

DATELINE: USA

WEST

Phoenix, Ariz.—Gea Johnson, a senior at Washington High, is one of the nation's best in the classroom as well as in track and field.

Although the 4.0 GPA student set state records last spring in the 100-meter high hurdles (14.6) and the long jump (19'6"), her main interest in sports is the heptathlon, a seven-event, two-day track and field competition for women.

After winning the annual Arizona Heptathlon last summer, the versatile, 5'5", 129-pound athlete traveled to California to compete in the Mt. SAC Relays, where she scored 4,886 points, the second-highest total ever recorded by a high school athlete. In the field events she high jumped 5'4", long jumped 18'4³/₄", threw the shot put 36'3⁴/₄" and the javelin 120'2". On the track she ran 15.5 in the high hurdles, 26.1 in the 200-meter race and 2:31.7 in the 800. She set six high school division Mt. SAC records, including one for her first day total of 3,611 points.

Last year Johnson won a national scholar/athlete award and was president of her senior class. She plans to pursue either international business or sportscasting in college. She was also a member of a US National team that toured China and Hong Kong last year.

Weight lifting is part of her five-hour-per-day, six-day-per-week training program, and she recently won an Arizona teenage body building contest.

Phoenix, Ariz.—Senior Michael Cortright set a national football record last season when he kicked the 36th field goal of his career in St. Mary's 11-7 win over Apollo High in the state final.

He also kicked 19 field goals for the season, leaving him three shy of the single-season national record



Gea Johnson of Washington High

of 22 set last year by Philip Doyle of Huffman High in Birmingham, Alabama. The old career mark of 33 was posted by Luis Zendejas, who played from 1977 to 1980 for Chino Don Lugo High in California.

Last year the Knights won their season-opener 13-12 over Alhambra High when Cortright kicked a 29-yarder in the last minute of the game, keeping the team's two-

year, nine-game winning streak alive. He also kicked the winning field goal in a 10-9 victory over Saguaro in the state semifinal.

Cortright converted 84 of 91 PATs for the 14-0 Knights.

St. Mary's is located in the center of Phoenix and the football team practices in a local city park. "Cortright didn't even have uprights for practice," says Knights coach Pat