Differences in short and long passes of midfield footballers

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Absract

Efficiency in the game of football is possible only if phenomena is systematically defined as it is of primary importance for structuring the basic movements and the technical-tactical elements in the game of football. The main purpose of this research is to compare the midfielders of Superleague and First League of Kosovo in the technical element of the pass which is very significant for the quality of a footballer and especially of a midfielder. To this end, three hypotheses have been put forward which have been partially realized. The obtained results show that the Kosovo Superleague midfielders have shown higher efficiency in these specific technical elements during the game: in total passes, in accurate passes, inaccurate passes, in accurate short passes where Superleague footballers have had fewer long incorrect passes.

Key words: Superleague of Kosovo, The First League , football, technical elements, passes.

INTRODUCTION

All players in a team are important no matter what position they play on the pitch. Everyone in one way or another gives the contribution on the pitch, but possibly midfielders are those who have the main responsibility in the team. Usually in youth football the midfielders are just players playing in the middle of the field. Over time as their technical and tactical skills improve they are subdivided into several types of midfielders: side midfielders, defensive midfielders, central midfielders and offensive midfielders. Midfielders are the ones who link defense with the attack, they are the team engine and are the ones who organize almost all the action. Quality midfielders should have enough quality in order not to think about the ball control but how to distribute it as quickly as possible. Also midfielders should be able to predict what will happen next.

In football the ability to maintain ball possession for a long time enables the team to be more likely to have a favorable outcome at the end of the match. (Hook and Hughes, 2001). The accuracy of this assertion was confirmed in the 2001-2002 Premier League season where 24 matches were compared. Winner teams had far more ball possession than the losers. But it was also found that successful and unsuccessful teams had better possession of the ball when they were losing than when they were winning.

Well-known midfielders are distinguished by their physical, technical-tactical qualities as well as their creativity on the pitch. A very significant and important quality for footballers is especially the passes. Counting passes is easy but it is important who are the best passers and what is the impact on the team.

Usually the best football players are the best passers and all players no matter what position they play should improve this ability. At first glance passes seem simple but is actually very difficult to perfectionate. Passing is part of the technical elements with the ball and is one of the first techniques learned in football. The two known types of passes are: the short passes and the long passes for which this study was conducted. A good pass helps to keep the ball in possession and

this gives you a greater chance of winning otherwise how is goal expected to be scored if the team does not posses the ball?

Developing the habit of passing is the key factor for successful sports team performance. (Robert Rein, Dominik Raabe, Daniel Memmert, 2017).

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

The main purpose of this research is to compare the midfielders of the Superleague and the First League of Kosovo in the technical element of the pass which is very significant for the quality of a footballer and especially a midfielder.

Other goals include: Estimating the number of passes per match in total for both ranks and estimating the number of correct and incorrect based on the above classification.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research included midfield players from Superleague and the First League of Kosovo in football, the spring season 2018-2019 matches calendar. The data are collected from 5 Superleague matches and 6 First League matches. A total of 60 midfielders were analyzed in these matches, for both ranks dived in halves 30/30. The following variables were applied to all midfielders: Total passes (TP), Correct passes (CP), Incorrect passes (IP), Short correct passes (SHCP), Incorrect short passes (ISHP), accurate long passes (ALP) and incorrect long passes (ILP).

0-30m -- Short pass
>30m -- Long Pass

In this study for the two leagues separately these basic statistical parameters: Arithmetic Average (AA), Standard Deviation (SD), Minimum Value (Min) and Maximum Value (Max). Pearson correlation test was used to evaluate the correlations between variables. Whereas to analyze the differences between the Superleague and First League midfielders T-Test was used to test numerical variables as well as descriptive analysis.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Basic statistical parameters of asymmetry and normal distribution of specific variables of the First League in football.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
TP	30	7	66	27.1667	15.58754	1.225	0.868
CP	30	6	54	19.7667	12.90732	1.339	0.983
IP	30	1	19	7.4	3.86496	0.803	1.409
SHCP	30	5	51	17.6667	11.85351	1.338	1.03
ISHP	30	0	12	4.4	2.634	0.697	1.179
ALP	30	0	10	2.2	2.35475	1.492	2.791
ILP	30	0	7	2.9	2.09021	0.773	-0.235

Table 2. Basic statistical parameters of asymmetry and normal distribution of specific variables of Superleague in football.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
TP	30	10	70	39.1	14.74695	0.314	-0.466
CP	30	8	68	34	14.94357	0.458	-0.32
IP	30	1	17	5.1	3.34612	1.818	4.398
SHCP	30	8	66	32.6	14.5237	0.558	-0.261
ISHP	30	0	10	3.3	2.35108	1.234	1.327
ALP	30	0	4	1.4	1.16264	0.26	-0.831
ILP	30	0	9	1.8	1.86437	2.159	6.679

Total passes (TP), Correct passes (CP), Incorrect passes (IP), Short correct passes (SHCP), Incorrect short passes (ISHP), accurate long passes (ALP) and incorrect long passes (ILP)

On tables 1 and 2 are shown the basic statistical characteristics of the applied specific variables system for league rankings such as Arithmetic Average (AA), Minimum Values, Maximum Values (Max), Standard Deviation (SD) and Asymmetry Parameters (SKEW and KURT). The minimum and maximum values do not have much difference between the ranks since the results are approximate but there are significant differences in the arithmetic average in some variables such as. TP (Superleague 39.1) (First League 27.1), CP (Superleague 34) (First League 19.7) and SHCP (Superleague 32.6) (First League 17.6)

Table 3. Correlation coefficients of specific variables of Super League footballers.

Superleague	TP	CP	IP	SHCP	ISHP	ALP	ILP
TP	1.00						
CP	.975**	1					
IP	.054	-.170	1				
SHCP	.971**	.997**	-.176	1			
ISHP	-.171	-.357*	.842**	-.345*	1		
ALP	.402*	.395*	.007	.326*	-.285	1	
ILP	.313*	.145	.733**	.119	.250	.372*	1

Inspection of table 3 of the finite value of Pearson's coefficients shows that the limit value for 30 degrees of freedom (df (N-2)). Thus, the statistically significant coefficients of the variables with the highest degree of statistical inference ($p < 0.01$) are denoted by two star signs. Easier criterion of statistical inference ($p < 0.05$) values are marked with an asterisk.

In realizing the Total Passes, the correct Passes participate in the highest number and constitute the highest percentage with $p < 0.01$, and therefore constitute the first group. The second group comprises the Correct Short Passes with the total passes and the correct passes $p < 0.01$. The third group comprises the Inaccurate Short Passes with the inaccurate passes with $p < 0.01$. The fourth group comprises the Long Inaccurate Passes with incorrect passes with $p < 0.01$.

Table 4. Correlation coefficients of specific variables of First League footballers.

First League	TP	CP	IP	SHCP	ISHP	ALP	ILP
TP	1.00						
CP	.980**	1					
IP	.760**	.616**	1				
SHCP	.948**	.986**	.532**	1			
ISHP	.566**	.424*	.864**	.373*	1		
ALP	.617**	.544**	.680**	.404*	.404*	1	
ILP	.670**	.573**	.778**	.479**	.383*	.691**	1

Inspection of this table shows that all the specific motor variables stand statistically in significant correlations: Total Passes with Correct Passes with Incorrect Passes with Correct Short Passes with Incorrect Short Passes with Long Correct Passes with Long inaccurate passes at $p < 0.01$ level. Also, Total Passes, Correct Passes, Incorrect Passes, Short Accurate Passes, Inaccurate Short Passes, Long Accurate Passes, Inaccurate Long Passes are statistically significant at $p < 0.01$.

Table 5. Differences between arithmetic averages of First League and Super League footballers in specific motor variables

Independent Samples Test									
	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig.	Mean Diff	Std. Error Diff	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
TP	.010	.920	-3.046	58	.003	-11.93333	3.91767	-19.77540	-4.09127
			-3.046	57.823	.003	-11.93333	3.91767	-19.77591	-4.09076
CP	1.290	.261	-3.948	58	.000	-14.23333	3.60513	-21.44979	-7.01688
			-3.948	56.798	.000	-14.23333	3.60513	-21.45304	-7.01363
IP	.784	.380	2.464	58	.017	2.30000	.93335	.43169	4.16831
			2.464	56.835	.017	2.30000	.93335	.43087	4.16913
SHCP	1.901	.173	-4.363	58	.000	-14.93333	3.42269	-21.78459	-8.08208
			-4.363	55.760	.000	-14.93333	3.42269	-21.79045	-8.07622
ISHP	.241	.625	1.706	58	.093	1.10000	.64461	-.19032	2.39032
			1.706	57.267	.093	1.10000	.64461	-.19067	2.39067
ALP	6.181	.016	1.669	58	.101	.80000	.47946	-.15975	1.75975
			1.669	42.346	.103	.80000	.47946	-.16736	1.76736
ILP	1.441	.235	2.151	58	.036	1.10000	.51137	.07639	2.12361
			2.151	57.258	.036	1.10000	.51137	.07611	2.12389

In the Total Passes between the First League and Superleague players there is a statistically significant difference p <0.003 because the difference is at -11.93 passes. Superleague players have been better.

There was a statistically significant difference p <0.000 in the Exact Passes between the First League and Superleague players because the difference is at -14.23 passes. Superleague players have been better. In the incorrect passes between the First League and Superleague players there is a statistically significant difference p <0.017 because the difference is at 2.30 passes. Superleague players have had fewer inaccurate passes. There was a statistically significant p <0.000 difference between the First League and Superleague players in the precise short passes because the difference is at -14.93 passes. Superleague players have been better. In the incorrect passes between the First League and Superleague players there is no statistically significant difference p <0.093 because the difference is at 1.10 passes. Superleague players have had fewer inaccurate short passes. There was no statistically significant difference p <0.101 in the long accurate passes between the First League and Superleague players because the difference was at

0.80 passes. Superleague players have had fewer accurate long passes. In the long incorrect passes between the First League and Superleague players there is a statistically significant difference p <0.036 because the difference is at 1.10 passes. Superleague players have had fewer long incorrect passes.

CONCLUSION

Efficiency in the game of football is possible only if phenomena is systematically defined as it is of primary importance for structuring the basic movements and the technical-tactical elements in the game of football. Processing these matches in a "turkey epor" software. This program extracts information or data on the types and number of team and player passes, the percentage of team efficiency and each team player that has been the subject of research.
Since there has never been a technical survey of football players in Kosovo (passes) then I found it very important to do so. This research will serve all those who want to know the performances of a midfielder during a championship match. Such a study will probably in the future give way to many more detailed studies not only in the pass element but also in other technical and tactical features of the players regardless of their role on the pitch.
The main purpose of this research is to compare the midfielders of the Superleague and the First League in the technical element of the pass which is very significant for the quality of a player specifically a midfielder.

Data processing shows that:
Superleague midfielders have shown better results both in number of passes and in accuracy. In total passes, in short correct passes, long correct passes Superleague midfielders have more passes while in inaccurate passes, inaccurate short passes and long inaccurate passes they have less inaccurate passes which was expected even before this research.

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