How can technology be used to push sport forward?

John K. De Witt, Ph.D., C.S.C.S Wyle Integrated Science and Engineering NASA Johnson Space Center Exercise Physiology and Countermeasures Project







Astronauts as athletes

- Prepare for event
- Optimize performance
- Reduce Injury Potential
- Prep the body and mind

Philosophy – train the astronaut in order to increase/maintain health prior to, during, and after the mission

Task analysis

 Determine what is necessary to perform the task correctly

Perform research studies to understand performance

- Ground (Lab)
- Microgravity Analog (like the field, but still the lab)
- ISS (Field)

Studies in lab Advantage

- Control
- Instrumentation
- Time to collect data

Disadvantage

- Acute
- Limitations in performance due to analog
- External Validity

Studies in Field Advantage

- Real environment
- Not limited by time
- Can be repeated

Disadvantage

- Instrumentation
- Control
- Expensive
- Case Study vs Large Sample

Technology Used

- Motion Capture
- Force
- Metabolic
- Dynamometer
- Simulation

Examples used at NASA

- ARED Ground Study
- ARED Flight Study
- VO2 max
- Treadmill Kinematics

Application to Athletics

- Need to find simple ways to measure meaningful performance
- Need to find methods to collect data in difficult situations
- Need to be willing to develop new methods
- Use existing methods
- Use existing instruments in new ways