

ANALYSIS OF PREDOMINANCE OF STRATEGIES AND TACTICS IN FIFA 2010 FOOTBALL WORLD CUP

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Abstract:

The purpose of the study was to make a descriptive analysis of predominance of strategies and tactics in FIFA 2010 Football World Cup. The format of the tournament involves two phases, namely, qualification phase and World Cup Finals phase. A qualification phase, which took place over the preceding three years, determined which teams qualify for the tournament together with the host nation(s). 204 Countries entered for qualification phase of World Cup 2010. Of the 204 countries entered, 32 teams were selected for World Cup 2010. Of the 32 teams competing for the title at venues within the host nation(s) over a period of about a month; this phase was often called the World Cup Finals. The 32 teams were divided into 8 Groups of A to H and the matches were played from 22nd June, 2010 to 25th June, 2010 and subsequently. The following four teams were qualified to play semi finals: (1) Uruguay (2) Netherlands (3) Germany and (4) Spain. For this study, the performances and tactics of semi final teams were considered. Apart from the descriptive analysis the primary data collected were subjected to statistical analysis using ANOVA to find out the significant differences if any among the groups. It was concluded that Spain scored most shots, however, the number of shots on goals were only 46 equal to Uruguay and Netherlands. It was concluded that Germany scored more shots from penalty area 32 than Spain of 28. And Netherlands had high percentage of shots on goal/shots 49%. It was concluded based on the primary data collected and statistical analysis, there were no significant differences on shots on target and shots off target among the teams compared.

KEY WORDS:

Uruguay, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Match Analysis.

INTRODUCTION

The game of football is one of the most popular games in the world. The game began in England in the 12th century but Edward II banned it in 1324. His successor Edward III in 1349, Richard II in 1389 and Henry IV in 1401 as also the Scottish rulers forbade people from playing football. In the beginning there were no definite rules of the game. Each team played with its own rules. An attempt was made by Thring and Dewinton to frame a uniform set of rules and the first set of football rules were framed in 1862 and revised in 1863. The football Association of England was formed and new rules of this game were framed in 1864. An international football match for the first time was played between England and Scotland. Considering the growing popularity of the game, delegates from seven nations met on May 21, 1904 to form the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA). FIFA organized the world football championship for the first time in 1930 at Montevideo. Football has spread itself all over the world and now there are more than 200

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countries affiliated with FIFA (Giulianotti, 1999).

Football, as it is seen today has undergone a tremendous improvement since its birth. Of all the events in human history, the one to attract the largest audience was not a great political occasion nor a special celebration of some complex achievement in the art or science but a simple game, a football match. Teams that can deploy several different styles of play will always have the edge on those that can't. Being able to adjust a system or tactic or change strategy on the fly will always provide an advantage. It is often said that soccer is a players' game and that once the game begins there are limited options for the coach to impact the game. The strategic coach will have her players ready to play in a variety of ways. She will train her players in a system of communication to indicate when a tactical or strategic change will take place. Rather than screaming from the sideline: "We are switching to a 3-4-3", the strategic coach will have mentioned at half-time that if we are still down a goal with 20 minutes left we will bring on a striker, remove a defender and play with three forwards. When the substitution is made, there will be no need to gesticulate about a new system or strategy. The players will know. This will allow for the element of surprise and put the opponent on the back foot (Armstrong, 1998).

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the study was to make a descriptive analysis of predominance of strategies and tactics in FIFA 2010 Football World Cup. The format of the tournament involves two phases, namely, qualification phase and World Cup Finals phase. A qualification phase, which took place over the preceding three years, determined which teams qualify for the tournament together with the host nation(s). 204 Countries entered for qualification phase of World Cup 2010. Of the 204 countries entered, 32 teams were selected for World Cup 2010. Of the 32 teams competing for the title at venues within the host nation(s) over a period of about a month; this phase was often called the World Cup Finals. The 32 teams were divided into 8 Groups of A to H and the matches were played from 22nd June, 2010 to 25th June, 2010 and subsequently. The following four teams were qualified to play semi finals: (1) Uruguay (2) Netherlands (3) Germany and (4) Spain. Uruguay and Netherlands competed on 6th July 2010 at Cape Town and Germany and Spain competed on 7th July, 2010 at Durban. For this study, the performances and tactics of semi final teams were considered. Apart from the descriptive analysis the primary data collected were subjected to statistical analysis using ANOVA to find out the significant differences if any among the groups and scheffe's post hoc test.

RESULTS

The shots made by the semi finalists teams, namely Uruguay, Spain, Germany and Netherlands performances and tactics using different shots during FIFA 2010 final matches are presented in Table I.

Table 1
Descriptive Statistics on Shots of Semi finalist Teams

Descriptions	Spain	Uruguay	Germany	Netherlands
Matches Played	7	7	7	7
Total Shots (TS)	121	102	102	93
Shots on Goal (SOG)	46	46	42	46
Shots wide (SW)	58	38	42	34
Shots Blocked (SB)	17	18	18	13
Free Kick Shots (FKS)	9	12	4	14
Free kick shots (Direct) (FKD)	8	12	4	14
Free Kick shot (Indirect) (FKI)	1	0	0	0
Shots on Bar (SOB)	0	0	0	0
Shots on Post (SOP)	0	0	0	0

The results on performance and tactics variable, shots were presented in Table I. The descriptive analysis of FIFA 2010 among semi finalists, namely, Uruguay, Netherlands, Germany, and Spain proved that Spain made total shots of 121, followed by Uruguay and Germany with 102 shots and then Netherlands with 93 shots. Though Spain was considered to have made more shots, the shots made towards Goal for Spain, Uruguay and Netherlands were 46 each and Germany stood at 42. The results presented in Table I showed that though Uruguay and Netherlands made more free kick shots and direct free kick shots, Netherlands scored 3 goals against Uruguay who scored 2 goals. In semi finals, Spain attempted more free kick shots, free direct kick shots and free indirect kick shots than Germany and Spain won the game with 1 goal against Germany. In order to test the statistical significance of the during semi final matches, the investigator collected the data on Shot on Target and Shot off Target in Tables II and III.

The results comparing of semi finalists' performance strategy and tactic on Shot on Target FIFA 2010 world Cup is presented in Table II.

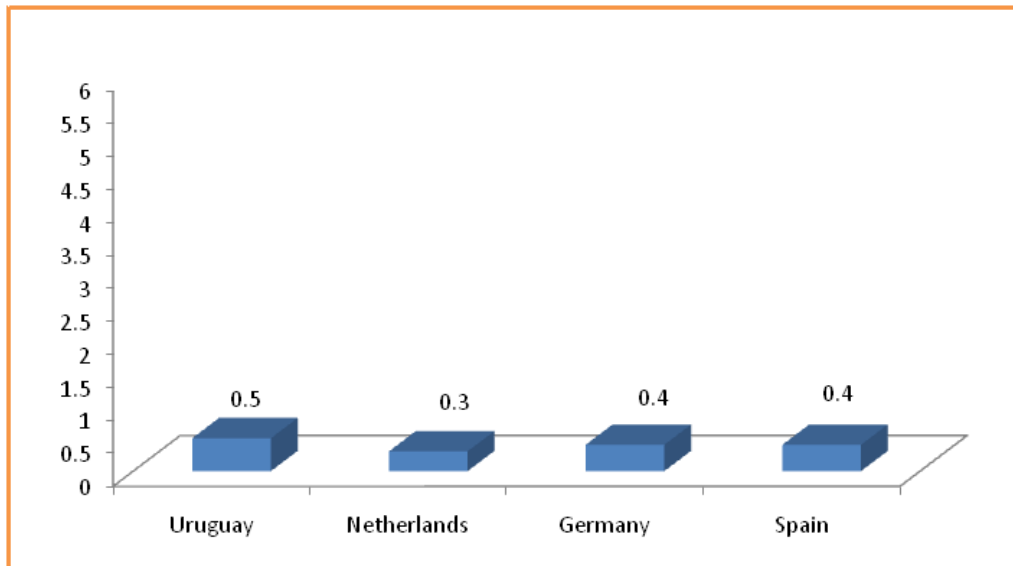
Table II
ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE ON THE MEANS SEMI FINALISTS PERFORMANCE
STRATEGY AND TACTIC ON SHOT ON TARGET

Means Values of				Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	F
Uruguay	Netherlands	Germany	Spain					
0.50	0.30	0.40	0.40	Between	0.20	3	0.07	0.26
				Within	9.40	36	0.26	

Table F-ratio at 0.05 level of confidence for 3 and 36 (df) = 2.87
 Not Significant at 0.05 level

Table II shows that the mean values on performance strategy and tactic variable, Shot on Target for Uruguay was 0.50 Netherlands was 0.30 and Germany was 0.40 and Spain was 0.40. The differences were subjected to statistical analysis and it was found that the obtained F value 0.26 was lesser than the required F value of 2.87 to be significant at 0.05 level. Hence, it was found that there were insignificant differences between the groups tested. Since insignificant differences were not subjected to post hoc analysis. The mean values presented in Table II were presented through a bar diagram in Figure I for better understanding of the results

Figure I
Bar Diagram Showing the Mean Values in Shot on Target among Uruguay, Netherlands, Germany and Spain Players



The results comparing of semi finalists' performance strategy and tactic on Shot off Target FIFA 2010 world Cup is presented in Table III.

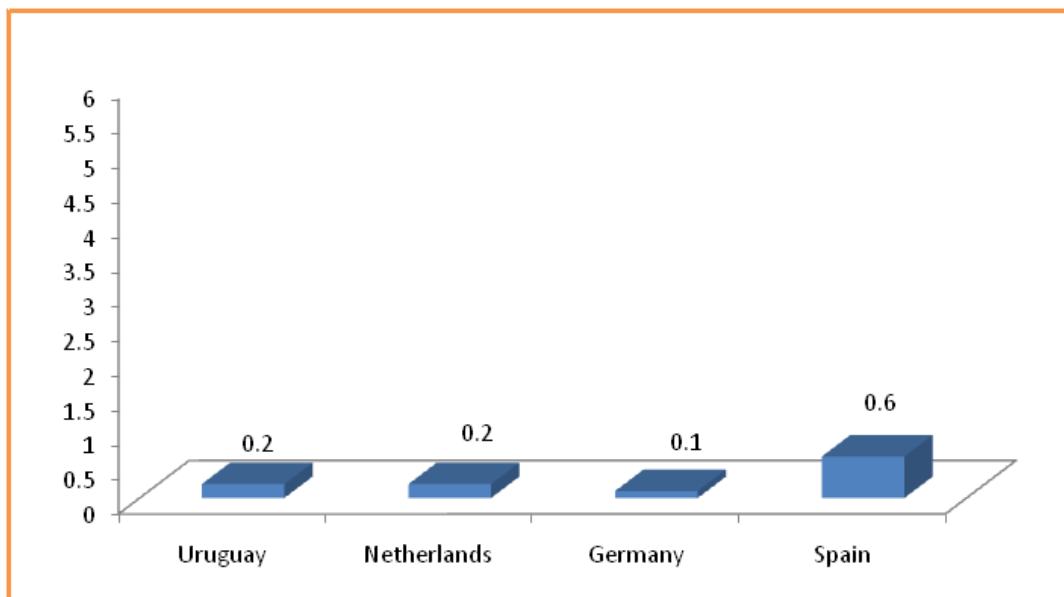
Table III
ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE ON THE MEANS SEMI FINALISTS PERFORMANCE STRATEGY AND TACTIC ON SHOT OFF TARGET

Means Values				Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	F
Uruguay	Netherlands	Germany	Spain					
0.20	0.20	0.10	0.60	Between	1.48	3	0.49	1.69
				Within	10.50	36	0.29	

Table F-ratio at 0.05 level of confidence for 3 and 36 (df)=2.87.
 Not Significant at 0.05 level

Table III shows that the mean values on performance strategy and tactic variable, Shot off Target for Uruguay was 0.20 Netherlands was 0.20 and Germany was 0.10 and Spain was 0.60. The differences were subjected to statistical analysis and it was found that the obtained F value 1.69 was lesser than the required F value of 2.87 to be significant at 0.05 level. Hence, it was found that there were insignificant differences between the groups tested. Since insignificant differences were obtained the data not subjected to post hoc analysis. The mean values presented in Table III were presented through a bar diagram in Figure II for better understanding of the results.

Figure II
Bar Diagram Showing the Mean Values in Shot off Target among Uruguay, Netherlands, Germany and Spain Players



CONCLUSIONS

Within the limitations and delimitations of the study, the following conclusions were drawn.

1. Based on the descriptive analysis made it was concluded that Spain scored most shots, however, the number of shots on goals were only 46 equal to Uruguay and Netherlands.
2. It was concluded that Germany scored more shots from penalty area 32 than Spain of 28. And Netherlands had high percentage of shots on goal/shots 49%.
3. It was concluded based on the primary data collected and statistical analysis, there were no significant differences on shots on target and shots off target among the teams compared.

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