

How they did it

On the field, Leicester turned back the clock and won the title with their retro but effective tactics.

Boasting no star names, Claudio Ranieri based his plans on a basic 4-4-2 system that relies more on direct balls, pace and finishing ability.



Average possession

19th

19th in EPL: 42.9%

1st: Man United 58%

Without a playmaker in the class of David Silva or Christian Eriksen, Claudio Ranieri had to devise a counter-attacking game that works without the majority of possession and more importantly, works to the strengths of his players.



Passes per game

19th

19th: 336

1st: Man City 538

Leicester's efficient style is not based on spinning an intricate web of passes but rather, getting the ball quickly from box to box, catching teams on the backfoot.



Passing accuracy

Last

20th: 69%

1st: Arsenal 84%

Again, the Foxes' style is not based on fluid passes, unlike how Arsenal want their players to keep the ball. Instead, they are more about hitting opponents quickly.



Long passes per game

4th

70 passes

It is easy to dismiss Ranieri's team as a bunch of long-ball merchants but the direct style suits Jamie Vardy, who usually outpaces backpedalling defenders to latch on to the direct punts.



Short passes per game

19th

266 passes

No tiki-taka finesse from Leicester as the essence of their tactics is to keep it simple... and most importantly, effective.



Percentage passes in final third

1st: 38%

It is telling that without hogging the ball or supreme passing accuracy, Ranieri's tactics are geared towards penetrating the opponents' box, with most of their passes directed there.



Average shots per goal

1st: 7.11

At the business end of the pitch, the Foxes top the charts where it matters the most - Getting the most shots on target.



Fewest team changes

1st: 27

This gave the team continuity and momentum and ultimately, form and belief, to mount a title assault.