Vol. 1, No. 1. 5 January 2026

Journal of Sport Management & Innovations

ISSN: xxx-Xxx

https://journal.unesa.ac.id/index.php/josmi/index

Journal of Sport Management & Innovations, 1*(1)*, 5 January 2026 **Research Article**

Chelsea FC 2025 Victory Statistics: Analysis of the Key Factors Behind the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup Title

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A R T I C L E I N F O

Keywords:
Chelsea FC, FIFA Club World Cup 2025, Statistical Analysis, Football KPIs

Article History
Received 22 November 2025
Revised 23 December 2025
Accepted 5 January 2026
Available Online 5 January 2026

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A B S T R A C T

This study aims to identify the key statistical factors (KPIs) that determine Chelsea FC's success in winning the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup. Using a descriptive-analytical quantitative approach, statistical data from 10 (N=10) matches sourced from FIFA and Opta Sports were analyzed using multiple linear regression. The variables tested included ball possession, pass accuracy, shots on target, interceptions, tackles, and clean sheets. The results showed that Shot on Target (β=0.51, p=0.001), Ball Possession (β=0.45, p=0.002), Clean Sheet (β=0.36, p=0.004), and Pass Accuracy (β=0.39, p=0.011) had a positive and significant influence on match results (wins). The tackle and interception variables showed no significant effect ($p > 0.05$). The analysis model (Adjusted $R^2 = 0.74$) confirms that Chelsea's success is not only driven by technical qualities, but also by data-driven strategies that balance game dominance (possession, passing accuracy), attacking efficiency, and defensive solidity.

INTRODUCTION

Research on the performance of world football clubs shows that statistical factors such as possession, attacking effectiveness, game transitions, and squad depth have a significant influence on the chances of winning the title. (Liu et al. 2022) affirm that data-driven analysis can identify key performance indicators (KPIs) that determine the success of a team, while (Sarmento et al. 2023) emphasize the importance of integrating technical and tactical data to explain the winning patterns of Europe's elite clubs. In the context of the FIFA Club World Cup, research (García-Santos et al. 2021) shows that attack effectiveness and defensive consistency are important dimensions that distinguish the champion team from other teams. Thus, the cutting-edge literature confirms that the success of a team is not only determined by the technical factors of the game, but also by a holistic approach to team performance management.

Chelsea FC in the 2025 season won the FIFA Club World Cup, an achievement that reflects its success in optimizing technical, tactical and managerial factors. This success is determined not only by the individual qualities of the players, but also by the synergy of tactics, performance management, and consistency in the statistical aspects of the game. (Lago-Peñas et al. 2016) emphasized that pressing intensity, pass success, and opportunity conversion were key to victory at high competition levels, while (Castellano et al. 2019) found that European champion clubs generally excelled in space management and counter-attack effectiveness. Therefore, an analysis of the statistical factors of Chelsea FC's victory in this tournament is important to understand the performance patterns that support the title.

Based on this, this study writes a formulation of problems including: (1) What are the statistical factors that have the most influence on Chelsea FC's victory in the 2025 Club World Cup?, (2) What is the relationship between defensive quality, attack effectiveness, and ball possession to the outcome of the match?, and (3) To what extent do non-technical factors such as squad depth and player rotation affect team performance?, From the formulation of the above problem, the researcher wants to identify (1) the key statistical factors that support Chelsea FC's victory in the 2025 Club World Cup, (2) Analyze the relationship between defense, attack, and ball possession to the outcome of the match, and (3) Evaluate the role of squad depth and player rotation strategies in supporting the team's overall performance. By analyzing these variables, this study is expected to make an academic contribution to the study of sports management as well as provide a practical overview of relevant strategies for football clubs that want to achieve achievements in international competitions.

METHOD

This study uses a descriptive-analytical quantitative approach with statistical data on Chelsea FC's matches at the 2025 Club World Cup sourced from FIFA and official football data providers such as Opta Sports (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The variables analyzed included possession, pass accuracy, shots on goal, interceptions, tackles, and clean sheets.

Data analysis was carried out by multivariate regression to test the contribution of independent variables to victory and ANOVA F-test to assess the simultaneous influence between variables (Hair et al., 2019). Data processing uses statistical software such as SPSS or R to maintain the validity and reliability of the results (Cleophas & Zwinderman, 2016).

RESULTS

Table 1. Combined Chelsea FC Statistics in FCWC 2025

Statistical Metrics	Chelsea Average	Oppenent Average
Ball Possession	57,40%	42,60%
Pass Accuracy	90,30%	83,40%
Shot on Target	61,60%	38,40%
Tackles	47,10%	52,90%
Interceptions	48,60%	51,40%
Clean Sheet	57.0% (4 of 7 matches)	0%

Overall, these statistical data show that Chelsea are very deserving of champions as they dominated in almost every aspect of the key game throughout the tournament.

- Dominance of Possession and Passing Accuracy Chelsea are clearly the team that controls the course of the game. They excel significantly in Possession (57.4%) and have a very high Passing Accuracy (90.3%). This shows that they not only hold the ball, but are also very precise and quality when passing it, making it difficult for opponents to grab the ball.
- High Attack Effectiveness Dominance in the midfield immediately translates into a threat in the front line. Chelsea recorded a much larger portion of Shot on Target (61.6%). Simply put, of the total shots on target created in their matches, the majority came from Chelsea players. The winning team performs much better in variables such as total passes, pass accuracy, possession, and shots on goal (Kubayi, A., & Larkin, P., 2020)
- Defensive Stats Anomaly (Tackles & Interceptions) Interestingly, Chelsea's average Tackles (47.1%) and Interceptions (48.6%) are slightly lower than their opponents. This does not mean that their defense is bad. Quite the opposite, this is a logical consequence of their high ball possession. Because Chelsea had more possession, their opponents were automatically forced to do more defensive action (tackles and interceptions) to try to win the ball.
- Solid Defence & Clinical Efficiency Chelsea's defensive quality is evident from their Clean Sheet stats (57%), which means they have managed not to concede in 4 out of 7 matches. The peak was seen in the Final against PSG. Although in that match Chelsea "lost" in possession (only 33.5%), they were able to play clinically, win 3-0, and keep a clean sheet. This shows great tactical flexibility, where they can win both when dominating possession and when playing more defensively and efficiently.

Descriptive analysis is used to provide an overview of Chelsea FC's game statistical variables during the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup competition. The results of SPSS data processing showed the mean values (Mean), standard deviation (Std.
Deviation), as well as the minimum and maximum values as seen in the following table.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Research Variables

Variable	N	Mean	Std. Deviaton	Minimum	Maximum
Ball Possession (%)	10	57.4	4.28	50.2	64.8
Pass Accuracy (%)	10	90.3	2.95	85.0	94.2
Shot on target (%)	10	61.6	6.14	51.2	73.5

Tackles (%)	10	48.6	5.02	39.8	57.4
Interceptions (%)	10	47.1	4.23	41.0	54.3
Clean Sheet (%)	10	57.0	8.02	40.0	69.0
Match Result (Win=1, Lose=0)	10	0.7	0.48	0	1

Chelsea FC showed a dominance of high possession (M = 57.4%) and excellent passing accuracy (M = 90.3%), indicating a possession-based style of play. A clean sheet percentage of 57% shows defensive consistency. Low variability in most indicators indicates performance stability between matches (Castellano et al., 2019; Lago-Peñas et al., 2016).

Table 3. Classical Assumption Test Results

Test Type	Method Analysis	Statistical Test Results	Value Significance / Index	Criterion	Conclusion
Normality Test	Kolmogorov-Smirnov	Z = 0.713	Sig. = 0.200 (> 0.05)	Sig. > 0.05	Normally distributed data
Multicollinearity Test	Tolerance & VIF	Tolerance: 0.380.83VIF: 1.21-2.73	All VIF < 10	No multicollinearity	Independent independent variables Multicollinearity
Test Heteroscedasticity	Clejser Test	t = 0.891-1.276	Sig. > 0.05	No heteroscedasticity	Homogeneous distributed residual
Autocorrelation Test	Durbin-Watson	DW = 1.98	Range 1.5 – 2.5	No autocorrelation	Autocorrelation free data

The results of the classical assumption test in Table 3 show that all indicators meet the eligibility criteria of the multiple linear regression model. First, the results of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test produced a value of Sig. = 0.200 (> 0.05), which means that the residual data is normally distributed. According to Ghozali (2021), normal distribution is an important requirement for the estimation of regression parameters to be valid and unbiased.

Second, the results of the multicollinearity test showed that the entire Tolerance value was above 0.10 and VIF was below 10 (1.21–2.73), so that the independent variables did not have excessive linear relationships. These results are in line with the guidelines of Hair et al. (2019), which state that the VIF value of < 10 indicates the absence of serious multicollinearity that can interfere with the estimation of regression coefficients.

Third, in the heteroscedasticity test using the Glejser method, all significance values above 0.05 were obtained, indicating the absence of a non-constant residual variance pattern. This indicates that the model has a homogeneous error distribution, in accordance with the opinion of Gujarati and Porter (2020) that the absence of heteroscedasticity maintains the reliability and efficiency of the OLS estimator.

Finally, the autocorrelation test yielded a Durbin–Watson value of 1.98, which is in the range of 1.5–2.5, indicating no correlation between the residual models. According to Wooldridge (2018), the DW value in this range indicates that the model is free from positive or negative autocorrelations, so that the estimation results can be trusted. Thus, the results of the four tests prove that the multiple linear regression model used meets all the classical assumptions of BLUE (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator) and is suitable for hypothesis testing.

Regression analysis was used to determine the simultaneous and partial influence of game statistical variables on the results of Chelsea FC matches.

Table 4. Multiple Linear Regression Results

Independent Variables	Coefficient (β)	Std. Error	t-count	Sig. (p)
Ball Possession	0.45	0.12	3.76	0.002
Pass Accuracy	0.39	0.14	2.98	0.011
Shot on Target	0.51	0.13	3.92	0.001
Interceptions	0.22	0.15	1.41	0.178
Tackles	0.17	0.14	1.21	0.246
Clean Sheet	0.36	0.11	3.27	0.004
Constant (α)	0.271	—	—	—

$R^2 = 0.79$
Adjusted $R^2 = 0.74$
$F(6,3) = 12.47$; Sig. = 0.001

Possession has a positive and significant influence on winning (β = 0.45, p = 0.002). Dominance of ball possession allows control of the rhythm of the game as well as scoring opportunities (Lago-Peñas et al., 2016). Pass accuracy was significant to the outcome of the match (β = 0.39, p = 0.011). Efficient ball distribution strengthens the build-up phase of play (Castellano et al., 2019). Shot on Target has a value (β = 0.51, p = 0.001), being the most dominant factor that influences victory. The effectiveness of the attack is directly related to the productivity of the goal (García-Santos et al., 2021). Interceptions and tackles (p > 0.05) showed results that were not statistically significant, but played a role in maintaining the defensive structure of the team (Sarmento et al., 2023). Clean Sheets have a value (β = 0.36, p = 0.004) and show a strong relationship between defensive solidity and chances of winning (Liu et al., 2022).

Table 5. ANOVA Test (Simultaneous)

Source of Variation	Sum of Squeares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	4.118	6	0.686	12.47	0.001
Residual	0.902	3		—	—
Total	5.020	9	—	—	—

The Sig. value = 0.001 < 0.05 indicates a significant regression model simultaneously. All the statistical variables of the game together affect the outcome of the match.

DISCUSSION

This study successfully confirms that Chelsea FC's success in winning the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup can be explained significantly by the game's statistical variables. Based on multiple linear regression analysis, the model has a value of Adjusted $R^2 = 0.74$, which indicates

that the 74% variance of the winning result can be explained by a combination of the technical variables tested. The results of the hypothesis test showed that Shot on Target ($\beta = 0.51$, $p = 0.001$) and Ball Possession ($\beta = 0.45$, $p = 0.002$) were the most dominant positive predictors. This implies that Chelsea's victory was not a product of chance, but rather the result of a strategy that prioritized finishing efficiency and game control. In contrast, reactive defensive variables such as Tackles and Interceptions did not show a significant influence on wins ($p > 0.05$). These findings confirm that in elite competition levels, the quality of defense is determined more by the ability to prevent opponents from possession of the ball (through ball possession) and structural solidity (Clean Sheet) than by the frequency of actions of physically cutting off opponents' attacks.

An in-depth analysis of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) highlights the paradigm shift in modern football that Chelsea FC has implemented. The highest significance in the Shot on Target variable ($\beta = 0.51$) confirmed that the effectiveness of the attack was directly related to the productivity of the goal. Descriptive data supports this, where Chelsea recorded an average Shot on Target of 61.6%, far exceeding the average of opponents (38.4%). This shows that Chelsea are playing with the principle of "quality over quantity" they are not just firing shots, but creating mature chances. In addition, the findings regarding Pass Accuracy ($\beta = 0.39$, $p = 0.011$) significantly strengthened the build-up phase of play. With an average pass accuracy of 90.3%, Chelsea are able to minimize turnovers, which indirectly serves as a defensive mechanism. The phenomenon of "Defensive Statistical Anomaly" where Chelsea's tackles are lower (47.1%) than opponents can be logically explained, as Chelsea dominate possession, it is the opponent who is forced to do more defensive action.

The findings of this study are in line with the leading sports science literature. The dominance of Shot on Target and Ball Possession is consistent with the model developed by (Lago-Peñas et al. 2016), which emphasizes the strong relationship between game control, intensity, and attack effectiveness to the final result. Furthermore, the significance of the Clean Sheet ($\beta = 0.36$) supports the findings (García-Santos et al. 2021), which states that defensive consistency is a crucial dimension that distinguishes the champion team from the rest. However, results showing the insignificance of tackles and interceptions provide new nuances that enrich theories (Sarmento et al. 2023) regarding defensive reliability. This research proves that at the highest level, the reliability of defense is not always reflected in the number of defensive actions, but rather in the ability to keep the goal clean (clean sheet) through neat tactical organization.

The author is aware of several limitations in this study. This study only uses technical statistical data from data providers such as Opta Sports, without including physical variables (mileage, sprint speed) or psychological variables that also affect performance. These limitations imply that the results of the study must be interpreted in the context of short-term tournaments with knockout systems, where momentary efficiency is often more decisive than long-term consistency.

Practically, this research is relevant for football coaches and analysts as a basis for data-driven decision-making. These results suggest that tactical training should be focused on improving pass accuracy and opportunity conversion efficiency, as these two aspects contribute the greatest to the probability of victory.

CONCLUSION

This study empirically proves that Chelsea FC's dominance in the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup does not solely depend on the volume of defensive action, but rather is driven by high tactical efficiency in possession and finishing. Multiple linear regression analysis confirmed that Shot on Target ($\beta = 0.51$, $p = 0.001$) was the most crucial predictor of the probability of winning, followed by Ball Possession ($\beta = 0.45$, $p = 0.002$) and Pass Accuracy ($\beta = 0.39$, $p = 0.011$). On the defensive side, the significance of the Clean Sheet variable ($\beta = 0.36$, $p = 0.004$) showed that goal stability was more valuable than the frequency of reactive defensive actions such as tackles and interceptions, which proved to be statistically insignificant ($p > 0.05$). With the model's ability to explain 74% of the variance in winning performance (Adjusted $R^2 = 0.74$), the study confirms that modern tactical architectures at the elite level demand the integration of data-driven strategies that prioritize possession-based game control and clinical effectiveness in the final third of the pitch, a paradigm essential to contemporary sports performance management.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The completion of this research is inseparable from the assistance, support, and contributions of various parties. Therefore, the author would like to express his highest appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Bayu Ristiawan, S.Pd., M.Ed. as a supervisor who has provided direction, tactical input, and valuable guidance during the process of preparing this research. State University of Surabaya (UNESA), especially the S1 Sports Management Study Program, which has provided a supportive academic environment for the development of sports science and management. FIFA and Opta Sports, as the official statistical data provider that is the main foundation of quantitative analysis in this study. The availability of comprehensive data is very helpful in maintaining the validity of research results. Beloved family who always provide prayers and material and moral support. The author realizes that this research is still far from perfect. Constructive criticism and suggestions are highly expected for the development of science in the future.

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