

# CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	ix
<i>Contributors</i>	xi
<i>Preface</i>	xvii
1 Identification and development of sport talent: a brief introduction to a growing field of research and practice <i>Steve Coble, Jörg Schorer and Joseph Baker</i>	1
<b>SECTION ONE</b>	
<b>Theoretical and conceptual models for understanding talent identification and development</b>	<b>11</b>
2 Do genes predict potential? Genetic factors and athletic success <i>Joseph Baker</i>	13
3 Building talent development systems on mechanistic principles: making them better at what makes them good <i>Áine MacNamara and Dave Collins</i>	25
4 Environmental influences on early development in sports experts <i>Sean Horton</i>	39

5	Identifying and developing skill expertise: understanding current limits and exploring future possibilities	51
	<i>Damian Farrow</i>	

6	Developing talent in athletes as complex neurobiological systems	64
	<i>Ian Renshaw, Keith Davids, Elissa Phillips and Hugo Kerhervé</i>	

## SECTION TWO

### **International case studies of talent identification and development** **81**

7	Talent identification and development in women's artistic gymnastics: the Talent Opportunity Program (TOPs)	83
	<i>William A. Sands</i>	

8	Who are the superstars of tomorrow? Talent development in Dutch soccer	95
	<i>Marije T. Elferink-Gemser and Chris Visscher</i>	

9	Talent identification, selection and development in UK junior rugby league: an evolving process	106
	<i>Kevin Till, Chris Chapman, Steve Copley, John O'Hara and Carleton Cooke</i>	

10	Back to the future: a case report of the ongoing evaluation of the German handball talent selection and development system	119
	<i>Jörg Schorer, Dirk Büsch, Lennart Fischer, Jan Pabst, Rebecca Rienhoff, Peter Sichelschmidt and Bernd Strauß</i>	

11	Explaining African dominance in running	130
	<i>Yannis Pitsiladis</i>	

12	Applying talent identification programs at a system-wide level: the evolution of Australia's national program	147
	<i>Jason Gulbin</i>	

13	Lessons learned: the future of research in talent identification and development	166
	<i>Joseph Baker, Jörg Schorer and Steve Copley</i>	

	<i>Index</i>	174
--	--------------	-----