

Sports Podcast Script

{Music and Title on screen}

{Mosaic transition to Greg standing in front of the Butter Dome}

GREG: When men, and women, look at a member of the opposite sex, our first thought isn't that they would be ideal for passing genes on to future generations; we are more likely thinking about how hot they are! What we aren't explicitly realizing is that our internal mechanisms are hard at work assessing the potential mate value of these individuals.

The theory of sexual selection states that males compete against other males for access to mates and more importantly, females tend to be more selective of potential mates. Simply said, the perception of attractiveness is an important evolutionary adaptation.

Competitive sporting events are one of the domains where men can signal attractive traits such as strength, physique, status and dominance. Females use these signals to evaluate and select the most desirable male.

{Blur Fade to shot of Greg in Clare Drake Arena with skating in the background.
Wearing an Oilers jersey}

GREG: With the recent completion and success of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver the athletes have gained international success and are considered the elite members of their respective sports. From Shaun White in snowboarding {Picture in Picture shot of Shaun White} to Sydney Crosby in hockey {Picture in Picture shot of Sydney Crosby}, it begs to ask the question, will these men be the most desired by females?

Since women invest more energy into their children, according to Robert Trivers' proposed theory of parental investment, they are the choosier sex when it comes to mate selection. When it comes to long-term mates, David Buss has shown that among other traits, women favor social status and financial resources. Pretty sure Syd and Shaun have these ones on lockdown.

{Wipe right to shot of Greg in front of trophy case}

GREG: A study by Honekopp and colleagues showed that physically fit men had greater mating success than their less fit peers and that this was mediated by their body attractiveness. In other words, Sydney Crosby is going to get a lot more girls than me.

{Picture in Picture shot of sexy Sydney Crosby}

{Cut to Vintage looking workout footage with original narration voiced over. Footage is of athlete working out his upper body}

GREG: Since females find males with athletic physiques more attractive, males will tend to bias their workouts in order to enhance their upper body definition to create a more pronounced v-shaped torso, or a more android body. Although this enhances male bodies, general physical fitness is a heritable component and will benefit a women's children.

{Box out transition to shot of Greg above the track in the Butter Dome}

GREG: One potential reason why some athletes compete in sports is to find more mates, Faurie and colleagues were able to show that competitive athletes report more sexual partners. Also within this group, the elite athletes who achieved more success also reported more sexual partners than average or low-level athletes.

Success within a team sport is also a very strong signal for females as it allows them to see which males assert dominance and can assume the highest rank within their team. This allows females the greatest access to the most physically fit males at one time. In addition to this, Schulte-Hostedde and colleagues showed that team sport athletes are more desirable as long-term mates.

{Picture in Picture shot of vintage looking footage of males helping young children skating around, showing male investment}

This suggests that they will be better for male parental investment which is important to inclusive and offspring success. If a male is better at working in a team setting, these skills will translate to their family life as well. They will show their children good social values and this is very desirable for women.

{Next screen shot spirals onto screen. Greg is sitting down in an outside location. Has a funny t-shirt that emphasizes the point of the next idea}

GREG: It is apparent that professional athletes fit the mold for highly attractive partners, but they may not make the best long-term mates. Since superstar athletes are also physically attractive, research has shown that they will be engaged in more short-term relationships.

If they are single, this is great, however, some of these athletes are married. Celebrity athletes at the top of their game are seen as some of the most desirable and attractive males. Going all the way back to the greatest boxer of his time, Muhammad Ali. {Picture in Picture shots of each athlete as their name is said} He cheated on his second wife, which I'm sure was a result of his status and attractiveness. This is also the case for basketball superstar, Kobe Bryant; Baseball stud Alex Rodriguez, Cycling legend, Lance Armstrong and most recently, the greatest golfer on the planet, Tiger Woods.

{Fade to shot of Greg outside in Quad for the final summary}

GREG: I think it's safe to say that athletes with high status and physical attractiveness are the top choice as partners, but is it ideal to pick them based on just these traits? Women also value traits like intelligence, dependability, and stability, and they have to deeply evaluate the costs and benefits of these traits and assess all of them when choosing a mate. Higher status may come with the cost of a greater potential for these stars to cheat. I hope Syd is smarter than these guys!!

{Fade to closing credits as music begins to play. Fades to black}

Podcast time 4:18 minutes.