# Best players of North African leagues 2020







Goalkeepers

Dahmen 3,7

Tagnaouti \* 4,0

Merbah 3,7

Defenders
Amamou \* 4,0
Aboulfath 3,9
Hamra 3,9
Chetti 3,7

Hamra 3,9 Zorgane 3,8
Chetti 3,7 Ben Larbi 3,9
Bach 3,6 El Hassouni 3,7
Mouali 3,5 Kadri \* 4,0

Midfielders

Wardi 3.6

Ben Romdhane 3,2

Midfielders Forwards
Bakir 3,5 Compaoré 3,3
Lakhal 3,7 El Berkaoui 3,5
Bouzok 3,6 Mahious 3,7

InStat is discovering new markets and would like to share its analysis with you. The leagues of Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria are full of players who can potentially, in future, build great careers for themselves. This report contains profiles of 21 players with each of the leagues represented with 7 hot prospects.

We continue using our new way of assessment. After selecting players according to their age, InStat Index and other main key parameters, six analysts start watching videos of various skills of all the chosen players. Their assessments of each skill form the average rate - InStat Analysis Rate. According to this rate we specially mention the three best players of this brochure.

This time we have three players who have the top rate - 4 points. **Ahmed Reda Tagnaouti** is a goalkeeper with excellent reactions, which helps him to stop even close range shots. **Hani Amamou** is a central defender with solid marking skills. He is also very reliable in tackles. We also want to mention a central midfielder **Abdelkahar Kadri**. Despite his young age he demonstrates very brave actions and makes many accurate passes into the penalty box.

#### Evgeniy Klepov,

InStat analysis department chief.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.7 / 5
Nationality Tunisia

Birth date **28.01.1997, age 23** 

Height 188 cm
Strong foot Right
TransferMarkt value € 725 000

National team Tunisia U23
Position Goalkeeper

Aymen Dahmen is a young goalkeeper of Club Sportif Sfaxien. He is a product of the club's academy, and he made his debut in the main team when he was 21. He played in youth national teams and in 2018 he was invited to Tunisia NT.

Dahmen is a tall, but fast and agile goalkeeper. He often moves out of the 6-yard box to intercept penetrating passes and he can move out of the penalty box to provide central defenders with backup. However he prefers to stay near the goal line during crosses. He controls the goal very well due to his good reactions, positioning and jumping skills. Dahmen reads opponents well during penalty shots and it makes him a great penalty stopper.



## Ahmed Reda Tagnaouti

Wydad Casablanca

InStat Analysis Rate: 4.0 / 5

Nationality Morocco

Birth date **05.04.1996, age 24** 

Height 192 cm
Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value € 1 200 000

National team Morocco

Position Goalkeeper

Ahmed Reda Tagnaouti is a young goalkeeper of Wydad Casablanca. He joined the team in 2016, he made his debut in the main team when he was 21. He has been the main goalkeeper of the team during the last two seasons. In 2017 he was invited to Morocco NT.

Tagnaouti is a tall and strong goalkeeper. He plays confidently when he should move out of the goal line - both to intercept crosses and to close distance with the opponent's forward. He isn't afraid of aerial duels and can clear the ball out of the box despite contact with opponents. He controls the goal line very well and exploits his positioning skills, size and arm-span to defend most of the goal. Also he is successful against close-range shots due to his quick reactions, although he should improve his defense against long shots.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.7 / 5

Nationality Algeria

Birth date 22.07.1994, age 25

Height 192 cm Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value € 475 000
National team Algeria

Position Goalkeeper

Gaya Merbah is a goalkeeper of Belouizdad. He joined the team last year. He played for Algeria U23 and in 2019 he was invited to Algeria NT.

Merbah is a tall goalkeeper with good reactions and agility. Despite his height he is fairly mobile and he moves fast along the goal line. This helps him to be effective in defending close-range shots. He doesn't have problems defending ground shots although sometimes he defends them with his feet. Merbah also plays confidently during crosses. He moves out of the 6-yard box and catches the ball or clears it out of the penalty box.



InStat Analysis Rate: 4.0 / 5
Nationality Tunisia

Birth date **16.09.1997, age 22** 

Height 189 cm Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value € 600 000
National team Tunisia U23

Position Central defender

Hani Amamou is a young central defender of Club Sportif Sfaxien. He is a product of the club's academy and he made his debut in the main team when he was 19. In the last year he was invited to Tunisia U23.

Amamou is a very reliable defender. He chooses his position well and controls space around him. He intercepts passes in the penalty box due to his good understanding of the game and he doesn't allow opponents to win both air and ground challenges in front of the goal. He wins aerial duels as easily during crosses as during vertical passes. Also he plays tightly in tackles (80% successful). Amamou prefers to keep his position and not to move out of the defensive line. But if it's necessary, he defends tenaciously, uses his body to push the opponent back from the ball.

Amamou is useful with the ball. He can make long passes behind the defensive line's back and he can also use diagonal passes to the flanks.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.9 / 5

Nationality Morocco

Birth date **27.10.1997, age 22** 

Height 183 cm Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value -

National team -

Position Central defender

Amin Aboulfath is a young central defender of Club Athletic Youssoufia Berrechid. He joined the team in 2018, but he became a player of the starting lineup just this season.

Aboulfath is not very tall, but a fast and mobile defender. He provides teammates with backup, often moving to the flanks to support them in defense. He reads the game well, picks correct positions in the penalty box and reacts quickly to passes or movements towards the goal. He makes many interceptions in the penalty box. Despite his height Aboulfath is effective in aerial duels - he uses his positioning and jumping skills to win air challenges (68% successful). Also he is very tenacious in tackling. He controls an opponent with the ball, plays tightly and doesn't allow him to penetrate into the space behind his back. He demonstrates good timing in tackles. With the ball Aboulfath can make accurate diagonal passes to the flanks or vertical passes to the front line.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.9 / 5
Nationality Algeria

Birth date 21.07.1997, age 22

Height 184 cm Strong foot Left

TransferMarkt value € 200 000

National team -

Position Central defender

After spending 1 year on loan with DRB Tadjenanet he earned his chance to play for the first team, and is now one of the key players for his team.

Hamra is a composed centre-back that keeps his concentration and calmness even in difficult situations. He is aggressive and eager to leave his position in order to close down opponents, which sometimes takes him to areas far from his position and this has been exploited by opponents on a few occasions. He is brave when rushing into tackles and quick to block opponent's shots and crosses. Inside the box he frequently gets in front of the opponent's striker to intercept crosses.

In attack, he delivers long balls forward into crowded zones where his teammates fight for the second ball, or plays long passes into the space behind the defense if his opponents play with a high defensive line.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.7 / 5
Nationality Algeria

Birth date 22.01.1995, age 25

Height 176 cm Strong foot Left

TransferMarkt value € 600 000

National team

Position Left defender

In July 2019 Chetti moved from JS Kabylie to Esperance. He has managed to score 1 goal and deliver 1 assist.

In possession, he is able to beat several opponents on the run due to his pace and sharp movement with the ball. He frequently overlaps and provides support in the final third. When there is an opportunity for a cross he doesn't always lift his head up to check out options inside the box, so delivery isn't always accurate.

Defensively, he proved to be aggressive and composed, rarely allowing opponents to outmaneuver him in 1v1 situations. Inside the box, he closes down the far post and doesn't allow runs behind his back, but can lose aerial duels if attacked by physically stronger opponents. In defensive transition he quickly tracks back and prevents opponents from hurting his team on the counter-attack in wide areas.





InStat Analysis Rate: 3.6 / 5

Nationality Morocco

Birth date 10.02.1998, age 22

Height 176 cm Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value € 350 000

National team -

Position Right defender

Anas Bach made it to the first team by going through the reserve ranks of Rabat.

In attack he doesn't make penetrating runs forward, and chooses his moments to overlap depending on the situation in the final third. As soon as he receives the ball in midfield there is a threat from him delivering diagonal long balls into the box, or in behind defense for runners.

Defensively, he controls the space well, anticipates the opponent's actions and finds good positions to make interceptions. He is strong in duel play, tracks opponents with pace and uses his upper body strength well to brush off players with the ball. In transition he is quick to track back and prevent further counter-attack development by making rightly timed tackles on the ball carrier.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.5 / 5
Nationality Algeria

Birth date **16.01.1998, age 22** 

Height 178 cm Strong foot Left

TransferMarkt value € 725 000

National team -

Position Left defender

In 2017 Hamza was introduced into the first team of Paradou U21. In this current season he has managed to score 3 goals from the full-back position and deliver 5 assists in all competitions.

Hamza is a very attack minded full-back, capable of making relentless runs up and down the flank, frequently offering width for the team in the final third. Deliveries into the box are accurate, but he also finds teammates who make runs in behind - 64% of successful key passes. With 57% of successful dribbles he manages to create good positions to send crosses by himself, and has a big influence in the chance creation phase of his team's attacks.

He proved to be solid defensively and difficult to play against in 1v1 situations, but when closing down opponents with the ball sometimes he doesn't adjust his body well and opens up both sides for the ball carrier to dribble into.



#### Mohamed Ali Ben Romdhane

Esperance Sportive de Tunis

InStat Analysis Rate: 3.2 / 5
Nationality Tunisia

Birth date **06.09.1999**, age **20** 

Height 185 cm

Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value € 400 000

National team Tunisia

Position Defensive midfielder

This young and promising defensive midfielder has already managed to play for the national team of Tunisia in 2019, with potential to be one of key players for his team in the future.

From a defensive point of view, he times his runs to close down opponents well, controls movement of midfield lines and has good decision making on where and when to apply pressure - 73% of successful tackles. He is also difficult to play against in the air, as he manages to deal with long balls with confidence - 77% of air challenges won.

In attack he could still improve decision making, as he sometimes rushes to make a forward pass which leads to loss of possession. He supports teammates in all areas of the field, but prefers to play safe, choosing side and back passes to control the tempo. If he finds positions closer to the box, he might take long shots towards the opponent's goal.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.6 / 5

Nationality Morocco

Birth date **17.08.1998, age 21** 

Height 183 cm

Strong foot **Both** 

TransferMarkt value € 475 000
National team Morocco U23

Position Defensive midfielder

El Wardi joined the youth center of the Moroccan Club Tetouan at an early age. He was called up to play for the Moroccan national team when under 20 years old and he performed well. Then he was called up to play for the Moroccan club Tetouan despite his young age. During the season 2018 - 2019, he participated in several games and gave good performances which attracted interest from big clubs. He was later contracted by Raja Casablanca on a three and a half years contract.

Zakaria is the axis of the team (41 passes per game) and is the most creative, due to his good technique, mobility, and vision. Wardi is a skillful player who uses his ability to pass and create some chances for his teammates (0.74 key passes per 90 game). This player performs a lot of functionality and quickly adapts to each opponent. Depending on the situation he can either drop back in to cover and to start the play or can fill in centrally and act more offensively. He has a high level of mental transition from attacking to defending and defending to attacking. He quickly switches from different phases. He has a high level of physical fitness. He spends less time on quick recovery between actions (a good level of recovery capacity).

The player though has some problems in the final phase of attack when performing shots. Shots are most often unprepared or applied from unfavorable positions.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.8 / 5

Nationality Algeria

Birth date **06.01.2000, age 20** 

Height 184 cm Strong foot Both

TransferMarkt value € 1 300 000

National team Algeria

Position Defensive midfielder

In 2018, Zorgane made his senior debut for Paradou AC. In his first season with the professionals at Paradou, he made 26 appearances in Ligue Professionnelle 1, in which he scored two goals. In the summer of 2018, Zorgane was part of Algeria's under-18 national team at the 2018 Mediterranean Games in Tarragona, Spain.

Adem is a two-footed midfielder who plays on the left interior of the midfield. He has a good physique, combined with great technique and great balance and dribbling ability. At 184 cm tall, Adem is very good physically and his shielding of the ball shows perfectly the use of his athletic physique. The player is also more than just a good passer of the ball with incredible vision. All this combined with a good first touch or by the weight of pass he puts on the ball allows him to perform 65 passes per game with a success rate of 89%. His first touch puts him in a position to get a view of all the movements on the pitch and he perfectly lobs a ball over the defense to free his teammates. On average, he makes 2.4 passes into the penalty box per game with 50% success.

However, this player has a low defensive contribution. He has some problems with understanding a tactical game in positional defense. Lazy to drop deep in time, not aggressive with a high press and has a low amount of interceptions. This contribution averages him 3.7 tackles per match, which isn't good for a defensive midfielder.



#### **Mohamed Firas Ben Larbi**

Etoile Sportive du Sahel

InStat Analysis Rate: 3.9 / 5
Nationality Tunisia

Birth date 27.05.1996, age 24

Height 171 cm Strong foot Left

TransferMarkt value € 900 000
National team Tunisia

Position Central midfielder

Mohamed can be useful as a central midfielder, number 10, or on either flank as he is doing equally well wherever he plays. Being able to drift into half-spaces on the wings while starting in the center is one of his specialties.

Mohamed is a mobile and technically skilled player. He is intelligent, knowing when to vary his movements and support attacks down the flanks, and when to drop deep to receive the ball from his center-backs. If the deeper forward is marked, then he provides him with support. The player rushes to the free spaces in order to receive passes in motion. In addition, when changing possession, the central midfielder tries to immediately move into the space between the lines in order to develop the attack forward. His understanding of the game and creativity allows him to make a lot of smart passes (2 key passes per game) and deliver support to the front lines. The youngster averages 77% pass accuracy per game and also manages to send 1.2 long balls per game. His strong decision-making often helps him prepare for a long-range pass so he can escape the pressure of his markers.

The player successfully uses speedy dribbling. However, he is a clear left-footed player, which makes him predictable when beating an opponent. He has perfect ball control and a great first touch. He is often using his body shape to confuse his markers. He is extremely comfortable receiving the ball under pressure and finding a teammate.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.7 / 5
Nationality Morocco

Birth date 22.02.1995, age 25

Height 175 cm Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value € 450 000

National team -

Position Central midfielder

This player graduated from the Academy of Wydad Sports Club. He is distinguished by his mastery of dribbling and the accuracy of his pasess. He takes a key role in important matches, whether at the Moroccan League level or the African Champions League level.

Ayman is a focal point of attacks. He acts as a target man to knock the ball down for midfielders arriving from deep. In case of high pressing by opponents, his goalkeeper and central defenders send long balls to Hassouni who has won 41% of all air challenges in the season. He can pick up free balls and then by individual actions make some goal scoring chances. Ayman is the best passer of the team and he makes 0.76 key passes per game with 75% success. He is a very skillful player and makes more than 63% of successful dribbles. He can play on the sides as well as centrally. He always scans the pitch and is aware of his surroundings at all times. The player has a low level of finishing, with a high number of goal-scoring chances inside the box. Most of them have been the result of clever runs into the box where he's been picked out and then finished ruthlessly. The player also has fast feet. He often uses both the inside and the outside part of his foot to quickly change direction. His skill in tight areas and unpredictability are critical in Wydad's ability to break down opposing teams. It is especially important that he continues to qualitatively progress the ball (it does not matter through a pass, run, or shoot) after he has beaten an opponent. His success in dribbling and beating players in the final third, however, often creates opportunities for him to find his teammates in favorable positions.



InStat Analysis Rate: 4.0 / 5

Nationality Algeria

Birth date **24.06.2000, age 20** 

Height -

Strong foot **Both** 

TransferMarkt value € 325 000
National team Algeria U23

Position Central midfielder

Abdelkahar is stationed on the left-hand side of a midfield three, allowing him to have a lot of freedom on the pitch. He seeks above all to be efficient and sharp in his actions or decisions. The movements and positioning of the midfielder when his team is in possession are always intelligent and useful. He is comfortable in positional play, where he has to patiently pass the ball around to find spaces in the opponent's block. However, he is just as capable of participating actively in the build-up play, dictating the tempo from a low starting position.

He has high attacking and defensive capabilities and constantly finds himself in and around the top of the box to be the main pivot for the midfield. He has both the creativity to play a key pass and the energy to get back in transition (0.81 key passes and 1.76 ball recoveries on the opposite side per game respectively). He has a high counter-pressing mentality. As the ball is in transition, Kadri shows his drive and energy to get back and attempt to win the ball.

The player's vision helps the team predict the next pass before the opposing team is ready. Abdelkahar is constantly looking up and trying to move the ball forward. The midfielder has fast feet, a low center of gravity, good body balance, coordination, and agility. This allows the player to effectively progress the ball in dribbling, using various tools to beat the opponent (ball roll, roulette, fake shots).



### Mohamed Islam Bakir

Club Sportif Sfaxien

InStat Analysis Rate: 3.5 / 5
Nationality Algeria

Birth date **13.07.1996**, age 23

Height 170 cm
Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value € 550 000

National team -

Position Left midfielder

Mohamed played at RC Arbaa U21 and made it to the senior team in 2015. After a season, he moved to ES Sétif, where he spent 3 years. Last summer he signed a new contract with CS Sfaxien as a free agent. He has only played one game with the national team and it was with the U23 team.

Bakir is a left winger who plays as a reverse winger, since he is right footed. Despite playing on the flank, he is able to move to the center and take part building up play in the last third. Due to this, he can also play as attacking midfielder, exploiting his vision of the game and capacity for sending through passes. In addition, he is a key player in counterattacks, due to his speed, technique and powerful change of pace, receiving passes and exploiting free spaces ahead. His ball handling is also good, as well as his dribble, overtaking opponents in short spaces. Mohamed also has a good touch with his right foot, playing fast combinations with 1 touch after creating numerical advantage moving to half space zones or in front of the box. Due to his good passing skills, he is able to send accurate long diagonal passes and he is in charge of taking set pieces for his team. Bakir is able to finish attacks with mid range shots or making runs from deep.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.7 / 5

Nationality Morocco

Birth date **07.07.1996, age 23** 

Height 175 cm Strong foot Left

TransferMarkt value € 350 000

National team -

Position Right midfielder

Ayoub arrived in Moghreb Tétouan in 2018 after playing in Olympique Khouribga. He did this as a free agent and this is his second season with the club.

Lakhal is a right winger who plays as a reverse winger. Despite playing on the right side, he is left footed and tends to always use his left foot. Due to this, he likes to dribble in a diagonal direction looking for a chance to strike or move forward looking for the byline before cutting inside and crossing with his left foot, sending an inswinger cross. Sometimes he uses the external border of his left foot to make crosses, saving time when changing the ball from one foot to the other. He stands out for his technique, dribbling and change of pace. When he receives the ball on the flank, he always looks for the 1 vs 1, dragging out the defender to overtake him (4.3 dribbles per game, 49%) or send a through pass. Defenders tend to foul him. He is able to control the tempo of the game, exploiting his good vision of the game. Due to this, sometimes he drops his position and helps in building up phase, as well as moving into the half space zone to create passing lines and accelerate the game by playing one-twos or three men combinations with one touch. He is one of the main targets in counters, due to his speed, good control of the ball and vision of the field. Also, he is proactive in counter pressing and medium block pressing. If he regains the ball, he is able to finish the action himself with mid range shots.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.6 / 5

Nationality Algeria

Birth date **18.08.1996, age 23** 

Height 175 cm

Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value € 400 000

National team -

Position Right midfielder

Yousri has been playing for Paradou AC for the last 3 seasons, and in this one, he is standing out for his 10 goals scored and 5 assists.

Boukoz is a right winger who plays as a regular winger, since despite using both feet, he prefers his right. However, he is able to play as a left winger and even as an attacking midfielder. Depending on where he plays, his movements will be different, although his style of playing will always be the same. Yousri is always looking for 1vs1 situations, exploiting his great dribbling and change of pace. He averages 4 dribbles per game with 50% efficiency, but he is able to overtake a few players or dribble around the same one several times in one action. He stands out for his dribbling, moving forward or in diagonal direction, getting into the box and finishing. He is very dangerous when playing on the left side, since he cuts inside and exploits his great shooting ability, normally looking for the far post. Besides his good ball handling, he reads the game well and makes intelligent runs behind or in between defenders to receive through passes and face the goalkeeper in 1vs1 situations, finishing with efficiency using both feet. He is in charge of taking set pieces for his team, as well as penalty kicks.



InStat Analysis Rate: 3.3 / 5

Nationality Burkina Faso

Birth date 23.04.1998, age 22

Height 188 cm
Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value € 675 000
National team Burkina Faso

Position Forward

Bassirou started his professional career in his country, Burkina Faso, playing for Sonabel. In the summer of 2017, he moved to Morocco to play for Ittihad Tanger, but only for 6 months. After another 8 months he changed clubs again, and arrived in Club African, in Tunisia, his actual club today. He also plays for the Burkina Faso national team.

Compaoré is a powerful striker, who exploits his athletic skills when he has to challenge for the ball with his back to goal, as well as with free spaces ahead. He is the main target of his team, so he receives both, low and lob passes. In the first case, he is more efficient than in the second (40% air challenges). He covers the ball well and can turn around to dribble forward or send through passes. Bassirou also does well in counters where he can move to the flank or make diagonal runs to receive passes in behind center backs. He is dangerous with free spaces ahead. Compaoré is also able to play with one touch passes with his back to goal or after dropping into the space in between lines. When doing this, he can control the ball and look for 1vs1 situations (2.6 dribbles per game, 38%). Due to his efficiency in air challenges, he is the target in set pieces, showing good heading ability and scoring several goals. In the last third, he makes good runs to receive the ball without opposition and strike a shot.



#### Karim El Berkaoui Hassania Union Sport Agadir

InStat Analysis Rate: 3.5 / 5

Nationality Morocco

Birth date 29.03.1995, age 25

Height 175 cm

Strong foot Right

TransferMarkt value € 400 000

National team Morocco
Position Forward

Karim arrived in his club, Hassania d'Agadir, in 2013 and he is still playing there. He has also played for the Morocco national team, being part of the squad in the games played last November.

El Berkaoui is a striker who doesn't stand out for his height. However, despite his 175 centimetres height, he is the target for his teammates, winning 33% of air challenges. He exploits his mobility well to be able to anticipate and win challenges, making flicks ons or headers after crosses. He stands out for his good spatial awareness, so due to this, he moves away from his opponents to receive the ball in between lines, on flanks or behind the defensive line and play with one touch or strike. When receiving, he can turn around and send key passes. Inside the box, he showed himself as a cold blood player. He is fast and skillful, so he uses this to receive through passes or to receive passes on the flanks before making diagonal dribbles (2 per game, 44%). Another of his strengths is his shooting. He can make powerful shots, as well as accurate shots after an individual action or after picking up a free ball. Due to his good shooting skills, he takes penalty kicks and direct free kicks.





InStat Analysis Rate: 3.7 / 5

Nationality Algeria

Birth date **15.09.1997, age 22** 

Height 181 cm Strong foot Both

TransferMarkt value € 300 000

National team Algeria

Position Forward

Aymed signed with his actual club, USM Alger, in 2018. After playing there for 5 months, he went on loan for another 6 months, before moving back to his team. He has also played with the Algerian national team, being part of the team last October.

Mahious is a tall and powerful striker with the target man role in his team. Due to this, he challenges 20 aerial balls per game, winning 40%. In addition to this, he is good at playing with his back to the goal, receiving passes from his teammates, dragging out the opponent's center backs and controlling the ball, covering and holding the ball well due to his size. He can turn around and dribble forward or play with his teammates. In the first case, as well as when receiving passes into the free space, he exploits his powerful stride to move forward, especially after making runs behind defenders or when moving to flanks, especially to the left flank. Due to this, he forces a big number of fouls near the box. He makes intelligent movements to exploit free spaces, especially in counters. However, despite being the target, he is able to make runs into the free spaces, finishing the action himself or sending a key pass. Despite his height, he has good ball handling and is able to dribble past several players. One of his strengths is his ability to finish crosses with headers.