## DON'T GET SIDELINED BY AN INJURY

BY WENDY SHUMATE



Yes, getting injured is painful, but it doesn't have to prevent you from staying on track and achieving your goals!



First off, the best way to heal an injury is to prevent it before it happens.

Unless an accident occurs, it's unlikely that you "just" got injured. Injuries happen over time from compensation, not taking care of your muscle tissue, and ignoring the warning signs. If you start to feel a recurring twinge, pull, tightness, or pain in the same spot, then there's an issue. You're probably not injured yet, but if you don't do something about it, eventually you will be. So, what should you do to prevent an injury from occurring in the first place?

Step one, ask your trainer... ME! I probably have a simple stretch or trigger point technique you can use to fix the problem. Step two, listen to your trainer... AGAIN ME! And step three, do what your trainer tells you to do! LOL It's simple, take care of your body and it will take care of you.

Now like I said, accidents do happen and sometimes it's too late for us to prevent the injury. If you do get injured, what is the best course of action? Well... allow me to be brutally honest; the answer is NOT stop working out! It always amazes me how easily people will give up on their goals and allow those excuses to start to seep in.

When someone experiences an injury, too often, they immediately stop working out and then give up on their diet and start to over indulge. Outside of self-amputation, these are probably the two worst things you can do! A healthy diet is crucial to a speedy recovery and some foods can aid in repairing muscles and fuel your body to heal faster. And all the research shows exercise speeds recovery when done properly!

Exercise improves circulation which assists with recovery and healing.
Additionally, the body requires anabolic hormones to repair damaged tissue.
Exercise, especially strength training increases circulation of androgens including testosterone, which play a major role in tissue repair. Another added benefit of training while injured is maintaining strength.

Inactivity can result in a 33% loss of strength in as little as fourteen days. Thankfully, research shows that unilateral training (training one side) results in 7-11% increased strength on the opposing side. In other words, if you break your leg, training the opposite leg will not only benefit the side being worked on, but also the injured side.

Equally important, is the mental side effects an injury can cause. Injuries can cause depression or a feeling of decreased motivation. Continuing on a workout regimen helps the individual stay motivated and releases endorphins, which not only makes you feel good, but also helps reduce pain.



In conclusion, it's easy to use injury as an excuse to quit working out or to fall off the eatin good wagon..

However, you're doing yourself a huge disservice. Not only is it going to take you longer to recover, but everything you've been working towards is going to be lost. Returning back to your normal workout routine will seem like a daunting task after this and you're less likely to start back up when you said you would.

Are you trying to work out with an injury? I can keep you in top shape. Contact me today to make an appointment.

