

Statistical comparison - 2018 and 2019 WCH doubles finals

The doubles final of the 2019 Teqball World Championships was a rematch of the 2018 Teqball World Championships final, with Hungary and Montenegro battling it out for the ultimate prize in the sport. Whilst both finals were high-level and intense, with the same doubles pairings of Bogdan Marojević and Nikola Mitro (Montenegro) and Ádám Blázsovcics and Csaba Bányik (Hungary), there were key differences between the two matches.

To begin with, the results were different. The 2018 World Championships was won by Montenegro by two sets to one (20-19, 15-20 and 20-22), in what was nail-biting and highly memorable encounter. The match lasted 55 minutes, including 116 rallies. During the match, the number of touches made by the two countries was 1041, Hungary with 540 touches and Montenegro with 501.

A year later in 2019 World Championships final, Hungary got their revenge by defeating Montenegro two sets to nil (20-11 and 20-15), in what was an unexpectedly one-side affair. The match only lasted 33 minutes and included 66 rallies. The number of touches was therefore lower; Hungary with 269 and Montenegro with 304, resulting in 573 touches during the match.

Since the two matches were entirely different in terms of the length and the result, an initial glance at the above numbers may be deceptive. For example, the average touches per minute was 18.9 during the 2018 final, compared with 17.4 during the 2019 final. From this, it can be inferred that the intensity and speed of the two matches was actually very similar.

Furthermore, the average number of touches during a rally was 9.0 in the 2018 final and 8.7 during the 2019 final. This means that, on average, in both finals the teams had two chances to win a point in each rally. The serving team had the chance to win a point by scoring an ace or attacking the returned ball and winning the point on their first return if they did not manage to hit an ace. From the receiving team's perspective, they either win the point from their first return or their second return.

The two finals in numbers

USE OF DIFFERENT BODY PARTS %





Game style

Preferred foot

- Hungary – right foot
- Montenegro – left foot

Attacking strategy

- Montenegro – focus on strong headers (+ left foot smashes as alternative)
- Hungary – focus on right foot smashes (+ headers as alternative)

Defence and preparation

- Hungary – Right foot to receive, chest and right upper leg to prepare
- Montenegro – Left foot to receive, chest and header to prepare

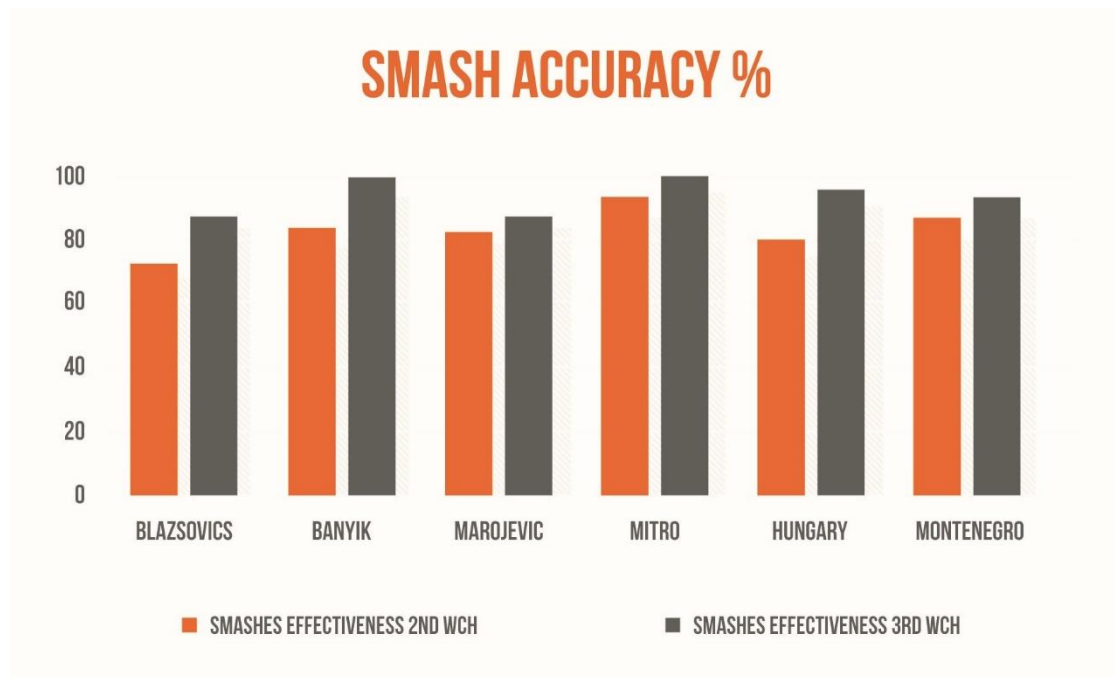
Development

Use of body parts

- Montenegro – Perfect preparatory touches with the chest
- Hungary – Use of shoulder touches appeared during the 2019 World Championships

Possible winning/losing factor

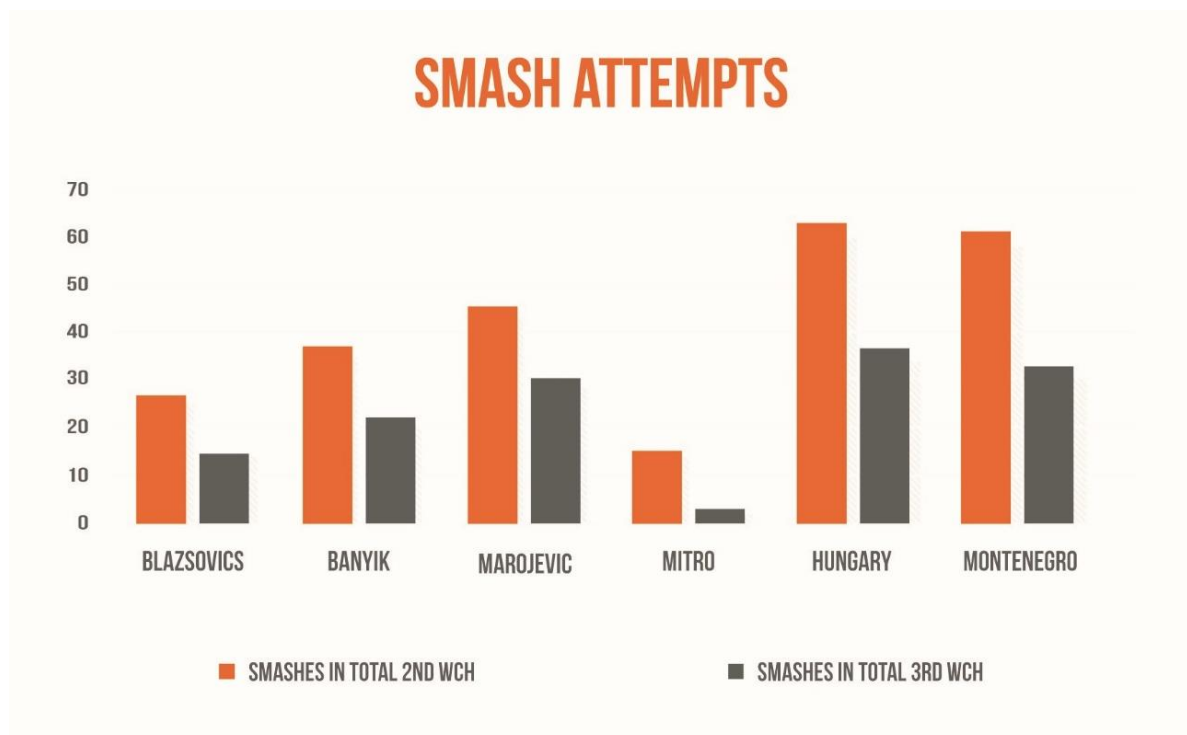
- It can be observed that Montenegro did not manage to perform as many touches with the head in the 2019 final compared to 2018. This is partly because they (mostly Marojević) were also smashing with the left foot. However, this number does not equate to the lack of headers. The reason for this is that they were not able to set up the perfect attacking position, despite effective chest touches from Mitro, because of Bányik's smashes making it difficult for the defending player of Montenegro to receive the ball.





The effectiveness of the smashes improved for all players from 2018 to 2019:

- Bogdan Marojević (Montenegro)
 - 2018 – 83 % (40/46 attempts)
 - 2019 – 90 % (27/30 attempts)
- Nikola Mitro (Montenegro)
 - 2018 – 94 % (15/16 attempts)
 - 2019 – 100 % (3/3 attempts)
- Ádám Blázsovics (Hungary)
 - 2018 – 74 % (20/27 attempts)
 - 2019 – 93 % (15 attempts)
- Csaba Bányik (Hungary)
 - 2018 – 86 % (32/37 attempts)
 - 2019 – 100 % (22/22 attempts)
- amazing 22/22 successful smashes on the 3rd WCH

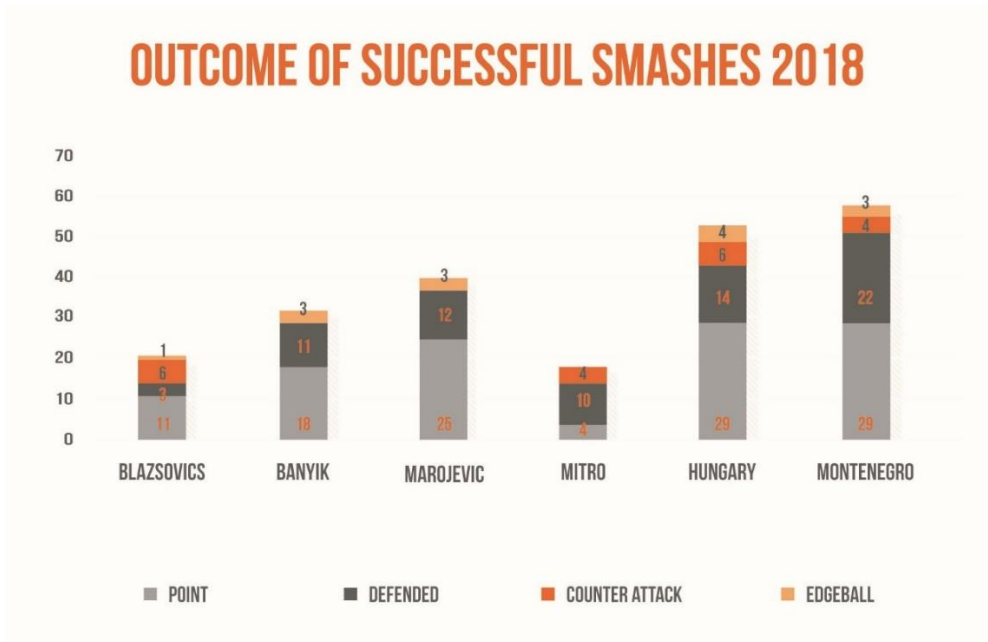


Important to see besides effectiveness the number of smash attempts.

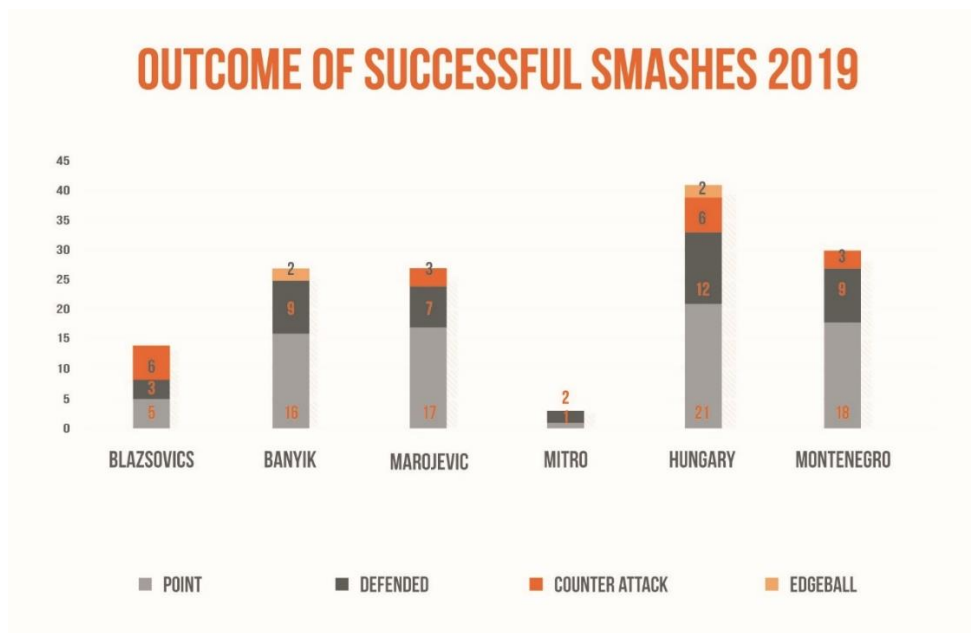
Total number of smash attempts:

- Hungary – 2018 – 64 smashes, 2019 – 37 smashes
- Montenegro – 2018 – 62 smashes, 2019 – 33 smashes

The effectiveness of smashes should also include the outcome of the successful smashes. A successful smash may result in a point or it may be defended. If a smash is defended it may be returned safely or if it is perfectly defended it may even be counter attacked. Colours clearly represent the strength and difficulty of each player's smashes.



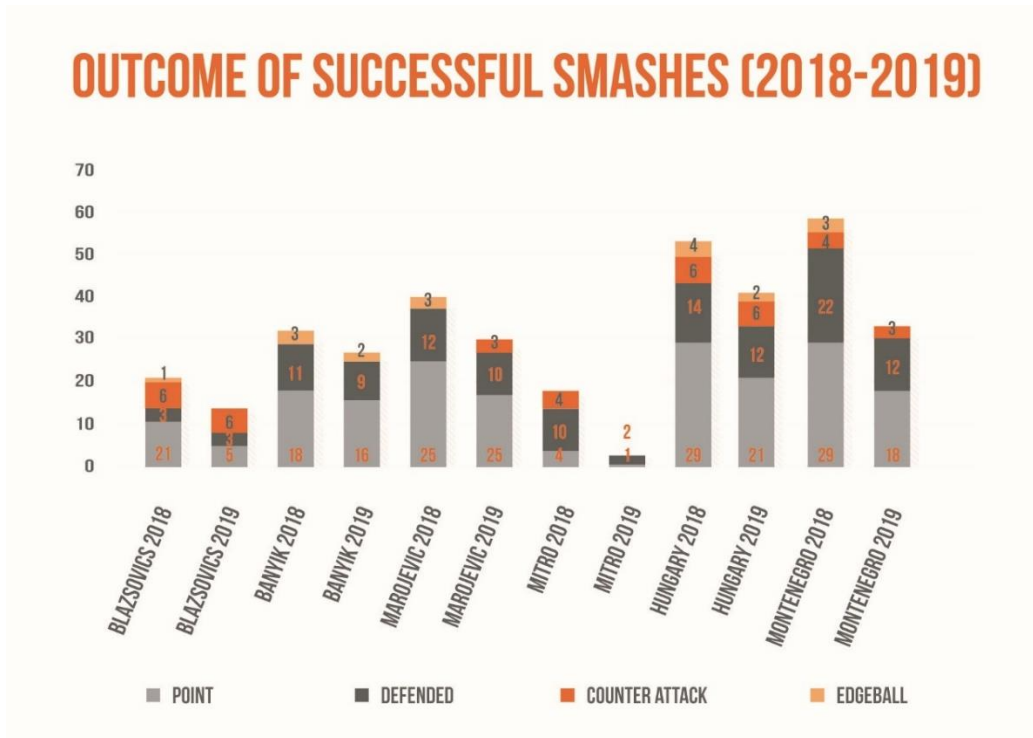
During the 2018 World Championships, the two attacking players (Bányik and Marojević) hit very effective smashes. Not only were they effective in terms of accuracy, they were also effective in terms of difficulty to return. None of their smashes were counter attacked, although some of them were saved. Blázsovics and Mitro also performed smashes, but clearly this was only a secondary tactic for both teams.



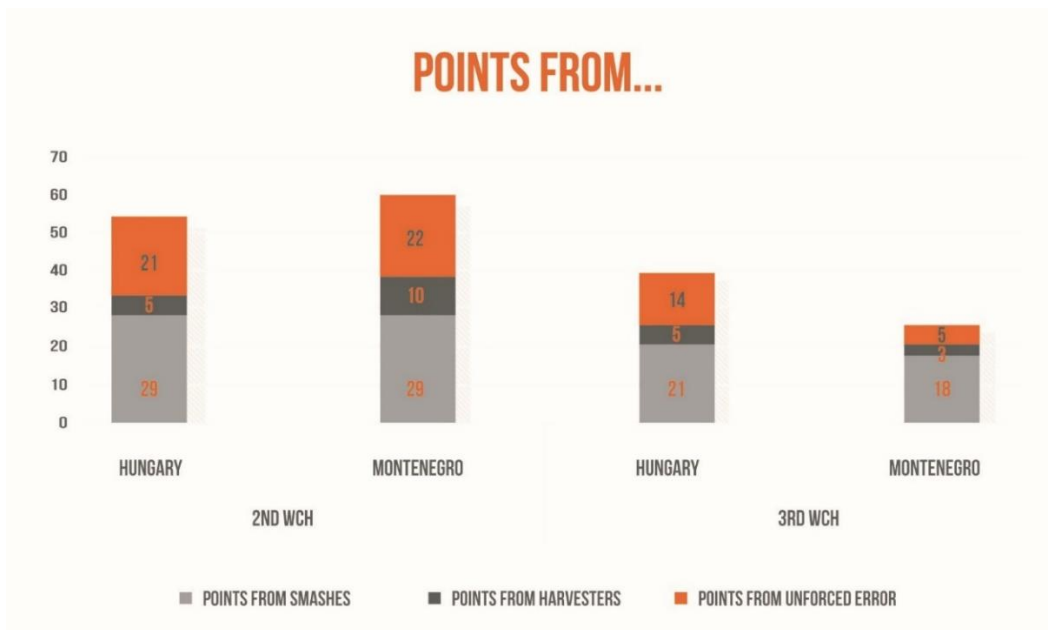
During the 2019 World Championships, it was still Bányik and Marojević who led on attacks. The two attacking players were similarly effective, however several of the smashes from Marojević were counter attacked. Meanwhile, Bányik did not allow any of his smashes to be countered this year either.



Here you can see the effectiveness of all players compared between the two World Championships.



It is also interesting to note how the two teams earned their points:



During the 2018 World Championships, the match was very close, as is visible from these numbers. Montenegro's effectiveness in using harvesters was a key point of difference, helping them earn twice as many points as Hungary. In addition to this, Montenegro were more accurate with their smashes. During the 2019 World Championships, the key difference was Hungary only made 5 unforced errors whilst Montenegro made 14. Regarding their points from smashes and harvesters, the two teams performed very similarly. At the highest level of teqball, it is clear that you have to attack, otherwise you will lose. However, if you make too many unforced errors when trying to attack, it becomes very difficult to win.