

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL CENTER

OFFICE NOTE 303

Skill of Medium Range Forecast Group

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FEBRUARY 1985

This is an unreviewed manuscript, primarily
intended for informal exchange of information
among NMC staff members.

PURPOSE

This paper depicts in a graphical manner the skill of the Medium Range (3-10 day) Forecast Group (MRFG) man and machine (numerical model guidance) forecasts. It will be updated each February in order to present the latest scores for each of the several forecast categories in the MRFG. Only scores with at least a 5-year period of record are presented. This paper contains the standardized and unstandardized mean sea-level pressure and 500-mb correlation; the Gilman, Hughes and experimental precipitation skill; the minimum/maximum absolute temperature error; and the 5-day mean normalized 500-mb correlation, temperature, and precipitation skill scores.

Numerical Model Guidance (Past to Present)

1. Acronyms

- a. Baro - Reed Barotropic Advection Model Hemispheric
- b. 6L PE - 6-layer Primitive Equation Model Hemispheric
- c. CM - Course Mesh 380km FM - Fine Mesh 190km
- d. SMG26 - Spectral Model Global 24 modes 6-layers
- e. SMH2C - Spectral Model Hemispheric 24 modes 12-layers
- f. SMG3C - Spectral Model Global 30 modes 12-layers
- g. SMG4C - Spectral Model Global 40 modes 12-layers

2. 00Z Guidance

a. To 84-hours

- (1) From 1970 through 1977: 6L PE CM
- (2) From 1978 through 1979: 7L PE FM
- (3) From January 1980 to August 15, 1980: 7L PE FM to 60-hours then 7L PE CM with Fourth Order Differencing to 84-hours.
- (4) From August 15, 1980, to April 15, 1981: SMG3C to 48-hours then SMH2C to 84-hours
- (5) From April 15, 1981, through October 19, 1983: SMG3C to 48-hours then SMG2C to 84-hours.
- (6) From October 19, 1983, through December 1984: SMG4C

b. Greater than 84-hours to 144-hours

- (1) From 1970 through 1979: Baro (Mesh 1977-1979)
- (2) From January 1980 to August 15, 1980: 7L PE CM with Fourth Order Differencing.
- (3) From August 15, 1980 to April 15, 1981: SMH2C
- (4) From April 15, 1981, through April 1982: SMG26
- (5) From May 1982 through October 19, 1983: SMG2C
- (6) From October 19, 1983 through December 1984: SMG4C

c. Greater than 144-hours to 252 hours

- (1) From November 1977 through April 1981: Baro Mesh
- (2) From December 1977 through April 15, 1981: 3L PE CM
- (3) From April 15, 1981 through October 19, 1983: SMG26 to 192 hours then SMH26 to 240 hours.
- (4) From October 19, 1983 through December 1984: SMG4C to 240 hours.

3. 12Z Guidance

a. To 60-hours

- (1) From 1970 through 1977: 6L PE CM

b. Greater than 60-hours to 96-hours (500mb only):

- (1) From 1970 through 1977: Baro (Mesh in 1977)

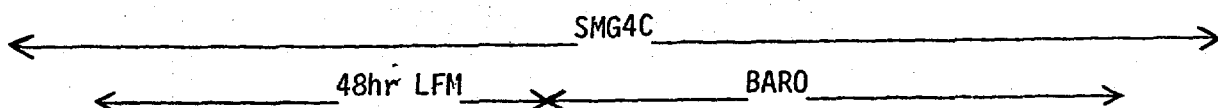
c. To 48-hours

- (1) From October 1971 through August 1977: 7L PE FM (old LFM)
- (2) From September 1977 through 1984: 7L PE LFM (127km)

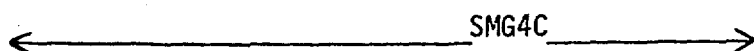
d. Greater than 48-hours to 120 hours (500mb only)

- (1) From 1978 through 1984: Baro run from the 48-hour LFM inserted into the 60-hour SMG4C from 00Z.

Forecast Day	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
12Z	12Z	12Z	12Z	12Z	12Z
12hrs	36hrs	60hrs	84hrs	108hrs	132hrs
00Z	00Z	00Z	00Z	00Z	00Z



Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
12Z	12Z	12Z	12Z	12Z
156hrs	180hrs	204hrs	228hrs	252hrs
00Z	00Z	00Z	00Z	00Z



*NOTE OI ANALYSIS REPLACED THE HUF IN LATE JULY 1984.

Figures

Figure 1 depicts the North American (NA 130 grid points) and the United States (US 86 grid points) subset mean sea level pressure (MSLP) and 500 mb correlation score verification areas.

Figure 2 is a plot of the calendar year 1984 monthly mean standardized correlation scores for the man and NMC/NWP model North American area mean sea-level pressure progs verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day. (See Appendix A for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 3 is a plot of the 17/15 year (1968/70-1984) average monthly mean standardized correlation scores for the man and NMC/NWP model North American area mean sea-level pressure progs verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day. (See Appendix A for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 4 is a plot of the 1968/70 through 1984 calendar year standardized correlation scores for the man and NMC/NWP model North American area mean sea-level pressure progs verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day. (See Appendix A for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 5 is similar to figure 2 except the score is unstandardized.

Figure 6 is similar to figure 3 except the average is for 8 years and the score is unstandardized.

Figure 7 is similar to figure 4 except the calendar years are 1977 through 1984 and the score is unstandardized.

Figure 8 is a plot of the calendar year 1984 monthly mean standardized correlation scores for the NMC/NWP model North American area 500-mb progs verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day. (See Appendix A for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 9 is a plot of the 15 year (1970-1984) average monthly mean standardized correlation scores for the NMC/NWP model North American area 500-mb progs verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day. (See Appendix A for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 10 is a plot of the 1970 through 1984 calendar year standardized correlation scores for the NMC/NWP model North American area 500-mb progs

verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day. (See Appendix A for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 11 is similar to figure 2 except the area is the United States.

Figure 12 is similar to figure 3 except the average is for 9 years and the area is the United States.

Figure 13 is similar to figure 4 except the calendar years are 1976 through 1984 and the area is the United States.

Figure 14 is similar to figure 5 except the area is the United States.

Figure 15 is similar to figure 6 except the area is the United States.

Figure 16 is similar to figure 7 except the area is the United States.

Figure 17 is similar to figure 8 except the area is the United States.

Figure 18 is similar to figure 9 except the average is for 10 years and the area is the United States.

Figure 19 is similar to figure 10 except the calendar years are 1975 through 1984 and the area is the United States.

Figure 20 is a plot of the calendar year 1984 monthly mean standardized correlation scores for the man, NMC/NWP model, European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF), and Linear Regression (LR - see NMC ON 259 of June 82) North American area 500-mb mean progs verifying 6 to 10 days after forecast day.

Figure 21 is a plot of the 6 year (1979-1984) average monthly mean standardized correlation scores for the man and NMC/NWP model North American area 500-mb progs verifying 6 to 10 days after forecast day.

Figure 22 is a plot of the 1979 through 1984 calendar year standardized correlation scores for the man, NMC/NWP model and ECMWF (1982-1984) North American area 500-mb mean progs verifying 6 to 10 days after forecast day.

Figure 23 depicts the 41 stations in the United States where the temperature forecasts are verified.

Figure 24(a,b,c) is a plot of the calendar year 1984 bi-monthly mean absolute error minimum temperature scores for the man, Klein Lewis (KL) objective, and climatology temperature forecasts verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day.

Figure 25(a,b,c) is a plot of the 14 year (1971-1984) average bi-monthly mean absolute error minimum temperature scores for the man, KL, and climatology temperature forecasts verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day.

Figure 26 is a plot of the 1971 through 1984 calendar year absolute error minimum temperature scores for the man, KL, and climatology temperature forecasts verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day.

Figure 27(a,b,c) is similar to figure 24(a,b,c) except the temperature is maximum.

Figure 28(a,b,c) is similar to figure 25(a,b,c) except the temperature is maximum.

Figure 29 is similar to figure 26 except the temperature is maximum.

Figure 30 is a plot of the 1972 through 1984 calendar year absolute error $(\text{minimum} + \text{maximum}) \div 2$ temperature scores for the man, KL, and climatology temperature forecasts verifying on days $(3+4+5) \div 3$ after forecast day.

Figure 31 is a plot of the calendar year 1984 monthly mean 5-class temperature skill scores for the man, forecast persistence (FP - persistence of the 1-5 day mean temperature forecast as a 6-10 day), linear regression (LR - see NMC ON 259 of June 82), and observed (T OBS-persistence of the 5 day mean observed temperatures as a 6-10 day forecast) mean temperature forecasts verifying 6 to 10 day after forecast day. (See Appendix B for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 32 is a plot of the 7 year (1978-1984) average monthly mean 5 class temperature skill scores for the man, FP, LR and T OBS mean temperature forecasts verifying 6 to 10 days after forecast day.

Figure 33 is a plot for the 1978 through 1984 calendar year 5-class temperature skill scores for the man, FP, LR and T OBS mean temperature forecasts verifying 6 to 10 days after forecast day.

Figure 34 is similar to figure 31 except the temperature skill scores are 3-class.

Figure 35 is similar to figure 32 except the temperature skill scores are 3-class.

Figure 36 is similar to figure 33 except the temperature skill scores are 3-class.

Figure 37 depicts the 100 stations in the United States where the precipitation forecasts are verified.

Figure 38 is an example of a day 3, 4, or 5 precipitation forecast. The dashed lines are the 24-hour departure from normal probability of precipitation (DN POP) forecast for January 3. The solid lines are the 24-hour climatological (normal) probability of precipitation (NPOP) for the first 15 days of January. A total of $(DN POP + NPOP) \geq 30$ is considered "yes" forecast of precipitation ($\geq .01$ inch). All stations with an $(NPOP) \geq 30$ are considered as a "yes" climatological forecast of precipitation.

Figure 39 is a plot off the calendar year 1984 monthly mean Gilman precipitation skill scores for the man, climatology, and NMC/NWP model precipitation forecasts verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day. (See Appendix C for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 40 is a plot of the 15 year (1970-1984) average monthly mean Gilman precipitation skill scores for the man and climatology precipitation forecasts verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day.

Figure 41 is a plot of the 1970 through 1984 calendar year Gilman precipitation skill scores for the man and climatology precipitation forecasts verifying on days 3, 4, and 5 after forecast day.

Figure 42 is a plot of the 1970 through 1984 Gilman precipitation skill scores for the man and climatology precipitation forecasts verifying on days $(3+4+5) \div 3$ after forecast day.

Figure 43 is similar to figure 39 except the skill score is Hughes. (See Appendix D for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 44 is similar to figure 40 except the average is for 8 years, the skill score is Hughes, and climatology is not depicted.

Figure 45 is similar to figure 41 and figure 42 except the calendar years are 1977 through 1984 and the skill score is Hughes.

Figure 46 is similar to figure 39 except the skill score is Hughes Probability. (See Appendix E for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 47 is similar to figure 40 except the average is for 7 years and the skill score is Hughes Probability.

Figure 48 is similar to figure 41 and figure 42 except the calendar years are 1978 through 1984 and the skill score is Hughes Probability.

Figure 49 is a plot of the calendar year 1984 monthly mean 3-class precipitation skill scores for the man, NWP/NMC model and climatology mean precipitation forecasts verifying 1 to 5 days after forecast day. (See Appendix F for an explanation of this score.)

Figure 50 is a plot of the 7 year (1978-1984) average monthly mean 3-class precipitation skill scores for the man and climatology mean precipitation forecasts verifying 1 to 5 days after forecast day.

Figure 51 is a plot of the 1978 through 1984 calendar year 3-class precipitation skill scores for the man, NMC/NWP model and climatology mean precipitation forecasts verifying 1 to 5 days after forecast day.

Figure 52 is similar to figure 49 except the observed (P OBS - persistence of the 5-day mean observed precipitation as a 6-10 day forecast) is depicted and the forecast is for 6 to 10 days.

Figure 53 is similar to figure 50 except the forecast is for 6 to 10 days.

Figure 54 is similar to figure 51 except the forecast is for 6 to 10 days.

Figures 55 through 66 and 67 through 78 are plots of the calendar year 1984 monthly mean unstandardized/standardized correlation scores for the man, LFM, ECMWF, LR, NMC/NWP model and climatology North American area mean sea-level pressure progs verifying on days 1 through 9 after forecast day.

Figures 79 through 90 are plots of the calendar year 1984 monthly mean standardized correlation scores for the LFM, LR, ECMWF, and NMC/NWP model North American area 500-mb progs verifying on days 1 through 9 after forecast day.

Figures 91 through 102 are plots of the calendar year 1984 absolute error minimum and maximum temperature scores for the man, KL, LR and climatology temperature forecasts verifying on days 1 through 7 after forecast day.

SECTION 1**Man & Machine (NMC/NWP Guidance)****Mean Sea Level Pressure and 500 MB Correlation Scores**

NORTH AMERICAN VERIFICATION GRID

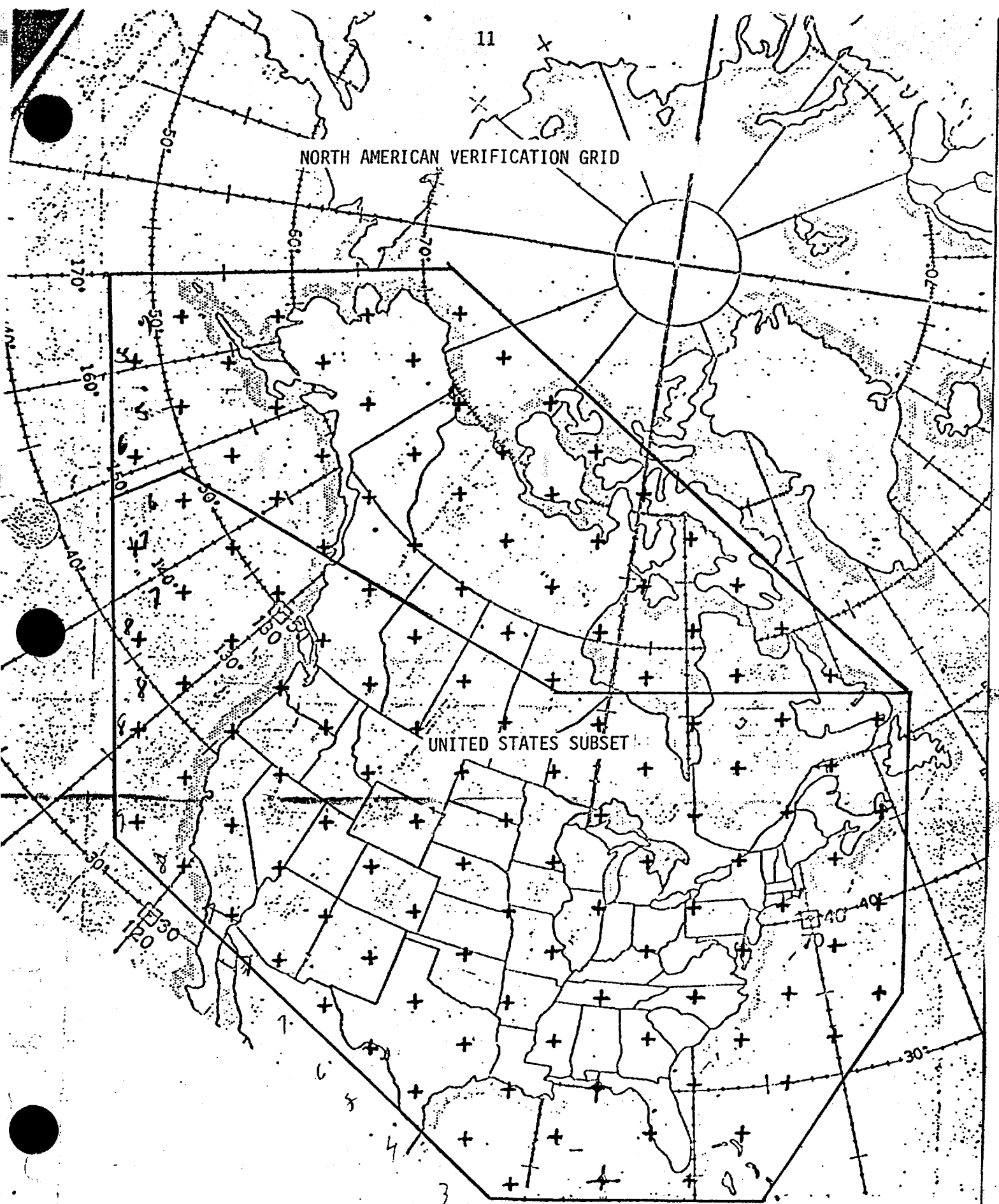


Fig 1

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1984

CORRELATION
E X 100

NMC/NWP MODEL

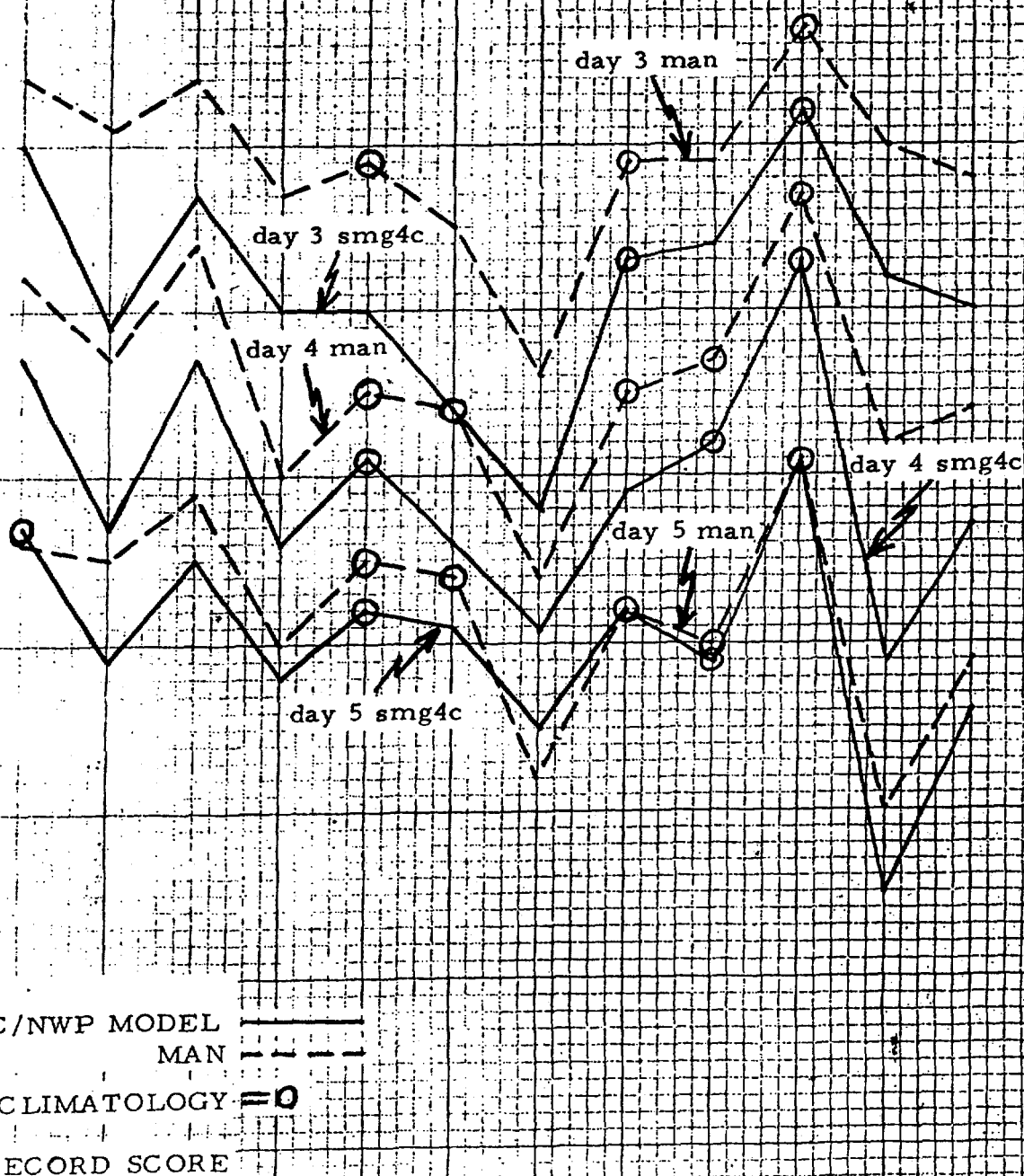
MAN

CLIMATOLOGY = 0

O=RECORD SCORE

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Fig 2



DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 LONG TERM MONTHLY MEAN
NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP STANDARDIZED
CORRELATION SCORES NMC/NWP MODEL (1970-1984) MAN (1968-1984)

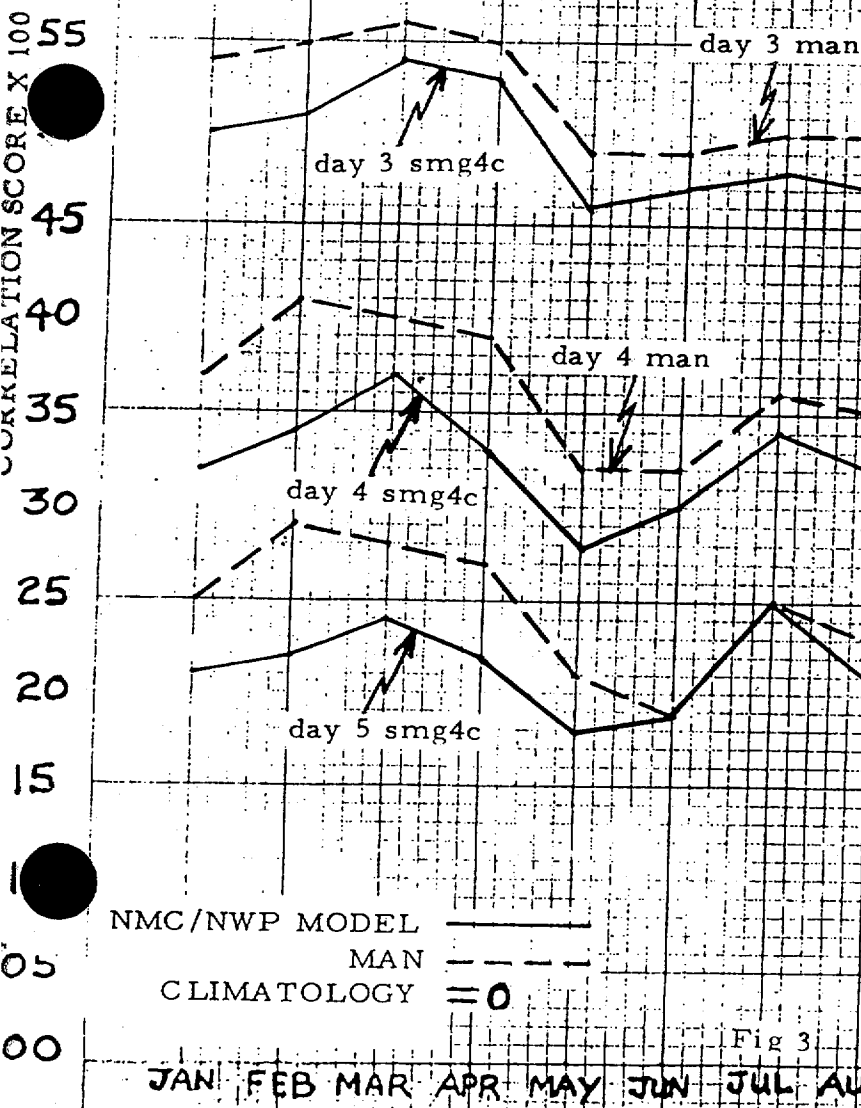


Fig 3

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE
 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP STANDARDIZED
 CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1968-1984

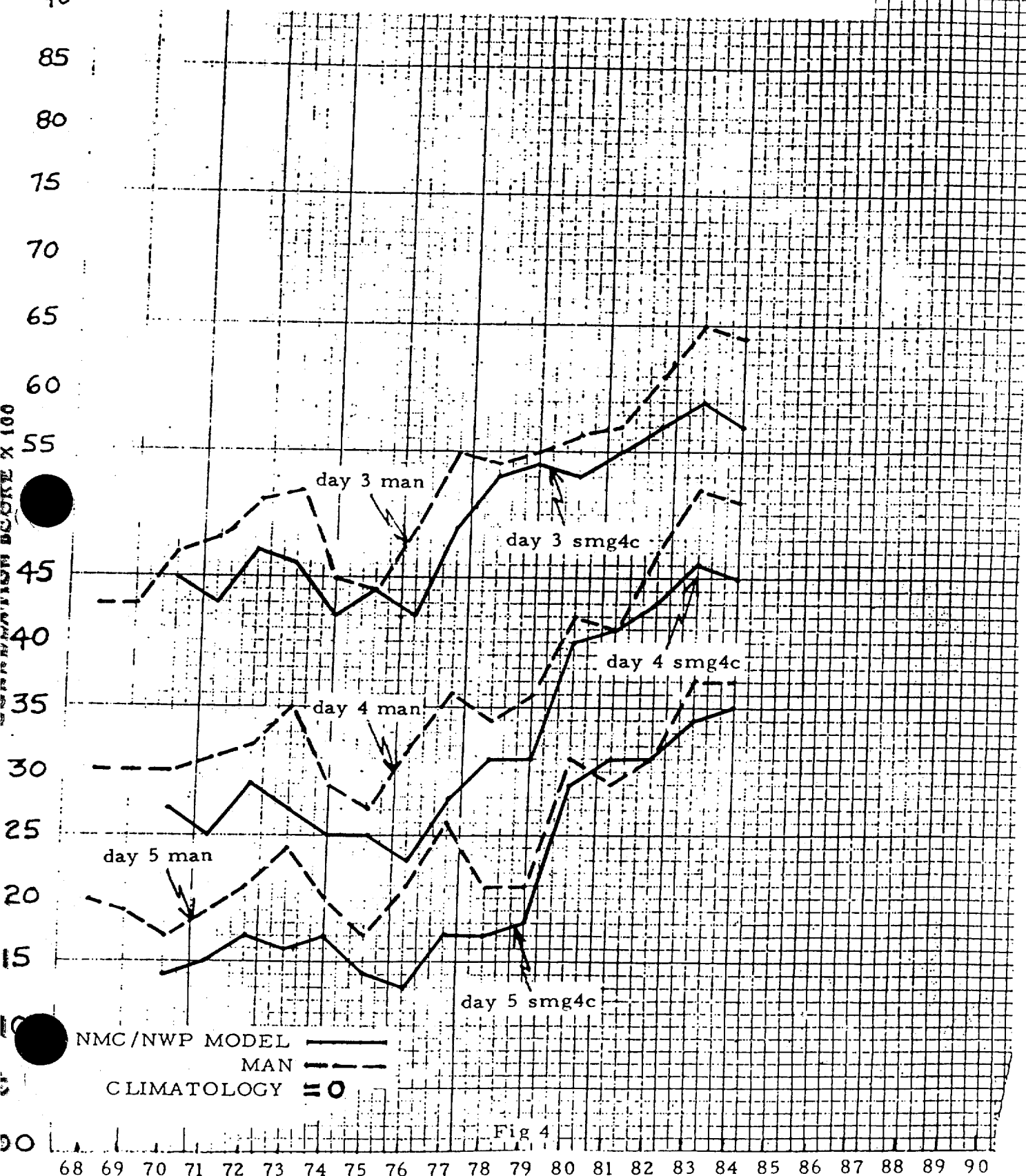


Fig 4

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1984

CORRELATION SCORE X 100

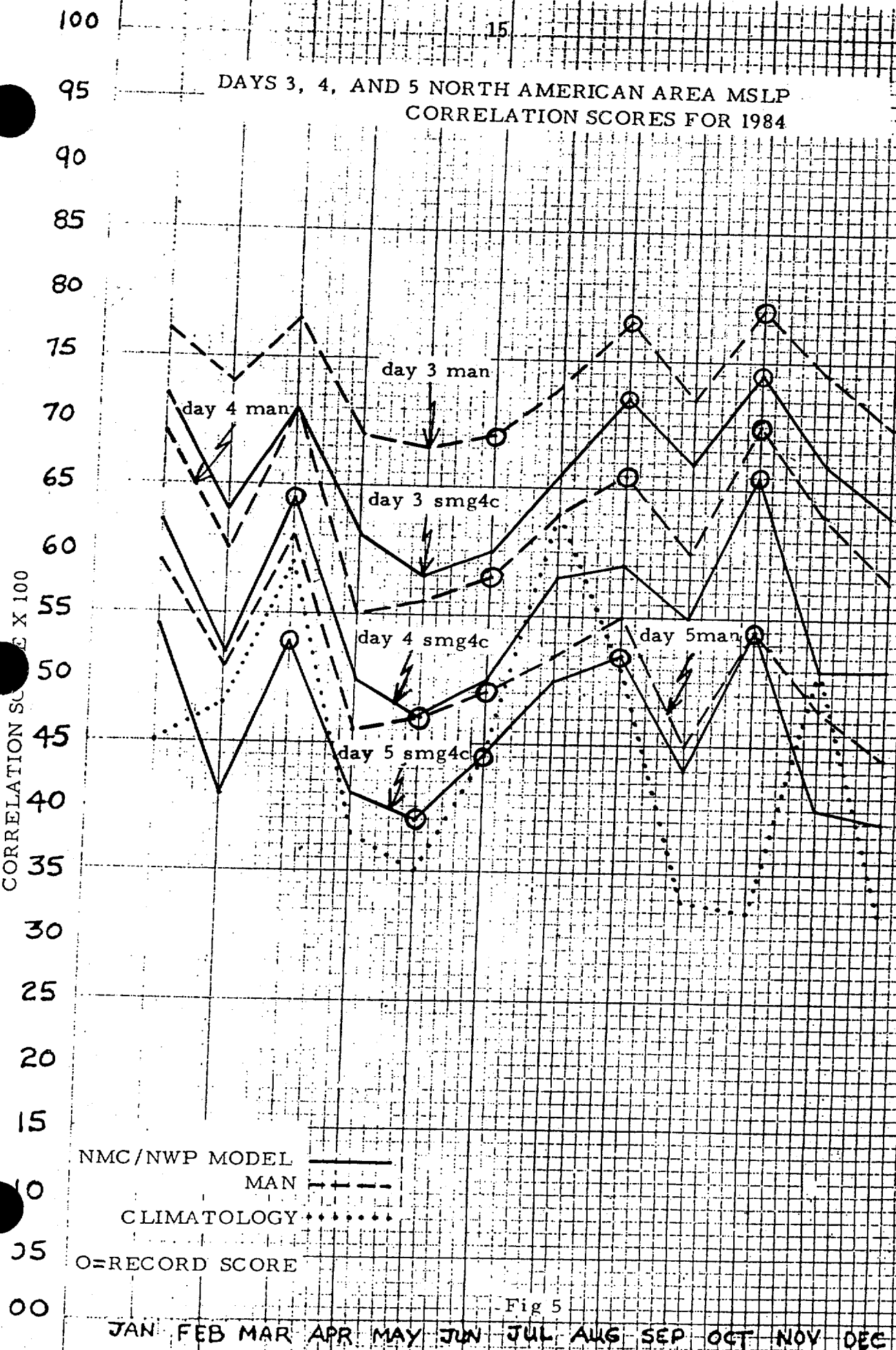


Fig 5

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 LONG TERM MONTHLY MEAN
NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
CORRELATION SCORES NMC/NWP MODEL (1977-1984) MAN (1977-1984)

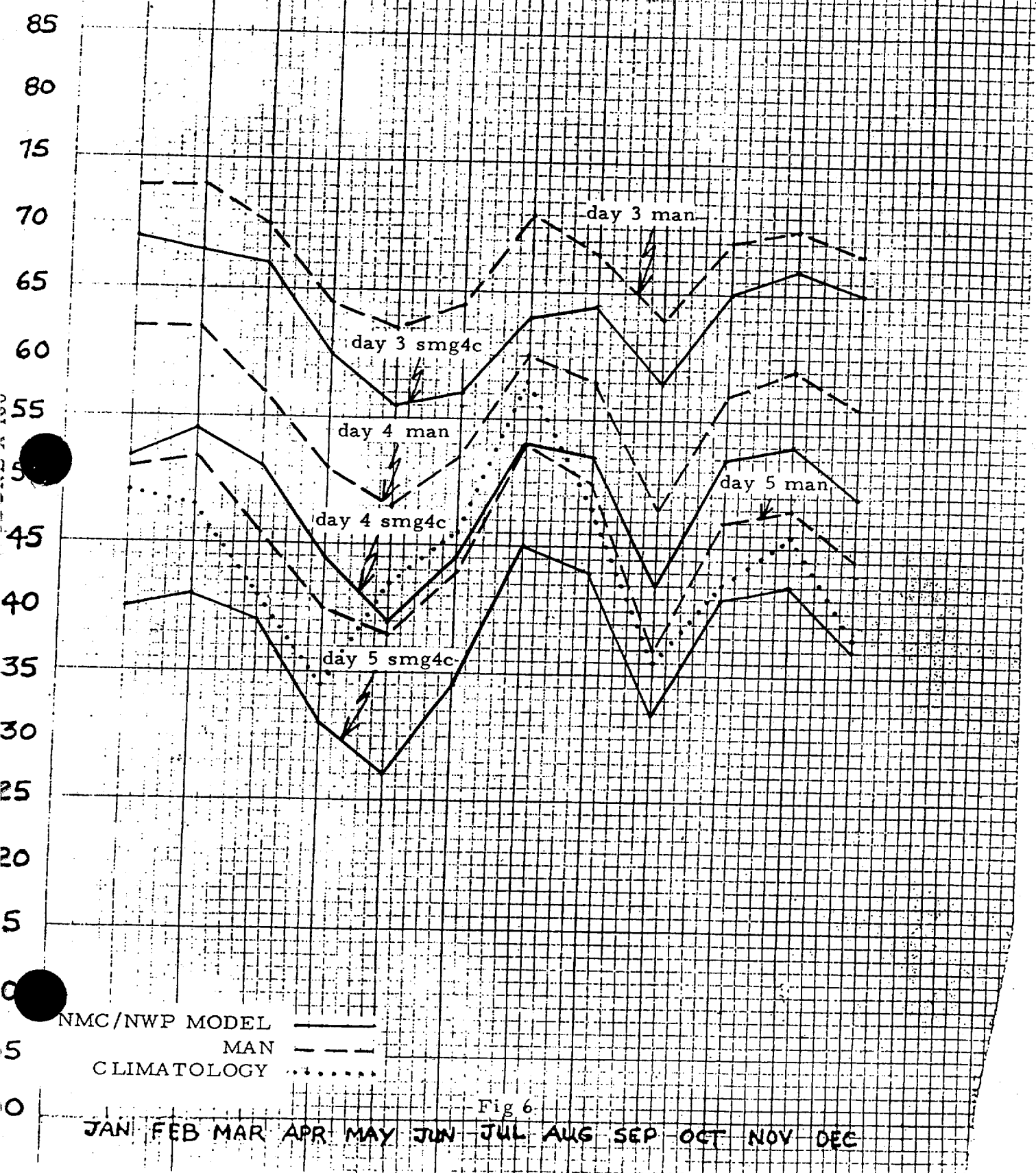
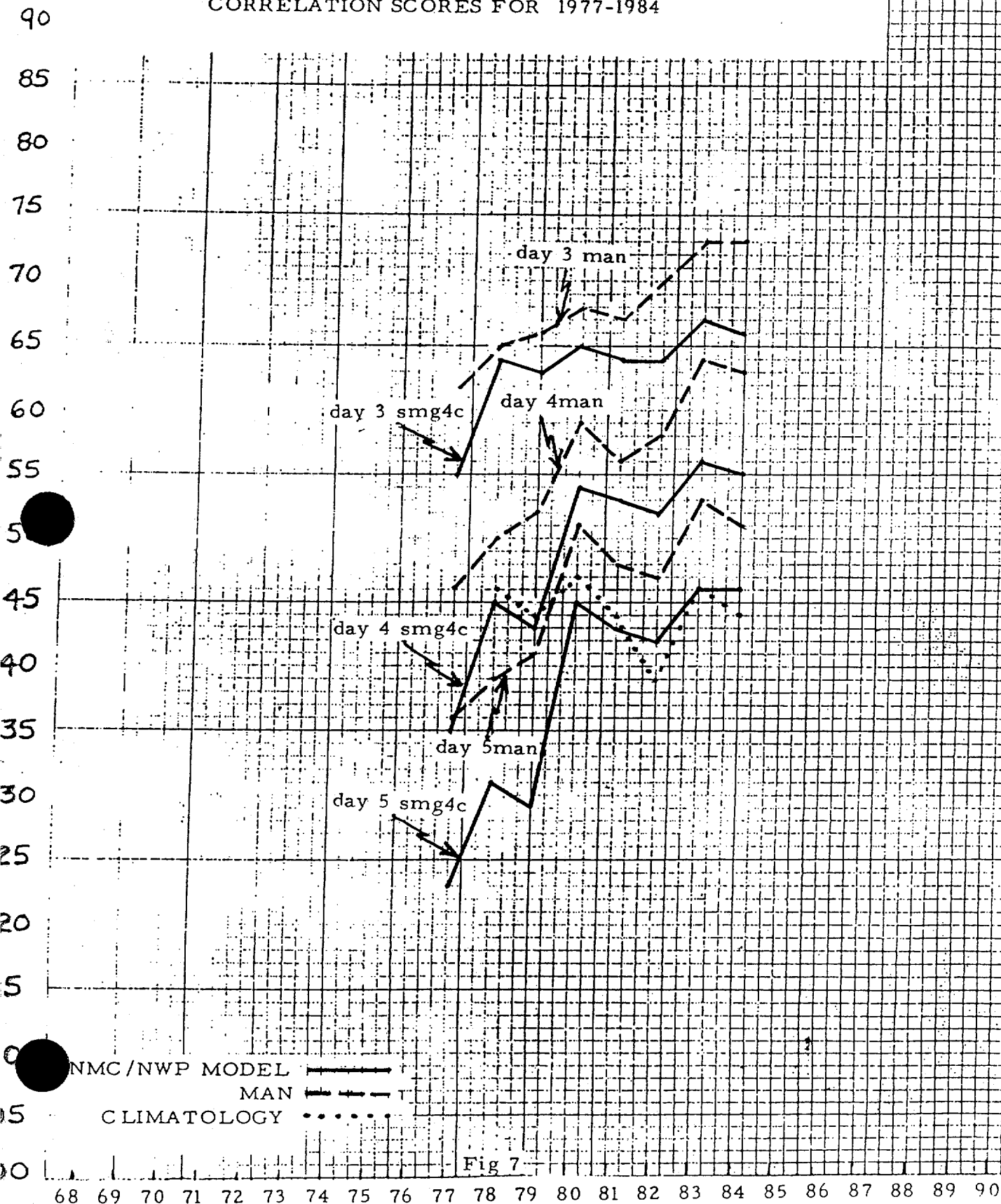


Fig 6

17

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE
NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1977-1984



DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 NORTH AMERICAN AREA
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1984

500 MB

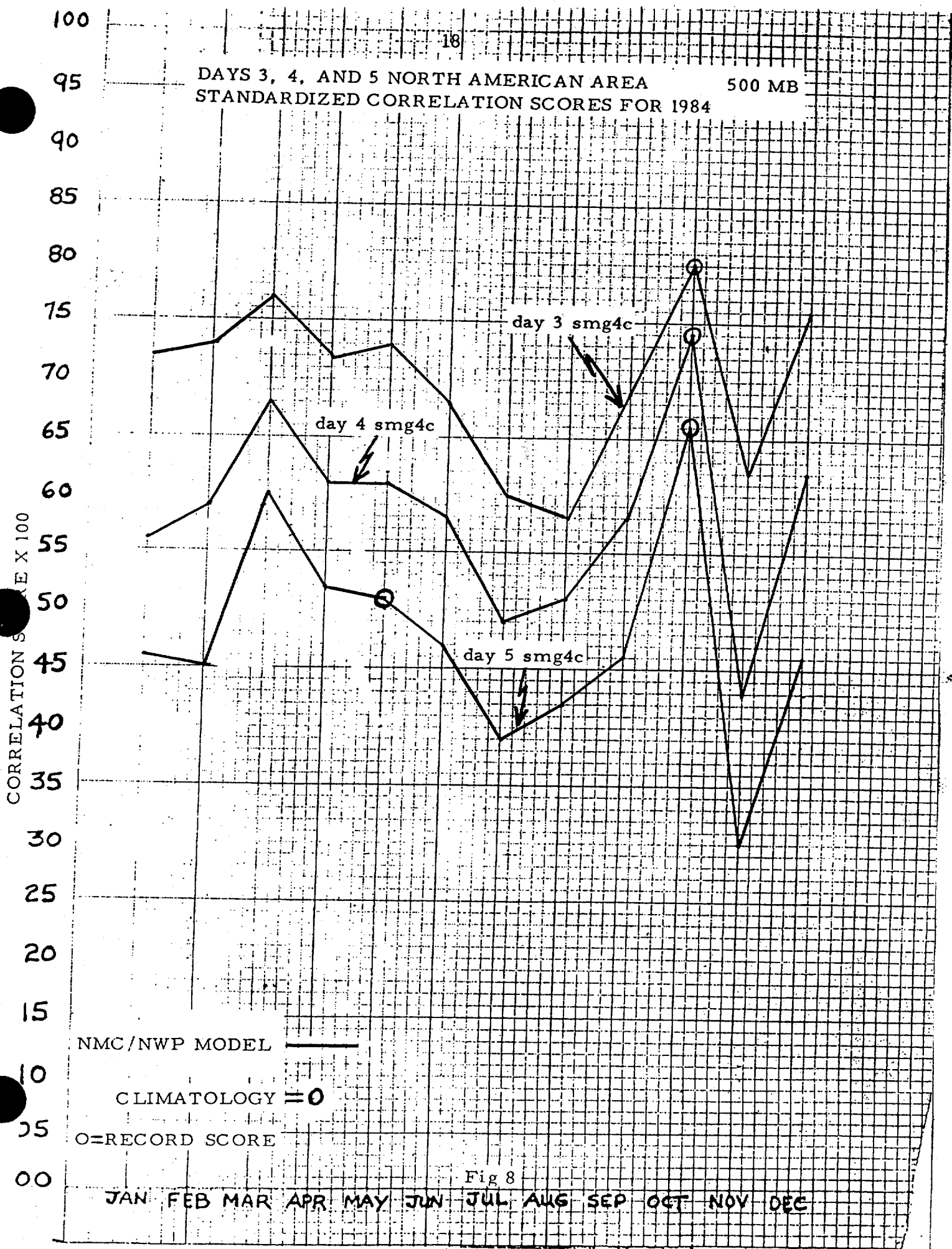
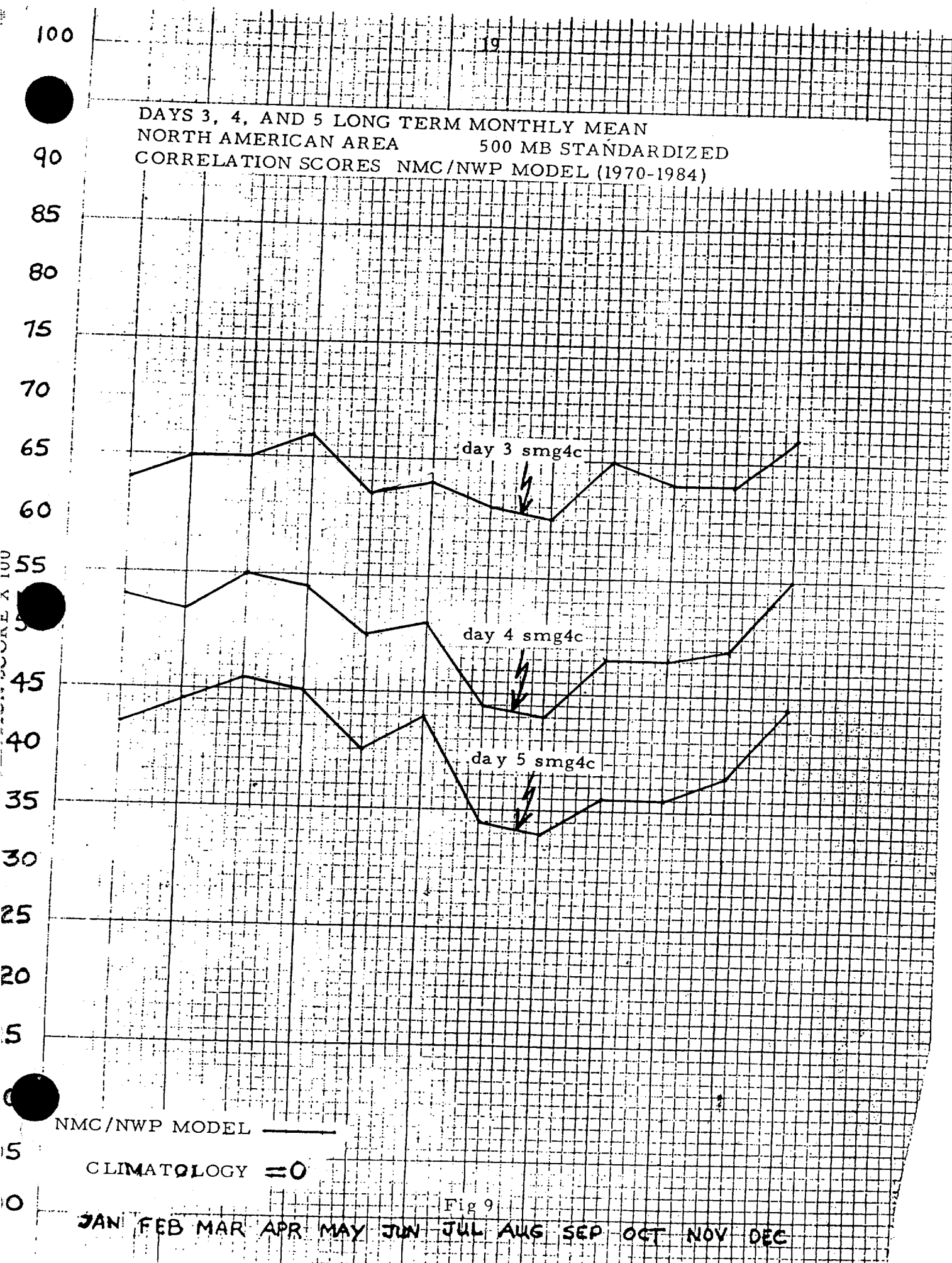


Fig 8



DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE
NORTH AMERICAN AREA 500MB STANDARDIZED
CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1970-1984

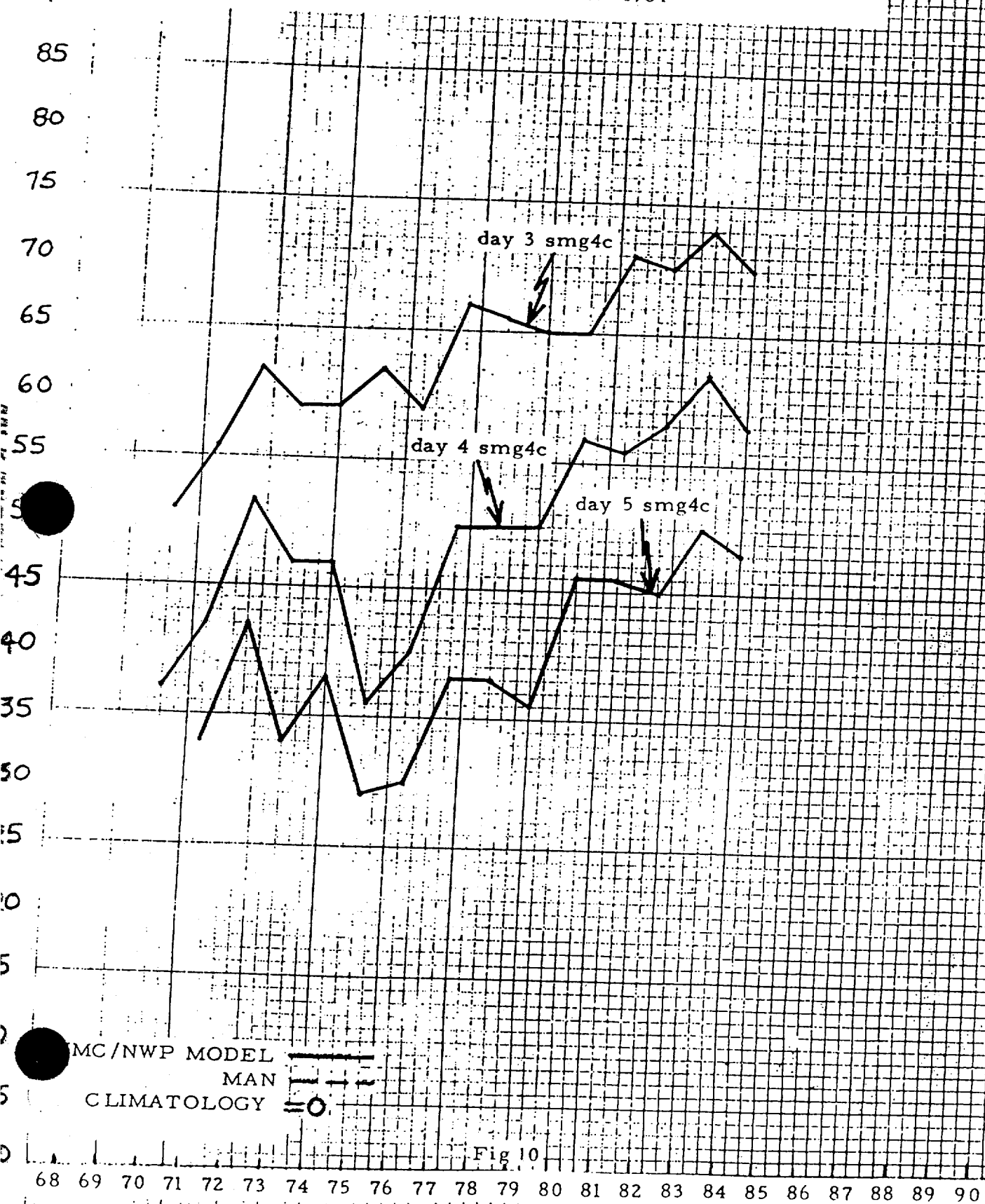


Fig 10

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 UNITED STATES AREA MSLP STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1984

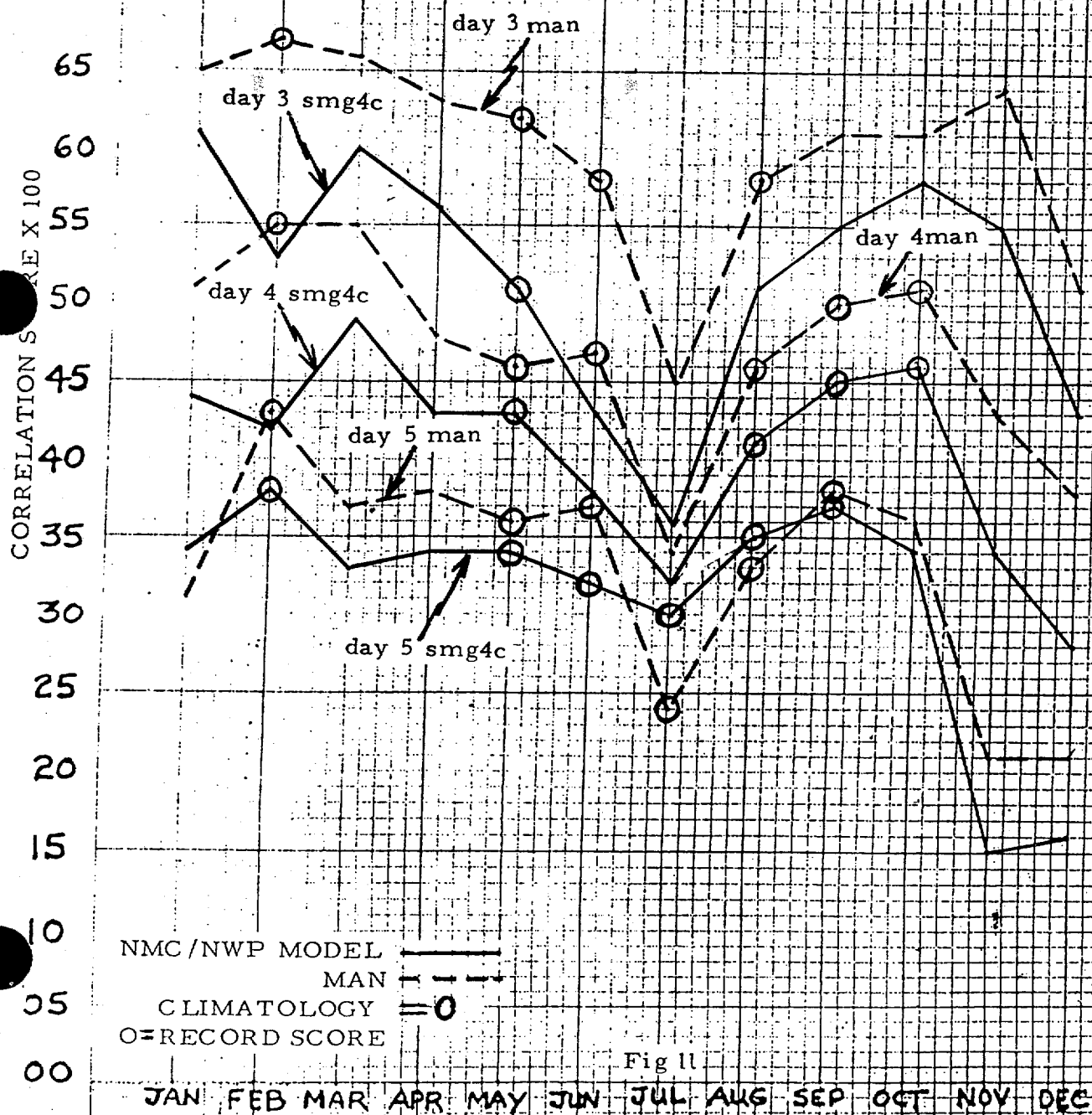


Fig 11

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 LONG TERM MONTHLY MEAN
UNITED STATES AREA MSLP STANDARDIZED
CORRELATION SCORES NMC/NWP MODEL (1976-1984) MAN (1976-1984)

CORRELATION SCORE X 100

CLIMATOLOGY = 0

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

NMC/NWP MODEL

MAN

CLIMATOLOGY = 0

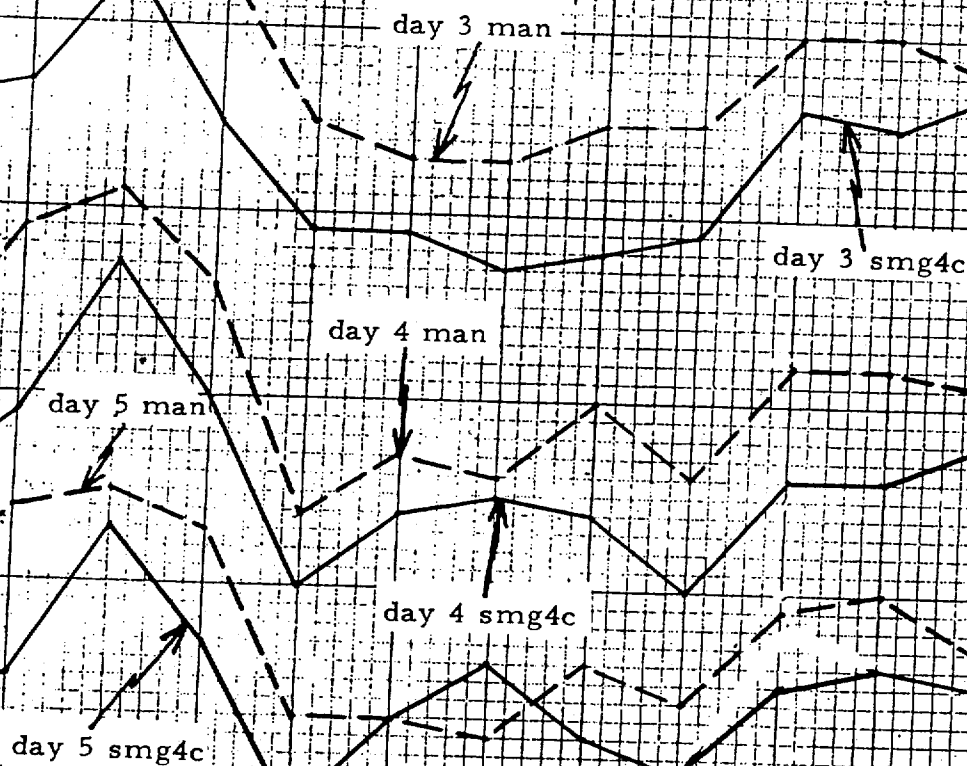
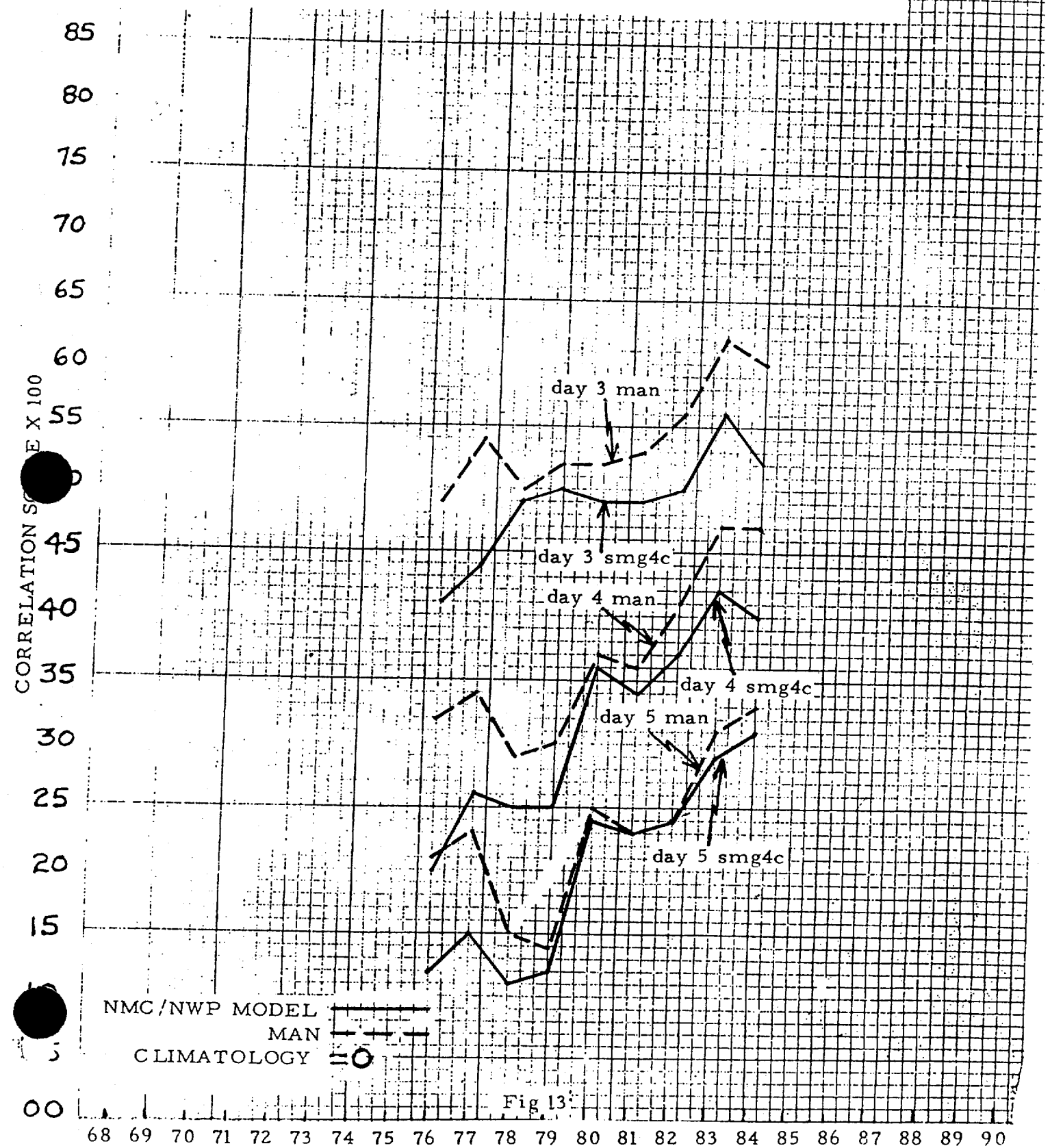
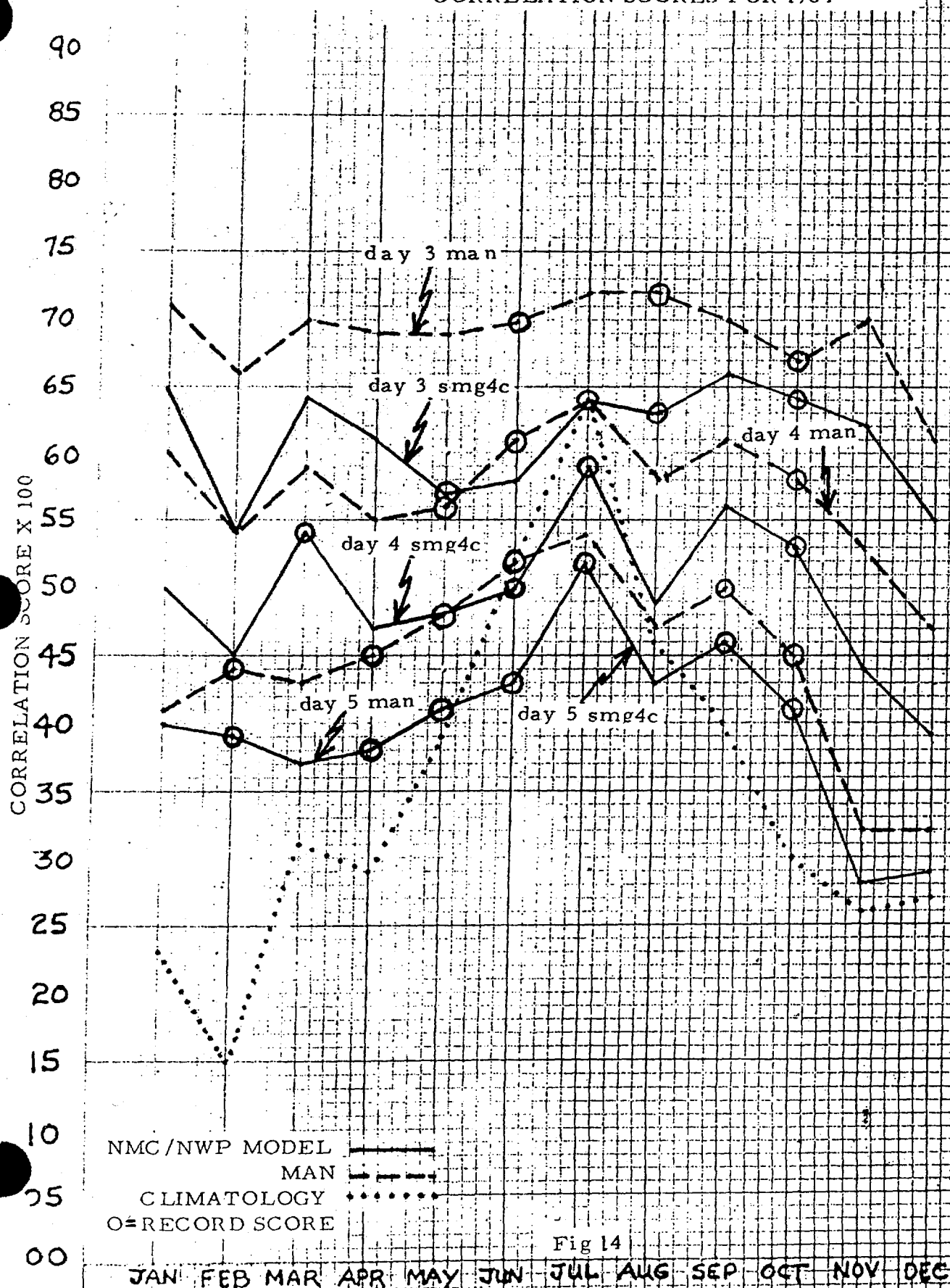


Fig 12

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE
UNITED STATES AREA MSLP STANDARDIZED
CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1976-1984



DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 UNITED STATES AREA MSLP.
CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1984



DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 LONG TERM MONTHLY MEAN
UNITED STATES AREA MSLP
CORRELATION SCORES NMC/MWP MODEL (1976-1984) MAN (1976-1984)

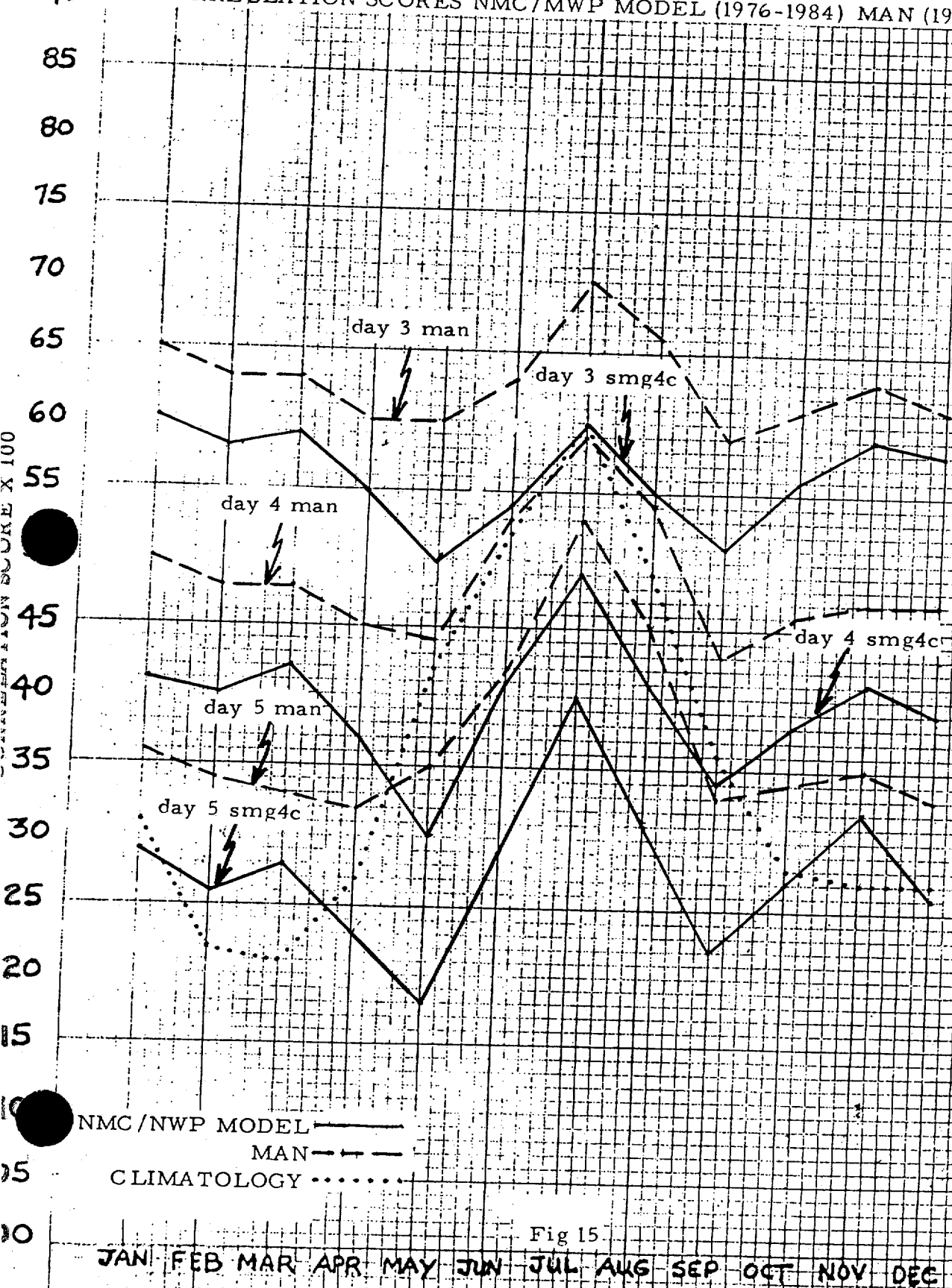
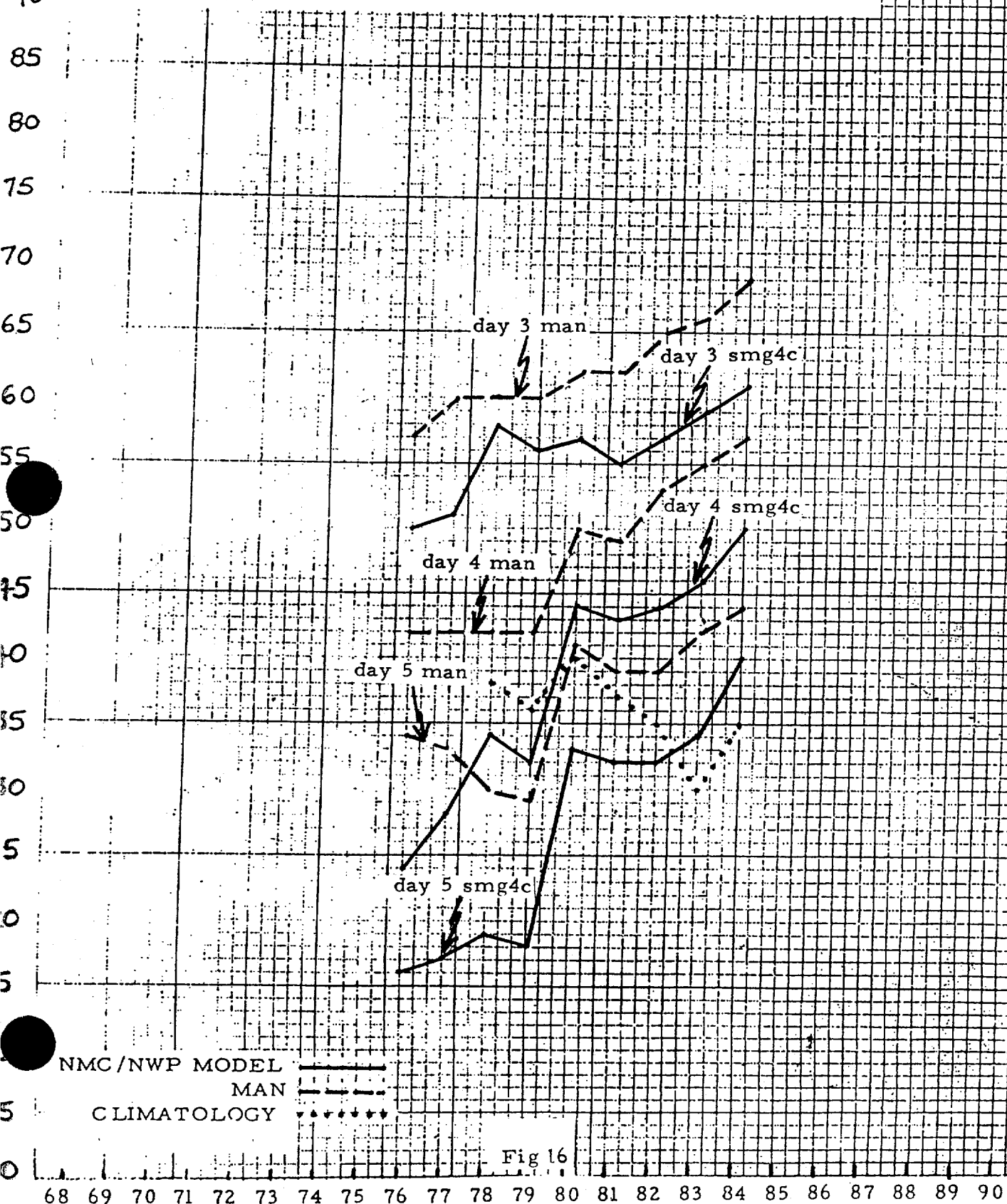


Fig 15

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DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE
UNITED STATES AREA MSLP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1976 -1984



DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 UNITED STATES AREA 500 MB
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1984

CORRELATION SCORE X 100

100
95
90
85
80
75
70
65
60
55
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0

NMC/NWP MODEL

CLIMATOLOGY = 0
O = RECORD SCORE

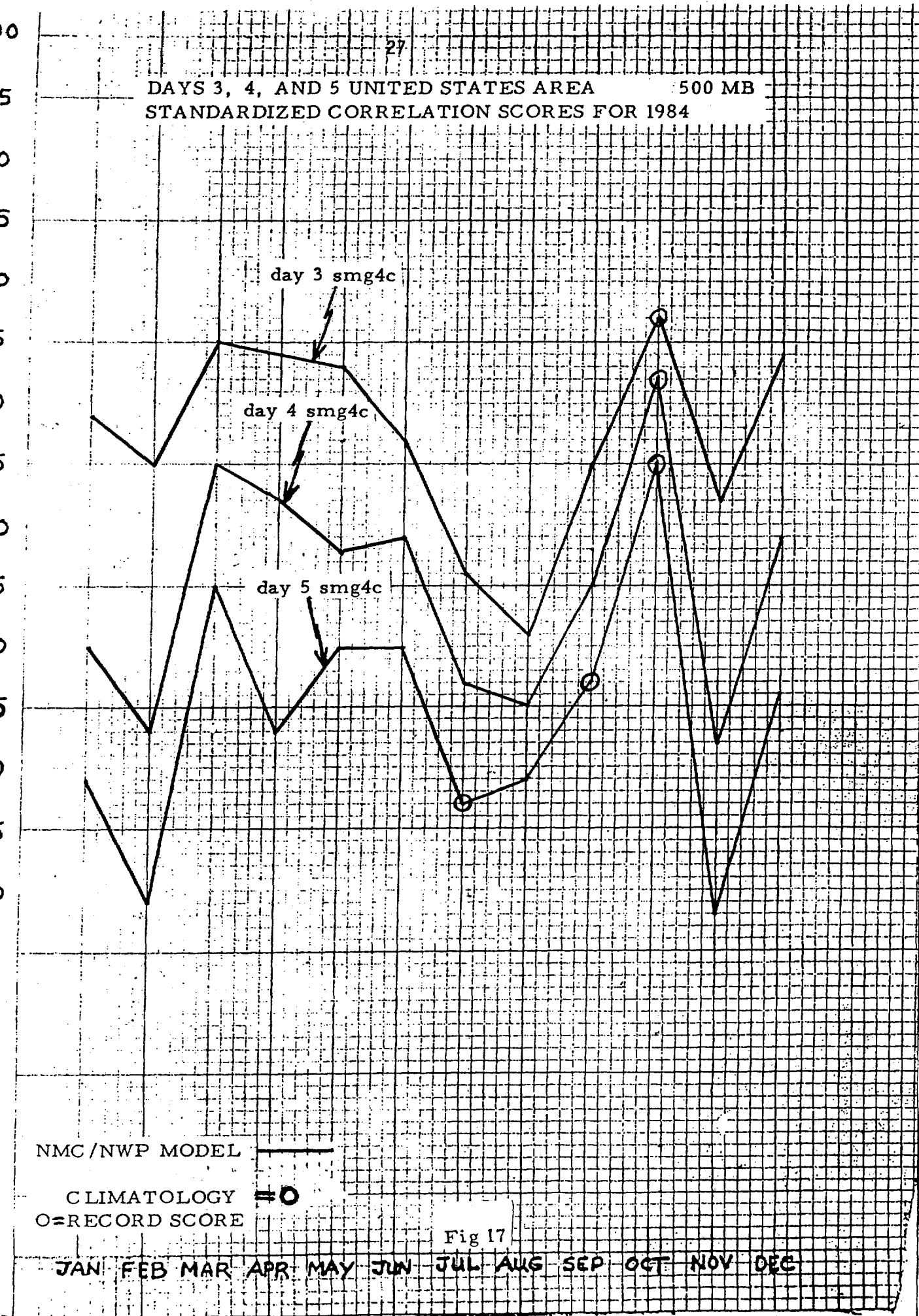
day 3 smg4c

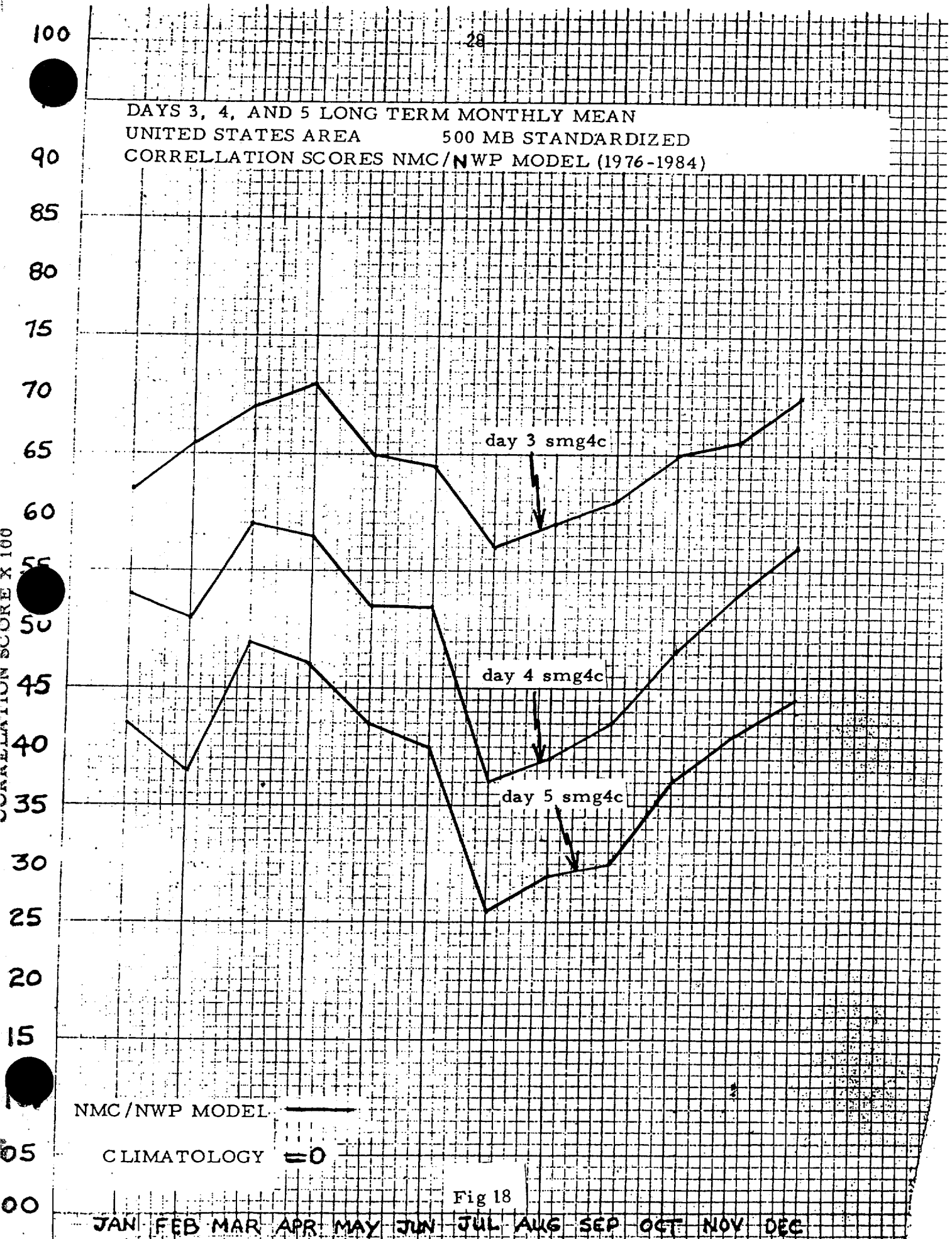
day 4 smg4c

day 5 smg4c

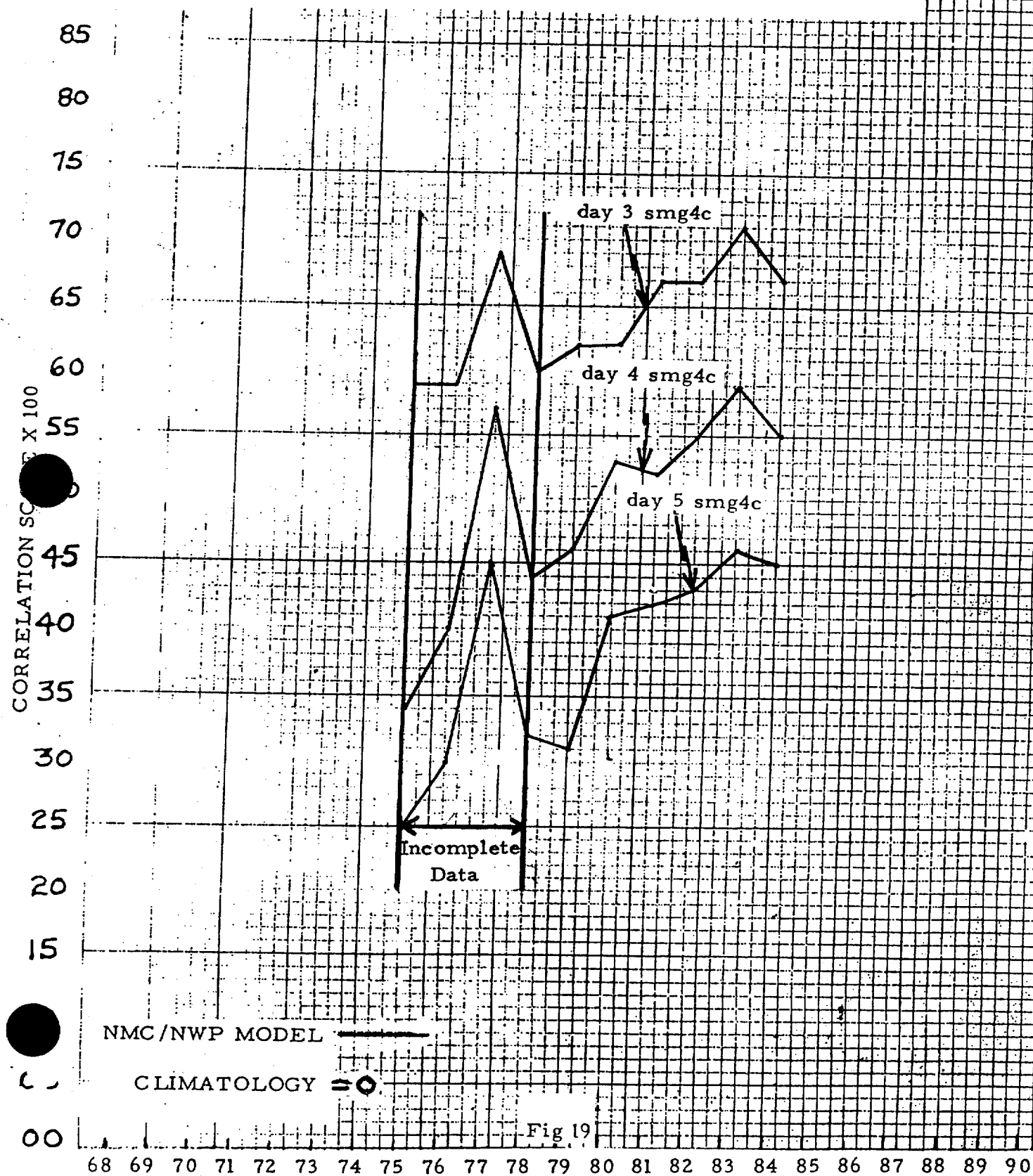
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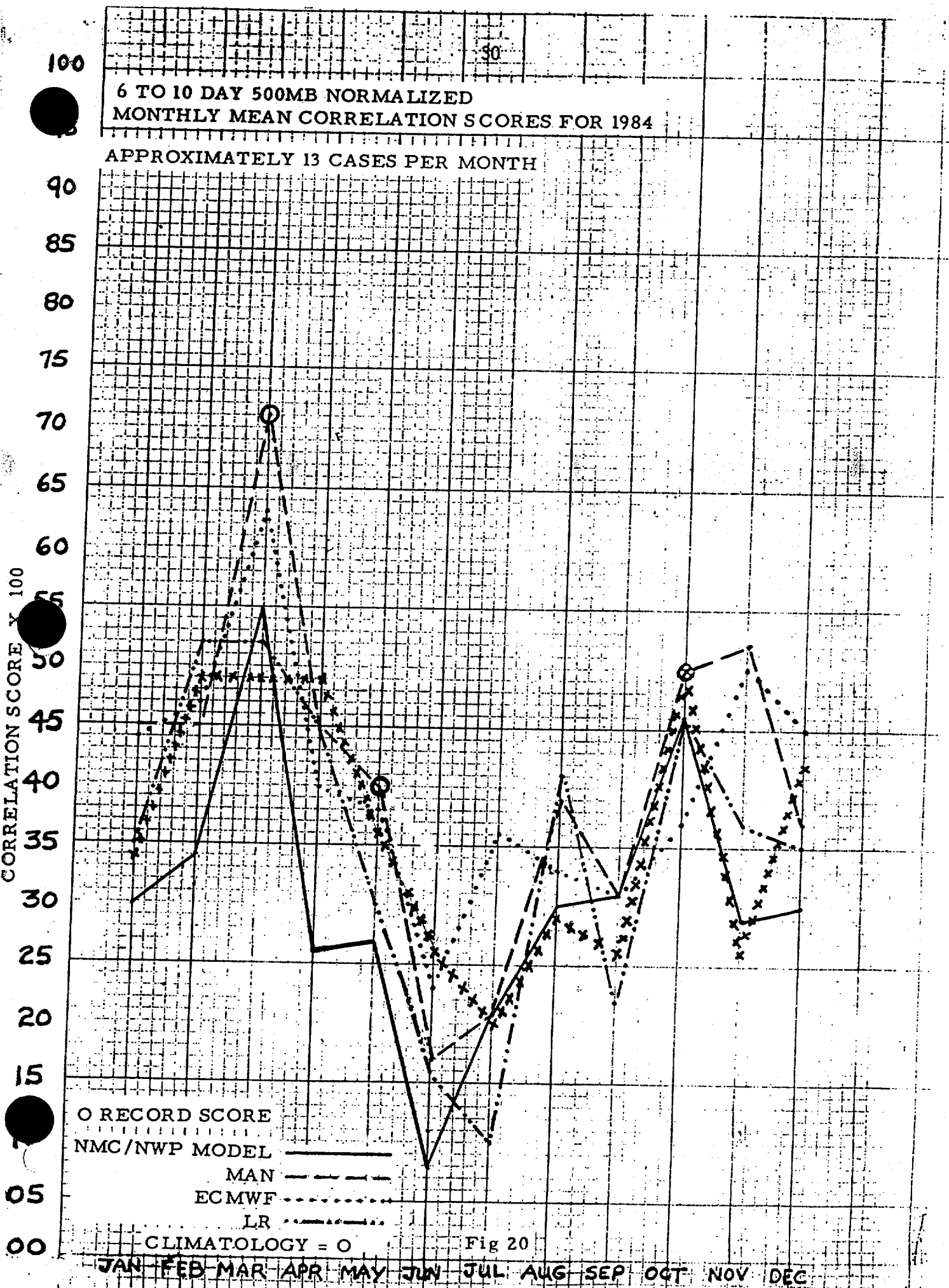
Fig 17





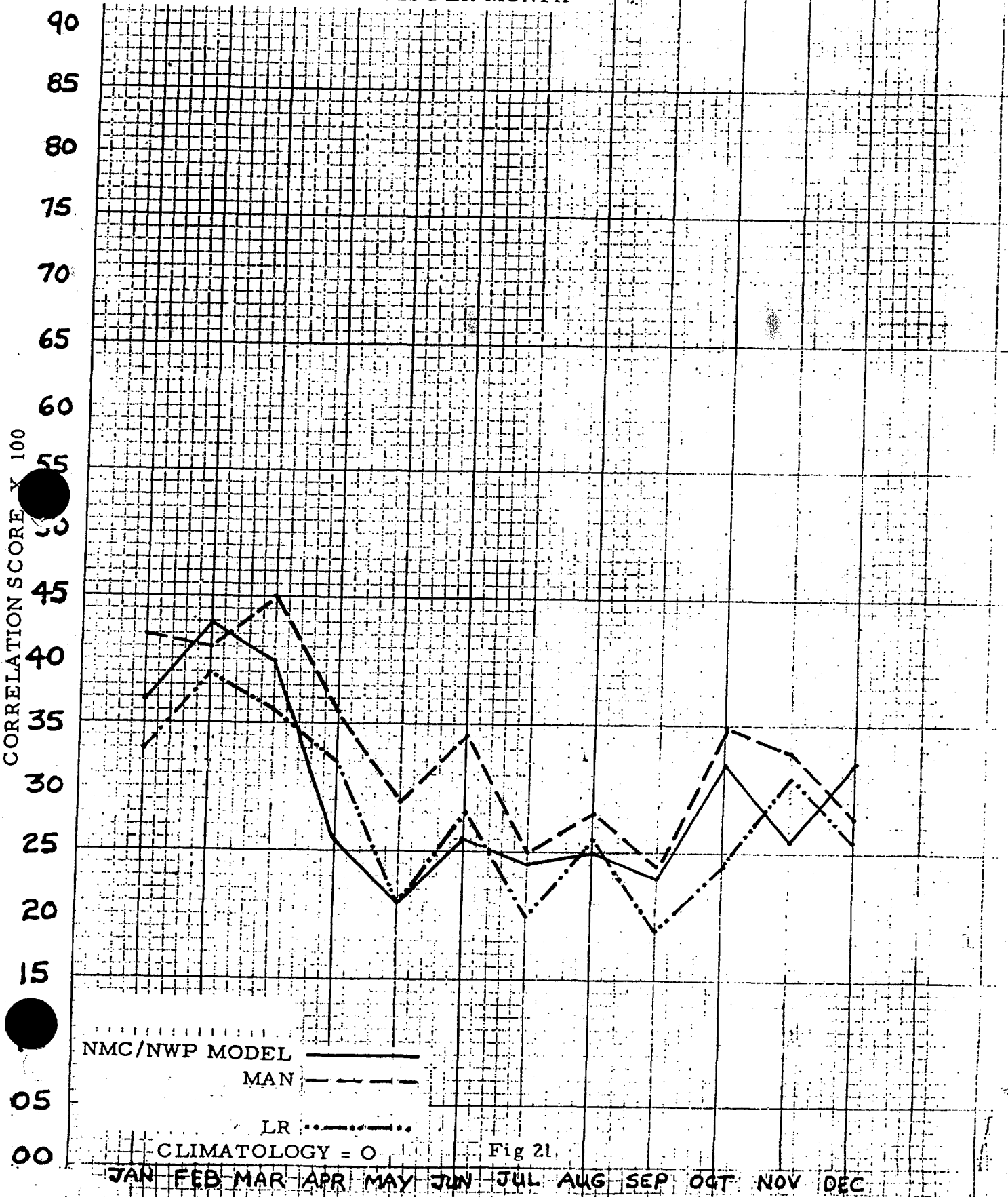
DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE
UNITED STATES AREA 500MB STANDARDIZED
CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1978-1984





6 TO 10 DAY 500MB NORMALIZED LONG TERM
MONTHLY MEAN CORRELATION SCORES FOR (1979-1984)

APPROXIMATELY 13 CASES PER MONTH



6 TO 10 DAY 500MB CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE NORMALIZED
MONTHLY MEAN CORRELATION SCORES FOR 1979 - 1984

APPROXIMATELY 13 CASES PER MONTH

CORRELATION SCORE X 100

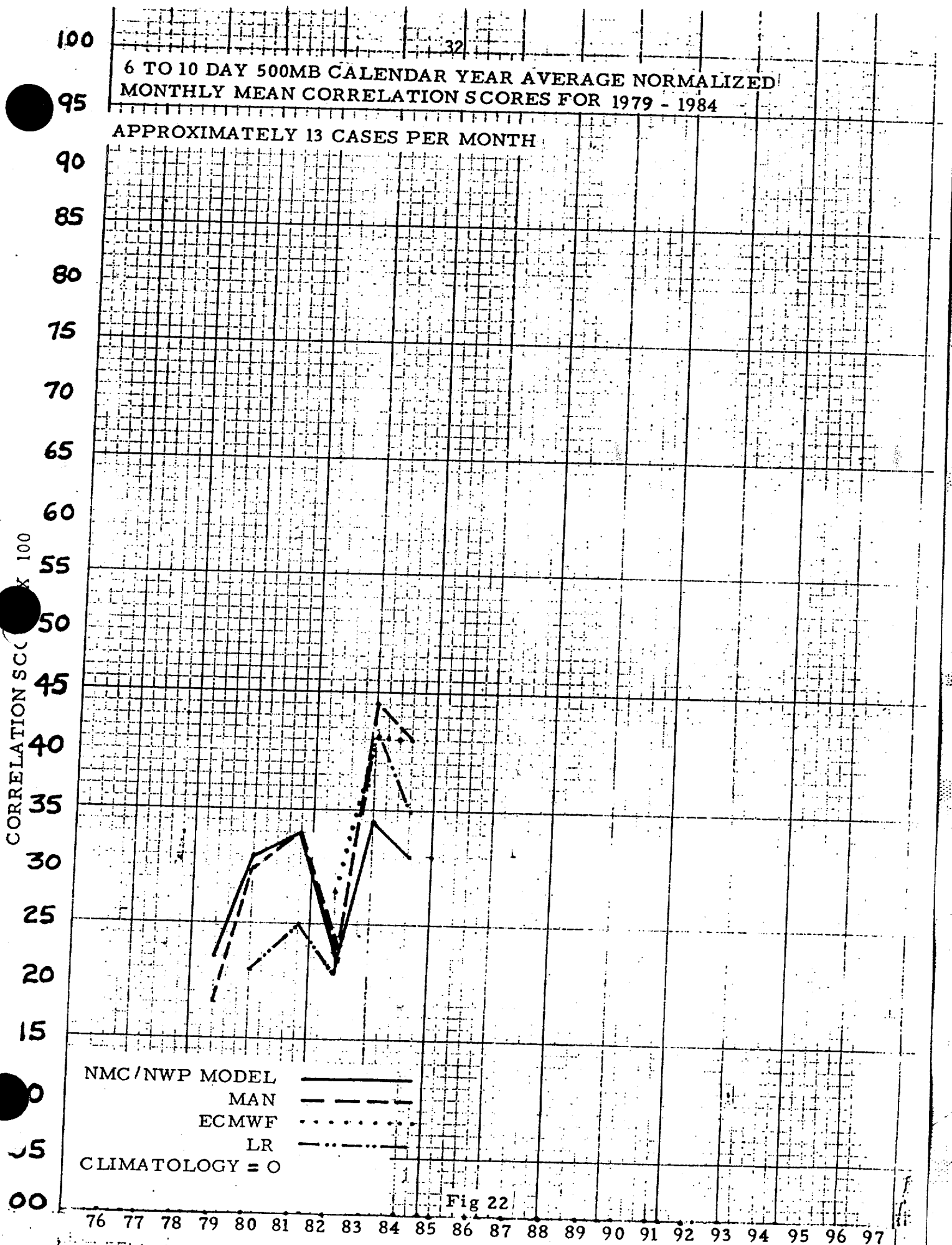
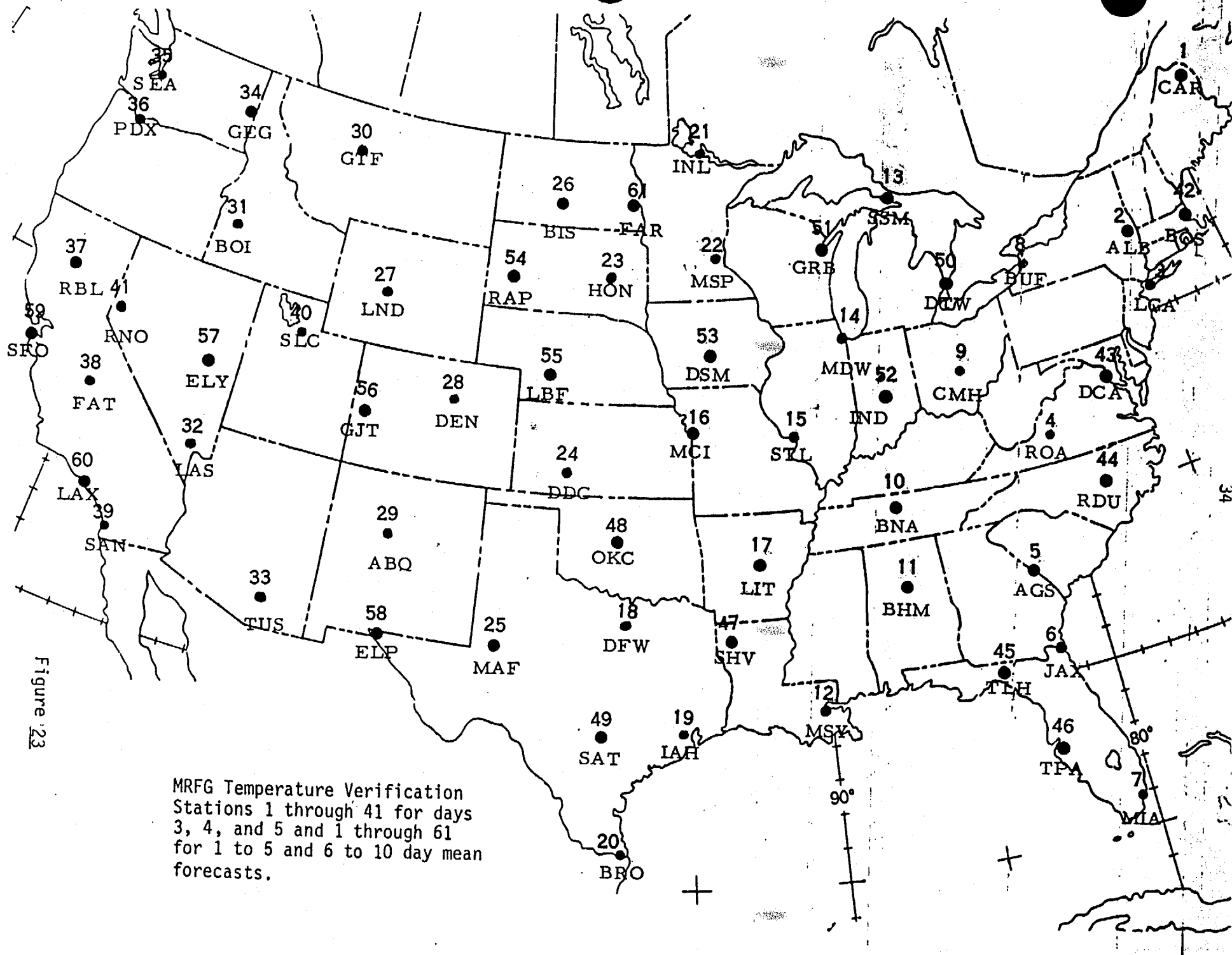
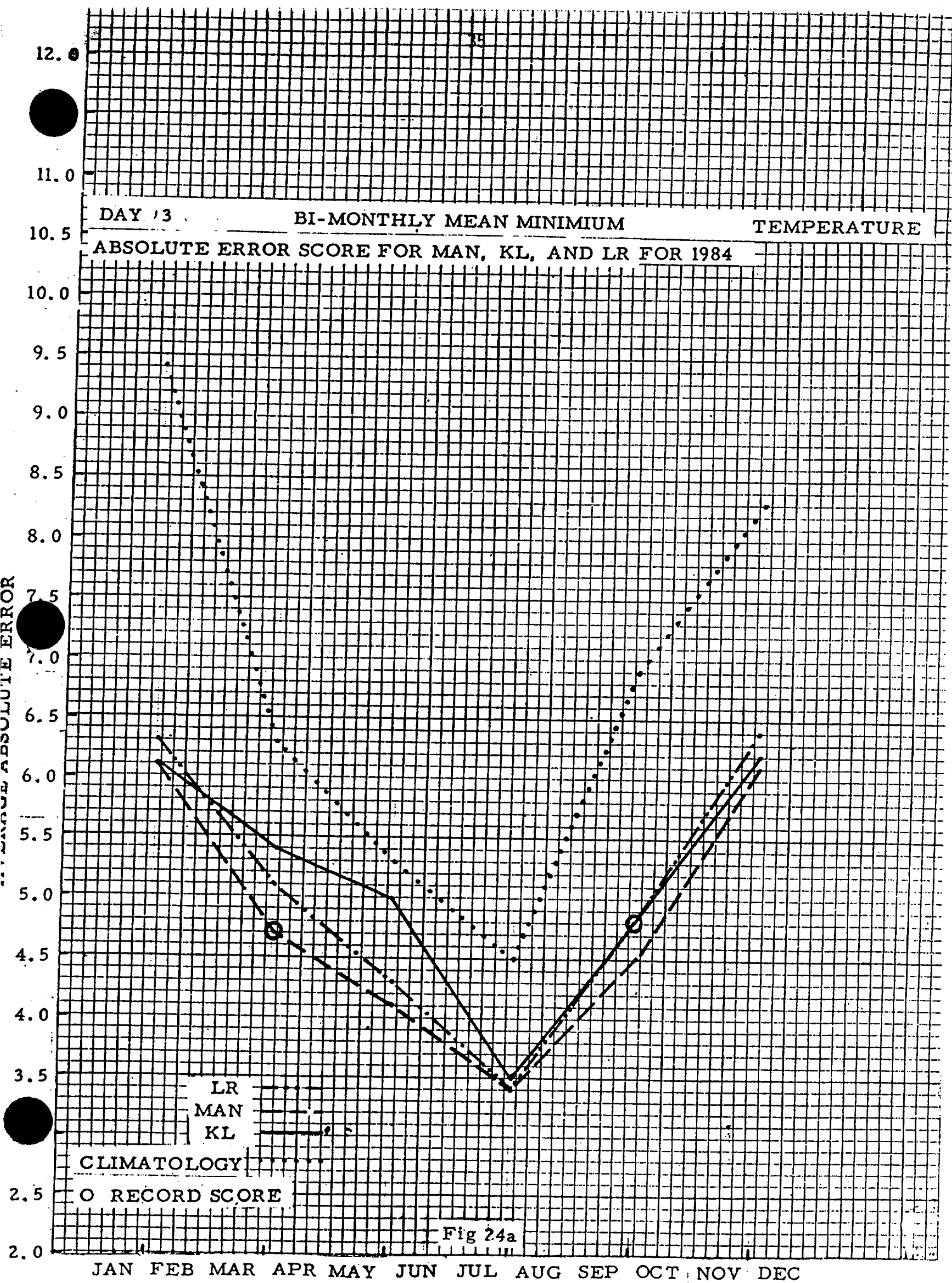
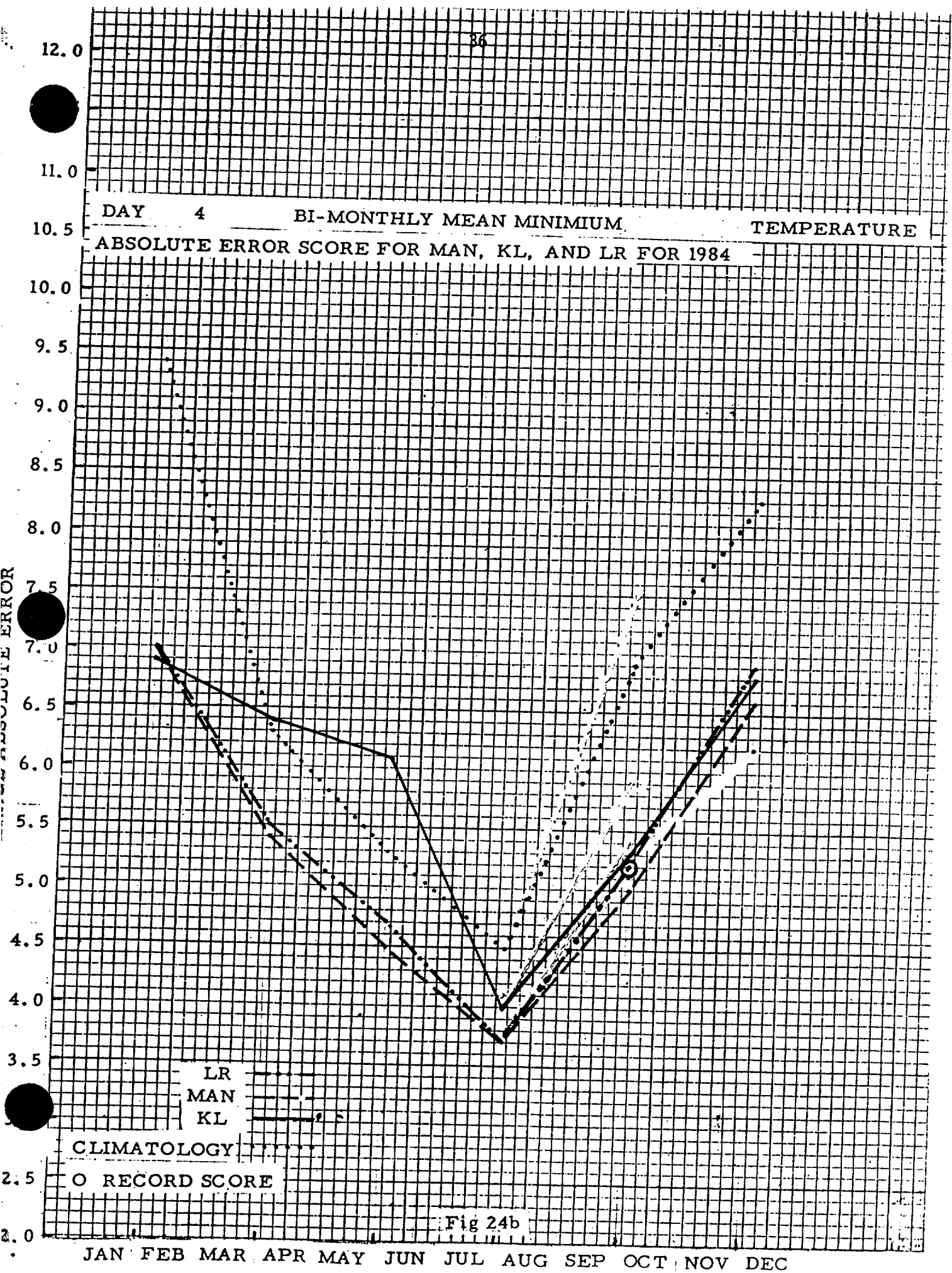


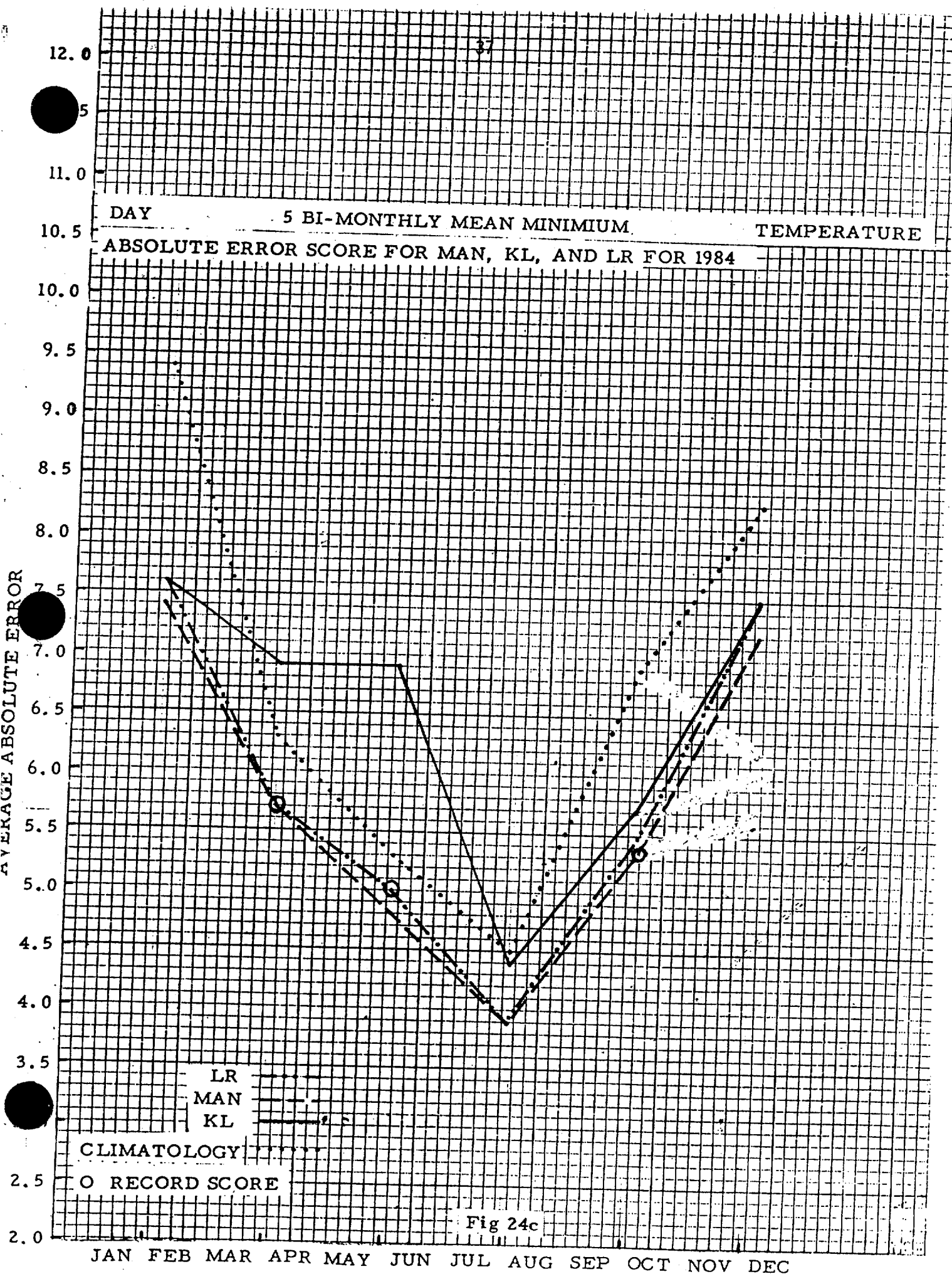
Fig 22

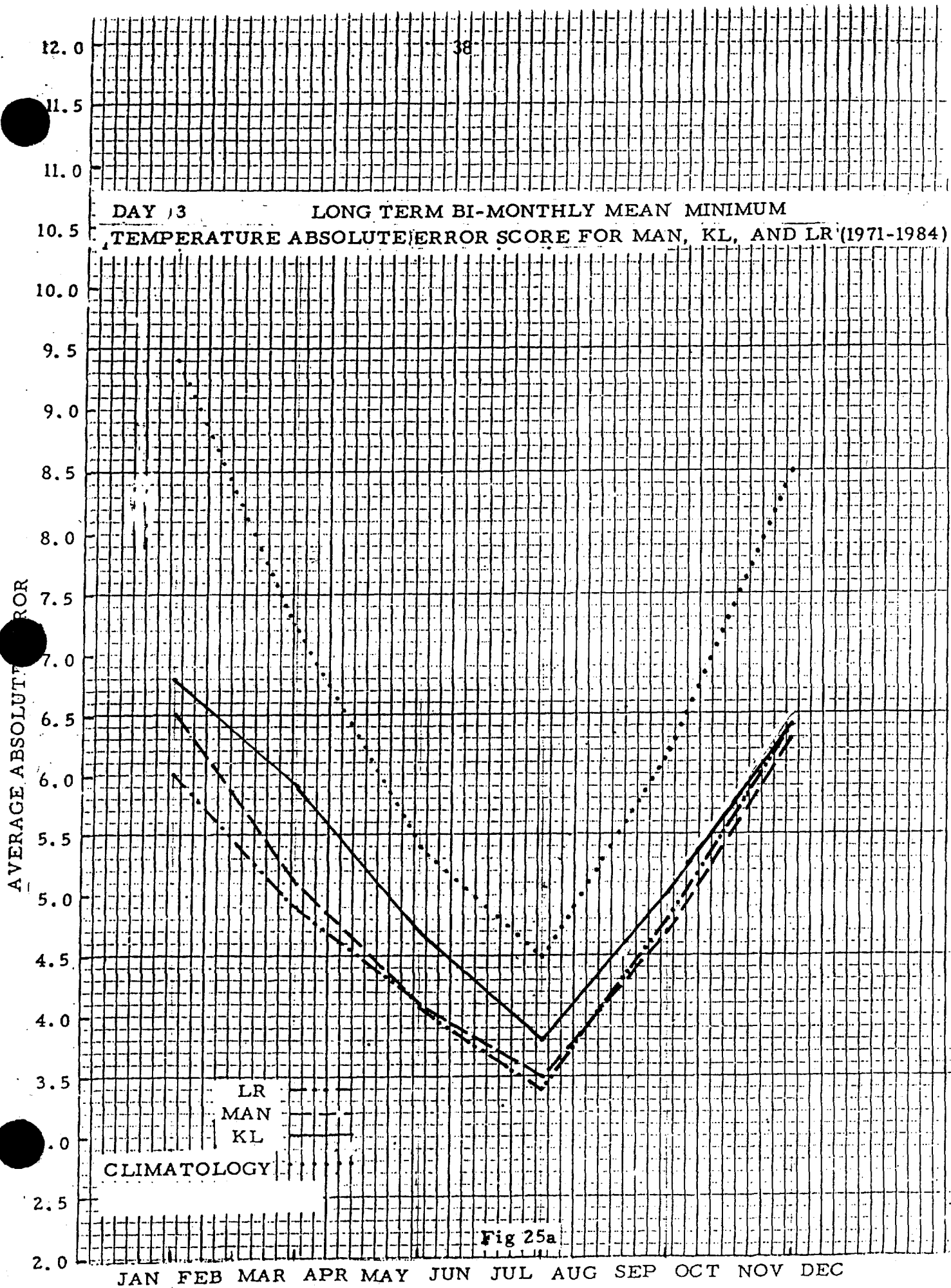
SECTION 2**Man & Machine (KL Guidance)****Absolute Error Temperature Scores**

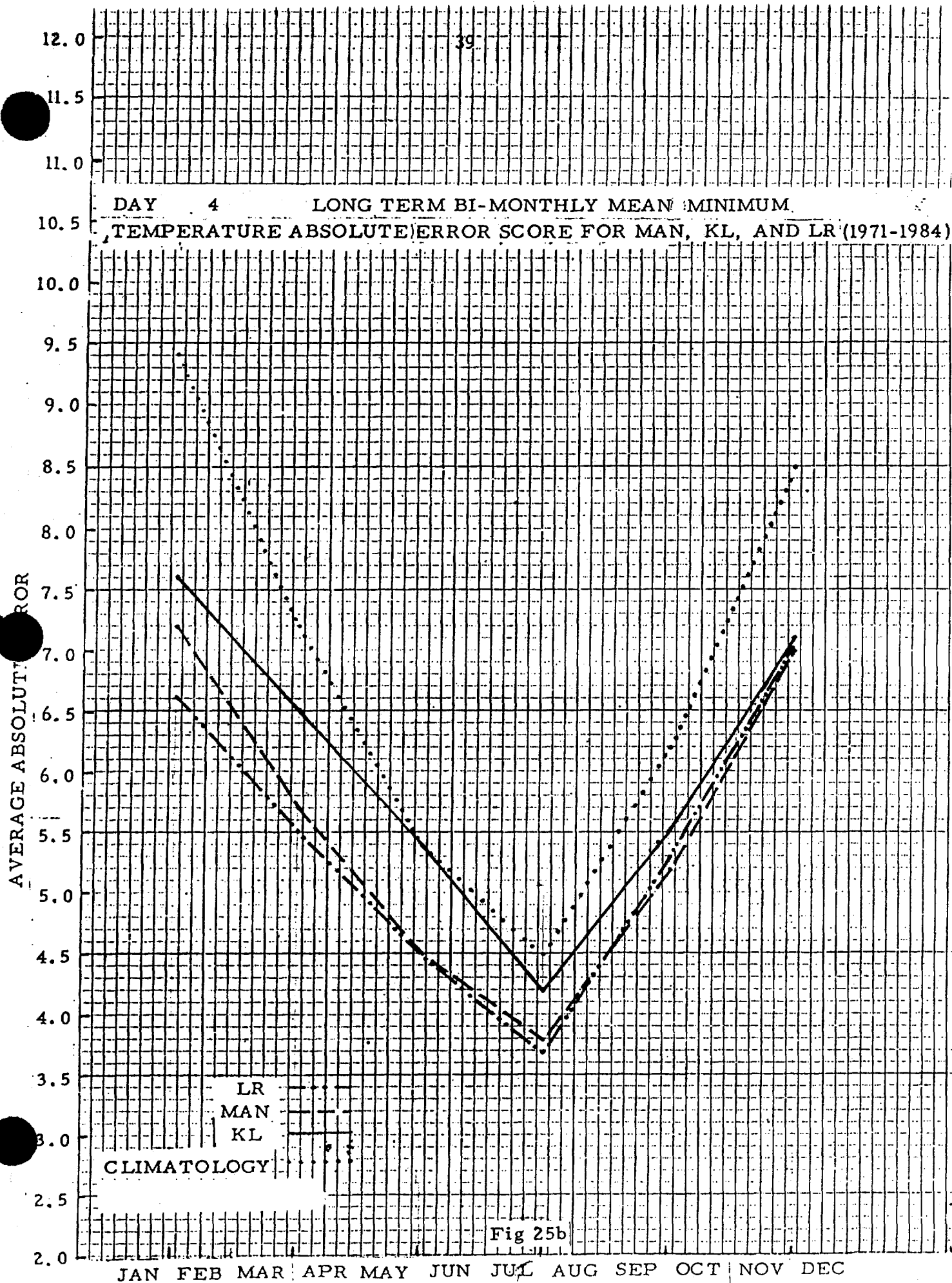


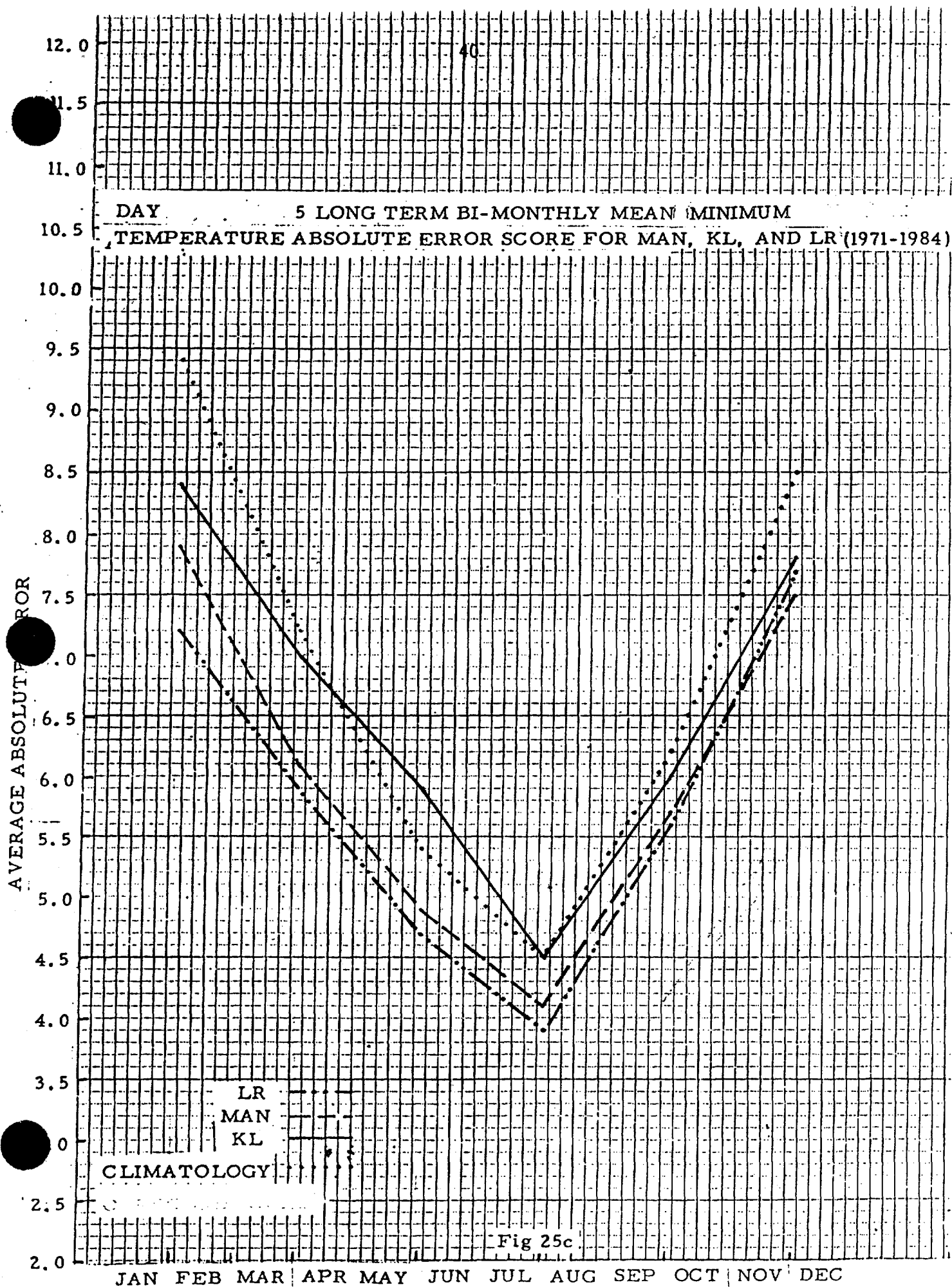












41
DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 BI-MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE ABSOLUTE ERROR SCORES
FOR MAN AND KL. CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE

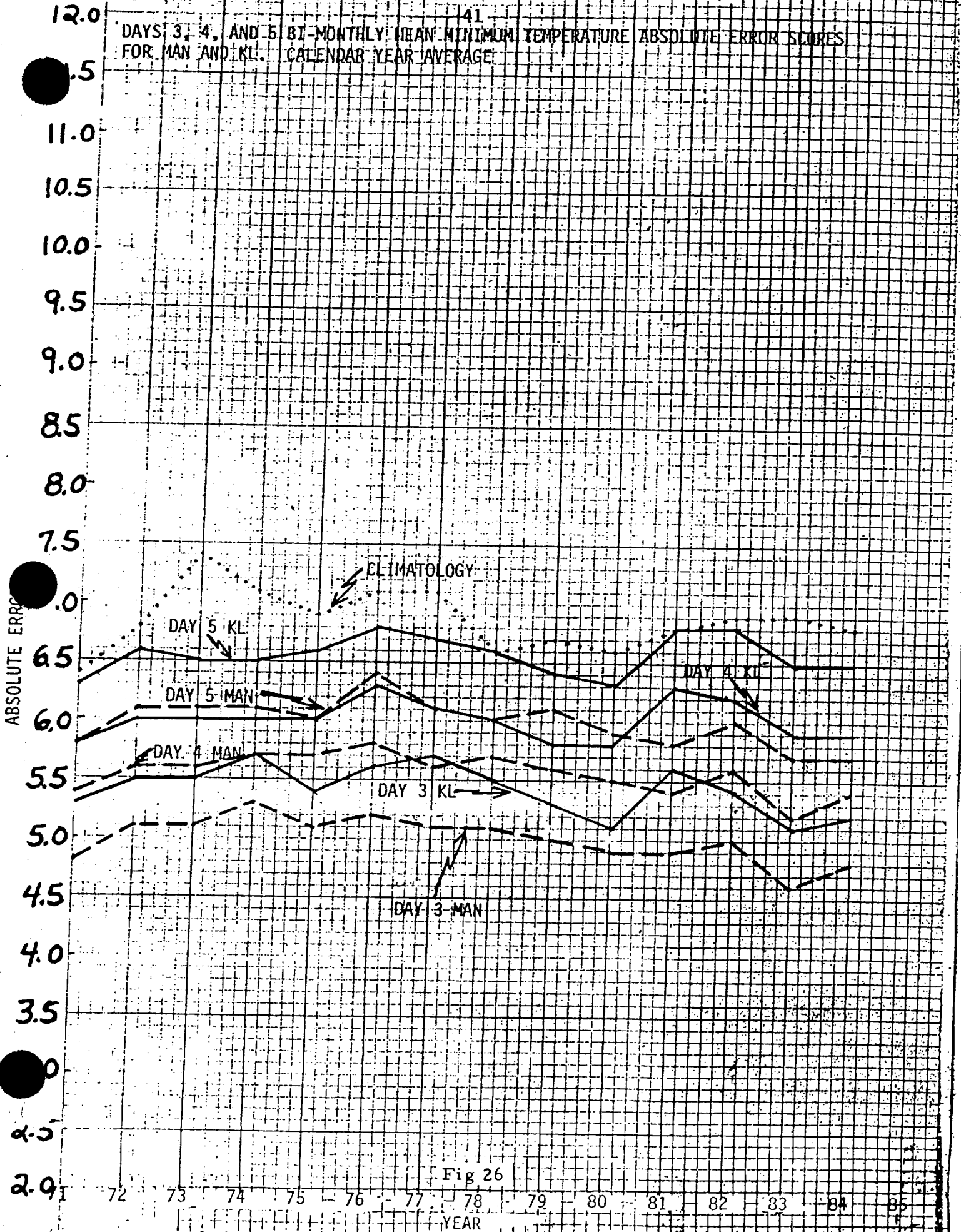
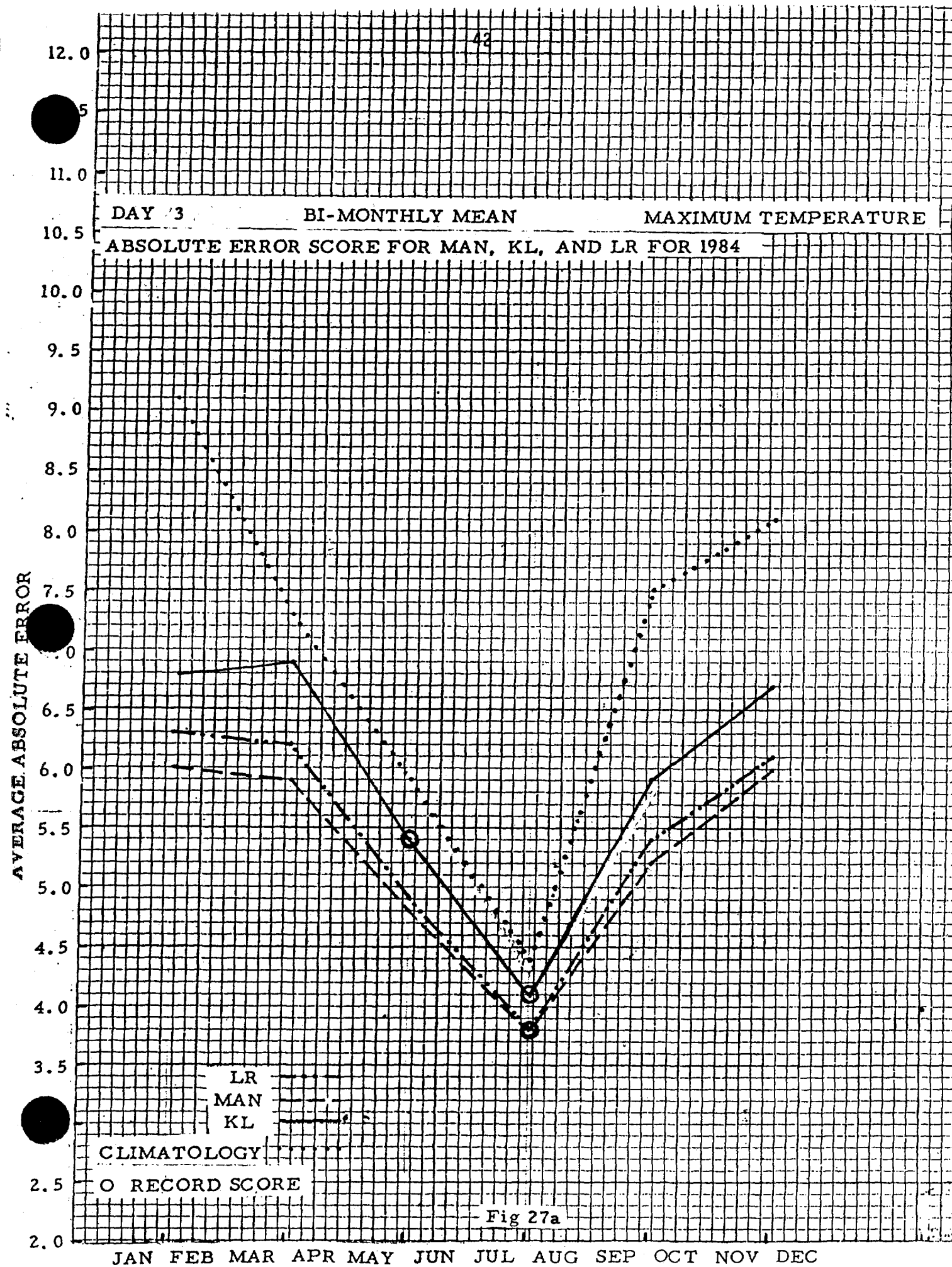
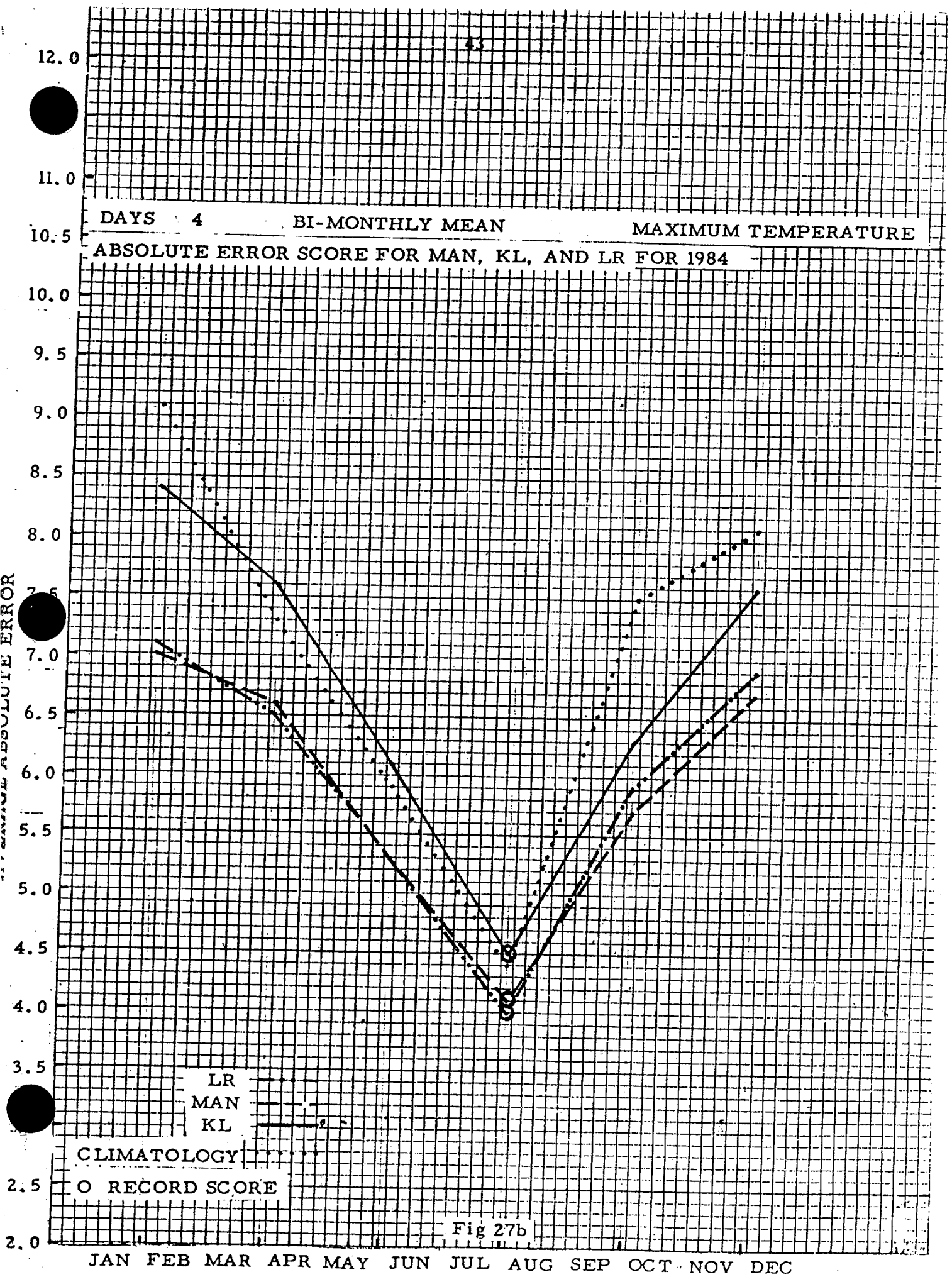
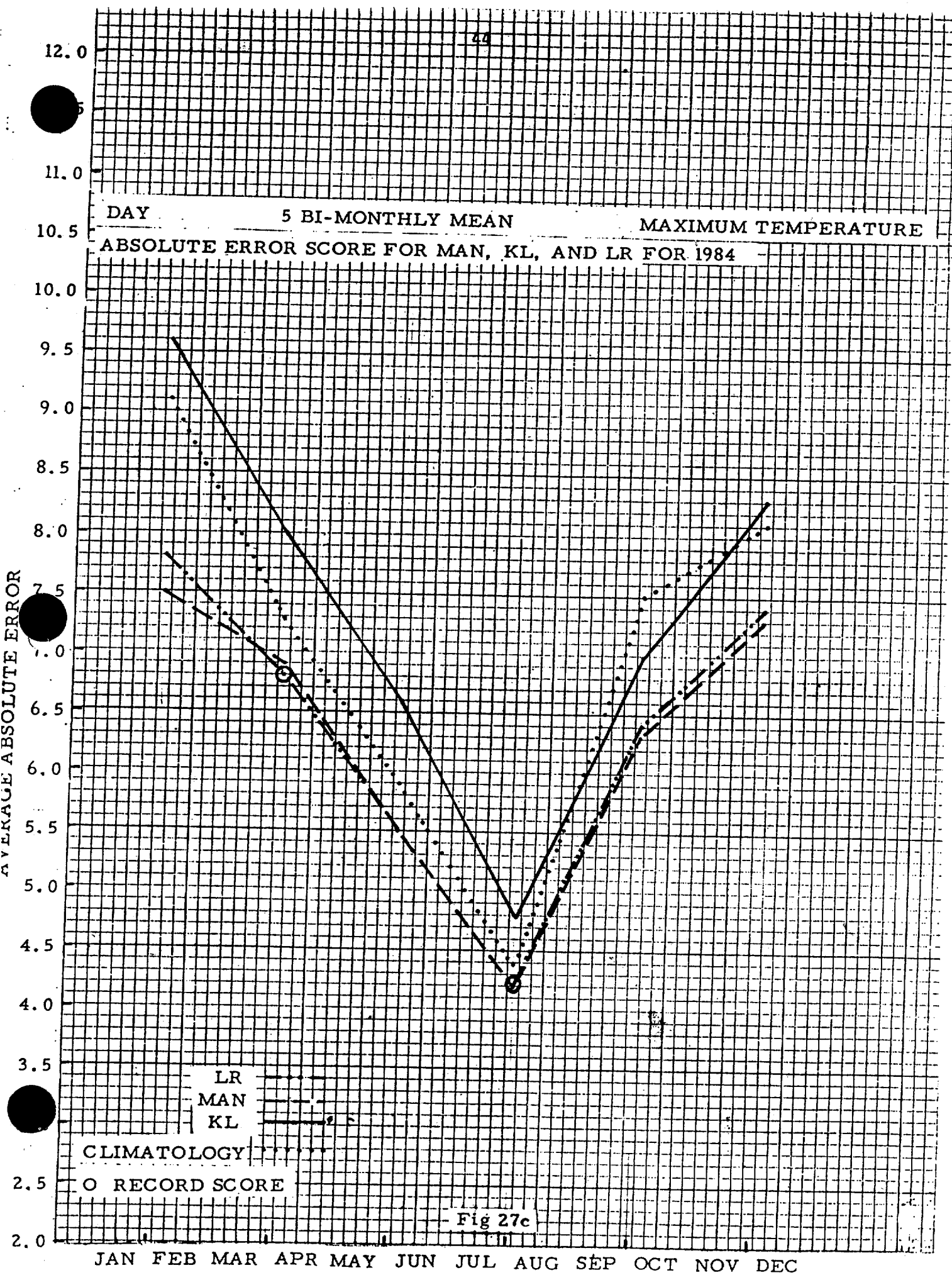


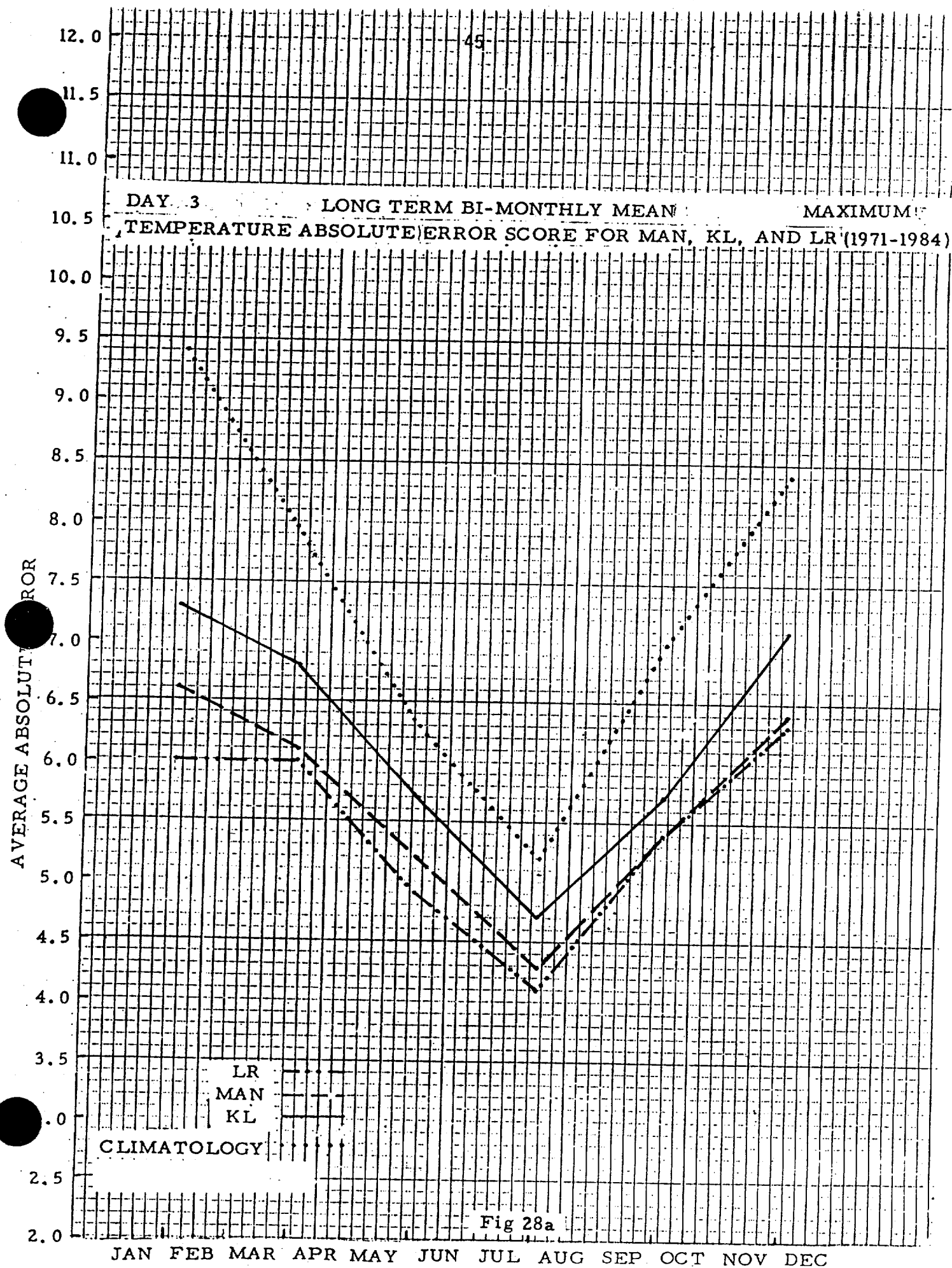
Fig 26

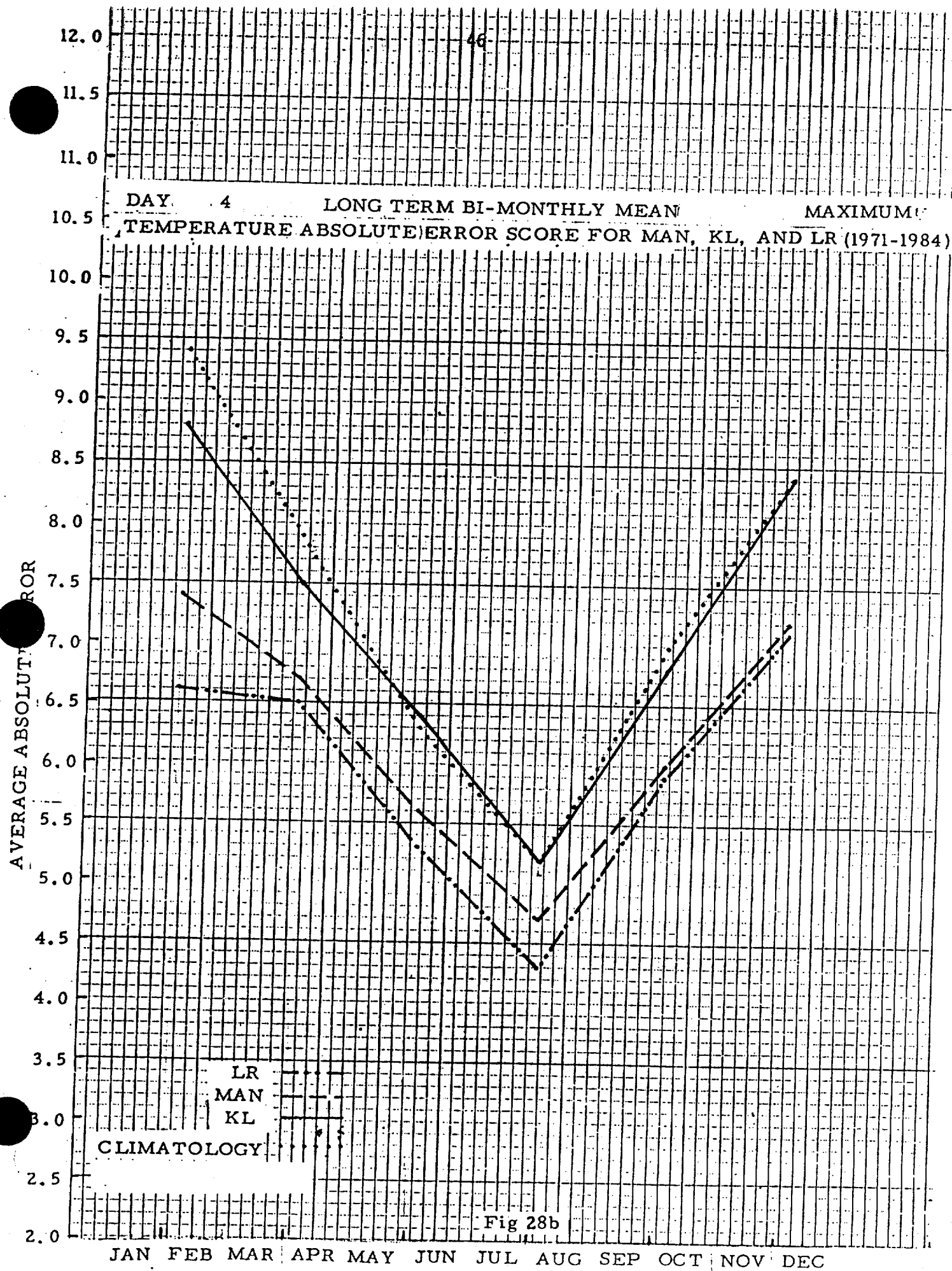
YEAR

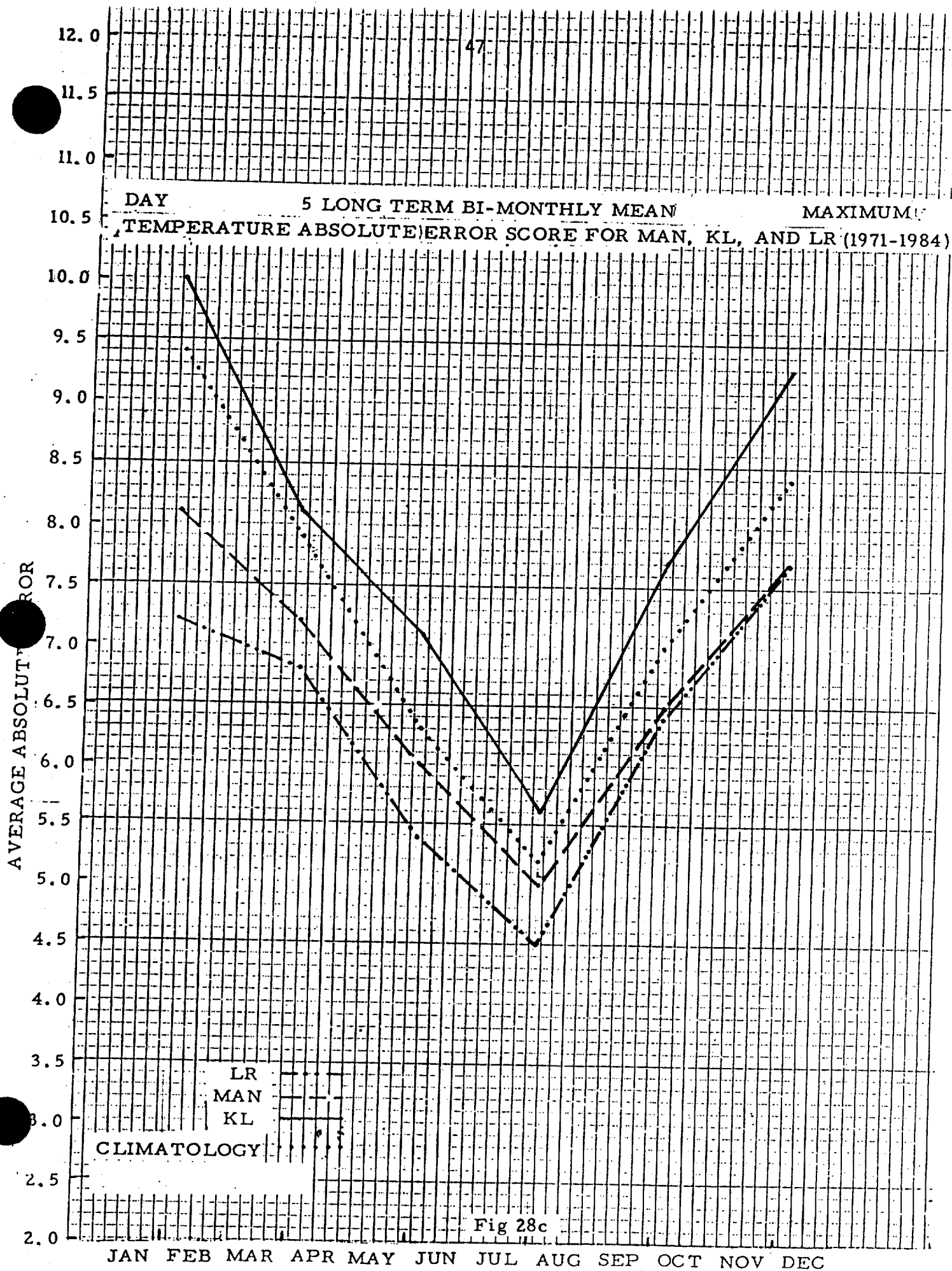












DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 BI-MONTHLY MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE ABSOLUTE ERROR
SCORES FOR MAN AND KL. CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE

ABSOLUTE ERROR

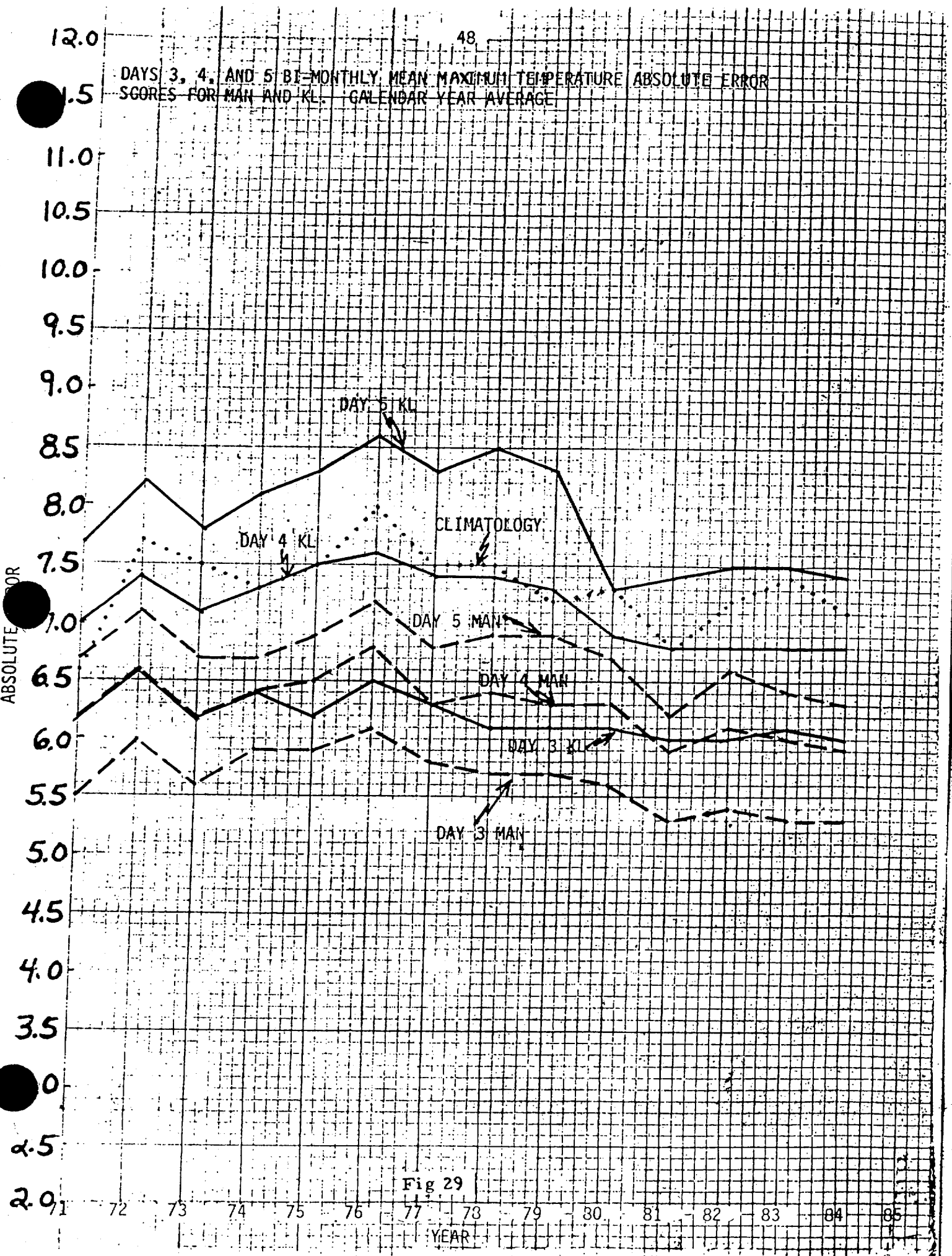


Fig 29

YEAR

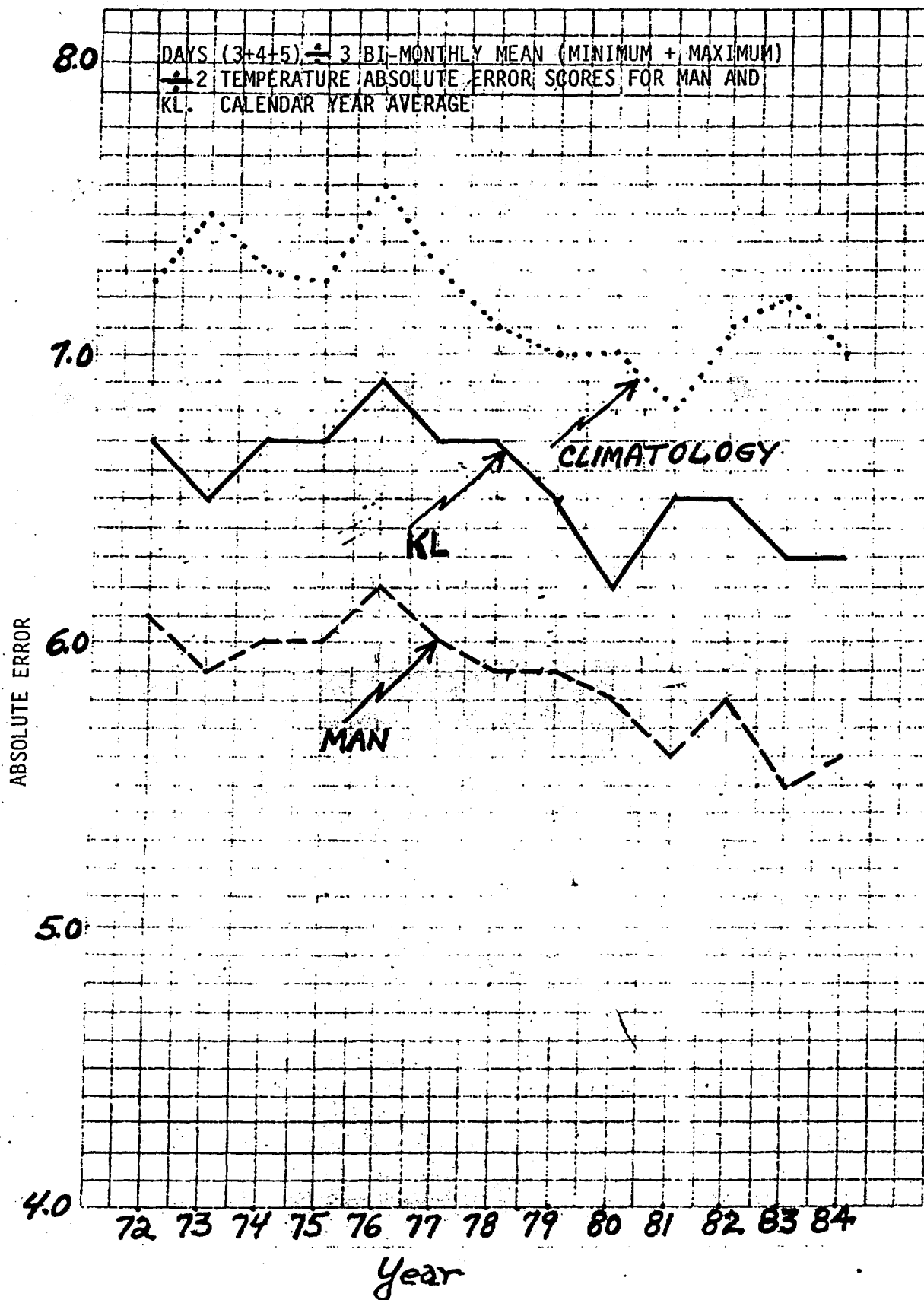


Figure 30

6 TO 10 DAY 5 CLASS MONTHLY MEAN
TEMPERATURE SKILL SCORE FOR 1984

APPROXIMATELY 13 SCORES PER MONTH

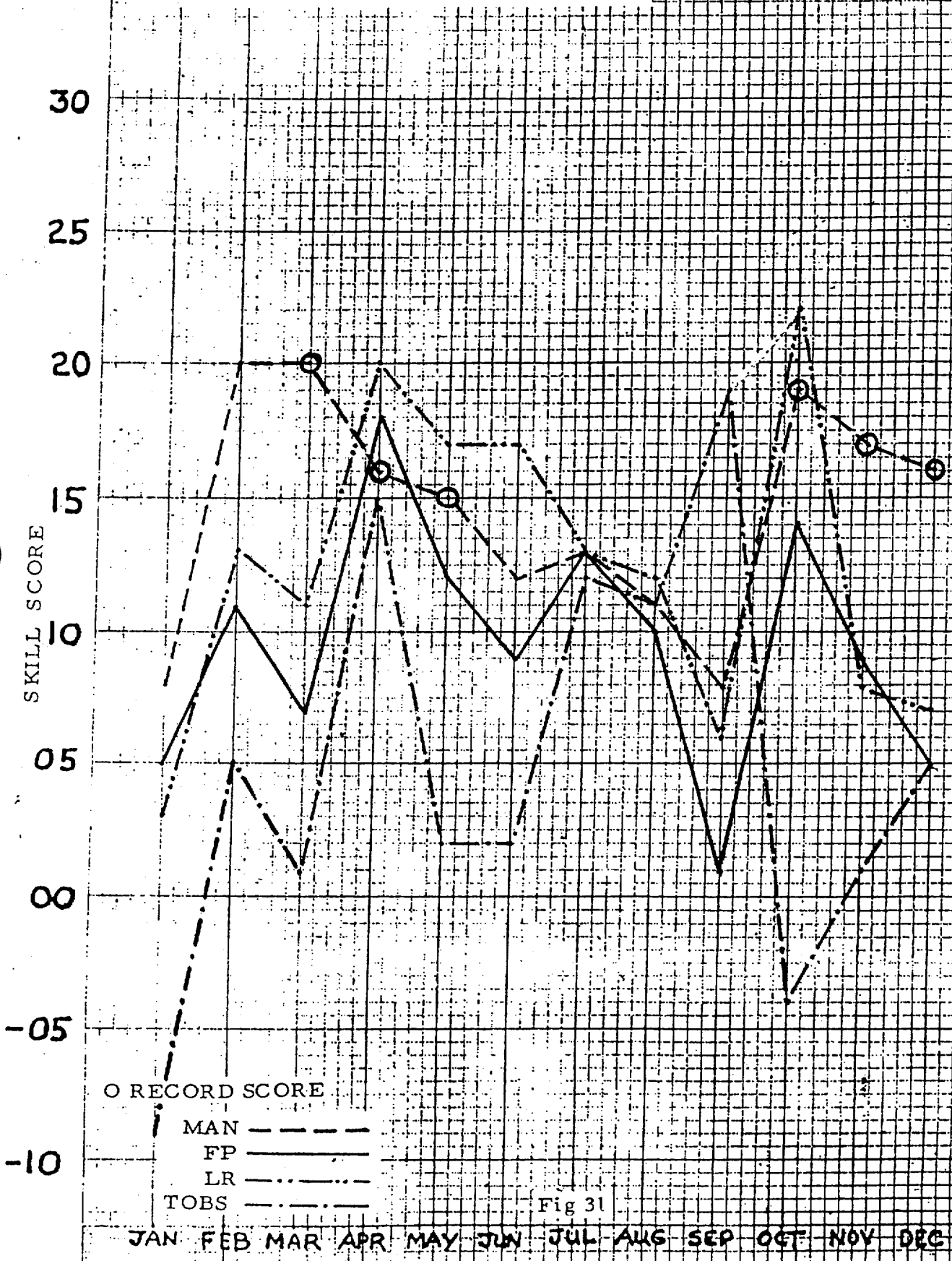
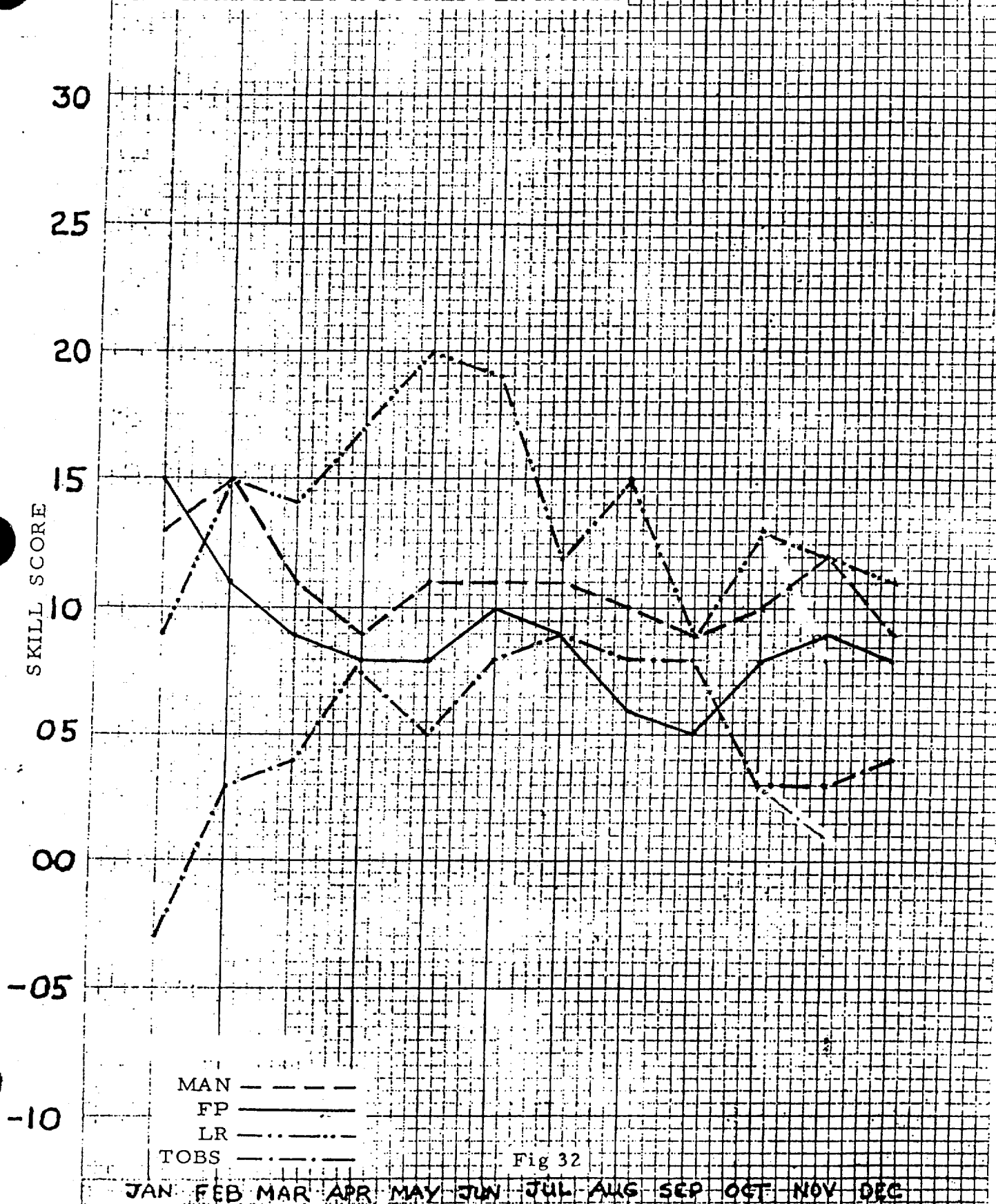


Fig 31

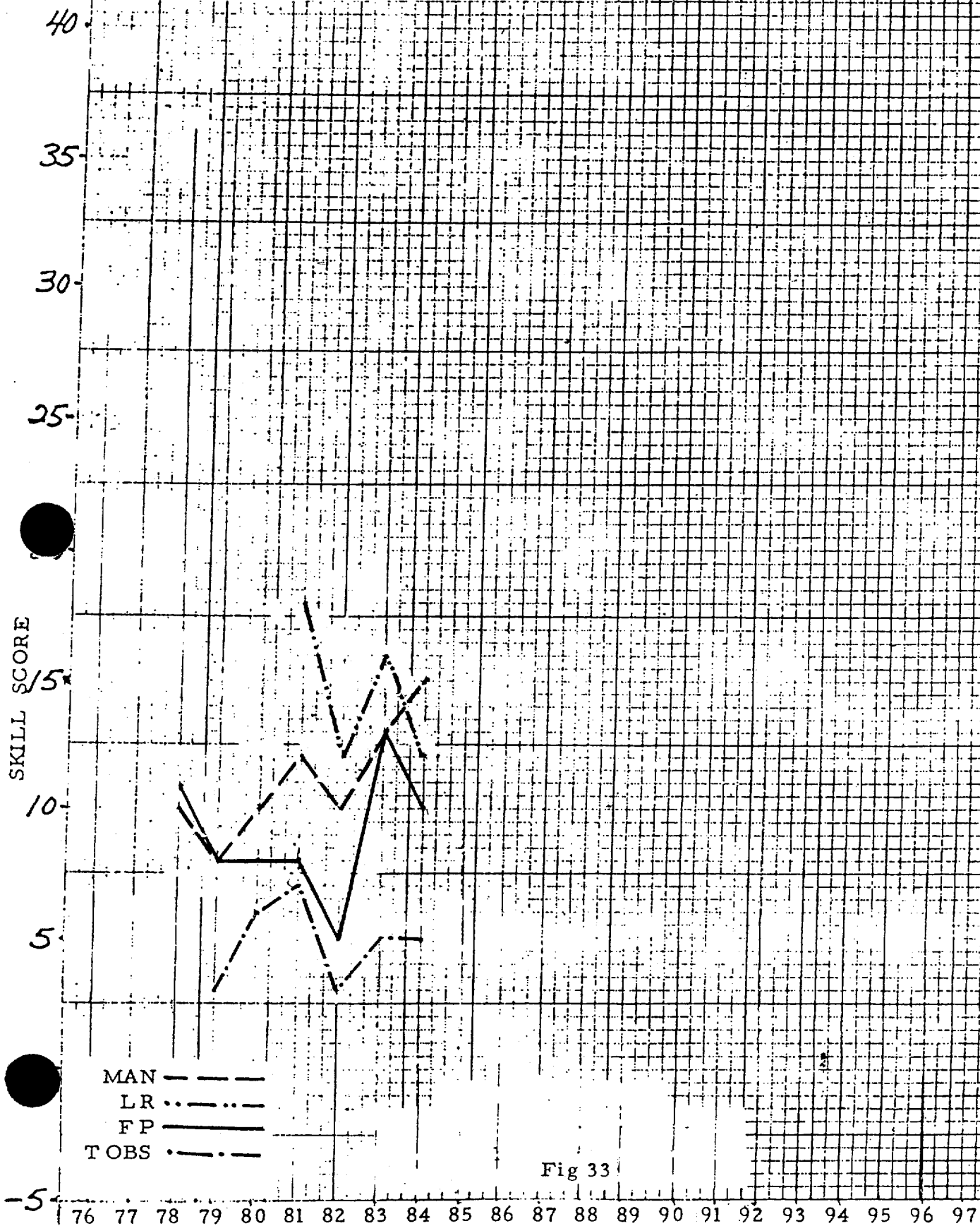
6 TO 10 DAY 5 CLASS LONG TERM MONTHLY MEAN
TEMPERATURE SKILL SCORES (1978-1984)

APPROXIMATELY 13 SCORES PER MONTH



45- 6 TO 10 DAY CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE
5 CLASS MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE
SKILL SCORES FOR 1978 - 1984

APPROXIMATELY 13 CASES PER MONTH



53
6 TO 10 DAY 3 CLASS MONTHLY MEAN
TEMPERATURE SKILL SCORE FOR 1984

APPROXIMATELY 13 SCORES PER MONTH

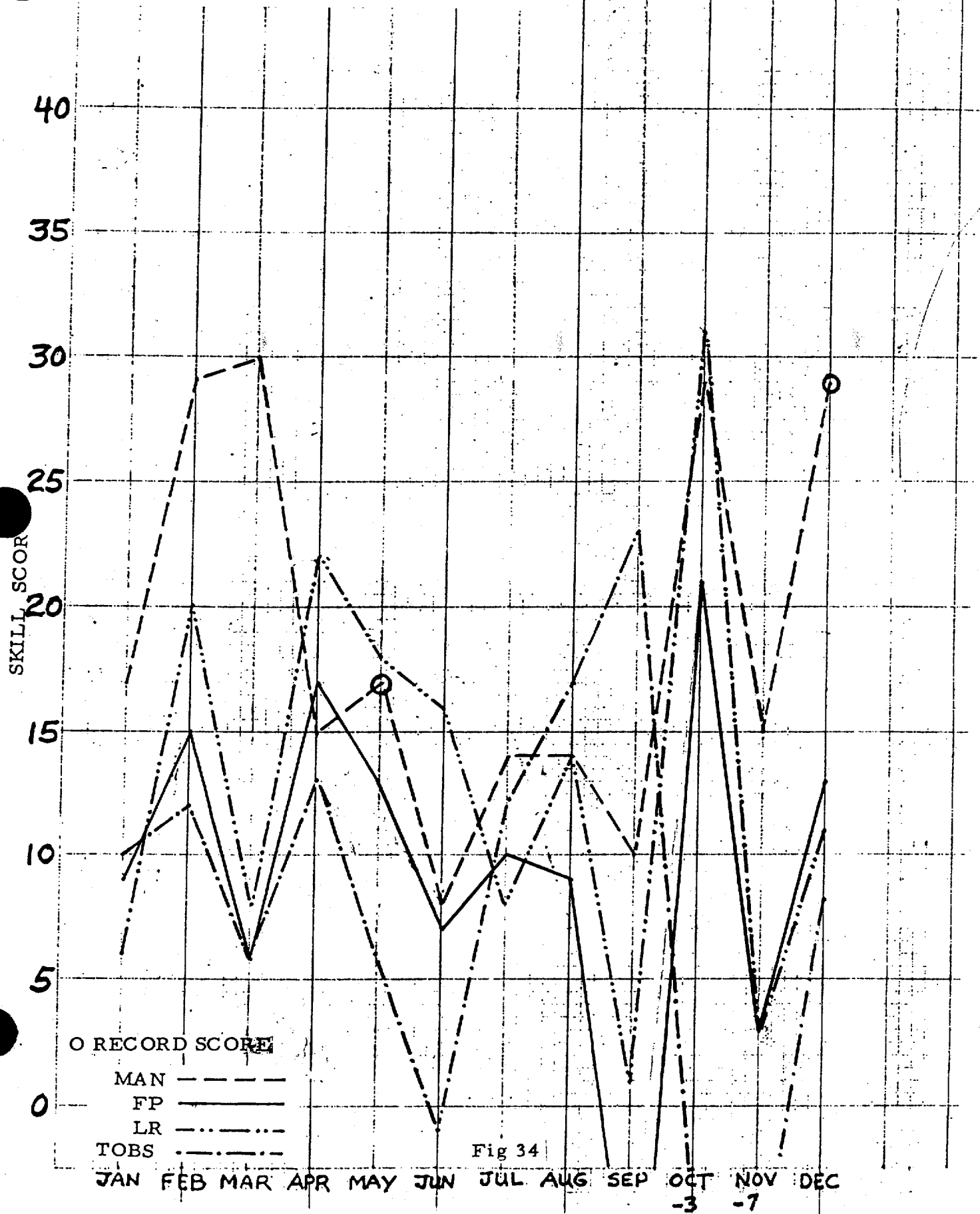


Fig 34

6 TO 10 DAY 3 CLASS LONG TERM MONTHLY MEAN
TEMPERATURE SKILL SCORES (1978-1984)

APPROXIMATELY 13 SCORES PER MONTH

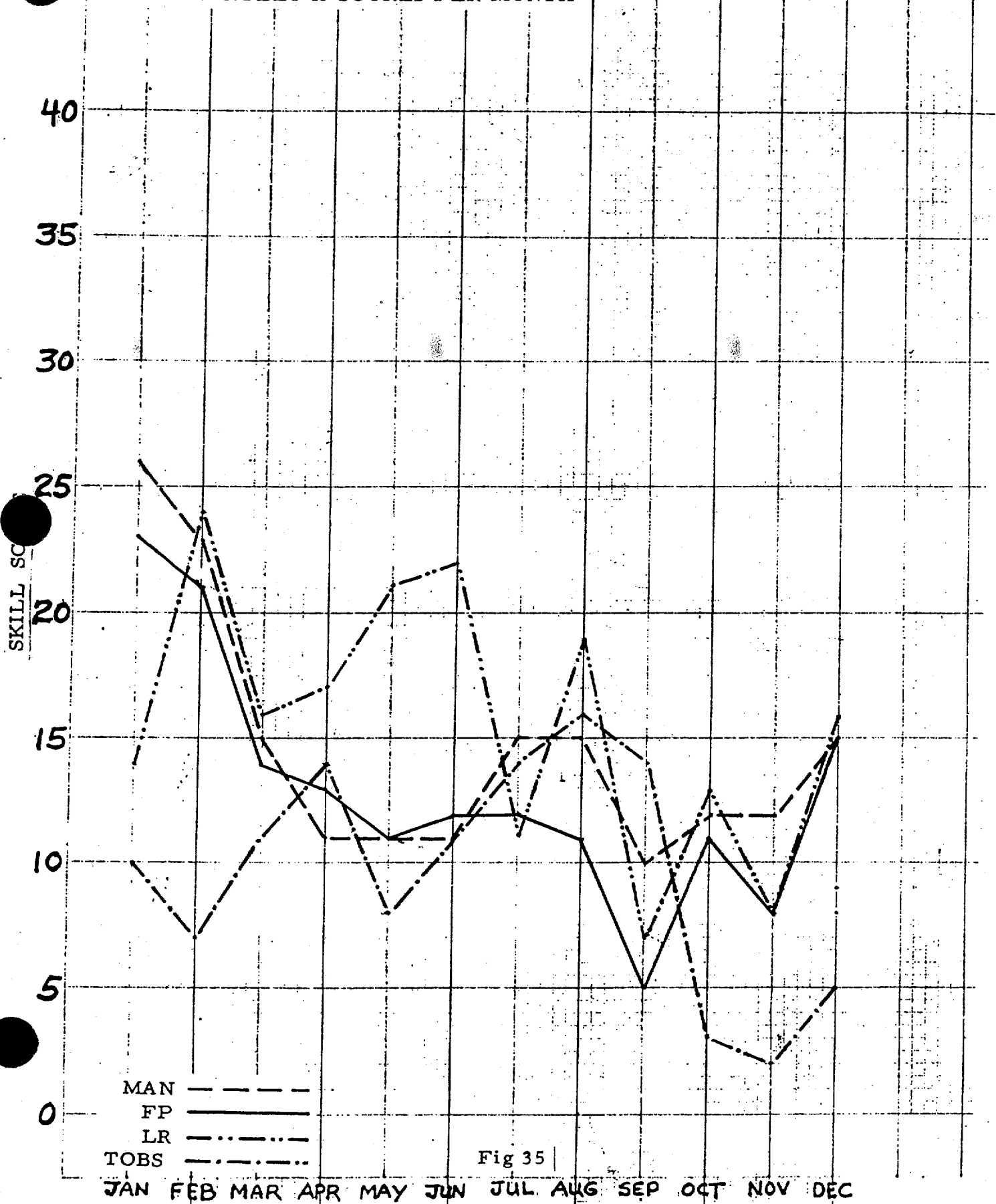


Fig 35

45- 55
 6 TO 10 DAY CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE
 3 CLASS MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE
 SKILL SCORES FOR 1978 - 1984

APPROXIMATELY 13 CASES PER MONTH

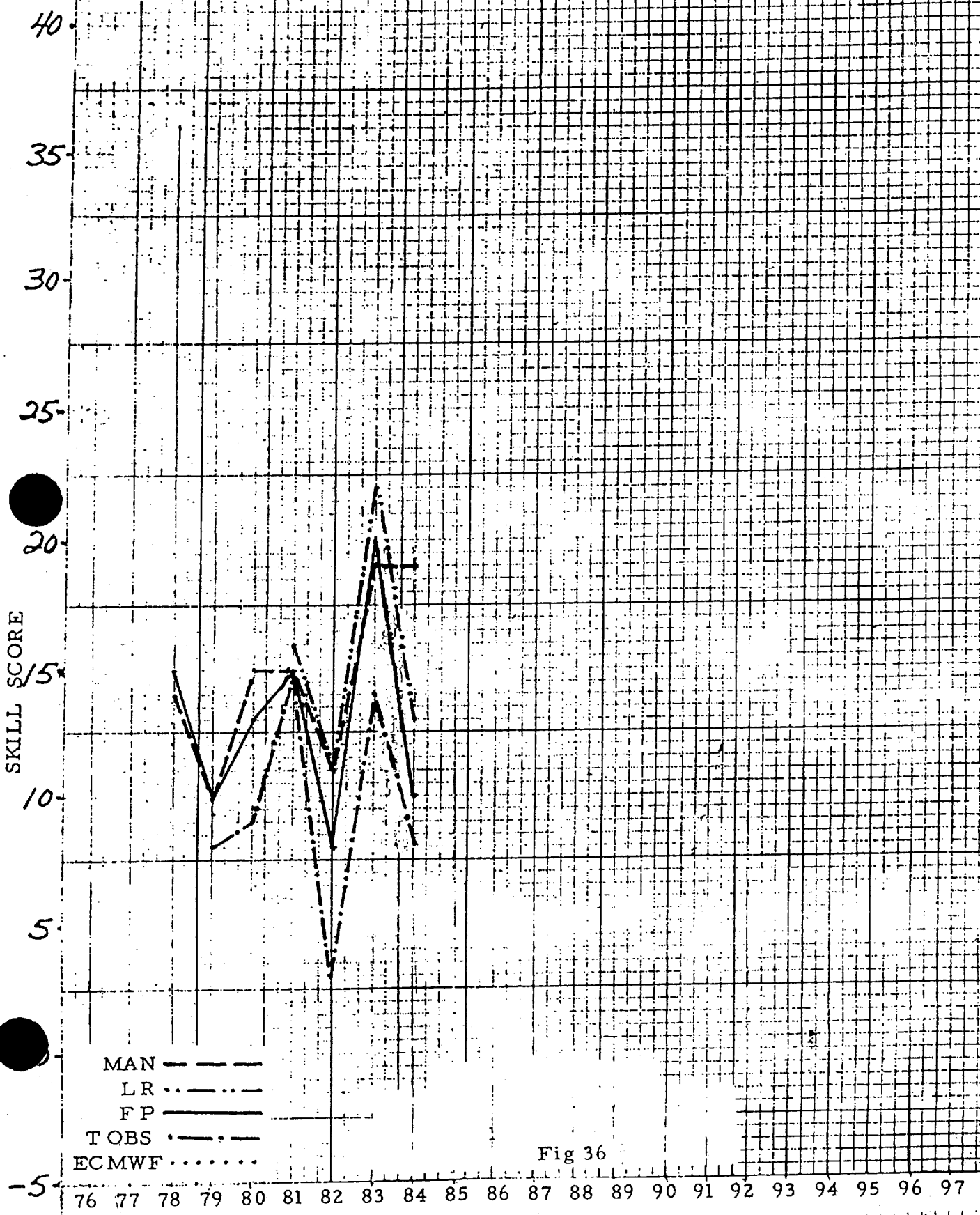


Fig 36

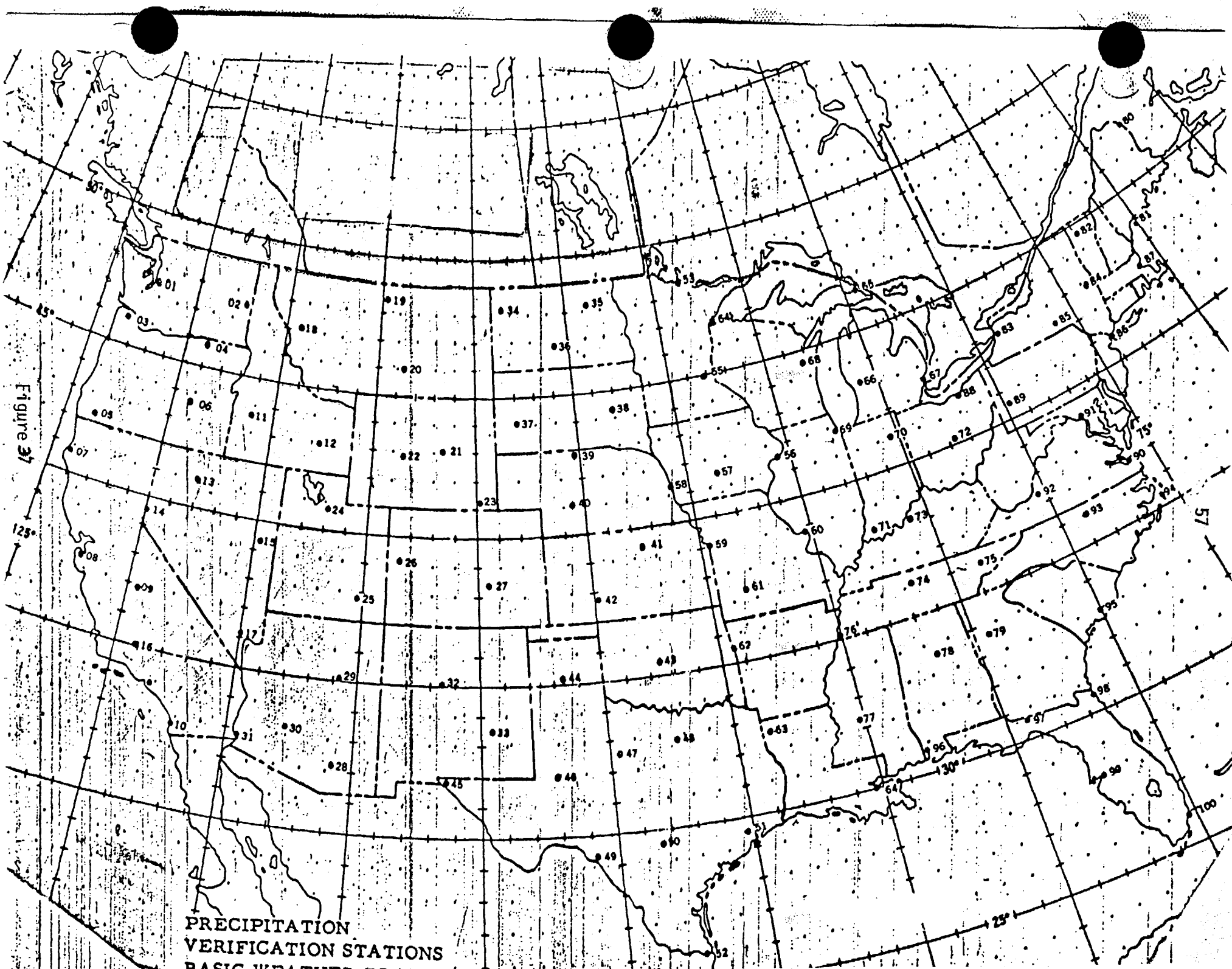
SECTION 3

Man & Climatology

Precipitation Skill Scores

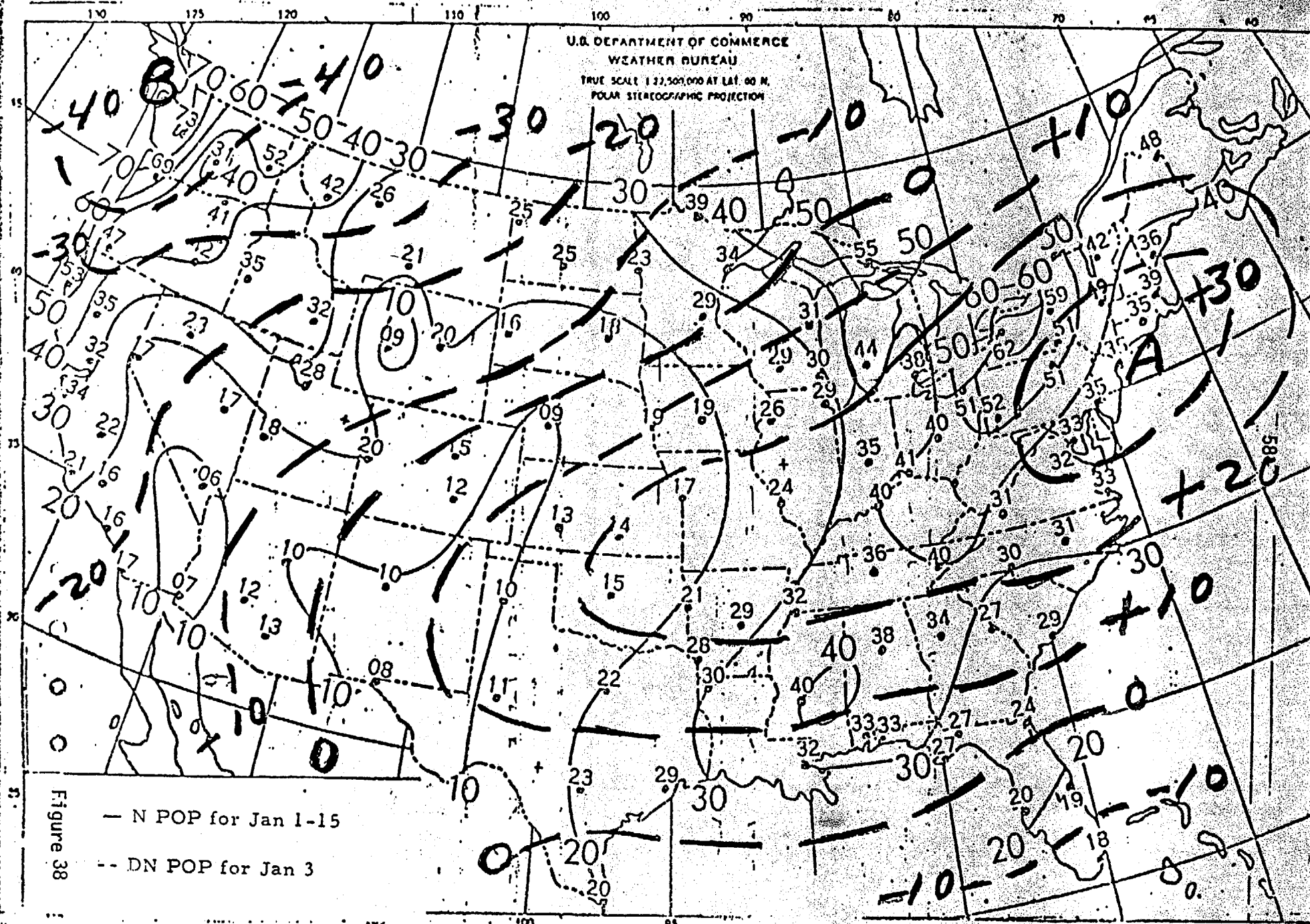
Figure 37

PRECIPITATION
VERIFICATION STATIONS
BASIC WEATHER

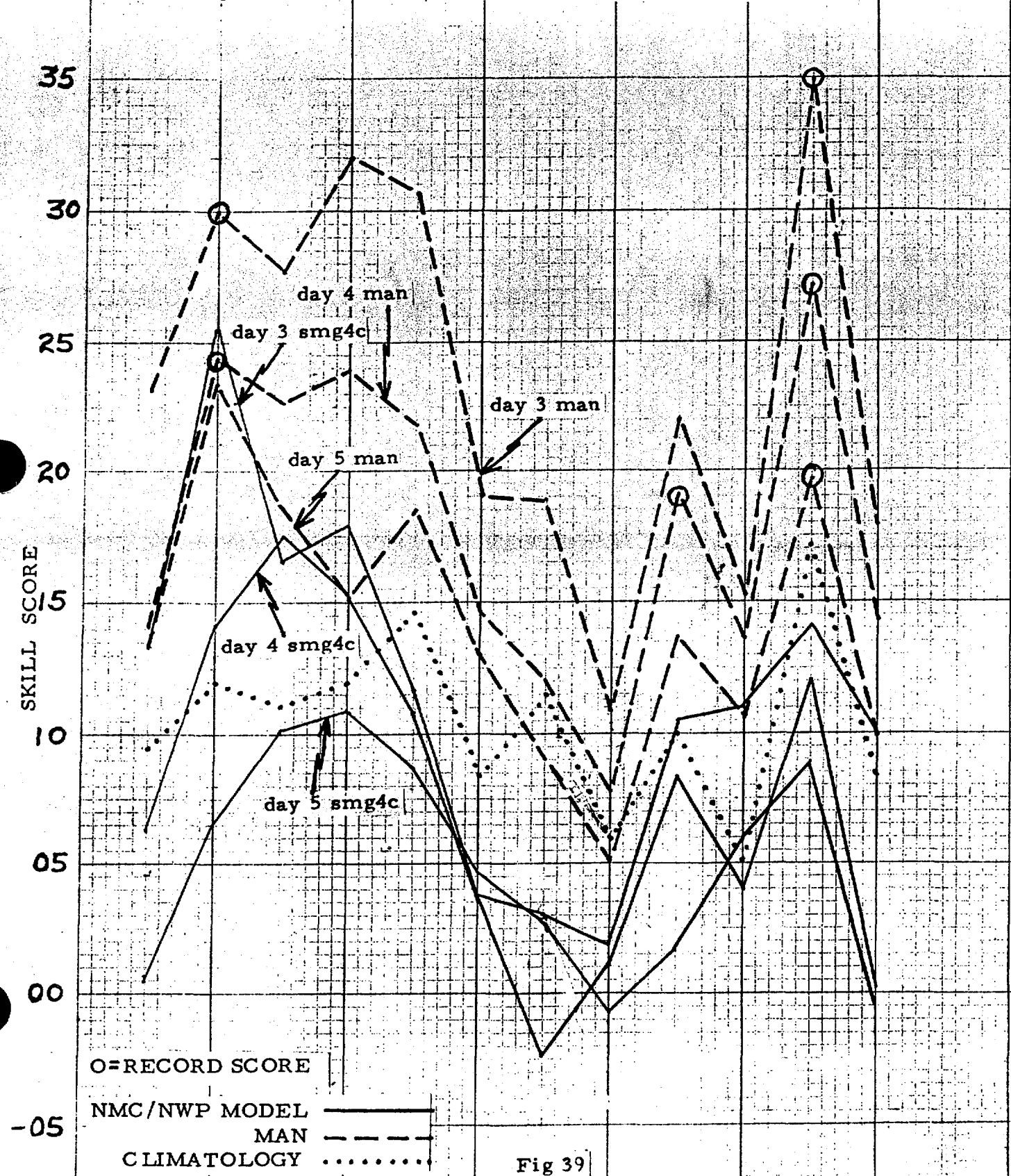


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WEATHER BUREAU

TRUE SCALE 1:22,500,000 AT LAT. 60 N.
POLAR STEREOGRAPHIC PROJECTION



DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 MONTHLY MEAN GILMAN PRECIPITATION
SKILL SCORES FOR 1984



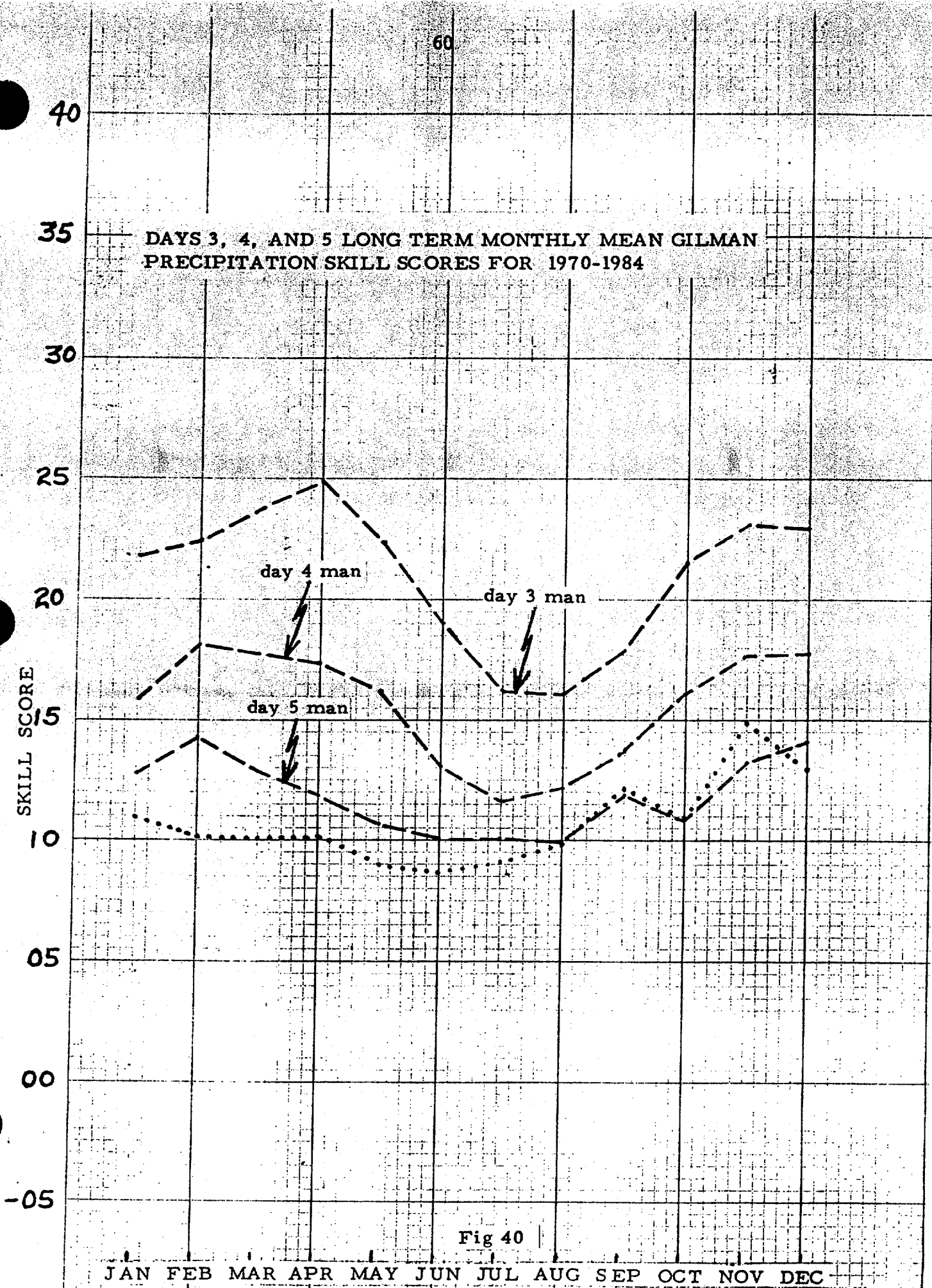
O=RECORD SCORE

NMC/NWP MODEL

MAN

CLIMATOLOGY

Fig 39



DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE GILMAN
PRECIPITATION SKILL SCORES FOR 1970-1984

SKILL SCORE

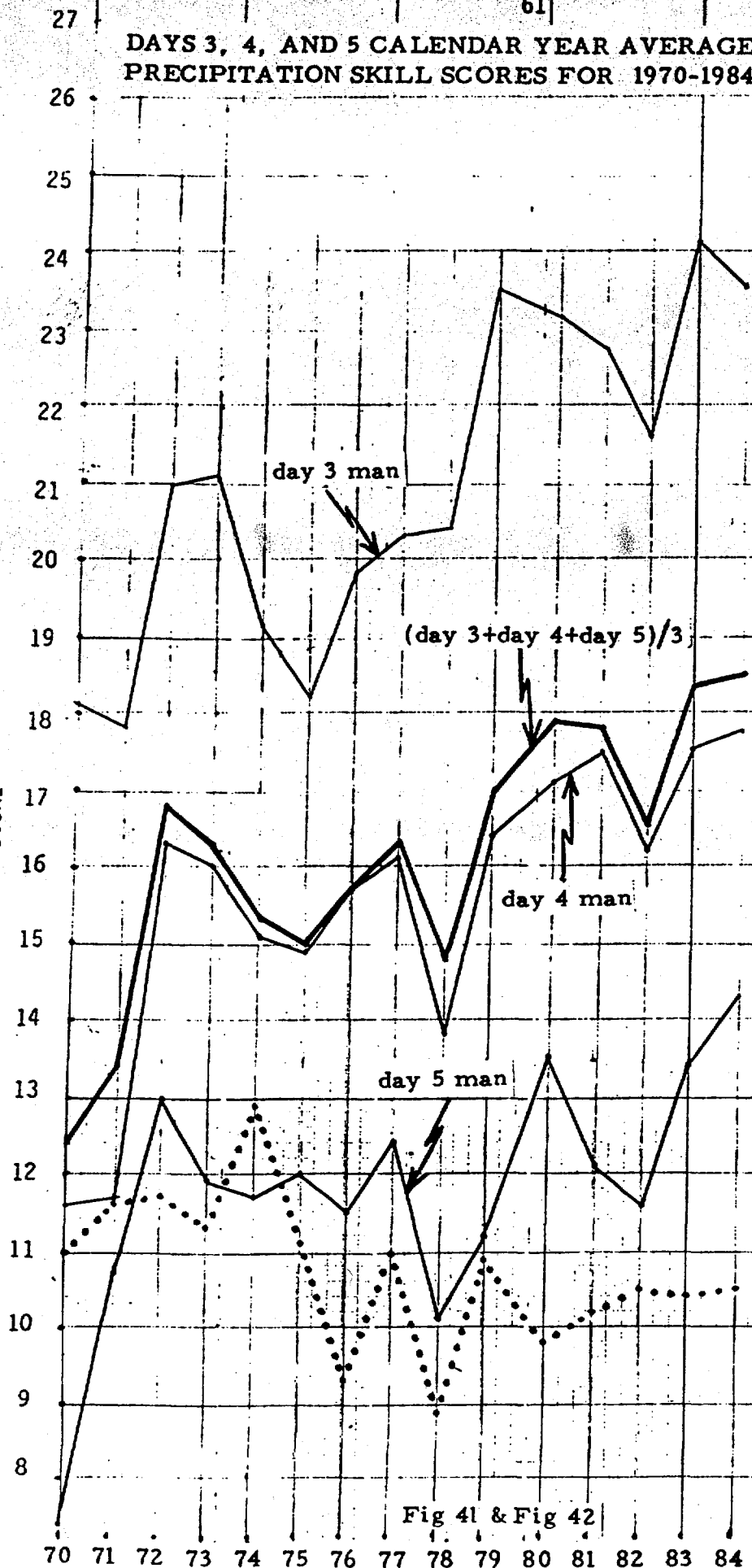


Fig 41 & Fig 42

40

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 MONTHLY MEAN HUGHES PRECIPITATION SKILL SCORES FOR 1984

O=RECORD SCORE

NMC/NWP MODEL

MAN

CLIMATOLOGY

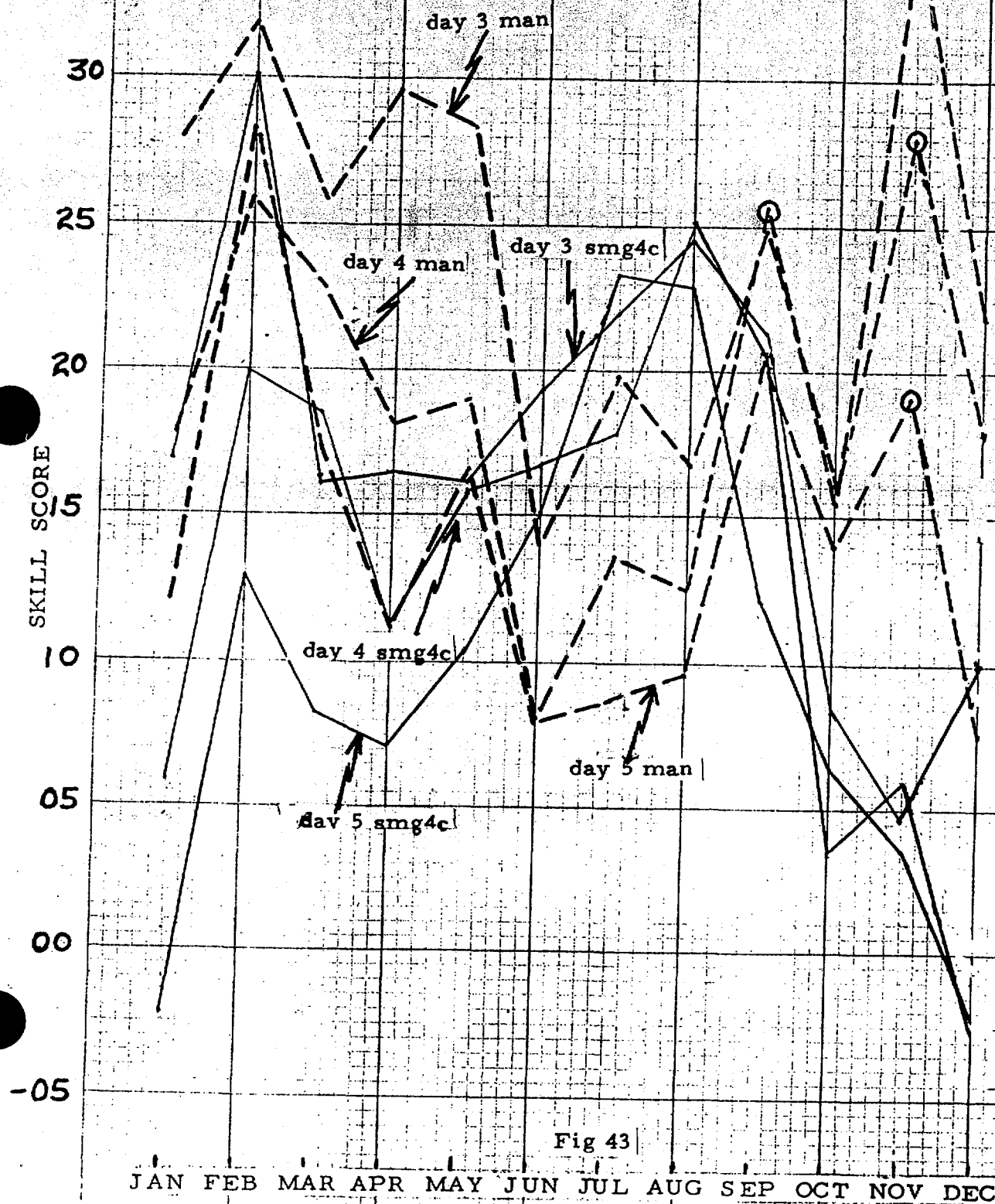


Fig 43

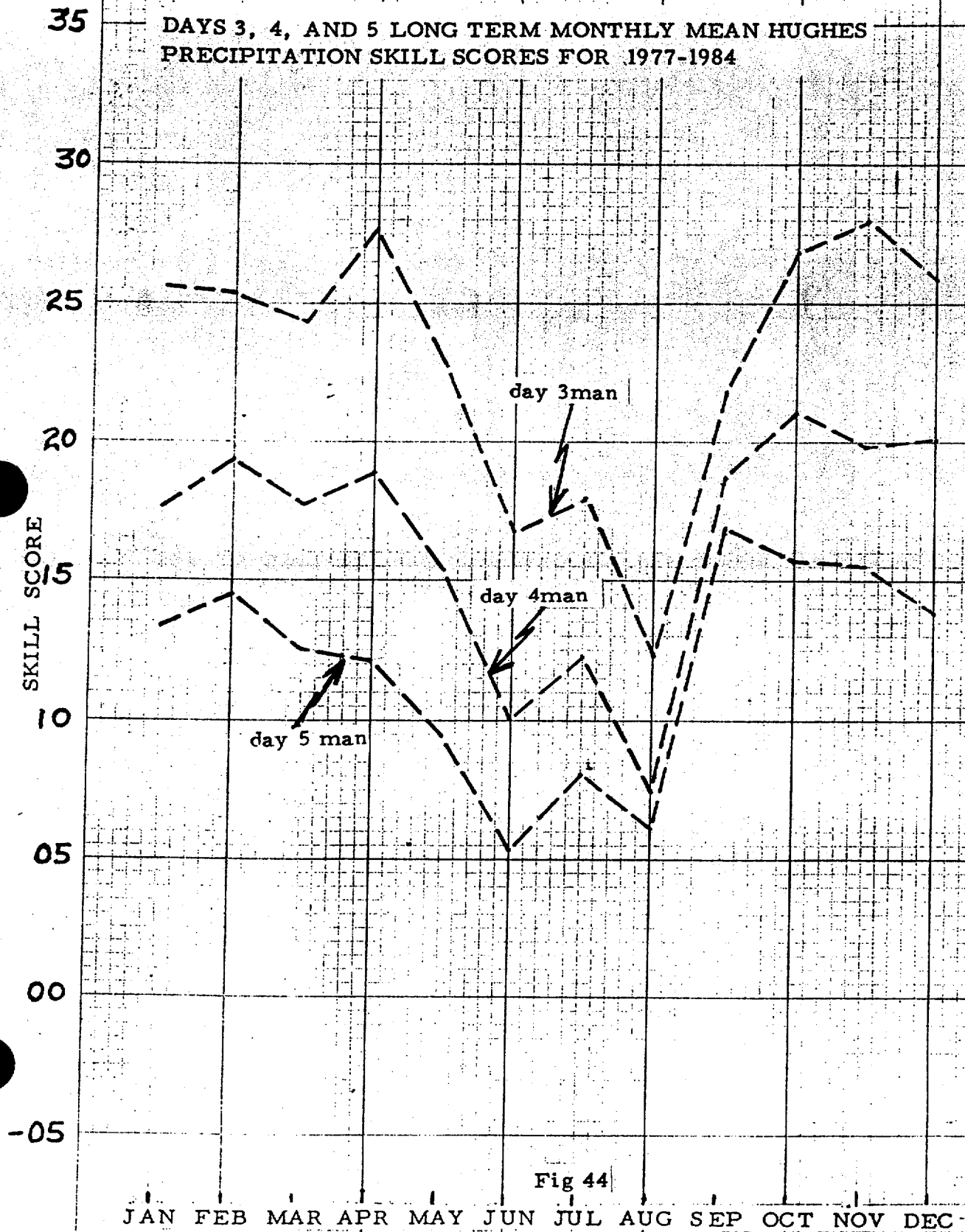


Fig 44

40

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE HUGHES
PRECIPITATION SKILL SCORES FOR 1977-1984

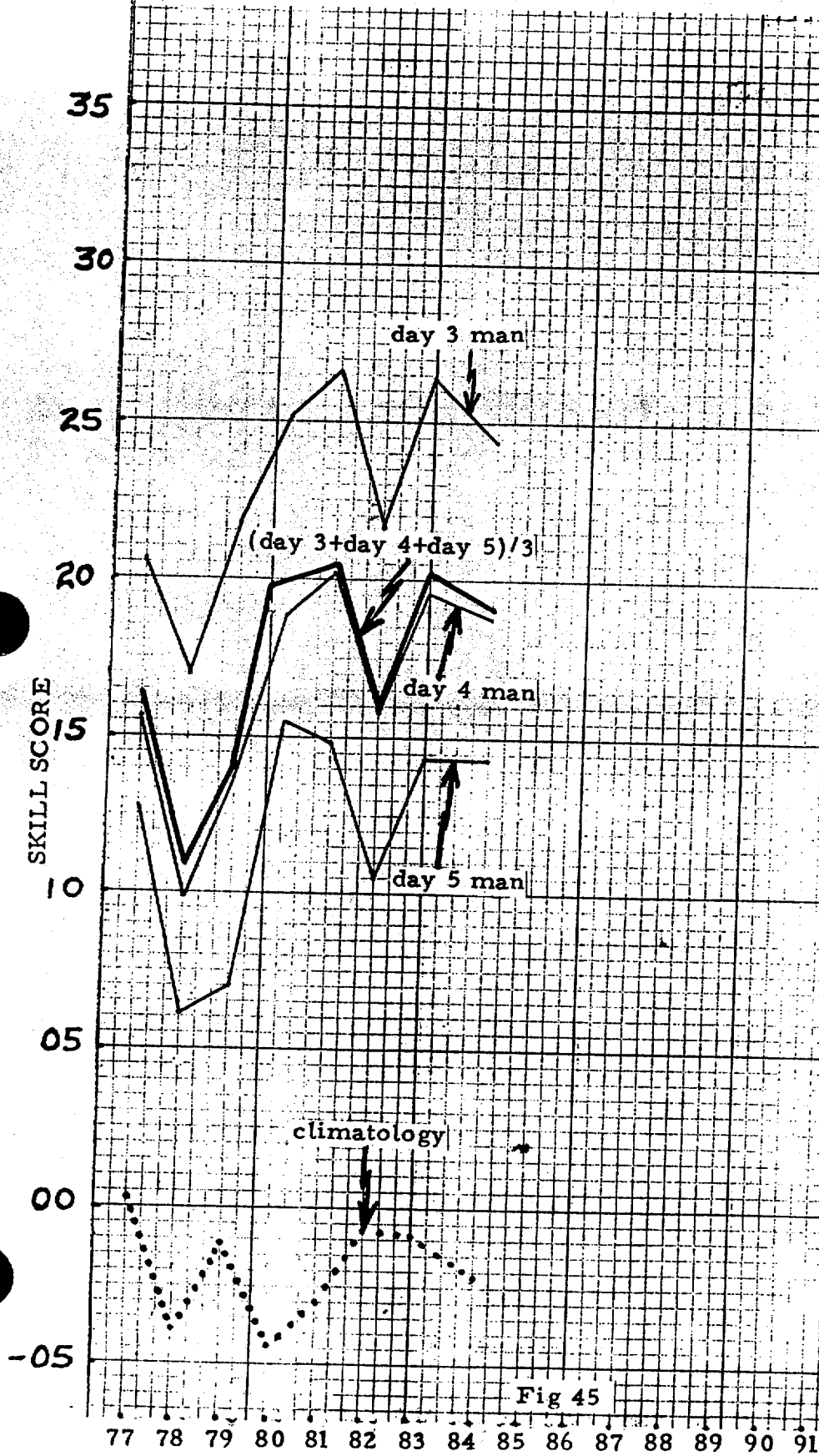


Fig 45

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 MONTHLY MEAN HUGHES PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY SKILL SCORES FOR 1984

65

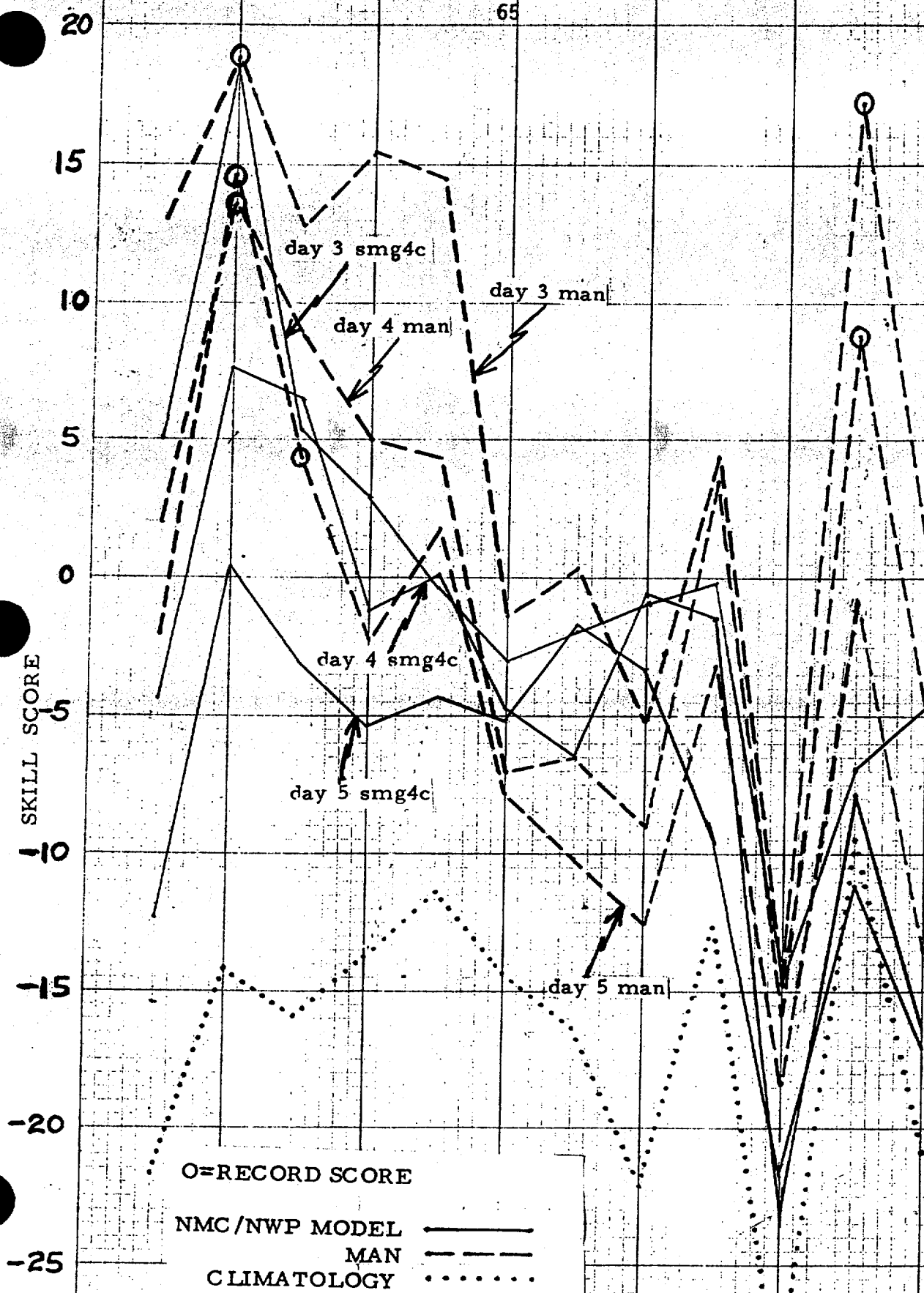


Fig 46

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 LONG TERM MONTHLY MEAN HUGHES
PROBABILITY PRECIPITATION SKILL SCORES FOR 1978-1984

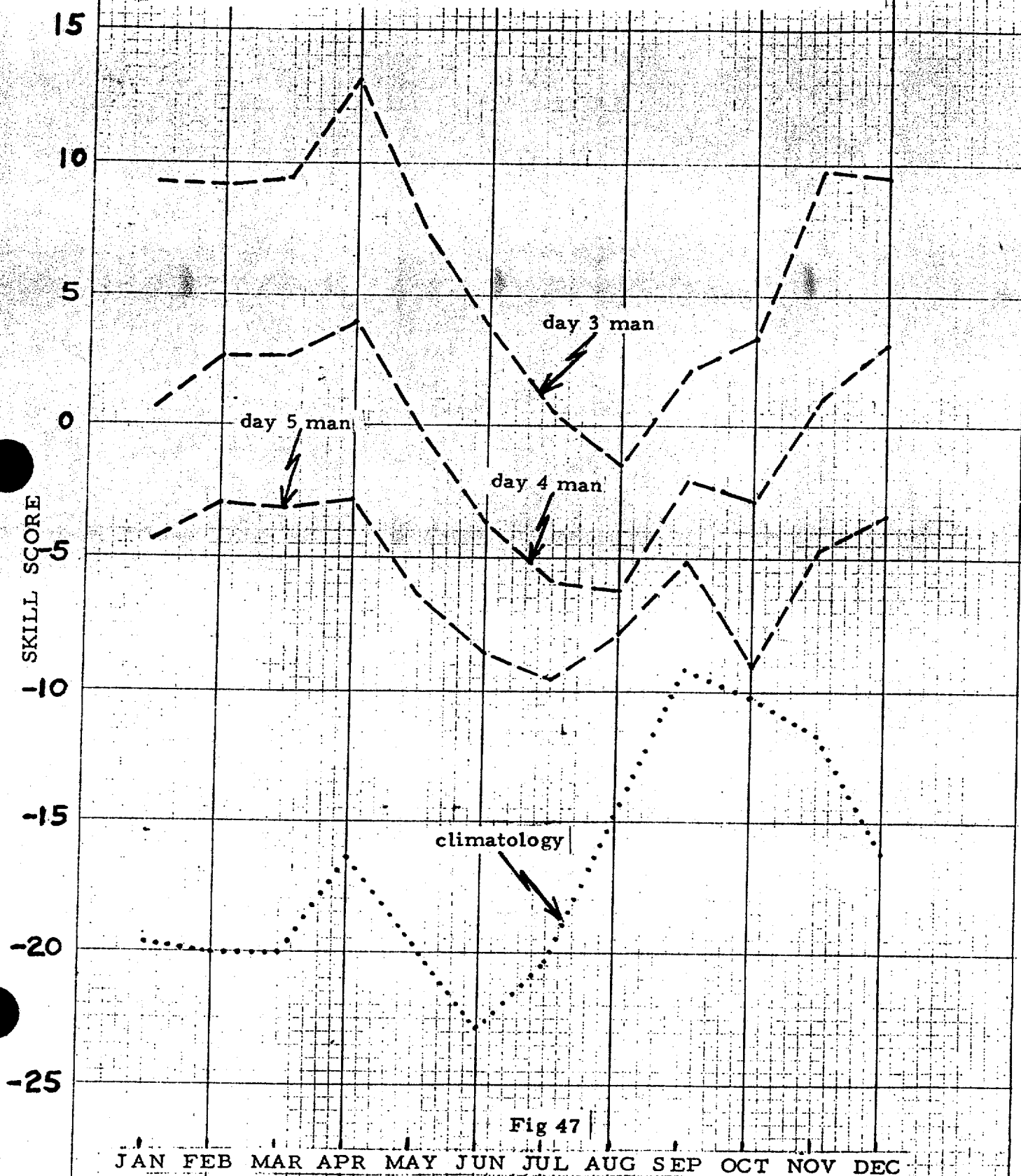
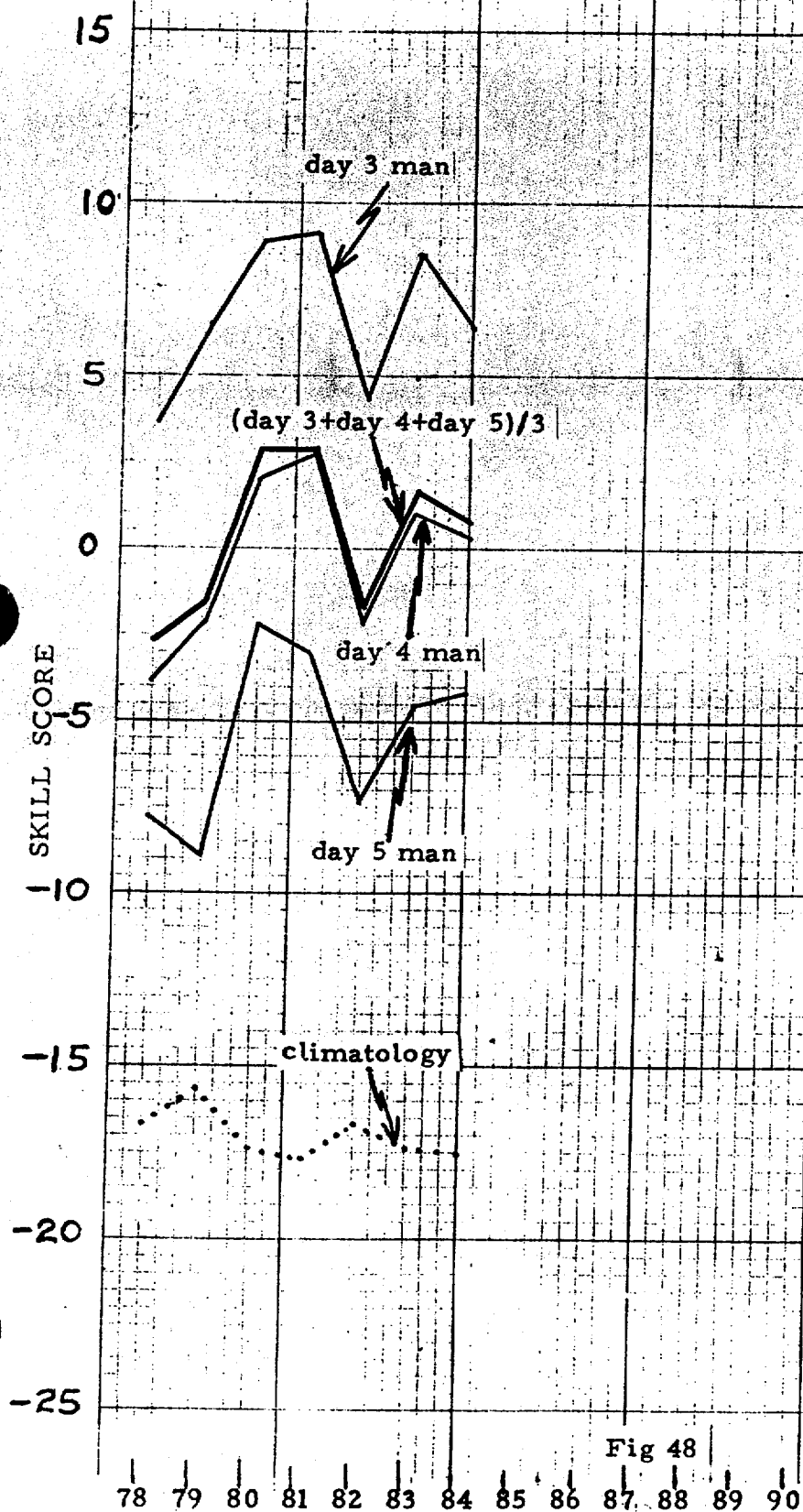


Fig 47

20 DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE HUGHES
PROBABILITY PRECIPITATION SKILL SCORES FOR 1978-1984



1 TO 5 DAY 3 CLASS MONTHLY MEAN
PRECIPITATION SKILL SCORES FOR 1984

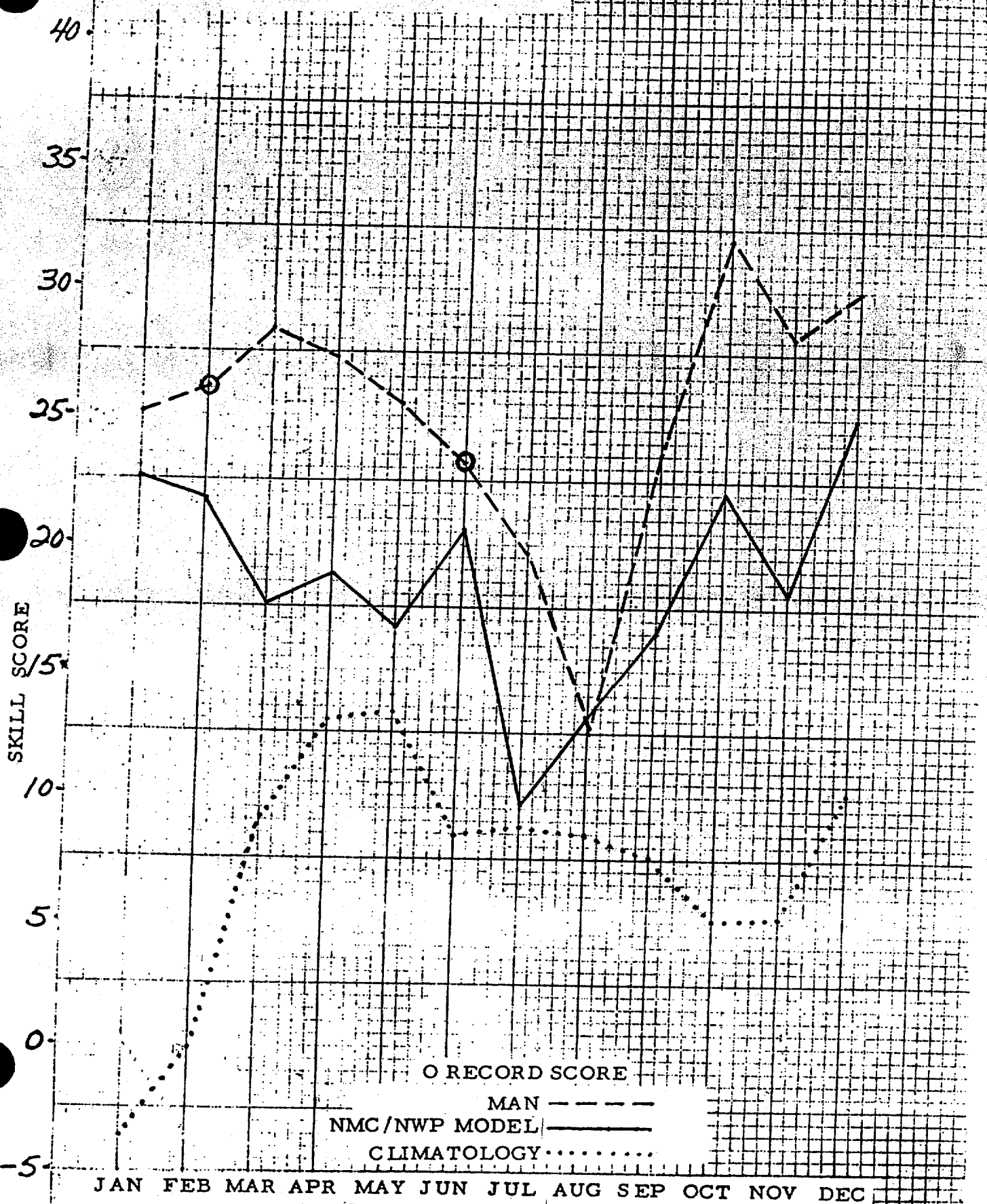


Fig 49

1 TO 5 DAY 3 CLASS LONG TERM MONTHLY MEAN
PRECIPITATION SKILL SCORES (1978-1984)

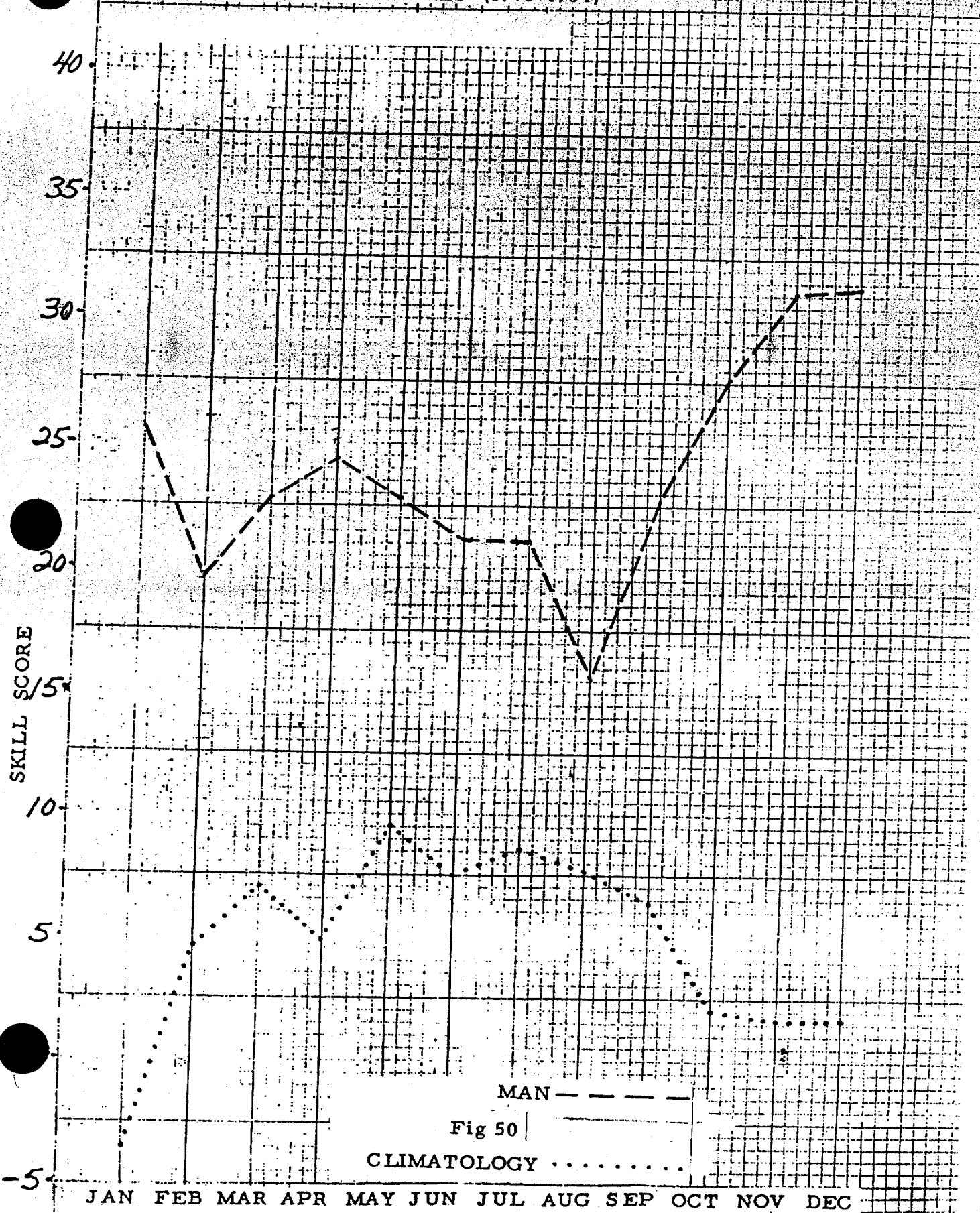
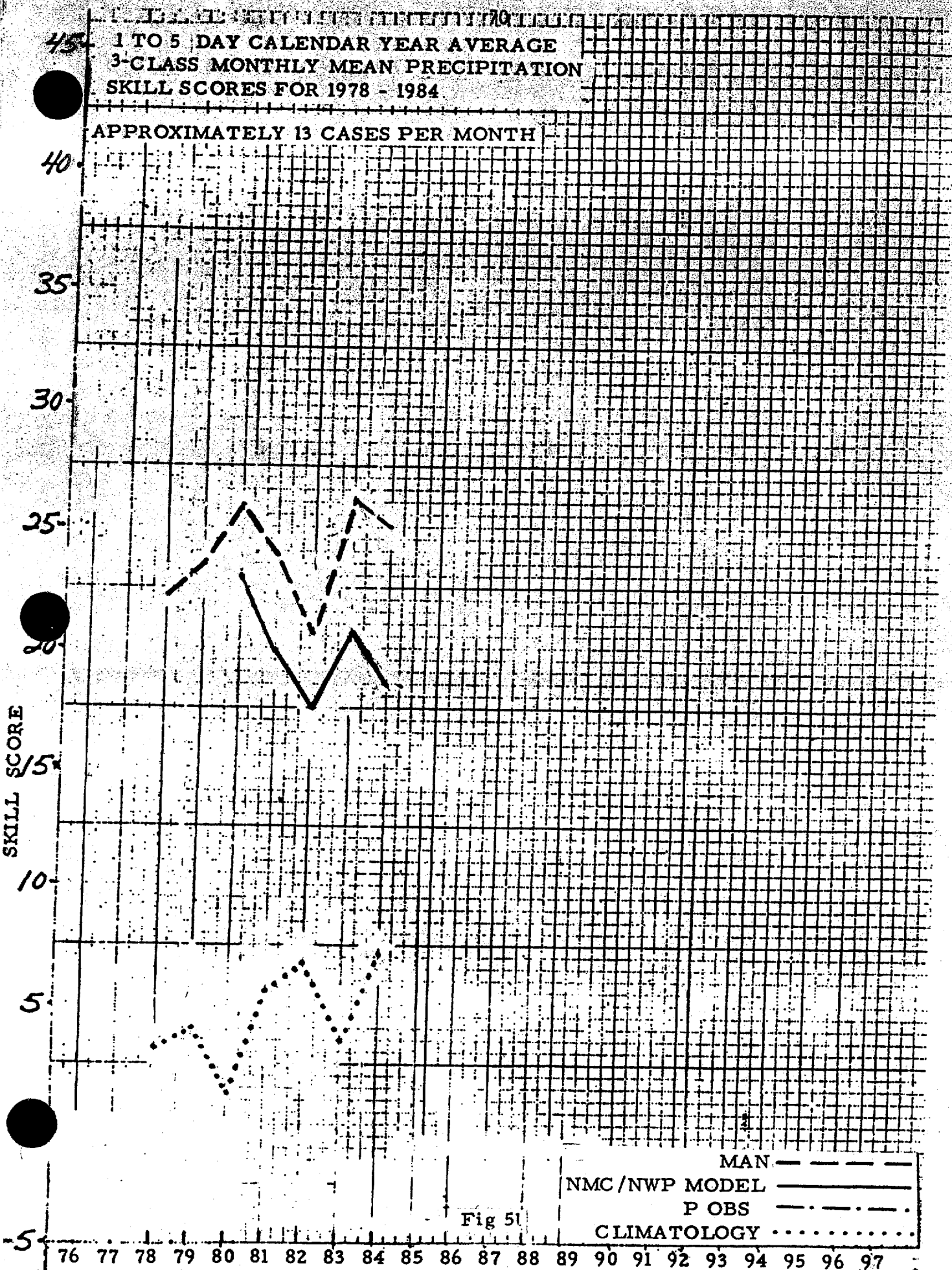


Fig 50

CLIMATOLOGY



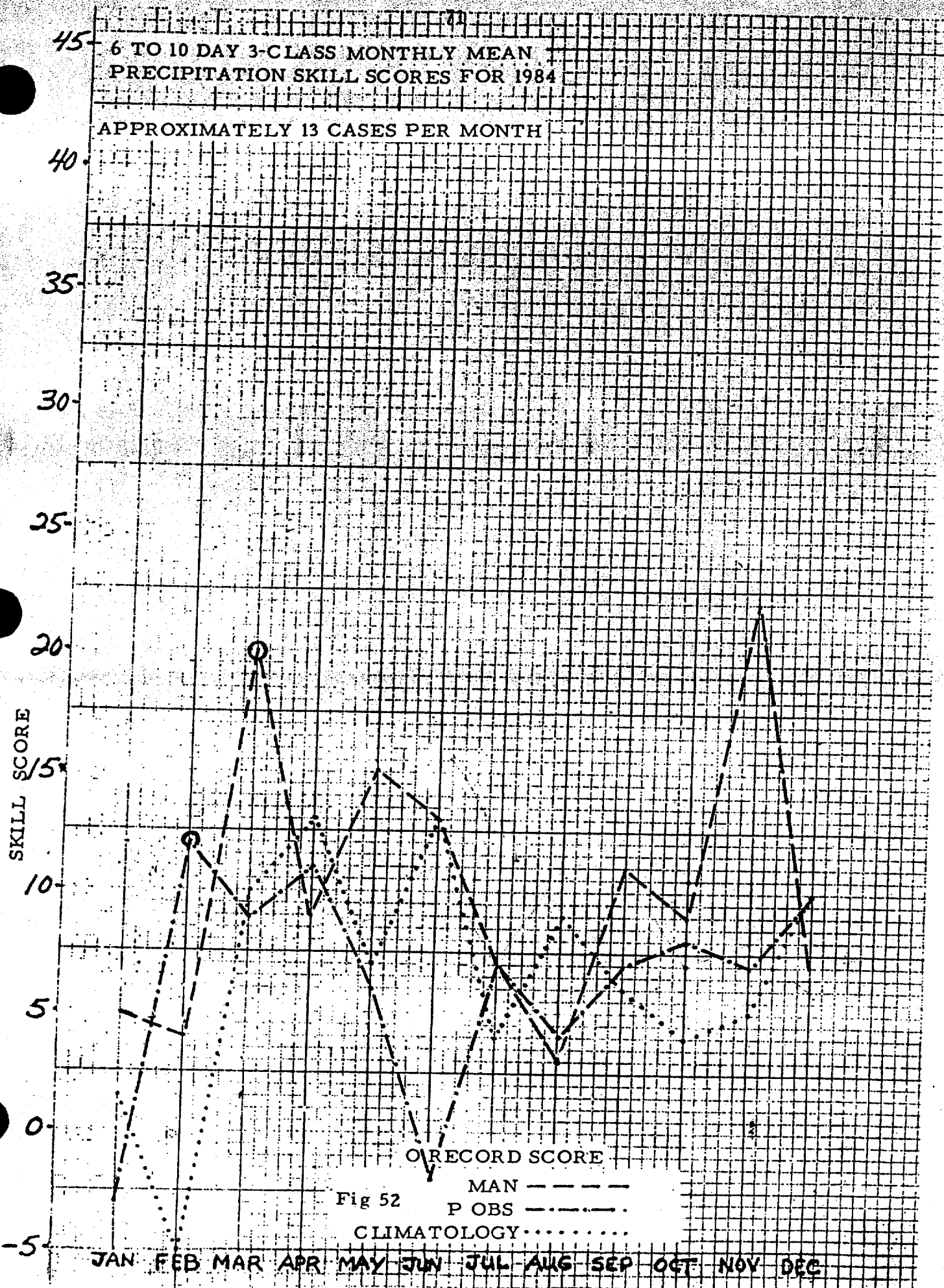


Fig 52

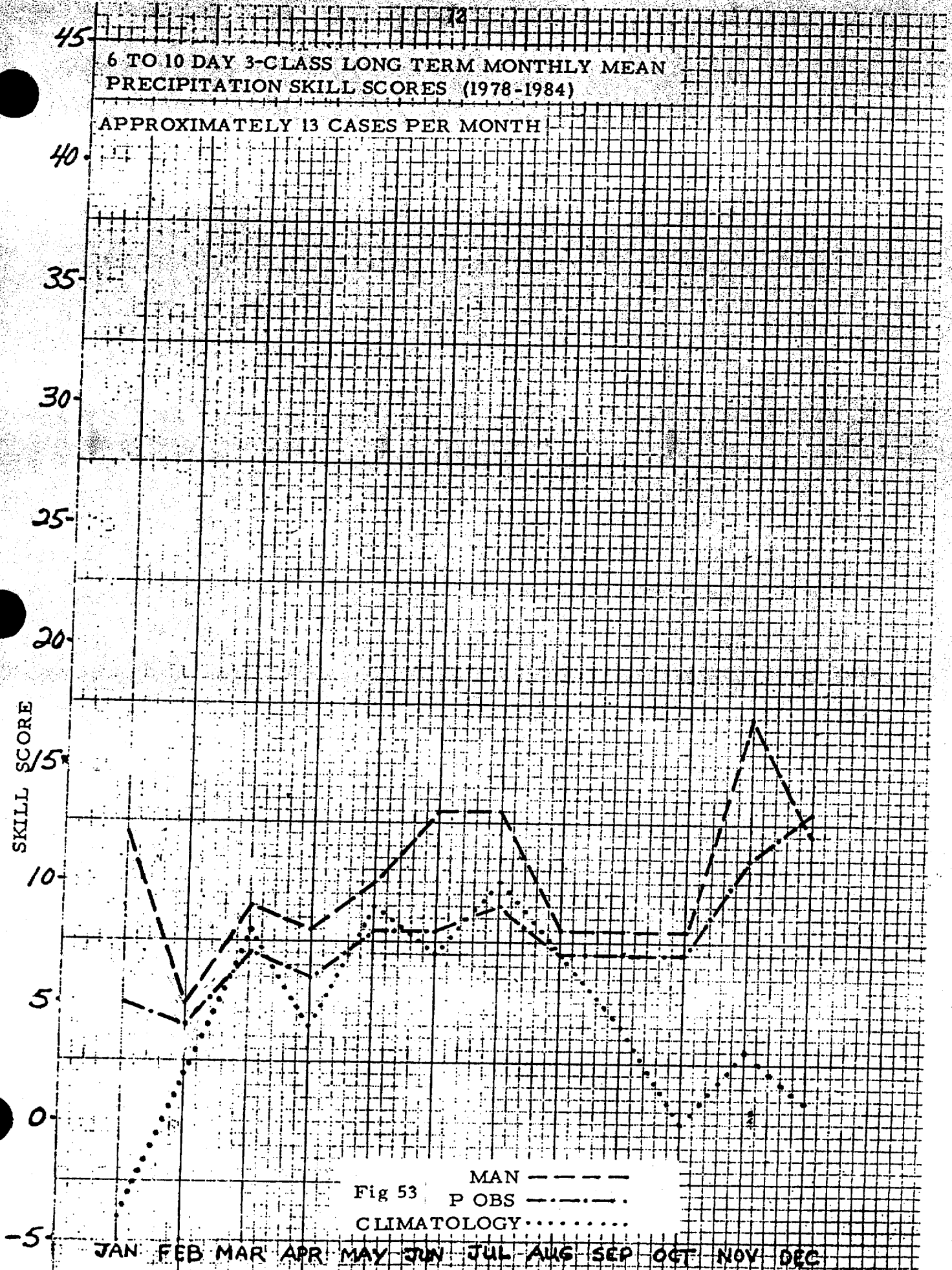
6 TO 10 DAY 3-CLASS LONG TERM MONTHLY MEAN
PRECIPITATION SKILL SCORES (1978-1984)

APPROXIMATELY 13 CASES PER MONTH

SKILL SCORE

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Fig 53 MAN ---
P OBS -.-
CLIMATOLOGY.....



73
 6 TO 10 DAY CALENDAR YEAR AVERAGE
 3-CLASS MONTHLY MEAN PRECIPITATION
 SKILL SCORES FOR 1978 - 1984

APPROXIMATELY 13 CASES PER MONTH

SKILL SCORE

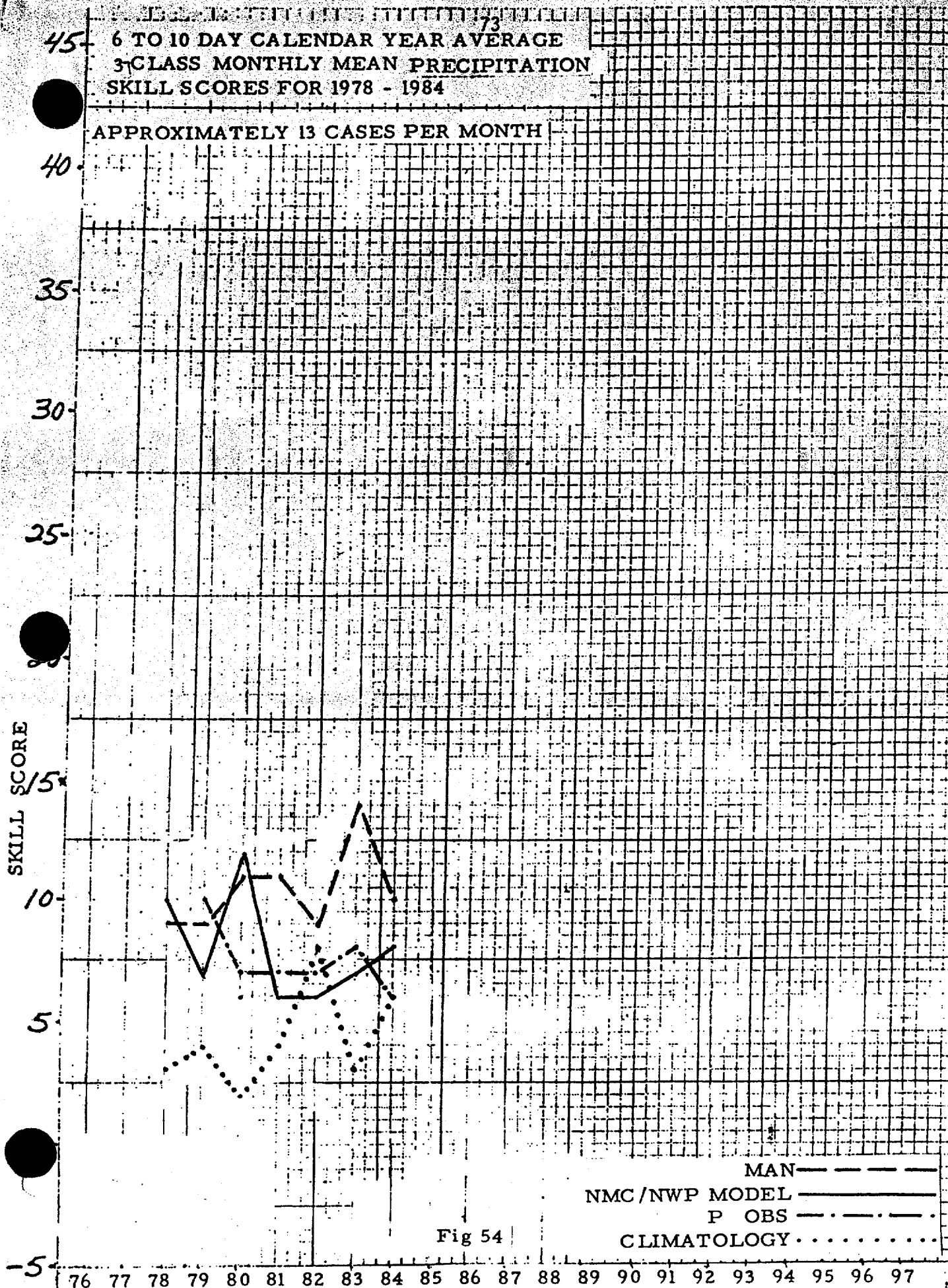


Fig 54

MAN — — — — —
 NMC/NWP MODEL — — — — —
 P OBS — · — · — ·
 CLIMATOLOGY · · · · ·

SECTION 4

Man & Machine (NMC/NWP Guidance)

Days 1 through 7 Monthly Mean Sea Level Pressure, 500 MB and
Absolute Error Temperature Scores

74
DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MS LP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR
JANUARY 1984

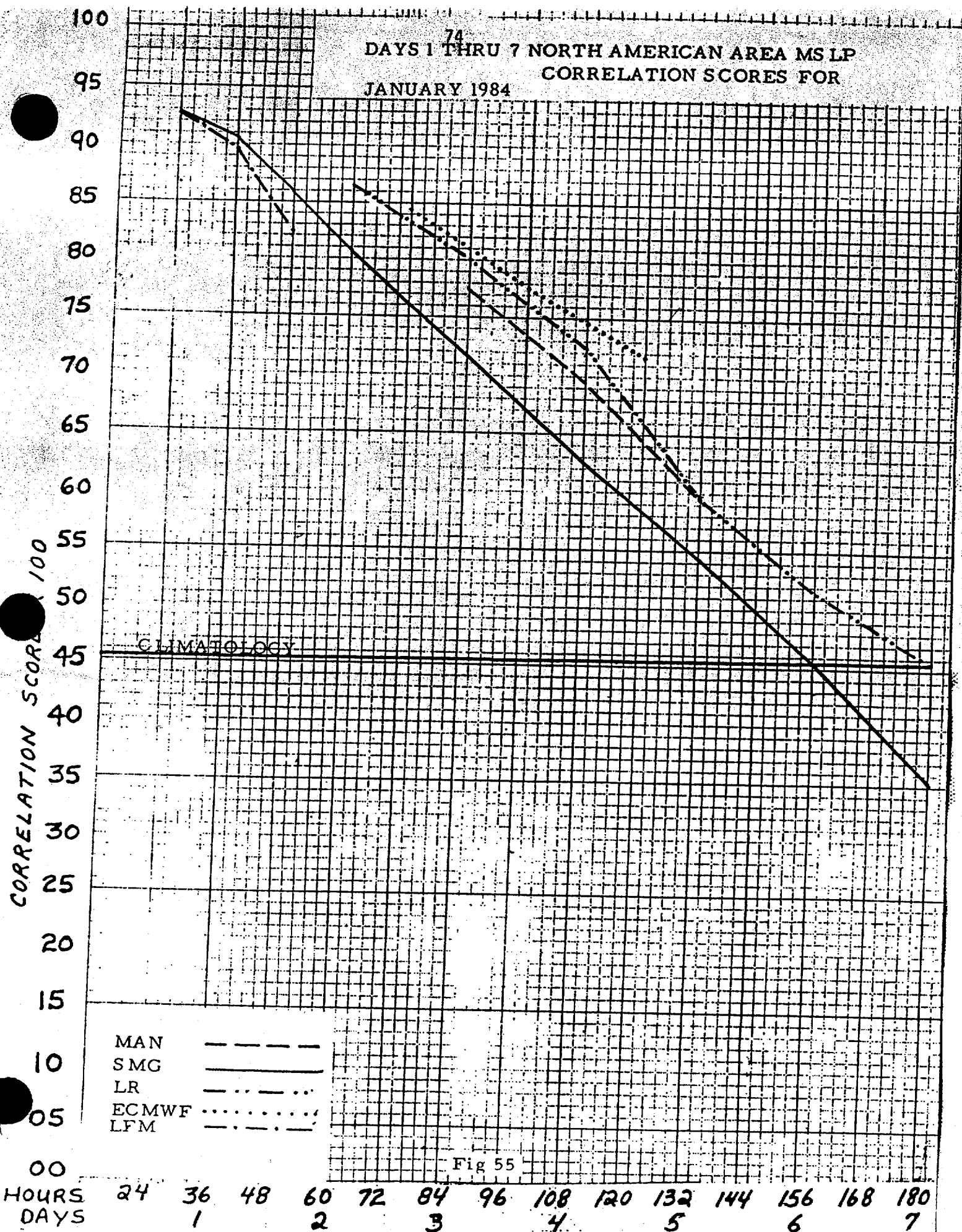


Fig 55

75
DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR
FEBRUARY 1984

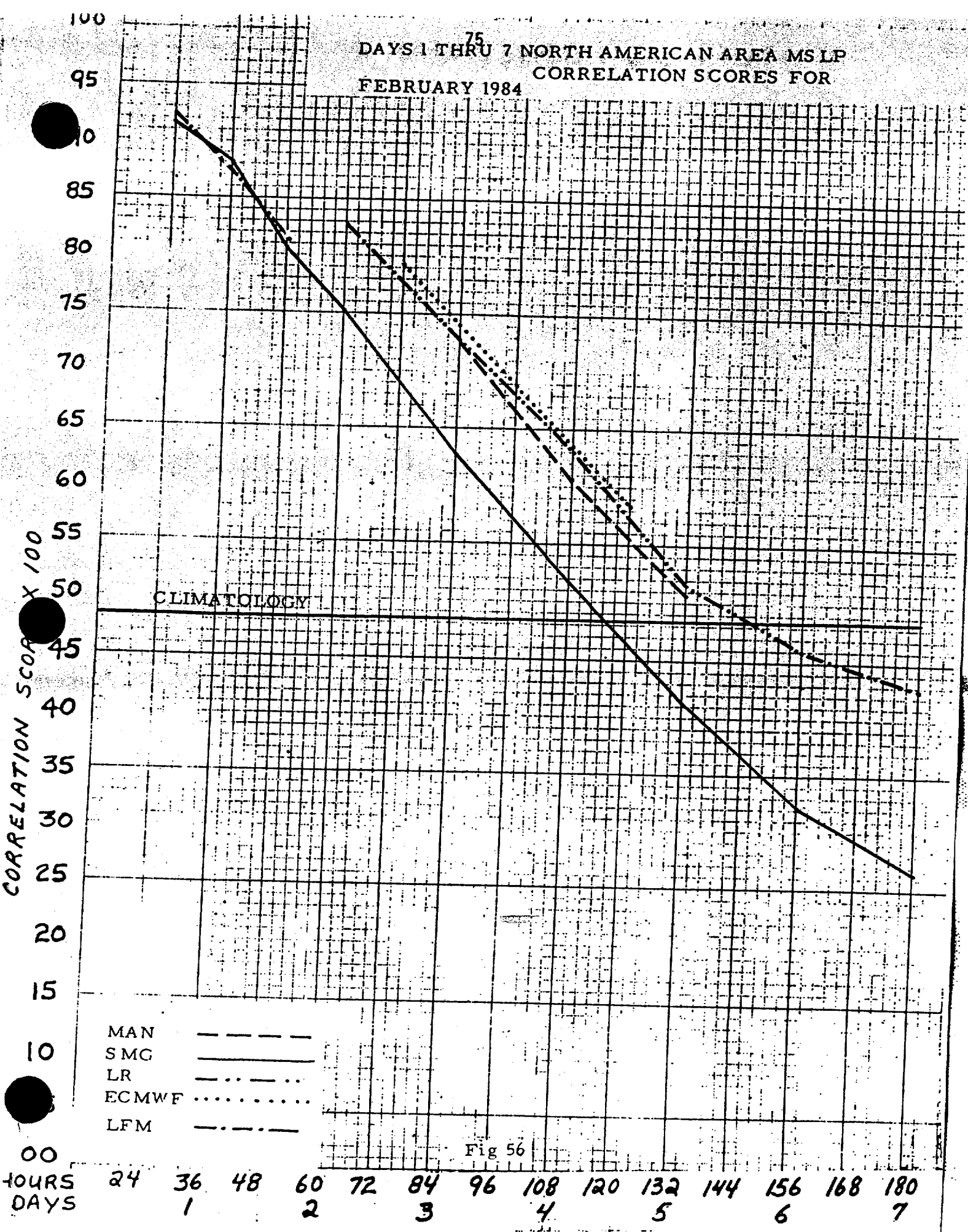
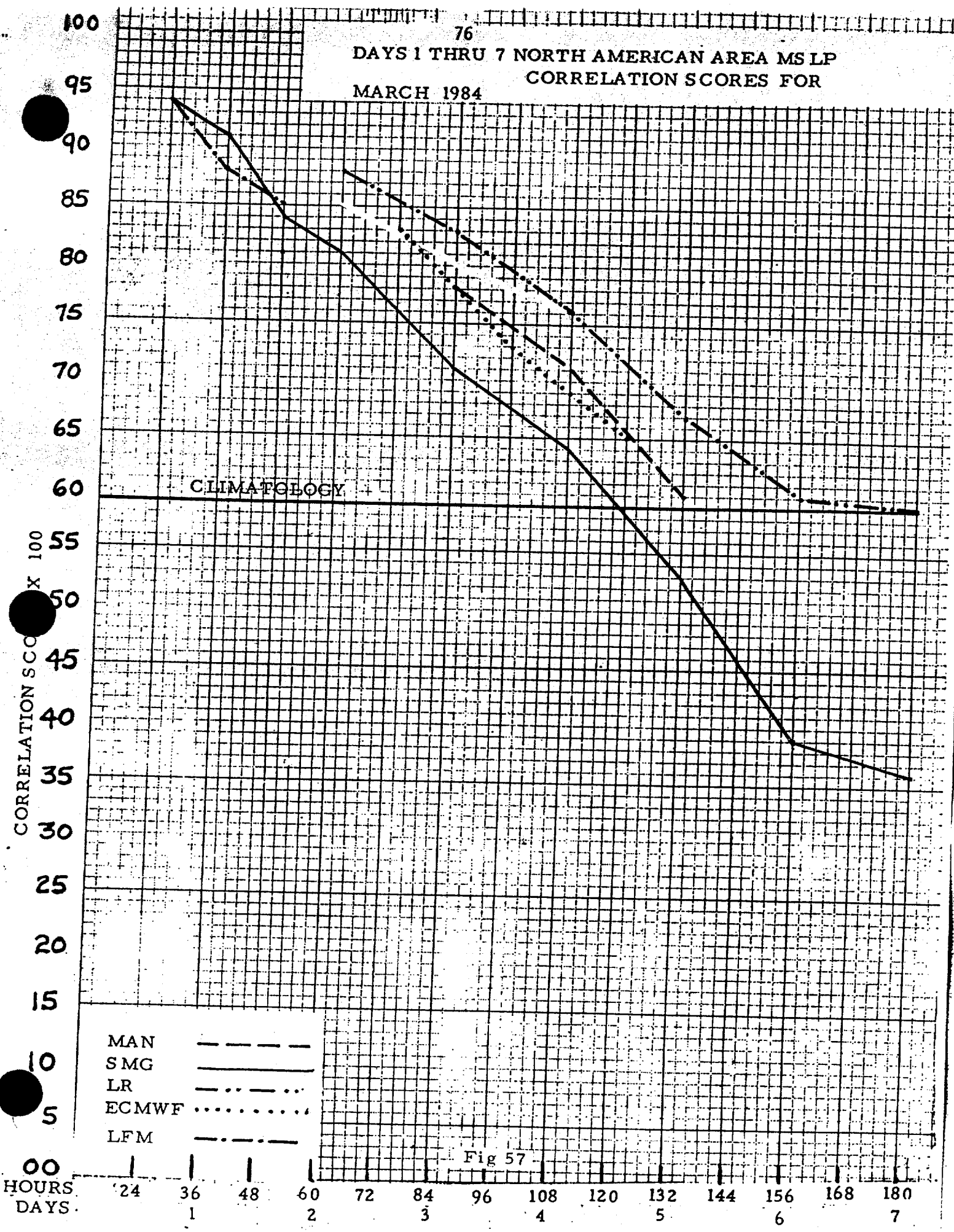


Fig 56



DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
APRIL 1984 CORRELATION SCORES FOR

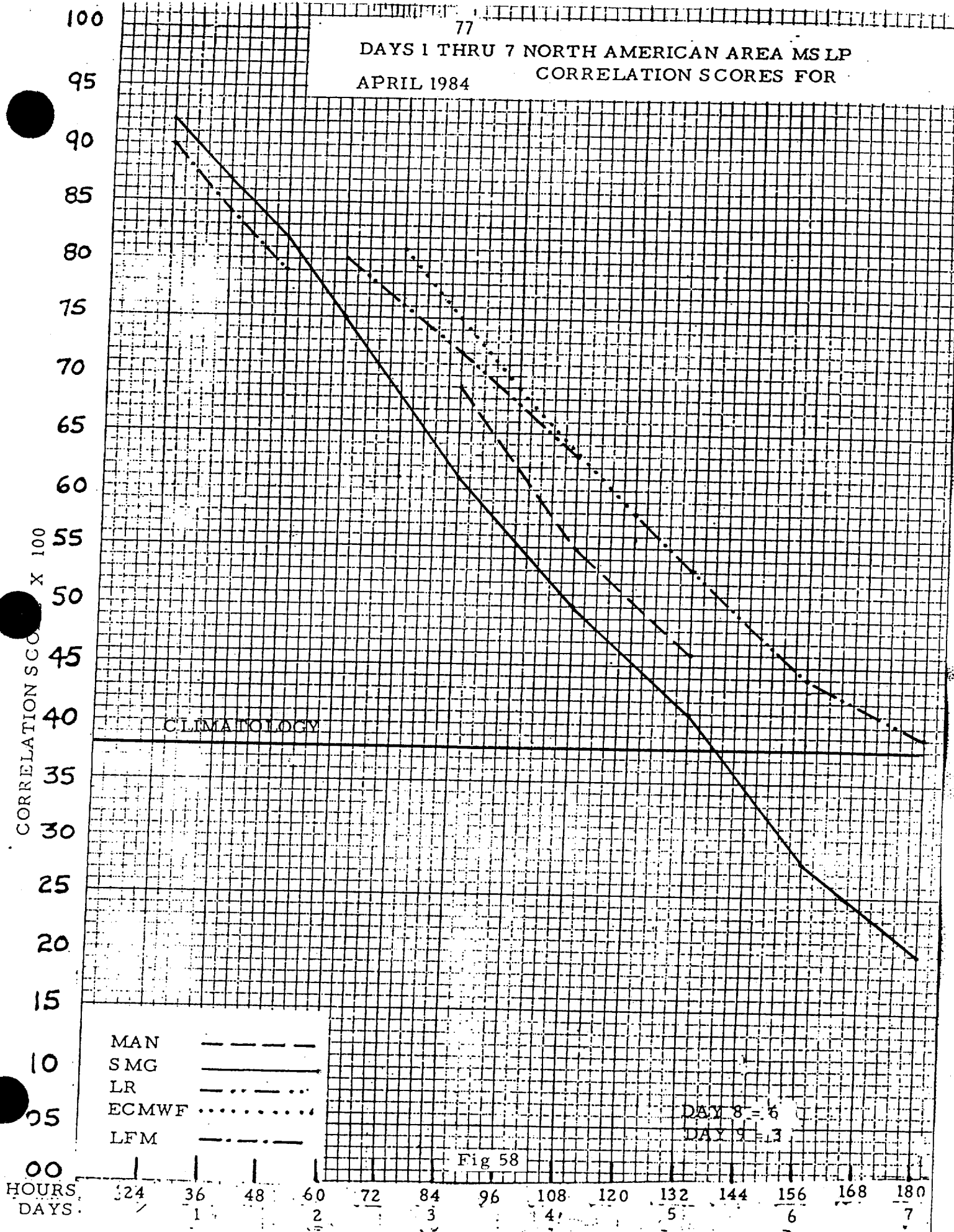


Fig 58

DAY 8 = 6
DAY 9 = 3

78
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR MAY 1984

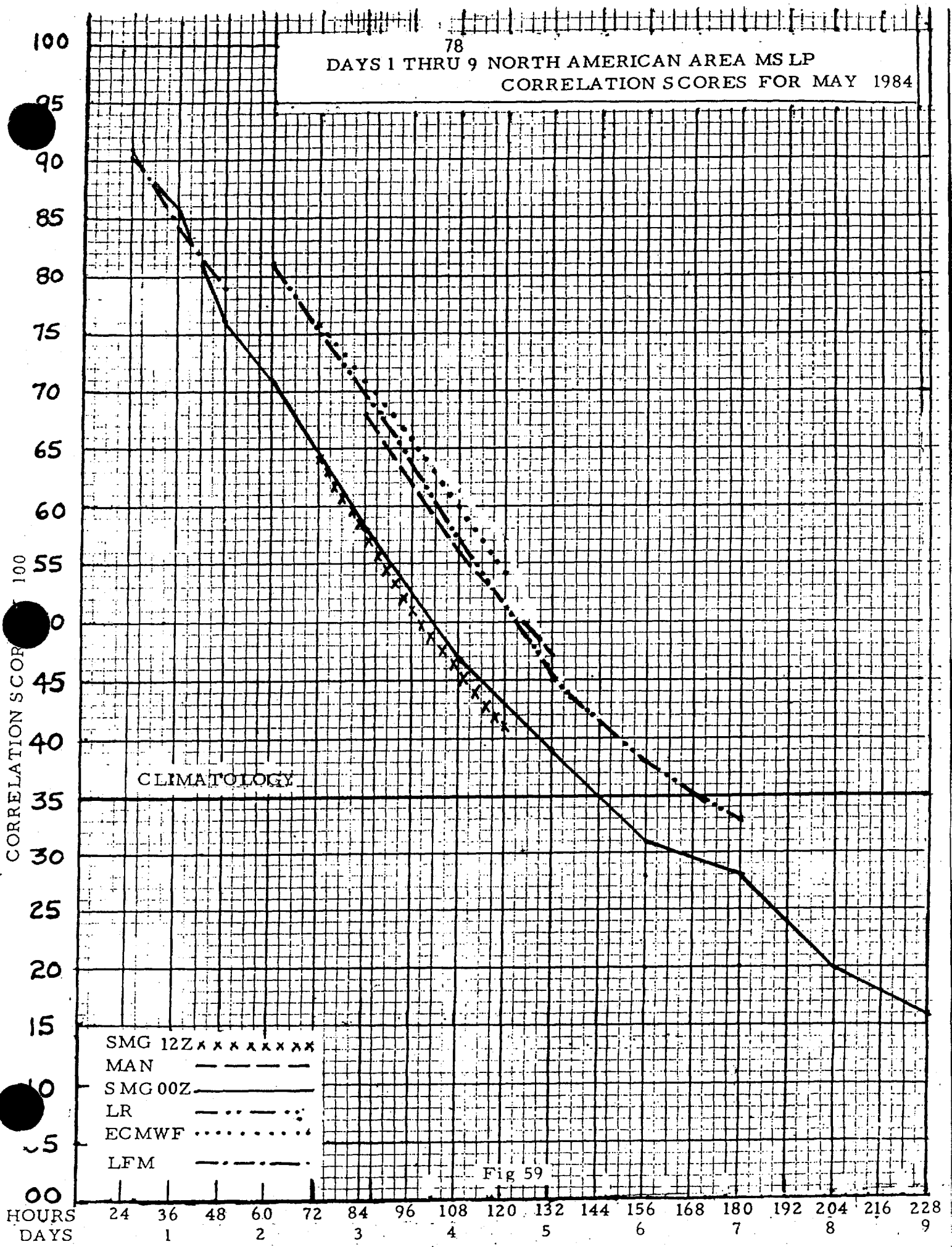
CORRELATION SCORE

HOURS
DAYS

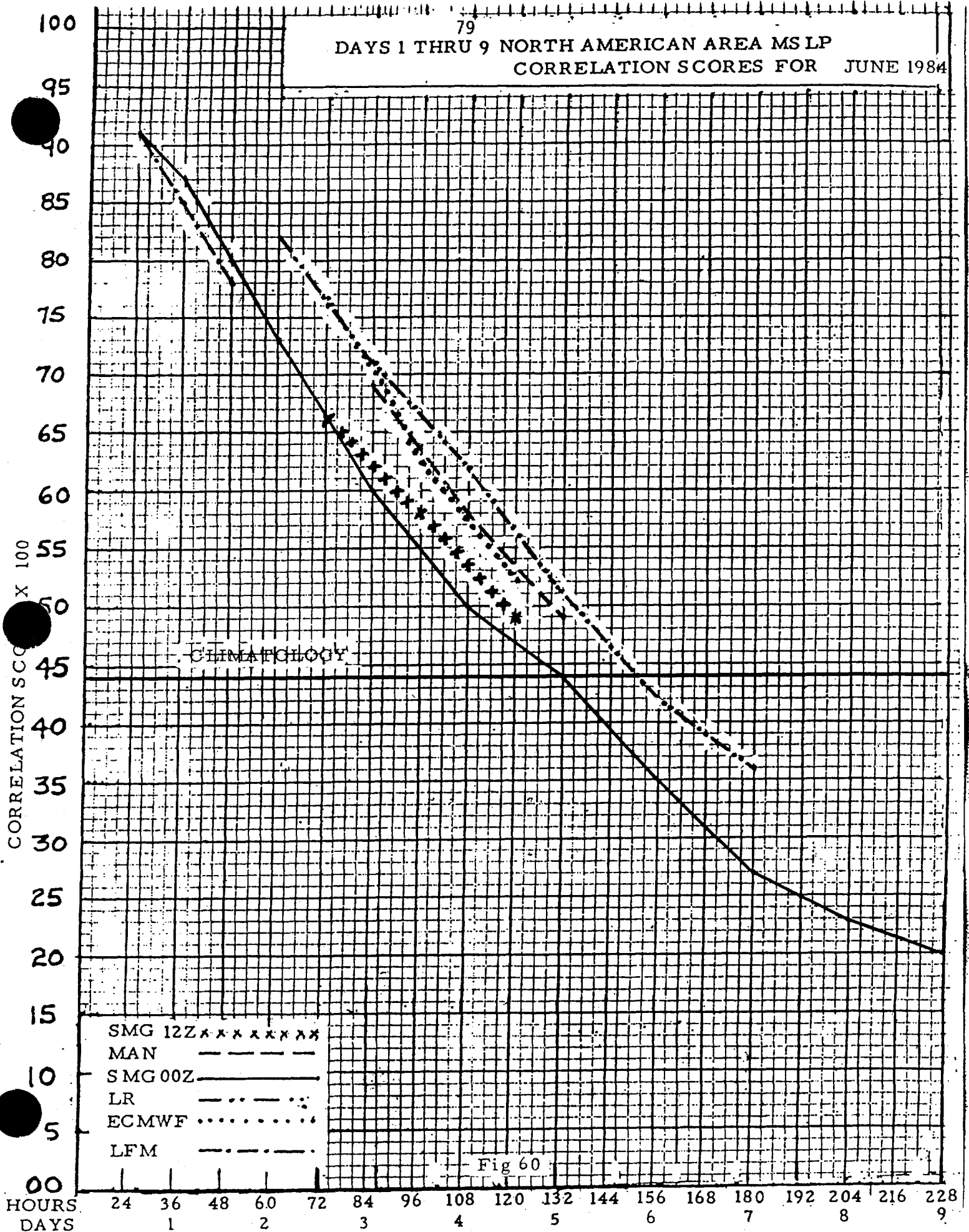
CLIMATOLOGY

SMG 12Z x x x x x x x x
MAN - - - - -
SMG 00Z - - - - -
LR -
ECMWF
LFM -

Fig 59



79
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR JUNE 1984



DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR JULY 84

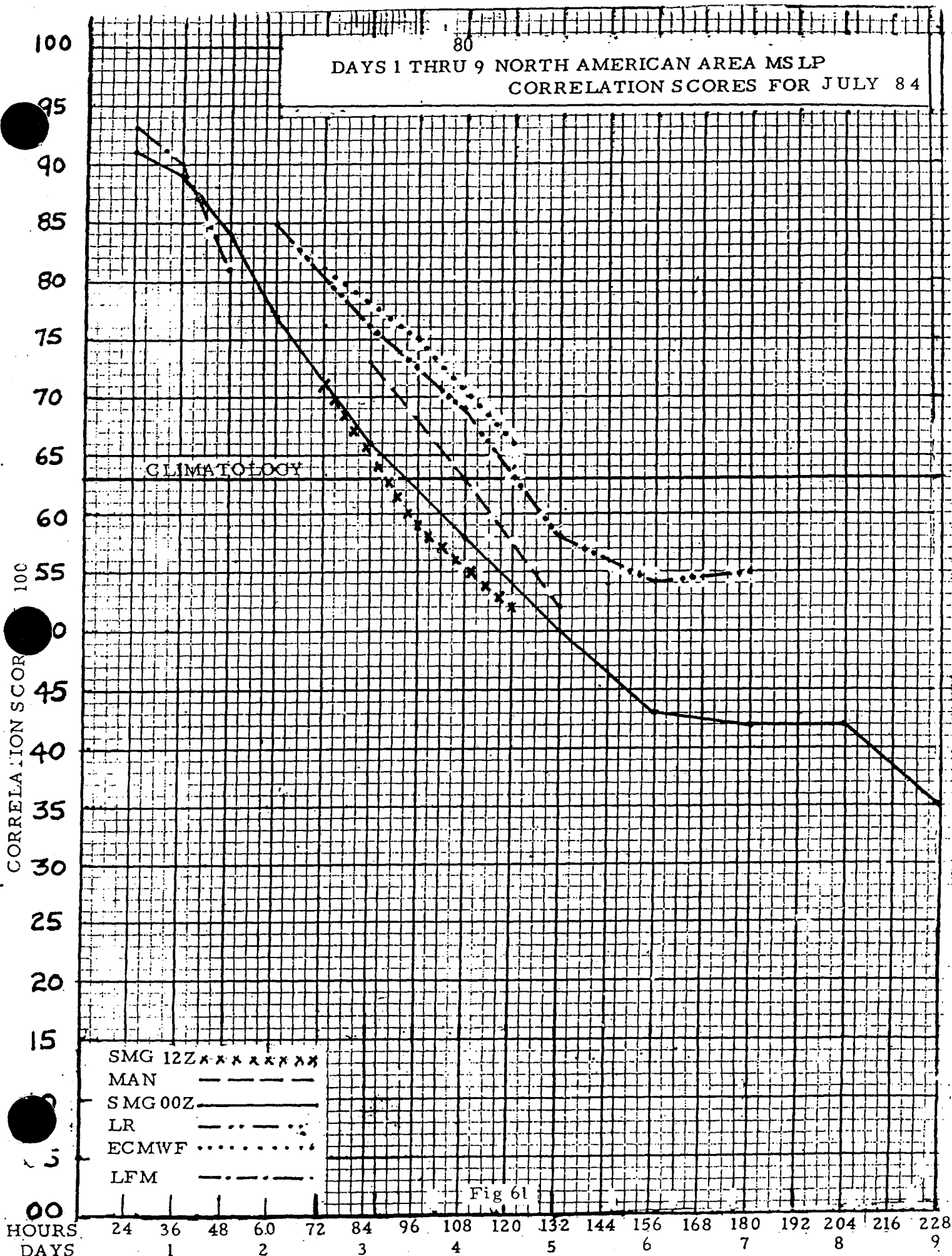
CORRELATION SCORE

HOURS
DAYS

SMG 12Z * * * * *
MAN - - - - -
SMG 00Z - - - - -
LR -
ECMWF
LFM - - - - -

Fig 61

CLIMATOLOGY



81
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR AUG. 84

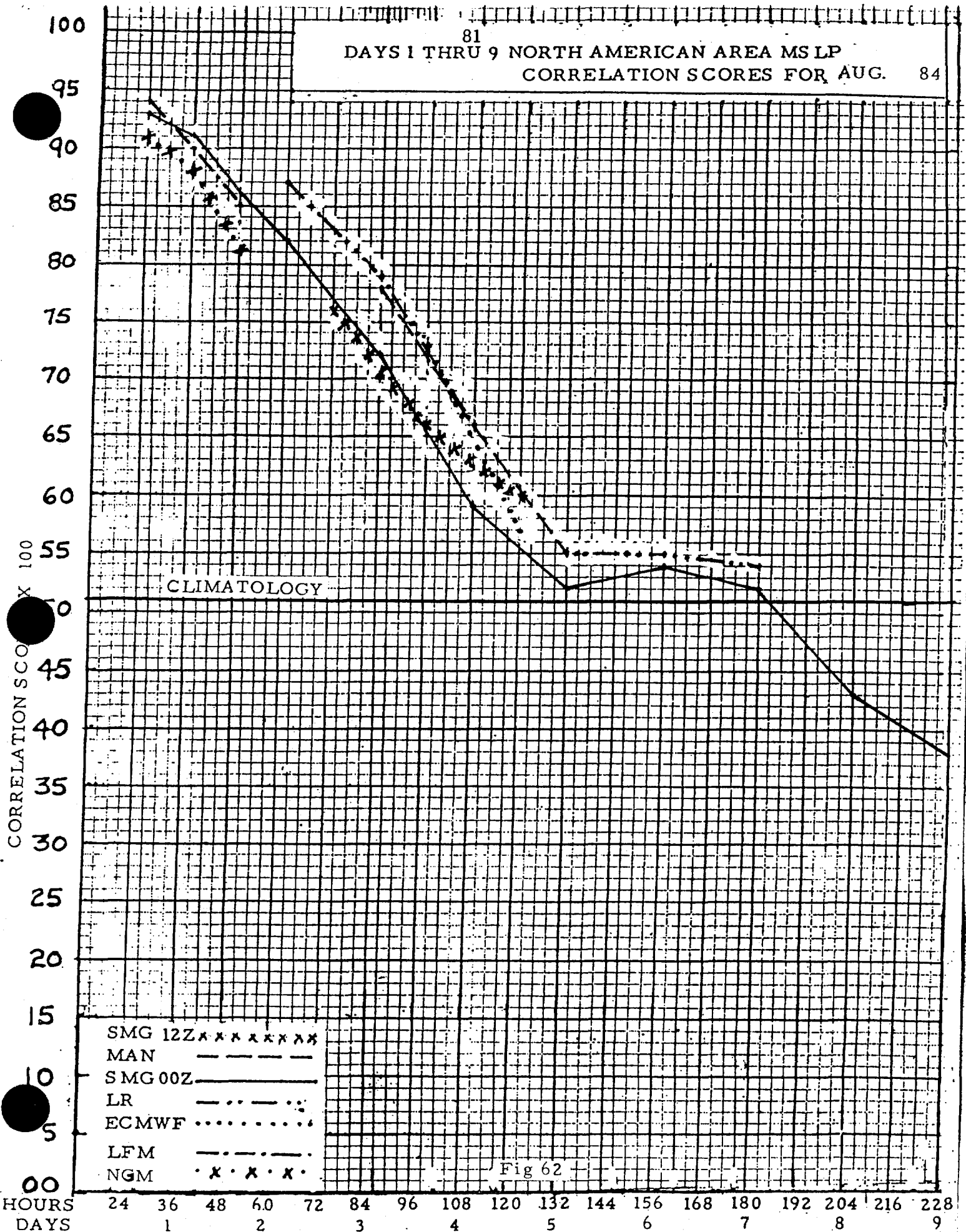


Fig 62

82
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MS LP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR SEP 1984

CORRELATION SCORE X 100

HOURS
DAYS

SMG 12Z x x x x x x x x
MAN - - - - -
SMG 00Z - - - - -
LR - . - . - .
ECMWF
LFM - . - . - .
NGM x . x . x . x .

Fig 63

CLIMATOLOGY

24 36 48 60 72 84 96 108 120 132 144 156 168 180 192 204 216 228
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

83
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MS LP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR OCT. 1984

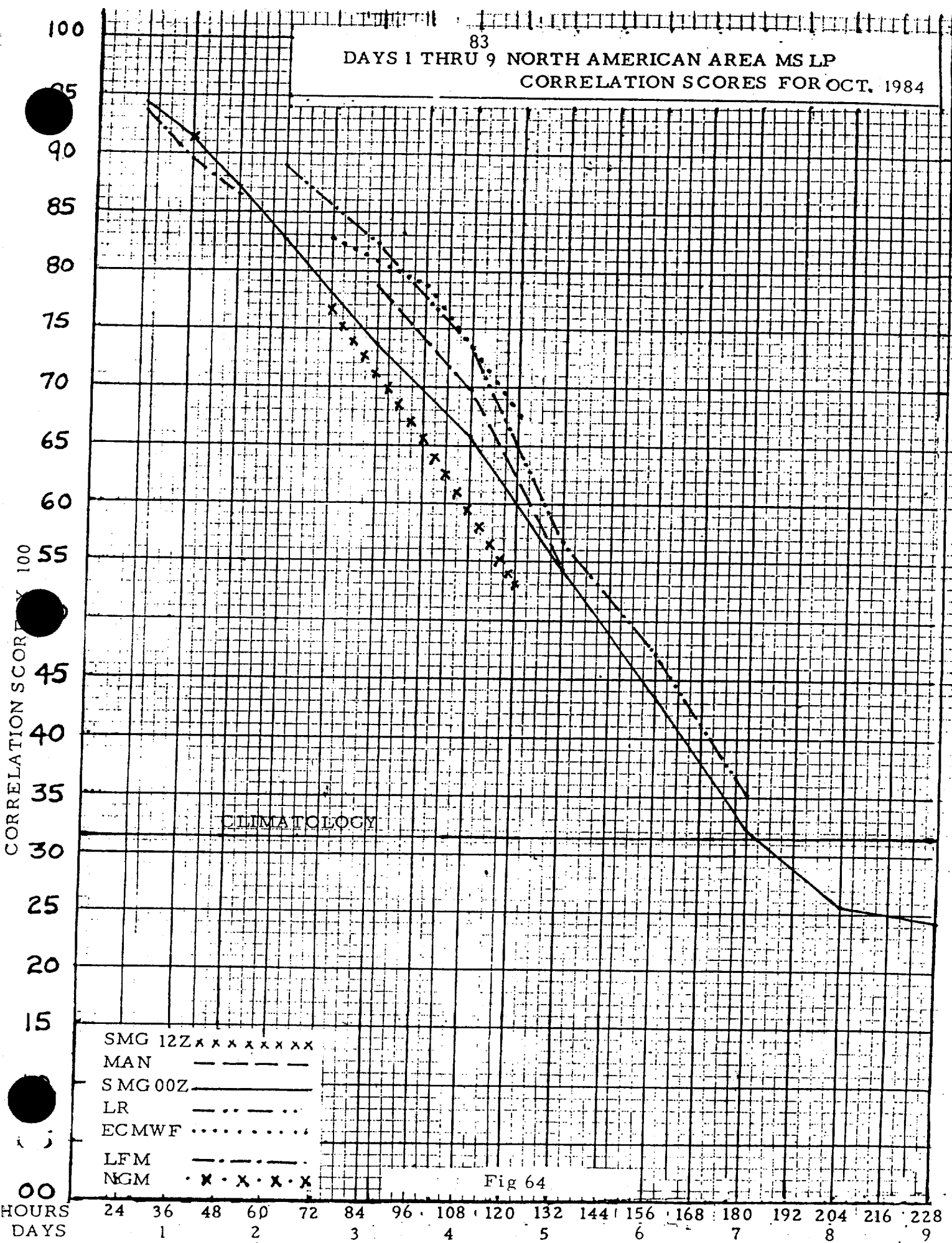
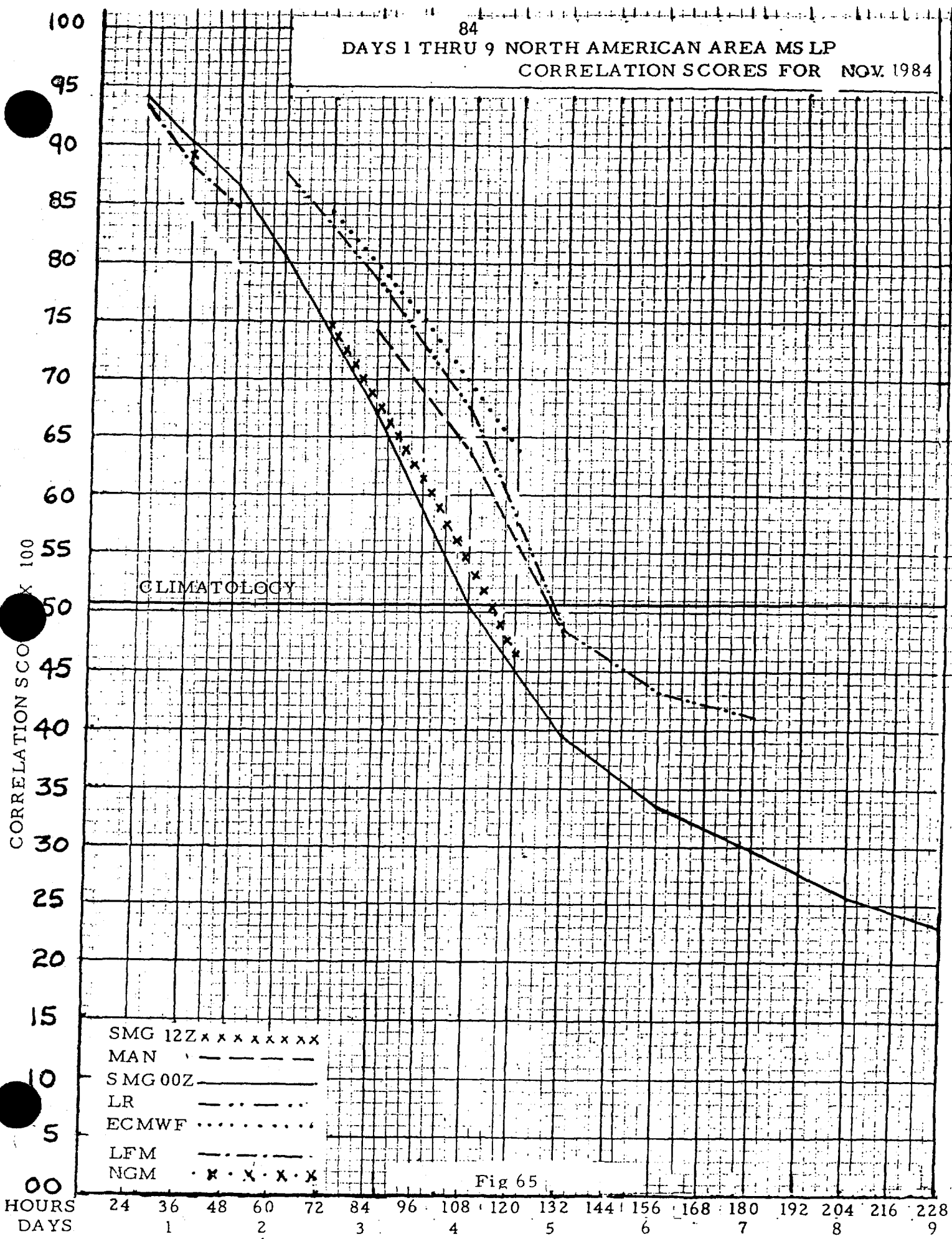


Fig 64



85
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MS LP
CORRELATION SCORES FOR DEC. 1984

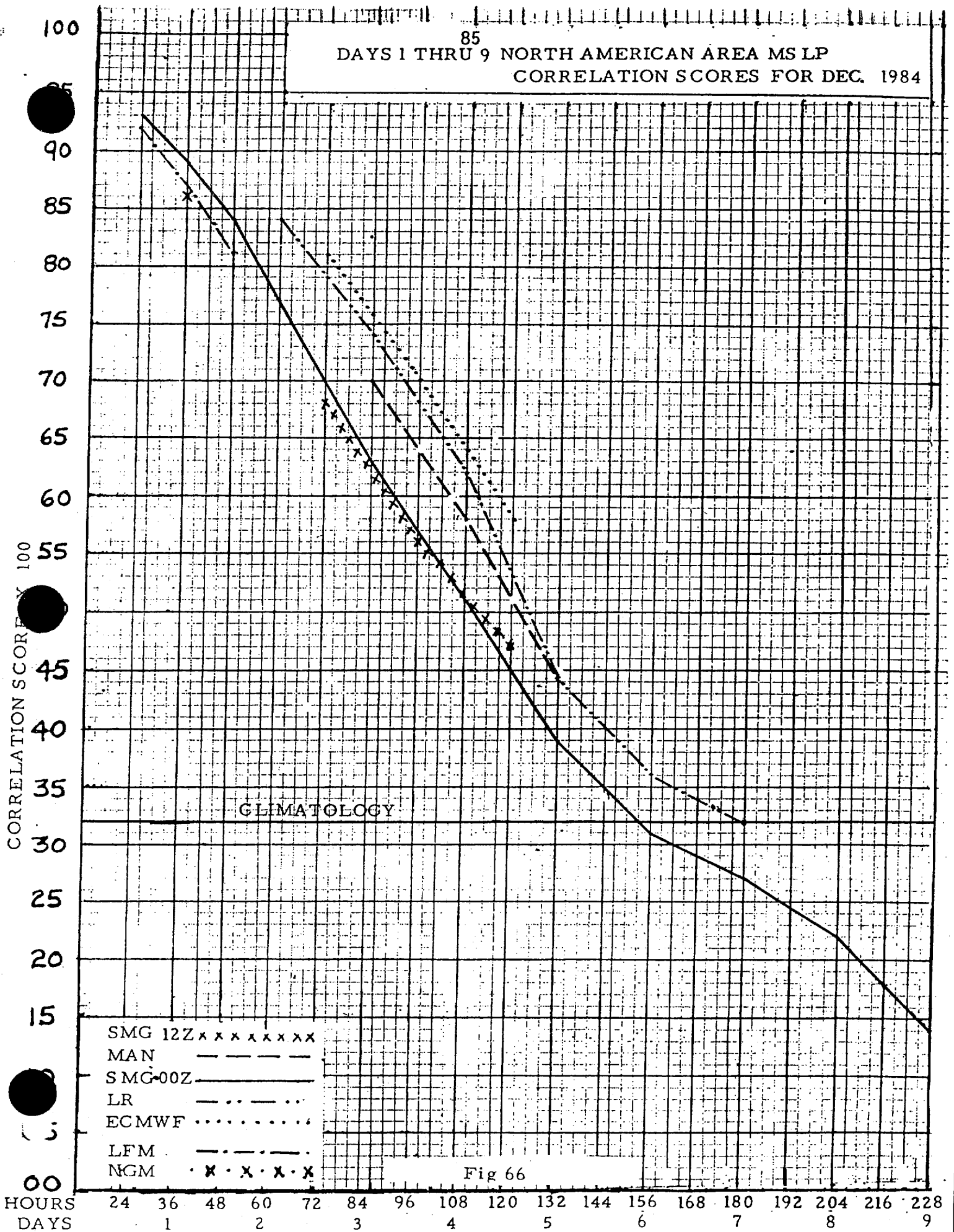


Fig 66

86
DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR
JANUARY 1984

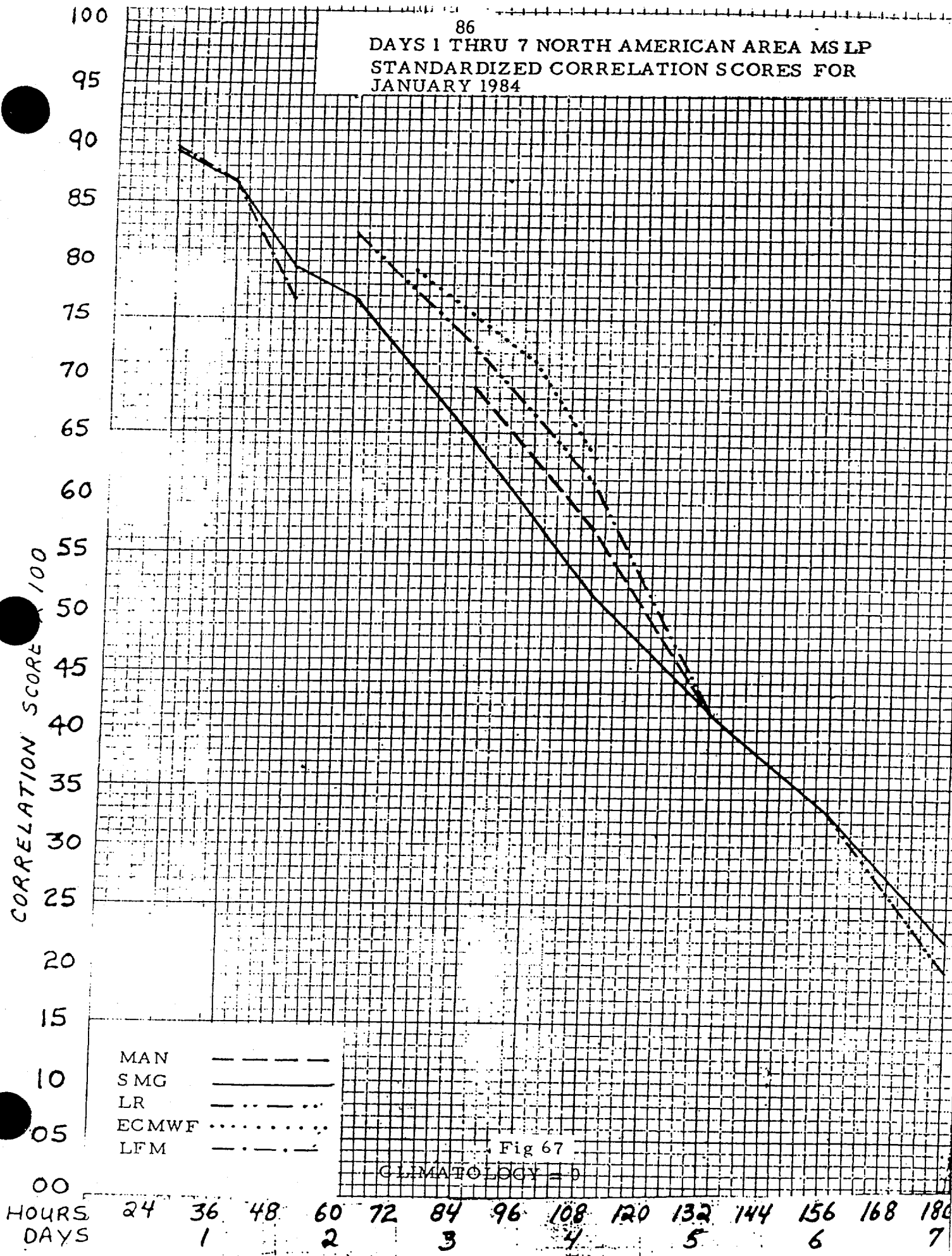
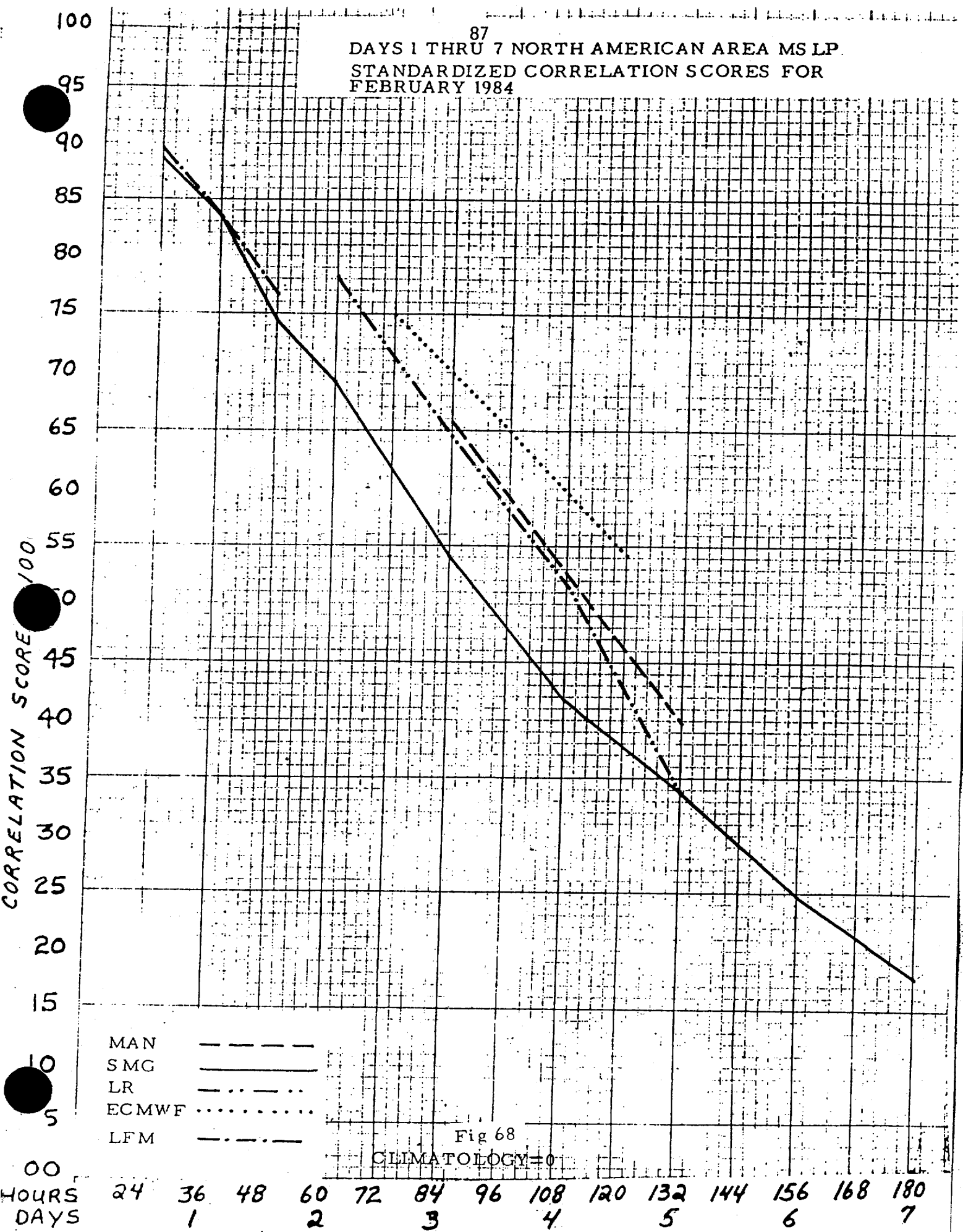


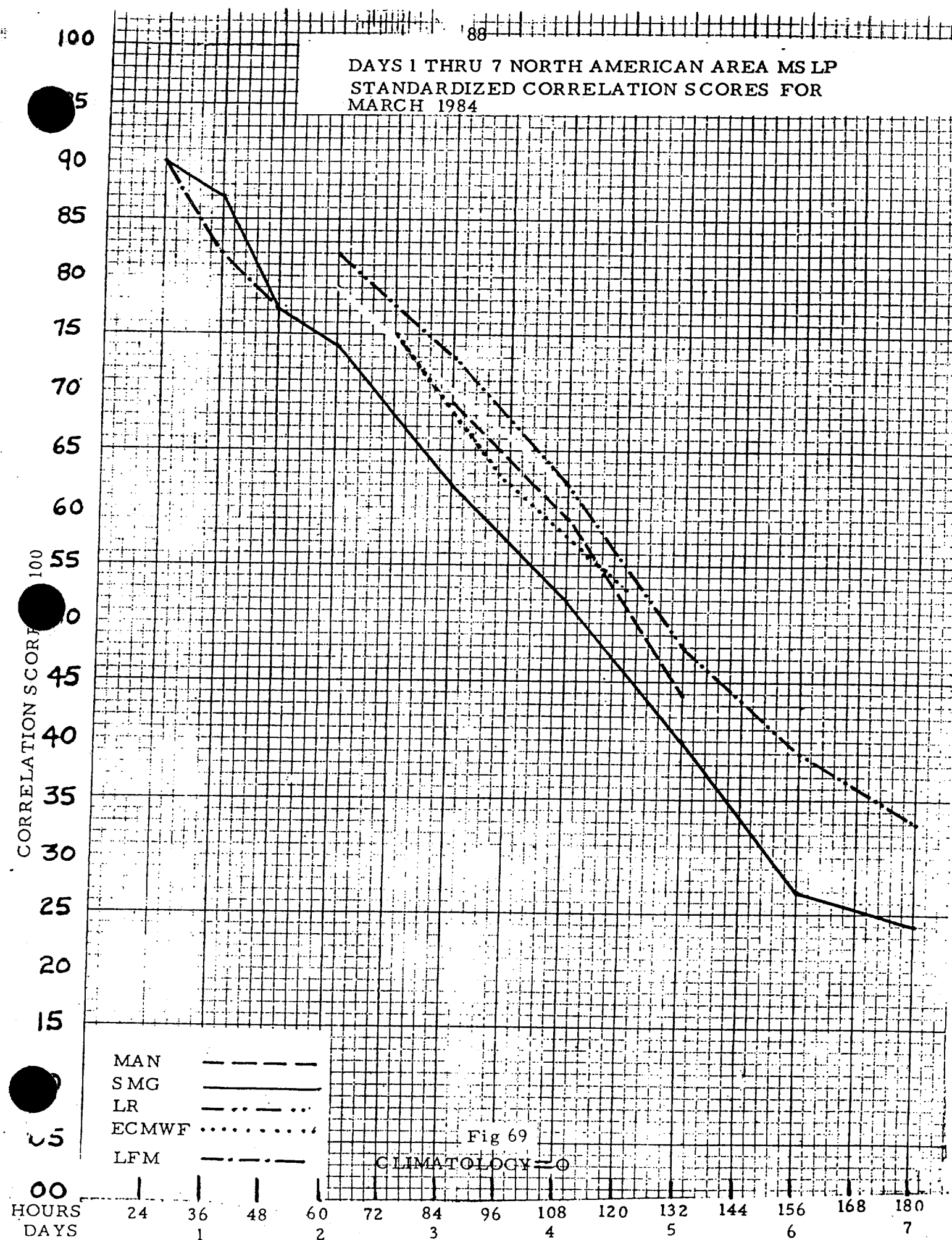
Fig 67

CLIMATOLOGY - 0

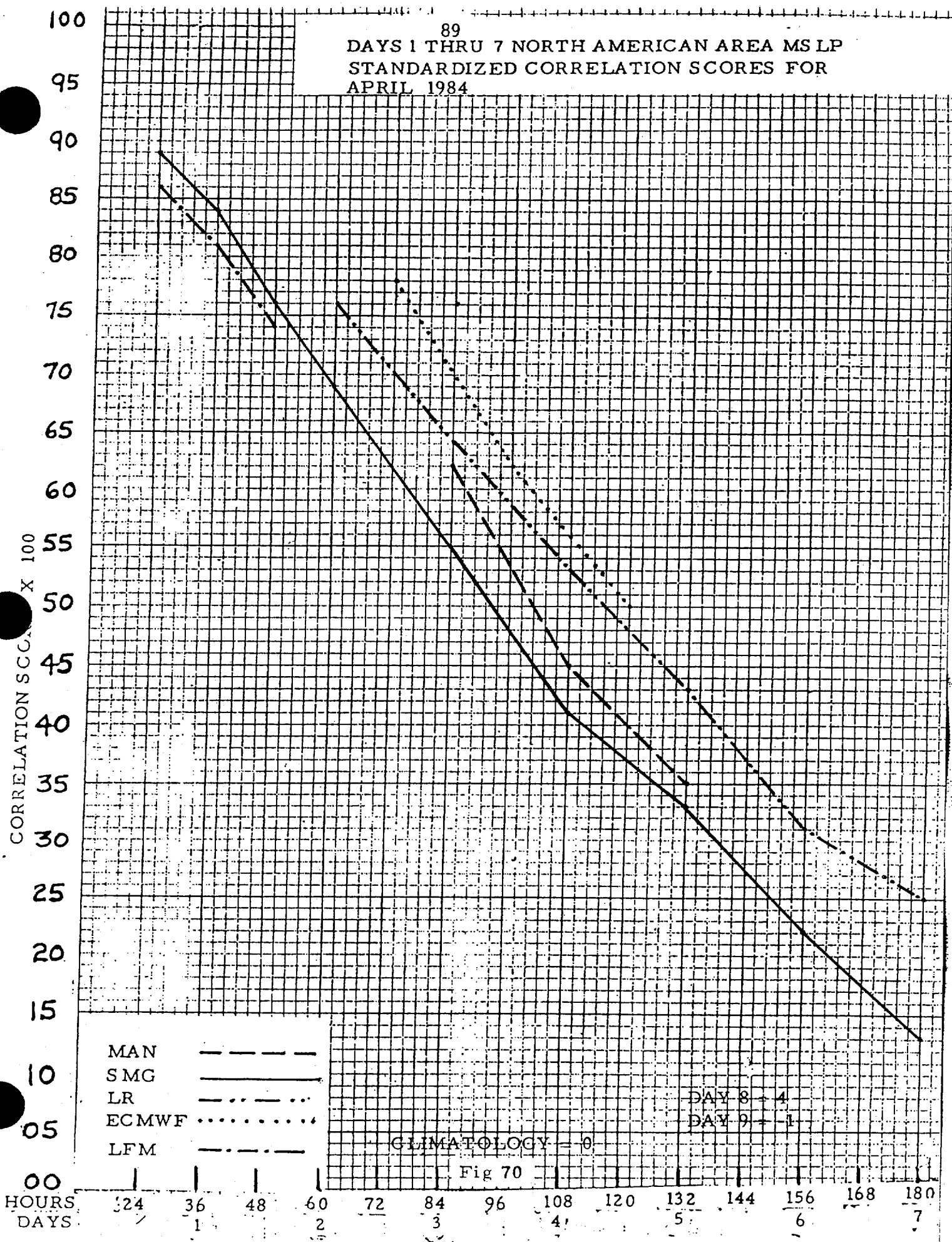
87
DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MS LP
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR
FEBRUARY 1984



DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MS LP
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR
MARCH 1984



89
DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR
APRIL 1984



CLIMATOLOGY = 0

Fig 70

DAY 8 = 4
DAY 9 = 1

DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MS LP
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR MAY 1984

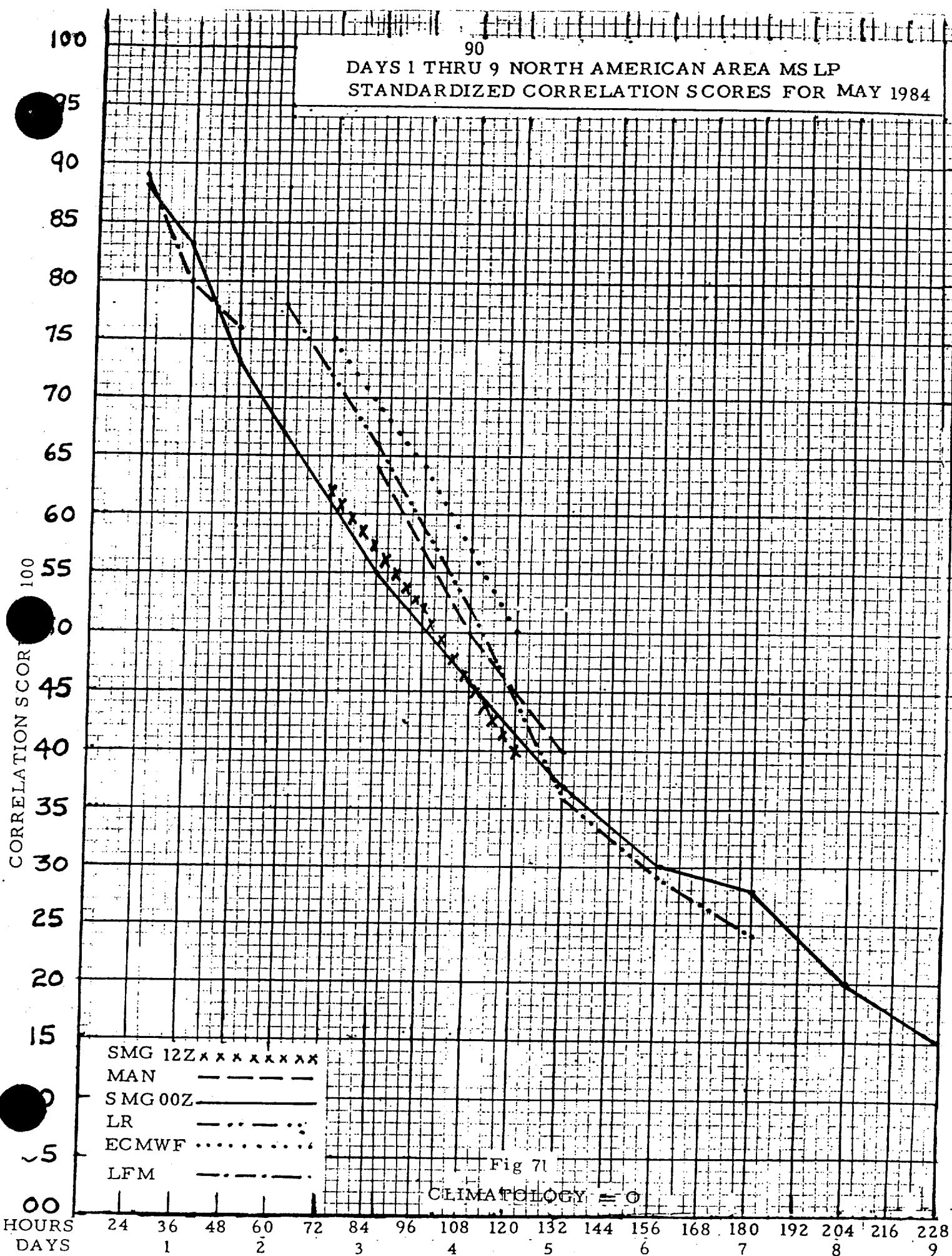


Fig 71

CLIMATOLOGY = 0

91
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR JUNE 1984

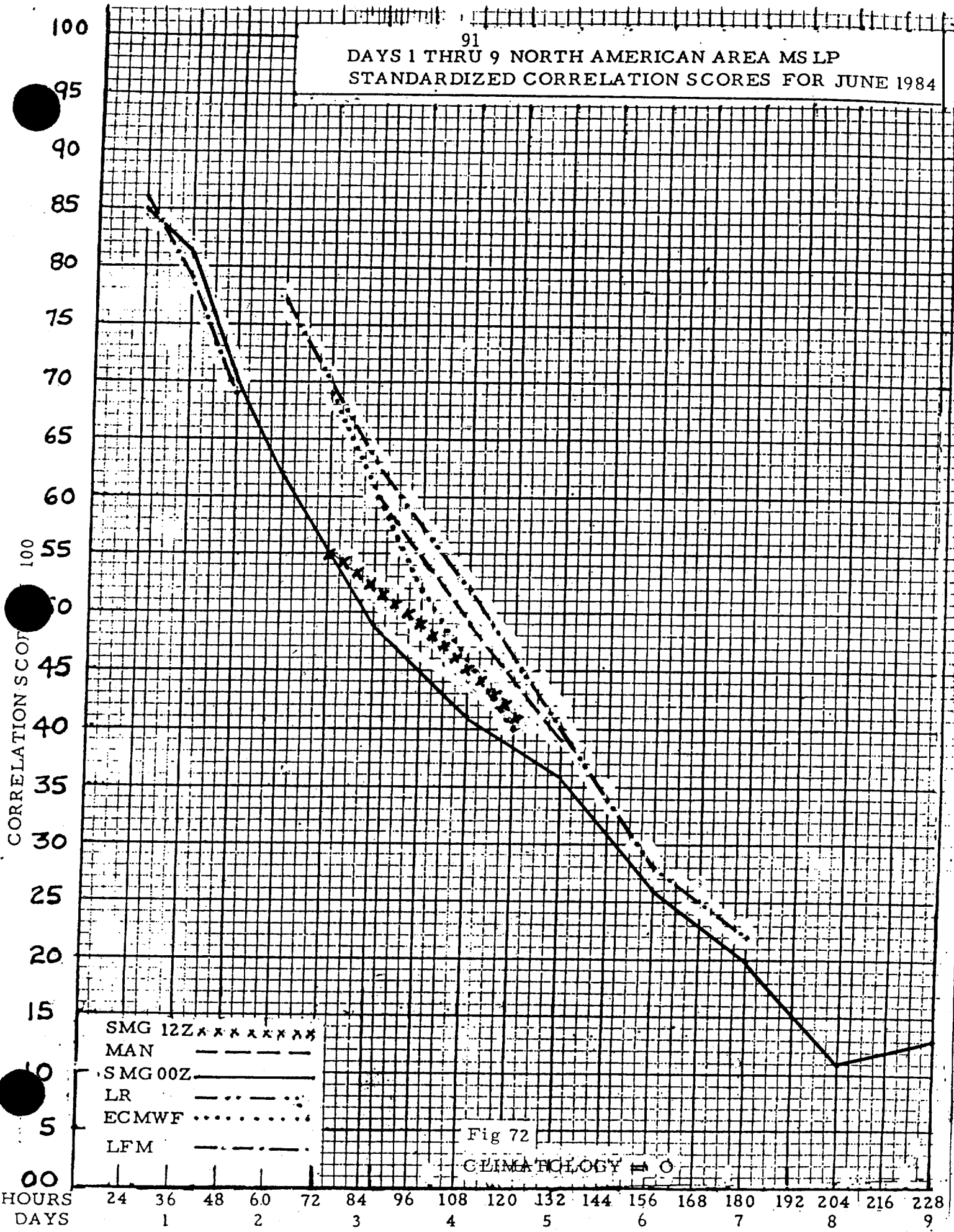


Fig 72

CLIMATOLOGY = O

93
 DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
 STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR AUG. 84

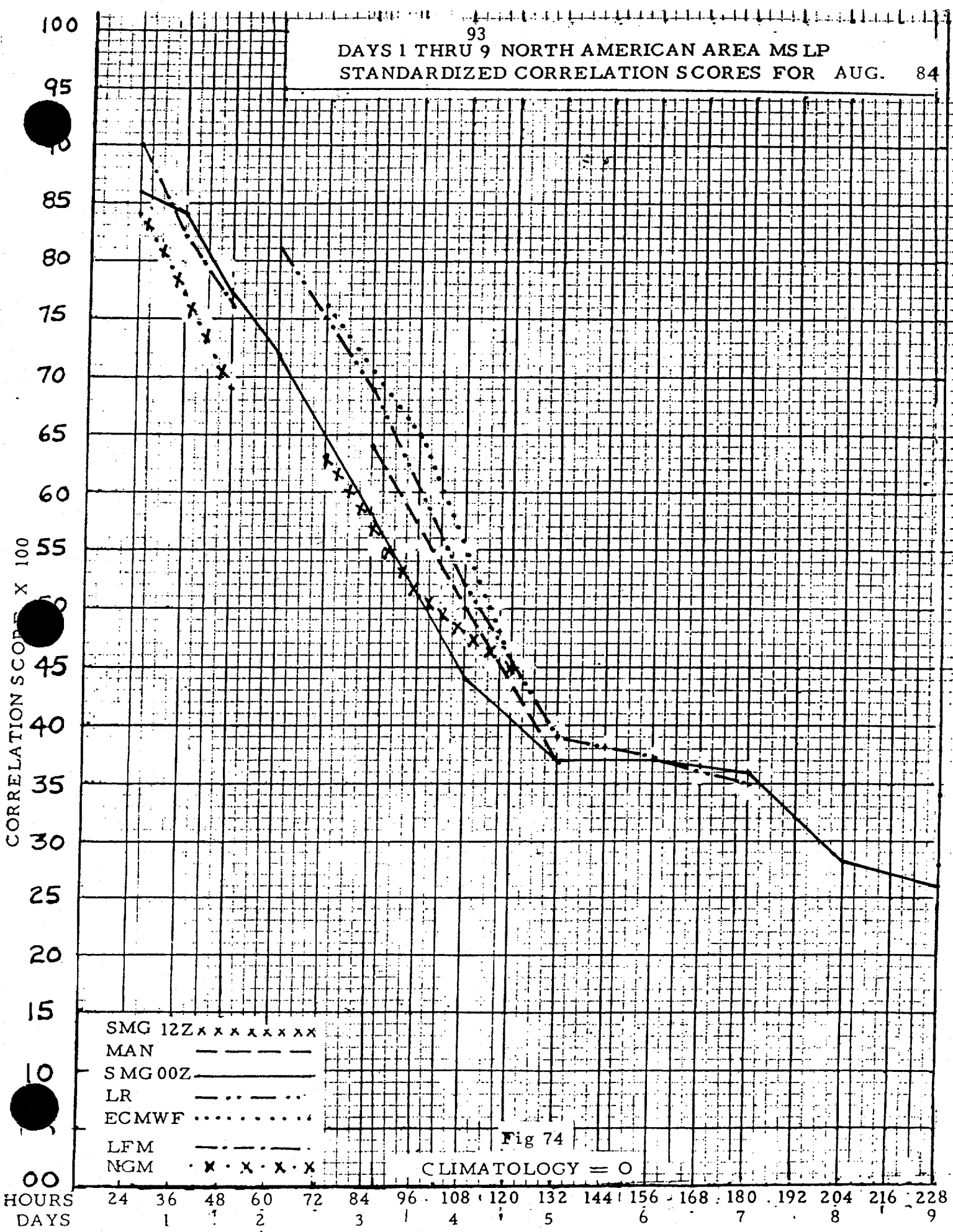


Fig 74

CLIMATOLOGY = 0

94
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR SEP 1984

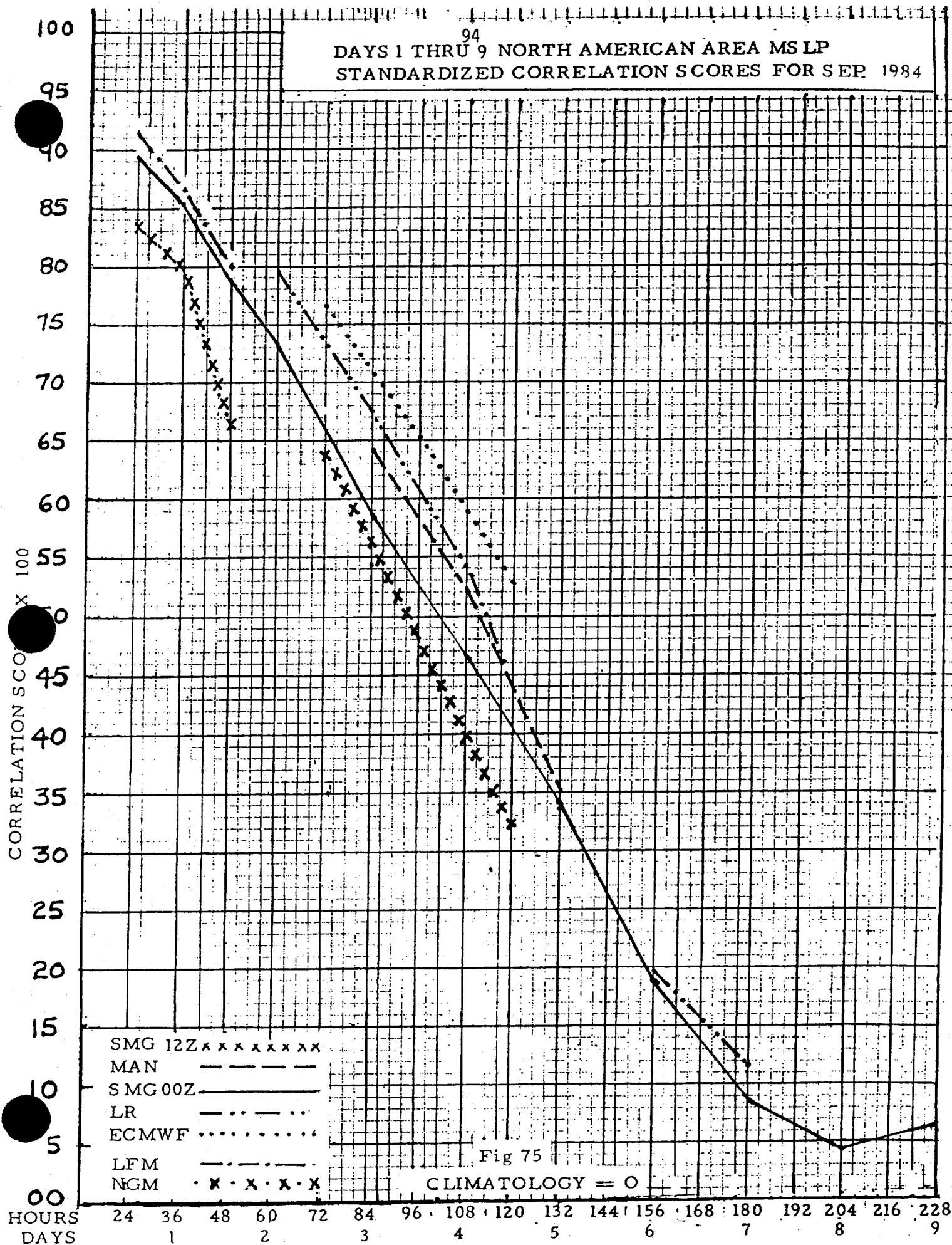


Fig 75

CLIMATOLOGY = 0

95

DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR OCT. 1984

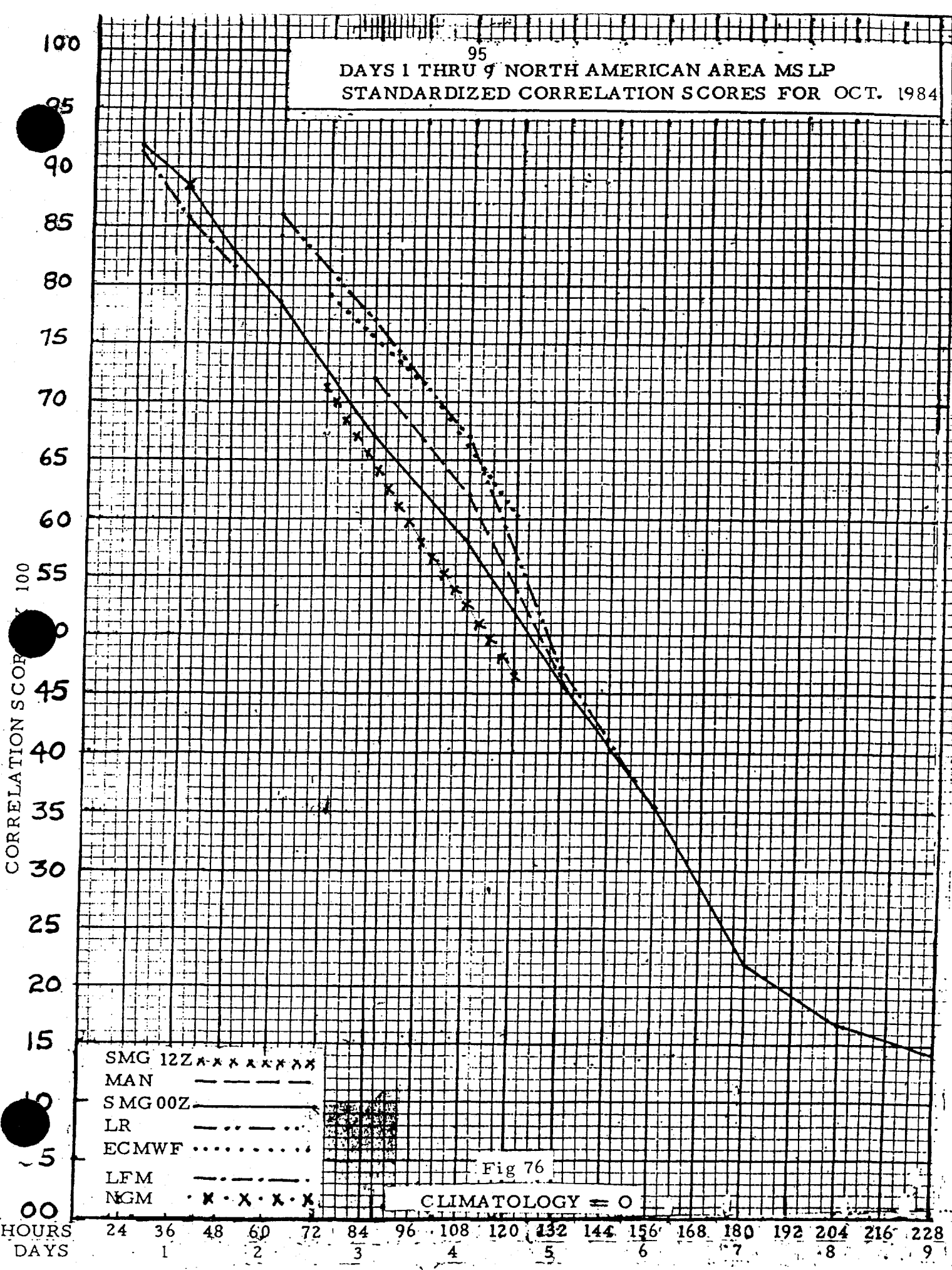
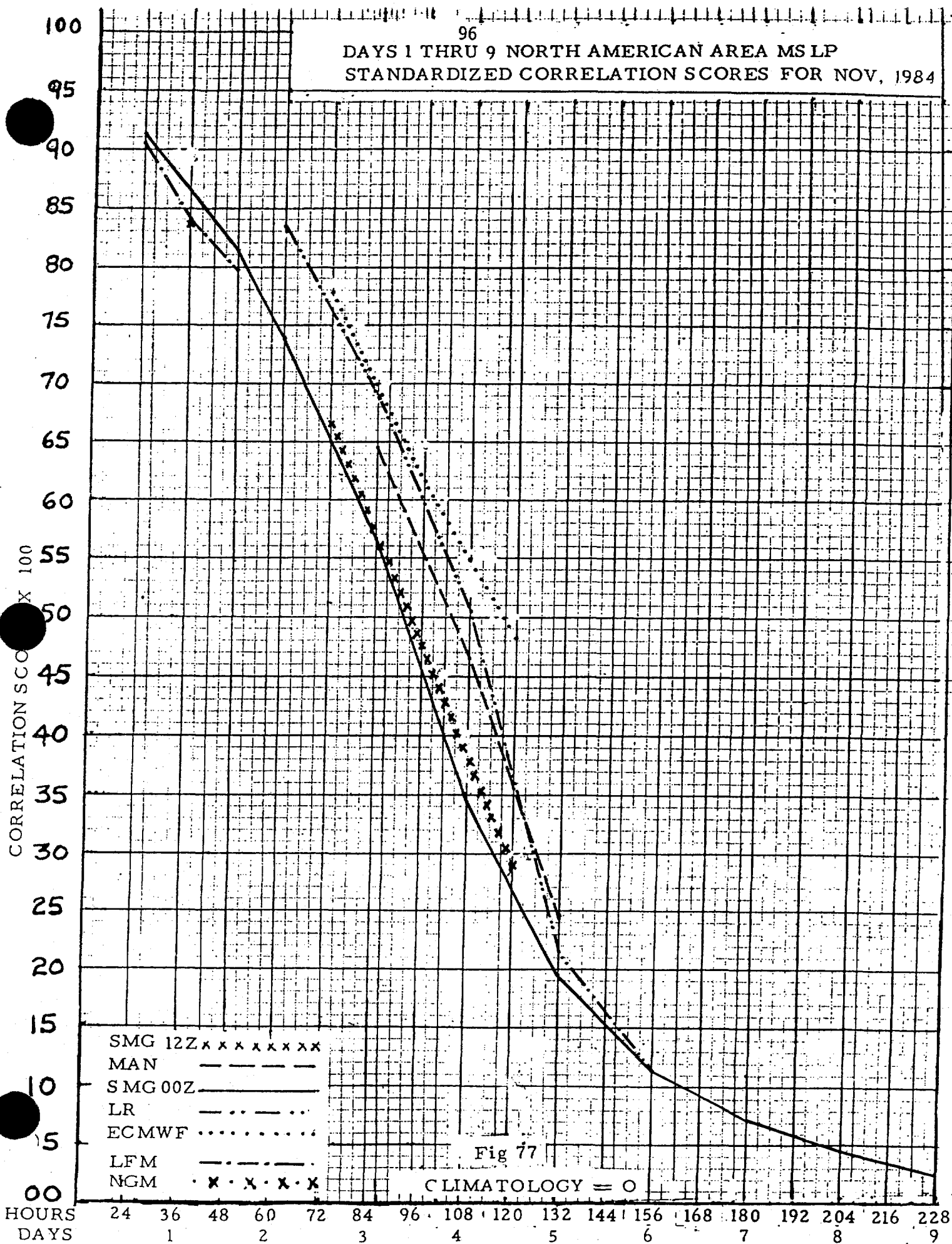


Fig 76

CLIMATOLOGY = 0



97
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA MSLP
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR DEC. 1984

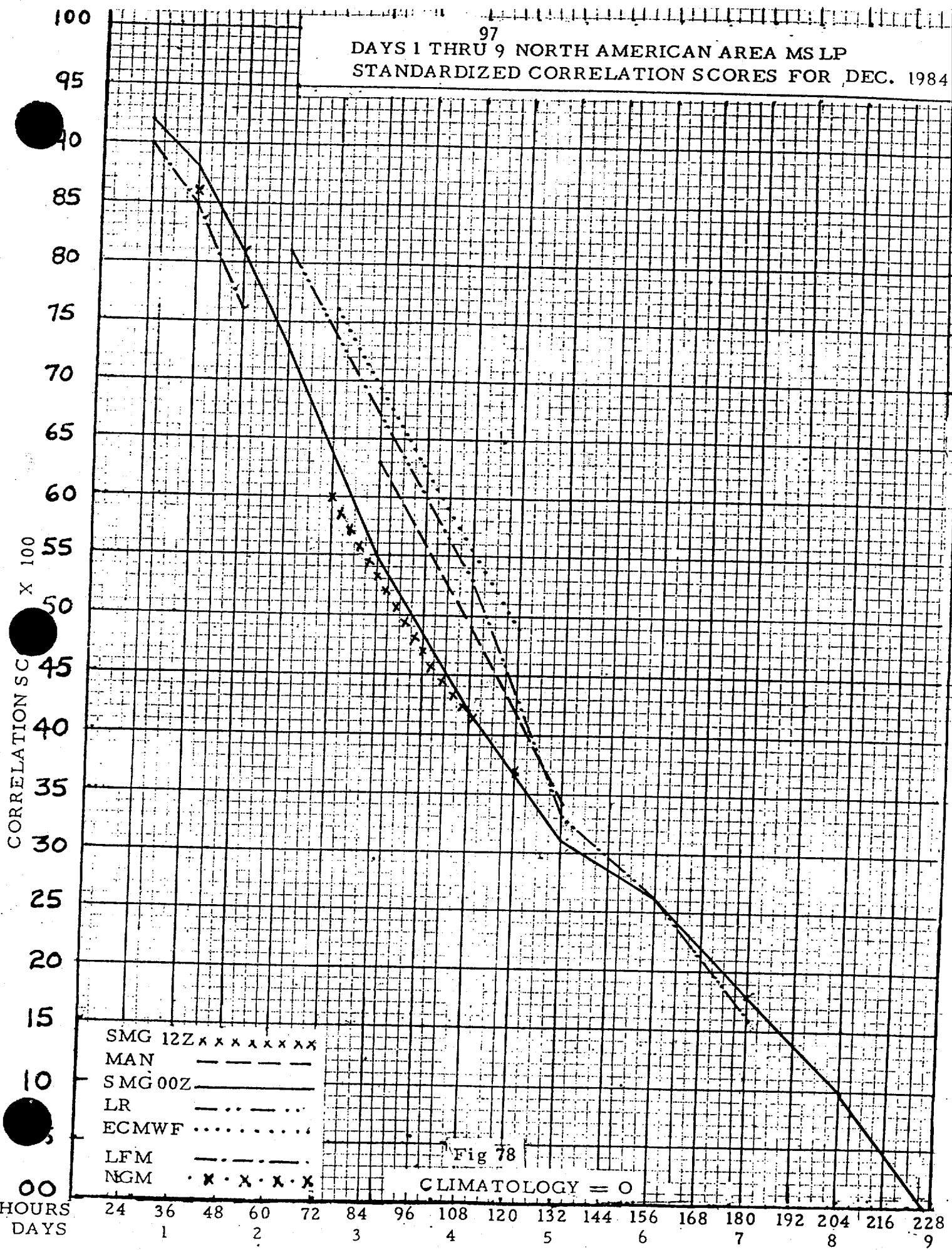


Fig 78

98
 DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA
 STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR
 JANUARY 1984

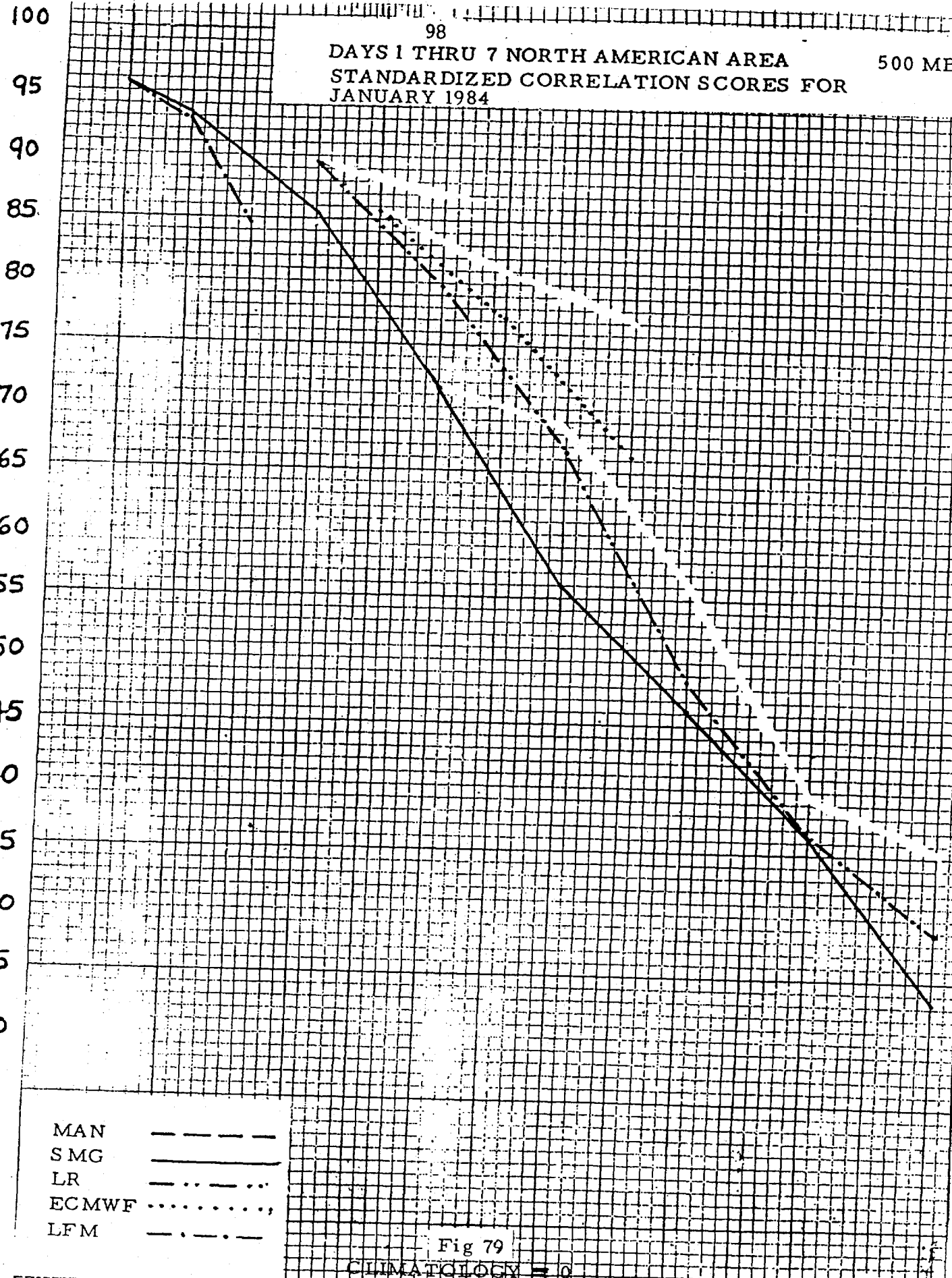
500 MB

CORRELATION SCORE X 100

MAN ---
 SMG ———
 LR - - -
 ECMWF
 LFM - . - .

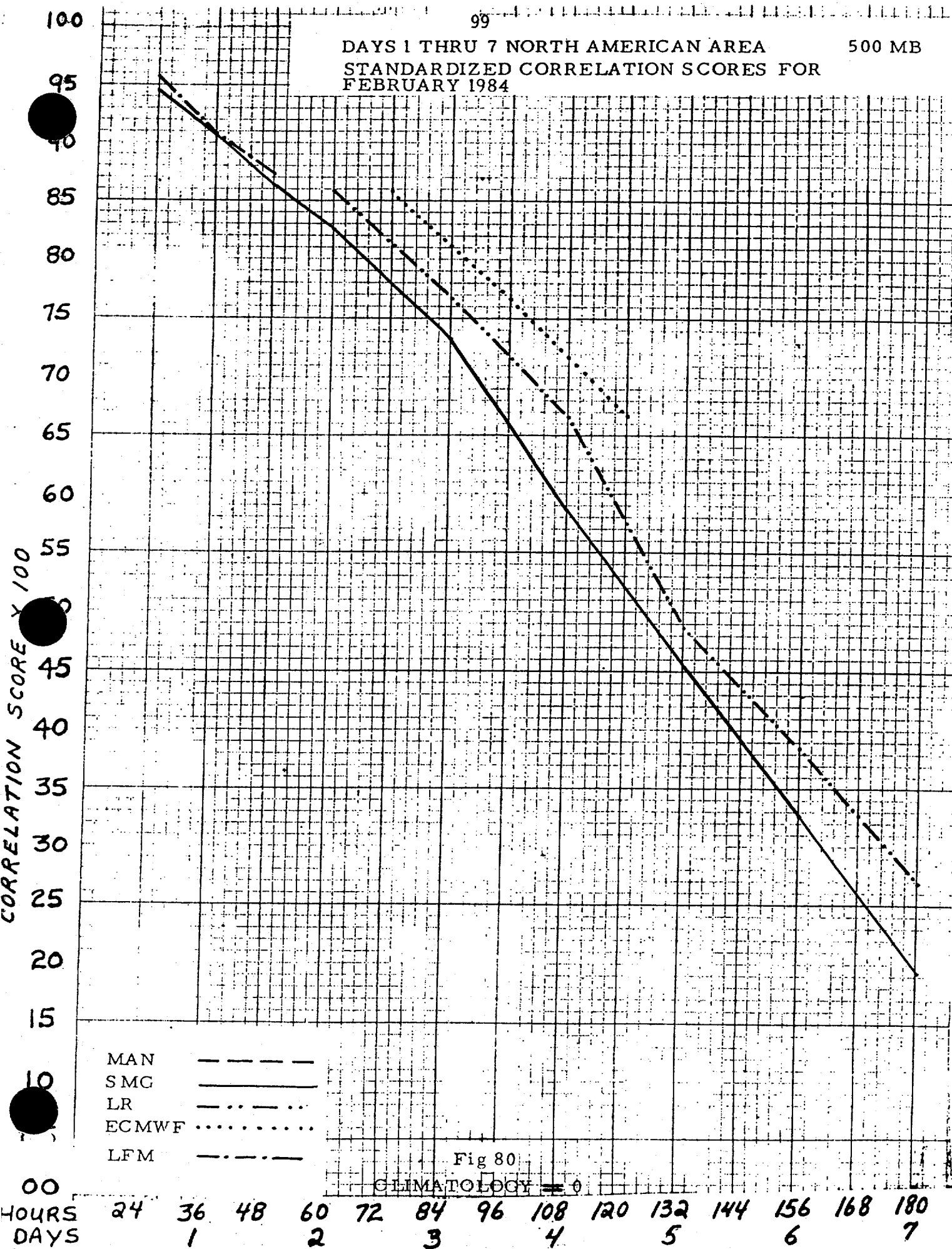
Fig 79
 CLIMATOLOGY = 0

HOURS 24 36 48 60 72 84 96 108 120 132 144 156 168 180
 DAYS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR
FEBRUARY 1984

500 MB



100
DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR
MARCH 1984

500 MB

CORRELATION SCORE

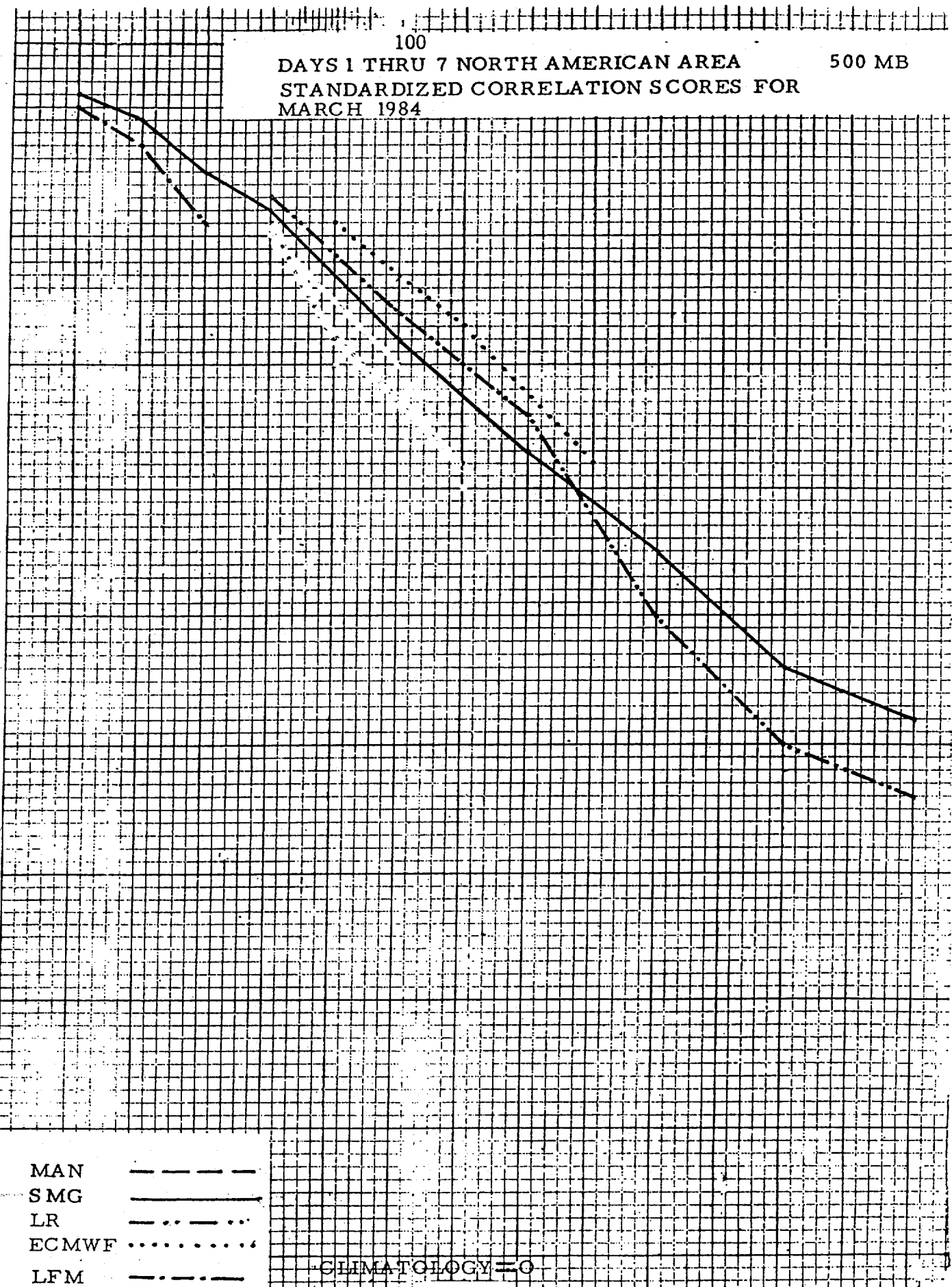
HOURS
DAYS

MAN
SMG
LR
ECMWF
LFM

CLIMATOLOGY = 0

Fig 8

24 36 48 60 72 84 96 108 120 132 144 156 168 180
1 2 3 4 5 6 7



101
DAYS 1 THRU 7 NORTH AMERICAN AREA
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR
APRIL 1984

500 MB

CORRELATION SCORE X 100

HOURS
DAYS

MAN
SMG
LR
ECMWF
LFM

CLIMATOLOGY = 0

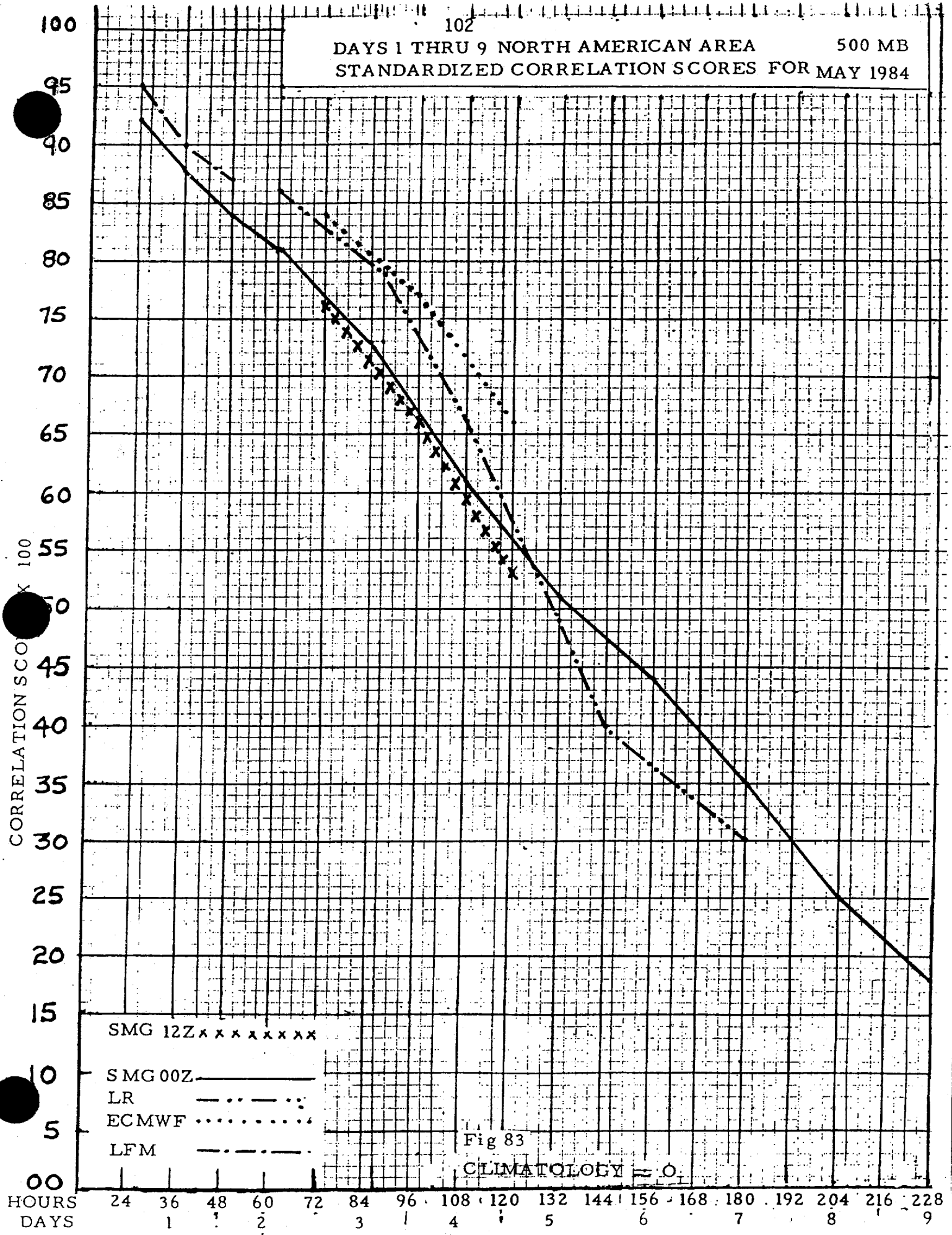
Fig 82

DAY 8 = 15
DAY 9 = 7

24 36 48 60 72 84 96 108 120 132 144 156 168 180
1 2 3 4 5 6 7



DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA
500 MB
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR MAY 1984



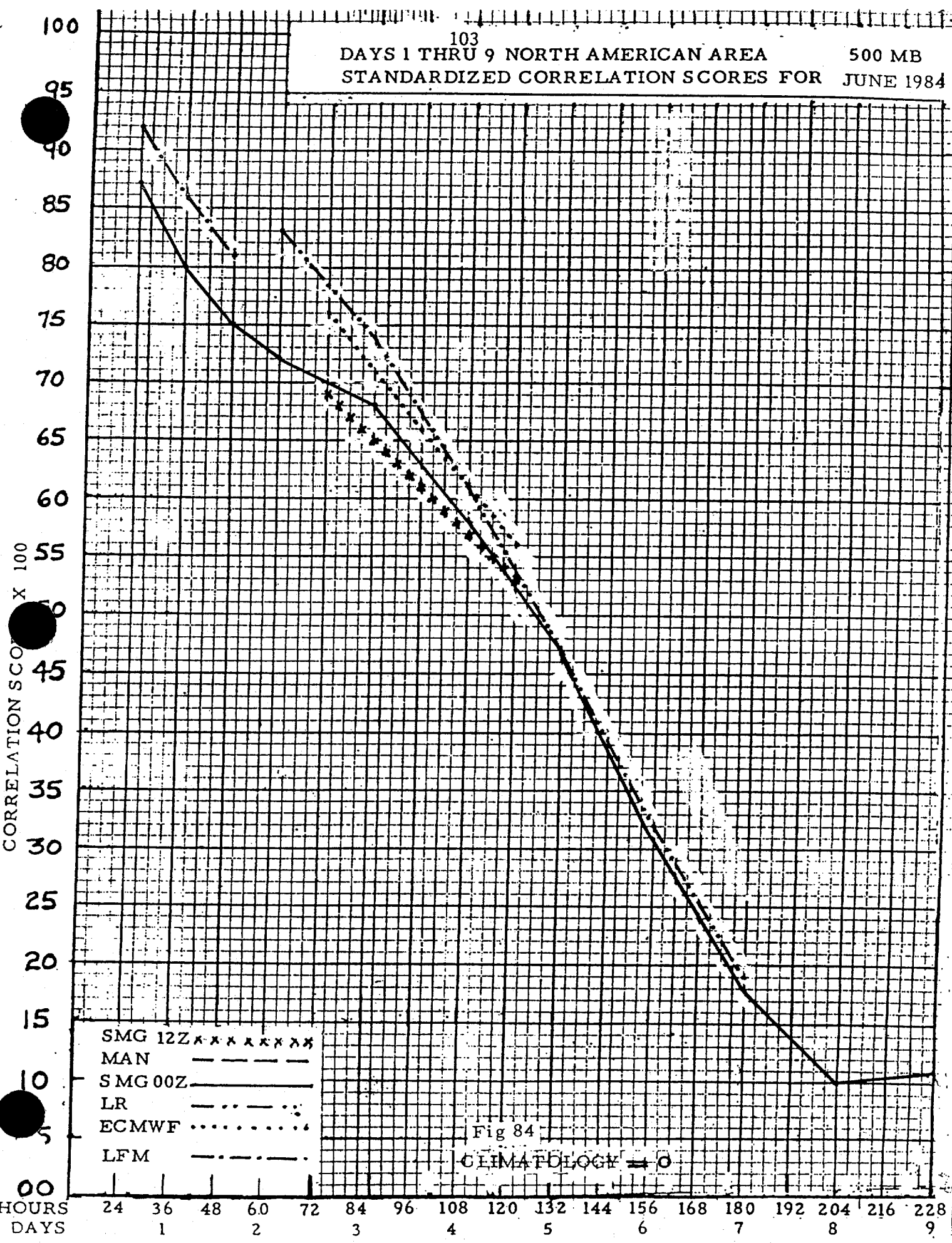
103
 DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA
 STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR JUNE 1984

CORRELATION SCORE X 100

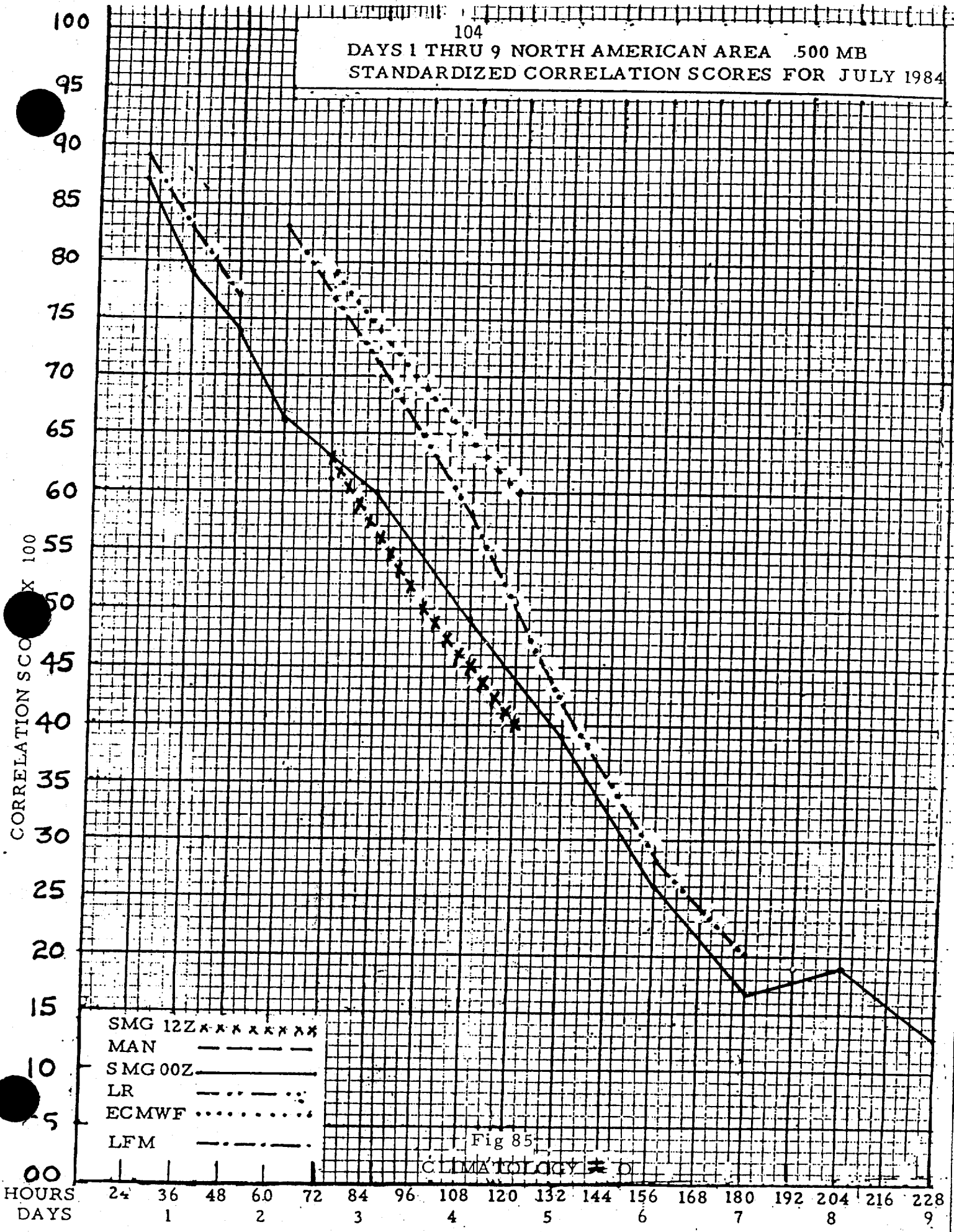
HOURS
DAYS

- SMG 12Z x x x x x x x x
- MAN — — — — —
- SMG 00Z — — — — —
- LR - - - - -
- ECMWF
- LFM -

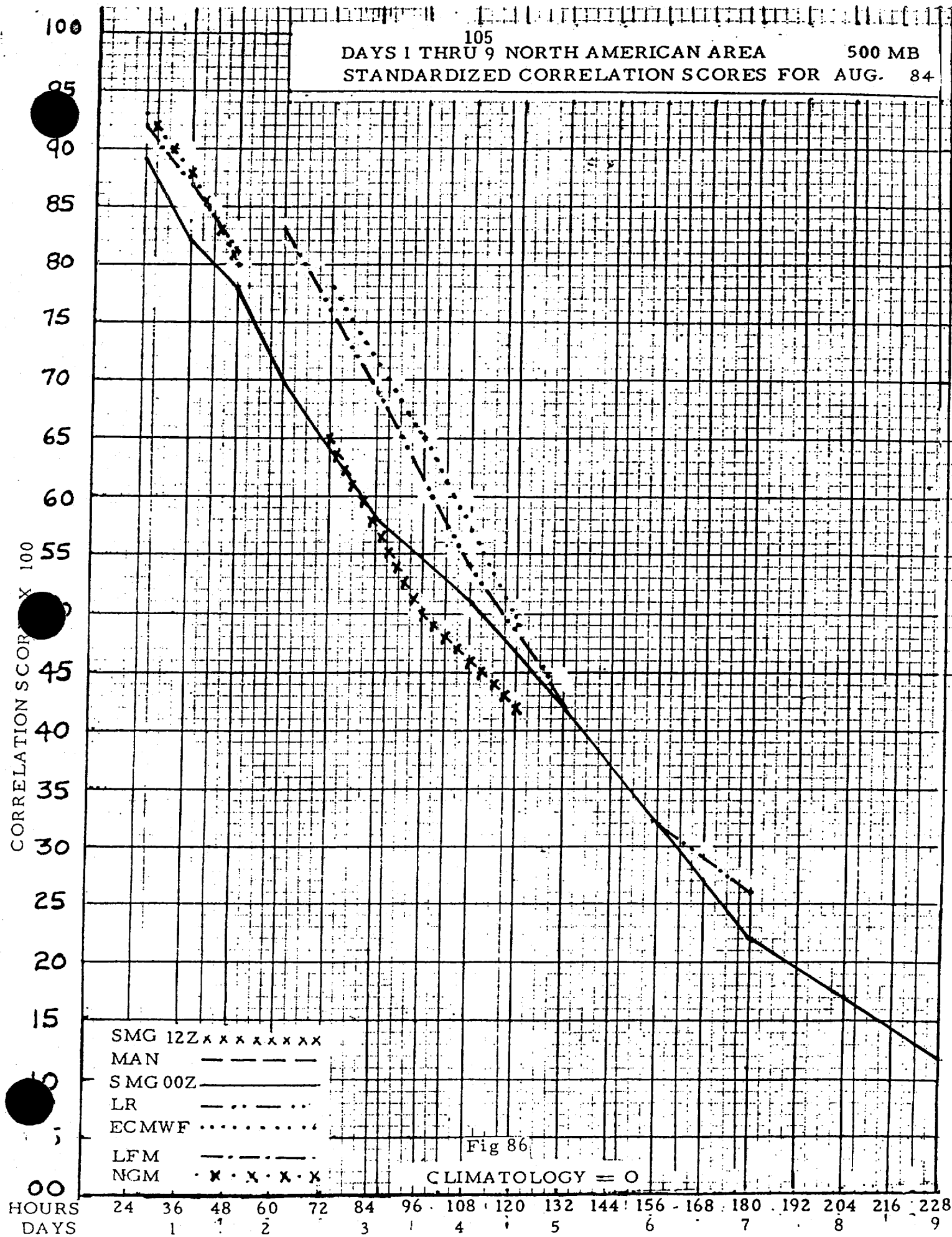
Fig 84
 CLIMATOLOGY = 0



104
 DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA .500 MB
 STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR JULY 1984



105
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA 500 MB
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR AUG. 84



106
 DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA 500 MB
 STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR SEP 1984

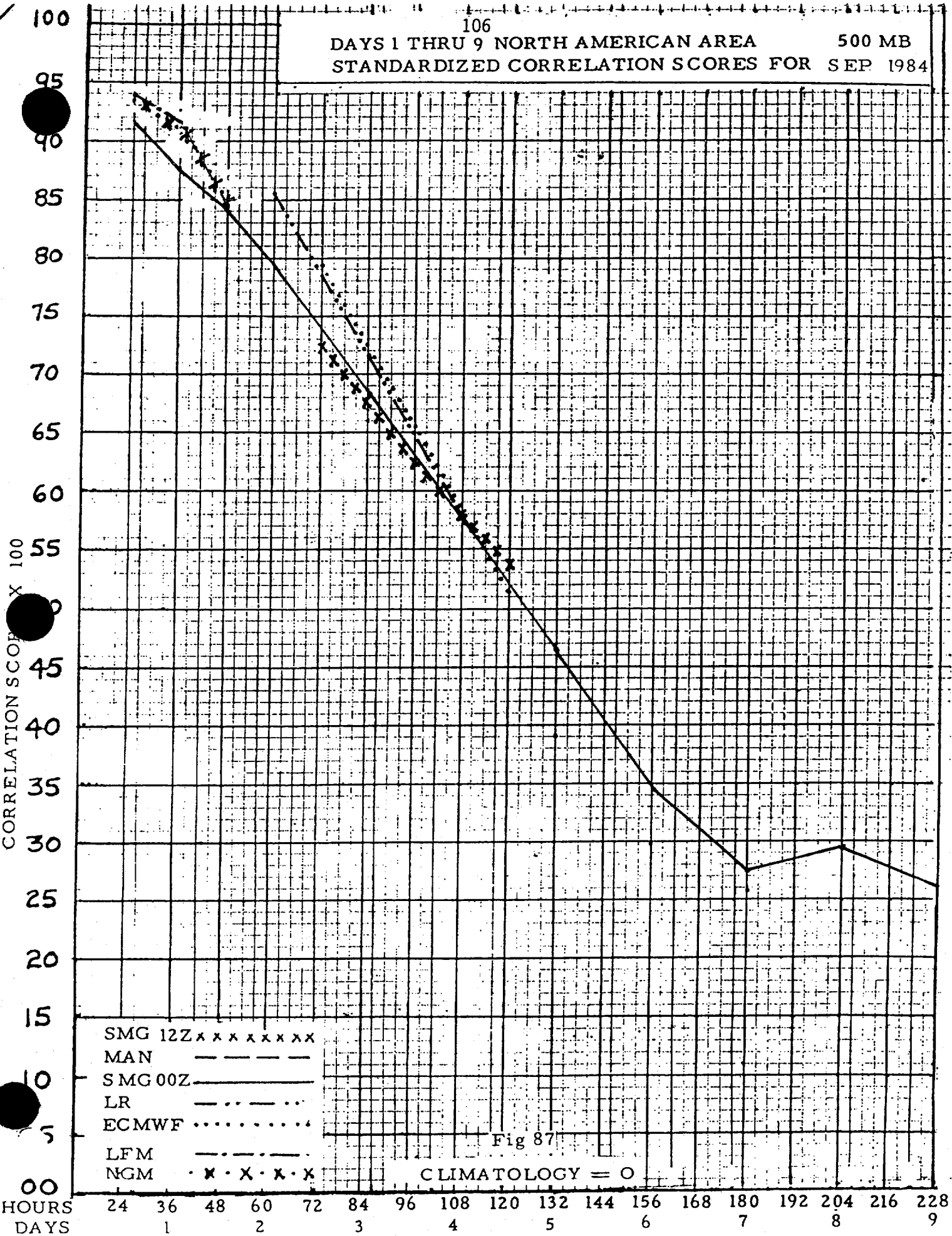
CORRELATION SCORE X 100

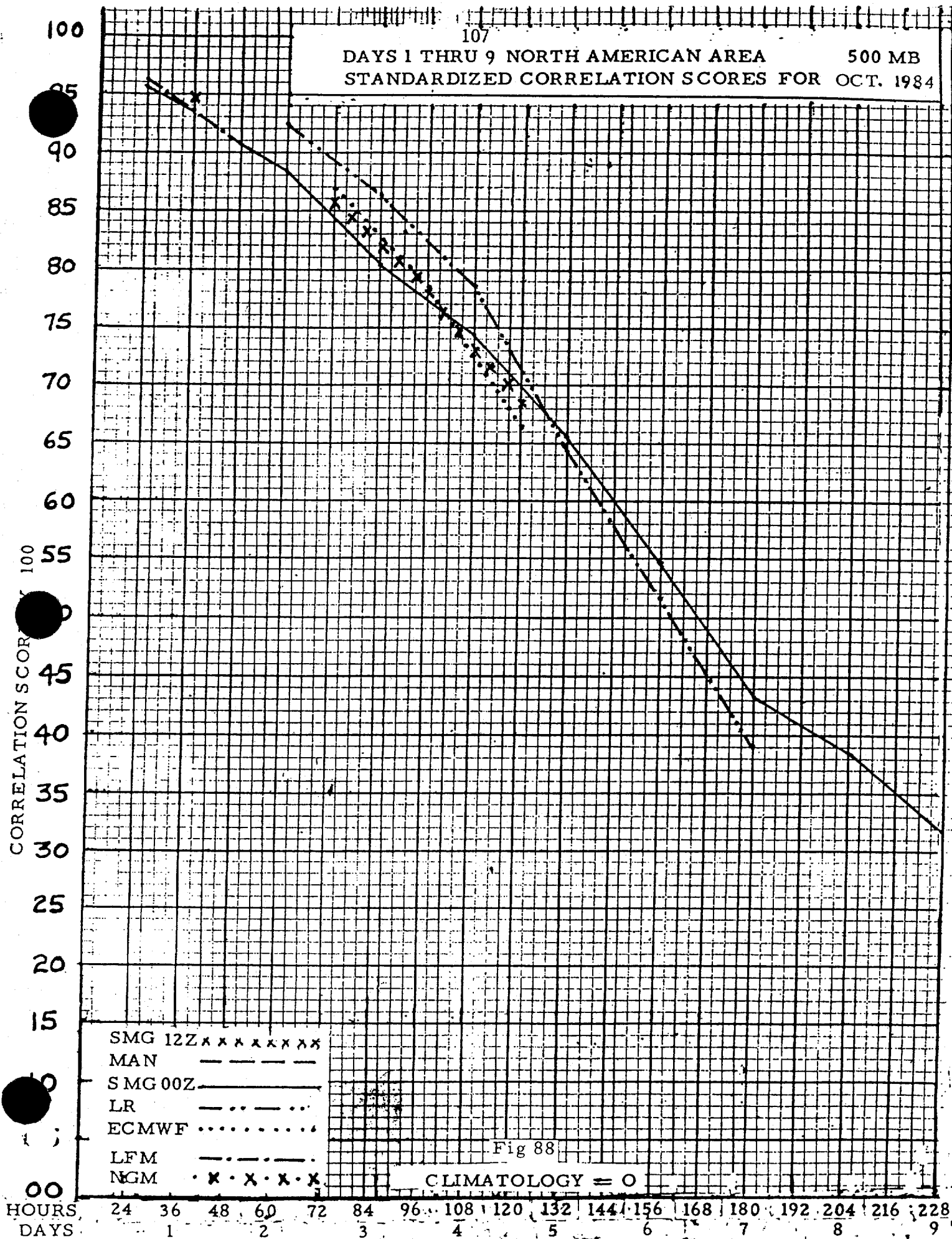
HOURS
 DAYS

- SMG 12Z x x x x x x x x
- MAN — — — — —
- SMG 00Z — — — — —
- LR —
- ECMWF
- LFM —
- NGM · x · x · x · x

Fig 87

CLIMATOLOGY = 0





108
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA 500 MB
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR NOV 84

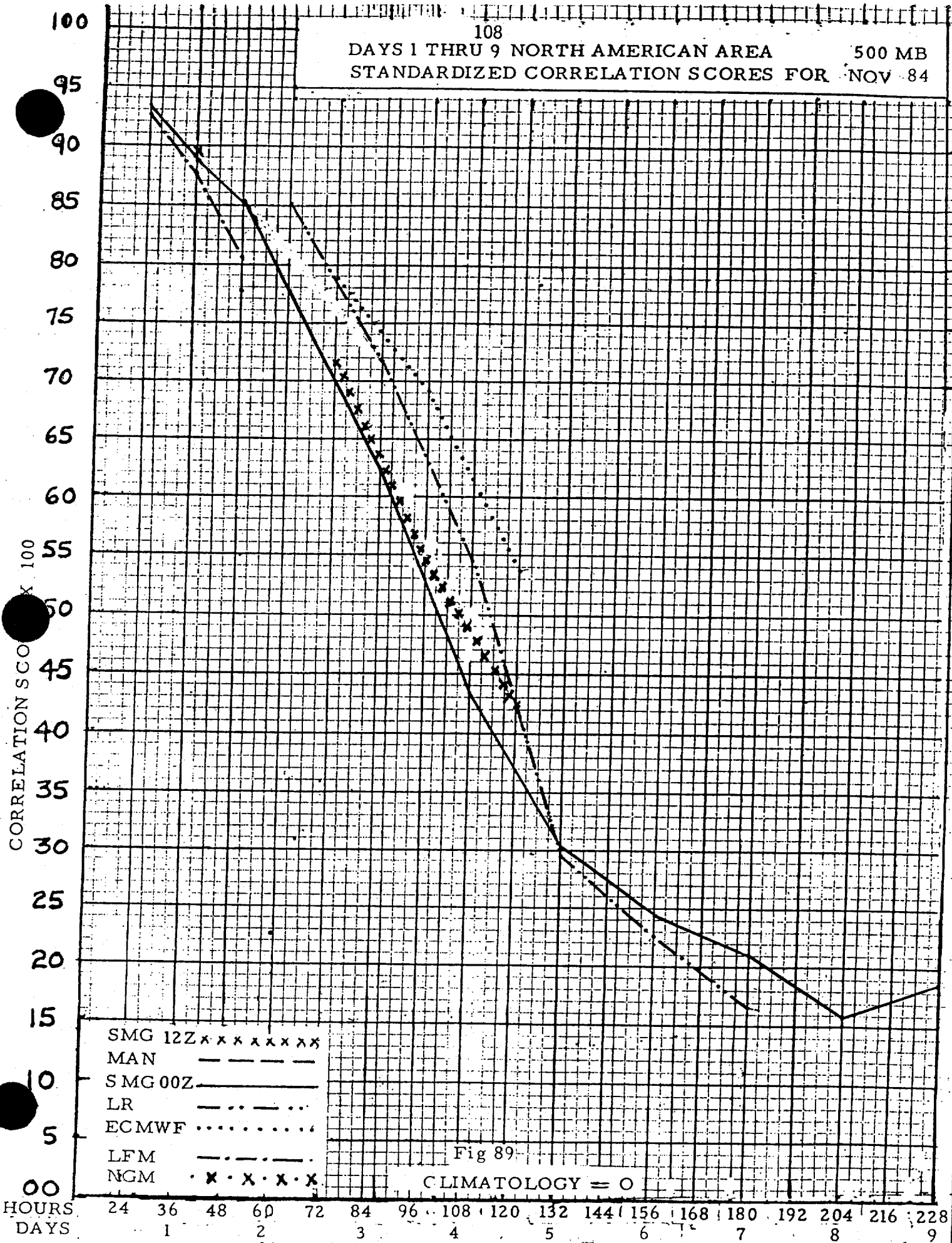


Fig 89

CLIMATOLOGY = 0

109
DAYS 1 THRU 9 NORTH AMERICAN AREA 500 MB
STANDARDIZED CORRELATION SCORES FOR DEC. 1984

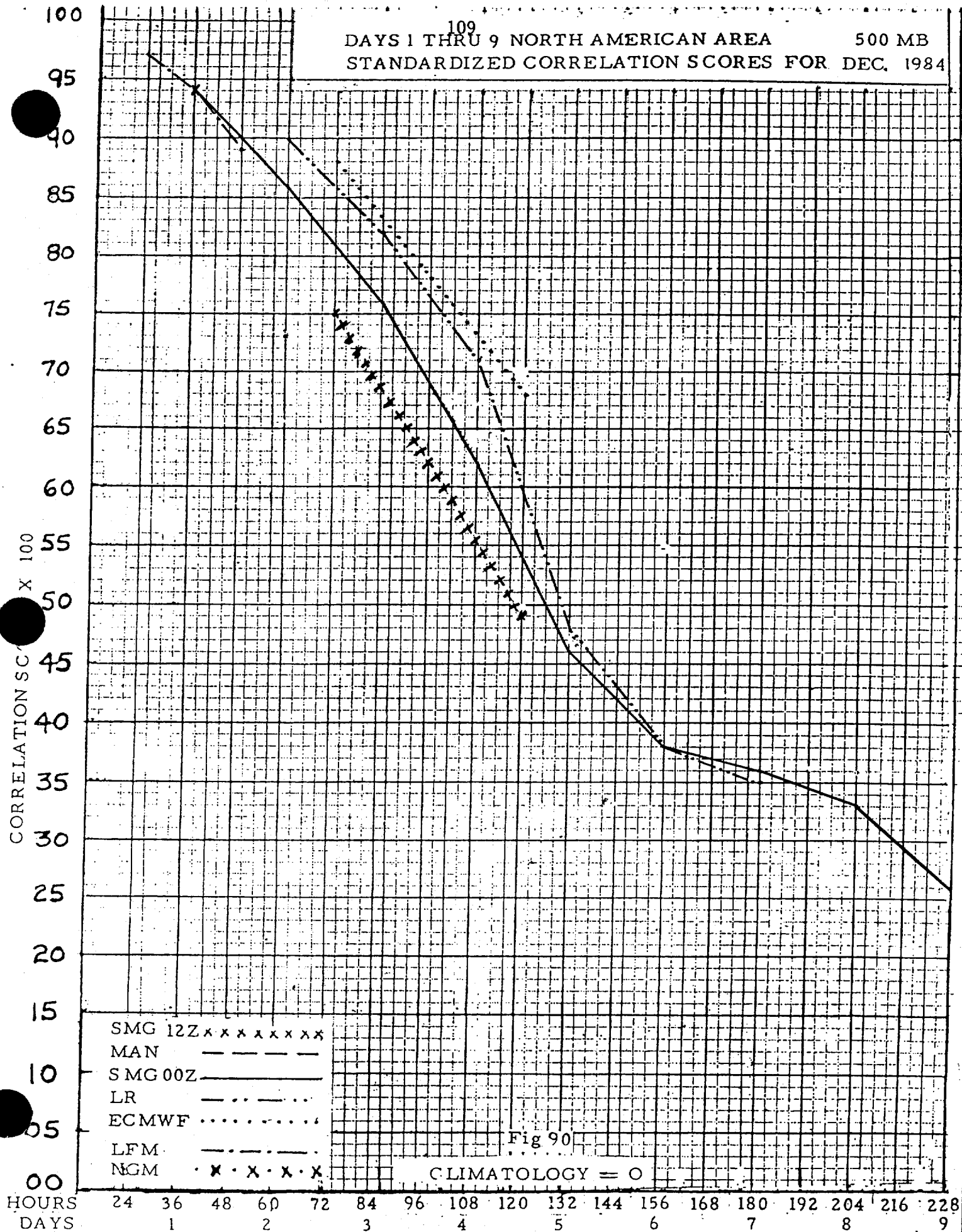
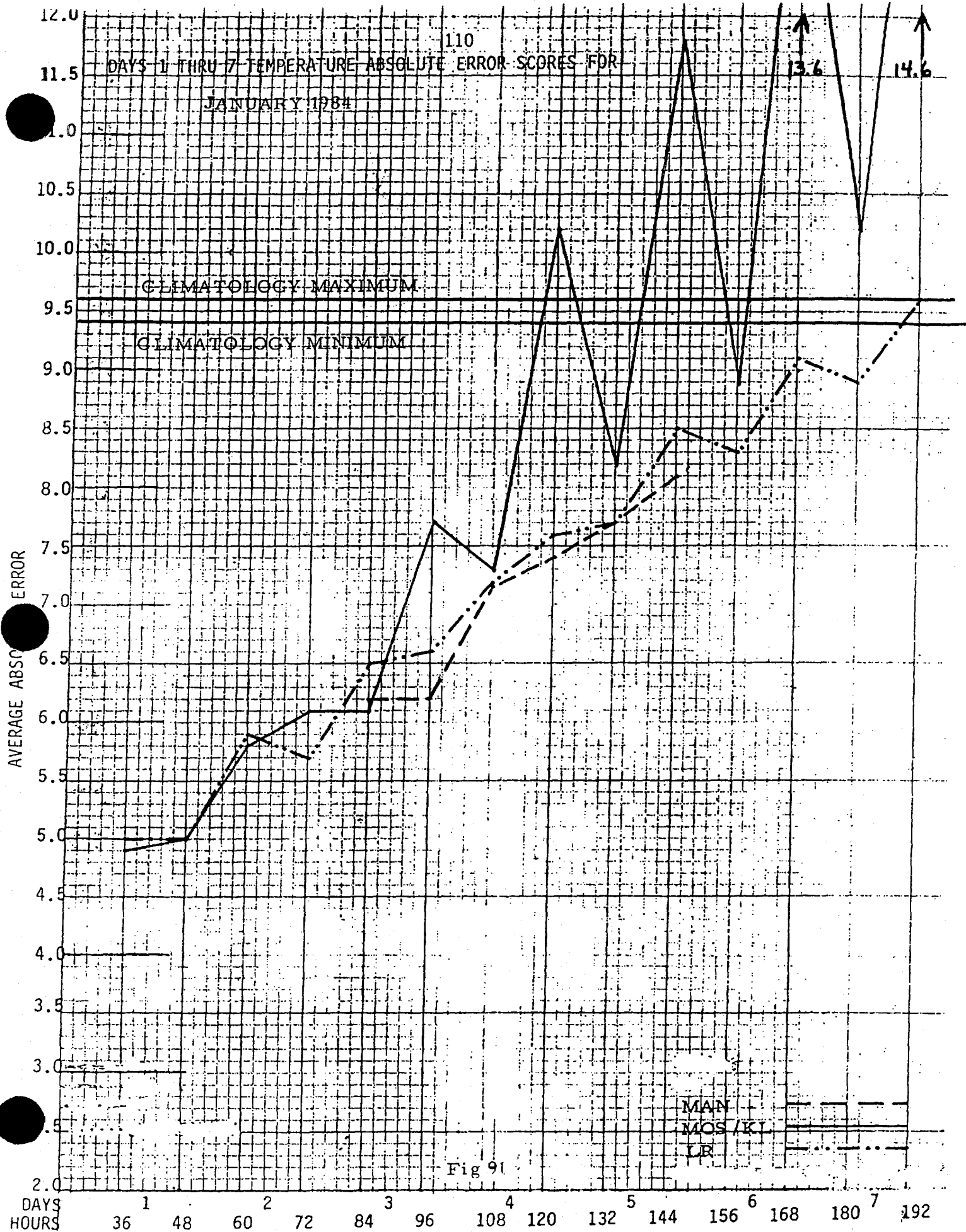
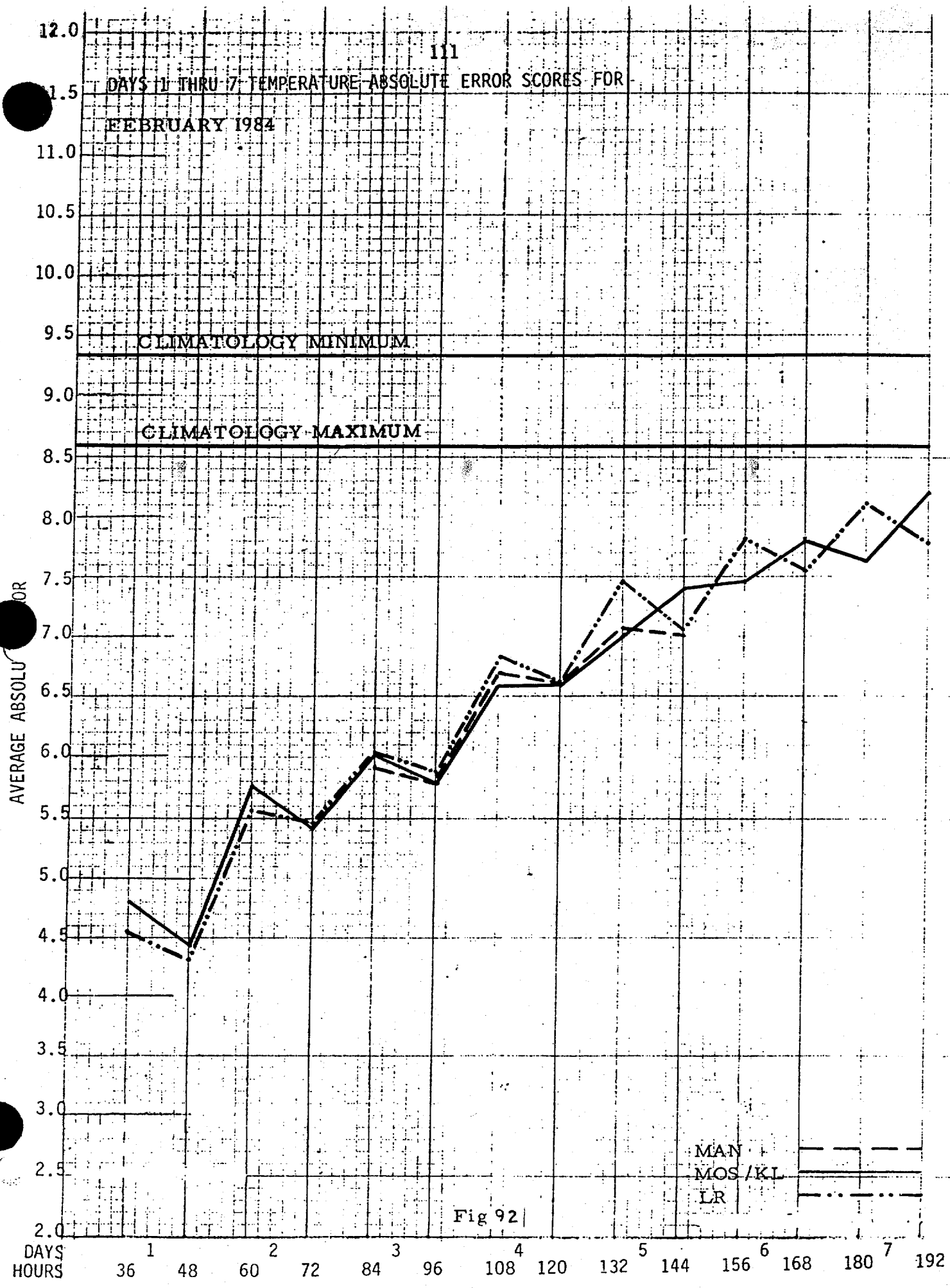
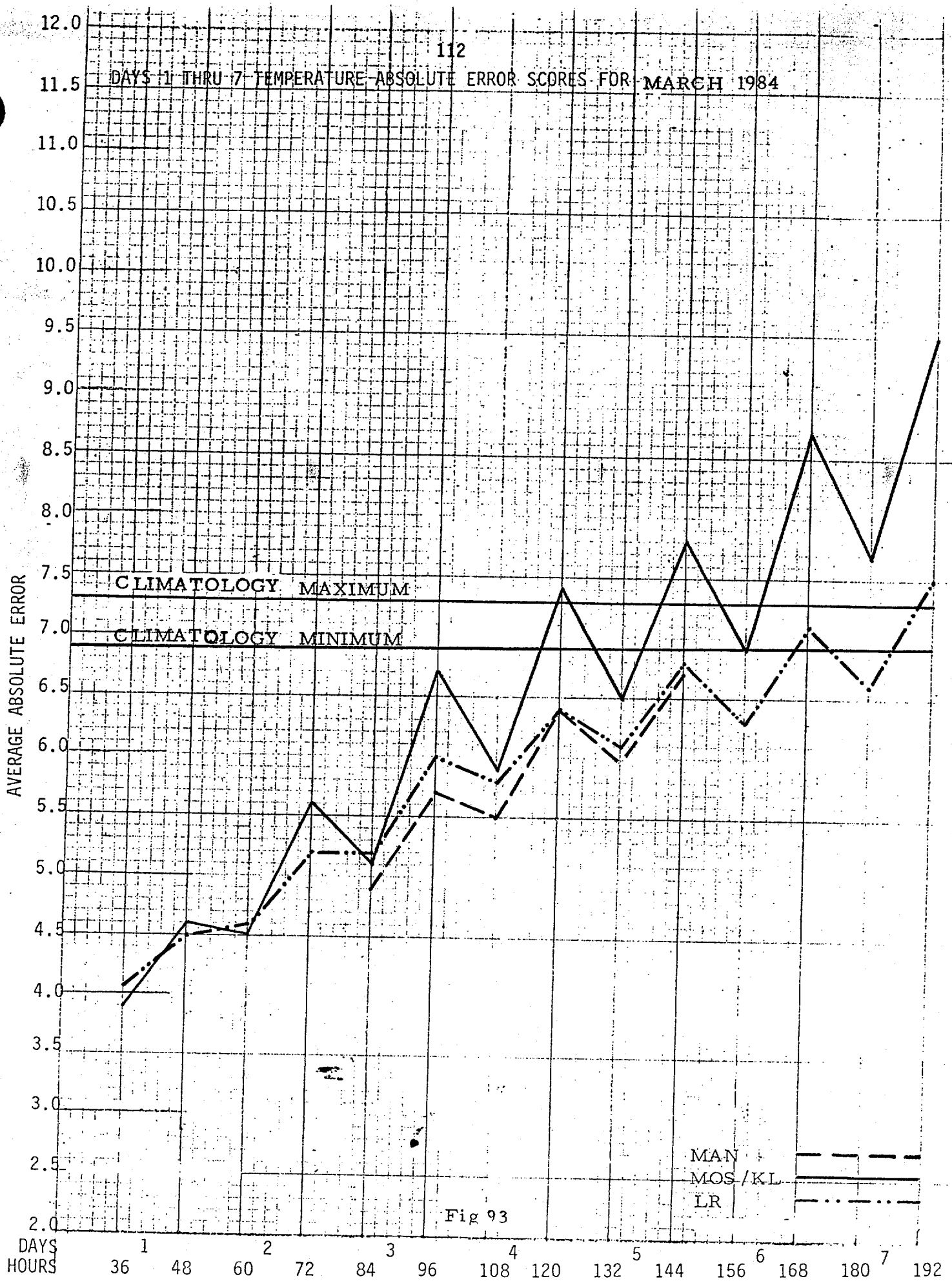


Fig 90







DAYS 1 THRU 7 TEMPERATURE ABSOLUTE ERROR SCORES FOR APRIL 1984

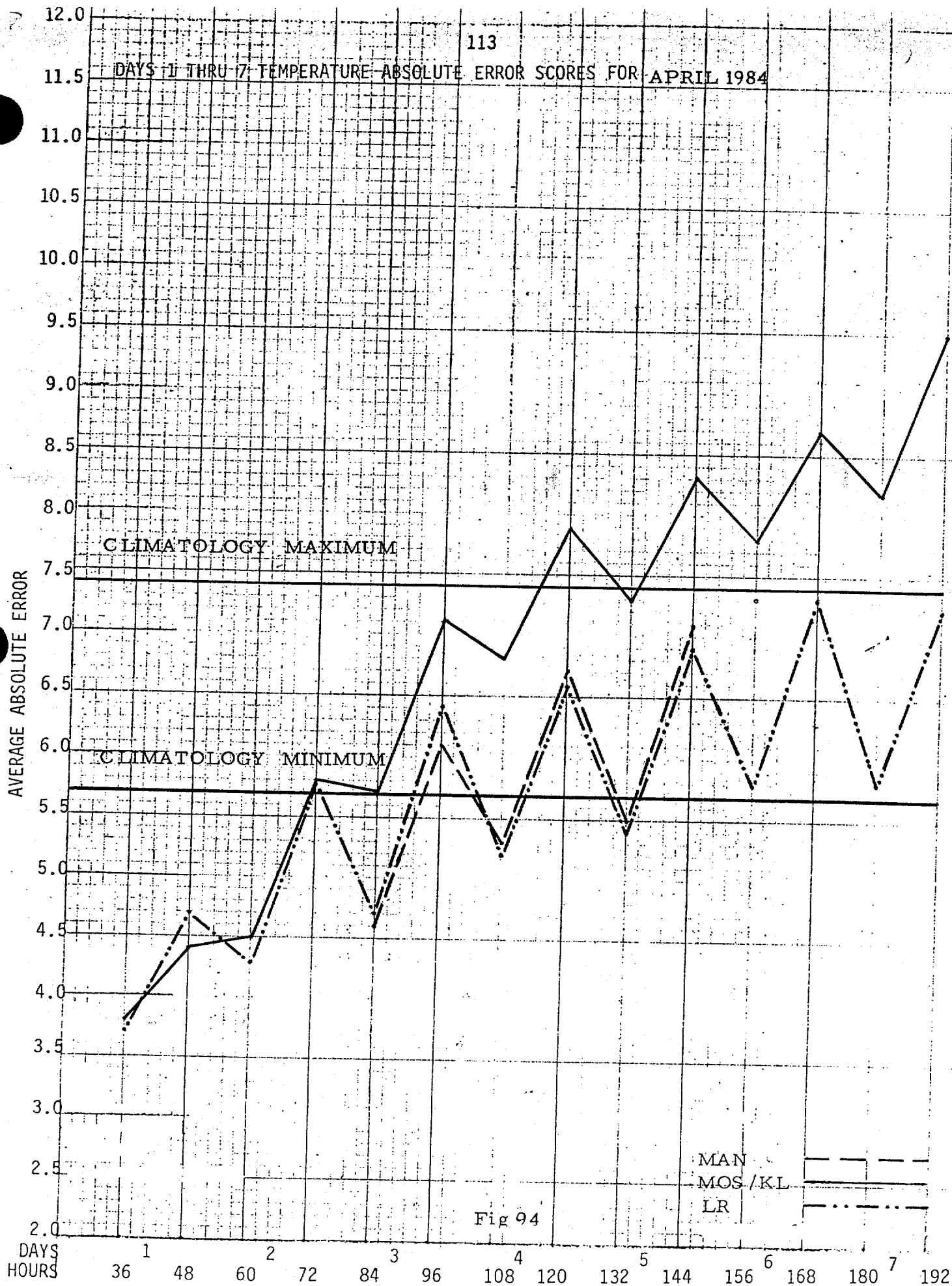


Fig 94

DAYS 1 THRU 7 TEMPERATURE ABSOLUTE ERROR SCORES FOR MAY 1984

AVERAGE ABSOLUTE ERROR

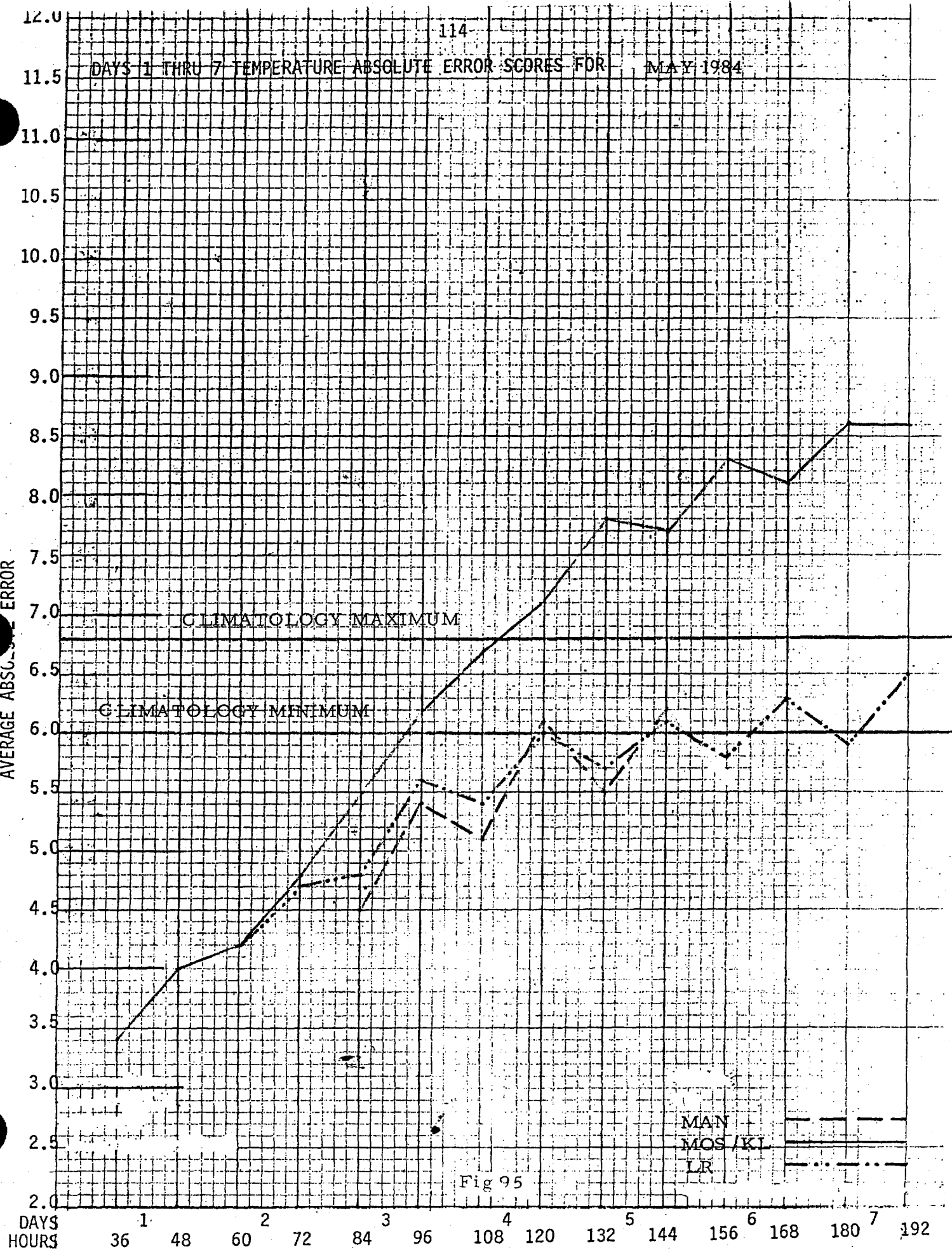
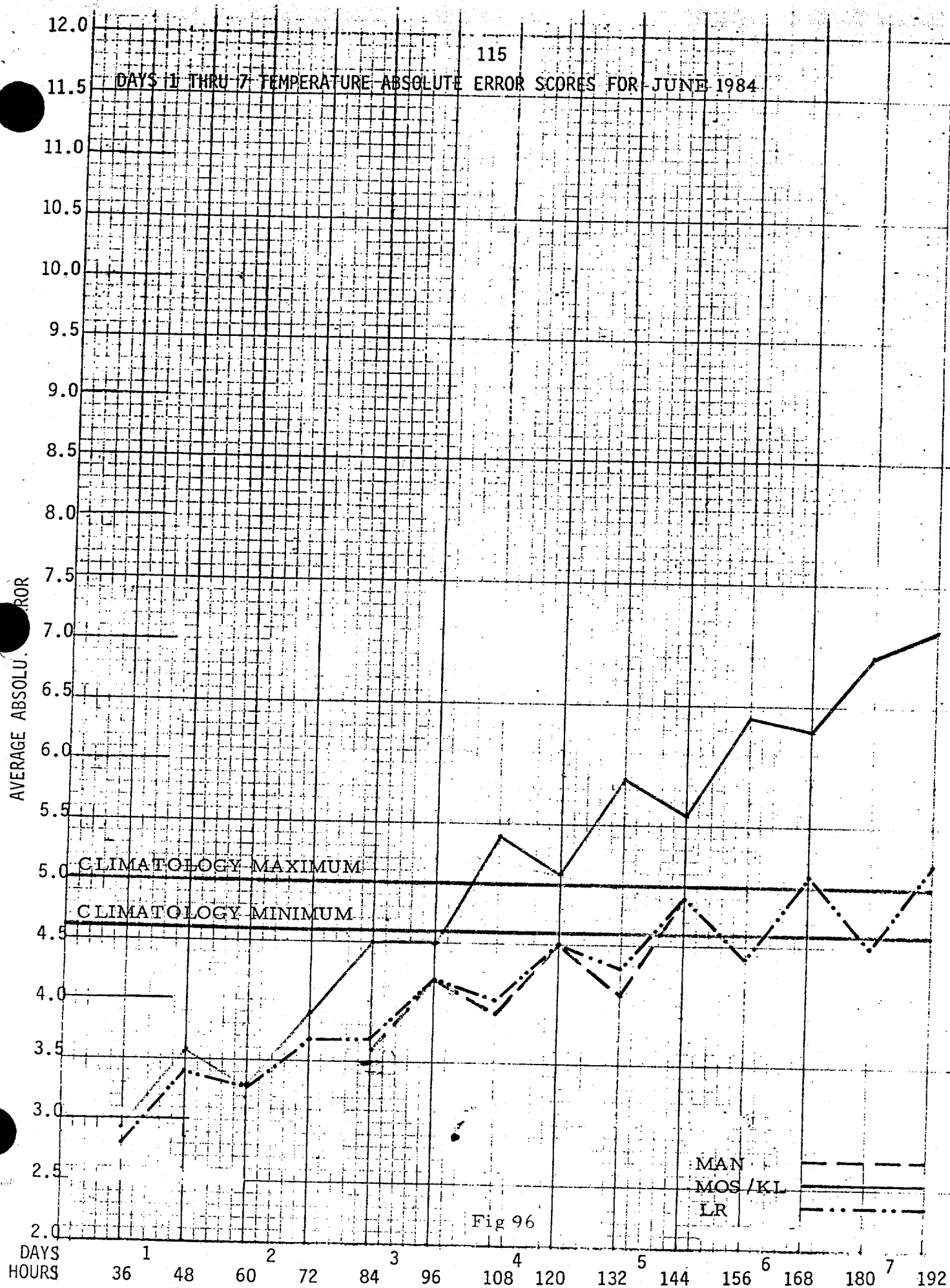


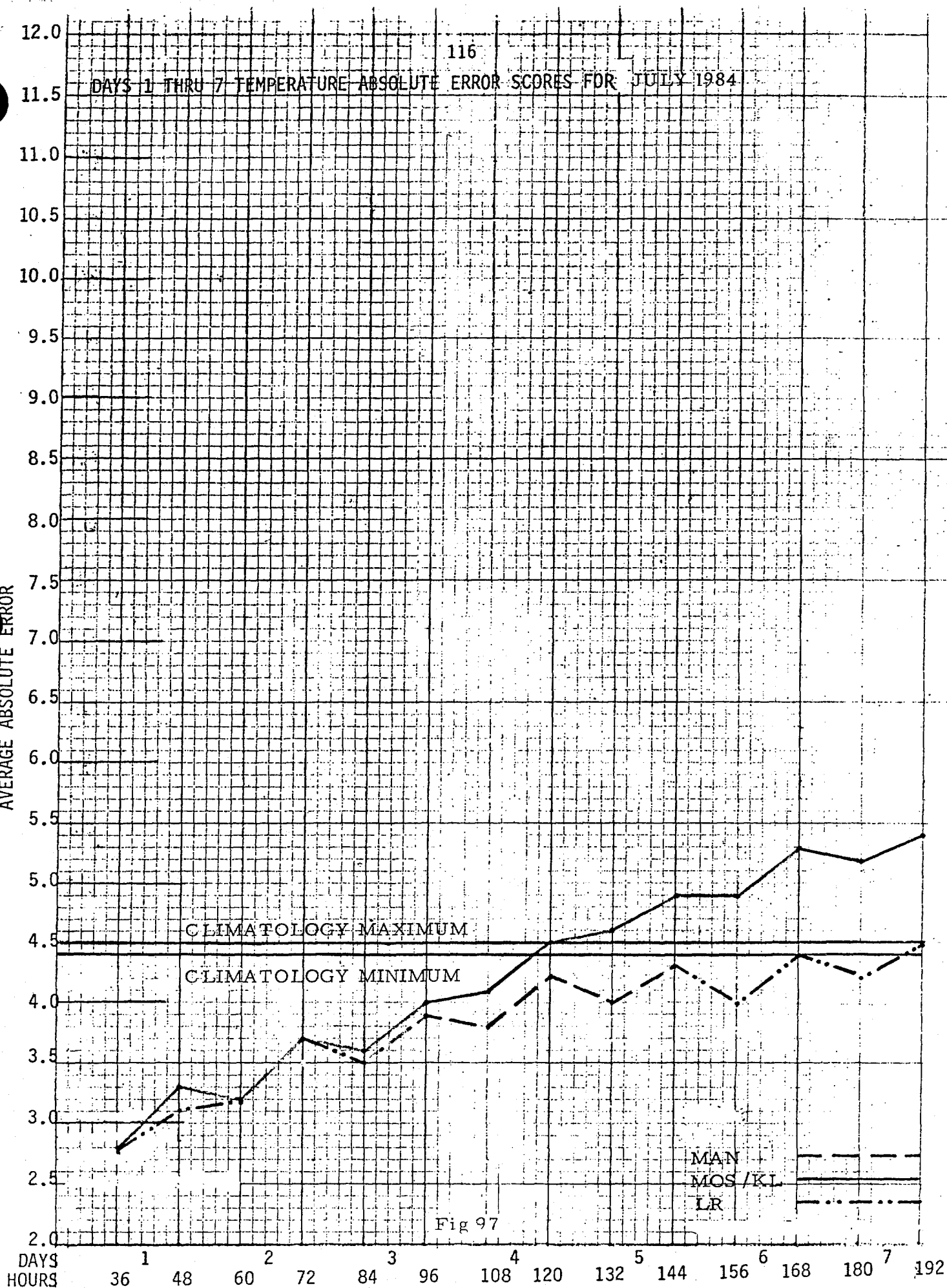
Fig 95

MAN
MOS/KI
LR



DAYS 1 THRU 7 TEMPERATURE ABSOLUTE ERROR SCORES FOR JULY 1984

AVERAGE ABSOLUTE ERROR



117

DAYS 1 THRU 7 TEMPERATURE ABSOLUTE ERROR SCORES FOR AUGUST 1984

AVERAGE ABSOLUTE ERROR

DAYS
HOURS

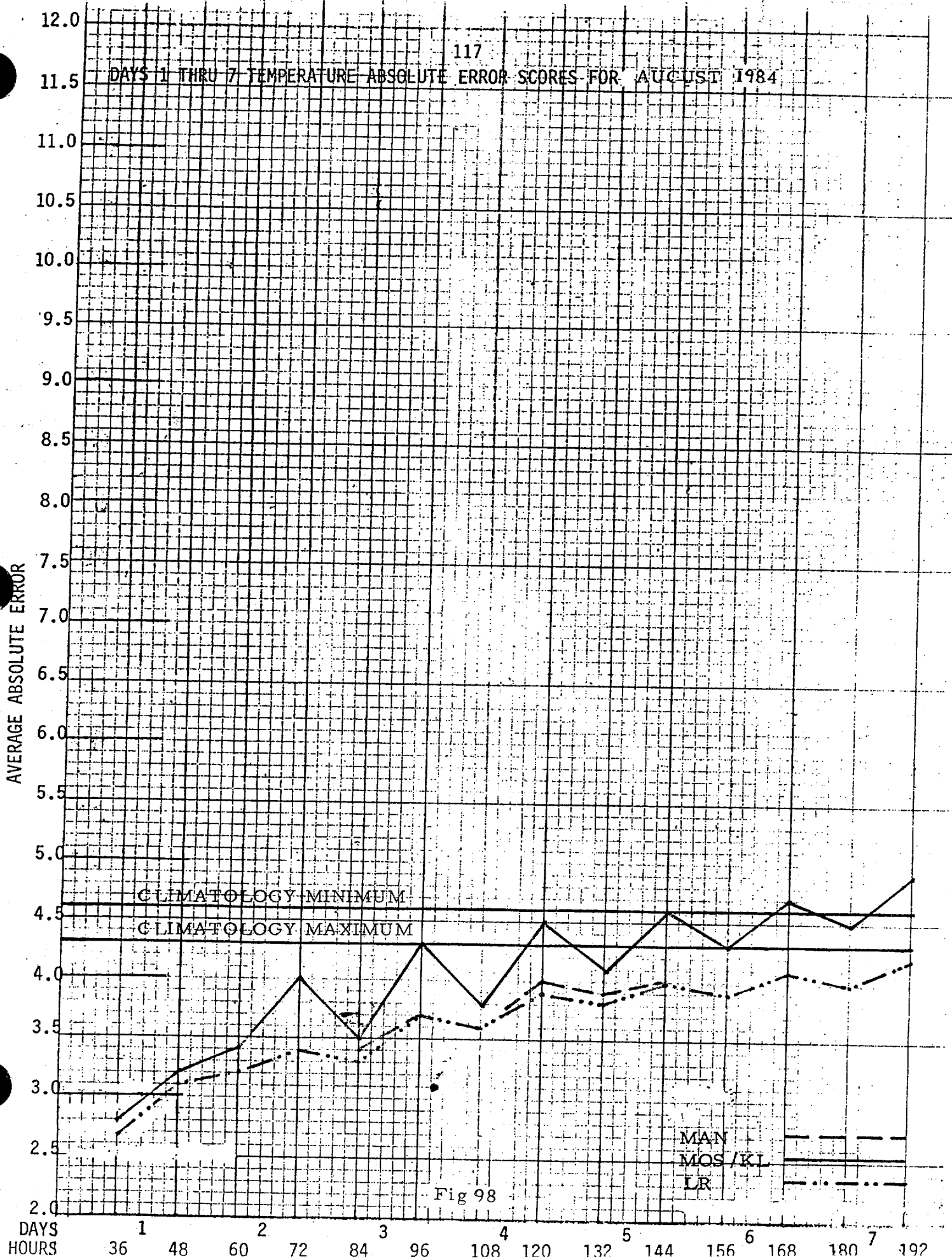
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
36 48 60 72 84 96 108 120 132 144 156 168 180 192

CLIMATOLOGY MINIMUM

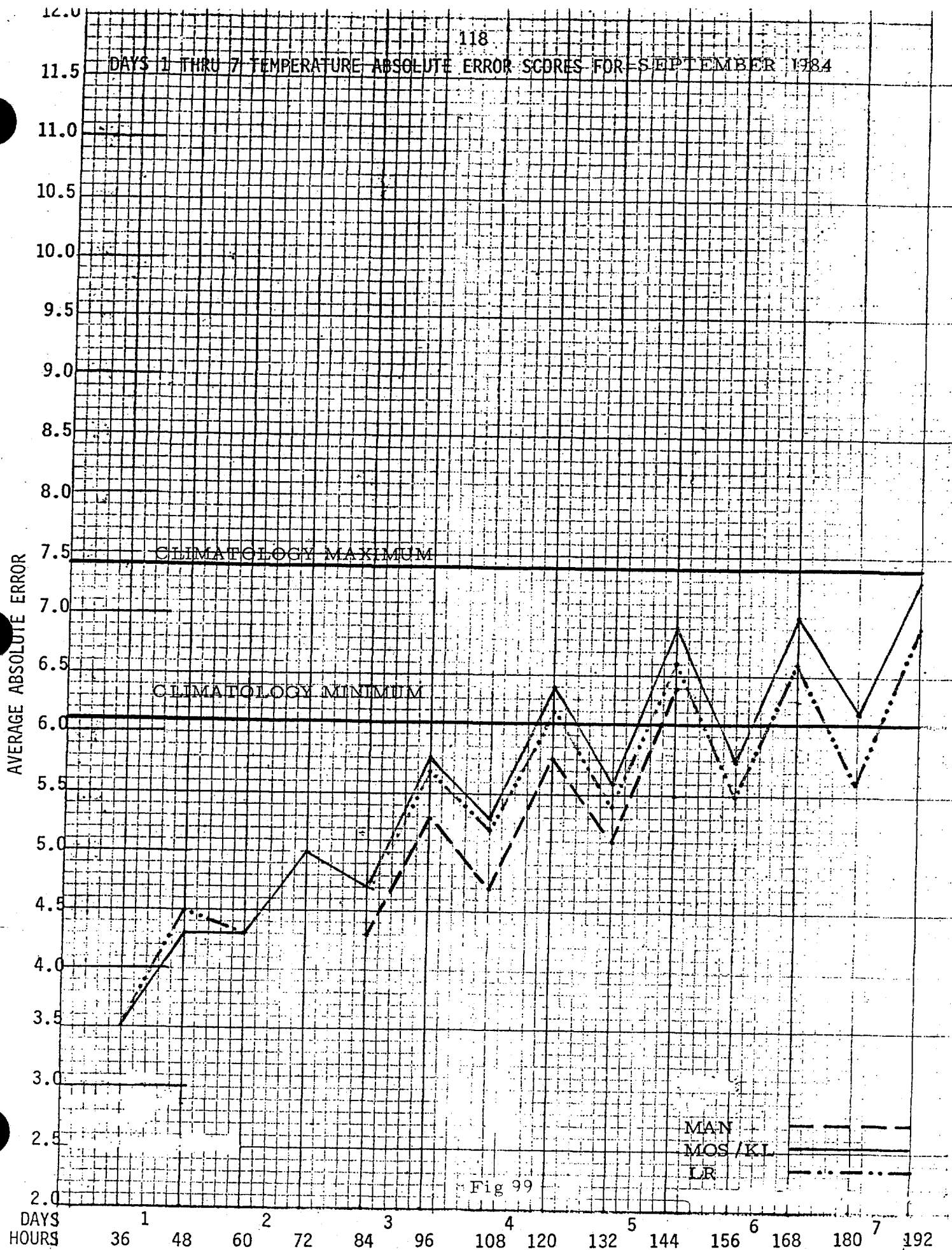
CLIMATOLOGY MAXIMUM

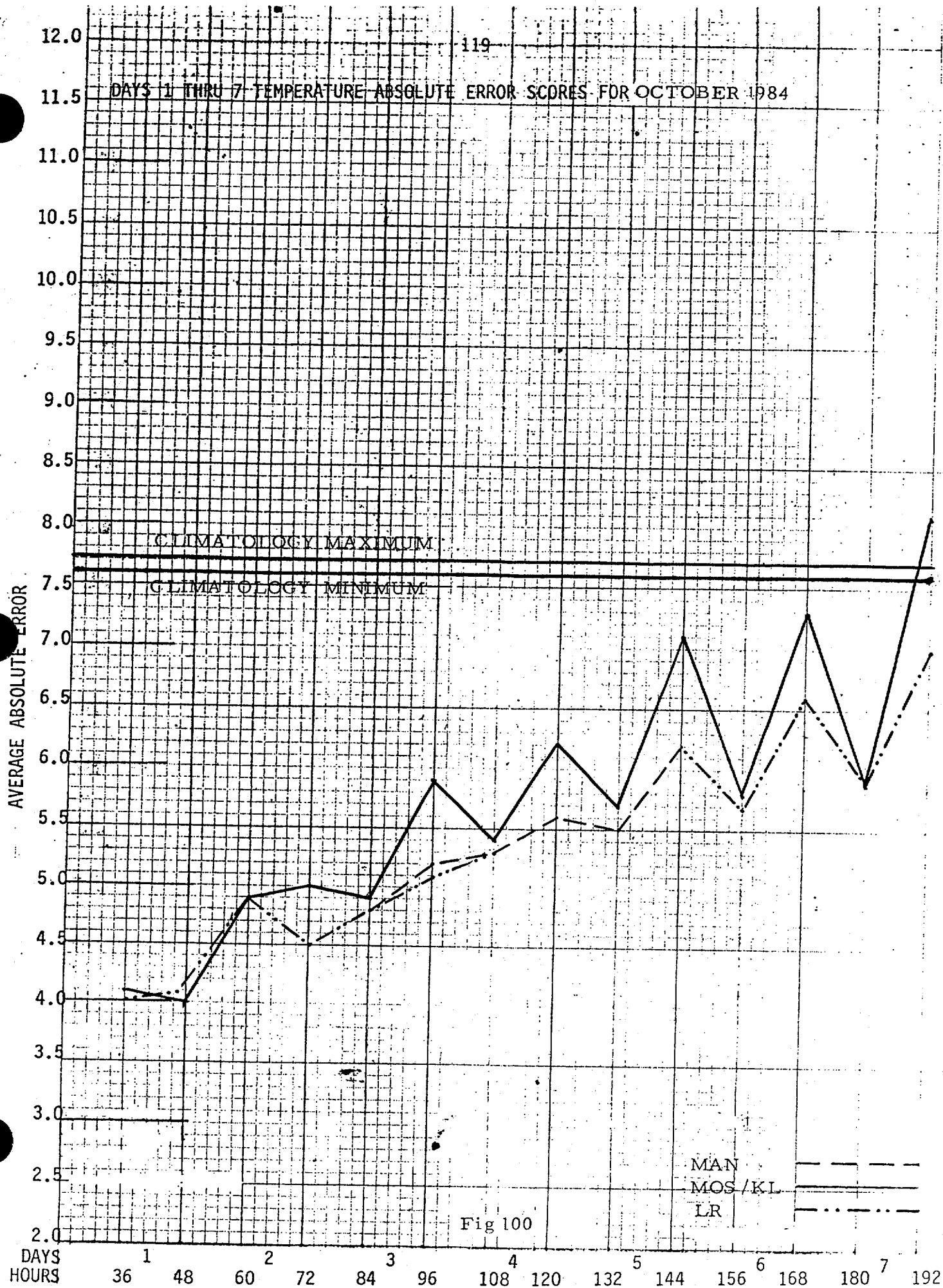
MAN
MOS / KL
LR

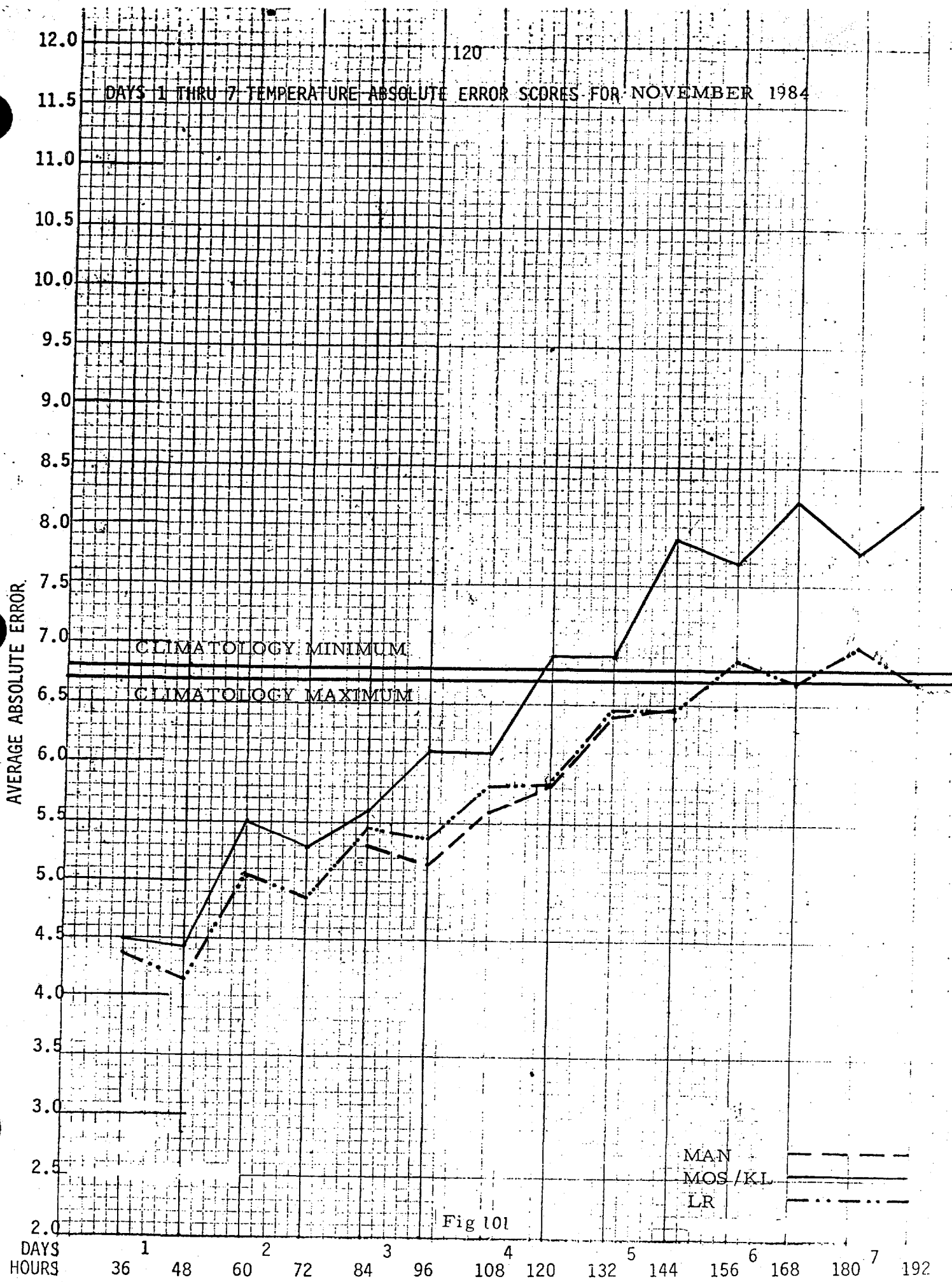
Fig 98

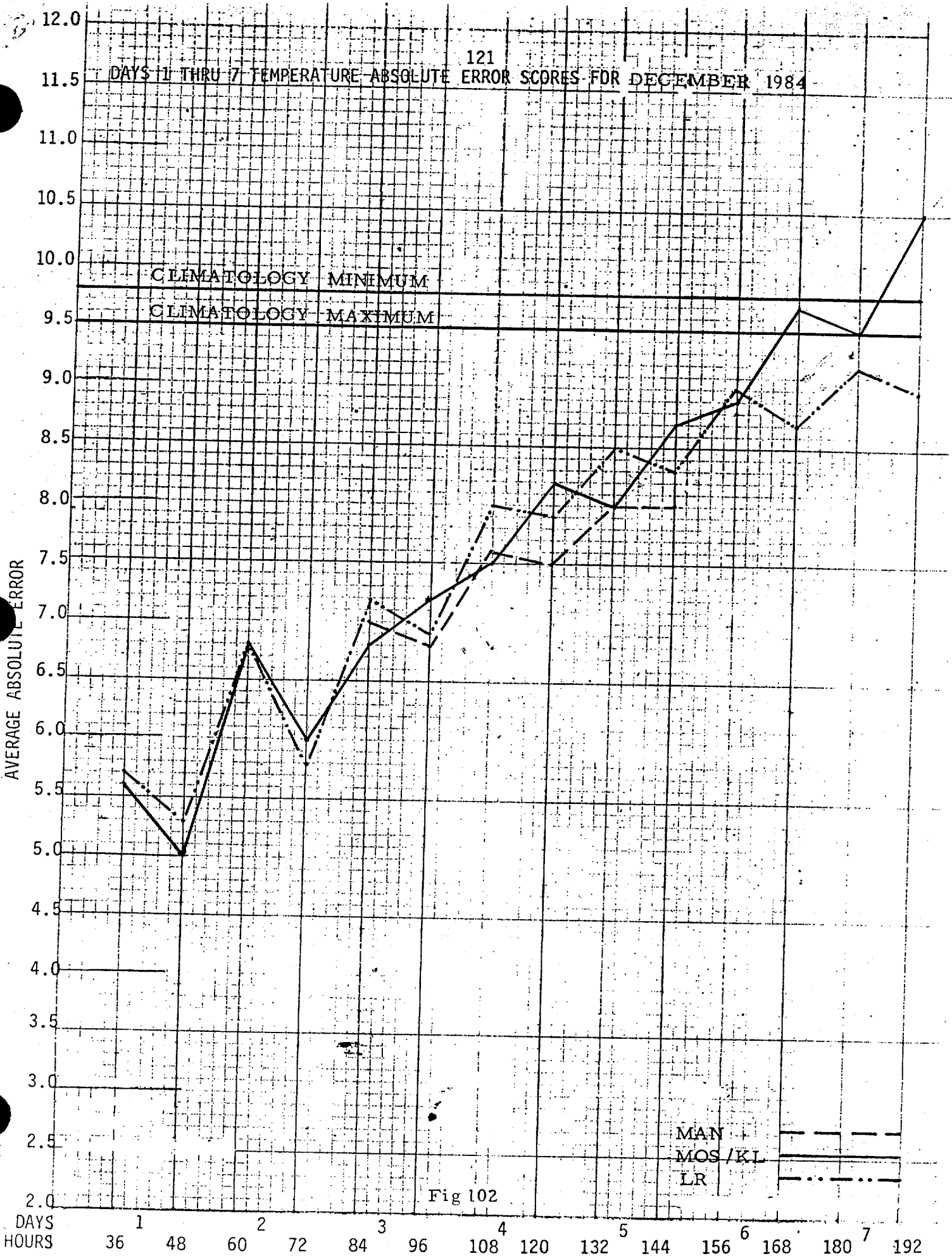


DAYS 1 THRU 7 TEMPERATURE ABSOLUTE ERROR SCORES FOR SEPTEMBER 1984









COMMENTSSECTION 1 - MSLP & 500-MB CORRELATION SCORES PAGES 10 TO 32

The pattern correlation score (Appendix A) has been the basic score used by the MRFG to verify the MSLP and 500-MB progs since the start of the MRFG program. The correlation score was chosen because it is more sensitive to the phasing of troughs and ridges (considered to be more important) than to the depth or height of these systems. The MSLP and 500-MB operational analyses (HUF) were used to verify the forecast through 1976 and the LFM since 1977.

The North America (NA) standardized correlation score is the oldest score of record. The US subset unfortunately was contaminated from the beginning through 1975 by a coding (program) error affecting the observed field (verifying analysis).

It was assumed from the start that a MSLP standardized (anomalous field) score of greater than 0.0 (climatology) would result in the derived forecasts of temperature and precipitation having more skill than climatology (as a forecast). However, experience has indicated that a NA score of 0.17 or better is required to accomplish this.

Most of the forecasters complained from the beginning about verifying a forecast of the anomalous MSLP field (which they could not "see") instead of the one they produced (the actual MSLP field). In order to appease the forecaster and obtain a score for the normal (climatology) as a forecast the unstandardized (actual MSLP field) score was introduced in 1977 and has been used successfully ever since.

A glance at figures 2 through 22 shows that, for the most part, the monthly mean scores during 1984 were higher (better) than the long term mean scores (note - the long term mean includes the 1984 scores). Also a compari-

son of the current long term mean scores (figures 3,6,9,12,15,18, and 21) with those published in NMC ON 284 of February 1984, indicates an upward trend. The many monthly mean record scores (figures 2,5,8,11,14,17, and 20) set by both the man and NMC/NWP model guidance resulted in 1984 being a near record year for the days 3, 4, and 5 (figures 4,7,10,13,16,18, and 22).

No comment is made concerning the "betterment" of the man over the NMC/NWP model guidance except that it appears to be significant. No overall increase in skill of the guidance in the 1984 was apparent after the introduction of the Optimum Interpolation (OI) Analysis (see page 2). Since the scores for the circulation were near records, one might expect the derived forecasts of temperature and precipitation also to be near record levels.

SECTION 2 - TEMPERATURE ABSOLUTE ERROR & SKILL SCORES PAGES 33 TO 47

In 1984, as usual, the bi-monthly mean absolute error minimum (figure 24(a,b,c)) and maximum (figure 27(a,b,c)) temperature scores for the man exhibited a clear superiority over the KL and climatology temperature forecasts for days 3, 4, and 5. The man minimum (figure 26) temperature scores tied the all-time record for day 5 and were second best for days 3 and 4, while the maximum (figure 29) tied the record for days 3 and 4 and was second for day 5.

The man 6 to 10 day 5-class (figure 33) / 3-class (figure 36) temperature skill score was/tied a record in 1984 while the FP scores declined.

SECTION 3 - PRECIPITATION SKILL SCORES PAGES 56 TO 73

The Gilman skill score, except for the problem mentioned in Appendix C, is quite sensitive to correct forecasts of precipitation. The Hughes skill score is quite sensitive to correct forecasts of no precipitation at stations with a high climatic precipitation probability. The experimental

score is quite sensitive to correct forecasts of precipitation at stations with a low climatic precipitation probability. Thus, these three scores complement one another.

In 1984, as in recent years, the monthly mean Gilman (figure 39), Hughes (figure 43), and Hughes Probability (figure 46) precipitation skill scores for the man showed a clear superiority over climatology and the NMC/NWP model on days 3, 4, and 5. The man Gilman precipitation skill scores (figure 41) were a record for days 4 and 5 and tied the record for day 3. The Hughes skill (figure 45) and probability (figure 48) scores, however, were not quite so record breaking. The monthly mean 3-class precipitation skill scores for the man 1 to 5 day (figure 51) and 6 to 10 day (figure 54) forecasts were modest in 1984.

SECTION 4 - MSLP, 500-MB & TEMPERATURE SCORES FOR

DAYS 1 THROUGH 7 PAGES 74 TO 122

Certainly consideration has to be given, after looking at figures 55 through 102, to producing (operationally) for public consumption man MSLP and temperature forecasts for days 6 and 7. It should be noted that for comparison purposes (operational utility) the ECMWF scores have to be "backed down" approximately 12 hours.

CONCLUSION

In retrospect, 1984 turned out to be more of a "high plateau" year than a record breaker for the MRFG. 1985, promises to be an interesting year with the introduction in January, 1985 of the SMG4I with E-2 physics (radiation) and silhouette mountains.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mrs. Evelyn Seek and Mrs. Donna Thomas for their help with the typing and to Eric McVicker for running off copies.

Appendix A

The standardized mean sea level pressure correlation score is used to determine the skill of the man and machine days 3, 4 and 5 mean sea level pressure forecasts. The correlation score is employed because the phasing instead of the intensity of systems primarily determines how well the various weather parameters can be forecast. The standardizing procedure prevents the contribution of the high variability (higher latitude) grid points from overwhelming the low variability grid points (lower latitude).

f = forecast mean sea level pressure at a grid point

o = observed mean sea level pressure at a grid point

σ = standard deviation at a grid point

n = normal mean sea level pressure at a grid point

$$F = \frac{f-n}{\sigma}$$

$$O = \frac{o-n}{\sigma}$$

$\bar{F}$ = average standardized forecast across n grid points

$\bar{O}$ = average standardized observed across n grid points

$$\text{RMS } F = \sqrt{\bar{F}^2}$$

$$\text{RMS } O = \sqrt{\bar{O}^2}$$

$$\text{RMS Error} = \sqrt{(\bar{F}-\bar{O})^2}$$

$$\text{Average Absolute Error} = |\bar{F}-\bar{O}|$$

$$\text{Correlation} = \frac{\bar{FO} - \bar{F} \bar{O}}{\sqrt{(\bar{F}^2 - \bar{F}^2) (\bar{O}^2 - \bar{O}^2)}} \times 100$$

Since the normal mean sea level pressure is subtracted from the forecast/observed pressure at each grid point, it is assumed that the correlation of the normal to the observed is always zero. Therefore, any positive score is considered

to have skill over the normal. Some doubts have been raised about this assumption, however, and for the past 5 years the unstandardized correlation score also has been calculated. This procedure allows a correlation score to be computed for the normal. This score then is simply the correlation of the forecast to the observed mean sea level pressure.

APPENDIX B

The 5 day mean temperature skill score is a generalization of the Heidke skill score where the expected values are derived from the observed temperature

$$\text{Heidke Skill} = \frac{C-E}{N-E}$$

C = total correct (hits)

N = total number of forecasts (61)

E = expected number of hits

The expected value is calculated as follows from the number of stations in each of the observed temperature categories:

$$E = \frac{1}{8} \times \text{Much Below} + \frac{1}{8} \times \text{Much Above} + \frac{1}{4} \times \text{Below} + \frac{1}{4} \times \text{Above} + \frac{1}{4} \times \text{Normal}$$

The 5 day mean 3 class temperature skill score simply "lumps" together the much below with the below and the much above with the above. The expected (E) then is equal to $\frac{1}{4} \times \text{Below} + \frac{1}{4} \times \text{Normal} + \frac{1}{4} \times \text{Above}$.

Appendix C

The Gilman skill score is a generalization of the Heidke skill score where the expected values are derived from a randomized version of the precipitation forecast.

$$\text{Heidke Skill} = \frac{C-E}{N-E}$$

C = total correct (hits)

N = total number of forecasts (100)

E = expected number of hits

However, for a randomized forecast allowance must be made for stations having far different precipitation climate (N POP) across the United States. Therefore, to compute and score an expected chance forecast, climatology must be considered.

The procedure for this is as follows:

First, the actual number of forecasts of precipitation are distributed randomly taking into account station climatology. The expected number of chance hits is then given by:

$$E = \sum (p_i r_i + (1 - p_i)(1 - r_i)) \text{ or}$$

$$E = 2 \sum p_i r_i + N - \sum p_i - \sum r_i \quad (a)$$

where $r_i = 1$ for precipitation (≥ 0.01 inch) and 0 for no precipitation (< 0.01 inch).

Now an expression for p_i , which is the probability that after the forecast precipitation events are redistributed randomly a forecast precipitation event will fall at point "i" is given approximately by $p_i = \frac{F a_i}{\sum a_i}$ (b). Here F = total number of forecasted precipitation events and a_i = climatic precipitation probability (N POP). This approximate value for p_i is most valid for small values of F and $(a_i / \sum a_i)$ and is unstable at times. Because of this instability the less sophisticated but more stable Hughes skill score was developed.

Substituting the expression (b) into (a) gives $E = \frac{2F \sum a_i^2}{\sum a_i} + N - F - R$, where E = the approximate expected value of a randomized forecast, R = total precipitation cases, and N = total number of stations. If the climatic probabilities are uniform ($a_i = a_j = a$), then the approximate value of E reduces to the standard Heidke value given by: $E = \frac{(N-F)(N-R)+FR}{N}$.

Appendix D

The Hughes skill score is a generalization of the Heidke skill score where the expected values are derived from the observed precipitation:

$$\text{Heidke Skill} = \frac{C-E}{N-E}$$

C = total correct (hits)

N = total number of forecasts (100)

E = expected number of hits

If the average precipitation climate (NPOP) of 12 stations having precipitation is 25, then the expected (precipitation) is simply $12 \times .25$ or 3 stations. If the average NPOP of the (100-12) stations not having precipitation is also 25 then the expected (no precipitation) is simply $88 \times (1.0-.25)$ or 66 stations. The total expected (E) then is 69 stations. If the forecaster hit (C) 75 stations correctly, his skill score then is $(75-69)/(100-69) \times 100$ or 19.

APPENDIX E

The (Hughes) probability score is not a skill score yet it is quite simple to understand. A rough score (RS) is calculated for each station (N=1 to 100) as follows:

<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Observed</u>	<u>RS</u>
(DN POP + NPOP) ≥ 30	P=1	+(1 - NPOP)
(DN POP + NPOP) ≥ 30	P=0 and NPOP ≥ 50	-(NPOP)
(DN POP + NPOP) ≤ 30	P=1 and NPOP ≥ 50	-(NPOP)
(DN POP + NPOP) ≥ 30	P=0 and NPOP ≤ 50	-(1 - NPOP)
(DN POP + NPOP) ≤ 30	P=1 and NPOP ≤ 50	-(1 - NPOP)
(DN POP + NPOP) ≤ 30	P=0	+(NPOP)

Since the total rough score (TRS) for the 100 stations does not equal 100 points, a simple iterative technique is employed which uses the RS as a f(NPOP) for each station to bring the total number of points up to 100.

The FORTRAN language routine is:

```

      TTY = 0
70      DO 69 I = 1, 100
          TRS = (100.0 - TRS) * ABS(RS(I)) * .01
          IF(RS(I)) 73, 74, 74
73      RS(I) = RS(I) - TRS
          GO TO 69
74      RS(I) = RS(I) + TRS
69      TTY = TTY + ABS(RS(I))
          TRS = TTY
          TTY = 0.0
          IF (TRS - 99.8) 70, 71, 71
71      CONTINUE

```

APPENDIX F

The 5-Day mean precipitation skill score is a generalization of the Heidke skill score where the expected values are derived from the observed precipitation:

$$\text{Heidke Skill} = \frac{C-E}{N-E}$$

C = total correct (hits)

N = total number of forecasts (100)

E = expected number of hits

For example, in January the number of stations in the area covered by the (NP/P), (NP/M/H) and (L/M/H) categories is 21, 28 and 51 respectively. The average value of the probability of NP for the stations in the (NP/P) area is 59% and 40% in the (NP/M/H) area. Now if (NP/L) is coded as 1, M as 2 and (P/H) as 3, then the number of stations expected to have coded value 1 thru 3 is as follows:

33% of (L/M/H) = $51 \times .33 = 17$ stations coded 1, 2, 3

40% of (NP/M/H) = $28 \times .40 = 11$ stations coded as 1 and 8.5 coded as 2,3

59% of (NP/P) = $21 \times .59 = 12$ stations coded as 1 and 9 coded as 3

Thus, code 1 = $17 + 11 + 12 = 40$ stations

code 2 = $17 + 8.5 = 25.5$ stations

code 3 = $17 + 8.5 + 9 = 34.5$ stations
100.0 stations

Therefore, the expected value = $.40a + .255b + .345c$

where a, b and c are the number of coded values 1, 2 and 3 observed.

