



Talent Identification: Scouting Young Athletes in Search of the Next Big Thing in Sports

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talent

DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

talent noun

tal·ent | \ 'ta-lənt  \

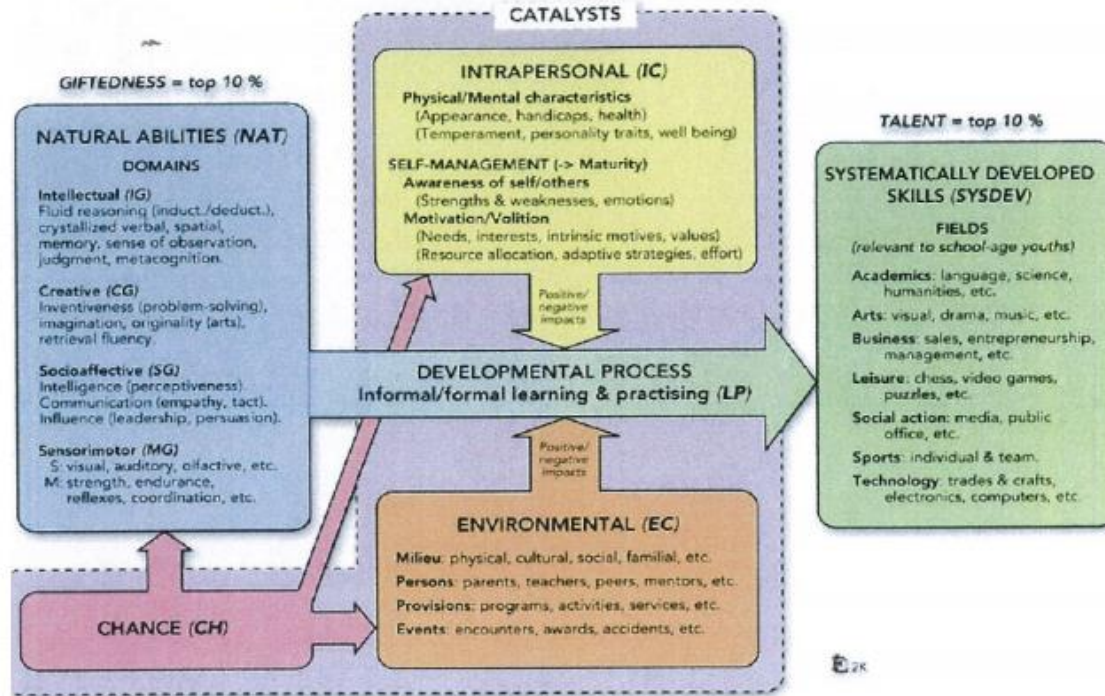
Definition of *talent*

- 1 **a** : a special often athletic, creative, or artistic aptitude
b : general intelligence or mental power : [ABILITY](#)
- 2 : the natural endowments of a person
- 3 : a person of talent or a group of persons of talent in a field or activity
- 4 **a** : any of several ancient units of weight
b : a unit of value equal to the value of a talent of gold or silver
- 5 *archaic* : a characteristic feature, aptitude, or disposition of a person or animal

5 properties of talent

1. Innate talent is, at least partly, genetically transmitted
2. Talent will have some advanced indications & those with training can identify the presence of talent before exceptional levels of mature performance have been demonstrated
3. Early indications of talent provide a basis for predicting likelihood of success
4. Only a minority are talented
5. Talent is relatively domain-specific

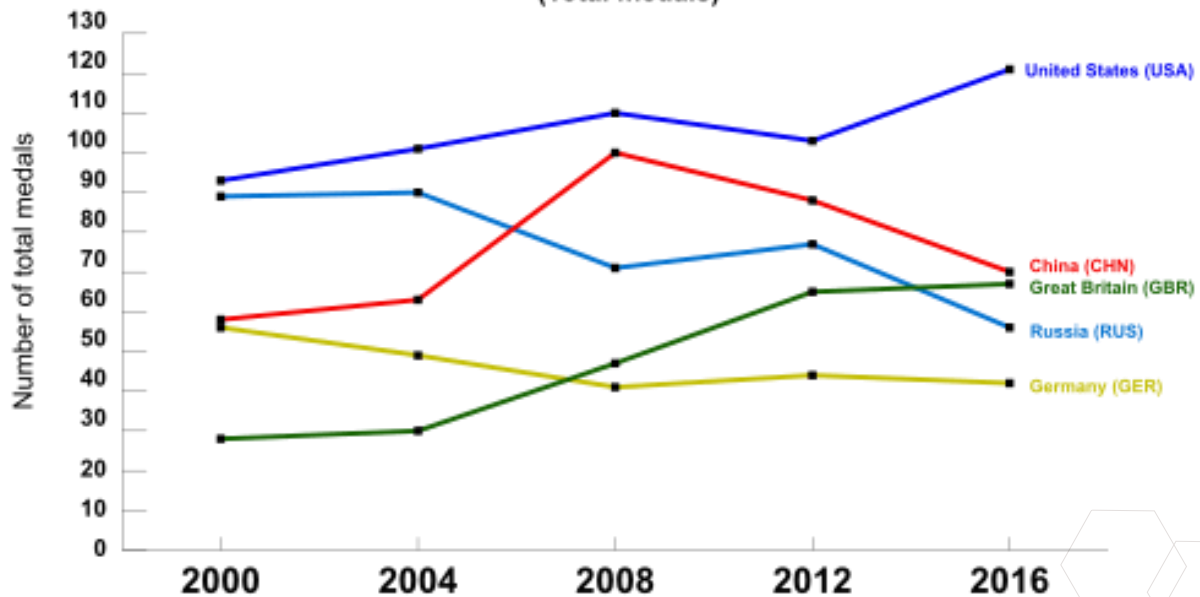
Gagné's Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent







Medal achievements of most successful countries in Summer Olympics from 2000 to 2016
(Total medals)





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Athletes age 14 and older with a background in any sport are encouraged to apply.

"Milk Life presents, Scouting Camp: The Next Olympic Hopeful" is the USOC's talent identification program that brings the nation's top athletes to the U.S. Olympic Training Center to face the same physical and mental challenges Team USA athletes face every day as they train for the Olympic Games. The best of the best will be invited to national team camps to compete for a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team.

If you have the skill, drive and discipline to represent Team USA, sign up now to begin your path to the podium today.

Register

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Need help? Contact the U.S. Olympic Committee by emailing ScoutingCamp@usoc.org.





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MAINE, U.S.
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
LAKE WAUWATAM, WIS.

RUGBY



KELLY SMITH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
DEVIN SHORTT
LAKE WAUWATAM, WIS.

SKELETON



AMANDA ALVAREZ
BOSTON, MASS.
QUENTIN BUTLER
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

TRACK CYCLING



KELLY BOWMAN
TAMPA, FLA.
OWEN BROWN
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

23
ATHLETES INVITED TO TRAINING CAMPS

8 MEDALS IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION
FROM THE U.S. OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER



Naturalizing China's talent search

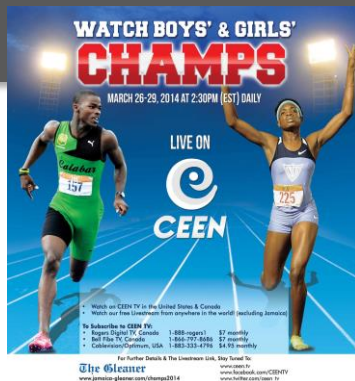
"We have to break from the traditional system in order to seek all available talent and maximize resources."

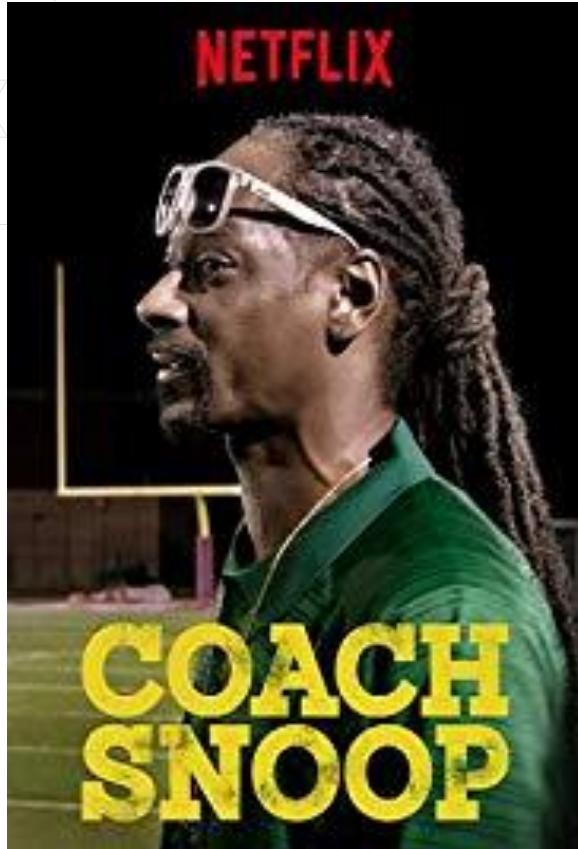


Elite Player Performance Plan

The Audit Tool







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FOOTBALL ISN'T JUST A WAY OF LIFE.
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Aspects of Measurement and Assessment in Young Athletes

1. **Biological**
2. **Psychological**
 - Motivation
 - Coping with failure
 - Mental toughness
3. **Sociological**
 - Leadership
 - Team cohesion



Biological Components

- <14 years old
- >14 = Specialization*
- Athletes v non-athlete
- Athletes of different skill levels
- Level of maturation
- Swimmers show promise
- Potential over scoring
- Tests in isolation



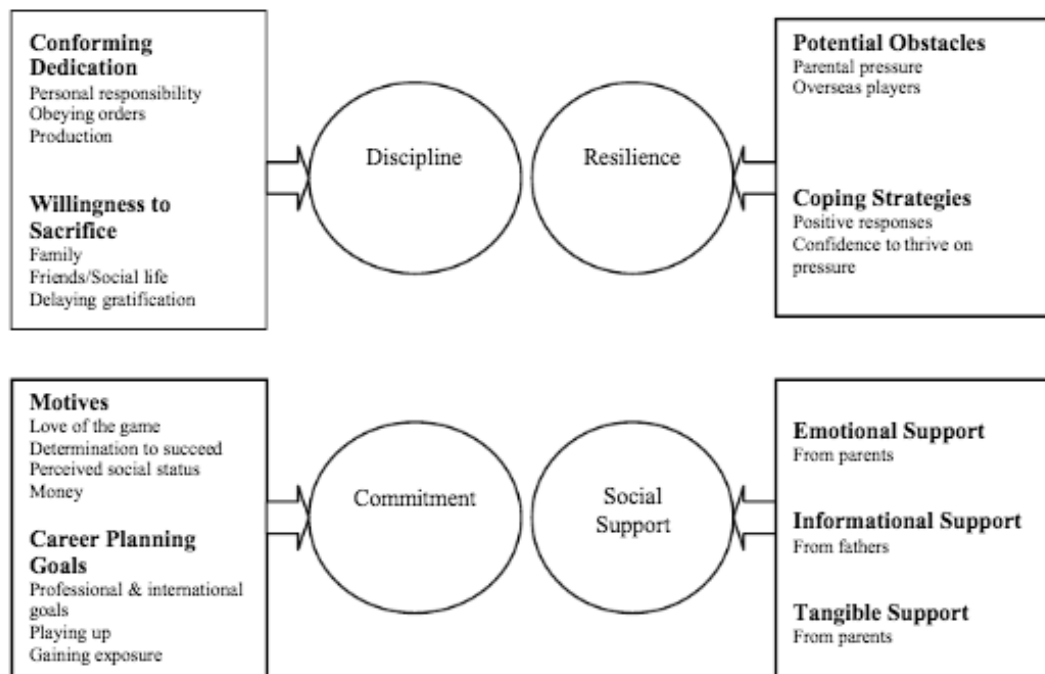


Figure 1. Overview of concepts, sub-categories, and categories pertaining to psychosocial competencies associated with soccer success during adolescence.

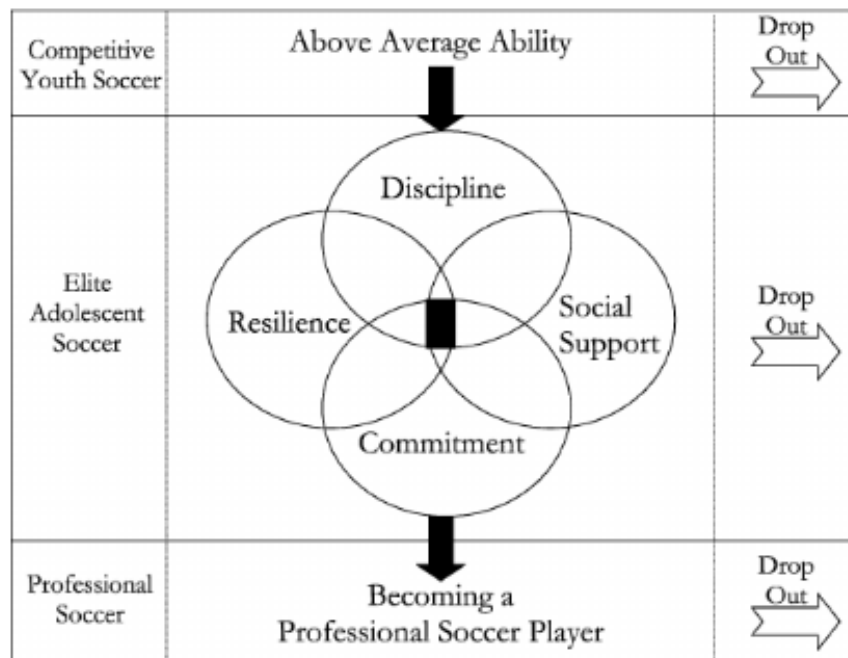


Figure 2. A grounded theory of the psychosocial competencies and environmental conditions associated with soccer success during adolescence.



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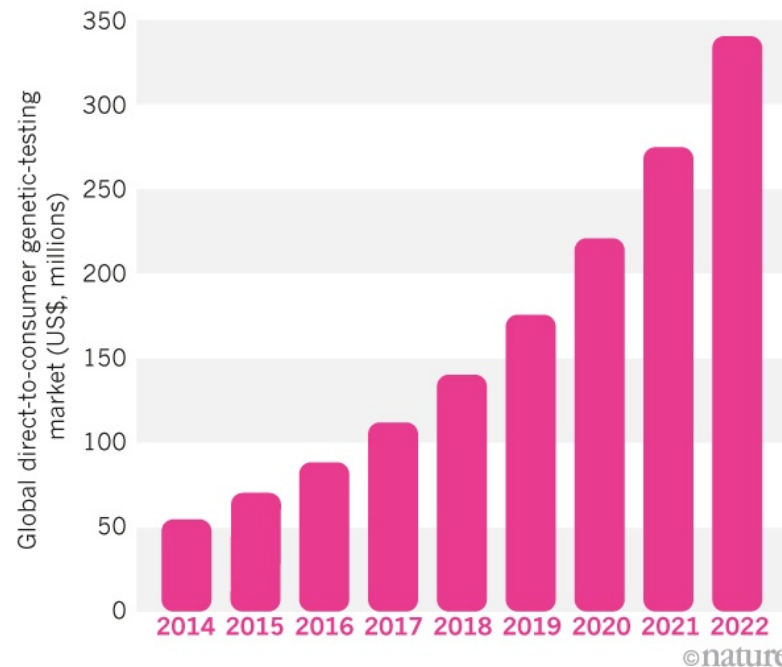
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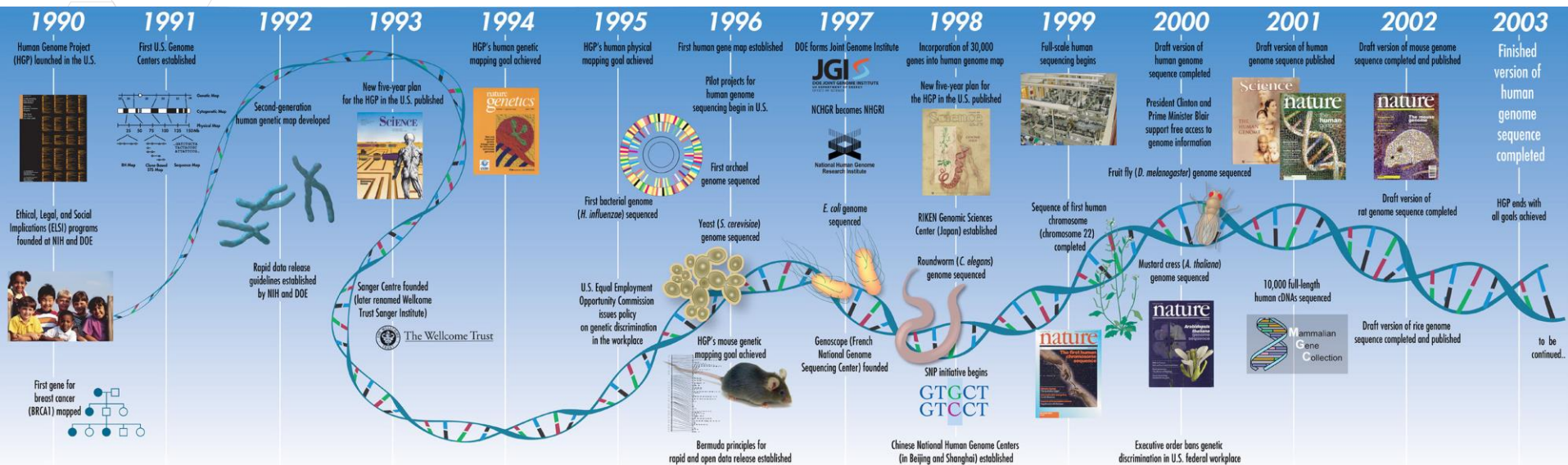
GENE DRIVE

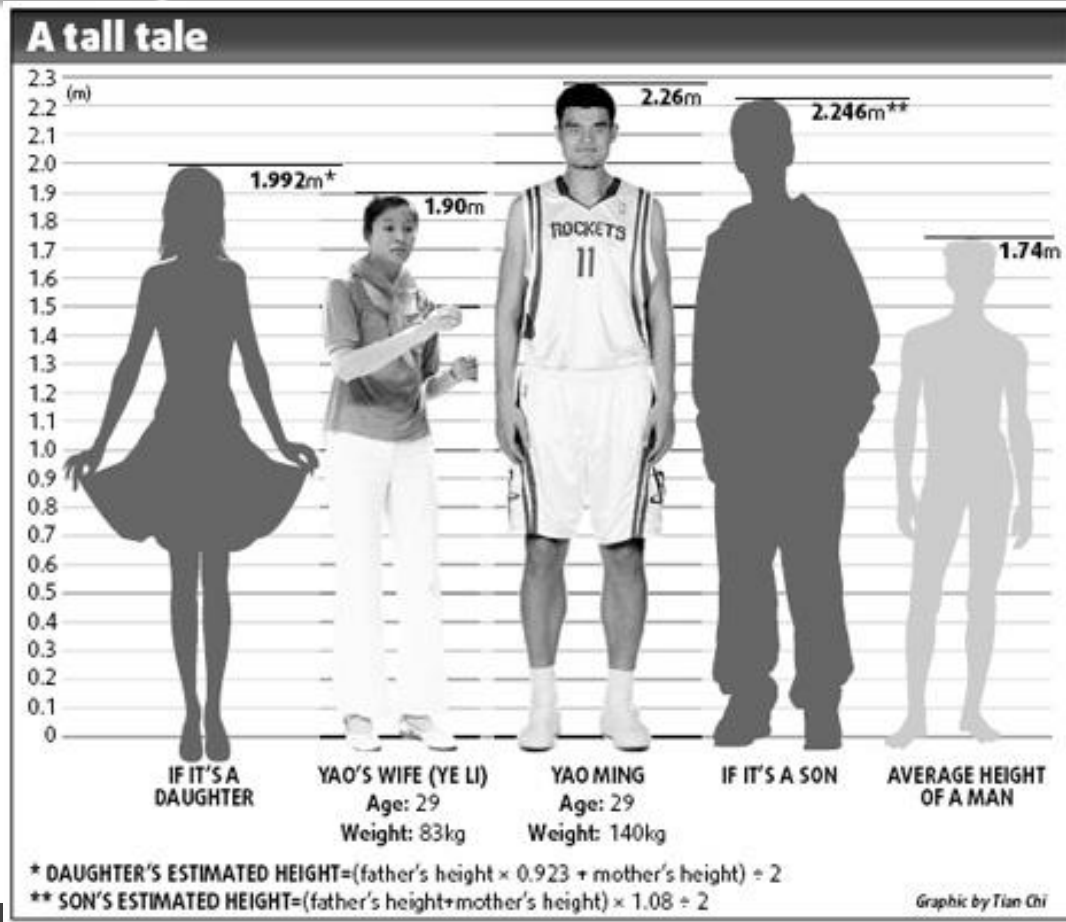
The direct-to-consumer genetic-testing industry is predicted to grow to US\$340 million in the next five years. This is still a small fraction of the overall market for DNA testing, which is expected to reach \$10 billion in that time.

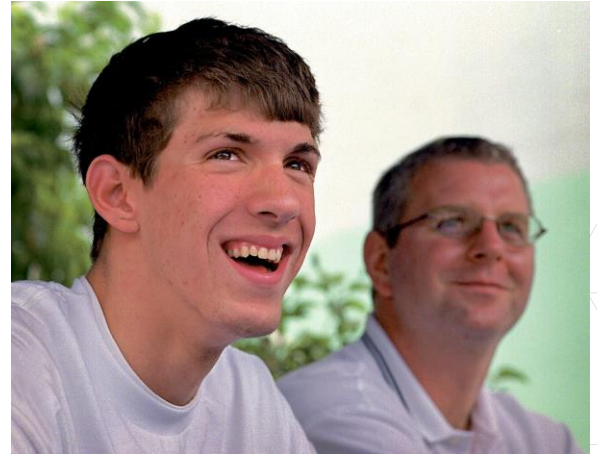




Human Genome Project







No.	Player	Birth Date	Position
1	Marcel Gecov	Jan. 1, 1988	MF
2	Ludek Frydrych	Jan. 3, 1987	GK
3	Petr Janda	Jan. 5, 1987	MF
4	Jakub Dohnalek	Jan. 12, 1988	DF
5	Jakub Mares	Jan. 26, 1987	MF
6	Michal Held	Jan. 27, 1987	DF
7	Marek Strestik	Feb. 1, 1987	FW
8	Jiri Valenta	Feb. 14, 1988	MF
9	Jan Simunek	Feb. 20, 1987	DF
10	Tomas Oklestek	Feb. 21, 1987	MF
11	Lubos Kalouda	Feb. 21, 1987	MF
12	Radek Petr	Feb. 24, 1987	GK
13	Ondrej Mazuch	Mar. 15, 1989	DF
14	Ondrej Kudela	Mar. 26, 1987	MF
15	Marek Suchy	Mar. 29, 1988	DF
16	Martin Fenin	Apr. 16, 1987	FW
17	Tomas Pekhart	May 26, 1989	FW
18	Lukas Kuban	Jun. 22, 1987	DF
19	Tomas Cihlar	Jun. 24, 1987	DF
20	Tomas Frystak	Aug. 18, 1987	GK
21	Tomas Micola	Sep. 26, 1988	MF

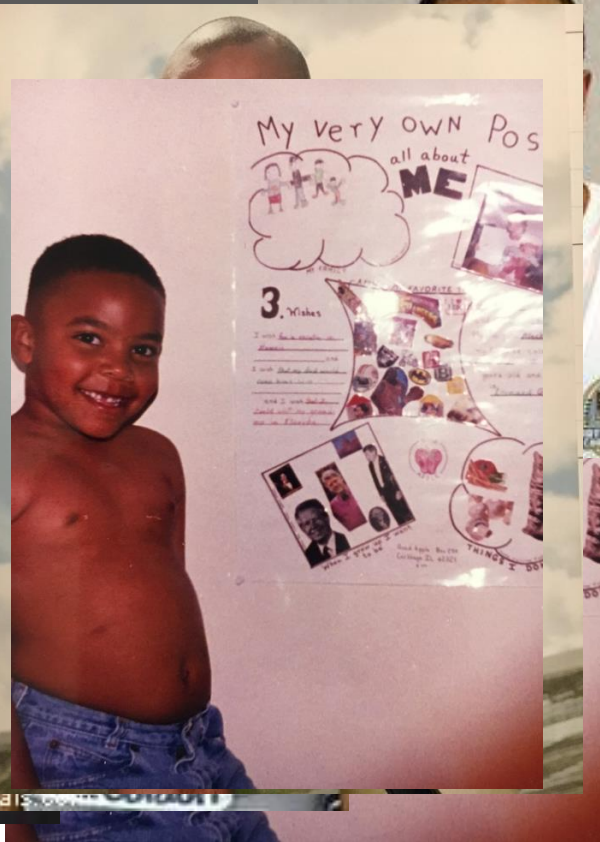
Implications & Future Work

- Concept Utility
- Physical measurements
- Performance \neq Talent
- Poor replication
- Extension of talent
- Multidimensional construct
- Probabilistic not deterministic
- Talent on a continuum
- Dangers of simplicity
- Poor long-term prediction accuracy in talent selection





Ernest Gordon



Leonard Gordon

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