

Las Vegas Pole Vault Safety Forum

UCS Spirit
1601 Fairview Drive #1
Carson City, NV 89701

USPS Mail Certified Return Receipt

December 8, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

In 1991, after purchasing a vaulting pole from your company and further contacting your company for assistance with regard to proper implementation and safety suggestions relating to the UCS SPIRIT vaulting pole I purchased, your company's blatant disregard for accountability provided me a firsthand impression that prevails to this day.

WITHOUT your assistance, I was forced to derive my own factual pole vault conclusions based on real laws of physics that totally contradict the pole vault "fairytale" physics being propagated by your company together with propaganda being "sold" by other "expert" sources embedded within your select privileged group of athletic "Establishment" elites.

More than two decades ago, I found that your company's "WARNING" label (attached to the pole vault pole I purchased in 1991) should also mention the two deadliest threats in "traditional" pole vault teachings to AVOID are the following, as these senseless flaws convert flexible vaulting poles into DEADLY WEAPONS:

- 1. FULL-SPEED Approach Runs**
- 2. PRESSING Flexible Poles Forward**

Attached is a copy of my written communique, dated and sent to UCS Spirit's Mike Chappell on January 24, 2014, confirming your company has full knowledge that **"Air Strike" flexible pole vault techniques assure vaulters that a controlled vertical launch will take place safely above the landing mats for consistent higher, easily repeatable successful pole vault results.** Your company has chosen to ignore these pole vault techniques that greatly reduce the odds of your poles being incorrectly applied and abused as **deadly weapons.**

The obvious first question from me is: **Why are "traditional" pole vault methods being allowed to continue while they are themselves the established inherent cause of avoidable pole vault catastrophic injuries and deaths?**

My resulting conclusions are based on my own firsthand observations regarding pole vault physics reality: **Primitive "traditional" pole vault methods force athletes to attempt their entire vault haphazardly above the approach runway instead of safely above the landing mats.** (Please see the attached page of 15 images displaying athletes in the process of applying dangerous primitive "traditional" pole vault methods which create inevitable catastrophe.)

Your company is also now "selling" a "box collar" that decreases the accessible physical target area which, for obvious safety reasons, the vaulting pole's tip must enter unobstructed. This intentionally designed obstructive object appears to be the "brainchild" of Jan Johnson, another pole vault "expert" with ill-conceived notions exposing his desire for self-glorification is more important to him than eliminating the deadly flawed "traditional" pole vault methods taught in his misguided clinics that are ACTUALLY the proven primary reason ensuring vaulters will continue landing in plant boxes.

The purpose of this communication is to affirm the circumstances resulting over the span of multiple decades that have now passed since I first contacted UCS SPIRIT in 1991 upon encountering the problems that prompted my questions relating to the proper application of the flexible competition pole vault poles being manufactured.

Please see the attached seven page letter that I sent to Jeff Schwartz, at UCS in North Carolina, for further details. I have also attached other notes that are relevant to pole vault safety solutions.

I documented and published the following information in 1993 based on my own firsthand experiences in dealing with UCS SPIRIT pole vault pole manufacturing and my factual conclusions drawn from my son's experiments applying the UCS SPIRIT vaulting pole I purchased from the UCS pole manufacturer. Our independent experimentation was required as a result of a complete lack of concern, ineptitude, unaccountability and arrogant disdain demonstrated by the athletic "Establishment" elites we encountered who appear convinced they are not liable for their decisions.

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My perception of pole vault as it exists today began upon examining my first vaulting pole. The following instructions were provided with the pole:

WARNING

POLE VAULTING IS A DANGEROUS ACTIVITY. SEVERE INJURY, PARALYSIS, AND DEATH HAVE OCCURRED. **IMPORTANT — READ FOR YOUR SAFETY AND PROTECTION.**

WARNING

1. Inspect pole before each use for signs of damage.
2. Do not use if broken fibers, tape, scrapes or other signs of damage can be seen.
3. Do not use if the test weight (pole model) is below the vaulter's weight.
4. Ensure all equipment such as Landing Area, Vault Box, and Standards are safe and properly installed.
5. Proper supervision is required at all times.
6. Breakage may result from incorrect pole selection, damage, improper technique, overstress, and other causes.
7. Take care of this pole. Poles are not guaranteed against breakage.

DO NOT DETACH OR COVER THIS LABEL.

WARNING

It was clear that there is danger associated with the pole. However, what was not clear was how to properly use the pole to avoid the danger.

Armed with the knowledge that advanced technology without advanced technique is the reason the fiberglass pole has become the most dangerous pole in the history of the sport, my quest began.

Seeking out the way to pole vault safely and correctly, we consulted coaches, equipment manufacturers, attended vaulting clinics, purchased video tapes and books, and spent many hours in libraries.

The result of applying the derived knowledge proved the current available information to be inept. This was cemented by the fact that today's best pole vaulters are entirely inconsistent, leading to the conclusion that the best vaulters in the world are merely the least inefficient.

The quest has rewarded us with *AIR STRIKE*, the most revolutionary procedural discovery in sports history.

Sincerely,

M Thomas Toledo
310 Palomar Avenue
Shell Beach, CA 93449
(702) 257-8202

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As these images undeniably portray, primitive "traditional" pole vault methods force athletes to attempt their entire vault haphazardly above the approach runway instead of safely above the landing mats.



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From: LVInfo, NV <lvinf@cox.net>;
Date: Friday, January 24, 2014 11:18 AM
To: michaelc@ucsspirit.com <michaelc@ucsspirit.com>;
Subject: UCS Spirit Vaulting Poles

Mike,

I spoke to your brother, Chris, briefly on Thursday, January 16th, after Dave Johnson introduced us. I drove up to Reno for the UCS Spirit Summit with the hope of getting information regarding pole vault pole manufacture processes in person but it turned out that you folks were extremely busy. The business card I have is yours, so, I am sending this message to your email as the follow-up from my conversation with Chris.

Pole vault world record vaulter in 1963, Brian Sternberg, remarkably noted that:

**"Vaulting is a jumping event, and vaults of 19'4" to 19'8" will be the going thing.
Today's vaulters are not making full use of the potential of the flexible pole."**

Thirty years later, in 1993, I published simple solutions we created that finally demonstrated how to easily maximize the potential of the flexible vaulting pole. My conclusions were founded upon the fact that flexible pole vault poles **MUST** be FLEXED & LOADED EFFICIENTLY when vaulting since every flexible pole manufactured has a specific safe "load-range" determined at the time of the pole's assembly. Logically, every vaulting pole should be used within a "safe-range" as close as possible to the specifications of its manufacturer.

I named our new revolutionary pole vault technique, Air Strike, and documented my observation that, **"You CAN Consistently Vault 20' or Higher!"** using the Air Strike System.

Unbeknownst to me at the time, Sergei Bubka's and Yelena Isinbayeva's (world record holders today) coach, Vitaly Petrov, had already invested years UNSUCCESSFULLY attempting to accomplish the pole vault revelations we achieved with Air Strike in 1992.

I eventually only became aware of the above facts related to Sergei Bubka's coach when I came across a five page pdf article in 2011 on the Internet. It is titled "THE PRE-JUMP" and authored by Australian national pole vault coach, Alan Launder. *The article's topic is a Vitaly Petrov Pole Vault Theory of which Sergei Bubka's coach has been deliberating and unsuccessfully attempting since as early as 1985.* http://www.trackandfieldnews.com/technique/112-Alan_Launders.pdf

After nearly 20 years away from this event, Launder's article rekindled my will to again publicize our easier, safer, higher, controlled and consistent pole vault principles. Coach Launder's conversations with Vitaly Petrov in 1985 clearly substantiate that "traditional" pole vault methods are extremely deficient as I and my son figured out for ourselves over twenty years ago after hopelessly working firsthand with Don Hood and Jan Johnson (among others).

In 1992, my son performed the Air Strike technique using a 180lb 14' UCS Spirit vaulting pole we purchased from your company in 1991. (Most of the details are at www.htpv.com/polevault_christ.html.) Our technique applies physics principles that worked very successfully WITH the UCS flexed pole's power NOT AGAINST it. Thus, my main question for you: *Is UCS still fabricating poles today that are identical to, or match, the characteristics of the pole we bought from UCS at that time?*

Please, respond to let me know. I would appreciate your courtesy.

Mike Toledo
Las Vegas, NV
(702) 257-8202