

## ANALYSIS OF THE PERFORMANCE OF BURKINA FASO NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM DURING THE LAST THREE EDITIONS OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL CUP OF NATIONS (2015, 2017, 2019)

*Iloubo SALFO<sup>1</sup>, Songuifolo YEO<sup>2</sup>, Ouambi ZONGO<sup>1</sup>, Flore SONGNABA<sup>3</sup>, and Nadine HASHAR-NOE<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Sciences and Techniques of Physical and Sports Activities, Burkina Faso

<sup>2</sup>National Institute of Youth and Sports of Houphouët Boigny University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

<sup>3</sup>Thomas Sankara University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

<sup>4</sup>University of Toulouse 3, France

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**ABSTRACT:** Sport in general and football in particular has evolved exponentially since its introduction to Africa through settlers. A framework for the expression of different football nations, the African Football Cup of Nations, which is organized every two years, allows the different national teams to measure themselves and evaluate the degree of progress in this discipline. The Burkinabè national football team «Stallions» participates with checkered results in recent years. The objective of this research was to study the factors which explain the instability of the performance of the Stallions during the last three (3) editions of the African Cup of Nations. A qualitative methodological approach made it possible to investigate with 30 people made up of players, technical staff, executives from the Ministry of Sports and Leisure, federal members, sports journalists and supporters. The results obtained show that the Stallions have quality players and have encountered opponents of a somewhat high level. It also appears that poor management of the workforce caused the poor results. There is a need for reorganization and rejuvenation of the national team.

**KEYWORDS:** Performance, National team, African Cup of Nations, Burkina Faso.

### 1 INTRODUCTION AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE SUBJECT

Sport today has become a social, complex and large-scale phenomenon. It includes all the influences of our century. It is the modern expression of great cultural traditions of the past. Without this sporting spirit, the pursuit of fair and peaceful competition between nations could not have been imagined. It is also experiencing an evolution such that this reveals very close interactions between its practice and other fields of human activity: political, ideological, social and cultural due to the strong impetus of political actors in the sports system in all areas. countries and especially in developing ones (Dakpo, 2003).

Of all the sporting disciplines, football, commonly known as the “king sport”, is undoubtedly the one that is best known, even the most practiced, throughout the world and therefore constitutes a social specificity that generates unambiguous economic benefits. The simplicity of the game largely explains its success. Indeed, football has, particularly in Africa, the status of a special sport and the African Football Cup of Nations (CAN) is one of the most important continental sporting competitions. It represents a favorable niche for recruiting African players for clubs in Western countries.

In Africa, the African Cup of Nations (CAN), officially called the Total African Cup of Nations, is the most important African football competition. It is organized by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and brings together African national A teams

every two years. But, from 2013, it will maintain the same cadence, but it will only be contested in odd years, in order to avoid it coinciding with the Football World Cup which takes place every four years.

The CAN progress follows simple rules. African countries participate in a tournament at the end of which the sixteen best national teams, including that of the organizing country or the organizing countries (case of co-organization), are authorized to participate in the final phase. But from the thirty second editions organized in Egypt in 2019, the competition will undergo a modification where it will increase from sixteen to twenty-four teams. The tournament consists of five stages. The twenty-four qualified teams are divided into six groups from four countries. At the first stage, that is to say, in the round of 16, each team plays three matches and at the end of which the first two teams in each group plus the four best third-placed teams are qualified to continue the competition. During this first round, the performance criteria are: in the event of a draw, each team earns one point, victory gives the right to three points and, on the other hand, defeat gives zero points. After this first stage, sixteen teams are authorized to play the round of 16.

From the second stage onwards, the matches are direct eliminations, only the victorious nations must continue to the quarter-finals and only eight teams are selected for the quarter-finals. In the third stage, the four winning teams play the semi-finals or at the end of which the two best teams face each other in the final, while the two losers play the classification match. Thus, at the end of the competition, the three best nations are rewarded. In addition to the cash rewards, the significant rewards in kind are: at the final, the winner obtains the CAN trophy and receives the gold medal, the defeated team in the final occupies second place and receives the silver medal. The victorious team in the small final occupies third place and receives the bronze medal as a reward. At the end of each edition, the twenty-four countries are ranked according to their performance.

Burkina Faso, as part of the development of sport, adopted its first national sports policy adopted in September 2007, with the overall objective of "making the sports sector a tool for social and economic development, a means of international influence and a factor strengthening cooperation with other nations" (PNS, 2007). The second national policy was created in November 2017, with the objective of "qualitatively transforming the management of sport and leisure for social well-being, national cohesion, the creation of wealth and jobs and international influence" (PNSL, 2016-2020). At the associative level, in this case football, the FBF also developed in 2014 its reference document called "Federal Football Development Policy (PFD) " with the overall objective by 2025 of making football "a tool of social and economic development, a means of international influence and a factor in strengthening cooperation with other nations."

These three policies make the "international influence of Burkina Faso" an important part. However, in recent years we have noted an instability in the performance of Senior football stallions at the different editions of the CAN, a major competition in this discipline. By referring to the last three editions, we can draw some conclusions.

Indeed, after its brilliant participation during the previous edition, Burkina Faso is expected at the CAN 2015 edition. But the Stallions fail in the group stage, suffering two defeats against Gabon and Congo and a draw against Equatorial Guinea, host of the competition.

The Stallions returned to form two years later, during CAN 2017, while Paulo Duarte has been national coach again since 2016. In group A, they start with two draws against Cameroon and Gabon (host country), then finished with a victory against Guinea-Bissau, which allowed them to finish at the top of the group ahead of Cameroon, thanks to goal difference. In the quarter-finals, the Burkinabes won against the Tunisians thanks to two goals scored late in the game. They then face Egypt in the semi-final. Their opponents opened the scoring in the second period then the Étalons equalized seven minutes later. The victory was decided on penalties, which Egypt won 4 to 3. During the small final, Burkina seized third place in the competition by beating Ghana 1 to 0 thanks to a goal from Alain Traoré from a free kick in the 89th minute. The Stallions finish on the CAN podium for the second time in their history, four years after second place acquired in South Africa

But in 2019, even a final success at home, against Mauritania (1-0), was not enough to reverse the trend. The fault of Angola who, by winning a narrow victory against modest Botswana (0-1), deprived the third in the last African Cup of a new continental meeting. For the first time since 2008, Burkina Faso will not participate in the final phase of the CAN.

To our knowledge, no study has explored the question of the performance of the national A football team in Burkina Faso. It is in this sense that this research takes place with the central research question: what are the factors which explain the instability of the performance of Stallions? This central research question leads us to formulate the general objective of our research which is to study the factors which explain the instability of the performance of the Stallions during the last three (3) editions (2015, 2017, 2019) of the African Cup of Nations. This general objective is subdivided into two specific objectives, namely:

- check the quality of the players and the level of the opponents of the Burkinabè Football Stallions during the last three editions;
- describe the organizational environment of the participation of the Burkinabè Football Stallions during the last three editions
- The answer to this question led us to put forward two hypotheses as follows:
- the quality of the players and the high level of the opponents had a negative impact on the performance of the Stallions during the CAN 2015, 2017 and 2019;
- the poor performance during the participation of the Football Stallions during the CAN 2015, 2017 and 2019 is due to the organizational environment

## **2 METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH**

### **2.1 PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY AREA**

This study was carried out in the city of Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso. The choice of Ouagadougou is explained by the fact that all the institutions are located there and accommodate the entire population concerned by the survey. In addition to this, most of a national grouping of Stallions takes place in said city.

### **2.2 NATURE AND FRAMEWORK OF THE RESEARCH**

This is qualitative cross-sectional research. It was carried out at the Institute of Sports Sciences and Human Development in Ouagadougou.

### **2.3 RESEARCH POPULATION AND SAMPLING**

#### **2.3.1 THE STUDY POPULATION**

To better understand the parameters of the study, the actors involved directly or indirectly in achieving these performances were targeted. These are,

- the selected players;
- the technical staff of the three editions;
- members of the Burkinabè Football Federation for the 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 mandates;
- executives of the Ministry of Sports and Leisure, as well as;
- sports journalists and;
- the National Union of Stallion Supporters (UNSE)

First, the choice of players and technical staff is justified by the fact that they experience the realities of the national team, therefore constitute actors likely to bring substance to our study. Then, the presence of members of the FBF is explained by their administrative functions and their knowledge of the discipline. Finally, the presence of sports journalists is justified by the fact that they have knowledge of the discipline and have accompanied the team. The supporters, for their part, play the role of twelfth players of the national team in each outing.

#### **2.3.2 STUDY SAMPLING**

Non-random sampling method and purposive choice technique were used. Thus, players and technical staff who have participated in at least two editions of the CAN are authorized in our study sample. Only federal members of the 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 terms as well as MSL executives who held technical positions during the period of the three editions could belong to the population. For journalists, those in activity before the 2017 edition and having accompanied the Stallions in at least two CANs could be considered subjects to investigate. Supporters had to be members of the union and holder of a valid membership card and who had taken outings with the national team. Any player, technical staff, MSL executives, federal member, journalist or supporter who does not meet the aforementioned criteria are excluded from our population.

The sample is composed of 30 subjects and distributed as indicated in the table below.

*Table 1. Distribution of the sample*

	<b>Surveyed sample</b>	<b>Effective</b>
1	Players	8
2	Technical staff	8
3	Federal members	4
4	MSL executives	4
5	Sports journalists	3
6	Supporters	3
	Total	30

Source: Survey results (2021)

## **2.4 DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUE AND TOOLS**

### **2.4.1 DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUE**

To collect the data, a single technique was used: an interview survey between investigator-respondent. According to Blanchet and Gotman (1992) the interview survey is relevant for “analyzing the meaning that actors give to their practices (...), highlighting the value systems and normative benchmarks from which they orient themselves and determine”. It is from this perspective that the semi-structured research interview was favored as a tool for questioning stakeholders.

### **2.4.2 DATA COLLECTION TOOLS: THE INTERVIEW GUIDE**

As part of our research, the interview guide was used to collect data. It is a means used during an interaction between interviewer and interviewee whose aim is to collect arguments or speeches. Gavard-Perret et al, (2008, p.96) defines it as the inventory of themes to be addressed during the interview and the factual data which, at one given moment or another of the exchange, will make the subject of intervention by the investigator if the respondent does not approach them spontaneously. The interview guide is intended for all subjects in the population surveyed. It was organized around two main themes. The first relates to the quality of the players and the level of the opponents. The second on the organizational environment of the qualifiers and the participation of the football Stallions.

This guide was pre-tested with a very small number of the study population. This preliminary measurement made it possible to identify inadequacies and imperfections which were taken into account in the development of the final tools.

## **2.5 PROCESS OF DATA COLLECTION**

Data collection from players and technical staff took place during the regrouping period. As for the other subjects of the population, the interview took place by appointment at the place of their convenience, especially for journalists, supporters, as well as players who are no longer active.

## **2.6 DATA PROCESSING AND USE**

The data collected through the interview was transcribed to constitute “verbatim”. These verbatim statements were thematically sorted in relation to the research objectives.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 IN THE OPINION OF THE RESPONDENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STALLIONS**

On the question of the performance of the Stallions during the last three editions of the CAN, the majority of the subjects surveyed find that the results obtained are unstable, seesawing. They find that after a 2nd place in 2013, Burkina had to qualify for the quarter-finals and that on top of that, non-qualification for CAN 2019 is not normal. One of the respondents speaking about the performance said that it was: “a rollercoaster performance. No regularity in results. Which means we don’t know the exact level of our football. After 2013, we had to do everything to stay the course, so performances are not satisfactory.” Another respondent adds that: “I notice an instability of the team, therefore a problem of positioning on the African level” On the other hand, a minority finds this performance good. And one respondent from this group stated that: “I think the

performance achieved is satisfactory. I find that two out of three final phases played are good. There are countries that have only played one final phase and others even have zero qualifications out of the three. So let's not blame the team."

### **3.2 THE QUALITY OF THE PLAYERS AND THE LEVEL OF THE OPPONENTS OF THE BURKINABÈ FOOTBALL STALLIONS DURING THE LAST THREE EDITIONS**

#### **3.2.1 THE QUALITY OF THE PLAYERS**

After the status of vice-champions of Africa 2013, the Stallions aimed to confirm at least this status of vice-vice-champions of Africa. In this regard, Paul PUT affirmed in 2015 to the press, the following: "It is true that we were vice-champions but that belongs to the past and we must now think about the future by confirming our value. It's also up to the players to prove their qualities. I trust them" (www.aa.com.fr 2015).

Housed in group A with Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, the Stallions of Burkina had to get rid of these teams and be able to play the quarter-finals. The Stallions, after three matches played in this group A, only had one draw, zero victories and two defeats. The Burkinabè national team with a total of one (1) point and with only one (1) goal scored is eliminated from the group stages of the competition and sees their initial objective limited to this stage of the CAN. In the general classification, Burkina Faso occupied last place in the competition.

The 2017 edition, the 31st CAN, took place in Gabon from January 17 to February 5, 2017 in four (4) cities in the country. In addition to host country Gabon, the Stallions had to compete for the two qualifying places in the quarter-finals with Cameroon and Guinea Bissau. A group considered strong with the presence of the host country, Cameroon known as a great football nation and Burkina-Faso, African vice-champion in 2013. At the end of the 3rd day of group matches, Burkina finished first and sees its objective achieved which was to do better than the 2015 edition.

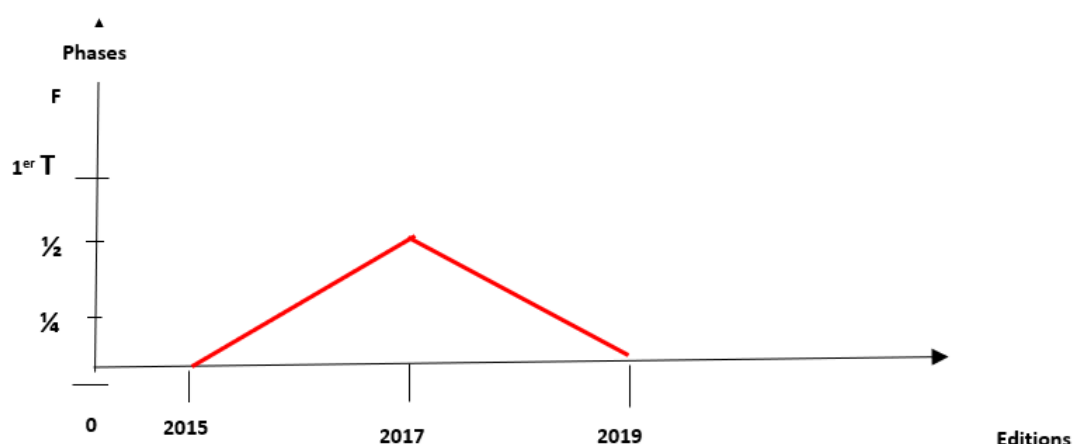
The Stallions of Burkina after qualifying for the quarter-final, eliminated Tunisia but failed against Egypt after penalties. Burkina will win the bronze medal, synonymous with a 3rd place against Ghana, improving at the same time its continental ranking. From 16th place in 2015, the Stallions jumped 13 places to reach 3rd place in the 2017 edition.

Housed in Group I of the CAN 2019 qualifiers, Les Etalons competed for the two qualifying places with Angola, Mauritania and Botswana. Recent 3rd in the previous edition, and a group within their reach, the Stallions will not achieve their objective which was to qualify for the 32nd African Cup of Nations. After the 6th day of the qualifiers, the Stallions of Burkina found themselves in 3rd place in Group I, synonymous with non-qualification for the celebration of African football.

We note the absence of Burkina Faso in this ranking due to its non-qualification for the final phase of this CAN, but occupied 12th place in the CAF annual ranking.

#### **PARTIAL CONCLUSION**

After three contested editions, we notice that the Stallions of Burkina have recorded unstable results from one edition to another (see the graph)



*Fig. 1. Standard results*

On this point, the majority of those surveyed found that the squad available to the selectors was made up of talented players ready to wear the jersey for the honor of the country. One of the respondents said that "it is the continuity of the CAN 2013 with almost the same squad, the same tenors and that the poor performance of 2015 is due to other factors and not to the quality of the men selected by the coach ". Another added that: "since 2010, the various technical staff have been able to forge a combative workforce and this is what explains the presence of Burkina almost at each CAN even if the results are not always up to our expectations. expectations". Those who do not have the same opinion as the previous ones think that the explanation for this instability in the performance of the national team lies elsewhere. For one of them "lack of motivation, the luck or bad luck factor can influence the achievement of this result".

Another added that: "In the 2019 qualifiers, the ranking proposed by the technical staff was not. We saw team executives who did not have playing time in their club, therefore a lack of competition in the leg who were starters in the national team. Having competition in your legs helps optimize performance."

### 3.2.2 THE QUALITY OF THE OPPONENTS

**Table 2. FIFA 2014 ranking as of December 18, 2014**

Countries	Congo	Burkina Faso	Gabon	Equatorial Guinea
Rank	56	63	65	120

Sources: <https://www.lequipe.fr/Football/fifa/annee-2018/page-ranking-equipes/general>

**Table 3. FIFA 2016 ranking as of December 22, 2016**

Pays	Tunisia	Egypt	Burkina-Faso	Cameroon	Guinea Bissau	Gabon
Rang	35	36	50	65	68	110

Sources: <https://www.lequipe.fr/Football/fifa/annee-2018/page-ranking-equipes/general>

**Table 4. FIFA 2018 ranking as of December 20, 2018**

Pays	Burkina-Faso	Mauritania	Angola	Botswana
Rang	61	101	125	145

Sources: <https://www.lequipe.fr/Football/fifa/annee-2018/page-ranking-equipes/general>

Looking at the FIFA rankings, just before each edition, we can see that the majority of the stallions' opponents are less rated. This observation is confirmed by the majority of surveys. Some believe that at the 2015 CAN as well as the qualifiers for the 2019 edition, Burkina had its place among the elite but internal and external problems contributed to this result. An interviewee expressed it as follows: "it was not the opponents who were stronger than Burkina, I think the problem is extra-sporting. Added to this is political instability (popular insurrection) and lack of will." And another added that: "The Stallions did not play with the same system as in 2013 where they played in a middle and low block and proceeded with counterattacks. In 2015 they played open. As a result, they come back with just one point and just one goal scored."

Only a few people interviewed find that the Stallions fell into a tough group, especially at the final phase of CAN 2015 with the host country in the same group. So, they had to fight with Gabon also for 2nd place who were almost playing at home. Some added that it was the euphoria of 2nd place obtained in 2013 which gave excess confidence to Burkina. The respondents also say that in the CAN 2019 qualifiers, that certainly there was the level of the opponents but the Stallions failed from the first day. One respondent mentioned that "It is true that the level of the group was high because any country which enters into a competition has the primary objective of qualifying. Burkina simply underestimated Mauritania."

### 3.3 THE ORGANIZATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BURKINABÈ FOOTBALL STALLIONS DURING THE LAST THREE

#### 3.3.1 PREPARATION: TRAINING COURSE, FRIENDLY MATCHES

The majority of respondents found that Burkina Faso's preparation for the various competitions did not live up to their expectations and that this must have had an impact on the achievement of Burkina Faso's performance. They expected more friendly matches and more time for training courses even if they had to start without the expatriate players. It was then that a person interviewed said that: "the technical staff had to plan more matches taking into account the level and the playing system

of our opponents in order to be able to adapt or modify our playing system according to the oppositions. ". On the other hand, there is this minority of respondents who think that the preparation of the Burkinabè team was good. "If the Stallions were 3rd in 2017 and played the final phase in 2015, it's because they had good preparation," said one respondent.

### **3.3.2 PARTICIPATION (MOTIVATION FACTORS, GROUP ATMOSPHERE, CLIMATE, ETC.)**

On this question, the majority of people surveyed say that the management of the squad was not good in the 2019 CAN qualifiers and that the atmosphere within the group was not that good either. They let us know that the squad was aging and that it was necessary to mix young people with older players, something which was not the case and this impacted the performance of the team. The respondents added that the atmosphere in the Stallions locker room was not good where tensions were noted between players during training courses. An interviewee said that "During the preparation camp in South Africa for CAN 2015, a fight broke out between team executives who belonged to sub-groups. They dragged this tension until the final phase and it was detrimental for Burkina." Another interviewee added that "PITROIIPA's international retirement is linked to this deleterious climate within the workforce and he is someone who could always bring something to the team, especially in the 2019 qualifiers" One person adds that "the non-qualification in 2019 is due to stubbornness with an aging group, cadets who are all-powerful and resistant to questioning everything. However, some respondents find that the atmosphere and atmosphere within the group has always been good. One respondent said that: "if the atmosphere within the workforce was not good, it would be felt on the ground. Their performance was always good, the players always played together, no story of individuality on the pitch. So, I think the atmosphere and the climate were good."

## **4 DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 A COMPETITIVE TEAM AND SLIGHTLY SUPERIOR TO OPPONENTS IN QUALITY DURING THE LAST THREE EDITIONS**

With reference to the results of our interviews, the population surveyed found that the Etalons had very good quality players. Indeed, with the high level of the African Cup of Nations (CAN) from edition to edition, national teams must have efficient, professional players who have playing time in their clubs in order to be competitive on the international level. The results are confirmed by one of the respondents who believes that: "The quality of the players is the strength of a team".

These results are supported by authors who emphasize that individual skills, knowledge and capabilities today represent a new form of capital, a source of performance and competitive advantages (Schuler and Macmillan, 1984; Ulrich, 1991; Wright, McMahon and McWilliams, 1994). According to human capital theory (Becker, 1962), professional experience can be defined as an accumulation of skills, knowledge and abilities that have the same properties as other types of capital present in the company (Richter and Schmidt, 2006).

Isn't the quality of the men explained by the experience that the player has accumulated with the number of his selection? This question finds its answer in the work of certain authors who find that the experience accumulated in a position or function implies "An accumulation of knowledge specific to work from the activity, practice and perception of tasks and duties associated with this specific work" (Sturman, 2003, p.611). This type of experience can be considered as an identity marker which provides information on the type of skills and knowledge brought by the individual and the effects specific and distinct from those generated by the experience accumulated within the organization (Tesluk and Jacobs, 1998).

It appears from the survey that the majority of those interviewed believe that the stallions were a level above their opponents. When we take a look at the composition of the Stallions group at CAN 2015, we see that there were no strong teams. But don't we say that the performance of a team depends on the opponents it faces?

This allows us to affirm that our hypothesis according to which the low quality of the players and the high level of the opponents had a negative impact on the performance of the Stallions during the CAN 2015, 2017 and 2019 is invalidated.

### **4.2 AN ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK TO IMPROVE IN PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION**

The study carried out shows in terms of results that the people interviewed found that the preparations of the Stallions did not live up to the ambitions. From these results, it appears that the performance of a team is linked not only to the quality of the people it has but also to the quality of the preparation carried out to achieve its objectives. To support the results of the survey, one respondent made these comments: "An ambitious team that wants to go far must focus on its preparation by increasing the number of friendly matches while not neglecting the opponents." Preparation goes hand in hand with technical-tactical work, participation in friendly matches and a healthy lifestyle (sleep and nutrition). It is only with a program that takes

into account all these conditions that we will succeed in obtaining the physique, technique and mentality to succeed in competition.

This study highlights the bad atmosphere in the Burkinabe national team (2015 and 2019 edition) and the poor management of the squad. The population surveyed believes that the management of the team was not good, with a group climate that was harmful. The technicians of the world of football are unanimous on one point; performance is linked to good management of the workforce and above all to the relationship between the players themselves but also between the players and the coach. Don't we say that good group management optimizes the group's results?

The Stallions squad was aging and had an impact on the performance of the national team while the work of Ali and Davies (2003) maintains that age is a factor directly and positively linked to professional experience.

Research interested in the relationship between age and performance has for a long time confirmed theoretical considerations such as those of the current decremental theory of aging (Welford, 1965) according to which older individuals encounter new difficulties linked to the decrease in their motor (Giniger, Dispenzieri and Einsenberg, 1983) or intellectual (Salthouse, 1991) capacities. These are therefore all elements which can constitute strong obstacles to individual performance. As the work of Sturman (2003) reminds us, other authors have developed this negative vision by highlighting the decline in ambition and general motivation of individuals to highlight the negative impact of age on performance. (Wright and Hamilton, 1978; Rhodes, 1983; Giblin, 1986; Judge and Locke, 1993). Taking into consideration the worker's environment within the organization fuels this negative relationship in the sense that it offers them fewer opportunities such as training or individual increases and consequently, individual performance in this function. (Weiss, 1995; Ehrenberg and Smith, 2000). However, some authors (Lawrence, 1988; Mc Daniel, Schmidt and Hunter, 1988; McEvoy and Cascio, 1989) have shown that the accumulation of experience at the position or function level does not lead to an improvement in performance. Although performance gains can be made, they are usually made early in a career and then decline over time.

In view of the above results, we can affirm that our hypothesis according to which the organizational environment of the participation of the football Stallions during the CAN 2015, 2017 and 2019 was not conducive to the production of performance is confirmed.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

Sport is no longer a simple human activity. It is a social phenomenon which contributes to the achievement of strategic objectives of solidarity and prosperity of its practitioners by conveying the values of respect, tolerance, mutual understanding and education in accordance with the principles of society. It will experience a remarkable evolution in most continents including the African continent and which will lead it to leave its playful framework to move towards competition, hence the African Cup of Nations football.

In doing so, the general objective of this research was to study the factors which explain the instability of the performance of the Stallions during the last three editions of the CAN. Specifically, the aim was first to identify the quality of the players and the level of the opponents of the Burkina Faso football Stallions during the last three editions, then to describe the organizational environment of the qualifiers and the participation of the Football Stallions. in these three editions. The hypotheses formulated for this study were firstly, that the quality of the players and the level of the opponents influenced the performance of the Burkinabè football Stallions during the last three editions that the organizational environment of the participation of the Burkinabè football Stallions had a negative impact also this performance.

To achieve our objectives, we carried out a literature review which allowed us to adopt a methodology. We also conducted interviews with 30 people made up of players, coaches, federal members, MSL executives, sports journalists and supporters.

The results of this research initially show that the Burkina Faso national team has had quality players since 2010 but the management and atmosphere within the group have contributed to the team's mixed results. To this, it must be added that the level of the opponents and the quality of their preparation also impacted the performance of the Stallions.

However, the fact that the study focuses only on performance in terms of results certainly constitutes its main limitation because performance encompasses several factors such as motivation, mental preparation, social, economic factors, etc. The study allowed us to know the factors which explain the instability of the performance of the Stallions and to propose suggestions for the stability of the performance of the national team during future editions.

For future research, we suggest taking into account factors such as motivation and psychological preparation which are crucial for optimizing performance.



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