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
Relationship between achievement motive and athletic performance I

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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<td>Main effect model</td>
<td>Hohmann (2009)</td>
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<td>AM → AT → P</td>
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AM = achievement motive; P = performance; AT = amount of training; MA = motor abilities; SS = sport-specific skills
Measures

- **Achievement motive (t₁)**
  Achievement Motive Scale-Sport (Elbe, Wenhold & Müller, 2005)
  Hope for Success (HS; $\alpha = .72$), Fear of Failure (FF; $\alpha = .77$)

- **Physical abilities & skills (t₁)**
  7 tests measuring the factors Football Technique (skills) and Physical Fitness (abilities)

- **Amount of training (Δt₁ t₂)**
  Summation of training hours in the club, with the regional squad and in spare time

- **Performance (t₂)**
  Expert rating by two squad coaches on a graphical rating scale (0-100)
  $r_{Interrater} = .80$
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

χ² = 13.61, p (df) = .73 (18), CFI >.99, RMSEA <.001

HS1/4 → HS (t1) → P → expert rating 1
HS2/3 → HS (t1) → P → expert rating 1
HS5 → HS (t1) → P → expert rating 1
FF1/5 → FF (t1) → P → expert rating 2
FF3 → FF (t1) → P → expert rating 2
FF2/4 → FF (t1) → P → expert rating 2

HS = Hope for Success; FF = Fear of Failure; P = Performance; **bold** = p <.05
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!


