

The Defensive Retreat in Team Handball - Analysis of the Men's European Championship 2014

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Introduction

The evolution of Handball made offensive transitions became very fast, promoting imbalances in defensive retreat, making it important to approach this phase of the game (Picon, 2005). Defensive retreat is considered the first phase of the defense, which begins at the moment of ball loss. At that time, all attacking players immediately become defenders, aiming at a conservative view, prevent or hinder, delaying the counter attack of the opposing team. Some authors and coaches claim, as the main concern, back as quickly as possible to a nearby area of their goal, in order to avoid the counter-attack, while others add that, simultaneously, should be made pressure on the ball carrier and on the path of the ball, preventing its progression and delaying its decision, thereby trying to recover as soon as possible the ball or at least hinder the progression of the opponent. With the fast replacement of the ball after goal, it has become necessary also in this situation a fast response to this specific transition in order to ensure an effective opposition.

Methods

This study intend to analyze the defensive retreat in high-level team handball, looking for behaviour patterns in during this phase of defense in final stage of the Men's European Championship 2014. It was used Observational Methodology and built, validated and subsequently used a mixed ad hoc instrument, field format with categories systems to collect the data (Anguera y Hernandez Mendo, 2014). For data analysis, we used the prospective and retrospective sequential analysis and the technique of polar coordinates (Prudente, Garganta & Anguera, 2010). The sample was composed of all (n = 724), defensive game sequences occurred in 16 games of the final stage finals from Men's European Championship 2014.

Results

The main results shows that, by prospective sequential analysis, is significant (1.96 ; $p < 0.05$) the probability of the ball steal and the technical fault in the attack inhibit the recovery of the ball during the retreat phase (3.58 and 2.18, respectively). The polar coordinates analysis shows that is significant: 1) the defensive retreat start after losing the ball by technical fault is associated to an active retreat (2.79; 63°) and to the counter attack interruption without the

ball recovery (2.88; 40°), inhibiting a passive retreat (2.26; 239°); 2) the loss of the ball by shot outside is associated to non-recovery of the ball (2.7; 82°); 3) the loss of the ball from ball steal is associated to a passive retreat (3; 49°) and the occurrence of 7m (2.78;82°) inhibiting an active retreat (3.47; 223°).

Discussion & Conclusion

Given the results obtained it is possible to state that the way teams loose the ball influences the behaviour in defensive retreat: technical fault promotes a more proactive and active attitude, while the ball loss by steal or shot outside promotes a more passive retreat, probably due to the player that steals the ball wins a vantage to the opponents difficult to revert and the second situation promotes a long pass to a player in counter attack by the goalkeeper.

References

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