

Barry P. Boden, MD
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January 21, 2016 - USPS Priority Mail

Dear Sir:

This letter is written in reference to "The American Journal of Sports Medicine" article, "Catastrophic Injuries in Pole Vaulters." (AJSM PreView, published on May 11, 2012 as doi:10.1177/0363546512446682)

I am a firsthand paid customer who invested thousands of dollars purchasing fallacious pole vault propoganda while naively entrusting my own teenage son's well being to egomaniacal pole vault "Establishment" rogues beginning in 1991. My son attempted to apply lethal "traditional" pole vault methods Jan E. Johnson, J. Russell VerSteege, Rebecca G. Peter, Eddie Seese, Dr. Spencer Chang, UCS, Gill Athletics and others having a "dog in the hunt" continue carelessly propagating.

Ed Dare (the father of **2002** "pole vault death" victim, Kevin) and I have in common that we each had a 19-year-old son attempting to apply remiss deadly "traditional" pole vault teachings. Kevin Dare is deceased. Christopher Toledo, my son, is NOT. The ONLY difference, between our significantly disparate results, is that Kevin Dare continued applying proven lethal "traditional" pole vault methods that my son wisely STOPPED attempting more than a decade prior to Kevin Dare's death.

TEN YEARS prior to Kevin Dare's avoidable demise, Jan Johnson completely ignored our conclusions when my son and I exposed the ill-conceived primitive deadly "traditional" pole vault flaws Mr. Johnson is still advocating and selling today. The enclosed, January 9, 2016, message I sent to Dr. Spencer Chang, contains further related details for your reference.

In 1991, one of our original realizations was that archaic lethal "traditional" pole vault teachings are patently and intentionally putting vaulters into the plant box. Thus, rather than focusing on creating unwarranted highly profitable patents and gratuitous costly athletic equipment as predictably inadequate solutions, our resolution was simply to END the deliberately negligent coaching of primitive "traditional" pole vault methods that guarantee the inevitability of vaulters falling into deadly plant boxes.

Although Jan Johnson was informed in 1992 that my son and I had finally devised very simple pole vault methods with which "vaulting can be as safe and easy as playing basketball," Jan Johnson "turned a deaf ear" to our revolutionary life-saving innovations. Not only did Jan Johnson ignore our pole vault paralysis, death and catastrophic injury preventing information, Jan Johnson never offered any assistance, whatsoever, to assure that this POLE VAULT SAFETY KNOWLEDGE would reach his lucrative gullible pole vault clients and naive students from whom Johnson continued to garner monetary profits by selling his deadly "traditional" pole vault concepts without interruption.

Exposed by today's Internet and the passing of time, I can now thoroughly verify the true root sources of the real devastating consequences documented in the "CATASTROPHIC AND SERIOUS POLE VAULTING ACCIDENT DATA ANALYSIS" tables "Prepared by Jan Johnson 11/11/2014" to which you refer with such intense unqualified reverence.

In 2013, Ed Dare (as I ALSO had done in the 1990s) finally gave up after years of futilely attempting to help make pole vault safer. It is apparent to me that, to this day, Ed Dare still has no clue that he was naively collaborating with cunning foxes in charge of guarding the "pole vault" henhouse. Suffering in the agony caused by his son's needless death, Mr. Dare remained completely unaware of what is actually occurring in this event. Ed Dare's unwitting gullibility was completely taken advantage of by Mr. Dare's disingenuous predators who pose as Mr. Dare's "friends" acting sympathetic regarding the loss of his son.

Had I been successful in stopping Jan Johnson and other like-minded miscreants in the 1990s, Kevin Dare would NOT have died the way he did while attempting deadly "traditional" pole vault methods. Unlike Ed Dare and myself before, I am not giving up my quest to expose and end these obviously disastrous lethal "traditional" pole vault perils this time around.

If you are genuinely concerned, as I am, you can choose to join me in constructive dialogue for the purpose of exposing the TRUTH regarding the factual reasons preventable pole vault catastrophes have continued to occur and put an END to them. Alternatively, you might choose to conceal the truth while ignoring my facts by also "turning a deaf ear." Dr. Spencer Chang apparently preferred the latter choice as I have never received any response from him regarding my life-saving efforts.

Respond or not, either way, it isn't going to eliminate the provable fact that Kevin Dare, along with countless other gullible "traditional" pole vaulters have each been victimized by the same athletic "Establishment" negligence to which my own son was also perilously exposed but is extremely fortunate to have survived.

Sincerely,

M Thomas Toledo
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I sent the following message on January 9, 2016, to Dr. Spencer Chang:

Dr. Chang,

Thank you for writing your response to “The American Journal of Sports Medicine” article, “Catastrophic Injuries in Pole Vaulters” by Dr. Barry Boden. Precipitated by your audacity to intrude upon Dr. Boden, the scholastic Dr. Boden self-assuredly demonstrates his completely misguided unwavering reverence to Jan Johnson and Rebecca Peter while confirming the doctor’s absolute endorsement of Coach Jan Johnson’s proven deadly “traditional” pole vault teachings.

At the following links, for your reference, are copies of a one page letter I mailed to Gill Athletics - http://howtopolevault.com/PDF/Gill_12-9-14.pdf - along with a seven page letter I mailed to UCS Spirit’s Jeff Schwartz - http://howtopolevault.com/PDF/UCS_kevindarelegacy.pdf . Each letter was sent in 2014. Both letters relate to my own documented firsthand experiences with principals of these athletic equipment manufacturers that began for me primarily in 1991. Both letters received no response.

In my letter to UCS principal, Jeff Schwartz, November 25, 2014, I distinctly communicated to Mr. Schwartz that my top priority, beginning decades ago, has been the “health and safety of ANYONE vaulting improperly on perilous flexible competition poles.” My unanswered letter to Mr. Schwartz was written following his contacting me for the purpose of discussing the unethical standards Jan Johnson has displayed throughout Johnson’s career as he continues reaping the profits deceptively derived by being “recognized” as a so called pole vault “expert.”

Also, I have attached with this email my December, 2014, documented communications to Rice University pole vault coach and member of the USA National Pole Vault Development Staff, David Butler, warning him that catastrophic injuries are imminent when applying “traditional” coaching methods he espouses. Seven months later, July 30, 2015, Austrian female pole vaulter, Kira Grünberg, became a paraplegic applying Butler’s perilous teachings as David Butler confirms in his correspondence to me.

Additionally, July 19, 2015, 1:12 PM, eleven days prior to Kira Grünberg’s preventable pole vault catastrophe, I published on YouTube a video titled, “Pole Vault Girls: Deadly 'Traditional' Methods Hurt Girls' Pole Vault.” This video is viewable for your confirmation at the following link - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDWCP_3gkvQ

I am under the impression that, as physicians, you and Dr. Barry Boden swore the same Hippocratic Oath to uphold specific ethical standards in your chosen profession.

As coaches of vulnerable exuberant athletes, whether it be Jan Johnson, J. Russell VerSteeg (Johnson’s cohort, “Professor of Law” and former “UCS Spirit” affiliate), David Butler (USA National Pole Vault Development Staff), or yourself, each of you have in common additional moral responsibilities. This would include that all of you are charged with fiduciary responsibility to provide the best and safest information available to all naive student athletes who entrust their well being to the degree of their instructors’ proficiency and diligence.

It is painfully obvious, when reading your back-and-forth with Gill Athletics principals, that your concerns are focused on “WHERE” the gullible victims of lethal “traditional” pole vault teachings are specifically “LANDING” when their senseless DEATHS, PARALYSIS and CATASTROPHIC injuries result, rather than focusing your collective efforts on “HOW TO PREVENT” the ever-growing list of horrible needless tragedies from occurring in the first place.

All of you continue refusing to acknowledge that the DEADLY statistics, for which you all claim to be so concerned, are actually the result of your own devise. It is not difficult to identify that the “elephant in the room” is the ongoing amalgamated relentless propagation of lethal pole vault methods being recklessly and negligently applied to deadly flexible “competition” pole vault poles being perilously incorporated in your “traditional” pole vault teachings.

This is my attempt to initiate a constructive dialogue with you regarding the degree of safety and factual validity relative to the accumulative consequences you and the others mentioned above are obviously failing to prevent.

Sincerely,

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