

dial SPORTS NEWS

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QUARTERBACK JEFF GEORGE

AND HEPTATHLON STAR GEA JOHNSON

WIN THE DIAL AWARD FOR 1985

PHOENIX, Ariz., Jan. 7, 1986 -- The Dial Award for outstanding high school athletic performance in 1985 will be presented to Gea M. Johnson, an international medal winner in heptathlon competition, and to Jeff George, top-ranked varsity quarterback.

Johnson and George were chosen by a nationwide panel of coaches, college recruiters and sports writers who based their decision on academic achievement as well as athletic accomplishment. The two seniors will receive their awards at the Touchdown Club's annual awards dinner in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 18.

George ended his third year as a varsity starter at Warren Central High School in Indianapolis with three national records: most passes attempted and most completed in a career, and most touchdowns (later surpassed) in a season. In three years, he completed 543 passes in 965 attempts, gaining 8,126 yards and scoring 94 touchdowns. In his senior year, he scored 45 touchdowns.

The six-foot-four quarterback, who weighs 193 lbs., led his team to an undefeated season in 1985 and its second state championship in a row. He also is the school's leading scorer in basketball and a .500 batter.

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THE DIAL NATIONAL AMATEUR SPORTS PROGRAM

Johnson, who is five-feet-six-and-a-half and 130 lbs., was a member of the U.S. team of elite athletes who competed in China and Hong Kong last year in the International Sports Exchange track meet. She returned home as a gold medal winner in the hurdles and long jump.

An all-round track and field champion, she currently holds the nation's highest juniors score in the heptathlon and, representing Washington High School in Phoenix, has been Arizona's heptathlon champion for the past two years. The seven-event sport includes the 100-yard high hurdles, 200-yard dash, 800-meter run, javelin throw, shot put, long jump and high jump.

The Dial Corporation established the Dial Award in 1979 to recognize high school athletes who achieve excellence through talent, dedication and confidence. The first Dial Award winner was Herschel Walker, who went on to win college football's Heisman Trophy three years later.

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