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Meta-programs in Sports:
the profiles of two college baseball teams

METAPROGRAMS are usually presented in the context of psycho-therapy, business, sales, education, etc. This paper presents the results of a pilot study of two college baseball teams, a unique case of met-aprogram elicitation in a sport. To obtain data for this investigation, we administered The Neuro-linguistic Personal Profile developed by Arthur and Engel (1995) to college athletes. Of the two forms of this instrument, The Language and Behavior (LAB) Profile and the NLP Profile, we decided to use the latter for its efficiency and simplicity. The LAB is a one-on-one interview instrument whereas the self-inventory NLP Profile is more time-efficient, producing group results at one sitting.

Previous studies have utilized the LAB version of this profile, with two studies confirming inter-judge reliability. The first, done in 1993 at a university in New Brunswick, Canada, was with thirty-four students in the general college population. In 1995 eighty-three persons were interviewed at the same university. Godin (1995) analyzed both studies and determined that for ten of the thirteen categories of the LAB Profile there was a statistically significant coefficient of reliability.

A third exploratory study was done with the LAB regarding career decisiveness. Sixty-one students aged 17–24 were interviewed. The ordinal data from the interviews again revealed inter-judge reliability that was statistically significant (Sirois, 1997).

These studies are the only documented formal research known to us and have been cited by Charvet (1997). All the other applications of the LAB and NLP Profiles have been in business and personal counseling contexts. Statistics for business contexts were originally compiled by the creator of the LAB, Rodger Bailey.

We studied fifty-five college baseball players from two mid-western