

Hungary's offensive zone defence

by Zoltán Marczinka

(Photos: Stéphane Pillaud)

Equally matched Hungary and Poland played the second game of the eighth-finals, Day 2 in Barcelona for the place in the quarter final. As expected, the first half was a close encounter between the two powerful European handball nations, resulting a tight, 10:9 half-time score. However, in the beginning of the second period Hungary changed for a more offensive defence in depth, forcing the dangerous Polish backcourt players to shoot at the goal from a unfavourable position. This strategy was aided by an excellent goalkeeper performance of Roland Mikler who saved 12 shots of the 18 attempts from 9 m (66% efficiency).

Some examples of the offensive defence attitude of the Hungarian team:



Picture 1-5. The key element for this defence is that the OL and OR defenders move up, thus allow the Half defenders to stretch out more in the middle...



...the Pivot is always double guarded, stopping him to receive ball from the backs...



... always one player falls out to the direction of passing, while the other secures...



...and the defenders stop the attacker with the ball, whenever they can check him.



Moreover, this brave an offensive defence attitude was maintained even in numerical inferiority, 5vs6. For example:



Picture 1. OL and OR defenders move up and leave the Right and Left Wingers unguarded.



Picture 2. #8 OL defender pushes the defence more to the right when RB passes to CB.



Picture 3. RH defender allows the Pivot to move out and change position with the CB with ball.



Picture 4. LH and CH defenders frustrate CB's attack, while RH keeps the Pivot under control.



Picture 5. LH moves out and follows the CB when he continues to move towards the right.



Picture 6. By moving sideways, OL blocks the pass to RW, LH checks CB, CH and RH guards Pivot



Picture 7. #22 RB changes position with CB and makes a long pass to LB, RH is falling out to him.



Picture 8. #8 OL moves up so, the whole defence can offensively stretch out in the middle.



Picture 9. #28 RH falls out to LB with ball, Pivot is guarded by the CH, so #18 LH can move out.



Picture 10. Checked by the RH, LB is forced to bounce the ball and to make a secondary action.



Picture 11. RH stops the LB in a safe way before he can start to advance with the ball again.