

EFFECT OF AGE ON PERFORMANCE ACCORDING TO COACHES

The Effect of Age on the Performance of Individual Football Players According to Football Coaches.

Zowie van den Goorbergh

Tilburg University

Author Note

Author note: Zowie van den Goorbergh, Tilburg University, the Netherlands.

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Abstract

The existence of the home advantage in football has been studied extensively over the last 30 years. In this paper we hypothesized that the age of players will have an effect on the home advantage in football, in that older players will perform better in away games. In order to test for this age effect a questionnaire was conducted among amateur and professional coaches. Overall, the results provided support for the effect of age on the performance of players during away games. The coaches were of the opinion that older players performed better in away games. Differentiating between amateur coaches and professional coaches showed that professional coaches thought that age affected performance positively in away games and amateur coaches thought age did not have an effect. The coaches who thought that older players performed better in away games named experience, routine and crowd as possible causes. Furthermore the more a coach thought that routine was important, the more he thought that older players performed better in away games.

Keywords: football, soccer, age, home advantage, professional coaches, amateur coaches

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It seems logical that older and younger football players differ considerably in the way they approach a football match. Older players have a fair amount of experience and should be less intimidated when they have to play at an opponent's stadium. Because of that we expect older players to outperform younger players in away games.

"Football is an art more central to our culture than anything the Arts Council deigns to recognize" (Greer, as cited in Knowles, 1999). This quote shows us how interlaced football is with our culture. In the Netherlands almost 6 million people attended Eredivisie games in the season 2012-2013 alone. The visitors sections in the stadiums are a lot smaller than the sections for the home supporters, and therefore the away supporters are always in a minority. The home team enjoys the positive . This preference for playing at home is not strange, because sport teams tend to experience a home advantage.

The Home Advantage

The home advantage can be defined as "the phenomenon in which the home teams in sport competitions win over 50% of the games played under a balanced home and away schedule" (Courneya and Carron, 1992). Simply put, playing at home alone increases the chances of winning. In the majority of professional sports, there tend to be a performance advantage caused by competing at a familiar location i.e. at home. The home advantage in sport competitions has been a topic of investigation for over 30 years. Considerable evidence has been accumulated that proves that the home advantage exists on multiple levels; it has been found to exist at major league level (Pollard, 1986; Courneya & Carron, 1992), at team level (Bray, 1999; Clarke & Norman, 1995) and in individual athletes (Bray & Carron, 1992; Koning, 2005).

Game location factors

The home advantage has been extensively studied by researchers across different domains, and the most comprehensive attempt to systematically study the home advantage is the conceptual model of Courneya and Carron (1992; see also Carron et al., 2005). Their conceptual framework consists of five major components: game location, game location factors, critical psychological states, critical behavior states and performance outcomes (Carron, Loughhead & Bray, 2005). These factors can be divided into sub factors. The component of our interest is the 'game location factor', which can be subdivided into (a) crowd factors, (b) familiarity factors, (c) travel factors and (d) rule factors. The game location factor simply represents the site – home versus away – for the competition (Carron et al., 2005). These four components have an influence on critical psychological states, which in turn affect critical behavioral states of three groups of actors (i.e. athletes, coaches & officials) in the outcome of a competition (Carron et al., 2005).

Psychological states

Courneya and Carron (1992) state that psychological states are influenced by game location. The psychological state of an athlete is of huge importance in sports. These positive psychological states that are experienced by the players when playing at home versus away have a direct positive effect on performance (Terry, Walrond & Carron, 1998; Waters & Lovell, 2002). Confidence, mood and anxiety can contribute considerably to the home team advantage. A study by Terry et al. (1998) has investigated the relationship between game location and psychological states of rugby players. They found that rugby players scored higher on self-confidence lower on anxiety, and had a more positive mood prior to their home games versus away games. Similarly, Carré, Muir, Belanger & Putnam (2006) found that players were more self-confident in home games, and that players scored higher on anxiety in away games. Widmeyer and Brawley (1998) also found that athletes think that more self-

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confident players perform better in home games. However, among the athletes questioned in this study, multiple coaches indicated that being over-confident when playing at home could have a negative effect on performance (Carron et al., 2005).

Behavioral states

Another important factor in Courneya and Carron's (1992) integrative model are critical behavioral states. These include the actions of the official, competitors and coaches that contribute to the greater performance of home teams. Referees can be biased in the number of fouls they award to the home teams, influenced by the crowd noise. The presence of crowd noise can influence the referee to make a decision in favor of the home team (neville, balmer, Williams, 2002). Psychological factors can also affect the behavioral states of the competitors. Beilock, Jellison, Rydell, McConnell, & Carr (2006) noted that when the available working memory capacity of expert golfers is reduced, by stereotype threats, players performed worse at putting. In another study Dennis and Carron (1999) analyzed the strategic decisions made by ice hockey coaches as a function of game location. It was found that the coaches reported that they adopted a more assertive forechecking plan at home versus away. A video analysis of 62 National Hockey League games verified that home teams indeed forecheck more assertively (Dennis & Carron, 1999).

Using Courneya and Carron's (1992; see also Carron et al., 2005) conceptual model as a framework, the present study will focus on crowd factors and familiarity factors. The home team has typically played more often in its home environment on its own playing surface, thus has a home advantage because it is more accustomed to its surroundings. The notion that crowd may have an effect on the home advantage is based on the assumption that spectators can influence the performance of a team in many different ways.

Crowd

The influence of the crowd is the most obvious factor causing the home advantage and identified by the fans as the most influential one (Wolfson, Wakelin & Levis, 2005).

Unfortunately, it is difficult to make clear in which way the support of the crowd has an effect on the home advantage (Pollard, 2006). An example of this is the relationship between the size of the crowd and home advantage. The home advantage was even present at matches with very small crowds (Pollard & Pollard, 2005; Pollard, 2006). Besides crowd size there are other factors that need to be considered: crowd density, intensity of support and proximity of the playing field (Nevill, Newell & Gale, 1996; Pollard & Pollard, 2005; Boyko, Boyko & Boyko, 2007; Johnston, 2008). All these factors influence the outcome of a match by affecting the performance of a team. However, it is hard to pinpoint whether the influence on the crowd can be traced back to a home team advantage or an away team disadvantage, and whether this effect is conveyed directly to the players or via referee decision influenced by the crowd (Pollard, 2008).

There are a couple of explanations for this impact of the social environment on the improved performance of home teams. One explanation can be found in the social support thesis which states that a supportive environment can result in an increase in performance. In most football matches the supporters of the home team are in the majority. If we presume the social support hypothesis is right, we expect an increase in performance for the home team, because the home supporters are in the majority and can express their support more strongly (Dohmen, 2008). Contrary to the social support hypothesis, there is also the social pressure hypothesis postulating that it may be that spectators hurt performance (Dohmen, 2008).

Familiarity

Familiarity with the location was indicated as the most influential cause of the home advantage by the coaches and athletes (Courneya and Carron, 1992). Pollard (1986) stated

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that home players show more familiarity with the location's facilities and the size and texture of the playing surface. When sport teams play at home, they are familiar with their own venue, are playing under familiar conditions amid familiar surroundings. This familiarity should result in an advantage compared to the away team. Research has shown that teams who moved to another stadium in the same city, displayed a reduced home advantage during the first season in a new stadium compared to their previous season in an old stadium (Pollard, 2002). A similar study of Pollard (2007) also shows that the home advantage declines when a team moves to a new facility. Besides this more generalized feeling of familiarity with the venue (e.g. the stadium), athletes reported a more specific feeling of familiarity with the more specific and unique characteristics of their home court, such as lighting, rim tension, baskets and boards (Bray & Widmeyer, 2000). Home teams with unique playing surfaces (i.e. larger or smaller than the norm), experienced a larger home advantage because they were more familiar with the size of the playing surface than away competitors (Pollard, 1986; Clarke & Norman, 1995). Playing on artificial turf also has an effect on the performance. Home teams that are familiar with artificial turf show an increased home advantage (Barnett & Hilditch, 1993). Even the make of a football specific to the home team positively affects the team playing at home (Dosseville, 2007). Besides familiarity with the venue and the unique characteristics of a venue, a familiar routine can also have a beneficial effect on the performance of the home team (Pollard, 1986). These findings all underline the importance of familiarity and the relative advantage it can offer.

Besides the crowd's influence and familiarity, the home advantage may be related to pre-competition hormonal levels as well (Neave & Wolfson, 2005; Carré, Muir, Belanger & Putnam, 2006). Neave and Wolfson (2005) found that testosterone levels in soccer players were higher before home games than before away games. Similar research by Carré and colleagues (2005) also showed that players had higher pre-game testosterone when playing at

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home versus away. The players also had higher somatic and cognitive anxiety when playing in the opposing teams' venue.

Knowing this about familiarity, we want to further investigate the role of age on the home advantage. Recent research has shown that visiting football teams with a higher average age of the players performed better in away games (Van de Ven, 2014). For home games there wasn't an expected effect of age on performance. Older players should be more familiar with the environment and playing surface, because it is more likely that they have played in an opponent's stadium with hostile fans a number of times before (Van de Ven, 2014). Older players will be more familiar with the location, sights and face, and will therefore interpret their surroundings in a less hostile manner (Pollard, 1986).

To date research on the home advantage has primarily focused upon determining which potential underlying constructs influence the home advantage – i.e. the role of familiarity and the influence of the crowd. However, the opinions of the coaches and athletes regarding the home advantage and its underlying causes have been largely neglected. Gayton, Brioda and Elgee (2001) survey of high school coaches revealed which factors coaches mentioned as the most feasible potential cause of the home advantage. Familiarity was seen as the most likely explanation for the home advantage. Similar research has been done in which athletes had to indicate which they thought were the most important game location factors. These athletes cited familiarity with the home court and support of the crowd as most influential game location factors (Bray & Widmeyer, 2000). Unlike coaches (Gayton et al., 2001) and athletes (Bray et al., 2000), football supporters rated crowd effects as significantly more influential than familiarity and other game location factors (Wolfson, Wakelin & Lewis, 2005).

One of the shortcomings of the previous home advantage research is that the opinion of the coaches is under-exposed. In examining the role of age that might have an influence on

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the performance of the sport teams in away games, no study has been found that has asked coaches themselves to serve as active agents in the corroboration of the results found in the data (van de Ven, 2014). The examination of coaches' perception of the influence of age on team performance serves some important functions. Van de Ven (2014) found an effect of age on team performance, but this effect was small. However, even a small effect can offer a competitive advantage. The Football industry is a multimillion dollar business and every possibility to get ahead of the competition is wanted. Asking the coaches how they think about this effect of age, serves as a subjective validation of the results found in the paper of van de Ven (2013). Coaches are considered experts in their field, because of their education, evaluation and experience, so their view regarding the effect of age on performance could offer some fruitful insights .

Hence, the main aim of this paper is to examine if coaches think that older players perform better in away games – i.e. tend to rate the performance of the older players in away games higher. We predict that coaches think older players perform better in away games, but that they think there is no effect of age in home games. Furthermore a regression should offer us understanding about the underlying constructs responsible for this effect of age. In addition, a differentiation between professional coaches and amateur coaches will indicate if they hold different views regarding the effect of age on performance in away games. We predict that professional coaches think that older players perform better in away games, and that amateur coaches think older players and younger players perform equally well in away games.

Method

One-hundred and sixty-six football coaches from two different organizations volunteered to participate in a study about home advantage. One sample was taken from coaches affiliated with the 'Vakbond Voetbal Oefenmeesters Nederland (VVON)', and the other sample was collected through a mailing in cooperation with 'Coaches Betaald Voetbal (CBV)'. Among the coaches ten of them coach at a professional level at the moment and seventeen have coached at a professional level in the past. Furthermore thirty-seven coaches used to play football at a professional level. There is some overlap between the participants who have coached or coach at a professional level and the participants who were professional football players in the past. Out of the 166 coaches, 41 interviewees operate or operated at a professional level and 125 interviewees operate or operated at amateur level.

The Coaches completed a single questionnaire consisting of 16 questions about the home advantage and the role of age in the performance of players during home and away games (see Appendix). The first six questions determined which causes the coaches thought were responsible for the home advantage. They had to rate the importance of support of the audience, role of the referee, familiarity with the playground, preparation before home games, and a shorter travel distance on a 6-point Likert scale ranging from 0-5. Furthermore the coaches could write down which other causes they thought were important for the home advantage.

The next section asked the coaches: 'Do you think age matters for the performance of players in away games?' According to their feeling they could choose between five choice options: (1) younger players perform a lot better, (2) younger players perform slightly better, (3) younger and older players perform equally well, (4) older players perform slightly better, (5) older players perform way better. The same question was also asked for home games. If

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coaches picked an answer to this question, they went on to list, in an open-ended format, why they thought younger/older players performed better/worse in home/away games.

In the third section, the level of coaching was assessed as well as level at which they used to play football. Coaches indicated at which level they coached in the past and at which level they were coaching now (e.g. Eredivisie (or the highest division in a foreign competition), first division (Jupiler League), non-league football/main division, amateur football, or no coaching experience) , and at which level they used to play football (e.g. Eredivisie (or the highest division in a foreign competition), first division (Jupiler League), non-league football/main division, amateur football, or no football experience). The coaches who did not answer the questions were reported as missing values and left out of the analysis. We used an alpha level of .05 for all statistical tests.

Results

A one sample *t*-test was conducted to evaluate whether the mean of the coaches' answers for players in away games was significantly different from 3, the score which indicates that older and younger players perform equally well. The sample mean of 3.29 (SD = 1.13) was significantly different from 3, $t(155) = 3.21$, $p = .002$, $d = .25$. The results support the conclusion that older players with a higher age perform better in away games according to the coaches. Another one sample *t*-test was conducted on the scores of the coaches on player performance during home games to evaluate whether their score was different from 3. The sample mean of 2.97 (SD = 1.02) was found to be not statistically significant from 3, $t(157) = -.31$, $p = .754$, $d = .05$. These results indicate that coaches think that in home games older and younger players seem to perform equally well.

Another way to analyze this effect is to conduct a paired-samples *t*-test, which compares the coaches' subjective experience of the influence of age on performance during home games and away games, i.e. if coaches rated the effect of age differently on home

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games compared to away games. The results indicate that the mean in away games ($M = 3.29$, $SD = 1.13$) was significantly greater than the mean in home games ($M = 2.97$, $SD = 1.02$), $t(155) = 2.37$, $p = .019$, $d = .38$. These results suggest that coaches think that age has an effect on rated performance. Specifically, our results suggest that coaches think that older perform better during away games than during home games.

We also compared if professional coaches and amateur coaches think differently about the influence of age on performance in away games. An independent-samples t -test showed there was significant difference in the scores for professional coaches ($M = 3.75$, $SD = 1.06$) and amateur coaches ($M = 3.13$, $SD = 1.11$), $t(154) = 3.09$, $p = .002$, $d = .50$. These results show that professional coaches are, contrary to amateur coaches, aware of this difference in performance between older and younger players in away games.

Further, a one sample t -test was conducted to evaluate whether the mean of the professional coaches' answers for players in away games was significantly different from 3. The sample mean of 3.75 ($SD = 1.06$) was significantly different from 3, $t(39) = 4.49$, $p < .001$, $d = .73$. The results support the conclusion that older players with a higher age perform better than younger players in away games according to the professional coaches. Another one sample t -test was conducted to evaluate whether the mean of the amateur coaches' answers for players in away games was significantly different from 3. The sample mean of 3.13 ($SD = 1.11$) was found to be non-significant from 3, $t(115) = 1.26$, $p < .211$, $d = .12$. Amateur coaches seem to think that older players do not perform better in away games. These results suggest that professional coaches think differently about the effect of age on performance in away games. Specifically, professional coaches think that older players perform better in away games more than amateur coaches think this is the case.

A repeated measures ANOVA was conducted to test which factors coaches think are most important to the home advantage (see Table 1). The coaches could choose between the

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effect of the crowd, the referee, familiarity with the playground, a familiar routine, and shorter travel distance. There were differences between the rated performance of these factors, Wilks' Lambda = .512, $F(4,157) = 37.387$, $p < .001$, $d = .14$. Ten paired samples t -tests were used to see which factors differed from one another. It was found that crowd support was rated by the coaches as the most important cause of the home advantage, followed by routine and familiarity which were rated as equally important. The coaches rated shorter travel distance and referee as the least important factors.

We explored coaches' perceptions of the causes of the home advantage in the first section of the questionnaire. The coaches rated five possible causes of the home advantage on their importance: support of the audience, role of the referee, familiarity with the playground, a familiar routine and shorter travel distance. These factors were used as an indication to explore which causes, rated on importance by the coaches, could explain the better performance of older players in away games (see Table 2). A multiple regression analysis indicated the predictors explained 4.9% of the variance, but this model was not statistically significant $F(1,144) = 1.479$, $p = .200$, $d = .052$. Of the five causes a familiar routine was the only significant predictor and most strongly related to the coaches perception that older players perform better in away games ($\beta = 0.203$, $p = .260$); the more a coach thinks routine is an important factor, the more he thinks that older players perform better in away games. For home games these five factors had no effect on the performance of younger or older players ($R^2 = .026$, $F(5,147) = 0.780$, $p = .580$, $d = .027$) (see Table 3).

In order to illustrate which causes the coaches identify as having an effect on the performance of older players in away games, the coaches were asked to answer an open question about the causes which they thought were of importance. Out of the 56 coaches who thought that older players perform better, 32 thought this had to do with routine, experience and crowd effects.

Discussion

The purpose of the present study was to examine coaches' perception of the influence of age on the performance of football players in home and away games. Results demonstrate that coaches think that older players perform better in away games.

Furthermore, a division between amateur and professional coaches was made to see if there were any differences between these groups. Professional coaches think that older players perform better in away games, more than amateur coaches think an older age results in a better performance in away games. More specifically, professional coaches think that older players perform better in away games and amateur coaches think there is no difference between older and younger players. However, it is unclear why there is an effect for professional coaches but not for amateur coaches. Professional coaches could be more knowledgeable and simply better than amateur coaches. Another possibility is that the effect does not exist in amateur coaches.

The difference between professional and amateur coaches is important, because professional coaches are more closely connected to professional football (i.e. the Eredivisie). The finding in this study, that only professional coaches think older players perform better in away game, serves as an affirmation of the effect of age on performance in professional football teams found in previous research (Van de ven, 2014).

Not much research has been done examining coaches' their views regarding the home advantage. Only one study has been published that investigated the coaches' perceptions of the causes of home advantage (Gayton, Broida & Elgee, 2001). The advances in home advantage research grow progressively, but virtually no research has used the subjective experience of coaches, while this could perhaps offer the most significant insights in the further understanding and exploration of the home advantage and its underlying constructs.

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Coaches in this study rated five potential factors which could have an effect on the home advantage, namely: audience, role of the referee, familiarity with the playground, a familiar routines, and shorter travel distance. Of the five factors postulated as potential causes of the home advantage, crowd support was rated by the coaches as the most important factor. These results are in line with other home advantage research which suggests that the crowd is the most influential game location factor (e.g., Schwartz & Barsky, 1977; Agnew & Carron, 1994). The scores of the coaches on these five possible causes of the home advantage were used to find out what caused the greater performance of older players in away games. The results indicate that a familiar routine would be the best explanation of the greater performance of older players in away games. The more the coaches think routine matters, the more they think older players perform better in away games.

The coaches were also asked directly which factors they thought positively affected the performance of older players in away games. The majority of the coaches named routine, experience and crowd effects as possible causes. Routine is a certain proficiency that arises from experience, so they could possibly measure the same construct. Based on these findings it can be concluded that routine and crowd are the most likely causes of the greater performance of older players in away games. Further research is needed to determine whether routine and crowd are the most important causes. This effect of performance of older players in away games could also be due to other factors, like familiarity with venue. Further research is needed to determine which factors cause the greater performance of older players in away games.

Research on the psychological states behind the home advantage indicates that confidence, mood and anxiety have a considerable effect on the home team advantage. Several studies indicate that players are more confident in home games (Terry et al., 1998; Widmeyer & Brawley, 1998; Carré et al., 2006). At away games players had a higher somatic

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and cognitive anxiety (Carré et al., 2006). The game location factors, in this case familiarity with the venue and influence of the crowd, influence these psychological states, which in turn contribute to the home advantage. That is familiarity and crowd influence the psychological states of the players, and these psychological states in turn have a positive effect of the performance of the home team. The question is why older players perform better? It could be the case that older players perform better in away games, because they are more familiar with the opposing team's environment and thus more confident. An alternative explanation might lie in the higher somatic and cognitive anxiety during away games. It is also feasible that older players perform better in away games because they experience less somatic and cognitive anxiety. Based on the data in this study the question why older players perform better in away games remains unsolved, but it could be a good starting point for future research.

The present study has some important implications for the field of study regarding the home advantage. In the future coaches can use this knowledge if they are doubtful which player to use on a certain position in an away game, when they have the choice between qualitatively similar players with different ages. In order to understand how and why coaches experience this influence of older players on the performance of the team in away games, research must continue to examine if coaches think this effect of age is also present in other types of athletes (e.g. ice hockey players, American football players) with differences in crowd size, density, intensity and proximity to the playing field. In order to enhance the understanding behind the mechanisms that cause reduced home advantage in visiting players with a higher age, athletes perception can be used as well to extend the understanding of this phenomenon and view it from another perspective. Besides a further understanding of this topic, there are other reasons why this research is interesting. A lot of money is involved in the soccer business and every competitive advantage, even a small one, can be the difference

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between winning or losing. In an industry with such a competitive atmosphere every new insight can be used to come out with an advantage.

Clearly, a lot of question regarding the effect of age on performance in away games and its underlying causes remain unanswered. There is still much to be learnt about this topic, not only in football but also in other sports.

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Appendix: Questionnaire home advantage

Thank you for your participating in our short study. We would like to ask you a couple of question about the home advantage in football. We would like to hear from you what you think are the causes of this phenomenon.

All the answers are strictly anonymous. There are no good or bad answers, it is about your vision and what you think is important. If you are interested in het results you can leave your e-mail at the end of the questionnaire.

To what extent do you think the following aspects play a part in the home advantage, the known fact that team that play at home perform better than teams that play away.

Important for the home advantage are:

	Not important at all					Extremely important
The support of the audience	0	1	2	3	4	5
The role of the referee	0	1	2	3	4	5
The familiarity with the playground	0	1	2	3	4	5
The familiar routine with home games	0	1	2	3	4	5
The shorter travel distance	0	1	2	3	4	5

Do you think age is important for the performance of players in home- and away games?

In away games:

- ☐ young players perform a lot better
- ☐ young players perform slightly better
- ☐ younger and older players perform equally well
- ☐ older players perform slightly better
- ☐ older players perform a lot better

Why do you think this is the case?

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In home games:

- ☐ young players perform a lot better
- ☐ young players perform slightly better
- ☐ younger and older players perform equally well
- ☐ older players perform slightly better
- ☐ older players perform a lot better

Why do you think this is the case?

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EFFECT OF AGE ON PERFORMANCE ACCORDING TO COACHES

What is your gender?

☐ Male

☐ Female

What is your age (in years)?

☐ - 30

☐ 31-40

☐ 41-50

☐ 51-60

☐ 60+

What is the highest level you played football at?

☐ Eredivisie (or they highest division in a foreign competition)

☐ first division (Jupiler League)

☐ non-league football/Main division

☐ amateur level

☐ never played football

What is the highest level you coached at?

☐ Eredivisie (or they highest division in a foreign competition)

☐ first division (Jupiler League)

☐ non-league football/Main division

☐ amateur level

☐ no coaching experience

At which level do you coach at the moment?

☐ Eredivisie (or they highest division in a foreign competition)

☐ first division (Jupiler League)

☐ non-league football/Main division

☐ amateur level

☐ I do not coach at the moment

What is your current position within the club where you work at the moment?

(Open question)

EFFECT OF AGE ON PERFORMANCE ACCORDING TO COACHES

Table 1

Summary of Which Factors Coaches Thought Were Most Important to the Home Advantage

Variable	Mean	SD
Crowd	3.64 ^a	.96
Referee	2.52 ^d	1.50
Familiarity	2.87 ^{bc}	1.35
Routine	2.88 ^b	1.19
Travel distance	2.66 ^{cd}	1.38

Note. All means with a different subscript differ at $p < .05$

EFFECT OF AGE ON PERFORMANCE ACCORDING TO COACHES

Table 2

Results of Multiple Regression Analysis of Factors that Influenced Performance of Older Players in Away Games

Variable	Unstandardized		Standardized		
	Coefficients		Coefficients		
	B	SE(B)	Beta	t	p
Constant	2.730	.386		7.065	< .001
Support crowd	.022	.105	.019	.208	.836
Role referee	.040	.063	.054	.640	.523
Familiarity	.023	.081	.027	.281	.779
playground					
Routine	.203	.090	.215	2.252	.026
Shorter travel	-.109	.078	-.131	-1.396	.165
distance					

EFFECT OF AGE ON PERFORMANCE ACCORDING TO COACHES

Table 3

Results of Multiple Regression Analysis of Factors that Influenced Performance of Older Players in Home Games

Variable	Unstandardized		Standardized		
	Coefficients		Coefficients		
	B	SE(B)	Beta	t	p
Constant	2.548	.346		7.353	< .001
Support crowd	.069	.094	.067	.735	.463
Role referee	-.053	.056	-.079	-.931	.353
Familiarity	-.022	.072	-.029	-.300	.764
playground					
Routine	.090	.081	.107	1.114	.267
Shorter travel	.039	.069	.053	.561	.576
distance					