

KEY READINGS

Ongoing Learning for Elite Sport Leaders

THE READING

Turman, P.D. (2001). Situational coaching styles: The impact of success and athlete maturity level on coaches' leadership styles over time. *Small Group Research*, 32 (5), 576 – 594.

WHAT IS THE POINT?

Examining athletes' preferences and perceptions and coaches' perceptions of leadership styles used throughout an athletic season

HOW WAS THE INFORMATION OBTAINED?

The review of literature identified an existing limitation when examining coaching styles. Time is a potential variable affecting athletes' perceptions of the coaches' styles and behaviors. The participants for this study included 155 varsity wrestlers and 17 coaches.

WHY IS IT RELEVANT?

- As a team progresses through the course of an athletic season, a coach's role and his or her interaction with athletes will transform and modify.
- College athletes preferred a greater training and instruction, greater social support, and less positive feedback and democratic behavior from their coaches than the intramural athletes.
- Athletes in their first year of experience perceived less social support from their coaches. Coaches' perceptions of the use of a positive feedback leadership style match those of their athletes' preferences and perceptions when measuring team success.