

## Las Vegas Pole Vault Safety Forum

Gill Athletics  
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this message to your company regarding three major death-defying issues: 1. The Gill box collar design that I believe is dangerously flawed. 2. The Gill "GIZMO" that reinforces the perpetuation of proven deadly pole vault flaws. 3. The inevitable dangers resulting from Jan Johnson's documented ill-conceived pole vault teachings.

I first met Jan Johnson at his home in 1991, at the suggestion of Don Hood after Coach Hood realized the extent of my interest in seeking pole vault safety solutions. Don thought it would be more productive and more convenient to work with Jan as we were closely located geographically. Based on my firsthand experiences with Jan, his philosophies, general opinions, substance of what he teaches and other facts, I do not have any qualms with stating my position.

Jan's distorted perspectives are openly shared in Internet videos in which Jan refers to pole vault deaths and injuries as if threats of pole vault catastrophes are simply everyday predictable common place occurrences that ought to be gleefully accepted by all participants. On multiple videos Jan gives the distinct impression that his primary mission is to create as many reasons as possible to "necessitate" and "validate" his "box collar" experimentation and development.

Jan's documented video discussions with gullible coaches, naive parents and unsuspecting "athletes" are extremely revealing. Two decades ago I was myself personally there, thus, I can say, "I've been there and done that!" Today, Jan Johnson continues teaching and exploiting flawed techniques that inevitably cause vaulters to fall into the deadly box. This is in spite of the fact that, more than twenty years ago, I presented physical evidence documenting Jan's deadly primitive "traditional" pole vault instructions INCREASE probabilities vaulters will experience plant box catastrophes.

Jan Johnson is now, or has recently been, a pole vault coach at Cuesta College. Coincidentally, our pole vault safety solutions were introduced and documented by my son while pole vaulting as a member of the Cuesta College track team. June, 1992, using pole vault techniques we ourselves devised, my son accomplished reversing the recoil direction of his flexible competition vaulting pole in order to safely accelerate skyward above the landing mats, NOT above the plant "box." Our theories were proven correct, beyond any doubt, by my son's successful accomplishments while he was a student at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, California.

Our "Air Strike" pole vault techniques thoroughly debunk the primitive "traditional" pole vault methods that Jan Johnson continues to proliferate for his own benefit while his flawed teachings are extremely detrimental to his naive followers. In 1992, my son's documented pole vault solutions proved Jan Johnson to be dead wrong and dangerous. My son's successful performance of the pole vault techniques we ourselves innovated, confirmed that full-speed approach runs and "pressing" flexible vaulting poles forward are the two deadliest "traditional" pole vault teachings.

For moral reasons and safety's sake, I am obligated to publicly express my firsthand impressions that Jan Johnson is a proven pole vault "expert" in teaching dangerously flawed "traditional" pole vault methods while openly profiting from his own ill-conceived notions. The Gill "GIZMO" encourages vaulters to dangerously "PRESS" vaulting poles forward while the design of the Gill "box collar" is an absolute inarguable highly probable obstruction to any flexible vaulting pole when properly applied inside the "box" and to ANY type of pole upon its attempted entrance into the "box."

As I also stated to UCS, your companies are each "selling" a "box collar" that decreases the accessible physical target area which, for obvious safety reasons, the vaulting pole's tip must enter unobstructed. Two decades ago, after paying Jan Johnson for his hazardous "expert" pole vault instructions, my son and I were forced to figure out for ourselves how to "BETTER-APPLY" flexible pole vault poles. Our personal accomplishment was that we created safer pole vault techniques by eliminating the deadly flawed "traditional" pole vault methods taught in Jan Johnson's misguided clinics that are ACTUALLY the proven primary reason ensuring vaulters will continue catastrophically landing in plant boxes.

Attached is detailed documentation I sent to UCS Spirit in Reno, Nevada, and UCS in Lincolnton, North Carolina.

Sincerely,

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