

Actual versus Perceived Altruism, Narcissism, Emotionality and Impulsivity in Male Hockey Players

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Previous research has observed a culture promoted by the media that focuses on the notion that hockey players possess a unique set of attributes that make them desirable and of importance. Additionally, research has found increased narcissistic personality traits in varsity football players when compared to other undergraduate students. However, student athletes are also held to high standard of community leadership. The current study observed whether varsity hockey players' personalities ($n = 36$) differ from those of other university students ($n = 74$) and the relationship between a player's statistical ice hockey performance and their individual personality traits such as, heroic altruism, boldness, narcissism, meanness, and disinhibition. Data was collected using a self-reported survey consisting of pre-existing measures such as the 16-item Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16; Ames et al., 2006), the Triarchic Psychopathy Measure (TriPM; Patrick, 2010), and the Self-Report Altruism Scale (SRA; Rushton et al., 1981). This research aimed to identify personality traits that are beneficial to sport performance in university hockey, as previous studies have found some of these traits to be valuable in certain professions and high-contact sports.

Results demonstrated no statistically significant difference in narcissism, boldness, meanness, disinhibition, and altruism between hockey players and non-athletes. This was the case across all participants, regardless of gender. This would suggested that, at least for this relatively small sample, there were no clear, consistent personality differences between student hockey players and non-athletes. Additionally, players self-rated performance was highly related to their actual self-reported goal and point totals. This indicates that players had realistic perceptions of their own abilities. Future research with larger samples, as well as samples draw from other hockey playing groups (e.g., junior hockey vs varsity hockey) may be useful to determine the basis of stereotypes and commonly held perceptions of high performing athletes.

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