Letters to the Editor

Lower-Extremity Overuse Injury and Use of Foot Orthotic Devices in Women's Basketball

To the Editor:

The rovers *Spirit* and *Opportunity*, recently sent to the surface of Mars, have provided space scientists with enormous amounts of data about that planet. With these data, planetary scientists are able to make informed, accurate conclusions about conditions on Mars. Anything researchers might say about other planets, based on the data obtained from the Mars rovers, would be supposition, conjecture, or hypothesis. Careful scientists do not formulate conclusions from data they do not have. Walter L. Jenkins and Susanne G. Raedeke might learn from such scientists if, as I respectfully suggest, they consider restating the conclusion drawn in their recent article "Lower-Extremity Overuse Injury and Use of Foot Orthotic Devices in Women's Basketball," which appeared in the September/October 2006 issue of the *Journal*.

Their article discusses only one accommodative orthotic device, which was made of 38-durometer ethyl vinyl acetate. The data show that this single device did not prevent overuse injuries in the study group. Yet their conclusion is that ". . . this study does not support the use of accommodative foot orthotic devices to reduce lower-extremity overuse injury rates" (p 411). The study did not address the panoply of materials used today in accommodative orthotic devices. The sweeping generalization in the conclusion of the article is not supported by the data. Such reasoning is weak and could give a misleading impression regarding the use of accommodative orthoses in injury prevention.

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