



Investigation of Employment Situations in Terms of Career Development of Match and Player Analysis Coaches in Turkish Development Football Leagues

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Abstract

In this study, it is aimed to investigate the employment situations of the Elit A and B League football teams, which are included in the Turkish Football Federation Development Leagues, in terms of career development of player and match performance analysis coaches within the 2022/2023 season infrastructure. In the model of the research; The “Basic Qualitative Research” technique, the “document examination” method in the data collection tool and the Miles-Huberman analysis method, which is a descriptive analysis method, used. The universe of the study; 2022/2023 Football season has created football clubs in the category of Elit A and B, which are included in the development leagues of the Turkish Football Federation. The sample was composed of coaches in the match and player analysis department in clubs. The intensity sample method was preferred when determining the sample. usually uses the intensity sample in studies including heuristic approach. The heuristic approach is considered the only research approach that enables individuals to establish subjective and creative relationships between the person who investigates the experiences of individuals. In the findings section of the study, coaches were examined in the match and player analysis department of 47 Football Club. The employment in the match and player analysis department in the Elite A category of Development Leagues is higher than the Elite B category. It is understood that the teams in both league categories have not yet captured sufficient coach employment.

Keywords: Football, Match Analysis, Player Analysis, Development Leagues

Türkiye Futbol Gelişim Liglerinde Maç ve Oyuncu Analizi Antrenörlerinin Kariyer Gelişimleri Açısından İstihdam Durumlarının İncelenmesi

Özet

Bu çalışmada, Türkiye Futbol Federasyonu Gelişim Ligleri içerisinde yer alan Elit A ve B ligi futbol kulüplerinin, 2022/2023 sezonu altyapı bünyesinde oyuncu ve maç performans analizi antrenörlerinin kariyer gelişimleri açısından istihdam durumlarının araştırılması amaçlanmıştır. Araştırmanın modelinde; “Temel Nitel Araştırma” tekniği, veri toplama aracında “Doküman İncelemesi” metodu ve analizinde ise betimsel analiz biçimi olan Miles-Huberman analiz yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Çalışmanın evrenini; 2022/2023 futbol sezonu Türkiye Futbol Federasyonu Gelişim Liglerinde yer alan Elit A ve B kategorisindeki futbol kulüpleri

oluşturmuştur. Örnekleme ise kulüplerde maç ve oyuncu analizi departmanındaki antrenörler oluşturmuştur. Örnekleme belirlenirken yoğunluk örnekleme yöntemi tercih edilmiştir. Yoğunluk örnekleme genellikle heuristik yaklaşımı içeren çalışmalarda kullanılmaktadır. Heuristik yaklaşım, bireylerin tecrübelerini araştıran kişi ile olgular arasındaki öznel ve yaratıcı ilişkiler kurabilmesini sağlayan tek araştırma yaklaşımı olarak kabul edilmektedir. Araştırmanın bulgular kısmında 47 futbol kulübü bünyesinde maç ve oyuncu analizi departmanında antrenörler incelenmiştir. Gelişim Ligleri Elit A kategorisindeki maç ve oyuncu analizi departmanındaki istihdamın, Elit B kategorisinden fazla olduğu ortaya çıkmıştır. Her iki lig kategorilerindeki takımların, henüz yeterli antrenör istihdamını yakalayamadıkları anlaşılmıştır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Futbol, Maç Analizi, Oyuncu Analizi, Gelişim Ligleri

Introduction

Football draws attention as an area where millions of dollars are spent on player purchase and sale, improvement and construction of infrastructure facilities, stadiums, jerseys, team name sponsorship, and this industry grows day by day. In this huge area, the importance of winning is gradually increasing as each sector tries to get its own share of the cake. In order to make winning and success permanent, we need to take advantage of the opportunities offered by technology. Therefore, it is extremely important for the continuity of winning that the player and match analyzes of both the own team and the opponent team players are done correctly. The increasing professionalization of coaching has also led to great activity in the field (Bayarslan, 2023). Performance analysis has become a fundamental requirement for soccer coaches all over the world to assist their practice. Performance analysis has been defined as an opportunity to objectively interpret performances in complex sports environments in order to improve the performance and team behavior of individual athletes through the provision of meaningful and purposeful feedback (Bampouras et al., 2012; Fernandez-Echeverria et al., 2017; Nicholls et al., 2018). Subsequently, the prevalence and use of performance analysis by football coaches has increased over the last 20 years to assist the coaching and feedback process (Raya -Castellano et al., 2020)

Analysis coaches are extremely important for teams in the evaluation of competition analysis and performance in football. Analysis coaches provide useful information for evaluating the competitions their teams have played and will play. The data and information a performance analyst collects goes beyond technical and tactical insights and sheds light on a range of other disciplines such as psychology, physiology, strength and conditioning, medical and performance lifestyle (Wiltshire, 2013). It allows for minimizing mistakes and increasing strengths (Hughes & James, 2008).

There are many different methods for competition analysis. The most popular method of obtaining objective information about the performance of football clubs and their coaches is computerized analysis (Blaze, 2004). Competition analysis systems, which provide objective information about teams and players, can provide positive and negative data comparatively throughout the season, not just daily or weekly. At this point, the personnel who will make these analyzes make a significant contribution to the success of the club. Professional football clubs employ dedicated performance analysts to collect, analyze, and interpret previous performances, allowing coaches to spend time reviewing information rather than gathering information (Stanway & Boardman, 2020). In addition, the use of Performance analysis by football coaches can help and positively improve players' knowledge of the game and decision-making. Professional football clubs employ dedicated performance analysts to collect, analyze and interpret previous performances, allowing coaches to save time and make their job easier to review compiled information instead of gathering information. The aim of this study is to investigate the employment of player and match analysis coaches within the infrastructure of the Elite A league football teams, which are in the Turkish Football Federation Development Leagues, in the 2022/2023 season.

Material and Method

In the research, it is aimed to reveal the employment status of Match and Player tracking analysis coaches in the football clubs of the Turkish Football Federation Development Leagues in the 2022-2023 Season. During the current research, "Higher Education Institutions Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Directive" has been acted upon.

Model of the Research

In the research, "Basic Qualitative Research Model" was used. Basic qualitative research; with different disciplines such as linguistics, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, such as health, sports, education, etc. It is a type of method that can be applied in many areas. The purpose of this method; It is the work of understanding and making sense of people's behaviors in their environment (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2013). The coordinator, who provides the basic qualitative research, investigates how individuals can interpret their lives, how they can construct the world they live in, and what meanings they can add to the experiences they have gained. Basic qualitative research; It aims to reveal the meanings that people create and to interpret these meanings (Merriam, 2013).

Population and Sample of the Research

The universe of the research; Elite A and B league Football Clubs in the Turkish Football Federation Development Leagues, and the sample consists of the matches and players in the teams in the Elite A and B Leagues. Density sampling method was used to determine the sample. Density sampling, contrary to the unusual, is the sample that is the subject of the research and covers the richest information (Morgan & Morgan, 2008). Density sampling is generally used by studies involving the heuristic approach (Mays & Pope, 2000). The purpose of the heuristic approach; It is to make the information in the nature of facts and events discoverable and interpretable through the researcher's experiences and subjective explanations (Denzin & Lincoln, 2008). The heuristic approach is accepted as the only research approach that enables individuals to establish subjective and creative relationships between the person researching their experiences and the facts (West, 2001).

Data Collection Tools of the Research

The content of the study was obtained from the libraries of various universities along with the relevant literature, academic databases. TFF 2023 (<https://www.tff.org/> access date: 13.06.2023) and InStat 2023 (<https://www.transfermarkt.com/> access date: 13.06.2023) are open to the public with the data of the football players in the findings section were accessed from their official web pages. In the data collection tool of the research; “Document Review” technique was used. This pattern includes all kinds of information, visual and written material data, which are among the objectives of the study. According to Merriam (2013), there are four different documents that can be used in a qualitative research. The first and second of these; public records and personal papers, third; popular documents counted as cultural, and the fourth is visual documents that include pictures, videos, and movies. The data in this study; The first is public records.

Data Analysis of the Research

In the data analysis of the research, the Miles-Huberman analysis method, which is a descriptive analysis method, was used. In this context, the Miles and Huberman model qualitative data analysis is essentially carried out in three steps: The first step is data reduction. Data reduction; It is the selection, examination, simplification, summary and transformation of the data obtained at the end of the research. In the second stage, data is displayed. Data representation; is to create an organized version of the collected data to reveal the results. The third stage is inference/validation. deduction/validation; It is testing the results in terms of validity, along with revealing causal relationships, patterns and possible structures between

events and objects (Miles & Huberman, 2016). The reality, which is uncertain at the beginning of the research process and remains hidden in the data, is discovered and brought to light in the final stage. In addition, in this research, it is aimed to form a basis for the existing data analysis together with the theory known as 'Embedded Theory'. This type of analysis was developed by Glaser and Strauss (2006). Embedded theory is used both as a research strategy and as a data analysis method. Today, it is called the most impressive paradigm for qualitative research method (Ilgar & Ilgar, 2013). In embedded theory, data collection and data analysis are directly interrelated. Each collected data is directly compared with the next data, and in this way the comparison continues until the most common data is reached. The embedded theory method consists of systematic but flexible guidelines developed to collect and analyze qualitative data in order to create theories derived from embedded data (Charmaz, 2006). Data analysis in embedded theory is a well-defined process that begins with basic descriptions, continues with conceptual arrangement, and leads to theorizing (Patton, 2002). Embedded theory has turned into a situation presented to the scientific world for a qualitative approach by enabling qualitative research to be evaluated according to quantitative standards (Atkinson, 1997).

Ethics of Research

The ethics committee approval of the study was obtained with the decision numbered 2023/03 E-49846378-302.14.1-2300002933 of the Academic Research and Publication Ethics Commission of Istanbul Topkapı University.

Results

Table 1

Elite A League Analysis Coach Match and Player Analyses Coach Employment

Team	Match and Performance Coach	Match and Player Tracking Coach
Adanademirspor A.Ş.		
Altınordu	✓	✓
Ankaraspor		
Arabam.com Konyaspor		
Atakaş Hatayspor		
Beşiktaş A.Ş.	✓	
Bitexen Giresunspor		
Bursaspor		

Corendon Alanyaspor		✓
Demir Grup Sivasspor		
Dyorex Boluspor		
Fenerbahçe A.Ş.		
Fraport Tav Antalyaspor	✓	
Galatasaray A.Ş.	✓	
Gaziantep FK A.Ş.		
Göztepe A.Ş.		✓
Hangi Kredi Ümraniyespor		
İstanbulspor A.Ş.	✓	✓
Kasımpaşa A.Ş.	✓	
Medipol Başakşehir FK	✓	
MKE Ankaragücü		
Trabzonspor A.Ş.	✓	
Vavacars Fatih Karagümrük	✓	
Yeni Malatyaspor		
Yukatel Kayserispor	✓	✓
Total	25 Teams	10 Teams
		5 Teams

Source: www.tff.org and www.transfermrkt.com websites. (Access date: 2023, 13 June)

Table 1 shows the number of 25 football clubs competing in the development league A and the number of analysts employed within the players and match performance analysis department in the clubs. At this point, it is noteworthy that the number of clubs employing analysts from both departments is very low. In addition, it is seen that the number of clubs that do not employ personnel in both departments is higher.

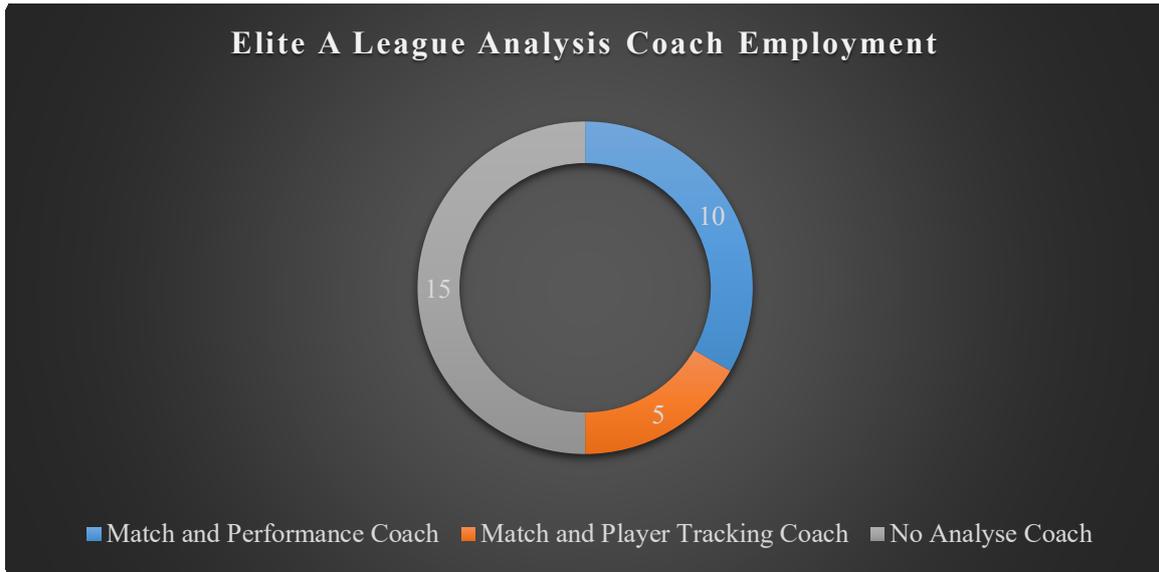


Figure 1. Elite A League Analysis Coach Employment

In Figure 1, it is seen that 10 of the 25 football clubs in the Turkish Development League Category A have employed match analysis coaches and 5 have employed player analysis coaches. In 15 football clubs, both coaches were not included.

Table 2

Elite B League Analysis Coach Match and Player Analyses Coach Employment

Team	Match and Performance Coach	Match and Player Tracking Coach
Adanaspor A.Ş.	✓	✓
Altaş Denizlispor	✓	
Altay		
Ankara Keçiörengücü		
Baynet İnş. Balıkesirspor		
Beyçimento Bandırmaspor Bodrumspor	✓	
Bucaspor		
Çaykur Rizespor		
Esenler Erokspor		
Eskişehirspor		
Erzurumspor FK		
Eyüpspor		✓

Gençlerbirliği

Hes İlaç Afyonspor

Manisa FK

Kocaelispor

Pendikspor

Sakaryaspor A.Ş.

Sarıyer

Tuzlaspor

Yılport Samsunspor

Total 22 Teams

3 Teams

2 Teams

Source: www.tff.org and www.transfermrkt.com websites. (Access date: 2023, 13 June)

Table 2 shows the number of 22 football clubs competing in the development league B and the number of analysts employed within the players and match performance analysis department in the clubs. At this point, it is noteworthy that the number of clubs employing analysts from both departments is very low. In addition, it is seen that the number of clubs that do not employ personnel in both departments is higher too.

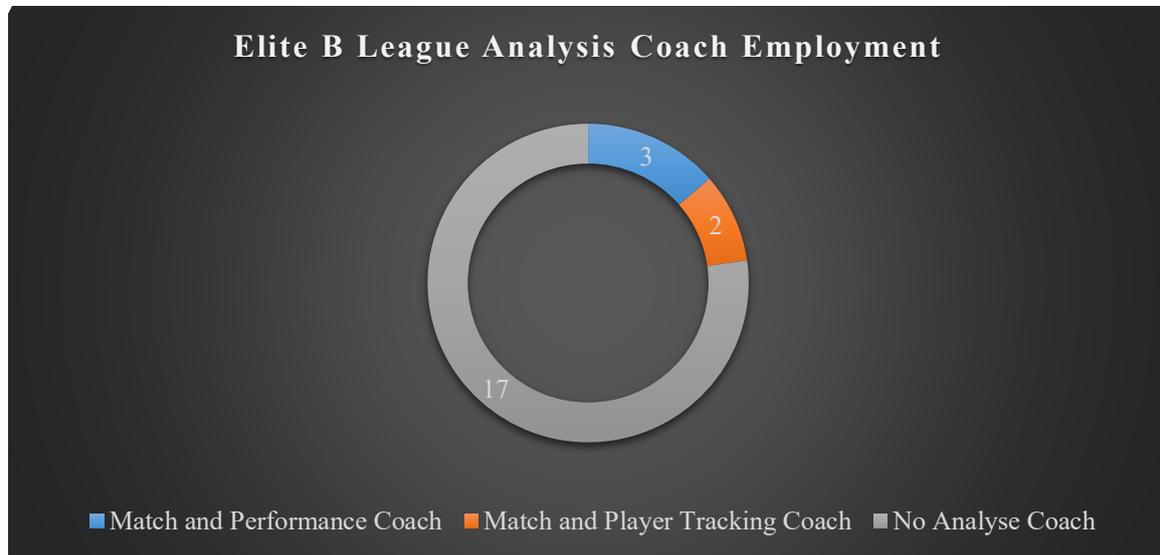


Figure 2. Elite B League Analysis Coach Employment

In Figure 2, it is seen that 3 of the 22 football clubs in the Turkey Development League Category B have employed match analysis coaches and only 2 have employed player analysis coaches. In 17 football clubs, both coaches were not included..

Discussion and Conclusion

This study, which is aimed at the employment of football coaches working in the units of match and player performance analysis in the Elite A and B categories of the Turkish Football Federation Development Leagues, was applied based on the official coaching departments of 47 clubs. With the encouragement of the Turkish Football Federation to integrate the performance analysis coaches into the clubs in terms of employment, it was seen that at this point, departments were opened in the clubs for the development league and coaches were appointed. Although their number is not sufficient yet, it was seen as a promising situation for the future. Andersen et al. (2022), found that he highly valued working with performance analysts as a tool for head coaches to develop a style of play, to improve team and individual performances. In addition, the use of performance analysts enabled coaches to better prepare for matches and provide better quality feedback to players. In our study, it has been revealed that the employment in the match and player analysis department in the Elite A category of the Turkish Football Federation Development Leagues is more than the Elite B category. It has been understood that the teams in both league categories have not yet achieved sufficient coaching.

Ruchti et al. (2021), reflected on her own experiences as a researcher and practitioner to highlight the challenges and problems of using performance analysis in Swedish football. While recognizing the benefits that the performance analyst can provide to head coaches, they called for a special need in the development of coaching and sports management training to understand how to apply and use it effectively. Painczyk et al. (2017) and Wright (2015), highlighted a greater need for how performance analysis is used in different countries. Therefore, the aim of this study is to investigate the employment of the clubs in the Turkish Football Federation Development League football teams to the performance analysis department. In doing so, we hope to shed light on the current level of participation and support the career development and future development of coaches in match and player analysis departments in Turkey.

Ethics Committee Permission Information

Ethics review board: T.C. Istanbul Topkapi University Academic Research and Publication Ethics Commission

Date of ethics assessment document: 20.03.2023

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Statement of Researchers' Contribution Rates

The processes related to the introduction, method, findings and discussion part of the research were carried out by the first author, and the processes related to the conclusion part were carried out by the second author.

Conflict Statement

The authors do not have a conflict statement regarding the research.

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