

## Las Vegas Pole Vault Safety Forum

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Shawn,

In 1991, probably before you were born, I visited Tulare Union High School's Bob Mathias Stadium to watch my son pole vault. This was the first time I was able to see Chris perform as his mother and I were too distracted with operating our retail business to pay attention to his pole vaulting. I was so appalled by the abject stupidity I witnessed that day it led me to contact "legendary" pole vault coach, Don Hood.

Coach Hood, was Billy Olson's mentor at Abilene Christian University in Texas. Billy was the "Mondo Duplantis" of the 1980s. In early spring of 1991, Don ended up sitting on the living room couch in my Tulare home where we discussed pole vault "issues" in person. Don informed us that Virgil Jackson, Don's and Bob Mathias' Tulare Union High School coach, invented the fiberglass vaulting poles which I was asserting were being misapplied.

Don Hood put me in contact with two California pole vault "experts." One of those was Bob Fraley, head track coach at "Dutch" Warmerdam's Fresno State University. The second of Don's "experts" was Jan Johnson (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo).

Shortly after my face-to-face meeting with Don Hood, I met a gentleman who was pole vaulting during an open meet at Fresno State University, by the name of Eddie Seese. The Fresno State event had been organized by Coach Bob Fraley, who was associated with UCS "Spirit" principals and is credited as founder of what developed into the "UCS National Pole Vault Summit" of Reno, Nevada.

After we met Eddie Seese in Fresno, my son and I remained closely acquainted with him. It was Mr. Seese who provided us with a VHS video tape explaining how fiberglass vaulting poles are manufactured. It turned out that Eddie Seese was also one of Jan Johnson's closest associates. Eddie and Jan were among the very first we informed of our "Air Strike" pole vault innovations in 1992.

I have carefully chronicled my experiences involving the pole vault industrial complex from the beginning. That includes the good with the bad. I've encountered and documented the actions of corrupt individuals in the medical field, universities, high schools and businesses.

As an example, Bruce Caldwell, friend of Sam Kendricks, specifically put me in touch with two individuals, Jeff Schwartz and Rick Foster. Since you are probably familiar with Jeff Schwartz, I'll share with you only my factual experience with Mr. Rick Foster.

Rick Foster was "head state official for pole vaulting for the states of Hawaii and California." November 20, 2014, I received a telephone call from Mr. Foster because he was attempting to obtain negative information relating to Jan Johnson (a former associate of Mr. Foster's).

Rick's interest during our telephone conversation remained intense as long as the focus was on the faults of Jan Johnson. Foster's intensity quickly dwindled when I brought up the fact that he, too, was propagating deadly "traditional" pole vault methods. Mr. Foster was instantly ready to end our nearly hour long "talk."

Our conversation ended NOT before Mr. Foster bragged as to how he took advantage of his status within the pole vault industrial complex to ingratiate himself financially. One of Rick's money-making examples, with which I am very familiar, was Arroyo Grande High School's pole vault runway, where I recorded many videos.

Just about everyone I am acquainted with, who encountered the "Jan Johnson" I met in 1991, knows what I know with regard to Jan's reputation. In 2014, this was further verified for me by former USATF Chairman, Steve

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Miller. While investigating a 1983 pole vault death, I came across Mr. Miller when his name appeared as a witness in the related court case. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Miller, I was informed that he was Jan Johnson's high school track coach and that they were later associated while Steve Miller coached track at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

As a 1966 graduate of Tulare Union High School, I also have genuine firsthand experience living through much of the early pole vault history I've chronicled. My entire life, Bob Mathias had been a close friend of my family. While I was attending high school, Cornelius "Dutch" Warmerdam was coaching "track & field" at Fresno State College, 45 miles north of Tulare. I had friends under the tutelage of "Dutch" Warmerdam while students at Fresno State and family members who attended nearby Hanford High School with teenage Warmerdam.

In the 1940s, "Dutch" Warmerdam officially pole vaulted 15 feet, or higher, 43 times, using only BAMBOO poles. The majority of Warmerdam's landings were onto ground-level sand.

June of 1950, Olympic champion decathlete, Robert Bruce Mathias, introduced "fiberglass" vaulting poles to the world stage at the National Decathlon Championship which was also held at Tulare Union High School Stadium. It is important to keep in mind that modern landing mats still did not exist in 1950 and were not produced until many years after Bob Mathias vaulted using the original fiberglass poles.

The fact that "fiberglass" vaulting pole application originated without adapting new "flexible" pole vault technique is very significant. This occurred because the original users of "fiberglass" vaulting poles did not have the luxury of padded landing mats, thus, primitive "rigid" pole vaulting methods implemented by Cornelius Warmerdam continued being applied to "flexible" vaulting poles from the earliest inceptions of the "fiberglass" pole. As Bob Mathias clarified for us in our 1994 interview, "You'd always land on your feet, otherwise... you'd kill yourself!"

The attached copies depict some true history of fiberglass vaulting poles and how things went wrong because of continuing primitive "rigid" vaulting pole methods on fiberglass. Please, peruse the attached five-page document, jackson-dooley.pdf, to see these facts for yourself.

I feel it is fair to personally contact you because it is highly unlikely that you are aware of the depth of circumstances in which you have become immersed. You've hijacked my pole vault information while you state, simultaneously, "it doesn't work." Before this goes further, why don't we discuss it?

To be brief, I am informing you to remove from your videos, and other forms of "educational" materials, any of my intellectual property of which you are not qualified to share.

It appears that you have no idea of what is occurring or what has transpired within the expanse of the serious corruption involved here. The past thirty years have exposed to me a pole vault community that has proven far less interested in the safety of participants while vastly vested in profiting from a bad situation. My extensive documentation, with regard to pole vault, factually covers decades of ignored mistakes, intentional malice and massive gross negligence. These problems are not going away by themselves.

You are welcome to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

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