Chen N. (2025) GENDER DIFFERENCES IN RESPONSE TO STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING PROGRAMS IN COLLEGIATE ATHLETES. Revista Internacional de Medicina y Ciencias de la Actividad Física y el Deporte vol. 25 (100) pp. 298-312. **DOI:** https://doi.org/10.15366/rimcafd2025.100.019

ORIGINAL

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN RESPONSE TO STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING PROGRAMS IN COLLEGIATE ATHLETES

Nora Chen

University of Pretoria, South Africa

Recibido 23 de junio de 2024 Received June 23, 2024 Aceptado 10 de diciembre de **2024 Accepted** December 10, 2024

ABSTRACT

Research investigates how male and female college athletes react to strength and conditioning programs. This paper evaluates the impact of biological elements including muscle mass density and hormonal composition along with mental components including inspirational drive perception and performance awareness on shifting training success for athletic individuals of either sex. Men commonly achieve better results in muscle mass development because their higher testosterone creates improved strength gain potential yet women show different physical growth speeds and demonstrate superior physical flexibility at the same time. The research study based on primary data analysis for determine the overall research used Smart PLS Algorithm Model between the gender differences in response to strength and conditioning programs. Research demonstrates that individualized strength and conditioning programs need specific adjustments based on natural sex-based physiological differences which improve athletic performance while reducing safety risks. The knowledge of gender-specific responses enables strength and conditioning programming to produce better outcomes for male and female athletes who strive to achieve their best athletic level. Overall result found that directly link of gender differences in response to strength and conditioning programs.

KEYWORDS: Gender Difference (GD), Response (RR), Strength (SS), Conditioning Programs (CP), Collegiate Athletes (CA).

1. INTRODUCTION

We can define strength and conditioning programs as those important programs that are designed for improvement in athlete's performance, enhancement in physical Fitness of athletes, and reducing the risk of injury also.

There are some important components of strength and conditioning programs in which strength training is first one. In strength training, there is involvement of such exercises which are aimed to improve muscular strength, power, and level of endurance. The second component is conditioning in which there is involvement of aerobic and anaerobic exercises which are aimed to improve the speed, flexibility, and fitness of athletes(Reader, 2022). The other important component of plyometrics is that there are such exercises that improve reactivity. The next important components are flexibility exercises and injury prevention. As these training is provided to both genders including male and female athletes so we have to understand the difference in response to these strength and conditioning programs by both male and female athletes. We are going to study this difference in Collegiate Athletes means those athletes who participate in sports at the college or university level. It is mostly said that both genders do not respond in the same way to these strength and conditioning programs because of some physiological and psychological reasons(Hull et al., 2016). For example, if we discuss psychological considerations, we may come to know that there is an aspect of body image and self-esteem. It is mostly observed that some body image issues in female athletes act as hindrances to positive responses to strength and conditioning programs. There is also some sort of self-esteem issues related to female athletes which may result in declined outcomes related to strength and conditioning programs in female athletes. But on the other hand, it has been seen that there are no body image or self-esteem issues in male athletes which is the main reason for the enhanced response of male athletes to strength and conditioning programs(Wade et al., 2014). We are living in such a society where there are still some cultural and social norms for female athletes so these athletes are mostly discouraged and have no social support. This lack of social support is also acting as a reason for less response and participation in strength and conditioning programs. If we talk about biological reasons, we may come to know that the bodies of male and female athletes are differently designed by God so both of these bodies have variations in capacity(Poiss et al., 2004). For example, male athletes have such bodies which may show muscular strength and power with less training but in the case of female athletes, they have a high proportion of slow twitch muscle fibers which makes them take more time to gain muscular strength and power. Secondly, if we understand the hormonal causes that may show differences in response to strength and conditioning programs in male and female athletes, we will come to know that a female body undergoes many hormonal fluctuations throughout life. For example, some puberty considerations may make the female body more susceptible to injury because of weakness. For example, the most important aspect is the menstrual cycle in females so all the coaches and fellow athletes must try to accommodate these female athletes according to their body changes (Roth, 2015). Moreover, as we know there is the involvement of both aerobic and anaerobic respiration during high-intensity interval training in athletes' male athletes have more muscular endurance and can work in the presence of low oxygen as well but female athletes can perform a limited

anaerobic activity because of a smaller number of red blood cells in the body. Recent studies have shown that there is a need for fat burnout for better muscular strength and endurance but medical studies have convinced us that there is more amount of fat in female athletes. In this regard, we can say that female athletes have to work more to enhance muscular strength. If we talk about recovery time in both genders in case of injury, we may come to know that the female body takes more time for rehabilitation as compared to the male body(Laskowski & Ebben, 2016). So, there is a need for personalized recovery strategies for swift recovery in female athletes. Recent studies have also shown that male and female athletes have different nutritional needs so female athletes have to be more conscious about nutrition for better function of the body. There is also involvement of perception in response to strength and conditioning programs. It has been seen that female athletes have such a perception that they do not need many strength and conditioning programs to develop strength in the body for effective performance(Santos et al., 2022). So, they give less time to these strength and conditioning programs which result in poor performance of female athletes. In this regard, we can say that there is a need to change this perception which can only be done by communication. There is an important role of sports psychologists in improving the behavior of female athletes in this regard. There are some important challenges related to strength and conditioning programs relevant to gender. If we discuss challenges related to male athletes, we may know that there is an aspect of ego and competition in male athletes. In this way, they push themselves to such a hard level that they are suspectable to overtraining (Elder et al., 2014). This sense of over-competition may also result in pressure, anxiety, and stress in male athletes. Secondly, it has also been seen male athletes are still stick to traditional masculine body ideals which is also acting as a challenge to strength and conditioning programs. Additionally, it has been said that male athletes need more protein in body as compared to female athletes to show better responses to strength and conditioning programs. There is much involvement in aspects of mental health for showing positive responses to strength and conditioning programs(Shurley et al., 2020). If there is better mental health, there will be effective responses to these training programs. In this regard, it has been proved that male athletes more suffer from competition pressure, anxiety, and stress so they usually have poor mental health as compared to female athletes. There are some general challenges related to strength and conditioning programs that are related to both genders. One of these common challenges is limited resources. The second important common challenge is the limited communication which is also hindering positive outcomes of Strength and Conditioning Programs in both genders(Reynolds et al., 2012; Sharma, 2024).

1.1 Research Objective

The main objective of this research is to discuss gender Differences in Response to Strength and Conditioning Programs in Collegiate Athletes. These studies have effectively explained various factors that contribute to different responses to strength and conditioning programs.

2. Literature Review

When we discuss strength and conditioning programs in athletes, we need to consider gender Differences as well because both genders have different abilities to respond to these programs. Recent studies have shown that the biological sex is one of the main determinants of the performance of athletes because it is mostly seen that male athletes are faster and even stronger and powerful as well as compared to female athletes because of some fundamental differences in the anatomy and physiology of body which make both bodies different(Evetovich et al., 2015). It is shown by providing the same strength training to both genders and it is noticed that male athletes give better responses to strength training because they have the perception that strength is much more important for effective performance. It has also been seen that male athletes take less time to show response and outcomes of Strength training programs as compared to female athletes(Hartshorn et al., 2016). But when we discuss the strength and conditioning programs related to female athletes, we may consider that there are a variety of challenges for a female athlete to understand the importance of strength and conditioning programs so firstly we need to make them understand the importance of strength and conditioning programs. There are some ground bases because of which male and female athletes show different responses to strength and conditioning programs. The first and foremost aspect is the physiological differences between male and female athletes(Stamatis et al., 2018). If we talk about the hormonal system of the male and female body, we may know that all the hormones are the same except sex hormones which is the main aspect of difference. In males, there is the production of testosterone which is the male sex hormone responsible for the development of male characteristics. Along this, there are also some other impacts and functions of testosterone in the male body such as testosterone is responsible for the development of strength, power, and mass of muscles(Waters, 2023). So we can say that sex hormones bring some physiological differences in males and females. Recent studies have shown that the female body has estrogen and progesterone as sex hormones and these hormones have an impact on bones as well. As the age rises in females, there is an aspect of menopause that will cause weak bone deposition. It will result in weaker bones in female athletes so this is also responsible for different responses of female athletes to strength and conditioning programs(Jessri et al., 2010). As aforementioned the other aspect responsible for different responses to strength and conditioning programs is the perception of training in both genders. Still, we need to educate female athletes about the importance of strength and conditioning programs for effective performance so that they may respond to these programs in a better way. We can say that training habits are also responsible for different response of both genders to strength and conditioning programs. Usually, male athletes spend relatively less time in the weight room but female athletes more time so this aspect also affects the strength training of both athletes. If we discuss the response of male athletes to strength and conditioning programs, we need to consider various aspects of it(Tiberi et al., 2024). For example, there are some important physiological responses in male athletes to strength and conditioning programs. It has been seen that because of strength and conditioning programs, there is an increase in muscle mass in male athletes(Adams et al., 2016). It is because resistance Training makes their body habitual and adapted for better muscle protein synthesis and this synthesis will result in increased muscle strength and power as well. Secondly, it is also evident that there is enhancement in muscle endurance of male athletes because of important exercises such as high-intensity interval training which may also delay the aspect of fatigue as well. If we talk about responses related to the performance of male athletes because of strength and conditioning programs, we may come to know that there is an enhancement in the aspect of speed, flexibility, and agility of male athletes because of strength and conditioning programs(Randolph, 2012). Recent studies have shown that there is improvement in running speed of male athletes by using less amount of energy in body because of strength and conditioning programs. We have also seen that the power output of male athletes is also improved in various sports such as football, basketball, and others. There are some psychological responses in male athletes because of strength and conditioning programs. The first important psychological response is increased confidence in male athletes(Cottet et al., 2023). It is mostly seen that those male athletes who participate in strength and conditioning programs may show improvement in confidence level as well which is also mandatory for effective performance in male athletes. Secondly, it has also been seen that there is an enhancement in the growth mindset and mental resilience of male athletes in response to strength and conditioning programs. The aspect of team cohesion is also improved in male athletes by strength and conditioning programs(Powers, 2008). Now if we discuss about response of female athletes to strength and conditioning programs, we may come to know that they also show some physiological responses because these responses are different. The reason for different physiological responses is hormonal fluctuations in female athletes such as the menstrual cycle which is the leading cause that impacts the physical performance of female athletes. There is also increased muscle strength and power in female athletes in response to strength and conditioning programs but these responses are less noticeable(Lephart et al., 2002). It is because the female body has having different composition such as the female body has more fats as compared to the male body. Recent studies have proved that there is less strength gain in female athletes as compared to male athletes in response to strength and conditioning programs. Usually, there is lower power output in a female athletes by strength and conditioning programs which

convinced us that there is a need for some other training programs for the development of power in female athletes If we talk about the risk of injury in both genders, it has been noticed that female athletes are more prone to injuries such as stress fractures(Thomas et al., 2022). It is because of various hormonal and biomechanical factors. So, there is a need for more specific injury prevention strategies to be adopted for female athletes. If we talk about nutritional aspects in both genders we may come to know that there is a different need for the body of both genders(Judge et al., 2012). For example, the female body needs more intake of iron and calcium as compared to the male body(Torres, 2024). These nutritional needs not only impact the response of both genders to strength and conditioning programs but also impact the aspect of recovery in both genders(Sartore-Baldwin, 2013).

2.1 Descriptive Statistical Analysis

NAME	NO.	MEAN	MEDIAN	SCALE	SCALE	STANDARD	EXCESS KURTOSIS	SKEWNESS	CRAMÉR-VON MISES P
				MIN	MAX	DEVIATION			VALUE
GD1	1	1.720	2.000	1.000	3.000	0.694	-0.846	0.452	0.000
GD2	2	1.580	2.000	1.000	3.000	0.635	-0.507	0.654	0.000
GD3	3	1.640	2.000	1.000	3.000	0.625	-0.609	0.458	0.000
GD4	4	1.480	1.000	1.000	3.000	0.671	0.025	1.101	0.000
SS1	5	1.600	2.000	1.000	3.000	0.663	-0.565	0.678	0.000
SS2	6	1.660	2.000	1.000	3.000	0.651	-0.659	0.493	0.000
CP1	7	1.580	1.000	1.000	3.000	0.666	-0.506	0.744	0.000
CP2	8	1.640	2.000	1.000	3.000	0.714	-0.774	0.673	0.000
CP3	9	1.560	1.000	1.000	3.000	0.637	-0.442	0.723	0.000
CP4	10	1.640	2.000	1.000	3.000	0.686	-0.701	0.622	0.000
CA1	11	1.540	1.000	1.000	3.000	0.639	-0.361	0.794	0.000
CA2	12	1.620	2.000	1.000	3.000	0.660	-0.610	0.615	0.000
CA3	13	1.380	1.000	1.000	3.000	0.562	0.517	1.194	0.000

 Table 1: The Results of Descriptive Statistical Analysis

The above results of table 1 demonstrate that descriptive statistic result describes that man values, median rates, the standard deviation rates, also that explain the skewness values and probability rate of each variables included dependent and independent. The GD1,2,3,4 these factors consider as independent variable result demonstrate that its mean value is 1.720, 1.580, 1.640 and 1.480 result shows these values present positive average value of mean. The standard deviation rate is 69%, 63%, 62% and 67% deviate from mean values. The overall probability rate is 0.000 its shows that 100% significant rates between them, the result also describe that overall minimum value is 1.000 the maximum value is 3.00 the median rate is 2.000 respectively. The SS1,2, both variables consider as mediator variables result demonstrate that its mean value is 1.600 and 1.660 the standard deviation rate is 66% and 65% deviate from mean values. The CP1,2,3, and 4 its means that conditioning programs result shows that the mean value is 1.580, 1.640 and 1.560 also that 1.640 positive average value of mean. The standard deviation rate is 66%, 71%, 63% and 68% deviate from mean values. The CA1.2.3 stand for collegiate athletes it considers as dependent variable result demonstrate the mean value is 1.540, 1.620 and 1.380 these value shows positive average rates. The standard deviation value is 66%, 63% and 56% deviate from mean values.

3. Applications of Gender Differences in Response to Strength and Conditioning Programs in Collegiate Athletes

Optimizing athletic performance and preventing injuries and fostering continued growth depend on understanding how women respond to strength and conditioning programs. Several practical applications include:

3.1. Tailored Training Programs

Strength and conditioning programs undergo customization to optimize athletic responses between male and female athletes when programs recognize gender-based physiological differences. Training programs work most effectively for men when they prioritize hypertrophy and high-intensity strength exercise but show best results for women through programs built on endurance training with an emphasis on flexibility and balanced strength conditioning.

3.2. Periodization and Recovery

Since athlete genders are different, strategies based on gender differences must be developed to provide optimal workout intensity levels, or range, and appropriate recovery periods, or gap. Dedicated recovery protocols, particularly for females due to hormonal changes, enhance performance most especially, and training with reduced recovery protocol enhances performance most in males. Overall, strength training programs for college athletes should include periodization strategies in combination with safe and appropriate recovery periods for gender differences in college athletes. In addition to minimizing overtraining risk, this strategic organization of athletic training through periodic planning results in maximized performance at targeted time(s). Gender Specific periodization is the method of adaptation periodized according to natural difference observed between male and female athletes. High testosterone means that men can put out higher training loads than women and massively more muscle mass. For this specific demographic, training schedules should include higher intensity works in shorter structured recovery periods within program periods. Since female hormones change throughout the menstrual cycle, female athletes need customized training volume adjustments to run a periodization strategy tailored to them. Since women's physical attributes change dynamically, women need cycle specific intensity modifications in addition to recovery period modifications during various women's health phases. But, below all, performance success together with recovery keeps essential importance, as this process helps bodies minimize training induced stress and repair its damaged components. Be it a male or a female athlete, they require appropriate rest but their specific timing of recovery intervention could be different genders. In men, testosterone levels result are faster muscle recovery speeds which facilitate training at intensive levels and the capability for fast healing. Since energy is less and inflammation is higher during certain phases of the menstrual cycle, recovering also takes more time for women. When integrated into recovery methodology and active rest program specific to the sport as well as nutritional program customized for athlete, training strategies become specially designed to maximize performance and decrease risk of injuries or burnout. When coaches and trainers understand the different ways in which periodization components interact with recovery functions, they are capable of creating sustainable training strategies that improve performance, and athlete fitness for gender specific periods of optimization.

3.3. Injury Prevention

In addition, the biomechanics and the muscle mass distribution patterns of athletes vary based on gender, meaning athletes of a particular gender will experience different risks for injury. How the women's lower limbs align result in their having higher possibilities of knee injuries than the men. When strength and conditioning programs include exercises to strengthen target areas with joint stability training and flexibility exercise programs, they give added priority to injury prevention based upon specific gender differences. When planning strength and conditioning prevention programs, we need complete knowledge of gender related biomechanics, muscle mass details, and injury vulnerability. There are different patterns of male and female human physiology, the patterns of which impact how men and women deal with the risks associated with strength training as well as athletic performance. Specifically, knee related injuries like the ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) tears and other knee injuries are specifically greater risks for women. Pelvis structure variation coupled with changes in lower limb alignment and hormonal effects decreasing ligament strength and destabilizing joints make women more prone to injury. Different bone density and biomechanics combination results in fewer stress fractures in females' athletes and more overuse injuries. Female athletes need to have their own gender specific injury risks and for strength and conditioning programs to make it their main priority. To prevent ACL knee injuries, women can perform exercises to target their hip and quadriceps and hamstrings to protect a knee's stability. This integration of movement testing tools for squat positions and landings aids in finding movement abnormalities that contribute to athletic injuries, and then provides custom exercise solutions for reducing those injuries. It's important for people to do mobility exercises that focus on targeted hips and lower back area to decrease joint stress and improve alignment of the whole body. Although male athletes suffer less often with full ACL tears, male athletes also run a higher risk of overuse injury from tendinitis and shoulder strain while performing high intensity strength training programs. To establish protective workout ranges, while avoiding muscle disorders, programs must teach correct exercise method and use ready-up exercises combined with slow performance addition strategies. The combination of adequate recovery time with cross training activities helps both male and female athletes to prevent injuries in the sense that you can balance muscle growth and you reduce the amount of wear and tear. A complete gender specific framework that targets specific physical requirements and stressors specific to men and women is required to prevent injuries of women collegiate athletes. Combing the implementation of custom active exercises with motion analysis tests and post rehabilitation protocols. allows trainers and coaches to lower injury potential and keep athletic progress in both athletic genders.

3.4. Psychological Support and Motivation

Personal psychological influence on the participant is understood as better supporting athletes on their training journey through program development. Performance driven and competitive exercise works best for male athletes, but confidence building programs fit better women needs.

3.5. Nutrition and Supplementation

Our bodies process food differently between genders, and different nutritional needs result when it comes to muscle healing and hormones patterns. Male athletes' protein requirements are usually greater than the person of the female counterpart, as protein is crucial for developing the muscle however, the female counterpart requires to get to the dietary balance to make the hormones accessible and healthy. Specific nutritional plans for each individual gender effectively increase the success of strength and conditioning programs.

3.6. Enhancing Performance Outcomes

Knowing the difference in gender responses helps coaches better assess and evaluate results for their strength and conditioning programs. Maximum levels of sport performance are possible when athletes receive adjusted training plan components and recovery timing protocols along with exercise choices. A combined measures approach examining strength conditioning with separate but more detailed analysis of male and female reaction patterns to physical activity training is needed for collegiate athlete performance enhancement. Since muscle mass and hormonal profile as well as metabolic activity and recovery timings all differ by gender, athletes don't realize guite how differently different training programs impact them. On the basis of such hormonal characteristics arrived male athletes who, due to better muscle growth and strength development, developed more vigorous and repetitive programs of training. This approach improves the power generation and strength development and explosive movement profile most applicable to strength-based competitions where performance benefits mainly relate to power generation and strength development. Due to their physiological advantage, male athletes gain from the training guidelines composed of heavy resistance activities with high intensity interval training (HIIT) and maximal strength exercise. While they don't grow as quickly in muscles, females do have much proven strength in endurance and flexibility and fatigue resistance. When trying to increase a women athletes performance standard they should combine strength exercises, aerobic training, and stretching exercises. When women want to achieve sustained success in different sports, exercise programs that boost neuromuscular coordination during activities combined with muscle endurance become a matter of performance from this. Progressive muscle endurance drills and the flexibility training and stability work should be performed with a related power development for maximizing the total athletic function of female athletes, functionally designed strength and conditioning programs. In human psychology, it works as a variable that boosts performance outcome. Female and male athletes respond differently to training motivation along with self-confidence and stress handling during different intensities of development. Men who succeed within a performance driven, ever competitive environment, do so in evaluation of their growth in relation to strength and power metrics. Women also outperformed in a setting where they were trained to combine supportive networks with a focus on group technique development and an emphasis on fitness goals and performance targets. These psychological aspects knowing about them enables coaches to choose better communication ways about the performance mode to make the athletes succeed fully while at the issues boosting their performance levels and their confidence. By using training programs that respond to gender specific physiological requirements and psychological differences as well as performance targets, coaches are able to help both genders become peak performers.

The detail approach, allows for all athletes to reach their highest potential and increase performance in their chosen sports

3.7. Smart PLS Algorithm Model



Figure 1: Smart PLS Algorithm Model

The above model of figure 1 called smart PLS Algorithm model result describe that gender difference shows 96%, 38%, 30% and 3% significant link with them. the overall gender difference 40% positive and significant relation with CA. the CP shows that 28% positive and significant relation with CA. The SS shows that negative but its 35% positive relation between them. the CP shows that 72%, 57%, 59% also that 51% positive and significant relation between them.

3.8. Correlation Coefficient Analysis

	GD1	GD2	GD3	GD4	SS1	SS2	CP1	CP2	CP3	CP4	CA1	CA2	CA3
GD1	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
GD2	0.323	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
GD3	-0.048	-0.280	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
GD4	-0.098	-0.043	-0.160	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
SS1	0.148	-0.114	0.039	-0.018	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
SS2	0.055	-0.055	-0.350	-0.222	-0.176	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
CP1	0.222	0.103	0.069	-0.041	0.163	-0.053	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
CP2	-0.042	0.019	0.113	-0.057	-0.219	-0.048	-0.150	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
CP3	0.128	-0.259	0.004	-0.161	0.388	0.025	0.177	-0.084	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
CP4	-0.002	0.112	-0.069	-0.190	-0.009	0.084	-0.243	0.389	0.049	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
CA1	0.476	0.115	-0.064	0.002	0.321	0.057	0.251	-0.100	0.092	-0.195	1.000	0.000	0.000
CA2	-0.145	0.001	0.250	-0.085	0.201	-0.068	-0.272	0.134	-0.112	0.272	-0.225	1.000	0.000
CA3	0.222	-0.113	0.048	-0.059	-0.075	-0.084	0.266	-0.008	-0.036	-0.112	0.208	-0.366	1.000

Table 2(a): The Results of Correlation Coefficient Analysis

The above results of table 2 demonstrate that correlation coefficient analysis result shows some positive and some negative interrelation in between gender differences and conditioning programs in collegiate athletes. Overall result also shows significant relation between them. When analyzing gender differences in response to strength and conditioning programs in collegiate athletes' researchers would study how the physiological and psychological characteristics of men and women determine training effectiveness. Studies indicate that strength training produces contrasted results between male and female participants because of their physiological variations in muscle mass along with hormonal and metabolic elements. Higher testosterone levels are characteristic of men yet these increased levels help build larger muscles and help them gain strength more quickly. Hormonal estrogen adaptation in women creates differences in how a woman's muscles will heal and grow after physical activity. But the level of flexibility and endurance women have determined the type of exercise they choose and the physical responses that develop from them.

It is found that the approach female and male athletes take to the strength and conditioning training program is conditioned by mental influences such as motivation combined with perception of effort and social effect. It's intuitively clear that males go all in on their intense exercise training, whereas females seek activities at moderate intensity levels. Various gender stratified strength training programs will provide both genders with benefits, while tailored monitoring will address the complexities in their performance levels and risk of injury. Using specialized strength and conditioning programs for different gender needs, athletes that are both sexes can achieve the maximum physical performance on the field and beyond

4. Conclusion

After this overview of these studies we come to the point that it is true that male and female athletes respond different to strength and conditioning programs for many important reasons. Detailed knowledge about gender specific responses to strength and conditioning exercises is necessary for optimal athletic performance of collegiate athletes. Even if the primary biological differences resulting in differences in performance outcomes hold true, there are substantial benefits in adopting flexible training approaches designed for particular gender needs for both men and women. Differences between male and female athletes with respect to testosterone lead to barely discernible advantages in terms of muscle mass and strength building on the one hand, and on the other, superior performance in flexibility, endurance. Coaches can create customized workouts (which optimize for results without negligence on safety) if they know how men and women differ. Implementing gender specific strength and conditioning methods allows all athletes at any skill level to reach peak performance and the ability to reach complete potential. As we delve further into studying gender differences in strength and conditioning, we commit to deliver not only more effective training based on height, weight or gender, but one that has the ability and capacity to adapt to each individual and achieve best athletic results as well as best injury prevention enhancements, all in secure training environments.

REFERENCES

- Adams, V. J., Goldufsky, T. M., & Schlaff, R. A. (2016). Perceptions of body weight and nutritional practices among male and female National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II athletes. *Journal of American College Health*, 64(1), 19-24.
- Cottet, M., Miller, M., Cappaert, T., & Schwartzman, M. (2023). Evaluating Student-Athlete Satisfaction with the NCAA Strength and Conditioning Coach. *International Journal of Strength and Conditioning*, *3*(1).
- Elder, C., Elder, A., & Kelly, C. (2014). Collegiate athletes' perceptions on the importance of strength and conditioning coaches and their contribution

to increased athletic performance. J Athl Enhancement 3, 4(2).

- Evetovich, T. K., Conley, D. S., & McCawley, P. F. (2015). Postactivation potentiation enhances upper-and lower-body athletic performance in collegiate male and female athletes. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research*, *29*(2), 336-342.
- Hartshorn, M. D., Read, P. J., Bishop, C., & Turner, A. N. (2016). Profile of a strength and conditioning coach: Backgrounds, duties, and perceptions. *Strength & Conditioning Journal*, 38(6), 89-94.
- Hull, M. V., Jagim, A. R., Oliver, J. M., Greenwood, M., Busteed, D. R., & Jones, M. T. (2016). Gender differences and access to a sports dietitian influence dietary habits of collegiate athletes. *Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition*, *13*(1), 38.
- Jessri, M., Jessri, M., RashidKhani, B., & Zinn, C. (2010). Evaluation of Iranian college athletes' sport nutrition knowledge. *International journal of sport nutrition and exercise metabolism*, *20*(3), 257-263.
- Judge, L. W., Bellar, D., Blom, L. C., Lee, D., Harris, B., Turk, M., McAtee, G., & Johnson, J. (2012). Perceived social support from strength and conditioning coaches among injured student athletes. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research*, 26(4), 1154-1161.
- Laskowski, K. D., & Ebben, W. P. (2016). Profile of women collegiate strength and conditioning coaches. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research*, *30*(12), 3481-3493.
- Lephart, S. M., Ferris, C. M., Riemann, B. L., Myers, J. B., & Fu, F. H. (2002). Gender differences in strength and lower extremity kinematics during landing. *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research (1976-2007)*, 401, 162-169.
- Poiss, C. C., Sullivan, P. A., Paup, D. C., & Westerman, B. J. (2004). Perceived importance of weight training to selected NCAA Division III men and women student-athletes. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research*, 18(1), 108-114.
- Powers, J. (2008). A survey of NCAA division 1 strength and conditioning coaches-characteristics and opinions.
- Randolph, A. M. (2012). Analysis of the Effectiveness of a Preseason Strength and Conditioning Program for Collegiate Men's and Women's Lacrosse. Lindenwood University.
- Reader, L. (2022). Motivations of division I student-athletes to participate in strength and conditioning programs.
- Reynolds, M. L., Ransdell, L. B., Lucas, S. M., Petlichkoff, L. M., & Gao, Y. (2012). An examination of current practices and gender differences in strength and conditioning in a sample of varsity high school athletic programs. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research*, 26(1), 174-183.
- Roth, R. I. L. (2015). Gender negotiations of female collegiate athletes in the strength and conditioning environment: A qualitative analysis. Southern

Illinois University at Carbondale.

- Santos, A. C., Turner, T. J., & Bycura, D. K. (2022). Current and future trends in strength and conditioning for female athletes. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, *19*(5), 2687.
- Sartore-Baldwin, M. L. (2013). The professional experiences and work-related outcomes of male and female Division I strength and conditioning coaches. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research*, *27*(3), 831-838.
- Sharma, N. (2024). Maximizing the Benefits of Information Technology in Healthcare Finance and Accounting: A Quantitative Exploration of Organizational practices. *Journal of Commercial Biotechnology*, 29(1).
- Shurley, J. P., Ednie, A. J., & Rudebeck, T. J. (2020). Strength and conditioning practices of head coaches of male and female interscholastic sport teams. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research*, 34(7), 1894-1902.
- Stamatis, A., Robinson, E. L., & Morgan, G. B. (2018). Mental toughness in collegiate strength and conditioning: Widely used, widely misunderstood. *International Research in Higher Education*, *3*(2), 35-50.
- Thomas, G., Devine, K., & Molnár, G. (2022). Experiences and perceptions of women strength and conditioning coaches: A scoping review. *International Sport Coaching Journal*, *10*(1), 78-90.
- Tiberi, S., Moody, J., Jennings, G., Cooper, S., & Esformes, J. I. (2024). Coaching Leadership Behaviours in Strength and Conditioning Coaching: Preferences of NCAA Division I and II Collegiate Student-Athletes Based on Level of Competition. *International Journal of Strength and Conditioning*, *4*(1).
- Torres, F. (2024). GENDER-SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING PROGRAMS IN YOUNG ATHLETES. *Revista multidisciplinar de las Ciencias del Deporte*, 24(96).
- Wade, S. M., Pope, Z. C., & Simonson, S. R. (2014). How prepared are college freshmen athletes for the rigors of college strength and conditioning? A survey of college strength and conditioning coaches. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research*, 28(10), 2746-2753.
- Waters, D. (2023). Collegiate atheletes' attitudes/perceptions of male and female coaches.