September 26, 1991

Dear Dr. Thornton,

Please find enclosed copies of all the paper work I completed in conjunction with the KC-135 flight test of your Isotonic Device. I am very concerned that you feel that I have not done justice to your device based on the verbal report Mike gave to you on the phone. Please remember that I said that there are two reports; one from me on the first flight and another report generated by another KRUG employee. As discussed with you on the phone, I don't pretend to know all there is to know about microgravity and exercise nor training. The report was generated by me with the format developed by Judy Hayes. I strongly believe that the device would be a good countermeasure, easy to use on the orbiter, using brown line fittings to support both the device and the subjects. speaking with you on the phone I wrote down some notes and looked at them again at home. As discussed, I was the only one over at KRUG who thought the device had any future. I don't believe in reinventing the wheel if one can suffice until a better one comes along. The only immediate changes would be in the selection knobs of the weight device, as they would stick in a position and wouldn't allow the weight to be changed. The actual lifting motions were smooth and felt like weight lifting. When reviewing the enclosed video tape, in some exercise situations, spotting and assistance was given to a subject when necessary as the subject could not lift the lowest weight. Assistance was necessary during the attempt of two exercises, arm curl and bar dips.

I will be at NASA, #37 with Steve Siconolfi on Fridays starting on September 27, at 483-7110. I would be happy to meet with you at this time or any other Friday that meets with your schedule. I would like to learn where you personally disagree with my assessments of your device. I would invite an accept any opportunity to learn from your views. One of my major reasons for leaving KRUG was because I could no longer function under the professional codes of ethics and professionalism that I was taught to aspire to by my mentor, Edward L. Fox. I saw that one could easily loose their independence and objectivity in that system.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Kevin T. Kear, Ph.D.

Kevin

## KC-135 POST-FLIGHT REPORT

by Kevin T. Kear, Ph.D.

TITLE:

PRELIMINARY CHECKOUT REPORT OF THE (Thornton)

ISOTONIC DEVICE

FLIGHT DATES: April 19th and 20th

TEST OPERATOR:

Kevin Kear

TEST SUBJECTS: April 19

Kevin Kear, John McBrine Glenn Klute, Rick Smith

April 20-

John McBrine, Judy Hayes John Kiowski, Mark Bowman

The objectives of the KC-135 flight were to check-out OBJECTIVES: the functional design of the equipment and the subject usability of the Thornton Isotonic Device in a microgravity environment.

Four subjects per flight were tested on; squat, bar dip, PROCEDURES: arm curl, pull downs, and pull ups exercises. Subjects in some cases choose to try additional exercises not planned such as the tricep pull down and the dead lift.

#### METHODS

The (Thornton) Isotonic Training Device (ITD), one Preflight: version of the Musculoskeletal Over Trainer (MOT) design concept, was manufactured by the Whitmore Company. It's design was for specific use in the shuttle to provide a stimulus to the musculoskeletal system to combat deconditioning. A load cell was attacked to the end of the rope of the ITD while forces were recorded on a computer as subjects performed wight lifting types of exercises. The load cell was calibrated before flight. Additionally, isotonic curves were produced during ground based testing, by placing a ten pound load at the end of the load cell during arm curls and reported in grams of work (chart A). Since force is equal to mass times distance, F= M x D, the load of ten pounds could easily be exceeded with the end product of force production dependant upon the distance or velocity of the lift. Chart A shows the force produced during a slow lift, whereas chart B shows a load curve during a rapid lift. The resultant plateau and arched curve are a direct result of the velocity of the lift. This produces a curved response to the loads produced by the subjects. A load setting of 100 lbs. could be easily exceeded by 30-50

pounds, or 50% as in the bar dips, that had an average reported load cell work production of 143 pounds.

Inflight: During testing in the KC-135, a ramped protocol was designed to test both the operation of the equipment and subject variability, using different sized and gender individuals. Loads of 100, 150, 200 and 250 pounds were attempted during exercise using large and small muscle groups and subjective individual consent. Only four load settings were possible based on the interaction of two bottoms, A and B. The chart below explains the in and out positions and setting of the desired loads.

## Thornton Isotonic Device( ISD)- Load Settings

Bottom		Α	В
LBS.		50 LB.	100 LB.
		SETTING	SETTING
100	-	OUT	OUT
150	-	IN	OUT
200	-	OUT	IN
250	-	IN	IN

Five activities were performed by using a variety of attachments that were connected to a tension rope that provided an inward pull towards the Isotonic Device. One of the attachments included the treadmill harness. The harness was strapped around the hips of the subjects while the load cell end was connected to a buckle on the treadmill harness, providing tension during exercise, such as squats. Pull ups were also done with the treadmill harness providing the downward force attached to the Isotonic rope that went through a floor pulley from the subject to the resistive machine. Subjects held onto a horizontal bar that was attached to a metal, horse shoe shaped arch over head. Bar dips were accomplished by attaching ropes to the arch, almost shoulder width apart, with grip handles at either end. This activity was similar to dip exercises done on parallel bars. Dead lifts and arm curls were done using the horizontal bar in front of the individual, attached to the rope and load cell end after passing through the pulley to the machine.

RESULTS: In some cases subject performance had to be facilitate due to the person's inability to perform the desired lift at the lightest level, 100 lbs. In no cases were subjects able to accomplish the arm curl to its full range of motion. An isometric contraction was possible after some isotonic work, to about 50%, but this was the best subject's effort. Neither did the mechanism respond well to adjustments in load level settings. In about 70% of the cases the machine did not make the desired

response to the adjustments but rather stayed at the 100 lb. load setting or other load settings. Attempts were made to pull the rope in and out of the exit port of the ITD to assist in setting the device for the next desired level. The selection buttons, A and B, were very difficult to adjust and had a tendency to stick and sometime disengage at the desired resistance selection. Overall, the device acted very smoothly and felt like lifting free weights, but had an initial dead rope response, until some of the rope had been pulled out. In order to recommend the device, modifications to the load settings is essential. The device did act well enough to produce the following subject load out puts, chart C.

Average peak pounds and standard deviations of load production responses of eight subjects were as follows:

	SQUATS	BAR DIPS	PULL UPS	ARM CURLS	DEAD LIFTS
AVERAGE PEAK LBS.PRODUCED	157	143	175	129	171
STANDARD DEVIATION LBS.	12	20	28	5 9	0 *
RANGES- LBS.	125- 176 LBS.	80- 172 LBS.	124- 271 LBS.	80-167 LBS.	171

(\* only 2 data points, both identical in response)

#### Recommendations/Conclusions:

- 1. The device must be able to adjust to a desired load settings, even if the selection is limited to four choices. Based on the work responses, subject production loads ranging from 129-175 pounds, the stimulus for training appears viable and workable.
- 2. The increments for selection should be more varied, with a low setting of 25 pounds, as in such cases as arm curls, so that weaker/smaller subjects can accomplish the desired lift.
- 3. The desired settings should be shown as a response to the setting of the load, 50 lbs selected should show that it has engaged as 50 and not some other level.
- 4. The weight and size of the device should be reduced to conform with current Orbiter load and safety limits.
- 5. The set up time for the KC flight was exorbitant due to the necessity to have the Anthropometry and Biomechanics Lab arch and the number of attachments as the treadmill harness for the squats and dead-lifts.

- 6. The tricep pull down was attempted but not completed successfully as the load was too heavy and the foot restraints not satisfactory.
- 7. Although there are arm curl forces reported, the actions were only at 50% of the range of motion at best (see video tape). Subjects were forced to stop the action of flexion of the elbow due to the weight being too heavy to lift. Some subjects were only able to perform slight motion with mostly an isometric contraction to follow.

Below are the individual summaries, parabola by parabola, of the eight subjects who flew on the KC-135. The load setting, the max load produced during the attempt and the numbers of repetitions per parabola. A key is provided to assist in the interpretation showing that the next setting did not engage (\*), that the setting worked as planned (\*\*), that the device did not work isotonically (#) and that a spotter was used to facilitate the performance and the outcome of the success in both range of motion and pounds of work produced.

K.K.	Load Setting	Max Load	# of reps
	pounds		
Squat	100 *	125	10
	250 *	133	16
Bar Dips	50 *	8 0	1
	150 *	123	18
	250 *	172	13
Pull ups	100 **	125	4
оро	150 **	184	4
Pull ups	100 *	132	8
	150 *		
Tricep pulls	100	235	1
	100 **	118##	5
Arm Curls	100 **	107	4
	100	80##	4

-other higher settings <u>did not</u> engage

\*\* -worked as planned at higher settings when initiated

# -exercise did not work isotonically, instead was isometric

# # -worked with a spotter to facilitate work

G.K.	Load Settin pound		Max Load	# of reps
Arm Curls	100	*	118	5
	100	**	119	6
Toe Raises	150	*	9 4	12
Squats	150	**	154	11
	250	*		0
	150	**	153	13
	250	*	169	14
Pull ups	150	**	187	8
-behind head	150	**	178	4
-front	150	**	178	3
Bar Dips	100	**	145	8
	100	**	146	6

- -other higher settings <u>did not</u> engage -worked as planned at higher settings when initiated -exercise <u>did not</u> work isotonically, instead was isometric
- -worked with a spotter to facilitate work

			-
J.K.	Load Setting pounds	Max Load	# of reps
Squat	100 **	167	7
	150**	154	3
	200 *	160	4
	250 *	160	3
	250 *	160	3
	250 *	171	10
Pull Ups	100 *	178	6
	150 **	177	7
Bar Dips	100 **	148	7
Arm Curls	100 **	165	5
	100 **	1 4 7 # # spotted	9
	100 *	167 ##	4
Dead Lift	100 *	171	7
	200 *	171	6

\* -other higher settings did not engage

\* -worked as planned at higher settings when initiated

# -exercise did not work isotonically, instead was isometric

# # -worked with a spotter to facilitate work

R.S	Load Setting pounds	Max Load	# of reps
Squat	200 **	160	10
	250 *	160	0
	250 *	162	10
Pull ups	150 **	271 very fast	9
	150 **	197	8
Bar Dips	100 *	160	11

Day 2 April 20th

J.J.	Load Setting pounds	Max Load	# of reps
Squat	100 *	167	7
	150 *	167	7
	?	154	6
	?	170	8
Pull Ups	100 **	171	7
	150 *	177	6
	200 *	175	4
	250 *	170	5
	?	176	4
	150 **	184	4
Bar Dips	100 ?**	137	5
	?150 **	153	8
	100	154	8
Dead Lift	?100 **	171 # #	5

\* -other higher settings did not engage

\*\* -worked as planned at higher settings when initiated

# -exercise did not work isotonically, instead was isometric

# # -worked with a spotter to facilitate work

J.H.	Load Setting pounds	Max Load	# of reps
Squat	?100	154	5
	?100 **	150	7
Pull Ups	100 **	150 #	6/8
	100 **	124	4/7
	100 **	175 # #	5/9
Bar Dips	100 ?	141	4
	100 ?	137	4
	100 ?	136 # #	4

-other higher settings did not engage

-worked as planned at higher settings when initiated -exercise did not work isotonically, instead was isometric

-worked with a spotter to facilitate work

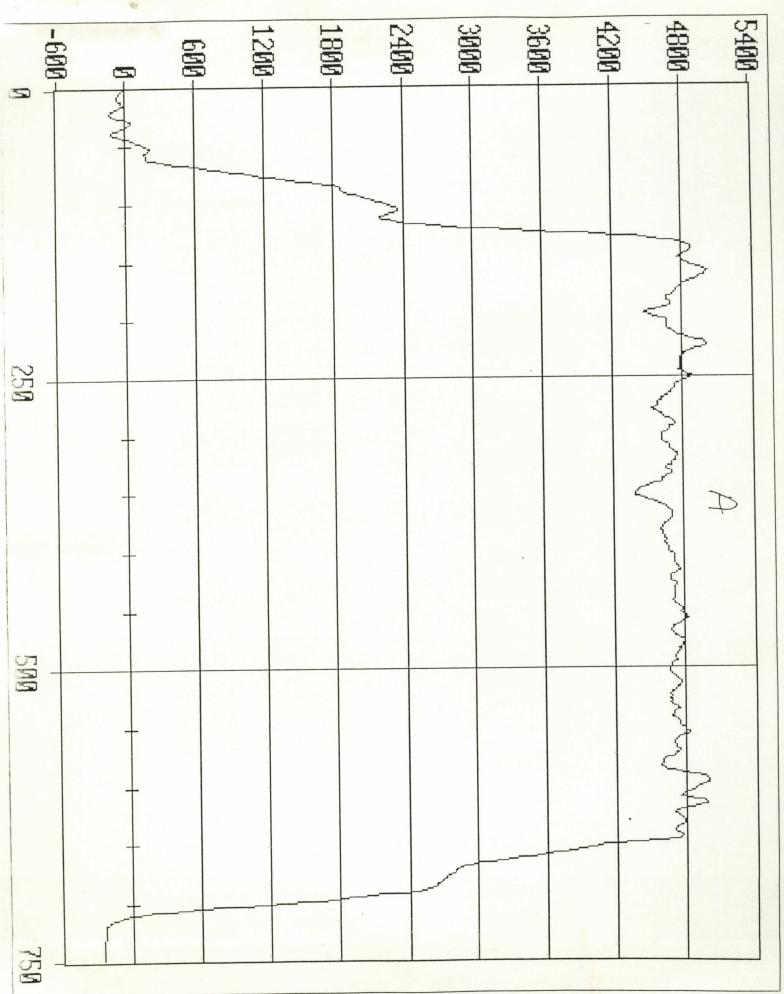
J.K.	Load Setting pounds	Max Load	# of reps
Squat	100 **	150	8
	?150 *		0
	250 *	174	6
	?	176	11
Pull Ups	?100	174	3
	250 *	175	7
	?250 *	176	10

-other higher settings did not engage

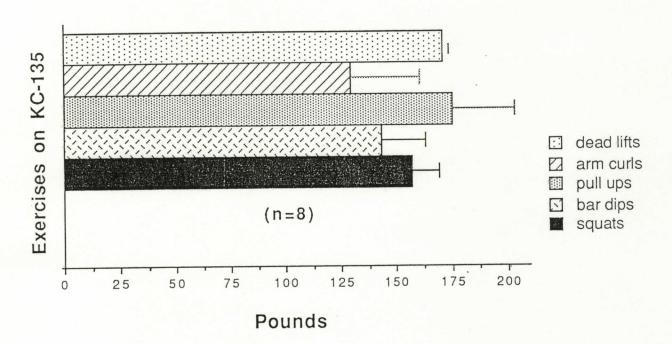
-worked as planned at higher settings when initiated -exercise did not work isotonically, instead was isometric

-worked with a spotter to facilitate work # #

М.В	Load Setting pounds	Max Load	# of reps
Pull Ups	?100	178	7
	?150 - 100*	179	7
Squats	250 *	153	15
	? 250*	147	16
	?250 *	144	15
Bar Dips	250 *	154	11
	250 ?	154	12
	250 ?	153	11



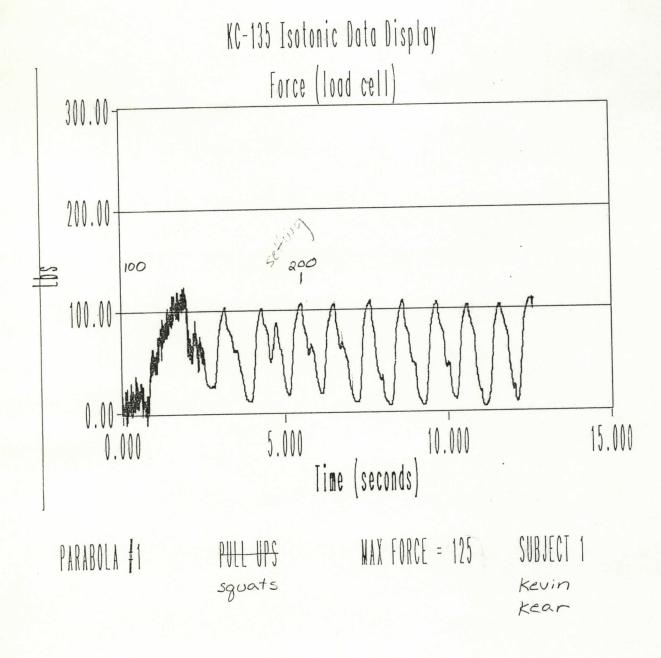
# Thornton's Isotonic Device Load Productions in Microgravity (KC-135)



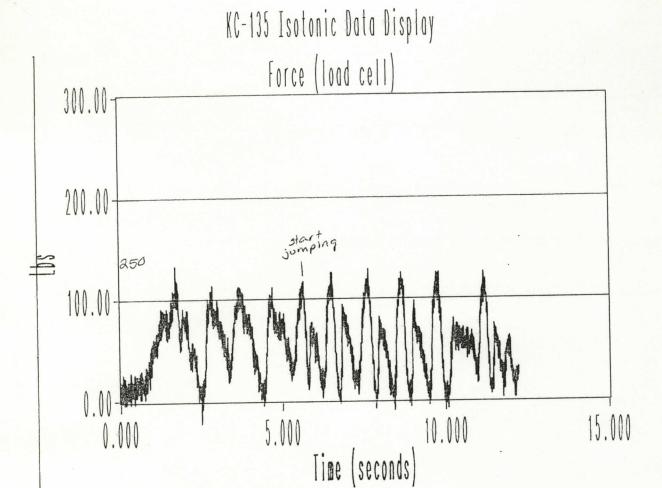
### Isotonic loads

	A	В	С	D	E	F
1		Squats	Bar Dips	Pull ups	Tricep Pulls	Arm curls
2		125	80	125	235	107
.3		133	123	184	118	80
4		154	172	132		118
5		153	145	187		119
6		169	146	178		165
7		167	148	178		147
8		154	160	178	177	167
9		160	137	271		
10		160	153	197		
11		160	154			
12		171	141	177		
13		160	137	175		
14		162				
15		160	154			
16		167				
17		167	153			
18		154		124		
19		170		175		
20		154		174		
21		150		175		
22		150		176		
23		174		178		
24		176		179		
25		153				
26		147				
27		144				
28						
29	average	157.461538				
30	standard Dev.	11.9305684	20.368992	28.3450646	58.5007122	32.0676369

	G
1	Dead Lifts
	171
3 4	171
1	171
5	171
6	V/112/2-
5 6 7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19 20 21 22 23	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	171
30	0



not getting full extension



PARABOLA #2

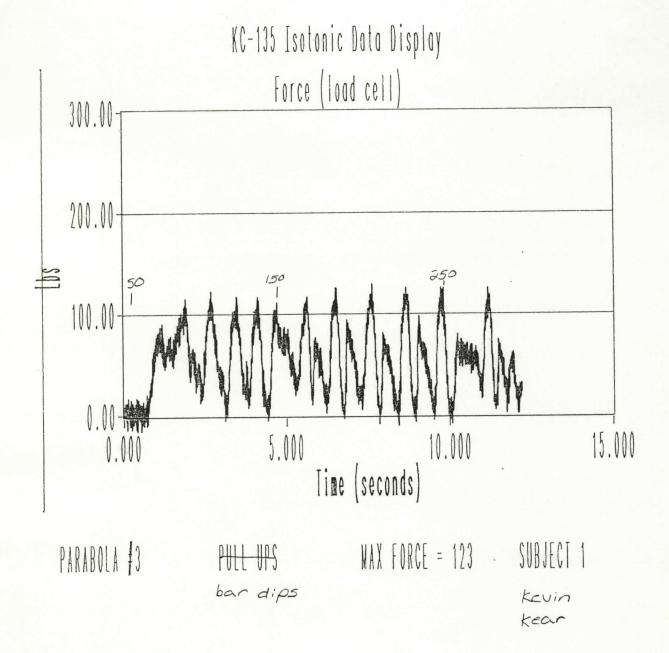
squats

MAX FORCE = 133

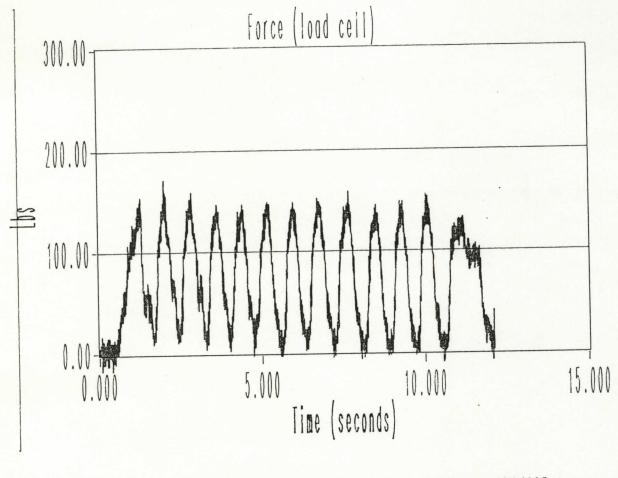
SUBJECT 1

kear

jumping cleared ground by a few inches





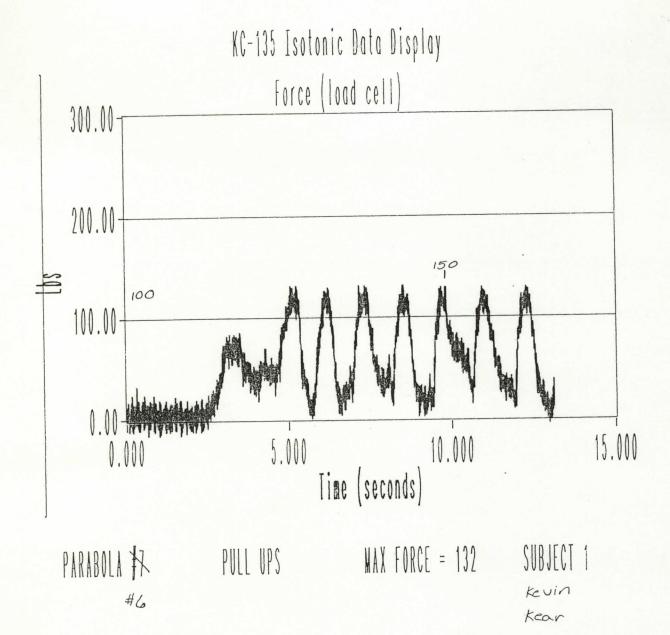


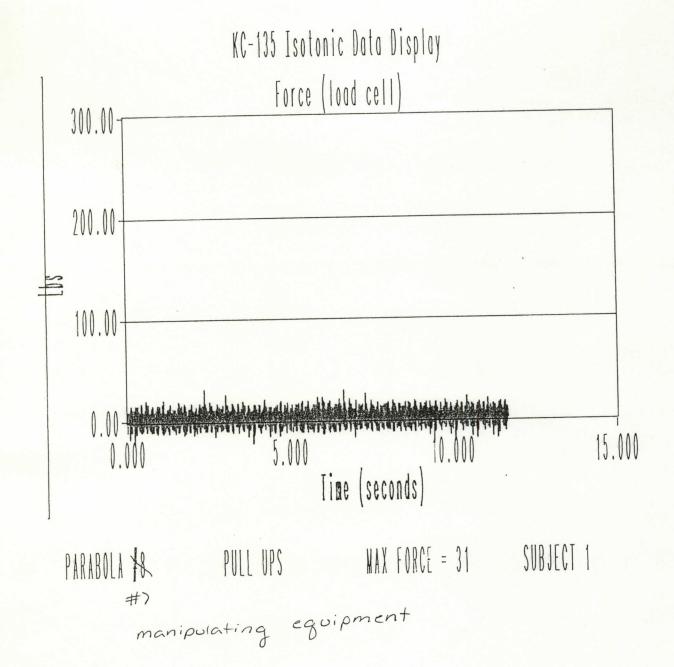
PARABOLA \$5

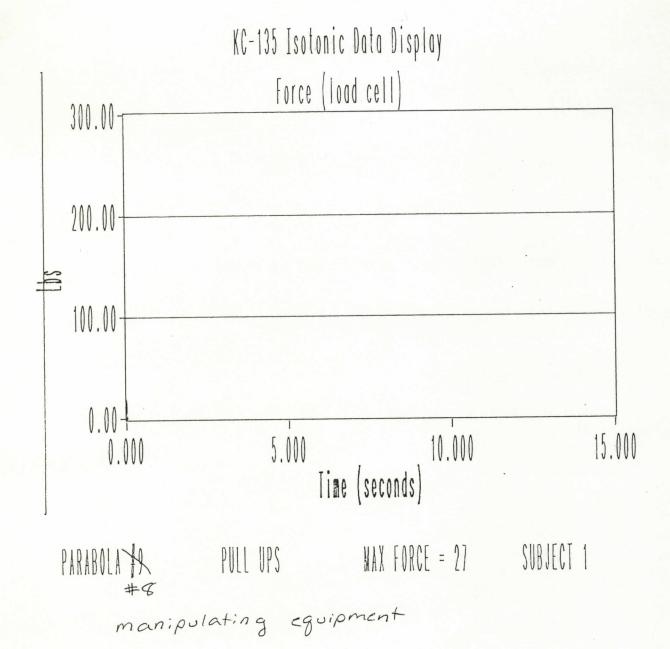
fill # S bar dips MAX FORCE = 172

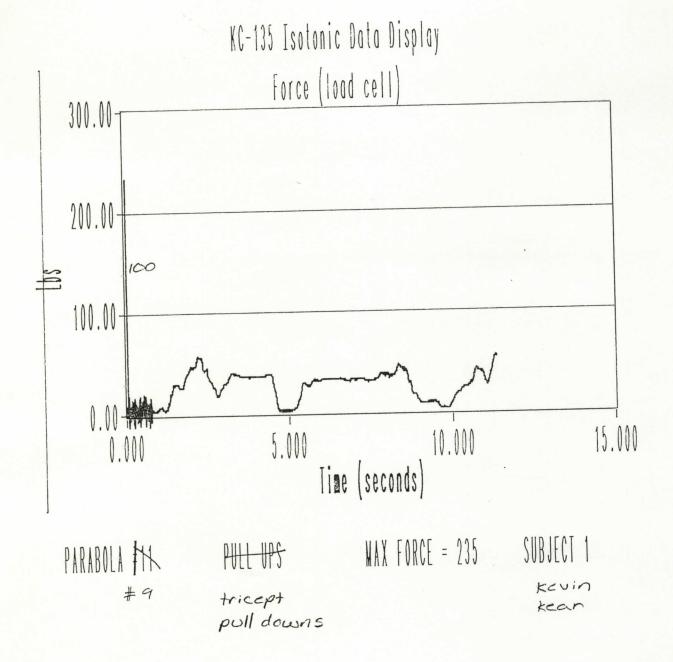
SUBJECT 1

250 lbs setting

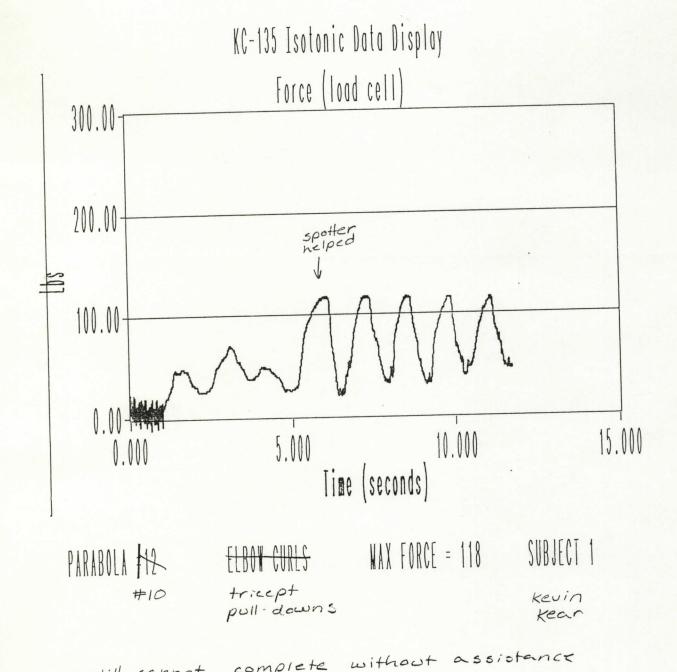






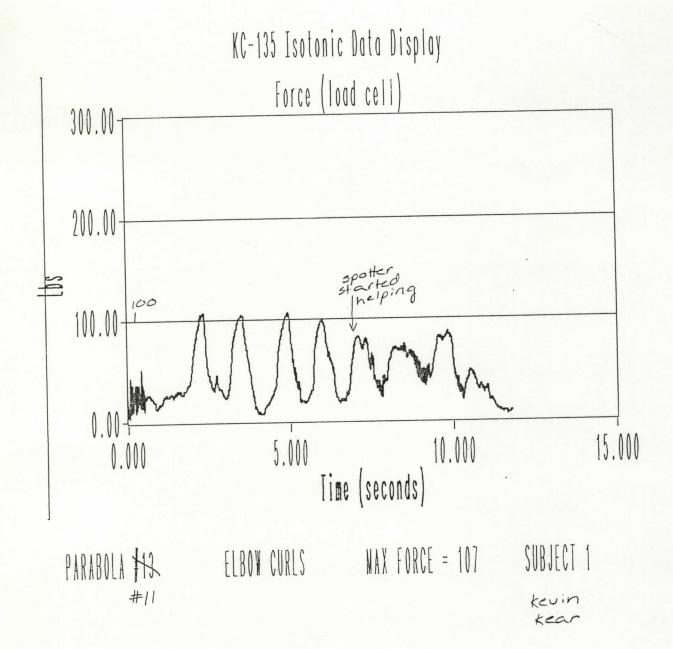


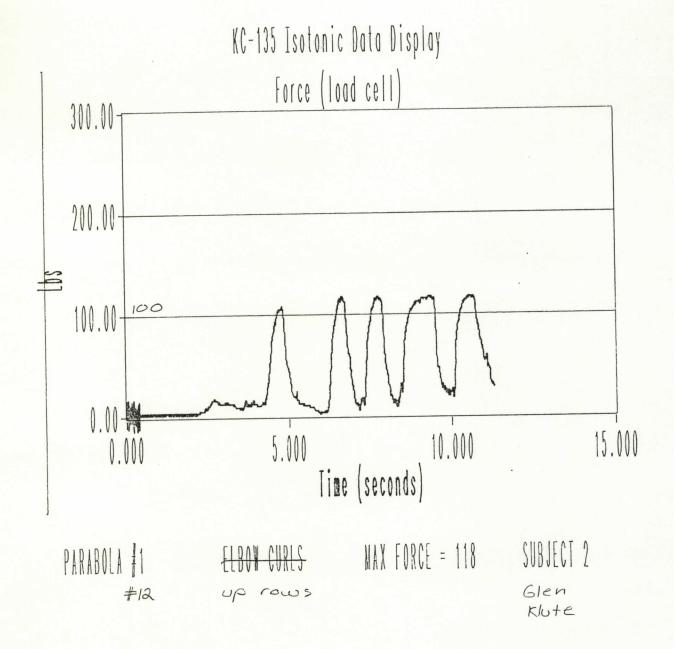
excercise did not work

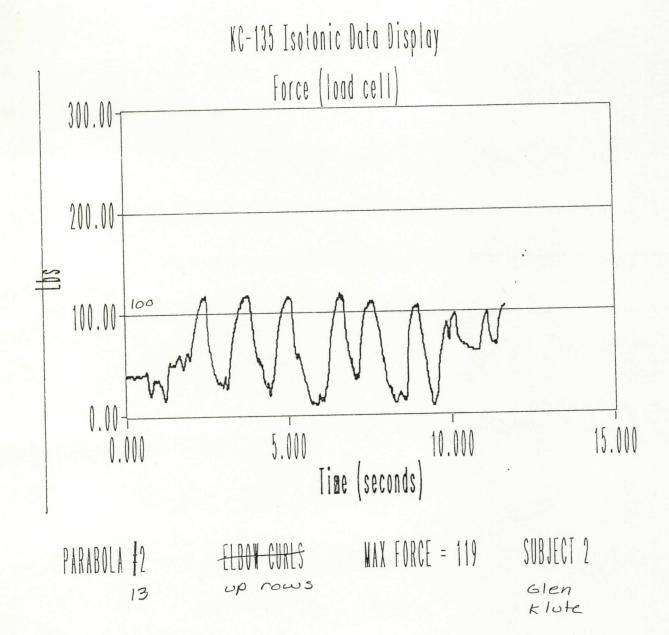


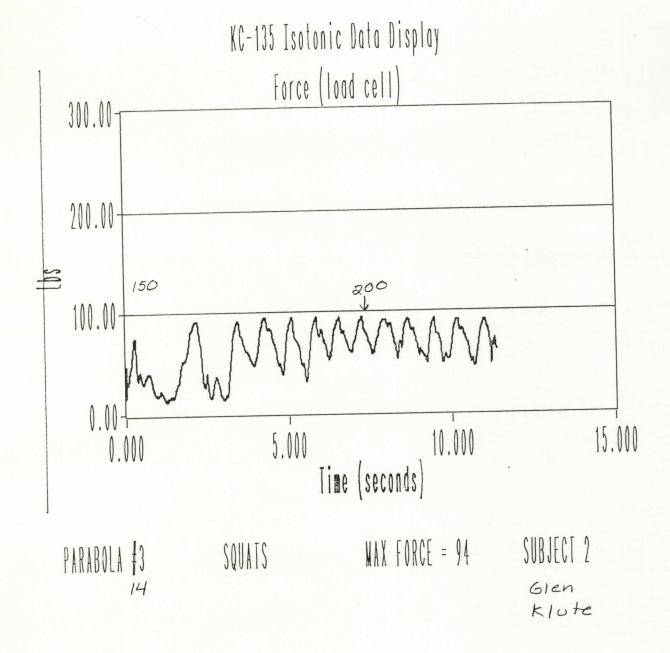
complete

\* still cannot

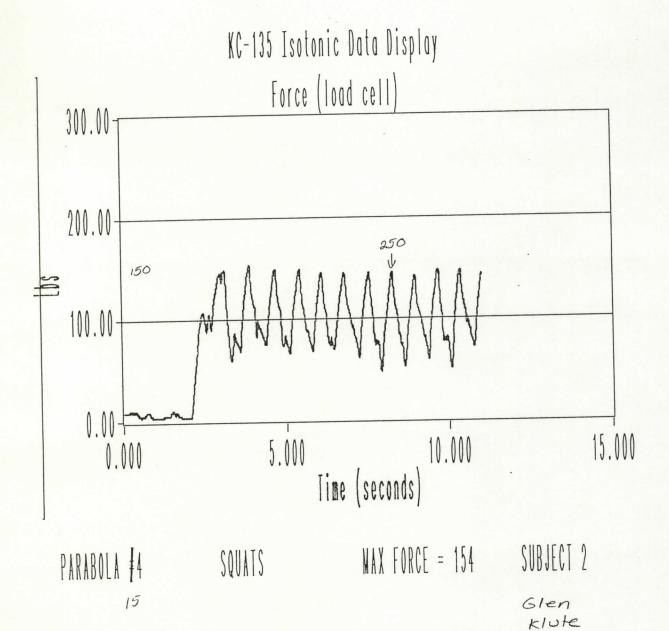


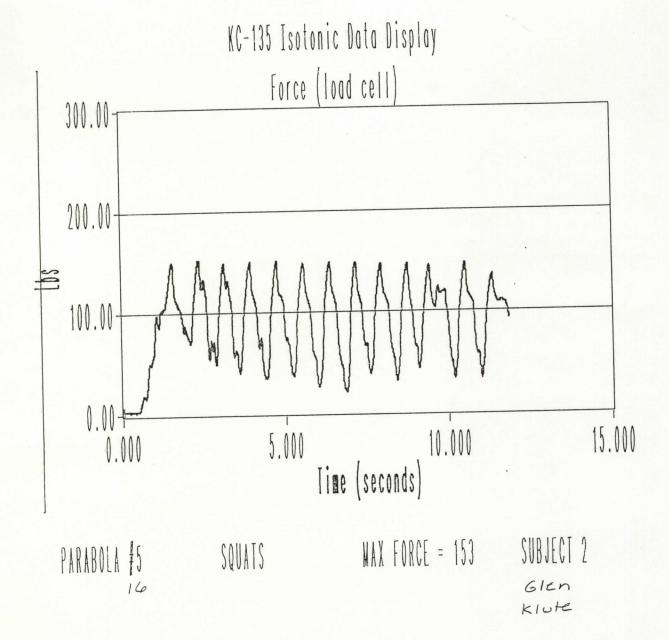




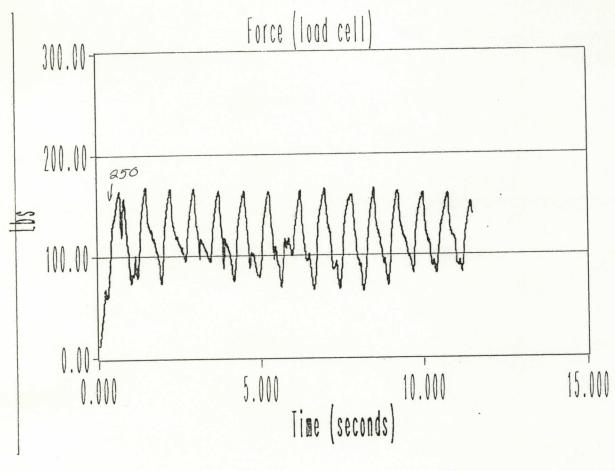


too much slack in rope subject only able to do toe raises









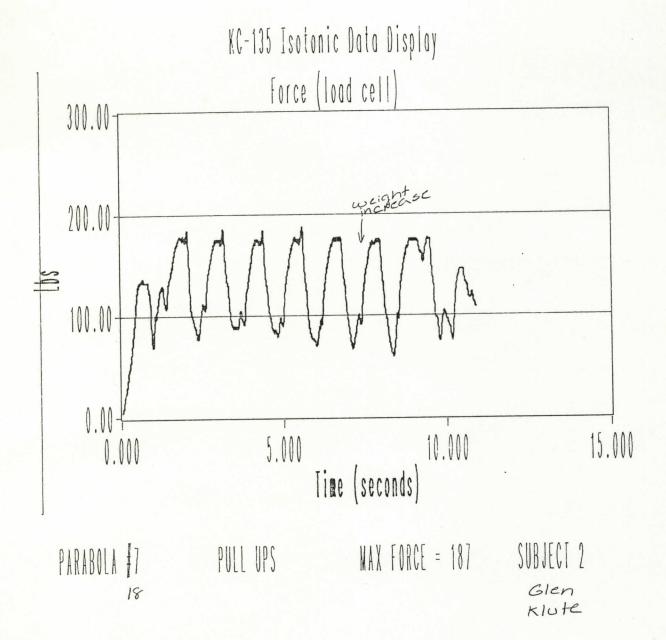
PARABOLA #6

squats

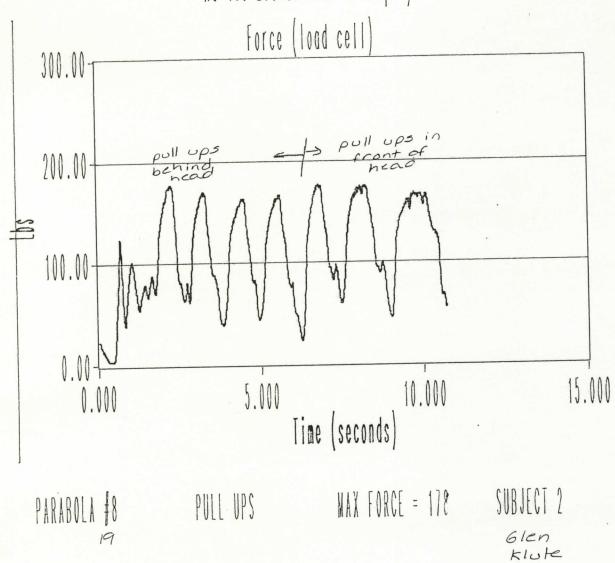
MAX FORCE = 169

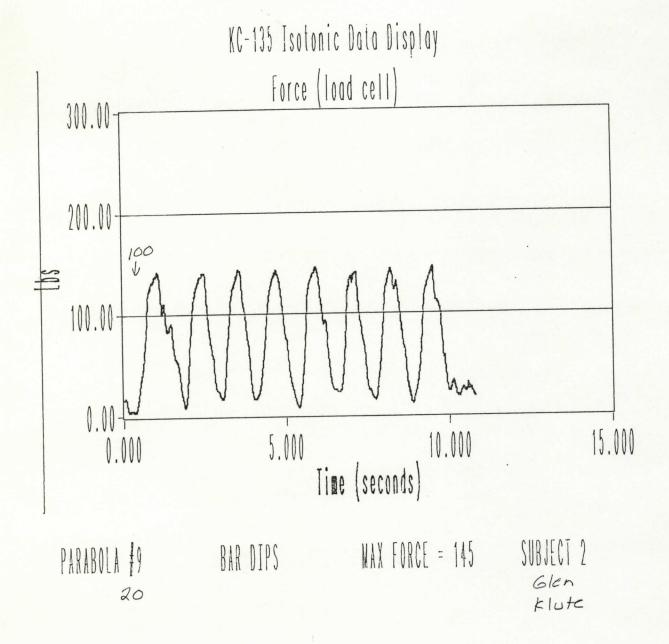
Glen Klute

exercise was tiring on the knees

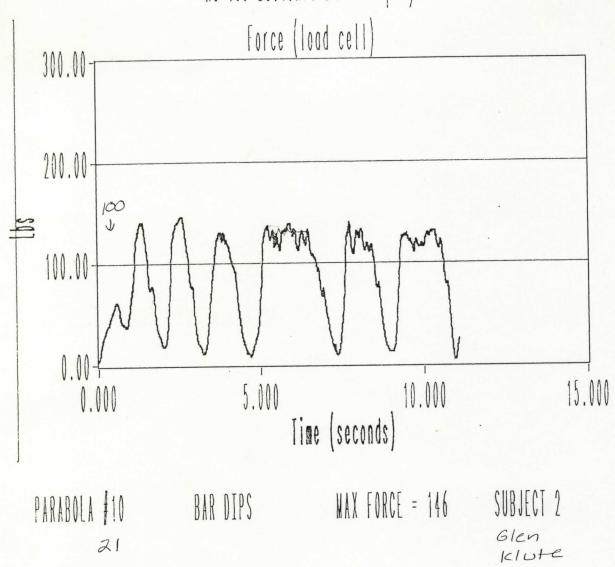


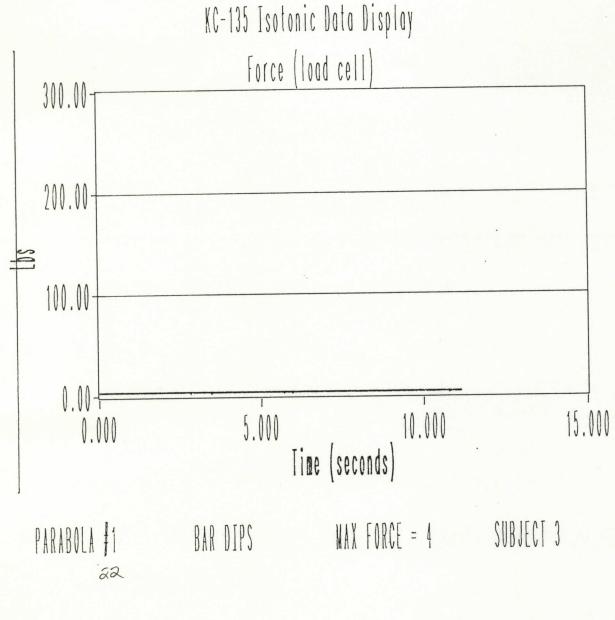




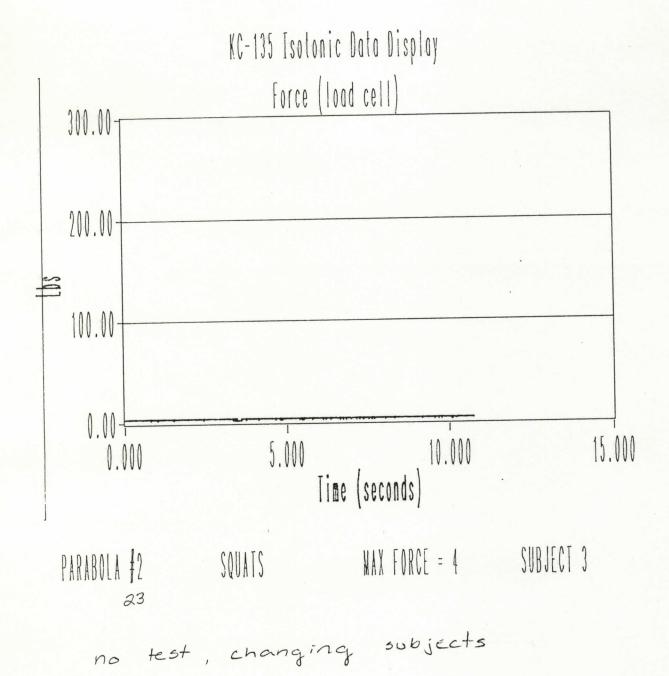


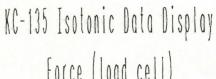


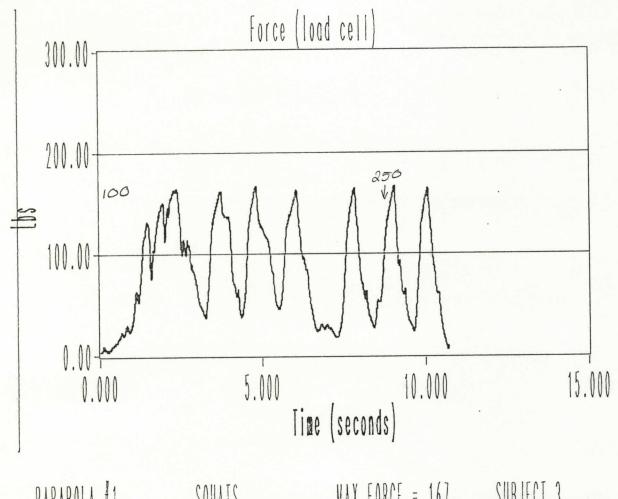




no test, changing subjects







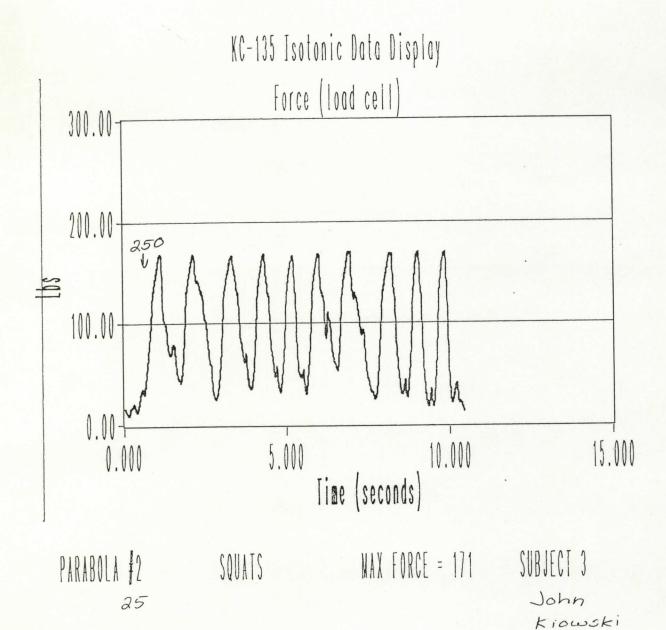
PARABOLA #1

SQUATS

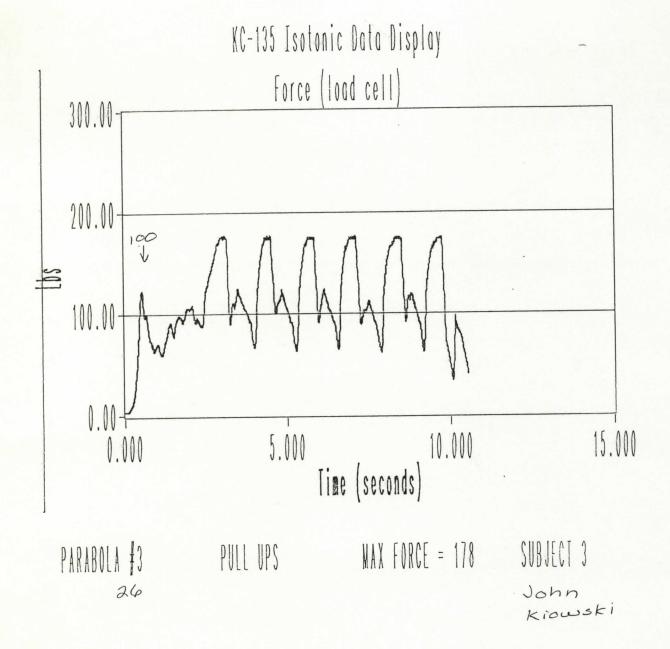
WAX FORCE = 167

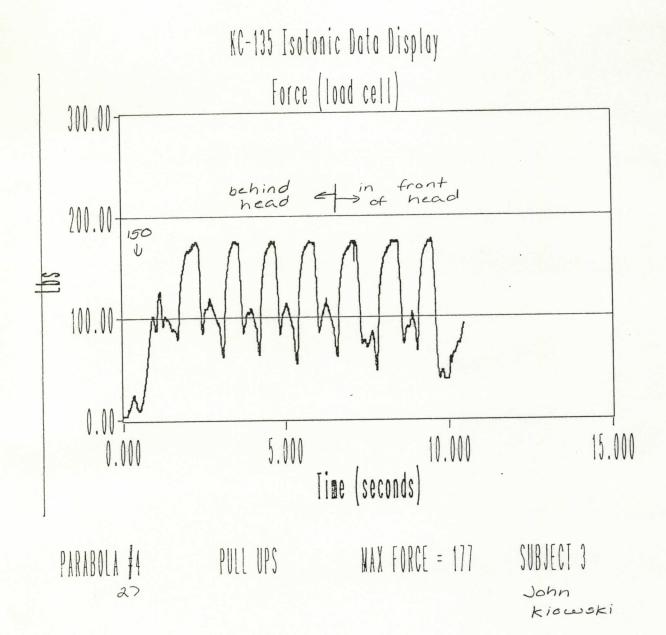
SUBJECT 3

John Kiowski

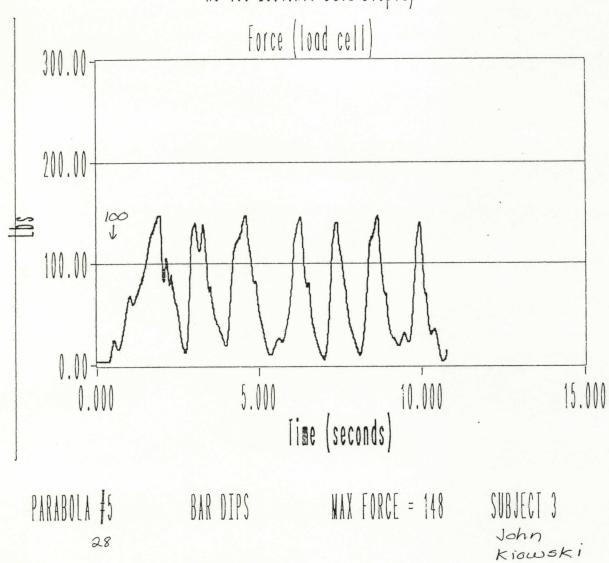


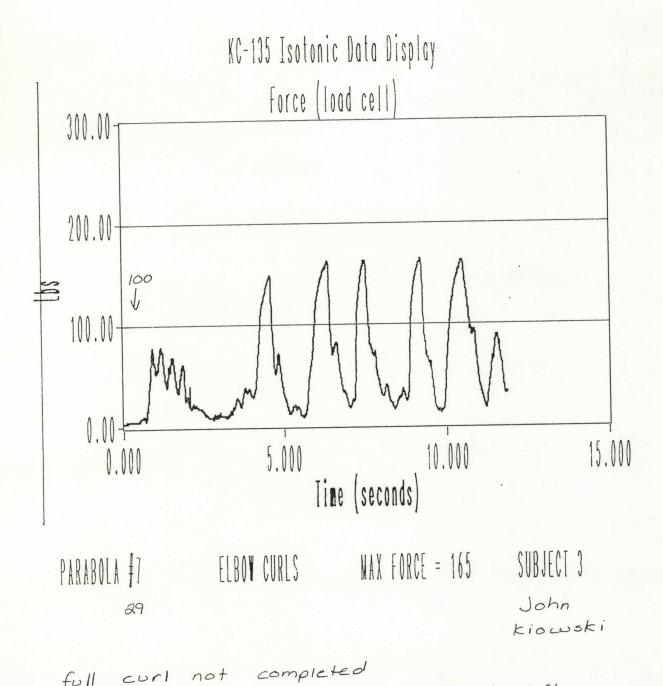
\* 2 foot range of motion noted







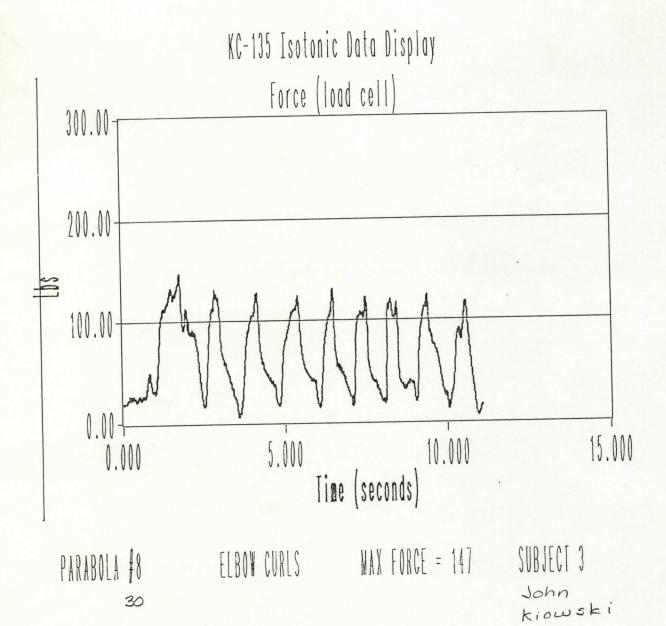




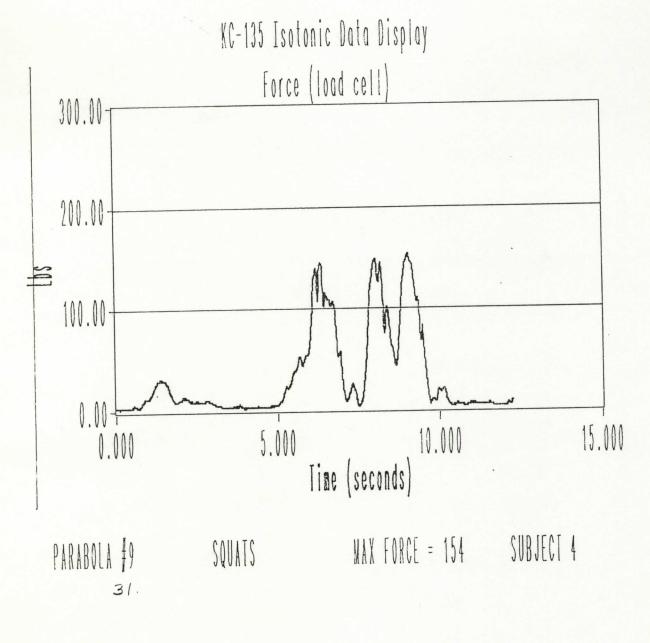
heavy load to lift

full

the

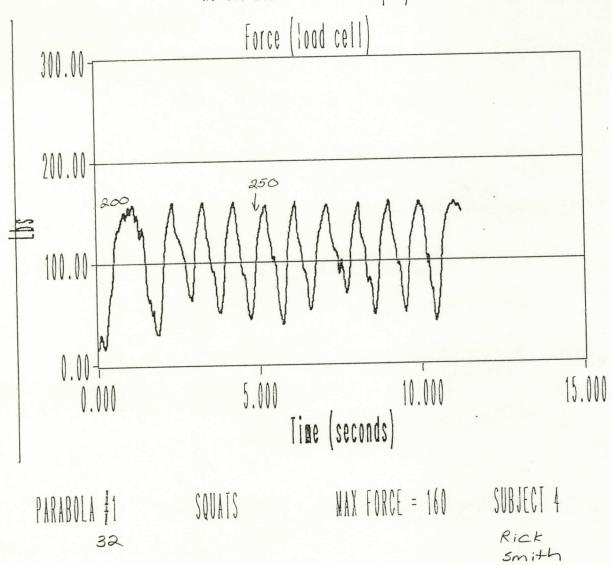


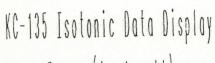
subject required spotting throughout exercise

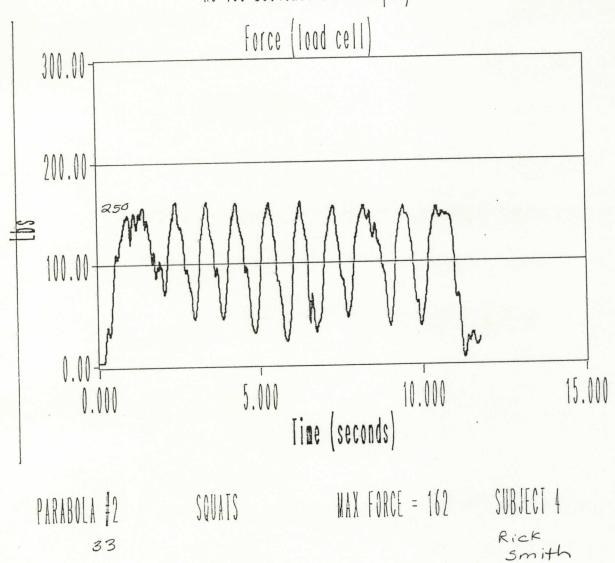


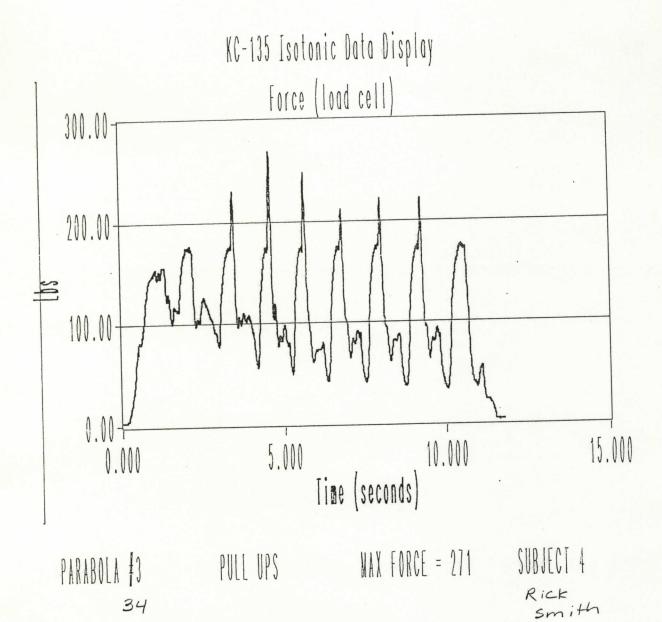
parabola not recorded on video

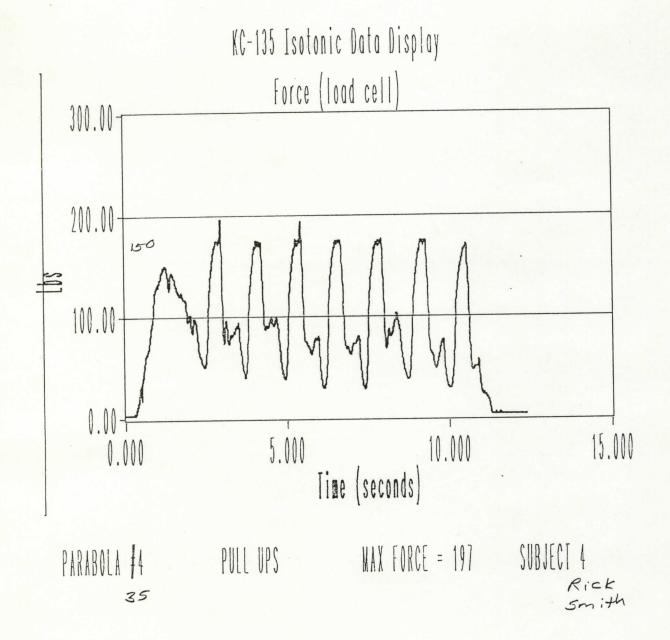




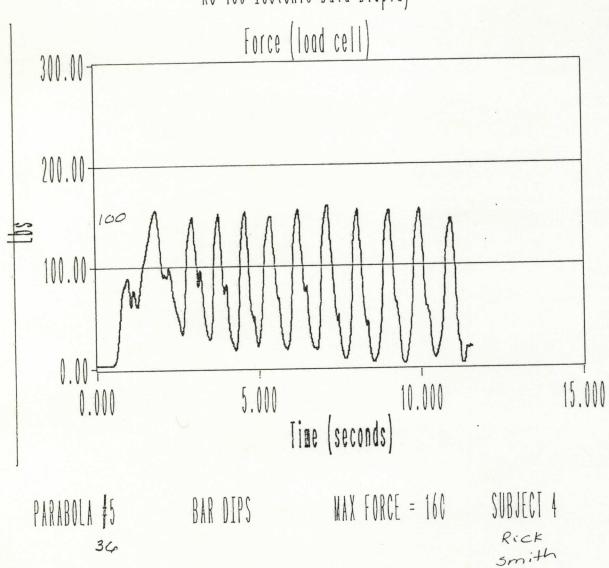




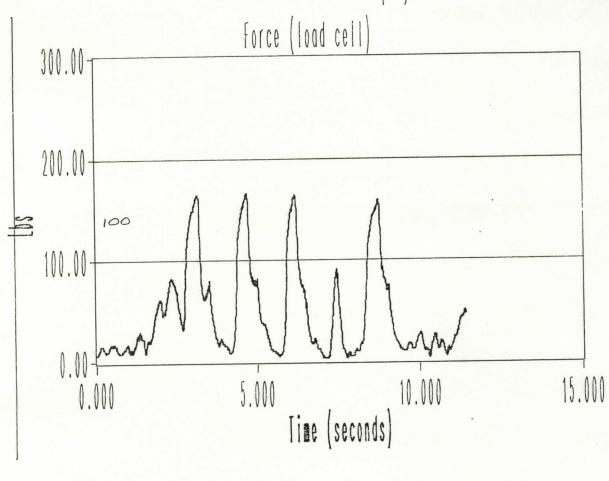












PARABOLA #6

HAR DIPS

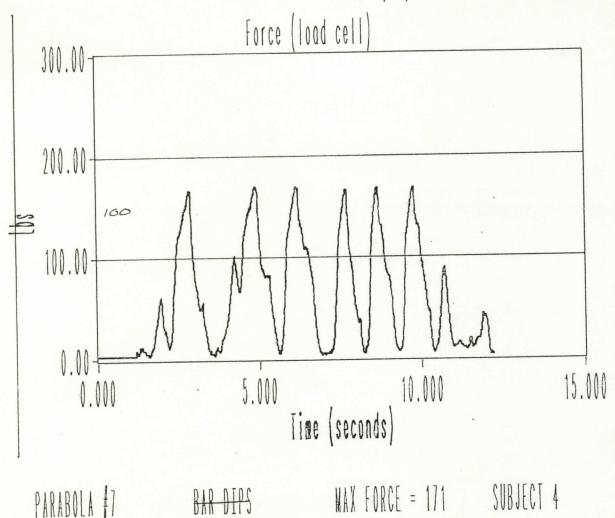
elbow eurls WAX FORCE = 167

SUBJECT 4

John

Kiowski



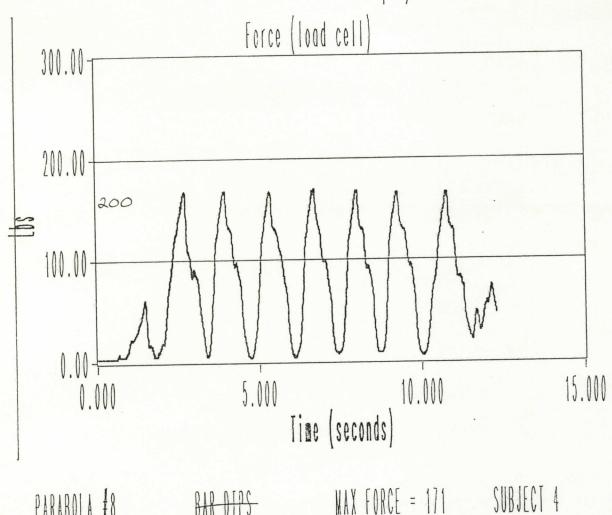


PARABOLA #7 38

dead lifts

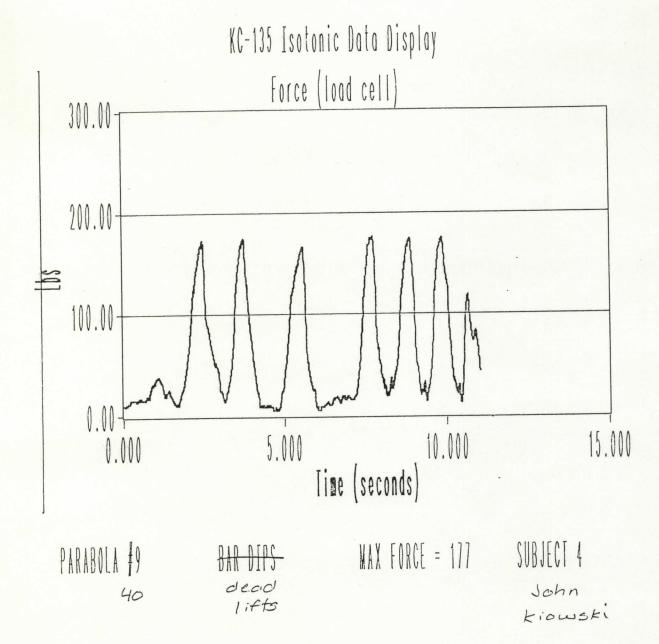
John Kiowsti



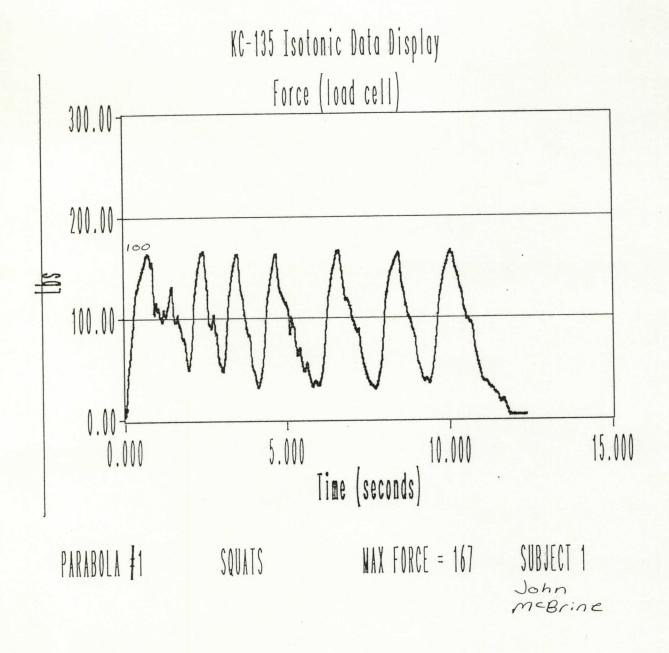


PARABOLA #8 39 BAR DIPS dead lifts WAX FORCE = 171

Kiowski

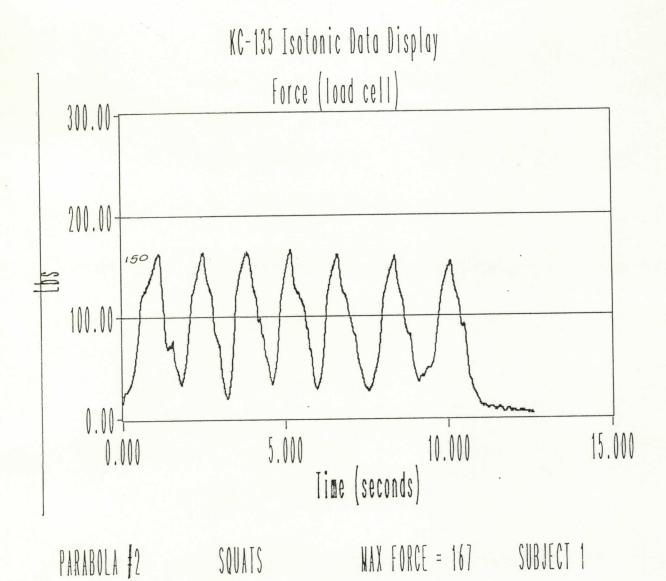


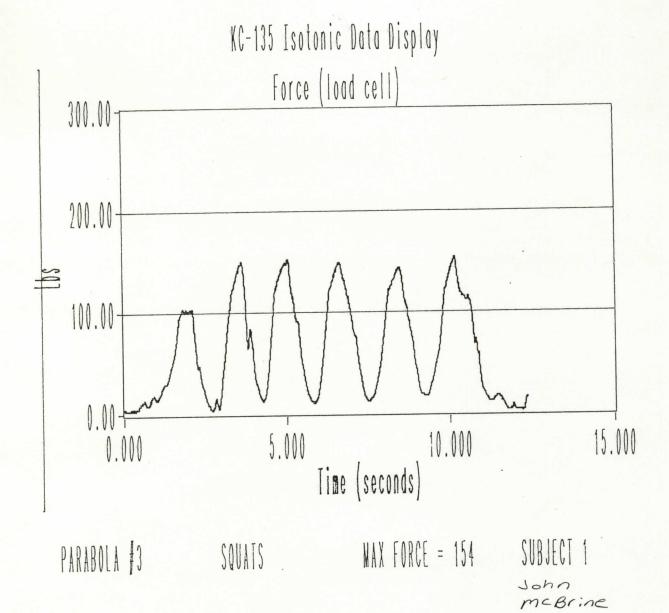
not filmed

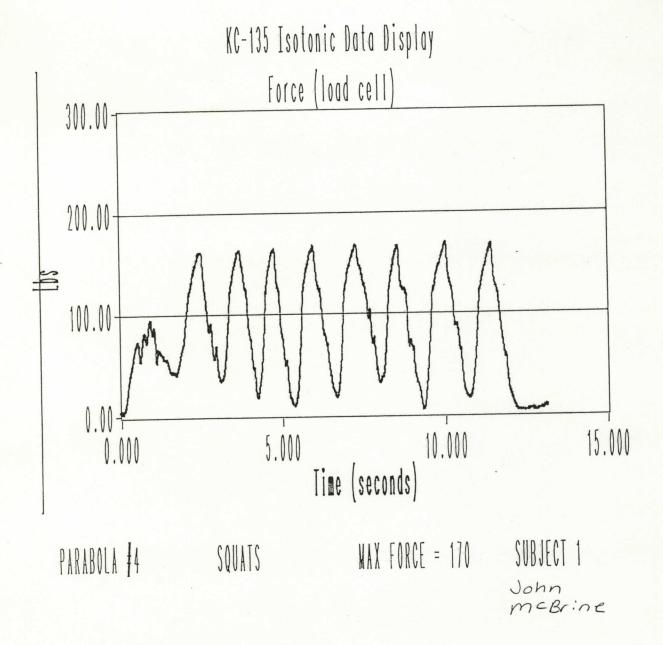


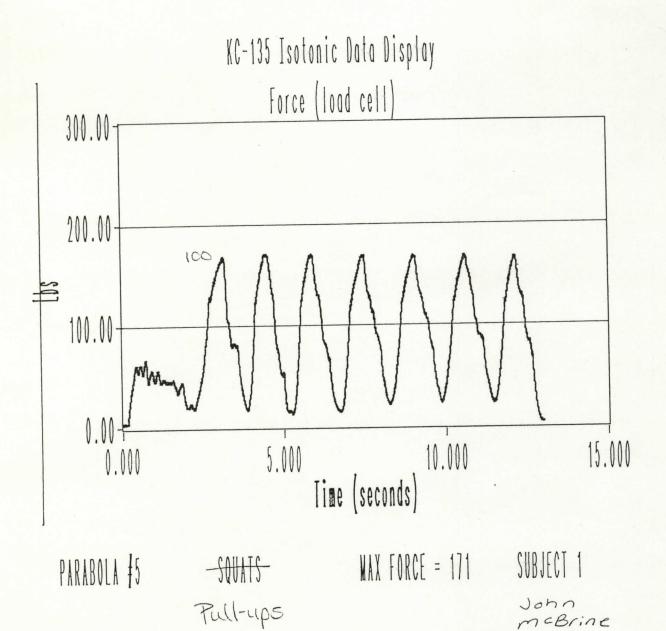
John

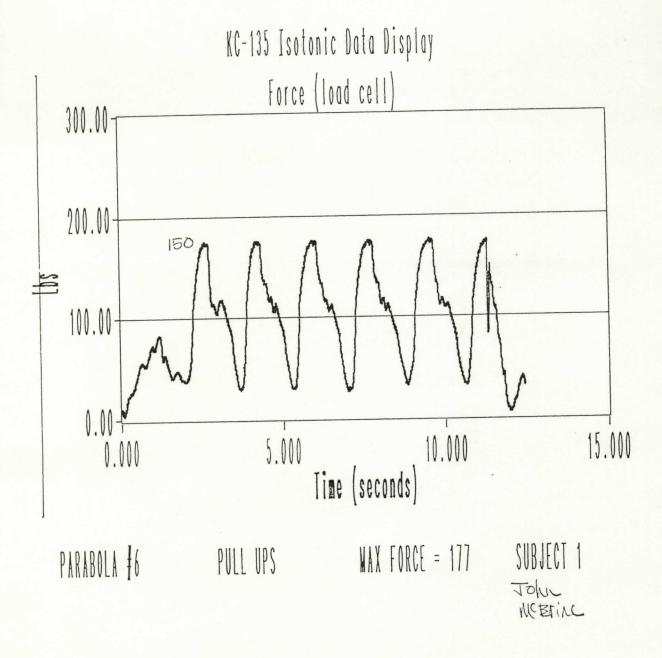
MCBrine

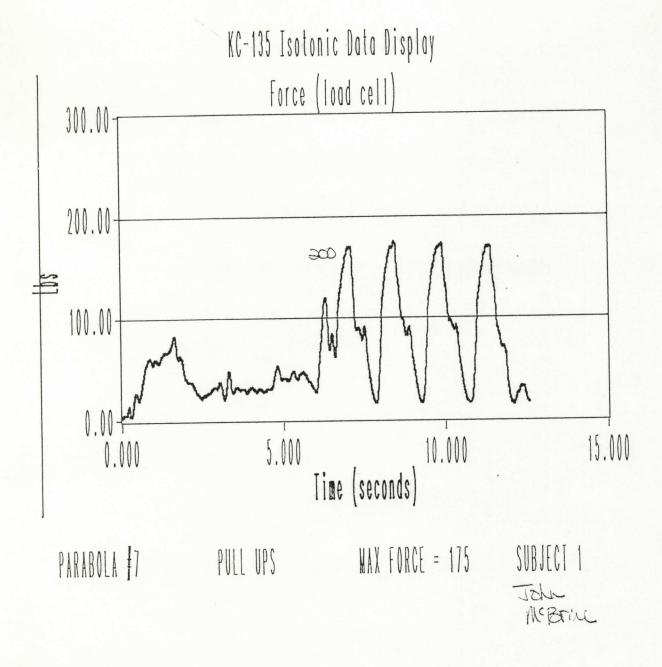




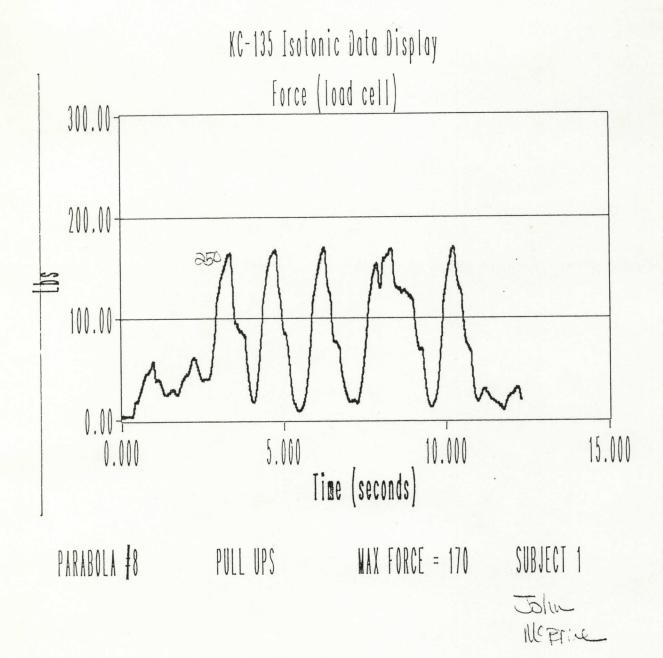




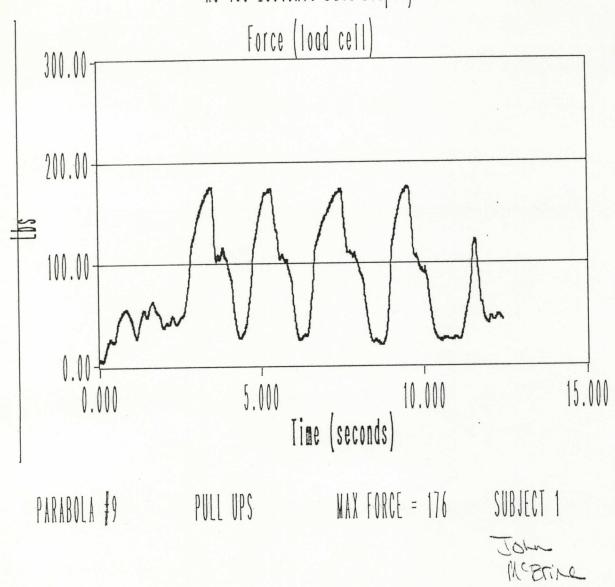


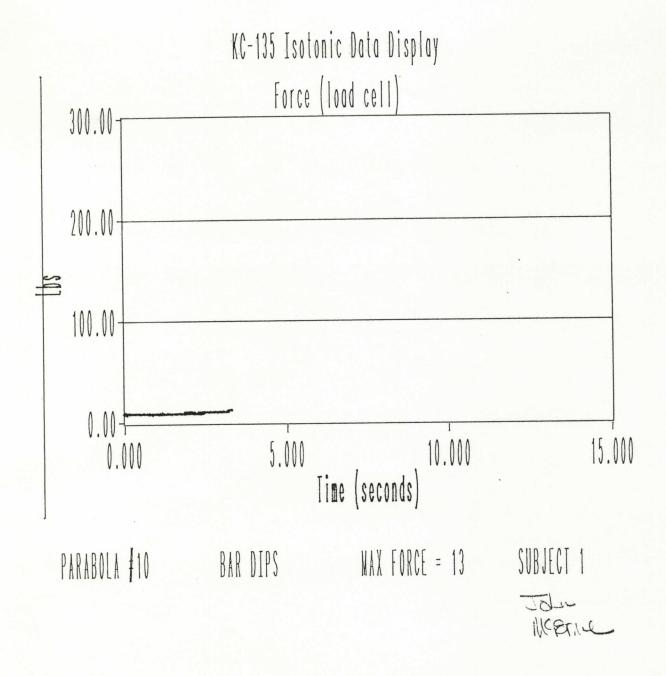


Having Grobban adjusting equipment in beginning

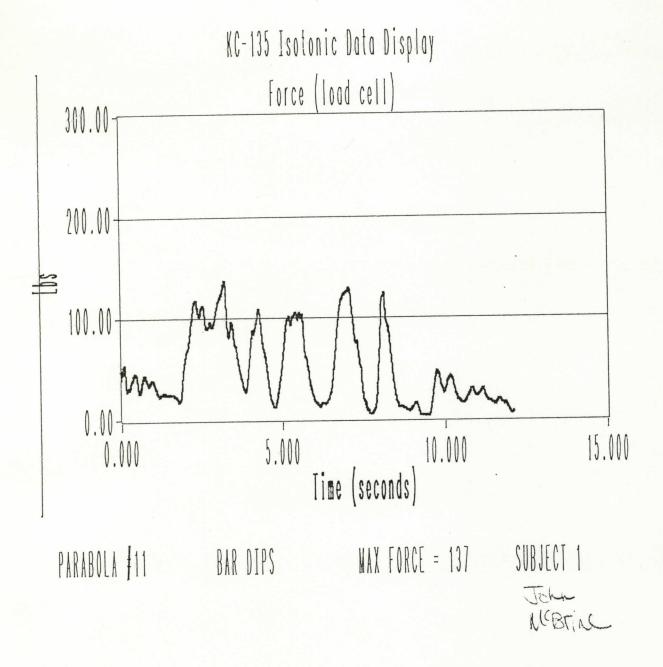




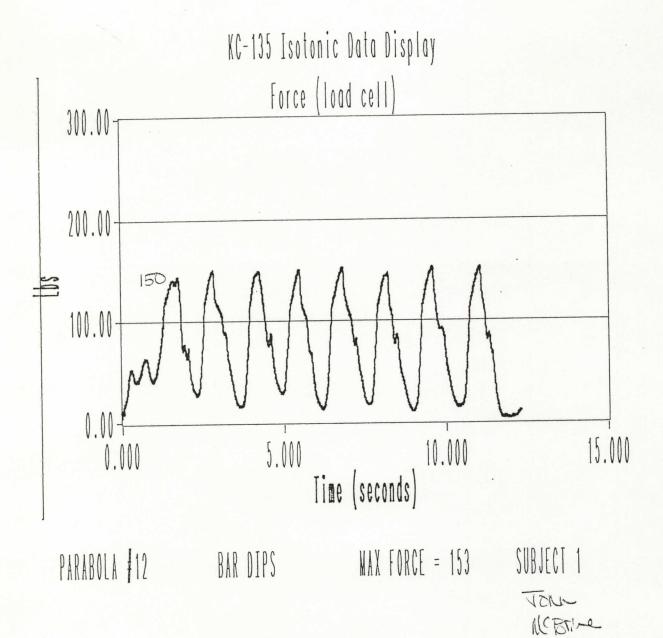


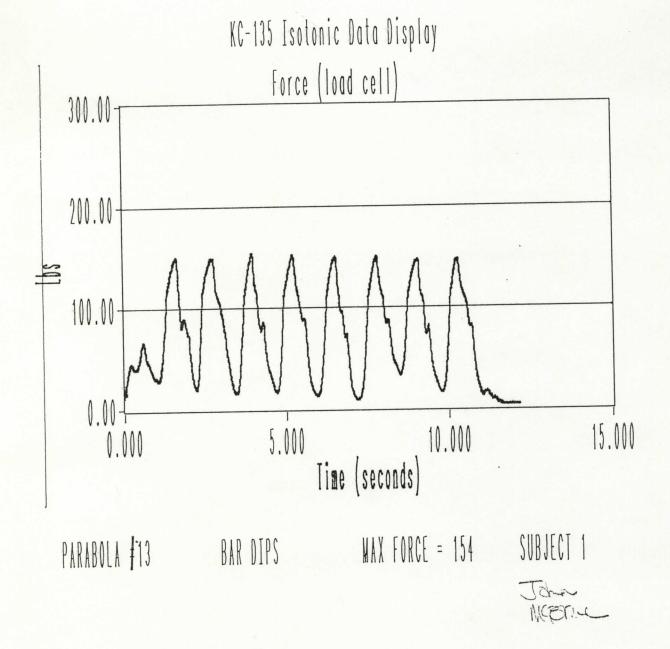


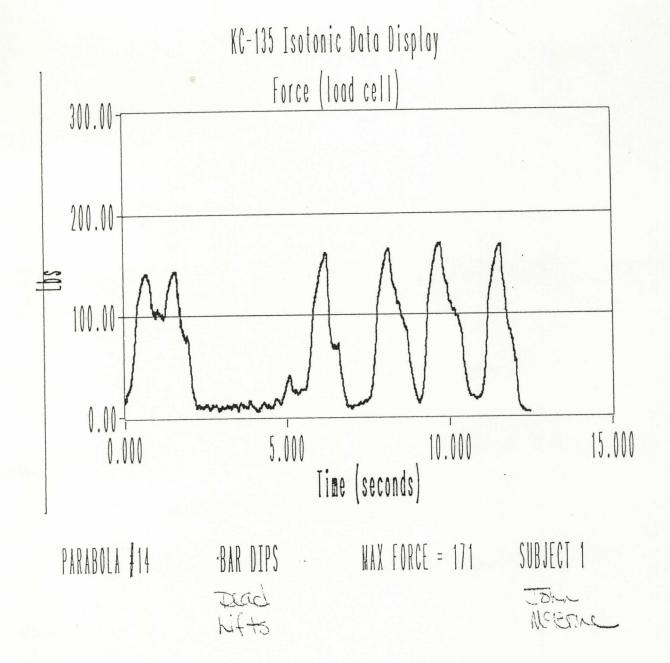
No exercise done



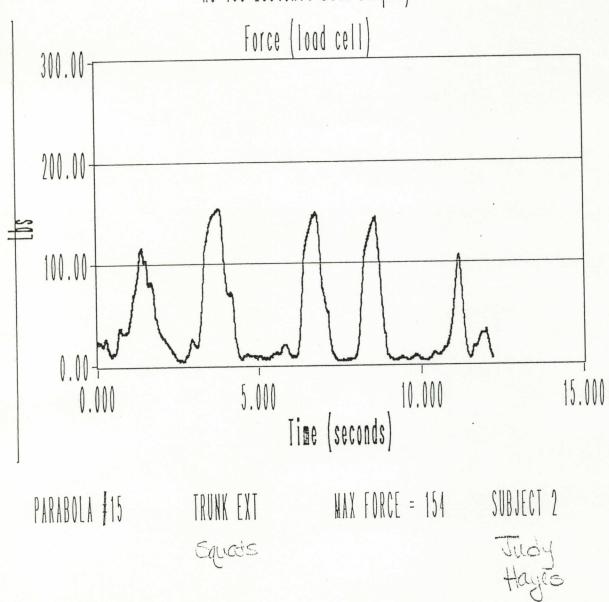
Exercise not executed properly towards end.



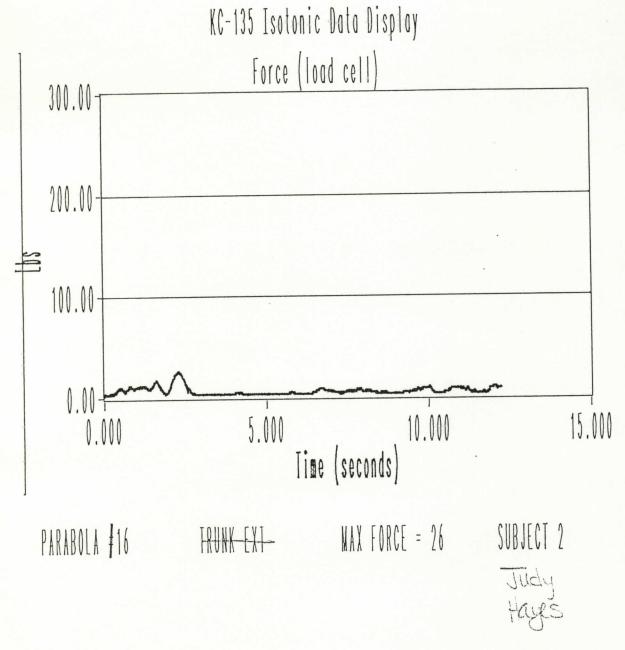




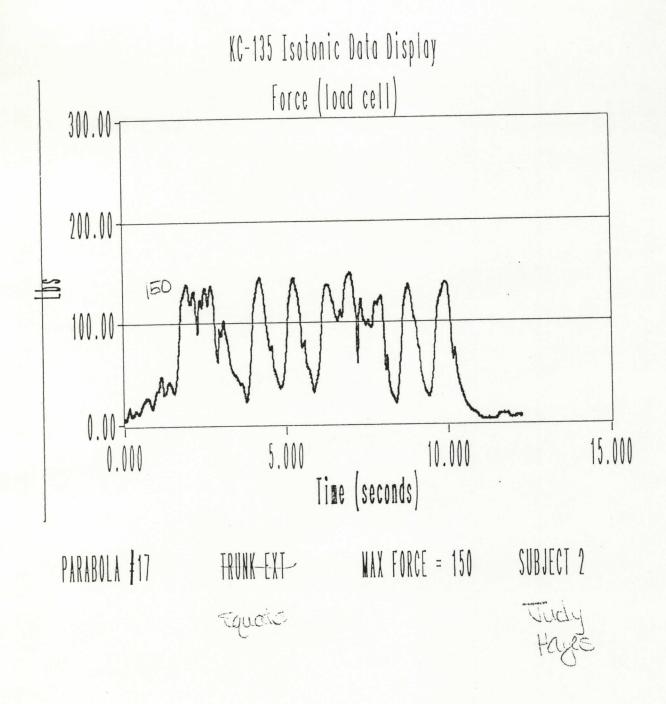


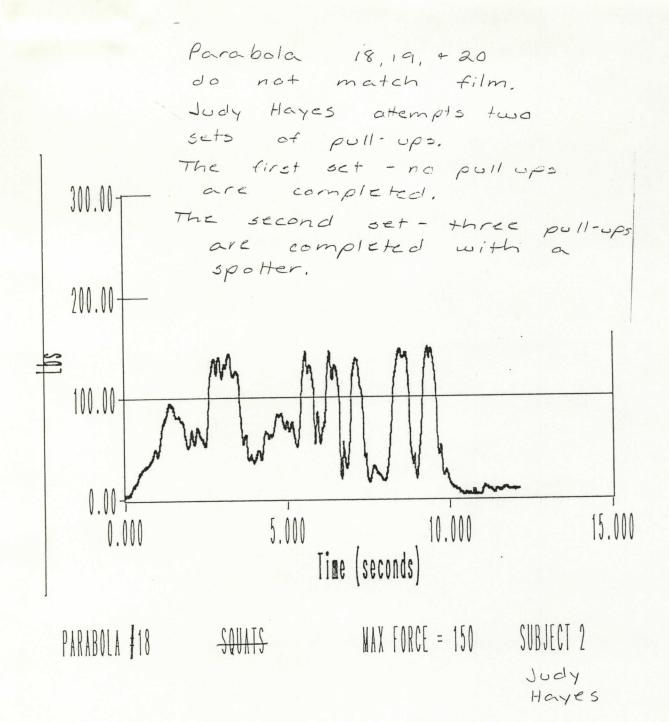


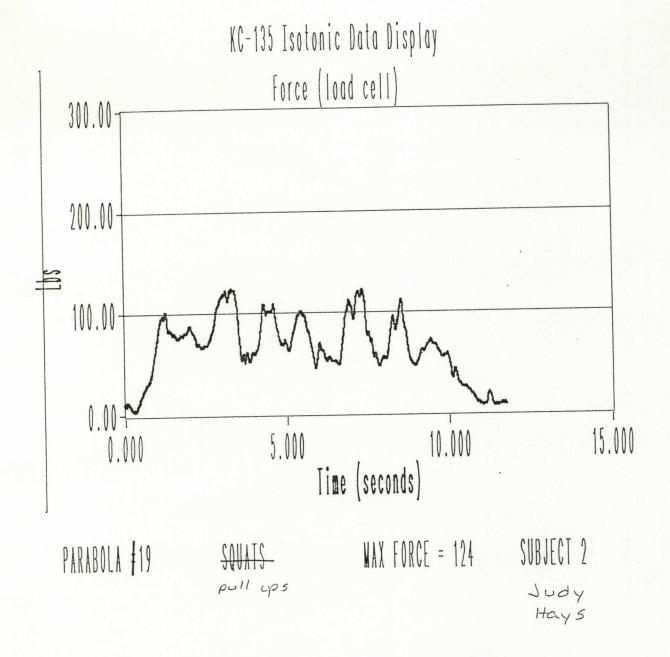
Terajo- net adjusted property

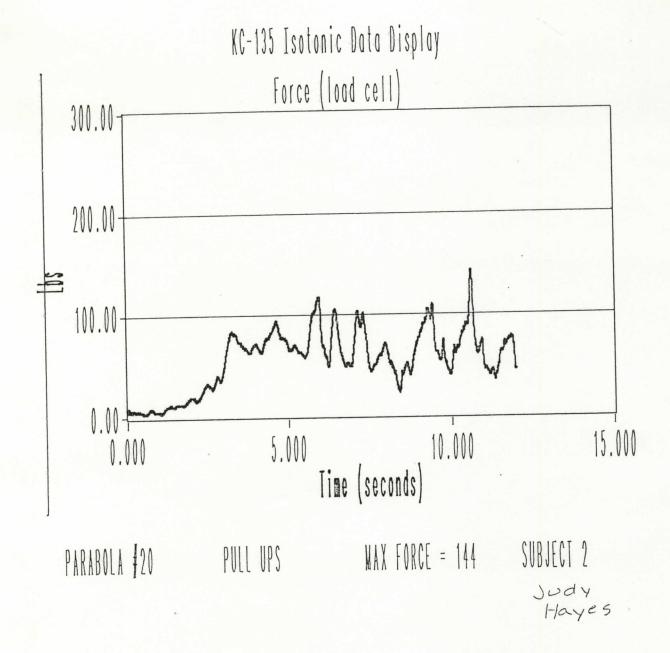


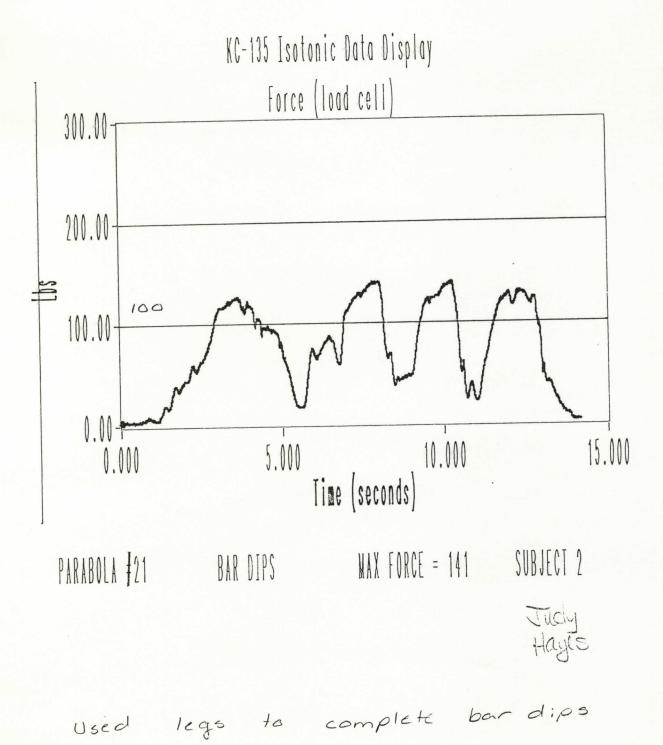
No Exercise done



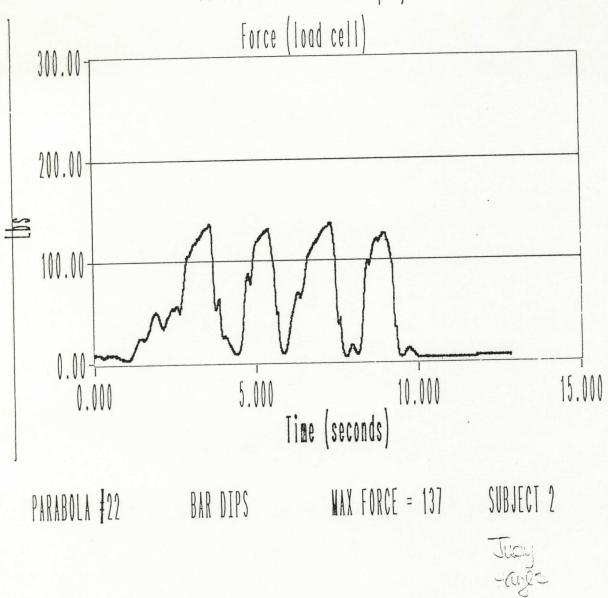




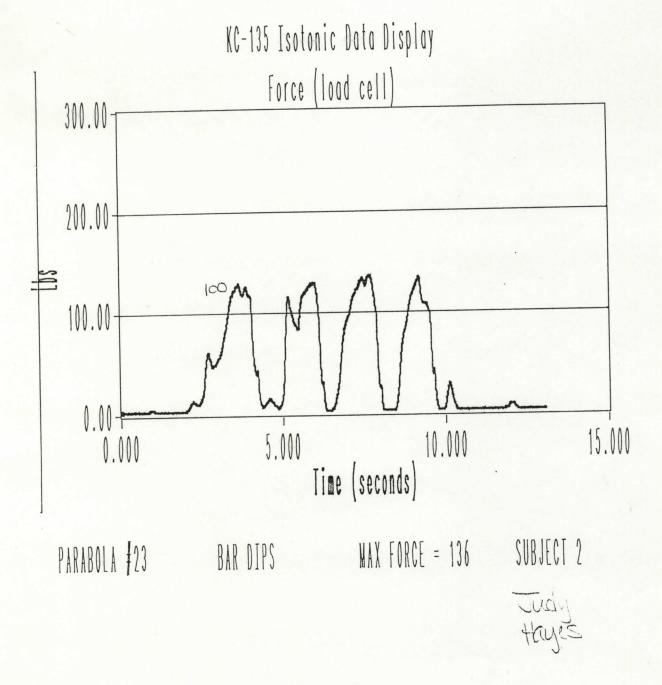




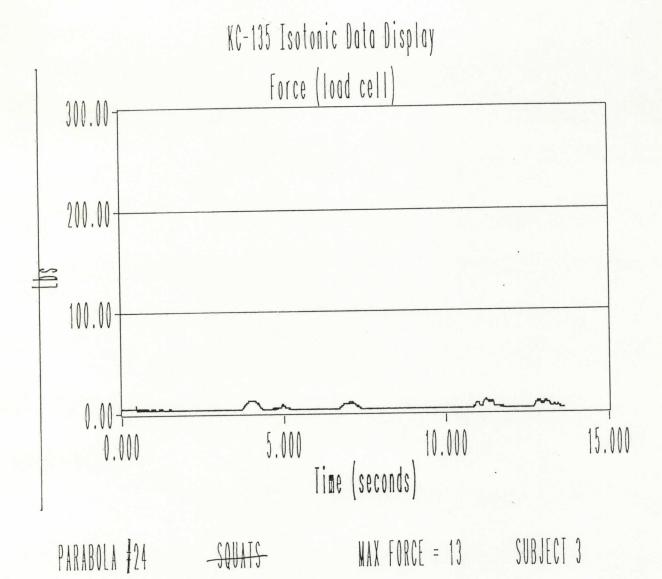




that I were less to complete bour diss

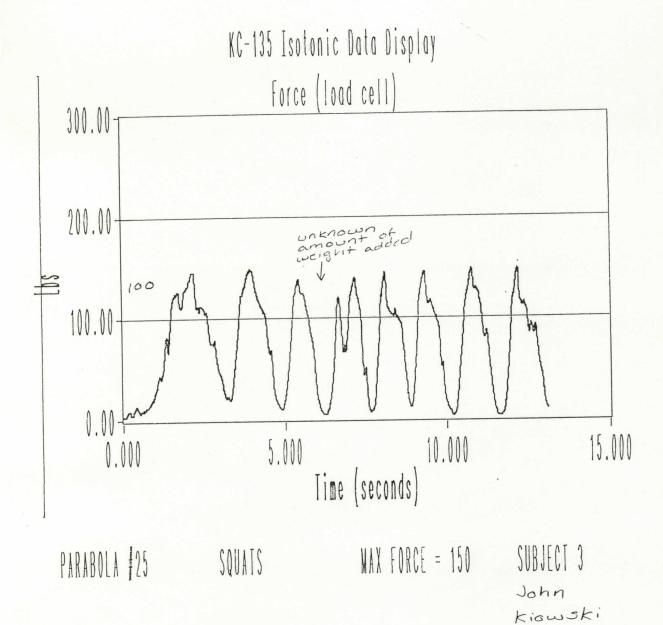


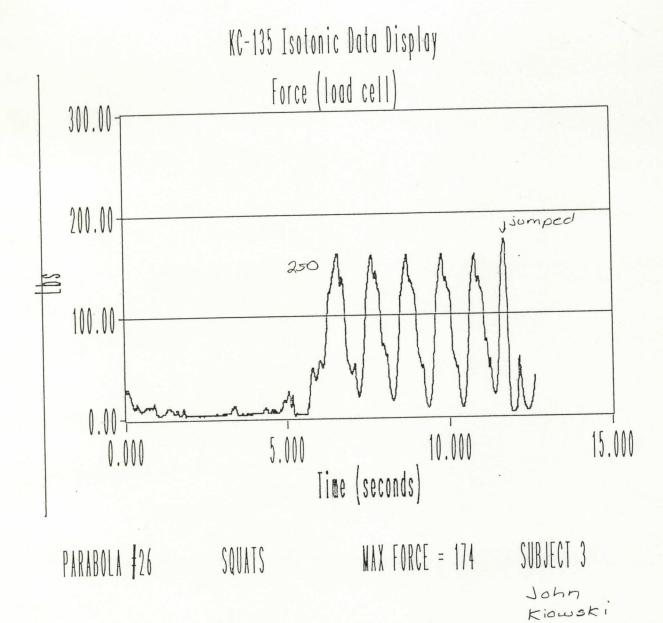
that to use less to complete conscions

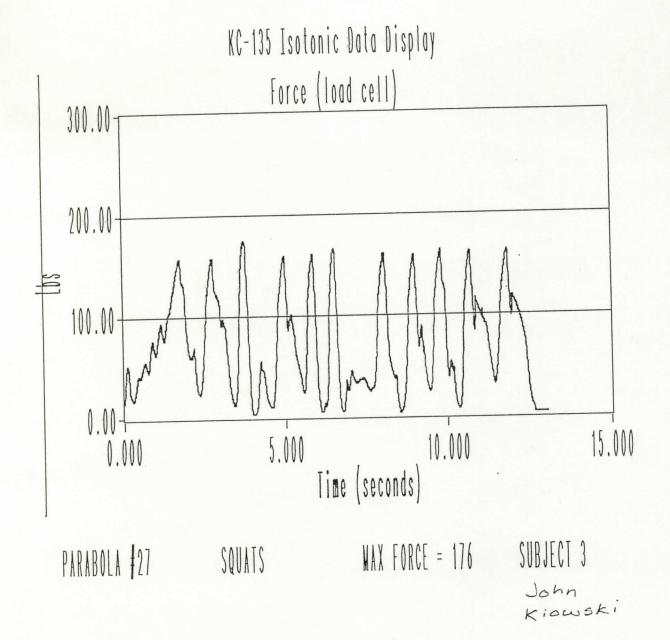


John Kiowski

no exercise donc



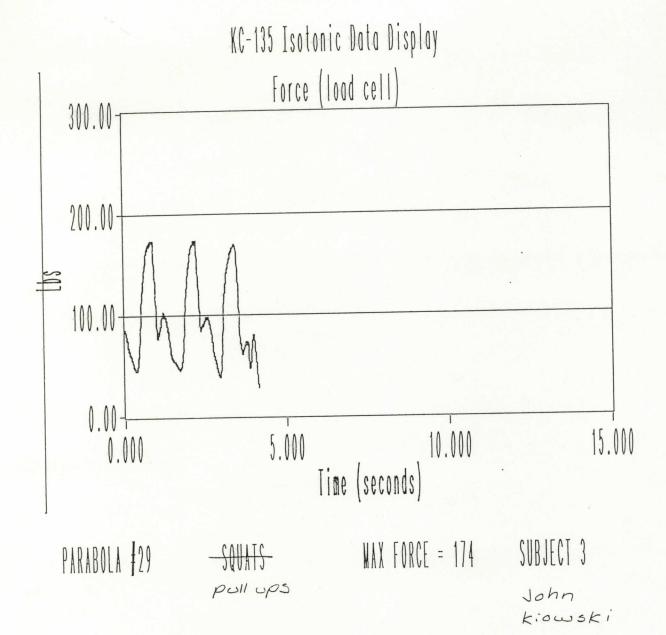


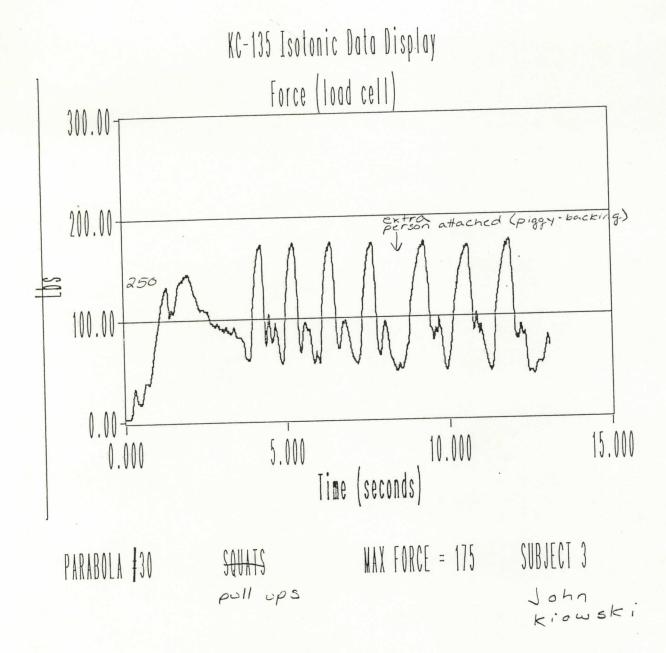


subject was able to jump during exercise

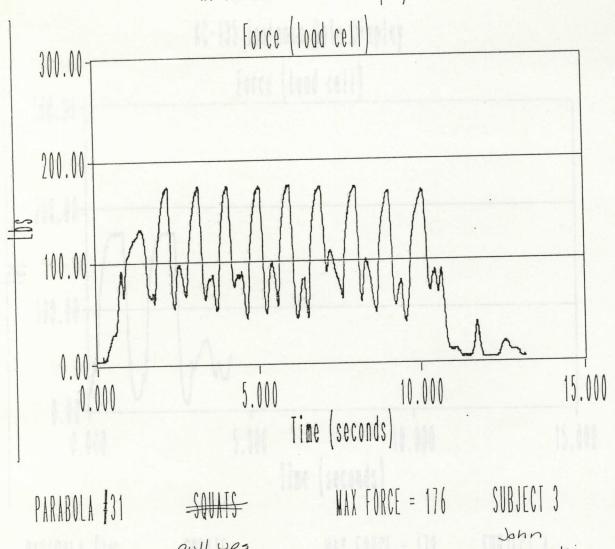


Exercise not filmed.

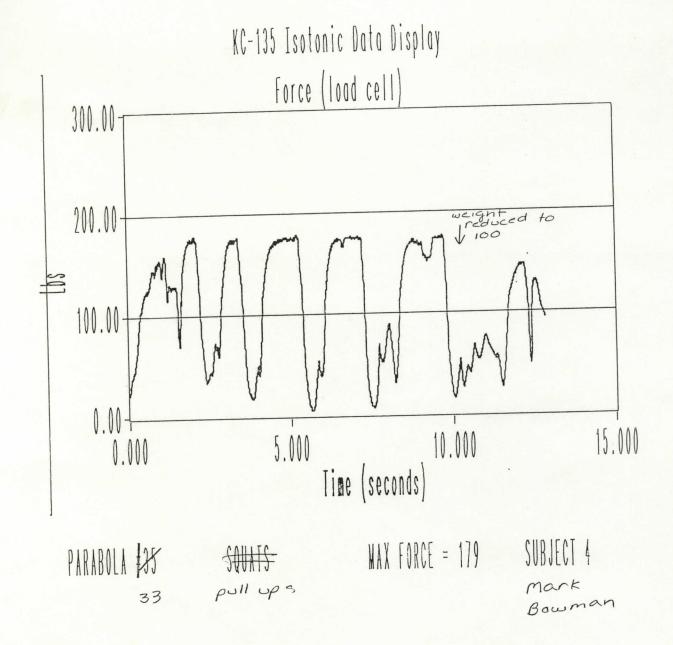


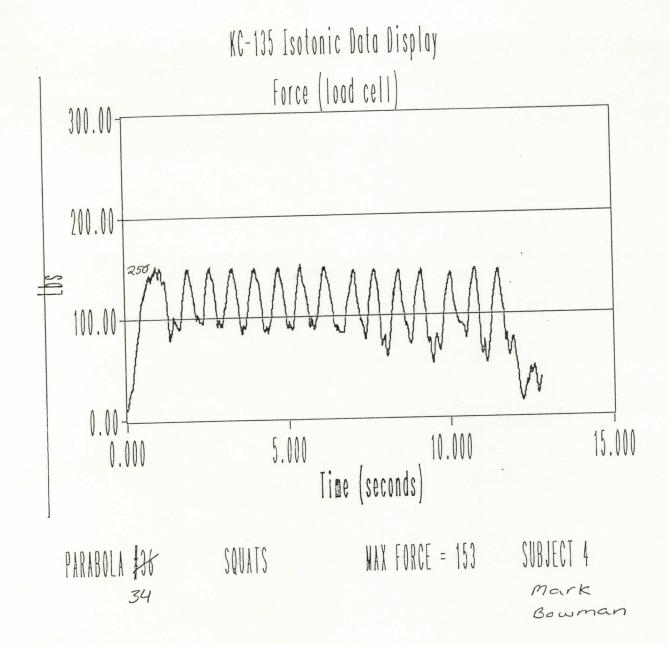


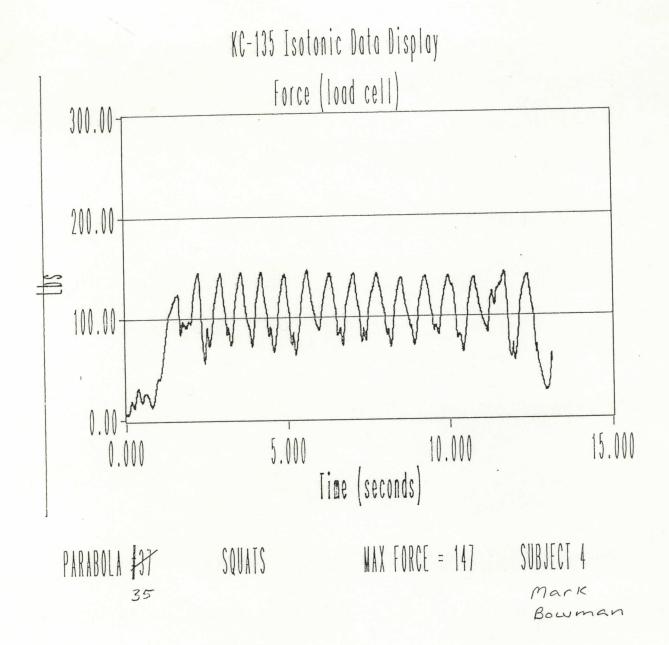


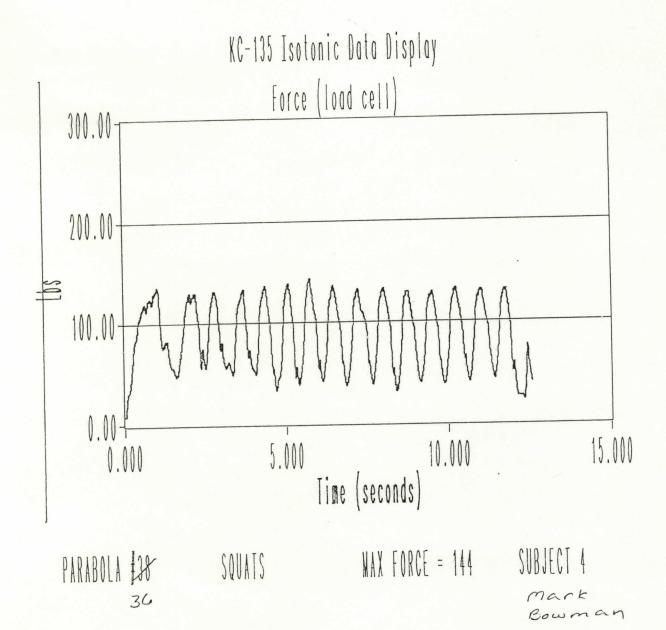


pull ups

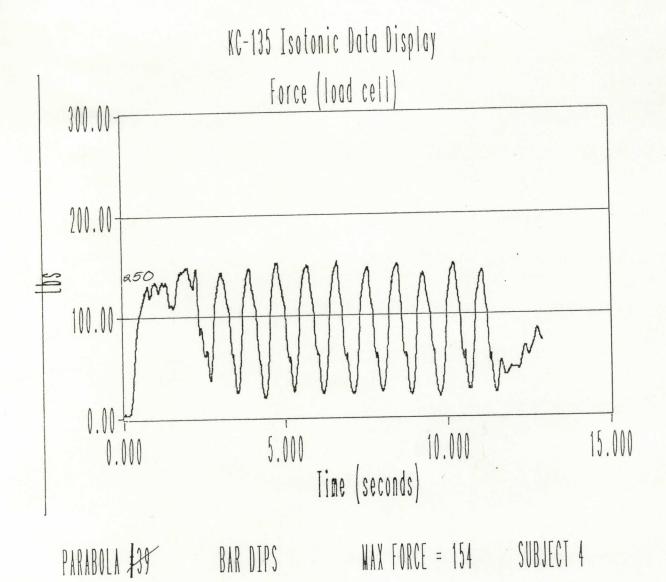


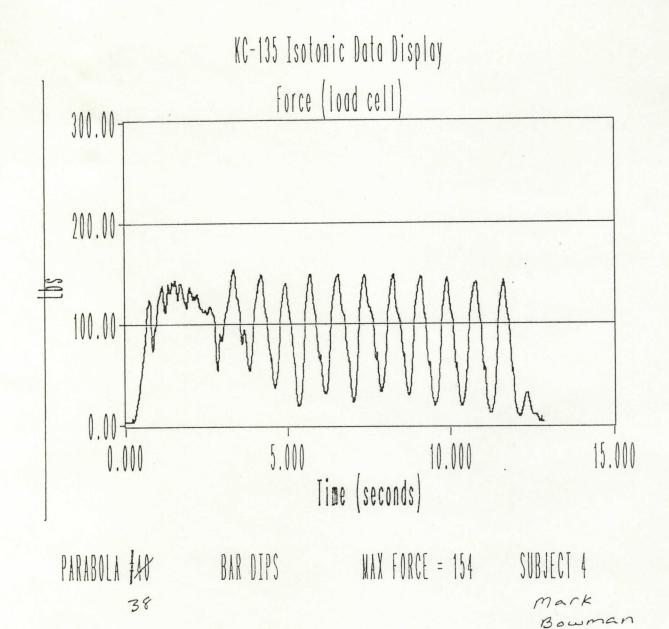




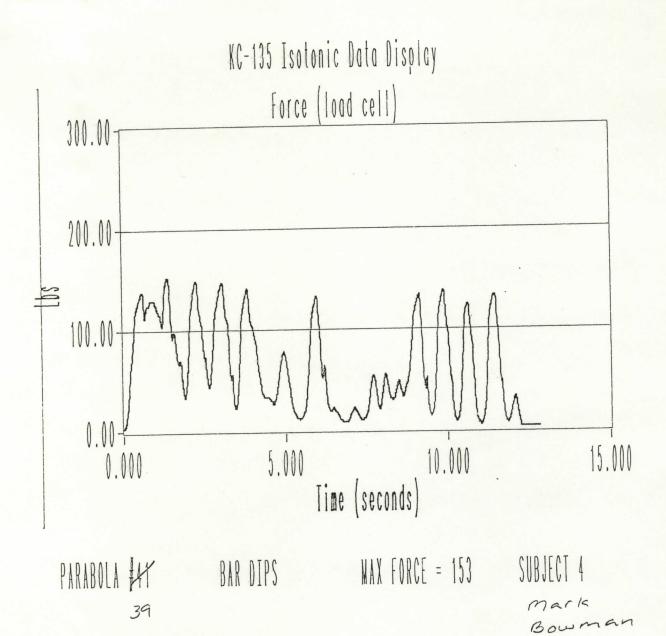


Bowman



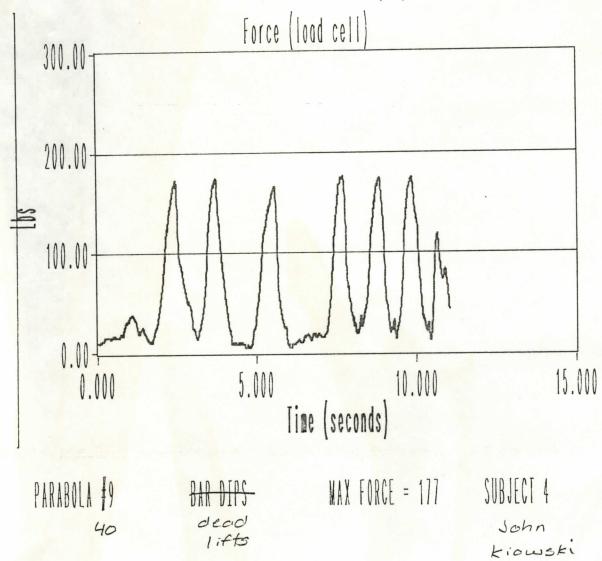






Ja Dago





not filmed