

1996 European Championships Winners' Performance Profile

The performance of the winning side in each of the Euro '96 matches was notated and analysed and then tested for their significance with the winning margin by a Spearman's Rank Correlation. A limiting factor was the size of the data set, only twelve matches. The matches recorded were:

| Match Number | Teams | Winning Margin |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | France v Romania | 1 |
| 2 | Italy v Russia | 1 |
| 3 | Turkey v Croatia | 1 |
| 4 | Switzerland v Hollland | 2 |
| 5 | Portugal v Turkey | 1 |
| 6 | England v Scotland | 2 |
| 7 | Croatia v Denmark | 3 |
| 8 | France v Bulgaria | 2 |
| 9 | England v Holland | 3 |
| 10 | Croatia v Portugal | 3 |
| 11 | Germany v Croatia | 1 |
| 12 | Portugal v Czech Republic | 1 |

The data collected was grouped in five sections - territory and goal-scoring, primary possession, discipline, attacking strikes and ball retention.

1. Territory and Goal Scoring

| No | Territorial Dominance | Times in Opposite Penalty Area | Times in Own Penalty Area | Goals Scored | Attack Efficiency | Goals Conceded | Defence Efficiency |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 50.49 | 35 | 34 | 1 | 2.86 | 0 | 100.00 |
| 2 | 55.44 | 43 | 30 | 2 | 4.65 | 1 | 95.35 |
| 3 | 50.76 | 35 | 35 | 1 | 2.86 | 0 | 100.00 |
| 4 | 51.67 | 58 | 39 | 2 | 3.45 | 0 | 100.00 |
| 5 | 50.92 | 34 | 44 | 1 | 2.94 | 0 | 100.00 |
| 6 | 45.78 | 37 | 36 | 2 | 5.41 | 0 | 100.00 |
| 7 | 51.40 | 53 | 45 | 3 | 5.66 | 0 | 100.00 |
| 8 | 50.44 | 47 | 31 | 3 | 6.38 | 1 | 96.77 |
| 9 | 45.12 | 30 | 58 | 4 | 13.33 | 1 | 98.28 |
| 10 | 47.74 | 26 | 50 | 3 | 11.54 | 0 | 100.00 |
| 11 | 51.20 | 28 | 42 | 2 | 7.14 | 1 | 97.62 |
| 12 | 41.43 | 28 | 43 | 1 | 3.57 | 0 | 100.00 |
| SR | -0.216 | 0.160 | 0.546 | 0.868 | 0.673 | 0.000 | 0.081 |

For n=12 the significant levels for correlation are 0.506 at the 0.05 level and 0.712 at the 0.01 level. The data for territory and goal-scoring are significant at the 0.05 level in three of the variables - times in own penalty area, goals scored and attack efficiency. At the 0.01 level it is only the goals scored that has a significant relationship with the winning margin.

2. Primary Possession

| No | Throw-Ins Share | Throw-ins Awarded | Throw-ins Retained % | Throw-Ins Retained | Throw - Ins Lost | Throw-ins Won % | Throw-ins Won | Throw-Ins Opposition Won |
|----|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 27.27 | 12 | 91.67 | 11 | 1 | 45.45 | 20 | 24 |
| 2 | 35.14 | 13 | 84.62 | 11 | 2 | 35.14 | 13 | 23 |
| 3 | 42.22 | 19 | 89.47 | 17 | 2 | 44.44 | 20 | 25 |
| 4 | 51.22 | 21 | 95.24 | 20 | 1 | 65.85 | 27 | 14 |
| 5 | 45.45 | 15 | 93.33 | 14 | 1 | 51.52 | 17 | 16 |
| 6 | 52.77 | 19 | 73.68 | 14 | 5 | 41.67 | 15 | 21 |
| 7 | 51.35 | 19 | 78.95 | 15 | 4 | 62.16 | 23 | 14 |
| 8 | 54.35 | 25 | 76.00 | 19 | 6 | 54.35 | 25 | 21 |
| 9 | 44.74 | 17 | 70.59 | 12 | 5 | 39.47 | 15 | 23 |
| 10 | 56.82 | 25 | 96.00 | 24 | 1 | 63.64 | 28 | 16 |
| 11 | 35.00 | 14 | 64.29 | 9 | 3 | 36.84 | 14 | 24 |
| 12 | 36.67 | 11 | 100.00 | 11 | 0 | 37.93 | 11 | 18 |
| SR | 0.751 | 0.689 | -0.171 | 0.591 | 0.430 | 0.535 | 0.548 | -0.517 |

At the 0.05 level six of the throw-in variables had a significant relationship with the winning margin. The number of throw-ins awarded (absolute and relative), the throw-ins where possession was retained, and the total number of throw-in possessions won (absolute and relative) had a positive relationship, while the number of throw-ins that the opposition won had a negative relationship. At the 0.01 level it was only the percentage of throw-ins awarded that was positively significant.

In terms of the goal-kick variables none were significant at any of the levels.

| No | Goal Kick Share | Goal Kicks Awarded | Goal Kicks Retained % | Goal Kicks Retained | Goal Kicks Lost | Total % Goal Kicks Won | Total Goal Kicks Won | Goal Kicks Opposition Won |
|----|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 53.20 | 25 | 36.00 | 9 | 16 | 29.78 | 14 | 33 |
| 2 | 44.74 | 17 | 64.71 | 11 | 6 | 28.95 | 11 | 27 |
| 3 | 50.00 | 25 | 72.00 | 18 | 7 | 54.00 | 27 | 23 |
| 4 | 50.00 | 21 | 80.95 | 17 | 4 | 71.43 | 30 | 12 |
| 5 | 73.17 | 30 | 80.00 | 24 | 6 | 63.41 | 26 | 15 |
| 6 | 46.51 | 20 | 65.00 | 13 | 7 | 58.14 | 25 | 18 |
| 7 | 47.37 | 27 | 88.89 | 24 | 3 | 61.40 | 35 | 22 |
| 8 | 52.78 | 19 | 52.63 | 12 | 7 | 52.78 | 19 | 17 |
| 9 | 58.14 | 25 | 76.00 | 19 | 6 | 51.16 | 22 | 21 |
| 10 | 58.33 | 21 | 38.10 | 8 | 13 | 27.78 | 10 | 26 |
| 11 | 56.52 | 26 | 42.31 | 11 | 13 | 44.19 | 19 | 24 |
| 12 | 52.63 | 20 | 45.00 | 9 | 8 | 25.71 | 9 | 26 |
| SR | 0.051 | -0.006 | 0.319 | 0.223 | -0.353 | 0.205 | 0.256 | -0.336 |

3. Ball Retention

The ability to retain the ball was measured and although there was no significant relationship at the 0.01 level, at the 0.05 level the absolute number of passes attempted, and the number of passes retained (both absolute and relative) were significant.

| No | Passing Share | Passes Attempted | Passes Retained % | Passes Retained | Passes Intercepted | Passes Lost |
|----|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 46.60 | 377 | 78.51 | 296 | 93 | 81 |
| 2 | 40.04 | 376 | 77.39 | 291 | 95 | 85 |
| 3 | 47.52 | 336 | 77.08 | 259 | 92 | 77 |
| 4 | 63.60 | 456 | 79.17 | 361 | 92 | 95 |
| 5 | 51.05 | 436 | 81.65 | 356 | 105 | 80 |
| 6 | 49.29 | 348 | 83.33 | 290 | 62 | 58 |
| 7 | 55.34 | 435 | 83.22 | 362 | 74 | 73 |
| 8 | 47.47 | 395 | 76.71 | 303 | 92 | 89 |
| 9 | 46.52 | 381 | 80.58 | 307 | 80 | 74 |
| 10 | 47.08 | 444 | 80.41 | 357 | 95 | 88 |
| 11 | 51.10 | 349 | 77.36 | 270 | 85 | 79 |
| 12 | 39.14 | 310 | 72.58 | 225 | 78 | 85 |
| SR | 0.193 | 0.546 | 0.535 | 0.683 | -0.327 | -0.103 |

4. Discipline

| No | Pens & Free-Kicks Conceded Share | Pens & Free-Kicks Conceded Total | Pens & Free-Kicks Awarded Total | Pens & Free-Kicks Conceded in Own Pen Area | Pens & Free-Kicks Conceded in Own Half | Pens & Free-Kicks Conceded in Opp Half |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | 64.71 | 33 | 18 | 0 | 14 | 19 |
| 2 | 44.44 | 20 | 25 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 3 | 50.00 | 22 | 22 | 0 | 12 | 10 |
| 4 | 69.23 | 27 | 12 | 0 | 9 | 18 |
| 5 | 59.18 | 29 | 20 | 0 | 9 | 20 |
| 6 | 50.00 | 20 | 20 | 1 | 10 | 9 |
| 7 | 50.00 | 16 | 16 | 0 | 7 | 9 |
| 8 | 57.69 | 30 | 22 | 0 | 12 | 18 |
| 9 | 60.71 | 17 | 11 | 0 | 10 | 7 |
| 10 | 58.82 | 20 | 14 | 0 | 12 | 8 |
| 11 | 42.20 | 24 | 20 | 0 | 9 | 15 |
| 12 | 40.00 | 22 | 33 | 0 | 11 | 11 |
| SR | 0.355 | -0.563 | -0.695 | 0.142 | -0.163 | -0.641 |

In terms of discipline the number of free-kicks and penalties both conceded and awarded were significant with the winning margin but in a negative relationship while those conceded within the opposition's half were also negatively significant.

5. Attacking Strikes

| No | Shots on Target % | Headers on Target % | Crosses on Target % | Corners on Target % | Total Attacking Strikes on Target % | Total Attacking Strikes on Target % |
|----|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 33.33 | 50.00 | 27.27 | 33.33 | 30.77 | 12 |
| 2 | 35.00 | 0.00 | 22.73 | 25.00 | 27.66 | 13 |
| 3 | 50.00 | 20.00 | 38.89 | 40.00 | 37.50 | 12 |
| 4 | 47.37 | 33.33 | 27.27 | 12.50 | 32.69 | 17 |
| 5 | 30.00 | 50.00 | 30.00 | 60.00 | 35.14 | 13 |
| 6 | 20.00 | 66.67 | 41.18 | 0.00 | 38.24 | 13 |
| 7 | 46.67 | 33.33 | 42.86 | 50.00 | 44.44 | 16 |
| 8 | 45.45 | 100.00 | 10.53 | 83.33 | 36.84 | 14 |
| 9 | 77.78 | 50.00 | 30.77 | 66.67 | 51.85 | 14 |
| 10 | 71.43 | 0.00 | 27.27 | 100.00 | 42.86 | 9 |
| 11 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 33.33 | 100.00 | 38.46 | 10 |
| 12 | 25.00 | 0.00 | 18.75 | 0.00 | 16.00 | 4 |
| SR | 0.445 | 0.263 | 0.229 | 0.285 | 0.717 | 0.483 |

The only attacking strike variable that showed a significant relationship with the winning margin was the percentage of shots, crosses, corners that were on target. This variable was significant at both the 0.05 and the 0.01 level.

Summary

| | 0.05 level | 0.01 level |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Positive | Times in own penalty area Goals scored Attack efficiency Passes attempted Passes retained (frequency and %) Total shots, crosses, corners on target (%) | Goals scored Total shots, crosses, corners on target (%) |
| Negative | Free-kicks & pens conceded Free-kicks & pens awarded Free-kicks & pens conceded in opposition half | |

Appendix One

Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficients

| n | Significance Level (one-tailed test) | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------|
| | 0.05 | 0.01 |
| 4 | 1.000 | |
| 5 | 0.900 | 1.000 |
| 6 | 0.829 | 0.943 |
| 7 | 0.714 | 0.893 |
| 8 | 0.643 | 0.833 |
| 9 | 0.600 | 0.783 |
| 10 | 0.564 | 0.746 |
| 12 | 0.506 | 0.712 |
| 14 | 0.456 | 0.645 |
| 16 | 0.425 | 0.601 |
| 18 | 0.399 | 0.564 |
| 20 | 0.377 | 0.534 |
| 22 | 0.359 | 0.508 |
| 24 | 0.343 | 0.485 |
| 26 | 0.329 | 0.465 |
| 28 | 0.317 | 0.448 |
| 30 | 0.306 | 0.432 |