

# Ankles, feet and toes





[www.slowguyspeedschool.com](http://www.slowguyspeedschool.com)



**The Following Slow Guy Speed School Athletes Have Achieved All-State Status or Better:**

York Track

Dan Palmer (State Champ)  
 Chris Carbonell  
 Nick Kuczvara (State Champ)  
 Alex Strand  
 Adam Zarembo  
 Kris Hinchley  
 John Fox  
 Nico Perrino  
 Khara Williams  
 Steve Cripe  
 Jimmy Sullivan  
 Kyle Khoury  
 Carl Carbonell  
 David Way  
 Tarrance Williams  
 Jeff Eich  
 Willie Sullivan  
 Chris Romancyk  
 David Byerly  
 Kevin Adamik  
 Conner Hennessey  
 Mo Watkins  
 Ron Hedman  
 Nick Sgarbossa (State Champ)  
 Reid Smith  
 Emmett McCoy  
 Jake Sackstetter  
 Josh Farrar  
 Jeff Ostling  
 Greg Gornick  
 Jarvis Hill  
 Itoro Akpakpan  
 Alex Teague

Montini Track

Maddy Jamrozek  
 Emma Makowski  
 Jenna Wiedacher  
 Gianna Salzbrun  
 Mitch West  
 Jeff Farnell (State Champ)  
 Will Smith  
 Nick Foster  
 Matt Quaglia

HC Track

Andrew Letts  
 Mike Mangan  
 Pat Dignan  
 Brad Musso  
 Matt Sperry  
 Justin Geiger  
 Alex Perkowski  
 Mark Perkowski  
 Miguel Manos  
 Lewis Bullock  
 Phil Stoudt  
 Matt Stone  
 Billy Fayette  
 Billy Magnussen  
 Kevin Huang  
 TJ Caveney  
 Josh Feldman  
 Blake Evertsen

Toni Kokenis (HC Basketball and Soccer)

Willie Sullivan (York BB)  
 Shane Molitor (DGS-State Champ-LJ)  
 Matt Anderson (HC Baseball)  
 Brien Rooney (Fenwick Football)  
 Stephanie Green (Hinsdale Central)  
 Pete Zavagnin (Nazareth Football)  
 Jack Allen (HC Wrestling)  
 Brian Allen (HC Wrestling)  
 Anne Yahiro (Benet LJ)  
 Liz Yahiro (Benet TJ)  
 Kinn Badger (GW Sprints)  
 Tess Johnson (DGN LJ)  
 Chelsea Celistan (HC)  
 Lauren Rousch (HC)  
 Kevin Tokarski (DGN Baseball)  
 Scott Skuteris (York FB)  
 Samantha Santulli (HC Lacrosse)  
 Kendall Santulli (HC Lacrosse)  
 Richard O'Rourke (DGN Football)  
 Brendan West (Texas State Champ 400m)  
 Ben Pratt (State Champ-Macomb)  
 Cody Cieslinski (DGN Football)  
 Megan Bonfield (DGN)  
 Ryan Clevenger (DGN)  
 Peter Hennigan (HC Tennis)  
 Martin Joyce (HC Tennis)  
 Sabrina Rabin (St. Charles North)

World Champions

Chris Brown

Olympians

Chris Brown (Bahamas)  
 Trevor Barry (Bahamas)  
 Vika Rybalko (Ukraine)  
 Korath Wright (Bahamas)  
 Lavern Eve  
 Andretti Bain

All-American

Nick Kuczvara  
 Kris Hinchley  
 John Fox  
 Jeff Farnell  
 Jimmy Sullivan  
 Khara Williams  
 Tarrance Williams  
 David Way  
 Mike McNulty  
 Neil Pedersen

National Champion

Nick Kuczvara  
 Dan Palmer

HC Football

Preston Letts  
 Mike Mangan  
 Brian Grzelakowski  
 Brian Griffin  
 Rob Anderson

www.trackfootballconsortium.com

The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the website trackfootballconsortium.com. The browser's address bar shows the URL. The website has a dark theme with a black header and a dark blue main content area. The header contains a navigation menu with the following items: OVERVIEW, DESCRIPTION, KEYNOTE, SPEAKERS, WHY TFC, and SHOP. The 'SHOP' button is highlighted in a light blue color. The main content area features a large white title 'TRACK FOOTBALL CONSORTIUM IV' centered on the page. Below the title is a subtitle: 'The Best Strategies From 13 Experts To Help Get Your Athletes Faster, Stronger And More Powerful'. Further down, there is a paragraph of text: 'Join 13 Leading Sports Performance Experts As They Open Up Their Playbooks And Give You A Crystal Clear Roadmap For Coaching And Training Your Athletes ... Drastically Improving Their Speed, Power And Strength.' At the bottom of the page, there is a large blue button with the text 'VIEW TFC 4 EVENT RECORDINGS >>'.

← → ↻ trackfootballconsortium.com

OVERVIEW DESCRIPTION KEYNOTE SPEAKERS WHY TFC SHOP

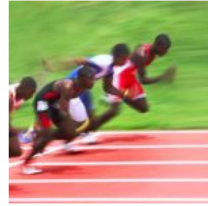
# TRACK FOOTBALL CONSORTIUM IV

———— The Best Strategies From 13 Experts To Help Get Your Athletes Faster, Stronger And More Powerful ————

Join 13 Leading Sports Performance Experts As They Open Up Their Playbooks And Give You A Crystal Clear Roadmap For Coaching And Training Your Athletes ... Drastically Improving Their Speed, Power And Strength.

[VIEW TFC 4 EVENT RECORDINGS >>](#)

## Rebuilding a Track Program



All coaches need to start somewhere. In this article, Coach Jeff White explains how he rebuilt a school's track program when he had little of his own experience to rely on. With help from Twitter and Google, books and articles, and other coaches, he was able to build his track team into county champions, with individuals placing at the state level. Here are his recommendations for other coaches, both novice and experienced.

---

Filed Under: [Blog](#)

## The 4.4 40



Claims of 4.4 40s by runners as young as 15 or 16 seem considerably exaggerated. Timing methods are partly to blame. Several variables also have an impact. For best results, electronic start and finish is best.

---

Filed Under: [Blog](#)

Tagged With: [40 Yard Dash](#)

## Improving the Start Block: A Case Study



It may be best to understand and train your sprinter's individual challenges in the start block than to train their technique to look picture perfect.

# Track Football Consortium VIII

- Dec. 8-9
- Benedictine University, Lisle IL
- [www.trackfootballconsortium.com](http://www.trackfootballconsortium.com)

# TRIPHASIC TRAINING

Football Speed  
and  
Strength Manual



Written By Chris Korfist and  
Cal Dietz

# 4x100 Relay

## 42.39 average in 14 years

- 18- 42.2 Montini
- 17- 42.4 Montini
- 16-42.3 Montini
- 15- 42.6 Montini
- 14-41.48 York
- 13-42.54 York
- 12-43.1 York
- 11-42.26 York
- 10- 42.47 York
- 09-41.69 York
- 08- 42.03 York
- 07- 42.8 York
- 06- 42.95 York
- 05- 43.0 Downers Grove
- 04- 42.48 Hinsdale Central
- 03- 42.23 Hinsdale Central





# 100m best 10.85 Average over 14 years

- 18-10.80
- 17-10.64
- 16-10.72
- 15- 10.50
- 14- 10.83
- 13-10.92
- 12-11.1
- 11-11.11
- 10- 10.96
- 09- 10.73
- 08- 10.92
- 07- 10.84
- 06- 10.80
- 05- 11.1
- 04- 10.5
- 03- 10.9



Clark Pic

# JUST FLY PERFORMANCE PODCAST



**KEN CLARK**

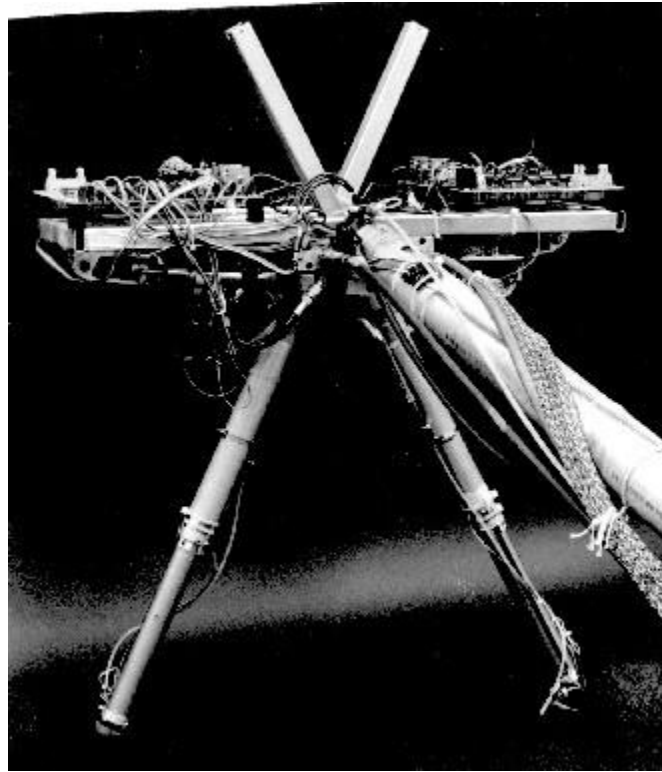


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# MIT's Planar Bipedal robot

5.9 m/s



# MABEL 6.8 mph



# Boston Dynamics



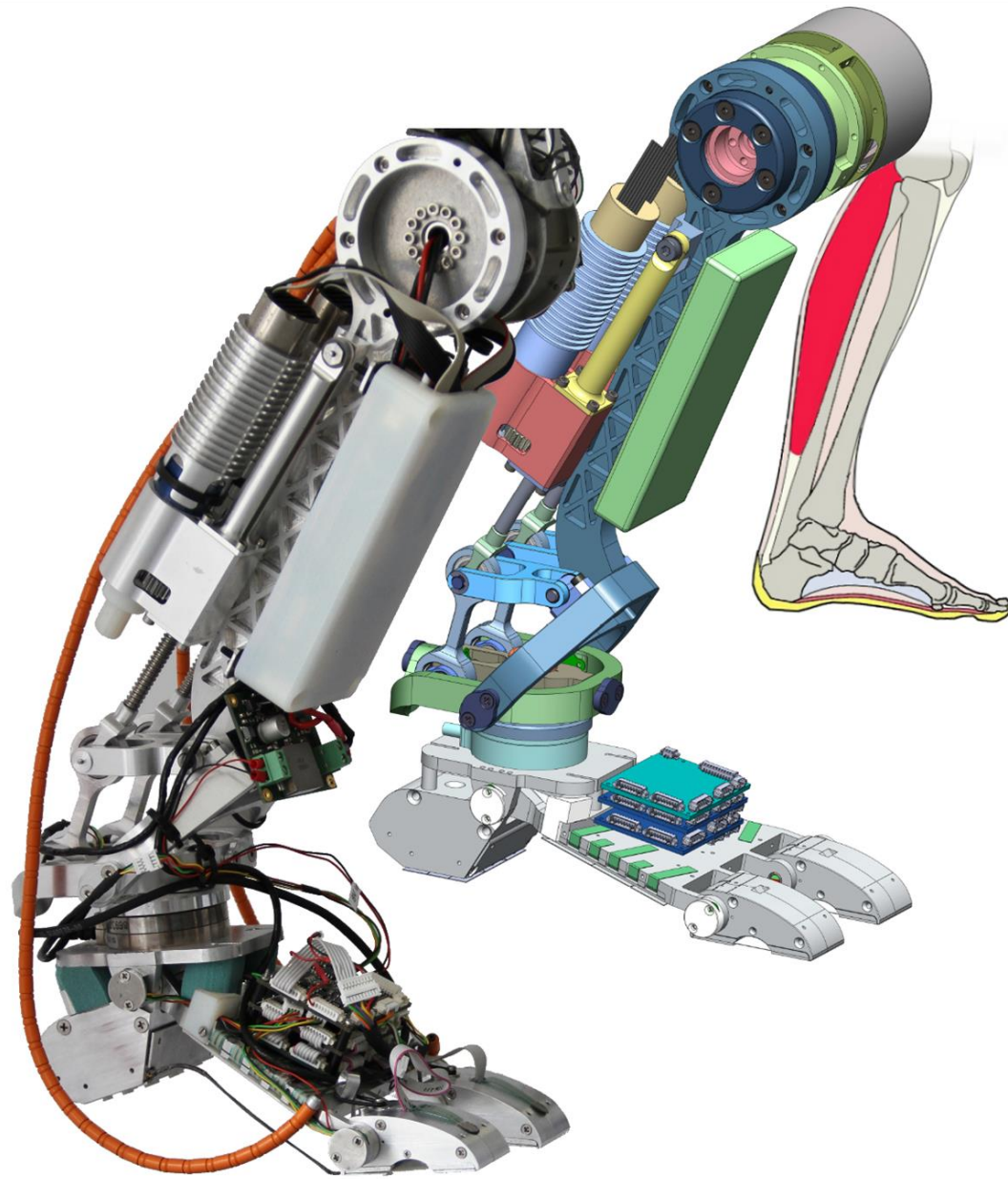




# Here's the gold...

- If the power is the limitation, then at max velocity, the drag force cancels the thrust force, leaving no thrust to accelerate the system. If the limitation is strength, then at maximum speed the loading on some components equals its strength, and any increase in speed would cause it to break. If the limitation is stability, then at the max speed, some equilibrating mechanism is at the stability limit, and at a higher speed the system would tumble out of control.
- How Fast Can a Robot Run, Jeff Koechling

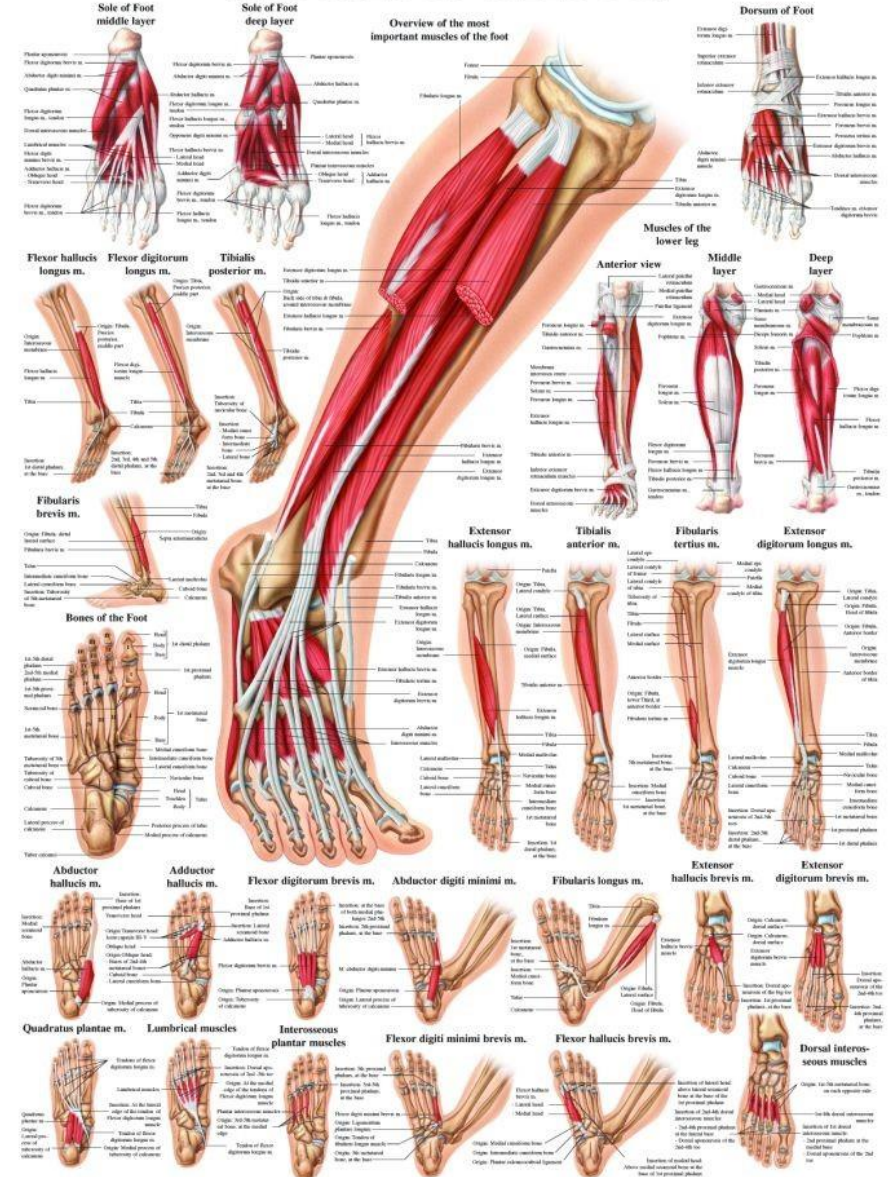






**SHORT ACHILLES - RAPID ENERGY  
ABSORPTION AND RELEASE**

# MUSCLES OF THE FOOT



Supinate

Varus

Valgus

Invert  
Evert  
Pronate

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888	PERONEUS LONGUS, Metatarsal Division .....
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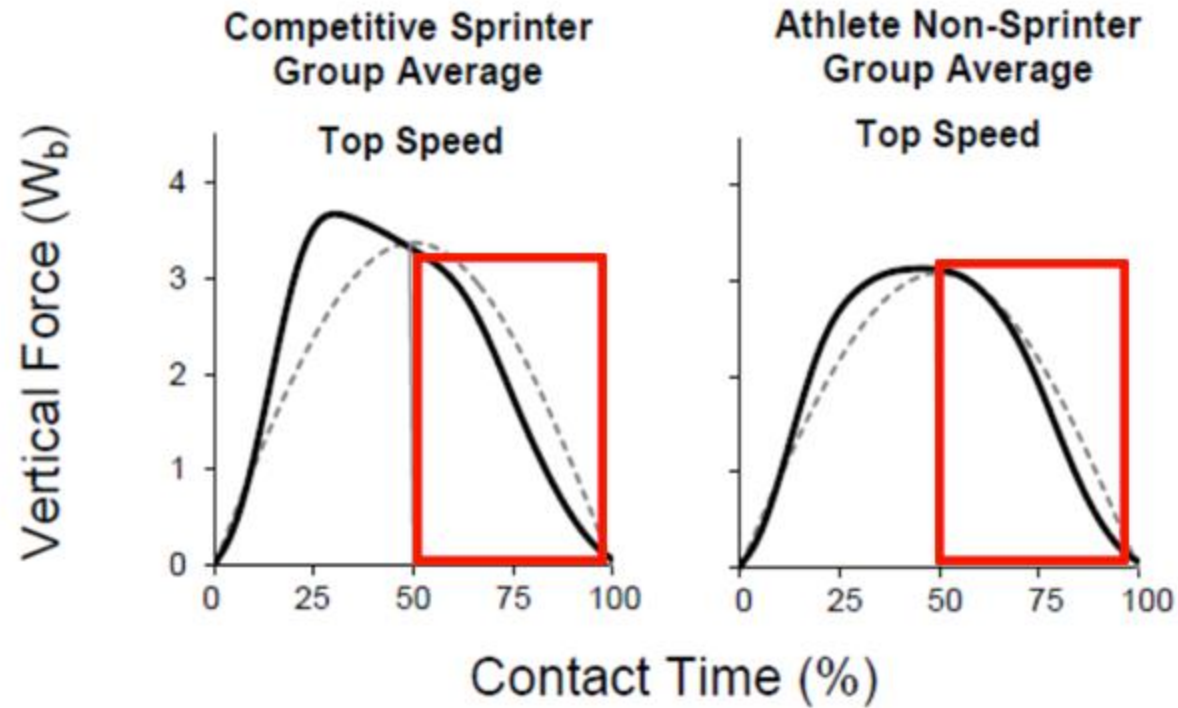
# Speed Profiles for Male Sprinters

*A little extra force =  
a lot of extra speed!*

Below Average	Good	National-Class	World-Class
Top Speed: 9.0 m/s	Top Speed: 10.0 m/s	Top Speed: 11.0 m/s	Top Speed: 12.0 m/s
10m Fly Time: 1.10 s	10m Fly Time: 1.00 s	10m Fly Time: 0.91 s	10m Fly Time: 0.83 s
Contact Time: 0.110 s	Contact Time: 0.100 s	Contact Time: 0.091 s	Contact Time: 0.083 s
Average Force: 380 lbs.	Average Force: 400 lbs.	Average Force: 420 lbs.	Average Force: 440 lbs.

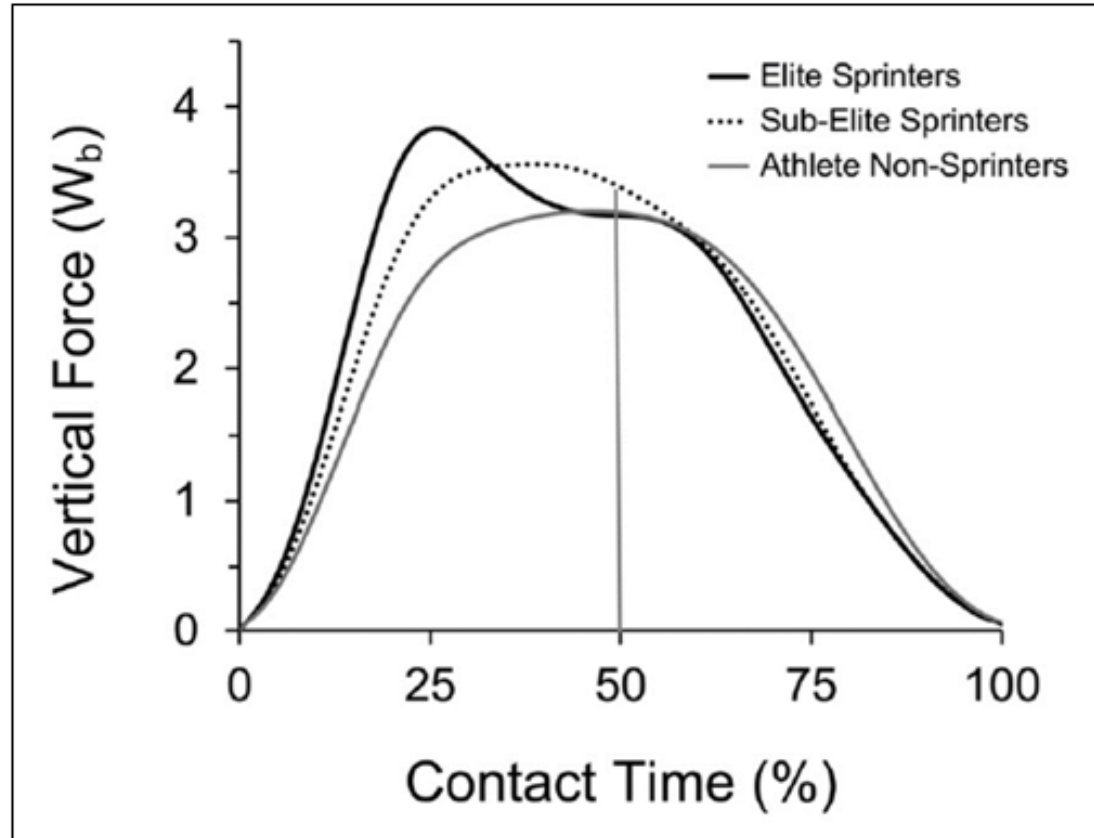
*Data based on competition values for athlete that is 5'10", 180 lbs.*

## Forces in second half of contact are ~same



# The Force Signature for Speed

The difference separating **sub-elites** from *elites*:



# Understanding the effect of Touchdown distance and ankle joint kinematics on sprint acceleration performance through computer simulation, Bezodis, N., Sports Biomechanics, (2015)

- “Beneficial effects of reducing ankle joint dorsiflexion during early stance on early acceleration performance and identified the need for coaches to increase ankle plantar flexor strength...”
- Slightly greater than 90 degrees



# THE FOOT

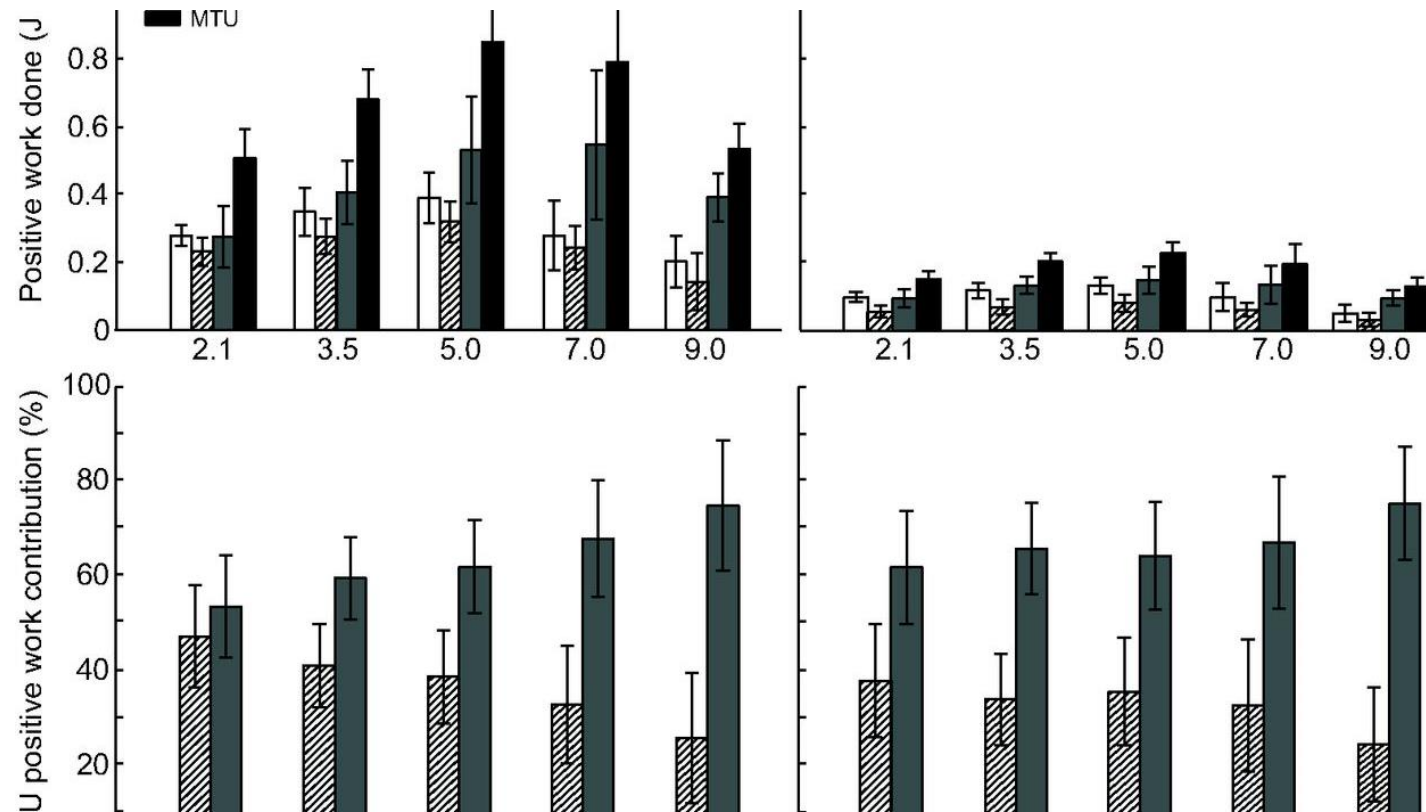
- CONTACT- The stiffer the ankle complex is at contact, the more energy can be transferred up and down the line
- For example, poor big toe function will dissipate 34% of the energy that the foot/ankle complex absorbs which is about 75% of the total energy in a sprint

# Tendon elastic energy in the human ankle plantar-flexors and its role with increased running speed

Adrian Lai, Anthony, Schache, J of Experimental Biology, 2014

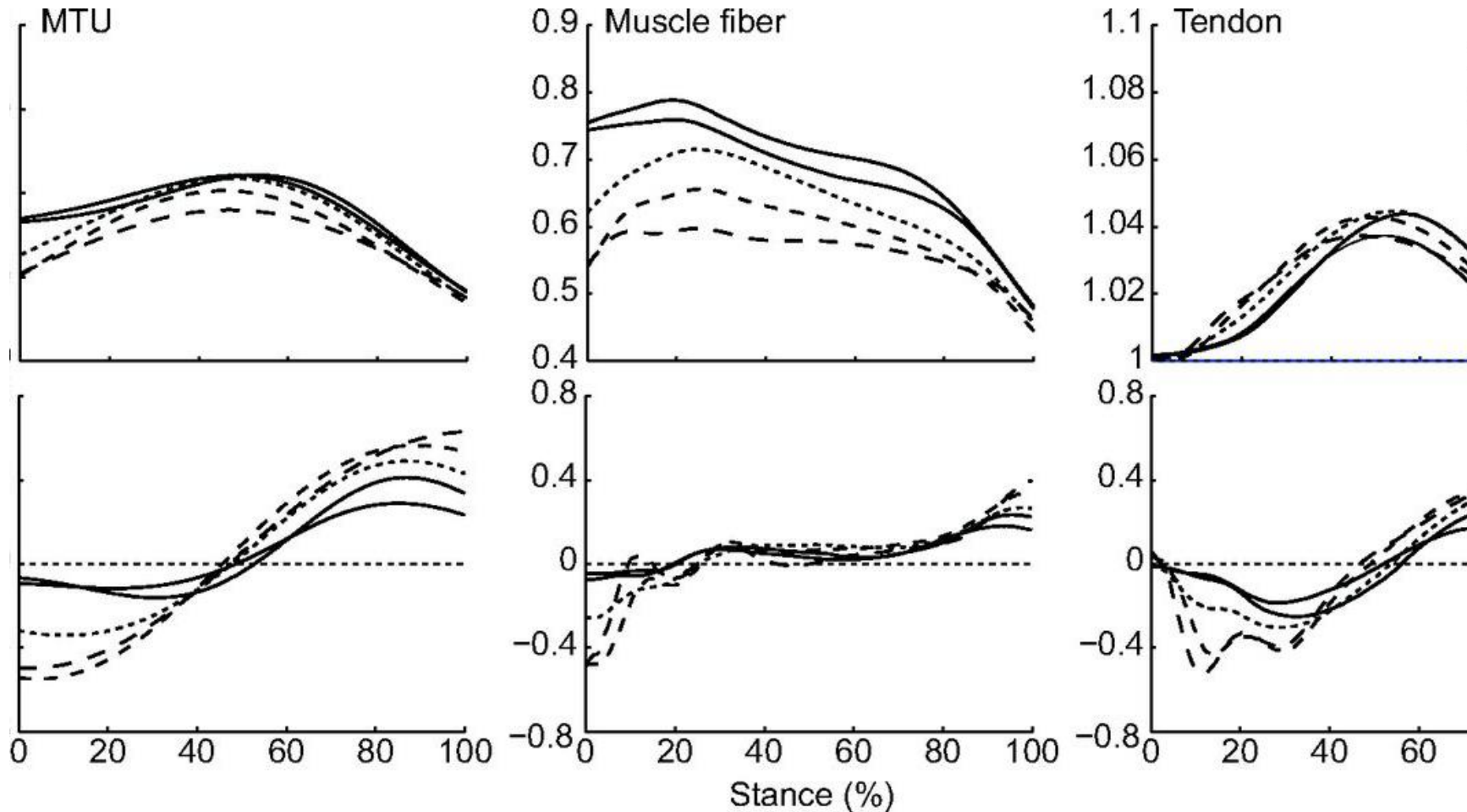
- MTU of gastroc and soleus was responsible for 75% of positive work at 8 m/s

# Muscles in Isometric state and MTU active



White muscle fiber stripe fiber with mTU grey tendon black MTU

# Muscle length changes with velocity



Top normalized length bottom contraction velocity shows as speed picks up- more MTU and Tendon over muscle- big calf distance runner

- “...tendon elastic strain energy to provide a greater relative contribution than muscle fiber work to the positive work done by the Muscle tendon Unit with increasing running speed. The increased utilization of tendon elastic strain energy with faster running was facilitated by larger activation levels and a relatively isometric muscle fiber behavior. Storage and recovery of tendons elastic strain energy in the human ankle plantar-flexors enhances muscle performance and is likely integral to achieving maximum sprinting speeds.”

Dynamic contribution analysis on the propulsion mechanism of sprinters during initial acceleration phase, Koike, S., 33<sup>rd</sup> International conference on Biomechanics in sport, 7/15

- Ankle dorsiflexion torque was the largest contributor to the generation of whole body propulsion

# Ankle/foot

- “the push-off includes one major joint action- Ankle joint extension. The greater the ankle joint extension , the greater the driving force can be generated. ..The knee joint does 31 joules of work, the plantar flexors do 192 joules..”
- Explosive Running, Michael Yessis

# Support leg joint contributions to center of mass acceleration during 3 phases of a maximal sprint, von Lieres, H. conference paper

- MTP (metatarsal phalangeal joint) and ankle showed the largest contributions to vertical and horizontal acceleration



# When account for MPJ...

- Ankle- 35% higher
- Knee- 40% lower
- Hip- 9% higher

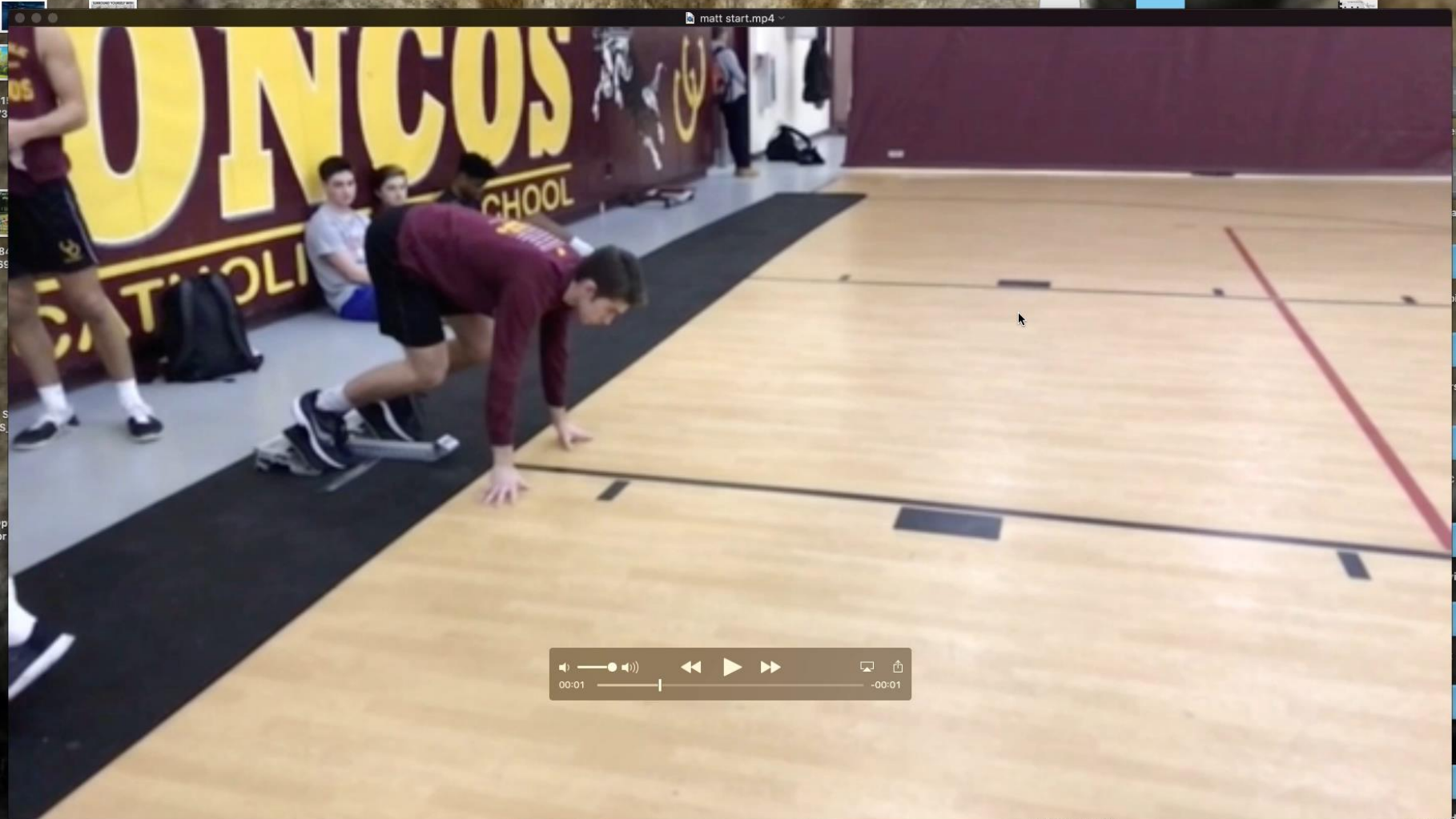
# So why not popular?



Which logo do you want on  
your shirt?

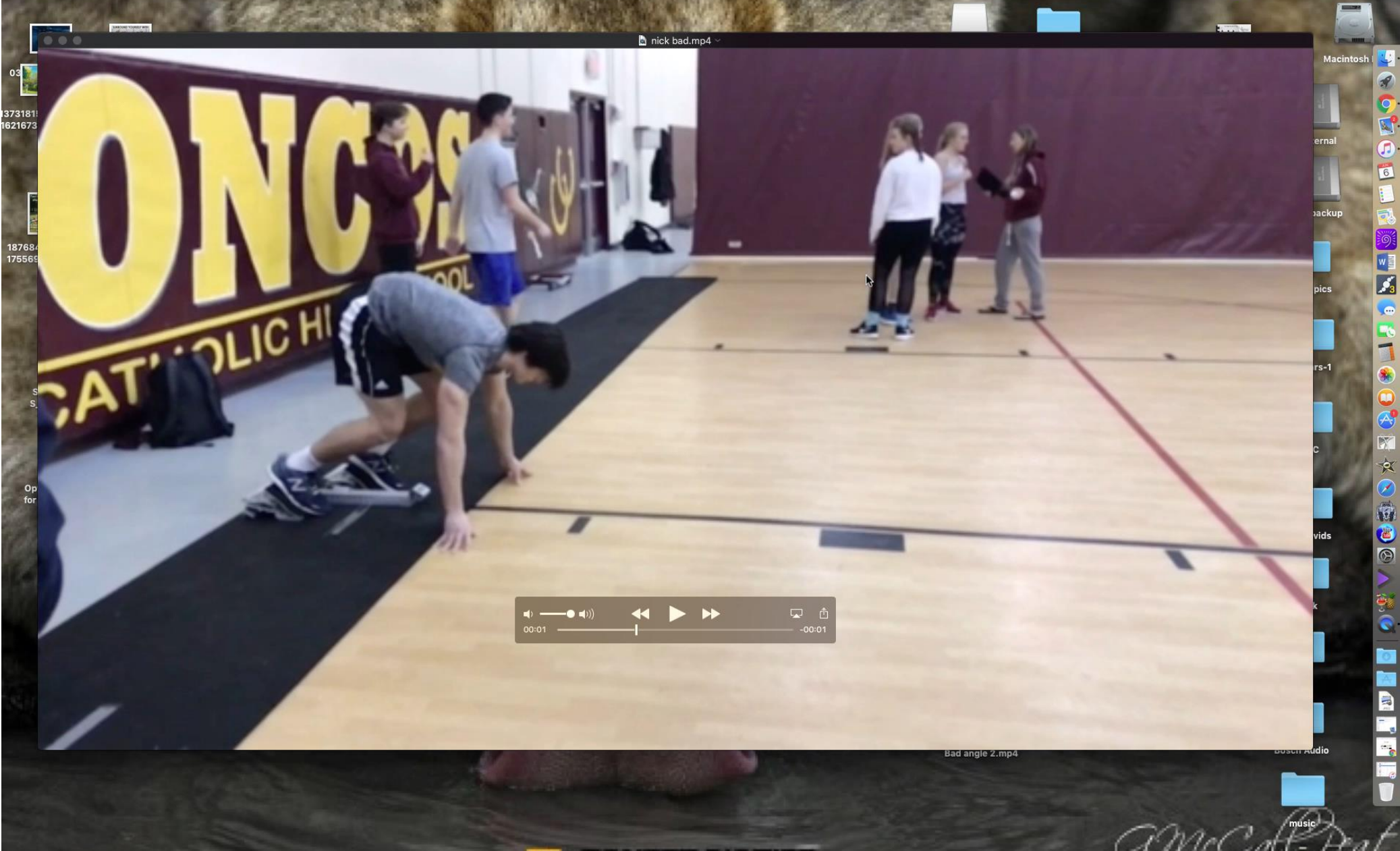


Isometric Plantar  
flexion  
club for  
700 N



- Macintosh
- Journal
- Backup
- pics
- s-1
- ids
- music

McCall-Beat



nick bad.mp4

00:01 -00:01

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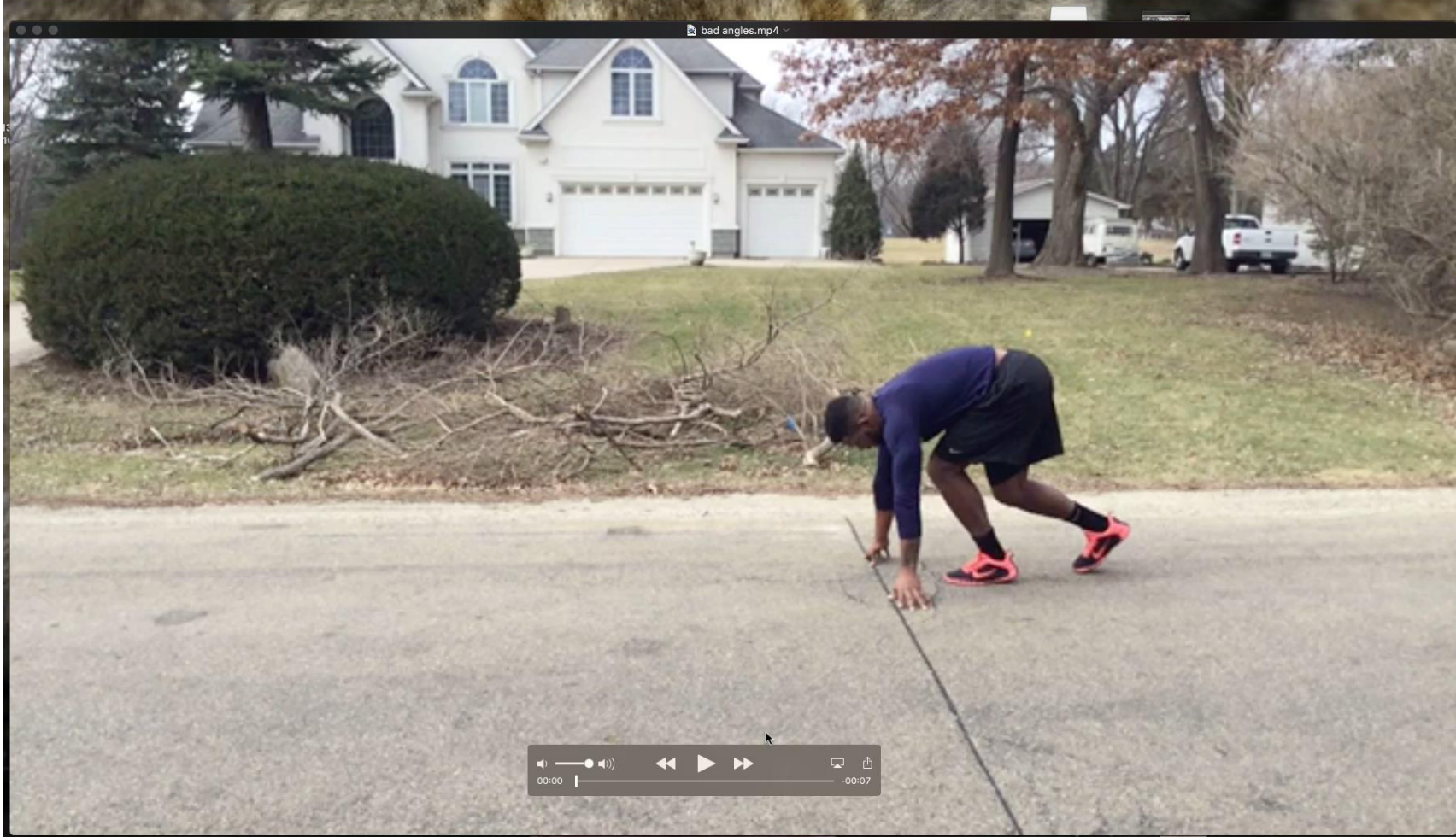
🖥️ 📄

Bad angle 2.mp4

Bosch Audio

music

McCall-Post



00:00 [Volume icon] [Play/Pause icon] [Next icon] [Full Screen icon] [Share icon] -00:07

Macintosh  
Personal  
Backup  
cs  
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Samira.mp4

amc@beat

good ankles.mp4



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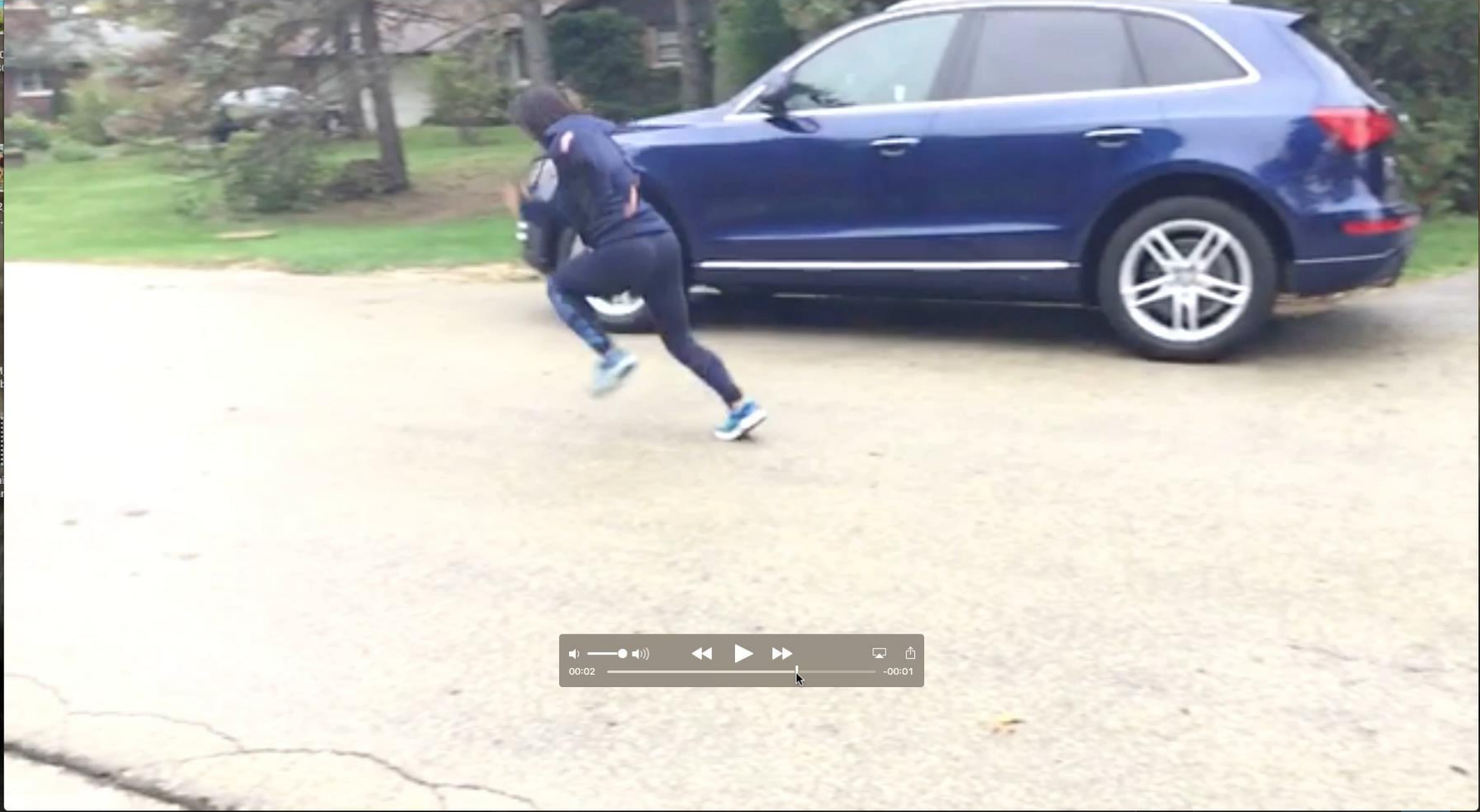
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Samira.mp4

music

AmCali-Feat

Samira.mp4



00:02 -00:01

Samira.mp4

music

*McCabe-Deat*

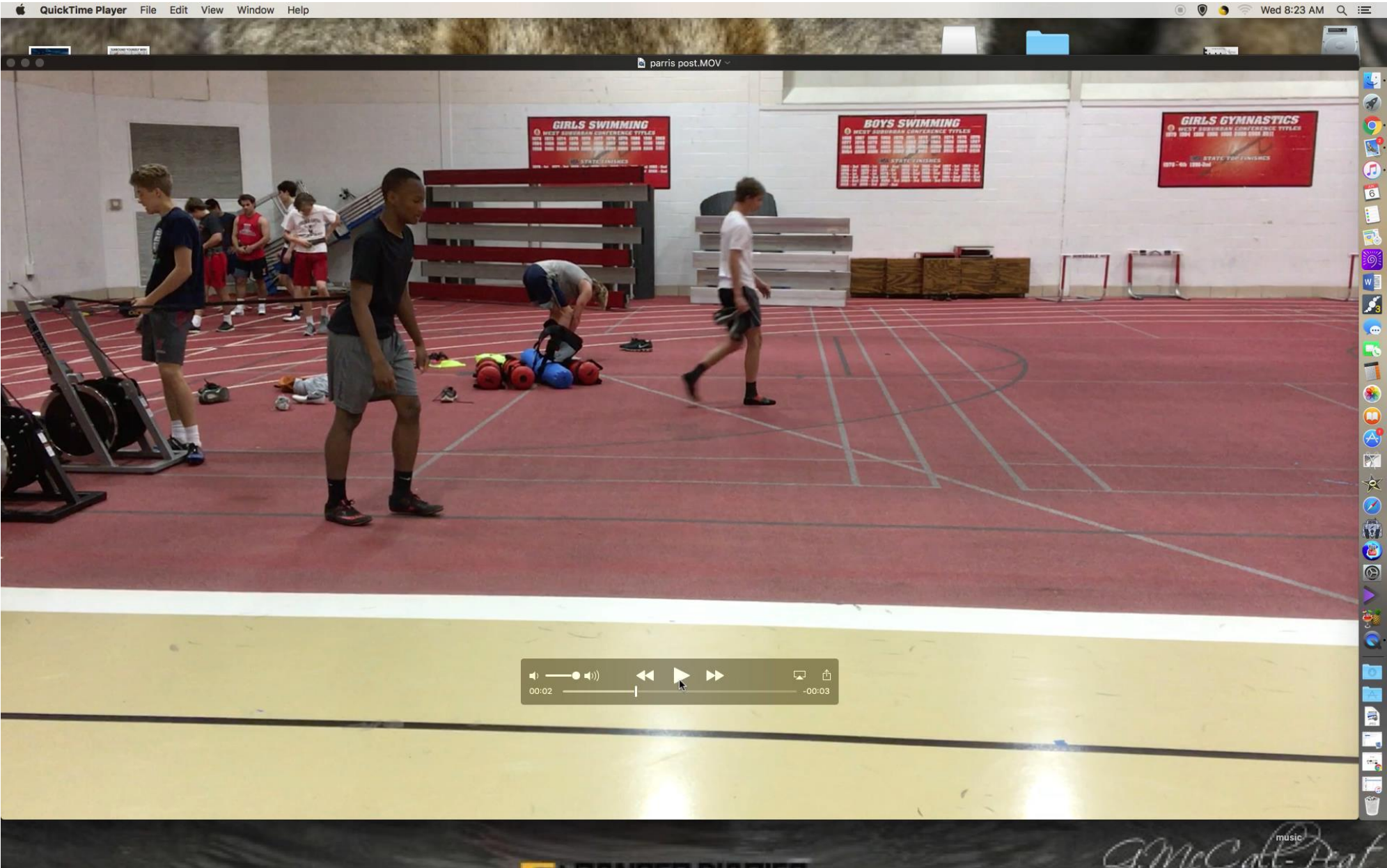






00:01 -00:04

music  
aMcCatt-Beat



# **Why we train Isometrics and feet first**

- Fatigue the tendon, forces more MTU
- Always blow them off if they are last

# Human tendon adaption in response to mechanical loading. A review

Sebastain Bohm, J of Sports Medicine (2015)

- Joint angles are important
- Type of contraction (ecc,iso or conc) not matter, but high intensity important
- Plyometrics had little impact on tendon response

# Lower extremity stiffness, Brazier, J., Journal of Strength and Conditioning, 10/17

- Iso training is the best for tendon change

# Let's move...

- Stand up
- Go into a calf raise
- Which way does your foot break
  - Over 4 toes?
  - Big toe?

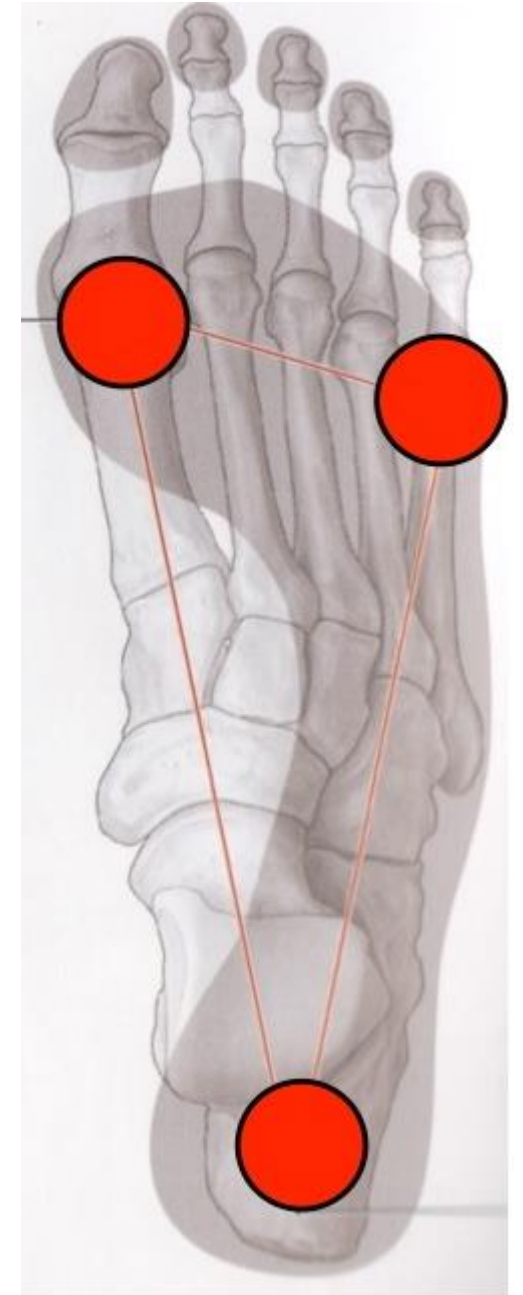
# Good foot/bad foot





# Can you?

- 1. Stand on 2 feet with pressure on your tripod?
- 2. Do the same on one foot?
- 3. Pull your toes off the ground and balance?
- 4. Close your eyes? Ears?
- 5. Ankle squat and hold that foot position?
- 6. Go up on your big toe



# ISO foot patterns

- ISO Position has a 15 degree carryover in each direction
- Knee straight
- Knee bent
- Big toe
- Hip position and placement of weight key











# ISO foot patterns in exercises

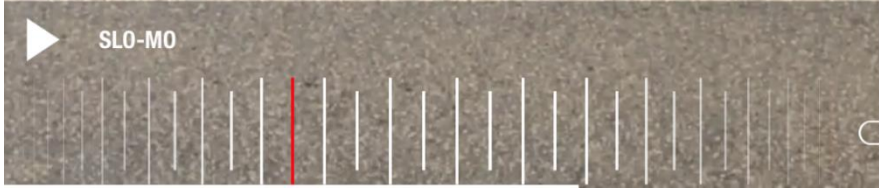
- Split squat
- Toe off/with



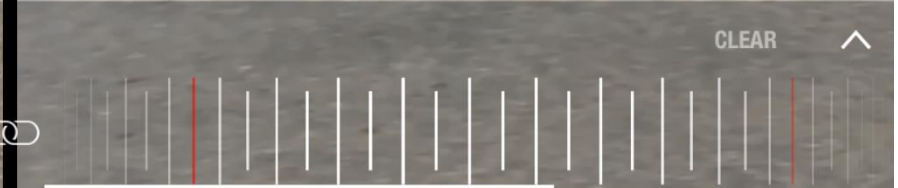




REC



SLO-MO



CLEAR











# The anatomical arrangement of muscle and tendon enhances limb versatility and locomotor performance, Wilson, A., Philosophical transactions of the Royal Society, (2011)

- Tendon stiffness is tuned to optimize fiber shortening velocity and minimize muscle activation
- The role of distal muscles may therefore not be to directly perform work but to modulate the power production of proximal muscles by functioning as a tuneable series of elasticity or tendon-Cocontractions

# Stumble reflex

- "At the spinal cord level, there is a coupling between muscle and its antagonist (and an inhibition of one another)." Both in a trip or gait.





# Stumbling corrective reaction: a phase-dependent compensatory reaction during locomotion.

Forssberg H., 1979

- Tripping cats
- Perturbations in the stumble reflex cycle cause "brisker flexion"
- Making your body think it is going to fall or trip will trick it into tensing



- Body organization: The goal the body has is to organize its parts to do the task that has been set out. In an athletic sense, this would incorporate navigation, slack control with co-contractions and a target. In order to challenge this process, we can make things happen faster so body has to prepare faster or fall (managing reflexes). When challenged the body will learn to stiffen faster to prepare for the unexpected. This translates to the actual movement because the body will find that it works better when it is stiffer and stable.

# SO.....

- Overspeed works because it forces a stiffer spring (which results in higher Ground Reactionary Force) in a manner that the body accepts and assimilates due to stumble reflexes and motor learning skill development.

# Even cooler thought of the day...

- The peak forces that occur in a reflexive support during sprinting , such as stumble and crossed extensor, are greater than those that can be created by “maximum voluntary contraction”.
- Kyrolainen, H. et al. Changes in muscle activity with increased running speed” J. of Sports Sciences, 2005

# Overspeed

- Bands
- Unweighted
- Tows
- Elevated surfaces





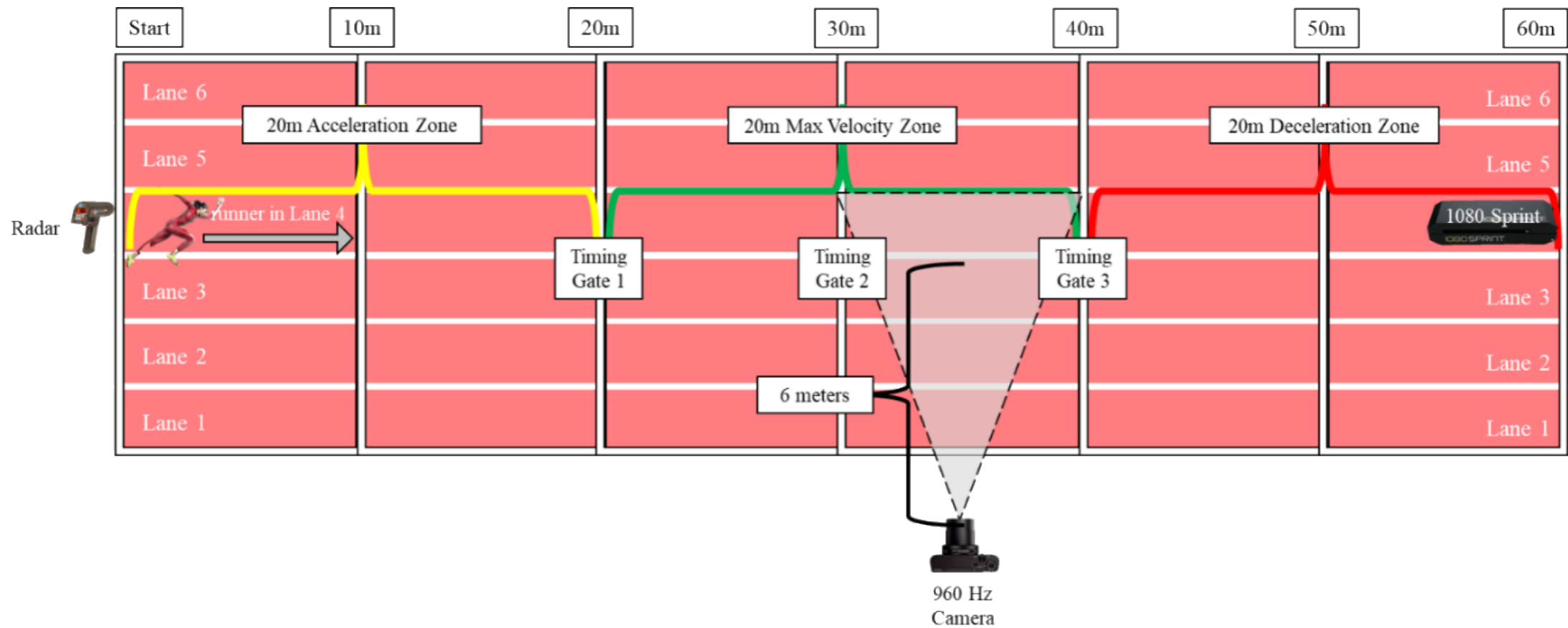




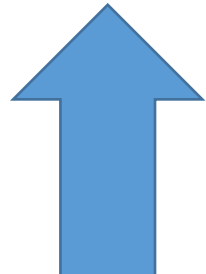
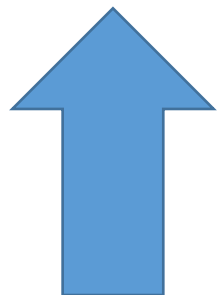
# The Acute Kinematic Effects of Sprinting with Motorized Assistance

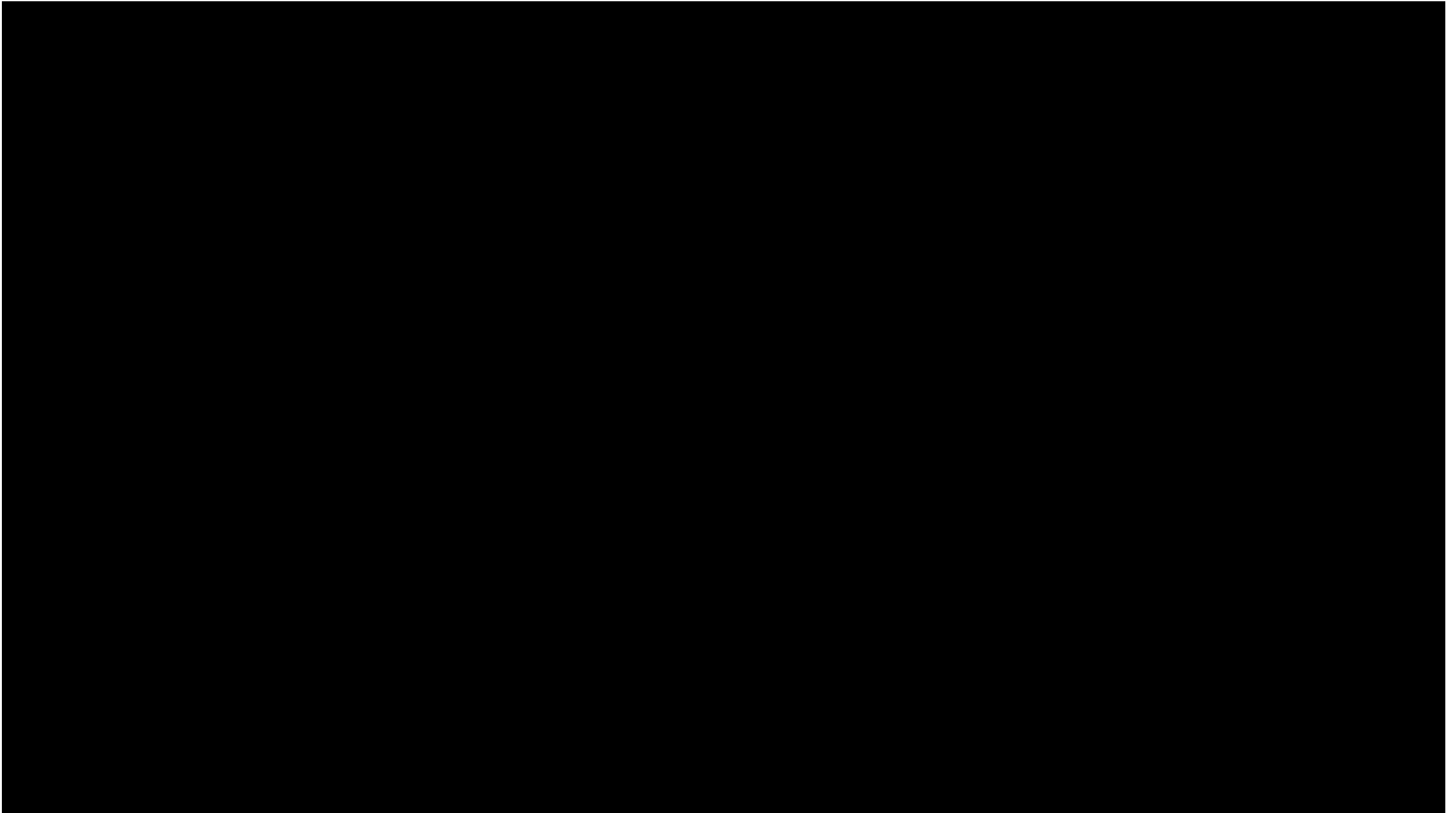
Kenneth Clark, Micheal Cahill, Christian Korfist

- Theory: assisted sprinting could acutely enhance maximum velocity via mechanisms normally observed with swifter running, and without causing aberrant changes to the runner's gait, this mode of training may have potential to elicit long term improvements in top speed.
- -assisted max velocity would increase due to stride length rather than rate
- - assisted run would have decreased contact times and increased measure of vertical force but no appreciable changes in flight times, swing times or contact lengths



Velocity (m/s)	Contact Time (s)	Flight Time (s)	Step Time (s)	Swing Time (s)	Step Rate (Hz)	Step Length (m)	Contact Length (m)	Flight Length (m)	Vertical Force (BW)	
Unassisted Mean	10.0	0.100	0.112	0.213	0.325	4.72	2.11	1.00	1.12	2.13
Unassisted SD	0.3	0.011	0.007	0.013	0.018	0.29	0.09	0.09	0.06	0.14
Assisted Mean	10.9*	0.095*	0.116†	0.211	0.328	4.75	2.30*	1.03*	1.26*	2.24*
Assisted SD	0.4	0.010	0.006	0.014	0.019	0.32	0.09	0.09	0.05	0.13
% Difference	9.4%	-5.2%	3.4%	-0.6%	0.8%	0.7%	8.7%	3.7%	13.1%	4.8%
Effect Size (interpretation)	3.28 (v. large)	0.49 (small)	0.58 (small)	0.10 (trivial)	0.15 (trivial)	0.11 (trivial)	2.04 (v. large)	0.40 (small)	2.62 (v. large)	0.76 (moderate)





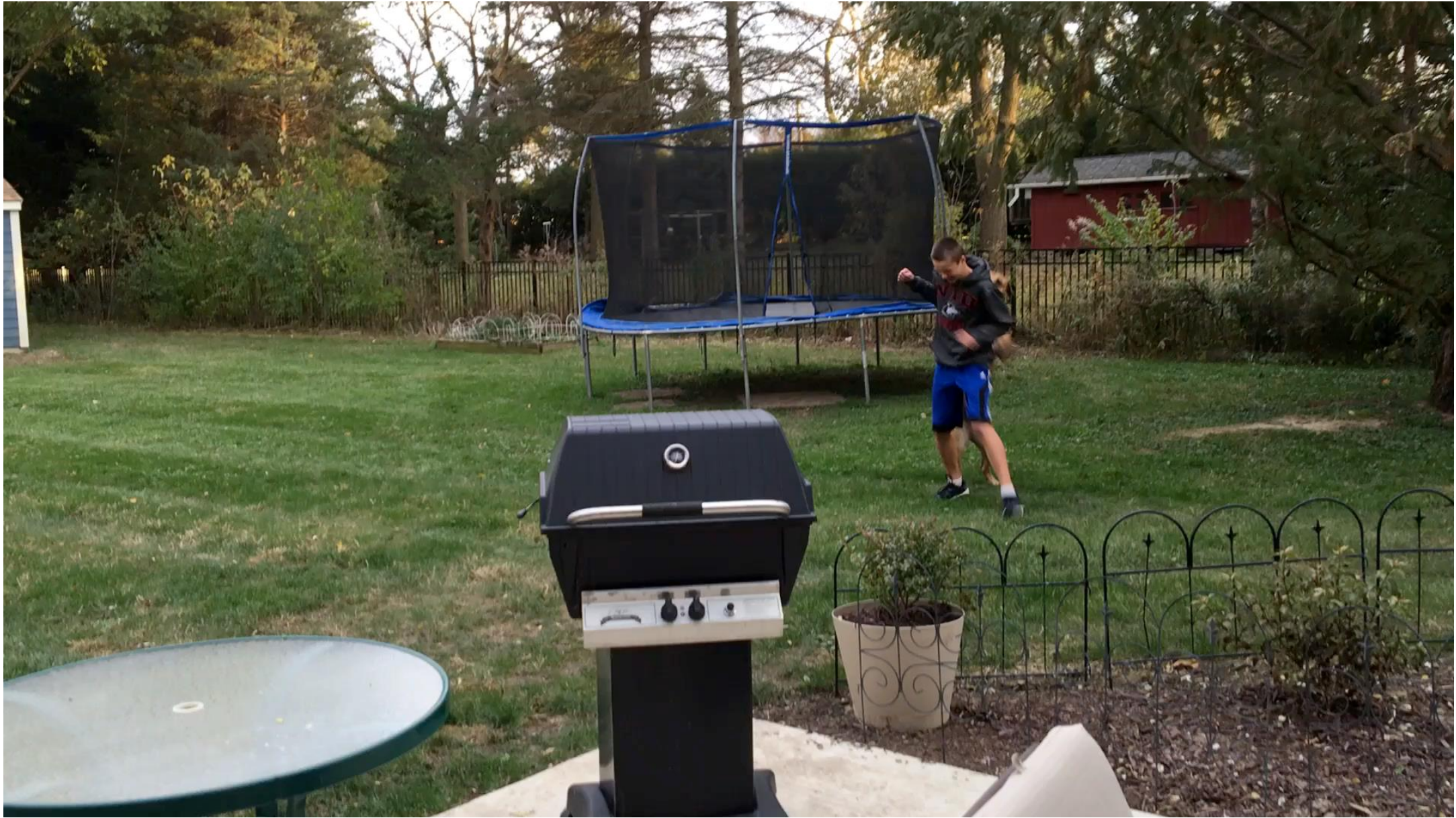


- Faster max velocities were achieved due to increased stride length and improved vertical forces

- Shows minimal changes in contact times and postural changes
- Mean vertical forces was larger when towed than when unassisted

# Conclusion

- Although step rate did not change, there were small but significant decreases in contact time, indicating *increased vertical force* and decreased duty factor ratio during the assisted conditions. This is consistent with normal mechanics of increased max velocity,









# Toe pop exercises



- Needs to be alternating or else no stumble reflex and becomes bag hop exercises



Raise the ground with **mats**



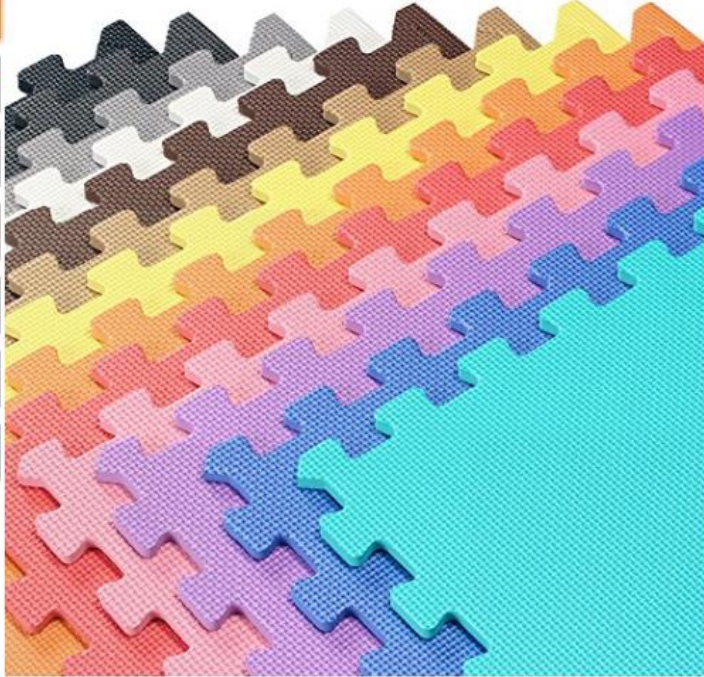
# mats

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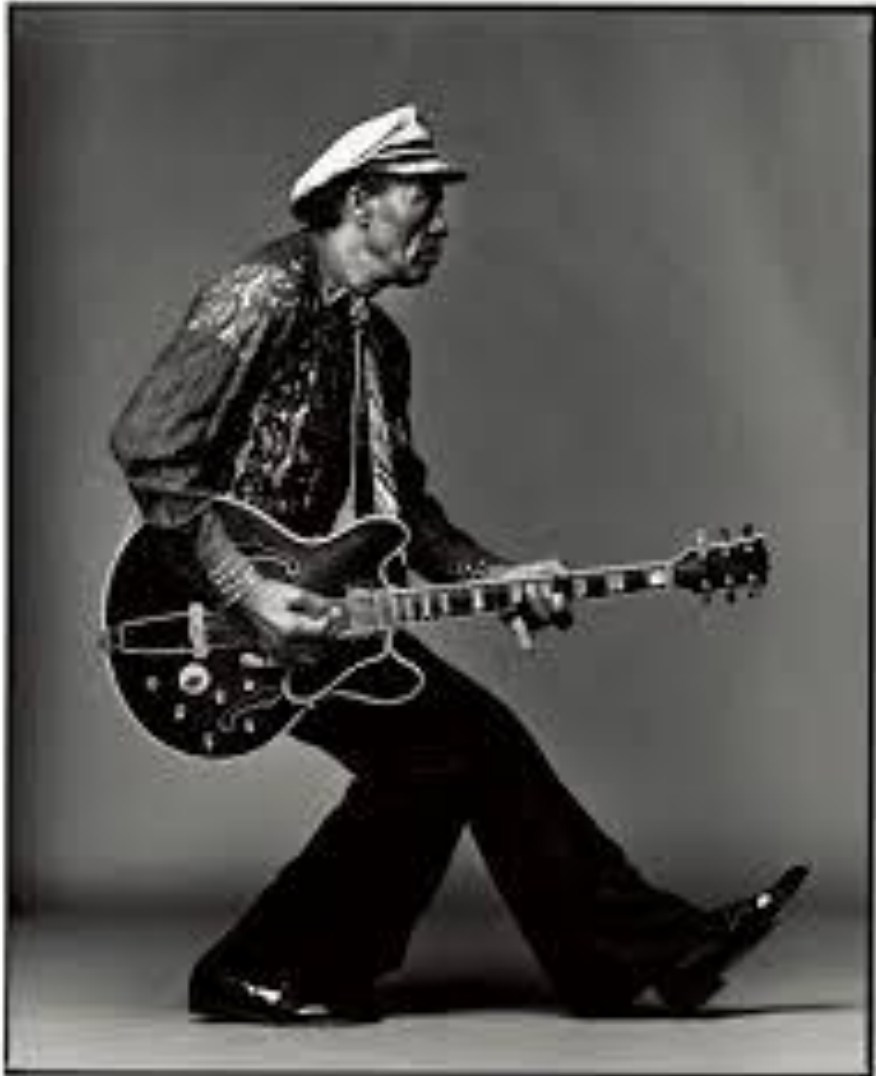
Color: **Light Gray**

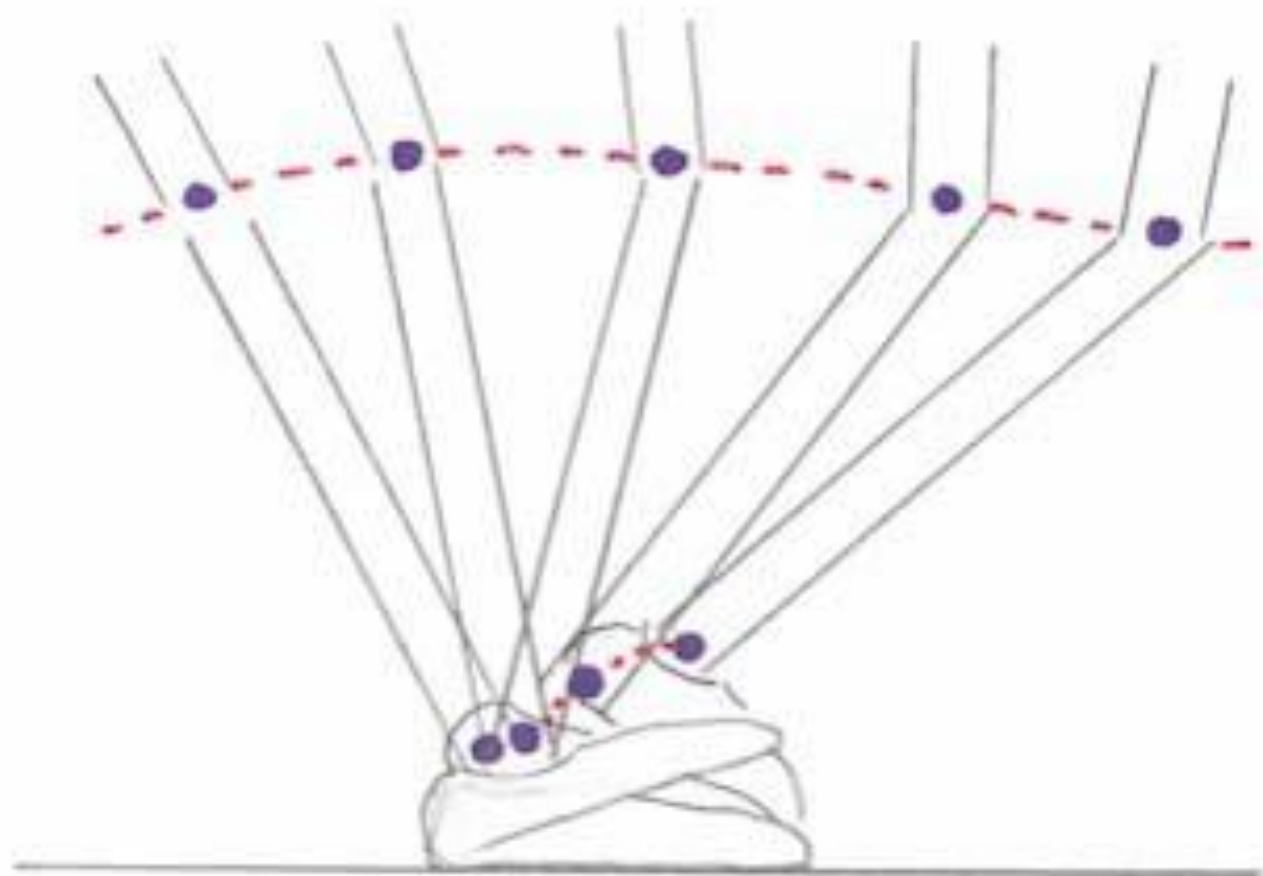
Size: **48 SQFT (12 Tiles + Borders)**

# Once energy is absorbed, it needs a direction

- Ankle rocker or its 8 ugly sisters give it  
direction

# Ankle Rocker







# Common cheat patterns

- Turn foot in
- Turn foot out
- Bounce over the top- bouncy gait

Collapse arch

Swing hips

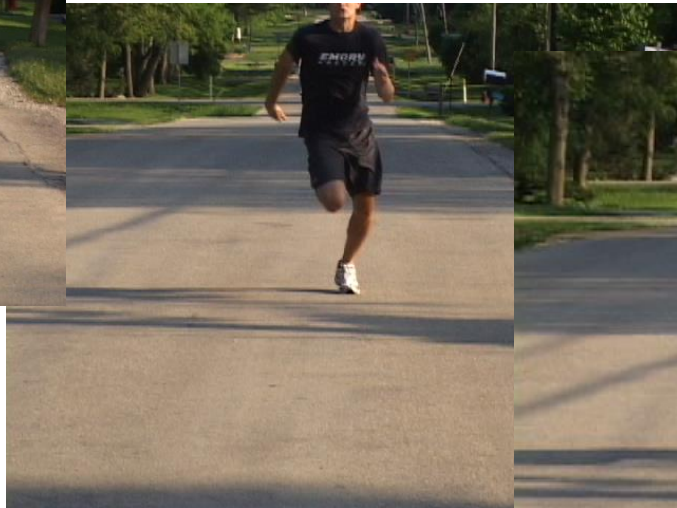
Outside of foot

Throw body weight forward

# Turn foot in



# out



# Bouncy



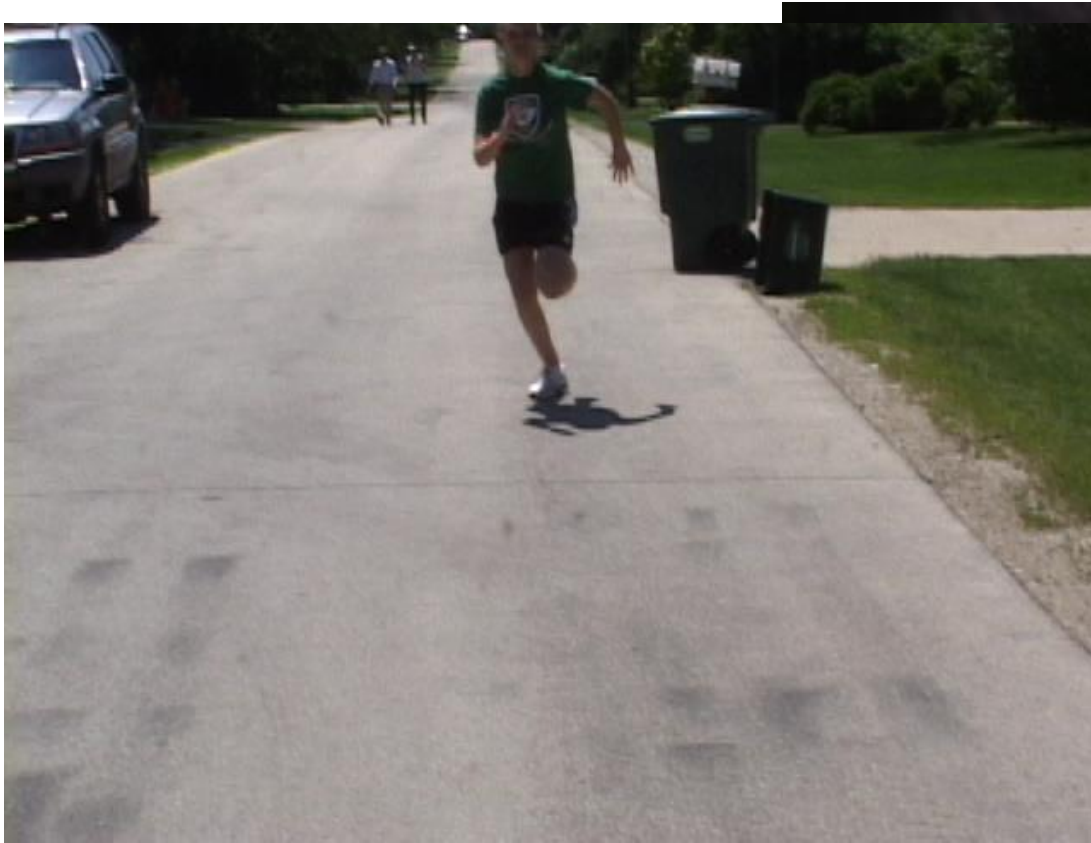
# Spin out through big toe



# Anterior tilt



# Hips or knees swing wide







# Throw weight forward



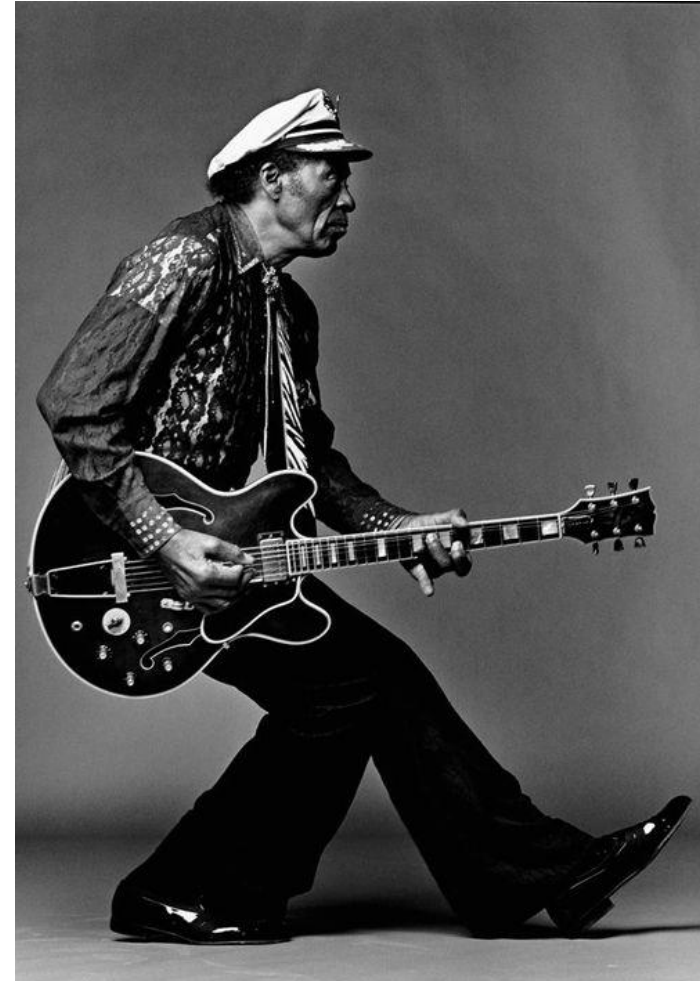




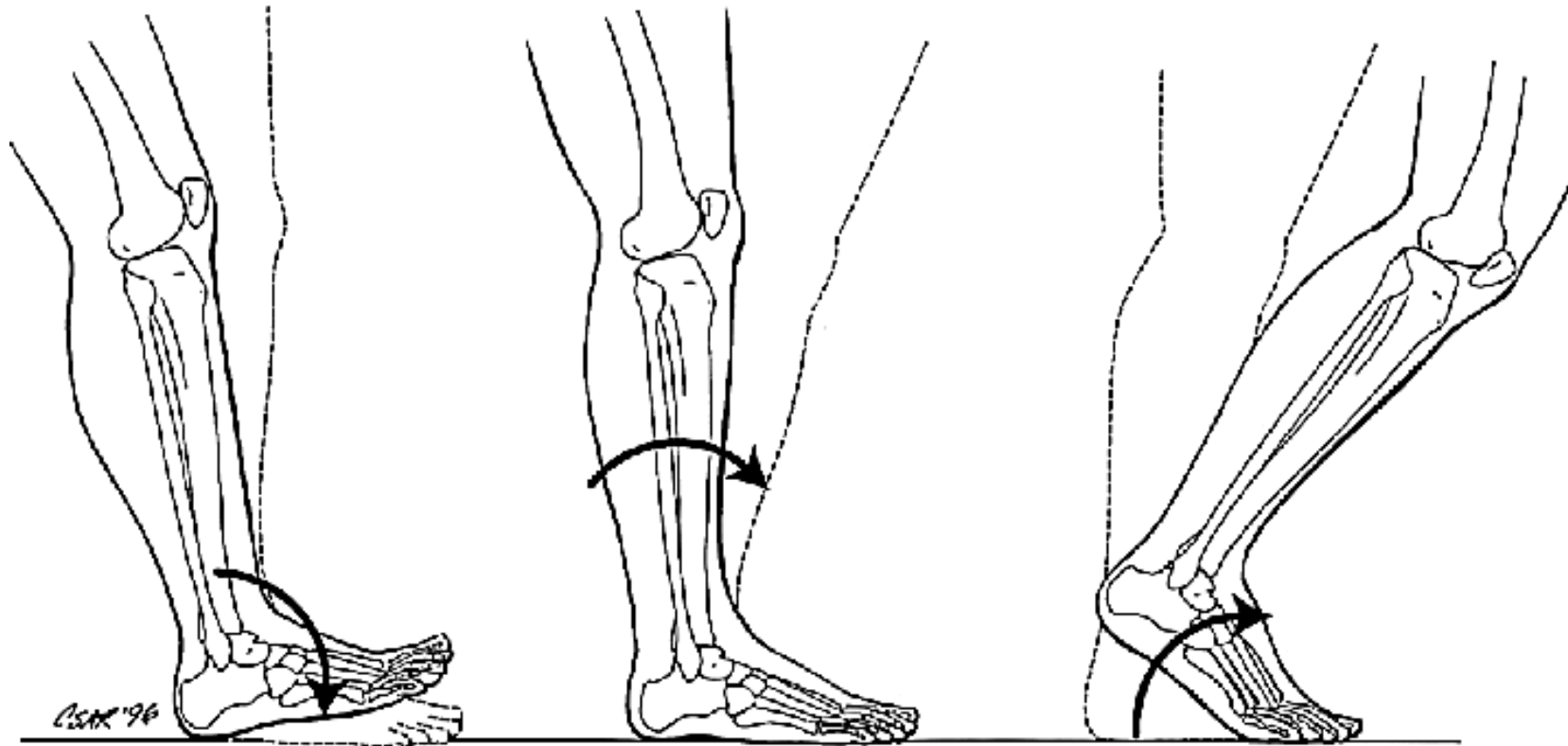


# Exercises

- Wind shield wipers
  - Single leg squats
  - Shuffle walks
  - Ankle jumps
  - Overspeed/French Contrast
  - Uphill Toe pops
- 
- Add to all exercises in weight room
  - (Squats, lunges)



# Once ankle rocks, goes to forefoot rocker



(a) Heel rocker  
(first)

(b) Ankle rocker  
(second)

(c) Forefoot rocker  
(third)

# Toe-off

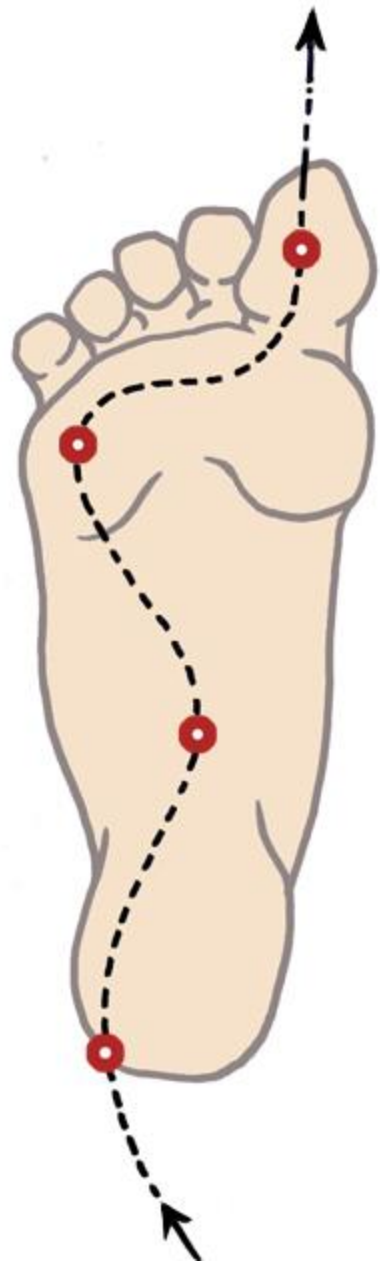


Propulsive Foot



Receptive Foot





# The potential of toe flexor muscles to enhance performance, Goldmann, J. Journal of Sports Science, 2013

- Toe flexors transmit energy produced by hip/leg extensors
- No impact on top end speed or vertical jumps but big impact on horizontal jumps and acceleration

# If missing big toe...



# Drill for toe off

- ISO toe holds
- Stair walks
- No arm runs
- Single leg cleans
- Single leg hops down a line with stick on back



# Can you.....?

- Stand on 2 feet balanced on your foot tripod?
- Stand on one foot and stay balanced on your tripod?
- Ankle rocker squat and keep the tripod and shin splits the big toe gap?
- Do it eyes closed?
- Do it again and come up on your big toe
- Bend your toe back?
- Fold your big toe

# To sum up

- The more functional the foot is, the more power the brain will allow it to have
- Can squat 1000lbs, but if foot doesn't function properly, brain will protect it and limit the power so you can get away from the grizzly bear

The potential of toe flexor muscles to enhance performance, Goldman, JP, J. of Sports Science, 10/12

- TFM contribute greatly to horizontal lean-forward situations
- Respond quickly to strength training- up to 60-70% in weeks
- Significant improvements in all horizontal movements



An estimation of power output and work done by the human triceps surae muscle tendon complex in jumping, Bobbert, M, et al. J of Biomechanics, 1986

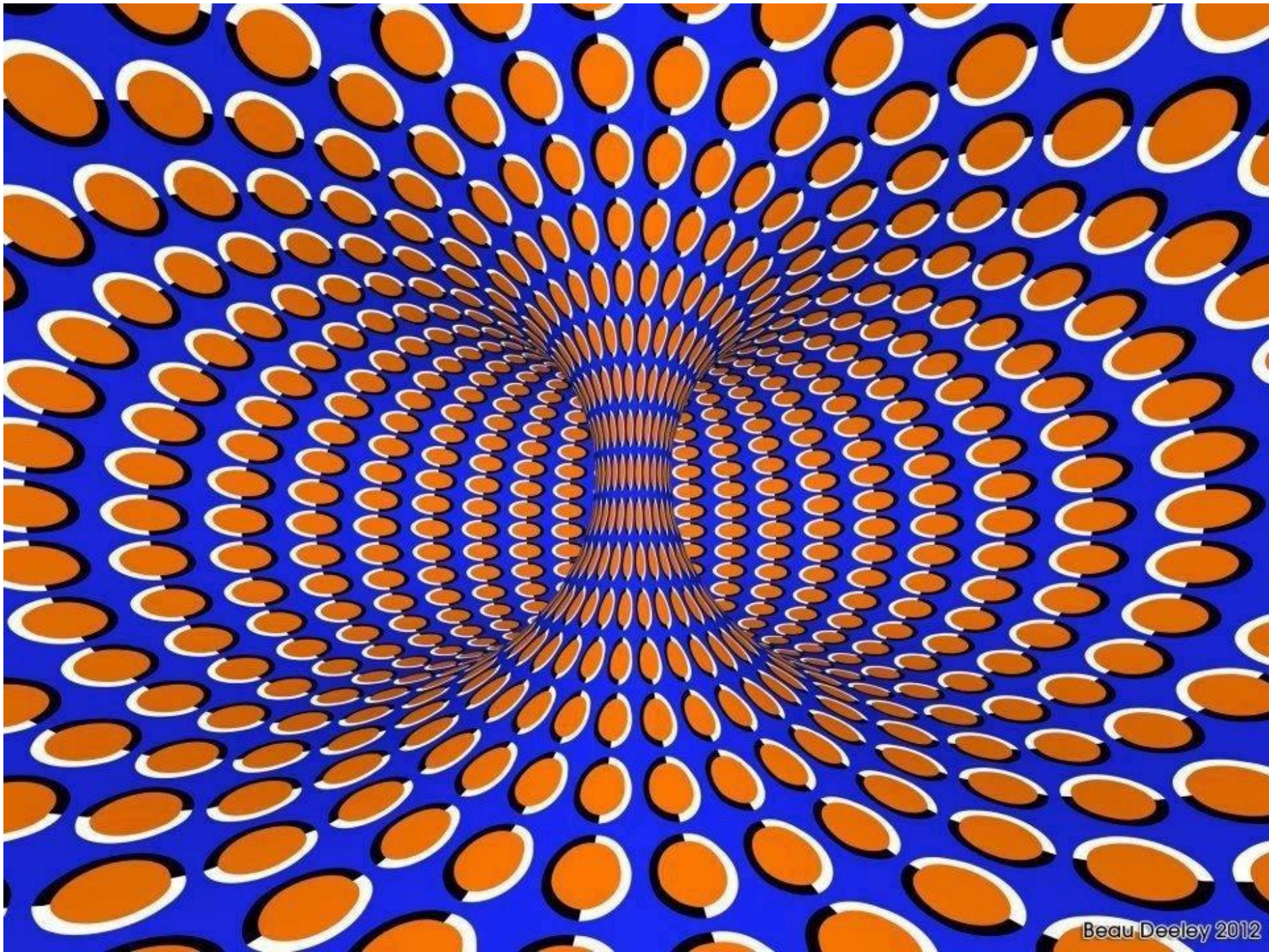
- Tricep Surae MTU responsible for 53% of power the last 50ms of take off

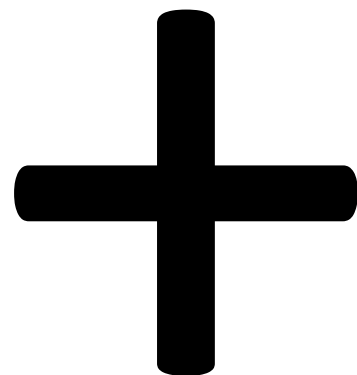
# Where to find me

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- @TF Consortium
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- [www.sellfy.com/korfist](http://www.sellfy.com/korfist)
- [www.slowguyspeedschool.com](http://www.slowguyspeedschool.com)

# TFC 9

- June 21-22 Benedictine U
- Friday evening
- All day Saturday
- JAX Jaguars staff and the rest of rogue's Gallery

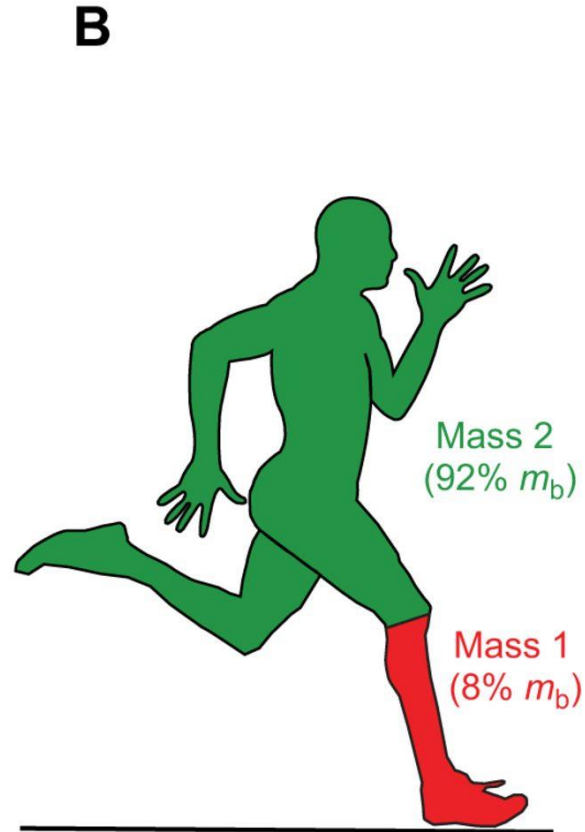
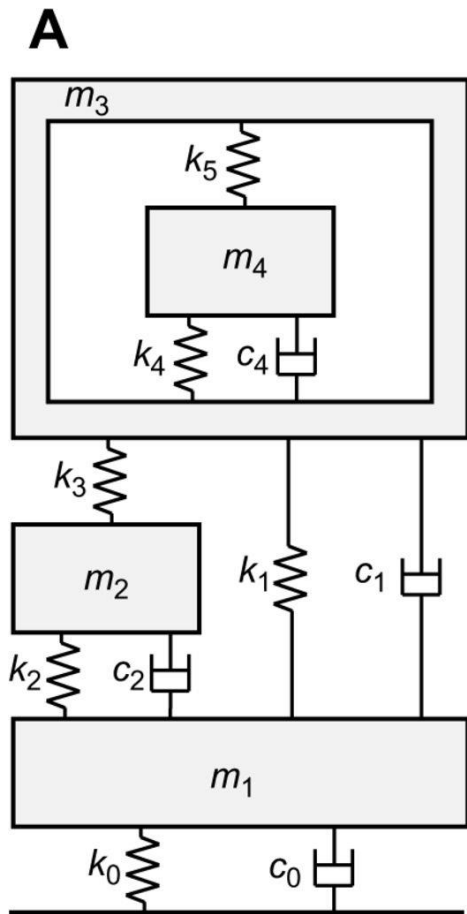




# A general relationship links gait mechanics and running ground reaction forces

- Ken Clark, Laurence Ryan and Peter Weyand

# Ken Clark's 2 mass model



Explains and predict the ground reaction force of runners

# Sorry, Charlie Francis fans... at the right speed, no deceleration

- “No one fast trains this way.” This is not an argument and there have been some improvements in technology. And now, a lot of people are using...quite a bit
- Foot strike out in front with increased contact times
  - We didn't find that to be the case with out 14 sprinters ranging from 11.0 -10.39





# *To sum up*

- Motor skill- challenge environment to force body to react in more efficient manner
- Stumble reflex challenge the body to stiffen faster with the knowledge that it could fall
- Clark- lower limb responsible for a lot of the work going on in sprinting and going faster improves power output or GRF in applicable fashion

How can we apply it to our 3 day workout?



# 1080 tow video



