

Wade Gilbert, Editor-in-Chief

Thank you for visiting the second issue of the *International Sport Coaching Journal*. We have been overwhelmed by the tremendous level of interest in the new journal. Thank you for helping us advance the journal, and build a common space to share insights on the art and science of sports coaching. We continue to receive many submissions and I encourage you to contact me with any ideas you would like to share with a global audience. One of the distinguishing features of *ISCJ* is the range of different types of papers that we publish (Original Research, Best Practices, Insights, and Resource Reviews). Most certainly we feel there is a place for all types of ideas and writing styles in the journal. This issue features two original research papers, and an article in each of our Best Practices, Coaching In, and Insights sections, plus two Commentaries on our Insights paper. Reviews of two popular books related to talent development are also included, and as always we have our Digest section with a summary of recent research related to sports coaching.

In the first Original Research paper, Steve Barnson shares the results of his research on effective coaching in high school (developmental) sport in the United States. Barnson provides an evidence-based model of authentic coaching that highlights the many paradoxes inherent in the messy reality of sports coaching. In the second Original Research paper, Kyle Paquette and colleagues document the challenges encountered when implementing a constructivist approach to coach education with a national sport governing body in Canada. Collectively these two research papers illustrate, through in-depth field research in two different countries, the challenges sport coaches and coach educators face when navigating real-life coaching dilemmas while simultaneously attempting to connect their work to best practices advocated in the literature.

We are excited to also feature a unique Best Practices article prepared by Bradley Young and colleagues. The focus of their paper is on providing an innovative guiding framework for coaching Master's (age 35+) athletes. As they correctly note in their article, this segment of the athlete population is growing rapidly, yet there is very little research or evidenced-based guidelines on effective coaching practices in this coaching context. In their paper they provide many suggestions for practical strategies that will surely stimulate reflection and dialogue on how to most effectively design training environments for Master's athletes.

One of our goals is to publish a 'Coaching In' article in each issue, and our featured country in this issue is Singapore. Koon Teck Koh and colleagues provide a comprehensive overview of coaching and coach

education in this fast-rising Asian country, with a strong national emphasis on sporting and coaching excellence. For example, in 2010 Singapore hosted the inaugural Youth Olympic Games and improving the quality of life through sport for all citizens is an explicit goal of their *Vision 2030* policy framework.

The Insights paper we secured for this issue introduces the concept of 'forced crowdsourcing' as an emerging method for evaluating sport coaches. Jordan Bass and colleagues illustrate through recent high profile sport coaching controversies in the United States how the media is increasingly influencing coaching tenure in high performance sport settings such as professional and collegiate sport. Borrowing literature and theoretical foundations from other disciplines, Bass and colleagues make a compelling case for the future of forced crowdsourcing as an assessment tool that is, and will be, used by sport administrators when evaluating sport coaches. Consistent with our vision of *ISCJ* serving as a platform for global dialogue on sport coaching issues, we also include two Commentaries on the Crowdsourcing Insights paper. The Commentaries are written by two high performance athletic directors. In our first Commentary, Wes Yourth explores the role that crowdsourcing could play alongside more formal and systematic methods for evaluating high performance coaches, including some tools created through sports coaching research. In our second Commentary, Mark Smith shares his unique perspective on the pitfalls of crowdsourcing based on his varied experience as an administrator who evaluates sport coaches, a national team sport coach, and high performance athlete.

The two Resource Reviews prepared for this issue share the common theme of 'athlete development' and implications for sport coaches. I provide a review of the recently published *Sports Gene* by David Epstein. A few months ago I was approached about co-presenting with Epstein at a national sport science conference in the United States. His book had just been released and I was intrigued by the title. I read the book over the Christmas break and thoroughly enjoyed both the content and the style. Using case studies from the world's greatest athletes, primarily in individual sports such as track & field and cross-country skiing, Epstein weaves in the latest science illustrating the impact of genetics on athletic performance. The second Resource Review was completed by an award winning college golf coach, Dave Neer. He elected to review *Bounce* by Matthew Syad. Although the book was published in 2010, the content is still relevant because there continues to be considerable debate around the concept of 'deliberate practice' and the design of optimal training environments. Although I would argue

that we (the field in general) have moved beyond the old 'nature-nurture' debate, contrasting *Bounce* with *Sports Gene* provides the reader with a quick, and entertaining, overview of the interconnected pieces of the athlete talent development puzzle.

Finally, I encourage you to peruse this issue's Digest section, in which we provide summaries of 12 coaching related items (one webinar and 11 articles). We are constantly scanning media sources and the academic literature for material that we believe has potential to be useful for our readers. Please share any materials you discover that you would like to see us include in future issues of our Digest.

I would like to conclude this Editorial with an important announcement about one of our founding partner organizations. AAHPERD has now officially become the Society of Health and Physical Educators, doing business as SHAPE America. In addition to the new name, they have also introduced a new logo and tagline; "*Health. Moves. Minds.*" With the new direction, SHAPE America is poised to enter a new era, one in which they will aim to:

- SHAPE a future where healthy is the norm
- SHAPE a standard of excellence in physical education and health education

- SHAPE the lifelong habits of young people
- SHAPE and influence policy related to physical education and school health education
- SHAPE the field of coaching education and accreditation
- SHAPE and elevate the profession of coaching

With this in mind SHAPE America will focus its sport efforts on three main areas: (a) Coaching—shaping youth and interscholastic sport coach's behaviors, (b) Coaching Education—shaping the development and implementation of coaching education programs, and (c) Research—promoting and disseminating new research related to sport coaching, coaching education and sport performance on an international level. This is an exciting new development for *ISCJ* with SHAPE America's increased emphasis on quality sports coaching. Congratulations to the SHAPE America group for making this transition which positions them well for another century of leadership in sports coaching and physical activity.

Sincerely,
Wade Gilbert, PhD
Editor-in-Chief