

The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

Effects of expertise on football betting



Yasser.khazaal@hcuge.ch

Geneva Hospital University, Department of Addictology

INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Football is one of the most popular sports in the world.
- ❑ It is associated with important monetary transactions and financial sponsoring
- ❑ Particularly from gambling-related sponsors

Maheer 2006

The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

Maher 2006

Total no. of websites	No. of websites with sponsorship listings	No. of sponsor-ship listings	Average no. sponsorship listings per website*
107	79	640	8.1

Gambling was the most common type of sponsorship (18.8%)

Football



Unmistakably, a sport based on a high level of training and specific skills.

Beliefs about football betting

- ❑ To win, you have to prognosticate correctly
- ❑ Football bet is not the lotto
- ❑ To place your bet efficiently, you must learn about football as a sport and follow its championships

- ❑ A common belief, is that knowledge and expertise on football lead to better prediction skills on the matches' outcomes.
- ❑ If true, Football experts may bet better than laypersons

The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

Cantinotti 2004; Boulier 1999; Vergin 1999; Rogers 1998

- ❑ Several factors may affect game results such as:
 - The home field advantage
 - Most recent results of teams
 - Injuries of key players
- ❑ Football expertise could be then useful when betting on football events

The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

Gilovich 1983; Toneatto 1997

- ❑ Football, defeats have been shown to be more often discussed than wins
- ❑ Wins were attributed to skills in selecting the victorious players
- ❑ Whereas defeats were commonly attributed to unlikely or random events
- ❑ This interpretation probably contributes to an overestimation of betting skills

Illusion of control

Langer 1975; Toneatto 1997; Tavares 2003

- ❑ An expectancy of a personal betting success probability higher than the objective probability would warrant
- ❑ This type of distorted thinking was considered a major factor in gambling persistence and severity



AIM

- The present study examined whether football experts were better than non-experts for predicting the scores of the first 10 matches of the Euro-Foot 2008.

Methods

- During the three weeks prior to the beginning of the first match of the Euro-Foot 2008
- Participants predicted anonymously outcomes for the first 10 matches of the Euro-Foot 2008

The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

- The forecasts were analyzed for :
 - Winning accuracy
 - Score accuracy

The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

- A logistic regression was done to assess the links between the accuracy of the prognostics and
 - the participants' expertise categories (expert, amateur, or layperson)
 - age
 - gender.

RESULTS

N = 258 (57% men 36.6 years \pm 11.2)

Experts

55

(Journalists-professional football players, handlers or referees)

Amateurs

63

(amateur referee- play football as amateurs- football supporters)

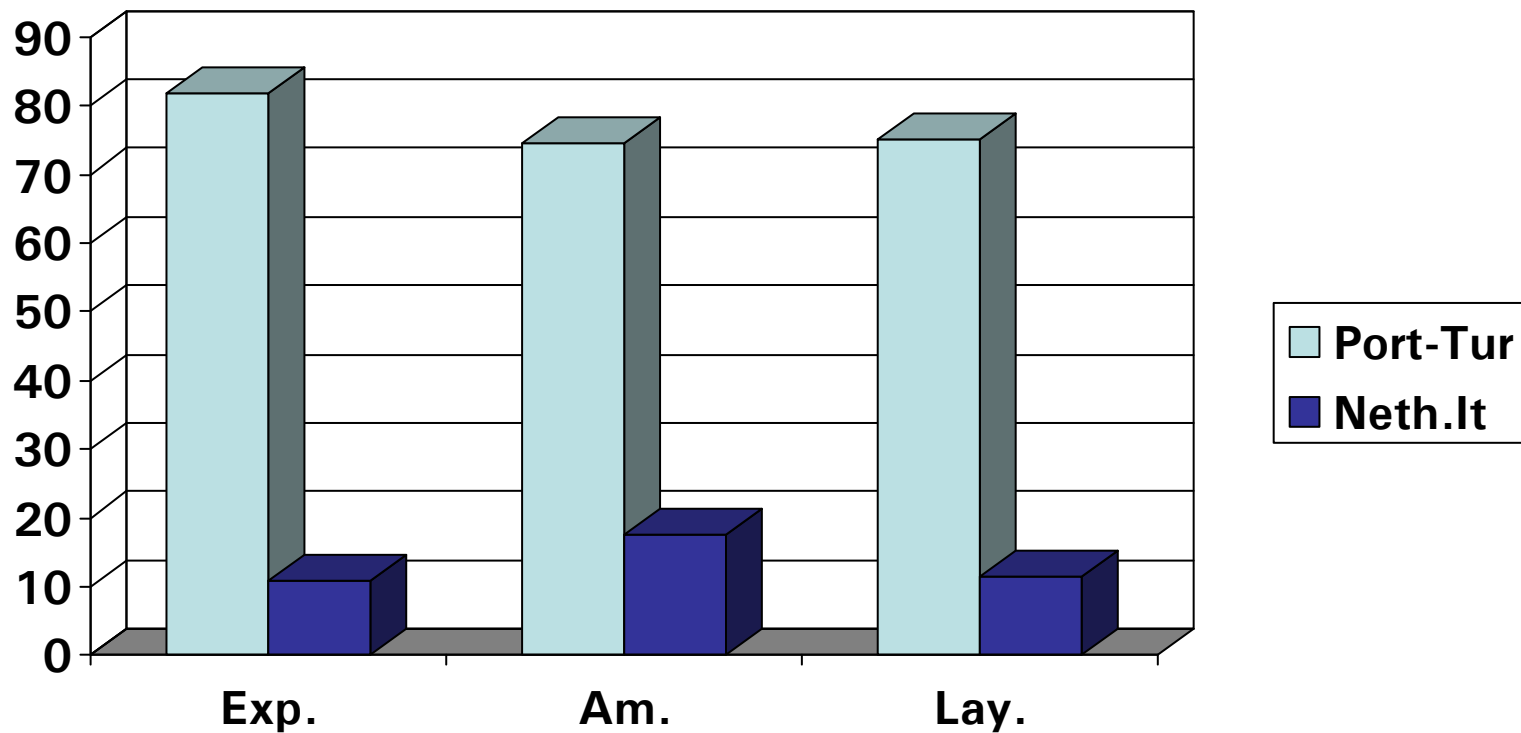
Laypersons

140

The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

<input type="checkbox"/> Portugal - Turkey	2-0
<input type="checkbox"/> Netherlands - Italy	3-0

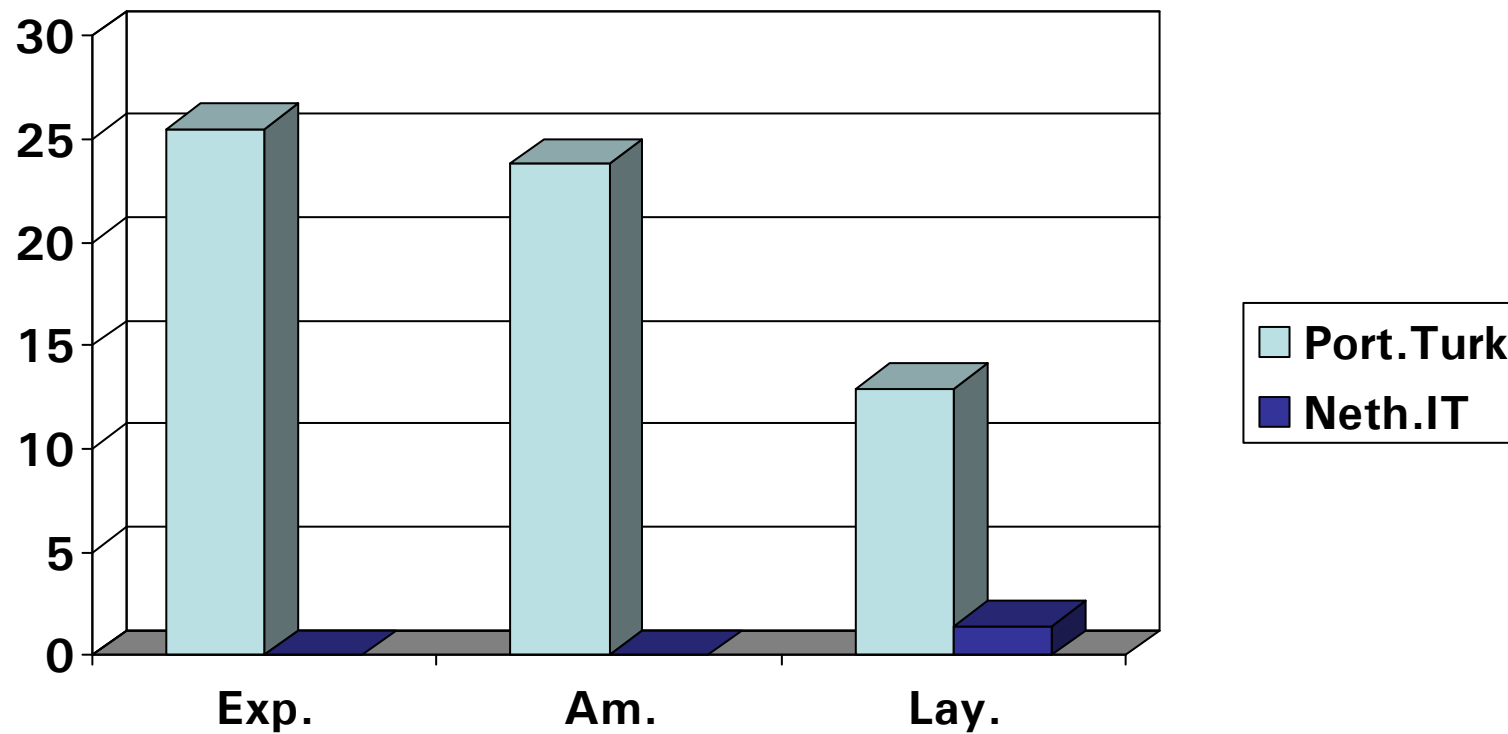
Correct Outcome (%)



The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference



Correct scores



The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

	Expert	Amateur	Layperson
Mean number of correct outcomes	3.65 (1.06)	3.94 (1.23)	4.01 (1.32)
Mean number of correct score predictions	0.80 (0.80)	0.94 (0.86)	0.77 (0.83)

The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

- Participants' categories, age and gender did not allow prediction of participants' prognostic skills ($R^2 = 5\%$)

Correct Outcome for the 10 matches ?

0

None of the participants was able to correctly predict more than 7 outcomes

The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

- By chance alone, the probability of someone predicting 10 correct outcomes is estimated to be 1.7/100.000
- An interesting probability for the sports betting business, which mostly offers big monetary winnings on a combination of match results.

The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

	1	X	2
1 Auxerre - Marseille	<input type="checkbox"/> 12%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40%	<input type="checkbox"/> 39%
2 Nancy - Lorient	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 83%	<input type="checkbox"/> 12%	<input type="checkbox"/> 5%
3 Strasbourg - Le Mans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60%	<input type="checkbox"/> 24%	<input type="checkbox"/> 16%
4 Valenciennes - Monaco	<input type="checkbox"/> 15%	<input type="checkbox"/> 24%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 61%
5 Rennes - Sochaux	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 87%	<input type="checkbox"/> 10%	<input type="checkbox"/> 3%
6 Bastia - Grenoble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 55%	<input type="checkbox"/> 35%	<input type="checkbox"/> 10%
7 Sedan - Guingamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 84%	<input type="checkbox"/> 9%	<input type="checkbox"/> 7%
8 Le Havre - Troyes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 74%	<input type="checkbox"/> 18%	<input type="checkbox"/> 8%
9 Caen - Metz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75%	<input type="checkbox"/> 18%	<input type="checkbox"/> 6%
10 Reims - Ajaccio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 70%	<input type="checkbox"/> 19%	<input type="checkbox"/> 11%
11 Nice - Saint-Etienne	<input type="checkbox"/> 19%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 57%	<input type="checkbox"/> 25%
12 Paris SG - Bordeaux	<input type="checkbox"/> 38%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 52%	<input type="checkbox"/> 11%
13 Toulouse - Lens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40%	<input type="checkbox"/> 28%	<input type="checkbox"/> 32%
14 Lyon - Lille	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 82%	<input type="checkbox"/> 11%	<input type="checkbox"/> 7%

Limitations

- ❑ It is not about a monetary gambling condition
- ❑ Expertise is evaluated according to a professional relation to football not in relation to specific knowledge related to a given team

Limitations



Octopus predicts

World cup results

Conclusions

- Expertise
- Gender
- Age
- Have no impact on the accuracy of match outcomes prognostics.



The 2010 ISAM/CSAM Annual Conference

□ Using of “expertise-related skills” in football betting seems to be a form of illusion of control.

