

Football and Technology; A dawdling relationship

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0.1 Goal No Goal arguments

Denied goals

- For many years we have seen a big need for the introduction of technology in the beautiful game. There has always been that feeling of some teams being lucky and the more prepared ones being robbed of their victory. In the beginning there were wide screams for goal line technology but it all fell on deaf ears simply because no major football moments had been negatively decided due to lack of the above. But with the Luis Garcia ghost goal against Chelsea in the 2004-05 UCL semi-final, Chelsea were unjustly knocked out of competition because of a goal which the ball actually did not cross the line went on to actually separate the two sides at fulltime. Years later there came another big deficiency moment at the 2010 World Cup when Lampards cracker vs Germany crossed the line and goal was not awarded, England manager Fabio Capello called for introduction of Goal Line Technology(GLT) in his post match interview while on the other hand Muller said that it would have been a goal if it was 1966.

introduction of technology in football

- On this occasion football administrators succumbed to pressure and GLT went to test and the new technology was introduced into the beautiful game in 2012. GLT and its associated systems like UEFAs introduction of extra assistant referees has gone on to be a success at a very large extent. Since human needs are endless, the success of GLT four years down the road sparked the need for use video replays while a game is being played on the ground that some unsporting moments go unpunished and later committees sit to punish the same occasions with match bans yet they could have been penalized on the pitch hence bringing in the misunderstood concept of luck into football. Due to the above fact the idea of Video Assistant Referees(VARs) was put into consideration. For sometime background VAR testing has taken place and the results have clearly shown it has broken ground so fast. Countries including Australia, Germany, Portugal, Brazil,

US, Netherlands agreed to requirements set by FIFA and IFAB into to implement live experiment of VARs into games.

VAR introduction

- To start with, VARs have been used in the 2016 FIFA Club World Cup, it was used to decide two crucial moments that is the penalty decision in favour of Kashima Antlers against Atletico Nacional. Furthermore there were controversies over Ronaldos late strike when the centre referee consulted the VAR due to a communication glitch whereby the centre referee thought the video referee was talking to him but rather he was talking to the operator. It is worthy to note that VAR will always be activated mainly in cases of goal, red card, penalty decisions but furthermore also in other worthy circumstances on the pitch. After live experimentations in the above countries, IFAB will come out with the final decision concerning VARs in football either in 2018 or 2019.

0.2 Conclusion

The introduction of technology into football has been received with mixed feelings. Football conservatives have always been arguing that moments like the Hand of God, Henry vs Ireland and Garcias ghost goal have made football the most enjoyable because those are some of the surprises it usually offers but on the other hand its always feels you are cheated under such circumstances and in my home country fans cannot let it go like that, theyll make sure the game goes to a premature end. In order to stay united together in the football community introduction of technology in football has been a slow process just as the introduction of semi solid foods to a baby.