STWS CONFERENCE EUROPE

nevobo Nederlandse Volleybalbond

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The Dutch Volleyball Federation has made major advancements on match data in volleyball in collaboration with IT partner – and head sponsor of the Women's Dutch Volleyball team – ilionx. The collaboration started during last year's STWS conference in Amsterdam where Rick presented their data analytics model. This session zooms in on how the data is gathered by the video analysts, stored and analysed by ilionx and finally how it's applied in the field.

Key points from the session:

- The court is divided into 9 zones, and then divided into sub-zones to help target exactly where players are on the court.
- As volleyball works in 6 rotations, data is divided amongst these different rotations as the players move to different positions on the court.

- Data Volley 4 is a widely used application to run data analysis, however it has its limitations, and a larger more comprehensive platform was needed to run more in-depth analysis for a large set of matches.
- Ilionx collaborated with Nevobo to build a new system to house and analyse match data.
- This new system consists of Blob Storage in a data lake, transitioning to a DataBricks and then into a Azure SQL Database, where Azure Analyses Services can then create data models with the match data and produce reports and dashboards through Power BI, and prediction models through Python.
- This new system created by Ilionx contains both Indoor and Beach Volleyball match data for Nevobo, and holds over 3,500 matches, 3,000,000 actions, and 250,000 points.
- With the tools created by Ilionx, they can begin to analyse the scoring probabilities of different line-ups and players in different areas for both their own team and their opponents.
- With the versatility of the system, it can easily be transitioned to beach volleyball, however with no rotations and only two players instead of six, it means that the data points need to be identified and analysed to provide insight.
- However, as there is less players, the data can provide richer and more personalised insights into their characteristics and play style.
- Custom vision is being trialled in volleyball, and will be able to provide further data and insights in the future.