

TEAM COGNITION IN SPORT: A CASE STUDY OF FORMS OF SHARING USED BY A HIGHLY INTERDEPENDENT SOCCER TEAM DURING COMPETITIVE INTERACTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

How are soccer players' actions coordinated during competition ?

Interest in the cognitive phenomena allowing to team players to coordinate (Eccles and Tenenbaum, 2004)

What are the forms of sharing present within a soccer team in competition ? (Bourbousson et al., 2011)



ENACTIVE FRAMEWORK (De Jaegher and Di Paolo, 2007)

1. How were soccer players' experiences expressed and arranged during competition ?
2. How were these arrangements adjusted over time ?

METHOD

Collaboration with a French performance department (U19 National Team)

Video recordings of the players' behaviours and elicitation interviews to access to the player's lived experience during offensive transition situations

Characterization of the relation between the objectives aimed at by players involved in these situations

RESULTS

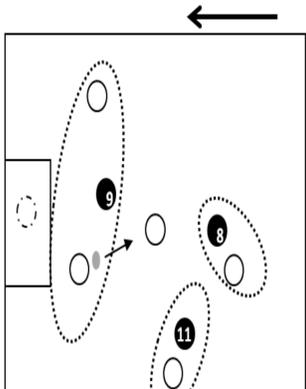


Illustration from Stade Rennais - Lens

PATTERN 1. The pursuing of individual and independent objectives to re-gain ball possession

"I concentrate on my position: to prevent the player on the ball from passing to his teammate on his left, I move towards him" (number 9)

"The player on the ball wants to pass to his right. I position myself a bit further up to prevent this pass, so that the pass comes back down the middle" (number 11)

"I want the player on the ball to play with his central midfielder. I want the player on the ball to think that he has time to play with him and the central midfielder to think that he has time to receive it" (number 8)

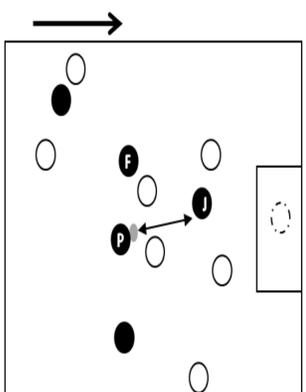


Illustration from Stade Rennais - Le Havre

PATTERN 2. A primary interaction between the player on the ball and one of his teammates after regaining ball possession

"The ball is intercepted by Phil. I know he will play it to Jim" (Flynn)

"I see Phil regain the ball, I expect a fast attack. Instead of moving towards the goal, I stay to support Phil so that he can play with me" (Jim)

"Jim is available further up in the field... I can play quickly to eliminate these two defenders" (Phil)

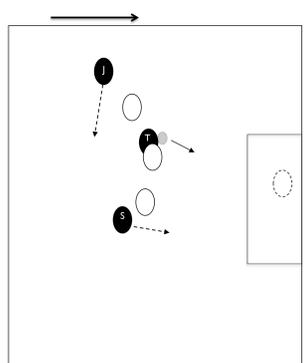


Illustration from Stade Rennais - Lille

PATTERN 3. The pursuit of individual and independent objectives to score a goal while ensuring the team's defensive balance.

"I commit the defender to go around him and score." (Tom)

"Tom goes forward... and ends up with a one-on-one situation... I try to stay wide." (Stefen)

"Tom goes forward... and ends up with a one-on-one situation... at that moment, I know that he is going for goal... I stop and come into a more central position to take his place." (Phil)

DISCUSSION

1. TEAM ACTIVITY WAS BASED ON COMPATIBLE AND DISTRIBUTED FORMS OF SHARING

2. TWO KINDS OF COORDINATION WITH A SHIFT

Precoordination during no-ball possession

Players carry out some actions decided on in advance by the coach (i.e., organization prescribed before competition)

On-the-spot coordination after gaining the ball

Players open to all the opportunities according to what is significant for them at a given instant

3. SHOULD A MORE QUALITATIVE CONCEPTION OF SHARING BE ADOPTED ?

REFERENCES

- Bourbousson, J., Poizat, G., Saury, J., & Sève, C. (2011). Description of dynamic shared knowledge: An exploratory study during a competitive team sports interaction. *Ergonomics*, 54, 120-138.
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