

# THE EFFECTS OF EXERCISE RECOVERY PATTERNS ON LACTATE REMOVAL AND SUBSEQUENT MAXIMUM ANAEROBIC PERFORMANCE

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#### ABSTRACT

The primary purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of recovery patterns upon blood lactate concentrations following supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work. A second purpose was to investigate the effects of blood lactate concentrations upon subsequent supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work. A third purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of recovery patterns upon subsequent supramaximal anaerobic ergometric work.

Nine females at Appalachian State University volunteered as subjects to complete four experimental conditions. Each subject completed two tests of supramaximal arm ergometric work. During each experimental condition one of four recovery patterns was utilized in the procedure. Blood samples for the purpose of determining lactate concentrations, were taken four times during each experimental condition. Heart rate and cumulative pedal revolutions were recorded by tensecond intervals during all experimental conditions.

Findings were illustrated through the use of scatter plot graphs to analyze mean values for blood lactate concentrations and cumulative pedal revolutions

during the four experimental conditions. A trend appeared favoring passive recovery of a shorter duration for dissipating lactic acid; however, another trend emerged favoring active recovery patterns of longer duration as being equal or slightly better for the purpose of dissipating lactic acid. There was not a noticeable trend favoring any one recovery pattern for increasing work performance on a subsequent anaerobic test. There appeared to be a trend that indicates increased levels of lactic acid in the body would not necessarily be detrimental to subsequent anaerobic exercise performed with the arms.

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#### DEDICATION

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#### CHAPTER I

#### INTRODUCTION

In total carbohydrate combustion, there is an initial anaerobic sequence followed by an aerobic phase. It is the availability of oxygen in the cell which determines the extent to which the metabolic processes can proceed aerobically and anaerobically (2: 18-19).

At the commencement of exercise, even if the intensity was below 60 to 70 percent of maximal oxygen uptake, some anaerobic metabolism would occur during the first 45 to 60 seconds, while the cardiac output would be adjusted from a resting condition to the level required by the work load. The increasing severity of exercise would cause adencine diphosphate accumulation. The breakdown of glycogen would be accelerated and an increase in the reduction of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide.

At a critical intensity, the oxygen transporting system would not provide sufficient oxygen to the cells, and a portion of the pyruvic acid which was formed, in addition to the oxygen, would act as a hydrogen acceptor. Under such conditions some of the co-enzyme

nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (reduced), would be reoxidized anaerobically by pyruvate which would be transformed to lactic acid, and the remainder reoxidized in the mitochondria aerobically. If the work were further intensified, a larger accumulation of lactic acid would be formed (2: 30-31).

High intensity exercise has resulted in the production of lactic acid (15, 25), which inhibits the mobilization of free fatty acids or the activity of glycolytic enzymes such as lactate dehydrogenase and phosphofructokinase (4: 932-6). Astrand and Rodahl (1977) recommended that at least one hour was needed between high intensity events to permit lactate removal from the body to be completed (2: 312-3). The removal of lactic acid after intense exercise, through a successful recovery technique, may therefore, be critical for the resumption of subsequent anaerobic exercise, particularly during athletic competition (40: 786-95).

Training has often been reported to increase an athlete's capacity to produce lactic acid during maximal exercise. This greater production of lactic acid has been associated with increased maximal work capacity and a delayed enset of fatigue. It could therefore be deduced that lactic acid may not be the cause of fatigue (3: 184-7).

However, untrained subjects in studies that showed a training effect on maximal lactic acid accumulation were inadequately motivated to continue working, and the training effect was due to an improved motivation to continue in the face of increasing discomfort. Accordingly, there are two explanations to any training effect on maximal lactic acid accumulation. First, training either improved motivation, or a tolerance to lactic acid, or secondly, more lactic acid can be produced in a conditioned athlete as a result of the greater stores of glycogen available during anaerobic breakdown (2: 598-602).

It has been shown that blood lactate levels are reduced faster if moderate aerobic exercise were performed during the recovery period (3, 9, 10, 23, 32, 40). Proponents of active recovery believed that this augmented "total recovery," because of the increased heart rate and oxygen uptake (28: 153-61).

Sharkey (36: 26-30) has stated that the total anaerobic system was essential to the competitive nature of sport in society today. Weltman et al (1977) have investigated the effects of different recovery patterns on lactate removal and subsequent performance (40: 786-95). It appears that little is known about recovery from maximal intensity

anaerobic activity utilizing arm work as the criterion exercise.

## Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of recovery techniques upon the level of blood lactate following supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work. A second purpose was to investigate the effects of blood lactate levels upon subsequent supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work. A third purpose was to analyze the effects of recovery techniques upon subsequent supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work.

### Definition of Terms

Anaerobic Metabolism - Anaerobic metabolism referred to the chemical interaction without oxygen, for the production of energy during exercise in the skeletal muscles.

<u>Lactate</u> - Lactate was the fatiguing metabolite of the lactic acid system, resulting from the incomplete breakdown of glucose.

Supramaximal Performance - Supramaximal performance was defined as a maximum voluntary effort of pedaling an arm ergometer for one minute for the purpose of accumulating as many pedal revolutions as possible.

### Delimitations

Appalachian State University completed four experimental conditions on separate days. During each experimental condition, each subject completed two tests of supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometer work; each test was separated by one of four recovery techniques. Blood samples for the purpose of determining lactic acid were taken four times during each experimental condition. Heart rate and cumulative pedal revolutions were recorded by ten-second intervals during each experimental condition.

## Limitations

Due to the unanticipated problem of collapsed blood vessels, three subjects did not complete all four experimental conditions. While maximum effort was asked for during all anaerobic performances, it was possible that some subjects did not give maximum effort.

#### CHAPTER II

#### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The review of related literature was divided into the following subheadings: studies related to lactate accumulation as the cause of muscular fatigue; studies related to the optimal recovery patterns for lactate removal; studies related to the effects of fiber types upon lactate removal; studies related to lactate release from muscles; studies related to the importance of body organs in lactate removal; and studies related to other factors affecting lactate removal and subsequent performance.

# Studies Related to Lactate Accumulation as the Cause of Muscular Fatigue

The theory that lactate acid accumulation in the muscles limits muscular performance has been widely held since 1935 (3, 18, 22, 31). However, there have been recent questions related to this theory.

Lamb (1978) stated that lactic acid accumulation was related to the intensity of the work load and that lactic acid levels were usually high during exhaustion (31: 184-7). However, Hultman et al (1973) showed that the total amount of lactic acid accumulated was

not greatest at the time of fatigue, but at approximately 50 percent of maximal voluntary contraction, which can be held for 90 to 100 seconds (20: 113-25).

Hultman et al (1973) argued that training has been reported to increase a subject's capacity to produce lactic acid during high intensity exercise. As a result, a greater production of lactic acid was associated with an increase in work capacity, and a delayed onset of fatigue. Therefore, lactic acid accumulation may not be the cause of muscular fatigue (20: 113-25).

Lamb (1978) suggested that many young and old subjects experience fatigue earlier in endurance activities than subjects between 20 and 30 years of age who have been shown to have lower lactic acid levels in their blood at exhaustion. Although it may be conceived that there may be some aging effect upon muscular sensitivity to lactic acid, a more practical explanation may be that lactic acid was not the cause of fatigue (31: 184-7).

### Studies Related to Optimal Recovery Patterns for Lactate Removal

There have been two studies investigating optimal recovery patterns from maximal exercise (26, 27).

Numerous studies have indicated that lactate removal was enhanced during moderate aerobic activity, as

opposed to a passive recovery (4, 6, 9, 10, 16). In addition, Belcastro and Bonen (1975) stated that when recovery exercise was intermittent the lactate removal was faster than at rest, but slower than during continuous recovery exercise (4: 176-78).

passive recovery from short term supramaximal exercise. The analysis of gross VO<sub>2</sub> and heart rate recovery data for the active and passive conditions revealed statistically significant differences in the analysis of gross VO<sub>2</sub> with the active recovery scores being higher. The conclusion was drawn that the more oxygen made available during active aerobic recovery, the greater the lactate removal (28: 153-61).

Weltman et al (1977), in a study on the effects of different recovery patterns from high intensity short duration exercise on lactate removal and subsequent exercise, revealed significant differences. The 20 minute active recovery resulted in significantly higher post-recovery revolutions (p=.001) and enhanced rates of lactate removal during recovery (40: 786-95). Similar observations were concluded by Karlson and Saltin (27: 598-602).

# Studies Related to the Effects of Fiber Types Upon Lactate Removal

In studies by Bonen and Belcastro (4, 6), significant differences in lactate removal rates among

subjects have been observed. Bonen and Belcastro (1976) proposed that such differences were related to the slow-twitch fiber composition of skeletal muscles, since slow-twitch fibers have a greater relative activity of the heart specific isozymes of lactate dehydrogenase (6: 176-78). Ivy et al (1980) stated that when there was a greater proportion of slow-twitch fibers the removal of lactate from the blood greatly accelerated, particularly during active recovery exercise (27: 523-7). Similar conclusions were made by Bonen et al (7: 160-62).

Tesch et al (1978), in a study on muscle fatigue and its relation to lactate accumulation and lactate dehyrogenase activity in man, concluded that lactate or associated pH changes primarily in fast-twitch fibers could be one factor responsible for impaired muscle function (38: 413-20). Tesch (1978) found a significant relationship between lactic acid concentrations and performance times (r=.76). The conclusion made suggested that the high ability to form lactate may have been one contributing factor to anaerobic performance capacity (37: 373-4).

# Studies Related to Lactate Release From the Muscle

McGrail et al (1978) suggested that the quantity of active muscle controlled the rate of lactate removal

in man (32: 89-97). Belcastro and Bonen (1975) verified this statement in a study which found the optimal disappearance of blood lactate was significantly faster during running than cycling (4: 932-36). Similar conclusions were made by Hermansen and Stensvold (16: 191-201).

Jorfeldt et al (1978) demonstrated that lactate release by the muscle was impaired at high work loads, whereas this did not occur during light or moderate exercise. It was therefore suggested that a similar relationship might exist in lactic acid uptake by the blood (25: 350-52). Hermansen and Vaage (1977) did find significant results which indicated that blood lactate was impaired during high work loads (17: E422-E429).

## Studies Related to the Importance of Body Organs in Lactate Removal

Davies et al (1970) demonstrated the importance of the liver in the elimination of lactate during exercise (9: 155-61). In addition to the liver the skeletal muscles and other organs were capable of removing lactate during muscular work (16, 21, 24, 30).

Ahlborg et al (1975) indicated that the resting muscle exhibited considerable metabolic activity; therefore, the "resting" muscle could be mimicking an active recovery (1: 718-23), and according to Bonen

et al (1978), the "resting" muscle takes up a significant proportion of the lactic acid in man (7: 160-62).

# Studies Related to Other Factors Affecting Lactate Removal and Subsequent Performance

Hagberg et al (1980) indicated that the most effective rate of lactate removal occurred between 30-70% of the individual's maximum oxygen uptake depending on the condition of the individual (13: 218-24).

Previous studies have made similar observations (4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 40).

Weltman et al (1977) stated that the optimal level of active recovery in terms of metabolic load would depend upon the level of conditioning of the individual (40: 786-95). Similar observations were made by Tibes et al (39: 127-40).

Williams et al (1967) stated that the optimal level of recovery would be just below the anaerobic threshold. A conditioned subject has a higher threshold value and should be capable of actively recovering at a higher metabolic load before reaching anaerobic threshold (41: 18-23).

Klausen et al (1972), in a study on the effects of pre-existing high blood lactate concentrations upon maximal exercise performance, proposed that the existence of high blood lactate concentrations prior

to exhaustive exercise did not affect  $v0_2$  max. However it could inhibit further lactate production in the exercising muscles (29: 415-19).

Astrand and Rodahl (1977) stated that one hour or more was needed for recovery before resting lactate values were reached (2: 313). However, Weltman et al (1977) found that considerable less recovery time was necessary to obtain initial exercise performance values. The data suggested that while active recovery resulted in increased lactate removal, other factors were available to allow for subsequent performance (40: 786-95).

#### Summary

The primary purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of recovery techniques upon blood lactate levels following supramaximal arm ergometric work. The related literature showed that eight studies found lactate removal could be enhanced by utilizing an active recovery.

The second purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of blood lactate levels upon supramaximal arm ergometric work. The related literature showed that only one study had looked at the effects of blood lactate levels upon subsequent anaerobic exercise. However, thirteen studies stated that other

factors were involved to allow for subsequent performance.

The third purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of recovery techniques upon subsequent supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work. The related literature showed that only one study had investigated the effects of recovery techniques upon subsequent anaerobic performance.

#### CHAPTER III

#### PROCEDURES

Nine females at Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina, volunteered as subjects to complete four experimental conditions during the 1981 Spring Semester. Each subject completed two tests of supramaximal arm ergometric work during each experimental condition which was separated by one of four recovery patterns. Blood samples for the purpose of determining lactate concentrations were taken four times during each experimental condition. Heart rate and cumulative pedal revolutions were recorded in ten second intervals during all anaerobic performances.

# Selection of Subjects

A random sampling by computer was initially used to select subjects. However with the lack of numbers, nine females at Appalachian State University volunteered as subjects to complete four experimental conditions. A consent form was signed by each subject prior to testing. (See appendix A).

### Orientation

All testing procedures were carried out under medical supervision in the Human Performance Laboratory at Appalachian State University. Subjects were asked to report to the Human Performance Laboratory in locsefitting clothing and running shoes only. (See appendix B). At the commencement of the first session, data characterizing subjects were recorded, data which included: age, height, weight, and predicted  $v_0$  max. (See appendix C).

## Equipment

### Monark Arm Ergometer

The Monark Arm Ergometer\* was used to obtain desired work loads during anaerobic exercise and during the active recovery patterns.

### Metronome

A Franz metronome was used to set the correct revolutions per minute during the active recovery patterns.

<sup>\*</sup> Monark Arm Ergometer may be purchased from Quinton Instruments, 2121 Terry Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98121.

<sup>#</sup> Metronome, model no. IM-F3-4, may be purchased from Franz Manufacturing Company, Inc., Printers Lane, South Boulevard, New Haven, Connecticut 06519.

#### Stopwatch

A stopwatch was used to time specific intervals of work and rest in the study.

# Cumulative Revolution Recorder and Microswitch

The Heath Servo Recorder\* and the microswitch were used to record the number of revolutions made during initial and subsequent anaerobic performance.

# Procedure for Preparation of Subject for Collection of Blood Samples

All subjects were prepared for collecting blood samples by two qualified nurses.

- A surface vein on the anterior side of the forearm was determined as the most suitable site for collecting blood samples.
- 2. The vein was sought by applying a tourniquet around the upper arm.
- 3. A butterfly clip was inserted into the vein and secured to the forearm.

<sup>\*</sup> Heath Servo Recorder, model no. EUW-20A, may be purchased from Denton Harbour, Michigan.

<sup>/</sup> Microswitch, model no. BZ-2RW82-A2, may be purchased from Brownell Electro, Inc., 5141 Belhaven Blvd., Charlotte, North Carolina 28216.

F Venipuncture Procedure Kit, model no. 2687, may be purchased from Abbott Laboratories, N. Chicago, Illinois 60064.

4. All blood samples for each experimental condition were taken by insertion of a syringe into the butterfly clip.

# Procedure for Supramaximal Anaerobic Testing

Prior to commencement of testing, each subject was seated at the arm ergometer, and adjustments were made to the height of the seat and distance from the ergometer. Subjects were connected to a three-lead electrocardiogram for monitoring heart rate.

- Each subject completed an initial one-minute all-out anaerobic test on the arm ergometer at a resistance of two kiloponds.
- 2. At the completion of the initial exercise bout, subjects rested for a five-minute latent period, followed by one of four recovery patterns.
- After completion of the recovery period, the subjects underwent a subsequent all-out anaerobic test at a resistance of two kiloponds.

# Procedures for Passive and Active Recovery Patterns

Upon completion of each initial bout of supramaximal exercise, each subject was involved in one of the following recovery patterns:

Experimental Condition One: Active Recovery ~ The subject pedaled an arm ergometer at 25 revolutions per minute with .5 kiloponds resistance for ten minutes.

Experimental Condition Two: Active Recovery-The subject pedaled an arm ergometer at 25 revolutions per minute with .5 kiloponds resistance for five minutes.

Experimental Condition Three: Passive Recovery-The subject sat quietly at the arm ergometer for ten minutes.

Experimental Condition Four: Passive Recovery-The subject sat quietly at the arm ergometer for five minutes.

# Procedure for Collecting Blood Samples

One milliliter of blood was drawn from a surface vein on the anterior side of the forearm four times during each experimental condition undergone by the subject.

- 1. The blood samples were drawn at the following intervals:
  - (a) prior to the initial exercise bout;
  - (b) five minutes following the initial

exercise bout;

- (c) immediately after the recovery period;
- (d) five minutes following the subsequent exercise bout.
- 2. Each blood sample was immediately added to a test tube containing two milliliters of seven percent perchloric acid and shaken vigorously for 30 seconds.\*
- Samples were kept in ice for approximately two hours before being assayed for lactic acid.

## Procedure for Recording Heart Rates

Heart rate readings were recorded as a precautionary measure every ten seconds during the initial and subsequent maximal anaerobic performances. Subjects were prepared for electrocardiogram readings in the following manner:

- 1. Subject should be rested in a supine position prior to preparation for electrode placement.
- The fifth or sixth rib on both sides of the chest were marked, as was the sternum.

<sup>\*</sup> Supermixer, catalogue no. 1290, may be purchased from Lab-Line Instruments, Inc., Melrose Park, Illinois 60161.

from Burdick Corporation, Milton, Wisconsin 53563.

- 3. The surface area was cleaned in a circular motion with cotton wool and Redux paste to remove the first subcutaneous layer of skin.
- 4. A cleaned lead electrode was attached with an adhesive patch to the prepared surface area.
- 5. Once electrodes were placed on skin, a preamplifier was attached to the subject's back.
- 6. All electrode connections were brought over subject's shoulders after having been attached to either the sternum or rib cage.
- Excess wire connections were secured to the body using adhesive tape.
- 8. An elastic bandage was wrapped around the subject's torso to secure preamplifier and wires.
- 9. The preamplifier was then connected to the electrocardiogram.

# Procedure for Recording Cumulative Pedal Revolutions

Cumulative pedal revolutions were recorded on charted paper every ten seconds during the initial and subsequent maximal anaerobic performances. (See appendix D). Revolutions were monitored by a microswitch activated by each pedal revolution, subsequently

recorded on a revolution counter attached to a kymograph.

#### Procedure for Assaying Blood for Lactic Acid

hours, then placed in a safety centrifuge equipped with a sensimicrohead (for 13 x 100 mm test tubes), and centrifuged at 1000 revolutions per minute for ten minutes.\* A .2 milliliter of clear supernatant was added to 2.8 milliliters of enzyme solution. The supernatant was assayed for lactic acid using the commercial kit described in Sigma Bulletin No. 826-W.U. The supernatent was incubated at room temperature for one hour to allow for enzyme activity. Samples were placed in a spectophotometer, and absorbance values were read at the A340 level. Readings were computed by comparing the absorbance values with values for standard lactic acid solutions utilizing the normal curve, and recorded in milligrams percent. (See appendix F).

<sup>\*</sup> A Flescher Safety Centrifuge, model no. IEC, may be purchased from International Equipment Co., Heedham Heights, Maryland 02194.

A Refer to Appendix E for preparation of testing solutions.

Spectophotometer, model no. Spectronic 21, may be purchased from Bausch and Lomb Analytical Systems Division, Rochester, New York 14625.

#### Analysis of Data

After preliminary investigation the original linear statistical model was found to be inappropriate for the data collected, due to the within variance of the subjects; thus an alternative method utilizing scatter plot graphs was used. The analysis of mean values for blood lactate concentrations during four experimental conditions was illustrated through the use of scatter plot graphs to compare: experimental conditions one and three; experimental conditions two and four; experimental conditions one and two, and experimental conditions three and four.

The analysis of mean values for cumulative pedal revolutions during four experimental conditions was illustrated through the use of scatter plot graphs to compare: initial and subsequent mean performance scores during experimental condition one; initial and subsequent mean performance scores during experimental condition two; initial and subsequent mean performance scores during experimental condition three, and initial and subsequent mean performance scores during experimental condition three, and initial and subsequent mean performance scores during experimental condition four.

#### CHAPTER IV

#### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of recovery patterns upon blood lactate concentrations following supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work. A second purpose was to investigate the effects of blood lactate concentrations upon subsequent supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work. A third purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of recovery patterns upon subsequent supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work.

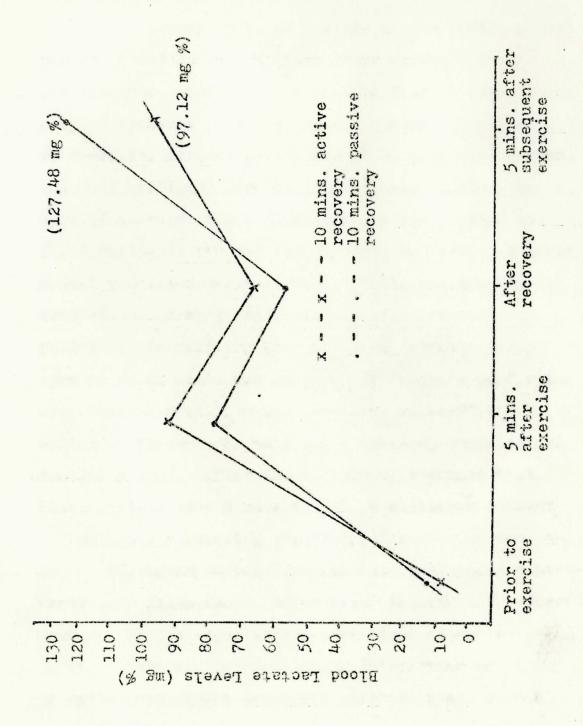
Nine females at Appalachian State University volunteered as subjects to complete four experimental conditions. Each subject completed two tests of supramaximal arm ergometric work during each experimental condition, separated by one of four recovery patterns. Blood samples for the purpose of determining lactate concentrations were taken four times during each experimental condition. Heart rate and cumulative pedal revolutions were recorded by ten second intervals during all anaerobic performances.

# Analysis of Mean Values for Blood Lactate Levels During Four Experimental Conditions

An Analysis of Blood Lactate Levels During Experimental Conditions One and Three

In comparing blood lactate levels during experimental condition one (a ten-minute active recovery pattern) and experimental condition three (a ten-minute passive recovery pattern) it was observed that prior to exercise, lactate levels were 11.49 milligram percent and 14.08 milligram percent respectively. After the initial exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 92.09 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and 77.33 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three. Following the recovery period, blood lactate levels dropped to 65.04 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and 55.86 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three. After the subsequent exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 97.12 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and 127.48 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three. It was observed that an interaction occurred between the two experimental conditions, after the subsequent anaerobic exercise bout, as can be seen in Figure 1.

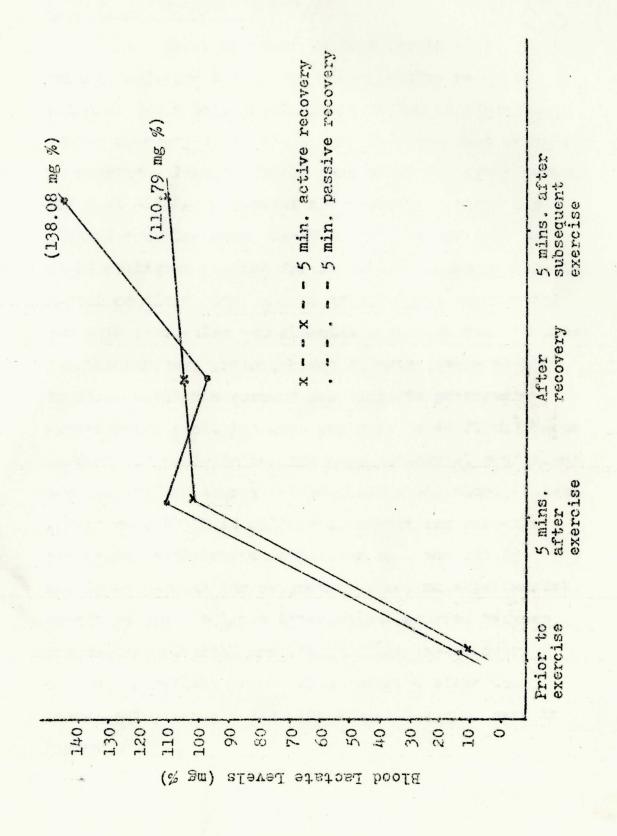
Fig. 1. The Mean Values for Blood Lactate Concentrations During Experimental Conditions One and Three



An Analysis of Blood Lactate Levels During Experimental Conditions Two and Four

In comparing blood lactate levels during experimental condition two (a five-minute active recovery pattern) and experimental condition four (a five-minute passive recovery pattern), it was observed that prior to exercise, lactate levels were 8.91 milligram percent and 9.66 milligram percent respectively. After the initial exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 98.49 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two, and 101.04 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four. Following the recovery period, blood lactate levels rose to 99.21 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two, and dropped to 90,40 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four. After the subsequent exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 110.79 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two, and 138.08 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four. An observed interaction occurred between the two experimental conditions after the recovery period. An even larger interaction occurred after the subsequent anaerobic exercise bout, as can be seen in Figure 2.

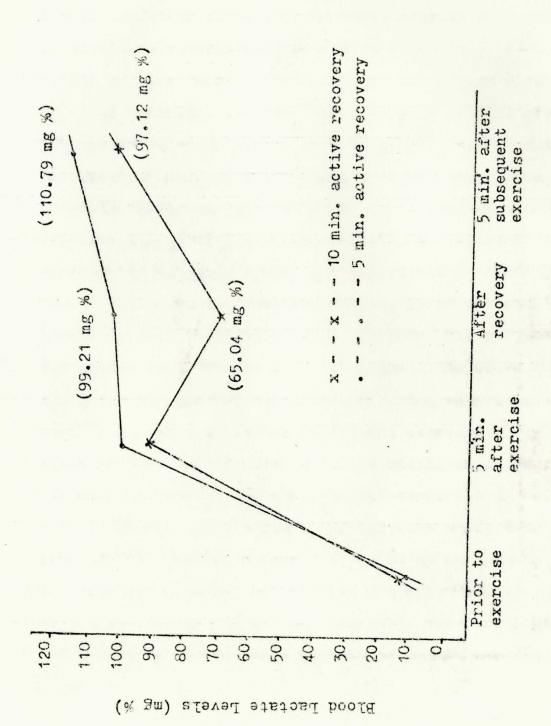
Fig. 2. The Mean Values for Blood Lactate Concentrations During Experimental Conditions Two and Four



### An Analysis of Blood Lactate Levels During Experimental Conditions One and Two

In comparing blood lactate levels during experimental condition one (a ten-minute active recovery pattern) and experimental condition two (a five-minute active recovery pattern), it was observed that prior to exercise, lactate levels were 11.49 milligram percent and 8.91 milligram percent respectively. After the initial exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 92.09 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and 98.49 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two. Following the recovery period, blood lactate levels dropped to 65.04 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and rose to 99.21 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two. After the subsequent exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 97.12 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and 110.79 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two. A large interaction occurred between the two experimental conditions after the recovery period. A smaller interaction occurred after the subsequent anaerobic exercise bout, as can be seen in Figure 3.

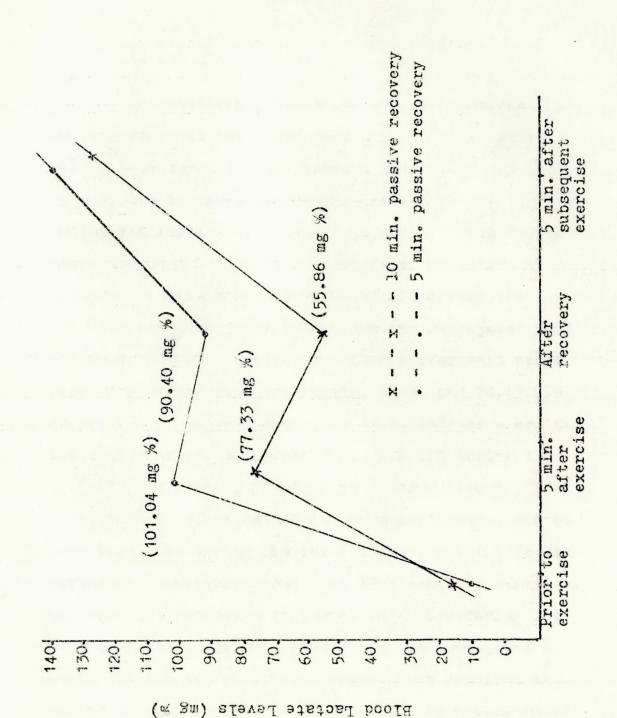
Fig. 3. The Mean Values for Blood Lactate Concentrations During Experimental Conditions One and Two.



An Analysis of Blood Lactate Levels During Experimental Conditions Three and Four

In comparing blood lactate levels during experimental condition three (a ten-minute passive recovery pattern) and experimental condition four ( a fiveminute passive recovery pattern), it was observed that prior to exercise, lactate levels were 14.08 milligram percent and 9.66 milligram percent respectively. After the initial exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 77.33 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three, and 101.04 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four. Following the recovery period, blood lactate levels dropped to 55.86 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three, and 90.40 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four. After the subsequent exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 127.48 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three, and 138.08 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four. It could be seen that interactions occurred between the two experimental conditions, after the initial anaerobic exercise bout, and following the recovery period, as can be seen in Figure 4.

Fig. 4. The Mean Values for Blood Lactate Concentrations During Experimental Conditions Three and Four.

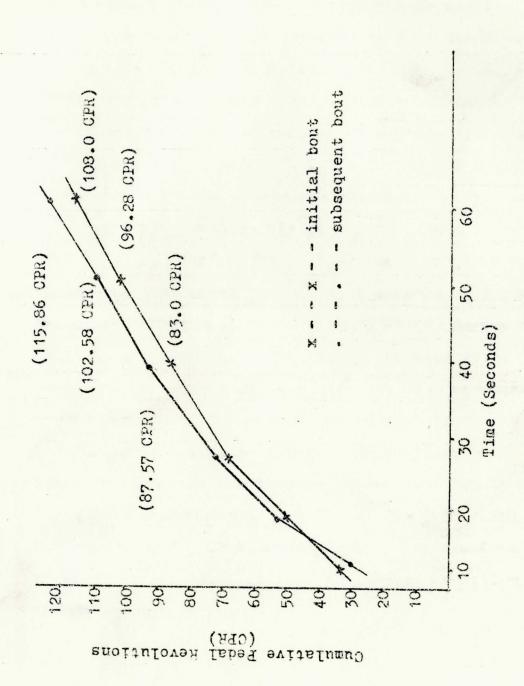


### Analysis of Mean Values for Cumulative Pedal Revolutions During Four Experimental Conditions

An Analysis of Initial and Subsequent Performance Scores During Experimental Condition One

In analyzing cumulative pedal revolutions (CPR) for experimental condition one, a ten-minute active recovery pattern, it was observed that at ten seconds of exercise the mean performance scores were 27.33 CPR during the initial exercise bout, and 27.0 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 20 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 49.43 CPR during the initial bout, and 50.57 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 30 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 67.86 CPR during the initial bout, and 70.43 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 40 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 83.0 CPR during the initial bout, and 87.57 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 50 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 96.28 CPR during the initial bout, and 102.58 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 60 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 108.0 CPR during the initial bout, and 115.86 CPR during the subsequent bout. It was observed that interactions occurred at 40, 50, and 60 seconds during exercise in experimental condition one, as can be seen in Figure 5.

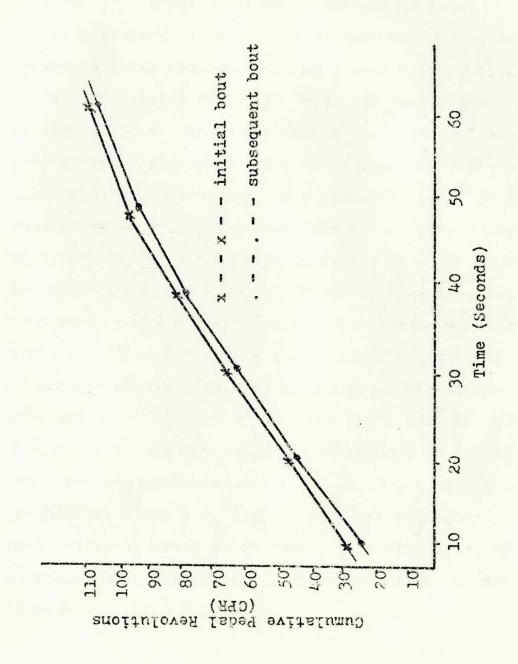
Fig. 5. The Mean Values for Cumulative Pedal Revolutions During Experimental Condition One.



An Analysis of Initial and Subsequent Performance Scores During Experimental Condition Two

In analyzing cumulative pedal revolutions for experimental condition two, a five-minute active recovery pattern, it was observed that at ten seconds of exercise the mean performance scores were 28.85 CPR during the initial bout, and 24.71 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 20 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 47.71 CPR during the initial bout, and 46.63 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 30 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 65.71 CPR during the initial bout, and 65.0 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 40 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 81.41 CFR during the initial bout, and 80.86 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 50 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 95.43 CPR during the initial bout, and 95.0 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 60 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 108.14 CPR during the initial bout, and 107.86 CPR during the subsequent bout. It appeared that no interactions occurred during exercise in experimental condition two, as can be seen in Figure 6.

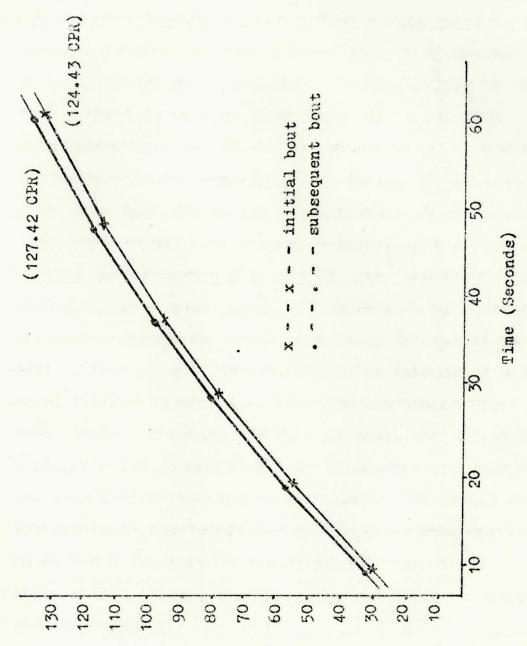
Fig. 6. The Mean Values for Cumulative Pedal Revolutions During Experimental Condition Two.



An Analysis of Initial and Subsequent Performance Scores During Experimental Condition Three

In analyzing cumulative pedal revolutions for experimental condition three, a ten-minute passive recovery pattern, it was observed that at 10 seconds of exercise the mean performance scores were 30.71 CPR during the initial bout, and 31,14 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 20 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 54.71 CPR during the initial bout, and 56.0 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 30 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 75.57 CPR during the initial bout, and 76.43 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 40 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 94.0 CPR during the initial bout, and 95.15 CPR during the subsequent bout. 50 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 110.29 CPR during the initial bout, and 112.29 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 60 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 124.43 CPR during the initial bout, and 127.42 CPR during the subsequent bout. A small interaction occurred at 60 seconds of exercise during experimental condition three, as can be seen in Figure 7.

Fig. 7. The Mean Values for Cumulative Pedal Revolutions During Experimental Condition Three

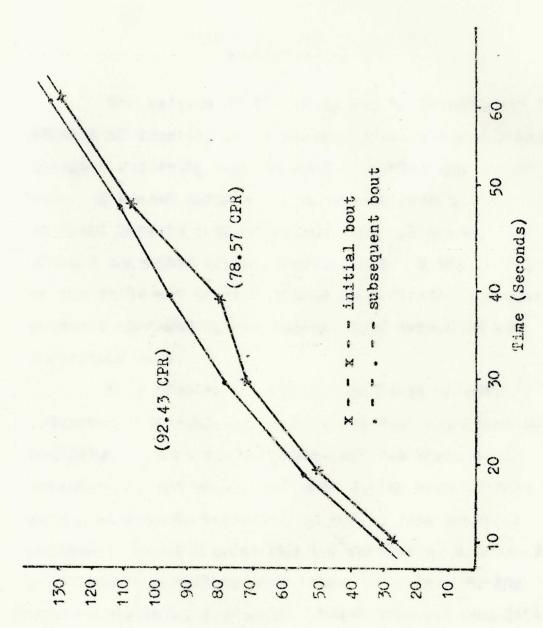


Cumulative Pedal Revolutions (CPA)

An Analysis of Initial and Subsequent Performance Scores During Experimental Condition Four

In analyzing cumulative pedal revolutions for experimental condition four, a five-minute passive recovery pattern, it was observed that at 10 seconds of exercise the mean performance scores were 26.57 CPR during the initial bout, and 29.28 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 20 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 50.57 CPR during the initial bout, and 53.57 CPR during the subsequent bout. 30 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 71.43 CPR during the initial bout, and 74.43 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 40 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 78.57 CPR during the initial bout, and 92.43 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 50 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 106.14 CPR during the initial bout, and 108.29 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 60 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 120.86 CPR during the initial bout, and 122.71 CPR during the subsequent bout. An observed interaction occurred at 40 seconds of exercise during experimental condition four, as can be seen in Figure 8.

Fig. 8. The Mean Values for Cumulative Pedal Revolutions During Experimental Condition Four



Cumulative Pedal Revolutions (CPR)

#### CHAPTER V

# FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of recovery patterns upon blood lactate concentrations following supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work. A second purpose was to investigate the effects of blood lactate concentrations upon subsequent supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work. A third purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of recovery patterns upon subsequent supramaximal anaerobic arm ergometric work.

Nine females at Appalachian State University volunteered as subjects to complete four experimental conditions. Each subject completed two tests of supramaximal arm ergometric work during each experimental condition, separated by one of four recovery patterns. Blood samples for the purpose of determining lactate concentrations were taken four times during each experimental condition. Heart rate and cumulative pedal revolutions were recorded by ten-second intervals during all anaerobic performances.

Analysis of mean values for blood lactate concentrations and cumulative pedal revolutions were

illustrated through the use of scatter plot graphs.

# Findings

The findings in the study were as follows:

- 1. In comparing blood lactate levels during experimental condition one (a ten-minute active recovery pattern) and experimental condition three (a ten-minute passive recovery pattern), it was observed that prior to exercise, lactate levels were 11.49 milligram percent and 14.08 milligram percent respectively. After the initial exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 92.09 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and 77.33 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three. Following the recovery period, blood lactate levels dropped to 65.04 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and 55.86 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three. After the subsequent exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 97.12 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and 127.48 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three.
- In comparing blood lactate levels during experimental condition two (a five-minute active recovery pattern)

and experimental condition four (a five-minute passive recovery pattern), it was observed that prior to exercise, lactate levels were 8.91 milligram percent and 9.66 milligram percent respectively. After the initial exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 98,49 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two, and 101.04 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four. Following the recovery period, blood lactate levels rose to 99.21 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two, and dropped to 90.40 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four. After the subsequent exercise bout. blood lactate levels rose to 110.79 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two, and 138.08 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four.

3. In comparing blood lactate levels during experimental condition one (a ten-minute active recovery pattern) and experimental condition two (a five-minute active recovery pattern), it was observed that prior to exercise, lactate levels were 11.49 milligram percent and 8.91 milligram percent respectively. After the initial exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 92.09 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and 98.49 milligram

percent for subjects performing experimental condition two. Following the recovery period, blood lactate levels dropped to 65.04 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one and rose to 99.21 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two. After the subsequent bout, blood lactate levels rose to 97.12 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition one, and 110.79 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition two.

4. In comparing blood lactate levels during experimental condition three (a ten-minute passive recovery pattern) and experimental condition four (a five-minute passive recovery pattern), it was observed that prior to exercise, lactate levels were 14.08 milligram percent and 9.66 milligram percent respectively. After the initial exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 77.33 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three, and 101,04 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four. Following the recovery period, blood lactate levels dropped to 55.86 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three, and 90.40 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four. After the subsequent

- exercise bout, blood lactate levels rose to 127.48 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition three, and 138.08 milligram percent for subjects performing experimental condition four.
- 5. In analyzing cumulative pedal revolutions (CPR) for experimental condition one during a ten-minute active recovery pattern, it was observed that at 10 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 27.33 CPR during the initial exercise bout, and 27.0 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 20 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 49.43 CPR during the initial bout and 50.57 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 30 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 67.86 CPR during the initial bout, and 70.43 during the subsequent bout. At 40 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 83.0 CPR during the initial bout and 87.57 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 50 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 96.28 CPR during the initial bout, and 102.58 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 60 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 108.0 CPR during the initial bout, and 115.86 CPR during the subsequent bout.
- In analyzing cumulative pedal revolutions for experimental condition two, a five-minute active

recovery pattern, it was observed that at ten seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 28.85 CPR during the initial bout, and 24.71 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 20 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 47.71 CPR during the initial bout, and 46.63 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 30 seconds of exercise. the mean performance scores were 65.71 CPR during the initial bout, and 65.0 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 40 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 81.41 CPR during the initial bout, and 80.86 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 50 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 95.43 CPR during the initial bout, and 95.0 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 60 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 108.14 CPR during the initial bout, and 107.86 during the subsequent bout.

7. In analyzing cumulative pedal revolutions for experimental condition three, a ten-minute passive recovery pattern, it was observed that at ten seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 50.71 during the initial bout, and 31.14 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 20 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 54.71 CPR during the initial bout, and 56.0 CPR during

the subsequent bout. At 30 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 75.57 CPR during the initial bout, and 76.43 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 40 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 94.0 CPR during the initial bout, and 95.15 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 50 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 110.29 CPR during the initial bout, and 112.29 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 60 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 124.43 CPR during the initial bout, and 127.42 CPR during the subsequent bout.

8. In analyzing cumulative pedal revolution for experimental condition four, a five-minute passive recovery pattern, it was observed that at ten seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 26.57 CPR during the initial bout, and 29.28 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 20 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 50.57 CPR during the initial bout, and 53.57 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 30 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 71.43 CPR during the initial bout, and 74.43 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 40 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 78.57 CPR during the initial bout, and 92.43 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 50 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 106.14 CPR during

the initial bout, and 108.29 CPR during the subsequent bout. At 60 seconds of exercise, the mean performance scores were 120.86 CPR during the initial bout, and 122.71 CPR during the subsequent bout.

# Discussion

It had been accepted that lactic acid in the blood was increased as a result of muscular exercise (3, 19, 23). However, the significance of lactate production during muscular exercise, especially during anaerobic exercise has not been widely studied. Therefore, it was the initial purpose of the study to determine whether an active or passive recovery pattern was better for dissipating blood lactate.

Several studies showed that lactate removal was significantly greater when moderate exercise was performed during recovery (3, 9, 10, 23, 32, 40). Support for a passive recovery was based on a study by Katch et al (1978), which showed that a passive recovery resulted in a faster net heart rate recovery, as well as an increase in the rate of return to the baseline level of net oxygen uptake (28: 153-61). In the present study, a trend appeared which favored passive recovery of a shorter duration for dissipating lactic acid. However, another trend emerged favoring active recovery patterns of longer durations as being equal or slightly better for the purpose of dissipating lactic acid.

Ahlborg et al (1975), indicated that during a passive recovery, the resting muscles exhibited considerable metabolic activity. Significant glycogen loss and electromyographic activity were also reported. Therefore, the "resting" muscle could be mimicking an active recovery (1: 718-23). If this were the case, then factors which had previously been contributed to enhancing lactate removal during an active recovery, would be as significant in a passive recovery, but perhaps at a lower intensity than the actual active recovery.

Bonen and Belcastro (1976) suggested that the uptake of blood lactate was greater in high oxidative slow-twitch fibers, since supramaximal anaerobic exercise recruits predominently low oxidative fast-twitch fibers. Since lactate will continue to diffuse from the muscle for a considerable period of time after exercise has been terminated, it was possible that the lactate may not only have been taken up from the circulating blood by the high oxidative slow-twitch fibers, but also diffused directly from the low oxidative fast-twitch fibers. In this way recruitment of the slow-twitch fibers would have enhanced lactate removal (6: 176-78).

If lactate removal were critical for the resumption of exercise, then recovery patterns in which lactate removal was enhanced, subsequent performance should have been significantly increased (40: 786-95). The

present study found that there was not a noticeable trend favoring any one recovery pattern for the purpose of increasing work performance on a subsequent anaerobic test. However, by increasing experimental recovery times from five to ten minutes more lactate had dissipated. A ten-minute recovery pattern would allow for enhanced tissue and glycogen regulation, and faster energy phosphate resynthesis.

Furthermore, all recovery patterns, apart from the five-minute active recovery, resulted in a trend toward an improvement between initial and subsequent anaerobic performance scores, even though blood lactate levels were elevated much higher for the subsequent performance as compared to the initial performance. The data therefore did not tend to support the theory that high lactate levels were detrimental to subsequent anaerobic performance. Lamb (1978) suggested that as training had often been reported to increase an athlete's capacity to produce lactic acid during maximal work, this greater production of lactic acid had been associated with increased maximal work capacity and a delayed onset of fatigue. It could therefore be deduced that lactic acid may not be the single cause of fatigue (31: 184-87).

Although one hour or more for recovery has previously been required before resting lactate levels were reached (2: 312-13), considerably less time appeared to be necessary to obtain pre-recovery exercise

performance scores for high intensity short duration anaerobic exercise in this study. Subjects performing any of the four experimental conditions were capable of reaching or improving upon pre-recovery performance scores, even with the increased levels of lactic acid remaining within the body. This suggested that lactate removal was not critical for subsequent anaerobic performance, and increased lactate levels found in the study did not affect subsequent anaerobic performance. Therefore, fatigue during supramaximal anaerobic performance may be caused by other factors within the active muscle.

# Recommendations for Further Study

The following recommendations were made for further study:

- The same study could be utilized using a larger sample of subjects so that results could be analyzed statistically.
- 2. The study would be further strengthened if muscle biopsies were taken in order to observe what was occurring in the muscle at different stages during each condition.

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#### APPENDIX A

#### SUBJECT CONSENT TO PROCEDURE

1. I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(print name of subject), hereby authorize members of the Appalachian State University Department of H.P.E.R., and assistants selected by them, to administer to me the physical exercise and medical tests for analysis as described in the following procedure:

Each subject will complete four (4) test sessions, each consisting of:

- 1) A one-minute maximum, all-out test pedalling an arm ergometer:
- 2) One of four exercise recovery patterns;
- 3) A subsequent all-out test on the arm ergometer.

During each session, blood samples will be taken by a qualified nurse; before the initial test, after the initial test, after recovery, and after the subsequent test. The nurse will be present during all procedures. In order to monitor heart rate during testing, subjects will be wired to an electrocardiogram via three electrodes.

- 2. I have been made aware of certain discomforts and consequences with the procedures described. These are the pain of the insertion of the needle for drawing blood, and the pain of application and removal of electrodes for the electrocardiogram, and soreness associated with these procedures and exercises.
- 3. I have also been informed that all-out exercise may constitute a risk of harm to persons with medical or health problems; I certify that I am in good health and have no known medical or health problems causing me to limit my physical activities.
- 4. I have understood the explanation of the procedures and voluntarily agree to participate in this study, and I understand the following:

Each subject will need to be available to report to the Human Performance Laboratory for four sessions over a period of three weeks during February and March. Subjects will be needed for a maximum of half an hour per session, Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Signature of Subject

Date of Consent

#### APPENDIX B

# List of Pre-Exercise Requirements

- 1. Please arrive at Human Performance Laboratory (in Varsity Gym), ready to commence testing.
- Wear loose fitting clothing e.g. track suit, or shorts and T-shirt, etc.
- 3. Do not wear nylon clothing.
- 4. Please do not eat three (3) hours prior to testing.
- 5. Do <u>not</u> exercise one (1) day prior to start of your testing sessions, nor during testing.
- 6. Do not wear any jewelry to testing session.

APPENDIX C

Table 1. Characteristics of Subjects

Subject	Age (yrs)	Height (ins.)	Weight (lbs.)	VO2 max (ml/kg/min)				
1	46	62	126	39				
2	25	64	119	35				
3	24	62	97	32				
Ly	20	62	123	73				
5	22	65	132	40				
6	23.	63	1.04	49				
7	23	67	194	43				
8	24	61	36	31				
9	27	66	130	34				

APPENDIX D

Master Data Sheet Identifying Subject Cumulative Revolutions Utilizing Four Recovery Fatterns

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		8	23	22	75	775	52	55	69	29	22	77	48	98
	2	33	33	59	58	82	81	100	100	116	116	129	130	
		9	32	32	56	58	77	62	95	98	109	114	123	129
	ec t	2	31	54	56	51	27	92	95	26	111	115	125	131
Subject	ক	28	59	51	54	20	92	84	95	100	113	113	129	
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10 mins, Active Recovery Pattern

 $^{\infty}$ ~ Subject i í Exercise Bout -N N --C H S --CV (Seconds) Time Recovery Pattern sutm & Active

10 mins. Passive Recovery Pattern

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	7	32	33	909	62	84	86	901	107	128	127	147	145
	9	29	59	51	50	20	89	98	85	66	101	112	114
Subject	2	30	32	475	59	27	80	46	100	11.5	119	130	1.37
Sub	1	30	28	52	52	72	72	68	91	105	109	119	125
	3	21	21	36	35	48	94	58	56	99	179	73	7.1
	~	23	22	43	41	59	99	72	69	83	80	92	90
	гł	22	21	39	17	55	55	68	20	80	63	06	46
1	nog.		2		(1)		2		2		~~~		-
conds)	Exer		E		7 2					1	2		1
	miT	-	2	0	7	000	30		3	50			20
10 mins, Passive Recovery Pattern													

~ Subject . . C. N 公 1-1 Exercise Exercise r N М N Н N N --(Seconds) 0.7 Time Recovery Pattern S mins. Passive

#### APPENDIX E

# Preparation of Testing Solution\*

# 1. Eight percent perchloric acid solution:

8.2 mls of 60% perchloric acid was added to 100 mls of the final volume.

# 2. Enzyme solution:

2 mls glycine buffer solution (Sigma stock no. 826-3).

3.1 mls H20.

0.1 ml enzyme (LDH-Sigma stock no. 826-6), was added to an NAD vial (Sigma stock no. 260-110) containing 10 mg NAD.

# 3. Lactic acid standard stock:

1.0 ml of lactic solution (Sigma stock no. 826-10).

3.5 mls of 7% perchloric acid.

Standards were prepared by diluting the lactic acid stock with a dilutant.

# 4. <u>Dilutant</u>:

2 mls H<sub>2</sub>0.

1 ml of NaF.

6 mls of 7% perchloric acid

<sup>\*</sup>Sigma chemicals may be purchased from Sigma Chemicals, Inc., P.O. Box 14508, St. Louis, Missouri 63178.

APPENDIX F

Master Data Sheet Identifying Subject Blood Lactate
Levels Utilizing Four Recovery Patterns

					·						-					
6	ı		•	1	1	1	ł	8		1	٠		6.6	78.8	84.8	145.1
ω	28.6	76.3	74.5	87.7	8.8	46.4	91.1	72.8	1	•	1		7.1	164.1	168.4	183.6
2	6.5	98.8	63.6	111.9	8.5	110.1	93.2	92.0	15.6	130.9	101.3	161.0	9.1	53.9	88.9	105.0
9	13.0	133.4	81.5	129.9	14.5	108.7	112.0	93.6	13.1	54.4	58.3	102.6	12.3	111.0	1.02.3	122.0
Subject 4 5	8.0	113.7	81.5	65.1	7.5	81.5	95.1	1,911	12.7	85.8	8	40.1	5. 5.	86.7	85.9	115,2
dus.	3.3	7.97	43.4	9.96	9.5	152.0	151.3	187.9	9.6	71.5	41.2	79.2	8.7	87.7	•	131.9
6	•	•	•	R	•	•	•	9	12.3	70.3	77.7	150.1	8.7	82.7	٠	131.9
~	10.9	82.9	45.0	5.95	7.8	128.9	6.46	112.1	12.5	63.3	6.99	175.2	8.2	78.9	65.9	95.8
г	10.1	62.8	58.1	87.1	5.6	61.8	56.8	97.8	7.1	65.1	45.6	84.1	7.2	51.0	36.4	67.8
2smple Blood	rH	2	2	7		2	(m)	Ϋ́	7	2	(1)	77	rl	~	r	7
Recovery		• 8		TO T			en ev	im &				TO E				f mi

#### ATIV

#### Fern Allison Cowen

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