MANUSCRIPT TITLE: The effects of an increased calorie breakfast consumed prior to simulated match-play in Academy soccer players

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ABSTRACT

Dietary analysis of Academy soccer players’ highlights that total energy and carbohydrate intakes are less than optimal; especially, on match-days. As UK Academy matches kick-off at ~11:00 h, breakfast is likely the last pre-exercise meal and thus may provide an intervention opportunity on competition day. Accordingly, the physiological and performance effects of an increased calorie breakfast consumed ~135-min before soccer-specific exercise were investigated. English Premier League Academy soccer players (n=7) repeated a 90-min soccer match simulation on two occasions after consumption of habitual (B_{hab}; ~1100 kJ) or increased (B_{inc}; ~2100 kJ) energy breakfasts standardised for macronutrient contributions (~60% carbohydrates, ~15% proteins and ~25% fats). Countermovement jump height, sprint velocities (15-m and 30-m), 30-m repeated sprint maintenance, gut fullness, abdominal discomfort and soccer dribbling performances were measured. Blood samples were taken at rest, pre-exercise, half-time and every 15-min during exercise. Although dribbling precision (P=0.522; 29.9±5.5 cm) and success (P=0.505; 94±8%) were unchanged, dribbling speed was faster (4.3±5.7%) in B_{inc} relative to B_{hab} (P=0.023; 2.84 vs 2.75 m·s⁻¹). Greater feelings of gut fullness (67±17%, P=0.001) were observed in B_{inc} without changes in abdominal discomfort (P=0.595). All other physical performance measures and blood lactate and glucose concentrations were comparable between trials (all P>0.05). Findings demonstrate that Academy soccer players are able to increase pre-match energy intake without experiencing abdominal discomfort; thus, contributing to the amelioration of energy deficits on match days. Furthermore, whilst B_{inc} produced limited benefits to physical performance, increased dribbling speed was identified, which may be of benefit to match-play.

KEYWORDS: nutrition; skill; performance; metabolism
Introduction

The demands of Academy soccer include a requirement to cover distances of ~7-9 km (Goto, Morris, & Nevill, 2015), perform explosive bouts of skill-based work (Stolen, Chamari, Castagna, & Wisloff, 2005) and run at high intensities for up to 375 ± 120 m per half (Russell, Sparkes, Northeast, & Kilduff, 2015a). However, given the importance of optimised nutritional intake on the day of competition for team sports players (Williams & Serratosa, 2006), it is surprising that the dietary practices of Academy soccer players (specifically higher age Youth Development phase ~U15-U16 and lower age Professional Development phase ~U18) seldom meet recommended values (Briggs et al., 2015; Russell & Pennock, 2011). With regards to total energy intake, consistent observations highlight less than optimal practices when food is consumed ad libitum in free-living conditions (Briggs et al., 2015; Russell & Pennock, 2011). Notably, energy deficits of 2278 ± 2307 kJ·d⁻¹ have been reported on match days (Briggs et al., 2015), with a mean habitual breakfast intake of 1165 ± 129 kJ (Briggs, unpublished observations).

Whilst a periodised approach to nutrition is advised to compensate for multiple matches played within close proximity and fluctuating daily training volumes (Anderson et al., 2016), a pre-exercise meal containing ~1200-4700 kJ of primarily carbohydrates (1-4 g·kg⁻¹; 70-280 g for a 70 kg athlete) is recommended to be consumed >60 min before activity commences (AND, DC & ACSM, 2016). However, in the case of the UK-based Academy soccer player, competitive matches generally kick-off earlier in the day when compared to their senior counterparts (e.g., 11:00 h vs. 15:00 h). Thus, limited time separates waking and the onset of exercise. A multitude of reasons may explain sub-optimal pre-match energy intakes in Academy soccer players (e.g., focus on sleep, home vs. away logistical issues etc.);
however, the failure to modify habitual food and beverage intake practices in the context of
proximity to kick-off is likely a contributing factor. Notably, habitual breakfast intake fails to
meet pre-exercise recommendations in terms of energy (i.e., 1165 ± 129 kJ; Briggs
unpublished observations) and carbohydrate (i.e., 40-65 g; Naughton et al., 2016) intake;
albeit in comparison to recommendations for adult populations (~1200-4700 kJ; AND, DC &
ACSM, 2016) in the absence of population-specific data.

While it is evident that the days preceding competition provide an opportunity to
positively impact upon performance with respect to macronutrient intake (e.g., carbohydrate;
Souglis et al., 2013), match-day itself also allows practitioners to optimise pre-competition
practices (Russell, West, Harper, Cook, & Kilduff, 2015b). As liver and muscle glycogen
depletion is attributed as one of the main mechanisms of fatigue in soccer (Krustrup et al.,
2006), modified breakfast intake may provide an intervention opportunity on match-day. In
the context of morning events, a small pre-exercise meal (~1700-2100 kJ) primarily
consisting of carbohydrate has also been recommended 2-3 h before exercise commences
(ACSM, 2015). The rationale for modified breakfast intake is further substantiated by data
linking the omission of breakfast to impaired exercise performance thereafter (Clayton,
Barutcu, Machin, Stensel, & James, 2015) and studies examining the modulation of pre-
exercise nutritional status (Anderson et al., 2016) and overnight fasting (Burke, 2007) on
endogenous energy storage. Accordingly, the primary aim of the study was to examine the
effects of a prescribed (recommended meal composition; ACSM, 2015) versus habitual
breakfast on performance measures and physiological responses of Academy players during a
90 min soccer match simulation.
**Methods**

**Study Design**

Using a randomised, counterbalanced and cross over design, professional Academy soccer players completed a simulated soccer match with physiological and performance measurements taken at regular intervals. The dependent variables included in this study were indices of exercise intensity (i.e., heart rate, rating of perceived exertion, blood lactate and glucose concentrations), performance (i.e., 15-m and 30-m sprint speeds, 30-m repeated sprint maintenance, countermovement jump height, soccer dribbling performance), subjective measures of pre-exercise nutritional intake (i.e., abdominal discomfort and gut fullness), and hydration status (i.e., plasma and urine osmolality, plasma volume and body mass changes).

**Participants**

Seven male soccer players (age: 16 ± 1 y; stature: 1.75 ± 0.04 m; body mass: 69.4 ± 5.2 kg; Body Mass Index: 22.6 ± 1.5 kg·m⁻²; estimated \( \dot{V}O_{2\text{max}} \): 56 ± 3 ml·kg⁻¹·min⁻¹) playing for an English Premier League Academy participated in the study. The maturity offset was 3.9 ± 0.8 y beyond Peak Height Velocity (PHV) indicating that all of the participants had reached their predicted PHV (positive maturity offset) and thus were of a similar maturation status (Mirwald et al., 2002). All players were actively engaged in full Academy training and competition for ~20 h per week. Once institutional ethical approval was granted, written informed consent was obtained from both players and their respective parents or guardians prior to study involvement.
Procedures

Following an initial protocol familiarisation (to reduce trial-order effects) and estimation of $\dot{V}O_2\text{max}$ (Yo-Yo Intermittent Recovery Test; Bangsbo, Iaia, Krstrup, 2008), players were required to attend two trials. Trials were separated by 9 ± 4 days; ensuring training days (45 min tactical-specific training session) of comparable intensities preceded testing. Players were asked to replicate free-living dietary intake, whilst also refraining from consumption of caffeine and supplements in the 24 h preceding each trial. Pre-trial energy intakes (8.7 ± 0.7 MJ·d⁻¹) and macronutrient contributions were similar (carbohydrates, proteins, fats: 3.16, 1.88, 1.02 g·kg⁻¹, respectively) between trials (all P>0.05) for the 24 h prior to testing. Players were required to attend the training ground at 08:00 h (i.e., ~180 min before commencing exercise) following an overnight fast. Body mass and stature (Seca GmbH & Co., Germany) were then measured prior to a resting fingertip capillary blood sample and mid-flow urine sample being obtained.

At ~08:45 h, players consumed an increased calorie breakfast ($B_{inc}$: 2079 kJ, 77 g carbohydrate, 14 g protein and 12 g fat) that adhered to recommendations specific to morning exercise (ACSM, 2015), or a habitual breakfast ($B_{hab}$: 1122 kJ, 39 g carbohydrate, 10 g protein and 8 g fat). Pilot testing of the free-living dietary habits of Academy soccer players supported the habitual pre-exercise energy intakes used in this study in $B_{hab}$ (Briggs, unpublished observations) and replicated previously published data with respect to pre-match carbohydrate intake (Naughton et al., 2016). Whilst the total energy intake increased approximately two-fold between trials, this was primarily achieved via manipulation of absolute carbohydrate content as macronutrient contributions to the total energy yield remained similar for carbohydrates (i.e., 61% vs. 59%), proteins (14% vs. 15%), and fats.
(25% vs. 26%) for \(B_{inc}\) and \(B_{lab}\) respectively. After having been pre-weighed by the research team, both breakfasts consisted of cereal and buttered toast and were provided with 500 mL of a fluid-electrolyte beverage (Mineral Water, Highland Spring, UK). Thereafter, players remained in a rested state for ~90 min; upon which a pre-exercise blood sample was taken. A standardised warm-up (consisting of soccer-specific dynamic movements, stretches and skills; ~10 min) was performed, during which players were required to consume an additional 200 ml of fluid-electrolytes. Measures of physical performance including countermovement jump height (CMJ) and 30-m repeated sprint maintenance (RSM) were tested prior to the Soccer Match Simulation (SMS) commencing (Russell, Rees, Benton, & Kingsley, 2011a). A timeline schematic of trial day procedures is outlined in Figure 1.

***INSERT FIGURE 1. HERE***

The SMS is comprised of two 45 min bouts of soccer-specific exercise, with 15 min of passive recovery replicating half-time (HT). During HT players consumed 500 mL of fluid-electrolytes in line with typical behaviours of youth soccer players. Assessments of soccer dribbling (Russell, Benton, & Kingsley, 2010) and 15-m sprinting were performed alternatively during each cycle of the protocol. Full details of the SMS protocol are outlined by Russell et al. (2011a). The repeatability of the SMS, and responses to this exercise protocol, has previously been determined (Harper et al., 2016; Russell, Benton, & Kingsley, 2011b).
Participant CMJ height and 30-m RSM were tested at four time points (pre-exercise; post-first half; pre-second half; post-second half), each requiring three CMJ’s separated with 10 s of passive recovery and three 30-m sprints with 25 s of active recovery (light jogging). In both performance tests the mean value of the three attempts was used for analysis. CMJ height was determined using an optical measuring system (OptoJump Next, Microgate Corp, Italy). Players began each repetition from a standing position and performed a preparatory crouching action (at a consistent, self-determined level) before explosively jumping out of the dip for maximal height. Hands were isolated at the hips for the entire movement to eliminate any influence of arm swing. For RSM testing, players commenced each repetition from a standing start at a distance of 0.3-m behind the first timing gate (Brower Timing, Utah) and verbal encouragement was provided throughout each attempt.

Integrated 15-m sprints and 18-m dribbles (assessed for precision, percentage success and average speed) were recorded throughout the SMS. Players were required to dribble the ball as fast and as accurately as possible between cones spaced every 3-m as per Russell et al. (2011a). All dribbles were video recorded (50 Hz; 103 DCR-HC96E; Sony Ltd, UK) and digitisation processes (Kinovea version 0.8.15; Kinovea Org., France) derived speed (time taken to successfully complete the distance) and precision (distance of the ball from each cone) data. The test-retest reliability for all components of the SMS have been determined, including physiological (CV: 2.6%), metabolic (CV: 16.1%) and performance (CV: 2.1%) responses (Russell et al., 2011b).

Fingertip capillary blood samples (170 μl) were taken at rest, pre-exercise, HT and at the end of each 15 min period of the protocol. Blood samples were analysed for variables
associated with exercise intensity and fatigue (i.e., blood glucose and lactate concentrations via GEM Premier 3000; Instrumentation Laboratory, UK; CV’s: 0.6-2.2%) (Beneteau-Burnat, Bocque, Lorin, & Martin, 2004). Urine and plasma osmolality (Advanced Model 121 3300 Micro-Osmometer; Advanced Instruments Inc., USA; CV: 1.5%) and urine corrected mass changes were determined and the rate of perceived exertion (RPE) (Borg, 1973) was recorded every 15 min. Environmental conditions were measured during exercise (Technoline WS-9032; Technotrade GmbH, Germany). Heart rate (HR) was continuously recorded (Polar S610; Polar, Finland), with gut fullness (paper-based 100mm Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), ranging from ‘not full at all’ to ‘very full’) recorded immediately after breakfast, 30 min post, 60 min post and 90 min post/immediately prior to exercise. Abdominal discomfort (based on a self-perceived subjective rating 0-10; ‘no discomfort’ to ‘worst possible discomfort’) was determined at the end of each 15 min block of the protocol. Post exercise body mass was also recorded in addition to a mid-flow urine sample.

Statistical Analysis

For parametric data expressed over multiple time-points, two-way repeated measures analysis of variance (within-participant factors: treatment x time) were performed (once confirmed by normality and variance assessments), which included dribbling (precision, speed and success), sprint velocities (15 and 30-m), CMJ height, 30-m RSM, RPE, heart rate (HR), gut fullness, abdominal discomfort and blood glucose and lactate concentrations. Mauchly’s test was consulted and Greenhouse-Geisser correction was applied if the assumption of sphericity was violated. Significant main effects were further investigated using multiple pairwise comparisons with LSD confidence interval adjustment (95% Confidence Intervals; CI). Partial eta-squared ($\eta^2$) values were calculated and Cohen’s $d$
effect size examined between-trial differences. A paired samples t-test was used to analyse
differences in mean body mass pre and post-exercise. For $\eta^2$ and effect size data, thresholds
of 0.2, 0.5, and 0.8 were considered small, medium and large, respectively (Fritz, Morris, &
Richler, 2012). All data are presented as mean ± SD, with level of significance set at $P \leq 0.05$
using SPSS (Version 22; SPSS Inc., USA) for all analyses.
Results

Pre-exercise plasma osmolality was similar amongst players between each trial (312 ± 6 mOsmol·kg⁻¹, P=0.936). Ambient temperature (18.5 ± 1.5°C), humidity (74 ± 7%) and barometric pressure (1017 ± 3 mmHg) were also consistent between trials (P>0.05).

Compared to B_hab, gut fullness was greater (F_(1,7) = 7.262, p = 0.027, η² = 0.548) immediately (60 ± 15 vs. 19 ± 15, P=0.002, d = 2.8, CI: 22-60), 30 min (58 ± 13 vs. 18 ± 13, P=0.001, d = 3, CI: 23-58), 60 min (46 ± 11 vs. 15 ± 13, P=0.003, d = 2.5, CI: 15-47) and 90 min after ingestion and immediately pre-exercise (40 ± 11 vs. 13 ± 10, P=0.001, d = 2.6, CI: 15-38) during B-inc. Abdominal discomfort was similar between trials (F_(5,30) = 0.746, P=0.595, η² = 0.111).

Mean dribbling precision (F_(2,10) = 0.856, P=0.433, η² = 0.125) and success (F_(2,10) = 0.666, P=0.505, η² = 0.100) was comparable between trials whereas mean dribbling speed was faster (-4.3 ± 5.7%) in B-inc (F_(5,30) = 3.072, P=0.023, η² = 0.339) (Figure 2). Post hoc comparisons were unable to isolate these specific differences but dribbling speed was 13.3 ± 10.1% and 7.1 ± 10.2% greater at 61-75 min and 76-90 min respectively during B-inc.

Breakfast did not influence 15-m (F_(2,12) = 0.668, P=0.534, η² = 0.100) or 30-m sprint velocities (F_(3,18) = 0.136, P=0.938, η² = 0.022). Similarly, 30-m RSM (F_(3,18) = 0.072, P=0.974, η² = 0.012) and CMJ (F_(3,18) = 0.946, P=0.439, η² = 0.136) performance was similar between trials. However, an exercise effect was observed in all these variables (all P<0.05; ***INSERT FIGURE 2. HERE***
medium effect size). Sprint velocities over 15-m were significantly reduced in the periods 31-45 min (5.72 ± 0.43 m·s⁻¹), 46-60 (5.64 ± 0.47 m·s⁻¹) and 76-90 min (5.59 ± 0.63 m·s⁻¹) when compared to 0-15 min (5.94 ± 0.53 m·s⁻¹; all P<0.05). Sprint velocity over 30-m and 30-m RSM both demonstrated decrements in performance in post 1st half, pre 2nd half and post 2nd half when compared to pre-exercise (all P<0.01; see Table 1). Likewise, CMJ height was reduced (P<0.05) pre 2nd half (32.5 ± 3.5 cm) when compared to pre-exercise (35.3 ± 2.9 cm; Table 1).

***INSERT TABLE 1 HERE***

Heart rate was similar between trials (F(5,30) = 2.353, P=0.065, \( \eta^2 = 0.282 \)), with no trial effect identified (F(1,9) = 1.294, P=0.307, \( \eta^2 = 0.177 \)). Likewise, RPE was not influenced by trial (F(5,30) = 0.691, P=0.634, \( \eta^2 = 0.103 \)), despite increases at 46-60 min (13 ± 3), 61-75 min (14 ± 3) and 76-90 min (15 ± 3), when compared to 0-15 min (11 ± 3) values (all P<0.01). Mean differences in body mass pre and post-exercise were not influenced by trial (t(6) = -0.337, P=0.747). Mean body mass changes (pre: 69.6 kg, post: 68.9 kg) equated to a mean difference of 0.75 kg in \( B_{hab} \), similar to \( B_{inc} \) (pre: 70.5 kg, post: 69.8 kg, mean difference: 0.70 kg).

Blood lactate was similar between trials (F(2,11) = 0.728, P=0.495, \( \eta^2 = 0.108 \)) as were blood glucose (F(3,19) = 2.983, P=0.055, \( \eta^2 = 0.332 \)) concentrations. Exercise effects were observed in both of these variables (F(2,10) = 9.618, P=0.007, \( \eta^2 = 0.616 \); F(3,19) = 10.563, P=0.0001, \( \eta^2 = 0.638 \), respectively). Blood lactate was significantly higher during 0-15 min (P=0.009), 31-45 min (P=0.006), HT (P=0.0001), 46-60 min (P=0.018), 61-75 min.
(P=0.008), 76-90 min (P=0.045) in comparison to pre-exercise concentrations (Table 2).

Blood glucose was significantly reduced (all P<0.05) during 31-45 min (-6.9 ± 7.3%), HT (-10.9 ± 6.4%), 46-60 min (-11.6 ± 7.9%), 61-75 min (12.6 ± 7.5%), and 76-90 min (11.2 ± 9.6%) in comparison to 0-15 min (Table 2).

***INSERT TABLE 2 HERE***
Discussion

The primary aim of the study was to examine the effects of increasing pre-exercise energy intake (via manipulation of absolute carbohydrate content) on performance measures and physiological responses of Academy players during a 90 min soccer match simulation. Although dribbling precision and success were unchanged, dribbling speed was improved in B_{inc} relative to B_{hab}. Unsurprisingly, greater feelings of gut fullness were observed in B_{inc} but not at the expense of changes in abdominal discomfort. Therefore, although limited physical benefits were observed, modified breakfast content may offer an intervention opportunity on match day that addresses the previously identified energy deficits common in this population (Briggs et al., 2015).

When compared to B_{hab}, mean dribbling speed was 4.3 ± 5.7% faster than B_{inc}. Although post hoc comparisons were unable to detect differences between particular time-points, dribbling speeds were 13.3 ± 10% and 7.1 ± 10% greater at 61-75 min and 76-90 min respectively during B_{inc}. Interestingly, more successful Academy players are associated with conducting movement patterns at higher speeds (Goto et al., 2015), therefore an increased dribbling speed may have positive implications for match-play, especially during phases of the game related to higher fatigue (Krstrup et al., 2006). Although not isolated to breakfast intake, match-day carbohydrate ingestion has previously been demonstrated to improve soccer-skills in adolescents (Russell, Benton, & Kingsley, 2012); namely, soccer shooting performance. Current findings are in agreement that the nutritional intervention was beneficial to aspects of soccer skill performance.
The B\textsubscript{inc} breakfast (2079 kJ, 77 g carbohydrate, 14 g protein and 12 g fat) contained a carbohydrate intake equivalent to 1.11 g·kg\textsuperscript{-1} BM which is higher than prescribed in studies with similar populations (0.78 g·kg\textsuperscript{-1} BM; Phillips et al., 2010; Phillips et al., 2012). Despite methodological variation regarding the timing of pre-match energy intake, current findings support the notion of limited effects of pre-exercise carbohydrate consumption on maximal sprint performance (Phillips et al., 2010; Phillips et al., 2012). The SMS required ~33 maximal sprints interspersed with both high and low-intensity running to mimic movement patterns associated with soccer match-play. However, whilst sprint performance appears maintained when multiple 15-m sprints are separated by 30 s passive recovery (Balsom, Seger, Sjodin, & Ekblom, 1992), such activity patterns are not congruent with the SMS protocol and indeed match-play itself.

The lack of improvement in CMJ height during B\textsubscript{inc} is not uncommon as previous research involving adolescent athletes has highlighted a reduction in peak power output when participants do not engage in passive recovery between multiple bouts (Thevenet, Tardieu-Berger, Berthoin, & Prioux, 2007). Despite the higher calorie intake and increased carbohydrate content during B\textsubscript{inc}, blood glucose concentrations were not significantly enhanced (\(P=0.055\)); although a trend towards significance and a small effect (\(\eta^2 = 0.332\)) was found (Table 2). In addition, blood lactate concentrations, HR and RPE were also similar (all \(P>0.05\)) between trials (Table 2). Therefore, the standardisation of the physiological demands between trials and the limited glycaemic response of B\textsubscript{inc} versus B\textsubscript{hub} may explain the similar between-trial findings for specific physical variables.
Academy soccer players have been found to display poor nutritional practices with reports of mean daily energy deficits of $1302 \pm 1662 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ (Briggs et al., 2015) and $3299 \pm 329 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ (Russell & Pennock, 2011). Furthermore, match day energy balance within this population is less than optimal; demonstrating mean deficits of $2278 \pm 2307 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ (Briggs et al., 2015). Despite limited evidence of performance benefits with increased energy intake during $B_{inc}$, the additional calorie content may be worthwhile to simultaneously reduce the energy deficits observed on match-day. Additionally, the increased calorie intake apparent in $B_{inc}$ did not induce any abdominal discomfort versus $B_{hab}$ ($P=0.595$). Conversely, feelings of gut fullness were increased immediately after consumption until the onset of exercise (all $P<0.01$), potentially providing an additional subjective preparatory benefit.

**Conclusion**

The study findings demonstrate that Academy soccer players are able to increase pre-match energy intake without experiencing detrimental effects of abdominal discomfort. Such an approach may help to address previously identified concerns of energy deficits on competition days. This finding may be of interest to applied practitioners working with Academy soccer players who typically demonstrate less than optimal pre-match nutritional habits. Furthermore, whilst $B_{inc}$ produced limited benefits to physical performance, increased dribbling speed was identified compared to $B_{hab}$, a finding which may be of benefit to match-play. However, further investigations in to match-day strategies are warranted to help further reduce energy deficit and elicit subsequent performance improvements.
Acknowledgements

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References


Table 1. Performance variables as a function of timing and trial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Pre-exercise</th>
<th>Post-1st Half</th>
<th>Post-2nd Half</th>
<th>Post-2nd Half</th>
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<td><strong>30 m Sprint Velocities (m·s⁻¹)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>( B_{inc} )</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.95 ± 0.25</td>
<td>6.80 ± 0.23</td>
<td>6.61 ± 0.33</td>
<td>6.70 ± 0.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>( B_{hab} )</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.09 ± 0.16</td>
<td>6.88 ± 0.20</td>
<td>6.61 ± 0.23</td>
<td>6.76 ± 0.30</td>
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<td><strong>30 m RSM (%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>( B_{inc} )</td>
<td></td>
<td>99 ± 1</td>
<td>96 ± 4</td>
<td>93 ± 7</td>
<td>94 ± 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( B_{hab} )</td>
<td></td>
<td>98 ± 2</td>
<td>97 ± 3</td>
<td>94 ± 7</td>
<td>95 ± 3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CMJ Height (cm)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( B_{inc} )</td>
<td></td>
<td>35.0 ± 2.9</td>
<td>34.3 ± 2.7</td>
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<td>34.5 ± 5.2</td>
<td>32.0 ± 4.1</td>
<td>34.7 ± 4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RSM = Repeated Sprint Maintenance, CMJ = Countermovement Jump, \( B_{inc} \) = Intervention Trial, \( B_{hab} \) = Habitual intake trial. Data presented as mean ± SD.
Table 2. Blood metabolite data as a function of timing and trial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Timing (min unless stated)</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Rest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lactate</td>
<td>Binc</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bhab</td>
<td>0.9 ± 0.3</td>
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<td>Glucose</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bhab</td>
<td>4.9 ± 0.3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Binc = Intervention Trial, Bhab = Habitual intake trial. HT = half-time. Data presented as mean ± SD.
Figure Legends

**Figure 1.** Schematic of trial day procedures.

**Figure 2.** Dribbling speed throughout each trial (mean ± SD). $B_{inc}$ = Intervention Trial, $B_{hab}$ = Habitual intake trial. Treatment effect between $B_{inc}$ and $B_{hab}$ ($F_{(5,30)} = 3.072, P=0.023$, $\eta^2 = 0.33$)