

The position of a club in the league and the personality of Wrocław football players at the junior and younger junior levels – pilot studies for comparisons with combat sports

Authors' Contribution:

- A Study Design
- B Data Collection
- C Statistical Analysis
- D Manuscript Preparation
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Abstract

Background and Study Aim:

We assumed that a better club position in the league is associated with a more desirable personality of young football players. The aim of the research was the knowledge about relationship between a club's position in the league and the personality of Wrocław football players at the junior and pre-junior level.

Material and Methods:

Players from Wrocław (n = 103) of the 1st Lower Silesian Provincial League A1 Junior (U-19) and B1 Younger Junior (U-17) participated in the personality study with the use of the Big Five model. The NEO-FFI Personality Questionnaire was used as the research tool. The research took into account the positions of the clubs in the league understood as the final result of the competition in the 2020/2021 season. The analyses were performed with the statistical methods package IBM SPSS Statistics, version 26. The following tests were applied: Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Levene's, ANOVA with post hoc Bonferroni corrections. The statistical power analysis was performed using the G*Power program, version 3.1.9.7.

Results:

Differences in the intensity of neuroticism were noted between the players of the U-19 clubs, with the footballers from the 3rd position showing the highest emotional balance. In the U-17 group, no differences were found between the players of the concerned clubs. No differences were also found between players of the U-19 and U-17 clubs.

Conclusions:

It was concluded that a better club position in the league is not related to a personality of Wrocław football players at the junior and youth stages that is preferred by the coaches. The personality traits of young footballers are at similar levels. Therefore, the personality of young people should not be considered as a determinant, but as an end goal for the upbringing of football talents. This study was a pilot study and will serve as a material for comparisons with combat sports.

Key words:

Big Five • sports psychology • team sports

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Authors have declared that no competing interest exists

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The research has been approved by the Senate Committee on Ethics of Scientific Research at the Wrocław University of Health and Sport Sciences (Resolution No. 20/2019)

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Sports psychology – the merger of knowledge from the disciplines of physical culture and psychology, located within physical culture sciences. Its utilitarian use includes mental preparation of athletes and its theoretical usage comprises relevant research in this field [32].

Big Five – personality traits in the psychological trait theory identified as five factors model: neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness [28].

NEO-FFI – a tool for research on personality in the Big Five model used, among others, in the field of sports psychology [15].

Praxiology (praxeology) – the science of good work. *A Treatise on Good Work*, a fundamental lecture of praxiology by T. Kotarbiński (the first edition in 1955) has been translated into majority of the so-called congress languages (English, German, Russian) as well as into Czech, Japanese, and Serbo-Croatian [83].

INTRODUCTION

Globally, there is currently no sport more popular other than football [1]. The two sporting events that gather the largest audiences worldwide are the final of the American football league NFL, known as the “Super Bowl”, and the World Cup final [2]. Essentially, each country identifies with some team sport or other, granting it the status of a national sport. And from this perspective, football has no equals [3]. Football is the national team sport in Poland, among other countries [4]. The popularity of the discipline is confirmed by high-class Polish football players, including the current world’s best footballer. The national status of football in Poland contributes to its development. Therefore, social pressure faced by football players, coaches and activists is enormous and it applies not only to international level competition, but also local level competition [5]. This is the result of a high level of interest from fans who identify themselves with “their” teams. Fans expect satisfying sports performance from their teams in return for fan support. But sometimes the pressure from fans on the club can be too high, resulting in conflict situations at various levels [6].

Youth training is one of the most widely discussed topics in the football community. Youth football is also constantly evolving [7]. The European football infrastructure might be the best example of this. In Poland, a lot has changed after Poland and Ukraine were announced as Euro 2012 hosts [8]. Stadiums were built, as well as complexes of sports and tourism facilities [9]. The government project “Moje Boisko – Orlik 2012” was implemented, resulting in the creation of 2604 football pitches in Poland for schoolchildren and the local communities [10]. Therefore, every club performing at the Polish Ekstraklasa level is obliged to have its own football academies. Children and adolescents can take part in free football trainings that aim at identifying top talents. Youth competitions have been reformed. The Central Junior League was created at the junior (U-19), younger junior (U-17) and “under-15” (U-15)

levels. The Polish Football Association created the Pro Junior System, which rewards clubs that promote players of the younger generation [11].

In Poland, scientific work is still ongoing to improve the verification of young football talents. Therefore, it was decided to address the issue of the personality of football players at the junior and younger junior level. Measuring personality with the Big Five model among “under-15” players is not possible due to age limitations of the research tool [12, 13]. It is known from previous studies on senior level that there are differences in personality traits between athletes depending on the sports they train [14] and that team sport champions are distinguished by lower levels of neuroticism, higher levels of extraversion and openness to experience in relation to other team players [15]. In addition, the personality profiles of team sports champions are similar to those of individual sports [16] and combat sports champions [17, 18]. But research results indicating the dominant personality trait of sports champions is not conclusive. Some researchers point to low neuroticism [19], others to high extraversion [20], yet others to high conscientiousness [21], and the rest to low neuroticism and high conscientiousness [22, 23]. Furthermore, it was noted that the longer the athletes’ competitive experience, the more desirable their personality: lower neuroticism and higher extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness [24]. In contrast, significant differences in personality by sport level are only found between the first and third football youth leagues in Poland [25, 26].

Therefore, it was decided to verify the personality profiles of Wrocław football teams at the junior and younger junior levels. Bearing in mind the previously cited research results, it was assumed that, depending on the club’s position in the league after the completed season, there are significant differences in the personality profiles of U-19 and U-17 football players. The assumptions of this study are based on the premises of the population of senior level Polish athletes. First of all, sports

champions (internationally successful athletes) are distinguished from other athletes (national/Polish successful athletes) by a lower level of neuroticism and higher levels of extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness [17, 15, 16]. Secondly, belonging to the group of sports champions is determined only by a low level of neuroticism: the lower neuroticism, the greater the probability of belonging to the group of sports champions [18, 19]. Thirdly, sports experience significantly correlates with the personality of athletes: the greater the sports experience, the more their personality is appreciated by coaches. They are characterized by lower neuroticism and higher extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness [24]. Fourthly, there are differences between athletes due to the level of sports competitions they take part in [25, 26]. In connection with the above, it was decided to verify the personality profiles of the players of the available league at the junior level - are there any significant differences in the personality of the athletes depending on the club position after the season? Bearing in mind the above-mentioned research, it was assumed (in the context of the experience gained after the season) that the better club position of the studied players will be associated with their personality that is more desired by the coaches, characterized by lower neuroticism and higher extraversion, openness to experience agreeableness and conscientiousness. Confirmation of this regularity will set new directions for coaching activities and will have an impact on the programming of sports training. Therefore, in physical culture sciences this issue is considered important [27].

The aim of the research was the knowledge about relationship between a club's position in the league and the personality of Wrocław football players at the junior and pre-junior level.

A hypothesis: the higher the club position in the league, the lower the neuroticism and the higher the extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness of U-19 and U-17 football players.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Studied individuals

The research group consisted football players (n =103) between 16 and 19 years of age, playing in various Wrocław clubs at the level of the

1st Lower Silesian Provincial League. The study took into account the positions of the clubs in the league understood as the final result of the competition in the 2020/2021 season. The junior group consisted of players from the 1st Lower Silesian Provincial League A1 Junior aged 18-19 from the following clubs: Parasol Wrocław (16 players), WKS Śląsk Wrocław (18 players) and FC Wrocław Academy UKS (18 players), which at the end of the 2020/2021 season had the respective positions in the league: 1, 3, 4.

The group of younger juniors consisted of players from the 1st Lower Silesian Voivodeship League B1 Younger Junior aged 16-17. They belong to the following clubs: Parasol Wrocław (16 players), 1 KS Ślęza Wrocław (17 players), WKS Śląsk Wrocław (18 players), which at the end of the 2020/2021 season had the respective positions in the league: 4, 5, 7. The selection of the studied sample was determined by obtaining consents from the parents of under-age footballers and adult footballers, as well as from club authorities. Therefore, only clubs in which consent was obtained from all their members were included in the study.

Methods

The research used a five-factor model of personality, known more broadly as the "Big Five" [28]. Its dimensions consist of five features: neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, conscientiousness; which were defined on the basis of factor analysis [29]. Neuroticism is a dimension that reflects emotional adjustment versus emotional upset. Neuroticism means susceptibility to experiencing negative emotions and consists of: anxiety, angry hostility, depression, impulsiveness, vulnerability, self-consciousness. In contrast, extraversion is a dimension that characterizes the quality and quantity of social interactions as well as the level of activity, energy and the ability to feel positive emotions. This dimension consists of: gregariousness, warmth, assertiveness, activity, excitement-seeking, positive emotions. Openness to experiences is a dimension that describes an individual's tendency to seek and positively evaluate life experiences, tolerance towards novelty and cognitive curiosity. Openness to experiences consists of: fantasy, aesthetics, feelings, actions, ideas, values. Moreover, agreeableness is a dimension describing positive versus negative attitude towards other people, interpersonal orientation manifested in altruism

versus antagonism, experienced in feelings, thoughts and actions. This dimension includes: trust, straightforwardness, altruism, compliance, modesty, tendermindedness. And finally, Conscientiousness is a dimension that characterizes the degree of organization, persistence and motivation of an individual in goal-oriented activities, describes the attitude of a person to work and consists of: competence, order, dutifulness, striving, self-discipline, deliberation [30]. The above dimensions are understood as a continuum between the maximum and minimum intensity of a given feature. In the general population, each of the features should be distributed normally. The existing differences in their distribution are of study interest regarding their influence on particular areas of everyday or professional functioning. The NEO-FFI Personality Questionnaire was used as a research tool [31]. This questionnaire consists of 60 statements of a self-report nature, including 12 items for each dimension. The intensity of individual features is measured on a five-point scale, where "1" means "I strongly disagree", "2" means "I disagree", "3" means "I have no opinion", "4" means "I agree", and "5", "I strongly agree". NEO-FFI has age (namely 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-80) and gender specific standards. For the purpose of this study, the standards for men between 15 and 19 years of age were adopted. When interpreting the results, standardized sten norms are used, also depending on age and gender. The choice of the NEO-FFI Personality Questionnaire was determined by theoretical and methodological considerations, such as: the location of the tool in the theoretical model with a relatively large methodological formalization of the Big Five model; good psychometric characteristics, rich factual documentation, measurement accuracy and its widespread use in the applied sports psychology.

Procedure

The research was carried out after the 2020/2021 spring season in four rounds. The players of 1 KS Ślęza Wrocław took part in the first round, Parasol Wrocław in the second, WKS Śląsk Wrocław in the third, and FC Academy Wrocław UKS in the fourth. The research was carried out in direct contact in the written form. The time limit for completing the questionnaire was one hour. The respondents were asked to read the instructions on the first page of the questionnaire and were informed about the possibility of asking any questions they might have regarding the study. All adult respondents (juniors) gave their consent to participate in

the study. All juvenile respondents (younger junior) presented the consent of their legal guardians to participate in the study.

The project was implemented based on the positive opinion of the Senate Committee on Ethics of Scientific Research at the Wrocław University of Health and Sport Sciences, number 20/2019.

Statistical analysis

IBM SPSS Statistics version 26 was used to perform the statistical analysis. Significance was assumed at $p = 0.05$. In order to check if the distribution of the features is compliant with the normal one, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used. Levene's test was used to check the homogeneity of variance. The one-way analysis of variance ANOVA test allowed for the verification of differences which were further analysed in post hoc Bonferroni tests. In addition, the mean value of each personality trait for each team was determined using descriptive statistics, as well as the mean for juniors and younger juniors with the use of the student's t-test. It should be noted that a priori statistical power analysis was performed with G*Power version 3.1.9.7 to determine the minimum sample size needed to perform ANOVA and the t-test for independent samples.

RESULTS

Juniors

For Parasol Wrocław, in the case of openness to experience, the distribution was different from normal. But for WKS Śląsk Wrocław, in agreeableness the distribution was different than normal. Moreover for FC Wrocław Academy UKS, in openness to experience and conscientiousness the distribution was also different than normal (Table 1).

Asymptotic significance below 0.05 occurred in three cases: openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness. Neuroticism and extraversion adopted a normal distribution. Levene's test allowed the assumption of equality of variance and ANOVA analysis showed that significant differences were found in neuroticism, agreeableness and conscientiousness (Table 2). In Bonferroni post-hoc tests significant differences were noted between players of the Parasol Wrocław and WKS Śląsk Wrocław clubs (a). $p = 0.005$ and WKS Śląsk Wrocław and FC Academy Wrocław UKS clubs (b). $p = 0.014$ (Table 2).

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of U-19 (junior level).

Personality traits	Parasol Wrocław			WKS Śląsk Wrocław			FC Wrocław Academy UKS		
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>p</i>
Neuroticism	17.69	6.69	0.2	11.17	4.148	0.2	16.83	6.176	0.2
Extraversion	29.63	5.818	0.2	34	3.835	0.2	32.56	6.582	0.2
Openness to experience	26.81	4.665	0.002	24.61	3.432	0.14	25.17	4.63	0.002
Agreeableness	30.53	6.49	0.2	34.39	3.867	0.025	35.33	6.633	0.2
Conscientiousness	27.44	3.614	0.136	31.06	4.036	0.2	27.06	5.23	0.003

M mean; *SD* standard deviation; *p* significance.

Table 2. Analysis results for U-19 (junior level).

Variable	Kolmogorov-Smirnov test			Levene's test		ANOVA				
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	η^2	<i>df1</i>	<i>df2</i>
Neuroticism	15.13	6.343	0.2	1.435	0.248	6.68	0.003 ab	0.107		
Extraversion	32.15	5.706	0.2	1.676	0.198	2.731	0.075	0.05		
Openness to experience	25.48	4.282	<0.001	0.897	0.414	1.203	0.309	0.023	2	49
Agreeableness	28.56	4.667	0.002	1.369	0.264	4.52	0.016	0.078		
Conscientiousness	33.52	5.959	0.048	1.205	0.309	3.365	0.043	0.06		

M mean; *SD* standard deviation; *p* significance; *F* group variance; η^2 measure of strength of effect; *df* degrees of freedom; **a** post hoc test for Parasol Wrocław and WKS Śląsk Wrocław; **b** post hoc test for WKS Śląsk Wrocław and FC Academy Wrocław UKS.

Younger Junior

For Parasol Wrocław, in agreeableness the result had a distribution that was different from normal. For 1 KS Ślęza Wrocław and WKS Śląsk Wrocław, each of the personality traits had a normal distribution (Table 3).

The results of features in the younger junior category assumed the normal distribution for neuroticism, extraversion, agreeableness and conscientiousness. An asymptotic significance below 0.05 occurred only in the case of openness to experience. Levene's test allowed us to make the assumption of equal variance and ANOVA showed no statistically significant differences (Table 4).

Comparison of the studied groups

An asymptotic significance below 0.05 occurred in the cases of: extraversion, openness to experience, and conscientiousness. Neuroticism and agreeableness assumed normal distribution (to obtain 80% of statistical power, in order to detect the mean effect size, at the level of

statistical significance equal to $\alpha = 0.05$, $n = 156$ for ANOVA and $n = 51$ separately for each group for the t-test are needed; therefore, the number of researched persons to obtain the desired ANOVA results was insufficient, while for the t-test results it was sufficient). There were no statistically significant differences between the groups verified with the student's t-test (Table 5).

DISCUSSION

On the basis of the obtained results, statistically significant differences were found only in neuroticism in the junior group between the players of the Parasol Wrocław and WKS Śląsk Wrocław clubs as well as WKS Śląsk Wrocław and FC Academy Wrocław UKS. These are the differences in neuroticism between the 1st and 3rd and between 3rd and 4th place in the 1st Lower Silesian Provincial League A1 Junior. The players in 3rd place, from WKS Śląsk Wrocław showed the lowest neuroticism among the respondents, and therefore the hypothesis was not confirmed.

Table 3. Descriptive statistics of U-17 (younger junior level).

Personality traits	Parasol Wrocław			1 KS Śląza Wrocław			WKS Śląsk Wrocław		
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>P</i>
Neuroticism	15.31	4.895	0.109	14.35	4.076	0.2	15.44	4.949	0.2
Extraversion	31.75	5.027	0.2	33.35	5.303	0.2	32.72	5.154	0.2
Openness to experience	23.06	4.754	0.189	23.65	4.256	0.059	24.83	5.113	0.2
Agreeableness	32.5	3.367	0.01	31.59	5.173	0.2	34.89	4.626	0.2
Conscientiousness	29.19	4.564	0.2	27.24	5.25	0.2	28.56	4.731	0.2

M mean; **SD** standard deviation; **p** significance.

Table 4. Analysis results for U-17 (younger junior level).

Variable	Kolmogorov-Smirnov test			Levene's test		ANOVA				
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	η^2	<i>df1</i>	<i>df2</i>
Neuroticism	15.04	4.597	0.2	0.003	0.997	0.28	0.757	0.006		
Extraversion	32.63	5.103	0.2	0.167	0.847	0.402	0.671	0.008		
Openness to experience	23.88	4.693	0.012	0.152	0.86	0.626	0.539	0.013	2	48
Agreeableness	28.31	4.831	0.2	0.186	0.831	0.699	0.502	0.014		
Conscientiousness	33.04	4.613	0.2	1.938	0.155	2.546	0.089	0.479		

M mean; **SD** standard deviation; **p** significance; **F** group variance; η^2 measure of strength of effect; **df** degrees of freedom.

Table 5. Analysis results for U-19 (junior level *n* = 52) and U-17 (younger junior level *n* = 51).

Variable	Kolmogorov-Smirnov test			Levene's test		Student's t-test			
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>Df</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>d</i>
Neuroticism	15.09	5.518	0.175	6.025	0.016	0.088	92.98	0.94	0.02
Extraversion	32.39	5.395	0.03	0.34	0.561	-0.444	101	0.658	-0.09
Openness to experience	24.69	4.54	0.002	1.527	0.219	1.806	101	0.074	0.36
Agreeableness	33.31	5.331	0.066	0.221	0.64	0.261	101	0.795	0.05
Conscientiousness	28.44	4.727	0.002	3.135	0.08	0.518	101	0.606	0.09

M mean; **SD** standard deviation; **p** significance; **F** group variance; *t* - t-Student test result; **df** degrees of freedom; **d** effect size.

Moreover, in the group of younger juniors, no statistically significant differences were found between the players of the 1st Lower Silesian Provincial League B1 Younger Junior, and the hypothesis was questioned again. Also upon comparing the juniors and younger juniors, no statistically significant differences were found, which proves that the personality traits of young athletes from these two groups are at similar levels. Therefore, it cannot be concluded that the club's better position in the league is related to

a personality of young footballers that is more desirable by the coaches. The club's better position in the league does not induce lower neuroticism and higher extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness of U-19 and U-17 footballers.

More specifically, the statistics suggest that youth soccer players cannot be differentiated according to their personality profiles. Similar results were obtained in other sport disciplines [32]. But there

are other results which show that, in the overall sample, U-19 soccer players consistently outperform the U-17 in terms of psychological skills, i.e. in goal setting, confidence, stress response, activation, relaxation, focus, refocusing, and imagining [33]. Moreover, the psychomotor factors of U-19 are more important than the perceptual-cognitive factors. These include dribbling, ball control, decision making, motives for achievement, hope for success and fear of failure [34]. In contrast, teenage footballers ranked by skill do not differ in age, experience, body size, speed and power, but they do differ in aerobic endurance, especially in extreme skills. A mutual relationship between growth, maturity and functional traits of young footballers is noticed [35]. But the results in assessing motor skills and physical fitness are to the advantage of junior players. These findings indicate the potential selection bias from the talent pool or the effects of training, where the development of physical characteristics is important [36]. Therefore, the results obtained in the study indicate the need to extend potential explanations to the training environment and sports culture as important aspects of shaping the personality of young footballers [37].

At this point, it should be noted that the above-mentioned research and the authors' own research was made during the significant changes in the late phase of the respondents' adolescence, which is characterized by stabilization of biological (end of sexual maturation) and mental development of a young person [38]. In the light of developmental psychology, the respondents are preparing themselves to assume the roles and tasks of adulthood. Many developmental tasks of the late adolescence period, such as: shaping the social gender role, acceptance of changes taking place in one's own body, effective use of one's own body, preparation for building close relationships and identity formation; are crucial for their later functioning in adulthood [39]. That is why training a young athlete is a long process that requires patience, diligence and support from both parents and teachers [40].

The practical recommendations for players, coaches and parents should state that from an early age, it is necessary to work on motor skills and physical fitness using ball games [41]. This helps to associate the ball as something pleasant, which in the later stages of sports development will be a motivation to spend more and more time training football [42]. At the beginning, physical

fitness is important because it is the foundation for further development [43]. With time, training becomes more and more focused on football [44]. Then, appropriate club and the role of the coach in the development of young footballers are becoming important [45]. The player's development plan in the appropriate training base becomes the main goal, as well as the training plan and the starting policy [46]. This solution is important for the development of technical and tactical skills [47], motor skills [48] and team communication [49, 50]. On parents' side, support and motivation are of key importance [51]. If parents understand the specificity of the game, then they will be more effective in supporting their children emotionally in healthy competition [52]. Football should be first and foremost about passion and fun [53]. Only some of the young players will continue to the senior stage [54]. However, the values that sport instils in them will stay with them for the rest of their lives [55]. Sport teaches discipline, teamwork, healthy lifestyle, humility, respect for people and is a lifelong memory [56]. The values of football can be transferred to other forms of physical activity [57]. Therefore, parents and teachers should support the work of coaches in educating professional footballers. The personality of young footballers should not be treated as a determinant, but as the end goal of educating football talents. Therefore, a wisely organized training process at the junior stage may lead to the formation of the "more desirable" personality by the coaches of senior-level athletes - lower neuroticism and higher extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness.

To sum up, the football players from the studied population are far from the personality profile of sports champions [19]. However, this does not mean that they are not likely to be successful in football. Personality, although a predictor of achievement, is not its main determinant. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that the surveyed young footballers have a high level of agreeableness, which is characteristic for altruistic, gentle and modest individuals who are often straightforward. Considering the stereotypes of football players, this result seems very unusual [58]. Therefore, mental preparation should also play an important role in their sports training [59]. Well-conducted mental training has a positive effect on reducing the stress experienced by athletes [60], improves their mental state and positively influences their sport performance [61].

Mental training is an important element leading to an effective improvement in the physical and mental state of athletes during preparation for competition at the professional level [62]. In addition, the use of new technologies is recommended for the physical [63] and mental [64] preparation of young football players, as well as for the management of their training process [65]. Contemporary technology is modernizing the methods, forms and means of preparing football players for sports competition. The results of this work may be useful for athletes, coaches and sports organizations in order to improve the process of training young talents. The personality of young footballers should not be used as a determinant, but as the end goal of educating football talents. At this point, it should be noted that this study is limited to the Wrocław male population of juniors and younger juniors in football. Moreover, it was not possible to determine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the psychophysical state of the studied footballers [66-68].

This study can be regarded as pilot study from the perspective of future comparative analyses with young athletes practicing combat sports. Such a perspective is interesting primarily for methodological reasons. However, the dilemma is that both theory of team games [69] and combat sports theory [70] are published only in Polish. Moreover, the conceptualization of both theories is based on the key terms of praxeology [71] (see glossary) as well as the general theory of struggle (agonology) [72 see also 73-77]. Both the science and

the theory are authored by Tadeusz Kotarbiński, with the primary one being agonology (1938) [72]; by 2000 four more detailed theories of struggle (destructive [78], non-armed [79 and extended by the theory of compromise 80], defensive [81], combat sports [70]) were published - all of them in Polish. There is, however, an applicative difference in these specific theories (especially combat sports theory) and theory of team games in future analyses of the performance of football players (or those representing other team games) with the performance of combat sports athletes. In the global sphere of science (understood as available English terminology), a new sub-discipline is recognized: science of martial arts [82].

CONCLUSIONS

The position of the club in the league after the end of the season does not significantly differentiate the personality profiles of footballers at the junior and younger junior levels. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that the club's better position in the league is related to more suitable personality of young footballers. The club's better position in the league does not condition lower neuroticism and higher extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness of U-19 and U-17 footballers. The personality traits of young footballers are on similar levels. Therefore, the personality of young people should not be considered as a determinant, but as the end goal of educating football talents.

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