

**ANALYSIS ON FINAL 4 OF EHF MALE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
2009/2010 EDITION**

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Key words: handball, male, Final 4, EHF Champions League, quantitative analysis.

Abstract: The 2009/2010 competitive season of the EHF Male Champions League has brought some changes in the playing schedule. The first competition following this schedule counted four teams that passed to Final 4: Chekhovskie Medvedi (Russia), F.C. Barcelona (Spain), BM Ciudad Real (Spain), THW Kiel (Germany). As average every attack lasted less than 30 seconds, being 483 attacks in 4 matches, that means 120,75 attacks per match. There were scored 251 goals, as average 62,75 per match showing a smooth and rapid deployment. Of the total of 251 scored goals, 215 were shot on positional attack and 36 on counterattack, the number of the counterattack scored goals representing less than 15% of the total goals.

Introduction

The 2009/2010 competitive season of the EHF Male Champions League has brought some changes in the playing schedule as follows: the preliminary round, the round of groups (4 groups each counting 6 teams), last 16, the quarterfinals and the Final 4 (including the semifinals, the bronze medal match and the final).

The first competition following this schedule counted four teams that passed to Final 4: Chekhovskie Medvedi (Russia), F.C. Barcelona (Spain), BM Ciudad Real (Spain), THW Kiel (Germany).

Material-method

Cologne (Germany) hosted this stage of the competition on 29th – 30th of May 2010. Each team played two matches and the results were:

- Match no. 1 semifinal (29th of May 2010): Chekhovskie Medvedi – F.C. Barcelona 27-34;
- Match no. 2 semifinal (29th of May 2010): BM Ciudad Real – THW Kiel 27-29;

- Match no. 3 Bronze medal match (30th of May 2010):
Chekhovskie Medvedi - BM Ciudad Real 28-36;
- Match no. 4 Final: F.C. Barcelona – THW Kiel 34-36.

The teams participating in this tournament are significant for the European club handball in terms of performance.

Chekhovskie Medved has won all national competitions in Russia since 1992. Most players of the Russian National Team come from this team. In European competitions they won Winner's Cup in 2006 and reached the EHF Champions League semifinals.

F.C. Barcelona won 17 times Spanish Championship and the same times Spanish Cup. F.C. Barcelona is the record winner of the Champions League (five titles) and one time former Champions Cup. Also they won five times the European Cup Winners and once the European Cup.

BM Ciudad Real won both Spanish Championship and Spanish Cup five times. On the international level they won two times the Winner's Cup, four times the EHF Champions Trophy, once World Champion of club teams and three times EHF Champions League.

THW Kiel won 15 times German Championship, six times German Cup and five times German Super Cup. In European club competitions they won three times EHF Cup, reached four times the final of the EHF Champions League and won this competition once.

Results

After a quantitative analysis of Final 4 matches, I could do some assessments.

Chekhovskie Medvedi scored only 55 goals of a total of 123 attacks, having an efficiency of 44.72%. In Table 1 we notice that the 9m line efficiency was very weak (29.4%) and on the counterattack there were scored only 2 goals of a total of 5 attacks.

As for goalkeepers (Table 2), they could save no 7m shot, respectively the shots of the central part of 6m line. Their efficiency was a weak one because they blocked only 23 shots of a total of 93 (24.73%).

The team lost the two matches due to its technique lacks of both defensive and offensive.

Team Shots	Goals	Saved	Missed	Post	Blocked	Total	%
6m Shots	16	4	1	0	0	21	76.19
Wing Shots	11	7	3	0	0	21	52.38
9m Shots	15	18	12	1	5	51	29.40
7m Shots	5	2	0	1	0	8	62.50
Fast Breaks	2	2	1	0	0	5	40.00
Breakthroughs	5	1	0	0	0	6	83.33
Totals	55	34	17	2	5	113	48.67
Attacks without shot	0	0	0	0	0	10	
Totals	55	34	17	2	5	123	44.72

Table 1 Attack's efficiency Chekhovskie Medvedi

Goalkeepers	Total Shots		6m Shots		Wing Shots		9m Shots		7m Shots		Fast Breaks		Breakthroughs	
	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%
Totals	23/93	24.73	10/18	0	6/14	42.86	13/33	39.4	0/6	0	2/16	12.5	2/8	25

Table 2 Goalkeepers' efficiency Chekhovskie Medvedi

BM Ciudad Real had a good efficiency in attack on all game posts (Table 3) but with a large number of actions ended without scoring (27) of which 15 in the first game and adding the weak efficiency of goalkeepers in the same game (29%), the result was an unfavorable one (Table 4). Better performance in the second match led them to getting the bronze medal.

Team Shots	Goals	Saved	Missed	Post	Blocked	Total	%
6m Shots	15	1	0	0	0	16	93.75
Wing Shots	7	5	1	0	0	13	53.85
9m Shots	15	11	1	1	2	30	50.00
7m Shots	8	0	0	1	0	9	88.89
Fast Breaks	11	2	0	0	0	13	84.62
Breakthroughs	7	0	0	4	0	11	63.64
Totals	63	19	2	6	2	92	68.48
Attacks without shot	0	0	0	0	0	27	
Totals	63	19	2	6	2	119	52.94

Table 3 Attack's efficiency BM Ciudad Real

Goalkeepers	Total Shots		6m Shots		Wing Shots		9m Shots		7m Shots		Fast Breaks		Breakthroughs	
	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%
Totals	32/89	35.96	4/18	22.2	7/20	35	17/34	Total	32/89	35.96	4/18	22.2	7/20	35

Table 4 Goalkeepers' efficiency BM Ciudad Real

F.C. Barcelona was victorious in the first match, but defeated in the second, in the final. The lacks of the team's strategy consisted of low efficiency of 9m line (32.65%) (Table 5), no efficiency in blocking the shots of the central part of the 6m line, respectively low efficiency of 9m shots (37.14%) to which we add goalkeepers' efficiency (Table 6).

Team Shots	Goals	Saved	Missed	Post	Blocked	Total	%
6m Shots	14	3	0	0	0	17	82.35
Wing Shots	14	5	0	4	0	23	60.87
9m Shots	16	22	3	3	5	49	32.65
7m Shots	12	1	0	0	0	13	92.31
Fast Breaks	8	1	1	0	0	10	80.00
Breakthroughs	4	2	0	1	0	7	57.14
Totals	68	34	4	8	5	119	57.14
Attacks without shot	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Totals	68	34	4	8	5	123	55.28

Table 5 Attack's efficiency F.C. Barcelona

Goalkeepers	Total Shots		6m Shots		Wing Shots		9m Shots		7m Shots		Fast Breaks		Breakthroughs	
	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%
Totals	23/86	26.74	0/14	0	3/12	25	13/35	Total	23/86	26.74	0/14	0	3/12	25

Table 6 Goalkeepers' efficiency F.C. Barcelona

THW Kiel was the team that won the Final 4 in this tournament and the analysis of the match confirms a high efficiency of all posts in attack (Table 7) and also of goalkeepers (Table 8).

Team Shots	Goals	Saved	Missed	Post	Blocked	Total	%
6m Shots	11	1	0	1	0	13	84.62
Wing Shots	12	3	0	0	0	15	80.00
9m Shots	24	12	5	4	4	49	48.98
7m Shots	4	0	1	0	0	5	80.00
Fast Breaks	7	0	0	1	0	8	87.50
Breakthroughs	7	4	1	1	0	13	53.85
Totals	65	20	7	7	4	103	63.11
Attacks without shot	0	0	0	0	0	15	
Totals	65	20	7	7	4	118	55.08

Table 7 Attack's efficiency THW Kiel

Goalkeepers	Total Shots		6m Shots		Wing Shots		9m Shots		7m Shots		Fast Breaks		Breakthroughs	
	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%	S/S	%
Totals	30/91	32.97	4/15	26.67	4/16	25	20/31	Total	30/91	32.97	4/15	26.67	4/16	25

Table 8 Goalkeepers' efficiency THW Kiel

Representing in charts the attack's efficiency and the goalkeepers' efficiency is very relevant and suggestive for the results achieved in these four matches of the tournament and for the final ranking. (Figure 1 and 2).

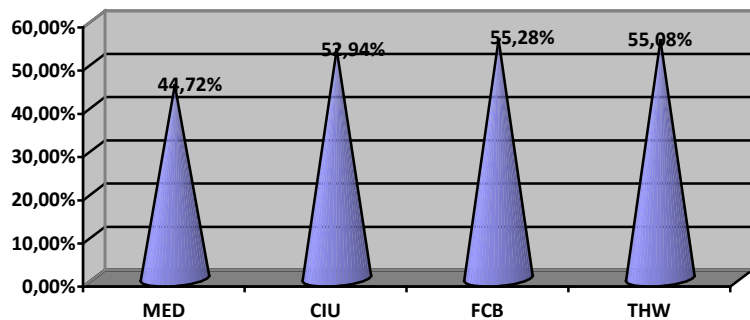


Figure 1 Attack's efficiency for each team (2 matches)

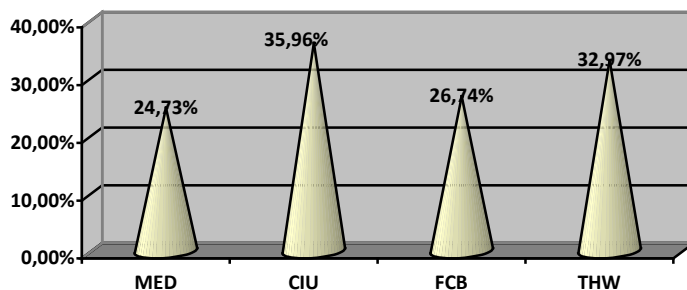


Figure 2 Goalkeepers' efficiency for each team (2 matches)

Discussions

As average every attack lasted less than 30 seconds, being 483 attacks in 4 matches, that means 120,75 attacks per match.

There were scored 251 goals, as average 62,75 per match showing a smooth and rapid deployment.

Of the total of 251 scored goals, 215 were shot on positional attack and 36 on counterattack, the number of the counterattack scored goals representing less than 15% of the total goals.

The 9m line had a major contribution – 70 shots (27,89%); the central part of the 6m line had 56 goals (22,31%), the wing had 44 (17,53%) and 32 goals were scored on 7m shots (12,75%).

Analysing the scored goals, we could notice the importance of the 9m line, but also it shows us that the number of goals scored on counterattack is lower than the general result obtained by the teams.

The players demonstrated quick perception and rapid decision-making. In defence play, the players responded not only to their opponents but exhibited anticipation and took active control of the game.

One-to-one offence play generally led to paired and three-player offence combinations and turned into dynamic offence sets.

References

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Titlu: Analiza finalei 4 din Liga Campionilor EHF masculin ediția 2009/2010.

Cuvinte cheie: Handbal, masculin, Final 4, Liga Campionilor EHF, analiza cantitativă.

Rezumat: Sezonul competițional 2009/2010 din Liga Campionilor EHF Masculin a adus unele modificări în programul de joc. La prima ediție a noului format competițional s-au calificat patru echipe ce au jucat Final 4: Chekhovskie Medvedi (Rusia), FC Barcelona (Spania), BM Ciudad Real (Spania), THW Kiel (Germania). Ca medie, fiecare atac a durat mai puțin de 30 de secunde, fiind un număr de 483 atacuri în 4 meciuri, ceea ce înseamnă 120,75 atacuri pe meci. S-au marcat 251 goluri, în medie 62,75 pe meci care arată o desfășurare rapidă a fazelor jocului. Din totalul de 251 goluri marcate, 215 au fost marcate din atac pozițional și 36 pe contraatac, numărul de goluri marcate contraatac, reprezentând mai puțin de 15% din numărul total de goluri.

Titre: Analyse sur finale 4 de l'ehf champions league 2009/2010 edition masculine.

Mots - clé: handball, masculin, Final 4, EHF Champions League, l'analyse quantitative.

Résumé : La saison 2009/2010 concurrentiel de la Ligue des Champions EHF homme a apporté quelques modifications dans le calendrier en jouant. La première compétition selon le calendrier suivant compté quatre équipes qui se passait à 4 final: Chekhovskie Medvedi (Russie), le FC Barcelone (Espagne), BM Ciudad Real (Espagne), le THW Kiel (Allemagne). En moyenne, chaque attaque a duré moins de 30 secondes, soit 483 attaques en 4 matches, ce qui signifie 120,75 attaques par match. Il y avait marqué 251 buts, en moyenne 62,75 par match montrant un déploiement rapide et sans heurt. Sur un total de 251 buts marqués, 215 ont été abattus sur l'attaque de position et 36 sur la contre-attaque, le nombre de la contre-attaque ont marqué représentant moins de 15% des buts au total.