ABSTRACT

This PhD Thesis uses a multivariable approach to determine relationships between extant talent development models in soccer with outcomes related to future attainment, skill and motivation. In Study 1, elite youth soccer players in the UK were followed over 5-years to ascertain the developmental activities that determined success at youth and adult professional levels. Professional players followed an early majority engagement pathway characterized by predominant involvement in high volumes of soccer practice and play from an early age and participation in other sports (though not at the expense of soccer activity time). Adult professional players also amassed more hours in soccer play compared to youth professionals. In Study 2, coach ratings of soccer skills were related to attainment of youth and adult professional status. Coach ratings of technical, tactical and creative skill were higher in players that achieved professional youth status, versus deselected academy players. Only tactical skill, and somewhat, technical skill, differentiated adult professionals from youth professionals. Technical and tactical skill ratings were primarily related to hours in soccer specific practice, but there were no relations to hours in play. In Study 3, practice and play amounts were related to markers of self-determined motivation (SDM; Ryan & Deci, 2017). Contrary to postulates (e.g., Côté, Murphy-Mills, & Abernethy, 2012), there was no evidence linking soccer play hours to indices of SDM. Through comparisons of SDM with a control group of recreational soccer players, we showed that shifts towards less self-determined motivation were related to skill and age. In Study 4, the developmental pathways engaged in by elite (world-class) and sub-elite (varsity) level women soccer players were assessed. Similar to Study 1, elite female players followed an early majority pathway, participating in a majority of soccer related practice in comparison to other sports. Moreover, elite players engaged in more challenging soccer play than sub-elite players. In summary, success in elite soccer, both for men and women, is characterized by an early, majority engagement pathway consisting of early childhood involvement in soccer, relatively high volumes of practice and play, and a majority of time in soccer, in comparison to other sports.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Place of Birth: Falkirk, Scotland
Academic Studies: B.Sc. (Hons) Edinburgh Napier University, 2003
Current Position: PhD Candidate

GRADUATE STUDIES

Field of Study: Athlete development & sport expertise

Courses:
- HKIN 530A Directed studies Dr. N.J. Hodges
- HKIN 530B Directed studies Dr. N.J. Hodges
- HKIN 567 Human motor performance Dr. I. Franks
- HKIN 585 Coaching science Dr. R. Mosher
- HKIN 564 Psycho-social benefits of physical activity Dr. P.R. Crocker
- HKIN 570 Research methods in kinesiology Dr. N.J. Hodges

AWARDS

Faculty of Education Graduate Award
Four Year Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS

Hendry, D.T., & Hodges, N.J., (2018). Early majority engagement pathway best defines transitions from youth to adult elite men's soccer in the UK: A three time-point retrospective and prospective study Psychology of Sport & Exercise. 36, 81-89
PRESENTATIONS


Hendry, D., T., Hodges N.J. Developmental soccer experiences and self-determined motivation: a follow-up study of elite youth players. JEMS, 47. SCAPPs. Edmonton, Canada. (Oct, 2015). SCAPPs: Canadian Society for Psychomotor Learning and Sport Psychology, abstracts published in the Jn of Exercise, Movement and Sport (JEMS), online journal.


Hendry, D., T., Crocker, P.R.E., Hodges N.J. Not all early practice experiences are created equal: Building skills but hampering motivation through early, formal ‘academy’ training in soccer. NASPSPA. New Orleans, USA. Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology (JSEP), 35, S90 (Jun 2013).


Hendry, D., T., Lim, S., Wilson, A., Mulligan, D., Hodges N.J. Choice of practice schedule is influenced by previous experience with a particular practice (either random or blocked). NASPSPA. Vermont, USA. JSEP, 33 S73, Jun 2011.

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Nicola J. Hodges
Dr. Peter R.E. Crocker
Dr. Mark Williams

PROGRAMME

The Final Oral Examination
For the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
(Kinesiology)

DAVID THOMAS HENDRY

B.Sc. (Hons) Sport & Exercise Science, Edinburgh Napier University, 2003
M.Sc. Kinesiology, University of British Columbia, 2013

Monday, April 16, 2018, 12:30 pm
Room 203, Graduate Student Centre
Latecomers will not be admitted

“Towards an Understanding of the Affective and Behavioral Outcomes in Early adulthood associated with developmental soccer activities.”

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Chair:
Dr. Jonathan Ichikawa (Philosophy)

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Nicola J. Hodges, Research Supervisor (Kinesiology)
Dr. Peter R.E. Crocker (Kinesiology)

University Examiners:
Dr. Mark Beauchamp (Kinesiology)
Dr. Anthony Clarke (Curriculum Studies)

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