

# Nutrition Pearls of Wisdom for Athletes

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# Why Eat the Right Foods?

- ▷ Fuels your body for performance
- ▷ Helps your body recover from performance faster
- $\triangleright$  Gives you more energy throughout the day
- ▷ Builds more lean muscle mass and less fat
- $\triangleright$  Allows you to workout more than one time per day
- > The timing of eating is very important for peaking performance

## **Calories and Weight Loss**

- > Your body needs calories for RMB (Resting Metabolic Rate)
- > You need additional calories to exercise (between 400-800)
- > To lose weight you must expend more caleries than you take in
- Cut no more than 10-20% of daily calories to lose weight safely
- Do not cut calories and increase exercise!
- Eat 4-5 small meals per day instead of 3 BIG meals

## **Pre-Exercise Benefits of Eating**

- Studies show that eating breakfast before a workout can increase time until reaching exhaustion
- ▷ It improves performance an average of 6-20%
- ▷ It is most appropriate to fuel your body less than one hour prior to workout with Carbs and water
- ▷ 200-300 calories of food and water are sufficient

#### **Refueling Post-Exercise**

- Carbohydrates are key for refueling the body after exercise
- Carbs fuel muscle glycogen for performance
- $\triangleright$  Pastas, bagels, burritos, foods high in salt content
- ▷ Protein post exercise leads to 17% less muscle soreness
- ▷ Protein for every 40-50g of Carbs
- > Post-exercise also requires resting of muscles to allow muscle glycogen to replenish
- > You may initially gain weight during rest days due to an increase of water in your muscles

# Food Rich in Protein and Iron

- > 90-110g protein per day is recommended for a 150lb athlete
- > There are lots of "engineered" products to meet this need available (protein/amino acid shakes, etc.)
- ▷ High protein foods include nuts, peanut butter, tuna and salmon
- > Iron deficiencies are common in athletes that are vegetarian or non-meat eaters
- ▷ Most iron in food comes from red meats

## **Fluid Replacement**

- Self check with a urine color test the darker the urine, the more water deficient you are
- VIP when undertaking 2 or more workouts per day and in HOT weather conditions
- Drink a minimum of 8-12oz of water every 30 minutes of intense exercise
- > 150mg of sodium needed 45 minutes before exercising
- Eat salty foods prior to and post exercise to maintain sodium levels
- Drink plenty of water or sports byeverages during exercise

# **Additional Information**

▷ www.scandpg.org ▷ www.nancyclarkerd.com