Objectives
The purpose of this proposal is to encourage the utilization of international coaches for the development of athletes in the Italian softball and baseball academies.

Research Conducted
The Athlete
• The role of a coach is accomplished through adoption of behavior that facilitates the success of the athlete at a rapid rate (Genevrics, 2014).
• Elite coaches found that skill development was essential to developing athletic performance and findings suggested age-appropriate competitive games along with development of specialized skills after the fundamental skills were acquired. Findings also contributed youth development to the presence of adult involvement and organized competition (Thomas & Wilson, 2014).
• Coach expectations and athlete development have three aspects of expectations that coaches can empower athletes and aid in accelerated athletic development. The source of the information that a coach uses to evaluate athlete ability is identified; coaches are inflexible with their perceptions of athlete ability; and there is a demonstration from coaches that there are high expectancies (Solomon, 2010).
• Results found that the coach-created task climate positively improved cohesion along with satisfaction in the player’s participation within their team (Garcia-Calvo et al., 2014).

The Coach
• Self-reported results found that education relating to their career paths as coaches was a determining factor to success. The development methods that the expert coaches practiced were informal and also relied on networking with other coaches of similar values to be essential to progress of their own development. The ability to exchange ideas and methods with mentors and peers was vital to their development of their career (Nash, Sproule, Callan, McDonald & Cassidy, 2009).
• Results stated that there was awareness in uniqueness of coach education and an importance of reflection and engagement with learning experiences (Mesquita, Ribiero, Santos & Morgan, 2014). There was also an acknowledgement that in Portugal there is a dissatisfaction with the current learning system that revolves around classroom oriented practicing (Mesquita et al., 2014).
• The coaches that had opportunities or sought out knowledge had more success than coaches that were not in education. Results also indicated that formal, non-formal and informal learning situations were all beneficial to the education of the coaches and creating a positive youth development in players. Coaching philosophy and coaching practice evolve over time and is also based on numerous experiences such as coaching or parenting (Camuri, Trudel, & Forneris, 2014).
• According to Trinimi, Papic and Trinimi (2009), athletic development is a continuous process that requires an expert coach whether the sport is a team or individualized sport. The role that the expert coach facilitates the development of skills, personality, decision-making along with emphasizing the progression of development of the athlete as a whole (Trinimi et al., 2009). The findings related that an athlete’s career depended on genetics, the athlete’s preparation for the sport and by the lifespan development of the sport (Trinimi et al., 2009).

Methods
First, contacts must be made to gauge interest in potential funding for the proposal. Networking with these contacts will gain interest and also ask for potential funding that will aid in the proposal’s strength when it is presented. Dr. Giddings and I will identify potential funding from donors during this networking time period also. I will use the contacts that Dr. Giddings and I have acquired to send and present to potential funding outlets. The backing of names will assist in interest in future potential funding.

Dr. Giddings and I will research for grants or other financial aids that would assist in funding of the proposal. Grants and financial aids that do not require reimbursement would be ideal. With the funding, the proposal will be stronger and the probability of a university adopting the proposal is higher. Potential graduate assistantship stipends may be a possibility also after Dr. Giddings and I have gained the approval of the proposal.

Dr. Giddings and I will reach out to the presidents of the professional softball teams in Italy to pursue other possible funding and assistance with the proposal. This may be possible but will not be accounted for as a necessity. There may be interest in the development of the League’s athletes, which could be a reason that the presidents would want to support the proposal. Some of the potential donations could entail would be living accommodations to graduate students, transportation, or a work or study visa for the coaches.

Dr. Giddings and I will contact the baseball and softball academy in Italy to ask for potential donations that are not monetary but will assist in accomplishing the proposal. These accommodations could also consist of transportation or internet availabilities.

Dr. Giddings and I will network, contact potential funding resources and the presidents of the Italian softball and baseball teams. Dr. Giddings and I will research for grants and forms of financial aid. After exhausting all resources for potential funding for the proposal and networking in the interested softball and baseball community, Dr. Giddings and I will gather the data that we have collected pertaining to donations or possible funding sources and form an expenses sheet to present. Another sheet will be made to collect the resources that we have gained from the Italian academy for baseball and softball. The information gathered will be accounted for to make sure that all resources and connections that Dr. Giddings and I have made are intact. After all the information has been formatted in a presentable manner, Dr. Giddings and I will present to an interested university the proposal plan for creating a new student assistantship possibility to add to the department’s Master’s program for Master’s of Coaching or Sports Management Program.

Conclusion
There is significant evidence that the presence of coaches is beneficial results to athletes and coaches in sport programs. In order to utilize expert coaches abroad in the Italian softball and baseball academies various contacts, networking, funding and identification of necessities must happen.

References

Contact Information
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