



HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMBINATIONAL ATTACK ACTIONS IN VOLLEYBALL

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the history and development of combinational attacking actions in the sport of volleyball. It analyzes how combinational attacks have evolved from the early stages of volleyball to their modern forms, their significance in game tactics, and various types of combinational attacks, including quick attacks, back-row attacks, variable attacks, and complex combinational plays. Furthermore, the advantages of combinational attacks are highlighted, such as their ability to mislead the opponent's block, increase attacking efficiency, and enhance team coordination. The article also examines the role of combinational attacks in the development of volleyball and their future importance.

Main Section: Volleyball, invented in the late 19th century in the United States by William G. Morgan, has evolved into a globally recognized sport characterized by its dynamic nature, tactical diversity, and strong emphasis on teamwork. Over time, the technical and tactical components of the game have undergone significant transformations, particularly in the domain of offensive actions. Among these, combinational attack movements have emerged as one of the most influential factors determining match outcomes. These attacks not only reflect the tactical maturity of a team but also serve as a key mechanism for overcoming defensive systems, especially organized blocking. In the early stages of volleyball development, the game was relatively simple and relied on basic techniques with minimal tactical variation. The primary objective was to send the ball over the net and capitalize on the opponent's errors. However, by the mid-20th century, as volleyball gained international popularity and competitive intensity increased, the need for more sophisticated tactical approaches became evident. This period marked the beginning of the evolution of combinational attacking strategies. During the 1950s and 1960s, particularly in European and Eastern countries such as the former Soviet Union and Japan, significant progress was made in developing structured offensive systems. A notable example is the use of the "Marita" combination by the Japanese national team during the 1964 Summer Olympics, which demonstrated the effectiveness of coordinated, multi-player attacking patterns. In this phase,

precise ball distribution and synchronized teamwork became essential components of successful offensive play. Combinational attacks allowed hitters to exploit gaps in the opponent's blocking system and significantly increased scoring opportunities. The 1970s and 1980s witnessed further advancements in both technical execution and tactical complexity. During this period, the interaction between the setter and attackers became more refined, enabling the implementation of faster and more deceptive offensive schemes. The emergence of the quick attack was particularly significant, as it involved rapid, low-trajectory sets that minimized the opponent's reaction time. This technique was widely adopted by leading volleyball nations and became a fundamental element of high-level play. The transition to modern volleyball in the 1990s and early 2000s introduced even greater levels of professionalism and specialization. Offensive systems became increasingly diverse, incorporating a wide range of combinational variations. One of the most important innovations of this period was the widespread use of back-row attacks, which allowed players from the defensive line to participate actively in offensive actions. This significantly expanded attacking options and made defensive organization more challenging for opponents. Additionally, the introduction of the libero position enhanced ball control and defensive stability, thereby creating more favorable conditions for executing complex combinational attacks. In contemporary volleyball, combinational attacks are an integral part of tactical systems and are essential for achieving high performance. These attacks are designed to disrupt the opponent's blocking structure and create open spaces for effective scoring. Several types of combinational attacks can be distinguished. Quick attacks involve rapid execution and precise timing between the setter and attacker. Back-row attacks add depth to the offensive system by involving additional players. Variable attacks rely on movement and positional changes to confuse the defense. Finally, complex combinational plays involve multiple attackers executing coordinated movements simultaneously, significantly increasing tactical unpredictability. The advantages of combinational attacks are multifaceted. First, they effectively disorganize the opponent's blocking system, making it more difficult to anticipate the direction and timing of the attack. Second, they enhance overall attacking efficiency by allowing teams to utilize a wider range of offensive options. Third, they strengthen team cohesion and coordination, as successful execution requires precise timing, communication, and mutual understanding among players. In conclusion, the development of combinational attack movements has played a crucial role in the evolution of volleyball from a simple recreational activity to a highly sophisticated competitive sport. Their continued refinement remains essential for advancing tactical innovation and improving performance outcomes in modern volleyball.

Conclusion

Combinational attack actions in volleyball represent a fundamental component of game tactics and play a decisive role in determining competitive performance. These offensive strategies have evolved progressively alongside the historical development of volleyball and are now widely applied in modern high-level competition. Through the effective use of combinational attacks, teams are able to disrupt the opponent's blocking system, enhance overall attacking efficiency, and strengthen intra-team coordination and synchronization. Moreover, combinational offensive systems contribute significantly to the tactical variability

of the game, allowing teams to adapt to different match situations and opponents' defensive structures. The successful execution of such attacks requires not only technical proficiency but also a high level of tactical awareness, communication, and timing among players. In addition, combinational attacks serve as a key indicator of a team's overall tactical maturity and preparedness. Teams that effectively utilize diverse offensive combinations are better equipped to control the tempo of the game and impose their strategic intentions on opponents. This not only increases scoring opportunities but also places continuous psychological pressure on the opposing team, often leading to defensive instability and forced errors. From a coaching perspective, the development of combinational attack systems requires a systematic approach that integrates technical training, tactical planning, and situational decision-making. Furthermore, the role of the setter becomes increasingly critical in organizing combinational attacks, as they act as the central decision-maker responsible for distributing the ball efficiently under varying game conditions. The synchronization between the setter and attackers must be refined through repetitive training and match experience to ensure optimal execution under pressure. At the same time, the involvement of all players, including back-row attackers and defensive specialists, highlights the collective nature of modern volleyball offense. With the continuous advancement of volleyball, including improvements in training methodologies, performance analysis technologies, and athlete specialization, combinational attacks are expected to become even more complex and strategically significant. The integration of data analytics and video-based performance assessment tools further enhances the ability to design and evaluate effective attacking patterns. In the future, these developments will likely lead to the emergence of more innovative and unpredictable offensive systems, reinforcing the importance of combinational attacks in achieving success at the highest levels of competition.

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