

Kroll & Crenshaw (1970)

Personality is an important factor in successful sports performance. Certain personality characteristics are (a) prerequisites for success and (b) necessarily different for different athletic activities. Certain personality characteristics can be linked for entering, continuing with, or dropping out of participation in sport. Certain personality characteristics can be affected by participation and associated experiences dependent upon features found both in the participant and in the specific sport.

The purpose of this study was to build on the previous research into within-sport personality composition by making an overall between sport analysis. It used the self-report research method to gather data in relation to athletes' personality characteristics. This involved the Cattell Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (16 PF Test).

A total of 387 athletes were included in the analysis:

- 81 were football players (from five collegiate teams representing both winning and losing teams from several categories of colleges in the middle geographic section of the USA).
- 141 were gymnasts from 14 college and university teams representing a national cross-section of the USA.
- 94 were wrestlers representing (i) a superior group of Olympic team and national tournament place winners, (ii) an excellent group of varsity representatives rated excellent by their coach and who had won 60% or more of their matches during the season, (iii) an average to below-average group of four college teams.
- 71 were amateur karate participants from five teams over a four state area of the south-western USA.

They all completed the Cattell Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire. In addition, several other tests were administered, one of which contained the 15-item lie scale of the MMPI. This is the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory and is a widely used psychological test designed to assess personality traits and psychopathology.

Following analysis, the results found significant differences between groups on personality profiles. Football players and wrestlers exhibit 16PF profiles that are homogeneous. Football players and wrestlers exhibit 16PF profiles that differ from those exhibited by gymnasts and karate participants. Gymnasts and karate participants exhibit different personality profiles. The sports of football and wrestling (in the USA) share many similar personality characteristics.

