SPORTS PATH

WORLD CUP TECHNICAL REPORT

2014

INTRODUCTION

Every four years the World Cup provides an opportunity for us to enjoy wall to wall soccer almost every day but also an opportunity for coaches to analyze the best players and the best International teams in a very short period of time. To take up this opportunity in 2014 we asked those coaches and analysts who had completed the LMA School of Football Management Online Course if they would like to volunteer to analyze games. (NB See Page 25 of this Report for the details of this course and the 'World Cup 50% Discount Promotional Price 'available until the end of August 2014)

Those who kindly volunteered are listed on Page 23

They were directed and guided in their analysis by the authors of this Report: John Bilton and Dr. Peter Usher

John & Peter first worked together at the Singapore national academy then more recently in the Fenerbahce S.K. youth programme where John was the Technical Co-ordinator (Academy Director) and Peter was the sports psychologist. Presently Peter works with world champion athletes in the Canadian Olympic Programme and John coaches within the youth academy at Chesterfield FC in England and works as a coach educator, coaching, analyst and programme design consultant with Peter. John and Peter have just realized their second eBook 'Analysing The Soccer Player' It focuses on the individual analysis of a player and the contribution that analysis can play within a purposeful coaching programme. Cost: $9.99 For Details see Page 24 of this Report and also click here https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/analysing-the-soccer-player/id895120834?mt=11

We are extremely indebted to this team who analyzed every game in this year's World Cup in Brazil.

This Report is targeted for COACHES and is provided FREE. We hope, however, you will take time to look at the range of Products and Services we have available at Sports Path shown on Page 25

Hope you find the Report of value to your coaching

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GOALS

The World Cup of 2014 saw 171 goals scored. An average of 2.67 per game equaling the record for the 1998 World Cup

1.1. Goal Scoring Strike Locations

Table 1 Distribution of Goal-Scoring Strike Locations

	G	P1	P2	GZ
Average All Teams	24.3%	33.7%	20.7%	78.7%
Germany	23.5%	41.2%	23.5%	88.2%
Germany*	9.1%	45.5%	36.4%	91.0%

* Data from the two matches versus Portugal and Brazil

Diagram 1 above explains the columns in Table 1

Why the Gold Zone? As a result of analyzing thousands of matches and plotting strike locations at all levels it was found that around 80% of all goals are scored in a zone designated as the Gold Zone (GZ) [The ' Gold Zone' as defined by John Bilton and Dr.Peter Usher]

Summary
On average, teams at the WC scored approximately 80% of their goals from an area described as the 'Gold Zone' (GZ in Diagram Above).

Table 2 Distribution of Strike Attempts

	GZ	OGZ
Average All Teams	35.1%	64.9%
Germany	55.8%	44.2%
Germany*	70.4%	29.6%

Summary
On average, the vast majority of strike attempts were taken outside of the Gold Zone (GZ). However, the majority of strike attempts for Germany took place within the GZ. In their two matches in which Germany scored 4 and 7 goals respectively, they had twice as many scoring attempts from inside the GZ than the average teams. Germany's data strongly suggests that there is a strong correlation between the number of strike attempts occurring inside the GZ and the number of goals scored!

1.2 Strikes per Match

Table 3 Strikes per Match

	GZ				OGZ				Match
	SOT	SOFF	B	TS	SOT	SOFF	B	TS	TS
Avg	2.1	1.8	0.6	4.5	2.4	3.6	2.2	8.2	12.7
WT	3.1	1.8	0.8	5.7	2.9	3.5	2.2	8.6	14.3
0 goals	1.3	2.1	0.5	3.9	2.3	4.2	2.8	9.3	13.2
1 Goal	1.9	1.9	0.5	4.3	2.7	4.5	2.4	9.6	13.9
2 Goals	2.8	2.2	0.9	5.9	3.1	4.1	2.7	9.9	15.8
3+	4.3	1.8	0.8	6.9	2.6	2.7	2.1	7.4	14.3
Top4 Wins	3.3	1.9	0.8	6	2.9	2.9	2.6	8.4	14.4
Germany	4.1	1.6	1.9	7.6	2.6	2.3	1.3	6.2	13.8
Germany*	6.5	1.0	2.0	9.5	0.0	1.5	1.0	2.5	12

SOT =Shots on target: SOFF =Shots off target: B= Strikes blocked or deflected: TS –=Total strikes WT = Winning Teams; Top4Wins = Winning matches of the semi-finalists

Summary
On average, teams attempted just fewer than 13 strikes per match of which 4.5 occurred inside the GZ. Germany had, on average, 1 more strike attempt than the average value. Germany on average attempted three more strikes from inside the GZ and in their two epic matches they had more than double the GZ strikes than the average value.

1.3. Strike Accuracy

Table 4 Strike Accuracy

	GZ				OGZ
	G	P1	P2	Combined	
Average All Teams	58.6%	51.2%	56.5%	54.0%	40.8%
Germany	80.0%	71.4%	70.0%	72.2%	53.3%
Germany*	100%	87.5%	83.1%	86.7%	50.0%

Summary

As shown in the above Table (4), in comparing the average values with those of Germany there is a significant increase in strike accuracy for strikes occurring inside the GZ.

Of the goals scored during open play, 58.9% of all goals came from a 1-touch strike. Two-touch strikes contributed 20.9% of the goals with the first touch used to bring the ball under control and/or get the ball from out of the feet. The first touch was also used to change the direction and angle of the ball; to move away from a defender before striking.

Coaching Implications

If 80% and more of goals are scored from inside the Gold Zone then why do teams make the majority of their striking attempts from outside the GZ? The data clearly shows that strike accuracy is significantly higher for attempts taken inside the GZ.

Given the data shown here, it would suggest coaches design functional sessions based on the key findings presented here. Attention should be given to accurate forward passing at speed with quality deliveries into the GZ finished with an incisive strike.
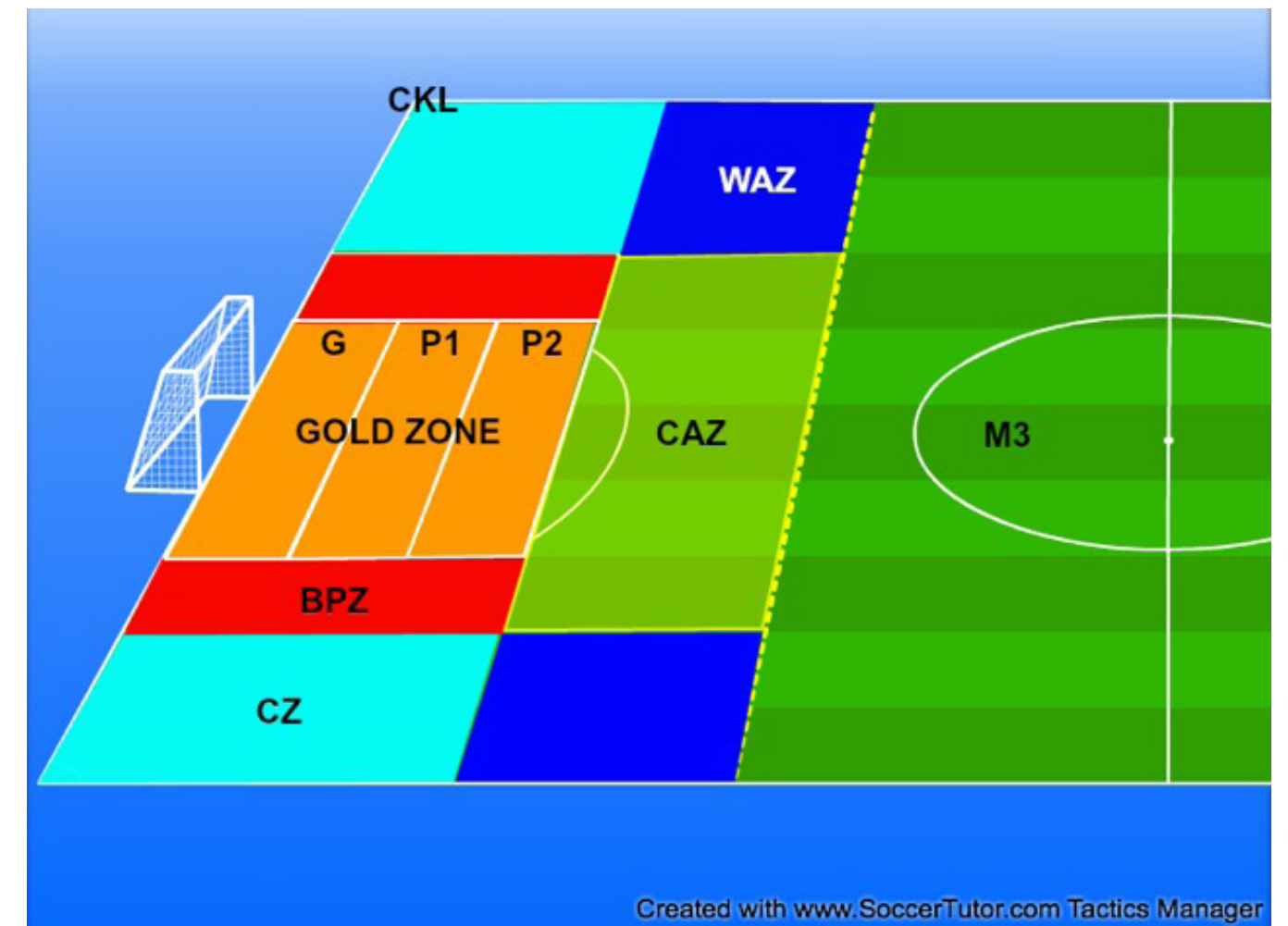
1.4 From where was the ball most often delivered into the Goal Zone?

Goals scored inside Gold Zone from open play = 130

Table 5

Area	Number of Goals	%
G	43	33
P1	56	43
P2	31	24

See Diagram 2 below for an explanation of the areas

Created with www.SoccerTutor.com Tactics Manager

Table 6: Delivery Zones

	CAZ	WAZ	CZ	BPZ	M3	Rgn	CKL	Totals
G	4	3	13	11	0	5	7	43
	9.3%	7.0%	30.2%	25.6%	0.0%	11.6%	16.3%	100.0%
P1	17	6	2	11	2	9	9	56
	30.4%	10.7%	3.6%	19.6%	3.6%	16.1%	16.1%	100.0%
P2	12	2	2	7	3	4	1	31
	38.7%	6.5%	6.5%	22.6%	9.7%	12.9%	3.2%	100.0%
Totals	33	11	17	29	5	18	17	130

Major Findings

1. Of the 130 GZ goals scored from open play 47.7% originated from deliveries from the CAZ and the BPZ.

2. For goals scored in the G area, the Crossing Zone was the primary source followed by deliveries from the BPZ.

3. For goals scored in the P1 area, the major provider was CAZ followed by the BPZ. Combined, deliveries from these two zones contributed 50% of the goals scored in P1.

4. CAZ and the BPZ contributed to over 60% of the goals scored from strikes in P2.

Attempted Deliveries

From 60 match performances coded to date there has been a total of 1378 attempts to deliver the ball into the Gold Zone of which 328 (26.7%) were successful deliveries. That is, a team gained a controlled possession from those delivery attempts. The data was analyzed in three ways.

1. Distribution by delivery zone. Of the 1378 delivery attempts, how many came from each zone.

2. Gold Zone Possession Deliveries. Which zones provided the 328 controlled possessions inside the GZ

3. Conversion. The success rate of converting attempted deliveries from each zone. There is no conversion rate for possessions regained in the GZ.

Table 7 Attempted deliveries

60 Matches	CAZ	WAZ	CZ	BPZ	M3	Rgn	CKL
Distribution	12.6%	18.9%	30.4%	12.5%	6.8%	2.2%	16.6%
GZPD	27.0%	10.2%	14.1%	19.9%	6.1%	8.0%	14.7%
Conversion	57.2%	14.4%	12.4%	42.5%	23.7%		23.6%
Germany	**CAZ**	**WAZ**	**CZ**	**BPZ**	**M3**	**Rgn**	**CKL**
Distribution	32.0%	8.0%	26.0%	20.0%	2.0%	6.0%	6.0%
GZPD	47.6%	0.0%	4.8%	23.8%	0.0%	14.3%	9.5%
Conversion	62.5%	0.0%	7.7%	50.0%	0.0%		66.7%

CAZ- Central attacking zone: WAZ- Wide attacking zone: CZ- Crossing zone: BPZ - Box passing zone: M3- Middle third: Rgn: A regained possession in GZ from an opponent's block or deflection, GK's stop, opponent losing possession: CKL- Corner kick long.

Major Findings:

1. In their attempts to deliver the ball into the Gold Zone, teams, on average rely upon the CZ, WAZ and long Corner Kicks 66% of the time. However those three delivery zones only provided 39% of the controlled possessions inside the GZ

2. The CAZ and BPZ provided just 25% of the total delivery attempts and yet they contributed to 47% of the GZ possessions. These two zones also had the highest rates of conversion. That is, attempts to deliver the ball into the GZ from those two zones were far more successful.

The data for Germany includes only that from the two matches versus Portugal and Brazil. Caution must be exercised in the interpretation of the 66.7% conversion rate for long Corner Kicks. There were three attempts of which two were successful.

1.5. Strikes and Scoring: Origination of Goal Scoring Possessions

Table 8

Zone Possession Gained

Area Goal Scored	Defending Third										Middle Third - D					Middle Third - A					Attacking Third										Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
G	2	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	2	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	10	1	5	0	3	43
P1	1	0	4	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	0	4	1	2	3	1	2	1	0	4	0	9	0	7	56
P2	3	1	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	31
OGZ	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	1	26
Totals	6	1	13	0	0	4	4	5	2	1	6	4	3	7	6	7	3	10	2	6	5	3	8	1	1	15	1	18	1	13	156

Subtotals by third (count and %):

Area	Defending Third	Middle Third - D	Middle Third - A	Attacking Third	Total
G	8 (18.6%)	7 (16.3%)	5 (11.6%)	23 (53.5%)	43 (100%)
P1	13 (23.2%)	8 (14.3%)	8 (14.3%)	27 (48.2%)	56 (100%)
P2	10 (32.3%)	4 (12.9%)	9 (29.0%)	8 (25.8%)	31 (100%)
OGZ	5 (19.2%)	7 (26.9%)	6 (23.1%)	8 (30.8%)	26
Totals	36 (23.1%)	26 (16.7%)	28 (17.9%)	66 (42.3%)	156 (100%)

Note:1 Data is for all teams, 156 goals: 2 The data does not include penalty kicks

The Pitch zones as shown in pitch diagram relate to the zones in table no. 8. Note that the middle third is split into the middle third defending and middle third attacking. The most productive zone was the attacking third where 66 goals (43.3%) were scored. Teams that pressed the wide channel areas 26 and 30 were rewarded with a possession that contributed to 28 goals. Zone 28 in the penalty area where most regained possessions are made was the highest contributor with 18 goals.

Diagram 3

NB Possesions won in the defending third have a major contributions to scoring goals at 23%.

Table 9 Germany - pickpockets in the attacking-third!

Germany's 17 goals originated from	
D = 2	(11.8%)
M-D = 3	(17.6%)
M-A = 2	(11.8%)
A = 10	(58.8%)

70% of the Goals Germany Scored originated from possession gained in the Attacking half

1.6. Speed of Transition

Table 10

	Average		Germany (n=7)		Germany (n=2)	
Possession Gained	Passes	Time	Passes	Time	Passes	Time
Defending-third	5.0	17.6	5.5	16	5	17
Defending Middle-third	5.3	16.2	4.7	13	3	8
Attacking Middle-third	2.6	8.4	6.5	17.5	6.5	18*
Attacking-third	1.0	2.3	0.7	1.6	1	1.8

Table 11: Goals from open play

Time Taken from re-gaining the Ball to scoring	% of Goals	Cumulative %
0-5 Seconds	49	49
6-10 seconds	20	69
11-15 seconds	12	81
16-20 seconds	8	89
21 seconds or more	11	100

NB Two of Germany's goals which originated from possessions aimed in the attacking side of the middle-third were from a long series of passes taking 30 and 35 seconds respectively. Those two goals could be seen as outliers. If they are excluded then the data would emphatically state that the further up-field the possession is gained the quicker a goal will be scored. The eleven goals scored by Germany in the two coded matches arrived from 3 possessions gained in Defensive third; 2 from Mid-third and 6 from the Attacking Third. The one OGZ goal came from a possession gained in Mid-third

1.7. Strikers: What Makes Them Lethal?

Top Scorer Colombia's James Rodriguez scored 6 goals in 5 matches, the diagram below shows the strike locations and strike outcomes in all 5 matches. Five of the 6 goals (83%) were scored in GZ. Yet these 5 goals came from just 6 strikes in GZ (37.5%). Note the high number of blocked strikes in OGZ. Rodriguez had a 1 goal to 1.2 strikes (1:1.2) ratio. From OGZ the he took 10 strikes to score 1 goal.
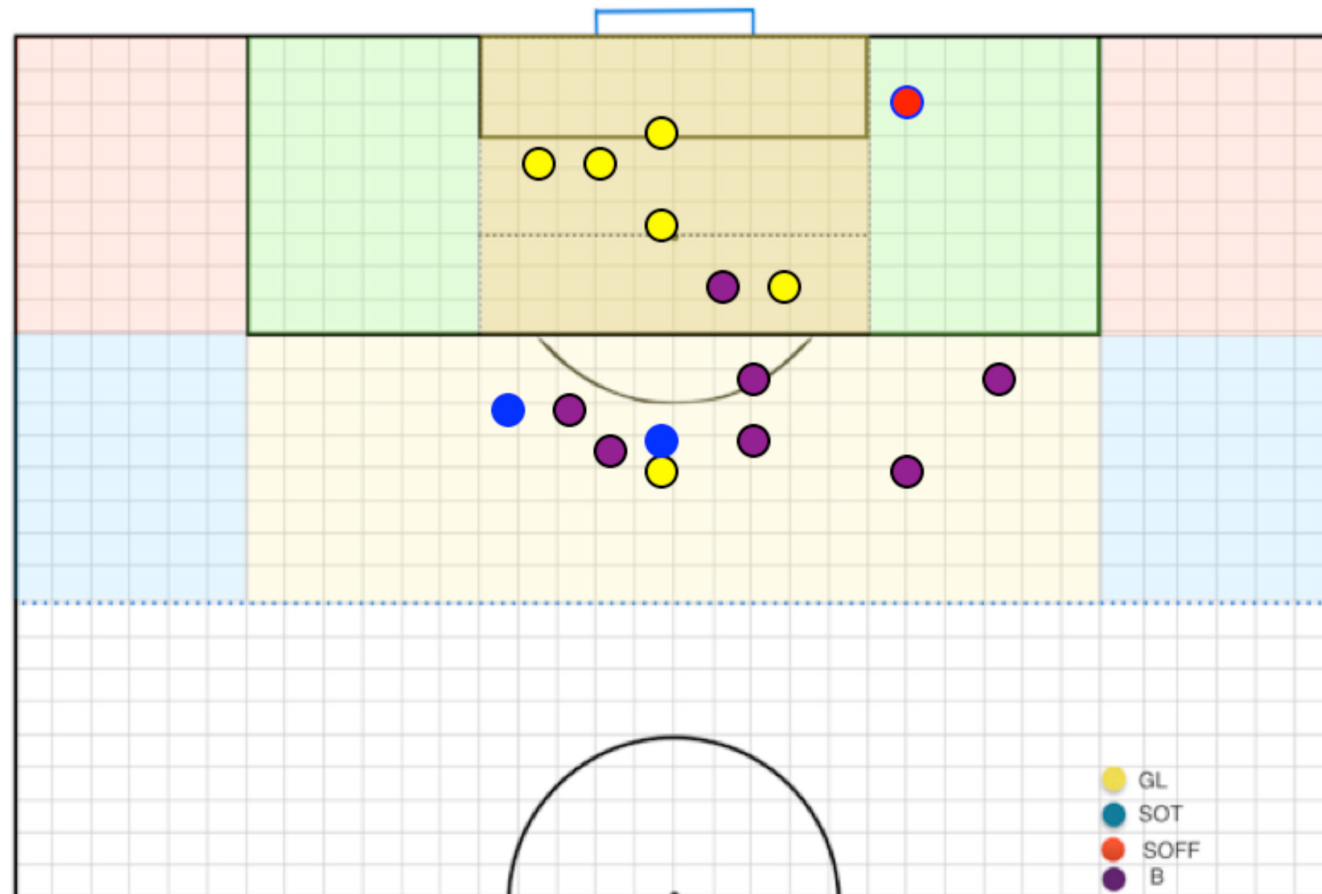
Diagram 4: James Rodriguez Strikes

Legend:
- GL (yellow)
- SOT (teal)
- SOFF (orange/red)
- B (purple)

Table 12: James Rodriguez Strikes and Goals

| MATCH	STRIKES				GOALS			
	GZ	OGZ	TL	% GZ	GZ	OGZ	TL	%GZ
1	1	5	6	16.7%	1	0	1	100.0%
2	1	1	2	50.0%	1	0	1	100.0%
3	2	1	3	66.7%	1	0	1	100.0%
4	1	2	3	33.3%	1	1	2	50.0%
5	1	1	2	50.0%	1	0	1	100.0%
TOTALS	6	10	16	37.5%	5	1	6	83.3%

Strikes Taken = TL

With 5 goals in 7 matches Thomas Muller came a close second, like Rodriguez he had 16 strikes. Four goals (80%) were taken in GZ. These goals came from 11 GZ strikes (68.8%). The high number of GZ strike opportunities demonstrates the ability of the German team to deliver into GZ with possession. Overall Muller averaged 1 goal in 2.8 GZ strikes (1:2.8). In the first group match where he scored 3 goals it was 1 goal in 1.3 GZ strikes (1:1.3) and in the semi-final 1:1. Muller's average OGZ goals to strikes was 1:5.0

Table 13: Strikes and Goals for Thomas Muller

MATCH	STRIKES				GOALS			
	GZ	OGZ	TL	% GZ	GZ	OGZ	TL	%GZ
1	4	0	4	100.0%	3	0	3	100.0%
2	1	0	1	100.0%	0	0	0	
3	0	2	2	0.0%	0	1	1	0.0%
4	5	1	6	83.3%	0	0	0	
5	0	1	1	0.0%	0	0	0	
6	1	1	2	50.0%	1	0	1	100.0%
7	0	0	0		0	0	0	
TOTALS	11	5	16	68.8%	4	1	5	80.0%

Diagram 5: Thomas Muller Strikes

STRIKERS STRIKE LOCATIONS

Legend:
- GL (yellow)
- SOT (blue)
- SOFF (red)
- B (purple)
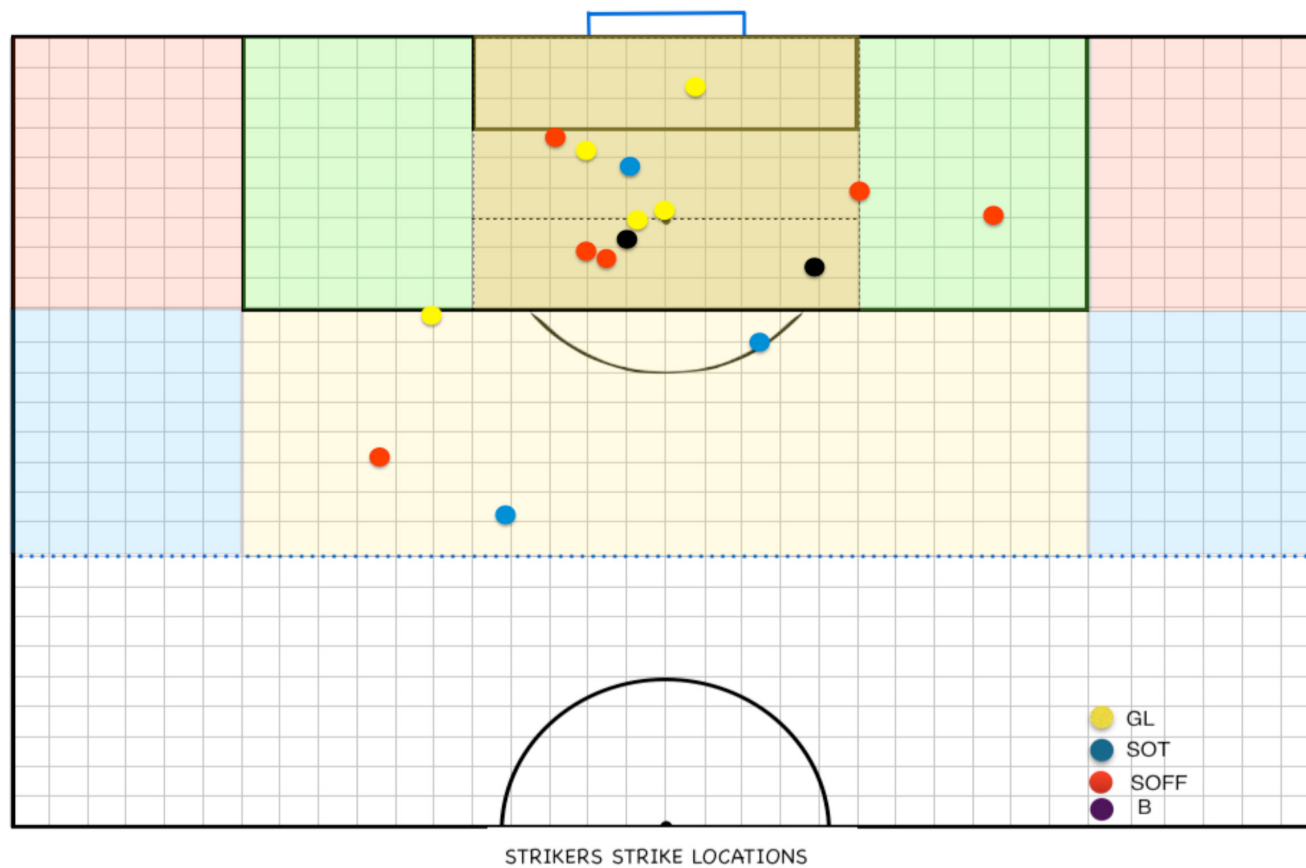
Implications for Coaching

If the team and the player are not confident of their ability to set up strikes from inside GZ they will often choose to take the easy route and strike from OGZ.

The most important implication is that players should be encouraged to create more strike-for-goal attempts from within the GZ.

It should be stated that a total ban on strikes OGZ is not the objective. If defenders are giving the striker time and space to shoot from just outside OGZ and the player feels confident in getting a clean strike on goal, then take the opportunity. The key in this scenario is the ability of the player to make sensible decisions, to put ego aside, and to play to benefit the team as a whole.

This key and important evidential information should shape your philosophy and have a major impact on what is emphasized on the training ground; the number and accuracy of strikes inside the Gold Zone (GZ)!

However, other coaches may believe that long range shooting from outside the GZ is appropriate and the player's insistence on striking outside GZ is acceptable. Consequently, WHAT they may decide to coach is the player's long range shooting ability. You are the coach and you must decide what guides your philosophy and coaching actions.

1.8. Win Probability

Win Conversion

During the 2014 FIFA WC, there were 19 matches in which teams scored three or more goals and all 19 matches were won.

Table 14

Goals Scored	Matches (n =)	Win/Draw Conversion	Win Conversion
0	24	20.8%	0.0%
1	15	36.0%	28.9%*
2	24	80.6%	75.0%*
3 or more	19	100%	100%

Upon completion of the 48 Group Stage matches the eight teams which finished first in the Group had a collective Win Conversion of 83.3%.

Table 15

Group Position	Matches	Win/Draw Conversion	Win Conversion
1	24	100%	83.3%
2	24	70.8%	50.0%
3	24	45.8%	29.2%
4	24	20.8%	0.0%
Final Four	24	70.8%	95.8%

The data for the 'Final Four' (Argentina, Brazil, Germany and the Netherlands) includes data from the Knockout Stages.

Summary

Obviously, to win matches teams need to score goals. The data clearly shows that teams which score a minimum of three goals in a match significantly increase their probability of winning.

1.9. Scoring Sequences: Scoring First, Winning at Half-time and Scoring 2 Goals in the First Half

Table 15 illustrates data for the three variables of scoring the first goal in the match, holding a winning position at half-time and scoring at least two goals before the end of the first half of the match.

During the Group Stage a team scored the first goal in 39 matches and went on to win 29 of those matches; a win Conversion of 74.4%. In the remaining 10 matches, three games were tied and the remaining 7 games were lost. Teams scoring the first goal scored an average of 2.2 goals/game while conceding an average of 1.1.

Table 16 Group Stage Matches: Win Probability Variables

Variable	Matches (n =)	WCR	GSA	GCA	1st Half Goals	2nd Half Goals	AT Goals
SF	39	74.4%	2.2	1.1	47.7%	45.3%	7.0%
WHT	20	95.0%	2.8	0.8	57.1%	37.5%	5.4%
2@HT	7	100%	3.6	1.1	68.0%	28.0%	4.0%

WCR - Win conversion rate: GSA - Goals scored average: GCA - Goals conceded average: AD -Additional time goals

There were 20 matches in which a team was leading at half-time. In 19 (95%) of those matches the winning team went on to win the match with a GSA of 2.8. Whereas the average of first-half goals was 38.2% for all matches in the Group Stage, team winning at half-time scored 57.1% of their goals in the first half. First-half goals increased to 68.0% for teams which had scored at least two goals by half-time. In those seven matches the winning teams scored an average of 3.6 goals per match.

Table 17

Variable	W	L	D	GSA	GCA	SF	WHT	2@HT	1st H	2nd H	AT
3 goals or more	19	0	0	3.7	0.9	16	12	7			
%	100%					84.2%	63.2%	36.8%	44.3%	52.9%	2.9%
Final Four	17	6	1	2.0	1.1	16	8	4			
%	70.8%					66.7%	33.3%	16.7%	41.7%	45.8%	12.5%
Germany	5	1	0	2.8	0.2	6	3	2			
	83.3%					100%	50.0%	33.3%	52.9%	35.3%	11.8%

SF = Scoring First; WHT = Winning at HT; 2@HT = Scoring a minimum of two goals by half-time; GSA = Goals Scored Average; GCA = Goals Conceded Average

Teams which scored 3 goals or more averaged 1.6 goals scored in the first half/match. The final four scored an average of 0.8 goals by half-time.

Summary

Group stage winners need to have a plan to score two goals before half time.

It has been the philosophy of the authors for some time, based on previous evidence followed by programme design and experienced match outcomes that scoring first, going in at half time with a 2 goal lead and scoring that important 3rd goal is the winning mentality. This requires a tactical plan and a "is the boss" mentality of the players

Goalkeeper's Distribution Opportunities to Provide the Team With a Possession in the Attacking-Third

What percentage of the GK's distribution results in a possession in the attacking third?

Table 18 shows that a Goalkeeper's distribution is an important starting point for entering the attacking third (A3) with possession

Key: Dist. – No. of GK distributions, A3P - successful possession entries into the attacking third. %A3P – The % of GK Dist's converted to A3P's.

Table 18 Goalkeeper distributions resulting in a possession in the attacking third, directly or indirectly

TEAM	DISTS	A3P	% A3P	ROUND
GERMANY ARGENTINA	45	17	38%	FINAL
ARGENTINA GERMANY	38	2	5%	
BRAZIL NETHERLANDS	28	2	7%	3/4 PLACE
NETHERLANDS BRAZIL	27	2	7%	
ARGENTINA NETHERLANDS	27	0	0%	SEMI
NETHERLANDS ARGENTINA	28	1	4%	
BRAZIL GERMANY	22	3	14%	SEMI
GERMANY BRAZIL	35	3	9%	
FRANCE GERMANY	26	7	27%	QUARTER
GERMANY FRANCE	46	16	35%	
BRAZIL COLUMBIA	20	1	5%	QUARTER
COLUMBIA BRAZIL	11	0	0%	
ARGENTINA BELGIUM	29	2	7%	QUARTER
BELGIUM ARGENTINA	24	12	50%	
NETHERLANDS COSTA RICA	42	3	7%	QUARTER
COSTA RICA NETHERLANDS	38	10	26%	
TOTALS	486	81	17%	
AVERAGE PER MATCH	30	5	17%	

Table 19 below shoes the top 4 GK distribution performers averaged 14 A3P's per match. This shows the gap between the average performers and the elite Top Four performers who produce three times as many A3P's.

Germany's Neurer, and the team's technical/tactical abilities produced 17 A3's in the final match.

Table 19 top four GK distributions

	DIST	A3P	%A3P
BELGIUM ARGENTINA	24	12	50%
GERMANY ARGENTINA	45	17	38%
GERMANY FRANCE	46	16	35%
COSTA RICA NETHERLANDS	38	10	26%
AVERAGE PER MATCH	38	14	37%

Major Findings

On average, teams gained an attacking-third possession on just 17% of the GK's distributions in a match. In the top four performances the average jumped to 37% primarily due to Courtois of Belgium attaining a 50% value. In the Final, Neuer contributed to 38% of Germany's attacking-third possessions - double the average in % terms!

What Is The Most Effective Means For A GK to Initiate An Attacking Third Possession?

Diagram 6

Created with www.SoccerTutor.com Tactics Manager
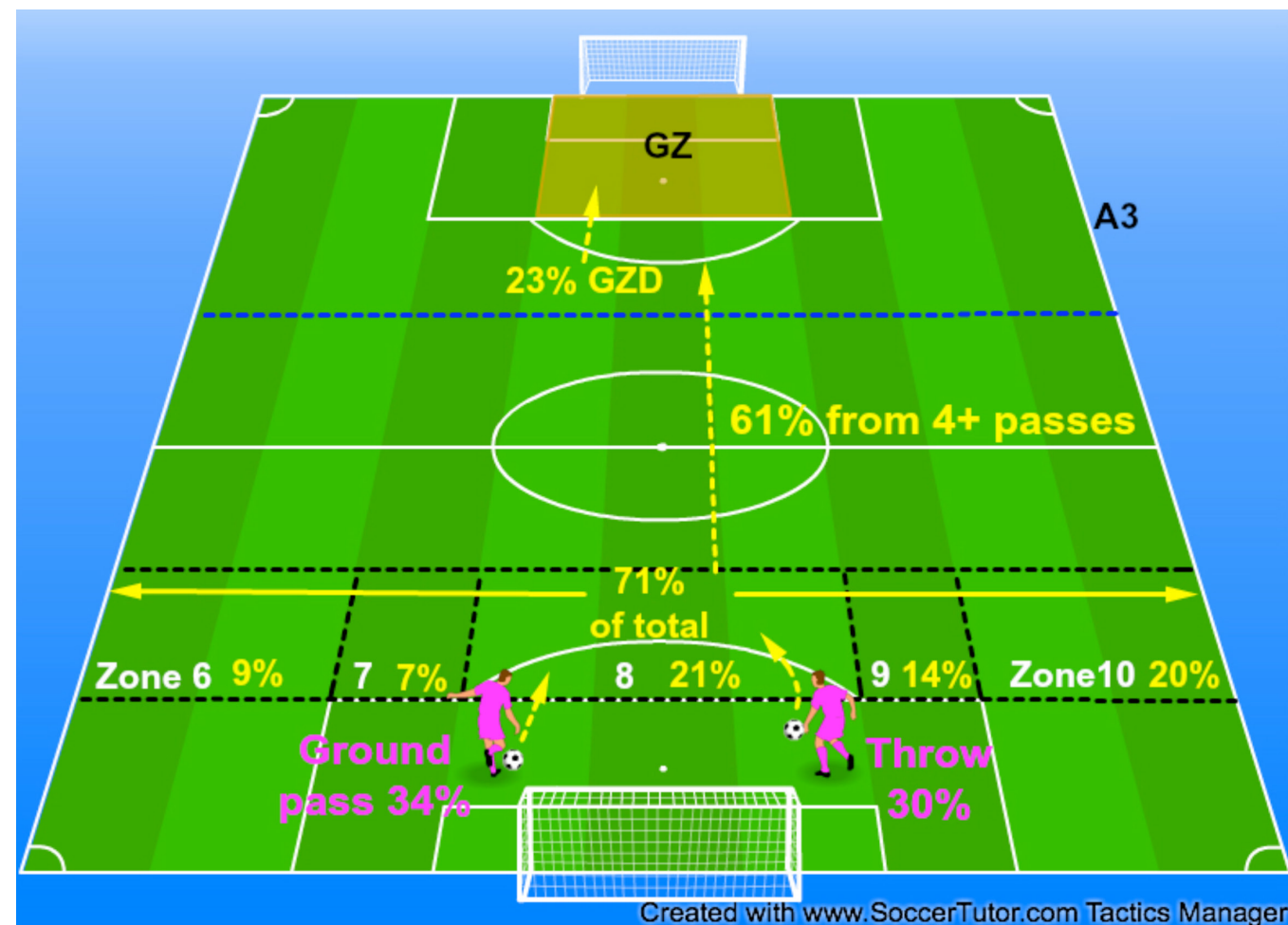
1. Again, making reference to the above top four teams, combined they created 56 A3P's that were initiated from the GK. Ground passes from the GK totaled 19 (34%), and throws 17 (38%)

2. Diagram 4 shows the defending attacking third split into 5 zones (6-10). 71% of all distributions from GK were delivered into these pitch zones. 6 to 10 with zone 8 (21%) and 10 (20%) being the most preferred. 61% of the A3P's were from 4 or more passes, this includes the GK's first pass. Teams are capable of playing with 3 passes or more with purposeful possession.

3. As you will read elsewhere in this report, the Gold Zone (GZ) is the most effective area from which goals are scored, 23% of all GK distributions resulted in a Goal Zone delivery (GZD).

Implications for coaching.

1 GK distributions can be a major contributor to securing a possession in the attacking-third. However, the coach must have a plan to effectively use the team's technical and tactical abilities to transfer the ball from the defending-third to the attacking third.

2. Develop your team's ability to receive outside the penalty area in the defending third (zones 6 to 10) and play through into the attacking third with possession (A3P). Awareness of players and space, receiving the ball under pressure, accurate forward passing and the confidence to play forward passes under pressure are the key attributes which are required to be developed.

What GK Actions Lead To a Loss of Possession in The Attacking & Middle Thirds?

From the data available from this World Cup it would be for the Goalkeeper to kick the ball long!!

Throw-Ins

Throw-ins also provide an opportunity for teams to increase the number of possessions in the attacking-third.

Table 20 - Throws resulting in a final possession in the attacking third

ROUND	TEAM	THROWS	A3P	% A3P	DC	% DC	DC-A3P	% OF DC	NDC-A3P	% OF N DC
FINAL	GERMANY ARGENTINA	31	17	55%	22	71%	16	73%	1	5%
	ARGENTINA GERMANY	30	5	17%	13	43%	5	38%	0	0%
3/4 PLACE	BRAZIL NETHERLANDS	18	1	6%	6	33%	1	17%	0	0%
	NETHERLANDS BRAZIL	15	2	13%	4	27%	0	0%	0	0%
SEMI	ARGENTINA NETHERLANDS	18	5	28%	6	33%	2	33%	3	50%
	NETHERLANDS ARGENTINA	19	1	5%	6	32%	0	0%	1	17%
SEMI	BRAZIL GERMANY	14	2	14%	9	64%	2	22%	0	0%
	GERMANY BRAZIL	21	2	10%	5	24%	1	20%	1	20%
QUARTER	FRANCE GERMANY	28	6	21%	11	39%	6	55%	0	0%
	GERMANY FRANCE	30	7	23%	12	40%	5	42%	2	17%
QUARTER	BRAZIL COLUMBIA	10	2	20%	2	20%	1	50%	1	50%
	COLUMBIA BRAZIL	18	4	22%	5	28%	3	60%	1	20%
QUARTER	ARGENTINA BELGIUM	29	7	24%	9	31%	7	78%	0	0%
	BELGIUM ARGENTINA	33	16	48%	11	33%	6	55%	5	45%
QUARTER	NETHERLANDS COSTA RICA	18	4	22%	8	44%	3	38%	1	13%
	COSTA RICA NETHERLANDS	20	0	0%	4	20%	0	0%	0	0%
	TOTALS	352	81	23%	133	38%	58	44%	16	12%
	TEAM AVERAGE	22	5	23%	9	40%	4	41%	1	11%

Table 21 - Top four

ROUND	TEAM	THROWS	A3P	% A3P	DC	% DC	DC-A3P	% OF DC	NDC-A3P	% OF N DC
FINAL	GERMANY ARGENTINA	31	17	55%	22	71%	16	73%	1	5%
QUARTER	BELGIUM ARGENTINA	33	16	48%	11	33%	6	55%	5	45%
QUARTER	GERMANY FRANCE	30	7	23%	12	40%	5	42%	2	17%
QUARTER	ARGENTINA BELGIUM	29	7	24%	9	31%	7	78%	0	0%
	TEAM AVERAGE	31	12	38%	14	44%	9	63%	2	15%

Key:

A3P – Attacking third possession entry:

% A3 – the %age of throws that contribute to an A3P:

DC – The throw (and/or) the first pass produced a direction change away from the congested throw-in zone:

% DC - the % of the throw-ins which resulted in a direction change: DC-A3 – the number of A3's following a direction change of the throw. % of DC - % of the total A3's following a direction change of the throw:

NDC-A3 - the number of A3's following a non-direction change of the throw:

% of N DC - % of the total A3's following a non-direction change of the throw.

Major Findings

The data in Table 20 shows, on average, from 22 throw-ins per match, five (23%) produced an attacking-third possession. This percentage increased to 38% for the Top 4 teams. In the final, Germany converted 55% of their throws into attacking-third possessions and some 26% from the three matches shown in the table.

Findings

1. When taking a throw-in the team has two options. Throw the ball into the congested throw-in zone and continue to play from there, or throw the ball in such a way that provides an opportunity to change the direction (DC) of play away from the throw-in zone.

2. The teams on average produced 9 DC's from 22 (40%) throws per match, 8 teams had a DC on fewer than 3 occasions.

3. The top four performances averaged 14 DC's from 31 throw-ins (44%).

4. Germany produced 22 DC's from 31 throws (71%) in the Final.

5. The average teams produced an A3P from 41% of DC's and only 11% from NDC's

Germany's data from the Final tells us what's possible when there is a direction change from the throw-in.

Implications for coaching

Teams with a tactical strategy and the technical ability to change the direction of play after the throw into areas where players have more time and space may gain an extra 16+ A3P's from around 30 throws.

Summary

This report provides a summary of data collected for selected performance variables during the 2014 World Cup

1. Teams which scored 3 or more goals in a match had a 100% win probability.

2. 80% of the goals were from strikes inside an area called the "Gold Zone" (GZ)

3. Strike attempts taken inside the Gold Zone were more effective and accurate.

4. The most productive zones for delivering the ball into the Gold Zone (GZ) were the areas identified as the Central Attacking Zone (CAZ) and Box Pass Zone (BPZ).

5. In open play 49% of all goals were scored within 5 seconds of regaining possession and over 80 % of goals were scored within 15 seconds of regaining the ball

6. Effective distributions by Goalkeepers played a role in securing attacking-third possessions.

7. Teams which directed their throw-ins away from the congested area and into a more spacious area were more effective in securing a possession in the attacking-third.

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Now available: 'Analysing The Soccer Player'

John Bilton and Dr. PETER Usher have also created Edition1 of this EBook which had 6800+ readers. Edition 2 has been re-designed with more detailed information for soccer coaches, analysts and students. It focuses on the individual analysis of a player and the contribution that analysis can play within a purposeful coaching programme. Performance analysis has made the authors better coaches and we expect it will do the same for you. Produced by coaches for coaches it has been designed to allow the reader to interact with video, illustrations, diagrams, tables and charts. Though this book covers essential detail for the experienced coach, we feel it will also inspire the beginner coach, analyst and student of the game. Positions analyzed include a player's an attacking abilities. Goalkeeper's distribution and an in-depth case study of a strikers goal scoring. Implications for coaching and purposeful work on the training ground are shown.

John and Peter have considerable experience in Performance Analysis and the application to coaching. For Further Details of their Consultancy Services in this area contact John Bilton **johnbilton@me.com**

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For details go to **http://www.scienceofsocceronline.com/**

Books:

- Soccer Coaching and the Web : A Guide to Support Player Development
- 'Potentialing Your Child In Soccer: A parent's guide for helping kids maximize their potential in soccer and in life'

For details see **www.amazon.com**

Coming soon in November 2014 - 'Soccer Coaching and the Web: A Guide to Support Coach Development' for those coaches involved in the ongoing development of soccer coaches in clubs at all levels.

Consultancy

Sports Path are currently assisting a number of clubs to develop a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) to support their Coach Development. These include Youth Soccer Clubs in the USA in Ohio, Texas and New York as well as Youth Academies in Europe. For Further details of this service contact RRussell@sportspath.com

Sports Path Newsletter: **Go to www.sportspath.com**

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