



M20 EHF CHAMPIONSHIP (Kosovo)
YAC Qualitative Analysis



M20 EHF CHAMPIONSHIP

KOSOVO • 13–21 JULY 2024

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INTRODUCTION

The M20 EHF Championship 2024 Kosovo qualitative summary provides an analysis of the performance of the 12 participating teams and their respective players, who competed at the tournament from 13 to 21 July 2024.

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TOURNAMENT – FACTS & FIGURES

- 12 teams competed in four preliminary groups.
- The best two teams of each group formed two groups.
- Matches were played over the course of eight days.
- Goals were scored with an effectiveness of 61,90 per cent.
- Finland scored 193 goals, the most goals in the tournament and won the bronze medal.
- The top three scorers were Sadik Emre Herseklioglu (Türkiye) with 45 goals, Fredrik von Troil (Finland) with 43 goals and Vakhtang Khelisupali (Georgia) with 40 goals.
- Goalkeepers Gigi Rukhadze (55 saves, 31.8 per cent efficiency), followed by Madis Valk (52 saves, 41.9 per cent efficiency) were on top of the list of goalkeeper saves.

TEAM PERFORMANCE — BRIEF OVERVIEW

- Slovakia won the gold medal match against Latvia, 31:25.
- Slovakia qualified due to a close victory in the quarter-final against Estonia (28:27) and an unthreatened win in the semi-final against Luxembourg (36:24).
- Latvia went straight to the final without losing one game, but in the final Slovakia took revenge for the loss in the main round.
- Finland had the same destiny, as they only lost the semi-final against Latvia (36:31) and won all the other matches.



MATCHES & PLAYERS — FACTS

- The age category for the tournament was 2004/2005.
- Several countries have introduced younger players into their teams.
- Compared to the other countries, Kosovo had a huge number of players who were born in 2007 or 2008.
- Türkiye had the best scorer at this YAC Event: Sadik Emre Herseklioglu (born in 2007) scored 45 times.
- Latvia had the best right back, Valdis Kalnins, who was also born in 2007.
- Only Vakhtang Khelisupali (scored 40 goals) was younger than Sadik Emre. He was born in 2008 in Georgia.

COACHES

- Great Britain had a Hungarian coach at the helm.
- Slovakia and Great Britain had foreign assistant coaches from Spain, active at the M20 EHF Championship 2024.
- The youngest coach is Aku Kuusisto, who was born in 1995.
- No female coaches performed at this event.

DEFENCE GENERAL ASPECTS

- Teams at the M20 EHF Championship in Kosovo 2024 used a variety of defensive formations.
- The dominating system was a 6:0 formation, in special cases system changes from defensive system to 5:1 (EST, LAT, BUL) or 4:2 formations.
- Use of offensive systems like 3:3 defence (TUR, FIN).
- GEO (40) and FIN (36) had the most steals in the tournament.
- LAT had the most blocked shots in the tournament, 11.

DEFENCE TACTICAL ASPECTS

- Most of the teams used a 6:0 zone defence, although with different styles:
 - to break normal style of offensive play
 - to involve attackers in duels under counter-pressure with the aim of creating difficult throwing positions
- Immediate defence systems change during the attack:
 - to break the rhythm of the offensive play
 - from a structured system to freestyle solutions
 - to involve the attackers in 1v1 situations under pressure and creating saves, steals and technical fouls
- Development in transition against upcoming fast breaks:
 - attacking from tactical positions (back players) to put pressure for further decisions with a potential steal
 - generate more time for organising the defence and reduce the speed
- Best individual defenders on the outside:
 - supports the compression of defensive spaces by also attacking direct passes
 - has a relevant role in helping after losing tackles
 - good help in 1v2 situations from the outside defender
 - technical use of arm movement to attack the ball or pass
 - closing the breakthrough and determining offensive foul
 - good understanding and analysing and making decisions of possible passes
- When defending in positions of numerical inferiority, the outside defender has an important role.

ATTACK GENERAL ASPECTS

- At the M20 EHF Championship 2024 Kosovo, 1,848 goals were scored from 2,985 shots (60.15 per cent).

GOALS BY POSITION			
	Goals	Shots	% 2024
6m centre shots	1,014	1,470	68.9
Wing shots	292	447	65.3
9m shots	341	849	40.1
7m penalty shots	201	219	91.8
TOTAL	1,848	2,985	61.9

INDIVIDUAL ATTACK

- Some outstanding individuals' varied techniques were shown during this championship.

ATTACK TACTICAL ASPECTS

- In common attack, most teams played crossings against zone defence, transition of wing players:
 - starting 2v2 to create an advantage
 - creating an isolated defender
 - after transition wing player creating advantage

- When attacking in numerical superiority, the teams often played with two line players:
 - after several failed attacks, the extra player was substituted
 - another aspect was to break down the offensive defence
- Fast break:
 - our general observation is the importance of the transition, for example second wave or fast throw-offs

ATTACK ANALYSIS



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ATTACK TACTICAL ASPECTS

GOALS BY POSITION TOP 2 TEAMS				
	Slovakia		Latvia	
	Goals/Shots	%	Goals/Shots	%
6m centre shots	160/257	62.3	180/263	68.4
Wing shots	30/37	81.1	25/43	58.1
9m shots	20/55	36.3	41/64	64.1
7m penalty shots	15/19	79.0	19/20	95.0



PROFILE OF THE MODERN PLAYER

PLAYERS FOR THE FUTURE

Launched in 2019 by EHF, the Respect Your Talent program promotes the holistic development of talented players both on and off the handball court, addressing topics such as the dual career, anti-doping, mental fitness, media, and sports law. During the past years, a plethora of young players has taken part in the program, mentored by former stalwarts like Ivano Balic, Vid Kavticnik, Victor Tomas, Stefan Lövgren and Carlos Prieto after shining at the younger age categories of the EHF EURO. Now, as those players come of age, they are ready to impress at the highest level at the senior Men's EHF EURO.

- Left back: Marko Jurkovic, born in 2004
- Right back: Kalnins Valdis, born in 2007
- Right wing: Fredrik von Troil, born in 2005
- Left wing: Mital Damian, born in 2004

CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

- Some of the younger players in particular, such as Valdis Kalnins (Latvia) or Sadik Emre Herseklioglu (Türkiye) were able to present themselves.
- Damián Mital (Slovakia), Fredrik von Troil (Finland) and Marko Jurkovic (Slovakia) showed their skills as top performers at the tournament.
- In terms of quality, some nations have a large gap to the medal winners.
- Slovakia showed a good understanding of tactics and used them quite well.
- Finland drew particular attention to some things that were different. They were characterised by the change of system into two contrasting systems, also using it in defending transitions.

ALL-STAR TEAM

The All-star Team was based on thousands of votes from fans and a panel of EHF experts.

GOALKEEPER Mette Eren Alp 	LEFT WING Mital Damian 	LEFT BACK Herseklioglu Sadik Emre 
CENTRE BACK Serafimovics Rauls Erlends 	RIGHT BACK Kalnins Valdis 	RIGHT WING Fredrik von Troil 
LINE PLAYER Richard Sam 	MVP Fredrik von Troil 	



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