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# GIFTEDNESS

## From Talent to Great Achievements

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## Gifted individuals

- Very important to their country
- Every country can be proud of them
- Gifted sports people – national heroes





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# What is **Giftedness**?



The cluster of characteristics (capabilities, motivation and creativity) that enable the individual to achieve above-average results in a domain of human activity, and that can be recognized as a new and original contribution to that domain.

*Tannenbaum, 1983 (according to Koren, 1991)*



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**Gifted** children are those who have been identified as having above-average abilities by professionals, and that are exceptionally successful.

Potentially gifted children make up between 15 and 20 % of the general population, and exceptionally gifted children only 3 to 5 %.

*(Cvetković-Lay, 2002)*







According to the psychosocially oriented definition exceptional achievement is a result of several factors:

- general intellectual abilities,
- specific abilities,
- environmental factors,
- chance or luck.

*(Tanenbaum, 1983; according to Koren, 1991)*





Important characteristics of a gifted individual are that:

- giftedness is not the result of one characteristic, but a combination of characteristics, abilities and personality traits.
- it appears in different areas, or as a single ability, or as a combination of abilities that manifest themselves in some area of human knowledge and activity.
- giftedness may be manifested as a productive-creative activity or as a latent and potential giftedness which will, with the support of the environment, develop into a productive giftedness, i.e. creativity.



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**Giftedness** can be regarded as:

1. high general intellectual ability;
2. general ability of divergent thinking;
3. multiple giftedness;
4. productive-creative ability;
5. ability of high-quality use of mental processes;
6. high subject-specific ability.





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# GIFTED CHILDREN IN SPORTS

There are many potentially gifted children that in time, because of the lack of proper programmes and the application of wrong treatments, are lost in the mass of the average ones.



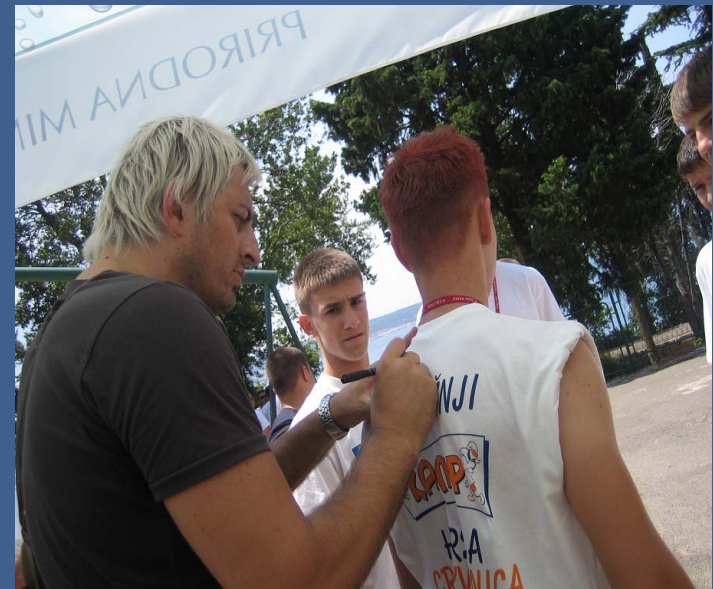




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Deciding to pursue a sport is very dependant on the following factors:

- Tradition
- Ideals
- Sports popularity
- Parental pressure
- Gym teacher's speciality
- Vicinity of the hall, etc.





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The identification or the recognition of talents is of vital importance.



Many talents have never achieved results in the chosen sport, or they achieve limited results because they are in the wrong sport – result of a poor choice.



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Peltola(1992); Thomson and Beavis (1985); define the identification of talents as:

*"a process through which children are encouraged to take part in sports in which they have the most chances for success, based on test results of certain parameters".*





1. The authors Bompa (1985), Peltola (1992), and Ghita (1994) regard the identification of talents as an aid to individuals to choose a sport for which they are fit, helping them eliminate frustrations created by the participation in a sport they are not fit for.





2. Other authors regard the talent identification as limited, because a great number of athletes needs to be tested in order to obtain a result (Hoare, 1995; Jarver, 1982; Thompson 1992).
3. Some experts support arguments that the coach's expert eye is often at the initial level of talent identification, and the later testing is nothing but a strengthening of the talent potential of an already identified athlete (Kozel, 1996).



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# The early recognition of talents

## Eastern block nations

(former DDR, Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, etc.) have been implementing state-run identification programmes as early as the 1960's and 1970's (Baur, 1988; Bompa, 1985; Thomson, et al. 1985).



Olympic Games Moscow 1980, DDR



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# The early recognition of talents

## Western countries

(Especially Australia and the USA)  
tried to establish a system that would  
develop talented individuals after being  
identified in a specific sport (Peltola,1992).





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# PARAMETERS IN THE EVALUATION OF GIFTED HANDBALL PLAYERS

## BASIC ANTHROPOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- morphological or anthropometric characteristics
- motoric abilities
- functional abilities
- cognitive abilities
- conative personality traits
- sociological characteristics







## SPECIFIC ABILITIES OF AN ATHLETE

- manifested as motoric knowledge in the solving of situational problems during a sports activity
- specific physical condition and shape
- technical preparedness
- tactical preparedness
- theoretical preparedness





## THE GOAL of the testing of these parameters in handball is to

1. create a model of a top handball player with all the desired characteristics
2. to monitor the development of specific abilities and characteristics through time
3. to compare test results of young handball players to the model
4. to predict the possible trend of development of capabilities and characteristics of a handball player
5. to recognize the signs of giftedness



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# THE DEVELOPMENT OF GIFTEDNESS

The development of giftedness in a child is a complicated process where it is difficult to enumerate all the influences, but it can be said that the most important are:

1. the family / parents
2. the coach / club
3. the individual





# FAMILY

Empirical studies (Maccoby i Martin, 1983) indicate the importance of attachment, of a warm and understanding parenting for the psychological development of the child.





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# FAMILY / PARENTS

The models of parental educational styles give four general styles of parenting  
(*Raboteg-Šarić, et al., 2002*):

1. authoritarian
2. permissive
3. authoritative
4. indifferent





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# FAMILY / PARENTS



Studies have shown that certain aspects of the authoritative educational style, such as warmth and acceptance, supervision and enticement of psychological independence, contribute to the adolescent's healthy psychological development and better success in school and in sport

*(Brown, et al., 1993; Steinberg, et al., 1994; Windle, 1994).*



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# FAMILY / PARENTS

- Enroll their children into a sport
- Often choose a sport for their child that is really their own favorite
- Positive if they monitor the child and do not interfere with the training programme
- Positive if they encourage and support the child

However, they can be a negative factor if they:

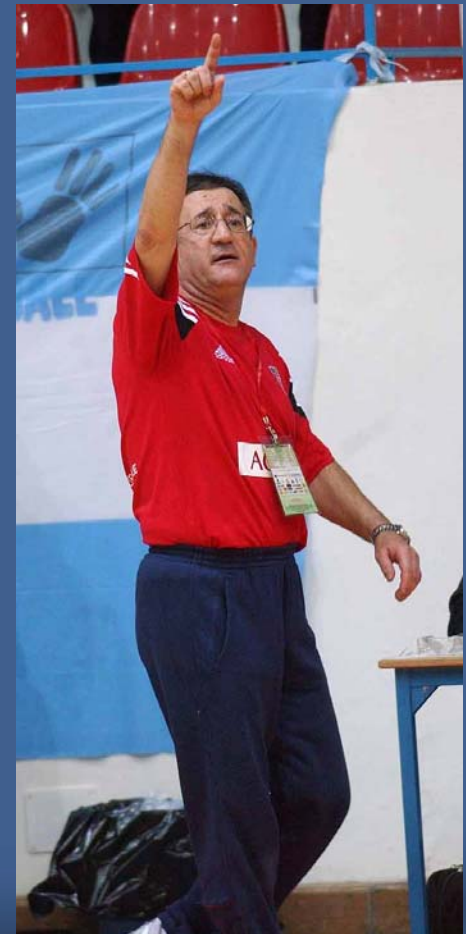
- Have higher ambitions than the child
- Pressure the child to be better, faster, stronger...
- Pass on their ill-ambition onto their children
- If they provide parental love based on the child's attained results



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# INFLUENCE OF THE COACH AND THE CLUB

The coach in a way takes over the educational component and the role of the parent. The family transfers the responsibility to the club, who cares only about result. Especially significant is the coach's role in coaching adolescent athletes.







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In the development of talents the coach's contribution should be viewed through several aspects:

- Coach – animator
- Coach – teacher and pedagogue
- Coach – strategist





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# COACH - animator

- Encourage the players in independent thinking and actions,
- Enable the satisfying of the sports-oriented curiosity and its further development;
- Enable the acquisition of basic knowledge and skills;
- Entice the players' lucidity and independent performing of motoric tasks;
- Entice and reward the positive thinking





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# COACH

## teacher and pedagogue

- To notice the signals of giftedness
- To organise the training process
- To ensure a wide base of motorical knowledge, and to improve motorical capabilities;
- To entice the development of motivation and the emotional-creative mindset;





- To develop the love and lasting interest in sports and the game of handball;
- To cooperate with the parents of the talented child ("the support network")
- To enable the child to have contacts with other handball experts (trainings, camp)





# COACH strategist

- is an expert that has the ability to lead a group and lead individuals;
- is familiar with the processes of intrinsic motivation development and knows how to entice them;
- entices the acquisition of increasingly complex forms of skills and knowledge of the game of handball;
- is an expert leader and does not restrain the talented individual in the realization of high achievements;
- coordinates all available capacities and capabilities in order to achieve the desired maximum productivity and creativity in the desired time frame expressed through a top result.



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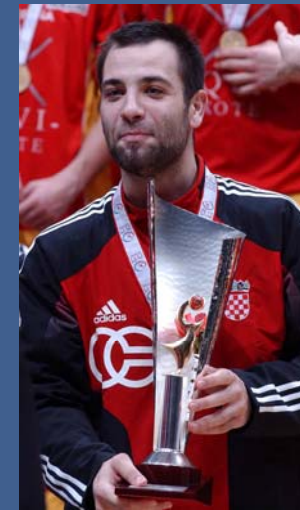
# The Individual

## Inner(Intrinsic) motivation

- Satisfaction from playing a sport
- Pleasure from an achieved result
- Satisfaction with himself / herself

## Outer(Extrinsic) motivation

- Prizes
- Money
- Recognition
- An invitation to play for the national selection





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## **LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF THE SOCIETY TO GIFTED HANDBALL PLAYERS**

**COACH**

**CLUB**

**COACHES' ASSOCIATION**

**COUNTY ASSOCIATION**

**NATIONAL HANDBALL  
FEDERATION**

**FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY**



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# COACH

- recognizing the technical and genetic deficiencies
- high-quality implementing of the agreed-upon plan and programme
- respecting the learning phases
- enticing the development of interests and the acquisition of knowledge
- enticing the child's interest for sports







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# CLUB

- sufficient training hours
- a good coach – pedagogue
- involvement of other coaches – specialists
- strengthening the relationship club – parent
- appropriate competitions, tournaments, matches
- forming relationships within the team and the club where giftedness is recognized, respected and rewarded





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# COUNTY ASSOCIATION

- forming a “Development Committee” made up of different professions
- informational and professional networking of all county associations
- keeping track of the results of gifted individuals from different clubs through medical checks, tests, surveys, questionnaires or observations
- providing trainings for gifted individuals
- trying to provide grants or scholarships for gifted individuals



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# COACHES' ASSOCIATION

- forming a “handball development committee” within the association
- preparing, organising and implementing tests and surveys, as well as gathering and processing the results
- communication with county associations
- technical and biomechanical monitoring and analyzing of gifted individuals
- defining the national team player with the characteristics and results through time
- making and individualizing the programme for gifted individuals



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# FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY

- important factor between students and handball
- giving handball-connected graduation
- students can make surveys and biomechanical analyses
- testing gifted handball players
- follow a year-round development of a gifted individual





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# NATIONAL FEDERATION

- competitions
- camps only for gifted individuals
- trainings for gifted individuals
- awards for gifted individuals
- to ensure the best coaches
- grants and scholarships for the most gifted ones
- financial basis for the realisation of gifted programmes





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# **Thank You!**