



MEN'S EHF EURO 2024

GERMANY
10-28 JANUARY



EHF
COMPETENCE
ACADEMY &
NETWORK

MEN'S EHF EURO 2024 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS



CONTENTS



Introduction	3
Tournament – facts & figures	4
Team performance – brief overview	5
Matches & players – facts	6
Coaches	7
Defence analysis	8
Attack analysis	9
Profile of the modern player	11
Players for the future	12
Conclusions & findings	19
All-star Team	20



INTRODUCTION

The Men's EHF EURO 2024 qualitative summary provides an analysis of the performance of the 24 competing teams and respective players, who competed in the tournament from the 10th to the 28th of January 2024.

The analysis focuses on providing increased visual aids for coaches to be able to put the knowledge gathered into practice. It covers coaching, tactical and technical elements. Throughout this analysis, you can find links to selected clips from the Men's EHF EURO 2024 by clicking on the video symbol. To encompass the analysis, the software 'My Handball System' was used for the graphics.

Further information about the event, as well as full team and player statistics, can be found on the official Men's EHF EURO 2024 website.

Expert group

Lead analyst:

Monique Tijsterman

(EHF Methods Commission – Methods & Coaching)

Experts:

Dr Zoltán Marczinka

(EHF Master Coach)

Dr Csaba Ökrös

(EHF Master Coach)

János Hajdu

(EHF Master Coach)

Zoltán Kólya

(CEO Sport CAD Ltd)



TOURNAMENT — FACTS & FIGURES

- 24 teams competed in the Men's EHF EURO 2024.
- 65 matches were played over the course of 19 days.
- France vs North Macedonia was the official opening game of the EHF EURO 2024
- During the opening matches a record of 53,586 spectators watched the matches live at the Merkur Spiel-Arena.
- One million tickets were sold.
- 7.6 million tuned into ZDF to watch Germany vs Switzerland; two million people aged 14-49; market share of 28.8%.
- The current World, Olympic and European title holders Denmark, Sweden and France competed together with Germany in the final weekend.
- France made it to the EURO Final after 10 years.
- France won the EHF EURO 2024 title; the fourth time they win a European Championship (2006, 2010, 2014) in front of 19,750 spectators in the LANXESS arena.
- EHF EURO 2024 bronze medallists Sweden qualified directly for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- 3,778 goals were scored, France topping the list (306 goals out of 475 shots) with an efficiency of 64.4%.
- Goalkeepers Andreas Wolff (nine matches, 92 saves out of 274 shots, efficiency 33.5%) followed by Constantin Möstl (seven matches, 81 saves out of 229 shots, efficiency 35.5%) and Emil Nielsen (nine matches, 78 saves out of 196 shots, efficiency 39.8%) were on top of the list of goalkeepers saves.
- The fastest sprint was delivered by Dylan Nahi (FRA) and Emil Jakobsen (DEN) with 31.6 km/hour.
- The fastest shot recorded was the one from Bodgan Radivojevic (SRB): 129.5 km/hour.
- Niclas Vest Kirkeløkke covered the biggest running distance, 35.5 km in nine matches played.



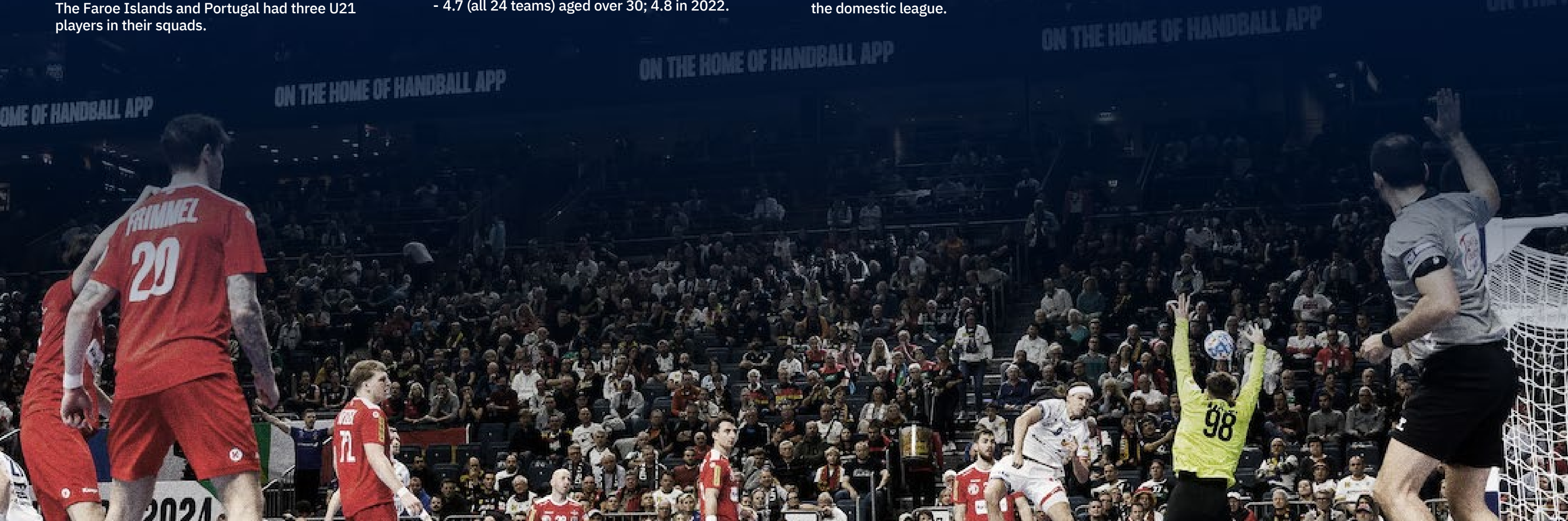
TEAM PERFORMANCE — BRIEF OVERVIEW

- The tournament produced several noteworthy performances.
- Croatia opened their EHF EURO 2024 by winning against Spain with a 10-goal difference.
- EHF EURO 2022 silver medallists Spain were knocked out in the preliminary round.
- The Faroe Islands, Georgia and Greece made their debut at the EHF EURO.
- The Faroe Islands, Georgia and Greece had strong performances in their opening matches.
- The Faroe Islands delivered a surprise in the match against Norway (26:26).
- Hungary secured their best ranking ever, fifth place. In 1998 they ended the competition in sixth place.
- France and Denmark played against each other six times at the EHF EURO. France won five times and Denmark just once.
- France only lost one point during this year's tournament, against Switzerland.



MATCHES & PLAYERS — FACTS

- The number of international matches played by the participating teams decreased from 48.3 (on average) in 2022 to 45.8 (on average) in 2024.
- Several countries have introduced younger players into their teams: 24 players aged below 21 participated in the Men's EHF EURO 2024. The Faroe Islands and Portugal had three U21 players in their squads.
- On average, 15 participating teams had 1.6 players under the age of 21 in their squads.
 - 3.8 (23 teams) aged between 21-23; 3.1 in 2022.
 - 9.3 (all 24 teams) aged between 23-30; 12.4 in 2022.
 - 4.7 (all 24 teams) aged over 30; 4.8 in 2022.
- Compared to 2022, there were fewer players between the ages of 23-30 active in the EHF EURO 2024.
- The EHF EURO 2024 counted 448 players, out of which 237 (average 52.9) play in foreign countries and 211 (average 47.1) are active in the domestic league.
- Denmark was the team with the highest average number of international appearances (111.2), followed by Norway with 95.3.
- Montenegro and the Faroe Islands were the teams with the lowest average number of international matches: 20.1 and 20.8, respectively.



COACHES

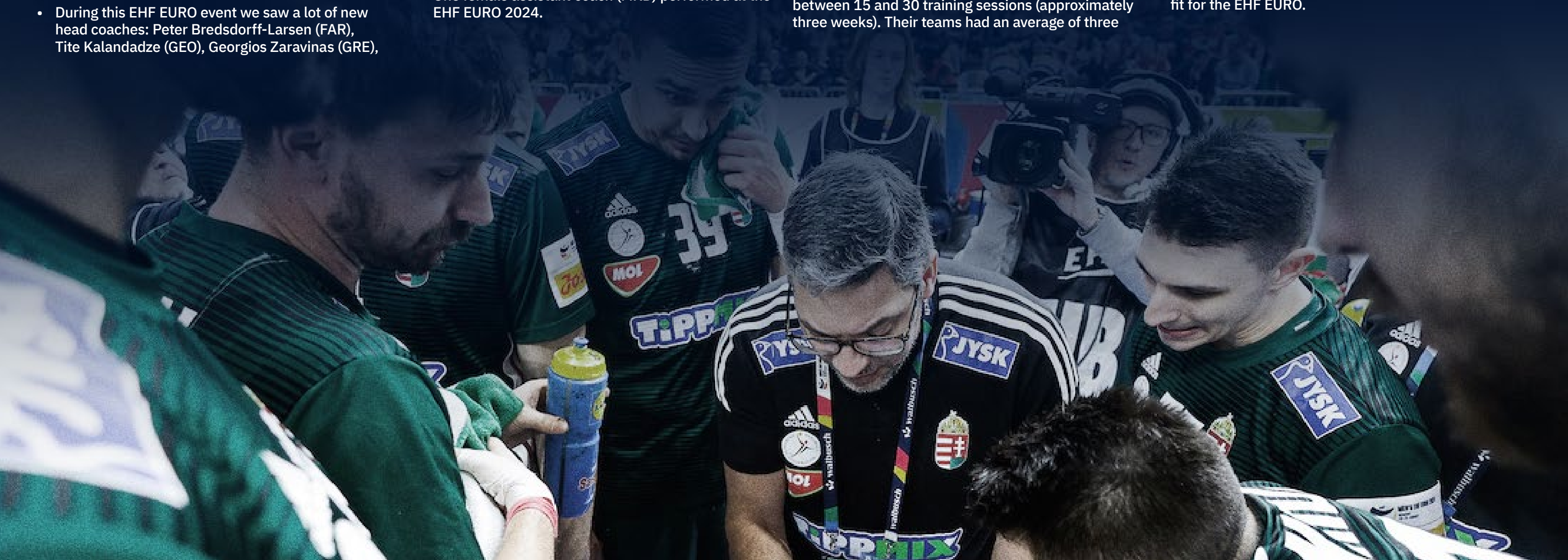
- 11 foreign coaches were active at the Men's EHF EURO 2024, equating to 45.8% of the participating teams. In comparison, in 2022 there were nine (37,5%) foreign coaches active.
- During this EHF EURO event we saw a lot of new head coaches: Peter Bredsdorff-Larsen (FAR), Tite Kalandadze (GEO), Georgios Zaravinas (GRE),

Snorri Steinn Guðjónsson (ICE), Vlado Sola (MNE), Marcin Lijewski (POL), Uros Zorman (SLO) and Glenn Solberg (SWE).

- One female assistant coach (MKD) performed at the EHF EURO 2024.

- Prior to the EHF EURO 2024, we asked the coaches how the tournament preparations were going, keeping in mind that players have different preparations abroad. Most of the coaches had the team together between 15 and 30 training sessions (approximately three weeks). Their teams had an average of three

matches before the EHF EURO. The coaches tried to stay in contact with the players during the season. A lot of players play in the EHF Champions League, so it is not only about training but also about being mentally fit for the EHF EURO.



DEFENCE ANALYSIS

Defence – general aspects

- Teams at the Men’s EHF EURO 2024 used a variety of defensive styles.
- Denmark had the second-best defence with 25.6 goals conceded per 50 possessions.
- France ranked tenth in defence with 27.5 goals conceded per 50 possessions.

Defence – tactical aspects

- Most of the teams used a 6:0 zone defence, although with different styles.

- The top teams used well-adjusted defending pairs at L3-R3 positions to give stability to their defence. Best defending pairs: Golla and Köster, Saugstrup and Held, Darj and Carlsbogard, Konan and Fabregas.

- Best individual defenders: Köster, Saugstrup and Golla.

- Successful teams defended well against the line player. Hungary allowed only 8 goal shots per match from the line position, followed by Germany (9 per match) and Slovenia (10 per match).

TOP 3 BEST DEFENDERS						
Player	Nation	Blocks	Steals	Total	Avg.	MP
Julian Köster	GER	17	5	22	2.4	9
Magnus Saugstrup Jensen	DEN	9	6	15	1.9	8
Johannes Golla	GER	6	9	15	1.7	9

- When defending during numerical inferiority, teams generally give up the wing areas and maintain the offensive footwork at the middle section of the defence.

Transition attack – defence together with the Goalkeeper

- The goalkeepers’ performance was a decisive factor in the teams’ success. The high and increasing saving percentage is due to a shared effort by goalkeepers and defenders: the defenders cover a section of the goal, helping goalkeepers to focus on saving on the other side.

- Sweden did not concede a goal from Fast throw off and was one of the best to defend against fast break, with quick retreat.

GOALKEEPERS				
	Goals	Shots	Percentage	
			2024	2022
6m centre shots	377	1461	26%	26%
Wing shots	226	690	33%	29%
9m shots	614	1457	42%	41%
7m penalty shots	96	454	21%	16%
Fast breaks	59	452	13%	16%
Breakthroughs	126	615	20%	22%
Fast throw-off	6	54	11%	11%
Total	1504	5282	28%	28%

- The goalkeeper performance of Denmark was clearly better. They saved 35.3% of the attempts, compared to only 22.5% of the French goalkeepers.

GOALKEEPERS TOP 2 TEAMS						
	DENMARK			FRANCE		
	2024		2022	2024		2022
	Goals/Shots	%	%	Goals/Shots	%	%
6m centre shots	35/112	31%	23%	18/95	19%	27%
Wing shots	16/44	36%	36%	13/30	43%	37%
9m shots	54/107	50%	53%	57/129	44%	45%
7m penalty shots	12/43	29%	33%	5/27	19%	17%
Fast breaks	4/14	29%	20%	3/31	10%	23%
Breakthroughs	6/36	17%	21%	9/55	16%	16%
Fast throw-off	0/3	0%		1/5	20%	
Total	127/360	35%	35%	106/376	28%	31%



ATTACK ANALYSIS

Attack – general aspects

- At the Men’s EHF EURO 2024, 3,778 goals were scored out of 6,099 shots (62%), compared to 3,633 goals out of 5,747 shots (63%) at the Men’s EHF EURO 2022.

GOALS BY POSITION				
	Goals	Shots	Percentage	
			2024	2020
6m centre shots	1,084	1,584	68%	67%
Wing shots	464	757	61%	64%
9m shots	843	1,961	43%	45%
7m penalty shots	358	480	75%	79%
Fast breaks	393	470	84%	78%
Breakthroughs	489	668	73%	73%
Empty goal	99	119	83%	
Fast throw-off	48	60	80%	79%
TOTAL	3,778	6,099	80%	
Attacks	3,778	6,957	54%	55%
Majority Attacks	432	688	63%	66%
Minority Attacks	252	486	52%	49%
Position Attacks	3,238	6,259	52%	53%
Fastbreak Attacks	393	521	75%	68%
Individual Fastbreak	32	43	74%	91%
Team Fastbreak	361	478	76%	64%

- France had the longest possession of the ball (35 minutes) and covered more than 35 kilometers during the final game.
- Denmark had the best attack with 31.1 goals scored per 50 possessions.
- With 66.4%, Denmark had the best field shooting percentage over the whole tournament.

- Top scorers Mathias Gisdal (DEN) and Martim Costa (POR) both scored 54 goals. Gisdal scored 54 goals out of 66 shots (81.8%) in eight matches. Martim Costa scored the same number of goals out of 81 shots (66.7%) in seven matches.
- Amongst the 10 top scorers were eight back players, out of which there were three right back players, one wing player and one line player.

Attack – technical aspects

- Outstanding individuals varied faking techniques were shown during this EURO.
- Quick and accurate passing.
- Small attacker - big defender 1 vs 1.

Attack – tactical aspects

- In a common attack, most teams played as they did in 2022: position changes between the back players and crossing with wing, back and line players was striking.
- centre back and back change without the ball.

- centre back and pivot change with the ball.
- centre back and back change with the ball.

- When attacking in numerical superiority – six against five or seven against six – teams often played with two line players in attack.

6 vs 5 with one line player.

6 vs 5 with two line players.

7 vs 5.

- Playing 7 vs 6 during normal playing time (numerical equality). The Faroe Islands played this especially well. In addition, Denmark also used this tactic during the semi-final.

- Substitution strategy (left-handed player Remilli comes from the bench and plays as left back in the fast break).



ATTACK ANALYSIS

Attack transition and attack-defence together with the goalkeeper

- Our general observation is that there are fewer individual fast breaks and more team fast breaks. This is because teams are performing better in defence. Teams are retreating very well.
- Because of a good defence, together with a great goalkeeper, more attention was paid to the counter attack.
- Quick counter attack after saving with goalkeeper pass

- Quick counter attack after saving, with indirect pass from the goalkeeper

- Team counter attack

- Fast throw-off directly or with 1-2 passes

Fast throw-off with 3-4 passes



- Completing the attack with a passive play signal

- Completing the attack with free-throw with passive play

GOALS BY POSITION TOP 2 TEAMS				
	FRANCE		DENMARK	
	Goals/Shots	%	Goals/Shots	%
6m centre shots	91/124	73%	71/97	73%
Wing shots	40/62	65%	38/58	66%
9m shots	80/150	53%	56/115	49%
7m penalty shots	24/37	65%	40/45	89%
Fast breaks	28/36	78%	31/37	84%
Breakthroughs	23/44	52%	36/48	75%
Empty goal	13/15	87%	6/7	86%
Fast throw-off	7/7	100%	3/3	100%
TOTAL	306/475	64%	281/410	69%
Attacks	306/515	59%	281/460	61%
Majority Attacks	24/43	56%	38/60	63%
Minority Attacks	16/25	64%	21/25	84%
Position Attacks	258/451	57%	241/409	59%
Fast break Attacks	28/42	67%	31/41	76%
Individual Fast break	2/3	67%	3/3	100%
Team Fast break	26/39	67%	28/38	74%

PROFILE OF THE MODERN PLAYER

German's Julian Köster is a good example of the profile of the modern player. At only 23 years old, the two-metre left back is a great defender and attacker.



PLAYERS FOR THE FUTURE

Launched in 2019 by the EHF, the Respect Your Talent program promotes the holistic development of talented players both on and off the handball court, addressing topics such as dual career, anti-doping, mental fitness, media and sports law. During the past years, a plethora of young players have taken part in the program, mentored by former stalwarts like Ivano Balic, Vid Kavcicnik, Victor Tomas, Stefan Lövgren and Carlos Prieto after shining at the younger age categories of the EHF EURO. Now, as those players come of age, they are ready to impress on the highest level at the senior Men's EHF EURO.



PLAYERS FOR THE FUTURE



CONSTANTIN MÖSTL

Goalkeeper

Age: 23

Matches played: 7

Shots/Saves: 229/81

Saving percentage: 35.4%

Möstl is a quick-moving, so-called “rhythm goalkeeper”, which means he perfectly catches the moment when his opponent starts the shooting movement, when shots are coming from close zones.



PLAYERS FOR THE FUTURE



ELIAS ELLEFSEN Á SKIPAGØTU

Left back

Age: 21

Matches played: 3

Goals/Shots: 23/40

Shooting percentage: 57.5%

Skipagøtu is an extremely well-prepared player technically, who can be deployed in all attacking positions. His passing skills are unique, whether in the case of wingers when setting up line players or during a fast break.



PLAYERS FOR THE FUTURE



GERGŐ FAZEKAS

Centre back

Age: 20

Matches played: 8

Goals/Shots: 18/24

Shooting percentage: 75%

The greatest virtue of the young, versatile player is his goal-scoring; very effective from the ground from nine metres, which can be attributed to the unexpected and unique execution of the shot.



PLAYERS FOR THE FUTURE



FRANCISCO COSTA

Right back

Age: 18

Matches played: 7

Goals/Shots: 30/57

Shooting percentage: 52.6%

The secret of his success is not his physical strength, but on the one hand his good sense of attack in the area between the defenders and on the other hand his quick shooting movement. He likes to put his teammates into goal-scoring positions.



PLAYERS FOR THE FUTURE



BENCE IMRE

Right wing

Age: 21

Matches played: 6

Goals/Shots: 20/25

Shooting percentage: 80%

It is characteristic of him that, when scoring a goal, he makes maximum use of the free part of the six-metre line with the last two steps of his movement, which he further enhances with his jumping ability. His greatest virtue is his speed, shot variance and shot safety.



PLAYERS FOR THE FUTURE



VERON NACINOVIC

Line player

Age: 23

Matches played: 6

Goals/Shots: 19/25

Shooting percentage: 76%

Nacinovic is a player with a tall and athletic build, he is a perfect choice for a line-player attacking position and as an inside defender. His specialty is that, if his defender is to the left of him, he does not turn towards the goal with his right hand, but instead pushes his left shoulder directly towards the defender in the direction of the six-metre area, thus speeding up the creation of a clear scoring chance.



CONCLUSIONS & FINDINGS

- France won their fourth Men's EHF EURO title.
- One of the reasons France won the final is that they had only 2.6 lost balls, while Denmark had more than 9.6 lost balls per 50 possessions.
- Introduction of Video Replay Assistants (VRAs). The VRA is an EHF EURO referee who also serves as a substitute referee during his or her off-court duty. The VRA's objective in relation to the video replay process is to support the review process and to ensure good communication between the on-court referees and the video replay operator, as well

as between the delegates and the operator. The on-court referees are still the most authoritative officials during the match. They will always make the final call.

- The Instant Video Reply System (Referees) was used as follows:

Preliminary round: 32 VR distributed in 24 games.

- 1 VR every 1.13 games
- 0.89 VR reviews per game

Main Round: 19 VR distributed in 14 games.

- 1 VR every 1.26 games
- 0.79 VR reviews per game

Finals: 6 VR distributed in 3 games.

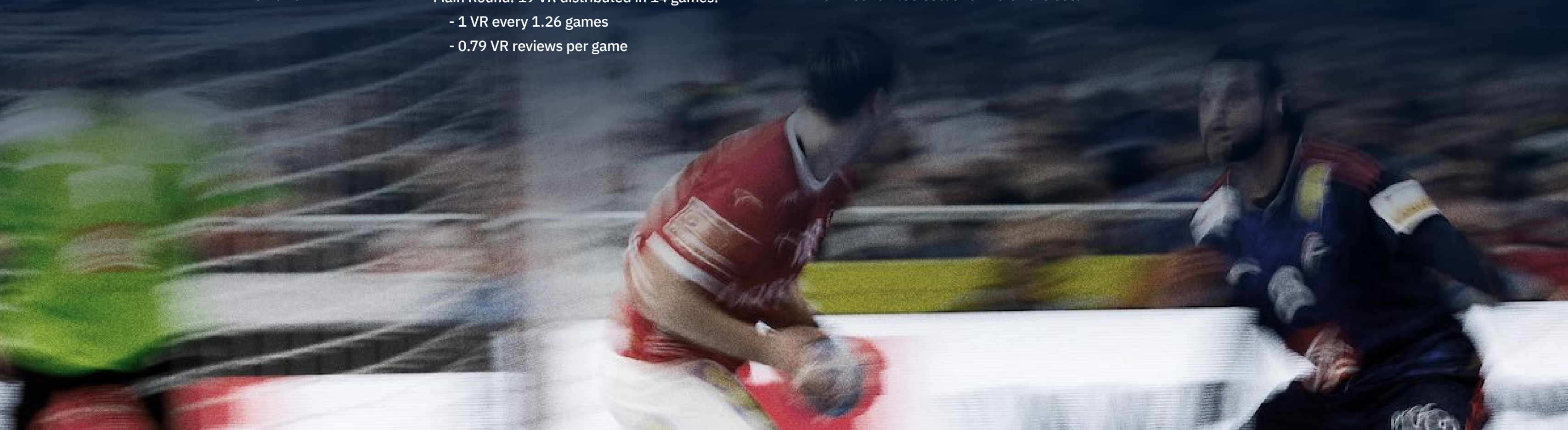
- 1 VR every 0.83 games
- 1.2 VR reviews per game

- Types of incidents using VR:

- Penalisation: 37
- Goal/no goal: 18
- Time end: 2

- VR average duration: preliminary round 1.21 sec., main round 1.33 sec. and finals 1.18 sec.

- The research of real-time data is again crucial to the development of handball because it can modify training methods and help players improve their qualities.
- The real-time data provided us with important information on areas such as the top scorers, fastest shots, fastest sprint, number of passes, running distance, and jumping height.
- The most important development in the approach to this analysis was the focus on providing increased visual aids for coaches.



ALL-STAR TEAM

The All-star Team was based on thousands of votes from fans and a panel of EHF experts.



GOALKEEPER

Andreas Wolf
Age: 32
Matches played: 9
Shots/Saves: 274/92
Saving percentage: 33.58%



LEFT WING

Hampus Wanne
Age: 30
Matches played: 9
Goals/Shots: 36/53
Shooting percentage: 68%



LEFT BACK

Martim Costa
Age: 21
Matches played: 7
Goals/Shots: 54/81
Shooting percentage: 66.7%



CENTRE BACK

Juri Knorr
Age: 23
Matches played: 9
Goals/Shots: 50/86
Shooting percentage: 58.1%



RIGHT BACK

Mathias Gidsel
Age: 24
Matches played: 8
Goals/Shots: 54/66
Shooting percentage: 81.8%
Top scorer with 54 goals, covered 32.83 kilometers in total.



RIGHT WING

Robert Weber
Age: 38
Matches played: 7
Goals/Shots: 33/48
Shooting percentage: 68.8%



LINE PLAYER

Ludovic Fabregas
Age: 27
Matches played: 9
Goals/Shots: 44/50
Shooting percentage: 88%



BEST DEFENDER

Magnus Saugstrup Jensen
Age: 27
Matches played: 8
Goals/Shots: 14/18
Shooting percentage: 78%
Blocks/Steal: 9/6



MVP

Nedim Remili
Age: 28
Matches played: 9
Goals/Shots: 34/63
Shooting percentage: 54%
With 1,383 passes and 53 assists, he proved to be an important asset for the team.

EHF Sport & Game Services
Hoffingergasse 18
1120 Vienna, Austria
+43 1 80 151 112
www.eurohandball.com



EHF
COMPETENCE
ACADEMY &
NETWORK