

Impact of Football Fields on His Progress

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The purpose of this article is to identify, through the methodology, the impact that the quality of football fields and their continuous improvement influences the football players and the football level in general, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of this process. In the meantime, it reveals the football field's quality effects in the performance at the national championships, at television transmission rights, and sale of football players to foreign clubs. In addition, the dynamics of investment in the last two decades and the Albanian Football Federation objectives for the future are an important part of this article.

Keywords: investment, management, football fields, football player, performance

Introduction

In general, football fields play an important role in sports and football improvement. A walker feels good when he walks in a boulevard, or a driver feels good when he drives his car on an asphalt road. Like them, a football player could improve his game quality if he could play football in fields of quality.

In the early 1950s, football fields in Albania were different from those in 1970s. In 1980s, there was an improvement in football fields with an improvement of quality in football game and football players. The game of such teams like “Dinamo”, “Partizani”, “17 Nentori” etc., were better referring to other teams as a consequence of better practice fields and their better physical technical conditions. On the other hand, the best players of that time, members of the national team at the same time: Muça, Demollari, Targaj, Minga, Ocelli, Millo etc., were part of these team clubs. In the early 1990s, as a consequence of political processes and transition period of our country, football was damaged and the football fields and practice conditions of football players were not good, and the conditions of soccer drill of football players. The quality of football started to decrease and as a consequence the interest for it.

In early 2000, there was an increase of interest for football fields improvement, as well as the emergence of better quality players such as: Tare, Bushi, Bogdani, Hyka, Vila and Bakaj. Nowadays, those players are coveted from the European clubs, and some of them, are famous in Europe.

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Methodology

The accumulation of foreign and local and national literature, study and selection of different data about the dynamic of playgrounds improvement, investments, football players progress, application of questionnaires and many interviews are used to measure the effects of some indicators. Programs used to manipulate these data like SPSS 17, Excel, helped us to achieve the results of this research. This paper based on two hypotheses: first (H1): the football players don't care about the quality of fields and this can't have impact in their carrier; second (H1): the football payers care about the quatily of fields and this can have impact in their carrier and football progeress too.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Football Field's Quality According to Recommended Standards

Standards in football are important for lifetime of football players and for football game in general. Some of them are unique for all football federations. Others have their own specifics according to political-economical and social-cultural conditions and developments.

Despite that, the increase of football fields quality has its own advantages and disadvantages. Even though there are disadvantages, the surplus of this improvement process makes these two aspects important factors of the study.

Which are the advantages of an improved football field?

- (1) Football players feel more physically and mentally relaxed;
- (2) They better exercise practices and techniques of their coaches;
- (3) They accomplish correctly their individual tasks and they are more active;
- (4) There are few possibilities for them to be hurt during the game and a lower probability for injuries and trauma;
- (5) They have a higher performance with the presentation of personal qualities;
- (6) They display their personal characteristics more easily;
- (7) They are much more correct and they can play better, without mistakes;
- (8) The possibilities for use of doping are fewer;
- (9) They give a huge pleasure and transmit big emotions to their public and television viewers;
- (10) Games could not be interrupted as a consequence of bad weather¹ etc..

There are few disadvantages listed as below:

- (1) Football players can be disoriented if they practice in such football fields of quality, and then they play real games in football field with lower quality;
- (2) They may leave their teams and decide to play with other teams which offer better conditions;
- (3) They increase their performance in those football fields of quality and then fast leave their clubs for substituting them with other clubs;
- (4) Sometimes, due to those good conditions, they are satisfied and then do not want to practice and play normally anymore.

¹ On March of 2010 the National Championship was cancelled and postponed a week later.

Study of Football Fields' Improvements With Performance of National Championship and Football Players' Level

From the study of the trend of the last ten years of national championship, while football fields were much more in focus of municipalities and Federation (AFF), we have data as represented in Table 1.

Table 1

National Championships of Football in 2000, Football Fields and Football Players Level

Year	Team	Football field	Players of quality	National championship players
2001	Vllaznia	New football field (field of quality)	3	1
2002	Dinamo	(qualitative field)	2	0
2003	Tirana	(qualitative field)	3	1
2004	Tirana	(qualitative field)	3	1
2005	Tirana	(qualitative field)	4	1
2006	Elbasani	New football field (field of quality)	4	2
2007	Tirana	(qualitative field—football field on improvement)	4	2
2008	Partizani	(qualitative field—football field on improvement)	3	1
2009	Tirana	(qualitative field—football field on improvement)	5	2
2010	Dinamo	(qualitative field—football field on improvement)	5	2

Referring to Table 1, during this period, we can see the relationship between the national championship players and the quality of the football field. On the other hand, with the improvement of football fields, there is a tendency for qualified players and there are much more possibilities for these team players to play with the national football team.

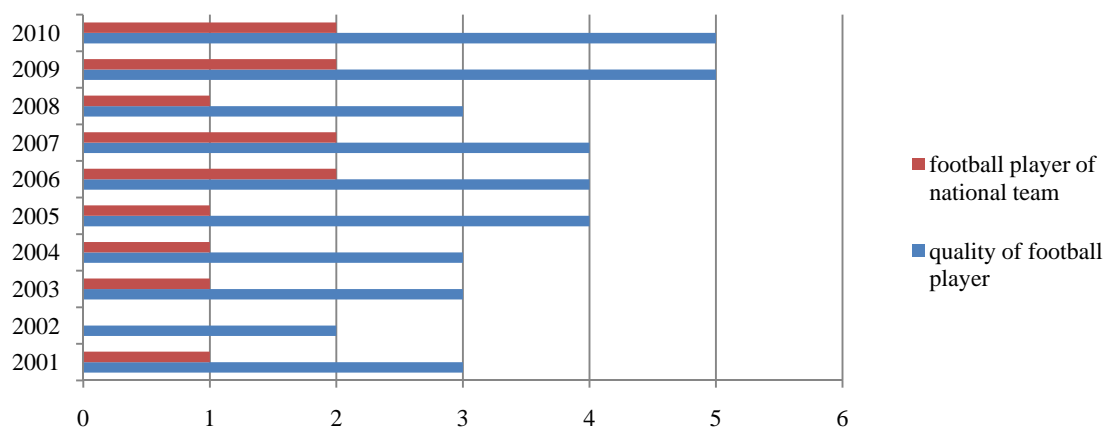


Figure 1. The relationship between the level of the football field and football players quality in 2000.

With the improvement of football fields, the number of qualified players is increased and the possibilities to play with the national team are also higher. It means that the improvements have an important impact on performance, result of teams and players in general. But there are several other factors like: the budget of clubs, the level of leaders, coaches etc.. Despite them, the impact of improved football fields is known to be a very important factor.

From the study of qualified players from the clubs that are announced champions of the national championship football, it results that approximately the number 3.6 or 4 football players are from these clubs and

approximately 39% of them ($14/36 \times 100\% = 38.8\%$) are convoked from the national team. The better the football fields are improved, the higher the possibility that those indicators can increase in the future.

Qualified Players, With Great Profit Chances for Football

The increase and improvement of qualitative football fields had always been and remains on AFF (Albanian Football Federation) goals after 2000. In the end of 1990s, there were 39 important football fields that were reduced in approximately 13 in those years. Nowadays, those football fields are extended all over the country.

From the investment point of view, in the period of 2002-2005, there were approximately 3.7 times greater than in 1990s, and it was concluded with \$ 1 million of investments. But in the last four years, the investments were 2 times greater than those in 2003-2005, approximately \$ 5 million, which is 5 times higher than investments in 1990s.

As a result of those investments are augmented also from the rights of television transmission. The increase of number of qualitative players, which are the base of our national team, come from the chains national teams under 15, 18, 21 (years old). We can mention more than 15 famous names of last years of Albanian football like: Muzaka, Salihi, Vangjeli, Lila etc., that were born in years 1985-1990. The television transmission right has given the possibility to AFF and clubs to cash from sales of games a symbolic amount of approximately \$ 600,000. In the last years, the indicator of transfer of football players to foreign clubs with reciprocal profits is improved.

For the season of 2007-2008, "Dinamo" sold Hyka to "Mainz-05" for \$ 150,000, while for season 2009-2010, Teuta and Vllaznia benefited respectively \$ 250,000 from the sale of Villa and Bala to Croatia and Turkey.

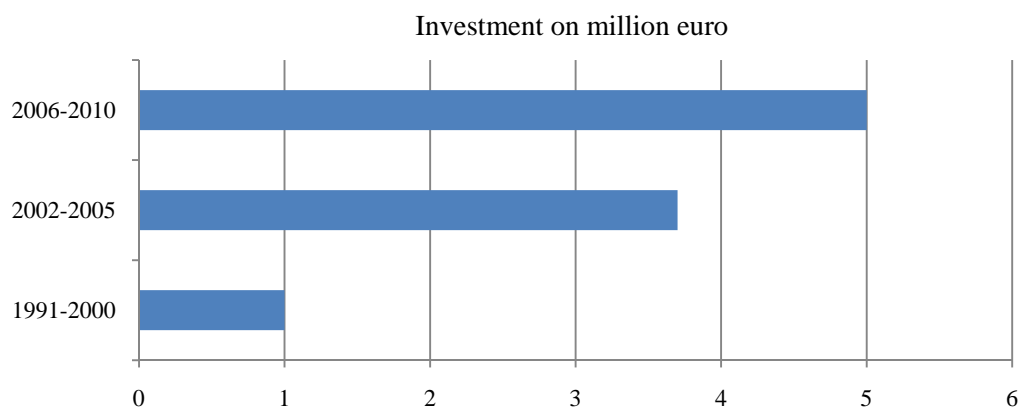


Figure 2. The dynamic of investments over years.

The level of football fields will better improve football and the quality of football players while investments that have been done in 2010 for lighting the main stadiums of the country as Elbasani, Durrresi, Vlora, Kavaja, Fieri will relax more than public during the game².

From the interviews with football specialist, it is expected the efficiency of players to increase approximately 20%-50%, as a consequence of playing under optimal conditions with lighting and likely

² Expenditures for a few football football field (with natural grass) with lighting are approximately 125,000 €130,000 €

temperature and their optimal physical mental conditions too.

Football will improve from the implementation of several football fields with natural and artificial grass in many cities, schools and training centres³. The improvement of existing football fields of stadiums of Shkodra, Peqini and Durrresi will increase football quality of these teams and their players.

The Future of Football Fields in Albania

Albanian Football Federation (AFF) is considered to be the main mechanism for the start of development and investment projects of football fields. In the last decade, it has had a very active role on the support that FIFA and UEFA had given for investments in general and for football players more specifically.

In cooperation and with the support of local football clubs, it aims to increase investments in the future and to relate football results not only with material incentives for clubs and players, but with other projects too, that will favor them directly or indirectly.

The relation of investments and projects with football performance is an important element for a good management to increase responsibility for funds invested on it. The result of this managerial method that is implemented in other fields of economy is expected to be seen in the future.

One of the goals of AFF for the next 4 years is predicted to be an investment over 10 million € 2 times higher than that of the last period, which includes the lightning of all stadiums of superior category, optimal standards for football fields of superior and first category.

An important development is the construction of regional offices of AFF to decentralize and to approach more this institution with clubs and football and the increase⁴ to 10 times the profits for a period (for several years) from the television transmission rights.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

In the end of this paper, we can give some conclusions: Qualitative field has advantages in football, advantages are much more than disadvantages, the quality of football fields has a closed relationship with the results of champion teams on national championship, football fields are improved in the last decade, a very important factor is the increase of investments from AFF, in the future, it is predicted even much more increase of investments, there will be several improvements in football fields infrastructure for many clubs in the country, the television transmission right that is applied for the first time in Albanian championship is related to the improvement of football fields that have increased football quality. Also the improved football fields are an important factor for selling Albanian football players in the foreign championships, the future predicts the relation of projects with team's performance.

Recommendations

We can also give some recommendations for the future and better football progress: Football fields must be one of the most important goals of investments; Investments should be good managed in order that funds go to right destinations and be used efficiently; Investments should take into account quality, standards and to

³ Fields of practices with artificial grass for players of the superior teams and of greater ages have a value of €295,000-300,000.

⁴ In 1992, television transmission right in Rumania were sold €200,000, but today they are more than 7 million.

extend in long periods; Football fields could be more effective due to that; We have to take into account that football fields are the base of investments for the future of football players and Albanian football; AFF should demand further support for football fields from central and local government and from clubs; A part of funds from television transmission right and from the sale of players should be managed for maintenance and for investment in football football fields.

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