



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  \

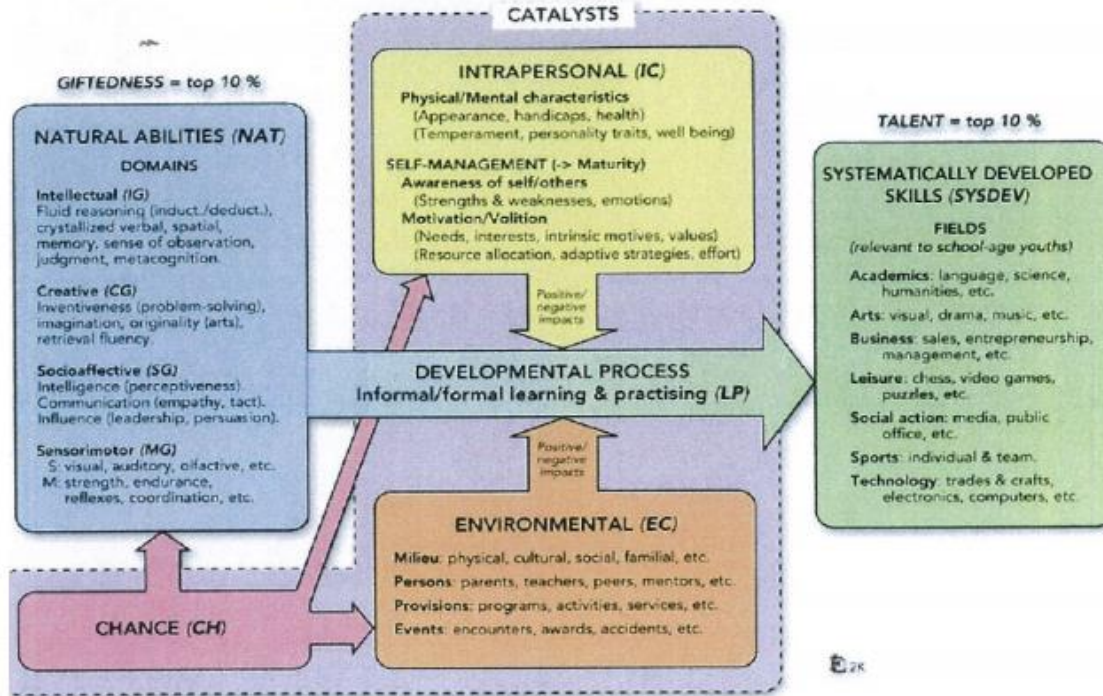
Definition of *talent*

- 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

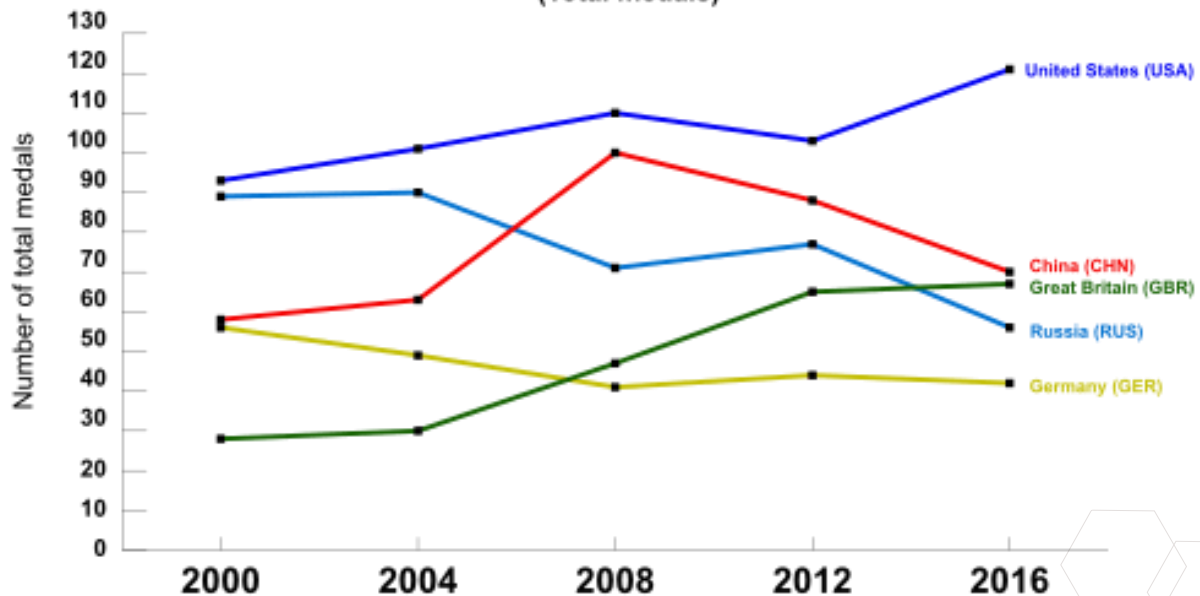
Gagné's Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent







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





milk life[®] PRESENTS

SCOUTING CAMP THE NEXT OLYMPIC HOPEFUL

Do you have what it takes to represent the United States on the world's largest stage? The United States Olympic Committee is giving you a chance to become the Next Olympic Hopeful and work your way toward the dream of becoming an Olympian.

Sign up now to register for the third season of "Milk Life presents, Scouting Camp: The Next Olympic Hopeful."

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

Log In

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





SEASON 1 WINNERS

BOBSLED



KYLE PLANTE
MAINE, U.S.

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
LAKE HAVAS, FLA.



KELLY SMITH
MINNEAPOLIS, MIN.



KEVIN SHORT
LAKE HAVAS, MIN.

RUGBY



AMANDA ALVAREZ
BOSTON, MASS.



QUENTIN BUTLER
ARLINGTON, TEXAS



KELLY BOWMAN
TULSA, OKLA.



OWEN BROWN
FREDERICK, CALIF.

TRACK CYCLING

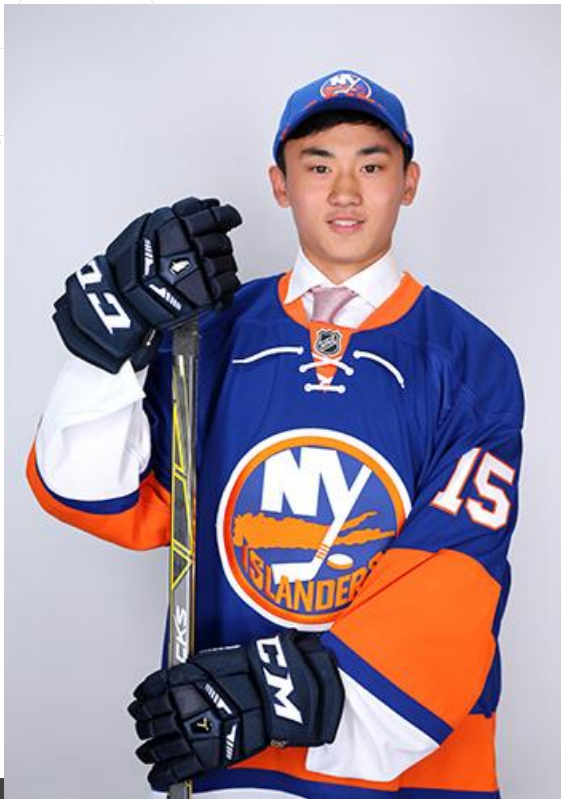
23 ATHLETES INVITED TO TRAINING CAMPS

8 MEDALS IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION



Naturalizing China's talent search

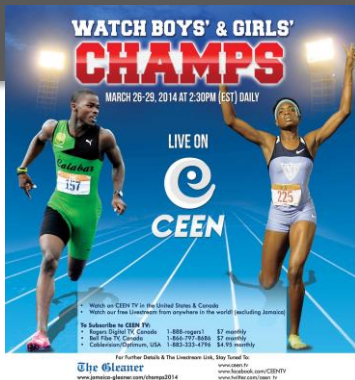
"We have to break from the traditional system in order to seek all available talent and maximize resources."

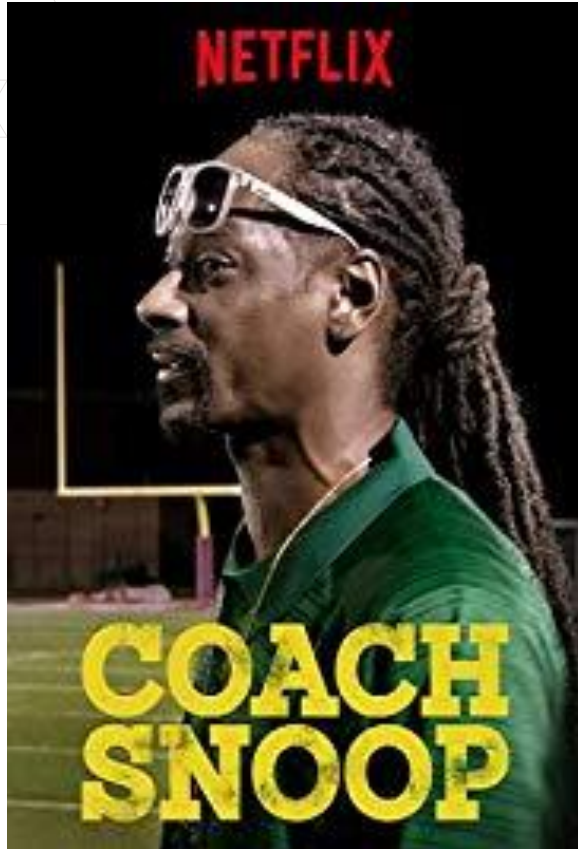


Elite Player Performance Plan

The Audit Tool







FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LEBRON JAMES AND MAVERICK CARTER

FOOTBALL ISN'T JUST A WAY OF LIFE.
IT'S A WAY OUT.

WARRIORS OF LIBERTY CITY

SUN 9/16 STARZ



Aspects of Measurement and Assessment in Young Athletes

-
- ```
graph LR; 1[1. Biological] --- 2[2. Psychological]; 2 --- 3[3. Sociological]; 3 --- 1;
```
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



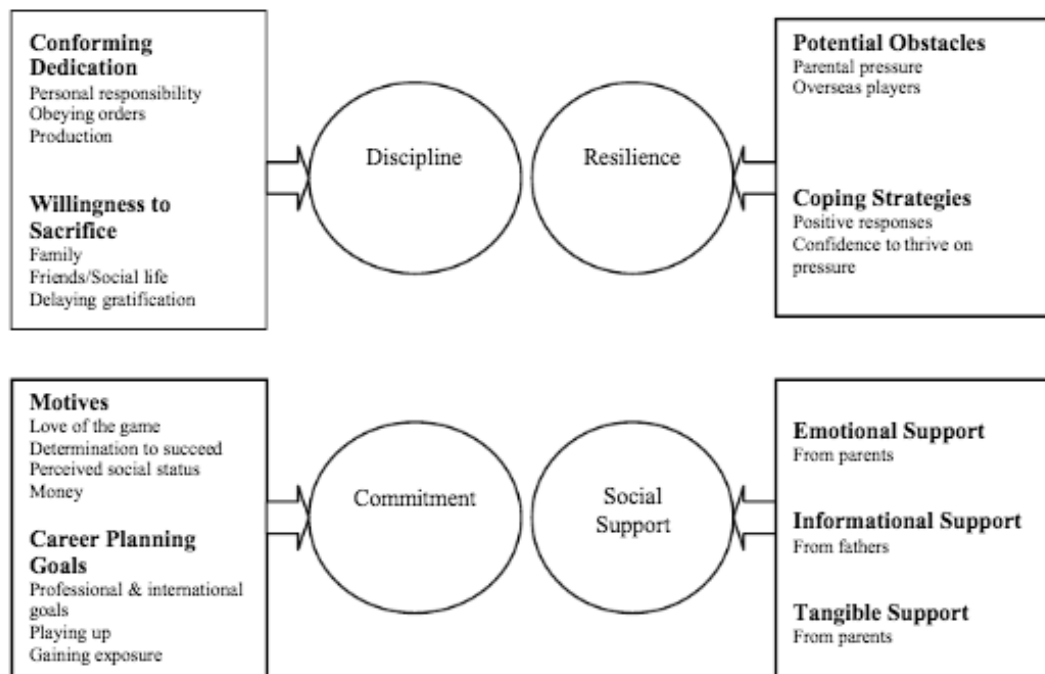


Figure 1. Overview of concepts, sub-categories, and categories pertaining to psychosocial competencies associated with soccer success during adolescence.

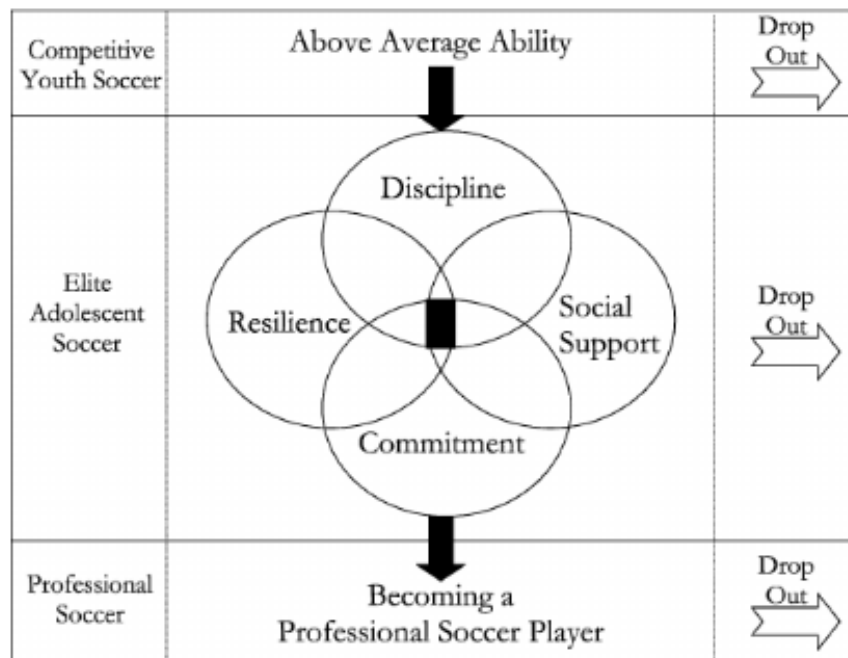


Figure 2. A grounded theory of the psychosocial competencies and environmental conditions associated with soccer success during adolescence.





Ancestry Service

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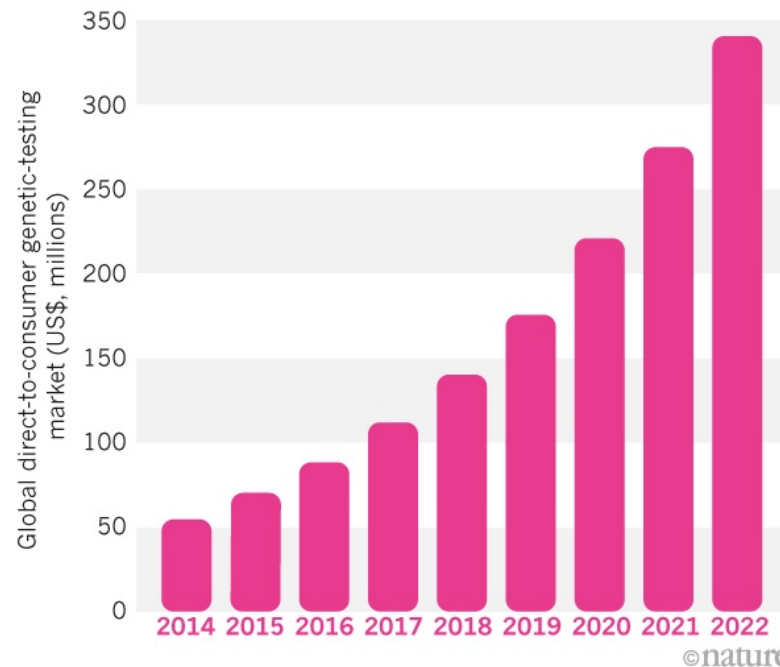
**RECOMMENDED**  
Health + Ancestry Service

~~\$199~~ \$159

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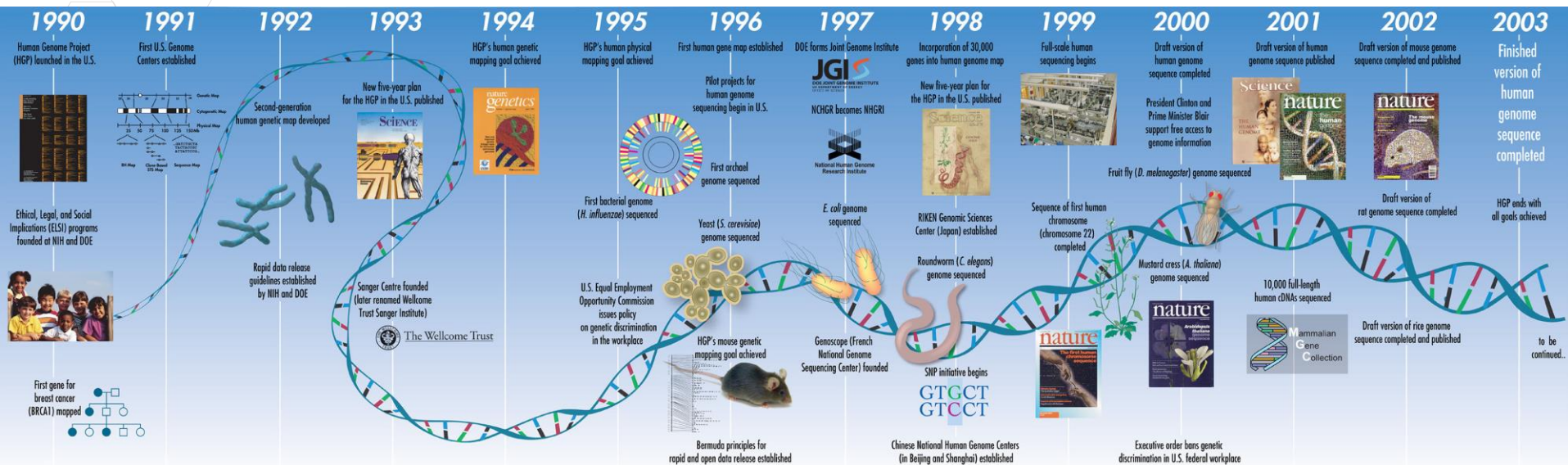
## GENE DRIVE

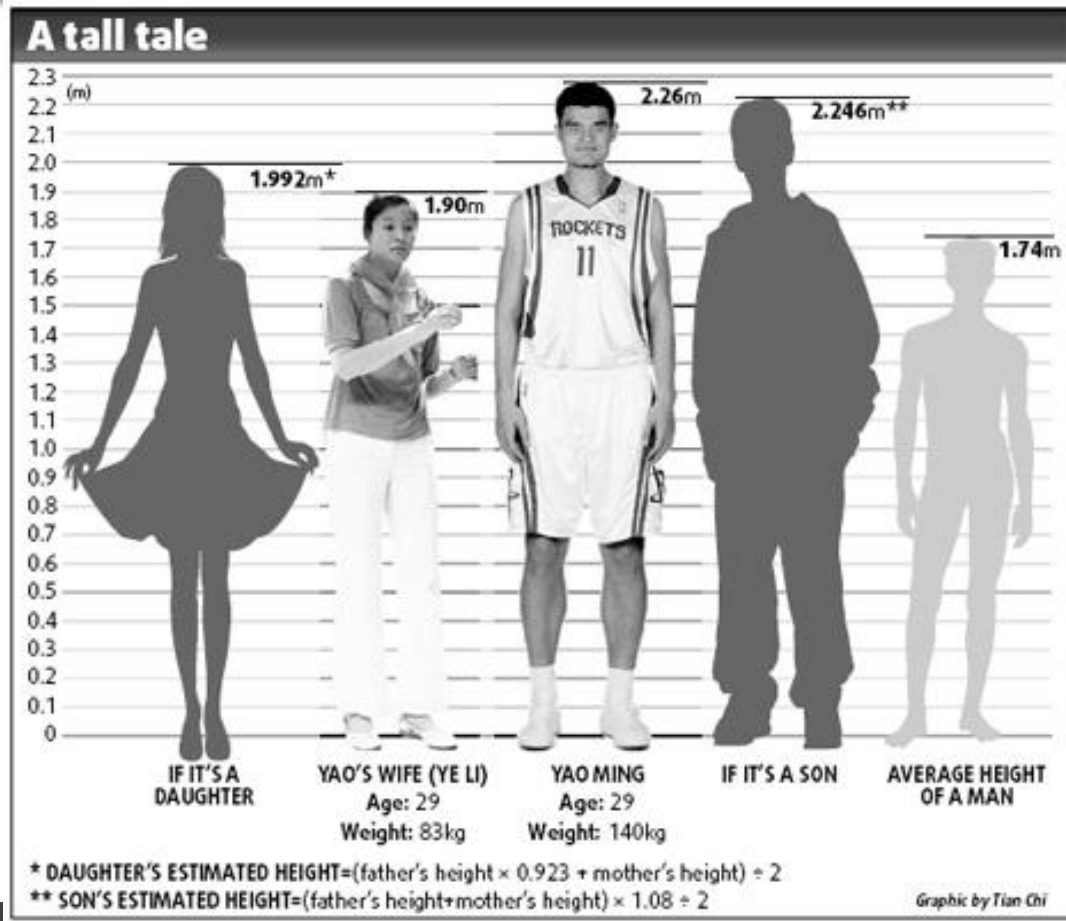
The direct-to-consumer genetic-testing industry is predicted to grow to US\$340 million in the next five years. This is still a small fraction of the overall market for DNA testing, which is expected to reach \$10 billion in that time.





# 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       |

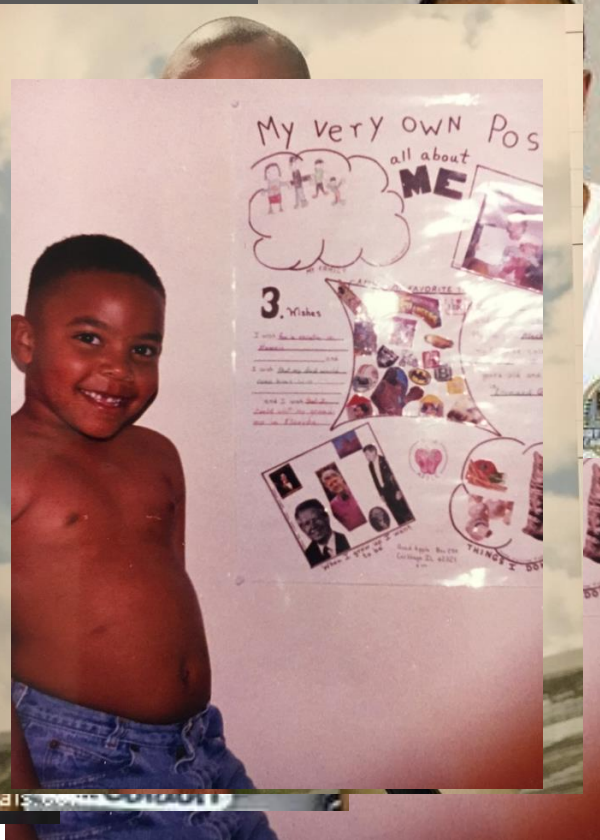
# Implications & Future Work

- 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

# References

