



Science, Movement and Health, Vol. XV, ISSUE 1, 2015  
January 2015, 15 (1): 57-61  
*Original article*

## THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE GOALKEEPERS OF THE FRANCE NATIONAL TEAM IN WINNING THE INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL COMPETITIONS

ROMAN CĂLIN<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

*Objectives:* I assumed that by studying the performances of the most representative handball team, of the last decade, for goalkeeper position at senior level, it can be known their performance capacity at international competitions.

*The aim of this research* is the improvement of handball sport training, based on the study of the male French handball goalkeeper's performance capacity at international competitions. Review and generalization of scientific literature data regarding the ideal model of high performance handball goalkeeper; Appreciation of France team's goalkeepers performance capacity at important international competitions: 2006 and 2010 European Championship; 2009 and 2011 World Championship; 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games; was possible only with the help of some goalkeepers of great international value whose performance capacity is statistically presented in 1-9 tables.

*Conclusions:* we notice the major part that Thierry Omeyer played in winning all the competitions being the principal goalkeeper of the France's handball team, having a 38,13 % efficiency to this study.

*Key words:* handball, goalkeeper, international competitions, performance.

### Introduction

In defining the notion of sport game, to which handball also subscribes, Bota and Colibaba (1998) mentions the fact that there are three different aspects. These are the player's activity; the idea of the game and not the least the game regulations. The player's activity can be presented watching carefully "What is he doing?" and "How does he behave?" a sportsman during the game.

Therefore we can show that he behaves more or less spontaneously, purposeful and efficient according to the vocational predispositions, the practical and theoretical knowledge acquired before, the game conditions (environment, opponent, materials, audience, game's stake, etc.), the starting (the pleasure of playing) but in the end also the desire for victory.

The sport activity is generating different types of value (biological, aesthetics, ethical, psychological, etc.) to which human communities show appreciation, numerous of its members aspiring to them. Sport generated values greatly objectify the human essence, favoring the scientific creating value, theoretical, practical, ethical and aesthetical. From all of this we emphasize the main sport specific value: the sports performance asserted through records, points, qualifications in the superior stages of the competitions, appreciation at international level. The masculine handball team of France gathered all these values by:

- ⇒ Winning the 2006 and 2010 European Handball Championship;
- ⇒ Winning the 2009 and 2011 World Handball Championship;
- ⇒ Winning the 2008 and 2012 Handball Olympic Games.

*Assumption:* I assumed that by studying the performances of the most representative handball team, of the last decade, for goalkeeper position at senior level, it can be known their performance capacity at international competitions.

*The aim of this research* is to enhance handball sport training, based on studying their performance capacity at the international competitions.

*Objectives of the research:* Analysis and generalization of the scientific literature data on the ideal model of the high performance handball goalkeeper, appreciation of the performance capacity level of the France team's male goalkeepers at the important international competitions.

*The research methods* used have been: scientific documentation method; observation method; statistical method.

In this study it has been used the registration sheets of the games conducted under the IHF's aegis, using the data from Hego Group, and for the competition organized by the EHD it has been used the registration sheets using the SWISS TIMING program.

### The length of the study

The study was performed in 2006-2011, at four major competitions/final tournament: Beijing Olympic Games 2008, London Olympic Games 2012; World Championship 2009 in Croatia, World Championship 2011 in Sweden, European Championship in Austria; at representative teams level, where the subjects: Thierry Omeyer/Karaboue Daouda and Ploquin Yohann together with his team won the World, Olympic and European title. A number of 52 games was centralized, out of which the team of France won twice the Olympic, World and European title having our subjects as goalkeepers.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Physical Educations, Sports and Kinetotherapy; University of Oradea, Faculty of Geography, Tourism and Sport, Oradea, ROMANIA.  
E-mail address: croman@uoradea.ro  
Received 27.10.2014 / Accepted 03.12.2014



## Results

In table no. 1 are presented the international competitions where the masculine handball national team won a competition, the year of the competition and the age of the three goalkeepers at that time is being mentioned. Thierry Omeyer and KraboueDaouda

participated in all the competitions and the third one PloquinYohann participated only in the 2006 edition of the European Championship. It can be surprisingly noted that the three goalkeepers achieved the best sport results of their career between the age of 28 an 36.

Table no. 1 The age of achieving the sport performances by the French goalkeepers in chronological order

Competition	Year	Place	Omeyer Tierry	KaraboueDaouda	PloquinYohann
European Championship	2006	I	30	31	28
Olympic Games	2008	I	32	33	No
World Championship	2009	I	33	34	No
European Championship	2010	I	34	35	No
World Championship	2011	I	35	36	No
Olympic Games	2012	I	36	37	No

The effectiveness of the goalkeepers during the 6 international competitions included in this study is presented in the Table no. 2. It can be observed that there was a number of 1944 throws, out of which 764 throws were defended, the general effectiveness being of 39,30%.

There were a number of 316 of 6m throws, out of which the goalkeepers managed to defend 88 the effectiveness being of 27,85%. There is a total of 241 throws from wingers zone out of which 101 were defended, the effectiveness being of 41,91%.

The highest number of throws were the 9m ones, from a total of 831 throws the goalkeepers managed to defend a maximum number of 436 throws, the effectiveness reaching the highest value: 52,47%. When it comes to the 7m throws there is a total of 152

throws, of which 33 throws were defended. In this case the effectiveness is minimal compared to the other columns, being of 21,33 %.

From a total number of 235 fastbreak shots the goalkeepers managed to defend 55 throws, the effectiveness in this case being of 23,40%. The in-going throws had the effectiveness of 30,18%, from a total number of 169 throws, 51 were defended.

Analyzing the method used to score there can be observed the fact that in masculine handball there is a tendency of scoring from the distance, because modern handball is based of strength followed by technicality. The moment the goalkeeper is alone against the attacking player (7m throws, 6m throws and counterattack throws) the goalkeeper's effectiveness is lower compared to the long distance throws.

Table no. 2 Number of balls defended by the goalkeepers during the 6 competitions included in the study

Actions	6 m shots	Wing shots	9 m shots	7 m shots	Fastbreak shots	Breakthroughs shots
Defended	88	101	436	33	55	51
Throws	316	241	831	152	235	169
Effectiveness	27,85%	41,91%	52,47%	21,33%	23,40%	30,18%
Arithmetic Average	12,56	16,83	72,67	5,5	9,17	8,50
Standard deviation	±5,38	±3,87	±12,29	±1,76	±3,97	±8,46
Variability coefficient	42,83%	22,99%	16,91%	32%	43,29%	99,52%
MINIMAL	8	12	54	4	5	2
MAXIMAL	21	22	86	8	16	23



Analyzing the total number of balls defended in each tournament, there can be seen values between 84 and 113 which added up at the end of all 6 editions a total of 591 balls were defended. The number of throws varies from a competition to another and in this case there are values between 204 and 301 goal throws. The

effectiveness values show in a transparent way the performance capacity and also the part this player played in winning the competitions. There are effectiveness values between 37 % and 41% that specialists in handball field consider as being very good.

Table no. 3 The effectiveness of the goalkeeper OmeyerThierry

Edition	Defended	Shots	Effectiveness
2006=8 games	99	258	38%
2008 = 8 games	84	204	41%
2009 =10 games	91	244	37%
2011 = 10games	110	293	37%
2010 = 8games	113	301	38%
2012= 8 games	94	252	37%
Total = 52 games	591	1552	38,13%

Statistically speaking the effectiveness of the subject is: 12,38 throws defended/game in 2006; 10,5 throws defended/game in 2008; 9,1 throws

defended/game in 2009; 11 throws defended/game in 2011; 14,13 throws defended/game in 2010; 11,75 throws defended/ game in 2012.

Table no. 4 The effectiveness of the goalkeeper Omeyer Thierry per game

Ediția	Defended game	Average/ Shots	Average/ game	Effectiveness/ game
2006	12,38	32,25	38,03%	
2008	10,5	25,5	41,18%	
2009	9,1	24,4	37,30%	
2011	11	29,3	37,54%	
2010	14,13	37,63	37,55%	
2012	11,75	31,5	37,30%	
Total	68,86	180,58	38,13%	

Being the lead goalkeeper of the national team of France, it can be noticed that during the 6 international tournaments he defended in total 43 hours, 37 minutes

and 22 seconds, a percent of 83,56 out of a total game time of 52 hours.

Table no. 5 Thierry Omeyer's game time at all studied competitions

Competition	Number of games	Total game time	Game time Min/sec	Percentage of the game time	Effectiveness %
Olympic Games 2008	8	480`	386` 34`	81%	41%
Olympic Games 2012	8	480`	425` 46`	89%	37%
World Championship 2009	10	600`	491` 40`	82%	37%
World Championship 2011	10	600`	445` 40`	75%	37%
European Championship 2010	8	480`	460` 55`	96,04%	38%
European Championship 2006	8	480`	396` 47`	82,5%	38%
Total	52	3120`	2607` 22`	83,56%	38,13%



## Discussionns

The development of men's handball was analyzed by Bilge M. (2012) using data from the Olympic, World and European Championships held within the 2004-2012 years.

The technical variables used to compare the tournaments included: the average number of attacks, the efficiency of attacks, the efficiency of goal throws, fast break goals per game, the efficiency of fast breaks, the efficiency of the goalkeeper, saves by the goalkeeper per game, number of turnovers per game, and the efficiency of position throws (wing, pivot, back court, break-through, fast break, and 7-meter). This technical analysis used cumulative statistics from the European Handball Federation and International Handball Federation.

Fuertes et al. (2010) using data from the last 6 seasons of the ASOBAL League (from the 2001-2002 to the 2006-2007 seasons), analyze the influence of the goalkeeper efficiency on handball team performance. Results point out that goalkeeper efficiency is a relevant variable for explaining the team performance: the higher the efficiency of the goalkeeper, the better the classification of teams. Moreover, top teams have better goalkeeper efficiency than the rest of the teams. Subsequent combination of these variables may be used to develop a model to predict future position within ASOBAL League.

Performance measurement is one of the main subjects of movement and training sciences. Game analysis methods used in this field have gradually improved.

Many of the most popular and original recent studies in this field have involved recording performance variables during or after competitions, and visual and written storage of these records in the computer environment. The measurement and assessment of performance play an important role in planning the training process and competition (Taborsky, 2011).

## Conclusions

1. Winning the 6 important international competitions by the masculine handball national team: The 2006 and 2010 European Championship; 2009 and 2011 World Championship; 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games; was possible only with the help of some goalkeepers of international value whose performance capacity is presented statistically in tables 1-9.
2. Asserting the major input Thierry Omeyer had in winning all the competitions as titular goalkeeper of France's masculine handball national team, having an effectiveness of 38,13% in this study.

3. The importance of this position (goalkeeper) in the main structure of the team reflects on the performance of the whole team. Therefore a good goalkeeper, with a high percentage of defended balls pulls down the opponents, contributing at the same time to increasing the trust in their own strength and in team spirit. His calm, his confidence in interventions, his courage and his spirit of sacrifice influences the state of mind of his teammates, mobilizing them during the game.

## Conflict of interest

Nothing to say

## Specifications

This research is based on the statistical results of the International Handball Federation site: <http://ihf.info/IHFCompetitions/CompetitionsArchive>, and also the European Handball Federation site: [www.activities.eurohandball.com/analyses](http://www.activities.eurohandball.com/analyses).

## References

- Abas A., 1993, La poarta de handbal. Bazele științifice ale antrenamentului, CCPS, București.
- Bilge M, 2012, Game Analysis of Olympic, World and European Championships in Men's Handball. Journal of Human Kinetics. Dec 2012; 35: 109-118. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3588687/> accessed on 21.01.2015.
- Biro F, Roman C, 2010, Handbal - inițiere, ediția a 2-a. Editura Universității din Oradea, Oradea.
- Bota I, Macovei B, 1983, Handbal- Antrenamentul portarului. Editura Sport-Turism, București.
- Bota M, Bota I, 1987, Handbal. Editura Sport-Turism, București.
- Fuertes X, Penas, CL, Martinez L, 2010, The influence of the goalkeeper Efficiency in Handball Teams Performance. Apunts. Educación Física y Deportes 2010, N.º 99, 1.er trimestre, pp. 72-81
- Colibaba-Evuleț D, Bota I, 1998, Jocuri sportive, Teorie și Metodică. Editura Aldin, București.
- Ghermănescu IK, 1978, Handbal. Editura Sport-Turism, București.
- Ghermănescu IK, Gogălțan V, Jianu E, Negulescu I, 1983, Teoria și metodică handbalului. Editura Sport-Turism, București.
- Sotiriu R, Sotiriu D, 1996, Handbal, Teoria și metodică jocului. Universitatea Ecologică, București.
- Sotiriu R, 2000, Handbal, de la inițiere -la performanță. Universitatea Ecologică București.
- Taborsky F, 2011, Competitive loading in top team handball, EHF Web Periodical 2011.



- Available  
at:[http://home.eurohandball.com/ehf\\_files/Publication/WP\\_Competitive\\_20Loading\\_20in\\_20Top\\_20Team\\_20Handball.pdf](http://home.eurohandball.com/ehf_files/Publication/WP_Competitive_20Loading_20in_20Top_20Team_20Handball.pdf); accessed on 21.01.2015.
- Vick W, Busch H, Fisher G, Kock R, 1995, Pregătirea de handbalinsală. C.C.P.S., București.
- Zamfir G, Florean M, Tonița T, 2000, Handbal, inițiere-consolidare. Editura Casa Cărții de Știință.

Zamfir G, Florean M, Tonița T, 2001, Handbal, TeorieșiMetodică. Editura Casa Cărții de ȘtiințăCluj- Napoca.

#### Websites

- <http://www.eurohandball.com/> in 1.10.2013.  
<http://ihf.info/IHFCompetitions/CompetitionsArchive>  
e in 1.10.2013.