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

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

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

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

Mean Number of Sports Coached by Year

Average increase in # of coaches per school during this time frame was 20.51, or 51.5%.

1965 = 12 Sports
2015 = 17 Sports

Specialized vs. Multi-Sport

% of Coaches

Number of Sports

Results RQ#1

1965 Specialization by Coach Type

Basic Trend = Football Having Higher Occurrence of Specialization

2015 Specialization by Coach Type

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year = 1965 vs. 2015</td>
<td>6.30***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Size = Small vs. Medium</td>
<td>1.17*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Coach = Football Head Coach vs. Football Assistant Coach</td>
<td>3.2***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Coach = Football Head Coach vs. Non-Football Head Coach</td>
<td>2.4***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Coach = Football Head Coach vs. Non-Football Assistant Coach</td>
<td>6.84***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender of Sport = Only Males vs. Only Females</td>
<td>.60***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender of Sport = Only Males vs. Both Male and Female</td>
<td>.07***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Region = Region 1 vs. Region 5</td>
<td>1.23*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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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