

Following in their footsteps?

Sport expertise and parental participation in sport and physical activity

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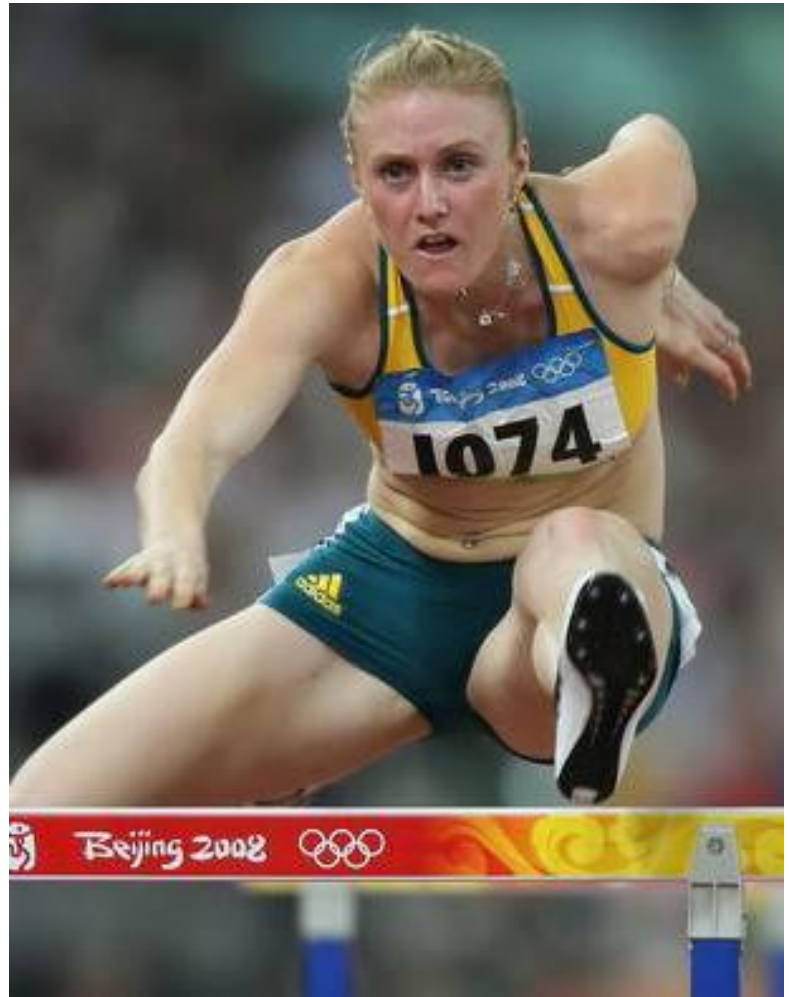
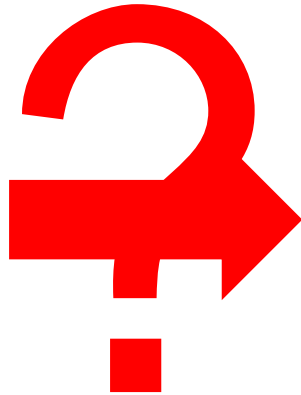
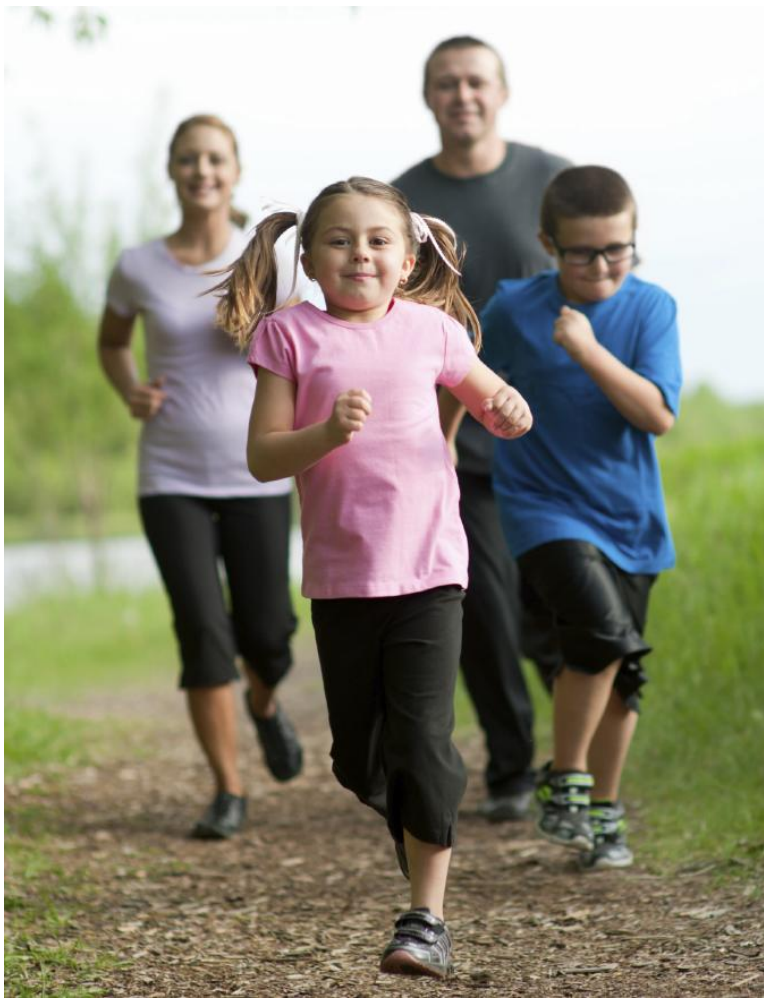




E.g. Bloom, 1985; Côte, 1999



E.g. Edwardson & Gorely, 2010; Pugliese & Tinsely, 2007



Aims

- To explore associations between sport expertise and:
 - parental involvement in sport and physical activity during the time living with the athlete
 - parental involvement in competitive sport at any time in their life
 - parental characteristics
 - (e.g. age, education, living situation)

Participants

- 229 athletes
 - 34 sports
 - 15-35 years
 - Male and Female
 - Australian and Canadian
- 3 skill levels
 - Elite: Open international level
 - Pre-elite: Open national / junior international level
 - Non-elite: Open provincial / junior national level or below

Procedures

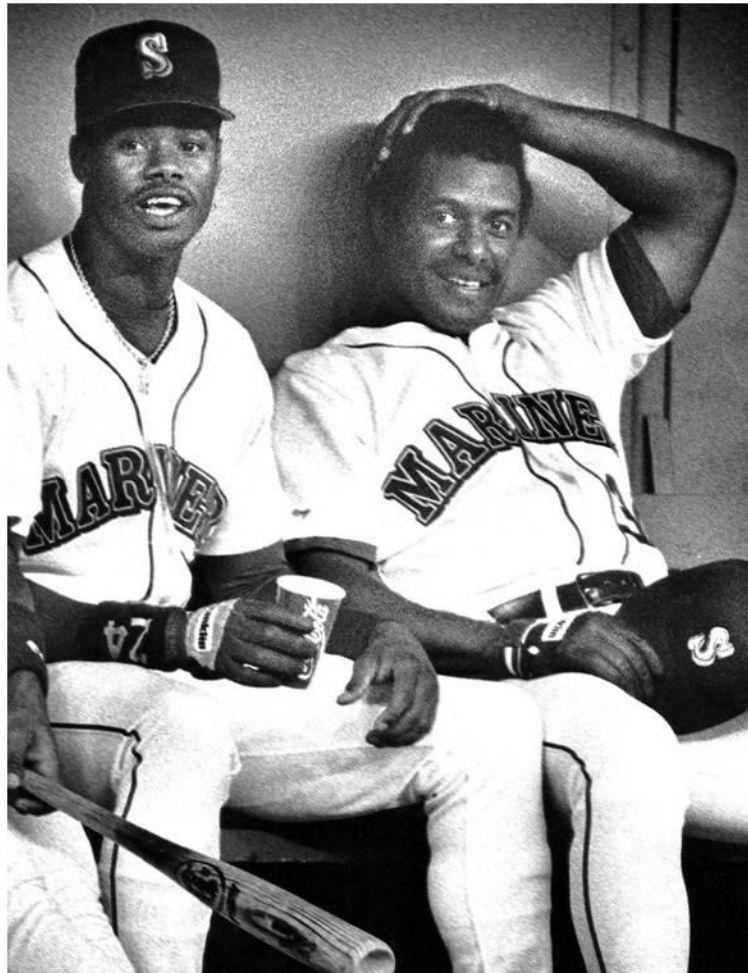
Developmental History of Athletes Questionnaire (DHAQ)

- Demographics / characteristics
- Participation in physical activity when lived together
 - General fitness activities
 - Recreational sport
 - Competitive sport
- Participation in competitive sport at any time
 - Sport type
 - Highest level of competition

Statistical analysis

- Categorical variables
 - Pearson chi-square tests for independence
 - Monte Carlo method ($p \leq .05$)
 - Adjusted standardized residuals (≥ 2.0)
- Continuous variables
 - One-way ANOVAs
 - Tukey's HSD post-hoc tests ($p \leq .05$)
 - Violation of Levene's test for homogeneity of variance
 - Welch's F
 - Games-Howell post-hoc tests ($p \leq .05$)

Results



*Ken Griffey Jr. & Ken Griffey Sr.
Seattle Mariners
September 14, 1990
Father and son back-to-back home runs*

Parental characteristics

- Biological mothers and fathers only
- Grew up in the same country as the athlete
- No skill group differences for age at birth of athlete
- Elite athletes stopped living with their mother at a significantly younger age than non-elite athletes
 $F(2,226) = 3.57, p = .03, \eta^2 = .03$
- Parents of non-elite athletes had a lower level of education
 $(\chi^2(4,229) = 12.11, p = .02, \tau_b = .13)$

Parental participation in sport and physical activity during the time living with the athlete

- Mothers of elite athletes 2.5 x more likely to have participated in general fitness activities than mothers of non-elite athletes
($\chi^2 (2,229) = 11.25, p < .01, V = .22$)
- Elite athletes 2.1 x more likely than non-elite athletes to have at least one parent who participated in recreational sport
($\chi^2 (2,229) = 7.04, p = .03, V = .18$)
- Elite athletes 3.1 x more likely than pre-elite athletes to have at least one parent who participated in competitive sport
($\chi^2 (2,229) = 7.54, p = .02, V = .18$)

Parental participation in competitive sport at any time

- Fathers of elite athletes 2.3 x more likely to have participated in competitive sport than fathers of non-elite athletes
($\chi^2 (2,228) = 7.17, p = .03, V = .18$)
- Parents of elite athletes more likely to have participated in competitive sport at the elite level, while parents of non-elite athletes more likely to have participated at the non-elite level
($\chi^2 (4,181) = 15.97, p < .01, \tau_b = .27$)

Parental participation in the same sport as the athletes' main sport

- No skill level differences in the likelihood of parents participating in the same sport as the athletes' main sport
($\chi^2(2,229) = .08, p = .96, V = .02$)
- Among parents who did participate in the same sport, parents of elite athletes more likely to have competed at the elite level, while parents of non-elite athletes more likely to have competed at the non-elite level
($\chi^2(4,66) = 9.16, p = .05, \tau_b = .34$)

Discussion

- Compared to parents of non-elite athletes, parents of elite athletes were more likely to:
 - be physically active during the time living together
 - have participated in competitive sport, but not necessarily the same sport as the athlete
 - have participated in competitive sport at a higher level
 - be more highly educated

Practical implications

- Parents may act as role models and socialising agents for children's sport participation
- Parents who have participated in high performance sport may be more willing and/or capable of directing and supporting their child towards elite performance
- Parents' higher level of education may be associated with a higher socio-economic status, allowing for greater financial support for sport participation

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Questions?
Comments?



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