An Analysis of Canadian Elite Coaches’ Learning Experiences
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Introduction

A large amount of research on elite coaches has focused on:
- coach communication (Bloom, Schinke, & Salmela, 1997),
- coach-athlete feedback (Amorose & Weiss, 1998),
- coaching leadership styles (Bennett & Maneval, 1998).

Irwin, Hanton & Kerwin (2004) have identified different learning contexts
- e.g., experience as an athlete/assistant coach, courses, mentoring, etc.

Therefore, most of the past research on elite coaches has focused on
WHAT they do and/or WHERE they have learned to do it.

New Perspective

A new theoretical perspective for understanding how coaches learn to coach
using Moon’s generic view of learning (Werthner & Trudel, 2006).

Results

All of the coaches learned using the three learning situations from model.
The emphasis on each of the three learning situations varied considerably from
one coach to another.
- e.g., The importance of learning from athletes in different ways.

Based on this model, two coaches in the same learning situation might have
different opinions about how useful the situation was to their learning.

Therefore this model is unique because it provides a way to view coach
development from the coach’s perspective and helps us understand
why the path to becoming a coach is often idiosyncratic.

Purpose of the Study

Discuss the different learning situations utilized by elite Canadian coaches
and how that understanding will help create more effective learning
situations in coaching education.

Conclusion

This shows how one coach to another will learn differently from/with athletes. Therefore, the coaching
development programs should not be structured as “one format fits all”.

Methodology

Interviews with 15 national level coaches from different sports

Criteria
(a) they have been a coach at the national or international level for over 10 years,
(b) they have been an Olympic coach,
(c) at the time of the interview, were coaching athlete(s) with at least one top-ten result in the
world within the last two years.