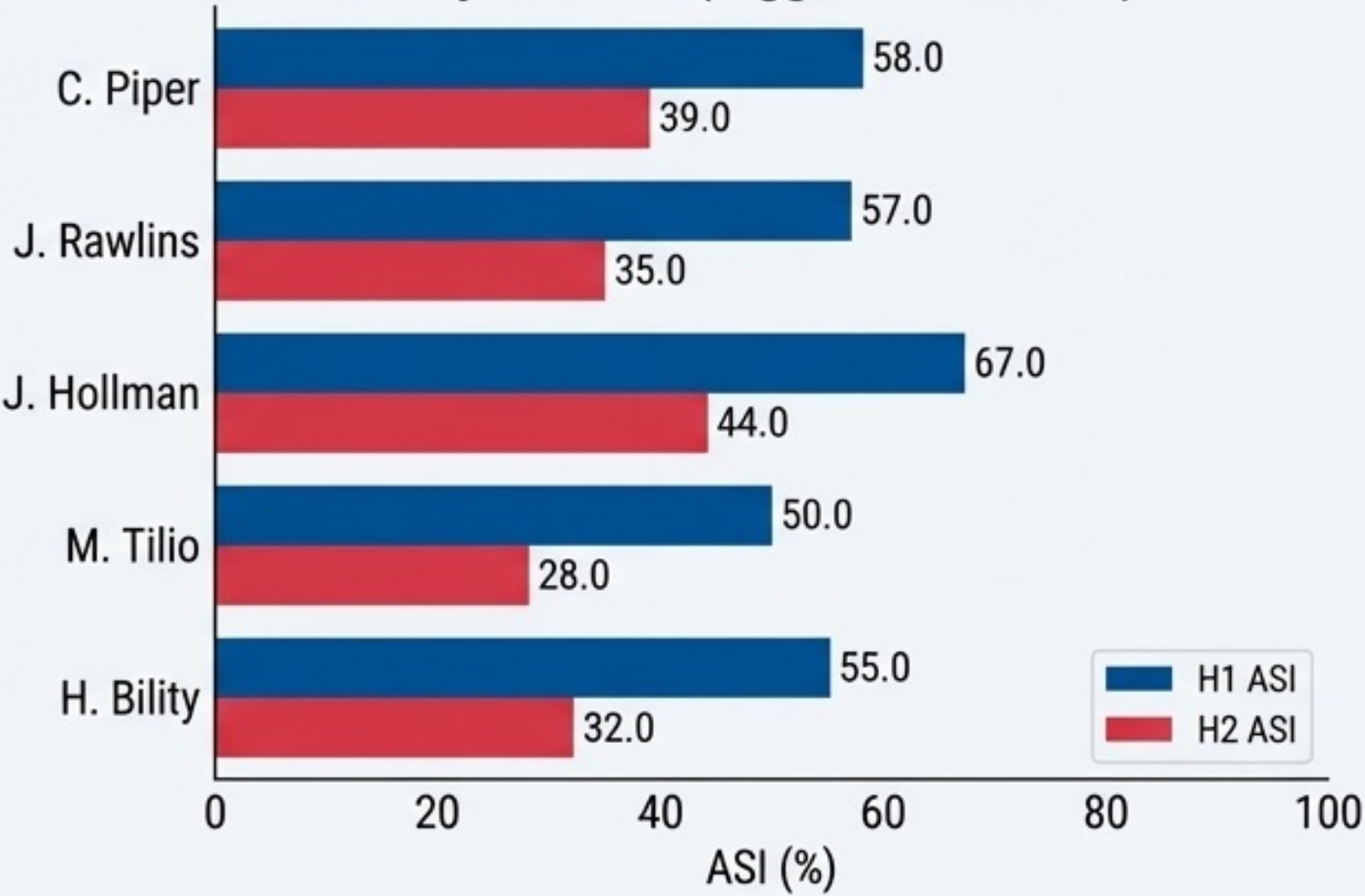
Player-Level Fatigue: Identifying the ‘Maintainers’ and the ‘Faders’

Main Idea: More players show declining off-ball support in the second half (58%) than improving (42%), but the real value is in identifying the outliers.

Top 5 Maintainers (Improved or held steady in H2)



Top 5 Faders (Biggest H2 decline)



From Insight to Impact: Practical Applications of the Active Support Index



Scouts

Identify 'highly-active supporter' players who consistently work off-ball to create options—a valuable trait that is hard to scout visually.



Coaches

Diagnose static tendencies in attack. Design training drills specifically aimed at improving support patterns and off-ball movement.



Analysts

Compare team tactical styles. Evaluate support quality by different zones on the pitch to see where the team is most/least effective.



Players

Receive objective, data-driven feedback on their off-ball contribution, an area of performance that often lacks quantitative measures.