

A Comprehensive Analysis

III Women's Youth World Championship

2 - 12 August, Dominican Republic

by

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Introduction

For the 3rd time the world's best female youth handball players met in the Dominican Republic from the 2 to 12 of August to compete for the World Championship title. The matches were played in two halls, Palacio de los Deportes (Group A and B) and Pavillion Balonmano (Group C and D), in the region of Santo Domingo.

Qualification and Preliminary Groups

Out of the 19 WCh participants (Ivory Coast withdrew), 9 came from Europe: Denmark, Russia, Norway, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Sweden and Spain earned their places 1 - 8 at the 2009 U17 ECh in Serbia, while 9th team, Germany, replaced the Oceania representative, Australia. The other teams, who also qualified through continental championships, were: D.R. Congo and Angola from Africa; Japan, Korea, Kazakhstan and Thailand from Asia and from Pan-America there were Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay as well as host nation Dominican Republic.

The 19 countries started in the preliminary round groups as drawn at the IHF Head Office at the beginning of May.



III Women's Youth World Championship 2010

2 - 12 August – Dominican Republic

**MATCH SCHEDULE**

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
DEN 	NOR 	FRA 	RUS 
NED 	DOM 	HUN 	KOR 
ANG 	JPN 	SWE 	BRA 
ARG 	CIV 	KAZ 	ESP 
GER 	URU 	COD 	THA 

With the knowledge of the final ranking, the following can be established:

Group A

- With Germany replacing the Oceania representative and having the African #1 team Angola also part of this group, initially it seemed that Group A would also be strong. Even though Denmark (6th) and the Netherlands (3rd) played a tough match against each other neither had problems advancing to the quarter-finals.

Group B

- With the withdrawal of Ivory Coast, the Dominican Republic (placed 8th) and Norway (placed 2nd) each played one match less – staying fresh for the next round. With one contender less, it was also easier to qualify for the quarter finals from this group.

Group C

- The 1st and 4th placed teams of the Championship (thus two of the semi-finalists) came from Group C. As last year's ECh #5 Hungary (who just missed the quarter-finals because of goal difference) was also part of this group, there is no doubt that this was the toughest group at the Championship.

Group D

- Group D initially seemed to be one of the toughest groups because, apart from group favourite Russia (7th), strong competition was expected between Korea, Brazil and Spain (5th) for the chance to go to the next round. As it happened, the qualification to the quarter-finals gave Spain the boost to have a good run at the championship.

In light of the final result, it can be stated Groups C and D (together 1st, 4th, 5th and 7th positioned = 17 ranking-points) were stronger than Groups A and B (combined 3rd, 6th, 2nd and 8th placed overall = 19 ranking-points).

Ranking order amongst the groups: **D** (12 r-p.) < **B** (10 r-p.) < **A** (9 r-p.) < **C** (5 r-p.)

Results

Sweden won the World Championship title, convincingly beating runner-up Norway in the final 34 - 29 (17-10). The bronze medal was decided in a close match where the Netherlands came back in the second half and defeated France 27–26 (10 – 12).

Final ranking:

1.SWE 2.NOR 3.NED 4.FRA 5.ESP 6.DEN

7.RUS 8.DOM 9.KOR 10.ANG 11.HUN 12.URU

13.BRA 14.GER 15.JPN 16.KAZ 17.ARG 18.COD 19.THA

Team Preparation

The table demonstrates the summary of the pre-tournament preparation of the 1st - 6th ranked teams. This summary is based on the answers given by the team officials to a questionnaire during the tournament. According to the information the following conclusions can be reached:

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP PREPARATION

Nation	No. of training camps	No. of days spent for preparation	Total no. of training sessions	No. of tournaments played	No. of int. matches played	No. of pr. matches played	No. of days spent for acclimatisation
SWE	3	11	22	2 (E. O.+1)	10	2	4 (Dom. Rep.)
NOR	4	25	50	2 (E. O.+1)	11	3	4 (Dom. Rep.)
NED	5	15	22	1 (E. O.)	7	3	2 (Dom. Rep.)
FRA	3	13	26	~	2	~	9 (7 Mar./2 D.R)
ESP	2	24	48	1 (E. O.)	8	2	4 (Dom. Rep.)
DEN	2	8	12	1 (E. O.)	9	~	4 (Dom. Rep.)
AVG.	3,1	16,0	30,0	1,1	7,8	1,6	4,5

- NOR spent the most time before the WCh for preparation: apart from the European Open, they trained 25 days together (9 days more than the average) over 4 stages and had a total of 50 training sessions (20 more than the average).
- It can be established that the participation at international tournaments and the number of international matches played before the WCh are more important for a team's success at the tournament than the number of training camps and training sessions.
- Considering that most of the athletes finished school around June with a short rest afterwards, most of the teams had approximately 4 weeks of direct preparation for the WCh. The top-ranked teams (except FRA) used similar methods.
- 5 teams out the first 6 (+ WCh participants HUN and RUS) used the European Open as a test tournament for the WCh. In fact, out of the European participants at the World Championship only FRA and late entry GER did not participate in this tournament.
- Apart from the European Open as a preparatory tournament only the 2 finalists took part in another tournament and also - partly as a consequence - these two teams played the most international matches (10 and 11 respectively), 2 – 3 matches more than the average.
- WCh 4th-ranked FRA used a slightly different method: training in 3 sequences at home, not participating in tournaments (the only team to do so) and only playing 2 international "test matches" while acclimatising in nearby Martinique.

- NED used a “combined” method of preparation where they had 2 training sessions per week for 1 month, then concentrated on direct preparation for the European Open and World Championship.
- Regarding acclimatisation, the 3 medal winners spent fewer days acclimatising than the average (4.5 nearly 5 days) so it can be stated that acclimatising did not really influence the teams' performances.
- Some teams (e.g. SWE, NOR, NED) used players who had just finished playing at the Junior WCh in Korea. These players were key players for their teams and despite the long tournament in Korea, travelling between the continents and time difference, they played well.

Playing Experience

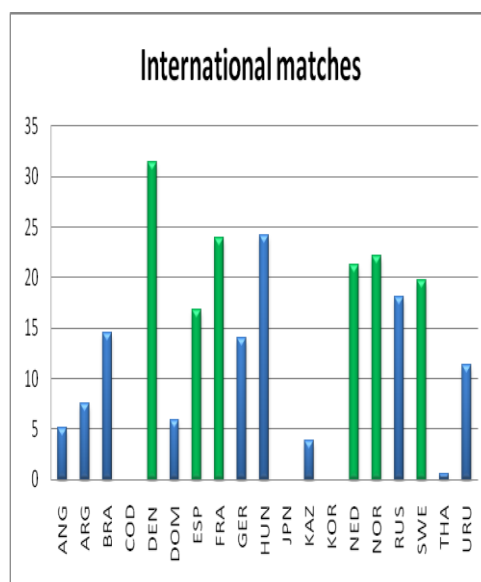
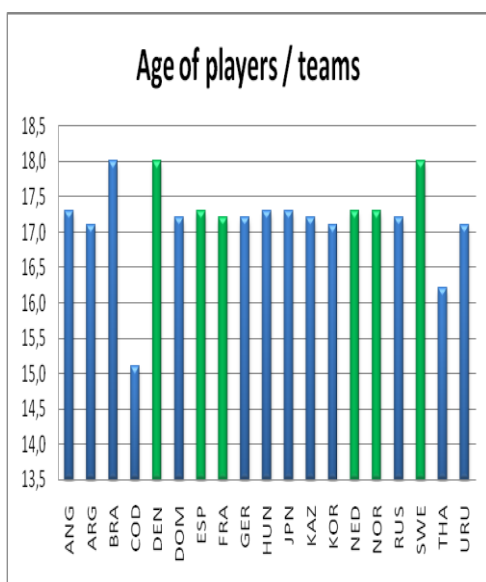
Within the younger age categories, the age and the number of international matches played before the tournament usually have a impact on the success of a team at the WCh.

SUMMARY - PLAYING EXPERIENCE

NATION	AGE OF PLAYERS/TEAMS			INTERNATIONAL MATCHES		
	YOUNGEST	AVG.	OLDEST	MIN.	AVG.	MAX.
ANG	17-01-11	17-03-02	18-05-25	0	5,1	6
ARG	16-03-05	17-01-02	18-04-17	0	7,5	19
BRA	16-00-30	18-00-02	18-06-10	0	14,5	35
COD	13-09-16	15-00-16	16-03-13	*	*	*
DEN	17-03-24	18-00-00	18-06-29	10	31,4	45
DOM	16-08-15	17-02-03	18-05-28	0	5,9	14
ESP	16-09-01	17-02-29	18-06-16	0	16,8	29
FRA	16-11-11	17-02-05	18-06-09	0	23,9	42
GER	16-08-19	17-02-04	18-06-30	0	14	32
HUN	16-01-13	17-03-00	18-06-06	4	24,2	41
JPN	17-01-24	17-03-09	18-06-09	*	*	*
KAZ	15-09-29	17-02-11	18-06-14	0	3,9	15
KOR	15-09-30	17-01-00	18-04-24	*	*	*
NED	17-00-11	17-03-02	18-06-24	5	21,3	36
NOR	16-11-00	17-03-00	18-06-16	0	22,1	38
RUS	15-04-18	17-01-16	18-06-25	0	18,1	40
SWE	16-11-29	18-00-04	18-07-00	4	19,7	29
THA	17-00-04	16-02-03	18-02-14	0	0,6	4
URU	16-06-24	17-01-03	18-05-15	2	11,3	20
AVG.		17-01-24			14,2	

* = Information not provided by the nation

- Statistics show that prior to the WCh the 6 top-ranked teams played approximately 30% more international matches (avg. 22.5) than the other teams and this is well above the total average of 14.2.
- Comparing the average age of the teams, it stands out that SWE is the oldest team with the average of 18 years and 4 days of age and this is approximately 10 months older than the total average. The cumulative average of the top teams is 17yrs 3 mths 12 days of age and this is higher than the participants' average (17yrs 1mth 24days).
- It is also obvious that older age teams with more international match experience generally came from Europe, while younger teams with less international experience came from Africa, Asia and Pan America.



(green = 1st - 6th blue = 7th - 19th)

Physical Parameters

The data as presented by the participating teams on their delegation list has been collated and summarized in a table below. The table shows the height and weight as well as the Body Mass Index (BMI) of the participating athletes.

SUMMARY - PHYSICAL PARAMETERS

NATION	HEIGHT			WEIGHT			BMI
	MIN.	AVG.	MAX.	MIN.	AVG.	MAX.	AVG.
ANG	160	170,0	175	54	65,4	80	22,6
ARG	156	167,2	179	54	66,7	79	23,9
BRA	158	170,6	183	58	66,4	79	22,7
COD	156	165,3	176	49	53,5	69	19,7
DEN	160	176,1	185	67	71,0	80	22,9
DOM	160	173,5	190	59	70,4	84	23,3
ESP	160	171,8	189	54	68,2	102	23,1
FRA	170	176,3	189	59	66,4	76	21,4
GER	164	174,0	185	54	65,7	80	21,7
HUN	170	175,8	193	57	66,4	75	21,4
JPN	159	166,7	173	53	60,8	68	21,8
KAZ	165	173,0	182	52	64,9	85	21,7
KOR	160	169,8	184	46	57,0	68	19,7
NED	165	174,7	187	59	65,8	75	21,5
NOR	163	171,8	180	*	68,4	*	23,1
RUS	162	175,7	184	50	66,7	75	21,5
SWE	167	177,8	191	63	74,3	86	23,5
THA	159	165,2	174	50	57,9	80	21,3
URU	157	167,1	179	52	65,7	75	23,6
AVG.		171,7			65,3		22,1

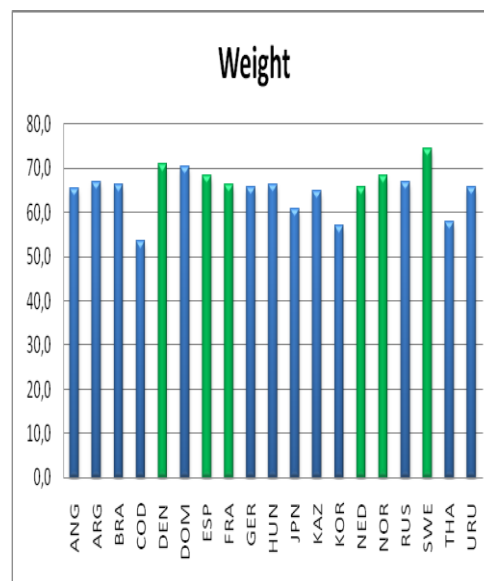
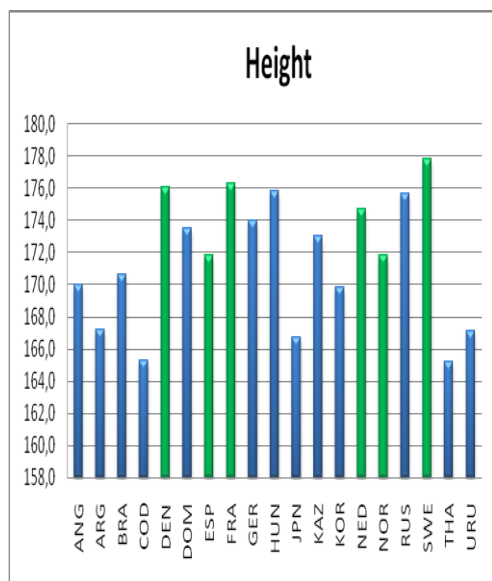
* = Information was not provided by the nation

Height

- It can be seen that World Champion, SWE had the tallest team average (177.8cm). This is approximately 6cm taller than the total average of the competition participants (171.7cm) while the last-ranked team, THA (average of 165.2cm) was also 6cm below the total average.
- It can also be established that the 6 top-ranked teams were all taller than average.

Weight

- The heaviest team was SWE (average of 74.3kg) and this team was approximately 9kg heavier than the total average (65.3kg) and 5kg heavier than the next in rank, DEN.
- Similarly to height, the 6 top-ranked teams were also heavier than the average total weight of 3.5kg.
- In comparing these results to the 2009 U17 ECh in Serbia, it can be concluded that the average height of teams did not change radically in one year (this means that they did not grow significantly 174 → 174.7) yet the weight did (65.3 → 68.8kg). Consequently, the BMI also changed from 21.7 to 22.5.



(green = 1st - 6th blue = 7th - 19th)

By summarising the physical parameters, it can be established that at the III Youth World Championship gold medallist SWE was the tallest and heaviest team with a good BMI. This suggests a conscientious selection policy and a well thought out physical preparation of the team (In fact it was visible on the playing court that the Swedish players physically overpowered the rest of the participants.) Apart from being tall and more muscular SWE also had great speed (scored most of the fast-break goals, a total of 75 – almost 11 goals per game).

Furthermore, the fact that the 6 top-ranked teams were also above average in these categories also suggests that these physical attributes were a decisive factor in terms of success at this Championship.

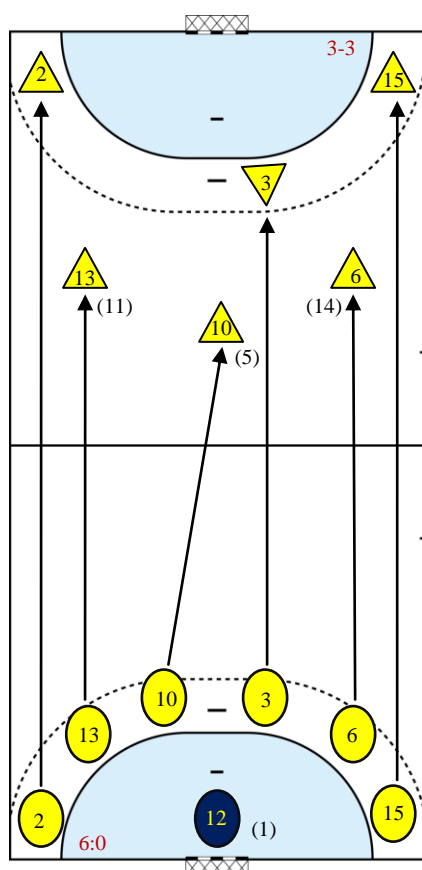
With regards to playing positions, this championship was no different to the general trend in handball. That is, the taller players usually play in LB – RB – PV and GK positions while shorter players usually play in LW, RW and CB positions. Furthermore, in some teams (e.g. NOR, DEN, NED), CBs physically did not differ that much from the LB and RB players, some teams (e.g. FRA, SWE and ESP) had shorter yet effective GKs between the posts instead.

Team Performance

At the World Championship there was a great diversity of playing styles. Each continent brought something unique to the tournament, making the overall performance very diverse in relation to the physical, technical and tactical aspects of the game. However, without neglecting the rest of the field, it is usual to analyse the performance of the 6 top teams in order to draw conclusions about future trends, indications and possible direction of the sport in this age category.

SWEDEN

Basic Line-up:



Results:

SWE 44 – 18 COD P. R. – Group C
 SWE 31 – 18 FRA P. R. – Group C
 SWE 36 – 30 HUN P. R. – Group C
 SWE 40 – 24 KAZ P. R. – Group C

 SWE 24 – 22 ESP Q. F.
 SWE 38 – 21 NED S. F.
 SWE 34 – 29 NOR Final

Final rank: 1st

Key Players:

1 GK - E. Frieberg
 #12 GK - A. Ogbomo
 #13 LB - Lina Larsson
 #15 RW - Linn Larsson
 #11 LB - M. Adler
 #10 CB - C. Stromberg
 # 5 CB - V. Tellenmark

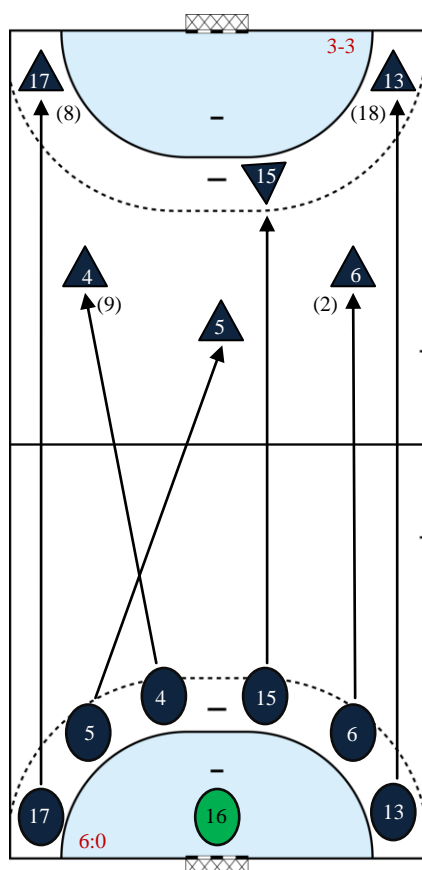
Characteristics:

- A very experienced and cohesive team (av. of 20 international matches per player with the key players having an average of 27 international matches). Also, the oldest team in biological terms (av. age 18 years and 4 days).
- Excellent physical attributes, the tallest (av. 177.8cm) and heaviest (av. 74.3kg) team with a good BMI (23.5).
- Two equally well skilled and effective goalkeepers yet with different saving styles. In fact, SWE had the best GK couple in the competition: #1 E. Frieberg and #12 A. Ogbomo substituted each other well, shared time on court equally (2.58.33 and 3.08.16) with a good saving percentage of 42.7% and 40.7% respectively.
- All the positions were well covered, at least 2 good players for each position. The coaches regularly substituted the players, keeping the squad fresh. The playing time was well distributed among 8 vital court players: each played over 3.5 hours over 7 games which equals to half of the total playing time.
- The players were not substituted as attack or defence specialists rather; they shared the court time while playing in the same position.
- Many players were able to play well in at least 2 positions. E.g., #15 - RW & RB, #13 - LB & LW, #11 - LB & CB, #10 - LB & CB.
- Applying a solid 6:0 zone defence throughout the championship with a much disciplined team work and with assertive individual attitude.

- When in possession of the ball, they initiated fast-breaks immediately. The whole team ran for the fast-break: scored most goals resulting from individual fast-break (37 = 88%) and attained the 3rd highest goal rate from team fast-break (38 = 55% efficiency).
- In the organisational phase of the attack against set defence, they used simple tactical moves, but executed them with power and perfection.
- Scored most goals in the competition (247), with the best scoring percentage (50.3%). Most of these goals resulted from positional play (172) with the 2nd best scoring percentage (45.5%).
- Adjusted well to different game situations: scored the second most goals (26) in numerical inferiority but with the highest scoring percentage (83.9%).
- A well organized team both on and off the court, displaying a well developed team spirit and strong national pride. The large number of assists within the team (total of 88 – the largest by far) indicates cohesion and excellent team work.

NORWAY

Basic Line-up:



Results:

NOR 34 – 28 JPN P. R. – Group B
 NOR 41 – 19 URU P. R. – Group B
 NOR 24 – 23 DOM P. R. – Group B

 NOR 26 – 23 DEN Q. F.
 NOR 22 – 18 FRA S. F.
 NOR 29 – 34 SWE Final

Final rank: 2nd

Key Players:

5 CB – M. Henriksen
 # 4 LB – C. Rasmussen
 #13 RW – S. Skogrand
 #15 PV – G. Stoerdal
 # 6 RB – A. Hansen

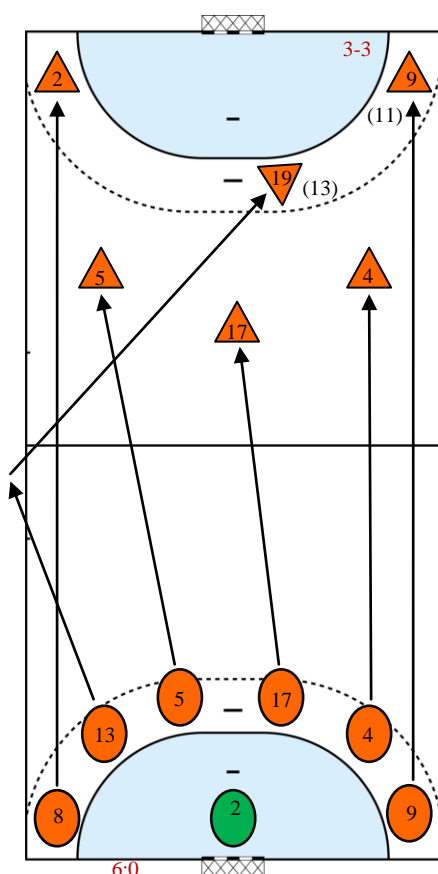
Characteristics:

- One of the most experienced teams with the average of 22 international games per player.
- Coaches fully relied on one GK and her performance was average: first-choice GK #16 M. Toemmerbakke's playing time was 4.04.45 with an average saving

- percentage of 32.5%, while the other GKs did not even play an hour each.
- Basic set up in attack: playing with tall LB and RB with a very skilled CB, #5 M. Henriksen who organized the attack well.
- When in attack organisation, a lot of crossing in the back-court in order for the backs to prepare to shoot, while wingers were in the corner waiting for a pass and concentrated on finishing.
- Back-court players more often went for through-shots instead of breaking-through, yet achieved only 27 goals from 69 attempts - low scoring percentage (39%).
- As part of their characteristic playing style, the team strove for fast-break, and they did this in different waves. However, they produced a low scoring percentage in this field (team fast-break - 45.7%, individual fast-break - 65.2%).
- Great running speed and stamina combined with a high level of ball control and passing skills resulted in the lowest number of technical errors (98).
- By utilizing the tall players in the middle, they frequently applied the 6:0 zone defence, and changed to 5:1 or to 5+1 only when they were behind.
- Good retreat when losing the ball in attack, both as individuals and as a team. This resulted in minimising the goals conceded from fast-breaks.
- Among the top teams, equally with DEN, NOR conceded the least of goals (155) = 22 per game average, although they played one match less.

NETHERLANDS

Basic Line-up:



Results:

NED 33 – 20 ARG P. R. – Group A
 NED 34 – 28 GER P. R. – Group A
 NED 37 – 32 ANG P. R. – Group A
 NED 29 – 24 DEN P. R. – Group A

 NED 28 – 24 DOM Q. F.
 NED 21 – 38 SWE S. F.
 NED 27 – 26 FRA 3-4 P.

Final rank: 3rd

Key Players:

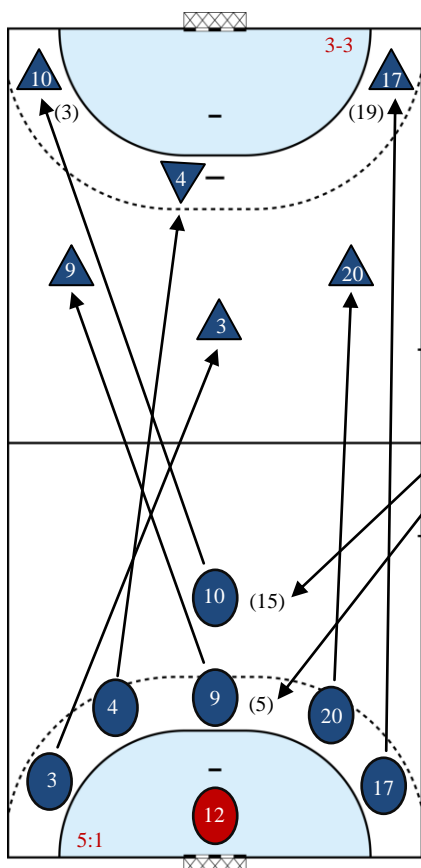
2 GK – L. van Dorst
 # 5 LB – L. Abbingh
 #17 CB – E. Polman
 # 9 RW - T. Van Der Pijl
 #13 LB/CB/RB – M. Schoenaker

Characteristics:

- One of the most experienced team with an average of 21 international matches per player.
- Just above average height and weight, and the players were physically very athletic (BMI – 21.5). The team was in good physical condition in general with good running speed and better than average stamina.
- Starting Gk #2 V. Dorst spent most time on court with a better than average saving percentage of 36%. The other GK spent only 1.5 hours total on court.
- The team had two good left handed players who scored 27 goals from RW position together. Yet play from the other wing position was not that effective. As player #8 and #13 sometimes also played in this position, it seemed that there was not a real LW player in the squad.
- Very strong performance in LB position: #5 L. Abbingh apart from scoring many goals from LB mostly with through-shots, often finished in LW position after a break-through.
- The team had an excellent leader and playmaker, #17 E. Polman, who was also an effective scorer from all positions.
- The fact that many players played in pivot position (#19, 14, 8) and yet did not score many goals from this area indicates that PV was not the strongest position of the team.
- Focusing mostly on attack, NED was team with the 4th highest scoring rate (209 goals) yet the one that conceded the 4th largest number of goals too (179 goals).
- Attempted to initiate a counter-attack whenever possible from every position/situation possible. Consequently, NED was among the highest scoring teams in the category of individual fast-breaks (20) with the 2nd best scoring percentage (87%) yet only 7th in team fast-break attempts with an average scoring percentage of 45%. Also, consecutive quick throw-off was part of their basic team tactics.
- Most of the scoring attempts came from positional play (412 - by far the largest number among the top teams) yet only with an average scoring percentage (39.3%). In organised attack positional play with very few changes and running ins were dominant. The LW and PV position seemed to be their weakest among their attacking positions.
- The team's play depended a lot on #5 LB and #17 CB: the most individual assists 25 (almost 4 per match) came from #17 E. Polman but #5 L. Abbingh was also better than average in this category with 10 assists. #17 was also a key player in defence, and was the most successful of her team in intercepting passes (7 x).
- The team dealt well in different game situations: scored the 2nd largest number of goals in numerical superiority with high scoring percentage (71.9%) and scored average number of goals in numerical inferiority with a good scoring percentage (62.5%).

FRANCE

Basic Line-up:



Results:

FRA 49 – 18 KAZ P. R. – Group C
 FRA 18 – 31 SWE P. R. – Group C
 FRA 35 – 13 COD P. R. – Group C
 FRA 23 – 23 HUN P. R. – Group C

 FRA 31 – 23 RUS Q. F.
 FRA 18 – 22 NOR S. F.
 FRA 26 – 27 NED 3-4 P.

Final rank: 4th

Key Players:

4 PV - S. Abdellahi
 #12 GK – F. Chatellet
 # 9 LB – A. Bruneau
 #20 RB – G. Zaadi
 #10 LW - C. Lassource

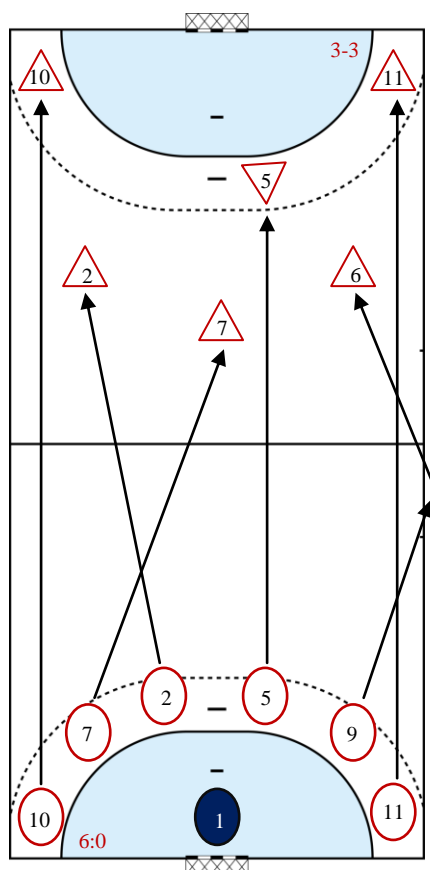
Characteristics:

- Well experienced team with an average of 24 international matches per player.
- 2nd tallest team (average height 176.3 cm) where the players had the necessary physical attributes required for their position – in particular good height.
- FRA made a lot of substitutions, they often changed 2 – 2 players in attack and defence. Defence specialists: #5 and #15.
- Out of all teams, the French coach used the most basic line ups in defence: 6:0, 5:1, 3:2:1, 4:1+1, 4:2 and 5+1 were played systematically.
- Very open ball-orientated defence with lots of checking and regularly setting up a “ball trap” for intercepting passes (#10 C. Lassource and #20 G. Zaadi intercepted passes successfully 12 and 7 times respectively).
- Solid GK performance from #12 F. Chatellet, spending over 5 hours between the posts, a reliable performance, thus becoming the most consistent GK of the WCh.
- From the open defence individual fast-breaks were often initiated (total of 25 - 2nd among the teams) or team fast-break in different waves (5th best of the teams).

- When playing against set defence, the French team started with 3 - 3 basic formations in attack with position play most of the time. When changing the attacking formation to 2 - 4, usually one of the backs became the second pivot.
- Strong performance from the first choice PV #4 S. Abdellahi. Apart from carrying out an effective preparatory activity (good sense of blocking/breaking free), she scored from the pivot position with a very good percentage (15/17).
- FRA scored the most goals after executing the free-throws around the goal area. Particularly, #9 LB A. Bruneau best utilised the free throw opportunities, scoring 5 goals from a set situation with her powerful jump shot.
- Adapted well to different game situations: achieved the highest scoring percentage in numerical superiority (72.7%), among the top teams.
- The team was able to dramatically improve performance from day to day from low to excellent (e.g. against Russia).

SPAIN

Basic Line-up:



Results:

ESP 29 – 25 KOR P. R. – Group D
 ESP 28 – 31 RUS P. R. – Group D
 ESP 59 – 21 THAI P. R. – Group D
 ESP 29 – 25 BRA P. R. – Group D

 ESP 22 – 24 SWE Q. F.
 ESP 27 – 20 DEN 5-6 P.

Final rank: 5th

Key Players:

2 LB – L. Gonzalez
 # 7 CB – A. Fernandez
 #10 LW – S. Segura
 #11 RW – M. Falcon
 # 1 GK – M. Esteban
 # 5 PV – L. Cobo

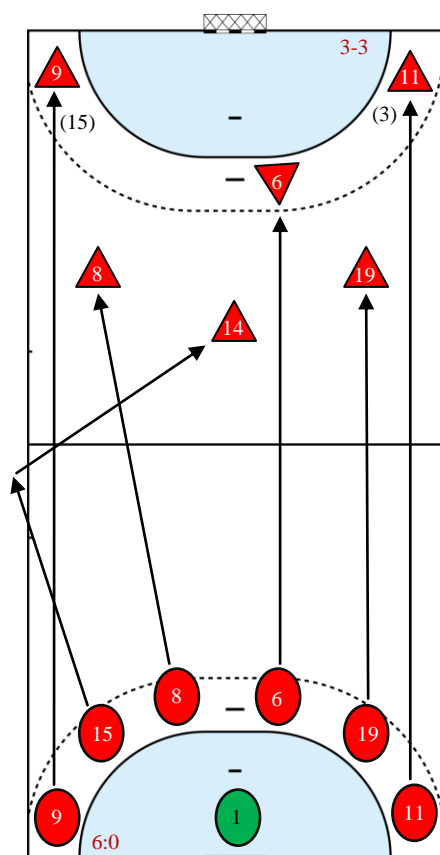
Characteristics:

- ESP seemed to be a very vocal and emotional team with a very strong sense of national pride.

- They applied a solid open 6:0 zone defence where the players often moved forward from the goal-area line and were not afraid of body collisions when checking.
- Goalkeeper #1 M. Esteban spent the second longest time amongst the players on court with over 3.5 hours and saved the 4th largest number of shots of the championship with a good saving percentage of 36.5%.
- Despite the very offensive defence and good goalkeeping, the Spanish team conceded the 3rd largest number of goals (220) of all participants.
- When in possession of the ball, the team was on the run all the time - often running on emotion, always going for and trying for a fast-break.
- Against organised defence their attack play was static with strong positional play (3 -3 basic formation) and kept it most of the time. As a result, they scored the 3rd largest number of goals from positional play (167).
- Centre back #7 A. Fernandez organized the attack well but wasn't effective enough in goal shooting and often caused offensive fouls.
- Left wing #10 S. Segura was the most consistent with solid defence work and a nearly perfect finisher from fast-breaks (17/19).
- Strong performance from LB, # 2 L. Gonzalez who had good shooting power to finish from different distances and positions.
- Due to the two strong players in LW and LB positions, attack was a little bit one-sided: the left side was more active and scored more goals than the right side.
- The team had no real solution to fill the RB position, as this was the area where the most substitutions were recorded - with little success.
- Adapted well to the different game situations. In particular utilised numerical superiority, where they scored the most goals (44) amongst the teams.
- Able to develop their performance level from match to match - perhaps Spain was the team that improved most over the championship.

DENMARK

Basic Line-up:



Characteristics:

- The players demonstrated good passing skills; the whole team was technically well prepared with a good level of speed and stamina.
- There was a lot of player rotation in the squad, all court players played on average 2 hours while 2 players played just under that mark.
- Carried out a tight and closed zone defence with the intention of checking and blocking shots. Always starting with a 6:0 basic formation and changed to 5:1, sometimes 3:2:1 or 4:2 only when behind or time was getting short.
- As a result of putting a lot of emphasis on defence, DEN was one of the top teams to concede the least of goals (155).
- First choice goalkeeper #1 C. Greve, had the best saving percentage (42%) among the goalkeepers of the top teams and was 3rd in the overall ranking. However, there wasn't a suitable 2nd goalkeeper to relieve her.
- Against a set defence the first choice attacking basic position was 3 - 3, then with the wingers running to the inside, it often changed to 2 - 4.
- Attack organisation was characterised by a lot of crossing with the ball in order to set up the RB for shooting.
- #19 L. Burggaard was the best RB of the competition and one of the top scorers (joint 3rd) on the top scorer list with 44 goals.

Results:

DEN 29 – 19 ARG P. R. – Group A
 DEN 25 – 15 ANG P. R. – Group A
 DEN 26 – 16 GER P. R. – Group A
 DEN 24 – 29 NED P. R. – Group A

 DEN 23 – 26 NOR Q. F.
 DEN 20 – 27 ESP 5-6 P.

Final rank: 6th

Key Players:

1 GK – C. Greve
 # 3 RW – A. Pedersen
 # 6 PV – K. Heindahl
 #19 RB – L. Burggaard

- Although in terms of goals scored, there wasn't a strong performance from the LB position, a lot of assists (12) came from #8 A. Nielsen.
- Good combinations between the backs and the pivot: the backs together produced a total number of 35 assists.
- #6 K. Heindahl in PV was outstanding throughout the tournament, with a scoring average of 87.5% (23 goals out of 25 attempts) from the 6m line.
- The performance of the wingers was not consistent; they scored an average of 2 goals per match only.
- Contrary to traditional expectations of always going for fast-break opportunities, DEN scored fewer goals from counter-attacks than usual. Surprisingly, they scored the least of goals from team fast-break (5) and with a low percentage of 20.8%.
- A well-disciplined, well-prepared and complete team, yet they performed below their standards and below expectations.

POSITIONS - ATTACK

WINGERS – *there were no outstanding performances in this position, technically no-one stood out. Most of the wingers focused on fast-breaks and they scored the majority of their goals after concluding an individual or team counter-attack. In some teams, like Sweden, wingers also sometimes played in the back-court positions, when necessary.*

LEFT WING

- Out of the top teams Spain's #10 S. Segura was the most consistent in the left wing position and scored most of her goals from fast-break, with a high shooting percentage (89%).
- Denmark's #9 S. Knudsen showed great speed and technical ability and has good potential for the future but was not so effective in finishing.
- Sweden's #2 M. Wall however did not seem to have the "typical" build of a winger (she rather moved like a back-court player) but with her high scoring percentage (75.7%) earned her place amongst the best in the left wing position.

RIGHT WING

- Sweden's #15 L. Larson had an outstanding performance during the tournament, particularly in the last phases. Apart from covering a lot of ground in attack and scoring a number of goals from different positions, her scoring percentage of 81.4% placed her among the best wingers.
- Although the Netherlands's #9 T. Van Der Pijl scored the most goals (14) from RW, she needed 34 shots which was not so effective. However, she marked an outstanding 100% record (15 out 15) of finishing fast-breaks.
- Russia's #13, A. Vyakhireva showed good potential for the future but she played half of her court time as a centre back, so her play in RW could not flourish.

BACKS - *it was in these positions that we saw a number of players who might be future stars. Most of the teams had back-court players with excellent physical abilities and attributes and with the potential to develop further. There were players with powerful shots and good finishing abilities as well as playmaker type backs who were able to organise the attack and were effective in breaking through as well.*

LEFT BACK

- Netherland's #5 L. Abbingh showed the most consistent performance throughout the tournament, leading the top scorer list from beginning to end. She scored a

total of 57 goals (an average of 8 per match) from various positions, from long range with through-shots, from close range after breaking through and also scoring from the 7m spot.

- Spain's #2 L. Gonzalez and France's #9 A. Bruneau were equally good in the left-back position with a high number of goals scored from various ranges and situations with a high number of goals, 42 and 40 respectively.
- Sweden's team covered the left-back position well. Apart from regular LB players Lina Larson and Maria Adler, other players also played well in this position.
- Korea's #5 H. Noh was also noticeable and showed some potential but as her team did not advance to the next round she was not challenged by the stronger teams.

RIGHT BACK

- Denmark's #19 L. Burgaard was the 3rd best scorer of the competition (44 goals) but undoubtedly was the best in this position. Out of Denmark's court players, she spent the most time on court taking part not only in the finishing but sometimes also playing the role of the playmaker with one of the highest number of assists (12) - particularly passing well to the pivot.
- With their physical ability and shooting power, Russia's N. Danshina and Brazil's #9 P. Silva showed potential but their teams did not advance to the final phase where their skills could have really been put to the test.
- Hungary's #14 S. Planeta could be someone to watch in the future when she reaches her potential as her almost 2m height could be put to great advantage and she continues to work to develop her technical skills.

CENTRE BACK

- Of the many outstanding players, the Netherland's #17 E. Polman was the most valuable player in the centre back position. She was not just the top scorer of her team but with her many assists (25 over 7 matches – the highest by far), playmaking skills and motivating power, she was the engine of her team.
- Norway's #5 M. Henriksen on the other hand was the "classical" centre back taking part predominantly in the organization of attack, setting her teammates up to score (16 assists over 6 matches). Utilising her excellent footwork, she was the top scorer (14 goals) at breaking through.
- Sweden's #5 V. Tellenmark and Spain's #2 A. Fernandez also stood out with their play-making abilities, footwork and range of shots on the goal. However, their performances were not consistent or they were often substituted.
- Hungary's #15 K. Klivinyi was among the best centre backs but due to injuries within the team, she was forced to play in either left or right back positions in this championship and was unable to demonstrate her true abilities.

PIVOTS - From all the players who played in the pivot position at this WCh, different types could be identified - there were tall and strong players to primarily block for the backs for shooting and there were more mobile types for breaking free themselves after blocking.

- Denmark's #6 K. Heindahl was a key player for her team and the most effective in the pivot position, not just scoring 23 goals (from 25 attempts = 92%) but also in supporting well the attack attempts of the back-court players, in particular that of RB L. Burgaard.
- France's #4 S. Abdellahi was almost as equally effective (87%) when shooting from the pivot position, yet scored less goals as her main strength was her great mobility to shake off the defence, thus offer penetrable gaps to her teammates.
- Dominican Republic's #14 Y. Tejeda had the ability to catch the ball from different angles with one hand and then turning towards the goal very quickly – this earned her team many penalties.
- Norway's #15 G. Stoerdal was physically suited to the position because of her height and long arms but she needs more technical work in the future, particularly in order to better catch the ball better and to turn towards the goal more quickly.

Outstanding individual performances:

Most goals: NED # 5 LB L. Abbingh (56 goals)

Best shooting percentage: SWE #15 RW Linn Larsson (81.4%)

Most goals scored from:

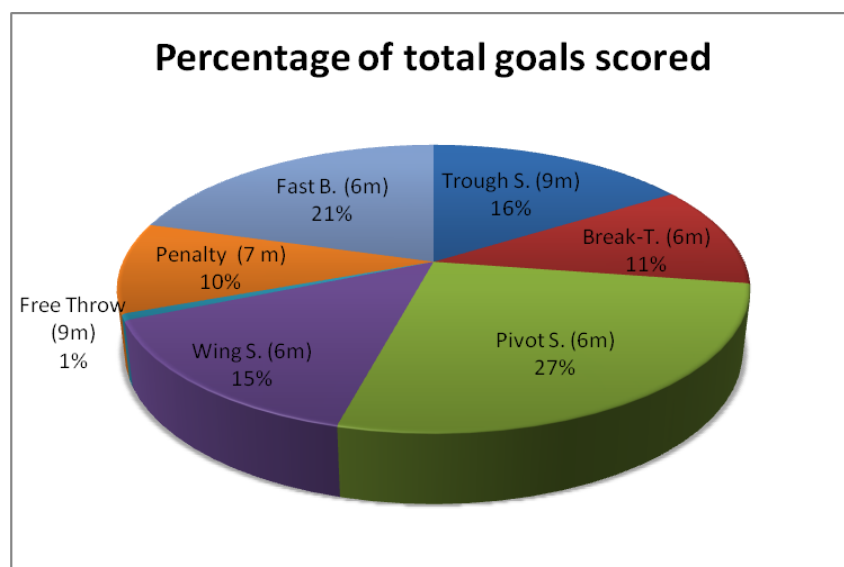
- long range: FRA # 9 LB A. Bruneau (24 goals)
- close range: DOM #14 PV Y. Tejeda (25 goals)
- wing position: KAZ # 9 LW Z. Aida (17 goals)
- break-through: RUS #14 LB V. Garanina (17 goals)
- fast-break: HUN # 2 LW O. Toth (20 goals)
- 7m throw: NED # 5 LB L. Abbingh (23 goals)

Most assists: NED #17 CB E. Polman (25)

Appendix

SUMMARY – GOALS SCORED FROM DIFFERENT AREAS
(1ST Part)

NATION	Through-shots (9m)		Break-through		Pivot + Line (6m)		Wing	
	goal/shot	%	goal/shot	%	goal/shot	%	goal/shot	%
ANG	24 / 71	34%	36 / 52	70%	38 / 75	51%	23 / 44	52%
ARG	13 / 50	26%	27 / 44	61%	26 / 71	37%	3 / 23	13%
BRA	34 / 66	52%	17 / 21	81%	63 / 86	73%	31 / 62	50%
COD	28 / 97	29%	13 / 18	72%	42 / 74	57%	12 / 33	36%
DEN	40 / 126	32%	22 / 37	60%	52 / 82	63%	17 / 41	42%
DOM	34 / 107	32%	20 / 29	69%	59 / 89	66%	18 / 26	69%
ESP	22 / 52	42%	28 / 43	65%	61 / 93	66%	32 / 63	51%
FRA	44 / 114	37%	6 / 8	75%	48 / 76	39%	22 / 43	51%
GER	18 / 81	22%	19 / 33	58%	48 / 75	64%	32 / 54	60%
HUN	34 / 86	40%	16 / 23	70%	55 / 73	75%	24 / 47	51%
JPN	12 / 53	23%	12 / 20	60%	31 / 52	60%	26 / 56	46%
KAZ	24 / 95	25%	10 / 13	77%	44 / 66	67%	34 / 56	61%
KOR	36 / 82	44%	11 / 17	65%	36 / 49	74%	26 / 57	46%
NED	22 / 74	30%	23 / 36	64%	50 / 81	62%	37 / 81	46%
NOR	27 / 69	39%	32 / 47	68%	36 / 64	56%	35 / 66	53%
RUS	50 / 129	39%	37 / 51	73%	47 / 73	64%	20 / 42	48%
SWE	43 / 82	52%	28 / 37	76%	50 / 78	64%	33 / 51	65%
THA	13 / 37	35%	3 / 4	75%	34 / 69	49%	19 / 43	44%
URU	4 / 31	13%	11 / 21	52%	51 / 76	67%	29 / 65	45%
AVG.	522 / 1502	34,7%	371 / 554	66,9%	871 / 1402	62,1%	473 / 953	49,6%
% of total goals	15,98%		11,36%		26,67%		14,48%	

**(2nd Part)**

NATION	Free-throw (9m)		Penalty (7m)		Fast-break (I.+T.)		Total	
	goal/shot	%	goal/shot	%	goal/shot	%	goal/shot	%
ANG	0 / 1	0%	11 / 14	79%	13 / 15	87%	145 / 272	53%
ARG	1 / 3	33%	13 / 18	72%	22 / 31	71%	105 / 240	44%
BRA	0 / 0	0%	13 / 20	65%	34 / 45	65%	192 / 300	64%
COD	0 / 1	0%	10 / 20	50%	21 / 27	78%	126 / 270	47%
DEN	2 / 5	40%	16 / 20	80%	23 / 38	61%	172 / 349	49%
DOM	1 / 6	17%	15 / 24	63%	1 / 5	20%	148 / 286	52%
ESP	2 / 4	50%	22 / 34	65%	53 / 72	74%	220 / 361	61%
FRA	6 / 13	46%	14 / 20	70%	60 / 82	73%	200 / 356	56%
GER	1 / 4	25%	12 / 20	60%	35 / 48	73%	165 / 315	52%
HUN	2 / 3	67%	21 / 26	81%	55 / 70	79%	207 / 328	63%
JPN	0 / 0	0%	17 / 29	59%	44 / 61	72%	142 / 271	52%
KAZ	2 / 2	100%	22 / 29	76%	4 / 8	50%	140 / 269	52%
KOR	0 / 0	0%	32 / 47	68%	55 / 73	75%	196 / 325	60%
NED	2 / 4	50%	28 / 36	78%	47 / 59	80%	209 / 371	56%
NOR	0 / 4	0%	14 / 18	78%	32 / 43	74%	176 / 311	57%
RUS	1 / 1	100%	14 / 15	93%	56 / 76	74%	225 / 387	58%
SWE	3 / 5	60%	15 / 19	79%	75 / 96	78%	247 / 368	67%
THA	0 / 1	0%	15 / 27	56%	17 / 21	81%	101 / 202	50%
URU	1 / 3	33%	23 / 34	68%	30 / 46	65%	149 / 276	54%
AVG.	24 / 60	40,0%	327 / 470	69,6%	667 / 916	72,8%	3265 / 5857	55,7%
% of total goals	0,73%		10,22%		20,52%		total goals - %	

All-Star TeamGoalkeeper: **Fanny Chattelet** (France)

Left Wing: **Sheila Segura** (Spain)

Left Back: **Lara Gonzales** (Spain)

Centre Back: **Marie Henriksen** (Norway)

Right Back: **Louise Burgaard** (Denmark)

Right Wing: **Linn Larsson** (Sweden)

Pivot: **Kathrine Heindahl** (Denmark)

MVP: **Carin Stromberg** (Sweden)

Top Scorer: **Lois Abbingh** (Netherlands) - 56 goals

POSITIONS - DEFENCE

GOALKEEPERS

Contrary to the tendency previously experienced at WCh level that the taller goalkeepers stood out with noticeable performances, in this championship we witnessed another trend. The first-choice goalkeepers of the top teams (and who also spent more time on court) had an average height of only 173.2cm, which was just 1cm above the total average of the tournament's participants. There were also other goalkeepers in the top GK's ranking who were 180cm or over.

These physical attributes resulted in a different saving style: these goalkeepers were characterised by dynamic, explosive movements, with good reflexes and often applied diving techniques for saving low positioned balls.

- As previously discussed when analysing SWE, # 1 E. Frieberg and #12 A. Ogbomo were together the best GK couple in the competition: substituted each other well, shared similar time on court (2.58.33 and 3.08.16) with solid saving percentage of 42.7% and 40.7% respectively.
- Regarding the other highly ranked teams instead, coaches heavily relied on one GK: NOR (#16) M. Toemmerbakke, NED #2 V. Dorst, FRA #12 F. Chattelet, ESP #1 M. Esteban, DEN #1 C. Greve all spent around five hours between the posts with an average of 37.5% saving percentage.
- Apart from the 1st - 6th ranked teams, other nations' first goalkeepers like RUS #1 D. Vakhterova, DOM #12 S. Suarez and GER #12 A. Giegeich all have the physical attributes to be outstanding goalkeepers in the future.

Outstanding individual performances:

Best saving percentage total: SWE # 1 E. Frieberg (42.7%)

Most shots saved total: NED #2 V. Dorst, DOM #12 S. Suarez (78 saves each)

Most shots saved from:

- long range: NED #2 V. Dorst, DEN #1 C. Greve (33 saves each)
- close range: DEN #1 C. Greve (21 saves)
- wing position: FRA #12 F. Chattelet, BRA #16 C. Martins (21 saves each)
- break-through: DEN #1 C. Greve (9 saves)
- fast-break: DOM #12 S. Suarez (16 saves)
- 7m throw: DEN #16 M. Toemmerbakke (8 saves)

INDIVIDUAL DEFENDER

It was good to see at this WCh that most teams made strong defence a priority and a number of them put more emphasis on defending their goal. Consequently, many players carried out their defence duty well and a few individuals stood out in each defence position.

OUTSIDE DEFENDER (No. 1)

The less than usual number of goals (only 14.5 % of the WCh's total goals) scored from wing positions (that means avg. 24.9 per team = 3.5 goals per match) suggests that perhaps one of the reasons for this was the good defence activity of the outside defenders.

- Apart from the fact that goalkeepers generally also saved well from the wing (e.g. the top 6 teams' GKs had 41 % saving percentage) the other limiting factor was perhaps that most of the teams applied a 6:0 zone defence where covering the opponents wingers can be carried out easier.
- Most of the time the wingers moved back in a straight line from their attack position to their defence position, but for some teams (e.g. FRA), CB moved back to and from the LO position.
- Among the many outstanding players in this position as the right outsider, the powerful SWE #15 Linn Larsson, while on the left side the very agile ESP #10 S. Segura, had the most consistent defence performances.

HALF DEFENDER (No. 2)

This position is one of the hardest defence roles, as the players have an extensive area to cover. More than half of the WCh goals (51 %) were scored from the wide, middle section of the area posing a threat-to-the-goal with powerful through-shots. This is the main scoring area of the backs and actions are often concluded here after a break-through or a pivot dive from the vicinity of the 6m line. Among the diverse defence activities of many players who played in the half defender positions the following stood out.

- In the RH position FRA #20 G. Zaadi was very mobile, falling out and moving back quickly from the goal-area line, equally effective both on the line blocking shots and intercepting passes.
- LH position defence specialist NED #13 M. Schoenaker was more reserved, staying closer to the goal-area line and utilising her physical abilities focused on blocking and checking instead.

-
- In the LH/CH position NOR #15 G. Stoerdal, while on the other side in RH / CH position DOM #7 J. Pimentel took advantage of their height for blocking goal shots successfully (10 blocks each).

CENTRE HALF DEFENDER (No. 3)

To play well in this position is made more difficult by the fact that not only must the extended area be covered but the CH defender has also to lead the defence.

- Therefore, NED #17 E. Polman stood out with her hard working attitude and leadership qualities as she was very vocal, leading and guiding the whole defence well (she also had a very good average performance in all areas of defence).
- To make this position successful it is important that defenders are well accustomed to each other and NED Abbingh – Polman displayed a very effective partnership giving their team a strong back bone.
- Apart from being a key player in attack, SWE #10 C. Stromberg was perhaps the best individual defender of the WCh. She showed the most reliable performance in all defence areas that earned her the MVP award.
- RUS #14 V. Garanina displayed an inherent gift (difficult to learn) of being able to force the opponent into making an error. By stepping out from the goal-area line with good timing and a sense of anticipation, she successfully intercepted passes and often forced the attackers to make errors (14x).
- When FRA # 9 A. Bruneau and NOR # 4 C. Rassmussen stayed in defence they lent good height to the defence wall, blocking a number of goal shooting attempts (8 and 10 respectively).

FORWARD DEFENDER (F)

Since only a few teams used open defence as their first choice of defence system in this WCh, there were not many players who stood out with a noticeable performance in this position. Apart from lower-ranked teams who tried to compensate for the lack of height by stretching the defence out in depth (e.g. KOR, BRA, ARG), top-ranked teams used less frequently and deliberately a F defender for disturbing the attack organisation, or for marking a goal-threatening opponent player.

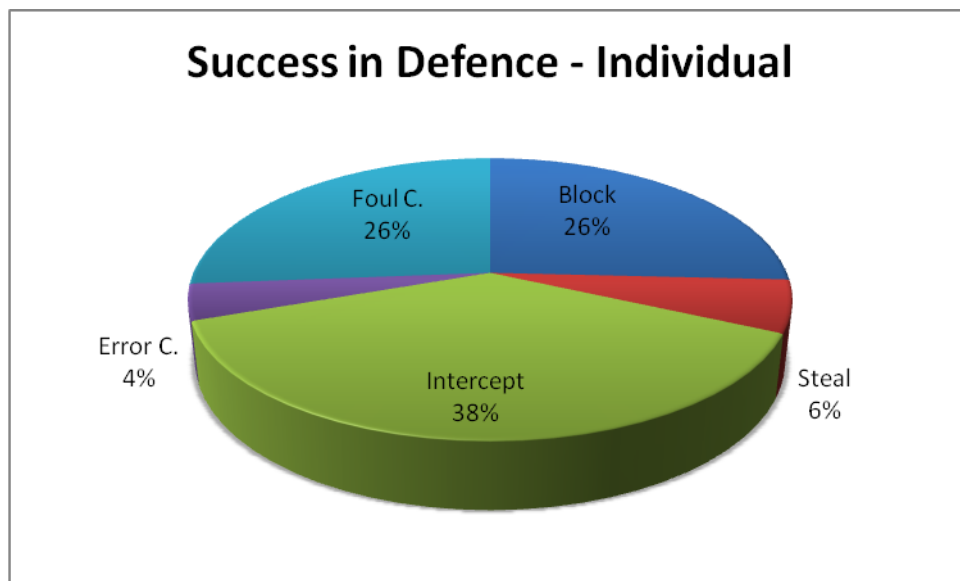
- France was the exception and perhaps this is why the best F defender can be found in this team. FRA #10 C. Lassource, a left wing in attack, basically played in both defence positions from LO to LH. However, among those in her team who played the F defence role, she was the most effective, both as a disturber and as a marker.

Outstanding individual performances:

- o Blocking goal shots: NOR #15 G. Stoerdal, NOR # 4 C. Rasmussen, DOM #7 J. Pimentel (10x each)
- o Steal / intercept: NED #17 E. Polman, FRA #20 G. Zaadi (1+7x each)
- o Fouls committed: RUS #14 V. Garanina (14x)

SUCCESS IN DEFENCE - INDIVIDUAL

NATION	BLOCK	STEAL	INTERCEPT	ERRORS CAUSED	FOULS COMMITTED	TOTAL
ANG	15	1	6	0	21	43
ARG	3	2	16	4	6	31
BRA	19	5	9	3	15	51
COD	6	4	10	1	14	35
DEN	20	2	8	0	21	51
DOM	15	3	11	0	11	40
ESP	8	8	27	3	15	57
FRA	28	2	38	0	12	80
GER	4	3	19	2	4	32
HUN	21	2	16	1	7	47
JPN	4	3	23	0	10	40
KAZ	5	4	13	2	1	25
KOR	1	4	29	3	14	51
NED	17	2	24	4	24	71
NOR	26	3	20	2	10	61
RUS	14	3	17	3	23	60
SWE	17	4	17	3	9	50
THA	0	0	6	1	5	12
URU	1	1	20	4	6	32
TOTAL	224	52	329	36	228	869
% of total	25,77%	5,98%	37,85%	4,14%	26,23%	Individual Defence



General Trends / Summary

For the further development of the game and to summarise the information gathered, it is important to draw some conclusions regarding the future direction of handball in this age category.

General:

- Most of the teams used a short preparation for the tournament with only a few days for acclimatisation.
- Well above average height, weight, biological age and playing experience proved to be decisive factors regarding success in this age category at this tournament.
- The top-ranked teams were physically well prepared, strong and fit with good agility and stamina.
- There was a significant difference in performance between the top six (ranked 1st to 6th) and last six (ranked 14th to 19th) teams.
- The matches between the teams and thus the rankings of the middle group (ranked 7th to 13th) were often decided by only 1 goal (e.g. KOR vs. ESP, HUN vs. FRA, KOR vs. BRA)
- Regarding the final ranking, there has been a big change since the last meeting of this age category: 2009 ECh, Serbia – 1st DEN and 2nd RUS now finished 6th and 7th, while 7th SWE and 6th NED finished 1st and 3rd at the 2010 WCh in the Dominican Republic.
- There were many players equally good in attack and defence and therefore fewer attacker/defender specialists and thus less tactical substitutions.

Defence:

- Teams in general – particularly the top-ranked ones - seemed to put more emphasis on defending their goal rather than on scoring at the other end.
- After losing possession of the ball, there was generally a quick and organised retreat.
- Good individual defence performances, in particular when blocking shots and intercepting passes.

- The open 6:0 zone defence system was the most common basic defence formation and teams tended to change to 5:1, 4:2, 3:2.1 or 5+1, 4+2 formations only if they were behind and/or time was running out.
- Most successful teams had only one good goalkeeper (except SWE), and the best goalkeepers' heights were just above average (except RUS, GER, DOM).

Attack:

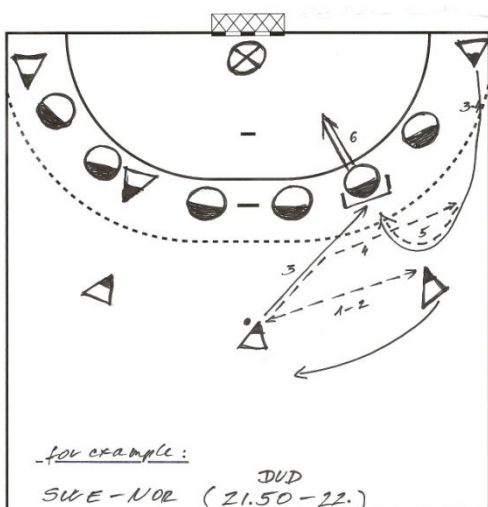
- Most of the teams were striving for fast-break, initiating from all positions and executed in different waves.
- Apart from NED, little effort was made by other teams to include the quick throw-off as part of their strategy.
- No outstanding wing performance in terms of individual technique, wingers generally scored more goals from fast-breaks than from positional play. (Despite the previous trend, at this WCh more players on the wing were physically strong and tall).
- Potential back court players for the future with well above average height, good jumping ability and strong shooting power can be seen in most of the top- ranked teams.
- Importance of pivot play becomes more obvious even in this age group and good cooperation with the backs increased.
- There was a high level of ball handling and passing skills by the best ranked teams, yet there were many technical errors by less experienced teams.
- Various and colourful goal shooting techniques from "back-type" CBs, executed unexpectedly from the ground.
- Scoring from a free-throw with a set move was rarely attempted (except RUS, FRA, HUN) and if attempted, effectiveness was poor (except FRA).
- Almost every team started in a 3-3 basic attack formation and rarely changed to 2-4, only when one of the backs or wingers ran into the second pivot position.

- Against a set defence, attack organisation often started with the crossing / position changing of the backs and sometimes with the movement of the wingers and/or pivots.
- Teams attempted to create a scoring position with very few set moves – goal shooting commonly came after crossing and waving from position play.

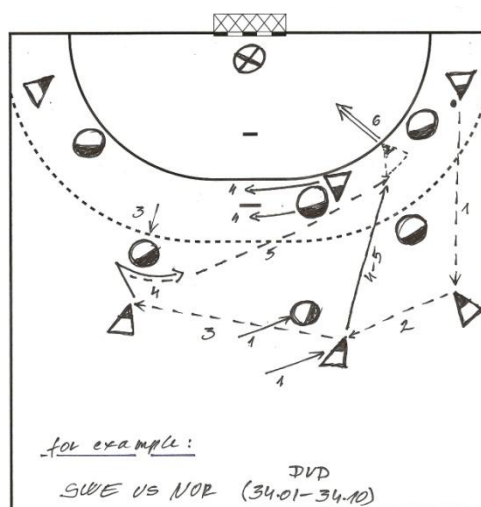
Characteristic team tactical elements in attack:

Sweden

1. RW moves up from the wing and shoots at the goal over CB's blocking (against 6:0 defence)

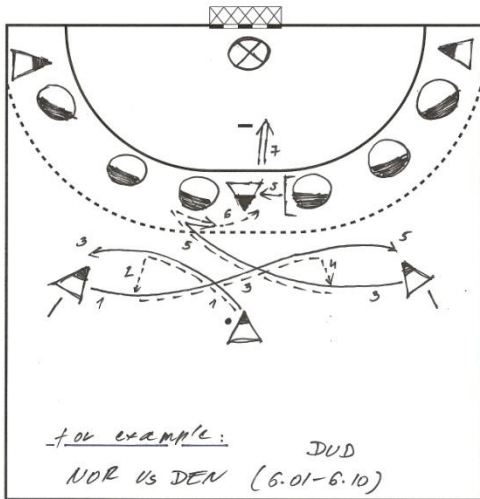


2. CB runs into 2nd P position, then shoots at the goal from close range (against 3:2:1 defence)

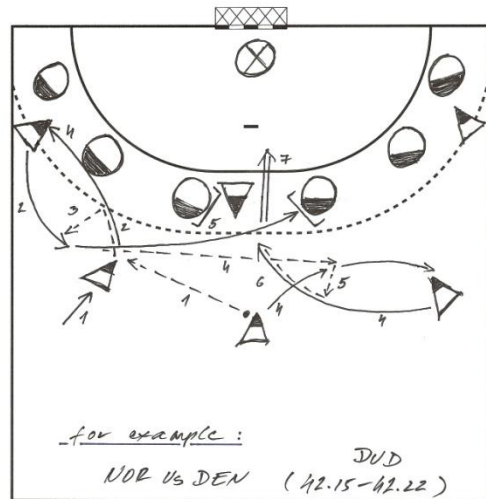


Norway

1. After the position change of LB-
CB- RB, setting up the pivot
(against 6:0 defence)

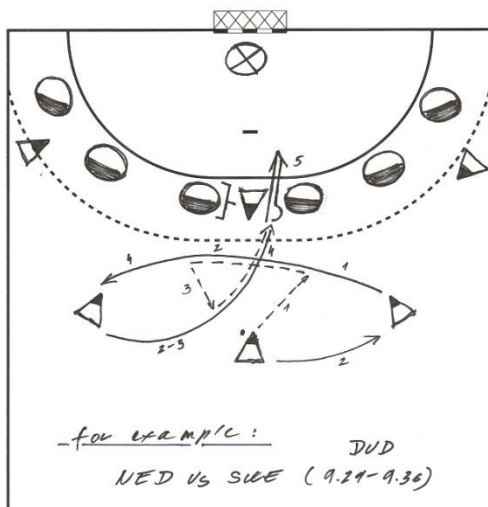


2. After position changes with the
ball, RB shoots at the goal over
blocking (against 6:0 defence)

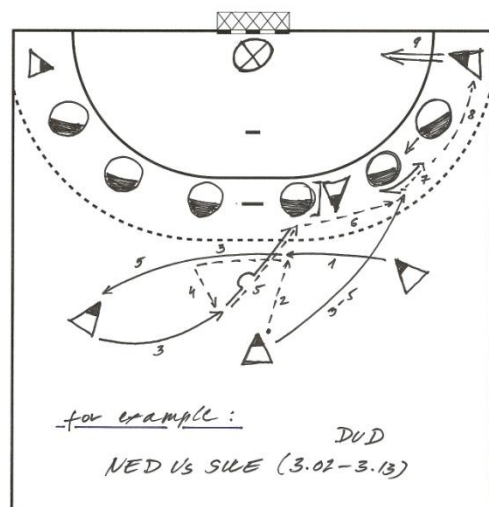


Netherlands

1. After the position changes of LB-CB
then RB-CB, goal shooting over blocking
(against 6:0 defence)

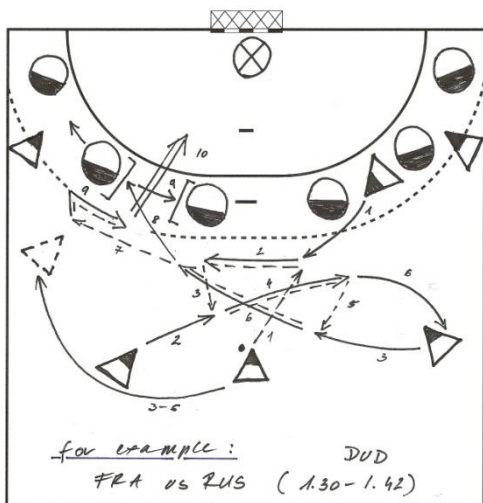


2. After a position change then
parallel thrust, RB shoots at the goal
(against 6:0 defence)

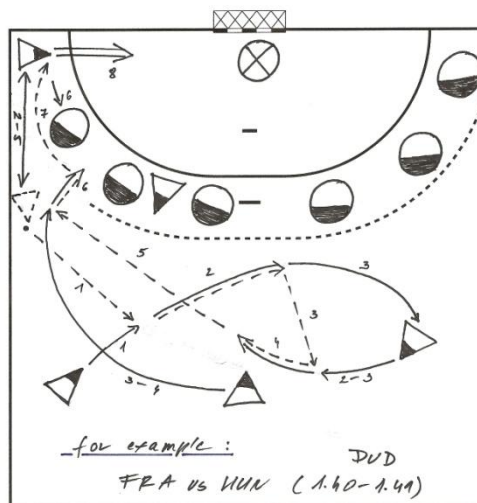


France

1. While P moves out then in, RB-LB cross, then CB breaks through (against 6:0 defence)

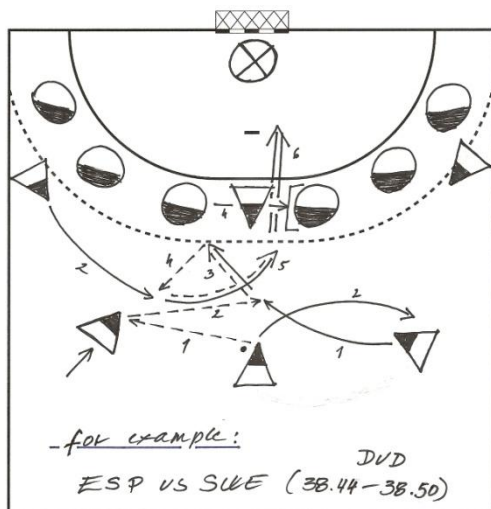


2. After a double crossing, passing to the wing and LW shoots at the goal (against 6:0 defence)

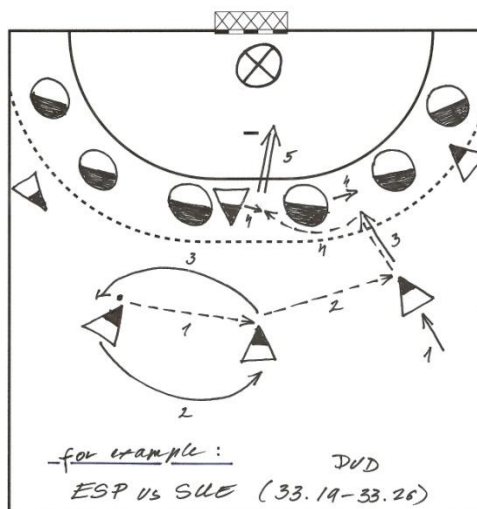


Spain

1. Setting up a shooting position for LW with crossing and blocking (against 6:0 defence)

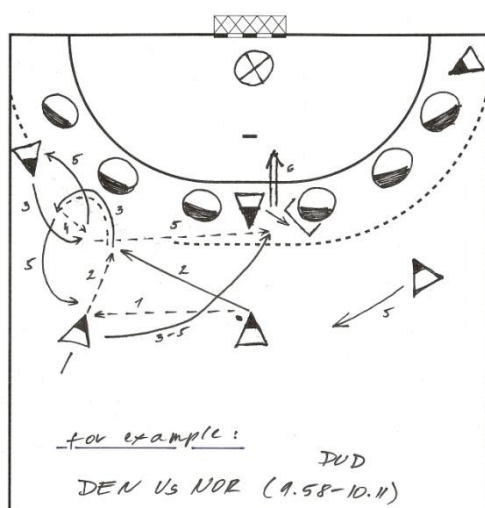


2. After a position change without the ball setting up P with RB's pass (against 6:0 defence)

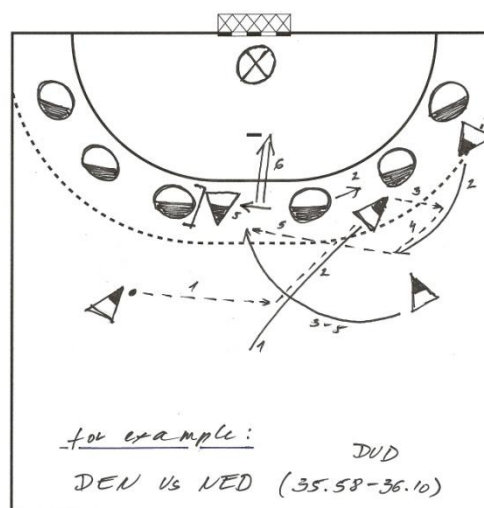


Denmark

1. After the position change of CB-LW,
LB shoots at the goal from the middle
(against 6:0 defence)



2. After the position change of CB-RW,
RB shoots at the goal or breaks through
(against 6:0 defence)



Sources / Materials used for the analysis

- ✓ Delegation Lists of the participating teams (provided by IHF office)
- ✓ Questionnaire (form designed by Z. M for the team officials)
- ✓ Statistics (IHF website)
- ✓ Notes made at the WCh (Z. M.)
- ✓ WCh matches on DVD (provided by IHF office)
- ✓ 2009 EHF W U17 ECh – Qualitative Analysis by Jerzy Eliaz (EHF office)



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