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ANALYSIS OF GOALS SCORED IN THE 2014 WORLD CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT HELD IN BRASIL

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Abstract:- Football is the most attractive & interesting game. The purpose of the study was to analyze the pattern and trends of the goals scored during the 2014 world cup soccer tournament held in Brasil to derive the latest technical and tactical innovations with the hope of applying them at the lower echelons of the game. The study was a retrospective one as data were derived from the en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_FIFA_men's_world_cup (2014) data base. The analysis centred on number of goals; parts of the body used to score; distance from goal; timing of goals in minutes; nature of play preceding a goal; score at half time and winning of the game; open play game and set piece movement; and the position of the scorers. Data were analyzed and descriptively presented in form of tables. The scoring rate 2.67 per match was seventh lowest (2.21-1990, 2.27-2010, 2.30-2006, 2.52-2002, 132-2.54, 2.55-1974, 2.67-2014) among twenty th men World cup football. There were more goals from open play game (77.19%) than from set piece movement (22.81%); most goals came via shots (132) rather headers (34); strikers scored majority of the goals (55.56%), followed by midfielders (31.58%) and defenders (9.94%); more goals were in scored in between 61 to 75 minutes of the second half of normal regulation time and more goals were scored from within the penalty box than outside. Coaches have to focus on improving the technical and tactical build up into the penalty area; encourage more goal attempts within the penalty box; emphasize and perfect set piece execution; perfect crossing and headers and to enhance the physical conditioning of the players to enable them play out the entire game without suffering physical deterioration & mental alertness which causes teams to make defensive errors leading to goals in the six halves of 15 minutes (90 minutes) near about all the matches of the tournament.

Keywords: FIFA (Federation International de Football Association), World Cup Football, Goal Attempt.

INTRODUCTION

The FIFA World Cup, often simply called the World Cup, is an international association football competition contested by the senior men's national teams of the members of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the sport's global governing body. The championship has been awarded every four years since the body. The championship has been awarded every four years since the inaugural tournament in 1930, except in 1942 and 1946 when it was not held because of the Second World War. The current champions are Germany, who won their fourth title at the 2014 tournament in Brazil.

The current format of the competition involves a qualification phase, which currently takes place over the preceding three years, to determine which teams qualify for the tournament phase, which is often called the World Cup Finals. 32 teams, including the automatically qualifying host nation(s), compete in the tournament phase for the title at venues within the host nation(s) over a period of about a month.

Soccer competitions provide avenues at which players and the coach apply the techniques and tactics acquired. In a competitive soccer match, the teams demonstrate contrasts in techniques and tactics (Docherty, 1978; Wade, 1970; Winter bottom, 1964). The pace of the game, the emotions aroused by the occasion, the partisan spirit of the observer, and the rapid succession of activities makes it difficult for a coach to give an objective and critical

analysis of the factors underlying play (Armata et. al., 2007a, b; Winter bottom, 1964). Critical assessment of an individual or a team's performance requires not only a sound technical knowledge of the game, but also a disciplined mind in order to focus on separate factors.

Scoring of goals in the game of association football or soccer is one of the most exciting aspects of the game. Scoring of goals determines whether a team wins or loses a game. This is because the object of the game is to score goals even as you strive to stop your opponent from scoring. To emerge winners, a team has to consistently score goals. Some areas that are of interest to coaches and sports scientists include the goal scoring patterns and the technical, tactical and physical characteristics of the winning teams and the overall technical and tactical innovations during the tournament. According to Armata et al., (2007), the coaching process is enhanced by the provision of additional information that “describes sport performance in detail beyond that which coaches can provide through recall of personal observations”. Information derived from a quantitative and descriptive performance analysis can provide useful feedback which can enhance performance if appropriately implemented. A coach has therefore to act on the information derived from match observation.

That's why there is therefore need for more concerted efforts to perfect the scoring of goals via perfecting the scoring ability of the players. One way to address the goal scoring phenomenon is by observing and identifying key aspects of the goal scoring that coaches need to pay attention too in training and competition (Armatas et al., 2007).

The purpose of the study was to analyze the scoring pattern and the trends of the 6th world cup soccer tournament and deriving some lessons that coaches and players need to address in practice.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The study involved analyzing the goals that were scored during the 2014 FIFA world cup tournament. The tournament was hosted by Brazil between 12th June to 13th July 2014. Thirty two teams played a total of 64 matches scoring 171 goals. This averaged at 2.67 goals per game. The data was derived from en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_FIFA_men's_world_cup(2014) data base. The derived data was organized and presented via tables. The key aspects of the analysis centered on number of goals; parts of the body used to score; distance from the goal; time of the goals in minutes; nature of play preceding a goal; score at half time and winning of the game; open play and set pieces; and the position of the scorers. Data were analyzed and descriptively presented in form of tables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 Goals were scored from open play game and set piece movement

Table 1
Goals were scored from open play game and set piece movement

Coloumn1	Column2	Column3
Goal set up	Number of goals	Percent (100)
Open play game		
Combination play	37	21.64%
Wing play	23	13.45%
Through pass	15	8.77%
Diagonal pass	10	5.85%
Solo effort	11	6.43%
Exceptional finish	10	5.85%
Defensive errors	12	7.02%
Rebounds	9	5.26%
Own goal	5	2.92%
Sub Total	132	77.19%
Set Pieces		
Corner Kick	16	9.37%
Direct Free Kick	3	1.75%
Free kick assist	7	4.09%
Penalty Kick	12	47.02%
Throw-in assist	1	0.58%
Sub Total	39	22.81%
TOTAL	171	100%

Table 1 Represents that more goals were scored from open play game than from set piece movement. Open play game yielded a total of 132 (77.19%) goals while set piece movement directly & indirectly led to 39 (22.81%) goals. From the table it is clear that more goals were scored from combination play, followed by wing play & exceptional finish. Number of goals scored from solo effort (11) was vital for making the decision of a few matches. In case of set piece movement, more goals were scored from corner kick followed by penalty kick.

Table 2 Nature of scoring the goals

**Table 2
Nature of scoring the goals**

Nature of goals	Number of goals
Shot	125
Header	34
Penalty kick	12

Table 2 Represents that 125 goals emanated from shots, 34 from headers & 12 from penalty kicks. 34 (19.88%) goals were scored by the use of head & 137 (80.12%) by the use of foot.

Table 3 Goals scored by strikers, midfielders & defenders

**Table 3
Goals scored by strikers, midfielders & defenders**

Position of the players	Number of goals
Strikers	95
Midfielders	54
Defenders	17

Table 3 Represents that 95 goals (55.56%) scored by strikers, 54 goals scored (31.58%) by midfielders & 17 goals (9.94%) scored by the defenders in the 2014 FIFA world cup football tournament. The strikers were successful to score & win the matches followed by the midfielders & defenders.

Table 4 Timing of goals during the matches in the 2014 FIFA world cup football

**Table 4
Timing of goals during the matches during 2014 FIFA world cup football**

Timing Intervals	Number	Percentage	Rank
1-15 min	18	10.53%	6
16-30 min	23	13.45%	4
31-45 min	20	11.70%	5
46-60 min	27	15.80%	3
61-75 min	32	18.71%	1
76-90 min*	31	18.13%	2
91- 105 min	15	8.78%	7
106-120 min	5	2.92%	8
TOTAL	171	100	

*7 goals scored in injury time after regular 90th minute.

Table 4 Represents that more goals scored 32(18.71%) in between 61-75 minute, followed by 31(18.13%) goals scored in between 76 -90 minute. 61 & 90 goals were scored in the first half & second half of the matches respectively. 20 goals were scored in the extra time play.. From the beginning of the second half the number of goals scored suddenly increased (27) & gradually it maintained high numbers (32& 31) of goals throughout the tournament for decision making of the matches.

Table 5 Goals scored distance from the Goal

**Table 5
Goals scored distance from the Goal**

Position of the players (Distance)	Number of goals
Inside goal area	45
Penalty area	104
Outside penalty area	10
Penalty	12

Table 5 Represents that 45 (26.32%) goals were scored from inside the goal area, 104 (60.82%) in the penalty area, 12 (7.02%) from the penalty spot and 10 (5.85%) from outside the penalty area. Thus 71(82.56%) goals originated from the penalty box and 15 (17.44%) goals were scored outside of the penalty box. So it is clear that, the world cup players were more successful in the penalty area followed by inside the goal area.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Form the above results & discussion the following conclusions had been drawn:

(i) 2014 world cup soccer tournament recorded as the seventh lowest goal scoring average 2.67per match since the initiation of the tournament in 1930. (ii) For goal scoring team's technical efficiency and team's tactical effectiveness was more important in front of the goal, than physiological aspect, physical conditioning & psychological preparation (iii) First 15 minutes after half time the cause of most scoring due to the motivational factor from coaches & spectators & last 15 minutes of the 2nd half may be due to decision making for the game. (iv) Sometimes replacement or substitution of players in the last 15 minutes or second half was also a cause of more goal scoring. (According to Carling et al. (2008), substitute players have been shown to cover significantly more ground at high intensity during the final 15 minutes than the other players already on the pitch).

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