

Analysis of the Indonesian Men's Volleyball Team Match in the 2025 SEA Games Final

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Keywords

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Abstract

This study analyzes the defensive and offensive performance of the Indonesian and Thai Men's National Volleyball Teams in the 2025 SEA Games Final. Although previous research has extensively examined the effectiveness of individual volleyball techniques at the club or domestic league level, a research gap remains: no study has simultaneously analyzed the interrelationship between defense and attack in a single international final match between Southeast Asian national teams, particularly at the SEA Games. This study fills that gap. The method used is quantitative descriptive with a non-experimental approach through the observation of match video recordings from the RCTI Sports YouTube channel. The analysis focuses on defensive aspects (receiving, digging, blocking) and offensive aspects (serve, open spike, quick attack, back attack, set). The results show that the match was extremely close, with Thailand winning 3-2. Indonesia excelled in quick attacks (83.3%), sets (97.5%), and reception (94.5%), but had weaknesses in blocking (41.1%). Conversely, Thailand performed more consistently with effective blocking (58.3%), minimal service errors (87.2%), and stability in the decisive set. The key factor in Thailand's victory was not dominance in a single aspect, but rather a balanced integration of defense and attack, along with the ability to minimize unforced errors. This study contributes to the development of performance analysis in international volleyball and offers practical implications for coaches in designing integrated training programs that emphasize a balance between defense and offense.

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INTRODUCTION

Volleyball is a sport played by two opposing teams with six players on each team. The game of volleyball emphasizes the importance of effective defense and offense to reach 25 points first to win. At a high competitive level, a team's success depends not only on its offensive capabilities but also on its resilience (defense) in facing pressure from opponents during a match. In modern volleyball, the effectiveness of an attack is influenced by three main variables, namely: 1) attack tempo, 2) attack type, and 3) number of blocks (Costa et al., 2017). A study by (Echeverría et al., 2020) confirms that at higher levels of competition, there is an increase in the number of errors, direct points, and contacts that limit the opponent's counterattack, indicating the increasingly complex interaction between attack and defense. Attacking skills can be grouped into three techniques, namely 1) serve, 2) spike, and 3) passing, while the defensive aspects include 1) block, 2) dig, and 3) receive (Rehabil, S Drikos - J Phys Act Nutr, 2018). An effective offense relies not only on attacking power, but also on tactical variety and accurate decision-making. Meanwhile, defense plays an important role in reducing pressure from the opponent and creating opportunities for counterattacks. In high-intensity matches such as international championship finals, the quality of defense and offense greatly determines the final result.

Offensive aspects include various attacking activities such as serves, open spikes, quick attacks, and back attacks. Each type of attack has a different level of difficulty and effectiveness, depending on the quality of the pass, the position of the players, and the condition of the opponent's defense. For example, an analysis (Prastya & Sulistyarto, 2021) of the 2019 Proliga finalists showed that quick spikes had the highest effectiveness rate (72%) compared to other types of attacks, indicating that attack speed is a crucial factor in scoring points. Meanwhile, the defense aspect includes receiving, digging, and blocking. Effective blocking can reduce the success rate of the opponent's attack to score points directly, while good digging and receiving allow the team to maintain the rally and create opportunities for counterattacks. Thus, an effective offense contributes directly to scoring points, while a solid defense serves to hinder the opponent's attack and create opportunities for counterattacks.

The analysis was conducted through systematic observation of technical indicators of the game, such as the success of serves, attacks, and tosses, the effectiveness of blocks, the quality of digs, and receives recorded during the match. International research emphasizes that the success of teams at the elite level is largely determined by their ability to integrate offensive and defensive aspects in a balanced manner within a comprehensive game system (Drikos et al., 2021). This indicates that game performance analysis cannot be conducted separately, but must examine the relationship between the two aspects of defense and offense in the context of the match. The book "Volleyball Coaching Methodology" (Dr. Or. Muhammad, M.Pd.; Drs. Machfud Irsyada, M.Pd.; Dr. Irmantara Subagio, 2024) also emphasizes the importance of comprehensive training program evaluation, including methods for assessing athlete performance and the overall effectiveness of the program, which are relevant for conducting such correlation analysis.

The SEA Games is the largest multi-sport event in Southeast Asia, featuring fierce competition among participating countries. The men's volleyball final between Indonesia and Thailand at the 2025 SEA Games was one of the most important matches, reflecting the quality of volleyball in the Southeast Asian region. The final match, which took place at Huamark Stadium, Bangkok on December 19, 2025, ended with Thailand's victory over Indonesia in a dramatic five-set battle 3-2 (25-20, 16-25, 25-23, 23-25, 15-12) (AVC-PRESS, 2025). This defeat ended Indonesia's dominance, which had previously won the men's indoor volleyball gold medal in three consecutive SEA Games editions, namely 2019, 2021, and 2023. The two teams are known to have different playing styles, both in terms of attack strategy and defense system, making the final match a relevant context for in-depth analysis. An analysis of the defensive and offensive performance in this match is expected to provide insights into the strategies employed by each team at the international competition level.

Research on volleyball in Indonesia in recent years has mostly focused on individual techniques and the influence of training methods. Several studies have examined technical aspects of the game, such as the effectiveness of various types of spikes and the role of the

libero in the defense system. (Mahendra et al., 2024) found that the libero's reaction ability plays an important role in improving the quality of the team's defense, especially in high-pressure situations. Additionally, (Setiyawan et al., 2023) demonstrated that variations in attack types, such as open spikes and quick attacks, influence the effectiveness of attacks in national competitions. Other research also states that special defense drills can improve the ability to receive opponents' attacks (Zulkarnain et al., 2022). However, research that specifically analyzes the performance of defense and offense in competitive situations for the Indonesian Men's National Volleyball Team at international events such as the SEA Games is still relatively limited.

Based on the above description, a research gap can be identified, namely that there are still few studies that comprehensively analyze both defense and offense aspects simultaneously in the context of international finals, particularly in men's volleyball at the SEA Games. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the defensive and offensive performance of the Indonesian and Thai men's national volleyball teams in the 2025 SEA Games final.

The results of this study are expected to contribute scientifically to the development of volleyball performance analysis studies and serve as a practical reference for coaches and sports practitioners in designing game strategies based on match data.

METHODS

In this study, researchers applied quantitative methods with a non-experimental descriptive approach. Non-experimental quantitative research is a research method that aims to describe a particular symptom or phenomenon without testing hypotheses (Maksum, 2018). Meanwhile, descriptive research is research conducted without treating the sample, manipulating or changing the independent variables, but rather describing the conditions as they are (Sugiyono, 2020).

In this study, researchers conducted observations over a period of 10 days with the aim of analyzing video recordings of the 2025 SEA Games volleyball final between Indonesia and Thailand repeatedly.

The sampling method applied in this study was purposive sampling, with the 2025 SEA Games Final match between the Indonesian national team and the Thai national team as the main criterion.

The data source used in this study is secondary data. Secondary data refers to data collected from literature or previously available documented sources (Maksum, 2012). In the context of this study, the data used comes from video recordings of the 2025 SEA Games finals accessed via the RCTI Sports YouTube channel (Sport, 2025).

Research instruments are tools or means used by researchers to collect data, so that the collection process becomes more efficient and the results are more optimal, that is, more accurate, comprehensive, and structured to facilitate data processing (Arikunto, 2006). In this study, the instruments used consisted of a video player to observe recordings of the 2025 SEA Games Final between Indonesia and Thailand, as well as calculation forms for defense and offense aspects to facilitate data processing.

The data collection technique used in this study was observation. Observation is a method of systematic observation and recording of phenomena that appear in the research object (Maksum, 2012). The researcher observed video recordings of the 2025 SEA Games final between Indonesia and Thailand. This observation focused on the defense and offense aspects displayed by the Indonesian and Thai national volleyball teams in the 2025 SEA Games.

The data collected from the observation sheets for the defense and offense aspects that occurred during the match will be categorized according to predetermined criteria. In this study, the researcher processed the observation results by applying quantitative data analysis techniques using statistics appropriate to the type of research and the characteristics of the issues being studied (Musfiqin, 2012).

The data analysis technique used in this study is percentage calculation. This is done by calculating the defense and attack performance of the Indonesian and Thai teams in the 2025 SEA Games Final based on the following criteria: for defense, it includes receive, dig, and block; while for offense, it includes serve, open spike, quick attack, and back attack.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on data analysis conducted on the defense and offense performance of the Indonesian and Thai national teams in the 2025 SEA Games Final held on December 19, 2025, at the Huamark Indoor Stadium, Bangkok, Thailand, several findings were obtained. The research data was sourced from statistics on the match between the Indonesian and Thai men's volleyball teams in the final. The research results include the number of successes and failures in the defense components, including blocks, digs, and receives; as well as the offense components, including serves, open spikes, quick attacks, and back attacks.

The following is a description of the research data presented based on the accumulation of each criterion, both for defense (block, dig, receive) and offense (serve, open spike, quick attack, back attack) aspects, in the Indonesia and Thailand match at the 2025 SEA Games Final.

Table 1. Serve Indonesian Team

Serve Indonesian Team			Total Serve
SET 1	Ace	1	22
	Good	16	
	Error	5	
SET 2	Ace	2	24
	Good	19	
	Error	3	
SET 3	Ace	0	24
	Good	18	
	Error	6	
SET 4	Ace	1	24
	Good	19	
	Error	4	
SET 5	Ace	1	13
	Good	10	
	Error	2	
Total Serve Ace			5
Total Serve Error			20
Total Serve			107

Table 2. Serve Thailand Team

Serve Thailand Team			Total Serve
SET 1	Ace	0	23
	Good	19	
	Error	4	
SET 2	Ace	1	17
	Good	14	
	Error	2	
SET 3	Ace	0	24
	Good	19	
	Error	5	
SET 4	Ace	0	24
	Good	23	
	Error	1	
SET 5	Ace	0	14
	Good	13	
	Error	1	
Total Serve Ace			1
Total Serve Error			13
Total Serve			102

Indonesian team was more aggressive in their serves, successfully scoring 5 aces, but their high error rate (18.7%) showed the risks they took. The Thai team, although less aggressive in scoring aces, was able to maintain control by keeping their serve errors lower, which helped them maintain their flow of play.

Table 3. Offense Indonesian Team

		Offense Indonesian Team					
		Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5	Total
Open Spike	Good	7	18	17	13	7	62
	Error	2	5	4	3	1	15
Quick Attack	Good	6	2	1	4	2	15
	Error	1	1	0	1	0	3
Back Attack	Good	5	3	3	8	9	28
	Error	2	0	0	1	1	4
Toss	Good	22	25	24	29	19	119
	Error	1	1	0	1	0	3
Total Open Spike							77
Total Quick Attack							18
Total Back Attack							32
Total Toss							122

Table 4. Offense Thailand Team

		Offense Thailand Team					
		Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5	Total
Open Spike	Good	11	9	10	15	11	56
	Error	2	5	3	2	0	12
Quick Attack	Good	2	2	2	2	0	8
	Error	1	1	0	0	1	3
Back Attack	Good	3	6	5	5	8	27
	Error	0	0	0	1	0	1
Toos	Good	17	20	20	24	20	101
	Error	0	3	1	0	0	4
Total Open Spike							68
Total Quick Attack							11
Total Back Attack							28
Total Toss							105

Indonesian team was more varied in attacking with more frequent use of quick attacks and back attacks. Indonesia was superior in open spikes with 62 attempts compared to Thailand's 56 attempts. However, Indonesia's attack error rate was higher (17.3%), indicating that offensive pressure carries a fairly high risk. Thailand seemed to rely more on open spikes, with less varied attack distribution.

Table 5. Defense Indonesian Team

		Defense Indonesian Team					
		Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5	Total
Recive	Good	21	23	21	23	13	101
	Error	2	1	0	1	0	4
Dig	Good	2	8	3	9	7	56
	Error	2	1	4	3	1	11
Block	Good	3	6	2	7	5	23
	Error	6	4	7	8	8	33
Total Receive							105
Total Dig							67
Total Block							56

Table 6. Defense Thailand Team

		Defense Thailand Team					
		Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5	Total
Recive	Good	16	21	19	21	11	88
	Error	2	2	0	1	0	5
Dig	Good	2	6	3	5	9	25
	Error	9	5	7	5	3	29
Block	Good	6	9	6	9	5	35
	Error	0	7	6	9	3	25
Total Receive							
Total Dig							
Total Block							

Indonesian team excelled in receiving and digging, demonstrating good defense and transition skills. However, Indonesia's blocking performance is less effective, with a high blocking error rate of 33 times (58.9%). As for the Thailand team, they have more effective blocking, with 35 successful blocks and 25 failures (41.6%). However, the Thai team is slightly weaker in digging, with 29 digging errors recorded (53.7%).

This study aims to analyze the men's volleyball match between Indonesia and Thailand in the 2025 SEA Games Final held in Thailand. The match analysis was conducted based on the observed game characteristics, namely offense (serve, open spike, quick attack, back attack, toss) and defense (receive, dig, block). In that match, Thailand defeated Indonesia with a score of 3-2.

Serve is the opening shot and a crucial first step for a team to start the game (Risma & Jatra, 2020). In the context of modern volleyball, serve not only functions as the initiation of the game, but can also serve as an aggressive and strategic first attack (Haqiyah & Nur Riyadi, 2017). Serves are not only useful for scoring points, but also play an important role in shaping the dynamics and flow of the game. A high-quality serve, whether it is fast or unpredictable, puts technical pressure on the receiving player, which has a significant impact on team performance (Petrů & Vencúrik, 2024).

Based on the research results obtained, there is a difference in service performance between the Indonesian and Thai teams. Indonesian team served 107 times, with 87 of them successful, resulting in a success rate of 81.3% and 5 serve aces. Thai team served 102 times, with 89 of them successful, resulting in a success rate of 87.2%, but only 1 serve ace.

This means that in terms of serving, the Thai team showed superiority over the Indonesian team, as they only made 13 serve errors. Although they produced fewer serve aces, this shows that the Thai team's serving ability was better in terms of consistency and fewer errors compared to the Indonesian team.

Attack is an offensive pattern executed by a team in an effort to score points. One of the most common attack variations used in volleyball is the smash. The effectiveness of spikes in this sport is influenced by the choice of attack type and coordination between the setter and spiker. Quick attacks and open attacks from certain positions have proven to be more effective because they can shorten the opponent's reaction time in blocking (Wahyudi et al., 2020).

In the 2025 SEA Games Final match between Indonesia and Thailand, the types of attacks observed included open spikes, quick attacks, and back attacks. Based on the observations, the most frequently used attack pattern by both teams was the open spike. The Indonesian team attempted 77 open spikes, 62 of which were successful, achieving a success rate of 80.5%. The Thai team attempted 68 open spikes and succeeded in 56 attempts, with a success rate of 82.3%. Thus, the effectiveness of the open spike demonstrated by the Thai team was better than that of the Indonesian team.

During quick attacks, the Indonesian team attempted 18 times and succeeded 15 times, resulting in a success rate of 83.3%. The Thai team attempted quick attacks 11 times and succeeded 8 times, resulting in a success rate of 72.7%. This shows that the Indonesian team's quick attack performance was superior to that of the Thai team.

As for back attacks, the Indonesian team attempted 32 times and succeeded 28 times, with a success rate of 87.5%. The Thai team attempted back attacks 28 times and succeeded 27 times, resulting in a success rate of 96.4%. That means the Thai team's back attacks were more effective than those of the Indonesian team.

A toss is a technique used by setters in a volleyball team to set up an attack for their teammates (Varendra Daffa Pratama & Soni Sulistyarto, 2025). When setting up, there are several criteria that must be met, including: the ball must bounce steadily in the team's own playing area, have the appropriate height to make it easier for the spiker to smash, and be neither too close nor too far from the net so that the spiker can execute an effective attack on the opponent's area (Afdi et al., 2019). The better the quality of the toss performed by a team, the greater the team's chances of launching a deadly attack on the opponent.

Based on the results of the observation, the Indonesian team successfully performed 119 tosses out of a total of 122 attempts, achieving a success rate of 97.5%. The Thai team, meanwhile, successfully performed 101 tosses out of 105 attempts, with a success rate of 96.1%.

Receiving is one of the basic techniques in volleyball that plays an important role in defense. Good receiving skills have a positive impact on team resilience and form the basis for building attacks. Effective receiving allows the setter to get the ball in good quality, so that planned attack variations can be executed optimally. In the context of modern volleyball, consistent receiving quality significantly contributes to a team's offensive effectiveness (Febrianti & Hariyanto, 2025).

Based on data obtained from the research results, the receiving performance of both teams in the 2025 SEA Games Final showed quite high quality. The Indonesian team managed to receive 105 times out of a total of 111 attempts, achieving a success rate of 94.5%. This indicates that the Indonesian team's first line of defense, especially the libero and back players, was able to cope well with the pressure from the opponent's serve.

On the other hand, the Thai team also showed stable receiving performance. Thailand's consistency in this aspect allowed the setter to set the tempo of the game with better variation. Thailand successfully received 88 times out of a total of 93 attempts, resulting in a success rate of 94.6%. Overall, there is no significant difference between the receiving quality of the Indonesian and Thai teams. However, the Thai team appears more consistent in maintaining receiving stability under high-pressure situations, especially in decisive sets.

Dig is an advanced defensive maneuver performed to anticipate an opponent's attack, especially hard and targeted spikes. An effective dig not only prevents the opponent from scoring directly, but also creates opportunities for counterattacks. In high-intensity matches, digging ability is an important indicator of a team's resilience in facing opponent attacks, as well as reflecting the readiness of defensive players, such as liberos and back players (Sujarwo & Purnomo, 2020).

Based on the research data, the dig performance shown by the Indonesian team tended to fluctuate between sets. The Indonesian team managed to perform 67 digs, 56 of which were successful, achieving a success rate of 83.5%. Meanwhile, the Thai team showed relatively more stable digging performance compared to Indonesia. Thailand made 54 digs, with 25 of them successful, resulting in a success rate of 46.2%. The effectiveness of digging, which reached 75% in the fifth set, was one of the supporting factors that contributed to Thailand's victory in the deciding set.

A block is a form of active defense that aims to directly hinder or stop an opponent's attack at the net. The success of a block is not only measured by the points scored directly, but also by its ability to narrow the opponent's angle of attack and slow down the tempo of the defense (Costa et al., 2017).

Based on research data, the effectiveness of Indonesia's blocks tended to be lower than Thailand's. Indonesia successfully blocked 23 times out of a total of 56 attempts, resulting in a success rate of 41.1%. The Thai team, on the other hand, showed more consistent and effective blocking performance, successfully blocking 35 times out of a total of 60 attempts, resulting in a success rate of 58.3%.

Although Indonesia excelled in receiving and digging, the imbalance between the front and back defenses became a gap that was exploited well by the Thai team. Indonesia's

weakness in blocking can be attributed to several factors, including errors in reading the direction of the opponent's attack and suboptimal coordination between blockers. Overall, Thailand was able to maintain a balanced block to suppress Indonesia's variety of attacks. This shows that Thailand's blocking system is more structured in dealing with Indonesia's attack patterns.

The results of this study reveal that Thailand's 3–2 victory over Indonesia was not only due to superiority in one aspect of the game, but also to a good balance between defense and offense. Indonesia did excel in several offensive indicators, such as quick attack and toss, and showed excellent defensive performance in terms of receiving. However, Indonesia's weaknesses in blocking and instability in several sets became loopholes that were successfully exploited by the Thai team.

Although not always statistically superior in all offensive indicators, Thailand was able to maintain stability throughout the game with minimal serving errors, effective blocking, and more consistent digging in the decisive phases of the match. The integration of solid defense and efficient offense allowed Thailand to control the tempo of the game, especially in the fifth set, which determined the outcome of the match.

This finding is in line with the results of research conducted by (Sitti & Rangubhet, 2025), which states that the success of champion teams at the international level, such as in the Volleyball Nations League, does not only depend on one aspect of offense, but also on the ability to maintain consistency through solid defense and a low number of errors. This allows the team to make repeated and effective attacks.

As such, it can be concluded that defensive performance, particularly blocking and digging, plays a very significant role in determining the final outcome of matches at international competitions such as the SEA Games.

CONCLUSION

Based on an analysis of the performance of the Indonesian Men's National Volleyball Team's defense and offense against Thailand in the 2025 SEA Games Final, it can be concluded that: Overall, the offensive performance of both teams showed competitive quality with relatively high attack effectiveness. Indonesia excelled in quick attacks (83.3%) and tosses (97.5%), while Thailand was more consistent in open spikes (82.3%) and back attacks (96.4%). In terms of defense, Thailand showed significant superiority in blocking (58.3% vs. 41.1%) and dig stability in decisive sets. Meanwhile, Indonesia had excellent receiving (94.5%) and higher overall dig performance (72.5%), but lacked consistency in blocking and front-court coordination. The determining factor in Thailand's victory lies in the more harmonious integration between defense and offense, especially through serves with minimal errors, structured blocks, and the ability to maintain stability in high-pressure situations. Indonesia, despite excelling in several indicators, still has weaknesses in reading the opponent's attack patterns and block coordination, which causes difficulties in facing Thailand's varied attacks. The practical implication of this study is the importance of integrated training that emphasizes not only offensive strength, but also strengthening the defensive system, particularly blocking and digging, as well as consistency in reducing unforced errors. Coaches can use match data to design more adaptive and varied strategies, both in attack and defense. In academic terms, this research contributes to the literature on volleyball performance analysis at the international level, particularly in the context of final matches between countries in Southeast Asia. These findings support the view that victory in modern volleyball is determined by a balance and integration of defense and offense, rather than superiority in just one aspect.

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