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#### A thesis

#### presented to

the faculty of the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Studies

East Tennessee State University

In partial fulfillment

of the requirements for the degree

Master of Arts in Kinesiology and Sport Studies

\_\_\_\_\_

by

Jeremy Gentles

May 2009

\_\_\_\_

Dr. Mike Stone, Chair

Dr. Mike Ramsey

Dr. Andy Dotterweich

Chris Ayres

Keywords: athlete monitoring, system, web based, internet, social network

#### **ABSTRACT**

The Design of a Web Based Athlete Development and Monitoring System

by

#### Jeremy Gentles

This thesis explores the available resources and research pertaining to the process of athlete monitoring as well as how this information can be used to build an internet based athlete monitoring system. There is currently no system available that provides proper communication tools while also providing the means to track numerous variables to include strength and conditioning programs, performance testing, competition performance, injuries, therapy, pharmaceuticals, medical procedures, psychological status, and academic standing.

The objective of this thesis is twofold. First, is to review the literature and determine the needs of a web based athlete monitoring system. Second, is to provide a business plan that will be used in the process of web development and raising capital.

This thesis has identified the needs of a web based athlete monitoring system, a business plan for commercial use has been created, and based upon this business plan web development is currently in progress.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Dr. Stone, Dr. Ramsey, Meg Stone, and Dave Lawrence for your expertise and willingness to assist me in this process. This will be a success!

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#### CHAPTER 1

#### INTRODUCTION

Similar to the manufacturing of products, proper athletic development is a process. The proper development of an athlete requires research, thorough planning, a number of individuals with a variety of skill sets, quality control measures, and implementation. A significant amount of research, thought, and observation has been dedicated to indentifying the components needed in this process and the variables that influence athletic performance and development. Tools and devices enabling easy measurement of these variables have also been a focus. To date, however, little has been done to synchronize these components and provide a single system allowing for data collection, communication, and the monitoring of the athletic development process.

Proper athletic development and monitoring is a complex process. However, each individual athlete, team, athletic department, sport science program, or organization will have varying levels of resources available. For instance, a single recreational but competitive marathoner may not have access to strength and conditioning facilities but may use tools such as a heart rate monitor and a laptop. An elite collegiate sprinter on the other hand, may have access to sport scientists, strength and conditioning coaches, athletic trainers, sport medicine physicians, custom shoes, timing gates, indoor training facilities, and more. A web based athlete development and monitoring system must be designed in a way that provides ease of use for those with few resources as well as providing those with seemingly endless resources with the flexibility and scale to manage and monitor those resources. East Tennessee State

University (ETSU) offers a variety of resources that will support the design of web based solutions for athlete development and monitoring. Resources such as the Center of Excellence for Sport Science and Coaches Education, a sport science program that works directly with athletes and in the future a PhD program for sport science, will assist in the development of two web based products. SportLabz, a web based product catering to the needs of collegiate and professional athletic teams, and FitLabz, a web based product catering to the needs of recreational athletes and fitness enthusiasts, will be developed in cooperation with ETSU's sport science program.

#### **Operational Definitions**

- Niche Market: A niche market is a specialized market or group of consumers with specific and specialized needs.
- Athlete Monitoring: Athlete monitoring is the process of tracking an athlete's
  development by monitoring variables of and those associated with health, stress,
  training, recovery, and performance.
- 3. <u>Tracking or Monitoring Solutions:</u> Systems and tools that allow users to collect, organize, and analyze variables of athlete monitoring.

#### Review of Literature

#### Available Athlete Development and Monitoring Solutions

There are numerous athlete development and monitoring solutions available and it seems they are becoming more numerous by the day. Some of these solutions are web based, PC based, or a combination thereof. Some focus on injury tracking, medication management, endurance sports, or strength and power sports.

Many of the latest and most abundant athlete development and monitoring solutions released have been related to instruments such as heart rate monitors or GPS devices. Manufacturers of these instruments and many others provide software solutions that interface with their specific devices and allow for easy tracking and analyzing of the variables collected via these instruments.

While it seems that having so many solutions available is advantageous, proper athlete development and monitoring requires more than just having the ability to analyze resting heart rate, body weight, or distance run. The athlete development and monitoring solutions that are supposed to make the process easier have instead complicated the issue making it necessary to use multiple systems and methods to properly monitor an athlete. Drawing a quick comparison, imagine if each email provider used a different file format and email could only be sent and received from email accounts of the same email provider. In this comparison, Gmail accounts could only send email to other Gmail accounts and Hotmail accounts could only send email to other Hotmail accounts; the number of email providers are too copious to count. This type of scenario would render email, an obviously useful tool, essentially useless. A variety of available athlete development and monitoring systems are discussed below.

Web Based Solutions. A number of web based athlete development and monitoring solutions are available but only a couple of solutions will be discussed here.

TrainingPeaks.com is a quite robust platform that focuses on providing tracking and monitoring solutions for endurance athletes. There are two editions of TrainingPeaks available. There is a personal edition, which is free to use and caters to

the individual athlete, and there is a fee-based professional edition that allows a single individual or organization to track and monitor any number of clients or athletes (TrainingPeaks, 2009). TrainingPeaks interfaces with a number of different devices such as Garmin GPS devices, Polar heart rate monitors, Racemate's Computrainer, Suunto products, and many more (Compatible devices, 2009). TrainingPeaks is also integrated on some levels with Microsoft HealthVault, which is one electronic medical record option currently available to the general public (Health Vault Pod, 2007).

While there are many positive aspects of TrainingPeaks, this web-based solution is extremely difficult use. It does not offer detailed monitoring of strength training programs, there is no support for medication management, injury tracking is nonexistent, and social features are lacking. At the time of writing this thesis, TrainingPeaks is beta testing version 3, which anecdotally has been said to be more difficult to use than the current version (Invitations to TrainingPeaks, 2008).

AthleteMonitoring.com is a web based athlete development and monitoring solution that serves athletes, teams, and organizations of any sport (AthleteMonitoring.com, 2009). AthleteMonitoring offers a range of monitoring solutions, much in the in the form of questionnaires, but lacks meaningful tools for building training programs, there is no option for medication management, available communication features are antiquated, there are no social components, and there is much room for improvements upon user friendliness.

<u>PC Based Solutions</u>. Personal computer (PC) and Mac based athlete development and monitoring solutions currently outnumber web-based solutions.

Two PC based software programs used by a number of collegiate and professional athletic programs are Simtrak and SportPharm. Premiere Software, Inc. produces both Simtrak and SportPharm (Premier Software Products, 2009). Simtrak is dedicated to providing injury documenting and tracking solutions (Simtrak, 2009) while SportPharm is dedicated to providing pharmaceutical documenting and tracking solutions (SportPharm, 2009). Premiere Software is currently planning to make both Simtrak and SportPharm compatible with one another as well as creating web based versions for each.

Both Simtrak and SportPharm have a strong feature set and are user friendly. If proper athlete development and monitoring required only injury and pharmaceutical related data, Simtrak and SportPharm would be sufficient. Because both of the programs are PC based, social features do not exist, communication tools are limited, and features for designing training programs are completely absent.

Device makers such as Suunto, Polar, Garmin, and many others generally provide PC or Mac based software that interfaces with their particular devices. Because these devices are too numerous to cover individually here, it is these devices and their associated software solutions that paint a similar scenario to that illustrated using email providers above. With hundreds of devices, many of which interface with completely different software and use file types specific to the device-software combination, managing the data generated via these devices, especially when more than one device is used by and individual, team, or organization, becomes extraordinarily difficult. It is for this reason that an athlete development and monitoring system capable of accepting file types from essentially any device would be extremely advantageous.

Other Solutions. Due to the lack of an adequate system for developing and monitoring all aspects an training and performance, many athletes, coaches, teams, and athletic departments use handwritten journals or options such as spreadsheets to organize data. While certainly better than no tools at all to monitor an athlete's development, spreadsheets become extremely cumbersome when managing the data for a single athlete much less an entire American football team or athletic department.

#### Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Athlete Monitoring

A multidisciplinary approach to athlete development and monitoring is not a new concept although proper implementation of a multidisciplinary approach is often absent from many individual and team sport settings. This multidisciplinary team should consist of specialists in most if not all areas such as medicine (ex. team physician), athletic training, biomechanics, psychology, nutrition, massage, weight training (ex. strength and conditioning coach), physical therapy, team coach, and sport science (Norris, 2002a; Smith, 2003). Due to the well-rounded education and experience of sport scientists, they are often best suited to coordinate and interpret communication between all departments involved in an athlete's development and monitoring.

As can be imagined, communication between all individuals and/or departments involved in an athlete's development and monitoring is extremely important. As will be discussed in more detail later, enhancing communication between all parties involved is one of the primary goals of the athlete development and monitoring solution proposed in this thesis.

#### The General Purpose of Athlete Monitoring

When monitoring an athlete, it must be understood that not all factors influencing an athlete's development and performance are under the control of the athlete or the multidisciplinary team responsible for developing the athlete. Tragedy within an athlete's family, illness, and injury are all examples of uncontrollable factors that influence an athlete's development and performance that must be monitored and communicated to a network of individuals and departments involved in an athlete's development. In regards to a well-designed strength and conditioning program, one of the primary purposes of monitoring is the management of fatigue. The point of monitoring an athlete's training program is not to prevent fatigue but rather manage or balance fatigue with fitness (Stone, 2007c).

#### Variables to Track and Monitor

A properly designed athlete development and monitoring system should essentially allow for the tracking and monitoring of any variable related to athletic performance. While not all variables are worth monitoring, the right athlete development and monitoring system should provide the flexibility to track a number of standard variables as well as any custom variables related to athletic performance. There are countless variables to track that have been theorized to impact athletic performance. It is not the purpose of this literature review to identify all variables that could affect or are associated with athletic performance. Rather, those variables that are supported by science and are relatively easy to measure and monitor are discussed here.

Biochemical measures can be valuable components to athlete monitoring (Petibois 2003). Measuring these values, while worthwhile, are often expensive and this

limits who can regularly monitor these variables. Long periods of high intensity training or high volumes of training have been shown to cause decreases in serum testosterone as well as decreases in testosterone to cortisol ratio. Decreases in serum testosterone and testosterone to cortisol ratio are associated with fatigue and decreases in maximal strength (Alén, 1988; Busso, 1992; Häkkinen, 1985). Glutamine (Gm) levels, glutamate (Ga) levels, and Gm to Ga ratio have been shown to consistently represent an athlete's tolerance for and ability to recover from training. As levels drop and Gm to Ga decreases, this is a sign that tolerance to training is also decreasing (Coutts, 2007; Smith 2000; Smith, 2003).

An elevated resting HR is associated with fatigue (Jeukendrup 1992; Lehmann 1993). A resting heart increase of 10 bpm above baseline may signal that athletes have surpassed their functional adaptive capacity (Norris, 2002b). Decreases in body mass may be a consequence of an athlete performing excessive work (Hawley, 2003; Stone, 1991). Variables such as resting heart rate and body weight can be easily measured by the athletes themselves and entered into a web based form via personal computers, smart phones, and text messaging. Body composition, where fat mass increases or lean tissues decreases, should be monitored to ensure proper caloric intake is being maintained (Margaritis, 2003; McConell, 1993; Mujika, 2003). An athlete's hydration status is easily measured and influences a number of factors that affect athletic development and performance. Dehydration amounting to a mere 1%-2% decrease in body mass can negatively affect physiologic and mental processes to include cardiovascular performance, possible muscle strength, and cognition (Stone, 2007a). Measuring and tracking the dose of training is of the upmost importance. Training dose

is also relatively easy and straightforward to monitor. Volume, intensity, density and frequency can all be used to measure the dose of training (Stone, 2007b). While a number of variables can be used to measure the dose of strength training, a simple volume-load calculation can be made by multiplying resistance x repetitions to estimate strength training dose. A number of other variables to consider monitoring include sleep patterns, overall stress levels, mood, injuries, pharmaceuticals, and performance testing.

While it is possible to monitor nearly all factors that may influence an athlete's development and performance, this would require meticulous data entry of an athlete's everyday life. With this said, even though nearly any variable can be monitored, this does not mean that all conceivable variables should be monitored or are quantifiable. For instance, it is important for a coach to be aware of outside stressors in an athlete's life. Perhaps an athlete has experienced a break up or a death in the family. This may have a significant impact on an athlete's performance, but it is impossible to quantify how these stressors impact athletic performance. Practically speaking it is not reasonable to address and monitor all outside stressors. It is important however to make it easy and convenient for athletes to discuss and describe any outside stressors they may encounter, that may influence athletic development and performance.

#### CHAPTER 2

#### **BUSINESS PLAN**

#### Venture History

The idea of both SportLabz and FitLabz, which are both web based athlete monitoring solutions, have been born by the frustrations so many strength and conditioning professionals, athletes, and fitness enthusiasts experience when trying to track and monitor training and performance.

Many of the ideas have been inspired by the scientific work performed at the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) training center in Colorado Springs as well as ongoing research at East Tennessee State University.

The concept and development of SportLabz and FitLabz started early in 2008.

The business model and specifications for web development have been ongoing for over a year.

#### Venture Description

SportLabz.com and FitLabz.com design and host state of the art web applications allowing athletes and fitness enthusiasts the ability to track numerous performance and health variables. A single user such as a recreational athlete or an organization with multiple users such as university athletic programs, can monitor training programs, receive performance alerts, and manage large amounts of data. These applications are unlike any other when joined with powerful tools for data

analysis, report generation, device compatibility, user collaboration, and the tight integration with the latest sport science research.

#### SportLabz.com

SportLabz is a website designed to provide universities and professional athletic teams with the most robust application for monitoring the performance of all of their teams and athletes. Whether it is injury prevention or changing strength measures, coaches and organizations must be able to monitor numerous variables that impact athletic performance. In fact, SportLabz is unique due to its ability to monitor all aspects of athletic development, while providing coaches, physicians, athletic trainers, and sport scientists automatic updates and on demand access to athlete performance data. This will allow coaches to determine if an athlete is developing and performing as expected, or if adjustments to an athlete's strength and conditioning program need to be made.

SportLabz will also provide coaches with information and guidance from some of the top sport scientists in the world and interface with the most commonly used devices used in strength and conditioning. SportLabz is a paid service where pricing is based upon athlete volume.

#### FitLabz.com

FitLabz is aimed at meeting the variety of needs presented by the general public whether it is the recreational athlete, personal trainer, or fitness enthusiast. While based upon the same web application designed to track athletic performance in SportLabz, FitLabz is unique due to the integration of its robust community features. Not only will users will be able to track their athletic performance and fitness goals unlike any other

application currently available, but they will also be provided the community and social tools many web users now demand and use on a daily basis. FitLabz is free to use and is ad supported.

#### Venture Organization

While the type of corporation SportLabz will be has not been decided, it will most likely be an LLC. The key management and consultation team consists of the following individuals.

- Chairman The individual who will serve as the chairman of the company has
  not been decided upon at this time. This individual will, however, most likely be
  an angel investor in the company.
- Jeremy Gentles The owner/CEO and has experience with search engine optimization, web application feature development, and managing online communities. I am also a graduate student in Kinesiology and Sport Studies of which this thesis is serving as my final project. I also have the unique ability to bridge the gap between science of athlete monitoring and the development of those web applications that will track and monitor athlete development.
- Intelligthought Intellithought and its senior developer will serve as the primary web development team for SportLabz and FitLabz.
- Dr. Mike Stone Dr. Stone is a leading sport scientist and will provide consultation services and guidance on proper athlete tracking functions. He will also write on a regular basis for SportLabz and FitLabz.

- Dr. Mike Ramsey Dr Ramsey is an exercise physiologist who will provide consultation services and guidance for proper athlete tracking functionality. Dr. Ramsey will also write on a regular basis for SportLabz and FitLabz.
- Meg Stone Meg Stone is the Director of ETSU's Center of Excellence for Sport
  Science and Coaches Education. Meg will provide consultation services and
  guidance on proper athlete tracking functions. She will also write on a regular
  basis for SportLabz and FitLabz as well as provide feedback on product user
  friendliness.

#### Venture Market

Using the two initial product offerings, SportLabz and FitLabz, there will be two distinct markets on which to focus.

SportLabz will meet the needs of the first market, which consists primarily of a combination of collegiate and professional athletic teams. SportLabz is applicable to other organizations such as The UK Strength and Conditioning Association (UKSCA), Diabetes Exercise and Sport (DESA), and USOC in addition to the single athlete.

Of this distinct market, SportLabz will first be marketed towards collegiate athletic teams. One sale to a collegiate athletic department may result in multiple teams subscribing to the service. SportLabz and those supporting the development of SportLabz have many contacts at the collegiate level making this market extremely accessible. SportLabz will be aggressively marketed to professional athletic teams once a strong collegiate client base is established.

FitLabz will focus on meeting the needs of the general public to consist of recreational athletes, personal trainers, fitness enthusiast, and others. It should also be mentioned again that this is a free website to use. Organizations such as those mentioned above described in the market of SportLabz are also applicable to FitLabz but for a variety of reasons to be covered, most organizations will choose the paid version. A brief description of United States market size alone is as follows.

- 2500-3000 4-year NCAA universities (Degree-granting institutions, 2007)
- Hundreds of major professional teams
- Thousands of professional athletes
- 25,000-30,000 high schools (Number of educational, 2007)
- Hundreds of thousands serious recreational athletes
- Tens of millions of fitness enthusiasts
- Hundreds of thousands of personal trainers (with many more clients)
- Approximately 30,000 Health Clubs (IHRSA, 2008)

It should be noted that there is tremendous potential for expanding this market into countries such as Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and other English speaking countries with very little additional development.

While there is a great deal of overlap between the needs of both markets, there are distinct reasons to have a separate product for each. Both applications will track numerous performance variables, but applications for universities and professional

athletic teams must be private and present a sense of security that more social or community based networks do not (although most well developed web based communities have a high level of security and rigorous privacy standards). For recreational athletes and fitness enthusiast, a social or community component will create a more enticing user experience. A well-developed social network can also be a tremendous marketing force.

#### **Venture Operations**

Approximately \$650,000 of start-up capital will be required for the first two years and will be divided into the following categories.

- \$260,000 for product development
- \$25,000 for hosting
- \$160,000 marketing and advertising where \$100,000 will be spent on SportLabz
   and \$60,000 will be spent marketing FitLabz
- \$162,000 wages and benefits
- \$25,000 for professional fees
- \$6,000 for rent
- \$11,000 office supplies and phone

#### Venture Financing

SportLabz and FitLabz will require angel investments. The goal in 5 years is to have an initial public offering or other event to repay investors. Additionally, the initial

investment will be approximately \$8,000 for complete project planning with an additional \$650,000 for complete development.

#### Management Team

The following individuals and positions will make up the initial management structure.

- Chairman The individual who will serve as the chairman of the company has
  not been decided upon at this time. This individual will, however, most likely be
  an angel investor in the company.
- Owner and CEO Jeremy Gentles
- IT Management Intelligthought and their senior developer will serve as SportLabz web development and technology consultants.
- Sales Manager A sales manager with Internet experience will be hired when applicable (TBA).
- Marketing Manager A marketing manager with social networking experience will be hired when applicable (TBA).

#### Compensation and Ownership

I will own SportLabz, FitLabz, and my compensation package will be a discussed and decided upon once angel investments have been secured. See the cash flow projections worksheet for latest owner compensation projections (Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C).

#### **Board of Directors and Advisory Council**

The Board of Directors and Advisory Council will include several Angel Investors, Sport Scientists (PhDs/MDs) and technology advisors.

- Angel Investors TBA
- Dr. Mike Stone Product Dev, Content Provider
- Meg Stone Product Dev, Content Provider
- Dr. Mike Ramsey Product Dev, Content Provider
- Dr. Bill Sands Product Dev, Content Provider
- Intellithought CEO

#### Infrastructure

While the key outside advisors such as attorney, accountants and financial advisors have not been solidified, there are tentative plans to use the following individuals.

#### **Corporate Attorney**

Bill Argabrite

Company - Hunter, Smith & Davis

argabrite@hsdlaw.com

www.hsdlaw.com

#### **Financial Advisor**

Wayne Kirk, CPA/CVA
Business Valuations & Consulting
1048 Hunters Lake Drive
Johnson City, TN 37604
423-677-2300
ewkirk@charter.net

#### Contracts and Franchise Agreements

There will be several contractual agreements used by both SportLabz and FitLabz.

#### <u>Noncompete</u>

All employees will be required to sign non compete agreements.

#### Contract with Intellithought

A contract for complete and ongoing development will be drafted upon commitments for the funding of SportLabz and FitLabz.

#### **Professionals**

There will be several professional such as sport scientists and strength and conditioning coaches who will be contracted to contribute content on a regular basis.

#### Center of Excellence for Sport Science and Coach Education

The specifics of the relationship between SportLabz and the Center of Excellence for Sport Science and Coach Education (CESSSCE) have not been clarified at this point, but SportLabz will participate in funding the CESSSCE once it is financially able to do so.

#### <u>Insurance</u>

The details regarding business insurance have not been completed but the most likely insurance company and agent have been established.

Kenny Gilley, CIC

South-West Insurance Agency, Inc.

220 Wood Ave. Drawer S.

Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Home - 276-523-2416

Cell - 276-708-5441

Office - 276-523-4111

Fax - 276-523-2551

Precise details of insurance requirements can only be made once web development is underway.

### Employee Stock Option Plan and Other Incentives

Stock options are certainly planned for but that details have yet to be established.

#### **Organization Charts**

A detailed organization chart can and will be completed when a chairman and board of directors have been established. These of course will not be finalized until commitments for capital have been made. Until then, please refer to the management team discussed previously.

#### Purpose of the Products and Services

The global purpose of SportLabz and FitLabz are several fold and while both sites are based around similar core functionality, each site serves a specific purpose(s).

#### **SportLabz**

SportLabz will provide private and secure web applications for athletes, coaches, strength and conditioning coaches, athletic organizations, and sport science programs with the necessary tools to build strength and conditioning programs as well as analyze and manage that data for a single athlete or team of athletes. Again, as mentioned previously, the target market for SportLabz is collegiate and professional athletic teams.

Communication, or lack thereof, is often the root cause of poor athlete development. One of the most important purposes of SportLabz is to break down barriers to communication and enhance communication between all parties involved in an athlete's development and care no matter where they are in the world.

SportLabz will drive sport science and athlete development in an evidenced based direction by not only funding and conducting research but also by basing product development on sound science. This is a dynamic relationship where products are built upon science and the data gathered with the products will provide the tools and inspiration for further research. SportLabz will enable collaborative performance based research to be performed between universities, organizations, and leading sport scientists from around the world.

SportLabz will provide athletes, coaches, and organizations with information from leaders in all specialties of sport science. We will aim to enhance the art and science of coaching, ultimately leading to superior athlete development.

#### FitLabz

FitLabz will provide web applications free of charge that give athletes, fitness enthusiasts, personal trainers, coaches, and anyone interested in human performance with the necessary tools to build strength and conditioning programs as well as analyze, and manage data for a single individual or team of individuals. The applications provided through FitLabz will be very similar to those provided by SportLabz, with the primary difference being that FitLabz is a social community and SportLabz is a closed community.

FitLabz will provide a rich, entertaining, informative, and interactive community for anyone interested in human performance. In addition to the core athlete monitoring abilities of FitLabz, the community or social features will be essential to the success of FitLabz. FitLabz users will be able to invite others to join the site, share training programs, participate on discussion boards, create groups or teams, and more.

#### Unique Features

There are a number of features that make SportLabz and FitLabz unlike any other products on the market. Some of the unique features are specific to each product while others are shared by both SportLabz and FitLabz.

#### Unique Features Shared by Both Applications

First and foremost, both SportLabz and FitLabz provide the functionality that no other web or PC based applications provide to athletes, coaches, and fitness enthusiasts. The majority of applications currently available focus on health and weight

loss. There is currently nothing available that meets the needs of athletic populations and the individuals who support these athletic populations.

Summary of features shared by SportLabz and FitLabz:

- Provides the user with data entry, tracking, and analytics for all conditioning and performance variables.
- The ability to track and monitor overtraining variables as well as receive alerts when the application detects potential signs of overtraining.
- Integration with the major electronic medical records (EMR). The two primary options are Google Health (Google Health, 2009) and Microsoft Health Vault (Personal Home - HealthVault, 2009).
- Each site will support OpenID. When a user has an OpenID and is using a site
  that supports OpenID authentication, this removes the need to create an
  additional username and password (OpenID, 2009). OpenID acts as a universal
  username and password as long as the site supports OpenID (OpenID or
  ClickPass).
- Both sites will support data files from a variety of performance measuring and tracking devices. An example of this could be one the many heart rate and GPS devices available.
- On demand report generating for single or multiple individuals.
- Export data in multiple formats to include Excel and PDF.

## Features Unique to SportLabz

There is a unique relationship between SportLabz, ETSU Center for Sport Science and Coach Education and the only PhD of Sport Science in the United States. The features and functions of SportLabz are not gimmicks but based upon scientific principles and practices.

- Allows coaches and other staff to remotely monitor an athlete's and team's
  progress. This is especially important for collegiate athletics as the NCAA limits
  when and how much time a coach can interact with an athlete.
- Allows athletes to interact remotely with coaching staff and others responsible for their care.
- All NCAA injuries are currently reported to a database at Penn State University
   (NCAA Injury Surveillance, 2009). While this is certainly useful, this system does
   not account for training variables that may contribute to or reduce injury rates in
   collegiate sport. SportLabz can solve that problem by integrating injury types and
   rates with training and other sport performance variables.
- Connect multiple universities and organizations together for collaborative research.
- Interface with software such as LabView and Dartfish.

### Features Unique to FitLabz

 FitLabz is free to use by everyone. That includes recreational athletes, fitness enthusiasts, personal trainers (with unlimited clients), health clubs, organizations, high schools, colleges, and anyone else interested in sport, human performance, and fitness.

- FitLabz will support data uploads from a variety of the most popular fitness and performance measuring devices used by recreational athletes and fitness enthusiasts.
- Similar to a coach analyzing data for an entire team, a personal trainer will be able use this software to design training programs and monitor clients.
- In order to maximize data portability and ease of access, FitLabz will not only support OpenID but MySpace's Data Availability, Facebook's Facebook Connect and Google's Friend Connect. This will allow a single user to import his or her data and friends list from other social networks. This will allow FitLabz to leverage the influence of these large social networks while focusing the niche market FitLabz will focus on and penetrate.
- There will be a number of social functions available to include but not limited to profiles, blogs, groups, private messaging, and friend invites.

# Future Research and Development

There are a number of ways to look at the research and development efforts of both SportLabz and FitLabz.

Human performance research is one of the primary passions driving this project.

Unfortunately, there is very little grant funding available for performance-based research.

SportLabz will bridge that gap by not only benefiting from and making sport science

research easier and more efficient, but it, in turn, will fund further research. Further research and development will include but is not limited to the following:

- A variety of research projects with organizations, universities, and teams from all over the nation and around the world. Some of these projects will be strictly performance based while others may include variables of health and wellness.
- While the chance of receiving government grants or funding for sport science research is minimal, there are chances to receive grants from organizations such as the NIH if health is one of the primary objectives of research. A couple of examples where health would be an objective of sport science research include, 1) Working with diabetic athletes to determine the impact of sport on diabetes and 2) Not much is known about the impact of retirement on the health of professional and collegiate athletes. While organizations will not fund research investigating sport performance, they may fund research to determine the impact of retirement on health. SportLabz could play an integral part in tracking these outcomes.
- Grants and research funding from device companies. This would include the building of software to upload data files directly from device if necessary.
- Application programming interface or API
- Offer high quality video demonstrations of exercises and drills. Users will also be able to upload their own video demonstrations.
- Desktop integration

- Mobile device integration
- Integration of online medical records
- Coaches using SportLabz will be able to access potential recruits using FitLabz.

## Trademarks. Patents, Copyrights, License, Royalties

The parent company of FitLabz is SportLabz. FitLabz will be a registered trademark of SportLabz.

## **Government Approvals**

There are no government approvals needed at this time.

### **Product and Service Limitations**

The only product limitations are copyright concerns.

### Product and Service Liability

Privacy is a primary concern with any web-based application where a user may provide personal information. SportLabz and FitLabz have strict privacy policies and security standards that meet or exceed industry standards. Additional liabilities to consider include:

- Minors interacting with adults
- Information sharing

With this said, all members are required to read and comply with Terms of Service (TOS) for both SportLabz and FitLabz.

## Services and Spin-Offs

There are a number of potential services, spin-offs, or additional businesses that can be created once the initial infrastructure is created. Some of these include:

- Consultation services for athletes, teams, coaches, and sport science programs.
   For instance, an athlete could purchase training program design and monitoring services. An example of existing program design and monitoring service is
   Carmichael Training Systems, which can be found at http://www.trainright.com/.
- While internships for graduate students may not be a source of revenue itself, providing internship opportunities for graduate students is an option. This could lead to some high quality employment opportunities for the students and also supplement any consultation services in the future.
- The core applications could be modified to meet other specific needs outside of sport and human performance. Obesity and its related diseases are examples of this.

With any potential spin-offs that may result, it is extremely important to remain focused on our core business model and methods of conducting business. This is a web-based operation and the majority of our work should focus on growing in that arena.

#### Production

All of the initial product development will be completed by an independent web development company (Intellithought). Intellithought will continue to be the primary development team until the end of year 3 when a transition to an in-house development team is initiated. At the beginning of year 4, SportLabz and FitLabz will have an in-house web development team that will be responsible for the majority of development. Intellithought will, however, continue to work closely with SportLabz and FitLabz in both advisory and development roles.

During Q4 of year 2, interviewing will begin for hiring an in house developer in Q1 of year 3. Due to the various specialties in web development, by the end of year 3, the total number of in-house developers should reach at least three.

#### Facilities

During the 1st year of development, there will be no need for facilities of any kind.

During the first quarter of the 2nd year, an office will be required and during the 3rd year, an expanded office space will be needed.

#### **Environmental Factors**

Several environmental factors will or may influence the growth and success of SportLabz and FitLabz.

### Factors That Will Influence SportLabz and FitLabz

The following are a variety of factors certain to affect SportLabz and FitLabz.

- The fitness industry continues to grow. This will certainly have a positive impact on membership and potential advertising dollars spent with FitLabz because
   FitLabz generates revenue via banner ads.
- Growth in the field and specialty of Sport Science is occurring not only here in the
   U.S., but all over the world.
- Devices for monitoring performance variables have and will become more numerous. This allows SportLabz and FitLabz to cater to the audiences who use these devices by allowing data uploads and tracking from the devices. This also increases the number of potential advertisers (banner ads, sponsorship or affiliate marketing). With this said, some device manufacturers will inevitably create their own web based applications and perhaps communities, to support their product, leading to more competition.
- Older individuals are adopting community and social networks more now than ever (Jayson, 2009). This growth will continue and will not only increase the potential audience but also increases a key audience who has money to spend, which in turn makes it more valuable for advertisers.
- The influence SportLabz and FitLabz here at ETSU and throughout the country in the field of Sport and Exercise Science will continue to increase.
- It will be easier to sell services to new client as a sport comes closer to being in season and as the college semester or quarter begins.
- Social networks will continue to cater to more niche markets.

## Factors That May Influence SportLabz and FitLabz

The following are a variety of factors that may affect SportLabz and FitLabz.

- Economic slowdown may decrease the number of advertising dollars companies
  are willing to spend for online advertising. This may also be driven by increasing
  gas prices. With this said, increasing gas prices may actually increase the
  number of users making it more valuable to advertisers.
- As online medical records are adopted this may make SportLabz more attractive.

# **Industry Profile**

## **Current Size**

A brief description of United States market size is as follows.

- 2,500-3,000 4-year universities (Degree-granting institutions, 2007)
- Hundreds of major professional teams
- Thousands of professional athletes
- 25,000-30,000 high schools (Number of educational, 2007)
- Hundreds of thousands serious recreational athletes
- Tens of millions of fitness enthusiasts
- Hundreds of thousands of personal trainers
- Approximately 30,000 Health Clubs (IHRSA, 2008)

It should be noted that there is tremendous potential for expanding this market into countries such as Canada, United Kingdom, and Australia with very little additional development. A complete analysis of international markets is necessary and currently ongoing.

### **Growth Potential**

There are a multitude of factors that will drive the long-term growth of SportLabz and FitLabz. Some of this growth will certainly be driven by research and development as discussed previously, but other reasons include trends in social networking, trends in internet use and a variety of additional factors. The following includes the projected growth for SportLabz and FitLabz.

<u>SportLabz</u>. The market size in the United States includes the following primary sectors.

- 2,500-3,000 4-year universities
- Hundreds of major professional teams
- Thousands of professional athletes
- There are also 25,000-30,000 high schools in the U.S. but the limited budget of most high school athletic programs may prevent them from adopting SportLabz.

As a side note, if organizations such as high schools cannot afford SportLabz, FitLabz is available at no cost. During the first 2 years following the public release of SportLabz, client and revenue growth is projected to be similar to that presented in Table 1.

Table 1.

SportLabz.com Revenue Projections

| Quarter | Price Per<br>Client | Clients<br>Gained | Client<br>Losses | Revenue Generating Clients<br>Per Quarter | Total Revenue Per<br>Quarter |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Y1Q1    |                     |                   |                  |   |                              |
| Y1Q2    |                     |                   |                  |   |                              |
| Y1Q3    |                     |                   |                  |   |                              |
| Y1Q4    |                     |                   |                  |   |                              |
| Y2Q1    |                     |                   |                  |   |                              |
| Y2Q2    | 1,200               | 15                | 0                | 15  | \$ 18,000                    |
| Y2Q3    | 1,200               | 20                | 0                | 20  | \$ 24,000                    |
| Y2Q4    | 1,200               | 20                | 0                | 20  | \$ 24,000                    |
| Y3Q1    | 1,200               | 25                | 0                | 25  | \$ 30,000                    |
| Y3Q2    | 1,200               | 25                | 3.75             | 36.25                                     | \$ 43,500                    |
| Y3Q3    | 1,200               | 25                | 5                | 40  | \$ 48,000                    |
| Y3Q4    | 1,200               | 30                | 5                | 45  | \$ 54,000                    |
|         |                     |                   |                  |   |                              |
| Totals  |                     | 160               | 13.75            |   |                              |
|         | Activ               | e Clients =       | 146.25           |   |                              |

By the end of year 3, SportLabz will have approximately 150 clients paying \$1,200 a year for services. Most of this initial growth will primarily consist of universities, as this is where we have most of current contacts and inroads.

Several factors to consider for the future include the international market and the potential for adoption by all NCAA teams. The international market has significant potential, but further research into this market is needed. At collegiate and professional levels, there are thousands of teams and athletes in English speaking countries outside of the United States.

In regards to adoption by all NCAA teams, it is feasible that SportLabz could become the standard athlete monitoring system for the NCAA. SportLabz could either compliment or replace, but most likely compliment, the current system the NCAA uses for as collecting injury data on all athletes. The current Injury Surveillance (ISS), is located at Penn State University. While current ISS functionality has provided a great deal of helpful information, these data do not include combined injury data with other factors such as pharmaceuticals, strength and conditioning data, practice information, hydration status, or a number of other factors. If the ISS data were combined with these variables, the causes of injuries in college athletics could receive a more comprehensive analysis.

The market size and growth potential of SportLabz is considerably less than FitLabz. However, the importance of SportLabz spans beyond market size and revenue. SportLabz will be responsible for a great deal of the research and development that will determine what features are released in the future. This benefit will emerge as a direct result of the relationships SportLabz has with ETSU's PhD in Sport Performance, the Center of Excellence, and organizations such as the USOC.

<u>FitLabz</u>. With its combination of innovative tools, social features, niche focus, and sizeable market, FitLabz has tremendous potential for growth. Table 2 presents projections for growth during the first 2 years after initial public release.

Table 2.

FitLabz.com Revenue Projections

| Quarter | Projected Visits | Pageviews Per<br>Visit | СРМ | Banner Network<br>Ads | Sponsorship | eStore    | Total Revenue |
|---------|------------------|------------------------|-----|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Y1Q1    |                  |                        |     |                       |             |           |               |
| Y1Q2    |                  |                        |     |                       |             |           |               |
| Y1Q3    |                  |                        |     |                       |             |           |               |
| Y1Q4    |                  |                        |     |                       |             |           |               |
| Y2Q1    |                  |                        |     |                       |             |           |               |
| Y2Q2    | 150,000          | 15                     | 10  | \$ 22,500             |             |           | \$ 22,500     |
| Y2Q3    | 225,000          | 15                     | 10  | \$ 33,750             |             |           | \$ 33,750     |
| Y2Q4    | 300,000          | 15                     | 10  | \$ 45,000             |             |           | \$ 45,000     |
| Y3Q1    | 600,000          | 16                     | 11  | \$ 105,600            |             |           | \$ 105,600    |
| Y3Q2    | 1,050,000        | 16                     | 11  | \$ 184,800            | \$ 30,000   | \$ 25,000 | \$ 239,800    |
| Y3Q3    | 1,500,000        | 16                     | 12  | \$ 288,000            | \$ 45,000   | \$ 25,000 | \$ 358,000    |
| Y3Q4    | 2,250,000        | 17                     | 12  | \$ 459,000            | \$ 60,000   | \$ 30,000 | \$ 549,000    |

After the initial 2 years of public release, FitLabz will continue to grow. At 5 years after initial launch, FitLabz should be generating 1.5-2 million in revenue each quarter from its approximately 2 million visits a month.

This type of growth has been demonstrated with several niche communities or social networks. One such example, which frankly has a smaller market than FitLabz, is Takkle.com. Takkle.com is a social network for high school athletes that focuses on video and photo sharing.

## **Geographic Locations**

There is no one location for this industry. However, the U.S. will be the first target market, with markets such as Australia, Canada, and the U.K. to follow. The business will be based out of Johnson City, TN.

## **Industry Trends**

There are several areas of industry trending that will dramatically influence the success and growth of both SportLabz and FitLabz. All of the current industry trends to be mentioned fall under one or more areas.

- Technology The development of new technology in addition to the adoption of new and existing technologies will dramatically influence the success of SportLabz and FitLabz.
- The Industry of Health and Fitness to include Sport From health club
  memberships to the emergence of online medical records, the health and fitness
  industry is and will continue to grow at a rapid pace. The same applies to sport.
   Sport is becoming more scientific, more competitive, and certainly more lucrative.

For these reasons athletes, coaches, and organizations will use a variety of tools they have at their disposal.

#### Internet Trends

- 1. The number of users or internet adopters continues to rise.
- 2. The demographics of internet users are becoming more diverse.
- 3. The reasons for using the internet are increasing.
- 4. The devices enabling access to the internet are all increasing.
- 5. Bottom line, all current trends point to promising growth in this industry.

A more detailed explanation of internet trends is as follows:

Internet Use Increases. While internet use seems commonplace to many of us, new internet users continue to increase every day. As internet use increases, so does the demographic diversity of internet users and the reasons for using the internet.

For instance, one in every four people who use the web, visit a social networking site (Social Networking Takes, 2008). Just 5-10 years ago, this would have been a foreign concept to many of us (Goble, 2009). Additionally, the number of middle aged and older adults using social networks or community-based sites is and will continue to grow (Social Networking, 2008). Users in this age group are also easier to monetize as a large percentage of them have expendable income.

These trends will continue as access to the internet increases both at home and via mobile devices (Burns, 2009). As the number of specific needs web applications address increases, this will also ensure growth in this area.

<u>Data Portability</u>. The need to provide options for data portability is becoming extremely important.

Niche Social Networks/Communities. Most people are familiar with large social networks or communities such as MySpace, Facebook, and even LinkedIn. While these networks continue to grow, there has and will continue to be a shift towards more niche communities (Kirkpatrick, 2007).

Facebook and MySpace are great ways to stay in touch with friends and family, but users with particular interests are looking for something more than just a convenient way to "stay in touch". For this reason, networks or communities have started to provide specific services that meet real needs. FitLabz will support the needs of athletes and fitness enthusiasts as no other community has or can. It is important to keep in mind that our goal is not to become the next MySpace or Facebook. SportLabz and FitLabz have specific needs they meet.

Niche communities are also far easier to monetize when compared to more general social networks such as Facebook and MySpace (Aune, 2008). Facebook appeals to huge audiences, which certainly has its advantages, but it also has disadvantages. While these larger more general networks generate significant revenue due to the sheer number of users, it is far more difficult to cater to the needs of such a

diverse audience. Niche communities provide advertisers with access to a specific population ultimately increasing return on investment (ROI) for advertisers.

Adoption of Web Applications. The key here as it relates to SportLabz and FitLabz is that these web applications solve real world problems. In talking with strength coaches, exercise physiologists, personal trainers, athletes, and fitness enthusiasts, it is apparent they have real problems tracking training and performance data. Students and faculty have experience with this at East Tennessee State University, where athlete after athlete and team after team are all monitored with cumbersome Excel spreadsheets.

Even small to moderate sized universities such as East Tennessee State

University have several hundred athletes to manage. Practices have to be scheduled,
training programs must be created, sets and reps need to be recorded, periodic
performance testing needs to be completed, and many additional items must be
accounted for. The following items present some trends in web applications.

Continued Research and Development. Devices for measuring performance and the money spent developing these devices are becoming more and more plentiful.

While SportLabz and FitLabz may at some point drive device development, this is not a focus for SportLabz and FitLabz. However, with the abundance of measuring devices available and being developed, an athlete, team, or organization must be able to manage and track data from these devices efficiently. SportLabz and FitLabz will continue to meet that need as new device technology is developed.

One of the most exciting opportunities for SportLabz, especially on the academic front, is the opportunity to conduct and enhance sport science research. As the world of sport becomes more competitive, the need for better human performance research has grown. SportLabz will take advantage of this growth by providing academic programs, teams, and athletes with web based applications that make data collection and analytics more efficient. These applications will also enable SportLabz to "shove" sport and athletic development in the evidence based direction it needs to take.

## **Seasonality Factors**

A seasonal impact will be present and this impact will present itself a couple of different ways. There will certainly be increases and decreases in traffic for a particular sport as sport goes in and out of season, but this should not equate to a decrease in revenue and or traffic overall. There will be minor decreases in traffic around holidays, but this will be short lived (perhaps several days prior to and after major holidays).

#### **Profit Characteristics**

SportLabz.com (and FitLabz) is a for-profit company.

### **Distribution Channels**

While the web will be the primary channel for sales, the following channels exist outside of the web.

- We have direct contacts with the strength and conditioning associations around the world.
- We have access to many of the strength and conditioning professionals around the nation in addition to organizing our own strength and conditioning

conferences here at East Tennessee State University. Much of this information can be found on the Center of Excellence for Sport Science and Coaches Education (CESSCE) website at http://www.sportscienceed.com.

3. There are a significant number of conferences and events that take place throughout the nation and in other parts of the world, which are valuable avenues for sales. Examples of these conferences include but are certainly not limited to marathons, industry trade shows, and educational conferences (UKSCA, ACSM, and NSCA).

## Basis of Competition

The basis of competition is several fold.

- 1. Rich Internet Applications (RIA) RIA that allow users to interact with and store their training, fitness, and health data on the web. Many companies have and will develop applications designed to track a variety of performance, fitness, and health related data. These applications must also be accessible from anywhere using a variety of devices (PCs vs. Mobile).
- Community People want to connect with and be seen by others who have similar interests.
- Users also desire data portability where their data can be moved from one network to another (data = friends, profile, medical records, etc).

4. As with many other things, competition will result from knowledge and emerging technology. SportLabz and FitLabz have access to the leading experts in the field of Sport Science and Conditioning.

## Competition Profile

The competitive profile is one of the most important aspects of this business plan. Because web development companies can develop new products and features at a rapid pace, it is imperative that SportLabz and FitLabz remain steps ahead of the competition. The competitive overview not only provides a snapshot of the competitive landscape but also provides a wealth of information about successful and failed business models, features that are liked and disliked by users, what is missing in the market, and how both SportLabz and FitLabz will dominate their respective markets.

The following competitive profiles include both successful and unsuccessful companies as well as several sites that are not considered competition but have been successful and provide exceptional features.

#### Industry Comparisons and Competitors for SportLabz.com

The following competitors have a similar business model as SportLabz that is a subscription-based model. These sites also have or could potentially have similar features as planned for SportLabz.

<u>Successful</u>. Successful businesses that are in direct competition with SportLabz include the following:

<u>TrainingPeaks.com</u>. TrainingPeaks.com is a site primarily focused on building and monitoring conditioning programs for cycling, running, or other endurance type

sports or activities. This is a subscription-based service and provides users with the most complete web based application for tracking endurance training currently on the market.

Some features of TrainingPeaks.com include but are not limited to the following:

- Training log and planner
- Provide training plans for purchase
- Create or purchase meal plans
- There is a professional addition that allows you to track multiple athletes
- Device integration and data analysis
- Computrainer integration
- Find a personal coach

Although TrainingPeaks offers a full set of features, user friendliness needs improved, support for resistance training exercises is limited, products are numerous and not well integrated.

Table 3 provides web traffic details for www.trainingpeaks.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 3.

Traffic Estimates for www.trainingpeaks.com.

| Date   | Visits  | Pageviews |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Jun-06 | 23,320  | 300,585   |
| Jul-06 | 24,050  | 152,812   |
| Aug-06 | 24,373  | 162,808   |
| Sep-06 | 27,104  | 214,518   |
| Oct-06 | 26,826  | 514,782   |
| Nov-06 | 29,505  | 398,019   |
| Dec-06 | 22,587  | 349,526   |
| Jan-07 | 26,323  | 536,149   |
| Feb-07 | 40,392  | 878,697   |
| Mar-07 | 53,909  | 797,760   |
| Apr-07 | 63,505  | 660,251   |
| May-07 | 49,554  | 378,569   |
| Jun-07 | 44,194  | 444,566   |
| Jul-07 | 61,893  | 566,375   |
| Aug-07 | 50,242  | 565,570   |
| Sep-07 | 29,722  | 354,352   |
| Oct-07 | 30,936  | 215,687   |
| Nov-07 | 47,181  | 260,282   |
| Dec-07 | 59,503  | 725,624   |
| Jan-08 | 60,005  | 979,298   |
| Feb-08 | 83,293  | 1,488,852 |
| Mar-08 | 108,030 | 1,751,239 |
| Apr-08 | 106,960 | 1,454,825 |
| May-08 | 96,321  | 1,378,417 |
| Jun-08 | 99,948  | 1,047,386 |
| Jul-08 | 70,925  | 1,040,739 |
| Aug-08 | 60,538  | 804,641   |
| Sep-08 | 66,810  | 756,968   |
| Oct-08 | 114,913 | 1,449,140 |
| Nov-08 | 64,470  | 824,508   |
| Dec-08 | 107,303 | 1,736,083 |

<u>Moderately Successful</u>. Moderately successful businesses that are in direct competition with SportLabz include the following:

<u>VisualCoaching.com</u>. VisualCoaching is primarily PC based software for developing training programs for all different types of athletes. There is some web integration but their site, www.visualcoaching.com, does a very poor job explaining what their products offer. All features are subscription based.

Due to insufficient data, www.compete.com is unable to estimate traffic details for www.visualcoaching.com.

<u>Unsuccessful</u>. Unsuccessful businesses that are in direct competition with SportLabz include the following:

AthleteMonitoring.com. In terms of theoretical functionality, www.athletemonitoring.com would be the closest competitor of SportLabz.com.

Anecdotal evidence from a variety of users such as coaches and athletic trainers has suggested that www.athletemonitoring.com fails to offer a solid product and is extremely difficult to use.

Due to insufficient data, www.compete.com is unable to estimate traffic details for www.athletemonitoring.com.

# Industry Comparisons and Competitors for FitLabz.com

The following competitors are all social networks or community sites that meet and unique need, or niche, and provide users with free access to the site. They all

generate revenue based on ads, sponsorship, retail, or a combination thereof. This is similar to the planned revenue model of FitLabz.

<u>Successful</u>. Successful businesses that are in direct competition with FitLabz include the following:

Takkle.com. Takkle.com is an extremely successful high school social network. The features of Takkle are similar to large social networks such as MySpace and Facebook, but these features have been adapted for a niche group of individuals, the high school athlete. Some of Takkle's features include but are not limited to the following:

- "Throwdowns" where users vote on things such as comparisons between athletes or teams.
- Photo system
- Video uploads
- Group system
- Featured athletes
- Rankings for top athletes
- Forums
- Sports Illustrated "Faces in the Crowd" This receives cross promotion with Sports Illustrated Magazine

Takkle has experienced a significant amount of growth since its launch in 2006. Since then, Takkle's relationship and integration with Sports Illustrated (SI) has grown. SI is currently either purchasing or integrating itself with sport social networks that focus on meeting a variety of niche needs. Takkle recently received \$7 million in funding from SI. While Takkle does not offer athlete monitoring solutions such as those that will be offered by FitLabz, Takkle does provide social networking features for athletes and has been considered a competitor for this reason. Time spent communicating and socializing among athletes on Takkle or another site catering to athletes ultimately leads to less time spent using the services offered through FitLabz.

There is a trend where we are starting to see larger companies purchase or sponsor social networks. As a side note, this is a potential exit strategy or opportunity for further funding for SportLabz and FitLabz in the future.

Table 4 provides web traffic details for www.takkle.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 4.

Traffic Estimates for www.takkle.com.

| Date   | Visits    | Pageviews |
|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Jun-06 | 2,548     | 13,309    |
| Jul-06 | 4,641     | 57,302    |
| Aug-06 | 1,967     | 43,623    |
| Sep-06 | 408       | 408       |
| Oct-06 | N/A       | N/A       |
| Nov-06 | 243       | 1,442     |
| Dec-06 | 7,255     | 112,116   |
| Jan-07 | 20,781    | 185,842   |
| Feb-07 | 94,171    | 1,645,059 |
| Mar-07 | 137,848   | 1,853,231 |
| Apr-07 | 217,251   | 1,992,024 |
| May-07 | 202,582   | 2,177,097 |
| Jun-07 | 286,489   | 2,027,697 |
| Jul-07 | 373,246   | 3,642,253 |
| Aug-07 | 296,108   | 1,577,327 |
| Sep-07 | 345,745   | 1,760,027 |
| Oct-07 | 511,575   | 3,707,262 |
| Nov-07 | 849,367   | 3,823,836 |
| Dec-07 | 674,804   | 3,353,504 |
| Jan-08 | 661,539   | 3,082,865 |
| Feb-08 | 369,878   | 1,188,085 |
| Mar-08 | 618,757   | 4,568,866 |
| Apr-08 | 596,783   | 2,211,405 |
| May-08 | 1,196,709 | 8,692,338 |
| Jun-08 | 1,011,532 | 5,738,528 |
| Jul-08 | 689,905   | 4,599,876 |
| Aug-08 | 449,423   | 2,881,115 |
| Sep-08 | 454,996   | 3,773,565 |
| Oct-08 | 586,090   | 3,250,152 |
| Nov-08 | 913,827   | 3,155,793 |
| Dec-08 | 929,256   | 2,710,081 |

FanNation.com. FanNation.com is a social network that is focused on sports news and fantasy leagues. FanNation has become extremely successful and is sponsored by Sports Illustrated and Cable News Network. While FanNation does not offer athlete monitoring solutions such as those that will be offered by FitLabz, FanNation does provide social networking features for athletes as well as fans and has been considered a competitor for this reason. Time spent communicating and socializing among athletes on FanNation or another site catering to athletes, ultimately leads to less time spent using the services offered through FitLabz.

Table 5 provides web traffic details for www.fannation.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 5. *Traffic Estimates for www.fannation.com* 

| Date   | Visits    | Pageviews  |
|--------|-----------|------------|
| Jun-06 | N/A       | N/A        |
| Jul-06 | 183       | 183        |
| Aug-06 | N/A       | N/A        |
| Sep-06 | 4,082     | 14,581     |
| Oct-06 | 3,593     | 14,862     |
| Nov-06 | 15,767    | 76,435     |
| Dec-06 | 12,198    | 47,814     |
| Jan-07 | 15,973    | 39,509     |
| Feb-07 | 27,408    | 80,606     |
| Mar-07 | 26,741    | 86,666     |
| Apr-07 | 324,377   | 1,307,174  |
| May-07 | 1,219,824 | 4,693,036  |
| Jun-07 | 1,658,777 | 9,040,916  |
| Jul-07 | 1,528,004 | 7,241,503  |
| Aug-07 | 1,319,003 | 5,578,420  |
| Sep-07 | 2,023,597 | 9,188,632  |
| Oct-07 | 2,164,540 | 9,560,755  |
| Nov-07 | 2,200,788 | 9,194,223  |
| Dec-07 | 2,485,035 | 9,234,673  |
| Jan-08 | 2,721,089 | 9,473,349  |
| Feb-08 | 2,795,573 | 9,936,722  |
| Mar-08 | 3,412,648 | 12,030,868 |
| Apr-08 | 2,981,698 | 8,836,214  |
| May-08 | 3,278,452 | 9,935,777  |
| Jun-08 | 3,111,903 | 11,252,309 |
| Jul-08 | 3,099,187 | 15,398,567 |
| Aug-08 | 3,340,669 | 12,095,581 |
| Sep-08 | 4,755,080 | 15,667,626 |
| Oct-08 | 4,654,765 | 17,602,185 |
| Nov-08 | 5,046,846 | 16,623,265 |
| Dec-08 | 6,071,367 | 17,191,704 |

Gyminee.com. Gyminee.com has become one of the best and easiest to use health and fitness tracking sites on the web. While the market Gyminee competes in is flooded with competitors, Gyminee has managed to design applications that bring a degree of user friendliness and function not seen anywhere else on the web. Gyminee will not directly compete with FitLabz but does offer exercise and nutrition tracking solutions that may meet the needs of recreational athletes interested in tracking basic training and nutrition programs. This site is free to users and generates revenue through ads.

Table 6 provides web traffic details for www.gyminee.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 6.

Traffic Estimates for www.gyminee.com

| Date   | Visits  | Pageviews |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Jun-06 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Jul-06 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Aug-06 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Sep-06 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Oct-06 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Nov-06 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Dec-06 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Jan-07 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Feb-07 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Mar-07 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Apr-07 | N/A     | N/A       |
| May-07 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Jun-07 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Jul-07 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Aug-07 | 8,184   | 59,565    |
| Sep-07 | 5,250   | 34,945    |
| Oct-07 | 14,567  | 88,034    |
| Nov-07 | 21,048  | 57,197    |
| Dec-07 | 21,319  | 83,566    |
| Jan-08 | 20,755  | 179,095   |
| Feb-08 | 14,083  | 128,104   |
| Mar-08 | 13,768  | 105,938   |
| Apr-08 | 12,779  | 142,933   |
| May-08 | 23,189  | 270,945   |
| Jun-08 | 18,186  | 90,182    |
| Jul-08 | 23,449  | 252,881   |
| Aug-08 | 140,692 | 2,939,292 |
| Sep-08 | 112,182 | 2,135,749 |
| Oct-08 | 126,662 | 1,267,475 |
| Nov-08 | 135,202 | 1,401,649 |
| Dec-08 | 133,869 | 1,504,949 |

GolfLink.com. GolfLink.com, while not a direct competitor, is a great example of a niche sport social network that has been successful.

It is worth mentioning that the average golfer is relatively affluent which makes it appealing for advertisers such as golf equipment companies. In other words, the group of individuals this type of site caters to, makes GolfLink relatively easy to monetize. This is interesting to consider because FitLabz will, 1) cater not only to golfers but other affluent recreational athletes and 2) the potential audience of FitLabz is much larger than GolfLink. GolfLink features include the following:

- Tips and videos
- Golf course finder
- Application to track game performance
- Community features such as forums and blogs
- Golf news
- Store and product reviews

Table 7 provides web traffic details for www.golflink.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 7.

Traffic Estimates for www.golflink.com

| Date   | Visits  | Pageviews |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Jun-06 | 234,898 | 1,144,429 |
| Jul-06 | 306,859 | 1,839,661 |
| Aug-06 | 293,220 | 1,817,453 |
| Sep-06 | 287,213 | 2,267,629 |
| Oct-06 | 191,370 | 2,628,381 |
| Nov-06 | 187,323 | 1,203,602 |
| Dec-06 | 199,181 | 1,080,257 |
| Jan-07 | 272,978 | 1,622,138 |
| Feb-07 | 315,955 | 1,851,342 |
| Mar-07 | 408,724 | 2,432,214 |
| Apr-07 | 491,371 | 3,289,646 |
| May-07 | 540,375 | 3,862,834 |
| Jun-07 | 610,115 | 3,668,286 |
| Jul-07 | 609,614 | 2,819,946 |
| Aug-07 | 571,341 | 3,300,117 |
| Sep-07 | 485,183 | 2,414,634 |
| Oct-07 | 320,935 | 1,940,678 |
| Nov-07 | 252,656 | 1,372,745 |
| Dec-07 | 263,312 | 1,199,290 |
| Jan-08 | 285,701 | 1,321,288 |
| Feb-08 | 369,951 | 2,007,762 |
| Mar-08 | 453,710 | 2,237,459 |
| Apr-08 | 580,685 | 2,739.036 |
| May-08 | 709,508 | 3,036,206 |
| Jun-08 | 895,861 | 4,146,957 |
| Jul-08 | 920,710 | 4,468,627 |
| Aug-08 | 814,931 | 3,542,588 |
| Sep-08 | 648,104 | 3,220,098 |
| Oct-08 | 493,511 | 2,128,984 |
| Nov-08 | 336,499 | 1,266,133 |
| Dec-08 | 333,027 | 1,432,938 |

<u>Moderately Successful</u>. Moderately successful businesses that are in direct competition with FitLabz include the following:

<u>beRecruited.com</u>. beRecruited.com offers an extremely niche service that primarily focuses on connecting high school athletes with collegiate coaches and athletic programs for recruitment purposes. While beRecruited is not a direct competitor to SportLabz or FitLabz, this is a market FitLabz could compete within sometime in the future.

This is a valuable service but there are some factors that do or will limit the success of beRecruited.

- There is a free and paid version but the paid version does not provide significant advantages over the unpaid version.
- It has been mentioned previously that community sites will become more niche.
  While this is true, becoming niche also limits the potential audience. Limiting the audience can make it either more valuable to advertisers or if the niche market is too small, this may not provide sufficient exposure for advertisers or sponsors.
  beRecruited.com is certainly niche and may be too niche generate revenue through ads and sponsorships. This could be alleviated by offering paid services but the paid services that are offered in this case do not offer meaningful benefits.
- There is no compelling reason to visit the site every day.

Long-term user retention is difficult due to the nature of the site. A high school
athlete, which naturally makes up the majority of users, have no need to come
back to the site once they have been recruited.

These issues are not specific to beRecruited.com alone. Frankly, the services offered by beRecruited are valuable and do meet real needs. Sites and the services similar to beRecruited should not be dismissed; instead, they offer ideas and opportunities for future development.

Table 8 provides web traffic details for www.berecruited.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 8.

Traffic Estimates for www.berecruited.com

| Date   | Visits  | Pageviews |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Jun-06 | 22,420  | 241,829   |
| Jul-06 | 24,397  | 262,211   |
| Aug-06 | 29,875  | 344,214   |
| Sep-06 | 41,097  | 469,328   |
| Oct-06 | 44,596  | 449,655   |
| Nov-06 | 40,637  | 422,507   |
| Dec-06 | 38,529  | 542,983   |
| Jan-07 | 40,366  | 425,376   |
| Feb-07 | 52,382  | 743,283   |
| Mar-07 | 59,692  | 789,574   |
| Apr-07 | 104,354 | 1,324,944 |
| May-07 | 84,974  | 945,309   |
| Jun-07 | 124,917 | 1,022,022 |
| Jul-07 | 100,957 | 825,346   |
| Aug-07 | 96,889  | 763,738   |
| Sep-07 | 122,418 | 1,077,302 |
| Oct-07 | 166,564 | 1,599,212 |
| Nov-07 | 164,768 | 2,219,195 |
| Dec-07 | 184,739 | 1,125,011 |
| Jan-08 | 199,312 | 1,828,258 |
| Feb-08 | 211,906 | 1,813,092 |
| Mar-08 | 221,508 | 1,318,776 |
| Apr-08 | 206,404 | 1,859,217 |
| May-08 | 312,272 | 2,759,728 |
| Jun-08 | 326,225 | 3,575,325 |
| Jul-08 | 315,746 | 2,969,525 |
| Aug-08 | 266,479 | 2,882,517 |
| Sep-08 | 245,077 | 2,478,425 |
| Oct-08 | 262,003 | 2,914,651 |
| Nov-08 | 265,863 | 3,683,214 |
| Dec-08 | 274,645 | 3,196,087 |

SportsVite.com. Sportsvite.com is an online community for recreational athletes that enables them to organize schedules, manage teams, and connect with other recreational athletes in their area. SportsVite does not offer athlete monitoring solutions and will not compete with FitLabz directly, but FitLabz will have the ability to allow users to perform many of same functions SportsVite offers; these functions include the ability to organize schedules, manage teams, and connect with other athletes. SportsVite is free to use and generates revenue through banner ads.

Similar to be Recruited.com, Sportsvite is another example of a great service that may be better suited and more successful if integrated with a larger community.

Table 9 provides web traffic details for www.sportsvite.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 9.

Traffic Estimates for www.sportsvite.com

| Date   | Visits  | Pageviews |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Jun-06 | 4,624   | 93,541    |
| Jul-06 | 7,022   | 52,789    |
| Aug-06 | 6,930   | 113,419   |
| Sep-06 | 6,201   | 75,823    |
| Oct-06 | 3,980   | 82,460    |
| Nov-06 | 5,487   | 44,560    |
| Dec-06 | 6,945   | 64,959    |
| Jan-07 | 10,182  | 123,346   |
| Feb-07 | 12,060  | 125,273   |
| Mar-07 | 6,198   | 76,112    |
| Apr-07 | 7,777   | 132,918   |
| May-07 | 9,044   | 132,271   |
| Jun-07 | 16,833  | 204,466   |
| Jul-07 | 130,501 | 1,696,257 |
| Aug-07 | 185,068 | 4,345,920 |
| Sep-07 | 167,348 | 2,606,018 |
| Oct-07 | 73,108  | 684,386   |
| Nov-07 | 25,869  | 120,204   |
| Dec-07 | 12,239  | 62,273    |
| Jan-08 | 19,847  | 104,994   |
| Feb-08 | 28,782  | 249,474   |
| Mar-08 | 31,065  | 137,171   |
| Apr-08 | 85,849  | 276,730   |
| May-08 | 61,381  | 367,756   |
| Jun-08 | 102,501 | 518,319   |
| Jul-08 | 77,129  | 546,418   |
| Aug-08 | 107,641 | 556,318   |
| Sep-08 | 79,643  | 484,750   |
| Oct-08 | 60,245  | 319,920   |
| Nov-08 | 78,747  | 1,060,730 |
| Dec-08 | 74,939  | 630,737   |

<u>Traineo.com</u>. Traineo.com is a moderately successful health and fitness community with basic exercise and diet tracking features. Traineo does not do enough to set itself apart from the plethora of successful health and fitness sites already on the market. It is important to keep in mind that SportLabz and FitLabz are designed to meet the needs of the athletic populations, not necessarily those who are only interested in being fit and healthy. For this reason, Traineo is not considered a FitLabz competitor.

Table 10 provides web traffic details for www.traineo.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 10.

Traffic Estimates for www.traineo.com

| Date   | Visits  | Pageviews |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Jun-06 | N/A     | N/A       |
| Jul-06 | 218     | 218       |
| Aug-06 | 1,806   | 6,669     |
| Sep-06 | 1,119   | 1,119     |
| Oct-06 | 4,436   | 72,288    |
| Nov-06 | 4,780   | 41,028    |
| Dec-06 | 5,037   | 35,859    |
| Jan-07 | 11,080  | 78,020    |
| Feb-07 | 28,101  | 183,074   |
| Mar-07 | 20,744  | 128,073   |
| Apr-07 | 17,129  | 170,384   |
| May-07 | 22,105  | 312,652   |
| Jun-07 | 23,978  | 195,092   |
| Jul-07 | 71,690  | 372,454   |
| Aug-07 | 72,392  | 430,662   |
| Sep-07 | 110,937 | 1,156,697 |
| Oct-07 | 67,757  | 355,623   |
| Nov-07 | 57,611  | 559,521   |
| Dec-07 | 66,460  | 679,227   |
| Jan-08 | 124,525 | 1,298,597 |
| Feb-08 | 95,035  | 1,043,036 |
| Mar-08 | 102,499 | 727,377   |
| Apr-08 | 82,675  | 477,793   |
| May-08 | 46,093  | 357,700   |
| Jun-08 | 39,391  | 219,030   |
| Jul-08 | 64,582  | 397,870   |
| Aug-08 | 41,445  | 157,273   |
| Sep-08 | 40,431  | 161,280   |
| Oct-08 | 38,503  | 177,256   |
| Nov-08 | 19,653  | 76,981    |
| Dec-08 | 40,721  | 481,221   |

<u>Unsuccessful</u>. Unsuccessful businesses that are in direct competition with SportLabz include the following:

Teampages.com. Teampages.com is a site that enables teams to create their group or site, team schedule, scores, photos, etc. This site does very little to set itself apart from generic group systems and sites such as Sportsvite.com. Teampages does not offer athlete monitoring solutions but similar to SportsVite, Teampages does offer social, communication, and organization features. In addition to the athlete monitoring functions that will be offered by FitLabz, many of the functions available through Teampages will be available through FitLabz. This site is free to users and generates revenue through ads.

Table 11 provides web traffic details for www.teampages.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 11.

Traffic Estimates for www.teampages.com

| Date   | Visits | <i>Pageviews</i> |
|--------|--------|------------------|
| Jun-06 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Jul-06 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Aug-06 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Sep-06 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Oct-06 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Nov-06 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Dec-06 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Jan-07 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Feb-07 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Mar-07 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Apr-07 | N/A    | N/A              |
| May-07 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Jun-07 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Jul-07 | N/A    | N/A              |
| Aug-07 | 1,739  | 12,057           |
| Sep-07 | 347    | 3,122            |
| Oct-07 | 1,105  | 1,709            |
| Nov-07 | 3,016  | 10,002           |
| Dec-07 | 386    | 1,932            |
| Jan-08 | 4,471  | 36,450           |
| Feb-08 | 6,014  | 24,908           |
| Mar-08 | 6,599  | 46,152           |
| Apr-08 | 14,487 | 67,131           |
| May-08 | 8,643  | 181,961          |
| Jun-08 | 8,458  | 129,212          |
| Jul-08 | 5,385  | 63,829           |
| Aug-08 | 9,961  | 55,563           |
| Sep-08 | 9,858  | 87,558           |
| Oct-08 | 19,900 | 185,173          |
| Nov-08 | 26,940 | 286,613          |
| Dec-08 | 22,233 | 368,720          |

# Sites of Interest

The following sites include some that have provided their audience with exceptional tools and services, which users seem to not be able to live without. These companies are not in direct competition with SportLabz or FitLabz but they posses qualities from which we can learn.

SparkPeople.com. SparkPeople.com was launched in 2001 as a goal-setting site. Since then, SparkPeople has grown to become the third busiest diet and fitness site on the web. SparkPeople has a variety of well-built community features in addition to robust diet and fitness tracking applications.

SparkPeople has been purchased by and is owned by Revolution Health.

SparkPeople will not compete with SportLabz or FitLabz but does provide users with a robust and effective set of features for socializing, communicating, and tracking exercise and diet programs. This site is free to users and generates revenue through ads

Table 12 provides web traffic details for www.sparkpeople.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 12.

Traffic Estimates for www.sparkpeople.com

| Date   | Visits     | Pageviews   |
|--------|------------|-------------|
| Jun-06 | 1,294,898  | 53,545,129  |
| Jul-06 | 1,733,069  | 78,312,063  |
| Aug-06 | 2,060,155  | 93,058,127  |
| Sep-06 | 1,977,996  | 80,929,548  |
| Oct-06 | 2,144,964  | 77,798,822  |
| Nov-06 | 2,162,222  | 82,747,928  |
| Dec-06 | 2,114,432  | 80,523,800  |
| Jan-07 | 3,526,168  | 182,769,710 |
| Feb-07 | 2,862,184  | 130,027,518 |
| Mar-07 | 3,049,801  | 134,382,991 |
| Apr-07 | 3,751,944  | 168,171,419 |
| May-07 | 3,361,811  | 144,143,874 |
| Jun-07 | 4,404,103  | 192,351,603 |
| Jul-07 | 4,882,889  | 244,427,616 |
| Aug-07 | 5,491,820  | 269,955,263 |
| Sep-07 | 5,629,732  | 252,430,691 |
| Oct-07 | 5,498,397  | 252,865,353 |
| Nov-07 | 5,246,788  | 211,132,794 |
| Dec-07 | 6,455,080  | 246,628,173 |
| Jan-08 | 11,054,437 | 539,418,924 |
| Feb-08 | 9,750,254  | 459,349,392 |
| Mar-08 | 9,689,032  | 446,322,059 |
| Apr-08 | 10,626,460 | 494,421,048 |
| May-08 | 10,661,699 | 509,029,629 |
| Jun-08 | 9,978,556  | 486,461,464 |
| Jul-08 | 10,623,466 | 506,103,704 |
| Aug-08 | 11,161,900 | 495,117,198 |
| Sep-08 | 10,185,790 | 434,089,900 |
| Oct-08 | 10,594,935 | 411,294,163 |
| Nov-08 | 10,955,234 | 434,909,198 |
| Dec-08 | 11,801,670 | 434,380,183 |

<u>Fitday.com</u>. Fitday.com offers a robust application for tracking caloric intake and expenditure. Fitday offers no community features but its tracking software is similar to that offered by SparkPeople.com. This site is free to users and generates revenue through ads.

Table 13 provides web traffic details for www.fitday.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 13.

Traffic Estimates for www.fitday.com

| Date   | Visits    | Pageviews  |
|--------|-----------|------------|
| Jun-06 | 570,497   | 16,715,421 |
| Jul-06 | 620,468   | 18,252,113 |
| Aug-06 | 608,747   | 17,380,818 |
| Sep-06 | 596,027   | 17,434,644 |
| Oct-06 | 520,416   | 16,780,948 |
| Nov-06 | 469,260   | 14,308,075 |
| Dec-06 | 346,252   | 9,492,046  |
| Jan-07 | 839,865   | 30,394,572 |
| Feb-07 | 621,226   | 21,717,148 |
| Mar-07 | 638,423   | 20,675,540 |
| Apr-07 | 549,758   | 18,344,715 |
| May-07 | 514,047   | 17,440,334 |
| Jun-07 | 599,871   | 18,357,127 |
| Jul-07 | 665,527   | 17,682,350 |
| Aug-07 | 577,694   | 13,659,302 |
| Sep-07 | 566,261   | 15,334,921 |
| Oct-07 | 524,175   | 13,397,792 |
| Nov-07 | 531,622   | 14,835,718 |
| Dec-07 | 514,533   | 14,080,434 |
| Jan-08 | 1,086,476 | 35,472,635 |
| Feb-08 | 797,968   | 23,299,693 |
| Mar-08 | 854,039   | 22,797,349 |
| Apr-08 | 1,013,188 | 26,942,087 |
| May-08 | 773,286   | 19,248,108 |
| Jun-08 | 792,465   | 19,170,207 |
| Jul-08 | 816,263   | 21,197,697 |
| Aug-08 | 789,502   | 22,804,614 |
| Sep-08 | 1,043,123 | 32,909,968 |
| Oct-08 | 846,420   | 23,056,371 |
| Nov-08 | 646,427   | 16,270,830 |
| Dec-08 | 559,925   | 15,310,385 |

<u>dLife.com</u>. dLife.com is yet another example of a successful niche site that combines community features and robust features that make lives easier. dLife is a community site for diabetics and includes features such as:

- Meal manager
- Recipe system
- Blogs and video
- Forums and message boards
- Expert Q&A

Again, dLife will not compete with SportLabz and FitLabz but there is much to learn from successful communities such as dLife that offer users excellent social, communication, and health tracking tools.

Table 14 provides web traffic details for www.dlife.com as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 14.

Traffic Estimates for www.dlife.com

| Date   | Visits  | Pageviews |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Jun-06 | 194,388 | 1,485,439 |
| Jul-06 | 172,992 | 1,440,202 |
| Aug-06 | 194,043 | 1,395,147 |
| Sep-06 | 251,490 | 2,044,431 |
| Oct-06 | 241,200 | 1,872,230 |
| Nov-06 | 264,812 | 2,206,863 |
| Dec-06 | 259,541 | 1,827,233 |
| Jan-07 | 197,629 | 1,697,111 |
| Feb-07 | 222,149 | 1,826,402 |
| Mar-07 | 258,204 | 2,539,721 |
| Apr-07 | 204,935 | 1,966,788 |
| May-07 | 181,945 | 1,482,991 |
| Jun-07 | 272,476 | 2,031,254 |
| Jul-07 | 332,988 | 2,459,888 |
| Aug-07 | 374,560 | 2,499,931 |
| Sep-07 | 464,758 | 2,941,398 |
| Oct-07 | 445,558 | 2,966,511 |
| Nov-07 | 493,206 | 3,538,642 |
| Dec-07 | 526,715 | 3,297,843 |
| Jan-08 | 535,212 | 4,751,510 |
| Feb-08 | 452,213 | 3,262,960 |
| Mar-08 | 475,251 | 3,473,744 |
| Apr-08 | 463,942 | 2,903,279 |
| May-08 | 477,805 | 3,554,124 |
| Jun-08 | 471,798 | 3,764,519 |
| Jul-08 | 491,091 | 4,429,764 |
| Aug-08 | 511,644 | 3,764,821 |
| Sep-08 | 518,690 | 4,691,639 |
| Oct-08 | 463,502 | 2,815,139 |
| Nov-08 | 567,970 | 4,397,958 |
| Dec-08 | 517,803 | 4,162,965 |

The Power of Community. An extremely valuable comparison is that of SparkPeople.com and Fitday.com. As mentioned in their descriptions, both share similar applications for tracking diet and exercise. As you can see from Table 15, there is a significant difference in traffic. Reasons for the difference in web traffic between SparkPeople and Fitday are numerous, but the social and communication features available on SparkPeople are primary reasons for the traffic difference.

Table 15 provides a comparison of www.fitday.com and www.sparkpeople.com traffic as estimated by www.compete.com.

Table 15.

Fitday.com vs. Sparkpeople.com Traffic Comparison

| Date   | Fitday<br>Pageviews | SparkPeople<br>Pageviews |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Jun-06 | 16,715,421          | 53,545,129               |
| Jul-06 | 18,252,113          | 78,312,063               |
| Aug-06 | 17,380,818          | 93,058,127               |
| Sep-06 | 17,434,644          | 80,929,548               |
| Oct-06 | 16,780,948          | 77,798,822               |
| Nov-06 | 14,308,075          | 82,747,928               |
| Dec-06 | 9,492,046           | 80,523,800               |
| Jan-07 | 30,394,572          | 182,769,710              |
| Feb-07 | 21,717,148          | 130,027,518              |
| Mar-07 | 20,675,540          | 134,382,991              |
| Apr-07 | 18,344,715          | 168,171,419              |
| May-07 | 17,440,334          | 144,143,874              |
| Jun-07 | 18,357,127          | 192,351,603              |
| Jul-07 | 17,682,350          | 244,427,616              |
| Aug-07 | 13,659,302          | 269,955,263              |
| Sep-07 | 15,334,921          | 252,430,691              |
| Oct-07 | 13,397,792          | 252,865,353              |
| Nov-07 | 14,835,718          | 211,132,794              |
| Dec-07 | 14,080,434          | 246,628,173              |
| Jan-08 | 35,472,635          | 539,418,924              |
| Feb-08 | 23,299,693          | 459,349,392              |
| Mar-08 | 22,797,349          | 446,322,059              |
| Apr-08 | 26,942,087          | 494,421,048              |
| May-08 | 19,248,108          | 509,029,629              |
| Jun-08 | 19,170,207          | 486,461,464              |
| Jul-08 | 21,197,697          | 506,103,704              |
| Aug-08 | 22,804,614          | 495,117,198              |
| Sep-08 | 32,909,968          | 434,089,900              |
| Oct-08 | 23,056,371          | 411,294,163              |
| Nov-08 | 16,270,830          | 434,909,198              |
| Dec-08 | 15,310,385          | 434,380,183              |

While community or social networking features are not responsible for 100% of this difference, it certainly contributes significantly to growth. When great applications that meet real needs are combined with social features, this is a potent combination.

This is important when you consider SportLabz and FitLabz. SportLabz is a standalone application with no community features; this is because collegiate and professional athletic teams generally shun the idea of social communities unless it is to provide a platform for fans and others from the general public to communicate through. FitLabz, on the other hand, essentially takes the application available via SportLabz and drops it into a community setting.

Although SparkPeople generates far more traffic than Fitday, both are legitimate and successful businesses. This also applies to SportLabz and FitLabz. FitLabz is expected to grow at much faster pace than SportLabz, but both are legitimate business models.

#### Customer Profile

The customer profiles for SportLabz and FitLabz are as follows.

#### SportLabz

- Universities There are 2,500-3,000 4-year universities in the United States.
   Approximately 1,200 of these organizations participate in division I, II, or III
   NCAA sports. This represents nearly 400,000 NCAA athletes in 23 different sports.
- Hundreds of major professional athletic teams

Thousands of professional athletes

# <u>FitLabz</u>

For the purposes of this description, the customer is defined as those companies advertising on FitLabz. While the actual consumer or users of the product are athletes and fitness enthusiasts, these individuals are an audience which to display ads to.

There are several banner ad networks that FitLabz will consider when development begins. Options for ad networks include, Google AdWords, DoubleClick, PubMatic, ValueClick, and others. This will be determined when, 1) angel investors have committed and a chairman has been appointed and 2) technical development plans are completed and the best ad platform is selected.

# **Target Market Profile**

The target market profile for SportLabz and FitLabz are as follows.

## SportLabz

See the SportLabz customer profile above.

#### FitLabz

- 25,000-30,000 high schools
- Hundreds of thousands serious recreational athletes
- Tens of millions of fitness enthusiasts
- Hundreds of thousands of personal trainers
- Approximately 30,000 Health Clubs

# Pricing Profile

Pricing profiles for SportLabz and FitLabz.

# **SportLabz**

SportLabz will be priced by volume or number of users per account.

#### FitLabz

FitLabz is free to use but will generate revenue through banner ads. The specific price per banner is highly variable and more information will be available once a banner network(s) is selected.

## **Break Even Analysis**

Please see the cash flow projections for this information (Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C).

# Market Penetration

SportLabz and FitLabz will achieve significant market penetration through an effective distribution channel, knowledgeable sale representatives, and in some cases direct sales.

In the case of FitLabz in particular, maximizing social networking will make up a significant portion of marketing efforts. Table 16 and Table 17 present projected market penetration.

Table 16.

SportLabz.com Market Penetration and Revenue Projections

| Quarter | Price Per Client Clients Gained |                  | rice Per Client Clients Gained Client Losses Revenue Generating Clients Per Quarter |       |           |  |  |
|---------|---------------------------------|------------------|---|-------|-----------|--|--|
| Y1Q1    |                                 |                  |   |       |           |  |  |
| Y1Q2    |                                 |                  |   |       |           |  |  |
| Y1Q3    |                                 |                  |   |       |           |  |  |
| Y1Q4    |                                 |                  |   |       |           |  |  |
| Y2Q1    |                                 |                  |   |       |           |  |  |
| Y2Q2    | 1,200                           | 15               | 0   | 15    | \$ 18,000 |  |  |
| Y2Q3    | 1,200                           | 20               | 0   | 20    | \$ 24,000 |  |  |
| Y2Q4    | 1,200                           | 20               | 0   | 20    | \$ 24,000 |  |  |
| Y3Q1    | 1,200                           | 25               | 0   | 25    | \$ 30,000 |  |  |
| Y3Q2    | 1,200                           | 25               | 3.75  | 36.25 | \$ 43,500 |  |  |
| Y3Q3    | 1,200                           | 25               | 5   | 40    | \$ 48,000 |  |  |
| Y3Q4    | 1,200                           | 30               | 5   | 45    | \$ 54,000 |  |  |
| Totals  |                                 | 160              | 13.75   |       |           |  |  |
|         |                                 | Active Clients = | 146.25  |       |           |  |  |

Table 17.

TrainingLabz.com Market Penetration and Revenue Projections

| Quarter | Projected Visits | Pageviews Per Visit | СРМ | Banner Network Ads | Sponsorship | eStore    | Total Revenue |
|---------|------------------|---------------------|-----|--------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Y1Q1    |                  |                     |     |                    |             |           |               |
| Y1Q2    |                  |                     |     |                    |             |           |               |
| Y1Q3    |                  |                     |     |                    |             |           |               |
| Y1Q4    |                  |                     |     |                    |             |           |               |
| Y2Q1    |                  |                     |     |                    |             |           |               |
| Y2Q2    | 150,000          | 15                  | 10  | \$ 22,500          |             |           | \$ 22,500     |
| Y2Q3    | 225,000          | 15                  | 10  | \$ 33,750          |             |           | \$ 33,750     |
| Y2Q4    | 300,000          | 15                  | 10  | \$ 45,000          |             |           | \$ 45,000     |
| Y3Q1    | 600,000          | 16                  | 11  | \$ 105,600         |             |           | \$ 105,600    |
| Y3Q2    | 1,050,000        | 16                  | 11  | \$ 184,800         | \$ 30,000   | \$ 25,000 | \$ 239,800    |
| Y3Q3    | 1,500,000        | 16                  | 12  | \$ 288,000         | \$ 45,000   | \$ 25,000 | \$ 358,000    |
| Y3Q4    | 2,250,000        | 17                  | 12  | \$ 459,000         | \$ 60,000   | \$ 30,000 | \$ 549,000    |

#### **Distribution Channels**

Users of SportLabz must go online to purchase the product.

# Sales Representatives

Sales representatives will be used at all events, conferences, and trade shows,

## Direct Mail/Telemarketing

Direct mail and telemarketing/cold calling will be used; this will also be supplemented with email blasts.

## Advertising and Promotion

- Traditional sales such as cold calling and direct mail. When geographically possible, client visits may also be arranged.
- There are a number of conferences and trade shows such as the NSCA and ACSM that SportLabz will attend. Ads will be placed in applicable magazines and journals as well as related websites.
- A variety of search engine optimization techniques will be used to optimize search performance.
- Google AdWords will also be used to drive search engine traffic.

#### Services and Warranties

This applies to only SportLabz as it offers the only paid service. SportLabz will offer customers a 30-day money back guarantee on services.

## Trade Shows, Events, and Conferences

There are a number of trade shows events and conferences that will provide potential customers and users the chance to interact with both SportLabz and FitLabz. These trade shows, events, and conferences will place both SportLabz and FitLabz in front of specific audiences that will be likely adopters of these applications. Conferences and trade shows will differ in the audience they generate. The audience at one conference or trade show may be interested in SportLabz, while the audience at another conference or trade show will be interested in FitLabz. Because SportLabz and FitLabz are web based products, one or the other will be featured but both products can be available. Potential trade shows and conferences include but are not limited to the following:

## Trade Shows

- International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association (IHRSA)
- American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD)
- Arnold Fitness Weekend
- Club Industry East
- IDEA World Fitness Convention

#### **Events**

- Marathons around the country
- Bodybuilding shows around the country to include NPC and IFBB events

Powerlifting and weightlifting competitions around the country

#### **Conferences**

- Regional and national American College of Sport Medicine (ACSM) conferences
- National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) conferences
- The United Kingdom Strength and Conditioning Association (UKSCA)
- Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches association (CSCCa)
- Coaches Colleges at East Tennessee State University

#### **Future Markets and Products**

There are a variety of markets and products that SportLabz and FitLabz will and could explore in the future.

#### **Definite Markets and Products**

The following are markets and products that may not be included in the original release of SportLabz or FitLabz but are certainly planned for in future releases.

- There is a need to focus on meeting the needs of athletes with diseases and disabilities such as diabetes and wheelchair bound athletes. SportLabz does plan to build features to cater to the needs of these athletes.
- More general health and wellness focused tracking and monitoring. While this
  market is extremely competitive, with the proper features and perhaps niche
  focus, there is room for another player in this market. This would require the

development of a completely new website but the experience garnered from the development of SportLabz and FitLabz would be extremely useful.

#### Potential Markets and Products

The following are markets and products not currently planned for release but may be options for SportLabz and FitLabz as the company matures.

- SportLabz and FitLabz will be able to handle data uploads from a variety of devices such as heart rate monitors and GPS devices; these are features that are already planned. However, an extension of this may include the actual design and development of devices to assist in athletic development and performance measurement. While on a large-scale device design and development may be 3, 4, or 5 years down the road, device development has already been taking place in the performance lab of ETSU. Allocating company resources to this process in the future may be a relatively sensible step to take.
- Offering consultation services such as Carmichael Training Systems is surely a
  possibility and would be a nice fit for SportLabz and FitLabz and their relationship
  with East Tennessee State University. This type of consultation service requires
  a significant number of employees and this may or may not be in the best interest
  of SportLabz to go this route.
- SportLabz could certainly branch out and build web applications that are specifically designed to meet the needs of health clubs and personal trainers.

# Capital Requirements

The total initial capital requirement is approximately \$600,000-\$650,000. For a timeline of capital requirements please see the cash flow projections.

The majority of the capital requirements for continued growth and development will be in the areas of personnel (developers, customer service, marketing, and sales), hardware (computers, servers) and software.

# Personnel Requirements

The following outlines the personal requirements for SportLabz and FitLabz.

Keep in mind that all of the web development during the first 2 years will be completed by Intellithought. The hiring of in-house web developers will not begin until the beginning of year 3. The personnel requirements are outlined in Table 18.

Table 18.

Employee Payroll and Benefits

| Quarter | Owner        | Sales &<br>Marketing | Customer<br>Service # 1 | Customer<br>Service # 2 | Dev # 1   | Dev # 2   | Dev # 3   | Total Payroll | Total<br>Benefits |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| Y1Q1    | \$<br>12,500 |                      |                         |                         |           |           |           | \$ 12,500     | \$ 6,250          |
| Y1Q2    | \$<br>12,500 |                      |                         |                         |           |           |           | \$ 12,500     | \$ 6,250          |
| Y1Q3    | \$<br>12,500 |                      |                         |                         |           |           |           | \$ 12,500     | \$ 6,250          |
| Y1Q4    | \$<br>12,500 |                      |                         |                         |           |           |           | \$ 12,500     | \$ 6,250          |
| Y2Q1    | \$<br>12,500 | \$ 12,500            | \$ 3,750                |                         |           |           |           | \$ 28,750     | \$ 14,375         |
| Y2Q2    | \$<br>15,000 | \$ 12,500            | \$ 3,750                |                         |           |           |           | \$ 31,250     | \$ 15,625         |
| Y2Q3    | \$<br>15,000 | \$ 12,500            | \$ 3,750                |                         |           |           |           | \$ 31,250     | \$ 15,625         |
| Y2Q4    | \$<br>15,000 | \$ 12,500            | \$ 3,750                |                         |           |           |           | \$ 31,250     | \$ 15,625         |
| Y3Q1    | \$<br>20,000 | \$ 13,375            | \$ 4,013                | \$ 10,000               | \$ 17,500 |           |           | \$ 64,888     | \$ 32,444         |
| Y3Q2    | \$<br>20,000 | \$ 13,375            | \$ 4,013                | \$ 10,000               | \$ 17,500 |           |           | \$ 64,888     | \$ 32,444         |
| Y3Q3    | \$<br>20,000 | \$ 13,375            | \$ 4,013                | \$ 10,000               | \$ 17,500 |           |           | \$ 64,888     | \$ 32,444         |
| Y3Q4    | \$<br>25,000 | \$ 13,375            | \$ 4,013                | \$ 10,000               | \$ 17,500 | \$ 17,500 | \$ 17,500 | \$ 104,888    | \$ 52,444         |

## **Exit Strategy**

Several exit strategies will be considered and will be influenced by the desires of the angel investors.

Some options include the following:

- IPO
- Sell
- It is also possible to generate enough revenue to payback investors without any
  of the above.

## Financial Plan

Complete cash flow projections can be found in the appendix (Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C).

# The Pitch

Pitching or presenting the business plan for SportLabz and FitLabz to potential investors is a critical process. If the pitching process is not successful, it will be difficult to secure the funds required to build SportLabz and FitLabz. The pitch for SportLabz and FitLabz has been practiced on numerous occasions. The slides used in the presentation to investors can be found in the appendix (Appendix H).

# Confidential Disclosure Agreement

Prior to pitching SportLabz and FitLabz to any potential investors, anyone present for the pitch must sign a Confidential Disclosure Agreement (Appendix G).

#### **CHAPTER 3**

#### DEVELOPMENT SPECIFICATIONS OVERVIEW

The following development specifications provide an overview of the features and functions that will be developed for both SportLabz and FitLabz. As mentioned a number of times throughout this thesis, while sharing similar features and functions, SportLabz and FitLabz will be designed to meet specific but different needs.

Many University athletic programs, professional athletic teams, and athletic organizations such as the USOC require that athlete and team data be kept private and out of the public eye. SportLabz will provide this solution and is a pay to use service.

While organizations such as those mentioned above are welcome to use FitLabz, fitness enthusiasts and recreational athletes from the general public will make up the majority of FitLabz users. While these individuals do have the choice to keep their athletic training and performance data private, many or most of these individuals will find the community and social functions of FitLabz attractive; in other words, many users of FitLabz will want to share their information with friends and other uses of FitLabz. FitLabz will meet this need and is free to use.

The difference between SportLabz and FitLabz will be covered and clearly seen in the following development specifications. These are not technical specifications and are meant only to provide an overview of the functionality required for both SportLabz and FitLabz.

# General Site Functions and Features for SportLabz and FitLabz

There are a number of general site functions and features that must be included in development that are not related to athletic performance. These features are described below.

# Profile System

Each user of SportLabz and FitLabz will require a profile. The profile system for SportLabz and FitLabz will handle a variety of users to include but not limited to the following:

- Organizations
- Teams
- Individual athletes
- Coaches
- Physicians
- Exercise and sport scientists
- Athletic trainers
- Strength and conditioning professionals

## Content Management System (CMS)

Both SportLabz and FitLabz will require a Content Management System (CMS). Whether the CMS will need to built from scratch, purchased, or an open source solution used, has yet to be determined.

## Tutorial and FAQ System

Separate tutorial and FAQ systems will need to be created for SportLabz and FitLabz. The FAQ will be message board based while the tutorial system will consist of video and written tutorials

# Private Messaging (PM) System

A private messaging system will be necessary for both SportLabz and FitLabz While both sites will use the same messaging system, the scope of use will be different between sites. Users of SportLabz will only be able to send messages to users from the same team or organization. Users of FitLabz will be able to send private messages to any other user who is a member of FitLabz.

#### Payment System

SportLabz will require a payment processing system that allows users to pay for services as well as pay for items from the SportLabz store. FitLabz will also require a payment processing system but because FitLabz is free to use, payment processing will only be required for the FitLabz store.

It is possible that FitLabz will offer an ad free version of the site for a price. If FitLabz decides to offer an ad free version of the site, users must be able to purchase services.

#### Group and Team System

User of FitLabz will be able to start any number of groups or teams on the site.

SportLabz will essentially use the same system for organizing or grouping users into teams but users will not be able to start an unlimited number of groups.

# Photo System

FitLabz will provide users with a photo album system allowing them to upload photos and share with friends. The photo system will also integrate with popular photo sharing services such as Flickr and Photobucket.

#### Calendar System

There are several different areas where calendars will be used on both SportLabz and FitLabz. Each user may choose to receive e-mail and SMS alerts for calendar events. While calendars can be used to schedule any events, it can be assumed that the calendar system used for SportLabz and FitLabz will often be used to schedule events such as,

- Games and competitions
- Study sessions
- Practices
- Performance testing
- Classes
- Travel times

<u>User Calendar</u>. Each user has access to a calendar that can be used to schedule events of his or her choice.

<u>Team Calendar</u>. Each team has access to a calendar that can be used to schedule team events.

Community Calendar. The community calendar will be found only on FitLabz.

This will simply act as an aggregate calendar listing all athletic or competitive events of the community. Users will be able to choose whether they would like their events to appear in the community calendar.

#### Review System

The review system is only found on FitLabz. The review system will allow the FitLabz community to personally review and rate their satisfaction for a number of different items and products to include but not limited to the following:

- Nutrition and diet products
- training equipment
- health clubs
- athletic programs

#### Banner Ad System

Only FitLabz will use a banner ad system. The banner ad system will allows for easy integration with a number of banner ad agencies that FitLabz may use.

## Athlete and Team Data Management Modules

The modules described below will be responsible for collecting and reporting data that is specific to athletic performance and development. While these specifications will only cover the general abilities of each module, it is important to consider that each module will be used by a variety of users and must provide the necessary functionality

for each user. For instance, a number of modules must allow an athlete to enter data and sport scientist should be able to view and generate reports from the data.

Each module will have two primary functions.

#### 1. Data entry

2. Data reporting – Each module will provide users with the ability to generate on demand reports and graphs. The user can select any two variables from one module or compare variables from two different modules. For example, a user may want to compare hours of sleep from the fatigue and overtraining module against exercise volume and load from the training module over a specific period. Users will also be able to export all reports as xls, csv, and pdf formats.

## Fatigue and Overtraining Module

The purpose of the fatigue and overtraining module is provide a monitoring solution for common signs and symptoms of excessive fatigue and overtraining. To do so, the fatigue and overtraining module will provide web based forms that allows for the entry of daily status variables. These variables include but are not limited to those such as body weight, resting heart rate, hours of sleep, and mood state.

Compact and extended versions of the fatigue and overtraining module will be offered. In order to make the collection of these simple variables easier for the user, these forms should be easily accessible via devices such as mobile phones.

Module Options and Functions. This module is perhaps the most important of both SportLabz and FitLabz. As long as the user (athlete) is entering data on most or all

days of the week, this module will provide feedback to the appropriate parties without needing to log into either site or analyzing a single piece of data. Figure 1 provides an example of what the fatigue and overtraining module may resemble.

The fatigue and overtraining module will do this by detecting whether the user is within acceptable ranges for the entered variables. If a user falls outside of acceptable ranges for a predetermined duration, this may be a sign of excessive fatigue or overtraining. Alerts can or will be sent to the appropriate parties via email, text message, and private message. Each variable or data field associated with the fatigue questionnaire is a potential sign or symptom of overtraining. All appropriate parties to include coaches, strength and conditioning staff, sport science staff, physicians, etc. must know when symptoms appear in an athlete.

A couple of examples of this process include the following:

- Example 1: In an athlete's profile, they will enter their baseline body weight and
  an acceptable body weight range is established. If an athlete's body weight drops
  below the acceptable range, the proper staff can be alerted.
- Example 2: In an athlete's profile, they enter a baseline resting heart rate. If an athlete's resting heart rate exceeds a particular range for so many consecutive days, all appropriate parties are alerted.

Additional functional requirements of the fatigue and overtraining module include the following:

Account administrators control who can send and receive alerts.

- Account administrators have control over which questionnaire, the compact or extended fatigue and overtraining questionnaire, will be used.
- Account administrators can select the minimum number of days each week the how many times a week the fatigue and overtraining module should be used.
- Users can generate on demand reports and graphs as well as export data in a variety of file formats.

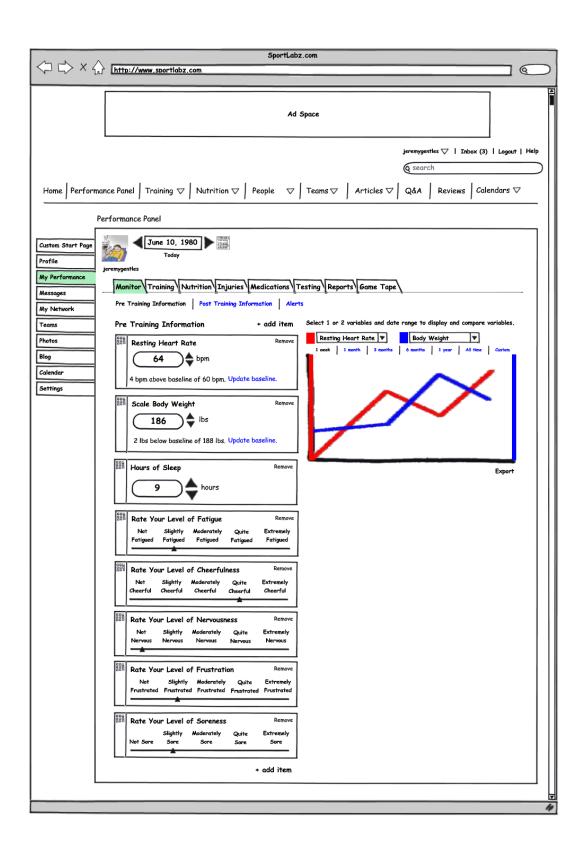


Figure 1. Sample Mockup of Fatigue and Overtraining Module

## **Competition Module**

The competition module provides users with a database of competitive events and allows the tracking of variables of performance during those events.

Module Options and Functions. The following options and functions will be required for the competition module.

- Users can track the performance of a single event such as the 4 x 100 meter relay or various basketball game statistics.
- A single event or multiple events can be selected to create competitions.
- A list of common events and competitions can also be created.

#### Performance and Skill Testing

While the number of performance and skills test are far too numerous to cover here, users must be able to track the results of endurance, strength, power, and agility tests.

Module Options and Functions. Similar to databases described previously, a standard list of performance and skill tests will be available. Results can be tracked, custom items can be created testing batteries can be produced, and favorites or most common lists can be formed.

#### Practice and Training Module

The practice and training module will allow users to create detailed practices with multiple components as well as conditioning programs whether it be a single session or a complete training plan for a season. This module will be complete with exercise

descriptions, image, and video demonstrations and the ability to create custom exercises.

# **Additional Modules**

Users will also be able to use an injury model for tracking injuries, a pharmaceutical model for tracking medications, nutrition module for creating meal plans, and a video module that will allow the uploading and viewing of game tapes from anywhere a user has an internet connection.

### REFERENCES

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# **APPENDICES**

# Appendix A: Year One Cash Flow Projections

Year One Cash Flow Pro

| Quarter                             | Pre-Start | Q1       | Q2        | Q3        | Q4        |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Receipts                            |           |          |           |           |           |
| Ad Revenue from FitLabz             | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Subscription Revenue from SportLabz | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Total Receipts                      | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Payments                            |           |          |           |           |           |
| Cash purchases                      |           |          | 5,000     |           |           |
| Legal fees                          | 1,000     |          |           |           |           |
| Salaries and wages                  |           | 12,500   | 12,500    | 12,500    | 12,500    |
| Employee benefits                   |           | 6,250    | 6,250     | 6,250     | 6,250     |
| Payroll taxes                       |           |          |           | 956       | 956       |
| Rent                                |           |          |           |           |           |
| Business Insurance                  |           | 800      |           |           |           |
| Telephone                           |           | 600      | 600       | 600       | 900       |
| Postage                             |           |          |           | 300       | 300       |
| Office supplies                     |           |          |           | 300       | 300       |
| Advertising                         |           |          |           |           | 10,000    |
| Marketing and Promotion             |           |          |           |           | 25,000    |
| Professional fees                   |           |          |           |           |           |
| Web Development                     | 8,000     | 50,000   | 50,000    | 25,000    | 25,000    |
| Server Costs                        |           | •        | •         |           | •         |
| Accounting and Bookeeping           |           | 500      | 500       | 500       | 500       |
| Other                               |           |          |           |           |           |
| Total Payments                      | 9,000     | 70,650   | 74,850    | 46,406    | 81,706    |
| Cashflow Surplus/Deficit (-)        | (9,000)   | (70,650) | (74,850)  | (46,406)  | (81,706)  |
| Opening Cash Balance                | 0         | (9,000)  | (79,650)  | (154,500) | (200,906) |
| Closing Cash Balance                | (9,000)   | (79,650) | (154,500) | (200,906) | (282,613) |

# Appendix B: Year Two Cash Flow Projections

### **Year Two Cash Flow Projections**

| Quarter                             | Q1        | Q2        | Q3        | Q4        |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                     |           |           |           |           |
| Receipts                            |           |           |           |           |
| Ad Revenue from FitLabz             |           | 22,500    | 33,750    | 45,000    |
| Subscription Revenue from SportLabz |           | 18,000    | 24,000    | 24,000    |
| Total Receipts                      | 0         | 40,500    | 57,750    | 69,000    |
| Payments                            |           |           |           |           |
| Cash purchases                      |           | 5,000     |           |           |
| Legal fees                          |           |           |           |           |
| Salaries and wages                  | 28,750    | 31,250    | 31,250    | 31,250    |
| Employee benefits                   | 14,375    | 15,625    | 15,625    | 15,625    |
| Payroll taxes                       | 2,199     | 2,391     | 2,391     | 2,391     |
| Rent                                | 1,500     | 1,500     | 1,500     | 1,500     |
| Business Insurance                  | 800       |           |           |           |
| Telephone                           | 900       | 900       | 900       | 900       |
| Postage                             | 300       | 300       | 300       | 300       |
| Office supplies                     | 600       | 600       | 600       | 600       |
| Advertising                         | 2,500     | 10,000    | 2,500     | 10,000    |
| Marketing/promotion                 | 25,000    | 25,000    | 25,000    | 25,000    |
| Professional fees                   | 5,000     | 5,000     | 5,000     | 5,000     |
| Web Development                     | 25,000    | 25,000    | 25,000    | 25,000    |
| Server Costs                        | 500       | 500       | 1,000     | 1,000     |
| Accounting/Bookkeeping              | 500       | 500       | 500       | 500       |
| Other                               |           |           |           |           |
| Total Payments                      | 107,924   | 123,566   | 111,566   | 119,066   |
| Cash flow Surplus/Deficit (-)       | (107,924) | (83,066)  | (53,816)  | (50,066)  |
| Opening Cash Balance                | (282,613) | (390,537) | (473,603) | (527,418) |
| Closing Cash Balance                | (390,537) | (473,603) | (527,418) | (577,484) |

# Appendix C: Year Three Cash Flow Projections

### **Year Three Cash Flow Projections**

| Quarter                             | Q1        | Q2        | Q3        | Q4        | Totals    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Receipts                            |           |           |           |           |           |
| Ad Revenue from FitLabz             | 105,600   | 239,800   | 358,000   | 549,000   | 1,353,650 |
| Subscription Revenue from SportLabz | 30,000    | 43,500    | 48,000    | 54,000    | 241,500   |
|                                     |           |           |           |           | 0         |
| Total Receipts                      | 135,600   | 283,300   | 406,000   | 603,000   | 1,595,150 |
| Payments                            |           |           |           |           |           |
| Cash purchases                      | 10,000    |           |           | 10,000    | 30,000    |
| Legal fees                          |           |           |           |           | 1,000     |
| Salaries and wages                  | 64,888    | 64,888    | 64,888    | 104,888   | 472,050   |
| Employee benefits                   | 32,444    | 32,444    | 32,444    | 52,444    | 236,025   |
| Payroll taxes                       | 4,964     | 4,964     | 4,964     | 8,024     | 34,199    |
| Rent                                | 2,500     | 2,500     | 2,500     | 2,500     | 16,000    |
| Business Insurance                  | 800       |           |           |           | 2,400     |
| Telephone                           | 1,200     | 1,200     | 1,200     | 1,200     | 11,100    |
| Postage                             | 500       | 500       | 500       | 500       | 3,800     |
| Office supplies                     | 1,000     | 1,000     | 1,000     | 1,000     | 7,000     |
| Advertising                         | 10,000    | 10,000    | 10,000    | 10,000    | 75,000    |
| Marketing/promotion                 | 25,000    | 30,000    | 35,000    | 50,000    | 265,000   |
| Professional fees                   | 5,000     | 5,000     | 5,000     | 5,000     | 40,000    |
| Web Development                     | 15,000    | 15,000    | 15,000    | 15,000    | 318,000   |
| Server Costs                        | 1,500     | 1,500     | 2,000     | 2,000     | 10,000    |
| Accounting/Bookkeeping              | 500       | 500       | 500       | 500       | 6,000     |
| Other                               |           |           |           |           | 0         |
| Total Payments                      | 175,295   | 169,495   | 174,995   | 263,055   | 1,527,574 |
| Cash flow Surplus/Deficit (-)       | (39,695)  | 113,805   | 231,005   | 339,945   | 67,576    |
| Opening Cash Balance                | (577,484) | (617,179) | (503,374) | (272,369) |           |
| Closing Cash Balance                | (617,179) | (503,374) | (272,369) | 67,576    |           |

### Appendix D: Confidential Disclosure Agreement

### CONFIDENTIAL DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

| Be                     | t۱۸/ | ۵۵ | 'n. |  |
|------------------------|------|----|-----|--|
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Individual, Company or Organization Name Street Address City, State and Zip Code

And

Jeremy Gentles 309 West Pine Street Johnson City, TN 37604

- 1. On the understanding that both parties are interested in meeting to consider possible collaboration in developments arising from Jeremy Gentles's intellectual property it is agreed that all information, whether oral, written or otherwise, that is supplied in the course or as a result of so meeting shall be treated as confidential by the receiving party.
- 2. The receiving party undertakes not to use the information for any purpose, other than for the purpose of considering the said collaboration, without obtaining the written agreement of the disclosing party.
- 3. This Agreement applies to both technical and commercial information communicated by either party.
- 4. This Agreement does not apply to any information in the public domain or which the receiving party can show was either already lawfully in their possession prior to its disclosure by the other party or acquired without the involvement, either directly or indirectly, of the disclosing party.
- 5. Either party to this Agreement shall on request from the other return any documents or items connected with the disclosure and shall not retain any unauthorized copies or likenesses.
- 6. This Agreement, or the supply of information referred to in paragraph 1, does not create any license, title or interest in respect of any Intellectual Property Rights of the disclosing party.

| 7. After 5 years from the date hereof each party shall be relieved of all obligations under this Agreement. |
|---|
| Signed  |
| For   |
| Date  |
|   |
| Signed  |
| For   |
| Date  |
|   |
|   |

### Appendix E: Scope Document Quote from Saratoga

Scope Document Quote

From: Allan Walters (allan.walters@saratogaus.com)

Sent: Fri 2/15/08 2:15 PM

To: jeremygentles@hotmail.com

### Jeremy,

It was very nice meeting with you yesterday and discussing your online application idea. You have definitely got a vision and a passion for your concept and it was refreshing dealing with a client that was knowledgeable about application development.

Ok. Jonathan estimates that to fully develop your feature scope into a comprehensive technical scope document, which includes meeting with you and hashing out every last detail of user interface, data store structure and such, it would take approximately 40 hours of time. That would be \$5,160 + tax. Coming out of that you would have a formal, technical scope document that would essentially be your application on paper. During this phase, you and Jonathan will have decided what technologies (specific graphing engine, custom form builder, etc.) need to be used to build your application. We would also be able to furnish you a firm quote price to produce this application at that time as well.

For budgeting purposes we estimate that this project looks to be in the \$160,000 to \$200,000 range to produce at the level you have indicated that would like to see it. We have every confidence that we can not only develop this application but do it to the high standard in which you have demonstrated you would like.

If you choose to proceed to the next stage, which is the scope document portion all I would need is approval and we can setup a time to meet to do further discovery on your project. Just let me know and we will accommodate. Thanks.

Our standard payment structure is based on half down and half upon delivery of services rendered.

Please let me know if you have any questions whatsoever as I would be happy to assist. Thanks.

Allan Walters, Senior Vice President

Saratoga Technologies, Inc.

101 Med Tech Parkway, Suite 307

Johnson City, TN 37604

Tel: 423.722.1736

Fax: 423.282.4890

E-mail: allan.walters@saratogaus.com

Web: http://www.saratogaus.com

### Appendix F: Intellithought Development Quote

Thank you for considering INTELLITHOUGHT for your design and technology needs. We hope that this proposal answers all of your questions and we look forward to hearing back from you soon. Please contact Troy Blackwell tblackwell@intellithought.com if you have any questions.

### Company Information

### Background

The company known today as Intellithought started out in 1997 as a high-end technology division of Tele-Optics, Inc. This initiative was undertaken with an understanding that our region was growing and that technology was a key factor in its ability to sustain this growth. Our vision was to partner with local companies to provide the tools and expertise required to stay on the leading edge of an ever-competitive market. The success of this vision resulted in the Tele-Optics division spinning off into a new corporation, Intellithought. Intellithought was officially incorporated on March 1, 2000. Though technology trends have come and gone over the years, Intellithought's vision remains the same. We are comprised of a team of professional leaders who strive to make every company we work with successful therefore resulting in our continued success.

### Location

125 Broad Street Kingsport, TN 37660

Contact Troy Blackwell

tblackwell@intellithought.com

http://www.intellithought.com

p: 877.633.6001 or 423.863-3691

f: 423.378.9646

### Overview of Services and Capabilities

Intellithought provides professional technology services to meet your needs. Core specialties include Custom Application Programming, Network and IS Support, and Web/eCommerce Development.

### **Custom Application Programming**

Not all businesses can rely on simply using "off the shelf" applications to manage their complex business model. As a Microsoft Certified .NET development firm, Intellithought can help research, design, develop, implement and maintain your custom business applications. By implementing research and development into the application lifecycle, Intellithought can create a solution that best fits your needs.

### Network Design and Support

Whether your business has an internal IT department or none at all, Intellithought can work with you to provide and solid and secure infrastructure. As a Microsoft Gold Partner, our team of certified technicians will design, implement and maintain your business network, provide data integrity, create secure solutions and monitor the lifeline of your business. By blending industry leading technology from providers like Dell, HP, Cisco and Microsoft, Intellithought can create a solution to fit your needs.

### Web/eCommerce Development

Your web site HAS to be as distinctive and professional as your organization. Intellithought is staffed with a team of award winning designers to create your custom designed web presence. Each site is visually distinctive and represents appropriate use of state-of-the-art technology and interactive effects. The Intellithought team works with you to understand your message and our track record is excellent. Our extensive development expertise can also take your site further; enabling your clients to login and review projects, invoices, etc. directly from the site or integrating the site with back office processes.

### **Proposal Overview**

### Client Review & Research

We have met twice with Jeremy Gentles to discuss the details of his project. A summary of our understanding is that Mr. Gentles wants a Website/Web Application that consists of two parts, one personal/social and one that is marketed to Athletic Departments at various levels of competition. At the end of this estimate are the specifications provided to me, the estimate that follows is based on these specifications and is a broad estimate for budgeting purposes only.

### **Estimate**

Once budgeting is in place and the need to finalize the scope arises, we will enter the research and development phase of this project. This phase will clearly define the needs and scope and will allow for a complete and final proposal to be written for his project. We estimate the research and development phase to take approximately 80 hours and the estimated cost will be:

\$8,500.00 (Eight Thousand, Five Hundred and 00/100 dollars)

After the Research and Development phase is complete, our estimate to create the program/web application as defined in the specifications at the back of this document is:

\$ 250,000.00 (Two hundred and Fifty Thousand and 00/100 dollars)

### Terms

Invoices are issued on a "Time & materials" (T&M) basis, unless the project documentation identifies the project estimate as a fixed price. Typically, fixed price estimates are more challenging to estimate. Fixed price estimates require substantial business requirements gathering. Intellithought always works to beat our estimates. Clients seeking software development or web development will occasionally desire enhancements which fall outside the prior agreement for project scope. When this occurs, Intellithought will identify the scope and estimate impacts of the additional desired enhancements and submit these to clients for authorization prior to performing the additional work.

### Payment terms

- Payment due upon invoice ✓
- Net 10 days
- Net 15 days
- Net 30 days

### Late Payment Charge

Any sum not paid within the net terms outlined above shall incur a late payment charge of 1.5% per month on any unpaid amount until receipt of payment in full.

### Taxes

Client shall be responsible for all sales, use, personal property and other taxes, however designated, which may be levied or imposed by reason of the transactions contemplated herein, except for taxes on Intellithoughts net income. If Client qualifies as being exempt from taxes, Client shall provide Intellithought documentation to support its exempt status, and Client agrees that if a dispute arises between Client and the Taxing Authority, that Client shall be responsible for such taxes as may be imposed.

### Competent and Qualified Employees

All Employees supplied to the Client by Intellithought shall be qualified and competent, having all the skills and abilities necessary to perform the services specified in this document.

### Non Solicitation of Personnel

The Client agrees to not offer, promise or engage in employment with Intellithought Employees for six months after the employee terminates employment from Intellithought, unless written consent is received from Intellithought.

### Former Employees of the Client

Intellithought shall inform the Client if and when Intellithought plans to furnish former employees of the Client as Employees for assignment subject to this contract.

### Insurance

Intellithought shall maintain such insurance as will protect Intellithought from claims with respect to all Employees under all applicable Federal and State Workmen's Compensation Acts. The Client shall indemnify and hold Intellithought harmless from any and all claims, liabilities and causes of action including injury to or death of any person and for damage to or destruction of any property, resulting directly or indirectly from any and all acts or omissions of Intellithought, Employees, or of anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them in connection with Intellithought's performance hereunder, regardless of whether such injury, death, damage or destruction is contributed to by the negligence of Intellithought, its agents, servants, or Employees,

and on behalf of Intellithought and in Intellithought's name the Client will handle or defend at its own expense any claim or litigation in connection therewith.

### Assignment

The Client shall not assign or delegate this contract in whole or in part without the written consent of Intellithought, nor shall the Client assign any money due or to become due to Intellithought hereunder without the prior written consent of Intellithought. Any such assignment without the prior written consent of Intellithought shall be void.

### Legal expenses

All reasonable costs, including attorney's fees, incurred by the prevailing party in an action against the other party based on this Agreement shall be paid by the other party.

### Severability

If any provision of this contract is held to be unenforceable under the law governing this contract, then the other provisions of this contract shall survive, and the parties shall attempt in good faith to redraft the unenforceable provision to be enforceable, while maintaining as much of the intent of the original provision as reasonably possible.

### Captions

The captions in this contract are for convenience only and do not define or limit any of the provisions herein.

### **Default by Client**

Failure by Client to make payments in compliance with the terms set forth shall entitle Intellithought to terminate services provided to the Client and to remove any hardware or software which has not been fully paid for by the Client.

### Contract

This contract supersedes all prior agreements between the parties, whether written, oral, or otherwise related to the Subject Matter hereof, and is intended by the parties to be the complete and exclusive statement of the contract between the parties. This

contract can only be modified by a written amendment signed by both parties. If a conflict arises between the provisions of this contract and any purchase orders issued under it, then the provisions of this contract shall govern. The provisions of any purchase order referenced in or issued under this contract shall not amend this contract or be binding upon the parties in any manner or to any degree. As both parties have had an opportunity to review and revise this contract, any ambiguity in the language of the contract is to be resolved according to what is most reasonably the intended meaning, and not necessarily against the drafting party.

### Relationship of parties

The parties are independent contractors. Neither party is the agent of the other party, and neither party is authorized to act on behalf of the other party.

### Governing law

This contract is governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee without regard to its choice of law provisions.

### Force Majeure

Force Majeure includes but is not limited to fire, acts of God, war, military action, strikes, and acts of government. If an obligated party exhausts all reasonable alternate means of performance during a reasonably unforeseeable Force Majeure, then the obligated party is excused from performance, except for breaches of confidentiality, for as long as six months, or until the Force Majeure ends, whichever is earlier.

### Letter

This letter supersedes all prior agreements between the parties, whether written, oral, or otherwise related to the Subject Matter hereof, and is intended by the parties to be the complete and exclusive statement of the contract between the parties. This letter can only be modified by a written amendment signed by both parties. Intellithought shall not be liable for any:

### Indemnification

Intellithought shall not be liable for any:

a) Special damages,

| c) Punitive damages,  |
|---|
| d) Incidental damages,  |
| e) Consequential damages, or  |
| f) Any damages resulting from:  |
| i) Loss of use,   |
| ii) Loss of profits, or   |
| iii) Loss of use of products,   |
| g) Regardless of whether the action is based on warranty, contract, negligence, other tort, or any other cause of action, even if Intellithought has been advised of the possibility of such damage. Intellithought shall not be liable for any damages indirectly or directly caused by any employee's action or inaction, including without limitation property damage. |
| Intellithought's total liability under this agreement is limited to the amount of the fees actually paid by the client.   |
| Intellithought Representative:  |
| Troy Blackwell  |
| tblackwell@intellithought.com   |
| 125 Broad St. Kingsport, TN. 37660 Phone: 423.863.3690  |
| Signature: Date:  |
|   |

b) Indirect damages,

## Appendix G: Confidential Disclosure Agreement

### CONFIDENTIAL DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

| Between:                                 |
|--|
| Individual, Company or Organization Name |
| Street Address                           |
| City, State and Zip Code                 |
| And                                      |

Jeremy Gentles 309 West Pine Street

Johnson City, TN 37604

- 1. On the understanding that both parties are interested in meeting to consider possible collaboration in developments arising from Jeremy Gentles's intellectual property it is agreed that all information, whether oral, written or otherwise, that is supplied in the course or as a result of so meeting shall be treated as confidential by the receiving party.
- 2. The receiving party undertakes not to use the information for any purpose, other than for the purpose of considering the said collaboration, without obtaining the written agreement of the disclosing party.
- 3. This Agreement applies to both technical and commercial information communicated by either party.
- 4. This Agreement does not apply to any information in the public domain or which the receiving party can show was either already lawfully in their possession prior to its disclosure by the other party or acquired without the involvement, either directly or indirectly, of the disclosing party.
- 5. Either party to this Agreement shall on request from the other return any documents or items connected with the disclosure and shall not retain any unauthorized copies or likenesses.

| 6.  | This   | Agreement,   | or the   | supply of   | informatior | refe | rred to  | in par | agraph  | 1, does | not    |
|-----|--------|--------------|----------|-------------|-------------|------|----------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| cre | eate a | any license, | title or | interest in | respect of  | any  | Intellec | tual P | roperty | Rights  | of the |
| dis | closi  | ng party.    |          |             |             |      |          |        |         |         |        |

| 7. After 5 years | from the c | late hereo | f each party | / shall be | relieved o | f all obligations |
|------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| under this Agree | ement.     |            |              |            |            |                   |

| Signed |  |  |
|--------|--|--|
| For    |  |  |
| Date   |  |  |
|        |  |  |
| Signed |  |  |
| For    |  |  |
| Date   |  |  |

# Appendix H: Presentation Slides

### Slide 1: Introduction



Jeremy Gentles Email: jeremy@sportlabz.com Phone: 423-202-6765

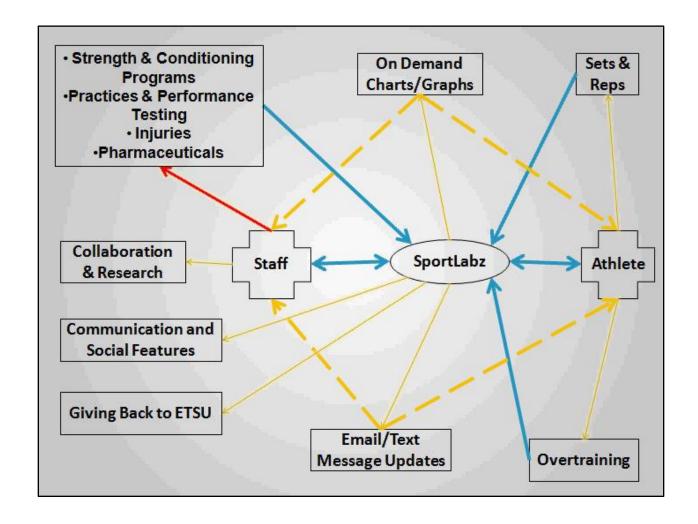
Slide 2: Broken



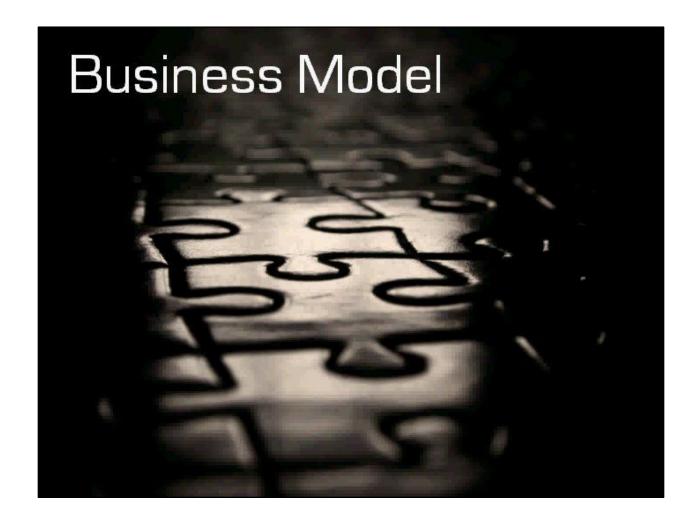
Slide 3: Solutions



Slide 4: Overview



Slide 5: Business Model



Slide 6: Sales and Marketing



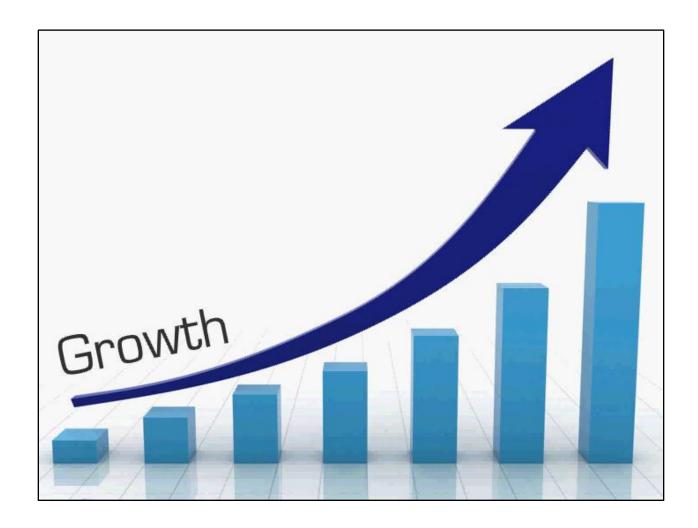
Slide 7: Competition

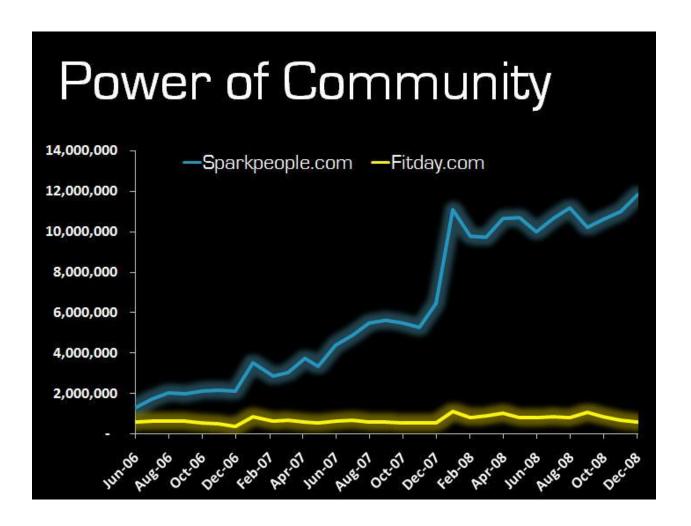


Slide 8: Key Partners

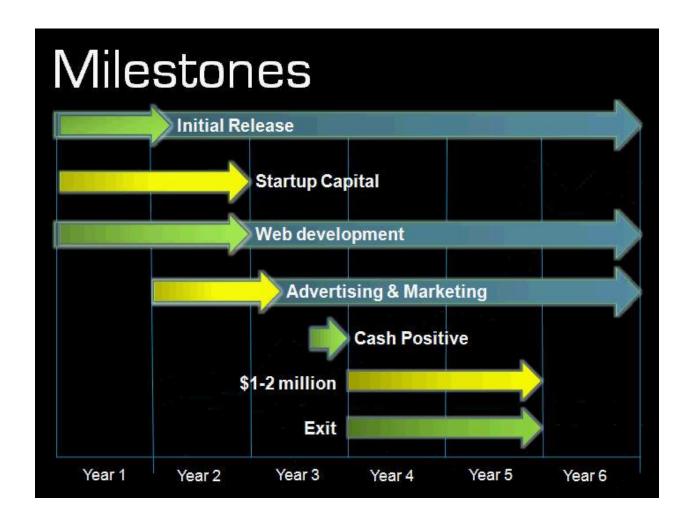


Slide 9: Growth

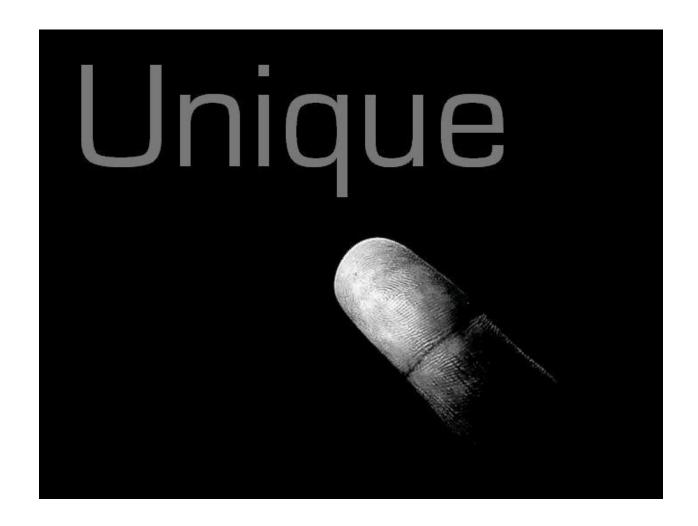




Slide 11: Milestones

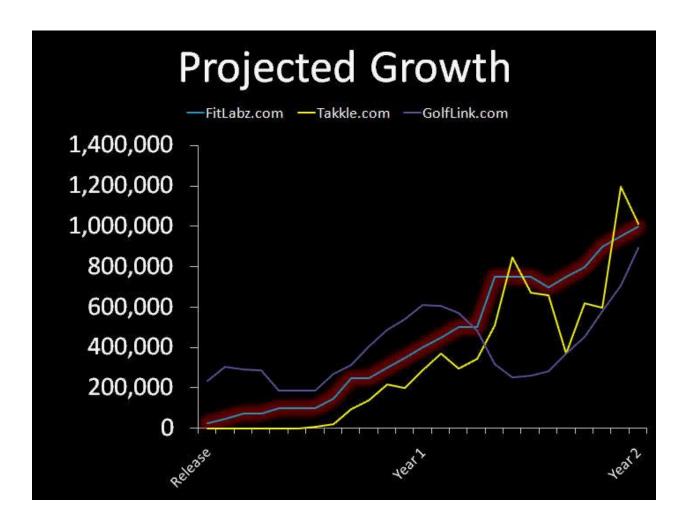


Slide 12: Unique



# Questions & Discussion

Slide 14: Projected Growth



# Projected Trends in Social Networking

- Further focusing on user generated content
- Much of the growth will be niche markets (such as this one) = Higher ROI for advertisers
- More advertising dollars will be spent as networks become focused on a specific type of user
- The audience utilizing social networks will continue to mature = more money being spent
- Large social networks (MySpace, Facebook, Google) will begin purchasing smaller niche networks

### VITA

### **JEREMY GENTLES**

Personal Data: Date of Birth: June 10, 1980

Place of Birth: St. Petersburg, Florida

Marital Status: Married

Education: Public Schools, Johnson City, Tennessee

B.S. Exercise Science, East Tennessee State University,

Johnson City, Tennessee 2004

M.A. Kinesiology and Sport Studies, East Tennessee State

University, Johnson City, Tennessee 2009

Professional Experience: Manager, Johnson City Health and Fitness, Johnson City,

Tennessee, 2002-2004

Health and Fitness Writer, ObesityHelp, Inc., Irvine,

California, 2006-Present