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ABSTRACT

Comparative Analysis of Playing Patterns Between Top and Bottom-Ranked Teams in the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2024

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I. INTRODUCTION

This study investigates and compares the tactical patterns and performance indicators of the top three and bottom three teams in the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2024 [1]. While much research has focused on isolated metrics or overall match outcomes, there remains a gap in tier-based comparative analysis that integrates multiple performance dimensions. To address this, the study examines key performance indicators (KPIs) such as scoring efficiency, defensive organization, pressing intensity, and team movement patterns. Understanding these variables is essential for coaches, analysts, and practitioners aiming to identify the strategic components that differentiate successful teams from underperforming ones. By situating the analysis within a single tournament framework, this research ensures consistency in environmental and competitive conditions, enhancing the validity of the findings. The insights derived can inform training methodologies, match preparation, and long-term tactical planning, ultimately contributing to performance optimization in elite futsal competitions [2].

II. METHODS

This study employed a causal-comparative research design to analyze the tactical patterns and performance differences between the top three and bottom three ranked teams in the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2024. A total of 29 official matches involving these six teams were selected for analysis, ensuring consistency in competition level and contextual conditions. Match footage was obtained from official FIFA broadcasts, while supplementary data, such as player statistics and event timelines, were sourced from the FIFA official match database. Tactical and performance indicators were analyzed using Nacsport performance analysis software, allowing for frame-by-frame coding and categorization of key performance indicators (KPIs). The PIs included passing styles (short, long, and diagonal), tackles (successful and unsuccessful), and goals shot placement (directions). Reliability was calculated, achieving a reliability score of $r > 0.80$, and the coding error rate was maintained below 10%, meeting the standards for notational analysis in sports science. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize performance trends across both groups. To examine differences between the top-ranked and bottom-ranked teams, independent sample t-tests were conducted on each PI. The level of statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

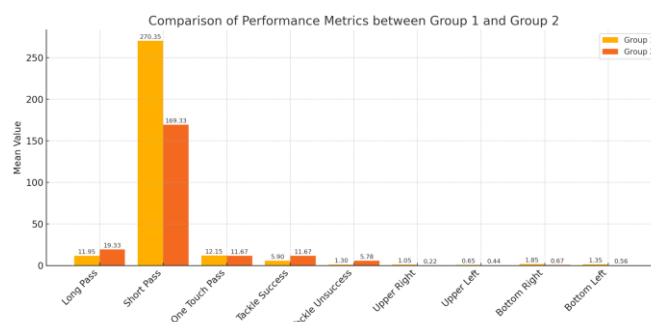


Fig.1 Comparison of performance indicators metrics between top and bottom teams.

Long pass group 2 performs more long passes, suggesting a preference for direct or wide gameplay. Notes as for the short pass, group 1 emphasizes possession and short passing play, indicating better ball control and teamwork. Success tackle indicating group 2 shows stronger defensive abilities, winning more tackles but also failing more often, possibly due to a more aggressive or risky defensive style. As for the shot placement, group 1 is more accurate and attempts more shots aimed at the upper right corner of the goal. For the upper left corner, both groups are similar in targeting this zone, with group 1 showing a slight edge, which can also be seen at the bottom right and bottom left shots.

TABLE I
INFERENCE ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AMONG TOP AND BOTTOM TEAMS

		p
Short Pass	29.0	0.003
Tackle Success	32.5	0.007
Tackle Unsuccess	46.0	0.034
Shot Placement (Upper right)	47.5	0.030

According to Table 1, short pass ($p = 0.003$), group 1 had a significantly higher mean in short passes means group 1 likely uses a possession-based playing style, emphasizing ball control and teamwork. This could be encouraged for teams

aiming to dominate possession and slow-paced build-up. Tackle success ($p = 0.007$) was noted to have group 2 with a higher mean value, which demonstrates better defensive effectiveness. These players may have better timing and technique in dispossessing opponents, or they focus more on defense. Group 2 also noted to have higher unsuccessful tackles ($p = 0.034$). Although more successful, their aggressive defense also leads to more failed attempts. This shows a high-risk, high-reward defensive style, which can be refined by working on timing and positioning. As for the shot placement, the upper right corner ($p = 0.030$), group 1 scored more in this zone. Indicating they may have better shot accuracy or training focused on goal placement. This precision can be critical for breaking strong defenses, and it might be a strength to further develop. Other than these, no significant differences were found between teams.

A. Tactical Scoring and Defensive Efficiency

The analysis showed that top-performing futsal teams used significantly more short passes than lower-ranked teams ($p = 0.003$), highlighting a tactical focus on maintaining possession and smooth transitions. In futsal's fast-paced, small-court environment, short passes help control the game's tempo, support structured build-up, and reduce turnover risks. This reflects strong team coordination and decision-making under pressure. Long passes and one-touch plays did not differ significantly, suggesting they are used more situationally rather than as a consistent tactic. In terms of shooting, top teams showed higher accuracy, especially when targeting the upper and bottom right corners of the goal. This indicates better shot selection and execution, possibly due to focused training and awareness of goalkeeper positioning. Overall, superior passing and shooting efficiency appear to be key factors that separate elite teams from others.

B. Defensive Strategy Evaluation

The analysis showed that winning teams do show high tackle success rates ($p = 0.007$) and fewer failed attempts, indicating strong defensive organization, timing, and teamwork. In high-level futsal, where space is tight, effective tackling relies on coordinated pressure and positional discipline, allowing teams to win the ball without exposing defensive gaps. This ability to regain possession and transition quickly is vital for success. In contrast, lower-ranked teams had more unsuccessful tackles ($p = 0.034$), pointing to issues in timing, positioning, or technique. They also conceded more goals in the upper right quadrant ($p = 0.030$), suggesting

weaknesses in defensive coverage and goalkeeper positioning. These patterns reflect a lack of cohesion and pressure management, making them more vulnerable during transitions and under attack.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The comparative analysis revealed that top-ranked teams in the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2024 excelled in short passing, defensive effectiveness, and shooting precision—key indicators of cohesive tactical execution. In contrast, bottom teams exhibited defensive lapses, poor positional discipline, and less efficient offensive strategies, resulting in higher goal concessions. These findings emphasize that success in elite futsal is strongly influenced by an integrated approach to both offensive and defensive play.

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