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Acute Alterations of Scapular Upward Rotation following a Functional Fatiguing Protocol in Male Tennis Players

R. Lyndsey Ingram

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ACUTE ALTERATIONS OF SCAPULAR UPWARD ROTATION FOLLOWING A
FUNCTIONAL FATIGUING PROTOCOL IN MALE TENNIS PLAYERS

by

R. LYNDSEY INGRAM, ATC, LAT

(Under the Direction of Thomas Buckley)

Context: Alterations in scapular kinematics, specifically upward rotation, are associated with a variety of chronic shoulder conditions. Fatigue may exacerbate the mechanisms potentially resulting in microtrauma and impingement syndrome. **Objective:** To identify acute alterations of scapular upward rotation following a functional fatigue protocol. **Design:** Prospective longitudinal. **Setting:** Biomechanics research laboratory. **Patients or Other Participants:** Twenty healthy, male competitive tennis players with no history of shoulder injury participated in this study: 10 experimental subjects (19.4 ± 1.07 yrs., 180.09 ± 8.92 cm 72 ± 11.56 kg) and 10 control subjects (19.6 ± 1.17 yrs., 181.1 ± 6.56 cm 81.56 ± 13.51 kg). **Interventions:** Scapular upward rotation was measured three times per session on the dominant arm while at rest, 60° , 90° and 120° of humeral elevation in the scapular plane. Participants in the experimental group performed a tennis serving protocol and maintained at least 90% maximal exertion of the tennis serve. Fatigue was defined as reaching a rating of 15 using Borg's rate of perceived exertion scale as well as 70% HR max. Upward rotation measurements were taken before and immediately following the fatigue protocol, and 24, 48, and 72 hours post exercise. Control participants were tested at the same time intervals without the fatiguing protocol. **Main Outcome Measures:** Four 2 x 5 (group x session) repeated measures ANOVA's were performed followed by simple contrasts as appropriate. **Results:** Significant group by time interaction for scapular upward rotation was found at all testing positions (rest, 60° , 90° and 120°). Contrasts revealed differences between the experimental group's pre fatigue and post fatigue values at all testing positions (pre fatigue rest: 1.48 ± 2.66 post fatigue rest: -0.68 ± 2.66 $p < .001$; pre fatigue 60° : 7.87 ± 4.46 post fatigue 60° : 5.67 ± 4.72 $p = .010$; pre fatigue 90° : 22.51 ± 5.40 post fatigue 90° : 19.29 ± 5.16 $p < .001$; pre fatigue 120° : 37.34 ± 6.91 post fatigue 120° : 33.35 ± 6.49 $p < .001$; as well as at 60° pre fatigue and day four measurements (pre fatigue 60° : 7.87 ± 4.46 day 4 60° : 7.67 ± 4.55 $p = .031$) **Conclusions:** Fatigue appears to affect, specifically impairs, scapular upward rotation in male tennis players but returns to baseline values within twenty-four hours. Further research should identify when it returns to baseline to provide guidance for rest intervals for healthy male tennis players as well as if these changes are similar in a pathologic group of players. **Word Count: 387**

INDEX WORDS: Tennis, Scapula Kinematics, Upward rotation, Fatigue,

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Synchronous movements of the scapula, clavicle, and humerus are required for the shoulder complex to function properly – predominantly when elevating the arm above ninety degrees.¹ Coordinated movement of the scapula and glenohumeral joint during elevation of the arm is known as scapulohumeral rhythm.² As the arm is elevated, the scapula upwardly rotates, posteriorly tilts and externally rotates; the clavicle elevates and retracts, and the humerus elevates and externally rotates.³ Abnormalities in either static scapular position and/or dynamic scapular motion is referred to as scapula dyskinesia.⁴ Scapula dyskinesia, as it relates to scapular upward rotation, has been observed in patients with a diverse range of shoulder pathologies including rotator cuff tendon failure, impingement syndrome, and glenohumeral instability.⁵⁻¹⁰ When the shoulder muscles are weak or fatigued, scapulohumeral rhythm may be compromised and shoulder dysfunction can result.¹¹ This impairment may result in microtrauma in the shoulder muscles, capsule, and ligamentous tissue and potentially lead to impingement.¹¹

Fatigue, classified as either central or peripheral, is the natural physiological response to exercise describing the decline in performance or work output associated with repetitive or sustained activities.¹² The loss of work output observed in athletic performance, excluding environmental or temporal extremes, is generally considered to be peripheral in nature.¹³ Specifically, within the motor unit, two different sites may become impaired due to repeated contractions – the transmission site and contractile site.¹³ The transmission site includes the neuromuscular junction, muscle membrane and endoplasmic reticulum whereas the contractile site is the muscle filament itself.¹³

Peripheral muscle fatigue occurs due to the local changes in the physiological environment of the muscle.¹³ Most commonly this occurs secondary to depletion of key substrates: glycogen or phosphate molecules in the muscles fibers or acetylcholine in the motor nerve branches.¹³ During physical activity, intramuscular acidity can also increase from the accumulation of metabolites, resulting in a decreased pH level which reduces the efficacy of the local enzymes that usually lasts between 24-72 hours.^{13, 14} Further, fatigue decreases overall upper extremity acuity (movements based on sensory signals provided to the brain from muscle, joint and skin receptors) and impairs the reposition acuity of the scapulothoracic, glenohumeral, elbow, and wrist joints.¹⁵ Specifically, a functional fatiguing protocol with baseball pitchers found that a decrease in joint position sense acuity over the previously mentioned joints occurred.¹⁶ These changes could potentially contribute to injury. In overhead activities, fatigue has also been associated with compensatory mechanisms including an increase of scapulothoracic motion and decreased humeral external rotation.³ This altered movement strategy may result in disruptions in scapulohumeral rhythm which may be an underlying mechanism in the development of impingement syndrome.^{17, 18}

Scapulohumeral rhythm preserves the length-tension relationship of the glenohumeral muscles to sustain force production throughout a larger range of motion as well as help prevent subacromial impingement from occurring by providing normal movement of the scapula.¹⁹ Subacromial impingement is common in overhead athletics such as baseball, swimming, as well as tennis which differs from the previously mentioned sports due to use of a racquet to transfer force to a ball, rather than use of a hand.²⁰ The lever arm and weight of the racquet adds significant mechanical advantage

to the tennis stroke, but also increases the forces exerted on the shoulder and the risk for potential injury.^{21, 22} In elite tennis players, the overhead serve typically reaches velocity of 100 to 120 miles per hour with shoulder rotational velocities reaching 1,500°/s.²³⁻²⁵ Maladaptation, the change in stroke production by a player to compensate for a mild injury, is suggested to be more common in tennis than other sports due to the individual nature of the sport.²⁵ Therefore, these compensatory mechanisms could instigate a cascade effect from a mild injury becoming exacerbated rendering the athlete unable to play as a result of pain or injury.²⁵

Scapula upward rotation and elevation are required in order to tilt the acromion upward, hence decreasing the likelihood of impingement and coracohumeral arch compression.¹¹ A common characteristic found in patients with chronic shoulder instability is type II scapular dyskinesis; a force imbalance between the serratus anterior and upper trapezius. This imbalance is characterized by early elevation of the scapula and causes the scapula to abnormally translate superiorly, resulting in decreased upward rotation.²⁶ This form of scapular dyskinesis has been associated with shoulder injuries such as instability, impingement and rotator cuff tears; however, a specific causative relationship has not yet been identified.²⁷ During the early phase (0 to 30 degrees of humeral elevation) of upward rotation, the scapula and clavicle move together around the axis of the sternoclavicular joint. Once there is tension within the costoclavicular ligament, it prevents further elevation of the clavicle therefore causing the axis of scapular rotation to move around the acromioclavicular joint.²⁷ As the humerus flexes to 30 degrees, there is little movement of the scapula with the bone serving as a stabilizer for the contracting muscles.^{28, 29} From 30 to 90 degrees of humeral elevation, the scapula

abducts and upwardly rotates one degree for every two degrees of humeral elevation with this ratio changing to a 1:1 ratio from 90 degrees to full abduction of the humerus.²⁸

Functional fatiguing protocols have demonstrated changes within all upper extremity joints in the sport of baseball including an increase in scapular upward rotation; however, tennis, with its unique biomechanics and additional external load of the tennis racket, has not been explored. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to determine if scapular upward rotation was affected by a functional fatigue protocol, in male tennis players. Specifically, we aim to identify length of time for upward rotation to return to its pre-fatigue values. We hypothesized that a functional fatiguing protocol would impair scapular upward rotation and we attempted to identify the duration of this impairment . By understanding fatigue's role on acute changes of the scapula, implication on practice routines, rest time, and days off could be made to help reduce the risk of further injury.

CHAPTER 2

METHODS

PARTICIPANTS

We recruited 20 men's tennis players to volunteer to enroll in the research study. The inclusion criteria for participation included being an active member of the intercollegiate athletic tennis program who had been a tennis team member for the duration of the semester they were being tested or an active member of a men's tennis recreational program who had been competitive within the sport for at least one year. The exclusion criteria for the study included upper extremity injury such as a history of shoulder dislocation, subluxation, congenital scapular deficit, fracture or surgery of the glenohumeral joint, cervical injuries, thoracic outlet syndrome, SLAP tear, or decreased sensation in the upper extremities; also participants could not have history of any type of impingement (primary, secondary, or internal) within six months prior to participation.^{5-8, 10, 19, 23, 27, 30-33} All participants had not been active in any strenuous shoulder activity for at least three days prior to the day of initial testing. The participants were not allowed to take place in any type of exertional shoulder activity (e.g., weight lifting) for three days following the functional fatigue protocol. All participants were provided written informed consent prior to participating in the study as approved by the university's institutional review board.

INSTRUMENTATION

The primary investigator showed proficiency in goniometer and palpation skills prior to data collection by being compared to experts in the field of athletic training. The primary investigator also demonstrated reliability use of her measurement by comparing known angles multiple times that were randomly assigned to her. Each participant's anthropometric data, height and weight, was recorded utilizing a manufactured, calibrated eye-level physician scale (Detecto Inc, Webb City, MO, USA). A manual, handheld 12" goniometer (Bionetics, Model J00240 12.5 plastic goniometer) was used to ensure proper arm position of all testing positions.

All participants' scapular upward rotation was measured with a reliable and validated (ICC [3,1] .89-.96 validity $r = .74-.92$) and calibrated Pro 360 digital protractor (Macklanburg Duncan, Oklahoma City, OK, USA) (Tester reliability ICC [3,1] .95)³⁴ The digital protractor was modified to measure scapular upward rotation by having two adjustable 10 cm locator rods on the inferior side of the instrument used to make contact with the landmarks on the scapular spine – the root of the scapular spine and the posterolateral acromion.³⁵ Moleskin was placed on the end of each rod for subject comfort. The digital protractor was modified to measure scapular upward rotation with a bubble level to prevent anterior or posterior positioning of the instrument (Appendix C; Figure 1).³⁴ Prior to each participant's testing session, the digital protractor was calibrated by placing the instrument on a 3 way level and pushing the "alt zero" button on the instrument once it was ensured that the instrument was level.

A standard tennis ball, (56-59.4 g and 6.7 cm in diameter, Wilson Sports,

Chicago, IL, USA) was used during the functional fatiguing protocol (FFP). Each participant's maximum serve velocity was detected by a Stalker radar gun (Stalker Digital Sports Radar, Plano, TX, USA). Both the Borg Rating of Perceived Exertion (RPE) 6-20 scale (Reliability .93 Validity .85) as well as heart-rate detected by a Polar wrist heart rate monitor (Polar Electro Inc. Lake Success, NY) (Appendix C; Figure 2) were used to assess fatigue level.^{36, 37} Maximum heart rate was calculated using the Londeree and Moeschberger method that has been shown to be reliable and valid for an active population: $(206.3 - (.711 * \text{age}))$ then a 70% HR maximum was calculated by multiplying by .70.³⁸ The local upper extremity RPE rating of 15 on a scale of 6 to 20 has been reported to be highly correlated with the metabolic responses of fatigue: including respiratory exchange, heart rate, absolute oxygen consumption, and blood lactate.^{39, 40}

PROCEDURES

Participants were divided into control and experimental groups quasi-randomly by a random number generator application compatible with Apple products. Once the experimental group had acquired 10 subjects, the rest of the participants filled the control group. The control group was then quasi-randomly paired with experimental subjects by the random number generator. The participants first completed the health history questionnaire (Appendix C; Figure 3) to ensure that inclusion and exclusion criteria are met. All enrolled participants reported to the biomechanics laboratory for anthropometric measurements prior to the exercise protocol.

To quantify baseline measurements of scapular upward rotation, tape was placed on the floor in line with the frontal plane and at a 40° from the frontal plane. Participants

stood in a relaxed resting position next to a pole placed along the 40° angle tapeline at an arm's distance from the participant (Appendix C; Figure 4). The pole ensured proper position of the participant's arm in the 40° of forward flexion, also referred to as the scapular plane, during testing trials.³⁵ The four testing positions were based on previous reports of valid and reliable measures of scapular positioning utilizing a digital protractor.^{34, 41} To accurately position the participant's body along the frontal plane, a visual plum line was used from the participant's dominant side, the self-reported preferred serving extremity, acromion process to the tape on the floor representing the frontal plane. Using a manual hand-held goniometer, the investigator moved the subject's dominant arm to 60°, 90°, and 120° of abduction in the scapular plane. Participants were instructed to maintain an open hand with their thumb pointing up.³⁴ For each of the three positions, tape was placed on the pole representing the three measured positions. The tape marks aided to ensure consistency of arm angles between testing trials (Appendix C; Figure 5).

All participants performed the testing trials while scapular upward rotation was measured with the digital protractor.³⁴ Each participant's scapular rotation was assessed three times at the four testing positions and the order of positions was randomized by using a random number generator application compatible with all Apple products. The participants performed active abduction in the scapular plane to the predetermined positions of a resting position, 60°, 90° and 120°. The investigator palpated and marked, with a skin marker, the root of the scapular spine and the posterolateral acromion at each predetermined position (Appendix C; Figure 6).³⁴ During the testing trials, the two adjustable locator rods of the digital protractor were placed in line with the two marks.

Using the bubble levels as a guide, the digital protractor was held level in place for five seconds against the skin by the investigator. During this time, the investigator monitored and recorded the value displayed on the digital screen at a point when equilibrium was reached. The results of each trial at each position were recorded and the mean of the three trials were analyzed.

After baseline values were established, the experimental participants then performed a three-minute serving warm up. This was followed by the assessment of each participant's maximum serve velocity from whichever service side they were most comfortable. To determine the velocity used for statistical assessment, the mean velocity of the first five serves was used. During the FFP, the participant was asked to serve each ball exceeding their 90% maximum velocity every ten seconds until they reached fatigue. The participant was verbally prompted by "try harder" when maximum velocity fell below 90% to ensure maximal effort. This FFP was adapted from a baseball fatigue protocol used by Tripp et al in 2007. The participant was also required to serve the ball within the service court during the protocol to reduce the possibility of altered mechanics. Participants continued to serve every 10 seconds (6 serves per minute) until fatigue was reached.¹⁵ The participant's fatigue level on the Borg RPE scale as well as heart rate was recorded each minute.¹⁵ Fatigue was considered to have been reached when he reported an exertion level of 15 or more and had a 70% HR max.

Once the participant reached fatigue, as previously described, the FFP was concluded and the participant returned to the biomechanics lab in which posttest measurements of the scapula's upward rotation, as previously described, were performed.

The participant was then tested on these measurements on each of the 3 days following the FFP at the same 4 hour interval due to circadian rhythms.

The control group performed the same baseline measurements as the experiential group. Subsequent, measurements were taken that pseudo matched to an experimental subject by replicating the time allotted for the FFP. The control group was also tested for 3 days to access scapular position.

DATA ANALYSIS

This study was a prospective, longitudinal, quasi-randomized study. The dependent variables were the mean upward rotation at the four positions of humeral elevation (rest, 60°, 90° and 120°) at the five testing times; Pre Exercise, Post Exercise, Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3 with the independent variable being group; control and experimental.

Demographic information was reported with means and standard deviations. To compare between and within groups at each of the testing positions; four 2 x 5 (group x session) repeated measures ANOVA's, with repeated measures on the second factor, were performed with an alpha level set at .05. As appropriate, simple repeated contrasts was also performed. The alpha level was set at $p < 0.05$. Data were analyzed using IBM SPSS 19.0 for Windows package (SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL).

CHAPTER 3

RESULTS

Twenty-one participants were recruited, however one withdrew (Appendix _____). The 20 remaining participants successfully completed the control or experimental task with no complications. The experimental participants completed the fatigue protocol, reaching or exceeding 15 on the RPE scale as well as at least 70% HR max after 10.1 ± 7.1 minutes with an average HR of 152.5 ± 26.6 and average RPE of 16 ± 1.6 when fatigue was reached.

There was a significant group by time interaction for scapular upward rotation at rest ($F=13.406, p<.001$). Within subjects post-hoc testing identified a significant difference for the experimental group between pre fatigue and post fatigue ($F=25.775, p<.001$ ES=-.81). There were no other significant differences for the experimental group. There were no within group differences for the control participants (Appendix C; Figure 8).

There was a significant group by time interaction for scapular upward rotation at 60° ($F=7.608, p<.001$). Post-hoc testing identified a within subject significant difference for the experimental group between pre fatigue and post fatigue ($F=10.421, p=.010$ ES= -.49) as well as between pre fatigue and day four of measurements ($F=6.389, p=.032$ ES=-.044). There were no other significant differences among times for the experimental group. There were no within group differences for the control participants (Appendix C; Figure 9).

There was a significant group by time interaction for scapular upward rotation at 90° ($F=13.104, p<.001$). Within subjects post-hoc testing identified a significant

difference for the experimental group between pre fatigue and post fatigue ($F=23.753$, $p<.001$ $ES=-.60$). There were no other significant differences among times for the experimental group. There were no within group differences for the control participants (Appendix C; Figure 10).

There was a significant group by time interaction for scapular upward rotation at 120° ($F=19.875$, $p<.001$). Within subjects post-hoc testing identified a significant difference for the experimental group between pre fatigue and post fatigue ($F=95.214$, $p<.001$ $ES=-.58$). There were no other significant differences among times for the experimental group. There were no within group differences for the control participants (Appendix C; Figure 11).

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

Compensatory mechanisms in scapular upward rotation, secondary to fatigue, may be associated with chronic overuse injury; however, the specific effects of fatigue on scapular upward rotation have not previously been elucidated.⁵⁻¹⁰ Therefore, the purpose of this study was to determine if scapular upward rotation was affected by a FFP. The main finding of this study identified that scapular upward rotation was acutely impaired following a sport-specific FFP in male tennis players. Specifically, the FFP resulted in a significant decrease in scapular upward rotation at all 4 testing positions (rest, 60°, 90°, and 120°); however, this change was only noted immediately post-activity and was recovered by 24 hours post-exercise. These findings may have significant implications of fatigue's role on male tennis players' upward rotation and give insight on rest intervals needed for scapulohumeral rhythm to return to baseline, thus potentially reducing the risk of injury.

The results of this study suggest that a FFP acutely impairs, specifically reduces, scapular upward rotation at all four positions examined in this study. Interestingly, each participant's scapular upward rotation returning to pre-exercise levels within 24 hours post FFP. These changes were consistent at all four test positions, which imply that the FFP affected the scapular stabilizers, in a static position, consistently regardless of the humeral head positioning. Although this study was kinematic in nature and did not include electromyography, Joshi et al. suggested that FFP increased infraspinatus firing ratios to that of lower and middle trapezius following fatigue.⁴² This could have implication on the consistency of arm position due to alterations of muscle firing patterns

for compensation of the fatigued muscles. With the values returning within 24 hours, it seems lingering fatigue does not effect a healthy tennis player's scapular upward rotation statically. However, results of dynamic measurements are still unknown.

The impairments seen in scapular upward rotation following a FFP may provide a greater understanding of an underlying mechanism of injury to the shoulder - more specifically impingement syndrome. Given the complex neuromuscular controlling mechanisms and tremendous demands imposed on the shoulder by upper extremity sports, it is not surprising that a small deficiency could have a cumulative effect on the shoulder.⁴³ Sports that require overhead and throwing maneuvers, including tennis, stress the tissues to near their physiological limits.⁴³ Specifically, reductions in scapular upward rotation are associated with increased risk of shoulder pathology based on two primary mechanisms. First, the shoulder exercising near these physiological limits without proper position of anatomical structures, including the scapula, may place the glenoid in a sub-optimal position for the activities being performed, potentially predisposing the shoulder to injury.⁴³ Secondly, compensatory motions of scapular stabilizers and rotator cuff muscles may disrupt synchronous firing of these muscles, which in turn can predispose to further injury.^{43,28} This dyssynchronous firing pattern can also occur secondary to weak, injured, or fatigued musculature.⁴² These altered or impaired shoulder movement patterns may cause microtrauma in the shoulder muscles, capsule, and ligamentous tissue potentially leading to secondary impingement.^{11,17, 18} Other abnormal movement and /or injuries such as scapular dyskinesis, rotator cuff pathology, and instability can also occur from lack of upward rotation of the scapula from repeated microtrauma of certain muscles in the area due to this subacromial impingement.¹¹

Following the FFP, scapular upward rotation was significantly reduced ($p < 0.05$); however, the mean reduction across the four testing positions ranged from 2.16° to 3.99° . Although this degree of change may appear small, there were large effect sizes ($-.44$ to $-.81$) as well as the numbers being clinically significant when compared to minimal detectable change, a value that allows clinicians to identify the difference between normal daily variation and actual differences, values in scapular upward rotation.⁸ All post-exercise scapular upward rotation measures fall above the MDC values (Appendix C; Figure 12); therefore, not only are the results statically significant, but likely clinically significant as well. It should be noted such a small change could potentially be an underlying factor of impingement syndrome due to the height of the subacromial space only being 7 to 12 mm.³⁰ These changes could potentially contribute to overuse injury and subtle instability. In overhead activities, fatigue has also been associated with compensatory mechanisms including an increase of scapulothoracic motion and decreased humeral external rotation.³ This altered movement strategy may result in disruptions in scapulohumeral rhythm, which may be an underlying mechanism in the development of impingement syndrome.^{17, 18} It is unknown at this time for how long an individual must exhibit these small changes to develop shoulder pathology.

Interestingly, there was also a significant difference at 60° of scapular upward between pre fatigue values and day four values ($F=6.389$, $p=.032$ $ES=-.044$). With such a small effect size ($.044$) and the value not reaching above the MDC value for 60° (1.23) it is questionable that this is clinically significant to the population of male tennis players. It is unclear why differences were seen exclusively at this angle between pre fatigue and day four data was observed as it seems highly unlikely for changes to occur with the

conservative delimitations presented in this study- not allowing any upper extremity activity, measurements taken in the same circadian time interval, as well as the movement of the scapula within the scapulothoracic interval ratio being 2:1 at this angle. All participants verbally reported no activity and no other differences between the experimental group at pre fatigue and day four data were observed by the primary investigator that may have influenced this finding.

The participants in this study served until they reached fatigue; herein defined as a 15 on the Borg 6-20 scale and 70% of their HR max.^{38, 44} The participants in this study averaged 58.2 ± 41.7 serves before meeting the criteria for fatigue (Appendix C; Figure 13). In a regular tennis match for a collegiate player, the absolute least amount of serves that could be preformed is 48; however this rarely occurs due to similarly matched level of competition with the likelihood of a person winning every single point in every single game is rare. For example, the winner of the 2003 US Open averaged 7.8 (3.2) serves per game for 31 service games or approximately 242 serves. During the tournament it is estimated that he hit over 1000 serves.⁴⁵ By contrast, a professional baseball pitcher typically pitches every four to five days with an average of approximately 100 pitches per game. Given the combination of high demand, limited rest, and the mechanical impact of the tennis racket acting as a lever arm for tennis players, it is not surprising that shoulder injuries account for 20-45.7% of all injuries in tennis players.⁴⁶ By providing information directly related to tennis players, with inclusion of possible mechanism of injury, this study may begin the process of understanding the neuromuscular adaptations potentially associated with injury.

An alteration in scapular upward rotation following a FFP has received limited attention in the literature. The results of this study, a decrease in scapular upward rotation following a FFP in male tennis players, agrees with two earlier investigations that reported a decrease in scapular upward rotation following fatigue; however, both studies investigated the general public, not an athletic population.^{42, 47} These results however differ from a previous investigation on baseball pitchers. Specifically, Tripp et al, reported an increase in scapular upward rotation following a FFP in which baseball pitchers threw from a kneeling position every five seconds until a 15 was reached on the Borg 6-20 scale.¹⁵ They speculated that the sensorimotor system was impaired causing impaired joint angle acuity to occur. Similarly, Joshi et al also reported an increase in scapular upward of less than 3° rotation following a fatigue protocol of males and females from the general population. For their study, participants rhythmically externally rotated in their arm with weight while lying prone from 0 to 75 per second until they could not keep pace or continue. Participants were then given a thirty second rest period and then continued. This continued for a minimum of five sets and until the number of repetitions was less than 50% performed during the first set. They speculated that either clavicular elevation or compensatory mechanisms by which the fatigued shoulder maintained a normal subacromial space by activating different shoulder muscles could be an explanation for this increase. These inconsistent reports could be a result of the difference in the upper extremities tested (dominant vs. non-dominant), fatigue protocol (static vs. dynamic), as well as activity prior to the study. The difference between studies, although similar in conceptual design, could be a result of a number of factors. First, positioning of the participant was different. Within Tripp's study, the participants were

positioned in a kneeling position to reduce lower extremity force production. However, in this study, with the inclusion of the increased lever arm due to the tennis racquet, this position was not feasible. Second, the time between throws/serves were different by five seconds which could account for a longer time to fatigue for tennis, however, time to position one's self for a tennis serve is longer than that of a throw from a kneeling position. Third, in Joshi's study, the participants were not completing a true sport specific FFP. They were also asked to perform a task until failure five times with thirty-second rest intervals. Research on scapular kinematics in volleyball players showed no variance in scapular upward rotation following an entire season; however none of these athletes suffered a shoulder injury during play.⁴⁸ Although the limited differences between these studies seem trivial, they are in fact crucial in identifying issues of scapular upward rotation to the specific population of male tennis players.

When comparing differences between intercollegiate and club tennis players' FFP, there are significant differences to report. Intercollegiate players demonstrated better serving performance including significantly higher service velocity (97.7 ± 10.3 vs. 75.0 ± 10.3 mph; $P=0.009$) and serve accuracy ($56.3\% \pm 15.2\%$ vs. $31.5\% \pm 13.1\%$ $P=0.024$). Conversely, there were no differences between groups for time to fatigue (9.4 ± 7.0 vs. 10.8 ± 7.9 ; $P=0.780$), HR (146.6 ± 9.7 $P=0.530$), and Borg scale ($15.6 \pm .89$ vs. 16.4 ± 2.2 , $P=0.471$) (Appendix C; Figure 13).

The differences found in the current study, along with previous studies, demonstrates further research is needed on upward scapular rotation. Specifically, research should address tracking scapular upward rotation over the course of multiple seasons and multiple teams and tracking injury rates of impingement, instability, rotator

cuff tears, labrum and identify the role of the scapula with these injuries. Measuring scapular upward rotation during pre season and through multiple time points throughout a season or within a multi-match day may help identify an indicator of shoulder pathology and help identify recovery time for scapular upward rotation following fatigue. This accounts for tennis players participating in multiple matches in one day in which the scapular stabilizers may not recover between matches, thus leading to a cumulative effect of compensatory motions by tennis players. Longitudinal tracking of scapular upward rotation, especially following a fatigued state, would help to identify the role of the scapula in shoulder pathology. Finally, tracking injury incidence and scapular upward rotation may help with prevention of shoulder injuries by correcting scapular posture and range of motion with rehabilitation.

Although the entire available population was recruited to participate in this study, more participants may have made for stronger results. The digital protractor used has been shown to be reliable and valid; however breathing pattern and investigator error may have influenced the manual application.²⁸ Additionally, the upward rotation measurements that were taken during this study were static. Although decreased upward rotation is associated with shoulder injuries such as instability, impingement and rotator cuff tears, caution should be taken when making inferences with regard to dynamic movements, such as a tennis serve, based on static upward rotation measurements. Only male tennis players were allowed to participate in this study due the laxity of the costoclavicular ligament during a female's menstrual cycle as well as for ease of measurement techniques as marker accessibility is substantially more accurate when the subject is shirtless. Also, previous research has found quantification of static scapular

upward rotation alone to not be an effective diagnostic tool for determining shoulder dysfunction.⁴⁹ For this reason, only healthy individuals with no previous history of shoulder dysfunction were used. During the FFP one participant did not meet the inclusion requirements of the study's definition of fatigue with a HR above his 70% HR max. He discontinued the study with a HR of 127 while it should have been when 134 was the 70% HR max threshold. For another participant, the radar gun malfunctioned two minutes into the study with the back up battery not working as well. Therefore, only serve accuracy was recorded for these participants. Lastly, the FFP was discontinued for safety reasons for one participant. Twenty-two minutes into the FFP, the participant's HR did not exceed 119 beats per minute despite reporting a maximum rating of 20 on the Borg scale.

In conclusion, this study provides information to clinicians about the role of acute fatigue on scapular upward rotation in male tennis players. The findings suggest that following a FFP decreases scapular upward rotation at rest, 60°, 90°, and 120° of humeral abduction in the scapular plane but returns to baseline values within 24 hours. This may help clinicians understand the influence of lingering fatigue on scapular kinematics as well as potentially identify an underlying mechanism of injury. Future studies should identify alterations of scapular upward rotation within a 24-hour period following fatigue for male tennis players to assist in suggested rest intervals to potentially decrease the risk of injury.

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APPENDIX A

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS, DELIMITATIONS, LIMITATIONS, ASSUMPTIONS, AND DEFINITIONS

Research hypotheses

Limitations

Breathing pattern and investigator error may influence manual application of the digital protractor; however, this method has been identified as valid and reliable.²⁸ Additionally, the upward rotation measurements that will be taken during this study will be static. Although decreased upward rotation is associated with shoulder injuries such as instability, impingement and rotator cuff tears, caution should be taken when making inferences with regard to dynamic movements, such as throwing, based on static upward rotation measurements.

Delimitations

This study's delimitations include only allowing male tennis players to participate in this study with no previous history of shoulder injury. Male athletes will be used for ease of measurement techniques as marker accessibility is substantially more accurate when the subject is shirtless. Also, previous research has found quantification of static scapular upward rotation alone to not be an effective diagnostic tool for determining shoulder dysfunction. For this reason, only healthy individuals with no previous history of shoulder dysfunction will be used.

Exclusion Criteria

No history of shoulder dislocation, subluxation, fracture or surgery, cervical injuries, thoracic outlet syndrome, impingement syndrome within the last six months, or self reported decreased sensation in the upper extremities.

Assumptions

1. Participants will give full effort.
2. Participants will follow directions.
3. Participants will not try to alter their performance during the protocol or measurements.

Definitions

1. Scapular upward rotation — superior rotation; moves scapula's away from one another
2. Functional Fatiguing Protocol – for the purpose of this study, the FFP will be defined as a tennis serving protocol every 10 seconds within the service court until fatigue is reached
3. Fatigue – for the purpose of this study, fatigue is defined as a 15 on the Borg 6-20 RPE scale and 70% heart rate maximum

EXTENDED REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The purpose of this biomechanical study is to examine acute alterations in scapular upward rotation following a functional fatiguing protocol in male tennis players. To carry out this study it is necessary to complete a critical review of the literature, which will continue through the data collection, data analysis, and synthesis stages of the research.

To conduct the literature review, the researcher is using multiple information sources including books, Internet resources, and professional journals. These sources were primarily accessed through PubMed, MEDLINE, CINAHL, and SPORT Discus. There is no delimiting timeframe, however, the majority of research has been performed

within the last 20 years. The researcher will be attempting to point out existing gaps in the literature throughout this review.

Anatomy

The shoulder complex consists of three joints and one region: the glenohumeral joint, acromioclavicular joint, sternoclavicular joint, and scapulothoracic region.²¹

Because of these joints and region, the shoulder allows for all three degrees of freedom.

The immense amount of range of motion allowed within the shoulder complex is due in part to the large surface of the humeral head articulating with the relatively small glenoid fossa of the scapula.²⁸

The glenohumeral joint is a multi-axial ball-and-socket synovial joint comprised of the hemispherical head of the humerus and where it articulates with the glenoid cavity of the scapula.³⁹ The muscles of the glenohumeral joint can be subdivided several different ways – by their anatomical, functional, or mechanical properties. Anatomically, muscles of the shoulder complex can be divided into three groups depending on their attachment site: scapula to humerus, radius, or ulna; scapula to trunk; or humerus to trunk.²⁸ Functionally, muscles of the shoulder complex can also be divided into those that act as prime movers and those that stabilize for the shoulder complex. Prime movers of the shoulder girdle include large muscles such as the pectoralis major, latissimus dorsi, and deltoid.²⁸ The smaller muscles are classified as stabilizers, which include the rotator cuff muscles, rhomboid major, rhomboid minor, and serratus anterior.²⁸ Mechanically, muscles of the shoulder complex can be divided into those that rotate the body segment around an axis and those that translate the segment toward or away from the axis.²⁸ The orientation of the musculature of the glenohumeral joint has large reaction forces that acts

perpendicular to the glenoid fossa to compress the concave humeral head into the glenoid fossa.²¹ This concavity-compression maintains anterior joint stability over a large range of shoulder motion and has been found to resist inferior translation of the humeral head.^{40,41} The musculature of the glenohumeral joint is comprised of muscles of the rotator cuff and deltoid.²³ The rotator cuff is composed of four muscles: the supraspinatus, subscapularis, infraspinatus, and teres minor.⁴² The supraspinatus originates on the posterosuperior scapula, superior to the scapular spine.²³ It passes under the acromion, through the supraspinatus outlet, and inserts on the greater tuberosity.²³ The supraspinatus is active during the entire motion of scapular plane abduction.²³ The infraspinatus and teres minor muscles originate on the posterior scapula, inferior to the scapular spine and both muscles insert on the posterior aspect of the greater tuberosity.²³ These two muscles act together to externally rotate and extend the humerus.²³ Collectively these muscles contribute approximately 80% of the external rotation strength with the arm in an adducted position.²³ The subscapularis muscle arises from the anterior scapula and is the only muscle to insert on the lesser tuberosity.²³ The subscapularis internally rotates and flexes the humerus.²³ The tendon of the subscapularis inserts on the lateral aspect of the anterior capsule; therefore, this muscle is the most responsible for providing anterior glenohumeral stability because it is the most active stabilizer muscle.^{43,}⁴⁴ The deltoid is the largest muscle of the shoulder girdle. It has three different components – anterior, middle, and posterior that has three different origins: the clavicle, the acromion, and the scapular spine. The deltoid inserts at the deltoid tubercle on the lateral aspect of the humeral shaft.²³ The anterior portion of this muscle forward flexes and abducts the humerus, while the middle and posterior heads provide more

glenohumeral compression and a less shear force than does the anterior component.⁴⁵

The humeral head is approximately one third of a sphere with an average diameter being 45 mm.²³ The proximal humerus is comprised of four parts: the articular surface, the greater tuberosity, the lesser tuberosity, and the diaphyseal shaft.⁴² The humeral head is angulated medially 45 degrees to the long axis of the humeral shaft, and on average it is retroverted 20-25 degrees relative to the transcondylar axis of the distal humerus.²⁵

Between the greater and lesser tuberosity is the intertubercular groove in which lies the tendon of the long head of the biceps brachii.²³ The tendon is held in place by the

coracohumeral ligament, superior glenohumeral ligament, and the transverse humeral ligament.²³ In the glenohumeral joint, three different types of motion may occur:

spinning, sliding, and rolling.²⁶ Spinning occurs when the contact point on the glenoid remains the same while the humeral head contact point is changing.²³ Sliding is pure

translation of the humeral head on the articular surface of the glenoid.²³ This action occurs most at end ranges of motion or in unstable joints.²³ In the glenohumeral joint, the contact point on the glenoid is moving, while that of the humerus remains neutral.²³

Rolling is a combination of humeral head sliding and spinning relative to the glenoid such that the contact point changes on both the glenoid and the humeral head.²³

Normal movement of the scapula on the wall of the thoracic cage is an essential component of normal function at the glenohumeral joint.^{23, 25} This region is referred to as the scapulothoracic region and is the least congruent area in the body with the only osseous link between the scapula and the axial skeleton occurring at the clavicle.¹⁷

Therefore, this region is highly dependent on the surrounding musculature for stability and normal motion.^{1, 15, 46-48} Because 18 muscles (rhomboid major, rhomboid minor,

levator scapulae, pectoralis minor, trapezius, serratus anterior, subscapularis, supraspinatus, infraspinatus, teres minor, teres major, deltoid, pectoralis major, latissimus dorsi, coracobrachialis, long head of the triceps, long head of the biceps, and omohyoid)¹⁷ originate or insert on the scapula, it also plays into the role of stability within the glenohumeral joint.¹⁷

The scapula is a flat, triangular shaped bone that is classified as metaphyseal, which refers to a thin cortex with frequent vascular perforation.^{26, 49} It moves through a gliding mechanism in which the concave anterior surface of the scapula moves on the convex posterolateral surface of the thoracic cage.³⁹ The scapula serves mainly as an articulating surface for the head of the humerus within the glenohumeral joint as well as a bony structure for muscles' origin and insertion sites.²⁶ The scapula is also linked in the proximal-to-distal transfer of energy that allows for the most appropriate shoulder positioning for optimal function.^{22, 50} The scapula helps transfer the large forces and high energy from the major sources of force and energy, the legs and trunk, to the actual delivery mechanism of the energy and form, the arm and hands.¹⁰

The scapula is located on the dorsal aspect of the thorax and has four predominant processes – the spine, acromion, coracoid, and glenoid.⁵¹ The spine of the scapula divides the posterior scapula unequally in the frontal plane.⁴² The superior aspect of the spine creates a deep depression called the supraspinatus fossa and the area below the spine is called the infraspinatus fossa, which is shallower.²⁶ The scapula spine serves as an insertion site for the middle and lower trapezius and the origin for the posterior third of the deltoid muscle.⁵¹ Because of the location and size of this process, the scapular spine also adds to the lever arm of these muscles.⁵¹ The acromion is a process at the lateral tip

of the spine and is an attachment site for both the middle trapezius and deltoid and serves as a lever arm for these muscles. Average thickness of a male's acromion is 7.7mm and average thickness of a female's acromion is 6.7 mm.²³ Three distinct types of acromion can be viewed by diagnostic measures.²³ Type I acromion is a flat shaped acromion and considered "normal." Type II acromion is curved and downward dipped. Type III acromion is referred to as a hooked acromion, which refers to the anterior bone spur. This type of acromion also downward dips and obstructs the outlet for the supraspinatus tendon. Cadaver studies have shown an increased incidence of rotator cuff tears in individuals with type II or type III acromion, likely because of the abnormal skeletal features that allow for more microtrauma to the musculature. The coracoid process is a hook-like projection on the anterior aspect of the scapula and serves as the insertion site for the pectoralis minor and origin site for the coracobrachialis and short head of the biceps brachii. The coracoid process curves upward, forward and outward in front of the glenoid fossa.²⁶ The base of the coracoid is the attachment site for the coracoclavicular ligaments, and serves as the origin of the short head of the biceps and the coracobrachialis, as well as the insertion of the pectoralis minor. The arm of the coracoid, behind the tip, forms the anterior limit of the coracoacromial arch.⁵¹ The coracoid also is the origin of the coracohumeral ligament and the roof of the axillary space.

The glenoid is the articular process on the lateral portion of the scapula and lies almost perpendicular to the body of the scapula.⁵¹ The surface of the glenoid is covered in hyaline cartilage and around the rim is the labrum. This fibrocartilaginous labrum helps increase the depth of the articulation, but even so the glenoid and labrum's combined surface area totals 28% of the humeral articular surface area.^{23, 26} The glenoid has a 35

mm vertical diameter and a 25 mm horizontal diameter.^{25, 52, 53} Relative to the scapular plane, the glenoid is angled superiorly and posteriorly approximately five degrees.⁵⁴ Because of the orientation, the glenoid offers little restraint to inferior instability.²¹ The anterosuperior aspect of the glenoid is the area of maximum contact stresses in the shoulder.⁵⁵

The scapula's various movements include depression, elevation, protraction, retraction, downward rotation, and upward rotation. The scapulothoracic muscles – trapezius, rhomboids, and serratus anterior, helps maintain the glenoid in an optimal position by directly controlling scapular position.¹⁷ The muscles in this group include the upper, middle, and lower trapezius, the levator scapulae, the serratus anterior, the pectoralis minor, and the rhomboids.⁴² The levator scapulae and the upper trapezius provide postural support as well as elevate the scapula.⁴² The levator scapula originates on the transverse processes and posterior tubercles of vertebrae C1 through C4 and inserts on the superior angle of the scapula and assists in upward rotation of the scapula.⁴² The upper trapezius originates from the occipital bone and the nuchal ligament on the cervical spinous processes and inserts over the distal one-third of the clavicle and acromion process.⁴² Besides elevation, the upper trapezius also helps upwardly rotate and retract the scapula.⁴² The middle trapezius and rhomboids, both major and minor, retract the scapula.⁴² The middle trapezius originates on the spinous processes of C7 through T3 and inserts over the acromion and the scapular spine and assists in stabilizing the scapula.⁴² The rhomboids have two components – major and minor.⁴² The rhomboid minor originates from the ligamentum nuchae and vertebrae C7 and T1 and inserts on the posterior portion of the superior medial angle of the scapula.⁴² The rhomboid major

originates at T2 through T5 and inserts into the entire posteromedial edge of the scapula below its spine.⁴² Besides retraction, the rhomboids major and minor assist in elevation of the scapula and downward rotation.⁴² The lower trapezius originates on the spinous processes of the middle and lower thoracic vertebrae and inserts on the base of the scapular spine and depresses and stabilizes the scapula.⁴² The upper trapezius and serratus anterior both upwardly rotate the scapula.⁴² The serratus anterior has three sections originating from the anterolateral ribs.⁴² The first section from ribs 1 and 2 progresses to the superior angle of the scapula.⁴² The second section of the serratus anterior originates from ribs 2 through 9 and inserts on the inferior angle of the scapula.⁴² The primary function of the serratus anterior is to assist in upward rotation as well as hold the scapula down during this motion to prevent scapular winging.²⁹

Other than muscular attachments, the scapula is supported only by the acromioclavicular joint and the coracoclavicular ligaments which allows the scapula is able to move in many directions.²¹ The coordinated movement of the scapula and the glenohumeral joint during elevation of the arm is known as scapulohumeral rhythm.²⁵ This rhythm serves two purposes. First, scapulohumeral rhythm preserves the length-tension relationship of the glenohumeral muscles so that the muscles do not shorten as much as they would without scapular upward rotation.¹⁷ The reason for this is so they can sustain force production throughout a larger range of motion.¹⁷ Secondly, this rhythm also helps reduce subacromial impingement from occurring by providing normal movement of the scapula.¹⁷ As mentioned previously, simultaneous movement of the humerus, clavicle and scapula is needed for the shoulder complex to properly function.¹

Upward Rotation of the Scapula

The generally accepted pattern of motion during scapular upward rotation is as the arm is raised, the scapula upwardly rotates, the superior aspect posteriorly tilts, and the scapula externally rotates; the clavicle elevates and retracts, and the humerus elevates and externally rotates.³ Upward rotation and elevation are required in order to tilt the acromion upward, hence decreasing the likelihood of impingement and coracohumeral arch compression.¹⁰ During the early phase (0 to 30 degrees of humeral elevation) of upward rotation, the scapula and clavicle move together around the axis of the sternoclavicular joint. Once there is tension within the costoclavicular ligament, this ligament prevents further elevation of the clavicle therefore causing the axis of scapular rotation to move to around the acromioclavicular joint.²⁵

As the humerus flexes to 30 degrees, there is no movement of the scapula.²⁶ In these beginning movements, the scapula serves as the stabilizer for the contracting muscles.^{26, 27} From 30 to 90 degrees, the scapula abducts and upwardly rotates one degree for every two degrees of humeral elevation.²⁶ From 90 degrees to full abduction, the scapula abducts and upwardly rotates one degree for each one degree of humeral elevation.²⁶ Maintenance of this rhythm is based on the coordination of the prime movers during humeral elevation– the deltoid and the supraspinatus, and the contractions of the scapular stabilizers which include all fibers of the trapezius, the serratus anterior, the levator scapulae, and the rhomboid major and minor.²⁷ A prime mover is a muscle that acts directly to produce a desired movement amid other muscles acting simultaneously to produce the same movement indirectly.²⁶ Stabilizer muscles are defined as muscles that control the joint neutral position. They work at low load and do not produce movement.²⁶

Primary scapular stabilization during upward rotation on the thorax requires the

involvement of the upper and lower fibers of the trapezius muscle as well as the serratus anterior and rhomboid major and minor muscles.²⁷ During this motion, the lower trapezius is especially important to help maintain the position of the scapula. The lower trapezius also helps maintain the normal path of the scapula motion in arm elevation, due to the mechanical advantage of its attachment at the medial aspect of the scapular spine.²³ The serratus anterior assists not only in scapula upward rotation, but also with the posterior tilt and external rotation while stabilizing the medial board and the inferior angle thus prevents scapular winging.⁵⁶ Without an appropriate amount of scapular upward rotation, the shoulder cannot be elevated above 90 degrees due to the humeral elevation to scapular rotation ratio.²⁶

When the muscles of the shoulder complex are weak, injured, or fatigued, scapulohumeral rhythm is compromised and shoulder dysfunction results.¹⁰ This dysfunction can cause microtrauma in the shoulder muscles, capsule, and ligamentous tissue and lead to impingement.¹⁰ Research conducted by Jobe and Pink as well as Bak and Faunl demonstrated that if weakness or fatigue of any of the structures mentioned previously occurs, scapulohumeral rhythm is disrupted, and secondary impingement may ensue.^{15, 16} Other injuries such as scapular dyskinesis, rotator cuff pathology, and instability can also occur from lack of upward rotation of the scapula from repeated microtrauma of certain muscles in the area due to this subacromial impingement.¹⁰

Overhead Sports

The overhead athlete is defined as an athlete who uses his/her hand in an overhead position.⁵⁷ Sports such as baseball, football, swimming, volleyball, javelin, water polo, and tennis are examples of overhead sports that potentially expose the shoulder to

extreme ranges of motion, forces and accelerations/decelerations over many repetitions.⁵⁷ As a result, overhead sports are associated with a high prevalence of overuse shoulder pathologies, most of which occur as a result to microtrauma of the anatomical structures.⁵⁷ Microtrauma is the culmination of many small stresses to a tissue or structure that alone is insufficient to cause injury.⁵⁷ Repeated microtrauma produces an inflammatory process that can lead to a larger injury if appropriate healing time or treatment is not received.³⁰ Overhead athletes are prone to shoulder injuries due to the anatomy of the glenohumeral joint, the biomechanics of overhead sport and the resultant repetitive trauma to the structures within the joint.³⁰

Baseball

In baseball pitching, the components of throwing are divided into five components: wind-up, stride, arm cocking, acceleration, deceleration, and follow-through. Wind-up is the phase in which the thrower plants the back foot on the ground and places the body perpendicular to the target.²⁸ Usually, with most pitchers, this is also the phase in which the leg is lifted high. At this balancing point, both hands are together anterior to the chest.²⁸ The pitcher then proceeds with the pitch by stepping towards the target and at the same time moves the arms away from each other. Little energy is shown to be generated during this phase.²⁸ During the arm-cocking phase, the front leg strides toward the targets as the arms swing apart. These motions cause the body to stretch and create elastic energy, that is, potential energy within body that is stored to drive the upper body forward. The stride foot lands almost directly in front of the back foot with the knee flexed at 45 degrees.²⁸ The throwing arm is then flexed at the elbow and maximum external rotation takes place at the shoulder.²⁸ Maximum external rotation of the shoulder

joint ranges from 150 to 180 degrees for baseball pitchers.⁵⁸ Internal rotation torque of the shoulder averages at 67 Nm with an anterior superior shear force of 250 to 600 N, which is approximately 50% of the pitcher's body weight.⁵⁹ The hips and shoulders rotate forward to directly face the target and the throwing arm is held back as long as possible to create more elastic energy.²⁸ The acceleration phase is defined as the point in which the elbow extends and internal rotation begins in the shoulder at 90 to 100 degrees of abduction.²⁸ During this phase, the shoulder generates torques at the glenohumeral joint between 800-900 Newtons (180-202 lbs.) distraction force at the glenohumeral joint and greater than 7,000 degrees/second shoulder internal rotation.^{60, 61} The shoulder also often generates up to 7,000 degrees of internal rotation velocity per second in this phase which is the fastest movement all sports.^{62, 63} The scapula is protracted laterally and then anteriorly around the thoracic wall to allow the scapula to maintain a normal positional relationship with the humerus.¹⁰ This motion is controlled through eccentric contraction of the medial-stabilizing musculature, mainly of the rhomboids and the middle trapezius, thus facilitating the dissipation of some of the deceleration forces that occur in the follow-through phase.¹⁰ Elbow extension speeds as high as 3000 degrees per second have been observed.⁶⁴ The arm position and extreme amount of force placed can lead to pathology of the anatomical stability components of the shoulder, especially the capsuloligamentous structures and the rotator cuff.^{23, 31} The arm deceleration phase refers to the arm continually extending at the elbow and internally rotating at the shoulder as the hand pronates. During this phase, external rotation muscles are eccentrically contracting and also trying to prevent distraction at the glenohumeral joint.²⁸ The shoulder compressive forces in this phase average at 1090 N.⁵⁹ The elbow is also decelerated and

distraction is prevented. The final, follow-through, stage is critical in preventing injury. A good follow-through helps dissipate the forces created after ball release.²⁸ A flexed trunk and extension of the knee can lead to the absorption of energy.²⁸ The generation of these extreme eccentric forces place baseball pitchers at a significant risk rate for shoulder injury due to the repetitive nature and maximal external rotation motion followed by a large deceleration of the arm.⁶⁵

Tennis

In tennis, 24 percent of tennis players between 12 and 19 years old complain of shoulder pain.²¹ This number increases to 50 percent in middle-aged players.²¹ The shoulder in tennis is susceptible to injury because of the rapid acceleration and deceleration forces on the joint, just as with baseball and swimming. Glenohumeral shoulder rotation in tennis includes an average arc of 146.⁶⁶ Velocities occur rapidly in tennis, creating large accelerations at the hip, shoulder, and elbow.^{22, 67} The tennis serve's force is generated in the lower extremity and continues upwards culminating in large rotational torques at the shoulder. Tennis differs from other overhead sports, however, due to the use of a racquet. The lever arm and weight of the racquet adds power to the tennis stroke, which also increases the stress on the shoulder and the risk for potential injury.^{19, 20}

There are three basic strokes in tennis: the overhead/serve stroke, the forehand and the backhand.⁶⁸ The tennis serve is composed of four stages: wind-up, cocking, acceleration/deceleration, and follow through.¹⁹ The wind-up describes the beginning of the serve in which the ball is thrown from the non-dominant hand. There is very low muscle activity surrounding the dominant shoulder complex during this phase.⁶⁹ The

cocking phase of the tennis serve begins after the ball is tossed and ends at the point of maximal external rotation of the glenohumeral joint of the dominant arm.²⁸ Muscle activity is high, especially in the supraspinatus, infraspinatus, subscapularis, biceps brachii, and serratus anterior.²⁸ The serratus anterior has the highest maximum voluntary isometric contraction of all muscles at 70 percent.⁶⁹ To operationally define, a study performed by Townsend et al. stated EMG activity of 0% to 20% MVIC was minimal activity; 20% to 35% moderate activity; and 35% to 50% moderately strong and greater than 50% of the MVIC represented a significant amount of muscle activation.⁷⁰ This significant amount of muscle activity, especially the rate of the serratus anterior, shows the importance of scapular stabilization during this phase for the proper execution of the serve. The third phase of the tennis serve is acceleration. This phase begins at maximal external rotation of the glenohumeral joint and ends when the racquet hits the ball. Similar to the acceleration phase of a baseball pitch, the muscle activity is found greatest in the pectoralis major, subscapularis, latissimus dorsi, and serratus anterior during this concentric internal rotation of the humerus.^{28, 69} The last phase of the tennis serve is follow-through. This phase requires high muscle activity in the posterior rotator cuff – the infraspinatus and teres minor, as well as the serratus anterior, biceps brachii, deltoid, and latissimus dorsi.⁶⁹ Immediately following the acceleration phase of the serve, tremendous amounts of eccentric forces are required to decelerate the striking arm.⁷¹ This is because a tennis player generates substantial force and rotational velocities around the shoulder. The force on the ball during the overhead serve averages around 100 to 120 miles per hour with rotational velocities as fast as 1,500 degrees per second during the acceleration phase in professional players.^{21, 22} The degree of repetition in tennis varies tremendously,

but a player can expect to serve several hundred times per match.⁷² The serve stroke accounted for 45% of the total strokes in the French Open and 60% of the total strokes at Wimbledon.⁷² This can contribute to injury as the scapular stabilizers become fatigued earlier, leading to an increased demand on the rotator cuff.^{72, 73}

The forehand and backhand groundstrokes are characterized by three stages: racquet preparation, acceleration, and follow-through.⁶⁹ Muscle activity during the preparation phase of the forehand and backhand are both low.²⁸ During the acceleration phase of the forehand the biceps brachii, pectoralis major, and serratus anterior are all active with the subscapularis being the most activated.⁶⁹ During the acceleration phase of the backhand groundstroke, the middle deltoid, supraspinatus, and infraspinatus muscles are most activated.⁶⁹ The serratus anterior and the biceps brachii are activated during the acceleration phase of both strokes. The follow-through phase of the forehand groundstroke requires high muscle activity of the serratus anterior, subscapularis, infraspinatus, and biceps brachii.⁶⁹ The follow-through phase of the backhand groundstroke involves high muscle activity of the biceps brachii, middle deltoid, supraspinatus, and infraspinatus.⁶⁹ The backhand and forehand average rotational velocities of 895 and 387 °/s respectively.^{21, 22} During return games, there were more forehand and backhand return groundstrokes as well as topspin forehands and backhands than any other stroke.⁷²

Maladaptation is more common in tennis than any other sport and refers to change in stroke production by a player to compensate for a mild injury.²³ Therefore, the athlete's mild injury may become exacerbated and he or she is eventually unable to play through the pain or injury. Metabolic evaluation indicates that metabolic demands in

tennis are 70% alactic anaerobic, 20% lactic anaerobic, and 10% aerobic.⁶⁶ Demands inherent in tennis are high in magnitude, intensity, and frequency of application.⁷⁴ The musculoskeletal base must respond to these demands to protect itself from injury and allow skillful performance.

Injuries in Overhead Sports

The majority of overhead athlete shoulder injuries occur secondary to microtrauma of the stabilizing structures surrounding the glenohumeral joint with the primary cause being changes in the anatomical structures.³⁰ Factors that lead to shoulder injuries can be divided into extrinsic and intrinsic factors. Extrinsic factors include volume of activity, rest time, intensity of the sport, time of day, and environmental conditions such as weather. Intrinsic factors include age, gender, muscle weakness, laxity, reduced flexibility (i.e. posterior capsule), and poor sport technique.³⁰ These factors frequently contribute to shoulder injuries in overhead athletes. The most common injuries reported in overhead athletes in epidemiology studies are those of sprains and strains (39.6%), dislocations and separations (23.7%), and contusions (11.5%).⁷⁵ Specific injuries that are associated with the overhead athlete and this sense of biomechanical change within the joint are those of scapular dyskinesis, SLAP lesion tears, rotator cuff tears, instability, and impingement.^{4-7, 9, 17, 21, 25, 28-31}

Scapular Dyskinesis

Kibler described the condition of scapula dyskinesis as an alteration in the normal position or motion of the scapula during scapulohumeral movements.⁷⁶ Additionally, it has been identified by a group of experts at the Scapular Summit as abnormal static scapular position and/or dynamic scapular motion characterized by three different types

that may or may not overlap when identifying.⁷⁶ Causative factors for scapular dyskinesis can be grouped into proximal problems to the scapula or distal problems to the scapula.⁷⁷ Proximal causes of scapular dyskinesis includes postural alterations in the cervical, thoracic, or lumbar spines, hip and trunk muscle weakness or instability, and neurologic lesions in the peripheral nerves. These can result in loss of proximal stabilization for scapular control and diminished muscle activation.²³ Distal causes of scapular dyskinesis include inhibition of muscle activation or muscle strength from overload.²³ This can include labral tears or instability, rotator cuff injury or impingement, or soft tissue inflexibilities.²³ Scapular dyskinesis can also be caused by bony posture.¹⁷ A resting posture that includes thoracic kyphosis or cervical lordosis can result in excessive scapular protraction and acromial depression in athletic activity, thus increasing the risk of impingement.²³ Fractures of the clavicle as well as third degree AC joint separation can lead to scapular protraction and acromial depression which may then leads to muscle weakness and impingement.²³ Scapular dyskinesis is most often observed as a result of a change in muscle activation or coordination.²³ Most abnormal mechanics that occur in scapular dyskinesis can be traced to alterations in the function of the muscles that control the scapula.²³ Nerve injury in either the long thoracic nerve or spinal accessory nerve accounts for 5% of muscle dysfunction of the scapula.²³ These nerve injuries effect the serratus anterior or the trapezius muscle.²³ There are three types of scapular dyskinesis patterns: type I, II, and III.⁵⁶ Type I refers to the medial border prominence or inferior angle prominence.¹⁷ This type becomes evident in the cocking position of overhead sports. It is often associated with tightness at the anterior side of the shoulder – usually within the pectoralis minor and weakness in the lower trapezius and serratus anterior.⁷⁶

Posterior tipping of the scapula is responsible for functionally narrowing the subacromial space leading to possible impingement.^{56, 76} Type II of scapular dyskinesis refers to early scapular elevation or shrugging on arm elevation.⁵⁶ A force production imbalance between the serratus anterior and upper trapezius causes the scapula to abnormally translate, resulting in decreased upward rotation.²⁴ This form of scapular dyskinesis has been associated with shoulder injuries such as instability, impingement and rotator cuff tears; however, there is an unknown cause and effect between these injuries.²⁵ Type III scapular dyskinesis is a rapid downward rotation during arm lowering.⁵⁶ It is displayed as a prominence of the superior medial border of the scapula and is often associated with impingement and rotator cuff injury.²⁵ Scapular dyskinesis is often seen in musculoskeletal injuries that result in the inhibition or disorganization of activation patterns in scapular stabilizing muscles.⁷⁶ Numerous pathologies, problems and impairments may result from abnormal scapular control and motion.

SLAP lesions

Studies show labral lesions are higher in those who have scapular dyskinesis.^{4, 28,}
⁵⁶ Scapular dyskinesis is part of the pathological cascade of labral injury.⁴ Labral injury refers to the fraying of the glenoid labrum and/or detachment of the long head of the biceps from the supraglenoid tubercle.⁴ During overhead activity, the glenohumeral joint receives large compressive and shear forces, as well as distraction forces of the humeral head anteriorly to posteriorly. These forces lead to injury on the superior labrum by causing entrapment of the labrum between the humeral head and the glenoid rim, resulting in the labral tearing from degenerative results.^{5, 78} A common labral lesion is the SLAP lesion, which refers to a superior labrum tear anterior and posterior in location on

the labrum.²⁸ SLAP lesions have four specific types of detachment that have been classified.²⁸ Type I SLAP tears refers to the superior labrum being frayed. Type II SLAP tears refers to the superior labrum being frayed, as well as the superior labrum is detached. Type III SLAP tears refers to a bucket handle tear of the labrum with the biceps tendon still attached. Lastly, the type IV SLAP tears refers to the tear extending into the biceps tendon which allows it to sublux into the joint.^{17, 28} Type II and Type IV cause shoulder instability that can be repaired by arthroscopic reattachment of the labrum to the glenoid.¹⁷ These SLAP lesions have found to increase anterior translation of the humeral head up to 6 mm.⁷⁹ This increase in anterior translation may worsen contact and stresses seen on the posterior labrum and undersurface of the rotator cuff musculature.⁸⁰ Type 1 and Type III do not cause instability and are usually treated with arthroscopic debridement.¹⁷

Rotator Cuff tears

Rotator cuff tears have been traditionally attributed to one of three mechanisms: primary impingement, secondary impingement due to underlying glenohumeral instability, or tensile overload.^{30, 81} The subscapularis, supraspinatus, infraspinatus and teres minor make up this muscle group and function together to compress the humeral head into the glenoid fossa. This compression stabilizes the glenohumeral joint during throwing as well as controls the movement of the humeral head and helps “steer” the shoulder in activity.²⁸ Weakness or fatigue within the muscle group decreases the muscle efficiency required to decelerate the shoulder properly.²⁸ This decrease in efficiency leads to muscular fatigue that results in tissue damage. Another common rotator cuff pathology seen in overhead athletes, specifically throwers, is a small tear of the undersurface of the

rotator cuff.²⁸ As the supraspinatus attempts to resist the horizontal adduction, internal rotation and glenohumeral distraction forces it can become overloaded eccentrically and a tear occurs because of the repetitive microtrauma at the midsupraspinatus, posterior to the midinfraspinatus area.⁸² A rotator cuff tear can also be the continuation of an impingement pathology, with the most common tear taking place on the supraspinatus tendon because it is directly under the acromion process and has poor vascularity.^{28, 30} Due to arm positioning of humeral abduction, horizontal adduction, and internal rotation, impingement of the greater tuberosity, rotator cuff muscles, or biceps against the inferior surface of the acromion or coracoacromial ligament could ensue.⁸² Improper coordination of the scapular stabilizers - all fibers of the trapezius, the serratus anterior, the levator scapulae, and the rhomboid major and minor - may lead to altered biomechanics of the glenohumeral joint and result in excessive stress on the rotator cuff.³⁰ Both instability and impingement have been linked with rotator cuff tears.^{6, 7, 9, 23, 48, 83}

Instability

Instability describes the unwanted translation of the humeral head on the glenoid.⁸⁴ This translation compromises the comfort and function on the shoulder.⁸³ In overhead athletes, instability is a common problem. The shoulder must be lax/flexible enough to promote elastic energy - therefore creating a greater force; however, it must be tight enough to provide stability.²⁸ The static stabilizers, the geometry of the joint, the ligaments, and the labrum assist in preventing instability. Due to the repetitive movement and substantial forces (800-900 N) generated, the stabilizers easily fatigue and ligaments are stretched.⁸⁴ Instability occurs when not only the dynamic stability is altered, but also can occur when the rotator cuff muscles are unable to control the humeral head motion

within the glenoid during activity. Jobe et al. created a classification system in order to evaluate for instability: Group I – athletes with pure impingement, Group II- athletes who have instability secondary to anterior ligament and labral injury with secondary impingement, Group III- athletes whose instability is due to hyperelasticity and secondary impingement, and Group IV- athletes who demonstrate pure instability.^{23, 28} Four types of directional instability exist – anterior, posterior, inferior, and multi-directional. Anterior instability is the most common in overhead athletes and occurs in the acceleration phases of activity such as serving or pitching.^{4, 28} Posterior instability is also common for overhead athletes and is seen during the deceleration phase when the arm horizontally adducts and internally rotate.²⁸ Inferior instability is less common in overhead athletes. Multidirectional instability is not usually caused by a single traumatic episode and can be associated with generalized laxity. It could also be related to an imbalance in the dynamic stabilizers in the shoulder.²¹

Impingement

Over 13.7 million people visit doctor's offices in a given year for shoulder pain.⁸⁵ Of these, approximately 44-65% of these patients are diagnosed with shoulder impingement syndrome.⁸⁵ Impingement accounts for 80% of the problems seen in the overhead athlete's shoulder.^{23, 56} There are over 10 specific diagnoses of impingement all containing a component of either pain or affect the width of the subacromial space. Alterations in activation amplitude or timing have been identified across various investigations of subjects with shoulder impingement as compared to healthy controls.⁸⁶ These include decreased activation of the middle or lower serratus anterior and rotator cuff, delayed activation of middle and lower trapezius, and increased activation of the

upper trapezius and middle deltoid in impingement subjects.⁸⁶ Primary and secondary impingement syndrome are related to both instability and rotator cuff tears.²³ Primary impingement refers to subacromial entrapment, which is characterized as a continuum beginning with an inflammatory process, progressing to fibrous and ending in rotator cuff rupture.²³ The subacromial space is located between the acromion and head of the humerus and in healthy adult shoulders normally measures 7 to 12 mm.²⁸ As this space becomes narrowed with the elevation of the arm, structures within can become pinched against the acromion and the coracoacromial ligament.²⁸ With a space smaller than 7 mm, there is an increased likelihood of injury, especially with a fuller thickness rotator cuff tear.²³ Neer subcategorized primary impingement into three different stages: I, II, and III. Stage I subacromial impingement is characterized by edema and hemorrhage of the subacromial bursa. This stage is usually seen in athletes under the age of 25. Stage II lesions are seen in athletes who are between the age of 25-40 years old and is characterized by fibrosis and scarring of the subacromial bursa. Athletes who are 40 years and older are classified in Stage III in which the subacromial space is narrowed by rotator cuff or bursal fibrosis, coracoacromial arch calcification, a hooked acromion, bone spurring, or AC joint degeneration.^{17, 87} This is considered an anatomical impingement. It is more common in the younger population and frequently results from GH instability as well as posterior capsular tightness and/or weakness and fatigue of the scapulohumeral and scapulothoracic muscles.

Secondary shoulder impingement is the most common cause of shoulder pain in overhead athletes.⁸⁸ Secondary impingement occurs in individuals who have anterior capsular laxity.²³ Diminished retroversion of the humeral head, increased anterior

capsular laxity, attenuation of the inferior glenohumeral ligament, posterior capsule tightness, and dysfunction of the rotator cuff musculature explains the structures are all pathologies involved with secondary impingement.⁸⁹ The humeral head of the throwing arm develops an extra 17 degrees of retroversion on average more than the no dominant side.⁹⁰ This increase of retroversion provides greater external rotation of the humerus and less internal rotation as well as possibly providing a protective mechanism against internal impingement.^{23, 91} Patients with diminished retroversion are more likely to impinge the cuff between the posterosuperior glenoid and the greater tuberosity in the late cocking phase of throwing.²³

Internal impingement exists by repeated contact between the undersurface of the rotator cuff tendon and the posterosuperior glenoid that leads to injury and/or dysfunction.²³ Internal impingement is most often associated with overhead athletes who perform repetitive abduction and external rotation of the glenohumeral joint.²³ As primary impingement was considered anatomical, internal impingement is considered functional narrowing that causes impingement.¹⁷ The athletes who develop internal impingement are described as having a chronic, pathologic condition.⁹² Findings typical of internal impingement include articular-sided partial-thickness rotator cuff tears and posterosuperior or posterior labral fraying or tears.⁹² These stresses often lead to adaptive changes of the surrounding tissue which leads to multifactorial changes in anatomic structures of the shoulder.²³ These changes have been shown in cadaveric, MRI, and arthroscopic studies to be a normal, physiologic occurrence in overhead activities.⁹³⁻⁹⁶

Both extrinsic and intrinsic factors play a role in impingement. Extrinsic factors

such as mechanical wear of the rotator cuff under the coracoacromial arch have been described as primary etiology.²⁸ Degenerative tendonopathy and aging of the cuff tendons as well as lack of blood flow of the supraspinatus tendon have been found to be extrinsic factors.²⁸ The most common entrapment occurs near the supraspinatus to the greater tuberosity of the humerus.²⁸

The high demands placed on the shoulder during overhead activity may result in muscle fatigue, eccentric overload, inflammation, secondary impingement, and eventual tendon failure.²³ The repetitive stressors caused by impingement can lead to secondary changes in the static stabilizers, which leads to pathologic movement and dysfunction in the rotator cuff.²³ With repetitive overhead motion, the subscapularis can fatigue and provide less dynamic restraint.²³ The anteroinferior glenohumeral ligament may then be subjected to more force, which over time can lead to plastic deformation and rotational instability.²³ Increased anterior movement of the humeral head may increase the contact between the posterosuperior glenoid and the rotator cuff.⁹⁷ A cycle then develops in which a series of abnormalities support each other and lead to further altered mechanics in the shoulder.²³ Fatigue is believed to play a role in shoulder dysfunction because normal shoulder mechanics can be altered as an overhead athlete fatigues, thereby decreasing the amount of force the shoulder muscles produce.^{14, 98} Not only does this decrease the muscle force used for activity, but it also can reduce the force within the scapular stabilizers which leads to possible abnormal scapular position.

Sensorimotor System

Maintaining proper form during overhead athletics is crucial to help dissipate the substantial eccentric forces placed on the shoulder.⁹⁸ The upper extremity must control

and transfer these forces to be able to continue with performance and avoid injury.⁹⁸ The sensorimotor system (SMS) helps the joint by providing awareness, coordination and feedback to maintain appropriate technique, thereby reducing injury.³⁸ The sensorimotor system, a subcomponent of the comprehensive motor control system of the body, is extremely complex. The term sensorimotor system was developed to describe the sensory, motor, and central integration and processing components involved in maintaining functional joint stability.⁹⁹ Functional joint stability is accomplished by both static and dynamic components because of the flexibility and adaptively needed due to various activities performed daily.⁹⁹ Ligaments, joint capsule, cartilage, friction, and the bony geometry within the articulation comprise the static system.¹⁰⁰ Dynamic contributions arise from feedforward and feedback neuromotor control over the skeletal muscles crossing the joint.⁹⁹ Underlying the effectiveness of the dynamic restraints are the biomechanical and physical characteristics of the joint that include range of motion and muscle strength and endurance.⁹⁹ With injury, the SMS is compromised.¹⁰¹ If the SMS does become compromised, risk of even further injury may occur.¹⁰¹ Just as injury impairs the SMS, there is evidence that fatigue also causes impairment.¹⁰¹⁻¹⁰⁵ In overhead athletes, SMS insufficiency may occur because ideal mechanics are lost from mechanoreceptor feedback failure that then causes increased stress upon the shoulder.^{38, 99} Lephart describes a model which indicates injury or fatigue may affect the SMS both directly and indirectly, thus hindering neuromuscular control and leading to functional instability.¹⁰⁶ Tripp found in a functional fatiguing protocol in baseball players, fatigue decreased overall upper extremity acuity and affected the reposition acuity of the scapulothoracic, glenohumeral, elbow, and wrist joints. Fatigue also decreased accuracy

and increased variability in multiple planes of motion during repositioning tasks.³⁸ This helps clinicians understand the role of fatigue within the upper extremity region.

Fatigue

Fatigue is the natural physiological response to exercise describing the decline in performance or work output associated with repetitive or sustained activities.¹¹ Fatigue can be classified by two basic mechanisms – central and peripheral. The central mechanism involves motor neurons in the brain.^{11, 107} According to the Central Governor Theory, fatigue is merely the physical manifestation of a change in pacing strategy, and that the cause of this altered pacing must be to insure that internal body homeostasis is maintained.¹⁰⁷ Therefore, as an athlete becomes progressively fatigued he/she shows a gradual decline in output as a result of an ongoing reduction in the central neural recruitment. The goal of this central governor in the brain is to reduce the mass of muscle that can be recruited during prolonged exercise gradually, such as a tennis match, thereby preventing the development of muscle glycogen depletion, increase in core temperature, muscle rigor, and hyperthermia.¹⁰⁷

Central fatigue is a phenomenon whereby alterations within the CNS decrease the ability to voluntarily send a signal to the neuromuscular junction, essentially inhibiting development and/or transfer of the stimulus for muscular contraction.¹⁰⁸ The chain of events during prolonged physical activity increases the plasma level of free tryptophan and reduces the level of branched-chain amino acids (BCAAs).¹⁰⁸ The rise of serotonin during prolonged exercise suggests importance in its role as a potential mediator of central fatigue through association with arousal, lethargy, sleepiness and mood.¹⁰⁸ Prolonged submaximal and/or exhaustive exercise is recognized to deplete muscle

glycogen stores.¹⁰⁹ This in turn stimulates a rise in circulating free fatty acids, which have a higher affinity for albumin than the loosely bound tryptophan, and ultimately augments a rise in the free tryptophan/BCAA ratio.¹⁰⁸ When the power output is solely supplied by fat metabolism, the rate of exercise that can be supported by fats is around 50% of $VO_2\text{max}$.¹⁰⁹ This ratio is a precursor in the manifestation of central fatigue and reduced functional and cognitive performance.¹⁰⁸

The loss of power output observed in athletic performance, excluding environmental or temporal extremes, is generally considered to be peripheral in nature.¹² Specifically, within the motor unit, two different sites may become impaired due to repeated contractions – the transmission site and contractile site.¹² The transmission site includes the neuromuscular junction, muscle membrane, and endoplasmic reticulum whereas the contractile site is the muscle filament itself.¹² Peripheral muscle fatigue occurs due to the local changes in the physiological environment of the muscle.¹² Most commonly this occurs secondary to depletion of key substrates: glycogen or phosphate compounds in the muscles fibers or acetylcholine in the motor nerve branches.¹² During physical activity, intramuscular acidity can increase from the accumulation of metabolites, lactate, or hydrogen ions, meaning a decrease in pH occurs; this drop in pH levels from an average 7.1 to 6.5-6.8 reduces the efficacy of phosphorylase and phosphofrutokinsase enzymes.^{12, 13, 109} Furthermore, this pH alteration inhibits the excitation-contraction coupling and the affinity for Ca^{2+} in the sarcoplasmic reticulum.¹⁰⁹ The excitation-contraction couples the excitation of the membrane with the actual contraction of the cross-bridges.¹⁰⁹ It is suggested that inositol triphosphate diffuses to the sarcoplasmic reticulum and triggers the release of calcium.¹⁰⁹ When fatigue occurs there

is a decrease in inositol triphosphate and results in less calcium released from the sarcoplasmic reticulum. Less calcium results in loss of muscle contraction.¹⁰⁹

Further physiologic changes of fatigue include blood flow impairment and accumulation of lactic acid.¹¹⁰ While muscles are activated they produce lactic acid, a product of anaerobic metabolism. Blood flow from the musculature typically removes this waste product, however, a sustained contraction of $\approx 20\%$ MVC can restrict the blood flow.¹¹⁰ This effect is exacerbated in sustained contractions and static poses because the effects of vascular return are also limited from the lack of movement.¹¹⁰ Higher force contractions can even stop blood flow, making the muscle ischemic.¹¹¹ A contraction at this level would produce a more rapid acute fatigue although muscles would also recover rapidly.¹¹¹ Lower level contractions require longer periods of time to elicit a fatigue response, however the recovery time is also lengthened.¹¹¹ An accumulation of sub-maximal contractions of the course of a prolonged period of time has been theorized to contribute to overuse injuries in overhead athletes.^{5, 112-114}

Fatigue during intermittent exercise is complex, and it is difficult to identify a single factor in the muscle responsible for the reduction in performance during intense exercise.¹⁰⁹ Based on measurements of adenosine triphosphate and creatine phosphate it seems that fatigue is not caused by lack of energy and accumulation of lactate and the disturbance of the acid/base balance of skeletal muscle also does not play a significant role.¹⁰⁹ Fatigue may be associated with an excitation- coupling failure and a reduced nervous drive due to reflex inhibition at the spinal level as well as the interstitial potassium in the muscle.¹⁰⁹ It is speculated that the accumulation of potassium in the interstitium also may be correlated to fatigue with intermittent exercise.¹⁰⁹ The

mechanism behind the possible effect of potassium on the development of fatigue is unclear. It may be that the accumulating potassium stimulates sensory receptors of group III and IV nerve fibers leading to the inhibition at the spinal level or potassium could inhibit the spread of the action potential due to ion disturbances over the sarcolemma and possible block into the t-tubules.¹⁰⁹ The continuous efflux of potassium from the exercising muscle, together with a limited reuptake and a reduced release to venous blood leads to a progressive accumulation of potassium in the interstitium, which may have been implicated in the fatigue process.¹⁰⁹

APPENDIX C



Figure 1: Digital protractor with modifications: A) view of front, B) view of back



Figure 2: Landmark of measurement – root of the scapular spine and the posterolateral acromion

rating	description
6	NO EXERTION AT ALL
7	
8	EXTREMELY LIGHT
9	VERY LIGHT
10	
11	LIGHT
12	
13	SOMEWHAT HARD
14	
15	HARD (HEAVY)
16	
17	VERY HARD
18	
19	EXTREMELY HARD
20	MAXIMAL EXERTION

Figure 2: Borg 6-20 scale

Health History Form

Acute Alterations in Scapular Upward Rotation Following a Functional Fatiguing Protocol in Male Tennis Players

Subject's Name: _____

Date: _____

Age: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Are you currently being treated for a heart condition, lung condition, blood disorder, or any other medical condition, illness or injury?

yes _____

no _____

If "yes" please explain: _____

Are you currently experiencing shoulder pain or discomfort during activities of daily living or athletic participation?

yes _____

no _____

If "yes" how long have you been experiencing these symptoms? _____

Have you ever sustained a shoulder injury?

yes _____

no _____

If "yes" please describe injury: _____

Treatment: _____

Number of days inactive from daily activity: _____

Any limitations: _____

Figure 3: Health History Questionnaire

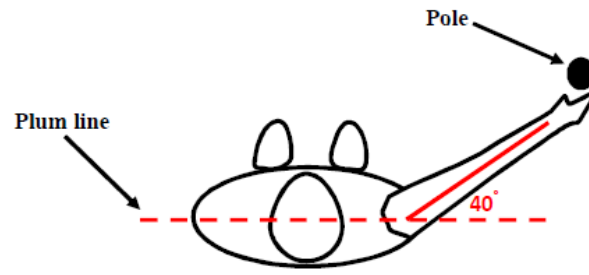


Figure 4: scapular plane demonstrated with pole and plum line



Figure 6: Measurement position shown at 120° abduction with 40° of forward flexion (scapular plane)

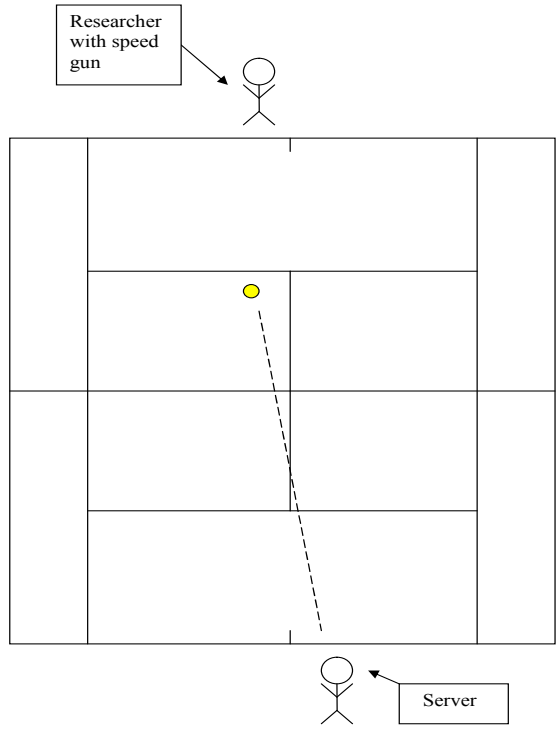


Figure 6. FFP position

Group	Age	Ht (cm)	Wt	R/L
Experimental	19.4±1.07	180.09±8.92	72.71±11.56	<u>9/1</u>
Control	19.6±1.17	181.10±6.56	81.56±13.51	10/0

Table 1. Participant Demographics. There were no significant differences between groups for any of the demographic characteristics.

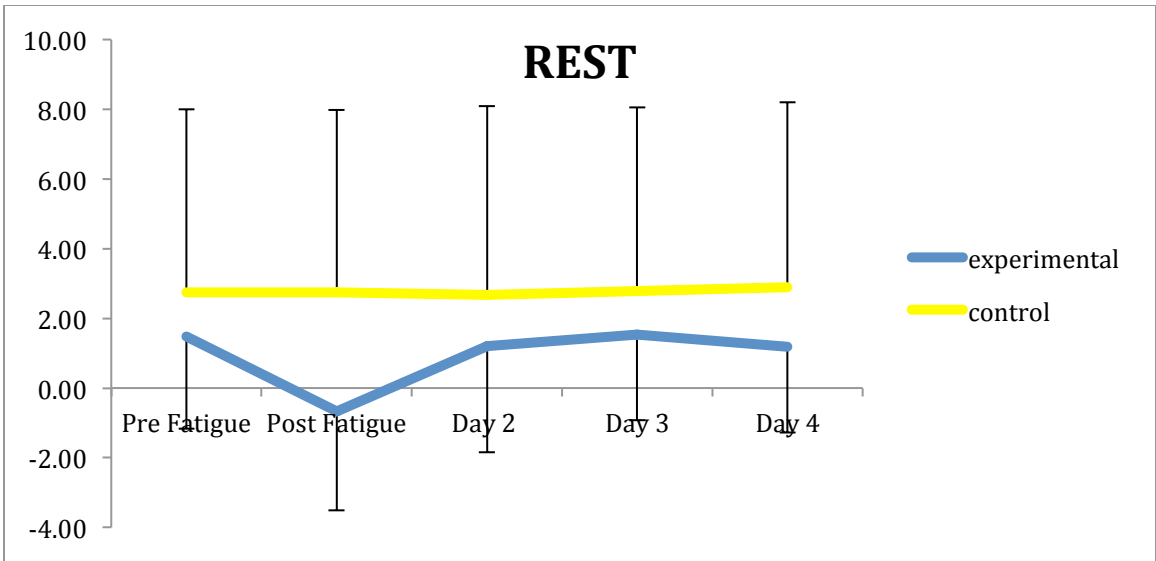


Figure 7. Averages at rest between groups at five testing times

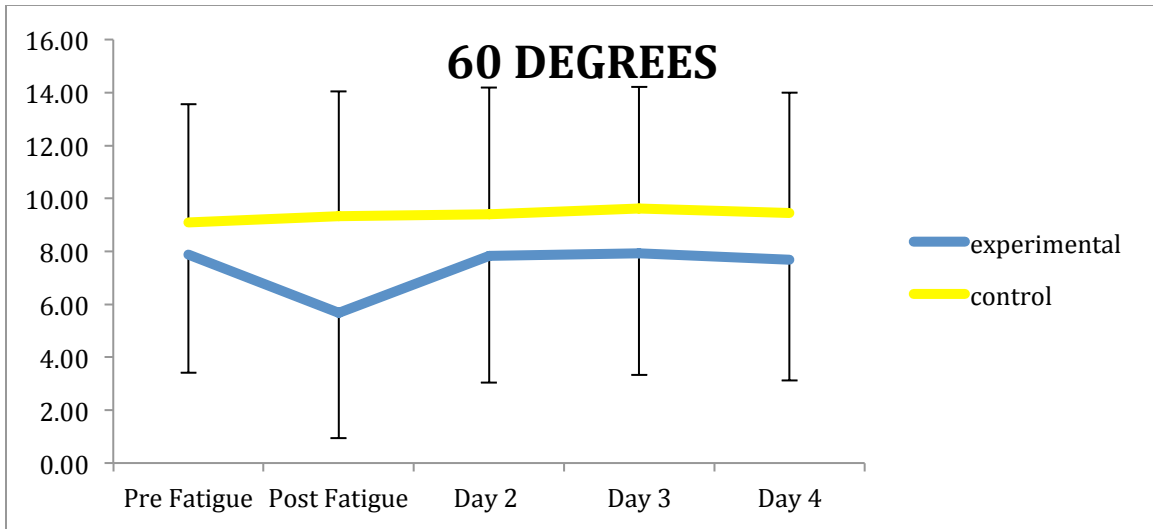


Figure 8: Averages at 60° between groups at five testing times

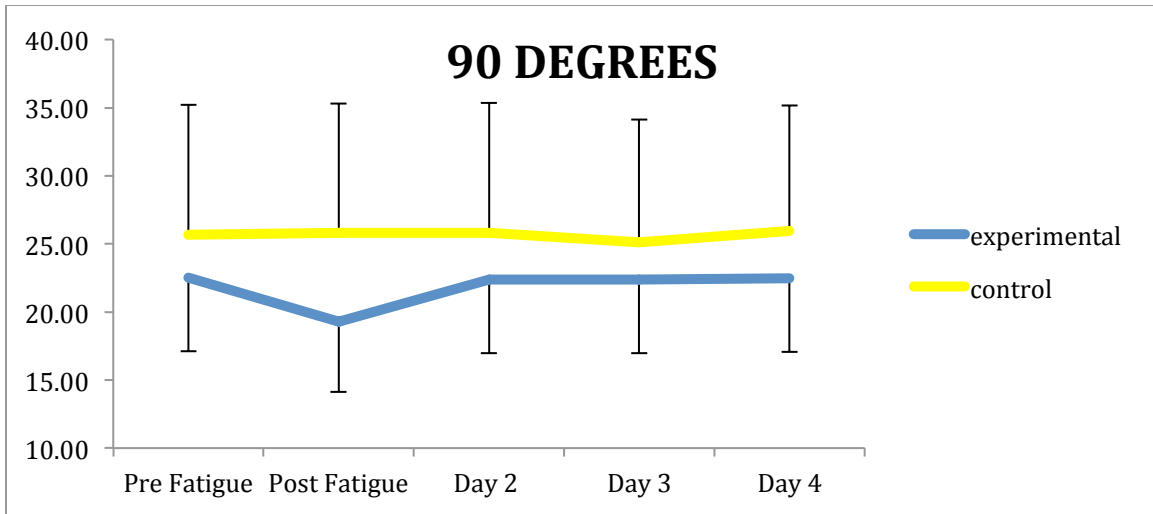


Figure 9: Averages at 90° between groups at five testing times

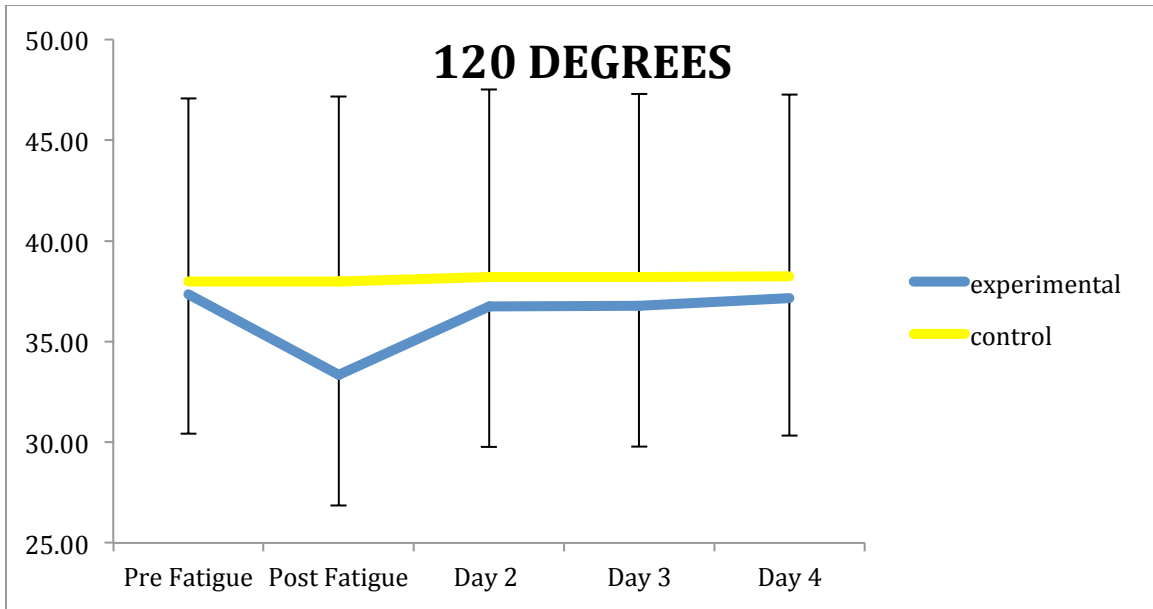


Figure 10: Averages at 120° between groups at five testing times

Angle	Rest	60	90	120
MDC	0.81	1.23	2.25	1.92
FFP	2.16	2.21	3.22	3.99

Table 2: Minimal Detectable Change Scores in Scapular Upward Rotation with means of the FFP

Participant	Min. to fatigue	serve velocity avg.	% serve in	Temp	HR at Fatigue	Borg at Fatigue
KH	3.0	103.8	0.78	69.0	146.00	16.0
PD	8.0	102.7	0.42	71.0	159.00	15.0
RR	21.2	105.4	0.43	76.0	153.00	15.0
MP	15.7	69.0	0.35	65.0	199.00	15.0
RT	5.0	86.0	0.43	59.0	173.00	15.0
RA	22.2	67.0	0.44	52.0	111.00	20.0
MO	8.8	81.0	0.64	70.0	135.00	15.0
MV	6.0	92.9	0.56	68.0	140.00	17.0
SU	3.0	86.5	0.17	60.0	127.00	17.0
DA	8.0	66.4	0.19	70.0	182.00	15.0

Table 3: Demographic information about experimental participants FFP

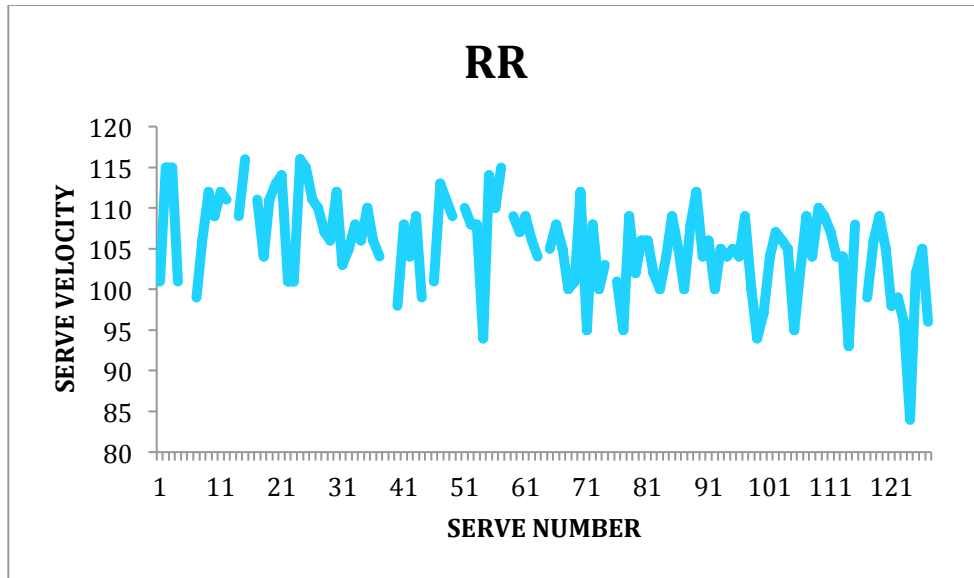


Figure 11. Serving velocity data for intercollegiate participant RR

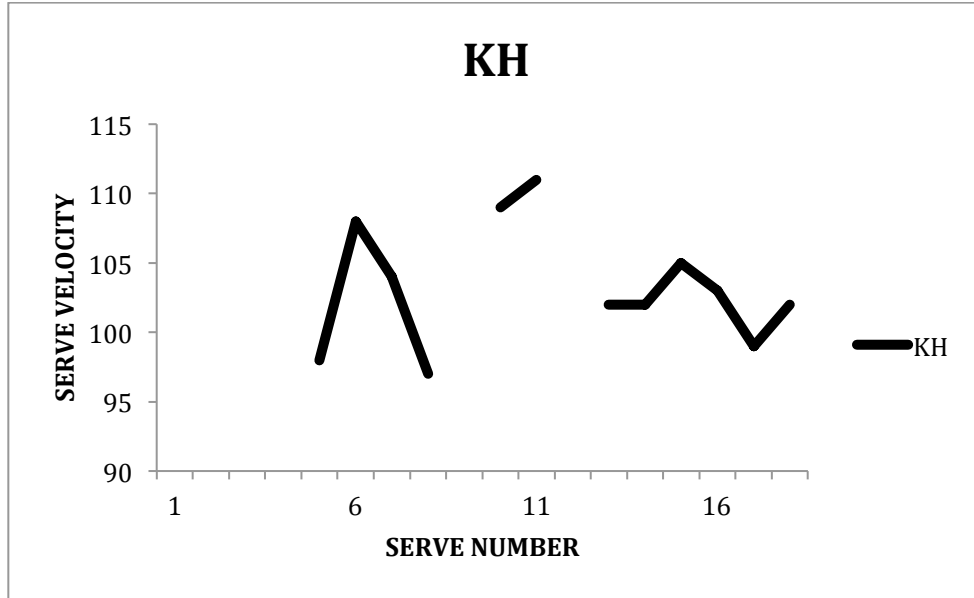


Figure 12: Serving velocity data for intercollegiate participant KH

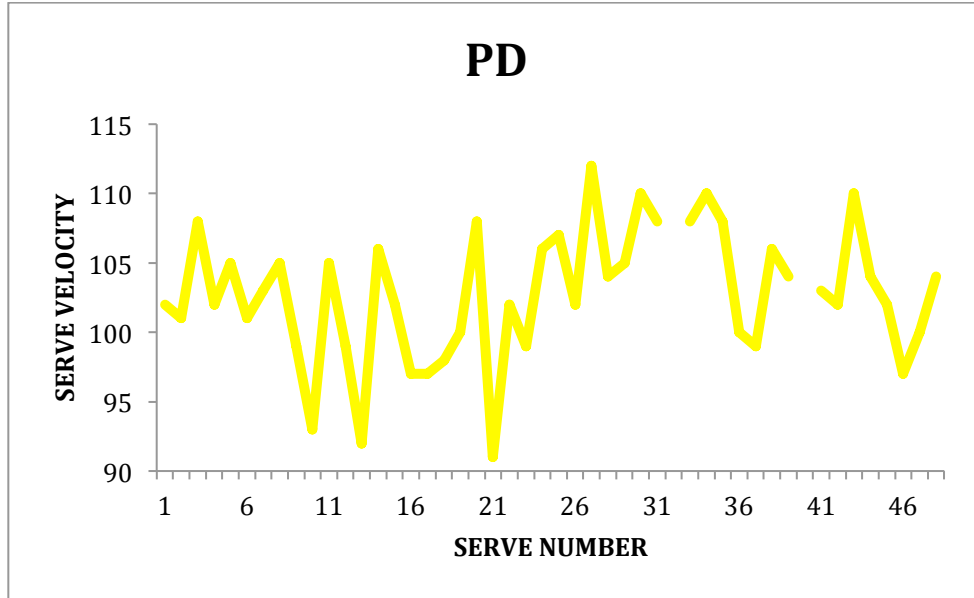


Figure 13: Serving velocity data for intercollegiate participant PD

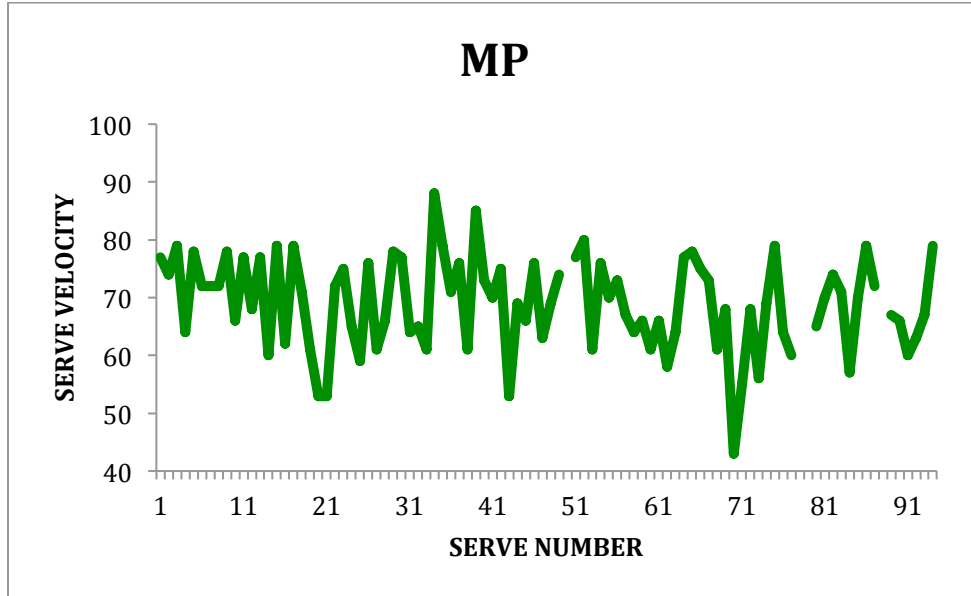


Figure 14: Serving velocity data for club tennis participant MP

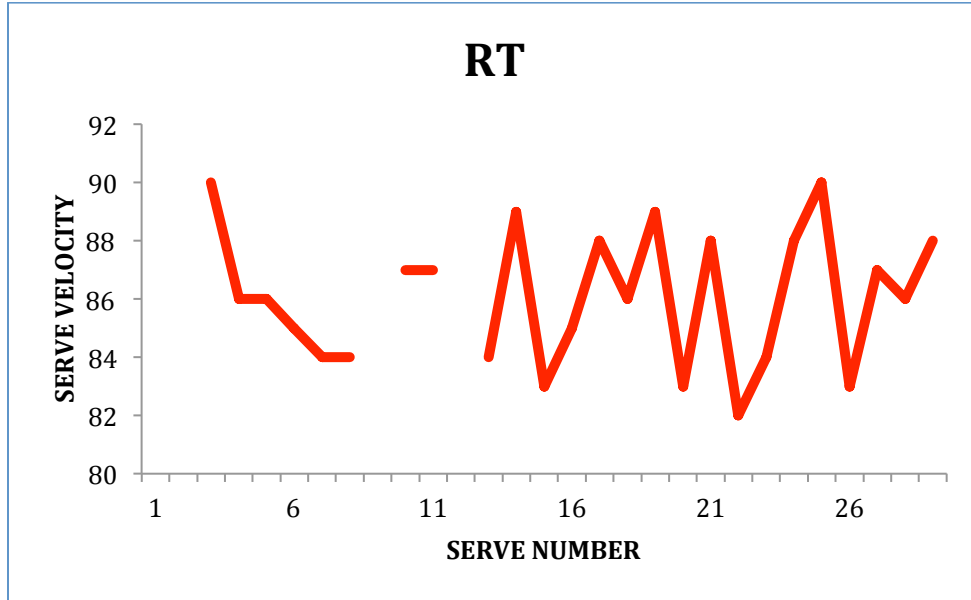


Figure 15: Serving velocity data for club tennis participant RT

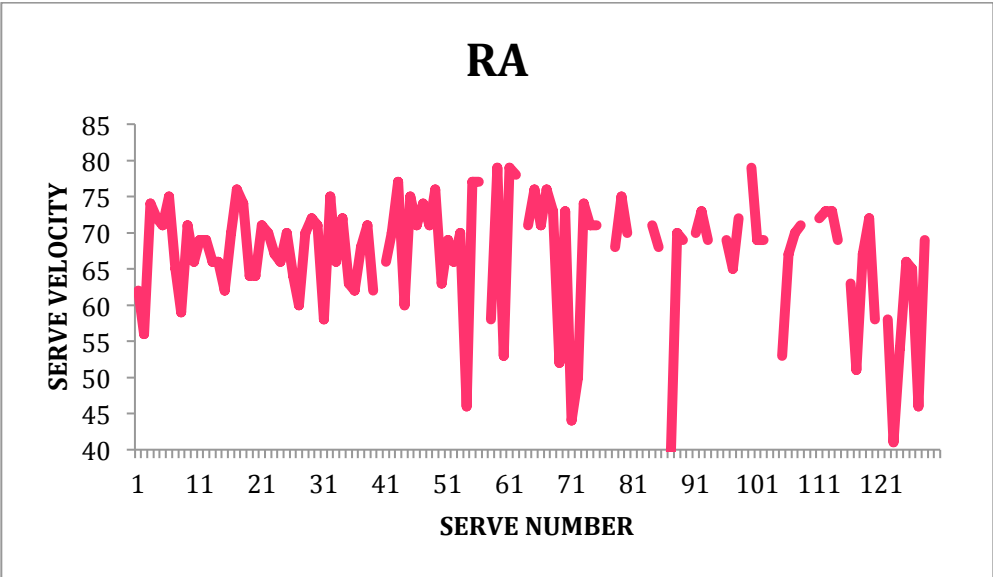


Figure 16: Serving velocity data for club tennis participant RA

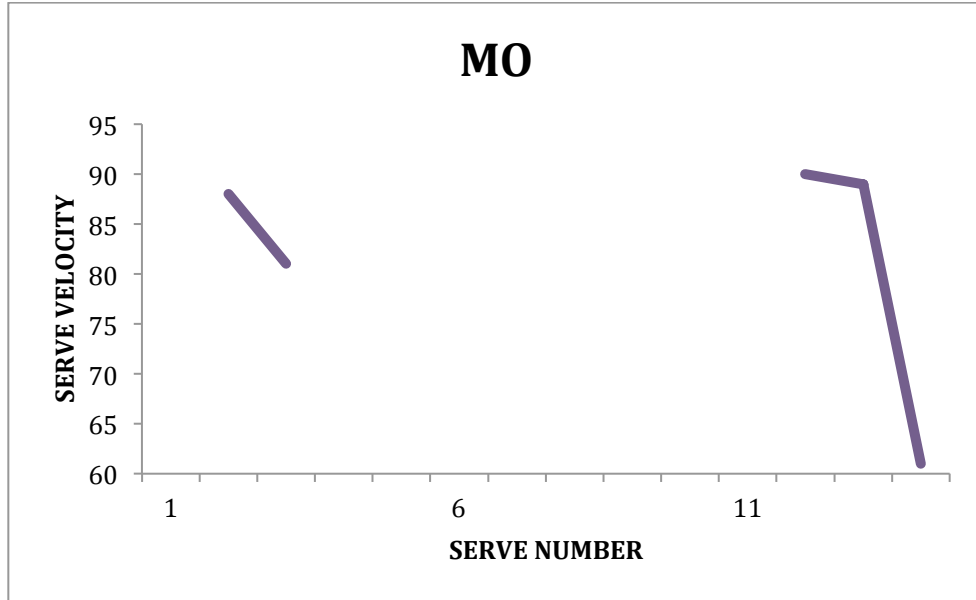


Figure 17: Serving velocity data for intercollegiate participate MO

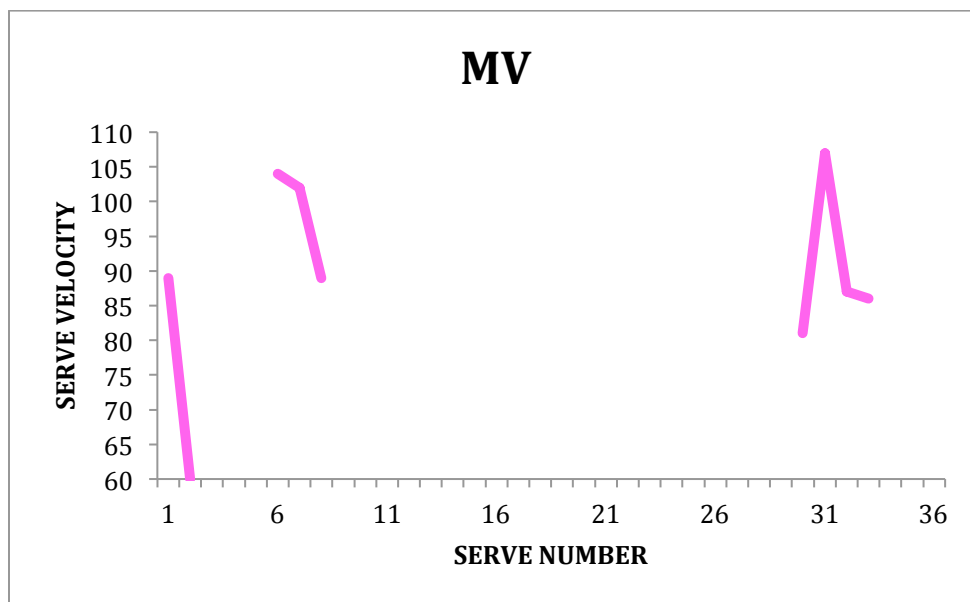


Figure 18: Serving velocity data for intercollegiate participate MV

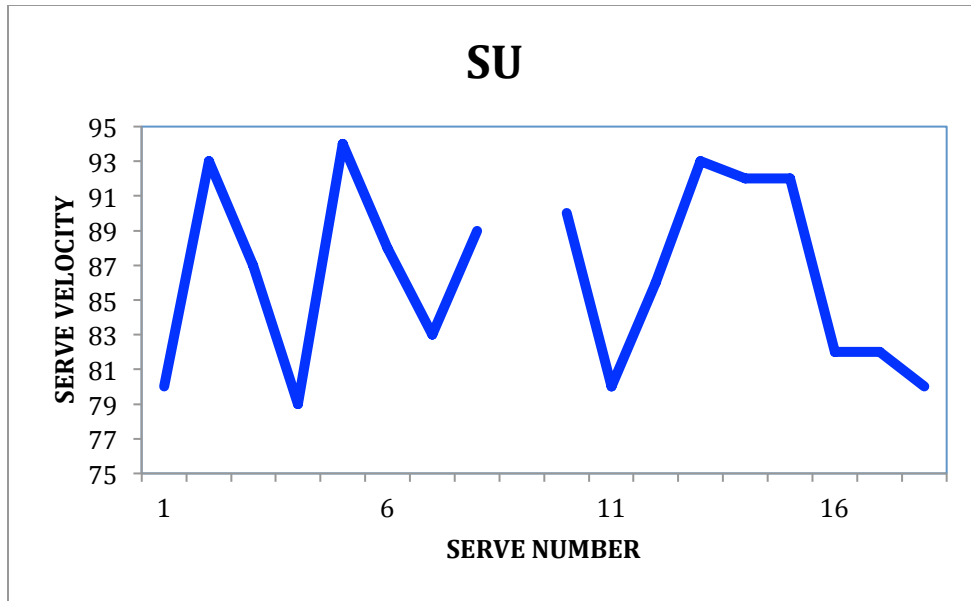


Figure 19: Serving velocity data for club tennis participate SU

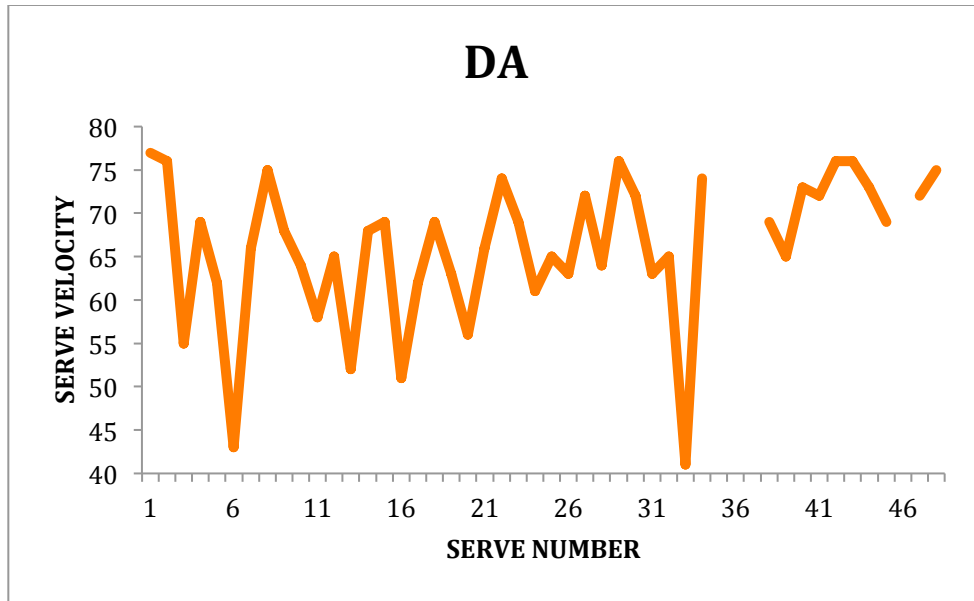


Figure 20: Serving velocity data for club tennis participate SU

APPENDIX D
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD FORMS

1. Culham E, Peat M. Functional anatomy of the shoulder complex. *The Journal of orthopaedic and sports physical therapy* 1993;18(1):342-50.
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