Post Recovery Nutrition

Importance

The restoration of carbohydrate (glycogen) and protein stores after strength training, intense workouts or activities lasting longer than 2 hours are important in order to minimize fatigue, improve recovery and reduce the occurrence of overtraining.

Timing

The optimal time to restore carbohydrates and protein back in the muscle is within 30-45 minutes after activity. Pending on the length of activity or competition you should than follow the post recovery snack with a meal in the next 90 minutes .

Amount of Nutrients

Carbohydrates

- Aim for 30-60g of carbohydrates within 30-45min
- If you delay carbohydrate intake for too long after activity it will reduce muscle glycogen storage and impair recovery

Protein

- Aim for 10-20g of protein within 30-45min
- If you delay protein intake you slow down muscle recovery, repair, growth and maintenance

Fluid

- Consume 20-24oz of fluid for every pound of body weight lost
- If lost less than 1 lb rehydrate within the hour. If lost more, rehydrate the remaining throughout the day
- Remember if you are 1% dehydrated performance can decline up to 12%

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POST RECOVERY SNACK IDEAS:

- 12-20oz chocolate milk
- Clif Builder bar & Smart Water
- USANA Nutrimeal (gluten free) & 10oz Soy Milk
- 2/3 cup cottage cheese, 1 cup pineapple & Unsweetened Tea
- PB & Jelly Sandwich with 6oz Greek yogurt & Water
- Naked or Odawalla protein smoothie

For more post snack ideas please refer to the "Sports Nutrition Guide for Student-Athletes" pgs 59-126.