Integrating Developmentally Appropriate Competition Structure
&
Talent Identification Programs

Adrian Parrish
Kentucky Youth Soccer Association
Technical Director

What is Talent?

A special ability that allows someone to do something well

Hard work beats Talent when Talent doesn't work hard

Development v Identification

Development

To provide the most appropriate learning environment to release the potential

Identification

The process of recognizing current participants with the potential to become elite players

Assessing Talent

Soccer compared to other US Sports

USA & Rest of the World

Finding talent, using sensible profiling to maximize time in high level programs with good teachers

Beware of he/she looks like a good player

Long Term Athlete Development

10,000 Hours of Practice

Specialization

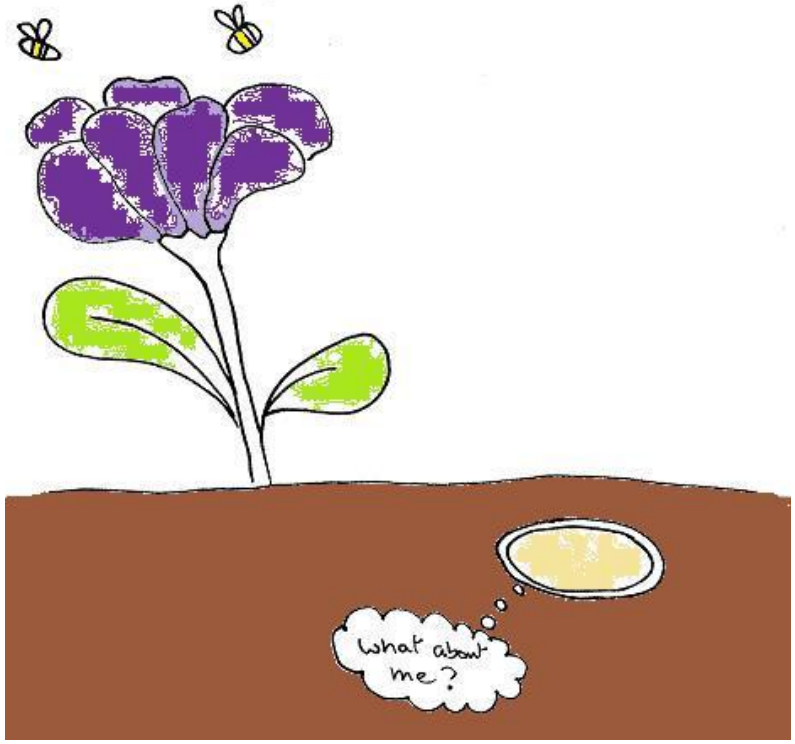
Deliberate Play

Deliberate Practice

Current Performance

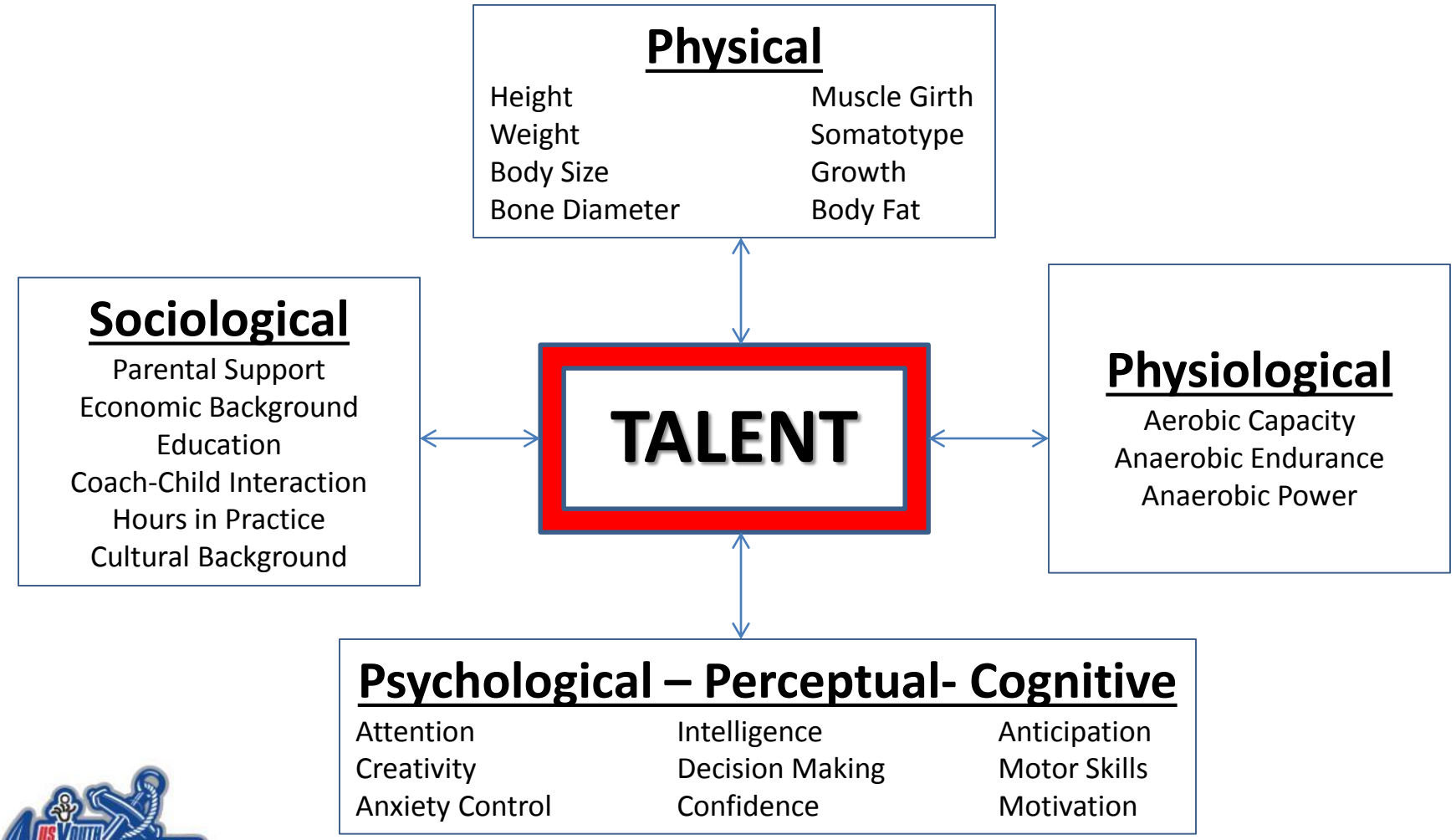
Future Potential

Later Bloomers versus Early Bloomers



Nature or Nurture?

Potential Predictors of Talent in Soccer



Potential Predictors of Talent in Soccer

Sabin Merino - Atletico Bilbao

The role of science

Constantly evolving through the LTAD

Meet the demands of actual competition

FIFA U17 World Cup 2015

Average Height in CM

Croatia : 182.1 cm

New Zealand : 181.2 cm

Belgium : 180.7

England : 180.4

Russia : 180.2

USA: 179.9

Nigeria: 175.0

Club Styles for Identifying Talent

What to Look for?

TIPS: Talent, Intelligence, Personality, Speed
TABS: Technical, Attitude, Balance, Speed
SUPS: Speed, Understanding, Personality, Skill
PAS: Pace, Attitude, Skill

What are you looking for ?

Club Styles for Identifying Talent

What is your criteria?

> What are you looking to accomplish?

At what age do you profile your players?

> Does your club have a pathway?

Is it written down and recorded?

> Who views the data?

Are the coaches, players and parents aware of the structure?

Psychological Profiling

Personality, Attitude, Self Motivation

Self Regulation in learning & development

- Learners know which aspects the must improve & how to do this
- Learners are motivated to improve
- Learners take action in order to improve

Psychological Profiling

Task versus Ego

Task Oriented

Ego Oriented

PERSONALITY AND ATTITUDE

Is he a team player, a winner (quiet or loud), coachable, a leader?
Does he have a positive influence on other players?

INTELLIGENCE

Does he understand his role, the game?
Does he read the game well? Can he adapt?

Technical Profiling

Position Specific

Position	Technique
#1 Goalkeeper	Shot Stopping Distribution Footwork
#2 & #3 Out-Side Backs	1v1 Defending Tackling Passing Range
#4 & #5 Centre Backs	1v1 Defending Heading Support Play
#6 Defensive Midfielder	Receiving Under Pressure 360 Degree Passing Range Breaking Up Play

Position	Technique
#8 Center Midfield	Dribbling Creative Passing Tracking Runs
#10 Attacking Midfield	Creativity/Improvisation Turning Transitional Player
#9 Centre Forward	Shooting/Finishing Receiving Channeling Play
#7 & #11 Wingers	Crossing Running with the Ball Immediate Pressure

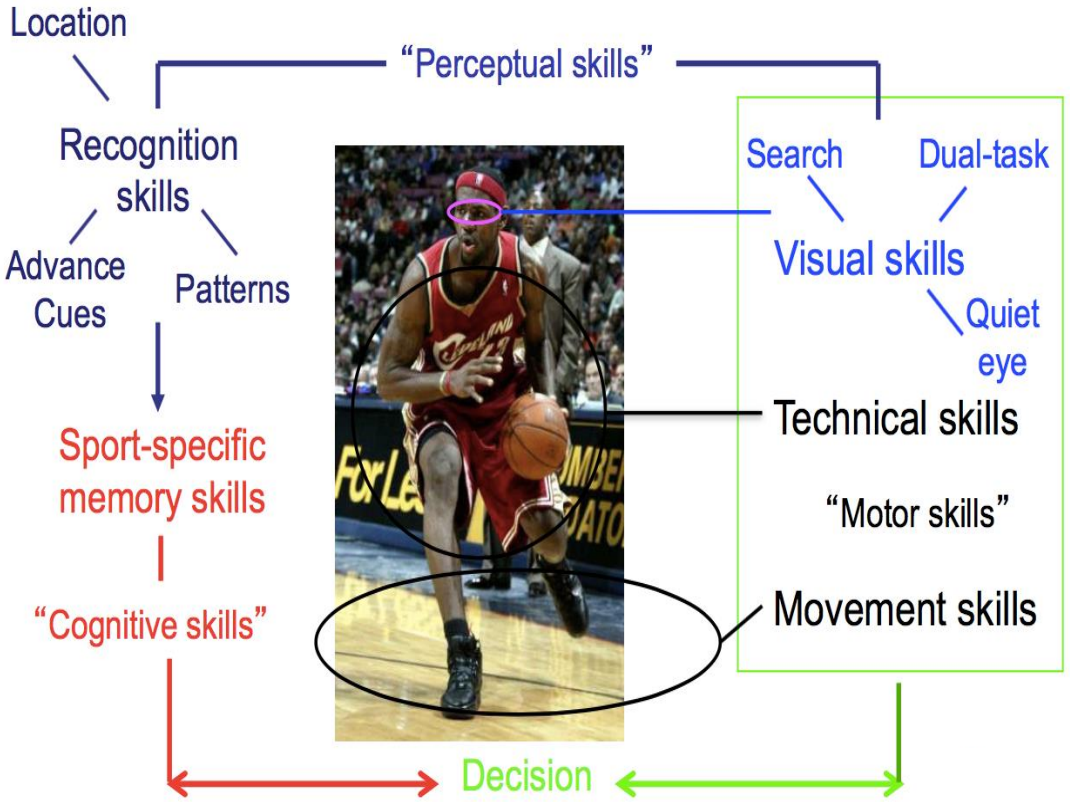
Technical Profiling

Developing & Measuring the Performance

Individual Skills Test

Game related testing that is measurable

Create dual tasking throughout training



Physiological Profiling

Athletic Skills Model

Develop All Round Movers

Movers become athletes

Athletes become specialists

The specialists is an athlete

Phase	Boys Years	Girls Years
Basic Athletic Skills	7-9 years old	6-7 years old
Advanced Athletic Skills	10-12 years old	8-10 years old
Transition Athletic Skills	13-14 years old	11-12 years old
Performance Athletic Skills	15-18 years old	13-18 years old
Elite Athletic Skills	19 plus	18 plus

Physiological Profiling

Anthropometric Characteristics

Energy Cost: Aerobic 80-90%
Anerobic 10-20%

Expert genes or familiarizing the player with the tasks.

Use of small sided games

Long Term Thinking

Sessions per week

Under 11yrs :	3 + I game
12-14:	3/4 + 1 game
15-16 :	4/5 + 1 game
17-19 :	7+ 1 game

Integrating the Program

Weigh & Measure your players

Create Fitness & Technical Tests – Archive the results

Game related testing

Challenge the players:

- **Girls play/train with boys**
- **Play/train with adults**
- **Offer Futsal**
- **Free/Deliberate Play**
- **Players keep journals**

Bio Banding

"Bio-Banding" – the practice of grouping young players together according to their physical maturity, rather than their age.

Matching formula for opposed situations - height x weight divided by 1000

Players are placed in groups and play/practice with other groups across a two group band

Helps both the Early & Late Developers

It was first trialed in US high schools as far back as 1908. New Zealand schools have grouped rugby teams according to weight rather than age

Parent Education

Their roles & responsibilities

Realistic Goals

Providing Feedback

A balanced life style

Diet, Nutrition & Sleep

Managing disappointment

Managing success

WHAT IS THE CLUBS ROLE IN THE US YOUTH SOCCER MARKET FOR IDENTIFYING TALENT?

WHAT IS YOUR CLUB WILLING TO DO TO IDENTIFY TALENTED PLAYERS?

WHAT IS YOUR CLUBS GOALS FOR THE TALENTED ATHLETE ?

IS YOUR CLUB GOING TO START OFFERING A TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM?

WHAT CAN STATE ASSOCIATIONS DO TO SUPPORT YOUR CLUB WITH TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGAMS?

Thank-You

Adrian Parrish
adrianparrish@kysoccer.net
Twitter: @kysoccerdoc