CZ BASKETBALL

Team´s Performance Evaluation

U18 Men´s National Team

Analysis after FIBA Europe U18 B, 2024 in Skopje - by Torsten Loibl

Results

FRI, JUL 26, 2024

GROUP PHASE · GROUP	FINAL
CZE	93
UKR	71

SAT, JUL 27, 2024

GROUP PHASE · GROUP	FINAL
IRL	56
CZE	71

SUN, JUL 28, 2024

GROUP PHASE · GROUP	FINAL
CZE	86
MKD	94

TUE, JUL 30, 2024

GROUP PHASE · GROUP	FINAL
BIH	55
CZE	85

WED, JUL 31, 2024

GROUP PHASE · GROUP	FINAL
CYP	32
CZE	71

FRI, AUG 2, 2024

QUARTER-FINALS	FINAL
AUT	85
CZE	58

SAT, AUG 3, 2024

CLASS. 5-8	FINAL
MNE	95
CZE	62

SUN, AUG 4, 2024

CLASS. GAME 7-8	FINAL
CZE	54
POR	88

CZ.BASKETBALL

Statistics

#	PLAYERS	GP	MIN	SHOTS				REBOUNDS										
				FG	2PT FG	3PT FG	FT	OREB	DREB	REB	AST	PF	TO	STL	BLK	+/-	EFF	PTS
9	Mikulas Cank	8	23.4	3.5/9.7 36.4%	2.4/5.3 45.2%	1.1/4.4 25.7%	3.0/3.4 88.9%	1.6	3.1	4.8	3.0	0.8	1.9	0.5	0.1	-1.0	11.1	11.1
18	Viktor Ivanek	8	22.3	3.9/10.0 38.8%	1.4/2.4 57.9%	2.5/7.6 32.8%	0.8/0.8 100.0%	1.3	3.0	4.3	1.1	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.1	10.8	11.0
6	Jiri Paidar	8	19.3	1.7/4.4 37.1%	1.4/3.3 42.3%	0.3/1.1 22.2%	1.0/1.4 72.7%	0.6	1.9	2.5	2.0	2.6	1.3	0.8	0.0	0.4	5.4	4.5
17	Jakub Kristan	8	18.4	2.0/5.0 40.0%	1.5/3.4 44.4%	0.5/1.6 30.8%	1.0/2.1 47.1%	1.8	2.9	4.6	1.1	2.1	0.8	1.3	1.1	2.1	8.8	5.5
8	Jakub Soldan	8	18.3	2.9/5.7 51.1%	2.8/5.3 52.4%	0.1/0.4 33.3%	0.5/0.8 66.7%	1.6	3.3	4.9	1.3	1.8	1.8	0.8	0.5	-1.8	9.0	6.4
11	Samuel Macht	8	18.1	3.9/7.8 50.0%	3.5/7.3 48.3%	0.4/0.5 75.0%	0.6/1.8 35.7%	1.9	4.6	6.5	1.1	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	12.4	8.8
4	Lukas Smazak	8	18.0	2.3/8.8 25.7%	0.9/3.0 29.2%	1.4/5.8 23.9%	0.8/1.3 60.0%	0.5	1.8	2.3	2.4	0.6	1.5	1.5	0.0	-0.1	4.3	6.6
10	Sebastian Kremen	8	17.4	1.9/4.3 44.1%	1.8/3.5 50.0%	0.1/0.8 16.7%	0.8/1.0 75.0%	0.5	0.8	1.3	2.4	1.1	1.9	1.5	0.0	-0.6	5.3	4.6
28	Matyas Pomezny	8	15.7	1.7/5.5 31.8%	1.6/4.4 37.1%	0.1/1.1 11.1%	0.8/1.5 50.0%	0.9	0.3	1.1	0.9	2.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	-2.5	1.6	4.4
13	Daniel Duhajsky	8	12.0	1.7/5.5 31.8%	1.6/3.1 52.0%	0.1/2.4 5.3%	0.1/0.5 25.0%	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.0	2.0	1.3	3.8
12	Arsen Gevorkyan	7	11.8	2.1/5.9 36.6%	2.1/5.9 36.6%	0.0/0.0 0.0%	1.3/2.9 45.0%	2.6	2.7	5.3	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.6	1.4	6.6	5.6
7	Jakub Simonek	6	9.0	0.7/1.7 40.0%	0.7/1.0 66.7%	0.0/0.7 0.0%	0.0/1.0 0.0%	0.2	0.8	1.0	0.5	1.5	1.8	0.3	0.0	1.5	-0.7	1.3
Team/Coaches								2.8	2.8	5.5	-	0.0	0.4					
TOTAL			**200.0**	**27.7/72.7 38.1%**	**21.1/46.6 45.3%**	**6.6/26.1 25.4%**	**10.4/17.6 58.9%**	**16.5**	**27.5**	**44.0**	**16.8**	**15.8**	**15.1**	**9.9**	**4.4**	**0.5**	**75.0**	**72.5**

CZ.BASKETBALL

Analysis after FIBA Europe U18

Performance evaluation

By finishing 8th place we missed our goal to move up to FIBA U18 A division. There are multiple reasons for the failure.

1.) Performance peak of team occured too early

After analyzing the results of games in June and July it is obious, that the team showed excellent performances from middle of July to the end of the group game phase of FIBA Europe U18. Our team dominated and won most games. We had only two lost games with winning chances against Austria (2nd game after a 7 days camp stretch – in pre season) and FIBA Europe U18 B-Division champion Macedonia (3rd group game). We beat Portugal (2x), Poland (2x), Austria (1x) in pre season, Ukraine, Cyprus, Ireland, Bosnia (FIBA Europe). The big performance break down came in the quarter final against Austria. We saw a total performance breakdown from here on which is an indicator for a missed peaking. However conditioning was not a problem at all. Players had an excellent endurance level and were able to recover well in short periods. In addition we we had a deep bench and could rotate players well. I believe players were more mentally fatigue and after all I probably made the mistake to have the long 7 days preparation with only 2 days rest right before travelling to North Macedonia. What I believed was our advantage might have been a disadvantage for the team.

2.) Changing team rosters due to injuries and illnesses (with long recovery periods)

There were a several key players who got injured (Motychka, Matusik, Koulisianis, Wangele) or returned to the team late due to illnesses (Simonek). It hurt the preparation process, however I would not list it as a main reason for the performance problem. We were still able to build a good team. A remaining problem is the missing responsible team doctor who could have helped our players to return to the team.

3.) Offensive problems

Especially on the offensive side Czech players had lacking skill quality. The skills sets of passing, shooting, finishing skills and offensive footwork were too weak to win. The team averaged only 72 points/game.

4.) Lack of physicality on inside position

It was obious that Europe´s big men are on a different level of body constitutions even in division B. Just comparing the bodies of the Czech players with the other nations we had disadvatages.

Problems on offense

Shooting:

Shooting is one big remaining problem. These numbers don´t lie: 38% FG and 25,4% from 3PL, 59% FTs.

Solutions: Shooters development must become priority No.1 in CZ Academy and national team program. CZ Basketball won´t come far without the shooters.

Passing:

The understanding of spacing and moving timing became good. By spending much practice time on it, we were able to solve the turn over problem of the past . Team CZ finished with 15 TO/game - a good number even if we have to add a few more because of the lower defense level in division B. The problem was the passing in transition. Our team was not able to pace the game up with better ball movement.

Solutions: Skill warm ups need to focus on passing skills. Use game like passing drills (passing drills come from your offense) and connect shooting drills with passing. Focus more on game like passing practice in youth coach education.

Lay up finish variations:

Most players have only a small skill package when it comes to finishing skills. More variations need to be added as a daily routine menu. CZF could consider some learning video on this topic provided to all youth clubs.

Game discipline:

Players often break out offensive systems for nothing. On the other hand they stay in the system and miss high percentage scoring opportunities. Keeping game discipline on the one hand (break out early for 80% scoring chance only) and good decision making (don´t miss the high percentage scoring chance) is something to be worked on (coach on the run and video analyzing).

Problems on defense

Post defense:

Players faced difficulties with the strong inside game of our opponents. Problems started with the 1on1 defense before the big man received the ball (positioning, cut defense, ¾ deny). In addition players need to be more „MEAN“ and physical in the 1on1 game.

Solutions:

Use short (5 min) skill competitions (for ex. 1on1 or 2on2 post defense competitions (without soft foul calls). Using „cut throat“ drills with permission of hard contacts will help players as well. Provide clubs with good 1on1 game like defense drills for daily practice.

Team fundamentals:

It is obvious that many players are not used to practice under complex conditions. Team fundamentals (help the helper rotation, screen defense, post defense, communication) are not stabile. On ball defense looked fine but we faced difficulties on defense off ball often.

Solutions:

For all defense practices: Use 5on5 defense walk throughs before warming ups to make players understand positioning and the team defense concept.

Final comments

I regret I wasn´t able to facilitate the learning process for our players starting in the age of 15. As we know it was my goal to create the „ONE PATH“ Skill and Team development concept for the categories U15 – U20. We started the program but I have not pushed it strong enough to turn it into reality.

I still strongly believe that there is big potential in the junior men´s category of Czech Republic. If players practice in a learning by doing way and with good drills (+systems) all players know from national team camps they will focus on skill development (not on learning drills/systems).

I am glad to say it was a complete privilege to work with these fine young men, such as highly motivated and talented coaches and support staff. In fact the U18 national team staff was an outstanding one. These people are for sure ready higher tasks if opportunities come!

Honest and big thanks to Czech Basketball Federation for the trust and all the support during the past 2,5 years. I apologize I couldn´t fullfil all expectations. However my positivity regarding the future of CZ Basketball hasn´t gone away!

Please feel free to contact me any time when you have questions or requests.

Sincerely,

Torsten Loibl

Chemnitz, August 13th, 2024