

# Group Fitness

Did you know that aerobics can lower your immune system?



By Dan Young



## HIGH IMPACT AEROBICS

When taking this high energy, seemingly non-stop Aerobics Class, the muscles rely on all three energy systems to supply the necessary energy needed to perform at peak efficiency; specifically the Immediate, Glycolytic and Oxidative energy systems. The amount that your body depends on these systems is 10-30-60% respectively.

Why is this important to understand? Well, how your body pulls the energy it needs at specific times is directly related to the diet you eat, and when you eat it. You can very easily thwart your efforts by eating too much fat or too little carbohydrates. Carbohydrates are stored in your muscles as glycogen, and glycogen must be present in order for you to use the Oxidative energy system. In other words – you need glycogen present in order to burn fat.

So, if this activity is a regular component

of your workout regime then 55% of your daily calories should come from low-glycemic carbohydrates, 25% from protein and 20% from healthy fats.

## RULES TO FOLLOW

- Consume low-glycemic-index foods about two to three hours before your workout.
- Consume high-glycemic-index foods immediately before your class. Because exercise slows the release of insulin into the bloodstream, the ingestion of carbohydrates spares glycogen and allows the use of fat for energy. Carbohydrate drinks with high-glycemic indexes help sustain the blood-sugar level, thereby preserving glycogen stores.
- Drink plenty of water. Not only will this practice reduce your chances of becoming dehydrated, but every ounce of glycogen that is stored within the muscles needs 3 ounces

of water stored along with it. Therefore, remaining hydrated will also help prevent weakened muscle contractions.

- Keep your fat intake to 20% or lower. Large amounts of fat cause you to lose minerals through frequent urination.
- Drink a high-glycemic-index Recovery Shake within 45 minutes of class to optimize glycogen replenishment and rehydration of the cells within your muscles.

## CARDIO – THAT DOUBLE EDGED SWORD

Did you know that aerobics can lower your immune system? When you workout, especially cardio, you build more natural virus killing cells in the body; however, you also produce more free radicals from oxygen consumed during the same period. These free radicals can quickly hamper your recovery and any gains you've made in the gym. They can also lower your immune system and make you sick.

Note – Carbohydrates are the major source of energy for short term activities, meaning anything under 90 minutes.



## Eat well and remember, you are what your food eats!

Dan Young is President and CEO of Performance Food Centers, Corp. He is certified in personal training, sports nutrition and is a triathlete. He has competed in Body Building as well as Endurance Sports Activities. Accomplished in juice bar concept and design, he applies this knowledge to whole-foods nutrition and the efficiency to serving them.

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