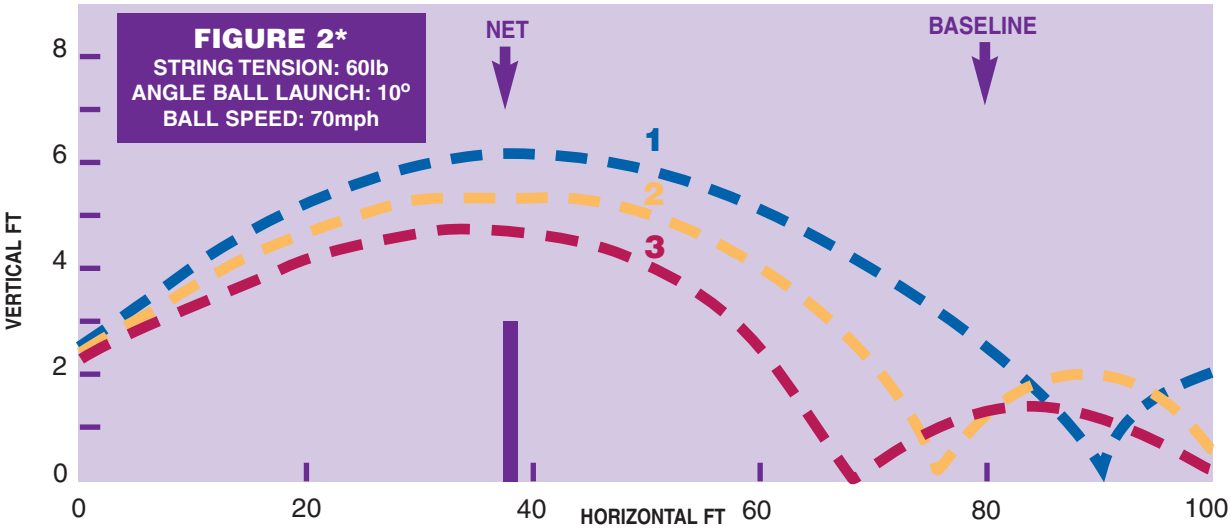
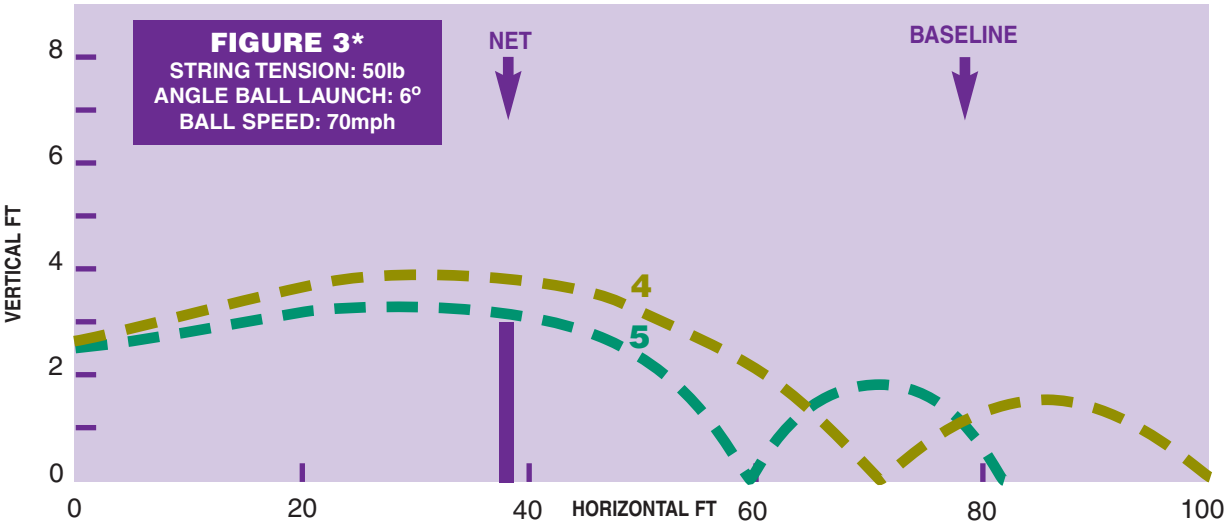
EFFECT OF STRING TENSION ON BALL TRAJECTORIES AND SHOT PLACEMENT

THE ILLUSTRATIONS RELATE TO LOW TO HIGH BASELINE GROUNDSTROKES PLAYED WITH A MID PLUS RACQUET FACE VERTICAL TO THE GROUND.



TRAJECTORY 1: No spin, good net clearance, but ball is long.
TRAJECTORY 2: Moderate spin, good net clearance, ball lands deep in court.
TRAJECTORY 3: Increased spin, good net clearance, ball lands shorter - but safely.

Obviously baseline balls taken above net height would need increased spin to ensure landing in the court, but the opportunity to do so is provided by the high safety margin the ball clears the net by.



TRAJECTORY 4: No spin, moderate net clearance, ball lands fairly deep.
TRAJECTORY 5: Moderate spin, negligible net clearance, ball lands short.

Obviously baseline balls taken above net height could be placed more favourably into court, but conversely lower bouncing balls could only be given a favourable initial projectory by a racquet swing exaggerated towards the vertical. This is not always possible under pressure and of course lowers ball speed.

OVERALL: *It shows that different players may have built their game around a specific string tension to suit one playing surface. However, building a style around a higher string tension will provide more playing options for all court surfaces.*

*Information extrapolated from Racquet Tech, July 2000.