


**GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
Georgia's large-scale, small-fee research university

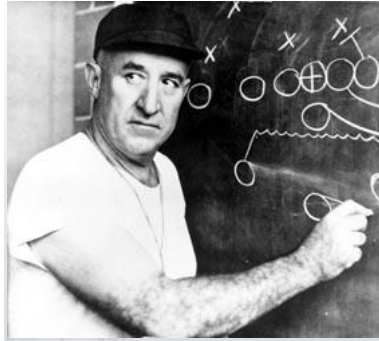
## One and Done? Coach Specialization in the Georgia High School Association 1965-2015

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*2017 Global Coach Conference : Liverpool, England*



## Introduction



**“You all have it easy... you’ve got more damn coaches than players!”**  
*-Jack Britt, HS coach 1952-1971*



## Introduction




**Specialization?**



## Previous GA Coach Research

- 100**  
(Zwald, Burden, & Czech, 2003)
- 1,000**  
(Zwald, Burden, & Czech, 2006)
- 8,000**  
(Burden, Burdette, Zwald, Czech, & Buckley, 2010)



## Research Questions

- **RQ1- Has GHSA coach specialization increased from 1965-2015?**
- **RQ2- Does the year, school size, location, sport coached impact the specialization rate?**



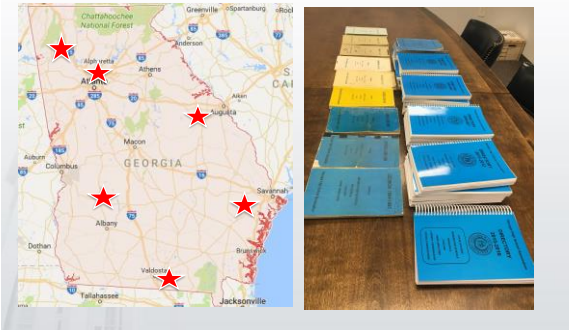
## Method



- **Formed in 1908**
- **Voluntary organization of over 450 schools**

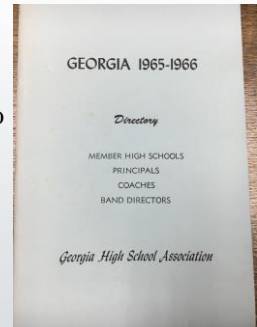
Baseball
Basketball
Cheerleading
Cross Country
Football
Golf
Gymnastics
Lacrosse
Literary
One Act Play
Riflery
Soccer
Softball - Slow Pitch
Softball- Fast Pitch
Swimming and Diving
Tennis
Track - Boys & Girls
Volleyball
Wrestling - Team Duals
Wrestling - Traditional

## Method

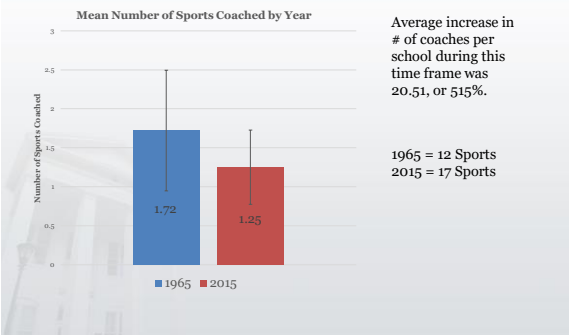


## Method

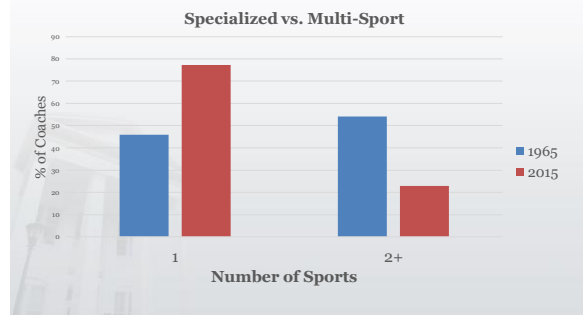
- **Other Variables:**
  - **Year**
    - 1965
    - 2015
  - **School Region (Location)**
    - 1-8
  - **School Size (Classification)**
    - Small
    - Medium
    - Large
  - **Type of Coach**
    - Head Football
    - Assistant Football
    - Head All Other Sports
    - Assistant All Other Sports



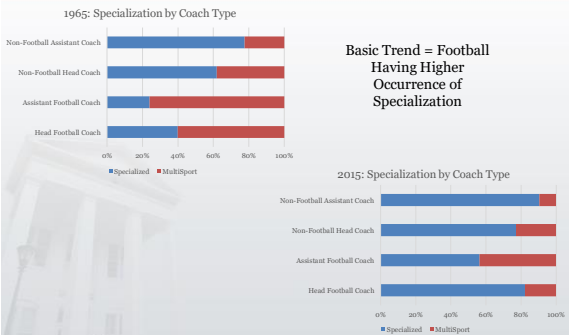
## Results-RQ#1



## Results-RQ#1



## Results RQ#1



## Results-RQ#2

- **Variables Entered**
  - Year, School Region, School size, and Type of coach.
- Model produced was significant, Chi-Square (15) = 4202.78,  $p < .001$ .
- Significant predictors were:
  - Year
    - Wald statistic (1) = 693.10,  $p < .001$
  - School Size
    - Wald statistic (2) = 6.77,  $p = .034$
  - Type of coach
    - Wald statistic (3) = 1255.01,  $p < .001$
  - Gender of Sport Coached
    - Wald statistic (2) = 1662.89,  $p < .001$
  - School Region
    - Wald statistic (7) = 31.23,  $p < .001$

## Significant Predictors of Specialization

Predictor	Odds Ratio
Year = 1965 vs. 2015	6.30***
School Size = Small vs. Medium	1.17*
Type of Coach = Football Head Coach vs. Football Assistant Coach	.35***
Type of Coach = Football Head Coach vs. Non-Football Head Coach	2.41***
Type of Coach = Football Head Coach vs. Non-Football Assistant Coach	6.84***
Gender of Sport = Only Males vs. Only Females	.60***
Gender of Sport = Only Males vs. Both Male and Female	.07***
School Region = Region 1 vs. Region 5	1.23*

\* p < .05, \*\*\* p < .001

## Discussion

- **General Findings**
  - Increase in coach specialization confirmed
  - Influenced by year and type of coach
- **Limitations**
  - Accuracy of the directories
  - Included only one governing body in one state
- **Future Research**
  - Larger sample size
  - What impact does specialization have on coach and athlete experience?

## Thank you!

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