US 20060240865A1

(19) United States

(12) Patent Application Publication (10) Pub. No.: US 2006/0240865 A1

White (43) Pub. Date: Oct. 26, 2006

(54) ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM AND METHOD

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(21) Appl. No.: **11/448,338**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 7, 2006**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/917,065, filed on Aug. 12, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,062,225, which is a continuation of application No. 10/794,137, filed on Mar. 5, 2004.

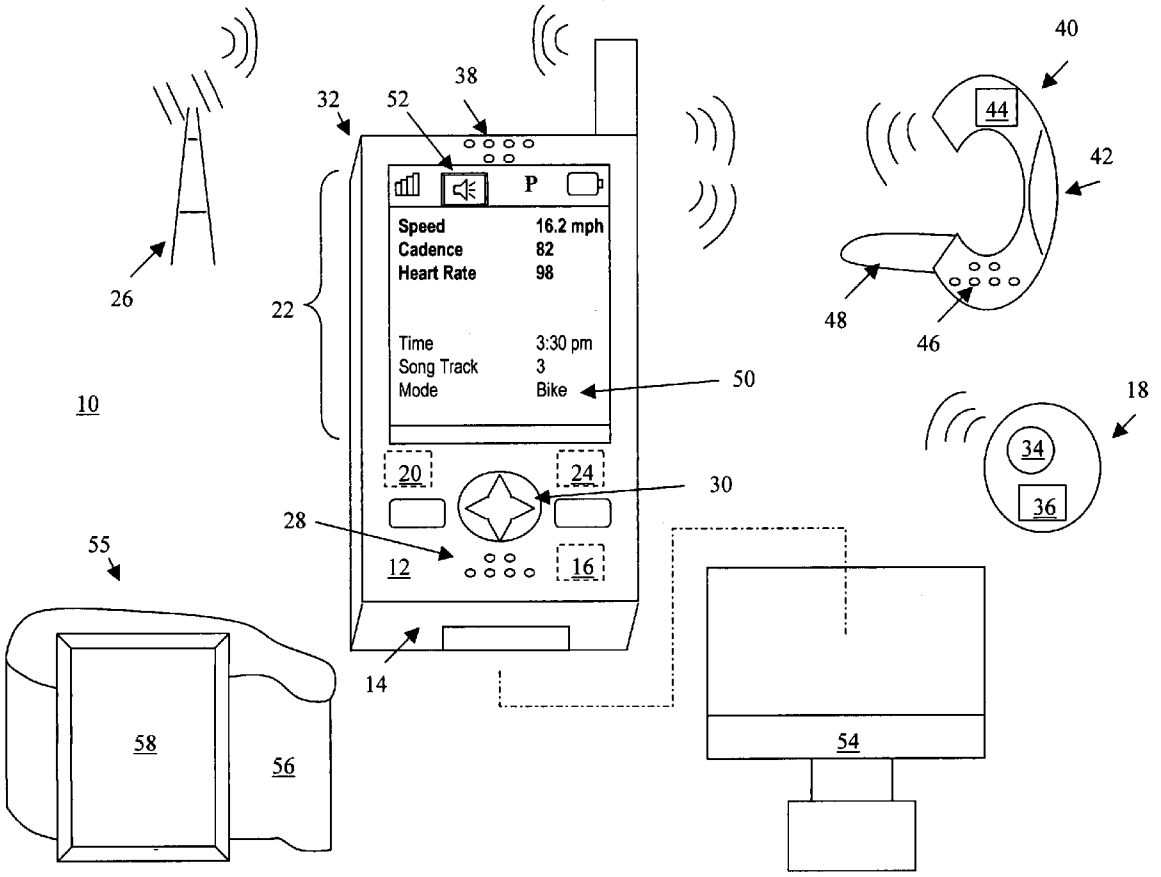
Publication Classification

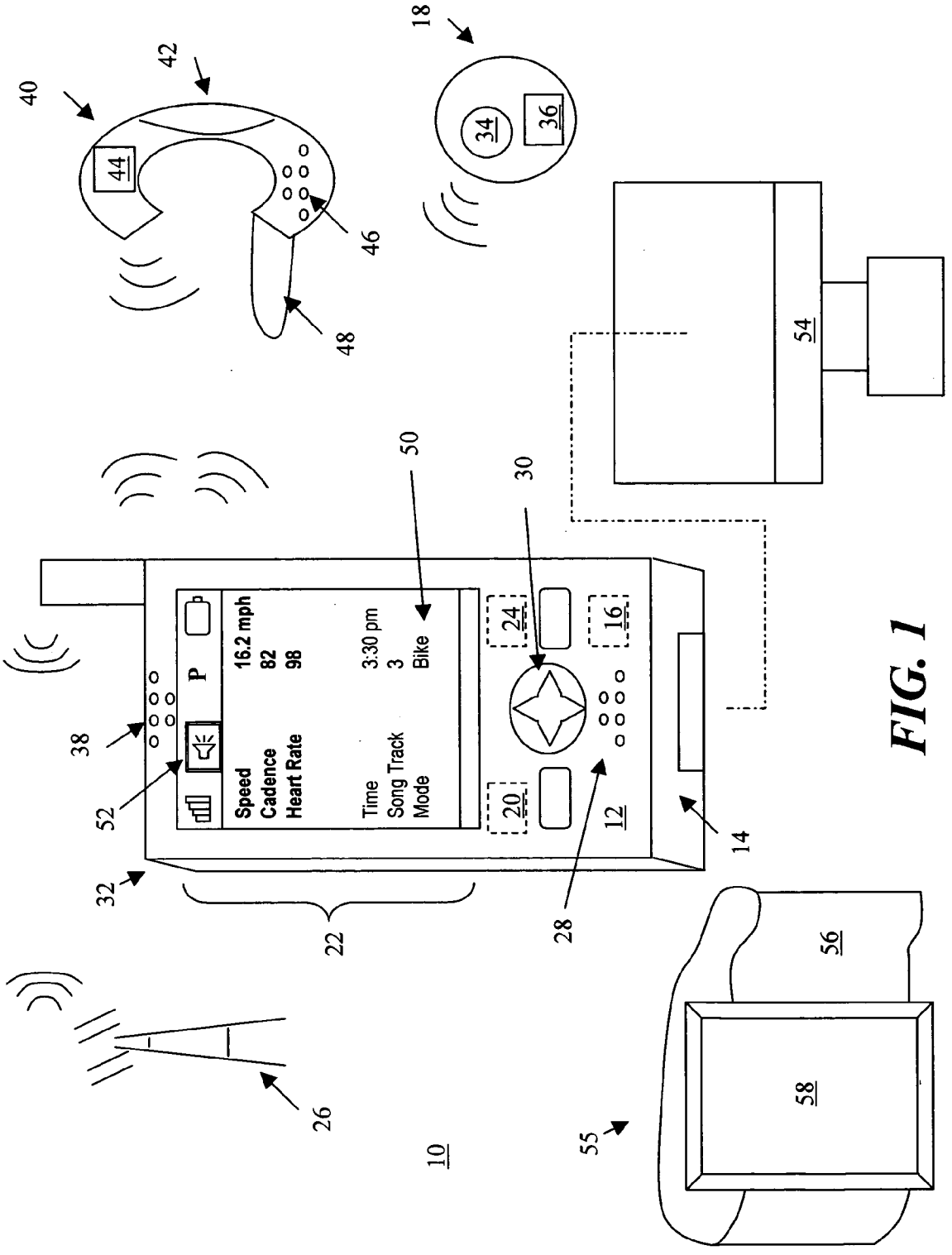
(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04M 1/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **455/552.1**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An athletic performance monitoring system and method are disclosed that assist a user in monitoring an athletic endeavor. A system that incorporates teachings of the present disclosure may include, for example, a local area wireless transceiver capable of receiving a signal from a motion sensor. A performance engine may be communicatively coupled to the local area wireless transceiver. In operation, the performance engine may utilize the signal from the motion sensor to generate a performance metric like average speed or distance traveled. The system may also include an output mechanism such as an audio device capable of presenting the performance metric to a user in an audible message while also being capable of playing an audio representation of music to the user.

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22
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32
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42
44
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48
50
52
54
55
56
58
Speed
Cadence
Heart Rate
Time
Song Track
Mode
16.2 mph
82
98
3:30 pm
3
Bike
P

FIG. 1

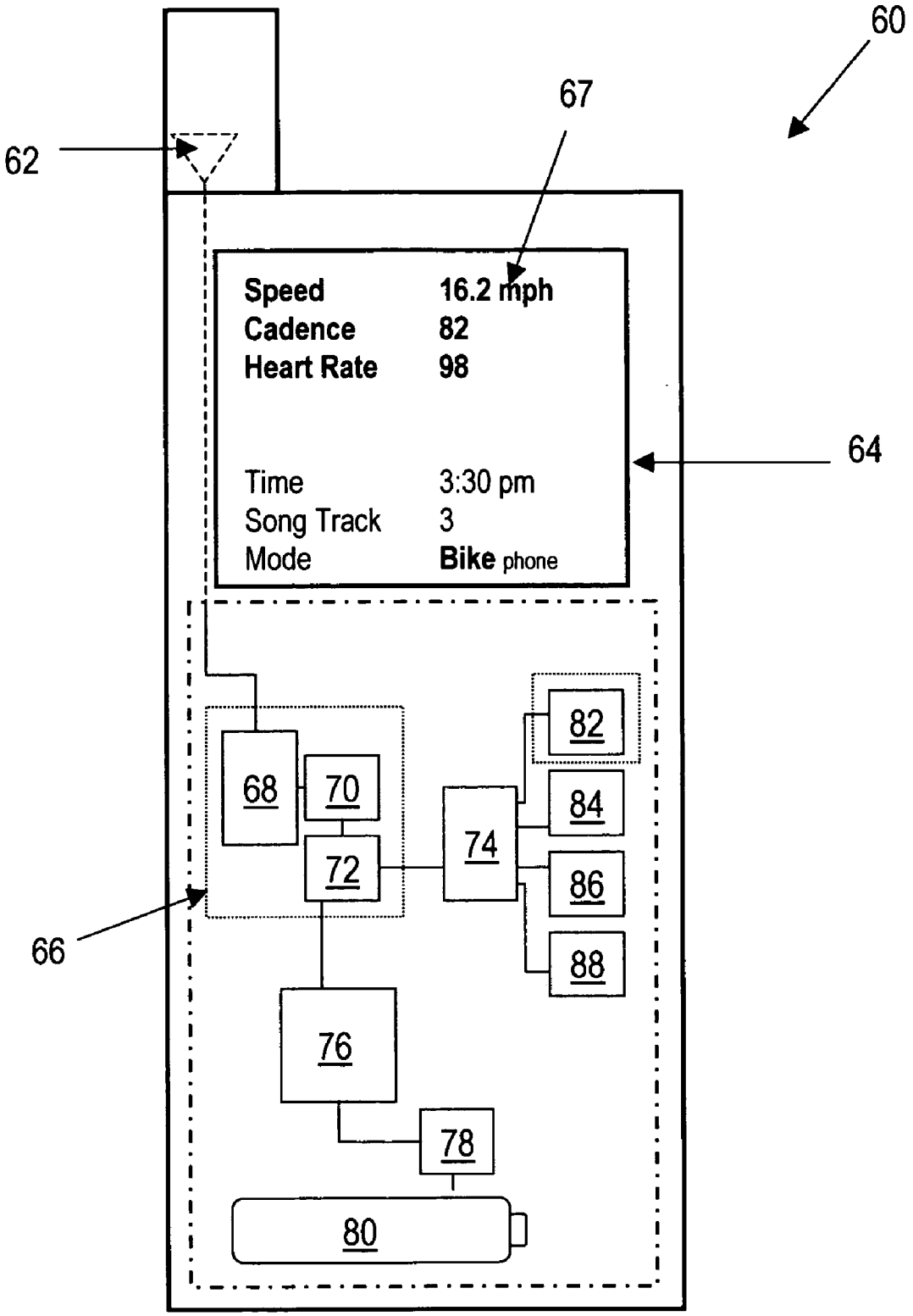
60
67
62
Speed 16.2 mph
Cadence 82
Heart Rate 98
Time 3:30 pm
Song Track 3
Mode Bike phone
64
82
68
70
84
74
72
86
66
88
76
78
80

FIG. 2

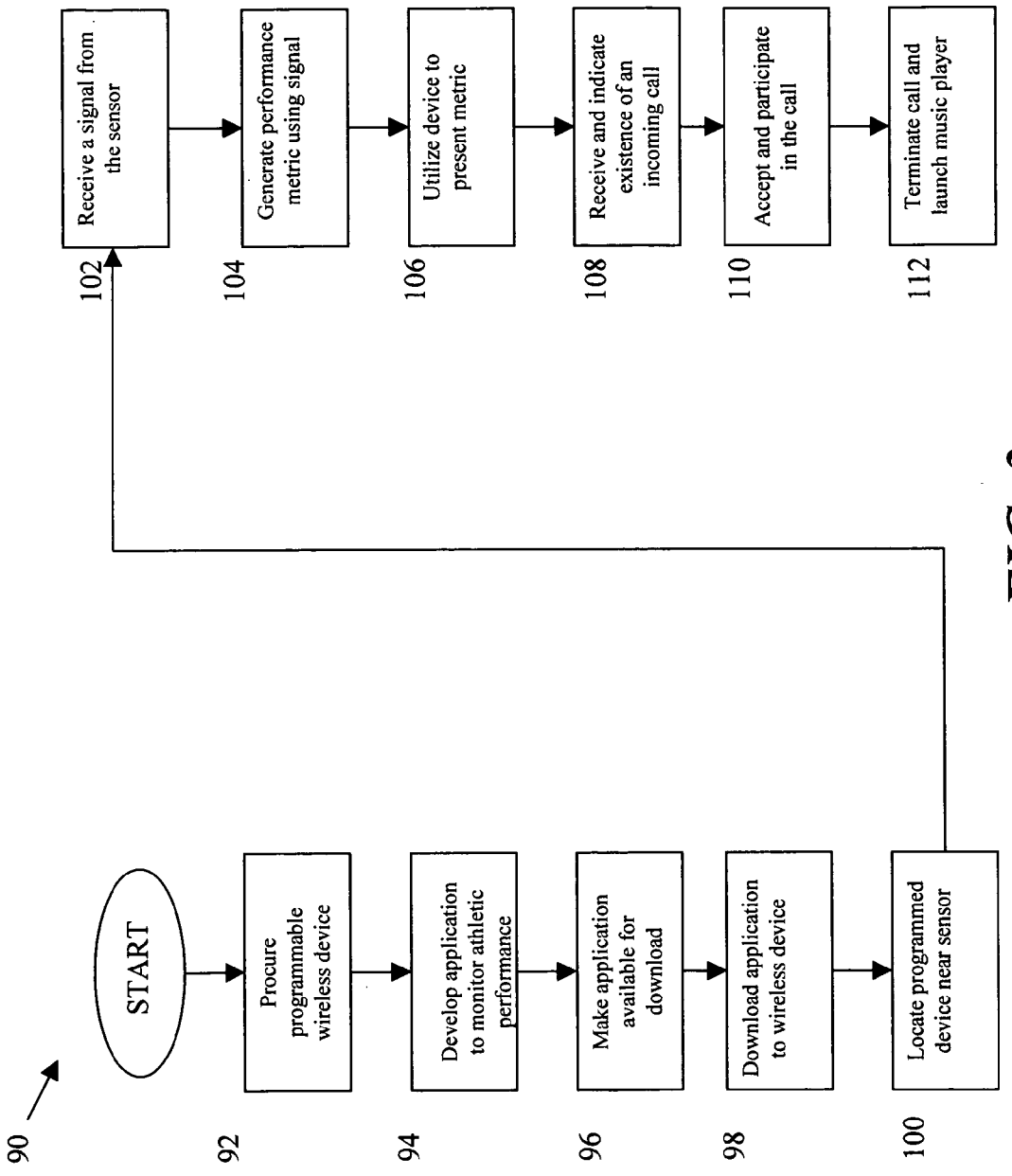
90
START
Procure programmable wireless device
92
Develop application to monitor athletic performance
94
Make application available for download
96
Download application to wireless device
98
Locate programmed device near sensor
100
Receive a signal from the sensor
102
Generate performance metric using signal
104
Utilize device to present metric
106
Receive and indicate existence of an incoming call
108
Accept and participate in the call
110
Terminate call and launch music player
112

FIG. 3

ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM AND METHOD

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/917,065, filed on Aug. 12, 2004, designated to issue as U.S. Pat. No. 7,062,225 on Jun. 13, 2006, which was a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/794,137, filed Mar. 5, 2004, the content of both applications are expressly incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present disclosure relates generally to athletic equipment, and more particularly, to an athletic monitoring system and method.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Many bicyclists make use of bicycle computers that act as speedometers, odometers, and cadence counters. These devices typically receive information from sensors mounted with respect to the moving elements of a bicycle and convert this information into a bike speed value or some other desired metric. Many of these conventional bicycle computers are special purpose devices that have a display and are fixed to the handlebars of a bicycle to allow a rider to view displayed information while riding.

[0004] In addition to the bicycle-related information mentioned above—namely speed, distance, and cadence—some conventional bicycle computers may also display the current time and/or heart rate information for the rider. While these conventional systems represent a nice option for many cyclists, these systems have several shortcomings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] It will be appreciated that for simplicity and clarity of illustration, elements illustrated in the Figures have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements are exaggerated relative to other elements. Embodiments incorporating teachings of the present disclosure are shown and described with respect to the drawings presented herein, in which:

[0006] **FIG. 1** shows one embodiment of a cycling information system that incorporates teachings of the present disclosure;

[0007] **FIG. 2** illustrates a cut away view of a cellular telephone incorporating teachings of the present disclosure in order to act as a computing device for monitoring athletic activity; and

[0008] **FIG. 3** presents a flow diagram for a cycling performance tracking process incorporating teachings of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] Embodiments discussed below describe, in part, different approaches for monitoring athletic performance. Though many of the embodiments discussed below focus on systems in which the athletic performance includes bicycling, other activities may also be monitored in accordance with the teachings disclosed herein. For example, runners may benefit from the systems and processes described below. A runner and/or walker may employ the teachings disclosed herein to provide an improved pedometer that may, for example, display steps taken, provide customized distance and calories burned calculations, and include time/date information and/or a stopwatch feature. In some cases, a pedometer may show personalized distance covered and calories burned information, which may have been calculated by taking into account a user's stride length and/or weight.

[0010] In several embodiments, a computing device is used as part of the monitoring system, and this computing device is described as having wide area wireless communication functionality. For example, the device may be capable of acting as a cellular telephone or some other wireless communication device, including, for example, other telephonic devices, smart telephones, personal digital assistants (PDA's), or Blackberry™-like electronic mail devices. Including some wide area communication capability in performance tracking computing devices may provide athletes with a cost effective and convenient way to protect themselves.

[0011] As mentioned above, cycling is an example of an athletic activity that may be monitored. In practice, prudent cyclists may elect to carry a wireless telephone with them while cycling. If a tire goes flat, if the cyclist has or witnesses an accident, and/or if someone needs to get a hold of the cyclist, the wireless telephone may prove invaluable. Such a prudent cyclist may elect to carry the telephone in a pocket located on the back of his or her cycling jersey or a catch-all bag located on the seat post under the saddle. Many cyclists consider either location to be sub-optimal. Carrying the phone in the jersey pocket may be annoying and may make it difficult to know if someone is calling. While using a catch-all bag may remove some of the annoyance, it may also make it even more difficult to know if someone is calling.

[0012] Many of the same cyclists that bring a telephone with them on long rides may also have a bicycle computer fixed to the handlebars of their bike. The cyclist may have paid hundreds of dollars for the telephone and hundreds of dollars for the computer. And, by fixing the computer to the bicycle, the cyclist may unwittingly enhance the likelihood that the computer is stolen. If, for example, the cyclist leaves the bicycle unattended for some period of time, the cyclist may return to find the computer missing.

[0013] By employing the teachings disclosed herein, cyclists may able to choose a bike computer that has wide area wireless communication capabilities. In some embodiments, the bicycle computers may actually be embodied in cellular telephones or other wireless communication devices. For example, a system incorporating teachings of the present disclosure may provide a cradle securable to a bicycle and capable of releasably coupling with a wireless telephone that has bicycle computer capabilities. The cradle may provide a better place for carrying a telephone while cycling. The cradle may also make it easier for cyclists to leave their bike unattended without fear of having their bicycle computer stolen. Cyclists may simply disengage their telephones from the cradle and take the phones with them.

[0014] In some embodiments, the cradle may also be capable of triggering the telephone to switch into a bike

computer mode and further capable of facilitating communication of bike information from a sensor to the telephone. For example, the cradle may be physically connected or wired to one or more sensors tracking the movement of a bicycle component. By cradling the telephone, the information communicated from sensors to the cradle may be passed along to a processor in the telephone. In addition to the many above-referenced advantages, incorporating communication capabilities into a bicycle computer may also save the cyclists money—they no longer need both a computer and a telephone.

[0015] As mentioned above, **FIG. 1** shows one embodiment of a cycling information system **10** that incorporates teachings of the present disclosure. As depicted, system **10** may include, for example, a housing component **12** at least partially defining an enclosure **14**. A local area wireless transceiver **16** capable of receiving a signal from a sensor **18** coupled to a bicycle (not shown) may be located within enclosure **14**. A performance engine **20** may also be located within enclosure **14** and may be communicatively coupled to local area wireless transceiver **16**. In operation, performance engine **20** may utilize a signal from sensor **18** to generate a performance metric like current speed, distance traveled, or cadence.

[0016] To facilitate communication of performance metric information to a user, system **10** may also include an output mechanism such as display device **22** associated with the housing component. An output mechanism like display device **22** may be capable of presenting the performance metric to a user. In preferred embodiments, the system may also include a wide area wireless transceiver **24** located within enclosure **14**. Wide area wireless transceiver **24** may allow the user to send and receive information across a geographically disperse network such as a cellular telephone network. In operation, a user may want to place a telephone call and may use transceiver **24** to "connect" to a cellular network node **26**. This "connection" may involve Radio Frequency (RF) communication that complies with some wide-area RF technology like CDMA, GPRS, EDGE, or 3GSM.

[0017] Whatever the form factor of the computing device, a user may want the device to be rugged. A typical cellular telephone, for example, may not handle the abuse generated while running, cycling, and/or performing some other activity. As such, a cellular telephone incorporating teachings of the present disclosure may enjoy a more rugged and/or water resistant design. Additionally, a user may desire to interact with the device and may do so using one or more of several types of input mechanisms including, for example, a microphone **28**, a touch screen, keypad, and toggle disks **30**. In operation, a microphone assembly **28** associated with computing device **32** may be capable of receiving voice commands, a mouse mechanism (not shown) may allow a user to point and click icons on a display screen, and/or a touch screen may facilitate receiving inputs from a stylus.

[0018] Depending on implementation detail, computing device **32** may have any of several components located within enclosure **14**. For example, computing device **32** may include a microprocessor and a memory located within its cavity. In some embodiments, the memory may hold an application that embodies the performance engine and converts information received via one or more remote sensors like sensor **18** into a performance metric like speed, distance, cadence, etc. As shown, sensor **18** may include a pick-up **34** that "recognizes" movement of a bicycle component. Pick-up **34** may be tracking wheel revolutions, crank revolutions, front and/or rear derailer motion, bike and/or body tipping, and/or some combination thereof. The tracking mechanism of pick-up **34** may take several forms. It may be optical, magnetic, mechanical, etc. To facilitate presentation of performance metric information to the user, sensor **18** may include a local area wireless communication module **36**, which may make use, for example, of Bluetooth technology. Sensor **18** may also rely on wired connections in addition and/or in lieu of wireless connections to communicate with device **32**.

[0019] As mentioned above, a bicycle computer like computing device **32** may include any of several different components. For example, it may have a wireless wide area transceiver **24**, which may be part of a multi-device platform for communicating data using RF technology across a large geographic area. The platform may be a GPRS, EDGE, or 3GSM platform, for example, and may include multiple integrated circuit (IC) devices or a single IC device. Similarly, bicycle computer **32** may have a wireless local area transceiver **16**, which may communicate using spread-spectrum radio waves in a 2.4 GHz range, 5 GHz range, or other suitable range. Wireless local area transceiver **16** may also be part of a multi-device or single device platform and may facilitate communication of data using low-power RF technology across a smaller geographic area.

[0020] For example, if wireless local area transceiver **16** includes a Bluetooth transceiver, the transceiver may have a communication range having approximately a one hundred foot radius. If the wireless local area transceiver includes an 802.11(x) transceiver, such as an 802.11(b) or Wi-Fi transceiver, the transceiver may have a communication range having approximately a one thousand foot radius.

[0021] One skilled in the art will also recognize that wireless local area transceiver **16** and wireless wide area transceiver **24** may be separate or part of the same chipset. For example, a bike computer chipset may package a Bluetooth, an 802.11(b), and a GSM cellular technology, like GPRS, into a single chipset. In many embodiments, the bike computer may also include display device **22**, which may be operable to present a graphical user interface (GUI) to a user. In an embodiment where the bike computer can also operate as a telephone, the telephone may include a speaker assembly **38**. The telephone may also be executing a local software application to allow the telephone to receive an input indicating a desire to toggle from a telephone mode to a bike computer mode. In such an embodiment, the bike computer may include a computer-readable medium having computer-readable data to direct a wireless telephone processor to receive a signal from a sensor indicating some physical activity, to utilize the signal to generate a performance metric, and to initiate presentation of a rendering of the performance metric on a display device.

[0022] In some embodiments, a bike computer like device **32** may include a global positioning system (GPS) component that facilitates location-based and tracking functionality. Device **32** may also include a Bluetooth module that sniffs for other Bluetooth-enabled devices. This sniffing may allow device **32** to "find" sensor **18**. It may also allow device

32 to find headset 40. If device 32 recognizes a headset or athletic activity sensor as a Bluetooth-enabled device, device 32 may engage in a process to "pair" with the identified device(s).

[0023] In an embodiment that includes a headset like headset 40, it may be advantageous to enhance computing device 32 by adding a built in audio player capable of playing a playable file format like .WAV, MP3, MIDI, .AU, and/or some other format. As such, a cyclist or other athlete may be able to listen to music via headset 40 while performing. In practice, device 32 may be simultaneously functioning: as a bike computer—displaying information like speed and cadence; as an MP3 player—outputting music or other audio signals to the user; and, as a wireless communication device—providing the user with the ability to send and receive information.

[0024] In practice, headset 40 may include a battery 42, wireless transceiver 44, a speaker assembly 46, and a microphone assembly 48. Though system 10 includes a device 32 with a display 22, which facilitates the communication of performance information to the user, some systems may elect to enhance and/or replace the visual presentation approach with an audible or speech based interface. As such, a user may be able to "ask" device 32 a question by speaking into microphone assembly 48. For example, a user may ask "what is my current cadence?" and device 32 may respond with "your cadence is 82."

[0025] Such features may simplify operation of a device like device 32. Additional ease of use may be added by including various GUI icons on display 22. For example, GUI icon 50 may be used to indicate that device 32 is in bike computer mode, and GUI icon 52 may be used to indicate that device 32 has recognized the existence of an incoming call. As such, a user listening to music from device 32 on headset 40 may have the option of pausing the music and answering the telephone call.

[0026] Though described above in a cycling application where device 32 can be cradled in cradle 54, device 32 may also be used by runners and other sport enthusiasts. Device 32 may receive and/or generate a signal indicating that a step has been taken by a user and convert this signal into a presentable sport's metric. Occasionally, a user may not want to utilize cradle 54. The user may want some level of flexibility in locating device 32. A user may, for example, want to secure device 32 to an arm with a mounting system 55, which may include an elastic strap 56 and a rubberized device holder portion 58. The strap and holder portion may be formed of other materials and may include some clasping mechanism. In some embodiments, device 32 may have some sensitivity to moisture, and the mounting portion may surround device 32—insulating device 32 from contacting the user's skin, while providing sufficient support and access to some or all of the Input/Output mechanisms of device 32.

[0027] As described above, device 32 may operate as a bicycle computer, an MP3 player, and a cellular telephone. As such, device 32 may be very attractive to an avid cyclist. If the cyclist elects to take up running or begins training for a triathlon, the cyclist may want device 32 to be expandable—to be capable of accepting new and/or different performance monitoring functions or modules. The cyclist turned tri-athlete may now want device 32 to operate as a pedometer. The cyclist may also want to add other useful features to device 32. For example, a cyclist may want device 32 to act as a garage door opener. If the cyclist begins a ride from home and stores her bicycle in the garage, the cyclist may want to close the garage door behind her. As such, the cyclist may want device 32 to act as a garage door remote—communicating an open and/or close RF signal to a garage door opener.

[0028] As mentioned above, bike computer 32 may include or be capable of executing software applications, which may be coded, for example, as a BREW application or a Java application. In some embodiments, the bike computer functionality may be implemented by a Java application that was downloaded over the air and may be executing on a computing device's operating system (OS), which may be a Symbian OS, Pocket PC, Linux-based, a Palm OS, or other suitable computing device OS.

[0029] As an example of one potential application/OS combination, a developer may decide to develop a Java-based bike computer application for a Symbian OS-based computing device, which may be a cellular telephone or smart phone. The process of developing a Java application for the Symbian platform may include three main steps: (1) developing the Java code and supporting files, sound graphics, etc. which may, in some cases, be tested on an emulator; (2) creating the files to deploy the application to a Symbian interface so that it has a GUI icon and can be run from a native interface; and (3) packaging the application elements in a release file.

[0030] As indicated above, smart client applications may be written in Java and run on a wide range of devices. For a smart client application with Java on the client device, there may be two preferred options of Java platforms: Java 2 Standard Edition (J2SE) and Java 2 Micro Edition (J2ME). Applications based on J2SE are often standalone Java applications, usually using Personal Java. Personal Java is a subset of J2SE with a smaller Java Runtime Environment (JRE) suitable for the limited storage capacity of hand-held computing devices. Java Virtual Machines (JVMs) based on J2SE may be available for a wide variety of client devices including Pocket PC, Symbian OS, Linux and Palm OS devices.

[0031] In some embodiments, a bike computer file or application may be based on a smaller version of the java platform, like MIDP, which may be better for small footprint devices like cellular handsets. Java applications that run on MIDP devices are called MIDlets, and a MIDlet suite is a grouping of MIDlets that can share resources at runtime. A suite usually includes at least two separate files. The first may be a Java Application Descriptor (JAD), which may be a file that tells the Application Management Software (AMS), the piece of software on the hardware responsible for managing J2ME applications, how to handle the controller application. The JAD file may provide instructions for, among other things, installation, identification, and retrieval. The second may be a Java Archive (JAR), which may be a collection of the controller application's compiled byte classes, resources, and manifest files.

[0032] Occasionally and as mentioned above, a user may have an existing cellular telephone and may want to download a bike computer application capable of "turning" the cell phone into a bike computer. This application may, in some cases, be downloadable Over The Air (OTA) from a

Web server-like environment. As such, users may be able to "HTTP" their way to the URL where the JAD file resides. In such embodiments, a computing device-side browser may download the bike computer application into the Applications folder and test it.

[0033] A more detailed picture of a wireless enabled device **60** that may be operable as a bicycle computer is shown in **FIG. 2**. As described above in the brief description of the figures, **FIG. 2** depicts a cut away view of a cellular telephone incorporating teachings of the present disclosure in order to act as a computing device for monitoring athletic activity. To operate as an athletic monitor, telephone **60** may be a ruggedized phone designed for athletes. It may have better water resistant capabilities and handle impacts and jostling better than other telephones. Telephone **60** may have a clam-shell design or a "candy bar" design as shown. Though not shown in **FIG. 2**, telephone **60** may also include special branding and/or markings to indicate that it is an "Athlete" phone. For example, a cellular telephone manufacturer may elect to place an Ironman™ logo on the phone or some other appropriate logo to let user's know that the phone is athlete-ready or capable of operating in a performance monitoring mode.

[0034] In the depicted embodiment, telephone **60** includes several integrated circuits on a circuit board, an antenna **62**, and a liquid crystal display **64** presenting a bicycle computer display image **67**. The components of telephone **60** could include any of several combinations of components. As depicted, telephone **60** includes a wide area wireless platform **66**, which may be, for example, a GPRS and/or CDMA module. As shown, platform **66** includes a wide area wireless transceiver **68**, front end circuitry **70**, and dual core processor **72**. Front end circuitry **70** may help ensure that the baseband electronics will work well with transceiver **68**. Dual core processor **72** may include, for example, a Digital Signal Processing (DSP) core as well as RISC or ARM capabilities. In some embodiments, the components of telephone **60** may use dedicated hardware and DSP firmware to help provide advanced functionality.

[0035] Platform **60** may be communicatively coupled to an application engine **74**, which could be, for example, a Dragonball processor, and a power circuit **76**, which may manage among other things a battery circuit **78**. In some embodiments, battery circuit **78** may keep track of the power available from battery **80**. Application engine **74** may be communicatively coupled to several different components and may provide those components with additional processing capabilities. Example components may include a local area RF transceiver **82**, which may be Bluetooth-enabled, Wi-Fi enabled, etc. Other components might be an image sensor **84**, memory module **86**, and peripheral controller **88**, which may manage keypad, LCD, CODEC, IrDA, and other functionality. One skilled in the art will recognize that the many of the above described components could be combined or broken out into other combinations and that the memory could include onboard and added memory components including RAM, Flash, smart media, and others.

[0036] As mentioned above, **FIG. 3** presents a flow diagram for a cycling performance tracking process **90** incorporating teachings of the present disclosure. At step **92**, a manufacturer, programmer, and/or user may procure a programmable wireless device. An application for monitoring athletic performance may be developed at step **94**. The athletic performance may include cycling, running, swimming, lifting, etc. In some embodiments, the application may be made available, at step **96**, for download from the Public Internet, over the air via a wireless network, from a local computer, or in some other manner.

[0037] At step **98**, the application may be loaded on the wireless device, and the wireless device may be located at step **100** proximate an activity sensor capable of communicating a signal indicating some activity. At step **102**, the device may receive a signal form the proximate sensor. In preferred embodiments, the sensor and the device may be part of a piconet. In some embodiments, the sensor may actually be a part of the device.

[0038] At step **104**, the device may utilize the developed application to generate a performance metric from the sensor signal. The performance metric may be presented to the user at step **106**. The presentation may be graphical in nature and may make use of a display associated with the wireless device. The presentation could also be auditory in nature and spoken or played to the user.

[0039] At step **108**, the wireless device may receive an indication of an incoming telephone call or data call. The device may indicate the existence of this call to the user, and the user may elect to accept and/or participate in the call at step **110**. As mentioned above, the call may be a voice call or a data call. The call may take the form, for example, of an email, a telephone call, an Instant Messaging message, a Short Messaging Service message, a Multimedia Messaging Service message, some other form, and/or a combination thereof.

[0040] Whatever the messaging form, the user may elect not to accept the message or may complete his or her interaction with the message. As such, the user may terminate the call at step **112** and resume use of the performance monitoring application and/or launch a different application like an MP3 player.

[0041] In various embodiments, the telephones, computers, devices, and/or engines, described above, may take forms including wireless and cordless phones, personal digital assistants, cellular telephones, mobile telephones, laptop computers, hardware, firmware, software, other options having some level of computing capability, and/or a combination thereof.

[0042] The methods and systems described herein provide for an adaptable implementation. Although certain embodiments have been described using specific examples, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the invention is not limited to these few examples. Note also, that although certain illustrative embodiments have been shown and described in detail herein, along with certain variants thereof, many other varied embodiments may be constructed by those skilled in the art.

[0043] The benefits, advantages, solutions to problems, and any element(s) that may cause any benefit, advantage, or solution to occur or become more pronounced are not to be construed as a critical, required, or essential feature or element of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the specific form set forth herein, but on the contrary, it is intended to cover such alternatives, modifications, and equivalents, as can be

reasonably included within the spirit and scope of the invention as provided by the claims below.

What is claimed is:

1. An athletic monitoring system, comprising:

a music file player operable to store and play a music file;

a wireless transceiver communicatively coupled to the music file player and operable to receive a wireless communication from a motion sensor located remote from the music file player, wherein the wireless communication includes information about a step of a user;

a pedometer element operable to utilize the information about the step to generate a performance metric;

a performance engine operable to provide the user with an indication of the performance metric, wherein the indication comprises an audible message; and

an audio output mechanism operable to simultaneously output a song represented by the music file and the audible message.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a mounting system to secure a housing component for the music file player to an arm of the user, the mounting system comprising a strap.

3. The system of claim 1, further comprising the sensor, wherein the sensor comprises a local area communication device.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a mounting system to secure a housing component for the music file player to an arm of the user;

the sensor, wherein the sensor is configured to be located in a location remote from the arm; and

a speaker assembly formed to interact with an ear of the user.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the performance metric is selected form a group consisting of a speed metric and a distance metric.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the performance metric takes into account a user stride length.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the wireless transceiver is fixed within a space at least partially formed by a housing component for the music file player.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the indication comprises a graphic on a display device.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the music file player is operable to play an MP3 file.

10. The system of claim 1, further comprising a memory operable to maintain a collection of performance metrics.

11. The system of claim 10, further comprising an output interface configured to allow the collection of performance metrics to be transferred from the memory to a computing device.

12. A performance tracking method, comprising:

(a) receiving an input from a user indicating a desire to begin playing an audio file;

(b) outputting an audio signal to a speaker assembly in response to the input;

(c) receiving a local area wireless signal from a sensor comprising information associated with a step of the user;

(d) generating a performance metric from the local area wireless signal; and

(e) communicating an audible message comprising the performance metric to the user via the speaker assembly while continuing to output the audio signal.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising storing a collection of performance metric information representing athletic performance generated during a period of time.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

receiving a request to communicate the collection of performance metric information; and

communicating at least a portion of the collection of performance metric information.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising utilizing a local area transceiver to wirelessly communicate the collection of performance metric information.

16. The method of claim 12, further comprising accepting an incoming cellular telephone call with an electronic device that also performs steps (a)(b)(c)(d) and (e).

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising performing steps (a)(b)(c)(d) and (e) with a single electronic device.

18. A performance monitoring system, comprising:

a music file player having a performance engine and an RF input device, the RF input device operable to receive a motion signal representing movement of a human body part and the performance engine operable to generate a performance metric in response to receipt of the motion signal; and

an output device for the music file player operable to output a signal to a speaker assembly, the signal representing an audible representation of a played music file and a spoken reporting of the performance metric.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising a memory of the music file player configured to store a collection of performance metric information representing athletic performance generated during a period of time.

20. The system of claim 18, further comprising a speaker assembly formed to removably couple with the audio output.

21. The system of claim 18, further comprising a sensor having a radio frequency (RF) output device, the sensor operable to wirelessly communicate the motion signal via the RF output device.

22. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a memory operable to maintain a collection of performance metrics generated over a period of time; and

an output interface configured to allow a communication with a local computer.

23. The system of claim 22, further comprising a software application for the local computer, the software application configured to assist a user in utilizing the collection of performance metrics.

24. A performance monitoring method, comprising:

receiving an accumulation of athletic performance information from a music file player having a performance engine and an RF input device, the RF input device operable to receive a motion signal representing movement of a human body part and the performance engine operable to generate at least a portion of the accumulation in response to receipt of the motion signal; and

incorporating a representation of the accumulation within a graphical display accessible at a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) address.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising utilizing Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) to communicate with the music file player.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the representation is available via the Public Internet.

27. The method of claim 24, further comprising receiving the accumulation via a wide area Radio Frequency (RF) connection.

28. The method of claim 24, further comprising utilizing a web server to facilitate a presentation of the graphical display.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising communicating with a local computer of a user in connection with the presentation of the graphical display and the receiving of the accumulation of athletic performance information.

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