A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS REFERRING TO THE FINALIZATION EFFICIENCY IN THE GAMES PLAYED AT THE WORLD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP - BRAZIL 2014 BY THE COMPETITION FINALISTS

Sorin CIOLCĂ ¹
Grigore GHEORGHE
Palade TUDOR

Abstract

The games played at the World Football Championship - Brazil 2014 by the competition finalists, namely the teams of Argentina and Germany, brought certain novelties, from the finalization point of view, contributing to the formulation of some important conclusions useful to the specialists in top performance football.

This ascertaining research allowed us to determine the important parameters involved in increasing efficiency of the complex technical-tactical action of goal scoring, under the difficult conditions of playing the current football game.

Finalizing the attack actions represents the main objective of the teams that want to achieve higher performances, by ensuring the participation of a large number of spectators, present in the stands of the stadiums to watch a quality show.

Keywords: attack, finalization, football, performance.

JEL classification: I210, I290, I190

Introduction

Finalizing the attack with a goal, in the current football game, includes a series of moments and actions within the circulation of the players and ball (their movement), achieved in the situation in which the opposing team is vulnerable in defense, leaving free some corridors that can be valorized by the opposing strikers (Ciolcă, S., 2008).

A current requirement of the football game is represented by the quick transition from defense to attack, as a consequence of taking possession of the ball, by surprising the opponent’s defense.

The attack progress and finalization must be achieved at the highest speed and with increased efficiency, through a combinative play or individual actions, regardless

¹ Sorin Ciolcă, UNEFS-Bucharest
Grigore Gheorghe, UNEFS-Bucharest
Palade Tudor, UNEFS-Bucharest, paladetudor@yahoo.com
of the technical-tactical means used to execute the offensive actions (Grigore, Gh., 2009).

Through organized actions carried out at fast speed, in which the opponent’s defense will be caught on the wrong foot and put in difficult situations, the ball will reach the opposite goal in the shortest time and the strikers will have more opportunities to finalize and score (Cojocaru, V., 2001).

The purpose of this scientific approach was to establish the weight and efficiency of finalizing the attack actions during the games played by the finalists of the World Football Championship, Brazil 2014, and also to highlight the way of fulfilling this objective, which is the main goal of the football game.

The paper started from the following research hypothesis: recording the main aspects related to the finalization efficiency at the games played by the finalist teams of the World Football Championship - Brazil 2014 highlights the existing game model at senior level and determines the scientific management of the preparation process.

The research methods used were the following: documentation, observation, recording, mathematical and statistical processing, graphical representation.

Content of the research

Research period: January – March 2015
Subjects: Finalist teams (Argentina and Germany) of the World Football Championship - Brazil 2014
Type of research: ascertaining research

Results

Table 1 Distribution of scored goals according to the indicators pursued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Summarizing table</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GS with the foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GS with the head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GS from tactical action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GS from fixed moments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First half 0-15'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: GS – goal scored
R – right
L – left
Indiv. – individual
Collect. – collective
ET – extra time
Graph 1 presents the evolution of the two teams (in terms of scored goals) at this World Championship. If, in the group stage, it was noted a close number of scored goals, in the elimination stages, the national team of Germany managed to score 8 goals more than the opposing team encountered in the final of the World Championship. At the same time, it can be emphasized, on the one hand, the particular efficiency in attack showed by Germany in the semifinals of the competition (7-1 against Brazil), and on the other hand, a lack of inspiration proved by the team of Argentina starting with the same stage of the tournament (no goal scored in the semifinal and final).

Graph 2

After the analysis of Graph 2, it can be noticed that most of the goals recorded by Germany were scored with the left foot - 9 (50%), followed by those scored with the right foot - 7 (38%) and the head - 2 (12%). The same graph highlights that most of the goals recorded by Argentina were scored with the right foot - 5 (71%),
followed by those with the left foot (29%). At this competition, the national team of Argentina did not score any goal with the head.

![Graph 3](image)

**Graph 3**

At this World Championship, most of the goals - 13 Germany and 3 Argentina - were scored after some collective tactical actions. Only Argentina was successful at the chapter “goals scored from an individual tactical action”, due to the 2 goals of Messi. As regards the fixed moments, Germany proved its superiority (5 vs. 2 scored goals).

![Graph 4](image)

**Graph 4**

*Graph 4* shows that the time interval in which Germany scored the greatest number of goals was comprised between the minutes 16 and 30 (4 goals), while Argentina scored the greatest number of goals at the beginning of the matches, between the minutes 0 and 15 (2 goals). The team of Germany scored less in the second half, compared to the first half; Argentina did not succeed in scoring any goal in the time interval between the minutes 16 and 30. We should also emphasize the 3 goals scored by Germany in the extra halves, an aspect which reveals the special physical preparation of this team.
Conclusions

1. We highlight, for both of the teams, the preponderant finalization of the attack phases with the foot, from collective tactical offensive actions (passing, one-two, exchange of places), the combinative aspect being achieved through a rapid and surprising circulation of the players and ball;

2. At the same time, the research reveals the importance of the fixed moments (fixed phases) after which some decisive goals were scored (particularly by the team of Germany), in order to obtain favorable results;

3. From the point of view of the attack phase, at this World Championship, the team of Argentina proved a special efficiency (the ratio between the occasions it had and the scored goals being rather close); but the team of Germany reinforced its status of “goal machine” (with an average of 2.6 scored goals/ match), by dominating all its opponents in a categorical manner.

REFERENCES