

Solving the attack in numerical inferiority situations – a priority objective in modern handball

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Abstract

The obtaining of notable performances in handball play implies the alignment from the technical-tactical point of view to new tendencies, which implies: the play in speed, a good circulation of the ball, the assuring of the continuity of the play, rapid re-putting after the receiving of a goal, the trying of maximum exploiting of the counter-attack, rapid withdrawal and others. Besides those above mentioned, an extreme important role is played by the solving of the attack in the defending situations of numerical inferiority and superiority. This article refers only to the numerical inferiority situations in the attack phase. We can not talk about the obtaining of an advantageous result without the mastering of a technical- tactical baggage suitable for those situations, the temporary eliminations being frequent enough on the course of a match. The ways of solving those situations in the case of the teams participating at The Feminine Handball European Championships, edition 2008 are analyzed. The concerns of the trainers and of the players regarding the obtaining of victories, lead to the finding of corresponding solutions for solving the all playing situations.

Key-words: *handball, attack, numerical inferiority*

Rezumat

Obținerea unor performanțe notabile în jocul de handbal implică alinierea din punct de vedere tehnico-tactic la noile tendințe, care implică: jocul în viteză, o bună circulație a mingii, asigurarea continuității jocului, repunere rapidă după primirea unui gol, încercarea de exploatare la maximum a contraatacului, repliere rapidă și altele. Alături de cele enumerate anterior un rol extrem de important îl joacă și rezolvarea situațiilor de atac și apărare în inferioritate sau superioritate numerică. Articolul de față face referire doar la situațiile de inferioritate numerică în faza de atac. Nu putem vorbi de obținerea unui rezultat favorabil fără stăpânirea unui bagaj tehnico-tactic adecvat unor asemenea situații, eliminările temporare fiind destul de frecvente pe parcursul unui meci. Sunt analizate modalitățile de rezolvare a acestor situații în cazul echipelor participante la Campionatele Europene de handbal feminin, ediția 2008. Preocupările antrenorilor și jucătorilor vizavi de obținerea victoriilor, duc la găsirea de soluții corespunzătoare de rezolvare a tuturor situațiilor de joc.

Cuvinte cheie: *handbal, atac, inferioritate numerică.*

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Introduction

Handball represents one of the sports in which the body contact, in the limits stated by the regulation, is permitted. In the modern play, due to the sustained rhythm and to the speed at which the actions are performed, a series of deviations from those limits appear, sanctioned depending on their gravity, with warning, temporary elimination, disqualification or definitive elimination.

Excepting the first situation, (warning), the team whose player(s) was sanctioned is forced to practice the play in conditions of numerical inferiority of players.

In time the concept of play has suffered numerous changes too. If 30 years ago, in the situation of numerical inferiority situation, the idea of going on was "to stay as much as possible on attack", in modern handball, due to the changes appeared in the regulation, especially to the pressure imposed by the passive play rule, the obligation of considering this situation from other perspectives appears.

In modern handball, in order to obtain notable performances, there are necessary technical-tactical solutions meant to solve this problem of the numerical inferiority attack in as short time as possible with the scoring of a goal in the adverse goalpost, in the same time.

Material and method

I have analyzed the evolution of the first 12 teams qualified in the finals at The Feminine European Championship from 2008, which took place in Macedonia. The analyze was done based on the official game reports presented on the site of European Handball Federation, taking into account the attacks performed by those teams in numerical inferiority situations, when the attack was performed in the positional attack phase. The data obtained has been synthesized in a table from which we can

conclude: the number of games, the number of goals scored from the attacks in the numerical inferiority situations performed and the percentage obtained by the teams qualified in the final phases of this competition.

The article shows, in the same time, some technical and tactical solutions, thought and put into practice by those teams, after watching the matches being broadcasted on television.

Results

In the table no.1 are shown the first 12 teams qualified in the finals at The Women's European Championships from Macedonia 2008, the number of games fought, the number of goals scored in the numerical inferiority attack phases and the percentage obtained.

Table I. First 12 teams qualified in the finals at The Women's European Championships from Macedonia 2008 – Number of goals in numerical inferiority

Team	Number of games	Goals/Attacks	Percentage
Norway	8	19/43	44%
Spain	8	13/34	38%
Russia	8	12/29	41%
Germany	8	7/25	28%
Romania	7	16/35	45%
Croatia	7	8/29	27%
Macedonia	6	9/33	27%
Hungary	6	6/33	18%
Sweden	6	8/23	34%
Ukraine	6	8/32	25%
Denmark	6	8/35	22%
Belarus	6	23/51	45%
Total	82	137/402	34%

It is observed that Romania and Belarus have the best percents, fact that indicates the finding of some optimal technical-tactical solutions in these situations of play. The first five teams qualified have a very good percentage regarding the ratio between the inferior numerical attacks performed and the number of goals scored (38-45%). The only team that can be considered to belong to those with a smaller percentage is Germany (28%). We can see

that 34% from attacks in numerical inferiority was scored. So, we must have solutions for playing in numerical inferiority, if we want to win the game.

Table II. First 12 teams qualified in the finals at The Women's European Championships from Macedonia 2008 – Number of goals in numerical inferiority from the total number of goals

Team	Number total of goals	Goals in numeric inferiority	Percentage
Norway	214	19	8,8%
Spain	170	13	7,6%
Russia	179	12	6,7%
Germany	195	7	3,5%
Romania	176	16	9%
Croatia	185	8	4,3%
Macedonia	129	9	6,9%
Hungary	114	6	5,2%
Sweden	110	8	7,2%
Ukraine	130	8	6,1%
Denmark	121	8	6,6%
Belarus	133	23	17.2%
Total	1856	137	7,4%

From the data shown in table 2, results that from the total number of scored goals by the first 12 qualified team, 7,4% where scored in numerical inferiority situations, fact that demonstrates once again, how necessary the minutely preparation of those play situations actually is. In the figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 there are shown some ways of approaching the numerical inferiority situations in the attack phase: In figure 1 there is shown a situation in which the finish is done on the right wing following this strategy: the right wing goes into circulation, crosses with the left back, attacks the lane between the defenders 1 and 2, passes to the left wing and then finishes. The figure 2 presents a situation in which the finish is performed from the central zone. The left wing goes into circulation, placing herself/himself in the central zone and depending on the turned up situation finishes, or the left back, or the wing having become pivot, or the right back. The figure 3 presents a way of finish through the entering of the centre back as pivot. The center back passes and enters the semi-circle, the two backs crosses and, depending on the case, one of those three finishes.

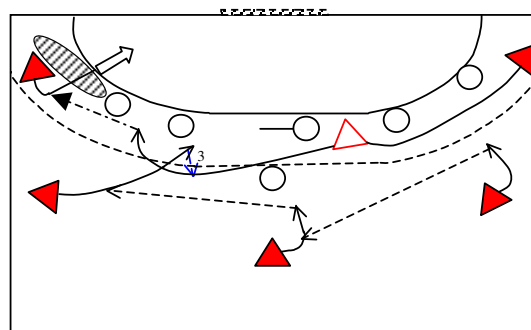


Figure 1. Attack in the outside space

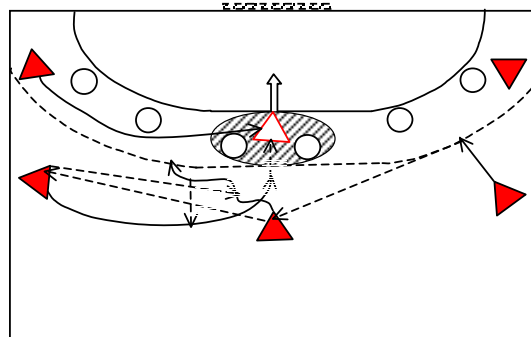


Figure 2. Attack with the wing in the central space

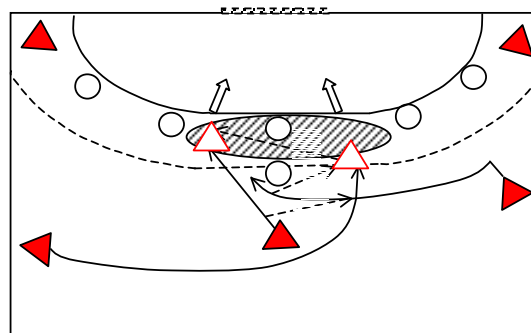


Figure 3. Attack with the central back in the central space

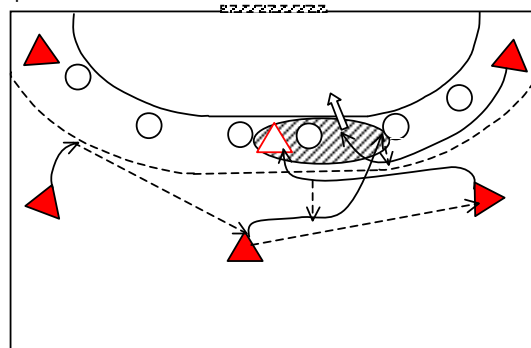


Figure 4. Attack with the wing in the central space, after two crosses

Another situation is that in case the wing cannot finish the attack in an outside space, we have also

the possibility to continue with two crosses and a shot by the wing. (fig. 4)

These practical examples and some others that coaches would use should take into account both the individual and collective technical-tactical resources of their own team.

Conclusions and proposals

Following the watching and analyzing the matches from the European Championships, it could be said that:

- The solving of the situations of numerical inferiority by scoring goals represents a methodical priority in order to obtain performances at the international level.
- The tactical objectives in those situations are: the forcing of the 2:2 relations in all the zones of the field, the finding of surprising solutions and the aerial play.
- As strategy, a good circulation of the ball, the misleading movements and the assuring of the continuity of the game are all recommended.

- Regarding the organizing of the game, we can talk about the attack without pivot, with pivot and wing, with pivot and two wings or other options, depending on the defending system used by the adverse team.
- As in the case of the attack in numerical equality conditions, in this case, the solving of the 1:1 situations leads to the simplification of the modalities of solving the phase.
- The misleading movements (feints) should not be done in hurry so as not to lead to technical mistakes meant to determine the losing of the possession of the ball.

References

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