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An Analytical Study of the Performance of the Algerian National Football Team According to Indicators (Number of Goals Scored, Percentage of Possession of the Ball, Number of Shots Inside the Goal Frame, Number of Corner Kicks) in the 2024 African Nations Championship in Ivory Coast.

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Abstract:

The study aimed to analyze the performance of the Algerian national team, participating in the 2024 African Nations Championship in Ivory Coast, according to the following technical indicators (number of goals scored, percentage of ball possession, number of shots inside the goal frame, number of corner kicks). The researcher chose the Algerian national team as a sample for the study, and he relied on the descriptive approach, following the survey method to suit the nature of the study, through video tapes recording the first round matches, numbering 03 matches, in addition to the observation form as a tool for collecting data.

Keywords: Analysis The performance, Football, African Nations Championship

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Introduction:

Football occupies a prominent place among various sporting activities, as it is the most popular in Algeria, and everyone is keen to watch and follow its matches for the joy and excitement it adds due to its competitive nature, in addition to its requirements for the players' abilities and capabilities to face different playing situations, which are characterized by continuous and rapid change, to win matches.

After the end of each match in the various tournaments, there is talk among various factions of football fans and followers about the result and the goals scored. As a result, we find a large difference in opinions - between supporters and opponents - among (the spectator - the critic - the coach - the administrator - the player).

The ability to act correctly tactically, both offensively and defensively, is considered the decisive factor in winning matches, in addition to the elements of high physical fitness, the technical and skill level of the players, and the volitional and psychological characteristics of the two teams. Despite the difficulty of fully applying all of these elements, all necessary conditions must be provided to achieve this conformity, and here comes the role of the person responsible for the analysis to find out the deficiencies in each of the aforementioned characteristics, through which the coach can correct the level of deficiency to achieve sporting achievement and victory.

1. The problematic:

After the great development witnessed in various areas of life in general and the field of sports in particular, it has become necessary to include modern technologies in the field of sports, as technology has contributed to the manufacture and innovation of devices and tools that assist in the training process and develop them every time. (Kamal Jamil Arrabdh, 2004, p. 313)

The most prominent of these fields is football, as technology in the field of sports training has allowed the development of the level in the physical, tactical, and technical aspects. The latter has developed very noticeably, as in addition to the necessity of the coach's familiarity with the various theoretical and applied aspects of coaching science, it has become necessary for the coach to have an assistant team who works with him to analyze the performance of players and sports teams in general, and as a basic step towards achieving the desired sporting achievement. (Mohamed ElAmin Ghanem, 2023, p. 52)

Algeria is distinguished by a rich history in the sports field, especially in football, which is considered the first popular game in Algeria. Interest in analyzing sports performance is accelerating in Algeria to understand the strengths and weaknesses of sports performance, and to maintain the level of physical and technical capabilities of players, as well as improving training strategies and assisting the coach in making effective decisions. (Bastawisi Ahmed, 1999, p. 360)

Developing performance analysis methodologies in sports plays a vital role in enhancing the level of performance and improving results, and contributes to improving the capabilities of athletes and sports teams, which enhances the interaction between technology and sports to achieve ambitious

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goals for Algeria in sports competitions at the continental and global levels. In view of the results achieved, and the successive failures of the national team in official competitions, especially the 2024 African Nations Championship held in Ivory Coast, we decided to study and find out the strengths and weaknesses of the national team's performance according to a set of indicators, where we formulated our problem as follows:

“What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Algerian national team's performance according to indicators (number of goals scored, percentage of possession of the ball, number of shots inside the goal frame, number of corner kicks) in the 2024 African Nations Championship in Ivory Coast?”

Sub-questions:

- How many goals were scored in the first round by the Algerian national team?
- What is the percentage of possession of the ball by the Algerian national team in the first round?
- How many shots inside the goal did the Algerian national football team make in the first round?
- How many corners did the Algerian national team take in the first round?

2. Objectives of the study:

- Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the Algerian national team's performance according to indicators (number of goals scored, percentage of possession of the ball, number of shots inside the goal frame, number of corner kicks) in the 2024 African Nations Championship in Ivory Coast.
- Determining the number of goals scored in the first round by the Algerian national team.
- Determining the percentage of possession of the ball by the Algerian national team in the first round.
- Determining the number of shots inside the goal frame made by the Algerian national team in the first round.
- Determining the number of corner kicks taken by the Algerian national team in the first round.

3. Keywords in the study:

Analysis:

It is a logical method by which the phenomenon under study is dealt with, and is divided into parts, where these parts are researched as a whole, to understand the depths of the phenomenon in its entirety. (Kassem Hassan Hosni, 2009, p. 177)

The performance:

It is a reflection of the capabilities and motivation of each individual for the best possible behavior, as a result of the mutual influences of internal forces, and is often performed individually. It is an activity or behavior that leads to a result, it is the standard by which learning results are measured, and it is a means of expressing the learning process behaviorally. (Aissam Abd Elkhalek, 1992, p. 168)

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Procedural definition:

Performance analysis is a process carried out by a technical specialist proficient in a set of analysis programs, relying on a set of technological means that contribute to improving the level of the team.

Football:

Terminological definition:

It is a group game between two teams, where each team consists of 11 players, who use a round inflatable ball of a specific global size, in a rectangle of specific dimensions, at each end of which there is a goalpost; Each team tries to put the ball into the goal without the goalkeeper catching it or blocking it. (Mamur bin Salman, 1998, p. 9)

Procedural definition:

It is a team game that has global popularity and is characterized by a competitive nature and a unique rivalry of its kind, each team consists of 11 players who are stationed in specific positions according to tactical plans, and each team seeks to put the ball into the opponent's goal.

African Nations Championship:

It is a sports tournament supervised by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in one of the African countries running to host this tournament. It is designated for African countries only, which go through qualifiers in order to participate. The African Nations Championship is held every two years, and the last African Nations Championship was held in Ivory Coast.

4. Previous studies related to the topic:

4.1 A study by Saudi Ayoub and Marniz Osama, entitled: An analytical study of the skill of shooting on goal in the first round of the 2019 African Nations Championship in Egypt.

An article published in Volume 10, Issue No. 02, dated 12/19/2019, in the Journal of Mathematical Creativity. The study aimed to know the number of shots taken by all teams participating in the tournament, according to the playing situations, according to the parts of the body most used, and finally according to the offensiveness during the match, according to the shooting areas, as well as their accuracy, in addition to identifying their percentage of the total goals scored.

The researcher chose all the teams participating in the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt as a sample for the study. The descriptive approach was also used, following the survey method due to its suitability to the nature of the study, using video tapes recording all 36 matches of the first round of the tournament, in addition to the scientific observation form as a tool for collecting numbers and statistics. The most important results indicated that most shots were made from open play situations and from the boundaries of the penalty area, and that most of them were outside the goal.

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4.2 A study by Nadji Kadhem Ali, and Fares Sami Youssef (2013) entitled: An analytical study of the offensive aspect of the national team players participating in the 2012 West Asian and 2013 Arabian Gulf Football Championships; The researchers used the descriptive approach on a sample of 7 matches for the Iraqi national team, and concluded that this analysis contributed to evaluating and raising the level of the players' offensive aspects, by revealing the level of the Iraqi national team and the competing teams, and identifying their strengths and weaknesses.

4.3 Study of Amr-Allah Ahmed Al-Besati, Abd al-Basit Mohamed Abd Al-Halim, 2001, entitled: "Some indicators for evaluating the level of mastery of a football player's skill performance during matches" (a comparative study), with the aim of comparing the Egyptian national team to international levels. The researchers used the descriptive approach on a sample of the 1998 World Cup teams, as well as the 2000 African Cup of Nations qualifiers, where the sample size reached 90 international players, and the most important results concluded that the skill wealth index for the Egyptian team was lower than the average wealth index for international teams.

5. The applied aspect:

5.1 Exploratory study:

The researcher conducted the study on a sample of two matches of the teams participating in the 2022 African Cup of Nations, which was the Tunisian national team's match against its counterpart, the Nigerian national team, on January 23, 2022, as well as the Egyptian national team's match against its counterpart, the Ivory Coast national team, on January 26, 2022. . By showing and replaying videotapes, and relying on a team of 3 people to calculate the number of goals scored, the percentage of possession, the number of shots inside the goal frame, and the number of corner kicks:

- Training was given on using the tools used to record and display matches, and to avoid errors and interfering variables.
- Scientific coefficients were calculated for the form used under research.

5.2 Research methodology:

The method is defined as "the method used by the researcher in studying the problem to discover the truth," where, due to the nature of the research problem, the researcher used the descriptive method using the survey method - the method of analytical study - (Ahmed Badr, 1987, p. 13).

Research population and sample: The research population is all the terms that have the characteristics required to be studied, as the research individuals may consist of individuals, universities, or organizations, and in all cases the research community should not be ambiguous. (Mabrouka Omar Mahirik, 2008, p. 153)

The research community was represented in the teams participating in the 2024 African Nations Championship in Ivory Coast.

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The study sample:

The researcher determined the study sample using the intentional method, represented by the Algerian national team, with an average of 03 matches out of 6 groups, each group containing 4 teams, each team playing 03 matches in the first round.

5.3 Tools for collecting information and data:

- 1- Arab and foreign sources.
- 2- An HP laptop.
- 3- The Web (Internet).
- 4- Bein Sport channels to analyze matches.
- 5- Recordings of Algerian national team matches.

5.4 Scientific characteristics of the instrument:

Table 01. Results of the scientific characteristics of the instrument

| Analysis indicators | Reliability coefficient (Pearson) | Honesty (validity) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Number of goals scored | 0.89 | 0.94 |
| Percentage of ball possession | 0.88 | 0.93 |
| Number of shots inside the goal frame | 0.87 | 0.93 |
| Number of corners | 0.90 | 0.94 |

By analyzing the results of the table, we notice that the consistency rate is high, approximately 0.89 in the number of goals scored, and the percentage of possession of the ball reached 0.88, while the number of shots inside the goal frame reached 0.87, and the number of corner kicks reached 0.90 in the characteristics under study; Considering the percentage of honesty that reached 0.94 and 0.93 for the number of goals scored and the percentage of possession; And 0.93 for the number of shots inside the goal frame and 0.94 for the number of corner kicks, it can be said that the tool used in the study has a high degree of validity.

5.5 Statistical methods and tools:

The study design is determined by the study problem, which in turn determines the type and method of statistical analysis to be followed. (Abou Allam Raja Mahmoud, 2011, p. 96)

In our study we relied on:

- Pearson correlation coefficient.
- Percentages.

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6. Presentation, interpretation and discussion of the results:

Practical aspect:

Table 02. Shows an analysis of the performance of the Algerian national team against the Angolan national team

| Algeria 01 | | | Angola 01 | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| Performance indicators | | result | Performance indicators | | result |
| Penalties | | 00 | Penalties | | 01 |
| Percentage of possession | | 66 | Percentage of possession | | 34 |
| Number of shots | | 16 | Number of shots | | 07 |
| Shots inside the goal frame | | 10 | Shots inside the goal frame | | 06 |
| Number of corners | | 14 | Number of corners | | 02 |
| Infiltration cases | | 04 | Infiltration cases | | 00 |
| Number of cards | | 04 | Number of cards | | 01 |
| Number of passes | | 514 | Number of passes | | 06 |
| Number of key passes | | 14 | Number of key passes | | 01 |
| Nber of accurate passes | | 442 85% | Nber of accurate passes | | 190 % 72 |
| Number of long passes | | 88 51% | Number of long passes | | 23 % 30 |
| Number of interventions | | 16 | Number of interventions | | 09 |
| Incorrect interventions | | 03 | Incorrect interventions | | 08 |
| Correct interventions | | 09 | Correct interventions | | 01 |

From the results obtained in the table, we note that the possession percentage was 66% for the Algerian team and 34% for the Angolan team, as the number of passes for the Algerian team was about 514, and 262 for the Angolan team. To analyze the reason for the high number of passes by the Algerian national team, we must look at the space in which the Algerian national team played, where the coach relied on advanced defense and a single-block defense system, in which the defensive lines, midfield and attack lines are close together, as the national team played in an area estimated at about 57 meters between the last defender and the first attacker, which is a very close distance between the players, which explains the high possession rate of the Algerian national team. Looking at the total number of shots for both teams, we find that the Algerian national team made 16 shots, 10 of which were inside the goal frame, compared to the Angolan national team, which made 7 shots, 06 of which were inside the goal frame. When observing the effectiveness factor in shots, we find that it is high for the Angolan team compared to the Algerian team, even though the

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Algerian team had total control in the shots, and the number of corners for the Algerian team reached about 14 corners, and the Angolan team 02 corners. Looking at the offensive data, we find that the Algerian national team had almost total control over the Angolan team in terms of attack, and the reason is the method of play adopted by the national team coach (4.3.3) throughout the match.

As for the defensive aspect, we note that the number of interventions for the Algerian national team was 16, including 09 correct interventions and 03 incorrect interventions, while for the Angolan national team, the number of interventions reached 09, 08 of which were 08 incorrect interventions and 01 correct interventions.

Although there are many other factors that could be discussed at length, the logical explanation for the national team's failure is the poor management of the match by the coach first and the players second, and Algeria's lack of the final touch to score the goal.

Table 03. Shows an analysis of the performance of the Algerian national team against the Burkina Faso national team.

| Algeria 02 | | | Burkina Faso 02 | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|-----------------------------|--|---------|
| Performance indicators | | result | Performance indicators | | result |
| Penalties | | 01 | Penalties | | 00 |
| Percentage of possession | | 64 | Percentage of possession | | 36 |
| Number of shots | | 15 | Number of shots | | 06 |
| Shots inside the goal frame | | 11 | Shots inside the goal frame | | 05 |
| Number of corners | | 4 | Number of corners | | 01 |
| Infiltration cases | | 01 | Infiltration cases | | 01 |
| Number of cards | | 02 | Number of cards | | 05 |
| Number of passes | | 425 | Number of passes | | 237 |
| Number of key passes | | 07 | Number of key passes | | 06 |
| Nber of accurate passes | | 367 86% | Nber of accurate passes | | 177 74% |
| Number of long passes | | 28 40% | Number of long passes | | 08 32% |
| Number of interventions | | 17 | Number of interventions | | 14 |
| Incorrect interventions | | 09 | Incorrect interventions | | 5 |
| Correct interventions | | 08 | Correct interventions | | 09 |

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From the results of the table above, we note that the possession rate is 64% for the Algerian team and 36% for the Burkina Faso team, as the number of passes for the Algerian team reached 425 passes compared to 237 passes for the Burkina Faso team. The main reason for the large number of passes for the Algerian national team is the playing space in which the team played, which amounted to about 46 meters between the last defender and the first attacker. The coach relied on the advanced single-block defense system, and given the small playing area, we can interpret it as the national team coach trying as much as possible to manage the match in terms of the physical effort of the players who play under difficult weather conditions, characterized by heat and high humidity. The national team scored about 15 shots, including 10 shots inside the goal. And 06 shots were made by the Burkinabe national team, 05 of which were inside the goal frame. Considering the effectiveness of shots, the effectiveness rate was high for the Burkinabe team, despite the large number of shots made by the Algerian national team.

As for the number of corner kicks, the national team had 04 corner kicks, of which the player Boundedjah scored the equalizing goal. As for the Burkina Faso team, the number of corner corners was only 01, which explains the national team's complete control over its counterpart, the Burkina Faso team, as the Algerian national team coach relied on the (4.1.4.1) plan in the first half. He changed the plan to the formation (4.4.2) at the end of the match because the Algerian national team was behind in the score and tied in the last minutes.

As for the defensive aspect, the number of interventions by the Algerian national team reached 17, of which 09 were incorrect interventions, which resulted in a penalty kick for the Burkina Faso team, and 08 were correct interventions. While the Burkina Faso team had 14 interventions, 05 of which were incorrect and 09 were correct, and this explains the good defensive performance of the Burkina Faso team compared to the Algerian team.

Through the analysis we conducted, we find that all indicators suggest that the Algerian team was better than the Burkina Faso team. However, the lead in the score was always in favor of the Burkina Faso team, which took advantage of scoring opportunities effectively. Considering the result achieved in the second match of the Algerian national team, it can be said that the coach's poor choices in involving some players who did not fulfill the role required of them to the fullest extent, in addition to the failure to employ some choices of players and playing systems, as well as the absence of offensive effectiveness, especially The final touch, which is the main reason for the tie in the score.

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Table 04. shows an analysis of the performance of the Algerian national team against the Mauritanian national team

| Algeria 00 | | | Mauritania 01 | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|-----------------------------|--|---------|
| Performance indicators | | result | Performance indicators | | result |
| Penalties | | 00 | Penalties | | 00 |
| Percentage of possession | | 75 | Percentage of possession | | 25 |
| Number of shots | | 16 | Number of shots | | 17 |
| Shots inside the goal frame | | 14 | Shots inside the goal frame | | 12 |
| Number of corners | | 06 | Number of corners | | 05 |
| Infiltration cases | | 02 | Infiltration cases | | 02 |
| Number of cards | | 03 | Number of cards | | 03 |
| Number of passes | | 546 | Number of passes | | 182 |
| Number of key passes | | 14 | Number of key passes | | 11 |
| Nber of accurate passes | | 463 84% | Nber of accurate passes | | 108 59% |
| Number of long passes | | 27 36% | Number of long passes | | 21 30% |
| Number of interventions | | 13 | Number of interventions | | 25 |
| Incorrect interventions | | 06 | Incorrect interventions | | 06 |
| Correct interventions | | 07 | Correct interventions | | 19 |

By analyzing the results of the table above, we note that the Algerian national team's possession rate was 75%, while the Mauritanian team's possession rate was 25%, as the number of passes for the Algerian national team reached about 546 passes, and the number of passes for the Mauritanian national team reached about 182 passes. To explain the large number of passes by the Algerian national team, one must look at the playing area in which the Algerian national team played, which is estimated at approximately 55 meters between the last defender and the first attacker. The coach relied on the advanced single-block defense system, and given the small playing area, we can interpret it as the national team coach trying as much as possible to conduct the match with the least physical effort and the most effectiveness - a system adopted by the national voter in the first round matches of the tournament. The number of shots made by the national team was about 16, of which 14 shots were inside the goal frame, while the number of shots made by the Mauritanian team was about 17 shots, of which 12 shots were inside the goal frame. Considering the level of shooting effectiveness, we find it high for the Algerian national team compared to the Mauritanian national team. The number of corner kicks for the Algerian team was about 06 for the Algerian team and 05 corner kicks for the Mauritanian team. Given the data related to the

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offensive aspect, the Algerian national team was in complete control throughout the match, as the tactical system adopted by the national team (4.3.3) contributed to imposing offensive control over the Mauritanian national team, in addition to giving wide scope to the individual skills that distinguish the Algerian national team, especially on the wings.

On the defensive side, the number of interventions for the Algerian national team reached about 13 interventions, of which 6 were correct interventions and 07 were incorrect interventions, while the number of interventions for the Mauritanian team reached approximately 25 interventions, of which 09 were incorrect interventions and 19 were correct interventions, which explains the dominance of the Algerian national team from The offensive aspect, and the good defensive performance of the Mauritanian national team. The most prominent player who contributed to limiting the attacks of the Algerian national team is the player "Keita", who has a great offensive tendency, but he focused on defense more than moving towards attack, as he played a prominent role in stopping the movements of the player "Amoura", who is characterized by high speed, and therefore The national team's play was focused on only one side, and thus the offensive effectiveness of the Algerian national team was absent.

7. Conclusions and suggestions:

1. By analyzing the results of the first match of the Algerian national team, it can be said that despite almost total control in the various stages of the match especially the first half, the Algerian team failed to manage the stages of the match and maintain its high level as it was at the beginning of the match, and as a result The national team conceded a goal via a penalty kick.
2. By analyzing the indicators of the Algerian national team's second match, we notice that the Algerian national team was better than the Burkina Faso team. Despite this, the lead in the score was always in favor of the Burkina Faso team, which took advantage of scoring opportunities effectively. Considering the Algerian national team, it had many scoring opportunities that it did not exploit properly, due to the absence of the final scoring touch.
3. Through the brief analysis that we made of the match between Algeria and Mauritania, it can be said that although the national team dominated to a large extent in the first round of the tournament, it did not succeed in scoring a single goal, through which it would have been possible to qualify for the next round, and as a result the team received The Algerian suffered a loss that eliminated him from the first round of the tournament, which was not expected.

Finally, it can be said that the poor defensive system of the Algerian national team is responsible for the loss, as we scored 3 goals and conceded 4 goals, which indicates a defect in the Algerian defensive system according to the statistics that were analyzed, which is borne primarily by the coach and the players in the second degree. As a result of the lack of an alternative, the coach bears full responsibility for the Algerian national team's exit from the first round of the African Championship.

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1.7 Suggestions and recommendations:

1. Paying attention to the formation of youth groups that are almost completely absent at the national level, especially in local Algerian clubs, whether in the west, center, north or south, as they are considered the main reservoir of football, and without them the Algerian national team will not develop.
2. Intensifying analytical studies, given their importance in studying various aspects of play, especially in local, continental and international championships.
3. Relying on a plan that contributes to adopting a special analyst for each team, especially at the local level and in our national championship.
4. Paying attention to creating frameworks for artistic and technical analysis, relying on the latest technological means to reach the highest possible sporting achievement.

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