



TOP LEVEL SPORT
AND STUDY:

A SUCCESSFUL
COMBINATION?



GROWING IMPORTANCE OF COMPETITIVE SPORT



1 Start Olympic sport

3 Start national competitions

5 First olympic selection

2 Start competitions

4 First selection nat. team

6 End top level sport carreer



TOP LEVEL SPORT

VALUABLE?



SPORTS CAREER

MEANINGFUL?



EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM MUST BE FLEXIBLE



SPECIFIC ARTICLE IN THE GENERAL EXAMINATION REGULATION



TOP LEVEL SPORT AND STUDY IN EUROPE

France

- 1974 SSE SECTION SPORTS ETUDES MIN. EDUCATION
- 1984 4321 YOUNG ATHLETES - 26 DIFFERENT SPORTS - 187 SSE
- 1985 CHANGED INTO CENTERS OF TRAINING AND FORMATION MIN. OF YOUTH AND SPORT

Germany

ADH GERMAN STUDENT SPORT FEDERATION CONTRACT

Great Britain

UNIVERSITIES WITH A SPORTS FACULTY:
BATH, LIVERPOOL, LOUGHBOROUGH, SURREY...



TOP LEVEL SPORT AND STUDY IN BELGIUM

1982 TENNIS AND STUDY

1988 8 TOP LEVEL SPORTS PROGRAMS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL

1990 FLEMISH UNIVERSITY SPORTS FEDERATION

SYMPOSIUM TOP LEVEL SPORT AND STUDY

DEFINITION OF TOP LEVEL ATHLETE



Flemish students were considered as top level athletes:

- if selected by the Belgian Olympic Committee
- if selected for the national team in his/her discipline
- if playing in the highest division of a team sport
- if recognised by the own Sports Federation as a promising young athlete
- if selected to participate at the Universiade or World University Championships.



FREE UNIVERSITY BRUSSELS

UNIVERSITY GENT

K.U.LEUVEN



Top level sport and study at the University of K.U.Leuven

a clearer definition of top level athletes:

- student-athletes frequently selected for national teams or participating in international events receive a **category A admission**
- student-athletes playing in the highest division in team sports or ranked in individual sports in the top 3 of the Belgian National Championship receive a **category B admission** if they could prove training of at least 12-14 hours a week.



TOP LEVEL STUDENT - ATHLETES PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES



Top level student-athletes in different sports

Sports	Category A		Category B		Total Number Student-athletes
Athletics	2	4	7	6	19
Badminton		2			2
Basketball	1	1	3		5
Cycling	3				3
Fencing	1		1		2
Field Hockey	3			1	4
Gymnastics		1	1		2
Handball			5	2	7
Ice Hockey			3		3
Judo		1	1		2
Kayak	1				1
Mountain bike	1		2		3
Rope Skipping	2				2
Sailing	2	1			3
Soccer	5	2	2	2	11
Swimming	1		2		3
Table tennis		1	1		2
Tennis	1		2		3
Triathlon	2		1		3
Tumbling			1		1
Volleyball	4	2			6
TOTAL	29	15	32	11	87



RESEARCH SAMPLE

87 TOP LEVEL STUDENT-
ATHLETES

OUT OF 27.350 STUDENTS



PROGRAM OF STUDY

FAC. PHYS. EDUC. AND PHYSIO	30%
FAC. ECONOMICAL SCIENCES	18%
FAC. OF MEDICAL SCIENCES	17%



Top level sport and study at the University of K.U.Leuven

Academic year Faculty	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002		2002-2003	
							A	B	A	B
Agriculture & Appl. Biol. Sc.	6	4	4	2	3	3			1	3
Econ. Sc.	16	9	12	13	12	12	11	6	6	3
Engineering	3	3	4	8	1	1	3	3		1
Medicine	4	8	7	10	7	7	7	8	9	4
Law	8	13	10	10	6	6		1	4	
Phys.Ed.& Physioth.	49	36	33	34	44	44	12	14	18	16
Philosophy	2	3	1	2			4	1		
Psych. & Pedag.	4	3			6	6	3	4	2	1
Pharmac. Sc.	4	2	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1
Sciences	3	1	1	1	2	2		4	2	
Social Sc.	6	3	1	2	2	2	3		2	1
Theology		1	1	2				1	2	
Arts										
TOTAL	105	86	76	86	86	86	44	43	47	30
							87		77	



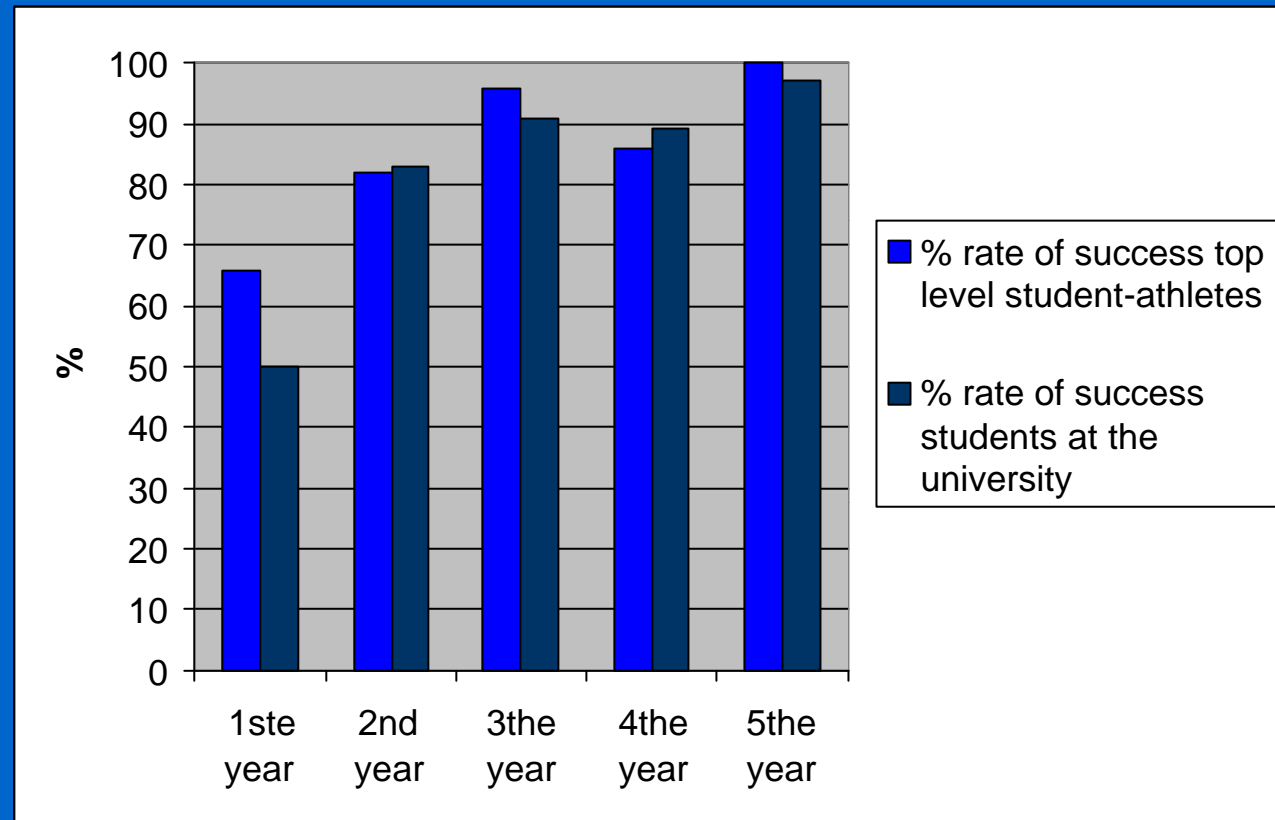
YEAR SESSIONS

MOST FACULTIES = 4 SESSION STUDY PROGRAMME

1 YEAR	47%
2 YEAR	20%
3 YEAR	18%
4 YEAR	13%



Rate of success of student-athletes and student in their sessions of study





STUDY FLEXIBILITIES

TRANSFER OF EXAMS **50%**

TRANSFER OPPORTUNITY DURING
THE EXAM SESSION **40%**

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMME OF STUDY **4%**



TIME TABLE OF TOP LEVEL STUDENT - ATHLETES

- 8.5 HOURS FOR SLEEPING
- 8.1 HOURS FOR STUDY
 - 4,4 attending classes
 - 3,7 for study
- 2.5 FOR RELAXING
- HOURS OF TRAINING: BETWEEN 1 AND 5 HOURS A DAY



PARENTS OF TOP LEVEL STUDENT ATHLETES



SATISFACTION WITH “THE STATUS OF TOP LEVEL STUDENT ATHLETE



CONCLUSIONS

- ACADEMIC AUTHORITIES?
- DEFINITION OF STUDENT - ATHLETE A - B CATEGORY
- LACK OF INFORMATION
- TRANSFER POSSIBILITY OF EXAMS
- 30 % STUDENTS IN THE FACULTY OF PHYS. EDUC. AND PHYSIOTH.
- HOURS OF TRAINING
- COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS



SPORT AND STUDY OR STUDY AND SPORT