

CENTER FOR SPORTS MEDICINE AND ORTHOPEDICS

The Center News



■ 4220 NORTH 19TH AVENUE • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85015 • (602) 264-1837

■ 3033 WEST BELL ROAD • SUITE 100A • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85023 • (602) 588-4040

ORTHOPEDICS/SPORTS MEDICINE/ARTHROSCOPIC SURGERY
Edward P. McDermott, D.O., F.A.O.A.O. Eric J. Freeh, D.O.
William L. Smith, D.O., F.A.O.A.O. D. Matthew Maddox, D.O.
Richard J. Emerson, D.O., F.A.O.A.O.

PRIMARY SPORTS MEDICINE
Craig M. Phelps, D.O.
Joel S. Sellers, D.O.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sandra Dina

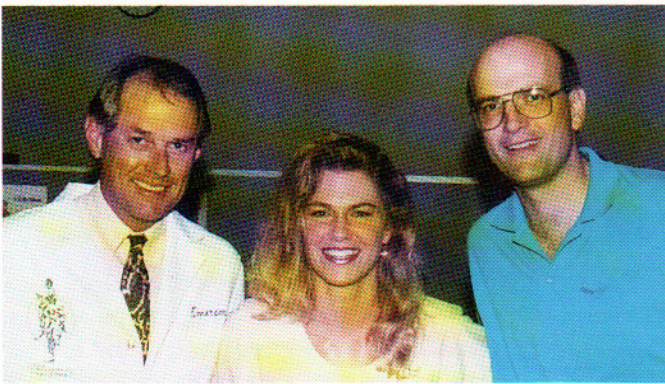
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BETTER THAN EVER

The Center for Sports Medicine and Orthopedics

Leaders in quality medical care...orthopedic surgery...family practice...
sports injury and spine rehabilitation...industrial medicine...health/wellness evaluations.

Gea Johnson...Olympic Hopeful



Dr. Emerson, Gea Johnson, and Alan Halling. Together, they're out to win!!

To have captured the interest, motivation, and support of someone other than a family member and have constant encouragement from them toward realizing your dream... earns someone a special place in your heart. It's no secret that Dr. Richard Emerson, Orthopedic Surgeon at the Center for Sports Medicine and Orthopedics is special to Gea Johnson. Having great confidence in her athletic ability, he refuses to let her untimely injuries win out over her talent. He reminds her he'll do whatever is necessary to keep her competing.

Gea, who recently turned 25, was injured June 20th in New Orleans at the 1992 Summer Olympic Trials while competing with training partner Jackie Joyner-Kersey. When high-jumping, one of the 7 events in the Heptathlon competition, she ruptured her patellar tendon. After returning to Phoenix

the next week, the city where she attended Washington High School and Arizona State University, Dr. Emerson performed surgery by replacing her patellar tendon with one from a cadaver.

A few months later, she also had surgery on her kneecap. A pin and wire were implanted to keep it in place. Shortly after, additional adjustment surgery was necessary.

You might ask Gea if she's sure she wants to go through all this to compete again in 1996. You bet! With the spirit she gets from Dr. Emerson, she's developed a realistic yet positive attitude toward her future goal. Determination and confidence are driving forces, and besides "Dr. Emerson will never give up on me."

Instrumental in her physical rehabilitation is Alan Halling, Administrator of HEALTHSOUTH Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center. Not only does Gea work with Alan 4-5 times a week, but he was there when she had surgery. Gea recognizes his involvement and concern for her.

How can someone so talented think of anything but striving for future success? With a great support team of caring professionals, Gea aspires to enter at least two more Olympic Heptathlon competitions.

"I'm going 'til the year 2000!" she exclaims. That's not hard to imagine. Consider who's believing in her, and look at who they're believing in.