



BHUTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

HOME OF HAPPINESS



TRACING OUR GOALS

Analysis report of goal scoring
in Bhutan Premier League 2025

By-Technical Department



DISCLAIMER

This report presents an analytical review of goals scored in the Bhutan Premier League 2025 based on available match data and statistical observations. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, the analysis is intended for informational and analytical purposes only. The findings do not represent official statistics, judgments, or endorsements by the Bhutan Football Federation, participating clubs, players, or any affiliated organization.

Data sources may be subject to limitations, updates, or reporting discrepancies, and interpretations are based on analytical assumptions that may evolve as new information becomes available. The conclusions drawn should not be considered definitive and are not intended for betting, commercial, or regulatory use.

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Introduction

Kingdom of Bhutan, is a small, landlocked country in South Asia, nestled in the eastern Himalayas between India and China with a population of just over 795,000. Renowned for its stunning mountain landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and deep-rooted Buddhist traditions, The country has preserved its unique identity through sustainable development, environmental conservation, and cultural protection, making it one of the world's few carbon-negative nations. Despite its modest size, Bhutan holds a strong sense of national unity, tradition, and progress.

Football in Bhutan has developed steadily despite the country's challenging geography and small population. The sport began gaining popularity in the late 20th century, particularly in urban centers such as Thimphu and Paro, where schools and institutions played a key role in its introduction.

The Bhutan Football Federation (BFF) was established in 1983 and later became a member of FIFA in 2000, marking a significant milestone in the country's football development. Domestic competitions evolved over time, leading to the launch of the Bhutan Premier League (BPL) in 2012 as the nation's top-tier professional league.

Bhutan is currently ranked 192nd in the latest FIFA rankings (Dec 2025) and have played their home games at the iconic Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu which stands at 2,300m above sea level hence making it the 2nd highest international football stadium in the world.



Objective

OBJECTIVE STUDY OF GOAL SCORING

This report undertakes a rigorous and methodical analysis of goal-scoring metrics recorded during the 2025 season. By systematically examining the distribution, temporal occurrence, modalities of goal scoring, individual player contributions foreigners and Bhutanese and components of goals the study endeavors to elucidate the prevailing offensive patterns and strategic tendencies within the league.

The ‘Tracing our goals’ approach seeks to objectify the goals and understand the components of play that resulted in the goal scoring

The aim of this report is to provide substantive insights that will support informed decision-making and strategic planning by coaches, club administrators, and football governance entities. Ultimately, this analysis aspires to contribute meaningfully to the sustained elevation of competitive standards and the holistic advancement of football in Bhutan.

In a country as small as Bhutan, where sports culture and football are widely celebrated and recognized, such insights would be valuable in driving the growth of the sport and understanding the crucial trends in Bhutanese football.



Overview: BPL 2025

STRUCTURE OF BHUTAN PREMIER LEAGUE

The Bhutan Premier League is conducted as a national top-tier competition featuring ten clubs representing different regions of the country. The league follows a double round-robin format, in which each team plays every other team twice—once at home and once away—resulting in a balanced and comprehensive fixture schedule. Teams are ranked based on total points accumulated over the season, with standard tie-breaking criteria applied where necessary.




Locations of all 10 clubs participating in the Bhutan Premier League 2025





Overview: BPL 2025

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

The Bhutan Premier League reflected the competitive balance of the sporting powerhouses in the country. Paro FC emerged as the deserved champions with 49 points from a possible 54 losing just 1 game throughout the season and winning 16. While on the other end of the table Samtse FC were on the receiving end of 14 defeats and ended the season on just 8 points from 18 games with a negative goal difference of 65, finishing as the only team with less than 10 points on the board.

 BoB BHUTAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2025 POINTS TABLE									
POS	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	PARO FC	18	16	1	1	74	17	57	49
2	THIMPHU CITY FC	18	14	1	3	64	23	41	43
3	RTC FC	18	12	2	4	62	19	43	38
4	TRANSPORT UTD FC	18	11	1	6	46	27	19	34
5	BFF ACADEMY	18	8	3	7	40	36	4	27
6	UGYEN ACADEMY FC	18	8	1	9	38	41	-3	25
7	TSIRANG FC	18	4	4	10	21	42	-21	16
8	TENSUNG FC	18	3	2	13	17	48	-31	11
9	SOUTHERN CITY FC	18	3	1	14	15	59	-44	10
10	SAMTSE FC	18	2	2	14	22	87	-65	8


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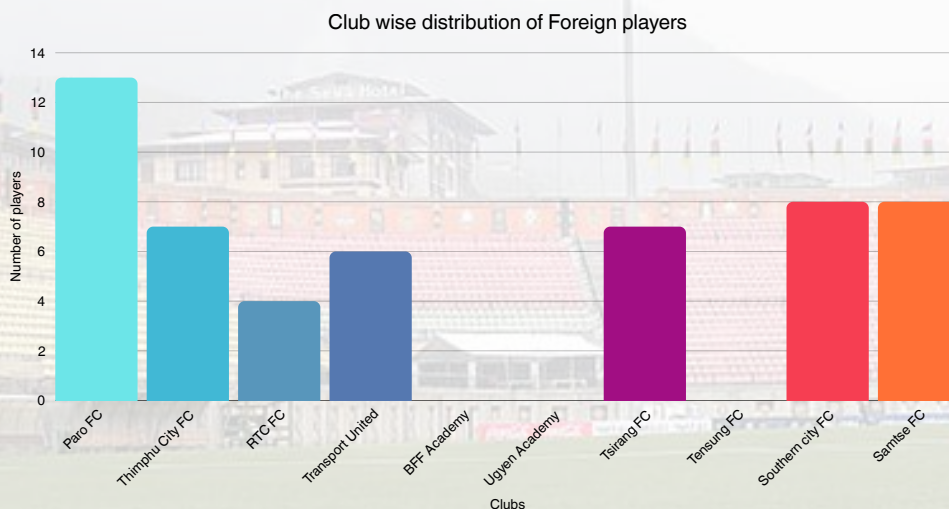
Paro FC might have run away with the league early on in the season but the fight for 2nd place tough with Thimphu City bagging the spot on the final match day. All three of their losses came on the road notably failing to score against Tensung FC in a 1-nil defeat on 29th June.



Overview: BPL 2025

FOREIGN PLAYERS ON HIMALAYAN SHORES

Players from 16 different countries and 4 continents represented various clubs in the BOB BPL 2025, signifying a rise of influx of foreign talent from 2024 season where represented countries were 11.



After analysis no clear correlation was observed between the final league position of the club and the number of foreign players employed by the club indicating that number of foreign players are not a direct factor in the final league position.

Analysis of nationalities of foreign players reveals that most players come from the western region of Africa most notably Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal constituting of 39% of the total foreign players in the League.

Statistical analysis of foreign players of their playing positions reveals that more than 64% of the foreigners were playing in forward positions of wide attackers or center forwards, indicating the desire of clubs to employ foreign players in the goal scoring positions. The next position was Centre-back with 22% of players.

Country wise distribution of foreign players in BPL 2025





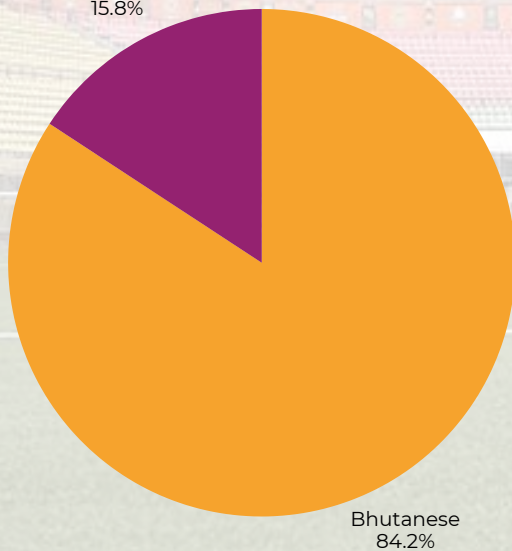
Overview: BPL 2025

FOREIGN PLAYERS ON HIMALAYAN SHORES

Out of all the 318 registered players in the league, only 54 players were of foreign nationality which constitutes for about 15.8% of the total players playing professionally in Bhutan.

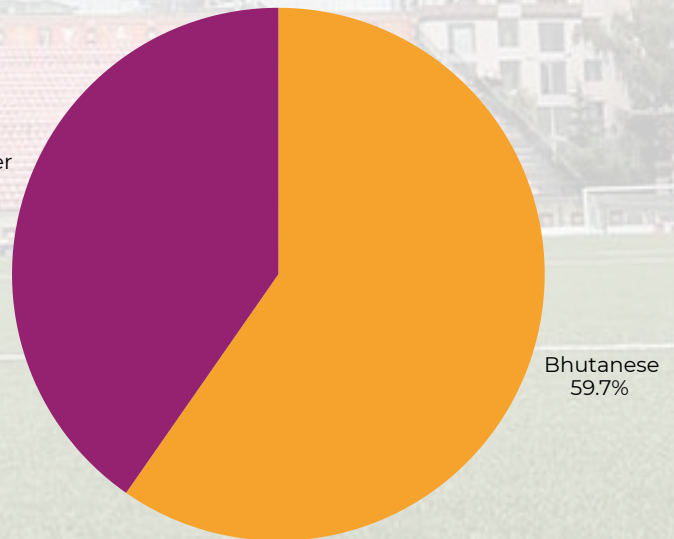
Distribution of players

Foreigners
15.8%



Distribution of goal scorers

Foreigner
40.3%



The 15.8% of the foreign players were responsible for more than 40% of the goals that were scored in the league, indicating a direct correlation between goal scoring and foreign players also suggesting that the clubs incline towards employing foreign players in forwards positions.

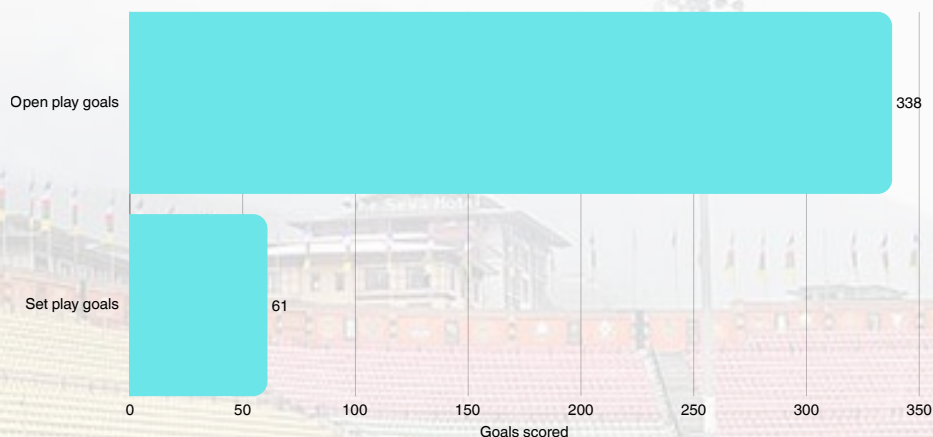


Goals at a Glance

FOREIGN PLAYERS ON HIMALYAN SHORES

Open play v Set play goals

Series 1



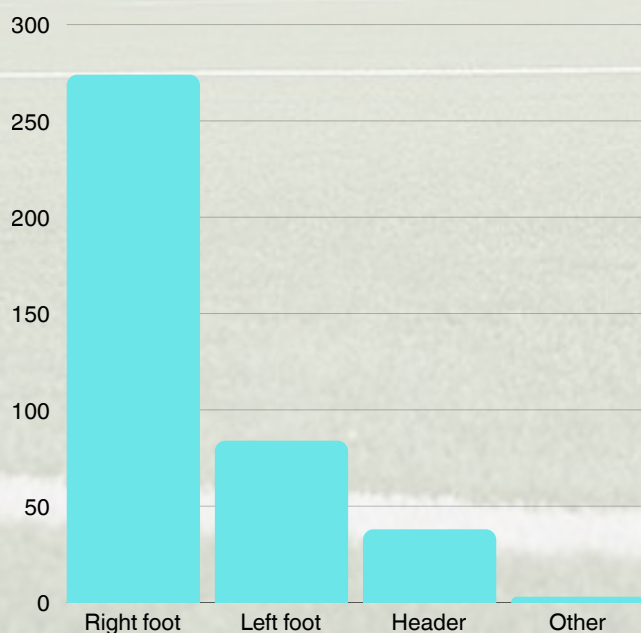
A grand total of 399 goals were scored in 90 matches at an average of 4.45 goals per game.

Out of these 399 goals, 61 goals were scored directly from set pieces (corner kicks, free kicks and penalties). 12 penalties were scored across the season.

No co-relation was found between team's league position and goals scored from set pieces.

Part of body used to score goals

Series 1



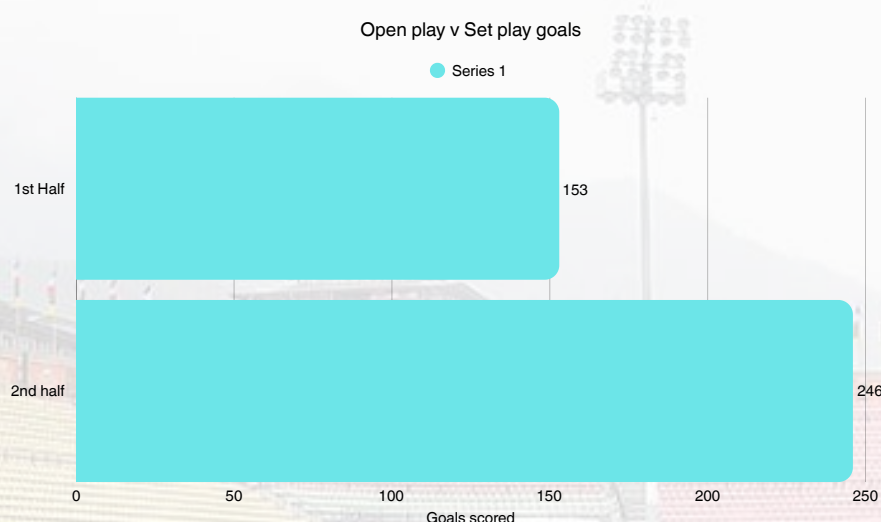
Out of 399 goals scored in the league 274 were scored from the right foot of the finishes, 84 from the left and 38 from headers with 3 goals also coming from other body parts. This indicates a overwhelming presence of right footed forward players in the league.

Out of all clubs, majority of the attacks and goals came from the left flank but Ugyen Academy (UA FC) had most of the attacks from the right indicating quality left footed wide attackers who contributed from the wide areas cutting inside and creating goal scoring chances.

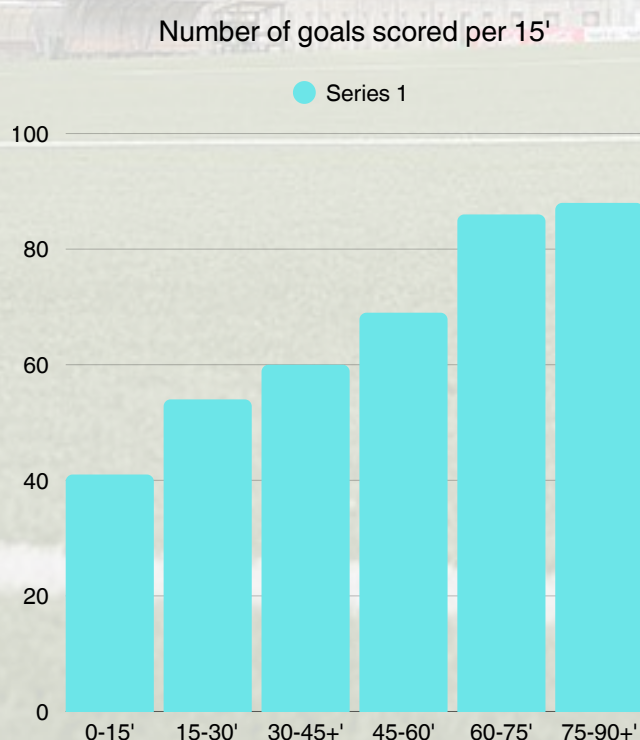


Goals at a Glance

WHEN ARE THE GOALS SCORED?



Significant differences were found in the goals scored in each half. The majority of the goals were scored in the 2nd half, 61.65% of the goals were scored in the 2nd half indicating the deciding moments of the game came during the 2nd half. This indicates players were prone to being fatigued as the game went on to its final stages.



Significant differences were also identified in goals being scored in every interval of 15 minutes. The first 15mins in the game resulted in the most fewer goals (i.e. 41), while the last 15mins of the games recorded the most goals scored in the games (i.e. 88). More than double goals were scored in the final 15mins of games as compared to the first 15mins.

Statistical analysis also indicated a significant impact of the first goal in the final result of the match χ^2 . Most teams (62.64%) that scored the first goal, ended up winning the match. However, the final result of the match did not get affected by the home advantages



Goals at a Glance

WHERE ARE THE GOALS COMING FROM?

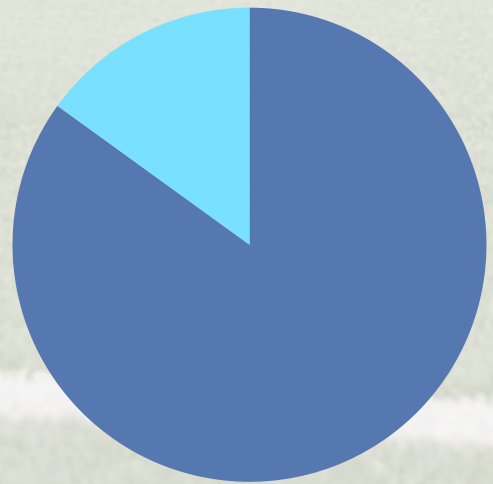
Percentage of goals from each direction



Highest goals were scored after attacking situations from the left flank (41%), followed by the right flank (36%) and finally after attacks from the central channel (23%). This statistic helps conclude that teams prefer going around the opposition and rely on the ability of wingers to stay wide and create from wider areas to find goal scoring chances, especially from the left.

- Goals from outside the 18 yd box
- Goals from inside the 18 yd box

Goals from inside the 18 yd box
15%



Goals from outside the 18 yd box
85%

The 2025 BPL season 15% of the goals were scored from outside the box which indicates a significant difference from the English premier league which showcased only 9.1% of goals coming from outside the box in 2024/25 season (Stats perform) and 12.3% in the Spanish Laliga in the year 2024/25 (stats perform).

This observation helps in concluding that the players playing in BPL are habituated to go for the spectacular goal from outside the box and the level of goalkeeping might not be up to the highest order in all the clubs, leading to more goals from distance.



Goals at a Glance

COMPONENTS OF GOALS

Methodology:

Various components were established to objectify the study of the goals scored. These components were subjectively noted, each goal scored could have multiple components that were notably visible during the goal was scored. The objective of categorizing goals.

- **Individual ability:** the player who scored or assisted showcased exceptional individual ability on the ball in beating players.
- **Individual error:** The goal involved major defensive error from the conceding team.
- **Low cross:** The goal involved a low hard cross into the box from wide areas.
- **Build up:** The goal involved progression of ball from goal kick all the way to the opposition goal.
- **Transition:** The goal was scored in under 10 seconds of recovering possession of the ball.
- **Lofted cross:** The goal involved a lofted cross swung in from the wide areas.
- **Corner:** The goal was scored directly from the corner kick.
- **Freekick:** The goal resulted directly from a freekick, irrespective of the fact if it was a direct shot or cross or pass.
- **Key pass:** The goal scoring opportunity was because of a key defense splitting pass.

Goals Scored													
n	Match no	Scorer	S Nationality	Finish	Assist	A Nationality	Shot inside box	Touches in finish	Minute	Opp	Direction of attack	Component	
1	1	Tsheltrim (B)	Bhutanese	Right	-	-	Y	2	58	Tensung	Centre	Individual ability, individual error	
5	1	Alessandro (F)	Foreigner	Right	Chienore(F)	Foreigner	Y	4	86	Tensung	Left	Individual ability	
6	1	Chienore (F)	Foreigner	Right	Alessandro (F)	Foreigner	Y	2	90	Tensung	Left	Low cross, Build up	
7	2	Tsheltrim (B)	Bhutanese	Left	Alessandro (F)	Foreigner	Y	1	40	SCFC	Right	Low cross	
8	2	ba #10 (F)	Foreigner	Right	Assente (F)	Foreigner	Y	2	48	SCFC	Right	Throw in, Lofted cross	
9	2	ba #10 (F)	Foreigner	Right	-	-	Y	1	70	SCFC	Centre	Penalty	
10	2	toroyuki #5 (F)	Foreigner	Left	ba #10 (F)	Foreigner	Y	1	82	SCFC	Centre	Build up, Key pass	
11	3	ba #10 (F)	Foreigner	head	kelzang #14 (B)	Bhutanese	Y	1	33	Tsirang	Left	Freekick, Lofted cross	
12	3	Kinga #11 (B)	Bhutanese	Right	ba #10 (F)	Foreigner	Y	2	68	Tsirang	Right	Counter, Key pass	
13	3	Assente #25 (F)	Foreigner	Left	ba #10 (F)	Foreigner	Y	2	70	Tsirang	Left	Counter, Key pass	
14	3	Alessandro #93 (F)	Foreigner	Left	ba #10 (F)	Foreigner	Y	3	86	Tsirang	Left	Counter, Key pass	
15	4	ba #10 (F)	Foreigner	Right	Assente #25 (F)	Foreigner	Y	1	5	BFF A	Centre	Counter, Key pass, Low cross	
16	4	Chatur #66 (B)	Bhutanese	Head	Alessandro (F)	Foreigner	Y	1	17	BFF A	Left	Corner, Lofted cross	
17	4	ba #10 (F)	Foreigner	Head	Hag #8 (B)	Bhutanese	Y	1	81	BFF A	Right	Corner, Lofted cross	
18	5	Kinga #11 (B)	Bhutanese	Head	Mam #8 (B)	Bhutanese	Y	1	14	11A	Centre	Convert to dropdown chips	

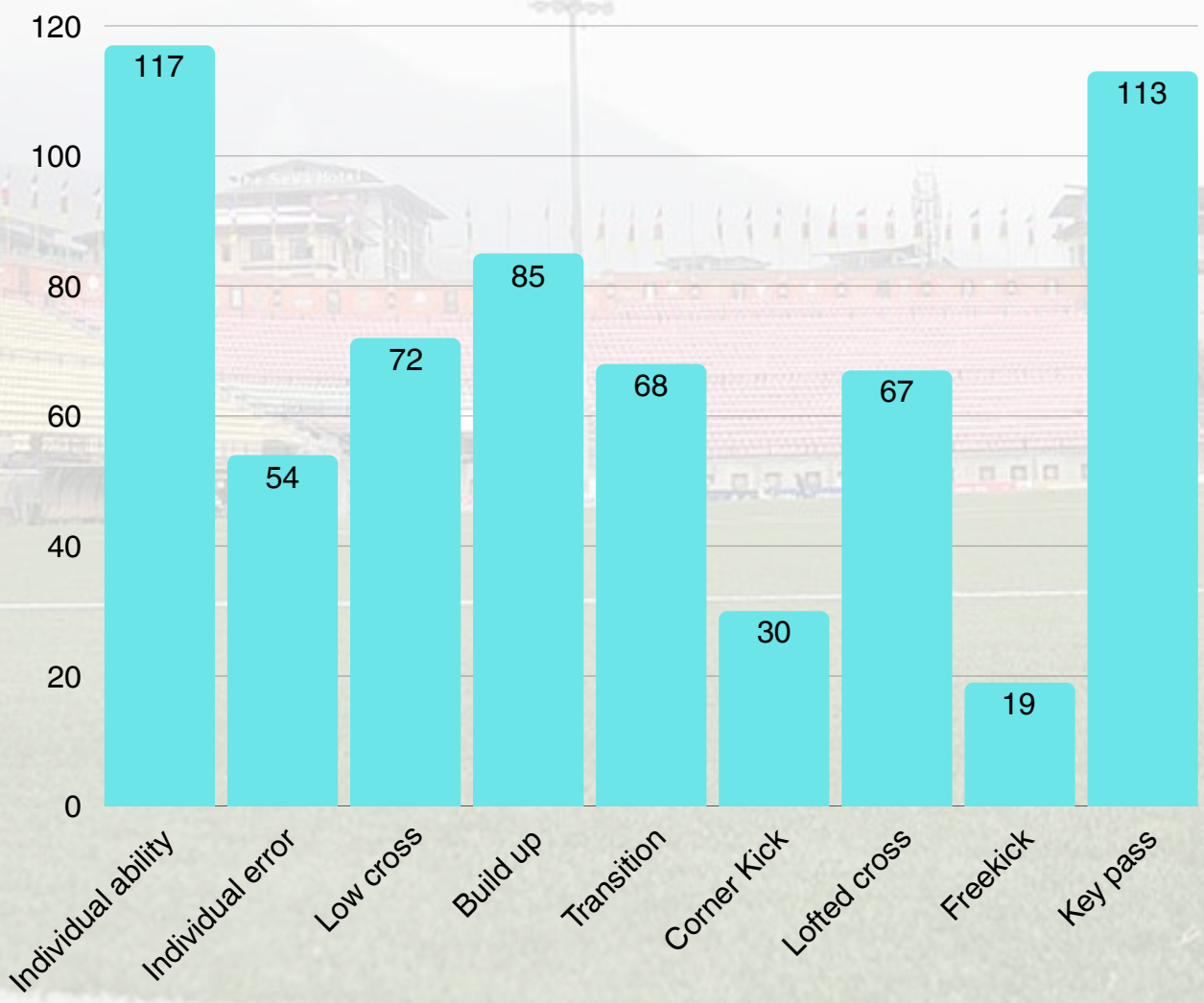
Goals were categorized into key components which were manually tagged using google sheets.



Goals at a Glance

COMPONENTS OF GOALS

Components of Goals scored



Direct correlation was found between the components of 'Individual ability' & 'Key pass' and the final position of the teams in the league table, concluding to the fact that the top half of the teams had the major share of top talents playing the Bhutan premier league 2025.



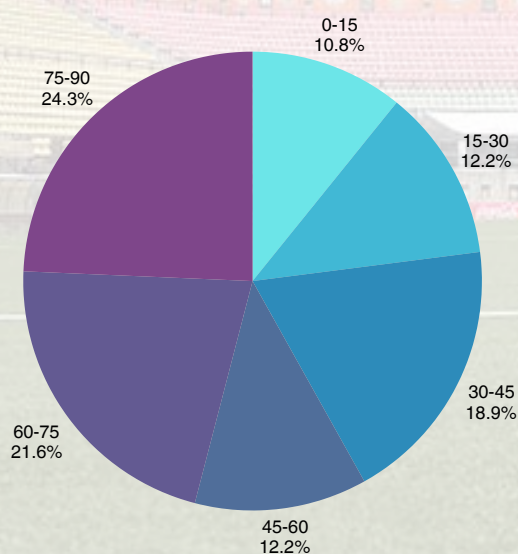
Teams at a Glance



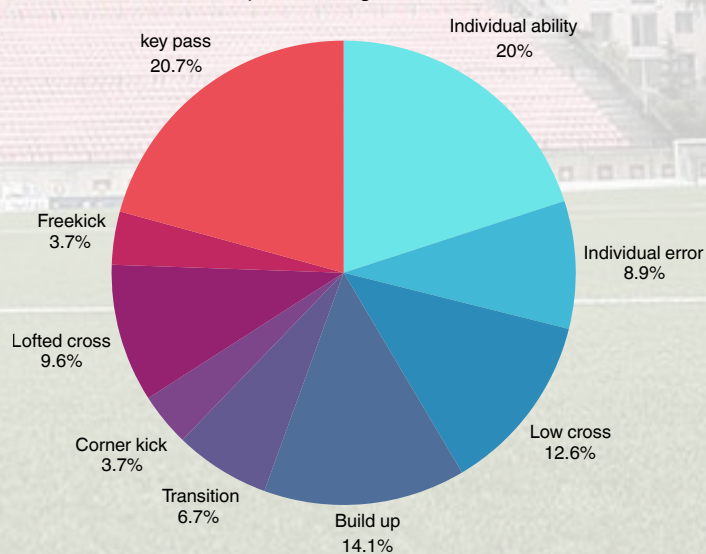
PARO FC

League Position	Matches Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Goals scored
1st	18	16	1	1	74

Distribution of goals scored per 15' interval



Components of goals scored



Paro FC retained the title in 2025 winning all games but 2 (1 loss, 1 draw). The had the highest goals scored after the 75th minute indicating to a superior bench strength and fitness ability of the players, their highest component of the goals scored was unsurprisingly Individual ability and low cross indicating the foreign players had a major role to play in creating goal scoring chances from wide areas when up against Bhutanese fullbacks.



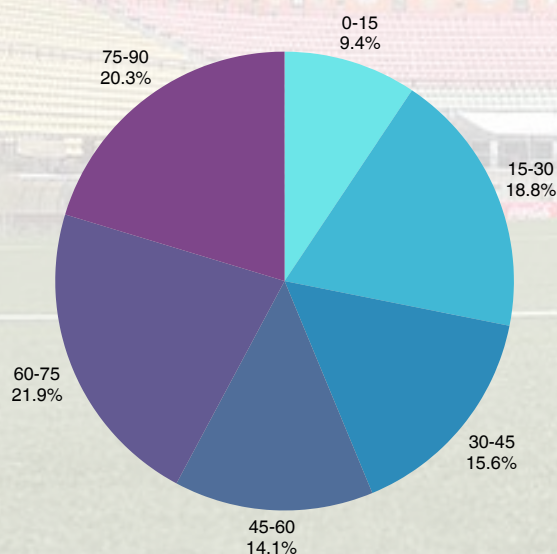
Teams at a Glance

THIMPHU CITY FC

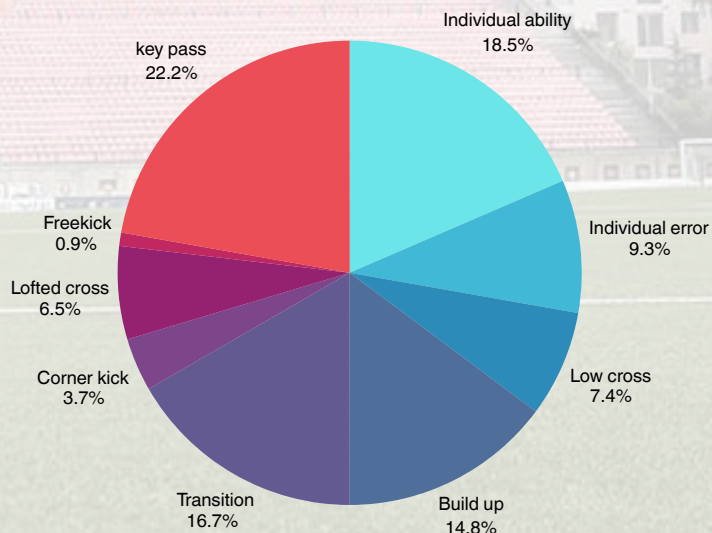


League Position	Matches Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Goals scored
2nd	18	14	1	3	64

Distribution of goals scored per 15' interval



Components of goals scored



Thimphu city gave the champions a tough chase winning 14 out of 18 matches with only one loss throughout the season against the eventual champions in Paro FC, City had the likes of Dawa Tshering(26, Bhutan) who had a total of 22 G+A in the season eventually bagging the Most valuable player award. Majority of the goals resulted from 'key passes' threaded from midfield as the top Bhutanese playmakers were donning the city's red this season.



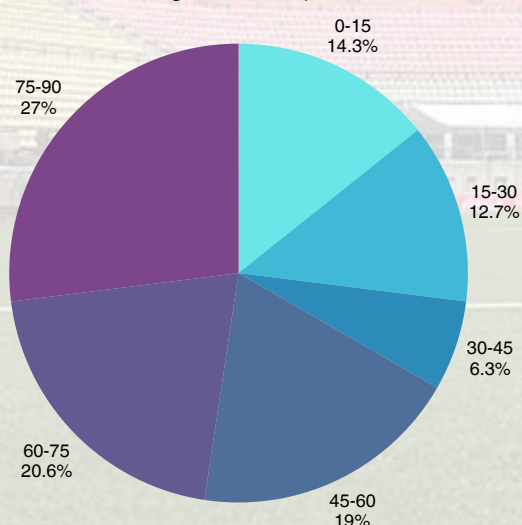
Teams at a Glance

RTC FC

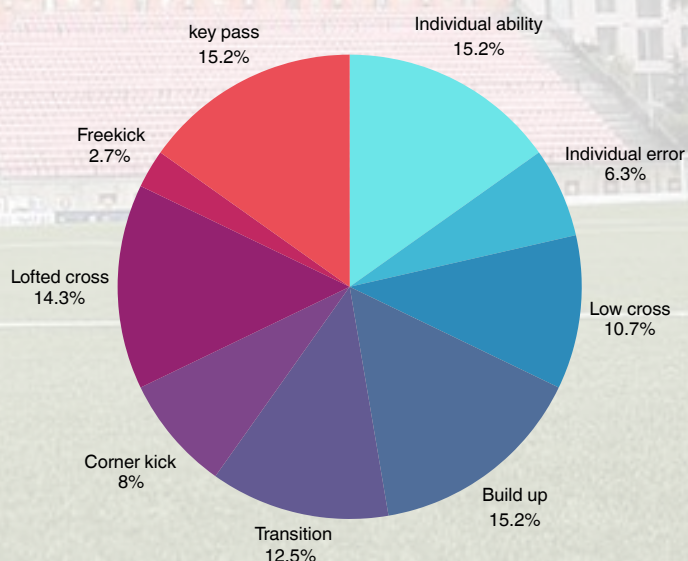


League Position	Matches Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Goals scored
3rd	18	12	2	4	62

Distribution of goals scored per 15' interval



Components of goals scored



Royal Thimphu College FC were the surprise package this season doing one better than their 4th placed finish in 2023 and 2024. 20 year old Kinzang Tenzin emerged as the highest goal scorer with 20 goals and 20 year old Pema Zangpo emerged as the highest scoring midfielder with 12 goals. Their trust on local talent was a direction correlation to less percentage of goal components 'Individual ability' & 'key pass'.



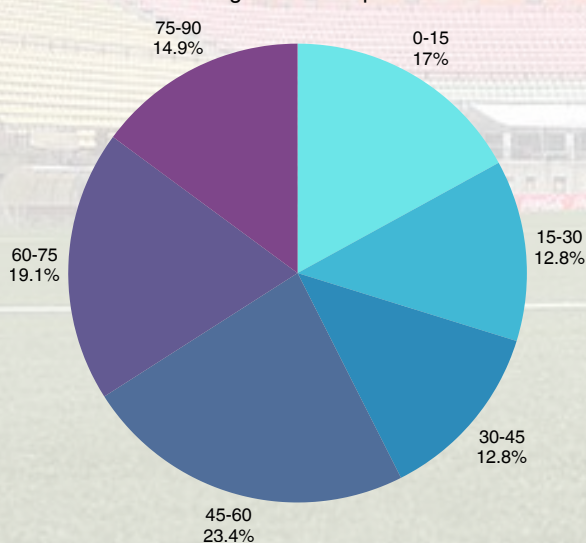
Teams at a Glance

TRANSPORT UTD FC

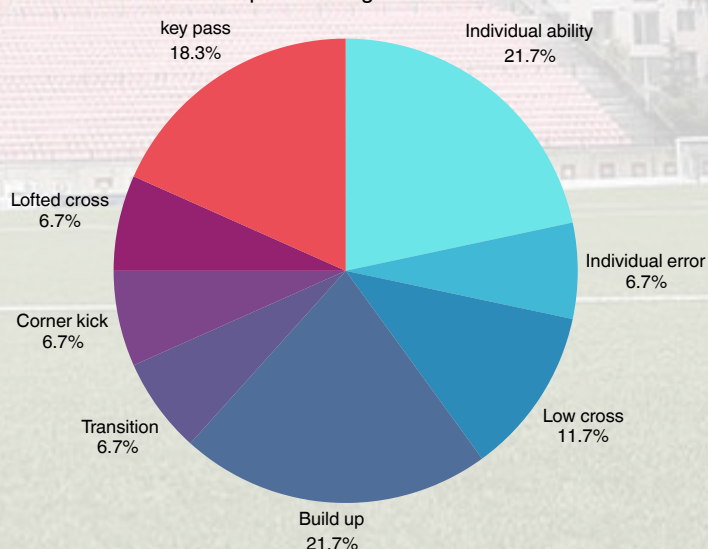


League Position	Matches Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Goals scored
4th	18	11	1	6	46

Distribution of goals scored per 15' interval



Components of goals scored



Transport United had the highest share of goals scored in the first 15 minutes of matches indicating a fast start to their games. More than 20% of the goals also showcased the component of 'Build up' which helps conclude that TUFC were a team who tried to build out from the back and had a fixed philosophy going into the season. 26 year Abayomi Fakunle Nigerian forward was their stand out performer of the season scoring 12 goals and providing 3 assists.



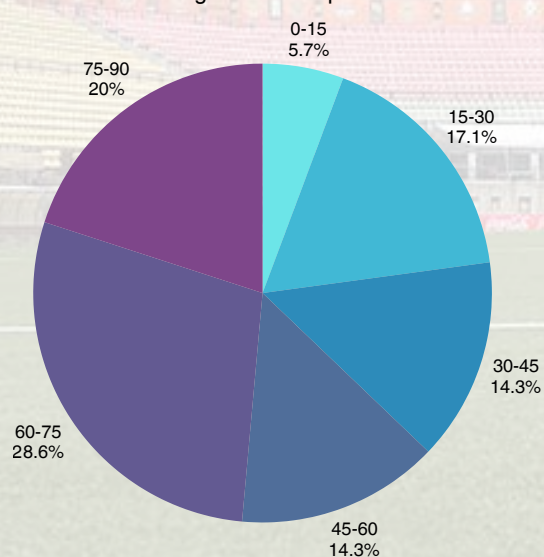
Teams at a Glance



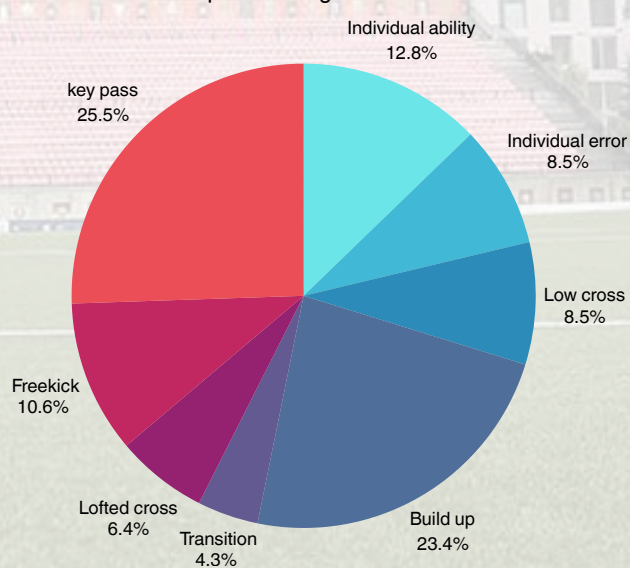
BFF ACADEMY U-19

League Position	Matches Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Goals scored
5th	18	8	3	7	40

Distribution of goals scored per 15' interval



Components of goals scored



BFF Academy U-19 team saw a significant improvement in performance from 2024 season where they finished 7th (4W, 3D, 11L) and finished 5th (8W, 3D, 7L) including wins against top teams. More than 49% of the goals scored came after the 60th minute, showing the endurance ability of academy players and more than 48% of their goals had the components of 'key pass' & 'build up' indicating a philosophy of creating from the defense line and playing through opponents.



What do the numbers tell us?

TRENDS & TAKEAWAYS

The analysis indicated statistically significant differences between goals scored from set play and open play, where most of them were scored from open play. Significant differences were also observed in the way goals were scored from open play, where the majority of goals was scored after crosses from players possessing individual quality on the ball. Similar differences were found in the achievement of goals from set play, where most of them were scored after a penalty kick. The goals were achieved to a greater extent from open play in relation to set play, as observed by other studies (Armatas & Yiannakos, 2010; Gonzalez-Rodenas et al., 2017; Michailidis et al., 2018; Mitrotasios & Armatas, 2014; Njororai, 2004; 2013; Tousios et al., 2018; Vergonis et al., 2019; Yiannakos & Armatas, 2006), while there are data from national team events that do not identify significant differences in goals scored from open play and set play (Hughes & Churchill, 2005).

Significant differences were identified in the achievement of goals per half time, as well as per 15' minutes of play (0'-15', 15'-30', 30'-45', 45'-60', 60'-75', 75'-90'+ min.). Specifically, the majority of goals was scored in the 2nd half and more frequently in the last minutes (75'-90'+ min.) of the game, respectively. Several researchers refer to similar results for the achievement of goals to a statistically significant degree during the 2nd half and specifically during the last 15 minutes of the game.

Significant correlation was observed in the goals possessing the components of 'Individual ability' and 'Key pass' and the final league position of the team in the table, helping conclude that the majority of the teams rely on individual ability of players to break opponent defense lines and create goal scoring situations.

15.8% of the foreign players were responsible for more than 40% of the goals being scored in the league, stating to a fact that teams rely on foreign talent which can carry the ball to create goal scoring chances rather than Bhutanese players. The two outliers were Dawa Tshering (Thimphu city FC) and Kinzang Tenzin (RTC FC).



Takeaways: Technical

Significant differences have been noted in the way goals were scored from set play and open play and in the scoring time period that the goals were scored. Likewise, significant differences have been found in the game-related statistical performance indicators for winning, drawing and losing teams. Most of them scored from open play and the most common actions to score were the low cross, individual ability the key pass or the long shot. Taken into consideration that most goals were scored in the 2nd half during the 75'-90'+ minute, it would be beneficial for the coaches to adjust their training in such way that their teams and players can run longer distances and cope with fatigue.

Differences were also found in game-related performance indicators between the winning, the losing and the drawing teams. Significant higher averages were found for the successful – winning teams in the performance indicators of the offensive game in comparison with losing and drawing teams in the variables, ball possession, corners, total shots and total shots on target. Respectively, lower averages were also noted for the winning teams in the defensive game e.g., shots on target received, total shots received and red cards. In addition, home advantage had an impact on game-related statistics, while the first goal was crucial, as in most cases the team which scored first ended up winning the match.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this goal analysis of the Bhutan Premier League 2025 has provided a structured examination of goal-scoring trends and offensive performance across the season. The findings highlight key patterns in goal distribution, timing, and methods of scoring, offering valuable insights into team strategies and individual contributions. This analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of attacking dynamics within the league and serves as a useful reference for coaches, analysts, and administrators seeking to support performance improvement and the continued development of football in Bhutan.

Tashi Delek

