



ISSN: 2456-0057
IJPNPE 2018; 3(1): 2033-2035
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www.journalofsports.com
Received: 07-11-2017
Accepted: 08-12-2017

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A cross-sectional examination of mental skills between medalist and non-medalist female archery players

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Abstract

The aim of the study was to find out the significant difference of mental skills between Medalist and Non-Medalist female Archery Players. For present study total 30 Medalist and Non-Medalist female Archery Players selected as a simple of the study (15 Medalist and 15 Non-Medalist). The age of subjects ranging between 19-27 years was selected randomly from Punjabi university. Mental Skills Questionnaire established by Hardy and Nelson, 1996 was used for this study. After collecting the relevant data descriptive statistic and t test was applied. The level of significance was set at 0.05. The outcome of the study shows that significant differences of mental skill variables between Medalist and Non-Medalist female Archery Players.

Keywords: Mental skills, imagery ability, mental preparation ability, self-confidence level, anxiety and worry management

Introduction

Mental skills are inner capability that help athletes to manage their mind efficiently and consistently while achieving sports related goals. Mental skill training provides the methods and techniques not only to develop skills such as, concentration and positive body language, but also to foster personal characteristics such as self-esteem and positive competitive skills and behaviour. Mental skill technique helps the athletes to adjust their thoughts, actions, feelings, and physical feelings in order to improve their games. Mental skills training involve different interrelated activities. Many of these activities may be used alone but most successful outcomes are achieved when all are combines. Hardy and Nelson (1996) [3] confirmed that imagery ability, mental preparedness, self-confidence, anxiety and worry management, relaxation ability and concentration ability are very important for athletes. Some studies indicated that the use of mental skills such as imagery, relaxation, goal setting and self-talk is important areas in the field of Sport Psychology (Vealey, 2007; Williams & Harris, 2001) [8, 9]. It has long been approved that psychological skills are critical for athletes at elite level. Taghian (2001) [7] concluded that the degree of motivation in controlling of mental picture-making and their targeting affairs is higher than the superior athletes significantly than non-superior athletes. Ghadiri (2005) [2] concluded that the degree of mental skills in elite athletes of karate is significantly higher than non-elite karate athletes. Investigation findings of Burton & Raedeke, 2008; Vealey, 2007 [1, 8] & Williams, 2001 [9] have exposed that elite and successful athletes are more committed, motivated, self-confident, focused and able to cope with adversity. Players learn and develop many skills, based on information and training provided by their coaches and trainers.

Hypothesis

1. There would be no significance difference of Mental skills between Medalist and Non-Medalist female Archery Players.

Methodology

Selection of Subjects

For present study total 30 Medalist and Non-Medalist female Archery Players selected as a simple of the study (15 Medalist and 15 Non-Medalist).

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The age of subjects ranging between 19-27 years was selected randomly from Punjabi university.

Selection of variable

1. Mental skills

Tool

Mental Skills Questionnaire established by Hardy and Nelson, 1996 [3] was used for this study.

Administration of test

Mental Skills Questionnaire

Hardy and Nelson mental skills questionnaire was used to assess level of mental skills. The questionnaire contains 24 questions measuring six dimensions of mental skills and each dimension is measured by four questions, with a six point likert scale. The questionnaire has been presented in the appendix A. The six dimension of Hardy and Nelson’s mental skills Questionnaire are as follows:

- A. Imagery ability
- B. Mental Preparation ability
- C. Self-Confidence level
- D. Anxiety and worry Management
- E. Concentration ability
- F. Relaxation ability

Table 1: Represent Mean and Standard deviation results with regard to Mental Skills questionnaire (Sub parameters: Imagery ability, Mental Preparation ability, Self-Confidence level, Anxiety and worry Management, Concentration ability and Relaxation ability) between Medalist and Non-Medalst female Archery Players.

Variables	Group	N	Mean	S.D	T value
Imagery Ability	Medalist	15	18.00	2.17	0.683
	Non-Medalst	15	18.53	2.10	
Mental Preparation	Medalist	15	23.00	0.29	0.292
	Non-Medalst	15	22.87	0.35	
Self confidence	Medalist	15	16.93	2.09	0.750
	Non-Medalst	15	16.33	2.99	
Anxiety & Worry Management	Medalist	15	16.33	3.87	2.774*
	Non-Medalst	15	12.67	3.35	
Concentration Ability	Medalist	15	21.60	2.44	2.320*
	Non-Medalst	15	18.40	4.75	
Relaxation Ability	Medalist	15	20.73	3.86	2.283*
	Non-Medalst	15	17.93	2.76	

*t'.05 (28) = 2.048

Table 1: shows the Mean and SD values of Imagery Ability of female Medalist and Non-Medalst female Archery Players were 18.00±2.17 and 18.53±2.10 respectively. The obtained “t” value 0.683 (2.048) was found statistically insignificant, (P<.05) .05 level of significance.

Table represent the Mean and SD values of Mental Preparation of female Medalist and Non-Medalst female Archery Players were 23.00±0.29 and 22.87±0.35 respectively. The obtained “t” value 0.292 (2.048) was found statistically insignificant, (P<.05) .05 level of significance.

Table illustrate that the Mean and SD values of Self confidence of female Medalist and Non-Medalst female Archery Players were 16.93±2.09 and 16.33±2.99 respectively. The obtained “t” value 0.750 (2.048) was found statistically insignificant, (P<.05) .05 level of significance.

Table depict that the Mean and SD values of Anxiety & Worry Management of female Medalist and Non-Medalst female Archery Players were 16.33±3.87 and 12.67±3.35 respectively. The obtained “t” value 2.774 (2.048) was found statistically significant, (P<.05) .05 level of significance.

Table shows that the Mean and SD values of Concentration Ability of female Medalist and Non-Medalst female Archery

Purpose

This questionnaire identifies common mental strength and weakness level of the players.

Description

Each player/subjects was given a questionnaire and a pencil. The researcher were asked to subjects read each statement carefully and then circle the appropriate number to indicate the extent to which one agrees with the statement. This was based on a six point scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

Scoring

The rating is based on six point scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The lower score represents weakness level and higher score represents stronger level of mental ability. (Hardy and Nelson, 1996) [3].

Statistical Technique

After collecting the relevant data descriptive statistics and t test was applied. The level of significance was set at 0.05.

Results

Players were 21.60±2.44 and 18.40±4.75 respectively. The obtained “t” value 2.320 (2.048) was found statistically significant, (P<.05) .05 level of significance.

Table represent the Mean and SD values of Relaxation Ability of female Medalist and Non-Medalst female Archery Players were 20.73±3.86 and 17.93±2.76 respectively. The obtained “t” value 2.283 (2.048) was found statistically significant, (P<.05) .05 level of significance.

Table 2: Represent mean and standard deviation results with regard to mental skills between Medalist and Non-Medalst female Archery Players

Group	N	Mean	S.D	T value
Medalist Archery Players	15	110.07	9.97	2.631*
Non-Medalst Archery Players	15	100.71	8.82	

*t'.05 (28) = 2.048

Table 2 statistically depict that the mean and standard deviation with regard to Medalist Archery Players is 110.07±9.97 where as in case of Non-Medalst Archery Players is 100.71±8.82 respectively. The calculated t-value is 2.631, which is more than the tabulated t-value. So, it

indicates that there is significant difference of mental skill variable between Medalist and Non-Medalist female Archery Players.

Discussion of the finding

Descriptive statistics indicated that the significance differences of overall mental skill between Medalist and Non-Medalist female Archery Players. In mental skill:- Sub factors Medalist female Archery Players are better than the on-Medalist female Archery Players viz Mental Preparation ability, Self-Confidence level, Anxiety and worry Management, Concentration ability and Relaxation ability but in Imagery Ability Non-Medalist better. Outcome of the study represent the significance differences in In mental skill:- Anxiety and worry Management, Concentration ability & Relaxation ability and Imagery Ability, Mental Preparation ability and Self-Confidence level shows insignificance results. On the basis of analysis of the data, investigator found that the earlier study of Singh and Singh (2015)^[6] & Pashabadi, *et al.* (2011)^[5] & Paikarathodi, S. (2015)^[4] sported the present study.

Discussion of Hypothesis

1. There would be no significance difference of Mental skills between Medalist and Non-Medalist female Archery Players. This hypothesis was rejected because significance difference was found in Mental skills between Medalist and Non-Medalist female Archery Players.

Conclusion

The results of study shows that Medalist Archery Players significantly better on mental skills as compare to Non-Medalist players. It indicates that Non-Medalist Archery players are having lower level of mental skills as compare to Medalist Archery players.

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