



A PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS STUDY OF ETHIOPIAN FOOTBALL DURING 2008-2018

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to analyse the overall journey of Ethiopian National football at international level as well domestic level in last decade. In order to analyse the fact observation method has been used to collect data. Finding of the study reflects that Ethiopian national football is losing its position and credibility continuously in the last decade. It might be happened due to some socio-political issue the Ethiopian football federation, moreover for FIFA2014 Ethiopian national football team scored total 12 goals and conceded 21 goals and reached up to first qualifying round then Nigeria went to FIFA World Cup 2014. Further for FIFA 2018 (Russia), Ethiopian National Team reached up to second qualifying round and eliminated by COGO. Ethiopian Domestic football leagues are Premier League, Higher League and National League conducted every year, it is important to note that 70% winning position in Premier League went to one team i.e., Saint Gorge FC and rest 30% goes to other 15 playing teams. It clearly shows the lack of competitive balance in the most famous domestic league of a country. At the continent level in Champions League Country best domestic team scored 18th Rank out of 59 teams. In Super League (Winner of Champions League v/s Winners of Confederation Cup) Ethiopian football team has not seen anywhere. The size of squad and follow-up players has also impact on team performance. It has been also found that African teams qualified for FIFA 2018 has ample number of young and foreign players form different countries than Ethiopian National Football team, which makes then more strong and competent than others.

Key words: Team performance, Competition, Premier League and FIFA.

INTRODUCTION

Unlike the rest of Africa where football was imposed with colonial rule, the history of football in Ethiopia is different. It was the victory of Emperor Menelik II (r. 1889-1913) against the Italian invaders at Adwa in 1896 that brought football into Ethiopia. The defeat of the Italians convinced the rest of Europe to acknowledge Ethiopia's independence and send emissaries to seek favors from the Emperor. It was these European diplomats and their dependents who introduced football into Ethiopia. The first football game was held between these foreigners in Addis Ababa in 1924. Soon after, Ethiopia established the Ethiopian Football Federation in 1943. The budget for the Federation was a mere \$127.00. Since then, the Federation hosted the "Ethiopian Cup," which was contested between football clubs of the Ethiopian armed forces, known as Army, the British Military Mission (BMME), football clubs of Italian stragglers who stayed in Ethiopia after the war, Polisportiva, St. George and the Imperial Body Guard football club, Body Guard. The BMME and Polisportiva won the 1945 and 1947 Ethiopian Cup finals respectively, while Army dominated the remainder of the 1940s and 1950s. With the establishment of the African Nations Cup in 1957, which included Ethiopia, Egypt and the newly independent Sudan, Ethiopian football attained additional momentum. In the 1962 African Nations Cup that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia won beating Egypt 4-2. (1) Since then, though Ethiopia had never won an African Nations Cup, football evolved into one of the most popular pastimes in Ethiopia. Wherever there is an educational establishment such as a university, college or even a high school, there were football clubs were formed; even at Ethiopian military bases, there were football clubs that represented the military. In this regard, the Imperial Ethiopian Armed Forces and Ministry of Education and Fine Arts played a dominant and pioneering role in the development of football in Ethiopia. (2)

In July 2008, a FIFA Emergency Committee decided to suspend the Ethiopian Football Federation (EFF) due to their failure to comply with the road map to normalize the federation agreed upon in February 2008 by FIFA, CAF and EFF.



The road map was established in Feb 2008 following the dismissal of the country's football federation president Ashebir Woldegiorgis by the countries authorities. One of the main points of the road map was the organization of an "extraordinary general assembly" to deal with the "motion of dismissal". In addition, the EFF offices were to be handed over to the recognized leadership of the federation. (5)

The suspension of the EFF came into force on July 29, 2008, the day on which the federation had officially been notified of its suspension. Ethiopia played four group level matches in 2010 FIFA World Cup qualification before FIFA announced the immediate suspension of the Ethiopian Football Federation. On September 12, 2008, FIFA excluded the Ethiopian team from the 2010 World Cup qualifiers and the results of their matches were cancelled. Ethiopia's exclusion from the World Cup also led to their exclusion from the Africa Cup of Nations. While it was not clear if the team was also explicitly excluded from the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations. In July 2009, the EFF was reinstated after organizing the extraordinary general assembly and electing new leaders as instructed by FIFA. FIFA's executive committee had voted a month before to lift the suspension so long as that EFF organized and chaired an elective general assembly. FIFA confirmed that it was satisfied with the election. At a glance Ethiopian national team didn't qualified in last 20 years, it didn't qualified for 2002 and 2006 & Disqualified in 2010 and Didn't qualified for 2014 and 2018, finally today ranked 146 in the world, lowest in the decade.

International: The Ethiopia national football team made its first appearance in 1947 and since then have enjoyed both highs and lows. As one of the few independent African states in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War Ethiopia were an important team in the development of the international football in the continent.

2009 FIFA lifted his suspension after resuming political conspiracy Ethiopian national football team defeated Djibouti (5-0) but lost a game with Zambia (0-1) and Kenya (0-2) too, and Draw with Malawi but lost with Ugnada (1-2). At the second level Ethiopia won with Zambia (2-1) finally lost with Ivory Coast (0-1) and finish at 4th Position. In 2011 and 2012 Ethiopian National team lost six matches won 4 matches and draw in One match totally team score 12 goals and Conceded 21 goals on those 11 matches. In the 2013 the final glory was team qualified for the Africa Cup of National by 'away goals rules', further team loses following two matches with Burkino Faso and Nigeria and one match draw with Zambia. In 2014 Ethiopian national team qualified for the first round FIFA World Cup 2018 (CAF) after victory over Somalia and joined the Group A with CAR, Botswana and South Africa. In the CAF for third Round finally defeated with Nigeria in two consecutive matches.

In the Africa Cup of Nations Ethiopia is one time winner (1962) 55 years ago, one time runner (1957), one time send runner up and two times secured 4th position but Since 1982 Ethiopian National Team not even qualified for third round for FIFA World Cup, in the second round defeated with Sao Tome E Principe (0-1) and in the next match Ethiopian National Team Defeated Sao Tome E Principe (3-0) then Moved to next round (Second) and fought with CONGO and lost two consecutive matches with (1-2) and (3-4), here the journey of Moscow 2018 ends. Till today in CECAFA Ethiopian team has achieved glory 4 times (1987, 2001, 2004) and 2003), 2 times second runner up (2000 and 2015) & 2 times Fourth Place Finish (1995 and 2010).

In the year 2018, On the basis of points Real Madrid of Spain (2023 Points) is the best team in the world followed by Juventus of Italy (2003 Points). If we talk about African continent AL Ahly of Egypt (1646 Points) is the best team in Africa followed by Esperance de Tunis of Tunisia (1621 Points), these points continuously fluctuates with team performance. (Source: Footballdatabase.com)

Whereas FIFA world best 5 ranking (May 2018) is as follows Germany (1544 Points), Brazil (1384 Points), Belgium (1346 Points), Portugal (1306 Points), Argentina (1254 Points).

If talk about African teams, Tunisia stands 1st in Africa and 14th rank in the world with 1012 points followed by Senegal stands 2nd rank in Africa and 28th rank in the world with 825 points, Egypt stands 5th in Africa and 46th in world ranking with 636 points. Ethiopia stands on 146 rank in the world today with 188 points next to Equatorial Guinea (190 Points). The minimum point difference between FIFA 2018 participants and Ethiopia National Team is 448 Points.



Let's see the last 10 years ranking progression teams participating in FIFA 2018 from Africa continent. The table shows the progression in ranking in the qualifying team for FIFA 2018 (Russia). The Lowest rank of Nigeria in the last decade was 66th in 2015 and the best is 19th in 2008. Today Nigeria stands with 47th world rank and qualified for Russia. Nigeria is the only team in African continent while consistently qualified for FIFA 2010, 2014 and 2018. Egypt: In the last decade Egypt managed to appear 10th position in the world (9th 2010) whereas the worst position was 60th rank in 2014. Today Egypt stands with 46th rank today close to Nigeria.

TABLE NO. 1
 RANK AND POINTS SCORED BY AFRICAN TEAM SINCE 2008 IN FIFA RANKING

Year	Nigeria	Egypt	Morocco	Senegal	Tunisia	Ethiopian
2008	19	16	41	50	46	103
2009	22	24	67	89	53	122
2010	32	9	79	70	45	124
2011	43	31	61	44	59	135
2012	52	41	64	77	45	110
2013	37	41	73	65	48	93
2014	43	60	81	35	22	111
2015	66	57	75	44	40	120
2016	51	36	57	33	35	112
2017	51	31	40	23	27	143
2018	47 (635 Points)	46 (636 Points)	42 (681 Points)	28 (825 Points)	14 (1012 Points)	146 (188 Points)

Morocco best rank in this decade was 40th in 2017 but morocco had a history of worst rank 81st in the year 2014. Last 4 years of revolutionary journey turned into amazing results in the ranking. Today Morocco stands on 42nd position with 681 points better than Nigeria and Egypt. In the year 2009 Senegal National team was ranked 89th in 2017 but team achieved 23rd rank in the world the best in the decade. Today Tunisia stands 28th rank better than Nigeria, Egypt and Morocco.

TABLE NO. 2
 WORLD CUP RANKING OF AFRICAN TEAMS IN FIFA SINCE 2006

2006	2010	2014	2018
Angola	Algeria	Ghana	Egypt
Togo	Cameroon	Cameroon	Morocco
Ghana	Ghana	Ivory Coast	Nigeria
Ivory Coast	Ivory Coast	Nigeria	Senegal
Tunisia	Nigeria	Algeria	Tunisia
--	South Africa	--	--

The last decade journey of Tunisia was historical itself. In 2011 Tunisia was on the 59th in the world but today it is positioned on 14th in the world best in the decade with 1012 Points. The best ranking of the Ethiopian team was 93 in 2013 and worst ranking is the current ranking is 146 with 188 points. It went worst in the last years. It is a true question of performance sustainability. Researcher has also verified the 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018 teams together. It shows an amazing power shift in Africa i.e Ghana and Ivory Coast had consistently qualified for 2006, 2010 and 2014 FIFA world cup and not succeeded in 2018 World Cup. It not a matter of chance, but NIGERIA has qualified for 2010, 2014 and 2018 as well. Only Nigeria has shown consistent effort to succeed in last 3 FIFA World Championship in the continent.



Squad Analysis: FIFA 2018: Egypt: Egypt has 23 players in its squad followed by 21 recent call ups from more than 7 countries of the world. Nigeria: Today NIGERIA (Super Eagles) has 23 players in its squad followed by 66 recent call ups from more than 12 countries of the world. Tunisia: Tunisia has 25 players in its squad followed by 14 recent call ups from more than 7 countries of the world. Morocco: Morocco has 25 players in its squad followed by 18 recent call ups from more than 10 countries of the world. Senegal: Senegal has 26 players in its squad followed by 20 recent call ups from more than 9 countries of the world.

If we talk about the current Squad of Ethiopian Team 3 out of 16 Players comes Khallee FC (Saudi Arabia), Pertojet FC & Samuha SC (Egypt), K F Skenderbeu (Albania) followed by 9 recent call ups. The youngest player comes Albania.

If we talk about the Coaches the coach of the national team was earlier manager

Champions League: For 2017-18 total 59 teams entered in the competition Saint Gorge Club is representing Ethiopia in this league. Here team stands 18th Rank with 2 points next to Angola with 3 points, where as Cameroon, Libya, Ghana, Tanzania Scored 13th, 14th, 15th & 16th Places respectively. Here I would like to mention that Saint Gorge FC is the best team in Domestic Leagues.

Confederation Cup: This Club Association Football/Championship is organized by Confederation of African Football. Domestic Cup Winners from all 55 members are eligible to participate. On the performance Chart Saint Gorge FC exits nowhere.

Super Cup: African Super Cup is annual African Association Football Competition Contested between the winners of Champions League and Confederation Cup. Al Ahly (Egypt) was 6 times winner and 2 times runner up. The bottom line team is Republic of Congo (one-time Runner). Today Iyad Casablanca (Morocco) is the current Champion and T P Mazambe of Democratic Republic of KAMALOMDO was runner from last two years.

Premier League (Domestic Championships): The Ethiopian Premier League is the top association football division in Ethiopia. Regulated by the Ethiopian Football Federation, it was created in 1944. There are 16 registered teams in Premier league in Ethiopia and they fight for 2 domestic Cups. Since 2007 onwards 70% of the winning positions went to Saint Gorge FC and 3 teams Ethiopian Coffee, Awassa City and Dedebit has only 10% of share individually in the trophy. It evident that there is not good competition among the teams in Ethiopian Premier League. According to the FIFA ranking based on points the average difference between the top 5 teams is less than +_1. It says that they are almost equally competent for the Cup. It is also exclaiming that Sidma Coffee has the maximum points (36) in FIFA ranking but it was never finish in last 20 years in Champion Position. (Based on 2016-17 league matches)

CONCLUSION

In the light of above discussed facts it can be clearly visible that there is strong issue with managing sports and performance sustainability in Ethiopian National Football team at continent level and well as International Level in the last decade. Finally after review of last 10 years of journey researcher concluded that EFF should revise their policies on various fronts including selection process, talent identification, coaching and Training, competitions/Leagues, Facilitation and Modernization of football. There are also more several associate issues and challenges which hindered the performance as domestic as well as international level. A modern commercialized football as business needs different attention and different approach and different skills of managing our clubs for better future and visibility in international level competitions. Advanced Research and Development will be the key of success in future. The whole performance analysis has been done on the basis of team performance in FIFA qualifying matches (Africa Continent), Africa Cup and other Domestic Tournaments.



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