

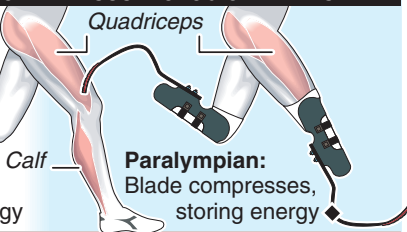
Blade runner goes for gold at Paralympics

Oscar Pistorius has targeted three golds in Beijing, and after winning the battle to show that his carbon-fibre prosthetics provide no net advantage could yet star in future able-bodied competition as well

"CHEETAH FLEX-FOOT" VERSUS BIOLOGICAL LIMBS

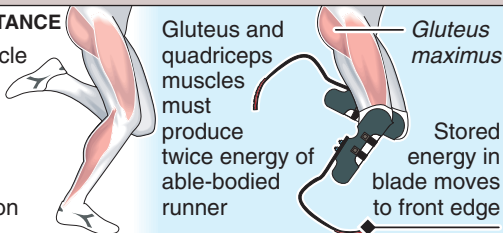
1. FOOT STRIKES GROUND

Able-bodied runner: Ankle, calf, knee and quadriceps absorb impact, storing energy



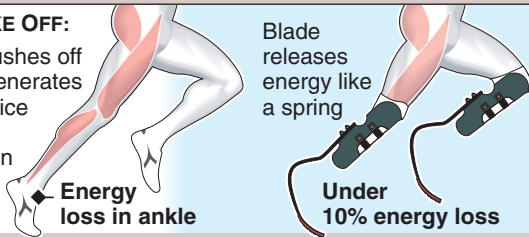
2. MID STANCE

Calf muscle begins to fire. All leg muscles provide locomotion



3. TAKE OFF:

Foot pushes off – leg generates over twice energy stored in first impact



Socket:
Snug fit to leg

Foot: Carbon composite

Spikes

RECORD COMPARISONS

| | Time (seconds) | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Competition | 400 metres | 200m | 100m |
| 2008 Olympic gold, men | 43.75 | 19.30 | 9.69 |
| Pistorius's records | 46.25 | 21.58 | 10.91 |
| 2008 Olympic gold, women | 49.62 | 21.74 | 10.78 |