The impact of the achievement motive on athletic performance in adolescent football players

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Psychological characteristics considered as very important for successful talent development

Particularly achievement motivation (e.g. Brüggemann & Albrecht, 2003; Coetzee, Grobbelaar & Gird, 2006)

Evidence for the relationship between achievement motive and athletic performance from cross-sectional and longitudinal studies (Elbe, Beckmann & Szymanski, 2003; Halvari & Thomassen, 1997)

Nature of the relation still unclear
Evidence anticipated in:

- Talent models and empirical findings from sport sciences
- Theories and empirical findings from general and pedagogical psychology
## Relationship between achievement motive and athletic performance II

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AM = achievement motive; P = performance; AT = amount of training; MA = motor abilities; SS = sport-specific skills
Method I

Measures

- **Achievement motive** ($t_1$)
  Achievement Motive Scale-Sport (Elbe, Wenhold & Müller, 2005)
  Hope for Success ($\alpha = .72$), Fear of Failure ($\alpha = .77$)

- **Physical abilities & skills** ($t_1$)
  7 tests measuring the factors Football Technique (skills) and Physical Fitness (abilities)

- **Amount of training** ($\Delta t_1 t_2$)
  Summation of training hours in the club, with the regional squad and in spare time

- **Performance** ($t_2$)
  Expert rating by two squad coaches on a graphical rating scale (0-100)
  $r_{\text{Interrater}} = .80$
Method II

Population
- $N = 140$ male Swiss football players ($M_{age} = 12.26$)

Data analysis
- Structural equation modeling
  - Maximum likelihood
  - Parceling (Little, Cunningham & Shahar, 2002)
  - Bootstrapping for mediator models (Shrout & Bolger, 2002)
  - Multi-group comparison for moderator model (Weiber & Mühlhaus, 2010)
Results
Main effect model

$\chi^2 = 13.61, p (df) = .73 (18), \text{CFI} > .99, \text{RMSEA} < .001$

$t_1$  $t_2$

HS = Hope for Success; FF = Fear of Failure; P = Performance; **bold** = $p < .05$
Summary & Discussion

- Hope for Success as significant talent predictor in the middle-term
- No evidence for mediator and moderator effects
- No impact of Fear of Failure on athletic performance
- Need for longer research periods of examination and
- More detailed registration of training quality and effort

Results confirm the importance of psychological characteristics for talent selection and development
Thank you for your attention!

Questions!


