

THE DIAL AWARD

Female High School Athlete of the Year

Gea M. Johnson

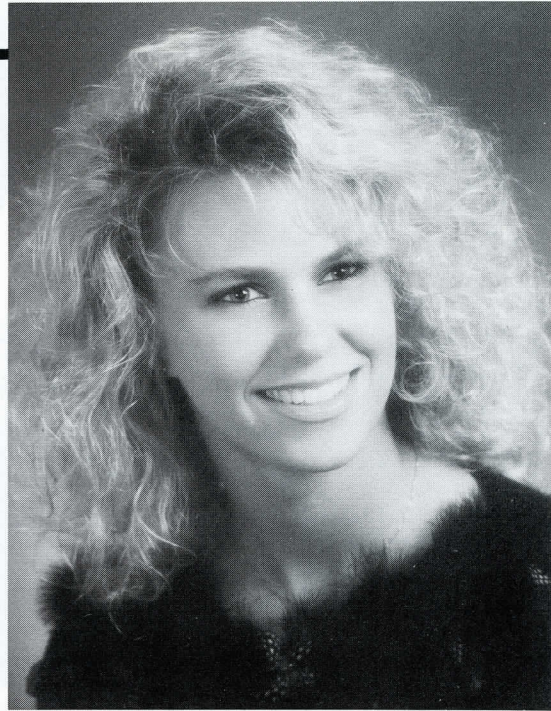
Gea Johnson was a high school track star and one of the best basketball players in Arizona in 1983, but the state's spring athletics schedule made participating in both sports impossible. Forced to choose, Gea picked track, and her choice led quickly to a gold medal in international competition.

In 1985, she was a member of the United States team of elite athletes who competed in the International Sports Exchange track meet in China and Hong Kong, and she returned home as a gold medal winner in the hurdles and the long jump. Excellence in those two events might satisfy most athletes, but Gea has trained to become a champion in the heptathlon, which requires mastery of seven events.

The heptathlon includes the 100-yard low hurdles, 200-yard dash, 800-meter run, javelin throw, shot put, long jump and high jump. She holds the nation's highest juniors score in the heptathlon and has been Arizona's heptathlon champion for the past two years. In 1985, she won the heptathlon championship at the prestigious track and field competition held annually on the campus of Mount San Antonio College.

Representing Washington High School in Phoenix, Gea also holds Arizona All-State Athlete records in the 100-yard hurdles and the long jump and was runner-up in the shot put and 300-yard hurdles. Her coach, Bruce Frankie, says she's "a super athlete who combines talent and hard work to earn what she accomplishes."

Before concentrating on track events, Gea played on the varsity basketball team at Corona del Sol High School in Tempe, Arizona, and on the national team of the Basketball Congress International. At the same time, she was a member of the varsity volleyball team.



Gea's academic performance equals her athletic achievement. Her scholastic record exceeds the 4.0 grade-point-average maximum because she is enrolled in the honors program at Washington High School and already has had two years of college-level French instruction. She's a member of the National Honor Society, president of the Senior Class, and a member of the Speech Team.

One of five children, Gea has two sisters, Mya, who is 17; and Tava, 9; and two brothers, Thayne, 16, and Shay, 8. Mya is one year younger and also an outstanding athlete, and Thayne is on the rodeo circuit.

Anyone who sees Gea compete will notice instantly that she's as beautiful as she is smart and athletically talented. Washington High School's 1985 Homecoming Queen, she also is the current Miss National Fitness, the winner of modeling competitions and a successful commercial model. Gea is planning to enroll at Stanford University in the fall.

Past recipients of The Dial Award include:
Herschel Walker, 1979; Carol Lewis and Bill Fralic, 1980;
Cheryl Miller and Kevin Willhite, 1981; Elaine Zayak and Mike
Smith, 1982; Melanie Buddemeyer and Chris Spielman, 1983;
Nora Lewis and Hart Lee Dykes, 1984.