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EFICYENCY OF THE BALL PASSES IN THE FINALE SOCCER MATCH IN THE EUROPENA CHAMPIONSHIP „EURO 2008”

Introduction

The soccer is the most disseminated and most popular sport in the world .The modern soccer , besides others is upholds to the systematic application of new technologies, programs and methods for optimization of training workload and direction with the preparation system and player recuperation .

New technologies offer more and more systems-facilities, and methods with which enables wide application of modern scientific knowledge in every day practice. In this meaning, the special importances have the noninvasive methods, rational, which offer relevant information for efficient management with desirable systems of the body transformation.

New technologies form the methodological foundation, material-technical and technological, for advancement of training process and efficiency of recuperation.

On of the mostly used programs in soccer statistical analyses is „ **PROZONE**” through which are collected information about animation of efficiency of game, standard indicators of efficiency ,conditional parameters and total game statistics.

(Di Salvo, V., Baron, R and Cardinale,M,2007) In the study analyzed 68 European games, including 58 teams and 791 players (Champions League, UEFA Cup) with Prozone ® a new computerized video system. The system uses the following parameters: Walking (0.2-7.2km/h), Jogging (7.3-14.4km/h), Run (14.5-19.8km/h),High Speed run (19.9-25.2km/h) and Sprint (>25.3km/h). High Intensity was defined as the sum of high speed run and sprint distance (>19.9km/h).

It’s difficult to exactly define factors that brings the victory or loss of the game ,because of the complexity of the soccer game.

An alternative approach towards match analysis was exemplified by (Reep and Benjamin,1968),who collected data from 3213 matches between 1953 and 1968 .They were concerned with actions such as passing and shutting rather than work-rates of individual players. They reporter that 80% of goals resulted from a sequence of there passes or less. fifty per cent of all goals came from possession gained in the final attacking quarter of the pitch .

(Bate,1988) found that 94% of goals scored at all levels of international soccer were scored from movements involving four or less passes ,and that 50-60% of all movements loading to shots on goal originated in the attacking third of the field .Bate explored aspects of chance in soccer and its relation to tactics and strategy in the light of the results presented by Reep and Benjamin 1968 .It was claimed that goals are not scored unless the attacking team gets the ball and one, or more, attacker into the attac-

king third of the field .He concluded that to increase the number of scoring opportunities a team should play the ball forward as often as possible; reduce square and back passes to a minimum; Increase the number of long passes forward and forward runs with the ball and play the ball into space as often as possible .

(Szwarc, 2008) In his study, where all the teams which participated in 31 matches of the final tournament at the European Champs in 2004 were examined. 61 observations of 16 national teams were taken, has demonstrated also that active play and forcing own offensive actions are very useful and winning, despite often missed actions which are a rule in the current soccer. In addition, it has been found that missed passes are main reason for loss of a ball in the attack

Nevertheless, different forms of game activities are none and the different information are being collected according to players activities in game ,thus can be possible to prove factors that enables success in sport. The other valuable method for identification of decisive factors for the final success in sport is the evaluation of the qualitative and quantitative execution of the technical-tactical elements of the game in the winner and loser team on the direct game.

In the last championship Euro 2008, was used the most sophisticate technology of the recording and analyzing the soccer games.

The informative technology for suiting the moving targets which is used for the military needs was used in the European championship hold in two countries : Austria and Switzerland were was analyzed the contribution of itch player in the game field .This was enabled using eight cameras placed in the way to cover whole soccer field.

The applied informative technology enabled the recording of the player in real time ,so for the spectators was possible to watch the game from all aspects and engagement of itch player . This enabled to follow the aspect of the speed breakthrough to the goal ,to record the speed of the and the distance of the ball not only for example free kick bat also for the passes , jumping high of player and lot of other elements .

The records of this modern technology were used also to analyze the difference between the two finalist teams of the soccer European championship UEFA 2008 regarding the ball passes ,and also the impact of ball passes in final success of the game.

AIM OF THE WORK

Regarding the fact that subjective evaluation of one coach ore a expert group can't derive and exact conclusion about the real engagement of players in the soccer field during or after game ,in the certain game ,it is needed that evaluation of the players contribution during the game to be based on the modern informative technology.

The main aim of this research is to investigate and describe the competitive efficiency of the players and the team, respectively, competitive efficiency of the players, and the competitive efficiency of the two finalist teams in the last European championship. Those elements were recorded:

- Short passes
- Middle passes
- Long passes

Another objective of this research is to look for differences between two finalist teams in the number and the accuracy of the technical elements mentioned above.

METHODOLOGY

Sample of entities

The population from where the sample in this research is defined as the population of 27 soccer players of two national teams: Spain (14 players) and Germany (13 players), finalist teams in the last European championship Euro 2008.

Sample of variables

The technical parameters which were drawn from the final match are: ball possession in %, total number of passes, short passes, middle passes and long passes.

Methodology of data processing

According to the aim of the work, there were used the methods that enable the collection of relevant information for the achievement of the aim.

Descriptive statistics that were calculated: Average, Standard Deviation, minimal and maximal values, the T-test was used for confirmation of the differences between two teams regarding the efficiency of passes.

Descriptive statistics for ball passes

In Table nr.1 are shown the descriptive statistics for the ball passes: Total number of passes, short passes, middle passes and long passes of the Spanish national team in EURO 2008.

From the total number of 401 passes, the Spanish players realized the average of 28.64 total passes. The smaller value of passes is 3 and the higher is 62 total passes per one player.

From the table we can see that the smallest number of passes in the final match is from the short passes with the average of 6.36, where the minimal value is 1 and maximal is 13 passes for one player.

The most passes were in the middle passes with average 16.2 passes, with the minimal value of 2 and maximal 35 passes for one player.

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Min	Maxi	Mean	Std. Dev
TOTAL PASSES	14	3.00	62.00	28.6429	16.3595
SHORT PASSES	14	1.00	13.00	6.3571	4.0117
MIDDLE PASSES	14	2.00	35.00	16.2143	10.2220
LONG PASSES	14	.00	22.00	6.0714	6.1076

Tab 1. Descriptive statistics for the ball passes – national Spanish team

Long passes in final match are taking place in average of 6.1 passes.

In table nr.2 are shown descriptive statistics for the national team of Germany, the total number of passes, short passes, middle passes, and long passes. From the total number of passes of 461, the 13 players of German national team have realized the average of 35.46 total passes. The smallest number of 3 total passes had one player, whereas maximal number of total passes is 53 total passes. From the table we can see that the long passes has the smallest average 4.92 total passes in final match.

The higher averages of the passes have the middle passes 23.92 passes. Short passes in the final match take place with average of 6.61.

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Min	Maxi	Mean	Std. Dev
TOTAL PASSES	13	3.00	53.00	35.4615	14.6721
SHORT PASSES	13	1.00	12.00	6.6154	3.6638
MIDDLE PASSES	13	.00	44.00	23.9231	12.9387
LONG PASSES	13	1.00	11.00	4.9231	3.0676

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of the ball passes – national team of Germany

DISSECTION OF THE BALL PASSES ACORDING TO THE PERCENTAGE OF REALIZATION

The Spanish team in distinction with German team has come to final match with no any lost game (to the semifinal). In final match has encounter with the German team which showed very good results in eliminatory matches.

Analyzing the information's from the table 3 we can gather the descriptive statistics about the engagement of both teams Spanish and German national team, in technical elements, ball passes and ball possession.

The indicators of player engagement, in this case the Spanish team, that was a winner of final match, don't conform completely with the final result. Even the German team dominated, as in the ball possession and in the ball passes the team didn't achieve to win the game. The Spanish team had 49% of the ball possession, comparing with the loser team –Germany that had 51%. From the whole number of the ball passes completely 862, the Spanish team realized 401 passes or 46.52%, while the German team had 461 passes or 53.48%.

The Spanish and German team had paid attention to all passes, short passes, middle passes and the long ones. The Spanish team had 89 short passes with the efficiency of 78% comparing with the German team which had 86 short passes with the efficiency 65%. The Spanish team realized a bit less number of middle passes, altogether

227 with efficiency 87%. Regarding the long passes, the team of Spain had domination with total number of 85 long passes with efficiency 59%, comparing with the loser team –Germany which had 64 long passes with the efficiency 58%. The number of complete passes and the time of ball possession show the fact that Spanish team had domination in the short and long passes, by the fact that after the goal achievement they delayed the actions, slowing the game with short passes. This fitted in to them regarding the importance of the match.

GERMANY	51%	TP	%	SHP	%	MP	%	LP	%
01. Lehman	Jens	39	82	3	67	25	88	11	73
03. Fredrich	Arne	40	75	6	33	30	87	4	50
21. Metzelder	Chiristph	53	85	6	33	42	95	5	60
17. Mertesacker	Per	53	92	2	100	44	93	7	86
16.Lahm	Philip	46	85	8	63	37	89	1	100
(46 Jansen)	Marcell	30	70	4	75	19	74	7	57
15.Hitzlsberger	Thomas	30	70	9	78	17	71	4	50
(58 Kurany)	Kevin	3	33	1	0	*****	*****	2	50
08.Frings	Torsten	50	88	11	82	34	94	5	60
20.Podolski	Lukas	31	81	11	82	18	89	2	0
13.Ballack	Micahel	30	67	9	44	15	93	6	33
07. Schweinsteiger	Bastian	41	63	12	58	20	70	9	56
11.Klose	Miroslav	15	73	4	100	10	70	1	0
Total		461	79	86	65	311	87	64	58

SPAIN	49%	TP	%	SHP	%	MP	%	LP	%
01.Casilas	Iker	27	52	2	100	3	100	22	41
15.Sergio	Ramos	53	79	12	67	35	83	6	83
05.Puyol	Carles	26	88	5	100	17	100	4	25
04.Marshena	Carlos	27	93	4	100	18	100	5	60
11.Capdevila	Joan	39	72	10	70	24	88	5	0
19.Senna	Marcos	45	87	13	85	22	95	10	70
06.Iniesta	Andres	27	74	7	71	17	71	3	100
10.Fabregas	Cesc	26	81	7	57	15	93	4	75
(63 Alonso)	Xabi	8	75	2	50	5	100	1	0
08.Xavi	Hernandez	62	94	12	92	34	97	16	88
21.Silva	David	23	87	3	100	15	87	5	80
(66 Santi)	Cazorla	15	73	5	80	8	75	2	50
09.Torres	Fernando	20	55	6	67	12	58	2	0
(78 Guiza)	Daniel	3	0	1	0	2	0	****	****
Total		401	79	89	78	227	87	85	59

Tabel. 3. Ball passes in final match Germany-Spain.

DIFFERENCE IN BALL PASSES BETWEEN TWO TEAMS

In table .4 are shown differences between two finalist teams of the European championship, Spain team as a champion and Germany vice champion.

According to differences in average values of all ball passes there is no significant statistical difference at the level $p=0.05$.

Also with the application of T-test is obvious that only the variable of the middle passes has a tendency for small difference like in above analyzed table.

The both finalist teams don't differ regarding the all kinds of passes that means that they have approximately the same ball passes.

	t	df	Sig. (2-t)
TOTALP			
	1.142	24.975	.264
SHORTP	.174	25	.863
	.175	24.995	.863
MIDLEP	1.725	25	.097
	1.709	22.854	.101
LONGP	-.610	25	.548
	-.624	19.467	.540
TOTALP	1.137	25	.266
	1.142	24.975	.264
SHORTP	.174	25	.863
	.175	24.995	.863

Tab 4 .Differences in ball passes between Spain and Germany.

DISCUSSION

According to the survey that was done to the ball passes in all matches in championship that played the champion team-Spain and vice champion-Germany its obvious that Spanish team had bigger number of passes with higher accuracy of execution. This fact shows the engagement of players during all matches. But, in some matches ball possession time wasn't determinative variable for winning the game. This shows as that we shouldn't look at the soccer game only from the aspect of the number of ball passes and time of ball possession. The soccer game is composed also from the other elements of game, those are : kicking with leg and head, passes (short, middle and long), Dribble, ball reception and ball direction, interruption of the action of the opponent team, ball taking, which anyhow influence the final success.

Particular importance in soccer game analyze in future should be paid to the efficiency of the execution of technical elements not only passes, but also the other technical elements.

Efficiency is calculated in the way that the total number of successful executed elements is divided and calculated as percentage of the total executed elements (Bozhenko, Godik) .In the same way is being made the analyze of some technical elements.

Thus we gain the **efficiency coefficient**. If we take the number of ball passes executed in final match we see that Germany had 461 passes with the efficiency coefficient 0.79, while Spain 401 with efficiency coefficient 0.79.

Before all the players during the game move with different intensity and execute different movements. After all data are collected, we gain the amount of work done, which is the main element in planning the training process and the main indicator for the game analyze and preparation for the next game.

Elsewhere we should look, which is the whole number of technical elements, which the team had executed during one game and what was the efficiency of those elements.

The investigations showed up that top quality teams during one match execute about 750 to 800 elements, and that the team that wishes to win, should in this case demonstrate the efficiency 0.70 to 0.75 during the complete match. (prejardhja e te dhe- nave per referenc)

After that analyze should be done for each element separately in complete match and also in some part of the match, in this way we follow the engagement of team as whole and engagement of each player separately.

It's interesting to be mentioned that the coach of champion team has very good analyzed the coming match collecting a lot of information's. Analyzing the previous match of his and the opponent team he came to the needed information's regarding the method of game, general psycho-physical preparation, individual possibilities of opponent team players for his next game. In this meaning it's interesting the recommendation that gave (A.Bozhenko) Hi proposes, that in the frame of the analyzes of competitive activity to be paid attention to the fact that between which players is going the higher number of passing combinations.

That says a lot about the fact who is the bearer of the game and in which way is game organized. With this coach has good opportunity to prepare contradistinction measures. In this way dealt the coach of champion team –Spain, because understanding this reality in each match had opportunity to prepare the surprise that always gave the priority against the opponent team.

This continuance shows accurate way to suit the indicators that coach suit's. Most of the none coaches, so the coach of the champion team, has done this simply through the videotapes, collaborators and programs, in a concrete case with the program **“Castrol Performance Index”**

If we don't take into consideration those indications, or we base only in personal impressions or in personal experience, we can't evaluate professionally those indicators. However, there is big possibility for making mistake. Coach may have impression that one of players plays good only based in that that he executed attractive game two-three times, even many times he made mistakes and in that he damaged the finalization of action. The champion team coach has paid attention to the Middlefield playing particular attention covering the Middlefield with quality players with very accurate passes.

The program for suite of players and their engagement on the field in European championship EURO 2008, analyzing their competitive engagement is very important

because is evidenced engagement of each player, and also is useful when their evaluation is done in „soccer market“

This was a motivation for players to be maximally committed in this championship.

CONCLUSIONS

Modern soccer contends big complexity and variability of technical-tactical and motoric during the game, which are oriented in higher achievement of tempo, efficiency, dynamics and attractiveness, and optimal development of the player personality and with this also the sport success in competition.

The efficiency in soccer game is possible only then if in systematic way are being defined the different occurrences which are of particular importance for the basic movement structuring, and technical elements of soccer game.

To suite the efficiency during the soccer match in the last championship EURO2008 the new informative technology program, „**Castrol Index Performance**“ was used, which enabled reflection of many situational parameters in all stages of game.

With this program were drawn out also the information's about the kinds and number of passes of the player and the team, percentage of efficiency of team and each player of the team that were in research.

The main goal of the research was to search and describe competitive efficiency of teams and players, respectively, competitive efficiency of players and finalist teams in the last European championship in many situational parameters and particularly on the ball passes.

The statistical results shows: according the results gained it's obvious that the Spanish team in the final match had paid attention to all kind of passes. Regarding the method of ball passes the German team dominated in the middle passes, training to engage the offense players. Regarding the accuracy of the ball passes execution the Spanish team had higher results in the short passes, which is very reasonable after the goal scoring. At the Spanish team the roles of the passing players weren't the same in a game.

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SUMMARY

The modern soccer has a wide variability and complexity of the technical-tactical and motoric elements during the game, which are oriented in increasing the tempo, efficiency, dynamics, attractiveness and success in competition. In this work was analyzed the sample of 27 soccer players from two national teams: the national team of Spain and the national team of Germany, the first and second ranged team in the European championship „EURO 2008 “. With the information gathered with the „Castrol Performance Index“, it was possible to express a different situational parameters in all stages of game . There were drawn out the information's about the kinds and number of passes of the team and the players, the percentage of the efficiency of the team, and for each player of each team .The main issue of the work was to investigate and to describe competitive efficiency of the players and teams, respectively, competitive efficiency of the players, and the finalist teams in the last European championship, with the special focus to passes. According to the results the team of Spain in final match has as paid attention to the all kinds of ball passes. According to the form of the ball pass the team of Germany has dominated in the middle passes, train to engage the offense players with those passes .According the accuracy of pass execution, the team of Spain had the higher accuracy in short passes, which is reasonable after the goal achievement, where as prime aim was to keep the advantage in result.

Key words: soccer, passes, European championship, Castrol Performance index